

# Pulp Fiction

## Science Fiction & Fantasy Bestsellers

February 2021

### *All the Murmuring Bones*

A G Slatter

For fans of Naomi Novik and Katherine Arden, a dark gothic fairy tale from multi award-winning Brisbane author, Angela Slatter. 'Harrowing and beautiful, this is the grim, fairy-tale gothic you've been waiting for' – *Christopher Golden*, author of *Ararat*. Long ago Miren O'Malley's family prospered due to a deal struck with the mer: safety for their ships in return for a child of each generation. But for many years the family have been unable to keep their side of the bargain and have fallen into decline. Miren's grandmother is determined to restore their glory, even at the price of Miren's freedom. A spellbinding tale of dark family secrets, magic and witches, and creatures of myth and the sea; of strong women and the men who seek to control them. This really is fantastic – highly recommended!

Dark fantasy | PBK | \$22.99



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### *Rafael (Anita Blake, Vampire Hunter 28)*

Laurell K Hamilton

*My name is Anita Blake. I'm a US Marshal for the Preternatural Branch, and I always have my friend's back. Even when they ask me to risk everything...* Rafael, king of the wererats, is facing a challenge to his crown. He wants me, one of his closest allies, to help him take down a dangerous opponent unlike any he's fought before. A new challenger has arisen among Rafael's enemies... one who is younger, hungrier and has dark secrets that could destroy both the wererats and the vampires. Now, my friend must go into the magical heart of his people to find the power and violence that he needs to save them all – or die trying. More of a novella-sized spinoff to the main series – so, it didn't come out in hardcover, first – which annoyed some of the hard-core fans/collectors! The first in the series is *Guilty Pleasures* (PBK, \$19.99).

Paranormal romance | TP | \$29.99



2

### *The Fey and the Furious (Rivers of London graphic novel 08)*

Ben Aaronovitch; et al

Trouble never lies far from the race track. When a flash car belonging to a young boy racer from England washes up in the Netherlands with a bag load of unusual cargo, it's evident there is more than meets the eye happening at street races held in an Essex car park. Enter Detective Inspector Peter Grant. Fresh from suspension, he takes to the track in his orange 'asbo' Ford Focus, to try and infiltrate the big leagues. But Peter soon finds himself sucked back into an Otherworld – a real-life fairyland... This graphic novel spinoff from the series of books seems to garner more readers with each new volume – lots of fun! Story is self-contained – but the first of the graphic novels is *Body Work* (TP, \$26.99).

Urban fantasy | PBK | \$27.99



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Science Fiction & Fantasy February 2021 (continued)

## *Machine* (White Space 02)

Elizabeth Bear

Meet Doctor Jens. She hasn't had a decent cup of coffee in fifteen years. The first part of her job involves jumping out of perfectly-good spaceships. The second part requires developing emergency treatments for sick aliens of species she's never seen before. She loves it. But her latest emergency is also proving a mystery: Two ships, one ancient and one new, locked in a dangerous embrace. A mysterious crew suffering from an even more mysterious ailment. A shipmind trapped in an inadequate body, much of her memory pared away. A murderous virus from out of time. Unfortunately, Dr Jens can't resist a mystery. Which is why she's about to discover that everything she's dedicated her life to... is a lie. Sequel to *Ancestral Night* (PBK, \$22.99) which has had a lot of customer love...

Science fiction | TP | \$32.99



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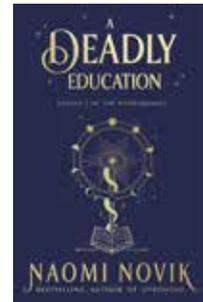
## *A Deadly Education* (Scholomance 01)

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



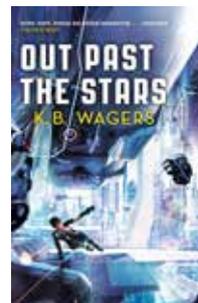
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## *Out Past the Stars* (Farian War 03/Hail Bristol 06)

K B Wagers

Gunrunner empress Hail Bristol must navigate alien politics and deadly plots to prevent an interspecies war, in the explosive finale to the Farian War space opera trilogy. When Hail finally confronts the Farian gods, she makes a stunning discovery. There are no gods – only the Hiervet, an alien race with devastating powers who once spread war throughout the galaxy long before humanity's ancestors crawled out of the sludge of Earth's oceans. But this knowledge carries with it dire news: the Hiervet have returned, eager to take revenge on those of their kind who escaped. And they don't care who gets caught in the middle of the battle – Shen, Farian, or Indranan. Once again, the fate of the galaxy is on the line and Hail will have to make one final gamble to leverage chaos into peace... We sell buckets of Wagers! Rollicking space opera – most who try the first – cannot stop... The start of it all is *Behind the Throne* (PBK, \$22.99).

