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

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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 enthwine 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.

Marion Zimmer Bradley (ed)

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

Chaz Brenchley

A Dark Way to Glory

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

Marion Zimmer Bradley (ed)

The Invitation & Bindings

(Books 1 & 2 of the Books of Magic)

Pb $15.95 235pp 171pp

Carla Jablonski (Created by Neil Gaiman)

I've never been much of a comic reader, but have only heard amazing things about the Books of Magic series over the years. Comparisons to Harry Potter are going to be made, but it has to be said that these stories predate Harry by about 5 years. Timothy Hunter is a 13-year-old living in London. His mum has recently died and his dad has retreated into his own world, rarely making sense or taking much notice of Timothy. One day Timothy is approached by four strangers who tell him he has the potential to be the greatest magician ever. Each gentleman takes him on a voyage, into his future, into the realm of Faerie, to the beginning of time and through the present day. There are those who don't want Timothy to 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 Tithania, who has refused to see what has been happening to her land over time. Timothy is captured by a mythical beast of faerie and has to best it to save the land. He has a brush with Death (who is a very cool Goth chick) and learns some interesting (and a little saddening) information about his past.

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

- Stephanie 8/10

Marion Zimmer Bradley (ed)

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

Kristen Britain

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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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Wolfbane, lord of the Night Witches, wants revenge! After his humiliating defeat at the hands of Abby, Spike, and the Light Witches, Wolfbane vows to destroy them, once and for all. And he has a plan. He will steal the ancient sword of Merlin, and use its power to rule the world! Pb $12.95 271pp

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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

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Books of Barakhi #2. When Benton Collins returned from Barakhi - where magic had turned all but the royal family into inadvertent shape-shifters - he thought his adventures were at an end. But the friends he’d left behind still needed his aid and Ben had to return to join in their desperate quest. Pb $17.95 350pp

PATRICIA RICE
THE TROUBLE WITH MAGIC

Felicity Malcolm Childe’s gift for experiencing visions through touch has always felt more like a curse than a blessing. Only the maddeningly handsome Ewen Ives provokes tingles of pleasure rather than pain, but he is already betrothed. Her last hope is to let him escort her to Scotland and help her find the ancient book of spells that could allow her to extinguish her gift - and free her from its burden. Pb $17.95 375pp

JUSTIN RICHARDS
PARANORMAL PUPPET SHOW

The Invisible Detective #1. London, today: When 14-year-old Arthur Drake shelters from the rain in a dusty shop, the last thing he expects to find is the antique casebook of The Invisible Detective. It may have been written in the 1930s, but it’s in his handwriting... Hb $14.95 264pp

SHADOW BEAST
The Invisible Detective #2. London, today: Arthur Drake is beginning to understand how he is linked to the boy who wrote the Invisible Detective’s casebook over 80 years ago. But there’s no time to investigate further - a monster is loose in London, and Arthur must get help from the past... Hb $14.95 220pp
**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 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 Benajim Cyanus - a man she doesn’t know, piloting a ship that isn’t his, pursued by people who intend him harm. He carries a plea from 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 Benajim - a man who has no memory of his past and owes his present to Sean Merrick. Tp $38.00 440pp

**K 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

**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 Kthic 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 Stygus 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 envoy find themselves in a mess. Not only do they encounter one of the Republic of Haven’s most capable agents - Victor Cachet - but they also discover that the Solarian League’s military delegation seems up to its neck in skulduggery. Hb $59.95 505pp

**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 furthest parts of the Western Hemisphere. Pb $19.95 530pp

**AIMEE THURLO**

**TIMEWALKER**

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

**MARK TIEDEMANN**

**CROWN OF SLAVES**

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**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 $19.95 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

**MARK TIEDEMANN**

**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 envoy find themselves in a mess. Not only do they encounter one of the Republic of Haven’s most capable agents - Victor Cachet - but they also discover that the Solarian League’s military delegation seems up to its neck in skulduggery. Hb $59.95 505pp

**SPIDER ROBINSON**

**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 pixelated 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, Zoe, 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
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 reassert 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 ability to tap into alien communications. Jaya Nihalani has been a prophet, a crusader and terrorist fighting for the rights of her own despised Untouchable caste. Now she is in an Indian hospital, dying of 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, to make it powerful 'friends'. Have they come to discover the plans of her perfect and enlightened... and use. Jaya must somehow Receiver whom the aliens intend to heal, aging rapidly, inexplicably. But the voices filled with voices and visions; her body is casted. Now she lies in an Indian hospital, rights of her own despised Untouchable crusader and terrorist fighting for the ability to tap into alien communications. a Receiver, a human with the genetic seeded Earth with their genetic strands to

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 bestselling authors... 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 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's 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 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 VEILS OF SARAMYR
The Braided Path #1. This is the story of an empire that rules over a land being overwhelmed by evil, an evil that comes from within the empire’s centre, a sect of magicians close to the throne intent on killing any child born with magical powers. But now the empress has given birth to just such a child and revolution is brewing. Tp $29.95 375pp

