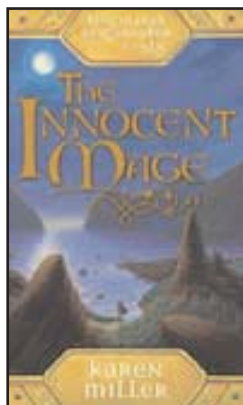




nexus

August 2005

Issue #207



KAREN MILLER

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

THE INNOCENT MAGE

Thurs 25 Aug @ 6pm

The Doranen have ruled Lur with magic since they arrived centuries ago after fleeing Morg, the mage who started a war in their homeland. To keep their lands safe, the Olken - Lur's original inhabitants - are forbidden to use magic. Any Olken who breaks the law will be executed.

Gar has come to Lur's capital city to make his fortune. He finds himself working in the royal stables and, in time, becomes a mediator between the Olken and the Doranen. Soon, he will have enough money to return home and set up his own fishing fleet. But there is unrest among the Olken. It has been prophesied that the Innocent Mage will be born, and the Circle is dedicated to preserving the magic of the Olken until the saviour arrives. The Circle have been watching Gar, and as the city streets are filled with Olken rioters, his life takes a new turn ...

Check out Mark's fave rave pg 3...

LOCUS AWARD WINNERS

SF NOVEL

The Confusion (*Baroque Cycle #2*) by Neal Stephenson

FANTASY NOVEL

Iron Council by China Mieville

FIRST NOVEL

Jonathan Strange & Mr Norrell by Susanna Clarke

YOUNG ADULT NOVEL

A Hat Full of Sky by Terry Pratchett

BEST COLLECTION

The John Varley Reader by John Varley

BEST ANTHOLOGY

The Year's Best Science Fiction: 21st Annual Collection
edited by Gardner Dozois

HORROR GUILD NOMINEES

BEST NOVEL

The Overnight by Ramsey Campbell

Mortal Love by Elizabeth Hand

The Kings of Infinite Space by James Hynes

A Handbook of American Prayer by Lucius Shepard

In the Night Room by Peter Straub

FIRST NOVEL

Jonathan Strange & Mr Norrell by Susanna Clarke

The Ghost Writer by John Harwood

Move Under Ground by Nick Mamatas

The Quick by Dan Vining

The Shadow of the Wind by Carlos Ruis Zafon

JOHN W CAMPBELL MEMORIAL AWARD WINNER

Market Forces by Richard Morgan

RIP: Chris Bunch, co-author of the *Sten* series and author of the *Dragonmaster* and *Star Risk* series and others, passed away on 4 July 2005. Chris was a veteran of Vietnam and also co-wrote **A Reckoning for Kings**, a classic Vietnam war novel.

James Doohan, who played chief engineer Montgomery 'Scotty' Scott in the original *Star Trek* television series and subsequent films, died on 20 July 2005.

A CONVENTION OF FANTASTIC WORLDS

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

CONFLUX 3

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

Largest art show & film festival at an Aust. SF convention




SCIENCE FICTION AND FANTASY




CATHERINE ASARO

THE MISTED CLIFFS

 One generation after war nearly destroyed three nations, evil returns. And only Mel Dawnfield's daring sacrifice could stop it... The promise of peace rested on this young woman's noble vow to marry Cobalt the Dark - heir to a family of legendary cruelty. With only her uncontrolled spells to guide her, isolated in Cobalt's solitary home in the Misted Cliffs, knowing poisoned blood ran through her husband's veins, Mel struggles to embrace her mage powers and unveil the light in her shadowy new world - including the radiance hidden in her husband's soul. For her enemies are gathering strength and they will soon unleash the darkest of evils in the name of war. In the final battle, Mel's ability to harness her magic means the difference between a harmonious world... and annihilation. Tp \$29.95 345pp


NEAL ASHER

BRASS MAN

 On the primitive world of Cull, a knight errant called Anderson is hunting a dragon - little knowing that far away someone else has resurrected a brass killing machine called Mr Crane to assist in a similar hunt encompassing star systems. Tp \$32.95 485pp


NEAL ASHER

COWL

 In the far future, the Heliothane Dominion is triumphant in the solar system, after a bitter war with their Umbrathane progenitors. But some of the enemy have escaped into the past, intent on wreaking havoc across time. The worst of these is Cowl, an artificially forced advance in human evolution, but no longer human. Pb \$19.95 469pp


PIERCE ASKEGREN

FALL GIRL

 *The Inconstant Moon Trilogy #2.* On Earth's moon, a starship is being built to explore an alien artefact, but one newswoman has become a pawn in a conspiracy that could end the project - as well as her own life. Pb \$16.95 247pp


J D AUSTIN

MEET THE THRADONS!

 *Bobby Albertson #2.* In **Bobby's Girl**, brilliant young filmmaker Bobby Albertson found his true love, a beautiful blonde who is out of this world - literally. Now she's taking him back home to meet the folks. Pb \$14.95 233pp



ALISON BAIRD

THE STONE OF THE STARS

 *The Dragon Throne #1.* Ravaging the once peaceful world of Mera, the evil God-King Khalazar and his army of barbarians seek a legendary talisman of unfathomable power called the Stone of the Stars, but the only clues to its location are contained in an ancient scroll, which rests in the hands of four young fugitives. Now this quartet of innocents - a storyteller, a priest, a runaway slave and a visionary - must find and uncover the real nature of the Stone. Pursued by Khalazar's fanatic warriors, these travellers will journey to a long-vanished mystical isle where humans once dwelt alongside dragons and it is here, amid the haunted ruins of a city built by a forgotten race, that their quest - and their destinies - will truly begin... Pb \$16.95 607pp


C J BARRY

UNMASKED

  To the merchants he plunders, he's the Ghost Rider of the Dead Zone. To sector law enforcement, he's a wanted pirate. To the slaves he rescues, he's the saviour, Laghato. To one determined female, Qaade Deter is serious trouble. Torrie Masters had heard of the legendary raider, but she'd never expected to encounter him. Nor did she expect that beneath his mask lurked a man destined to challenge her in ways she couldn't shoot her way out of. Entrusted with the fate of thousands, Torrie has discovered Qaade's impossible dream. Only she has the power to help him. Only she has the power to see him... unmasked. Pb \$16.95 341pp


ELIZABETH BEAR

SCARDOWN

 *Jenny Casey #2.* After years on the run, Jenny Casey is back in the Canadian armed forces. Those who were once her enemies are now her allies and at 50, she's been handpicked for the most important mission of her life - a mission for which her artificially reconstructed body is perfectly suited. With the earth capable of sustaining life for just another century, Jenny, as pilot of the starship *Montreal*, must discover brave new worlds and with time running out, she must succeed where others have failed. With the help of a brilliant AI, an ex - crime lord and the man she loves, Jenny may just get her chance to save the world, if it doesn't come to an end first... Pb \$16.95 368pp


GREGORY BENFORD

THE SUNBORN

 The first manned mission to Mars has been a resounding success and excitement grows as more new discoveries are made. However, one discovery continues to defy rational explanation - the 'marsmat' - a complex anaerobic life-form found in the planet's honeycomb of tunnels. This raises questions about the nature and meaning of life itself, which will lead the curious and the driven to Pluto and beyond, to the cold void at the fringes of the solar system. Pb \$19.95 424pp

HOLLY BLACK


TITHE: A MODERN FAIRY TALE

 As a small child Kaye used to talk to faeries. Now 16, she travels with her mother's rock band, until an ominous attack forces them to return to her childhood home. Once there, Kaye discovers that her childhood memories were real and she is drawn into a secret faerie world by an attraction that she is unable to fight. Finding herself an unwilling pawn in an ancient and violent power struggle between two rival faerie kingdoms, Kaye agrees to go along with a plan to disrupt the human sacrifice that binds her faerie friends to their unkind masters, but not everyone has been telling her the truth and she is soon in grave danger... Pb \$16.95 310pp

