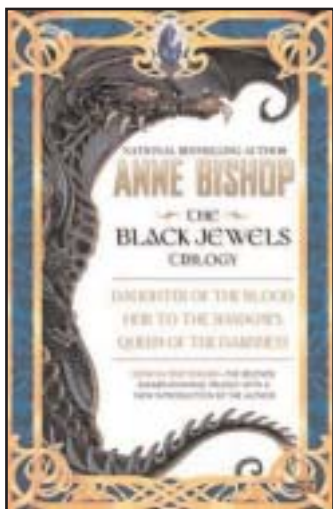




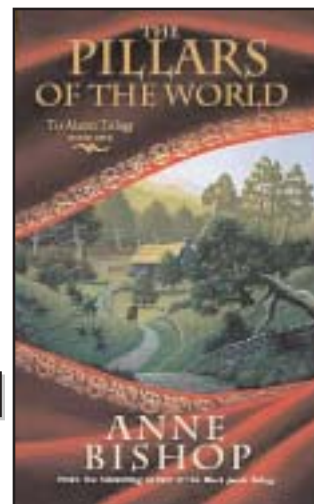
NEXUS

MAY 2005

ISSUE #204



ANNE BISHOP
 AUTHOR OF THE AWARD-WINNING
BLACK JEWELS TRILOGY
 AND THE BESTSELLING
TIR ALAINN TRILOGY
 WILL BE IN-STORE
WED 8 JUNE @ 5PM



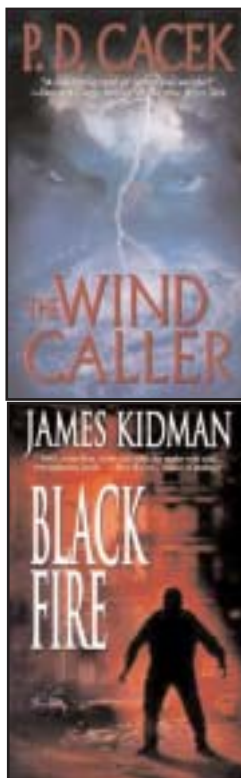
NEWS...

Fan, author and film-critic, John Brosnan, has died. He was born in Australia, but lived for many years in the UK. His work included **The Skylords**, **The Primal Screen: A History of Science Fiction in Film** and the recently released **Mothership**.

Authors Larry Niven and Jerry Pournelle are the recipients of this year's *Heinlein Award* for outstanding published work in hard science fiction or technical writings inspiring the human exploration of space.



**QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY
 PUBLIC HOLIDAY
 MON 13 JUNE
 OPEN
 10AM - 5PM**



STOKER AWARD NOMINEES

These awards honour superior achievement in the field of horror writing. Nominees include:

NOVEL

The Wind Caller by P D Cacek
The Dark Tower VII: The Dark Tower by Stephen King
Deep in the Darkness by Michael Laimo
In the Night Room by Peter Straub

FIRST NOVEL

Covenant by John Everson
Black Fire by James Kidman
Move Under Ground by Nick Mamatas
Stained by Lee Thomas

ANTHOLOGY

Quietly Now edited by Kealan-Patrick Burke
The Many Faces of Van Helsing edited by Jeanne Cavelos
Shivers III edited by Richard Chizmar
The Year's Best Fantasy and Horror 17th Annual edition
 edited by Ellen Datlow, Kelly Link and Gavin Grant
Acquainted With the Night
 edited by Barbara and Christopher Roden



**DUE TO OUR
 ANNUAL STOCKTAKE,
 WE WILL NOT BE OPENING
 UNTIL 11AM TUESDAY 7 JUNE**
 We apologise for any inconvenience caused





SCIENCE FICTION AND FANTASY





CHRISTOPHER ANVIL
 **THE FEDERATION OF HUMANITY**


Interstellar Patrol #2. Vaughan Roberts and his companions were trapped on a chaotic planet until they bamboozled the population with a gigantic hoax, which brought them to the attention of the Interstellar Patrol, who were looking for a few good con men. Their missions include making sure that the heir to a planet's throne escapes from captivity and overthrows the usurper - but this time there's a complication - Roberts may be falling for the ruler's beautiful sister... Hb \$56.00 648pp


SARAH ASH
 **PRISONER OF IRONSEA TOWER**
The Tears of Artamon #2. Eugene of Tielen has won the five Tears of Artamon, the legendary rubies which entitle him to be crowned emperor of Rossiya. And he has consigned his enemy, Gavril Nagarian, to the bleak Ironsea Tower. But Eugene is obsessed with enslaving a Drakhaoul, the daemon spirit that made Gavril such a formidable opponent. Gavril is equally obsessed - with escape. The opportunity, when it comes, faces him with an impossible choice - returning to his peaceful life as a painter in Smarna or stopping Eugene. Pb \$22.95 702pp


ROBERT ASPRIN & ESTHER FRIESNER
 **E GODZ**
 When Edwina Godz inherited the family corporation, she put to work all the sorcerous techniques that she had learned during her Spiritual Quest period, raking in all the benefits of the material world, including big profits and a high-selling stock. Unfortunately, Edwina's two children, Dov and Peez, hate each other and if she steps aside and lets them take over the company, it's certain to go down the tubes. So she pretends to be dying from a disease that neither science nor sorcery can cure and lets Dov and Peez fight it out using all the tricks of both corporate in-fighting and wizard warfare that she had taught them. Pb \$16.95 309pp



AMELIA ATWATER-RHODES
 **HAWKSONG**
 In a land that has been at war so long that no one remembers the reason for fighting, the shapeshifters who rule the two factions agree to marry in the hope of bringing peace, despite deep-seated fear and distrust of each other. Pb \$10.95 243pp

JAMES AXLER
 **SHAKING EARTH**
Deathlands #68. Emerging from a gateway into the partially submerged ruins of a once great city, Ryan and his group ally themselves with a fair and just baron caught in a treacherous power struggle with a dangerous rival. Pb \$16.95 347pp


ANNE BISHOP
 **DREAMS MADE FLESH**
 Set in the realm of *The Black Jewels Trilogy*, this collection features four brand-new revelatory stories of Jaenelle and her kindred. Tp \$35.00 425pp

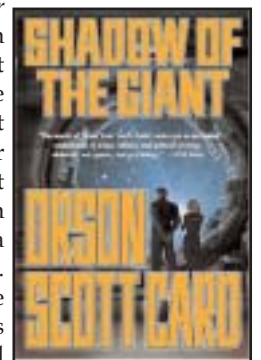
LUCY BLUE
 **MY DEMON'S KISS**
 Wearing by the violence of the Crusades, Simon, Knight of Lyan, is returning home to Ireland when he is attacked by a vampire and transformed into a creature of the night. His only chance for redemption is to find an ancient treasure of legend - the power of which can restore his humanity. Young Isabel of the Castle Charmot knows that her freedom and the preservation of her family's estate depend not only on her comeliness, but on an intricate deception of her own design. Then a mysterious visitor appears at her door, asking to explore the catacombs of her keep. When the creature that cursed Simon to darkness arises once more, the doomed knight must choose between saving his immortal soul and claiming the heart of the only woman he's ever loved... Pb \$14.95 350pp


BEN BOVA
 **POWERSAT**
 America needs energy and Dan Randolph is determined to give it to them. But his experimental space plane breaks up on re-entry, leaving his company, Astro Manufacturing, on the edge of bankruptcy. Worse, Dan discovers that the plane worked perfectly right up until the moment that saboteurs knocked it out of the sky. And whoever brought it down is willing and able to kill again to keep Astro grounded. Hb \$54.00 400pp

