



ISSUE #247

DEC 2008

NEXUS

SCIENCE FICTION ● FANTASY ● HORROR

1968 Celebrating 40 Years of Independent Bookselling 2008

WORLD FANTASY AWARD WINNERS

LIFE ACHIEVEMENT

Patricia McKillip
Leo & Diane Dillon

NOVEL

Ysabel by Guy Gavriel Kay

NOVELLA

Illyria by Elizabeth Hand

SHORT STORY

Singing of Mount Abora by Theodora Goss

ANTHOLOGY

Inferno edited by Ellen Datlow

COLLECTION

Tiny Deaths by Robert Shearman

INTERNATIONAL HORROR GUILD AWARD WINNERS

LIVING LEGEND

Peter Straub

NOVEL

The Terror by Dan Simmons

LONG FICTION

Softspoken by Lucius Shepard

COLLECTION

Dagger Key and Other Stories by Lucius Shepard

ANTHOLOGY

Inferno edited by Ellen Datlow

GOTHIC ART NOW

JASMINE BECKETT-GRIFFITH



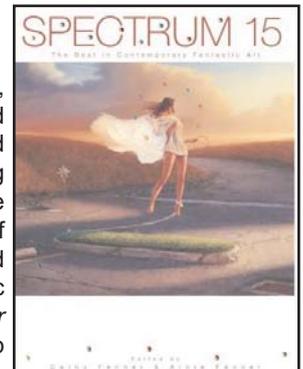
Having spent so long on the periphery of the art world, gothic art is taking its place as a bonafide art form influencing fashion, literature, film, media, music and design. This book brings together for the first time the finest, the freshest, the darkest and the most exciting talents from around the world. The work covers the most compelling gothic art across various media, from paintings and illustrations to photography, sculpture, and digital art. Featured gothic art includes the breathtaking sculptures of H R Giger, the

ethereal watercolours of Natalia Pierandrei, the grim fairytale paintings of David Stoupakis, the hypnotic oil paintings of David Bowers, the haunting photography of Shannon Hourigan, the sinister dolls of Scott Radke, the delicately dismal portraits of Dorian Cleavanger and numerous other terrifying and thought-provoking artistic creations in literature, digital media, film and advertising. Hb \$68.00 192pp

SPECTRUM 15

ARNIE & CATHIE FENNER

With art drawn from a wide variety of sources - books, graphic novels, video games, films, galleries and advertising - this reinforces both the importance and prevalence of fantasy art in today's culture. Featuring over 300 exceptional works by artists from around the globe, this full-colour collection celebrates a cadre of creators working in every style and medium. Included are luminaries such as Brom, James Gurney, Marc Gabanna, Shaun Tan and 2008's *Grand Master Award* winner, John Jude Palencar. Hb \$89.95 Tp \$53.00 284pp



FRANCIS TSAI

100 WAYS TO CREATE FANTASY FIGURES



Presents 100 exciting and ingenious ways to design and draw better fantasy figures - from developing characters to adding costumes, props and backdrops. Hollywood concept designer Francis Tsai shares tips and tricks for creating imaginative figures, giving readers a unique opportunity to gain guidance from a real pro. Highly accessible and featuring a wealth of ideas, this sourcebook includes an inspirational mix of styles and approaches, with influences ranging from Celtic, Greek, Roman, Oriental and Medieval to 19th century Gothic - something for every fantasy artist! Pb \$35.00 128pp *Due Nov*

Free Christmas Giftwrapping



Take advantage of our free Christmas giftwrapping service in store or for mail order

Christmas Hours

Regular Trading Hours in December except for:

7	Sun	10.00am - 6.00pm
13	Sat	8.00am - 8.00pm
14	Sun	9.00am - 6.00pm
17	Wed	8.00am - 9.00pm
18	Thu	8.00am - 10.00pm
19	Fri	8.00am - 9.00pm
20	Sat	8.00am - 8.00pm
21	Sun	9.00am - 6.00pm
22-23	Mon - Tue	8.00am - 9.00pm
24	Wed	Christmas Eve 8.00am - 7.00pm
25	Thu	Christmas Day closed
26	Fri	Boxing Day 10.00am - 5.00pm
31	Wed	New Year's Eve 8.30am - 5.00pm

January

1	Thu	New Year's Day closed
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NSW SPECIALIST BOOKSELLER OF THE YEAR 2008

SCIENCE FICTION AND FANTASY

SHANA ABE

QUEEN OF DRAGONS

 *Drakon* #3. It's a stunning claim: the existence of a lost drákon tribe and it comes from an intriguing source: a woman calling herself Princess Maricara of Transylvania. Alpha lord Kimber Langford, Earl of Chasen, can't ignore the possibility. For whoever this unknown princess may be, she's dangerous enough to know about his existence and where to find him. Indeed, it isn't long before Maricara breaches the defences of Darkfrith and the walls around Kimber's heart. Yet the princess arrives with urgent news: a mysterious serial killer is targeting the entire drákon race. To save their kind, Kimber and Mari must ally themselves body and soul in a battle that can spell their salvation, their extinction... or both. Pb \$16.95 352pp *Due Dec*

JAY AMORY THE CLOUDED WORLD

Contains Darkening for a Fall and Empire of Chaos. Beneath the cloud cover, in the perpetual half-darkness of the shadows cast by immense sky cities looming overhead, toil a race of people known as Groundlings. They have toiled for hundreds of years, sending a tithe from their labours up, in giant elevators, to the sky cities above. It's a sacrifice made in the belief that when they die, they go on to a new life above the clouds. But Ascension is a lie and while the first rebellion against the priests of the Ascended, is over, a new war is about to begin. Pb \$35.00 656pp *Due Dec*

CHRISTOPHER ANVIL

WAR GAMES

 A collection of humorous science fiction tales offering a sardonic look at the future of warfare. Also includes the full-length novel, *The Steel, The Mist and the Blazing Sun* which looks at the aftermath of WWII as those who thirst for domination take on the defenders of freedom for control of the planet. Hb \$49.95 384pp *Due Dec*

NEAL ASHER

GABBLE AND OTHER STORIES

 In the eight years since *Gridlinked* (Pb \$19.99) was published, this author has established himself as one of the leading British science-fiction writers and his novels are now translated in many languages. Most of his stories are set in a galactic futurescape called *The Polity* and, with this collection of short stories, he takes readers further into the manifold diversities of that universe. Be prepared to revisit the lives and lifestyles of such favourites as the gabbleduck and the hooder, to savour alien poisons, the walking dead, the Sea of Death and the putrefactor symbiont. Hb \$54.99 Tp \$34.99 320pp *Due Dec*

JAMES AXLER

PLAGUE LORDS

 *Deathlands* #84. The Gulf of Mexico is the poisoned end of the earth, but loaded cargo ships ruined by Skydark lure doomie and cutthroat alike. Here, Ryan and the others glean rumours of whole cities deep in South America that survived the blast intact. But as the companions contemplate a course of action that may divide them, a new horror approaches unseen on the horizon. Pb \$16.95 320pp *Due Dec*

ELIZABETH BEAR

ALL THE WINDWRACKED STARS

 It all began with Ragnarok, with the Children of the Light and the Tarnished ones battling to the death in the ice and the dark. At the end of the long battle, one Valkyrie survived, wounded, and one valraven - the steeds of the valkyrie. Because they lived, Valdyrgard was not wholly destroyed. Because the valraven was transformed in the last miracle offered to a Child of the Light, Valdyrgard was changed to a world where magic and technology worked hand in hand. 2500 years later, Muire is in the last city on the dying planet, where the Technomancer rules what's left of humanity. She's caught sight of someone she has not seen since the Last Battle: Mingan the Wolf is hunting in her city. Hb \$55.00 352pp



DAVID BILSBOROUGH

A FIRE IN THE NORTH

 *Lindormyn* #2. Fighting their way through subterranean dangers, Nibulus and his diminished retinue of questers finally reach the open again, only to discover that their rivals, the Thieves, have mysteriously disappeared. Meanwhile, Gapp and a sinisterly altered Methuselech continue towards Wrythe, the last settlement. They find the population strangely degenerated, under the influence of a local leader. In fact, the evil is Scathur, who has been hiding there for 500 years, awaiting his moment of vengeance. The rest of the original questers also turn up for a scary sojourn in Wrythe, before heading on to Melhus island with Scathur's deathly henchmen in pursuit. Pb \$22.99 500pp

