

# Pulp Fiction

## Science Fiction & Fantasy Bestsellers

October 2020

### *Network Effect* (Murderbot Diaries 05)

**Martha Wells**

FINALLY! The first full-length novel in Martha Wells' bestselling Murderbot Diaries series.

'I caught myself rereading my favourite parts... and I can't recommend it enough.' – *New York Times*.

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...

Come for the pew-pew space battles, stay for the most relatable AI you'll read, this century.

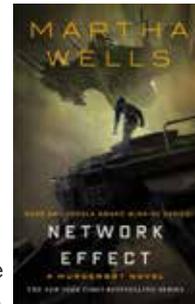
*I'm usually alone in my head, and that's where 90 plus percent of my problems are.*

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.

Love, love, love it! Cannot recommend highly enough! If you haven't read her preceding novellas – then start with *All Systems Red* (HC, \$29.99).

Science fiction | HC | \$42.99



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### *Battle Ground* (Dresden Files 17)

**Jim Butcher**

FINALLY!!

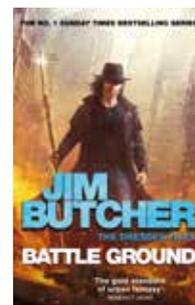
Harry has faced terrible odds before. He has a long history of fighting enemies above his weight class. The Red Court of vampires. The fallen angels of the Order of the Blackened Denarius. The Outsiders.

But this time it's different. A being more powerful and dangerous on an order of magnitude beyond what the world has seen in a millennium is coming. And she's bringing an army. The Last Titan has declared war on the city of Chicago, and has come to subjugate humanity, obliterating any who stand in her way.

Harry's mission is simple but impossible: Save the city, by killing a Titan. And the attempt will change Harry's life, Chicago, and the mortal world forever.

*Battle Ground* is the direct sequel to *Peace Talks* (HC, \$39.99). Dresden fans are going ballistic! They hated having to wait so long – but it appears the wait was worth it. First in the series is *Storm Front* (PBK, \$22.99).

Urban fantasy | HC | \$45.00



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Science Fiction & Fantasy October 2020 (continued)

*Hollowpox: the Hunt for Morrigan Crow* (Nevermoor 03)

Jessica Townsend

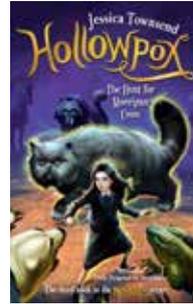
FINALLY!

Morrigan Crow and her friends have survived their first year as proud scholars of the elite Wondrous Society, helped bring down the nefarious Ghastly Market, and proven themselves loyal to Unit 919. Now, Morrigan faces a new, exciting challenge: to master the mysterious Wretched Arts, and control the power that threatens to consume her.

But a strange and frightening illness has taken hold of Nevermoor, turning infected Wunimals into mindless, vicious Unnimals on the hunt. As victims of the Hollowpox multiply, panic spreads. And with the city she loves in a state of fear, Morrigan quickly realises it's up to her to find a cure for the Hollowpox, even if it will put her – and everyone in Nevermoor – in more danger than she ever imagined.

Imagine a Roald Dahl mashed up with Diana Wynne Jones – fabulous! The first two are *Nevermoor* and *Wundersmith* (PBK, \$17.99 each). Recommended!

YA fantasy | PBK | \$17.99



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*A Colonial Murder* (Constabulary Casefiles 02)

Eric Thomson

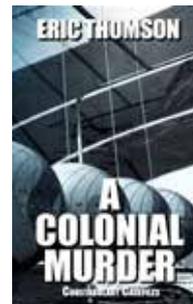
*My name is Caelin Morrow, and I run the internal affairs bureau for the entire Commonwealth Rim Sector.*

It means I hunt down corrupt federal officials of all stripes – police, military, political or bureaucratic – in the most fractious and nowadays most dangerous part of human space. I also examine the private and professional lives of Constabulary officials destined for senior positions, to make sure they're not hiding a habit of taking bribes, abusing their powers, or worse. Assistant Commissioner Elden Braband, newly appointed as chief of police on Mission Colony, is one of the latter, and I had declared him squeaky clean. When the colony's governor complains about Braband a few months after his arrival, Deputy Chief Constable Maras, who commands the Rim Sector Constabulary Group, smells a rat. She asks me to investigate because honest cops don't go bad, within a few months.

