

ISSUE #213 FEBRUARY 2006

nexus

SCIENCE FICTION • FANTASY • HORROR



PHILIP K DICK AWARD NOMINEES

Cagebird by Karin Lowachee (Pb \$16.95)

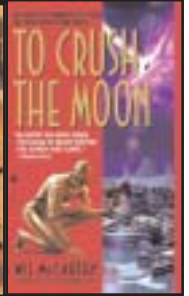
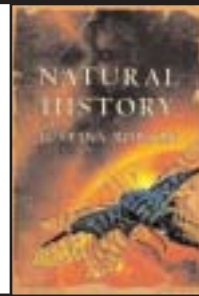
Cowl by Neal Asher (Pb \$19.95)

Natural History by Justina Robson (Pb \$18.95)

Silver Screen by Justina Robson (Tp \$32.95)

To Crush the Moon by Wil McCarthy (Pb \$16.95)

War Surf by M M Buckner (Pb \$18.95)



EXPLORE THE SCIENCE.....

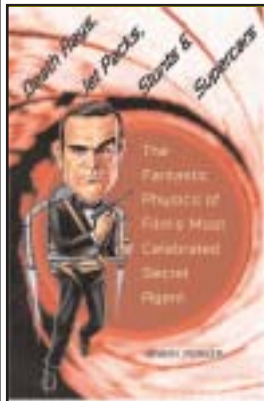
IN SCIENCE FICTION



STAR WARS: WHERE SCIENCE MEETS IMAGINATION Ed RODLEY

Just saying the words *Star Wars* evokes images of whooshing light sabres, Luke Skywalker's landspeeder racing above the sand and epic battles between the forces of good and evil that take place in the farthest reaches of space. This title explores how George Lucas's incredible use of science and technology may have presaged - and at times directly influenced - the future of life on Earth and beyond. From commercial space flight and super-speed trains that levitate by magnetism to robot servants and microscopic nanorobots that perform surgery internally, scientists inspired by *Star Wars* are taking fictional ideas and turning them into reality. In the next 20 years, human soldiers will be outfitted like stormtroopers, impervious to chemical weapons and equipped with superhuman endurance. Such advances, while monumental, also raise huge ethical questions. The

book gives voice to the scientists and creators of the technologies whose stories describe the complexities and consequences of such advances. Hb \$59.95 208pp



DEATH RAYS, JET PACKS, STUNTS AND SUPERCARS: THE FANTASTIC PHYSICS OF FILM'S MOST CELEBRATED SECRET AGENT BARRY PARKER

If you've ever wondered whether the laser could have actually cut Bond in half (*Goldfinger*), if a wristwatch could really unzip a woman's dress (*Live and Let Die*), or whether your car could do a 360-degree barrel roll (*Man with the Golden Gun*) this book is for you. The author demonstrates how science and technology have

been as important to 007 as good looks, shaken martinis and beautiful women. Using entertaining sketches and non-technical language, he explains the basic physics behind the gadgets, cars and stunts in a number of Bond films. Hb \$49.95 231pp



THE SCIENCE OF ANIME: MECHA-NOIDS & AI SUPER-BOTS LOIS H GRESH & ROBERT WEINBERG

One of the main topics of anime is advanced technology and how it will affect the human race. Movies like *Akira* have touched upon the power of the atom and the advances and tragedies that nuclear power will bring to the Earth. Stories like *Ghost in the Shell* explore the limits of human and machine interface and artificial intelligence. More than any other genre in the entertainment field,

anime explores the future of science and technology and this title provides a fascinating and fun look at the science behind it. Tp \$35.00 259pp

9 - 12 June 2006

CONFLUX 3

A Convention of Fantastic Worlds
www.conflux.org.au

The Communications Link
Sir Arthur C. Clarke
Ray Bradbury

International Guests
Ellen Datlow
Steve Jackson
Joan D. Vinge
Jim Frenkel

Australian Guests
Kate Forsyth
Sara Douglass
Jackie French
Jason Paulos

Largest Art Show & Film Festival
at an Australian SF Convention



SCIENCE FICTION AND FANTASY



TONY ABBOTT



KRINGLE

This is a coming-of-age story about an orphan who becomes a force for good in a dark, violent time. It is the tale of a boy from the most humble beginnings who fulfils his destiny. It begins in 500 AD, when goblins kidnapped human children and set them to work in underground mines. Kringle is one such child, until he discovers his mission - to free children from enslavement. His legend lives on as he travels the earth every Christmas Eve to quell the goblins once more. Hb \$19.95 324pp

ALMA ALEXANDER



THE EMBERS OF HEAVEN

Jin Shei #2. Amais is heir to her poet-ancestress' manuscripts and journals. The journals are all in jin-ashu, the women's tongue, taught sketchily to Amais by her mother. Combined with her deep and instinctive bond to her ancestors and her culture, she determines to reinvent the Women's Country and bring the jin-shei back. But just as her crusade begins, she and her family are caught up in the storm of history - the whirlwind of the Golden Rising - a people's revolution that is fated to destroy much that was once valuable, gracious and beautiful. Tp \$29.95 341pp

DOUGLAS A ANDERSON (ED)



TALES BEFORE TOLKIEN: THE ROOTS OF MODERN FANTASY

Many of today's top names in fantasy acknowledge J R R Tolkien as the author whose work inspired them to create their own epics. So which writers influenced Tolkien? This collection contains the fiction of the many authors who sparked his imagination. Included are Andrew Lang's romantic swashbuckler *The Story of Sigurd*, featuring magic rings and a ferocious dragon, an excerpt from E A Wyke-Smith's *The Marvelous Land of Snergs*, about creatures who were precursors to Tolkien's hobbits and a never-before-published gem by David Lindsay, author of *A Voyage to Arcturus*, a novel that Tolkien praised highly both as a thriller and a work of philosophy, religion and morality. Pb \$18.95 517pp

KEVIN J ANDERSON, JANET BERLINER, MATTHEW J COSTELLO & F PAUL WILSON



ARTIFACT

Six adrenalin junkies, who call themselves the Daredevils Club, hold the fate of the world in their hands. In an ancient undersea cavern, one of them, oil man Frik van Alman, discovers a set of stones unlike anything else on Earth. Fitted together, the stones form an object that promises limitless free energy for the world. After a terrified scientist scatters the pieces, the club members race to retrieve them. Each knows that whoever reassembles the unique device will have unlimited power at their fingertips. Can anyone be trusted? In a thrilling adventure that stretches from deep beneath the Caribbean to the penthouses of Las Vegas, friend battles friend for control of the Artifact. Pb \$16.95 308pp

SHARI ANTON



MIDNIGHT MAGIC

Alberic has never received the thing he most desires - acknowledgement. But everything is about to change. While serving in battle with the king, he slays a baron and his son. As a reward for his loyalty, the king bestows him with the baron's family ring, granting him all the baron's holdings, on one condition: Alberic must marry one of the baron's daughters. Gwendolyn de Leon, daughter of the slain baron, is horrified at the idea of marrying the man who destroyed her family, so she plots to steal the key to her family's legacy - a magical ring that can cast a powerful spell. There is only one problem - the ring is stuck on Alberic's finger. Pb \$16.95 356pp



CATHERINE ASARO (ED)



IRRESISTIBLE FORCES

New York Times bestselling authors Mary Jo Putney, Jo Beverley and Lois McMaster Bujold join forces with award-winning authors Catherine Asaro, Jennifer Roberson and Deb Stover in this all-new anthology of original stories that prove love can conquer all... even the boundaries of time and space. From 16th-century Britain to the farthest reaches of outer space, from medieval adventures to tales of inter-galactic love, here is a compilation that explores the wonderfully kinetic forces that lovers share - forces too great to resist... Pb \$18.95 348pp

STEPHEN BAXTER



TRANSCENDENT

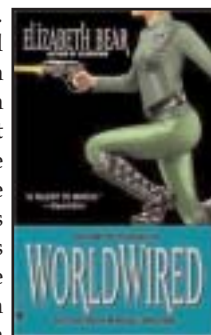
Destiny's Children #3. At once a cautionary tale of what we are capable of destroying and a celebration of what we could become. In this capstone to the series, we find out what happened to the children of the Poole brothers and what will happen to mankind. Tp \$32.95 489pp

ELIZABETH BEAR



WORLDWIRED

Jenny Casey #3. The year is 2063 and Earth has been brutalised. An asteroid flung at Toronto by the P a n C h i n e s e government has killed tens of millions and left the equivalent of a nuclear explosion in its wake. Perched above the devastation in the starship Montreal, Jenny is still in the thick of the fray. Plugged into the worldwire, connected to a brilliant AI, her mind can be anywhere and everywhere at once. But it is focused on the mysterious alien beings right outside her ship. Are they there to help or destroy? With Earth a breeding ground for treason and betrayal, as governments struggle to assign blame, Jenny holds the fate of humankind in her artificially reconstructed hand... Pb \$16.95 398pp



GREG BEAR



SLEEPSIDE: THE COLLECTED FANTASIES









This fantasy-themed volume from the award-winning author features the tales *Webster*, *The White Horse Child*, *Sleepside Story*, the *Nebula Award*-nominated *Petra* and much more. Tp \$29.00 293pp

ERIC BROWN



DEEP FUTURE

This debut collection of short science fiction features *The Kings of Eternity* and many more. Foreword by Keith Brooke. Tp \$45.00 179pp

	
	SCIENCE FICTION
	FANTASY
	ROMANCE
	AWARD WINNER
	AUSTRALIAN
	ACTION
	REPRINT
AC	AUDIO CASSETTE
CD	COMPACT DISC
PB	PAPERBACK
HB	HARDBACK
TP	TRADE PAPERBACK

FAVE RAVES

OUR FAVOURITES - NEW & CLASSIC

CLASSIC TITLE

SOMETHING WICKED THIS WAY COMES

RAY BRADBURY
PB \$16.95 304PP

"By the pricking of my thumbs,
something wicked this way comes...."

