

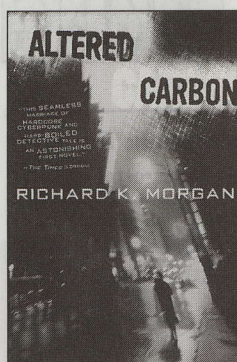
# Book Sense

Independent  
Bookseller  
Recommendations

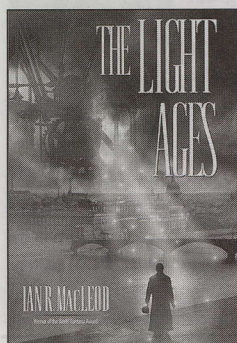


## SCIENCE FICTION / FANTASY

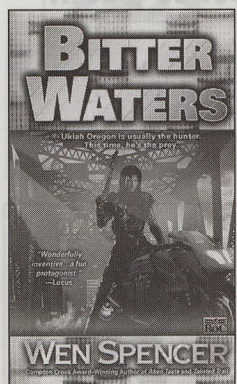
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**1 ALTERED CARBON**, by **Richard K. Morgan**, (Del Rey, \$13.95 paper, 0345457684) "Philip K. Dick meets Raymond Chandler in a noirish 25th century San Francisco in this stunning debut. The ability to store one's consciousness makes death a minor inconvenience—one is merely 're-sleeved' into another body. This brings up a host of philosophical musings on aging, race, body image, and gender. Morgan offers plenty of action and a smartly resolved mystery."—**Judith Chandler, Third Place Books, Lake Forest Park, WA**

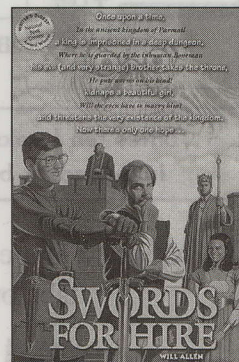


**3 THE LIGHT AGES**, by **Ian R. MacLeod**, (Ace, \$23.95, 0441010555) "*The Light Ages* is a beautifully written, wonderfully lyrical and evocative story of an alternate 19th century London, where aether—or magic—is mined along with coal. It's so well done that it transcends its particular genre. I'm mesmerized!"—**Lois Powers, The Toadstool Bookshop, Milford, NH**

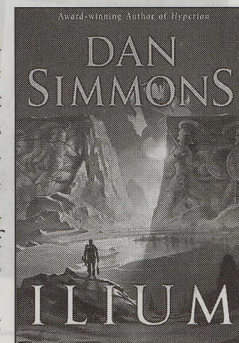


**5 BITTER WATERS**, by **Wen Spencer**, (Roc, \$6.99 paper, 0451459229) "This is the third in an ongoing series about Ukiah Oregon—half alien/half human, who was raised by wolves, nurtured by two women, and trained as a tracker by a private investigator. And it gets even better! Fast paced, with solid characters you'd actually want to meet, and a cult called the Temple of New Reason, *Bitter Waters* offers an explosive mix of intrigue, suspense, wonder, and an all-around good-fun read of a contemporary science fiction novel."—**Maria Perry, Flights of Fantasy, Loudonville, NY**

**2 SWORDS FOR HIRE**, by **Will Allen**, (Centerpunch Press, \$6.95 paper, 0972488200) "*Swords for Hire* has everything a good fantasy needs and, still, remains unpredictable. Hate the bad guy, love the good guys, cheer for the rescues against all odds .... How much more fun can you ask for?"—**Eric Robbins, Apple Valley Books, Winthrop, ME**



**4 ILIUM**, by **Dan Simmons**, (Eos, \$25.95, 0380978938) "This is one of the best hard science fiction novels I have read in years. First, there is the plot, well, actually three plot lines running at the same time: the battle of Troy (in real time) as viewed by a reincarnated *Iliad* scholar, the epic journey of two cyborgs to discover and stop the source of unstable temporal rifts in the solar system, and visits to a future-day earth following a band of genetically altered Eloi-like humans as they begin to test the limits of their earth, an artificial paradise."—**Karen Pennington, Kepler's Books & Magazines, Menlo Park, CA**



**6 THE GUIN SAGA: Book One—The Leopard Mask**, by **Kaoru Kurimoto**, (Vertical, \$22.95, 1932234519) "The first book in a series by one of Japan's top fantasy writers. Guin, a magnificent warrior, awakens in a dangerous wilderness with little knowledge of his past and suffering from immense thirst and hunger, only to discover that a head mask of a leopard has been firmly affixed to his body. As he comes to the aid of royal fraternal twins, the action and suspense are nonstop. There is a reason why this series is so popular in Japan: It's good."—**Bob Spear, The Book Barn, Leavenworth, KS**

