THE UNSEEN FORCE: 
THE FILMS OF SAM RAIMI
JOHN KENNETH MUIR

Sam Raimi exploded onto the movie scene with the audacious, independently-produced horror film *The Evil Dead*. Reigniting the horror genre to such a degree that Wes Craven credited Raimi on-screen in *A Nightmare on Elm Street*, Raimi went on to direct two *Evil Dead* sequels, his own comic-book superhero, *Darkman*, and a post-modern western, *The Quick and the Dead*. Raimi’s influence on other filmmakers continues to be enormous - from the “shaky cam” shots of the Coen brothers to the early oeuvre of *The Lord of the Rings* director Peter Jackson. In 2002, Raimi’s *Spider-Man* had the biggest opening weekend in history, earning more than $114 million at the box office.

This biography also features a look at *Spider-Man 2*. Included are first-person accounts and interviews with the cinematographers, producers, screenwriters, actors, special effects magicians and composers who collaborated to make his films the stuff of legend, earn mainstream success and still be the focus of obsessive cult. Tp $39.95 342pp

CAUGHT IN THE WEB: 
DREAMING UP THE WORLD 
of *Spider-Man 2*
MARK COTTA VAZ

In this journey behind-the-scenes and into the imagination, fans can discover how the myth and magic became real in *Spider-Man 2*, as they plunge deeper into Spider-Man’s world to meet the characters, explore the environments and follow the storyline. Packed with production illustrations, prepared by many of the most talented illustrators in Hollywood, this title features original sketches, artwork and doodles that became the inspirations for characters, sets and computer-generated imagery, climactic scenes from the movie as they first appeared in conceptual art, design work used to develop costumes and visual effects, blueprints and architectural drafts used in the construction of both physical and virtual environments and unique insights into the genesis of Doc Ock. Tp $43.00 157pp

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PETER BEAGLE
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Arriving in the English countryside to live with her mother and new stepfather, Jenny has no interest in her surroundings, until she meets Tamsin. Since her death over 300 years ago, Tamsin has haunted the lonely estate without rest, trapped by a hidden trauma she can’t remember and a powerful evil even the spirits of night cannot name. To help her, Jenny must delve deeper into the dark world than any human has in hundreds of years and face danger that will change her life forever... Pb $17.95 335pp

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DARWIN’S CHILDREN
Darwin #2. Stella Nova is one of the ‘virus children’, a generation of genetically enhanced babies born a dozen years before to mothers infected with the SHEVA virus. In fact, the children represent the next great evolutionary leap and a new species of human, Homo sapiens novus, but this is officially denied. They’re gentle, charming and persuasive, possessed of remarkable traits. Nevertheless, they are locked up in special schools, quarantined from society, feared and reviled. ‘Survival of the fittest’ takes on a new dimension as the children reach puberty. Stella is one of the first to find herself attracted to another ‘virus child’, but the authorities are watching and waiting for the opportunity to strike the next blow in their escalating war to preserve humankind at any cost. Pb $18.95 473pp

PAUL BRANDON
THE WILD REEL
Natasha lives in a small sea village in the far west of Ireland, the perfect place for her work, or at least it was until the dreams came. Starting as merely vague images, the dreams begin to grow. Then they begin to affect her art... and intrude into her real life. When an invitation arrives to attend a wedding in Australia, Natasha seizes the chance to have a vacation, but there is someone else who can also hear her secret music - someone unearthly and dangerous. Someone who covets her. Finvarra, the Faerie King of Connaught. He has decided that she will be his next bride. Tp $32.95 332pp

Steve Cash
THE MEQ
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Eoin Colfer
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Artemis Fowl #3. Artemis requires the help of the fairy folk once more as he is tricked into handing over the C Cube super computer he has constructed from stolen fairy technology, to Chicago businessman Jon Spiro. This time Butler’s life is at stake so Artemis, Butler’s sister Juliet and Holly Short travel to Chicago to steal back the Cube and ensure that Spiro is put out of business - permanently! Pb $14.95 329pp

Paul Collins
DRAGONFANG
Jelindel #2. The sequel to Dragonlinks (Pb $19.95). Five pentagram gems - two people want them, but only one can have them. Pb $22.95 342pp