SIMON BROWN
  **EMPIRE'S DAUGHTER**
Chronicles of Kydan #1. Third Prince Maddyn Kevleren is one of the few members of his royal family who cannot access the realm of magic. When he crosses the most powerful magician in the empire, he will be forced to set out across the sea to find the new colony of Kydan to escape her revenge... but even the wide ocean may not be enough to protect him. Pb \$16.95 440pp

STEVEN BRUST
 **SETHRA LAVODE**
The Viscount of Adrilankha #3. Sethra Lavode, the oldest person in the Dragaeran Empire, is a military genius and master of sorcery. After a long absence, she's returned to take an active role in the Empire's affairs. An ambitious Dragonlord has moved to rebuild the Empire - in his own name, of course. Unknown to him, Sethra Lavode has already helped the Phoenix Zerika, true heir to the throne, retrieve the Orb from the Paths of the Dead. Sethra means to see Zerika on the throne. But making it so will entail a climactic battle of sorcery and arms... Pb \$18.95 373pp

ORSON SCOTT CARD
 **SHADOW OF THE GIANT**
Ender Prequel #4. Bean was the smallest student at the Battle School, but he became Ender Wiggins' right hand. Since then he has become a power on Earth. He served the Hegemon as strategist and general in the terrible wars that followed Ender's defeat of the alien empire. Now he and his wife Petra yearn for a safe place to build a family, but there is nowhere on Earth that does not harbour his enemies - old and new. To find security, Bean and Petra must once again follow in Ender's footsteps. They must leave Earth behind, in the control of the Hegemon and look to the stars. Hb \$56.00 367pp



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

FAVE RAVES

OUR FAVOURITES - NEW & CLASSIC

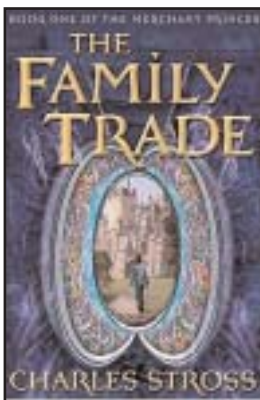
NEW TITLE

THE FAMILY TRADE

MERCHANT PRINCES #1

CHARLES STROSS

PB \$16.95 320PP



Miriam Beckstein is happy. She's a 30-something reporter doing very well for herself working for a hi-tech magazine in Boston. When her researcher shows her hard evidence of a large scale money-laundering scheme, she thinks she's found the story of the year. But when she takes it to her editor, she is fired on the spot, then gets a death threat from the criminals she has uncovered.

Before the day is over, she's been given a locket left by the mother she never knew, who was murdered when she was an infant. Inside the locket is a knot-work pattern which has a hypnotic effect on her. Before she realises it, she is transported to a parallel Earth where knights on horseback chase their prey with automatic weapons and world-skipping assassins lurk just on the other side of reality - a world where her true family rules.

The six families of the Clan control the kingdom of Gruinmarkt from behind-the-scenes, a mixture of nobility and criminal conspirators. Their power to walk between the worlds has made them rich in both. Braids of family loyalty and intermarriage provide a fragile guarantee of peace, but a recent civil war has left the families shaken and suspicious.

Taken in by her mother's people, she becomes the story of the year - Cinderella without the fairy godmother. As her mother's heir, she is hailed as the countess Helge Thorold-Hjorth and is courted and feasted. Caught up in intrigues and plots that have been centuries in the making, she is surrounded by unlikely allies, forbidden loves, lethal contraband and, most dangerous of all, her family. Her unexpected return supersedes the claims of other clan members to her mother's fortune and power, and her mother's killer may come back to finish the job properly.

Behind all this lie still deeper secrets that threaten everyone and everything she has ever known. But she is no-one's pawn and is determined to conquer her new home on her own terms.

This is an excellent introduction to a 3-part series. Reminiscent of Zelazny's *Amber* and Philip Jose Farmer's *Riverworld* series, with a touch of regency romance! Without exception, I have thoroughly enjoyed all of Stross's work, but this series - with its parallel worlds and no-nonsense heroines - has enough 'new spin' to really stand out. - Adam

CLASSIC TITLE

THE STEERSWOMAN'S ROAD

ROWAN OMNIBUS #1

ROSEMARY KIRSTEIN

TP \$35.00 672PP



If you ask a Steerswoman (and some Steersmen) a question, any question, she will answer. If a Steerswoman asks you a question, any question, you must reply. A Steerswoman will speak only the truth to you (provided she knows the truth) and you must do the same for her. If you refuse to answer her question, you will be placed under the Steerswomen's Ban and no Steerswoman will answer your questions - ever. So for centuries, the Steerswomen - questioning, searching, investigating - have slowly learned more and more about the world through which they wander, the Inner Lands. All the knowledge that the Steerswomen possess is given freely to those who ask and they have assisted mankind's expansion through the land, pushing their boundaries - physical and mental - ever outward.

This is an interesting world and the reader would be easily forgiven for assuming it was medieval. I did. But as the story unfolds, it turns out that the Inner Lands are far more than they seem. I find myself pausing here, wondering just how much I can say without venturing into the dreaded realm of the spoiler. It's not so much that I'm worried about giving away huge twists in the plot, but rather that I don't want to spoil Kirstein's wonderful way with the 'slow reveal'.

One thing this book is not is high fantasy. From the blurb on the back, you may think so, but no it's not. This by no means detracts from the story. In fact, when it took such a dramatic turn from what I was expecting, I was too caught up in the tales unfolding to care.

Let me explain. You see, Steerswomen are not the only holders of knowledge. Other men and women (called wizards by the people) hold sway over a knowledge that gives them miraculous powers. Called magic, the wizards won't share their knowledge. For centuries, they have been under the Steerswomen's Ban for refusing to answer the Steerswomen's questions.

So when the Steerswoman Rowan begins to search for the origin of a small blue jewel that hints at the magical, her questions spark a chain of events that see the wizards of the Inner Lands seeking her death. The precise sets of questions and formulae used by Steerswomen to draw the truth out of story and observation are part of what made this book so appealing to me. Moving through a world with no means of instant communication, Steerswomen rely on highly trained powers of deduction, matched with a broad education in basic science and the principles of logic.

Part adventure, part detective story, this book is a fantastic read that actually kept me up till the wee hours. Kirstein displays a great sense of plotting, vivid characterisation and sets her tale to explore contemporary themes. Not only that, this is an omnibus of the first and second books in the series, so you're getting two for the price of one! - Mark


ORDER ONLINE...



www.galaxybooks.com.au


DAN CHERNENKO

THE CHERNAGOR PIRATES

 *The Sceptre of Mercy #2.* With the barbarous Menteshes holding the Sceptre of Mercy and civil war raging in the north, Avornis is threatened on two fronts. But the longer its kings go without the Sceptre of Mercy - the key to Avornis's destiny - the greater the chance that the Banished One's evil will dominate the world. Pb \$18.95 456pp


DAN CHERNENKO

THE SCEPTER'S RETURN

 *The Sceptre of Mercy #3.* For hundreds of years, the rulers of Avornis sought to reclaim the Sceptre of Mercy, their only protection from the fallen god known as the Banished One. They all failed. Now, the burden rests on the shoulders of two kings, divided by pride, but united in duty. Tp \$35.00 441pp


ARTHUR C CLARKE & STEPHEN BAXTER

TIME'S EYE

 *A Time Odyssey #1.* For eons, Earth has been under observation by the Firstborn, beings almost as old as the universe itself. The Firstborn are unknown to humankind until they act. In an instant, Earth is carved up and reassembled like a huge jigsaw puzzle. Suddenly the planet and every living thing on it no longer exist in a single timeline. Instead, the world becomes a patchwork of eras, from prehistory to 2037, each with its own indigenous inhabitants. Scattered across the planet are floating silver orbs impervious to all weapons and impossible to communicate with. Are these technologically advanced devices responsible for creating and sustaining the rifts in time? Are they cameras through which inscrutable alien eyes are watching? Or are they something stranger and more terrifying still? Pb \$18.95 364pp


