WORLD FANTASY NOMINEES

Nominees include:

**Novel**
- The Facts of Life by Graham Joyce
- Fitcher’s Brides by Gregory Frost
- Ombria in Shadow by Patricia McKillip
- The Portrait of Mrs Charbuque by Jeffrey Ford
- The Scar by China Miéville

**Novella**
- Coraline by Neil Gaiman
- The Least Trumps by Elizabeth Hand
- The Library by Zoran Zivkovic

**Seven Wild Sisters** by Charles de Lint
- A Year in the Linear City by Paul Di Filippo

**Short Story**
- Creation by Jeffrey Ford
- The Essayist in the Wilderness by Mary Browning Spencer
- Little Dead Girl Singing by Stephen Gallagher
- October in the Chair by Neil Gaiman
- The Weight of Words by Jeffrey Ford

**Anthology**
- The American Fantasy Tradition edited by Brian Thomsen
- Conjunctions 39: The New Wave Fabulists edited by Peter Straub
- The Green Man: Tales from the Mythic Forest edited by Ellen Datlow & Terri Windling
- Leviathan 3 edited by Jeff VanderMeer and Forrest Aguirre
- The Year’s Best Fantasy & Horror: Fifteenth Annual Collection edited by Ellen Datlow & Terri Windling

**Collection**
- City of Saints and Madmen by Jeff VanderMeer
- The Fantasy Writer’s Assistant and Other Stories by Jeffrey Ford
- Figures in Rain by Chet Williamson
- The Ogre’s Wife by Richard Parks
- Waifs and Strays by Charles de Lint
- Water: Tales of Elemental Spirits by Robin McKinley and Peter Dickinson

MYTHOPOEIC AWARD WINNERS

A full list of winners follows.

**Fantasy Award for Adult Literature**
- Ombria in Shadow by Patricia McKillip

**Fantasy Award for Children’s Literature**
- Summerland by Michael Chabon

**Scholarship Award in Inklings Studies**
- Beowulf and the Critics by J R R Tolkien edited by Michael Drout

**Scholarship Award in General Myth and Fantasy Studies**
- Fairytale in the Ancient World by Graham Anderson

COMING SOON...

- **Paladin of Souls** (sequel to Curse of Chalion) by Lois McMaster Bujold (Hb due Oct)
- **The Crystal City** (Alvin Maker #6) by Orson Scott Card (Hb due Nov)
- **Pandora’s Star** by Peter Hamilton (Hb due Feb 04)
- **Fool’s Fate** (Tawny Man #3) by Robin Hobb (Hb due Oct)
- **Ringworld’s Children** by Larry Niven and Jerry Pournelle (Hb Due Mar 04)
- **The Monstrous Regiment** (Discworld) by Terry Pratchett (Hb due Oct)

LABOUR DAY PUBLIC HOLIDAY

MON 6 OCTOBER
WE ARE OPEN 10AM - 5PM
Jennifer Armstrong & Nancy Butcher
The Kindling
FireUs #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-U.s. Pb $14.95 283pp

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

Robert Asprin
Something Myth Inc.
Myth #12. Revolution is in the air. The king's court sorcerer is being eyed with suspicion. Not for dabbling in the black arts, not for consorting with a demon, not for having a dragon as a pet, not even for being mobbed up, but for the greatest crime of all - raising taxes. Who is this terrible tyrant? None other than Skeeve the Great! Pb $17.95 198pp

Robert Asprin & Jody Lynn-Nye
Myth-Told Tales
This collection introduces and sets up the new M yth Adventures series which launches late 2003. Pb $19.95 111pp

Amelia Atwater-Rhodes
HawkSong
Danica is an avian shape-shifter, whose golden hawk's form is as natural to her as the human one that graces her on land. The only thing more familiar to her is the war that has raged between warriors and mages, witches and kings and betrayers of every form. As the time of final reckoning approaches, Travis and Wilder joins her in the struggle between warriors and mages, witches and kings. Pb $19.95 500pp

Max Barry
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

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

Jennifer Government
When John Nike and John Nike, executives from the promised land of Marketing, offer Hack Nike a contract, he signs without reading it. Unfortunately, Hack's new contract involves shooting teenagers to build up street cred for Nike's new line of $2,500 sneakers. Scared, Hack goes to The Police, who assume he's asking for a subcontracting deal and the assassinations to the 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

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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unaware that he walks among them, and that their enemies have
Ghost Walker, the long promised deliverer of their people,

- David

Richard Bradley and his family live on the edge of Ryhope Wood. One night he and
his young son Alex encounter James Keeton, with whose 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 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 Lavondyss (Pb $18.95). Gate of Ivory, Gate of Horn (Pb $17.95) also forms part of this series. Although these novels can be read individually, they do follow and reference each other. Highly recommended and an important contribution to the fantasy field and modern day myth in particular.

