



infinitas bookshop

science fiction, fantasy & horror

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March 2005

Featured Releases

Glass Dragons by Sean McMullen

The sequel to the highly popular Voyage of the Shadowmoon is now out in paperback.



Deathstalker Return by Simon R Green

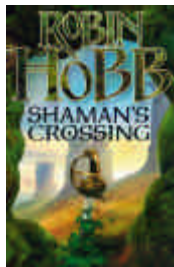
The latest in the Deathstalker series sees Lewis on a quest to find Owen Deathstalker.

Ascent by Sean Williams &

Shane Dix

The first book in the Geodesica duology will be available in paperback this month.

See inside for more on these books...



Robin Hobb To Visit Infinitas

We have just had confirmed great the news that Robin Hobb will be visiting the store to meet fans and sign copies of her books on July 23rd. Her new book, *Shaman's Crossing*, will be available from late May.

SFWA News

The Science Fiction Writers of America (who give out the annual Nebula Awards) has just announced the latest inductee into the ranks of Grand Master is to be *Anne McCaffrey*. This award is presented to a living author (yes, despite rumours to the contrary, Anne is still alive) for a lifetime of achievement in the genre. The SFWA has also announced that it will be introducing the Andre Norton Award for Young Adult fiction for the 2006 awards program.

Lord of the Rings Event

To celebrate the record success of *The Lord of the Rings Motion Picture Trilogy – The Exhibition* at the Powerhouse Museum, Academy Award-winning director Peter Jackson will headline a special once-only event on Saturday 12 March, 6pm – 8pm, at the State Theatre in Sydney. For more details see Ticketek or: www.powerhousemuseum.com/lotr

Magic Casements

The NSW Writers Centre is running the annual speculative fiction festival on Saturday 19th March 2004. In its third year, it is held in the grounds of Rozelle Hospital. Infinitas will be attending as the official bookshop for the festival. The first presentation requires a small fee, but the rest are free. If you are interested in writing SF or Fantasy, this will be a worthwhile day. Readers as well as writers are encouraged to attend. At the end of the day, Infinitas will be supporting the book launch of *The Raft* by Alan Mills. See page 5 for details on the book... Find more info on the festival at:

www.nswwriterscentre.org.au

Trade Fairs

Tim and Dan have just attended two trade fairs, where they found lots of new stock items and Tim overspent the budget. Visit the shop to see all the new and interesting good stuff being delivered over the next couple of months such as film cells, action figures and science gadgets.

Jack Chalker

Jack Chalker died on Feb 11th 2005. Jack Chalker was an accomplished American author whose fantasy books are particularly well loved. A blog maintained by Jack and his family leading up to his death and going back years can be found at:

www.jackchalker.com/news.htm



Star Wars

Star Wars Episode III books have been announced. The hardcover will be released in April 05 for \$49.95 titled SW: Revenge of the Sith by Matthew Woodring Stover. Order yours now. We will also have a new chess set and other licensed product.

Easter

We will be closed over Easter, including Saturday, 26th March. Easter Thursday we will be open to 8:00pm as a normal Thursday, then reopen 9:00am Easter Tuesday.



Expand your mind, Enter new worlds.

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

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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

Expect to see these books out this month. Please give us a call if you are waiting for something specific and we will let you know the date the publishers have given for release, and when we expect to have it in-store. If you are really keen, order now, and we will let you know when your copy arrives. Please note, we make this list for your information. We do not automatically order all books listed in the newsletter.

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

Interzone 196 January / February 2005
Magazine \$15

sf-envision.com #01

A speculative fiction magazine with stories, novel excerpts & industry insights. Produced in Brisbane. **Magazine \$7.95**

Sarah Ash

Prisoner of Ironsea Tower
(*Tears of Artamon 2*)

Eugene of Tielen has won the five Tears of Artamon, the legendary rubies which entitle him to be crowned emperor of the five countries of the ancient divided empire of Rossiya. But on the eve of his coronation, when the rubies are brought together for the first time in the imperial crown, a strange phenomenon occurs: a crimson beacon of light shoots up into the night sky from the five jewels. Is it a good portent - or an evil omen? Eugene has consigned his defeated enemy, Gavril Nagarian, to a living death in the bleak Ironsea Tower. But other sinister forces are at work, infiltrating Eugene's new empire, stirring the people he has conquered to revolt. Eugene will not be satisfied until he has enslaved a Drakhaoul, the daemon spirit that made Gavril such a formidable opponent. Obsessed with gaining the arcane knowledge that will lead him to his goal, he seeks out Kiukirilya, the Spirit Singer, forcing her to undertake a perilous journey into the world of the dead. Gavril, subjected to the cruel experiments of Director Baltzar in the Ironsea Tower, is equally obsessed: with escape. The opportunity, when it comes, faces him with an impossible choice. He has dreamed of returning to his peaceful life as a painter in Smarna. But if Eugene is successful in his quest for daemonic powers, he will become a monster. And the only man capable of stopping him is Gavril Nagarian. **PB \$22.95**



Amanda Ashley

Night's Kiss

Roshan DeLongpre, a tormented vampire, travels back in time to save a hauntingly beautiful witch from death and, bringing her back to the present, battles against a dark magic that will stop at nothing to destroy them both. **PB \$16.95**

Pierce Askegren

Human Resource (Inconstant Moon 01)

While on assignment on the moon as the EnTek Corporation's new Site Coordinator, Erik Morrison just wants to get his job done and go back to Earth, but his plans are thwarted when he becomes a pawn in a deadly game of corporate espionage. **PB \$17.95**

Robert Asprin & Esther Friesner

E Godz

Edwina Godz's two children, Dov and Peez, battle for control of her successful magic company E. Godz, Inc., using every trick of corporate infighting and wizardly warfare at their disposal. **PB \$17.95**

James Axler

Evil Abyss (Outlanders 62)

In Cambodia, the Cerberus warriors must guard the portal to the eternal mysteries of space and time from those who are seeking to possess the power to manipulate the past, present, and future. **PB \$16.95**

Cherith Baldry

The Roses of Roazon

Lush and imaginative historic fantasy set in a parallel-world medieval Brittany. The land of Arvorig is ruled by the Duke of Roazon, under the guiding authority of the Church. Peace has lasted here for so many generations that its inhabitants have consigned to legend all memory of Autrys, the dark shadow of Roazon, which was banished from the world when its first duke assumed office. But when the new Duke, Joscelin, is accused of heresy, a gate is subtly opened for Autrys to return. Meanwhile, other princes see their opportunity to seize power, and Arvorig itself is in deadly peril. As all those touched by war must make up their minds where their loyalties lie, in the end it is not the noblemen and warriors whose influence will be greatest. Lesser folk and small decisions can produce greater consequences, but most of all the fate of the duchy now rests in the nature of Joscelin himself. **PB \$19.95**

Nina Bangs

Night Bites

When a darkly sensual vampire named Thrain Davis arrives at the Woo Woo Inn, Cindy Harper, used to dealing with strange and eccentric guests, finally gets a chance to make her fantasies about this erotic creature become a reality. **PB \$17.95**

L A Banks

Bitten (Vampire Huntress 4)

With the vampire civil war prevented and deadly were-demons defeated, Damali Richards and her lover, Carlos Rivera, are looking forward to their new lives together, until a Master vampire steals one of the keys that opens the sixth seal foretold in the Book of Revelations, threatening to destroy the balance between the Light and Dark and engulf the world in Armageddon. Reader's Guide included. **TP \$30.95**

Stephen Baxter & Arthur C Clarke

Time's Eye (Time Odyssey 01)

A mysterious glowing orb appears over the region of central Asia, ripping the Earth into a kaleidoscopic patchwork of conflicting eras of the past, present, and future, mingling UN peacekeepers from the year 2037 with nineteenth-century British soldiers, the Mongol army of Genghis Khan, and the forces of Alexander the Great. **PB \$19.95**

Sunstorm (Time Odyssey 02)

In the sequel to Time's Eye, a modern-day woman hurtled into the midst of the turmoil stumbles upon a mysterious portal that links back to the Firstborn, omnipotent beings responsible for the upheaval of history and the creators of the notorious black monolith of 2001: A Space Odyssey. **HC \$52.95**

Gregory Benford

Sailing Bright Eternity (Galactic Center 6)

In the epic conclusion to the Galactic Center series, the hope of human survival comes down to one man, an ancient scientist from the distant past who leads a struggle against a gigantic race called the Old Ones. **PB \$17.95**

The Sunborn

A tale set in the same futuristic world as The Martian Race follows the discovery of a complex life form during the first successful manned mission to Mars, a finding that poses significant questions about life on worlds beyond our solar system. **HC \$51.95**

Carol Berg

The Soul Weaver (Bridge of D'Amath 03)

Accused of treason, Gerick escapes to a strange, enchanted realm where he becomes king and discovers the power of his own magic, soul weaving, which will allow him to return home and save his people from the evil Lords of Zhev'Na. **PB \$19.95**

James P Blaylock

13 Phantasms and Other Stories

This unrivaled collection of stories from a master of horror and fantasy includes two of his World Fantasy Award-winning stories--"13 Phantasms" and "Paper Dragons"--as well as fourteen other outstanding tales. **PB \$17.95**

Ben Bova

Mercury (Grand Tour of the Solar System)

The closest planet to the Sun, Mercury is an airless, heat-scorched world where temperatures rise to four times higher than the boiling point of water. But this vision of hell is also a planet with unlimited solar power - worth a fortune to the space tycoon Saito Yamagata if he can find a way to harness it. He has hired the enigmatic Dante Alexios to establish a research station on the surface of the planet and find a way to turn that solar energy into portable power satellites. But Yamagata is secretly also preparing the way to a very different dream: he wants to travel to the stars themselves. And Alexios has his own obsession, a plot to lure an old enemy to this hellhole of a world and take his revenge for one of the worst disasters in human history. **HC \$59.95**

