

# Pulp Fiction

## Science Fiction & Fantasy Bestsellers

August 2022

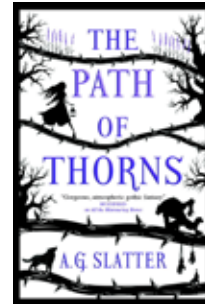
### **The Path of Thorns**

A G Slatter

A lush and twisted dark fairy tale suffused with witchcraft, dark secrets, and bitter revenge from the award-winning author. Exquisite, haunting, and at times brutal, readers of Naomi Novik and Erin Morgenstern will be entranced. Asher Todd comes to live with the mysterious Morwood family as a governess to their children. Asher knows little about being a governess but she is skilled in botany and herbcraft, and perhaps more than that. And she has secrets of her own, dark and terrible – and Morwood is a house that eats secrets. With a

monstrous revenge in mind, Asher plans to make it choke. However, she becomes fond of her charges, of the people of the Tarn, and she begins to wonder if she will be able to execute her plan – and who will suffer most if she does. But as the ghosts of her past become harder to control, Asher realises she has no choice. From the award-winning Brisbane author of *All the Murmuring Bones* (PBK, \$22.99), dark magic, retribution and twisted family secrets combine to weave a bewitching and addictive tale. Recommended!

Gothic fantasy | PBK | \$24.99



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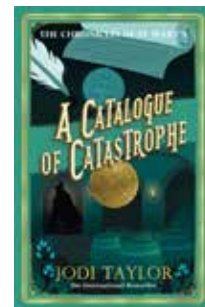
### **A Catalogue of Catastrophe**

Chronicles of St Mary's 13

Jodi Taylor

Finally – finally! – Max has that nice office job she's always wanted. The one with no heavy lifting and no one tries to kill her. Well, one out of two's not bad... Punching well above their weight, Max and Markham set out to bring down a sinister organisation founded in the future – with a suspicious focus on the past. Max's focus is staying alive long enough to reunite with Leon and Matthew, alternately helped and hindered by St Mary's. Who aren't always the blessing they like to think they are. But non-stop leaping around the timeline – from witnessing Magna Carta to disturbing a certain young man with a penchant for gunpowder – is beginning to take its toll. Is Max going mad? Or are the ghosts of the past finally catching up with her?

Time travel | PBK | \$22.99



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# Pulp Fiction Bestsellers

## Science Fiction & Fantasy August 2022 (continued)

### All Systems Red

Murderbot Diaries 01

**Martha Wells**

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

A murderous android discovers itself in *All Systems Red*, a tense science fiction adventure by Martha Wells that interrogates the roots of consciousness through Artificial Intelligence. 'As a heartless killing machine, I was a complete failure.'

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

Science fiction novella | HC | \$29.99



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### Assassins of Thasalon

Penric & Desdemona 10

**Lois McMaster Bujold**

An unholy attack upon his brother-in-law General Arisaydia pitches sorcerer Learned Penric and his Temple demon Desdemona headlong into the snake-pit of Cedonian imperial politics. But they will not travel alone. The mission from his god brings Penric some of his strangest new allies yet, and the return of some of his most valued old ones. Latest in the series of fantasy novellas by long-time Pulp Fiction favourite, Bujold. These are expensive, signed and numbered, limited editions from American boutique publisher, Subterranean Press – but will eventually surface as Baen omnibuses in hardcover and later in paperback. We just have to be patient (the mantra of 2022!).

Fantasy | HC | \$95.95



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### Where the Drowned Girls Go

Wayward Children 07

**Seanan McGuire**

Winner: 2022 Hugo Award for Best Series. In *Where the Drowned Girls Go*, the next addition to Seanan McGuire's beloved Wayward Children series, students at an anti-magical school rebel against the oppressive faculty 'Welcome to the Whitethorn Institute. The first step is always admitting you need help, and you've already taken that step by requesting a transfer into our company.' There is another school for children who fall through doors and fall back out again. It isn't as friendly as Eleanor West's Home for Wayward Children. And it isn't as safe. When Eleanor West decided to open her school, her sanctuary, her 'Home for Wayward Children', she knew from the beginning that there would be children she couldn't save; when Cora decides she needs a different direction, a different fate, a different prophecy, Miss West reluctantly agrees to transfer her to the other school, where things are run very differently by Whitethorn, the Headmaster. She will soon discover that not all doors are welcoming... Great series of fantasy novellas – the first is *Every Heart a Doorway* (HC, \$29.99). Recommended!

Portal fantasy | HC | \$39.99



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# Pulp Fiction Bestsellers

## Science Fiction & Fantasy August 2022 (continued)

### Classic Science Fiction Stories

Macmillan Collector's Library

Adam Roberts (editor)

*Classic Science Fiction Stories* highlights not only famous writers such as Edgar Allan Poe, H G Wells and H P Lovecraft, but also gives voice to lesser known but equally inventive writers such as Florence McLandburgh and Ambrose Bierce. Spanning the 1750s to the early 20th century, these mesmerising and expertly crafted stories are by turns intriguing, terrifying and, at times, downright comic. Together, they show how science fiction took root to develop into the global phenomenon it is today.

