

Contents

About This Volume, M. Keith Booker	vii
On Contemporary Speculative Fiction, M. Keith Booker	xiv

Critical Contexts

The Critical Reception of Speculative Fiction, M. Keith Booker	3
“We Both Know They Have to Have a Victor”: The Battle between Nature and Culture in the <i>Hunger Games</i> Trilogy, Sarah Margaret Kniesler	17
The Games People Play: Speculative Childhood and Virtual Culture from <i>Ender to Hunger</i> , Holly Blackford	31
“Feminists Kick Butt”: Feminism in the Work of Three Urban-Fantasy Authors, Mary Ryan	51

Critical Readings

Good, Evil, and the Soul of a Girl: Lyra’s Motherly Triumvirate in Philip Pullman’s <i>His Dark Materials</i> Trilogy, Janice Bogstad	71
Anglo-Saxonism in the Harry Potter Series, Peter Dendle	86
The Occasional Ethnicities of Lavender Brown: Race as a Boundary Object in Harry Potter, Maria Velazquez	100
Who’s Betting on <i>The Hunger Games</i> ? A Case for Young-Adult Literature, Sean P. Connors and Iris Shepard	115
“‘Minister,’ Said the Girl, ‘We Need to Talk’”: China Miéville’s <i>Un Lun Dun</i> as Radical Fantasy for Children and Young Adults, Justyna Deszcz-Tryhubczak	137
A Sharp & Bladey Interpretation: The Fantastic as a Marked Absence (or Not) in China Miéville’s <i>Railsea</i> , Sandy Rankin	152
Postcolonial Speculative Fiction in Africa and Its Diaspora, Jessica Langer	169
Black Girlhood Interrupted: Race, Gender, and Colonization in Nalo Hopkinson’s <i>Midnight Robber</i> , Shelby Crosby	187
“My Stories Are Quite Tame”: Margo Lanagan and the Critics, Gillian Polack	203
Young Adult Zombies: Daniel Waters’s <i>Generation Dead</i> as Sociopolitical Intervention, Christy Tidwell	217

The Twenty-First-Century Fantasy Film Explosion: Redefining a Film Genre, M. Keith Booker	231
--	-----

Resources

Additional Works on Contemporary Speculative Fiction	249
Bibliography	251
<i>About the Editor</i>	255
Contributors	257
Index	261