Kate Brallier

Seal Island

Tired of life in the big city, Cecil Hargrave is delighted when an inheritance allows her move to picturesque Seal Island in Maine, where she encounters two very different men--Tom, a sexy novelist who has returned to his hometown to write, and Ronan, a handsome and mysterious drifter with a secret. **PB \$17.95**

Poppy Z Brite

Prime (Liquor 02)

In the sequel to Liquor, two years after the opening of their restaurant, Rickey and G-Man are determined to gain financial independence from their backer, Lenny, especially with Lenny under investigation by an ambitious New Orleans D.A., a situation complicated by the murder of Rickey's old acquaintance, chef Cooper Stark, and the victim's unexpected wealth, which he has left to Rickey. **TP \$28.95**

Edgar Rice Burroughs

A Princess of Mars

(John Carter of Mars 01)

John Carter, a Virginia gentleman, finds himself mysteriously transported from Civil War-era America to the planet Mars, where he plots, along with fellow prisoner Dejah Thoris, the lovely Princess of Thelium, to escape from his savage green captors. **PB \$13.95**

Ian Caldwell & Dustin Thomason

The Rule of Four

Tom Sullivan is about to graduate from Princeton. He's intelligent and popular, but haunted by the violent death several years earlier of his father, an academic who devoted his life to studying one of the rarest, most complex and most valuable books in the world. Since its publication in 1499, the Hypnerotomachia Poliphili has baffled scholars who have tried to understand its many mysteries. Coded in seven languages, the text is at once a passionate love story, an intricate mathematical labyrinth, and a tale of arcane brutality. Paul Harris, Tom's roommate, has deeply personal reasons of his own for wanting to unveil the secrets the book hides. When a long-lost diary surfaces, it seems the two friends have found the key to the labyrinth - but when a fellow researcher is murdered only hours later, they suddenly find themselves in great danger. And what they discover embedded in the text stuns them: a narrative detailing the passion of a Renaissance prince, a hidden crypt, and a secret worth dying to protect. **PB \$21.95**

Ted Chiang

Stories of Your Life and Others

Here are eight astonishing science-fiction stories that explore the boundaries between science and religion, between determinism and our ability to choose, between words and the entities they describe. Here are stories of conceptual breakthrough, of making sense of the universe and our place in it. **PB \$19.95**

Clive Cussler

Golden Buddha (Cabrillo)

Skipper of a non-descript lumber hauler disguising a state of the art spy ship behind the hull, Cabrillo takes the helm on dangerous covert missions carried out for whatever U.S. agency pays the price. And the stakes have never been higher - Cabrillo and his crew must put Tibet back in the hands of the Delai Lama by striking a deal with the Russians and the Chinese. His gambling chip is a golden Buddha containing records of vast oil reserves in the disputed land. But first, he has to locate and seize the artefact. **PB \$19.95**

L Sprague De Camp

Years in the Making: The Time-Travel Stories of L. Sprague de Camp

L. Sprague de Camp was a master of the time travel and alternate history story. In many respects his novel Lest Darkness Fall founded alternate history, while "Aristotle and the Gun" is probably one of the best stories about tinkering with history ever written. In addition we include stories of time travel, both backwards and forwards, and de Camp's wonderful essay "Language for Time-

Travelers". This is a collection of L. Sprague de Camp's SF best stories and essays dealing with time travel. **HC \$51.95**

Philip K Dick

The Crack In Space

All kinds of problems erupt when a repairman discovers that a hole in a faulty Jifi-scuttler leads to a parallel world, with Jim Briskin, campaigning to be America's first black president, determined to use the new world as a solution to Earth's overpopulation problem, and billionaire mutant George Walt hoping to seize control of it, but the other Earth turns out to be inhabited. **TP \$24.95**

William C Dietz

McCade on the Run (McCade 3, 4)

When a sacred artifact with divine powers is stolen by the space pirates, vengeful bounty hunter Sam McCade takes on the task of retrieving the treasure in Alien Bounty, while in McCade's Bounty, he embarks on a personal mission to rescue his kidnapped daughter from pirate Mustapha Pong, in a second omnibus edition. **TP \$28.95**

Sara Douglass

God's Concubine

(Troy Game 2)

It has been 2000 years since Cornelia, wife of Brutus, brought the Troy Game to a wrenching halt by murdering Genvissa, the Mistress of the Labyrinth. In those 2000 years the city of Troia Nova, now known as London, was razed and rebuilt a dozen times as the Minotaur Asterion unsuccessfully tried to discover where Brutus hid the six golden kingship bands of Troy. But now everyone is back, reborn into 11th-century Europe so they can play out their part in the Game. Asterion lurks within the court of Edward the Confessor, plotting with malevolence. Cornelia lives, older and wiser, but trapped in another loveless and desperate marriage. Genvissa returns, driven by spite and ambition. And in his stronghold on the coast of Normandy waits Brutus, reborn as one of the mightiest warrior-kings of all time... **PB \$19.95**

Helen Field, Anna Franklin & Paul Mason

Illustrated Encyclopedia of Fairies

TP \$39.95

Jude Fisher

The Rose of the World (Fool's Gold 03)

This conclusion to the Fool's Gold trilogy follows three unpredictable gods as they try to escape the traitorous magician that is holding them captive, a desperate struggle that profoundly affects their world and the destiny of their peoples. **HC \$49.95**

Eric Flint & K D Wentworth

The Course of Empire

Shackled under the alien tyranny of the Jao, Earth is now threatened by the Ekhat, who are sending a genocidal extermination fleet to the solar system, and the planet's only hope lies in a young Jao prince and a young human woman brought up among the Jao conquerers. **PB \$19.95**



Alan J Garner
The Chosen One 

TP \$29.95

Mitchell Graham

Ancient Legacy (Fifth Ring 3)

In the conclusion of the trilogy that began with *The Fifth Ring* and *The Emerald Cavern*, Mat Lewin, long believed dead, is drawn out of hiding by an opportunity to destroy his enemy and regain his rightful ring, which would give him the power to restore his enslaved homeland, only to discover that he must join forces with his nemesis to stop the insidious forces out to annihilate all humankind.

PB \$19.95

Simon R Green

Deathstalker Return (Deathstalker 07)

After Prince Douglas ascends the throne of the Empire at the height of a Golden Age of prosperity and peace, and he appoints Lewis Deathstalker as his Champion, a long-prophecied enemy appears to wreak havoc once again.

PB \$19.95

Deathstalker Coda (Deathstalker 08)

Two Deathstalkers must fight for the survival of Humanity: Lewis Deathstalker, in the present, and Owen Deathstalker in the past. While Lewis Deathstalker and his companions lead rebel forces against the evil usurper, Emperor Finn, the exiled King Douglas raises an army from the downcast and oppressed peoples of the Rookery. And Owen Deathstalker has his own mission: to seek out the dread secret that has turned his lost love Hazel d'Ark into the terrifying Terror. To do that, he must travel back in Time, further and further, visiting the Empire at different levels of its development, searching for the truth behind Hazel's transformation before the Terror really does destroy everything.

HC \$49.95

Hex and the City (Nightside 04)

John Taylor is hired by Lady Luck to investigate the origins of Nightside, and, in doing so, discovers the truth surrounding his mysterious heritage, with shocking consequences.

PB \$16.95

Barbara Hambly, Charlaine Harris & Maggie Shayne

Night's Edge

Three gripping tales of terror, seduction, and dangerous desire feature Maggie Shayne's Her Best Enemy, in which a disturbing message from beyond leads Kiley Brigham to psychic Jack McCain, who, under the cover of darkness, tames the restless spirits and her heart.

PB \$17.95

Laurell K Hamilton

Lumatic Café (Anita Blake 04)

Preternatural expert Anita Blake meets an interesting array of monsters that includes jealous vampires and killer zombies, but her work with a group of besieged werewolves is threatened when she falls in love with its leader. Originally in paperback.

HC \$47.95

Lori Handeland

Hunter's Moon

Dedicated to hunting down werewolves, Leigh Tyler heads for rural Wisconsin to uncover the truth about a series of bizarre occurrences, only

to come face to face with the enigmatic Damian Fitzgerald, a man who forces her to reconsider her vow to never let another man into her life.

PB \$17.95

Charlaine Harris

Shakespeare's Counselor (Lily Bard 01)

During her weekly group therapy session in Shakespeare, Arkansas, Lily Bard--cleaning woman, karate expert, and amateur sleuth--and her companions stumble upon the body of a woman, and Lily finds herself embroiled in another disturbing murder case.

PB \$16.95

Shakespeare's Christmas (Lily Bard 02)

With the murder of the town doctor and his nurse and an unsolved eight-year-old kidnapping case suddenly reopened, the town of Shakespeare, Arkansas, is no place for a wedding, but Lily Bard's sister is still planning on tying the knot--that is, if Lily can clean up the crime situation first.

PB \$15.95

Tracy Hickman & Laura Hickman

Mystic Warrior (Bronze Canticles 01)

In a world in which three connected universes--the Human, the Goblin, and the Faery--are slowly being drawn together, Galen Arvad, a young man with magical powers, must escape the ritual that puts those with such talents to death, with the help of his wife, Berkita, and his friend, Cephas the dwarf, while discovering the terrible fate that awaits him.

PB \$19.95

Tanya Huff

Blood Price (Blood 01)

PB \$16.95

Blood Trail (Blood 02)

PB \$16.95

Blood Lines (Blood 03)

PB \$16.95

Blood Pact (Blood 04)

PB \$16.95

Blood Debt (Blood 05)

PB \$16.95

New editions of the supernatural crime novels in which Vicki Nelson, PI teams up with Henry Fitzroy, the illegitimate child of Henry VIII and a five-hundred-year-old vampire.

Elle James

To Kiss A Frog

Man by night, frog by day, Craig Thibodeaux, cursed by an evil Voodoo Queen, must find someone to love him by the next full moon and finds his soulmate in stunning scientist Elaine Smith, who sees the real man beneath the warts.

