

JIM BAEN

Editor and publisher Jim Baen, founder of Baen Books, has died at the age of 62. He suffered a stroke on June 12 and never recovered. Jim Baen was a founding partner of Baen Books, one of the largest independent publishers of popular fiction. Since its inception in 1984, Baen evolved to be one of the leading publishers of science fiction and fantasy. He worked with many other authors who shaped the field of modern science fiction and will be sorely missed.

CAMPBELL AWARD



Robert J Sawyer has won the *John W Campbell Memorial Award* for the best science fiction novel of 2005 for his novel **Mindscan** (Pb \$16.95 384pp).

The Award was created to honour the late editor of *Astounding Science Fiction* magazine, which is now named Analog.

HEINLEIN AWARD

Jack Williamson and Greg Bear, two legendary authors of speculative fiction and longtime members of the *Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America*, have won the *2006 Robert A Heinlein Award* for their overall body of work. The award, named for the legendary SF author, is presented annually for outstanding published work in hard science fiction or for technical writings inspiring the human exploration of space.

CONGRATULATIONS!



David and Nathalie
on the birth of your daughter,
Madeleine Rhory Steinmetz-Lynton.

THE CONTINUUM ENCYCLOPEDIA OF CHILDREN'S LITERATURE

BERNICE CULLINAN & DIANE PERSON (Eds)



The essential reference source on children's literature throughout the world. With 1,100 biographical, critical entries and 100 topical articles, written by some 150 contributors, this is the most complete and up-to-date reference source ever produced on the subject. The work covers 150 years of children's literature in many cultures - the United States, Britain, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, continental Europe, Israel, Africa and the Far East. Entries include authors as well as illustrators and artists. The board of advisers, made up of scholars, editor, librarians and artists, have helped to make this encyclopedia even more user-friendly. From *Little Red Riding Hood* to *Harry Potter*, *Alice in Wonderland* to the latest online offerings, the world of children's literature is represented and celebrated in

this unique survey for scholars, librarians, children's-book authors and illustrators, teachers, parents and young people. Tp \$59.95 863pp

THE BARBARIC TRIUMPH:

A CRITICAL ANTHOLOGY ON THE WRITINGS OF ROBERT E HOWARD

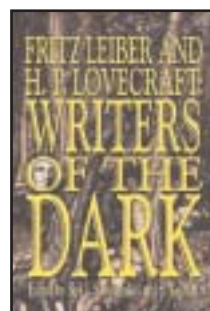
DON HERRON (Ed)

This title examines all aspects of the life and work of the originator of the sword-and-sorcery fantasy genre and the creator of *Conan the Barbarian*. Featured are essays by Leo Grin, Edward Waterman, Charles Hoffman, Paul Spencer, Mark Finn, Steven Trout, Lauric Guillaud, Scott Connors, George Knight, Don Herron and more. From the phantoms of Hate simmering beneath Howard's blood-drenched prose to Howard's lifelong interest in philosophy, from Howard's visionary use of the American Frontier Myth to his tales of boxing, this builds on the pioneering research of Herron's previous book on Howard, *The Dark Barbarian* (Tp \$51.95 264pp) and takes it to new levels. Tp \$79.95 200pp



FRITZ LEIBER AND H P LOVECRAFT:

WRITERS OF THE DARK
S T JOSHI



While Howard Phillips Lovecraft was closing the final chapter of his writing career, Fritz Reuter Leiber was only beginning to open his own. The year was 1936 and Jonquil Leiber, Fritz's first wife, sent a letter on her own initiative to Lovecraft, knowing that her husband had been an avid admirer of his work, ever since his first reading of *The Colour out of Space* (Tp \$39.95 354pp) and hoping that Lovecraft's presence in Fritz's slow-paced writing career might be the source of inspiration he so dearly needed. Lovecraft replied promptly on 2 Nov that year, the seed of an invigorating correspondence, which lasted till Lovecraft's passing. This title presents Lovecraft's letters to Leiber, an impressive selection of Leiber's fiction which shows Lovecraft's influence and a selection of Leiber's essays on

Lovecraft and matters Lovecraftian. Pb \$79.95 328pp

THE ART OF SUPERMAN RETURNS

DANIEL WALLACE

This is an in-depth celebration of the concept and developmental art that served as an aesthetic foundation for the highly anticipated film. Nearly 200 pieces of gorgeous art capture all-new sets - a cosmopolitan, art deco Metropolis, a massive, shimmering Fortress of Solitude and a spectacular spaceship - and showcase the film's inventive costumes and breathtaking locations. An informed text that includes interviews with the director, screenwriters, artists and production and costume designers completes this thoughtfully crafted deluxe hardcover. For the many Superman fans anxiously awaiting his revival this is a behind-the-scenes tour not to be missed. Hb \$80.00 160pp






SCIENCE FICTION AND FANTASY




ALEX ARCHER

DESTINY

 *Rogue Angel #1.* Archaeologist and explorer Annja Creed's fascination with the myths and mysteries of the past leads her to a crypt in the caves of France, where the terrifying legend of the Beast of Gevaudin hints at the unimaginable. What she discovers is shattering - an artefact that will seal her destiny, a brotherhood of monks willing to murder to protect their secret and a powerful black-market occultist desperate to put his own claim to centuries-old blood money. Pb \$16.95 346pp


CATHERINE ASARO

THE DAWN STAR

 With no teacher to guide her, no mentor to discourage her from the impossible, Mel Dawnfield pushed her magic to its limits and surpassed them, only to find that her powers aren't enough to halt burgeoning rebellion within her husband's fledgling realm, or a plot devised to strike at the very heart of Mel's family. Mel's mage strength has become greater than any power ever known, but dare she forge her spells into weapons to protect her people, her husband? For her magic might transform the brutality of war into the birth pangs of a peaceful empire, unless it proves the death blow to her world. Tp \$32.95 440pp


JOHN BIRMINGHAM

DESIGNATED TARGETS

 *World War 2.2.* Battle lines of World War II are being redrawn in dangerous and unpredictable ways, leaving the Allied forces scrambling for control and the Axis forces with undreamt of power, but the military crisis is only the beginning. An awareness of how their future unfolds is sweeping the world and the people of 1942 are split between clamouring for change and the freedoms their descendants enjoy and resisting it to protect the values of their society. Then Japan invades Australia, foreign agents begin a campaign of terror in the USA and Germany prepares for an all-out attack on Britain. The 21st-century forces must resort to the most extreme measures yet... Pb \$19.95 592pp

BEN BOVA


TITAN

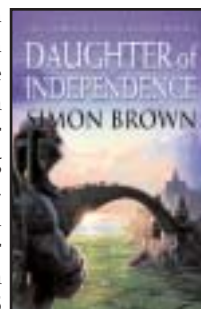
 *Grand Tour of the Solar System.* Titan Alpha has landed, the most complex man-made object to reach Saturn's largest moon. The 10,000 men and women of Habitat Goddard are once more at the frontier of science. From their huge, artificial paradise hanging in orbit above Saturn, some of them dream of landing on Titan's surface. Others will do anything to prevent such a landing. And yet others have darker, secret plans. But almost immediately, Titan Alpha goes silent. And minor, inexplicable faults start to affect Goddard. Is there a basic design flaw that could threaten the lives of everyone on board? Or has one of the many malcontents exiled to space decided to sabotage the probe or even the whole expedition? Pb \$21.00 502pp

SIMON BROWN

DAUGHTER OF INDEPENDENCE




 *Chronicles of Kydan #3.* In the new land, original inhabitants and their colonisers work together to turn Kydan from city state into trading empire and bring it the wealth and strength it needs to survive the inevitable confrontation with the old world. Strategos Galys Valera knows Kydan must find a counter to the might of the Hamilayan Empire and believes the answer is in the papers left behind by her dead lover, Kitayra Albyn... But can it be found in time? Across the Deepening Sea, Empress Lerena Kevleren is forging a new power base made from human sacrifice, fear and her overwhelm ing control of the Sefid, the source of all magic. But soon her gaze will fall on Kydan. Tp \$32.95 424pp




MICHAEL BUCKLEY

THE FAIRYTALE DETECTIVES

 *Sisters Grimm #1.* Two orphaned sisters, Sabrina and Daphne, are sent to live with their mysterious grandmother, Relda Grimm. Grandmother Grimm lives in a strange town in New York State, known for its extraordinary number of unexplained and unusual crimes. As soon as the sisters arrive, they begin to unravel a mystery that leads to their ancestors' magical beginnings. Sabrina and Daphne learn they are descendants of the Brothers Grimm, who were actually detectives of the magical phenomenon perpetrated by the Everafters, a parallel race of magical beings. They soon discover it is the Grimm family's legacy to keep the Everafters in line and the two sisters are the sole heirs to this challenge! Hb \$19.95 284pp


