On a world supported on the back of a giant turtle (sex unknown), a gleeful, explosive, wickedly eccentric expedition sets out. There’s an avaricious but inept wizard, a naïve tourist whose luggage moves on hundreds of dear little legs, dragons who only exist if you believe in them, and of course the edge of the planet…

To celebrate Discworld’s 21st anniversary, Random House Australia are holding an Anniversary bash in Sydney at The ArtHouse Hotel, Monday 8 November. The event is strictly invitation only. However Random House Australia has generously supplied five tickets for us to give away. The winners will also get a copy each of the anniversary edition of The Colour of Magic in hardcover and the new Discworld novel, Going Postal. For further details, see back page.

21 YEARS AGO...

On a world supported on the back of a giant turtle (sex unknown), a gleeful, explosive, wickedly eccentric expedition sets out. There’s an avaricious but inept wizard, a naïve tourist whose luggage moves on hundreds of dear little legs, dragons who only exist if you believe in them, and of course the edge of the planet...

THE COLOUR OF MAGIC

Terry Pratchett’s first Discworld novel was released

To celebrate Discworld’s 21st anniversary, Random House Australia are holding an Anniversary bash in Sydney at The ArtHouse Hotel, Monday 8 November. The event is strictly invitation only. However Random House Australia has generously supplied five tickets for us to give away. The winners will also get a copy each of the anniversary edition of The Colour of Magic in hardcover and the new Discworld novel, Going Postal. For further details, see back page.

HUGO AWARD WINNERS

The Hugo Awards for best science fiction works in 2003 were presented at the 62nd World Science Fiction Convention, Norascon 4, in Boston. A selection of winners follows.

BEST NOVEL

Paladin of Souls
by Lois McMaster Bujold

BEST NOVELLA

The Cookie Monster
by Vernor Vinge

BEST NOVELETTE

Legions in Time
by Michael Swanwick

BEST SHORT STORY

A Study in Emerald
by Neil Gaiman

BEST RELATED BOOK

The Chesley Awards for Science Fiction and Fantasy Art: A Retrospective
by John Grant, Elizabeth Humphrey and Pamela Scoville

BEST DRAMATIC PRESENTATION: LONG FORM

The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King

BEST DRAMATIC PRESENTATION: SHORT FORM

Gollum’s Acceptance Speech at the 2003 MTV Movie Awards

sydneybookquarter
the place for great books

Our city block - bounded by York, Druitt, Clarence and Market Streets - has long been home to some of Sydney’s most interesting and unusual bookshops. Maintaining their separate ownership and individuality, the seven unique and independent bookshops in this block are coming together to create sydneybookquarter.

Celebrate the launch with us on Thursday 28 October when we will have special guest speakers, competitions and give-aways.

For more details, check out our website closer to the launch.

Tea in the Library 119 York St
Ashwood’s Music & Books 129 York St
Abbey’s Bookshop 131 York St
Language Book Centre 131 York St
Napoleon’s Military Bookshop 139 York St
Galaxy Bookshop 143 York St
Adyar Bookshop 230 Clarence St

LAUNCH: Thursday October 28
Join us in-store for a Star Wars trivia competition from 6:30pm - 7:00pm.
Great prizes!
Christopher ANVIL
INTERSTELLAR PATROL

When a starship’s crew gets stuck on a planet where the well-meaning schemes of social engineers have created a nightmare of battling gangs, they pretend to be the Royal Legions from a distant star kingdom – which was all very well, until the real Royal flagship showed up. They thought they were doomed - but instead they have shown just the type of initiative and intelligence that the new arrivals are looking for and they are inducted into the Interstellar Patrol. That’s just the beginning. Pb $18.95 592pp

William F WU
PERIHELION #6

A man without memory, stranded on an icy asteroid. His only chance for survival is locked within a band of mining robots who are dutifully searching the surface for a mysterious object known as the Key to Perihelion. His name is Derec. His journey will take him to a city different from any he has ever known. A fantastic metropolis beyond his dreams: Robot City. Pb $13.95 211pp

James AXLER
MASK OF THE SPHINX

Outlanders #29. The nine barons of post-nuclear America are succumbing to the tides of insurrection, a war that threatens to bring about the extinction of the entire hybrid race. Pb $13.95 346pp