PB \$15.95

Stephen King

Roadwork

When a highway project leaves him unemployed and threatens to destroy his home, one man takes on the forces of progress as he embarks on a vengeful showdown of epic proportions, in a novel originally written under the Richard Bachman pseudonym.

PB \$19.95

Dean Koontz & Kevin J Anderson

Prodigal Son (Dean Koontz's Frankenstein 01)

Frankenstein's monster has survived the centuries to become a creature living in the shadows of modern civilisation, a haunted and really quite heroic figure dedicated to battling the truly monstrous evil that has also survived the years: the cruel genius who gave him life, Dr Frankenstein. The legendary monster is called Deucalion. The action takes place in modern-day New Orleans, where the next

generation of Dr Frankenstein's monsters is wreaking havoc. But it's Deucalion, newly arrived in the city, who is the obvious suspect in the eyes of Detective Carson O'Connor. The cool, tough cop is soon talking about an ages-old conspiracy, a near immortal race of beings, and killers who are more - and less - than human. She doesn't know Deucalion and she are on the same side. Deucalion seeks one final confrontation with Dr Frankenstein.

PB \$18.95

Dean Koontz

From the Corner of His Eye

Bartholomew Lampion was blinded at the age of three, when surgeons reluctantly removed his eyes to save him from a fast-spreading cancer, but although eyeless, Barty regained his sight at thirteen. This sudden ascent from a decade of darkness into light was not brought about by a holy healer. A roller coaster had something to do with his recovery, as did a seagull. And you can't discount Barty's profound desire to make his mother proud of him before she died. The first time she died was the day Barty was born. January 6, 1965. Reissue.

PB \$19.95

One Door Away From Heaven

Leilani Maddoc's tenth birthday is nine months away. Micky Bellsong is convinced that in nine months and one day, the girl will be dead. And no one seems to care but Micky herself. She has a history of making wrong choices and living only for her own desires, but her decision to save the child's life - and pit herself against an adversary as fearsome as he is cunning - takes her on a journey of incredible peril and stunning discoveries, a journey filled with tragedy and joy, with humour, terror and hope, a journey that will change her forever.

PB \$19.95

Mercedes Lackey

Alta (Dragon Jousters 02)

Raising a dragon from infancy to form a special bond, Tian dragon-boy Vetch and his crimson dragonet Avatre arrive in Alta, where he must gain the trust of his countrymen to fulfill his dreams of becoming the leader of the Altan Jousters.

PB \$17.95

Mercedes Lackey & Roberta Gellis

Ill Met By Moonlight

The battle over the fate of sixteenth-century England continues as the evil Unseleighe Sidhe, under the dark leadership of Vidal, continue their plans to prevent Elizabeth's rise to the throne.

HC \$51.95

Joe R Lansdale

Mad Dog Summer and Other Stories

Presents a collection of short stories, including "The Steam Man of the Prairie and the Dark Rider Get Down," "The Big Blow," and "Mad Dog Summer."

HC \$78

Richard Laymon

Resurrection Dreams

Haunted by memories of a deranged boy named Melvin, who attempted to bring a dead body back with power from a car battery, Vicki returns home years later and encounters Melvin, who, just released from the institution, has special--and horrifying--plans for her.

PB \$19.95

Ursula K Le Guin

The Compass Rose: Stories

A classic collection of twenty short stories ranges widely in subject, mood, geography, and time and combines the tender, the humorous, the grim, and the solemn, the adventurous, and the fantastic. **TP \$28.95**

A Fisherman of the Inland Sea: Stories

A collection of speculative fiction highlights such objects of the imagination as a starship that sails on the wings of song, musical instruments that are played at funerals only, and orbiting arks designed to save a doomed humanity. **TP \$26.95**

Unlocking the Air: Stories

Eighteen short stories reveal the strangeness that can be found in ordinary life. A collection of short fictional works includes pieces that were written from the early 1980s to the mid-1990s and were originally published in such magazines as *The New Yorker*, *Harper's*, *Omni*, and *Playboy* and features "Limberlost," "Half Past Four," "Climbing to the Moon," and others. **TP \$26.95**

The Wind's Twelve Quarter: Stories

Seventeen short stories reveal the author's sustained concern with human relationships and values in past and future worlds of fantasy, speculation, and unearthly provision, in a new edition of the author's first collection of short fiction, first published in 1976. **TP \$28.95**

Orsinian Tales: Stories

The universal need for human freedom and love and the horrors of government oppression are recurring themes in this collection of eleven haunting pieces of short fiction, all set in the imaginary Eastern European country of Orsinia. **TP \$26.95**

Four Ways to Forgiveness: Stories

Four interconnected novellas follow the stories of disgraced revolutionary Abberkam, callow "space brat" Solly, haughty soldier Teyeo, and historian and exile Havzhiva as each battles for duty and freedom, in a collection set in the author's Hainish universe. **TP \$28.95**

Tim Lebbon

Desolation

When his father, plagued by madness, dies, Cain is finally able to interact with the outside world and moves into an apartment, but he is soon tormented by nightmares and terrorized by fellow tenants, both of which will force him to open a special trunk that harbors an unimaginable evil. **PB \$17.95**

Rachel Lee

Shadows of the Myth

From the forest she will come. No memory, no future, and only a white rose to identify her. The Ilduin Bane are myth and legend: assassins, mages whose blades drip poison and whose minds share a common purpose, one of death or control. All who have gone against them have been lost, unable to penetrate their powerful protections. And so Archer Blackcloak gathers a small band to bring about the downfall of the Bane. From Archer comes strength of purpose and an indomitable will. Ratha and Giri, the Anari warriors, give the group a fighter's skill and temper. Young Tom,

whose unwavering loyalty is matched by an insatiable curiosity and Sara Deepwell, who has a surprising talent for magic, join them. From their last member, Tess Birdsong, the only survivor of a brutal attack that left her with no memory, comes the power of one who has nothing left to lose. But the road to freedom is long and twisted, and before they are finished their old sorrows may destroy them. Yet once started, they cannot turn back, no matter how high the price to be paid... **PB \$18.95**

Jonathan Lethem

Men and Cartoons

The author of *The Fortress of Solitude* and *Motherless Brooklyn* now beguiles his readers nine times over into the ironic, heartbroken, eerie, and absurd territory he has made forever his own. *Men and Cartoons* is a place where superheroes take tenured positions at colleges, where innermost secrets are blurred in baroque dinner-party games, where a magical spray-product reveals that which two tormented lovers have concealed from one another, where sheep bred for suicide defy the imperatives of their creators, and where the smallest moments of life, from fitting a pair of glasses to choosing a record to play during a tryst, become unexpectedly revelatory, uncanny, and hilarious. In these nine tales Lethem brings his quarry into the light: men, not boys, caught in the act of never completely growing up. **TP \$29.95**

Jane Lindskold

The Buried Pyramid

Accompanying her uncle's archaeology team to the site of what may be the tomb of Moses the Lawgiver, plucky American Jenny Benet encounters trouble from a rival archaeologist and a shadowy Egyptian organization bent on keeping the tomb from being discovered. **PB \$19.95**

Graham Masterton

Unspeakable

A child welfare officer and deaf woman, Holly Summers uses her talent for lip-reading to assist the Portland, Oregon, police in their criminal investigations, including the disappearances of a string of women, until a supernatural curse sets an unearthly predator on her trail and her own young daughter vanishes. **PB \$17.95**

Sean McMullen

Glass Dragons (Moonworlds 02)

Laron, a chivalrous seven-hundred-year-old vampire, the beautiful Velandar, and the patient Terikel join forces to investigate a magical Manhattan Project that could fall into the wrong hands, in the sequel to *Voyage of the Shadowmoon*. **PB \$19.95**

Sarah Micklem

Firethorn Firethorn 1

A foundling child, Luck - named for the colour of her god-favoured copper hair - is fortunate to be taken in by one of the Blood. She remembers little of her past, her parents a vague and teasing memory, but service in the Dame's household is better than that of most mud folk. She is beaten rarely and is fed well,

and, under the Dame's watchful eye, Luck is even permitted to learn herb lore. But her comfortable world is turned upside when the old Dame dies, and her nephew arrives to claim his inheritance. Choosing to remain with her friends rather than claim her freedom and strike out alone, Luck's life is calm until her exotic looks attract the attentions of her new master... **TP \$29.95**

Alan Mills

The Raft

It was intended as a family getaway. It became a nightmare of survival. Martin and Lydia Napier's marriage is shaky. Fate has been cruel and they are both still reeling from the blows. When they are offered the use of a property in tropical far north Queensland they decide to take a break, maybe get their relationship back on track, and take their eight-year-old daughter Ami on a holiday. They leave Sydney and hit the road for what should be a taste of paradise. Initial misgivings about a cyclone hovering are allayed when the rain stops. It looks like the wet season's over. But just as they start to unwind, the river swells and rain clouds gather. With an escape from rising floodwaters thwarted, Lydia, Martin and Ami are caught up in a dramatic rescue of a policeman and his prisoner. Within hours the family find themselves marooned on the roof of the isolated farmhouse, with limited food and water, little hope of rescue, and a killer in their midst. Faced with horrors both human and natural, they must do what they can to survive. But who can they trust? And can they be sure where the dangers really lie? *The Raft* is a deft psychological thriller which shows the courage people summon and the sacrifices they make when their loved ones are threatened. **TP \$29.95**

Richard Morgan

Market Forces

Chris Faulkner has just landed the job of his life. But Shorn Associates are market leaders in Conflict Investment. They expect results, they expect the best. Chris has one very high-profile kill to his name already but he will have to drive hard and go for kill after kill if he's to keep his bosses happy. All he has to do in the meantime is stay alive. . . . Morgan's new futuristic thriller is perfect for any fan of the modern thriller. It combines the big ideas of Michael Crichton with a pounding narrative drive. **PB \$18.95**

Shirley R Murphy

The Catswold Portal

Deposed from her throne and forced through the magic portal between her world and ours, Melissa adopts the form of a small calico cat and faces a journey that will take her from Hell Pit to the Faerie Court and will transform the life of painter Braden West. **PB \$17.95**

Larry Niven & Hal Colebatch

Man Kzin Wars X: The Wunder War (Man Kzin 10)

After the peaceful, utopian colony world of Wunderland is devastated by the attacks of the felinoid Kzin warriors, the human defenders are forced to turn to guerrilla warfare in the planet's jungles and caves after the Kzin

devastate the cities, in a new novel based on the universe created by Larry Niven.

