

Pulp Fiction

Science Fiction & Fantasy Bestsellers

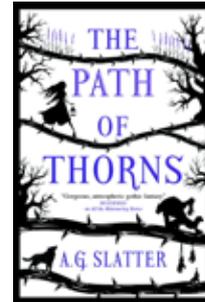
July 2022

The Path of Thorns

A G Slatter

A lush and twisted dark fairy tale suffused with witchcraft, dark secrets, and bitter revenge from the award-winning author. Exquisite, haunting and at times brutal, readers of Naomi Novik and Erin Morgenstern will be entranced. Asher Todd comes to live with the mysterious Morwood family as a governess to their children. Asher knows little about being a governess but she is skilled in botany and herbcraft, and perhaps more than that. And she has secrets of her own, dark and terrible – and Morwood is a house that eats secrets. With a monstrous revenge in mind, Asher plans to make it choke. However, she becomes fond of her charges, of the people of the Tarn, and she begins to wonder if she will be able to execute her plan – and who will suffer most if she does. But as the ghosts of her past become harder to control, Asher realises she has no choice. From the award-winning Brisbane author of *All the Murmuring Bones* (PBK, \$22.99), dark magic, retribution and twisted family secrets combine to weave a bewitching and addictive tale. Recommended!

Gothic fantasy | PBK | \$24.99



1

Half A Soul

Regency Faerie Tales 01

Olivia Atwater

Olivia Atwater's delightful debut will transport you to a magical version of Regency England, where the only thing more meddlesome than a fairy is a marriage-minded mother! It's difficult to find a husband in Regency England when you're a young lady with only half a soul. Ever since she was cursed by a faerie, Theodora Ettings has had no sense of fear or embarrassment – an unfortunate condition that leaves her prone to accidental scandal. Dora hopes to be a quiet, sensible wallflower during the London Season – but when Elias Wilder, the strange, handsome, and utterly ill-mannered Lord Sorcier, discovers her condition, she is instead drawn into peculiar and dangerous faerie affairs. If her reputation can survive both her curse and her sudden connection with the least-liked man in all high society, then she and her family may yet reclaim their normal place in the world. But the longer Dora spends with Elias, the more she begins to suspect that one may indeed fall in love even with only half a soul. Regency hijinks. With magic. What more can one want?

Fantasy | PBK | \$22.99



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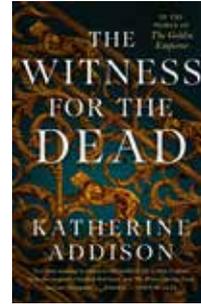
The Witness for the Dead

Cemeteries of Amalo 01

Katherine Addison

When the young half-goblin emperor Maia sought to learn who had set the bombs that killed his father and half-brothers, he turned to an obscure resident of his father's Court, a Prelate of Ullis and a Witness for the Dead. Thara Celehar found the truth, though it did him no good to discover it. He lost his place as a retainer of his cousin the former Empress, and made far too many enemies among the many factions vying for power in the new Court. The favour of the Emperor is a dangerous coin. Now, Celehar lives in the city of Amalo, far from the Court though not exactly in exile. He has not escaped from politics, but his position gives him the ability to serve the common people of the city, which is his preference. He lives modestly, but his decency and fundamental honesty will not permit him to live quietly. As a Witness for the Dead, he can, sometimes, speak to the recently dead: see the last thing they saw, know the last thought they had, experience the last thing they felt. It is his duty to use that ability to resolve disputes, to ascertain the intent of the dead, to find the killers of the murdered. Celehar's skills now lead him out of the quiet and into a morass of treachery, murder, and injustice. No matter his own background with the imperial house, Celehar will stand with the commoners, and possibly find a light in the darkness. Katherine Addison has created a fantastic world for these books – wide and deep and true. Please, just read *The Goblin Emperor* (PBK, \$24.95), then read these sort-of-sequels set in the same universe. Just do it. You need to. Glorious.