ALAN CAMPBELL

SCAR NIGHT

 *The Deepgate Codex #1.* For 900 generations, the city of Deepgate has hung suspended by giant chains over a seemingly bottomless abyss. In the unfathomable darkness below is said to reside the dread god Ulcis, 'hoarder of souls', with his army of ghosts. Outside the city extend the barren wastes of Deadsands, inhabited by the enemy Heshette, so that safe access is guaranteed only by a fleet of airships. At the hub of the city rises the Temple, in one of whose many crumbling spires resides a youthful angel, Dill, the last of his line. Descendant of heroic battle-archons, yet barely able to wield the great sword he has inherited from his forebears, he lives a sheltered existence under the watchful eye of Presbyter Sypes, who rules the Temple. For despite his sense of purposelessness, Dill has a destiny about to unfold - one that will take him down into terrifying depths of the pit in a desperate quest to save city from total annihilation at the hands of a cunning and resourceful traitor. Hb \$59.95 517pp

ORSON SCOTT CARD

MAGIC STREET

 Discovered abandoned in an overgrown park, raised by a blunt-speaking single woman, Mack comes and goes from family to family - a boy who is at once surrounded by boisterous characters and deeply alone. But Mack senses that he is different and knows that he has strange powers. One day he sees, in a thin slice of space, a narrow house. Beyond it is an entryway into an extraordinary world stretching off into an exotic distance of geography, history and magic. Mack is soon plunged into a realm where time and reality are skewed, a place where what Mack does and sees seem to have strange affects in the real world of concrete, cars, commerce and conflict. Tp \$32.95 397pp



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 and classic

CLASSIC TITLE

KUSHIEL'S DART

KUSHIEL'S LEGACY #1 (Pb \$19.95)

Jacqueline Carey

On the back cover of this book is a quote from the main narrator/character of the tale:

*"When Love cast me out,
it was Cruelty who took pity on me."*

and, regardless of what that might say about me, I was intrigued enough to pick up the book. I wasn't disappointed.

The story is set in an alternate, early Renaissance Europe; primarily in a pseudo-France called Terre d'Ange.

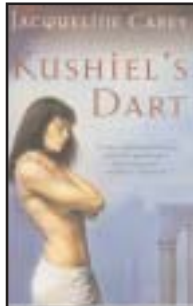
In Terre d'Ange, a land of unsurpassing beauty and grace, considered a paradise on earth by its inhabitants, the art of the courtesan is an honoured profession held sacred by the Court of Night-Blooming Flowers and its thirteen Houses. Into this world is born Phedre, a child who is rejected from the house she's born into because she has a "flaw", a tiny red mote in one eye. Trained in the arts of graceful service she is discovered by nobleman Anafiel Delaunay, who recognizes her flaw for what it is; Kushiell's Dart, which marks her as an anguisette, one who is able to experience pain as pleasure.

She is taken into the Delauney's House where she is trained in politics and court intrigue, as well as the arts of courtesan, which gives her unfettered access to the nobles and powerbrokers of the realm when they are at their most vulnerable. While working as a spy for her Lord she stumbles across a plot that threatens the very foundation of her homeland. Betrayal and treachery sees her exiled into slavery and her loved ones killed, setting her feet on a path of vengeance and retribution that brings into play all of the skills she has been taught.

Carey weaves intricate plots within plots, and sets noble House against House in thrilling political manoeuvres that are truly Machiavellian. She presents a multilayered back story to support the weight of the world she's created with the sure hand of a master wordsmith; each character presented is fleshed out convincingly with their own multifaceted personalities; their loyalties and agenda's giving the reader a book that is truly character driven. There is action and adventure, swordplay and battles, sacrifice and redemption, romance and, given Phedre's role as a courtesan, sex - but to dismiss this book as something in the vein of Laurell K. Hamilton's later work would be to sell it far too short.

Carey shows a skill with the written word that is beautifully elegant and makes her work a joy to read. The sensual prose of her writing calls to mind the works of Tanith Lee and Storm Constantine, and her political machinations would give even George R.R. Martin's characters a run for their money.

I highly recommend this book and it's sequels to lovers of great fantasy epics. - *Mark*



NEW TITLE

MELUSINE

(Pb \$18.95 477pp)

Sarah Monette

Set in the city of Mirador (it feels very European – vaguely Venetian) the story is told from two points of view. The first is Felix Harrowgate, a wizard. He is gay (they use the term 'Molly' and my placenta-addled brain took a while to work that one out) and his lover, Shannon, is a cousin of the head of the Royal family, Steven. He is powerful, sharp of wit and handsome. However, in a very public place, an enemy confronts him with the knowledge that Felix is not of noble birth and was once a prostitute. Within 24 hours, Felix's whole world is unravelled in the most incredible way. He and Shannon fight and Felix returns to Malkar – the wizard that trained him from his very early teens and possessed him in every way, using horrible methods to control him mentally and physically. Malkar has been waiting (he knew Felix would return) for a chance to break the Virtu – the artefact that the city's magic is channelled through (and this also holds the spells that protect it and its citizens). He rapes Felix to harness his (stronger) magic and puts a compulsion on Felix that he can't tell anyone it was Malkar that was responsible (or even deny that it wasn't him). Malkar then flees to a neighbouring land with Felix in tow. They are caught on the way by Stephen and his men and Malkar explains that breaking the Virtu was Felix's work. By this time he's gone insane. Malkar is released and Felix has his magic 'removed' and is put in jail and later an asylum.

The other POV is that of Mildmay Fox, the son of a prostitute whom was sold to a Keeper as a four year old and trained as a thief and later an assassin. He is hired by a young woman named Ginevra to retrieve some jewels that belong to her and, doing so, he crosses paths with what is essentially the voodoo queen of the city, falls for Ginevra and then ends up on the run from the law.

Through a series of events their paths cross. Felix has visions that lead them to believe there is a place where his mind can be healed, if they can just get across alien lands where his magic is seen as heresy. The two characters initially seem to have little to nothing in common, but we soon learn that isn't the case. Felix has periods of lucidity, but spends vast amounts of time 'down the well,' unable to communicate, haunted by horrible nightmares, making it difficult for Mildmay to keep them safe.

I don't know that I'm doing the best job selling this story. The first few chapters of this are uncomfortable to read. Felix's rape is a little graphic (certainly more than I've read before). However, Monette's has the most amazing 'voice'. The city, land and its people were crystal clear in my mind; even if sometimes I felt I had to work some things out for myself (could be the brain thing again though). Felix and Mildmay are fantastic main protagonists. The more time you spend with them, the more committed you are to them. I thought there were a couple of sections of the story that felt a little long, – but damn me if I could say it should have been shortened and I never once contemplated putting it aside. This could be read as a stand-alone, but I have to read the sequel, *Virtu* (Hb \$54 448pp) . I have to know what happens to Felix and Malkar and am hoping that cold revenge is served. Recommended for fans of rich historical fantasies where the story isn't reliant on magic. Well worth the time. - *Steph*

JACQUELINE CAREY

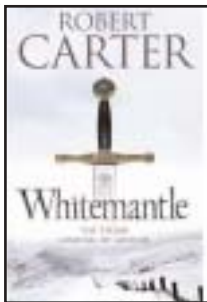
 **GODSLAYER**

The Sundering #2. Once human, but now immortal, Supreme Commander Lord Tanaros fled the realm of Men and chose darkness when he killed his adulterous wife and his liege king who cuckolded him. 1,000 years have passed in service to his master, the dark god Satoris. The world views Satoris as Evil Prime and the name of Tanaros is the byword for treachery. The races have united in their quest to rid the world of the Dark God and his minions. The key to the prophecy is the beautiful Elvish princess Cerelinde and Satoris has captured her. Yet not all tales told are true and evil may have another face. Satoris refuses to act like the monster that he is made out to be for he recognises in Cerelinde a spark of the love that he once bore for his fellow gods. But this spark of light might prove to be a danger to Satoris... and a greater danger for Tanaros and all that he holds dear. For Cerelinde reminds him that the heart that he willed to iron an eon ago is still very much mortal. Pb \$18.95 404pp

ROBERT CARTER

 **WHITEMANTLE**

The Coming of Arthur #3. As civil war tears the Realm apart, the sorcerer Maskull's plans to bring about a catastrophe that will rob the world of magic are coming to fruition. The wizard Gwydion knows that



the only hope for the future lies with Willand, the young man he believes to be the reincarnation of King Arthur. But Will is beset with doubts. He is being stalked by the Dark Child, the twin from whom he was separated at birth and who now serves Maskull. And, as the magic gradually begins to fade from the world, the powers of Gwydion, his mentor and friend, seem to be fading too, leading Will to despair that the destruction of the war will ever be halted, or Maskull ever defeated. Despite the seeming impossibility of his task, Will is not ready to give up quite yet. Tp \$33.00 482pp

