

Pulp Fiction

Science Fiction & Fantasy Catalogue

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June 2023

Includes new books by:

Ben Aaronovitch
Max Gladstone
Mark Lawrence
Ann Leckie
Sharon Lee
& Steve Miller
Ian McDonald
Adrian Tchaikovsky
Martha Wells
Chris Wooding

... and many others.

All the books in this catalogue are new books due for release in **June 2023**.

Because they are new books, we are at the whim of the publishers and, to some extent, the shipping companies – books can sometimes arrive later (or earlier) than, or occasionally be a different retail price than originally quoted. Because space is a luxury, we bring in limited quantities of books. Prices are subject to change without notice.

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Until next time, good reading!
Ron and Leanne

Abbreviations used in this catalogue:

PBK = 'A' & 'B' format (standard size) paperback
TP = 'B+' & 'C' format (oversize) paperback
HC = Hardcover or cloth binding

Winter's Gifts

Rivers of London novella

Aaronovitch, Ben

A brand-new, standalone novella in the bestselling series! Strap in for a fantastic mystery – and an amazing new character.

Details to be revealed soon: *stay frosty*...

Urban fantasy HC \$34.99

The Warning

Acevedo, Kristy

Like most high school seniors, Alexandra Lucas is caught between living in the moment, and an unknown future. Her anxiety disorder doesn't make that any easier.

But she's coping – until her train stops on the way home from a concert with her boyfriend.

At first, she's worried about breaking curfew. Then terror echoes through their train car.

A mysterious doorway has appeared beside the tracks, and a hologram claiming to be a human from the future shares a sinister warning.

A comet is on a collision course with earth. All life there will end in six months' time. To survive, people must step through one of the many portals that have opened around the world.

The holograms claim to offer safety. But how can anyone be sure? Stay or go – everyone must make their own choice.

Alex's family, her friends, her boyfriend all have different ideas. Alex is only sure of one thing: she wants to decide for herself.

But every decision comes at a price. Finalist for the Philip K Dick Science Fiction Award. The first in a series.

YA dystopia TP \$29.95

Citadel

Alongi, C M

Citadel is the only human city on the alien planet Edalide, ruled by the biweekly tides that bring both deadly danger and much-needed resources.

But the drowning waters, constant threat of starvation, and eternal cold aren't the most dangerous challenge.

For the Flooded Forest is ruled by demons: monsters from Hell sent by their vengeful god as penance for their ancestors' rebellion.

To save their souls and return to their former glory, Citadel must kill every single one.

Or, so they believe. Olivia lost her lover to the demons, almost a year ago. But during a scientific expedition, a chance encounter reveals that the demons are sentient –

a startling discovery that would get Olivia executed if she exposed it. Driven by the burning need for answers, Olivia embarks on a dangerous journey into the Forest.

There, she must face alien monsters, zealous warriors, and the demons of her own past.

But change comes slowly, and always with a price... In this luminous sf debut, a nonverbal autistic woman refuses to crumble, as she stands against a dogmatic society clinging to a centuries-long conflict built on lies.

Science fiction TP \$42.95

The Lost War

Eidyn Saga 01

Anderson, Justin Lee

The war is over, but peace can be hell.

Demons continue to burn farmlands, violent mercenaries roam the wilds and a plague is spreading.

The country of Eidyn is on its knees. In a society that fears and shuns him, Aranok is the first mage to be named king's envoy.

And his latest task is to restore and exiled foreign queen to her throne.

The band of allies he assembles each have their own unique skills. But they are strangers to one another, and at every step across the ravaged land, a new threat emerges, lies are revealed and distrust could destroy everything they are working for.

Somehow, Aranok must bring his companions together and uncover the conspiracy that threatens the kingdom – before war returns to the realms again.

The first in a fast-paced epic fantasy series, filled with swashbuckling action and expansive world building – perfect for fans of

Nicholas Eames and R J Barker.

Fantasy PBK \$24.99

Magic Claims

Kate Daniels: Wilmington Years 02

Andrews, Ilona

A new town, new friends, new challenges...

Kate and Curran have just settled into their new home and their 'low profile', when a local businessman approaches them with an offer they can't refuse.

A mysterious evil has spanned in the nearby forest and is holding a defenceless town hostage.

