

# THE MENTOR #62A

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## The Reviews

**BRIGHTNESS FALLS FROM THE AIR** by James Tiptree Jr. Sphere pb, dist in Aust by William Collins. (C) 1985. 333pp. A\$9.95. On sale now.

James Tiptree Jr has written some well-crafted sf novels. In **DARKNESS FALLS FROM THE AIR**, Tiptree tells of how on a remote planet which happens to be in the path of a nova front, violent events take place. The natives of the planet had previous been tortured to obtain their 'scent'. This practice was now banned. However, because of the fortunes that could be made various criminal elements still attempted to obtain it.

An unscheduled passenger drop and the time distortion of the nova front sets a creative background for this novel. The author is almost new-wavish in his style.

**HELLSTROM'S HIVE** by Frank Herbert. Bantam Spectra pb, dist in Aust by Corgi & Bantam. (C) 1974 reprinted 1986. 312pp. A\$6.95. On sale now.

An oldie by Frank Herbert, dating from 1973, still shows the power of his writing. **HELLSTROM'S HIVE** is an organisation set on a farm in the American backwoods. Strange things happen which attracts the attention of one of the cloak and dagger US outfits which attempts to infiltrate the organisation.

What they found caused not only repercussions through its chain of command, but also resulted in the loss of some of its best agents. As with all Herbert's novels, there is a strong sociological background. If you haven't read it, get it!

**THE CELESTIAL STEAM LOCOMOTIVE** by Michael Coney. Orbit pb, dist in Aust by Hodder & Stoughton. (C) 1983, reprint 1986. 302pp. A\$9.95. On sale now.

**THE CELESTIAL STEAM LOCOMOTIVE** is volume one in a new fantasy series called "The Song of Earth". The novel itself is fairly convoluted and some younger readers may have trouble following the plot.

Set in the far future (the year 143,624 Cyclic) when the only humans on Earth are either living in squalor or in rigid cities of domes, which are actually almost mausoleum in that the majority of people in them are in a physically dreaming state, Coney has created an interesting society and carries through his apparent point clearly.

**ARTIFACT** by Gregory Benford. Bantam pb, dist in Aust by Bantam & Corgi. (C) 1986. 533pp. Aus\$7.95.

Greg Bedford has been writing some well-received sf in the last few years. **ARTIFACT** follows this path. Blurbed as "the science thriller of the year", **ARTIFACT** is set in the present day. At an archaeological dig in Greece, an American working on the site discovers in a burial chamber a mysterious cube which did not fit any known classification. The political situation in Greece became worse and the Americans smuggled the cube to the US where they could spend more time checking it out.

It is then that the story leaps into the high-tech area of the twentieth century when it is found that the cube apparently does not follow all the known scientific laws. By the end of the plot, all is revealed. It stretches the Sense of Wonder, though it follows the rules.

**VOYAGE TO THE CITY OF THE DEAD** by Alan Dean Foster. NEL pb, dist in Aust by Hodder & Stoughton. (C) 1986. 243pp. A\$8.95.

Another Alan Dean Foster Tranx and Humanx novel. This is an sf adventure of how Lyra and Etienne Redowl, who had asked for permission to explore the planet Horseye and up to that time had been delayed. The natives of the planet, the Mai, have a Mystery which they were reluctant to explore. This was the City of the Dead which was in the far frozen north. It was guarded by various monsters, but was reputed to contain a vast treasure. The Mai, when they heard of the request for exploration by the two Humanx were delighted - it was an opportunity to explore the city while remaining safe themselves.

Foster writes some humorous adventure stories which are just the thing to while away a couple of hours.

**FLIGHT OF HONOUR** by Richard S. McEnroe. Orbit pb, dist inn Aust by Hodder & Stoughton. (C) 1986. 149pp. A\$7.95.

This book is shorter than the average romance novel and I really think that the price is outrageous. Even if you argue about content (romance v's sf), if you must, it's all escapist fiction and you get your pulp writers that churn out books at the rate of knots and those that agonise over every phrase and put more blood and sweat than words in both forms of writing, so how can you sell books of the same length and such horribly different prices? I am not making a comment on Mr. McEnroe's book --- just the fact that there seems no rationale for pricing books at all these days. Do they put all the prices on little balls (no comments on that please!) and draw them out of a hat? And please don't make lofty remarks about the quality of sf --- I've read some trash, as well as the sublime! --- Sue

The book? It's the second in the Future Times series, and contains all of McEnroe's complicated plot and hard-hitting characters that one usually finds in his novels.

