

WATT'S OUT

SF&F Book Releases

ABSOLUTION GAP by Alastair Reynolds. Victor Gollancz tpb, dist in Aust by Allen & Unwin. © 2003. 565 pp. A\$32.95. On sale now. The sequel to REVELATION SPACE and CHASM CITY continues the saga of humanity against the machines of the Inhibitors, this time mostly through the eyes of Scorpio, the genetically engineered pig. The Conjoiners are still fighting against the encroaching Inhibitors, but losing ground. The starship *Nostalgia for Infinity* is still grounded on the planet Ararat as it is still the core of the one hundred thousand plus colonists. Then the battle against the Inhibitors arrives and the ship flees again, leaving the bulk of people on the planet. After a brief flypast of the Yellowstone system they head for Hela, where artefacts of alien manufacture have been mined. But that is where another alien intelligence is found... Very well told space opera. Excellent SF.

MIDNIGHT LAMP by Gwyneth Jones. Gollancz tpb, dist in Aust by Allen & Unwin. © 2003. 326 pp. A\$29.95. On sale now. The sequel to BOLD AS LOVE, which was set in an alternate future. The plot opens with Fiorinda in Mexico. Also with her were Smelly Hugh, Sage and Ax. Their destination was the US, and a fusion plant. If you have read the first book, you will know that Jones has a good grip on her characters. She continues MIDNIGHT LAMP in the same vein she started in the first. Her writing is clear and the folk peopling this latest novel are believable. Since both Fiorinda and Ax were musicians, one of their long term goals was to appear in the Hollywood Bowl. Sometimes in their adventures this did not seem a possibility. Smoothly written SF.

Manga Techniques: HOW TO DRAW JAPANESE MANGA Vol 5. Japan pb, dist in Aust by Bookwise Intl. © 2003. 80 pp. A\$29.95. 260x183 mm. On sale now. The first thing that the reader about this volume is that it is bound on the right-hand side. The sub-title is "An Instruction Manual for Manga Artists Around the World". There are five chapters: Chapter 1 is a two page introduction. Chapter 2 covers the use of Paper, Pen tips, China Ink (Bokuju), White, Pencil, Eraser, Rotring, Marker & Drawing Pen, Ruler, Tone, Tone Works, Water Dish, Tape and Light Box. Chapter 3 details how to draw different characters in ten pages, such as males and females. Chapter 4 describes the use of background and perspective and Chapter 5 finishes with Drawing in Panels. This book is from the Japanese perspective, and includes the use of Japanese language characters.

How To Draw Manga: GUNS & MILITARY Vol 1. by Ichiro Kamiya. Japan Publications pb, dist in Aust by Bookwise Intl. © 2000.135 pp. A\$45. 260x185 mm. On sale now. In Manga comics there are many weapons used – this book covers most of the guns used, including hand guns and rifles. The main chapter heading are Revolvers; Automatics; Assault Rifles and Shotguns; Three WWII Models; Guns of the Old West;

Wartime Relics. The volume ends with capsule descriptions on Large-format, self-defence, Saturday Night Special, sighting devices, protective wear, police uniforms: Japan, and Police Uniforms: US. Usually each gun has a two-page spread, with the weapon illustrated from different angles. There is a fairly comprehensive description. A must for gun buffs and Manga artists and readers.

SUPER CHARACTER DESIGN & POSES Vol 1 by You Kusano. Japan Publications pb, dist in Aust by Bookwise Intl. © 2003. 119 pp. A\$35. On sale now. There are six chapters in this book. They start out with Works, which covers eleven characters, such as Half Breed, Future Commando, Shadow, Fish Man, etc and ends up with Poses. So basically the chapters concentrate more on the bits making up each work. The Body is next, and concentrates on parts of the body. The Face is chapter 3, as it is probably the most important feature of the figure. Next comes Characterisation (Small but Strong; Power Inside; Different Men; Costume; Unexpected Nature), then Pen&Technique, which covers Pen; Oblique Strokes; Solidity; One Point Advice and Zoom. Lastly there are fifty pages of figure poses. An interesting addition to the Manga library.

