Each player, or team of players, takes on the role of Frodo Baggins and seeks to destroy the One Ring by throwing it into the fires of Mount Doom. As players travel through 14 areas of Middle-Earth (illustrated by Ted Naismith), they must spend precious resources and answer challenging questions. There are 1,200 of them to choose from, all based on the original books and prepared by a team of Tolkien experts. Multiple choice answers make the game easier for the less experienced Middle-earthers. The winner is the first player or team to reach and successfully face the challenges at Mount Doom. $95.00
Succeed in stopping it, two worlds will be threatened to overwhelm anyone who conspires to evil whose virulence Grace find themselves facing a dark of final reckoning approaches, Travis and warriors and mages, witches and kings Wilder joins her in the struggle between Lord of Nightfall, looms, Grace Beckett Shemal’s master, the vengeful god Mohg, and that computer brain has become self-aware. Sorceress, the Goliath’s biochemical in this life-and-death chess match. oppressive regimes and nuclear weapons. Aims to use the Goliath and its cache of terrorism, has hijacked Goliath, a US whose entire family were the victims of Gavril Andar knows nothing of his father But his innocence is about to be shattered. Gavril Andar joins the struggle between warriors and mages, witches and kings and betrayers of every form. As the time of final reckoning approaches, Travis and Grace find themselves facing a dark conspiracy of evil whose virulence threatens to overwhelm anyone who stands in its way. Yet if they don’t succeed in stopping it, two worlds will be lost forever. Pb $17.95 565pp

STEVE ALTEN
GOLIATH

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

MARK ANTHONY
THE GATES OF WINTER

The Last Rune #5. As the shadow of Shennal’s master, the vengeful god Mohg, Lord of Nightfall, looms, Grace Beckett seeks to harness wild magic and Travis Wilder joins her in the struggle between warriors and mages, witches and kings and betrayers of every form. As the time of final reckoning approaches, Travis and Grace find themselves facing a dark conspiracy of evil whose virulence threatens to overwhelm anyone who stands in its way. Yet if they don’t succeed in stopping it, two worlds will be lost forever. Pb $17.95 565pp

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& NANCY BUTCHER
THE KINDLING

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

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LORD OF SNOW AND SHADOWS

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

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

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HAWKSONG

Danica is an avian shape-shifter, whose golden hawk’s form is as natural to her as the human one that graces her on land. The only thing more familiar to her is the war that has raged between her people and the serpiente for so long, no one can remember how it began. As heir to the avian throne, Danica will do anything in her power to stop the bloodshed – even accept Zane Cobriana, the leader of the serpiente, as her pair bond and make the two royal families one – though she can’t help fearing that, despite his word, he will strike as swiftly and lethally as the cobra that is his second form. Hb $25.00 243pp

JAMES AXLER
DAMNATION ROAD SHOW

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

MAX BARRY
JENNIFER GOVERNMENT

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

PAM BINDER
MY SECRET PROTECTOR

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

ALICE BORCHARDT
THE RAVEN WARRIOR

Guinevere #2. Guinevere, Queen of the Dragon People, has become a woman and taken the power offered to her by the Dragon Throne. Now there is no turning back - to protect her beloved homeland from the reviled Saxon raiders, she must strike first. Facing her first bloody confrontation with the Saxon raiders, and with only her motley band of ill-equipped fighters at her side, Guinevere calls upon the spirits of the dead to help her - but in summoning the dead, there is a terrible price to pay, one that will change her utterly. Tp $34.95 470pp
Richard Bradley and his family live on the edge of Ryhope Wood. One night he and his young son Alex encounter James Keeton, who with his daughter Tallis has been missing for many months, presumed dead. Keeton says that he has been in Ryhope Wood searching for Tallis. He believes he has been gone for a few days, but it has in fact been over a year. He has brought back a wooden mask through which he says he can see and communicate with his daughter. He says that she is now older than her father; that time must move differently inside the wood. Alex looks through the mask and is thrown across the room by a bizarre presence. When he awakens, his personality is gone, his body an empty shell. His body is later discovered at the edge of the wood.