Fantasy | TP | \$37.95



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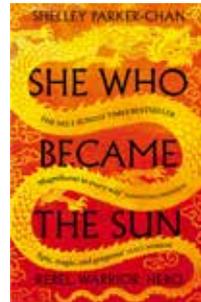
She Who Became the Sun

Radiant Emperor 01

Shelley Parker-Chan

An absorbing historical fantasy, *She Who Became the Sun* by Shelley Parker-Chan reimagines the rise to power of the Ming Dynasty's founding emperor. In a famine-stricken village on a dusty plain, a seer shows two children their fates. For a family's eighth-born son, there's greatness. For the second daughter, nothing. In 1345, China lies restless under harsh Mongol rule. And when a bandit raid wipes out their home, the two children must somehow survive. Zhu Chongba despairs and gives in. But the girl resolves to overcome her destiny. So, she takes her dead brother's identity and begins her journey. Can Zhu escape what's written in the stars, as rebellion sweeps the land? Or can she claim her brother's greatness – and rise as high as she can dream? This is a glorious tale of love, loss, betrayal, and triumph by a powerful new voice. 'As brilliant as Circe... a deft and dazzling triumph' – *Tasha Suri*, author of *The Jasmine Throne*. 'Epic, tragic and gorgeous' – *Alix E Harrow*, author of *The Ten Thousand Doors of January*. A great new Australian voice in fantasy – this was the first Oz novel to be nominated for a Hugo Award! – recommended!

Fantasy | PBK | \$19.99



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Pulp Fiction Bestsellers

Science Fiction & Fantasy July 2022 (continued)

All Systems Red

Murderbot Diaries 01

Martha Wells

Winner: 2018 Hugo Award for Best Novella. Winner: 2018 Nebula Award for Best Novella. Winner: 2018 Alex Award. Winner: 2018 Locus Award. One of the Verge's Best Books of 2017. A *New York Times* and *USA Today* bestseller.

A murderous android discovers itself in *All Systems Red*, a tense science fiction adventure by Martha Wells that interrogates the roots of consciousness through Artificial Intelligence. 'As a heartless killing machine, I was a complete failure.' In a corporate-dominated spacefaring future, planetary missions must be approved and supplied by the Company. Exploratory teams are accompanied by Company-supplied security androids, for their own safety. But in a society where contracts are awarded to the lowest bidder, safety isn't a primary concern. On a distant planet, a team of scientists are conducting surface tests, shadowed by their Company-supplied `droid – a self-aware SecUnit that has hacked its own governor module, and refers to itself (though never out loud) as 'Murderbot'. Scornful of humans, all it really wants is to be left alone long enough to figure out who it is. But when a neighbouring mission goes dark, it's up to the scientists and their Murderbot to get to the truth. Yes – we keep recommending this – and it keeps selling – and people keep coming back for more – hence it and others are back in our bestseller lists. Mwah! (If you haven't read this yet – WHY NOT?!?)

Science fiction novella | HC | \$29.99



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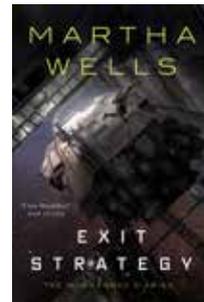
Exit Strategy

Murderbot Diaries 04

Martha Wells

See above. Seriously – these are very, very good (Ron has read them multiple times, now).

Science fiction novella | HC | \$29.99



6

August Kitko and the Mechas from Space

Starmetal Symphony 01

Alex White

When an army of giant robot AIs threatens to devastate Earth, a virtuoso pianist becomes humanity's last hope in this bold, lightning-paced, technicolour space opera series from the author of *A Big Ship at the Edge of the Universe*. Jazz pianist Gus Kitko expected to spend his final moments on Earth playing piano at the greatest goodbye party of all time, and maybe kissing rockstar Ardent Violet, before the last of humanity is wiped out forever by the Vanduaards – ultra-powerful robots from the dark heart of space, hell-bent on destroying humanity for reasons none can divine. But when the Vanduaards arrive, the unthinkable happens – the mecha that should be killing Gus instead saves him. Suddenly, Gus's swan song becomes humanity's encore, as he is chosen to join a small group of traitorous Vanduaards and their pilots dedicated to saving humanity. Loved *Big Ship at the Edge of the Universe* (PBK, \$22.99) – and this looks just as good.

