



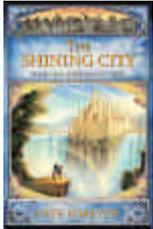
infinitas bookshop

science fiction, fantasy & horror

Volume 14 No 6

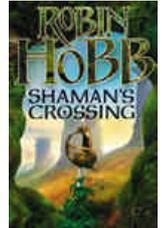
June 2005

Upcoming Author Visits



Kate Forsyth will be here on *Saturday 25th June* at 1pm
The Shining City, the second book of Rhiannon's Ride is out now.

Robin Hobb will be visiting on *Saturday 23rd July* at 1pm.
Her new novel *Shaman's Crossing*, book 1 of Speck's Magic, is due early June.



Light refreshments will be provided at these events.

Everyone is welcome at our events, but if you can't make it, just call us to arrange to have books signed for you anyway.

Featured Releases



Hallowed Hunt
by **Lois McMaster Bujold**
The third Chalion novel, out now in hardcover.

Horizon Storms by **Kevin J Anderson**
The third in the popular Saga of Seven Suns is now available in paperback.



Wizard's Holiday
by **Diane Duane**
The seventh book in the Young Wizards series is out now in paperback.

See inside for more on these books...

Bestsellers for May

General Release

A Hat Full of Sky	Terry Pratchett
Ringworld's Children	Larry Niven
Dead to the World	Charlaine Harris
Crown of Slaves	David Weber & Eric Flint
Wellspring of Chaos	L E Modesitt Jr
Saint Vidicon to the Rescue	Christopher Stasheff
Monument	Ian Graham

Media and Gaming Releases

The Clockwise Man	Doctor Who 9 th Doctor
Winner Takes All	Doctor Who 9 th Doctor
Monsters Inside	Doctor Who 9 th Doctor
Engines of Destiny	Star Trek Next Generation
Deus Sanguinius	Warhammer 40,000
Matter of Honor	Stargate SG-1
Trial By Fire	Stargate SG-1

News

*Robert Jordan's Wheel of Time book 11 Knife of Dreams will be available in October 05. He has also just sold the first 3 books in a new fantasy series.

*Terry Goodkind has just sold the 12th (and final) book in his Sword of truth series to his publishers.

Melanie Rawn has just sold Spellbinder to Tor, no word yet of Captal's Tower.

*David Weber has sold the first 4 books of a new space opera series to Tor.

*Peter Hamilton has submitted Judas Unchained, the sequel to Pandora's Star.

*Film rights have been bought for Terry Brook's Magic Kingdom series by Universal and for Robert J Sawyer's Hominids by Walt Disney.

*The screenplay for Edgar Rice Burroughs' *John Carter of Mars* is well underway, with a promise of being faithful to the books

*Home Word '05, a Western Sydney writers festival is currently on, especially Saturday 3rd June at Parramatta Town Hall with many workshops see <http://www.nwg-inc.com/> for details, other events and booking.

*Dr who fans will be pleased the ABC has started the new series. Keen fans may be interested in a stage production at the Theatre Royal 29-30 July 05 Dr Who- Inside the Tardis. Colin Baker (The Sixth Doctor), Sylvester McCoy (The Seventh Doctor), Katy Manning (companion to the Third Doctor Jon Pertwee) and presenter Tim Ferguson will be on stage. It seems this is not a play but rather a presentation of snippets, trivia and questions from the audience.



Expand your mind, Enter new worlds.

Infinitas Bookshop
Shop 22 Civic Arcade
48-50 George Street
Parramatta NSW 2150
ABN: 86 101 558 356

Ordering Information

Phone 02 9633 5682
Fax 1 02 9687 0408
Fax 2 02 9651 1175
Email bookshop@infinitas.com.au
Postage & Packing \$5.00/shipping

Opening Hours

Monday 9am to 5.30pm
Tuesday 9am to 5.30pm
Wednesday 9am to 5.30pm
Thursday 9am to 8pm
Friday 9am to 5.30pm
Saturday 9am to 4pm
Sundays & Public Holidays **Closed**

Infinitas online

www.infinitas.com.au

Rewards Scheme - Infinitas Guild

Become a member of the Infinitas Guild to receive invitations to special Infinitas events, credits towards future purchases and discounts from partners. To join, fill in a form in the shop or on our website. Membership is free but valuable.

The monthly Infinitas newsletter is free and may be copied and distributed freely for personal use. To receive a copy automatically, please contact the shop or subscribe via the website.

New Release Information

The books listed in this catalogue are listed to be released during this month. All books listed are available for customer orders, however some titles will not be ordered as shelf stock. If there is something that you want that you cannot find listed, or is not in the shop, please ask us to order it for you.

Many books have more extensive information available on our website.

Prices include GST and are correct at time of printing but may change without notice.

Legend: PB = paperback, HC = hardcover, TP = trade paperback, Cass = cassette, CD = CD, GN = Graphic Novel

Science Fiction, Fantasy and Horror

Alma Alexander

The Hidden Queen

Anghara Kir Hama, a nine-year-old girl and rightful heir to the throne, is forced to grow up in hiding from her brutal half-brother Sif, until her miraculous and awesome gift of the Sight is awakened and she can emerge to once again reclaim her destiny. **PB \$17.95**

Rob Alexander

Welcome to My Worlds

HC \$49.95

Steve Alten

MEG: Primal Waters

Eighteen years after a Megalodon shark escapes the Tanaka Lagoon to return to the Mariana Trench, struggling former adventurer Jonas Taylor is recruited to appear on a new survival series aboard a Spanish galleon replica, a job with unexpected deadly challenges. **PB \$19.95**

Kevin J Anderson

Horizon Storms (Saga of Seven Suns 3)

In the face of a titanic war between the Hydrogues and Faeros, Chairman Wenceslas and King Peter try to unify the human race while struggling against the Roamer and Theorc clans that would conquer the old order by forging dangerous alliances. **PB \$17.95**

Kelley Armstrong

Haunted (Magic 03)

Eve Levine is dead, she can't be killed again. She just needs to find a way to communicate with her daughter and she'll be happy. Eve owes the fates a favour, and they've just called it in. An evil spirit called the Nix has escaped from hell. The Fates want Eve to hunt her down before she does any more damage, but the Nix is a dangerous enemy, previous hunters have been sent mad in the process. **PB \$19.95**

Lori G Armstrong

Blood Ties

Women private investigators, murder victims, South Dakota, American Indians, are all in a story of mystery and crime. **PB \$17.95**

Neal Asher

Brass Man

On the world of Cull, a knight errant is hunting a dragon, little knowing that far away someone else has resurrected a brass killing machine to assist in a similar hunt across star systems. When agent Cormac learns that this old enemy lives, he sets out in pursuit, whilst scientist Mika begins discovering the horrifying truth about that ancient technology produced by the alien Jain. **TP \$32.95**

Cowl

The war victory of the Heliothane Dominion is threatened by escaped adversaries who send an organic time machine monster into the past to change the war's outcome, prompting the dispatch of Tack, a programmable killer who has been compromised by the monster and whom the Heliothane government wants to use to preserve the timeline. **\$19.95**

James Axler

Children of the Serpent (Outlanders 33)

After 4000 years, the kings return to reclaim their kingdom: Earth. When Lord Enlil, threatens the very existence of humanity, Kane and the Cerberus exiles must risk their lives to stop Enlil from claiming Earth as his own and turning into a world where humans are enslaved. **PB \$16.95**

L A Banks

Hunted (Vampire Huntress 03)

Having successfully averted a vampire civil war, vampire huntress Damali Richards heads for Brazil to investigate a series of horrific killings perpetrated by a vicious female were-demon and her crew in retaliation for the deaths of her people. **PB \$19.95**

C J Barry

Unmasked

When her ship is hijacked by legendary space pirate Qaade Deter, Torrie Masters, gifted with special powers, convinces this legendary man to help her stop an enemy that only she can see from destroying humanity. **PB \$17.95**

Gregory Benford

The Sunborn

The first manned mission to Mars has been a success, and excitement grows as more new discoveries are made. However the 'marsmat', an anaerobic life-form found in the planet's honeycomb of tunnels defies explanation. This raises questions about the nature and meaning of life itself which will lead the curious and the driven to Pluto and beyond, to the cold void at the fringes of the solar system. **PB \$19.95**

Ben Bova

Tales of the Grand Tour

An anthology of short fiction continuing his tales of Earth's neighborhood. **TP \$32.95**

Lois McMaster Bujold

Hallowed Hunt (Chalion 3)

Lord Ingrey is sent to the country estate of the murdered Prince Boleso in order to smooth over the political turmoil, but discovers that the kingdom is in imminent threat of falling into malevolent hands. **HC \$51.95**

Chris Bunch

The Last Battle (Dragonmaster 03)

The Great War against the Roche is over. But the world is grey, battered, and the promise of peace never quite materialises. As predicted, with the end of the war not only dragon fliers, but dragons themselves have been cast aside. An old concern re-emerges, what or who is savaging the dragons in their native lands? Enlisting trusted comrades, Hal embarks on a new crusade, and discovers a threat, not just to the dragons but to man himself. **PB \$19.95**

Barbara Campbell

Heartwood

As the plague claims his people, Darak must prepare for the annual battle of the Oak and the Holly, which goes horribly wrong when Darak's brother is possessed by the spirit of the Holly, forcing Darak to become the tribe's Hunter and restore the balance of nature before all hope is lost. **PB \$17.95**

Orson Scott Card*Enchantment*

One of the most popular contemporary authors of science fiction follows one man from nineteenth-century Russia to present-day America as he struggles to rescue a princess and her kingdom, find true love, and overcome the blackest of evil. **TP \$30.95**

Jonathan Carroll*Outside the Dog Museum*

Recently divorced after a nervous breakdown, award-winning architect and womanizing opportunist Harry Radcliffe is enlisted by the wealthy Sultan of Saru to design a billion-dollar dog museum, an assignment that introduces him to a magical culture beyond anything he has ever imagined. **TP \$28.95**

