



# nexus

May 2004

Issue #192

## HUGO NOMINEES

*Nominees for the 2004 Hugo Awards:*

### Best Novel

**Paladin of Souls** by Lois McMaster Bujold

**Humans** by Robert J Sawyer

**Ilium** by Dan Simmons

**Singularity Sky** by Charles Stross

**Blind Lake** by Robert Charles Wilson

### Best Related Book

**Scores: Reviews 1993-2003** by John Clute

**Spectrum 10: The Best in Fantastic Contemporary**

Art by Cathy and Arnie Fenner

**The Chesley Awards for SF & Fantasy Art:**

**A Retrospective**

by John Grant, Elizabeth Humphrey and Pamela Scoville

**Dreamer of Dune: The Biography of Frank Herbert**

by Brian Herbert

**The Thackery T Lampshead Guide to Eccentric &**

**Discredited Diseases**

by Jeff Vandermeer and Mark Roberts

**Master Storyteller: An Illustrated Tour of the**

**Fiction of L Ron Hubbard** by William Widder

### Best Dramatic Presentation, Long Form

*28 Days Later*

*Finding Nemo*

*The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King*

*Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl*

X2

### Best Dramatic Presentation, Short Form

*Chosen, Buffy the Vampire Slayer*

*Gollum's Acceptance Speech, The 2003 MTV Movie*

*Awards*

*Heart of Gold, Firefly*

*The Message, Firefly*

*Rosetta, Smallville*

### The John W Campbell Award for Best New Writer

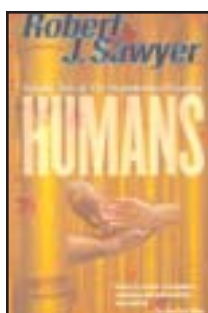
Jay Lake

David D Levine

Karin Lowachee

Chris Moriarty

Tim Pratt



## RETRO HUGOS

*Organisers have announced the nominees for the Retro Hugos, honouring works first published or released in 1953. Nominees:*

### Best Novel of 1953

**The Caves of Steel** by Isaac Asimov

**Fahrenheit 451** by Ray Bradbury

**Childhood's End** by Arthur C Clarke

**Mission of Gravity** by Hal Clement

**More Than Human** by Theodore Sturgeon

## NEBULA AWARD WINNERS

### Best Novel

**Speed of Dark** by Elizabeth Moon

### Best Novella

**Coraline** by Neil Gaiman

### Best Novelette

*The Empire of Ice Cream* by Jeffrey Ford

### Best Short Story

*What I Didn't See* by Karen Joy Fowler

### Best Script

*The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers*

by Fran Walsh, Philippa Boyens, Stephen Sinclair and Peter Jackson

## BRITISH SF AWARD WINNERS

### Best Novel

**Felaheen** by Jon Courtenay Grimwood

### Best Novella

**The Wolves in the Walls**

by Neil Gaiman and Dave McKean

### Best Artwork

**Cover of The True Knowledge of Ken MacLeod**

by Colin Odell

### Best Non-fiction

**Reading Science Fiction** by Farah Mendlesohn

## INTERNATIONAL HORROR GUILD AWARD WINNERS

### Best Novel

**Lost Boy Lost Girl** by Peter Straub

### Best First Novel

**Jinn** by Matthew B J Delaney

### Best Anthology

**The Dark: New Ghost Stories**

edited by Ellen Datlow



# FOR STOCKTAKE

TUES 8 JUNE

UNTIL 12 MIDDAY

We apologise for any inconvenience caused.



# SCIENCE FICTION AND FANTASY

**LYNN ABBEY**

**TAKING TIME**

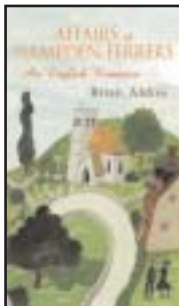
To end a generational curse, Emma Merrigan travels back through time to a horrific act of violence and faces the possibility that saving those in the future may mean sacrificing others in the past. Pb \$15.95 328pp

**BRIAN ALDISS**

**AFFAIRS AT HAMPDEN FERRERS:**

**AN ENGLISH ROMANCE**

Hampden Ferrars is an obscure country village, not too distant from Oxford. Its village church, St Clements, is 1500 years old, and some of the villagers decide that this record of continuity and stability should be celebrated. Many are the difficulties in the way. Foreigners arrive, love affairs break out - some suitable, some less suitable. The atmosphere of romance engenders miracles. Slowly, the village becomes involved in magic. Ordinary lives are transformed. Then a threat emanates from within the church itself. The atmosphere darkens as the celebration committee has to decide who is really in command of the world. Hb \$45.00 264pp



**POUL ANDERSON**

**THREE HEARTS AND THREE LIONS**

*Fantasy Masterworks #40* The gathering forces of the Dark Powers threaten the world of man. The legions of Faery are poised to overthrow the Realms of Light. Holger Carlsen, a 20th century man mysteriously snatched out of time, finds himself the key figure in the conflict. Pb \$19.95 177pp

**ROBERT ASPRIN & ROBERT HECK**

**NO PHULE LIKE AN OLD PHULE**

*Phule's Company #5.* Phule gets on the wrong side of celebrity canine, Barky the Environmental Dog, by hosting a group of big game hunters who think they can bag a dinosaur on Zenobia. Needless to say, dinosaurs are not a native species. But cold, hard facts never stopped a Phule and neither will Barky's cold, wet nose. Pb \$17.95 316pp