This is considered a dark-fantasy classic due to its cautionary message and interesting style. It is also a coming-of-age tale featuring two brave boys and a travelling carnival like no other...

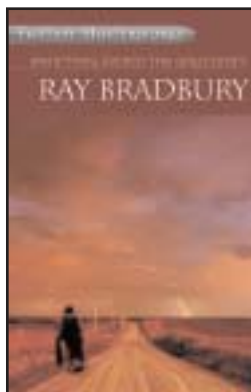
What drew me to this book in the first place was my fondness for Ray Bradbury's short stories. This book has short, punchy chapters of no more than a few pages, yet the plot is by no means simplistic. It is similar to Stephen King's **Needful Things** (Pb \$21.95), but with more symbolic imagery and less violence. The frightening elements are very subtle.

The boys are friends and next-door neighbours living in Green Town, USA in the 1920s. Born only a day apart - one on All Saints Day and the other on Halloween - they are very different in personality. This is just one of the many examples of classic symbols strung throughout the book like little signposts. A clock strikes, a white rabbit darts out and disappears, and throughout the carnival there are mirrors and reminders of death, like the scarab beetle and the skeleton.

Will and Jim are on the verge of adulthood, or so they think, as they are almost 14. When the carnival 'Cooger and Dark's Pandemonium Shadow Show' pulls in to their small town, they are given a chance to grow up far sooner than they thought, by using an enchanted carousel. Riding it can make you older, but riding it backwards makes you younger. Either way, this is not a merry-go-round to take lightly, and the wary reader knows and cringes at their misuse of something so powerful. The element of Sin also hangs over the heads of those in the town when they are confronted by the people of the carnival. Who would chose to live such a life and why?

The most frightening elements are the supernatural villain, simply named the Illustrated Man, and the way the townspeople are drawn to the travelling carnival. They are ordinary American folk with all the petty jealousies and general neuroses that derive from life in a small town, but these elements are much-multiplied when they come into play. Worse than the carousel is the price to be paid for having wishes granted. Everyone in this small town wants *something* - to regain something lost or experience something new, but they don't think of the cost to themselves. It raises some serious 'what ifs', especially about what older people would wish for regarding lost opportunities and times past.

While this is an especially good read for young adults, older readers will be reminded of why they read horror or fantasy. There are always little nuggets of pure wisdom in Bradbury's writings. Combine that with classic symbols and genuinely frightening carnival folk, and you get **Something Wicked This Way Comes**, a very good read. -*Sofia*



NEW TITLE

THE HIDDEN STARS

RUNE OF UNMAKING #1
MADELINE HOWARD
PB \$18.95 432PP

You have to admire these debut authors who write brilliant novels!

In ages past, a war between wizards left the land physically scarred and with a power vacuum. Empress Ouriana seizes the throne, declares herself a Goddess (the Divine Incarnation of the Devouring Moon) and appoints 12 men as Furiadhin (priests) to perform the bloody sacrifices that give her power and keep her young, leaving them twisted monsters, literally. For all her success in invading kingdoms, with her



armies fighting with no honour or scruples, there are those who oppose her. A prophecy has it that a child will be born who will lead to her downfall. The story opens with Ouriana's sister, herself an extremely powerful healing woman, dying in labour due to a curse that Ouriana has placed on her that even the most powerful wizards in the land can do nothing to unravel. One of these wizards takes the new baby away to be hidden, dying in the process, but taking three of the Furiadhin with him (YAY - I really don't like these guys).

The story then jumps about 15 years into the future. Ouriana is slowly wearing the resistance down. If her armies can't eat something, they burn it to the ground, leaving communities homeless and starving. Men, weapons and resources are getting scarce. There are rumours of shapeshifters fighting for Ouriana and dark magic being used. A group comprising the elder wizard Éireamhóine, his daughter Sinderian (a healer) and an elf Prince set out to investigate the rumours that the baby Princess lives and to attempt to bring her back to help fight Ouriana. Typically the journey is fraught with danger, betrayal and death.

The story is almost always tight. Howard is descriptive enough to paint a very clear picture of surroundings and events without getting too wordy. It has good guys you love to love, bad guys you love to hate (having said that I need to know more about the Empress Ouriana) and I *love* the 'voice' that Howard uses to narrate the story - it's almost like having someone recount a tale while sitting around a campfire. There are a lot of very familiar themes - good versus evil, a princess in hiding and parallels to Tolkien (the 12 priests reminded me of the Ring Wraiths). Yet the story somehow feels new and had me hooked from the beginning. I suspect there is going to come a point when I go "D'oh - how didn't I see that coming...?" This was fantastic and I can't wait to get my hands on the rest. My only complaint is some of the names are a bit of a mouthful! - *Steph*

**To celebrate the release of
Serenity on DVD,
we have two Serenity movie
posters to give away.**

See back page for entry details

ANGELA CARTER

 **ANGELA CARTER'S BOOK OF FAIRY TALES**

This collection contains lyrical tales, bloody tales and bawdy stories from countries all around the world - from the Arctic to Asia - and no dippy princesses or soppy fairies. Instead, we have pretty maids and old crones, crafty women and bad girls, enchantresses and midwives; rascal aunts and odd sisters. This celebration of strong minds, low cunning, black arts and dirty tricks could only have been collected by this unique and much-missed author. Illustrated throughout with original woodcuts. Hb \$32.95 486pp

JAY CASELBERG

 **THE STAR TABLET**

Wyrmhole #3. Jack's 16-year-old ward, Billie, has vanished somewhere in the metropolis of Balance City. His search for her brings him to the attention of a corrupt millionaire, the fanatical Sons of Utrecht and an alien conspiracy that may alter the future of humanity. Pb \$16.95 309pp

P W CATANESE

 **THE EYE OF THE WARLOCK**

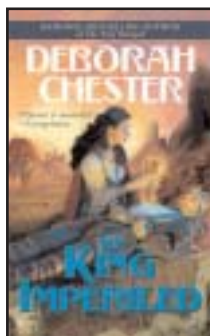
Life has been unkind to Rudi - and to Lucie and Elsebeth, the two little girls he looks after. So when a stranger announces he needs Rudi's help to uncover Hansel's treasure, Rudi sees a way out. And so an incredible journey - one filled with mist-covered castles, a tree house-dwelling outsider and creatures called murglins - begins. But as Rudi, the girls and the stranger weave their way through the rambling woods, Rudi notices the clouds blackening and a thick fog descending. Then the unthinkable happens: Lucie and Elsebeth are stolen! Is a simple woodcutter like Rudi any match for a thousand-year-old villain? Pb \$6.95 241pp



DEBORAH CHESTER

 **THE KING IMPERILED**

Queen's Gambit #4. For 12 years, King Faldain and his warrior-wife, Queen Alexeika, have sought the Chieftain - and the evil sorceress behind him - who killed their son on the day barbarians attacked the palace. Now Dain, suffering from a powerful, life-threatening curse, struggles homeward to be saved by the Chalice of Life. But he is about to be betrayed by someone close to him. Pb \$18.95 363pp



DAVID CIAN

 **MEGA WAR**

War of the Worlds #2. It is 2038, a century since the last invasion from the Red Planet. Humanity has studied the confiscated Martian technology and found new uses for it. One of these uses is to create giant robots piloted by men and women dedicated to protecting the planet. With these super robots, the inhabitants of Earth think they are ready for the invasion, but the Martians have made a number of improvements to their technology over the last century - improvements humanity may not be prepared to defend against. Pb \$12.95 193pp

