**CHRI**

**STMAS TRADING HOURS**

Regular trading hours in December except for:

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Sundays</th>
<th>18 &amp; 19 Thu &amp; Fri</th>
<th>20 Sat</th>
<th>21 Sun</th>
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<td>7 &amp; 14</td>
<td>10.00 - 6.00</td>
<td>8.00 - 9.00</td>
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<td>Christmas Eve</td>
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<td>New Years Eve 8.30 - 5.00</td>
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<td>New Years Day closed</td>
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<td>Boxing Day 10.00 - 5.00</td>
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To order online from our Christmas catalogue, go to www.abbeys.com.au/direct, then enter a catalogue page number for a list of the books from that page. Simply click any title to order.
E D BAKER
THE FROG PRINCESS
Princess Esmeralda isn’t exactly an ideal princess. Her laugh sounds like a donkey’s bray rather than tinkling bells, she trips over her own feet more often than she gracefully curtsies and she hates the young Prince Jorge whom her mother hopes she will marry. But if Esmeralda ever thought to escape from her frustrating life, she never expected it to happen by turning into a frog! Pp $14.95 214pp

STEPHEN BAXTER
COALESCENT
Destiny’s Children #1. With this new trilogy the author tells the story of mankind’s role in the Universe from the perspective of our impossibly distant descendants - a race who have established a utopia at the end of time, but who must now try and tackle the shadow that the suffering of the past throws over their perfection. Hb $55.00 473pp

E VOLUTION
From their beginnings foraging at the feet of the dinosaurs, through the apocalypsis of an asteroid strike, through countless years of the day-to-day life and death dramas of survival of the fittest, to the rise and fall of mankind and the final destruction of earth by the expanding sun, the primates have survived. This is their story. Pp $19.95 762pp

DAVID BRIN (SCOTT HAMPTON, Illus)
LIFE EATERS
Adolf Hitler devises an unholy plot that pits the ancient Norse gods against the Allied forces. Hb $65.00 131pp

KRISTEN BRITAIN
FIRST RIDER’S CALL
Green Rider #2. 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? Pp $29.95 639pp

ROBERT ASPRIN & LINDA EVANS
FOR KING AND COUNTRY
Time Scout Universe. SAS Captain Trevor Stirling thinks his mission is simple: follow a terrorist into the year AD 500 to stop a Northern Irish fanatic bent on murder. If the terrorist succeeds in killing Artorius, the Briton Lord of Battle and the most revered icon of British history, the time-space continuum will fracture, destroying the British nation - and the rest of the world. He must choose between duty to his mission and the growing conviction that he should forsake everything he holds dear to follow a higher duty. Pp $19.95 533pp

CANDACE CAMP
MESMERIZED
Olivia Moreland has long denied her clairvoyant abilities, working instead to disprove the mediums that flock to London. But when Stephen, Lord St. Leger, requests her help in investigating an alleged psychic, she can’t ignore the ominous presence she feels within the walls of his ancient estate. Nor can she ignore the intimate connection she feels with Stephen... Pp $17.95 410pp

ORSON SCOTT CARD
THE CRYSTAL CITY
Alvin Maker #6. Alvin has been trying to avert the terrible war that his wife Peggy, a torch of extraordinary power, has seen down the life-lines of every American. Now she has sent him down the Mizzippy to the city of New Orleans or Nueva Barcelona as they call it under Spanish occupation. Nueva Barcelona is about to experience a plague and Alvin’s efforts to protect his friends by keeping them healthy will create more danger than he could ever have suspected and he will be put to the greatest test of his life - a test that will draw on all his power. Alvin must take the first steps on the road to the Crystal City that was shown to him in a vision so long ago. Hb $62.00 384pp

JAY CASELBERG
WYRMHOLE
Jack Stein lives and works in the crowded, semi-organic city known as the Locality. He’s hired by the Outreach Mining Company to investigate the mysterious disappearance of one of its mining crews on an uncolonised planet. But his psychic dreams are full of strange mystical symbols and red herrings, making Jack wonder if Outreach truly wants the miners found. And the deeper he digs, the more people want to see him dead... Pp $15.95 309pp
Nicholas, Nicola and Shadrach live in a vast city on a far future Earth, where most of the planet is an apocalyptic landscape, peopled by mutants. Behind the mile-deep city walls, decadence and art are the norm. Living Artists create bioengineered monstrosities from legend and their warped imaginations. Nicholas is such an artist, and one day goes to visit the mysterious cyborg Quin to purchase a meerkat, which are genetically altered creatures that function as servants. He never comes back.

Nicola is Nicholas' sister, and has been searching the city for him. One night, a meerkat comes to her apartment, a gift from Quin to serve her. As she continues her search for her brother, the meerkat's behaviour arouses her suspicions, and she eventually follows it into the depths of the city. Shadrach has been Nicola's lover, a mixed up man who must embark on a quest into the bowels of the earth to save himself and another.

This is a wonderful novel, a tale of the city that is visually rich in the same vein as China Miéville and M John Harrison's Viriconium sequence. Think of taking Hieronymus Bosch, Judge Dredd and stirring them up into a swirling phantasmagoria of surrealism and violence. A mystery and a romance; wild scenes below ground akin to Dante's circles of Hell. It's all here but it doesn't get tangled up in itself.