Adam Connell
COUNTERFEIT KINGS
Once a bodyguard for the king of the Io colony, Horrocks now toils in one of the brimstone moon’s orbiting Furnaces - a network of processing stations that harvest power from Io’s continuous volcanic eruptions. His new job is rough and unglamorous, but with his wife expecting their first child, he wants nothing more to do with the kill-or-be-killed life of a king’s bodyguard. His hopes for a stable future are shattered when an assassination attempt kills one of the King’s sons and forces the King himself into hiding. Civil war looms as many factions compete for control of the leaderless colony. Called back into service by the Queen, Horrocks agrees to spearhead the King’s rescue. Now he must track down the Ringers, a new breed of bodyguard surgically altered to mimic the King, who all vanished moments after the attempted assassination. To make matters worse, his wife insists on joining the hunt, plunging herself and their unborn child into the kind of do-or-die danger he had worked so hard to keep them from. Tp $32.95 382pp
Brandon has created an urban fantasy tale set between Ireland and Brisbane, Australia, that has some of the charm of a De Lint novel, but with a bit more humour, local flavour and loads of pop culture references.

Natasha (Natty) is a 20-something (Irish) artist. She has received more than a little fame for her stunning paintings, mostly Irish land and seascapes. While she paints, she hears music - from wild Irish jigs to instrumentals. What she doesn't realise is that this is more than a little magic. It is this magic that attracts the attention of Finvarra - the Faerie King of Connaught. Finvarra is in need of a bride by All Hallows Eve - and he's decided that Natty is the woman for him.

Gone are the days when he can just take her to be his bride - she must agree to it, so he starts wooing her by invading her dreams - which start out erotic, but end up somewhere else entirely. It begins to affect not only her sleep, but her work as well. When Natty receives an invitation to attend the wedding of an old friend who is now living in Brisbane, she jumps at the chance, thinking the change of scenery will clear her mind and get rid of the dreams that have started to take on sinister overtones.

Finvarra has dabbled in magic to do an exchange with the Brisbane fairy court (the “Colonials”). Apart from a couple of fairies who will stay in their respective homes to act as guides, the two courts swap. Little does he know that Tu’lloch (the last of the great enchantresses of the Old World) has literally hitched a ride to Australia on the tails of his magic. If Finvarra doesn’t find a bride in time - she will take control of their home.

Much of the humour of the story comes from the more traditional, rural Irish Court trying to deal with being in the Brisbane CBD (their reaction to cricket made me laugh).

In Brisbane, Natty stays with her best friend Gwendolyn during the weeks leading up to Sarah’s wedding. It is through Gwendolyn that she meets and falls for Ally, a musician, folklore expert and all-round nice guy (if I do say so myself). Natty’s dreams continue to worsen and she eventually confides in Ally, who then plays in pivotal role in helping her.

As mentioned, this has similarities to a De Lint or Emma Bull novel (that’s why I picked it up). It doesn’t, however, focus on the coexistence of our world with that of the magical - they just do.

Brandon’s style is also grittier, with a bit of a naughty sense of humour at times. There are many different types of magical creatures in the story - from boggles to trolls, fairies to phoukas - and not all of them are nice.

Brian Froud would have been the perfect illustrator for all these peripheral characters. Music, art, magic, a little romance and humour - this was a great story. I did feel one character did something a little convenient at the end (which annoyed me for a few minutes), but it didn’t take me long to get over it. Lots of fun. - Stephanie
PAUL DI FILIPPO

*The Godless of the Ice Realm*  
The Lord of the Isles #5. As Garric and his retinue reach the island city of Carcosa, the wizard Tenochritis perceives a powerful supernatural assault directed against them. Ilna and Chalucus are sent to investigate a magical threat to shipping in the north. Cashel is translated into another world by evil magic and Sharina to another. Pb $17.95 522pp

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DAVID & LEIGH EDDINGS

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The Hythrún Chronicles #1. Marla Wolflade, princess of Hythria, is determined to restore her family to its former power and glory. But Hythria is a fiercely patriarchal society and Marla knows power may only be gained through a man. Narrowly avoiding an arranged marriage to the King of Fardohnya, she instead marries Laran, Warlord of Dregian Province and gives birth to a son. Damin is named heir to the throne of Hythria by his uncle, the dissolute High Prince. Settling in to life as the wife of a warlord, Marla believes the future of her family is secured, but there are forces in the land that do not want the house of Wolflade restored. Can Marla protect her son and her family and stop the conspirators? Pb $19.95 626pp