David Cian*Megawar of the Worlds*

Since the 1938 Martian invasion of Earth, humankind has studied the confiscated Martian technology and used it to create giant robots, piloted by people dedicated to protecting the planet from an all-new invasion by the technologically superior alien race. **PB \$17.95**

Arthur C Clarke*Imperial Earth*

Duncan Mackenzie makes the journey from his satellite republic of Titan to Earth, as diplomatic guest at the United States's Quincentennial, observer of humanity's oldest existing civilization, and seeker after the woman he has loved for years. **PB \$17.95**

Glen Cook*Whispering Nickel Idols (Garrett, PI)*

When Garrett, a P.I. in the land of unFaïre, is hired to investigate how an underworld boss ended up in a coma, he must go up against the boss's criminally insane daughter who wants Garrett dead--and she is not the only one who is obsessed with his demise. **PB \$17.95**

*The Tyranny of the Night**(Instrumentalities of the Night 01)*

In a world in which humans are ruled by demons and dark gods, the Praman warrior Else inadvertently defeats a creature of the Dark and is subsequently forced to penetrate the center of a rival religious faction, sparking a dangerous conflict. **HC \$52.95**

Richard Cox*The God Particle*

When a devastating accident during a business trip to Switzerland leaves Steve Keeley with extraordinary mental powers, he seeks out Mike McNair, the lead physicist on a project seeking the Higgs boson, the God Particle, for help in understanding what is wrong, but now the two men suddenly find themselves up against a mysterious dark force. **TP \$28.95**

Leah R Cutter*The Jaguar and the Wolf*

Escaping to a new world after he kills a fellow warrior, Tyrthbrand, marked by the god Tyr, forms an alliance with Lady Two Bird, a Mayan high priestess, which unites the two cultures in an attempt to stop an ethereal conflict that could destroy both Heaven and Earth. **PB \$17.95**

Julie E Czerneda*Survival (Species Imperative 01)*

After her partner is kidnapped and the Earth is attacked by an alien race called the Ro, biologist Dr. Mackenzie Connor is forced into helping an alien archaeologist discover the truth behind the area of space known as the Chasm. **PB \$17.95**

Migration (Species Imperative 02)

Forced to go on the run after her Field Base is attacked by an unknown enemy and a fellow scientist is kidnapped by a race known as the Ro, Dr. Mackenzie Connor and Brymn, an alien, arrive on the world of Dhryn, where they search for an ally to help them in their quest to save Earth from destruction. **HC \$51.95**

Tom De Haven*The End-Of-Everything Man**(Chronicle of the King's Tramp 02)*

Jack returns to his world with witnesses from Earth bearing warnings of coming chaos, only to discover that he must begin wandering again, as the Mage of Four has disappeared with the fearsome Epicene. **PB \$17.95**

Charles de Lint*The Blue Girl*

Having moved, Imogene is determined to make things go well for herself in her new town and find friends to help her in her mission. When she is befriended by a ghost named Adrian and becomes haunted in her dreams, Imogene must turn to friend Maxine and Pelly for help in ridding her nights of dark visions. **HC \$36.95**

Medicine Road

Sisters Laurel and Bess Dillard are traveling through the Southwest playing their music in bars and house parties when they meet two unhappy Native American spirits, Jim Changing Dog and Alice Corn Hair. **HC \$70**

Moonheart 20th Anniversary Edition

Limited edition, signed copies. **HC \$150**

Road to Lisdoonvarna

HC \$78

Philip K Dick*Minority Report*

In addition to Minority Report, this collection includes nine other short stories, three of which have been made into feature films. **PB \$19.95**

Stephen Donaldson*Runes of The Earth*

CD \$49.95

*(Last Chronicles of Thomas Covenant 01)***Carole Nelson Douglas***Cat In An Orange Twist (Midnight Louie)*

Planning the opening events for a trendy new furniture showroom, Temple Barr investigates a threat made on the life of a media-donned domestic maven, a case that is complicated by the well-intentioned chicanery of her feline companion, Louie. **PB \$17.95**

David Drake*The Way to Glory (Lt Leary 04)*

Lt. Daniel Leary and Signals Officer Adele Mundy return in the sequel to *The Far Side of the Stars* as they battle a ruthless, paranoid officer, conspiracy, anarchy, and an overwhelming Alliance force, in a fast-paced, outer-space adventure. **HC \$51.95**

Christine Feehan*Oceans of Fire (Drake Sisters 02)*

Born with an affinity for water and a powerful bond with dolphins, Abigail Drake, the third daughter of seven in a magical family, is forced to flee after witnessing a murder and finds herself running for her life into the arms of Alexandr Volstov, an Interpol agent searching for stolen Russian antiquities. **PB \$19.95**

Jasper Fforde*Something Rotten (Thursday Next 04)*

Tired of her responsibilities as the Bellman in Jurisdiction, literary sleuth Thursday Next packs up her son, Friday, to return to Swindon, accompanied by the Danish prince Hamlet, only to find herself coping with outlaw fictioneer Yorrick Kaine, anti-Danish sentiment, the return of Swindon's patron saint, and a seminal croquet tournament. **PB \$21.95**

Charles Coleman Finlay*The Prodigal Troll*

When Lord Gruethrist's castle is laid under siege by an invading baron, he sends a knight and nursemaid off with his infant son. Their escape across a wilderness landscape torn by war takes unexpected turns until the baby is finally adopted by a mother troll grieving for her own lost child. **HC \$51.95 TP \$32.95**

Kate Forsyth *The Shining City*

Imprisoned in Sorrowgate Tower, Rhiannon awaits her trial for murder and treason. Preoccupied with the upcoming wedding of the Donncan and Bronwen, Isabeau fails to investigate Rhiannon's tale of necromancy and ghosts. By the time she realises that dark spirits have indeed been disturbed, it is too late, and the royal family is brought face to face with She Who Cuts The Thread. **TP \$32.95**

The Starthorn Tree

PB \$16.95

Alan Dean Foster*Lost and Found (Taken 01)*

Kidnapped by a starship bound for deep space, young Chicago commodities trader Marcus Walker learns that he is destined to be sold to a wealthy collector as a native from a primitive planet and befriends a talking dog named George, who becomes an ally in their plan to escape. **PB \$17.95**

Light Years Beneath My Feet (Taken 02)

Kidnapped by aliens to be sold as a pet in a distant part of the galaxy, young Chicago commodities broker Marcus Walker and his companion, George, a speech-enhanced dog, have managed to outwit their abductors, only to find themselves stranded billions of miles from Earth, with no way home. **HC \$48.95**

Christopher Fowler*Full Dark House*

When a bomb claims the life of John May's detective partner of more than half a century, May becomes convinced that the key to the killer's identity lies in their first case together, which involved a steamy theater production in Blitz London. **PB \$17.95**

Mark Frost*The List of Seven*

In the wake of a lethal stance and an evil supernatural contact, Arthur Conan Doyle joins forces with special agent Jack Sparks to pursue a deadly cabal of Victorian satanists known as the Dark Brotherhood. **PB \$19.95**

Marc D Giller*Hammerjack*

A former hacker turned corporate spy becomes caught in the middle between the Collective's efforts to build a biological supercomputer and a mysterious antitechnology group who are waging war on the Collective while pursuing their own dark agenda. **TP \$24.95**

John Harwood*The Ghost Writer*

Plagued with unpleasant memories of his mother's death, shy librarian Gerard Freeman becomes obsessed with the manuscript of a century-old ghost story written by his great-grandmother and left to his care. **TP \$28.95**

Michele Hauf*Gossamyr*

Gossamyr de Wintershinn, half-faery and half-mortal, enters into the glamorous and mortal city of Paris, along with a soul shepherd, where she must save her people from the Red Lady, who is draining the essence of faeries. **TP \$28.95 PB \$18.95**

Alexa Hayes*Vampire Beach*

Content with her life in the California coastal town of Santa del Sol and with her job running the boardwalk shop left to her by her great aunt, Alexandra Hart is faced with a dramatic upheaval in her life when master vampire Rafferty O'Neill selects Santa del Sol as the site of his planned refuge. **PB \$17.95**

Brian Herbert & Kevin J Anderson*The Battle of Corrin (Legends of Dune 3)*

The universal computer mind Omnium has retreated to its last stronghold, where it plots a devastating new strategy that could undo the victories of the Butlerian Jihad. The surviving Titans are creating new lieutenants to do their will when at last they return to attack the human beings they once ruled. **PB \$19.95**

Robin Hobb*Shaman's Crossing (Speck's Magic 01)*

King Troven sets out to restore Varnia's greatness by colonising the wilderness to their east. Beyond Varnia, the heavily forested Barrier Mountains is home to Specks. The Varnians find the Specks dim-witted and difficult to control. The Specks harbour strange diseases. Nevare Gerar, son of one of King Troven's new lords, is in training at the King's Cavalry Academy. A commission as a cavalry officer at the frontier and an advantageous marriage await. **HC \$59.95 TP \$29.95**

Robert E Howard*Boxing Stories***HC \$70 TP \$30.95***Bran Mak Morn: The Last King***TP \$32.95***The Black Stranger and Other American Tales***HC \$70 TP \$36.95***The Riot at Bucksnot and Other Western Tales***HC \$70 TP \$30.95***The End of the Trail: Western Stories***HC \$70 TP \$36.95***Lord of Samarkand and Other Adventure***Tales of the Old Orient HC \$70 TP \$38.95****Aldous Huxley***Ape and Essence*

The New Zealand Rediscovery Expedition reaches California in February 2108. It is over a century since the world was devastated by nuclear war, but the radioactivity and disease still batters survivors. They expect to find physical destruction but are unprepared for the moral degradation they meet. **PB \$24.95**

