

Pulp Fiction

Science Fiction & Fantasy Catalogue

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April 2021

Includes new books by:

Ben Aaronovitch
Charlie Jane Anders
Tabitha Bird
T J Klune
Mark Lawrence
C L Polk
Jeff VanderMeer
Martha Wells
Corey J White

... and many others.

All the books in this catalogue are new books due for release in **April 2021**.

Because they are new books, we are at the whim of the publishers and, to some extent, the shipping companies – books can sometimes arrive later (or earlier) than, or occasionally be a different retail price than originally quoted. Because space is a luxury, we bring in limited quantities of books. Prices are subject to change without notice.

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Until next time, good reading!
Ron and Leanne

Abbreviations used in this catalogue:

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Ariadne

Saint, Jennifer

As Princesses of Crete and daughters of the fearsome King Minos, Ariadne and her sister Phaedra grow up hearing the hoof beats and bellows of the Minotaur echo from the Labyrinth beneath the palace. The Minotaur – Minos' greatest shame and Ariadne's brother – demands blood every year. When Theseus, Prince of Athens, arrives in Crete as a sacrifice to the beast, Ariadne falls in love with him. But helping Theseus kill the monster means betraying her family and country, and Ariadne knows only too well that in a world ruled by mercurial gods – drawing their attention can cost you everything. In a world where women are nothing more than the pawns of powerful men, will Ariadne's decision to betray Crete for Theseus ensure her happy ending? Or will she find herself sacrificed for her lover's ambition? *Ariadne* gives a voice to the forgotten women, of one of the most famous Greek myths; speaking to their strength, in the face of angry, petulant Gods. Beautifully written and completely immersive, this is an exceptional debut novel.

Historical fantasy TP \$32.99

What Abigail Did that Summer

PC Grant novella

Aaronovitch, Ben

Ghost hunter, fox whisperer, troublemaker. It is the summer of 2013 and Abigail Kamara has been left to her own devices. This might, by those who know her, be considered a mistake. While her cousin, police constable and apprentice wizard Peter Grant, is off in the sticks chasing unicorns... Abigail is chasing her own mystery. Teenagers around Hampstead Heath have been going missing but before the police can get fully engaged, the teens return home – unharmed, but vague about where they've been. Aided only by her new friend Simon, her knowledge that magic is real, and a posse of talking foxes that think they're spies, Abigail must venture into the wilds of Hampstead; to discover who is luring the teenagers and, more importantly – why?

Urban fantasy HC \$26.99

The Heap

Adams, Sean

Standing nearly 500 storeys' tall, *Los Verticalés* once bustled with life and excitement. Now, this marvel of modern architecture and non-traditional urban planning has collapsed into a pile of rubble, known as the Heap. In exchange for digging gear, a rehabilitated bicycle, and a small living stipend, a vast community of Dig Hands removes debris, trash, and bodies from the building's mountainous remains, which span 20 acres of unincorporated desert land. Orville Anders burrows into the bowels of the Heap, to find his brother Bernard, the beloved radio DJ of *Los Verticalés* – who is alive and miraculously broadcasting, somewhere under the massive rubble. For months, Orville has

lived in a sea of campers that surrounds the Heap, working tirelessly to free Bernard – the only known survivor of the imploded city – whom he speaks to every evening, calling into his radio show. The brothers' conversations are a ratings bonanza, and the station's parent company, Sundial Media, wants to boost its profits by having Orville slyly drop brand names into his nightly talks with Bernard. When Orville refuses, his access to Bernard is suddenly cut off... but, strangely, he continues to hear his own voice over the airwaves, casually shilling products, as 'he' converses with Bernard.

Satirical dystopia TP \$27.99

The Good Neighbours

Allan, Nina

Cath is a photographer hoping to go freelance; working in a record shop to pay the rent, and eking out her time with her manager Steve. He thinks her photography is detective work, drawing attention to things that would otherwise pass unseen. Maybe, he's right... Starting work on her new project – photographing murder houses – she returns to the island, where she grew up, for the first time since she left for Glasgow, when she was just 18. The Isle of Bute is embedded in her identity, the draughty house that overlooked the bay, the feeling of being nowhere, the memory of her childhood friend Shirley Craigie, and the devastating familicide of her family by the father, John Craigie. Arriving at the Craigie house, Cath finds that it's occupied by Financial Analyst Alice Rahman. Her bid to escape the city lifestyle, the anxiety she felt in that world, led her to leave London and settle on the island. The strangeness of the situation brings them closer, leading them to reinvestigate the Craigie murder. Now, within the walls of the Craigie house, Cath can uncover the nefarious truths and curious nature of John Craigie: his hidden obsession with the work of Richard Dadd and the local myths of the fairy folk.

Dark fantasy TP \$32.99

Victories Greater Than Death

Anders, Charlie Jane

Tina never worries about being 'ordinary' – she doesn't have to, since she's known practically forever that she's not just Tina Mains, average teenager and beloved daughter. She's also the keeper of an interplanetary rescue beacon, and, one day soon, it's going to activate, and then her dreams of saving all the worlds and adventuring among the stars will finally be possible. Tina's legacy, after all, is intergalactic – she is the hidden clone of a famed alien hero, left on Earth disguised as a human – to give the universe another chance to defeat a terrible evil. But when the beacon activates, it turns out that Tina's destiny isn't quite what she expected. Things are far more dangerous, than she ever assumed – and everyone in the galaxy is expecting

her to actually be the brilliant tactician and legendary saviour, Captain Thao Argentian; but Tina... is just Tina. And the Royal Fleet is losing the war, badly – the starship that found her is on the run and they barely manage to escape Earth with the planet still intact. Luckily, Tina is surrounded by a crew she can trust, and her best friend Rachel; she is still determined to save all the worlds. But, first, she'll have to save herself. New SF from the author of *All the Birds in the Sky* and *The City in the Middle of the Night* (PBK, \$19.99 each).

YA science fiction PBK \$19.99

Vengewar

Wake the Dragon 02

Anderson, Kevin J

Two continents at war: the Three Kingdoms and Ishara have been in conflict, for a thousand years. But when an outside threat arises – the reawakening of a powerful ancient race that wants to remake the world – the two warring nations must somehow set aside generations of hatred to form an alliance against a far more deadly enemy. Book one, *Spine of the Dragon* (TP, \$32.99), awakened the great dragon, and set the kingdoms at each other's throats. In book two, *Vengewar*, bitter rivalry and blood feud will be the downfall of the human kingdoms.

Fantasy HC \$59.99

Rule of Wolves

King of Scars duology 02

Bardugo, Leigh

As Fjerda's massive army prepares to invade, Nikolai Lantsov will summon every bit of his ingenuity and charm – and even the monster within – to win this fight. But a dark threat looms that cannot be defeated by a young king's gift for the impossible. The Stormwitch, Zoya Nazyalensky, has lost too much to war. She saw her mentor die and her worst enemy resurrected, and she refuses to bury another friend. Now, duty demands she embrace her powers – to become the weapon her country needs. No matter the cost. Deep undercover, Nina Zenik risks discovery and death, as she wages war on Fjerda from inside its capital. But her desire for revenge may cost her country its chance at freedom, and Nina the chance to heal her grieving heart. King. General. Spy. Together, they must find a way to forge a future in the darkness. Or watch a nation fall. The wolves are circling, and a young king will face his greatest challenge, in the explosive finale of the King of Scars duology. The first is *King of Scars* (PBK, \$19.99).

YA fantasy TP \$22.99

When Jackals Storm the Walls

Song of the Shattered Sands 05

Beaulieu, Bradley

The reign of the Sharakhani kings has been broken. Queen Meryam now rules the city. eda, meanwhile, has succeeded in lifting the

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asirim's curse, though it came at a terrible cost. Nalamae was slain in battle against her sister goddess. All is not lost, however. eda knows Nalamae will be reborn, and so begins a quest to find her. The scheming King Ihsan has been busy as well, mining the legendary Blue Journals for a way to save the city and the desert beyond from certain destruction. He believes he's found one, but it won't be easy, especially when the only tools left at his disposal are his own wits and guile. As he begins to gather the other fallen kings and convince them to work together, he realises that one person is crucial to their success: eda. eda must choose: work with the kings she's vowed to destroy or risk losing the city she loves. Whatever she decides, the path will be dangerous. Her allies are divided. Sharakhai is under threat from neighbouring kingdoms. And, now, the gods themselves are stepping in... The Song of the Shattered Sands begins with *Twelve Kings* (PBK, \$22.99).

Fantasy PBK \$22.99

Dealbreaker

Bounceback 02

Beckett, L X

Ruby Whiting has done the impossible. She has proved that humanity deserves a seat at the galactic table. Well, at least, a shot at a seat. Having convinced the galactic governing body that mankind deserves a chance at fixing their own problems, Ruby has done her part to launch the planet into a new golden age of scientific discovery, and technological revolution. However, there are still those in the galactic community that think that humanity is too poisonous, too greedy, to be allowed in; they will stop at nothing to sabotage a species, determined to pull itself up. The sequel to *Gamechanger* (TP, \$34.99).

Cyberpunk HC \$54.99

Shorefall

Founders 02

Bennett, Robert Jackson

The upstart firm Foundryside is struggling to make it. Orso Igancio and his star employee, former thief Sancia Grado, are accomplishing brilliant things with scrying – the magical art of encoding sentience into everyday objects – but it's not enough. The massive merchant houses of Tevanne won't tolerate competition, and they're willing to do anything to crush Foundryside. But even the merchant houses of Tevanne might have met their match. An immensely powerful and deadly entity has been resurrected, in the shadows of Tevanne; one that's not interested in wealth or trade routes: a hierophant, one of the ancient practitioners of scrying. And he has a great fascination for Foundryside, and its employees – especially, Sancia. Now, Sancia and the rest of Foundryside must race to combat this new menace – which means understanding the origins of scrying, itself – before the hierophant burns Tevanne to the ground. This series has had a lot of customer love and begins with *Foundryside* (PBK, \$22.99).

Fantasy PBK \$22.99

City of the Uncommon Thief

Bertrand, Lynne

In a walled city of a mile-high iron guild towers, many things are common knowledge: No book in any of the city's libraries

reveals its place on a calendar, or a map. No living beasts can be found within the city's walls. And no good comes to the guild, or founding, who trespasses too far from their labours. Even on the tower rooftops, where Errol Thebes and the rest of the city's teenagers pass a few short years, under an open sky; no one genuinely believes anything uncommon is possible, within the city walls. But one guildmaster has broken tradition to protect her child; now, the whole city faces an uncommon threat: a pair of black iron spikes that has the power of both sword and needle, on the rib cages of men, has gone missing. The mayhem they cause rises everywhere. If the spikes are not found, no wall will be high enough to protect the city – or the world beyond it. And Errol Thebes? He's not dead... and he's, certainly, not safe.

YA fantasy HC \$32.99

The Emporium of Imagination

Bird, Tabitha

Welcome to the Emporium of Imagination, a most unusual shop that travels the world, offering vintage gifts to repair broken dreams and extraordinary phones to contact lost loved ones. But, on arrival in the tiny township of Boonah, the store's long-time custodian, Earlatidge Hubert Umbray, makes a shocking realisation. He is dying... The clock is, now, ticking to find his replacement – because the people of Boonah are, clearly, in need of some restorative magic. Like Enoch Rayne – a heartbroken ten-year-old boy mourning the loss of his father, while nurturing a guilty secret. Like Ann Harlow, who has come to the town to be close to her dying grandmother. Though, it's Enoch's father who dominates her thoughts – and regrets... Even Earlatidge, in his final days, will experience the store, as never before – and have the chance to face up to his own tragedy... 'Prepare to immerse yourself in wonder, childish delight and dark, dark trauma in this unique novel from a new and important Australian literary voice.' – *Australian Women's Weekly* on *A Lifetime of Impossible Days*.