PETER CROWTHER (ED)

CONSTELLATIONS

 Here are stories by Eric Brown, Paul McAuley, Brian Aldiss and more bright stars from the science fiction firmament, with 15 original stories that explore everything from outer space to inner space and cosmology to astrology. Pb \$16.95 310pp


JULIE E CZERNEDA (ED)

SUMMONED TO DESTINY

 This is an anthology of original fantasy stories based on the theme of self-discovery. From that starting point, the stories are as diverse as their authors, ranging from traditional fantasy to shapeshifters, from dragon-haunted cliffs to simple country inns. But all share a love of things wondrous and magic. Discover that power has its price... and a destiny involving magic is never quite what you expect. Tp \$39.95 253pp


TONY DANIEL

SUPERLUMINAL

 *Metaplanetary #2.* Civilisation has extended itself far into the outer reaches of our solar system and has developed into something remarkable, diverse and perhaps transcendent. But the inner system is supported by the repression and enslavement of humanity's progeny, nanotechnological artificial intelligences. Now the war for human civilisation shifts into high gear. A pogrom against the AI "free converts" moves toward a Final Solution, even as the elite super-beings, called LAPs, are co-opted into Napoleon-like Director Amés's all-encompassing, all-powerful personality. It is total war for humanity in all its myriad shapes. For this is the fight that will decide, once and for all, what form and which way of life humankind will take to the stars. Pb \$18.95 533pp


JACK DANN (ED)

NEBULA AWARDS SHOWCASE 2005

 In an annual tradition, the members of the Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America present the Nebula Awards to honour the authors of the year's most astounding fiction - compelling stories that widen the imaginative boundaries of the genre. Contributors include Eleanor Arnason, Cory Doctorow, Harlan Ellison, Carole Emshwiller, Karen Joy Fowler, Neil Gaiman, Charles Harness, Elizabeth Moon, Adam Troy-Castro and James Van Pelt. Tp \$35.00 327pp


GAIL DAYTON

THE COMPASS ROSE

 In an attempt to defend her people, Captain Kallista Varyl called on the One for aid and was granted abilities such as no one had seen in centuries. Now Kallista has been charged with a new destiny as one of the most powerful women in the land, but her power is useless if it cannot be controlled. Mastering her 'Godstruck' abilities is the first step. The next, learning that she cannot unlock the secrets of the Compass Rose and defeat her nation's enemy alone - and finally she must stop a demon-possessed king... Tp \$29.95 454pp


L SPRAGUE DE CAMP

YEARS IN THE MAKING: THE TIME TRAVEL STORIES OF L SPRAGUE DE CAMP

 This author was a master of the time travel and alternate history story. In many respects his novel *Lest Darkness Fall* founded alternate history, while *Aristotle and the Gun* is probably one of the best stories about tinkering with history ever written. Also included are stories of time travel, both backwards and forwards and his essay *Language for Time-Travelers*. This collection is the first volume of a projected series of the author's stories and novels. Hb \$65.00 377pp


CHARLES DE LINT

TRADER

 *A Newford story.* Max Trader is a luthier, a maker of guitars. Johnny Devlin is chronically unemployed. Trader is solitary, quiet, responsible. Devlin is a lady-killer, a drunk, a charming loser. When they inexplicably awake in each other's bodies, Devlin gleefully moves into Trader's comfortable and stable existence, leaving Trader to pick up the pieces of a life he had no part in breaking. Penniless, friendless and homeless, Trader begins a journey that will take him beyond the streets of Newford to an otherworld of dreams and spirits, where he must confront both the unscrupulous Devlin and his own deepest fears. Tp \$32.95 352pp


PHILIP K DICK

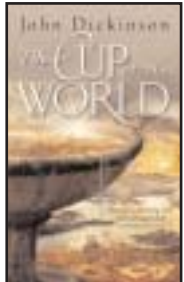
THE CRACK IN SPACE

 A repairman discovers that a hole in a faulty Jifi-scuttler leads to a parallel world. Jim Briskin, campaigning to be the first black president of the United States, thinks alter-Earth is the solution to the overpopulation that has 70 million people cryogenically frozen; Tito Cravelli, a shadowy private detective, wants to know why Dr Lurton Sands is hiding his mistress on the planet; billionaire mutant George Walt wants to make the empty world all his own. But when the other earth turns out to be inhabited, everything changes. Tp \$27.00 187pp

JOHN DICKINSON


THE CUP OF THE WORLD

 *World #1.* 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 between him and her father. This sets off a chain of events that she could not have foreseen - a battle between good and evil. Pb \$17.95 418pp



JOHN DICKINSON

THE WIDOW AND THE KING

 *World #2.* Set 12 years after *The Cup of the World*, this tells the story of Ambrose, son of Phaedra and last in the king's line, who is living exiled with his mother in the dilapidated manor of Tarceny. Ambrose's life is threatened by the hooded priest of the Undercraft, an ancestral spirit of pure evil who must end Ambrose's life in order to survive. And even when Ambrose is hidden within the house of the Widow of Develin, the priest and his minions slowly and subtly subvert the minds of the most educated and powerful, leaving Ambrose in mortal danger. Hb \$39.95 612pp

SARA DOUGLASS



GOD'S CONCUBINE

The Troy Game #2. It has been 2,000 years since Cornelia, wife of Brutus, brought the Troy Game to a wrenching halt by murdering Genvissa, the Mistress of the Labyrinth. But now everyone is back, reborn into 11th-century Europe so they can play out their part in the Game. Asterion lurks within the court of Edward the Confessor, plotting with malevolence. Cornelia lives, older and wiser, but trapped in another loveless and desperate marriage. Genvissa returns, driven by spite and ambition and in his stronghold on the coast of Normandy waits Brutus, reborn as one of the mightiest warriors of all time... Pb \$19.95 760pp

COMPETITION...
Win a poster signed
by Sara Douglass
See back page for entry details

JEAN DUPRAU

THE CITY OF EMBER

Many hundreds of years ago, the city of Ember was created by the Builders to contain everything needed for human survival. It worked - but now the storerooms are almost out of food, crops are blighted, corruption is spreading through the city and worst of all - the lights are failing. Soon Ember could be engulfed by darkness, then two children, Lina and Doon, discover fragments of an ancient parchment and they wonder if there could be a way out of Ember. Can they decipher the words from long ago and find a new future for everyone? Will the people of Ember listen to them? Pb \$14.95 269pp

ERIC FLINT & K D WENTWORTH

THE COURSE OF EMPIRE

Conquered by the Jao 20 years ago, the Earth is shackled under alien tyranny - and threatened by the even more dangerous Ekhat, who have sent an extermination fleet to the solar system. The only chance for human survival is in the hands of an unusual pair of allies - a young Jao prince, newly arrived to Terra to assume his duties, and a young human woman brought up amongst the Jao occupiers. Pb \$18.95 664pp

ERIC GARCIA

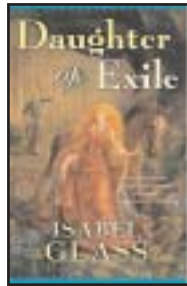
HOT AND SWEATY REX

What if the dinosaurs faked their own extinction? This is the "awesomely funny... cult classic" (*Entertainment Weekly*) series with the "incredible idea - brilliantly executed" (Brad Meltzer), that inspired Dave Barry to ask, "What would the world be like if the dinosaurs hadn't gone extinct? For one thing, L.A. would be even weirder than it is now." Enjoy the most satisfying rex yet... Tp \$29.95 334pp

