



NEXUS

FEBRUARY 2005

ISSUE #201

TOP 10 BESTSELLERS 2004

Probably the most interesting thing about this list is that the fantasy is almost completely dominated by Terry Pratchett with four of the top ten being *Discworld* novels. Nice to note also is that Australian author Fiona McIntosh appears in that same list twice with her trilogy *The Quickening*. The SF bestsellers cover a far greater variety of authors and genres. Notably, however, none of the major award winners make it into any of the lists. Horror, like fantasy, is dominated by a few authors - Laurell K Hamilton and newcomer Kelly Armstrong, in particular.

FANTASY

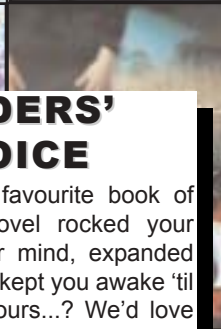
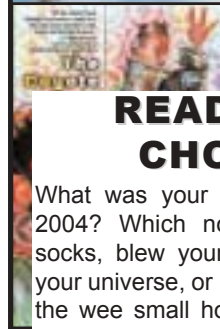
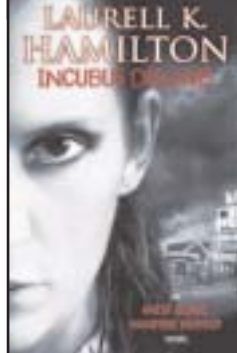
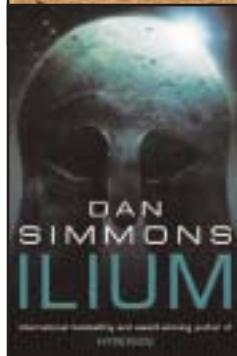
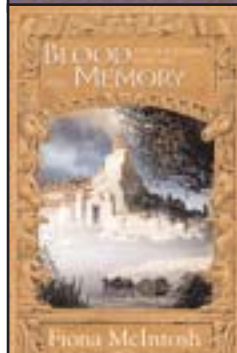
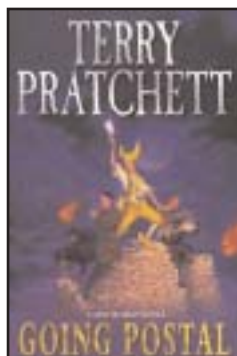
1. **Going Postal** (*Discworld* #29) by Terry Pratchett
2. **Lone Drow** (*Forgotten Realms*) by R A Salvatore
3. **Monstrous Regiment** (*Discworld* #28) by Terry Pratchett
4. **Wee Free Men** (*Discworld Universe*) by Terry Pratchett
5. **Blood and Memory** (*Quickening* #2) by Fiona McIntosh
6. **Joust** by Mercedes Lackey
7. **Bridge of Souls** (*Quickening* #3) by Fiona McIntosh
8. **Kushiel's Avatar** (*Kushiel* #3) by Jacqueline Carey
9. **Hat Full of Sky** (*Discworld Universe*) by Terry Pratchett
10. **Swords of Night and Day** by David Gemmell

SCIENCE FICTION

1. **Pandora's Star** (*Commonwealth* #1) by Peter F Hamilton
2. **March to the Stars** (*Empire of Man* #3) by John Ringo & David Weber
3. **Ilium** by Dan Simmons
4. **Service of the Sword** (*Worlds of Honor* #4) by David Weber (ed)
5. **Trading in Danger** (*Vattan* #1) by Elizabeth Moon
6. **Hell's Faire** (*Posleen* #4) by John Ringo
7. **Pattern Recognition** by William Gibson
8. **Conquistador** by S M Stirling
9. **Algebraist** by Iain M Banks
10. **No Phule Like an Old Phule** (*Phule* #5) by Robert Asprin

HORROR

1. **Incubus Dreams** (*Anita Blake* #12) by Laurell K Hamilton
2. **Seduced by Moonlight** (*Meredith Gentry* #3) by Laurell K Hamilton
3. **Cerulean Sins** (*Anita Blake* #11) by Laurell K Hamilton
4. **Undead and Unwed** by Mary Janice Davidson
5. **Blood Rites** (*Dresden Files* #6) by Jim Butcher
6. **Dime Store Magic** (*Paige Winterbourne* #1) by Kelly Armstrong
7. **Thief of Lives** (*Noble Dead* #2) by Barb & C J Hendee
8. **Cravings** by Laurell K Hamilton et al
9. **Industrial Magic** (*Paige Winterbourne* #2) by Kelly Armstrong
10. **Nightingale's Lament** (*John Taylor* #3) by Simon R Green

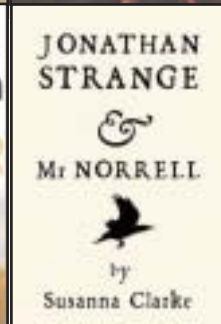
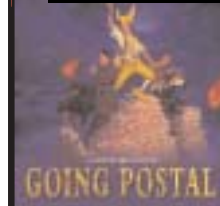


READERS' CHOICE

What was your favourite book of 2004? Which novel rocked your socks, blew your mind, expanded your universe, or kept you awake 'til the wee small hours...? We'd love to know...

Email, post or fax us your list of favourites, one title per genre (SF, fantasy and horror) and you'll go in the draw to win a \$50 gift voucher redeemable at Galaxy.

Please note:
nominated books must have a 2004 publication date.
Entries close Fri 25 Mar





SCIENCE FICTION AND FANTASY



LYNN ABBEY (ED)

ENEMIES OF FORTUNE

Thieves' World.