HOLLY BLACK AND TONY D'ETERLIZZI

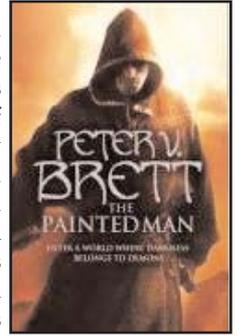
A GIANT PROBLEM

 *Beyond the Spiderwick Chronicles* #2. Nick and Laurie have a giant problem and it's a lot bigger than they originally thought. When Taloa sent them off to find her sisters, they discovered a single fire-breathing giant, but as it turns out, that one giant is just the tip of the proverbial iceberg. According to NoSeem Jack, the blind giant killer who helped Nick, Laurie and Jared dispatch the original giant, there are hundreds, possibly even thousands of giants underneath the surface waiting to wake up. And since Taloa refuses to give any assistance until her sisters are located, the kids turn to a kingdom of merfolk for help... which inevitably means that there's trouble on the way! Hb \$16.95 154pp

PETER BRETT

THE PAINTED MAN

 *Demon* #1. Mankind has ceded the night to the corelings: demons that rise up out of the ground each day at dusk, killing and destroying at will until dawn. Born into isolated hamlets are three children. A Messenger teaches 10-year-old Arlen that it is fear, rather than the demons, which has crippled humanity. When she is only 13 summers old, Leesha's perfect life is destroyed by a simple lie and she is reduced to gathering herbs for an old woman more fearsome than the demons at night. And young Rojer's life is changed irrevocably when a travelling minstrel comes to his town and plays his fiddle. But these three children all have something in common. They are all stubborn, and know that there is more to the world than what they've been told, if only they can risk leaving their safe wards to find it. Pb \$29.99 560pp



	SCIENCE FICTION
	FANTASY
	ROMANCE
	EROTICA
	AWARD WINNER
	AUSTRALIAN
	ACTION
	REPRINT
PB	PAPERBACK
TP	TRADE PAPERBACK (SLIGHTLY LARGER)
HB	HARDBACK

★ FAVE RAVES

our favourites – new and classic

NEW TITLE

ONE SILENT NIGHT

DARK-HUNTER #12

SHERRILYN KENYON

PB \$19.99 310PP

If you go by first impressions, there's not much to be said for **One Silent Night** by Sherrilyn Kenyon. In truth, I didn't expect much, because it just looks too short - like another *Dark-Hunter* story that can be nowhere near as good as Kenyon's previous, almost epically-written *Acheron*, which was one of the must-read titles of this whole year. I mean, what could measure up to that?

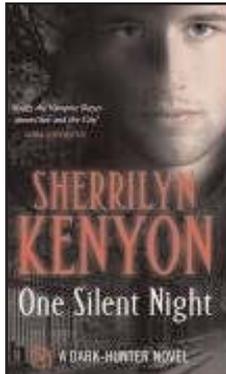
Boy, was I wrong.

This novel is just great! By the end you are stunned, overwhelmed and just a little awed by the audacious new direction Kenyon is bravely taking - there is not one, but three major twists that turn the rules of the *Dark-Hunter* universe on its head. Where the series will go is anyone's guess - which is a devious way to add spice and interest to the next major story arc in this immensely popular series. Don't even consider skipping this book because it will play a huge role into the next *Dark-Hunter* books - the story is being taken to new levels.

In this novel we get to know Stryker and what made him the man he is today. We get to understand why Stryker despises the human race and why he wants to slaughter them all. Through Kenyon's storyteller eyes, you actually do pity him and understand why he is so cold-hearted. You can't blame him for being merciless; his father was cruel and made his youth unbearable, and every person that he lets into his heart betrays him in some way or other. We also meet his vengeful ex-wife, Zephyra, who would do anything to have a chance to kill Stryker. After 11,000 years, Zephyra's heart has turned cold to any compassion except to her only child. So when the chance arrives to kill her ex-husband, she takes it. The problem is the rush of feelings that come from seeing the man she fell in love with years ago. All this happens against a backdrop of chaos and magic that seriously upsets the balance of the *Dark-Hunter* world. This is a series of books known for its addictive writing, combining action, mythology and romance with enviable ease... **One Silent Night** has all this and some serious twists too!

Of course, it had to be a different conception from the previous books, as Kenyon is writing about the bad guys, giving us the "other" side's view of the ongoing war between Daimons and the Dark-Hunters. All the same, this marks a serious crossroads in the so-far smooth path of the series, but I can't express how much I'm looking forward to the next few novels in the series. We will all be in for a treat! – reviewed by Sylwia Niwczyk & edited by Sofia Morales

Sylwia is a regular contributor to our Paranormal Romance Alert (email newsletter) and a devoted and reliable fan of only the best that Paranormal Romance has to offer!



CLASSIC TITLE

THE SWORD OF SHANNARA

SHANNARA TRILOGY #1

TERRY BROOKS

PB \$22.99 664PP

The Sword of Shannara is set in a post-holocaust world about 2,000 years into the future. The story has the typical array of traditional fantasy races; humans, dwarves, elf, gnomes, trolls, wizards and other magical creatures.

The story revolves around the foster brothers Flick and Shea, and their almost idyllic life in Shady Vale. As such stories go, a mysterious stranger arrives to upset the balance, revealing pieces of puzzles and turning Flick and Shea's lives on their heads. This sends the brothers headlong into an adventure and a quest - not just to recover lost relics - but to discover themselves as well.

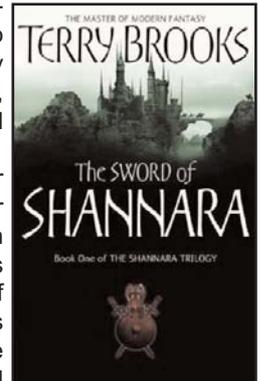
I've really enjoyed the ongoing series through the years, but the initial trilogy and the opening story still grabs me for a re-read of one of my favourite stock-and-trade fantasy stories. The 'Olde Worlde' country-side setting - while reminiscent of classics such as Tolkien - still has enough of its own flavour to stand well and truly on its own merits. This is part of the charm that makes it one of the most loved and sought out fantasy titles in the genre.

Brook's excellent world-building should also be mentioned, as it slowly spirals out from Shady Vale to include the four lands, then the scarier sites of intrigue and peril, as well as formidable borderlands to keep the story's scope focused. As the story builds, the brothers are chased by the deformed servants of darkness: the Skullbearers. There is a timely visit by the mysterious figure of Allanon, the last of the fabled Druids of Paranor who warns them of their impending danger. And ever in the background (but still very much a part of the story) are the Servants of Brona - an Evil Sorcerer and the Warlock Lord from the distant past come back to life, as if he were ever truly dead. Together, they threaten all civilised peoples of the Four Lands. Shea is revealed to be a half-elf and last of the line of Shannara. He must discover himself - as well as recover the fabled Sword - and correct the mistake of his ancestor, Jerle Shannara, once King of the Elves.

Against impossible odds and aided only by the Elf Stones, the brothers' quest is to find the mythical Sword of Shannara, forged by Brona's ancient foe, Bremen. Bremen too, has a mysterious past as an outcast Druid who avoided the fall of a Fortress College for the Druidic Counsels. Bremen created the sword to defeat the Warlock Lord originally, but somehow failed through misunderstanding the Sword's use by the Elf King, Jerle Shannara, and it was lost to time.

I loved this story from start to finish and all the layers within, which slowly reveal how the bad guy is often an instrument of a greater evil that waits in the shadows, and that the ultimate good is truly one's belief in oneself. No matter what disaster takes away a character's power for self-determination, there is always something that can be done to achieve balance once again. So goes the internal and external exploration of the quest for answers.

