



nexus

July 2005

Issue #206

NEIL GAIMAN

author of
the award-winning
Sandman series
and *World Fantasy Award* winner
American Gods
in-store
WED 20 JULY @ 12:30PM

ROBIN HOBB

author of
The Farseer, Tawny Man
and *Liveships trilogies*
and the new
Soldier's Son trilogy
in-store
THU 21 JULY @ 6PM

NEW FROM NEIL GAIMAN
AND DAVE MCKEAN

MIRRORMASK:



THE ILLUSTRATED FILM SCRIPT OF THE
MOTION PICTURE

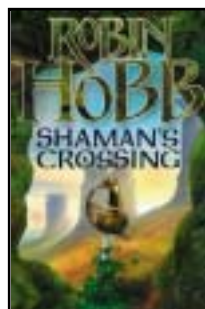
From the imagination and lucid
visions of Neil Gaiman and
acclaimed artist Dave McKean - and
the innovative minds at The Jim
Henson Company - comes
MirrorMask, a breathtaking journey
through a strange and magical
looking-glass world where anything
can happen ... and frequently does.

Containing the full screenplay and more than 1,700 illustrated
storyboards of the major motion picture - as well as movie stills,
comments, appreciations and memories from the authors and
filmmakers. Hb \$69.95 331pp (Check out the trailer at
<http://www.sonypictures.com/movies/mirrormask/>. It literally looks as
if Dave McKean's artwork has stepped off the page. Wow! - Jo)

COMING SOON FROM NEIL GAIMAN...
ANANSI BOYS

'My new novel is a scary, funny sort of story which isn't exactly
a thriller and isn't really horror and doesn't quite qualify as a
ghost story (although it has at least one ghost in it), or a
romantic comedy (although there certainly are several romances
in there, and it's certainly a comedy except for the scary bits). If
you have to classify it, it's probably a magical-horror-thriller-
ghost-romantic-comedy-family-epic' - Neil Gaiman (Due Oct,
Tp \$32.95)

NEW FROM ROBIN HOBB...
SHAMAN'S CROSSING



Soldier's Son #1. Nevare Burvelle is the
second son of a second son, destined from
birth to carry a sword. The young noble
will follow his father - newly made a lord
by the King of Gernia - into the cavalry,
training in the military arts at the elite
King's Cavella Academy in the capital city
of Old Thares. Bright, well-educated and
an excellent horseman, Nevare's future
appears golden. But as his Academy
instruction progresses, Nevare discovers

that the road before him is far from straight. The old aristocracy
looks down on him as the son of a 'new noble' and he finds
himself entangled in a web of injustice, discrimination and foul
play. In addition, he is disquieted by his unconventional girl-
cousin Epiny - who challenges his world view - and by the
bizarre dreams that haunt his nights. Then Dark Evening brings
the carnival to Old Thares, and with it an unknown magic, and
the first Specks Nevare has ever seen... Hb \$49.95 Tp \$29.95
533pp (This is quintessential fantasy from Robin Hobb. Highly
recommended - Jo)

KAREN MILLER

will be in-store for the launch of her
debut novel

THE INNOCENT MAGE

Thurs 25 Aug @ 6pm

Check out Mark's fave rave in the August Nexus...

A CONVENTION OF FANTASTIC WORLDS

Ellen Datlow
Sir Arthur C. Clarke
Kate Forsyth
Sara Douglass
Jackie French & more

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CONFLUX 3

9-12 June 2006 Canberra
www.conflux.org.au



SCIENCE FICTION AND FANTASY



KEVIN J ANDERSON

 **HORIZON STORMS**

The Saga of the Seven Suns #3. By deploying the Klikiss Torch to ignite a gas giant, humans earned the enmity of the alien hydrogues. Taking swift revenge, the hydrogues attacked not only the Hansa, but the other humans, the independent Roamers and Therons, as well. Even the Ildirans, mankind's alien allies, were helpless to resist. Then another alien race appears. Now caught in the middle of a titanic struggle between the two alien superpowers, the three factions of humanity and the Ildirans are desperate to survive. Can they band together to fight a common threat? Or will their differences lead to civil wars? Pb \$16.95 640pp

FIONA AVERY

 **THE CROWN ROSE**

The Crown Rose tells the story of Isabelle of France, born heir to the throne: her life from childhood to her later years; a life of turmoil and strife and longing... A man enters Isabelle's life at several key moments, becoming her icon, her soul's other half and her destiny... a man, who may, in fact, be much more than an ordinary man. His bloodline goes back to the Holy Land, and he is far, far older than he appears. Hb \$54.00 454pp

ASHOK K BANKER

 **ARMIES OF HANUMAN**

The Ramayana #4. For 13 long years, Rama and his companions in exile have defended themselves against the brutal incursions of the rakshasas of the wilderness. Finally, in the bitter battle of Janasthana, he achieves the long-sought victory and retires to the sun-dappled glades of Panchvati to wait out the last months of his exile. But unknown to Rama, the demoness Supanakha has survived and escaped - back to the hellish island-kingdom of Lanka. There, she provides the key to resurrect her stricken cousin Ravana, lord of the rakshasas. And the resurrected Ravana seeks only one thing - vengeance against Rama... Pb \$22.95 420pp

JOHN BIRMINGHAM

  **WEAPONS OF CHOICE**

Axis of Time #1. A military experiment in the year 2021 has thrust an American-led multinational armada back to 1942, right into the middle of the US naval task force speeding toward Midway Atoll - and what was to be the most spectacular US triumph of the entire war. Initial jubilation at news the Allies would win the war is quickly doused by the chilling realisation that the time travellers themselves - by their very presence - have rendered history null and void. Celebration turns to dread when the possibility arises that other elements of the 21st century task force may have also made the trip - and might be aiding the Japanese. Pb \$18.95 483pp

RAY BRADBURY

STORIES:

100 OF HIS MOST CELEBRATED

  **TALES**

The stories within these pages were chosen by Bradbury himself and span a career that blossomed in the pulp magazines of the early 1940s and continues to flourish in the new millennium. Tp \$39.95 893pp

JOHN BROSNAN

 **MOTHERSHIP**

Shrewd, devious, cunning and a born liar - as a Court Jester, Jad's a disaster. So when he's sent off with the warlord's son, Prince Kender, on a spying mission, he's hoping that his less desirable traits will actually save his life. No one has seen any of the Elite, the ruthless technocrat class that have ruled Urba for centuries. What most of the inhabitants don't realise is that their world of Urba is actually a giant spacecraft built more than a 1000 years ago to save as much of the Earth's population as possible before the sun went nova. Now Jad and his Prince are about to find out what happened to the Elite - and what's happening to the people of Urba... Pb \$18.95 312pp

CHRIS BUNCH

 **THE LAST BATTLE**

Dragonmaster #3. The Great War against the Roche is over, but the world is grey, battered and the promise of peace never quite materialises for Hal Kailas. As predicted, with the end of the war not only dragon fliers, but dragons themselves have been cast aside. However, an old concern re-emerges... what or who is savaging the dragons in their native lands? Enlisting trusted comrades, Hal embarks on a new crusade and discovers a threat, not just to the dragons but to man himself. Pb \$19.95 326pp