The 'due date' is rapidly approaching. It's exactly the kind of prize the Lennarts can't resist, not for the fight the town offers, but for the people who will surely die if they ignore it.

If they succeed, they'll be rescuing an entire community and can build a strong new base for their family and the Wilmington Pack.

If they fail... well, *fail* is a four-letter word. Nothing comes without a price.

Now, Kate must decide if she has what it takes to pay it. Kate, Curran, and Conlan may have left Atlanta for Wilmington, but the usual magic mayhem has also hitched a ride!

A 238pp sequel to *Magic Tides* (PBK, \$24.95).

Paranormal romance PBK \$29.95

Weaponized

Asher, Neal

A bright new future for humanity – or a dark and inescapable past.

Ursula has lived twice the normal human lifespan, courtesy of the latest technology. But now she's struggling to find excitement and purpose, so signs up to the Polity's military.

She excels in weapons development, and progresses rapidly up the ranks. But after botching a powerful new ammunition test, she's dismissed from service.

Hunting for a simpler, more meaningful existence, the ex-soldier heads for the stars. And after founding a colony on the hostile planet of Threpsis, Ursula finally feels alive.

Then deadly raptors attack

and the colonists are forced to adapt in unprecedented ways. The raptors also raise a deeply troubling question: how could the Polity have missed these apex predators?

And alien ruins? Meanwhile, biophysicist Oren has formed his own survival plan – one he'll pursue at any cost.

As a desperate battle erupts to consume the planet, Ursula finds she must dig deep into her past to ensure humanity's future.

A thrilling far-future standalone adventure set in the expansive Polity universe. Now in paperback.

Science fiction PBK \$22.99

The Measure of Sorrow: Stories

collection

Ashley-Smith, J

Shirley Jackson Award-winning author J Ashley-Smith's first collection draws together 10 new and previously-acclaimed stories of dark speculative fiction.

In these pages a black reef holds the secret to an interminable coastal limbo; a father struggles to relate to his estranged children in a post-bushfire wilderness; an artist records her last days in conversation with her unborn child; a brother and sister are abandoned to the manifestations of their uncle's insanity; a suburban neighbourhood succumbs to an indescribable malaise; teenage ravers fall in with an eldritch crowd; a sensitive New Age guy commits a terminal act of passive aggression; a plane crash opens the door to the Garden of Eden; the new boy in the village falls victim to a fatal ruse; and a husband's unexpressed grief is embodied in the shadows of a crumbling country barn.

Intelligent and emotionally complex, these stories elude easy classification, lifting the veil on the wonder and horror of a world just out of true.

Dark speculative fiction TP \$32.99

The Crane Husband

novella

Barnhill, Kelly

'Mothers fly away like migrating birds. This is why farmers have daughters.'

A 15-year-old teenager is the backbone of her small Midwestern family, budgeting the household finances and raising her younger brother – while her mom, a talented artist, weaves beautiful tapestries.

For six years, it's been just the three of them – her mom has brought home guests at times, but none have ever stayed. Yet, when her mom brings home a six-foot-tall crane with a menacing air, the girl is powerless to prevent her mom letting the intruder into her heart, and her children's lives.

Utterly enchanted and numb to his sharp edges, her mom abandons the world around her to weave the masterpiece the crane demands.

In this stunning contemporary retelling of 'The Crane Wife' by the Newbery Medal-winning author of *The Girl Who Drank the Moon*, one fiercely pragmatic teen, forced to grow up faster than

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was fair, will do whatever it takes to protect her family – and change the story. A 128pp, Tor.com novella.

Fantasy HC \$36.99

The Winter Knight **Battis, Jes**

The Knights of the Round Table are alive in Vancouver, but when one winds up dead, it's clear the familiar stories have taken a left turn. Hildie, a Valkyrie, and the investigator assigned to the case, wants to find the killer – and, maybe, figure her life out while she's at it. On her short list of suspects is Wayne, an autistic college student and the reincarnation of Sir Gawain, who these days is just trying to survive in a world that wasn't made for him. After finding himself at the scene of the crime, Wayne is pulled deeper into his medieval family history while trying to navigate a new relationship with the dean's charming assistant, Burt – who also happens to be a prime murder suspect. To figure out the truth, Wayne and Hildie have to connect with dangerous forces: fallen knights, tricky runesmiths, the Wyrd Sisters of Gastown. And a hungry beast that stalks Wayne's dreams. Arthurian legends are reborn, in this upbeat queer urban fantasy with a mystery at its heart.