ISABEL GLASS

DAUGHTER OF EXILE

Lady Angarred Hashan was raised in exile far from Pergodi, the capital city. Her mother, she was told, had died. Her father was distant and obsessed with regaining his place at court. When Lord Hashan is murdered, Angarred goes to the capital to seek justice. But the naïve young woman finds a swirling world of palace intrigue, a dying queen and an ensorcelled king. With the help of Mathewar, a handsome but troubled, magician, she journeys from the crowded streets of Pergodi to the Enchanted Forest, from the deadly land of the Others to the arches of the Giant's Bridge, as she begins to unravel the secrets of the kingdom and her own history. Pb \$18.95 365pp



SIMON R GREEN

DEATHSTALKER CODA

Deathstalker #8. Two Deathstalkers must fight for the survival of humanity: While Lewis Deathstalker and his companions lead rebel forces against the evil usurper, Emperor Finn, the exiled King Douglas raises an army from the downcast and oppressed peoples of the Rookery. And Owen Deathstalker has his own mission - to seek out the dread secret that has turned his lost love Hazel d'Ark into the terrifying Terror. Hb \$55.00 364pp

SIMON R GREEN

HEX AND THE CITY

John Taylor #4. Lady Luck has hired John Taylor to investigate the origins of the Nightside - the dark heart of London where it's always 3am. But when he starts to uncover facts about his long-vanished mother, the Nightside - and all of existence - could be snuffed out. Pb \$16.95 246pp

MARTIN H GREENBERG

& BRITTIANY A KOREN (EDS)

YOU BET YOUR PLANET

11 masters of science fiction and fantasy envision the game shows of tomorrow in this all-new original anthology. Pb \$16.95 304pp

JON COURTNEY GRIMWOOD

STAMPING BUTTERFLIES

This is the story of two dreamers. One, a would-be assassin in tomorrow's Marrakech. He aims to kill the US President and holds in his head the secret to a faster-than-light drive. The other, a Chinese Emperor, ruler of 148 billion people on an immense Dyson sphere thousands of years in the future. Each believes they are dreaming the other. One must change the future, one must change the past. Both have only days to live. Tp \$29.95 390pp

EILEEN GUNN



STABLE STRATEGIES AND OTHERS

This collection of short stories employs surrealist, satirical, and fantastical devices to explore politics, class and gender. From a hilarious tale about bioengineering and the stresses of climbing the corporate ladder to an evocative story of a woman who loses a sock at the laundromat and finds she's missing a bit of her soul, these stories showcase an award-winning writer's compelling vision of the universe. Tp \$32.95 206pp

ELIZABETH HAYDON

REQUIEM FOR THE SUN

Symphony of Ages #4. Three years have passed since Rhapsody, the Lady Cymrian, helped bring peace and prosperity to the land of Roland. However, when the death of the Dowager Empress of Sorbold leaves empty the line of succession, dark clouds of war threaten the fragile Cymrian Alliance and an old and deadly foe of Rhapsody's - presumed dead for centuries - rises up to threaten her and all she holds dear. Pb \$17.95 436pp

ELIZABETH HAYDON

ELEGY FOR A LOST STAR

Symphony of Ages #5. With the rise of new leaders, good and evil, the long-awaited birth of the Child of Time, the dark plans of assassins and rulers, a confrontation that shakes the relationship of the Three, and a battle to the death between two dragons of unimaginable elemental power, the seeds of chaos are planted for a war that will, by its end, consume half of the world. Tp \$29.95 317pp


AMANDA HEMINGWAY

THE GREENSTONE GRAIL

Snagreal#1. A desperate mother spirits away her infant son, seemingly drawn to the small English village of Thornyhill. She ends up on the doorstep of old Bartlemy, a curious man who has lived on the forested land for as long as anyone can remember. While growing up under Bartlemy's protective eye, Nathan Ward senses something else watching him, a shift of shadows in the surrounding Darkwood. Then pieces of his dreams begin to come to life. A greenish stone cup set with jewels, that has haunted his visions, sounds eerily like one lost by the Thorn family centuries ago. Yet when Nathan learns the chalice may have come from another world, a land with bloodstained moons and a toxic sun, he knows he is destined to play a part in something beyond his most vivid imagination. But why is the cup here and what could it possibly want with a teenage boy and a sleepy town of villagers full of tall tales? Hb \$37.00 360pp


JOHN G HEMRY

RULE OF EVIDENCE

 *Paul Sinclair #3.* On manoeuvres, the *USS Michaelson's* sister ship, the *USS Maury*, is wracked by devastating explosions that destroy its engineering section. Lieutenant Paul Sinclair is overjoyed when his girlfriend, Lieutenant Jen Shen, is found alive - until she faces court-martial for the disaster on the *Maury*. Paul must find out what really caused the explosions. But the more he learns, the more he faces the terrible possibility that the woman he loves may be guilty of sabotage and murder. Pb \$16.95 276pp


TRACY & LAURA HICKMAN

MYSTIC WARRIOR

 *The Bronze Canticles #1.* Young Galen Arvad, a human with magical powers, must avoid the ritual that puts those with such talents to death. It seems that in the eyes of the community, magic is a sign of lunacy and in a yearly ritual, the local crazies are offered up to the Dragon Priests. Galen is suddenly captured and imprisoned. Now, as Galen's wife, Berkita, and his friend, Cephass the dwarf, set off to rescue him, Galen learns of the fate that awaits him, a fate far worse than even his own death. Pb \$16.95 509pp


STUART HILL

THE CRY OF THE ICEMARK

 When her father dies in battle, 14-year-old Thirrin becomes Queen of the Ice-mark, a tiny kingdom forever caught between dangerous neighbours. But she bears a heavy burden. Thirrin must find a way to protect her people from the most terrible invasion her nation has ever known - and do so before the end of the winter snow. Pb \$19.95 494pp

ODO HIRSCH

SLAUGHTERBOY

 On the streets of a medieval town, an abandoned child scavenges to stay alive. A slaughterman takes him in, teaches him the secrets of his bloody trade. But when the slaughterman is gone, the boy is adrift in a world of cheats, murderers and thieves. Pb \$16.95 317pp


TOM HOLT

IN YOUR DREAMS

Ever been offered a promotion that seems too good to be true? You know - the sort they'd be insane to be offering to someone like you. It's the kind of trick that deeply sinister companies like JW Wells & Co pull all the time. Especially with employees who are too busy mooning over the office intern to think about what they're getting into. And it's why, right about now, Paul Carpenter is wishing he'd paid much less attention to the gorgeous Melze and more to a little bit of job description small-print referring to 'pest' control. Pb \$22.95 474pp


BRIAN JACQUES

LOAMHEDGE

 *Redwall #16.* When young haremmaid Martha Braebuck arrived at Redwall Abbey, she was unable to walk - and no beast knows why. The answer lies far away - at the ancient, ruined abbey of Loamhedge and two old Redwall warriors, Bragoon and Sarobando, are determined to help. But a murderous band of Searats is heading for Redwall Abbey - and their leader, Raga Bol, is a mighty vicious beast. One brave badger, Lonna Bowstripe, wants revenge on Bol and his crew - and the fate of Redwall and young Martha Braebuck, will depend on him. Pb \$14.95 423pp

CATHERINE JINKS

 **EVIL GENIUS**

 Cadel Piggott is a seven-year-old genius with a knack for systems. He can do just about anything - disable home security systems, hack into government databases and commit credit card fraud. But when he gets in trouble with the police his parents are forced to take him to a therapist, Dr Thaddeus Roth. But Thaddeus is not who he seems and introduces the young Cadel to a world of genetically enhanced misfits who are determined to take over the world. It is only when Cadel meets Sonja, a disabled girl with a powerful mind that can match only his, that his emotions start to catch up with his intellect. But is it too late? Pb \$16.95 471pp