-CM



M M BUCKNER

WATERMIND

From storm drains, illegal dumps and flooded landfills, all of North America's most advanced technology flows down the Mississippi River - microchips, nano-devices, genetically modified seed - and lodges in the Louisiana delta. Out of this mire emerges a self-organised neural net, drifting in the water: the Watermind. It can freeze, boil, condense and move - seemingly at will. CJ Reilly is a brilliant, self-destructive MIT dropout, working as a labourer in Devil's Swamp near Baton Rouge, cleaning up a small pollution spill, when she and her lover, Max, discover the mysterious Watermind. Reilly's more interested in investigating it than containing it, but when it kills someone and escapes into the Mississippi, corporations, governments, protesters, the Coast Guard and a really wacky underground journalist get involved. Hb \$55.00 304pp

JIM BUTCHER

CAPTAIN'S FURY

The Codex Alera #4. After years of war with the invading Canim, Tavi of Calderon, now Captain of the First Aleran Legion uncovers information about an even greater threat - the savage Vord, who have driven the Canim from their homeland. Now, he must risk everything to forge a desperate alliance between Aleran and Cane to take on their mutual enemy. Pb \$18.95 528pp *Due Dec*

ORSON SCOTT CARD

ENDER IN EXILE

Ender 1.5. At the close of **Ender's Game** (Pb \$19.99), Andrew Wiggin, called Ender, is told that he can no longer live on Earth and he realises that this is the truth. He has become far more than just a boy who won a game, he is the Saviour of Earth, a hero, a military genius whose allegiance is sought by every nation of the newly shattered Earth Hegemony. He is offered the choice of living in isolation on Eros, at one of the Hegemony's training facilities, but instead he chooses to leave his home world and begin the long journey out to the colonies. With him goes his sister Valentine and the core of the artificial intelligence that would become Jane. The story of those years has never been told, until now. Hb \$42.00 384pp

JEFFREY A CARVER

SUNBORN

Chaos Chronicles #4. John Bandicut, several aliens and artificial intelligences have been thrown together by a force greater than themselves to prevent disasters on an interstellar scale. When they are pulled into a waystation that is being threatened by highly destructive gravity waves, they realise the waves are part of a much larger problem. Something is causing stars to go prematurely nova - they're being murdered. Their destination is a star nursery in the Orion Nebula, where sentient stars are being driven to destruction by an artificial intelligence bent on remaking the cosmos in its own image. Hb \$55.00 384pp *Due Dec*

KRISTIN CASHORE

GRACELING

The Graces #1. In a world where people born with an exceptional skill, known as a Grace, are feared and exploited, Katsa carries the burden of a skill even she despises: the Grace of killing. She lives under the command of her Uncle Randa, King of the Middluns, and is expected to carry out his dirty work, punishing and torturing anyone who displeases him. When the Council hears that the King of Liend's father has been kidnapped Katsa investigates... and stumbles across a mystery. Who would want to kidnap him, and why? And who was the extraordinary Graced fighter who challenged her fighting skills as she and the Council rushed the old man to safety? Tp \$32.99 352pp

DEBORAH CHESTER

THE CROWN

The Pearls and the Crown #2. Falling in love with her kidnapper, Lord Shadrael, a man with no soul, Lea sister of Emperor Caelen must find the balance between her light and his darkness when they are forced to escape in the Hidden Ways of the shadow realm. Pb \$18.95 304pp *Due Dec*

CARLOS CORTES

PERFECT CIRCLE

Heir to a mining dynasty, geologist Paul Reece has chosen a simple life over the scheming opportunism of the International Mining Company. But when IMC approaches him about their mysterious discovery miles beneath the rain forest, Paul is compelled to set aside the sordid event that drove him from his legacy. For the project requires not only a brilliant engineer, but one gutsy enough to descend 20,000 feet of solid rock into the heart of a miracle. With Paul's expertise, IMC can unearth a windfall, unless Paul decides to bury them first. But Paul isn't alone in his quest. Congo's mystics have prepared for this day and Paul has been chosen for a mission that will decide the fate of humanity. Pb \$16.95 464pp *Due Dec*

CAROLYN CURDIE

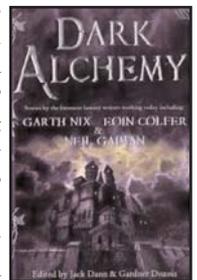
THE UNQUIET

Over the galaxy, a strange, deafening tide is flooding. The planet Pluto disappears. Creeping in from between star systems is the Unquiet. It stinks like a million burning tyres and it jabbars and screams as if the sky is in agony. Soon it attacks the earth: swallowing entire countries. A second, smaller power seeks out Tansy, a young girl in a town at the bottom of the world. She has a gift. The earth urgently needs that gift and it also needs the knowledge that a boy called Anaru holds. Together Tansy and Anaru, with guides from another realm, travel far into the heart of the earth. What will they discover there? How can they help to stem the world's great unrest? Pb \$16.95 132pp

JACK DANN (ED)

DARK ALCHEMY

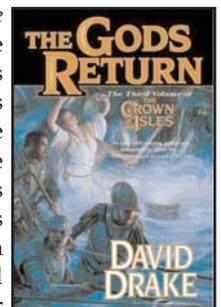
Wizards and witches have lived in the human imagination for centuries. From ancient to modern times they have held great power in our literary lives. Here for a brand-new audience is a collection of electrifying stories that show us benign and evil, ambivalent and determined characters that will stalk our imaginations and thoughts for some time to come. From the pens of Eoin Colfer, Garth Nix, Neil Gaiman, Jane Yolen and many more spring an incredible array of stories that will thrill readers young and old. This book includes stories by Neil Gaiman, Garth Nix, Mary Rosenblum, Kage Baker, Eoin Colfer, Jane Yolen, Orson Scott Card, Patricia McKillip, Elizabeth Hand, Andy Duncan, Peter S Beagle, Nancy Kress, Tanith Lee, Terry Bisson, Terry Dowling, Gene Wolfe, Tad Williams and Jeffrey Ford. Pb \$17.95 544pp



DAVID DRAKE

THE GODS RETURN

The Crown of the Isles #3. The Isles have been more or less unified under Garric's rule, but the Change that created the continent has removed the old Gods of the Isles from reality and released other Gods from other planes of existence. Now the servants of the forbidden Gods of Palomir call forth the Worm, an ancient thing that threatens to devour all life in the newly formed kingdom and make way for the reign of dark Gods, now awakened to ambitions of worship and dominion. Some are bad and some are worse. Hb \$58.00 400pp



WIN A COPY OF...
Enigma
by
Graeme Base
see back page for entry details

BRIAN FALKNER

THE TOMORROW CODE

Tane and Rebecca aren't sure what to make of a sequence of 1s and 0s, a message that looks like a random collection of alternating digits. As they decode it, slowly it becomes clear - the messages are being sent back in time from the future! But why? Tane and Rebecca follow the message's cryptic instructions, but it's not long before they begin to suspect the worst - that the very survival of the human race may be at stake! Pb \$18.95 430pp

JENNIFER FALLON

THE CHAOS CRYSTAL

 *Tide Lords #4.* The Tide Lords have gathered in Jelidia to find out the secret of how to kill an immortal - Cayal in particular. Before they can do this, however, they must find the Chaos Crystal that brought them to this world. They initially head to Glaeba, where Arkady has been captured by Jaxyn. She escapes and flees to Caelum, where she runs into Warlock and his family and learns that Elyssa, Warlock's cruel immortal mistress, may know something about the location of the Crystal. With every immortal on Amyrantha searching for this artefact, the stakes are very high. Pb \$20.99 592pp *Due Dec*

ALAN DEAN FOSTER

QUOFUM

 *A Commonwealth novel.* The mission to planet Quofum is supposed to be a quick stop for Captain Boylan and his crew. Boylan is tasked with delivering four scientists to the unknown world, setting up camp while the experts investigate flora and fauna, then ferrying them safely home. The first surprise is that Quofum, which regularly slips in and out of existence on Commonwealth monitors, is actually there when Boylan and company arrive. The second surprise is more about what Quofum is not: The planet is not logical, ordered, or rational. Quofum's wild biodiversity doesn't appear to be natural. But if it is by design, then by whose, and for what purpose? Hb \$55.00 304pp

CORNELIA FUNKE

INKDEATH

 *Inkheart Trilogy #3.* Ever since the story of Inkheart magically drew Meggie, Mo and Dustfinger back into its pages, life in the Inkworld has been far from easy. With Dustfinger dead and the evil Adderhead now in control, the story in which they are all caught has taken an unhappy turn. Even Elinor, left alone in the real world, believes her family to be lost between the covers of a book. As winter turns to spring, there is reason to hope, but only if Meggie and her father and their loyal band of followers, are ready to make a dangerous deal with death. Hb \$29.95 728pp

