

Pulp Fiction

Science Fiction & Fantasy Bestsellers

2022

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.

New York Times and *USA Today* bestseller.

A murderous android discovers itself in *All Systems Red*, a tense (but: *ALSO VERY FUNNY!*) 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



1

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.

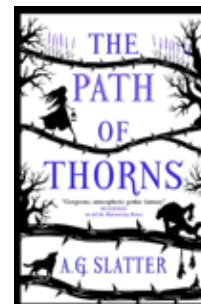
Asher Todd comes to live with the mysterious Morwood family as a governess to their children. Asher knows little about being a governess but she is skilled in botany and herbcraft, and perhaps more than that. And she has secrets of her own, dark and terrible – and Morwood is a house that eats secrets. 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! Signed copies are available.

Gothic fantasy | PBK | \$24.99



2

Pulp Fiction Bestsellers

Science Fiction & Fantasy 2022 (continued)

Amongst Our Weapons

PC Grant 09

Ben Aaronovitch

The ninth novel of the bestselling Rivers of London urban fantasy series returns to the adventures of Peter Grant – detective and apprentice wizard – as he solves magical crimes in the city of London.

There is a world hidden underneath this great city. The London Silver Vaults – for well over a century, the largest collection of silver for sale in the world. It has more locks than the Bank of England and more cameras than a paparazzi convention. Not somewhere you can murder someone and vanish without a trace – only, that’s what happened.

The disappearing act, the reports of a blinding flash of light, and memory loss amongst the witnesses all make this a case for Detective Constable Peter Grant and the Special Assessment Unit. But what he doesn’t know is that he’s about to encounter something – and somebody – that nobody ever expects...

(The Spanish Inquisition, perhaps? Nobody ever expects the Spanish Inquisition! Just sayin’!)

Urban fantasy | TP | \$32.99



3

The Kaiju Preservation Society

John Scalzi

They’re big, they’re bad, and they’re about to become extinct...

Jamie’s dream was to hit the big time at a New York tech start-up. Jamie’s reality was a humiliating layoff, then a low-wage job as a takeaway delivery driver. During a pandemic too. Things look beyond grim, until a chance delivery to an old acquaintance.

Tom has an urgent vacancy on his team: the pay is great, and Jamie has debts – it’s a no-brainer choice. Yet, once again, reality fails to match expectations. Only... this time, it could be fatal.

It seems Tom’s ‘animal rights organisation’ is way more than it appears. The animals aren’t even on Earth – or not our Earth, anyway. In an alternate dimension, massive dinosaur-like creatures roam a tropical, human-free world. And although Kaiju are their universe’s largest and most dangerous animal, they need support to survive.

Tom’s ‘Kaiju Preservation Society’ wants to help. However, others want to profit. Unless they’re stopped, the walls between our worlds could fall – and the consequences would be devastating.

Scalzi. Fabulous.

Science fiction | TP | \$32.99



4

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



5

Pulp Fiction Bestsellers

Science Fiction & Fantasy 2022 (continued)

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.

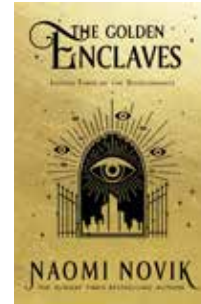
And, now, the impossible dream has come true. I'm out, we're all out – and I didn't even have to turn into a monstrous dark witch to make it happen. So much for my great-grandmother's prophecy of doom and destruction.

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).

Science fiction | TP | \$32.99



6

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* (HC, \$29.99).

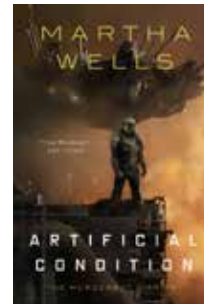
It has a dark past – one in which a number of humans were killed. A past that caused it to christen itself 'Murderbot'. But it has only vague memories of the massacre that spawned that title, and it wants to know more.

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 and Hugo Awards for Best Novella (just as the first one did!) in 2019.

Science fiction novella | HC | \$29.99



7

Fugitive Telemetry

Murderbot Diaries 06

Martha Wells

No, I didn't kill the dead human. If I had, I wouldn't dump the body in the station mall.

