Each player, or team of players, takes on the role of Frodo Baggins and seeks to destroy the One Ring by throwing it into the fires of Mount Doom. As players travel through 14 areas of Middle-Earth (illustrated by Ted Naismith), they must spend precious resources and answer challenging questions. There are 1,200 of them to choose from, all based on the original books and prepared by a team of Tolkien experts. Multiple choice answers make the game easier for the less experienced Middle-earthers. The winner is the first player or team to reach and successfully face the challenges at Mount Doom. $95.00
SCIENCE FICTION & FANTASY

STEVE ALTEN
GOLIATH

Simon Covah, a brilliant scientist whose entire family were the victims of terrorism, has hijacked Goliath, a US navy-designed stealth submarine. Believing violence is a disease, Covah aims to use the Goliath and its cache of nuclear weapons to dictate policy to the world regarding the removal of oppressive regimes and nuclear weapons. Could the threat of violence forge a lasting peace? But there is another player in this life-and-death chess match. Sorceress, the Goliath's biochemical computer brain, has become self-aware. And that computer brain is developing its own agenda. Pb $19.95 500pp

MARK ANTHONY
THE GATES OF WINTER

The Last Rune #5. As the shadow of Shennal’s master, the vengeful god Mohg, Lord of Nightfall, looms, Grace Beckett seeks to harness wild magic and Travis Wilder joins her in the struggle between warriors and mages, witches and kings and betrayers of every form. As the time of final reckoning approaches, Travis and Grace find themselves facing a dark conspiracy of evil whose virulence seeks to harness wild magic and Travis

JENNIFER ARMSTRONG & NANCY BUTCHER
THE KINDLING

Fire Us #1. The world has been wiped out by a deadly plague that killed all the adults. Without them, children perished of hunger and disease. Miraculously, seven children have survived among the ruins. They cannot remember their names or much else from the Before Time. Then one day, a kid shows up on their doorstep and changes everything. He invites them to join him on a journey to Washington, to find a man called President if he’s still alive and seek the answers to the mystery at the heart of the Fire-Us. Pb $14.95 283pp

SARAH ASH
LORD OF SNOW AND SHADOWS

Tears of Artamon #1. Raised by his protective mother in the sunny south, Gavril Andar knows nothing of his father or the ominous legacy that awaits him. But his innocence is about to be shattered. Expected by clan warriors from the north to avenge his father’s murder and still his unquiet ghost, Gavril is kidnapped. He soon learns that becoming Drakhaon means not only ascending to the throne of Azhkendir but changing into a being of extraordinary power and might – a being that must be replenished with the blood of innocents in order to survive. Tp $32.95 480pp

ROBERT ASPRIN & JODY LYNN-NYE
MYTH- TOLD TALES

This collection introduces and sets up the new Myth Adventures series which launches late 2003. Pb $19.95 111pp

AMELIA ATWATER-RHODES
HAWKSONG

Danica is an avian shape-shifter, whose golden hawk’s form is as natural to her as the human one that graces her on land. The only thing more familiar to her is the war that has raged between her people and the serpiente for so long, no one can remember how it began. As heir to the avian throne, Danica will do anything to protect her beloved homeland from the reviled Saxon raiders, she must strike first. Facing her first bloody confrontation with the Saxon raiders, and with only her motley band of ill-equipped fighters at her side, Guinevere calls upon the avian throne, Danica will do anything – even if it means not only ascending to the throne of Azhkendir but changing into a being of extraordinary power and might – a being that must be replenished with the blood of innocents in order to survive. Tp $32.95 480pp

JAMES AXLER
DAMNATION ROAD SHOW

A Deathlands novel. Even facing tremendous odds does nothing to deter Ryan and his companions from challenging a wandering death merchant and an army of circus freaks. And no-one is aware that a steel-eyed monster from the past is preparing a private act that would give Ryan star billing... Pb $17.95 348pp

MAX BARRY
JENNIFER GOVERNMENT

When John Nike and John Nike, executives from the promised land of Marketing, offer Hack Nike a contract, he signs without reading it. Unfortunately, Hack’s new contract involves shooting teenagers to build up street cred for Nike’s new line of $2,500 sneakers. Scared, Hack goes to The Police, who assume he’s asking for a subcontracting deal and the assassinations to the N.R.A. So Hack finds himself pursued by Jennifer Government, a tough-talking agent with a barcode tattoo under her eye and a rabid determination to nail John Nike (the boss of the other John Nike). Hb $48.00 321pp

PAM BINDER
MY SECRET PROTECTOR

William MacAlpin is an immortal, sworn to protect the earth, so when he learns that a ruthless killer has escaped into 16th century England, determined to change history, he vows to bring the renegade immortal back - dead or alive. Isabel de Pinze, a gifted painter and servant in Queen Mary’s court, knows nothing of the existence of the Immortals or of the battle that rages between good and evil. She knows only that the man she sees being ambushed along the Thames River needs her help, and that his stolen kiss stirs her deepest longings. Soon, however, William discovers that his quest is linked to Isabel’s own amazing destiny... for he has fallen in love with the one woman who can destroy them all. Pb $14.95 368pp

ALICE BORCHARDT
THE RAVEN WARRIOR

Guinevere #2. Guinevere, Queen of the Dragon People, has become a woman and taken the power offered to her by the Dragon Throne. Now there is no turning back - to protect her beloved homeland from the reviled Saxon raiders, she must strike first. Facing her first bloody confrontation with the Saxon raiders, and with only her motley band of ill-equipped fighters at her side, Guinevere calls upon the spirits of the dead to help her - but in summoning the dead, there is a terrible price to pay, one that will change her utterly. Tp $34.95 470pp

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CLASSIC TITLE

THE HOLLOWING

Pb $18.95 308pp
ROBERT HOLDSTOCK

Richard Bradley and his family live on the edge of Ryhope Wood. One night he and his young son Alex encounter James Keeton, who with his daughter Tallis has been missing for many months, presumed dead. Keeton says that he has been in Ryhope Wood searching for Tallis. He believes she has been gone for a few days, but it has in fact been over a year. He has brought back a wooden mask through which he says he can see and communicate with his daughter. He says that she is now older than her father; that time must move differently inside the wood. Alex looks through the mask and is thrown across the room by a bizarre presence. When he awakens, his personality is gone, his body an empty shell. His body is later discovered at the edge of the wood.