GRAHAM JOYCE

 **THE LIMITS OF ENCHANTMENT**

This is the story of a young woman in the midlands in 1966 who may be a witch. She and her family live on the margins of society. Nevertheless her family life is stifling and she seeks freedom with more outsiders, a group of beatniks, but fights to find acceptance there also. And all the time she struggles with her fey powers. Hb \$29.95 250pp


E E KNIGHT

TALE OF THE THUNDERBOLT

 *The Vampire Earth #3.* As the Resistance attempts to overthrow their vampiric alien masters, elite Cat force member David Valentine embarks on a terrifying journey in search of a long-lost weapon that will guarantee their victory - and the end of the Kurian Order's domination of Earth. Pb \$16.95 341pp

MERCEDES LACKEY

ALTA

 *Dragon Jousts #2.* The dragonrider Vetch escapes to Alta, the subjugated land of his birth. There, he hopes to teach his people to raise and train dragons - and build an army that will liberate his homeland. Pb \$16.95 434pp

MERCEDES LACKEY

  **BURNING WATER**

Dallas Police Detective Mark Valdez isn't just any cop, he's a psychic cop. Valdez and Diana Tregarde, an attractive young romance novelist who happens to be a Guardian charged with protecting the Earth and all its creatures, discover that they are tailing no ordinary serial killer, but the awakened avatar of an Aztec god. Tp \$32.95 332pp

MERCEDES LACKEY & ROBERTA GELLIS

 **ILL MET BY MOONLIGHT**

Scept'r'd Isle #2. England in the 16th century is a nation at a fatal fork in time, leading to two possible futures foreseen by the Sidhe of Elfame Avalon. Either an evil queen will join forces with the Inquisition and rule with a blood-spattered iron hand, threatening humans and elves alike - or a benevolent, red-haired queen named Elizabeth will rule wisely and well. The evil Unseleighe Sidhe, who feed on human suffering and dark emotions, are determined that the little girl Elizabeth shall never grow up to take the throne. Opposing them are the good Sidhe of elfland, who have so far managed to protect the young girl. Hb \$54.00 522pp

RECOMMENDED READING



 **JUSTINE LARBALESTIER
MAGIC OR MADNESS**



For 15 years, Reason Cansino has lived a life on the run. Together with her mother, Sarafina, she has moved from one place to another in the Australian countryside, desperate not to be found by Reason's grandmother Esmeralda, a dangerous woman who believes in magic. But when Sarafina suffers a breakdown, Reason is forced to move in with her grandmother in Sydney. The moment Reason walks through Esmeralda's back door and finds herself on a New York City street, she's confronted by an unavoidable truth - magic is real and Reason is magic. Hb \$37.00 271pp. *Another Australian author/setting/young adult/grown-ups book. For a book with some familiar themes, there is something refreshingly different about this book. Maybe it's the sadness felt for Reason as her mum Sarafina moves her around the country as they continually evade Sarafina's evil witch mother Esmeralda, when it's obvious Sarafina is not stable. After Sarafina suffers a breakdown, Reason is sent to live with her grandmother, and is forced to question everything which she believes in. Things are really turned upside down when she walks through a door and ends up in New York. Characters with depth and a story that had me emotionally involved from the beginning has me eagerly awaiting the sequel. - Steph*

RACHEL LEE

 **SHADOWS OF MYTH**

The Ilduin Bane are myth and legend - assassin mages whose blades drip poison and whose minds share a common purpose - one of death or control. All who have gone against them have been lost, unable to penetrate their powerful protections. And so Archer Blackcloak gathers a small band to bring about the downfall of the Bane. From Archer comes strength of purpose and an indomitable will. Ratha and Giri, the Anari warriors, give the group a fighter's skill and temper. They are joined by Young Tom, whose unwavering loyalty is matched by an insatiable curiosity and by Sara Deepwell, who has a surprising talent for magic. From their last member, Tess Birdsong, the only survivor of a brutal attack that left her with no memory, comes the power of one who has nothing left to lose. But the road to freedom is long and twisted, and before they are finished their old sorrows may destroy them. Yet once started, they cannot turn back - no matter how high the price to be paid... Tp \$29.95 296pp

URSULA LE GUIN

 **CHANGING PLANES**

It was Sita Dulip who discovered, whilst stuck in an airport, unable to get anywhere, how to change planes - literally. With a kind of a twist and a slipping bend, easier to do than describe, she could go anywhere - be anywhere - because she was already between planes... and on the way back from her sister's wedding, she missed her plane in Chicago and found herself in Choom. The author, armed with this knowledge and Rornan's invaluable Handy Planetary Guide - although not the Encyclopedia Planeria, as that runs to 44 volumes - has spent many happy years exploring places as diverse as Islac and the Veksian plane. Pb \$18.95 214pp

KEN MACLEOD

 **NEWTON'S WAKE**

The Hard Rapture took Earth's best minds away. Now the rest are about to find out where they went. Centuries ago, space settlers and soldiers fled to the stars from the sentient AI war machines that engulfed Earth. They colonised Eurydice, a planet whose rocks contain traces of its own war machines - some of which still guard a vast, enigmatic artefact on remote tundra. When an expedition raids this strange artefact, the Eurydiceans discover that they weren't the last survivors of humanity after all. Their leisured lifestyle is about to be disrupted by new arrivals for whom Eurydice is a prize worth fighting over and the long-dormant war machines are awakening. Pb \$19.95 369pp

R A MACAVOY

  **LENS OF THE WORLD**

This is the story of the coming-of-age of Nazhuret, an outcast and orphan who rises from his lowly estate as a ward of the Sordaling military school to become a mighty warrior, philosopher and confidant of the King of Vestinglon. As he grows, the young man receives outlandish knowledge and is prepared for an entirely exceptional destiny far beyond the narrow confines of his kingdom. Pb \$16.95 286pp

VALERIO MASSIMO MANFREDI

 **TYRANT**

Dionysius dreams of transforming Sicily into a Greek island and to achieve total control over the economic and military resources of his city he is willing to condemn himself in the eyes of history for centuries to come - to be eternally branded as the Tyrant. Thus begins the adventure of a man who built the largest army of antiquity, invented dreadful war machines, designed and constructed the quinquereme (a five-module battleship powered by 50 oarsmen) and raised the most extensive circle of walls seen in just a few months. Tp \$30.00 405pp

SARAH MICKLEM

 **FIRETHORN**

A foundling child, Luck - named for the colour of her god-favoured copper hair, is fortunate to be taken in by one of the Blood. She remembers little of her past, her parents a vague memory, but service in the Dame's household is better than that of most mud folk. She is beaten rarely and is fed well, and, under the Dame's watchful eye, Luck is even permitted to learn herb lore. But her comfortable world is turned upside down when the old Dame dies, and her nephew arrives to claim his inheritance. Choosing to remain with her friends rather than claim her freedom and strike out alone, Luck's life is calm until her exotic looks attract the attentions of her new master... Tp \$29.95 383pp

KEITH MILLER

 **THE BOOK OF FLYING**

Our hero, Pico, is a poet and librarian, forbidden to pursue the girl of his dreams, for she has wings and Pico does not. When he discovers an ancient letter in his library telling of the mythical Morning Town where the flightless may gain their wings, he sets off on a quest. It's a magical journey in which he meets a robber queen, a lonely minotaur, a cannibal, an immortal beauty and a dream seller. Each has a story, and a lesson, for Pico - about learning to love, to persevere, and, of course, to fly. Tp \$29.95 272pp



