Terry Pratchett
author of the bestselling Discworld series
will be in-store Tues 9 November @12 midday
to sign copies of his latest Discworld novel Going Postal!

21 YEARS AGO...
On a world supported on the back of a giant turtle (sex unknown), a gleeful, explosive, wickedly eccentric expedition sets out. There's an avaricious but inept wizard, a naïve tourist whose luggage moves on hundreds of dear little legs, dragons who only exist if you believe in them, and of course the edge of the planet…

The Colour of Magic
Terry Pratchett's first Discworld novel was released
To celebrate Discworld's 21st anniversary, Random House Australia are holding an Anniversary bash in Sydney at The ArtHouse Hotel, Monday 8 November. The event is strictly invitation only. However Random House Australia has generously supplied five tickets for us to give away. The winners will also get a copy each of the anniversary edition of The Colour of Magic in hardcover and the new Discworld novel, Going Postal. For further details, see back page...

21 YEARS AGO...
On a world supported on the back of a giant turtle (sex unknown), a gleeful, explosive, wickedly eccentric expedition sets out. There's an avaricious but inept wizard, a naïve tourist whose luggage moves on hundreds of dear little legs, dragons who only exist if you believe in them, and of course the edge of the planet…

Hugo Award Winners
The Hugo Awards for best science fiction works in 2003 were presented at the 62nd World Science Fiction Convention, Noreascon 4, in Boston. A selection of winners follows.

Best Novel
Paladin of Souls by Lois McMaster Bujold

Best Novella
The Cookie Monster by Vernor Vinge

Best Novelette
Legions in Time by Michael Swanwick

Best Short Story
A Study in Emerald by Neil Gaiman

Best Related Book
The Chesley Awards for Science Fiction and Fantasy Art: A Retrospective by John Grant, Elizabeth Humphrey and Pamela Scoville

Best Dramatic Presentation: Long Form
The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King

Best Dramatic Presentation: Short Form
Gollum’s Acceptance Speech at the 2003 MTV Movie Awards

Sydney Bookquarter
the place for great books
Our city block - bounded by York, Druitt, Clarence and Market Streets - has long been home to some of Sydney’s most interesting and unusual bookshops. Maintaining their separate ownership and individuality, the seven unique and independent bookshops in this block are coming together to create Sydney Bookquarter.

Celebrate the launch with us on Thursday 28 October when we will have special guest speakers, competitions and give-aways.

For more details, check out our website closer to the launch.

Tea in the Library 119 York St
Ashwood’s Music & Books 129 York St
Abbey’s Bookshop 131 York St
Language Book Centre 131 York St
Napoleon’s Military Bookshop 139 York St
Galaxy Bookshop 143 York St
Adyar Bookshop 230 Clarence St

Launch: Thursday October 28
Join us in-store for a Star Wars trivia competition from 6:30pm - 7:00pm.
Great prizes!
Christopher ANVIL
INTERSTELLAR PATROL

When a starship’s crew gets stuck on a planet where the well-meaning schemes of social engineers have created a nightmare of battling gangs, they pretend to be the Royal Legions from a distant star kingdom - which was all very well, until the real Royal flagship showed up. They thought they were doomed - but instead they have shown just the type of initiative and intelligence that the new arrivals are looking for and they are inducted into the Interstellar Patrol. That’s just the beginning. Pb $18.95 592pp

ROB CHILSON
ROBOT CITY

#5. A man without a memory, in a city of robots gone wild. At his side a mysterious woman, whose own identity he has reconstructed and whose memories of him may be true or false. The young man calls himself Derec. In the shattering climax to his quest he must face the genius Dr. Avery and compel him to reveal the truth. Pb $13.95 163pp

WILLIAM F WU
PERIHELION

#6. A man without memory, stranded on an icy asteroid. His only chance for survival is locked within a band of mining robots who are dutifully searching the surface for a mysterious object known as the Key to Perihelion. His name is Derec. His journey will take him to a city different from any he has ever known. A fantastic metropolis beyond his dreams: Robot City. Pb $13.95 211pp

