

WATT'S OUT

SF&F Book Releases

THE EMPIRE STONE by Chris Bunch. Orbit pb, dist in Aust by Penguin Books. © 2000. 359 pp. A\$18.95. On sale now. A new fantasy from someone who is quite an accomplished writer. Peirol of the Moorlands was the son of a poor peasant, but he still had dreams. Or did until he ran into the band of bandits who convinced him – with a sword behind him and a map of a ruined temple in his hands – to search for a fabled stone the size of two clenched fists that the gods had cut. The stone – the Empire Stone – had been lost years before, but Peirol had found traces of where it might have gone. His journeying would take him through many lands and he would have many hazardous adventures, and it may be that he would come across the Stone. But would he win it for himself? Well-told fantasy adventure.

THE PRIDE OF CHANUR by C. J. Cherryh. DAW pb, dist in Aust by Penguin Books. © 1981/2. 223 pp. On sale now. The first book in the Chanur saga, and the one which initially set up the scenario and brought in the readers who have been following this series, and the sequels since. The background was that in a distant area of space various space-faring species had a meeting place at Meetpoint Station. There they exchanged information, cargo and people. When a Chanur ship's crew called in, they found that an Outsider had been discovered by another species, the kif, and they had discovered the alien, a human, and brought him to Meetpoint. The kif were a violent people, the human found, and he had escaped and called upon the Chanur to protect him. And thus started the situation that could end up ending the Compact between their species. Excellent reading. *Recommended*.

CHANUR'S HOMECOMING by C. J. Cherryh. DAW pb, dist in Aust by Penguin Books. © 1987. 398 pp. On sale now. The book in the Chanur saga that could be the end of the ship Pride of Chanur and begin an interstellar war. And with the break-up of the Compact, and an incoming fleet of perhaps avenging human ships, the actions of the Pride of Chanur may be all that can avert the destruction of her species and a war that will decimate star systems. And buried in all this is the change to gain an advantage of trade with a new civilisation – the humans, and those who obtain such may win great wealth for themselves. With this book Cherryh wraps up many threads, but the reader will have to savour the outcome themselves. A well written space opera, and great reading.

CHANUR'S LEGACY by C. J. Cherryh. DAW pb, dist in Aust by Penguin Books. © 1992. 415 pp. On sale now. CHANUR'S LEGACY is a continuation of the Chanur saga in that it is the story of one of the Pride of Chanur's crew. Hilfy Chanur is quite a lot like her famous aunt, and as new captain of her ship, Chanur's

Legacy has to look out after herself in her search for wealth and fame. She is licking her lips when she is offered a million credits by a stsho on Meetpoint Station to deliver a small cargo. She is not all that enthusiastic later, when various groups seem to be after her and the cargo. It is again another well-told tale, and Cherryh's style carries the reader forward quickly to the end of the book. Another excellent yarn.

THE KING OF DREAMS by Robert Silverberg. Voyager tpb, dist in Aust by HarperCollins. © 2000. 514 pp. On sale now.

Silverberg's Majipoor chronicles has been going for many years now and his readers always look forward to reading another.

There were three Powers on Majipoor – the Coronal, the Pontifex and the Lady of the Isle. Then another force began to make itself felt – what seemed to be an evil force, which also manifested itself in dreams, but the dreams had the force of reality and the recipients of such dreams had only death to relieve themselves of the insidious influence. It was only over time that the new Pontifex Prestimion and the new Coronal Dekkeret became aware that something was amiss. First they heard that the five nephews of the dead ruler of Zimroel had taken upon themselves the title of Lord, that only the Coronal could do. Then came the news that they were intending to break away from the world government. Something had to be done...

Another smoothly written novel about that far off future planet.

THE ARMY OF FIVE MEN by Shaun Hick. Voyager pb, dist in Aust by HarperCollins. © 2001. 672 pp. A\$17.95. On sale now.

This is the first novel of a trilogy, and is the first by a new Australasian author. The novel is set in an alternate Pacific scenario and is a fantasy. The plotline will follow the adventures of five men, the five men of the title, as they grow up and eventually find each other. This first novel sets up the introduction for the reader to each of the men, of their birth and childhood and fills in the background of their world and politics and principle characters other than the five. The writing is clear and forceful and makes the five quite believable. This series looks to be quite an enjoyable read. Readers who enjoy their fantasy well-thought-out will like this one.