LOIS MCMASTER BUJOLD

 **THE HALLOWED HUNT**

Chalion #3. Prince Boleso is dead - slain by a noblewoman he had intended to defile. Lord Ingrey kin Wolfcliff has been dispatched to the remote castle of the late, exiled, half-mad royal to transport the body to its burial place and the accused killer, the Lady Ijada, to judgment. But there is more here than a prince's degenerate lusts and the fatal retribution it engendered. Boleso's dark act, though unfinished, inadvertently bestowed an unwanted mystical 'gift' upon proud, brave Ijada that must ultimately mean her doom - a curse similar to one with which Ingrey himself has been burdened since boyhood. At once psychically linked to the remarkable lady and repelled by what she carries within, Ingrey fights a powerful growing attraction... and an equally powerful compulsion to kill. Hb \$54.00 470pp

BARBARA CAMPBELL

 **HEARTWOOD**

Year after year, season after season, for as long as Darak's people could remember the battle of the Oak and the Holly had taken place, bringing an end to Winter and the rebirth of Spring. But this year, the battle went wrong as Darak's brother became possessed by the spirit of the Holly. To free him, Darak must undertake a quest to restore the balance of nature. Pb \$16.95 422pp

ANN COBURN

 **GLINT**

11-year-old Danny has gone missing. Is he dead - or has someone taken him? His older sister, Ellie, is determined to do whatever it takes to help find him... In a separate world, a world of witches and were-creatures, another girl - Argent - sets out on a perilous adventure when a thief snatches a baby dragon just after its hatching... If Ellie is to find her brother, she must be like Argent - behave like the other girl would. Follow Argent's way - a spiral way, outside the edges of reality. And just as Argent gets help from the mysterious Lukos, could another outsider - living on the fringes of society - help Ellie in her hunt for her brother? Pb \$16.95 388pp



SCIENCE FICTION



FANTASY



ROMANCE



AWARD WINNER



AUSTRALIAN



ACTION



REPRINT

AC AUDIO CASSETTE

Cd COMPACT DISC

Pb PAPERBACK

Hb HARDBACK

Tp TRADE PAPERBACK

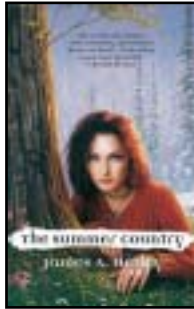
Fave Raves

our favourites - new & classic

NEW TITLE

SUMMER COUNTRY

James Hetley
Pb \$16.95 368pp



I have to say I don't remember why I picked this particular book up, I'm not a huge fan of King Arthur retellings. Pick it up I did and love it I did.

Maureen is in her early thirties and not the cheeriest of people. She has a university degree in environmental studies (or something similar), but works as a salesperson in a 24-hour convenience store - a job she knows has little future. She drinks too much, hears voices in her head, has a sixth sense that kicks in whenever she's out walking in the forest, has a problem with intimacy due to a horrible incident when she was in her teens, has a temper to go with her flaming red hair and lives with her older sister Jo, one of those popular, beautiful people with an active sex life to boot. Most people (including Jo) think Maureen is a sandwich short of a picnic hamper. One evening at work she is lured out of the store mid-shift by a very handsome male. Outside she is attacked, so Maureen draws the gun she carries (no surprise) and is saved by another man, with whom she flees the scene. Her saviour, Brian Pendragon, (from *the Pendragons*) explains that Maureen has some of the 'old blood' in her, and that she is in danger. This blood magic has great power in the Summer Country, a world of beauty, myth and magic parallel to our own. Someone there essentially wants Maureen as a breeder, another sees her as a threat and just wants her dead. Maureen knows she's a little bit crazy, but she thinks Brian is the whole enchilada, until there are several attempts to abduct/kill her. She and Brian cross over to the Summer Country and Jo and her fiancé are accidentally sucked in with them. The four are separated (as happens in these stories) and each must face their own challenges and worst fears.

This may sound like many other fantasy novels written in the last 15 years, and I guess the plot is a familiar one. What grabbed me was the great characters and the tension of the story - I would hit the end of one chapter and just have to go on to find out what happened. Maureen isn't the easiest of characters to love. Being raped has left her scarred and, at times, a barely functioning person. She has strength that she doesn't know she possesses and she just grew on me. The romance between herself and Brian was predictable, but still sweet. The story starts out about Maureen, but ends up almost as much about Jo and her fiancé as each character gains some insight into themselves and each other as they battle to stay alive. I thought this was a wonderful book and the sequel is on my 'to-be-read' pile. - Stephanie

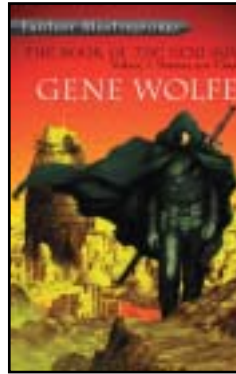
CLASSIC TITLE

THE BOOK OF THE NEW SUN

VOLUME ONE: SHADOW & CLAW

Gene Wolfe

Pb \$19.95 597pp




This book contains the first two parts in the four-book series, *The Book of the New Sun*. Anyone familiar with Gene Wolfe's work knows what to expect - complex and troubled characters, no guarantees of happy endings for anyone and many images and events that stick in the mind long after the book has been put down.

Set a million years in the future, the story follows Severian, who is a torturer, born to the torturers guild. He has no reason to think that his life will be anything more than normal, but he makes the mistake of falling in love with one of his 'clients', a beautiful young noblewoman. Her excruciations are delayed for some months and in that time Severian not only grows close to her, but also provides her with the means to commit suicide and therefore escape her fate. As punishment he is exiled from the immense and decaying metropolis of Nessus, where he has lived all his life, to the distant city of Thrax. Despite his crime, his superiors seem oddly understanding, as up until now Severian has seemed destined for a successful career. He is presented with Terminus Est, a fabled sword. With this weapon, Severian sets out on a journey, both physical and mental, struggling to regain his sense of self-worth and to survive away from the guild that has looked after him his whole life.


Severian has much to learn. His cloistered life among the guild members has not prepared him for the difficulties of life in Nessus. His friendship with the doomed girl has automatically gained him some friends among the upper classes, but just as automatically he has also made enemies - enemies who are in pursuit of him for the strange gem, the Conciliator's Claw, which has fallen into his hands. He takes up with a band of strange actors led by Dr Talos. But the doctor and his odd, giant assistant, Baldanders, though helpful to Severian, may not be what they seem...

