



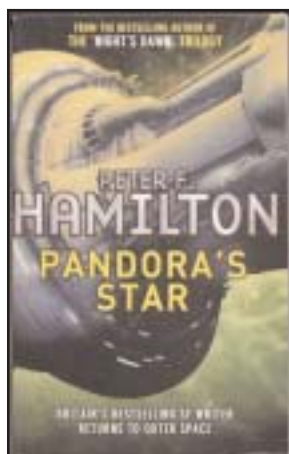
nexus

April 2005

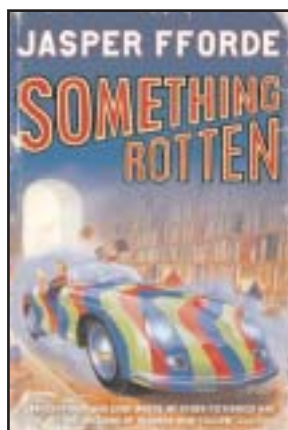
Issue #203

READER'S CHOICE

Galaxy customers have spoken - or at least voted! These are your favourite science fiction, fantasy and horror books of last year. Thank you to everyone who voted. The winner of the \$50 gift voucher is Adrienne Chai.



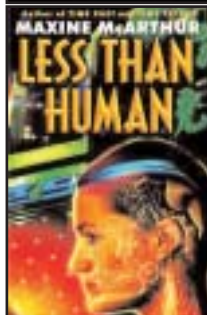
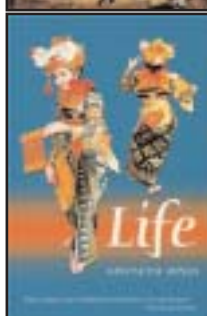
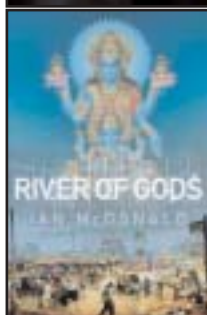
SCIENCE FICTION



FANTASY



HORROR



TIPTREE AWARD WINNERS

This award is presented annually to a work that explores and expands gender roles in science fiction and fantasy. This year's winners for best novel are:

- Camouflage** by Joe Haldeman
- Troll: A Love Story** by Johanna Sinisalo

BSFA AWARD WINNERS

BEST NOVEL

River of Gods by Ian McDonald

BEST SHORT FICTION

Mayflower II by Stephen Baxter

BEST ARTWORK

Stephan Martinieri's cover of **Newton's Wake** by Ken MacLeod

PHILIP K DICK AWARD WINNERS

Life by Gwynneth Jones

HUGO AWARD NOMINEES

BEST NOVEL

- The Algebraist** by Iain M Banks
- Iron Council** by China Miéville
- Iron Sunrise** by Charles Stross
- Jonathan Strange & Mr Norrell** by Susanna Clarke
- River of Gods** by Ian McDonald

JOHN W CAMPBELL NOMINEES

- Elizabeth Bear
- K J Bishop
- David Moles
- Chris Roberson
- Steph Swainston

DITMAR AWARD NOMINEES

BEST NOVEL

- The Black Crusade** by Richard Harland
- Less than Human** by Maxine McArthur
- The Crooked Letter** by Sean Williams

COLLECTED WORKS

- Agog! Smashing Stories** edited by Cat Sparks
- Black Juice** by Margo Lanagan
- Andromeda Spaceways Inflight Magazine** edited by Lyn Triffitt, Edwina Harvey, Andrew Finch, Zara Baxter, Robbie Matthews & Tehani Croft
- Orb 6** edited by Sarah Endacott
- Encounters** edited by Donna Hanson and Maxine McArthur

SF GRANDMASTER DIES

Science fiction and fantasy author Andre Norton has died. She was 93. During her career she wrote over 130 books and was the first woman to be recognised as a Grand Master by the SFWA.