Ashok K BANKER
DEMONS OF CHITRAKUT

Ramayana #3. Rama has quelled the demon invasion. He has thwarted the demonlord Ravana and he is wedded to the enchanting Sita - but the young prince’s problems are far from over. For Rama has been challenged by the fabled axe-wielding brahmin Parshurama - a warrior of such power he has never been defeated. And should he survive the confrontation, a greater crisis awaits him. He must travel deep into the heart of the forest of Dandaka-van, where he will be pitted against the vengeful survivors of Ravana’s rakshasa hordes. And in the tiny outlaw settlement of Chitrakut, surrounded by blood-thirsty demons, he must prepare to face 14 years of exile. Pb $19.95 628pp

Stephen BAXTER
COALESCENT

Destiny's Children #1. This new trilogy will chart different evolutionary futures for mankind. It is the story of a divergent strain of humanity - a hive mind that subsumes the individual. It begins with a vivid depiction of the decline of the Roman Empire and, down through the years, shows how one woman’s determination to protect her daughter has frightening consequences for mankind’s future existence. Pb $18.95 536pp

Gregory BENFORD
TIDES OF LIGHT

The Galactic Centre series #4. Onboard an ancient starship, Killeen and the Bishop tribe escape the mech-ruled world of Snowglade. Seeking refuge on a faraway planet, they discover vast wonders - an organic life-form as large as a world, a planet-coring cosmic string, a community of humans ruled by a brutal tyrant and, ultimately, an alien race more awesome than any they have previously encountered. As they battle for survival against these myriad dangers, Killeen and his crew will gain an unforeseen ally - one that may determine humanity’s true destiny… Pb $16.95 516pp

Terry BROOKS
JARKA RUUS

High Druid of Shannara #1. 20 years have passed since the events of The Voyage Of The Jerle Shannara trilogy. Grianne Ohmsford has renounced her former life as the evil Ilse Witch and now serves as the head of a new Druid Council. Her purpose is to defend the Four Lands from anarchy and warfare. But there are those who cannot easily forgive her past actions and are loathe to follow her leadership. When Grianne’s enemies cause her to disappear, only a few loyal friends can help her, including Pen Ohmsford and the Elif Prince, Ahren Elessedil, who begin a desperate journey to find Grianne and return her to the Druids’ keep at Paranor. Pb $18.95 388pp

Michael CHABON (ed)
MCSWEENY’S MAMMOTH TREASURY OF THRILLING TALES

Founded and edited by Dave Eggers, this is the magazine that has made its mark with a line-up of authors including David Foster Wallace, George Saunders, Zadie Smith and Rick Moody - all of whom are represented in this selection of stories from the first ten issues. Pb $22.95 407pp

Stephen COONTS
SAUCER: THE CONQUEST

When Rip Cantrell, a seismic survey worker in the Sahara, spots a glint of reflected light in the distance, he investigates - and finds a piece of metal apparently entombed in the sandstone. Before long, Rip uncovers a flying saucer that has been resting there for 140,000 years. The discovery doesn’t remain a secret for long. The US Air Force sends a UFO investigation team, which arrives just minutes before a team sent by an Australian billionaire. Before either side can outwit the other, the Libyan military appears. Meanwhile, Rip has been checking out the saucer. With the help of an ex-Air Force test pilot, Rip flies the saucer away, embarking on a fantastic journey into space and around the world, keeping just ahead of those who want the saucer for themselves. Tp $32.95 340pp

F Brett COX & Andy DUNCAN (eds)
CROSSROADS: TALES OF THE SOUTHERN LITERARY FANTASTIC

The editors have gathered together stories of the unseen and magical American South by some of the most talented Southern writers of our time. These original fictions will delight readers who appreciate the unique wealth and breadth of the Southern literary tradition and its natural affinity for the fantastic. Contributors include Don Webb, Jack McDevitt, Michael Bishop, Andy Duncan, John Kessel, Kelly Link and Gene Wolfe. Hb $54.00 380pp
Where do I start? I picked this book up for the first time about 18 years ago and from the start it firmly established Ms Rawn as one my top ten favourite authors. Who are the others you ask? Well stick around because I’m bound to review them all at some stage.

To be honest, the first thing that drew me to the book was Michael Whelan’s exceptional artwork, but it wasn’t long before Rawn’s magic caught me in its spell.

Opening in the desert kingdom of The Long Sand, Rawn demonstrates that she isn’t one to shy away from violence or tragedy, and that she holds the ability to delve deep into the full spectrum of human emotion. While the story is large in scope, it moves with an assured pace that doesn’t pull any punches.