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JANE JENSEN

DANTE'S EQUATION

Rabbi Aharon Hanbalman’s expertise with Torah code - rearranging words and letters in the Bible - has uncovered a man’s name. Who is Yosef Kobinksi and why did God hide his name in His sacred text? To find the answers, Aharon begins an investigation and discovers that Kobinksi, a Polish rabbi, was not only a mystic, but also a brilliant physicist. In Seattle, Jill Talcott’s work with energy wave equations is being tracked by Yosef Kobinksi, now deceased, who claimed to discover an actual physical law of good and evil. But when Jill’s lab explodes, she is forced to flee for her life, realising her research is far more dangerous than she ever had imagined. Now Jill, her co-researcher and a writer meet Hanbalman and trace Kobinksi to Auschwitz. They discover that Kobinksi, drawing on his own alchemy of science and the Kabbalah, made himself vanish from the death camp. With intelligence agents hot on their trail, the investigators must follow Kobinksi – to wherever he may have gone... Hb $29.95 611pp
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The Dead Rivers trilogy #1. Lauria is the favourite aide to Kyros, a powerful military officer. On his authority, she is messenger, observer and spy. But now, she is entrusted with a mission more dangerous than any that have come before. After years of relative peace, word has come to Kyros's compound that the bandit tribe known as the Alishi is planning an offensive. It is up to Lauria to infiltrate the Alishi by posing as an escaped slave - a charge that requires she serve in the household of a neighbouring officer. From there, she will stage an escape and continue on in her guise as a runaway. But posing as a slave may prove the least of her troubles. For even if she does escape and the Alishi do accept her, how can she convince them she's a slave, not a spy? Pb $15.95 358pp

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**Other Reviews and Articles**

- **Summons of the Sword**
- **The Pixel Eye**
- **The Dead Rivers**
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DIANA PAXSON

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Christine Starlight has never forgotten the best friend of her childhood, the strange, red-haired Mayfridh. Abducted by the barren king and queen of a Germanic faeryland, Mayfridh has since grown up and succeeded to the throne of the Autumn Castle, lonely and reliant on the counsel of the wolf Eisengrimm. And then, for a short time, the human and faery worlds are in conjunction. When Mayfridh decides to come looking for her childhood friend, she finds Christine’s partner, Jude, first and falls instantly and madly in love with him. With the help of the witch Hexebart, she learns Jude’s dread secret. And Christine, the victim of a childhood accident and a lifetime of chronic pain, becomes a visitor to Mayfridh’s faery world - with unpredictable consequences. Pb $22.95 485pp

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**Grasp the Stars**

Pursued by members of every species, Meris, the most ancient and legendary of the Jadamiin, is a stowaway on a ship bound for the Port Earth space station. But the pursuit isn't over and suddenly Port Earth is embroiled in high level intrigue that could annihilate the entire station. Pb $15.95 402pp

Gene Wolfe
**Innocents Abroad**

This collection gathers 22 of the author's fantasy and horror stories from the last decade. Includes *The Tree is My Hat*, adventure and horror in the South Seas, *The Night Chough*, a Long Sun story, *The Walking Sticks*, a darkly humorous tale of a supernatural inheritance and Houston, 1943, lurid adventures in a dream that has no end. Hb $50.00 304pp

Chris Wooding
**The Skin of Lament**

The Braided Path #2. The grip of the Weavers on Saramyr’s rulers has grown ever tighter and all the while, the blight that they have brought to the land grips ever more harshly. This cannot last and for Saromyr succumbs to the twisting of the Weave and the unknowable ambitions of the secretive Weavers. Hb $49.95 405pp

Sarah Zettel
**Camelot’s Shadow**

Aged 19, the beautiful Lady Rhian is clearly of marriageable age, but her father seems reluctant to give his blessing to any of her suitors. When she discovers the true reason for this - that in return for her mother’s life he promised her to a sorcerer - she runs away to join a convent. The sorcerer, Euberacon, is determined to exact his payment and waylays Rhian on the road, but she is rescued by the valiant Sir Gawain, a knight of King Arthur’s Round Table, who gallantly offers to escort Rhian to Camelot. Gawain has grave tidings to bring to Arthur - the Saxons are growing restless and the threat of war looms. He has taken a great risk in stopping to help Rhian, but when a band of Saxons attacks them, Rhian proves that her skills include more than tapestry and gossip - and Gawain will be captivated as much by her bravery as by her beauty. Tp $29.95 436pp