L E MODESITT, JR

 **ORDERMASTER**

Recluce #13. Kharl is summoned back to the capital, when Hagen, the lord-chancellor, needs help in dealing with rebellious nobles. After a bloody campaign, civil order is restored and Ghrant's throne firmly secured. And Kharl is now the Lord's Mage. He is called upon again by Lords Ghrant and Hagen, this time to return to his homeland of Nordla as envoy. Back in his hometown of Brysta, he discovers that his old enemy Egen is engaged in a plot with the Hamorians to take the throne from his father and open Nordla to the enemy. Kharl has to find a solution, for the sake of both the land of his birth and his adopted new country. Hb \$59.95 494pp

RICHARD MORGAN

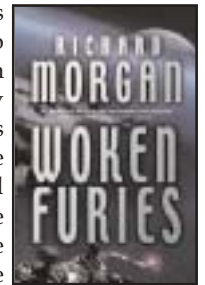
 **MARKET FORCES**

Chris Faulkner has just landed the job of his dreams, but Shorn Associates are market leaders in Conflict Investment. They expect results, they expect the best. Chris has one very high-profile kill to his name already but he will have to drive hard and go for kill after kill if he's to keep his bosses happy. All he has to do in the meantime is stay alive... Pb \$18.95 470pp

RICHARD MORGAN

 **WOKEN FURIES**

Takeshi Kovacs has come home to Harlan's World, an ocean planet with only 5% of its landmass poking above the dangerous and unpredictable seas. The First Families, the corporations and the Yakuza have a stranglehold on everything. Embarked on a journey of implacable retribution for a lost love, Kovacs is blown off course and into a maelstrom of political intrigue and technological mystery, as the ghosts of Harlan's World and his own violent past rise to claim their due. Hb \$39.95 436pp



LARRY NIVEN & HAL COLEBATCH

 **THE WUNDER WAR**

Man-Kzin Wars #10. The first colonists from Earth named the planet Wunderland. Generations later, the felinoid alien invaders called Kzin came and turned it into a hell for humans. Touched on in other accounts of the Man-Kzin wars, here for the first time is the decades-long saga of Wunderland. The Wunderlanders first learned of the Kzin attacks on Earth by slower-than-light communications, barely in time to prepare to fight back and turned to guerrilla warfare in the Wunderland jungles and caves after the feline warrior race had destroyed or seized their cities. Pb \$18.95 469pp

ANDRE NORTON & LYN McCONCHIE
BEAST MASTER'S CIRCUS

Someone is kidnapping the animals of beast masters' teams. Laris, an orphan who trains exotic alien creatures for an interstellar circus, knows that somehow her employer is connected to the deadly plot. She also knows that those involved will kill her if she talks. Beast master Hosteen Storm has heard about the plot, but when the circus comes to Arzor, he doesn't realise his mortal peril. Laris loves all animals and is able to communicate with them. When she meets Hosteen and becomes friends with him and his family, she desperately wants to warn him, to save him and his animals. But as the circus nears the end of its stay on Arzor, the deadly plotters prepare to strike at those Laris cares about... and at her, if she interferes. Pb \$16.95 301pp



JERRY OLTION

ANYWHERE BUT HERE

When an independent scientist reveals the secret of fast, cheap interstellar travel, it means anyone with a few hundred dollars and a little ingenuity can build their own spaceship. Trent and Donna Stinson, of Rock Springs, Wyoming, seal up their pickup for vacuum and go looking for a better life among the stars. But America's belligerent foreign policy is expanding just as fast as the world's refugees, threatening to destroy humanity's last chance for peaceful coexistence. When their own government tries to kill them, Trent and Donna reluctantly admit that America must be stopped. But how can patriotic citizens fight their own country? And how can they succeed where the rest of the world has failed? Hb \$56.00 382pp

JAMES PATTERSON

THE ANGEL EXPERIMENT

Maximum Ride #1. Max Ride and her five friends grew up in a science lab/prison called the School. They were created as an experiment - an experiment where they ended up only 98% human. That other 2% had a big impact. These children are pretty special. But when an 'experiment' this secret and this special escapes from the School, the scientists are pretty keen on making sure the world never finds out about them. Soon, Max and the other children find themselves on the run in an adventure beyond even their wildest dreams. Hb \$25.00 406pp



STEL PAVLOU
GENE

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 the bad guy, a complete stranger, has 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 3000 years. Tp \$29.95 433pp

PETER RAFTOS

THE STONE SHIP

Set in a university managed by a Kafkaesque bureaucracy, this story follows the adventures, misalliances and misdeeds of the suicidal Shipton and the ghost who has saved his life, and who demands a favour in return. Shipton's experiences within the university are played out on the fringes of an administration that destroys lives with paperwork, rioting librarians who hunt for students and academics who dwell in the half-light of scholarly delusions. Lurking in these crumbling halls of esoteric learning is a creature whose monstrous malevolence is fed by the corpses of the unworthy. Ultimately, Shipton's salvation lies in the choice between assimilation or rejection of his surroundings. Pb \$29.95 217pp

DAVID RANDALL

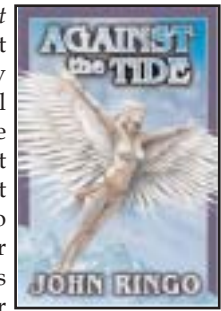
IN THE SHADOW OF THE BEAR

Clovermead #1. 12-year-old Clovermead Wickward dreams about the thrill of a sword fight, the excitement of heroic quests and the clash of mighty armies. The last thing she expects is for those things to come true. Pb \$16.95 288pp



JOHN RINGO
AGAINST THE TIDE

Edmond Talbot #3. Edmund Talbot had never really studied naval warfare, but what he didn't know about war in general hadn't been written. So when he took over the UFS navy at its moment of utter defeat, New Destiny's problems were just starting. Herzer Herrick, the UFS's premier ground fighter, has problems of his own. He's the XO of a dragon contingent with a crew of new pilots, under-trained dragons, untrained support personnel and a ship's commander who is half cat, so he has enough problems for one man. And then he gets an order that drops a whole lot more in his lap. Hb \$54.00 402pp



GEOFF RYMAN

WAS

Fantasy Masterworks #43. Orphaned as a child in the 1870s, Dorothy goes to live in Kansas with her Aunty Em and Uncle Henry. They face drought and poverty. They face each other. Alone, abused, Dorothy meets an itinerant actor called Frank and inspires a masterpiece. Pb \$22.95 455pp

FRED SABERHAGEN

ROGUE BERSERKER

Harry Silver has already had a lifetime of trouble from ordinary Berserkers, the automated killing machines programmed an age ago to denude the galaxy of life. Now when his own family is kidnapped, he faces a deviant machine. What worse devilry will a killing machine gone rogue attempt - and even if Silver can stop it, will he ever see his family alive again? Hb \$48.00 281pp



RECOMMENDED READING



ROBERT J SAWYER
MINDSCAN




Jake Sullivan has cheated death. He's discarded his doomed biological body and copied his consciousness into an android form. The new Jake soon finds love, something that eluded him when he was encased in flesh: he falls for the android version of Karen, a woman rediscovering all the joys of life now that she's no longer constrained by a worn-out body either. But suddenly, Karen's son sues her, claiming that by uploading into an immortal body, she has done him out of his inheritance. Even worse, the original version of Jake, consigned to die on the far side of the moon, has taken hostages there, demanding the return of his rights of personhood.