Revolving around Rohan, the Dragon Prince of the title, and the sunrunner witch Sioned, an initiate of the Goddess Keep, Rawn builds her world with a precision and flair that is matched by the style and grace of her writing. Rohan is a man of character, breeding and intelligence. Brought up in a world where a man’s right to rule is based on his skill as a warrior, his inclination to the finer arts of reading and education is a cause of concern to his family when the mantle of Prince is thrust upon him by his father’s untimely death. Having been sheltered from court life by his mother’s wishes, he is pushed into the public eye as an unknown player in a dangerous game. To his side comes Sioned, a young woman as fastly and strong-willed as she is beautiful and accomplished in the magical art of sunrunning. Presented to Rohan on the night of his father’s death, there is a marriage arranged by his aunt and her mistress, Andre, the Lady of the Goddess Keep. At first apprehensive, Rohan is struck by Sioned’s beauty and sensitivity, finding her a match for him in intelligence and passion, a person he can love and share his secrets with without fear of derision.

This is the tale of their courtship, bound together by the machinations of fate and intrigues of noble houses; it is an intelligent read that balances romance and magic with cunning and bloody politics.

Well-drawn characters and vivid descriptions accompany Rohan and Sioned in the unfolding of their story. Personal relationships between family and friends lend the book a welcome relief to bloody infighting encouraged by the realm’s powerful and manipulative overlord the High Prince Roelstra.

One thing that struck me about this book is the intelligence that is evident in the laying of every plot and the turn of each phrase. Both the prose and the verbal sparring between characters is lively and holds a distinct style that is Rawn’s own and has grown with every book she’s gone on to write. This is a great book and one that doesn’t sit on my shelf long enough to gather dust. I highly recommend it! - Mark
Julie CZERNEDA & Isaac SPINDEL (eds)

REVISIONS

This is a collection of 15 original tales of “what if?” written by some of today’s top science fiction writers, including Julie CZerneda, Cory Doctorow, Charles Stross, Mike Resnick, Susan Matthews, Geoffrey Landis, Doranna Durgin, Kate Baker and others. Pb $16.95 312pp

ELLEN DATLOW, KELLY LINK & GAVIN GRANT (eds)

THE YEAR’S BEST FANTASY AND HORROR:

17TH ANNUAL COLLECTION

The fiction and poetry here is culled from an exhaustive survey of the field, nearly four dozen stories ranging from fairy tales to gothic horror, from magical realism to dark tales in the Grand Guignol style. Rounding out the volume are the editors’ overviews of the year in fantasy and horror, new Year’s Best sections on comics by Charles Vess and on anime and manga by Joan Vinge, plus a long list of Honourable Mentions. Contributors include Terry Bisson, Peter Crowther, Karen Joy Fowler, Neil Gaiman, Nina Kiriki Hoffman, Kij Johnson, Ursula K. Le Guin, Thomas Ligotti, Maureen McHugh, Lucius Shepard, Steve Rasnic Tem, Michael Marshall Smith, Michael Swanwick and many others. Hb $59.95 564pp Tp $43.00 564pp

ELLEN DATLOW & TERRI WINDLING (eds)

THE FAERY REEL:

TALES FROM THE TWILIGHT REALM

Faeries, or creatures like them, can be found in almost every culture the world over - benevolent and terrifying, charming and exasperating, shifting shape from country to country, story to story, and moment to moment. For this collection, the editors asked some of today’s best fantasists for short stories and poems that draw on the great wealth of world faery lore and classic faery literature and to update the old tales, or shine a bold new light on the old. Hb $43.00 528pp

CHARLES DE LINT

SPIRITS IN THE WIRE

At a popular Newford online research and library Web site called the Wordwood, a mysterious crash occurs. Everyone visiting the site at the moment of the crash vanishes from where they were sitting in front of their computers. Christy Ridding’s girlfriend Saskia disappears right before his eyes, along with countless others. To rescue their missing friends, Christy and his companions must journey into Newford’s otherworld, where the Wordwood, it transpires, has a physical presence of its own... Tp $32.95 448pp

