



nexus

AUGUST 2003

Issue #183

STEPHEN KING'S THE DARK TOWER SERIES THE GUNSLINGER



#1. *Revised & expanded edition.* Roland is a solitary figure, who with a strange single-mindedness traverses an exhausted, almost timeless landscape. The people he encounters are left behind, or worse - left dead. At a waystation, however, he meets Jake, a boy from a particular time and a particular place, and soon the two are joined. The mountains lie before them. So does the man in black and, somewhere far beyond... the Dark Tower. Hb \$59.95 231pp Pb \$19.95

THE DRAWING OF THE THREE

#2. After his confrontation with the man in black, Roland awakes to find three doors on the beach of Mid-World's Western Sea - each leading to New York City but at three different moments in time. Through these doors, Roland must draw three figures crucial to his quest for the Dark Tower. Has Roland found new companions to form the *ka-tet* of his quest? Or has he unleashed something else entirely? Hb \$75.00 407pp Pb \$19.95



THE WASTE LANDS



#3. Roland continues his quest for the Dark Tower, but he is no longer alone. He has trained Eddie and Susannah in the old ways of the gunslingers. But their *ka-tet* is not yet complete. Another must be drawn from New York into Mid-World, someone who has been there before, a boy who has died not once but twice, and yet still lives. Hb \$75.00 422pp Pb \$19.95

WIZARD AND GLASS

#4. Before Roland and his companions continue along the Path of the Bean, he must tell them the tale that defines him both as a man and hero, a long-ago romance of witchery and evil, of the beautiful, unforgettable Susan Delgado, of the Big Coffin Hunters and Reah of the Coos. And when his tale is finished, Roland confronts a man who goes by many names, a man who may hold the key to the Dark Tower. Hb \$85.00 672pp Pb \$19.95



DUE NOVEMBER
WOLVES OF THE
CALLA
(Dark Tower #5)
Hb \$75.00



THEODORE STURGEON AWARD

For the year's best SF short story...

Over Yonder by Lucius Shepard

JOHN W CAMPBELL AWARD

For the year's best SF novel.

Probability Space by Nancy Kress

LOCUS WINNERS

These awards are given to winners in *Locus Magazine's* annual poll. A selection of winners follows.



SF NOVEL

The Years of Rice and Salt by Kim Stanley
Robinson

FANTASY NOVEL

The Scar by China Miéville

FIRST NOVEL

A Scattering of Jades by Alexander Irvine

Coraline by Neil Gaiman

NOVELLA

The Tain by China Miéville



NOVELETTE

The Wild Girls by Ursula Le Guin

SHORT STORY

October in the Chair by Neil Gaiman

COLLECTION

Stories of Your Life and Others

by Ted Chiang

ANTHOLOGY

**The Year's Best Science Fiction: 19th
Annual Collection**

edited by Gardner Dozois

NONFICTION

Tomorrow Now: Envisioning the Next Fifty Years

by Bruce Sterling

ART BOOK

Spectrum 9: The Best in Contemporary Fantastic Art

edited by Cathy Fenner and Arnie Fenner

EDITOR

Gardner Dozois

Magazine: The Magazine of Fantasy & Science Fiction



GAYLACTIC FINALISTS NAMED

The Gaylactic Spectrum Awards recognise works of special and positive interest to gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgendered people. A selection of finalists follows.

BEST NOVEL

Dance for the Ivory Madonna

by Don Sakers

The Fall of the Kings

by Ellen Kushner and Delia Sherman

Fire Logic by Laurie Marks

Hominids by Robert Sawyer

Lorimal's Chalice by Jane Fletcher

Nightmare: A Novel of the Silent Empire

by Steven Harper

Solitaire by Kelley Eskridge





SCIENCE FICTION AND FANTASY



WILL ALLEN

SWORDS FOR HIRE

Sam Hatcher lives a simple life on a farm in the ancient Kingdom of Parmall, but all that changes the day he turns sixteen. He meets Rigby Skeet, a wisecracking guard, and the two uncover a plot that has captured the true king in a dungeon, where he is guarded by the very scary Boneman. They embark on an exciting search for King Olive, who was betrayed by his evil brother. Along the way they encounter evil guards, a magical sorcerer and a beautiful girl being held captive. Pb \$17.95 168pp

Lou ANDERS (ED)

LIVE WITHOUT A NET

Imagine a future without cyberspace... without virtual reality... without AIs and simulations... and without the Web. What would you do? What would you fear? What wouldn't you know? Explore a future without a net in these stories of alternatives to the information age by Lou Anders, Stephen Baxter, David Brin, Paul Di Filippo, Pat Cadigan, John Meaney, Mike Resnick and Kay Kenyon, Adam Roberts, Rudy Rucker, S M Stirling, Michael Swanwick and others. Tp \$36.00 321pp

SARAH ASH

LORD OF SNOW AND SHADOWS

Tears of Artamon #1. Gavril Andar, an impoverished young painter, has, unbeknownst to him, royal blood in his veins - the dark and powerful blood of a father he never knew - the Drakhaon, ruler of the isolated northern kingdom of Azhkendir. When the Drakhaon is murdered, Gavril is forced to take up the mantle of both his father's rule - and his power. The blood of the Drakhaon carries within it a taint that gives its bearer access to awesome, unimagined magics - but at a price. Trapped in this bleak, mist-shrouded land, Gavril must find his father's killer and unite his fractured kingdom against those who see it as ripe for invasion, before he pays the price of kinship and succumbs to the dread curse that uncoils within him... Tp \$32.95 484pp

NEAL ASHER

THE LINE OF POLITY

Outlink station Miranda has been destroyed by a nanomycelium and the very nature of this sabotage suggests that the alien bioconstruct Dragon, a creature as untrustworthy as it is gigantic, is somehow involved. Sent out on a titanic Polity dreadnought, agent Cormac must investigate the disaster and resolve the question of Masada, a world about to be subsumed as the Line of Polity is drawn across it. But the rogue biophysicist Skellor has not yet been captured and he now controls something so potent that Polity AIs will hunt him down forever to prevent him using it. Tp \$30.00 547pp

THE SKINNER

Spatterjay holds immortality - when its giant leeches bite out gobs of flesh, they transmit a virus that forces regrowth, preserving their food supply. Some human colonists have lived many centuries, but beware of going native, like Skinner whose undying head is now confined to a box... Tourists arrive: a woman returning to ask whether her viral immortality was worth it, a human agent of hive-mind intelligence discovered among Earth's hornets and a man 700 years dead but still avenging the atrocities of Spatterjay's founding fathers in an even older war. Pb \$18.95 583pp

AVI

RAGWEED

Dimwood Forest #4. When Ragweed, a young, brash mouse arrives in the big city, he befriends hipster band members Clutch, Dipstick and Lugnut, as well as Blinker, a timid pet store mouse, and together they transform an abandoned bookshop into a cool, new club. The mice plan a wild, cat-free opening night, but with the cats planning a surprise attack, just how long can this state of mice independence last? Hb \$24.95 207pp

STEVEN BARNES

CHARISMA

It began well - an experiment in techniques to teach high-risk children the life-strategies that will allow them to succeed in life. They chose as their model a man who had done it all - Alexander Marcus - a black man who raised himself up from poverty to become one of the wealthiest, most powerful men in America. The imprint is effective, the children are inventive, intelligent and love learning, but there is a darkness to them - a ruthlessness that is surprising. Renny first met the children as a journalist covering the trial of a preschool operator accused of sex abuse, but the thing that Renny noticed was the strange poise and power of a group of eight-year-old children. Now they are 13, and one of them has been killed in a mysterious accident. Renny sees the possibility of big story that might jump-start his flagging career. He'll do a follow-up on the preschool scandal. Pb \$17.95 451pp