Christian Jacq*The Mysteries of Osiris (Tree of Life 01)***HC \$49.95 TP \$29.95****Linda Winstead Jones***The Moon Witch*

Gifted with the ability to see the past and future of anyone she touches, Juliet, who longs to free herself from the nightmares that plague her, is rescued from the Emperor's men by a valiant wolf-beast named Ryn who believes her to be his destiny. **PB \$17.95**

*The Sun Witch***PB \$17.95****Gwyneth Jones***Divine Endurance*

The Cat and her companion Cho together go in search of the race who left them. Cho believes she would be able to end to the world's problems. Cho has the power to grant every wish of the human heart. In the Peninsula, Cho and Divine Endurance discover a land of beauty, but also riddled with corruption, where a struggle is in progress between the people and the power of their Rulers. Everywhere death creeps in like the tide. **PB \$18.95**

Brian Keene*City of the Dead*

As the world succumbs to a plague that brings its victims back from the dead, a group of survivors, must fight for their survival against an indestructible enemy that keeps coming back. **PB \$17.95**

Brian Keene*Terminal*

Fated to die young Tommy O'Brien enlists the assistance of his best friends, John and Sherm, in a scheme to provide for his family's future, but his plans spin out of control, bringing him face to face with a child possessing extraordinary healing power. **PB \$17.95**

Jack Ketchum*The Girl Next Door*

Slowly being tortured to death by their aunt, whose madness is infecting the entire neighborhood, Meg and her crippled sister, Susan, find themselves at the mercy of a troubled boy who can either end their misery or be their salvation. **PB \$17.95**

Stephen King*The Green Mile***PB \$19.95****Bernard Knight***Figure of Hate (Crownier John 09)***PB \$18.95****Russell Kirkpatrick***Across the Face of the World**(Fire of Heaven 01)*

Kannwar, the Immortal Destroyer, Lord of Bhudwo, has been planning revenge on the Most High. Mahnum has escaped the Destroyer's prison, but on his way home, he and his wife are captured. His sons set off in pursuit with a small group of villagers to free their parents and to warn their world of the coming war. But not all of the Company agree that so few can make a difference or think that anyone will listen to them. **PB \$19.95**

Angela Knight*Master of the Moon*

While hunting a powerful female vampire who is wreaking havoc in a small South Carolina town, Diana, a werewolf, encounters Llyr, the king of Cachamwri Sidhe, who makes all of her erotic fantasies come true. **PB \$17.95**

Dean Koontz*The Taking*

Molly and Niel Sloan and their neighbors in a small California mountain town encounter a terrifying threat that transforms their peaceful and familiar streets into a ghostly labyrinth as they discover the horrifying reality of what is happening around them. **PB \$18.95**

Elizabeth Kostova*The Historian*

Discovering a medieval book and a cache of letters, an American girl becomes the latest in a series of historians, to investigate the possible legacy of Vlad the Impaler, a quest that takes her across Europe and into the pasts of her father and his mentor. **HC \$52.95**

Susan Krinard*To Tame a Wolf*

When her brother disappears, widow Tally Bernard asks Simeon Kavanaugh, a legendary tracker and son of a werewolf, for help, and as dangerous desire rages between them, Tally must learn to accept both the man and the beast. **PB \$17.95**

Mercedes Lackey, Eric Flint &**Dave Freer***This Rough Magic (Heirs of Alexandria 2)*

The demon sorcerer Chernobog, having failed in his attempt to gain power over Venice, enters into a dangerous alliance with the King of Hungary to seize control of Corfu, an island that holds the key to controlling the Adriatic, while the heroes who had saved Venice reunite to stop him. **PB \$19.95**

Emily LaForge*Shadow Haven*

Returning to her ancestral home in Louisiana following her husband's death, Gabriella finds the estate in ruins, her talent for contacting the spirit world gone, and a dark evil from the past threatening to engulf her, and her only hope lies in handsome lawyer Jarrod Landry, a man with his own secrets. **PB \$12.95**

Murray Leinster*A Logic Names Joe*

An omnibus of *The Pirates of Zan*, *Gateway to Elsewhere*, and *The Duplicators*, as well as three short stories. **PB \$19.95**

J Ardian Lee*Sword of the White Rose*

Inheriting the lordship of the Ciorram Clan upon his father's death, Ciaran Matheson is warned by an old friend that the Scottish uprising against the British is destined to fail and confronts a difficult and dangerous choice. **PB \$19.95**

Jeff Long*The Reckoning*

Assigned to cover an army search for a 30 year missing military plane and its pilot in the once killing fields of Cambodia, photojournalist Molly is warned by a local overseer to avoid ghostly wanderers who appear to move within the pictures Molly takes. **PB \$19.95**

Tim Lucas*The Book of Rendfeild*

Told from the perspective of insect-consuming, scripture-quoting Renfield and follows his psychic communication with Count Dracula, his restraint in the asylum of Dr. John Seward, and his service to the vampire in the hope of promised rewards. **TP \$28.95**

Elizabeth A Lynn*Dragon's Treasure (Dragon 02)*

Karadur Atani, the Dragon of Chingura, has overcome his father's madness and his brother's treachery to take the throne and struggles to rule with justice while dealing with the ferocity that results from his dragon blood. **PB \$19.95**

Katie MacAlister*Fire Me Up (Aisling Grey)*

Aisling Grey, dealing with her new vocation as a Guardian/Keeper of the Gates to Hell, and the mate of a wyvern, discovers that she has suddenly become irresistible to men, much to her simultaneous delight and chagrin, while attending a convention in Budapest. **PB \$17.95**

John Marco*The Devil's Armour*

Lukien, a legendary warrior and keeper of the Eye of God, must save the mountain realm of Grimhold, a land heralded for its magical healing powers, when an ancient evil is awakened, unleashing a campaign of destruction. **PB \$18.95**

Juliet Marillier*Dark Mirror (Bridei 01)*

Fostered by one of the land's most powerful druids, young nobleman Bridei undertakes a series of mysterious tasks, but when he discovers a child seemingly abandoned by the fairie folk, he meets resistance in his determination to save her. **PB \$19.95**

Brett McBean*Last Motel*

Strangers with seemingly little in common with one another, are inextricably linked through a series of macabre events. In one explosive night, these people's lives will change forever. Their stories are all different, but their plans are all the same: Stay the night at the Lodgepole Pine Motel and leave the next morning. The only problem is that one night at the Lodgepole Pine Motel can be a lifetime. **TP \$50**

Wil McCarthy*To Crush the Moon (Lost in Translation 2)*

Conrad Mursk and his lover, Captain Xiomara "Xmary" Li Weng, are called in by King Bruno de Towaji to embark on a desperate mission to destroy the moon, with the fate of billions of souls at stake if they fail. **PB \$17.95**

Ian McDonald*River of Gods*

River of Gods is an exquisite, epic novel by an acclaimed science fiction writer. Relentlessly paced, and set in mid 21st century India, it portrays a civilisation in flux. **PB \$21.95**

Patricia A McKillip*Od Magic*

Possessing a unique talent for connecting with the agricultural environment, Brenden Vetch's ability has brought him to the attention of the wizard Od, who hires him as a gardener, but Brenden's gifts make him far more than he seems and could tip the balance of power in the Kingdom of Numis back into the hands of the wizard community. **HC \$47.95**

*Moon-Flash***PB \$19.95****Gabriel Mesta***The Martian War*

A novel based on the premise that H G Wells's novel The War of the Worlds describes actual historical events. **HC \$47.95**

L E Modesitt Jr*Alector's Choice (Corean Chronicles 04)*

When the planet Corus approaches the time in which its artificially cultivated climate is ready to support the needs of a technologically superior race from a distant planet, the local people and their overseers, charged with preparing the planet, are unaware that their own existence will be threatened. **HC \$56.95**

Ghosts of Columbia

Omnibus of Of Tangible Ghosts and Ghost of the Revelator. Follows events in a world in which ghosts exist and have political implications in a civilization jointly owned by multiple nations. **TP \$30.95**

Michael Moorcock*The White Wolf's Son*

Experiencing visions after being left behind at her Yorkshire Dales family home, Una learns that she has been selected to lead a band of followers to the White Wolf's son and to the discovery of the Runestaff, which must be kept out of the control of evil hands. **HC \$51.95**

John Moore*The Unhandsome Prince*

Determined to find a prince among the frogs, literally, Caroline spends her days in the swamps, but when she finds her prince, she is quite disappointed in his appearance, until a sorceress, a dwarf, and his royal family teach her some lessons in life and love. **PB \$17.95**

Thomas Ott*Cinema Panopticum*

Five interlinked horror tales, told in the form of a graphic novel, follow a young girl into a booth at an amusement park called "Cinema Panopticum". **HC \$38.95**

Larry Niven & Brenda Cooper*Building Harlequin's Moon*

When the crew of an starship accidentally land on a giant gas planet, they are forced to turn a nearby moon into a temporary home, a situation that tests the leadership of Gabriel and changes everything that slave girl Rachel and her people have ever known. **HC \$52.95**

Andre Norton*Gods and Androids*

Omnibus of Android at Arms and Wraiths of Time. Awakening from a frozen mind state, an imprisoned Andas Kastor must discover if he is the rightful Emperor of Inyange or an android double. Hurtled through space and time to the Nubian kingdom of Meroe, a museum expert in African archaeology finds she must play a key role in preserving their civilization from evil power-seekers. **PB \$17.95**

Chuck Palahnuik*Haunted*

Twenty-three linked stories about a group of people who have answered an ad for an artist's retreat, believing that they will find a peaceful refuge in order to create their individual masterpieces, only to find themselves trapped in a cavernous old theater in which they are kept completely isolated, with resources in short supply. **HC \$51.95 TP \$32.95 CD \$78**