But hours after my team and I land on Mission Colony, a senior official is found dead in her office, leaving Assistant Commissioner Braband in a bind. The subsequent investigation will propel us into the heart of colonial darkness where corruption, organised crime, and corporate malfeasance combine in a deadly brew.

The first is *The Warrior's Knife* (TP, \$29.95). We sell a bucket of the books in the various Thomson military space opera series – if you're a fan of David Weber, *et al* – then we recommend!

Space opera | TP | \$29.95



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Science Fiction & Fantasy October 2020 (continued)

*Valkyrie Protocol* (Gordian Division 02)

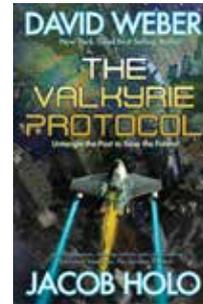
David Weber & Jacob Holo

Agent Raibert Kaminski and the crew of the Transtemporal Vehicle *Kleio* have stumbled across a temporal implosion that has claimed two whole universes, and neither Raibert nor his crew can figure out what caused this calamity, or how to stop its spread. Meanwhile, old colleagues of Raibert's from the Antiquities Rescue Trust, together with a version of Samuel Pepys transplanted from the 17th century into the 30th, have proposed an expedition into the past. The goal? To branch the timeline by preventing the Plague of Justinian, one of the worst pandemics in human history. And on a multidimensional level, governmental entity SysGov's multiverse neighbor, the xenophobic Admin, is stirring. While their ambassadors put on a friendly show, the Admin is amassing a fleet of advanced, heavily armed time machines – with SysGov firmly in the crosshairs.

In the midst of the temporal turmoil, time is running out for Raibert and his team to save the rest of the known universes from ceasing to exist. Navigating the paradoxes of time can be a killer task – especially when dogged by those who seek your destruction at every turn. But this isn't the first Time Rodeo for the crew of the *Kleio*, and they won't go down without a fight – no matter where – or when – the threat to the multiverse arises!

The first is *The Gordian Protocol* – now in paperback (\$24.95)

Science fiction | HC | \$55.00



5

*The Trouble With Peace* (Age of Madness 02)

Joe Abercrombie

FINALLY!

*Peace is just another kind of battlefield...*

Savine dan Glokta, once Adua's most powerful investor, finds her judgement, fortune and reputation in tatters. But she still has all her ambitions, and no scruple will be permitted to stand in her way. For heroes like Leo dan Brock and Stour Nightfall, only happy with swords drawn, peace is an ordeal to end as soon as possible. But grievances must be nursed, power seized, and allies gathered first, while Rikke must master the power of the Long Eye... before it kills her.

Unrest worms into every layer of society. The Breakers still lurk in the shadows, plotting to free the common man from his shackles, while noblemen bicker for their own advantage. Orso struggles to find a safe path through the maze of knives that is politics, only for his enemies, and his debts, to multiply. The old ways are swept aside, and the old leaders with them, but those who would seize the reins of power will find no alliance, no friendship, and no peace lasts forever.

And the Abercrombie fans are also delighted. Great feedback – Joe is on form, with arguably the best grimdark fantasy around!

First in this sequence is *A Little Hatred* (PBK, \$22.99) – or go back to where it all started – *The Blade Itself* (PBK, \$22.99).

Grimdark fantasy | TP | \$32.99



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Science Fiction & Fantasy October 2020 (continued)

## *The Once and Future Witches*

**Alix E Harrow**

Suffragette witches!

In 1893, there's no such thing as witches. There used to be, in the wild, dark days before the burnings began, but now witching is nothing but tidy charms and nursery rhymes. If the modern woman wants any measure of power, she must find it at the ballot box.

But when the three Eastwood sisters join the suffragists of New Salem, they begin to pursue the forgotten ways that might turn the women's movement into the witch's movement. Stalked by shadows and sickness, hunted by forces who will not suffer a witch to vote – and perhaps not even to live – the sisters must delve into the oldest magics, draw new alliances, and heal the bond between them if they want to survive.