GUARDIANS OF THE LOST by Margaret Weis & Tracy Hickman. Voyager tpb, dist in Aust by HarperCollins. © 2001. 578 pp. A\$27.50. On sale now. Book two of the Sovereign Stone trilogy. The time is many years after the destruction of the Vinnengael. There are some still fighting the evil Prince Dagnarius, however. One was the warrior Gustav. When at last he came to the end of his time, he gave the most precious thing in his possession – a portion of the sovereign Stone that had been lost for ages and which Dagnarius had been seeking – to

Bashae, a young man who, with his companions, would have to fight his way to the altar in New Vennengael where it would be laid where in the place that had been created for it, to keep it out of Dagnarius's hands. A volume that has both fast action and lots of it.

PERIL'S GATE by Janny Wurts. Voyager tpb, dist in Aust by HarperCollins. © 2001. 675 pp incl Glossary. A\$27.50. On sale Now. Book 3 of the Alliance of Light. This book is a totally Janny Wurtz visual sight – it's cover artwork is also by the author. Though the Mistwraith has been defeated and imprisoned, there is a chance that it may be released by the actions of the two half-brothers who imprisoned it. Lysaer and his Alliance of Light has prevailed over Arithon, the Master of Shadow. The latter is not through, however, and as long as he has some supporters – in this case Jieret's clan – he has a chance of prevailing. There is one, though, who holds power over his destiny – Elaira, the sorceress, who must choose between her own fate and the man she loves. A good, long read.

JUBILEE by Jack Dann. Voyager tpb, dist in Aust by HarperCollins. © 438 pp. A\$27.50. On sale now.

For those who thought THE MEMORY CATHEDRAL was excellent and want to read more of Dann, this volume is just the thing.

I had not heard of Dann before THE MAN WHO MELTED came out, and did not know that he had this much short fiction published. There are seventeen stories included herein: THE DIAMOND PIT; GOING UNDER; VOICES; FAIRY TALE; MARILYN; THE BLACK HORN; BAD MEDICINE; TATTOOS; CAMPS; DA VINCI RISING; KADDISH; THE EXTRA; A QUIET REVOLUTION FOR DEATH; JUMPING THE ROAD; BLIND SHEMMY; TEA and JUBILEE. Nearly all the stories are fantasy and quite a few are very well done indeed. The two more well known – DA VINCI RISING and JUBILEE have been acclaimed and such is well deserved. Many of the stories have Jewish backgrounds and characters and sometimes this is very obtrusive when one reads the stories consecutively.

All in all a very representative collection of his talents.

THE SPACE TRILOGY by Arthur C. Clarke. Millennium pb, dist in Aust by Allen & Unwin. © 1951/73. 506 pp. A\$21.95. On sale now. This isn't a new novel called the above, but a collection of three of Clarke's early novel – ISLANDS IN THE SKY; EARTHLIGHT and THE SANDS OF MARS. There are many readers that consider Clarke to be the foremost SF writer of the 20th Century, and it may be that he will have some novels first published in the 21st Century also. These three are from the early fifties. ISLANDS IN THE SKY is about a boy's trip to a space station and the adventures he finds there. EARTHLIGHT is about the political ramifications of the colonists on the Moon claiming independence of the Earth and their attempt to go it alone. THE SANDS OF MARS is a story that may come to be later this Century if the human race is lucky – the colonisation of Mars. All classics and still readable. If you haven't read them, this is your opportunity.

ELRIC by Michael Moorcock. Millennium pb, dist in Aust by Allen & Unwin. © 1961/77. 416 pp. A\$19.95. On sale now. This is book 17 in the Fantasy Masterworks series. Elric is, of course, Elric of Melniboné, the fantasy hero with the sword Stormbringer, who between them fought many battles and defeated many foes. The stories included are: THE DREAMING CITY; WHILE THE GODS LAUGH; THE STEALER OF SOULS; KINGS IN DARKNESS; THE

CARAVAN OF FORGOTTEN DREAMS and STORMBRINGER. If you consider yourself a fantasy enthusiast and if you haven't read of Elric, or if you haven't got the full Elric saga, here it is. And it has an ending that can't be changed so the hero continues on! Some of the best sword and sorcery written. *Highly Recommended* .

THE RINCEWIND TRILOGY by Terry Pratchett. Gollancz h/c, dist in Aust by Allen & Unwin. © 1988/94. 568 pp. A\$45. On sale now. The sub-title is A Discworld Omnibus, which is basically what this is. The three novels included are: SOURCERY; ERIC and INTERESTING TIMES. The main character (I can't say protagonist in this case...) is Rincewind. Who is a wizard, but not a very good wizard, ie competent. Unfortunately for the Unseen University and the Discworld in general, it is usually Rincewind who stands between the Discworld and its destruction or devastation. In SOURCERY it is the birth of a sourcerer so powerful that even Rincewind is in a flap. With ERIC Rincewind is summoned along with the Luggage in the place of a nice demon. And INTERESTING TIMES is, of course, the ancient Chinese curse.... If you are in need of a good chuckle, read this volume to get you in a good mood.