ARTHUR C CLARKE

 **RENDEZVOUS WITH RAMA**

SF Masterworks #65. Rama is a vast alien spacecraft that enters the Solar System. A perfect cylinder some 50km long, spinning rapidly, racing through space, Rama is a technological marvel, a mysterious and deeply enigmatic alien artefact. It is Mankind's first visitor from the stars and must be investigated... Pb \$19.95 252pp

ARTHUR C CLARKE & STEPHEN

 **BAXTER SUNSTORM**

Time Odyssey #2. The observatory on the moon has the proof. Life on earth will be incinerated in April 2037 by a massive solar flare. With only 18 months until doomsday, mankind must unite and embark on the most ambitious engineering project ever - the construction, at the La Grange point between the sun and the earth, of a deflecting mirror the diameter of our home planet. The price of failure? Extinction. One scientist, an expert on the sun, predicted the flare. One person who knew nothing about the sun, nevertheless knew the exact date that life on earth would come to an end. She had witnessed the bizarre time dislocations brought by the 'eyes'. She knows who is responsible. Pb \$19.95 332pp

JAMES CLEMENS

 **SHADOWFALL**

Godslayer #1. 4,000 years ago, a great war took place among the gods, which shattered their heavenly realm. This Sundering created the land of Myrillia, where near-invincible gods live amongst men. Yet the weapon that fashioned the Sundering may also strike down the immortals, as failed Shadowknight Tylar discovers. He witnesses the death of a god, whose blood heals his deformities, but brands him a Godslayer and a hunted criminal. Tylar flees with now god-like powers, seeking to avenge the god's death and clear his name. He must ultimately confront the greatest god of all and face the supreme treachery... Pb \$21.95 675pp

DAVID B COE

 **BONDS OF VENGEANCE**

Winds of the Forelands #3. After 900 years of peace, unrest among the magical Qirsi people has blossomed into a conspiracy against their Eandi rulers. Led by a mysterious Qirsi Weaver who can reach into the minds of others, even in their sleep, the rebellion is now turning Qirsi against Qirsi, as it weakens alliances among the Eandi. Some Qirsi ministers are torn by their loyalty to their lords. Others are ready to join the increasingly violent rebellion. Even some Qirsi, who oppose the rebellion, take sides against their lords, as one Eandi lord prepares for war against his peers. Pb \$18.95 496pp

GARDNER DOZOIS (Ed)

 **THE YEAR'S BEST SCIENCE FICTION**

#23. The future, the past and life today are boldly imagined and reinvented in the 25 stories collected in this showcase anthology. Many of the field's finest practitioners are represented here, along with stories from promising newcomers. A useful list of honourable mentions and an insightful summation of the year in SF round out this anthology, making it indispensable for anyone interested in SF today. Tp \$43.00 660pp

HELEN DUNMORE

 **INGO**

While searching for her lost father, Sapphire goes to the cove to find him, but instead meets Faro, an enigmatic and intriguing Merman. He takes her to Ingo and introduces her to a world she never knew existed. She must let go of all her Air thoughts and embrace the sea and all things Mer. After her first visit she is entranced. Merely the sound of running water makes her yearn to be in Ingo once more. Ingo blood runs strongly in Sapphy and Conor fears she will leave the Air world for good. He pleads with her to ignore her craving for the sea and stay safely in their cottage up on the cliff. But not only is Sapphy intoxicated by the Mer world, she longs to see her father once more. And she's sure she can hear him singing across the water! Pb \$16.00 319pp

GEORGE ALEC EFFINGER

  **THE EXILE KISS**

Marid #3. An enforcer for the powerful Friedlander Bey, Marid is just beginning to enjoy his newfound wealth and privilege, when he and Bey are betrayed by a rival and accused of murder. Sentenced to exile and abandoned to die in the vast Arabian desert, Marid and Bey must somehow survive the searing sands and make their way back to the now-hostile Budayeen and, then, take their vengeance. Tp \$32.95 315pp

BARBARA ERSKINE


 **DAUGHTERS OF FIRE**

Historian and university lecturer, Viv Lloyd Rees, resigns from her university post when the BBC express interest in making a programme based on her book on Cartimandua, Celtic queen of the Brigantes. Together with biographer Kate Kennedy and actress Pat Taylor, she forms Daughters of Fire, a company dedicated to making dramas about women who have made history on their own terms. But the three women soon discover tension between them as they travel to the Pennines, where Cartimandua lived. Slowly and inexorably, Cartimandua begins to take them over. As Cartimandua's presence becomes more and more real, Pat's hold on reality begins to waver and ancient rivalries are rekindled. Tp \$32.95 562pp

WIN...
A TALKING DALEK BOTTLE OPENER
See back page for entry details


JASPER FFORDE

THE BIG OVER EASY

 *Jack Spratt #1.* Dead bodies never look like this. It's Easter in Reading, a bad time for eggs, and the shattered, tuxedo-clad corpse of local businessman Humpty Stuyvesant Van Dumpty III has been found lying beneath a wall in a shabby part of town. Humpty was one of life's good guys, so who would want him knocked off? And is it a coincidence that his ex-wife has just met with a sticky end down at the local biscuit factory? A hardened cop on the mean streets of the Thames Valley's most dangerous precinct, DI Jack Spratt has seen it all and something tells him this is going to be a tough case to crack... Pb \$22.00 398pp


LYNN FLEWELLING

ORACLE'S QUEEN

 *Tamir Triad #3.* A prophecy fulfilled... For fear of an ancient prophecy, King Erius had his female relatives assassinated, except for his sister, whose daughter was concealed at birth by dark magic. Now aged 15, Prince Tobin has been revealed as Princess Tamir, the true heir to the throne. Tamir's demonic twin brother, who was killed so she might be saved, still haunts her... and now he is bent on vengeance. Meanwhile, Erius's son Korin has claimed the throne and declared Tamir a traitor. But the people acclaim her as their saviour, for only she can save Skala from the disastrous rule of Kings. Pb \$21.00 pp



ALAN DEAN FOSTER

THE CANDLE OF DISTANT EARTH

 *Taken #3.* Though Walker and George managed to escape, man and dog are far from overjoyed, being even farther from Earth, billions of miles, in fact - and without a clue as to whether the direction home is up, down, or sideways. Possessing universe-level social skills, Walker becomes the leader of his own armada. Yet even a fleet commander is hard pressed to find a piece of space that no one's ever heard of, much less cares to find. Hb \$49.95 262pp


KATHLEEN O'NEAL GEAR

IT SLEEPS IN ME

  Remarried and fully devoted to her duties as the High Chieftess, Sora tries to bury her memories of ex-husband Flint. Then, on the eve of war with a neighbouring nation, she is visited by Skinner, an old friend of Flint. Skinner tells her of Flint's death, but Sora feels that he carries part of Flint's soul inside him. When Skinner reveals secrets that only Flint would know, and rouses her passion in ways only Flint had, Sora must figure out if this is the clever witchcraft of enemies who want to seize her power and destroy her nation, or the spirit of her one and only true love. Pb \$16.95 304pp


W MICHAEL GEAR

THE ATHENA FACTOR

 Bizarre celebrity thefts are occurring all over the world: A piece of hair from John Lennon, Julia Roberts' bed linens and Sheela Marks, Hollywood's hottest actress, is constantly being approached in odd ways by obsessed fans literally out for a piece of her. Paranoid and desperate for her own safety, she turns to her security expert, ex-Marine Lymon Bridges, who must match wits with his most formidable opponent yet. Bridges hopes to use her investigative expertise to unveil the perpetrator behind these attacks. But what she finds is far stranger than anything coming out of Hollywood. A major genetics firm has been all over the world, kidnapping the best genetic scientists to use their expertise in a bizarre black market trade of celebrity DNA and its megalomaniacal mastermind will stop at nothing until the world is as beautiful as Hollywood's A-list. Pb \$18.95 533pp


LAURA ANNE GILMAN

BRING IT ON

 *Retrievers #3.* Wren Valere used to have a simple life. Her partner Sergei would negotiate the terms of the Retrieval - all right, the theft - and she would use her magical talent to carry it out. Now? Her relationship with Sergei is even more complicated. Her fellow lonejacks are trying to organise against the Mage's Council. The nonhuman population of Manhattan is getting fed up with being ignored and abused. And the Council? Well, they have an agenda of their own and it's not one the lonejacks are going to like. And Sergei is far too involved with the Silence, his former employers, for Wren's liking. When it comes down to choosing sides, the first rule of the lonejack credo is "Don't get involved." But when friends are in danger and the city you love is at risk, sometimes getting into the thick of things is all you can do. Tp \$32.95 377pp


MARTIN GREENBERG & MARK TIER (EDS)

FREEDOM!