PHILIP K DICK

THE PENULTIMATE TRUTH

World War III is raging - or so the millions of people crammed in their underground tanks believe. For 15 years, a new kind of war has been on daily broadcasts of a never-ending nuclear destruction, sustained by a belief in the all powerful Protector. But up on Earth’s surface, a different kind of reality reigns. East and West are at peace. Across the planet, an elite corps of expert hoaxers live in vast private demesnes - repayment for their services in preserving the great lie. Until, one day, a tanker emerges and discovers the path to the most sinister truth of all... Tp $27.00 191pp

FIVE GREAT NOVELS

This volume contains Do Androids Dream Of Electric Sheep? (filmed as Bladerunner), Martian Time Slip, Ubik, The Three Stigmata Of Palmer Eldritch and A Scanner Darkly. Taken together they represent the best of this author’s unique imagination. In his writing, nothing is what it seems - our sense of the world’s order is fatally undermined and mass media tells us nothing but artful lies. Tp $32.95 841pp

SARA DOUGLASS

GOD’S CONCUBINE

The Troy Game #2. It has been 2000 years since Cornelia, wife of Brutus, brought the Troy Game to a wrenching halt by murdering Genvissa, the Mistress of the Labyrinth. In those 2000 years, the city of Troia Nova, now known as London, was razed and rebuilt a dozen times, as the Minotaur Asterion unsuccessfully tried to discover where Brutus hid the six golden kingship bands of Troy. But now everyone is back, reborn into 11th-century Europe so they can play out their parts in the Game. Asterion lurks within the court of Edward the Confessor, plotting with malevolence. Cornelia lives, older and wiser, but trapped in another loveless and desperate marriage. Genvissa returns, driven by spite and ambition. And in his stronghold on the coast of Normandy waits Brutus, reborn as one of the mightiest warrior-kings of all time... Tp $29.95 643pp

ANN DOWNER

HATCHING MAGIC

Poor Gideon! Wycca, his wyvern, has disappeared through a hole in time in search of a place to lay her egg. Kobold, Gideon’s rival wizard, wants nothing more than to capture Wycca and turn her against her master. Desperate to rescue Wycca from Kobold’s evil clutches, Gideon follows her through the magic hole... and finds himself transported from his castle in 13th-century England, to the terrifyingly modern world of Boston, Massachusetts, in the year 2002. Pb $9.95 242pp

GARDNER DOZOIS (ed)

MORNING CHILD AND OTHER STORIES

This Hugo and Nebula Award-winning author and editor presents a collection of classic science fiction stories, including Morning Child, A Dream At Noonday, Chains of the Sea, The Hanging Curve, The Bride and Ancestral Voices. Tp $27.00 305pp

RICHARD FAWKES

NATURE OF THE BEAST

Throughout the galaxy, the near-invincible armies of the alien Remor have set their sights on one goal - the complete extermination of the human race. Outnumbered and outgunned, The Interstellar Defense League cannot afford to discard any asset - so Christoph Stone, a disgraced Sector Commander, is given a chance to redeem himself... by sacrificing his life. His fate - and perhaps the destiny of all humankind - is to be decided on a distant frontier planet nestled deep in enemy-controlled space. Pb $16.95 337pp

RAYMOND E FEIST & STEVE STIRLING

JIMMY THE HAND

Legends of the Rift War #3. In conjunction with master of alternative history, S M Stirling, Feist returns to tell the full tale of fan favourite, the pickpocket, mountebank and confidence trickster, Jimmy the Hand. Pb $18.95 369pp

RECOMMENDED READING

NANCY FARMER

THE HOUSE OF THE SCORPION

Matteo Alarcón was not born - he was harvested. His DNA came from El Patrón, lord of a country called Opiум - a strip of poppy fields lying between the United States and what was once called Mexico. Matt’s first cell split and divided inside a petri dish. Then he was placed in the womb of a cow, where he continued the miraculous journey from embryo to fetus to baby. He is a boy now, but most consider him a monster - except for El Patrón. El Patrón loves Matt as he loves himself, because Matt is himself. As Matt struggles to understand his existence, he is threatened by a sinister cast of characters - including El Patrón’s power-hungry family - and he is surrounded by a dangerous army of bodyguards. Escape is the only chance Matt has to survive - but escape from the Alarcón Estate is no guarantee of freedom, because Matt is marked by his difference in ways he doesn’t even suspect. Pb $12.95 380pp From a two-time Newbery award-winning author come this disturbing, engrossing tale for young adult readers, with a range of topical themes. Highly recommended - Jo
At what cost, though, to its native key to repelling a fast-approaching threat. Evolving in its own world of primitive known sentient species outside Earth has planet Kaspar, where the only other to another. One of these stations orbits the galaxy. Among these phenomena were the known as Angels, left relics all over the universe. With her partner, Tut, Youn is sent to rescue a planet from the dangerous sentient Balrog. But how do you defeat an alien intelligence so advanced that it literally knows what you will do before you do... especially when it has its own sinister plans?