POLAR CITY NIGHTMARE by Katharine Kerr & Kate Daniel. Gollancz tpb, dist in Aust by Allen & Unwin. © 2000. 357 pp. A\$27.95. On sale now. I haven't seen much new from Katherine Kerr lately - this collaboration is something unusual, in that Kerr does not usually share novel writing. Polar City is a town in the Republic, a far outpost of humanity that lies between the Carli Confederation and the Hlevae Coreward Alliance. The action starts in a police post, when a Carli artefact goes missing. This is sure to start a diplomatic incident and the Chief of police wants to ensure that his back is covered. Some of his staff, however, have other things on their mind - one of which is the Galactic Series... If you are into baseball, and its theory, you'd probably love this novel.

THE JACKAL OF NAR by John Marco. Millennium pb, dist in Aust by Allen & Unwin. © 1999. 916 pp. A\$17.95. On sale now. Book one of Tyrants & Kings. I don't know what this one is doing here – the insert says that it's publication date is 9 June 2000. Oh well. I have already reviewed the 2nd and 3rd books elsewhere. The story is about Prince Richius, who is known as the Jackal, for reasons you will have to find out by reading the book. He is a war hero and has fought and won a hard earned victory against invaders of his country, from Lucel-Lor. His Emperor is a man that Richius does not have faith in and when he, Richius, falls in love with a woman of the enemy, things become much more complicated.... Well written fantasy.

THE LIGHT OF OTHER DAYS by Arthur C. Clarke & Stephen Baxter. Voyager pb, dist in Aust by HarperCollins. © 2000. 472 pp incl Afterword. A\$17.50. On sale now.

Stephen Baxter has a style of his own that stands out clearly: LIGHT has his obvious stamp on it.

One of the greatest inventions of the 21st Century was the harnessing and stabilising of wormholes. The invention that came out of this was the wormcam – a device that could create a wormhole and enable people to view the scene at the other end. And the expansion of this one invention would re-create the human race in the face of catastrophe. The book follows the capitalist who was the driving force behind the wormcam – Hiram Patterson. Kate Manzoni was the reporter who would dig below the visible horizon and find out the details of the device, and would fall in love with one of Hiram's sons.

And then the Wormwood was discovered – a killer rock that was heading for Earth.

A very enjoyable read and well worth the time spent.

DAWN OF A DARK AGE by Jane Welch. **Voyager pb, dist in Aust by HarperCollins. © 2001. A\$18.95. On sale now.** Book One of The Book of Man. When Prince Rollo missed out on the kingdom that he thought would be his, he journeyed to Tora Alta where he hoped that life there would give him some comfort. What did happen was that events there would keep him so busy that he would have no time to think about other things; mostly his time was taken up with helping to keep his life and those of his companions together. Rollo's father, Caspar had not seen Tora Alta for many years and what he found there – hobs and ravenshrikes, as well as golden dragons living in the mountains, one of which had stolen the Chalice of Ond, which object had to be retrieved, for in it was the hope of the land. Well-written fantasy adventure.

UTHER by Jack Whyte. **Forge tpb, dist in Aust by Pan Macmillan. © 2001. 623 pp. A\$28.00. On sale now.** The Camulod Chronicles. A "parallel" novel to THE EAGLES' BROOD (read the Introduction to see why it is so). And, yes, it is a novel about Uther of Britain. Whyte adds to the legend with an expansion of the life of Uther Pendragon, filling in all the gaps to create a seamless flow from the beginning of the novel to the end. The adventures of Uther and his success with some of his women, the life of the times and the plans, successes and failures of the characters, are told with verve and finesse. This is a big book and a long novel, and the pace hardly slows as the plot thickens. For those who like stories of old Britain after the Romans, you will find this book fulfilling.

CHILD OF THE PROPHECY by Juliet Marillier. **Macmillan tpb, dist in Aust by Pan Macmillan. © 2001. 577 pp. On sale now.** Book Three of the Sevenwaters Trilogy. When I first saw the cover I thought "that coastline looks like Sydney Heads – it looks like sandstone." Then I saw that the book was Australian, and the author also. The story is both straight forward, but the methods that the heroine uses to attain her long-sought-after goal are complicated, as she changes her methods and targets. The novel is set in the British isles of over a millennium ago – an age that is now part of legend – and legends are still being told of it. Marillier has a sure hand with her writing, and the reader is swept into the story. Very readable prose.