- David

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

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

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

- Stephanie 8/10

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 fulfill 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 mystical beast of faerie and has to best it to save the land. He has a brush with Death (who is a very cool Goth chick) and learns some interesting (and a little saddening) information about his past.

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

- Stephanie 8/10
EMMA BULL
THE PATHS OF THE DEAD
V Viscount of Adrilankh #1. 200 years after Adron’s Disaster in which Draegaera City was accidentally reduced to an ocean of chaos by an experiment in wizardry gone wrong, the Empire isn’t what it used to be. Now the descendants of the great adventurers Khaavren, Pel, Aerich, and Tazendra are growing up in this seemingly diminished world, convinced that the age of adventures is over and nothing interesting will ever happen to them. They are, of course, wrong. For even deprived of magic, Draegaerans fight, plot and conspire as they breathe and so do their still-powerful gods. The enemies of the Empire prowl at its edges, inscrutable doings are up at Dzur Mountain… and, unexpectedly, a surviving Phoenix Heir, young Zerika, is discovered - setting off a chain of swashbuckling events that will remake the world yet again.

$19.95 556pp

ATHOS
BERNARD CORNWELL
ENEMIES BEFORE THEM
The might of Roche the dragons and have driven their comrades have unleashed the power of Dragonmaster #2. Kills everyone who takes it. It’s up to Hal and his company of the elderly Lord Wassail, on a mission to escort King Athelgar’s chosen bride to her new home and royal wedding. But when polite diplomacy goes way to horror and blood, Sir Beaumont becomes one of the tragedy’s prime victims - though he lives still. Stripped of his sword and banished from the Blades in disgrace, he faces a grim future as a homeless pariah. Approached in secret by the legendary Durendal, now Grand Master of the Order, the dishonored paragon is offered one last chance to win back his weapon and his place among his brother Blades, but to do so, he must ride back through the icy gates of Hel… to battle the Devil himself. Pb $19.95 433pp

CHRIS BUNCH
KNIGHTHOOD OF THE DRAGON
Dragonmaster #2. Now Hal and his comrades have unleashed the power of the dragons and have driven their enemies before them. The might of Roche lies unbroken but Hal, the Dragonmaster, knows that the war and the killing have only begun. Tp $29.95 408pp

BERNARD CORNWELL
VAGABOND
Grail Quest #2. Having survived the battle of Crecy, Thomas is sent back to England, charged with finding the Holy Grail, but when a chance comes to fight against an army invading northern England Thomas jumps at it. He discovers too late that he is not the only person pursuing the grail, and that his rivals will do anything to thwart him. Pb $18.95 500pp

ELLIE DATLOW & TERRI WINDLING (eds)
SWAN SISTER: FAIRY TALES RETOLD
In this anthology readers will find a Rapunzel whose most confining prison is her loneliness, a contemporary rendering of the Green Man myth, two different versions of Red Riding Hood, a tale that grew out of a Celtic folk song, Sleeping Beauty’s experience of her enchantment, two works inspired by the Arabian Nights and more. Hb $39.95 165pp

KEITH DE CANDIDO
IMAGININGS: AN ANTHOLOGY OF LONG SHORT FICTION
Ten stories of new worlds, new universes and new realities. Harry Turtledove tells a story of the future that casts a frightening light on the present. Award-winners Adam-Troy Castro and Janet Berliner provide two tales of very different kinds of magic. Sarah Zettel looks at the future of computers and bestselling author Craig Shaw Gardner visits a planet called Elvis. Tp $34.00 340pp

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

Phyllis Eisenstein
BOOK OF ELEMENTALS
Saga of the Sorcerer’s Son #1 & 2. Cray Ormoru dwells in a world of happiness within the walls of Castle Spinweb. His mother, Delivev the sorceress, provides everything he needs or wants, but as he grows from boy to young man, he senses that it is time to find the father he’s never known. And so he sets out on a journey that will take him from town to castle to a fortress of bronze, totally unprepared for the sorrows and dangers that lay ahead. For the fate of Cray’s father would only be discovered by the light of demon fire. Tp $48.00 741pp