 Liberty is a recurring theme in science fiction. Here's a volume of explorations of this theme, combining stories from some of today's top writers, including Jack Williamson, Michael Resnick, Michael Stackpole, Jane Lindskold, James Hogan, Robert Sawyer and more. Stories consider how a government-free society could operate, how a low-tech society might throw off the influence of more advanced intruders, how the right to own weapons is fundamental to freedom and much more. In the future, liberty may be even more threatened than in our present and this volume suggests unusual ways of defending and advancing it. Tp \$29.95 516pp


PETER F HAMILTON

JUDAS UNCHAINED

 *Commonwealth #2.* After hundreds of years secretly manipulating the human race, the Starflyer alien has succeeded in engineering a war which should result in the destruction of the Intersolar Commonwealth. Now, thanks to Chief Investigator Paula Myo, the Commonwealth's political elite finally acknowledges the Starflyer's existence and puts together an unlikely partnership to track down this enigmatic and terrifying alien. The invasion from Dyson Alpha continues with dozens of Commonwealth worlds falling to the enemy. The navy fights back with what it believes to be war-winning superweapons, only to find that the alien fleet has equally powerful weapons. How the aliens got them is the question which haunts Admiral Kime. Could it be that the Commonwealth's top-secret defence project has been compromised by the Starflyer's agents, or is the truth even worse? Pb \$21.95 1234pp

ROBERT J HARRIS

WILL SHAKESPEARE AND THE PIRATE'S FIRE

 When Will gets mixed up in poaching, his father sends him away from Stratford in a band of travelling actors. On the outskirts of London, a fierce storm forces them to take refuge at the house of Doctor Dee - Queen Elizabeth I's astrologer. While there, they get caught up in a plot involving piracy, magic and the secret of the Devil's Fire. Pb \$15.00 287pp

DAVID G HARTWELL & KATHRYN CRAMER (EDS)

THE SPACE OPERA RENAISSANCE

 Space opera, once a derisive term for cheap pulp adventure, has come to mean something more in modern SF - compelling adventure stories told against a broad canvas and written to the highest level of skill. Indeed, it can be argued that the 'new space opera' is one of the defining streams of modern SF. Here is a definitive overview of this subgenre, both as it was in the days of the pulp magazines and as it has become. Included are major works from genre progenitors like Jack Williamson and Leigh Brackett, stylish mid-century voices like Cordwainer Smith and Samuel R Delany, popular favourites like David Drake, Lois McMaster Bujold and Ursula K Le Guin and modern-day pioneers such as Iain M Banks, Steven Baxter, Scott Westerfeld and Charles Stross. Hb \$80.00 941pp



BOBBY HENDERSON
THE GOSPEL OF THE FLYING

 **SPAGHETTI MONSTER**

Behold the Church of the Flying Spaghetti Monster (FSM), today's fastest growing carbohydrate-based religion. According to church founder Bobby Henderson, the universe and all life within it were created by a mystical and divine being - the Flying Spaghetti Monster. Intelligent Design has finally met its match and it has nothing to do with apes or the Olive Garden of Eden. Within these pages, the author outlines the true facts - dispelling such malicious myths as evolution ("only a theory"), science ("only a lot of theories") and whether we're really descended from apes (fact: Humans share 95% of their DNA with chimpanzees, but they share 99.9% with pirates!). Tp \$29.95 166pp

ERIN HUNTER

 **MIDNIGHT**

Warriors: The New Prophecy #1. Darkness, air, water and sky will come together and shake the forest to its roots. The wild cat Clans have lived in peace and harmony for many moons, but now, strange messages from their warrior ancestors speak of terrifying new prophecies and a mysterious danger. All the signs point to young warrior Brambleclaw as the cat with the fate of the forest in his paws. But who are the other cats mentioned in the prophecy? All he knows for sure is that the strength and courage of the greatest warriors will be needed now, as the quest to save the Clans begins. Pb \$14.00 303pp


LIZ JENSEN

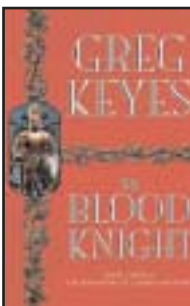
 **MY DIRTY LITTLE BOOK OF STOLEN TIME**

Charlotte Schleswig supports herself and the lumpen Fru Schleswig (who may or may not be her mother) as a prostitute in 1890s Copenhagen. When she gets a new job for herself and Fru Schleswig, as cleaning ladies for the wealthy widow Krak, she discovers that Fru Krak's dark old mansion, appears to be haunted. Townspeople claim to have seen the dead, Professor Krak walking the streets as a ghost and there are stories of desperate souls who paid the professor a visit and never emerged. In fact, as Charlotte will discover, there is a simple explanation for all this - the basement is home to a time machine. Hb \$49.95 305pp



GREG KEYES
BLOOD KNIGHT

 *The Kingdoms of Thorn and Bone #3.* The legendary Briar King has awakened, spreading madness and destruction. Half-remembered, poorly understood prophecies seem to point to the young princess Anne Dare,



rightful heir to the throne of Crotheny, as the world's only hope. Yet Anne is hunted by the minions of the usurper Robert, whose return from the grave has opened a doorway through which sinister sorceries have poured into the world. Though Anne herself is the conduit of fearsome powers beyond her understanding and control, it is time for girl to become woman, princess to become queen. Anne must stop running and instead march at the head of an army to take back her kingdom, or die trying. Hb \$56.00 495pp

DAVID LANGFORD

 **THE WYRDEST LINK: TERRY**


PRATCHETT'S DISCWORLD QUIZBOOK This title takes trivia to strange new heights, with hundreds more *Discworld* posers, questions in the merciless tradition of the Star Chamber, the Spanish Inquisition and Anne Robinson... So is it a good thing or a bad thing to be The Wyrdest Link? Hb \$22.95 289pp

DENISE LITTLE (ED)

 **HAGS, SIRENS & OTHER BAD GIRLS OF FANTASY**

From hags and harpies, to sorceresses and sirens, this volume features 20 all-new tales that prove women are far from the weaker sex - in all their alluring, magical, and monstrous roles. Pb \$18.95 307pp

SCOTT LYNCH
THE LIES OF LOCKE LAMORA

 Born with a quick wit and a gift for thieving, Locke Lamora has dodged both death and slavery, only to fall into the hands of an eyeless priest known as Chains, a man who is neither blind nor a priest. A con-artist of extraordinary talent, Chains passes his skills on to his carefully selected 'family' of orphans, a group known as the Gentlemen Bastards. Under his tutelage, Locke grows to lead the Bastards, delightfully pulling off one outrageous confidence game after another. Passing themselves off as petty thieves, the brilliant Locke and his tightly knit band of light-fingered brothers have fooled even the criminal underworld's most feared ruler, Capa Barsavi. But there is someone in the shadows more powerful and more ambitious than Locke has yet imagined. Known as the Gray King, he is slowly killing Capa Barsavi's most trusted men and using Locke as a pawn in his plot to take control of Camorr's underworld. Hb \$49.95 499pp

PAUL MCAULEY

 **MIND'S EYE**

A strange piece of graffiti is the catalyst that propels Alfie Flowers into an intriguing mystery involving the mysterious Nomads' Club, the rituals of a lost tribe, a series of spectacularly gruesome murders and a secret history of espionage and mind-altering patterns, glyphs, connected with the disappearance of his father some 20 years before. As Alfie is to discover, the source of the glyphs is hidden amidst the chaos of post-war Iraq. There, deep inside an ancient network of caves, lie powerful secrets sought by people with sinister and dangerous motives. People who are determined to prevent Alfie and the Nomads' Club from interfering with their plans. Whatever it takes. Pb \$19.95 520pp


RECOMMENDED READING

ROBIN HOBB
FOREST MAGE

Soldier Son #2. The King's Cavalla Academy has been ravaged by the Speck plague. The disease has decimated the ranks of both cadets and instructors and even the survivors remain sickly. Many have been forced to relinquish their military ambitions and return to their families to face lives of dependency and disappointment. As the Academy infirmary empties, Cadet Nevare Burvelle also prepares to journey home, to attend his brother Rosse's wedding. Far from being a broken man, Nevare is hale and hearty after his convalescence. But his life is about to take a shocking turn, as the magic in his blood roars to life and forces him to recognise that his most dangerous enemy, an enemy that seeks to destroy all he loves, might dwell within him. Tp \$32.95 660pp Hb \$55.00 660pp *Okay, let's face what will, unfortunately, always be a problem that will haunt Hobb's books - Nevare is NOT FitzChivalry. Although this seems obvious it's always niggling at the back of my mind that I don't like Nevare anywhere near as much as Fitz or the Fool. In this instalment, Hobb manages to give Nevare the personality he lacked in the first book. He has become an anti-hero in the most literal sense of the word and that is a breath of fresh air, despite the frustration it sometimes evokes. For that reason and the hope that we'll dive into the depths of Speck world, I will be one of the first to read Renegade Magic when it eventually gets released. 7/10 - Adam*



