

NEBULA AWARD NOMINEES

The Nebula Awards are voted on and presented by active members of the SFWA.

NOVEL

Air by Geoff Ryman (Tp \$32.95)

Camouflage by Joe Haldeman (Pb \$18.95)

Going Postal by Terry Pratchett (Pb \$19.95)

Jonathan Strange and Mr Norrell

by Susanna Clarke (Pb \$24.95)

Polaris by Jack McDevitt (Pb \$18.95)

Orphans of Chaos by John C Wright (Hb \$54)

NOVELLAS

Clay's Pride by Bud Sparhawk

Identity Theft by Robert J Sawyer

Left of the Dial by Paul Witcover

Magic for Beginners by Kelly Link

The Tribes of Bela by Albert Cowdrey

NOVELETTES

The Faery Handbag by Kelly Link

Flat Diane by Daniel Abraham

Men are Trouble by Jim Kelly

Nirvana High by Eileen Gunn and Leslie What

The People of Sand and Slag

by Paolo Bacigalupi

SHORT STORIES

Born-Again by K D Wentworth

The End of the World as We Know It

by Dale Bailey

I Live With You by Carol Emshwiller

My Mother, Dancing by Nancy Kress

Singing My Sister Down by Margo Lanagan

Still Life With Boobs by Anne Harris

There's a Hole in the City by Richard Bowes

SCRIPTS

Battlestar Galactica: Act of Contrition/

You Can't Go Home Again

by Carla Robinson, Bradley Thompson and

David Weddle

Serenity by Joss Whedon

BRITISH SF AWARD NOMINEES

These awards are sponsored by the British Science Fiction Association and presented at the annual Eastercon convention.

9Tail Fox

by Jon Courtenay Grimwood (Tp \$29.95)

Accelerando by Charles Stross (Hb \$39.95)

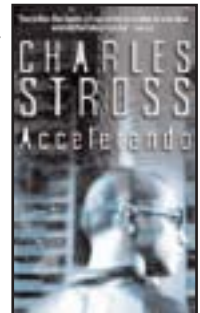
Air by Geoff Ryman (Tp \$32.95)

Learning the World

by Ken MacLeod (Hb \$49.95)

Living Next Door to the God of Love

by Justina Robson (Hb \$59.95)



ARTHUR C CLARKE AWARD NOMINEES

This award, sponsored by Arthur C Clarke, is given to the best SF novel published each year in the UK.

Accelerando

by Charles Stross (Hb \$39.95)

Air by Geoff Ryman (Tp \$32.95)

Banner of Souls

by Liz Williams (Pb \$16.95)

Learning the World

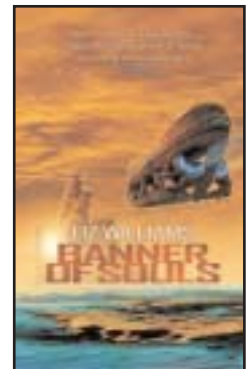
by Ken MacLeod (Hb \$49.95)

Never Let Me Go

by Kazuo Ishiguro (Tp \$29.95)

Pushing Ice

by Alastair Reynolds (Tp \$32.95)



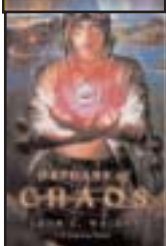
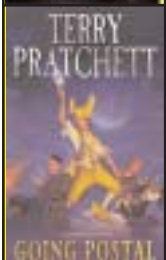
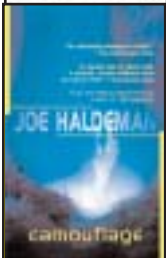
Octavia Butler

The award-winning author of the *Xenogenesis*, *Parable* and *Patternist* series, died of a stroke on 25 February. She was 58 years old.

Butler was one of the very few successful African-American SF writers. In 1995, she was awarded a MacArthur Fellowship, which rewards creative people who push the boundaries of their fields. In 2000, she received the PEN Center West Lifetime Achievement Award.

She described herself as "comfortably asocial - a hermit in the middle of Seattle - a pessimist if I'm not careful, a feminist, a Black, a former Baptist, an oil-and-water combination of ambition, laziness, insecurity, certainty and drive."

Personally, I loved her work and know she'll be sorely missed by many. - Jo



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 Australian Guests

Ellen Datlow **Kate Forsyth**
Steve Jackson **Sara Douglass**
Joan D. Vinge **Jackie French**
Jim Frenkel **Jason Paulos**

Largest Art Show & Film Festival
at an Australian SF Convention



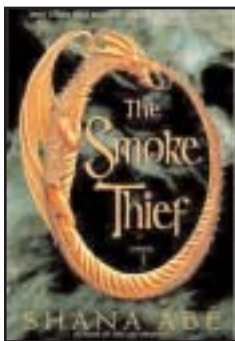
SCIENCE FICTION AND FANTASY



SHANA ABE

THE SMOKE THIEF

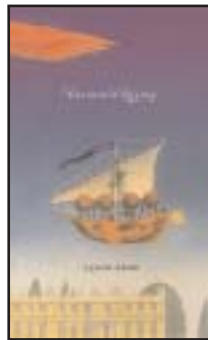
For centuries, they've lived in secret among northern England's green and misted hills. Creatures of extraordinary beauty, power and sensuality, they possess the ability to shape-shift from human to dragon and back again. Now their secret - and their survival - is threatened by a temptation that will break every boundary.... Dubbed the Smoke Thief, a daring jewel thief is confounding the London police. His wealthy victims claim the master burglar can walk through walls and vanish into thin air. But Christoff, the charismatic Marquess of Langford, knows the truth - the thief is no ordinary human, but rather a 'runner' who has fled Darkfrith without permission. As Alpha leader of the dra'kon, it is Kit's duty to capture the fugitive before the secrets of the tribe are revealed to mortals. But not even Kit suspects that the Smoke Thief could be a woman... Hb \$32.95 292pp