ANZAC DAY PUBLIC HOLIDAY
 MON 25 APRIL
 WE ARE OPEN
 12 MIDDAY - 5PM



SCIENCE FICTION AND FANTASY



M T ANDERSON

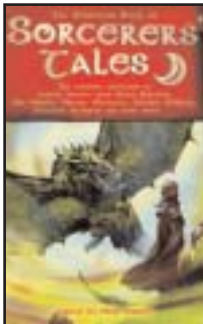
FEED

Titus doesn't think much of the moon, but then Titus doesn't think much at all. He's got his 'feed' - an Internet implant linked to his brain - to do his thinking for him. It tells him where to party or get the best bargains and how to accessorise the mysterious lesions everyone's been getting. Pb \$14.95 313pp

MIKE ASHLEY (ED)

THE MAMMOTH BOOK OF SORCERERS' TALES

This anthology features a range of light and dark fantasies - from quests, games and monsters to wizards, witches, dark spells and even darker secrets - all obsessed with the use of magic in this world or the next. Contributors



include Edith Nesbit Theodore Cogswell, Ursula K Le Guin, Neil Gaiman, Michael Moorcock, John Morressy, Theodore Sturgeon, John Jakes, Patricia McKillip, Esther Friesner, Louise Cooper, Marion Zimmer Bradley, Tom Holt and Charles de Lint. Tp \$24.95 500pp



SCIENCE FICTION



FANTASY



ROMANCE



AWARD WINNER



AUSTRALIAN



ACTION



REPRINT

AC AUDIO CASSETTE

Cd COMPACT DISC

Pb PAPERBACK

Hb HARDBACK

Tp TRADE PAPERBACK

CHARLES ASHTON

DRAGON FIRE TRILOGY OMNIBUS

Extraordinary events transform Sparrow's life after he encounters the wizard Puckel, who gives the boy three magical gifts - the ability to fly, to understand the speech of birds and beasts, and to take the shape of any creature or thing. Now Sparrow needs all the magical help he can get, for he and his friends find themselves up against many elusive, cunning adversaries as they seek to free their world from the power of the dragon. Pb \$19.95 540pp

ROBERT ASPRIN & ERIC DEL CARLO

RESURRECTION

Wartorn #1. The legendary warlord, Dardas, died more than 250 years ago. Now his spirit lives on in a host body, resurrected by a magician to lead a conquering army across the city-states of Isthmus. But there are military scholars familiar with Dardas's tactics - scholars who may hold the key to stopping his army. Pb \$16.95 295pp

MADELINE BAKER

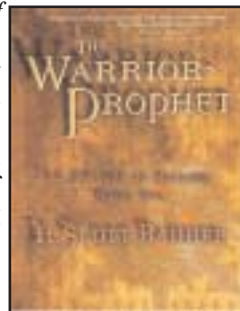
FEATHER IN THE WIND

She saw his face in a faded picture and his eyes, restless as the wind, seemed to call to her. It was said he'd been hanged nearly a century before for kidnapping a white woman, yet his story seemed unfinished. To the writer in her he was an inspiration, but to the lonely woman within he was a dream come true, who would lure her across the years to fulfil a love beyond time. Pb \$16.95 395pp

R SCOTT BAKKER

THE WARRIOR PROPHET

The Prince of Nothing #2. The Holy War continues its inexorable, southward march to the holy city of Shimeh. Steering souls through the subtleties of word and expression, Anasûrimbor Kellhus gradually extends his dominion over the Men of the Tusk. Succumbing utterly to Kellhus, the sorcerer Achamian is reunited at long last with Esmenet, only to be abducted by a rival sorcerous school. He rejoins the Holy War in its most desperate hour, only to discover that Kellhus has taken Esmenet as his wife. Meanwhile, the warrior Cnaiur, convinced that Kellhus will betray their pact to murder Kellhus's father, turns to the agents of the Second Apocalypse and strikes an infernal bargain. Hb \$58.00 607pp



DAVE BARRY & RIDLEY PEARSON

PETER AND THE STARCATCHERS

A fast-paced, impossible-to-put-down adventure awaits, as the young orphan Peter and his mates are dispatched to an island ruled by the evil King Zarboff. They set sail aboard the Never Land, a ship carrying a precious and mysterious trunk in its cargo hold, and the journey quickly becomes fraught with excitement and danger. Discover richly developed characters in the sweet but sophisticated Molly, the scary but familiar Black Stache and the fearless Peter. Hb \$34.95 451pp