MARION ZIMMER BRADLEY

& DEBORAH J ROSS

A FLAME IN HALI

 *Clingfire Trilogy #3.* In the era of *The Hundred Kingdoms*, King Carolin of Hastur and his friend, Keeper Varzil Ridenow, work selflessly to put an end to the destruction caused by the long range weapons of the magical matrix Towers. But Eduin Deslucido - who once called Carolin brother - has been consumed with a vengeful rage and will stop at nothing to destroy the king and his plan for peace. Pb \$18.95 543pp



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

INNOCENT MAGE

Kingmaker, Kingbreaker #1

Karen Miller

Pb \$18.95 560pp

Welcome to a stellar debut and the newest star in Australian fantasy writing! Ms Miller weaves a delightful tale, bringing a distinct style, flare and sense of drama to her first fantasy novel. In the Kingdom of Lur the Doranen, an elegant, magic-wielding race have brought an age of peace and harmony to the native inhabitants, the Olken. But while they use their gifts and more advanced society to rule for the benefit of both the simpler Olken and themselves, the Doranen hide in their history a dark secret. The kingdom they left behind was devastated by a war of black magic's and the survivors, who have taken refuge in Lur, seek to forget the legacy of the evil mage Morag that stains them. In an effort to protect themselves and the Olken, the ancient Doranen constructed a wall of glistening magic and light, cutting off all access to the outside world and the horrors they left behind. In return for the protection of their kingdom, the Olken have abandoned their own traditions of magic; but the Olken have secrets of their own.

A secret society known only as 'the Circle' holds safe the forgotten Olken magic, and a prophecy awaits the coming of the one called the Innocent Mage; destined to save their world from destruction if he retains his innocence, or to herald its doom if he falls.

From the sweeping vistas of Restharven Harbour, the tale unfolds as a young man, Asher, leaves home in search of his fortune, only to find himself saving a prince and taking a position in the royal stables. This is traditional fantasy at its best as Miller masterfully weaves Asher's struggle with his own self worth, and his practical nature against the demands of prophecy and magic. While Asher rises to fame and fortune, the Circle watch him from the sidelines.

Abounding with vivid characterisations and contemporary dilemmas, Miller adds a strong human touch that is lacking in many books of more standard fantasy fare, while marrying the tale to a forward-moving plot with a momentum that carries the reader into the small hours of the morning as they find themselves having to read 'just one more chapter'. (I write from experience!)

Miller's debut is a blockbuster story crafted with a strong sense of wonder and told with whimsical charm. Fans of Fiona McIntosh will devour this book and I have no doubt that all readers will be left wanting more when Book One reaches its astounding conclusion! - *Mark*

CLASSIC TITLE

THE NEVERENDING STORY

Michael Ende

Pb \$18.95 445pp

This is a wonderful children's classic and many would remember the 1984 film of the same name (DVD \$20.95). Although the film stayed very faithful to the book, it ended about halfway through the story, so even if you've seen the film, there are still plenty of surprises in the book. Originally published in Germany in 1979, the story hides its age well and feels surprisingly contemporary.

The book opens with 12-year-old Bastian stumbling into a second-hand bookshop to avoid bullies on the way to school. Here he finds the owner, Mr Coreander, reading a beautiful, silk-bound book, which Bastian feels strangely drawn to. When Mr Coreander is distracted by a phone call, Bastian steals the book and runs to his school, hiding in the attic. He settles down with blankets, food and candles, preparing to stay until he finishes the book, believing that he can't go home now that he's a thief.

Bastian is slowly drawn into the amazing world of Fantastica. Populated by many strange and wondrous beasts, it is a beautiful, exciting and dangerous place - and it is in trouble. All over Fantastica, patches of Nothing are forming, and anything it touches no longer exists. Ambassadors from every race have rushed to see the Childlike Empress in the hope that she can stop the Nothing. But the Childlike Empress is dying and in no state to help anyone.

A young boy, Atreyu, is sent on a mission to save the Childlike Empress and stop the Nothing. Bastian follows Atreyu's adventures avidly and he is there when Atreyu meets the horrible Ygramul the Many, the beautiful luck Dragon Falkor and comes face-to-face with the Childlike Empress. Eventually, Bastian realises that he may be the solution to Fantastica's problems, but he is filled with self-doubt and would rather do nothing than fail. The film ends with the timely rescue of the Childlike Empress and Fantastica, but the novel is nowhere near finished. Bastian is entrusted with a mission, like Atreyu, and he must help rebuild Fantastica with wishes. There is a price to pay, however, and Bastian loses a memory with every wish he makes. As he forgets who he is, will Bastian allow the power of the wishes to overwhelm him?

This is a truly beautiful story and is deservedly a children's favourite. Bastian is just a regular kid and has problems that many children can relate to, using books as a means to escape his real life. He is able to be a hero, even though he is 'normal' and respected for who he is, not what he thinks he should be. The world of Fantastica is lovingly depicted and populated with amazing characters; Falkor is my favourite. Overall, this is an excellent story that will keep children engrossed until the end, and one they will cherish forever. - *Sian*

JIM BUTCHER

ACADEM'S FURY

The Codex Alera #2. For 1,000 years, the people of Alera have united against the aggressive races that inhabit the world, using their unique bond with the Furies - elementals of Earth, Air, Fire, Water and Metal. But the First Lord of Alera has fallen in his efforts to protect his people and the fate of the Alerians lies in the hands of Tavi, a young man who must use all of his courage and resourcefulness to save his people - and himself. Hb \$54.00 469pp

SUSAN CARROLL

THE DARK QUEEN

One woman must fulfil her destiny - while facing the treacherous designs of Catherine de Medici, the dark queen. She is Ariane, the Lady of Faire Isle. This is a time when women of ability are deemed sorceresses, when Renaissance France is torn by ruthless political intrigues and all are held in thrall to the sinister ambitions of the queen. Then a wounded stranger arrives on Faire Isle, bearing a secret the Dark Queen will do everything in her power to possess. Tp \$29.95 533pp

C J CHERRYH

FORGE OF HEAVEN

The Gene Wars #2. Only at tiny Concord Station can humans from Earth and the strange Outsider worlds coexist, along with the powerful alien ondat, for all are bound to the fate of the fragile world below. But intrigues, power plays and dangerous alliances, intensified by the arrival of a ship from Earth, could shatter the uneasy peace that keeps the empires of the universe at bay. And the ondat - inscrutable, unpredictable and merciless - are watching... Pb \$18.95 439pp

JAMES CLEMENS

 **SHADOWFALL**

The Godslayer Chronicles #1. From this bestselling author, comes the first novel in a new series about a world where mysterious gods hold powerful secrets, knights walk in the shadows and demons claw up from the darkness, as one man struggles to prove he didn't kill a god. Hb \$54.00 465pp

GLEN COOK

 **THE TYRANNY OF THE NIGHT**

Instrumentalities of the Night #1. At the world's centre, in the Holy Land, where two great religions were born, are the Wells of Ithrain, the source of the greatest magics. Over the last century the Patriarchs of the West have demanded crusades to claim the Wells from the Pramans, the followers of the Written. Now an uneasy truce extends between the Pramans and the West, waiting for a spark to start the conflict anew. Then, on a mission in the Holy Land, the young Praman warrior Else is attacked by a creature of the Dark - in effect, a minor god. Too ignorant to know that he can never prevail over such a thing, he fights it and wins and, in so doing, sets the terrors of the night against him. Hb \$56.00 427pp