AZHAR ABIDI

PASSAROLA RISING

"On the twenty-seventh day of the month of June, in the year of grace 1731, my brother, Bartolomeu Lourenfo, rose on his airship from the ancient ramparts of St Jorge Castle. I remember the day as clearly as if it were yesterday..." Thus begins a fabulous historical tale of two brothers and their love of flight. Bartolomeu builds the airship, Passarola, to escape the intellectually stultifying climate of 18th century Portugal. He and his brother Alexandre take to the air and journey from the salons and bordellos of *ancien regime* Paris to the far reaches of the North Pole on their quest for scientific truth. They encounter some of the most colourful characters of the European Enlightenment, from the loquacious Voltaire to the irascible King Stanislaus of Poland. Pb \$29.95 244pp



LISA AGNEW

SWORD: TALES FROM THE GREEN SAHARA

The story of a sword and its role in man's past and future, from the Crusades and inter-tribal conflicts to Earth in 2201. Pb \$23.95 209pp

LOU ANDERS (EDITOR)

FUTURESHOCKS

In this collection, 16 of today's masters of speculative fiction reveal the terrors, triumphs and seeming impossibilities awaiting humanity in the years to come. Featuring never-before-published stories by Kevin Anderson, Paul Di Filippo, Alan Dean Foster, Caitlín Kiernan, Louise Marley, Sean McMullen, John Meaney, Paul Melko, Robert Metzger, Chris Roberson, Adam Roberts, Mike Resnick, Harry Turtledove, Robert Sawyer and Robert Charles Wilson. Tp \$32.95 307pp

POUL ANDERSON

TIME PATROL

Manse Everard, the Patrol's finest temporal trouble-shooter, bears a heavy burden. The fabric of history is stained with human blood and suffering which he cannot, must not, do anything to alleviate, lest his tampering bring disastrous alterations in future time. He must leave the horrors of the past in place, or else his tampering - or that of the Patrol's opponents, the Exaltationists - could erase all hope of a better future, instead bringing a future filled with even greater horrors. Pb \$18.95 765pp

SARAH ASH

CHILDREN OF THE SERPENT GATE

Tears of Artamon #3. Gavril Nagarian, Lord Drakhaon of Azhkendir, is believed dead - perished in the heat of battle. Yet he still lives and is entrusted with a sacred mission: to rescue the aged Magus, who has been kidnapped and in whose possession are the five priceless rubies that compose the fabled Tears of Artamon. Tp \$32.95 530pp

ROBERT ASPRIN & ERIC DEL CARLO

OBLITERATION

Wartorn #2. An army of soldiers and magicians has poured out of the north on a quest to unite the city-states of Isthmus under Felk rule. But with conquest comes rebellion, and there are those who won't be taken easily - by magic or by sword. Pb \$18.95 331pp

STEVE AUGARDE

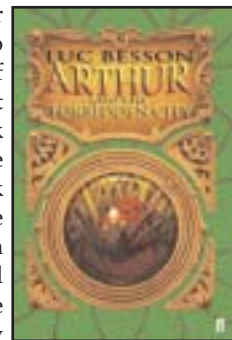
THE VARIOUS

A gritty and captivating story of courage and strength against terrible odds, this is the story of Midge, left to stay with her eccentric uncle during the holidays, and her adventures with the Various, a band of fairies. The existence of the Various, who are strange, wild and sometimes even deadly, has been kept secret since the beginning of time. But when their world begins to clash with the human world, they are threatened with extinction. Pb \$18.95 448pp

LUC BESSON

ARTHUR AND THE FORBIDDEN CITY

Minimoys #1. Arthur has vanished, or so his family thinks. If they only knew that he is in the back garden, where he has been shrunk into the world of the Minimoys. It is a world of danger and excitement, where Arthur, helped by the fiery Princess Selenia and her mischievous brother Betameche, has a difficult quest - he must rescue his grandfather, find lost treasure and save the kingdom of the Minimoys. But the answer to his quest lies deep within the garden at Necropolis, a forbidden city ruled by the evil wizard Maltazard. And to reach it, Arthur must cross a vast world of fierce battles and terrible monsters. Once he has found the Forbidden City, will he ever return? Pb \$14.95 188pp



ANNE BISHOP

DREAMS MADE FLESH

Black Jewels Universe. The saga continues in this collection with four all-new adventures of Jaenelle and her kindred. Pb \$18.95 449pp



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 and classic

NEW TITLE

TWILIGHT

Stephenie Meyer
Pb \$22.95 434pp

This book is INCREDIBLE!!!!

Isabella (Bella) is the new kid in town, having moved from Phoenix to Fork (in Washington State) to live with her dad, because her mum has remarried. Fork is small. There are less kids in her entire school than in her year at Phoenix and all the kids have known each other since they were in nappies. Bella has always considered herself a bit of an outsider, even in Phoenix, and the prospect of living in a wet backwater with her father, whom she barely knows, is a bit depressing. On her first day at school, she is surprised



to attract some attention from a couple of boys, but it is the reaction of Edward Cullen (who sits next to her in Biology) that throws her. He seems repulsed/infuriated by her. If looks could kill, she'd be dead. Edward is absent from school for the next week, leaving Bella wondering how someone could hate her on sight.

