CHRISTMAS TRADING HOURS

Regular trading hours in December except for:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<tr>
<td>7 &amp; 14</td>
<td>10.00 - 6.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 &amp; 19 Thu &amp; Fri</td>
<td>8.00 - 9.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>8.30 - 8.00</td>
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<td>21</td>
<td>9.00 - 6.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>22 &amp; 23 Mon &amp; Tue</td>
<td>8.00 - 9.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>24 Wed</td>
<td>Christmas Eve 8.00 - 7.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>25 Thu</td>
<td>Christmas Day closed</td>
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<tr>
<td>26 Fri</td>
<td>Boxing Day 10.00 - 5.00</td>
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Then regular hours except for:

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<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>31 Wed</td>
<td>New Years Eve 8.30 - 5.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Thu</td>
<td>New Years Day closed</td>
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To order online from our Christmas catalogue, go to www.abbeyes.com.au/direct, then enter a catalogue page number for a list of the books from that page. Simply click any title to order.
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 333pp

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 descendents - 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 apoclypse 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

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. Ledger, 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
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 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 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.

VanderMeer’s work revolving around the ancient city of Ambergris and its inhabitants is a powerful mix - David Michael Moorcock and H P Lovecraft thrown into an already 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.

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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.

Nicola’s (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 Faie 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

Cecilia 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 Morragan, 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
PETER DICKINSON

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

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, all involving 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

KAREN HANCOCK

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 Viisivisi. 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-drug protector do? Hb $59.95 286pp

PAMELA DEAN

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 find him, 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

DIANA PHARAOH FRANCIS

AN ALMOST ANGEL

Carolyn 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

DAVE DUNCAN

FOR MORE THAN GLORY

Legion of the Damned. In the wake of a great universal war, General Bill Booy found himself struggling to balance his military, political and humane obligations. But neither Booy nor his men realise that on the remote world of LaNor, another revolution is brewing. There, a career Legionnarie 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

DAVID FARLAND

PATH OF FATE

In the land of Kudu 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

JUDE DEVERAUX

IMPOSSIBLE ODDS

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
offers her escape to another world and Georgia doesn't know is that the horse has to keep it out of his way. But what buy a little winged horse, she knows she when Georgia saves up enough money to and hates her step-brother Russell. So

KATHRYN CRAMER (EDS)  
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 go away. And when that darkness comes to call, Cyra seeks sanctuary in the Nevada desert, where she finds Thomas Morrowbone. 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 happiness. Cyra has never known. Pb $15.95 342pp

DIANA WYNE 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  
The Wheel of Time #10. Rand al'Thor, the Dragon Reborn, must fight 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 MORT D'EVALON  
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. Red with rage, 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 Oxbidion trilogy #1. When Kellen Tavadon, son of the Arch-Mage Lycaedon, 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 EARTHESEA  
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

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
Edmund Talbot #1. In the future the world is a paradise - and then, in a moment, it ends. The council that controls the Net falls out and goes to war. Everywhere people who have never known a moment of want or pain are left wondering how to survive. In the village of Raven's Mill, Edmund Talbot, master smith and unassuming historian, finds that all the problems of the world are falling in his lap. Refugees are flooding in, bandits are roaming the woods, and his only daughter struggle through the fallen landscape. And hidden in the past is a mystery that has waited until this time to be revealed. You cross Edmund Talbot at your peril, for a smith is not all he once was... Hb $59.95 537pp

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

KEY OF LIGHT
Strange things have always happened in Seavy County, where unearthly beings are sometimes glimpsed in the twilight. For Seavy County is home not just to 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

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

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

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 owes 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

CONTACT IMMINENT
Jani #4. Former captain Jani Kiliian is a genetically altered, human-iodemoni 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

THE SLIPPERY SLOPE
A Series of Unfortunate Events #10. The baudelaire children run into more than anything else until fantasy and reality merge and give rise to strange events. Anything else until fantasy and reality merge and give rise to strange events. Anything else until fantasy and reality merge and give rise to strange events. Pb $19.95 337pp

WHEN DRAGONS RAGE
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 Okrannel. As she struggles to save Kedyn's Crow, a mysterious human warrior accused of treachery, she gathers around her an alliance of unlikely heroes, including Resolute, an exiled Vorquett 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

THE LAST OF THE SKY PIRATES
Edge #5. Rook Barkwater dreams of becoming a librarian knight - one of those sent out to explore the mysteries of their world. Breaking all the rules, he sets out on a journey to the Free Glades and beyond. His luck and determination lead him from one peril to another until he encounters the last sky pirate - and is thrust into a bold adventure that dares to challenge the might of the dreaded Guardians of the Night. Pb $16.95 379pp

THE LEAP
Charlie is devastated by the tragic accident at a disused mill pool involving his 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

