



# nexus

December 2003

Issue #187



## A GAME OF THRONES BOARDGAME

King Robert Baratheon is dead and the seven kingdoms brace for war. House Lannister, whose daughter Cersei was Robert's queen, claims the throne for her young son Joffrey. From the Dragonstone Isle, Stannis Baratheon knows that Robert was not the true father of Joffrey and rightfully demands the throne for himself. On the Iron Isles, House Greyjoy is about to embark on a second rebellion, but this time with a much grander goal. In the north, House Stark gathers its strength to defend what is right, and in the south the wealthy House Tyrell harbors an old ambition to sit on the Iron Throne. As armies gather and ravens fly, a clash of kings is inevitable.

Based on the bestselling novel series *A Song of Ice and Fire* by George R R Martin, this boardgame (\$94.95) lets players take control of one of the great Houses of Westeros and embark on an epic struggle to claim the Iron Throne. The artwork on the board is stunning and the game pieces are wooden. The counters and cards complement the game nicely. Immerse yourself in a game of clever planning, careful allocation of power, diplomacy and the exciting flavour of *A Song of Ice and Fire*. - Adam

## HOW DO DINOSAURS SAY GOOD NIGHT?

Jane Yolen & Mark Teague

In a few simple lines of verse on each spread, fathers and mothers are ready to put their youngsters to bed. But in this book, the youngsters are a wide variety of dinosaurs. And how do dinosaurs say good night? In the end, young dinosaurs behave a lot like people do: They give a big kiss, turn out the light, tuck in their tails, and whisper "good night." Here is a new staple for bedtime reading, a book children will ask for again and again. Hb \$32.00 (includes 8" plush dinosaur toy). *My son (3) has to have this read to him every night and it has become one of my favourite bed-time stories ever, beginning with growls, tail-lashings and teddy-bear throwing, but nicely calms down to hugs and kisses goodnight. And the gorgeous dinosaur illustrations (correctly labelled, of course) are an added bonus for the dinosaur obsessed. Even my 'grown-up' 7-year-old loves this!* - Jo



## DR WHO

### THE THREE DOCTORS

Starring William Hartnell, Patrick Troughton & Jon Pertwee.

DVD Gift Box. \$49.95 This gift pack includes the DVD in an anniversary slipcase and a collectable Corgi Dr Who Bessie car. Standard edition. DVD \$34.95

## THE MAPS OF TOLKIEN'S MIDDLE-EARTH

Brian Sibley & John Howe



Written by writer and broadcaster Brian Sibley, this slipcase features Tolkien's maps of **The Hobbit**, Beleriand and Middle-earth. Each map is presented in a box-set illustrated by Tolkien artist John Howe, the conceptual artist employed by Peter Jackson to work on his film trilogy. The maps, presented with individual books and wallets, show Tolkien's mythical lands in detail - they are also bound with fewer folds, making them

suitable for portfolios or framing. Hb \$49.95

More Tolkien items on page 15...

## THE ART OF FAERY

David Riche & Brian Froud

This title features the creations of some of the best artists working in the US, Europe and Japan. There are a huge variety of styles to appeal to a wide range of tastes, from the gothic fantasies of Amy Brown to Myrea Pettit's gentle, playful creatures. Some of the newer artists have rebelled against the old traditions or turned them on their heads. Others celebrate the inheritance left them by masters of the craft, such as Arthur Rackham and Cicely Mary Baker. All media are represented: watercolour, pen and ink, oil, pastel. Each artist presents his or her favourite pieces, showing what best represents their work, revealing their inspirations and techniques, their working methods and what drives them to create. Hb \$65.00 112pp



## CHRISTMAS TRADING HOURS

Regular trading hours in December except for:

7 & 14	Sundays	10.00 - 6.00
18 & 19	Thu & Fri	8.00 - 9.00
20	Sat	8.30 - 8.00
21	Sun	9.00 - 6.00
22 & 23	Mon & Tue	8.00 - 9.00
24	Wed	<b>Christmas Eve</b> 8.00 - 7.00
25	Thu	<b>Christmas Day</b> closed
26	Fri	<b>Boxing Day</b> 10.00 - 5.00
<b>Then regular hours except for:</b>		
31	Wed	<b>New Years Eve</b> 8.30 - 5.00
1	Thu	<b>New Years Day</b> closed

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then enter a catalogue page number for a list of the books from that page.