Like Miéville or Mervyn Peake, the metropolis assumes its own personality. The events that occur within are almost like the dreamscape of the city; the story pulls you on and on, deeper into a nightmare. The story is told in first, second and third person, one for each of the three main characters and this works to the book's advantage.

Nicholas' (second person) isolation and loss is portrayed very well. You experience his actions and inner feelings firsthand, whilst Shadrach's (third person) story is more the typical quest, but he will suffer the events that unfold with more clarity.

This comes highly recommended for lovers of weird fiction. Also worth checking out is another of the author's works, The Bachelor Machine: A Collection of Erotic SF Stories.}

**FAVE OLD**

**THE DOOR IN THE HEDGE**

Robin McKinley

Pb $17.95 216pp

McKinley is responsible for some of the most beautiful retelling of fairy tales. Long out of print, this is a collection of two original fairytales The Hunting of the Hind and The Stolen Princess, and two retellings of known and loved fairy tales The Twelve Dancing Princesses and The Princes and the Frog. My favourite of the original stories would be The Stolen Princess. The kingdom is the last mortal one before entering the realm of Faery, and has always been blessed. Even in hard times they have just enough. The flip side is that people from other kingdoms rarely move there - there is something a little too special about this land and its people. Also, every now and again, male babies or teenage girls are spirited away by the Faery. It's not malicious as such. The Fae never take the first-born, or the only boy in a family. On the eve of her 17th birthday, Ellian (one of the twin Royal Princesses) is taken, leaving her sister Alora behind and heartbroken. Alora eventually marries and finds happiness, and has a daughter of her own, only to have her taken under the same circumstances as her sister. This time she takes action.

The retellings themselves don't stray too far from what we are familiar with, but where McKinley makes her mark is her use of language. She writes the most beautiful scenery and characters with words - quite fitting considering the subject matter. All of these stories would be enjoyed by younger readers (hence why it has been chosen by Tor to bear its Firebird imprint for younger readers) and those of us who are young at heart will get lost in the imagery. Beautiful! - Stephanie

**FAVE NEW**

**VENISS UNDERGROUND**

Jeff VanderMeer

Tp $30.00 315pp

The story is more the typical quest, but he will suffer the events that unfold with more clarity.

Like Miéville or Mervyn Peake, the metropolis assumes its own personality. The events that occur within are almost like the dreamscape of the city; the story pulls you on and on, deeper into a nightmare. The story is told in first, second and third person, one for each of the three main characters and this works to the book's advantage.

Nicholas' (second person) isolation and loss is portrayed very well. You experience his actions and inner feelings firsthand, whilst Shadrach's (third person) story is more the typical quest, but he will suffer the events that unfold with more clarity.

This comes highly recommended for lovers of weird fiction. Also worth checking out is another of the author's works, The Bachelor Machine: A Collection of Erotic SF Stories.
PAMELA DEAN
THE SECRET COUNTRY
The Secret Country #1. For the past nine years, cousins Patrick, Ruth, Ellen, Ted and Laura have played at 'The Secret' - a game full of witches, unicorns, a magic ring and court intrigue, in which they can imagine anything into reality, and shape destiny. Then the unbelievable happens - they find themselves in the Secret Country, their made-up identities now real. Pb $17.95 371pp

GALAXY BOOKSHOP 4 www.galaxybooks.com.au

PETER DICKINSON
WEATHERMONGER
Changes #1. When 16-year-old Geoffrey, a "weathermonger" starts to repair his uncle's motorboat, he and his sister Sally are condemned as witches. Fleeing for their lives, they travel to France, where they discover that everything is normal. Returning to England, they set out to discover why the country is under this mysterious spell. Pb $15.95 237pp

JUDE DEVERAUX
FOREVER AND ALWAYS
Darci's psychic abilities have always guided her through hardship... and into a once-in-a-lifetime love with her rich, powerful husband, Adam Montgomery. When Adam vanishes in a mysterious accident, a grief-stricken Darci is left alone to raise their young daughter. When the FBI enlists her talents to solve a heinous crime, she agrees on one condition that they help uncover the truth about Adam. Now Darci must discover if those in the highest circles of authority have her best interests at heart... or if someone intends to sever the everlasting bond she shares with her one true love. Pb $18.95 330pp

WILLIAM DIETZ
FOR MORE THAN GLORY
Legion of the Damned. In the wake of a great universal war, General Bill Booly found himself struggling to balance his military, political and humane obligations. But neither Booly nor his men realise that on the remote world of LaNorn, another revolution is brewing. There, a career Legionnaire with a reputation for bucking authority, and an inexperienced, overly-ambitious diplomat will become key to defending the deadly LaNorian web of terrorism that threatens not only the Legionnaires, but the entire Confederacy. Hb $59.95 487pp

GREG DONEGAN
ASSAULT ON ATLANTIS
The Shadows, humanity's most ancient enemy, have returned. Ten centuries ago, they destroyed Atlantis and now they want the rest of the Earth to follow. Only ex-Green Beret Eric Dane holds the key to ending this dire threat. Pb $17.95 296pp

