



# NEXUS

APRIL 2004

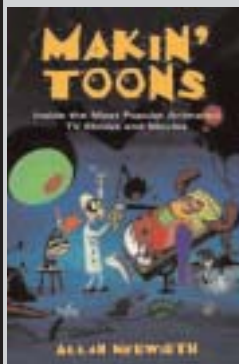
ISSUE #191



Stephanie and Adam Tall are the proud new parents of Wyatt Atticus, who came into the world at 9:55am, 11 March. They would like to thank all those who wished them well.

## MAKIN' TOONS: INSIDE THE MOST POPULAR ANIMATED TV SHOWS AND MOVIES

ALLAN NEUWIRTH



This is an inside look at the creation of today's most famous animated TV shows and feature films. 47 interviews with artists and industry representatives ranging from *Shrek* director Andrew Adamson to *Rugrats* producer Gabor Csupo chronicle the artistic challenges and commercial dynamics behind blockbusters such as *The Simpsons*, *Southpark*, *Beauty and the Beast* and *Dragon Tale*. Through first-hand accounts, the volume covers the entire process of animated movie creation

from idea finding, writing, financing, directing, designing, animating, voicing and composing music, to distributing and promoting the show to TV channels and networks. The author, an animation artist and writer, intersperses his comments with 75 drawings and photos and anecdotes. Featuring technical know-how, career advice and trivia, this resource should be of interest to cartoon lovers and aspiring creators of animated films and television series. Tp \$55.00 274pp

## EASTER & ANZAC DAY TRADING HOURS

9 April (Good Friday)	CLOSED
10 April (Easter Saturday)	8:30am - 6:00pm
11 April (Easter Sunday)	10:00am - 5:00pm
12 April (Easter Monday)	10:00am - 5:00pm
25 April (Anzac Day)	12:00pm - 5:00pm
26 April (Public Holiday)	10:00am - 5:00pm

## MILLER'S SCI-FI AND FANTASY COLLECTABLES

PHIL ELLIS



Following an introduction to the subject of collecting sci-fi and fantasy, this book is divided into the main types of collectible, such as comics and annuals, movie posters and ephemera. Within these chapters are further sub-sections highlighting specific areas of collecting, with an introduction to each and colour photographs with informative captions and price guides. A timeline highlights key events in the development of SF and fantasy as a genre, and real-life events that have furthered interest in the subject. All the familiar favourites are included, from *Forbidden Planet* and cult classics *Star Wars* and *Star Trek*, to *Spiderman*, *Harry Potter* and *The Lord of the Rings*. Information is provided on a range of items including action figures, books and toys. The emphasis is on collecting throughout - what to look for, what's rare and what to pay. Also included is a list of useful addresses for auction houses and dealers and a further reading section. Hb \$39.95 128pp

## THE ENCYCLOPAEDIA OF CULT CHILDREN'S TV

RICHARD LEWIS



Do you ever lie awake at night, wondering whether the Snorkmaiden was having an affair with Moominpappa? Have you ever drunk a bit too much, and started an argument about Button Moon? Do you find yourself drifting off during boring business meetings, trying to remember the names of the Flumps? If so, this book is for you...

Shows covered include *Animal Magic*, *Ant Hill Mob*, *Bagpuss*, *Bailey's Comets*, *Basil Brush*, *Battle of the Planets*, *Mr Benn*, *Button Moon*, *Captain Pugwash*, *Chorlton & the Wheelies*, *The Clangers*, *Dangermouse*, *Doctor Snuggles*, *Deputy Dawg*, *Doctor Who*, *The Famous Five*, *Fingerbobs*, *Fraggle Rock*, *Garfield*, *Godzilla*, *Grape Ape*, *Henry's Cat*, *Howl the Engine*, *Jamie and the Magic Torch*, *Keith Harris and Orville*, *K9*, *King Rollo*, *Let's Pretend*, *Magic Roundabout*, *Moomins*, *Noggin the Nogg*, *Penelope Pitstop*, *Pink Panther*, *Playschool*, *Press Gang*, *Scooby Doo*, *She-Ra*, *Spiderman*, *Tom's Midnight Garden*, *Wacky Races*, *Why Don't You*, *The Wonder Years*, *Zig and Zag* ... and many, many more. Pb \$19.95 336pp

