

4/15/2003  
Library  
Journal

family, playwright Tremaine Valiarde herself transported to another world where the users of magic are hunted and killed where the Gardier have established a base from which to launch their attack. Set in the same world as the Nebula Award-nominated *Death of the Necromancer*, Well's first volume in this new trilog... features fine storytelling and a unique mixture of magic and early 20th century science. Her memorable tale is good addition to most fantasy collections.

**Nagata, Linda. Memory.**

Tor. May 2003. c.416p. ISBN 0-312-87721-8. \$26.95. SF

Jubilee and her brother Jolly grow up in the security of their mother's Temple, protected against the inexplicable phenomenon known as "silver", which rises from the ground at night, obliterating anything it touches. When the silver takes Jolly one night, Jubilee mourns her brother until the appearance of a mysterious man named Kaphiri arrives with the knowledge that Jolly might still be alive. Jubilee's voyage in search of her brother and of the hidden history of her civilization form a powerful coming-of-age story set against a world of high technology that seems magical in its manifestation. Nagata's (*The Bohr Maker; Limit of Vision*) latest novel belongs in most sf collections.

**Dart-Thornton, Cecilia. The Battle of Evernight.**

Aspect: Warner. (Bitterbynde, Bk. 3). Apr. 2003. c.459p. ISBN 0-446-52807-2. \$24.95. FANTASY

Her memories unlocked and the knowledge of her identity revealed to her, the woman once known as Rohain and now called Tahquil, realizes that she possesses the key to the Gate of Oblivion's Kiss. To stop a disastrous war between brother kings of the Faëran, she must cross the land of Erith and open the gate to make a way for the brothers to return to their rightful home, even at the cost of her own freedom. Bringing to a satisfying conclusion the story begun in *The Ill-Made Mute* and continued in *The Lady of Sorrows*, Dart-Thornton's epic fantasy features a courageous heroine determined to fulfill her destiny. Celtic lore and legend add to the mythical atmosphere of this standout series, which belongs in most libraries.

**Chang Hsi-Kuo. The City Trilogy: Five Jade Disks, Defenders of the Dragon City, Tale of a Feather.**

Columbia Univ. (Modern Chinese Literature from Taiwan). May 2003. c.464p. tr. from Chinese by John Balcom. ISBN 0-231-12852-5. \$27.50. SF

Three short novels chronicle the rise and fall of Sunlon City, heart of a faraway world populated by warring nations. In *Five Jade Disks*, the warlike Shan conquer

Sunlon City and a rebel movement rises up to overthrow their conquerors. *Defenders of the Dragon City* details a second attempt by the Shan to conquer Sunlon City and impose their way of life upon its people. *Tale of a Feather* describes the rise of a despot and the city's internal struggles to fight off tyranny. Filled with its own legendry, philosophy, poetry, and social mores, the world created by Chang, considered to be Taiwan's "father of science fiction," resounds with grace and style. Elegantly told in a quasi-formal style, this unusual work, first published in Taiwan and now available for the first time in English, belongs in most sf collections. Libraries with an interest in contemporary Chinese literature should also acquire.

**Silverberg, Robert. Roma Eterna.**

Eos: HarperCollins. Jun. 2003. c.416p. ISBN 0-380-97859-8. \$25.95. SF

From Rome's absorption of the barbarian lands around it to the exploration of the New World and the conquest of the Mayan Empire, Silverberg's latest tale chronicles the rise of the Eternal City to the peak of world rulership. Eleven connected stories (some of which have been published previously in different forms) depict various stages of Roman history, spanning more than 1,500 years and covering periods of civil war, dictatorship, persecution and republic, ending with the desperate attempt of a small band of Hebrews to flee to the stars and gain their freedom. Silverberg's (*The Majipoor Chronicles*) always elegant storytelling and vast comprehension of history combine in this outstanding work of alternate history that belongs in most libraries

**Greenwood, Ed. The Dragon's Doom.**

Tor. (Band of Four, No. 4). May 2003. c.416p. ISBN 0-765-30223-3. \$25.95. FANTASY

The once "Kingless Land" of Aglirta now has a king in young Raulin Castlecloaks, but peace does not come easily to the land. As a plague of blood, madness, and shape-changing spreads throughout the realm, the companions known as the Band of Four, now overdukes of Aglirta, come together once more to rid the realm of the priests of the Serpent. Veteran fantasy author Greenwood (*The Kingless Land; The Vacant Throne; A Dragon's Ascension*) crafts another strong tale of heroism and high fantasy set in the unique world of Asmarand. Likable characters, swift pacing, and colorful storytelling recommend this fantasy adventure to most libraries, particularly those owning other titles in the series.

**Kurimoto, Kaoru. The Leopard Mask.**

Vertical. (Guin Saga, Bk. 1). Jun. 2003. c.240p. tr. from Japanese by Alexander O. Smith. ISBN 1-932234-51-9. \$22.95. FANTASY

When the armies of Mongaul conquer the

neighboring kingdom of Palos, the royal twins Remus and Rinda escape with their lives, fleeing to the forest where a strange man wearing the head of a leopard rescues them from certain death. Traveling with their new companion, who calls himself Guin and has few memories of his past, the twins find themselves unwilling guests in a mysterious keep ruled by a sinister count. First published in 1989 and a Japanese bestseller, the debut title in the 86-volume "Guin Saga" delivers rapid-fire action, heroism, and high adventure. Fans of action fantasy and Japanese animated series should flock to this title, suitable for most adult and YA fantasy collections. [Vertical, a new publisher specializing in contemporary Japanese fiction, plans to publish the series' first five books, "The Borderlands Episode," which make up a thematic and narrative unit.—Ed.]

**Weis, Margaret & Tracy Hickman. Journey Into the Void.**

Eos: HarperCollins. (Sovereign Stone Trilogy, Bk. 3). Aug. 2003. c.512p. ISBN . \$25.95. FANTASY

Even as Dagnarus, Lord of the Void, leads his foul army on a mission of world conquest, the four Dominion Lords, one from each of the world's four races—human, elf, dwarf, and ork—attempt to take the four pieces of the Sovereign Stone to the Portal of the Gods in an effort to close the Void that threatens the world. The final volume of the "Sovereign Stone Trilogy" (*Well of Darkness; Guardians of the Lost*) by best-selling authors Weis and Hickman brings together a group of strong male and female characters united in a cause worth dying for. Strong storytelling and unique world-building elements characterize the collaborative efforts of the authors and make this a worthwhile addition to fantasy collections.

**Rosenberg, Joel. Not Really the Prisoner of Zenda: A Guardians of the Flame Novel.**

Tor. Jun. 2003. c.384p. ISBN 0-765-30046-X. \$24.95. FANTASY

Erenor, the young wizard, Pirolj, the jack-of-all-trades and Kethol, the swordsman, live to revel in their skills and to give their lives for Jason Cullinane, the rightful Emperor—a man who refuses to claim his crown. When assassins and other dangers threaten the friends, they must involve themselves in a complicated plot of deadly intrigue. The latest addition to Rosenberg's popular "Guardians of the Flames" series features a trio of gallant rogues in a rollicking, fast-paced adventure that should appeal to series fans as well as lovers of swash-buckling fantasy in the vein of *The Three Musketeers*. This companion volume to *Not Quite Scaramouche* and *Not Exactly the Three Musketeers* belongs in most fantasy collections