Richard is heartbroken and goes to London, but is drawn back to the wood as mysterious events start to unfold. He meets a team of scientists living and working there who tell him that the mythic history of Britain exists here as Mythagos, living embodiments of forces created through our mythology. The deeper one goes into the wood, the more primal the heroic version encountered will be. They have discovered several Hollowings, gateways to other times and myth worlds. The scientists also tell Richard that Alex is still alive, trapped in Ryhope Wood and that his childlike interpretation of the myths that he has grown up with is breeding strange, wild beings… The concept here is fantastic. A country’s mythology living on in the land and the race memory of a people is rich source material and Holdstock uses it brilliantly. The imagery of Jason and the Argonauts existing in the same space as Gawain and other myths from different times is fine by itself, but entwine with this the fact that these myths are twisted, primal characters, not the heroic versions we have grown up with in fairytales, makes for unexpected events. In essence, the creation of new myths from old, which is what these books are partly about in the first place.

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

- David

**CLASSIC TITLE**

**THE HOLLOWING**

Pb $18.95 308pp

ROBERT HOLDSTOCK

**New TITLE**

**The Invitation & Bindings**

*(Books 1 & 2 of the Books of Magic)*

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CARLA JABLONSKI (Created by Neil Gaiman)

I’ve never been much of a comic reader, but have only heard amazing things about the Books of Magic series over the years. Comparisons to Harry Potter are going to be made, but it has to be said that these stories predate Harry by about 5 years. Timothy Hunter is a 13-year-old living in London. His mum has recently died and his dad has retreated into his own world, rarely making sense or taking much notice of Timothy. One day Timothy is approached by four strangers who tell him he has the potential to be the greatest magician ever. Each gentleman takes him on a voyage, into his future, into the realm of Faerie, to the beginning of time and through the present day. There are those who don’t want Timothy to fulfil his potential, and attempts are made on his life.

In *Bindings*, Timothy is asked to help save Faerie (which has been slowing dying for some time) by Tamlin. Tamlin invokes the wrath of Queen Titania, who has refused to see what has been happening to her land over time. Timothy is captured by a mythical beast of faerie and has to beat it to save the land. He has a brush with Death who is a very cool Goth chick and learns some interesting (and a little saddening) information about his past.

Having read and loved these, I now understand the kerfuffle over Keanu Reeves playing Constantine in the upcoming movie. I think Sting or David Bowie would be perfect. Maybe even James Marsters.

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

- Stephanie 8/10

**Marion Zimmer Bradley (ed)**

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The parish of Manningtree and Mistley has a dark history. In 1644, with England in the grip of a Puritan government, Matthew Hopkins, Cromwell’s Witchfinder General, tortured scores of women there, including Liza, the herbalist and Sarah Paxman, the daughter of the manor. Emma Dickson has given up her high-flying career to live in Liza’s cottage, but now she is being driven half-mad by visions of the past - of Sarah’s battle to save herself and Liza from the Witchfinder. In despair, Emma turns to the local rector for help, but he, too, is in the grip of something inexplicable - something which threatens Emma. Pb $18.95 719pp

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(one says ‘Why Not Visit Swindon’, the other says ‘Toast’!). See back page for entry details

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feared he would be forever torn from her
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would destroy him. Archaeologist Jenna
suspended animation, Kynan awoke to
He had inhabited a world destroyed
find a more primitive Earth and only one
Ruled by a cruel tyrant, they will not
commoner-turned-noble, logosopher and
The legendary one-armed warrior, the
periwig in search of the father he
his kind. Reeth is cursed with
his head. In underground labyrinths
her infant daughter, the wizard Wigg,
prince, together with his twin sister and
her daughter to Kynan's powerful embrace, she
left her breathless with passion and
despair. Though she longed to surrender
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Though born with the endowed blood
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master magic and surcease Tristan is a rebel
soul, but more than tradition compels
Tristan to ascend the throne. The very
survival of Eutracia depends upon it.
Tristan's fate is to fulfil a role chosen for
him by an ages-old prophecy - to face an
adversary whose hatred knows no
bounds. Pb $21.95 896pp

THE GATES OF DAWN
Chronicles of Blood and Stone #2.
Prince Tristan, forced by the Coven to
turn his hand against his own and kill his
father, is now a wanted man with a price
on his head. In underground labyrinths
that once bustled with life, the fugitive
prince, together with his twin sister and
her infant daughter, the wizard Wigg,
solace surviving council member and the
crippled wizard Faegan take refuge. To
them falls the daunting task of rebuilding
Eutracia, but it soon becomes apparent
that evil has not yet had its fill of this
ravaged land. Tp $32.95 467pp