**ANSELM AUDLEY**

**CRUSADE**

*Aquasilva #3.* Cathan has discovered powers within himself and found that he is the Emperor Orosius's brother, but Orosius is dead and Eshar is now set in his place. Meanwhile, the religious fanatics of the Domain continue to seek out heresy - and Cathan in particular. Still refusing to attempt to place himself on the Imperial throne, Cathan studies the history of storms and the terrible effects of previous meddling with Aquasilva's weather systems, but the Domain's dogs are everywhere and capture lays in wait for him... and with it, the discovery of his true identity and death. Pb \$18.95 589pp

**IAIN M BANKS**

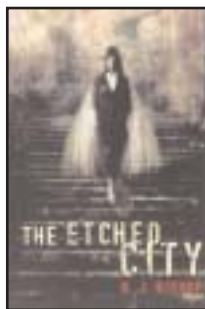
**LOOK TO WINDWARD**

*A Culture novel.* It was one of the less glorious incidents of the Idiran wars that led to the destruction of two suns and the billions of lives they supported. 800 years later, the light from the first of those deaths has reached the Culture's Masaq' Orbital and a Chelgrian emissary is dispatched to the Culture. Pb \$22.95 403pp

**K J BISHOP**

**THE ETCHED CITY**

Fleeing the ghosts of their violent past, two former revolutionaries - the roguish, rakish Gwynn and the taciturn Raule - escape from the desert Copper Country to the tropical city of Ashamoil. As they salvage new lives from the rubble of the old, they discover past ghosts are future ghosts too. Pb \$30.00 332pp



**PATRICIA BRAY**

**DEVLIN'S JUSTICE**

*Sword of Change #3.* Desperate for death in the wake of his family's slaughter, Devlin has agreed to become the Chosen One of the neighbouring Kingdom of Jorsk - the kingdom which conquered and enslaved his own native land of Duncaer. But just when he is reconciled to his new life, he finds he must go off seeking the Chosen One's sword of legend - which was lost in conquered Duncaer. He must again face the land of his birth and the people who once trusted him. Pb \$15.95 388pp

**NOEL ANN BRENNAN**

**BLOOD OF THE LAND**

*Land #2.* With her baby kidnapped, her lover missing and her deposed cousin making war against her, Rilsin's only hope lies in a princess who may be her salvation, or an enemy worse than any she has ever encountered. Pb \$15.95 378pp

**DAN BROWN**

**THE DA VINCI CODE**

Robert Langdon, Harvard Professor of symbology, receives an urgent late-night call while in Paris: the curator of the Louvre has been murdered. Alongside the body is a series of baffling ciphers. Langdon and a gifted French cryptologist, Sophie Neveu, are stunned to find a trail that leads to the works of Da Vinci - and further. The curator, part of a secret society named the Priory of Sion, may have sacrificed his life to keep secret the location of an important religious relic hidden for centuries. Pb \$19.95 604pp








**STEVEN BRUST**

**THE LORD OF CASTLE BLACK**

*Viscount of Adrilankha #2.* The Interregnum is over and to everyone's astonishment, Zerika, a very young Phoenix, has coolly emerged from the Paths of the Dead, carrying with her the Orb, which everyone had thought was lost in Adron's Disaster. Pb \$17.95 398pp

**SETHRA LAVODE**

*Viscount of Adrilankha #3.* After a long absence, the undead Sethra Lavode, the Enchantress of Dzur Mountain, has re-entered the Empire's affairs. Since Adron's Disaster, when Dragaera City was turned instantly into a sea of amorphia, the Empire has been in ruins. Now, an ambitious Dragonlord means to rebuild the Empire in his own name. But unknown to him, the true heir, the Phoenix Zerika, has already retrieved the Imperial Orb from the Paths of the Dead. Sethra Lavode means to see Zerika on the throne. To do so will entail a climactic battle of sorcery and arms... Hb \$56.00 351pp

	SCIENCE FICTION
	FANTASY
	ROMANCE
	AWARD WINNER
	AUSTRALIAN
	ACTION
	REPRINT
AC	AUDIO CASSETTE
Cd	COMPACT DISC
Pb	PAPERBACK
Hb	HARDBACK
Tp	TRADE PAPERBACK

# Fave Raves

our favourites - new & old

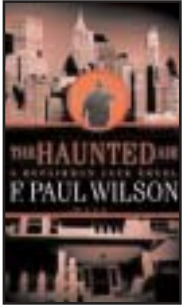
## NEW TITLE

### THE HAUNTED AIR

*A Repairman Jack novel*

F Paul Wilson

Pb \$17.95 511pp



This is the fifth *Repairman Jack* novel (the sixth if you include **The Tomb** which is the second of *The Adversary Cycle*). This is very clever horror. For those unfamiliar with Wilson, pretty much everything he writes (and he's written quite a bit) is linked by the ultimate good vs evil battle, lots of it occurring in the district of Monroe in New York. It starts with a seemingly simple vampire story, **The Keep** (Pb \$15.95) and **The Tomb** (Pb \$17.95), at which point you have the *Repairman Jack* novels splicing off and running concurrently to the rest of the *Adversary Circle*, only to link back in with *Nightworld*. **The Keep** was written in 1981 - how long Wilson has had all this plotted out (let alone kept it straight in his head) is something I'd love to ask him. The other nice thing is that you can read *The Adversary Cycle* and the *Repairman Jack* novels independently of each other.