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

Jasper Fforde
THE WELL OF LOST PLOTS
Thursday Next #3. Leaving Swindon behind to hide out in the Well of Lost Plots - the place where all fiction is created - Thursday Next ponders her next move. As a shadow looms over popular fiction, she must keep her wits about her and discover what is going on and who she can trust. Tp $32.95 361pp

Jasper Fforde
WIN A JASPER FFORDE T-SHIRT!
(One says ‘Why Not Visit Swindon’, the other says ‘Toast’).
See back page for entry details

Eric Flint & Richard Roach
FORWARD THE MAGE
Joe’s World #2. Benvenuti arrives in Goimir just in time for disaster to strike. The evil sorcerer Zulkhe has driven the King of the realm insane, then fled from the city! So much for Benvenuti’s plans to become the Royal Artist. After barely managing to escape the clutches of the authorities, he finds things are not as they seem. Zulkhe and his apprentice Shelyid are guileless. Zulkhe had been summoned to interpret the King’s dream, which the sorcerer realised foretold an impending catastrophe for civilisation. Much to the artist’s dismay, his adventures and those of the sorcerer are hopelessly intertwined. Pb $19.95 585pp

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

$19.95 556pp

Lois McMaster Bujold
MILES, MYSTERY AND MAYHEM
Vorkosigan universe. This omnibus edition contains the novels Catelanada, Ethan of Athos and the short story Labyrinth. Pb $19.95 556pp

Emma Bull
FINDER
Welcome to Bordertown, where humans, elves andihadlings co-exist, where magic and the brutal realities of survival clash and mix. For Orient, a Finder of lost things, it’s just home. Human kids seeking wild thrills in Nevernever, which is mostly restricted to elves, are being lured into taking a new drug that morphs them into Truebloods. Except this is a one-way trip and the drug kills everyone who takes it. It’s up to Orient to find the killer. Pb $17.95 317pp

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Dragonmaster #2. Now Hal and his comrades have unleashed the power of the dragons and have driven their enemies before them. The might of Roche lies unbroken but Hal, the Dragonmaster, knows that the war and the killing have only begun. Tp $29.95 408pp

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

ALEXANDER IRVINE
A SCATTERING OF JADES
The great fire of 1835 has burned most of New York City’s wooden downtown. Like many people, Archie Prescott thinks he has lost everything, including his wife and child. It seems like the end of everything. But it is only the beginning. Goaded into action by New York Herald publisher James Gordon Bennett, Archie runs afoul of one of P T Barnum’s former sideshow workers, Riley Steen. With the help of an ancient book Steen has resurrected a chacmool, an ageless Mesoamerican avatar, which brings warnings of a terrible evil. somehow, Bloody Mary has come to life - and 17-year-old Magnus has seen her. Hb $59.95 433pp

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

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

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

MERCEDES LACKEY & ROSEMARY EDGILL
MAUD MAULDIN
Batlans Bard #5. Homeless children in New York have created a bizarre mythology about a demon called Bloody Mary who preys on young children. Somehow, Bloody Mary has come to life and now stalks the city’s streets. Anyone who sees her is doomed to die - and 17-year-old Magnus has seen her. Hb $59.95 433pp

JANE LINDSKOLD
WOLF’S HEAD, WOLF’S HEART
Monarchies of God #5. Despite early victories, Rome is now hard-pressed. Now the new Emperor of Persia marches on Egypt. But there is a faint glimmer of hope. The Emperor Galen’s brother is a great sorcerer. His loyalty to the empire is strong and he will face the Dark Lord, alone, if he must. Pb $19.95 762pp

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URSULA K LE GUIN
CHANGING PLANES
The misery of waiting for a connecting flight at an airport leads to the accidental discovery of alighting on other planes - not airplanes, but planes of existence. The author’s deadpan premise frames a series of travel accounts by the tourist-narrator who describes bizarre societies and cultures that sometimes mirror our own and sometimes open puzzling doors into the alien. Hb $52.00 246pp

PAUL LEVINSON
PIXEL EYE
A Phil D’amato novel. In New York City, terrorism is more threatening than ever; skyscrapers are a cherished, defiant symbol of the times when forensic detective Dr Phil D’Amato is called in to investigate an urgent case - squirrels missing from Central Park! It sounds like a joke, but Phil soon discovers it’s anything but. A new technology can put imprints in squirrels to translate what they are seeing into computer-viewable images. But who’s behind this surveillance breakthrough? Federal agencies or terrorists? Hb $59.95 334pp