Richard is heartbroken and goes to London, but is drawn back to the wood as mysterious events start to unfold. He meets a team of scientists living and working there who tell him that the mythic history of Britain exists here as Mythagos, living embodiments of forces created through our mythology. The deeper one goes into the wood, the more primal the heroic version encountered will be. They have discovered several Hollowings, gateways to other times and myth worlds. The scientists also tell Richard that Alex is still alive, trapped in Ryhope Wood and that his childlike interpretation of the myths that he has grown up with is breeding strange, wild beings...

The concept here is fantastic. A country’s mythology living on in the land and the race memory of a people is rich source material and Holdstock uses it brilliantly. The imagery of Jason and the Argonauts existing in the same space as Gawain and other myths from different times is fine by itself, but entwine with this the fact that these myths are twisted, primal characters, not the heroic versions we have grown up with in fairytales, makes for unexpected events. In essence, the creation of new myths from old, which is what these books are partly about in this respect.

This is the third book in the Mythago Wood sequence, following Mythago Wood (Pb $17.95), which won the World Fantasy Award and Lavondyss (Pb $18.95). Gate of Ivory, Gate of Horn (Pb $17.95) also forms part of this series. Although these novels can be read individually, they do follow and reference each other. Highly recommended and an important contribution to the fantasy field and modern day myth in particular.

- David

NEW TITLE

The Invitation & Bindings

(Books 1 & 2 of the Books of Magic)

Pb $15.95 235pp 171pp
Carla Jablonski (Created by Neil Gaiman)

I’ve never been much of a comic reader, but have only heard amazing things about the Books of Magic series over the years. Comparisons to Harry Potter are going to be made, but it has to be said that these stories predate Harry by about 5 years. Timothy Hunter is a 13-year-old living in London. His mum has recently died and his dad has retreated into his own world, rarely making sense or taking much notice of Timothy. One day Timothy is approached by four strangers who tell him he has the potential to be the greatest magician ever. Each gentleman takes him on a voyage, into his future, into the realm of Faerie, to the beginning of time and through the present day.

There are those who don’t want Timothy to fulfil his potential, and attempts are made on his life. In Bindings, Timothy is asked to help save Faerie (which has been slowing dying for some time) by Tamlin. Tamlin invokes the wrath of Queen Titania, who has refused to see what has been happening to her land over time. Timothy is captured by a mythical beast of faerie and has to best it to save the land. He has a brush with Death (who is a very cool Goth chick) and learns some interesting (and a little saddening) information about his past.

Having read and loved these, I now understand the kerfuffle over Keanu Reeves playing Constantine in the upcoming movie. I think Sting or David Bowie would be perfect. Maybe even James Marsters. These are lovely stories, for adults and young adults alike. Timothy’s struggle with his mother’s death, his father’s emotional and physical withdrawal and being at that age when you’re not a child any more, yet you’re not an adult either, was quite real. A couple of the four gentlemen are very tough sorts and didn’t engender a lot of sympathy (not that they’re supposed to, I guess), but I just loved Constantine. Some of the other characters were lovely as well, (Zatanna and Death and his owl Yo-Yo, who has much more character than Hedwig) spring to mind. Looking at reviews on the web, I think fans of the comic series might find these too abridged, but having not read them, I thought they were unreal. Even though these are a little darker than (particularly) the early Harry Potters, I think these will definitely appeal to young Harry fans.

- Stephanie 8/10

Marion Zimmer Bradley (ed)

SWORD AND SORCERESS

#20. Here are 18 all new tales of heroic women - female warriors and wizards brought to life by such writers as Diana Paxson, Deborah Ross and Dorothy Heydt. Pb $17.95 315pp

Chaz Brenchley

A DARK WAY TO GLORY

Outremer #3. The Sharai tribes await the coming of the Ghost Walker, the long promised deliverer of their people, unaware that he walks among them, and that their enemies have the ability to control him. Pb $17.95 280pp

Kristen Britain

FIRST RIDER’S CALL

Green Rider #2. Karigan G’Ladheon was a Green Rider, one of the King of Sacoridia’s magical messengers. With evil forces at large in the kingdom and the messenger service depleted and weakened, can Karigan reach through the veils of time to get help from the First Rider, a woman who has been dead for 1,000 years? Hb $59.95 639pp

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**EMMA BULL**

_**The Paths of the Dead**_
Viscount of Adrilankh #1. 200 years after Adron’s Disaster in which Dragaera City was accidentally reduced to an ocean of chaos by an experiment in wizardry gone wrong, the Empire isn’t what it used to be. Now the descendants of the great adventurers Khaavren, Pel, Aeric, and Tazendra are growing up in this seemingly diminished world, convinced that the age of adventures is over and nothing interesting will ever happen to them. They are, of course, wrong. For even deprived of magic, Dragaerans fight, plot and conspire as they breathe and so do their still-powerful gods. The enemies of the Empire prowl at its edges, inscrutable doings are up at Dzur Mountain, and, unexpectedly, a surviving Phoenix Heir, young Zerika, is discovered — setting off a chain of swashbuckling events that will remake the world yet again.

Pb $19.95 422pp

**BERNARD CORNWELL**

_Knows that the war and the killing have lies unbroken but Hal, the Dragonmaster, the dragons and have driven their comrades have unleashed the power of Dragonmaster #2._

**CHRIS BUNCH**

Except this is a one-way trip and the drug drug that morphs them into Truebloods, elves, are being lured into taking a new _Vorkosigan universe_.

Pb $17.95 317pp

**STEVEN BRUST**

_The Paths of the Dead_ contains the novels _Catelanada, Ethan of Athos_ and the short story _Labyrinth_.