FELIX GILMAN

GEARS OF THE CITY

 *Arjun #2.* In the last days of the once great city of Ararat, Arjun is just another ghost lost in the shadows of the Mountain. To some, the Mountain is a myth, to others, a weapon. Above all, it is a dark palace leaving its seekers to wander the city below. For no matter how far one walks, the Mountain never draws closer and time itself becomes another trap. Rescued by two sisters from the mindless Know-Nothings who erode what's left of the city, Arjun volunteers to retrieve their long-lost third sister from a ghost like himself. It will require a perilous trek through ruins to a decadent mansion and what awaits Arjun inside is something he could not possibly have imagined. Hb \$54.00 448pp *Due Dec*

TERRY GOODKIND

CONFESSOR

 *Sword of Truth #11.* Descending into darkness, about to be overwhelmed by evil, those people still free are powerless to stop the coming dawn of a savage new world, while Richard faces the guilt of knowing that he must let it happen. Alone, he must bear the weight of a sin he dare not confess to the one person he loves... and has lost. It started with one rule and will end with the rule of all rules, the rule unwritten, the rule unspoken since the dawn of history. When next the sun rises, the world will be forever changed. Pb \$20.99 388pp

MARTIN GREENBERG

& JANET DEEVER-PACK (Eds)

CATOPOLIS

 Set in a world that exists on the same plane as humans, yet is hidden from us, this anthology introduces readers to an assortment of cats, ranging from a feline Seer who must take destiny into her own paws to defeat a dictatorial tomcat thug, to a black cat who can call upon the powers of the big cats to wage a war against evil, to a cat who would be king, to the ins-and-outs of cat politics and the perils of using mice as ballots, to a cat burglar looking for a musical treasure for his boss. Pb \$18.95 320pp *Due Dec*

ED GREENWOOD

THE DARK LORD

 *The Falconfar Saga #1.* Rod Everlar is a writer who has created a fantasy world called Falconfar, into which he is drawn. There, he discovers that three dark wizards dominate the land. Now he must learn to seize control of Falconfar and find a way of defeating the corruption within. Pb \$18.95 496pp

PEADER O GUILIN

THE INFERIOR

 There is but one law: eat or be eaten. Stopmouth and his family know of no other life than the daily battle to survive. To live they must hunt rival species, or negotiate flesh-trade with those who crave meat of the freshest human kind. It is a savage, desperate existence and for Stopmouth, considered slow-witted hunt-fodder by his tribe, the future looks especially bleak. But then, on the day he is callously betrayed by his brother, a strange and beautiful woman falls from the sky. It is a moment that will change his destiny and that of all humanity, forever. Pb \$19.95 448pp

JOE HALDEMAN

& MARTIN GREENBERG (Eds)

FUTURE WEAPONS OF WAR

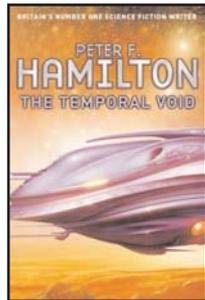
 A volume of visions of future wars, fought with weapons out of nightmare, by today's top writers of military science fiction, as well as some writers who are not usually associated with military SF, such as best-selling writer Gregory Benford and award-winning author Kristine Katherine Rusch. Also present are Michael Z Williamson, William H Keith and more. Through the centuries, weapons have changed radically, but the soldier has remained much the same. But in the future, soldiers, too, may undergo radical changes. As editor Joe Haldeman puts it, "Weapons are an extension of the soldier and also an extension of the culture or species that produced the soldier. And they are sometimes more dangerous to the soldier than the enemy..." Pb \$18.95 384pp

PETER F HAMILTON

THE TEMPORAL VOID

 *Void Trilogy #2.*

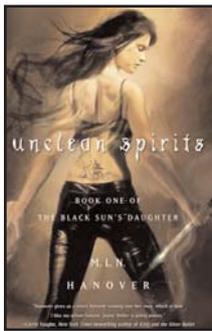
The Intersolar Commonwealth is in turmoil, as the Living Dream's deadline for launching its Pilgrimage into the Void draws closer. Not only is the Ocisen Empire fleet fast approaching on a mission of genocide, but an internecine war has broken out between the post-human factions over the destiny of humanity. Countering the various and increasingly desperate agents and factions is Paula Myo, a ruthlessly single-minded investigator, beset by foes from her distant past and colleagues of dubious allegiance, but she is fast losing a race against time. At the heart of all this is Edeard the Waterwalker, who once lived deep inside the Void. He is the messiah of Living Dream and visions of his life are shared by, and inspire, billions of humans. Tp \$34.99 600pp



MLN HANOVER

UNCLEAN SPIRITS

The Black Sun's Daughter #1. When her uncle Eric is murdered, Jayné travels to Denver to settle his estate, only to learn that it's all hers - and vaster than she ever imagined. And along with properties across the world and an inexhaustible fortune, Eric left her a legacy of a different kind - his unfinished business with a cabal of wizards known as the Invisible College. Led by the ruthless Randolph Coin, the Invisible College harnesses demon spirits for their own ends of power and domination. Jayné finds it difficult to believe magic and demons can even exist, let alone be responsible for the death of her uncle. But Coin sees Eric's heir as a threat to be eliminated by any means - magical or mundane - so Jayné had better start believing in something to save her own life. Tp \$34.00 368pp *Due Dec*



MADELINE HOWARD

A DARK SACRIFICE

The Rune of Unmaking #2. More than a century has passed since the mighty struggle between the wizards and the mages ended in their mutual destruction and more than 40 years since the Empress Ouriána became the Divine Incarnation of the Devouring Moon. Appointing 12 deadly sorcerers as her priests, she rules the land in darkness unending. Yet there is a small chance for hope, if one foreordained princess can survive, but she has vanished behind enemy lines and even a brave band of heroes may not be able to reach her in time. Ouriána's dark reign has woken the ancient terrors of legend and their vengeance will be swift and all-consuming. Pb \$18.95 432pp *Due Dec*

ROBERT E HOWARD

BLACK HOUNDS OF DEATH

The Weird Works of Robert E Howard #5. This collection includes *Red Nails*, the last Conan story, as well as a vast array of other horror and fantasy stories, all of which have been restored to their original texts. Pb \$18.95 480pp *Due Dec*

WALTER H HUNT

A SONG IN STONE

Investigating the secrets of Rosslyn Chapel in Scotland, Ian Graham, an unemployed television personality, stumbles upon a mysterious clue in the intricate stonework of the chapel, one that transports him back to the Middle Ages, where he must learn Rosslyn's secrets in order to return to his own time. Hb \$49.95 400pp *Due Nov*

FAITH HUNTER

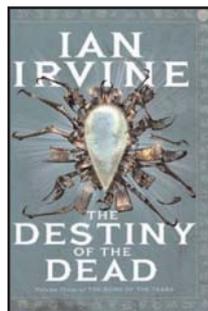
SERAPHS

Thorn St Croix #2. Living among humans in a post-apocalyptic ice age, neomage Thorn St Croix is a source of both fear and fascination for the people of Mineral City and now she faces her ultimate test. Deep under the snow-covered mountains beyond the village, an imprisoned fallen seraph desperately needs her help. There, hidden in the hellhole, the armies of Darkness assemble to ensure this subterranean rescue will be Thorn's final descent. Pb \$16.95 352pp *Due Dec*

IAN IRVINE

THE DESTINY OF THE DEAD

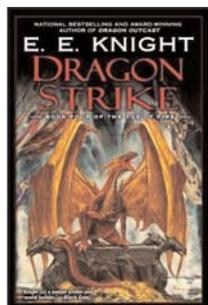
Song of Tears #3. Nish, his battered little troop and his few remaining allies are trapped on the Range of Ruin by the God-Emperor's mighty army. Nish's only choices are a humiliating surrender to his father or a suicidal fight to the death. Yet Nish has to fight and somehow he has to win, for the beautiful world of Santhenar is in peril and no one else can save it. Stilkeen, an all-powerful shape-shifting being from the void, has come to recover the stolen chthonic fire which once bound its physical and spirit aspects together and it wants revenge for the mortal insult that was done to it. But it may be too late for Santhenar; chthonic fire has been released from its casket and is now eating away the Antarctic lands as it once devoured the plant of Aachan. Even if, by some miracle, Nish can win the battle with his father, there may be no way to stop the fire, or Stilkeen, before the whole world is consumed. Tp \$32.99 708pp