STAN NICHOLLS
QUICKSILVER RISING
Reeth Caldason is among the last of
his kind. Reeth is cursed with
immortality, forced to wander the world,
seeking revenge for his tribe and a cure
for his magical affliction. Under the
floating Palace of the mad Prince of
Bhealfa he is drawn into the Resistance
movement, assisting those who have
suffered under the dictatorships of the
two massive empires. Reeth is promised
that in return for his help, they will help
him find a cure for his affliction. But the
political situation and the magic nature of
the world are inextricably connected.
Bring one down and the other will be
destroyed - the world will change forever
and Reeth's curse will never be lifted. Tp
$29.95 410pp

LARRY NIVEN & HAL COBLEATCH
THE WUNDER WAR
Man-Kzin Wars #10. The
Wunderlanders first learn of the kzin
attacks on Earth barely in time to prepare
to fight back, then turn to guerrilla warfare
when the kzin destroy or seize the cities.
When the war ends in defeat for the Kzin,
the humans and Kzin work for goodwill
between the two species - and a human-
kzin team is sent to investigate a
mysterious asteroid, finding a threat not
only to both species, but to the entire
galaxy. Hb $49.95 343pp
Krisitne Kathryn Rusch

"Callahan's Con"

Callahan #9. Over time, the twice-transplanted patrons of Callahan’s Place attracted a collection of local zanies so quintessentially Key West pixilated that they made the New York originals seem, well, almost normal. For ten slow, merry years, life was good. Then disaster struck. Through the gate one sunny day came a malevolent, moronic, mastodon of a Mafioso named Tony Donuts Jr. He’d decided to resurrect the classic protection racket in Key West - and guess which tavern he picked to hit first? Then, Jake’s wife, Zoey, suddenly finds herself in a place with no light, no heat, no air - and no way home. And while all this was going on, Death himself walked into The Place - but this time he won’t leave alone... Hb $55.00 286pp

J K Rowling

"Harry Potter & The Order of the Phoenix"

Harry Potter #5. Harry Potter is due to start his fifth year at Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry. He is desperate to get back to school and find out why his friends Ron and Hermione have been so secretive all summer. However, what Harry is about to discover in his new year at Hogwarts will turn his world upside down. Hb $45.00 766pp

Kristine Kathryn Rusch

"Extremes"

Retrieval Artist #2. His name: Miles Flint. His occupation: Retrieval Artist. His job: Hunt down the Disappeared outlaws on the run, wanted for crimes against alien cultures. The catch: Flint isn’t working on the side of the law. Pb $17.95 373pp

Sean Russell

"The Isle of Battle"

Swans War #2. Alaan is trapped in the Stillwater, an eerie, fog-bound place hidden from the sun and shrouded in mystery. Tam and his friends must find him before it is too late, for Alaan is wounded and close to death, and his enemies, if they reach him first, will show no mercy. Pb $13.95 562pp

Maggie Shayne

"Enemy Mind"

Family Secrets #1. Professor Zach Ingram was believed to have classified information about genetically altered humans and agents from the top secret MEDUSA wanted it enough to kidnap him, but was the iron-willed academic truly the one they sought? Beautiful psychiatrist Dr. Maisy Dalton was unwittingly brought in to hypnotise Zach into talking about the “memories” hidden within him. But the innocent doctor couldn’t control her feelings for the mysterious man who spoke of mistaken identity and something called the Extraordinary Five. Pb $12.95 250pp

Maggie Shayne, Eileen Wilks & Anne Marie Winston

"Broken Silence"

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

Rick Shelley

"Side Show"

13th Spaceborne #2. The soldiers of the elite 13th Spaceborne fighting force must locate a secret lab and liberate the scientists held there, before they become prisoners-or casualties-themselves... Pb $15.95 232pp

Penina Spinka

"Picture Maker"

The girl known as Picture Maker because of her great ability at drawing and prophecy, is the daughter of one of the warriors and the granddaughter of the clan leader. She is captured by one of her family’s enemies and because she was regarded as a trophy is kept alive and enslaved. When she discovers she is pregnant by one of her captors, she manages to escape, and, inspired by the destiny she had depicted, begins the long, mysterious journey which ends in the furthermost parts of the Western Hemisphere. Pb $19.95 530pp

Aimee Thurlo

"Timewalker"

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

Mark TieDEMANN

"Peace and Memory"