JOHN GREGORY BETANCOURT

ROGER ZELAZNEY'S THE DAWN OF

AMBER

Amber prequel #1. When Obere is whisked away from the kingdom and world he knows and placed on a knife's edge of turmoil, intrigue, domination and death, he must learn what he can on the fly, unwilling to let friend and foe alike know how little he understands of this strange universe and the dangerous creatures that rule it. To achieve his legacy of power and become a player in this deadly game, whose rules he is yet to discover, Obere must journey through the serpent's lair, the home of his enemies... the Courts of Chaos. Pb \$17.95 299pp

ALICE BORCHARDT

THE DRAGON QUEEN

Tales of Guinevere #1. When young Guinevere proves her mettle to an embarrassed Merlin, even her faithful dragon protectors cannot prevent the evil that the sorcerer rains down. Seeking revenge, Merlin banishes Arthur to a world from which the only escape is death. Now Guinevere must face Merlin's wrath without him - and prove that she is worthy of being Arthur's Queen. Pb \$21.95 500pp

RAY BRADBURY

DINOSAUR TALES

This is a collection of tales from one of America's best-loved and best-selling authors. In this elegantly designed and illustrated book, the author presents all of his dinosaur stories in one volume! Pb \$24.95 144pp



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 & old

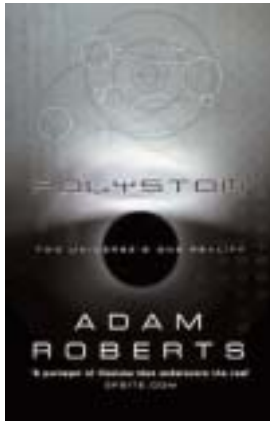
New Title

Polystom

by Adam Roberts

Hb \$49.95 Tp \$29.95 295pp

Roberts' fourth novel continues his passion for detailed character studies projected against a fantastical setting supported by hard SF theories. The book explores the wide range of topics that Roberts continually returns to in his work, specifically; love, self-perception, reality, environment, sexuality, politics, war and science. The fact that he enjoys thoroughly examining both the positive and downright ugly sides of this wide range of dense subject matter is probably what makes his books so interesting and rewarding.



Polystom concerns an isolated system of inhabited planets operating under an undemocratic stratified society similar to that of Tsarist Russia. Technology, although curiously advanced in some fields, is underdeveloped in others, presumably due to the restrictions regarding education and social mobility. Devices such as basic computers, telephones, gramophones, planes, guns and cars have been invented, but other concepts, like radio and rocket technology, are non-existent. Unlike the space surrounding our own planet, an atmosphere exists between the moons and planets of Polystom's solar system allowing the populace to travel between worlds in biplanes and zeppelins.

Polystom, Steward of the planet of Enting, is a soft, romantic, 20-year-old with a fondness for poetry and the forests of his vast estate. Lonely after the death of his father and reluctant to face his responsibilities, he feels the need for companionship. However, his insular, upper class upbringing has spoilt him, he is lacking in guidance and unwise in the ways of the world. He develops a childish crush on a rebellious, aristocratic girl named Beeswing and, without even speaking to her, foolishly arranges a marriage via her guardian. Married only a few days later, it quickly becomes apparent that the pair are completely unsuited to one another. Beeswing does not reciprocate the affection Polystom feels for her and he interprets her disinterested remoteness, her detachment and her repeated attempts to run away as the signs of a maladjusted child, afraid to face the responsibilities of life itself. As the story is told from Polystom's perspective, he is unable to take his own immaturity into account.

Spurred on by poems of heroism in battle, Polystom decides that he must experience war in order to become a real man, and so volunteers a himself and a number of his servants as soldiers in a drawn out war on another planet. Reminiscent of World War One, the officers and the aristocracy treat the conflict on the Mudworld with inappropriate lightheartedness, casting their servants into an infinite series of brutal skirmishes. It is here that Polystom encounters the true horror of war uninflected by the obfuscation of poetry and it is the ghosts of this world that supply the reader with the answers regarding the exact nature of the system. - *Raph*

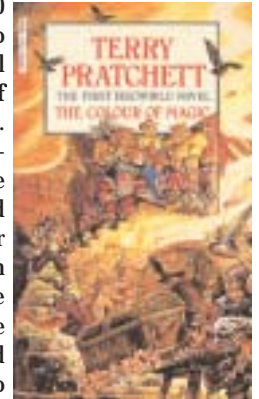
CLASSIC TITLE

The Colour of Magic

by Terry Pratchett

Pb \$19.95 285pp

Terry Pratchett has written almost 30 books in his *Discworld* series (with no sign of stopping) and this is where it all began. The general plot of **The Colour of Magic** is a romp around a fantasy world. A place where the world is flat and people who tried to show it was round were proven wrong years ago. It's carried through the cosmos on the back of four giant elephants, the magnitude of which is so great that simply trying to imagine it makes your head spin. Even more mind-boggling, these elephants stand atop Great A'Tuin, the star turtle, who moves with extreme deliberation over tens of thousands of years, and has thoughts so vast that time itself pales into insignificance.



The book follows the mis-adventures of Rincewind, an inept wizard who graduated from the Unseen University and is very much terrified on a perpetual basis of the world around him (he'd rather be known as Rincewind-the-coward than Rincewind-the-incredibly-brave-until-he-got-his-head-bitten-off). While not being the world's greatest wizard (in fact he is the worst), Rincewind certainly does have his wizard's wardrobe and the basic attitude down pat. The other central figure we meet here is Twoflower, the Discs' first tourist, who inflicts insurance on the unsuspecting populace and who is followed around by the luggage, a giant chest carried about on hundreds of little legs and which always has a ready supply of clean underwear.

The story begins in Ankh-Morpork, the major twin cities on the Discworld, which is smelly, dirty and populated by dubious characters and here we see the introduction of the idea of tourism to the Disc and watch in amazement as it leads to the city's destruction by fire. Our "heroes" quickly leave the burning city behind them and set off for further adventures where they meet up with Hrun the Barbarian, discover flash photography and battle the tentacled demon Bel-Shamharoth. One chapter, *The Lure of the Wyrms*, is a rich, humorous tale that pokes fun at Anne McCaffrey's *Dragonriders of Pern* series, and is a superb pastiche in many ways. Finally Rincewind and Twoflower discover the Circumference (the rope barrier which rings the edge of Discworld), where they meet the tide-plagued watery being who guards the Edge, learn the true meaning of Sacrifice and unintentionally dabble with space-flight.

Pratchett's writing and his humour are very English, similar to that of Douglas Adams, although in this book his humour is more pun oriented, which is something he seems to avoid in later novels. All his characters have a definite "sound" to them and he makes them all come to life, including Death, who talks all in capital letters and without quotation marks. This book shows Pratchett's writing in the beginning. While it is not as good as some of his later work, it is still one of my favourites and it is good to read how the *Discworld* series began. - *Nik*

PATRICIA BRAY

 **DEVLIN'S HONOR**

Sword of Change #2. Devlin of Duncaer is the Chosen One. A simple metalsmith turned warrior, he has become the most unlikely of heroes to the conquerors of his own people, the Caerfolk. Yet there is a growing faction of Jorskians who believe that if he were truly the Chosen One, then the immortals would have given him the Sword of Light, missing for generations. But Devlin knows where to find it. Feeling more than ever a pawn of fate - and a plaything of the Gods who drive him - Devlin must return to the land of his birth, back to the people who have denounced him. For he is bound by an oath he has no choice but to obey... a promise he may have to die to keep. Pb \$15.95 390pp

SUSAN MCGEE BRITTON

 **THE TREEKEEPERS**

A murderous leader has taken over the land where Bird lives and destroyed the tree that gives life. He will do anything to find the Opener - one who is prophesied to save the people. A few other orphans and a sad, mysterious caretaker lead Bird to a special locket that, amazingly, opens easily in her hands. It reveals just a seed. When planted, it will grow into a new sacred tree that will produce a lifesaving elixir. Bird holds the power, but she lacks the knowledge to use it. Hb \$39.95 245pp