**The Haunted Air** has Jack hired by Lyle and Charlie, two brothers who are running a spiritualist/psychic scam a little too well. A pair of competing "psychics", having had too many customers lured away, start taking it out on the Kenton brothers. Things escalate when things start going wrong inside their home - windows not closing, the TV running with no power, but as things get weirder, the brothers realise that there is something else going on. Jack scams those attacking the Kentons, setting them up for public humiliation and falling foul of the law with his usual style and wit (I love the way this guy works). He is also working a second case - hired by a mystery man to stop his brother Eli from hurting anyone on the next full moon. It's a simple job - all Jack has to do is watch the guy. Jack has been previously warned that there is no coincidence for him, and it turns out that the two cases are related, and Jack, his partner Gia, her daughter Vicky and their unborn child are under threat, not only from Eli but also the ghost haunting the Kentons, as well as The Otherness - the force trying to destroy ours and every other reality.

It sounds too much to swallow, but believe me - these books are crafted well, the characters are realistic and engaging, and they have me hooked from the beginning every time. Wilson manages to merge the plausible with the implausible in a brilliant series that never fails to deliver. My only concern is that the two story arcs are very close to merging - and then what will happen to Jack??? The two series are brilliant and highly recommended. Some of the *Adversary* books are out of print but they are worth hunting down. - *Stephanie*

## OLD TITLE

### THE SIEGE OF ARRANDIN

*The Arrandin Trilogy #01*

Marcus Herniman

Pb \$16.95

Marcus Herniman has written the type of tale where you are instantly thrown into a fully realised world; it has history, depth, character and a weight behind it like few first novels that I've read. With a scope that rivals Erikson's *Malazan* books and Feist's *Magician*, this tale blends both High Fantasy Adventure with a real social commentary as conveyed by characters who are both human and believable.

The story opens with terrifying assaults on the border manors of the Empire of Lautun. The dark magics of the Eastern Wizards overrun defences and barbarian armies are swiftly camped around the walls of the city of Arrandin. The Lord of Arrandin seeks help from the Council of Magi and the Emperor, and so begins the adventure. In the border city of Arrandin and the coastal city of Ellanguan, Herniman weaves his tale around a small group of core characters.

Political in-fighting and manoeuvring is enacted in the court plots of the Houses Noble, spilling over to the bitter rivalry between the priesthoods of the elder gods, the Aeshtar, and those of the newer gods, known as the Vashtar. Emperor Rhydden, himself a follower of the Imperial Vashtar gods, moves his subjects - allies and opponents alike - with the ease of moving pieces on a chess board. With dubious intent, he commends the military Orders of the Aeshtar and the Council Magi, of whom he has a deep-seated mistrust, ahead to Arrandin's aid while he gathers his own army.

Kellarn, a scion of the House of Dortrean, becomes entangled in the plots of the Souther Empire. In Arrandin, the High Councillor Rhysana leads a team of magi in search of a key to the ancient magical defences of the city. There she discovers that even the lofty heights of the Council of Magi do not provide defence against treachery and intrigue, from both within and without, and that beneath the surface of the Easterner invasion lies a darker, older menace.

Packed to bursting with characters you can both love and hate, this story is set in a world that is new and hauntingly familiar. More than one writer has fallen beneath the weight of their own creation when world building, but in the delivery of his first published work, Herniman pulls it off and more. There is fine attention to detail and the natural rhythm and eloquence of the writing deftly handles the complexities of the story, encompassing an ease of style - a voice - that is often the hallmark of more experienced writers.

If you enjoy magic and adventure then you can't go past the first book in the Arrandin trilogy and its sequels, **The Treason of Dortrean** (Pb \$17.95) and **The Fall of Lautun** (Pb \$17.95)

## FLAVIA BUJOR

### THE PROPHECY OF THE GEMS

Three young girls, Jade, Amber and Opal, each from very different backgrounds, discover on the day of their 14th birthday that they are adopted. An ancient prophecy compels them to leave their families to complete their mission in a far-off kingdom. Each girl is given custody of a magic stone which corresponds to her name. Although they dislike each other on sight, they have to overlook their differences in order to escape the dangers that threaten them. Their quest will lead them into a ferocious battle against the forces of evil. Hb \$19.95 440pp

## JACQUELINE CAREY

### KUSHIEL'S AVATAR

*Kushiel #3*. Phèdre has lain with princes and pirate kings, battled a wicked temptress, and saved two nations. Through it all, the devoted swordsman Joscelin has been at her side. But Phèdre's plans will put his pledge to the test, for she has never forgotten her childhood friend Hyacinthe. She has spent ten long years searching for the key to free him from his eternal indenture to the Master of Straights. Her search will take them across the world to a power so intense and mysterious, none dare speak its name. Pb \$17.95 750pp



**DEBORAH CHESTER**

 **REALM OF LIGHT**

*Ruby Throne #3.* After nine centuries, Emperor Kostimon's rule is ending and the Dark Lord is set to assume his place on the throne. Darkness sweeps the land, leaving death and destruction in its wake. Only Caelan and Elandra possess the magic to fight the shadows. Now, as destiny beckons, they must lead their world into the Realm of Light. Pb \$17.95 395pp