ANNE McCAFFREY & TODD McCAFFREY
DRAGON'S FIRE

 A *Pern* novel. Pellar is an orphan taken in by Masterharper Zist. Though born mute, Pellar is a gifted tracker and when Zist sets off to take over as harper for Natalon's coal-mining camp, Pellar, along with his fire-lizard, Chitter, joins him on a secret mission of his own - to find out if reported thefts of coal are the work of the Shunned, criminals condemned to a life of wandering and hardship. Hb \$54.00 366pp

ANNE McCAFFREY
& ELIZABETH ANN SCARBOROUGH

 **FIRST WARNING**

Acorna's Children #1. A simple journey home to visit her parents turns into a race against time when Khorii, daughter Acorna and her lifemate, Aari, happens upon a derelict spacecraft drifting in space, its crew dead in their seats. But this gruesome discovery is only a dread harbinger. A deadly plague is spreading across the universe and not even the healing powers of the Linyaari can slow its horrific advance. Khorii, one of the few unaffected by the outbreak, must find the nefarious perpetrators and a cure before the disease consumes all in its path, including her beloved parents. Pb \$18.95 371pp

TODD McCAFFREY

 **DRAGONS BLOOD**

A *Pern* novel. Never in the dramatic history of Pern has there been a more dire emergency than that which faces the young dragonrider Lorana. A mysterious fatal illness is striking dragons. The epidemic is spreading like wildfire and the next deadly cycle of Threadfall is only days away. Somehow, Lorana must find a cure before the dragons, including her own beloved Arith, succumb to the sickness, leaving Pern undefended. Pb \$18.95 452pp

MARIANNE MANCUSI

 **WHAT, NO ROSES?**

Lonely and lovelorn, reporter Dora Duncan finds herself transported back in time to the Roaring Twenties where she must stop the St. Valentine's Day Massacre in Chicago with the help of a notorious and dangerously sexy gangster, who makes her forget the future. Pb \$16.95 323pp

JOHN MARCO

 **THE SWORD OF ANGELS**

Eyes of God #3. Armed with a magic amulet which bestows eternal life on the wearer, a powerful knight protects the fortress of Grimhold, where the magical people of his world reside. But when his closest friend is pulled into the evil sway of the Devil's Armour, only the Sword of Angels can defeat it. Pb \$19.95 980pp

JULIET MARILLIER

 **BLADE OF FORTRIU**

The Bridei Chronicles #2. The kingdom of Fortriu has enjoyed five years of peace since Bridei came to the throne. But now Bridei is preparing for the long-awaited war that he hopes will see the Gaelic invaders driven from the west forever and he must forge alliances where he can. The princess Ana, a hostage of Fortriu since childhood, is sent north to make a strategic marriage with a chieftain she has never met and with it gain an ally on whom Bridei's victory relies. Her escort is led by a man she despises, the enigmatic Faolan, Bridei's assassin and spy. The expedition is ill-fated and when Ana arrives at the chieftain Alpin's stronghold in the mysterious Briar Wood, she is uneasy. When Ana discovers a prisoner kept within the bleakest of confinement, she is met with a conspiracy of silence. Faolan, torn between duty and an impossible love for the woman he has pledged to see safely wed, walks a delicate path between loyalty and betrayal. Pb \$19.95 712pp

JOHN MARSDEN

 **INCURABLE**

The Ellie Chronicles #2. Ellie has struggled to put the war behind her and lead a normal life. Although what's normal about your parents having been murdered, trying to run a farm and go to school and bringing up a young boy who's hiding terrible secrets about his past? Pb \$14.95 246pp

KIRSTEN MILLER

 **INSIDE THE SHADOW CITY**

Kiki Strike #1. Life will never be the same for book-loving 12-year-old Ananka Fishbein after she ventures into a hole near her New York apartment. Not only does she discover the mysterious Second City beneath the streets of New York, she is introduced to Kiki Strike, a black-clad, Vespa-riding, cafe-au-lait-drinking girl superspy. Ananka joins Kiki as she recruits the delinquent Girl Scouts of Manhattan into an elite squad, the Irregulars, to fight crime and map the Second City. When it seems Kiki can't be trusted, Ananka must take matters into her own hands, risking lives, secrets and the safety of New York City itself. Pb \$16.95 387pp

ELIZABETH MOON

 **ENGAGING THE ENEMY**

Vatta's War #3. The brilliantly unorthodox Kylara Vatta, black-sheep scion of Vatta Transport Ltd., one of the galaxy's wealthiest merchant houses, is a heroine like no other, blessed with a killer instinct for business and for battle. Now, in the aftermath of cold-blooded assassinations that have left her parents dead and the Vatta shipping empire shattered, Kylara faces her greatest challenge yet. She embarks aboard the captured pirate ship Fair Kaleen on a twofold mission - to salvage the family business and to punish those responsible for the killings before they strike again. Pb \$19.95 455pp

CHRIS MORIARTY

 **SPIN CONTROL**

Spin #2. Call Arkady a clone with a conscience, or call him a traitor. A member of the space-faring Syndicates, Arkady has defected to Israel with a hot commodity - a genetic weapon powerful enough to wipe out humanity. But Israel's not buying it. They're selling it and Arkady to the highest bidder. As the auction heats up, the Artificial Life Emancipation Front sends in Major Catherine Li. Drummed out of the Peacekeepers for executing Syndicate prisoners, Li has now literally hooked up with an AI who has lived many lifetimes and shunted through many bodies. But while they have their own conflicting loyalties to contend with, together they're just one player in a mysterious high-stakes game... Tp \$27.00 456pp

RECOMMENDED READING

JULIET MARILLIER
WILDWOOD DANCING

Jena, along with her five sisters and constant companion, the frog she calls Gogu, lives in a crumbling castle on the fringe of a wildwood in Transylvania. Theirs has always been a privileged, if somewhat restricted life, however, the girls share a fantastic secret, which they have kept hidden even from their family for 12 long years. When Jena's father falls ill and must leave their forest home over the winter, Jena and her older sister Tati are left in charge. Everything runs like clockwork until a tragic accident allows their greedy cousin Cezar to take control. When it becomes clear that their secret is in danger of discovery, Jena knows there is only one place, no matter how dangerous, she can go to for help... Pb \$16.95



370pp A perfect fairy tale! This was just beautiful and it was a hard choice between this, *Pay the Piper* (Yolen and Stemple) and *Melusine* for fave new. I've reviewed so many fairy tales in the past, I thought I should do something a little different. A must read for fairy tale fans.
- Steph

CHRISTINE MORTON-SHAW

THE RIDDLES OF EPSILON

Inside an abandoned cottage on the remote island of Lume, Jess encounters an eerie ghost-like presence. She also finds three locked boxes and, as she earns the right to unlock each, the contents send her mind spinning. Gradually, Jess unravels the mysteries, guided by the mysterious Epsilon. But is he a guide from the bright side or the dark? Pb \$15.00 397pp

HARUKI MURAKAMI

BLIND WILLOW, SLEEPING WOMAN

A young man accompanies his cousin to the hospital to check an unusual hearing complaint and recalls a story of a woman put to sleep by tiny flies crawling inside her ear. A mirror appears out of nowhere and a night-watchman is unnerved as his reflection tries to take control of him. A couple's relationship is unbalanced after dining exclusively on exquisite crab while on holiday. In each one of these stories Murakami sidesteps the real and sprints for the surreal. Tp \$32.95 334pp

BELINDA MURRELL

THE QUEST FOR THE SUN GEM

After their village is attacked, a young brother and sister set off on a dangerous quest to save their captured family and friends and free their land from the Sedah invaders. Where are Ethan and Lily's parents being held? And where have the Sun Sword and its magical gems been hidden? Joined by their friend Saxon and the determined Princess Roana, Ethan and Lily must solve puzzles and riddles, escape legendary sea monsters and outwit bandits along the way. But the greatest threat to the children is the sinister Sedah tracker, Sniffer, who is close on their trail. Can they find the Sun Gem before the Sedah can find them? Pb \$14.95 322pp

LARRY NIVEN & PAUL CHAFE

DESTINY'S FORGE

Man Kzin Wars #12. Weed-eaters, monkey-spawn, honourless herbivores - individually weak, humans have proved most difficult to conquer and enslave. Now, the young heir to the Kzinti patriarchy is forced into a desperate



wilderness exile as his empire cracks and the contentious Great Prides attempt to rip one another apart while facing total war with humanity. Annihilation looms unless the young patriarch can ally with two human warriors to battle his way back to his rightful place as Leader of the Prides, keeper of pride Strakh and upholder of sacred Kzinti honour. Hb \$54.00 663pp

NAOMI NOVIK

TEMERAIRE

Temeraire #1. Captain Laurence has a respectable commission aboard the ship Reliant, a pretty but ambitious fiancée and his life all planned out. On patrol in the Atlantic, the Reliant captures a small French frigate, storm-damaged and possessing a fierce crew unwilling to surrender as easily as they should. On board Laurence finds a dragon egg. Having spent months on a slow journey from Asia, the egg hatches. Hatchling dragons must be put in a harness immediately otherwise the dragon-young become hard to control - fit only for the breeding colonies. The person chosen to first harness the beast must be an aviator, for the dragon will accept no other. Ignoring the young midshipman Laurence had assigned to the task, the dragon picks Laurence himself and now his life will be changed forever. Pb \$21.00 442pp