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Simon R Green

DEATHSTALKER LEGACY
Sequel series #1. It has been 200 years since Owen Deathstalker fell, dying to save the Empire and all Humanity. Now it is a Golden Age for all - for men, for aliens and for the AIs of Shub, but one man has determined to bring it all crashing down and now the Terror has finally arrived, threatening them all with extinction. It’s time for the latest Deathstalker, Lewis, to do his bit. Unfortunately, he and his companions - a diva, a comman, a homicidal psychopath and a reptiloid, have been outlawed and declared traitors.

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David Hartwell (ed)

THE MAMMOTH BOOK OF 20TH CENTURY SCIENCE FICTION Volume #2. Here the editor showcases 23 stories that prove the sheer range of the genre. From founding fathers of the field like H G Wells and C S Lewis and beloved mainstays of the genre such as Philip Jose Farmer, Roger Zelazny and Jack Vance, to notable female writers including Nancy Kress, and writers who have hit their stride in the last two decades like William Gibson and James Morrow, all manner of SF luminaries are included. Also featured are writers better known beyond the genre such as E M Forster and Michael Shaara and translations of key foreign writers such as Wolfgang Jeschke and Dino Buzzati.

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Gary Gibson

ANGEL STATIONS
Aeons ago, a super-scientific culture, known as Angels, left relics all over the galaxy. Among these phenomena were the Stations, whereby human spacecraft could jump instantly from one part of the galaxy to another. One of these stations orbits the planet Kaspar, where the only other known sentient species outside Earth has been meticulously allowed to continue evolving in its own world of primitive ignorance. But suddenly Kaspar’s mysterious ‘Citadel’ has become the vital key to repelling a fast-approaching threat. At what cost, though, to its native inhabitants... and to the human residents of the orbiting Angel station?

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John Hemry

BRIAN HERBERT & KEVIN ANDERSON

THE BATTLE OF CORRIN Legends of Dune #3. The universal computer mind Omnibus has retreated to its last stronghold, where it plots a devastating new strategy that could undo the victories of the Butlerian Jihad. The surviving Titans are creating new lieutenants to do their will, when at last they return to attack the human beings they once ruled. The brilliant military commander Vorian Atreides, son of a Titan, has the gift of long life from his terrifying father and knows the machines’ minds better than any man alive. Norma Cenva, the genius inventor of humanity’s best defences, dreams of new discoveries that will make man invincible. And on the windswept desert planet Arrakis, the power that can give them victory waits.

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Hannibal Lecter

JAMIESON FINDLAY

THE BLUE ROAN CHILD Syeira, an orphaned girl, lives and works in King Hulvere’s river stable. She has a way with horses - especially with Arwin, a wild and beautiful mare whose two colts have been stolen by Ran, an evil warlord. Fate pairs girl and animal and together as they set out to find the young horses. Their quest takes them across dangerous waters and through enchanted forests - crossing paths with all sorts of characters who can help or harm them - but in the end, Syeira and Arwin must only trust each other, because it is their extraordinary bond that gives them the courage to fight for Arwin’s colts.

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JAMES ALAN GARDNER

RADIANT League of Peoples #7. Explorer Third Class Youn Sue is Expendable - a member of the highly skilled and highly disposable Explorer Corps trained to undertake hazardous missions so that the rest of humanity need not be upset by their deaths. With her partner, Tut, Youn is sent to rescue a planet from the dangerous sentient Balrog. How do you defeat an alien intelligence so advanced that it literally knows what you will do before you do... especially when it has its own sinister plans?

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Judy Wilkes

DOO HIRSCH

WILL BUSTER AND THE GELMET HELMET Will Buster is chosen to participate in an experimental, accelerated learning program run by the mysterious Professor Gelmet - the students are all given personalised helmets to wear that transmit their education to their unconscious. But what are Will and his fellow classmates really learning? Will begins to suspect that Professor Gelmet is playing with their minds.