Urban fantasy TP \$29.99

My Dear Henry

a Jekyll & Hyde remix

Bayron, Kalynn

London, 1885. Gabriel Utterson, a 17-year-old law clerk, has returned to London for the first time since his life – and that of his dearest friend, Henry Jekyll – was derailed by a scandal that led to his and Henry's expulsion from the London Medical School. Gabriel has a chance to start again, but he doesn't want to move on – not without Henry. Then Gabriel meets Hyde, a strange young man with white hair and magnetic charisma. Gabriel can't help but grow jealous at Hyde's apparent closeness with Henry, especially as Henry continues to act like Gabriel means nothing to him. But the secret behind Henry's apathy is only the first part of a deeper mystery that has begun to coalesce. Monsters of all kinds prowl within the London fog – and not all of them are out for blood...

YA gaslamp fantasy HC \$32.99

Tender is the Flesh

Bazterrica, Agustina

It all happened so quickly. First, animals became infected with the virus and their meat became poisonous. Then governments initiated the Transition. Now, 'special meat' – human meat – is legal. Marcos is in the business of slaughtering humans – only no one calls them that. He works with numbers, consignments, processing. One day, he's given a gift to seal a deal: a specimen of the finest quality. He leaves her in his barn, tied up, a problem to be disposed of later. But she haunts Marcos. Her trembling body, and watchful gaze, seem to understand. And soon, he becomes tortured by what has been lost – and what might still be saved.

Dystopia PBK \$22.99

Nineteen Claws **and a Black Bird**

Collection

Bazterrica, Agustina

On hearing her neighbour's body plummet on to her patio, a woman's comfortable life seems to split open. A cab driver's perfectly-manicured nails may be concealing grisly secrets. A woman whose partner has left her begins to act out an increasingly deranged set of instructions. In these tense, macabre stories, acclaimed author Agustina Bazterrica strikes to the dark heart of our desires, fears, and fantasies. Shocking, brutal, yet glinting with sharp humour, *Nineteen Claws and a Black Bird* is a breathtaking, unforgettable dive into human monstrosity.

Horror TP \$29.99

The Mother

Good Lands 02

Blanchard, B L

What if Europe had never colonised the world? It is a world that never had overseas empires, the transatlantic slave trade, or the Protestant Reformation. There is, however, in an obscure island nation called England, a woman running for her life. Marie, Duchess of Suffolk, has no choice. In this society, women are a reproductive commodity. Marriage is the only available occupation. And barren wives like Marie are expendable trade. After absconding with the family jewels, Marie fakes her own death and seeks a life outside the confines of her family and her marriage. She's looking for freedom but finds even more: an underground network of women like her, her estranged sister, and a greater mission to discover the truth behind their mother's inexplicable death. Hunted and chased across borders by those she fled, Marie has stolen more than the family jewels. She is escaping with secrets. And all that matters now, no matter the risk, is stealing freedom. A follow-up to *The Peacekeeper* (TP, \$24.99).

Alternate history TP \$29.99

Dark Carnival

collection

Bradbury, Ray

Bradbury's first story collection is a must-read for any fan of the genre, spinning stardust and cobwebs in its wondrous wake. It contains 27 stories, from science fiction's master storyteller.

Classic sf PBK \$22.99

Fawkes

Brandes, Nadine

In 17th-century London, two forces rule the people: the colour powers and the Stone Plague. Brown masks can manipulate wood. Black masks control the night. And red masks... Well, red is the colour of blood. Young Thomas Fawkes' Colour Test has finally arrived, and he's sure his father, the infamous Guy Fawkes, will present him with a mask and Thomas will finally bond with a colour. He desperately hopes for a grey mask, so he can remove the stone that has invaded his body and will ultimately take his life. But when Guy refuses to give Thomas his mask or even his presence, Thomas has no place in school or society. His only hope is to track down his father and demand a mask. His father has bigger plans: to kill the king. Thomas must join forces with Guy if he

wants to save his own life. When his errands for the cause bring him time and again to Emma Areben, a former classmate, Thomas is exposed to a whole new brand of magic. And Emma doesn't control just one colour – she controls them all. Emma wants to show Thomas the full power of colour magic, but it goes against everything his father is fighting for. If Thomas sides with his father, he could save his own life – which would destroy Emma and her family. To save one, he must sacrifice the other. No matter Thomas' choice, one thing is clear: once the decision is made and the colour masks have been put on, there's no turning back.