## MICK MARTIN & MARSHA PORTER DVD & VIDEO GUIDE 2004



Wondering what movie to rent tonight? This fact-packed guide should help. Each entry includes a summary, commentary, the director, major cast members, the year of release and the MPAA rating, plus a reliable Martin and Porter rating - from 'Five Stars' to 'Turkey' - so you'll never get caught with a clunker again! Tp \$50.95 1616pp



# SCIENCE FICTION AND FANTASY



JENNIFER ARMSTRONG  
& NANCY BUTCHER

## KEEPERS OF THE FLAME

*Fire Us* #2. Five years after a deadly plague killed all the grown-ups, the world's population has nearly vanished. A group of children have survived, forged a new family and travelled up the coast of Florida, looking for answers. When they find a group of adults living in an abandoned shopping mall, they soon realise that something is terribly wrong... Pb \$14.95 280pp

CATHERINE ASARO

## THE MOON'S SHADOW

*Skolian Empire* #8. Born of a clandestine liaison between a renegade daughter of the Skolian Imperialate and a scion of the genetically engineered Eubian Traders, Jai Qox grew up in exile, unaware of the powers that coursed through his noble blood. In the waning days of the bloody Radiance War that ravaged the galaxy, Jai was captured and returned to the Traders to play a role as a puppet Emperor in their scheme to consolidate their domination of space. Now Jai must walk a razor's edge, to seize the power that is his by birthright without succumbing to its dark seduction and wield it for the good of all and avert a conflagration that threatens to engulf a thousand worlds. Pb \$17.95 407pp



SCIENCE FICTION



FANTASY



ROMANCE



AWARD WINNER



AUSTRALIAN



ACTION



REPRINT

AC AUDIO CASSETTE

CD COMPACT DISC

PB PAPERBACK

HB HARDBACK

TP TRADE PAPERBACK

STEVE AYLETT

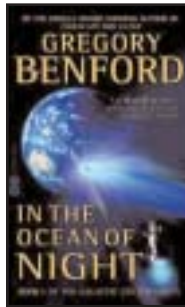
## KARLOFF'S CIRCUS

*Accomplice* #4. An episode of *Accomplice* history comes to a close, the Circus of the Heart's Shell transforms the town square into a venue for hellish clowning. Sweeney's forces close in upon Barny from several directions. But is Dietrich right that humanity is more routinely evil than any mythical fright? Will Fang be re-united with his zombie family? What does doomed Eddie Gallo find outside *Accomplice*? Will Gregor survive a boxing match with a slob demon? Tp \$29.95 128pp

GREGORY BENFORD

## IN THE OCEAN OF NIGHT

*Galactic Centre* #1. 2019: NASA astronaut Nigel Walmsley is sent on a mission to intercept a rogue asteroid on a collision course with Earth. Ordered to destroy the comet, he discovers that it is actually the shell of a derelict space probe - a wreck with just enough power to emit a single electronic signal... 2034: A reply is heard. Searching for the source of this signal that comes from outside the solar system, Nigel discovers the existence of a sentient ship. When the new vessel begins to communicate directly with him, the astronaut learns of the horrors that await humanity. The ship was created by an alien race that has spent billions and billions of years searching for intelligent life... to annihilate it. Pb \$15.95 435pp



BEN BOVA

## CITY OF DARKNESS

Ron Morgan has passed his college entrance exams with flying colours, so he can do pretty much whatever he wants - and what he wants is for his father to quit telling him what to do. What better way to unwind than having a last blowout on Labor Day in the domed playground of Fun City, Manhattan. Inside the dome, however, Ron loses his wallet and identity card. Worse, he's trapped when the dome closes for the season. There's no way out. Gangs roam the street. Food is scarce. Ron is on his own. All Ron wanted was some fun. He'll be lucky to escape New York alive... Pb \$15.95 152pp

GENE BREWER

## K-PAX: THE TRILOGY

When a man claiming to be from outer space is brought into the Manhattan Psychiatric Institute, the mental ward seems just the place for him. However, the patient is unlike anyone Dr Gene Brewer has met before. Tp \$29.95 789pp

STEVE COCKAYNE

## THE IRON CHAIN

*Legends of the Land* #2. When Leonardo Pegasus, Court Magician, created the Multiple Empathy Engine - a device that enables the viewer to see the entire world - his reward was to lose his job, his home and nearly his life. But now Leonardo's invention has been taken up by the government of the Land, who will use it as the ultimate communication and espionage device. Soon there will be a Multiple Empathy Network... and even the King will have one. Yet when Leonardo built his machine, he also unwittingly conjured something else... a malevolent spirit of science and shadow that danced in the depths of the Empathy Engine. When there was one machine, the creature was contained. Now there's a network, the spirit is loose in the Land. Pb \$19.95 486pp