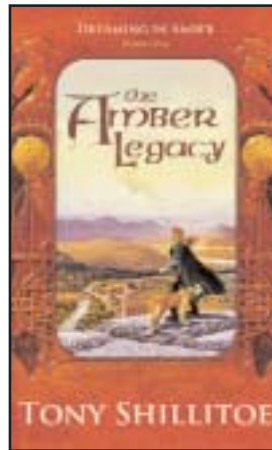
When Edward returns, he does an about-face - talking to her, asking questions and getting to know her in general. One day after class, Bella is almost killed in a car accident, but is saved at the last second by Edward, who literally comes out of nowhere. In the aftermath, Bella starts asking some pointed questions. When she is separated from her friends on a shopping trip and her life put in jeopardy - only to be saved by Edward again - she learns he is a vampire. However, he and his family don't feed on the blood of humans (they hunt animals), so they can safely live with humans. Bella causes Edward no end of stress. She should be terrified of him, but she's not. He can't read her mind like he can everyone else's, and he constantly struggles to maintain control over his urges. Mostly, however, by befriending and eventually loving her, he is putting both their lives in danger, as well as the lives of his family members. Things come to a head when some traditional vampires arrive in Fork and one of them decides to hunt Bella, forcing her to go on the run with two of Edward's siblings, only to be lured into a situation where she has to choose between her life and the life of someone she loves.

The romantic tension in this story is totally gripping. I couldn't put the book down (and had to employ a *Bananas in Pyjamas* DVD to keep Wyatt amused while I tried to finish it). I don't know how Meyer did it, but she has written a novel with content that I would be completely comfortable giving to my 12-year-old niece (it is actually promoted as a Young Adult title), yet is scintillating enough to keep a 30-something romantic like me VERY happy. (OK, I admit it, I've got a thing for Edward). This is how romantic vampire novels WISH they were written! I just know I'm going to end up owning multiple editions of this book. Meyer is currently finishing a sequel to this book and is working on a third. THANK GOD, I say! - Steph

NEW TITLE

THE AMBER LEGACY

Dreaming in Amber #1
Tony Shillitoe
Pb \$19.95 557pp



In a genre full of two-dimensional, rehashed formulas and clichés, Shillitoe has the ability to instil a sense of confidence in the reader from the opening scene. From the outset, you know you're in the hands of a master who stands head and shoulders above his local competition. He offers the reader a world that is strong, impressive and deeply imagined, with enough social commentary to make it not just familiar but terrifyingly real. This world has already it has been the setting for his bestselling *Andrakis* trilogy (Pb \$28 each) and the powerful *Ashuak Chronicles* (Pb \$19.95 each). In this series, he ushers in a new age, making it the perfect place to jump on board if you've never read his work before.

"You are pursued by the shadows of death, girl. The weight you will carry is more than any mortal should bear. But bear it you shall."


In the remote village of Summerbrook, far in the north-eastern corner of the kingdom of Western Shess - a land with a distinctly Australian feel to its native flora and fauna - we are introduced to Meg Farmer, a young girl who doesn't believe in magic, but is the inheritor of a legacy that is older than she can comprehend. Meg has always been plagued by vague dreams, but when an ancient sliver of Amber awakens her Blessing - her gift of magic - those dreams reveal themselves to be prophetic and lead her - and her heart - into war, where her life is changed forever. Called to service by a Queen she knows only by name, Meg is taken to the capital city to be trained as a Seer, where her gift opens the doors to secrets long forgotten.

A coming-of-age story in the traditional sense, the difference here lies in the telling. Shillitoe demonstrates that fantasy can be used as a vehicle to explore adult and contemporary themes amidst a sweeping saga of prophetic dreams, war-torn kingdoms and the heavy ties of a forgotten legacy. All the magic, action and wonder that is typical to the genre is present, but with the added style that marks Shillitoe as the premier fantasy writer in this country.

Readers familiar with Shillitoe's last trilogy may recognise Western Shess as one of the many lands to trouble the western borders of the Ashuak Empire, while Jaru rose in rebellion to the Empire's south. A significant length of time has passed since Jaru won its freedom and, while I strongly recommend that readers of Feist, Martin and Erikson should read all Shillitoe's books, it is not necessary in this instance: do it anyway! You won't regret it! - Mark


ANNE BISHOP

SEBASTIAN

 *Landscapes of Ephemera #1.* A world of shifting lands connected only by bridges, Ephemera has been kept stable by the magic of the Landscapers. In one land, where night reigns and demons dwell, the half-incubus Sebastian revels in dark delights. But then in dreams she calls to him: a woman who wants only to be safe and loved, a woman he hungers for, while knowing he may destroy her. But a more devastating destiny awaits Sebastian, for in the quiet gardens of the Landscapers' school, evil is stirring. The nearly forgotten Eater of the World has escaped its prison, and Sebastian's realm may be the first to fall. Pb \$20.95 437pp


MEG CABOT

AVALON HIGH

 Avalon High, Ellie's new school, is pretty much what she'd expected. There's Lance, the hunky footballer; Jennifer, the cute cheerleader; Marco, the troublemaker; and then there's Will, the most gorgeous guy Ellie has ever met. She can hardly believe he likes her. When he says he thinks he's met her before, things start getting a little weird - a feeling that grows as Ellie discovers the strange bonds that entwine Will, Lance, Jen, Marco and herself. As darkness turns to danger, can Ellie stop the horrific chain of events that is about to engulf them all? Pb \$14.95 280pp