E E KNIGHT

DRAGON STRIKE

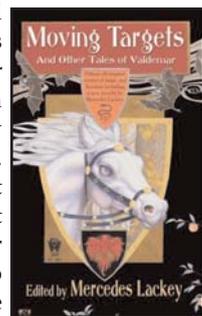
The Age of Fire #4. Three dragon siblings are among the last of a dying breed and the final hope for their species survival. AuRon, Wistala and Copper find themselves at odds over the coming human war. AuRon thinks dragons should have no part in the affairs of humans, Wistala believes dragons and man can peacefully co-exist and Copper has designs of his own on the world. And the civilised humans who have turned to Copper for assistance against their savage enemies have just given him the perfect opportunity to fulfil his plans. Tp \$32.00 368pp *Due Dec*



MERCEDES LACKEY (ED)

MOVING TARGETS AND OTHER TALES OF VALDEMAR

Here are 16 original stories set in Mercedes Lackey's *Valdemar* universe, including a new novella by Mercedes Lackey. Some of today's hottest fantasy authors visit Valdemar, adding their own special touches to the ancient land where Heralds 'chosen' from all walks of life by magical horse-like Companions patrol their ancient kingdom, dispensing justice, facing adversaries and protecting their monarch from whatever threatens. Contributors include Tanya Huff, Mickey Zucker Reichert, Fiona Patton, Judith Tarr and Rosemary Edghill. Pb \$18.95 352pp *Due Dec*



EDWARD LERNER

FOOLS' EXPERIMENTS

We are not alone and it's our own damn fault. Something demonic is stalking the brightest men and women in the computer industry. It attacks without warning or mercy, leaving its prey insane, comatose, or dead. Something far nastier than any virus, worm, or Trojan horse program is being evolved in laboratory confinement by well-intentioned but misguided researchers. When their artificial life-form escapes onto the Internet, no conventional defence against malicious software can begin to compete. As disasters multiply, computer scientist Doug Carey knows that unconventional measures may be civilisation's last hope and that any artificial life-form learns very fast. Hb \$58.00 448pp

JOHN LEVITT

NEW TRICKS

Dog Days #2. Former enforcer Mason would normally be concerned with finding ghosts and vampires stalking the Castro section of San Francisco. Fortunately, Halloween provides the perfect explanation for the abundance of ghouls. But someone is trying to possess his old flame, Sarah. Now, with the help of his magical dog Louie, Mason must uncover the black magician responsible. Pb \$18.95 320pp *Due Dec*

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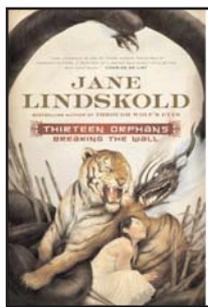
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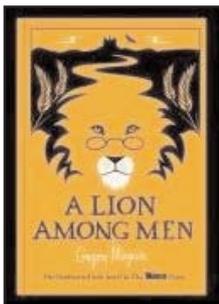
JANE LINDSKOLD
THIRTEEN ORPHANS

 *Breaking the Wall* #1. As far as college freshman Brenda Morris knows, there is only one Earth and magic exists only in fairy tales. Brenda is wrong. A father-daughter weekend turns into a nightmare when Brenda's father is magically attacked before her eyes. Brenda soon learns that her ancestors once lived in world of smoke and shadows, of magic and secrets. When that world's Emperor was overthrown, the Thirteen Orphans fled to our earth and hid their magic system in the game of mah-jong. Each Orphan represents an animal from the Chinese Zodiac. Brenda's father is the Rat. And her polished, former child-star aunt, Pearl, is the Tiger. Only a handful of Orphans remain to stand against their enemies. The Tiger, the Rooster, the Dog, the Rabbit... and Brenda Morris. Not quite the Rat, but not quite human either. Hb \$55.00 368pp



TODD MCCAFFREY
 **DRAGONHEART**
Anne McCaffrey's Dragonriders of Pern. When young Fiona is asked to take on the role of Weyrwoman, the co-leader of an entire dragon Weyr, she soon discovers the difficult challenges of her privileged new position, from unexpected perils, to the possibility of losing her own dragon and to the sickness that has claimed so many others. Hb \$55.00 448pp *Due Nov*

GREGORY MAGUIRE
 **A LION AMONG MEN**
The Wicked Years #3. While civil war looms in Oz, a tetchy oracle named Yackle prepares for death. Before her final hour, a figure known as Brrr, the Cowardly Lion, arrives searching for information about Elphaba Thropp, the Wicked Witch of the West. Abandoned as a cub, his path from infancy is no Yellow Brick Road. In the wake of laws that oppress talking Animals, he avoids a jail sentence by agreeing to serve as a lackey to the warmongering Emperor of Oz. This chronicles a battle of wits hastened by the Emerald City's approaching armies. Can those tarnished by infamy escape their sobriquets to claim their own histories, to live honourably within their own skins before they're skinned alive? Tp \$33.00 336pp



GEORGE R R MARTIN
BUSTED FLUSH

 A *Wild Cards* novel. A new generation of heroes has taken its place on the world stage, its members crucial players in international events. At the United Nations, veteran ace John Fortune has assembled a team of young aces known as the Committee, to assist at trouble spots around the world—including a genocidal war in the Niger Delta, an invasion of zombies in hurricane-ravaged New Orleans and a freak nuclear explosion in a small Texas town. Hb \$55.00 400pp *Due Dec*

R M MELUCH
 **STRENGTH AND HONOR**
A Novel of the USS Merrimack. As the Empire of Rome declares war against the United States and attacks Earth, Captain John Farragut and the crew of the *Merrimack* launch a retaliatory strike on the empire's homeworld, unaware that the alien Hive is preparing to make its move against Earth. Hb \$55.00 368pp *Due Dec*

L E MODESITT, JR
 **THE LORD-PROTECTOR'S DAUGHTER**

The Korean Chronicles Universe. Mykella, the eldest daughter of the Lord-Protector of Lanachrona, discovers that someone is diverting significant sums of money from her father's treasury. One of the ancient soarers appears to Mykella, telling her that she must go to the antique stone Table in the cellars of the Palace and find her Talent in order to save her land and her world. From there, matters become more perilous. There are attempts to remove Mykella and her sisters from Tempre by marrying them off to lords in neighbouring lands, and fatal and near-fatal accidents occur to members of her family and trusted retainers. While Mykella develops an idea of who is behind it all, every attempted solution is used to discredit her. How can she save their father and land? Hb \$52.00 256pp

JENNY NIMMO
 **CHARLIE BONE AND THE SHADOW OF BADLOCK**

Charlie Bone #7. The enchanter Count Harken is back. After his attempt to bewitch Charlie's mother was foiled, he is determined to wreak revenge on the Red King's heirs. Charlie's ancestors, Otus Yewbeam and his son, have been imprisoned in the dark, forbidding land of Badlock by Count Harken. Otus is a giant, married to Amoret, the Red King's daughter. But he is no match for the enchanter's troll army, led by the sinister Oddthumb. Charlie is sucked into a painting of Badlock and tries to rescue them and reunite them with Amoret. But can he outwit the troll army? And what about poor Runner Bean, who follows him? Pb \$16.95 371pp

ANDRE NORTON
  **SEARCH FOR THE STAR STONE**

Omnibus edition containing *The Zero Stone* and *Uncharted Stars*. Murdoc's father, an interstellar gem trader, was murdered by outlaw competitors and left behind an odd ring, large enough to fit over the finger of a space suit. With his companion Eet, a feline mutant with mental powers, he soon discovers that the stone in the ring is actually a Zero Stone, an alien device left behind by an ancient vanished race, and is the key to powers beyond human imagination. Greedy and dangerous people want that ring and won't hesitate at a second murder to obtain it. Hb \$54.00 400pp