GEOMANCER by Ian Irvine. **Viking tpb, dist in Aust by Penguin Books. © 2001. 621 pp incl glossary. A\$29.95. On sale now.** Volume One of the Well of Echoes trilogy. Tiaan was a crystal worker – she manufactured the crystals that powered the clankers – tank-like battle machines that moved on eight legs. When her foreman had come to her with the news that some of her crystals had failed in battle, and the crews of the clankers killed, she had been devastated. Later she had found out why they had failed. And later still she had found, while experimenting with another crystal type, that it had awakened latent powers in her that threatened both her life and those of the people around her. If she did not control them and use them to help the remaining humans against those who were attempting to destroy them. What promises to be a most interesting series.

MAGÍ OF CYADOR by L. E. Modesitt, Jr. **Orbit pb, dist in Aust by Penguin Books. © 2000. 544 pp. A\$19.95. On sale now.** A new novel in the Saga of

Recluce. With this novel, Modesitt has created a new character to continue the saga. Lorn is a young man who had the luck to be born in a land and time that suited his talents – a magí'i. He was a very talented young man – but he lacked one of the attributes that such a person had to be – loyal. He was his own man, and as such those who considered him as theirs did not take kindly to such a lack as they saw. It was thus that Lorn found himself part of a band of Lancers as they moved out of the places that he knew and into more dangerous areas. He would find that his talents would prove their worth again. A well-conceived series.

TARGET EARTH by Duncan Steel. **Reader's Digest h/c, dist in Aust by Bookwise International. © 2000. 160 pp incl Credits. 23x23 cm. A\$49.95. On sale now.**

I originally saw this volume at the Sydney Bookfair – it is available in good bookstores.

What TARGET EARTH covers is the story of "the search for rogue asteroids and doomsday comets that threaten our planet". There is a Foreword by the President and Vice President of the Spaceguard Foundation and an Afterword by Sir Arthur C. Clarke. The volume is chock full of the latest data and photos of asteroid strikes, including the large crater then recently found that could have been linked to the mass extinction of 250 million years ago. There are both probe photos and computer images of many asteroids and comets, though those of the asteroid strikes on Earth are alone worth the price.

The book is extremely well written and presented, the data is overwhelming, and the book is a must-buy for anyone at all interested in the survival of humanity. *Recommended*.

THE CONAN CHRONICLES – Vol 1: The People of the Black Circle by Robert E. Howard. **Millennium pb, dist in Aust by Allen & Unwin. © 1933/86.** A Fantasy Masterworks – vol. 8. This, the first collection of Conan's work, includes a Map of the Hyborian Age and an article on the Hyborian Age. There follows eighteen short stories, including THE TOWER OF THE ELEPHANT, THE FROST-GIANT'S DAUGHTER THE PEOPLE OF THE BLACK CIRCLE and THE SLITHERING SHADOW. There is an Afterword: Robert E. Howard and Conan: The Early Years by Stephen Jones. Over the years the works of Conan have remained in print and show no signs of going out of print. Born in the 1930's penmanship of Robert E. Howard, Conan has survived that author's early death and grown into legend. With this release, it is a good opportunity to collect the complete works, if the reader is missing any.

BREWER'S DICTIONARY OF PHRASE AND FABLE. Millennium Edition. Revised by Adrian Room. Cassell Reference tpb, dist in Aust by Allen & Unwin. © 1959/2001. 1298 pp. A\$45. On sale now.

Everyone should know of this book – why, there is even a Foreword by Terry Pratchett!

First published in 1870, there is nearly three thousand pages of terms, phrases and proper names and much other information. To this edition there have been added such recent expressions as "hit the ground running", recent events, famous nicknames (Fab four) and historical and fictional characters (Attila the Hun). To test it I looked up Digger (Australian link) and Eureka Stockade. They are both there. Who needs such a book? Anyone who wishes to write and to understand what has been written.

This volume is a must for the library of any literate person. *Highly Recommended*.

THE SHADOW OF THE HEGEMON by Orson Scott Card. Orbit tpb & Pb, dist in Aust by Penguin Books. © 2000. 365 & 444 pp. A\$28 & A\$19.95. On sale now.

Book two of the Shadow Saga.

The sequel to ENDER'S SHADOW. The plot continues, with Bean trying to find Achilles and the group of Battle School children he has kidnapped (along with Petra). Achilles has infiltrated some of the Russian Intelligence community and convinced them that he can help Russia regain the kind of power where they can create a better world – with them the guiding leaders. Bean is one of the few who believe that Achilles is the evil guiding genius behind their sudden activity, and he approaches Peter Wiggin to try to persuade him to use his contacts as Locke to alert people.