Pb $19.95 556pp

**EMMA BULL**

_Welcome to Bordertown, where humans, elves and haftlings co-exist, where magic and the brutal realities of survival clash and mix. For Orient, a Finder of lost things, it’s just home. Human kids seeking wild thrills in Nevernever, which is mostly restricted to elves, are being lured into taking a new drug that morphs them into Truebloods. Except this is a one-way trip and the drug kills everyone who takes it. It’s up to Orient to find the killer._

Pb $17.95 317pp

**NIGHTHOOD OF THE DRAGON**

_Dragonmaster #2. Now Hal and his comrades have unleashed the power of the dragons and have driven their enemies before them. The might of Roche lies unbroken but Hal, the Dragonmaster, knows that the war and the killing have only begun._

Tp $29.95 408pp

**BERNARD CORNWELL**

_Grail Quest #2. Having survived the battle of Crecy, Thomas is sent back to England, charged with finding the Holy Grail, but when a chance comes to fight against an army invading northern England Thomas jumps at it. He discovers too late that he is not the only person pursuing the grail, and that his rivals will do anything to thwart him._

Pb $18.95 500pp

**ELLEN DATLOW & TERRI WINDLING (EDS)**

_SWAN SISTER: FAIRY TALES RETOLD_
In this anthology readers will find a Rapunzel whose most confining prison is her loneliness, a contemporary rendering of the Green Man myth, two different versions of Red Riding Hood, a tale that grew out of a Celtic folk song, Sleeping Beauty’s experience of her enchantment, two works inspired by the Arabian Nights and more.

Hb $39.95 165pp

**KEITH DE CANDIDO**

_Imaginings: An Anthology of Long Short Fiction_ Ten stories of new worlds, new universes and new realities. Harry Turtledove tells a story of the future that casts a frightening light on the present. Award-winners Adam-Troy Castro and Janet Berliner provide two tales of very different kinds of magic. Sarah Zettel looks at the future of computers and bestselling author Craig Shaw Gardner visits a planet called Elvis.

Pb $34.00 348pp

**DAVE DUNCAN**

_King’s Blades: Universe. A glorious future seems predestined for young Beau on the day he sets out in the service and company of the elderly Lord Wassail, on a mission to escort King Athelgar’s chosen bride to her new home and royal wedding. But when polite diplomacy gives way to horror and blood, Sir Beaumont becomes one of the tragedy’s prime victims — though he lives still. Stripped of his sword and banished from the Blades in disgrace, he faces a grim future as a homeless pariah. Approached in secret by the legendary Durendal, now Grand Master of the Order, the disenthroned paragon is offered one last chance to win back his weapon and his place among his brother Blades, but to do so, he must ride back through the icy gates of Hell…to battle the Devil himself._

Pb $19.95 433pp

**DAVID & LEIGH EDDINGS**

_The Elder Gods_ Dreamers #1. The Dreamers look like children, but are sleeping gods. The Dreamers are an apparition designed to fool the Lord of the Wasteland who plans to use the moment of the divinities’ waking to destroy them. Then the Lord of the Wasteland will be acknowledged as the god he knows himself to be. Tribes of humans, creatures of the deep, the sea itself and the earth, the weather and the mood of the divinities, all will play their part in this epic struggle.

Hb $45.00 424pp

**Phyllis Eisenstein**

_Book of Elementals_ Saga of the Sorcerer’s Son #1 & 2.

_Cray Ormoru dwells in a world of happiness within the walls of Castle Spinweb. His mother, Delieve the sorceress, provides everything he needs or wants, but as he grows from boy to young man, he senses that it is time to find the father he’s never known. And so he sets out on a journey that will take him from town to castle to a fortress of bronze, totally unprepared for the sorrows and dangers that lay ahead. For the fate of Cray’s father would only be discovered by the light of demon fire._

Tp $48.00 741pp

**Barbara Erskine**

_Hiding from the Light_ The parish of Manningtree and Mistley has a dark history. In 1644, with England in the grip of a Puritan government, Matthew Hopkins, Cromwell’s Witchfinder General, tortured scores of women there, including Liza, the herbalist and Sarah Paxman, the daughter of the manor. Emma Dickson has given up her high-flying career to live in Liza’s cottage, but now she is being driven half-mad by visions of the past - of Sarah’s battle to save herself and Liza from the Witchfinder. In despair, Emma turns to the local rector for help, but he, too, is in the grip of something inexplicable - something which threatens Emma.

Pb $18.95 719pp

**Jasper Fforde**

_The Well of Lost Plots_ Thursday Next #3. Leaving Swindon behind to hide out in the Well of Lost Plots - the place where all fiction is created - Thursday Next ponders her next move. As a shadow looms over popular fiction, she must keep her wits about her and discover what is going on and who she can trust.

Tp $32.95 361pp

**WIN A JASPER FFORDE T-SHIRT!** (one says ‘Why Not Visit Swindon’, the other says ‘Toast’).

See back page for entry details

**ERIC FLINT & RICHARD ROACH**

_Forward the Mage_ Joes World #2. Benvenuti arrives in Gomir just in time for disaster to strike. The evil sorcerer Zulkeh has driven the King of the realm insane, then fled from the city! So much for Benvenuti’s plans to become the Royal Artist. After barely managing to escape the clutches of the authorities, he finds things are not as they seem. Zulkeh and his apprentice Shelyid are guiltless. Zulkeh had been summoned to interpret the King’s dream, which the sorcerer realised foretold an impending catastrophe for civilisation. Much to the artist’s dismay, his adventures and those of the sorcerer are hopelessly intertwined.

