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...

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HUGO AWARD WINNERS

The Hugo Awards for best science fiction works in 2003 were presented at the 62nd World Science Fiction Convention, Noreascon 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!
GALAXY BOOKSHOP 2 www.galaxybooks.com.au

SCIENCE FICTION AND FANTASY

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

ISAC ASIMOV'S
ROBOT CITY

Rob CHILSON
REFUGE

#5. A man without a memory, in a city of robots gone wild. At his side a mysterious woman, whose own identity he has reconstructed and whose memories of him may be true or false. The young man calls himself Derec. In the shattering climax to his quest he discovers the shocking secret of his true identity. Tormented by a nightmarish disease, Derec must face the genius Dr. Avery and compel him to reveal the truth. Pb $13.95 163pp

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 $15.95 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, Kileen 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, Kileen 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. Gri anne 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 Gri anne's enemies cause her to disappear, only a few loyal friends can help her, including Pen Ohmsford and the Elf Prince, Ahren Elessedil, who begin a desperate journey to find Gri anne 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 497pp

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 oust 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
**Classic**

**DRAGON PRINCE**

*Dragon Prince Book 1*

Melanie Rawn

Pb $17.95 574pp

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 feisty 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 the 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

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**NEW**

**IRON COUNCIL**

*A Bas Lag novel*

China Miéville

Tp $30.00 480pp

I first encountered China Miéville’s work with *Perdido Street Station* (Pb $19.95) and quickly knew that this was an important author. He seemed to come out of nowhere with his brilliant, meaty bursts of imagination and the dark, gritty world of Bas Lag imprinted itself as one of the finest examples of world building in a long time. And my God this guy can write!

As the stories unwind in some languid serpentine coils of smoke and noise, Miéville’s images come one after the other. Just when you think that he has finished throwing you visions of steam-driven cyborg convicts, mind-stealing slake moths and cities made entirely of ships, he will produce the goods once more and give the reader another surprise straight out of left field.

**Iron Council**, like his previous novels, takes place in Bas Lag. We return to the city of New Crobuzon, where civil war with the city state of Tesh and urban unrest is tearing everyone’s lives apart. Rebels fight the totalitarian regime enforcing itself upon the population and prepare for the ultimate battle.

Meanwhile, a small group, led by a man called Cutter, leaves the city in search of a myth. The Iron Council, last hope for the people, must return to the city...

To give away any more of the story would be to lessen the impact of the whole, but one of the things I really enjoyed was the magic system that came into play throughout the book. Thaumaturgy, including the creation of golems from any substance that comes to hand, even darkness itself, plays a big role in **Iron Council**. Miéville makes it a part of the everyday world, rather than a specialised art, infusing it both as a tool for wonder and weapon of terror.

As some may be aware, Miéville is a member of the Socialist Party in England. This political theme is very strong in **Iron Council**; indeed it is the major theme of the book. Government and workers, party meetings and revolution are all here. The Iron Council itself seems to symbolise the hope and struggle of the people against the system.

The ending may not be to everyone's taste. The most obvious route is not taken here, but Miéville ends the book the only way it could have ended, I think. Readers will have to decide for themselves...

Although the Bas Lag books do reference each other, the novels do not have to be read in order.

I haven't been this impressed with an author's imagination and style of writing since Clive Barker. In a world sometimes dominated by mediocre fantasy, Miéville has the magic and is leading the trend in his field. Absolutely, positively recommended. 10/10. - David
**Julie Czerneda & Isaac Szpindel (eds)**

**REVIVALS**

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, Kage 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 & Terrí 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, surreptitious humanity has been fed 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 Blade Runner), 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 Troya 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 Hanged 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

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**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 Opium - 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
TOM GODWIN
Mysterious 'Citadel' has become the vital ignorance. But suddenly Kaspar's evolving in its own world of primitive been meticulously allowed to continue to another. One of these stations orbits the galaxy. Among these phenomena were the known as Angels, left relics all over the. Pb $16.95 290pp

JAMES ALAN GARDENER
STORIES
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. 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? Hb $49.95 374pp

GARY GIBSON
ANGEL STATIONS
A eons 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? Tp $33.00 392pp

Tom GODWIN
COLD EQUATIONS & OTHER STORIES
A pilot is on an emergency mission to a planet whose colony is doomed if he doesn't get there fast. He has just enough fuel to reach the planet - then he finds that he has a stowaway - a young girl wanting to be with her brother on the colony. Any unnecessary additional weight, even that of a single person, increases the chance that the spaceship will crash. What will the pilot do about the girl? This story rocked science fiction when it first appeared. Also in this volume is the author's long-unavailable novel The Survivors. Pb $18.95 541pp

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. Pb $18.95 504pp

DEATHSTALKER RETURN
Sequel series #2. Lewis Deathstalker is on the run, with an evil Empire snapping at his heels. He and his companions travel from world to world, searching for help and answers to the mysteries of the past. Finally, they come to the Madness Maze, which will lead Lewis to his most important task... The return of Owen Deathstalker. Tp $29.95 390pp