DAWN COOK

## FORGOTTEN TRUTH

*Truth* #2. When a shape-shifting student is transported back four centuries, she is in danger of being permanently changed into her dragon form, with no memory of her human life - or love. Pb \$15.95 376pp

CHARLES DICKINSON

## A SHORTCUT IN TIME

Euclid, Illinois, is a town of many shortcuts - between houses, through orchards and across fields. Josh Winkler, a local artist and long-time resident, knows these irregular pathways well, but is thoroughly taken aback when a hasty dash down a familiar walk deposits him 15 minutes in the past - literally. At first, Josh is more intrigued than alarmed by this accidental time travel. Then a lost young woman appears, claiming to be from 1908 - and his life, his family, his town and even history itself begins to unravel. Tp \$32.95 288pp

JOHN DICKINSON

## THE CUP OF THE WORLD

Phaedra, the beautiful daughter of a baron, has been visited in dreams by an elusive knight for almost as long as she can remember. And when his presence becomes a reality, she is forced to choose him and a new life over her home and her father. But this sets off a chain of events that she could not have foreseen. Hb \$39.95 419pp

DAVE EDGARS (ED)

## MCSWEENEY'S MAMMOTH

### TREASURY OF THRILLING

### TALES

Guest-edited by Michael Chabon, this issue includes brand-new work from Chabon, Eggers, Rick Moody, Neil Gaiman, Aimee Bender, Stephen King, Michael Crichton, Elmore Leonard, Nick Hornby and more. Hb \$39.95 497pp



# FAVE RAVES

OUR FAVOURITES - NEW & OLD

**NEW TITLE**  
**PANDORA'S STAR**  
**Commonwealth #1**  
**Peter F Hamilton**  
**Tp \$30.00**

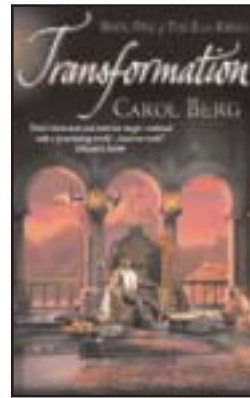
It seems the only way to write good space operas is to write them big and fill them with epic storylines and 101 characters. These days, every second book seems to be a space opera, but in **Pandora's Star**, Hamilton shows that he is still one of the best.

It's the 24th century and humanity has been doing better than any of its ancestors could imagine. Thanks to the revolutionary wormhole technology, planets can be linked together via interconnecting wormholes. Tunnels are then built into these wormholes, allowing trains to travel easily between planets. Unfortunately, this has eliminated the need for spaceships and the like, and at the same time has allowed the Intersolar Commonwealth to vastly expand its territory and ensure prosperity and peace for its citizens. On a chance observation, a bumbling astronomer discovers the 'disappearance' of the main star in the Dyson solar system. Closer inspection reveals that a barrier (dubbed The Dyson Sphere) which completely encapsulates the star has been built around it. Of course, such a discovery has made the Commonwealth nervous. For starters, there are no current wormholes built anywhere near the remote Dyson system. This means the only way to reach the Dyson system is to build a spaceship, something that hasn't been done for hundreds of years. More importantly, everyone can deduce that The Dyson Sphere can only be for defensive purposes. If so, what alien threat can warrant such an extreme defensive measure to be built? In the midst of the universal anxiousness of discovering an ancient alien secret on Dyson's star, a fanatical religious group gains momentum as its prophecy for Armageddon coincides with the events happening around the Commonwealth. From there, things simply go into overdrive as the Commonwealth prepares itself for a discovery that will change human kind forever.

