

PRESS & MEDIA KIT

Malory.

Sci-Fi, LitRPG & Progression Fantasy.

Malory is the 2026 winner of the Jim Baen Memorial Short Story Award and a PhD candidate researching men's reading habits. He has published more than thirty books across seven series in LitRPG, sci-fi and progression fantasy. He is based in Birmingham, United Kingdom.



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QUICK FACTS

At a glance.

NAME	Malory (publishes science fiction co-written with collaborators as Jake Malory)
BASED IN	Birmingham, United Kingdom
NOTABLE AWARD	2026 Jim Baen Memorial Short Story Award — for <i>Orbital Decay</i> , published at Baen.com
GENRES	LitRPG, progression fantasy, hard science fiction, hardboiled mystery, middle-grade adventure
BOOKS IN PRINT	30+ across 7 series
SERIES	Morgan & Merlin's Excellent Adventures · The Soar Chronicles · Psyker Marine (aka Galactic Invasion) · Arcane Galaxy · Punish the System · Boy's Own Adventures · Raconteur Press anthologies
PUBLISHERS	Aethon Books, Legion Publishers, Soundbooth Theater, Raconteur Press, Royal Guard, LitForge
ACADEMIC WORK	PhD candidate researching the male reading decline and genre-level interventions in LitRPG / progression fantasy
ONLINE	maloryauthor.com · maloryauthor.substack.com · goodreads.com/Jake_Malory
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AUTHOR BIO — THREE LENGTHS

Use verbatim or adapt.

Accurate as of May 2026.

Short — 50 words

Malory is the 2026 winner of the Jim Baen Memorial Short Story Award and a PhD candidate researching men's reading habits. He writes LitRPG, sci-fi and progression fantasy — including the Morgan & Merlin and Soar Chronicles series — and publishes military science fiction as Jake Malory. He is based in Birmingham, UK.

Medium — 100 words

Malory is the 2026 winner of the Jim Baen Memorial Short Story Award and a PhD candidate researching men's reading habits. His doctoral work argues for LitRPG and progression fantasy as a genre-level intervention in the male reading decline; his fiction tests the argument. He has published more than thirty books across seven series, including Morgan & Merlin (Dark Age cultivation), The Soar Chronicles (hardboiled mystery), and — as Jake Malory — the Psyker Marine and Arcane Galaxy series. He works with Aethon Books, Legion Publishers and Soundbooth Theater, and lives in Birmingham, UK.

Long — 200 words

Malory is the 2026 winner of the Jim Baen Memorial Short Story Award, presented at the International Space Development Conference for his hard-SF short *Orbital Decay*, published at Baen.com. He is also a PhD candidate researching men's reading habits — specifically the persistent gender gap in adolescent and adult reading that has widened steadily for fifty years. His doctoral argument is that LitRPG and progression fantasy work as a genre-level intervention in the male reading decline; his fiction tests the argument.

He has published more than thirty books across seven series. *Morgan & Merlin* places a reincarnated, cultivation-cursed protagonist in Dark Age Cornwall. *The Soar Chronicles* is a hardboiled mystery in a city where faith is literal currency. *Punish the System*, co-written with Cassius Lange, is a post-apocalypse. Under the pen name Jake Malory he writes the combat-focused *Psyker Marine* — also known as the *Galactic Invasion* series — solo, and *Arcane Galaxy*, a space western with Troy Osgood. He contributes widely to the Raconteur Press anthologies and writes the *Boy's Own Adventures* line.

Malory works with Aethon Books, Legion Publishers, Soundbooth Theater, Raconteur Press, LitForge and Royal Guard. He is based in Birmingham, UK.

INTERVIEWS & SPEAKING TOPICS

Where Malory is well-placed.

The male reading decline. The research, the contested debates, what's actually working, and why fiction (specifically) matters.

LitRPG and progression fantasy as a literary phenomenon. Origins, the Royal Road and serialisation pipeline, what the genre does that mainstream fiction doesn't.

Writing for young men. The Boy's Own Adventures line and whether classic-adventure structure can compete with screens.

Indie publishing and collaborative authorship. Writing across pen names and co-author partnerships (Troy Osgood, Cassius Lange).

Hard SF short fiction. The craft and the Baen prize.

2026 JIM BAEN MEMORIAL SHORT STORY AWARD

The award context.

The Jim Baen Memorial Short Story Award is Baen Books' annual prize for forward-looking science fiction, run in partnership with the National Space Society. It was founded to honour the late publisher Jim Baen and recognise the kind of grounded, future-facing storytelling he championed throughout his career. Entries are judged by the Baen editorial team; the winning story is published at Baen.com at professional rates; and the winner is recognised at the International Space Development Conference (ISDC).

Malory's 2026 winning entry, *Orbital Decay*, is available to read free at Baen.com. The 2026 prize was announced in March 2026; the ceremony takes place at ISDC in McLean, Virginia, 4-7 June 2026.

Press & Coverage

- › Baen Books — Press release — <https://www.baen.com/pr-jbmssaw2026>
- › Baen Books — Read *Orbital Decay* — <https://www.baen.com/orbital-decay>
- › [Locus Online — 2026 finalists —
https://locusmag.com/2026/03/2026-jim-baen-memorial-short-story-award-finalists/](https://locusmag.com/2026/03/2026-jim-baen-memorial-short-story-award-finalists/)
- › [File 770 — finalists announced —
https://file770.com/2026-jim-baen-memorial-short-story-award-finalists-announced/](https://file770.com/2026-jim-baen-memorial-short-story-award-finalists-announced/)
- › Baen Books — About the award — <https://www.baen.com/contest-jbmssa>

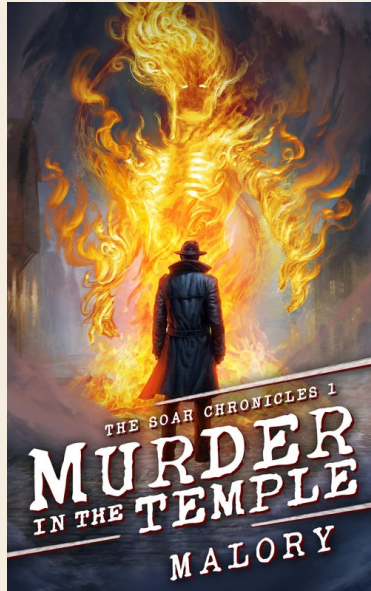
COVER ART

Selected covers.

High-resolution versions available from maloryauthor.com/press.html or by request.



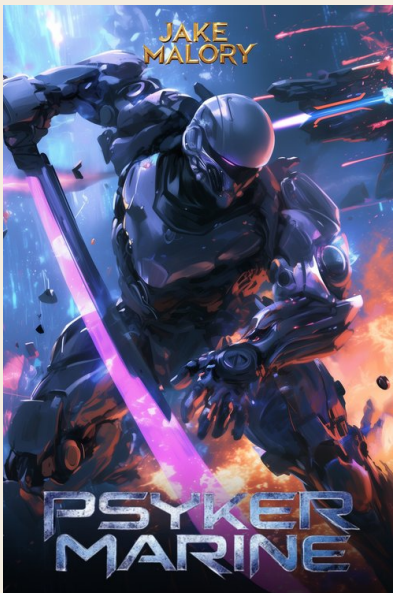
Welcome to the Dark Ages



Murder in the Temple



Chaos Protocols



Psyker Marine: Book 1



Punish the System



The Weird Map in Mr Glimm's Skull

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