PB \$19.95

Jerry Oltion

Anywhere But Here (Getaway 02)

A sequel to *The Getaway Special* finds Trent and Donna Stinson joining hordes of people who would journey into outer space in order to escape a domineering United States but who encounter the government's increasingly restrictive policies, which prove deadly to freedom-seeking citizens. **HC \$52.95**

Robin D Owens

Guardian of Honour

Transported to the mystical realm of Llandrana, lawyer Alexa Fitzwalter, possessing gifts she never knew she had, has been called upon by the Marshalls to save this land from a dark evil with the help of a chevalier named Bastien. **TP \$28.95 PB \$18.95**

Stel Pavlou

Decipher

Ten thousand years before Christ, there was the Flood. Now, twelve thousand years later, a confluence of events affecting both the Sun and the Earth point towards a repeat performance. A small group of scientists must decipher an unknown language discovered in Antarctica to make sense of the sudden awakening of ancient sites if humanity -- and its home -- is to survive the ultimate catastrophe. They have one week left... **PB \$18.95**

Gene

TP \$29.95

Evie Rhodes

Expired Dafina

Desperate and distraught, Tracie Burlingame must confront an inhuman evil that is linked to her past when her youngest son is brutally murdered, drained of blood, and thrown from a rooftop. **TP \$28.95**

J D Robb

Immortal In Death (Eve Dallas 03)

In a HC edition of a third installment in a best-selling series, mid-twenty-first-century NYC lieutenant Eve Dallas investigates the brutal murder of an ambitious top model, a case that threatens Dallas's own life when suspicion falls on her best friend. Reprint. **HC \$40.95**

Survivor In Death Eve (Dallas 20)

On the surface Keelie and Grant Swisher seem unlikely targets for an assassin; an average couple living in a nice neighbourhood and working hard to raise their two kids. But when Eve Dallas is called to a multiple homicide at the Swisher family home, she discovers a blood-bath. There are five dead - including two children - in what seems to be a professional hit. The killers breached an elaborate security system, slashed the throat of each victim while they slept; and were in and out of the house in less than ten minutes. In fact they made only one mistake. They left a survivor...Nine-year-old Nixie Swisher's sudden urge for a midnight snack may just have saved her life. While her parents, brother and best-friend lay in their beds, oblivious to the threat, Nixie was downstairs in the kitchen getting a soda and saw far too much. Eve knows that her priority is to keep her safe. Offering her a temporary

refuge is easy, but dealing with the emotional needs of a nine-year-old girl who has lost everything isn't. Eve can at least promise Nixie justice, but she's chasing professionals who don't like leaving loose ends.

HC \$59.95 TP \$32.95

Rudy Rucker

Frek and the Elixir

In the year 3003, Frek Huggins, the misfit child of dysfunctional parents, is warned by the alien inhabitant of the Anvil, a small flying saucer under his bed, that he is destined to save the world, a role that makes him the target of Gov, absolute ruler of Earth, and forces him and his talking dog, Wow, to seek out his long-lost father. **TP \$30.95**

Tim Severin

Odinn's Child (Viking 01)

The story begins in the year 1001 and the toddler, Thorgils Leiffson, son of Leif the Lucky and Thorgunna, arrives on the shores of Brattahlid in Greenland to be brought up in the fostercare of a young woman - Gudrid. Thorgils is a rootless character of quicksilver intelligence and adaptability. He has inherited his mother's ability of second sight and his destiny lies beyond the imagination of those around him. Virtually orphaned, he is raised by various mentors, who teach him the ancient ways and warn him of the invasion of the 'White Christ' into the land of the 'Old Gods'. Thorgils is guided by a restless quest for adventure and the wanderlust of his favoured god, Odinn. His fortunes take him into many dangerous situations as well as to the brink of death by execution, in battle, disease and shipwreck. **HC \$44**

Maggie Shayne

Blue Twilight

Maxine Stuart, a private investigator specializing in the paranormal, takes on a vampire who is terrorizing women tourists in the town of Endover, New Hampshire, and no one, not even the man that she loves, can stop her from confronting an ancient evil to end the bloodshed. **PB \$17.95**

Dan Simmons

Hyperion Omnibus (Hyperion 1, 2)

The *Hyperion* books are credited with single-handedly reinventing and reinvigorating SF in the 1990s. A broad canvased, hugely imaginative and exciting SF epic the books draw on the works of Keats and provide a uniquely intelligent and literary approach with cutting edge science, compelling characterisation and edge-of-the-seat excitement. The story is continued in *Endymion* and *The Rise of Endymion* which Gollancz will also be publishing in an omnibus volume. **TP \$32.95**

Mitchell Smith

Moonrise (Snowfall 03)

With the peace of the Middle Kingdom shattered by the deaths of the King and Queen and the murder of the Crown Prince, Bajazet, the only surviving member of the royal family, becomes a pawn in a twisted game of political intrigue between the evil scientists of New England and the "barbarian" tribe that has been

taking in genetically engineered escapees from the scientists. **PB \$19.95**

Michael A Stackpole

A Secret Atlas (Age of Discovery 01)

In a strange world in which talent can give birth to magic, the tormented dreams of one young woman affect the Royal Cartographer, sending him slowly mad and threatening to bring the nightmares that they share to life.

TP \$30.95

Koji Suzuki

Ring (Ring 01)

Asakawa is a hardworking journalist who has climbed his way up from local news-beat reporter to writer for his newspaper's weekly magazine. A chronic workaholic, he doesn't take much notice when his seventeen-year-old niece dies suddenly - until a chance conversation reveals that another healthy teenager died at exactly the same time, in chillingly similar circumstances. Asakawa begins to investigate, and soon discovers that this strange sudden-death syndrome also affected another two teenagers. Exactly one week before their mysterious deaths the four teenagers all spent the night at a leisure resort in the same log cabin. When Asakawa visits the resort, the mystery only deepens. A comment made in the guest book by one of the teenagers leads him to a particular videotape. When he watches it, instead of a movie he finds an odd collection of disparate images with a portentous message at the end: those who have viewed these images are fated to die at this exact hour one week from now. Asakawa finds himself in a race against time - he has only seven days to find the cause of the teenagers' deaths before it finds him. The hunt puts him on the trail of an apocalyptic power that will force Asakawa to choose between saving his family...and saving civilisation. **PB \$18.95**

Spiral (Ring 02)

Pathologist Ando is at a low point in his life. His small son's death from drowning has resulted in the break-up of his marriage, and he is suffering from traumatic recurrent nightmares. Work is his only escape, and his depressing world of loneliness and regret is shaken up when an old rival from medical school, Ryuji Takayama, turns up on his slab ready to be dissected. Through Ryuji's bizarre demise Ando learns of a series of mysterious deaths that seem to have been caused by a sinister virus. From beyond the grave Ryuji appears to be leading Ando towards a suspicious videotape - could this hold the answer to the riddle of the strange deaths? Or is it merely the first clue? When Ando meets Mai, an attractive former student of Ryuji's, his desire to solve the puzzle transcends curiosity and becomes a matter of life or death. *Spiral* is the stunning sequel to the highly acclaimed *Ring*, and can also be read as a standalone novel. **TP \$29.95 HC \$51.95**

Amy Thomsen

Storyteller

On the planet of Thalassa, a world in which history is chronicled from one generation to the next by Storytellers, one woman who calls

herself Teller has a profound impact on the life of Samad, a young street boy who has become apprenticed to her. **PB \$19.95**

Mark W Tiedemann

Aurora (Isaac Asimov's Robot Mystery 03)
In the sequel to *Mirage* and *Chimera*, Derec Avery, Ariel Burgess, and their allies struggle to unmask the mastermind behind the terrorist attacks, assassinations, and attempts on their own lives, following an interstellar trail of intrigue, crime, and murder to a confrontation on the planet Aurora. **PB \$19.95**

Harry Turtledove

Counting Up, Counting Down

An inventive array of short fiction by the Hugo Award-winning author of *Guns of the South* presents an imaginative assortment of science fiction, fantasy, and alternate history tales, including "Goddess for a Day," "The Maltese Elephant," "Deconstruction Gang," and "Forty, Counting Down." **PB \$18.95**

Lisa Tuttle

The Mysteries

Devoting his life to finding the missing, Ian Kennedy becomes embroiled in the most difficult case of his career when a woman asks him to find her lost daughter, Peri, missing for two years, and follows a trail from the alleys of London to the Scottish Highlands and to a discovery that the dark fables of the British Isles are all too alive. **HC \$43.95**

Margaret Weis

The Dragon's Son (Dragonvarld 02)

In *Mistress of Dragons* we were introduced to a world where political ambition and avarice had led to a violation of the 'hands off' policy of the Parliament of Dragons concerning the affairs of men. The violation threatens more than policy and order . . . it threatens the peaceful existence of the human race. In *The Dragon's Son*, there is new hope in the form of special offspring. Two male twins born to a high priestess and a dragon hold the key to man's future, but their identity must be kept secret - even from each other - until they have matured. One is raised in a human court, the other in hiding. But the link that exists between the twins cannot be broken by mere distance, and the duality of their origin will unlock the new hope for a return to peace and safety as long as they live to maturity. It is up to Draconas, the special emissary of the dragons, to protect them both, even as the internecine struggle threatens to destroy the Parliament of Dragons and bring an oppressive reign of fire down upon all mortal men. **TP \$29.95**