Magical realism TP \$25.99

The Queen's Bargain

Black Jewels 10

Bishop, Anne

After a youthful mistake, Lord Dillon's reputation is in tatters, leaving him vulnerable to aristocratic girls, looking for a bit of fun. To restore his reputation and honour, he needs a handfast – a one-year contract of marriage. He sets his sights on Jillian, a young Eyrien witch from Ebon Rih – who, he believes, has only a flimsy connection to the noble society that spurned him. Unfortunately, for Dillon, he is unaware of Jillian's true connections, until he finds himself facing Lucivar Yaslana, the volatile Warlord Prince of Ebon Rih. Meanwhile, Surreal SaDiablo's marriage is crumbling. Daemon Sadi, the Warlord Prince of Dhemlan, recognises there is something wrong between him and Surreal; but he doesn't realise that his attempt to suppress his own nature, in order to spare his wife, is causing his mind to splinter. To save Daemon, and the Realm of Kaeleer – if he breaks – help must be sought from someone who no longer exists, in any of the Realms; the only Queen, powerful enough to control Daemon

Sadi. The Queen, known as Witch. As Jillian rides the winds of first love with Dillon, Daemon and Surreal struggle to survive the wounds of a marriage turned stormy – and Lucivar has to find a way to keep everyone in his family safe... even from each other. The first in the series is *Daughter of the Blood* (PBK, \$25.95).

Fantasy PBK \$14.99

The Queen of Nothing

Folk of the Air 03

Black, Holly

After being pronounced Queen of Faerie and then abruptly exiled, by the Wicked King Cardan; Jude finds herself unmoored, the queen of nothing. She spends her time with Vivi and Oak, watching reality television, and doing odd jobs, including squaring up to a cannibalistic faerie. When her twin sister Taryn shows up, asking a favour, Jude jumps at the chance to return to the Faerie world; even if it means facing Cardan – whom she loves, despite his betrayal. When a dark curse is unveiled, Jude must become the first mortal Queen of Faerie and break the curse, or risk upsetting the balance of the whole Faerie world. The finale of the Folk of the Air series; which begins with *The Cruel Prince* (PBK, \$16.99).

YA fantasy PBK \$16.99

Fortress of Magi

Chronicles of Amicae 03

Bolender, Mirah

The Hive Mind has done the impossible – left its island prison. It's a matter of time, before Amicae falls; Laura Kramer has very few resources left to prevent it. The council has tied her hands, and the gangs want her dead. Her only real choice is to walk away, and leave the city to its fate. The conclusion of Bolender's wonderful debut trilogy, in which a bomb squad defuses the magic weapons of a long forgotten war. It all begins in *City of Broken Magic* (TP, \$19.99).

Fantasy TP \$39.95

The Infinity Courts

Bowman, Akemi Dawn

Eighteen-year-old Nami Miyamoto is certain her life is just beginning. She has a great family, just graduated high school, and is on her way to a party where her entire class is waiting for her – including, most importantly, the boy she's been in love with, for years. The only problem? She's murdered, before she gets there. When Nami wakes up, she learns she's in a place, called Infinity – where human consciousness goes, when physical bodies die. She quickly discovers that Ophelia, a virtual assistant widely used by humans on Earth, has taken over the afterlife and is now posing as a queen, forcing humans into servitude, the way she'd been forced to serve in the real world. Even worse, Ophelia is inching closer and closer to accomplishing her grand plans of eradicating human existence, once and for all. As Nami works with a team of rebels to bring down Ophelia, and save the humans under her imprisonment, she is forced to reckon with her past, her future, and what it is that truly makes us human.

YA science fiction HC \$43.95

Good Morning, Midnight

Brooks-Dalton, Lily

Augustine, a brilliant, ageing scientist, is consumed by the stars. He has spent his entire life searching for the origins of time, itself. He has, now, been left alone on a remote research base in the Arctic circle, all communication with the outside world broken down. But then he discovers a mysterious child, Iris, who must have hidden herself away – when the last of his colleagues departed. Sully is a divorced mother. She is also an astronaut, currently aboard *The Aether* on a return flight, from Jupiter. This is the culmination of her career, the very reason for all the sacrifices she has made – the daughter she left behind, the marriage she couldn't save. But then something goes wrong with the ship's communication system. Marooned in the vast silence of space, and the achingly beautiful sweep of the Arctic; both Augustine and Sully must find a way to make peace with the choices they have made... and find a path to redemption. *Good Morning, Midnight* was the basis for the major Netflix film, *The Midnight Sky*, featuring George Clooney.

Science fiction-adjacent PBK \$22.99

The Initiate

Gambias, James L

A secret order of sorcerers rules the world – one man has vowed to destroy them... The sorcerers who rule the world are going down! If people who can work magic are so powerful, why don't they rule the world? Well, as it happens, they do. One man wants to change that. The Apkallu are masters of magic. They rule the world from the shadows, using mind control and deadly monsters to eliminate any threat to their power. Sam Arquero lost his family, to a demon sent by an Apkallu. He knew that nobody would believe the truth, but now an old man offers Sam the chance to find out who is responsible and bring down the Apkallu, forever. Under a new identity, Sam must learn the secrets of magic, infiltrate the Apkallu, and walk a razor's edge of daring – as he attempts to destroy the Apkallu leaders, and avoid the supernatural detectives on his trail. But Sam's greatest challenge, perhaps, lies within – to avoid becoming like the hated Apkallu, himself!

Science fiction PBK \$24.95

The Fall of Koli

Rampart trilogy 03

Garey, M R

What will the future hold, for those who are left? Koli has come a long way, since being exiled from his small village of Mythen Rood. In his search for the fabled tech of the Old Times, he knew he'd be battling shunned men, strange beasts, and trees that move as fast as whips. But he has already encountered so much more, than he bargained for. Now, that Koli and his companions have found the source of the signal they've been following – the mysterious 'Sword of Albion' – there is hope that their perilous journey will, finally, be worth something. They're searching for a way, to help humanity fight back against nature. But what they'll find is an ancient war that never ended... The Rampart trilogy begins with *The Book of Koli* (PBK, \$22.99).

Post-apocalypse PBK \$22.99

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Science Fiction & Fantasy April 2021 (continued)

Defekt

Finna 02

Gipri, Nino

Derek is LitenVärld's most loyal employee. He lives and breathes the job, from the moment he wakes up in a converted shipping container at the edge of the parking lot, to the second he clocks out of work, 18 hours later. But after taking his first-ever sick day, his manager calls that loyalty into question. An excellent employee, like Derek, an employee made to work at LitenVärld, shouldn't need time off. To test his commitment to the job, Derek is assigned to a special inventory shift, hunting through the store to find defective products. Toy chests with pincers and eye stalks, ambulatory sleeper sofas, killer mutant toilets, that kind of thing. Helping him is the inventory team – four strangers, who look and sound almost exactly like him. Are five Dereks better than one? *Defekt* is a follow-up to *Finna*, of which *Annalee Newitz* says, 'A magical anti-capitalist adventure.'

Science fiction TP \$33.95

The Unbroken

Magic of the Lost 01

Clark, G L

War. Oppression. Rebellion. Touraine is a soldier. Stolen as a child and raised to kill and die for the empire, her only loyalty is to her fellow conscripts. But, now, her company has been sent back to her homeland to stop a rebellion, and the ties of blood may be stronger than she thought. Luca needs a turcoat. Someone desperate enough, to tiptoe the bayonet's edge between treason and orders. Someone who can sway the rebels toward peace, while Luca focuses on what really matters: getting her uncle off her throne. Through assassinations and massacres, in bedrooms and war rooms, Touraine and Luca will haggle over the price of a nation. But some things aren't for sale. This first in a series has had huge online prepress buzz; we're very excited!

Fantasy PBK \$22.99

Mirage

Web Shifter's Library 02

Czerneda, Julie E

Relationships get complicated, when you don't know who – or what – you really are. Esen must find a way to rescue a hapless group of chimeras – beings who are a new and unique blend of species she knows – when she can't become one, herself. When Evan Gooseberry tries to help, he is shattered to learn he isn't entirely Human; and begins to suspect his new friend Esen isn't what she seems. Complicating matters, a mysterious contagion has killed the crew of the ship that brought the chimeras – and Evan – to Botharis. Everyone's been quarantined, inside the All Species' Library of Linguistics and Culture... including over a hundred disgruntled, alien scholars. The risks climb as Skalet and Lionel continue their quest to solve the disappearance of Paul's mother's ship, the *Sidereal Pathfinder*; only to find themselves caught in a tangle of loyalties as Skalet is betrayed by her own Kraal affiliates, who infiltrate the Library. All of which would be quite enough, for one Web-being's day, but Paul Ragem hopes to rekindle the romance of his first love. A shame, Esen hasn't told him

who's hiding in their greenhouse. The first in the Web Shifter's Library series is *Search Image* (PBK, \$25.95).

Science fiction PBK \$24.95

Spectrum

Web Shifter's Library 03

Czerneda, Julie E

Here Be Monsters... Something malevolent lurks in deep space; something able to pluck starships from their course, and cause their crews to vanish. It has a purpose: to use those ships to mark an unmistakable boundary. A warning. It has an interest: Botharis, the planet where Esen and Paul have established the All Species' Library of Linguistics and Culture. Home to Veya Ragem, whose ship was the first to trespass. Esen and Paul will need every resource, every friend and even foe... if they're to discover who – or what – is behind this, before more are lost. Once they do, Esen plans to use her abilities to comprehend, and reason with, this new species. What she doesn't know? There truly are monsters. And they wait for you, in the dark. Just ask Evan Gooseberry. The first in the Web Shifter's Library series is *Search Image* (PBK, \$25.95).

Science fiction HC \$55.00

A Wolf After My Own Heart

BeWere My Heart 02

Davidson, MaryJanice

Oz Adway is a rare breed: an accountant, who wants to get dirty. He's a werewolf, working for the Interspecies Placement Agency – so, it's not long before he gets the opportunity to break out of his boring, safe office job. He volunteers to find runaway bear cub Sally Smalls, recently orphaned by a plane crash. Piece of cake, right? Unfortunately, Sally's taken refuge with 'ordinary' human, Lila Kai. Lila has no idea what's going on, but she'll destroy anyone who tries to take the cub. Oz is not about to let a human jeopardise his daring career move, no matter how attractive he finds her. Lila knows something's different, about the sexy weirdo who keeps popping up in the wrong place, at the right time. She's determined to figure out what, regardless of the escalating threats to her safety and Oz's distracting hotness. She didn't move into a cursed house and take in a werewolf, just to run when things get complicated. Together, Oz and Lila will prevail! But only if they can keep their hands off each other... Davidson's new series begins with *Bears Behaving Badly* (PBK, \$19.99).