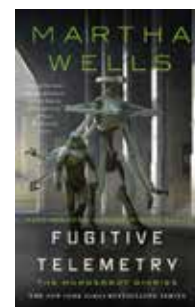
When Murderbot discovers a dead body on Preservation Station, it knows it is going to have to assist station security to determine who the body is (was), how they were killed (that should be relatively straightforward, at least), and why (because apparently that matters to a lot of people – who knew?)

Yes, the unthinkable is about to happen: Murderbot must voluntarily speak to humans! *Again!*

This sixth entry into the series is a standalone novella, set before *Artificial Condition*.

If you haven't read the preceding books in Wells' fab series – then start with *All Systems Red* (HC, \$29.99).

Science fiction novella | HC | \$39.99



8

Pulp Fiction Bestsellers

Science Fiction & Fantasy 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*. And so do we Ann, so do we... :)

Science fiction novella | HC | \$29.99



9

Rogue Protocol

Murderbot Diaries 03

Martha Wells

Rogue Protocol is the third entry in Martha Wells' Hugo, Nebula, Alex, and Locus Award-winning, *New York Times* and *USA Today* bestselling series, the Murderbot Diaries.

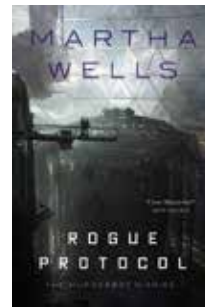
Starring a human-like android who keeps getting sucked back into adventure after adventure, though it just wants to be left alone, away from humanity and small talk.

Who knew being a heartless killing machine would present so many moral dilemmas?

Sci-fi's favourite antisocial AI is back on a mission. The case against the too-big-to-fail GrayCris Corporation is floundering, and more importantly, authorities are beginning to ask more questions about where Dr Mensah's SecUnit is. And Murderbot would rather those questions went away. For good.

Please – just read them. Start the addiction with *All Systems Red* (HC, \$29.99). Recommended!

Science fiction novella | HC | \$29.99



10

Pulp Fiction Bestsellers

Science Fiction & Fantasy 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...

Can powerful institutions be changed from within, or does revolution always require violence?

And the reviews have been amazing! Recommended!

[Alternate history](#) | [TP](#) | [\\$32.99](#)



10

Sixteen Ways to Defend a Walled City

Siege 01

K J Parker

K J Parker's novel is the remarkable tale of the siege of a walled city, and the even more remarkable man who had to defend it.

A siege is approaching, and the city has little time to prepare. The people have no food and no weapons, and the enemy has sworn to slaughter them all.

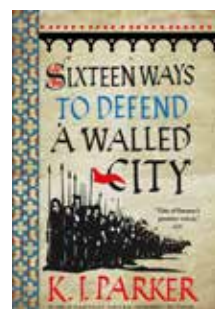
To save the city will take a miracle, but what it has is Orhan. A colonel of engineers, Orhan has far more experience with bridge building than battles, is a cheat and a liar, and has a serious problem with authority. He is, in other words, perfect for the job.

Sixteen Ways To Defend a Walled City is the story of Orhan, son of Siyyah Doctus Felix Praeclarissimus, and his history of the Great Siege; written down, so that the deeds and sufferings of great men may never be forgotten.

In spite of the above fairly-humourless-blurb – these are a hoot! Everyone who reads them seems to come straight back for more – and we have problems keeping enough stock on the shelves.

(And, spoiler alert: Parker is a *nom-de-plume* for the wonderful Tom Holt – who has a long record of being brilliant. So, this hardly comes as a surprise!)

[Military fantasy](#) | [PBK](#) | [\\$22.99](#)



10

Pulp Fiction Bestsellers

Science Fiction & Fantasy 2022 (continued)

Network Effect

Murderbot Diaries 05

Martha Wells

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%+ 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 want one, but we don't have any in the shop – please, do order one, to stake your claim on the stock we will receive!) If you haven't read Wells' preceding novellas – then start with *All Systems Red* (HC, \$29.99).

Science fiction | HC | \$42.99



10