ELIZABETH BEAR

HAMMERED

Jenny Casey, a former Canadian special forces warrior, lives on the streets of Hartford, Connecticut, in the year 2062. Racked with pain, hiding from the government she served, running with a crime lord so she can save a life or two, Jenny's artificially reconstructed body has started to unravel. But she is far from forgotten. A government scientist needs the perfect subject for a high-stakes project and has Jenny in his sights. Suddenly she is a pawn in a furious battle, waged in the corridors of the internet, on the streets of battered cities and in the complex wirings of her half-man-made nervous system. And she needs to gain control of the game before a brave new future spins completely out of control. Pb \$16.95 324pp

FRANK BEDDOR

THE LOOKING GLASS WARS

Alyss, born in Wonderland, is destined to be a warrior queen. After a bloody coup topples the Heart regime, Alyss is exiled to another world entirely, where she is adopted into the Liddell family, renamed Alice and befriended by Lewis Carroll. At age 20, she returns to Wonderland to regain her sceptre, battle Redd and lead Wonderland into its next golden age of imagination. Tp \$19.95 375pp

GREGORY BENFORD

SAILING BRIGHT ETERNITY

The Galactic Centre #6. The slaughter has begun. The mechs, violent artificial intelligences dedicated to the total destruction of the human race, have ravaged humanity's planets throughout the galaxy, forcing the survivors to flee to the Esty, a strange space-time continuum constructed by ancient beings near the galaxy's True Centre. In the Esty, the battered human race makes its final stand against the relentless mechs. It soon becomes hideously clear that young warrior Toby Bishop, his father Killeen, and his grandfather have become special targets that the mechs' terrifying design involves their capture, torture and extinction. Pb \$16.95 517pp

Fave Raves

our favourites - new & classic

NEW TITLE

Sorcery and Cecilia

or The Enchanted Chocolate Pot

Patricia Wrede and Carol Stevermer

Pb \$16.95 320pp

I swear that the hardest books to review are the ones that are so above the par that you just don't know where to start...What a fantastic novel! This is Jane Austen with magic.

Set in Regency England, the story is written as letters sent between Kate (making her debut in London society) and Cecilia (stuck in the country). Using letters being written between characters is not a form that I've encountered too many times, and I suspect it wouldn't take much to botch it (or make it rather confusing), but the authors use it brilliantly.

Kate and Cecy are practical girls and it is obvious they are a little ahead of the time in terms of what they feel women are capable of getting up to. Kate would much rather be in the country with Cecy than doing the rounds of social engagements in London, as she takes in her first 'season' (with all the subliminal politics, social snobbery and the like going on) with her strict Aunt.

It begins as a regular period piece (even though magic is commonplace), until Kate, while attending the induction of family acquaintance, Sir Hilary, into the Royal College of Wizards, has an encounter with a sinister woman with sinister intentions, who has unfortunately mistaken Kate for her rival, the mysterious Marquis Schofield. Meanwhile Cecy is closely watching James Tarleton, a rude, dismissive and dashing handsome man who seems to be spending too much time creeping around spying on Cecy's new friend Georgina. Cecy also has found a charm bag under her brother's mattress. Could this be the explanation for Oliver's more-than-usual ridiculous behaviour? Even though her Aunt (whose low view on magic is well known) is watching her, she manages to "borrow" books on magic from Sir Hilary's library.

The two stories are naturally related as both girls try to solve the mystery without being turned into trees, married off to odious men or incurring the wrath of their chaperones. Their antics as they took charge, because the men were faffing around had me laughing out loud.

I don't think you'd have to be familiar with Austen to appreciate this (even having seen just one of the cinema or TV adaptations will do it). There are familiar type characters: doting (but absentminded fathers), bumbling idiots, beautiful but not too deep young women, scheming maternal figures as well as a wonderful grasp of the era.