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# SCIENCE FICTION AND FANTASY



**CHRIS ADRIAN**

 **GOB'S GRIEF**


In the summer of 1863, Gob and Tomo Woodhull, 11-year-old twin sons of Victoria Woodhull, agree to together forsake their home and family in Licking County, Ohio, for the glories of the Union Army. But when Gob suffers a change of heart, Tomo is forced to leave his brother behind. Then when Tomo is shot clean through the eye in his very first battle, Gob is left to endure the guilt and grief that will later come to fuel his obsession with building a vast machine that will bring Tomo - indeed, all the Civil War dead - back to life. Tp \$34.00 387pp

**POUL ANDERSON**

  **BRAINWAVE**

For millions of years, the part of the galaxy containing our solar system has been moving through a vast force field whose effect has been to inhibit certain electromagnetic and electrochemical processes and thus certain neurotic functions. When Earth escapes the inhibiting field, synapse speed immediately increases, causing a rise in intelligence, which results in a transfigured humanity reaching for the stars, leaving behind our earth to the less intelligent humans and animal life-forms. Pb \$16.95 164pp

**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. Pb \$19.95 533pp

**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! Pb \$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 and the universe, but who must now try and tackle the shadow that the suffering of the past throws over their perfection. Hb \$55.00 473pp

**EVOLUTION**

 From their beginnings foraging at the feet of the dinosaurs, through the apocalypse 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. Pb \$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? Tp \$29.95 639pp

**LOIS McMASTER BUJOLD**  
**PALADIN OF SOULS**

 *Chalion universe.* Three years have passed since the widowed Dowager Royina Ista found release from the curse of madness that kept her imprisoned in her family's castle of Valenda. Her newfound freedom is costly and the road - escape - beckons... When she sets off on a simple pilgrimage her retinue is set upon not long into its travels and a mysterious ally appears - a warrior nobleman who fights like a berserker. The safety of her enigmatic champion's castle cannot ease Ista's mounting dread, however, when she finds his dark secrets are entangled with hers in a net of the gods' own weaving. Hb \$59.95 456pp

**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... Pb \$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... Pb \$15.95 309pp

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Tp	



# Fave Raves

our favourites - new & old

## FAVE NEW

### VENISS UNDERGROUND

Jeff Vandermeer  
Tp \$30.00 315pp



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 Nicolas' 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 Mieville and M John Harrison's *Viriconium* sequence. Think of taking Hieronymus Bosch, *Blade Runner*, 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 Mieville 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.

Nicolas' (second person) isolation and loss is portrayed very well. You experience her 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, **City of Saints and Madmen** (Tp \$55.00 or complete edition Hb \$125.00). This book collects all of Vandermeer's work revolving around the ancient city of Ambergris and its bizarre history. Quite similar to **Veniss Underground** in feel, but with Michael Moorcock and H P Lovecraft thrown into an already overpowering mix. - David

## 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 Princess 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

## P C CAST



### GODDESS OF THE SEA

After her plane crashes into the sea, an Air Force Sergeant finds herself occupying the body of the mythic mermaid Undine - and falling for a sexy merman. Pb \$15.95 355pp

## C J CHERRYH



### EXPLORER

*Foreigner #6*. This final novel of the series follows a human delegate trapped in a distant star system facing a potentially bellicose alien ship. Pb \$17.95 523pp

## M CHRISTIAN



### THE BACHELOR MACHINE: A COLLECTION OF EROTIC SF STORIES

The cream of the author's previously published works like *Intercore* and *Eulogy* is here, along with several new tales of interstellar erotic adventures. Tp \$36.00 210pp

## JOHN DALMAS



### THE HELVERTI INVASION

Luis Raoul DenUyl had been only a young recruit in the warrior brotherhood, but still played a pivotal role in what some called The Lizard War. Years later, he has just completed his training - and not a moment too soon. The Helverti, furry but definitely not cute aliens, were members of a cult that revered chaos and tried to spread it throughout the galaxy. To that end, they plan to plunge the different tribes of humanity into war. It is mystic warriors vs. alien technology - and the Earthlings are not as weak as they appear... Pb \$17.95 492pp

## CECILA DART-THORNTON



### THE BATTLE OF EVERNIGHT

*The Bitterbynde #3*. Once upon a time the great Faeran high king, Angavar, became trapped in mortal Erith along with his twin brother and nemesis Morrigan, the Raven Prince, when the gate to the Faeran Realm was closed on them... Many centuries later, the fugitive who calls herself Tahquil is being hunted down by the Raven Prince because she alone can reopen the gate to the Fair Realm. Pb \$19.95 625pp