KAREN BROOKS

 **THE BOOK OF NIGHT**

Caz and Simon must resist Dr Proteus' attempts to gain her magical necklace and reclaim The Book of Night from Hecate's clutches. Pb \$16.95 384pp

CHRIS BUNCH

 **STORM OF WINGS**

Dragonmaster #1. As a child, Hal Kailas loved to climb the high cliffs around his village and watch the dragons nesting there. Fascinated by their flight, his dream was to ride them. Now a man, his dream has become reality - dragons are being used as weapons in a war between volatile kingdoms. Pb \$19.95 409pp

MICHAEL COBLEY

 **SHADOWGOD**

Shadowkings Trilogy #2. Ikarno Mazaret, now Lord Regent, still grieves over the death of his beloved, and takes ever more perilous risks. Tauric has been crowned Emperor yet feels powerless to influence events. Despair begins to taint his every decision. Keren Asherol is haunted by her encounter with one of the Daemonkind, while her twin, Nerek, is dogged by sinister omens and far to the north Byrnak broods on his towertop. Harried by a ghostly fragment of the Lord of Twilight, he knows he must utterly crush the Imperial remnants and their allies, despite the powers of the goddess Earthmother. Tp \$29.95 470pp

MARK CRILLEY

 **AKIKO AND THE INTERGALACTIC ZOO**

Akiko #5. When the grateful King of Smoo sends Akiko, Spuckler Boach, Gax, Poog and Mr. Beeba on an all-expenses-paid vacation to the planet Quilk - home of the Intergalactic Zoo - wonders abound. There are so many creatures of every shape, colour and size wandering around that it's hard to tell the difference between the animals and the visitors. Then the zookeeper takes a special interest in Akiko, and she is added to his personal collection! Pb \$12.95 150pp

PETER CROWTHER (ED)

 **CITIES**

This collection celebrates the fantastic potential of the city whether in the terrifying teeming gothic grandeur of New Crobuzon, or the subtle otherness of Geoff Ryman's London. This is a landmark collection from four of the genre's most respected names - Stephen Baxter, Peter Hamilton, Paul Mcauley and Ian McDonald. Hb \$39.95 292pp

PETER DAVID

 **ONE KNIGHT ONLY**

Knight Life #2. Arthur Pendragon, the Once and Future King, has pursued his political career all the way to the White House. Then tragedy strikes, in the form of an assassination attempt that leaves his wife Gwen at death's door. To save her, Arthur must once again seek the Holy Grail, the Cup whose magical powers can heal her body and soul... And as Arthur knows from experience, grail-hunting can be a very dangerous occupation. Hb \$55.00 373pp

 **THE WOAD TO WUIN**

Sir Apropos #2. This sequel to the wildly successful **Sir Apropos of Nothing** starts off with a bawdy send-up of *Lord of the Rings*, but quickly segues into its own territory with the appearance of a mysterious Visionary at Apropos' bar, Bugger Hall. The man tells our antihero, 'You will become a shadow of your former self while escaping to the Tragic Waste on the Road to Ruin,' (or is that 'Woad to Wuin?'), just as Sharee, Apropos' weaver companion, bursts in and begs for his help in escaping Lord Beliquose. The very loud lord wants a powerful gem, the Eye of the Beholder, which the virtually powerless Sharee possesses and Apropos promptly steals... Pb \$19.95 504pp

MICHAEL DE LARRABEITI

 **THE BORRIBLE TRILOGY**

A small group of feral, street-wise Peter-Pan-type beings set out on three very different but related missions across the darker side of London. They are missions combining excitement, violence, low cunning, betrayal, loyalty, greed, generosity, cowardice and insane bravery. Pb \$19.95 726pp

CHARLES DE LINT

 **A CIRCLE OF CATS**

Lillian is an orphan who lives with her aunt on a homestead, surrounded by uncharted forest. She wanders the woods, chasing squirrels and rabbits and climbing trees. Free-spirited and independent Lillian is a kindred spirit to the many wild cats who gather around the ancient beech tree. One day, while she is under the beech, Lillian is bitten by a poisonous snake. The cats refuse to let her die and use their magic to turn her into one of their own. Hb \$39.95 44pp

ROBERT DOHERTY

 **NOSFERATU**

Area 51 #8. From the Age of the Gods to the Age of Man, one creature has watched from the shadows, waiting for his moment. Forged from the blood of the Airlia, with unspeakable strength and a terrifying thirst, he has shadowed human history from the beginning. His name is Nosferatu and this is his story. Pb \$17.95 310pp

ANN DOWNER

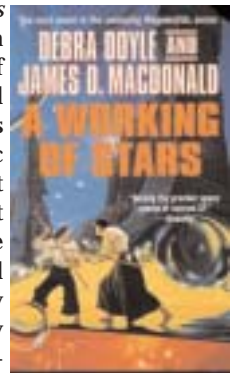
 **HATCHING MAGIC**

Gideon's pet wyvern, Wycca, has disappeared through a magic hole in time in search of a place to lay her egg. Kobold, Gideon's rival wizard, wants nothing more than to capture Wycca and turn her against her master. In a desperate attempt to rescue Wycca from Kobold's evil clutches, Gideon follows her through the magic hole... and finds himself transported from his castle in 13th-century England to the terrifyingly modern world of Boston, Massachusetts, in the year 2002. Hb \$24.95 242pp


DEBRA DOYLE & JAMES MACDONALD

 **WORKING OF STARS**

Mageworlds Universe. Arekhon finds himself impelled homeward by strange dreams and prophetic visions. The Great Working - the effort to do the unthinkable and reunite a galaxy long sundered by the Gap Between - remains incomplete, left unfinished in the aftermath of the dissolution of Arekhon's Mage-Circle. But too much energy and too many lives have been poured into the Working already and it cannot end so long as any of the Circle members remain alive and bound into it. Home, unfortunately, isn't a safe place for Arekhon to be at the moment, for Eraasi has changed and the great fleet families at the centre of the Eraasian culture are girding for war. Pb \$21.95 341pp



GARDNER DOZOIS
STRANGERS

 Joseph Farber, an artist, is part of the uncomfortable and decadent Earth colony among the alien Cian on the planet Weinunnach. He is deeply moved by the rituals of the Cian - and by Liraun, a humanoid Cian, with whom he falls in love. And though love between races is forbidden, he allows himself to be genetically altered so that he and Liraun may marry and interbreed. But the couple soon discovers that the fundamental differences between their races and cultures prevent adequate communication between them. This lack of communication leads to a powerful climax of tragedy and revelation. Pb \$24.95 191pp

EMILY DRAKE

 **THE DRAGON GUARD**

The Magickers #3. Jason Adrian is still searching for the second gate into Haven, which would provide a safe refuge for all the Magickers. Time is running out because the elder Magickers are feuding among themselves and the Dark Hand is preparing to strike. His secret weapon? A dragon. Hb \$48.00 308pp

CAROL EMSHWILLER

 **THE MOUNT**

Charley is an athlete. He wants to grow up to be the fastest runner in the world, like his father. He wants to be painted crossing the finishing line, in his racing silks, with a medal around his neck. Charley lives in a stable. He isn't a runner, he's a mount. He belongs to a Hoot: The Hoots are alien invaders. Charley hasn't seen his mother for years, and his father is hiding out in the mountains somewhere, with the other Free Humans. The Hoots own the world, but the humans want it back. Charley knows how to be a good mount, but now he's going to have to learn how to be a human being. Tp \$45.00 232pp

LYNN ERICKSON

  **THE LAST BUCCANEER**

Sucked through a whirlpool while diving for sunken treasure, Tess Bonney was transported back through time to find herself about to be sold to the highest bidder! Then dashing buccaneer Richard Neville came to her rescue and the real adventure began. A 17th-century pirate should be pillaging and philandering, yet Richard found himself saving Tess, allowing her to tend his wounded body and tortured soul. And though the rules of the high seas forbade him to give his heart to anyone, Tess was a siren he could not ignore, but would their newfound passion stop the tides of time that were bound to beckon Tess home? Pb \$12.95 250pp