Such a brilliant book! This is completely engaging. Set aside time to become engrossed because it will have you hooked, and if your son wakes up five pages from the end then he, too, will just have to wait... *Stephanie*

GREGORY BENFORD

& **MARTIN H GREENBERG (EDS)**

WHAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN: ALTERNATE WARS

What would have happened if history had been different? What if the major events that shaped our times had occurred in a different way - or not at all? From a Trojan War in which Helen surrenders, to a Civil War fought with robots, from a World War I in which Teddy Roosevelt tries to recapture the glory of San Juan Hill, to a World War II in which the race is not for atomic weapons, but for orbital rockets, these excursions in time depict bizarre new worlds, oddly familiar and disturbingly different. Tp \$27.00 296pp

CLASSIC TITLE

THE GORMENGHAST TRILOGY

MERVYN PEAKE

Tp \$44.95 953pp

Life inside Gormenghast castle has always been the same for as long as anyone cares to remember. The ancient gloom of this world, where tradition requires that everyday life be ruled by arcane rituals, and where everyone has a preordained role which they cannot move beyond, offers a kind of stability that borders on stasis.

This all changes on the day of the birth of the 77th Earl of Gormenghast, Titus Groan, when kitchen boy Steerpike escapes into the world above. Steerpike - seducer, sycophant and, unbeknownst to most, bloodthirsty villain - detests everything that Titus and his family stand for and he seeks to bring about their downfall. In the first book, **Titus Groan**, we see Steerpike begin to pull the strings, directing scenes of murder and mayhem by manipulating human frailties.

For Titus, growing up happens quickly. At a young age, he is made aware of the true story behind the unfortunate events in his family's past. In the second book, **Gormenghast**, he must try to figure out a way to save his family from the machinations of Steerpike.

Yet something beckons Titus to experience life beyond Gormenghast. No sooner does he fulfil his duty, than he flees the castle for the world outside. In **Titus Alone**, he finds himself more disorientated and confused about things than ever as he journeys through a strange city of glass and steel. Peake wanted to continue the story of Titus's life, with his eventual return to Gormenghast, but he died not long after writing this book. One can only wonder at what could have been.

But what remains, long after the last page has turned, is the parade of characters, the infestation of human beings, each given so much life on the page by Peake's almost Dickensian satire. There are ghastly and grotesque figures, like Swelter, the head chef, as well as sympathetic ones, like the kindly Dr Prunesquallor. Peake truly relishes imparting observations and has an artist's eye for detail. This can become overwhelming, at times distracting from the story itself, but provides much needed comic relief from the doom and gloom of Titus's circumstances. Sometimes, the best fantasy takes its cue from social realities. Peake's brand of modern epic fantasy came out of the same wartime madness that influenced Tolkien. The sprawling style of his elaborate prose - an echo of the castle itself - lends an air of nightmarish nursery rhyme, a place where any horror is all too human. It is an exercise in storytelling that, while it has no magic, results in the concoction of a spellbinding world infused with tragedy and a dash of dark humour.

If you're looking for great escapist fantasy, give this collection a try. - *Maryann*

BEN BOVA

MERCURY

Grand Tour of the Solar System. Mercury is a planet with unlimited solar power, worth a fortune to the space tycoon Saito Yamagata if he can find a way to harness it. He has hired Dante Alexios to establish a research station on the surface of the planet and find a way to turn that solar energy into portable power satellites. But Yamagata is secretly also preparing the way to a very different dream - he wants to travel to the stars themselves. And Alexios has his own obsession, a plot to lure an old enemy to this hellhole of a world and take his revenge for one of the worst disasters in human history. Hb \$59.95 371pp

P C CAST

ELPHAME'S CHOICE

She was marked from birth as belonging to the Goddess Epona, and she was set apart, worshipped. Then a glimpse of her destiny leads her to a castle of legend, deserted since the terrible Fomorian war. She followed the wordless call to breathe new life into a place long dead, but didn't realise there were dark remnants of the war lingering in the nearby forest, victims and survivors who remained hidden. She could keep to the happiness and safety of her newfound home, or she could choose a path that led to something more terrible, more thrilling than anything she'd ever expected. And in that future she might never be alone again... Tp \$29.95 551pp

MICHAEL CHABON (ED)

