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CAMPBELL AWARD NOMINEES

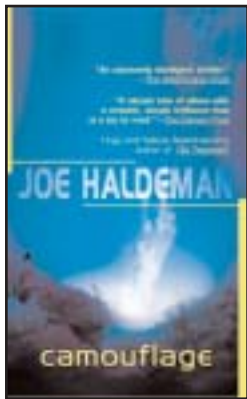
Recognises the best SF novel of the year as judged by a jury selected by the Center for the Study of Science Fiction at the University of Kansas.

- Transcendent** by Stephen Baxter
- The Meq** by Steve Cash
- Child of Earth** by David Gerrold
- Mind's Eye** by Paul McAuley
- Seeker** by Jack McDevitt
- Learning the World** by Ken MacLeod
- The Summer Isles** by Ian R MacLeod
- Counting Heads** by David Marusek
- Mindscan** by Robert J Sawyer
- Accelerando** by Charles Stross
- The World Before** by Karen Traviss
- Spin** by Robert Charles Wilson

**QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY
PUBLIC HOLIDAY
MONDAY 12 JUNE
OPEN
10AM - 5PM**

NEBULA AWARD WINNERS

These awards are presented annually by the Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America



- NOVEL**
Camouflage by Joe Haldeman
- NOVELLA**
Magic for Beginners by Kelly Link
- NOVELLETTE**
The Faery Handbag by Kelly Link
- SHORT STORY**
I Live With You by Carol Emshwiller
- SCRIPT**
Serenity by Joss Whedon
- ANDRE NORTON AWARD**



Valiant: A Modern Tale of Faerie by Holly Black

9 - 12 June 2006

CONFLUX 3

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

The Communications Link
Sir Arthur C. Clarke
Ray Bradbury

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

Australian Guests
Kate Forsyth
Sara Douglass
Jackie French
Jason Paulos

**Largest Art Show & Film Festival
at an Australian SF Convention**



SCIENCE FICTION AND FANTASY



LYNN ABBEY (ED)

ENEMIES OF FORTUNE

Thieves' World Anthology. A recent storm has left a ship filled with exotic cargo and arcane secrets wrecked off the shore of Sanctuary. This unexpected booty leads to boons and curses for the world-weary residents, as well as the usual power struggle among factions wishing to take deadly advantage at any new turn of events. All new stories by Lynn Abbey, Stephen Brust, C J Cherryh, Jeff Grubb, Mickey Zucker Reichert, Dennis McKiernan, Andrew Offutt, Robin Wayne Bailey, Diana Paxson, Jody Lynn Nye and Jane Fancher. Pb \$16.95 353pp

POUL ANDERSON

TAU ZERO

SF Masterworks #64. In the 23rd century, 50 men and women set out from Earth aboard an interstellar craft to travel to a planet some 30 light years away. The ship will approach the speed of light and so (as Einstein predicted) subjective time on board will slow, so the journey of several decades will be much shorter for the crew. But the ship's deceleration system is irreparably damaged (when it hits a cloud of interstellar dust), so acceleration continues toward light speed, 'tau zero'. Soon the ship is speeding through galaxies, and eons are passing in the blink of an eye... Pb \$19.95 189pp



SCIENCE FICTION



FANTASY



ROMANCE



AWARD WINNER



AUSTRALIAN



ACTION



REPRINT

AC AUDIO CASSETTE

CD COMPACT DISC

PB PAPERBACK

HB HARDBACK

TP TRADE PAPERBACK

JACKIE ANDREWS

BLOOD FEUD

Fire and Ice #1. One-time street urchin and Ellanoi firemage, Silke, has kick-started her new career as private investigator by landing a plum job finding out who is threatening to bump off Veelya, princess of Elginagen. In the course of her investigations, Silke meets Lucius Stone, who happens to be a telepath with a talent for harnessing ice power. Stone has been employed by prince Vyktor to discover who has been threatening to kill HIM. Silke prefers to work alone, but she and Stone are thrown together when they discover that Silke's estranged brother - and fire-mage - Sattine has a master plan to remove the royal family of Elginagen, put in a puppet ruler of his own making and secure for himself the Darkstone currently locked in the royal vault. Can Silke and Stone prevent him from seeing it through? Pb \$16.95 302pp

TOM BAKER

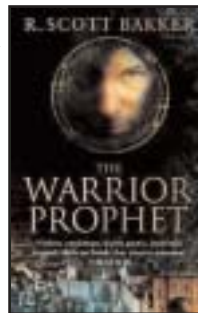
THE BOY WHO KICKED PIGS

Robert Caligari is a thoroughly evil 13-year-old who gets his kicks from kicking pigs. After a humiliating episode with a bacon butty, he fully realises how much he loathes the human race. His revenge is truly terrible. Pb \$15.95 123pp

R SCOTT BAKKER

THE WARRIOR PROPHET

Prince of Nothing #2. The first battle against the heathen has been won, but while the Great Names plot and squabble over the spoils, Kellhus patiently extends his influence, drawing more followers to his banner. The sorcerer Achamian and his lover, Esmenet, submit entirely, only to have their faith tested in unimaginable ways. The warrior Cnaiur falls ever deeper into madness. The skin-spies of the Consult watch with growing trepidation. And as the vast host of the Holy War endures its sternest test in the searing wastes of the desert, a name - a title - begins to be whispered amongst the faithful. But who is the Warrior-Prophet - a dangerous heretic, who turns brother against brother? Or the only man who can avert the Second Apocalypse? The Holy War stands on a knife edge. If all is not to be lost, the great powers will have to choose between their most desperate desires and their most ingrained prejudice. Between hatred and hope. Between the Warrior-Prophet and the end of the world... Pb \$21.95 740pp



CURT BENJAMIN

LORDS OF GRASS AND THUNDER

As Prince Tayy prepares to assume the leadership of the Qubal clans, treacherous enemies threaten his ascension with dark magic. Only the apprentice shaman destined to be Tayy's bride can save him. Pb \$18.95 562pp

CHAZ BRENCHLEY

BRIDGE OF DREAMS

For 1,000 years, the great city of Sund stood impregnable, while its enemy, Maras, remained outside the walls. Then the Marasi harnessed the powers of magic. Erecting an otherworldly bridge whose foundations were rooted in sorcery, the Marasi overran the walls of Sund and threw them down. In the city of Maras-Sund, magic has been outlawed. Yet there are children born with raw magical talent and there are those who would rally behind them to rebel against their hated overlords. Issel, a young water-seller from the poorest part of the city, possesses the gift for magic. And when he is recognised for his talents, recruited and trained in the arts, his abilities may hold the key to his people's salvation. Hb \$54.00 406pp

SIMON BROWN

TROY

Diomedes, Paris, Helen, Achilles, Agamemnon, Cassandra and Odysseus all feature in this collection of this author's acclaimed 'Troy stories'. Since the early 1980s, Simon Brown has engaged readers with a series of alternate takes on the Trojan War. *Love and Paris, Imagining Ajax, Why My Wife Left Me and Other Stories by Diomedes* and the brilliant *The Masque of Agamemnon* are collected here for the first time, alongside lesser known tales and the original novella, *The Cup of Nestor*. Ten stories, one legend. This collection also features an introduction by Garth Nix, author of *Sabriel, Abhorsen* and the *Keys to the Kingdom* series. Tp \$24.95 191pp

TRUDI CANAVAN

LAST OF THE WILDS

Age of the Five #2. The Circlians have secured victory over the Pentadrian army, but Auraya's sleep remains filled with nightmares of war. And the one person she once loved and trusted, Leiard, has disappeared. When a sickness sweeps through the tribes of the Siyee, the White send Auraya to help them. It is there that she begins to learn the truth about Leiard... And far to the south, the Pentadrians lick their wounds and set about finding a new leader. Their faith unshaken, they are still resolved to convert the heathens of the north. In the aftermath of war, the Priestess is forced to make a terrible choice, the consequences of which could change the world forever. Pb \$20.95 581pp