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

GUARDIAN OF GALAHLE
MURNAH, HIS FRIEND
Now the new Emperor of Persia marches on Egypt. But there is a faint glimmer of hope. The Emperor Galen’s brother is a great sorcerer. His loyalty to the empire is strong and he will face the Dark Lord, alone, if he must. Pb $19.95 762pp
JULIET MARILLIER
THE MAN FROM ATLANTIS
He had inhabited a world destroyed 10,000 years ago - Atlantis, a place now lost to him forever. Kept alive in a state of suspended animation, Kynan awoke to find he would be forever torn from her. She feared he would be forever torn from her herself to Kynan’s powerful embrace, she left her breathless with passion and desire. Though she longed to surrender herself to Kynan’s powerful embrace, she feared he would be forever torn from her once he found others like himself. Pb $12.95 249pp

JULIET MARILLIER
FOXMASK
Saga of the Light Isles #2. At his coming of age, Thorvald learns a devastating secret, and steals away on a perilous voyage in search of the father he has never known. His loyal shadow, Creidhe, daughter of a Wolfskin warrior and a wise woman, follows him. The Long Knife people of the Lost Isles are not what the weary travellers were expecting. Ruled by a cruel tyrant, they will not explain why Creidhe must hide her golden hair from sight, or why there are so few children amongst them... Tp $30.00 558pp

JOHN MEANEY
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Alivet, a professional alchemist on the run for murder, is sequestered in Ghaien’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

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Theo Vilimos 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

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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 Nerissa 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

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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 Weaver. 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 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 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

RECOMMENDED READING
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LIZ WILLIAMS
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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 ability to tap into alien communications. Jaya Nihalani has been a prophet, a Receiver, a human with the genetic ability to tap into alien communications. A lucky subterfuge has fooled the Golden Dragon into leaving Opal Island and she has trailed the Vishican 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 Belbida is stopped and that Torra Alta, the only home he has left, is rescued. Pb $18.95 516pp

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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

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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 1998. The various characters that recur in horror films - Dracula, Frankenstei...
WHAT WE’VE BEEN READING...

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

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

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

Great for any age from children to adult. - Stephen

The Relic (Pb $19.95) and its sequel Reliquary (Pb $21.95) by Douglas Preston and Lincoln Child are guaranteed to give you sleepless nights! Everyone no doubt is familiar with the movie of The Relic, but do yourself a favour and do not judge these books by the film script. They are infinitely better, more detailed and far more shocking and riveting.

In a nutshell, The Relic involves an ancient artefact, with a deadly secret, that has been brought to a New York Museum, and the deaths that follow. In the sequel, the original characters of the first book all return and there is more action below New York's city streets and in the sewers where the relic’s guardians are once more stirring... - Stephen

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

COMPETITION

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

COMPETITION WINNERS

Sharon Faichney has won the Daredevil Banner. Congratulations!
Science fiction, abbreviation SF or sci-fi, a form of fiction that deals principally with the impact of actual or imagined science upon society or individuals. The term science fiction was popularized, if not invented, in the 1920s by one of the genre’s principal advocates, the American publisher Hugo Gernsback. The Hugo Awards, given annually since 1953 by the World Science Fiction Society, are named after him. These achievement awards are given to the top SF writers, editors, illustrators, films, and fanzines. The world of science fiction. Science fiction (often shortened to SF or sci-fi) is a genre of speculative fiction, typically dealing with imaginative concepts such as futuristic science and technology, space travel, time travel, faster than light travel, parallel universes, and extraterrestrial life. The Truth About Science Fiction (Documentary). The Evolution of Science Fiction (Feat. Lindsay Ellis) | It's Lit! Philosophy, Fantasy, and Science Fiction: Introduction to the Series (lecture 1). Transcription. Contents. Definition & Examples. When & How to Use Science Fiction. Quiz. I. What is Science Fiction? Science fiction, often called sci-fi, is a genre of fiction literature whose content is imaginative, but based in science. It relies heavily on scientific facts, theories, and principles as support for its settings, characters, themes, and plot-lines, which is what makes it different from fantasy. So, while the storylines and elements of science fiction stories are imaginary, they are usually possible according to science or at least plausible.