This novel is one of the best SF novels I have read this year and I am looking forward to reading the two other novels to come that will complete the series. *Highly Recommended*

SAGITTARIUS WHORL by Julian May. Voyager tpb, dist in Aust by HarperCollins. © 2001. 362 pp. A\$27.50. On sale now.

The concluding volume of the Rampart Worlds trilogy. Helly, the son of Rampart CEO Simon Frost, was as usual, up to his neck in trouble when the book opens. When he managed to escape a Dystasis tank and, still groggy, had to try to outthink a group of aliens. The novel then reverts back to an earlier time when the Rampart company had just received back the decision of the court about a case it had taken out against the giant interstellar company Galapharma. The decision would change Helly's life, but he was trying, as usual, not to be forced to do something that he thought was against his nature. With this series May has written some slam-bang space opera right out of the 1950s. Fast action adventure.

GRIDLINKED by Neal Asher. Macmillan tpb, dist in Aust by Pan Macmillan. © 2001. 426 pp. A\$28. On sale now.

One of a series of books dealing with the worlds of the runcible.

The runcible is an interstellar matter transmitter, and when one was destroyed when a man came through at a respectable fraction of the speed of light and the buffers failed, Earth Central sent one of its best agents – Ian Cormack. Cormack had been linked to the information network for thirty years: gridlinked. When Earth Central told him to break his link because it was effecting his humanity he did it. It took him some time to see that it was true and he found it hard going trying to solve the problem of the destroyed runcible as well as working out other problems – the reason the Dragon was involved and what was the device two kilometres under the destroyed runcible network. The attack by the Separatists did not help matters either.

A fast-moving, well-told space opera. *Recommended*.

THE EYRE AFFAIR by Jasper Fforde. Nel pb, dist in Aust by Hodder Headline. © 2001. 384 pp. A\$19.95. On sale now.

An interesting looking front cover on this novel it is bright red with white text, and a small silver duck about 3 cm in diameter riding a push scooter is impressed above the author's name. Fforde is an English author writing in the best tradition of humorous SF. The setting is 1985 in a different continuum. The protagonist is Thursday Next, a detective who has the job of finding whoever it is who is kidnapping well known characters and ransoming them. There are also some other outstanding characters, and some other strange birds, including a dodo called

Pickwick. If you smirk at Rankin and giggle at Pratchett, this one is for you.

CAPTAIN SLAUGHTERBOARD DROPS ANCHOR by Mervyn Peake. Walker h/c, dist in Aust by Walker Books. © 1939,2001. 48 pp. 31x24 cm. A\$27.95 On sale now.

I don't think that this book has been often in print. The story and drawings are by Mervyn Peake. Originally lettered and drawn on board, for this edition colour tinting was designed by Julia Thompson with assistance from Daniel Devlin. The book was originally created for Peake's two children, along the lines of the creation by Tolkien. The chief character is Captain Slaughterboard, a notorious pirate with his crew of bloodthirsty men. Over time the crew of the Black Tiger had quite a turnover – men being eaten by sharks, killed in battle or made to walk the plank, till at last there were only six left including the captain. When they sighted a pink island the captain was overjoyed, as this was the sort he liked. When they went ashore they found a strange yellow creature...

By the end of the story the captain had changed somewhat. A collectors item – especially for Peake buffs. If you liked the original three Gormenghast novels (and the TV series) you'll like this book.

HOW TO DRAW MANGA Special by the Society for the Study of Manga Techniques. Japan Publications tpb, dist in Aust by Bookwise. © 1997. 119 pp. 18x26 cm. Full colour. A\$49.95. On sale now.

This book is for those who want to draw manga, in colour. Basically the book shows how to draw with COPIC sketch markers, and also with the COPIC airbrush system (which is a portable airbrush system anyone can use). The whole book is a step-by-step system on how to use the markers, right from the first step to the last, with manga figures telling how to do it, and with colour photos in also step-by-step style. There are also full colour illustrations of artwork and how they were created. The steps are ultra-clear and easy to see and understand. If I had any drawing ability I reckon that this book would be just the thing to create manga. On the back page there is an advert from the Too Marker Products Inc, the makers of the COPIC markers, with their address in Japan, as well as their email address. Go for it.

GREG AND TIM HILDENBRANDT: THE TOLKIEN YEARS. Text by Gregory Hildenbrandt, Jr. Watson Guptil tpb, dist in Aust by Bookwise. © 2001. 132 pp incl pull-out poster. Full colour. 27x26 pp. A\$49.95. On sale now.