★ FAVE RAVES

our favourites – new and classic

CLASSIC TITLE

THE BLACK COMPANY

The Black Company (#1) (Pb \$16.95),
Shadows Linger (#2) (Pb \$16.95),
The White Rose (#3) (Pb \$16.95)

Glen Cook

In desperate times, all that matters is survival; a harsh reality but one which has ensured the continued existence of the Black Company. The last of their kind, the Black Company has, for thousands of years, done the work for the highest bidder, never asking any questions and answering only to the coin. When the Lady, a powerful witch, seeks the services of the Black Company to extinguish the attempts of the Dominator, the Lady's husband, to escape from a cursed banishment, the Black Company duly obliges upon payment. Some say that the Lady is all that stands between mankind and the threat of the Dominator, who threatens to bring more bloodshed after years of violent battles before his banishment. Others say that the Lady is evil itself. For the Black Company, they take their pay and do what they must as they battle against the Dominator and his group of undead henchmen, the Taken. But when word spreads about the reincarnation of the White Rose, an ancient prophecy of a once dead heroine that may just defeat all evil, the Black Company must begin to question whose side they will take. For there might be salvation after all, even for the jaded men of the Black Company.



I first read the Black Company books when I had withdrawal symptoms from not playing the computer game, *Diablo 2*. The world of the Black Company is a similar creation, where the fighting between world-weary soldiers and undead magicians are fierce and never ending. Unlike its name, the Black Company is made up of grey characters – people who are neither good nor bad. Their ancient code of honour is held sacred, but the need to survive in an increasingly chaotic world means honour and ethics will need to be compromised. The soldiers of the Company are a likeable bunch of characters; their camaraderie and compassion is genuine and the humour is refreshing in their constantly grim world. More importantly, Cook has created a set of very believable characters. For all their prowess in fighting and magic, these characters such as our narrator, Croaker, is genuinely tired and afraid of these desperate times.

Because of the dark tone of the series, the Black Company is often compared to the authors like George R R Martin and Steven Erikson. Whilst his writing style may lack the acclaim that those two authors receive, Cook nonetheless produces an enthralling tale that speeds along at a breakneck pace.

The first three books of the **Black Company** series are a self contained story arc. The latter books, beginning with **Shadow Games** (Pb \$18.95) follows the further adventures of the Black Company and other characters. **The Black Company** is a gripping series that produces an enjoyable balance of magic, fantasy action and entertaining characters. Fantasy readers looking for some that is slightly grim and fast paced should enjoy this series. - John

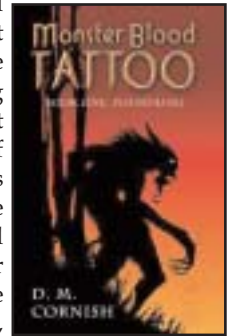
NEW TITLE

FOUNDLING

Monster Blood Tattoo #1 (Hb \$24.95)

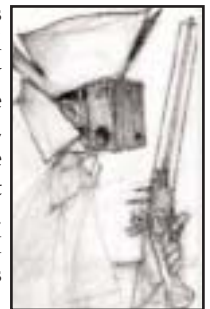
D M Cornish

In the Half Continent, monsters and mankind share the same world, albeit uneasily. Lahzars, or monster hunters are employed to keep the land safe. Showing compassion towards a monster is not looked upon kindly. In the great city of Boschenberg, the orphan Rossamund lives at Madam Opera's Estimable Marine Society for Foundling Boys and Girls, until the day that he is called to be a lamplighter and sent out into the world. But when he boards the ship known as *The Hogshead*, captained by the despicable Poundinch, Rossamund begins to learn that his fate lies down a path filled with danger and adventure.



He later encounters the mysterious Europe, a monster slayer who has been genetically altered to enable her to fight her enemies. But such power comes at a price and as Rossamund is enlisted by Europe to travel with her, he also comes to wonder if all the monsters are deserving of death. So we have shipboard escapades, flintlock pistols firing, encounters with ettins and strange medical emergencies, all wrapped up in a Dickensian wild adventure!

This book came to me in the mail one day, out of the blue. It's nice to know that great books can still sneak up on you, and **Foundling** is no exception. A beautifully realised world with a rich history, (Cornish has spent over a decade developing it) **Foundling** draws on 17th century Germanic/European culture, fairytales and weird science. The author has presented his invented world with love and dedication and this shows in the wonderfully packaged book. With black and white illustrations by the author, detailed maps, extensive glossary and appendix, you can see that this Australian author has only just begun to unveil his massive Half Continent. Apparently the series will be a trilogy, but I can easily see many more books set in this world.




Although the 'orphan with a destiny' is not a new story idea by any stretch, it is the author's storytelling ability, coupled with a dark atmosphere and fine world building that make **Foundling** something special.

For comparison, think China Mieville, the French film *Brotherhood of the Wolf*, Charles Dickens, and Michael Moorcock's *Hawkmoon* series. Highly recommended. 9/10 - David


ISOBELLE CARMODY

A FOX CALLED SORROW

 *Little Fur #2.* The fate of the elf troll, Little Fur, becomes entangled with the mysterious fox, Sorrow, who longs only for death. Together they must travel to Underth, the troll king's underground city, on a dangerous quest to uncover his evil plans. The wise Sett Owl has foreseen that the future of the earth spirit and perhaps all living things, depends on the success of this quest. Led by a greedy, devious rat, how can they succeed? But how can they fail, when so much is at stake? Hb \$24.95 299pp

ROBERT CARTER

THE GIANTS' DANCE

 *The Language of Stones #2.* Four years ago, Will succeeded in cracking the Doomstone in the vault of the Chapter House at Verlamion to bring a bloody battle to its end. It seemed then that the lust for war in men's hearts had been calmed forever. But now Will is no longer certain his success was quite so absolute and he calls on his old friend and mentor Gwydion for advice. Gwydion suspects his old enemy, the sorcerer Maskull, has escaped from the prison he was banished to when Will cracked the Doomstone. Now Maskull is once again working to hasten a devastating war between King Hal and Duke Richard of Ebor, with the help of the battlestones that litter the landscape inciting hatred in all who draw near. Only Will, whom Gwydion believes to be an incarnation of King Arthur, has the skill to break the power of the battlestones. When Will last left Nether Norton he was an unworldly youth of 13. Now he is a husband and father, he has a lot more to lose. But he has a whole Realm to save. Pb \$19.95 593pp

BILL CONGREVE & MICHELLE MARQUARDT (EDS)

THE YEAR'S BEST AUSTRALIAN

 **SCIENCE FICTION & FANTASY**

Volume #2. A couple search the universe for a final task to give their deaths meaning, a new extreme sport greater than any other adventure on Earth, the passing by of a race beloved by myth, a widow who must create a living statue of her dead husband, a boy in pursuit of one final dream, an affair subverted by a gruesome 19th century wax doll. Provoking and inventive, this anthology includes talented newcomers, as well as established professionals at the peak of their form. Supplementing the fiction are the editors' overview of the genre, lists of recommended reading, markets for writers and sources of Australian SF, fantasy and horror, making the volume a valuable resource as well as a definitive volume of the best in the field in Australia today. Pb \$19.95 285pp

D M CORNISH

 **FOUNDLING**

Monster Blood Tattoo #1. Set in the world of the Half-Continent, a land of tri-corner hats and flintlock pistols, this begins the journey of Rossamund, a boy with a girl's name, who is just about to begin a dangerous life in the service of the Emperor. What starts as a simple journey is threatened by encounters with monsters and people, who may be worse. Learning who to trust and who to fear is neither easy nor without its perils and Rossamund must choose his path carefully. Hb \$24.95 433pp See *Fave New* pg 3.