ZEN BRUSHWORK by Tanchu Terayama. Kodansha Intl tpb, dist in Aust by Bookwise Intl. © 2003. 96 pp. A\$49.95. 230x305 mm. On sale now. Subtitled Focusing the Mind with Calligraphy and Painting, this translation by Thomas F. Judge and John Stevens is a practical guide to Zen brushwork. Its parts are titled Background, which concentrates on the evolution of Kanji, the fundamentals and four treasures of Calligraphy, and Hitsuzendō. There follows Preparation – Warming up and Developing Ki; Basic Practice, which includes Tensho and Kaisho; Further Practice, which includes Soshō and Writing Western Script; Painting – of different objects (such as the orchid, bamboo). The book ends with Appreciation, with illustrations on the work of Old Masters, as well as the works of Terayama Tanchu. An excellent demonstration of Zen Calligraphy.

1610 by Mary Gentle. Gollancz tpb, dist in Aust by Allen & Unwin. © 2003. 594 pp. A\$32.95. On sale now. Many literate people have read *The Sons of Sword and Hazard*, the novel created from the Memoirs of Valentine Raoul Rochefort. Most of the original Memoirs had been destroyed in a fire, but with modern computer techniques it was at last possible to recreate what they said. This novel is a translation of them. The main character is, of course, Rochefort. He is a scholar and has been circulating through the courts of France and England. What is different about him is that he has managed to foretell the future, and he has determined to change it. The novel is of the seventeenth century – full of duels, fights and death. As well as intrigues. If you liked Gentle's other historical novels, such as ASH, then you will enjoy 1610.

GATHERING THE BONES edited by Jack Dann, Ramsey Campbell & Dennis Etchison. **Voyager pb, dist in Aust by HarperCollins. © 2003. 560 pp. A\$18.95. On sale now.** A collection of thirty four original stories of horror from the UK, Australia and the USA. The authors are Steve Nagy, Terry Dowling, Robert Devereaux, Kim Newman, Janeen Webb, George Clayton Johnson, Mike O'Driscoll, Stephen Dedman, Lisa Tuttle, Tony Richards, Russell Blackford, Thomas Tessier, Gahan Wilson, Gary Fry, Ray Bradbury, Sara Douglass, Michael Marshall Smith, Rosaleen Love, Steve Rasnic Tem, Peter Crowther, Scott Emerson Bull, Cherry Wilder, Fruma Klass, Adam Nevill, Chris Lawson, Simon Brown, Donald R. Burleson, Joel Lane, Tim Waggoner, Aaron Sterns, Melanie Tem, Andrew Wilson, Isobelle Carmody and Graham Joyce They are an eclectic lot, and the stories show this. An effective collection.

TALES FROM EARTHSEA by Ursula Le Guin. **Orion pb, dist in Aust by Allen & Unwin. © 2001. 296 pp. A\$15.95. On sale now.** A collection of five tales about Earthsea. They are The Finder; Darkrose and Diamond; The Bones of the Earth; On the High Marsh and Dragonfly. This book is long awaited by the readers of the various Earthsea books, as it bridges in some of the space between novels. Le Guin has been writing these books for decades, and she has created a large following. The series is fantasy: about wizards and warlocks and the intricate policies that are needed to keep the world going. Le Guin is a smooth writer, and has obviously put much thought and work into creating the novels, as well as crafting these stories. The volume ends with a twenty-nine page essay A Description of Earthsea.

THE SEPARATION by Christopher Priest. **Gollancz tpb., dist in Aust by Allen & Unwin. © 2002. 328 pp. A\$29.95. On sale now.** The winner of the Arthur C. Clarke and BSFAward, this novel is set in two time periods – 1936-45 and 1999, though most of the action takes place in the earlier one. The protagonists are twin brothers who become rivals for a girl, who they smuggle out of Nazi Germany before the war. This separation is to be a forerunner of a larger one, one which may change history itself. One of the brothers may have his time on the pivot of history, but who it would be is the key to what would follow. Priest is known for his excellent novel, including THE AFFIRMATION and A DREAM OF WESSEX. The fact that this novel won the two awards is an indication of its worth. Buy it for your personal library.