**TED CHIANG**

 **STORIES OF YOUR LIFE AND OTHERS**

Ted Chiang's first published story, *Tower of Babylon*, won the *Nebula Award* in 1990. Subsequent stories have won the *Asimov's SF Magazine* reader poll, a second *Nebula Award*, the *Theodore Sturgeon Memorial Award*, and the *Sidewise Award* for alternate history. He won the *John W Campbell Award for Best New Writer* in 1992. Story for story, he is the most honoured young writer in modern SF. Collected here for the first time are all seven of his stories so far, plus an eighth story written especially for this volume. Tp \$30.00 333pp

**STEVE COCKAYNE**

 **THE SEAGULL DROVERS**

*Legends of the Land #3.* Nothing is right in the Land. King Matthew is indisposed, the city dominated by the malevolent Fang. Crops are dying and even the seagulls have lost their way. Everywhere, people are searching for answers. Leonardo Pegasus, retired magician, probes the murky depths of the Signal Network, where unseen forces vie for supremacy. Ashleigh Brown, urban teenager, yearns for the open road, for the gaudy wagon of the Wanderer Liam Blackwood. Charles Bannister, wealthy businessman, plunders the Outer Isles, hunting the secret riches that lie buried there. Tp \$29.95 328pp

**DAVID COE**

 **SEEDS OF BETRAYAL**

*Winds of the Forelands #2.* The realms of the Forelands are in turmoil as a result of the machinations of a powerful conspiracy of sorcerers, members of a race called the Qirsi. Though many refuse to acknowledge the possibility of a conspiracy, a handful of Qirsi and nobles realise that the time has come to take action. But the rebels don't know of each other's actions and the tenuous threads holding the realms together are starting to unravel. The future of the entire Forelands is in danger, and a 900-year-old grudge may lead to civil war. Those who wish to prevent it must place their hopes in a reluctant assassin, a few Qirsi and nobles, and the one man who may be able to defeat the leader of the conspiracy... if he can survive long enough to do it. Pb \$17.95 594pp

**JENNIFER COOK**

 **ARIADNE: THE MAIDEN AND THE MINOTAUR**

Based on the Greek myth of Theseus and the minotaur, the tale of a hero who enters a labyrinth and kills a terrible monster with the help of a beautiful princess, this tale is written from the princess' point of view. How did it feel to help Theseus, who promised her marriage only to dump her on an island in the Aegean and run off with her sister? Ariadne, like so many women in classic mythology, was given a minor role in the grand tale, but without her sensible advice Theseus would have failed. Pb \$16.95 206pp

**GARY CREW & STEVEN WOOLMAN**

 **BENEATH THE SURFACE**

Spiro, now a doctor of science, is returning to the small town of Preston where he grew up and the old water tower that stands outside the town. There is a mystery to uncover and Spiro is in search of an explanation for the nightmares that haunt him. What he discovers will change his life forever. Hb \$27.95 32pp

**LEAH CUTTER**

 **THE CAVES OF BUDA**

When Zita's grandfather flees his hospital bed - raving about demons, she must track him to his boyhood home of Budapest. But Zita is about to discover that his seeming madness masks a terrible truth - and the world may soon face a danger unlike any history has seen before... Pb \$15.95 304pp

**JOHN DALMAS**

 **THE SECOND COMING**

Chaos was sweeping the world, governments were on the verge of collapse, the global economy was hitting rock bottom - and then a man appeared, Nagunda Aran, a charismatic speaker who worked miracles and touched millions of Americans. As his influence grew, powerful men perceived him as a threat to their dominion and made plans to have him eliminated. But one assassin after another failed, thwarted by bizarre circumstances, sometimes even killing each other by accident when multiple assassins were sent to do the job. And Aran said that the attempts to kill him were of no importance, since he was fated to die soon, as would many thousands more in an impending cosmic disaster that he predicted was descending on the Earth. Hb \$49.95 372pp



**CHARLES DICKINSON**

 **A SHORTCUT IN TIME**

Euclid, Illinois, is a town of many shortcuts, between houses, through orchards, and across fields. Josh Winkler, a local artist and longtime resident, knows these irregular pathways well, but is thoroughly taken aback when a hasty dash down a familiar walk deposits him 15 minutes in the past—literally. At first, Josh is more intrigued than alarmed by this accidental time travel. Then a lost young woman appears, claiming to be from 1908. As his life, his family, his town and even history itself begin to unravel, Josh gradually realises that his only salvation may lie in **A Shortcut in Time**. Tp \$32.95 288pp

**ROBERT DOHERTY**

 **LEGEND**

*Area 51 #9.* They were born on a planet in the spiral arm of the Milky Way Galaxy. In a bloody revolution they became known as godkillers - two humans who led a revolt against the deathless race, the Airlia, and a plan to breed human foot soldiers for ceaseless intergalactic warfare. Now Donnchadh and Gwalcmai are the watchers, waiting for the moment when humankind can wage its last battle for survival. Pb \$15.95 313pp

**DAVID & LEIGH EDDINGS**

 **THE ELDER GODS**

*Dreamers #1.* The Dreamers have the power to change the world with their dreams - they look like children, but are, actually, sleeping gods. They're an apparition designed to fool the Lord of the Wasteland, an enemy that plans to use the moment of the divinities' waking to get rid of them and the other divinities that are already awake. The time for a switchover is approaching fast. There will be battle. There will be trickery and deception. Tribes of humans, the sea and the earth, the weather and creatures of the deep will all play their part in the epic struggle against the hive mentality of the Lord of the Wasteland. Tp \$29.95 424pp