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Tom Holt

IN YOUR DREAMS H W Wells seems a respectable establishment, but the company now paying Paul Carpenter’s salary is in fact a deeply sinister organisation with a mighty peculiar agenda. Since he graduated from office junior to clerk, he has wrestled with goblins, travelled hundreds of miles in the blink of an eye and spent hours doing dangerous office admin. Now, just when he thought he might be getting the hang of it, he is transferred to the pest control department. This is otherwise known as slaying dragons, werewolves and other such monstrous creatures which Paul had, until recently, fondly believed didn’t exist.

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Diana Quick

HANNAH HOWELL & LYNSAY SANDS

HIGHLANDER
CATALINA
The universal computer mind Omnibus has retreated to its last stronghold, where it plots a devastating new strategy that could undo the victories of the Butlerian Jihad. The surviving Titans are creating new lieutenants to do their will, when at last they return to attack the human beings they once ruled. The brilliant military commander Vorian Atreides, son of a Titan, has the gift of long life from his terrifying father and knows the machines’ minds better than any man alive. Norma Cenva, the genius inventor of humanity’s best defences, dreams of new discoveries that will make man invincible. And on the windswept desert planet Arrakis, the power that can give them victory waits.

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Tom Holt

THE ETERNAL HIGHLANDER Cathal Macnachtan and Connell MacAdie are cousins bound by an ancient curse - they live by night with an unquenchable thirst that neither can tame. The only thing that can save their souls is marriage to Outsiders - mortals whose untainted blood will weaken the curse in their children. Bridget Callan and Eva Caxton are the women who will shape the clan’s destiny. Marriage to these mysterious men rescues each of them from desperate circumstances - and draws them into a web of danger, desire and intrigue.
Walter Hunt

The Dark Ascent

Dark Wing #3. The war with the zor is long over and Admiral Marais, the legendary Dark Wing, is long dead. An alien force, the actual puppetmaster of the human-zor war, now wishes to bring both worlds under its madness inducing shadow. But the same ancient philosophy of the zor race that prophesised the Dark Wing, has also foreseen a hero that will meet the new menace - a hero now mysteriously embodied in a reclusive business commodore by the name of Jackie Lappiere. Hb $56.00 416pp

Ian Irvine

Scutator

The Wheel of Echoes #3. The node has failed, rendering humanity’s battle clankers and the Aachim’s constructs useless. The battle has been lost. Now hoards of alien lyrax are swarming out of the tar pits of Snizort, intending to fall upon the survivors and destroy them to the last man. Tiaan, crippled and unable to walk, is held prisoner by a vengeful Vithis, who is determined to extract her geomantic secrets from her at any cost. For his failings, Nish has been cast out and branded a traitor, while Irisis, accused of high treason, has been forced to flee for her life. Pb $21.95 691pp

Theodore Judson

Fitzpatrick’s War

“In the 26th century, the United States and Canada are gone, replaced by the socially rigid, authoritarian Confederacy of the Yukon. Also gone is the electronic age - destroyed in the apocalyptic Storm Times that devastated the globe and decimated the world’s population in the late 21st century. This is the intimate memoir of Sir Robert Bruce, a close companion of Fitzpatrick the Younger, the greatest hero of the Yukons. Yukon History paints Fitzpatrick as a latter-day Alexander the Great and calls Bruce a lying traitor. Was Robert Bruce a degenerate scoundrel… or the only man to tell the world the truth? Hb $43.00 481pp

Greg Keyes

The Briar King

The Kingdoms of Thorn and Bone #1. In the kingdom of Crotheny, two young girls play in the tangled gardens of the sacred city of the dead where, fleeing an imaginary attacker, they discover the unknown crypt of a legendary, ancestral queen. In the wilds of the forest, while investigating the mass slaughter of an innocent family, the king’s forester comes face-to-face with a monstrous beast found only in folk tales and nightmares. Meanwhile, travelling the same road, a scholarly young priest begins his education in the nature of the evil that fosters just beneath the surface of a seemingly peaceful realm. The royal family is facing a betrayal that only sorcery can accomplish and now, for three beautiful sisters, for a young man elevated to knighthood and for countless others, a darkness is emerging to shatter all that once seemed certain, familiar and good. Numerous separate destinies will become entangled as malevolent forces stalk the land - and the Briar King, that primeval harbinger of death, has awakened from his slumber. Pb $19.95 552pp