PAUL PARK

A PRINCESS OF ROUMANIA

White Tyger #1. Many girls daydream that they are really a princess adopted by commoners. In the case of teenager Miranda Popescu, this is literally true. Because she is at the fulcrum of a deadly political battle between conjurers in an alternate world where Roumania is a leading European power, Miranda was hidden by her aunt in our world, where she was adopted and raised in a quiet college town. This is the story of how Miranda, with her two best friends, Peter and Andromeda, is brought back to her home reality. Each of them is changed in the process and all will have much to learn about their true identities and the strange world they find themselves in. Pb \$18.95 469pp

RODMAN PHILBRICK

THE LAST BOOK IN THE UNIVERSE

This book tells a tale of ancient myths and legends, ghostly phenomena, black and white magic and the blurring of god and evil. But this is not fantasy. There is plenty of magic in the real world if you know where to look. In a land dominated by vicious gangs and mind probe entertainment, Spaz is alone. His foster sister is the only good thing in his life and she is dying. Determined to save her, Spaz bravely sets out into dangerous and forbidden territory, accompanied only by an old man, with his philosophies and memories of what the world once was. Pb \$15.00 228pp

TIM PRATT

LITTLE GODS

This debut collection brings together four poems and 15 stories, including the Nebula-nominated *Little Gods* and a previously unpublished novelette, *Pale Dog*. Tp \$79.95 213pp

M J PUTNEY

STOLEN MAGIC

Heir to an ancient title, Simon Malmain, the Earl of Falconer, is well known among the Guardians, humans with magical powers derived from nature. A routine mission to confront a rogue Guardian who has misused his powers turns disastrous when Simon's quarry, Lord Drayton, captures his pursuer in a transformation spell that can only be released by Drayton or death. Aid arrives in the form of Meg, a fey young woman who first traps Simon, then frees him. As they flee together, Simon recognises that Meg is also a victim of Drayton's evil enchantments and he restores her nature and innate magic. She agrees to help Simon bring down Drayton. The need for each other's magic binds them together and releases the more ancient magic of passion. But desire cannot be satisfied until the rogue mage is stopped. Pb \$16.95 410pp

KIT REED

THE BABY MERCHANT

When medicine fails you and you can't adopt, Tom Starbird's your man. Soft-spoken, as charming as he is efficient, the baby merchant will steal a child for you. For a price. This is Starbird's mission in life. He rescues unwanted babies and delivers them to loving homes. But even do-gooders get tired. Tom is shutting up shop when hard-driving Jake Zorn, the Television Conscience of Boston, blackmails him into doing one last job. His barren wife Maury wants a baby, but there are reasons why they can't adopt. Zorn will do whatever it takes to bring one home. A conscientious provider, Tom locates a supplier. Translation - a mother with a child she doesn't want. This brings him up against lovely, rebellious Sasha Egan, an artist planning to have her baby and give it up. Stalked by her unborn child's father, Sasha is on the run. She has no way of knowing that Starbird has targeted her. Or that the baby she never wanted is the one thing in life she will do anything to keep. Hb \$54.00 334pp

JOHN RINGO

CHOOSERS OF THE SLAIN

Mike Harmon #3. A US senator has a problem. A major financial contributor's daughter has been kidnapped into the labyrinthine depths of the Balkans sex-slave trade. The US government has been unable to find her and the Senator is very interested in changing that condition. \$5,000,000 interested. As Ghost and his Keldara warriors blast a gaping hole through the middle of the trade, it quickly becomes apparent that there is more to the mission than a poor missing waif. There's a rot underneath, and the stench is coming from the very floor of the Capitol. Hb \$54.00 427pp

J K ROWLING

 **HARRY POTTER AND THE HALF-BLOOD PRINCE**

Harry Potter #6. In the midst of the battle of good and evil, this instalment takes up the story of Harry Potter's sixth year at Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry, with Voldemort's power and followers increasing day-by-day. Pb \$19.95 607pp

MICHELLE SAGARA

 **CAST IN SHADOW**

Seven years ago, Kaylin fled the crime-riddled streets of Nightshade, knowing that something was after her. Children were being murdered and all had the same odd markings that mysteriously appeared on her own skin. Since then, she's learned to read, she's learned to fight and she's become one of the vaunted Hawks who patrol and police the City of Elantra. Alongside the winged Aerians and the immortal Barrani, she's made a place for herself, far from the mean streets of her birth. But children are once again dying and a dark and familiar pattern is emerging. Kaylin is ordered back into Nightshade with a partner she knows she can't trust, a Dragon lord for a companion and a device to contain her powers, powers that no other human has. Her task is simple - find the killer, stop the murders and survive the attentions of those who claim to be her allies! Pb \$16.95 407pp

KARL SCHROEDER

 **LADY OF MAZES**

This is the story of Teven Coronal, a ringworld with a huge multiplicity of human civilisations. Brilliant, but troubled, Livia Kodaly is Teven's only hope against invaders both human and superhuman who would destroy its fragile ecologies and human diversity. Pb \$18.95 378pp

TIM SEVERIN

 **KING'S MAN**

Viking #3. In Constantinople, 1035, Thorgils has become a member of the Varangian lifeguard and witnesses the glories of the richest city on earth, but also the murderous ways of the imperial family. Under the leadership of warrior chief Harald Sigurdsson, he is set up as the unwitting bait in a deadly ambush to destroy Arab pirates harassing the Byzantine shipping lanes in the Mediterranean. When Harald eventually ascends the throne of Norway, his liegeman Thorgils is despatched on a secret mission to Duke William of Normandy, with a plan to coordinate the twin invasions of England. On 20 September 1066 Harald's fleet of 300 ships sails up the Ouse, confident of success, but a prophetic dream warns Thorgils that Duke William has duped his allies and the Norsemen are heading for disaster at Stamford Bridge. Pb \$19.95 319pp

CLARK ASHTON SMITH

RED WORLD OF POLARIS:

 **THE ADVENTURES OF CAPTAIN VOLMAR**

A collection of the author's Captain Volmar stories, including the never before published novella, *Red World of Polaris*. Hb \$58.00 115pp

CAT SPARKS (ED)

 **AGOG! RIPPING READS**

This is the sixth anthology of speculative fiction to be published by Agog! Press. Tp \$24.95 282pp

PAUL STEWART & CHRIS RIDELL

 **CORBY FLOOD**

Corby Flood and her family are about to set sail on the rather ramshackle cruise ship, the S S Euphonia. Her boisterous brothers might not have noticed that anything is wrong, but Corby is highly observant and has a lot of time for note-taking and eavesdropping. Onboard, amongst all the odd passengers and eccentric crew, there is a strange group of men in bowler-hats who call themselves The Brotherhood of Clowns. There's also a melancholy wailing sound coming from the hold. It's strictly out of bounds but Corby can't help investigating. What could be inside the crate she discovers down in the hold? As the ship arrives at its destination, Corby must enlist the help of some very well moustachioed locals to uncover the contents of the crate and the dark secrets of the menacing Clowns. Pb \$14.95 232pp

 **HUGO PEPPER**

Set in the same world as Fergus Crane and Corby Flood's stories, this is the tale of a small boy, Hugo Pepper and his amazing exploits. Raised in the Frozen North by reindeer herders, his parents eaten by polar bears when he was just a baby, Hugo discovers that the sled they arrived in has a very special compass, one that can be set to Home. And so Hugo arrives in Firefly Square to discover a group of very special friends and a dastardly enemy... Hb \$24.95 250pp

CHARLES STROSS

 **ACCELERANDO**

The year is some time between 2010 and 2015. The recession has ended, but populations are ageing and the rate of tech change is accelerating dizzyingly. Manfred makes his living from spreading ideas around, putting people in touch with one another and leaving a spray of technologies in his wake. He lives at the cutting edge of intelligence amplification technology, but even Manfred can take on too much. And when his pet robot cat picks up some interesting information from the SETI data, his world and the world of his descendants is turned on its head. Pb \$19.95 433pp

ELDON THOMPSON

 **THE OBSIDIAN KEY**

The Legend of Asahiel #2. Shaken by the catastrophic war with the Demon Queen Spithaera, Pentania wrestles with a new world of possibility and potential disaster - creatures of wonder and nightmare are returning and humanity will never be the same. In his epic battle with the Demon Queen, young Jarom became Torin, King of Alson. Now, with bitter foes on all sides, he must forge his kingdom from the ruins of an empire and begin anew. But it is too soon to forget the past entirely. For in recklessly reclaiming the Crimson Sword of Asahiel, Torin reopened a dimensional realm no longer sealed by the power of the Obsidian Key. And now from history's darkest hour pour the terrifying Illysp, foul spirits who possess the bodies and enslave the souls of men. Hb \$54.00 516pp