CHRISTINE FEEHAN, SUSAN GRANT & SUSAN SQUIRES

  **THE ONLY ONE**

They come from the darkest places: secluded monasteries, the Carpathian Mountains, galaxies under siege. They are men with the blackest pasts - warriors, vampire monks, leaders of armies - but whose passions burn like dying stars. They have one purpose: to find those women who fulfil them, complete them. They seek soul mates whose touch will consume them with desire, yet whose kisses will refresh like the coolest rain. And each man knows that for him there is only one true love - and in finding her, he will find salvation. Pb \$17.95 366pp

JUDE FISHER

 **WILD MAGIC**

Fools Gold #2. Magic has returned to Elda, but none know that the source of this magic is the legendary Rosa Eldi, restored to the world, but not yet restored to herself. Unaware of her true nature, she has married King Ravn Asharson of the North, and now with usurpers and assassins circling she must conceive a child to establish the succession. There is magic in the world again, but it is wild and unpredictable, and few will count its touch a blessing. Hb \$55.00 504pp

LYNN FLEWELLING

 **HIDDEN WARRIOR**

Tamir #2. As the orphaned nephew of the king, trusted companion to his cousin and second heir to the throne of Skala, Prince Tobin's future is clear. But not as clear as the spring in which a hill witch shows him his true face - and his secret destiny... Now Tobin carries a burden he cannot share with even his closest friend, Ki, his squire. He is to rule - not as he is, but as he was born - a woman. Pb \$17.95 551pp

ERIC FLINT & DAVID WEBER

 **1633**

1632 #2. The greatest naval war in European history is about to erupt. Like it or not, Gustavus Adolphus will have to rely on Mike Stearns and the technical wizardry of his obstreperous Americans to save the King of Sweden from ruin. Pb \$19.95 673pp

WENDY FROUD & TERRI WINDLING

 **THE FAERIES OF SPRING COTTAGE**

While searching for shelter from a rainstorm, a faery named Sneezle is pursued by a band of strange creatures with wooden swords. They're not faeries, they're not goblins... in fact, he doesn't know what they are. Fleeing for his life, he is forced to find refuge in a place that is almost as frightening as the stick men themselves - in an old stone cottage at the edge of the forest. It is here that Sneezle must confront his greatest adventure and biggest fear. Hb \$39.95 48pp

ED GREENWOOD

 **A DRAGON'S ASCENSION**

Band of Four #3. Aglirta is known as the Kingless Land. Once a prosperous and peaceful river valley, it has fallen into lawlessness, and its feuding baronies are engaged in a constant state of war. But the land is kingless no more, for the Sleeping King of legend, King Kelgrael, has been reawakened by the efforts of the valiant Band of Four, yet peace has not returned. Now, a powerful warlord comes to the front to take control while the diabolic minions of the Serpent move into position for a climactic battle that will scar them forever. Pb \$16.95 366pp

JON COURTENAY GRIMWOOD

 **FELAHEEN**

Arabesk #3. Diplomat. Uncle. Killer. Ashraf Bey has been many things since arriving in El Iskandryia from Seattle. One thing he hasn't been, as yet, is a son to Moncef, Emir of Tunis - the father Raf has still to meet. Of course, Raf doesn't believe the Emir is his father anyway. And now it may be too late, since the rumours that don't have Emir Moncef escaping assassination have him hovering on the edge of death. Despite refusing a plea for help from the Emir's chief of security, Raf still finds himself being drawn towards Tunis. It seems he has his own part in an unfolding political crisis that began decades earlier with US anti-globalisation riots and the Emir's refusal to ratify the 2005 UN Accord on Biotechnology. Hb \$34.95 357pp

DAVID HARTWELL (ED)

 **YEAR'S BEST FANTASY**

#3. The door to fantastic worlds, skewed realities and breathtaking other realms is opened wide to you once more in this third anthology of the finest short fantasy fiction to emerge over the past year. Phenomenal visions of the impossible-made-possible by some of the field's most accomplished literary artists and stellar talents on the rise. This is a heady brew of magic and wonder, strange journeys and epic quests, concocted by the likes of Ursula K Le Guin, Michael Swanwick, Tanith Lee and others. Pb \$19.95 495pp

MICHAEL HOEYE

 **SANDS OF TIME**

Hermux Tantamoq #2. Mouse and watchmaker, Hermux Tantamoq, is up to his ears in trouble again. All of Pinchester is in an uproar over his friend Mirrin Stentrill's visionary new paintings - monumental portraits of cats! After all, cats are not a popular topic in a city of rodents - and everyone knows they never really existed. Then a mysterious old chipmunk appears in Hermux's shop with what he claims to be a map to the royal library of a prehistoric kingdom of cats. Before long Hermux is hot on a trail of treachery and deceit. Tp \$19.95 299pp

ALICE HOFFMAN

 **GREEN ANGEL**

When her family is killed in a terrible disaster, 15-year-old Green is haunted by loss. Struggling to survive both physically and emotionally, Green retreats into the realm of her garden. It is only through a series of mysterious encounters that she relearns the lessons of love and begins to heal. Hb \$27.95 116pp

 **INDIGO**

13-year-old Martha Glimmer is convinced this is the worst time of her life. Her mother died, she grew seven inches, and she has to put up with a woman who plys Martha's lonely father with food and opinions about how 13-year-old girls should behave. Martha longs to leave Oak Grove and travel. Martha's best friend Trevor and his brother Eli also want to leave Oak Grove. Nicknamed Trout and Eel because of the thin webbing between their fingers and toes, they long to see the ocean. Together, Martha, Trout, and Eel are going to find the true meaning of home - in very unexpected places. Pb \$8.95 84pp

NANCY HOLDER & DEBBIE VIGUIE

 **LEGACY**

Wicked #3. Holly Cathers and her twin cousins, Amanda and Nicole, are college students who are also the last descendants of the medieval witches of the House of Cahors. Forming a new coven, they ally themselves with the forces of light and set out to end the vendetta that has ruled and ruined their family's history for centuries. Pb \$12.95 315pp

IAN IRVINE

 **TETRARACH**

Well of Echoes #2. Santhenar is on its knees. The war with the alien lyrinx drags on and humanity is losing it, but there is worse to come. The Aachim have invaded with an irresistible force. Cursing humanity for the loss of Aachan and his own clan, the embittered Aachim leader, Vithis, demands half the world in reparation. The council is in no position to resist. But even if they agree to his demands, can anything satisfy his thirst for vengeance? Pb \$19.95 690pp

BEN JEAPES

 **THE XENOCIDE MISSION**

Lieutenant Joel Gilmore is part of a multi-species space observation team stationed in a distant solar system who find themselves attacked by the very aliens they were supposed to be watching. Now Joel and his allies, the enigmatic Rusties, explore the parameters of trust in a lethal confrontation with a deeply alien third species: one with a nasty predilection for mass murder on a planetary scale. Pb \$18.95 388pp

ELIZABETH KAY

 **THE DIVIDE**

Felix is a special sort of hero: he is brave and resourceful, but has a heart condition that threatens his life. When he visits the Divide with his parents, he finds himself in an amazing back-to-front world where mythical creatures are real and humans and science are just rumour and legend. Hb \$32.95 320pp

KAORU KURIMOTO

(TRANSLATED BY ALEXANDER D SMITH)

 **LEOPARD MASK**

Guin Saga #1. In a single day and night of fierce fighting, the militaristic duchy of Mongaul has overrun its elegant neighbour, the kingdom of Parros. The lost kingdom's surviving royalty are young twins, Rinda and Remus. Hiding in a forest in the wild borderlands, they are saved from a Mongaul patrol by a creature with a man's body and a leopard's head. He - or it - has just emerged from a deep sleep and remembers only his - or its - name. Guin. Hb \$55.00 231pp