A recent storm has left a ship filled with exotic cargo and arcane secrets wrecked off the shore of Sanctuary. This unexpected booty leads to boons and curses for the world-weary residents... as well as the usual power struggle among factions wishing to take deadly advantage at any new turn of events. All new stories by Lynn Abbey, Stephen Brust, C J Cherryh, Mickey Zucker Reichert, Dennis McKiernan, Robin Wayne Bailey, Diana Paxson, Jody Lynn Nye and others. Hb \$58.00 352pp



HANS CHRISTIAN ANDERSON

THE STORIES OF HANS CHRISTIAN ANDERSON

This collection of 22 tales best represents Andersen's literary legacy, including the classics *The Little Mermaid*, *The Ugly Duckling*, *Thumbelina* and *The Princess and the Pea*, as well as unfamiliar stories like *By the Outermost Sea*. Hb \$39.95 290pp



SCIENCE FICTION



FANTASY



ROMANCE



AWARD WINNER



AUSTRALIAN



ACTION



REPRINT

AC AUDIO CASSETTE

CD COMPACT DISC

PB PAPERBACK

HB HARDBACK

TP TRADE PAPERBACK

CATHERINE ASARO

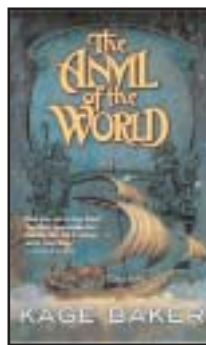
SCHISM

Skolian Empire: Triad #1. 23 years have passed since the fateful vote in the Skolian Assembly that created the first open hostility between Eube and Skolia. Now Eube senses an opportunity, for strife has riven the first family of the Skolian Empire. Sauscony, the daughter of Roca and Eldrinson, is ready to seek her fortune as an officer-in-training in the Skolian military. When her father forbids her to undertake such a dangerous path, a wedge is formed as Soz chooses duty over family. Eube hopes to make this permanent, a divide that will leave the Skolian Empire ripe for conquest. And they're willing to kill anyone to make it happen. Hb \$45.00 398pp

KAGE BAKER

THE ANVIL OF THE WORLD

Smith was formerly an extremely successful assassin. Now he has wearied of his work and is trying to retire in another country to live an honest life in obscurity, in spite of all those who have sworn to kill him. His problems begin when he agrees to be the master of a caravan from the inland city of Troon to the seaside city of Salesh. The caravan is dogged with murder, magic and the brooding image of the Master of the Mountain, a powerful demon. Pb \$16.95 350pp



IAIN M BANKS

THE ALGEBRAIST

It is 4034 AD. Humanity has made it to the stars. Fassin Taak, a Slow Seer at the Court of the Nasqueron Dwellers, will be fortunate if he makes it to the end of the year. The Nasqueron Dwellers inhabit a gas giant on the outskirts of the galaxy, in a system awaiting its wormhole connection to the rest of civilisation. In the meantime, they are dismissed as decadents living in a state of highly developed barbarism. Seconded to a military-religious order he's barely heard of, Fassin Taak has to travel again amongst the Dwellers. He is in search of a secret hidden for half a billion years. But with each day that passes a war draws closer - a war that threatens to overwhelm everything and everyone he's ever known. Hb \$49.95 534pp

MARION ZIMMER BRADLEY

TO SAVE A WORLD

Omnibus containing *Darkover* novels, *The World Wreckers*, *The Planet Savers* and *The Waterfall*. Pb \$18.95 406pp

A S BYATT

LITTLE BLACK BOOK OF STORIES

Leaves rustle underfoot in a dark wood. Two middle-aged women walk into a forest, as they did when they were girls, confronting their fears and memories and the strange thing they saw - or thought they saw - in their childhood. A distinguished obstetrician and young artist find they have sharply contrasting ideas about body parts, birth and death. An innocent member of an evening class harbours an unexpected view on 'raw material'... The stories in this collection are by turns funny, spooky, sparkling and haunting, adding a dark quality to the author's famous skill in mixing folk and fairy tale with everyday life. Pb \$22.95 279pp

DEBORAH CHESTER

THE QUEEN'S NIGHT

Queen #3. Pheresa, rightful Queen of Mandria, is ready to claim her crown and her destiny, but a deadly mist fills the cathedral and Pheresa vanishes. Only Sir Talmor, her sworn protector, can find and save her, and only by revealing the magical powers that will bring scorn upon him. Pb \$18.95 360pp

DAWN COOK

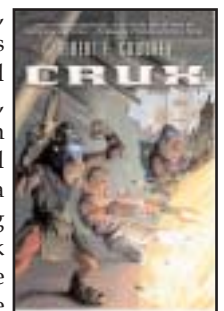
LOST TRUTH

Truth #4. Alissa's dreams lead her to a distant land, where countless Masters live in a flourishing magical society. Instead of being welcomed, Alissa finds that the Masters' leader, Keribdis, believes that she should be Alissa's teacher - whether Alissa likes it or not. And when Alissa rebels, she risks her magic - and her life. Pb \$18.95 356pp

ALBERT COWDREY

CRUX

Centuries ago, the Time of Troubles left Earth shattered and nearly empty, but a few survivors in Central Asia and returnees from Luna City hung on to bring the human race back to life. Now the Government of the Universe is spread out among hundreds of worlds. Genghis Khan is idolised as the Great Unifier of Humanity and democracy is a long-forgotten notion. This glorious golden age is threatened when 'the Crux' - a band of Old Believers, bleeding hearts and malcontents - capture a generator that can propel them back through time, enabling them to stop the Time of Troubles. Of course, Crux has to be stopped. Even the smallest change to the past will destroy the future, and the Controller of Earth won't stand for that! Hb \$54.00 349pp



