

WATT'S OUT

SF&F Book Releases

How To Draw Manga: COLORFUL COSTUMES by Tadashi Ozawa. Japan Publications A4 tpb, dist in Aust by Bookwise Intl. © 2000. 134 pp. A\$45. On sale now. This latest book for Manga artists is in full colour throughout. It is broken up into six sections, with a List of Contributing Establishments appended. The six sections are: Restaurant Uniforms; Nurse Uniforms; Traditional Japanese Costumes; Office Uniforms; Exotic Costumes and lastly Seductive Costumes. To take "La Maree de Chaya" as an example, the costume is shown on a female model, with a full on front view, a back view and a head to waist three-quarters view. There are also two sketches of the Dress. As well as the basic dresses, with other costumes there are illustrations of shoes, caps, bows, turndown collars, etc. An excellent addition to Manga artists background material.

WHITE DEVILS by Paul McAuley. Simon & Schuster tpb, dist in Aust by Simon & Schuster. © 2004. 521 pp. A\$29.95. On sale now. A different approach in this novel to McAuley's other recent ones. Set mostly in Africa, the book tells of the adventures of Nicholas Hyde as he visits the Dark Continent. Unfortunately for Hyde, his group is attacked by strange short, white creatures. When he makes it back to civilisation, the government refuses to confirm what he has seen. Hyde is determined to bring the attention of the world to this, but there are other organisations that are determined that he won't. He manages to find several others who, when he confides in them, agree to help him. The term White Devils make a good pun. Engrossing action adventure set in the near future.

CIRCLE OF NINE by Josephine Pennicott. Simon & Schuster pb, dist in Aust by Simon & Schuster. © 2001. 412 pp. A\$18.95. On sale now. Book one of the Circle of Nine trilogy. This novel sets up the scenario that will take Emma Develle out of her normal world of Art in Sydney, to the strange and violent world of Eronth, to which she travels by passing into a mural. The violence actually commences in Sydney, when her aunt is murdered. When Emma finds herself in Eronth, she must take her bearings quickly and find out what is happening, as her life itself and those of that land depend on what she does. She quickly finds out who the enemy are: the beings called the Azephim, who are

determined to destroy all worlds that rely on the Eom Crystal. A well-crafted fantasy.

BRIDE OF STONE by Josephine Pennicott. Simon & Schuster pb, dist in Aust by Simon & Schuster. © 2003. 425 pp. A\$18.95. On sale now. Book two of the Circle of Nine trilogy. The adventures on Enonth continue with Maya, Emma Devilla's daughter, engrossed in trying to keep the Eom Crystal from being fully charged. Already it is charging, and it will require a supreme sacrifice to stop the process. Pennicott has clearly put much time and energy in creating the world of this trilogy, and the list of characters is growing, with each a separate identity created with obvious love. With the world of Enonth and Earth being drawn together by the doings of Lazariel, who has taken up residence in Emma's Blue Mountains house, and who is already in deeper than he knows. A very good read.

A FIRE IN THE SHELL by Josephine Pennicott. Simon & Schuster pb, dist in Aust by Simon & Schuster. © 2004. 425 pp. A\$18.95. On sale now. Book three of the Circle of Nine trilogy. The tale continues as Maya tries to keep both the worlds of Enonth and Earth from being overwhelmed by the forces arraigned against them. The Eom Crystal, which was the image of what changes the world of Enonth had been going through, was still growing in its influence and a climax was seen to be coming. The Tasmanian author, Josephine Pennicott, is a good find, and if this trilogy is any indication, fantasy fans will be looking forward to her future works. Excellent fantasy fiction.

THE ELDER GODS by David & Leigh Eddings. HarperCollins tpb, dist in Aust by HarperCollins. © 2003. 424 pp. A\$29.95. On sale now. Book one of The Dreamers. It has been some years since a new series has come from the creators of some of the best fantasy fiction available. This new series is about another world yet again, a world that was created by four Gods. They had worked for some time creating that world and were very tired after it, so when the four younger Gods has offered to take up the burden of maintaining it, the four Elder Gods had agreed had gone to sleep. Twenty five aeons later they had wakened and taken up the burden again, while the four other Gods had slept. And so it went on. All would have been good, however at the centre of the continent that the Gods maintained was a Wasteland, and in that Wasteland grew something called the Vlagh, who created specialised creatures to bring about the downfall of the Gods. Looks to be another excellent series.

ORPHANS OF EARTH by Sean Williams & Shane Dix. Voyager pb, dist in Aust by Allen & Unwin. © 2003. 410 pp. A\$18.95. On sale now. Book two of The Orphans Trilogy. The tale continues from the first volume, ECHOES OF EARTH, with the results of the broadcast by human Caryl Hatazis and engram Peter Alander coming in. They had

attempted to contact any other surviving orphan colonies of Earth and now ships had started to arrive. The use of the gifts left by the alien Spinners could have some unwelcome side effects, but they thought the plus side outweighed the minus. The humans on Adrasteia were determined to warn any other colonies of humans about the enemy alien Starfish and hoped that the more orphans they could contact, the better the combined human response could be. Exciting space opera.

VOYAGE OF THE SHADOWMOON by Sean McMullen TOR pb, dist in Aust by Pan Macmillan. © 2002. 565 pp. A\$17.95. On sale now.

The other fiction by Sean McMullen that I have read have been science fiction. This novel is Book One of the Moonworlds Saga, and is fantasy. The vessel, Shadowmoon, used by the protagonists in the book is one which is central to the plot, and enables the main characters to both travel where they want, and to be the ace up their sleeves. The characters themselves are as creative as their ship – a vampire, two priestesses, a magical warrior and the captain of the ship. Their quest is to find and control the Silverdeath, a weapon if placed in the wrong hands could bring destruction or slavery to the world. The world that McMullen has created looks set to enthral readers for some time to come. An engrossing fantasy.

