

Pulp Fiction

Science Fiction & Fantasy Bestsellers

March 2023

The Sinister Booksellers of Bath

Left-Handed Booksellers of London 02

Garth Nix

Return to the enchanting world of *The Left-Handed Booksellers of London* in this sequel by Garth Nix, where once again a team of booksellers must fight to keep dangerous magic under cover before the stuff of legends destroys our world.

(All in a day's work for us here at Pulp Fiction!)

There is often trouble of a mythical sort in Bath. The booksellers who police the Old World keep a careful watch there, particularly on the entity that inhabits the ancient hot spring.

This time, trouble comes from the discovery of a sorcerous map, leading left-handed bookseller Merlin into great danger, requiring a desperate rescue attempt from his sister, the right-handed bookseller Vivien, and art student Susan Arkshaw, who is still struggling to deal with her own recently discovered magical heritage.

The map takes the trio to a place separated from this world, maintained by deadly sorcery and guarded by monstrous living statues. But this is only the beginning. To unravel the secrets of a murderous Ancient Sovereign, the booksellers must investigate centuries of disappearances and deaths. If they do not stop her, she will soon kill again. And this time, her target is not an ordinary mortal.

The sequel to *The Left-Handed Booksellers of London* (PBK, \$19.99), see #9 below.

YA bibliofantasy | TP | \$24.99



1

What Price Victory?

Worlds of Honor 07

David Weber (editor)

The hottest military science fiction series of all time continues.

The mission: to boldly explore David Weber's Honorverse and to deliver all the action, courage, derring-do, and pulse-pounding excitement of space naval adventure with tales set in a world touched by the greatness of one epic heroine – Honor Harrington.

Collecting new Honorverse tales by: Timothy Zahn and Thomas Pope, Jane Lindskold, Jan Kotouc, and Joelle Presby. Plus, 'First Victory', an all-new novella by David Weber, himself!

Space opera | HC | \$59.95



2

Pulp Fiction Bestsellers

Science Fiction & Fantasy March 2023 (continued)

Frontier

Grace Curtis

In the distant future, climate change has reduced Earth to a hard-scrabble wasteland. Saints and sinners, lawmakers and sheriffs, gunslingers and horse thieves abound. Folk are as diverse and divided as they've ever been – except in their shared suspicions when a stranger comes to town.

One night a ship falls from the sky, bringing the planet's first visitor in 300 years.

She's armed, she's scared... and she's looking for someone.

'Be prepared to devour this book in one sitting' – Beth Revis.

'A real treat' – Max Gladstone.

Queer space opera in a *Firefly* vein. Fans of Becky Chambers also take note!

Western sf | TP | \$32.99



3

Backpacking through Bedlam

Incryptid 12

Seanan McGuire

Alice Price-Healy gave up her life for 50 years to focus completely on the search for her missing husband.

The danger of focus like that is that it leaves little room for thinking about what happens after... and now that she's finally managed to find Thomas, she has no idea what she's supposed to do next.

The fact that he comes with a surrogate daughter who may or may not have some connection to Alice's recently adopted grandson is just icing on the complicated cake.

So, the three of them are heading for the most complicated place in the universe: they're going home.

But things on Earth have changed while Alice, Thomas, and Sally have been away. The Covenant of St George, antagonised by Verity's declaration of war and Sarah's temporary relocation of an entire college campus, is trying to retake North America from the cryptids and cryptozoologists who've been keeping the peace for the past hundred years. And they're starting in New York.

Alice and company have barely been back for an hour before the Ocean Lady and the Queen of the Routewitches are sending them to New York to help, and they find themselves embroiled in the politics of dragons, kidnappings, and of course, the most dangerous people of all: family.

Getting 'back to normal' may be the hardest task Alice has undertaken, yet.

Hugely-popular urban fantasy series – start with *Discount Armageddon* (PBK, \$24.95).

Urban fantasy | TP | \$37.95



4

A Day of Fallen Night

Roots of Chaos 02

Samantha Shannon

Tunuva Melim is a sister of the Priory. For 50 years, she has trained to slay wyrms – but none have appeared since the Nameless One, and the younger generation is starting to question the Priory's purpose.

To the north, in the Queendom of Inys, Sabran the Ambitious has married the new King of Hróth, narrowly saving both realms from ruin. Their daughter, Glorian, trails in their shadow – exactly where she wants to be.

The dragons of the East have slept for centuries. Dumai has spent her life in a Seiikinese mountain temple, trying to wake the gods from their long slumber. Now, someone from her mother's past is coming to upend her fate. When the Dreadmount erupts, bringing with it an age of terror and violence, these women must find the strength to protect humankind from a devastating threat.

Intricate and epic, *A Day of Fallen Night* sweeps readers back to the world of *A Priory of the Orange Tree* (PBK, \$22.99), showing us a course of events that shaped it for generations to come.