FAVE RAVES

OUR FAVOURITES - NEW & CLASSIC

FAVE OLD
HOUSE OF CHAINS
A TALE OF THE MALAZAN
BOOK OF THE FALLEN #4
STEVEN ERIKSON
Pb \$22.95 1035pp

This fourth volume in Erikson's ongoing fantasy epic is just as satisfying a read as his previous work. Many of the characters have carried over from the previous novels, however with each new book that he has added to this saga, several dozen new characters are added to the already weighty *dramatis personae*. To cut this crowd of people and events down to a manageable size, he doesn't continue the stories of each group of characters in every book, but cycles between the different stories set in various locations around his imagined world. Many of the characters within this novel have not been written about since the conclusion of the second book, *Deadhouse Gates* (Pb \$18.95).

Previously the native citizenry of the arid continent of Seven Cities initiated a bloody rebellion against the occupying Malazan Empire. With her best troops warring on another continent, Laseen, the Malazan Empress, has now sent her inexperienced representative, Adjunct Tavore, and an army of young, untested recruits to quash the uprising. Part of this book concerns the march of Tavore's army to the heart of the desert of Raraku to confront the treacherous forces of the Sha'ik, the long-prophesised figurehead of the uprising. Working behind the scenes, unknown to Tavore but supporting her efforts, are members of the outlawed and infamous Malazan regiment, the *Bridgburners*.

Pearl, a Malazan assassin, and Lostara Yil, a soldier loyal to the conquering Malazans, but also a Seven Cities native, are tasked with the secret mission of finding Tavore's sister, Felisin, who was disowned by her noble Malazan family and forced into a humiliating and degrading life of slavery. The outcome of their mission creates a shocking resolution to one ongoing plot-strand. Several new strands of the story are introduced, the chief of which regards the Teblor, a primitive and highly aggressive tribe of mountain giants. Their arrogant champion, Karsa Orlong, predicts a future in which he is an unstoppable conquering warlord and, despite his overconfidence, he may eventually be proved correct.

It is astounding how Erikson manages to interweave the dozens of plot-strands into a complex network of overlapping stories, while simultaneously keeping it interesting and avoiding repetition. To gain an understanding of the workings of his world, you have to keep reading because, like real life, you only work out what is happening as you go along. The history of the world and the complex relationships between the various races inhabiting it are not explained at the outset by a neat chunk of exposition. This also means that very little back story is supplied for most of his protagonists, but this does not detract from their characterisation, because Erikson has a startling knack for authoring interesting individuals that the reader comes to care for, even though little is known about their past, their motives and their desires. This is entertaining, because the reader is often unaware of what each character is capable of, which means Erikson can surprise his readers without the personalities of his protagonists becoming inconsistent with their actions. Also, he has studied anthropology and uses this knowledge effectively, creating convincing fictional descriptions of tribal groupings, primitive weaponry and pantheistic belief systems.

Erikson refuses to talk down to his readers, making his books quite dense, but they are well worth it. - *Raphael*

FAVE NEW
THE SUNDERING
DREAD EMPIRE'S FALL #2
WALTER JON WILLIAMS
Pb \$18.95 512pp

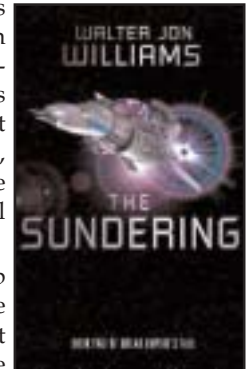
In *The Sundering*, Walter Jon Williams continues his epic tale of alien rebellion and galactic warfare against the once-prosperous Dread Empire. The series began with *The Praxis*, in which the last of the tyrannical alien race, The Shaa, "retired", creating a power struggle between the loyalist Empire and the rebel alien Naxids.

This picks up where *The Praxis* (Pb \$18.95) left off, with The Empire recovering from the heavy defeats against the rebel Naxids. The Home Fleet's entire squadron has been reduced to a tenth of its size and most of its colonial resources have been captured or destroyed by the Naxids. Two positives soon emerge from the disastrous battles and they are the courageous victories, led by Lady Caroline Sula and Lord Gareth Martinez. From these victories comes the realisation that a radical revision of the strategies employed by the Home Fleet is quickly needed to prevent any future wipeouts by the Naxids. As both sides retreat to regroup their forces and resources, the Empire soon realises that the capital of Zanshaa is next on the Naxids' hit-list. The Peers, the ruling group of elites, must soon decide whether it is worth risking millions of lives defending the pride of the Empire.

With the first book, Williams sets up the series and introduces the structure and the politics of the Empire in a simple, yet effective, fashion. In *The Sundering*, Williams continues this minimalist approach, but ups the ante by throwing the reader into the frontline with Martinez and Sula. By following both characters' countless battles against the Naxids (and within the Home Fleet), we are drawn to the characters, as we witness the nightmare that is politics and war. This book features a number of well-written action sequences. A particular highlight is the climatic invasion of Zanshaa and Sula's guerrilla defence of the capital; this is tightly written to evoke the chaos, constant uncertainty and ever-present danger that are felt by those involved. Such writing leaves the reader breathless and drained, as if experiencing it themselves.

As well, Williams continues his examination of the Jane Austenish elite that are the Peers. Here, we follow the often humorous, but very political, workings of the Empire's upper class. Of particular amusement are Roland's (Martinez's older brother) attempts at marrying off Martinez to every possible female connection.