You remember those Tolkien calendars back in the 1970's by the Brothers Hildenbrandt? Well, this book is the story of how that artwork was created, and includes the sketches for those works included in full colour, along with the photos of the models used (usually the Hildenbrandt artists and/or their wives). There is also previously unpublished works of the unfinished fourth Tolkien calendar of 1979! Along with several pages of commissioned artwork that fits in with the Tolkien saga. The pull-out poster is that of the Siege of Minas Tirith II 1978-2000. A fantastic two page spread in the book and a six A\$ page poster. This book is a do-not-miss for fans of Tolkien or the Hildenbrandts. *Recommended*.

ON BLUE'S WATERS by Gene Wolfe. Tor tpb, dist in Aust by Pan Macmillan. © 1999. 381 pp. On sale now.

The first volume of The Book of the Short Sun.

For those who have read The Book of the Long Sun series (I haven't), you will have some idea of the background of the book. Blue is a whorl, or world, along with Green. Horn, who together with his wife Nettle, wrote of his adventures with Silk in the first series, has been

impelled by some of the merchants in his village, to try to go find Silk on the Long Sun and convince him to come back and govern the area. Things are not going too well, and Horn, after getting together some supplies, sails off looking for a lander which is supposed to be going back to the world where last he saw Silk. On the way Horn has many adventures, meets a siren he names Seawrack, befriends a young hus called Babbie and falls in with a inhum called Krait.

A very smoothly written book – this will be a most interesting series.

SPIRIT OF THE STONE by Maggie Furey. Orbit tpb, dist in Aust by Penguin Books. © 2001. 426 pp. A\$29.95. On sale now. Book Two of the Shadowleague. The first novel in the series was THE HEART OF MYRIAL. Myrial is in trouble as enemies from without are trying to break through the Curtain Wall and gain entrance to its riches. The old Hierarch has, deep within his mind, a tale told ages ago to him which is needed so that an expedition can try to reach Aethon, the Dragon Seer. There is a small party that will try to reach him – Veldan, the Loremaster who must persuade Zavahl to let him probe his mind, then there is the fire Drake Kazairl and several others. They must not tarry, since the council of Myrial, the Shadowleague, is in turmoil and may fall before they return. Well written adventure fantasy.

BRING THE JUBILEE by Ward Moore. Millennium pb, dist in Aust by Allen & Unwin. © 1952, 1953 & 1981. 194 pp. A\$19.95. On sale now. Another novel from the SF Masterworks. This time it is a parallel universe novel. This is one of the definitive novels where the American South won the Civil War. The novel opens in the 1930s in a world where the South had won the war when Lee's victorious army had forced the North to capitulate. The world of that world, where also Napoleon VI was Emperor of France, is quite different from that of today. Indeed, though the 1930s of today was in the midst of a depression the world of this novel, in the Northern states of America, had been depressed since they lost the Civil War. If you want to read one of the first and classic parallel universe novels, then this is a must. *Recommended*.

THE FIRST BOOK OF LANKHMAR by Fritz Leiber. Millennium pb, dist in Aust by Allen & Unwin. © 2001. 762 pp. A\$122.95. On sale now. The first four novel in the Lankhmar series – SWORDS AND DEVILTRY; SWORDS AGAINST DEATH; SWORDS IN THE MIST and SWORDS AGAINST WIZARDRY. I don't know if there is anyone who hasn't read some of the books about Fafhrd and the Gray Mouser, but there may be. The pair of sword wielding men is well known by the readers of fantasy and if you haven't read any of these novels, or are missing some that are included here, this is the perfect opportunity to pick up a volume that has the four included. When they first met the two did not know that their fame would reach far and wide, but later, when their companionship would make them inseparable, these first books would be sought after. Some of the best fantasy around is in these. *Recommended*.

BRIGHTLY BURNING by Mercedes Lackey. Gollancz tpb, dist in Aust by Allen & Unwin. © 2000. 406 pp. A\$27.95. On sale now. Another novel set in the world of Valdemar. This novel is a new branch of adventure; it is the tale of Lavan Firestorm, a young man with a rural background. He has a Gift that is so powerful and strange that even the Heralds fear its application in one so young. When he refuses to follow his calling to a guild, he is sent to an exclusive school, but here he

proves stubborn and soon finds himself back with the Heralds. It is a sore time for the land of Valdemar, as the kingdom of Karse is proving of difficult relations, and the advent of Lavan with his gift will either prove fortuitous for the Heralds, or aid in destroying the land they love. Another novels that makes a good read for fantasy fans.