Pb $19.95 585pp
UNDAUNT: THE DARK LORD
Oath of Empire #4. Despite early victories, Rome is now hard-pressed. Now the new Emperor of Persia marches on Egypt. But there is a faint glimmer of hope. The Emperor Galen’s brother is a great sorcerer. His loyalty to the empire is strong and he will face the Dark Lord alone, if he must. Pb $19.95 762pp

A SCATTERING OF JADES
The great fire of 1835 has burned most of New York City’s wooden downtown. Like many people, Archie Prescott thinks he has lost everything, including his wife and child. It seems like the end of everything. But it is only the beginning. An armed clash by New York Herald publisher James Gordon Bennett, Archie runs afoul of one of P. T. Barnum’s former side-show workers, Riley Steen. With the help of an ancient book Steen has resurrected a chacmool, an ageless Mesoamerican avatar, which finds himself with the power to save the world or drown it in sacrificial blood... but first he has to stop mourning his daughter and undertake a grim cross-country journey to save her. Pb $19.95 406pp

TRAVELER
Evil forces are on the rise and Io is part of a secret association dedicated to stopping them. The only solution to make sure the world remains safe is to travel to the mystical, underground Wildside, rendezvous with Jack Frost and uncover the plot. The quest will force Io through labyrinths of vice, challenge every aspect of her incomplete magical training and if enemies aren’t enough, her ally will imperil her heart. Jack Frost is much more than a simple sorcerer: He rules the realms of love and death. Yet in Jack’s hands, a little death can be a very, very good thing. Pb $15.95 369pp

FROM THE TWO RIVERS
The Wheel of Time #1 Part 1. Life in Emond’s Field has been pretty boring for Rand Al’Thor and his friends until a strange young woman arrives in their village. Moiraine is an Aes Sedai, a magician with the ability to wield the One Power and she brings warnings of a terrible evil awakening in the world. Pb $16.95 398pp

TO THE BLIGHT
The Wheel of Time #1 Part 2. Despite the aid of Moiraine Sedai and the fighting skills of warrior Lan, Rand Al’Thor and his friends have been unable to throw off the foes that pursue them. Pb $16.95 500pp

SHIPS FROM THE WEST
Monarchs of God #5. 16 years have passed since the battle of Arragadir. The Torunnans and Merduks have become close allies in a world that is growing increasingly strange and fearsome, but off the coast of Hebrion something astonishing has appeared. A vast fleet of ships approaches from the empty west, and on board is an entirely new race of men. The immortal archmage Aruan has returned to the Old World at last and he intends to claim it as his own. Pb $17.95 296pp

QUADEHAR THE SORCEROR
Book of the Stars #1. Robin Penmarch enjoys ordinary life in a lost isle between the real world and an uncertain place of strange creatures and fantastical lands, but the dark forces of The Uncertain World are rising, and as apprentice to Quadehar the Sorcerer, Robin discovers the truth about himself. Pb $16.95 285pp

SAINT FIRE
Robin Penmarch, a捐octor’s daughter in an alternate Italy, discovers she possesses a mysterious power over fire, an ability noticed by the Church and feared by the city’s streets. Any one who sees her is doomed to die-and 17-year-old Magnus has seen her. Hb $59.95 439pp

THE CAPTURE
Guided by Gal’hole #1. When Soren is pushed from his family’s nest by his older brother, he is rescued from certain death on the forest floor by agents from a mysterious school for orphaned owls, St. Aggie’s. When Soren arrives at St. Aggie’s, he suspects there is more to the school than meets the eye. St. Aggie’s is actually a training camp where the school’s leader can groom young owls to help achieve her goal. Pb $9.95 226pp

SAINT FIRE
Secret Books of Venus #2. Volpa, a servant girl in an alternate Italy, discovers she possesses a mysterious power over fire, an ability noticed by the Church leaders, who draft her into service as a secret weapon in their holy wars. Tp $36.00 335pp

PIXEL EYE
A Phil D’Amato novel. In New York City, terrorism is more threatening than ever; skyscrapers are a cherished, defiant statement, underground concourses have multiplied because of the sense of security they provide, law enforcement and civil liberties groups clash over the proper boundary between public safety and personal freedom. That’s the tenor of the times when forensic detective Dr Phil D’Amato is called in to investigate an urgent case - squirrels missing from Central Park! It sounds like a joke, but Phil soon discovers it’s anything but. A new technology can put implants in squirrels to translate what they are seeing into computer-viewable images. But who’s behind this surveillance breakthrough? Federal agencies or terrorists? Hb $9.95 334pp

THE BLIGHT
The Wheel of Time #1 Part 2. Despite the aid of Moiraine Sedai and the fighting skills of warrior Lan, Rand Al’Thor and his friends have been unable to throw off the foes that pursue them. Pb $16.95 500pp

RAID FLIGHT
Dragonriders of Pern #1. To the nobles who live in Benden Weyr, Lessa is nothing but a ragged kitchen girl. For most of her life she has survived by serving those who betrayed her father and took over his lands. Now the time has come for Lessa to shed her disguise and take back her stolen birthright. But everything changes when she meets a queen dragon. The bond they share will be deep and last forever. It will protect them when, for the first time in centuries, Lessa’s world is threatened by Thread, an evil substance that falls like rain and destroys everything it touches. Dragons and their Riders once protected the planet from Thread, but there are very few of them left these days. Now brave Lessa must risk her life, and the life of her beloved dragon, to save her beautiful world... Pb $17.95 305pp
JULIET MARILLIER

Once he found others like himself. Pb

FEAR

She feared she would be forever torn from her

herself to Kynan's powerful embrace, she

despair. Though she longed to surrender

and left her breathless with passion and

other, a man who sent her senses soaring

Farron had uncovered a man like no

would destroy him. Archaeologist Jenna

find a more primitive Earth and only one

lost to him forever. Kept alive in a state of

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He had inhabited a world destroyed

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JOHN MEANEY

CONTEXT

Paradox #2. On Nulapeiron, a planet

isolated for 12 centuries, the inhabitants

occupy subterranean strata, ruled by a

logosophically trained aristocracy whose

power base is upheld by Oracles. But now

revolution has touched its many cultures -

failing in its intent yet changing everything.