Secantis #3. Trade-Tamyn Glass is on a well-paying and mostly legal run when she is contacted by Benjamin Cyanus - a man she doesn’t know, piloting a ship that isn’t his, pursued by people who intend him harm. He carries a plea from an old friend that Tamyn can’t ignore. Sean Merrick, richest of the early founders of the Commonwealth, is dying, and his last wish is to be buried on Earth. That means crossing the Secant and breaking the law, but that’s only the start of Tamyn’s problems. Merrick is trying to live beyond his natural lifespan: he has loaded his persona into his ship, the Solo, and turned it over to Benjamin - a man who has no memory of his past and owes his present to Sean Merrick. Tb $38.00 440pp

Cate Tiernan

"Eclipse"

Wicca #12. While at her friend, Mary K’s house, Alisa steals a Book of Shadows from Mary K’s elder sister, Morgan. Alisa is inexplicably drawn to the book. She makes the shocking discovery that this Book of Shadows was written by her mother, which means that Alisa is half-witch. She turns to Morgan and Hunter, both blood-witches, for support and development of her powers. Her revelation comes just in time, for the dark wave is upon them and the witches of the Kithic coven join forces to defeat this evil before it destroys everything in its path. Pb $12.95 387pp

John VornHolt

"The Troll Queen"

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

David Weber & Eric Flint

"Crown of Slaves"

Honor Harrington Universe. The Star Kingdom’s ally Erewhon is growing increasingly restive in the alliance because the new High Ridge regime ignores its needs. Added to the longstanding problem of a slave labor planet controlled by hostile Mesans in Erewhon’s stellar backyard... In desperation, Queen Elizabeth tries to defuse the situation by sending a private mission to Erewhon led by Captain Zilwicki, accompanied by one of her nieces. When they arrive on Erewhon, however, Manticore’s envoys find themselves in a mess. Not only do they encounter one of the Republic of Haven’s most capable agents - Victor Cachat - but they also discover that the Solarian League’s military delegation seems up to its neck in skulduggery. Hb $59.95 505pp
DAVID WEBER & STEVE WHITE
THE SHIVA OPTION
Starfire #4. The war wasn’t going well. The Grand Alliance of Humans, Orions, Ophiuchi and Gorm, united in desperate self-defence, have been driven to the wall. Billions of their civilians have been slaughtered. The edge in technology with which they began the war is eroding out from under them and whatever they do, the Bugs just keep coming. But the warriors of the Grand Alliance know what stands behind them and they will surrender no more civilians to the oncoming juggernaut. They will die first... and they will also re-activate General Directive 18, however horrible it may be, because when the only possible outcomes are victory or racial extermination, only one option is acceptable - the Shiva Option. Pb $19.95 753pp

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

LIZ WILLIAMS
EMPIRE OF BONES
Millions of years ago, alien beings seeded Earth with their genetic strands to create a new outpost of intelligent life. Now their descendants have returned to Earth’s skies, drawn by their detection of a Receiver, a human with the genetic technology they barely understand to create a new outpost of intelligent life. Jaya Nihalani has been a prophet, a crusader and terrorist fighting for the rights of her own despised Untouchable caste, who has just been hospitalised with a hideous disease. Her head is filled with voices and visions; her body is aging rapidly, inexplicably. But the voices and visions are no disease. Jaya is the Receiver whom the aliens intend to heal, enlighten... and use. Jaya must somehow discover the plans of her perfect and powerful ‘friends’. Have they come to end human suffering, or to make it worse? Should she help them — or lead the impossible fight against them? Pb $18.95 422pp

LIZ WILLIAMS
THE POISON MASTER
Alivet, a professional alchemist on the run for murder, is sequestered in Ghairen’s fortress laboratory, where she must find the one drug that can harm the Lords of the planet and topple their hierarchy. She is driven relentlessly to hone her skills in time - even though time itself is running out. Tp $30.00 358pp

SEAN WILLIAMS
THE STORM WEAVHER AND THE SAND
Change #3. When the three runaways - Sal, Shily and Skender - finally arrive at the remote island of the Haunted City, home of the Sky Wardens, Sal’s great-aunt, the Syndic, is determined to keep them under control. And if that means imprisonment, so be it. And it seems the Weavers have their own plans for the three of them. Whichever path Sal chooses, it seems the price he pay is very high for those closest to him, but he must decide, or submit to a future not of his making. Pb $13.95 529pp

TAD WILLIAMS
THE WAR OF THE FLOWERS
Theo Vilmos is a 30-year-old lead singer in a not terribly successful rock band. Once, he had enormous, almost magical, charisma both onstage and off - but now, life has taken its toll on Theo. Hitting an all-time low, he seeks refuge in a isolated cabin in the woods and reads an odd memoir written by a dead relative, who believed he had visited the magical world of Faerie. Before Theo can disregard the account as the writings of a madman, he, too, is drawn to a place beyond his wildest dreams... Hb $49.95 686pp Tp $32.95 686pp