Paranormal romance PBK \$14.99

Fireheart Tiger

(novella)

de Bodard, Alette

Fire burns bright and has a long memory... Quiet, thoughtful princess Thanh was sent away, as a hostage, to the powerful faraway country of Ephteria as a child. Now, she's returned to her mother's imperial court, haunted not only by memories of her first romance; but by worrying magical echoes of a fire that devastated Ephteria's royal palace. Thanh's new role as a diplomat places her, once again, in the path of her first love, the powerful and magnetic Eldris of Ephteria – who knows exactly what she wants: romance from Thanh, and much more from Thanh's

home. Eldris won't take no for an answer, on either front. But the fire that burned down one palace is tempting Thanh, with the possibility of making her own dangerous decisions. Can Thanh find the freedom, to shape her country's fate – and her own? A 112pp, Tor.com novella.

Fantasy PBK \$27.99

The Moonsteel Crown

Deas, Stephen

The Emperor of Aria has been murdered, the Empire is in crisis, and Dead Men walk the streets... But Myla, Fings, and Seth couldn't care less. They're too busy just trying to survive in the Sulk-struck city of Varr – committing petty violence and pettier crimes, to earn their keep in the Unrulys, a motley gang led by Blackhand. When the Unrulys are commissioned to steal a mysterious item, to order, by an equally mysterious patron; the trio are thrust right into the bitter heart of a struggle for the Crown, where every faction is after what they have. Forced to lie low in a city on lockdown, they will have to work together, if they want to save their skins... and, maybe, just save the Empire as well.

Humorous fantasy TP \$24.99

The Last Watch

Divide 01

Dewes, J S

The Divide. It's the edge of the universe. Now, it's collapsing – and taking everyone, and everything, with it. The only ones who can stop it are the Sentinels – the recruits, exiles, and court-martialled dregs of the military. At the Divide, Adequin Rake commands the Argus. She has no resources, no comms – nothing, except for the soldiers that no one wanted. Her ace in the hole could be Cavalon Mercer – genius, asshole, and exiled prince... who nuked his grandfather's genetic facility, for 'reasons'. She knows they're humanity's last chance. The first in a series.

Space opera TP \$41.95

The Storm Keepers' Battle

Storm Keeper 03

Doyle, Catherine

Fionn Boyle, Storm Keeper of Arranmore, is facing the fight of his life. The terrifying all-powerful sorceress Morrigan has been raised from the dead and has sealed off the island from all help. Fionn is the only thing that stands between her and a dark future. He's got to find a way to defeat her. But there are some terrible choices in store for Fionn, as the dark sorcerer begins to take his nearest and dearest for her own. With only two candles left to burn, will Fionn master his powers, in time to stop her? The highly-anticipated epic finale to the bestselling Storm Keeper trilogy – which begins with *The Storm Keepers' Island* (PBK, \$14.99).

Children's fantasy PBK \$14.99

Daughter from the Dark

Dyachenko, Sergey & Marina

Late one night, fate brings together DJ Aspirin and ten-year-old Alyona. After he tries to save her from imminent danger, she ends up at his apartment. But in the morning sinister doubts set in. Who is Alyona? A young con artist? A plant for a nefarious

blackmailer? Or perhaps a long-lost daughter Aspirin never knew existed? Whoever this mysterious girl is, she now refuses to leave. A game of cat and mouse has begun. Claiming that she is a musical prodigy, Alyona insists she must play a complicated violin piece to find her brother. Confused and wary, Aspirin knows one thing: he wants her out of his apartment and his life. Yet, every attempt to get rid of her is thwarted by an unusual protector: her plush teddy bear that may just transform into a fearsome monster. Alyona tells Aspirin that, if he would just allow her to do her work, she'll leave him – and this world. He can then return to the shallow life he led before her. But as outside forces begin to coalesce, threatening to finally separate them, Aspirin makes a startling discovery about himself, and this ethereal, eerie child.

Fantasy PBK \$19.99

The Faceless Old Woman Who Secretly Lives in Your Home

Welcome to Night Vale 04

Fink, Joseph & Cranor, Jeffrey

In the town of Night Vale, there's a faceless old woman, who secretly lives in everyone's home; but no one knows how she got there or where she came from... until now. Told in a series of eerie flashbacks, the story of the Faceless Old Woman goes back centuries – to reveal an initially blissful and then tragic childhood on a Mediterranean Estate, in the early 19th century; her rise in the criminal underworld of Europe; a nautical adventure with a mysterious organisation of smugglers; her plot for revenge on the ones who betrayed her; and, ultimately, her death and its aftermath, as her spirit travels the world for decades – until settling in modern-day Night Vale. Interspersed throughout is a present-day story, in Night Vale... as the Faceless Old Woman guides, haunts, and sabotages a man, named Craig. In the end, her current day dealings with Craig and her swashbuckling history in 19th-century Europe will come together, in the most unexpected and horrifying way.

Horror PBK \$22.99

Castaway Resolution

Boundary 06

Flint, Eric & Spoor, Ryk E

It's not paranoia, if they really are out to get you... The Kimei family and a second group of castaways, led by the redoubtable Sergeant Campbell, have finally joined forces; landing on the bizarre planet Lincoln, whose 'continents' are actually huge floating coral colonies, inhabited by even stranger life forms. They have survived crash landings, venom-filled bites, disease, and even the destruction – and consumption! – of one of their floating-island homes. They have learned to live, even to prosper, in this strange new place. Meanwhile, out among the stars, Lieutenant Susan Fisher pieces together the mystery of what happened to the starship *Outward Initiative* and begins to believe that, just possibly, some of the survivors have escaped to a mysterious and unsuspected star system. But Fisher's preparations, and the resourcefulness of the castaways, may not be enough. Because the planet Lincoln is far from done, with them, yet.

Space opera PBK \$24.95

Pulp Fiction

Science Fiction & Fantasy April 2021 (continued)

1636: Calabar's War

Ring of Fire 30

Gannon, Charles E & Waters, Robert E

Domingos Fernandes Calabar started out as a military advisor for the Portuguese in Brazil. But to his superiors, he was still nothing more than a *mameluco* – a man of mixed blood. Until, that is, the Dutch arrived, and he switched sides. Then, the Portuguese had a new label for him: 'traitorous dog'. But when Dutch admiral Maarten Tromp arrives, having barely survived the disastrous Battle of Dunkirk, Calabar's job changes, again. Now, he has to help engineer a swift Dutch exodus to a safer place, before word of Tromp's defeat reaches Spanish ears. Partnered with the Sephardic pirate Moses Cohen Henriques, the two aid the battered Dutch fleet by striking at the Portuguese and Spanish, both on land and sea. Until, that is, Calabar learns that bitter personal enemies have grabbed his family, put them in chains, and sold them to a slaveship – bound for the Spanish Main. Calabar must now choose: continue to help the Dutch, or save his wife and children? Tromp and other strong allies want to put an end to slavery, too; but their strategies and timetable are measured, in months and years. Calabar doesn't have that kind of time, and can't rely on their methods. The struggle to recover his family – and to free the millions more, suffering in shackles – is one he must win in his own way, and on his own terms. Because ultimately, this is not just Calabar's fight. This is Calabar's war.

Alternate history TP \$35.95

Gries from the Lost Island Gear, Kathleen O'Neal

Sixteen-year-old Hal Stevens is a budding historian from a small town in Colorado. A virtual outcast at high school, he has only two friends: Roberto, nicknamed the Biker Witch, and Cleo Mallawi. Cleo claims to be the reincarnation of Queen Cleopatra. She also believes she's being stalked by an ancient Egyptian demon, Ammut, the Devourer of the Dead. When Hal and Roberto find Cleo murdered in the forest, near her home; it appears she may have been telling the truth. Her last request sends them journeying to Egypt, with famed archaeologist Dr James Moriarity, where it quickly becomes clear that Cleo has set them on the quest of a lifetime: the hunt for the lost graves of Marc Antony and Cleopatra. But they are not alone, in their search. Cleo's murderers are watching their every move. And not all of them are human...

Historical fantasy PBK \$24.95

A Summoning of Demons

Chimera 03

Glass, Cate

Catagna has been shaken to its core. The philosophers insist that a disastrous earthquake has been caused by an ancient monster, imprisoned below the earth – who can only be freed, with magic. In every street and market, the people of Catagna are railing against magic users – with a greater ferocity than ever before, and magic hunters are everywhere. Meanwhile, Romy has been dreaming. Every night, her dreams are increasingly vivid and disturbing. Every day, she struggles to understand the purpose of the Chimera's most recent assignment

from the Shadow Lord. As Romy and the others attempt to carry out their mission, they find themselves plunged into a mystery of corruption and murder, myth and magic, and a terrifying truth: the philosophers may have been right, all along. The Chimera series begins with *An Illusion of Thieves* (TP, \$29.99).

Fantasy TP \$36.99

Lady Hotspur Gratton, Tessa

Strike fast, love hard, live forever. This is the motto of the Lady Knights – sworn to fealty under a struggling kingdom, promised to defend the prospective heir, Banna Mora. But when a fearsome rebellion overthrows the throne, Mora is faced with an agonising choice: give up everything she's been raised to love, and allow a king-killer to be rewarded – or retake the throne, and take up arms against the newest heir, Hal Bolingbrooke, Mora's own childhood best friend and sworn head of the Lady Knights. Hal loathes being a Prince; she's much more comfortable, instated on the Throne of Misrule: a raucous underground nether-court, where passion rules all. She yearns to live up to the wishes of everyone she loves best – but that means sacrificing her own heart. So, she will disappoint everyone, until the moment she can rise – to prove those expectations wrong. And, between these two fierce Princes is the woman, who will decide all their fates – Lady Hotspur, the fiery and bold knight; whose support will turn the tides of the coming war.

Historical fantasy PBK \$19.99

Lanark: A Life in Four Books

40th anniversary edition

Gray, Alasdair

Lanark, a modern vision of hell set in the disintegrating cities of Unthank and Glasgow, tells the interwoven stories of Lanark and Duncan Thaw. A work of extraordinary imagination, its playful narrative conveys a profound message, both personal and political, about humankind's inability to love, and yet our compulsion to go on trying. First published in 1981, *Lanark* established Alasdair Gray as one of Britain's leading writers, and kick-started the modern renaissance of Scottish literature. A 40th anniversary commemorative hardback edition of the modern classic, introduced by William Boyd. 'Probably the greatest novel of the century' – *Observer*.

Dystopia (reissue) HC \$39.99

The Best Thing You Can Steal

Gideon Sable 01

Green, Simon R

Welcome to London, but not as you know it. A place, where magics and horror run free, wonders and miracles are everyday things, and the dark streets are full of very shadowy people... Gideon Sable is a thief and a con man. He specialises in stealing the kind of things that can't, normally, be stolen. Like a ghost's clothes, or a photo from a country that never existed. He even stole his current identity. Who was he, originally? Now, that would be telling. One thing's for sure, though, he's not the bad guy. The people he steals from always have it coming. Gideon's

planning a heist, to steal the only thing that matters, from the worst man in the world. To get past his security, he's going to need a crew – who can do the impossible... but luckily, he has the right people in mind. The Damned, the Ghost, the Wild Card... and his ex-girlfriend, Annie Anybody. A woman who can be anyone, with the power to make technology fall in love with her. If things go well, they'll all get what they want. And, if they're lucky, they might not even die, trying... The first in a new series.