Part of the Macmillan Collector's Library; a series of stunning, cloth-bound, pocket-sized classics with gold foiled edges and ribbon markers. These beautiful books make perfect gifts or a treat for any book lover. *Classic Science Fiction Stories* is selected and introduced by academic and science-fiction writer Adam Roberts – perfect little Christmas gift/stocking stuffer at only \$22.99!

Science fiction | HC | \$22.99



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### Imperial Ghosts

Ashes of Empire 05

Eric Thomson

Humanity's first empire collapsed centuries ago, but two tiny shards kept the ability to travel across the stars at faster than light speeds: the Wyvern Hegemony and the Republic of Lyonesse. Each considers itself the heir of the old empire and swore an oath of reunification. Yet only one can rule over humanity reunited. As they race to absorb ruined human worlds and rebuild them in their respective image, it is only a matter of time before they encounter the ghosts of what once was. And those ghosts will demand their due. First in the series is *Imperial Sunset* (TP, \$32.99) – if you're a military space opera fan and love David Weber, David Drake, *et al* – think you're going to love these!

Military SF | TP | \$35.95



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### When Sorrows Come

October Daye 15

Seanan McGuire

Toby's getting married! Now in paperback, the fifteenth novel of the Hugo-nominated, *New York Times*-bestselling October Daye urban fantasy series. It's hard to be a hero. There's always something needing October 'Toby' Daye's attention, and her own desires tend to fall by the wayside, in favour of solving the Kingdom's problems. That includes the desire to marry her long-time suitor and current fiancé, Tybalt, San Francisco's King of Cats. She doesn't mean to keep delaying the wedding, it just sort of... happens. And that's why her closest friends have taken the choice out of her hands, ambushing her with a court wedding at the High Court in Toronto. Once the High King gets involved, there's not much even Toby can do to delay things... except for getting involved in stopping a plot to overthrow the High Throne itself, destabilising the Westlands entirely, and keeping her from getting married through nothing more than the sheer volume of chaos it would cause. Can Toby save the Westlands and make it to her own wedding on time? Or is she going to have to choose one over the other? Includes an all-new bonus novella! Recommended – these move at a cracking pace and are utterly addictive! The first is *Rosemary and Rue* (PBK, \$24.95).

Urban fantasy | PBK | \$24.95



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# Pulp Fiction Bestsellers

## Science Fiction & Fantasy August 2022 (continued)

### **The Left-Handed Booksellers of London**

**Garth Nix**

In a slightly alternate London in 1983, Susan Arkshaw is looking for her father, a man she has never met. Crime boss Frank Thringley might be able to help her, but Susan doesn't get time to ask Frank any questions before he is turned to dust by the prick of a silver hatpin in the hands of the outrageously attractive Merlin. Merlin is a young left-handed bookseller (one of the fighting ones), who with the right-handed booksellers (the intellectual ones), are an extended family of magical beings who police the mythic and legendary Old World when it intrudes on the modern world, in addition to running several bookshops. Susan's search for her father begins with her mother's possibly misremembered or misspelt surnames, a reading room ticket, and a silver cigarette case engraved with something that might be a coat of arms. Merlin has a quest of his own, to find the Old World entity who used ordinary criminals to kill his mother. As he and his sister, the right-handed bookseller Vivien, tread in the path of a botched or covered-up police investigation from years past, they find this quest strangely overlaps with Susan's. Who or what was her father? Susan, Merlin, and Vivien must find out, as the Old World erupts dangerously into the New. Great feedback from regulars – recommended!

YA fantasy | PBK | \$19.99



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### **We Are Legion (We Are Bob)**

Bobiverse 01

**Dennis E Taylor**

Bob Johansson has just sold his software company and is looking forward to a life of leisure. There are places to go, books to read, and movies to watch. So, it's a little unfair, when he gets himself killed crossing the street. Bob wakes up a century later to find that corpsicles have been declared to be without rights, and he is now the property of the state. He has been uploaded into computer hardware and is slated to be the controlling AI in an interstellar probe looking for habitable planets. The stakes are high: no less than the first claim to entire worlds. If he declines the honour, he'll be switched off, and they'll try again with someone else. If he accepts, he becomes a prime target. There are, at least, three other countries trying to get their own probes launched first, and they play dirty. The safest place for Bob is in space, heading away from Earth at top speed. Or, so, he thinks. Because the universe is full of nasties, and trespassers make them mad – very mad. We were put onto this series by a couple of enthusiastic regulars – and, now, every time we suggest it to customers wanting something new – they all seem to come straight back wanting more. Which sparks joy for us. So – if you're a space opera fan who likes a dash of humour – please try this first in the series! *We Are Bob!*

Space opera | TP | \$26.95



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