Most writers of space operas tend to think 'bigger is better' and bog the readers down with unnecessary background information and detail. Williams, however, reveals just enough detail to allow the story to be engrossing and flow at a rapid pace. Fans of Peter F Hamilton will enjoy *The Praxis* and *The Sundering*, which is easily one of the better space opera series going around at the moment. - *John*



MICHAEL CRICHTON

 **STATE OF FEAR**

Once again Crichton gives us his trademark combination of page-turning suspense, cutting-edge technology and detailed research. This blend of suspense and commentary on how information is manipulated in the modern world goes from the streets of Paris to the glaciers of Antarctica to the exotic and dangerous Solomon Islands. Tp \$29.95 603pp

PHILIP K DICK

  **VULCAN'S HAMMER**

Written in 1960, the author's paranoid novel imagines a totalitarian state in which hammer-headed robots terrorise citizens and freedom is an absurd joke. William Barrios, the morally conflicted hero, may be the only person who can prevent the battle for control from destroying the world - if he can decide which side he's on. Tp \$27.00 165pp

  **THE SIMULACRA**

A few years from now, the President of the USA will be an android and his entire government a fraud. Everyone in the country is maladjusted. Impossible? Welcome to the world of Dr Superb, the sole remaining psychotherapist. The author tells a story of desperate love, lethal body odour and an attempted fascistic takeover of the USA, and shows there is always another layer of conspiracy beneath the one we see. Pb \$19.95 220pp

GARDNER DOZOIS (ED)

 **THE MAMMOTH BOOK OF BEST NEW SF #17**

Widely regarded as the essential book for every science fiction fan, this volume continues to uphold its standard of excellence with more than two dozen stories from the previous year. It includes not just a host of established masters, but also many bright young talents of science fiction. It embraces every aspect of the genre - soft, hard, cyberpunk, cyber noir, anthropological, military and adventure. Plus the usual thorough summations of the year and recommended reading list. Tp \$29.95 718pp

DAVID DRAKE

 **THE FAR SIDE OF THE STARS**

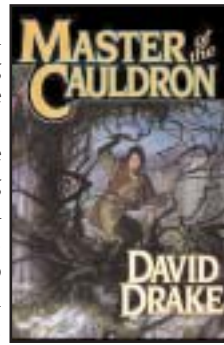
Lt Leary #3. While the Republic of Cinnabar is at peace, warriors like Lt Daniel Leary and Signals Officer Adele Mundy must find other work, like escorting a pair of wealthy nobles on an expedition to the back of beyond! The *Princess Cecile* has been sold as a private yacht, but she still has her guns, her missiles and her veteran crew. Daniel and Adele will need all of those things as they face winged dragons, an Alliance auxiliary cruiser, jealous lovers and a mysterious oracle which really does foresee the future. Pb \$18.95 514pp

DAVID DRAKE

 **MASTER OF THE CAULDRON**

Lord of the Isles.

The Isles need a strong king to bring unity, because danger is coming. Only if the Isles are united into a strong New Kingdom can humanity survive. Garric has sworn to become a true Lord of the Isles. Standing with him are his sister, Sharina; his friend and Sharina's lover, the shepherd Cashel; and Cashel's sister, the weaver-witch Ilsa. On Sandrakkan, Wilduf's Countess, Balila, schemes with her court wizard to destroy the boy king from the hated isle of Haft. Strange evils lurk on demon-haunted Volita, and she will wake them all if necessary to make her husband the new King of the Isles. Hb \$56.00 428pp



EMILY DRAKE

 **THE GATE OF BONES**

The Magickers #4. The Magickers have succeeded in opening the Dragon Gate, giving them access to the realm of Haven, to begin building the Iron Mountain Academy. But the forces of the Dark Hand are on the brink of opening another gate, a maelstrom of evil energy that could destroy not only the Magickers, but all of Haven. Hb \$48.00 416pp

JENNIFER FALLON

 **WARRIOR**

The Hythrun Chronicles #2. It is eight years since Marla Wolfblade buried her second husband. In that time, she has become the power behind Hythria's throne. But while Marla plays her own political game, Alija - High Arrion of the Sorcerers' Collective - plots her downfall and the destruction of the Wolfblade line. Marla's fortune may not be enough to protect herself and her family... especially her son, Damin, growing up far away in Krakandar. Damin's uncle, Mahkas, has convinced himself that his only daughter is destined to marry her cousin, but his obsession leads to unexpected and tragic results. Meanwhile, Elezaar the Fool, Marla's greatest confidante, must face his own crisis - and his infamous Rules of Gaining and Wielding Power are of no use to him when his brother is involved... Pb \$18.95 628pp

RAYMOND E FEIST

  **PRINCE OF THE BLOOD**

Revised edition. Set 20 years after the events of the Riftwar, this title follows the adventures of Prince Arutha's sons in the dangerously unstable Great Empire of Kesh. Pb \$19.95 470pp

KAREN JOY FOWLER, PAT MURPHY, DEBBIE NOTKIN & JEFFREY SMITH (EDS)


  **SEX, THE FUTURE AND CHOCOLATE CHIP**

COOKIES

The James Tiptree Award Anthology #1. This debut anthology features short fiction, novel excerpts and essays that have won the *James Tiptree Jr Award*. Created in 1991 to honour the innovative fiction of Alice Bradley Sheldon (who wrote under the pen name James Tiptree), this award is presented to speculative fiction that explores and expands gender roles - and in the process touches on the most fundamental of human desires: the need for sex, for love and for acceptance. This collection includes thought-provoking essays by Suzy McKee Charnas, Karen Joy Fowler, Ursula K Le Guin, Pat Murphy and Joanna Russ. Tp \$35.00 302pp