**ORPHANS OF THE SKY** by Robert Heinlein. Panther pb, dist in Aust by William Collins. (C) 1941, reprinted 1987. 143pp. A\$6.95.

This one I won't quibble about the price this time. This book has always been one of my favourites and it's great to see classic pieces of good sf being made available to newer generations of fans. Too often a book is overlooked because it is old. What is it about the early Heinlein novels that doesn't date them, whereas his later books have heavy overtones of current mores and a cynicism that has soured the flavour of his writing. This book centres on a classic theme --- the generation ship. Even Trek did this theme in "For The World Is Hollow & I Have Touched The Sky", but it is told as a revelation and an adventure - where the mission has been lost and all that exists is the culture that must be upheld. \*Recommended\* - Sue

**BEST SF OF THE YEAR #15** edited by Terry Carr. Gollancz pb, dist by Gollancz (C) 1986. 365pp. \$12.95. On sale now.

The latest in Terry Carr's series containing the 1986 selections, drawn from SF magazines. There is an introduction by Carr followed by the stories **SAILING TO BYZANTIUM** by Robert Silverberg; **FLYING SAUCER ROCK AND ROLL** by Howard Waldrop; **BLUFF** by Harry Turtledove; **A SPANISH LESSON** by Lucius Shepard; **SNOW** by John Crowley; **SHANIDAR** by David Zindell; **ALL MY DARLING DAUGHTERS** by Connie Willis; **OF SPACE/TIME AND THE RIVER** by Gregory Benford; **A GIFT FROM THE GRAYLANDERS** by Michael Bishop; **PRAXIS** by Karen Joy Fowler; **THE PEOPLE ON THE PRECIPICE** by Ian Watson; **THE ONLY NEAT THING TO DO** by James Tiptree Jr.

All in all, if you haven't been getting the magazines, this is the volume to buy if you're into short stories.

**A FALL OF MOONDUST** by Arthur C. Clarke. Gollancz Classic SF pb. dist in Aust by Century Hutchinson. (C) 1961, reprinted 1987. 224 pp. A\$7.95. On sale now.

Arthur C. Clarke's classic 1961 book on survival on the moon. The whole 224 pages sets up the situation when a moon buggy becomes engulfed in a sea of moon dust and disappears into it. The rest of the novel tells of the crew's problems staying alive and the attempts of the administration to find them.

Though it is over 25 years old, the book is still one of the best hard sf novels around. Again, if you haven't got it, this is a good opportunity to get a well-presented volume.

**A WREATH OF STARS** by Bob Shaw. Gollancz Classic SF pb, dist by Century Hutchinson. (C) 1976 reprinted 1987. 189pp. A\$7.95. On sale now.

Another in the Gollancz classic SF collection. This novel isn't so old, being first published in 1976. It is set in the African state of Barandi where lived an ex-patriot Britisher by the name of Gilbert Snook. Life was quiet for him until a planet was discovered in a vibratory state which occupied the same space as Earth.

When the break-through came, Snook found himself in the thick of the trouble. Shaw's novels are usually partly speculative and partly day-to-day life, with marriage break-ups and emotional problems.

**THE PEACE MACHINE** by Bob Shaw. Grafton pb, dist in Aust by William Collins. (C) 1971, reprinted 1986. 187pp. A\$7.95. On sale now.

This second Shaw novel is another example of my above comment. The speculation concerns the creation by a mathematician of a neutron resonator, the ultimate in weaponry disarmament in that it could detonate all nuclear devices at once. Obviously, then it was a threat to everyone. For some reason Hutchman, the mathematician in question thought, it was quite simple to blackmail the world into disarming. This is probably because his own life is portrayed as in simplistic, almost rustic occupations. He found out, of course, that the world would not bow under and now he was the number one target for the concerted efforts of everyone's secret security forces...

Great stuff!