GILES CARWYN & TODD FAHNSTOCK

HEIR OF AUTUMN

 *Ohndarien #1.* A bastion of freedom and justice in a brutal world, the city-state of Ohndarien is ruled by the Children of the Seasons - four brave men and women tested before the awesome Heartstone and sworn to place the needs of others before their own. When Brophy, the Heir of Autumn, is falsely accused of murder, the city-state falls to treachery and deceit. Exiled to an enemy kingdom, Brophy's only chance for survival lies in the deadly, gladiatorial game of Nine Squares and the uncertain favours of its beautiful queen. Meanwhile, enslaved by the brutal perfidy of her master, the young courtesan Shara must face her deepest fears and darkest desires if she is to free herself from the web of foul sorcery that ensnares her magic and her very soul. But as Ohndarien fights for justice, evil powers, lost for centuries, wake in the wilderness and an ancient terror walks the world again. Hb \$56.00 466pp

C J CHERRYH

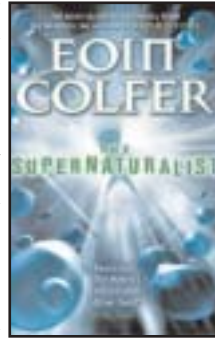
DESTROYER

 *Foreigner #7.* The first book in the new Foreigner trilogy, this is the epic tale of the survivors of a lost spacecraft that crash lands on a planet inhabited by a hostile, sentient race. Pb \$18.95 406pp

EOIN COLFER


THE SUPERNATURALIST

 In the not-too-distant future in a place called Satellite City, 13-year-old Cosmo Hill is unfortunate enough to come into the world unwanted by his parents. And so, as are all orphaned boys his age, Cosmo is dipped in a vaccine vat and sent to the Clarissa Frayne Institute for Parentally Challenged Boys, freight class. At Clarissa Frayne, the orphans (called 'no-sponsors') are put to work by the state, testing dangerous products that should never be allowed near humans. By the time the no-sponsors are sent to their cardboard utility pipes, given their nightly meal pack and finally fall asleep, they are often covered in burns, bruises or sores. Cosmo knows he must escape, even though he has no idea what might be waiting for him on the outside. He plans for the moment when he can make a break. When that moment finally comes, he nearly dies while escaping, but is rescued by a gang of Supernaturalists, a motley crew of kids who all have a special psychic ability, an ability that Cosmo is about to learn he has too. They 'see' supernatural Parasites - tiny, translucent creatures who feed on the life force of humans... Pb \$14.95 291pp




CHARLES DE LINT

MOONLIGHT AND VINES

 Return to the extraordinary city of Newford for another volume of stories featuring the intertwined lives of many characters from the novels. Pb \$32.95 384pp


CLARE DELACROIX ET AL

THE QUEEN IN WINTER

 From four of today's most imaginative authors come four stories of love as pure as the driven snow that will warm the coldest of hearts. Claire Delacroix delivers an enchanting tale of a gifted seer who receives a vision of a man whom she was not meant to marry, but was meant to love. Lynn Kurland spins a story of a mortal man and an elven woman who endure both the mundane and the magical in their quest to remain together. Sharon Shinn writes of a brave young woman who saves her sister's magically-gifted child, only to receive an unexpected gift of her own. And newcomer Sarah Monette's romantic novella tells of a warrior maiden trapped in a deadly storm with the only man she ever wanted, whose scars she must heal if he is ever to want her. Pb \$29.95 312pp

IAN DOUGLAS



BATTLESPACE

 *Legacy #2.* When called to do battle many light years from home, the 1st Marine Interstellar Expeditionary Unit rose to the challenge. Now thousands of enslaved humans have been freed from the alien yoke. But Earth is 21 years older than the home planet they originally left and the Marines need time to retrain and readjust - time they do not have, due to the bizarre disappearance of a detachment of their brothers and sisters-in-arms. It is a mystery, but there is a starting point - an ancient wormhole threading through the Sirius system. Whatever waits on the other side must be confronted, with stealth, with force and without fear - be it an ancient enemy or a devastating new threat. Pb \$18.95 402pp



KATE DOUGLAS

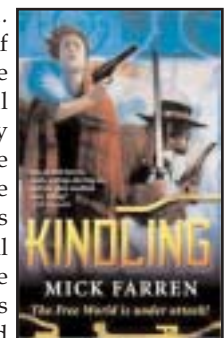
WOLF TALES

  When Alexandria's car goes off the road in a terrible blizzard, she has no idea that this night will bring a powerful rescuer and the start of an ecstatic sexual awakening. The moment 'Xandi' wakes in Stefan's muscular arms and feels the heat of his body pressing against hers, she feels no fear, allowing herself to be taken by one who is more than a man, whose primal nature is never far from him. As their connection grows and Xandi gradually loses her sensual inhibitions, experiencing pleasures she never dreamed possible, she is drawn deeper into Stefan's mysterious world, meeting the alluring beauty Keisha, and the dominant and sometimes ruthlessly commanding Anton, who can have any man or woman he wants, in any way he wishes... Pb \$29.00 278pp

MICK FARREN

KINDLING

 *Flame of Evil #1.* A ravaging horde of barbarians from the East, the Mosul Empire, in unholy alliance with the Teutons and the Mameluke warlords and led by the brutal theocracy of the Zhaithan, has subjugated the Land of the Franks and the Hispanic Peninsula. Setting their sights on the New World, they have already conquered the Republic of Greater Carolina and the Virginia Freestate. Only the Kingdom of Albany still stands, aided by the Norse Alliance of Britain and Scandinavia. Four youngsters from very different backgrounds are brought together to form The Four - a supernatural entity that becomes the last-ditch hope of the Free World. Pb \$18.95 416pp



CHRISTINE FEEHAN



FEVER

In *Wild Rain* and the novella *The Awakening*, the author creates the exotic, sensual race of the Leopard People. This title brings the two stories together for the first time in one volume, a one-way ticket to a dizzying new world of desire. Pb \$29.95 406pp