Scott Westerfeld

The Killing of Worlds (Succession 02)

In the sequel to *The Risen Empire*, Captain Laurent Zai embarks on a suicide mission to stop the next invasion of the Rix, machine-augmented humans dedicated to the destruction of the immortal Emperor with their own eternal cybernetic dynasty, while his lover, Senator Nara Oxham, faces off against the Emperor himself. **PB \$19.95**



Steve White

The Prometheus Project

Private investigator Bob Devaney searches for a traitor selling secrets to an interstellar mafia called the Tonkuztra among the members of the top-secret Prometheus Project, a group whose mission is to fool the aliens who rule the galaxy into believing that Earth possesses a technology comparable to that of the galactic rulers in order to protect the planet from conquest. **HC \$49.95**

Sean Williams

The Blood Debt (Cataclysm 2)

Sal and Shilly live a quiet life in the coastal village of Fundelry. Years ago they were hunted by the powerful Sky Wardens, with whom they had a tempestuous and ultimately dead-end relationship. But life has been good. Now an old friend who is a Sky Warden, Tom, comes looking for them. Sal's father, Highson Sparre, has called up a creature from the Void Beneath. Highson is missing, presumed dead, and the Wraith is loose in the world. The Wraith has the ability to deaden the Change (the magic potential) around it, leaving the world it passes through neutral; no positive or negative potential is there, although gradually normality returns. If Sal and Shilly help to track the Wraith and find Highson Sparre, they will be given amnesty...no prosecutions can be brought to bear from past transgressions. Old friends and old enemies are not always well met, but Sal and Shilly will have to come to terms with the world around them all over again. They will have to deal with many things to discover the truth about the Void Beneath, and about the mysterious Divide... **PB \$18.95**

Sean Williams & Shane Dix

Ascent (Geodesica 01)

In 2388, the discovery of an alien artifact called the Geodesica sets in motion a chain of events that could finally free humanity from the rule of the Exarchs with the help of a courageous group of rebels. **PB \$19.95**

Paul Witcover

Tumbling After

Sharing forbidden secrets in their Chesapeake Bay home, twelve-year-old twins Jack and Jilly Doone play imaginative games by moonlight until a near-drowning awakens a strange power in Jack, bringing him into the world of Kestrel, a mutant who battles members of his kind who would exterminate the human race. **HC \$51.95**

John C Wright

Mists of Everness

A last watchman of a dream gate that locks out ancient evil forces, young Galen Waylock finds his term coming to an end when the minions of Darkness raise an army of monsters to invade the human world. By the author of *The Golden Transcendence*. **HC \$51.95**

Collections

Mike Ashley & Eric Brown

The Mammoth Book of New Jules Verne Adventures

Written in homage to the master of science fiction, this anthology of stories--by Ian Watson and Adam Roberts, among others--

inspired by Verne's vision presents stories that recall characters and plots from the author's fictional milieu. **TP \$26.95**

John Gregory Betancourt

Horrorscape: New Masterpieces of Horror Book 1 (Horrorscape 1)

The first in a two-volume set, this collection of dark fantasy and horror tales by some of the genre's leading masters features Robert Bloch's "The Chaney Legacy," "Soft Monkey" by Harlan Ellison, "The Troll" by Ray Bradbury, Peter Straub's "The Ghost Village," "Blind" by Joyce Carol Oates, and S. P. Somtow's "Gingerbread." **PB \$17.95**

Andrew M Greeley

Emerald Magic: Great Tales of Irish Fantasy

A collection of fantasy tales based on the history, culture, legends, and lore of the Emerald Isle features contributions by Ray Bradbury, Tanith Lee, Peter Tremayne, Fred Saberhagen, Charles de Lint, Jane Lindskold, Andrew M. Greeley, Jane Yolen, Diane Duane, Judith Tarr, L. E. Modesitt, Jr., Morgan Llywelyn, and other authors. **PB \$17.95**

Andre Norton & Jean Rabe

Renaissance Faire

Centering around Renaissance Faires--gatherings rife with jousts, feasts, fortune-tellers, magicians, dancers, and plays--this imaginative collection features contributions by Elizabeth Ann Scarborough, Joe Haldeman, Stephen Gabriel, Rose Wolf, and Andre Norton. **PB \$17.95**

Young Adult

Amelia Atwater-Rhodes

Hawksong

Danica Shardae is an avian shapeshifter, and the golden hawk's form in which she takes to the sky is as natural to her as the human one that graces her on land. The only thing more familiar to her is war: it has raged between her people and the serpente for so long, no one can remember how the fighting began. As heir to the avian throne, she'll do anything in her power to stop this war - even accept Zane Cobriana, the terrifying leader of her kind's greatest enemy, as her pair bond and make the two royal families one. Trust. It is all Zane asks of Danica - and all they ask of their people - but it may be more than she can give.

PB \$10.95

Theresa Breslin

Arabian Nights (Dream Master 04)

Every dream has a Dream Master to control it. But Cy has such a vivid imagination that he has met his Dream Master and can travel with him through Time and Space to actually live his dreams. But what would happen if a character from Cy's dream decided to come and live in his Time and Space? Well Cy's about to find out. He's accidentally conjured up the Princess Shahr-Azad from Ancient Arabia - creator of the 1001 tales of Arabian Nights. Cy and the Dream Master are keen to return the Princess back to her home, before she is discovered. Trouble is, the princess isn't keen to go back. She'd much rather stay and enter the upcoming

TV talent contest and she's prepared to go to great lengths to get her own way. So begins a battle of wills (and imaginations) between the greatest storyteller of all time, and the timid but determined Cy. With flying carpets, Arabian dungeons and a trouble-making genie Cy's fourth adventure with his Dream Master is as fast and funny as before. **HC \$29.95**

Grace Cavendish

Deception (Lady Grace Mysteries 03)

Queen Elizabeth is furious at the delays to the production of her new coin and so Lady Grace and her fellow Maids of Honour escape her bad temper and set off to skate on the frozen Thames. But their outing turns sour when the body of a man blindfolded with coins on his eyes is discovered on the banks. Grace is sure something odd is going on and decides that as the Queen's Lady Pursuivant, she should be the one to investigate. Along with her friends Ellie the laundrymaid and Masou the acrobat, she delves deep into a dangerous world of counterfeiting and corruption. **HC \$19.95**

Kate Constable

The Tenth Power (Chanters of Tremaris 3)

A dark secret is tearing Tremaris apart. From the frozen Bay of Sardi to the endless winter of Antaris, sickness is spreading and even the seasons are slipping into chaos. Calwyn has lost her powers of chantment and flees back to Antaris. But instead of sanctuary she finds the community ravaged by a mysterious snow-sickness and torn apart by tyranny. When she learns that Darrow, too, has been infected, Calwyn begins a desperate race through the frozen forests. But will she find the answers in time to heal him? And will she have the courage to embrace the dark magic and save Tremaris? **PB \$16.95**

Singer of All Songs

(*Chanters of Tremaris 1*)

PB \$14.95

Waterless Sea (Chanters of Tremaris 2)

PB \$14.95

John Dickinson

The Widow and the King (Cup of the World 02)

The story of Ambrose, son of Phaedra and last in the king's line, who is living exiled with his mother in the dilapidated manor of Tarceny. Ambrose's life is threatened by the hooded priest of the Undercraft, an ancestral spirit of pure evil who must end Ambrose's life in order to survive himself. And even when Ambrose is hidden within the house of the Widow of Develin, a hallowed place of learning and haven of education, the priest and his minions slowly and subtly infiltrate within, subverting the minds of those most educated and powerful and leaving Ambrose in mortal danger.

HC \$39.95

The Cup of the World

(*Cup of the World 01*)

PB \$17.95

Jeanne du Prau

The City of Ember

Ember was built as a last refuge for the human race. Two hundred years later, the great lamps that light the city are beginning to flicker. When Lina finds part of an ancient message, she's sure it holds a secret that will save the

city. She and her friend Doon must decipher the message before the lights go out on Ember forever! **PB \$14.95**

Catherine Fisher

Darkhenge

Rob's sister Chloe lies in a coma after a riding accident, trapped in a forest of dreams between life and death. But when a dark druid shape-shifts his way into Rob's life, despair turns to hope. The druid knows the way through the Unworld, where he claims Chloe is imprisoned. Could the ominous black ring of timbers slowly emerging from a secret archaeological dig hold the key to rescuing her? And will Chloe want to be rescued from a world where the landscapes of story merge and blur, and she has the chance to be Queen?

HC \$34.95

Jackie French

Phredde and the Temple of Gloom

Prudence is invited by her father's distant werewolf cousins to their gloomy castle to hunt for some missing 'treasure'. Phredde and Bruce accompany Prudence, who is well aware that if she fails then her father will have to take her place. The zombie librarian also makes a reappearance, as does the castle banshee, and Cousin Flea decides that he wants to be a lighting and sound technician and turns what was once a nicely decorated castle into a setting for a television series. **PB \$12.95**

Phreede and the Leopard Skin Librarian

A school excursion to the Big Koala goes horribly wrong when Phredde, Pru and Bruce - and their vampire teacher Mrs Olsen, and Miss Richards, librarian and martial arts expert - head back into the time of the dinosaurs, not to mention giant marsupial lions, a dinosaur with diarrhoea and an exploding volcano. Who will save them? Can one kid, two phaeries, a vampire and a librarian dressed in leopard-skin survive in the past with just a laptop computer, a flying carpet and a plastic spoon? **PB \$12.95**

Rene Goscinny & Albert Uderzo

Asterix and Caesar's Gift (Asterix 21)

On being demobilised from the Roman army Legionary Tremensdelirius gets the title deeds to the little Gaulish village. Soon, however, he swaps them for a drink in a tavern and the landlord Orthopaedix, his wife Angina and their daughter Influenza set off to claim their rights. Strange to say, Asterix and his friends don't see it quite the same way.