Space opera | PBK | \$22.99



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*Smoke Bitten* (Mercy Thompson 12)

Patricia Briggs

I am Mercedes Athena Thompson Hauptman. My only 'superpowers' are that I turn into a thirty-five-pound coyote, and fix Volkswagens. But I have friends in odd places and a pack of werewolves at my back. It looks like I'm going to need them. Centuries ago, the fae dwelt in Underhill – until she locked her doors against them. They left behind their great castles and troves of magical artefacts. They abandoned their prisoners and their pets. Without the fae to mind them, those creatures who remained behind roamed freely through Underhill wreaking havoc. Only the deadliest survived. Now one of those prisoners has escaped. It can look like anyone, any creature it chooses. But if it bites you, it controls you. It lives for chaos and destruction. It can make you do anything – even kill the person you love the most. Now, it is here, in the Tri-Cities. In my territory. It won't, can't, remain. Not if I have anything to say about it. Holy cow, we sell a lot of these! Start with *Moon Called* (PBK, \$22.99).

Paranormal romance | PBK | \$22.99



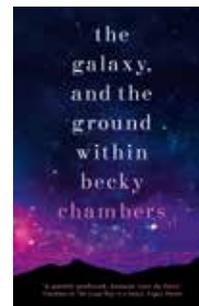
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*The Galaxy, and the Ground Within* (Wayfarers 04)

Becky Chambers

The finale to the award-winning Wayfarers series by Becky Chambers, author of the beloved *The Long Way to a Small, Angry Planet* (PBK, \$22.99). When a freak technological failure halts traffic to and from the planet Gora, three strangers are thrown together unexpectedly, with seemingly nothing to do but wait. Pei is a cargo runner at a personal crossroads, torn between her duty to her people, and her duty to herself. Roveg is an exiled artist, with a deeply urgent, and longed for, family appointment to keep. Speaker has never been far from her twin but now must endure the unendurable: separation. Under the care of Ouloo, an enterprising alien, and Tupo, her occasionally helpful child, the trio are compelled to confront where they've been, where they might go, and what they might be to one another. Together, they will discover that even in the vastness of space, they're not alone. 'A quietly profound, humane *tour de force*' – *Guardian*.

Space opera | TP | \$32.99



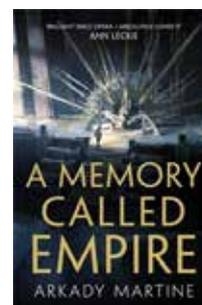
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*A Memory Called Empire* (Teixcalaan 01)

Arkady Martine

In a war of lies she seeks the truth. Ambassador Mahit Dzmare travels to the Teixcalaanli Empire's interstellar capital, eager to take up her new post. Yet, when she arrives, she discovers her predecessor was murdered. But no one will admit his death wasn't accidental – and she might be next. Now, Mahit must navigate the capital's enticing yet deadly halls of power, to discover dangerous truths. And while she hunts for the killer, Mahit must somehow prevent the rapacious Empire from annexing her home: a small, fiercely independent mining station. As she sinks deeper into an alien culture that is all too seductive, Mahit engages in intrigues of her own. For she's hiding an extraordinary technological secret, one which might destroy her station and its way of life. Or it might save them from annihilation. An extraordinary science fiction debut, Arkady Martine's first novel in the Teixcalaan series, *A Memory Called Empire* is perfect for fans of John Scalzi, Becky Chambers, and Frank Herbert's *Dune*. Winner of 2020 Hugo Award for Best Novel! '[An] all around brilliant space opera, I absolutely love it.' – Ann Leckie. Recommended! Its sequel, *A Desolation Called Peace*, is available now in hardcover (\$55.00); we expect the trade paperback (\$32.99) in May.

Science fiction | PBK | \$18.99



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*Artificial Condition* (Murderbot Diaries 02)

Martha Wells

*Artificial Condition* is the follow-up to Martha Wells' Hugo, Nebula, Alex, and Locus Award-winning, *New York Times*-bestselling *All Systems Red*. 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...

This won the Nebula Award for Best Novella – and if it's possible – I think I love this even more than the first one (it's the interaction between AIs – just great!) Really – you just have to read these! – Ron. Note that *Artificial Condition* won both the Nebula, Hugo, Locus Awards for Best Novella (just as the first one did!) in 2019. Congratulations, Martha!

Science fiction novella | HC | \$29.99



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