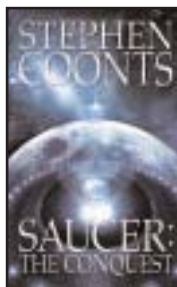
McSWEENEY'S ENCHANTED CHAMBER OF ASTONISHING STORIES

A brand-new collection that reinvigorates the stay-up-all-night, edge-of-the seat, fingernail-biting, page-turning tradition of literary short stories. Featuring Margaret Atwood, Stephen King, Peter Straub, David Mitchell, Jonathan Lethem, Heidi Julavits, Roddy Doyle and more! Tp \$29.95 328pp

STEPHEN COONTS

SAUCER: THE CONQUEST

Saucer #2. When Charley takes a job flying space-planes to the moon for the French lunar base project, she finds an anti-gravity beam generator, a weapon that the crazed project director intends to use to make himself ruler of the earth. Charley steals the plane and returns to base... In retaliation, the French kidnap Rip's uncle and force him to fly the saucer hidden in Area 51 to the moon - and the only thing capable of catching it, is the original Antarctic saucer, now stored in the National Air and Space Museum. The chase is on! Tp \$29.95 340pp



JACK DANN & GARDNER DOZOIS (EDS)

A.I.S

Ten masters of speculative fiction explore the future of computerised intellect and how humanity will interact with machines that can outthink them and are learning to outsmart them. Pb \$16.95 294pp

WILLIAM C DIETZ

MCCADE ON THE RUN

Omnibus edition collecting Bounty and Alien Bounty. When a sacred artefact with divine powers is stolen by the space pirates, vengeful bounty hunter Sam McCade takes on the task of retrieving the treasure. Tp \$29.95 361pp

DAVID DRAKE, ERIC FLINT & JIM BAEN (EDS)

THE WORLD TURNED UPSIDE DOWN

When readers first encounter science fiction, they find adventures on other planets and in future worlds, exploration of future technology and its implications, and extrapolations of social trends and warnings of where they may lead. They also encounter concepts heretofore undreamed of. Gathered here in one volume is some of the greatest science fiction ever written. The editor's selection criteria was that each story needed to include a startling breakthrough concept that left readers stunned and changed the course of science fiction. Hb \$49.95 743pp

HARLAN ELLISON

STRANGE WINE

Discover among these tales the spirits of executed Nazi war criminals who walk Manhattan streets, the damned soul of a murderess escaped from Hell, gremlins writing the fantasies of a gone-dry writer and the exquisite Dr D'arque Angel, who deals her patients doses of death. Tp \$29.95 262pp

S L FARRELL

HEIR OF STONE

The Cloudmages #3. The oldest of Meriel's children, Sevei, and her twin brother, Kayne, have reached adulthood, but their world is about to be turned upside down when all their widely scattered family are simultaneously attacked. Hb \$49.95 543pp

KATE FORSYTH

THE TOWER OF RAVENS

Rhiannon's Ride #1. One-Horn's daughter is not like the other satyricorns. Born of a human father, she has failed to grow the horns so prized by her kind. Soon the satyricorns will kill her, and even if she runs away, their swift hunters will find her in the end. When she sees a herd of magnificent winged horses flying over her home in the high mountains, she finally sees her chance. If she could only capture one of the legendary flying horses and stay on its back long enough to fly far away, she might escape. So begins a journey that will take her towards danger, death, love and betrayal - and give her a new name, Rhiannon, the rider that none can catch. Pb \$19.95 565pp

LEO FRANKOWSKI & DAVE GROSSMAN

THE WAR WITH EARTH

Mickolai Derdowski has fought bravely for nearly a decade, losing many friends in the process and rising to the rank of General. Then he finds out that the war has been faked, no one had died and he was still just a tank commander, not a General at all. But New Kashubia had been well paid by the planet that hired the mercenaries for the war they had faked, severe food rationing back home is no longer necessary. But now, a real war looms and this one couldn't be settled in cyberspace. A lot of people might get really killed. Pb \$16.95 405pp

ROB GERRAND (ED)

THE BEST AUSTRALIAN SCIENCE FICTION WRITING:

A 50-YEAR COLLECTION

The editor distils 50 years of creativity, showing that the most vital writing today is speculative and that the best SF has long moved beyond outer space to explore all manner of imaginative worlds. Contributors include Peter Carey, Greg Egan, Damien Broderick, George Turner, Rosaleen Love, Jack Wodhams, David Lake, Lucy Sussex, Lee Harding and Sean Williams. Tp \$39.95 615pp