HC \$29.95 TP \$17.95

Asterix & the Great Crossing (Asterix 22)

Asterix and Obelix are lost at sea and finally reach what they think is a Roman colony, but when the Vikings turn up on a voyage of discovery, they realise that they have, in fact, discovered a strange New World.

HC \$29.95 TP \$17.95

Stuart Hill

The Cry of the Icemark

The blood of the Strong-in-the-Arm clan awoke, roaring in Thirrin's brain, and the fighting spirit of the Hypolitan, her mother's people, straightened her spine and sent a tingling excitement coursing through her veins. She was heir to the throne of the Icemark . . .

She must defend her land and her people! When her father dies in battle, fourteen-year-old Thirrin Freer Strong-in-the-Arm Lindenshield becomes Queen of the Icemark, a tiny kingdom forever caught between dangerous neighbours. But she bears a heavy burden. Thirrin must raise an army to protect her people from the most formidable threat of invasion that her nation has ever known — and do so before the end of the winter snows. Resourcefully, she goes far beyond her own borderlands in search of new allies. With her friend Oskan Witch's Son at her side, she journeys across The Land of the Ghosts to the frozen Hub of the World. She meets the most extraordinary creatures, including vampires, wolf-folk and giant snow leopards. But can she persuade them to unite and rally to the cry of the Icemark? Glorious and exciting, this is the epic tale of a young warrior queen. It is also the heartfelt story of a girl who beneath her armour must cope with the joys and uncertainties of life. **PB \$19.95**

Odo Hirsch

Slaughterboy

A darkly compelling historical fantasy, for teenagers and adults, about an orphan boy's life of scavenging, conniving and survival against the odds in the villainous world of a medieval city. Go back 500 years. You're alone. What does it take to survive? If you do survive, what kind of person have you become? On the streets of a medieval town, an abandoned child scavenges to stay alive. A slaughterman takes him in, teaches him the secrets of his bloody trade. But when the slaughterman is gone, the boy is adrift in a world of cheats, murderers and thieves. In *Slaughterboy* beats a town's dark heart, and destruction comes in many forms. **PB \$16.95**

Michael Hoeye

No Time Like Show Time (Mouse 03)

Trouble is brewing at the Varmint Theatre and Hermux has the role of a lifetime! Hermux Tantamoq is in the spotlight again when he gets an urgent plea for help from Fluster Varmint - the most famous mouse in showbiz. It seems as if someone wants to put Varmint's lights out! Hermux dives into the mystery headfirst, but quickly discovers he is in too deep. And there are other threats too, notably suave director Brinx Lotelle, practising his amorous skill on aviatrix Linka Perflinger, Hermux's sweetheart - if only he had the courage to tell her. This case thrusts Hermux centre stage, where his courage and cleverness will be tested to the limit. Can Hermux save the day, the theatre and get the girl? Or will it be curtains for our favourite watchmaker?

PB \$17.95

Time Stops For No (Mouse 01) **PB \$17.95**

The Sands of Time (Mouse 02) **PB \$16.95**

Anthony Horowitz

Eagle Strike (Alex Rider 04)

When the world-famous Damian Cray goes mad and decides that he should be in control of launching nuclear missiles, Alex Rider takes on the task of tracking him down and putting a stop to his crazed plan that is certain to cause the death of millions. **PB \$15.95**

Scorpio Alex (Rider 05)

After being told that his father was an assassin for a criminal organization, fourteen-year-old Alex goes to Italy to find out more and becomes involved in a plan to kill thousands of English schoolchildren. **HC \$36.95**

Elizabeth Kay

Back to the Divide (Divide 2)

Snakeweed, the arch villain, is at large. Having failed to sell bad magic to the real world, he wants to go back home. All he needs is the spell hidden in Felix's notebook. Snakeweed's visit leaves Felix reeling — and his parents literally rooted to the spot. Felix must find a way back across the Divide to find a counter-charm that can save his parents and the Earth in time. **PB \$16.95**

D J MacHale

Blackwater (Pendragon 5) **PB \$14.95**

K H McMullan

Dragon Slayer's Academy Bind-Up

This is a bind-up of the first three fabulously funny books in the Dragon Slayers' Academy series - The New Kid at School, Revenge of the Dragon Lady and Class Trip to the Cave of Doom. Welcome to the Dark Ages, where dastardly dragons rule the land and the life of a weedy boy called Wiglaf is about to change forever... There's only one place an ordinary boy can learn to be a hero - the Dragon Slayers' Academy. Join Wiglaf on his quest to take on tyrants and battle the most fearsome of beasts! **PB \$14.95**

Sarah Mlynowski

All About Rachel: Bras and Broomsticks

Fourteen-year-old Rachel Weinstein just can't believe it. Her younger sister, Miri, and her mum are both witches! How come SHE didn't get the powers that could have propelled her effortlessly into school superstardom? Miri refuses to use her witchy skills for the benefit of humankind (i.e. Rachel). Which is a drag, given that Rachel has an urgent need of some supersonic dance talent - not to mention a boyfriend like gorgeous, unobtainable Raf. But maybe there's one cause Miri just CAN'T refuse. With their dad about to marry awful STB (aka Soon To Be Step-Monster), some witchy wiles may be the only way to derail a major family disaster... But a charmed life has its problems - as Rachel is about to find out! **PB \$14.95**

James Moloney

The Scorpion's Tale (Doomsday Rats 2)

In a futuristic city ruled by an evil scientific genius, the resistance group of children known as the Doomsday Rats might be the only hope of saving mankind. Up until now their greatest advantage has been that no-one knows they live in the underground tunnels - but three of them have just been forced to reveal the secret. Now the rats are fighting for their lives, as they are tracked through the tunnels by the hideous Gadges - the city's security force - using a strange creature with the hearing of a bat and the sight of a vulture. Yet maybe this creature isn't on the Gadges' side after all... There's worse to come, as the Rats must face the terrifying Firedrake - and a robotic scorpion

that fires missiles from its tail. But when the Gadges decide to flood the tunnel system, how many of the Rats will survive? **PB \$14.95**

Felicity Pulman

Rosemary For Remembrance

When Janna is saved from a wild boar by the villein Godric, she's not sure whether to kiss him or slap him. The last thing she needs is a beau. Janna wants the freedom to follow her dreams and a marriage proposal isn't in her plans. But Janna's life is shattered when her mother Eadgyth, a healer, dies suddenly, and Janna suspects poison. With so many suspects from the posturing apothecary to the vengeful priest, from the jealous midwife, who might know Eadgyth's secrets, to Dame Alice's young attendant, who isn't telling all she knows Janna will need all her courage and skill to bring the murderer to justice. Who can she trust, when even Godric and Hugh, the dashing nobleman, have secrets which threaten her heart and safety? **TP \$19.95**

Meg Rosoff

How I Live Now

It would be much easier to tell this story if it were all about a chaste and perfect love at an Extreme Time in History. But let's face it. Daisy is sent to England from New York to live with her cousins for a perfect summer. There are four of them: Osbert, Isaac, Edmond and Piper. Three boys and a girl. And two dogs and a goat. Daisy has never met anyone like them before. Especially Edmond. This summer will change her life. It will change the world too. **PB \$16.95**

Alex Shearer

The Hunted

Children are very precious... Because they are so rare. In a future world where people live to be 150, humans have paid the price for their longer lives - the cost is their fertility. Children have become a commodity: they are bought and sold, won and lost, and worst of all, are hunted by the 'kiddnappers' keen to make a quick buck on a big sale. When Deet wins Tarrin in a card game he rents him out to childless couples. They pay for Tarrin to play in their houses, and they pretend he's their child for an hour or two. But as Tarrin gets older, Deet is keen to secure his future, and his interest in 'The Peter Pan' operation grows. By having 'The Peter Pan', Tarrin would stay a boy forever. He would grow old inside the body of a young boy. While Tarrin faces a difficult dilemma, someone is watching him. Someone who has plans of his own. **PB \$14.95**

Linda Joy Singleton

Shamrocked! Strange Encounters

Cassie Strange is the only normal person in her family. Her dad is a TV celebrity, her mum is a far out naturalist, her annoying brother Lucas wants to be an actor and her little sister Amber was once kidnapped by an alien. Now her father is taking the family to investigate a report of leprechaun magic and tomfoolery for his paranormal TV show. A mysterious treasure map leads Cassie and her brother to a secret underground world inhabited by magical little people, including one fellow who doesn't want them to leave, ever. **PB \$9.95**

Nick Toczek

Dragons! Bind-up

Enter the lair of the dragons! A wonderful collection by dragon connoisseur, poet and magician Nick Toczek. Combining "Dragons" and "Dragons Everywhere" with some fantastic new poems, this is a lively, funny book starring these fascinating mythical creatures. Her pyrotechnics never fail. She breathes on things. They burn, but they'll Return unburned in just two ticks. Dragon's doing magic tricks.

PB \$14.95

Scott Westerfeld

So Yesterday

You don't think about us much, because we are invisible. Well, not exactly invisible. A lot of us have hair dyed in four colours, or wear five-inch platform sneakers, or carry enough metal in our skin that it's a hassle getting on an airplane. Quite visible, actually, come to think of it. But we don't wear signs saying what we are. After all, if you knew what we were up to, we couldn't work our magic. We have to observe carefully, and push and prompt you in ways you don't notice. Like good teachers, we let you think you've discovered the truth on your own. And you need us. Someone has to guide you, to mould you, to make sure that today turns into yesterday on schedule. Because frankly, without us to monitor the situation, who knows what would get crammed down your throats? It's not like you can just stat making your own decisions, after all.