ALISON CROGGON

 **THE CROW**

Pellinor #3. The earth is poisoned by a deep wrongness and the forces of the Nameless One grow ever stronger. The Treesong, the key to restoring peace, is lost and only Hem's sister, Maerad, can unravel its mysteries. While she seeks answers in the north, Hem is sent south to Turbansk with his guardian, Saliman. Troubled and unhappy, Hem is haunted by his bitter past and uncertain of his future, as evil forces threaten to destroy the city. But his destiny may be linked to the Treesong more closely than he knows. Pb \$24.95 486pp

SHARON CULLARS

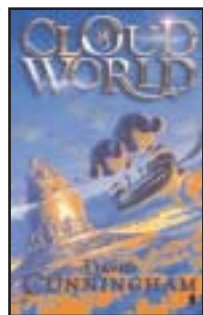
 **AGAIN**

The minute Chicago journalist Tyne Jensen spots the man with the sexy green eyes at her sister's wedding, she is haunted by the feeling that their meeting is more than chance. There is something familiar about David Carvelli, something that makes her remember another man's hands caressing her, his warm mouth igniting a fire along the sweep of her neck, his voice a deep growl in her ear - "I'll never let you go... we're going to be together forever..." Caught up in a white-hot affair neither can resist or understand, Tyne and David have one chance to get it right, to uncover the secrets and sins of the past, before they are doomed to repeat them. Tp \$29.95 297pp

DAVID CUNNINGHAM

 **CLOUD WORLD**

Imagine a planet entirely covered in clouds, imagine an ocean of cloud, stretching away as far as the eye can see, imagine peaks rising out of the clouds, their gentle slopes covered in fields and orchards, imagine a citadel standing on each peak... Heliopolis, a prosperous citadel divided into five layers, its rigid social structure ensuring that it is run efficiently and the citizens know their place. But there is one uncertainty that all Heliopolitans share. What lies beneath the impenetrable sea of cloud? An abyss of nothingness? The fiery realm of the god, Omnium? 14-year-old Pohl is about to find out. Isolated and lonely, Prince Pohl lives in the soulless palace at the very top of the citadel. When his father fails to return from a diplomatic mission, Pohl mounts an expedition across the cloudscape in search of him. But he discovers too late that danger lies closer to home, somebody wants him dead. And when his flying vessel is sabotaged, Pohl finds himself plunged into a terrifying new world beneath the clouds... Pb \$15.95 345pp



JULIE E CZERNEDA

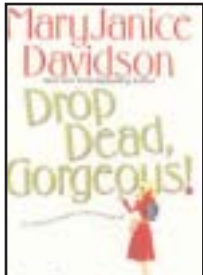
 **MIGRATION**

Species Imperative #2. Dr Mackenzie Connor races against time to help the Interspecies Union devise a plan to prevent an interstellar enemy from conquering world after world. Pb \$18.95 527pp

MARY JANICE DAVIDSON

 **DROP DEAD, GORGEOUS!**

As far as bad wedding experiences go, my friend Stacy's could take the cake. 1) I'm dateless, 2) I'm a bridesmaid, and 3) Someone just attempted to whack the groom in the middle of the ceremony. So now I, assistant hairdresser Jenny Branch, am helping to hunt down a real-life bad guy and the prime suspect is Kevin Stone, who claims to be working undercover for a group called Covert Ops Protection. All of this is hard to believe - my new role as spy-in-training, the fact that I'm surrounded by people with freaky superhuman powers and, most of all, the way this unbelievably sexy villain /double agent /whatever-Kevin-is makes every one of my nerve-endings tingle the second he comes into view, and it appears to be mutual. Pb \$29.95 221pp



CHARLES DE LINT

 **THE BLUE GIRL**

Newford Tale. 17-year-old Imogene's rebellious nature has caused her more harm than good, so when her family moves to Newford, she decides to reinvent herself. But trouble shows up anyway. Imogene quickly catches the eye of Redding High's bullies, as well as the school's resident teenage ghost. Then she gets on the wrong side of a gang of malicious fairies. When her old imaginary childhood friend, Pelly, actually manifests, Imogene realises that the impossible is all too real. And it's dangerous. If she wants to survive high school, not to mention stay alive, she has to fall back on the skills she picked up in her hometown, running with a gang. Even with her new friend Maxine and some unexpected allies by her side, will she be able to make it? Pb \$18.95 368pp

PAUL DI FILIPPO

 **SHUTEYE FOR THE TIMEBROKER**

This collection gathers a wide, wild assortment of stories that collectively represent critically acclaimed author Paul Di Filippo's extensive concerns, themes and styles. Pure science fiction can be found in the title piece, while modern-day publishing practices get a raking-over in the satirical *The Secret Sutras of Sally Strumpet*. Humorous fantasies such as *Captain Jill* and *Billy Budd* segue into a Dunsanyian tale such as *Walking the Great Road*. There's a touch of horror to be found in *Underground*, *Eel Pie Stall* and *We're All in This Alone* (the latter co-written with award-winner Michael Bishop). A politically-charged story of a fantastic assassin occurs in *Shadowboxer*. Finally, the nearly three dozen vignettes under the title *The Farthest Schorr* form a mini-collection in themselves, as they take flight from the surreal paintings of Todd Schorr. Tp \$35.00 312pp

CAMERON DOKEY

 **GOLDEN**

Before Rapunzel's birth, her mother made a dangerous deal with the sorceress Melisande: If she could not love newborn Rapunzel just as she appeared, she would surrender the child to Melisande. When Rapunzel was born completely bald and without hope of ever growing hair, her horrified mother sent her away with the sorceress to an uncertain future. After 16 years of raising Rapunzel as her own child, Melisande reveals that she has another daughter, Rue. She was cursed by a wizard years ago and needs Rapunzel's help. Rue and Rapunzel have precisely "two nights and the day that falls between" to break the enchantment, but bitterness and envy come between the girls and if they fail to work together, Rue will remain cursed... forever. Pb \$12.95 179pp

KEITH DONOHUE

 **THE STOLEN CHILD**

Inspired by the W B Yeats poem that tempts a child from home to the waters and the wild, this is a modern fairy tale narrated by the child Henry Day and his double. On a summer night, Henry Day runs away from home and hides in a hollow tree. There he is taken by the changelings - an unaging tribe of wild children who live in darkness and in secret. They spirit him away, name him Aniday and make him one of their own. Stuck forever as a child, Aniday grows in spirit, struggling to remember the life and family he left behind. He also seeks to understand and fit in this shadow land, as modern life encroaches upon both myth and nature. In his place, the changelings leave a double, a boy who steals Henry's life in the world. This new Henry Day must adjust to a modern culture while hiding his true identity from the Day family. Tp \$32.95 319pp Hb \$49.95 319pp

SARA DOUGLAS

  **DARKWITCH RISING**

The Troy Game #3. Out of a city devastated by plague and fire rises the most powerful Darkwitch in history. Restoration London becomes the field of the most desperate battle yet for the players of the Troy Game. Asterion lurks in a nightmarish lair built against the rear wall of the bone house of St Dunstan's-in-the-East. Here he traps Cornelia-reborn Noah Banks and Genvissa-reborn Jane Orr and plots to obtain the kingship bands, the Troy Game and Noah. But no one could have anticipated an ancient Darkwitch rising from the dead with a secret so terrible, it will not merely tear both Game and land apart, but devastate any chance that Noah and her lover, Brutus, can be together. Pb \$20.95 810pp

  **DRUID'S SWORD**

The Troy Game #4. As Hitler unleashes his bombs on London in WWII, another, more ancient, terror emerges. Grace, daughter of Asterion and Noah, remains bound in agony to Catling, her wrists cruelly scarred by the otherworldly restraints. There is no one, it seems, who can help Grace. Certainly not her mother or father. Jack Skelton, Brutus-reborn and the love of Noah's life, is the only one able to break through Grace's carefully constructed barriers. It may be that Grace is not entirely helpless after all... And while Genvissa-reborn and Coel-reborn attempt to identify exactly how to deal with the grip of a malevolent Troy Game, a killer stalks the streets of London creating terror upon terror as the bombers shadow the land. Hb \$49.95 671pp

