

Pulp Fiction

Science Fiction & Fantasy Bestsellers

September 2022

The Golden Enclaves

Scholomance 03

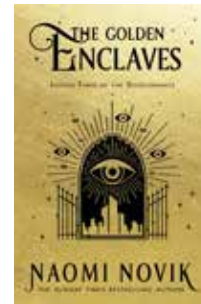
Naomi Novik

The one thing you never talk about while you're in the Scholomance is what you'll do when you get out.

Not even the richest enclaver would tempt fate that way. But it's all we dream about: the hideously slim chance we'll survive to make it out the gates and improbably find ourselves with a life ahead of us, a life outside the Scholomance halls. And, now, the impossible dream has come true. I'm out, we're all out – and I didn't even have to turn into a monstrous dark witch to make it happen. So much for my great-grandmother's prophecy of doom and destruction. I didn't kill enclavers, I saved them. Me and Orion and our allies. Our graduation plan worked to perfection: We saved everyone and made the world safe for all wizards and brought peace and harmony to all the enclaves everywhere. Ha, only joking! Actually, it's gone all wrong. Someone else has picked up the project of destroying enclaves in my stead, and probably everyone we saved is about to get killed in the brewing enclave war. And the first thing I've got to do, now, having miraculously gotten out of the Scholomance, is turn straight around and find a way back in.

Novik never disappoints – fantastic! The first is *A Deadly Education* (PBK, \$22.99).

Fantasy | TP | \$32.99



1

Soul Taken

Mercy Thompson 06

Patricia Briggs

The vampire Wulfe is missing. Since he's deadly, possibly insane, and his current idea of 'fun' is stalking Mercy, some may see it as no great loss. But when he disappears, the Tri-Cities pack is blamed. The mistress of the vampire seethe informs Mercy that the pack must produce Wulfe to prove their innocence, or the loose alliance between the local vampires and werewolves is over. So, Mercy goes out to find her stalker – and discovers more than just Wulfe have disappeared. Someone is taking people from locked rooms, from the aisles of stores and even from crowded parties. And these are not just ordinary people but supernatural beings. Until Wulfe vanished, all of them were powerless loners, many of whom quietly moved to the Tri-Cities in the hope that the safety promised by Mercy and Adam's pack would extend to them as well. Who is taking them? As Mercy investigates, she learns of the legend of the Harvester, who travels by less-trodden paths and reaps the souls that are ripe with a great black scythe...

And they say the urban fantasy bubble has burst! Fie on them! At Pulp, Briggs is more popular than ever. Try the first – *Moon Called* (PBK, \$22.99).

Paranormal romance | TP | \$32.99



2

Pulp Fiction Bestsellers

Science Fiction & Fantasy September 2022 (continued)

Ruby Fever

Hidden Legacy 06

Ilona Andrews

An escaped spider, the unexpected arrival of an Imperial Russian Prince, the senseless assassination of a powerful figure, a shocking attack on the supposedly invincible Warden of Texas, Catalina's boss... And it's only Monday. Within hours, the fate of Houston – not to mention the House of Baylor – now, rests on Catalina, who will have to harness her powers as never before. But even with her fellow Prime and fiancé Alessandro Sagredo by her side, she may not be able to expose who's responsible before all hell really breaks loose.

More paranormal/urban fantasy – and like Briggs – regulars can't get enough of Andrews! The first in the series is *Burn for Me* (PBK, \$24.95).

Paranormal romance | PBK | \$26.95



3

Nona the Ninth

Locked Tomb quartet 03

Tamsyn Muir

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

Her city is under siege. The zombies are coming back. And all Nona wants is a birthday party. In many ways, Nona is like other people. She lives with her family, has a job at her local school, and loves walks on the beach and meeting new dogs. But Nona's not like other people. Six months ago, she woke up in a stranger's body, and she's afraid she might have to give it back. The whole city is falling to pieces. A monstrous blue sphere hangs on the horizon, ready to tear the planet apart. Blood of Eden forces have surrounded the last Cohort facility and wait for the Emperor Undying to come calling. Their leaders want Nona to be the weapon that will save them from the Nine Houses. Nona would prefer to live an ordinary life with the people she loves, with Pyrrha and Camilla and Palamedes, but she also knows that nothing lasts forever. And each night, Nona dreams of a woman with a skull-painted face...

Kiwi author Muir has become somewhat of a Global Sensation – try the first, *Gideon the Ninth* (TP, \$32.99) and see what the fuss is all about...

Space fantasy | TP | \$34.99



4

Pulp Fiction Bestsellers

Science Fiction & Fantasy September 2022 (continued)

Babel, Or the Necessity of Violence: An Arcane History of the Oxford Translators' Revolution

R F Kuang

And speaking of Global Sensations... now, this:

'Absolutely phenomenal. One of the most brilliant, razor-sharp books I've had the pleasure of reading that isn't just an alternative fantastical history, but an interrogative one; one that grabs colonial history and the Industrial Revolution, turns it over, and shakes it out.' – *Shannon Chakraborty*, bestselling author of *The City of Brass*.