PB \$17.95

Non Fiction

Style 3rd Ed

Is "alright" all right? Is it nerve-wracking or nerve-racking? Why can't you sail into unchartered waters? Can you spell asphalt, diphtheria and Kosciuszko? Should it be reopen or re-open? The answers to these questions - and thousands more - are in these pages. Used by more than 120 newspapers, News Limited's Style explains the grammar, spelling and punctuation rules used by Australia's premier news-gathering organisation, its writers and its editors. It is a reference book, too, for those hard-to-spell names that crop up almost daily - from Aung San Suu Kyi and Dan Aykroyd through Deborah-Lee Furness and Arnold Schwarzenegger to Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono. With a foreword by award-winning journalist Mark Day, it will ensure you don't choose barmy when you mean balmy or elicit instead of illicit. Your choices will be judicious, not judicial. **TP \$24.95**

Jared Diamond

Collapse: How Societies Choose to Fail or Service

An epic, visionary new book on the mysterious collapse of past civilizations - and what this means for our future. Why do some societies flourish, while others founder? What happened to the people who made the forlorn, long-abandoned statues of Easter Island or the architects of the crumbling Maya pyramids? Will we go the same way, our skyscrapers one day standing derelict and overgrown like the

temples at Angkor Wat? Bringing together new evidence from a startling range of sources and piecing together the myriad influences, from climate to culture, that make societies self-destruct, Collapse also shows how, unlike our ancestors, we can benefit from our knowledge of the past and learn to be survivors. **TP \$32.95**

Hazel Smith 🍌

The Writing Experiment

The Writing Experiment demystifies the process of creative writing, showing that successful work does not arise from talent or inspiration alone. Hazel Smith breaks down writing into incremental stages, revealing processes that are often unconscious or unacknowledged, and shows how they can become part of a systematic writing strategy. The book encourages writers to take an explorative and experimental approach to their work. It relates practical strategies for writing to major twentieth century literary and cultural movements, including postmodernism. Suitable for both beginners and experienced writers, The Writing Experiment covers many genres including fiction, poetry, writing for performance and new media. Each chapter is illustrated with extensive examples of both student work and published writing, and challenging exercises offer writers at all levels opportunities to develop their skills. **TP \$39.95**

William Weir

50 Weapons That Changed Warfare

HC \$51.95

Media Related

The Art of Robots

Amid Amidi & William Joyce

A stunning visual celebration of the animated film Robots furnishes a sneak peek at the early visual developmental stages of the film through the imaginative artistry of the award-winning illustrator. **HC \$78**

Boogeyman

Jeff Mariotte

amatized by memories of the terrible things that he experienced as a child in his bedroom, a young man returns home to confront his dark fears of a mysterious and monstrous entity that could be only a figment of his imagination--or something much more horrible. **PB \$17.95**

Horror Films

James Marriott

From the slasher icons of Jason, Freddy and Leatherface to the slick horror of Alien, Scream and Ring to the cult classics of Dracula, Frankenstein and The Mummy, horror has earned its place in the movie-going psyche, with many of the films spawning numerous copycats. This book analyses the definitive works (and the most influential directors) of the genre over the last 50 years - from silent expressionist classics to Hollywood scream queens - as it looks at the themes and impact of the genre on both the movie-making industry and audiences the world over. Using the successful format of previous books in the Virgin Film series, this guide will include categories such as Directors, Cast, Soundtrack, Critical Reception and Marketing, information on the inspiration behind the films, their impact

on the industry and the public (despite, or perhaps because of, their often critical reviews) and the tales that often surrounded their production and release. **TP \$39.95**

Doctor Who

So You Think You Know Dr Who?

Clive Gifford

The great timelord has had many incarnations and many adventures, but can you remember them? Do you know who was the first Dr Who? Can you say what the word 'tardis' stands for? Well here's your chance to shine - with over 1,000 questions this quiz book will not only test, but also tease and torment the most ardent fan. But don't worry the answers are not to be found in the far reaches of the universe, they're in the back of the book! **PB \$14.95**

9th Doctor: The Clockwise Man

Justin Richards

England 1924: the Doctor and Rose find themselves caught up in the hunt for a murderer. With faceless killers closing in, can they solve the mystery of the Clockwise Man before London itself is destroyed..? **PB \$14.95**

Judge Dredd

06: The Final Cut

Matthew Smith

When renovation work on a plaza destroyed during the Apocalypse Wars uncovers freshly mutilated corpses, Judge Dredd races against time to uncover the truth about the murders before it is too late. **PB \$17.95**

Star Trek

To Reign In Hell: The Exile of Khan

Noonien Singh

Greg Cox

What truly transpired during Khan's long years of exile on the forbidding world of Ceti Alpha V, before the tyrant escaped to embark on a murderous campaign of vengeance against Admiral James T. Kirk? What horrific trials spawned Khan's insane lust for revenge? **HC \$44.95**

Star Wars

Clone Wars: The Cestus Deception

Steven Barnes

Dispatched by the Republic to the planet Ord Cestus, where deadly battle droids are being manufactured, Obi-Wan Kenobi finds his diplomatic efforts to keep the droids out of Confederacy hands thwarted by a secret adversary, a situation that forces him to team up with a clone soldier. **PB \$19.95**

Legacy of the Jedi 02: Secrets of the Jedi

Jude Watson

Although it is understood that Jedi aren't allowed to form attachments, Master Obi-Wan's apprentice Anakin Skywalker has secretly married Padme Amidala and it is feared that having done so may affect his next important mission to locate a piece of technology during the Clone Wars. **HC \$26.95**



Stargate SG1

The Morpheus Factor

Ashley McConnell

In a world known as P4V-837, the SG-1 team encounters the Kayechee, a race of apparently hospitable natives, but, after a few hours on the planet, the members of the team find themselves experiencing bizarre hallucinations that become progressively darker and more terrifying. **PB \$15.95**

Trial By Fire

Sabine C Bauer

Trial by Fire, the first Fandemonium Books novel, follows the team as they embark on a mission to Tyros, an ancient society teetering on the brink of war. **PB \$20.95**

Sacrifice Moon

Julie Fortune

Set early in season one of the TV series, Sacrifice Moon follows the adventures of Col Jack O'Neill as he leads his new team on their first mission through the Stargate. **PB \$20.95**

Matter of Honor

Sally Malcolm

Following on from the Season Two episode, "A Matter of Time", the story jumps forward five years, when the team accidentally discovers some powerful technology. But unfortunately the team also make another disturbing discovery along the way that forces Colonel O'Neill to face up to something he'd rather have forgotten about. **PB \$20.95**

Twilight Zone

Shades of Night / Falling

John J Miller

Centuries after the mysterious disappearance of the region's original Dutch settlers in the 1650s, Thomas Noir, the thirteenth son of a thirteenth son, seeks to achieve power in all its forms--physical, financial, even magical--a quest that leads to a feud between two rival families and ignites a bitter struggle between the light and the dark. **PB \$17.95**

Games Related

Call of Cthulhu RPG Modern

The Stars Are Right

The New Millennium: a time wracked by violence, racism, AIDS, drug abuse, and all-consuming fear. Hollow politicians offer empty promises of the bright future — a thousand points of light which none can see. 9 disturbing tales of mankind's corruption for Cthulhu Now. **\$48**

Mechwarrior

Dark Ages 14: Target of Opportunity

Blaine Lee Pardoe

Knight-Errent Alexi Holt must protect Tucker Harwell, a genius possessing unrivaled HPG skills, from invaders who are determined to use Tucker to reactivate the hyperpulse generator and destroy Wyatt. **PB \$17.95**

Nodwick

Nodwick Adventure Log Annual Vol 1

This is all the Nodwick comic strips out of the Dragon Magazines compiled into one book. **TP \$32**

Warhammer

Complete Tales from the Ten Tailed Cat

Marc Gascoigne & Christian Dunn

A collection of graphic comic strips, featuring the contributions of Dan Abnett, Gordon Rennie, Simon Spurrier, and others, presents the colorful tales of danger, adventure, and magic from the thieves, raconteurs, and other denizens of the Ten-Tailed Cat, a notorious gathering place in the back streets of Talabheim. **GN \$22.95**

Necromancer

Jonathan Green

A simple physician descends into the depths of depravity and insanity in pursuit of the ultimate power as he journeys into the dark depths of necromancy. **PB \$17.95**

Mathias Thulman 2: Witch Finder

C L Werner

As the sinister agents of darkness plot the destruction of the civilized realms from the protection of the grim shadows of Old World, the land's rulers have enlisted the assistance of Mathias Thulmann and his fellow witch hunters to stop the evil threatening the land, in the sequel to Witch Hunter. **PB \$17.95**

Warhammer 40K

Bloodquest: Eye of Terror Trilogy

Gordon Rennie

Condemned and cast out for losing a priceless ancient relic on the field of battle, Captain Leonatos and a group of his fellow battle-brothers risk everything in their quest to regain the Blade Encarmine, the lost sword of Belarius, former Chapter Master of the Blood Angels, from the dark legions of Chaos, in an omnibus edition containing the three volumes of the Bloodquest saga. **GN \$22.95**

Soul Drinkers 3: Crimson Tears

Ben Counter

Betrayed by those whom they had once fought to protect and condemned as heretics, the Soul Drinkers find themselves trapped in the middle between the dark forces of Chaos and the Crimson Fists Space Marines as they battle to protect their own lives and restore their reputations, in the third novel in the series that began with Grey Knights and Daemon World. **PB \$19.95**

Role Playing Games

Dunjinni

Now its easier than ever to make stunning maps for your table top game. With Dundjinni's simple interface, you can drag and drop beautiful pre-rendered art to create the map of your dreams. As advertised in Dragon, and Dungeon magazines **CD \$80**

Beyond the Supernatural RPG

The setting is our modern world. The heroes - ordinary people and those with the gift of paranormal abilities. Venture into a shadowy world of horror, strange creatures, and dark magic unlike any you've ever experienced. Pray you keep your sanity and your soul. **\$50**