Steve Alten
**MEG: Primal Waters**

18 years have passed since Angel, the Megalodon shark broke free of the Tanaka Lagoon and returned to the Mariana Trench. Meanwhile, Jonas Taylor, adventurer, has become Jonas Taylor, middle-aged father of two, overwhelmed by mountains of bills and the daily strife of raising a family. But life is about to change. A Hollywood television producer wants Jonas to join his new survival series - Daredevils. For the next six weeks, two teams of crazy daredevils on a South Pacific Ocean voyage onboard a replica of a Spanish Galleon will try to outperform one another in front of the cameras. Jonas needs the money and the job seems easy enough. But behind the scenes, someone else is pulling the strings. And before it’s over, Jonas, Terry and Mac will again come face to face with the most dangerous creatures ever to stalk the Earth. Hb $54.00 361pp

Greg Bear
**Dead Lines**

Peter Russell lost a daughter to a serial killer. His marriage was the next casualty. Now he gets by as Mr Fixit for a film millionaire with a young wife on a big Hollywood estate. The millionaire invests in a new kind of phone, the Trans. The problem with the Trans is that not only can you talk to your friends on it, you can also talk to the dead - though that wasn’t part of the design spec. The Trans accesses forbidden channels. It has disrupted the exit routines of the recently dead. At first, Russell is only haunted by his dead daughter. Now there are phantoms everywhere. Many are ghosts of the living, people with nothing inside them. A cascade of transgression and murder is unleashed as sales of the Trans take off. Harried near to death himself by his murdered child, Russell must find out who killed her and find a way to put an end to it, if it kills him. Tp $29.95 295pp

Nancy Collins
**In the Blood**

A Sonya Blue novel. Vampire and vampire-hunter Sonja Blue is back, taking out her rage on the demonic blood-drinkers who hide among the living. But her hunt is attracting attention - Morgan, the monster who remade her 20 years ago, wants to bring his beloved daughter to heel and Sonja has found her existence entwined with that of a mortal man. Part of her wants to love him, but when dealing with monsters such as she, where does love end and slavery begin? Tp $29.95 200pp

PN Elrod
**Death and the Maiden**

Jonathan Barrett #2. Threatened by soldiers on the outside and turmoil on the inside, Jonathan Barrett fights to protect his family and the peace of the Barrett estate. Nearly consumed by his dark desires, Jonathan struggles to control his supernatural powers and his thirst for blood while in the company of his immediate family and a scheming young cousin. Tp $32.95 274pp

Christine Feehan
**Dark Destiny**

Carpathian #11. Her childhood had been a nightmare of violence and pain until she heard his voice calling out to her - golden and seductive, the voice of an angel. He has shown her how to survive, taught her to use her unique gifts and trained her in the ancient art of hunting the vampire. Yet he cannot bend her to his will. He cannot summon her to him, no matter how great his power. As she battles centuries-old evil in a glittering labyrinth of caverns and crystals, he whispers in her mind, forging an unbreakable bond of trust and need. Only with him can she find the courage to embrace the seductive promise of her destiny. Pb $17.95 383pp

Laurell K. Hamilton et al.
**Crawlings**

Four favourite authors present their favourite characters in all-new tales of bloodlust, appetites that must be sated again and again and the passion that feeds them. Pb $17.95 358pp

Peter Jinks
**Intuition**

Magnus is haunted. He is trying to make a life for himself in Edinburgh, but memories of Claire, his sister, who died mysteriously when working in Africa, follow him everywhere. Or are they memories? Why is Magnus adopting Claire’s interest in fashion, her romantic grudges and her links to a secretive boarding school? Is Claire herself beginning to take over his life, and his mind? As Magnus’s attempts to free himself from his sister’s influence grow more desperate, the boundaries between himself and his sister begin to blur. But is he imagining things, or is it really Claire? And how will he escape her? Pb $20.95 282pp

WIN A
**THE CHRONICLES OF RIDICK**

MOVIE POSTER...

see back page for entry details
**ALIEN VS PREDATOR**

A mysterious structure has been detected via satellite far below the ice at the bottom of the world. Assembled by a billionaire industrialist, a crack team of scientists, drillers, archaeologists and adventurers has travelled to the Antarctic wastes to explore what is believed to be a fully preserved pyramid. But once this expedition crew enters, there will be no way out - and no hope left for humankind. Because deep within the labyrinth, a terror is stirring - an alien monstrousity more vicious, cunning, evil and unstoppable than any species in the universe, except one - the otherworldly Predators, who brought the nightmare to Earth to begin with and who are now returning... Pb $15.95 276pp