Wolfe slowly builds a convincing and intricate picture of the distant future, not unlike Mervyn Peake's *Gormenghast Trilogy*. For the patient reader, there is a great deal of rewarding material here. *The Book of the New Sun* won the *World Fantasy Award* and the *Nebula Award*. It isn't exactly a light read, but it is well worth your while and one of my all-time favourites. - Nic


GLEN COOK

 **WHISPERING NICKEL IDOLS**
Garrett #11. In TunFaire, a city of gorgeous women, powerful sorcerers and dangerous magic, the beautiful, criminally insane daughter of a comatose crime boss has some lascivious designs on private investigator Garrett - who now has to figure out why everyone is suddenly after him. Pb \$16.95 359pp

JENNIFER COOK

 **PERSEPHONE: SECRETS OF A TEENAGE GODDESS**
In this retelling of an ancient Greek myth, the author weaves a tale of a young girl's struggle to outgrow the limitations placed upon her by her elders. Held up to others as the embodiment of all that is pure and innocent, she finds herself craving the darkness. But she learns that the shadows feed on her light and she must find her own path or lose herself forever. Pb \$17.95 206pp

ROBERT CREED

 **MEL AND FIENDS**
Mel Romans lives for comics, and *Gargoyle: Champion of the Universe* is his biggest obsession. So when the comic's creator, Ambrose Alexander, is locked away for believing his characters have come to life and escaped, Mel has a hunch he's not as crazy as everyone says... Pb \$14.95 141pp

MARIANNE CURLEY



THE KEY

Guardians of Time #3. The Order of Chaos begins its final and devastating assault on the Named in a desperate bid to annihilate them and gain absolute control of all the realms. The Named are in trouble. Not only must they find the precious lost key to unlock their ancient treasury of weapons, but there is a traitor in their midst. Suspicion is making them weaker, as the prophecy predicted and they desperately need new hope. Pb \$15.95 412pp

LEAH R CUTTER



THE JAGUAR AND THE WOLF

When a Viking ship misses North America and drifts ashore in an ancient Mayan city, two cultures collide. The warrior Tyrthbrand and the high priestess Lady Two Bird must form an unlikely alliance to fight for their lives. And as the clouds of war cover the earth, the Viking and Mayan gods are thrown into an ethereal conflict that could threaten the foundations of both Heavens and the Underworld. Pb \$16.95 309pp

JULIE E CZERNEDA



SURVIVAL

Species Imperative #1. Dr Mackenzie 'Mac' Connor, a biologist, is sought out by an alien archaeologist because biology is a discipline strictly forbidden among his own people - and he hopes she might help him discover what had created the Chasm, a region of space that is literally dead, all of its worlds empty of any life-forms. Initially unwilling to abandon her own work, a devastating attack results in a co-worker's abduction, forcing Mac to flee for her life. Cut off from everything and everyone she knew, Mac finds herself charged with the responsibility of learning everything she could that might possibly aid Earth in protecting the human race from extinction... Pb \$16.95 483pp



MIGRATION

Species Imperative #2. Returning to her research facility on Earth in time for spring migration, Mac believes she is now free to pick up her life again, but the enemy is on the move, destroying planet after planet and, summoned to a gathering of the Inter Species Union, Mac becomes part of the desperate search to stop the enemy no matter what the cost. But the only help Mac can find may bring destruction as easily as salvation. Hb \$54.00 453pp

PETER DAVID



TONG LASHING

Sir Apropos of Nothing #3. Apropos winds up a stranger in a strange land called Chinpan, populated by those who speak a different language and live by a code of honour, neither of which Apropos can comprehend. And yet it is here that he begins to examine his life and question whether he can aspire to become more than the hard-bitten cynic he's always been. But events conspire to pull Apropos in unexpected and dangerous directions. What does the mysterious criminal organisation known as the Forked Tong want with him? And how do their plans tie in or conflict with the criminal Skang Kei family and their enigmatic leader, Skang Kei Ho? Pb \$18.95 424pp

KATHRYN DEANS



SHIMMER: THE BEGINNING OF A TROLL'S TALE

Grieve is a troll with a seriously big problem. The Shimmer, a fragment of the Creation Stone - that's jumbo-sized magic with a side order of scary - has been stolen and all the evidence points to him being the thief. Grieve knows there's only one set of creatures evil enough to use it - the fairies. He also knows he's going to need specialist help in getting it back. Colin is just an average boy, leading a pretty normal life, until a troll appears in his bedroom with a very odd request. The luckless adventurers set out on a desperate mission to rescue the Shimmer and save the worlds - all four of them - from a fate worse than ... Well, there is no fate worse than what lies in store for them if they don't succeed! Pb \$14.95 292pp

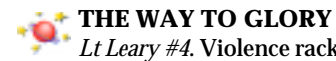
SARA DOUGLAS



DARKWITCH RISING

The Troy Game #3. It is the 17th century and Restoration London becomes the field of the most desperate battle yet. Asterion has constructed in a back alleyway a nightmarish lair which rises from the rear wall of the bone house of St Dunstan's-in-the-East. It is here that he manages the ultimate trickery in order to obtain the kingship bands, the Game and Cornelia-reborn, Noah Banks; nothing, in this life, shall stop him. Except Ariadne. The ancient Darkwitch has risen from the dead and she brings with her a terrible secret that will not merely tear both the Game and land apart, but devastate any chance for Noah and her lover, Brutus, to be together. Hb \$45.00 674pp

DAVID DRAKE



THE WAY TO GLORY

Lt Leary #4. Violence racks Cinnabar. The fleets of the tyrannical Alliance are on the move, and at home class riots threaten to rip apart not only society but the Republic of Cinnabar Navy. Leary and Mundy battle their way from riot-torn streets to spies in an outlying base and an anarchic planet where violence is the only law, but if they succeed at every stage, one test still remains - a space battle against an overwhelming Alliance force. Hb \$54.00 402pp

GEORGE ALEC EFFINGER



LIVE! FROM PLANET EARTH

Originally intended to be a collaboration with the author, this collection of the most memorable short stories of the late George Alec Effinger is a tribute from those who best knew his work - his friends, fellow writers and editors. In addition to handpicking their favourite pieces, Michael Bishop, Neil Gaiman, Barbara Hambly, Mike Resnick, Howard Waldrop and others have contributed a personal introduction or afterword to accompany each selection that reveals their deep respect for and insights into the author. Hb \$56.00 360pp

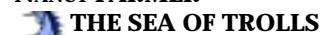
ANDREAS ESCHBACH



THE CARPET MAKERS

Since the time of pre-history, carpetmakers tie intricate knots to form carpets for the court of the Emperor. These carpets are made from the hairs of wives and daughters; they are so detailed and fragile that each carpetmaker finishes only one single carpet in his entire lifetime. This art descends from father to son, since the beginning of time itself. But one day the empire of the God Emperor vanishes and strangers begin to arrive from the stars to follow the trace of the hair carpets. What these strangers discover is beyond all belief, more than anything they could have ever imagined... Hb \$54.00 300pp

NANCY FARMER



THE SEA OF TROLLS

Jack is an apprentice bard and just beginning to learn the secrets of his mysterious master, when he and his little sister are captured by Viking chief, Olaf One-Brow and taken to the court of Ivar the Boneless. Ivar is married to a half-troll named Frith, an evil and unpredictable queen with a strange power over her husband's court. Jack is sent on to the kingdom of the trolls, where he has to find the magical well and undo the charm he has cast on Frith. He is accompanied by Thorgill, a shield maiden who wants to be a berserker when she grows up. Together, they are set for a magical and exciting adventure. Pb \$16.95 459pp

WIN...
A POSTER SIGNED BY ANNE BISHOP
See back page for entry details.