CHRISTOPHER GOLDEN

& THOMAS E SNIEGOSKI

THE UN-MAGICIAN

Outcast #1. Timothy is a freak, a weakling, an impossibility. He's the only person without magical powers and has spent his entire life hidden on a remote island. When he is finally taken back to the city of his birth, he is fascinated by the current of magic that fuels the world and mesmerised by the buildings and orbs that hang weightlessly in the sky. But he is also marked for death. Assassins are watching his every move and the government wants him destroyed. Timothy can't imagine what threat he could possibly pose; after all, he wields no power in this world. Or does he? Pb \$14.95 227pp

ROB GRANT

INCOMPETENCE

Bad is the new good. In the not-too-distant future, the European Union enacts its most far reaching human rights legislation ever. The incompetent have been persecuted for too long. After all, it's not their fault they can't do it right, is it? So it is made illegal to sack or otherwise discriminate against anyone for being incompetent. Now a murder has been committed and our possibly incompetent detective must find out who the murderer is, as long as he can find directions to get him through the mean streets! Pb \$18.95 323pp

COMPETITION

To celebrate the upcoming release of the movie *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*, we have prize packs to give away, courtesy of Buena Vista International.

See back page for entry details

SHANNON HALE

 ENNA BURNING

Sequel to Goose Girl. Ani is now married to Prince Geric, and Enna returns to the forest. Then her life changes forever when she learns of her power to wield fire. She is convinced she can use her ability for good - to fight Tira, the kingdom threatening the Bayem borders. But the power of the fire grows stronger and she is soon barely able to control it. Then she is captured by the Tiran army. A handsome and manipulative young captain drugs and holds Enna prisoner until Ani and her old friends Finn and Razo attempt to free her, but has the desire to burn already gone too far? Pb \$16.95 317pp

KAREN HANCOCK

 THE SHADOW WITHIN

Legends of the Guardian King #2. Abramm has been living peacefully abroad, but when he hears of trouble in his homeland, he returns to claim the crown he thought he'd never wear. But he has many enemies, including his brother. The only thing that will save him is the Light that lives within him, but to appease his critics, he hides this. Before he can fulfil his kingship, he must reveal the truth and be reminded, painfully and powerfully, that his destiny can only be realised through humbly acknowledging his own weakness and the utter sufficiency of the One who created his destiny. Tp \$29.00 445pp

PATRICK NIELSEN HAYDEN (ED)

 NEW MAGICS:

AN ANTHOLOGY OF TODAY'S FANTASY

Here is Ursula K Le Guin with a tale of wizardry from the world of her *Earthsea* books. And Orson Scott Card, author of *Ender's Game*, with the original story of *Prentice Alvin*. Here is *Newbery Medal* winner Robin McKinley with a tale of an exiled princess's quest to regain her people. And *Sandman* author Neil Gaiman with a story of chivalry that has a modern twist. Other contributors include Jane Yolen, Harry Turtledove, Charles de Lint, Emma Bull and more. Pb \$16.95 256pp

JAMES P HOGAN

 THE ANGUISHED DAWN

After a near miss by a white-hot protoplanet, Earth is devastated, civilisation as we know it has ended and the survivors are reverting to barbarism. Only the Kronian colony on Saturn's moons preserves technology and human culture. Landen Keene, taken off the Earth before the disaster, is a key figure in the Kronian efforts to rebuild civilisation on Earth. Then he finds that other survivors from Earth miss the power they once wielded and are bent on restoring the old privileges and hierarchy, with themselves at the top and if subtle methods fail, they won't hesitate to use the violent tactics that served them well back on Earth... Pb \$18.95 503pp

JOHN JETTY

 THE BLESSINGS OF STEFAN

1,000 years hence is a city, deep underground, where everyone is blind. Except for Thurii Brook of Summerisland - he alone can see. This is the story of Thurii and Corinth, eldest daughter of the Lords Spiritual. What terrible tragedy happened all those years ago that was so frightening to the Church that it closed ranks and engaged in a massive cover-up? What was Corinth's father's part in this? And Thurii's? Corinth's search for the truth leads to a final battle in which she and Thurii have to fight for survival, not just theirs, but that of the entire city. Pb \$19.95 623pp