From a simple premise, Hamilton builds **Pandora's Star** into a complex space opera. Fans of Hamilton's phenomenal *Night's Dawn* series will enjoy the various storylines and huge cast of characters that's to be found here. Along with the main storyline of alien discovery, Hamilton creates a hard-boiled storyline (reminiscent of his early *Greg Mandel* novels) of the perfect cop trying to solve her one and only unsolved case. This secondary storyline is particularly enjoyable and helps keep **Pandora's Star** from being a one-trick pony. As always, Hamilton effortlessly creates a believable society filled with numerous technical details and historical background. Such excess details can become a bore coming from other authors, but with Hamilton's writing style and his ability to combine it into the story makes it worthy reading. Add to this, the gigantic action scenes and **Pandora's Star** satisfies on many fronts. It's not as crazy and huge as *Night's Dawn* (can anything be?), but will definitely satisfy fans and new readers alike. - John



**CLASSIC TITLE**  
**TRANSFORMATION**  
**The Rai-Kirah #1**  
**Carol Berg**  
**Pb \$19.95**



**Transformation**, Carol Berg's debut novel, is a brilliant piece of storytelling and an excellent introduction to her *Rai-Kirah* series. Berg brings the world of the Derzhi Empire amazingly to life through the eyes of a slave. It is a harsh place, ruled by a hard and sometimes cruel people descended from desert warriors. Seyonne is our guide, a man enslaved for 16 years, but still able to maintain a semblance of dignity and humanity. An Ezzarian, a race who use magic to fight the Rai-Kirah (demons) and drive them from the souls of people

who the Rai-Kirah have possessed, Seyonne has lost everything - his magic, his people and his life. To survive in this world he has had to compromise Ezzarian principles and he is now seen as unclean by his people and therefore dead. Berg's portrayal of Seyonne is perfect, a man who has made a hard choice and struggled with guilt and shame, but has come to the realisation that life is his only choice. He also has a streak of arrogance and stubbornness, that, as a once powerful man, he has trouble curbing and, when we meet him, is extremely dangerous to possess.

Seyonne is purchased by the heir to the Derzhi Empire, Crown Prince Aleksander, a powerful, arrogant and selfish young man. He takes the Ezzarian for his ability to write, but Seyonne spends the first few months being beaten and locked in solitary for slights, both real and imagined, against the Prince. However, Seyonne soon learns that as much as he hates and dreads the Prince, there is something worse living in the palace - Rai-Kirah. Hidden inside the body of a Khelid ambassador, Seyonne recognises a familiar enemy and although powerless must find a way to thwart the demon's plans. Not only must he face this but he discovers that Aleksander carries the feadnach, a mark that identifies a soul of destiny. Seyonne, as a Soul Warden, has promised to defend the feadnach and when Aleksander is terribly cursed, Seyonne realises that their only hope lies with the Ezzarians - the ones least likely to help a Derzhi conqueror and an unclean slave.

Berg's ability to bring the characters to life has to be one of the best things about this novel and it is no small thing. Keeping Seyonne's character believable as a down-trodden slave and yet allowing him some honour and enough fire to keep him interesting is a difficult balancing act which she manages beautifully. Aleksander, too, is a complex character and watching him grow into a more tempered and just person was great, especially when he slipped into old habits and you could actually see him learn from his mistakes.

The story is absorbing and astounding for a first effort. There was enough action, intrigue and twists to keep the plot moving along but the real story was definitely the wonderful friendship of two very different men with much to learn. The second and third books in this series maintain the high standard and in fact move (I found) in a totally unexpected direction so as to keep the series fresh and interesting. Berg is one author I intend to keep a close eye on in the future. - Sian

LEO FRANKOWSKI  
& DAVE GROSSMAN

 **KREN OF THE MITCHEGAI**

First, the involuntary colonists of New Kashubia rescued their planet from crushing debt by becoming virtual-reality mercenaries, then they successfully revolted against the oppressive government of Earth, but now they are menaced by the Mitchegai, a species whose biology has made them inherently evil. They are an ancient civilisation, millions of years old, with thousands of densely populated star systems in their realm. Lacking an immune system, they must completely sterilise any planet before they colonise it. The region of the galaxy they occupy is rapidly expanding... and human space is their next frontier! Hb \$49.95 378pp

CECELIA HOLLAND

 **THE SOUL THIEF**

They were one soul in two bodies, Corban and Mav, twins born to the lord of an Irish coastal farmstead. Mav had the Second Sight and was her father's delight; Corban, though, was a deep disappointment, finally exiled for refusing his father's command to go and take up a sword for the High King. But on the night of Corban's exile, the dreadful dragon ships of the Vikings bore down on his home with fire and the sword. The farm was plundered and burned; all the people were slain, save the young women - they were raped and dragged off to a life of slavery. From the coast of Ireland to the occupied village of Dublin, across the Irish Sea to a Viking stronghold in Britain, and then across the sea to the Kingdom of the Danes, Corban is drawn in the track of his ravaged sister, fighting for his own life and to earn the influence and money he will need to buy her freedom. Tp \$32.95 300pp