JAMES AXLER
MASK OF THE SPHINX

Outlanders #29. The nine barons of post-nuclear America are succumbing to the tides of insurrection, a war that threatens to bring about the extinction of the entire hybrid race. Pb $15.95 346pp

ASHOK K BANKER
DEMONS OF CHITRAKUT

Ramayana #3. Rama has quelled the demon invasion. He has thwarted the demonlord Ravana and is wedded to the enchanting Sita - but the young prince’s problems are far from over. For Rama has been challenged by the fabled axe-wielding brahmin Parshurama - a warrior of such power he has never been defeated. And should he survive the confrontation, a greater crisis awaits him. He must travel deep into the heart of the forest of Dandaka-van, where he will be pitted against the vengeful survivors of Ravana’s rakshasa hordes. And in the tiny outlaw settlement of Chitrakut, surrounded by blood-thirsty demons, he must prepare to face 14 years of exile. Pb $19.95 628pp

STEPHEN BAXTER
COALESCENT

Destiny’s Children #1. This new trilogy will chart different evolutionary futures for mankind. It is the story of a divergent strain of humanity - a hive mind that subsumes the individual. It begins with a vivid depiction of the decline of the Roman Empire and, down through the years, shows how one woman’s determination to protect her daughter has frightening consequences for mankind’s future existence. Pb $18.95 536pp

GREGORY BENFORD
TIDES OF LIGHT

The Galactic Centre series #4. Onboard an ancient starship, Kileen and the Bishop tribe escape the mech-ruled world of Snowglade. Seeking refuge on a faraway planet, they discover vast wonders - an organic life-form as large as a world, a planet-coring cosmic string, a community of humans ruled by a brutal tyrant and, ultimately, an alien race more awesome than any they have previously encountered. As they battle for survival against these myriad dangers, Kileen and his crew will gain an unforeseen ally - one that may determine humanity’s true destiny... Pb $16.95 516pp

TERRY BROOKS
JARKA RUUS

High Druid of Shannara #1. 20 years have passed since the events of The Voyage Of The Jerle Shannara trilogy. Grianne Ohmsford has renounced her former life as the evil Ilse Witch and now serves as the head of a new Druid Council. Her purpose is to defend the Four Lands from anarchy and warfare. But there are those who cannot easily forgive her past actions and are loathe to follow her leadership. When Grianne’s enemies cause her to disappear, only a few loyal friends can help her, including Pen Ohmsford and the Elf Prince, Ahren Elessedil, who begin a desperate journey to find Grianne and return her to the Druids’ keep at Paranor. Pb $18.95 388pp

MICHAEL CHABON (ed)
MCSWEENEY’S MAMMOTH TREASURY OF THRILLING TALES

Foudned and edited by Dave Eggers, this is the magazine that has made its mark with a line-up of authors including David Foster Wallace, George Saunders, Zadie Smith and Rick Moody - all of whom are represented in this selection of stories from the first ten issues. Pb $22.95 497pp

STEPHEN COONTS
SAUCER: THE CONQUEST

When Rip Cantrell, a seismic survey worker in the Sahara, spots a glint of reflected light in the distance, he investigates - and finds a piece of metal apparently entombed in the sandstone. Before long, Rip uncovers a flying saucer that has been resting there for 140,000 years. The discovery doesn't remain a secret for long. The US Air Force sends a UFO investigation team, which arrives just minutes before a team sent by an Australian billionaire. Before either side can outwit the other, the Libyan military appears. Meanwhile, Rip has been checking out the saucer. With the help of an ex-Air Force test pilot, Rip flies the saucer away, embarking on a fantastic journey into space and around the world, keeping just ahead of those who want the saucer for themselves. Tp $32.95 340pp

F BRETT COX & ANDY DUNCAN (eds)
CROSSROADS: TALES OF THE SOUTHERN LITERARY FANTASTIC

The editors have gathered together stories of the unseen and magical American South by some of the most talented Southern writers of our time. These original fictions will delight readers who appreciate the unique wealth and breadth of the Southern literary tradition and its natural affinity for the fantastic. Contributors include Don Webb, Jack McDevitt, Michael Bishop, Andy Duncan, John Kessel, Kelly Link and Gene Wolfe. Hb $54.00 380pp
Where do I start? I picked this book up for the first time about 18 years ago and from the start it firmly established Ms. Rawn as one my top ten favourite authors. Who are the others you ask? Well stick around because I’m bound to review them all at some stage.