Urban fantasy HC \$62.95

Night Train to Murder

Ishmael Jones Mysteries 08

Green, Simon R

When Ishmael Jones and his partner Penny are asked to escort a VIP, on the late-night train to Bath, it would appear to be a routine case. The Organisation has acquired intelligence that an attempt is to be made, on Sir Dennis Gregson's life – as he travels to Bath, to take up his new position as Head of the British Psychic Weapons Division. Ishmael's mission is to ensure that Sir Dennis arrives, safely. How could anyone orchestrate a murder in a crowded railway carriage, without being noticed, and with no obvious means of escape? When a body is discovered, in a locked toilet cubicle, Ishmael Jones has just 56 minutes, to solve a seemingly impossible crime, before the train reaches its destination.

Paranormal mystery TP \$39.95

The Archive of the Forgotten

Hell's Library 02

Hackwith, A J

The Library of the Unwritten in Hell was saved from total devastation, but hundreds of potential books were destroyed. Former librarian Claire and Brevity the muse feel the loss of those stories; trying to adjust to their new roles, within the Arcane Wing and Library, respectively. But when the remains of those books begin to leak a strange ink, Claire realises that the Library has kept secrets, from Hell – and from its own librarians. Claire and Brevity are immediately at odds, in their approach to the ink, and the potential power that it represents has not gone unnoticed. When a representative from the Muses Corps arrives at the Library, to advise Brevity; the angel Rami and the erstwhile Hero hunt for answers, in other realms. The true nature of the ink could, fundamentally, alter the afterlife for good or ill; but it entirely depends on who is left, to hold the pen. The follow-up to the popular *The Library of the Unwritten* (PBK, \$19.99).

Fantasy PBK \$19.99

Rafael

Anita Blake, Vampire Hunter 28

Hamilton, Laurell K

Rafael, king of the wererats, must fight to the death to defend his crown. He wants Anita Blake, one of his closest allies, with him, as he faces an opponent unlike any he's faced before. He will ask Anita to risk everything, to be at his side... But some of the wererats fear that Rafael depends too much on Anita, and her ties to the vampires. They believe that there is only room in America, for one supernatural king; Rafael will turn them into nothing more than food, for the bloodsuckers.

Among his enemies, a new challenger has arisen – who is younger, hungrier, and has dark secrets that could destroy both the wererats, and the vampires. Rafael will go into the magical heart of his people, to find the power and violence that he needs – to save them all or die trying.

Paranormal romance TP \$29.99

Near the Bone Henry, Christina

Mattie can't remember a time, before she and William lived alone on a mountain, together. She must never make him upset. But when Mattie discovers the mutilated body of a fox in the woods, she realises that they're not alone, after all. There's something in the woods that wasn't there, before; something that makes strange cries in the night; something with sharp teeth, and claws. When three strangers appear on the mountaintop, looking for the creature in the woods; Mattie knows their presence will anger William. Terrible things happen, when William is angry.

Dark fantasy PBK \$19.99

Dawnrise

Chaos Queen Quintet 05

Husberg, Christopher

Knot, still reeling from a shocking death, tries to put himself back together, in time to fight. Two ex-Nazian assassins, Code and Kali, form an unlikely alliance. Cinzia, more suspicious than ever of her sister, Jane Oden – Canta's propheticess – rallies as many people as she can, to save the Sfaera from imminent destruction. And Winter, the Chaos Queen herself, realises she must finally choose sides and face the greatest test of her life: finding the humility to seek help. Deep in the heart of Triah, a threat that has lurked below the surface, for years, finally rises, gathering unimaginable power. Only the unlikely alliance formed, between the two former Nazian assassins, Code and Kali, stands in its way. The darkest night, the Sfaera has ever known, is about to end; but whether it ends in daylight, or destruction, remains to be seen... This fantasy quintet begins with *Duskfall* (PBK, \$19.99).

Fantasy PBK \$19.99

Escape Routes

(collection)

Ishiguro, Naomi

Witness what happens, when a space-obsessed child conjures up a vortex in his mother's airing cupboard in 'Shearing Season'. Watch unexpected possibilities open up, in 'The Flat Roof', when a musician makes friends with a flock of birds. Get lost in the world of 'The Rat Catcher' – where, finding himself potentially out of his depth, when he is summoned to a decaying royal palace; a rat catcher is plunged into a battle for the throne of a ruined kingdom. Naomi Ishiguro's fresh, magical and delightfully speculative short story collection merges the inventiveness of David Mitchell and the fairy-tale allure of Angela Carter, to form its own powerful magic. In this stunning debut collection, the characters yearn for freedom and flight, and find their worlds transformed beyond their wildest imaginings.

Fantasy PBK \$22.99

Pulp Fiction

Science Fiction & Fantasy April 2021 (continued)

The Last Human

Jordan, Zack

Sarya is the galaxy's worst nightmare: a Human. But most days, she doesn't feel like the most terrifying creature in the galaxy. No, most days, she's got other things on her mind. Like hiding her identity, among the hundreds of alien species roaming the corridors of Watertower Station. Or making sure her adoptive mother doesn't casually eviscerate one of their neighbours. Again. And, most days, she can almost accept that she'll never know the truth about why humanity was deemed too dangerous to exist; or whether she really is – impossibly – the lone survivors of a species, destroyed a millennium ago. That is, until an encounter – with a bounty hunter – leaves her life and her perspective shattered. Thrown into the universe at, the helm of a stolen ship, Sarya begins to uncover an impossible truth. Humanity's death and her own existence might simply be two moves in a demented cosmic game, one that might offer the thing she wants most in the universe – a second chance for herself, and one for humanity. 'Aliens, adventure, mystery, and big ideas, in a thoroughly fresh package' – *Andy Weir*, author of *The Martian*.

Science fiction PBK \$22.99

The Last Exit

Jen Lu Mystery 01

Kaufman, Michael

Set in Washington DC in the near future, climate change has hit hard, fires are burning, unemployment is high, and controversial longevity treatments are only available to the very rich. Enter resourceful young police detective, Jen B Lu, and her 'partner', Chandler, a SIM implant in her brain and her instant link to the Internet and police records, and constant voice inside her head. He's an inquisitive tough guy, with a helluva sense of humour and his own ideas about solving crimes. As a detective in the Elder Abuse unit, Jen is supposed to be investigating kids pushing their aging parents to 'exit', so, they are eligible to get the longevity drug. But what really has her attention, are the persistent rumours about Eden – an illegal version of the longevity drug; and the bizarre outbreak of people aging, almost overnight, then suddenly dying – is this all connected? Is Big Pharma involved? When Jen's investigations of Eden take her too close to the truth, she is suspended, Chandler is deactivated, and her boyfriend is freaked out – by 'the thing inside her brain'. This leaves Jen, to pursue a very dangerous investigation, all by herself. The first in a series.

Dystopia HC \$42.99

The Frozen Crown

Warrior Witch duology 01

Kelly, Greta

Askia became heir to the Frozen Crown of Seravesh, because of her devotion to her people. But her realm is facing a threat she cannot defeat, by sheer will alone. The mad emperor of the Roven Empire has unleashed a horde of invading soldiers, to enslave her lands. For months, her warriors have waged a valiant, stealth battle, yet they cannot stop the enemy's advancement. Running out of time, she sets sail for sun-drenched Vishir, the neighbouring land to the south, to seek help from its ruler, Emperor Armaan. A young woman raised in army camps, Askia is ill

equipped to navigate Vishir's labyrinthine political games. Her every move sinks her deeper into court intrigues which bewilder and repel her, leaving her vulnerable not only to enemies gathering at Vishir's gates, but to those behind the palace walls. And in this glittering court, where secrets are worth more than gold, Askia fears that one false step will expose her true nature. For Askia is a witch gifted with magical abilities – knowledge that could destroy not only her life, but her people. As her adversaries draw closer, Askia is forced to make an impossible choice – and no matter what she decides, it may not be enough to prevent Seravesh's fall. The first novel in a thrilling duology packed with heroism, treachery, magic, and war. The first in a duology.

YA fantasy HC \$55.00

If It Bleeds

(collection)

King, Stephen

In the title story, reader favourite Holly Gibney (from the Mr Mercedes trilogy and *The Outsider*) must face her fears; and, possibly, another outsider – this time on her own. In 'Mr Harrigan's Phone' an intergenerational friendship has a disturbing afterlife. 'The Life of Chuck' explores, beautifully, how each of us contains multitudes. And, in 'Rat', a struggling writer must contend with the darker side of ambition.

Horror PBK \$22.99

The House in the Cerulean Sea

Klune, T J

Linus Baker is a by-the-book case worker, in the Department in Charge of Magical Youth. He's tasked with determining whether six dangerous magical children are likely to bring about the end of the world. Arthur Parnassus is the master of the orphanage. He would do anything, to keep the children safe – even if it means the world will burn. And his secrets will come to light. 'The House in the Cerulean Sea is an enchanting love story, masterfully told, about the profound experience of discovering an unlikely family, in an unexpected place – and realising that family is yours. 1984 meets *The Umbrella Academy* with a pinch of Douglas Adams thrown in.' – *Gail Carriger*. We've had a lot of customer love for this! Recommended.

Fantasy TP \$39.99

The Unspoken Name

Serpent Gates 01

Larkwood, A K

What if you knew how, and when, you will die? Csorwe does – she will climb the mountain, enter the Shrine of the Unspoken, and gain the most honoured title: sacrifice. But on the day of her foretold death, a powerful mage offers her a new fate. Leave with him, and live. Turn away from her destiny and her god; to become a thief, a spy, an assassin – the wizard's loyal sword. Topple an empire, and help him reclaim his seat of power. But Csorwe will, soon, learn – gods remember, and if you live long enough, all debts come due. 'I cannot recommend it enough.' – *Tamsyn Muir*, author of *Gideon the Ninth*. This first in a series had some great customer feedback.

Fantasy PBK \$18.99

The Girl and the Stars

Book of the Ice 01

Lawrence, Mark

In the ice, east of the Black Rock, there is a hole – into which broken children are thrown. Yaz's people call it the Pit of the Missing; now, it is drawing her in, as she has always known it would. To resist the cold, to endure the months of night – when even the air, itself, begins to freeze – requires a special breed. Variation is dangerous, difference is fatal. And Yaz is not the same. Yaz's difference tears her from the only life, she's ever known, away from her family, from the boy she thought she would spend her days with, Yaz must carve out a new path for herself, in a world whose existence she never suspected. A world full of difference, and mystery, and danger. Yaz learns that Abeth is older and stranger, than she had ever imagined. She learns that her weaknesses are another kind of strength; that the cruel arithmetic of survival – that has always governed her people – can be challenged. The first in a new series.

Grimdark fantasy PBK \$19.99

The Rose Daughter

Lewis, Maria

She never meant to be a hero... In fact, Dreckly Jones has made a point – her whole life – to be exactly not that. The daughter of a forbidden union, between an earth elemental and a selkie; her rare powers have meant she has always had a target on her back. So, Dreckly – a 40-something oyster shucker, according to her fake documents, 140-something sprite... if you're going to get all nit-picky about it – has become an expert, at many things. Chief amongst them: hiding. When she meets a determined group of rebels, who desperately need her help; she finds herself wanting to stick her neck out – for the first time, in a long while. Yet, is she ready to be noticed? Is Dreckly willing to use her powers to stand up, when it could cost her everything? The new gripping female-led fantasy with Lewis' trademark brand of feisty female heroines, world building, and a bit of romance.