DAVID & LEIGH EDDINGS

 **CRYSTAL GORGE**

Dreamers #3. The Elder Gods have defeated the Vlagh twice - with the aid of the Dreamers and the mysterious Treasured One, who seems, worryingly, to be controlling them, but the unspeakable Creature of the Wasteland is on the fast track to world domination, as the time approaches for the Younger Gods to take their place. Pb \$20.95 517pp

 **THE YOUNGER GODS**

Dreamers #4. Attacks by the dreadful insect queen known as the Vlagh have been repelled in three of the Elder Gods' realms. Now, only the land ruled by the Goddess Aracia remains for the Vlagh to send her hordes to attack. But while the Gods, their younger avatars and their human comrades have emerged victorious from all previous encounters, this time the Goddess herself may be their greatest foe - she craves worship and hates the idea of being replaced by a younger God when her time comes to an end! And that time is approaching fast. Hb \$59.95 429pp Tp \$32.95 429pp

KATE ELLIOTT

 **IN THE RUINS**

Crown of Stars #6. The world of Liath and Alain is breaking apart as King Henry's kingdom is savaged by earthly and supernatural forces, which they alone have the power to understand. The Eika warriors thirst for the King's land and power, their enmity sealed by generations of blood. Bitter in-fighting within King Henry's court and the ceaseless attrition of raiders also weaken his reign. Those who remain true must stay strong, as the shadow of the Cursed Ones falls and the spell holding the exiled from the planet fails. Liath must force her wild sorcery to maturity and Sanglant, her husband and King Henry's heir, must struggle to hold the realm together. The twin destinies of Liath and Alain may yet avert the destruction written in the stars. Pb \$22.95 819pp

STEVEN ERIKSON

 **THE BONEHUNTERS**

Malazan Book of the Fallen #6. The Seven Cities Rebellion has been crushed. Sha'ik is dead. One last rebel force remains, holed up in the city of Y'Ghatan and under the fanatical command of Leoman of the Flails. The prospect of laying siege to this ancient fortress makes the battle-weary Malaz 14th Army uneasy. For it was here that the Empire's greatest champion Dasseem Ultor was slain and a tide of Malazan blood spilled. A place of foreboding, its smell is of death. But elsewhere, agents of a far greater conflict have made their opening moves. There shall be war in the heavens. And the prize? Nothing less than existence itself. Hb \$69.95 891pp Tp \$39.95 891pp

JOHN FLANAGAN

 **OAKLEAF BEARERS**

Rangers Apprentice #4. Just as spring approaches and Will and Evanlyn can finally escape Skandia, Evanlyn is carried off by mysterious horsemen. Will sets out after them, but one boy against six fierce Temujai warriors is impossible odds, even for a Ranger's apprentice. Halt and Horace arrive just in time to rescue them and the four are overjoyed to be reunited. But there is no time to celebrate, as Halt realises that the Temujai that they've discovered are only the scouts for a massive invasion force. The Skandians don't have a chance, unless they accept the help of their sworn enemies from Araluen. Pb \$14.95 327pp

JEFFREY FORD

  **THE EMPIRE OF ICE CREAM**

In this collection of short fiction, the mixing of the mundane with the metaphysical, the pairings of the everyday with the extraordinary, yields supernatural results. A young musician perceives another world while drinking coffee, a fairy chronicles his busy life in a sandcastle during a changing tide, a demonic 16th-century chess set shows up in a New Jersey bar, and Charon, the boatman of hell, takes a few days' vacation. Also included is the previously unpublished novella, *Botch Town*, a coming-of-age story about a boy on Long Island whose family and friends live ordinary lives under threats both real and imagined. Hb \$54.00 319pp

DIANA PHAROAH FRANCIS

 **PATH OF BLOOD**

Path #3. Chaos reigns in the land of Kodu Riik. Plague continues to ravage its populace and Aare's armies are on the march. The rift between the kingdom and the land of Cemanahuatl yawns ever wider, threatening to consume both beneath waves of uncontrollable magic. Now, only Reisil possesses enough power to breach the city of Mysane Kosk and seal the fracture. Pb \$18.95 452pp

NEIL GAIMAN

 **ANANSI BOYS**

Fat Charlie Nancy is not actually fat. He was fat once, but he's definitely not fat now. No, right now, Fat Charlie Nancy is angry, confused and more than a little scared. Right now, his life is spinning out of control and it is all his dad's fault. If his estranged father hadn't dropped dead at a karaoke night, Charlie would still be blissfully unaware that his dad was Anansi, the spider god. He would have no idea that he has a brother called Spider, who is also a god. And there would be no chance that said brother would be trying to take over his life, flat and fiancée, or, to make matters worse, be doing a much better job of it than him. Pb \$22.00 457pp

DAVID GEMMELL

 **LORD OF THE SILVER BOW**

Troy #1. Three lives will change the destiny of nations. Helikaon, the young prince of Dardania, haunted by a scarred and traumatic childhood. The priestess Andromache, whose fiery spirit and fierce independence threatens the might of kings. And the legendary warrior Argurios, cloaked in loneliness and driven only by thoughts of revenge. In Troy, they find a city torn apart by destructive rivalries - a maelstrom of jealousy, deceit and murderous treachery. And beyond its fabled walls, blood-hungry enemies eye its riches and plot its downfall. It is a time of bravery and betrayal, a time of bloodshed and fear. A time for heroes. Pb \$21.95 639pp

NEWT GINGRICH & WILLIAM R FORSTCHEN

 **GRANT COMES EAST**

Lee and Grant #2. The Army of Northern Virginia is poised to invade Washington, DC. A besieged Lincoln calls on a general with a drinking problem to save the Union. And in the East, Ulysses Grant faces a storm of calamity and rivalry and a war on the verge of being lost... Pb \$18.95 502pp

SIMON R GREEN

 **DEATHSTALKER CODA**

A Deathstalker Saga novel. Two Deathstalkers must fight for the survival of Humanity - Lewis Deathstalker in the present and Owen Deathstalker in the past. 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. To do that, he must travel back in Time, further and further, visiting the Empire at different levels of its development, searching for the truth behind Hazel's transformation before the Terror really does destroy everything. Pb \$19.95 407pp

MARTIN H GREENBERG & JOHN HELFERS (EDS)

  **SLIPSTREAMS**

20 of science fiction and fantasy's most talented authors take up a challenge - to wade into the waters of a new genre and create something utterly unique. The results of this literary adventure include stories about a mountain man's encounter with a very aggressive demon in Yellowstone Park, a wood carver seeking to pick up the pieces of his life throughout the galaxy, and a vampire detective who specialises in bloodwork. Pb \$18.95 307pp

ANN HALAM

 **SIBERIA**

When Sloe was tiny, her Papa disappeared and she and her mama went to live in a prison camp in the snowy North. It was a time and place when there were no more wild animals. Mama's crime was teaching science, and her dedication to the hope that the lost animal species can be reborn. To Sloe, Mama's secret work is magic, as enchanting as Mama's tales of a bright city across the ice where the sun always shines and one day they will be free. Years later, Sloe is sent to prison school and Mama disappears. But her Mama has bequeathed Sloe six tiny animals, like creatures from a fairy tale. These magical creatures hold the secret to life itself. At 13, and with only the Lindquists for company, Sloe sets off on an epic 1,000-mile journey, embracing breathtaking adventure, danger and hardships in her quest to be reunited with her mother. Pb \$15.95 233pp