To be honest, the first thing that drew me to the book was Michael Whelan’s exceptional artwork, but it wasn’t long before Rawn’s magic caught me in its spell.

Opening in the desert kingdom of The Long Sand, Rawn demonstrates that she isn’t one to shy away from violence or tragedy, and that she holds the ability to delve deep into the full spectrum of human emotion. While the story is large in scope, it moves with an assured pace that doesn’t pull any punches.

Revolving around Rohan, the Dragon Prince of the title, and the sunrunner witch Sioned, an initiate of the Goddess Keep, Rawn builds her world with a precision and flair that is matched by the style and grace of her writing. Rohan is a man of character, breeding and intelligence. Brought up in a world where a man’s right to rule is based on his skill as a warrior, his inclination to the finer arts of reading and education is a cause of concern to his family when the mantle of Prince is thrust upon him by his father’s untimely death. Having been sheltered from court life by his mother’s wishes, he is pushed into the public eye as an unknown player in a dangerous game. To his side comes Sioned, a young woman as feisty and strong-willed as she is beautiful and accomplished in the magical art of sunrunning.

Presented to Rohan on the night of his father’s death, there is a marriage arranged by his aunt and her mistress, Andre, the Lady of the Goddess Keep. At first apprehensive, Rohan is struck by Sioned’s beauty and sensitivity, finding her a match for him in intelligence and passion, a person he can love and share his secrets with without fear of derision.

This is the tale of their courtship, bound together by the machinations of fate and intrigues of noble houses; it is an intelligent read that balances romance and magic with cunning and bloody politics.

Well-drawn characters and vivid descriptions accompany Rohan and Sioned in the unfolding of their story. Personal relationships between family and friends lend the book a welcome relief to bloody infighting encouraged by the realm’s powerful and manipulative overlord the High Prince Roelstra.

One thing that struck me about this book is the intelligence that is evident in the laying of every plot and the turn of each phrase. Both the prose and the verbal sparring between characters is lively and holds a distinct style that is Rawn’s own and has grown with every book she’s gone on to write. This is a great book and one that doesn’t sit on my shelf long enough to gather dust. I highly recommend it! - Mark

I first encountered China Miéville’s work with Perdido Street Station (Pb $19.95) and quickly knew that this was an important author. He seemed to come out of nowhere with his brilliant, meaty bursts of imagination and the dark, gritty world of Bas Lag imprinted itself as one of the finest examples of world building in a long time. And my God this guy can write!

As the stories unwind in some languid serpentine coils of smoke and noise, Miéville’s images come one after the other. Just when you think that he has finished throwing you visions of steam-driven cyborg convicts, mind-stealing slake moths and cities made entirely of ships, he will produce the goods once more and give the reader another surprise straight out of left field.

Iron Council, like his previous novels, takes place in Bas Lag. We return to the city of New Crobuzon, where civil war with the city state of Tesh and urban unrest is tearing everyone’s lives apart. Rebels fight the totalitarian regime enforcing itself upon the population and prepare for the ultimate battle.

Meanwhile, a small group, led by a man called Cutter, leaves the city in search of a myth. The Iron Council, last hope for the people, must return to the city…

To give away any more of the story would be to lessen the impact of the whole, but one of the things I really enjoyed was the magic system that came into play throughout the book. Thaumaturgy, including the creation of golems from any substance that comes to hand, even darkness itself, plays a big role in Iron Council. Miéville makes it a part of the everyday world, rather than a specialised art, infusing it both as a tool for wonder and weapon of terror.

