

# Pulp Fiction

## Science Fiction & Fantasy Bestsellers

August 2020

***Sucker Punch* (Anita Blake, Vampire Hunter 27)**

**Laurell K Hamilton**

*A brutal murder, a suspect in jail, and an execution planned – but what if the wrong person is about to be killed?*

When a fellow US Marshal asks Anita Blake to fly to a tiny community in Michigan's Upper Peninsula on an emergency consult, she knows time is running short. When she arrives, there is plenty of proof that a young wereleopard killed his uncle in the most gruesome and bloody way possible. As the mounting evidence points to him, a warrant of execution is already under way.

But something seems off about the murder, and Anita has been asked for her expert opinion on the crime scene. Despite escalating pressure from local cops and the family's cries for justice for their dead patriarch, Anita quickly realizes that the evidence doesn't quite add up...

According to regulars, these are back to form (ie: less gratuitous sex and more actual plot!) so if you've been fan in the past – maybe worth a revisit?

**Paranormal romance | TP | \$32.99**



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***All Systems Red* (Murderbot Diaries 01)**

**Martha Wells**

Winner: 2018 Hugo Award for Best Novella

Winner: 2018 Nebula Award for Best Novella

Winner: 2018 Alex Award

Winner: 2018 Locus Award

*'As a heartless killing machine, I was a complete failure.'*

In a corporate-dominated spacefaring future, planetary missions must be approved and supplied by the Company. Exploratory teams are accompanied by Company-supplied security androids, for their own safety.

But in a society where contracts are awarded to the lowest bidder, safety isn't a primary concern.

On a distant planet, a team of scientists are conducting surface tests, shadowed by their Company-supplied 'droid – a self-aware SecUnit that has hacked its own governor module, and refers to itself (though never out loud) as 'Murderbot'. Scornful of humans, all it really wants is to be left alone long enough to figure out who it is.

But when a neighbouring mission goes dark, it's up to the scientists and their Murderbot to get to the truth.

Ron keeps recommending 'em – and we keep selling 'em – and very few don't march straight back in to pick up the rest in the series. Yes, they're now expensive given they're novellas. But you will reread them again and again (Ron has just done his fourth go 'round!). READ THEM!!

**Space opera novella | HC | \$29.99**



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## Science Fiction & Fantasy Bestsellers August 2020 (continued)

### *The City We Became* (Great Cities 01)

N K Jemisin

'A glorious fantasy, set in that most imaginary of cities, New York' – Neil Gaiman on *The City We Became*.

Five New Yorkers must band together to defend their city in the first book of a stunning new series by Hugo award-winning and *New York Times* bestselling author N K Jemisin. Every city has a soul. Some are as ancient as myths, and others are as new and destructive as children. New York City? She's got five. But every city also has a dark side. A roiling, ancient evil stirs beneath the earth, threatening to destroy the city and her five protectors unless they can come together and stop it, once and for all...

Leanne says: Highly recommended!

Urban fantasy | TP | \$32.99



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### *Flyaway*

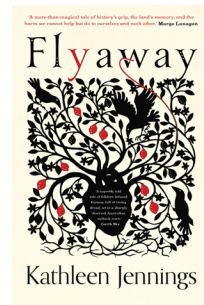
Kathleen Jennings

'Kathleen Jennings' prose dazzles, and her magic feels real enough that you might even prick your finger on it.' – Kelly Link.

In a small Western Queensland town, a reserved young woman receives a note from one of her vanished brothers – a note that makes her question memories of their disappearance and her father's departure. A beguiling story that proves that gothic delights and uncanny family horror can live – and even thrive – under a burning sun, *Flyaway* introduces readers to Bettina Scott, whose search for the truth throws her into tales of eerie dogs, vanished schools, cursed monsters, and enchanted bottles. *Flyaway* enchants you with the sly, beautiful darkness of Karen Russell and a world utterly its own.

We know Kathleen mainly as an artist – but she's also a fine writer – don't just take our word for it – no less than the *New York Times* are convinced as well... [read the NYT review](#), via Kathleen's blog!

Folkloric horror novella | PBK | \$24.99



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### *Artificial Condition* (Murderbot Diaries 02)

Martha Wells

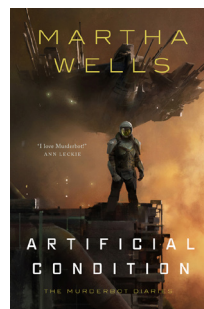
'I love Murderbot!' – Ann Leckie.

*Artificial Condition* is the follow-up to Martha Wells' Hugo, Nebula, Alex, and Locus Award-winning, *New York Times* bestselling *All Systems Red*. It also has won both the Hugo and Nebula Awards for best novella.

It has a dark past – one in which a number of humans were killed. A past that caused it to christen itself 'Murderbot'. But it has only vague memories of the massacre that spawned that title, and it wants to know more. Teaming up with a Research Transport vessel named ART (you don't want to know what the 'A' stands for), Murderbot heads to the mining facility where it went rogue. What it discovers will forever change the way it thinks...

Ron thinks he likes this second one even more than the first. Mainly because of ART. Who is fantastic! Highly recommended!