From award-winning author R F Kuang comes *Babel*, a thematic response to *The Secret History* and a tonal retort to *Jonathan Strange and Mr Norrell* that grapples with student revolutions, colonial resistance, and the use of language and translation as the dominating tool of the British empire.

Traduttore, traditore: *An act of translation is always an act of betrayal.*

1828. Robin Swift, orphaned by cholera in Canton, is brought to London, by the mysterious Professor Lovell. There, he trains for years in Latin, Ancient Greek, and Chinese, all in preparation for the day he'll enrol in Oxford University's prestigious Royal Institute of Translation – also known as Babel. Babel is the world's centre for translation and, more importantly, magic. Silver working – the art of manifesting the meaning lost in translation using enchanted silver bars – has made the British unparalleled in power, as its knowledge serves the Empire's quest for colonisation. For Robin, Oxford is a utopia dedicated to the pursuit of knowledge. But knowledge obeys power, and as a Chinese boy raised in Britain, Robin realises serving Babel means betraying his motherland. As his studies progress, Robin finds himself caught between Babel and the shadowy Hermes Society, an organisation dedicated to stopping imperial expansion. When Britain pursues an unjust war with China over silver and opium, Robin must decide...

And the reviews have been amazing! Recommended! Can powerful institutions be changed from within, or does revolution always require violence?

Historical fantasy | TP | \$32.99



5

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



6

Pulp Fiction Bestsellers

Science Fiction & Fantasy September 2022 (continued)

Exit Strategy

Murderbot Diaries 04

Martha Wells

Murderbot wasn't programmed to care. So, its decision to help the only human who ever showed it respect must be a system glitch, right?

Having travelled the width of the galaxy to unearth details of its own murderous transgressions, as well as those of the GrayCris Corporation, Murderbot is heading home to help Dr Mensah – its former owner (protector? friend?) – submit evidence that could prevent GrayCris from destroying more colonists in its never-ending quest for profit. But who's going to believe a SecUnit, gone rogue? And what will become of it, when it's caught?

'I love Murderbot!' – *Ann Leckie*.

This has been out for a while – but the local stockists (thanks, PanMac!) are always out of stock and because so much comes by ship, now – takes ages to come in. So, when they do – they immediately shoot to bestseller list status here, at Pulp. And really, what would our bestseller lists be, without a Martha Wells or three on it? Just read them (see #10, below, for the start of the series).

Science fiction novella | HC | \$29.99



7

The Goblin Emperor

Katherine Addison

The youngest, half-goblin son of the Emperor has lived his entire life in exile, distant from the Imperial Court and the deadly intrigue that suffuses it. But when his father and three sons in line for the throne are killed in an 'accident', he has no choice but to take his place as the only surviving rightful heir. Surrounded by sycophants eager to curry favour with the naive new emperor, and overwhelmed by the burdens of his new life, he can trust nobody. Amid the swirl of plots to depose him, offers of arranged marriages, and the spectre of the unknown conspirators who lurk in the shadows, he must quickly adjust to life as the Goblin Emperor.

Yes, we know it came out several years ago – but Ron finally got around to reading it (a few years ago, now) and is obsessed and forcing copies upon anyone who will listen to him... (It's very, very good!) Ignore the drab cover art! Ignore the lacklustre blurb!

Just read it!

Fantasy | PBK | \$24.95



8

A Desolation Called Peace

Teixcalaan 02

Arkady Martine

A Desolation Called Peace is the spectacular space opera sequel to *A Memory Called Empire* by Arkady Martine, winner of the 2020 Hugo Award for Best Novel.

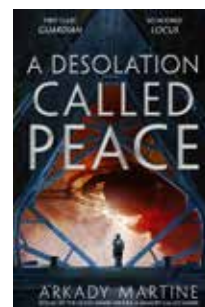
An alien terror could spell our end. An alien threat lurks on the edges of Teixcalaanli space. No one can communicate with it, no one can destroy it, and Fleet Captain Nine Hibiscus is supposed to win a war against it. In a desperate attempt to find a diplomatic solution, the fleet captain has sent for an envoy to contact the mysterious invaders. Now, Mahit Dzmare and Three Seagrass – both still reeling from the recent upheaval in the Empire – face an impossible task: they must attempt to negotiate with a hostile entity, without inadvertently triggering the destruction of themselves and the Empire. Whether they succeed or fail could change the face of Teixcalaan forever.

'All-round brilliant space opera, I absolutely loved it' – *Ann Leckie* on *A Memory Called Empire*.

'A cutting, beautiful, human adventure... The best SF novel I've read in the last five years' – *Yoon Ha Lee* on *A Memory Called Empire* (the first one, PBK, \$22.99).

A Desolation Called Peace has recently won the 2022 Hugo Award for Best Novel – and is newly out in paperback!

Space opera | PBK | \$19.99



9

Pulp Fiction Bestsellers

Science Fiction & Fantasy September 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



10