As some may be aware, Miéville is a member of the Socialist Party in England. This political theme is very strong in Iron Council; indeed it is the major theme of the book. Government and workers, party meetings and revolution are all here. The Iron Council itself seems to symbolise the hope and struggle of the people against the system.

The ending may not be to everyone’s taste. The most obvious route is not taken here, but Miéville ends the book the only way it could have ended, I think. Readers will have to decide for themselves...

Although the Bas Lag books do reference each other, the novels do not have to be read in order.

I haven’t been this impressed with an author’s imagination and style of writing since Clive Barker. In a world sometimes dominated by mediocre fantasy, Miéville has the magic and is leading the trend in his field. Absolutely, positively recommended. 10/10. - David
CHARLES DE LINT
$43.00 528pp

Shine a bold new light on the old. Hb
literature and to update the old tales, or
tales that draw on the great wealth
today’s best fantasists for short stories.

Collection, the editors asked some of
story, and moment to moment. For this
charming and exasperating, shifting
over - benevolent and terrifying,

Faeries, or creatures like them, can be
in the planet, an elite corps of expert hoaxers
live in vast private demesnes - repayment
for their services in preserving the great
lie. Until, one day, a tanker emerges and
discovers the path to the most sinister
truth of all...

T4 $27.00 191pp

Five Great Novels

This volume contains Do
Androids Dream Of Electric Sheep?
(filmed as Blade runner), Martian Time
Silp, Ubik, The Three Stigmata Of
Palmer Eldritch and A Scanner Darkly.
Taken together they represent the best of
this author’s unique imagination. In his
writing, nothing is what it seems - our
sense of the world’s order is fatally
undermined and mass media tells us
nothing but artful lies. Tp $32.95 841pp

Sara Douglass

God’s Concubine

The Troy Game #2. It has been 2000
years since Cornelia, wife of Brutus,
brought the Troy Game to a wrenching
halt by murdering Genvissa, the Mistress
of the Labyrinth. In those 2000 years, the
city of Troia Nova, now known as London,
was razed and rebuilt a dozen times, as the
Minotaur Asterion unsuccessfully tried to
discover where Brutus hid the six golden
kingship bands of Troy. But now everyone
is back, re-born into 11th-century Europe so
they can play out their parts in the Game.

Asterion lurks within the court of Edward
the Confessor, plotting with malevolence.
Cornelia lives, older and wiser, but
trapped in another loveless and desperate
marriage. Genvissa returns, driven by
spite and ambition. And in his stronghold
on the coast of Normandy waits Brutus,
reborn as one of the mightiest warrior-
kings of all time...

Tp $29.95 643pp

Richard Fawkes

Ancestral Voices

It has been 2000
years since Cornelia, wife of Brutus,
brought the Troy Game to a wrenching
halt by murdering Genvissa, the Mistress
of the Labyrinth. In those 2000 years, the
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on the coast of Normandy waits Brutus,
reborn as one of the mightiest warrior-
kings of all time...

Tp $29.95 643pp

Raymond E Feist & Steve Stirling

JIMMY THE HAND

Legends of the Rift War #3. In
conjunction with master of alternative
history, S M Stirling, Feist returns to tell
the full tale of fan favourite, the
pickpocket, mountebank and confidence
trickster, Jimmy the Hand. Pb $18.95
369pp

RECOMMENDED READING

Nancy Farmer
The House of the Scorpion

Matteo Alarcón was not born - he was harvested. His DNA came from El Patrón, lord
of a country called Opium - a strip of poppy fields lying between the United States and
what was once called Mexico. Matt’s first cell split and divided inside a petri dish.
Then he was placed in the womb of a cow, where he continued the miraculous journey
from embryo to fetus to baby. He is a boy now, but most consider him a monster
- except for El Patrón. El Patrón loves Matt as he loves himself, because Matt is himself.
As Matt struggles to understand his existence, he is threatened by a sinister cast of
characters - including El Patrón’s power-hungry family - and he is surrounded by
dangerous army of bodyguards.