DAVE DUNCAN
IMPOSSIBLE ODDS
A novel of the King's Blades. Deposed by a foul usurper, the Grand Duke Rubin is on the run and in desperate need of protection. While the King has decreed that new Blades will be magically bound to the guard, not one of the rough youths at Ironhall is ready for such an assignment. Left with no choice, the Grand Master approaches three with an offer of early bonding and probable death. Joined by a True, a White Sister, the trio of would-be champions begins an astonishing journey filled with trials and horrors, risking it all to restore a rightful ruler to the throne or die in the process. Hb $59.95 365pp

DAVID FARLAND
LAIR OF BONES
Runelords #4. Prince Gaborn, the Earth King, has defeated the forces arrayed against him before. Now there must be final confrontations, both on the field of battle, with the supernatural creature that Raj Ahten has become, and underground, in the cavernous homeland of the Reavers, where the sorcerous One True Master who rules them all lies in wait - in the Lair of Bones. The survival of the human race on Earth is at stake. Hb $65.00 429pp

RAYMOND FEIST
TALON OF THE SILVER HAWK
Conclave of Shadows #1. Returning from his manhood ritual on a remote mountain peak, he stumbles upon devastation. His village is being burned, his people slaughtered. Although it means certain death, Kieli throws himself into the battle... Against all the odds, he survives, alone of all the Orosini, who have been cut down where they stand: every last man, woman and child. He is a boy called Kielianapuna no more. Now he is Talon of the Silver Hawk, a man who must avenge the murder of his people, whatever that may take... Pb $18.95 390pp

DIANA PHARAOH FRANCIS
PATH OF FATE
In the land of Kodu Riik, it is an honour to be selected by the Lady to become an ahadal-kaaslane - to have your soul bonded with one of Her blessed animals, and roam the land serving Her will. But Rielis refuses to bow to fate - a decision that may have repercussions across the realm... Pb $17.95 369pp

KATHERINE GREYLE
ALMOST AN ANGEL
Carolly Hanson is training to be an angel, or so she believes. It is the only explanation for why she keeps dying and reappearing in different places and times. Clearly she is intended to help people and clearly, the best way to help people is to find them true love. This time she awakes in the arms of James Oscar Henry Northam, Earl of Traynern. The handsome noble is charmed by her odd sense of humour, strange forthright manner and complete lack of interest in trapping him in marriage. But he also thinks her a Bedlamite and isn't the least bit cooperative with the women she pushes in his direction. Pb $15.95 309pp

KAREN HANCOCK
THE LIGHT OF EIDON
Legends of the Guardian King #1. Abramm has dedicated the last eight years of his life to becoming worthy to touch and tend the Sacred Flames of Eidon, and he expects to be blessed for his devotion and sacrifice. But on the eve of taking the vows that will irrevocably separate him from the life he was born to - as Abramm Kalladorne, 5th son of the king of Kiriath - he is betrayed by his mentor and sold into slavery by his family. Swept along by the winds of a new destiny, Abramm is forced to compete as a gladiator. When the oppressed masses rally around his success, he discovers his suffering has moulded him into something greater than he ever thought possible. Tp $27.95 432pp

FLINX'S FOLLY
A Pip and Flinx novel. It's a good thing Flinx is no stranger to trouble, because he's swimming in it. Even before the latest murderous attack by a new gang of assailants, there seems no end to people determined to arrest, examine or kill him. To add insult to all that injury, Flinx has been spirited away and enlisted in a battle against a monstrous extragalactic threat. Hidden behind the Great Emptiness, in a place where it seems matter and energy have never been, there is only evil. Pure evil that is approaching him, accelerating. Against such a quintessence of colossal evil what can one puny human and a formidable mini-drag protector do? Hb $59.95 288pp
EMMA HOLLY

Another time. Pb $15.95 459pp

Georgia doesn’t know is that the horse when Georgia saves up enough money to and hates her step-brother Russell. So

Diana Wynne JONES

The Dark Lord of Derkhelm

Derkhelm #1. Everyone is fed up with Mr Chesney’s Pilgrim Parties - groups of tourists from the next door world who descend en-masse annually to take the Grand Tour. What they expect are all the trappings of a grand fantasy adventure, including the Evil Enchantress, Wizard Guides, the Dark Lord etc. Every year different people play these parts, but now they’ve had enough. And it’s up to the Wizard Derk, his son Blade, and Blade’s Griffin brothers and sisters, to save the world from Mr Chesney. Pb $17.95 320pp

Robert Jordan

Crossroads of Twilight

Wheel of Time #10. Rand al’Thor, the Dragon Reborn, must fight on against the Dark One in a struggle that has drawn an entire world into its vortex, claiming the souls of friends and enemies alike. He has cleansed the taint of madness from the male half of the True Source and may now draw on its power as a weapon of awesome potential. Pb $21.95 817pp

Robert King

Le Morte d’Avalon

Part female Hamlet, part mystical Lady Macbeth, this daughter of a slain king must become an Arthurian Joan of Arc for all women, when her position in society and royal lineage place her in direct opposition to all that Arthur must accomplish... Hb $55.00 463pp