RUPERT THOMSON

 **DIVIDED KINGDOM**

It is winter, somewhere in the United Kingdom and an 8-year-old boy is removed from his home and family in the middle of the night. He learns that he is the victim of an extraordinary experiment. In an attempt to reform society, the government has divided the population into four groups, each representing a different personality type. The land, too, has been divided into quarters. Borders have been established, reinforced by concrete walls, armed guards and rolls of razor wire. Plunged headlong into this brave new world, the boy tries to make the best of things, unaware that ahead of him lies a truly explosive moment, a revelation that will challenge everything he believes in and will, in the end, put his very life in jeopardy. Pb \$22.95 400pp

HARRY TURTLEDOVE

(WRITING AS DAN CHERNENKO)

 **THE SCEPTER'S RETURN**

The Scepter of Mercy #3. For hundreds of years, the rulers of Avornis sought to reclaim the Scepter of Mercy, their only protection from the fallen god known as the Banished One. They all failed. Now, the burden rests on the shoulders of two kings, divided by pride, but united in duty. Pb \$18.95 472pp


JOHN VARLEY

 **RED LIGHTNING**

The son of one of the first men to fly to Mars and back, Ray Garcia-Strickland, is now a disgruntled Martian, tired of the Red Planet's overdevelopment and the gravity dependent tourist Earthies. But that doesn't stop him from fearing the worst when Earth is struck by an unknown object, causing a massive tsunami. Living high on his father's glory was okay, but now Ray must literally come down to Earth and solve one of its greatest mysteries. Hb \$54.00 330pp


SCOTT WESTERFELD

THE SECRET HOUR

 *Midnighters #1.* For one secret hour each night, the town belongs to the dark creatures that haunt the shadows. Only a small group of people know about the secret hour - only they are free to move about the midnight time. These people call themselves Midnighters. Each one has a different power that is strongest at midnight - Seer, Mindcaster, Acrobat, Polymath. For years the Midnighters and the dark creatures have shared the secret hour, uneasily avoiding one another. All that changes when the new girl with an unmistakable midnight aura appears at Bixby High School. Jessica Day is not an outsider like the other Midnighters. She acts perfectly normal in every way. But it soon becomes clear that the dark creatures sense a hidden power in Jessica... and they're determined to stop her before she can use it. Pb \$19.95 276pp


KIM WILKINS

GHOST SHIP

 *Fantastica: Sunken Kingdom #1.* Asa and Rollo are orphans, the royal children of the Star Lands. Emperor Flood, the powerful court magician who has usurped the power of the king and queen, has caused the water to rise, turning the Star Lands into a series of hill islands, sunken towers and deep, motionless bays. Flood commands the sky patrols, which watch the waterways from their huge black balloons. A loyal family friend, Egil Cripplehand, gives Asa and Rollo his enchanted ship, Northseeker, so that they can rescue their infant sister Una from their parent's killers. But first they must outrun the sky patrols, using their special gifts to outwit Emperor Flood's forces. Pb \$10.00 79pp

JEANETTE WINTERSON

TANGLEWRECK

 Nobody knows what to do when the Time Tornadoes start. Some days are long, some are short. Time stops then jerks forward. People are getting caught in Time Traps - locked in the past, then pushed into the future. Far from the city, in the strange old house Tanglewreck, Silver lives with her bony, bad-tempered aunt, Mrs Rockabye and hears strange stories about the Timekeeper - an alchemist's watch that could steady Time again, if anyone could find it. When the sinister Abel Darkwater arrives at Tanglewreck in search of the watch, Silver realises she must begin a journey through Time and Space in search of the Timekeeper, during which she meets a loyal friend, Gabriel and together they face many dangers and excitements. Can Silver and Gabriel survive the tasks ahead, and reach the Sands of Time before anyone else? And if they do, will the Timekeeper still be there? Pb \$16.95 414pp



NEAL ASHER
AFRICA ZERO

Contains the novellas *Africa Zero* and *Africa Plus One*. The Collector rampages across a far future Africa populated with gene-spliced vampires, resurrected mammoth and nutters with APWs, but he can handle it. Tp \$60.00 151pp

NINA BANGS
A TASTE OF DARKNESS

The Mackenzie council, in its infinite stupidity, has ordered Reinn to protect the purity of the clan's bloodline. What purity? They're all just a bunch of bloodsuckers! Besides, how can he destroy a clan member for mating with someone not on the council's approved list when the very sight of a certain little werecat revs his engine? Kisa Evans makes it impossible for him to think about anything but the dangerous fantasy of freeing his own inner beast. Kisa may be the enemy, but he longs to show her the sweet ecstasy to be found in - a taste of darkness. Pb \$16.95 337pp



L A BANKS
THE FORBIDDEN

Vampire Huntress #5. The devil is a dead-beat dad and his consort Lilith couldn't care less. A stolen embryo stirs in Lilith's womb and a plan pulses through her veins: To unleash her child from the gates of hell, as soon as she destroys the only two vampire hunters who can possibly stop her... Damali Richards and her lover, Carlos Rivera. Pb \$18.95 497pp

L A BANKS
THE FORSAKEN

Vampire Huntress #7. The Chairman of the Vampire Council is dead and Lilith, the consort of the Unnamed One and the Unnamed One himself are out for revenge against Damali Richards, the Vampire Huntress and her lover, Carlos Rivera. A ruthless and carefully planned strategy - one that not even Damali will anticipate - has been developed. There is only one entity who can best Damali, send Carlos packing and put the Guardian team at mortal risk. This powerful being was once banished into a forsaken land and possesses everything that would bring a Neteru to his or her knees. This time the fight is not so clear-cut and it is not only Damali's soul in the balance, but her body and heart as well. Tp \$32.95 432pp



NIGEL BENNETT & P N ELROD
SIEGE PERILOUS

Richard D'orleans #3. An old enemy from Richard's past, Charon the Assassin, returns and is literally hell-bent on bloody revenge. He has acquired deadly new powers that are annihilating the nebulous plane of Otherside and threaten the very existence of the Realside plane. Unless balance is restored both will be destroyed. From the sultry Yucatan forests to the chill green fields of ancient Glastonbury, Richard Dun marshals his mortal and immortal allies for a fight that will span dimensions and centuries of time. He is no stranger at battling to the death, but how can one earth-bound vampire stand up to a being able to destroy the gods themselves? Pb \$18.95 455pp

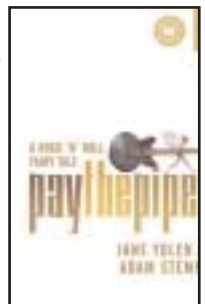
JIM BUTCHER
DEAD BEAT

Dresden Files #7. Harry Dresden must save Chicago from black magic and necromancy - all in a day's work for the city's only professional wizard. Pb \$19.95 498pp

RECOMMENDED READING

JANE YOLEN & ADAM STEMPLER
PAY THE PIPER: A ROCK 'N' ROLL FAIRY TALE

When 17-year-old Callie McCallan scores a backstage pass to interview the lead singer of the famous band Brass Rat, she's thrilled. Peter Gringras is so cool. When he plays his flute, it's as if he has some kind of hypnotic power. But there is something strange about him, something Callie can't quite put her finger on. Then, on Halloween night, Callie's little brother Nicky disappears, along with all the other children in town. It's crazy, but Callie thinks she knows where the children have gone and who took them. To prove it and to rescue Nicky and the other children, Callie must journey to a mythical world filled with fantastical creatures. A world from which there may be no return. Pb \$14.95



192pp *This is just fantastic and I can't wait for the next in the series. This recently won the Locus poll Young Adult book of the Year. - Steph*

MELISSA DE LA CRUZ

BLUE BLOODS

Schuyler Van Alen is a freshman at the prestigious Duchesne School. A loner by nature, she finds her life thrown into turmoil when she turns 15. Suddenly she is allergic to the sun, craves raw food and if she cuts herself, her blood is blue. Schuyler has no idea what is happening to her. As more and more curious things happen, Schuyler must confront her family and friends to discover the truth behind her blue blood, but there are bigger problems soon to be faced. When a girl in school is found dead, with mysterious bite marks on her neck, Schuyler is more confused than ever about her heritage and her destiny. Hb \$35.00 302pp

W D GAGLIANI

WOLF'S TRAP

A murdered friend. A descent into the darkness of the porn world. A cop whose tragic past includes a terrible secret and a horrible burden. A serial killer with depraved obsessions and a blood grudge. They will meet in Wisconsin's dark and chilly North Woods. But who will be the hunter and who will be the hunted? Pb \$16.95 373pp