RICHARD COX

 **THE GOD PARTICLE**

American businessman Steve Keeley is hurtled three stories to the cold cobblestone street in Zurich. He wakes up to find that he seems to be able to sense things before they happen and appears capable of impossible feats. Meanwhile Mike McNair, a brilliant physicist, works to uncover one of the universe's greatest secrets - a theoretical particle that binds the universe together, often called the God Particle. When his efforts are undermined by the man who has poured his own vast fortune into the project, McNair begins to suspect that something in his research has gone very, very wrong. Now these two men are about to come together, venturing to a realm beyond reason, beyond faith, perhaps even beyond life and death. Tp \$29.95 304pp

JOHN CROWLEY

 **LORD BYRON'S NOVEL:
THE EVENING LAND**

Documents discovered in a rotting old trunk in an English storage room prove that the manuscript of a novel by Byron once existed and that it was saved from destruction, read and annotated by Ada, Countess of Lovelace, a brilliant mathematician and Byron's abandoned daughter. And what a novel it is - the story of Ali, the bastard son of the demonic Lord Sane, torn from his life in high Albania to be raised a proper, if penniless, English gentleman. Hb \$56.00 465pp

ELLEN DATLOW

& TERRI WINDLING (EDS)

 **SWAN SISTER:
FAIRY TALES RETOLD**

Just as fairy-tale magic can transform a loved one into a swan, the contributors to this book have transformed traditional fairy tales and legends into stories that are completely original, yet still tantalisingly familiar. The stories include a Rapunzel whose most confining prison is her loneliness, a contemporary rendering of the Green Man myth, two different versions of Red Riding Hood, Sleeping Beauty's experience of her enchantment, two works inspired by the Arabian Nights and more. Contributors include Neil Gaiman, Nina Kiriki Hoffman, Kathe Koja, Tanith Lee, Will Shetterly, Midori Snyder and Jane Yolen. Pb \$7.95 165pp

GLEN DUNCAN

 **DEATH OF AN ORDINARY
MAN**

Nathan's gravestone offers a short and hopeful summary - "At Rest". But Nathan is not at rest and knows he won't be until he can find out how and why he died. A spectral spectator throughout the day of the wake, he listens to his wife, son, daughter, father and best friend, getting to know them like he has never known them before - but there are two things he can't understand - a strange young couple on the fringes of the wake, whose presence fills him with dread and a room in his house he never knew existed, with a door he feels compelled to open - a door that he knows will lead to a terrifying secret. Pb \$19.95 304pp

DAVID & LEIGH EDDINGS

 **CRYSTAL GORGE**

The Dreamers #3. The Elder Gods have defeated the Vlagh twice - with the aid of the Dreamers and the mysterious Treasured One who seems, worryingly, to be controlling them - but the unspeakable Creature of the Wasteland is on the fast track to world domination as the time approaches for the Younger Gods to take their place. Now all the varied resources of the domains of the Gods are marshalled to bring a halt to the spread of evil. Hb \$59.95 517pp

DAVID FARLAND

 **THE LAIR OF BONES**

The Runelords #4. With Gaborn's kingdom in ruins, four powerful kings march to claim its spoils, even as a vast army of reavers from the underworld sallies forth, intending to put an end to mankind. In one last-ditch effort to heal the earth, Averan leads the Earth King far below the surface to the Lair of Bones, to confront the leader of the reaver hordes. There Gaborn must confront an ancient evil, before the world is torn apart. Pb \$18.95 429pp

DAVID FARLAND

  **WORLDS OF THE GOLDEN
QUEEN**

Omnibus edition containing The Golden Queen and Beyond the Gate. A cloned queen hides from her interstellar kingdom's insectoid attackers with the aid of three companions, one of whom rises to the throne and endeavours to prevent the insectoids from using a genetic weapon. Tp \$32.95 556pp

CHARLES COLEMAN FINLAY

 **THE PRODIGAL TROLL**

When Lord Gruethrist's castle is laid under siege by an invading baron, he sends a trusted knight and nursemaid off with his infant son. Their escape across a wilderness landscape populated by fantastic creatures and torn by war, 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. When he leaves the band to rediscover the world of humankind, he discovers that 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. Hb \$54.00 374pp

ERIC FLINT

 **THE RIVERS OF WAR**

In the War of 1812, US troops are battling the British on the Canadian border, even as a fierce fight is being waged against the Creek followers of the Indian leader Tecumseh and his brother, known as the Prophet and the British are only months away from unleashing an assault on Washington itself. As Andrew Jackson, backed by Cherokee warriors, leads a fierce attack on the Creek tribes, his young republic will soon need every citizen soldier it can find. What if - at this critical moment - bonds were forged between men of different races and tribes? What if the Cherokee clans were able to muster an integrated front and the US government faced a united Indian nation bolstered by escaping slaves, freed men of colour and even influential white allies? Hb \$56.00 489pp


ALAN DEAN FOSTER

 **THE LIGHT-YEARS BENEATH
MY FEET**

Taken #2. Marcus Walker was hustled aboard an alien Vilenjji starship, part of a cargo of primitive creatures bound for the 'civilised' part of the galaxy, where they'll be sold as pets. Fortunately, there was another Earthling aboard, a dog named George, who's been speech-enhanced to increase his market value. He and George form an immediate bond and manage to outwit their kidnappers. But now they are a million billion miles from Earth... Hb \$49.95 245pp


DAVE FREER

A MANKIND WITCH

 *Heirs of Alexandria #3.* In an alternate world where magic works, the Holy Roman Empire still rules Europe, the time of the Renaissance has come, with very different results. Norway is still pagan and a sacred relic, the Arming of Telemark, has been stolen from Odin's temple. Without it, truce-oaths cannot be renewed and bloody war with the Empire will follow. Signy, the older stepsister to the King Vortenbras is accused. When she disappears, most think it proof of her guilt. Her only partisan, the Corsair-Captain Cair, knows that she had been carried off and is determined to find and rescue her. As he and Prince Manfred of Brittany set out to rescue Signy, following her trail into the Underworld, battling trolls and other deadly supernatural creatures every step of the way, he will not only find that magic is very real, and dangerously so, but that he has a natural talent for it. Hb \$54.00 344pp


C S FRIEDMAN

THE WILDING

 *In Conquest Born #2.* The tribal Braxaná were designed to become the ultimate warriors. The Azeans were raised to master the power of the mind. Here are two civilisations fighting an endless war over a long-forgotten cause. Now, after a century and a half, the legacy of their greatest military leaders threatens to tear apart both empires. Pb \$18.95 551pp


GREGORY FROST

ATTACK OF THE JAZZ GIANTS AND OTHER STORIES

 A collection of 14 stories from a *Nebula*, *Hugo*, *Tiptree*, *International Horror Guild* and *World Fantasy Award* finalist. Beginning with a midnight odyssey to a shadowland, where vehicles feast on vagrants, this compilation includes stories in which Poe's final days are revealed, factory workers are exploited by an apparition of the Virgin Mary and Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart pinwheels through the corridors of time. Behind-the-scenes notes by the author are also included. Hb \$56.00 344pp


JAMES ALAN GARDNER

GRAVITY WELLS

 In his first short-story collection, this award-winning author brings together the numerous tales that have made his reputation, ranging from the everyday experience to the cosmic, from peanut butter sandwiches to space drives. There are stories of wonder, imagination, humanity and the unknown. Some of the stories in this collection have won the *Aurora Award* and the grand prize in the *Writers of the Future* contest and been nominated for both the *Hugo* and *Nebula* awards, while others are completely new. Tp \$35.00 344pp