**THE CHRONICLES OF MAVIN MANYSHAPED** by Sheri S. Tepper. Corgi pb, dist in Aust by Bantam & Corgi. 463pp. A\$12.95. On sale now.

**THE CHRONICLES OF MAVIN MANYSHAPED** is the second book set in the land of the True Game. There is no connection with the characters of the first novel - this one is a completely new creation.

The main characters this time are shapeshifters, one of which is Mavin who grows up among adults in a keep. When her elder sister escapes the keep, Mavin

decides to leave also with her younger brother in search of her sister. She goes to her relatives keep first and leaves her younger brother there. Her journey to find her sister takes many years but eventually she finds her, but in circumstances which prevent recognition.

The place Mavin finds her sister is an ecology all its own - it is a tremendous crevice in the earth in a forest. The trees growing in the crevice are enormous and cities are built on their roots which interlace the space. I found this one of the more interesting novels I read in the last two months.

**ARTIFICIAL THINGS** by Karen Joy Fowler. Bantam pb, dist in Aust by Bantam & Corgi. 218pp. A\$5.95. On sale now.

It's a pity that none of the stories in this volume give you the sense of being finished. Interesting situations, and characters are presented but no situation, or plot is resolved. The writing is good, but Ms Fowler has succumbed to the 'arty' - leave-them-thinking - school of writing instead of learning craftsmanship; how to write a balanced, satisfying story. So many of these stories had the seeds of what could have been really good novellas or even novels. Instead, the whole collection leaves you with a growing degree of dissatisfaction with the book and with each story. Near the end, I had to force myself to start the next story knowing the last was not finished. I felt I wasted my time, which is a pity when the talent is there, but not fully utilised. -- Sue

**ANTHONOLGY** by Piers Anthony. Grafton pb, dist in Aust by William Collins. 432pp. A\$8.95. On sale now.

Piers Anthony has been churning out fiction solidly for the last 20 years. This is a collection of some of the short stories he likes.

They are: POSSIBLE TO RUE; THE TOASTER; QUINQUEPEDALIAN; ENCOUNTER; PHOG; THE GHOST GALAXIES; WITH THE CLOUD; THE LIFE OF THE STRIPE; IN THE JAWS OF DANGER; BEAK BY BEAK; GETTING THROUGH UNIVERSITY; IN THE BARN; UP SCHIST CRICK; THE WHOLE TRUTH; THE BRIDGE; ON THE USES OF TORTURE; SMALL MOUTH, BAD TASTE; WOOD YOU?; HARD SELL; HURDLE and GONE TO THE DOGS. Anthony has his own style though some of these stories show he can divert into other styles.

A good sample of his writings.

**STORM SHIELD** by Kenneth C. Flint. Bantam Spectra pb, dist in Aust by Bantam & Corgi. (C) 1986. 310pp. A\$5.95. On sale now.

Another of the stories, full of action, based on the Celtic legends and Lugh, the champion of Eire, which was started in RIDERS OF THE SIDHE. These novels follow the adventures of Lugh and his development from a young lad in RIDERS, to hero in this one. They incorporate the celtic legends and myths as well worth following for buffs of this type of fiction (like me!). - Sue

**SWORDS AGAINST WIZARDRY** by Fritz Leiber. Grafton pb, dist in Aust by William Collins. (C) 1979 reprint 1986. 189pp. A\$7.95. On sale now.

Another of the Fafhrd and the Grey Mouser series (#4 in fact) which are currently being reprinted by Grafton. SWORDS AGAINST WIZARDRY consists of four parts: IN THE WITCHES TENT; STARDOCK; THE TWO BEST THIEVES IN LANKHMAR, and THE LORDS OF QUARMALL. The striking story in this volume is, of course, that illustrated by the cover, STARDOCK, which is a rousing adventure story that tells a tale of the two heros and their attempt to scale the forbidding mount.

Of course Susan considers THE TWO BEST THIEVES IN LANKHMAR to be the better of the bunch because of the interaction between our 'heros'. Leiber's swords novels are justifiably considered some of the best fantasy novels available.



**OPTIONS** by Robert Sheckley. Grafton pb, dist in Aust by William Collins. (C) 1975 reprint 1986. 156pp. A\$7.95. On sale now.