ORDER ONLINE...

www.galaxybooks.com.au

JASPER FFORDE

 **SOMETHING ROTTEN**

Thursday Next #3. Thursday Next, Head of JurisFiction and ex-SpecOps agent, returns to her native Swindon accompanied by a child of two, a pair of dodos and Hamlet, who is on a fact-finding mission in the real world. Thursday has been despatched to capture escaped Fictioneer Yorrick Kaine but even so, now seems as good a time as any to retrieve her husband Landen from his state of eradication at the hands of the Chronoguard. With help from Hamlet, her uncle and time-travelling father, Thursday faces the toughest adventure of her career. Pb \$21.95 393pp

CHARLES COLEMAN FINLAY

 **THE PRODIGAL TROLL**

When Lord Gruethrist's castle is laid under siege, he sends a trusted knight and nursemaid off with his infant son. Their escape takes unexpected turns until the baby is finally adopted by a mother troll grieving for her own lost child. Christened Maggot by a hostile stepfather, the human boy grows up amid the crude, but democratic trolls until he leaves the band to rediscover the world of humankind. But the world of man is a complex and capricious place. Maggot must master its strange ways if he is to survive... let alone win the heart and hand of the Lady Portia. Tp \$32.95 374pp

JOHN FLANAGAN

 **THE BURNING BRIDGE**

The Ranger's Apprentice #2. As the Kingdom of Araluen prepares for war against Morgarath, Will and Horace accompany Gilan on a mission to Celtica, but Celtica's villages and mines are silent. It is only when the three find an exhausted and starving girl called Evanlyn that they learn why: Morgarath has sent his foul creatures to enslave the Celts. As Gilan rides swiftly back to Araluen to report this news to the King, Will and Horace discover the true purpose behind Morgarath's actions. Pb \$14.95 263pp

KATE FORSYTH

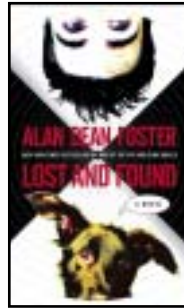
  **THE SHINING CITY**

Rhiannon's Ride #2. Imprisoned in Sorrowgate Tower, Rhiannon awaits her trial for murder and treason, while the winged horse Blackthorn flies forlornly over the Shining City. Alone and in terrible fear for the future, Rhiannon is haunted by the malevolent ghost of a dead queen who has a hunger to live again. Preoccupied with the upcoming wedding of the royal cousins, Donnacan and Bronwen, Isabeau the Keybearer fails to investigate Rhiannon's tale of necromancy and ghosts, to her cost. By the time she realises that dark spirits have indeed been disturbed, it is too late and the royal family is brought face to face with She Who Cuts The Thread. Tp \$32.95 659pp

ALAN DEAN FOSTER

 **LOST AND FOUND**

Taken #1. Not so long ago Marcus Walker was just another young commodities trader in Chicago, but that's all in the past, part of a life half forgotten - a reality that vanished when he was attacked while camping and tossed



aboard a starship bound for deep space. Even if he weren't constantly watched by his captors, Walker has few options. After all, there is no escape from a speeding starship. Another man might resign himself to the inevitable and hope to be sold to a kindly owner, but not Walker. This former college football star has plenty of American ingenuity and no intention of admitting defeat, now or ever. In fact, he's only just begun to fight. Pb \$16.95 240pp

CHRISTOPHER GOLDEN

& THOMAS E SNIEGOSKI

 **TEARS OF THE FURIES**

Menagerie #2. Meet the Menagerie - as hedge-podge a mix of other-worldly beings as anyone can imagine, but a sorcerer, a scientist, a 16-year-old demon and the others all have one thing in common - a hunger for justice - no matter what the cost. Pb \$18.95 375pp

SIMON R GREEN

 **DEATHSTALKER RETURN**

Deathstalker #7. Lewis Deathstalker is on the run with an evil Empire snapping at his heels. He and his companions, diva Jesamine Flowers, conman Brett Random, psychopath Rose Constantine and a reptiloid called Saturday, travel from world to world, searching for help and answers to the mysteries of the past. Finally, they come to the Madness Maze, which will lead Lewis to his most important task... The return of Owen Deathstalker. Pb \$18.95 476pp

 **DEATHSTALKER CODA**

Deathstalker #8. 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 Terror. To do that, he must travel back in time, visiting the Empire at different levels of its development, searching for the truth behind Hazel's transformation - before the Terror really does destroy everything... Tp \$29.95 364pp

THOMAS HARLAN

 **HOUSE OF REEDS**

Mexica #2. Xenoarcheologist Gretchen Anderssen had hoped to enjoy her well-earned vacation, but when she checks in for her transport, she finds new orders for her team. It looks like only a small diversion - a quick trip to the Planet Jagen, to investigate reports of a possible First Sun artefact, but soon Gretchen and her team find themselves in very dangerous territory. Unbeknownst to anyone at the Company, the Imperial Mexican Priesthood has decided to wage a war on Jagan - a 'flowery war', planned and fomented for the purpose of blooding the Emperor's youngest son. Gretchen and her team are headed right into the middle of the battle. Pb \$18.95 531pp

MICHELE HAUF

  **GOSSAMYR**

Disenchantment threatens those who enter the mortal realm... The Red Lady plots to destroy faeries who linger in the mortal world, by draining their essence. Only those without glamour can withstand the succubus's wicked enticements, so now Gossamyr de Wintershinn, half faery, half mortal, vows to use her wits, fighting ability and a hint of glamour to face the Red Lady in her Paris lair. But this is Gossamyr's first trip to the war-ravaged mortal realm and it seduces with its own enchantments. She also has to deal with her new travelling companion - a soul shepherd with more than one secret. Tp \$29.95 411pp

TRACY & LAURA HICKMAN

 **MYSTIC QUEST**

The Bronze Canticles #2. 23 years have passed since Galen Arvad first exposed the deep magic - a power that spans three separate worlds. Now, that magic brings tragedy and darkness to the lives of all who wield it. Galen and his clans suffer an endless war in the realm of the dragonkings, a gruesome kingdom of the undead rises in the faery domain and in the realm of the reanimated rusting titans, a tyrant goblin's lust for conquest goes unchecked. A new generation of heroes sets out on separate, life-changing journeys and each will find their redemption may be beyond the power of magic. Hb \$54.00 453pp

JAMES P HOGAN

 **MISSION TO MINERVA**

When Dr Victor Hunt receives a phone call, the face in the phone's video screen is an older version of himself, calling from a parallel world. It's the first step in bridging the gap between parallel universes. Unfortunately, it also means that the enemies who had been decisively defeated in one universe might still be alive and dangerous in another and could arrive in force at any time. And that possibility soon becomes a frightening reality... Hb \$56.00 408pp

JANE JOHNSON

THE SECRET COUNTRY

When Ben goes to the local pet shop to buy a Mongolian fighting fish, a small cat hooks his claws into Ben's jumper and gets to be bought and saved from Mr Dodds, the pet shop's cruel owner. The cat, Iggy, has an amazing story to tell. He comes from a place called Eidolon, or the Secret Country, which exists as a shadow-world to our own. It is a world filled with mythical creatures like dragons, selkies, sprites and centaurs that Mr Dodds has been importing, but the stolen animals are all dying. Ben and Iggy must travel between the worlds to help the creatures return home. On their journey, Ben will make loyal friends, encounter great danger and discover his own royal lineage in the mysterious Secret Country... Pb \$19.95 247pp

GWYNETH JONES

DIVINE ENDURANCE

The Cat - intelligent, elegant and heartless - and her loving companion Cho, go in search of the race who had left them alone. Cho believes she would be able to put an end to the world's problems. Divine Endurance had promised her that and it is true - Cho has the power to grant every wish of the human heart. In the Peninsula, Cho and Divine Endurance discover a land of intricate beauty, but it is also a land riddled with corruption, where a desperate struggle is in progress between the people and the indifferent power of their Rulers. Everywhere death creeps in like the tide and sometimes every wish of the human heart doesn't always work out... Pb \$18.95 305pp