Escape is the only chance Matt has to survive - but escape from the Alarcón Estate is no guarantee of freedom, because Matt is marked by
his difference in ways he doesn’t even suspect. Pb $12.95 380pp From a two-time
Newbery award-winning author come this disturbing, engrossing tale for young adult
readers, with a range of topical themes. Highly recommended.

GALAXY BOOKSHOP
4 www.galaxybooks.com.au
inhabitants... and to the human residents a key to repelling a fast-approaching threat. It is evolving in its own world of primitive technology that has been meticulously allowed to continue unchecked, until the day when it becomes a threat. One of these stations orbits the outer reaches of the galaxy. Among these phenomena were the Angels, left relics all over the universe. Unfortunately, they came to the Madness Maze, which will lead Lewis to his most important task... The return of Owen Deathstalker. Tp $29.95 390pp

**DEATHSTALKER LEGACY**

Sequel series #2. Lewis Deathstalker is on the run, with an evil Empire snapping at his heels. He and his companions travel from world to world, searching for help and answers to the mysteries of the past. Finally, they come to the Madness Maze, which will lead Lewis to his most important task... The return of Owen Deathstalker. Tp $29.95 390pp

**THE MAMMOTH BOOK OF 20TH CENTURY SCIENCE FICTION Volume #2.** Here the editor showcases 23 stories that prove the sheer range of the genre. From founding fathers of the field like H G Wells and C S Lewis and beloved mainstays of the genre such as Philip Jose Farmer, Roger Zelazny and Jack Vance, to notable female writers including Nancy Kress, and writers who have hit their stride in the last two decades like William Gibson and James Morrow, all manner of SF luminaries are included. Also featured are writers better known beyond the genre such as E M Forster and Michael Shaara and translations of key foreign writers such as Wolfgang Jeschke and Dino Buzzati. Pb $24.95 615pp

**GELMET HELMET**

Will Buster and the Gelmet Helmet: Will Buster is chosen to participate in an experimental, accelerated learning program run by the mysterious Professor Gelmet - the students are all given personalised helmets to wear that transmit their education to their unconscious. But what are Will and his fellow classmates really learning? Will begins to suspect that Professor Gelmet is playing with their minds. Tp $19.95 318pp

**THE ETERNAL HIGHLANDER**

Cathal MacNachtion and Connall MacAdie are cousins bound by an ancient curse - they live by night with an unquenchable thirst that neither can tame. The only thing that can save their souls is marriage to Owen Deathstalker mortals whose hearts are not tainted will weaken the curse in their children. Bridget Callan and Eva Caxton are the women who will shape the clan's destiny. Marriage to these mysterious men rescues each of them from desperate circumstances - and draws them into a web of danger, desire and intrigue. Tp $27.00 297pp
CONCLUSION

left me hanging out for more... Jo

In the 26th century, the United
States and Canada are gone, replaced
by the socially rigid, authoritarian
Confederacy of the Yukon. Also gone
is the electronic age - destroyed in
the apocalyptic Storm Times that devastated
the globe and decimated the world’s
population in the late 21st century. This is
the intimate memoir of Sir Robert Bruce, a
close companion of Fitzpatrick the
Younger, the greatest hero of the Yukons.
Yukon History paints Fitzpatrick as a
latter-day Alexander the Great and calls
Bruce a lying traitor. Was Robert Bruce a
primeval harbinger of death, has
stalk the land - and the Briar King, that
primeval harbinger of death, has
awakened from his slumber. Pb $19.95
552pp

THEODOR JUDSON
FITZPATRICK’S WAR

In the 26th century, the United States and Canada are gone, replaced by the socially rigid, authoritarian Confederacy of the Yukon. Also gone is the electronic age - destroyed in the apocalyptic Storm Times that devastated the globe and decimated the world’s population in the late 21st century. This is the intimate memoir of Sir Robert Bruce, a close companion of Fitzpatrick the Younger, the greatest hero of the Yukons. Yukon History paints Fitzpatrick as a latter-day Alexander the Great and calls Bruce a lying traitor. Was Robert Bruce a degenerate southerner... or the only man to tell his world the truth? Hb $43.00 48pp