LAURELL K HAMILTON

ANITA BLAKE, VAMPIRE HUNTER

Omnibus, Books #1 - #3. My name is Anita Blake but Vampires call me the Executioner. Ever since the Supreme Court granted the undead equal rights, most people think vampires are just ordinary folks with fangs. I know better. But now a serial killer is murdering vampires and the most powerful bloodsucker in town wants me to find the killer. Tp \$32.95 646pp

DANSE MACABRE

Anita Blake #13. As days pass, Anita's less interested in vampire politics than in an ancient, ordinary dread she shares with women down the ages - she may be pregnant. And, if she is, whether the father is a vampire, a werewolf, or someone else entirely, she knows perfectly well that being a Federal Marshall, known for raising the dead and being a vampire executioner, is no way to bring up a baby... Hb \$56.00 483pp

KIM HARRISON

A FISTFUL OF CHARMS

Rachel Morgan #4. The evil night things that prowl Cincinnati despise witch and bounty hunter, Rachel Morgan. Her new reputation for the dark arts is turning human and undead heads alike with the intent to possess, bed and kill her, not necessarily in that order. Now a mortal lover who abandoned Rachel has returned, haunted by his secret past. Forced to keep a low profile or suffer the wrath of a vengeful demon, Rachel must nevertheless act quickly. For the pack is gathering for the first time in millennia to ravage and to rule. Pb \$18.95 528pp

TANYA HUFF

THE BLOOD BOOKS #1

Omnibus containing Blood Price & Blood Trail. Vicki Nelson is an ex-homicide cop turned private detective. Mike Celluci, Vicki's former partner, is still on the force. Henry Fitzroy is an author of bodice rippers and a vampire. Together, the trio find themselves caught up in mysteries with a supernatural slant, from demons to werewolves and every otherworldly creature in between. Pb \$18.95 554pp

BRIAN KEENE

THE CONQUEROR WORMS

One day the rain just didn't stop. As the flood waters slowly rose and coastal cities and towns disappeared, some people believed it was the end of the world. Maybe they were right, but the water wasn't the worst part. Even more terrifying was what the soaking rains drove up from beneath the earth, unimaginable creatures, writhing, burrowing and devouring all in their path. Pb \$16.95 326pp

SHERRILYN KENYON

BAD ATTITUDE

An agent for BAD, the Bureau of American Defence, Sydney Westbrook is forced into close contact with maverick officer J D Steele when they join forces to stop a terrorist planning a devastating attack at an American peace conference. Pb \$16.95 359pp

L H MAYNARD & M P N SIMS

SHELTER

The house is a shambles, abandoned by its previous owner and left to rot. For decades it has stood, ignored and forgotten, but not empty. Beneath the house, something waits. Imprisoned in a maze of underground rooms, sealed away from the light, it is hungry. But finally its time has come. To new owner Laura Craig the house is an opportunity. She doesn't know about the boarded up well, or what's inside it, but she'll find out soon enough. And then it will be too late. Then the terror will be unleashed. Pb \$16.95 321pp

ALEXIS MORGAN

DARK PROTECTOR

Devlin Bane is a member of an ancient band of warriors locked in a centuries-old war against evil. His destiny is to die over and over again to protect mankind from the Others, only to be revived each time by his mortal Handler, currently Dr Laurel Young. But, each time she revives him, he claims a little more of her soul and incites in her desires that grow wilder and wilder. As the war against the Others grows more desperate, Laurel and Devlin can't help but give in to the fierce hunger that's sizzled between them for so long. Now they'll face the ultimate battle together as they join forces to fight an enemy who is closer than they ever imagined... Pb \$16.95 322pp

SCOTT NICHOLSON

THE FARM

With a new marriage and a rural lifestyle to embrace, Katy is determined to make the most of this second chance, for her sake and her daughter Jett. Yet things in Solom aren't as simple as they seem, starting with her husband, Gordon, and his strange, secretive family. Jett understands her mother's reasons for dragging them out to the sticks, although it's harder to tolerate her new stepfather, with his weird stories of a blood-drinking scarecrow and a long-gone family member who may have been murdered. But Katy and Jett are about to learn that there's more to this place than even the legends tell. As Katy nurses a growing obsession with Gordon's first wife, Jett senses something very wrong permeating the farm. Something wicked has been growing there, awaiting its master. And with his arrival, a bloody harvest will begin... Pb \$16.95 394pp

KOJI SUZUKI

DARK WATER

A collection of seven short stories, all of them with a connection to the sea or water, from the celebrated author of the epoch-making Ring (which spawned the hit Japanese and Hollywood films) and Spiral. Pb \$23.00 294pp

CARRIE VAUGHN

KITTY GOES TO WASHINGTON

Kitty Norville #2. The Centre for the Study of Paranatural Biology has gone public with scientific verification of vampires, werewolves and the like. As the country's only outed werewolf celebrity, Kitty Norville is called to Washington to testify before a Senate special committee. Once there, she meets a colourful series of local personalities, all of whom seem to have secret agendas including Dr Paul Flemming, the scientist in charge of the Centre for the Study of Paranatural Biology, who seems strangely reluctant to discuss where his research has taken him. But when so many people see her as a means to their own ends, Kitty can't run fast enough to stay out of trouble. Pb \$16.95 342pp

TAICHI YAMADA

IN SEARCH OF A DISTANT VOICE

Kazama Tsuneo is an immigration officer in Tokyo, struggling to live a 'normal' life after an event that happened eight years previously, on the other side of the world, in Portland, Oregon. When he is seized one day by a strange emotional fit, his life threatens to spiral out of control. With his arranged marriage looming, his problems worsen following the emergence of a strange voice - a woman who is trying to contact him, but without ever quite revealing herself. Tp \$29.95 183pp

What We've Been Reading

Spin State by Chris Moriarty (Pb \$16.95). Depending on how you see it, having a bibliographical list containing texts about quantum physics is either manna from heaven or a complete turn-off. Whichever way it is, the author has skilfully woven her substantial knowledge and research of quantum physics into a fast paced neo-noir thriller. After a botched raid on a Syndicate (a rebellious group made up of illegal clones) weapons factory, UN peacekeeper Major Catherine Li is sent to investigate the death of a renowned scientist on the mining colony of Compton's World. Buried beneath the surface is the only source of crystals in the universe, which allows for faster than light travel possible. Li must uncover just what groundbreaking experiment the dead scientist was working on, before the balance of power in the universe is shifted through bloody warfare. This is Moriarty's debut novel and there are parts of the novel which reflect this. However, there are enough solid ideas to attract fans of Richard Morgan to this tough and bleak world, which is continued in the recently released sequel, **Spin Control** (Tp \$27.00). - John

Glasshouse by Charles Stross (Hb \$54.00). The premise of the novel is that in a far-future society recovering from a war, several of the combatants have elected to wipe their memories and have enlisted in an experimental recreation of the Dark Ages (circa. 1950-2040). Not surprisingly for Stross, the cause of the war was the future equivalent of a computer virus or more accurately a worm. Despite the technological underpinnings, **Glasshouse** works better than Stross's previous novels in not overwhelming the reader with jargon. This isn't to say that **Glasshouse** skimps on extrapolative technologies like Stross's other SF work. These elements are ever present, but there is less reliance on info dumps and when they are used they are enmeshed in the storyline. 9/10 - Adam

Night of Knives (Malazan World) by Ian Cameron Esslemont (Tp \$55.00) Fans of Steven Erikson's *Malazan* series should take heed. This author is most definitely the co-creator of the world that, until now, was only available with Erikson's name on the cover. READ THIS BOOK!! Esslemont has a style that is very similar to Erikson and the tale he tells is skilfully done. It is set in Malaz City all during the night that Kellanved and Dancer become Ascended. Lots of quirky characters and 'real' dialogue. 9/10 - Adam

Dream Makers Magic (Safe Keepers Secret #3). by Sharon Shinn (Hb \$37.00). I'm assuming this is the last in the series - although I'd love to be proven wrong. These lovely stories. They're only marginally genre and they're the sort of thing that you'll bowl over in no time at all - but I suspect these could become comfort books to go back to on a rainy day when you feel like visiting an old friend. - Steph

Stolen Child by Keith Donohue (Tp \$32.95). This is quite a different version of the well known changeling baby story. The story switches between the child that was taken away and raised with a 'family' of changelings and the changeling that takes his place. For reasons explained they're all around age seven - and so long as they aren't with a human family they stay this age. As a mum of a little lad there were bits of this that were a little... I guess unsettling is the best word - to read. It was just a little too close to home. It didn't have the ending I expected and I still don't know if this is a good or bad thing. - Steph

COMPETITION

To win a **Talking Dalek Bottle Opener**, name the character portrayed by Billie Piper. Mail, fax or email (competition@galaxybooks.com.au) your answer along with your name and address. Entry closes 18 Aug 2006. Entry open to Galaxy Cardholders only.

COMPETITION WINNERS

The winners of a **Dr Who Dalek Survival Guide** are Nicola James, Kate Tomlinson and John Bridges. Congratulations!



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