LINDA WINSTEAD JONES

THE MOON WITCH

Middle Fyne sister Juliet is kidnapped by the Emperor's men - only to be rescued by a man whose animal instincts tell him he's found the only woman to call his own. Pb \$16.95 330pp

GARRY KILWORTH

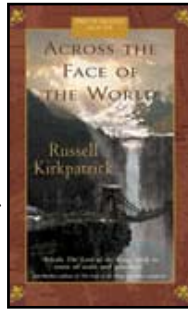
THE SILVER CLAW

Udolphus Beck, an otter, is an unraveller of mysteries. Summoned to the magnificent city of Vequince by the enigmatic Silver Claw, he must tread very carefully as he begins his investigations. For behind the beauty and splendour of the city, lurking in the shadows, a small group is hatching a fiendishly clever plot to overthrow the ruling Council and seize power for themselves. And as the colourful Carnival explodes onto the streets and canals of the city, with masked creatures everywhere, Udolphus discovers that the conspirators are not afraid to get blood on their paws. Pb \$17.95 279pp

RUSSELL KIRKPATRICK

ACROSS THE FACE OF THE WORLD

Fire of Heaven #1. From a tiny snowbound village, five men and women begin a dangerous quest to challenge darkness, fulfil a prophecy and change the course of their world's history. For 2000 years, Kannwar, the



Immortal Destroyer, Lord of Bhrudwo, has been planning revenge on the Most High. Mahnum has escaped the Destroyer's prison, but on his way home to Loulea, he and his wife are captured. His sons, Leith and Hal, set off in pursuit with a small group of villagers to free their parents and to warn their world of the coming war, but not all of the Company agree that so few can make a difference, or think that anyone will listen to them. Pb \$19.95 616pp

ELIZABETH KNOX

DREAMHUNTER

In 1906, in a world very similar to ours, there are a select group of people called the Dreamhunters. These people harvest dreams which are then transmitted to the general public for the purposes of entertainment, therapy - or terror and political coercion. 15-year-old cousins Laura Hame and Rose Tiebold both come from famous dreamhunting families, but only Laura proves to be blessed with the gift and soon discovers what happened to her missing dreamhunter father and that the government has used dreams to control an ever-growing population of convicts and political dissenters. Tp \$24.95 434pp

NANCY KRESS

CRUCIBLE

Vines #2. Jake Holman, a man trying to escape a dark past, brought together a diverse group of thousands to settle on a new world, but instead the humans found themselves caught in the crossfire of a galaxy-spanning war between two disparate species - aggressive, militaristic humanoids known as Furs and passive, plantlike creatures known as Vines. Into this volatile mix arrives the Crucible, a ship from Earth filled with military personnel who stand ready to help defend the colony. As they help consolidate the defences and prepare for war, the original colonists soon learn that vigilance comes with a price. Pb \$16.95 384pp



SUSAN KRINARD

TO TAME A WOLF

Her innocence destroyed, young widow Tally Bernard swore that she would never trust a man again. But when her brother disappears, she has little choice... Simeon Kavanaugh can't escape the legacy of his werewolf father. The animal instincts that keep him from being fully human also make him a brilliant tracker. The attraction between these two wounded souls is immediate, primal - and dangerous. And if Simeon has any hope of saving Tally, he must do what he has always resisted and merge both man and beast within him, but if she cannot accept what he becomes, his choice may cost Simeon the only thing worth having - Tally's love... Pb \$16.95 376pp

KEITH LAUMER

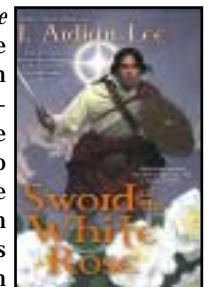
IMPERIUM

Omnibus edition containing **Worlds of the Imperium, Assignment in Nowhere** and **The Other Side of Time**. Brion Bayard was an American diplomat... until he was kidnapped and thrust into what he thought was a truck. His abductors began speaking about nations and leaders which Bayard had never heard of - because they are from Earth, but not his Earth. This is the beginning of Bayard's adventures as he defends his new homeworld, both from internal enemies and invaders from the other side of time, becoming the staunchest and most resourceful defender of the Imperium! Hb \$54.00 465pp

JARDIAN LEE

SWORD OF THE WHITE ROSE

Summons of the Sword #4. When a fairie brought his father from modern times to 18th-century Scotland, she was looking for a hero who would save the land from British tyranny. Now, with his father's death, Ciaran must choose his own path to follow - war or peace. Pb \$18.95 323pp



TANITH LEE

VENUS PRESERVED

The Secret Books of Venus #4. Centuries into the future, the sunken city of Venus has been salvaged from beneath the sea and rebuilt there under a dome, where it is supported by a vast network of computers that regulate weather, noise and the most precious undersea commodity of all - air. An unexplained catastrophe occurs, claiming several lives. Was it merely an accident, computer failure, or has the experiment unleashed an airborne virus? Or is there an even more sinister danger afoot, a force from beyond that threatens the survival of Venus itself? Tp \$32.95 316pp

ELIZABETH A LYNN

 **DRAGON'S TREASURE**

Sequel to Dragon's Winter. After his brother's death, Karadur - who has inherited his dangerous father's shape-changing gift - becomes the master of Dragon's County. Torn between the need to continue his line and a fear of his own perilous nature, Karadur has so far remained unwed and childless. But an encounter with Maia Unamira di Sorvino now leads him to make other choices... Meanwhile, her brother, Treion the Bastard, is terrorising the nearby countryside. His motive being vengeance against the one who drove his mother and sister from their home. When Treion is finally captured, it is Karadur who must decide his punishment. Pb \$19.95 407pp

WILL MCCARTHY

 **TO CRUSH THE MOON**

Conrad Mursk has returned to Sol on the crippled starship Newhope. His crew are the frozen refugees of a failed colony known as Barnard's Star. A thousand years older, Mursk finds Sol on the brink of rebellion, while a fanatic necro cult is reviving death itself. Now Mursk and his lover, Captain Xiomara "Xmary" Li Weng, are sent on a final, desperate mission by King Bruno de Towaji - one of the greatest terraformers of the ages - to literally crush the moon. If they succeed, they'll save Millions of lost souls. If they fail, they'll strand humanity between death - and something unimaginably worse... Pb \$16.95 380pp

PATRICIA A MCKILLIP

  **MOON-FLASH**

Omnibus containing **Moon-Flash** and **The Moon and the Face**. Kyreol's small world begins at the Face, a high rock cliff and ends at Fourteen Falls, a series of rapids. Each year, her people celebrate Moon-Flash - a spark of light that seems to come from and go into the moon, a symbol of life and joy. When a mysterious stranger arrives, Kyreol wants to know more about him, as well as the Moon-Flash and soon she and her childhood friend Terje leave their home to look for answers. Pb \$18.95 298pp

 **OD MAGIC**

Brenden Vetch's unique gift for connecting with the agricultural environment has brought him to the attention of the enigmatic wizard Od. Recruited as a gardener, Brenden suddenly finds himself at the wizard's school in Kelior, where every potential mage is required by law to serve the Kingdom of Numis. But unknown to the rulers of Numis, Brenden is far more than he seems - and his presence just may tip the balance of power back into the hands of the wizard community. Hb \$45.00 315pp