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. Pb $24.95 615pp

ELIZABETH HAYDON
ELEGY FOR A LOST STAR
Child of Earth #5. This installment sets the stage for a major turning point in the series. The dragon Anwyn - who has lain for three years in deathlike sleep, in a grave of rock and black coal, is freed by the cataclysm that concluded Requiem For The Sun. Divorced and confused, she remembers only two things - the person who trapped her in dragon form and locked her in the grave - Rhapsody - and an all-encompassing desire to wreak vengeance. Hb $54.00 317pp

HANNAH HOWELL & LYNSAY SANDS
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 Oberon's mortals whose untainted blood will weaken the curse in their children. Bridget Callian 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. Tp $27.00 297pp

H BIRCHER & K E ANDERSON
THE BATTLE OF CORRIN
Legends of Dune #3. The universal computer mind Omnium 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. Tp $32.95 620pp

OoD 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. Tp $19.95 318pp

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. Hb $39.95 474pp

Hannah HOWELL & LyNSAY SANDS
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 Oberon's mortals whose untainted blood will weaken the curse in their children. Bridget Callian 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. Tp $27.00 297pp
conclusion left me hanging out for more... Jo
come out in the last decade or so... The characterisation is spot on, the pace never slows and the
Hobbs' Farseer trilogy and Martin's Game of Thrones series, as one of the best fantasy series to
plan may leave the girl - and the kingdom - as vulnerable as ever. Tp $30.00 518pp
rest the kingdom's future. But as prophecies, saviours and assassins close in, Murielle's
widowed Queen of Crotheny. As she fights to save her remaining family, Murielle
living on its bounty. Aspar White, the king's forester, has been given the impossible
monsters formerly found only in folk-tales, is destroying the forest and the people
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 festers 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. Malmoc's towering iron land-ship is cutting a devastating path through Liofwende. Flanked by an army of Ulcugga 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
DIANA MARCELLAS
TWILIGHT RISING, SERPENT'S
DREAM
Shari'a #3. The young shari'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 CHARSEL 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 on 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 destruction - which is part of an intrigue that leads him to the aid of Murielle, widowed Queen of Crotheny. As she fights to save her remaining family, Murielle despatches Neil, a trusted knight, to save her youngest daughter, in whose hands may rest the kingdom's future. But as prophecies, savours and assassins close in, Murielle's plan may leave the girl - and the kingdom - as vulnerable as ever. Tp $30.00 518pp
The sequel to the excellent Briar King leaves me in no doubt that this series will rank up there with Hobbs' Farseer trilogy and Martin's Game of Thrones series, as one of the best fantasy series to come out in the last decade or so... The characterisation is spot on, the pace never slows and the conclusion left me hanging out for more... Jo
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.

He is not aware that in the divided and wartorn kingdom of Firthriu, a secret council of elders, including Broichan, has long been making plans for the future of their homeland - with Bridei himself central to their strategy. Tp $30.00 560pp

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Naomi and Nick are staying the night with their friends, Sam and Lucy, when they hear the sound of someone crying coming from far away. They all begin to investigate and soon find a light coming from beneath the floor under Sam’s bed and a ladder leading down into a very curious mist... As they descend the ladder, the children find themselves amongst many tall dark trees and Sam and Naomi know they have returned to the magic rainforest. This time there are new problems to solve and some old friends to help find solutions. But there are some old enemies too, who will do anything to cause mischief! Pb $14.95 63pp

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Nathan Crewe planned to make his academic reputation by stealing rare plant samples from Vanar - a powerful, secretive planet that forbids all foreigners and controls all space transport. Instead, he is betrayed by a jealous lover and left marooned, impoverished and friendless in a strict matriarchal world where men have no legal rights. Arrested and imprisoned, Nathan is rescued by the head of an influential family who takes an interest in him and teaches him the complex rules of her society. As he adapts to their culture, Nathan learns of an ancient malice buried deep in the history of this world - one that will threaten him and everyone he has come to care for. And he discovers that his arrival on Vanar was anything but accidental... Tp $32.95 390pp

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F Paul Wilson
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This novel takes place in the very near future, when the science of genetics is fulfilling its vaunted potential. It's a world where genetically transmitted diseases are being eliminated, a world where boring manual labour is gradually being transferred to sims, genetically altered chimps who occupy a grey zone between simian and human. The chief innovator is SmGen, which owns the patent on the sim genome and has begun leasing the creatures worldwide. But SmGen is not quite what it seems. It has secrets... secrets beyond patents and proprietary processes... secrets it will go to any lengths to protect. Pb $18.95 499pp

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WHAT WE’VE BEEN READING

Alien Woman: The Making of Lt Ellen Ripley by Ximena Gallardo and Jason Smith (Tb $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.

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 Cittagazza, 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 generation 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-imaginings 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 culled 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!
GNU Terry Pratchett. "You know they'll never really die while the Trunk is alive[...] It lives while the code is shifted, and they live with it, always Going Home." - Moist von Lipwig, Going Postal, Chapter 13. In Terry Pratchett's Discworld series, the clacks are a series of semaphore towers loosely based on the concept of the telegraph. Invented by an artificer named Robert Dearheart, the towers could send messages "at the speed of light" using standardized codes. Three of these codes are of particular import Born Terence David John Pratchett, Sir Terry Pratchett sold his first story when he was thirteen, which earned him enough money to buy a second-hand type...Â See if your friends have read any of Terry Pratchett's books. Sign in with Facebook. Sign in options.