AND NOW THE NEWS...
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family and Alisa herself appears to
terrifying events envelop the entire
family. From the moment she arrives,
runs away to find her late mother's witch
out more about her witch ancestry, so she
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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, except his killer, knows he still exists. True embarks on a quest to find his killer and discover why his loved and trusted have betrayed him and 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

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Joy Randall’s Top Five Tips for Vampire Hunters: 1. Location, location, location. Remember, if you wouldn’t be there, neither would a bloodsucker. 2. Trust your eyes. You know the handsome, annoyingly arrogant, self-assured man in the shadows with long hair and a cleft in his chin? He’s your vampire. 3. No matter how tempting it might be, do not ‘accidentally’ acquire a paper cut and suggest your vampire kiss your finger to make it better. 4. From here on out, play it cool. Don’t offer to accompany your prince of the night on the talk show circuit and whatever you do, don’t offer him your heart. 5. And most of all, remembering a vampire is nothing to laugh about. Pb $17.95 374pp

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Victoria Kennelly knows all about what lurks in the coastal town of Falls Church. She’s never forgotten the night a fire killed her family and something beyond description claimed her childhood friend. The horror of that night drove her all the way to Boston and a new life. But now things are happening in Falls Church again. Bad things. And the only way Victoria can understand the ghosts of her own past is to go back where it all began, to face the evil that lives in Falls Church. Pb $17.95 478pp  
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A country charmer, the ad calls it. But this bungalow is no ordinary house. It may look perfectly nice, but within it lurks a horror few could imagine. Behind its neatly painted white walls, the house conceals secrets far better left unrevealed. Katherine Nichols thinks the house will be perfect for her. She’s looking forward to a little seclusion, to being able to work, to living alone. It isn’t long, though, before she realises she isn’t alone after all...

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& Martin H Greenberg (eds)

THE REPENTANT

In this original anthology, some of today’s top talents tackle good and evil and the many shades in between. In the tradition of Buffy and Angel, these 13 stories feature some very unlikely protectors of humankind.

**Tamar Thorne**

MERILYNN

The Sorority #2. Since childhood, Merilynn’s had a sixth sense she can’t explain, an ability to see things before they happen. Her gifts tell her there’s a tremendous darkness at work inside the shadowy walls of her sorority house, a feeling that intensifies when Malory Thomas invites her to become one with the Fata Morgana. Now, drawn into the ever-tightening, unnatural circle of its sisterhood, Merilynn’s dreams grow more alarming, showing maddening glimpses of an evil, timeless bond stretching back through centuries. Are they visions of the past or warnings of bad things to come...

**Paul Wilson**

GATEWAYS

Repairman Jack #7. Jack’s father is in a coma after a car accident in Florida. In the hospital he meets Anya, one of his father’s neighbours. Jack’s arrival does not go unnoticed. A young woman named Semelee, feels his presence. She senses that he’s “special,” like her. Who is Anya? Who is Semelee, and what is her connection to the recent strange deaths of residents during the past year? And what are the “lights”? Jack keeps hearing about? If he is to protect his father from becoming the next fatality there are questions Jack must answer and secrets he must uncover.

**Chelsea Quinn Yarbro**

MIDNIGHT HARVEST

St Germain #16. Fleeing Spain at the beginning of their Civil War, the vampire Saint-Germain arrives in California to reunite with the older and wiser Rowena Saxon, who is considering following the Dark Prince into an eternal life. Meanwhile, Saint-Germain is unaware that a ruthless assassin is pursuing him.

**F Paul Wilson**

Destruction of Illusions

Captain Dylan Hunt of the Andromeda Ascendant - a mighty vessel of the Systems Commonwealth that encompassed three galaxies - finds himself a man out of time. 300 years have passed, the Commonwealth has fallen and chaos reigns in the Known Worlds. Now, with a crew of salvagers, mercenaries and misfits, Captain Hunt has set out to restore the Commonwealth and bring unity to the galaxies once again.

**Keith R A DeCandido**

DESTRUCTION OF ILLUSIONS

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**Yang Straughn**

Andromeda

A young man awakes from a recurring nightmare to find that, once again, his apartment has been destroyed: the TV is on fire, the mirrors shattered, and once again a voice is saying, “Come home...” And so he does. Home is the small Maine town where his parents were both killed in a grotesque car wreck years before. A small town caught in a centuries-old war between supernatural forces.

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PARADIS
Have the Galacticians truly found their paradise among the stars? Apollo thinks so, as they journey to a mysterious planet called Gemon. Will the fleet stay and make this inviting, verdant planet their final home? It looks that way, until the traitor Baltar begins having nightmares about a new race of Cylonids. Hb $55.00 243pp

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    - 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 Mortenson. 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

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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 a 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, sheawakens 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

COMPEITION

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.