I don't think Sheckley has written any sf for the last ten years yet he is widely known as the purveyor of some of the best humorous sf in existence. As everyone knows good humorous sf is as scarce as Gorgon's teeth.

**OPTIONS** is a fairly short novel but it will keep you smiling from the first page. The plot is fairly simple, though tortuous as Tom Mishkin together with his faithful robot sidekick (neither of whom have a clue as to what is going) on stagger through their adventures.

Buy it.

**THE STARS IN SHROUD** by Gregory Benford. Sphere pb, dist in Aust by William Collins. (C) 1979, reprinted 1986. 273pp. A\$5.95. On sale now.

This is a Benford from an earlier era. Western civilisation is long gone and Terra is governed by a civilisation centred in Japan. The small remnants of a once-mighty American culture are spread through the Pacific Islands. Most of the mass of mankind live in stacks of humanity packed into hive-like cities.

Humankind had come into conflict with an alien race called Quarn who attack without warning and do not allow themselves to be captured. One ship's captain with a background in ancient US culture manages to gain some idea of the background to these aliens and by the end of the novel sees the destruction of both cultures. A book well worth reading.

**SOLDIER OF THE MIST** by Gene Wolfe. Gollancz h/c, dist in Aust by Century Hutchinson. (C) 1986. 335pp. A\$26.95. On sale now.

Gene Wolfe is spreading his attention wider as do many sf authors and usually, when they attempt historical novels, lean to the fantasy aspect.

**SOLDIER OF THE MIST** is set in ancient Greece and is told in the form of a diary by a native of that time. The soldier who tells the tale has a head wound and the only way he can work out what happened to him more than twelve hours before is to write it down. This narrative consists of most of the novel. **SOLDIER OF THE MIST** shows how a man of that time thinks - the appearance of gods and goddesses who manipulate the humans is a forgone conclusion. I think, to really enjoy this novel, you must prepare to be a serious reader.

**HELLICONIA WINTER** by Brian Aldiss. Grafton pb, dist in Aust by William Collins. (C) 1985. 392pp. A\$8.95. On sale now.

The last in the Helliconia Trilogy, **HELLICONIA WINTER** follows the continuing centuries long orbit of the planet Helliconia. The orbiting Earth's station which is sending images of the inhabitants goings-on is steadily degenerating while the natives of Earth are evolving further.

The sociology and ecology of Helliconia are shown in full circle and this is a creation to be admired. However, I thought the novel left too many things unresolved and would have been better to have events on the planet come to a more clear conclusion. Instead, the novel describes an event in that planet's history.

**THE FALL OF THE FAMILIES** by Phillip Mann, Gollancz h/c, dist in Aust by Century Hutchinson. (C) 1987. 298pp. A\$29.95. On sale now.

I thought this was going to be part of a trilogy, but when I got to the end of this novel, all the threads were tied up, knotted and the ends trimmed. I can't see it going any further.

It is Book two of the story of Pawl Paxwax and it is in this novel that the reader finds why Pawl is known as the Gardener. The aliens banded together in an attempt to retain some of their former glory are further along the path in their

attempt to get Pawl to destroy the Families who govern human civilisation. One of the prime factors of Pawl's and the Families' downfall is the manipulation of Pawl by a small alien who he considers a friend.

\*Highly recommended\*

**PAST TIMES** by Poul Anderson. Sphere pb, dist in Aust by William Collins. (C) 1950-1984. 211pp. A\$8.95. On sale now.

The stories in this collection span nearly 35 years which shows the length of time Anderson has been writing. The stories which must have taken some finding as they appear not to have been anthologised before, are as follows - WILDCAT; WELCOME; THE NEST; EUTOPIA; THE LITTLE MONSTER; THE LIGHT; THE DISCOVERY OF THE PAST and FLIGHT TO FOREVER.

Anderson is well known for his sf adventures and these are some of the better ones he has written. This book would make a good gift for a sub-teenager interested in sf, not that the stories are in any way adolescent.

**THE TOWER** by Colin Wilson. Grafton h/c, dist in Aust by William Collins. (C) 1987. 398pp. A\$24.95. On sale now.

Colin Wilson has written many non-fiction books as well as fiction and ranges over the entire field of literature with works such as on Shaw mixed with books on the occult, criminology, sex education, poetry and sf. Science fiction by Wilson includes work such as THE MIND PARASITE and THE SPACE VAMPIRES.