In the courtroom and on the lunar surface, the future of uploaded humanity hangs in the balance. Hb \$54.00 303pp Sawyer (in my opinion) is the master at bringing science to the masses! As always, a scientific principle but applied to wonderful characters so that the focus is it's effect on them (and humanity on the whole). Brilliant! - Steph


DAVID SHERMAN & DAN CRAGG

 **LAZARUS RISING**

 *Starfist #9.* On planet Kingdom, citizens try to return to some semblance of normality as the military conducts patrols to search out and destroy any remaining alien Skinks. In a cave in some forgotten backwater, several humans slowly regain consciousness. Their minds have been probed and they've been stripped of all memory of themselves and their past lives. These half-dead outcasts begin a journey into the unknown - in search of civilisation, in search of themselves. And one survivor's journey will take him to places of overwhelming danger, where his identity will be revealed to the shock of all. Pb \$16.95 346pp


SHARON SHINN

 **ANGEL-SEEKER**

 *Samaria #6.* Elizabeth was born to wealth, but circumstances forced her to live as a servant. Determined to change her life for the better, she makes the journey 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 - and to marry whichever man her father chooses for her. But in her heart, she longs for a different life. And 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 desire, in surprising - and dangerous - ways. Pb \$18.95 497pp


SHARON SHINN

 **MYSTIC AND RIDER**

 *The Twelve Houses #1.* In the land of Gillengaria, ill feeling toward magic and those who use it rises to a dangerous level. The king dispatches the Mystic woman Senneth on a journey to see firsthand how dire the situation is. Accompanying her are Shapeshifters and Riders - unlikely allies who will enter a land under the sway of a fanatical cult that would purge Gillengaria of all magic users. They will face death - and worse. And they will come to realise that their only hope of survival lies in standing together, Mystic and Rider, side by side. Hb \$49.95 440pp


ROBERT SILVERBERG

 **STAR OF GYPSIES**

 Yakoub was once the King of the Rom, the Gypsy race that has evolved from the days of caravans into lords of the spaceways. He lives in exile on a distant, icy world. In his absence, chaos fills the vacuum of power. The fate of the entire Galactic Empire hangs in the balance. Yakoub must journey across the cosmos and fight to regain his throne. Only then can he fulfil his dream - to return his people to their ancestral home of Romany Star. Tp \$32.95 470pp


DAN SIMMONS

 **THE HYPERION OMNIBUS**

 *Hyperion & Fall of Hyperion.* The *Hyperion* books are credited with almost single-handedly reinventing and reinvigorating SF in the 1990s. An imaginative and exciting SF epic, the books provide a uniquely intelligent and literary approach with cutting edge science and compelling characterisation. Tp \$32.95 779pp


WEN SPENCER

 **TINKER**

 Inventor and girl genius, Tinker lives in a near-future Pittsburgh, which now exists mostly in the land of the elves. When a pack of wargs chases an elven noble into her scrap yard, life as she knows it takes a serious detour. Tinker finds herself taking on the elven court, the NSA, the Elven Interdimensional Agency, technology smugglers and a college-minded xenobiologist, as she tries to stay focused on what's really important - her first date. Pb \$16.95 438pp


MICHAEL STACKPOLE

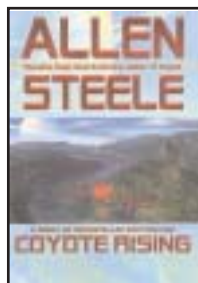
 **A SECRET ATLAS**

 *Age of Discovery #1.* In Nalenyr, the family of the Royal Cartographer stands in a unique position. They not only draw the maps, but also explore uncharted territories, expanding and updating the existing knowledge of the world. Their talent has yielded them enormous power and wealth - and it can also cost them their lives. Now the Royal Cartographer's two grandsons, Keles and Jorim, have been sent on a dangerous mission to explore the darkest corner of the unknown. But what Keles and Jorim discover is bigger and more terrifying than any new land or sea. It will threaten the fragile peace maintained since the near-apocalyptic Cataclysm years earlier and provoke a murderous act against the Cartographers that will set off a chain of events shaking the world to its core. Tp \$32.95 460pp

ALLEN STEELE


 **COYOTE RISING**

 *Coyote #2.* The passengers and crew of the hijacked starship *Alabama* fled their colony on Coyote after the unexpected arrival of more ships from Earth - and a new, repressive government. Now, social ills and overpopulation plague that colony and newcomers who wish to leave are not permitted to do so. But a movement is under way to reclaim Coyote for those who truly love freedom. In time, these men and women of Coyote will learn the true price of freedom. Hb \$49.95 382pp



DOM TESTA

 **THE COMET'S CURSE**

 *Galahad #1.* Deadly particles in a comet's tail have altered the Earth's atmosphere. The only hope for saving mankind is to select the brightest young people from around the world and launch them towards a new home, light-years away. But trouble has also boarded Galahad and it could easily spell disaster. The ship's Council, with help from the most incredible computer ever created, must battle fear, jealousy and time... before it's too late. Tp \$19.95 222pp


HARRY TURTLEDOVE

 **COUNTING UP, COUNTING DOWN**

From this best-selling author and critically acclaimed master of the short story, comes a classic collection of science fiction tales and what-if scenarios. In narratives ranging from fantastic to oddly familiar to eerily prescient, this compelling volume illustrates Turtledove's skill and imagination. Pb \$18.95 412pp


HARRY TURTLEDOVE

 **OUT OF THE DARKNESS**

 *Darkness #6.* As the Derlavian War rages into its last and greatest battles, allied nations manoeuvre for advantage over one another in the postwar world. In the midst of it all, the people the war has battered and reshaped must struggle to face their greatest individual challenges, as loves are shattered and found, terrible crimes avenged...and some journeys end forever. Nor will the end of war bring lasting peace... Pb \$18.95 655pp


HARRY TURTLEDOVE

 **RETURN ENGAGEMENT**

 *Settling Accounts #1.* It is 1939 and the world is overshadowed by the thunder-clouds of war, once again. In this alternate history twist, the US fights while across the Pacific Japan is ready to fight again. Once again brother fights brother, friend against friend and the New World is ravaged by all the horrors of modern warfare. This is World War II as it might have been... Pb \$19.95 623pp

HARRY TURTLEDOVE

& MARTIN H GREENBERG (EDS)

 **THE BEST TIME TRAVEL STORIES OF THE 20TH CENTURY**

Here are 18 of the most exciting time-travel tales ever told, including *Time's Arrow* by Arthur C Clarke, *Death Ship* by Richard Matheson, *A Sound of Thunder* by Ray Bradbury, *Yesterday was Monday* by Theodore Sturgeon, *Rainbird* by RA Lafferty and *Timetipping* by Jack Dann, as well as stories by Poul Anderson, Jack Finney, Joe Haldeman, John Kessel, Nancy Kress, Henry Kuttner, Ursula K Le Guin, Larry Niven, Robert Silverberg and Connie Willis. Tp \$39.95 425pp

LISA TUTTLE

THE MYSTERIES

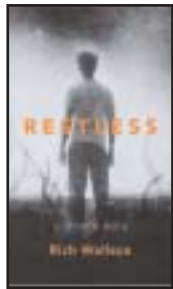
Ever since his father disappeared when he was nine years old, Ian Kennedy has had a penchant for stories about missing people - and a knack for finding them. Now he's a private investigator with an impressive track record. But when a woman enters his London office and asks him to find her lost daughter, Ian faces a case he fears he cannot solve - and one he knows he must. Laura Lensky's stunning 21-year-old daughter, Peri, has been missing for over two years. But when Ian learns the details of her disappearance, he discovers eerie parallels to an obscure Celtic myth - and to the haunting case that launched his career, an early success he's never fully been able to explain. Hb \$45.00 321pp



RICK WALLACE

RESTLESS

Herbie is about to enter his senior year of high school and his days are packed with football, cross-country and the pursuit of a potential girlfriend. Herbie is nothing short of an exceptional teenager, but he is also a prime conduit for ghostly energy and Herbie's brother, who died 10 years ago, is desperately trying to make contact. His brother Frank is a soul trapped without a body and Herbie may be Frank's only way to get free. Frank has been trying to talk to Herbie for years - watching, waiting, reaching out to Herbie in his dreams. Finally, he is moving closer to meaningful contact. At long last, Herbie is becoming aware of his brother's presence. Pb \$14.95 167pp