Katherine Kurtz

In the King’s Service

A Deryni novel. In this new trilogy, the author takes readers back in time, before King Kelson’s bride, before King Kelson’s birth, when the magical Deryni blood was sought by the most powerful men and women in the kingdom of Gwynedd. Back when a man named Donal ruled over all. Hb $55.00 359pp

Mercedes Lackey

Exile’s Valor

A Valdemar novel. Once a Captain in the army of Karse, a kingdom at war with Valdemar, Alberich becomes one of Valdemar’s Heralds. Despite prejudice against him, he becomes the personal protector of young Queen Selenay, but can he protect her from the dangers of her own heart? Hb $59.95 402pp

Mercedes Lackey & James Mallory

The Outstretched Shadow

The Obsidian trilogy #1. When Kellen Tavdon, son of the Arch-Mage Lycaelon, finds the forbidden Books of Wild Magic, he comes to question everything he has known. Discovering too many of the City’s dark secrets, he is banished, with the Outlaw Hunt on his heels. He invokes Wild Magic and finds himself running for his life with a unicorn at his side. Hb $65.00 605pp

Rhiannon Lassiter

Waking Dream

On a table lie three books, each with a name on the front - Bethany, Poppy and Rivalaun. Bethany’s father has just died and she feels abandoned by her mother, who has sent her to spend the summer with her spoiled cousin Poppy, who thinks she’s a witch. Rivalaun says he has traveled from another world to be there and that only he knows what the three books mean. The three have little in common... until they sleep when, in their dreams, they suddenly seem connected. But their dreams tell them something else as well - that everything they have known about themselves is a lie. Which should they believe - their lives or their waking dreams?... Pb $12.95 312pp

Tanith Lee

Mortal Suns

Horrible screams pierce the night air as the Daystar, Queen Hesta of Akhemony, wrestles with the delivery of the King’s child, beautifully formed except for one heartbreaking deformity - she is born without feet. Consigned immediately to the world of death, the lame infant is dispatched to Thon, the underworld temple, and baptised Cemira, snake, the name she will bear throughout a lifetime of darkness. It is only at the behest of Urdombris, the Sun Consort, that the child is restored to her rightful place as heir to the throne on Oceaxis. Hb $64.00 335pp

Ursula K Le Guin

Tales from Earthsea

Five tales of Earthsea set both before and after the time of the original novels, as well as an essay on its people, languages, history and magic. Pb $19.95 280pp

John Marsden

While I Live

“Tomorrow universe. The town of Wirrawee is emerging from war, slowly. School’s back in, Juicy’s is open for coffee, farmers are bidding at the cattle sales. Ellie Linton at last gets what she fought for, to be back on the farm with her parents. But it’s not the same. A new nation is on the other side of a new border. Suddenly the war is about to explode into Ellie’s life again.” Hb $29.95 300pp

Anne McCaffrey & Elizabeth Ann Scarborough

Acorna’s Rebels

Acorna #6. Acorna’s people, the Linyaari, have started to reclaim their home world from the ravages of the brutal alien Klheevi. But the expedition has unlocked a larger mystery about the origins of the Linyaari people - one that has led Aari, Acorna’s lifemate, into a dangerous journey through time and space. Pb $19.95 381pp
JUDI MCCOY
HEAVEN SENT
A widowed cop, Nathan Baxter has his hands full raising his five-year-old daughter and keeping his meddling mother from constantly searching for the next Mrs. Nathan Baxter. If there's anything he doesn't need, it's opening himself and his daughter up to heartbreak again. But Phoebe’s new kindergarten teacher seems to have other ideas, asking the child all sorts of questions. Nathan intends to set things straight, but meeting with the attractive, free-spirited Miss Starr leaves him anything but settled.

JACK MCDEVITT
CHINDI
Hutch #3. The universe has been explored and humanity has all but given up on finding other intelligent life. Then an alien satellite orbiting a distant star sends out an unreadable signal. Is it the final programmed gasp of an ancient, long-dead race? Or the first greeting of an alien satellite orbiting a distant star system Accord wants to sign a simple treaty with? Hutch #3.

CHAD BOYER
THE SILVER CHILD
Six children are drawn to Coldharbour - an eerie wasteland, rats, seagulls and rubbish tips. Emily and Freda, the twins, scuttle in search of the long-dead race? Or the first greeting of an alien satellite orbiting a distant star system Accord wants to sign a simple treaty with? Hutch #3.

CLIFF MCNISH
THE SILVER CHILD
Six children are drawn to Coldharbour - an eerie wasteland, rats, seagulls and rubbish tips. Emily and Freda, the twins, scuttle in search of the

ELIZABETH MOON
DEED OF PAKSENARRION
Paksenarrion, a simple sheepfarmer’s daughter, yearns for a life of adventure and glory, such as was known to heroes in songs and story. At age 17, she runs away from home to join a mercenary company and begins her epic life. Trained as a mercenary she distinguishes herself, but leaves the Duke’s service to follow the path of Gird, the soldier’s god. That path leads her on a holy quest for a lost elven prince that brings the gods’ wrath down on her and tests her very limits. Hb $82.00 1123pp