ROBERT CHARLES WILSON
BLIND LAKE
At Blind Lake, a large federal research installation, scientists are using a technology they barely understand to watch everyday life in a city of lobster-like aliens upon a distant planet. They can’t contact the aliens in any way or understand their language. All they can do is watch. Then, without warning, a military cordon is imposed on the Blind Lake site. All communication with the outside world is cut off. No-one knows why. The scientists, nevertheless, go on with their research. Among them is Merissa Iverson, who believes there is a commonality of sentient thought. The behaviour of the alien she has been tracking seems to be developing an elusive narrative logic - and she comes to feel that the alien is somehow, impossibly, aware of the project’s observers. But her time is running out. The military cordon is tightening. Understanding had better come soon... Hb $59.95 399pp

ELIZABETH WOLLHEIM & SHEILA GILBERT (eds)
FANTASY: DAW 30TH ANNIVERSARY
Celebrate 30 years of DAW Fantasy with a once-in-a-lifetime, collection. Contributors include Andre Norton, Melanie Rawn, Mercedes Lackey, Jennifer Roberson, Tanya Huff, Tanith Lee, Christopher Stasheff, Larry Dixon and other best-selling masters... Pb $14.95 462pp

RECOMMENDED READING
CHRIS WOODING
THE WEavers OF SARAMYR
I recently finished this and was completely swept away by this amazing story. It is set in a world that is based on Japanese culture. Every powerful family in Saramyr has a Weaver, men who use the power of hideous masks to manipulate the Weave. Through their magic these men have become indispensable to their masters and use their influence to destroy every Aberrant that is born within the Empire. Aberrants are evil, twisted beings with terrible powers, or so the Weavers claim. This is until it is discovered that the Empress’ only child is an Aberrant. Despite the threat of a revolt, the Empress insists that her daughter will inherit the throne on her death and must defend her daughter from the machinations of the Weavers and assassination attempts.

Far away in the country, Kaiku is the only member of her family to escape an attack by strange demons, rescued by her strange handmaiden Asara. Her only clue, a Weaver’s mask, leads her to the conclusion that her father had discovered something that the Weavers did not want revealed. Kaiku vows revenge and, accompanied by Asara and a young acolyte named Tane, she sets off to punish the people who killed her family. Along the way Kaiku discovers that she is an Aberrant, with a power so deadly she is a threat to herself and everyone around her. She also learns that many Aberrants have escaped the notice of the Weavers and they want her to help them in their latest plan to stop the Weavers - rescue the Aberrant princess and ensure she lives to take the throne.

Wonderfully written, with great characters and plenty of plot twists, this is a series with a difference that no fantasy fan should miss. 9/ 10 - Sian
Chris Wooding
THE WEAVERS OF SARAMYR
The story of an empire that rules over a land being overwhelmed by evil, and evil that comes from within the empire’s centre, a sect of magicians close to the throne intent on killing any child born with magical powers. But now the empress has given birth to just such a child and revolution is brewing. Tp $29.95 375pp

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Richard Knaak
NIGHT OF BLOOD
The minotaur Wars #1. This direct follow-up to the recent best-selling War of Souls trilogy deals with the minotaurs, and is the first title that deals directly with the world-changing fallout at the end of the War of Souls. Hb $55.00 344pp

Paul Thompson
MIDDLE OF NOWHERE
Crossroads #4. The author explores an area of the setting that has been mentioned, but not previously described in detail to readers. Pb $16.95 309pp

Dungeons & Dragons
THE SUNDERED ARMS
Dungeons & Dragons #8. This title chronicles the latest adventure of various iconic characters from the Dungeons & Dragons core rulebooks. Pb $14.95 184pp

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FORGOTTEN REALMS
Edward Bolme
The Alabaster Staff
Rogue #1. This is the first title in a new series focusing specifically on the iconic character class of the rogue, the overall setting for all of the titles will be the Old Empires, an area never before explored in the novels. Pb $16.95 309pp

R A Salvatore
The Thousand Orcs
Hunters Blades Trilogy #1. This title focuses primarily on Drizzt Do’oruden, who has been the subject of most of the author’s novels. Pb $17.95 367pp