DAVID B COE

 **SHAPERS OF DARKNESS**

Winds of the Forelands #4. The Forelands are at war. The magic-wielding Qirsi and their Eandi masters have mobilised their forces. The Eandi have had to look beyond past differences to make alliances for the sake of the future, praying it isn't too late for them to change the outcome of the war. Tavis, an Eandi prince who was framed for murdering the princess to whom he was pledged and endured torture before winning his freedom, has at last avenged her death. Still, the murder and its aftermath have brought war to the Forelands just as the Qirsi conspirators who bought his love's blood had intended. Now Tavis and Grinsa, a Qirsi shaper with more powers than he reveals, who saved Tavis when nobody else would believe his innocence, venture across the Forelands, risking death to help save the land they love... Hb \$59.95 414pp

DAWN COOK

 **THE DECOY PRINCESS**

Princess Contessa's dreams of living happily ever after are shattered when her 'parents' reveal that she is actually a street urchin whom they raised as their daughter to thwart assassins from their real target. Pb \$18.95 356pp

ELAINE CUNNINGHAM

 **SHADOWS IN THE DARKNESS**

Changeling #1. Gwen 'GiGi' Gelman, a 10-year veteran of the Providence, Rhode Island vice squad, finds herself unemployed after being blamed for a routine bust that turned into a bloodbath. Starting her own PI business, she takes on the case of a 14-year-old runaway who may or may not have been kidnapped. As GiGi investigates, she accidentally opens the door to her own mystical past. Now long-hidden family ties threaten her and the secret of her identity unlocks a conspiracy that reveals the forces of darkness that play in the shadows - forces that hope to be masters of all mortal life. Pb \$16.95 304pp

JACK DANN & GARDNER DOZOIS (EDS)

 **BEYOND SINGULARITY**

Featuring stellar contributions from some of today's most masterful practitioners of speculative fiction, this anthology presents 14 visions of a tomorrow where rapid technological and genetic breakthroughs have rendered humanity obsolete. Pb \$18.95 288pp

KATE FORSYTH

 **THE SHINING CITY**

Rhiannon's Ride #2. Imprisoned in Sorrowgate Tower, Rhiannon awaits her trial for murder and treason, while the winged horse Blackthorn flies forlornly over the Shining City. Alone and in terrible fear for the future, Rhiannon is haunted by the malevolent ghost of a dead queen who has a hunger to live again. Preoccupied with the upcoming wedding of the royal cousins, Donnacan and Bronwen, Isabeau the Keybearer fails to investigate Rhiannon's tale of necromancy and ghosts, to her cost. By the time she realises that dark spirits have indeed been disturbed, it is too late and the royal family is brought face to face with She Who Cuts the Thread. Pb \$19.95 661pp

KAREN JOY FOWLER, PAT MURPHY,

DEBBIE NOTKIN & JEFFREY SMITH (EDS)

THE JAMES TIPTREE AWARD

 **ANTHOLOGY**

#2. Following the successful debut of the series, this second serving of innovative storytelling continues to celebrate thought-provoking and provocative speculative fiction. Touching on the most fundamental of human desires - sex, love and the need for acceptance - *Tiptree Award*-winning authors continually challenge and redefine social identities, simultaneously exploring and expanding gender. This collection gathers short fiction and essays chosen by *Tiptree Award* judges in 2004, as well as additional selections from previous years and a foreword written by Kim Stanley Robinson. Tp \$32.95 252pp

LEO FRANKOWSKI

 **CONRAD'S LADY**

An omnibus containing *The Flying Warlord*, *Lord Conrad's Lady* & *Conrad's Quest for Rubber*. One moment Conrad Schwartz is suffering from a severe hangover as he hikes through the mountains of present-day Poland, the next he's hurled back to the same country in the 13th century. He knows from his history classes that, in another 10 years, Mongol hordes will attack, so he sets out to turn Poland into a world power by introducing universal education, aircraft, radios and steamboats, thus discouraging Mongols or anybody else from messing with either Poland or Conrad himself. But things aren't that simple... Hb \$54.00 724pp

JANE GODWIN & DRAHOS ZAK
**THE TRUE STORY OF MARY WHO
WANTED TO STAND ON HER
HEAD**

A spiky story in rhyme about a girl who has a unique view of the world and just can't be made to fit in! Hb \$22.95 47pp

JON COURTENAY GRIMWOOD

9TAIL FOX

A policeman is murdered in San Francisco and spends the rest of the novel hunting down the man who did it, trying to get answers to some terrifying questions. Why is he in another man's body? Why is someone trying to kill him again? And why is he being haunted by a nine-tailed Albino fox? Tp \$29.95 328pp

JON COURTENAY GRIMWOOD

STAMPING BUTTERFLIES

This tells the story of two dreamers - one a would-be assassin in tomorrow's Marrakech who aims to kill the US President and holds in his head the secret to a faster-than-light drive, the other a Chinese Emperor, ruler of 148 billion people on an immense Dyson sphere thousands of years in the future. Each believes they are dreaming the other. One must change the future, one must change the past. Both have only days to live. Pb \$21.95 425pp

DAVE GROSSMAN
& LEO FRANKOWSKI

THE TWO-SPACE WAR

600 years in the future, mankind has learned to move between the stars by going into Two-Space, the vast realm where sentient wooden ships travel beneath canvas sails in a universe that is corrosive to technology. When Lt Thomas Melville's ship is mortally wounded in a cowardly surprise attack and his captain killed, Melville must capture a feral, sentient enemy ship and fight his way across the galaxy to warn of the vast invading armada. He forges his ship and crew into a mighty weapon of war and earns the love of an alien princess. Now he has to survive the attacks of two very angry alien empires and avoid being court marshalled by his own nation of Westerners for getting them involved in a vast intergalactic war... Pb \$18.95 519pp

KAREN HANCOCK

SHADOW OVER KIRIATH

Legends of the Guardian King #3. While Abram's coronation is still underway, rival leaders are already plotting their return to power. Worse yet, as the hour approaches for Abram's marriage to the Chesedhan crown princess - which is required to seal the desperately needed alliance between their two countries - he finds himself deeply attracted to her younger sister. Will Eidon give Abram ultimate victory or will his enemies succeed in destroying him and his beloved realm? Tp \$29.95 463pp

JOHN G HEMRY

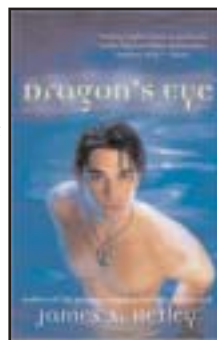
AGAINST ALL ENEMIES

Paul Sinclair #4. Someone aboard the USS Michaelson is selling secrets. To uncover the traitor, legal officer Lieutenant Paul Sinclair must walk a dangerous line between duty and honour. Pb \$18.95 336pp

JAMES A HETLEY

DRAGON'S EYE

In the hardscrabble town of Stonefort, Maine, live two magical families - the shape shifting Morgans and the Haskell witches. But evil is coming to Stonefort. A drug lord, a frighteningly powerful sorcerer, covets the Morgans' alliance with the magical being known as the Dragon. Now 17-year-old Gary Morgan must claim his heritage and save his family. But first he will have to master the power of the Dragon and he'll need the help of the Haskell witches to do it. Somehow, the Morgans and the Haskells must overcome their differences before the sorcerer assumes the power of the Dragon and destroys them all. Tp \$29.95 355pp



JAMES P HOGAN

**CATASTROPHES, CHAOS &
CONVOLUTIONS**

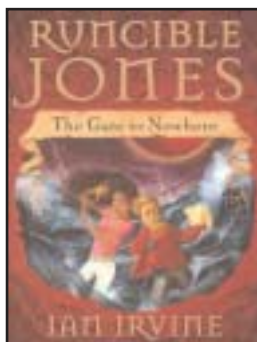
This collection combines science fiction and fact, with descriptions of how the author's work came to be written and biographical details. Pb \$18.95 482pp

IAN IRVINE

THE GATE TO NOWHERE

Runcible Jones #1.