KING OF FOXES by Raymond E. Feist. Voyager tpb, dist in Aust by HarperCollins. © 2003. 374 pp. A\$29.95. On sale now.

Book two of Conclave of Shadows. The career of Talon has been quite a skyrocket, as he has travelled from boy to man. Being a nobleman has more responsibilities, and needs devoting his allegiance to the King, even though it will seem to others that he has changed it. When he joined the Conclave of Shadows he owed them a great service, and they gave him a job to do that could cost him his life. He was to join the Duke Kaspar of Olas so get close to his magician, Les Varen. To do so would mean, however, that he would have to show that he was doing the Duke's business, and could include finding and killing his friends. Well written fantasy.

THE NEW GENERATION OF MANGA ARTISTS – THE KAO YUNG & KUAN-LIANG PORTFOLIO. Graphic-Sha tpb, dist in Aust by Bookwise Intl. © 2004. 82 pp. 220x297 mm. A\$45. On sale now.

This is Volume 5 in the series. The contents are 82 pages plus a two page foldout of full colour glossy Manga artworks by the two artists. The characters are split pretty much equally between females males, and the costumes between past, fantasy, and present and some future. There is pretty much an equal split also between blondes and dark-haired males and females. Most of the people have pointed chins, doubtless one of the artists' characteristics for their creations. The poses are very varied, and so are the locales. A very good presentation for the artists.

How To Draw Manga: MACROMEDIA FLASH TECHNIQUES by Aki Ito. Japan Publications tpb, dist in Aust by Bookwise Intl. © 2003. A4, 144 pp. A\$49.95. On sale now.

I found this volume to be a little different from the others in the How To Draw Manga series, in that this book is very intense and needs concentration to read. If the reader does this when he or she is following the directions, you will get much more out of the book than if you just browse through it. The subtitle is "Illustrating Bishoujo Characters", and the five artists giving the advice are: Tomotsu Nobayashi, Sanbaisoku, Mimori Yusa, Teru and Gaten Boya. There is a supplement on how to make you characters cuter, with Ten Asazuma giving the Essentials. Each artist has some twenty-five pages in full colour to expand their advice. Tamotsu Nobayashi starts off with techniques on how to use Macromedia Flash. He uses a Mac. The next artist uses a PC, so the reader gets information on what he or she uses themselves.

An welcome addition to an artist's library to enable expansion using cutting-edge techniques.

CYCLOPEDIA ANATOMICAЕ by GyÖrgy Fehér, Illustrated by András Szunyoghy. Black Dog & Leventhal h/c, dist in Aust by Bookwise Intl. © 1996. 603 pp. 275x320 pp. A\$69.95. On sale now.

When I first saw this book I immediately thought "What a beautiful book!". And it is, from its creamy colour cover with dark brown edges, to its cream pages with immaculate drawings and first class printing, it is a book to treasure. Lucky for the artist using it, it is also well-bound, and will take the years of use it is sure to have. There are 1,500 illustrations of the human and animal – the horse, dog, cat, pig, ape, sheep, bear, deer, cow, camel and the lion. The first five chapters cover Portrait Drawing, Figure Drawing, Movement Studies and Drapery Studies. There are full-on and side views of every subject, giving muscular and skeletal views. There are sketches of each subject standing still and in movement, and close-ups of the head, feet and hindquarters. The volume finishes off with a section on Comparative Anatomy and a Muscle Chart.

Definitely a "must" for the serious artist. *Recommended.*

LIMBO II by Andy Secombe. Tor tpb, dist in Aust by Pan Macmillan. © 2004. 308 pp. A\$30. On sale now. The sequel to LIMBO. The story continues with the Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse breaking through the veil into the world in search of the Wizard of Limbo. They are after The Book of destiny, or rather, that part of it which had survived, much to everyone's surprise. They are thus looking for Rex Boggs in order to find it. One of the other plot lines is the creation of a biological computer by Nilbert Plymstock in Australia which has the potential to foretell the future. Andy Secombe continues with his humorous telling of this fantasy story and the reader can be sure of a good laugh. You don't have to think particularly hard to enjoy this novel. A fun read.

OTHER CURRENT & FUTURE RELEASES:

PanMacmillan:

PANDORA'S STAR – Peter F. Hamilton
EYES OF THE CALCULATOR – Shawn McMullen
NATURAL HISTORY by Justine Robson
BORN OF EMPIRE by Simon Brown
WEAPONS OF CHOICE by John Birmingham

Allen & Unwin:

THE BIRTHDAY OF THE WORLD – U.K. LeGuin
TIME'S EYE by Arthur C. Clarke & Stephen Baxter

HodderHeadline:

THE MACHINE CRUSADE – Herbert & Anderson

HarperCollins

KILLSWITCH by Joel Shepherd
MARKET FORCES by Richard Morgan
THE LANGUAGE OF STONES by Robert Carter

Bookwise Intl:

MACROMEDIA FLASH TECHNIQUES
CYCLOPEDIA ANATOMICA
HOW TO DO JUST ABOUT ANYTHING IN MICROSOFT EXCEL
HOW TO DO JUST ABOUT ANYTHING IN MICROSOFT WINDOWS XP

WATTS OUT #29, 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> WATTS OUT is now coming out approximately monthly, as I am producing it when I have completed a two page spread, which is approximately every two months. June, 2004

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