BLACK EAGLE RISING by Kate Jacoby. Millennium pb, dist in Aust by HarperCollins. © 2000. 457 pp. A\$17.95. On sale now. Book Three of Elita. This is quite a long novel – it is 457 pages of quite small print, so the tale of Robert Douglas and his quest to bring his country out of the clutches of both the evil King Selar and the supernatural elemental Nash, the Angle of Darkness. The other protagonist, Jenn, the downtrodden wife of Eachern, is still struggling in a bad marriage, and only the fact that her son Andrew is with her is keeping her going with the fight. However, Eachern has ideas about that, and the battle grows in that area also. Later in the book the two, Robert and Jenn, would meet, but I'll leave it up to the reader to find out what happens. Another fantasy series that is proving to be well told and interesting.

CROWN OF SILENCE by Storm Constantine. Millennium pb, dist in Aust by Allen & Unwin. © 2000. 424 pp. A\$17.95. On sale now. The second volume of the Chronicles of Magravandias. The life of Shan, who had been a victim of the invasion of his country, continues in the forest in which he had been educated by the magician Taropat. At least he leaves the old man and starts on their plan to revenge the inequities of his past life. Shan joins a quest by the enemies of the Dragon heir to find the Seven Lakes and the lost Crown of Silence. He manages to work himself into their number and he sees the politics they use as each plans to gain the Crown for his own use. Constantine is an excellent fantasy writer, as those who have read her other novels can relate. The Magravandias series lives up to that reputation.

THE WAY OF LIGHT by Storm Constantine. Gollancz tpb, dist in Aust by Allen & Unwin. © 2001. 408 pp. A\$27.95. On sale now. Book Three in the Chronicles of Magravandias. The story continues with Valraven Palindrake, the Dragon Lord, as he tries to keep the kingdom of Magravandias together as the emperor Leonid Mamagash dies and Prince Gastern is proving to have problems keeping the throne. In the background, and rapidly proving to be a major problem, are the magician Taropat and his apprentice Shan, who have decided to take actions into their own hands and decide to kidnap Valraven's wife and daughter. And over all this is the conflict between the Lord of the Fire Drakes and the Sea Dragon Queen, which spills over into the human world. To make things even worse, the dreaming dragons are set to awake and shake the world. Engrossing and well written fantasy fiction.

WIZARD'S FIRST RULE by Terry Goodkind. Millennium pb, dist in Aust by Allen & Unwin. © 1994. 774 pp. A\$18.50. On sale now. Reissue. Book One of The Sword of Truth series. Westland was a land that had sealed itself away from what was known as the Midlands. The Midlands was an ancient land where it was known that magical things happened. All had been well in the Land will Richard Cypher's father was found murdered. Then Richard found Kahlan, who said that she had escaped over the Border from the Midlands, but Richard knew she did not tell the truth – for the Midlands was sealed away... The folk of Westland had sealed magic away, but the roots were too deep into the Land and they were to find that out the hard way – Richard had a potential to be a powerful wizard – and he would also would find that he needed all of life's skills to fight against

the blood-sucking flies and sympathetic magic rules. Goodkind has created a world that is bound to be read about by a wider audience, and you can bet this won't be left alone.

STONE OF TEARS by Terry Goodkind. Millennium pb, dist in Aust by Allen & Unwin. © 1995. 1056 pp. A\$18.50. On sale now. *Reissue.* The Second book of The Sword of Truth series. Chase had taken the child Rachel under his wing, and along with the wizard Zedd was sure that he would be able to protect her. When the screeling attached he found that he had to flee with her or the alien thing would have killed them both, leaving Zedd to find some way to kill it. Richard Cypher and Kahlan Amnell, the Mother Confessor had their world to protect from the imminent invasion of the Underworld and they would find that this was almost impossible with the things they had in their possession. It was only by good luck that they had survived thus far: the future looked bleak. This novel is captivatingly written and draws the reader in. Great adventure.

BLOOD OF THE FOLD by Terry Goodkind. Millennium pb, dist in Aust by Allen & Unwin. © 1996. 698 pp. A\$18.50 On sale now. *Reissue.* Book Three of The Sword of Truth series. This volume continues the adventures of Richard Cypher, the sword wielder, and his companion, the Mother Confessor Kahlan as they battle the evil wards of the once-sealed Old World. In the New World there existed an Order of the Blood of the Fold, who believed that magic should not be as it was. With these helping them, the denizens of the Old World were determined to overthrow Cypher and those he represented. Unknown to Richard there is an answer to how to defeat these foes, but first he must find that such an answer exists, and then find out what it is. It will take him deep into enemy territory. A continuing and engrossing story.