Runcible Jones and Mariam Orpiment - two 'almost normal' children stuck at Grindgrim Academy, the worst school in the country. Parsifoe and Ulalliall - a shambling magician and her arrogant, age-old transportal. Thandimanilon and Lars Sparj - the charmingly wicked Dark Lady and her villainous consort. Sly, slippery Sleeth and sad-eyed Tigris - two brilliant students of magic, but can either be trusted? The Cybale - an ancient fanatical cult of wizards about to rise again. Find out what happens when Runcible and Mariam are hurled through a gate to Iltior, to become the children who will change the world's destiny forever. Pb \$16.95 441pp



ELIZABETH KERNER

REDEEMING THE LOST

Lanen Kaeler #3. The prophecies are coming true and the ancient race of the Kantri - or true dragons - have come back to the world of Men. It was through the actions of Young Lanen Kaeler that the Kantri were reminded of the larger world. Now, they look to Varien and Lanen help them redeem what has been lost and make the world right again. But Lanen is captured by the human demon-master Berys, who seeks to corrupt the ancient prophecy. He will try to use Lanen's new-found powers to gain control of the very fabric of the universe and in doing so, secure the demon forces of the otherworld and rule forever. Pb \$16.95 398pp

E E KNIGHT

DRAGON CHAMPION

Age of Fire #1. After escaping those who killed his siblings, Young Auron, a rare, defenceless gray dragon, fears he might be the last of his breed. Armed with nothing but his claws and a boundless determination to survive, he sets off in search of his kind. But to find other dragons - or, at least, find out who's killing them off - Auron will have to search a world of mercenary elves, vicious humans and dangers of all kinds. Finding allies in the strangest places - and himself along the way - Auron is on the trek of a lifetime. Tp \$29.95 371pp

E E KNIGHT

VALENTINE'S RISING

The Vampire Earth #4. Returning to the Ozark Territories, freedom fighter David Valentine is shocked to find it overrun by vampiric Kurians under the command of the merciless Consul Solon. In a desperate gambit, Valentine leads a courageous group of soldiers on a mission to drive a spike into the gears of the Kurian Order. Valentine stakes life, honour and the future of his home in a rebellion that sparks the greatest battle of his life. Pb \$18.95 360pp

MERCEDES LACKEY (ED)

CROSSROADS AND OTHER


TALES OF VALDEMAR

An original, short fiction anthology set in Mercedes Lackey's bestselling world of Valdemar - featuring heroic Heralds and their horse-like companions - and including an all-new novella by Lackey herself, as well as stories by Mickey Zucker Reichert, Judith Tarr, Tanya Huff and others. Pb \$18.95 338pp




RACHEL LEE

SHADOWS OF PROPHECY

 *Ilduin #2.* For Tess Birdsong and her companions, there will be no warm homecoming. The death of one evil exposed the beating, seething heart of another, far more dangerous power. Together, they must go to Anahar to help free the Anari people from their enslavers and purge the darkness in their own hearts. But that ancient city holds more than the key to Anari liberation. In its temple lie the secrets of the Ilduin, women of almost godlike power. Tess, who remembers nothing of her past, is terrified by the power of her Ilduin blood. But her mind conceals more than fear. There is war, pain, death and anguished grief. And somehow she must face it all again, guided only by the shocking secrets of a temple as old as time itself... Tp \$29.95 329pp


JAMES LOVEGROVE

WORLDSTORM

 Elder Ayn doesn't really know why the Worldstorm comes to wreak devastation on the world any more than the next man. But, being a previsionary, he does know the exact time and nature of his death. He will be murdered and he will do nothing to prevent the killing blow. Elder Ayn also knows why he has left the splendid academic isolation of Stonehaven and gone out into the world. He knows where his quest will take him, but he's not about to tell his scribe, Khollo. And meanwhile the world's order is breaking down. War is brewing between the Earth and the Fire Inclined. People who can shake the ground with a fist, or pull fire out of the air with a simple thought. A storm is coming. And a girl who fears she is Extraordinary is about to learn the truth... Pb \$19.95 453pp


ANNE McCAFFREY
& ELIZABETH ANN SCARBOROUGH

CHANGELINGS

 *The Twins of Petaybee #1.* Ronan and Murel are more than human. Like their father, each can transform into a seal and converse telepathically with the planet's creatures - such as the friendly otter whose life they save one day from a pack of ravenous wolves. But the twins' bravery has unforeseen results, when a visiting scientist witnesses their startling metamorphosis and becomes obsessed with their capture. To protect their children, their parents send them to stay with a powerful family friend on an orbiting space station. But no one realises that Ronan and Murel hunger to discover the origins of their shapeshifting talent and their search for knowledge will place them squarely in the path of peril. Hb \$43.00 273pp


D J MACHALE

RIVERS OF ZADAA

 *Pendragon #6.* Bobby's adventure continues as he tries to save all of Halla from destruction. This time he's off to the land of Zadaa, where the traveller, Loor, lives. Saint Dane is set to instigate trouble between the two tribes that live here - the Batu and the Rokador. They are on the brink of a civil war and Saint Dane is all set to give them the final push - unless Bobby Pendragon can stop him... Pb \$14.95 405pp


JULIAN MAY

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 is still alive and about to reveal a secret that could cost Conrig his throne. Pb \$19.95 502pp


ROSALIND MILES

THE LADY OF THE SEA

 *Isolde #3.* Isolde, heir to the throne of the Queens, is now a sovereign in her own right. With the glories of the throne comes the responsibility of a queen, and Isolde knows she must return to her beloved Western Isle. She can no longer tolerate her marriage to King Mark of Cornwall, a marriage she has accepted for years, in order to save her country from the threat of war and to be near her only love, Mark's nephew, Tristan of Lyonesse. Mark is too heavily influenced by his monks and counsellors, who loathe the powerful and independent Isolde. And so she leaves Cornwall for good and comes home to Ireland, where her lords face a growing threat from the war-like Picti, who live in the barren highlands to the north of England. Pb \$18.95 466pp


KAREN MILLER

INNOCENCE LOST

 *Kingmaker Kingbreaker #2.* Prince Gar now has the magic for Weather Working and is able to keep his enemies at bay, while Asher has become the most powerful Olken in the history of Lur. For them, peace and prosperity seem assured. But Morg, the evil sorcerer mage, remains trapped inside a shattered body. He knows his time is running out and that desperate measures are called for. Unwittingly, Gar and Asher become caught up in a dangerous deception which threatens to tear apart the kingdom and destroy the fragile balance between Olken and Doranen. And no one, not even Dathne and her secret Circle, is prepared for the consequences when the Innocent Mage is revealed at last... Pb \$19.95 625pp


L E MODESITT, JR

ORDERMASTER

 *Recluce #13.* The cooper Kharl is called upon again, by Lords Ghrant and Hagen, this time to return to his homeland of Nordla as envoy, because Nordla has become the next target of Hamorian expansion. Back in his hometown of Brysta, he discovers that his old enemy Egen is engaged in a plot with the Hamorians to take the throne from his father and open Nordla to the enemy. Kharl has to find a solution, for the sake of both the land of his birth and his adopted new country. Pb \$18.95 592pp


WALTER MOERS

RUMO AND HIS MIRACULOUS ADVENTURES

 Rumo is a little Wolperting who will one day become the greatest hero in the history of Zamonia. Armed with Dandelion, his talking sword, he fights his way across Overworld and Netherworld, two very different worlds chock-full of adventures, dangers and unforgettable characters: including Rala, the beautiful girl Wolperting who cultivates a hazardous relationship with death, General Ticktock, the evil commander of the Copper Killers, Ushan DeLuca, the finest and most weather-sensitive swordsman in Zamonia, Professor Abdullah Nightingale, inventor of the Chest-of-Drawers Oracle and worse luck, the deadly Metal Maiden. Tp \$32.95 686pp

WALTER MOSLEY

THE WAVE

 Errol is awakened by a prank caller asking for him by name and claiming to be his father (who has been dead for several years). It feels like a surreal call from the grave until Erroll hears the unmistakable sound of a handset being put down on a table. Curious and unnerved, he sneaks into the graveyard where his father is buried. What he finds there will change his life forever. But once Errol has been touched by the Wave - a presence infecting the planet - can anything be the same again? Hb \$49.95 209pp



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ALAN NAYES

GARGOYLES

Brilliant pre-med student Amoreena Daniels needs money, desperately. Her mother is dying of cancer and her medical insurance has run out. When a seemingly perfect women's clinic offers her a generous payment for serving as a surrogate mother, she thinks her prayers have been answered. But then, much too early, her baby begins to move. The strange dreams, another surrogate's mysterious death and a drug-addicted former medical intern confirm her worst suspicions - there is something terribly wrong with her pregnancy. She embarks on a dangerous journey to uncover the truth behind the endless battery of genetic tests, sonograms and frightened patients, only to discover that she has unwittingly become a pawn in a high-stakes game of biomedical experimentation. Pb \$16.95 376pp