KATHERINE KURTZ (ED)

 **ON CRUSADE: MORE TALES OF THE KNIGHTS TEMPLAR**

A Knights Templar anthology. Here are 11 original stories that further delve into the myths of the holy fraternity. While the truth behind the Templars may never be fully known, their legends will never die. Contributors include Diane Duane, Deborah Turner Harris and Robert Harris, Robert Reginald, Andre Norton, Debra Doyle and James Macdonald. Pb \$17.95 294pp

STEPHEN LAWHEAD

 **PATRICK**

Set in an era of brutal conflict and turmoil, this epic adventure is the full story of the slave who became a saint, of the man who rose to the challenge of his time and changed the course of history. Tp \$29.95 454pp

J ARDIAN LEE

 **SWORD OF KING JAMES**

Summons of the Sword #3. When he met the laird's daughter, Cait, Dylan Matheson found something to fight and live for in 18th-century Scotland that he hadn't found in the 21st. But then Cait was murdered, leaving him to raise their two children alone. Now Dylan must once again take up arms against the hated British - unaware that he's being manipulated by Morrighan, the goddess of war, who wants to change the course of history... Tp \$34.00 322pp



ROGER LEVY

 **DARK HEAVENS**

London is awash with volcanic ash, the population fatalistically playing out their lives in VR. And now, as well as VR there is another form of escape. The new religions are offering heaven - to get there you have to die first. Mass suicides have become common... and legal. Tp \$29.95 389pp

JAMES LOVEGROVE

 **UNTIED KINGDOM**

After a series of disastrous political decisions the United Kingdom has finally fallen foul of the international community. Ostracised and bombed at random the country has fallen apart. In the village of Downbourne the mayor has styled himself the Green Man. But even he is powerless to stop a raid on the village by a London based gang who kidnap a number of the village's women. One of them is the schoolmaster's wife. Their marriage was an arid disaster, but the schoolmaster feels bound to do the right thing and sets off on a journey to get her back, but does this particular damsel want to be rescued? Tp \$29.95 405pp

JULIET MARILLIER

 **WOLFSKIN**

Isles #1. As a youth, Eyvind swears an oath of brotherhood with his friend Somerled, a strange and lonely boy who arrives suddenly and is soon spurned by the other children. Many years later, Eyvind, now a highly regarded warrior - a Wolfskin - accompanies Somerled and a group of settlers, led by Somerled's brother, Ulf, to begin a new settlement on the islands rumoured to lie across the western sea. The expedition begins badly, however, with a tragic event on board one of the ships. Something tells Eyvind that it may not have been an accident. In spite of these beginnings they reach the islands and Ulf's new settlement is a harmonious one. Then one day, on a trip to a Holy place of the Folk, a brutal murder occurs. Now Eyvind begins to feel the binds of his boyhood oath and realises what sort of future Somerled had in mind for himself all those years ago... Pb \$19.95 708pp


CHINA MIEVILLE

 **THE SCAR**

Bas Lag universe. A human cargo bound for servitude in exile... A pirate city hauled across the oceans... A hidden miracle about to be revealed... This is the story of a prisoner's journey. The search for the island of a forgotten people, for the most astonishing beast in the seas and ultimately for a fabled place - a massive wound in reality, a source of unthinkable power and danger. Pb \$19.95 795pp



L E MODESITT, JNR

LEGACIES

 *Corean Chronicles #1.* Even as a child, Alucius showed very strong Talent. He was warned never to reveal it, lest others seek to exploit it. But as he grows to young manhood, Alucius must serve in the Militia like his father before him. When his country is invaded by the slave armies of the Matrial, immortal ruler of a nearby land, Alucius is captured and magically enslaved. A time of changes has come upon all of the world of Corus. If the evil surrounding the Matrial is not ended, those changes will not be happy ones. Alucius and his Talent have a central role to play. Pb \$19.95 597pp


KATHLEEN NANCE

SPELLBOUND

  As the Minstrel of Kaf, Zayne keeps the land of the djinn in harmony. Yet lately, he needs a woman to restore balance to his life, and according to his destiny, this soul mate can only be found in the strange land of Earth. Madeline knows to expect a guest while house-sitting, but she didn't expect the man would be so sexy, so potent, so fascinated by the doorbell. But Madeline wants to make sure her handsome djinni won't pull a disappearing act before she can become utterly spellbound. Pb \$17.95 364pp


ROBERT NEWCOMB

THE FIFTH SORCERESS

 Prince Tristan is a reluctant monarch-to-be. Though born with the endowed blood that will give him the power to master magic, and destined by tradition to succeed his father as ruler, he is a rebel soul. And when he discovers the ancient, hidden caves where strange red waters flow, possessed of their own mysterious magic, it only makes him yearn all the more to escape his future of duty and succumb to the stirrings of enchantment within him, but more than tradition compels Tristan to ascend the throne - the very existence of Eutracia depends upon it. For after these long centuries of peace, dreadful omens have begun to appear, heralding something too unspeakable to ponder. Pb \$19.95 668pp


WILLIAM NICHOLSON

FIRESONG

 *Wind on Fire #3.* The Manth people have left the ruined Mastery to seek their homeland, in the face of starvation, blizzards and the evil of the Morah. Only Ira Hath can lead them there, but she grows weak. Bowman eagerly awaits the summons from Sirene. He prepares to make the final sacrifice for his people, his family. But first he must be trained by the great Albard. And all the while, the wind is rising... Pb \$15.95 342pp


LARRY NIVEN, POUL ANDERSON, PAUL CHAFE, HAL COLEBATCH

MAN-KZIN WARS

 #9. When the feline Kzin moved in to take over the monkey-occupied worlds - they got clobbered. The humans, with their underhanded monkey cunning, turned communications equipment and space drives into weapons that cut the dauntless Heroes into ribbons. When the humans gained a faster-than-light drive, it was all over but the, uh, howling. The Kzin had lost their first war ever in centuries of conquest. Still, the Kzin have by no means given up. New weapons, new strategies, and new leaders - the humans had better keep their powder dry. Pb \$19.95 375pp


ANDRE NORTON & LYN McCONCHIE

BEAST MASTER'S ARK

 Something is killing grazing animals and has begun to attack humans as well, leaving nothing but the bones of its victims behind. Beast Master Hosteen, aided by his telepathically linked animals, knows that if he can't stop the killings Arzor will be decimated. His only ally is a young woman who has beast master ability, but was raised to mistrust others with such a power. Pb \$18.95 318pp


K J PARKER

MEMORY

 *Scavenger #3.* Poldarn is pursued by invisible enemies and haunted by the demons of his past. He has at last discovered the truth of his own terrifying origins, but that truth may be more than he, or anyone, can bear. Tp \$28.00 572pp


MEREDITH ANN PIERCE

BIRTH OF THE FIREBRINGER

 *Firebringer #1.* Jan, the prince of the unicorns, is high-spirited and reckless - the despair of his mighty father, Korr. Soon Jan's curiosity leads him, along with his friend Dagg and their mentor, the female warrior Tek, into the greatest dangers - yet time after time they are rescued, leading Jan to wonder whether he is the heir to a special destiny. Pb \$17.95 202pp


MEREDITH ANN PIERCE

DARK MOON


 *Firebringer #2.* Jan now bears a silver crescent on his brow and a white star on his heel, tokens that he will become the legendary Firebringer - but he has no knowledge of fire. Swept out to sea while defending the unicorns, Jan is washed up on a distant shore, only to find himself the revered captive of a strange race who treats him with awe, yet hold him against his will. He witnesses the magic of fire for the first time and discovers how he himself can create it, but can he escape and bring this knowledge back to the unicorns in time to save them? Pb \$17.95 238pp