DIANA PHAROAH FRANCIS

PATH OF HONOR

 *Path #2.* Two years after Reisel's arrival, Kodu Riik is decimated by plague and famine. And now a race of sorcerers is trying to take over. Reisel's power is feared by the nobility, others wish to exploit her and her fellow ahalad-kaaslane begin to doubt her loyalty, as her healing magic fails to stem the rising plague. But Reisel will discover that although she has lost her power to heal, she now possesses a surging new ability - to destroy. Pb \$18.95 392pp

LEO FRANKOWSKI



CONRAD STARGARD: THE

  **RADIANT WARRIOR**

An Omnibus edition containing The Cross-Time Engineer, The High-Tech Knight and The Radiant Warrior. One moment Conrad Schwartz is hiking through the mountains of present-day Poland, the next he's running for his life from an angry Teutonic knight. Things go downhill from there and he finally has to face the fact that he's been stranded in 1231 AD. He'd be happier if he knew less history, as there's bad news in his new future, so he sets out to turn medieval Poland into the most powerful country in the 13th century. Hb \$49.95 743pp

ERIC GARCIA

REX OMNIBUS

  *An omnibus edition containing Anonymous Rex and Casual Rex.* Vincent Rubio, a Los Angeles private investigator, is down on his luck: He's out of work. His car's been repossessed. His partner has died under mysterious circumstances. And his tail just won't stay put. Vincent is a dinosaur - a Velociraptor, to be precise. It seems the dinosaurs faked their extinction 65 million years ago and still roam the earth, disguised in convincing latex costumes that help them blend perfectly into human society. Tp \$32.95 565pp

DAVID GERROLD

 **ALTERNATE GERROLD'S**

Everyday themes as diverse as exploration, the fight against evil, laboratory experiments and self-improvement are presented in this new anthology, largely consisting of stories featuring an alternative history, and often written for Mike Resnick's *Alternative* series. Tp \$32.95 202pp

STEVEN GOULD

 **REFLEX**

Jumper #2. When Davy was a young teen, he discovered that he was capable of teleportation and once he learned to control his ability, he went to work for a secret government agency. Now a mysterious group of people has taken Davy captive. They don't want to hire him and they don't have any hope of appealing to him to help them. What they want is to use his abilities for their own purposes, whether Davy agrees to it or not. Hb \$56.00 380pp

SUSAN GRANT

  **THE SCARLET EMPRESS**

2176 #4. Shot down over Korea, modern-day USAF fighter pilot Cameron Tucker is put in bio-stasis. She wakes 170 years later to find her best friend survived, too—the "legendary" Banzai Maguire is being held for treason in the country that was once her beloved United States. Cam has her own problems. She's in the masterful hands of Kyber, the emperor prince whom Banzai just escaped. And he won't get fooled again. With a mysterious Shadow Voice urging world revolution, and her friend in chains, Cam wants the dictator on her side, and maybe even closer. But her role in the thrilling mission to save her country must come first. It's time to give a royal butt-kicking and Cam knows just where to start. Pb \$16.95 374pp

GLORIA HARCHAR

  **ENCHANTED BY MAGIC**

It was another crazy mission. Allegro and Largo thought they'd seen the toughest test that two semi-competent, always bickering faeries from the magical, musical kingdom of Quelgheny could see, but again they were being asked the impossible. Get the duke of Chillhart, Grant Hale, to fall in love with the daughter of a criminal? Why, even if she was better than her thieving sire, even if she had fit herself into Regency society, Lauren Miller's father had incited Grant's father to kill himself! She smelled of wildflowers and her features were winsome, but would Grant see Lauren had the inner beauty to match? For these two humans to find harmony, they would have to be enchanted by magic. Luckily, Allegro and Largo knew just the trick. Pb \$14.95 305pp

ROBERT A HEINLEIN

 **FOR US, THE LIVING:
A COMEDY OF CUSTOMS**

July 12, 1939. Perry Nelson is driving along the palisades when suddenly another vehicle swerves into his lane, a tire blows out and his car careens off the road and over a bluff. The last thing he sees before his head connects with the boulders below is a girl in a green bathing suit, prancing along the shore.... When he wakes, the girl in green is a woman dressed in furs and the sun-drenched shore has transformed into snow-capped mountains. The woman, Diana, rescues Perry from the bitter cold and takes him inside her home to rest and recuperate. Later they debate the cause of the accident, for Diana is unfamiliar with the concept of a tire blowout and Perry cannot comprehend snowfall in mid-July. Then Diana shares with him a vital piece of information: The date is now January 7. The year... 2086. Pb \$18.95 329pp

JASON HIGHTMAN

 **THE SAINT OF DRAGONS**

It's not every day you wake up and find you're a dragon slayer... Simon St George meets his long lost father after supposing him dead, only to be informed that he is a descendant of St George the Dragon Slayer and it is his duty to inherit this role himself. For there are dragons in today's society and the world should be rid of their evil once and for all! Trouble is, they are disguised as humans in positions of power... Pb \$19.95 349pp

TOM HOLT

  **FISHY WISHES**

Omnibus containing Wish You Were Here and Djinn Rummy. Pb \$26.95 646pp

SARAH A HOYT

 **ANY MAN SO DARING**

William Shakespeare has become the pre-eminent playwright of Elizabethan England, but his success comes with a price - his son Hamnet has disappeared in the realm of the Elven King and Will must face the powers of darkness to rescue him. Pb \$16.95 326pp