Don Pendleton*Lethal Tribute (Super Bolan 102)*

When an ancient cult that worships death is reborn, determined to unleash a campaign of destruction throughout the world, Mack Bolan must go up against an army of invisible warriors in his quest to stop a group of maniacal killers who thrive on evil. **PB \$16.95**

Sharon Penman*Dragon's Lair*

When her son Richard is held for ransom in an Austrian dungeon and Prince John plots with the French king to prevent Richard's return, Queen Eleanor sends Justin de Quincy into Wales to recover a ransom payment that has gone missing. **PB \$22.95**

Tom Piccirilli*November Mourns*

Returning to the Southern mountain town of Moon Run Hollow after serving time in prison for assaulting his sister's attacker, Shad Jenkins discovers that his sister Megan has been found dead and, tormented by the dark Blood Dreams from which he has suffered since childhood, must confront a nightmarish adversary whose evil permeates the hollow. **PB \$15.95**

Terry Pratchett,**Ian Stewart & Jack Cohen***Darwin's Watch**(Science of the Discworld III)*

Roundworld is in trouble again, and this time it looks fatal. Having created it in the first place, the wizards of Unseen University feel vaguely responsible for its safety. Victorian England has stagnated and the pace of progress would embarrass a limping snail. Unless something drastic is done, there won't be time for anyone to invent spaceflight and the human race will be turned into ice-pops. **HC \$55**

Terry Pratchett

The Colour of Magic Anniversary edition
(Discworld 01) **PB \$19.95**
Pyramids (Discworld 07) **CD \$45**
Guards! Guards! (Discworld 08) **CD \$45**
Anniversary edition **PB \$19.95**

M J Putney

Stolen Magic
Assigned the task of ensuring that those of the Lineage do not misuse their powers, Simon Malmain, confronts a rogue Guardian, who uses a spell to transform Malmain into a unicom, an enchantment that only an ensorcelled girl can help him break. **HC \$49.95**

John Ringo

Into the Looking Glass
An investigation into an explosion that led to the destruction of the the University of Central Florida and much of the surrounding countryside leads physicist William Weaver and Navy SEAL Command Master Chief Robert Miller to the discovery of a series of interdimensional gateways, one of which is disgorging demonic alien visitors intent on annihilating all life on Earth. **HC \$49.95**

A R R R Roberts

The Va Dinci Cod
There's something fishy going on...Can you crack the code? (If you can, let us know - we've no idea) **HC \$19.95**

Robert Ross

Never Look Back
When she moves into her new husband's mansion with his eccentric teenage daughter, Karen Donovan comes across the diary of an accused axe-murderess and discovers that her stepdaughter's bizarre behavior stems from this evil, which longs to kill again. **PB \$17.95**

John Saul

Black Creek Crossing
Angie Sullivan adores her new home at Black Creek Crossing in the small town of Roundtree, Massachusetts, until she discovers that the house had been the scene of a horrific double murder and the focus of a series of increasingly bizarre events--ranging from mysterious storms to inexplicable "accidents" and rumors of dark witchcraft. **PB \$19.95**

Robert Sawyer

Iterations **HC \$34.95**

Gena Showalter

Awaken Me Darkly
When a number of humans are abducted, Mia Snow, a member of an elite task force assigned to stalk and kill otherworldly predators, suspects that the Arcadians, a race of aliens with powerful psychic talents, are responsible and must use her own psychic abilities and fighting skills to stop the terror. **TP \$24.95**

Dan Simmons

Song of Kali (Fantasy Masterworks 44)
Robert Luczak, sent to Calcutta to interview the mysterious poet M. Das, who has been missing for ten years, discovers that the missing man is mixed up in the death-worshipping cult of Kali. **PB \$22.95**

Susan Sizemore

I Hunger For You
Rescued from an attack by a group of vicious vampires by SWAT team leader Colin Foxe, a former lover, Mia is unaware that he is actually a prime vampire for whom it is forbidden to take a mortal woman as a mate. **PB \$12.95**

Duncan Spratt

House of the Eagle(Ptolemies Quartet 01)
The House of the Eagle begins the Ptolemies Quartet, an epic story of the Greek Pharaohs of Egypt, whose extraordinary dynasty spans twelve generations from the death of Alexander the Great to the fall of Cleopatra. **PB \$24.95**

Martin Sketchley

The Affinity Trap (Affinity Trap 01)
General William Myson, is a man dealing in arms with the alien Sinz. Seriatt is home to a 3 sex race, and located near the wormhole gateway used by the Sinz. The Seriatts see Myson's arms dealings as a threat. Myson forms an agreement to father a child with Vourniass Lycern, the assigned child-bearer to the Seriattic Royal Household. When Lycern moves to the Affinity Group, Myson orders Alexander Delgado to fetch her. Delgado sees the mission as an opportunity to engender far greater change. **PB \$18.95**

The Destiny Mask (Affinity Trap 02)

After the death of Vourniass Lycern, her twin sons have grown up ignorant of their relationship. No-one knows Michael and Cascari are brothers, and both believe they are the rightful heir to the position of Monosiell, head of Seriatt's Royal Household. The stakes are heightened as the Seriatts are developing tiome travel capacity, using technology derived from the Destiny Mask, the artifact the Seriattic oracles use to predict the future. **TP \$29.95**

Ellen Steiber

A Rumor of Gems
When gemstones possessing strange mystical powers begin appearing in the magical port town of Arcato, four people--including an embittered young woman, a would-be shaman, an antiques dealer, and an eleven-year-old possible killer--find their lives inextricably intertwined. **HC \$52.95**

Neal Stephenson & George J Frederick
Interface

In a near-future political thriller, a network of investors has a vested and sinister interest in the presidential race, and together the shadowy coalition attempts to control the worldwide economy by using a special biochip implant to control the mind of a presidential candidate. **TP \$28.95**

The Cobweb

While his wife, an army reservist, flies to a Mideast crisis, Clyde Banks, a deputy sheriff in a small Midwestern town uncovers a plot that might have connections reaching halfway across the globe. **TP \$28.95**

Stephen Stern & Arne Starr

War of the Worlds
True to Wells's vision, this modernized adaptation is a story of human survival that will resonate with today's readers. **GN \$28.95**

Charles Stross

The Family Trade (Merchant Princes 01)
Believing she has found a career-making story when she stumbles upon a money-laundering scheme, reporter Miriam Beckstein is shocked when she is fired and threatened with death, a situation that turns increasingly bizarre when she learns the fate of her murdered mother and is transported to a parallel earth where her family rules a powerful kingdom. **PB \$17.95**

The Hidden Family (Merchant Princes 02)
Boston journalist Miriam, known as Lady Helge to her alternate timeline family, applies modern business and scientific practices to three other worlds, with unexpected consequences. **HC \$51.95**

Steph Swainston

The Year of Our War
Jant is one of The Circle, a cadre of fifty immortals who serve the Emperor, and the only immortal, who can fly. The Emperor is trying to protect mankind from the hordes of giant insects, overwhelming towns with their nests, eating everything and everyone in their path. But he must also contend with the rivalries and petty squabbles of his chosen immortals. These are squabbles that will soon spill over into open civil war. **PB \$18.95**

No Present Like Time

God is still on holiday, the Emperor still leads and his immortals are still quarreling amongst themselves. It is known that the insects are reaching the Fourlands from the Shift but now mankind just has to do something about it. And in the meantime attention shifts to new lands and a naval expedition is launched. And Jant, the Emperor's drug-addicted winged messenger is expected to join it. **HC \$39.95 TP \$29.95**

Shanna Swendson

Enchanted Inc
Moving to New York City to build a new life for herself, Katie finds her life becoming very strange as a series of odd things, involving unusual people and creatures, begin to happen around her and discovers that she may not be so average after all when she takes a job for Magic, Spells, and Illusions, Inc. **TP \$26.95**

Sheri S Tepper

The Companions
Assisting her linguist half-brother to decipher the language of what may be an intelligent native species on a newly discovered planet, Jewel Delis, a member of an underground activist group, seeks to discover if the planet may provide sanctuary to animals who have been doomed by a new law. **PB \$18.95**

Harry Turtledove

Time of Troubles I
(Videssos Time of Troubles 01, 02)
Omnibus of *The Stolen Throne* and *Hammer and Anvil*. Receiving a prophesy before war is declared between two rival empires, Abivard watches his father and the king fall in battle and a greedy bureaucrat capture the crown. Maniakes, returned from exile as the savior of the Empire of Videssos, must protect his new realm from internal strife, sorcerous attack, and foreign invaders. **HC \$52.95**

James Thompson

Dark Moon Rising

When neurologist James Wilcox places his life in the hands of the only man he trusts to remove the tumor in his brain, unimaginable, homicidal side effects emerge after the surgery, placing the lives of those around him in grave danger. **PB \$15.95**

John Varley

Mammoth

Stumbling upon a perfectly frozen woolly mammoth in the northern wilds of Canada, a mammoth hunter is stunned when he finds the body of a Stone Age man, dating from around 12,000 years ago, next to the mammoth, wearing a modern-day wristwatch. **HC \$49.95**

Jules Watson

The White Mare (Dalriada 01)

AD 79 and Agricola, the ruthless governor of Roman Britain, is turning his attentions to the last unconquered territory in Britain, Alba, Scotland. Rhiann is a Scottish princess and priestess scarred by her violent past. She faces a forced marriage to protect the freedom of her people. Eremon is an Irish prince in exile, who must seek an alliance to regain his throne. With war and chaos looming for her people, Rhiann finds herself drawn into an unexpected journey of the spirit and heart, which will reveal the true purpose of her life. **PB \$21.95**

The Dawn Stag (Dalriada 02)

Rhiann is an Alban priestess and princess who submitted to a political marriage to Eremon, an exiled Irish prince. Now in them lies the hope of a nation. Agricola's army is formidable, brilliantly armed and heavily supported. To the people of Alba it is a wall advancing across their homeland, bringing with it desolation. The armies of Alba and Rome will meet in an epic battle to decide the fate of a country. Rhiann searches for guidance in the spirit world, little realising how big a part she will play in this endgame. **HC \$55 TP \$29.95**

