

Catherine Asaro

Bestselling, award-winning author, Scientist

Renaissance woman Catherine Asaro is a scientist (PhD from Harvard), a ballerina who has danced on both coasts, and a bestselling, award-winning writer who has taken the science fiction world—or maybe the universe—by storm. Winner of the prestigious Nebula® Award for her novel, The Quantum Rose, Catherine's fiction is a successful blend of hard science fiction, romantic adventure, and exciting space adventure. She has published sixteen novels, twelve of which belong to her Saga of the Skolian Empire. Schism, an excellent entry into the saga, came out from Tor in hardcover in December 2004 and mass market paperback in September 2005. Skyfall (Tor, 2003) was a finalist for the RITA® Award, and won the *RT Book Club* Reviewers Choice Award for Best Science Fiction Novel, the third time Catherine has received this award. The Final Key, the sequel to Schism, will appear in December, 2005. 2005 also saw publication of her fantasy The Charmed Sphere, which helped launch Luna Books, and The Misted Cliffs in July 2005. Her science fiction thriller Sunrise Alley (Baen Books, 2004) takes place just around the corner -- in the 2030s in the United States -- and will be followed by Alpha in September, 2006. In addition, Catherine was honored to be invited to participate in the 2004 National Book Festival.

Dr. Asaro has published short fiction in *Analog* magazine and several anthologies, including the novellas, "*Walk in Silence*," "*A Roll of the Dice*," and "*Aurora in Four Voices*," all of which won the AnLab, or *Analog* Readers Poll award, and were nominated for both the Nebula® and Hugo. She has also published reviews and nonfiction essays and has authored scientific papers in refereed academic journals. Her paper, "Complex Speeds and Special Relativity" in the April 1996 issue of *The American Journal of Physics* forms the basis for some of the science in her novels.

Catherine was born in Oakland, California, and grew up in El Cerrito, just north of Berkeley. She received her PhD in Chemical Physics and MA in Physics, both from Harvard, and a BS with Highest Honors in Chemistry from UCLA. Among the places she has done research are the University of Toronto in Canada, the Max Planck Institut für Astrophysik in Germany, and the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics. Her research involves using quantum theory to describe the behavior of atoms and molecules. Catherine was a physics professor until 1990, when she established Molecudyne Research, which she currently runs.

The former ballerina has performed with ballets and in musicals on both coasts and in Ohio. In the 1980's she was a principal dancer and artistic director of the Mainly Jazz Dancers and the Harvard University Ballet. After she graduated, her undergraduate students took over Mainly Jazz and made it into an organization at the college. Catherine still teaches ballet in Maryland.

Catherine is also proud to coach the Howard County Homeschoolers, whose students have distinguished themselves in numerous national math programs, including the American Math Competitions. The middle school students are the first homeschooled team to win a Chapter MathCounts competition in Maryland. They went on to the State championships at Johns Hopkins University, where they placed in the top ten schools, and one of her students took fifth in the entire state.

Catherine recently completed two terms as president of Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America, Inc. (SFWA). She is married to John Kendall Cannizzo, an astrophysicist at NASA. They have one daughter, a ballet dancer who loves math.