IAN IRVINE
SCUTATOR

The War of Echoes #3. The node has failed, rendering humanity’s battle
crackers and the Achim’s constructs useless. The battle has been lost. Now
horde of faerie lynx are swarming out of the tar pits of Snizort, intending to fall
upon the survivors and destroy them to the last man. Tiaan, crippled and unable
to walk, is held prisoner by a vengeful Vithis, who is determined to extract her
gemmatic secrets from her at any cost. For his failings, Nish has been cast out
and branded a traitor, while Iris, accused of high treason, has been forced
to flee for her life. Pb $21.95 691pp

THEODOR JUDSON
FITZPATRICK’S WAR

The Briar King

The Kingdoms of Thorn and Bone #1. In the
kingdom of Crotheny, two young
girls play in the tangle of gardens of the
sacred city of the dead
where, fleeing an imaginary attacker,
they discover the
unknown crypt of a
legendary, ancestral queen. In the wilds
of the forest, while investigating the mass
slaughter of an innocent family, the kindred
forester comes face-to-face with a
monstrous beast found only in folk tales
and nightmares. Meanwhile, travelling
the same road, a scholarly young priest
begins his education in the nature of the
evil that festers just beneath the surface of
a seemingly peaceful realm. The royal
family is facing a betrayal that only
sorcery can accomplish and now, for
three beautiful sisters, for a young man
elevated to knighthood and for countless
others, a darkness is emerging to shatter
all that once seemed certain, familiar and
good. Numerous separate destinies will
become entangled as malevolent forces
stalk the land - and the Briar King, that
primeval harbinger of death, has
awakened from his slumber. Pb $19.95
552pp

GARRY KILWORTH
BOGGART AND FEN

The Knights of Liofwende #3.
Malvouc’s towering iron land-ship is
cutting a devastating path through
Liofwende. Flanked by an army of
Ulugga fairies, the evil warlock appears
unstoppable. His only foes are a boy from
England, a boggart and a talking rat with
a food fixation - or so he believes. Wod
has yet to reach his ears of the faerie
armies that march to confront him, or of
the gnomes devising a cunning scheme to
waylay his terrible machine. All Spiggot
and Jack must do is buy these allies some
time... but how? Pb $16.95 307pp

MERCEDES LACKEY & JAMES MALLORY
THE OUTSTRETCHED SHADOW

The Obsidian Trilogy #1. Kellen
Tavason, son of the Arch-Mage Lycaelon,
thought he knew the way the world
worked. His father, leading the wise
and benevolent Council of Mages, protected
and guided the citizens of the Golden
City of the Bells. Young Mages in training
- all men, for women were unfit to practice magic - memoralised the intricate
details of High Magic and aspired to seats
on the council. Then he found the
forbidden Books of Wild Magic - or did
they find him? Their Magic felt like a
living thing, guided by the hearts and
minds of those who practiced it and
benefited from it. Questioning everything
he has known, Kellen discovers too many
of the City’s dark secrets. Banished, with
the Outlaw Hunt on his heels, Kellen
invokes Wild Magic - and finds himself
running for his life with a unicorn at his
side. Pb $18.95 727pp

MAXINE MCARTHUR & DONNA MAREE
HANSON (ed)
ENCOUNTERS: AN ANTHOLOGY OF
AUSTRALIAN SPECULATIVE
FICTION

This anthology showcases the work of 22 new, emerging and established Australian speculative fiction writers including Chris
Barnes, Stuart Barrow, Michael Barry, Lee
Battersby, Conor Bendle, Shane Brown,
Monica Carroll, Bruce Clark, Cory
Daniells, Kate Eltham, Dirk Flinthart,
Richard Harland, Trent Jamieson, Ben
Payne, Gillian Polack, Nigel Read, Scott
Robinson, Carol Ryles, Frankie Seymour,
Cat Sparks, Kaaron Warren and Kim
Westwood. Pb $18.95 213pp