ROBERT JORDAN

 **NEW SPRING**

*Wheel of Time prequel* #1. On the slopes of Dragonmount, the immense mountain that looms over the city, is born an infant prophesied to change the world. That child must be found before the forces of the Shadow have an opportunity to kill him. Moiraine Damodred, a young Accepted soon to be raised to Aes Sedai, and Lan Mandragoran, a soldier fighting in the battle, are set on paths that will bind their lives together. But those paths are filled with complications and dangers, for Moiraine, of the Royal House of Cairhien, whose king has just died, and Lan, considered the uncrowned king of a nation long dead, find their lives threatened by the plots of those seeking power. Hb \$45.00 335pp Tp \$32.95 335pp

KATHRYN LASKY

 **THE RESCUE**

*Guardians of Gahoole* #3. Now that Soren has been reunited with his sister, Eglantine, he must face his next challenge - making sense of the mysterious disappearance of his mentor, Ezylyrb. When Soren discovers that Ezylyrb is in danger, he and his friends Gylfie, Twilight and Digger devise a plan to save their teacher. In this process, Soren fights a ferocious foe who wears a terrifying metal beak, sharpened for battle. It's not until the confrontation is over that Soren discovers the true identity of his opponent... Pb \$9.95 198pp

KEITH LAUMER, JOHN RINGO  
& LINDA EVANS

 **THE ROAD TO DAMASCUS**

*A Bolo novel.* When a ruthless political regime seizes power on a world struggling to recover from alien invasion, a former war hero finds herself leading a desperate band of freedom fighters. Kafari Khrustinova, who fought Deng infantry from farmhouses and barns, finds herself struggling to free her homeworld from an unholy political alliance, headed by the charismatic and ambitious Vittori Santorini, which has seduced her young daughter with its propaganda and subverted the planet's Bolo, using the war machine to crush all political opposition. Hb \$54.00 682pp

ANNE McCAFFREY & S M STIRLING

  **THE CITY AND THE SHIP**

This is an omnibus edition containing *The City Who Fought* and *The Ship Avenged*, both set in the same universe as *The Ship Who Sang*. Hb \$54.00 627pp

GEORGE R R MARTIN (ED)

  **ACES HIGH**

*Wild Cards* #2. 1970, New York City, home of Aces High, the glamorous lounge atop the Empire State Building, and Jokertown, the squalid residence of the city's underclass. The victims of the Wild Card Virus are no longer new and strange, but neither are they accepted by a world that still fears them. But as the '80s dawn, all eyes are drawn to the skies and the Wild Cards may be the planet's only hope, as an abomination called the Swarm arrives to threaten Earth. Pb \$17.95 361pp

GARTH NIX

 **GRIM TUESDAY**

*The Keys to the Kingdom* #2. Arthur Penhaligon is supposed to be in bed - after all, it's only 12 hours since he saved the world. But Grim Tuesday has laid claim to the Lower House and the First Key, and now his misshapen servants are repossessing Arthur's world and plunging it into financial disaster. To stop them, Arthur must venture back into the House - that surreal, unpredictable realm where he almost met his death. Pb \$14.95 292pp

ANDRE NORTON & LYN McCONCHIE

 **BEAST MASTER'S CIRCUS**

Since the dreaded Xik destroyed Earth, the corps of Beast Masters and the animal teams with which they have telepathic rapport have served as sentinels against the Xik and other threats to colony worlds throughout the galaxy. Now a conspiracy with ties to the Thieves Guild is trying to kidnap the Beast Masters' team animals. Hb \$54.00 301pp

JOSEPHINE PENNICOTT

 **A FIRE IN THE SHELL**

*Circle of Nine* #3. First came the flies and bees, then the wild dog attacks and sightings by locals of terrifying beings. The wail of the Banshee is heard. Erinyes, Pan and the Wild Hunt are on the move. The old ones demand blood... the killings begin. A coven of witches has unleashed chaos by opening a portal to Eronth, a parallel world where magic, prophecy and ancient myths are real. Now the coven return to close the portal, but dark forces are working against them. Is one of their own betraying them? The faith and strength of Khartyn, Gwyndion, Maya and others are pushed to the limit as they face the horrific culmination of deadly energies. Not all of them will prove equal to the challenge. Heroes will fall by the wayside. One of them will perform the ultimate sacrifice. Pb \$18.95 455pp