MARC D GILLER

HAMMERJACK

 They ride virtual waves of code and pirate high-tech secrets to sell to the highest bidder. They are 'hammerjacks' and the rewards of their profession are second only to the sheer rush of what they do. Cray Alden was once one of them. Now he's a corporate spook chasing down the information traffickers who've turned business into all-out war, but beneath the surface skirmishes lurks something darker - rumours of a biological supercomputer that threatens to shift the balance of power between man and machine. With an assassin on his trail and a devastating secret locked in his mind, Cray must turn to the hammerjack who's been his most dangerous, most elusive quarry. Together they are on the deadliest mission of Cray's life - to destroy the god that man made. Tp \$27.00 355pp


ISABEL GLASS

THE DIVIDED CROWN

 *Karededin #2.* Lady Angarred Hashan married the Master of the College of Magicians and retreated from the life of the Royal Court of Karededin, to manage their school and raise a family of their own. When the Queen dies too soon, leaving Jerret, her 14-year-old son to rule, the royal court becomes a place where Angarred and Mathewar were no longer welcome. So it is with surprise and concern that they received a summons from the King. And it is with horror that they discover that Lord Haru is not content to rule through Jerret, but intends to place one of his own sons on the throne instead. Hb \$56.00 383pp

MARTIN H GREENBERG (ED)


GATEWAYS

 Science fiction is all about exploration - from the microcosm to the macrocosm, from the past to the future, from the depths of the ocean to far-distant stars and this collection of 19 original stories offers a whole assortment of gateways to worlds of adventure and the imagination. Pb \$18.95 436pp

DAVID G HARTWELL

& KATHRYN CRAMER (EDS)


YEAR'S BEST FANTASY #5

 In this volume of the year's best flights of the fantastic, these award-winning editors present a dazzling new array of wonders - stories that break through the time-honoured conventions of the genre, to carry the reader to astonishing places that only the most ingenious minds could conceive. In the able hands of Neil Gaiman, Kage Baker, Tim Powers and others, miracles become tangible and true, impossible creatures roam unfettered and fairy tales are reshaped, sharpened and freed from the restrictive bonds of childhood. Pb \$18.95 502pp

DAVID G HARTWELL

& KATHRYN CRAMER (EDS)

YEAR'S BEST SF #10

 The very best to appear over the past year has been amassed into one volume by these acclaimed editors and anthologists, offering bold visions of days to come that are bright, triumphant, breathtaking and unique. Here are explorations and invasions, grand technological accomplishments, amazing flights into the unknown, horrors and miracles. New tales from Gregory Benford, Terry Bisson, James Patrick Kelly, Pamela Sargent, Jack McDevitt, Gene Wolfe and more. Pb \$18.95 498pp

JOHN TWELVE HAWKS


THE TRAVELER

 Maya is attempting to lead a normal life in London, trying to ignore the fact that she comes from a long lineage of Harlequins - a band of warriors pledged to protect the immortal Travellers at all costs. When she is summoned to Prague by her ailing father, she learns that two brothers, Gabriel and Michael, have been located in California. They may represent the last surviving Travellers and are in desperate need of protection. Also searching for the brothers is Nathan Boone, a disciplined mercenary working for the Tabulas - ruthless men who are determined to inflict order on the world by invisibly controlling its population. When Maya flies to California in search of Gabriel and Michael Corrigan, a colossal battle looms... Hb \$54.00 456pp




MARK HELPRIN

FREDDY AND FREDERICKA

 Freddy is the Prince of Wales, Fredericka his troublesome wife. Because of the epic public relations disasters caused by these wayward heirs to the throne, they are sent, in a little-known ancient tradition, on a quest to colonise a strange and barbarous land - America. They are parachuted into the gleaming hell of industrial New Jersey and make their way across the country - riding freight trains, washing dishes, stealing art, gliding down the Mississippi, impersonating dentists, fighting forest fires and becoming ineluctably enmeshed in the madness of a presidential campaign. Amid the collisions of their royal assumptions with their life on the road, they rise to their full potential, gain the dignity and humility required of great monarchs and good people and learn to love each other. Hb \$59.95 553pp

NINA KIRIKI HOFFMAN


A STIR OF BONES

 Susan Backstrom seems to have a charmed life - but she also has dangerous family secrets. When she hears some kids talking about exploring a nearby haunted house, Susan asks to join them, even though she knows what might happen if she gets caught. The teenagers discover that there is indeed a ghost, and the house itself is a living, supernatural thing. With the help of five new friends - three humans, one ghost and House - Susan has what she needs to build a new life, if she dares. Pb \$14.95 211pp

TANYA HUFF

& ALEXANDER POTTER (EDS)


WOMEN OF WAR

 For this anthology, writers take up the challenge of creating strong, well-rounded female protagonists, more than able to defend themselves and take the helm - whether in space, on distant worlds, in our own future, or in fantasy realms where a civilisation's fate hangs in the balance. Pb \$18.95 357pp

KERRIE HUGHES


& MARTIN H GREENBERG (EDS)

MAIDEN, MATRON, CRONE

 Maiden, matron and crone - the three aspects of the Triple Goddess - have representations in various ancient cultures, religions and mythologies. Now, 13 authors present brand new tales that draw upon these classic archetypes. Pb \$18.95 311pp


PATRICK JENNINGS

THE WOLVING TIME

 In 16th-century France during a time of witch-hunts, in a village with a corrupt priest, 13-year-old Lazlo Emberek longs to be able to turn into a wolf as his parents can, but also desires the friendship of a village girl. Pb \$12.95 197pp


HERVE JUBERT

DEVIL'S TANGO

 *The Devil's Dances #2.* There has been no need for detection in Basle since the invention of the tracers, tiny motes in the air which can reveal the slightest illegality, but now the city is being rent by a spate of murders. Once again, Roberta Morgenstern and Clement Martineau are on the trail, caught up in the devil's dance. A new killer, bound to the will of the winds, is committing a series of terrible and violent crimes. Not only this, but the rain is incessant and water levels are rising. Soon the dams will be breached and all Basle will be underwater. High-speed chases across roof-tops and through winding streets lead Roberta and Clement to the Queen of the Gypsies, the pirates of the lagoon and finally to a fateful meeting with the deadly Baron of the Mists... Pb \$19.95 328pp


ANNE KELLEHER

SILVER'S BANE

 *Silver #2.* With the courts of both the Sidhe's Otherworld and the mortals' Shadowlands in contention, nothing seems safe anymore. Now blacksmith's daughter Nessa is caught up in political and military intrigues that might loose the goblin horde. Widowed queen Cecily is fighting for a throne she never expected to have and Delphinea, lady in waiting to the Faery throne, is caught between the powers of Sidhe and her destiny. With Nessa crossing between worlds to further understanding of each people, Cecily and Delphinea must fight to contain the evil that edges ever closer. Tp \$29.95 458pp


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THE HISTORIAN

 Late one night, exploring her father's library, a young woman finds an ancient book and a cache of yellowing letters addressed ominously to 'My dear and unfortunate successor'. Her discovery plunges her into a world she never dreamed of - a labyrinth where the secrets of her father's past and her mother's mysterious fate connect to an evil hidden in the depths of history. In those few quiet moments, she unwittingly assumes a quest she will discover is her birthright - a hunt for the truth about Vlad the Impaler, the medieval ruler whose barbarous reign formed the basis of the Dracula myth. Tp \$32.95 642pp