**CATHERINE FISHER**

 **THE ARCHON**

*The Oracle #2.* The Archon vows to lead a pilgrimage to the Well of Songs to seek peace with the Rain Queen and save the land from the terrible drought. The Well is hidden in the mountains across the desert. With only Oblek, Seth and two tomb-thieves known as the Jackal and the Fox for company, the Archon's journey is treacherous and dangerous. They must face the Great Desolation and the monstrous animals outlined on the desert floor, animals with mythical powers, and they must survive without Mirany, bearer-of-the-god and true friend of the Archon, who has had to remain behind to face a threat much closer to home... Pb \$17.95 392pp

**ERIC FLINT & ANDREW DENNIS**

 **1634: THE GALILEO AFFAIR**

The Thirty Years War continues to ravage 17th century Europe, but a new force is gathering power and influence: the Confederated Principalities of Europe, an alliance between Gustavus Adolphus, King of Sweden and the West Virginians from the 20th century led by Mike Stearns who were hurled centuries into the past by a mysterious cosmic accident. They hope to establish commercial ties with Turkey's Ottoman Empire and to establish diplomatic ties with the Vatican. But a Venetian artisan may cause all their plans to come to naught. Having read 20th century history books of the period, he has become determined to rescue Galileo from his trial for heresy. The Americans are divided on whether to help him or stop him and whether he succeeds or fails, the results may be catastrophic for the CPE. Hb \$54.00 549pp

**SANDRA FORRESTER**

 **THE WITCHES OF SEA-DRAGON BAY**

Beatrice and her friends Cyrus, Ollie and Teddy go to a very unusual beach resort, where the waters are filled with sea serpents and monsters. Beatrice is continuing her mission to break the spell of Dally Rumpe, the evil sorcerer whose dark powers extend over many different realms. Pb \$12.95 228pp

**JACKIE FRENCH**

 **FLESH AND BLOOD**

*Outlands #3.* The city has called on Danielle Forest, Virtual Engineer, to find the source of a new influenza epidemic that is infecting the City and threatening the Outlands. Those affected become zombies intent on killing all around them. If the epidemic is not controlled, the deaths are likely to be greater than anything seen since the Black Death. Danielle and her boyfriend, Neil, may be infected with the disease, so they must race against time to find the source in order for an antidote to be made. Pb \$15.95 212pp

**DAVID GEMMELL**

 **THE SWORDS OF NIGHT AND DAY**

*Skilgannon the Damned #2.* An ancient prophecy foretold that Skilgannon would return in his people's darkest hour. To most, this is a foolish hope. But not so to Landis Kan. For years, Kan searched for the tomb of Skilgannon the Damned. And at last, he found it, gathering up the bones and performing the mystic ritual. But the reborn hero is an enigma: a young man whose warrior skills are blunted and whose memories are fragmented. This Skilgannon is a man out of time, marooned in a world as strange to him as a dream, remote from all he knew and loved. Hb \$59.95 459pp Tp \$32.95 459pp

**DAVID GEMMELL**

 **WHITE WOLF**

*Skilgannon the Damned #1.* Skilgannon the Damned had vanished from the pages of history. No-one knew where he had gone, following the terrible triumph at Perapolis and the assassins sent by the Witch Queen could find no trace of his passing. Three years later, a murderous mob gathers outside a monastery, faced by a single, unarmed priest. In a few terrifying seconds their world is changed for ever and word spreads across the lands of the East - Skilgannon is back. Now he must travel across a perilous, demon-haunted realm seeking a mysterious temple and the ageless goddess who rules it. With assassins on his trail and an army of murderous foes ahead, the Damned sets off on a quest to bring the dead to life. But he does not travel alone. The man beside him is Druss the Legend. Pb \$21.95 589pp

**ELIZABETH GILLIGAN**

 **THE SILKEN SHROUD**

*Silken Magic #2.* This series melds the magic, romance and vengeance of the gypsy culture with the silk trade, ghostly spirits and a true love which is repeatedly thwarted. Pb \$15.95 480pp

**SUSAN GRANT**

  **THE LEGEND OF BANZAI MAGUIRE**

*2176 #1.* After US Air Force pilot Bree 'Banzai' Maguire is shot down in Korean airspace, she awakens in the year 2176 to a romantic adventure. Pb \$15.95 343pp

**KRISTINE GRAYSON**

 **ABSOLUTELY CAPTIVATED**

CPA Travers Kineally lives an ordinary life, but life gets extraordinary when his sister gets him to drive three women halfway across the country to look for Zoe Sinclair, who couldn't possibly still be alive and certainly cannot be the beautiful woman they finally locate. Then he learns he isn't just a magician with math - he's a mage. But what really makes him nervous is that he can't get Zoe out of his mind. Pb \$15.95 384pp

**JON COURTENAY GRIMWOOD**

 **LUCIFER'S DRAGON**

Passion di Orchi is no more than the obscenely rich daughter of a West Coast mafia boss - until she decides to rebuild Venice in the middle of the Pacific. A century later, the daughter of Count Ryuchi slips away from her father's palazzo, out to the levels to play Lucifer's Dragon. A multi-level, self-perpetuating, true 3D trawl through the Apocalypse, Lucifer's Dragon is coded so the game never repeats its own failures. But an altercation in a bar puts Karo on a collision course with NVPD officer Angeli, drafted in by media giant CySat to investigate a murder she knows way too much about.... Pb \$19.95 377pp

