

Book deals full house to public, weaves science and sharp fiction

By Bryan Peterson
Staff Reporter

Queen of Angels
Greg Bear
Questar/ Warner Books

Greg Bear is one of the biggest and brightest new names in science fiction, a name whose newness is quickly fading with the garnering of several Hugo and Nebula awards in recent years.

Bear's most recent release, Queen of Angels, should gather similar success as it weaves several major plot strands together while balancing cutting-edge science and sharp fiction.

Queen of Angels revolves around the murder of eight young acolytes by their poet/prophet Emanuel Goldsmith near the eve of the Binary Millennium of 2048.

It is a time of change and celebration, growth and renewal. Micro-sized nanotechnology provides services in

psychology, food processing and art, while therapy is employed by the state on all willing citizens.

Those unwilling to undergo therapy face varied discrimination and have a culture all their own, a culture which provides vital information concerning the location of Goldsmith, for whom the authorities are searching.

L.A. police officer Mary Choy, a "transform" who has had her skin pigments and features altered, tries to find Goldsmith before the underground vigilante group, The Selectors, capture and punish him with brutal, Clockwork Orange-style psychological torture.

Goldsmith is actually being held by the father of one of those he killed, a man who employs a disreputable psychologist to literally enter the mind of the killer in order to find a motive.

The answer takes the reader into the furthest reaches of theoretical psychology and returns him/her to

the origins of psychology in Freud and Jung.

Also scattered through the book are messages to and from AXIS and JILL, counterpart computer systems searching the universe for other life forms even as they search themselves for self-awareness, all while Goldsmith's self-disintegration is taking place.

By the book's end, Bear has lead the reader on a voyage through extrapolations of nanotechnology, psychology, Haitian religion and the turmoils of being a "transform" in the supposedly enlightened 21st Century society.

His blend of speculative and creative fiction is sure to please s-f readers of all kinds, thus dealing a full house to the public.

Also new from Questar/ Warner Books is Ken Kato's A Rage in Heaven, the mammoth first installment in what is described as a five-volume space epic or space opera for moderns.



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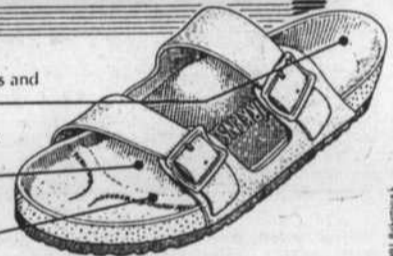


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