ROBERT NEWCOMB

SAVAGE MESSIAH

 *Destinies of Blood and Stone* #1. With the demise of his evil half-brother Wulfgar, Prince Tristan has restored peace to Eutraccia... or so he thought. But the Orb of the Vigors was damaged in the climactic battle and now the powerful artefact is bleeding magical energy and cutting a swath of death and destruction across the kingdom. Tristan can heal the wounded Orb, but not until his enchanted blood is returned to normal. Unfortunately, the secret of reversing the enchantment is lost. Even worse, Wulfgar is neither dead nor defeated. Ensnared in his fortress, Wulfgar plots with the Heretics, the otherworldly masters of the Vagaries. Now with powerful demonic servants and weapons of dire potency, Wulfgar sets forth to complete the destruction of the Orb... and to avenge himself on the Chosen Ones. Hb \$58.00 574pp

STAN NICHOLLS


THE RIGHTEOUS BLADE

 *The Dreamtime* #2. Cursed with immortality and fits of blind, deadly rage, swordsman Reeth Caldason has wandered the world seeking both revenge for his slain tribe and a cure for his affliction. His travels have brought him to Bhealfa, where the authorities use magic and brute force to control the entire population. The paladin clans, an order of mercenary knights, are determined to crush the growing revolution and Devlor Bastorran, the wildly cruel heir apparent to the clan leadership, plots a gruesome revenge against Reeth. Tp \$29.95 327pp




NAOMI NOVAK

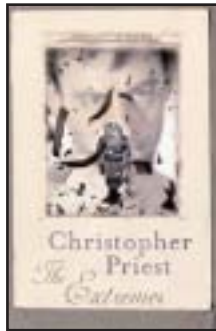
TEMERAIRE

 *Temeraire* #1. As Napoleon's tenacious infantry rampages across Europe and his armada lies in wait for Nelson's smaller fleet, the war does not rage on land and water alone. Squadrons of aviators swarm the skies - a deadly shield for the cumbersome canon-firing vessels. Raining fire and acid upon their enemies, they engage in a swift, violent combat with flying tooth and claw... for these aviators ride dragons. Captain Laurence is a satisfied man with a respectable commission aboard the ship *Reliant* and takes his duty very seriously. On patrol in the Atlantic, the *Reliant* takes a small French frigate and onboard he finds a dragon egg - a great prize as England is in sore need. When the egg hatches, a sinewy new-born emerges from the fragmented shell, ignores his harness-bearer, approaches Laurence and changes his life... Tp \$24.95 330pp

CHRISTOPHER PRIEST


THE EXTREMES

 British-born Teresa Simons returns to England after the death of her husband, an FBI agent, who was killed by an out-of-control gunman while on assignment in Texas. A shocking coincidence has drawn her to the run-down south coast town of Bulverton, where a gunman's massacre has haunting similarities to the murders in Texas. Desperate to unravel the mystery, Teresa turns to the virtual reality world of Extreme Experience, ExEx, now commercially available since she trained on it in the US. The best and worst of human experience can be found in ExEx, and in the extremes of violence Teresa finds that past and present combine... Pb \$21.95 314pp



FELICITY PULLMAN

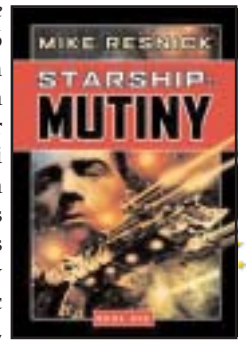
ROSEMARY FOR REMEMBRANCE

 *The Janna Mysteries* #1. When Janna is saved from a wild boar by the villain Godric, she's not sure whether to kiss him or slap him. The last thing she needs is a beau. She wants the freedom to follow her dreams - and a marriage proposal isn't in her plans. But her life is shattered when her mother Eadgyth, a healer, dies suddenly and Janna suspects poison. With so many suspects, she will need all her courage and skill to bring the murderer to justice. Who can she trust, when even Godric and Hugh, the dashing nobleman, have secrets that threaten her heart and safety? Pb \$16.95 282pp

MIKE RESNICK


STARSHIP: MUTINY

 *Wilson Cole* #1. The date is 1966 of the Galactic Era and humanity is in an all-out war against the Teroni Federation, an alliance of races that resent Man's growing military and economic power. Old, battered, some of its weapon systems outmoded, the *Teddy R* is a ship that would have been decommissioned years ago if a war wasn't raging. Its crew is composed of retrained, discipline cases and a few raw recruits. But a new officer has been transferred to the *Teddy R*. His name is Wilson Cole and he comes with a reputation for heroics and disobedience. Banished to the *Teddy R*, he will be a mere second officer, behind Captain Makeo Fujijama and Executive Officer Podok, a fierce Polonoi female. Tensions rise on the *Teddy R*, discipline is lax and Wilson Cole is not a man to sit idly by as a war rages elsewhere. But the Phoenix Cluster is the last place in the galaxy that the enemy would think of attacking. Or is it? Hb \$54.00 286pp




ALASTAIR REYNOLDS

CENTURY RAIN

 300 years in the future, Verity Auger is a specialist in the archaeological exploration of Earth, rendered uninhabitable after the technological catastrophe known as the Nanocaust. After a field-trip goes badly wrong, Verity is forced to redeem herself by participating in a dangerous mission, for which her expertise is invaluable. Using a backdoor into an unstable alien transit system, her faction discovers something astonishing at the far end of a wormhole - mid 20th-century Earth, preserved like a fly in amber. Is it a window into the past, a simulation, or something else entirely? Pb \$19.95 532pp

JOHN RINGO

EMERALD SEA

 *Company Wars* #2. Duke Edmund Talbot has been assigned a simple mission - go to the Southern Isles and make contact with the scattered mer-folk - those who, before the worldwide collapse of technology, had altered their bodies in the shape of mythical seawelling creatures. He must convince them to side with the Freedom Coalition in the battles against the fascist dictators of New Destiny. Just a simple diplomatic mission that requires the service of a dragon-carrier and Lieutenant Herzer Herrick, the most blooded of the Blood Lords - because New Destiny has plans of its own. Pb \$18.95 648pp

JOHN RINGO

 **PRINCESS OF WANDS**

Princess of Wands #1. Barbara Everette, a homemaker living in a small town in Mississippi, had the perfect life. Perfect husband, perfect children, perfect house, perfect Christian faith. But perfection has a price and the day came when Barbara snapped. She simply had to have a weekend off. Waving goodbye to her hapless, entirely undomestic husband, she set out on the quest for a weekend of peace and maybe some authentic Cajun food. Detective Sergeant Kelly Lockhart, New Orleans Homicide, had a perfect record on his latest case - not a single suspect. And there should be at least five or six, given the DNA traces on the many bodies. But the old fortune-teller was sending him into the bayou with the admonition to "watch for the Princess." Or die. Barbara and Kelly were heading to a rendezvous that might be fate and might reveal the hand of God. Hb \$54.00 323pp

RICHARD PAUL RUSSO

 **THE ROSETTA CODEX**

Cale Alexandros was five years old when his family's starship was attacked en-route to Morningstar, the lone outpost of civilisation on a savage planet. He escaped, only to be picked from the wreckage by nomads. He endured life as a slave until a sympathetic trader freed him, but never forgot what happened in the desert wastes - in a strange, ancient temple, when he found a book with strange metal pages and cryptic writings. When he finally reaches Morningstar, he realises the true importance of his discovery. The book is a key to understanding alien languages, but also holds a secret that some people will do anything to control. Tp \$32.95 375pp

C J RYAN

 **GLORIOUS TREASON**

VanDeen #2. For Gloria VanDeen's first assignment, she has been dispatched to the planet Sylvania on a voter registration drive. But she knows the real score. Sylvania is an Unincorporated Imperial Territory with murky homesteading laws. Once Gloria 'democratises' the planet, her ex-husband, the Emperor himself, plans to pillage it for Fergusite, the priceless emerald crystals that have lured boomers for light-years. With mining operations set to begin, Sylvania's beleaguered populace are looking to Gloria to save their world. Of course, countermanding the Emperor's wishes is treason to the highest degree. With the eyes of the galaxy on her, it's up to Gloria to choose between saving her neck and preventing a boomerang that could destroy the Empire forever. Pb \$16.95 404pp

E ROSE SABIN

 **WHEN THE BEAST RAVENS**

Trevor Blake #3. As Gray Becq is about to discover, there are fates worse than death. It has been a full year since his escape from the Dire Realm. A year since a fellow student - having used his powers of sorcery to league himself with dark forces - betrayed him, locking him away in a world beyond time, a world of unspeakable evil and unbearable tortures. Had it not been for Tria Tesserell and her extraordinary powers, he surely would have died. Now he almost wishes he had. For no sooner has Becq adjusted himself to the familiar surroundings of *The Lesley Simonton School for the Magically Gifted* than a series of horrible accidents occur. Suspicion falls on Gray. Could he have brought a demon back with him from the Dire Realm? To find the truth, Gray will have to confront the most powerful demon he has ever faced - the demon that lies within. Pb \$14.95 275pp