MICHELLE HAUF

 **RHIANA**

Invaded by a cavalcade of vicious dragons, the villagers of St Renan are snatched up when they venture beyond the walls. Yet Rhiana Tassot, who senses the dragons from a distance and determines their attack scent from a mating scent, who is blessed with the instincts of a dragon, who dares stand before the fiery beasts without flinching, cannot use her skills to defend her home. For the lord of St Renan forbids her to track the beasts, not in fear for her safety, but by some twisted desire to protect the dragons. So conflict rages within and without the village and a long-held secret begins to stir beneath their very feet. Rhiana's knowledge of dragons is no accident and others begin to suspect why. Tp \$32.95 411pp

 **SERAPHIM**

In the battle between Good and Evil, the Black Knight's sword fells enemies with silent grace. The Knight has sworn that fallen angel Lucifer de Morte and his cruel brotherhood will pay for their reign of terror over France - and over the d'Ange family, where nearly all have died a terrible death. All but one. Yet the Knight's hard-won battles and dented armour hide a larger secret. For he is actually Seraphim d'Ange. She is travelling to de Morte's desnes, executing his demon henchmen along the way. Now, aided by Baldwin, a family retainer and San Juste, a mysterious stranger, Sera grows closer and closer to her final target. However, little does she know there is one more aspect of power she herself holds... Pb \$16.95 504pp


JOHN TWELVE HAWKS

 **THE TRAVELLER**

Fourth Realm #1. What lies ahead is already here... America is a difficult place to live below the surface. But Gabriel and Michael Corrigan are trying to do just that. Since childhood, the brothers have been shaped by the stories their father told them about the world in which they live. After his mysterious disappearance, they have been living 'off the grid', invisible to the intrusive surveillance networks that monitor our modern lives. But no-one is as invisible as they would like to believe. Nathan Boone, a mercenary, has been assigned to hunt down the brothers. The only person who stands between them and certain death is Maya, a tough young woman who is playing at leading a normal life, but her background is anything but normal. She has been trained to fight and survive at whatever cost. When she is summoned to protect the brothers, she must leave everything behind to succeed. Pb \$19.95 605pp

Odo HIRSCH

ANTONIO S AND THE MYSTERY OF THEODORE GUZMAN

 Antonio, living in a part of a very large house with his magician father and doctor mother, knows all sorts of unusual things, but it is not until he meets his mysterious neighbour, Theodore Guzman, that he is introduced to the magical world of theatre. Pb \$14.95 202pp

TOM HOLT

 **EARTH, AIR, FIRE AND CUSTARD**

J W Wells seemed to be a respectable establishment, but the company now paying Paul Carpenter's salary is, in fact, a deeply sinister organisation with a mighty peculiar management team. Paul thought he was getting the hang of it, but death is never far away when you work at J W Wells. Our love-struck hero is about to discover that custard is definitely in the eye of the beholder - and that it really stings! Pb \$22.95 410pp

DIANA WYNNE JONES

 **CONRAD'S FATE**

Chrestomanci #6. Conrad is young, good at heart and apparently suffering from the effects of such bad karma that there is nothing in his future but terrible things. Unless he can alter his circumstances, he is doomed. Conrad is sent in disguise to Stallery Mansion, to infiltrate the magical fortress that has power over the whole town of Stallchester and to discover the identity of the person who is affecting his Fate so badly. Then he has to kill that person. But can any plan really be that simple and straightforward? Of course it can't! And things start to go very strangely for Conrad from the moment he meets the boy called Christopher. Pb \$15.95 347pp

KATHERINE KERR

 **THE GOLD FALCON**

The Dragon Mage #4. The powerful dweomermaster Nevyn has been reincarnated, but young Neb knows nothing of his previous life. Orphaned following a cholera epidemic, Neb and his younger brother arrive at the desolate farm of their last living relative and soon learn that a worse plague lurks beyond the western border of Deverry. The savage Horsekin tribes, spurred on by their new goddess, Alshandra, are raiding the villages and taking slaves as the first step in their plans to destroy the nomadic Westfolk and the Deverrian farmers both. Neb finds love and danger as he and his soul mate Branna are drawn inexorably into a war for the survival of the kingdom itself. Tp \$29.95 404pp

DEIDRE KNIGHT

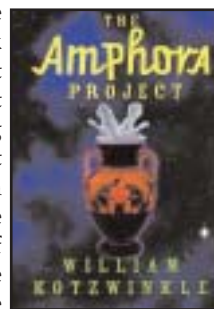
  **PARALLEL ATTRACTION**

Exiled alien king, Jared Bennett, is fighting for his people's freedom. Now his rebel force has the one weapon that can turn the tide against their enemy - the key to the secrets of time. With victory at hand, only one human, Kelsey Wells, has the power to change everything. Kelsey is unable to deny the fierce attraction to Jared Bennett, but is unaware of the truth, although Jared is exactly what he says, he hasn't told her everything. And when the future crashes into the present, Kelsey must decide if his deception will cost them the love that should have been their destiny. Pb \$16.95 306pp

WILLIAM KOTZWINKLE

 **THE AMPHORA PROJECT**

Deep in the bowels of Junk Moon, the finest scientists of Planet Immortal are nearing completion of Project Amphora, which aims to unlock the secret of immortality. The Project is run by the Consortium, 12 of the planet's most influential movers and shakers, but they aren't the only ones after immortality. Commander Jockey Oldcastle, a wise-cracking space pirate, has heard about the Amphora Project from a banished scientist who is convinced it will lead to the end of the world. Oldcastle sets off to find the project with Adrian Link, a timid botanist. It seems the Amphora Project is turning the citizens of Planet Immortal into crystal. As time runs out, it is up to Oldcastle and Link to stop their mysterious extra-dimensional enemy before their world is lost forever. Tp \$29.00 335pp



SUSAN KRINARD

  **CALL OF THE WOLF**

Omnibus. Wheelchair-bound Athena Munroe and convicted murderer Morgan Holt live on the fringes of both humanity and werewolf society, but their irresistible attraction to each other threatens to expose their true natures and free their hearts. Tp \$29.95 581pp

MERCEDES LACKEY

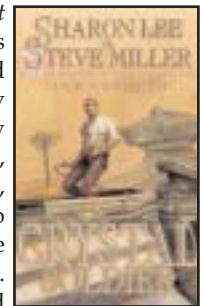
 **SANCTUARY**

Dragon Jousters #3. The dragon-boy once known as Vetch has returned to his homeland of Alta to reclaim his birthright, only to discover that Alta is under the thrall of evil Priest-Kings. Gathering troops of dragon riders by his side, Vetch raises an army in the sanctuary of the desert to rid his land of both war and magical domination once and for all. Pb \$18.95 436pp

SHARON LEE & STEVE MILLER

 **CRYSTAL SOLDIER**

Liaden, the Great Migration #1. Centuries in the past, mankind fought a seemingly unbeatable adversary from sector to sector, across the Spiral Arm, until the war ground to a standstill and the Enemy withdrew. Believing that they had won, the citizens of the galaxy rebuilt. The Inner Worlds, which had escaped the worst of the war's ravages, became even more insular, while the Rim worlds adopted a free and easy way with law and order. Now, hundreds of years after their withdrawal, the Enemy is back. This time, they'll be satisfied with nothing less than the extinction of the galaxy. Tp \$37.00 321pp



TOM LLOYD


 **THE STORMCALLER**

Isak is a white-eye, feared and despised in equal measure. Trapped in a life of poverty, and hated and abused by his father, Isak dreams of escape. When his chance comes, it isn't to a place in the army, as he'd expected. Instead, the Gods have marked him out as heir-elect to the brooding Lord Bahl, the Lord of the Farlan - also a white-eye, a genetic rarity that produces men stronger, more savage and more charismatic than their 'normal' counterparts. With mounting envy and malice, the men who would themselves be king, watch Isak - chosen by Gods as flawed as the humans who serve them - as he is shaped and moulded to fulfil the prophecies. Tp \$32.95 438pp