V M JONES

 PRINCE OF THE WIND

The Karazan Quartet #3. There is someone new behind the closed door of Matron's office and he has plans for Highgate... plans that will bring Adam's world crashing down around his ears. Face-to-face with harsh reality, Adam feels as if his adventures in the fantasy world of Karazan happened a lifetime ago. But a mistake made behind the distant walls of Shakesh will soon have consequences more terrible than he and his four friends can ever imagine. Pb \$13.95 235pp

MICHAEL P KUBE-MCDOWELL

 ALTERNITIES

Skilfully disguised within a 16-story office building known as the Tower lies the secret of President Robinson's government - a building housing a gateway to alternate realities that can be manipulated toward good or evil. Tp \$29.00 400pp

KATHERINE KURTZ

 IN THE KING'S SERVICE

A Deryni novel. This is set before King Kelson's *Bride*, before King Kelson's birth, when the magical Deryni blood was sought by the most powerful men and women in the kingdom of Gwynedd, back when a man named Donal ruled over all. Pb \$18.95 370pp

MARGO LANAGAN

 BLACK JUICE

This is a collection of stories, exploring the dark and the light, and pitting the frailty of humans against implacable forces. Pb \$17.95 218pp

URSULA K LE GUIN

 ORSINIAN TALES

Orsinia... a land of medieval forests, stonewalled cities and railways reaching into the mountains where the old gods dwell. In this collection, the author brings to mainstream fiction the same compelling mastery of word and deed, of story and character, of violence and love, that has won her the *Pushcart Prize* and the *Kafka* and *National Book Awards*. Tp \$29.00 216pp



STEPHEN LEIGH & JOHN J MILLER

 DINOSAUR EMPIRE

Ray Bradbury presents. Aaron Cofield and his friends find themselves in ancient Egypt - but an Egypt changed from the one they knew. The Sphinx now bears the head of Klaido, a dinosaur warrior. And the Pharaoh about to be entombed within the Sphinx has decreed that all his belongings be buried with him, including the last fragment of the time-crossing roadway in this world! Aaron must race against time to retrieve the roadway and stay ahead of the savage dinosaur empire, if there is to be any hope of restoring the timestream. Pb \$16.95 226pp

EDWARD M LERNER

 MOONSTRUCK

Assigned to be the liaison between Earth and the aliens in a gigantic starship who claim to represent a federation of intelligent races, Kyle Gustafson begins to become suspicious about the aliens' peaceful intentions and joins forces with an alien ally, regarded as a freak among her own kind, to stop a potential conspiracy. Hb \$49.95 291pp

MICHAEL LIDDY

 WITHIN FALLEN LIGHT

Abigail, visiting her parents in a lost corner of Australia, discovers a mystery and a conspiracy spanning a century and more. But there is more in the balance than simply her own life, as she is catapulted into a strange land that holds the secrets of creation and of the human soul. There she will come face to face with Alex, a man over a century old and removed from his own kind. Together, they must untangle a complex puzzle of history, violence and intertwined destinies - their own, that of the land and, ultimately, of all humanity. Tp \$29.95 465pp

DAVE LUCKETT

 THE TRUTH ABOUT MAGIC

When Mr Tipkins, a nice wizard from the Department of Wishes, arrives to give a wish to a newborn baby in the village of Widdershins, he isn't in the best of moods. It doesn't help that the baby smells, the weather is foul and, worst of all, that he is forced to get there on a too-small magic cushion instead of a roomy carpet. His burst of bad temper begins a chain reaction that has consequences no-one can foresee... Pb \$16.95 214pp

ALEX MCDONOUGH

 SCORPIO

Jumping through time to escape the genocide on his home planet, Scorpio lands on Earth in 1351, finding an ally in the Leah de Bernay, a beautiful young woman with her own enemies, as they flee from the vicious Hunters who drove Scorpio from his own world and now seek to seize the glowing orb of power that brought him to Earth. Pb \$16.95 182pp