NAOMI KRITZER

FREEDOM'S APPRENTICE

 *The Dead Rivers #2.* Once the trusted aide to powerful military commander Kyros, freeborn Lauria hunted down his escaped slaves, but during a mission to infiltrate the bandit tribe known as the Alashi, Lauria's loyalties shifted. When her identity was discovered, she was cast out by both sides. Now Lauria is determined to regain the trust of the Alashi, and, with the help of her blood-sister Tamar, liberate those she once returned to captivity. However, they cannot accomplish that daunting task alone. Desperate for a spell-chain to free a mine slave, Lauria turns to her enemies - the Sisterhood of Weavers - and apprentices herself to a sorceress, but learning to harness magic will come at a greater price than she ever imagined. Pb \$16.95 356pp


MERCEDES LACKEY

SANCTUARY

 *The Dragon Jousters #3.* The Altan serf Vetch has escaped the enemy kingdom of Tia, only to find his homeland, Alta, enslaved by the evil Priest-Kings. With a small band of followers, Vetch must gather a secret army of dragon riders to rid their world of war and magical domination, once and for all. Hb \$56.00 306pp


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 This collection contains three complete novels, one of them a Hugo Award finalist and a number of short stories. Pb \$18.95 600pp


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CHILD OF A RAINLESS YEAR

 Middle-aged Mira Fenn knows she has an uncomfortably exotic past. As a small girl, she lived in a ornate old house in tiny Las Vegas, New Mexico, tended by oddly silent servant women and ruled by her coldly flamboyant mother Colette. When Mira was nine, Colette went on one of her unexplained trips, only this time she never returned. Placed with foster parents, Mira was raised in Ohio, normal save for her passion for colour. On gaining adulthood, she learned that she still owned the New Mexico house. Travelling back to New Mexico, she finds the house has been painted in innumerable colours. As Mira continues to investigate her mother's life, events take stranger and stranger turns. The silent women reappear. Even as Mira begins to suspect the power to which she may be heir, the house itself appears to be waking up... Hb \$56.00 400pp


PAUL MCAULEY

WHITE DEVILS

 Nicholas Hyde, a volunteer charity worker in Africa, is part of a team which is ambushed by small, ape-like creatures - pale, fierce and preternaturally strong - who slaughter most of the group in a matter of minutes. 'Diable blanc' the team's government observer calls them - 'white devils' - but after the rescue he falls in with the official story and claims instead he saw only rebel troops in body paint. The cover-up seems to originate from Obligate, the company that effectively owns the Congo. Shell-shocked and angry, Nicholas refuses to cooperate. He knows what he saw and he will tell the truth. And that's when people around him start to die. Pb \$19.95 662pp

IAN McDONALD


RIVER OF GODS

 August 15th, 2047. On the eve of Mother India's hundredth birthday, ten people are doing ten very different things. In the next few weeks, all these people will be swept together to decide the fate of the nation. Pb \$21.95 583pp

MARIANNE MANCUSI

A CONNECTICUT FASHIONISTA

IN KING ARTHUR'S COURT

 When fashion editor Kat, who's not your typical damsel in distress, is sent back in time to the days of King Arthur, she'll need every ounce of her 21st century wits to navigate the legend. After all, surviving a magical plot, an evil prince and a case of mistaken identity - all without changing history or scuffing your Manolos - takes some doing! Tp \$22.95 340pp

JULIET MARILLIER

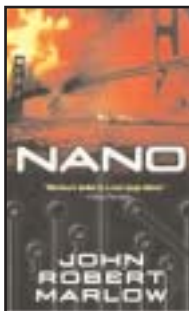
 **THE DARK MIRROR**

The Bridei Chronicles #1. When Bridei is sent by his parents to live with the druid Broichan, he knows only that he has left his home and family to learn to be a warrior and scholar, strategist and sage. He is not aware that in the divided and wartorn kingdom of Fortriu a secret council of elders, including Broichan, has long been making plans for the future of their homeland - with Bridei himself central to their strategy. When he awakes one night to find a baby on the doorstep, he thanks the gods for their precious gift of a companion and takes her in - and with her arrival Broichan's master plan gains a dangerously unpredictable new element. Pb \$19.95 720pp

JOHN ROBERT MARLOW

 **NANO**


Mitchell Swain is the richest man in his world - until he announces the ultimate technological breakthrough. The world stops for the press conference - and sees him assassinated. No one knows what he was going to say.



Almost no one. Jennifer Rayne intends to find out. A leading journalist covering high-tech, she was scheduled to interview Swain after the press conference. Instead, she investigates his murder. What she finds is a scientist to whom Swain has funnelled billions, a desperate US government following the same clues and a bizarre technology which promises invincibility, immortality and the ability to destroy any enemy - or the earth itself. Pb \$16.95 381pp

SOPHIE MASSON

THE CURSE OF ZOHREH

 *El Jisal #1.* In the desert kingdom of Ameerat, the al-Farouk family lives in luxury in a beautiful palace, but their great wealth comes at a terrible price - the curse of Zohreh that strikes certain members of the family. Khaled al-Farouk, the eldest son of the family, is desperate to make amends for the wrong done by his ancestor, but Zohreh's descendants are nowhere to be found. Or so they think. For far away in Parsari, Soheila, one of the younger members of Zohreh's clan, has vowed to revenge her ancestor. She leaves her home early one morning, dressed as a boy and makes the long journey across land and sea to Ameerat, where she manages to infiltrate the al-Farouk household to await her moment of retribution. Pb \$15.95 277pp

ROSALIND MILES

 **THE MAIDEN OF WHITE HANDS**

Isolde #2. Isolde's time has come at last. The Queen of Ireland lies dying, relinquishing years of misrule to her patient and lovely daughter. But on all sides Isolde faces cruel opposition. Sir Breccan, one of the old Queen's knights, is determined that Ireland succumbs to the rule of men. Through all her trials, Isolde can count on Sir Tristan of Lyonesse, her faithful love of many years. But a French princess has heard of Tristan's prowess and pledges to make him her own. Alone and under attack, can Isolde save her kingdom and her love? Pb \$18.95 452pp

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Astronaut Claire Logan is living her dream working on the space station *Unity*, but two days before her mission ends, Earth is engulfed in nuclear war. Stranded, helpless and desperate to contact her family, Claire refuses to give up, but when the crippled *Unity* rescues a Chinese space station from certain death, Claire discovers that the war on Earth has come to space - and she must make a final stand. Pb \$16.95 337pp

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Corean Chronicles #4. Corus has been designed to become the new home of a superior race from a distant world, whose very life depends on drawing sustenance from the biological life force of a planet. After changing the climate, they have grown ordinary people to tend the plants and animals, in preparation for their eventual arrival in force. Meanwhile, their plans are supervised by a staff of Alectors, who in effect rule the world. Alectors are bigger, tougher, and have both psychic talents and technology unavailable to the natives. The time is now fast approaching for the transfer from the old world, nearly bled dry of life force. But neither the Alectors nor the local humans are ready. Hb \$59.95 510pp

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Ten years ago, Jonat deVrai was a rising star in the Marines, but he left after witnessing atrocity and hypocrisy. Starting his life over, he established himself as the world's expert on the effectiveness of 'prod' - product placement, the only advertising which viewers will allow through the sophisticated filters they all use against unwanted intrusions on their electronic link networks. After a political rally, armed thugs jump deVrai in a garage. A day later, a sniper ambushes him. What looked like a safe, lucrative contract has suddenly turned dangerous. With his life on the line, deVrai must sort flash from fact before it's too late. Pb \$18.95 530pp

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DOUGLAS NILES

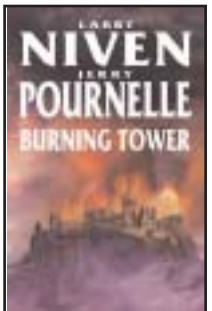
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The place - a future New York City torn by racial tension and ripe for rebellion. The revolutionaries have high technology and careful planning on their side, their soldiers are well trained and sworn to secrecy and their plans are unsuspected... until the Night of Power. Caught in the middle are Russell and Dena Grant and their daughter Jennifer, a 13-year-old whose genius-level intelligence saves her life more than once after insurrection breaks out. Pb \$16.95 369pp