GREGORY MAGUIRE

 **LEAPING BEAUTY AND OTHER ANIMAL FAIRY TALES**

Zany animals of all species run through these fractured tales with alarming speed and dexterity. Who would have thought that Sleeping Beauty, that most regal of all fairy tales, could be twisted into the story of a frog with a most unusual and promising dance career? Get ready to meet a gorilla queen and a psycho chimp, seven giant giraffes and one very bad walrus. Hb \$19.95 197pp

JOHN MARCO

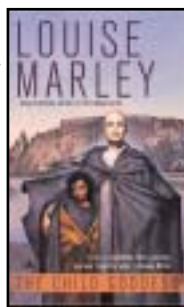
 **THE DEVIL'S ARMOUR**

Sequel to The Eyes of God. Lukien, Baron Glass and Gilwyn are all living in Grimhold, but the history of Liiria has not done with them yet. Jazana Carr, the Diamond Queen, has secured power in Norvor and is now set to unleash her mercenary army against Liiria. Convinced he can stop the woman he once jilted, the Baron steals the cursed Devil's Armour and rides to stop her, but the armour corrupts him and he falls in love with his former lover. Somehow Lukien must stop a man he once trusted, a man wearing armour that makes him invulnerable. Pb \$18.95 746pp

LOUISE MARLEY

 **THE CHILD GODDESS**

Isabel Burke has been called offworld to the barren planet of Virimund. The ExtraSolar Corporation, developing Virimund as an energy source, has encountered an 'incident' that has stopped their work. It seems there are people on Virimund after all - descendants of an emigrant ship that left Earth 300 years before. And something has changed them. There are children born on Virimund who do not age. One of these children has been captured by ExtraSolar, which hopes to discover the secret to her ageless existence. For ExtraSolar, she is a resource to be used and discarded. But for Isabel, she is an innocent who needs help and she must fight a desperate battle to protect a little girl who may hold the keys to life itself. Pb \$16.95 342pp



JOHN MOORE

  **THE UNHANDSOME PRINCE**

Caroline kissed every frog in the swamp until she found the one that turned into a prince - only Prince Hal isn't the handsome specimen she expected to find. Unless she can learn to love the princely sum of his parts, it'll be unhappily ever after. Pb \$16.95 266pp

CAISEAL MOR

 **THE WELL OF YEARNING**

Wellspring #1. Guy d'Alville had been a Knight of the Hospital before he was expelled from the prestigious military order. His fortunes had waned dramatically since then, all because of a Templar knight from Ireland named Robert FitzWilliam. So Guy decides this man will pay with his life. Then Guy unwittingly unleashes the frightening fury of the Nathairai, whom some call the Watchers and this is just the start of all the trouble that will beset the luckless Guy... Pb \$18.95 515pp

RICHARD MORGAN

 **WOKEN FURIES**

Takeshi Kovacs #3. 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 hard won gains of the Quellist revolution have been lost. 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. Tp \$29.95 436pp

LARRY NIVEN

 **RINGWORLD'S CHILDREN**

A Ringworld novel. The Ringworld is dying and this time even Louis Wu - captive of the hyper-intelligent alien Tunsmith - may be unable to save it. Even if Louis can escape he will then have to survive in a galaxy ravaged by interstellar war and deadly political intrigue. For the Ringworld is no longer a secret and entire civilisations now battle to control its power. The victorious race that conquers the Ringworld will conquer the galaxy... and no one will be able to stop them, but Louis Wu is going to try. Pb \$19.95 355pp

K J PARKER

 **DEVICES AND DESIRES**

The Engineer Trilogy #1. When an engineer is sentenced to death for a petty transgression of guild law, he flees the city, leaving behind his wife and daughter. Forced into exile, he seeks a terrible vengeance - one that will leave a trail of death and destruction in its wake, but he will not be able to achieve this by himself. He must draw up his plans using the blood of others... Tp \$32.95 548pp

TERRY PRATCHETT

 **ONCE MORE WITH FOOTNOTES**

Poems, articles and stories on or by the author of the bestselling Discworld series. Hb \$59.95 280pp

TERRY PRATCHETT, IAN STEWART & JACK COHEN

 **DARWIN'S WATCH**

The Science of Discworld #3. Roundworld is in trouble again, and this time it looks fatal. Having created it in the first place, the wizards of Unseen University feel vaguely responsible for its safety. They know the creatures who lived there escaped the impending Big Freeze by inventing the space elevator - they even intervened to rid the planet of a plague of elves, who attempted to divert humanity onto a different time track. But now it's all gone wrong - Victorian England has stagnated and the pace of progress would embarrass a limping snail. Unless something drastic is done, there won't be time for anyone to invent spaceflight and the human race will be turned into ice-pops. Hb \$55.00 355pp

JOHN RIDLEY

 **THOSE WHO WALK IN DARKNESS**

In a near-future world that has given way to the first genetically superior humans, a woman police officer and the genetically enhanced members of the M-Tac squad fight genetically superior people who use their new powers for illegal causes. Pb \$16.95 376pp

JAMES ROLLINS

 **SANDSTORM**

An explosion rocks the antiquities collection of a London museum - a devastating blast that sets off alarms in clandestine organisations around the world, as the race begins to determine how it happened, why it happened and what it means. Lady Kara Kensington's family paid a high price in money and blood to found the gallery that now lies in ruins. And her search for answers is about to lead Kara and her friend Safia al-Maaz, the gallery's brilliant and beautiful curator, into a world they never dreamed actually existed. For new evidence exposed by the tragedy suggests that Ubar, a lost city buried beneath the Arabian desert, is more than mere legend... and that something astonishing is waiting there. Pb \$18.95 587pp

ANYA SETON

 **GREEN DARKNESS**

Richard Marsdon marries a young American woman named Celia and brings her to live at his English estate. But Richard has become withdrawn and Celia is constantly haunted by a vague dread. When she suffers a breakdown and wavers between life and death, a wise doctor realises that only by forcing Celia to relive her past can he enable her to escape her illness. Celia travels back 400 years in time to her past life as a servant. Through her eyes, we see the England of the Tudors, torn by religious strife and experience all the pageantry, lustiness and cruelty of the age. Tp \$32.95 591pp

BRUCE STERLING

 **THE ZENITH ANGLE**

For Derek 'Van' Vandevere, pioneering computer wizard, a new cyberwarrior career begins on the fateful date of September 11, 2001. In a matter of days, Van has traded his cushy life inside the dot-com bubble for the trenches of the Washington intelligence community. America's most powerful satellite is close to becoming an orbiting billion-dollar boondoggle, unless Van can debug the glitch that's knocked it out of commission. But the problem has nothing at all to do with software... and what's really wrong with will force Van to make the leap from scientist to spy, team up with a ruthlessly resourceful ex-Special Forces commando and root out an unknown enemy... one with access to an undreamed of weapon of untold destructive power. Pb \$16.95 341pp

PAUL STEWART & CHRIS RIDDELL

 **CORBY FLOOD**

Corby Flood and her family are about to set sail on the rather ramshackle cruise ship, the *SS Euphonia*. Her boisterous brothers might not have noticed that anything is wrong, but Corby has. Onboard there is a strange group of men in bowler-hats who call themselves The Brotherhood of Clowns. There's also a melancholy wailing sound coming from the hold. It's strictly out of bounds, but Corby can't help investigating. What could be inside the crate she discovers down in the hold? As the ship arrives at its destination, Corby must enlist the help of some locals to uncover the contents of the crate and the dark secrets of the menacing Clowns... Hb \$24.95 232pp