SOPHIA MCDOUGALL

ROMANITAS


 In 2756 AC, magnetic railways span Roman territory from Persia to Terranova and mechanised crucifixes are ranked along the banks of the Thames. Marcus Novius Faustus Leo, heir apparent to the Imperial throne, is mourning the death of his parents following a tragic accident. Marcus soon realises that his parents' deaths were no accident and that his own life is in danger. Meanwhile, an escaped slave girl called Una, who possesses the power to look inside others' minds, struggles to save her brother, Sulien, from a London prison ship. In a fortune teller's stall in a Gallic flea-market, Marcus, Una and Sulien's paths cross and the fate of the Empire rests on their shoulders... Pb \$22.95 607pp

L E MODESITT, JR

ALECTOR'S CHOICE


 *Corean Chronicles #4.* Set several thousand years before the events of the *Legacies Trilogy*. The Myrmidons of Justice command the skies riding their fearsome pteridons. As the Alector Colonel of Myrmidons, Dainyl is the fourth highest ranking military officer of the Duarchy. Alectors are a race apart from the normal inhabitants of Corus, from another world. But there is a rebellion brewing against them. Captain Mykel is a young officer potentially Talented and unaware that, should he ever discover that Talent, his life is forfeit. For Mykel is not an Alector and only Alectors are allowed to use Talent. Pb \$18.95 620pp

CADMIAN'S CHOICE

 *Corean Chronicles #5.* Corus has been redesigned to become the new home of a superior race from a distant world, whose very life depends on drawing sustenance from the biological life force of a planet. These plans are supervised by a staff of Alectors, who in effect rule the world. The Alectors alone have access to the huge flying Pteridons and to the superior weapons that underpin their psychic talents. The time is now fast approaching for the transfer of the whole population from the old world, nearly bled dry of life force, to Corus. But neither the Alectors, nor the local humans are ready. Hb \$59.95 510pp


Ryu MURAKAMI

IN THE MISO SOUP

 It's just before New Year and Frank, an overweight American tourist, has hired Kenji to take him on a guided tour of Tokyo's nightlife. But Frank's behaviour is so odd that Kenji begins to entertain a horrible suspicion - his client may, in fact, have murderous desires. Although Kenji is far from innocent himself, he unwillingly descends with Frank into an inferno of evil, from which only his 16-year-old girlfriend, Jun, can possibly save him. Pb \$21.95 180pp

C E MURPHY

THUNDERBIRD FALLS

 It's the end of the world... again! For all the bodies she's encountering, you'd think beat cop Joanne Walker works in Homicide. But no, Joanne is a reluctant shaman who last saved mankind three months ago. Surely she deserves a break! Yet, incredibly, 'Armageddon, take-two' is mere days away. There is not a minute to waste. When her spirit guide disappears, Joanne needs help from other sources, especially after she accidentally unleashes Lower World demons on Seattle. With the mother of all showdowns gathering force, it's the worst possible moment for her to realise she should have learned more about controlling her powers. Tp \$32.95 408pp


LARRY NIVEN & BRENDA COOPER

 **BUILDING HARLEQUIN'S MOON**

The first interstellar starship, *John Glenn*, fled a Solar System populated by rogue AIs and machine/human hybrids, threatened by too much nanotechnology and rife with political dangers. The *John Glenn's* crew intended to terraform the nearly pristine planet Ymir, in hopes of creating a utopian society that will limit intelligent technology. But, by some miscalculation, they have landed in another solar system and extremely low on the antimatter needed to continue to Ymir, they must shape the nearby planet Harlequin's moon, Selene, into a new, temporary home. Their only hope is to rebuild their store of antimatter through terraforming the moon. Gabriel, the head terraformer, must lead this nearly impossible task. His primary tools are the children of the original colonists, born and bred to build Harlequin's moon into a virtual antimatter factory. With no concept of the future and with life defined as duty, one girl, Rachel Vanowen, begins to ask herself the question - what will become of the children of Selene, once the terraforming is complete. Pb \$18.95 501pp


NAOMI NOVIK

THRONE OF JADE


 *Temeraire #2.* When Britain intercepted a French ship and its precious cargo, an unhatched dragon's egg, Will Laurence unexpectedly became master and commander of the noble dragon he named Temeraire. Now China has discovered that its rare gift, intended for Napoleon, has fallen into British hands and an angry Chinese delegation vows to reclaim him. But Laurence refuses to cooperate. Facing the gallows for his defiance, Laurence has no choice but to accompany Temeraire back to the Far East - a long voyage fraught with peril, intrigue and the untold terrors of the deep, but at the court of the Chinese emperor darker dangers await. Pb \$18.95 398pp

RICHARD POOLE

JEWEL AND THORN


 *Lowmoor #1.* On his 16th birthday, Thorn Jack steals a curious crystal from the Treasury of a neighbouring settlement in his coming of age rite-of-passage. Returning home, he finds that his younger sister has been kidnapped. He sets out to find her with Racky Jagger, an enigmatic, but wordly-wise, individual. When 15-year-old Jewel Ranson's father, a travelling draper, is murdered at a fair, she sets out to avenge him. As she travels, Jewel discovers that she has been gifted with unusual powers. Their separate quests lead Thorn and Jewel to a momentous meeting and the discovery of a common enemy. Pb \$14.95 391pp

THE BRASS KEY

 *Lowmoor #2.* Blackmailed by the sinister Spetch twins, Jewel and Thorn must journey across land and water to retrieve the mysterious brass key. Until they find it and return it to the Spetches, Thorn's sister Haw is at the cruel mercy of the twins. Thorn finds uses for the strange objects given to him by the Norgreen Syb and, Jewel's strength as a Magian grows when she comes across a crystal similar to the one stolen and hidden away by Thorn. Encountering unexpected, malevolent forces along the way, but also making new friends, Jewel and Thorn discover a new and even more dangerous opponent lurking in the shadows behind those they already know. Hb \$24.95 403pp

IRENE RADFORD

GUARDIAN OF THE FREEDOM

 *Merlin's Descendants #5.* Set in the time of the American Revolution, this instalment takes the magical destiny of the Kirkwood family from the heart of Great Britain to America's troubled shores. Pb \$18.95 564pp

KEVIN D RANDLE

 **THE GATE**

Exploration #4. Now a portal into a wormhole may be humanity's next step toward instantaneous travel... or their last. Pb \$16.95 266pp

PHILIP REEVE

 **INFERNAL DEVICES**

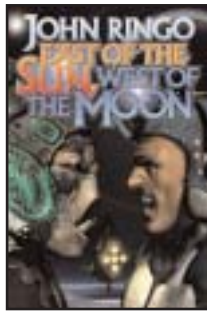
Mortal Engines #3. Anchorage has become a static settlement on the shores of the Dead Continent and its inhabitants have been living peacefully for 16 years. But the Lost Boys are back and they'll do anything to get what they want. Tom and Hester's daughter Wren is their eager dupe, bored and desperate for adventure. When the theft of the mysterious Tin Book of Anchorage goes wrong, Wren is snatched away. Tom and Hester set off to rescue her, but this is the end of their quiet life on Anchorage. The journey will stir up old needs, old secrets and send them back into perilous waters. Pb \$16.95 336pp

JOHN RINGO

 **EAST OF THE SUN, WEST OF THE MOON**

Council Wars #4.