WENDY MORGAN
OBSESSION
Meg is the most popular girl in school. She’s unaware that her real father was a powerful voodoo priest, and that she, too, has a ‘power’. Unpopular Candra would do anything to be Meg and when she meets Shea, Meg’s sexy boyfriend, all the pieces fall into place. Now, her most thrilling fantasies are about to come true, because Candra also possesses a very special gift and she’s about to unleash it on an unsuspecting rival. Pb $15.95 350pp

CHRIS MORTARI
SPIN STATE
UN Peacekeeper Major Catherine Li has made 37 faster-than-light jumps in her lifetime and has probably forgotten more than most people remember. But nothing prepares Li for what she finds on Compson’s World, a mining colony she once called home, and where she is sent after a botched raid puts her on the bad side of the powers-that-be. A dead physicist who just happens to be her cloned twin, a missing dataset that could change the interstellar balance of power and a mining accident that is starting to look more and more like murder. Suddenly Li is chasing a killer in an alien world miles underground where everyone has a secret.Tp $29.95 477pp

BAHIYYIH NAJHIJAVANI
THE SADDLEBAG
A tantalising tale of what befalls nine travellers on the route between Mecca and Medina, in the middle of the 19th century, as they encounter a mysterious saddlebag that changes each of their lives. It seems a perfectly ordinary saddlebag but what are its contents? Pb $21.95 288pp

DONNA JO NAPOLI
BREATHE
Salz is afflicted with a strange disease - he coughs and coughs, and cannot catch his breath. He lives in Hameln. This summer his father and brothers are affected by horrifying fits. The rest of the townspeople are gripped by a plague of rats. Only Salz remains unaffected. Is that because he is innocent, or is he the devil himself? Hb $39.95 260pp

DOUGLAS NILES & MICHAEL DOBSON
FOX AT THE FRONT
Fox #2. July 20, 1944. A group of disillusioned officers of Hitler’s high command plant a bomb that successfully kills the Fuhrer. For a moment, there is an opportunity for surrender, peace and survival for all of Germany, but Himmler has other plans... An armistice is signed with Stalin’s Soviet Union. New battle lines result in a very different Battle of the Bulge, where the legendary Desert Fox, Erwin Rommel, meets Blood ‘n’ Guts George Patton. These two masters of modern cavalry tactics must join forces and push to the East, where the hungry bear of Stalin’s army is readying a land grab of all of Eastern Europe, claiming war spoils they ill deserve. Hb $65.00 558pp

SHARON NOVEMBER
FIREFIENDS: AN ANTHOLOGY OF ORIGINAL FANTASY & SCIENCE FICTION
These 16 original stories showcase some of the genre’s most admired authors, including multiple award-winners Diana Wynne Jones, Garth Nix, Lloyd Alexander, Nancy Farmer, Meredith Ann Pierce and Patricia McKillip. Here readers will find a range of writing, from dark humour, to high sword and sorcery, to traditional ballads. Finally, to make this anthology even more of a standout, it appears first as a deluxe, jacketed hardcover. Hb $48.00 420pp

ROBERT RANKIN
THE HOLLOW CHOCOLATE BUNNIES OF THE APOCALYPSE
This novel is set in Toy City. The Old Rich, who have made their millions from the royalties on their world famous nursery rhymes, are being slaughtered. One by One. Horribly. A psychopath is on the loose. He must be stopped at all costs. It’s a job for Toytown’s only detective. Eddie Bear. Pb $17.95 342pp

MIKE RESNICK (ED)
MEN WRITING SCIENCE FICTION AS WOMEN
First came Women Writing Science Fiction as Men, which was a homage to the early days of the science-fiction genre, when it was a given that the writers and their readers were men and any woman writing science fiction had to hide her true identity. Now, in this all-new collection of 19 stories by top male writers, the men are getting a chance to see if they can meet the challenge of successfully writing as women. Stories by Barry Malzberg, Robert J Sawyer, Robert Sheckley, Jack Dann, David Gerrold, Frank Robinson, Dean Wesley Smith and others. Pb $17.95 319pp
Nora Roberts
KEY OF LIGHT
The Key trilogy #1. Three women. Three keys. Each has 28 days to find her way through a dangerous quest. Each novel is written in real-time and the novels will be published in consecutive months. Pb $19.95 342pp

Kristine Kathryn RUSCH
FANTASY LIFE
Strange things have always happened in Seavy County, where unearthly beings are sometimes glimpsed in the twilight. For Seavy County is home to not just animal life, but to fantasy life as well - mythical creatures long vanished from the rest of the planet. The Buckingham family has protected the hidden wonders of Seavy County for generations. 40 years ago, Lyssa Buckingham's father lost his life doing just that. Lyssa fled from Seavy County, searching for a more normal life. With her 10-year-old daughter, Emily, in tow, she has come home at last, just as the malignant forces that killed her father are gathering strength once more. Now Lyssa must make some hard choices. A bout the county, about Emily - and about the fragile fantasy life that surrounds them all. Pb $19.95 436pp

Fred SABERHAGEN
EMPIRE OF THE EAST
In the distant future, dark forces keep all humans under their oppressive thumbs. In the darkness of the shadows and whispered on the winds, there is talk of a rebellion. In the swamps, a small band has formed. Determined to regain their freedom, they plan to overthrow an army of thousands... with the help of one incredible weapon - the mystical Elephant. Whoever masters it holds the key to freedom, or defeat. One young man, sets out to join the rebellion and find Elephant. What he discovers will change everything. Tp $43.00 512pp