FIONA MCINTOSH

BRIDGE OF SOULS



The Quickening #3. War looms between Morgravia and Briavel and the threat from the Mountain King grows stronger. Struggling against time and repulsed by his latest disguise, everything Wyl Thirsk has striven to prevent is happening, including the marriage of his beloved Queen Valentyna of Briavel to the reviled King Celimus. Even worse, the final curse of the Quickening demands he becomes sovereign of Morgravia. Clinging to an ominous suggestion from the increasingly powerful Finch, Wyl walks his most dangerous path yet, straight back into the brutal clutches of King Celimus. Is Wyl doomed to follow the path of the Quickening, or will he succeed in shaping his own destiny? Pb \$18.95 626pp

JOHN MEANEY

RESOLUTION

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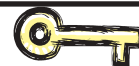
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Based On (concept)



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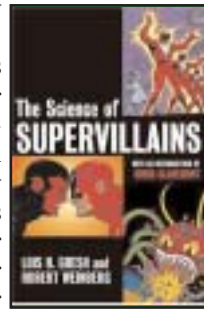
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WHAT WE'VE BEEN READING

Queen of Sinister (Dark Age #2) by Mark Chadbourn (Tp \$29.95). This is another stand-alone novel in Chadbourn's urban fantasy series. Magic returned to the world on the eve of the millennium and technology has died, cities lie in ruins and ancient Gods and mythic creatures roam the land. This series is a sequel to Chadbourn's *Age of Misrule* trilogy, but you don't need to read the books in order as there are no recurring characters or continuing stories. Well-written and engaging, this is the tale of a young doctor who is searching for a cure for a plague that has spawned from beyond the realms of man. Weaving itself across folklore and half-remembered old wives' tales, this book grabs your attention with sharp prose, great interpretation of classic Celtic mythology and swash-buckling action. While these books are stand-alones, I get the distinct impression that Chadbourn is laying the groundwork for another trilogy. I hope so, because these books are great! - *Mark*

With Red Hands by Stephen Woodworth (Pb \$16.95) is the sequel to **Through Violet Eyes** (Pb \$16.95) and picks up the story of freelance Violet, Natalie Lindstrom, six years on. Violets are people who can speak with the dead and they have many uses in society, such as contacting dead artists and musicians to create new works. Natalie used to work for the crime division, obtaining testimony from murder victims. Natalie has escaped the control of the North American Afterlife Communications Corps and is struggling to earn money and raise her five-year-old daughter. When she is approached by an old friend to help in a court case, she is caught between wanting to help put a killer away and further enraging the NAACC and possibly giving them an excuse to take her child. She also finds herself having to deal with a monster from her mother's past, a terrible man who is supposed to be dead. I have enjoyed both books so far and, while not stretching in any way for the intellect, they are fun, fast and full of action. Great supernatural thrillers. - *Sian*

The *John Taylor* series by Simon R Green (**Something from the Nightside, Agents of Light and Dark, Nightingale's Lament and Hex and the City**) (Pb \$16.95 ea). This urban fantasy detective series is a great, light read. John Taylor, the protagonist, is a PI with the ability to find anything. He hails from Nightside, the hidden underbelly of London where every fantastical creature resides. John has a secret past, which even he doesn't know about, and along with acquaintances like Eddy, the Punk God of Razors, his life is filled with conflict and double-crosses on an almost daily basis. One caveat with this series: don't read them one after the other, since Green tends to use the same descriptions for the same characters in all the books. 6/10 - *Adam*

Out from Boneville (Bone #1) by Jeff Smith (Pb \$22.95). This much-loved graphic novel series is now reprinted in colour and it looks great. The Bone cousins have been run out of town, eventually finding themselves in a valley inhabited by all manner of strange creatures, including the cigar-smoking red dragon and the evil rat creatures and their terrifying master.

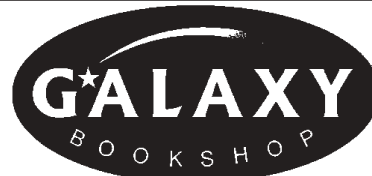
This is the first of a nine-book series and Jeff Smith's illustrations, combined with cute and endearing characters, make this a lighthearted fantasy series that is also well written. Recommended. 8/10 - *David*

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