When the council that controlled the world-spanning computer, Mother, fell out in civil war, it instantly plunged the world from high-tech utopia to medieval nightmare. Now Herzer Herrick and Megan Trevante have been assigned the mission to capture the spaceship that supplies the fuel for the whole world. Given that Herzer vaguely thinks orbital decay is something having to do with teeth it should be interesting. Hb \$49.95 307pp



RICK RIODAN

 **PERCY JACKSON AND THE SEA MONSTERS**

Percy Jackson, the young demi-god and son of Poseidon, has had an unnervingly quiet school year. But then, during a near-death experience in a dodgeball game, on the last day of school, Percy discovers that the magical borders protecting Half Blood Hill, a summer camp in Long Island dedicated to training young demi-gods, are failing. The only way to restore the power of the borders is to find the mythical Golden Fleece, which has been missing for centuries. Pb \$19.95 264pp

JENNIFER ROBERSON

 **THE NOVELS OF TIGER AND DEL, VOLUME THREE**

Sword-born & Sword-sworn. The thrilling concluding novels in the epic adventures of Tiger, the hardened Southron sword-dancer and Del, the beautiful and dangerous northern sword-singer. Tp \$35.00 808pp

LAURA RUBY

 **THE WALL AND THE WING**

In a vast and sparkling city, where nearly everyone can fly, 12-year-old Gurl is trapped. Orphaned and lonely, she believes she is nothing more than a flightless 'leadfoot', until one fateful night, when she discovers that she has the power to make herself invisible. But even with this newfound talent, Gurl can't hide from a giant rat man with a taste for cats, a manipulative matron with a penchant for plastic surgery and a belligerent boy named Bug. Gradually, Gurl learns to control her power and teams up with Bug to figure out who and what she is. Their quest takes them on a wild ride, where they confront mind-bending monkeys, an eccentric genius with a head full of grass and a pocket full of kittens and the handsome, but lethal, Sweetcheeks Grabowski - the gangster, who holds the key to Gurl's past and the world's future! Pb \$19.95 334pp

CHRISTOPHER RUSSELL

 **BRIND AND THE DOGS OF WAR**

Brind #1. Brind is a kennel boy on the estate of down-at-heel knight, Sir Edmund Dowe, but Brind does not simply look after the highly-coveted pack of mastiff hounds. Found as a baby amongst the litter, he has grown up with them and is now more dog than human, with a particularly strong bond to alpha male, Glaive. In essence, he is their pack leader. When Sir Edmund takes the pack to fight in the Battle of Crecy, Brind's life is changed forever. Glaive, the only mastiff to survive the bloody battle, runs off. Sir Edmund is captured and Tullo, the evil huntsman, is determined to bring shame on Brind and go back and claim the Dowe estate as his own. Pb \$14.95 197pp

 **PLAGUE SORCERER**

Brind #2. The year is 1348 and the Black Death is sweeping across England. At Dowe Manor, Lady Beatrice is a victim and a witch-hunter priest, Brother Rohan, persuades a distraught Sir Edmund that Brind, the dog boy and Aurelie, the French girl are to blame. The children escape, together with the dogs Glaive and Gabion and go on the run through a plague-stricken countryside, at one point facing death by drowning from a crazed mob whipped up by Brother Rohan. Even when they think they have found sanctuary in a monastery, it has been taken over by a lawless band of armed robbers, led by the beautiful but evil Chanterell. Pb \$14.95 197pp

AL SARRANTONIO (ED)

 **FLIGHTS: EXTREME VISIONS OF FANTASY**

Volume #2. This star-packed collection challenges the boundaries of modern fantasy with all-original stories from bestselling, award-winning authors Patricia McKillip, Orson Scott Card, Neil Gaiman, Harry Turtledove, Gene Wolfe and others. Pb \$18.95 414pp

SHARON SHINN

 **THE DREAM-MAKER'S MAGIC**

Safe-Keeper's Secret #3. Kellen's mother has always insisted that her only child was born male, not female, so Kellen has been raised as a boy. Then she is forced to go to school, where she meets Gryffin, whose mind is as strong as his legs are damaged and the two become friends and allies. A few years later, the two get jobs working at a nearby inn. When it is discovered that Gryffin is the kingdom's new Dream-Maker, someone whose mere presence can help dreams come true, he is whisked away to the castle, leaving Kellen behind. By now, their friendship is shading into something more. Will it endure? Hb \$37.00 261pp

MATTHEW SKELTON

 **ENDYMION SPRING**

Blake is visiting Oxford with his academic mother and kid sister. While their mum immerses herself in olde worlde volumes, Blake feels trapped in the dusty air of the college library. Until one day when Blake is running his finger along the shelf and feels something pierce his finger, drawing blood, like a bite. The book responsible is a battered old volume with a strange clasp like a serpent's head with real fangs. Printed on its front are words "Endymion Spring". Its paper is almost luminous, blank, wordless, but with a texture that seems to shine, and with fine veins running through it. The paper quivers as if it's alive. As Blake looks, words begin to appear on the page, words meant only for him, words no one else can see. The book has been waiting 500 years for the right boy, and now it must fulfil its destiny. Pb \$19.95 443pp

MARTIN SKETCHLEY

 **THE DESTINY MASK**

Structure #2. After the death of Vourniass Lycern, child-bearer to the Seriatic Royal Household, her twin sons, fathered by former Military Intelligence Officer Alexander Delgado, have grown up ignorant of their relationship. Due to the circumstances surrounding their birth, no-one knows Michael and Cascari are brothers and both believe they are the rightful heir to the position of Monosiell, head of Seriatt's Royal Household. When the existing Monosiell dies suddenly, the long-awaited opportunity presents itself. While strange occurrences in the vicinity of the wormhole go unnoticed, on Seriatt, the Oracles predict the coming of a saviour, but who this will be, no one can tell. Pb \$19.95 369pp

BEATRICE SMALL

 **LARA**

World of Hetar #1. Welcome to the world of Hetar, a realm of Forest Lords, of Shadow Princes and Coastal Kings. A land of passions, both civilised and savage. Where the social classes know their place, but where anyone can, under the right conditions, advance to the highest pinnacle. This is a place where pleasure is never censured, but encouraged and where deception and desire may be intertwined. The orderly, elegant veneer of refined Hetar can no longer ignore the rebellion brewing in the Outlands, a dangerous place of both magic and mystery. From the city that is the very centre of Hetar, Lara, the beautiful half-faerie daughter of John Swiftsword, ventures forth on a journey that will awaken her, both body and soul, as she learns the true meaning of love that will last an eternity and a searing passion that will change the destiny of Hetar forever. Pb \$18.95 540pp

JENNA SOLITAIRE

 **KEEPER OF THE WATERS**

Daughter of Destiny #2. Having mastered the power of the Board of Air, Jenna travels to Jerusalem to find the Board of Water. She is accompanied by Simon Monk, who seeks the Boards on behalf of the Vatican. Jenna doesn't trust Simon, but he's her only source of information. In Jerusalem, Jenna meets Saduj, a local guide who claims to know the whereabouts of the Board of Water. Simon is suspicious, but Jenna finds herself strangely attracted to Saduj. Jenna must find the Board before it awakens and causes unimaginable destruction. But will she lose her heart and, possibly, her life in the process? Pb \$16.95 239pp

ALLEN STEELE

 **COYOTE FRONTIER**

Coyote #3. Two decades have passed since the revolution that won Coyote's independence from Earth. The colony may be free, but its aging computers, aircraft and medical equipment are badly in need of replacement. The colony's survival is now in question and help from Earth is imminent. But, there are those who fear that aid from the mother world may be more hindrance than help. As the second generation of colonists prepare to face the prospect of another battle with Earth's forces, a larger question looms - can humanity settle a new planet without repeating the problems of the world it left behind? Pb \$19.95 485pp

CHARLES STROSS

 **THE HIDDEN FAMILY**

The Merchant Princes #2. Miriam, a hip, tech journalist from Boston, has discovered her alternate world relatives and with them an elite identity she didn't know was hers. Now, in order to avoid a slippery slope down to an unmarked grave, Miriam, known as Lady Helge to the Family, starts applying modern business practices and scientific knowledge to a trade dominated by mercantilists, with unexpected consequences for three different timelines, including the quasi-Victorian one exploited by the hidden family. Pb \$18.95 327pp