Robert SILVERBERG
ROMA ETERNA
The Roman Empire never fell. Driven by political ambition and internal dissent, thrown into turmoil by rebellion and civil war, it changed and adapted, but it never fell. The balance of power between Byzantium in the east and Rome in the west ebbed and flowed, but the Empire never fell. And it continued to expand, taking in the New World, while still dominating the old. Tp $29.95 385pp

Dan SIMMONS
HARD AS NAILS
Joe Kurtz #3. Unknown assailants gun down Kurtz and his female parole officer, giving Kurtz the headache of a lifetime but putting pretty Peg O'Toole on life support. Working his own case through a haze of concussion migraine, Kurtz has to deal with Toma Gonzaga, the gay don who owns Kurtz a blood debt, and Angelina Farino Ferrara, the female don who is after Kurtz's body - or maybe just his head. Hb $59.95 308pp

Kristine Smith
CONTACT IMMINENT
Jani #4. Former captain Jani Kiliian is a genetically altered, human-iodenmi hybrid who acts as a bridge of communication between two fiercely incompatible races. With intergalactic civil war looming large, with renegades in the Service secretly plotting extermination, Jani Kiliian is being pulled once more into perilous space. Because a horrific act of terror is about to ignite a long-feared conflict between human and alien... and the key to the survival or destruction of human civilisation is waiting for her somewhere on the edge of the universe. Pb $19.95 437pp

Lemony Snicket
THE SLIPPERY SLOPE
A Series of Unfortunate Events #10. The Baudelaire children run into more than their fair share of slipperiness during their harrowing journey up and down a range of strange and disturbing mountains. Hb $19.95 337pp

Michael STACKPOLE
WHEN DRAGONS RAGE
Dragon Crown War Cycle #2. As Chytrine's merciless armies sweep from the north, her agents, both living and dead, search for fragments of the shattered Dragon Crown, which will make her unstoppable. Opposing her is Alexia, Princess of Okkraned. As she struggles to save Kedyn's Crown, a mysterious human warrior accused of treachery, she gathers around her an alliance of unlikely heroes, including Resolute, an exiled Vorquef out for vengeance, Kerrigan Reese, a mage with uncertain potential, and last, but not least, young Will, an orphan thief from the slums of Yslin, who may be the fulfillment of an ancient prophecy, or its innocent victim. Pb $17.95 658pp

Neal STEPHENSON
QUICKSILVER
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Kate Drake is one of seven sisters gifted with amazing powers of witchcraft. Returning home in time for her home-town's annual Christmas pageant, Kate decides to open a bookstore in a charming but run-down historic mill. When an earthquake cracks the mill's foundation and reveals a burial crypt, Kate senses that a centuries-old evil has been unleashed, that it's coming after her and that she will have to summon all of her and her sisters' powers to battle the darkness threatening to destroy both Christmas and the gift of soul-searing passion her hometown hero wants her to keep forever...

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In the summer of 1967, Cyrus Nygerski, unsuspiciously meets his first werewolf. Six hours later, she is sitting next him in Comiskey Park, watching the Red Sox play the White Sox. Among her abilities is time travel. Nygerski learns of this later (or is it earlier?) on the seacoast of Maine where she introduces him to her family and the tantalising legend of Howley's Deep Hole, a portal into an alternate timeline that sweeps him to the heights of rookie season stardom. It's then, at terrifying cost, that he earns the nickname Moondog. Even Cassandra can't foresee the prophecy in that.

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Shaun Hutson
HELL TO PAY
A boy’s body is discovered on the shores of Kingsfield reservoir and Det. Insp. Alan Fielding is frantic to find the killer before another child is taken... In a run down house on a nearby estate, Nikki Reed knows only too well what the ominous knock on the front door means - the loan sharks want their money back, and if they don’t get it, they’re going to get nasty. Roma Todd’s relationship with record company boss David is rife with deceit and deception, but the one thing that holds them together is their daughter Kirsten. All desperate people running out of time. When their worlds collide, there’ll be hell to pay... Hb $45.00 394pp

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James Lowder

Prince of Lies

The Avatar series #4. Five years after the ending of the Avatar Trilogy, Cyclic, God of the Dead, mounts a search for Kelvemor Lyonsbane, the friend that he murdered to become a god, and the other gods form an alliance against him. Pb $17.95 376pp

R A Salvatore

Legacy of the Drow Boxed Set

This slip-covered gift set contains the four titles that make up the series, The Legacy, Starless Night, Siege of Darkness and Passage to Dawn. Each of these titles centre around the author’s signature dark elf character. Pb $51.95 1200pp

JUSTICE LEAGUE AMERICA

Jeff Gaff

Superman’s Guide to the Universe

Superman introduces the universe to proficient readers in this level 4 title from the DK readers reading scheme - and shows his superpowers enable him to enjoy his intergalactic lifestyle. Text of between 4,000-5,000 words cover such subjects as the planets, solar system, stars, space exploration, galaxies and black holes. Pb $8.95 48pp