YA historical fantasy PBK \$24.99

Sweep of Stars

Astra Black 01

Broadbuss, Maurice

'The beauty in blackness is its ability to transform. Like energy we are neither created nor destroyed, though many try.' – *West African Proverb.* The Muungano empire strived and struggled to form a utopia when they split away from old earth. Freeing themselves from the endless wars and oppression of their home planet, in order to shape their own futures and create a far-reaching coalition of city-states that stretched from Earth and Mars to Titan. With the wisdom of their ancestors, the leadership of their elders, the power and vision of their scientists and warriors they charted a course to a better future. But the old powers could not allow them to thrive and have now set in motion new plots to destroy all that they've built. In the fire to come they will face down their greatest struggle yet. Amachi Adisa and other young leaders will contend with each other for the power to galvanise their people and chart the next course for the empire. Fela Buhari and her elite unit will take the fight to regions not seen by human eyes, but no training will be enough to bring them all home. Stacia Chikeke, captain of the starship Cypher, will face down enemies across the stars, and within her own vessel, as she searches for the answers that could save them all. The only way is forward. The first in a trilogy.

Space opera TP \$34.99

Unrivaled

four ground-breaking Hugo

& Nebula winning stories

Bujold, Lois McMaster;

Haldeman, Joe; Kress, Nancy;

Resnick, Mike

Collecting four of the most outstanding and most acclaimed novellas in science fiction, penned by Joe Haldeman, Lois McMaster Bujold, Mike Resnick, and Nancy Kress. Each novella has stood the test of time and completed the extremely difficult task of winning both the Nebula and the Hugo. Only stories of the highest calibre get awarded both the Nebula and the Hugo. The Hugo is awarded at the annual Worldcon, voted on by fans. The Nebula is awarded by the Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America (SFWA) voted on by its members, primarily professional writers. A piece that wins both, signifies that it had wide-spread fan appeal (fan votes), and also the highest regard by professionals in the field (voted on exclusively by SFWA member).

Beggars in Spain take place in a future

where genetic engineering has become a reality, and society and culture face the consequences of genetic modifications. The story revolves around the existence of the 'Sleepless': individuals genetically modified to not need sleep, who have greater potential for intelligence and accomplishment than ordinary humans, called 'Sleepers'. *The Hemingway Hoax* weaves together a story of an attempt to produce a fake Ernest Hemingway manuscript with themes concerning time travel and parallel worlds. The story is based on a real-life incident when Hemingway's first wife Hadley lost a suitcase containing his manuscripts.

The Mountains of Mourning explores the concepts of justice and mercy when Miles Vorkosigan is sent to represent the empire in a far-flung rural village where a woman demands justice for the murder of her baby who was born healthy, but with a cleft lip and palate. *The Seven Views of Olduvai Gorge* explores the meaning of human progress and decline, long after humans have disappeared from the Earth. An alien archaeological expedition is sent to explore humanity's rise and fall in its birthplace of Olduvai Gorge. Seven recounted stories based on artifacts found tell the tale of how humans rose and how they fell, and leave the aliens with an uneasy feeling about what the future may hold.

Science fiction HC \$64.95

Medusa

Burton, Jessie

Monster. Man hater. Murderess.

Forget everything you've been told about Medusa. Exiled to a far-flung island after being abused by powerful Gods, Medusa has little company other than the snakes that adorn her head instead of hair. Haunted by the memories of a life before everything was stolen from her, she has no choice but to make peace with her present: Medusa the Monster. But when the charmed and beautiful Perseus arrives on the island, her lonely existence is blown apart, unleashing desire, love... and betrayal. Perfect for readers who loved *Circe* (PBK, \$19.99) and *Ariadne* (PBK, \$22.99), as Medusa comes alive in a new version of the story that history set in stone, long ago.