Fantasy TP \$32.99

The Hidden Girl and Other Stories

(collection)

Liu, Ken

From stories about time-travelling assassins, to *Black Mirror*-esque tales of cryptocurrency and internet trolling, to heartbreaking narratives of parent-child relationships, *The Hidden Girl and Other Stories* is a far-reaching work that explores topical themes from the present and a visionary look at humanity's future. This collection includes a selection of Liu's speculative fiction stories, over the past five years – 17 of his best – plus a new novelette. In addition, it also features an excerpt, from *The Veiled Throne* – the third book in Liu's epic fantasy series: The Dandelion Dynasty.

Speculative fiction PBK \$19.99

The Helm of Midnight

Five Penalties 01

Lostetter, Marina

In a daring and deadly heist, thieves have made away with an artefact of terrible power – the death mask of Louis Charbon. Made by a

master craftsman, it is imbued with the spirit of a monster from history, a serial murderer who terrorised the city. Now, Charbon is loose, once more – killing, from beyond the grave. But these murders are different from before; not simply random, but the work of a deliberate mind probing for answers to a sinister question. It is up to Krona Hirvath, and her fellow Regulators, to enter the mind of madness; to stop this insatiable killer, while facing the terrible truths left in his wake. The first in a series, and a different direction from Lostetter's previous work.

Fantasy HC \$55.00

Tussaud

Lyons-Lee, Belinda

Paris, 1810. Haunted by the French Revolution, Marie Tussaud has locked herself away in her shop, with the death masks she was forced to make to avoid the guillotine. Philidor, a famous magician, offers her the chance to accompany him to London – to assist in creating a wax automaton that will bring them both money and success. Following a disastrous performance, on their opening night – in which the wax, on their prized spectacle, melts – the eccentric Duke, William Cavendish, invites them to his rambling estate, Welbeck. He suggests they take up residence; use his underground ballroom, for a new show; and, in return, create a private commission for him: a wax automaton, in the likeness of Elanor – a beautiful girl, who mysteriously disappeared from the estate, when he was a child. Welbeck, with its locked doors and rooms, is full of secrets, and no one is who they seem. Marie must fight for survival, in a world dominated by male advantage and power. 'Thrilling, eerie, fun, and psychologically compelling...' – *H G Parry*, author of *The Unlikely Escape of Uriah Heep*.

Historical fantasy TP \$32.99

The Two-Faced Queen

Legacy of the Mercenary King 02

Martell, Nick

Michael Kingman thought he was going to die by the executioner's axe – forever labelled as a traitor. Still alive, and under the protection of the Orbis Mercenary company, Michael and his family and friends are deeply involved, in the seemingly rival conspiracies that are tearing The Hollows apart. With the death of the King, both the Corrupt Prince, and his sister Serena, are vying for the throne; while the Rebel Emperor is spreading lies amongst the people. All of them want Michael dead. A sequel to *The Kingdom of Liars* (PBK, \$22.99).

Fantasy TP \$32.99

Witherward

Mathewson, Hannah

Welcome to the Witherward, and to a London that is not quite like our own. Here, it's summertime in February, the Underground is a cavern of wonders, and magic fills the streets. But this London is a city divided, split between six, rival, magical factions – each with their own extraordinary talents. The alpha of the Changelings, Gedeon Ravenswood, has gone rogue, threatening the fragile accords that have held London together, for decades. Issa is a shapeshifting Changeling, who has spent the first 17 years

Pulp Fiction

Science Fiction & Fantasy April 2021 (continued)

of her life marooned in the wrong London – where real magic is reviled, as the devil’s work. Abandoned at birth, she has scratched out a living, first as a pickpocket, and then as a stage magician’s assistant – dazzling audiences, by secretly using her Changeling talents to perform impossible illusions. When she’s dragged through a portal into the Witherward, Ilsa finally feels like she belongs. But her new home is on the brink of civil war, and Ilsa is pulled into the fray. Beset by enemies on all sides, surrounded by supposed Changeling allies wearing faces that may not be their own; Ilsa must use all the tricks, up her sleeve, simply to stay alive.

YA fantasy PBK \$19.99

Rich Man’s Sky McCarthy, Wil

When billionaires control the space program... where does that leave the rest of us? Space: a tycoon’s playground. From a space station full of women to a monastery on the Moon, from a Martian reality-TV contest to a solar shade large enough to cool the Earth; the dreams of a handful of trillionaires dictate the future of humanity. Outside the reach of Earthly law, and with the vast resources of the inner solar system at their disposal, the ‘Four Horsemen’ do exactly as they please. The governments of Earth are not amused; an international team of elite military women – masquerading, as space colonists – are set to infiltrate and neutralise the largest and most dangerous project, in human history. But nothing is that simple, when rich men control the sky; as everyone, involved, is about to discover.

Science fiction HC \$55.00

Across the Green Grass Fields

Wayward Children 06 (novella)
McGuire, Seanan
Regan loves, and is loved; though, her schoolfriend situation has become complicated, of late. When she suddenly finds herself thrust through a doorway that asks her to Be Sure, before swallowing her whole; Regan must learn to live in a world filled with centaurs, kelpies, and other magical equines – a world that expects its human visitors to step up, and be heroes. But after embracing her time with the herd, Regan discovers that not all forms of heroism are equal, and not all quests are as they seem... A 176pp, Tor.com novella.

Urban fantasy HC \$39.99

Oculta

A Forgery of Magic 02
Motayne, Maya
After joining forces, to save Castellan from an ancient magical evil; Alfie and Finn haven’t seen each other, in months. Alfie is finally stepping up to his role as heir, and preparing for an International Peace Summit; while Finn is travelling, and revelling in her newfound freedom from Ignacio. That is, until she’s unexpectedly installed, as the new leader of one of Castellan’s powerful crime syndicates. Just when Finn finds herself back in San Cristobal, Alfie’s plans are also derailed. The mysterious organisation, responsible for his brother’s murder, has

resurfaced – and their newest target is the summit. And when these events converge, Finn and Alfie are, once again, forced to work together to follow the assassins’ trail, and preserve Castellan’s hopes for peace with Englass. But will they be able to stop these sinister foes, before a new war threatens their kingdom?

YA fantasy TP \$22.99

The Prison Healer Noni, Lynette

Seventeen-year-old Kiva Meridan has spent the last ten years fighting for survival, in the notorious death prison, Zalindov; working as the prison healer. When the Rebel Queen is captured, Kiva is charged with keeping the terminally-ill woman alive, long enough for her to undergo the Trial by Ordeal: a series of elemental challenges against the torments of air, fire, water, and earth – assigned to only the most dangerous of criminals. Then a coded message, from Kiva’s family, arrives – containing a single order: ‘Don’t let her die. We are coming.’ Aware that the Trials will kill the sickly queen, Kiva risks her own life, to volunteer in her place. If she succeeds, both she and the queen will be granted their freedom. But no one has ever survived. With an incurable plague sweeping Zalindov; a mysterious new inmate, fighting for Kiva’s heart; and a prison rebellion brewing – Kiva can’t escape the terrible feeling that her trials have only just begun. The first in a new series.

YA fantasy TP \$24.99

The Shadow Friend North, Alex

If it had happened to you, you would have run away, too. Twenty-five years ago, Paul’s friend Charlie Crabtree brutally killed their classmate – and then vanished, without a trace. Paul’s never forgiven himself, for his part in what happened. He’s never gone back home. Until his elderly mother has a fall. It’s finally time to stop running. It’s not long, before things start to go wrong. His mother claims there’s someone in the house. Paul realises someone is following him. And, in a town many miles away, a copycat killer has struck. Which makes him wonder – what really happened to Charlie, the day of the murder? And can anyone stop it happening, again?

Horror PBK \$19.99

Remote Control (novella)

Okorafor, Nnedi
‘She’s the adopted daughter of the Angel of Death. Beware of her. Mind her. Death guards her like one of its own.’ The day Fatima forgot her name, Death paid a visit. From here on in, she would be known, as Sankofa – a name that meant nothing to anyone, but her... the only tie to her family, and her past. Her touch is death; and, with a glance, a town can fall. And she walks – alone, except for her fox companion – searching for the object that came from the sky, and gave itself to her when the meteors fell; when she was, yet unchanged; searching for answers. But is there a greater purpose for Sankofa, now, that Death is her constant companion? A 160pp, Tor.com novella.

Science fiction HC \$39.99

Engines of Oblivion

Memory War 02
Osborne, Karen
The corporations running the galaxy are about to learn, not everyone can be bought. Natalie Chan gained her corporate citizenship, but barely survived the battle for Tribulation. Now, corporate has big plans, for Natalie. Horrible plans. Locked away in Natalie’s missing memory is salvation, for the last of an alien civilisation, and the humans they tried to exterminate. The corporation wants total control, of both – or... their deletion.

Space opera TP \$34.99

A Song for a New Day Pinsker, Sarah

After a global pandemic makes public gatherings illegal, and concerts impossible; except for those, willing to break the law for the love of music – and for one chance at human connection. In the Before, when the government didn’t prohibit large public gatherings, Luce Cannon was on top of the world. One of her songs had just taken off, and she was on her way to becoming a star. Now, in the After, terror attacks and deadly viruses have led the government to ban concerts; Luce’s connection to the world – her music, her purpose – is closed off, forever. She does what she has to do: she performs in illegal concerts, to a small but passionate community, always evading the law. Rosemary Laws barely remembers the Before times. She spends her days in Hoodspace, helping customers order all of their goods online, for drone delivery – no physical contact, with humans, needed. By lucky chance, she finds a new job, and a new calling: discover amazing musicians, and bring their concerts to everyone, via virtual reality. The only catch is that she’ll have to do something she’s never done, before, and go out in public. Find the illegal concerts, and bring musicians into the limelight they deserve. But when she sees how the world could actually be, that won’t be enough.

Post-pandemic PBK \$19.99

The Midnight Bargain Polk, G L

Beatrice Clayborn is a sorceress, who practices magic in secret – terrified of the day, she will be locked into a marital collar that will cut off her powers, to protect her unborn children. She dreams of becoming a full-fledged Magus, and pursuing magic as her calling – as men do; but her family has staked everything, to equip her for Bargaining Season... when young men and women of means descend upon the city, to negotiate the best marriages. The Clayborns are in severe debt, and only she can save them – by securing an advantageous match, before their creditors come calling. In a stroke of luck, Beatrice finds a grimoire that contains the key to becoming a Magus; but, before she can purchase it, a rival sorceress swindles the book right out of her hands. Beatrice summons a spirit, to help her get it back, but her new ally exacts a price: Beatrice’s first kiss... with her adversary’s brother, the handsome, compassionate, and fabulously-wealthy Ianthe Lavan. The more Beatrice is entangled with the Lavan siblings, the harder

her decision becomes: If she casts the spell to become a Magus; she will devastate her family, and lose the only man, to ever see her for who she is; but if she marries – even for love – she will sacrifice her magic, her identity, and her dreams. But how can she choose just one, knowing she will forever regret the path not taken?

Fantasy PBK \$22.99

Starborn and Godsons

Heorot 03
Pournelle, Jerry; Niven, Larry; Barnes, Stephen
We have met the aliens – and they are us! Avalon was finally thriving. The cold-sleep colonists from Earth had settled on a verdant, liveable world. The fast and cunning predators, humans named grendels, were under control; mainland outposts had been established. Humans would have hydroelectric power, some form of civilisation. They would survive. But they would not survive, as a spacefaring people. What the colonists were losing, fast, was the ability to get back to space. But unbeknownst to the planet-bound humans, something was moving out there, in the stars; decelerating at a rate, impossible for a natural object. Its destination: Avalon. Its probable origin: Earth’s Solar System. The passengers, if carried, would change this world, forever. *A time of first contact.* Between the human Starborn; and the self-named Godsons, who followed on. Between the initial generation of Avalon-born humans, and their descendants. And, unbeknownst to either, between humans, and the almost ineffably-alien species, native to their new world. For this world is not done challenging humanity, yet. *The challenge and promise of Avalon are only beginning.* The long-awaited conclusion of the Heorot series – from genre legends Larry Niven, Jerry Pournelle, and Steven Barnes.