**QUENTARIS**

MICHAEL PRYOR

 **STONES OF QUENTARIS**

#7. 12-year-old Jaq Coblin gets caught up in an adventure with four mysterious strangers, powerful magic and a horde of barbarians made of sand. What else can Jaq do, but use his wits and hold on tight? Pb \$14.95 160pp

PAUL COLLINS

 **DRAGONLORDS OF QUENTARIS**

#8. Rad, the talented rift guide, attempts to turn his hand to politics. Kidnapped and sold into slavery, he returns to Quentaris to find it has been invaded by the all-conquering dragonlords of Udari. Pb \$14.95 159pp

NORA ROBERTS

 **KEY OF KNOWLEDGE**

*Key trilogy* #2. Dana Steele is forced to face her past with the handsome Jordan Hawke, when he writes a book that connects him to her quest for the Key of Knowledge. Now, Dana must seek out the truth from among deception and lies - or succumb to her worst nightmares. Pb \$17.95 340pp

**WIN...**  
**A t-shirt and watch featuring**  
**Garth Nix's new series**  
**The Keys to the Kingdom**  
**See back page for details**



JAMES ROY

 **ICHABOD HART AND THE LIGHTHOUSE MYSTERY**

Who is Ichabod Hayes Hart and his mysterious friend Clementine Arabella Oakes? More importantly, why is the Major Ulysses Rutherford Marshall getting around Port Bonaparte late at night with strange men who have no eyebrows? And what's with Mr. Shyler Colfax Bowman, the oddly eccentric railway tycoon with the toy locomotive in his back garden? Pb \$18.95 375pp

JAMES SCHMITZ

 **ETERNAL FRONTIER**

Earth's colonists have spread throughout the cosmos and have almost divided into two separate species - the Swimmers, who have adapted to living in zero-gravity and the Walkers, who are not about to say farewell to the planets they grew up on. Crowell, born a Swimmer but now a Walker by choice, is caught in the middle as the two sides seem headed for war. Then he discovers the true cause of the altercation - a hidden alien race moving behind the scenes to provoke a war, so that they can pick up the pieces after the two sides have obliterated each other. And if Crowell cannot head off the war and convince both sides of the existence of the real enemy, both branches of the human race may be headed for untimely extinction. Pb \$17.95 728pp

MANDA SCOTT

 **DREAMING THE EAGLE**

*Boudica* #1. She was 12 years old when she killed her first warrior and 21-years-old when she defended her land against an invasion by the most powerful empire the world had ever seen. She was a 40-year-old when she led her people in a bloody revolt - and became a legend. Pb \$23.95 720pp

MAGGIE SHAYNE

  **EDGE OF TWILIGHT**

His name is Edge and he is the last of a band of Immortals who have been hunted down and murdered by Frank Stiles - an enemy determined to unlock their deepest secrets. Vengeance has become Edge's obsession. To claim it,



he must find the young woman whispered to be the Golden Child. A legend among the undead, Amber Lily is the only half human, half vampire ever born and is possessed of power even she is unaware of. She alone understands the dangerous threat of Frank Stiles and only she may hold the key to his vulnerability... and his doom. Pb \$15.95 392pp

SHARON SHINN

 **ANGEL-SEEKER**

*A novel of Samaria.* Elizabeth was born to wealth, but circumstances forced her to live as a servant in her cousin's household. Determined to change her life, she travels to the town of Cedar Hills, hoping that an angel will take notice of her and take her as his own. Rebekah is a daughter of the Jansai tribe, raised to hate the angels. But when she finds an injured angel near her village, she defies her upbringing to care for him. In time, these two women, whose paths will cross, will both find what they long for, in surprising - and dangerous - ways. Hb \$49.95 483pp

MARTIN SKETCHLEY

 **THE AFFINITY TRAP**

*Vournias* Lycern, a consoq of the three-sex Seriattic race, holds the key to peace between Earth and Seriatt and thus the continuation of the lucrative illegal arms trade conducted by General William