RAYMOND E FEIST & TAD WILLIAMS

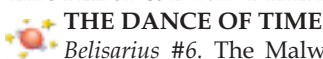
THE WOOD BOY /



THE BURNING MAN GRAPHIC NOVEL

The Wood Boy is an adaptation of the short story by fantasy master Raymond E Feist that first appeared in the *Legends* anthology (edited by Robert Silverberg) and offers a unique side story to the events depicted in his beloved book, **Magician**. It is an exciting story that offers readers an excellent introduction to Feist's *Riftwar Saga*. *The Burning Man* was written by world-renowned science fiction and fantasy author Tad Williams (*Otherland*) and originally appeared as a short story in the anthology *Legends*. A ghostly coming-of-age tale, it is an exciting and thought-provoking story about life and death, love and fear, innocence and betrayal. Pb \$32.95 144pp

ERIC FLINT & DAVID DRAKE



THE DANCE OF TIME

Belisarius #6. The Malwa and their evil have been driven back to their Indian heartland, where they coil to strike again. Ruled by a monster from the future which is part computer and part demon, they prepare a fresh attack which, if successful, will leave them rulers of the world - and the monster that guides the Malwa will rule the whole future! Belisarius, the greatest general of his age, arrays the forces of Mankind against the Malwa evil. On his breast is the jewel sent to his support from a future of hope and freedom, willing to guide him, but never to direct his actions. Behind him are allies from across Europe, Asia and Africa - mutually distrustful, but aware that neither they, nor Mankind, have any hope if the Malwa prevail. Hb \$56.00 468pp

LORNA FREEMAN



THE KINGS OWN

Borderlands. When Rabbit joined the Royal Army of Iversterre, he was just trying to get off the family farm. Instead, he got mixed up with a magical from the Border, learned he couldn't escape his noble lineage and developed some surprising talents that he can't always control. But with Iversterre sliding toward the abyss, Rabbit needs to master his powers quickly, before someone else does it for him. Pb \$18.95 421pp

CORNELIA FUNKE



DRAGON RIDER

Firedrake, a brave young dragon, his loyal brownie friend Sorrel and a lonely boy called Ben are united as if by destiny. Together, they embark on a magical journey to find the legendary place where silver dragons can live in peace forever. With only a map and the whispered memories of an old dragon to guide them, they fly across moonlit lands and seas to reach the highest mountains in the world. Along the way, they discover extraordinary new friends in unlikely places and a courage they never knew they had. Just as well, for the greatest enemy of all is never far behind them - a heartless monster from the past that has been waiting a very long time to destroy the last dragons on earth. Pb \$16.95 527pp

CHRISTOPHER GOLDEN



THE MYTH HUNTERS

Veil #1. Yielding to his father's wishes, Oliver Bascombe abandoned his dream of being an actor and joined the family law firm. Now he will marry a lovely young woman who bears the Bascombe stamp of approval. But on the eve of his wedding, a blizzard sweeps in, bringing with it an icy legend who calls into question everything Oliver believes about the world and his place in it. Pursued by a murderous creature who heeds no boundaries, Jack Frost needs Oliver's help to save both himself and his world - an alternate reality slowly being displaced by our own. To help him, Oliver Bascombe, attorney-at-law, will have to become Oliver Bascombe, adventurer, hero... and hunted. So begins a magnificent journey where he straddles two realities and where, even amid danger, Oliver finds freedom for the very first time. Pb \$27.00 350pp

TERRY GOODKIND



CHAINFIRE

Sword of Truth #9. Caught by surprise in an ambush, Richard Rahl's life now hangs by a thread. As his friends try desperately to save him, he struggles - losing blood and deeply confused - to communicate his greatest fear: that Kahlan is missing. But no one present even knows her name, even though they have fought beside her for years! Pb \$19.95 740pp

MARTIN GREENBERG (ED)



MILLENNIUM 3001

Here are 13 brand-new tales exploring the future of Earth and humanity 1,000 years from now. From the development of a race that will be the next evolutionary step beyond mankind, to civilisation's adaptation to a new ice age, to a people who have escaped the constraints of chronological time, these are provocative, inventive glimpses of our world and universe that are only a millennium away. Pb \$18.95 312pp

VICTORIA HANLEY



THE SEER AND THE SWORD

Flame-haired Princess Torina knows nothing of battles and conquest, until her father, the king of Bellandra, returns home with an orphaned prince from the neighbouring enemy kingdom. The boy prince is offered to Torina as a slave, but she frees him from his bonds and their unusual friendship develops in the years that follow. But Torina faces terrible danger - she has an amazing gift that many would kill for and when her father is brutally murdered, she is forced to flee for her life. An evil usurper takes over her rightful throne, and the kingdom is ruled by cruelty and fear. Can Torina's gift - to look into the future of others - help her win back what is rightfully hers? Pb \$18.95 357pp

PETE HAUTMAN



HOLE IN THE SKY

In 2028, a deadly Flu virus ravages Earth. Only one in 2,000 survives the virus and these survivors are rarely left unaffected. By 2038, only 38 million people remain on Earth, mostly living in small communities, ever fearful of outsiders who might bring the deadly Flu. Ceej Kane lives with his uncle and his sister Harryette in an abandoned hotel on the rim of the Grand Canyon. His quiet, boring life suddenly becomes a desperate adventure when Uncle and Harryette disappear. Searching for them, Ceej and his only friend, Tim, are attacked by the Kinka, a renegade band of half-mad survivors who spread the Flu to make more of their own. Worse yet, it appears that Harryette has joined them. Pb \$14.95 215pp