MEREDITH ANN PIERCE


THE SON OF SUMMER STARS

 *Firebringer #3.* A secret haunts Jan's dying father, Korr - a secret so dark that, if exposed, could bring the downfall of the Firebringer. Jan is left with its terrible burden and an impossible choice - renounce Tek, his beloved mate and lose forever the kingship of the unicorns, or return and face the consequences of his father's acts and of his own. Pb \$17.95 250pp


RECOMMENDED READING



GARTH NIX
MISTER MONDAY




Keys to the Kingdom #1. Seven days. Seven keys. Seven virtues. Seven sins. One mysterious house is the doorway to a very mysterious world - where one boy is about to venture and unlock a number of fantastical secrets. Pb \$15.95 361pp *This novel is very different and a little strange, so it may not be everyone's cup of tea, but I was totally swept away by it. The Architect of the Universe has gone, but She left behind a will, dividing the Universe among some Trustees who are to safeguard it until an heir comes to claim their duties. The Trustees don't want to give up their power so, as they cannot destroy the Will, they tear it into seven pieces, spread it across the Universe and ensure that each piece is heavily guarded. One day, after about ten thousand years, one of the pieces of the Will manages to escape. Enter Arthur Penhaligon. Arthur is one of many people who are in line to become the heir of the Architect. On his first day at his new high school, Arthur suffers a near fatal asthma attack. The only thing that saves him is a key shaped like the minute hand of a clock that falls into his hands through the machinations of the Will. The Trustee of the key is Mister Monday and he is desperate to get it back in order to keep control of the Lower House and stop the Will. Soon the danger to Arthur grows until it not only affects his friends and family but the entire town. In order to save everyone from a deadly plague, Arthur must enter the Lower House to confront Mister Monday and retrieve the second key that is rightfully his. This was such an amazing book. After Arthur entered the Lower House, I was reminded a little of Alice in Wonderland. Like Alice, Arthur has stepped into a world which doesn't work by any rule he understands and meets many odd characters, sent to both help and hinder him. The book was great fun and a little crazy at times, but also had a deeper, darker side to it that I really liked. Highly recommended. - Sian*




SUSAN PRICE

KING'S HEAD

 Wandering the grim battlefield, Brother Dominic is overjoyed to hear a voice calling him. Perhaps there is one more poor soul left alive in all this devastation. He hurries to aid the injured warrior, prepared to do all he can to keep this last survivor in the land of the living, but nothing can prepare him for what he finds... From warrior-bard to disembodied head in one sweep of a sword, just what is keeping Egil the storyteller alive? And what exactly is he planning? Pb \$12.95 188pp


FELICITY PULLMAN

THE FINAL JOURNEY

 *Shalott #3.* When Guinevere summons Callie back to Camelot, Callie becomes trapped in time while her companions face Mordred on the bloody battlefield of Camlann. Callie's future depends on saving Ana, but death waits in the darkness for them all unless Callie can first save herself. Pb \$15.95 267pp


ROBERT REED

SISTER ALICE

 In a galaxy heavily populated by humans and other advanced species, some trustworthy humans and their cloned offspring have been granted an incredible power so that they may preserve a peace that has endured for eons. But the arrival of a woman as old as the great peace itself brings uncertainty and fear. For she brings with her a warning: the tale of an ancient crime that threatens to destroy the peace that has been so carefully crafted. Pb \$19.95 408pp


ADAM ROBERTS

STONE

 He's the universe's last criminal - set free with orders to destroy a planet's entire population. If he succeeds, that act would tear apart an interstellar utopia that has existed for centuries, where humans have their every need taken care of by nanotech machines. To elude detection as the crime is being prepared, the murderer voyages to numerous worlds. In these exotic and varied landscapes, he tries to reawaken his killer instincts - all the while wondering who is behind the contract. In a society that has forgotten how to commit crime, who could possibly aspire to genocide? Pb \$17.95 338pp


KATHERINE ROBERTS

DARK QUETZAL

 *The Echorium Sequence #3.* Frazhin the evil sorcerer has returned and is hiding deep in the Quetzal forest. From here, he plans his revenge on the Singers of Echorium, to obliterate them from the memories of all, but one of his half-creatures breaks free and flies across the seas to join forces with the Singers. Pb \$16.95 251pp


SEAN RUSSELL

THE ISLE OF BATTLE

 *Swans' War #2.* Treachery and deceit run rampant throughout a devastated land, spawning dark alliances in the terrible war ignited by the enmity of two families. But unbeknownst to all, there are others who truly control the beleaguered kingdom's destiny - combatants emerging from eons of restless sleep to renew the bloody terror of a battle older than time. Pb \$19.95 451pp

ANDY SECOMBE


LIMBO

 A diabolical book has spoken of shellfish falling from the sky and men in skirts on Brighton beach, while a monster, unstuck in time, clatters around the universe... Now the Prophecy has come to pass and eternal night is over! For the first time in over 1,000 years, the sun rises over the battlements of Castle Limbo and the King realises he's in big trouble. Tp \$30.00 277pp

ELIZABETH WOLHEIM &

SHEILA GILBERT (Eds)

SCIENCE FICTION: DAW 30TH ANNIVERSARY

 This anthology celebrates 30 years of DAW science fiction with short stories from Brian Stableford, Robert Sheckley, Timothy Zahn, Ian Watson, Charles Ingrid, Kate Elliott, Brian Aldiss, Neal Barrett Jr, Frederik Pohl, Charles Harness, Cheryl Franklin, S Andrew Swann, Julie Czerneda, Ron Goulart, C J Cherryh, Tad Williams, C S Friedman, eluki bes shahar and Lisanne Norman. Pb \$18.95 539pp



L A BANKS

MINION: A VAMPIRE HUNTRESS LEGEND

All Damali Richards ever wanted to do was create music and bring it to the people. Now she is a Spoken Word artist and the top act for Warriors of Light Records. But come nightfall, she hunts vampires and demons - predators that people tend to dismiss as myth or fantasy. Strange attacks have also erupted within the club drug-trafficking network and drawn the attention of the police. These bodies have been mutilated beyond recognition, indicating a blood lust and thirst for destruction that surpasses any Damali has encountered before. She soon discovers that behind these brutal murders is the most powerful vampire she has ever met and it is coming for her next. Tp \$32.00 296pp

DENNIS ETCHISON (ED)

THE MUSEUM OF HORRORS

Here, in all new stories by the greatest of today's horror writers, are the madmen and the monsters, the bizarre and the twisted... the living and the dead. Selected by an award-winning editor, these eighteen stories showcase the work of the greatest contemporary horror writers - such as Peter Straub, William Nolan, Charles Grant, Joyce Carol Oates, Ramsey Campbell, Richard Laymon, Melanie Tem, Tom Piccirilli and many more. Pb \$17.95 374pp

CHRISTINE FEEHAN

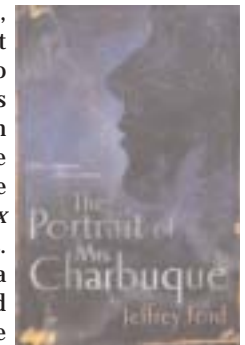
LOVER BEWARE

Between two strangers, sometimes one glance is all it takes and sometimes all it takes is one man to tear apart what fate and desire have brought together... Under the light of the moon, investigating a series of grisly murders, a San Diego detective is caught off guard by the enigmatic man helping her find the killer... Pb \$19.95 362pp

JEFFREY FORD

THE PORTRAIT OF MRS CHARBUQUE

New York, 1893, and society portrait painter Piero Piambo feels his artistic ambition waning, even while he immortalises the city's *nouveaux riches* in oil paints. Then he receives a bizarre and lucrative commission, to paint the mysterious Mrs Charbuque. The catch is that he is not allowed to see her, and Piambo sits before a screen as his sitter tells him of her life, dreams and fears - clues from which he must divine her visage. As he works, a series of murders plagues the city - deaths that at first seem accidental. And, as Piambo's masterpiece takes shape, his relationship with Mrs Charbuque grows ever more tangled... while her deranged husband becomes hell-bent on some inexplicable vengeance. Tp \$30.00 310pp