MACK MALONEY
STORM OVER SATURN

Starhawk #4. 7205 A.D. Hawk
Hunter’s most perilous mission ever is to
find the one man who can stop the Solar
Guards from seizing the source of all
power in the Milky Way - and plunging the
galaxy into a catastrophic Dark Age.
Pb $16.95 296pp

DIANA MARCELLAS
TWILIGHT RISING, SERPENT’S
DREAM
Shari’a #3. The young shari’a witch Brierley
once thought that she was the last of her kind,
but when she flees the only home she’s ever
known, she discovers that she is not the last
of her kind - and that not all of the survivors
share Brierley’s good heart. The time of
reckoning is at hand. Will Brierley have to
sacrifice her life, to save an entire world
and make things right for her people? Hb
$55.00 493pp

RECOMMENDED READING

Greg Keyes
THE CHARNEL PRINCE

The Kingdoms of Thorn and Bone #2. The Briar King has woken and, with the aid of
monsters formerly found only in folk-tales, is destroying the forest and the people
living on its bounty. Aspar White, the king’s forester, has been given the impossible
task of killing the feared newcomer, but in the process he will discover that nothing
about the Briar King is as straightforward as he had thought. Meanwhile Leoff,
composer and self-professed coward, becomes embroiled in the horror of a town’s
destruction - which is part of an intrigue that leads him to the aid of Murielle,
widowed Queen of Crotheny. As she fights to save her remaining family, Murielle
despatches Neil, a trusted knight, to save her youngest daughter, in whose hands may
rest the kingdom’s future. But as prophecies, saviours and assassins close in,
Murielle’s plan may leave the girl - and the kingdom - as vulnerable as ever. Tp $30.00 518pp The
sequel to the excellent Briar King leaves me in no doubt that this series will rank up there with
Hobb’s’ Farseer trilogy and Martin’s Game of Thrones series, as one of the best fantasy series
to come out in the last decade or so... The characterisation is spot on, the pace never slows and the
conclusion left me hanging out for more... Jo

Galaxy Bookshop
6 www.galaxybooks.com.au
JAMES MOLONEY

*THE TUNNELS OF FERDINAND*

Domostay Rats #1. Berrin lives in a futuristic world ruled by the evil Malig Tumora, who is known as 'The Great Father'. Like all the children in this city, Berrin has been raised without parents in a large dormitory that is constantly filled with the cries of the Rats. They must defeat the security force of half-man, half-wolf creatures called Gadges, led by the very nasty Gadder Red. Pb $14.95 265pp

JOHN MOORE

*HEROICS FOR BEGINNERS*

Prince Kevin Timberline must retrieve Ancient Artefact Model Seven from the clutches of the evil Lord Voltmeter - He Who Must Be Named - before said evil Lord unleashes his Diabolical Plan. Luckily, Kevin wields a secret weapon that will cause the forces of Darkness to tremble - The Handbook of Practical Heroics. Pb $16.95 246pp

ROBERT NEWCOMB

*THE SCROLLS OF THE ANCIENTS*

The Chronicles of Blood and Stone #3. For three centuries Eutracia was a land of peace and plenty, until the return of the Coven of Sorceresses and the subsequent rise and fall of the Gates of Dawn. And now a new menace stalks the land - a race of fiendish slavers are plundering its people, taking them away across the seemingly impassable Sea of Whispers. It falls to the king in hiding, Tristan, his sister Shailiha and the wizards Wigg and Faegan to unravel the mystery, but to do so the Scrolls of the Ancients must be found and their secret language deciphered. As they unravel secrets, confront creatures beyond their imagining and discover the fate of the vanished people of Eutracia, the true identity of the enemy is revealed - a master of the Craft of Magic, whose powers, ambitions and capacity for cruelty threatens everything the fellowship holds dear... Tp $35.00 531pp