NAOMI NOVIK
 **A VICTORY OF EAGLES**
Tremaire #5. Laurence and Temeraire have betrayed the British. They have foiled their attempts to inflict death upon the French dragons by sharing the cure they found in Africa with their enemy. But following their conscience has a price. Laurence feels he must return to face the consequences and as soon as they land they are taken into custody. Laurence is condemned to the galleys and Temeraire faces a life of captivity in the breeding grounds. None of their friends or allies can come to their aid, for every hand is needed elsewhere. Britain is completely unprepared for Bonaparte invasion and the advanced tactics of his own celestial dragon - Temeraire's mortal enemy - Lien. Pb \$29.99 352pp *Due Dec*

FIONA PATTON
 **THE GOLDEN TOWER**
The Warriors of Estavia #2. In Anavatan, the city of the Silver Lake, the Gods manifest themselves on an all-too-regular basis and it's hard to survive if you're not pledged to one of the deities. Now, Brax, Spar and Graize have discovered their destinies. Grown into their powers, they are about to face off in a confrontation that will spark a war and see the rise of a new player among the Gods themselves. Hb \$55.00 400pp *Due Nov*

LAURA REEVE
 **PEACEKEEPER**
Major Ariane Kedros #1. Meet Major Ariane Kedros - daring pilot, decorated soldier, war criminal. 15 years ago, Ariane Kedros piloted a ship on a mission that obliterated an entire solar system. Branded a war criminal, she was given a new identity and a new life in order to protect her from retribution. But now, 12 of Ariane's wartime colleagues are dead - assassinated by someone who has uncovered their true identities and her superiors in the Autonomist army have placed her directly in the assassin's line-of-fire on a peacekeeping mission that will decide the fate of all humanity. Pb \$16.95 336pp *Due Dec*

PHILIP REEVE

MOTHSTORM

 *Larklight #3.* When the festive season arrives at Larklight, so does some unsettling news. A sinister-looking cloud is fast approaching the outskirts of the Known Universe. The closest planet, Georgium Sidus, has but two human inhabitants: the missionary Rev. Cruet and his daughter Charity. Their most recent communication read: 'Great danger - imperative that'. And so, aboard a Naval gunship, Art, Myrtle and family bravely go where only one man and his daughter have gone before, to determine the nature of the menacing cloud and rescue the Cruets. But the evil which awaits them is far beyond their imagining, and it looks as though Mother may have finally Met Her Match. Hb \$24.95 416pp

JOHN RINGO & JULIE COCHRANE

SISTER TIME

 *The Posleen War.* Cally O'Neal is officially dead. In her over 40 years of being an active secret agent she hasn't used her real name, much less spoken to her sister. So when Michelle interrupts an important mission, it's an unexpected reunion. Michelle has lived the life of the perfect Indowy adept, rising slowly in the ranks, being a good little girl. But now she needs the help of her 'bad' sis when the Darhel start to put the squeeze on the first Human mentat. In a family where her father, the war hero, thinks everyone is dead, her grandfather is a smuggler, her sister is a cold-blooded killer for hire and her brother-in-law is a mobster, Michelle may look like the odd-gal out. But when it's death or dishonour, she's gonna prove that deep down inside, she's every bit an O'Neal. Pb \$18.95 492ppp *Due Dec*

JOHN RINGO & TRAVIS S TAYLOR

CLAWS THAT CATCH

 *Looking Glass War #4.* Working off of a piece of intelligence from the alien Hexosehr, the *Vorpal Blade* is dispatched to investigate rumours of an ancient and powerful civilisation that may have been the creators of the 'black box' that drives humanity's only space ship. Any remnant technology would be nice, but what the *Blade* finds is much more than they bargained for. Worse, the ship is infested by an alien species of scorpion-like arachnoids that has the potential to wipe out a world. Worst of all, instead of being Astrogator, Captain William Weaver is now the XO and he is not getting along with the new commander. And the new commander does not get along with Weaver, the ship's female savant-linguist, or most of the rest of the original crew. And what is that weird noise the ship makes every time it's in hard manoeuvres? Hb \$55.00 352pp

JENNIFER ROBSON

SELLING OUT

 *Quantum Gravity #2.* Ever since the Quantum Bomb of 2015 things have been different. Suddenly our world is accessible to elves, demons, ghosts and elementals and their worlds are open to us. Special Agent Lila Black has been different too: tortured and magic-scarred by elves, re-built by humans into a half-robot, part-AI, nuclear-fuelled walking arsenal and carrying the essence of a dead elven necromancer in her chest, sometimes she has trouble figuring out who she really is. So a mission to Hell isn't exactly what she needs. The heart of art, of pleasure, sensuality and politics, Demonia is glorious and terrible. And, an assassination attempt, three marriage proposals and one ruined dress after her arrival, it seems Demonia might be more complicated than Lila thought... Pb \$22.99 288pp

M J ROSE

THE MEMORIST

 The dreams are back. As a child, Meer Logan was haunted by memories of another time and place, always accompanied by the faint strains of elusive music. Now the past has reached out again in the form of a strange letter that sets her on a journey to Vienna to unlock the mystery of who she once was. With each step, she comes closer to remembering connections between a clandestine reincarnationist society, a lost flute linked to Ludwig van Beethoven and David Yalom, a journalist who understands all too well how the past affects the future. David knows loss first hand - terrorism is a reality that cost him his family. He's seen every solution promised by security experts around the world and he's seen every solution fail. Now, he plans to force the world to understand the cost of those failures in a single, violent act, because those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it... Hb \$55.00 464pp

R A SALVATORE

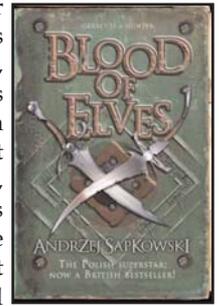
THE ANCIENT

 *Saga of the First King #1.* Searching for his long-lost father, Bransen Garibond is tricked into journeying across the Gulf of Corona to the wild lands of Vanguard, where he is pressed into service in a desperate war against the brutal Samhaist, Ancient Badden. On an Alpinadoran lake, just below Ancient Badden's magical ice castle, several societies, caught in the web of their own conflicts, are oblivious to Ancient Badden's devastating plans to destroy them. Bransen becomes the link between the wars and if he fails, all who live on the lake will perish and all of northern Honce will fall under the shadow of the merciless and vengeful Samhaists. Pb \$13.95 432pp

ANDRZEJ SAPKOWSKI

BLOOD OF ELVES

 *Witcher #2.* For more than 100 years humans, dwarves, gnomes and elves lived together in relative peace. But times have changed, the uneasy peace is over and now the races once again fight each other - and themselves. Into this tumultuous time is born a child for whom the witchers of the world have been waiting. Ciri has strange powers and a stranger destiny, for prophecy names her the Flame, one with the power to change the world - for good, or for evil. Geralt, the witcher of Rivia, has taken Ciri to the relative safety of the Witchers' Settlement, but it soon becomes clear that Ciri isn't like the other witchers. And someone else has an eye on the young girl, someone who understands exactly what the prophecy means - and exactly what Ciri's power can do. This time Geralt may have met his match. Hb \$32.99 320pp



ELIZABETH SCARBOROUGH

CAROL FOR ANOTHER CHRISTMAS

 Awakened by the password 'humbug,' Ebenezer Scrooge is back - this time as a ghost in the computer of workaholic Monica Banks, in this modern take on the Dickens classic. Pb \$14.95 256pp

DAVID SHERMAN & DAN CRAGG

RECOIL

 *Starfist: Force Recon #3.* Fear is the fastest-growing crop on Haulover, a newly colonised planet where someone, or something, is destroying isolated farmhouses. The unseen enemy strikes without warning and then disappears, leaving no stone standing, no trace of families or farm animals. When the Confederation receives a desperate plea for help, it's time to send in the Marines. Impossible missions are a matter of course for Fourth Force Recon's second platoon squads and the situation at Haulover, with no witnesses and few clues, is no exception. But this assignment turns out to be even tougher and bloodier than usual because the devastation is a ploy to lure the nine Marines into a trap and to force them to bust the Confederation's terrible secret wide open. Pb \$18.95 368pp *Due Dec*

WINGS OF HELL

 *A Starfist novel.* With powerful alien invaders intent on destroying all humankind, members of the 34th FIST are given the task of infiltrating and destroying an alien base, while at home, on the eve of a presidential election, political intrigue could destroy any chance of success. Hb \$52.00 432pp *Due Dec*

BUD SPARHAWK**VIXEN**

When the crew of the *Convenant* arrives on Meridian, a planet ripe for colonisation, Tam, the leader of the mission, finds their hopes of survival threatened by an alien race. Pb \$16.95 384pp *Due Dec*