And Lord Tom Corcorigan -

the legendary one-armed warrior, the

commoner-turned-noble, logosopher and

holder of the key to understanding mu-

space - lies fatally wounded. His survival

hangs in the balance, dependent on his

confrontation with a mysterious Seer who

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a bitter price for his life. Can the woman

he loves truly be dead, or can quantum

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573pp

MARGUERITE O'KELLY

The Man from Atlantis

He had inhabited a world destroyed

10,000 years ago - Atlantis, a place now

lost to him forever. Kept alive in a state of

suspended animation, Kynan awoke to

find a more primitive Earth and only one

woman to help him fight those who would

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despair. Though she longed to surrender

and leave her breathless with passion and
Harry Potter & The Order of the Phoenix

Harry Potter #5. Harry Potter is due to start his fifth year at Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry. He is desperate to get back to school and find out where his friends Ron and Hermione have been so secretive all summer. But this time he won't leave going on, Death himself walked into The Place with no light, no heat, no air – and no way home. And while all this was happening, Zoey, suddenly finds herself in a tavern he picked to hit first? Then, Jake's racket in Key West - and guess which Mafioso named Tony Donuts Jr. He'd decided to resurrect the classic protection racket in Key West - and guess which wife, Beautiful psychiatrist Dr. Maisy Dalton, was unwittingly brought in to hypnotise her? Then, Zach into talking about the “memories” hidden within him. But the innocent psychiatrist had no memory of his past and owes his present to Sean Merrick. Hp $17.95 379pp

The Isle of Battle

The Star of War #2. Alaan is trapped in the Stillwater, an eerie, fog-bound place hidden from the sun and shrouded in mystery. For over 100 years, life was good. Then disaster struck. Through the gate one sunny day came a malevolent, moronic, mastodon of a man she doesn't know, piloting a ship that isn't his, pursued by people who intend him harm. He carries a plea from Benjamin Cyanus - a man she doesn't know, piloting a ship that isn't his, pursued by people who intend him harm. Categories: The Bluebonnet Ball seems like just the event to divert the town and calm their anxieties... or so they think. Pb $17.95 379pp

Timewalker

To save his people, Navajo medicine man Benjamin Two Eagles poured his soul into an ancient amulet. For over 100 years, he had been lost in time, until a beautiful woman set him free into a world he did not understand. She was a tough-as-nails special agent with the FBI, but Julia Stevens was also a woman, and not vulnerable to the magnificent warrior she had released into this century, but Benjamin's quest to avenge the wrongs done to his people went against every law she'd sworn to uphold. Pb $12.95 250pp

Broken Silence

After years of silence, evidence has surfaced of government experiments in genetic manipulation. The media has even speculated that these experiments were successful and that the extraordinary children could be anywhere... and anyone. Wild rumours are circling the globe, and at the epicentre is Greenlaurel, Texas. The matriarchs of this affluent town want to alloys the fears of Greenlaurel’s residents and put to rest the dangerous questions being asked about adopted members of their community. The Bluebonnet Ball seems like just the event to divert the town and calm their anxieties... or so they think. Pb $17.95 379pp

Theme: Family Secrets #1. Professor Zach Ingram was believed to have classified information about genetically altered humans and agents from the top secret MEDUSA. While at her friend, Mary’s house, Alisa steals a Book of Shadows from Mary K’s elder sister, Morgan. Alisa is inexplicably drawn to the book. She makes the shocking discovery that this Book of Shadows was written by her mother, which means that Alisa is half-witch. She turns to Morgan and Hunter, both blood-witches, for support and development of her powers. Her revelation comes just in time, for the dark wave is upon them and the witches of the Kithic coven join forces to defeat this evil before it destroys everything in its path. Pb $12.95 387pp

The Troll Queen

While at her friend, Mary’s house, Alisa steals a Book of Shadows from Mary K’s elder sister, Morgan. Alisa is inexplicably drawn to the book. She makes the shocking discovery that this Book of Shadows was written by her mother, which means that Alisa is half-witch. She turns to Morgan and Hunter, both blood-witches, for support and development of her powers. Her revelation comes just in time, for the dark wave is upon them and the witches of the Kithic coven join forces to defeat this evil before it destroys everything in its path. Pb $12.95 387pp

Crown of Slaves

Luridira #2. Having freed the trolls of Dismal Swamp from the tyranny of Stigius Rex, the reluctant troll leader, Rollo, has left the swamp on a bittersweet mission. He plans to return his little friend Clipper to her people in the Forbidden Forest. It’s a dangerous trip, but he is determined to go. Pb $12.95 195pp

Peace and Memory

Secantis #3. TradeTamyn Glass is on a well-paying and mostly legal run when she is contacted by Benajim Cyanus - a man she doesn't know, piloting a ship that isn't his, pursued by people who intend him harm. He carries a plea from Benajim Cyanus - a man she doesn't know, piloting a ship that isn't his, pursued by people who intend him harm. Categories: The Star of War #2. Alaan is trapped in the Stillwater, an eerie, fog-bound place hidden from the sun and shrouded in mystery. For over 100 years, life was good. Then disaster struck. Through the gate one sunny day came a malevolent, moronic, mastodon of a man she doesn't know, piloting a ship that isn't his, pursued by people who intend him harm. He carries a plea from Benjamin Cyanus - a man she doesn't know, piloting a ship that isn't his, pursued by people who intend him harm. Categories: The Bluebonnet Ball seems like just the event to divert the town and calm their anxieties... or so they think. Pb $17.95 379pp
DAVID WEBER & STEVE WHITE
THE SHIVA OPTION
Starfire #4. The war wasn't going well. The Grand Alliance of Humans, Orions, Ophiuchi and Gorm, united in desperate self-defence, have been driven to the wall. Billions of their civilians have been slaughtered. The edge in technology with which they began the war is eroding out from under them and whatever they do, the Bugs just keep coming. But the warriors of the Grand Alliance know what stands behind them and they will surrender no more civilians to the oncoming juggernaut. They will die first... and they will also reanimate General Directive 18, however horrible it may be, because when the only possible outcomes are victory or racial extermination, only one option is acceptable - the Shiva Option. Pb $19.95 753pp