THE TOWER is a disaster novel set in the 25th century wherein giant spiders keep man enthralled. They are visible drifting through the skies hanging onto their silken balloons. The protagonist Niall has the gift of telepathy which will either kill him or save mankind.

**THIS IS THE WAY THE WORLD ENDS** by James Morrow. Gollancz h/c, dist in Aust by Century Hutchinson. (C) 1986. 318 pp. A\$29.95. On sale now.

This novel is a virulent antiwar work. It is spilt up into two sections - a prologue set in France in 1554, Book One, then Entr'acte set in 1554 and Book Two, then the epilogue (1554).

The first page sets the pace in the second paragraph which reads: "The end of the world was spread across the prophet's writing desk - one hundred images of destruction, each painted on a piece of glass no larger than a Tarot card. With catlike caution he dealt out the brittle masterpieces, putting them in dramatic arrangements. Which should come first? he wondered. The iron whales? The ramparts of flame? The great self-propelled spears?"

The main portion of the novel is a satire on those citizens who were willing to stand back and let others make the decisions, and which were to end the world.

**SUN'S END** by Richard Lupoff. Grafton pb, dist in Aust by William Collins. (C) 1984. 348pp. A\$9.95. On sale now.

For those who like space opera, SUN'S END will make a good few hours reading.

The plot concerns one Daniel Kitajama who is killed in 2009 in an accident whilst working in orbit. He awoke in 2089 in an artificial body which had many strengths such as no need to eat or breath and having super detection gear.(Radar sight, etc). Unfortunately, the powers-that-be had other plans for him. It seemed that the solar system had a life expectancy of only a few more centuries and they planned to use his talents for their own ends.

Lupoff writes the old fashioned action/adventure stories.

**THE LIVES AND TIMES OF JERRY CORNELIUS** by Michael Moorcock. Grafton pb, dist in Aust. by William Collins. (C) 1976, reprinted 1987. 185pp. A\$8.95. On sale now.

This menage of short stories actually consists of stories that are themselves menages. They date from 1968 to 1974 and are drawn mainly from magazines.

The stories are THE PEKING JUNCTION; THE DELHI DIVISION; THE TANK TRAPEZE; THE NATURE OF THE CATASTROPHE; THE SWASTIKA SET-UP; THE SUNSET PERSPECTIVE; SEA SOLVES; VOORTREKKER; DEAD SINGERS; THE LONGFORD CUP; THE ENTROPY CIRCUIT and EPILOGUE. Jerry Cornelius appears in many of Moorcock's works under various names; however, this is one of the original books that the rest are based on. (The movie The Final Countdown was loosely based on Jerry's exploits).

Good example of 60's exploratory writing.

**THE BLUE WORLD** by Jack Vance. Grafton pb dist in Aust by William Collins. (C) 1966. 204pp. A\$8.95. On sale now.

THE BLUE WORLD was originally published in Fantastic Magazine in 1964 as KING KRAGEN. It is a watery planet consisting of floating islands which is a peaceful place and which has only one problem - sea monsters, one of which is known as King Kragen, which terrorised the People. Sklar Hast determines to rid the world of the beast.

Vance's worlds are always eye-catching and mind-stimulating. THE BLUE WORLD is no exception. I am getting quite a good library of Vance's works and I enjoy them all.

**MELVAIG'S VISION** by Richard Ford. Grafton pb, dist in Aust by William Collins. (C) 1984. 446pp. A\$9.95. On sale now.

The first volume of this series was QUEST FOR THE FARADAWN. There are many fantasy novels coming out lately of which Ford's Vision is another. There are the evil Xtlenas who raided Melvaig's village and made off with his wife and son. Melvaig had hidden away one of his most precious possessions - the Book from Before The War and it was this and his faith that kept his will alive.

This is a book for the dedicated fantasy fan who likes their adventures spread out over trilogies, which gives the reader the opportunity to answer many questions about the society he/she creates from the novel in his/her own mind.