Myson. When Lycern decamps to the Affinity Group complex on Veshc, Myson orders experienced Military Intelligence Officer Alexander Delgado to fetch her. While once respected, the changes that followed Myson's rise to power saw Delgado's position reduced in all but name, his independent character and methodologies unwelcome. But Delgado, sees the mission not as a chance to reinstate his name to the position of respect it once held, but an opportunity to engender a much greater level of change. When he comes into contact with Lycern, however, Delgado faces his greatest ever challenge, the consequences of which have the ability to change his life - and potentially the future of Earth - forever. Tp \$29.95 306pp

THOMAS E SNIEGOSKI

  **RECKONING**

*The Fallen* #4. The time has come for Aaron Corbet, the 18-year-old son of an angel and a mortal, to face his worst enemy. Verchiel, the fallen leader of the Powers, is determined to defeat the prophecy that foretold Aaron's power over all the Fallen. And to do this, he intends to kill Aaron, hoping that the removal of such a blight will restore Verchiel in the eyes of the Creator. Aaron has been training for this showdown, working to understand and control the awesome force that resides deep within himself. He knows he will win. After all, Verchiel has taken away everything and everyone who ever meant anything to Aaron. He has nothing to lose... until Verchiel introduces Aaron to his long-lost father. Pb \$13.95 263pp

CATHERINE SPANGLER

  **SHADOW FIRES**

Jenna dan Aron, a Shielder with psychic abilities, finds herself reluctantly married to Arion of Saura, a Leor who seems more beast than man and who has no place in his life for softness or emotion. She finds life in the Leor settlement barbaric and beyond her experience. Her fierce warrior husband is her only buffer and her only lifeline, yet she finds herself challenging him and the ways of the Leors. In turn, he tries to resist the unfamiliar, protective urges his soft human mate raises in him, while they're both stunned by the sensual attraction that rages between them. Pb \$13.95 326pp

CATE TIERNAN

 **NIGHT'S CHILD**

*Wicca* #15. Morgan Rowlands was the most powerful young blood witch for generations. 20 years later, her daughter, 15-year-old Moira, knows there's more to her mother's past than she's been told. As she begins to put the puzzle together, she realises that there are secrets that could destroy her world. Pb \$12.95 318pp

KAREN TRAVISS

 **CITY OF PEARL**

Environmental Hazard Enforcement officer Shan Frankland agreed to lead a mission to Cavanagh's Star, knowing that 150 years would elapse before she could finally return home. But her landing, with a small group of scientists and Marines, has not gone unnoticed by Aras, the planet's designated guardian. An eternally evolving world himself, this sad, powerful being has already obliterated millions of alien interlopers and their great cities to protect the fragile native population. Now Shan and her party - plus the small colony of fundamentalist humans who preceded them - could face a similar annihilation or a fate far worse... Pb \$15.95 392pp

HARRY TURTLEDOVE

 **JAWS OF DARKNESS**

*Darkness* #5. The grand conflict for control of the continent of Derlavai rages on, in a battle with all the drama and terror of the Second World War - only the bullets are beams of magical fire, the tanks and submarines are great lumbering beasts, and the fighters and bombers are dragons raining fire upon their targets. Yet hope may be dawning at last. The terrible onslaught of the conquering forces of Algarve - who power their battle magics with the life energy of their murdered victims - begins to founder, as it runs into Habbakuk - a sorcerous ship of ice. But though the tide has begun to turn, the conflict is far from over. Pb \$17.95 670pp

HARRY TURTLEDOVE (ED)

 **ALTERNATE GENERALS**

#2. Leadership makes all the difference... as history demonstrates. But there are other factors at work. Would Sir Francis Drake have as easily put paid to the Spanish Armada if a typhoon hadn't softened up the enemy first? What if history were given a twist or two and great commanders on land and sea had more (or fewer) forces, better (or worse) weather, quicker (or slower) communications, better supplies (or none at all)? This collection has fascinating speculations in alternate-history science-fiction, turning history upside down and inside out as leaders who have made their mark on our history make different marks in a very different world. The possibilities are endless. Pb \$17.95 378pp

FIONA WATERS (ED)

**THE KINGFISHER TREASURY OF**

 **MAGICAL STORIES**

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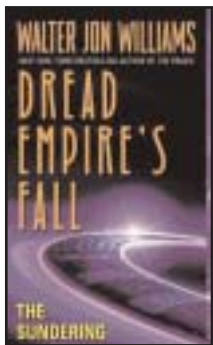
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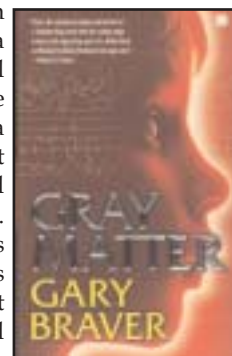