DAVID LEE STONE

 **THE YOWDER FOUL-UP**

The Illmoor Chronicles #2. A terrible sect has arisen in Dullitch - they're dark, they're deadly and they're even more hell-bent on the destruction of the city than the citizens themselves. All that stands between total chaos and the return of the dark gods are Duke Modeset, Jereth Obegarde (a vampire on his mother's side) and Jimmy Quickstint (who is about to do the wrong favour for the wrong man). Pb \$17.95 260pp

STEPH SWAINSTON

 **THE YEAR OF OUR WAR**

Jant the Messenger #1. Jant is the Messenger, one of The Circle, a cadre of 50 immortals who serve the Emperor and the only immortal who can fly. The Emperor is seeking to protect mankind from the hordes of giant insects who have plagued the land for centuries, overwhelming towns with their beautiful nests, eating everything and everyone in their path. But he must also contend with the rivalries and petty squabbling of his chosen immortals. These are squabbles that will soon spill over into open civil war. Pb \$18.95 369pp

STEPH SWAINSTON

 **NO PRESENT**

Jant the Messenger #2. God is still on holiday, the Emperor still leads and his cadre of immortals are still quarrelling amongst themselves. It is known that the insects are reaching the Fourlands from the Shift, but now mankind just has to do something about it. And in the meantime attention shifts to new lands and a naval expedition is launched. And Jant, the Emperor's drug-addicted winged messenger is expected to join it. Just perfect for a man terrified of ships and the sea. Hb \$39.95 317pp

SHERI S TEPPER

 **THE COMPANIONS**

Humankind has arrived on Moss to discover if any intelligent native life exists there and to assess the planet for development - and profit. Multi-coloured shapes of dancing light have been spotted and strange sounds are heard in the night. The researchers send for a linguist to ascertain if it is evidence of intelligent life. Jewel Delis has accompanied her half-brother Paul to this verdant paradise. Her task is to help Paul decipher the strange language of the Mossen - but she has a secret mission too. A new law on Earth means the imminent massacre of all beasts great and small, so Jewel must discover if Moss holds the promise of sanctuary for the doomed animals - once humankind's beloved companions. Time is running out for Jewel's creatures, but it might be running out for Humanity too - the Planet Moss, itself a living entity, is not sure it cares for any of the species currently living on its surface... Pb \$18.95 452pp

ELDON THOMPSON

 **THE CRIMSON SWORD**

Legend of Asahiel #1. Torn from his home, young Jarom begins a dangerous journey to ask for aid against the implacable usurper, but soon the machinations of a mysterious council lead Jarom to a seemingly preordained quest - to find one of the mythical Swords of Asahiel, the divine talismans used by the elven avatars in the forging of the earth itself. He must do so not only to establish himself as a leader for his people, but to help save a fledgling, quarrelsome mankind. For the Demon Queen Spithaera has awakened from the Abyss and humanity is about to learn how very powerless it can be against the ancient terrors of the world. Hb \$54.00 537pp

RUPERT THOMSON

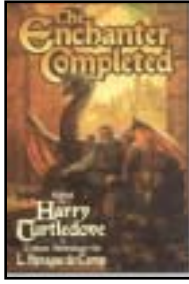
 **DIVIDED KINGDOM**

It is winter, somewhere in the United Kingdom and an eight-year-old boy is removed from his home in the middle of the night. He soon learns that he is the victim of an extraordinary political experiment. Tp \$29.95 400pp

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For seven decades, L Sprague de Camp was a giant in both science fiction and fantasy, renowned for his fast-moving action-adventure tales with a strong humorous element. Now, Hugo-winner and best-selling



author Harry Turtledove has gathered together top writers in SF and fantasy to write stories in the same humorous adventure vein. On board are Poul Anderson, Frederik Pohl, David Drake, Judith Tarr, Esther M Friesner, S M Stirling, Michael Flynn, Turtledove himself and more. Pb \$16.95 387pp

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FANTASY & SCIENCE FICTION**

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JOHN VARLEY

MAMMOTH

In a barren province of Canada, a mammoth hunter has made the discovery of a lifetime - an intact frozen woolly mammoth. But what he finds during the painstaking process of excavating the huge creature boggles the mind. Huddled next to the mammoth is the mummified body of a Stone Age man around 12,000 years old and he is wearing a wristwatch. Hb \$49.95 364pp

KAARON WARREN

**THE GRINDING
HOUSE**

This collection of stories from this Aurealis Award winning author features depictions of future worlds, stark contemporary settings and alternate realities - from science fiction to fantasy and eerie, soul-shaking horror, a few feminist themes and more. Pb \$18.95 217pp

SCOTT T WILSON

**TWO SHADES DARKER THAN
THE SKY**

The goddess Chythiis needed an instrument, a Champion, so she chose the boy Chath. Chath had lived alone on the streets of Willowshire until the day he wandered into the forest and received a Visitation, a Heritage and a Sword. He became Cheytheyn - last of the Shee - and wielding the Gravesword Haylerbane was dispatched to the past to save the fledgling world from itself. After centuries of battling horrors whose names have been forgotten and countering the evil schemes of the beast Chihled before recorded history, he faces his most terrifying challenge of all. Now, the people into whose lives he falls are those same friends from childhood and the woman he could never forget. Because now, after 1900 years, he has finally caught up with.. himself. Tp \$39.95 506pp

GLENN YEFFETH (ED)

**THE ANTHOLOGY AT THE END
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In a collection as funny and insightful as the series itself, this takes a fresh look at the greatest comic series in the history of science fiction. Tp \$32.95 199pp

LAURENCE YEP

THE TIGER'S APPRENTICE

The Tiger's Apprentice #1. Tom has always felt different from everyone else, but he has no idea how different he really is until he learns that he is the latest in a long line of magic-wielding beings called



Guardians. For centuries, a Guardian has protected a powerful talisman that can either bring peace to the world or bring about its destruction. It has been kept safe, until now. The Guardian has his own allies in the battle, including an outlaw dragon, a mischievous monkey and his new apprentice - Tom. But Tom doesn't want to be the tiger's apprentice. What can he possibly do to help this ragtag band? And can they all stop bickering long enough to unite their powers in time? Pb \$13.95 184pp

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PATRICK NIELSEN HAYDEN (EDS)

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TIMOTHY ZAHN

DRAGON AND SLAVE

Dragonback #3. 14-year-old Jack Morgan and his friend Draycos have scores to settle. Draycos must find and expose those behind a vast conspiracy against his people and Jack is desperate to thwart the men who framed him for a crime he didn't commit. They know mercenaries helped launch the ambush that destroyed Draycos's advance team, but when Jack joined up with one such group to get information on the identities of those involved, he and Draycos were nearly killed before they escaped. They also know an alien Brummga was involved. Now, the only way they can get the information they need is for Uncle Virge to "sell" Jack into slavery on a rich Brummga's estate... and hope he can crack their computer without getting caught. Hb \$39.95 300pp