Michael Teitelbaum

Batman’s Guide to Crime and Detection

Batman, the DC comics hero and member of the Justice League of America superhero team, introduces level 4 readers to the world of crime and detection. Pb $8.95 48pp

LOONEY TUNES

Jerry Beck

The Ultimate Visual Guide

This provides a complete visual history of Warner’s iconic cartoon characters. It features all the world-famous Looney Tunes stars as well as their creators – Chuck Jones, Tex Avery and Milt Blake. It also contains over 500 illustrations from the Warner Brothers archives, including many previously unseen storyboards, original sketches and film stills. Hb $45.00 344pp

THE ULTIMATE STICKER BOOK

This sticker book features more than 60 full-colour stickers and four full-colour backdrops allow readers to create their own action scenes. Pb $11.95 8pp

MECHWARRIOR

Martin Delrio

Service for the Dead #6. Proving Grounds #3. MechWarrior Tara Campbell faces two ruthless enemies. Should she be defeated, Terra is sure to follow… Pb $17.95 293pp

THE PRISONER

Thomas Disch

The Prisoner

He’s a top-level agent, but he wants out and they won’t let him quit. He quits anyway. Then suddenly he wakes up in captivity, in a pleasant, old-style seaside town - one packed solid with electronic surveillance hardware. This is the Village. And he is the Prisoner. Is he good enough to escape the men who’ve chained his life to the wall? Pb $17.95 242pp

SAMAND

Jill Thompson

(Created by Neil Gaiman) Death at Death’s Door

Death enjoys manifesting herself in the persona of a young Gothic girl. Along with her siblings, she interacts and influences the lives of humans on a daily basis. In this manga-style adventure, Death’s little sisters, Delirium and Despair, have thrown a party at her apartment for hell’s escapees. But as the festivities get out of control, it falls on Death’s black-clad shoulders to regain order and save the afterlife. Pb $25.00 204pp

SMALLVILLE

Suzan Colon

Runaway

Smallville #7. When 16-year-old Clark Kent, runs away to Metropolis, he becomes involved with Luna, a girl who calls herself a witch and who lives with a group of runaways. Pb $15.95 193pp

Nancy Holder

Silence

Clark and his friends are preparing for the Multicultural Day celebration in Smallville and, as the day approaches, there are several racially-motivated attacks. When Clark realises he’s the only one who can solve the mystery, he tries to confront the attacker in ‘frozen time’ and derail the ultimate racist plot. Pb $15.95 303pp

STAR TREK

Ilsa Bick

Well of Souls

Classic: Lost Era #4. For 12 years, she was captain of the Federation’s flagship. But while her exploits as commander of the USS Enterprise™ NCC-1701-C are legend, little has been revealed about Rachel Garrett, her vessel, or the unusual men and women of her crew. Until now… Pb $17.95 468pp

WONDER WOMAN

The Ultimate Sticker Book

A sticker book featuring the Amazon princess, as well as her allies and enemies as featured in DC comics. Tp $11.95 8pp
CALENDARS

STAR TREK NEMESIS 2004 WALL CALENDAR $24.95
STAR TREK SHIPS OF THE LINE 2004 WALL CALENDAR $24.95

HARRY POTTER 2004 DAY-TO-DAY DESK CALENDAR (MOVIE) $24.95

LEMONY SNICKETT’S 2004 CALENDAR OF UNFORTUNATE EVENTS $19.95 Pb (13 months)

STAR TREK 2004 DAY-TO-DAY DESK CALENDAR $22.95
STAR TREK ENTERPRISE 2004 WALL CALENDAR $24.95

CALCULATIONS

ON THE RINGS: RETURN OF THE KING VISUAL COMPANION

This is a large-format, full-colour photographic encyclopedic guide to the characters, places, landscapes, artefacts, battles and costumes as seen in the film. As well as images, it features detailed informative text and specially commissioned extras. Hb $39.95 70pp

CHRIS SMITH
THE LORD OF THE RINGS: WEAPONS AND WARFARE
A detailed and fascinating tour through all the major and minor conflicts that occur during the movie trilogy. Battles, armour, weaponry, cultures and creatures are all covered and explained, together with photos and illustrations and specially commissioned battle plans. Hb $49.95 218pp Tp $29.95 218pp

PIERRE VINET, CHRIS COAD & DAVID BRAWN
THE LORD OF THE RINGS: RETURN OF THE KING PHOTO GUIDE
This official children's storybook, based on the final film in the trilogy, follows Frodo's heroic struggle to destroy the One Ring and restore peace to Middle-Earth. Packed with 100 photographs from the forthcoming film, it offers an exciting and colourful teaser for those too impatient to wait for The Return of the King on the big screen. The book includes a pull-out poster showing all the characters from the films. Tp $15.95 48pp

LIN CARTER
TOLKIEN: A LOOK BEHIND THE LORD OF THE RINGS
The author introduces readers to Tolkien's epic trilogy, then takes them on a scholarly, yet populist, journey through the massive web of myths and legends that Tolkien drew on for both imagery and themes during his life's work. This book places the trilogy in the context of world mythology and legend and is a tribute to Tolkien's power of assimilation and original vision. This is a useful introduction to the background of The Lord of the Rings for the legions of new fans. Hb $21.95 188pp

IAN BRODIE
THE LORD OF THE RINGS FIlM LOCATION GUIDEBOOK
Revised edition. This edition has additional location information, new interviews with key cast and crew, including an exclusive interview with Peter Jackson and a new foreword by Viggo Mortensen. The author has added new photographs and additional movie images from the third movie, along with the touring information, GPS references and local directions, which helped make the first edition such a success. Pb $22.95 128pp
What We've Been Reading...