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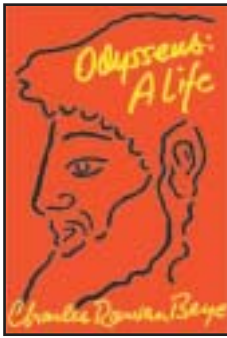
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**NICHOLAS TUCKER**

**DARKNESS VISIBLE: INSIDE THE  
WORLD OF PHILIP PULLMAN**

The author looks at the strange world of *His Dark Materials* and its author Philip Pullman, discussing the sources that have influenced Pullman's many books, the themes throughout and the controversy and criticism that Pullman has attracted. There's also a who's who of the series, as well as an answer to the exasperating question, 'What exactly is 'dust'?' Pb \$18.95 207pp

## WHAT WE'VE BEEN READING...

**Tapping the Dream Tree** by Charles De Lint (Tp \$35.00). This guy is one of Steph's most loved authors and I can see why. He writes some of the best urban fantasy around, subtle yet powerful faery tales that are wonderfully written and very addictive. This collection of short stories takes place in De Lint's imaginary city of Newford, home to all things mythical and magical. Some of the characters make regular appearances, intertwined with the animal spirits, denizens of Faery and other beings that populate this fantastic universe. *Pixel Pixies* is a standout tale from this collection. From reading this story elsewhere, I was intrigued enough to pick up this book. I'm also reading **Ivory and the Horn** (Pb \$15.95) by the same author. This also contains stories based in Newford. De Lint has set many of his novels here.

Wonderful books, highly recommended. Thanks Steph, now I'll have to read the rest... - David

**The Aware** by Glenda Larke (Pb 18.95). The first book by this author in four years and well worth the wait! In this, the first book of the trilogy *The Isles of Glory*, we meet the feisty heroine Blaze Halfbreed, a mercenary employed by the Keeper Isles to track down a woman who disappeared from their clutches just before they were ready to use her in their political schemes. Blaze is a reluctant investigator, but very good at her job and motivated to work for the Keepers in exchange for enough money to buy herself citizenship, which as a halfbreed, she is not automatically entitled to.

Here is a world filled with vivid characters and written with strong prose that captivates and enthrals from the very first page. It's a great read that heralds the restart of a brilliant career. - Mark

**I'll Be Watching You** by Charles De Lint (Tp \$29.95). De Lint can use his amazing writing skills to both lead the reader to the wonder of magic in everyday life that's just waiting to be observed, if you'll just take the time (as in his Newford works), to leading you through the thought processes of (in this case) a wife-beater and insane, obsessive, peeping tom. I experienced the same unsettling feelings from his other dark fantasy books written as Samuel M Key. As far as the story itself goes, you're reasonably sure you know how it will end, but what is more important is the journey. - Stephanie

**The Lord of Snow and Shadows** by Sarah Ash (Pb \$22.95). This title got a lot of praise in the UK when it was first released, and while I don't think it's undeserving of praise, I do think it was overdone. I found it rather bland to start off with and a little too coincidental in parts. That being said, it does travel at a fast pace and comes replete with well drawn characters and a magic system that is unusual enough to be described as unformulaic, which can be a good thing when most quest fantasies these days suffer from too much "writing-by-numbers". A good read and well worth it if you are looking for something different. - Mark



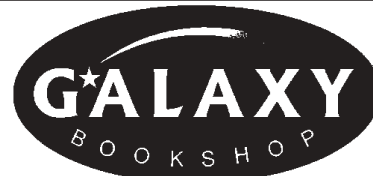
**Heirs of Earth** by Sean Williams & Shane Dix. (Pb \$18.95). I don't read a lot of science fiction, but I can never put these guys' books down! Action-packed, well plotted and feasibly inventive, these authors keep me up well into the night every time I get my hands on their latest book. If you enjoy space opera at its best, then pick them up! Its well worth the read. - Mark

### COMPETITION

To win a t-shirt and watch featuring Garth Nix's new fantasy series, *The Keys to the Kingdom*, answer the following question... What is Arthur's surname? Mail, fax or email ([competition@galaxybooks.com.au](mailto:competition@galaxybooks.com.au)) your answer along with your name and address. Competition closes 19 April 2004. Entry open to Galaxy Cardholders only.

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