SARAH ZETTEL

CAMELOT'S SHADOW

Camelot #1. At 19, Lady Rhian is clearly of marriageable age, but her father seems reluctant to give his blessing to any of her suitors. When she discovers that in return for her mother's life he has promised her to a sorcerer, she runs away. The sorcerer is determined to exact his payment and waylays Rhian on the road, but she is rescued by Sir Gawain, a knight of King Arthur's Round Table. Gawain has taken a great risk in stopping to help Rhian, but when a band of Saxons attacks them, Rhian proves that her skills include more than tapestry and gossip - and Gawain will be captivated as much by her bravery as by her beauty. Pb \$18.95 436pp

CAMELOT'S HONOUR

Camelot #2. Elen, the daughter of a Welsh chieftain, lives in the border territory with her widowed mother and her brother. Her family are keen to ally with King Arthur, but some of the other chieftains, in particular the ferocious Urien, are not so sure. One night Elen is called out to tend to a woman in childbirth. During her absence Urien's men destroy her home and butcher her mother, so Elen decides to ride to Arthur's court to beg for aid in driving out the invaders. Tp \$29.95 436pp



**NINA BANGS
WICKED NIGHTS**

McNair #1. Come to the Castle of Dark Dreams, the delicious attraction in an adult amusement park where women take role-playing to new erotic heights with the three brothers - Eric, Brynn and Conall McNair - who work there. Okay, so they're not human, but that's a secret. Tonight, Eric, the castle's resident vampire, will prove that he's everything bad should be, when he drives a female talk show host absolutely wild with desire. Tp \$29.95 309pp

**CHRISTINE FEEHAN
OCEANS OF FIRE**

Drake Sisters #3. The third daughter of seven in a magical bloodline, Abigail Drake was born with an affinity for water and a strong bond with dolphins. After she witnesses a murder, she flees right into the arms of Aleksandr Volstov. On the trail of stolen Russian antiquities, he's a relentless Interpol agent - and the man who once broke Abby's heart, but he isn't going to let the only woman he's ever loved slip away again. Pb \$18.95 371pp

**CHRISTOPHER GOLDEN & FORD LYTLE
GILMORE**

THE HOLLOW HORSEMAN

New to Sleepy Hollow, teens Aimee and Shane Lancaster find that upon their arrival an ancient curse has been unleashed upon the town, tracing back to the town's famous legend, which just might be more truth than myth. Now an array of evil demons is after them, with the infamous Headless Horseman leading the pack. Pb \$14.95 246pp

**TANYA HUFF
SMOKE AND SHADOWS**

Tony #1. Tony, a former street kid-turned-producer, is behind a new TV series about a vampire detective. But what is real and what is fantasy? The answers are to be found in a wizard who's come to Earth from another dangerous dimension... and he's been followed. Pb \$16.95 408pp

**SHAUN HUTSON
NECESSARY EVIL**

It was to be a routine job. Matt Franklin and his companions would rob the Securicor van. Simple, until the job turned into a nightmare. Two of them are shot dead and another fatally wounded, but who is trying to wipe them out, killing not just them, but their families too? How are the Government and the British army implicated? What lurks within a secret research establishment in the English countryside? Franklin has to find out. Pb \$19.95 468pp

**BRIAN KEENE
TERMINAL**

Tommy's just learned he's going to die young - and soon, but he refuses to leave his family with less than nothing - especially now that he has nothing to lose. Over a couple of beers with his best friends, John and Sherm, Tommy launches a bold scheme to provide for his family's future and though his plan will spin shockingly out of control, it will throw him together with a child whose touch can heal - and whose ultimate lesson is that there are far worse things than dying. Pb \$16.95 306pp

**JAMES A MOORE
WRIT IN BLOOD**

Serenity Falls #1. Serenity Falls is dead. No commerce, tourism, or good will. It gets worse. An historian has uncovered the town's unspeakable past - lynchings, mass murders, sexual depravity and rumours of the birth of the anti-Christ, but the darkest secret is yet to be revealed. Pb \$16.95 296pp

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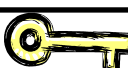







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Reference	

What We've Been Reading

Midnight Tides by Steven Erikson (Pb \$22.95). Recently released in paperback, Erikson's fifth novel in his *Malazan* series is one of his best so far. Set several years before the events of **Gardens of the Moon** (Pb \$24.95), it concerns the growing tensions between the citizens of the Kingdom of Lether and their non-human neighbours to the north, the Tiste Edur. Letherii poachers invading Edur territory is an issue expected to create problems at upcoming treaty negotiations, but the previously insular Edur respond in unpredictable ways. Far to the south in the Letharii capital, merchants with an unlimited desire for gold dominate the economy and enslave citizens in a complicated web of debt. However the impoverished brother of the King's Champion and his odd manservant have a plan to upset the scales. In his previous books, Erikson has only briefly described the warlike Edur, but in this volume he finally reveals their history and motivations and this adds a third dimension to this previously unknown race. This book is more humorous than his previous novels but I believe the beating of war drums in the north benefits from the counterpoint created by the activities of the eccentric inhabitants of the city of Lethras. - *Raph*

In preparation for the release of the movie *Sin City*, I've been reading the three graphic novels that the movie is based on - **A Hard Goodbye** (Tp \$29.95), **Big Fat Kill** (Tp \$29.95) and **That Yellow Bastard** (Tp \$34.95). These are three loosely connected tales of violence, vengeance and justice in a town where the bad run the place and the good are only a minority. The distinct noir-ish feel of the stories is accentuated by Frank Miller's incredible use of black and white, which is anything but limiting. Miller also includes a surprising amount of black humour into the mix, making the grittiness of *Sin City* just more bearable. - *John*

Poison by Chris Wooding (Pb \$19.95). Poison's quest to save her sister from the cruel Phaerie Lord takes her on many adventures; the House of the Bone Witch, the Lady of Spiders and Melchreth the Heiropphant all lead to a destiny that has been waiting for her forever...

Well written and fast paced, this is quite a good read, with a dark edged twist that pulls everything together at the end. 7/10 - *David*

Blood Lines by Tania Huff (Pb \$16.95) - If you like supernatural detective stories then you can't go past the *Vicki Nelson* series by Huff. Vicki is an ex-cop turned PI who, through some very odd cases, has discovered that there really are things that go bump in the night. She is a tough, intelligent and capable woman but due to a degenerative eye problem, she can no longer take an active role on the police force (and there is no way she is sitting behind a desk).

In the third book in this series, Vicki comes up against her scariest and strongest opponent so far. Her lover and ex-partner Mike Celluci has come across an interesting case of some strange deaths in a museum that Mike is sure are murders but can't find any proof. When he is ordered to drop the case Mike hires Vicki to find the proof for him.

Meanwhile Vicki's other lover, 400-year-old vampire Henry Fitzroy, has been having dreams of a blazing sun and fears that he is going crazy and may try to kill himself.

Vicki discovers that the two are related and that there is an honest-to-goodness mummy running around Toronto, draining the life-force of people until they are dead.

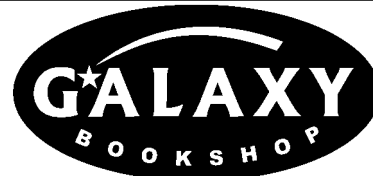
In order to stop the mummy from taking control of the government and police force, Vicki is going to have to convince the two men in her life to behave and play nice and that is going to be impossible. 8/10 - *Sian*

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