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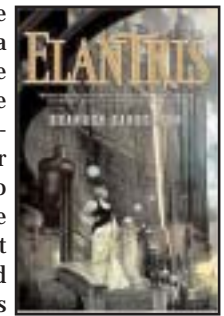
ROWAN AND THE TRAVELLERS

Rowan of Rin #2. The witch Sheba is tormented by strange visions and terrifying riddles. No-one can help her except perhaps the boy Rowan, whose face appears mysteriously in her dreams. Life in the village of Rin goes on day by day, unchanging. And then, unexpectedly, the Travellers arrive. Like the other children, Rowan enjoys their visits. They bring games and music, toys and tricks. But not everyone trusts them. Are they the 'secret enemy' of Sheba's warning? Pb \$14.95 150pp

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ELANTRIS

Princess Sarene of Teod arrives for a marriage of state with Crown Prince Raoden, hoping - based on their correspondence - to also find love. She finds instead that Raoden has died and she is considered his widow. Sarene decides to use her new status to counter the machinations of Hrathen, a Fjordell high priest who has come to Kae to convert Arelon and claim it for his emperor and his god. But neither Sarene nor Hrathen suspect the truth about Prince Raoden. Stricken by the same curse that ruined Elantris, Raoden was secretly exiled by his father to the dark city. His struggle to help the wretches trapped there begins a series of events that will bring hope to Arelon, and perhaps reveal the secret of Elantris itself. Hb \$54.00 492pp



MARTIN SCOTT

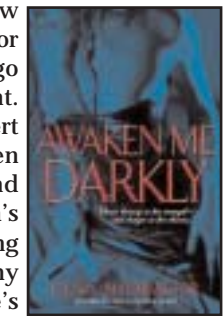
THRAXAS UNDER SIEGE

Thraxas #8. As a private investigator (and third rate sorcerer) Thraxas has faced all sorts of impossible odds - as Thraxas would no doubt say. It is therefore high time for a well earned rest - as Thraxas would no doubt agree. Solving the crimes of elves, orcs and dwarves would tire the most talented of operators. As Thraxas can hardly be classed amongst their number, he feels very tired indeed. However, everyone knows there is no rest for the wicked, which means all the more work for Thraxas. Pb \$19.95 265pp

GENA SHOWALTER


AWAKEN ME DARKLY

Mia Snow is an alien huntress for the New Chicago Police Department. Heading up her expert team of Alien Investigation and Removal agents, Mia's unmatched at battling the elusive enemy among us and she's the perfect girl for the job. Now, a series of killings have Mia and her partner Dallas tracking alien suspects - but a sudden blast of violence leaves Dallas fighting for his life. The chance to save Dallas appears in the form of an alien - and murder suspect. Kyrin en Arr, of the deadly Arcadian species, holds the power to heal the injured agent, but not without a price. For Mia Snow, that price is surrendering to Kyrin's forbidden seduction... and embracing their electric attraction. Tp \$27.00 306pp




DAN SIMMONS

OLYMPUS

 *Ilium #2.* For untold centuries, the few old-style humans remaining on Earth have never known strife, toil or responsibility, each content to live his or her allocated 100 years of life in unquestioning leisure. But virtually overnight, the world around them has changed forever. The voynix - terrible and swift creatures that once catered to their every need - are now massing in the millions with but one terrifying purpose - the total extermination of the human race. Hb \$55.00 690pp


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MARTIN SKETCHLEY

THE DESTINY MASK

 *Structure #2.* After the death of Vourniass Lycern, child-bearer to the Seriattic Royal Household, her twin sons, fathered by former Military Intelligence Officer Alexander Delgado, have grown up ignorant of their relationship. Michael has been raised on Earth as the son of General William Myson, while Cascari has been brought up within Delgado's terrorist group. Furthermore, due to the circumstances surrounding their birth, both believe they are the rightful heir to the position of Monosiell - head of Seriatt's Royal Household. When the existing Monosiell dies suddenly, the long-awaited opportunity presents itself... Tp \$29.95 369pp


MIDORI SNYDER

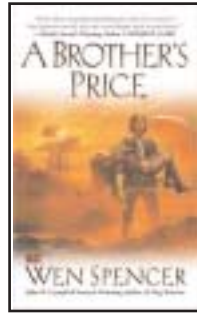
HANNAH'S GARDEN

 When 17-year-old Cassie Britzman learns that her grandfather, noted mystical painter Daniel Britzman, is dying, Cassie, her mother Anne and Anne's new boyfriend travel to the family farm and immediately see that things are far from normal. The farm, including Great-Grandmother Hannah's spiral garden, is almost destroyed and someone (or something) seems to be stalking them. Cassie soon finds herself at the centre of an age-old battle between two supernatural clans - the sinister, dark Red Clan and her own family, the Green Clan. For it turns out that Cassie's grandfather is half nature spirit, half human... Pb \$16.95 247pp

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
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 In a world where males are rarely born, they've become a commodity - traded and sold like property. Jerin Whistler has come of age for marriage and his handsome features have come to the attention of the royal princesses. Such attentions can be dangerous - especially as Jerin uncovers the dark mysteries the royal family is hiding. Pb \$16.95 310pp



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
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 When a foreign exchange student is found murdered at an Iowa University, Deputy Sheriff Clyde Banks finds that his investigation extends far beyond the small college town - all the way to the Middle East. Shady events at the school reveal that a powerful department is using federal grant money for highly dubious research. And what it's producing is a very nasty bug. Navigating a plot that leads from his own backyard to Washington, DC, to the Gulf, where his Army Reservist wife has been called to duty, Banks realises he may be the only person who can stop the wholesale slaughtering of thousands of Americans. It's a lesson in foreign policy he'll never forget. Tp \$29.95 416pp

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CHARLES STROSS

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 *Eschaton #2.* A G2 star doesn't just explode, not without outside interference. So the survivors of the planet Moscow, which was annihilated in just such an event, have launched a counterattack against the most likely culprit - the neighbouring system of New Dresden. But New Dresden wasn't responsible and as deadly missiles approach their target, Rachel Mansour, agent for the interests of Old Earth, is assigned to find out who was. Opposing her is an unknown and unimaginable enemy. At stake is not only the fate of New Dresden, but also the very order of the universe. Pb \$18.95 433pp


SHANNA SWENDON

ENCHANTED INC

 Katie Chandler had always heard that New York is a weird and wonderful place, but this small-town Texas gal had no idea how weird until she moved there. Everywhere she goes, she sees something worth gawking at and Katie is afraid she's a little too normal to make a splash in the big city. Working for an ogre of a boss doesn't help. Then, seemingly out of the blue, Katie gets a job offer from Magic, Spells and Illusions, Inc. For MSI, Katie's ordinariness is an asset. Lacking any bit of magic, she can easily spot a fake spell, catch hidden clauses in competitor's contracts and detect magically disguised intruders. Suddenly, average Katie is very special indeed. Now it's up to Katie to pull off the impossible - save the world and hopefully live happily ever after. Tp \$29.00 308pp

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THE BRIGHT SPOT

 Two struggling actors, Nick and Luella, find that an easy gig re-creating the past for elderly James Dumfries is really a phoney time-travel scam concocted to separate an old man from his money. Dumfries is no ordinary senior citizen. He is the creator of workware, a technology that has changed the world by enabling workers to manage the most tiresome tasks without complaint, training - or memory. What machines had once done, man can do again - at the high price of his humanity. But that was never Dumfries's intention - and now he doesn't just want to see the past, he wants to change it. Pb \$16.95 337pp