DAVID OHLE

*AGE OF SINATRA*

This is the long-awaited sequel to the 1972 cult classic *Motorman*. Part political allegory, part science-fiction dystopia, the novel catches up with the alternate reality where elective deformation is a fashion trend and grasshoppers are the main course. His travel mates are Ophelia Balls, an artist; Gerald Hilter, a journalist; Agnes Moldenke, his mother and the inventor of edible money; Dr. Burnheart, his old mentor; and a talkative neutrodyne named Hugo Vink. Tp $27.00 169pp

MARIANNE DE PIERRES

*CODE NOIR*

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WHAT WE’VE BEEN READING

Alien Woman: The Making of Lt Ellen Ripley by Ximena Gallardo and Jason Smith (Tp $43.00). The Alien films have always been a breeding ground (facehugger breeding ground!) for discussions on sex and gender in science fiction. This book discusses all four movies and the issues they raise, going beyond the SF genre and into topics such as Alien Resurrection and the Posthuman Subject, Weapons and War on the Female and Opening the Body. This was overall a fascinating read and a fine example of the subtexts within science fiction, although the authors did tend to read a bit too much into some areas. 8/10 - David

The Subtle Knife by Philip Pullman (Pb $18.95). The second book in His Dark Materials series is as riveting as the first. After having crossed over into the world of Cittagazze, Lyra meets up with a boy from our world, Will Parry. Spectres prowl the city however, and while Mrs Coulter still hunts Lyra, the object in the Torre degli Angeli waits for the one who will wield it...

Wonderful writing, great characters and story make this one of the best series out there. Go back to Hogwarts, Harry Potter. - David

Transformers: The Ultimate Guide by Simon Furman. (Hb $39.95 144pp) Transformers, more than meets the eye... Being a child of the eighties, my upbringing would have been incomplete without the sterling examples of good conduct set by the Transformers, powerful alien robots stranded on Earth, each with the ability to disguise themselves by transforming themselves into an alternate mode, usually some style of vehicle. The fine Deception role models such as Devastator, Megatron, Soundwave, Shockwave, Starscream, Shrapnel, Thundercracker, Ravage & Rumble all had a lasting impact on my personal world view. Admittedly, some of the Autobots were alright too - notably Jazz, Optimus Prime and the wild cards who shifted allegiance like Grimlock and Jetfire. Anyway, this historical textbook (which would fit comfortably alongside the works of Tacitus and Heroditus) is a good attempt to cover the multifaceted subject of Generation One Transformers and their various spin-offs.

For me, the highlight of this guide is that it is filled with a generous quantity of the excellent illustrations created by the talented crew at Dreamwave Comics. Their highly detailed, manga-influenced, re-imaginings of the original Generation One Transformers, complete with battle scarred dents, exhaust vents, exposed wires and struts, certainly fire the imagination and re-kindle interest in this eighties franchise. As Furman is attempting to provide an ‘ultimate guide’, a more comprehensive listing and description of all the Generation One Transformers is culled to make space for later Transformers incarnations such as Beast Wars, Maximals, Robots in Disguise and Transformers: Armada. (I personally would have preferred a curt mention of the Beast Wars and Maximals series as opposed to the generous 30 pages they receive within this book, but I’m biased.) Only a handful of pages are spent on images of the Generation One toy line which is a shame because some of the pages in my old Transformers catalogues are stuck together now. The guide also covers the various UK and US Transformers comics including the several Transformers/EI Joe crossovers. On a related note, the first two seasons of the cartoon plus Transformers: The Movie are all now available on DVD. - Raphael

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Terry Pratchett: Terry Pratchett, English author, predominantly of humorous fantasy and science fiction, best known for his Discworld series. Pratchett was raised in Buckinghamshire, the son of an engineer and a secretary. He became enamoured with science fiction and fantasy at a young age and published his first story, "The Hades Business," in a school magazine in 1961. The story was published commercially two years later in Science Fantasy magazine.