CATHERINE JINKS

EUSTACE: A GHOST STORY

After Eglantine vanished, Alethea thought she was through with ghosts. That was before she went on a school excursion to Hill End and found herself investigating a whole bunch of them. Was the ghost of Granny Evans really pacing around the museum? Was the ghost of Eustace Harrow really smashing things in Taylor's Cottage? And what about that creepy old miner hiding out in Golden Gully? Then two of her classmates disappear, and she realises that things are starting to get serious... Pb \$13.95 162pp

VICTOR KELLEHER
BORN OF THE SEA: FRANKENSTEIN
- THE UNTOLD STORY

In Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*, the monster's unfinished 'bride' is destroyed by Dr Frankenstein and cast into the sea. But what if she had survived? What if she had gone on to seek out her maker, her origins, her would-be husband? Madeleine Sauvage is a creature with a beautiful face attached to a grotesquely assembled body. She has a loving heart, but a murderous hand and a heart-wrenching longing to belong. Born of the sea, Madeleine begins a journey that takes her from Scotland, through revolutionary France, to Frankenstein's door and beyond. Tp \$29.95 339pp

SHERRILYN KENYON
NIGHT EMBRACE

Life is great for Talon of the Morigantes. He has his chicory coffee, warm beignets and his best friend on the cell phone. Once the sun goes down, he is the baddest thing prowling the night. For centuries, he has protected the innocent and watched over mankind, making sure they are safe in a world where nothing is ever certain. All he wants in return is a hot babe in a red dress, who wants nothing more than one night. Instead, he gets a runaway Mardi Gras float that tries to turn him into roadkill and a beautiful woman who saves his life, but can't remember where she put his pants. Pb \$17.95 408pp

ELIZABETH KNOX
DAYLIGHT

Brian "Bad" Phelan, a New Zealand policeman and bomb disposal expert, likes to live dangerously. While on vacation on the French/Italian border, he helps bring a body out of a rocky, wave-swept cove. Curiously, the dead woman bears striking similarities to a young woman he met years ago, shortly before she disappeared in a flooded French cave. Haunted by the strange connection, Bad is compelled to investigate. In following a series of increasingly eerie leads, Bad learns the story of the Blessed Martine Raimondi, a World War II resistance heroine and martyred nun. Hb \$55.00 356pp

STEPHEN LAWS
DARKFALL

A massive storm is raging, filled with lightning, power... and terror. But inside one high-rise office building, all is silent. Moments before, the building was filled with Christmas parties and celebrating employees. Now it is empty. Everyone has vanished, disappeared into thin air. The only thing left behind - a severed human hand. Detective Jack Cardiff and his squad are about to discover the living hell that is Darkfall, where the impossible becomes all too real and where things that were once human become living nightmares. Pb \$17.95 358pp

KIRBY MCCAULEY (ED)
FRIGHTS

This collection contains 17 stories by such well-known authors as Dean Koontz, Clive Barker, Robert Bloch, David Drake, Ramsey Campbell and Poul Anderson, with additional stories newly added to this edition by Dean Koontz, Clive Barker, and T E D Klein. Pb \$16.95 287pp

MARY ANN MITCHELL
TAINTED BLOOD

Marquis #4. The infamous Marquis de Sade has lived through the centuries. This master vampire cares little for his human playthings, seeking them out only for his amusement and nourishment. Once his dark passion and his bloodlust are sated, he moves on, leaving another drained and discarded toy in his wake. Now Sade is determined to find the woman who made his life hell and destroy her. His journey leads him to a seemingly normal suburban American house, but the people who live there are undead and when the notorious Marquis meets the all-American family of vampires, the resulting culture clash will prove fatal, but for whom? Pb \$17.95 334pp

CHUCK PALAHNIUK
LULLABY

Carl Streater is a reporter investigating Sudden Infant Death Syndrome for a soft-news feature. After responding to several calls with paramedics, he notices that all the dead children were read the same poem from the same library book the night before they died. It's a 'culling song' - an ancient African spell for euthanising sick or old people. Researching it, he meets a woman who killed her own child with it accidentally. He himself accidentally killed his own wife and child with the same poem twenty years earlier. Together, they must find and destroy all copies of this book and try not to kill those who get in their way. Pb \$22.95 260pp

TOM PICCIRILLI
CHOIR OF ILL CHILDREN

Since his mother's mysterious death, and his father's suicide, Thomas has inherited Kingom Come's only industry and source of jobs, The Mill. Because of this position of wealth and power, he is at once feared and respected by the backwards, superstitious townfolk. When Thomas's best friend, Drabs Bibbler (a reverend who suffers from the power of tongues), tries to pass on a warning of impending danger to Thomas, he is overcome by his 'gift'. All Thomas learns is "The carnival is coming." With the help of Maggie, The Granny Witches and pieces of his past that he thought lost, Thomas must face the strange forces that are swirling towards the people and town that he loves. Hb \$59.95 238pp

MICHAEL ROWE (ED)
QUEER FEAR #2: GAY HORROR
FICTION

This second volume includes among its stories new work by some stars of the previous volume - *International Horror Guild Award* winners Gemma Files and Michael Marano, *Bram Stoker Award* winners David Nickle and Edo van Belkom, and screenwriter Ron Oliver. Science fiction writer Robert Sawyer, winner of the *Aurora* and *Nebula Awards*, crosses genres to appear alongside newer writers like *Bram Stoker Award* winner Brett Savory, novelist Sephera Giron and classic British ghost story author Steve Duffy. And if that's not enough, this anthology will also feature a new, unpublished story by internationally acclaimed horror writer Poppy Z Brite. Tp \$29.95 302pp

MELANIE TEM
THE DECEIVER

The Devil, they say, is in the details. The small decisions we make every day. But for the Harkness family, this expression is all too literally true. For many years the members of this family have gotten seemingly helpful advice at key moments in their lives from a mysterious, very persuasive stranger. He doesn't always look the same, but he's always around whenever some sort of decision needs to be made and what he says makes so much sense. His influence on the Harkness family seems slight at first. But before anyone realises it, the strange man is leading them down some very dangerous and terrifying roads indeed. Pb \$17.95 342pp


JAMES THOMPSON
IMMORTAL BLOOD

As a vampire, Elijah Pike (alias Roger Niemann) has been a slave to instinct - consuming human blood to satisfy an unquenchable thirst. As a doctor, he relies on his intellect in the pursuit of a cure that will end not only his craving, but also the deadly urges of others like him. Master vampire Michael Morpheus's last encounter with Pike, in the Louisiana bayou, left him disfigured and consumed by hatred for those he considers traitors to the race. He went underground to lick his wounds and to gather an army of evil that will follow him in his quest for vengeance. Pike knows that the fate of innocent mortals depends upon his victory in a battle against his own kind, one in which no mercy can be shown. Now, in the frozen wilderness of the Canadian Rockies, he'll face Morpheus once more - and the snow will be stained with blood. Pb \$16.95 314pp


MEDIA

BUFFY

KATHLEEN TRACY


 **BUFFY: THAT GIRL'S GOT BITE**
Revised and updated edition. This companion guide covers all aspects of the Buffy phenomena, from the feature film starring Kristy Swanson and Luke Perry, to the development and production of the hit TV series starring Sarah Michelle Gellar. Based on interviews with the show's creator, producers and principal cast members, the book includes cast biographies, critical summaries of each episode, trivia, behind-the-scenes anecdotes and more. Tp \$ 30.00 342pp

