

## FACT SHEET FOR PER ASPERA PRESS

### OUR HISTORY

Per Aspera Press was founded in 2003 by partners Jak Koke and Karawynn Long in order to publish Koke's orphaned novel *Liferock*. In 2004 they decided to grow Per Aspera into a full-fledged independent press, and they took on *Singularity* by unknown author Bill DeSmedt, which garnered substantial acclaim from bestselling authors and reviewers alike. On the strength of their work with *Singularity*, Per Aspera was accepted in 2005 for national distribution by Independent Publisher's Group. April 2006 brings the next offering in their line of premier hardcovers, *Steel Sky* by debut author Andrew C. Murphy.

### OUR NAME

Per Aspera Press takes its name from the Latin motto *Ad Astra Per Aspera*, which translates as 'To the stars through difficulties.' For much of the last century, publishing has operated under a model unique among retail businesses — one which is particularly unkind to the small and the independent. New and midlist authors, independent and genre booksellers, small presses and self-publishers ... all are at a more than usual disadvantage under the prevailing system. 'Per Aspera' — 'through difficulties' — speaks to our commitment as publishers and authors to succeed despite these obstacles.

### OUR PRINCIPLES

- We are passionate about publishing quality fiction, including the many excellent manuscripts rejected by corporate publishers as insufficiently commercial.
- We are enthusiastic about reclaiming the tradition of nurturing new authors.
- We are devoted to creating books of quality design — books that compare favorably in every detail to the best products of the largest publishers.
- We are dedicated to offering fair and friendly contracts to authors and illustrators (because as writers, we've been on the other side of that fence).
- We are committed to developing close and direct relationships with independent booksellers.

### OUR PARTNERS

**Karawynn Long, Publisher:** Karawynn entered the speculative fiction scene at twenty-two, as the youngest writer ever to win the Writers of the Future Grand Prize. Subsequently she wrote short fiction and poetry for numerous anthologies and magazines, including *Full Spectrum 5*, *Asimov's SF*, and *Silver Birch*, *Blood Moon*, before turning her focus to a slightly more lucrative career as a graphic designer. She now brings both her unending passion for speculative fiction and her years of design experience to Per Aspera.

**Jak Koke, Managing Editor:** Jak has seven sf and fantasy novels under his belt, including the *Locus* number-one bestsellers *Stranger Souls* and *Beyond the Pale*. As a freelance book doctor he has also edited and/or ghostwritten over twenty-five more. When fans of Jak's work clamored for his orphaned first novel *Liferock*, Jak embarked on the journey which led to the establishment of Per Aspera Press. Jak's experience as a novelist and editor serves to ensure that each Per Aspera book is among the best in the field.

### OUR AWARDS

Our first premier hardcover, *Singularity*, won the Foreword Magazine Gold Award for Science Fiction Book of the Year and the 2005 Ippy Award for best independently published Fantasy/Science Fiction, and was one of three finalists for the Benjamin Franklin Awards for both 'Best New Voice, Fiction' and 'Cover Design (1-2 Color)'. *Singularity* was also named one of the Top Ten Novels of 2004 by Barnes & Noble's *Explorations*.