Sunshine by Robin McKinley (Hb $55.00) is set in a future Earth where the Voodoo Wars have destroyed most populated areas, and according to rumour, have left vampires in control of a significant amount of the world's wealth and technology. Sunshine is a baker who leads a quite, uncomplicated life until one night she is caught by a gang of vampires and chained to a wall to be the entrée for Con, a shackled vampire. They escape and the story that follows, of a young woman coming into her powers and the conflict caused by her siding (and empathising) with the enemy for a higher purpose, is not your usual fare. Not McKinley's usual type of story, but when she decides to branch out, she does it well. Wonderful. - Steph

The Tomb by F Paul Wilson (Pb $19.95) follows a relatively simple plot. Murders and the defilement of a temple in mid-19th century India by British soldiers unleashes a curse which is to follow the descendants of the leader of the attack. Coupled with that curse is an entourage of creatures of unimaginable horror that have once again risen to right past wrongs. Enter Repairman Jack, a man who 'fixes' situations for people in ways that aren't exactly legal. When he agrees to help an Indian gentleman retrieve a necklace that is a priceless family heirloom, Jack is thrust into the middle of a series of almost inexplicable events... mysterious disappearances, rank odours, unusual substances of Indian origin and a necklace that holds the key to an ancient horror. He then encounters some hellish creatures which he must destroy, or risk losing those whom he loves. Highly original and inventive, this well-written book introduces Repairman Jack, who now has a number of books based around him. - Nik

The second book in the Stravaganza series, City of Stars by Mary Hoffman (Pb $15.95), has been released this month and I got my hands on a copy as soon as I could. In the first book, City of Masks (Pb $15.95), we learn about Talia, a country in a parallel universe equivalent to 16th century Italy, and the Stravaganti, people who are able to travel between Talia and our world.

Georgia O'Grady is 15, living in modern day London and hates her stepbrother Russell. One night, after she has bought a model of a flying horse, she awakens to find herself in a stable. Georgia learns she is in the city of Remora in Talia, that she is a Stravagante and luckily, she has arrived in the stable of a fellow Stravagante. Soon she is swept up in the intrigue and politics of the city and her new friends. Georgia is warned of the dangerous and power-hungry di Chimici family, who already own most of Talia and want the secrets of the Stravaganti, but she befriends Gaetano and Falco, sons of Duke Niccolo, head of the di Chimici family. Falco was injured in a horse-riding accident at a young age and can only walk with the aid of sticks. When he begs her to use her powers as a Stravagante to make him whole, Georgia is torn between helping her new friend and endangering the lives of the Stravaganti.

This series is aimed at young adults and I found it a little too simple at times, but overall it is a very interesting series. Talia is amazingly brought to life and the characters are complex and three dimensional. - 8/10. Sian

COMPETITION

To win a photo of the Troika (Andrew, Warren & Jonathan) from Buffy Season 6, signed by Tom Lenk (Andrew) & Danny Strong (Jonathan), name the character who shot Buffy... Send in your answer along with your name and address. Competition closes 23 December 2003. Entry open to Galaxy Cardholders only.
In the second edition of A Game of Thrones: The Board Game, three to six players take on the roles of the great Houses of the Seven Kingdoms of Westeros, as they vie for control of the Iron Throne through the use of diplomacy and warfare. Based on the best-selling A Song of Ice and Fire series of fantasy novels by George R.R. Martin, A Game of Thrones is an epic board game in which it will take more than military might to win. Will you take power through force, use honeyed words to coerce your way onto the throne, or rally the townsfolk to your side? Through strategic planning, masterful diplo This is not a stand-alone game. A copy of A Game of Thrones Boardgame (2nd Edition) is required to play. STAY ORGANIZED! Share your thoughts with other customers. Be the first to review this product. Sign Up for Our Newsletter. Company. Customer Service. Facebook: "Thank you for helping us set up your Board Game of Thrones: Online app. The application now complies with the platform Policy. We appreciate your commitment to making the app as user-friendly as possible." Â Way better gameplay overall, Iron Bank literally a game changer, ever-shifting alliances(unlike the standard version where people make alliances that last the entire game) and of course Dragons, those damn dragons Read more 300 0 0.
A Game of Thrones is a strategy board game created by Christian T. Petersen and released by Fantasy Flight Games in 2003. The game is based on the A Song of Ice and Fire fantasy series by George R. R. Martin. It was followed in 2004 by the expansion A Clash of Kings, and in 2006 by the expansion A Storm of Swords. A Game of Thrones allows the players to take on the roles of several of the Great Houses vying for control of the Seven Kingdoms, including House Stark, House Lannister, House Baratheon.