Space opera | PBK | \$22.99



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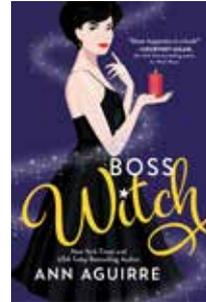
Boss Witch

Fix-It Witches 02

Ann Aguirre

Clementine Waterhouse is a perfectly logical witch. She doesn't tumble headlong into love. Rather she weighs the pros and cons and decides if a relationship is worth pursuing. At least that's always been her *modus operandi* before. Clem prefers being the one in charge, always the first to walk away when the time is right. Attraction has never struck her like lightning. Until the witch hunter comes to town. Gavin Rhys hates being a witch hunter, but his family honour is on the line, and he needs to prove he's nothing like his grandfather, a traitor who let everyone down. But things in St Claire aren't what they seem, and Gavin is distracted from the job immediately by a bewitching brunette with a sexy smile and haunting secrets in her eyes. Can the bossiest witch in town find a happy ending with the last person she should ever love? What can we say? (But really: CAN the bossiest witch in town find a happy ending with the last person she should ever love??) The second in a new series from Aguirre, following *Witch Please* (PBK, \$24.99).

Paranormal romance | PBK | \$24.99



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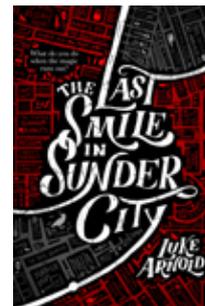
The Last Smile in Sunder City

Fetch Phillips 01

Luke Arnold

I'm Fetch Phillips, just like it says on the window. There are three things you should know before you hire me: 1. Sobriety costs extra. 2. My services are confidential. 3. I don't work for humans. It's nothing personal – I'm human, myself. But after what happened, it's not the humans who need my help. I just want one real case. One chance to do something good. Because it's my fault the magic is never coming back. 'Sunder City [is] an evocative creation, it has echoes of Ankh-Morpork, but also a broken melancholy all of its own' – *SFX*. *The Last Smile in Sunder City* is the debut novel from actor Luke Arnold – known for his lead role in *Black Sails*. This contemporary fantasy introduces Fetch Phillips – a character destined to be loved by readers of Ben Aaronovitch, Jim Butcher, and Terry Pratchett's *Discworld*. This has been out a while now – but the publisher has stock again (at last!) and so we've been selling a bunch again. It's good, and it's always lovely to see another Australian author selling so well! And, if you like this, there are two sequels, already: *Dead Man in a Ditch* and *One Foot in the Fade* (PBK, \$22.99 each).

Fantasy | PBK | \$22.99



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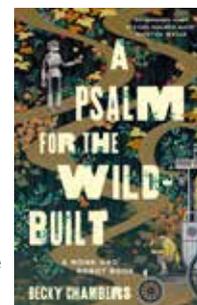
A Psalm for the Wild-Built

Monk & Robot 01

Becky Chambers

In *A Psalm for the Wild-Built*, Hugo Award-winner Becky Chambers' delightful new Monk and Robot series gives us hope for the future. It's been centuries since the robots of Panga gained self-awareness and laid down their tools; centuries since they wandered, en masse, into the wilderness, never to be seen again; centuries since they faded into myth and urban legend. One day, the life of a tea monk is upended by the arrival of a robot, there to honour the old promise of checking in. The robot cannot go back until the question of 'what do people need?' is answered. But the answer to that question depends on who you ask, and how. They're going to need to ask it a lot. Becky Chambers' new series asks: *in a world where people have what they want, does having more matter?* The phenomenon that is Becky Chambers continues to delight. Recommended!

Science fiction novella | HC | \$42.99



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