MICHAEL ADAMS

SLAYER SLANG: A BUFFY THE VAMPIRE SLAYER LEXICON
 The characters of *Buffy* twist, bend, fold and mutilate their language - and it's that creativity that draws fans to the show, fans who go on to use those same new twists on words and phrases in their own language. The result has been a strikingly resonant lexicon that reflects the power of both youth culture and television in the evolution of American slang. Using the show to illustrate how new slang is formed, transformed and transmitted. Tp \$48.00 308pp


BATTLE ROYALE

KOUSHUN TAKAMI

 **BATTLE ROYALE**
A class of junior high school students is taken to a deserted island where, as part of a ruthless authoritarian program, they are provided arms and forced to kill one another until only one survivor is left standing. Made into a controversial hit movie of the same name, this is already a contemporary Japanese pulp classic, now available for the first time in the English language. Pb \$45.00 616pp


CATWOMAN

SUZAN COLON

CATWOMAN: THE LIFE AND TIMES OF A FELINE FATALE
 Chock-full of insightful feline fatale tips, this illustrated tell-all delivers the details of Catwoman's kitschy career. Sleek and sexy, the greatest cat burglar of all time sank her claws into the Caped Crusader back in 1940 and hasn't let go since. With a brief history of her many incarnations over the years, loads of terrific vintage illustrations, sections on fashion and romance and personal tips on getting ahead, this spunky vinyl-covered volume (oooh! purple PVC!) will attract both new fans of the slinky girl kitty and time-tested aficionados. Tp \$49.95 128pp


CHARLIES ANGELS

DAVID LEVITHAN


 **FULL THROTTLE**
They're brilliant, they're beautiful...and they work for Charlie. Dylan, the wild child, Natalie, the girl next door and Alex, the class act. The Angels must unmask a rogue FBI agent and protect HALO - the witness protection program. From Hollywood premieres to race-car chases and a secret from Dylan's past, it's head-to-toe glamour and non-stop action for the independent women who *always* win! Pb \$12.95 104pp

CHARMED

ELIZABETH LENHARD

 **DATE WITH DEATH**
#12. Almost every night Paige embarks on a new date that seems to lead nowhere - before long the sisters discover that Paige spends her dates in a catatonic trance - she hasn't actually gone anywhere! Pb \$17.95 186pp

DIANA GALLAGHER

 **MIST AND STONE**
#17. When Phoebe stops by the agency for a quick hello, she is rocked by a vision that involves Todd Corman, a young boy who has been bounced from caregiver to caregiver for so long that he doesn't trust authority. Todd's fate may not be set in stone, but he has been targeted, and if the Charmed Ones are going to reverse destiny, they're going to have to race against the clock! Pb \$17.95 201pp


DARK CRYSTAL

BRIAN FROUD

 **THE WORLD OF DARK CRYSTAL**
Originally published in 1982 and long out of print, this definitive volume, packed with brilliant artwork, is a beautifully printed reproduction of the original volume containing all of its stunning art and text - plus a new essay by Froud, illustrated with never-before-published paintings, drawings and sculptures from the film's archives. And this new edition features a facsimile of a 20-page booklet Froud and Henson created to present the film to backers - a gorgeous overview of the story so rare only a few copies are known to exist. This collector's edition, like the re-released film, is a must-have for Henson and Froud fans. Hb \$65.00 132pp


DARK ANGEL

MAX ALLAN COLLINS


 **AFTER THE DARK**
Dark Angel #3. When Max discovers a shattering truth that Logan has kept concealed from her for years, the betrayal threatens the very essence of their trust. Yet when Logan is kidnapped, all questions of truth and loyalty are cast aside. Pb \$17.95 258pp

DINOTOPIA


JOHN VORNHOLT

 **SABERTOOTH MOUNTAIN**
#5. High in the Forbidden Mountains of Dinotopia, sabre-toothed tigers prowl and hunt, far from humans and dinosaurs alike. A daring 12-year-old boy is forced to join a sabre-toothed clan, then disaster strikes and he must brave the treacherous crags of Sabre-tooth Mountain - for the good of all Dinotopians! Pb \$9.95 133pp


GENE DEWESSE


 **FIRESTORM**
#6. In the remarkable world where dinosaurs and humans live together in harmony, Olivia has a chance to surpass Albert and guarantee her own apprenticeship to the Habitat Partner of Forest, but in her hurried, hopeful search for answers to the disappearance of a root that guarantees all Dinotopians longevity, will Olivia fail to ask the most important question? Pb \$9.95 149pp

SCOTT CIENCIN

 **THUNDER FALLS**
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
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COMPETITION

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WHAT WE'VE BEEN READING

Camp Concentration by Thomas M Disch (Pb \$35.00). This book is told from the point of view of Louis Sacchetti, an Italian American poet who is imprisoned for being a conscientious objector to a vaguely defined war in an alternate 1970's America. His wardens represent the rulers of an extreme right-wing, Christian fundamentalist government who have cracked down on all potential voices of opposition. Sacchetti's gaolers soon decide that his skills would be useful in the assessment of the test subjects of a secret research project. Although this is an anti-war novel, the main thrust of the novel concerns the experiments in "intelligence maximisation" being carried out on inmates of the laboratory. With the aim of creating a brains trust superior to that of their enemies, the US army develops a drug that rapidly raises ordinary people to the level of genius but the side-effects ruin their health and drastically curtail their lifespan. Encouraged to conduct research with potential military applications, the inmates' studies lead the story to a surprising conclusion. Disch makes powerful use of the format of this novel which is presented as Sacchetti's diary. The poet's entries become increasingly frantic as he befriends his eccentric fellow prisoners, only to watch them quickly waste away. - Raph.

Marriage of Sticks by Jonathan Carroll (Pb \$21.00). This is the story of Miranda Romanac, who discovers at her school reunion that her first sweetheart is dead. She begins an affair with a married man and meets the wonderful Frances Hatch and moves to a grand house in the country. Then she encounters a ghost and discovers that her decisions have upset something that could affect reality itself... Another fine book from Carroll, splendidly written, and one of his best. - David.

Clockwork by Phillip Pullman (Pb \$13.95). This short, but wonderfully crafted, story is written in the style of the Brothers Grimm fairy tales. The townspeople of Glockenheim have gathered within a tavern to hear Fritz the storyteller's new story, one that promises to scare and entertain. Fritz begins his tale about the mysterious disappearance of Prince Otto, who some say had sold his soul to the devil-like Dr Kalemnius. As Fritz builds up the story, a stranger enters the tavern, introducing himself as Dr Kalemnius...

There begins an ingenious narrative-within-a-narrative that heightens the creepy and tense atmosphere. The metaphor of stories being like a wound up clock allows Pullman the freedom to let this story charge at a relentless pace towards its destined finish. **Clockwork** is a fine example of Pullman's ability to write a delightful children's text that would also appeal to adults. And there are enough narrative devices to keep literary analysts busy. - John

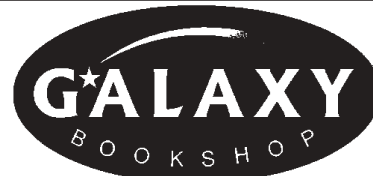
Hello everyone. Firstly, thanks for all the good wishes I've received since returning to work. Being house-bound for a period, there was nothing for me to do but read (yeahhhh!!) *The Last Clansman* is a dark fantasy series by Miller Lau, made up of so far of **Talisker** (Pb \$16.95) and **Dark Thane** (Pb \$17.95). These are great reads if you like your fantasy different and more edgy than normal. The first book revolves around the murders of young women in Edinburgh, serial killers, innocence and a police detective who will not give up. The narrative moves from our time to a world of legend called Sutra, has many amazing creatures and a great evil force to be defeated (or is it...?). The next book involves the children of some of the main characters and is set 16 years after the first book. Once again, it has some memorable scenes - one of my favourites being where they ride on the backs of the eagle-like Sidhe. I can't wait for the next one! - Stephen.

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