MARGARET WEIS

THE DRAGON'S SON

The Dragonworld Trilogy #2. Two male twins born to a high priestess and a dragon hold the key to man's future, but their identity must be kept secret - even from each other - until they have matured. One is raised in a human court, the other in hiding. But the link that exists between the twins cannot be broken by mere distance and the duality of their origin will unlock the new hope for a return to peace and safety as long as they live to maturity. It is up to Draconas, the special emissary of the dragons, to protect them both, even as the internecine struggle threatens to destroy the Parliament of Dragons and bring an oppressive reign of fire down upon all mortal men. Tp \$29.95 334pp

SCOTT WESTERFIELD

THE SECRET HOUR

Midnighters #1. For one secret hour each night, the town belongs to the dark creatures that haunt the shadows. Only a small group of teenagers know about the secret hour - only they are free to move about the midnight time. They call themselves Midnighters. Then Jessica Day moves to town... and everything changes. Pb \$16.95 383pp

SCOTT WESTERFIELD

TOUCHING DARKNESS

Midnighters #2. The Midnighters know that their town is full of secrets, but they don't know why earlier generations of Midnighters all disappeared, or why they are now the only Midnighters in town. As they learn more about the secret hour's twists and turns, they uncover terrifying mysteries woven into the very fabric of Bixby's history and a conspiracy that touches both the midnight hour and the world of daylight. At the same time, the Midnighters' own secrets start to emerge, including some that were never meant to come to light, changing the fragile dynamics among the five. Hb \$35.00 330pp

STEVE WHITE

THE PROMETHEUS PROJECT

Bob Devaney was a soldier in the Special Forces until something caused him to leave, setting up his own security and investigative agency. Often hired by a secret government agency to do undercover work, he escorts a mysterious woman named Novak to the White House, when they are ambushed by gunmen. Novak uses a device like an invisibility field to make an impossible escape - and knocks Devaney out with some kind of ray-tube. He wakes up to find Novak about to terminate him for knowing too much, but a message arrives from a mysterious individual known as Mr. Inconnu. Devaney was to be recruited for something called the Prometheus Project. - which turns out to be the largest disinformation operation in history, targeted at the aliens who ruled the galaxy. Hb \$49.95 280pp

PAUL WITCOVER

TUMBLING AFTER

On an alternate Earth, transformed centuries earlier by the Viral Wars into a savage battleground where the 'norms' clash unceasingly with warriors of five mutated elemental races, a young aerie named Kestrel sets out into the perilous Waste with four companions, trusting their fates to the great and powerful Odds. A different, yet oddly synchronistic, fate looms for Jack Doone, and his twin sister. Cursed with the uncontrollable power to alter reality, Jack's day-to-day existence has become a twisted version of the 'Mutes and Norms' role-playing game devised and orchestrated by his uncle Jimmy. And now the twins' survival may come down to a single roll of the cosmic dice, as Jack finds himself devastatingly alone for the first time, his cherished Jilly's protector in a terrifying battle to determine the real, armed with no weapon but memory. Hb \$54.00 328pp



RECOMMENDED READING



SEAN WILLIAMS

THE BLOOD DEBT



Sal and Shilly live a quiet life in the coastal village of Fundelry until an old friend who is a Sky Warden, Tom, comes looking for them. Sal's father, Highson Sparre, has called up a creature from the Void Beneath and is missing, presumed dead, and now the Wraith is loose in the world. Pb \$18.95 578pp *I enjoyed this much more than the first novel in the series. Back to familiar ground with Sal, Shilly and Skender, this book picks up their story five years after the events in The Books of the Change. There is a tear in the fabric of the world and it seems Sal's father is responsible. Called into service by their old friend, now a Sky Warden, Tom, Sal and Shilly set off in pursuit of his father, following the trail of the Homunculus across the country to the Divide.*

Anyone who enjoyed The Books of the Change will like this new one from Williams. It connects The Crooked Letter to the fragmented world of the Change, answering some questions, while also asking new ones. It's got the same fast-paced, gripping adventure as did Sal, Shilly and Tom's previous adventures, but with a more adult feel that reflects their growth over the time between the two series. - Mark

JOHN C WRIGHT

MISTS OF EVERNESS

Chronicles of Everness #2. Young Galen Waylock is the last watchman of the dream gate beyond which the ancient evils wait, hungry for the human world. For 1,000 years, Galen's family stood guard, scorned by a world that dismissed the danger as myth. Now, the minions of Darkness have stirred in the deep and the long watch is over. An army of mythic monsters has invaded our world and Galen and his friends have begun to fight them. Hb \$56.00 352pp



**AMANDA ASHLEY
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COMIC		
REFERENCE		

WHAT WE'VE BEEN READING

Broken Crown (*Sun Sword #1*) by Michelle West (Pb \$18.95). The first book in a six-volume series, this took me by surprise and now I can't get enough! This is not the type of book you can skim, because you'll just miss too much. West's prose is detailed, colourful and engrossing. Prepare yourself for a highly satisfying journey into a new world and an epic tale that gets bigger as it unfolds. All the keys of a great fantasy writer are here - depth of history, power-hungry gods and tons of political intrigue in an Empire vying for a war of retribution against their Northern neighbours. The thing that sets this apart is that, while West uses a standard formula, she displays a flare for world-building and convoluted plot lines that should entice any reader looking for something to sink their teeth into. - Mark

Stranger Things Happen by Kelly Link (Tp \$35.00). This weird and wonderful short story collection by the new co-editor of *The Year's Best Fantasy and Horror* series is reminiscent of Jonathan Carroll, Ray Vukcevic and Neil Gaiman. *Water Off a Black Dog's Back*, for example, concerns a wooden leg that has a name, a man's collection of false noses and hounds of hell! Bizarre and not always straightforward, this is David Lynch territory in print. You never know what's going to happen next, making it slightly creepy and oddly delightful. 7/10 - David

Savage Membrane (*Cal McDonald, Demon Hunter #1*) by Steve Niles (Pb \$16.95). I have been a big fan of Steve Niles ever since I read the **30 Days of Night** graphic novel (Tp \$39.95) and I have rabidly collected anything by him. **Savage Membrane** is a novelisation of the graphic novel of the same name. It introduces Cal McDonald, a tough, ex-cop turned PI, who is able to see all the supernatural things that exist alongside humanity, but that we do not acknowledge. To live with what he knows, Cal gets through each day with a heavy dose of alcohol and drugs (part of the reason he's an ex-cop). The story begins when Cal is contacted by an old police buddy to help in an investigation that is right up Cal's alley. Bodies are being found with no brain and no indication on how the brain was removed. This sounds very much like an old case that Cal had worked on, but the perpetrator of that case is very much dead, so who is behind the new murder spree? With help from his ghoul sidekick, Molock, Cal somehow manages to solve two cases and save the day, all with a deadly hangover. It is nice to see a hero who has no supernatural abilities to rely on, just his smarts and his friends. This is a fun story with lots of action. Unfortunately, it is not very long, but it will appeal to fans of Simon Green's *John Taylor* series and the earlier *Anita Blake* books by Laurell K Hamilton. 8/10 - Sian

Fray: Future Slayer by Joss Whedon (Tp \$43.00). This tie-in to the *Buffyverse* sets the Slayer's tale in the far future, where Melaka Fray is a skilled thief living in the slums, until she is recruited by the demon Urkonn, who tells her that she is the first Slayer to be called on for many generations. She discovers that the city's 'lurks' are in fact vampires and are intent on taking over the world.

There are some Buffy references here, the most notable being the appearance of the scythe from Season 7. A worthy addition to the canon. 7/10 - David

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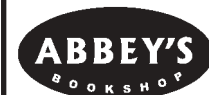
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