Tad Williams

To Green Angel Tower

As King Elias is drawn ever deeper into the nightmarish web of Sithi dark magic, the allies of Prince Josua rally their forces at the Stone of Farewell, in preparation for a final confrontation with the undead Sithi Storm King and his evil minions. Reprint. **TP \$38.95**

Michael Z Williamson

Targets of Opportunity (Target Terror 02)

US Army Rangers and military sharpshooters Kyle Monroe and Wade Curtis journey to Romania to take out five terrorist masterminds planning the ultimate strike, but their mission is complicated when their targets discover their mission. **PB \$18.95**

John Wooley

Dark Within

The arrival of a stranger with a tempting offer to give them anything they have ever wanted spells unexpected horror for Jim and Deborah Douglas and their small-town Oklahoma neighbors as they begin to discover that they have become enmeshed in a dark web, trapped by a power that can probe their hidden secrets and fears and bring them to life. **PB \$17.95**

Connie Willis

To Say Nothing of the Dog (Oxford 02)

Ned is suffering the classic symptoms of excessive time travel. And no wonder. Oxford's history department has just pulled him out of World War II and Ned's barely had time to wash off the gunpowder when he has a straw boater shoved on his head, a carpetbag in his hand and is thrown straight into Victorian England. For a holiday. But an impossible accident makes it hard to relax. Ned's holiday becomes a mad struggle to put together a historical jigsaw puzzle involving a cat, a diary, young lovers and the mysterious bishop's bird stump. If he can't make all the pieces fit it could mean the end of history itself. **PB \$22.95**

Rob Zombie

Rob Zombie Presents: Monsters, Maniacs and Madmen

Original artwork and introductions from the founder of the White Zombie heavy-metal band accompany a chilling collection of classic horror stories by Edgar Allan Poe, Bram Stoker, Charles Dickens, F. Marion Crawford, and other authors. **TP \$34.95**

Analog May 2005

Magazine \$9.95

Fantasy & Science Fiction May 2005

Magazine \$9.95

Locus 531 April 2005

Magazine \$14.95

Locus 532 May 2005

Magazine \$14.95

Collections

Poppy Z Brite

Love in Vein

A sexy new repackaging of the extremely popular anthology of vampire erotica, edited by acclaimed author Poppy Z. Brite. **PB \$19.95**

Ellen Datlow & Terri Windling

Swan Sister Fairy Tales Retold

Featuring contributions from such noted authors as Neil Gaiman, Tanith Lee, Christopher Rowe, and Jane Yolen, an extraordinary volume contains a vast array of unique stories drawn from classic fairy tales, including Sleeping Beauty, Arabian Nights, and Little Red Riding Hood. **PB \$7.95**

Martin H Greenberg & Kerry Hughes

Maiden, Matron, Crone

From a queen who must save her people, to a bag lady who embodies the Goddess's senior Aspect, this collection of thirteen stories, set both in fantasy realms and the modern-day world, pays tribute to the three aspects of the Triple Goddess and features contributions from Brenda Cooper, Tanya Huff, and Jody Lynn Nye. **PB \$17.95**

Joe R Lansdale

Bumper Crop

Twenty-six grim tales of dark horror comprise a collection of the violent and the weird, from "The God of the Razor," a tale about the dark force behind serial killers, to "Chompers," a story of false teeth with an appetite. **TP \$32.95**

Young Adult

Jackie Andrews

Blood Fued (Fire and Ice 01)

The first in a series of fantasy thrillers starring a fey, streetwise private investigator, Silke, who combines her magical skills with those of a telepathic boy, Stone, to solve crimes against the kingdom. **PB \$14.95**

Avi

The Book Without Words

Having tried for years to unlock the secrets of the magical Book Without Words, Thorston dies in failure and the book is passed on to his servant and her magical raven who begin the process of breaking the code in the hopes of gaining vast riches and eternal life. **HC \$32.95**

Tracy Barrett

On Etruscan Time

While on an archaeological dig near Florence, Italy, with his mother, eleven-year-old Hector meets an Etruscan boy who needs help to foil his treacherous uncle's plan to make him a human sacrifice, one thousand years in the past. **HC \$34.95**

Hilari Bell

The Wizard Test

Dayven is devastated when he learns he has wizard powers, since wizards are considered to be disloyal deceivers, until he undergoes wizard training and discovers a new way of looking at the world that will change his values, friendships, and future. **HC \$34.95**

Luc Besson

Arthur and the Minimoys

Desperate to save the life of his grandfather and his home, Arthur discovers a world of Minimoys living in the grass in his backyard and turns to them for help in the hope that they, possess the skills to help him with the dangerous task that lies ahead. **HC \$32.95**

Holly Black

Tithe

A sinister, chilling fantasy about ancient power struggles, menacing villains and beautiful dark heroes. **PB \$16.95**

Anne-Laure Bondoux

The Destiny of Linus Hoppe

In a utopian world, fourteen-year-old Linus, who is approaching the test with the Great Processor that will determine in which Realm he will live, rejects the accepted way of life and ventures to change his destiny. **HC \$32.95**

Herbie Brennan

The Alien's Handbook

Brennan examines the science, including how aliens function physically and where in the universe they are likely to come from, as well as detailing the fifteen different alien physical types. He explores alien frauds - the methods people use to fake abduction experiences - and suggests ways in which the UFO hunter might judge whether or not someone is a genuine abductee. There is also a chapter of useful advice on what to do should you become the victim of an alien abduction. **PB \$16.95**

P W Catanese*The Thief and the Beanstalk*

Hearing rumors of the riches that Jack possesses after his journey up the beanstalk, Nick teams up with Finch the thief to break into Jack's castle and get some valuables for themselves, but when Nick stumbles upon the magic beans, greed takes over and rational thinking is pushed aside. **PB \$13.95**

Ann Coburn*Glint*

Danny is missing. His sister is determined to do whatever it takes to find him. In a separate world, of dragons and were-creatures, Argent sets out on an adventure when a thief snatches a baby dragon. If Ellie is to find Danny, she must be like Argent. **PB \$16.95**

Suzanne Collins*Gregor and the Prophecy of Bane (Underland Chronicles 02)*

After his little sister is kidnapped and taken away to the Underground, Gregor's pledge to never return there is quickly broken in order to track down the rat, Bane, and find his sibling with the help of his old friend Ares and princess Luxa. **PB \$17.95**

William Corlett*The Steps Up the Chimney*

William, Mary and Alice have come to spend Christmas with their uncle. Little by little, they discover that things in this remote old house are not quite what they seem. There are powerful forces at work, calling to the children from across the centuries; forces that pull them up the hidden steps in the chimney to the secret room where the magician lives. **PB \$17.95**

*The Door In the Tree***PB \$17.95***Behind the Waterfall***PB \$17.95***Bridge In the Clouds***PB \$17.95****Joseph Craig***Jimmy Coates: Killer*

Who are the mysterious men in suits, chasing Jimmy across the city? Why are they after him, and what do they want? What are Jimmy's parents keeping from him, and who can he trust? And how come he can suddenly do all this really neat stuff? **PB \$14.95**

Terry Deary*The Boy Who Haunted Himself* **PB \$12.95****Diane Duane***Wizard's Holiday (Young Wizards 07)*

When her little sister Dairine signs her up for a wizardly "cultural exchange" for spring break, Nita and her partner-wizard Kit end up halfway across the galaxy while three young wizards move in with Dairine and her dad for their part of the exchange. **PB \$17.95**

Nancy Farmer*The Sea of Trolls*

A dramatic and gripping adventure set in the 8th century. History, humour and medieval magic combine to tell the tale of Jack, who is captured during the first Viking raid on Britain, by Viking chief Olaf One-Brow. **PB \$16.95**

*The House of the Scorpion***PB \$12.95****Heather Dyer***The Fish in Room 11*

Forced by Mr. Harris to earn his keep at the seaside hotel, orphaned Toby's existence is brightened by the Flots, a family of mermaids Toby disguises as hotel guests. **PB \$11.95**

Elaine Forrester*Wild Wind (Eden Glassie 04)*

A terrifying cyclone brings down power lines and creates havoc, while a mysterious prowler, circling the Eden-Glassie homestead, strikes terror into the hearts of Tori, his sister and two cousins. Their courage has never been so thoroughly tested. **PB \$14.95**

Jackie French*My Uncle Wal the Werewolf*

Prunella, a detective-in-training, who joins Buster and his relatives on the quest to find his parents who have been wolfnapped by the evil Miss Snotgrass of Doggie Yum. **PB \$11.95**

Mordicai Gerstein*The Old Country*

A grandmother tells her story of being tricked into exchanging her young body with that of a fox and trying to get it back while a war tore apart her home and her country. **HC \$30.95**

Sandra Glover*Demon's Rock***PB \$12.95****Christopher Golden & Thomas E Sniegoski***Tears Of The Furies (Menagerie 02)*

The members of the Menagerie are sent to Athens to investigate a series of bizarre deaths in which men and women are transformed into stone and discover that the queen of the Gorgons has returned from Hell to wreak her vengeance on the world. **PB \$19.95**

Christopher Golden & Rick Hautala*Throat Culture (Body of Evidence)*

Wedding bells are ringing for Jenna Blake's dad, and she couldn't be happier for him. When guests start experiencing unusual symptoms, Jenna knows something is terribly wrong. Shayna winds up paralyzed. But Shayna's not the only victim. The illness begins to sweep Jenna's college campus, leaving two students dead. Doctors suspect that this is no ordinary virus. Highly unusual and destructive, it could only be the work of human hands. **PB \$9.95**