Myth retold PBK \$22.99

Abbott in Darkness

Butler, D J

John Abbott is all in. He's up to his eyeballs in debt to pay for school, and he just moved his small family 40 light-years from Earth for a plum job with the wealthy interstellar corporation, The Sarovar Company. John's first assignment is to discreetly investigate possible corruption at the remote Arrowhawk Station, where Company traders buy the famous Sarovar Weave from the three-sided, crablike Weavers. John finds evidence of theft and worse, but when the guilty parties realise he's getting close, they come after him and his family. Can John catch the thieves and end their corrupt trade? Can he head off a war between the Company and the Weavers? Can he make a life for his family in this remote wilderness without corrupting himself? With no way back to Earth, the only direction for John Abbott and his family to go is forward – into danger.

Space opera PBK \$26.95

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Against All Gods

Age of Bronze 01

Cameron, Miles

The tyranny of the gods is absolute, and they are capricious, malevolent, and almost all powerful, playing cruel games with the fates of mortals for their own ends... The people caught up in toils of the gods are merely trying to survive. Victims of vicious whims, trapped by their circumstances or pushed beyond what the mortal frame can bear, a handful of god-touched mortals – a scribe, a warlord, a dancer and a child – are about to be brought together in a conspiracy of their own. A conspiracy to reach the heavens, and take down the corrupt and aging gods... who are already facing troubles of their own... A vibrant and powerful epic set against an alternate Bronze Age, this tale of gods, men and monsters, conspiracy and war, is a rich, compelling and original read from a master of the historical and fantasy genres. Now in paperback.

Fantasy PBK \$24.99

Kushiel's Dart

Phèdre trilogy 01

Garey, Jacqueline

Phèdre nò Delaunay has a turbulent path before her, one that will touch the lives of queens, princes and nobility. It will change the course of her land, but this all lies ahead... After a childhood of indentured servitude, Phèdre's bond is purchased by Anafiel Delaunay, a nobleman with a very particular mission. He's also the first to recognise who and what she is: one touched by the god Kushiel's dart, chosen to forever experience pain and pleasure as one. As talented a spy, as she is a courtesan, Phèdre stumbles upon a plot that threatens the very foundations of her homeland. Her journey will take her to the edge of despair and beyond, as false friends, loving enemies and beloved assassins can all wear the same glittering mask. Navigating a world of deadly courtiers, heroic traitors, and a truly Machiavellian villainess, Phèdre will get but one chance to save all that she holds dear. Winner of the Locus Award for Best First Novel, *Kushiel's Dart* is an intoxicating fantasy of intrigue, betrayal, and desire – perfect for fans of Sarah J Maas and Jennifer L Armentrout. Continue the journey with *Kushiel's Chosen* (PBK, \$22.99). A reissue.

Fantasy (reissue) PBK \$22.99

Kushiel's Chosen

Phèdre trilogy 02

Garey, Jacqueline

Phèdre has been trained as a skilled spy, courtesan and strategist under her tutor's watchful eye. He was the first to see she'd been touched by the god Kushiel's dart, chosen to forever experience pain and pleasure as one. And, above all, Phèdre was taught to observe, remember, and analyse – skills that may yet save her life. Once before, Phèdre gave up everything she held dear to save her homeland, but the gods still cast a shadow over her. For while their young queen is well loved by her people, there are some who believe other heads should wear the crown. It seems factions who previously escaped the wrath of the mighty are not yet done with schemes for power and revenge. To protect and serve, Phèdre must once again

leave her beloved homeland. She will meet old friends and new enemies... and uncover an earth-shattering plot masterminded by the one person she cannot deny. Start the journey with *Kushiel's Dart*, and finish with *Kushiel's Avatar* (PBK, \$22.99 each). A reissue.