CONN IGGULDEN

 **THE FIELD OF SWORDS**

Emperor #3. Following the defeat of the Spartacus rebellion, Julius Caesar and Marcus Brutus, who have been sent to run the Roman colonies in Spain, return to challenge powerful senators to become one of the Consuls of Rome. As he takes the legions north into mighty battles with the Gallic tribes, the imperious stand of Caesar and the leadership of his men, his new friendships with fellow leaders and his overwhelming ambition, begin to separate him from Brutus, the great swordsman and warrior. Tp \$29.95 536pp

BRIAN JACQUES

 **RAKKETY TAM**

Redwall. Rakkety Tam MacBurl is a brave border warrior who has travelled south in search of adventure. But when his army is attacked by an evil flesh-eating band, adventure finds him. Gulo the savage wolverine, flesh-eater and brutal killer, has come to Mossflower in search of his brother - who stole the mystical stone that will make one of them king of the lands of ice and snow. Any beast who gets in Gulo's way is dead meat. And he's heading for the peaceful Redwall Abbey, unless Rakkety Tam can stop him. Tp \$19.95 371pp

ROBIN JARVIS

 **FLEABEES FORTUNE**

The Deptford Mouselets #1. The Festival of First Blood is approaching and Fleabee, young ratgirl and daughter of Rancid Alf, faces a difficult choice: she must kill or be killed. This is the will of Jupiter, lord of all rats, but Fleabee is unlike the rest of her kind, she is soft-hearted and unable to harm anything. Pb \$14.95 243pp

JOHN JETTY

 **THE BLESSINGS OF STEFAN**

1,000 years hence, lovers will still have to fight to be free. 1,000 years hence, there is still conspiracy, murder and betrayal. 1,000 years hence, there is a city, deep underground where every single person is blind, except for Thurii Brook of Summerisland. What terrible tragedy happened all those years ago that so frightened the Church that they closed ranks and engaged in a massive cover-up? Corinth's father - the Lords Spiritual. What was his part in this? And Thurii? For he too was inextricably involved. Corinth's search for the truth leads to a tumultuous final battle in which she and Thurii have to fight for survival. Not just their survival, but that of the entire city. Pb \$19.95 623pp

LINDA JONES


  **THE SUN WITCH**

For 300 years, the Fyne women have called the mountain Orianan their home, inheriting the supernatural arts from their mothers, but a long-ago curse makes true love unattainable for them. When she meets the green-eyed soldier of her dreams, Sophie discovers that she has been gifted with abundant fertility. Now, she and her lover must call on all their strengths, both earthly and supernatural, to fight the curse which promises to end their happiness. Pb \$16.95 326pp




JANE LINDSKOLD

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 *Firekeepers #4.* Firekeeper and her wolf companion Blind Seer, find themselves kidnapped, dragged overseas and forced to manoeuvre for their lives in an unfamiliar and dangerous new society. The Liglimoshti have kidnapped Firekeeper and Blind Seer because they've never before heard of a human who could talk to animals. They want to see what Firekeeper can do. They want her to teach them how to do it. Firekeeper's more than willing to talk to the animals there. But she fears that Liglim's Royal animals are being held in polite and unobtrusive bondage. She wants to find out the truth and, if necessary, free them... Hb \$50.00 527pp

ELIZABETH A LYNN

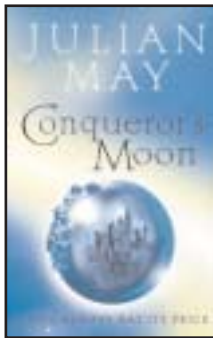
WATCHTOWER

 *Chronicles of Tornor #1.* Tornor Keep is the legendary tower that guards the winter end of a summer land. But when Tornor is overrun by raiders, a young prince is the tower's last hope. Pb \$16.95 220pp

JULIAN MAY


CONQUEROR'S MOON

 *Boreal Moon #1.* Conrig Wincantor, Prince Heritor of Cathra, has a vision: to unite the whole island of High Blenholme under Cathran sovereignty. He has so far been thwarted in this ambition by his cautious, aging




father, King Olmigon, who, though weak with illness, still clings firmly to the reins of the government. Now Conrig has hit upon a scheme that will convince the Lords that his plan can succeed. He has formed an alliance with Ullanoth, princess of the remote northern province of Moss - a fearsome sorceress. With her help his army will have the advantage it needs to subdue the only domain refusing to sign his Edict of Sovereignty. Meanwhile, Ullanoth tends her own schemes. Pb \$18.95 502pp

IRONCROWN MOON

 *Boreal Moon #2.* King Conrig Ironcrown now rules the entire island of High Blenholme. But the peace he achieved after ruthlessly uniting its four quarrelling kingdoms into a Sovereignty is about to be challenged by enemies both mortal and supernatural. Rumours abound that his vengeful first wife, Maudrayne, believed to have committed suicide when she discovered his infidelity, is in fact still alive and about to reveal a secret that could cost Conrig his throne. Tp \$29.95 502pp


STAN NICHOLLS

QUICKSILVER ZENITH

 *Quicksilver #2.* The paladin clans, a fearsome order of mercenary knights who provide government security, are determined to crush the growing rebellion. Devlor Bastorran, the dangerous and cruel heir apparent to the clan leadership, is plotting a grotesque revenge against Caldason, having been bested by him in a humiliating and very public swordfight. But Caldason has other problems to contend with. The rebels have chosen an island location for their new state. Before it can be occupied, a large quantity of gold must be delivered to its legal owner. Caldason is the natural choice to head this sensitive mission. Tp \$29.95 327pp