ADAM STEMPLER**STEWART OF SONG**

Sequel to Singer of Souls. Leaving his life of petty crime and drug abuse behind, young Douglas flees from Minneapolis to Edinburgh, Scotland, to his stern but fair-minded Grandma McLaren, who will take him in if he can support himself. But Edinburgh has its dangers for the unwary. The annual arts festival, biggest in Europe, draws all manner of footloose sorts and tempted by the drugs offered by a mysterious young girl, Douglas stumbles. What follows isn't what he expects. Suddenly, Douglas can see the fey folk who invisibly share Edinburgh's ancient streets - in all their beauty and terrifying cruelty. Worse, they can see him and they're determined to draw him into their own internecine wars - wars that are fought to the death. Pb \$16.95 352pp *Due Dec*

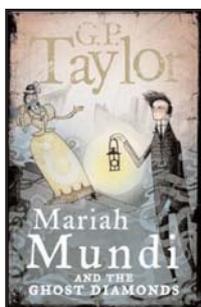
PAUL STEWART & CHRIS RIDDLE**THE LOST BARKSCROLLS**

An Edge Chronicles novel. Here are four stories set in all the ages of Edgeworld. *Cloud Wolf* is the story of young sky pirate Quint's first battle in the sky, high above Deepwood. *The Stone Pilot* tells the truth behind the mysterious hooded figure who tends the mighty flight-rock at the centre of a magnificent sky ship. *The Slaughterer's Quest* tells the story of Keris, daughter of the legendary sky pirate captain, Twig, and her quest to discover her father's fate. *The Bleeding of Rufus Filatine* tells of a Freeglade Lancer's epic encounter with a monstrous creature which will change the Edge for ever... Pb \$17.95 464pp

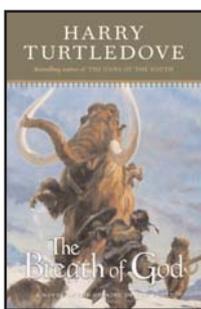
G P TAYLOR**MARIAH MUNDI AND THE GHOST DIAMONDS**

Mariah Mundi #2.

There is never a dull moment for Mariah Mundi living in the Prince Regent Hotel. But catastrophe strikes when three eminent visitors spontaneously combust at a hotel party. Just a freak of nature or a cleverly plotted murder? When hotel owner Captain Charity is arrested on suspicion of murder, Mariah Mundi and his friend Sacha must find the truth urgently to save both the Captain and the hotel. Could the answer lie in the mythical Ghost Diamonds? Hb \$27.95 336pp

**HARRY TURTLEDOVE****THE BREATH OF GOD**

A novel of the Opening of the World. Once the great Glacier enclosed the Raumsdalian Empire. Now it's broken open and Count Hamnet Thyssen faces a new world. With the wisecracking Ulric Skakki, the neighboring clan leader Trasmund (politely addressed as Your Ferocity), and his lover, the shaman Liv, Hamnet leads an exploration of the new territory in hopes of finding the legendary Golden Shrine. But dangers abound. A violent and implacable group known as the Rulers has already killed many, and now they attack again. Riding deer and woolly mammoths and using powerful magic, the Rulers triumph and force the Raumsdaliens to flee. Hb \$55.00 384pp *Due Dec*

**HARRY TURTLEDOVE****OPENING ATLANTIS**

A Novel of Alternative History. Turtledove rewrites the history of the world with the existence of an eighth continent... Atlantis lies between Europe and the East Coast of Terranova. For many years, this land of opportunity lured dreamers from around the globe with its natural resources, offering a new beginning for those willing to brave the wonders of the unexplored land. Pb \$18.95 528pp *Due Dec*

HARRY TURTLEDOVE**THE UNITED STATES OF ATLANTIS**

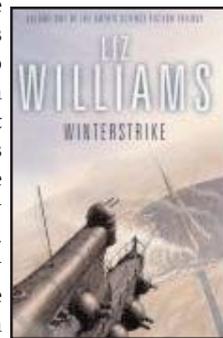
A Novel of Alternative History. England has driven the French from Atlantis, giving King George leave to tighten his control over the colonies. The Redcoats have seized the continent's eastern coastal towns, depriving the Atlanteans of the markets where they sell their goods as part of a strategy to bend the colonists to their will. Instead, England's tactics have only strengthened the Atlanteans' resolve to be free. As leader of the revolutionaries, Victor Radcliff will make the English pay for each and every piece of land they dare to occupy and will stop at nothing to preserve the liberty of his people as a new nation is born - a nation that will change the face of the world. Hb \$58.00 448pp *Due Dec*

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LIZ WILLIAMS**WINTERSTRIKE**

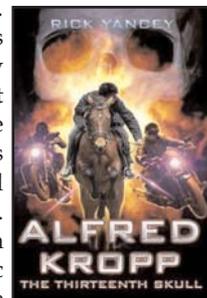
Winterstrike spy Hestia Mar has been sent to Caud to recover details of an ancient weapon. But Hestia Mar realises too late what she has done: by accessing the data, she has virtually guaranteed the use of the weapon against Caud by her own government. Desperate to rescue the situation, she makes her way back home across the dangers of the Crater Plain. Meanwhile, in Winterstrike itself, the festival of Ombre has been taking place on the eve of war. Shorn, a woman imprisoned by her family for accidentally consorting with a male, manages to escape. Her sister Essgui follows Shorn and sets out across the Crater Plain where she meets Hestia Mar. Their journey takes them into the dangerous mountains of Mars and the discovery of a group of outcast male creatures who hold the secrets to the Martian past and to its future... Tp \$39.99 358pp *Due Nov*

**JANNY WURTS****STORMED FORTRESS**

Alliance of Light #5. Half-brothers Arithon and Lysaer were laid under a curse of lifelong enmity when they defeated the Mistwraith and freed the world of Athera. Arithon is recovering from an assault by necromancers and more determined than ever to keep his vow to avoid killing. But Lysaer and his troops lay siege to the citadel at Alestron, trapping those closest to Arithon's heart. The only way he can help them is by using his mage talent to invoke ancient magics, at great risk to himself. Pb \$20.99 656pp *Due Dec*

RICK YANCEY**THE THIRTEENTH SKULL**

Alfred Kropp #3. There are some things deep within the belly of the earth that should never be disturbed. Which is exactly why Alfred wants to stay at home. When a vision foretells a cataclysmic battle between the 'Sons of Light' and the 'Sons of Darkness', Alfred is called into action. Whoever finds the fabled 13th skull of Merlin, will have in his hands the power to usher in a new Dark Age and the Apocalypse. And so the race is on to find the skull, which rests at the bottom of an abyss called Krubera - a place so terrifying it nearly drove Alfred's mentor, Op-Nine, insane. Pb \$17.95 304pp



JOHN ZAKOUR

THE FLAXEN FEMME FATALE

Zach Johnson #6. The last freelance PI on earth, Zach Johnson has been hired to track down a young beauty who happens to be a deadly secret weapon for the World Council. Figuring girls just want to have fun, he follows Natasha to various vacation destinations, but she eludes him, leaving a trail of destruction in her wake. Zach, however, isn't surprised to discover that things aren't what they seem, and to save the world, he's going to have to find a way to team up with the woman he's supposed to destroy. Pb \$18.95 352pp *Due Dec*

PARANORMAL ROMANCE



G A AIKEN ABOUT A DRAGON

Dragon Kin #2. For Nolwenn witch Talaith, a bad day begins with being dragged from bed by an angry mob intent on her crispy end and culminates in rescue by - wait for it - a silver maned dragon. Existence as a hated outcast is nothing new for a woman with such powerful secrets. The dragon, though? A tad unusual. This one has a human form to die for and knows it. According to dragon law, Talaith is now his property, for pleasure... Or otherwise. But if Lord Arrogance thinks she's the kind of damsel to acquiesce without a word, he's in for a surprise... Pb \$16.95 352pp *Due Dec*

ANYA BAST CHOSEN SIN

Daria is a Special Forces agent with one obsession - to wreak vengeance on the vampire who nearly destroyed her. But to succeed, she must become something she detests - a vampire. Her fate rests upon Alejandro Martinez, a sexy vampire with whom she once shared an unforgettable night of scorching passion. Now, while Daria struggles against her newfound bloodlust, the two must slip into the shadows to bring a monster to justice, even as their desire threatens to consume them. Tp \$27.00 304pp

CYNTHIA EDEN MIDNIGHT SINS

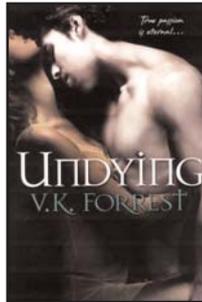
Nightclub singer Cara Firon doesn't look like a monster, but a twisted killer is leaving a trail of bodies in seedy hotel rooms across town and right now, mysterious Cara is detective Todd Brooke's only suspect. Cara is one of the Others, a race of powerful, paranormal creatures who live among humans. Cara's abilities make men putty in her hands, all except Detective Brooks. As uneasy trust gives way to mind-blowing desire, Cara and Todd will go head-to-head with a killer whose mission is deeply personal, and who's determined to serve up revenge that's hotter than hellfire and just as deadly. Pb \$32.00 352pp *Due Dec*

LAURELL K HAMILTON SWALLOWING DARKNESS.