HEIRS OF EARTH by Sean Williams & Shane Dix. **Voyager pb, dist in Aust by HarperCollins. © 2003. 400 pp. A\$18.95. On sale now.** Book three of the Orphans Trilogy. Readers have come to look forward to novels by these two authors, and lately they have been producing trilogies, which makes the reading triply worth waiting for. In this new trilogy, the Earth has been destroyed and only a few ships of humans survive. There are both physical humans and engrams that inhabit these ships. Caryl Hatzis and Peter Alander are two of those who have tried to make a life with their home destroyed, but they are finding, as have others of their kind, that the alien Starfish, a marauding species that the humans and their alien allies have banded together to fight, have an almost infinite capacity for evil. A well-thought-out concluding novel, and worth buying.

PAYCHECK by Philip K. Dick. **Gollancz pb, dist in Aust by Allen & Unwin. © 1953-73. 312 pp. A\$21.95. On sale now.** With the forthcoming release

of the movie Paycheck, the title short story has been released in an anthology with eleven of Dick's other short stories. The stories included are: PAYCHECK; NANNY; JON'S WORLD; BREAKFAST AT TWILIGHT; SMALL TOWN; THE FATHER-THING; THE CHROMIUM FENCE; AUTOFAC; THE DAYS OF PERKY PAT; STAND-BY; A LITTLE SOMETHING FOR US TEMPUNAUTS and THE PRE-PERSONS. PAYCHECK itself is a typically Dicksian story; the protagonist is a computer engineer, who does classified work for many companies. When he has completed his job, his memory is selectively edited and he goes on to his new job. That is, until instead of waking up with a fat check, he finds himself with an envelope full of a selection of objects and he has to work out just why he has these. And he had previously agreed to forfeit payment of his check. Enjoyable reading

MISTRESS OF DRAGONS by Margaret Weis. **Penguin Viking tpb, dist in Aust by Penguin Books. © 2003. 381 pp. A\$29.95. On sale now.** The 2004 Australian edition. Book one of the Tragonvarld trilogy. Weis is well known for her various novels featuring dragons, and with this new series her readers will not be disappointed. The world the action takes place on is one shared by humans and dragons. At the beginning of the novel neither group has total control. The High Priestess, Melisande, was one of the first to see that times were changing when she saw a dragon where one should not have been. She really had her eyes opened when she met Draconas, and when she found out who the Mistress of Dragons really was. Some engrossing storytelling again this time for Weis.

Manga Techniques: TONE TECHNIQUES FOR BEGINNERS, Vol.6. **Japan Publications tpb, dist in Aust by Bookwise Intl. © 2003. 80 pp. 260x185 mm. A\$27.95. On sale now.** This volume contains five chapters on the use of tones in Manga. There is also an Appendix and Sample Images for Practice. Chapter 1 is How to Apply Tones. Sub-chapters are Basic Tone Application, Applying Tone at a 45 Degree Angle, Making Shadows and Use Pattern Tones. The other chapters follow the same pattern. These chapters are headed Scraping Tones, Stacking Tones, Various Use of Tones and Summary: Procedure for Using Tone to Complete an Illustration. Tone is a vital part of Manga art, and the illustrator needs to have a firm grasp of its technique. This book provides the basics. The series, of this is Volume 6, looks set to be a sought-after item for beginners and aspiring Manga Artists. Look for the binding on the right side of the page when you are looking for this book.

OTHER CURRENT & FUTURE RELEASES:

PanMacmillan: PANDORA'S STAR – Peter F. Hamilton
EYES OF THE CALCULATOR – Shawn McMullen
VOYAGE OF THE SHADOWMOON – Sean McMillan

Allen & Unwin: THE BIRTHDAY OF THE WORLD – U.K. LeGuin

HodderHeadline: THE MACHINE CRUSADE – Herbert & Anderson

HarperCollins: FORTY SIGNS OF RAIN – Kim Stanley Robinson

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