Garry Kilworth

Boggart and Fen

The Knights of Liofwende #3. Mallmoc’s towering iron land-ship is cutting a devastating path through Liofwende. Flanked by an army of Ulcugaa fairies, the evil warlock appears unstoppable. His only foes are a boy from England, a boggart and a talking rat with a food fixation - or so he believes. Word has yet to reach his ears of the faerie armies that march to confront him, or of the gnomes devising a cunning scheme to waylay his terrible machine. All Spiggot and Jack must do is buy these allies some time… but how? Pb $16.95 307pp

Mercedes Lackey & James Mallory

The Outstretched Shadow

The Obsidian Trilogy #1. Kellen Tavodon, son of the Arch-Mage Lycaelon, thought he knew the way the world worked. His father, leading the wise and benevolent Council of Mages, protected and guided the citizens of the Golden City of the Bells. Young Mages in training - all men, for women were unfit to practice magic - memorised the intricate details of High Magic and aspired to seats on the council. Then he found the forbidden Books of Wild Magic - or did they find him? Their Magic felt like a living thing, guided by the hearts and minds of those who practiced it and benefited from it. Questioning everything he has known, Kellen discovers too many of the City’s dark secrets. Banished, with the Outlaw Hunt on his heels, Kellen invokes Wild Magic - and finds himself running for his life with a unicorn at his side. Pb $18.95 727pp

Maxine McArthur & Donna Maree Hanson (ed)

Encounters: An Anthology of Australian Speculative Fiction

This anthology showcases the work of 22 new, emerging and established Australian speculative fiction writers including Chris Barnes, Stuart Barrow, Michael Barry, Lee Batterby, Conon Bendle, Shane Brown, Monica Carroll, Bruce Clark, Cory Daniels, Kate Eltham, Dirk Flinthart, Richard Harland, Trent Jamieson, Ben Payne, Gillian Polack, Nigel Reed, Scott Robinson, Carol Ryles, Frankie Seymour, Cat Sparks, Kaaron Warren and Kim Westwood. Pb $18.95 213pp

Mack Maloney

Storm Over Saturn

Starhawk #4. 7205 AD. Hawk Hunter’s most perilous mission ever is to find the one man who can stop the Solar Guards from seizing the source of all power in the Milky Way - and plunging the galaxy into a catastrophic Dark Age. Pb $16.95 296pp

Diana Marcellas

Twilight Rising, Serpent’s Dream

Shai’a #3. The young shai’a witch Brierley once thought that she was the last of her kind, but when she flees the only home she’s ever known, she discovers that she is not the last of her kind - and that not all of the survivors share Brierley’s good heart. The time of reckoning is at hand. Will Brierley have to sacrifice her life, to save an entire world and make things right for her people? Hb $55.00 493pp

Recommended Reading

Greg Keyes

The Charnel Prince

The Kingdoms of Thorn and Bone #2. The Briar King has woken and, with the aid of monsters formerly found only in folk-tales, is destroying the forest and the people living in its bounty. Aspar White, the king’s forester, has been given the impossible task of killing the feared newcomer, but in the process he will discover that nothing about the Briar King is as straightforward as he had thought. Meanwhile Leoff, composer and self-Professed coward, becomes embroiled in the horror of a town’s despatching Neil, a trusted knight, to save her youngest daughter, in whose hands may lie the city’s dark secrets. Banished, with the Outlaw Hunt on his heels, Kellen invokes Wild Magic - and finds himself running for his life with a unicorn at his side. Pb $18.95 727pp

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**JULIET MARILLIER**

**THE DARK MIRROR**

The Bridei Chronicles #1. When the child Bridei is sent by his parents to live with the druid Broichan, he knows only that he has left his home and family to learn to be a warrior and scholar, strategist and sage.

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ROCKY & BULLWINKLE & FRIENDS:
Season 1 DVD boxed set. DVD $39.95

ROSSELL:
Season 1 DVD boxed set. DVD $83.95

THE SAINT:
Season 2 DVD boxed set. DVD $119.95

STAR TREK:
The Original Series: Season 1 DVD Boxed set. DVD $150.95

Voyager. Season 3 DVD boxed set. DVD $150.95

TRANSFORMERS:
Series 2.2 DVD. DVD $60.95

UNDEAD
DVD $30.95

VAN HELSING
DVD Collectors’ edition. DVD $39.95

DOCTOR WHO: THE ROOF OF THE WORLD
Big Finish #59. CD $49.95 (5th Doctor, Peri & Erimem.)