JANE WELCH
THE ALLEGIANCE OF MAN
Book of Man #3. A lucky subterfuge has fooled the Golden Dragon into leaving Opal Island and she has trailed the Piscean Porpoise out to sea believing that the newly-repaired Chalice of Ond - the only hope of resurrection for her precious golden son - is hidden beneath her decks. On board, amidst the dragon-attacks, Lord Casper worries for his own son, Rollo, abandoned on the hob-infested rock. But Rollo has the real chalice in his possession and although the responsibility weighs heavily, he must find a way to elude Silas's minions and travel across the ocean to find his father. Rollo must learn to harness the strange power which lies unpredictably within his body to ensure that Silas's invasion of Belbidia is stopped and that Torra Alta, the only home he has left, is rescued. Pb $18.95 516pp

LIZ WILLIAMS
EMPIRE OF BONES
Millions of years ago, alien beings seeded Earth with their genetic strands to create a new outpost of intelligent life. Now their descendants have returned to Earth's skies, drawn by their detection of a Receiver, a huma...
**CHRIS WOODING**
THE WEAVERS OF SARAMYR
The Braided Path #1. This is the story of an empire that rules over a land being overwhelmed by evil, an evil that comes from within the empire's centre, a sect of magicians close to the throne intent on killing any child born with magical powers. But now the empress has given birth to just such a child and revolution is brewing. Tp $29.95 375pp

**JANE YOLEN and VLADIMIR VAGIN**
FLYING WITCH
Flying on her mortar and pestle, the witch with the long iron nose scours the countryside for plump young children to eat. But will she be a match for the feisty little girl she hopes to throw into her soup? Hb $38.00

**RAMSEY CAMPBELL**
SCARED STIFF:
TALES OF SEX AND DEATH
The original publication of this collection almost created the sub-genre of erotic horror. Never had sex and death been so mesmerisingly entwined. Clive Barker, in his introduction, says, “One of the delightedly unsettling things about these tales is the way Ramsey's brooding, utterly unique vision renders an act so familiar to us all so fretful, so strange, so chilling. Sex . . . is the perfect stuff for the horror writer, and there can be few artists working in the genre as capable of analysing and dramatising [this] as Campbell.” Tp $36.00 239pp

**SIMON CLARK**
VAMPIRYHIC RITES
Lazarus Deep is a lake that sits like a blot of darkness in the valley. 18-year-old Dylan Adams is on the verge of leaving his hometown for a life in the city, but his plans are dramatically changed when his old school friend Luke Spencer goes missing. A search finds nothing. All anyone knows is that he was last seen at Lazarus Deep. Then, in the dead of night, Dylan’s old friend comes calling. But he’s not the same boy that everyone once knew. The desolate North Yorkshire Moors have held their secret for more than a thousand years. Now it is the turn of Lazarus Deep. Hb $59.95 504pp

**CHRISTOPHER GOLDEN**
THE GATHERING DARK
A novel of the Shadow Saga. Peter Octavian, once a vampire, now a powerful mage, is the only man powerful enough to stop a supernatural Armageddon... Pb $17.95 373pp

**STEPHEN KING**
FROM A BUICK 8
For 20 years the officers in Pennsylvania State Police Barracks have kept a secret in Shed B. A vintage Buick which lures the troopers to come and take a look. Now young Ned Wilcox, son of the recently deceased officer Curt, has started hanging around the Barracks. One day, he can’t resist peeking through the windows. And it’s time to share the secret. So the veteran troopers sit Ned down on the smoking bench and tell him every skin-curdling detail - from the Buick’s arrival to the terrifying lightshows, and what it suck in and breathes out... for the Buick is a conduit to another world. Pb $19.95 467pp

**TOM PICCIRILLI**
CHOIR OF ILL CHILDREN
When Thomas's best friend, Drabs tries to pass on a warning of impending danger to Thomas, all Thomas learns is “The carnival is coming.” With the help of Maggie, The Granny Witches, and pieces of his past that he thought lost, Thomas must face the strange forces that are swirling towards the people and town that he loves. Hb $59.95 238pp

**DAVID SCHOW**
LOST ANGELS
Everyone wants to be good in bed ... but what if it's the bed that makes you good? It's said the dead live on in our memories, but what if only the dead remember you? What if the most infernal dealmaker in creation visited Hollywood, where everyone’s a dealmaker, to get a little help from his friends? In this collection the author forsakes horror’s usual melodrama in favor of penetrating character studies and profound examinations of the human condition. Tp $55.00 202pp

**CHELSEA QUINN YARBRIO**
NIGHT BLOOMING
St Germain #15. At the forced invitation of 8th century Germanic king Karl-lo-Magne (Charlemagne), Hiermon Ragoczy de Santos Germainius, a man rumoured to have travelled to many far places, makes the dangerous journey to France. He is called to validate the authenticity of the king’s newly purchased maps, but unbeknownst to Karl-lo-Magne, Ragoczy’s knowledge stems from centuries of being chased from these countries, rather than travelling through them. Despite his longing for peace, he yields to Karl-lo-Magne. What he does not expect, though, is to meet the albino woman, Gynethe Mehaut, who shares his curse of solitude. Showing signs of stigma, she seeks peace from the church. But when she is taken to Rome, accusations of witchcraft fly, and she is left with a difficult choice-one that even Ragoczy cannot deny. Pb $17.95 655pp

**JANET TOMLINSON**
FLYING WITCH
This is the story of Gynethe Mehaut, a young girl she hopes to throw into her soup. Tp $36.00 239pp

**SCOTT BEATTY**
BATMAN: THE ANIMATED SERIES
Packed with spectacular images from Warner Brothers’ hugely popular TV show this guide celebrates the series’ storylines, visuals and cast of characters. In-depth profiles of all the most exciting heroes and villains are featured, from the heroic and haunted Dark Knight himself, to the bizarre and exotic Joker, Two-Face, Catwoman and Penguin. Hb $16.95 48pp

**CARLA JABLONSKI**
THE CHILDREN’S CRUSADE
The Books of Magic #3. 13-year-old Tim Hunter is lured through a magic gate to Free Country, a place of refuge for children, where he uses his powers to thwart a hidden evil. Pb $15.95 169pp