S F SAID

(ILLUSTRATED BY DAVE MCKEAN)

 **THE OUTLAW VAJAK PAW**

Varjak Paw #2. Having saved the city cats from a fate worse than death, Varjak Paw finds himself the elected and popular leader of a new gang - a gang that supports freedom and kindness for all. But will the pressure take its toll on this brave yet sometimes naive cat? Soon the city erupts in an all-out gang war, as the evil Sally Bones attempts to control the lives of all cats. Horrified and outnumbered, Varjak and the others must fight for their freedom or die trying. Can Jalal's way really be the best way? Hb \$32.95 263pp

JOHN SCALZI

 **OLD MAN'S WAR**

The good news is that humanity finally made it into interstellar space. The bad news is that planets that are fit to live on are scarce - and alien races willing to fight us for them are common. Far from Earth, the war has raged for decades. The bulk of humanity's resources are in the hands of the Colonial Defence Force. Everyone knows that when you reach retirement age, you can join the CDF. They don't want young people - they want people who carry the knowledge and skills of decades of living. You'll be taken off Earth and never allowed to return. You'll serve two years at the front. And if you survive, you'll be given a generous homestead stake of your own on one of the hard-won colony planets. John Perry is taking that deal. He has only the vaguest idea of what to expect. The actual fight, light-years from home, is far, far harder than he can imagine - and what he will become is far stranger. Tp \$29.00 320pp

SUSAN SCHWARTZ

 **HOSTILE TAKEOVER**

CC Williams is a financial analyst on the fast track of life, determined to stay there. She clawed her way out of the hell of the powerless underclass and keeps herself grimly focused, with nightmares of either being frozen into a shipsicle and sent to the Outer Rim, or dying slowly as authorities harvest her limbs and other body parts to pay off the massive debts she accrued getting to where she is. When the multi-planetary company she works for sends CC to audit the far-flung Vesta Colony to learn why assets keep hemorrhaging away, she knows this is her big chance to make the Ultimate Career Move and be finally free. Vesta turns out to be unlike anything CC has ever seen. The deeper she delves, the more twisted things get until her life - not to mention her career - hangs in the balance. Pb \$16.95 358pp

TIM SEVERIN

 **ODINN'S CHILD**

Viking #1. The story begins in the year 1001 and the toddler, Thorgils Leiffson, son of Leif the Lucky and Thorgunna, arrives on the shores of Brattahlid in Greenland to be brought up in the fostercare of a young woman - Gudrid. Thorgils is a rootless character of quicksilver intelligence and adaptability. He has inherited his mother's ability of second sight and his destiny lies beyond the imagination of those around him. Virtually orphaned, he is raised by various mentors, who teach him the ancient ways and warn him of the invasion of the 'White Christ' into the land of the 'Old Gods'. Thorgils is guided by a restless quest for adventure and the wanderlust of his favoured god, Odinn. His fortunes take him into many dangerous situations, as well as to the brink of death by execution, in battle, disease and shipwreck... Pb \$19.95 342pp

DAVID SHERMAN & DAN CRAGG


 **A WORLD OF HURT**

Starfist #10. How bad is the upcoming mission facing the battle-hardened Marines of 34th Fleet Initial Strike Team (FIST), the military's unofficial alien first-contact force? Bad enough to make the brass take the unprecedented step of issuing 34th FIST replacements for combat losses *before* the Marines even leave their home base. But whatever happens, they'll deal with it, because they're Marines, determined to be ready... and to give worse than they get. Pb \$16.95 352pp




LINNEA SINCLAIR

AN ACCIDENTAL GODDESS


 Raheiran Special Forces captain Gillaine Davré has just woken up in some unknown space way-station, wondering where the last 300 years have gone. The last thing she remembers is her ship being attacked. Now it seems that while she was time-travelling, she was ordained a goddess... Gillaine's only hope of survival rests with dangerously seductive Admiral Mack Makarian, who suspects her of being a smuggler - or worse. But he can't begin to imagine the full extent of it. For Gillaine is now Lady Kiasidira, holy icon to countless believers, including Mack - a man who inspires feelings in her that are far from saintly... feelings she knows are mutual. But when their flirtation is interrupted by a treacherous enemy from the past, Gillaine's secret - and secret desires - could destroy them both. Pb \$16.95 432pp

GABRIEL'S GHOST

 After a decade of piloting interstellar patrol ships, former captain Chasidah Bergren, one-time pride of the Sixth Fleet, finds herself court-martialled for a crime she didn't commit - and shipped off to a remote prison planet from which no one ever escapes. But when she kills a brutal guard in an act of self-defence, someone even more dangerous emerges from the shadows. Gabriel Sullivan - alpha mercenary, smuggler and rogue - is supposed to be dead. Yet now this seductive ghost from Chaz's past offers her a ticket to freedom - for a price. Someone in the Empire is secretly breeding jukors: vicious and uncontrollable killing machines that have long been outlawed. Gabriel needs Chaz to help him stop the practice before it decimates Imperial space. The mission means putting their lives on the line, but the tensions that heat up between them may be the riskiest part of all. Pb \$16.95 447pp


ALLEN STEELE

COYOTE FRONTIER

 *Coyote* #3. The revolution that won Coyote's independence from Earth is 20 years past. Coyote's aging computers, aircraft and medical equipment are badly in need of replacement. And the colony's survival is in question. Now the colony's hard-won independence depends on the descendants of Coyote's original settlers - versus help from Earth that may be more of a detriment than a boon. As Coyote's future hangs in the balance, a larger question looms - can the human race settle a new world without bringing forward the problems of the world it left behind? Hb \$54.00 352pp


ALAN F TROOP

A HOST OF DRAGONS

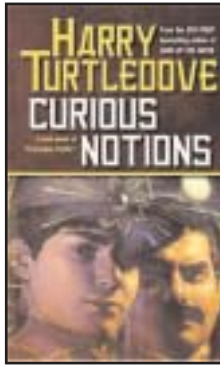
 *Delasangre* #4. A vessel bearing 12 mysterious passengers arrives at a marina near Peter Delasangre's secluded island home, heralding the arrival of more sinister events, including the kidnapping of Peter's daughter and a corporation's attack against the family fortune. Now Peter must uncover the ties that bind these misfortunes together, before it's too late. Pb \$18.95 340pp

HARRY TURTLEDOVE


CURIOS NOTIONS

 *Crosstime*

Traffic #2. In a parallel-world 21st-century San Francisco, where the Kaiser's Germany won WWI and went on to dominate the world, Paul Gomes and his father Lawrence are secret agents for our timeline, posing as traders from a foreign land. They run a storefront shop called Curious Notions, selling what is in our world routine consumer technology. Their real job is to obtain raw materials for our timeline. Now, however, the German occupation police are harassing them. They want to know where they're getting their mysterious goods. Under pressure, Paul and Lawrence hint that their supplies comes from San Francisco's Chinese... setting in motion a chain of intrigues that will put the entire enterprise of Crosstime Traffic at deadly risk. Pb \$16.95 272pp




IN HIGH PLACES

 *Crosstime Traffic* #3. In the 21st-century Kingdom of Versailles, the roads are terrible and Paris is a dirty little town. Serfdom and slavery are both common and no one thinks that's wrong. Khadija, daughter of a prosperous family of Moorish business travellers, is unfazed. That's because Khadija is really Annette Klein from 21st-century California. Her whole family are secret agents of Crosstime Traffic, trading for commodities to send back to our own timeline. On the way home, via crosstime portal, bandits attack. Annette/Khadija is separated from her parents, knocked out and wakes up to find herself a captive in a caravan of slaves being taken to the markets in the south. She's in a tight spot. Then the really scary thing happens - her purchasers take her, along with other newly purchased slaves, to an unofficial crosstime portal... leaving open the question of whether Crosstime Traffic will ever be able to recover her! Hb \$49.95 270pp

LISA TUTTLE

THE PILLOW FRIEND


 As a child, Agnes Grey dreamed of the perfect friend to ease her loneliness - a doll that would talk to her, tell her stories and share her secrets. Only her aunt Marjorie seemed to really understand. Something of an outcast herself, she told Agnes she'd had just such a doll when she was a child. She called it her pillow friend. So when Agnes receives her very own pillow friend - an old-fashioned porcelain doll painted to look like an old-world gentleman - she's certain her dreams have come true. And so they have, but in ways that Agnes could never have imagined. For as the line between fantasy and reality blurs, Agnes discovers that every dream has its price and every desire must be paid for. Be very careful what you wish for... he'll surely give it to you. Tp \$27.00 335pp