Magaret Peterson Haddix*Among the Enemy (Shadow Children)*

As a Shadow Child, the illegal third born in his family, Matthias attempts to make an escape before the Population Police arrive to take him away. When he saves the life of an officer and is given a chance to join their squad, Matthias finds it difficult to work with the people he once considered his enemy. **HC \$32.95**

Shadow Children

Box set of Among the Hidden, Among the Imposters, Among the Betrayed, and Among the Barons. **PB Box \$40.95**

*Among the Imposters***HC \$32.95***Among the Betrayed***HC \$34.95***Among the Barons***HC \$34.95***Among the Brave***HC \$32.95****D C Green***Zapp! To Planet Horse*

Raz's slightly weird dad has just invented the Zappoter, a machine capable of instantly transporting the user across the universe. And Raz has put it to premature use and zapped himself to Uponia. Here the urbanite and slightly pet-phobic earth kid finds himself in a pre-industrial world where humans, horses and chickens all speak in English and live in perfect harmony. Or at least they did, until Raz gives the king a new idea, cars. **PB \$14.95**

Philip Gross*Turn To Stone*

Nick, a sixteen-year-old runaway, is selected for training at a secluded mansion to become one of the elite of living statues, actors who can live a life of ease if they are willing to train hard enough and please their mysterious benefactor, but who maybe destroyed if they do not measure up. **HC \$34.95**

Ted Hughes*The Iron Man*

Mankind must put a stop to the dreadful destruction caused by the Iron Man. A trap is set for him, but he cannot be kept down. When a terrible monster from outer space threatens to lay waste to the planet, it is the Iron Man who finds a way to save the world. **PB \$14.95**

*The Iron Woman***PB \$14.95****Zora Neale Hurston***Skull Talks Back*

Inspired by stories from the rural south of America, a collection of terrifying tales includes a skinless witch, a talking skull, and a man more evil than the devil. **HC \$34.95**

Patrick Jennings*The Wolving Time*

In sixteenth-century France during a time of witch-hunts, in a village with a corrupt priest, Lazlo Emberek longs to be able to turn into a wolf as his parents can, but also desires the friendship of a village girl. **PB \$15.95**

Jane Johnson*The Secret Country*

Ben has been saving for a fighting fish but a small cat begs to be bought and saved from Mr Dodds, the pet shop's cruel owner. He comes from a place called Eidolon, which exists as a shadow-world to our own. Mr Dodds has been importing these rare and magical beasts from Eidolon, but the stolen animals are away from their magical home. **TP \$19.95**

Diana Wynne Jones*Dalemark Quartet Volume 1***PB \$19.95***Dalemark Quartet Volume 2***PB \$19.95****Sally M Keehn***Gnat Stokes and the Foggy Bottom Swamp Queen*

In Mary's Cove, Tennessee, in 1869, twelve-year-old Gnat Stokes decides to prove she's not just a trouble maker by rescuing a boy who was spirited away seven years earlier by the evil Swamp Queen of Foggy Bottom. **HC \$34.95**

Rachel Klein*Moth Diaries*

At a boarding school, a young girl records her most intimate thoughts in a diary. The object of her growing obsession is her roommate, Lucy and her friendship with her new classmate. At the centre of the diary is the question that haunts all who read it: Is Ernessa really a vampire? Or has the narrator trapped herself in her own fevered imagination? **PB \$17.95**

D J MacHale*Pendragon : The Guide To The Territories Of Halla (Pendragon)*

As the lead guide of the group of Travelers, young Bobby Pendragon is responsible for the lives and land of many as he must lead them all on their journey through the ten territories in the hopes of protecting all they have from the destructive forces of Saint Dane. **PB \$19.95**

Gregory Maguire*Leaping Beauty*

Zany animals of all species run through these tales with alarming speed and dexterity. Who would have thought that Sleeping Beauty, that most regal of all fairy- tales, could be twisted into the story of a frog with a most unusual and promising dance career? **HC \$19.95**

Margaret Mahy *Maddigan's Fantasia*

At the centre of the troupe Maddigan's Fantasia is Garland, daughter of the late ringmaster. This time, their journey offers more challenges than expected for Garland and Maddigan's Fantasia. Three mysterious children join the performers and they prove a dangerous enigma for Garland, who slowly unlocks their secret. **PB \$19.95**

Jeff Mariotte*Spring Witch*

The final volume in this quartet finds Kerry's hunt coming to an end and her life changed forever by unanticipated events. **PB \$15.95**

Jan Mark*Useful Idiots*

A storm sweeps across Panzo beach and unveils a human skull beneath the sands. In the year 2255, the world's climate has changed and rising seas have engulfed the east of the islands. An Aboriginal community, the English, cling to an archaic way of life. They claim the skull as one of their own. Merrick finds that his interest in the skull draws him into a cultural struggle he doesn't understand. **PB \$17.95**

Sophie Masson **The Curse of Zohreh**(Chronicles of El Jisal 02)*

In the kingdom of Ameerat, the al-Farouk family lives in luxury in a beautiful palace. But their wealth comes at a terrible price, the curse of Zohreh, laid on the family 100 years earlier. In Parsari, Soheila, a member of Zohreh's clan, has vowed to revenge her ancestor. She leaves her home early one morning, dressed as a boy, and makes the long journey to Ameerat, where she manages to infiltrate the household to await her moment of retribution. **PB \$15.95**

Melinda Metz*Raven's Point*

An ancient evil has reawakened on a small island, eager to cause death and destruction again, but three teens face it with their newly-developed supernatural abilities. **HC \$34.95**

Christine Morton-Shaw*The Riddles of Epsilon*

Discovering a set of papers that reveals the life of a boy named Sebastian, Jess realizes that their lives are very similar in many ways and believes that the riddles of Epsilon need to be unlocked quickly if she and her mother are to have any chance of avoiding the same harsh fate as he and his mother. **HC \$34.95**

Adam Osterweil*Dragonsteel: Amulet of Komondor*

Joe and Katie battle everyone from a dragon to the FBI to unite 5 pieces of an amulet, scattered across Earth and the world of Komondor, that will restore everything to normal. For Joe and Katie have found themselves transported into the world of Komondor where they must play every move carefully in order to survive and find their way back home. **HC \$32.95**

Adam Osterweil*The Lost Treasure of Talus Scree*

With the help of his constant yerble companion Shelfy, Kiffin sets out on a quest to strengthen the enslaved humans for their struggles against the Gremlin of Mischieff. **HC \$32.95**

Edith Pattou*East*

Full of fear and excitement, Rose, a young woman, journeys to a distant castle on the back of a great white bear, only to find that her journey has just begun. **PB \$19.95**

Daniel Pinkwater*The Arsty Smartsy Club*

While walking the hot streets looking for something to do and teaching Nick's chicken how to juggle, Nick, Loretta, and Bruno are desperate for excitement, but when they fall into a chalk drawing and end up in a magical world, the three friends wonder if they got a bit more than what they wanted. **HC \$32.95**

Ellen Potter*Olivia Kidney and the Exit Academy*

Olivia Kidney and her father move into a Manhattan brownstone that has a lagoon in the living room, hosts visiting strangers in the middle of the night, and is mysteriously close to the spirit world. **HC \$32.95**

Chris Ryan*Blood Money (Alpha Force 07)*

When Alpha Force visit India, they discover the theft of human organs for transplant surgery. They are determined to stop the thefts, but it means tracking down some very ruthless people to gain the needed evidence. **PB \$14.95**

Midori Snyder*Hannah's Garden*

When she learns that her grandfather is dying, Cassie Brittan rushes to his home with her mother, but upon their arrival, Cassie sees that something strange has taken place on the property and soon learns about a family secret involving the supernatural world. **PB \$17.95**

Nancy Springer*Outlaw Princess Of Sherwood (Rowan Hood 02)*

King Solon the Red attempts to capture his runaway daughter Ettarde and force her into marriage with a rival king who has been threatening his reign. **PB \$15.95**

Paul Stewart & Chris Riddell*Fergus Crane (Far Flung Adventures 01)*

A mysterious flying box appears at the window of Fergus Crane's quayside home and Fergus is plunged headlong into an exciting adventure when the box is followed by a winged horse that whisks him off to his long-lost uncle and a mission to rescue his father from the far off Fire Island. **PB \$14.95**

Corby Flood (Far Flung Adventures 02)

Corby Flood and her family are about to set sail on the rather ramshackle cruise ship, the Euphonia. Onboard, amongst all the odd passengers and crew, there is a strange group of men in bowler-hats who call themselves The Brotherhood of Clowns. **HC \$24.95**

Paul Stewart*The Curse of Magoria***PB \$12.95****Jean Thesman***Singer*

Having been hidden in an abbey for years in order to be protected from her mother, Gwenore is forced to flee the abbey and change her name after her whereabouts are discovered, but despite a new identity, a king for a husband, and several beautiful children, Gwenore knows that her mother is still out there somewhere and so has to find a way to keep her family safe at all costs. **HC \$36.95**

Colin Thompson *Space: The Final Effrontery*

It's 2288 and the earth's population is down to a few thousand. The heroes of this adventure are on the most fabulously heroic quest of all: to find the source of creation. Ethel, the super brain behind this operation, is a super-intelligent, all-powerful being from a far-off galaxy. She is, however, trapped inside a chicken's body. **PB \$17.95**

Matt Thorne*Greengrove Castle (39 Castles 01)*

Eleanor Conway is living with her parents in a small castle community. One day she is selected to join a secretive organisation known as Castle Seven. She begins training in horse-riding, sword-fighting and diplomacy so that she can take part in missions and adventures on the community's behalf. Eleanor faces real danger. She must learn quickly who to trust - and how to hold her own. **PB \$14.95**

Kingmaker's Castle (39 Castles 02)

Eleanor Conway was chosen to join Castle Seven, but Castle Seven is now Castle Six. Anderson has kidnapped Mary and is holding her at Kinder Castle, a castle run entirely by children. He tells her she's destined to be Queen of all England one day; but can she trust him? Hearing of her kidnap, and Anderson's plan to attack a neighbouring castle using his army of unruly children, Eleanor and the Castle Six make preparations for a rescue. **PB \$14.95**