**IN MILTON LUMKY TERRITORY** by Philip K. Dick. Grafton pb dist in Aust by William Collins. (C) 1985. 213pp. A\$11.95. On sale now.

Most of the Philip K Dick's fans are science fiction readers. Even so, this book will be of interest to them as it is mentioned in most accounts of his writings. It is set in the western United States and features such characters as Skip Stevens and Milt Lumky. Set in the late 1950's, it is still pervaded with Dick's unique writing style.

Recommended for the Dick completist, or any of Dick's fans such as myself who are struck with Dick's style and vision.

**ROBOT DREAMS** by Isaac Asimov. Illustrated by Ralf McQuarrie. Gollancz h/c, dist in Aust by Century Hutchinson. (C) 1986. 349pp. A\$27.95. On sale now.

It has been some time since we had seen a collection of Asimov's robot stories. Those included range from 1947 to 1982 and include most of the stories Asimov is famous for, such as LITTLE LOST ROBOT; ROBOT DREAMS; BREEDS THERE A MAN; HOSTESS; SALLY; STRIKEBREAKER; THE MACHINE THAT WON THE WAR; EYES DO MORE THAN SEE; THE MARTIAN WAY; FRANCHISE; JOKESTER; THE LAST QUESTION; DOES A BEE CARE?; LIGHT VERSE; THE FEELING OF POWER; SPELL MY NAME WITH AN S; THE UGLY LITTLE BOY; THE BILLIARD BALL; TRUE LOVE; THE LAST ANSWER and LEST WE REMEMBER.

This is quite a collection of his robot stories and gives a good example of the history of the growth of that part of the artform.

**EVIL WATER** by Ian Watson. Gollancz h/c dist in Aust by Century Hutchinson. (C) 1984-1987. 200 pp. A\$29.95. On sale now.

Ian Watson has made his name as one of the best of England's sf writers. His stories are usually based on a single extraordinary theme. This collection is his fourth and shows his abilities to advantage.

The stories were mainly published in sf prozines in 1985-87. These are - COLD LIGHT; WHEN THE TIMEGATE FAILED; THE GREAT ATLANTIC SWIMMING RACE; THE WIRE AROUND THE WAR; WHEN IDAHO DIVED; ON THE DREAM CHANNEL PANEL; THE PEOPLE ON THE PRECIPICE; SKIN DAY, AND AFTER; WIDOWS; EVIL WATER.

If you haven't read any of Watson's stories before, this volume gives a good sampling.

**THE COMING OF THE QUANTUM CATS** by Frederik Pohl. Gollancz h/c dist in Aust by Century Hutchinson. (C) 1986. 242pp. A\$29.95. On sale now.

QUANTUM CATS is one of Frederik Pohl's latest novels and is of a range of complexity which stretches the reader's ability to hold on to the plot.

When researchers open a gate into a parallel universe, they find to their horror they are unable to close it, and reality starts to seep away. While they are working on the problem, a government agency has the brilliant idea of moving weapons through the other universe and back into their own in an enemies' territory.

A well-done novel and worthy of reading.

**THE MASKS OF TIME** by Robert Silverberg. Gollancz pb, dist in Aust by Century Hutchinson. (C) 1968. 252pp. A\$6.95. On sale now.

Set in the year 1999 with all the public fears about the coming millennium erupting in riots and hysteria, the arrival of Vornan-19, who claims to be from the year 2999, seems to authorities to be the answer to their stability when they see his effect on the public.

Leo Garfield, a native of the 1990's and a physicist whose life's work is time reversal, is called up by the government to help show around Vornan-19. He is part of a small group which over time, degenerates into warring factions.

This is one of Silverberg's more noteworthy novels.

**WIZARD OF THE PIGEONS** by Megan Lindholm. Corgi pb, dist in Aust by Corgi & Bantam. (C) 1986. 253pp. A\$6.95. On sale now.

This is a fantasy about wizards (naturally enough) but it is set in a present day American city.

Wizard had come back from Vietnam full of relief that his days of violence were behind him. It was not long before this belief was proven wrong and he found himself living up to the name Wizard. His girlfriend Cassie and he found themselves fighting against the tide of black magic that was engulfing their city. The pair of them soon found their backs to the wall.

A quite well written modern fantasy.