There's no such thing as witches. But there will be...

Highly recommended! Great feedback from regulars – also try her previous, stand-alone novel: *The Ten Thousand Doors of January* (PBK, \$22.99).

**Fantasy | TP | \$32.99**



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## *Harrow the Ninth* (Locked Tomb trilogy 02)

**Tamsyn Muir**

FINALLY!

'Lesbian necromancers explore a haunted gothic palace in space! Decadent nobles vie to serve the deathless emperor! Skeletons!' – *Charles Stross on Gideon the Ninth*.

'Unlike anything I've ever read.' – *V E Schwab on Gideon the Ninth*.

'Deft, tense and atmospheric, compellingly immersive and wildly original.' – *The New York Times on Gideon the Ninth*.

She answered the Emperor's call. She arrived with her arts, her wits, and her only friend. In victory, her world has turned to ash. After rocking the cosmos with her deathly debut, Tamsyn Muir continues the story of the penumbral Ninth House in *Harrow the Ninth*, a mind-twisting puzzle box of mystery, murder, magic, and mayhem. Nothing is as it seems in the halls of the Emperor, and the fate of the galaxy rests on one woman's shoulders.

Harrowhark Nonagesimus, last necromancer of the Ninth House, has been drafted by her Emperor to fight an unwinnable war. Side-by-side with a detested rival, Harrow must perfect her skills and become an angel of undeath – but her health is failing, her sword makes her nauseous, and even her mind is threatening to betray her.

Sealed in the gothic gloom of the Emperor's Mithraeum with three unfriendly teachers, hunted by the mad ghost of a murdered planet, Harrow must confront two unwelcome questions: is somebody trying to kill her? And if they succeeded, would the universe be better off?

Sequel to *Gideon the Ninth* (now available in trade paperback, \$29.99).

**Space opera | HC | \$42.99**



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Science Fiction & Fantasy October 2020 (continued)

*A Deadly Education* (Scholomance 01)

Naomi Novik

Enter a school of magic unlike any you have ever encountered.

There are no teachers, no holidays, friendships are purely strategic, and the odds of survival are never equal. Once you're inside, there are only two ways out: you graduate, or you die.

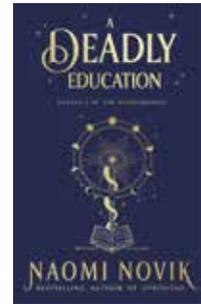
El Higgins is uniquely prepared for the school's many dangers. She may be without allies, but she possesses a dark power strong enough to level mountains and wipe out untold millions – never mind easily destroy the countless monsters that prowl the school.

Except, she might accidentally kill all the other students, too. So, El is trying her hardest not to use it... that is, unless she has no other choice.

'Hilarious and wild! Take any fictional magic school, make it as over-the-top dangerous as possible, and populate it with a bunch of snarky teenagers; the result is pure batshit fun.' – N K Jemisin, three-time Hugo Award winner, and author of *The Fifth Season*.

Highly Recommended!

Fantasy | TP | \$32.99



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*The Ministry for the Future*

Kim Stanley Robinson

FINALLY!

Established in 2025, the purpose of the new organisation was simple: To advocate for the world's future generations and to protect all living creatures, present and future. It soon became known as the Ministry for the Future, and this is its story.

'Told entirely through fictional eyewitness accounts, *The Ministry For the Future* is a masterpiece of the imagination, the story of how climate change will affect us all over the decades to come. Its setting is not a desolate, post-apocalyptic world, but a future that is almost upon us – and in which we might just overcome the extraordinary challenges we face.

It is a novel both immediate and impactful, desperate and hopeful in equal measure, and it is one of the most powerful and original books on climate change ever written' – *publisher's blurb*.

'A breathtaking look at the challenges that face our planet in all their sprawling magnitude and also in their intimate, individual moments of humanity' – *Booklist* (starred review).

'Gutsy, humane... This heartfelt work of hard science fiction is a must-read for anyone worried about the future of the planet' – *Publishers Weekly* (starred review).

Science fiction | TP | \$32.99



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