

NEWS RELEASE

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COGNO® CREATOR LAUNCHES NEW “SCIENCE FACTION” BOOK SERIES  
FEATURING CHARACTERS FROM HIS AWARD-WINNING BOARD GAMES

# Cogno: The Alien Legends™

## *Book One: Synapse*

Stuart Montaldo

“Two thumbs up... a very entertaining read!”

—Rick Searfoss, *Astronaut, NASA Commander, Columbia Space Shuttle*

“A fast paced adventure story that incorporates well-defined fact and fantasy.”

—Captain John A. Harper, *USNR (Ret.), Navy fighter pilot and aviation author*

“This book is thrilling, exciting and full of surprises. I love the ending. No other book beats Cogno!”

—Brian B., *Age 12*

ST. LOUIS (October 25, 2004) The “dream team” of eight alien beings from the award-winning board game, *Cogno: The Alien Adventure Game*, has now come to life in a new book series for young adult readers.

**Cogno: The Alien Legends** is a young adult adventure series for readers aged 10 to 15. A genre of literature that author Stuart Montaldo calls “Science Faction,” the 200-page stories read like modern-day suspense/adventure novels - with one important distinction: intertwined with the story are real scientific concepts.

“The Alien Legends is what you get when you combine two parts Star Wars, one part Harry Potter and three teaspoons of science,” says Montaldo. “It’s a logical extension of our popular board game - and the next step in our plan to create a franchise of education products that kids love.”

Each book in the series features the Icari, the eight characters from *Cogno* board games. Introduced last fall, *Cogno* was one of the fastest-selling games at independent toy stores in St. Louis and Boston (its initial launch sites) during the last holiday season. In **The Alien Legends**, these characters - each with his or her own special abilities - come to life as an alien dream team to protect the galaxy and solve seemingly unsolvable mysteries.

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**Cogno: The Alien Legends - add one  
October 25, 2004**

In Book One: “Synapse,” (DoubleStar, LLC; November 20, 2004; \$7.99), Cogno (their mind-reading leader), a teenage fighter pilot, the universe’s fastest creature and the rest of the Icari are called into action to investigate a grave threat to many distant worlds. They must decide if things are really what they seem as they strive to outwit an adversary powerful enough to devastate the galaxy.

“These books are written to appeal as strongly to kids as any book might,” says Montaldo. “As with our Cogno board games, learning is incidental. Boys and girls can read **The Alien Legends** for fun - but they can’t come away without also learning something new about the challenges and physics of space-travel and about how the physical universe works.”

At the end of each book, a section called “Fact, Future or Fantasy?” addresses each key concept or technology raised in the book and clearly separates the fact from the fiction for the reader.

The Alien Legends book and Cogno board games will be available at retailers including St. Louis area Border’s Books & Music locations, Bradburn’s Parent/Teacher Stores, Circle of Knowledge, Imagination Toys, Main Street Books, Spicer’s 5 & 10, Unique Toy, and Webster Groves Bookshop.

The next book in the series is planned for release in Spring of 2005.

**About the Author:**

A native of St. Louis, Stuart Montaldo is a father, game inventor and author who has enjoyed a lifelong fascination with space and earth sciences. He is the creator of the multiple award-winning Cogno: The Alien Adventure Game and Cogno: Deep Worlds board games.

**\*\*To arrange an interview with Stuart Montaldo, please contact:  
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Book One: “Synapse”  
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