VICKIE TAYLOR



CARVED IN STONE

Six-year-old Rachel Vandermere didn't believe in monsters - until she saw one kill her parents. Now all grown up and an INTERPOL investigator, Rachel has quietly amassed an impressive collection of evidence to support the existence of preternatural creatures. But she dares not go public until she can produce a living, breathing abnormal being to show the world - which she is certain she can do if only she can convince the enigmatic Nathan Cross to help her. Disavowed from the Chicago congregation of Gargoyles, Nathan has given up life as a guardian of mankind for a quieter, more human existence. But when Rachel shows up, he is thrust into the role of protector once again. With an ancient evil force gathering on the horizon to destroy them, Rachel and Nathan must both come to terms with the secrets of their pasts before it's too late for them to save their future...together. Pb \$16.95 327pp

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HARRY TURTLEDOVE, S M STIRLING, MARY GENTLE & WALTER JON WILLIAMS



WORLDS THAT WEREN'T: NOVELLAS OF ALTERNATE HISTORY

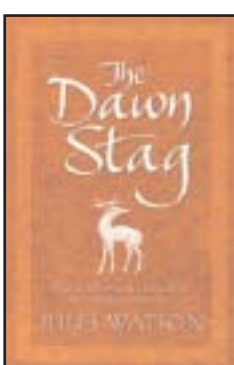
In this all-new collection of original novellas, four masters of alternate history turn back time, twisting the facts with four excursions into what might have been. Pb \$16.95 309pp

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THE DAWN STAG

Dalriada #2. AD 81. Agricola, the ruthless governor of Roman Britain is intent on capturing the last unconquered territory in Britain - Alba, Scotland. Rhiann is an Alban priestess and princess who



submitted to a political marriage to Eremon, an exiled Irish prince. Out of duty, grew love - a powerful and desperate love that will bind them together through conflict and betrayal. In them lies the hope of a nation. Tp \$29.95 552pp



MEG CABOT
MEAN SPIRITS

The Mediator #3. It's a hot Californian summer and Suze's best friend Gina is visiting from New York. Bliss! All Suze wants to do is check out some cute guys and compare designer sunglasses with Gina. Unfortunately, being a mediator makes hanging out on the beach like any normal teenager pretty hard. So she's hardly surprised when a fatal car accident wreaks havoc on her perfect summer. The spirits of four high school students are hungry for revenge and if Suze tries to protect their target, she might just find herself involved in a nasty 'accident' of her own... Pb \$14.95 218pp

DEAN KOONTZ
THE TAKING

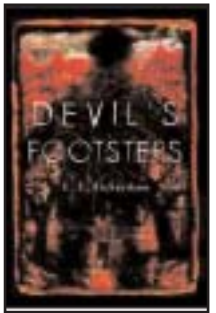
On the morning that will mark the end of the world they have known, Molly and Niel Sloan awaken to the drumbeat of rain on their roof. It has haunted their sleep, invaded their dreams and now they rise to find a luminous silvery downpour drenching their small California mountain town. By nightfall they have gathered with some of their neighbours to deal with community damage... but also because they feel the need to band together against some unknown threat. Soon Molly, Niel and their small band of friends will be forced to draw on reserves of strength, courage, and humanity they never knew they had. For within the misty gloom they will encounter something that reveals in a terrifying instant what is happening to their world - something that is hunting them with ruthless efficiency... Pb \$18.95 410pp

MICHAEL MARSHALL
THE LONELY DEAD

Straw Men #2. A guilty man walks alone into the cold mountain forests of Washington State, aiming never to return. What he finds there starts a chain of events that will quickly spiral out of control. Meanwhile in Los Angeles, a woman's body is discovered, sitting bolt upright in a motel bedroom. She is dead and her killer has left his mark. It soon becomes clear he has something to say and a lot more work to do. And Ward Hopkins, an ex-CIA agent recovering from the recent shocking death of his parents, is on the trail of his past, tracking down the men who destroyed everything he once held dear and the murderer whose face he sees every time he looks in the mirror. Pb \$18.95 472pp

E E RICHARDSON
DEVIL'S FOOTSTEPS

It was just a game, a test of bravery - the devil's footsteps. 13 stepping stones and whichever one you stepped on would tell you how you would die. Just a game like a skipping rhyme and nobody ever died from a skipping rhyme, but it's not a game to Bryan. He knows the truth. He's seen the Dark Man, because the Dark Man took his brother five years ago. He's tried to tell himself again and again that it was his imagination and that the Devil's footsteps are just stones - that the Dark Man didn't take Adam when he reached the 13th step. But what does it matter if people believe in the legend or not. Adam's still gone and now it's time Bryan proved how... Hb \$26.95 281pp



Robert Ross
NEVER LOOK BACK

Karen Donovan no sooner marries bestselling novelist Philip Kaye when he leaves on a book tour, abandoning her at his Provincetown mansion with his sullen teenage daughter. Black-clad Jessie Kaye isn't exactly good company: When she's not skulking around, she's locked in her room, writing in her journal. As autumn sets in, Karen befriends flamboyant local celebrity Bobbie Noble. But their plans to renovate Philip's house are sidetracked, when Karen stumbles upon the diary of accused axe-murderess Lettie Hatch. Now, as a bitter winter binds the Cape in snow and ice, Karen feels a presence taking over. It knows what happened here nearly 100 years before. And it won't stop until history is rewritten - in blood. Pb \$16.95 475pp

DARREN SHAN
VAMPIRE WAR TRILOGY

The Saga of Darren Shan Omnibus #3. Comprising **Hunters of the Dusk**, **Allies of the Night** and **Killers of the Dawn**. Join Darren Shan's descent into the darkness... He leaves Vampire Mountain on a life or death mission, scouring the world in search of the Vampaneze Lord, but the road ahead is lined with the bodies of the damned. Pb \$19.95 540pp

JAMES M THOMPSON
DARK MOON RISING

When paediatric neurologist Dr. James Wilcox places his life in the hands of Dr Albert Stern, the only man he trusts to remove the tumour in his brain, unimaginable and homicidal side effects emerge after the surgery, placing the lives of those around him in grave danger. Pb \$14.95 320pp

F PAUL WILSON
CRISSCROSS

Repairman Jack #8. Jack can fix any problem, supernatural or otherwise, for a price. Now, he takes on two cases at once. The first involves a nun being blackmailed by someone who has photos of her she doesn't want made public. What's in those photos, she won't say, but with her meagre savings just about exhausted, she hires Jack to help her. The second seems straightforward enough, as an elderly woman hires Jack to find her missing son. But to locate his quarry, Jack must infiltrate the inner reaches of the Dormentalist Church, a secretive, globe-spanning cult, whose members include some of the biggest and most powerful names in entertainment, sports and politics. Hb \$54.00 415pp

MEDIA

 **BATMAN:**
THE ULTIMATE GUIDE TO THE DARK KNIGHT

SCOTT BEATTY

This updated edition contains an extra 16 pages, with double-page features that showcase some of the most thrilling Batman storylines of the last few years. The Rogues Gallery section is augmented with information on the top new villains. The Timeline section is brought fully up-to-date, showing key characters' new looks, and additional features highlight some of the Caped Crusader's classic adventures in the fifties and sixties. Hb \$39.95 144pp

 **BATMAN BEGINS**
DENNIS O'NEIL

Bruce Wayne is dead. The young heir to the Wayne empire disappeared seven years ago. His vast fortune has been given away and the crime wave that began with the brutal murder of his parents has turned Gotham City into a living hell. The last holdouts against corruption - the cops who can't be bought, the DAs who can't be intimidated-are outnumbered and outgunned. They need help... fast. Pb \$16.95 305pp