**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

  **THE HIDDEN LAND**

*The Secret Country #2.* The five cousins are still trapped in the Secret Country and must play their parts. When the King is poisoned, Ted (Prince Edward) must take the throne, even though he has no idea how to rule a country, battle magic or inspire followers. Pb \$17.95 257pp

**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 the 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 LaNor, 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, intending 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

**ALAN DEAN FOSTER**

 **DROWNING WORLD**

*A novel of the Commonwealth.* In the early days of the Commonwealth, two indigenes of the lush and dangerously seductive planet Fluva, reluctantly join forces to search for Shadrach Hasselmoga, a human fortune hunter lost in the very alien wilds of the Viisiivisi. Pb \$17.95 315pp

**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 extra-galactic 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 268pp

**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 ahalad-kaaslane - to have your soul bonded with one of Her blessed animals, and roam the land serving Her will. But Riesil 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 Northram, 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




**STEVEN HARPER**

**TRICKSTER**

 *Silent Empire #3.* The telepathic communications net, known as 'The Dream,' has been shattered and the majority of the Silent who used it, are unable to re-enter. But Kendi Weaver has more pressing concerns - finding the family that slavers tore from him more than a decade before... Pb \$17.95 355pp


**DAVID HARTWELL & KATHRYN CRAMER (EDS)**

**THE HARD SF RENAISSANCE**

 These award-winning editors present an anthology that maps the development and modern-day resurgence of hard SF, argues for its special virtues and present pre-eminence, and entertains us with some storytelling along the way. Included are stories by Poul Anderson, Stephen Baxter, Gregory Benford, Ben Bova, David Brin, Arthur C Clarke, Greg Egan, Joe Haldeman, Nancy Kress, Paul McAuley, Frederik Pohl, Alastair Reynolds, Kim Stanley Robinson, Robert J Sawyer, Karl Schroeder, Charles Sheffield, Brian Stableford, Allen Steele, Bruce Sterling, Michael Swanwick and Vernor Vinge. Tp \$52.00 960pp



**MARY HOFFMAN**

**CITY OF STARS**

 *Stravaganza #2.* Georgia loves horses and hates her step-brother Russell. So when Georgia saves up enough money to buy a little winged horse, she knows she has to keep it out of his way. But what Georgia doesn't know is that the horse offers her escape to another world and another time. Pb \$15.95 459pp



**EMMA HOLLY**

**HUNTING MIDNIGHT**

  After he's betrayed by his long-time lover, Ulric, the leader of a pack of shape-shifting immortals, takes to the streets of Bridesmere. It is there that he introduces an innocent young maiden to the sensuous delights of searing passion. But will he grant her immortality, or will he cast her from his life and send her back to the treacherous world beyond the caves? Pb \$15.95 293pp

**MELANIE JACKSON**

**OUTSIDERS**

  As a child, Cyra's parents made her hide her gifts, but the modern world's seedy underbelly doesn't simply go away. And when that darkness comes to call, Cyra seeks sanctuary in the Nevada desert, where she finds Thomas Marrowbone. Beneath his tormented shell lurks something powerful and inhuman, but also something primal and erotic. Cyra recognises it, and she follows the enigmatic loner into the depths of Hell. Success promises salvation and a happiness Cyra has never known. Pb \$15.95 342pp

**DIANA WYNNE JONES**

  **THE DARK LORD OF DERKHOLM**

*Derkholm #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 328pp

**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'AVOLON**

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 Tavaddon, 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 travelled 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 Khleevi. 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. Pb \$17.95 319pp

**JACK MCDEVITT**

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*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 undiscovered life form? Pb \$19.95 511pp

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 **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 others. They find Thomas on a food tip. The gentle giant boy Walter joins them and so does Helen, who can read minds. And at the centre of it all is luminous Milo, his skin hot and bright with silver. Each of them has a unique gift, but they must learn to use their skills fast. Drawing ever closer in a maelstrom of fury is the roar, something vast and dreadful that wants to destroy them all. Hb \$24.95 167pp

**L E MODESITT, JNR**

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Commander Van C Albert of the Republic Space Force of Taran, is a brave and resourceful officer indirectly responsible for the loss of a civilian liner. Wounded foiling an assassination, he is decorated, promoted and summarily retired while still in a coma. Then the Integrated Information Systems foundation of the Eco-Tech Coalition recruits him to fly a starship, and Van finds he has a powerful new vantage point not just for observation, but for action. Hb \$65.00 509pp