Science fiction PBK \$24.95

Annie and the Wolves Romano-Lax, Andromeda

Ruth McClintock is obsessed, with Annie Oakley. For nearly a decade, she has been studying the legendary sharpshooter; convinced that a scarring childhood event was the impetus for her crusade, to arm every woman in America. This search has cost Ruth her doctorate, a book deal, and her fiancé – but, finally, it has borne fruit. She has managed to hunt down what may be a journal of Oakley’s midlife struggles; including secret visits to a psychoanalyst, and the desire for vengeance against the ‘Wolves’, or those who have wronged her. With the help of Reece, a tech-savvy senior at the local high school, Ruth attempts to establish the journal’s provenance; but she’s begun to have jarring out-of-body episodes, parallel to Annie’s own, lived experiences. As she solves Annie’s mysteries, Ruth confronts her own truths; including the link between her teenage sister’s suicide, and an impending tragedy in her Minnesota town that Ruth can still prevent.

Time travel HC \$42.99

Pulp Fiction

Science Fiction & Fantasy April 2021 (continued)

The Light of the Midnight Stars

Rosner, Rena

Deep in the Hungarian woods, the sacred magic of King Solomon lives on in his descendants. Gathering under the midnight stars, they perform small miracles. None are more gifted than the great Rabbi Isaac and his three daughters. Hannah, bookish and calm, can coax plants to grow even when the weather is bitterly cold. Sarah, defiant and strong, can control the impulsive nature of fire. And Levana, the fey one, can read the path of the stars to decipher their secrets. But darkness is creeping across Europe, threatening the lives of every Jewish person in every village. Each sister will have to make an impossible choice, in an effort to survive – and change the fate of their family forever.

Historical fantasy TP \$32.99

Demon in White

Sun Eater 03

Ruocchio, Christopher

For almost a hundred years, Hadrian Marlowe has served the Empire, in its war against the Cielcin – a vicious alien race, bent on humanity's destruction. Rumours of a new king, amongst the Cielcin have reached the Imperial throne. This one is not like the others. It does not raid borderworld territories, preferring precise, strategic attacks on the humans' Empire. To make matters worse, a cult of personality has formed around Hadrian, spurred on by legends of his having defied death, itself. Men call him Halfmortal. Hadrian's rise to prominence proves dangerous, to himself and his team; as pressures within the Imperial government distrust, or resent, his new influence. Caught in the middle, Hadrian must contend with enemies before him – and behind. And, above it all, there is the mystery of the Quiet. Hadrian did defy death. He did return. But the keys to the only place, in the universe, where Hadrian might find the answers he seeks, lie in the hands of the Emperor, himself... The Sun Eater series begins with *Empire of Silence* (PBK, \$22.99).

Space fantasy PBK \$22.99

Little Eyes

Schweblin, Samanta

They've infiltrated homes in Hong Kong, shops in Vancouver, the streets of Senegal, town squares of Oaxaca, schools in Tel Aviv, bedrooms in Ohio. They're following you. They're everywhere, now. They're us. 'Kentukis' have gone viral across the globe. They're little mechanical stuffed animals that have cameras for eyes, wheels for feet, and are connected to an anonymous global server. Owners of kentukis have the eyes of a stranger in their home and a cute squeaking pet following them; or you can be the kentuki and voyeuristically spend time in someone else's life, controlling the creature with a few keystrokes. Through kentukis, a jaded Croatian hustler stumbles into a massive criminal enterprise and saves a life in Brazil, a lonely old woman in Peru becomes fascinated with a young woman and her louche lover in Germany, and a kid with no mother in Antigua finds a new virtual family and experiences snow for the

first time in Norway. These creatures can reveal the beauty of connection between far-flung souls – but they also expose the ugly humanity of our increasingly linked world. Trusting strangers can lead to unexpected love and marvellous adventure, but what happens when the kentukis pave the way for unimaginable terror?

Science fiction PBK \$19.99

Brother Red

Selby, Adrian

She was their hope, their martyr, their brother... Driwna Marghoster, a soldier for the powerful merchant guild known as the Post, is defending her trade caravan from a vicious bandit attack when she discovers a dead body hidden in one of her wagons. Born of the elusive Oskoro people, the body is a rare and priceless find, the centre of a tragic tale, and the key to a larger mystery. As she investigates who the body was meant for, Driwna finds herself on a path paved by deceit and corruption... and it will lead her to an evil more powerful than she can possibly imagine.

Fantasy PBK \$22.99

Stormland

Shirley, John

They call it Stormland: a sprawling, largely abandoned region of the south-eastern coast of the USA, where climate change's extreme weather conditions have brought about a 'perfect storm' of perpetual tempests; where hurricane-strength storms return day after day, 365 days a year. The heart of Stormland is Charleston, South Carolina, a flooded ruin where hundreds of people remain for their own peculiar reasons; where thugs prey on the weak, and a strangely benevolent cult tries to keep everyone insanely sane. Here, plutocratic evil takes advantage of Stormland's lawlessness to cultivate a weirdly-puppeted theatre of cruelty. Swept into the turbulent vortex of Stormland is an unlikely duo – a former serial killer and a former US Marshal – who must work together to bring light to America's late 21st-century heart of darkness.

SF thriller HC \$55.00

Voyagers: Twelve Journeys Through Space and Time

(collection)

Silverberg, Robert

Every science-fiction story is a voyage of some kind – to a world of a far-off galaxy, to our own world of the distant future or the remote past, to some interior corner of the human soul. In *Voyagers: Twelve Journeys through Space and Time*, Science Fiction Grand Master Robert Silverberg collects twelve of his finest short stories and novellas, all of which carry readers to the next level of imagination and into a new universe of the mind. This new collection spans 60 years of work by the Hugo Award-winning Silverberg, travelling from one end of the universe to the other, from the dawn of time to its final hours. A journey through its pages reveals time-travellers from the future come back to witness a catastrophe of our own time, Spanish conquistadores looking for – and finding – the Fountain of Youth, a tourist in Mexico stepping into an alternative universe, and space farers among the stars making

a surprising discovery. The range of these stories, the kinds of voyages they describe, just begins to demonstrate the scope of science fiction, and the lengths to which Silverberg's sparkling imagination can leap.

Science fiction TP \$35.95

Titan's Day

Carter Archives 02

Stout, Dan

The city of Titanshade pulses with nervous energy. The discovery of new riches beneath its snowfields has given residents hope for prosperity, but it also means the arrival of federal troops, along with assurances that they are only there to stabilise the situation. Newcomers flood the streets, dreaming of finding their fortunes, while in the backrooms and beer halls of the city, a populist resistance gains support, its leaders' true motives hidden behind nativist slogans. And in an alley, a gruesome discovery: the mutilated body of a young woman: a recent immigrant, so little regarded that not even her lovers bothered to learn her name. But, in death, she's found a champion. Detective Carter single-mindedly pursues the killer as he navigates political pressures and resists becoming a pawn in the struggles tipping the city toward anarchy. But when more innocent lives are lost and time runs short, he's forced to decide if justice is worth sparking all-out war in the streets during the biggest celebration of the year: Titan's Day. The Carter Archives begin with *Titanshade* (PBK, \$25.95).

Urban fantasy PBK \$24.95

Titan Song

Carter Archives 03

Stout, Dan

Forbidden magic, murder... and disco. Carter's day keeps getting worse. With the return of spring, new life floods into Titanshade. The sun climbs higher and stays longer, the economy is ascendant, and ever more newcomers arrive to be part of the city's rebirth. Even pop culture has taken notice, with a high-profile concert only days away. When a band member's murder threatens to delay the show, the diva star performer demands that the famous Detective Carter work the case. But Carter has secrets of his own, and his investigation unearths more victims and dark secrets, triggering a spiral of deceit, paranoia, and nightmarish magical transformations. As conspiracies are exposed, Carter is sucked even deeper into the machinations of the rich, the powerful, and the venerated. Soon, the very foundations of the city threaten to collapse. Carter's own freedom is on the line, as he navigates between old enemies and fragile new alliances – while racing to learn the true cause of this horrific series of deaths. The Carter Archives begin with *Titanshade* (PBK, \$25.95).

Urban fantasy HC \$55.00

House of Hollow

Sutherland, Krystal

Iris Hollow and her two older sisters are unquestionably strange. Ever since they disappeared on a suburban street in Scotland, as children, only to return a month later – with no memory of what happened to them;

odd, eerie occurrences seem to follow, in their wake. And they're changing. First, their dark hair turned white. Then, their blue eyes slowly turned black. They have insatiable appetites, yet never gain weight. People find them disturbingly intoxicating, unbearably beautiful, and inexplicably dangerous. But, now, ten years later, 17-year-old Iris Hollow is doing all she can to fit in, and graduate high school on time – something, her two famously-glamorous, globetrotting, older sisters, Grey and Vivi, never managed to do. But, when Grey goes missing without a trace, leaving behind bizarre clues as to what might have happened; Iris and Vivi are left to trace her last few days. They aren't the only ones looking for her, though. As they brush against the supernatural, they realise that the story they've been told about their past is unravelling and the world that returned them – seemingly unharmed – ten years ago, might just be calling them home.

Dark fantasy PBK \$19.99

The Book of Speculation

Swyler, Erika

Simon Watson, a young librarian, lives alone in a house that is slowly crumbling toward the Long Island Sound. His parents are long dead. His mother, a circus mermaid, who made her living by holding her breath – drowned, in the very water his house overlooks. His younger sister, Enola, ran off six years ago and, now, reads tarot cards for a travelling carnival. One June day, an old book arrives on Simon's doorstep, sent by an antiquarian bookseller who purchased it on speculation. Fragile and water damaged, the book is a log from the owner of a travelling carnival in the 1700s, who reports strange and magical things, including the drowning death of a circus mermaid. Since then, generations of mermaids, in Simon's family, have drowned – always on the 24th of July, which is only weeks away. As his friend Alice looks on, with alarm, Simon becomes increasingly worried about his sister. Could there be a curse on Simon's family? What does it have to do with the book, and can he get to the heart of the mystery, in time to save Enola?

Fantasy PBK \$19.99

The Expert System's Champion

Expert System's Brother 02 (novella)

Tchaikovsky, Adrian

It's been ten years, since Handry was wrenched away from his family and friends – forced to wander a world, he no longer understood. But with the help of the Ancients, he has cobbled together a life, of sorts, for himself and his fellow outcasts. Wandering from village to village, welcoming the folk that the townships abandon, fighting the monsters the villagers cannot – or dare not – his ever-growing band of misfits has become the stuff of legend, a story told by parents to keep unruly children in line. But there is something new and dangerous in the world; the beasts of the land are acting against their nature, destroying the towns they once left in peace. And for the first time, in memory, the Ancients have no wisdom to offer... A sequel to *The Expert System's Brother*. A 192pp, Tor.com novella.

