

WATT'S OUT

SF&F Book Releases

MISTRESS OF THE CATACOMBS by David Drake. Millennium pb, dist in Aust by Allen & Unwin. © 2001. 636 pp. A\$17.95. On sale now. The fourth book in the Lord of the Isles series. The series continues with Prince Garric settled in as the ruler of the Kingdom of the Isles after much adventure. However, all is not to be peaceful – he does not have much time to settle in before those who plan the downfall of him and all like him begin their campaign. Cashel is also drawn into the conflict and endeavours to help Garric in his fight. Drake has again created a very readable novel of epic fantasy.

DESTINY by Fiona McIntosh. HarperCollins pb, dist in Aust by HarperCollins. © 2002. 640 pp. A\$17.95. On sale now. Book three of the Trinity trilogy. The various threads that were commenced and were running at the end of the second book are still there in book three – the Paladin have the secret of the Trinity, Tor and Alyssa find themselves threatened by both Xantia as well as the god Orlac. And Gyl and Lauryn had met.... McIntosh's books have the usual action, but are also scattered through with believable romance, which is well handled. If you obtain this trilogy, you won't find that your reading time was wasted.

HONOURED ENEMY by Raymond E. Feist & William Forstchen. HarperCollins pb, dist in Aust by HarperCollins. © 2001. 323 pp. A\$19.95. On sale now. A new Riftwar series: Legends of the Riftwar. This novel is the work of the combined talents of two fantasy authors. The novel is about the talents of two bands of warriors – Hartraff's Mauraunders, a troop of Kingdom raiders, and a Tsurani patrol of soldiers. They meet by accident when coming up to a fort that at the time had been taken by dark elves. From then on, in enemy territory, they must try to keep from killing each other in order to survive their journey. And it isn't easy. As they advance across country they must overcome foes and circumstances that would try their fragile alliance. Well told fantasy adventure.

THE PILLARS OF CREATION by Terry Goodkind. Gollancz h/c, dist in Aust by Allen & Unwin. © 2001. 557 pp. A\$29.95. On sale now. Another novel in the Sword of Truth series. The young woman, Jennsen, has been hiding out with her mother in the deep woods for years to keep away from the Rahl family's bloodhounds and soldiers. Till the day that she found the dead soldier and the note in his pocket that upset her world. Just after finding the note, a stranger had come upon them and helped her hide the body. The stranger had befriended her and, because he had a fever, she had invited him to her farm for shelter overnight. After telling her mother, she put the stranger into the manger. While talking to him the mother and daughter received up-to-date news of what was going on in the country – that the barriers were now down to the country to the

south, and that another Rahl, Richard, ruled the country. Indeed their life had changed. Goodkind has created another engrossing novel for his fans.

GRIDLINKED by Neal Asher. Macmillan pb, dist in Aust by Pan Macmillan. © 2001. 426 pp. A\$18.50. 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 SKINNER by Neal Asher. Macmillan tpb, dist in Aust by Pan Macmillan. © 2002. 474 pp. A\$28. On sale now. Set in the same universe as GRIDLINKED, the author this time has of a world outside of the Polity. This world is Spatterjay, a kind of Deathworld, where the native lifeforms are intent on killing and eating each other and any unfortunate humans that they come across. The lifeform that is becoming dominant is the leech, which if it bites a human, transfers a virus to the human which, over time, transforms that human into something nearly indestructible to most day to day happenings. Unfortunately if that human goes without dome (earthly) grown food for any long length of time, they start being changed by the virus to something that can live on Spatterjay – ad that something is not human... The novel follows the adventures of three newcomers to Spatterjay, and what happens to turn the life on the planet upside-down. Excellent space opera. *Recommended* for an enjoyable read anytime.

ACRYLIC PAINTING TECHNIQUES by Stephen Quiller. Watson Guptill tpb, dist in Aust by Bookwise Intl. © 1994. 144 pp. A\$24.95. On sale now. The subtitle is How to Master the Medium of Our Age. This US 4to full colour book is jammed pack with advice from the author, who has been painting in acrylics since the 1960s. There is an Introduction, and six chapters. Chapter 1 is headed Acrylic Materials, and subheadings Acrylics and Their Applications, Acrylic Mediums, Brushes, Acrylic Painting Supports, and the chapter finishes with Acrylic Questions and Answers. The other Chapters are: Acrylic Color, Watermedia Techniques, "Easel Painting" Techniques,

Innovative Approaches and Integrating Other Media. There is an Index. The author writes in a clear style and illustrates throughout with easy to understand illustrations and example paintings. An excellent book for students of acrylic.

THE DIGITAL PRINTING HANDBOOK by **Tim Daly**. **Aurum Press**. **Dist in Aust by Bookwise Intl.** © 2002. **160 pp. A\$42.95. On sale now.** This book is subtitled *A Photographer's Guide to Creative Printing Techniques*. If you are at all interested in digital still photography, this book is for you. I recently obtained a 4.0 megapixel still camera and am finding the information here really relevant. For instance, the author recommends saving the JPEG files from the camera as TIFF or Photoshop as resaving JPEG files will make the images lose sharpness. This handbook is full of information like this – well worth the price, as the images you create and print will be enhanced with this knowledge. There is an Introduction: Why Digital Printing, then the chapters are titled Computer Hardware, Imaging Fundamentals, Print Media, Printer Control, Essential Printing Techniques, Monochrome Techniques, Colour Techniques, Unconventional Media, and Reference and Resources. The volume finishes off with a Jargon Buster and Index. *Recommended*.