CANDACE HAVENS



CHARMED AND DANGEROUS


When Bronwyn turned 20, she took the oath to protect and for the last five years she's kept that promise, working as a kind of one-witch secret service to the British Prime Minister. Her arsenal includes a combination of



potions, spells, explosions, mind-reading tricks and general butt-kicking skills. But Bronwyn has a soft side, too - especially when it comes to Dr Sam, the favourite physician of her new hometown, Sweet, Texas. He is smart, funny, adorable, everything she could want in a man - except he's also a warlock - a big no-no in Bronwyn's book of dating. Being a witch is definitely getting in the way of her sex life. If zapping evil jerks is easy, why is finding a boyfriend so hard? Pb \$29.95 261pp


TRACI HARDING

THE GENE OF ISIS

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 Ben has been saving for weeks to buy the Mongolian fighting fish he's seen in the local pet shop. But on entering Mr Dodds' Pet Emporium, a small cat hooks his claws into Ben's jumper and begs to be bought. The cat tells Ben that Mr Dodds is importing rare magical beasts into this world and he needs his help to save them. Like fish out of water, they are dying in this world, away from their magical land. A parallel world, Eidolon, exists as a neighbour to our own and is filled with magic and magical creatures, like dragons, selkies, sabre-toothed tigers and faeries. With his new friend, Iggy the talking cat, Ben travels between the worlds and helps some of these amazing creatures return home. On his journey, he makes loyal friends, encounters danger and adventure, and discovers his own royal lineage in the Secret Country... Pb \$14.95 247pp



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 Kosar the thief senses that Rafe Baburn is no ordinary boy. After witnessing a madman plunder Rafe's village and murder his parents, Kosar knows the boy needs his help. And now, for a reason he cannot fathom, others are seeking the boy's destruction. Uncertain where to begin, Kosar turns to A'Meer, an ex-lover and Shantasi warrior whose people, unbeknownst to him, have been chosen to safeguard magic's return. A'Meer knows instantly that it is Rafe who bears this miracle of magic. Now Kosar and a band of unexpected allies embark on a battle to protect one special boy. For dark forces are closing in - including the Mages, who have been plotting their own triumphant return. Pb \$27.00 386pp


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Detective James North is called upon to deal with a young, mentally unstable man holding a child hostage at New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art. When he arrives, he is disturbed to discover that - although the bad guy is a complete stranger - he's been asking for North by name. The hostage situation goes wrong and North finds himself injected with a substance that causes hallucinatory nightmares and flashes of memory that are not his own. He begins to hunt through New York for his attacker, a man he feels inexplicably compelled to kill - a man called Gene. As he does so, North unlocks the secret of his past, a past that stretches back over 3,000 years. Pb \$18.95 433pp

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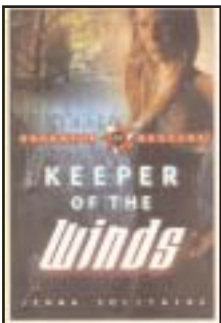
  **JEWEL OF ATLANTIS**
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One night in October, when he was 10 years old, Tyler Dupree stood in his back yard and watched the stars go out. They all flared into brilliance at once, then disappeared, replaced by a flat, empty black barrier. He and his best friends, Jason and Diane Lawton, had seen what became known as the Big Blackout. It would shape their lives. As Tyler, Jason, and Diane grow up, a space probe reveals a bizarre truth - the barrier is artificial, generated by huge alien artefacts. Pb \$18.95 454pp

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Omnibus. Allen Caine was too young to remember when the Earth had not been a conquered planet, one of many such in the huge and sprawling Rygril Empire, but he knew of the legendary blackcollars - guerilla warriors trained to the limit of human speed and skill, then turned into nearly superhuman combatants by use of the now lost backlash drug. The rebel underground on Earth has sent Caine on an undercover mission to the former Earth colony of Plinry, where there was a faint hope that a blackcollar unit still existed. Hb \$54.00 597pp

DAVID ZINDELL

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Ea #3. Valashu Elahad rescued the Lightstone from the dark hell of the enemy's own city, only to have his triumph overturned. Once more the Lord of Lies has the sacred gem in his possession and its power is invincible. Val burns with shame. Treachery surrounds him. His only hope is the Black Jade that lies buried in the heart of a cursed and blighted forest, forgotten since the War of the Stone. Through this, the greatest black gelstei ever created, Val will seek to understand the darkness inside him, so that he can use evil to fight evil. If he does not, the world will fall into final corruption as the Dark Universe of the Lord of Lies. Pb \$20.95 791pp



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Fiends of the Eastern Front. It is the beginning of the German assault of Russia in 1941. The mighty German air and ground forces smashes its way through the crippled Russian infrastructure and are united with Romanian soldiers. One such Romanian platoon is led by Constanta and his men. However, one of the German soldiers realises that the Romanians are also vampires! When Romania switches sides and joins the allies, the young soldier has the fight of his life trying to survive, as Constanta and his vampires try to protect their dark secret. Pb \$16.95 254pp



RACHEL CAINE

DEVIL'S DUE

Jazz #2. The money that Lucia and her new partner have received to open their detective agency has come with strings - any assignment delivered via red envelope has to be top priority. No sweat. No one could make Lucia do something she didn't believe in - right? Wrong! Lucia soon learns that every choice she makes means life or death for innocent people. No one can be trusted, not even the ex-cop she'd hired and fallen for. In fact, Ben might be her fatal weakness, if the powers warring to control the future used him to control Lucia... Pb \$11.95 297pp