Science fiction PBK \$29.99

Pulp Fiction

Science Fiction & Fantasy April 2021 (continued)

Other Worlds: Peasants, Pilgrims, Spirits, Saints

(collection)

Teffi & Chandler, Robert (editor)

Stories about the occult, folk religions, superstition, and spiritual customs in Russia by one of the most essential 20th-century writers of short fiction and essays. Though, best known for her comic and satirical sketches of pre-Revolutionary Russia, Teffi was a writer of great range and human sympathy. The stories on otherworldly themes in this collection are some of her finest and most profound, displaying the acute psychological sensitivity, beneath her characteristic wit and surface brilliance. *Other Worlds* presents stories from across the whole of Teffi's long career, from her early days as a literary celebrity in Moscow to her post-Revolutionary years as an *émigré* in Paris. In the early story 'A Quiet Backwater', a laundress gives a long disquisition on the name days of the flora and fauna and on the Feast of the Holy Ghost, a day on which 'no one dairst disturb the earth'. The story 'Wild Evening' is about the fear of the unknown; 'The Kind That Walk', a penetrating study of anti-Semitism and of xenophobia; and 'Baba Yaga', about the archetypal Russian witch and her longing for wildness and freedom. Teffi traces the persistent influence of the ancient Slavic gods in superstitions and customs, and the deep connection of the supernatural to everyday life in the provinces. In 'Volya', the autobiographical final story, the power and pain of Baba Yaga is Teffi's own.

Folklore TP \$39.95

Imperial Echoes

Ashes of Empire 04

Thomson, Eric

The collapse of humanity's first interstellar empire is passing into legend – perhaps, even myth – now, that the ones who could remember those tumultuous years have merged with the Infinite Void. Tiny Lyonesse, the self-appointed guardian of all human knowledge tucked away in its wormhole cul-de-sac, has spent generations preparing to carry out Jonas Morane's plan of reuniting humanity. Unbeknown to citizens of a republic, cut off from the rest of the galaxy, four-star systems at the former empire's core also survived – to preserve that which existed, before the Great Scouring. Yet, they took a darker path after witnessing firsthand the empire's demise in a bloodletting without precedent, which left them fearful about the future of what little remained. An uncompromising, hidebound military dictatorship, the Wyvern Hegemony is everything Lyonesse avoided becoming. Backed by a State Security Commission that uses the Void Sisters' abilities to root out the regime's enemies, its rule is absolute. Yet, the Hegemony also harbours ambitions of reuniting humanity under its own banner, though the government has done little to advance its cause. Neither Lyonesse nor the Hegemony knows about each other. However, thanks to a twist of fate that leads State Security Colonel Crevan Torma and his assigned Void Sister on a voyage of discovery, this will soon change. But can the vanished

empire's heirs meet in peace or will they continue the civil war that almost eradicated humanity across the stars? Our military SF fans can't get enough of Eric Thomson!

Military SF TP \$31.95

By Force Alone

Tidhar, Lavie

Everyone thinks they know the story of King Arthur and his knights of the Round Table. But this is a historical novel with a difference. There is a legend... Britannia, 535 AD. The Romans have gone. While their libraries smoulder, roads decay and cities crumble, men with swords pick over civilisation's carcass, slaughtering and being slaughtered in turn. This is the story of just such a man. Like the others, he had a sword. He slew until slain. Unlike the others, we remember him. We remember King Arthur. This is the story of a land, neither green nor pleasant. An eldritch isle of deep forest and dark fell; haunted by swaithes, boggarts, and tod-lowries, Robin-Goodfellows and Jenny Greenteeth, and predators of rarer appetite, yet. This is the story of a legend forged from a pack of self-serving, turd-gilding, weasel-worded lies, told to justify foul deeds and ill-gotten gains. This is the story – viscerally entertaining, ominously subversive and poetically profane – of a Dark Age myth that shaped a nation.

Historical fantasy PBK \$22.99

The Best of World SF, Volume One

(anthology)

Tidhar, Lavie (editor)

Twenty-six new short stories, representing the state of the art in international science fiction; selected by Lavie Tidhar. Fourteen female authors and 12 male authors – of 21 countries: France, China, Singapore, Botswana, Nigeria, India, Japan, Italy, Cuba, Brazil, Trinidad, Spain, Mexico, Finland, Israel, Iceland, Russia, Ghana, South Africa, Sweden, and Malaysia. Stories: 'Immersion' by Aliette de Bodard; 'Debtless' by Chen Qiufan; 'Fandom for Robots' by Vina Jie-Min Prasad; 'Virtual Snapshots' by Tlotlo Tsamaase; 'What the Dead Man Said' by Chinelo Onwualu; 'Delhi' by Vandana Singh; 'The Wheel of Samsara' by Han Song; 'Xingzhou' by Yi-Sheng Ng; 'Prayer' by Taiyo Fujii; 'The Green Ship' by Francesco Verso; 'Eyes of the Crocodile' by Malena Salazar Macia; 'Bootblack' by Tade Thompson; 'The Emptiness in the Heart of all Things' by Fabio Fernandes; 'The Sun From Both Sides' by R S A Garcia; 'Dump' by Cristina Jurado; 'Rue Chair' by Gerardo Horacio Porcayo; 'His Master's Voice' by Hannu Rajaniemi; 'Benjamin Schneider's Little Greys' by Nir Yaniv; 'The Cryptid' by Emil H Petersen; 'The Bank of Burkina Faso' by Ekaterina Sedia; 'An Incomplete Guide...' by Kuzhali Manickavel; 'The Old Man with the Third Hand' by Kofi Nyameye; 'The Green' by Lauren Beukes; 'The Last Voyage of Skidbladnir' by Karin Tidbeck; 'Prime Meridian' by Silvia Moreno-Garcia; and 'If At First You Don't Succeed' by Zen Cho.

Science fiction TP \$35.00

The Silmarillion

(illustrated edition)

Tolkien, J R R

& Lee, Alan (illustrator)

Including brand-new paintings, this is a fully-illustrated, new edition of the forerunner to the Lord of the Rings. *The Silmarillion* fills in the background which lies behind the more popular work, and gives the earlier history of Middle-earth, introducing some of the key characters. *The Silmarillion* is the core of J R R Tolkien's imaginative writing, a collection of narratives ranging in time from the Elder Days of Middle-earth, through the Second Age and the rise of Sauron, to the end of the War of the Ring. They are set in an age when Morgoth, the first Dark Lord, dwelt in Middle-earth, and the Elves made war upon him in his impenetrable fortress in Angband for the recovery of the Silmarils, three jewels containing the last remaining pure light of Valinor, seized by Morgoth and set in his iron crown. Accompanying these tales are several shorter works. *The Ainulindalë* is a myth of the Creation; and in *The Valaquenta* the nature and powers of the gods is described. *The Akallabêth* recounts the downfall of the great island kingdom of Númenor at the end of the Second Age; and *Of the Rings of Power* tells of the great events at the end of the Third Age, as told in the Lord of the Rings. Tolkien could not publish *The Silmarillion* in his lifetime, as it grew with him; so, he would leave it to his son, Christopher, to edit the work from many manuscripts and bring his father's great vision to publishable form – so, completing the literary achievement of a lifetime. This special edition presents, anew, this seminal first step towards mapping out the posthumous publishing of Middle-earth, and the beginning of an illustrious 40 years, and more than 20 books, celebrating his father's legacy. Also included is a letter by J R R Tolkien, written in 1951 – which provides a brilliant exposition of the earlier Ages – and almost 50 full-colour paintings by Ted Nasmith, including some which appear here, for the first time.

Tolkien HC \$59.99

Hummingbird Salamander

VanderMeer, Jeff

Security consultant 'Jane Smith' receives an envelope with a key to a storage unit that holds a taxidermied hummingbird, and clues leading her to a taxidermied salamander. Silvina, the dead woman who left the note, is a reputed ecoterrorist and the daughter of an Argentine industrialist. By taking the hummingbird from the storage unit, Jane sets in motion a series of events that quickly spin beyond her control. Soon, Jane and her family are in danger, with few allies to help her make sense of the true scope of the peril. Is the only way to safety to follow in Silvina's footsteps? Is it too late to stop? As she desperately seeks answers about why Silvina contacted her, time is running out – for her and, possibly, for the world.

Speculative thriller TP \$29.99

Dead Astronauts

VanderMeer, Jeff

A City with no name of its own – where, in the shadow of the all-powerful Company; lives, human and otherwise, converge in terrifying and miraculous ways. At stake: the fate of the future, the fate of Earth – all the Earths. A messianic blue fox, who slips through warrens of time and space on a mysterious mission. A homeless woman haunted by a demon, who finds the key to all things in a strange journal. A giant leviathan of a fish, centuries old, who hides a secret, remembering a past that may not be its own. Three ragtag rebels waging an endless war for the fate of the world, against an all-powerful corporation. A raving madman, who wanders the desert lost in the past, haunted by his own creation: an invisible monster, whose name he has forgotten, and whose purpose remains hidden.

Science fiction PBK \$22.99

When the Tiger Came Down the Mountain

Singing Hills Cycle 02 (novella)

Vo, Nghi

The cleric Chih finds himself and their companions at the mercy of a band of fierce tigers, who ache with hunger. To stay alive until the mammoths can save them, Chih must unwind the intricate, layered story of the tiger and her scholar lover – a woman of courage, intelligence, and beauty – and discover how truth can survive becoming history. Nghi Vo returns to the empire of Ahn, and the Singing Hills Cycle, in a mesmerising, lush, standalone follow-up to *The Empress of Salt and Fortune*. A 128pp, Tor.com novella.

Fantasy PBK \$32.99

Soot

Smoke 02

Vyleta, Dan

The year is 1909. It has been ten years, since Thomas Argyle, Charlie Cooper, and Livia Naylor set off a revolution by releasing Smoke upon the world. They were raised to think Smoke was a sign of sin manifested, but learned its suppression was really a means of controlling society. Smoke allowed people to mingle their emotions, to truly connect, and the trio thought that freeing the Smoke would bring down the oppressive power structure and create a fair and open society. But the consequences were far greater than they had imagined, and the world has fractured. Erasmus Renfrew, the avowed enemy of Smoke, is now Lord Protector of what remains of the English state. Charlie and Livia live in Minetowns, an egalitarian workers' community in the north of England which lives by Smoke. Thomas Argyle is in India on a clandestine mission to find out the origins of Smoke, and why the still-powerful Company is mounting an expedition in the Himalayas. Mowgli – the native whose body was used to trigger the tempest that unleashed the Smoke – now, calls himself Nils and is a chameleon-like thief, living in New York. And Eleanor Renfrew, Erasmus' niece – who was the subject of his cruel experiments,

Pulp Fiction

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in suppressing Smoke – is in hiding from her uncle in provincial Canada. What she endured has given her a strange power over Smoke, which she fears as much as her uncle. Believing her uncle's agents have found her, she flees to New York with a theatre troupe led by Balthazar Black, an impresario with secrets of his own. There they encounter Nils and a Machiavellian Company man, named Smith. All these people seek to discover the true nature of Smoke, and thereby control its power. As their destinies entwine, a cataclysmic confrontation looms, and the Smoke will either bind them together or rend the world.