JEFF VANDERMEER

& MARK ROBERTS


THE THACKERY T LAMBSHEAD

POCKET GUIDE TO ECCENTRIC AND DISCREDITED DISEASES

 Long out of print, but rarely out of use, Dr Thackery T Lambshead's legendary guide to exotic illnesses and afflictions has long been essential reading for students of the bizarre and unusual in medicine. Now everyone can wonder at conditions like *Ballistic Organ Syndrome*, *Jumping Monkworm* and *Diseasemaker's Croup* (and rejoice that they don't suffer from any of them). This is an entertaining, dip-in, spoof guide to exotic fictional illnesses and afflictions, with over 80 entries contributed by 58 writers, including the editors themselves, Steve Aylett, Neil Gaiman, David Langford, China Miéville, Michael Moorcock and Brian Stableford. Illustrated throughout with curious and humorously unenlightening sketches. Pb \$25.00 297pp

S L VIEHL

REBEL ICE


 *Stardoc* #6. Dr. Cherijo Torin crash-lands on an ice planet whose population is on the verge of civil war. With no knowledge of her past - or even her identity - she becomes entangled in the encroaching conflict, unaware that her husband is moving heaven and earth to find her. Pb \$18.95 372pp

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SCOTT WESTERFELD

PRETTIES

 *Uglies #2*. Tally has finally become pretty. Now her looks are beyond perfect, her clothes are awesome, her boyfriend is totally hot and she's completely popular. It's everything she's ever wanted. But beneath all the fun - the non-stop parties, the high-tech luxury, the total freedom - is a nagging sense that something's wrong. Something important. Then a message from Tally's ugly past arrives. Reading it, Tally remembers what's wrong with pretty life and the fun stops cold. Now she has to choose between fighting to forget what she knows and fighting for her life - because the authorities don't intend to let anyone with this information survive. Pb \$9.95 368pp


STEVE WHITE

BLOOD OF THE HEROES

Jason Thanou of the Temporal Regulatory Authority had about had it with nursemaiding parties of ivory-tower academics through Earth's blood-drenched history, keeping them alive as they sought evidence for their pet theories. Of course, when one of the ivory-tower academics looked like Doctor Deirdre Sadaka-Ramirez, one last expedition didn't look like such a bad idea after all. Besides, there was something to be said for witnessing the Santorini explosion of 1628 BC - the source of much of the mythology of Jason's own Greek ancestors. But once Jason and his companions were in the Aegean Bronze Age, unable to return to their own 24th century time until a predetermined instant, they would find that there was more to those old legends of gods and heroes than anyone had imagined. For the gods were very real - horribly so and dealing with them took very real heroes. Hb \$49.95 274pp

CHERRY WILDER & KATYA REIMAN

THE WANDERER

 Gael Maddoc, the child of struggling peasants, leaps at the chance when she is offered training as a kedran, a mounted soldier. She wins glory bringing her charges home safe across a huge desert, seeking aid from the Shee. But the Shee - the dwindling Fair Folk - then recruit her for their own purposes. Her nascent magical talents and her resourcefulness show her to be the Wanderer, a legendary figure for whom they've been waiting. Pb \$18.95 452pp

WALTER JON WILLIAMS

CONVENTIONS OF WAR


 *Dread Empire's*

Fall #3. The universe has fallen into bloody chaos, now that the dread empire of the tyrannical Shaa is no more - at the mercy of the merciless insectoid Naxid who, freed from subjugation, now hunger for domination. But the far-flung human descendants of Terra have finally tasted liberty and their warrior heroes will not submit. Separated by light-years, Lord Gareth Martinez and his one-time comrade and lover, the mysterious guerrilla fighter Caroline Sula, each pursue a different road to victory in tomorrow's ultimate battle - for the new order will be far more terrible than the old... unless one last, bold and desperate stratagem can hold a shattered galaxy together. Tp \$29.95 677pp



JOHN ZAKOUR & LAWRENCE GANEM

THE RADIOACTIVE REDHEAD

 *Zach Nixon #3*. It is 2057 and the last freelance private detective, partnered with an experimental AI named Harv, has a new case to solve involving androids, future tech wizards, out-of-control artificial intelligences and futuristic mayhem. Pb \$16.95 355pp



MARY JANICE DAVIDSON

UNDEAD AND UNAPPRECIATED

Undead #3. Reluctant vampire queen Betsy Taylor may rule the topsy-turvy world of the undead, but now Betsy's discovered that she has a long-lost half-sister who's the devil's daughter - and destined to rule the underworld. Pb \$16.95 271pp

JOHN FARRIS

PHANTOM NIGHTS

When the aftermath of one of his hair-raising stunts finds 14-year-old Alex Gambier in the care of a young black nurse named Mally Shaw, an unlikely friendship results and then is ended by an unspeakable crime that costs Mally her life. Or not quite ended, for Mally finds herself trapped in a nether world by the force of Alex's will and his need to exact a terrifying revenge on the man responsible for Mally's death. But the revenge he seeks is a two-edged sword, the price Alex's own soul as he recklessly pursues his quarry. Pb \$16.95 323pp

R PATRICK GATES

GRIMM MEMORIALS

Far from the concrete and steel of Boston, the town of Northwood nestles beneath the summit of Mount Sugarloaf. The quiet community seems like the perfect place for Steve and Diane Nailer to raise their family of two children, with a third on the way. Their new home is perched on the edge of a forest. A trail through the woods leads to an old Victorian mansion that once housed the town mortuary. But the memories of the dearly departed are the least of what lurks there... Pb \$16.95 444pp

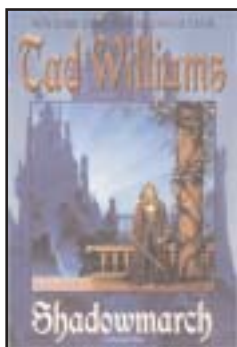
LORI HANDELAND

DARK MOON

Tyler #3. Dr Elise Hanover struggles to unlock the mysteries of an affliction that should only exist in nightmares - the first time its deadly power pulsed through her veins was the last time she saw the love of her life. Until now... The surprise visit from FBI agent Nic Franklin is merely the first in a series of shocks. After her lab is firebombed and her most bloodthirsty test subject escapes, Elise and Nic have no choice but to join forces. Unfortunately, the situation is remote Fairhaven, Wisconsin, is far from safe. Nic has too many questions about Elise's work and why she deserted him years ago; townsfolk are disappearing and Elise feels her own condition intensifying. Now, as a shadowy evil closes in, it's becoming all too clear that Elise is the only one who can stop it - if it doesn't stop her first. Pb \$16.95 336pp

RECOMMENDED READING

TAD WILLIAMS
SHADOWMARCH



Shadowmarch #1. At the uppermost edge of the northern kingdoms, towers shrouded in mist, lies Southmarch Castle. For hundreds of years, it has remained hidden from the affairs of empire. Now its isolation can protect it no more. Southmarch is under siege; from both its neighbours from without, and the more insidious enemies who would destroy it from within. Even further to the north, within the ancient walls of Qul-na-Qar, in a land of silence and gloom, the Twilight People gather to hear Ynnir, the blind king, pronounce the dark fate of human kind. In the south, the Autarch, the god-king who has already conquered an entire continent, now looks to extend his domain once more. It is upon Southmarch that the armies advance and to its people that darkness will speed. Pb \$21.95 848pp *A great read from the author who gave us the Memory, Sorrow and Thorn series. While it's a little slow to get started, this is a complex, intriguing saga - definitely a page-turner, but watch out for the cliff-hanger ending (sigh).* - Jo

**H R HOWLAND
THE EPICURE**

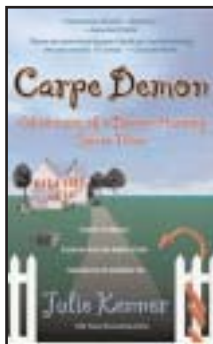
A connoisseur of death believes consuming human flesh will renew his soul and he's after a young girl who dreams of his depravities night after night. Pb \$16.95 262pp

**TANYA HUFF
SMOKE AND MIRRORS**

Tony #2. Tony and the cast and staff of Darkest Night, a syndicated TV series about a vampire detective, find themselves shooting an episode in an actual haunted house. Hb \$54.00 374pp

**JULIE KENNER
CARPE DEMON:
ADVENTURES OF A DEMON-
HUNTING SOCCER MOM**

Lots of women put their careers aside once the kids come along. Kate Connor, for instance, hasn't hunted a demon in ages. That must be why she missed the one wandering through the pet food aisle of the San Diablo Wal-Mart.