**DEBORAH HALE**

  **THE WIZARD'S WARD**

When her wizard guardian announces Maura is to be queen, he also reveals that first she must find and unite with their country's legendary 'Waiting King' in order to overthrow the enemy occupation. Men have searched for the fabled warrior for ages - what chance has a young witch gifted in life-magic? Filled with fear and determination, as well as wits and magic, Maura sets forth. Her only ally is the outlaw Rath. As midsummer approaches, their mission is in jeopardy from the Han outlaws and treasure hunters - and even their own folk, who are wary of the witch and the wolf. But the greatest complication is the knowledge that if they do not find the king, Maura need not sacrifice all to be queen. Tp \$29.95 409pp

**THOMAS HARLAN**

 **HOUSE OF REEDS**

*Aztec Empire #2.* Xenorcheologist Gretchen Anderssen had hoped to enjoy her well-earned vacation, but the Company has other plans for her - when she checks in for her transport, she's ordered to make a quick trip to investigate reports of a possible First Sun artefact. She just has to file a report. But it smells bad, says Gretchen's Hesht companion, Magdalena. The Company pilot assigned to Anderssen's analysis team agrees. And they are right. Unbeknownst to anyone at the Company, the Imperial Mexican Priesthood has decided to wage a war - a war not of conquest or defense, but a "flowery war", planned and fomented for the purpose of bleeding the Emperor's youngest son. And Gretchen and her team are headed right into the middle of the battle. Hb \$56.00 414pp

**ANNE HARRIS**

 **INVENTING MEMORY**

Shula is a slave in fabled Sumer - until Inanna, Queen of Heaven, appears before her. Chosen by the Goddess for reasons she cannot begin to fathom, Shula is freed from bondage and set upon an uncertain path toward a new and mysterious destiny. But the attention of the gods is a dangerous thing... Wendy Chrenko is an overworked graduate student, researching her dissertation on *Remnants of Matriarchy in the Ancient Sumerian Inanna Cycle*. Still recovering from a failed love affair, Wendy is determined to prove that men and women once lived together in perfect harmony, even if it means volunteering for a bizarre and dangerous scientific experiment. Separated by millennia, Shula and Wendy are two very different women, leading completely separate lives, or maybe not. Hb \$56.00 351pp



**LIAN HEARN**

 **GRASS FOR HIS PILLOW**

*Tales of the Otori #2.* Takeo is bound by the bargain he made with the Tribe and must put his skills at their service. Kaede, devastated by Takeo's leave-taking, returns to her parents' home and the ruin that her estate has become. Finding her father on the verge of insanity and pregnant with Takeo's child, Kaede is determined to educate herself and her sisters and save her domain. Pb \$19.95 353pp

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The race is heating up between the US and China to develop a quantum computer with infinite capabilities to crack any enemy's codes, yet keep secure its own secrets. Dr Jaron Kwok was working for the US government to build such a computer. But in a hotel in Hong Kong, a Chinese policewoman sifts through the bizarre, ashlike remains of what's left of the doctor. With the clock ticking, alliances will be forged and there are those who will stop at nothing to discover what the doctor knew. As the search for answers intensifies, it becomes chillingly clear that the quantum computer both sides so desperately want will be more powerful, more dangerous than anyone could have ever imagined. Tp \$32.95 434pp

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 **THE DIVIDE**

Felix is brave and resourceful, but has a heart condition that threatens his life. His parents take him on holiday to Costa Rica, where they visit the Divide, a place where the waters that run down to the Pacific and Atlantic oceans, separate. But at this exact spot Felix faints and when he opens his eyes, he discovers he's arrived in an amazing world where mythical creatures and magic are real, and humans and science are just rumour and legend. Luckily, Ironclaw, a fearsome, but kindly brazzle takes him under his wing, and together with Bettony, a tangle-girl, they set out to find a cure for Felix's condition and the way back home. Pb \$16.95 320pp

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17-year-old Artemis Blastsides fumes in the dreary Angels Academy for Young Ladies, longing for the life her mother led, as a notorious female pirate. She finally seizes the chance to escape, along with her classmate, Belladora Fan. They arrive at the unruly inn, The Portsmouth Pudding, where Art finds some of her mother's crew. As she is trying to convince them of who she is, highwayman Cuckoo Jack arrives and sends the crew, with Art and Belladora, flying for the ship and open water. Suddenly a stowaway emerges from a rum barrel - Felix Phoenix, hopelessly sea-sick. And this is just the beginning of the adventure... Hb \$32.95 370pp

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*Firekeepers #3.* Melina Shield, the thoroughly discredited sorceress, whose power-hungry intrigues have already made so much trouble for Firekeeper, has once more used her power to cloud men's minds and has induced the ruler of New Kelvin to marry her. This is bad news on a lot of fronts. It's particularly bad news for Firekeeper. Melina hasn't abandoned her schemes to gain power through the use of forbidden ancient sorcery. And the leaders of the royal beasts who watch over this world have given Firekeeper and her intelligent wolf companion Blind Seer, the responsibility for stopping her. Pb \$17.95 754pp



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*The World Gates #3.* Lauren Dane and Molly McColl, two sisters transformed, now hold the future of all living things in their hands - for Lauren's mission to bring life-giving magic back to Earth and other dying worlds has not gone unnoticed. Molly's power to protect her will not hold against the countless ancient evils that are closing in. For the maelstrom is coming to drag down gods and humans alike. And darkness will surely prevail unless a last, desperate stand is made against the dreaded Night Watch, eater of worlds. Pb \$15.95 324pp

