

# Pulp Fiction

## Science Fiction & Fantasy Bestsellers

January 2023

### **Into the West**

Founding of Valdemar 02

**Mercedes Lackey**

The long-awaited founding of Valdemar comes to life in this new series from the New York Times bestselling author and Grand Master of the Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America.

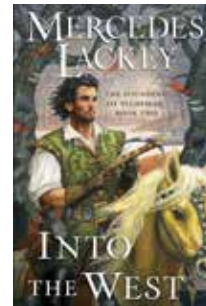
Baron Valdemar and his people have found a temporary haven, but it cannot hold all of them, or for long. Trouble could follow on their heels at any moment, and there are too many people for Crescent Lake to support.

Those who are willing to make a further trek by barge on into the West will follow him into a wilderness depopulated by war and scarred by the terrible magics of a thousand years ago and the Mage Wars. But the wilderness is not as 'empty' as it seems. There are potential friends and rapacious foes...

... and someone is watching them.

*Beyond* is the first in the series – now in paperback (\$19.99).

**Valdemar | HC | \$57.95**



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### **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**



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# Pulp Fiction Bestsellers

## Science Fiction & Fantasy January 2023 (continued)

### About Time

Time Police 04

Jodi Taylor

From the million-copy bestselling author of the Chronicles of St Mary's.

Patience is not a virtue known to the Time Police. And Commander Hay is facing the longest day of her life...

After their heroic efforts to safeguard the Acropolis and prevent the Paris Time-Stop, the Time Police have gone from zero to hero. Then one fateful mission to apprehend a minor criminal selling dodgy historical artefacts blows up in all their faces.

An officer is attacked within TPHQ. A prisoner is murdered. And investigations are about to lead to the one place where no officer can legally tread.

Worst of all, trouble is brewing for Luke, Jane and Matthew as a shocking revelation threatens to tear Team Weird apart for good.

For fans of *Doctor Who*, the Thursday Murder Club, and Jasper Fforde. Lotsa timey-wimey hijinks!

First in this series is *Doing Time* (PBK, \$22.99).

[Time travel | TP | \\$32.99](#)



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### 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](#)



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# Pulp Fiction Bestsellers

## Science Fiction & Fantasy January 2023 (continued)

### 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



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### 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



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### The Stolen Heir

Stolen Heir 01

Holly Black

A runaway queen. A reluctant prince. And a quest that may destroy them both.

Eight years have passed since the Battle of the Serpent. But in the icy north, Lady Nore of the Court of Teeth, has reclaimed the Ice Needle Citadel. There she is using an ancient relic to create monsters of stick and snow who will do her bidding and exact her revenge.

Suren, child queen of the Court of Teeth, and the one person with power over her mother, fled to the human world, where she lives feral in the woods. Lonely, and still haunted by the merciless torments she endured at Court, she bides her time by releasing mortals from foolish bargains. She believes herself forgotten until the storm hag Bogdana chases her through the night streets. Suren is saved by none other than Prince Oak, heir to Elfhome, to whom she was once promised in marriage and who she has resented for years.

Now seventeen, Oak is charming, beautiful and manipulative. He's on a mission that will lead him into the north, and he wants Suren's help. But if she agrees, it will mean guarding her heart against the boy she once knew and a prince she cannot trust, as well as confronting all the horrors she thought she had left behind.

The spellbinding new fantasy from the Queen of Faerie, Holly Black, author of the Folk of the Air series.

YA fantasy | TP | \$27.99



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# Pulp Fiction Bestsellers

## Science Fiction & Fantasy January 2023 (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



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### Hell Bent

Alex Stern 02

**Leigh Bardugo**

Find a gateway to the underworld. Steal a soul out of hell. A simple plan, except people who make this particular journey rarely come back. But Galaxy 'Alex' Stern is determined to break Darlington out of purgatory – even if it costs her a future at Lethe and at Yale.

Forbidden from attempting a rescue, Alex and Dawes can't call on the Ninth House for help, so they assemble a team of dubious allies to save the gentleman of Lethe. Together, they will have to navigate a maze of arcane texts and bizarre artifacts to uncover the societies' most closely guarded secrets, and break every rule doing it.

But when faculty members begin to die off, Alex knows these aren't just accidents. Something deadly is at work in New Haven, and if she is going to survive, she'll have to reckon with the monsters of her past and a darkness built into the university's very walls.

Start with the first, *Ninth House* (PBK, \$19.99).

Urban fantasy | TP | \$32.99



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### 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 urban fantasy | PBK | \$19.99



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