Meredith Gentry, whose rightful place on the throne of Faerie is dependent on being able to produce an heir, is overjoyed when she finds herself pregnant after many failed attempts, but her triumph is overshadowed when she discovers that she carries two babies with different fathers and the loss of her beloved Frost. Tp \$32.99 384pp *Due Dec*

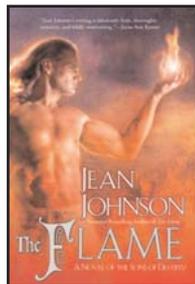
V K FORREST UNDYING

As part of the Kahill clan's special operations 'kill team,' Arlan is devoted to ridding the world of its most depraved human members. He's been asked by fellow clan member and FBI Agent Fia Kahill to assist in one of her investigations: the notorious Buried Alive Killer case. Arlan agrees to meet with one of Fia's key informants, Macy Smith, but he's completely unprepared for his response to the young woman. Blond, petite, and achingly beautiful, Macy is everything Arlan could want in a woman - and it's clear the attraction is mutual. And when the Buried Alive Killer strikes again, he learns that Macy has a deep connection to the case - one that will put her in the crosshairs of the killer if Arlan can't find a way to protect her. Pb \$34.00 336pp *Due Dec*



JEAN JOHNSON THE FLAME

Sons of Destiny #7. Eight brothers, born in four sets of twins, two years apart to the day - they fulfil the Curse of Eight Prophecy. Though no longer trapped in exile, their growing family faces new problems. Now that it's his turn to look for a bride, Koranen, the seventh-born brother, cursed with a flame that courses beneath his flesh, must find a woman able to endure the literal heat of his passion. Then Danau the Aquamancer arrives and as everyone knows, fire and water create steam. Pb \$34.00 304pp *Due Dec*



ANGELA KNIGHT & DIANE WHITESIDE CAPTIVE DREAMS

Sisters Celeste and Corinne have each created an alpha-male hero for their bestselling novels: devilishly sensual warriors who, unbeknownst to their creators, are more real than the ladies ever imagined. Until the strapping men come to life and inhabit more than the sisters' imagination. Pb \$18.95 320pp *Due Dec*

SUZANNE MCLEOD THE SWEET SCENT OF BLOOD

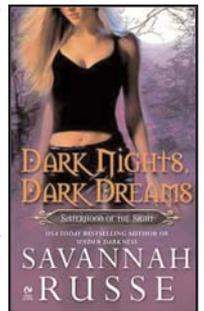
Genny is a rising star at Spellcrackers.com, where she finds the M' in magic - and that invariably leads to mischief, malice and - too often - murder. Spellcrackers.com is affiliated to the Witch Council, whose ancient tenets prohibit any contact with vampires. Genny also works as a volunteer at a clinic which treats victims of vampire attacks. Then there's her extra-curricular activity, extracting vulnerable fae lured by the local fang gangs. Genny certainly doesn't want any closer involvement with the vampire community. But when Mr October, one of the hot calendar pin-up vamps, is accused of murdering his girlfriend, Genny's called on to repay an old debt and prove his innocence. Pb \$19.99 368pp

DEVYN QUINN EMBRACING MIDNIGHT

Undercover FBI agent Callie Whitten is tracking an outlaw like no other: Iollan Drake. And one hot night she finds him - and finds the ultimate in extreme sexual pleasure in his arms. Callie craves more. And more... But Iollan Drake has a lethal secret: he is a vampire, drawing his passionate strength from blood energised by sexual arousal. He in turn craves Callie. She is beautiful and yielding - and utterly fearless. Compelled to brand her as his own, wrapped in darkness, he whispers to her. Give me your soul, Callie. And your body. I will have you! She hears and she obeys. Pb \$29.95 368pp *Due Dec*

SAVANNAH RUSSE DARK NIGHTS, DARK DREAMS

Sisterhood of the Sight #1. Government agent Susan Chase always kept her psychic abilities a secret. Now her secret is out and the CIA needs her help. A highly classified all-female team of paranormal agents, Susan and her squad are now entrusted with the government's most unusual and dangerous assignments. Pb \$16.95 320pp *Due Dec*



LILITH SAINTCROW HUNTER'S PRAYER

Jill Kismet #2. Another night on the Nightside... An ancient evil looms over Santa Luz. Prostitutes are showing up dead and eviscerated. And Jill Kismet just might be able to get her revenge against an old enemy. There's just one problem. Someone wants Jill dead - again. And if they have to open up Hell itself to kill her, they will. Sometimes, even when you're Jill Kismet, you don't have a prayer... Pb \$19.99 329pp

What We've Been Reading...

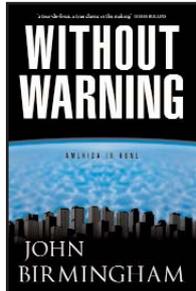


By the Sword (*Repairman Jack #12*) F Paul Wilson (Hb \$45.00). It's not new to anyone that Jack is my hero... I really enjoyed this latest instalment and I now know more about Japanese swords than I ever thought I would - although I have to say I got a bit lost in New York for the first time. Each novel is set there and normally I have a great time (in the New York of my imagination), but this time I kept losing my bearings. F Paul Wilson really is clever. I now have to read the copy of **Black Wind** (out of print) that I have owned for at least a decade, but have never made time for because it does fit into the timeline. - *Steph*
I couldn't pick between them, so here are my two yearly favourites in the category of relatively new authors. These are the books to watch out for from authors who haven't been around as long as some of the old favourites have, but who definitely show potential for great stuff in the future:

Storm Born (*Dark Swan #1*) by Richelle Mead (Pb \$16.95). From the author of the young-adult *Vampire Academy* series and the *Georgia Kincaid* series. This is about a young shaman who was happy keeping her head down doing shaman-things, until a prophecy surfaces about her being the future mother of the World Destroyer. This is Mead's first serious foray into urban fantasy with a fae and action edge and it's really good.

Magic to the Bone by Devon Monk (Pb \$12.95). This is Monk's debut novel, but it is extremely well written! Allie has turned her back on her family's wealth and scrapes out a life on the filthy fringes of a society that uses magic-like electricity - except with more caution, as this type of magic takes as much as it gives. To keep the balance, using a spell means magic gets its own back, such as a day-long migraine for a smallish spell, or lost memories for something larger. This is seriously good stuff that I highly recommend! - *Sofia*

Without Warning by John Birmingham (Tp \$32.99)
One day most of America and a chunk of the Caribbean is covered by a wave of indeterminate nature which has incinerated every living creature within its perimeter. Birmingham's book deals with the global consequences of a world without America. Covert ops, military forces and pirates of the Caribbean. Action-adventure with an Australian sense of humour. - *Geoff*

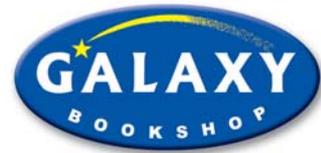


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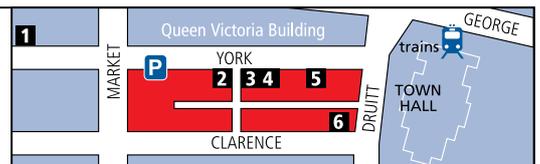
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