Seriously, highly recommended. This world has everything you want in a fat fantasy... matriarchal societies, dragons, twisty motivations, dragons, splendid prose, and more... *Priory* was a fantasy juggernaut, and we expect this prequel to be the same.

Fantasy | TP | \$34.99



5

Pulp Fiction Bestsellers

Science Fiction & Fantasy March 2023 (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 (*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



6

Legends and Lattes

Travis Baldree

'The most fun I've ever had in a coffee shop' – Ben Aaronovitch, bestselling author of *Rivers of London*.

High fantasy, low stakes – with a double shot of coffee.

After decades of adventuring, Viv the orc barbarian is finally hanging up her sword for good. Now she sets her sights on a new dream – for she plans to open the first coffee shop in the city of Thune. Even though no one there knows what coffee actually is.

If Viv wants to put the past behind her, she can't go it alone. And help might arrive from unexpected quarters. Yet, old rivals and new stand in the way of success. And Thune's shady underbelly could make it all too easy for Viv to take up the blade once more.

But the true reward of the uncharted path is the travellers you meet along the way. Whether bound by ancient magic, delicious pastries, or a freshly-brewed cup, they may become something deeper than Viv ever could have imagined.

Legends and Lattes by Travis Baldree is a cosy, heart-warming, slice-of-life fantasy about found families and fresh starts – perfect for fans of T J Klune, Katherine Addison, and T Kingfisher.

'This is a warm hug of a book, a place to retreat from the world for a little while, drink a coffee, and come out a little better' – T Kingfisher, bestselling author of *Nettle and Bone*.

Word of mouth via social media has been great – and regulars here seem just as charmed!

Fantasy | TP | \$34.99



7

Pulp Fiction Bestsellers

Science Fiction & Fantasy March 2023 (continued)

The Queen's Price

Black Jewel 12

Anne Bishop

Latest in Bishop's long-running Black Jewels series.

The Queen's price is to stand against what you know is wrong. To stand and fight, no matter the cost to your court or to yourself. Especially to yourself.

Zoey, a young Queen-in-training at SaDiablo Hall, is wounded... and vulnerable to taunts and criticism. When an opportunity arises to befriend a stranger seeking sanctuary at the Hall, she puts herself and others in danger by ignoring Daemonar Yaslana's warning to back off.

Meanwhile, the witch Jillian's family prepares for her Virgin Night, the rite of passage that assures a woman will retain her power and her Jewels. The trouble is Jillian secretly went through the ceremony already. Now she has to explain the omission of that detail to her powerful and lethal family. And the High Lord of Hell's daughter, Saetien, travels to Scelt to find out about Jaenelle Angelline's sister – and perhaps to discover truths about herself.

With some guidance from Witch, these three young women will learn when to yield because it is right – and when to take a stand, even if they must pay the Queen's price.

Fantasy | HC | \$57.95



8

The Left-Handed Booksellers of London

Left-Handed Booksellers of London 01

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! Then check out the newly-released sequel, *The Sinister Booksellers of Bath* (TP, \$24.99) – see #1 above.

YA bibliofantasy | PBK | \$19.99



9

Pulp Fiction Bestsellers

Science Fiction & Fantasy March 2023 (continued)

Hold Fast Through the Fire

NeoG 02

K B Wagers

The Near-Earth Orbital Guard (Neo-G) – inspired by the real-life mission of the Coast Guard – patrols and protects the solar system. Now the crew of *Zuma's Ghost* must contend with personnel changes and a powerful cabal hellbent on dominating the trade lanes.

Zuma's Ghost has won the Boarding Games for the second straight year. The crew – led by the unparalleled ability of Jenks in the cage, the brilliant pairing of Ma and Max in the pilot seats, the technical savvy of Sapphi, and the sword skills of Tamago and Rosa – has all come together to form an unstoppable team. Until it all comes apart.

Their commander and Master Chief are both retiring. Which means Jenks is getting promoted, a new commander is joining them, and a fresh-faced spacer is arriving to shake up their perfect dynamics. And while not being able to threeppeat is on their minds, the more important thing is how they're going to fulfil their mission in the black.

After a plea deal transforms a 21 ore-mining sentence into NeoG service, Spacer Chae Ho-ki earns a spot on the team. But there's more to Chae that the crew doesn't know, and they must hide a secret that could endanger everyone they love – as well as their new teammates – if it got out.

At the same time, a seemingly untouchable coalition is attempting to take over trade with the Trappist colonies and start a war with the NeoG. When the crew of *Zuma's Ghost* gets involved, they end up as targets of this ruthless enemy...

A follow-up to *A Pale Light in the Black* (TP, \$32.99).

Space opera | TP | \$29.99



10