**TALL, DARK & HUNGRY**

It bites - New York hotels cost an arm and a leg and Terri has flown from England to help plan her cousin's wedding. The new in-laws offered lodging, but they're a weird bunch - and it isn't just that they're Canadian! There is the sometimes-chipper, sometimes-silent Lucern and the wacky stage-actor Vincent. And then there is Bastien. Just looking into his eyes, Terri has to admit she's falling for someone even taller, darker and hungrier. She's feeling a mite peckish herself and if she stays with him, those bloodsucking hotel owners won't get her! Pb $15.95 372pp

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**THE LAKE**

Leigh is young, rebellious and beautiful - and she yearns for a summer of excitement by the lake. Maybe she'll find it in the arms of the handsome boy who rows her out to the abandoned beach house. Or maybe she'll stumble into a legacy of terror which will shatter her life... 18 years later, Deana has no knowledge of her mother's troubled past and not that much interest. She just wants to make out somewhere cool with her boyfriend. If only it were that simple. But that summer at the lake casts a long shadow. And when the horrors of the past meet the perils of the present, both mother and daughter are plunged into a nightmare of blood and terror from which there is no escape. Hb $59.95 346pp

**RICHARD LAYMON**

**THE ARCANUM**

It is 1919 and the Great War has come to a close, but in the shadows of the world's major cities, the killing has just begun. In this perilous time, as the division between order and chaos grows slim, a select group of visionaries have taken it upon themselves to ensure the safety of humanity. They are known as the Arcanum. In London's Hyde Park, Konstantin Duvall, the Arcanum's founder, has been killed in a suspicious accident. Dismayed, the group's longest-lived member, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, determines to avenge Duvall's death and uncover the secret left in his wake. For the dead man possessed the world's most powerful - now missing - artefact: the Book of Enoch, the chronicle of God's mistakes, within whose pages lie the seeds for the end of everything. Hb $48.00 325pp

**MATTHEW ROSSI**

**THINGS THAT NEVER WERE**

From Sodom and Gomorrah to the Siberian taiga, from Roanoake Island to lost cities in Africa populated by ape-men in Elizabethan garb, this is a travelogue of mental expeditions to weird and imaginary places. In this book, demons caper, dinosaurs are dismayed and bewildered, vampires walk in our hospitals and gods die at the hands of men. Tp $39.95 268pp

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**KOJI SUZUKI**

**RING**

Asakawa, a journalist and chronic workaholic, doesn't take much notice when his 17-year-old niece dies suddenly - until a chance conversation reveals that another healthy teenager died at exactly the same time, in similar circumstances. Sensing a story, he begins to investigate and soon discovers that this strange simultaneous sudden-death syndrome also affected another two teenagers. As he investigates further he finds himself in a race against time - he has only seven days to find the cause of the teenagers' deaths before it finds him. The hunt puts him on the trail of an apocalyptic power that will force him to choose between saving his family and saving civilisation. Tp $29.95 284pp

**TAMARA THORNE**

**THUNDER ROAD**

The desert town of Madelyn boasts all sorts of attractions. Join the audience at the El Dorado Ranch for a Wild West Show. Take a ride through the haunted mine at Madland Amusement Park. Find religion with the Prophet's Apostles - and between order and chaos grows slim, a select group of visionaries have taken it upon themselves to ensure the safety of humanity. They are known as the Arcanum. In London's Hyde Park, Konstantin Duvall, the Arcanum's founder, has been killed in a suspicious accident. Dismayed, the group's longest-lived member, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, determines to avenge Duvall's death and uncover the secret left in his wake. For the dead man possessed the world's most powerful - now missing - artefact: the Book of Enoch, the chronicle of God's mistakes, within whose pages lie the seeds for the end of everything. Hb $48.00 325pp

**NICK MAMATAS**

**MOVE UNDER GROUND**

The time is the early 1960s: Jack Kerouac is hiding in his shack at Big Sur, drinking off his latest nervous breakdown, when he stumbles upon the rise of R’lyeh right off the shore of the Pacific. Jack must get back on the road to find his old friend, the holy fool Neal Cassady, whose cryptic letters suggest that he might be the key to saving the world from Cthulhu’s immense power. The duo, together with pistol-packin’ nerd William S Burroughs, fight, drink and love their way across the country to face down the cult that has spread its darkness to the heart of the American Dream. But is Neal along for the ride to save the world, or to help destroy it, just so that he’ll have an ending for his book? Hb $54.00 185pp

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Paul Ruditis
Despite wacky weather threatening the San Francisco area, life for the Charmed Ones is as normal as ever. Normal, that is, until 11-year-old Tyler Michaels shows up at their door. Tyler, a Firestarter, is on the run from demons. Though the Halliwell sisters have dealt with Tyler before, a glance at the Book of Shadows turns up new, unexpected information about the boy... and the forces for which his magic can be harnessed. Pb $13.95 234pp