Unfortunately, he managed to catch her attention an hour later - when he crashed into the Connor house, intent on killing her. Now Kate has to clean up the mess in her kitchen, dispose of a dead demon and pull together a dinner party that will get her husband elected to County Attorney - all without arousing her family's suspicion. Worse yet, it seems the dead demon didn't come alone... It's time for Kate Connor to go back to work. Tp \$29.00 360pp

**SHERRILYN KENYON
SINS OF THE NIGHT**

A Dark Hunter novel. Hunters are the protectors, the good guys. Yet every few centuries, one Hunter thinks himself above the Code and tries to convert others to his cause. That is where Alexion comes in. Step over the line and it's his wrath you face. Nothing can sway Alex, or so he thought... But when one of his oldest friends is the Dark-Hunter who goes rogue, Alex can't kill him without at least trying to save him. To do that, he needs the help of a female Dark-Hunter who goes by the name Danger. Unfortunately they haven't been on the best of terms since she tried to kill him. Yet there is something about Dangereuse St Richard that reaches deep inside a heart that Alex thought was long dead. Together, they will have to untwist a tangled web of lies and deceit - and, finally, Alex will have to make the ultimate sacrifice to win Danger's soul from the goddess who holds it. Pb \$16.95 365pp

**SHERRILYN KENYON, REBECCA YORK &
ROBIN D OWENS**

WHAT DREAMS MAY COME
All new, original novellas of fantastic romance. A bare-chested hunk on the cover of a paperback romance literally comes to life to fulfil a lonely woman's fantasies in *Knightly Dreams* by Sherrilyn Kenyon. With other-worldly assistance, two unlucky lovers are given one more chance to prove that romance is possible in *Road of Adventure* by award-winning author Robin D Owens. A woman's life depends on the psychic visions of her ex-lover which could reunite them, or plunge them into danger in *Shattered Dreams* by Rebecca York Tp \$29.95 278pp

**DEAN KOONTZ
FOREVER ODD**
Odd Thomas #2. A childhood friend of Odd's has disappeared and the worst is feared. But as Odd applies his unique talents to the task of finding the missing person, he discovers something worse than a dead body. New allies and new enemies gather around Odd, some living and some not. But the enemy he encounters is unspeakably cunning and every sacrifice is needed to tip the balance between despair and hope as a life-changing revelation rushes towards us. In the battle to come, there can be no innocent bystanders ... Tp \$29.95 334pp

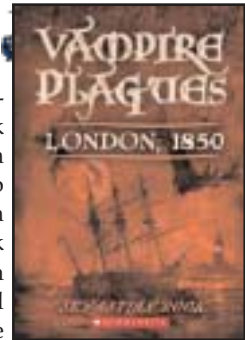
**VICTORIA LAURIE
A VISION OF MURDER**
Psychic Eye Mystery #3. Professional psychic Abby Cooper has invested in a fixer-upper, hoping to make a killing in the real-estate market. But a killing of another kind puts her plans awry, as the ghost of a murdered woman and some troublesome poltergeists lead her into a mystery that stretches all the way back to World War II. Pb \$16.95 296pp

**CHEYENNE MCCRAY
FORBIDDEN MAGIC**
D'Anu witch Silver Ashcroft knows she walks a perilous line by practicing gray magic. But it's the only way to protect herself from the evil that surrounds her. Silver thinks she is ready for anything, until the most intensely arousing being she has ever encountered swiftly - and sensuously - proves her wrong... Hawk is a Tuatha D'Danann warrior - powerful beings descended from the Fae. When Silver Ashcroft welcomes him to her city of San Francisco, she makes his blood sing with a passion beyond compare. But the terrifying reality of his mission lurks in every shadow... Now, warrior and witch must trust in their hearts above all else - for to claim victory, they first must claim each other... Pb \$16.95 440pp

**KIM NEWMAN
DEAD TRAVEL FAST**

Join this award-winning author for 10 tales of the exotic and the bizarre. Watch as Dr. Jekyll's strange elixir becomes *A Drug on the Market*. Page through more *Famous Monsters*. Take cover at the arrival of *The Original Dr Shade*. Feel your heart race as the *Dead Travel Fast*. All here, with six other masterworks to chill your blood and set your pulses pounding! Tp \$32.95 321pp

**SEBASTIAN ROOK
LONDON, 1850**
Vampire Plagues #1. London docks, twilight, 1850... 12-year-old Jack Harkett sees a huge ship sail into port. He also sees a flock of black creatures fly from the ship and disappear over the streets of London. He waits in the shadows, intending to board the ship in search of food, or money or anything he can sell. Instead he meets a boy of his own age... running for his life! Thus streetwise Jack meets the more bookish Benedict and the two become firm friends - and co-conspirators. As the two boys talk, little do they know what they face. London is falling into the terrifying grip of the vampire plagues and only they can prevent its total destruction... Pb \$12.95 231pp



PARIS
Vampire Plagues #2. Together Jack and Ben seek to defeat Camazotz - the vampiric bat god who destroyed the Mayan civilisation that destroyed him. But Jack is a street urchin and Ben is an orphan. They have no one to turn to and nothing to rely on but their wits and each other. Pb \$12.95 202pp

MEXICO
Vampire Plagues #3. Ben, Jack and Emily are in a race against time. They must find the final part of the golden amulet before Camazotz, the vampire god, gets his claws on it. With the completed amulet, Camazotz will rule the world - and the human race will be reduced to prey. Three children stand in his way... Pb \$12.95 196pp

**JOHN SAUL
BLACK CREEK CROSSING**
The dark history and dire secrets of a peaceful small town are summoned from the shadows of the past. Unholy forces are stirred from long slumber to monstrous new life. And two young misfits discover the chilling art of turning persecution into retribution. Pb \$18.95 459pp

WHAT WE'VE BEEN READING

City of the Dead by Brian Keene (Pb \$16.95). The second book in *The Rising* series takes off straight after the ending of **The Rising** (Pb \$16.95), as Jim enters his old house looking for his son in the wake of a zombie apocalypse. Meanwhile, the demon Ob, leader of the undead army, marshals his forces in New York, as the last remnants of humanity prepare for the final battle... Keene's novel speeds along to a dark and sinister conclusion and fans of good zombie novels can't go wrong with this offering. Lots of gore and a twist on the genre makes this well worth reading. 7/10 - David



Dreamside by Graham Joyce (Pb \$32.95). A novel based on experimentation with lucid dreams might seem like an old one, but in the hands of Joyce (four-time winner of the *World Fantasy Award*), this is a book of wonderful characters and very human emotions, as four students must reunite to fight against the dark thing that inhabits a dream world they created in their youth. Fans of this author's work will enjoy Joyce's debut novel. 7/10 - David

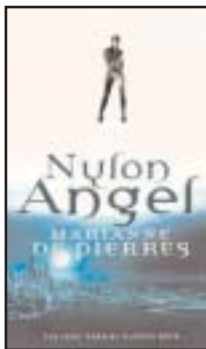


The Colorado Kid by Stephen King (Pb \$14.95). When two editors of a local Maine newspaper recount an old, unsolved mystery to their junior intern, the three of them begin to realise that the mystery may be stranger than anyone could imagine.

King simultaneously delivers a gripping tale of mystery, while examining the nature of the genre itself. This short, sharp novel pays homage to the hard-boiled crime fiction of yesteryear. Readers of King's *Dark Tower* series will spot a brief *Dark*

Tower reference that may provide the solution to the mystery of the Colorado Kid... - John

Nylon Angel by Marianne de Pierres (Pb \$19.95). WOW! From start to finish, the pace doesn't let up. The author drops you head-first into a future Australia where media conglomerates rule and the urban sprawl has turned into 'super-cities'. Anti-heroes and anti-villians abound as you follow Parrish Plessis on her rollercoaster ride. Cross William Gibson's cyberpunk with David Webber's Honor Harrington and you have the newest hero on the Australian sci-fi scene. I had to go the second novel, **Code Noir** (Pb \$19.95), right away! - Mark



Deadhouse Gates by Steven Erikson (Pb \$24.95). I can never get enough of Erikson's *Malazan* series. Witty, complex, original, sophisticated and intelligent are all words that come to mind. Erikson's vision is so large that, even two books into the series, you only have a vague inkling of where the plot might be heading. Brilliant characterisation compels you to keep turning the pages, as the tale is picked up on the continent of the seven cities. Faced with a local rebellion, it's all the soldiers of the Malazan armies can do to stay alive, as gods, prophecies and a corrupt empire all conspire against them. - Mark

COMPETITION

To win a *Serenity* movie poster, name the actor who plays Mal in the movie. Entry closes 18 Feb 2006. Entry open to Galaxy Cardholders only.

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The winner of a film poster of George Romero's *Land of the Dead*, signed by actor Simon Baker is Peta Simpson. Congratulations!



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