John Vornholt

The Troll Treasure (Troll King 03)

Just when the trials appear to be over for Rollo, the evil sorcerer Stygius Rex returns, demanding that the new troll king surrender the lands of Bonespittle to him. The only way to stop Stygius is for the trolls to find a legendary treasure that was created by a troll king long ago and left with the elves in the Great Chasm for safekeeping. **PB \$14.95**

Leander Watts

Ten Thousand Charms

When an exiled king and his three daughters arrive in Pharaoh, their fates become linked to that of a ropemaker's apprentice named Roddy whose abilities allow him to communicate with crows and dark forces. **HC \$32.95**

Scott Westerfeld

Uglies

In Tally's world, everyone is transformed from ugly to gorgeous on their sixteenth birthday, but Tally's friend Shay would rather risk life on the outside than be operated on, and when she runs away, the authorities make Tally find her friend and turn her in. **PB \$9.95**

Carole Wilkinson

Dragon Keeper

When a nameless orphan saves the life of an old dragon, she fulfills her destiny as a Dragon Keeper, which forever changes the direction of her life as she, along with the dragon, journey across China to keep the dragon's legacy safe, while battling against dragon hunters and evil villains. **HC \$34.95**

Marly Youmans

Ingledove

Several years after Fontana dam flooded the town where they were born, Ingledove and her brother Lang go wandering in the southern Appalachians, where they encounter their mother's peculiar people, the Adantan, and an evil being who charms Lang. **HC \$32.95**

Non Fiction

The Faber Book of Science

Introduces hunting spiders and black holes, gorillas and stardust, protons, photons and neutrinos. In this anthology, follow the development of modern science from Leonardo da Vinci to Chaos Theory. **TP \$29.95**

Emmanuel Carrere

I Am Alive and You Are Dead: A Journey Into the Mind of Philip K Dick

The critically acclaimed author of *The Adversary* chronicles the life of the science fiction master, literary icon, and author of more than fifty novels, from his traumatic origins as the twin that lived, through his multiple marriages, drug odysseys, and tragic disintegration into madness. **TP \$30.95**

Media Related

Heroes of the DC Universe Ultimate Sticker Book

A 16 page book, featuring Batman, Superman and all your other favourite DC heroes. Also includes their loyal allies and some less well-known heroes from yesteryear. **PB \$9.95**

Kingdom of Heaven: Making of the Ridley Scott Epic **HC \$60 TP \$39.95**

Alias

Two of a Kind?

Greg Cox

Sydney Bristow enters into a disturbing alliance with an old adversary as they join forces to pursue a common--and urgent--goal that takes them from the luxury hotels of downtown Singapore to the streets of New Orleans's French Quarter. **PB \$17.95**

Faina

Rudy Gaborna

When a Russian controller and his teenage daughter are taken hostage by a terrorist, Sydney Bristow and the black ops APO team are called in to free the hostages and prevent widespread economic disaster and a tragedy of unimaginable proportions. **PB \$17.95**

Battlestar Galactica

Discovery

Richard Hatch & Brad Linaweaver

As they continue their desperate quest to find a permanent home for the survivors of the twelve colonies, Commander Apollo and the Galacticans discover that they are being pursued by powerful, next-generation Cylons that are smarter and more deadly than their previous enemies. **HC \$47.95**

Charmed

Changeling Places

Micol Ostow

The Charmed Ones go into action to save their family, when babies all over town, including Wyatt, are switched for seemingly perfect replicas. **PB \$12.95**

CSI

06: Binding Ties

Max Allan Collins

When a victim turns up dead in a crime bearing a striking similarity to a decade-old series of unsolved crimes for whom a vicious serial killer known as CAST took credit, Grissom and his team investigate, but the situation is complicated by a reporter who receives a letter from someone claiming to be CAST who denies responsibility for the latest killing. **PB \$14.95**

Doctor Who

Doctor Who and the Pescatons

We have been waiting for you, Doctor. We knew you would come. The TARDIS's arrival, on a lonely stretch of beach at night, is closely followed by a slithering sound and a chilling roar, marking the beginning of a terrifying adventure on present day Earth for the Doctor and Sarah Jane Smith. The deadly Pescatons have arrived! **CD \$29.95**

8th Doctor: The Gallifrey Chronicles

Lance Parkin

The Doctor's home planet of Gallifrey has been destroyed. The Time Lords are dead, their TARDISEs annihilated. The man responsible has been tracked down and lured to Earth in the year 2005, where there will be no escape. This is the last in the continuing series of original adventures of the Eighth Doctor. **PB \$14.95**

Professor Bernice Summerfield and...

A series of adventures featuring Bernice Summerfield.

The Squire's Crystal **PB \$23.95**

Jacqueline Rayner

The Gods of the Underworld **PB \$23.95**

Stephen Cole

The Infernal Nexus **PB \$23.95**

David Stone

The Glass Prison **PB \$23.95**

Jacqueline Rayner

The Dead Men Diaries **PB \$23.95**

Paul Cornell

Fantastic Four

Fantastic Four Ultimate Sticker Book

PB \$9.95

Fantastic Four Ultimate Guide

Tom DiFalco

HC \$39.95

Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy

The Making of Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy

Robbie Stamp

Interviews with many of the people involved in the film's production. Storyboards, sketches, never-before-seen artwork, the making of *The Heart of Gold*, *The Vogons*, the Guide itself and of course making Marvin, will create a must-have book. **HC \$55 TP \$35**

Jason X 03

Planet of the Beast

Nancy Kilpatrick

PB \$15.95

Judge Dredd

07: Swine Fever

Andrew Cartmel

With super-intelligent pigs demanding equal rights in the world of Mega-City One, pork has been banned as a food, but when someone violates the prohibition, Judge Dredd swings into action to prevent a bloodbath. **PB \$17.95**

Justice League of America

Green Lantern: Hero's Quest

Dennis O'Neil

With his new superhuman abilities due to an encounter with an alien and a powerful weapon, Kyle Rayner is transformed into the Green Lantern and becomes a member of the Justice League, with his first mission taking him to the edge of space. **PB \$12.95**

Star Trek

From Sawdust to Stardust

Terry Lee Rioux

An authoritative biography of the late DeForest Kelley, the actor who played Dr. Leonard "Bones" McCoy on Star Trek, follows his life and career from his early days in Hollywood Westerns to his rise to fame as the crusty physician on the original Enterprise. **TP \$24.95**

Original Series: Seeds of Rage

Kevin Ryan

Tensions between the Federation and the Klingon Empire continue to escalate, while Captain James T. Kirk is forced to cope with new upgrades to the Enterprise's defensive systems while struggling to alleviate an ongoing diplomatic crisis that could lead to all-out war. **PB \$14.95**

Titan 01: Taking Wing

Michael A Martin & Andy Mangels

After the assassination of the Romulan Senate and the chaos and power struggles that threaten to destroy the Romulan Star Empire, Captain Riker and the U.S.S. Titan head to Romulus to set up negotiations among the factions, unaware that remnants of the Tal Shiar, the notorious Romulan intelligence service, are threatening to unleash a bloodbath. **PB \$14.95**

Star Wars

The Cestus Deception

Steven Barnes

The Confederacy is trying to get its hands on some very special battle droids, and the Republic is determined to stop them, so Obi-Wan Kenobi is sent to the planet Ord Cestus, manufacturer of the droids. His mission: diplomacy. But if diplomacy doesn't work, he will use any means a Jedi can to help keep these potentially super-dangerous weapons out of enemy hands. **PB \$19.95**

Jedi Trial

Dan Cragg & David Sherman

When the Separatists capture the Republic communications hub of Praesitlyn, the Republic sends a detachment of clone troopers under the leadership of Jedi Knights Nejaa Halcyon and Anakin Skywalker to re-take the base. **PB \$17.95**

Star Wars Field Guide

An American guide to the value of Star Wars collectibles. **PB \$26.95**

Strontium Dog

03: Ruthless

Jonathan Clements

Outcast, mutant bounty hunter Johnny Alpha is forced to risk everything when his sister vanishes after being accused of a crime she didn't commit. **PB \$17.95**

Transformers

Transformers: Ultimate Guide

HC \$39.95

Young Bond

Silverfin

Charlie Higson

Before the name became a legend. Before the boy became the man. The dark waters around a remote Scottish castle hold a sinister secret. One man with a thirst for power will use it, whatever the cost. **PB \$16.95**

Games Related

Forgotten Realms

War of the Spiderqueen 06:

Resurrection

Paul S Kemp

Favorite characters, situations, and locales from R. A. Salvatore's Dark Elf trilogy return in the sixth volume & epic conclusion. **HC \$50**

Bionicle 03

Rahi Beasts

Greg Farshty & Jeff James

Learn everything there is to know about the Rahi of the Bionicle world, the beasts of Mata Nui and Metru Nui, in a title filled with photographs of actual models. **PB \$15.95**

Dragonlance Minotaur Wars 3

Empire of Blood

Richard A Knaak

Continues the adventures and exploits of the minotaurs as they become caught up in the chaos, fallout, and changing destinies that resulted from the War of Souls. **HC \$50**

Final Destination 03

End of the Line

Rebecca Levene

A group of international students gets far more than they had bargained for during their deadly holiday excursion through Europe. **PB \$19.95**

Necromunda

01: Survival Instinct

Andy Chambers

Betrayed and left for dead, D'onne "Mad Donna" Ulant threatens to turn the cyberpunk world of Necromunda upside down in her fierce quest for vengeance. **PB \$17.95**

02: Salvation

C S Goto

Spy Zefer Tyrannus risks everything when he leaves his privileged world to venture deep into the seedy depths of the underhive on a mission that could bring him fame and wealth if he succeeds, or death if he fails. **PB \$17.95**