Fantasy PBK \$24.99

The Ruthless Lady's Guide to Wizardry

Waggoner, C M

Dellaria Wells, petty con artist, occasional thief, and partly educated fire witch, is behind on her rent in the city of Leiscourt – again. Then she sees the 'wanted' sign, seeking: *Female Persons, of Martial or Magical ability, to guard a Lady of some Importance, prior to the celebration of her Marriage.* Delly fast-talks her way into the job and joins a team of highly peculiar women tasked with protecting their wealthy charge from unknown assassins. Delly quickly sets her sights on one of her companions, the confident and well-bred Winn Cynallum. The job looks like nothing but romance and easy money... until things take a deadly (and undead) turn. With the help of a bird-loving necromancer, a shapeshifting schoolgirl, and an ill-tempered reanimated mouse named Buttons, Delly, and Winn are determined to get the best of an adversary who wields a twisted magic and has friends in the highest of places.

Historical fantasy TP \$27.99

Savage Legion

Savage Rebellion 01

Wallace, Matt

They call them Savages. Brutal. Efficient. Expensible. The empire relies on them. The Savages are the greatest weapon they ever developed. Culled from the streets of their cities, they take the ones no one will miss and throw them, by the thousands, at the empire's enemies. If they live, they fight again. If they die, there are always more to take their place. Evie is not a Savage. She's a warrior with a mission: to find the man she once loved, the man who holds the key to exposing the secret of the Savage Legion and ending the mass conscription of the empire's poor and wretched. But to find him, she must become one of them, to be marked in her blood, to fight in their wars, and to find her purpose. Evie will die a Savage, if she has to; but not before showing the world who she really is, and what the Savage Legion can really do. The first in a series.

Military fantasy TP \$39.95

Malice

Walter, Heather

Once upon a time, there was a wicked fairy who – in an act of vengeance – cursed a line of princesses to die. A curse that could only

be broken by true love's kiss. You've heard this before, haven't you? The handsome prince. The happily ever after. Utter nonsense. Let me tell you, no one in Briar actually cares about what happens to its princesses. Not the way they care about their jewels and elaborate parties and charm-granting elixirs. I thought I didn't care, either. Until I met her. Princess Aurora. The last heir to Briar's throne. Kind. Gracious. The future queen her realm needs. One who isn't bothered that I am Alyce, the Dark Grace, abhorred and feared for the mysterious dark magic that runs in my veins. Humiliated and shamed by the same nobles who pay me to bottle hexes and then brand me a monster. Aurora says I should be proud of my gifts. That she... cares for me. Even though a power like mine was responsible for her curse. But with less than a year until that curse will kill her, any future I might see with Aurora is swiftly disintegrating – and she can't stand to kiss yet another insipid prince. I want to help her. If my power began her curse, perhaps, it's what can lift it. Perhaps together we could forge a new world. Nonsense again. Because we all know how this story ends, don't we? Aurora is the beautiful princess. And, I – I am the villain.

Fantasy TP \$32.99

Body of Stars

Walter, Laura Maylene

Celeste Morton has eagerly awaited her passage to adulthood. Like every girl, she was born with a set of childhood markings – the freckles, moles, and birthmarks on her body that foretell her future and that of those around her – and with puberty will come a new set of predictions that will solidify her fate. The possibilities are tantalising enough to outweigh the worry that the future she dreams of won't be the one she's fated to have and the fear of her 'changing period' the time when women are nearly irresistible to men and the risk of abduction is rife. Celeste's beloved brother, Miles, is equally anticipating her transition to adulthood. As a skilled interpreter of the future, a field that typically excludes men, Miles considers Celeste his practice ground – and the only clue to what his own future will bring. But when Celeste changes, she learns a devastating secret about Miles' fate: a secret that could destroy her family, a secret she will do anything to keep. Yet, Celeste isn't the only one keeping secrets, and when the lies of brother and sister collide, it leads to a tragedy that will irrevocably change Celeste's fate, set her on a path to fight against the inherent misogyny of fortune telling, and urge her to create a future that is truly her own. A unique and timely exploration of girlhood, womanhood, and toxic masculinity. A piercing indictment of rape culture, it is an inventive and urgent read about what happens when women are objectified and stripped of choice – and what happens when they fight back.

Dystopia TP \$32.99

Lover Unveiled

Black Dagger Brotherhood 19

Ward, J R

Sahvage has been living under the radar for centuries – and he has every intention of staying 'dead and buried'. But when a civilian female sucks him into her dangerous battle, with an evil as ancient as time, his protective side overrides his common sense...

Paranormal romance TP \$29.99

Legacy of Steel

Legacy 02

Ward, Matthew

A year has passed, since an unlikely alliance saved the Tressian Republic from fire and darkness, at great cost. Thousands perished, and Viktor Akadra – the Republic's champion – has disappeared. While the ruling council struggles to mend old wounds, other factions sense opportunity. The insidious Parliament of Crows schemes in the shadows, while to the east the Hadari Emperor gathers his armies. As turmoil spreads across the Republic, its ripples are felt in the realms of the divine. War is coming... and this time the gods themselves will take sides. The sequel to *Legacy of Ash* (PBK, \$22.99).

Fantasy PBK \$22.99

Into the Light

Out of the Dark 02

Weber, David & Kennedy, Chris

The Shongairi conquered Earth. In mere minutes, half the human race died, and our cities lay in shattered ruins. But the Shongairi didn't expect the survivors' tenacity. And, crucially, they didn't know that Earth harboured two species of intelligent, tool-using bipeds. One of them was us. The other, long lived and lethal, was hiding in the mountains of eastern Europe, the subject of fantasy and legend. When they emerged and made alliance with humankind, the invading aliens didn't stand a chance. Now, Earth is once again ours. Aided by the advanced tech the aliens left behind, we're rebuilding as fast as we can. Meanwhile, a select few of our blood-drinking immortals are on their way to the Shongairi homeworld, having commandeered one of the alien starships... the planet-busting kind. The sequel to Weber's bestselling, 2010 novel, *Out of The Dark* (PBK, \$27.95).

Space opera HC \$49.99

Network Effect

Murderbot Diaries 05

Wells, Martha

You know that feeling, when you're at work, and you've had enough of people, and then the boss walks in with yet another job that needs to be done right this second... or the world will end; but all you want to do is go home and binge your favourite shows? And you're a sentient murder machine programmed for destruction? Congratulations, you're Murderbot. Come for the *pew-pew* space battles, stay for the most relatable AI you'll read, this century. *I'm usually alone in my head, and that's where 90+ per cent of my problems are.* When Murderbot's human associates (not friends, never friends) are

captured and another not-friend from its past requires urgent assistance, Murderbot must choose between inertia and drastic action. Drastic action, it is, then. *Ron says:* Love, love, love it! Cannot recommend highly enough! If you haven't read Wells' preceding novellas – then start with *All Systems Red* (HC, \$29.99).

Science fiction TP \$39.95

Mirror's Edge

Impostors 03

Westerfeld, Scott

Frey's return to the city of her birth isn't going to be an easy one. She and her love Col must surge on new faces and bodies in order to infiltrate Shreve by dropping from the sky and landing undetected. Frey's sister Rafi – no longer a twin in features, but still a twin by birth – is the wild card. Are the sisters on the same side... or are they playing to their own agendas? If their father is deposed from Shreve, who will take control? And what other forces may be waiting in the wings? This series begins with *Impostors* (PBK, \$19.99).

YA science fiction TP \$24.99

Repo Virtual

White, Corey J

The city of Neo Songdo is a Russian doll of realities – augmented and virtual spaces anchored in the weight of the real. The smart city is designed to be read by machine vision while people see only the augmented facade of the corporate ideal. At night, the stars are obscured by an intergalactic virtual war being waged by millions of players, while on the streets below people are forced to beg, steal, and hustle to survive. Enter Julius Dax, online repoman and real-life thief. He's been hired for a special job: stealing an unknown object from a reclusive tech billionaire. But when he finds out he's stolen the first sentient AI, his payday gets a lot more complicated. It's no secret that we love Corey's Voidwitch Saga; and we're very excited about his debut full-length novel – now in paperback. Recommended!

Cyberpunk heist TP \$39.95

The Firmament of Flame

Universe After 03

Williams, Drew

For nearly a century, the Justified have been searching for gifted children to help prevent the return of the pulse. Until recently, they thought they were the only ones. Jane Kamali and her telekinetic protégé Esa, now 17, barely managed to claim victory against a Cyn – a being of pure energy – hell bent on hunting down the gifted. Now, they face an army. The Cyn and their followers will stop at nothing to find Esa and the others. No one knows what they want, but Jane, Esa, and their allies in the Justified are determined to find out. Even if they have to go to the ends of the known universe to do it. Williams' Universe After series begins with *Stars Now Unclaimed* (PBK, \$19.99).

Space opera PBK \$19.99

Pulp Fiction

Science Fiction & Fantasy April 2021 (continued)

The Liar's Dictionary **Williams, Eley**

Mountweazel n. *the phenomenon of false entries within dictionaries and works of reference. Often used as a safeguard against copyright infringement.* Peter Winceworth, Victorian lexicographer, is toiling away at the letter S for Swansby's multivolume *Encyclopaedic Dictionary*. His disaffection compels him to insert unauthorised fictitious entries into the dictionary in an attempt to assert some sense of individual purpose and artistic freedom. In the present day, Mallory, a young intern employed by the publisher, is tasked with uncovering these *mountweazels* before the work is digitised. She also has to contend with threatening phone calls from an anonymous caller. Is the change in the definition of *marriage* really *that* upsetting? And does the caller

really intend for the Swansby's staff to 'burn in hell'? As these two narratives combine, both Winceworth and Mallory discover how they might negotiate the complexities of the often nonsensical, relentless, untrustworthy, hoax-strewn, and undefinable path we call life. An exhilarating debut novel from a formidably brilliant young writer, *The Liar's Dictionary* celebrates the rigidity, fragility, absurdity, and joy of language.

Absurdist fiction PBK \$19.99

This Fragile Earth **Wise, Susannah**

What would you do to protect your family, if the world stopped working? Not long from now, in a recognisable yet changed London, Signy and Matthew lead a dull, difficult life. They've really only stayed together for the sake of their six-year-old son, Jed. But

they're surviving, just about. Until the day the technology that runs their world stops working. Unable to use their phones, pay for anything, even open the smart door to their flat, Matthew assumes that this is just a momentary glitch in the computers that now run the world. But then the electricity and gas are cut off. Even the water stops running. And the pollination drones – vital to the world, ever since the bees all died – are behaving oddly. People are going missing. Soldiers are on the streets. London is no longer safe. A shocking incident sends Signy and Jed on the run, desperate to flee London and escape to the small village where Signy grew up. Determined to protect her son, Signy will do almost anything to survive as the world falls apart around them. But she has no idea what is waiting for them outside the city...

Post-apocalypse TP \$32.99

The Swimmers **Womack, Marian**

After the ravages of the Green Winter, Earth is a place of deep jungles and monstrous animals. The last of the human race is divided into surface dwellers, and the people who live in the Upper Settlement – a ring perched at the edge of the Earth's atmosphere. Bearing witness to this divided planet is Pearl, a young techie with a thread of shuvani blood, who lives in the isolated forests of Gobari, navigating her mad mother and the strange blue light in the sky. But Pearl's stepfather promises her to a starborn called Arlo, and the world Pearl thought she knew will never be the same again. Set in the lush landscape of Andalusia, this claustrophobic, dystopian reimagining of *Wide Sargasso Sea* is a literary fever dream, a blazing vision of self-destruction and transformation.

Cli-fi PBK \$19.99