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John Hopkins
The author chronicles the story behind the making of the two movies. It features a trove of behind-the-scenes information and is jam-packed with illustrations - concept art, storyboards, character models, set designs and stills. The film-makers describe the process of inventing and animating an imaginary world and recount the trials and tribulations of a major production, the clash of egos and the scenes that didn't work. Hb $59.95 176pp

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Kevin Anderson
Already being hailed as the most innovative step forward in film-making since The Matrix, this movie employs groundbreaking graphics and special effects, taking moviegoers backward in time via futuristic, state-of-the-art CGI. Starring Jude Law, Gwyneth Paltrow and Angelina Jolie. Pb $15.95 246pp

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Elizabeth Hand
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WHATA WE'VE BEEN READING

Northern Lights by Philip Pullman (Pb $18.95) is the first book in the bestselling His Dark Materials series and tells the story of Lyra, living at Oxford with her daemon Pantalaimon. While spying on a meeting of the Scholars, she discovers that her Uncle Asriel has been to the frozen north and tells mysterious tales of Dust and a city in the sky. Then children start disappearing, Lyra acquires the Alethiometer and she is on the run from her enemies, heading towards the ice...

This book deserves all the praise it has received (it won both the Carnegie Medal and the Guardian Award). The writing is superb, the story amazing. At the risk of being hunted down, I think this is ten times better than Harry Potter. - David

Yarrow by Charles De Lint (Tp $29.00). Cat Midhir is a fantasy writer whose dreams are real and provide inspiration for her novels. But now, for the first time, the dreams have stopped, Cat realises that whatever is stopping the dreams is also hunting her.

This is one of De Lint's earlier novels and, although it's not as good as his recent work, it still has his trademark style and charm, making it hard to put down. Urban fantasy from one of the best. - David

Song of Susannah by Stephen King (Hb $65.00).

The 6th instalment of The Dark Tower series has been released and I couldn’t get my hands on it fast enough. I devoured this pretty quickly and have to say that King has delivered another amazing episode in the story of Roland. Full of tension, action (a very cool siege scene) and humour, this novel flowed more smoothly and quickly than The Wolves of the Calla (Hb $65.00), although it wasn’t as big. I was expecting more to happen, considering there is only one more book to go. The Dark Tower (Hb $65.00) is due in September and with the cliff-hanger ending of Song of Susannah, it can’t come soon enough. - Sian

The Crooked Letter (Books of the Cataclysm #1) by Sean Williams (Pb $18.95) is a prequel to The Books of the Change trilogy and sets out to explain how the world of the previous trilogy came to be. As a huge fan of the previous trilogy, I was really looking forward to this book, but I was disappointed. While the ideas are great and it does answer some questions, I found it rather confusing and lacking the same vibrancy of the earlier series. The best part of the book was the last quarter. Nevertheless, fans of the previous trilogy should enjoy this book and the tale of how magic returns to the world. - Mark

Passion (The Ashuak Chronicles #2) by Tony Shillitoe (Pb $19.95), picks up where Blood (Pb $17.95) left off. The author throws the reader back into the crumbling world of the Ashuak Empire. The story continues to chart a course through blood thirsty imperial politics, as Sukaal Vekesk faces hidden enemies to his moderate reign as military governor of Sekesu.

Without a doubt, this second novel in the trilogy is just as exciting as the first. Shanu, the legendary Jaru gladiator, though enslaved, continues her plans to avenge her brother’s murder. Alwyn, the teacher, learns more of the Dragon Priest’s magic than the Dragon Priests know themselves. And all the while, the wheels set in motion by the Great Dragons to find the Genesis Stone and their ancient enemies the Alfwyn, continue to turn towards a brutal climax. I love this series! - Mark

COMPETITION

To win a The Chronicles of Riddick poster, name the actor who portrays Riddick in the movie. Mail, fax or email (competition@galaxybooks.com.au) your answer along with your name and address. Competition closes 19 August 2004. Entry open to Galaxy Cardholders only.

COMPETITION WINNERS

Leane Barnes has won a copy of Stephen King’s The Gunslinger. Congratulations!
The Locus Science Fiction Foundation has announced the top ten finalists in each category of the 2019 Locus Awards. Tickets are available now. Winners will be announced during the Locus Awards Weekend in Seattle WA, June 28-30, 2019; Connie Willis will MC the awards ceremony.