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*Omnibus edition containing Ecolitan #3 & #4, The Ecologic Envoy & The Ecolitan Enigma.* 400 years after winning secession from the Terran Empire, the star system Accord wants to sign a simple trade treaty with the Empire, but if the agreement is so minor, why is Nathaniel Whaler, chief economist and his world's top commando killer, chosen as Accord's Envoy? Tp \$43.00 492pp

**ELIZABETH MOON**

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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 \$62.00 1123pp

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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 MORIARTY**

 **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 prepare 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

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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 madness and the entire town is visited by a pestilence of rats. Only Salz remains unaffected. Is that because he is innocent, or is he the devil himself? Hb \$39.95 260pp

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Charlie is devastated by the tragic accident at a disused mill pool involving her best friend, Max. Refusing to believe he is dead, Charlie embarks on an emotional journey in her dreams, where she believes she can see Max just ahead of her on the road. Soon her dreamworld becomes more important to her than anything else until fantasy and reality merge and give rise to strange events. With the help of her brother, James, Charlie learns to face the truth. Pb \$16.95 188pp

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*Jump Man #2.* Theodore Pine Four is the biggest celebrity on the Two Planets. Theo knows there's only one rule when you TimeJump - don't touch anything. That rule applies whether you're Jumping to the Big Bang or to the day pizza was invented. But Theo's been spending a lot of time with Quincy Carter One, the CEO of TimeMaster Corporation. Quincy's starting to think that Rule 1 doesn't apply to him. Why not fiddle about with history? Pb \$14.95 281pp

MERRY CHRISTMAS



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When Princess Anja fails to appear at her betrothal banquet, two warriors are charged with recovering her. Taskin, Commander of the Royal Guard, and Mykkael, the Captain of the Garrison. Mykkael's investigations lead him to a radical explanation for the mystery, but he finds himself under suspicion from the court factions. Will Commander Taskin's famous fair-mindedness be enough to unravel the truth behind the garrison captain's dramatic theory: that the princess was not taken by force, but fled the palace to escape a demonic evil? Pb \$19.95 692pp

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8-year-old Jessica Atkins wants a monster for Christmas. Not a big, mean monster - more of a friendly little one to play with when she comes home from school and maybe scare away the mice who live in her old London house. But the old housekeeper, Mrs. Murgatroyd, warns her against wishing for a monster in this house. Exactly 100 years ago the Christmas Thingy visited this very house and stole away with a load of Christmas presents. Be careful what you wish for, Jessica... Hb \$48.00 32pp




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Musician Megan O'Casey has returned to the home of her ancestors to perform, with her husband Finn, in a weeklong series of concerts, culminating on All Hallow's Eve... and to renew her connection with the past. But from the moment they arrive in Salem, Finn seems different - sensual beyond belief one moment; cold and ruthless the next. The locals regard him with a distrust bordering on hatred. Megan must soon face the fact that something powerful is rising, a malevolence that may have already claimed Finn for its own and that she, too, is in great danger. Pb \$17.95 495pp

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Eden Waring is a talented young psychic with the ability to produce at will her doppelganger - her mirror image, who calls herself Gwen and possesses remarkable powers beyond even Eden's gifts. As gifted as Eden and Gwen are, there is a stronger entity that stalks them, coveting Gwen's unique talents. He is known as Mordant, the Dark Side of God, a being both ageless and deadly. In order to regain his full potential for destruction and reach his goal of world domination, he must seduce Eden through any means necessary and take away her control of Gwen. Pb \$17.95 375pp



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 *Carpathian #10.* Lead guitarist of the Dark Troubadors, Dayan is renowned for his mesmerising performances. His melodies still crowds, beckon, seduce and tempt. And always, he calls to her. His lifemate. He calls to her to complete him. Corrinne Wentworth stands at the vortex of a gathering storm. Pursued by the same fanatics who murdered her husband, she risks her life by keeping more than one secret. Fragile, delicate and vulnerable, she has an indomitable faith that makes her surrender to Dayan all the more powerful. Pb \$17.95 374pp

**CHRISTINE FEEHAN**  
**THE TWILIGHT BEFORE**  
**CHRISTMAS**

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... Pb \$17.95 293pp

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In the summer of 1967, Cyrus Nygerski, unsuspectingly 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. Pb \$15.95 284pp