**GALACTIC POT-HEALER** by Philip K. Dick. Grafton pb, dist in Aust by William Collins. (C) 1969. 189pp. A\$7.95. On sale now.

Another novel in the reprinted volumes of Dick that Grafton is issuing. In this, the world is that of Philip K. Dick's usual creation. In this case, the protagonist is Joe Fernwright who is a pot-healer. He lives in a below ground room on Plowman's Planet and is fast running out of money. When he hears that the



submerged cathedral of Heldskalla is about to be raised, he decides this is a good chance for fame. Of course, he is partly right.

All of Dick's books are worth buying and reading for his unique vision.

**THE LURE OF THE BASILISK** by Lawrence Watt-Evan. Grafton pb, dist in Aust by William Collins. (C) 1980. 224pp. A\$7.95. On sale now.

Gaah! This is the first of four books of the Lords of Dus series. The hero is Garth who sets out on a quest to capture the creature he would find in the crypts beneath Mormoreth. After battling his way through brigands and various other adventures, he found the creature who was in actuality a gorgon which meant that his return journey as interesting as his outgoing one.

It's amazing the plots authors think up with the basic quest theme. You'd think they'd run out of ideas...

**THE SUBATOMIC MONSTER** by Isaac Asimov. Grafton pb, dist in Aust by William Collins. (C) 1985. 288pp. A\$8.95. On sale now.

This collection of Asimov's essays were collected from the magazine F&SF where they were originally published in 1983-4. Asimov is known for both his science fiction and his essays explaining science.

The essays are broken into six sections: **PHYSICS** - THE SUBATOMIC MONSTER; E PLURIBUS UNUM; THE TWO MASSES; THE VICTORIOUS GENERAL. **ASTRONOMY** - UPDATING THE SATELLITES; ARM OF THE GIANT; THE WORLD OF THE RED SUN; LOVE MAKES THE WORLD GO ROUND!. **CHEMISTRY** - THE PROPERTIES OF CHAOS; GREEN, GREEN, GREEN IS THE COLOUR. **BIOLOGY** - WHAT TRUCK?; WHERE ALL THE SKY IS SUNSHINE; UP WE GO. **CHRONOLOGY** - THE DIFFERENT YEARS OF TIME; THE DIFFERENT YEARS OF THE UNIVERSE.

**DAGGERSPELL** by Katherine Kerr. Grafton h/c dist in Aust by William Collins. (C) 1986. 414pp. A\$24.95. On sale now.

In a previous incarnation, a sorceror named Nevyn had relinquished a girl's hand in marriage. Subsequently she had died and the sorceror found himself through time forced to atone for this wrong. One of the basic premises of the book is the idea of incarnation. The soul of the girl is awaiting rebirth and the sorceror must live until he atones.

This is the author's first novel and it is also the first part of a trilogy relying heavily on celtic mythology. It is pure fantasy and although set in the kingdom of Deverry in the year 1060, elves, magicians, kings and prophets abound.

PAPERBACK RELEASES REVIEWED IN PAST ISSUES: **GALAPAGOS** by Kurt Vonnegut. Grafton pb, dist in Aust by William Collins. A\$8.95. On sale now.

#### OTHER CURRENT RELEASES

HODDER & STOUGHTON - HOUSE OF THE WOLF by M.K. Wren

CORGI & BANTAM - NERILKA'S STORY & THE COELURA

PENGUIN -  
STAR WARRIORS by William Broad.  
DRAGON DANCE by John Christopher  
CATSEYE by Andre Norton  
SAM AND THE BIG MACHINES by Kathy Henderson  
TIME TRAP by Nicholas Fisk  
THE BEAST MASTER by Andre Norton  
ZOZU THE ROBOT by Diana Carter

**JULY RELEASES:**

CENTURY HUTCHINSON - NIGHTWALK by Bob Shaw  
THE FACELESS MAN by Jack Vance  
THE LEGACY OF HEOROT by L Niven, J Pournelle & S Barnes  
HEGIRA by Greg Bear  
ANGEL WITH THE SWORD by C J Cherryh  
THE OTHER SIDE OF THE SKY by Arthur C Clarke  
MISSION OF GRAVITY by Hal Clement  
WITCHWORLD by Andre Norton

