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from "Australia's master of dark fantasy"

Does a resurrected  
corpse hold the key  
to the end  
of the world?

"Rob Hood is Australia's master of dark fantasy"

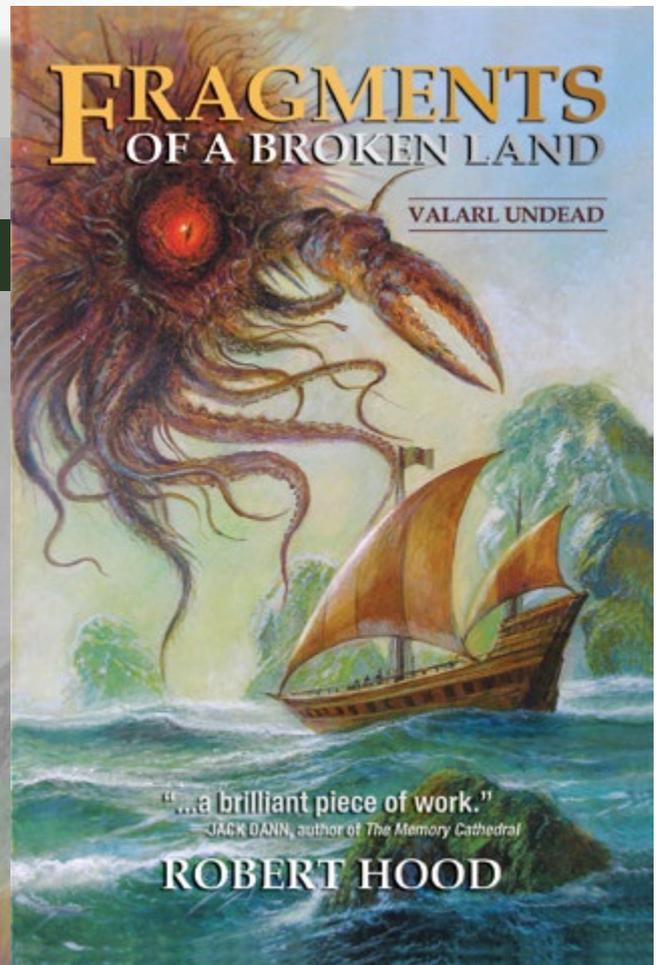
— SEAN WILLIAMS

"one of the strangest and most interesting visions  
to come out of the modern horror/fantasy genres"

— JACK DANN

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**FRAGMENTS OF A BROKEN LAND: VALARL UNDEAD • Robert Hood**

**NOW AVAILABLE**  
from online and selected bookstores

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# FRAGMENTS OF A BROKEN LAND: VALARL UNDEAD

## Apocalypse was just the beginning ....

In a land where no stars appear in the night sky, a group of strangers whose ancestries reach back to an earlier catastrophic disaster come together to track down a resurrected corpse whose very existence may bring about the End of the World...

“*Fragments of a Broken Land* is one of the most interesting and cutting-edge fantasies I’ve read in a long time. It’s a brilliant piece of work.” (Jack Dann, author *The Man Who Melted*, *Bad Medicine*, *The Memory Cathedral*, *The Rebel*)

“... one of the strangest and most interesting visions to come out of the modern horror/fantasy genre. Based on the thought and imagery of William Blake, *Fragments [of a Broken Land]* is an exploration of the nature of perception, magic, and the way in which emotional and moral states became metaphysical realities. It is truly something new in the world of the imagination.” (from the introduction to the related story “Tamed” in *Dreaming Downunder*, the World Fantasy Award-winning anthology edited by Jack Dann and Janine Webb)

*Fragments of a Broken Land: Valarl Undead* by Australian speculative fiction writer Robert Hood is a dark fantasy novel set in a strange and many-layered world. Epic in nature, yet focused on a few central characters, the novel creates a vivid portrayal of a reality far different from our own, yet one intimately connected to it. The fictional world of Tharenweyr arose from Hood’s lingering fascination for the “prophetic visions” of 18th century poet/artist William Blake. The novel taps Blake’s metaphysical ponderings to drive its themes, while creating a thrilling narrative that will grip your imagination from start to finish.

Hood comments: “*Fragments* is about consequences. Characters must deal, or choose not to deal, with imperatives thrust upon them by their own actions, by others and by the past. They include warriors, priests, a demi-god, a low-grade wizard, a dead man cursed by his own actions to pursue a mindless obsession, an idealistic antagonist driven by self-loathing and despair, a cat that is much more than it appears to be, and two opposing sorcerers who exist partly in the world and partly on the shoulders of gigantic monsters adrift in a vast space outside the self-contained world of Tharenweyr itself. The point-of-view focus is on two characters in particular – Tashnark, the somewhat lackadaisical and troubled son of a slave merchant, and Remis, a newly graduated and idealistic spellbinder. The significance of these two in the cosmic scheme of things clarifies for the reader, if not for the characters themselves, as the book progresses.

“Meanwhile, creation gods and their demonic opposites, in decline as their magics die, seek to manipulate everyone involved in order to gain ultimate power – though neither can “see” nor understand the source of that power. In the end, very little is what it appears to be.”

Hood added, “I think it’s fair to say that the setting itself provides two major characters in their own right: Tharenweyr, the non-planetary world in which the mortal (and immortal) characters live, and Ko’erpel-Na, the merchantile city where much of the action takes place. This emphasis on setting-as-character was a central focus in the development of the book, as themes, motivations and consequences are deeply embedded in the nature of the land itself.”

This is a story of power, responsibility and the intimate ties that exist between people and the world in which they live -- whether they like it or not. Said the author, “As in all good fantasies, *Fragments* seeks to create metaphors for the reality in which we live, and explores the metaphysical bonds that exist between the world as we perceive it and the world as it exists beyond ourselves.”

He added, “Of course, it’s also an immersive and exciting read!”



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Described by best-selling author Sean Williams as “Australia’s master of dark fantasy”, Robert Hood has had a prolific and long-running career producing crime, dark fantasy and science fiction short stories that have been published in major genre magazines and anthologies worldwide. Many have found their way into his own collections — *Day-dreaming on Company Time*, *Immaterial: Ghost Stories* and *Creeping in Reptile Flesh*. Hood is also the author of the critically acclaimed novel *Backstreets* and the YA supernatural series *Shades*. As well as writing children’s books, plays and award-winning film commentary, he is co-editor of the renowned *Daikaiju! Giant Monster Tales* anthology and its sequels. His main website is [roberthood.net](http://roberthood.net), and he maintains a writing news blog at [roberthoodwriter.com](http://roberthoodwriter.com). More information on *Fragments of a Broken Land: Valarl Undead* is available at <http://fragmentsnovel.undeadbackbrain.com/>.

**Robert Hood can be contacted for an interview at [undeadhood@gmail.com](mailto:undeadhood@gmail.com).**