**HEATHER GRAHAM**  
**HAUNTED**

Matt Stone doesn't believe in ghosts. But pressured to get at the truth about some strange happenings at his home, Melody House, he agrees to let Harrison Investigations explore the house. As a paranormal investigator, Darcy Tremayne has learned to believe in the unbelievable. And she's given Matt fair warning - sometimes people don't like the skeletons she finds and she's about to discover that Melody House holds much more than a mystery from the past. It holds a lethal danger, that will cast her into a struggle against the worlds of both the living and the dead. Pb \$17.95 379pp

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Vampires have lived among Mankind for countless millennia, hiding in the darkness, hunting, feeding and killing Mortals. They live lives of utter secrecy, scattered far apart, always aware that the surging tide of Humanity could crush them if they became truly aware of their presence. For Eleisha, a young vampire who has remained hidden since the 19th century, things are about to change. Tp \$25.00 169pp

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**NOBODY TRUE**

What happens when you lose your body? Jim True knows. He has returned from an out-of-body experience to find he has been brutally murdered and his body mutilated. No one can see him, no one can hear him, no one, except his killer, knows he still exists. True embarks on a quest to find his killer and discover why and how he has managed to survive. As he closes in on his murderer, True discovers that even the very people he loved and trusted have betrayed him and he meets his killer - a man now intent on even more murders, including True's wife and child... Hb \$45.00 394pp

**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 \$39.95 369pp

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Chance and Deacon have married. They're looking ahead to the future, trying to put the past behind them, but new nightmares await them, as a woman with a need for violence enters their lives. And something even worse has followed her... Tp \$34.00 337pp

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Based on (concept)

Fil m	
TV show	
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comic	
reference	

WIN...

a photo of the Troika  
(Andrew, Warren &  
Jonathan)  
from *Buffy* Season 6,  
signed by  
Tom Lenk (Andrew)  
& Danny Strong (Jonathan)  
see back page... for details

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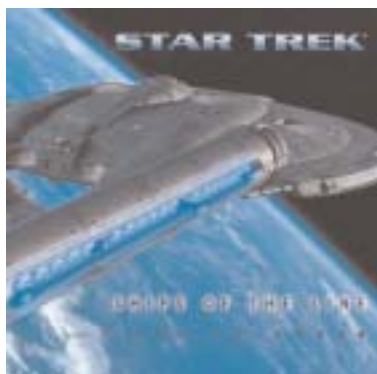
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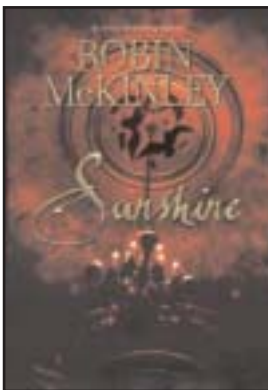
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 third movie, along with the touring  
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 directions, which helped make the first  
 edition such a success. Pb 22.95 128pp

## 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

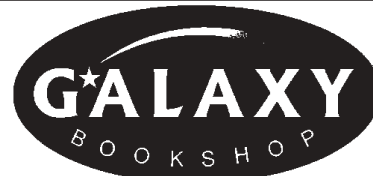
The second book in the *Stravaganza* series, **City of Stars** by Mary Hoffman (Pb \$15.95), has been released this month and I got my hands on a copy as soon as I could. In the first book, **City of Masks** (Pb \$15.95), we learn about Talia, a country in a parallel universe equivalent to 16th century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



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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.

Game description from the publisher: King Robert Baratheon is dead, and the lands of Westeros brace for battle. 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 c 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



One such board game is Game of Thrones. Below are the links you'll need to start it up to backstab play with fellow redditors! We encourage you to make any donations to the program if you wish, it's a useful program. Best of luck, and go forth unbent, unbowed, unbroken. (Vassal Download Link). (Game of Thrones Module ). created by Walrus500Holder of the Iron Thronea community for 7 years. message the moderators. MODERATORS. BaiNanHolder of the Valyrian Steel Blade. afrak3Mod. about moderation team Â».Â It is polished and finished Online version of second edition board game by FFG. Easy interface, far better than Vassal and thronemaster together. With ratings, statistics and all bugs fixed. In A Game of Thrones: The Board Game, players take control of one of the great Houses of Westeros. Via resource management, diplomacy, and cunning, they seek to win dominance over the land. Players must give orders to armies, control important characters, gather resources for the coming winter, and survive the onslaught of their enemies. A unique phase mechanic, battle resolution, and special ordering system make for an engaging game in which all players are actively involved at all times. Reimplemented by: A Game of Thrones: The Board Game (Second Edition) (2011). Game description from the publisher: King Robert Baratheon is dead, and the lands of Westeros brace for battle. 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 c