SHANNA SWENDON

 **ONCE UPON STILETTOS**

Enchanted, Inc. #2. Katie Chandler's life is pure magic, literally. As an executive assistant at Magic, Spells and Illusions, Inc., she's seen more than her share of fantastical occurrences. A mere Manhattan mortal, Katie is no wizard, but she's a wiz at exposing 'hokum' pocus, cloaked lies and deceptive enchantments. And she's fallen under the all-too-human spell of attraction to Owen, a hunky wizard and co-worker. Owen, however, is preoccupied. Someone has broken into his office and disrupted top-secret files and it reeks of an inside job. CEO Merlin (yes, *the* Merlin) taps Katie and her special ability to uncover the magical mole. Keeping her feelings in check, while sleuthing alongside Owen, Katie is shocked to discover that her immunity to magic is waning, putting her in grave danger. Katie must conjure up her natural instincts to get to the bottom of the break-in, regain her power and win the wizard of her dreams. Tp \$29.95 303pp

TRAVIS S TAYLOR

 **WARP SPEED**

Dr Neal Anson Clemons and his team have achieved a breakthrough, both in building a warp drive and finding a new energy source powerful enough to make the drive more than an interesting theoretical concept. With the help of Air Force Major and astronaut, Tabitha Ames, the US Government has funded the project, including assembly in orbit of the first faster-than-light probe. Unfortunately, forces working behind the scenes have much darker dreams and they do not hesitate to blow up a space shuttle, attempt to kill Neal and Tabitha and use the stolen warp technology to start what they expect to be a short victorious war with the United States. Pb \$18.95 374pp

ELDON THOMPSON

 **THE CRIMSON SWORD**

Legend of Asahiel #1. The Age of Man has begun. The 'undesirable' creatures of legend have been driven from their lands, magic has been forsaken, the old gods reduced to myth. Now humans will rule the kingdoms of Pentania. But they are not alone. Alson's king has been assassinated, its capital besieged by a malevolent wizard. The chaos and terror now sweeping the land have come to the village of Diln, sending young Jarom far from his home to seek aid against the nefarious usurper. But a mysterious council has decreed Jarom must find one of the mythical Swords of Asahiel, the divine talismans the elven avatars used to forge the earth, in order to save a quarrelsome, fledgling humanity. For a Demon Queen has awakened from the abyss and humankind is about to discover its powerlessness in the face of the ancient terrors of the world. Pb \$18.95 712pp

ANNE URSU

 **THE SHADOW THIEVES**

Cronus Chronicles #1. See that girl, the one with the bright red hair, overstuffed backpack and aura of grumpiness? That's Charlotte Mielswetzski. And something extraordinary is about to happen to her. Oh, it's not the very cute kitten that appears out of nowhere and demands to go home with her. It's not the sudden arrival of her cousin Zee, who believes he's the cause of a mysterious sickness that has struck his friends back in England. And it's not the white-faced, yellow-eyed men in tuxedos, who follow Charlotte everywhere. What's so extraordinary is not any one of these things... It's *all* of them. And when Charlotte's friends start to get sick one by one, Charlotte and Zee set out to find a cure. Their quest leads them to a not-so-mythical Underworld, where they face rhyme-loving Harpies, gods with personnel problems and ghosts with a thirst for blood. Hb \$24.95 424pp

ELIZABETH VAUGHAN

 **WARSWORN**

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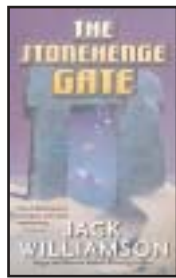
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Women of the Otherworld #3. Ever since she discovered she's pregnant, Elena Michaels has been on edge. After all, she's never heard of another living female werewolf, let alone one who's given birth. But thankfully, her expertise is needed to retrieve a stolen letter allegedly written by Jack the Ripper. As a distraction, the job seems simple enough - only the letter contains a portal to Victorian London's underworld, which Elena inadvertently triggers, unleashing a vicious killer and a pair of zombie thugs. Now Elena must find a way to seal the portal before the unwelcome visitors get what they're looking for, which, for some unknown reason, is Elena. Pb \$16.95 444pp

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Fiends of the Eastern Front #2. 1942: winter has halted the Nazi invasion of Russia, but the city of Leningrad is still besieged by German troops. Russian soldiers and civilians are starving to death, but refuse to surrender. Now the Nazis are unleashing a terrifying new weapon against the city - a cadre of vampire warriors, hungry for blood. Pb \$15.95 255pp

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Dresden Files #7. Harry Dresden must save Chicago from black magic and necromancy, all in a day's work for the city's only professional wizard. Pb \$18.95 435pp

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Dresden Files #8. Harry, the only wizard in the Chicago phone book, is drafted to look into rumours of black magic in the Windy City. And if that wasn't enough, he must help the daughter of an old friend, whose boyfriend was the only one in a room where an old man was attacked. He insists he didn't do it. And what looks like a supernatural assault straight out of a horror film turns out to be-well, something quite close to that, as Harry discovers that malevolent entities that feed on fear are loose in Chicago. Hb \$49.95 406pp



What We've Been Reading

Agents of Light and Darkness (John Taylor #2) by Simon R Green (Pb \$16.95). I don't know what it says about my preferences when it comes to male protagonists (normally a little short, a knack for getting into trouble and a smart mouth), but I can see the John Taylor series joining the ranks. These are light, fantastic reads. Fans of Jim Butcher's *Harry Dresden files* should check these out. - Steph

Uglies by Scott Westerfeld (Pb \$12.95). My first foray into this author. I loved it. Well fleshed out, believable characters, interesting setting. Now I just have to read the sequels. - Steph

Magic Lessons by Justine Larbalestier (Hb \$37.00). This was even better than the first book. Reason begins her training in magic with her grandmother before being sucked back into New York City once again. - Steph

Proven Guilty (Harry Dresden #8) by Jim Butcher (Hb \$49.95). I love this series. Some have been punchier stories than others, but I've still enjoyed them all. This one is really good, with the return of a supporting character from previous novels, as well as Butcher going into more depth with a few characters. I can't wait until the TV movie of **Storm Front (#1)** arrives. - Steph

The Blue Girl by Charles DeLint (Pb \$18.95). Credit must go to Steph for putting me on to this author. I really enjoyed this story and suspect it will lead me on more journeys to Newford, the amazing place where this is set. I loved the characterisation of the tough, but loyal, Imogene. There is also a nice fluidity to the dialogue, which I came to love as the story progressed. Although I think this is aimed at Young Adults, I still recommend it to anyone who enjoys an endearing story about the importance of friendship. - Sofia

Uglies (Pb \$12.95) and **Pretties (Pb \$12.95)** by Scott Westerfeld. Also on the Young Adult front, I really enjoyed **Uglies** and **Pretties** by Scott Westerfeld. I'll be picking up **Specials** as soon as it comes in, because I really want to see what the future has for Tally Youngblood, the engaging lead character. If I had a daughter in the 10-20 age group growing up in today's world of *Big Brother* and Paris Hilton, I'd make her read it, because these books explore the seriously ugly side of vanity and self-absorption. - Sofia

Old Man's War (Tp \$24.95) by John Scalzi is a Heinlein-esque, military SF novel with enough new and intelligent takes on genre clichés to make for fun, light reading.

Our hero, John Perry, joins celebrates his 75th birthday by joining the army, or more specifically the Colonial Defence Force. Given a new, younger and enhanced body, he is catapulted into a universe where a multitude of sentient races compete violently for the habitable territory. He soon comes to question the wisdom of it all and what it really means to be human.

With lots of action, very little science slowing down the pace, good character development and cool tech, it's easy to see why Scalzi has managed to garner a Hugo nomination for his very first novel. - Jo



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