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The Kellar family find their illusions of starting over shattered, when they discover that their new home harbours an unimaginable evil, as the dead, determined to destroy the living, come to life. Pb \$16.95 372pp

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HOLMES

Sherlock Holmes once declared, "This world is big enough for us. No ghosts need apply." And when Dr Mortimer asked if the legend of the Hound of the Baskervilles



was not of interest, Holmes said only "To a collector of fairy-tales." And yet Conan Doyle, fascinated by psychic phenomena his entire life and author of many horror and supernatural stories, did give Holmes a few problems of the otherworldly sort, even if they ended in rational explanations. Features an all-star cast of Doyle devotees that include Caleb Carr and Daniel Stashower, this collection of original mystery stories featuring the literary world's greatest detective, brings Holmes and Watson up against the supernatural. Tp \$37.00 232pp

BARB & J C HENDEE

TRAITOR TO THE BLOOD

Noble Dead #4. Born a half-breed to an elven mother and human father, Leesil was raised in the Warlands as assassin, spy and slave to Lord Darmouth, ruler to one of its independent provinces. But Leesil's mother trained him too well and he used his skills to escape, leaving his parents to suffer Darmouth's wrath for all such traitors and their kin. Now, with newfound purpose in the company of his beloved Magiere, Leesil returns to confront the sins of his past and uncover his parents' fate. Hb \$49.95 355pp

S E HINTON
HAWKE'S HARBOR

An orphan and a bastard, Jamie Sommers grew up knowing he had no hope of heaven. Conceived in adultery and born in sin, Jamie was destined to repeat the sins of his parents, or so the nuns told him. And he proved them right. Taking to sea, Jamie sought out danger and adventure in exotic ports all over the world - as a smuggler, gunrunner and murderer. Tough enough to handle anything, he's survived foreign prisons, pirates and a shark attack. But in a quiet seaside town in Delaware, Jamie discovered something that was enough to drive him insane and change his life forever. For it is in Hawkes Harbor, that Jamie comes face-to-face with the ultimate evil... Pb \$14.95 289pp

MEG HUTCHINSON
DEVIL'S OWN DAUGHTER

A feature on *Old Wives' Tales* is not exactly the assignment to make Kate Mallory's pulse race. She fancies herself an investigative journalist and crime reporter and has the stories under her belt to prove it. But, her research throws up a vital clue to the series of arson attacks and gruesome murders that is baffling the Darlaston police force. Teaming up again with Richard Torrey, the enigmatic man whose tough exterior conceals his intuitive psychic powers, she gets on the trail of a story too good to miss. But it will lead her into a deadly encounter with a ruthless woman, a coven of Satanists - and Evil incarnate. Hb \$55.00 394pp

MARK MORRIS
THE IMMACULATE

Successful horror writer Jack Stone, after a death in the family, returns home, where he encounters unimaginable terror, as all his childhood fears take on a physical form, one of which is his brutal father. Pb \$16.95 342pp

MICHELLE ROWEN
BITTEN AND SMITTEN

Sarah Dearly has had a bad date. What else would you call being buried alive before dessert? Not to mention that bite mark on her neck and the creepy way her date keeps saying that he's sired her. Then those guys with the stakes show up and turn her date into so much dust! Sarah runs for her life, only to be rescued by a handsome stranger. Sure, she interrupts him as he's about to throw himself off a bridge, but as far as rescuers go, Thierry de Bennicoeur will have to do. Only problem is their age difference. He's a 600-year-old vamp with a death wish. She's a new kid on the block, with a need for someone with experience to show her the ropes. And to keep her one step ahead from the vampire hunters that are in town to rid Toronto of the 'monsters'. Pb \$16.95 390pp

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DARK WATER

A collection of seven short stories, all of them with a connection to the sea or water, from the celebrated author of the epoch-making Ring. Hb \$29.95 294pp

KOJI SUZUKI
SPIRAL

Sequel to Ring. Pathologist Ando is at a low point in his life. His son's death has resulted in the break-up of his marriage and he is suffering from traumatic recurrent nightmares. His world of loneliness and regret is shaken up when an old rival from medical school, Ryuji Takayama, turns up on his slab ready to be dissected. Through Ryuji's bizarre demise Ando learns of a series of mysterious deaths that seem to have been caused by a sinister virus. From beyond the grave, Ryuji appears to be leading Ando towards a suspicious videotape. Could this hold the answer to the riddle of the strange deaths? Or is it merely the first clue? Pb \$19.95 460pp

KIM WILKINS
NIGHTSHADE

Gina Champion #5. Gina is learning the biggest lessons of her life, as an apprentice witch to Alyce Nightingale. Impressed with Gina's ability, Alyce passes on an old amulet that used to belong to a famous Siberian sorceress and that's when Gina's nightmares begin - haunting dreams of a child lost in the forest, a cruel shadow in pursuit. In a botched psychic experiment, the shadow crosses over into Gina's world. Now, with a malicious spirit on the loose, Gina is going to have to focus all her brainpower on solving the mystery and sending the shadow back. Pb \$17.95 190pp

SF/FAN REFERENCE

GREGORY BASSHAM
& **JERRY WALLS (EDS)**
THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA AND
PHILOSOPHY: THE LION, THE
WITCH AND THE WORLDVIEW

The director of the Center for Ethics and Public Life presents a series of essays on the philosophical implications of the *Narnia* series, exploring Lewis's perspectives on gender, the Nietzschean 'master morality' among Narnia's villains and much more. Tp \$31.95 302pp