 **BATMAN BEGINS:**
THE OFFICIAL MOVIE GUIDE

CLAUDIA KALINDJIAN

The new movie explores the origins of Batman and the Dark Knight's emergence as a force for good in Gotham City. In the wake of his parents' murder, disillusioned industrialist heir Bruce Wayne travels the world seeking the means to fight injustice and turn fear against those who prey on the fearful. He returns to Gotham and unveils his alter-ego, Batman, a masked crusader who uses his strength, intellect and an array of high-tech deceptions to fight the sinister forces that threaten his city. Tp \$34.95 160pp

 **BATMAN BEGINS:**
THE VISUAL GUIDE

SCOTT BEATTY

Explore the world of Batman and meet his closest friends and deadliest foes. Discover why Bruce Wayne devotes his life to fighting injustice and protecting the weak. Take a look at the Dark Knight's armoury - from his state-of-the-art Batsuit to his specially developed weapons and the amazing Batmobile. Hb \$39.95 64pp

 **BUFFY, THE VAMPIRE SLAYER:**
KEEP ME IN MIND

NANCY HOLDER

Stake Your Destiny #2. Welcome to Sunnydale High, where midterms and peer pressure are the least of your worries. This series returns Buffy Summers and the Scoobies to the glory days of high school. But this time you control the action and accept the full responsibility of being the Slayer. Interactive story lines advance by the choices you make, leading toward more than a dozen possible endings. Do you have what it takes to be the Slayer, or will you fail and summon a successor? Pb \$12.95 237pp

 **BUFFY, THE VAMPIRE SLAYER:**
QUEEN OF THE SLAYERS

NANCY HOLDER

With the closing of the Hellmouth and the awakening of hundreds of potential slayers, Buffy Summers thought she had overturned the Slayer's self-sacrifice and earned herself a much-deserved break. But the thrill of victory is short-lived. The Forces of Darkness are not ones to graciously accept defeat, and the collective rage unites disparate and powerful parties more eager than ever to reclaim dominance. Tp \$22.95 337pp

 **BUFFY THE VAMPIRE SLAYER**
& ANGEL: HEAT

NANCY HOLDER

In his first year in Los Angeles, Angel, the vampire with a soul, came across an inter-dimensional hunter named Jhiera, who was trying to protect other females in her culture from being stripped of their emotions - intense feelings that gave them dominance over men. Angel fell victim to her heat, but Jhiera had to return to her own dimension. Now she's back and Angel is astonished to see Jhiera again... and to have the same feelings for her come rushing to the surface. But Jhiera's in LA on official business. She's on the hunt for a young woman who may be the key to unleashing an inter-dimensional war - a war led by a powerful sorcerer determined to free China's terracotta army of fierce samurai from their long imprisonment. Pb \$16.95 456pp

 **FANTASTIC FOUR**
STEPHEN SULLIVAN

Junior novelisation. When an experimental space voyage goes awry, four people are forever changed by cosmic radiation. Scientist Reed Richards, his ex-girlfriend Sue Storm, his best friend Ben Grimm and Sue's younger brother, Johnny, experience mutagenic changes. Together they use their new powers to rid the world of evil. Pb \$9.95 144pp









 **FANTASTIC FOUR**
PETER DAVID

Novelisation. Dr Reed Richards's lifelong dream is close to being realised - a trip to space and to the centre of a cosmic storm to unlock the secrets of the human genetic code. Financed by rival-turned-billionaire-industrialist Victor Von Doom, Reed, his crew and benefactor Von Doom in tow, the four set off for the exploration of a lifetime. But something goes terribly wrong, as cosmic radiation irrevocably alters their DNA... and their future. Pb \$16.95 369pp

 **FANTASTIC FOUR:**
THE ULTIMATE GUIDE

TOM DEFALCO

In 1961 Marvel launched the *Fantastic Four*, a comic that was to revolutionise and popularise comic books. It was Marvel's 'first family' of super-heroes and when it debuted, it broke every comic book rule the characters had no secret identities, lived in a real city (NYC), had problems, worries and arguments, just like real people. This definitive guide provides a wealth of information about the history of the ground-breaking comic, plus fascinating facts about key storylines and all the major characters, good guys and bad, that have thrilled fans since the comics' creation over 40 years ago. Hb \$39.95 144pp

	NOVELISATION (written version of film, TV, radio drama production, comic or game)	
	Based On (concept)	
	Fil m	
	TV Show	
	Computer Game	
	Rolepl aying Game	
	Comic	
	Reference	

What We've Been Reading

Weathercock by Glen Duncan (Pb \$24.95). This guy is one of the best writers I have encountered for a while. An intelligent musing on the human condition fills all his writing and, although this story isn't strictly supernatural in theme (apart from a possible ghost and two very real exorcisms), it is a wonderful journey to the dark side of religion and psychological thrillers. 8/10 - *David*

Wellspring of Chaos by L E Modesitt Jr (Pb \$18.95). Modesitt returns to his most famed creation without missing a beat. As with all his books, this one fits seamlessly into the greater story of history and legends that make up the Recluse world. Focusing on the continents of Nordla and Austra, it tells the story of Karl, a cooper, and his journey through personal hardship and tragedy to become an Order Master. Any reader fascinated with the philosophy of the Order and Chaos magic system will love this book and the insights it provides into the author's exploration of right and wrong, and its effect on the world around us. - *Mark*

Sun Sword by Michelle West (Pb \$17.95). This last title in the *Sun Sword* series ends with a bang! Luckily, it is only the end of the second arc in a larger story sequence. If you like juicy sagas with intelligent writing, rich characterisation and a depth that surpasses the more traditional fantasy, then look no further. One of the things that captivates me about this author is her unique ability to string a sentence together, gradually unfolding a story and presenting distinct ideas, cultures and philosophies. Although her prose can seem dense in parts, it opens up vistas so real that you can't help feeling you're actually there. Intricate plotting allows her the space to explore relationships between families, friends and Kingdoms that deepen an already vibrant tale of magic, wonder and human triumph. You will remember this book long after you've put it down. - *Mark*

The Book of Flying by Keith Miller (Tp \$29.95). This is the story of an orphaned librarian, Pico, and his quest for the fabled Morning Town. The lyrical, and quite beautiful, prose style of this debut novel makes this story all the more wonderful. Encountering minotaurs, talking rabbits and cannibal kings, Miller leads the reader on a journey that might have been quite average in the hands of a lesser author. Miller gives us a story that is finely crafted and reads very smoothly. 8/10 - *David*

The Atrocity Archives by Charles Stross (Hb \$54.00). I always knew that, in mathematics, the way led to madness, and when you cross this with the occult, alternate realities and some Lovecraft-style beasties, all hell could literally break loose, as I found in this novel of dark science. Our hero, Bob, employee of the secret government agency, The Laundry, becomes embroiled in some very disturbing events. Then the apocalypse comes knocking, courtesy of the Nazis, of all people. A great read, even if the technobabble is a bit confusing. 7/10 - *David*

Neverwhere by Neil Gaiman (Pb \$18.95). This is a fantastical tale of a magical world that exists below modern day London. Over the course of a day, the world of Richard Mayhew is thrown into complete chaos when he helps out an injured young girl, Door, who magically appears in front of him as he makes his way to a dinner engagement. By helping her, Richard finds himself forever unable to rejoin 'normal' society, seemingly destined to join the world of London Below. As he finds his way with Door through London Below, he must try to survive, while a major power struggle breaks out. Readers who enjoyed the works of China Mieville will enjoy this story and its world, which is familiar, yet different, at the same time. - *John*

COMPETITION

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