Fantasy (reissue) PBK \$22.99

Kushiel's Avatar

Phèdre trilogy 03

Garey, Jacqueline

Phèdre nò Delaunay is a woman touched by Kushiel's dart, chosen to forever experience pain and pleasure as one. Her path has been a strange and dangerous one, and through it all the devoted swordsman Joscelyn has been at her side. Her very nature is torturous for them both – but he is sworn to her and he has never forsaken his vow: to protect and serve. Now, Phèdre's plans will put his pledge to the ultimate test. For she hasn't forgotten her childhood friend Hyacinth, and has spent ten long years searching for the key to free him from eternal indenture. But this is a bargain he struck with the gods themselves – to take Phèdre's place as a sacrifice and save a nation. However, Phèdre cannot forgive herself or the gods. She is determined to seize one last hope to redeem her friend, even if it means her death. The search will take Phèdre and Joscelyn to the far side of the world, to distant courts where madness reigns and souls are currency. At the end of their journey, they'll find a power so mighty that none dare speak its name. The triumphant conclusion to this trilogy, *Kushiel's Avatar* is a sumptuous fantasy of defiance and redemption – perfect for fans of Sarah J Maas and Jennifer L Armentrout. Start the journey with *Kushiel's Dart* (PBK, \$22.99). A reissue.

Fantasy (reissue) PBK \$22.99

Earth Called

Tales of a New World series

Cast, P C

Mari, Nik, their newly-formed Pack, and the Wind Riders are in danger as Thaddeus and the God of Death march ever closer in their quest to destroy and conquer everything and anyone who stands in their path. The Pack and the Wind Riders must find a way to stop the God of Death before all is lost. There is one hope: Ralina, Death's Storyteller. The woman meant to be by his side, recording all his feats of greatness. Instead, Ralina's heeds the call of the Goddess of Life, the only one who can defeat Death and escapes to warn the Pack and the Wind Riders. In this last instalment of the Tales of a New World series, love and goodness are put to the ultimate test as gods, humans, and animals come together to save everything they hold dear.

YA fantasy TP \$29.99

Minds of Sand and Light

Council of AIs 01

Ghan, Kylie

The world is in the midst of a new Cold War – between the wasteful nations of the West, and the oppressively tyrannical regime of the Greater Far East. Ruth Sharpe and Cassie Bailey are radical journalists and brilliant hackers investigating the rumours that both governments are covertly run by sentient AI systems. What they uncover is a much more dangerous secret – one that could spell the doom of all humanity. They will need to

cut through decades of lies from both sides to reach the truth and warn the world... while the clock ticks down to the extinction of all human life. Ruth and Cassie will have to decide what price humanity is willing to pay for its own salvation.

Dystopia TP \$32.99

Shanghai Immortal

Chao, A Y

This richly-told, adult fantasy debut teems with Chinese deities and demons cavorting in jazz age Shanghai. *Half vampire. Half fox spirit. All trouble.* Pawned by her mother to the King of Hell as a child, Lady Jing is half-vampire, half-hulijing fox-spirit, and all sasshole. As the King's ward, she has spent the past 90 years running errands, dodging the taunts of the spiteful hulijing courtiers, and trying to control her explosive temper – with varying levels of success. So, when Jing overhears the courtiers plotting to steal a priceless dragon pearl from the King, she seizes her chance to expose them, once and for all. With the help of a gentle mortal tasked with setting up the Central Bank of Hell, Jing embarks on a wild chase for intel, first through Hell and then mortal Shanghai. But when her hijinks put the mortal in danger, she must decide which is more important: avenging her loss of face, or letting go of her half-empty approach to life for a chance to experience tenderness – and, maybe, even love.

Historical fantasy TP \$32.99

Imperial Earth

Clarke, Arthur C

As the solar system gathers to celebrate its colonisation, Duncan Makenzie is the only hope for his planet's future... Colonists from the entire solar system converge on the mother planet, for the 2276 celebrations. Among the influx of humanity is Duncan Makenzie, scientist-administrator from the underground colony of Titan, one of the outer moons of Saturn. Makenzie is not just on Earth for the celebrations, though; he has a delicate mission to perform – for his world, his family, and himself...

SF Masterworks PBK \$22.99

Cicadas Sing of

Summer Graves

Connor, Quinn

Years ago, yellow fever gripped the small lakeside town of Prosper, Arkansas. At the height of that summer swelter, in the wake of an unexpected storm, the dam failed and the valley flooded – drowning the town and everyone trapped inside. The secrets of old Prosper drowned with them. Now, decades later, when a mysterious locked box is pulled from the depths of the lake, three descendants of that long-ago tragedy are hurled into another feverish summer. Cassie: the reclusive sole witness to an impossible horror no one believes. Lark: a wide-eyed dreamer haunted by bizarre visions. June: caught between longing for a fresh start and bearing witness to the ghosts of the past. Bound together, all three must contend with their home's complex history – and with the ruins of the town lost far beneath the troubled water.