DO WHAT THOU WILT – A Life of Aleister Crowley by **Lawrence Sutin**. **St Martin's Griffin tpb, dist in Aust by Pan Macmillan.** © 2000. **483 pp incl Index. A\$30. On sale now.**

You may recognise the writer as the author of *DIVINE INVASIONS: A Life of Philip K. Dick*. Aleister Crowley is, of course, a well known figure – and probably one that people without much knowledge of his life still have their own vision of him as the Wickedest Man in the World. As the cover blurb quotes, this is the best and most even-handed treatment to date". There is an Introduction wherein the nature of the Magus is explained. Then in the following chapters, each covering a period of time in the Beast's life, the career of this man, who had such an impact on the 20th Century as someone who did as he would and attempted to set up a new religion that would take the place of Christianity.

If you would like to know the "real" story behind him, and the two quotations: "Do what thou wilt shall be the whole of the Law" and "Love is the law, love under will", then read this book. It is an eyeopener.

TETRARCH by **Ian Irvine**. **Viking tpb, dist in Aust by Penguin Books.** © 2002. **688 pp incl Glossary. A\$29.95. On sale now.** Volume two of the *Well of Echoes* trilogy. Ian Irving is doing well with this second volume: the action is advancing fast and furious and the characters are developing nicely. The opening follows Tiaan as she flees through the ruined city of Tirthrax and her adopted sister had been killed. Not only that, but the Earth itself was threatened by alien invasions – the lynx and the Achim had landed and are advancing through the ruins, mopping up resistance. The three who, between them, offer some hope for the future – Tiaan, Nish and Iris – have personal problems of their own, without trying to look to anything wider. The last volume in the series is looked forward to, eagerly.

TALON OF THE SILVER HAWK by **Richard Feist**. **Voyager h/c, dist in Aust by HarperCollins.** © 2002. **390 pp. A\$45. On sale now.** Book One of the *Conclave of Shadows*. The novel commences as Talon, a young man, is sent on his vigil for manhood.

He is to stay in the wilderness until he understands his place in the world and discovers his grown name. While waiting he is set upon by a sliver hawk. He is forced to by hunger to return to his village, which he finds under attack. Later, he finds himself the sole survivor and vows to live on to avenge his people's death. This becomes his aim in life. Talon of the Silver Hawk is the name he takes for himself, as it is much the message that he heard in his mind when the hawk's talons gripped his arm. As with all Feist's fantasy adventures, this book is a thoroughly enjoyable read.

ECHOES OF EARTH by **Sean Williams & Shane Dix**. **Voyager pb, dist in Aust by HarperCollins.** © 2002. **390 pp incl Afterword. A\$18.95. On sale now.**

The *Orphans* trilogy, looks to be a very interesting space opera. This is book one. When the human starship Frank Tipler reached its destination star with its crew of electronic engrams copied off humans, they found the ultimate – evidence of what appeared to be alien structures being build before their eyes. One of the engrams had nearly failed when it had first been animated, but had been downloaded into an android body to help it (him) try to stabilise. For reason's known only to the machines running the structures, this engram, Alander, was the only one they chose to work through, and the others had to use him to answer questions about the mysterious "gifts" they were presented with. One of which proved to be an ftl starship. That was when a decision had to be made of how to let Earth know what they had found.... A very enjoyable book.

KNOW THYSELF by **Dr Craig Hased**. **Hill of Content pb, dist in Aust by Bookwise.** © 2002. **100 pp. A\$19.95. On sale now.** I have been stressed out for some time and found this book helpful. The book covers the Stress Relief program he runs at Monash Uni Dept of General medicine. If you are at all stressed out, or suffer anxiety symptom, this book will help you.

NIETZSCHE by **Robert Wicks**. **One World pb, dist in Aust by Bookwise.** © 2002. **190 pp. A\$24.95. On sale now.** A biography of Nietzsche, setting forth the details of his life and going over his beliefs and those stated in his writings. For the general reader; gives a clear and concise understanding of this man who helped shape the 20th and 21 Centuries.

ANAIME MANIA – How to Draw Characters for Janpanes Animation By **Christopher Hart**. **Watson Guptill tpb, dist in Aust by Bookwise.** ©2000. **144 pp. A\$ 19.95. On sale now.** Mainly in full colour the chapters are headed: BASIC CHARACTER CONSTRUCTION; TEEN CHARACTERS; FANTASTIC CREATURES; A CRASH COURSE IN PERSPECTIVE; MECHA MADNESS!!; SPECTACULAR SPECIAL EFFECTS; CHARACTER DESIGN and COOL STUFF. There is an Intro and Index. Covers most of what the young budding artist would want.

HOW TO DRAW MANGA – Martial Arts & Combat Sports by **Hikaru Hayashi**. **JP tpb, dist in Aust by Bookwise.** © 2001. **146 pp. A\$45. On sale now.** Vol 6 of the series. This volume is set out like the other 5, with 6 Chapters titled: JUDO; KARATE; KENDO; BOXING; STREET BATTLES. There is also an Introduction titled Impact and Power. Each chapter has sub chapters covering such things as Self Defence, Close Quarter-Fighting, etc. Well worth getting for the enthusiast.

WATTS OUT, a supplement to *THE MENTOR Magazine*. Edited, printed & published by Ron Clarke of PO Box 746, Bankstown, NSW 1885. Also on the Internet at <http://www.efanzines.com> © 2002 by Ron Clarke.