DOCTOR WHO: THE SURVIVORS
Dalek Empire # 3, chapter #3. CD $35.00

THE BUTTERFLY EFFECT
DVD $30.95

THE WOLF MAN:
DVD Collectors’ edition. DVD $30.95

VAN HELSING
DVD Collectors’ edition. DVD $39.95
WHAT WE’VE BEEN READING

Alien Woman: The Making of Lt Ellen Ripley by Ximena Gallardo and Jason Smith (Tp $43.00). The Alien films have always been a breeding ground (facehugger breeding ground!) for discussions on sex and gender in science fiction. This book discusses all four movies and the issues they raise, going beyond the SF genre and into topics such as Alien Resurrection and the Posthuman Subject, Weapons and War on the Female and Opening the Body. This was overall a fascinating read and a fine example of the subtexts within science fiction, although the authors did tend to read a bit too much into some areas. 8/10 - David

The Subtle Knife by Philip Pullman (Pb $18.95). The second book in His Dark Materials series is as riveting as the first. After having crossed over into the world of Cittagazze, Lyra meets up with a boy from our world, Will Parry. Spectres prowl the city however, and while Mrs Coulter still hunts Lyra, the object in the Torre deglie Angeli waits for the one who will wield it...

Wonderful writing, great characters and story make this one of the best series out there. Go back to Hogwarts, Harry Potter. - David

Transformers: The Ultimate Guide by Simon Furman. (Hb $39.95 144pp) Transformers, more than meets the eye... Being a child of the eighties, my upbringing would have been incomplete without the sterling examples of good conduct set by the Transformers, powerful alien robots stranded on Earth, each with the ability to disguise themselves by transforming themselves into an alternate mode, usually some style of vehicle. The fine Deception role models such as Devastator, Megatron, Soundwave, Shockwave, Starscream, Shrapnel, Thundercracker, Ravage & Rumble all had a lasting impact on my personal world view. Admittedly, some of the Autobots were alright too - notably Jazz, Optimus Prime and the wild cards who shifted allegiance like Grimlock and Jetfire. Anyway, this historical textbook (which would fit comfortably alongside the works of Tacitus and Heroditus) is a good attempt to cover the multifaceted subject of Generation One Transformers and their various spin-offs.

For me, the highlight of this guide is that it is filled with a generous quantity of the excellent illustrations created by the talented crew at Dreamwave Comics. Their highly detailed, manga-influenced, re-imaginations of the original Generation One Transformers, complete with battle scarred dents, exhaust vents, exposed wires and struts, certainly fire the imagination and re-kindle interest in this eighties franchise. As Furman is attempting to provide an ‘ultimate guide’, a more comprehensive listing and description of all the Generation One Transformers is called to make space for later Transformers incarnations such as Beast Wars, Maximals, Robots in Disguise and Transformers: Armada. (I personally would have preferred a curt mention of the Beast Wars and Maximals series as opposed to the generous 30 pages they receive within this book, but I’m biased.) Only a handful of pages are spent on images of the Generation One toy line which is a shame because some of the pages in my old Transformers catalogues are stuck together now. The guide also covers the various UK and US Transformers comics including the several Transformers/GI Joe crossovers. On a related note, the first two seasons of the cartoon plus Transformers: The Movie are all now available on DVD. - Raphael

COMPETITION

To win a ticket to Terry Pratchett’s Anniversary bash and a copy each of The Colour of Magic and Going Postal, answer the following three questions. How many years has it been since the first Discworld novel came out? What was the first novel called? What is the name of the character Terry Pratchett created that is based on another well known character created by Robert E Howard? Mail, fax or email (competition@galaxybooks.com.au) your answer along with your name and address. Competition closes 22 October 2004. Entry open to Galaxy Cardholders only.

COMPETITION WINNERS

Claire Nips has won the signed photo of Amanda Tapping (Stargate). Congratulations!
Sir Terence David John Pratchett, OBE (28 April 1948 - 12th March 2015) was a British fantasy, Science fiction, and children's author. He was best known for his popular and long-running Discworld series of comic fantasy novels. Pratchett's first novel, The Carpet People, was published in 1971, and since his first Discworld novel (The Colour of Magic) was published in 1983, he has written two books a year on average. Pratchett was also known for close collaboration on adaptations of his books, and now