Space opera novella | HC | \$29.99



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## Science Fiction & Fantasy Bestsellers August 2020 (continued)

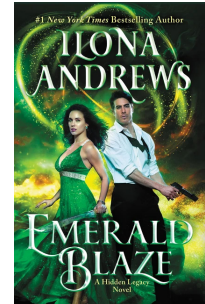
### *Emerald Blaze* (Hidden Legacy 05)

Ilona Andrews

It has to be said: the blurbs for most paranormal romance books just sound silly. And all kinda the same. Yet so many of our regulars LOVE this husband and wife writing team – and feel their writing is far above the run of the mill books that populate the subgenre.

Suggest you ignore the blurb and just try one... Try the first in this sequence? – *Burn for Me* (PBK, \$25.95).

Paranormal romance | PBK | \$24.95



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### *The Obsidian Tower* (Gate of Secrets 01)

Melissa Caruso

*'Guard the tower, ward the stone. Find your answers writ in bone. Keep your trust through wits or war – nothing must unseal the door.'*

Deep within Gloamingard Castle lies a black tower. Sealed by magic, it guards a dangerous secret that has been contained for thousands of years. As Warden, Ryxander knows the warning passed down through generations: *nothing must unseal the Door*. But one impetuous decision will leave her with blood on her hands – and unleash a threat that could doom the world to fall to darkness.

Loved her previous series – this looks just as much fun! *Tethered Mage* is the first in the previous sequence (PBK, \$19.99). Recommended!

Fantasy | PBK | \$22.99



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### *Ink and Sigil* (Ink & Sigil 01)

Kevin Hearne

From *New York Times* bestselling author Kevin Hearne comes the start of a hugely entertaining new series set in the world of the Iron Druid Chronicles – about an eccentric master of magic solving an uncanny mystery in Scotland...

Al MacBharrais is both blessed and cursed. He is blessed with an extraordinary white moustache, an appreciation for craft cocktails – and a most unique magical talent. He can cast spells with magically enchanted ink and he uses his gifts to protect our world from rogue minions of various pantheons, especially the Fae. But he is also cursed. Anyone who hears his voice will begin to feel an inexplicable hatred for Al, so he can only communicate through the written word or speech apps. And his apprentices keep dying in peculiar freak accidents. As his personal life crumbles around him, he devotes his life to his work, all the while trying to crack the secret of his curse. But when his latest apprentice, Gordie, turns up dead in his Glasgow flat, Al discovers evidence that Gordie was living a secret life of crime. Now, Al is forced to play detective – while avoiding actual detectives who are wondering why death seems to always follow Al. Investigating his apprentice's death will take him through Scotland's magical underworld, and he'll need the help of a mischievous hobgoblin if he's to survive.

Packed to the brim with mystery, magic and mayhem, *Ink and Sigil* is perfect for fans of *Rivers of London* and *Rotherweird*.

Urban fantasy | PBK | \$22.99



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## Science Fiction & Fantasy Bestsellers August 2020 (continued)

### *Ballistic* (Palladium Wars 02)

Marko Kloos

'I gulped down *Ballistic* in one long read, staying awake half the night, and now I want the next one!' – George R R Martin.

There is a personal price to pay for having aligned with the wrong side in a reckless war. For Aden Jansen, it's the need to adopt a new identity while keeping his past hidden. Now, he's integrated himself aboard the *Zephyr*, a merchant ship smuggling critical goods through dangerous space. But danger is imminent on planet Gretia, as well. Under occupation, torn between postwar reformers and loyalists, it's a polestar for civil unrest. Meanwhile, an occupation forces officer is pulled right back into the fray when the battle alarm is raised, an ambitious heiress is entangled in a subversive political conspiracy, and an Allied captain is about to meet the enemy head on. As Aden discovers, the insurgents on Gretia – and in space – are connected, organized, and ready to break into full-scale rebellion. History is threatening to repeat itself. It's time that Aden rediscovers who he is, whom he can trust, and what he must fight for now.

The first in the series is *Aftershocks* – which has great feedback from military space opera fans! (\$27.99)

Space opera | TP | \$27.99



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### *Chaos Vector* (Protectorate 02)

Megan E O'Keefe

The fate of the galaxy is on the line in the second book of this gripping, visionary space opera by award-winning author Megan E O'Keefe.

Sanda and Tomas are fleeing for their lives after letting the most dangerous smartship in the universe run free. Now, unsure of who to trust, Sanda knows only one thing for certain – to be able to save herself from becoming a pawn of greater powers, she needs to discover the secret of the coordinates hidden in her skull. But getting to those coordinates is a problem she can't solve alone. They exist beyond a deadgate – a sealed-off Casimir gate that opens up into a dead-end system. And there's a dangerous new player who wants the coordinates for their own ends – a player who will happily crack her open to get them.

Dazzling space battles, intergalactic politics and rogue AI collide in the follow-up to the Philip K Dick award-shortlisted *Velocity Weapon*. 'A brilliantly plotted yarn of survival and far-future political intrigue' – *Guardian*. The first is *Velocity Weapon* (PBK, \$22.99) – and we've sold a truckload! Recommended!

Space opera | PBK | \$22.99



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