FOUR WINDS
Rich Wulf
Wind of Justice
The Four Winds Saga #3. This explores a different character’s perspective on the events taking place in the series. The final outcome of this series will be determined by Legend of the Five Rings readers and fans in a tournament during 2003. Pb $15.95 277pp

THE PRISONER
Tim Palgut
The Village Files
Number 6 might have had better luck escaping from The Village if he’d had access to this book! In it are top-secret placements, personnel lists, interrogation devices and equipment, hidden camera recordings, and much more. Pb $17.95 377pp

SMALLVILLE
David Cody Weiss & Bobbi Weiss
Animal Rage
Before the legend, there was the teenager Clark Kent - a freshman doing all the usual high school stuff... and attempting to master his developing superpowers while keeping them safe. Smallville is a compassionate and often wacky look at Clark’s birthplace. Pb $16.95 160pp

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

STAR TREK
Tony Abbott
No Surrender
Starfleet Corp of Engineers #4. Captain Gold must confront an old friend who has turned terrorist and threatens the lives of millions. And Lense must put aside the horrors she faced in the Dominion War to find a cure for a plague on Sherman’s Planet before that world’s entire population and the crew of the da Vinci perish. Pb $14.95 316pp

Michael Jan Friedman
Star Trek: Three
Stargazer #3. Identical twins Gerda and Idun Asmund lost their human parents early in life and were raised as warriors on the Kligon homeworld. The Asmunds continued to depend on each other as helm officer and navigator on the Starship Stargazer, perill and adversity forging a bond between them as strong as tritanium. But that bond is tested when a transporter mishap deposits a mysterious visitor on the Stargazer - a beautiful woman from another universe who resembles Gerda and Idun as closely as they resemble each other. Pb $17.95 247pp

J G Hertzler & Jeffrey Lang
Star Trek DS9: The Left Hand of Destiny
#2. Sins of the past collide with hopes for the future as Martok fights for the right to lead the Klingon Empire. Pb $14.95 330pp

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

John Samson (ed)
The Star Trek Crossword Book
#1. Here for the very first time are 50 never-before-published puzzles devoted entirely to Star Trek. Edited by top puzzle master John Samson, these crossword puzzles will challenge your knowledge of the everyday and the obscure related to every Star Trek series and movie. Grab a cup of raktajino and solve them all. Pb $24.95 60pp

Dean Wesley Smith (ed)
Strange New Worlds #6
In the sixth year of its ongoing mission, the Strange New Worlds writing competition has once again sought out new voices and imaginations among Star Trek fans. After scanning countless submissions for signs of style and originality, Strange New Worlds VI features 23 never-before-published stories spanning the 22nd to the 24th centuries, from the early days of Captain Jonathan Archer to James T Kirk and his crew, to Captains Picard, Sisko and Janeway. Tp $29.95 370pp

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

TERMINATOR
S M Stirling
Terminator 2: The Future War
The future is now. Skynet is sentient, and the first Hunter-Killer and T-90 Terminator units are operational. Humanity faces extinction. But one man, guided by the very Terminator once sent to kill him, has been preparing for this future - John Connor. The battle is engaged. Hb $55.00 357pp

DVDs/Videos
Andromeda
#3.06. Delenda Est & The Dark Backward. DVD $30.95 Video $20.95
#3.07. The Risk All Point & The Right Horse. DVD $30.95 Video $20.95

Donnie Darko
DVD $29.95 Video $20.95

The Man Who Fell to Earth
DVD $34.95

Mutant X
#2.05. Body And Soul & Understudy. DVD $30.95 Video $20.95
#2.06. The Gift & At Destiny’s End DVD $30.95 Video $20.95

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TERMINATOR 2: JUDGEMENT DAY
Ultimate Edition. DVD $39.95
THE WICKER MAN
Director’s Cut. DVD $39.95 (2 discs)

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

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

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

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

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

HAMMER FILMS
JOHN MCCARY
In the era when mullets and shoulder pads were all the rage, moviemgoers got their kicks from flicks as wide-ranging as Blade Runner, Indiana Jones, When Harry Met Sally and Blue Velvet. Without a doubt, sci-fi was the most important genre of the decade, with ET winning the Academy Awards list. Features cast and crew listings, box office figures, trivia, film stills, actor and director bios and an Academy Awards list. Tp $85.00

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

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

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

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

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

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

**COMPETITION**

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

**COMPETITION WINNERS**

Sharon Faichney has won the Daredevil Banner. Congratulations!