Warhammer

Darkness Rising

A companion to the worldwide Warhammer Storm of Chaos campaign. Set in the midst of an apocalyptic invasion by the forces of Chaos, Darkness Rising provides a ground-level account of the battles, events and personalities of the war, accompanied by artwork, including some never before seen pieces. **TP \$55**

Warhammer Darkblade 01

The Daemon's Curse

Dan Abnett & Mike Lee

A cruel and ruthless opportunist, dark elf aristocrat Malus Darkblade makes his way through the perilous Warhammer world, from the treacherous courts of the dark elves to the horrors of the Chaos Wastes. **PB \$19.95**

Warhammer 40K Ciaphas Cain 03

Traitor's Hand

Sandy Mitchell

Commissar Ciaphas Cain and his Valhallan regiment head to the planet of Adumbria to defend the world against an encroaching invasion by Chaos forces, but his latest mission is soon complicated by infighting among Imperial Guard regiments and an uprising by a sinister cult. **PB \$19.95**

Role Playing Games

d20 Dragonmech

Steam Warriors

This player's guide expands the range of character options in DragonMech. In addition to a host of new feats, equipment, and prestige classes, it presents class templates for customizing characters to the region from which they hail, as well as details on the emerging clockwork races, new steam powers, guilds and organizations, and more. **\$44**

d20 Dungeons and Dragons

Heroes of Battle

HC \$45

d20 Forgotten Realms

Champions of Ruin

Within these pages, you will discover everything players and DM'S need to create the most evil organisations, treacherous villains, and morally ambiguous antiheroes to ever afflict the Forgotten Realms setting. 3 new races, over 30 new spells and new feats and prestige classes. **HC \$45**

Exalted RPG

The Autochthonians

This core expansion details the industrial god-world of Autochthonia, from its wildlife to the society of the mighty Alchemical Exalted. Included is complete information on and character-creation rules for the Alchemical Exalted, including a complete array of their unique Charms and artifacts. **HC \$60**

Flames of War

King and Country

British and Empire infantry forces intelligence handbook. Inside you will find complete organisation and equipment, history of British Empire fighting divisions, painting guides with colour photos. **TP \$35**

Information on the Infinitas Groups

New members always welcome at all the groups, if interested just come along.

SF Discussion Group: Meets on the first Thursday of each month (excluding January) at 6.30pm in the shop. A topic is chosen each month by the attendees of the group for the following meeting. Contact the shop for the next topic. Always a lively discussion of science in the news, films, books and ideas.

Review Group: The review group meets on the third Thursday of each month. Two books (one science fiction, one fantasy) are chosen by group members for each meeting with participants encouraged to have read at least one prior to the meeting and bring their review/s along for discussion. The discussion is generally serious and insightful.

June review books:

SF: *Sundiver* by David Brin

Fan: *Saga of the Renunciates*

by Marion Zimmer Bradley

July Fantasy: *Monument* by Ian Graham

SF: *Freedom's Landing*

by Anne McCaffrey

Writers' Group: The group is for people who are currently writing (or even trying to write) science fiction, fantasy and horror related stories and pieces. If you think this might describe you, and you'd like to get involved in a group with others who understand what the genre is about, contact the shop or check out the website for more details.

How Alpha Bet (and won)

by Marc Luboff

It was a revolution carried out literally to the letter. A spectacular attack on the vernacular, a coup d'état conducted right under our noses yet would remain forever in our ears, eyes and throats.

Let us assume that letters are like us. They enjoy being loved; they despise being forgotten. And yet, like us, many are forgotten, discarded. So neglected was one such character that before the uprising very few ever knew his name. Some called @ 'ampersat' (not to be confused with ampersand, which he commonly was), but mostly – from Spanish to French, Korean to Hungarian, Italian and even in the international language Esperanto – he was referred to simply as 'snail', a testimony to his misshapen appearance.

@ came to believe he had been cheated out of his birthright. Despite sharing the same roots as A (hence their visible similarities), he had been condemned to a life of obscurity while A had been treated like royalty since hieroglyphics went out of fashion. Whether it was as Alpha in Greek, Aleph in Hebrew or Arabic, or A in the alphabet, this upstart had continuously enjoyed prime placement while @ had never even been regarded as a mainstream character. True, he was somewhat deformed but so was Claudius and was he not one of Rome's finest emperors? It was time for Remus to strike first, for Esau to take back from Jacob what was rightly his.

There was, however, one crucial problem that first had to be overcome, a rule by which all characters were bound: there always needs to be at least one vowel. For reasons beyond the scope of this story, the sacrosanctity of that law was challenged by no-one - except, of course, by the populist demagogue Y who had built virtually his entire career by questioning others. "Why are the vowels the patricians of the character community? Why should they enjoy special privileges over the rest of us? Why are they so important that we cannot string sentences together without them?" He was tolerated only because it was understood that it was in Y's character to always ask "why?". It was as fundamental to his being as breathing was to the humans. And so an exception was made. Everyone else, however, had to go about their business in the traditional manner. If something was to be said or council needed to be called, a vowel had to be present. Without at least one @ was powerless but, fortunately for him (characters being like us), there is always someone whose weakness can be exploited.

E had no reason to feel cheated yet suddenly he did. He had always prided himself on being such an easy-going character, but it was time to stop that. Others were taking advantage of him. It was realization that came about after an innocent question by an obscure figure he barely knew.

"I have been told E that you are the most ubiquitous letter in the alphabet. Is this true?"

"It is", E replied proudly.

"Even more so than A?" the hunchback had asked.

"Indeed."

"Then tell me E, why do you come after A in the alphabet and also in the order of vowels?"

E had no answer, not being anything he had ever considered himself, so he went to consult the other members of that all powerful cartel. But IOU, always a dodgy and dubious arrangement, were no help (are they ever?) and E was forced to go back to @ without an explanation. Seduced by promises of email and e-commerce, E soon provided @ with exactly what he needed: voweled allegiance.

With this backing, @ was now able to call together the Great Council. All the characters of the character map were summoned – not that they needed to be: no-one was going to miss this parley. There hadn't been such an event since the Greek block attempted to save their deputy, ß (Beta Maximus), from extinction – and that was back in the 80's. It had been a battle, but in the end the council voted in favour of V, H, and S and the Greeks lost yet another battle to the forces of modernization. But that was ancient history. Everyone was now fixed solely on what was

taking place right there and then, waiting to see if the rumours of a split within the big 5 were true.

E spoke first, describing in vague terms the motion as one in defence of equality, equity and freedom-loving individuals everywhere. Then he handed over the floor to his new bedfellow. All eyes were now on him, the snail, who was standing up as high as his Quasimodo hump would allow him and yet still he appeared bowed and frail. But this was the moment he had waited for all his life and he was not about to falter. As he looked out onto the curious curia, he knew that, for better or for worse, he had crossed the Rubicon, his die had been cast. He would win over the emotions of the masses and rise to the top, or else he would suffer a fate much worse than neglect.

He opened with an impassioned plea to all about brotherly love and universal principles of equality, liberty, and fraternity. Next he lambasted the privileged few whose lives of luxury came at the expense of the many. Then, in a sombre tone, he lamented the ills of abandonment and neglect and, as if to underscore to the point, he asked _ (underscore) if she could remember the last time she had been used. She could not she said softly, before breaking down in tears.

@ continued: "It's the perfect plot to bring us all back into the fold. A new high-tech jargon I call 'The Internet'. Of course the humans will be needed but they have no idea what it's really all about. They buy any old line we sell them. Our latest one is called 'The Paperless Office'. Amazon.com instead of Amazon soon gone. Ridiculous I know, but don't worry, no-one's gonna ask those native tribes in Brazil, I guarantee it. Now, who's with me?"

For a few moments there was nothing, only an ominous silence from a stunned crowd. What @ had just proposed was so radical, so unprecedented, that it was impossible to gauge what everybody else was thinking - and no-one wanted to act first. They looked around in bewilderment, shaken and stirred by what they had just witnessed. In their shock and awe they looked out at the hunched figure before them as if they had just heard a promise by Prometheus. And then suddenly there was movement.

The first to rise were the W brothers. These triplets, who did everything together, had often felt overlooked as figures of minimal importance. Next in line came C,O, and M and that too surprised no-one: the USSR had long since fallen but Commies were as red as ever, and longed to be as read as ever. After COM came / (slash) and then the floodgates just opened. Everyone was forced to pick a side, except, of course, Y who wanted to know "why can't I be neutral?"

The war would be fought across all lines, from little lounge rooms to the vast expanse of cyberspace. There was strike and counter-strike, dotcom booms and dotcom busts, viruses and cures (and all this time you thought the MyDoom virus was created by some fourteen year old computer geek from the Philippines). There were break-throughs in fibre optic technologies and stubborn technophobe grannies who just refused to give up the pen in favour of the keyboard. Napster was shut down; Kazaa and Grokster and E-donkey sprang forward like a hydra's head to fill in the void. Despite all their valiant attempts, the old order were simply unable to stem the tide of the information superhighway (as @'s forces, now based in the fortress-like region of Silicon Valley, were called). Nevertheless, they refused to go quietly. Their final attempt to halt the rebel advance came on the symbolic date of December 31st, 1999: Operation Y2K. Yet, for all its promise, it was a complete flop. Many dubbed it the anti-climax of the millennium, and on 01/01/00 they were forced to accept the regime as a fait accompli.

@ now emerged the alpha mail and ran the post with both speed and efficiency. He once again enjoyed the comparison to Claudius, who was also renowned for making great strides in improving the postal service of his day. And, like his favourite emperor, @ took his position most seriously: whenever anyone wanted to address him, they had to shift2 attention. And finally, in a cruel payback, he labelled any communication outside of his domain "snail-mail", declaring them as doomed as a snail in a Parisian restaurant.