CHRISTOPHER PAOLINI

ERAGON


 *Inheritance #1.* When Eragon finds a polished stone in the forest, he thinks it is the lucky discovery of a poor farm boy. Perhaps it will buy his family meat for the winter. But when the stone brings a dragon hatchling, Eragon



soon realises he has stumbled upon a legacy nearly as old as the Empire itself. Overnight his life is shattered and he is thrust into a perilous new world of destiny, magic and power. With only an ancient sword and the advice of an old storyteller for guidance, Eragon and the fledgling dragon must navigate the dangerous terrain and dark enemies of an Empire ruled by a king whose evil knows no bounds. Can Eragon take up the mantle of the legendary Dragon Riders? The fate of the Empire may rest in his hands. Pb \$19.95 517pp


SPIDER ROBINSON

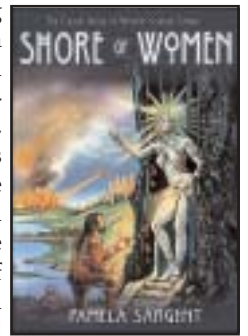
VERY BAD DEATHS

 Ageing baby-boomer Russell Walker wants only to retreat from the world and the shattering death of his beloved wife, into the woods of British Columbia. But the real world won't let him become a hermit. Instead, he finds himself thrust into the mystery of a series of mass murders by a monstrous sadist and serial killer who makes Hannibal Lector look like a boy scout. And he is caught in a frightening predicament: He is the only possible intermediary between a telepath called Smelly, so sensitive he can't stand to be near most people and a sceptical police officer who needs to hear and believe what Smelly knows about the fiend. This involuntary trio may be the only ones who can catch the inhuman butcher before he kills again, if he doesn't catch them first. Hb \$39.95 271pp

PAMELA SARGENT

SHORE OF WOMEN


 Having expelled men from their vast walled cities to a lower-class wilderness, the women in this futuristic universe dictate policy and chart the future through control of scientific and technological



advances. Among their laws are the rules for reproductive engagement, an act now viewed as a means of procreation rather than an act of love. In this rigidly defined environment, a chance meeting between a woman exiled from the female world and a wilderness man triggers a series of feelings, actions and events that ultimately threaten the fabric of the women's constricted society. Tp \$32.95 465pp


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MIKE SHEPHERD

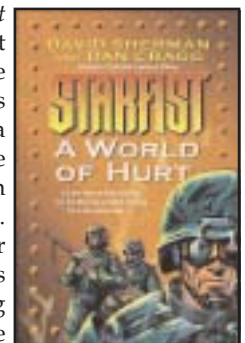
DESERTER

 *Kris Longknife #2.* A search for her lost friend leads the female space warrior into a galactic hellhole with no way out. Pb \$18.95 345pp

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Inventor and girl genius Tinker lives in a near-future Pittsburgh, which now exists mostly in the land of the elves. She runs her salvage business, pays her taxes and tries to keep the local ambient level of magic down with gadgets of her own design. When a pack of wargs chase an Elven noble into her scrap yard, life as she knows it takes a serious detour. Tinker finds herself taking on the Elven court, the NSA, the Elven Interdimensional Agency, technology smugglers and a college-minded Xenobiologist, as she tries to stay focused on what's really important - her first date. Pb \$16.95 438pp

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Dr Neal Anson Clemons, brilliant physicist and martial arts expert, was born at the very moment that men first landed on the moon and his dream had always been to find a way to travel to the stars. Now he and his team have achieved a breakthrough, both in building a warp drive, and finding a new energy source powerful enough to make the drive more than an interesting theoretical concept. Unfortunately, forces working behind the scenes have much darker dreams and they will not hesitate to kill Neal and use the stolen warp technology to start war with the United States. Hb \$48.00 285pp

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A family deals with the death of their father. A son goes to court for his inheritance. Another son agonises over his father's deathbed confession. And everyone in the tale is a dragon, red in tooth and claw. Here is a world in which, on the death of an elder, family members gather to eat the body of the deceased. In which the great and the good avail themselves of the privilege of killing and eating the weaker children, which they do with ceremony and relish, thereby growing stronger. Pb \$16.95 292pp

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 **SOUL MAGIC**

The ancient magic of Rune is fading, and legends speak of mortals and fae joining together to renew it. Thus to Thorncliff Keep the fae Alanna goes, to seek him: the mortal whom she left at the altar. Betrothed from childhood, she has always loved Darrick Tadhg. The knight's strong arms and mighty sword still cause her to shiver with desire. But a terrible wrong came between them, a terrible shame that she has no desire to reveal. Alanna will, for the sake of her life and the sake of her kingdom and for the sake of their love, convince Darrick of the power of their joined souls - and of Fate, which never meant for them to be apart. Pb \$16.95 324pp

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In an attempt to save the Minervans from oppression in the central galaxy, the liberal Western Galactic Empire has relocated the sect to their ancient homeland of Kennewick, Washington. The fundamentalist fanatics ruling the USA find the presence of pagans in the holy city intolerable, however, and they launch an interstellar campaign of mass destruction in protest. Now, cast in a universe gone mad, the primitive Earthling POW Sergeant Hamilton and his case officer, the sophisticated Minervan priestess Aurora, must find the way out, or neither side will survive. A science-fiction satire on the Middle East crisis and the War on Terrorism from the winner of the *National Space Society's Heinlein Award*. Tp \$32.95 298pp