Omlehex

The Silver Age of comics has returned, with this dynamic new setting book for use with

M&M Superlink, the Hero System, and Silver Age Sentinels. Within these pages, you'll find everything you need to know about the universe presented in the fictitious Omlehex Comics during the 1960's. **\$46**

Armati

Armati 2nd Edition

New & improved rules and armies for Ancient & Medieval Wargaming. Includes 150 army lists from the Egyptians to the Mongols. **\$75**

Babylon 5 RPG

Centauri Republic Box Set

This box set contains:- 2 Primus battlecruisers, 2 Centurion attack cruisers, 6 Vorchan warships and 48 Sentri fighters. **Box \$200**

Earth Alliance Fleet Box Set

This box set contains:- 2 Omega destroyers, 1 Nova dreadnought, 4 Hyperion heavy cruisers, 2 Artemis heavy frigates, 2 Tethys cutters, and 48 Starfury fighters. **Box \$200**

Minbari Fleet Box Set

This box set contains:- 3 Sharlin warcruisers, 4 Tinashi war frigates, 2 Tigara attack cruisers, 1 Neshatan gunship, 36 Nial fighters and 12 Minbari Flyers. **Box \$200**

Narn Regime Fleet Box Set

This box set contains:- 4 G'Quan cruisers, 1 T'Loth assault cruiser, 4 Sho'Kos cutters, 2 Ka'Toc battle destroyers and 48 Frazi fighters. **Box \$200**

Call of Cthulhu

Classic: Shadows of Yog-Sothoth

Shadows of Yog-Sothoth is a modestly-sized campaign of seven scenarios. During the course of play the investigators penetrate the outer layers of a secret sinister occult organization. **\$48**

Modern: Secrets of Japan

This book includes new character occupations, new spells, new monsters, new organisations, and rules for playing Japanese investigators. Also included are 3 adventure scenarios, 2 short stories a glossary of cultural terms, and details on Shinto and Buddhism. **\$70**

d20

DragonMech: Mech Manual

Inside you will find 59 new mechs from all known areas. A dozen new monsters and endless adventure ideas, whether based on the stories behind the new mechs or the unique NPC's who pilot them. **\$44**

Forgotten Realms:

Lost Empires of Faerun

The ruins and remnants of once-nightly nations lie scattered across the lands of Faerun. Hidden within the dusty vaults and passages of these crumbling monuments, great treasures and terrible dangers await. Explore the echoes of a vanished time with 5 new prestige classes, 16 new feats and 29 new monsters. **HC \$50**

Flames of War

Star and Stripes

Intelligence Handbook on US Armored and Infantry Forces. Includes new rules for paratroopers, rangers, plus the complete contents of Old Ironsides, which the book replaces. **\$35**

Munchkin Fu

Munchkin Fu 2- Monkey Business

The next expansion for Munchkin Fu. Learn new styles like Kong Fu, Fee Fi Fo Fu, Sna Fu, and the ever-perilous Stomach Fu! Garb yourself in the Hong Kong Sarong. This is compatible with the original Munchkin and its supplements and spinoffs. **\$34**

Pax Draconis

Fera Vita Wildlife Supplement

Many native species are discussed for each planet, with planetary maps, cultural notes expanded histories and an overview of key conflicts that are of interest. **\$40**

Rifter

Rifter 29

Issue 29 presents material on crooks, police and magic. Lots of magic. Plus Palladium's 2005 product schedule, convention schedule and a glimpse at other things in the pipeline. **\$20**

Spearhead WWII

Forgotten Battles

21 scenarios for Spearhead rules from all 3 theatres of WWII, each covering a lesser-known aspect of the fighting. **\$70**

World of Darkness

Werewolf: The Forsaken

The game of bestial violence and supernatural terror - is the second core setting for use with White Wolf's new Storytelling System. Werewolves are creatures of original sin, tainted by ancestral crimes and driven to hunt by the shame of being abandoned. This book details what it is to be Forsaken, one of Tribes of the Moon. Create your own werewolf pack and seek redemption or give in to your savage nature. For use with the World of Darkness rulebook. **HC \$70**



Book Review

by Josephine Crowley

Myrren's Gift

by Fiona McIntosh

(Book 1 of The Quickening)

What a read - fast paced from the very first page - one wanted to not put this book down even when the last page was read. Therefore it is good news that Myrren's Gift is book one in a new series by this talented author.

Set in a similar fantasy universe to the Trinity Trilogy, this novel has complex characters who will intrigue and mystify you. The author has created several strong female characters who play major parts in the plot. This I really liked. This is not a book for young readers as some of the scenes of brutality and murder are really graphic and very scary.

What an incredible imagination Fiona McIntosh has. I look forward to reading more in the series.

Tim's Note: Myrren's Gift was published by HarperCollins Dec 2003. The others in the series are *Blood and Memory*, published May 2004 and *Bridge of Souls* published Nov 2004. All are available in paperback for \$18.95 each.

Bestsellers for February

General Release

Moving Target	Elizabeth Moon
Chainfire	Terry Goodkind
Dark Secret	Christine Feehan
Ethos Effect	L E Modesitt Jr
Bite	Laurell K Hamilton & Charlaune Harris et al
Trading in Danger	Elizabeth Moon

Media & Gaming Related

Dark Rendevous	Star Wars CloneWars
To the Slaughter	Doctor Who
Dominion and Ferenginar	
Trill and Bajor	Worlds of Star Trek Deep Space 9
Broken Sunrise	Worlds of Star Trek Deep Space 9
Deus Encarmine	Warhammer 40,000

Information on the Infinitas Groups

New members always welcome at all the groups, if interested come and try.

Readers' Group: The readers 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. The next meeting will be Thursday 3rd March with the topic of Battlestar Galatica.

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. Upcoming meetings are:

Thursday March 17th 6.30pm: Sheri S Tepper's books, particularly The Gate To Women's Country (F) and Singer From the Sea (SF-ish).

April 21st Review books:

SF: Trading in Danger by Elizabeth Moon.
Fantasy: The Baker's Boy by J V Jones.

Writers' Group: Infinitas has been host to a writers group for over 8 years now. In 2002 *Passing Strange*, an anthology of short stories by members of the group was published by Mirrordanse Books. 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.

To avoid clashing with Magic Casements, the March meeting has been moved forward one week to Saturday 12th.

One for the Robed By Steven Cavanagh

(Steven is a member of the Infinitas Writers Group.)

It didn't matter whether you were the lowliest pike-goblin or one of the Dim Lord's Spider Riders. *Everyone* came back from the battlefield thirsty.

Many tavern owners just threw together four log walls and started serving beer. Not so with Duggan, the owner of the *Frothy Dog*. The interior had been designed with a thorough knowledge of its clientele. New visitors entering the *Dog* were usually struck by its twenty-three convenient dark corners. Then by a stray mug.

Not every Dark Division denizen dared darken the *Dog's* door. Zombies, for example, had heard that the bar didn't serve their kind (in fact they did- with chips). Many stayed away when they heard what happened to the orc who asked a dark elf to line up some shots. Others whispered tales of Thursday nights, when the ogres came down from the mountains for karaoke.

Nevertheless, the *Dog* was usually filled to capacity. Tonight was no exception. The vampire brothers of Klinn were there, totally blotto on a cask of AB positive. If Rilbilter the Arch-Animator put away any more rum, the night would soon feature table dancing. A group of halfling thieves also worked the crowd, except for one who had been caught red handed. He was now a quarterling, with *two* red hands.

Duggan, a stocky troll, worked the bar. In spite of nearly four years in the business his envy of the customers had never abated. Like all trolls, Duggan's dead cells regenerated. He could regrow whole limbs, he didn't use a mirror to shave, and he could never get drunk.

He was filling an order for a full glass of whiskey (you *never* asked Duggan for three fingers) when the door burst open.

Framed in the doorway was the squat form of a goblin from the 23rd Fodder Division, quivering like a dragon's dentist.

"LORD EXCRUSIS APPROACHES!" it squeaked, and ran under a table.

The effect on the crowd was immediate. The orcs of the Screaming Runner clan screamed and ran. The drunk vampires turned into bats and attempted to hang from the table right side up. Several armoured codpieces among the patrons suddenly began to rust.

A breathless silence had settled on the *Dog* by the time the great figure appeared in the doorway.

He was almost as large as an ogre, but moved with the sure grace of one of the finer races. The horns adorning the full-face helmet had been sawn from a greater demon. He wore ornate robes of blood red, veined with glowing inscriptions of an evil sorcery. Where the robes opened at the chest one could see his dark armour, the breastplate of which was the headstone of a great elf king. The names of conquered heroes were etched in the silver of his gauntlets. He had a greatsword on his belt, a glowing purple axe at his back, and a whittling knife in his boot.

He stepped inside, into a rapidly growing area of empty floor. The helmet turned to left and right slowly, surveying the room. Each creature present palpably *felt* something passing over them like a cold fart.

He strode to the bar. The naked point of the greatsword trailed a line across the floor, which smoked as the wood was eaten away.

Duggan had nowhere to go. He could only stand there as the figure loomed over him. Two words boomed from the helmet as if from the bottom of a well, or a grave.

"Beer. Now".

Duggan snatched up his best crystal mug and carefully drew a beer, hoping that both he and it would have a good head on top when he was finished. He placed it on the bar.

There was a pause.

A sudden movement, and one of the silver gauntlets grasped a straw from the little wooden holder. One end poked into the helmet, the other into the beer.

The tavern quietly watched the level of amber fluid dropping.

"A-another, sir?" stammered Duggan.

There was an involuntary spitting sound, and beer gushed from the chin of the helmet. The great gauntlets reached up and pulled it off. The human face beneath had eyes wide with terror.

"Are you *mad*? I'm not hanging around here. Haven't you heard? Lord Excrusis is coming!"