CHRISTOPHER BOOKER
THE SEVEN BASIC PLOTS:
WHY WE TELL STORIES

This book provides a comprehensive answer to the age-old riddle of whether there are only a small number of 'basic stories' in the world. Using a wealth of examples, from ancient myths and folk tales via the plays and novels of great literature to the popular movies and TV soap operas of today, it shows that there are seven archetypal themes which recur throughout every kind of storytelling. This seminal book opens up in an entirely new way our understanding of the real purpose storytelling plays in our lives, and will be a talking point for years to come. Tp \$39.95 728pp

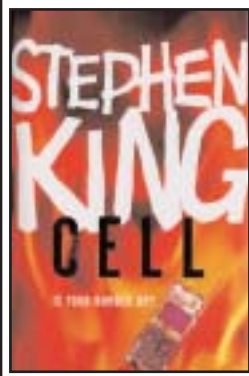
GERARD JONES
MEN OF TOMORROW:
GEEKS, GANGSTERS AND THE
BIRTH OF THE COMIC BOOK

The author draws on exhaustive research to portray how the immigrant experience and an outsider mentality shaped the vision of the make-believe hero, while a melting-pot of left-wing politics, mob money and the worlds of soft-porn and detective magazines contributed to the publishing world that produced the comics that brought them millions. He chronicles how the success of the comics provoked a backlash that nearly destroyed the industry in the 1950s and how later they surged back, inspiring a new generation to transmute pre-war fantasies into art, literature, blockbuster movies and graphic novels. Tp \$32.95 384pp

RECOMMENDED READING

STEPHEN KING
CELL

Civilisation slipped into its second dark age on an unsurprising track of blood, but with a speed that could not have been foreseen by even the most pessimistic futurist. By Halloween, every major city from New York to Moscow stank to the empty heavens and the world as it had been was a memory. The event became known as The Pulse. The virus was carried by every cell phone operating within the entire world. Within ten hours, most people were dead or insane. Hb \$55.00 399pp Tp \$35.00 398pp



The apocalypse comes via cell phone in this new horror novel featuring a cast of zombies which George Romero would be proud of. Once receiving the brain-blasting Pulse, humans become 'phoners', cannibalistic savage creatures with no powers of speech and an urge to kill non-phoners. Entire cities go up in flames as the rules of society crumble while the phoners converge. Clay Riddell, an artist who does not own a mobile phone, makes a frantic journey to find his son John and witnesses the extent of the savagery as ordinary people succumb to the primal urge to kill. Stephen King fans will recognise the familiar styles of heroes from his previous works, and those new to his work will admire his ability to create such a believable collapse of society. Because in times of trouble, a cell phone is the first thing most people reach for... - Sofia

What We've Been Reading

Full Dark House (Bryant and May #1) by Christopher Fowler (Pb \$22.95). When Arthur Bryant, head of London Metropolitan's Peculiar Crimes Unit, is killed in a bombing, his long-time partner John May is shocked and disturbed. In his attempt to find the identity of the bomber, May is convinced the bomber is linked with the two detectives' very first assignment together - The Palace Murders. During the London Blitz, a beautiful dancer is horrifically killed while rehearsing for the steamy new production of *Orpheus in the Underworld*. The two young detectives must wade through superstitions and paranoia to find the mysterious killer before the whole cast and crew is killed. This story jumps effortlessly between the past and the present to create a thrilling tale of mystery and horror. Fowler brilliantly captures the language and atmosphere of WWII London, placing the reader right in the period setting. The very English charm and humour of Bryant and May continues in the sequel, **Water House** (Pb \$23.95). - *John*

Pushing Ice by Alastair Reynolds (Tp \$32.95). When Janus, one of Saturn's lesser moons, is discovered flying out of the solar system and heading towards a star system 260 light-years away, the nearby mining space shuttle, *Rockhopper*, is called to follow the departing satellite. It is soon clear to everybody that Janus is not a natural object, but rather a highly complex alien machine. As they leave the solar system, ship captain Bella Lind and her crew must accept the fact that they won't make it back home and the only chance of survival is to see out the ride on Janus. Such a decision will not only mean a matter of survival, but also a matter of representing mankind as they fly towards a meeting with Janus' alien masterminds.

Pushing Ice is Reynolds' attempt at imagining mankind's future in the stars and eventual first contact with alien life. Given his background working for the European Space Agency, Reynolds writes with a dash of professional authority. This is smart, gripping and filled with a sense of wonder. It also confirms Reynolds as one of the best science fiction writers around. - *John*

The Elephant Vanishes by Haruki Murakami (Pb \$23.95). This collection of stories retains a landscape akin to that of Japan: the prose is sparse and to the point, but also carries a sense of calm and quiet menace. Given some of the topics that Murakami covers in his stories, this formula works well. *The TV People* come into a man's life and start playing with his reality. *The Dancing Dwarf* strikes a dangerous bargain and *The Little Green Monster* climbs out of the earth to propose marriage. Murakami is an accomplished writer - restrained, yet able to create fine images. Think David Lynch and you've got pretty good visual reference. - *David*

To Charles Fort, With Love by Caitlin R Kiernan (Hb \$54.00). A new collection by this author, one of the best working in the genre today, is always exciting. Kiernan's writing is some of the most beautiful and dark work I've ever read; evocative and rich, creepy and nightmarish. Reminiscent of a modern-day H P Lovecraft, the atmosphere she creates is palpable, while her characters - usually a cast of misfits and outsiders - occupy her worlds alongside the supernatural and the all-too natural. She is an underrated writer in a genre where trashy vampire romance writers often sadly replace true authors. - *David*

COMPETITION

To win a standup of Pickwick the dodo from **The Eyre Affair**, signed by Jasper Fforde, name the main character from the book. Entry closes 18 March 2006. Entry open to Galaxy Cardholders only.

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