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

**Ramsey Campbell**
SCARED STIFF:
TALES OF SEX AND DEATH
The original publication of this collection almost created the sub-genre of erotic horror. Never had sex and death been so mesmerisingly entwined. Clive Barker, in his introduction, says, “One of the 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 more able to handle it.” Tp $36.00 239pp

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

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

**Stephen King**
FROM A BUICK 8
For 20 years the officers in Pennsylvania State Police Barracks have kept a secret in Shed 8. 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 forskes horror’s usual melodrama in favor of penetrating character studies and profound examinations of the human condition. Tp $55.00 202pp

**Chelsea Quinn Yarbros**
NIGHT BLOOMING
St Germain #15. At the forced invitation of 8th century Germanic king Karl-lo-Magne (Charlemagne), Hiermon Ragoczy de Santus Germainius, a man rumoured to have travelled to many far places, makes the dangerous journey to France. He is called to validate the authenticity of the king’s newly purchased maps, but unbeknownst to Karl-lo-Magne, Ragoczy’s knowledge stems from centuries of being chased from these countries, rather than travelling through them. Despite his longing for peace, he yields to Karl-lo-Magne. What he does not expect, though, is to meet the albino woman, Gynethe Mehaut, who shares his curse of solitude. Showing signs of 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

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

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

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

**Richard Knaak**
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

**T H Lain**
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
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

RA Salvalatore

THE THOUSAND ORCS

Hunters Blades Trilogy #1. This title focuses primarily on Drizzt Doourend, 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 Village plans, blueprints and files, detailed schematics of Village buildings, devices and equipment, hidden camera placements, personnel lists, interrogation techniques and more. Hb $65.00 94pp

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 powers. This novelisation (written version of film, TV, radio drama production, comic or game) Based on (concept)

Film
TV show
Computer game
Role-playing game
comic
reference

STARGATE

Keith Topping

BEYOND THE GATE: THE UNOFFICIAL AND UNAUTHOURED 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 Klingon homeworld. The Asmounds continued to depend on each other as helm officer and navigator on the Starship Stargazer, peril and adversity forging a bond between them as strong as tritium. 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 Excalibur. Now Sulu and his crew - including Chekov, Rand, Chapel, Tuvok and Akaar - are thrust into an unexpected conflict between the Tholians and a mysterious new enemy, the Neyel... whose origins, if revealed, could lead to war with Earth itself. Pb $17.95 387pp

John Samson (ed)

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#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. Includes 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

SM 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

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MEDIA REFERENCE
THE AMERICAN HORROR FILM:
AN INTRODUCTION
Reynold Humphries
This overview of the popular genre of
American horror films moves from
Dracula in 1931 to contemporary films
such as Scream, made in 1998. 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
cientist, nuclear anxiety, psychological
monsters, the living dead and slasher
movies. Key directors including Jacques
Tourneur, David Cronenberg, and Roger
Corman are covered. An extensive
filmmography is included and reference is
made at the appropriate point to the most
pertinent writing on horror. Tp $54.95
216pp
COMIC BOOK MOVIES
David Hughes
Superman, Batman, Spider-Man, X-Men -
the comic book movie has become one of
the staples of the Hollywood studio. This
book explores the landmarks among
movie adaptations of comic books. As
well as the many famous franchises
covered by the book, a number of unusual,
off-beat titles are featured including
Manga classic Akira, The Crow, The Road
to Perdition and Ghost World. There are
also the famous flops, from Warren Beatty’s Dick Tracy to Sylvester
Stallone’s Judge Dredd. Features chapters
on over 20 films, including interviews
with many of the key comic and film
creators involved. Tp $39.95 296pp

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

EXCELSIOR!
THE AMAZING LIFE OF STAN LEE
Stan Lee & George Maier
Stan Lee is the Marvel Comic genius who
created Spider-Man, X-Men and The
Incredible Hulk among others and has
been in the business for over 40 years.
This memoir traces Lee’s life from grow-
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,
listed when the war broke out shortly
after. Lee went back to comics after the
war as the creative force behind Marvel,
selling over two billion comics to young,
and not so young, people all over the
world. Tp $33.00 245pp

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

HALLIWELL’S WHO’S WHO IN THE
MOVIES:
3RD EDITION
John Walker (ed)
A comprehensive guide to the who, why,
what and how of cinema, the people in
the movies are revealed here with brevity
and wit. In A-Z format, the book is
packed with comprehensive biographical
profiles of actors and actresses, directors,
producers, editors and other key
personnel. It also contains notes on the
major studios, foreign cinema, cinematic
themes and definitions of technical terms.
There are over 1,000 new entries added to
this year’s guide as well as a history of the
cinema from 1894 onwards, year-by-year
Oscar listings and details of all the major
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John McCarty
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pads were all the rage, moviegoers got
their kicks from flicks as wide-ranging as
Blade Runner, Indiana Jones, When Harry
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doubt, sci-fi was the most important
genre of the decade, with ET winning the
hearts of millions while Aliens became the
stuff of nightmares, and movies like
Ghostbusters and Back to the Future fused
comedy and sci-fi to the delight of
audiences everywhere. Features cast and
crew listings, box office figures, trivia,
film stills, actor and director bios and an
Academy Awards list. Tp $85.00 863pp
WHAT WE'VE BEEN READING...

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