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 **THE THREE SISTERS**

Once Tari ruled in the land of Yarmar - a mysterious race of visionaries and healers whose power has since faded to legend. Then the armies of Mir came to destroy and enslave. Now, in their relentless drive for domination, the despised Mirayan Prince Scarvan and his loyal duke, Wolf Madraga, have both claimed a prize beyond compare. She is called Elena Starchild, the bewitching wife of a newly slain woodlands leader. She is Tari, possessing a fatal beauty that confounds and obsesses her lustful captors and she will not be abandoned. Drawn from their island sanctuary by a sister's plight, a warrior and a sorceress return to an oppressed land, carrying with them the magic of hope, spirit and glorious rebellion. But there are shadows in their own hearts that first must be conquered before a prisoner is freed and a mighty destiny can come to pass. Pb \$17.95 498pp

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ANNE McCAFFREY & ELIZABETH ANN SCARBOROUGH

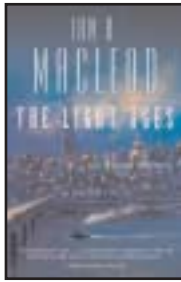
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*Acorna #7.* Acorna has defeated slavers, a deadly international conspiracy and the vicious alien Khleevi, only to endure the loss of her beloved Aari. Now, Aari has returned and together they can finish rebuilding their home world. But Aari is oddly changed, to the point where he barely remembers Acorna - much less their love - and his actions grow more and more sinister... Hb \$54.00 308pp

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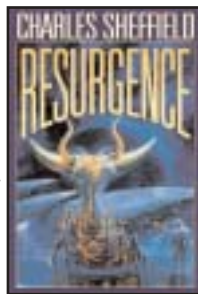
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The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse have arrived on their different coloured horses: one black, one white, one pale and one pink and are searching for Rex Boggs, Wizard of Limbo, who prevented their arrival on Hove seafont by rewriting the future. Tp \$30.00 308pp

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Robert Londrigan seems to have it all. He is a newscaster with a rising career. He has a beautiful wife, Denise and a new baby on the way. But in just a few short hours Robert's world is turned upside down. Now his family is gone, but the torment only gets worse when his daughter's body is stolen from the morgue by a strange, disfigured man... Robert is about to begin a journey into a world of nightmare, an unimaginable world of mystery, horror and revelation. He will learn, from both the living and the dead, secrets about this world and things beyond this world. Though his journey will be grotesque, terrifying and heartbreaking, he will not be allowed to stop. But can he survive with his mind intact? Can he survive at all? Pb \$15.95 378pp

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New Orleans natives Rickey and G-man are lifetime friends and down-and-out line cooks desperate to make a quick buck. When Rickey concocts the idea of opening a restaurant in their alcohol-loving hometown where every dish packs a spirited punch, they know they're on their way to the bank. With some wheeling and dealing, a slew of great recipes, and a few lucky breaks, Rickey and G-man are soon on their way to opening Liquor, their very own restaurant. But first they need to pacify a local crank who doesn't want to see his neighbourhood disturbed, sidestep Rickey's deranged ex-boss, rein in their big-mouth silent partner before he runs amok and stay afloat in a stew of corruption in a town well known for its bottom feeders. Tp \$29.95 339pp

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*Anita Blake #3.* Jean-Claude, the Master Vampire of the city, wants Anita for his own, but his enemies have other plans and to make matters worse, Anita takes a hit to the heart when she meets a stunningly handsome junior high science teacher named Richard Zeeman. They're two humans caught in the crossfire. Or so Anita thinks... (Reprint with new afterword by author.) Hb \$49.95 307pp

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**SHAUN HUTSON  
HELL TO PAY**

A boy's body is discovered on the shores of Kingsfield reservoir. Whoever is carrying out the attacks is careful, methodical and clever. Detective Inspector Alan Fielding is frantic to find the killer before another child is taken... Nikki Reed knows only too well what the ominous knock on the front door means - the loan sharks want their money back, and if they don't get it, they're going to get nasty. Roma Todd's relationship with record company boss David is rife with deceit and deception, but the one thing that holds them together is their daughter Kirsten. And though Kirsten may seem like any other child, she suffers from an extraordinary illness, one that without her medication can unleash a bizarre and deadly trail of horror... All desperate people running out of time. When their worlds collide, there'll be hell to pay. Pb \$19.95 369pp

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Something hideous is about to happen to the small town of Shillingham. Why does a madman shoot at the workers tearing down the old gallows at the crossroads? Why are the children drawn to play in its shadow, as if by a silent command? What is the eerie, thickening fog that surrounds the village, cutting off the inhabitants from the outside world? Beneath the ground, something stirs. As the workers continue working and the bulldozers roll on, a dark and unimaginable evil, imprisoned beneath the gallows for centuries, slowly awakes. It is alive. It is powerful and cunning and it wants revenge. Pb \$15.95 339pp

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Ward Hopkins is afraid. He's seen something dreadful in the high plains of the Columbia River. It's sent him fleeing cross country, forever running. And in his wake, one by one, people are dying. Something is following him. Pb \$15.95 360pp