Southern gothic TP \$37.95

The Dark is Rising

Dark is Rising sequence

Cooper, Susan

It's Midwinter's Eve, the day before Will's 11th birthday. But there is an atmosphere of fear in the familiar countryside around him. This will be a birthday like no other. Will discovers that he has the power of the Old Ones, and that he must embark on a quest to vanquish the terrifyingly evil magic of the Dark. Puffin Clothbound Classics are stunningly beautiful hardback editions of the most famous stories in the world, now including a beautiful 50th anniversary edition of *The Dark is Rising*, the atmospheric, triumphant book by Susan Cooper.

YA fantasy HC \$32.99

The Combat Codes

Darwin, Alexander

Hundreds of years ago, on a planet once ravaged by war, the nations swore an armistice never to use weapons of mass destruction again. Today, battle-hardened warriors known as Grievor Knights train to represent their nations' interests in brutal hand-to-hand combat. Murray Pearson was once a famed Knight, until he suffered a loss that crippled his nation – but, now, he's on the hunt to find and train the next champion. Below, in the Underground's brutal combat rings, an orphaned boy called Cego is making a name for himself. Murray believes he has what it takes to make it in the planet's most prestigious combat school – but he has to fight his way out of the Underground, first. The first book in a debut, action-packed, character-driven, sf trilogy, set in a far-future world where the fate of nations is determined by single combat at the hands of famed warriors.

Military sf PBK \$22.99

The Last Dragoners

of Bowbazar

Das, Indra

Ru is a boy from nowhere. Though, he lives somewhere – the city of Calcutta – his classmates in school remind him he doesn't look like them, and must come from somewhere else. When Ru asks his parents, they tell him they are descended from nomads. But even nomads must come from somewhere. The question, forever on the mind of the boy from nowhere, is where. Ru dreams things that wouldn't seem out of place in the fantasy novels his father read to him when young. Fragments of a culture that doesn't exist in this world, but might in another, where sky and sea are one, and humans sail this eternal ocean on the backs of divine beasts. Ru dreams of dragons, of serpents impossible. Perhaps Ru remembers dragons. Alone in a city that's home but doesn't feel like it, Ru befriends Alice, his neighbour from the nearby Chinatown. As they grow with their friendship, Ru finds that Calcutta may yet be a home for him. But with his best friend starting to realise that Ru's house and family hide a myriad of secrets, the question haunts him still – where is his family from? Are they truly from nowhere, migrants to this reality? And, if so, what strange wings brought them across the vast reaches of impossibility to here – and what is their purpose? A pricey, limited, 120pp novella from Subterranean Press – which may be out of print, on release.

Fantasy HC \$79.95

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Time Troopers

anthology

Davis, Hank & Ruocchio, Christopher (editors)

New and classic stories of time-travelling, military sf. *Battlezone: Eternity*. Once, military actions were entirely two dimensional, confined to the surface of land and sea, but then submarines and aircraft added a third dimension, vastly extended by spaceflight. Now, consider that if time travel is possible, the fourth dimension of time opens up new possibilities for combat, necessitating new defences, new strategies and tactics. A battle that was once decisively won might be refought, or a narrow victory might be subtly tilted to the other side. Never mind the history books, they're only works in progress. There might be even more than four dimensions involved, if parallel universes and alternate realities exist and can be accessed. Imagine a universe where Rome never fell and its troops want to do something about our universe, where it did fall. Or another where more recent wars turned out very differently. Battle is a recurrent motif in the Earth of this universe, and would alternate realities be different or all too similar, with the tune the same, but different lyrics. Supplying the lyrics for spacetime combat in these pages is an all-star general staff including Robert Silverberg, Poul Anderson, Fritz Leiber, John C Wright, H Beam Piper, and more. It's zero hour, in whatever time stream, so grab your time-appropriate weapon, be it sword or ray blaster, buckle on your general issue timeporter belt, and follow the Time Troopers into action, across strange aeons!