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Sue Quentin has reached the end of her rope - she's desperate - and there's only one way out. Her plan doesn't include falling for Tony, the mysterious hit man she hires. He listens when she speaks and somehow convinces her that maybe her problems aren't entirely insurmountable. He even thinks her little potbelly is sexy. So he's a werewolf - everyone has flaws! Sue begins to think she and Tony might have a shot at a future together, despite his unorthodox profession... and even though she doesn't know his real name. But when Tony's enemies - not all of whom are fully human - decide Sue makes a perfect target, will Tony risk letting his darker side out during the day to save her? Pb \$16.95 328pp

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Later, the ones left alive would agree they never should have turned off that dark stretch of Tennessee interstate. They are tired and tense, two guys and three girls arguing over a vacation gone bad. But things are about to get worse for the five young friends. In fact, most of them will never see the highway again. The woods are dark and forbidding, filled with unseen dangers and inhuman sounds. The light in the distance promises sanctuary from the grasping terrors. Instead, the light lures the travellers to the very heart of evil, a house at the entrance of Hell, a house that held only torture, depravity and - for the lucky ones - death. When the front door closes, the screaming begins! Pb \$16.95 369pp

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This is the first in-depth study of the science fiction television devised and written by Terry Nation, who invented the Daleks and wrote a number of other episodes for *Doctor Who*, created the BBC's 1970s post-apocalyptic drama *Survivors* and the space adventure series *Blake's 7*. Using his science fiction work as a case study, the boundaries around the authorship and authority of the television writer are explored in detail. The authors make use of BBC's archival research and specially conducted interviews with producers and other production staff, to discuss how the programmes that Terry Nation created and wrote were commissioned, produced and brought to the screen. Tp \$57.95 230pp

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THE ART OF STORYBOARD

This illustrated book by the animator, artist and director of *The Secret of N.I.M.H.* and *All Dogs Go to Heaven* describes in detail the technical and artistic processes involved in crafting storyboards, the visual blueprints of animated films. Using pages of beautiful storyboard images from his classic films, Bluth takes readers from the breakdown of a script to the finished boards. Loaded with technical tips and insights into the creative imagination, this should satisfy anyone interested in animation. Tp \$32.95 112pp

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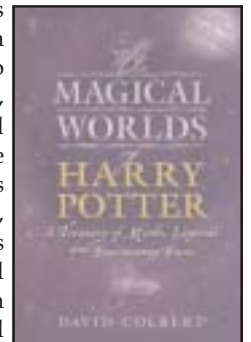
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WHAT WE'VE BEEN READING

Laputa: Castle in the Sky (DVD \$30.95). Most people are familiar with director Hayao Miyazaki's recent animated films such as **Spirited Away** (DVD \$30.95) or **Princess Mononoke** (DVD \$34.95). Fortunately, most of his earlier (and better) films are slowly being released in Australia on DVD for the first time.

Set in a fictional 19th century Europe, a young boy named Pazu meets Sheeta, a girl who one day floats down from the sky with the help of the glowing pendant that she is wearing. Soon, federal agents and sky pirates are both chasing Pazu and Sheeta to get the mysterious pendant, which holds the key to reaching Laputa, a mythical empire of the sky filled with riches and power beyond anyone's wildest dreams.

Everything works so well in this movie, from its beautifully drawn animation of a picturesque Europe and its fantastic air-ships to its stirring soundtrack, which perfectly complements the epic and adventure-filled story. More importantly, **Laputa** is filled with Miyazaki's characteristic talent for storytelling, which genuinely transports you into another time and place.

A lot of people think **Spirited Away** was something special, but in my opinion **Laputa** is Miyazaki's best film. It's an overused cliché, but **Laputa** is definitely one of my favourite films of all time. - *John*

The Fall of Lautun (Pb \$17.95) by Marcus Herniman. In this triumphant conclusion to *The Arrandin Trilogy*, the author completes the weaving of his tale with a sure hand. The stirring of the Ancient Enemy gathers in strength and armies of the Souther Empire threaten the Six Kingdoms from across, while the movement of the Vashtar priesthood to eradicate the worship of the elder gods gathers momentum, spilling over into the enclaves of the Mage Council itself. Kellarn and his companions continue to search for the pieces of the Old World weapon that, once united, will give the Lautun Empire a chance to defeat the Enemy and his minions. Mage Councillor Rhysana continues on the path to discovering the key to the teachings of Archmage Illana, which will unlock access to a magic unseen since the Golden Age of the Council. This is a great story and I can't wait for more from Mr Herniman. - *Mark*



Gilfeather (Pb \$18.95) by Glenda Larke. The second book in the *Isles of Glory Trilogy* continues Blaze Halfbreed and Flame Windrider's dangerous quest to ride the Isles of the evil dunmaster Morthred. Picking up where we left off in **The Aware** (Pb \$18.95), Larke introduces us to a new character, Kelwyn Gilfeather, whose remarkable gifts in sensing both Sylv and Dun magic make him as impervious to both as one of the Aware folk. In this book, Larke reveals more of the Isles' unique and treacherous beauty, while the sharp prose and witty dialogue creates a steady pace that moves this unique story along without a hitch. This is a great series and quite different to your run-of-the-mill quest Fantasy. *Mark*

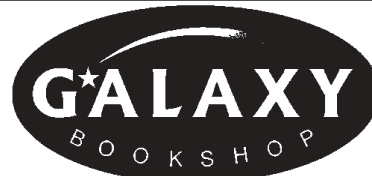
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