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*Dark Ages #10.* Deep in the wilds of Livonia, the vampire warlord Qarakh has become a power to be reckoned with. But now, the ancient Ventrue Alexander marches toward his lands, with undead knights at his side. This ancient Cainite has crushed many before him. Can Qarakh hope to stand where so many have fallen? Pb \$15.95 283pp

**F PAUL WILSON**  
**THE HAUNTED AIR**

Repairman Jack doesn't believe a house can be haunted. But he's about to change that tune...It started off as a lark, a late-night jaunt from a boring party to the home of a psychic medium, with Jack dragged along as a reluctant participant. But as soon as Jack and Gia step across the threshold, the house and the earth itself shake to the accompaniment of a tortured scream. The house has a horrific history. The current owners, clever practitioners of spiritualist hocus-pocus, use high-tech tricks to dupe their marks. Unable to go to the police for fear of exposing their own scams, they hire Repairman Jack to fix their problem. Jack takes the job, figuring he'll straighten out the situation by engaging in one of his favourite pastimes: scamming a scammer. But soon he learns that this fix-it involves more than professional jealousy in the spook trade... Pb \$17.95 532pp

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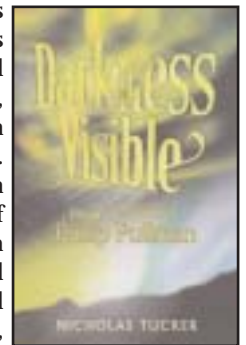
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## WHAT WE'VE BEEN READING...

**Odysseus: A Life** by Charles Rowan Beye (Hb \$49.94). This is a pseudo-biography of Odysseus, one of Western civilisation's most celebrated heroes. The book takes a modern approach to his life, from his childhood growing up on a small Greek island, his heroics on the battlefields of Troy, to his infamous journey battling (and seducing) gods and all sorts of mythical creatures. Beye, a professor specialising in the ancient classics, definitely knows his stuff. He successfully portrays Odysseus as a figure who strives for control and order in his life, something that is hard to achieve in a world where gods often meddle and interfere at whim. Drawing from various historical sources, Beye's take on Odysseus is free from any academic bore, leaving the reader to marvel at the exciting life that Odysseus led. - John

With **The Last Light of the Sun** (Hb \$54.00), Guy Gavriel Kay has created another fantastic story, blending fantasy with history and literature, again linking the histories and lands of his previous books, particularly **Lions of Al Rassan** (Pb \$18.95) and *The Sarantine Mosaic* series. He is one of a couple of authors for whom I have to use the character listing at the front. *Locus Magazine* mentioned he was releasing a duology this year, but this reads like a stand-alone. This didn't have quite the twists as most of his works, but was still a fantastic book. - Stephanie

**Blood** by Tony Shillitoe (Pb \$17.95). The first book in the *Ashvak Chronicles* marks the start of an exciting new epic. Tony weaves a believable world populated with strong characters and cultural themes. Though a fantasy novel, I am drawn to liken this book to Frank Herbert's *Dune* in both its scope and social commentary. Set in a Roman-like Empire, the story is filled with adventure, while depicting the day-to-day struggles of a conquered people amongst blood-thirsty political intrigue that rivals George R R Martin at his best. - Mark

**New Spring** by Robert Jordan (Tp \$32.95). The first of three prequels, this is an expansion of the novella found in Silverberg's *Legends* anthology. While there has been some criticism of Jordan for writing a prequel before finishing *The Wheel of Time* series, I really enjoyed this book. The narrative is a lot tighter than the last few books of the original series and is similar in feel to the earlier tales. It is essentially the story of how Moiraine and Suan Sanche became involved in the hunt for the Dragon Reborn and how Lan became Moiraine's warder. Some things about the early books are cleared up - not everything of course, but it does make you want to go back and read them all again. - Mark

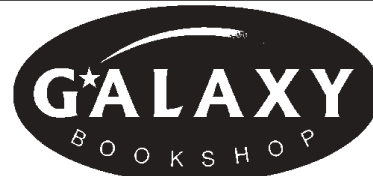
**Revelation Space** by Alastair Reynolds (Pb \$19.95). This space odyssey is a very gritty tale, in that there is a sense of bleakness in the future portrayed. Interstellar space travel has brought an expansion to human civilisation, but the jumps in technological advances have been matched closely with mutations in viruses that can now infect cybernetic and nano machinery, both of which have become integral to the divisions in human social class. There is also a sense of lawlessness about the future, but Reynolds has woven a convincing, if somewhat disjointed tale that, while complete in itself, sets the scene for more to come, as the remnants of an ancient civilisation come to light. The concepts are original and ambitious and the characters are strong and involving... but I recommend you have a "light" book ready to pick you up after you finish it. - Mark

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Noun: stocktake. An instance of stocktaking "the auditor did not attend the stocktake or check the valuations"; - stock-take. Verb: stock-take. Make or include in an itemized record or report "stock-take all books before the end of the year"; - inventory, take stock. Derived forms: stock-takes, stock-taking, stocktakes. Type of: inventory, inventorying, list, stocktaking, stock-taking. Encyclopedia: Stocktake. Stock-taking or "inventory checking" or "wall-to-wall" is the physical verification of the quantities and condition of items held in an inventory or warehouse. This may be done to provide an audit of existing stock. It is also the source of stock discrepancy information. Stock-taking may be performed as an intensive annual, end of fiscal year, procedure or may be done continuously by means of a cycle count. An annual end of fiscal year stock-taking is typically undertaken for use in a company's