

Speak, Friend, and Enter...

author **Ethan Gilsdorf** presents



FANTASY FREAKS AND GAMING GEEKS



**An Epic Quest for Reality Among
Role Players, Online Gamers, and
Other Dwellers of Imaginary Realms**

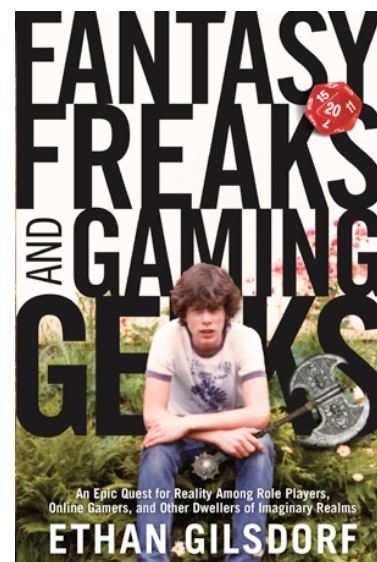
Hosted by St. Mark's Bookshop
(31 Third Avenue, 212-260-7853, www.stmarksbookshop.com)

Solas Bar, 232 East 9th Street
(between 2nd & 3rd Avenues), New York City
Thursday, October 8 at 7:30pm

"A breathless adventure quest / memoir that is uniquely contemporary."

—**Andrei Codrescu, NPR commentator**

"For anyone who has ever spent time within imaginary realms, the book will speak volumes. For those who have not, it will educate and enlighten." —**Wired.com**



**A "Geek Trivia Contest" with prizes will test your knowledge of all things Tolkien, Harry Potter, Dungeons & Dragons and more!
COME COMMUNE WITH YOUR INNER FANTASY FAN OR GAMING GEEK!**

MORE INFO AND U.S. TOUR DATES: www.fantasyfreaksbook.com

**For more information, or to schedule an interview with Ethan Gilsdorf, author of *Fantasy Freaks and Gaming Geeks*, contact:
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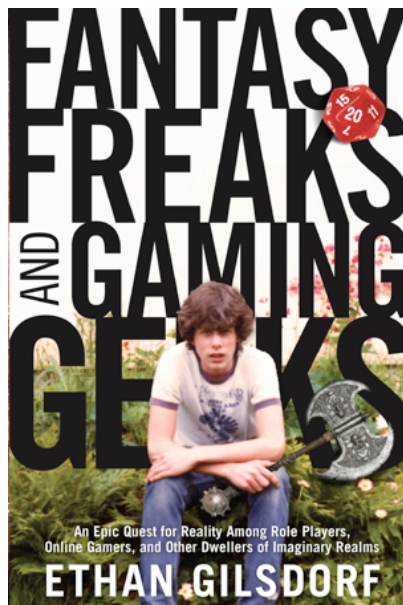
High resolution author images, book jacket art, press kit and more downloadable at <http://www.ethangilsdorf.com/pressroom/>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Author Ethan Gilsdorf brings *Fantasy Freaks and Gaming Geeks* to St Mark's Bookshop/Solas Bar, Thurs, October 8

Come commune with your inner fantasy fan or gaming geek with **Ethan Gilsdorf**, author of the travel memoir / pop culture narrative *FANTASY FREAKS AND GAMING GEEKS: An Epic Quest for Reality Among Role Players, Online Gamers, and Other Dwellers of Imaginary Realms*.

Gilsdorf reads from the book **Thursday, October 8 at 7:30pm at Solas Bar, 232 East 9th Street (between 2nd and 3rd Avenues), New York, NY**. The event is hosted by St. Mark's Bookshop (just around the corner, 31 Third Avenue, 212-260-7853, <http://www.stmarksbookshop.com>)



The book is **an exploration and celebration of fantasy and gaming subcultures**. On a quest that begins in his own geeky teenage past and ends in our online gaming future, former D&D addict Gilsdorf crisscrosses America, the world, and other worlds—from Boston to Wisconsin, France to New Zealand, and Planet Earth to Middle-earth to the realm of Aggramar. Readers join Gilsdorf as he participates in gaming and fantasy subcultures and asks game-players and fantasy fans---old, young, male, female, able-bodied and disabled---what attracts them to fantasy worlds. What he discovers about them, and him, is funny, poignant, and enlightening.

NPR commentator Andrei Codrescu calls the book “A breathless adventure/quest/memoir that is uniquely contemporary.” **Wired.com** says, “For anyone who has ever spent time within imaginary realms, the book will speak volumes. For those who have not, it will educate and enlighten.”

Gilsdorf was an obsessive **Dungeons & Dragons** (D&D) player back in the 1980s. He quit the fantasy role-playing game when he graduated from high school. Decades later, at age 40, Gilsdorf found a box of his old D&D gear in his parents' basement. The discovery inspired him to write the book.

"When I was a teen, fantasy gaming was on the fringes," he said. "**Today, 'geek' is no longer a four-letter word.**"

Fantasy and gaming subcultures covered in the book include role-playing and online games like **D&D and World of Warcraft**, readers of **J.R.R. Tolkien's** books and viewers of the *Lord the Rings* movies, and participants in live-action role-playing games (**LARPs**), the medieval reenactment group the **Society for Creative Anachronism** and fantasy conventions like **Dragon*Con**.

"What lured serious gamers today, particularly adults, into fantasy worlds? And why? Was fantasy healthy, unhealthy, or something in between? I wanted to find out," Gilsdorf said. "I was inspired to set off on a journey through my old hobby and see how fantasy and gaming had changed, and what new fantasy worlds now existed. And to see how much I had changed, too."

The event begins with a "**Geek Trivia Contest**" with prizes that tests the audience's knowledge of all things Tolkien, Harry Potter, Dungeons & Dragons and more. Prizes will also be given to anyone arriving in costume as their favorite fantasy character or creature (elf, orc, warrior, wizard, Harry Potter, etc). Gilsdorf will then read an excerpt from *Fantasy Freaks and Gaming Geeks*, followed by a Q&A and book signing.

Gilsdorf is also launching a contest from the book's website, the **Great Geek Giveaway**, which offers prizes for those who share their geekiest moment. People can submit essays, photos or video through the month of October September. More info: <http://www.ethangilsdorf.com/greatgeekgiveaway/>

More praise for *Fantasy Freaks and Gaming Geeks*:

"More fun than being a Dungeon Master to a group of high-level mages and thieves."

—**A. J. Jacobs**, author of *The Know-It-All* and *The Year of Living Biblically*

"Gilsdorf is an engaging and personable guide. Like many who will pick up his book, he's got one foot squarely in the real world, the other in the fantasy one. This is a journey well worth taking."

—**Booklist**

"A vicarious peek into an escapist pastime."

—**Kirkus Reviews**

"Witty, downright funny, poignant, honest and ... well, wistful."

—**R. A. Salvatore**, New York Times bestselling author of *The Dark Elf Trilogy*

"Fun, quirky and fresh."

—**David Brin**, winner of the Nebula, Hugo, and Locus Awards

"An orcs-and-all journey through geekdom."

—**Melissa Anelli**, author of *Harry, A History: The True Story of a Boy Wizard, His Fans, and Life Inside the Harry Potter Phenomenon*

More information at <http://www.fantasyfreaksbook.com>.

Press room with press kit with bio, synopsis, praise/reviews, talking points, interview questions, and high resolution author photos and book jacket art and the poster here:

<http://www.ethangilsdorf.com/pressroom/>