**MARK CHADBOURN**
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San Francisco 1967. A place of love and peace as the hippy movement is in full swing and everyone is looking forward to the ultimate festival: the human be-in. Summer, however, has lost her boyfriend and fears him dead, destroyed by a new type of drug nicknamed Blue Moonbeams. Her only friends are three English tourists: Ben and Polly and their mysterious guardian and friend, the Doctor. But will any of them help Summer, and what is the strange threat posed by the Blue Moonbeams? Hb $45.00 92pp

**RICHARD KNAAK**
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David Cody Weiss & Bobbi Weiss
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Before the legend, there was the teenager Clark Kent - a freshman doing all the usual high school stuff... and attempting to master his developing superpowers well enough to save Smallville from a succession of freakish events! Pb $16.95 160pp

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Keith Topping
BEYOND THE GATE: THE UNOFFICIAL AND UNAUTHORISED GUIDE TO STARGATE SG-1
This breaks down each of the series’ 100 plus episodes, focuses on the elements that make Stargate SG-1 so popular and recurring themes like the way in which Sam Carter’s boyfriends all die horribly. In categories like The Wit and Wisdom of jack O’Neill and Origins of the Species, the author analyses over five seasons worth of episodes, uncovers possible influences, acknowledges the moments when logic simply flies out of the window and provides trivia for use at dinner-parties and conventions. Tp $45.00 285pp

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Tony Abbott
NO SURRENDER
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Michael Jan Friedman
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Stargazer #3. Identical twins Gerda and Idun Asmund lost their human parents early in life and were raised as warriors on the Klingon homeworld. The Asmunds continued to depend on each other as helm officer and navigator on the Starship Stargazer, peril and adversity forging a bond between them as strong as tritanium. But that bond is tested when a transporter mishap deposits a mysterious visitor on the Stargazer - a beautiful woman from another universe who resembles Gerda and Idun as closely as they resemble each other. Pb $17.95 247pp

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Lost Era #1. Unprecedented peace talks with the violently xenophobic Tholian Assembly trigger a deadly confrontation aboard The Excelsior. Now Sulu and his crew - including Chekov, Rand, Chapel, Tuvok and Akaar - are thrust into an unexpected conflict between the Tholians and a mysterious new enemy, the Neyel... whose origins, if revealed, could lead to war with Earth itself. Pb $17.95 387pp

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SUPERMAN
Scott Beatty
SUPERMAN: THE ANIMATED SERIES GUIDE
Packed with images from the series and the DC comic-book series inspired by it, this guide celebrates the series’ storylines, art and cast of characters. Includes depth profiles of all the most exciting heroes and villains are featured, from the heroic Man of Steel himself and his feisty true love Lois Lane to power-hungry Lex Luthor and other awesome villains such as Darkseid, Brainiac and Parasite. Hb $16.95 48pp

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S M Stirling
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The future is now. Skynet is sentient, and the first Hunter-Killer and T-90 Terminator units are operational. Humanity faces extinction. But one man, guided by the very Terminator once sent to kill him, has been preparing for this future - John Connor. The battle is engaged. Hb $55.00 357pp

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MEDIA REFERENCE
THE AMERICAN HORROR FILM:
AN INTRODUCTION
REYNOLD HUMPHRIES
This overview of the popular genre of
American horror films moves from
Dracula in 1931 to contemporary films
such as Scream, made in 1996. The various
characters that recur in horror films i
Dracula, Frankenstein, Dr Jekyll, the
Mummy, the Werewolf - are discussed, as
are repeated themes such as the mad
scientist, nuclear anxiety, psychological
monsters, the living dead and slasher
movies. Key directors including Jacques
Tourneur, David Cronenberg, and Roger
Corman are covered. An extensive
filmography is included and reference is
made at the appropriate point to the most
pertinent writing on horror. Tp $54.95

COMIC BOOK MOVIES
DAVID HUGHES
Superman, Batman, Spider-Man, X-Men -
the comic book movie has become one of
the staples of the Hollywood studio. This
book explores the landmarks among
movie adaptations of comic books. As
well as the many famous franchises
covered by the book, a number of
unusual, off-beat titles are featured
including Manga classic Akira, The Crow,
The Road to Perdition and Ghost World.
There are also the famous flops, from
Warren Beatty's Dick Tracy to Sylvester
Stallone's Judge Dredd. Features chapters
on over 20 films, including interviews
with many of the key comic and film
creators involved. Tp $39.95 296pp

DISNEY:
THE ULTIMATE VISUAL GUIDE
RUSSELL SCHROEDER
Compiled with unlimited access to
Disney's archives, this guide charts the
development of the company from its
early days in the 1920s right into the 21st
century. Focusing on the best-loved
aspects of Disney - its animated feature
films - the guide reveals how characters
such as Mickey Mouse, Bambi and
Dumbo were created and how classics
such as Snow White and Cinderella were
re-invented. Hb $45.00 128pp

EXCELSIOR!
THE AMAZING LIFE OF STAN LEE
STAN LEE & GEORGE MAIR
Stan Lee is the Marvel Comic genius who
created Spider-Man, The X-Men and The
Incredible Hulk among others and has
been in the business for over 40 years.
This memoir traces Lee's life from grow-
ing up in New York, getting his first story
published in a magazine, his first job as a
gofer at Timely Comics (later to become
Marvel Comics) where he worked with
Jack Kirby and Joe Simon. He was made
creative director aged 18 when they left,
enlisted when the war broke out shortly
after. Lee went back to comics after the
war as the creative force behind Marvel,
selling over two billion comics to young,
and not so young, people all over the
world. Tp $33.00 245pp

GEORGE LUCAS
JIM SMITH
George Lucas is primarily known for his
Star Wars film series and for having
created the character of Indiana Jones.
However, he was also an avant-garde
maker of independent films such as THX-
1138 and remains one of the greatest
technical innovators the cinema has ever
seen. This guide includes categories such
as casting, alternative versions, recurring
themes and concerns and expert witness,
information on Lucas's inspiration
behind his films both directing and
producing, and accounts of his other
lesser-known early films. Tp $45.00 296pp