FAITH OF THE FALLEN by Terry Goodkind. Millennium pb, dist in Aust by Allen & Unwin. © 2000. 704 pp. A\$18.50. On sale now. *Reissue.* A new Sword of Truth novel – number six in the series. The story continues with Richard and Kahlan together, but with Kahlan lingering in a long sickness. Richard has a vision, in which he leaves the people he knows best, along with their protection, and goes into exile with Kahlan. For some reason he believes his vision and leaves. In the meanwhile, Emperor Jagang, along with his helper, Nicci, a Sister of the Dark, is on the brink of invading the New World. If this happens, not only will the free people of these lands be subjugated, but Richard and Kahlan may be killed or captured. Goodkind has again written a novel that will have his fans wanting more.

DEBT OF BONES by Terry Goodkind. Gollancz h/c, dist in Aust by Allen & Unwin. © 1998,2001. 119 pp. A\$29.95. On sale now. Set in the world of The Sword of Truth, this slim volume is an interesting work. It is illustrated with black-and-white sketches by Keith Parkinson. The debt of bones referred to is a promise made by a man of power to a peasant family. When the young peasant woman, Abby, is forced to take up the task of asking for the debt to be repaid, it takes her out of her home and into the corridors of power. The man she must seek is Zedd, who is still young at the time of this adventure. When Abby is able to get to him, he must make a decision that may not be in his reach. And yet if he does not make it, a child will die. For a slim volume this one packs a punch. If you want to find out what the talk about Goodkind is about, read this novel. *Recommended*

THE KING OF ELFLANDS DAUGHTER by Lord Dunsany. Millennium pb, dist in Aust by Allen & Unwin. © 1924. 240 pp. A\$16.95. On sale now. Another in the Fantasy Masterworks series. I for one had heard of this book and have been looking forward to reading it. Back in the time of the novel, Elfland was separated from the lands in which humans dwelt by a zone of twilight, through which one could walk. When the councillors of Erl asked their lord for a magic lord to rule them that human lord sent his son, Alveric, to Elfland to marry the Elf king's daughter. Alveric made his way through into Elfland and basically kidnapped the princess. They came back to the Erl, married, and had a son. While he was still a child the king of Elfland used his knowledge of Runes to enchant his daughter back. Of course Alveric wanted to rescue her... A much more lyrical form than modern fantasy.

THE MARQUIS DE SADE : A Life by Neil Schaeffer. Picador pb, dist in Aust by Pan Macmillan. © 1999. 567 pp incl Index. A\$21. On sale now. The author is Professor of English Literature at Brooklyn College. The book commences with the birth of Donatien-Alphonse-Francois de Sade, his growing up, his love-lives, and the events of his life. There is a great depth in the volume to bring the man to understanding for the reader, and the author has achieved this admirably. One must always remember that de Sade was also a man of his own time. This book is for those who wish to understand the difference between human beings.

BOOKS RECEIVED FOR REVIEW:

HARPERCOLLINS: PASSAGE by Connie Willis
THE SILVER METAL LOVER by Taniith Lee
FAHRENHEIT 451 by Ray Bradbury

PAN MACMILLAN: THE MARQUIS DE SADE by Neil Schaeffer

ALLEN & UNWIN: THE FRESCO by Sheri S. Tepper
THE FIRST MEN IN THE MOON by H.G. Wells
ICEBONES by Stephen Baxter.
CHASM CITY by Alastair Reynolds
ON by Adam Roberts
SOMETHING MORE by Paul Cornell
RECKLESS SLEEP by Roger Levy

PANMACMILLAN: MR MEE by Andrew Crumey
MIOCENE ARROW by sean McMullen
TELLER OF TALES by Daniel Stashower

BOOKWISE: IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF THE BUDDHA by Marc de Smedt

FUTURE RELEASES:

PANMACMILLAN: WHAT IF ed by Robert Cowley

PENGUIN: RED HEART by Victor Kelleher
CONCISE ATLAS OF THE WORLD by Dorling Kindersley

SIMON&SCHUSTER: WHEELERS by Ian Stewart & Jack Cohen

HARPERCOLLINS: LOTR MOVIE GUIDE
TOLKIEN DIARY 2001-08-29
TOLKIEN CALENDAR 2002

HODDERHEADLINE: NIGHT OF THE TRIFFIDS by Simon H Clark
HOUSE CORRINO by Brian Herbert & Kevin J Anderson
THE PRECIPICE by Ben Bova

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