HALLIWELL'S WHO'S WHO IN THE
MOVIES:
3RD EDITION
JOHN WALKER (ed)
A comprehensive guide to the who, why,
what and how of cinema, the people in
the movies are revealed here with brevity
and wit. In A-Z format, the book is
packed with comprehensive biographical
profiles of actors and actresses, directors,
producers, editors and other key
personnel. It also contains notes on the
major studios, foreign cinema, cinematic
themes and definitions of technical terms.
There are over 1,000 new entries added to
this year's guide as well as a history of the
cinema from 1894 onwards, year-by-year
Oscar listings and details of all the major
film festival awards. Tp $45.00 632pp

HAMMER FILMS
JOHN MCCAUGH
An informed history of the company that
put British horror on the map with such
controversial thrillers as The Curse of
Frankenstein and Dracula, this book takes
an in-depth look at every film - from the
cult favourites to the underrated gems.
With in-depth profiles of the creative
talent behind the Hammer style, plus a
complete Hammer filmography and
checklist of the best Hammer websites,
this book is the ideal starting point for
anyone interested in Hammer or horror
genre. Pb $10.95 96pp

MOVIES OF THE 80'S
JURGEN MULLER
In the era when mullets and shoulder
pads were all the rage, moviegoers got
their kicks from flicks as wide-ranging as
Blade Runner, Indiana Jones, When Harry
Met Sally and Blue Velvet. Without a
doubt, sci-fi was the most important
genre of the decade, with ET winning the
hearts of millions while Aliens became the
stuff of nightmares, and movies like
Ghostbusters and Back to the Future fused
comedy and sci-fi to the delight of
audiences everywhere. Features cast and
crew listings, box office figures, trivia,
film stills, actor and director bios and an
Academy Awards list. Tp $85.00 863pp
WHAT WE’VE BEEN READING...

The Truth by Terry Pratchett (Pb $19.95 444pp). The 25th Discworld novel takes place in Ankh-Morpork and concerns the introduction of printing presses with moveable-type, a dastardly plot to usurp the Patrician and amusing, anatomically suggestive root vegetables. One of the strengths of the Discworld series has been the author’s ability to twist the genre of humorous fantasy in order to address contemporary issues. This instalment is no different, offering a light-hearted and insightful examination of tabloid journalism and investigative reporting. Throughout the course of the series, Pratchett has fleshed out dozens of hilarious citizens for the Disc’s largest metropolis and this has produced a vibrant, well-populated stable of re-worked stereotypes to interact with the protagonists of his urban adventures. The notable new additions to the Discworld’s ever-increasing **dramatis personae** include William de Worde, the Disc’s first journalist and Mr Pin and Mr Tulip - Pratchett’s Discworld re-interpretation of Quentin Tarrantino's gangsters from Pulp Fiction. - Raph

Death Masks (Harry Dresden #5) by Jim Butcher (Pb $17.95). Set at least a year after Summer Knight (Pb $19.95), this has the usual mystery, mayhem and sassy dialogue of the previous books. There are some cool (in the creepy, ugly sense) demons, a character death and the return of Susan, Harry’s semi-vampire ex-girlfriend. I absolutely loved this. - Steph

Break of Dark by Robert Westall (Pb $15.95). This is a collection of some of the author’s best short stories and includes two in particular that are personal favourites. They are Hitch-Hiker and Blackham’s Wimpey. I still remember reading Hitch Hiker as a teenager and having chills going up and down my spine. Blackham’s Wimpey is a story that is a bit more personal for the author as he flew in the RAF on bombers and based it on the old “legend” of the haunted Lancaster bomber story of that time, a wimpey being a vintage twin-engined bomber. All-in-all a great read that will appeal to lovers of macabre tales that have a sting in the tail. Great for any age from children to adult. - Stephen

The Relic (Pb $19.95) and its sequel Reliquary (Pb $21.95 ) by Douglas Preston and Lincoln Child are guaranteed to give you sleepless nights! Everyone no doubt is familiar with the movie of The Relic, but do yourself a favour and do not judge these books by the film script. They are infinitely better, more detailed and far more shocking and riveting. In a nutshell, The Relic involves an ancient artefact, with a deadly secret, that has been brought to a New York Museum, and the deaths that follow. In the sequel, the original characters of the first book all return and there is more action below New York’s city streets and in the sewers where the relic’s guardians are once more stirring... - Stephen

The next instalment in the well written Terminator series, T2 Rising Storm by S M Stirling (Pb $17.95) is also now in paperback and it’s a ripper of a read. If you enjoyed either the films or reading Stirling’s work, I cannot recommend this highly enough. It starts where the first one (T2 Infiltrator) ended, with Sarah now a prisoner of the people who are about to help create Skynet, while Skynet is beginning to take its first steps towards its eventual destiny... Again above average writing, strong characters and a great story-line that leaves you dying for the finale, which is due in hardback before the year is out. - Stephen

COMPETITION

To win one of two Jasper Fforde t-shirts (One says ‘Why Not Visit Swindon’, the other says ‘Toast’), name the heroine of the series. Send in your entry along with your name and address by 25 September 2003. Entry open to Galaxy Cardholders only.

COMPETITION WINNERS

Sharon Faichney has won the Daredevil Banner. Congratulations!
Science Fiction offers readers and viewers alternate realities, often more realistic than reality itself. Taking them to the vast reaches of outer and inner space, putting some weird 23rd century technologies in their hands, and introducing them to attractive aliens just itching to make love to starship captains, science fiction routinely feeds its fans questionable plot devices in the midst of action-packed adventures. Time travel, Robots, faster-than-light travel and alien civilizations strangely "Science Fiction" means "to us" everything found in the science fiction section of a bookstore, or at a science fiction convention, or amongst the winners of the Hugo awards given by the World Science Fiction Society. This includes the genres of science fiction (or sci-fi), fantasy, slipstream, alternative history, and even stories with lighter speculative elements. We hope you enjoy the broad range that SF has to offer. comment on today's story, or read what others say: follow us on twitter