Military sf PBK \$26.95

Episode Thirteen

Dilouie, Craig

Fade to Black is the newest hit ghost-hunting reality TV show. Led by husband and wife team Matt and Claire Kirklín, it delivers weekly hauntings investigated by a dedicated team of ghost hunting experts. Episode 13 takes them to every ghost hunter's holy grail: the Paranormal Research Foundation. This brooding, derelict mansion holds secrets and clues about bizarre experiments that took place there in the 1970s. It's also famously haunted, and the team hopes their scientific techniques and high tech gear will prove it. But as the house begins to reveal itself to them, proof of an afterlife might not be everything Matt dreamed of. A story told in broken pieces, in tapes, journals, and correspondence, this is the story of Episode 13 – and how everything went terribly, horribly wrong.

Horror TP \$29.99

Assassin of Reality

Vita Nostra 02

Dyachenko, Marina & Sergey

Sasha Samokhina, a third-year student at the Institute of Special Technologies, was in the middle of taking the final exam that would transform her into a part of the Great Speech. After defying her teachers' expectations, Sasha emerges from the exam as Password, a unique and powerful part of speech. Accomplished and ready to embrace her new role, she soon learns her powers threaten the old world, and despite her hard work, Sasha is set to fail. However, Farit Kozhennikov,

Sasha's dark mentor, finds a way to bring her out of the oblivion and back to the Institute for his own selfish purposes. Subsequently, Sasha must correct her mistakes before she is allowed to graduate and is forced to do what few are asked and even less achieve: to succeed and reverberate – becoming a part of the Great Speech and being one of the special few who dictate reality. If she fails, she faces a fate far worse than death: the choice is hers. Years have passed around the Institute – and the numerous realities that have spread from Sasha's first failure – but it is only her fourth year of learning what role she will play in shaping the world. Her teachers despise and fear her, her classmates distrust her, and a growing love – for a young pilot with no affiliation to the school – is fraught because a relationship means leverage, and Farit won't hesitate to use it against her. Planes crash, all the time. Which means Sasha needs to rewrite the world, so that can't happen... or fail for good. The eagerly-anticipated sequel to the highly-acclaimed *Vita Nostra* (PBK, \$22.99) takes readers to the next stage in Sasha Samokhina's journey in a richly imagined world of dark academia in which grammar is magic – and not all magic is good.

Fantasy HC \$59.99

The Final Strife

El-Arifi, Saara

The empire is ruled by blood: red-blooded Embers, blue-blooded Dusters and clear-blooded Ghostings. All will be shed in the coming battle for power. The Aktibar – a set of trials held every ten years to find the next Ember rulers of the Empire – is about to begin. All Embers can join but it requires great skill to win. Sylah was destined to become Warden of Strength, forged as a weapon to change the Empire from within. Those dreams of a better future turned to dust when her family were brutally murdered. But Sylah wasn't made to sparkle, she was born to burn. And as the trials draw near it's time for her to decide... will she rule the Empire or destroy it? The first in a visionary fantasy trilogy inspired by Africa and Arabia.

Fantasy PBK \$22.99

Silk Fire

Ellor, Zabé

Set in a planet-sized matriarchal city where magic and technology freely bleed together, a male courtesan's quest for vengeance against his aristocrat father draws him into an ancient struggle between dragons, necromancers, and his home district's violent history. In the world-sized city of Jadzia, magic and ancient science merge into something dark and wondrous. Koré's life is consumed by power, politics, sex and vengeance, and as courtesan to the wealthy and powerful, he is privy to all manner of secrets. He knows meddling in politics is dangerous – still, he is willing to risk everything to stop his father from seizing the Imperial Throne of the War District. But Koré soon finds the corruption runs far deeper than just one man. During a tryst in an ancient tomb – in the pursuit of political influence – Koré encounters a dying god, who imbues him with the powers of one of the city's sacred dragons. Suddenly, Koré finds himself a hunted man, threatened with becoming a pawn by whoever finds him first.

If the wrong person discovers his secret and lays claim to his powers they would plunge their world into war, unleash untold horrors and destroy the city – and the two people he has come to love.

Fantasy TP \$37.95

The Edge of Sleep

Emanuel, Jake & Block, Willie & Gurley, Jason

What if the whole world fell asleep... and didn't wake up again? Dave Torres, a night watchman in a placid coastal town, knows all about sleep troubles. Since childhood, he's battled terrors and nightmares. Sometimes those battles leak into his waking life, with disastrous consequences for those he loves. Now, Dave lives alone and self-medicates to neutralise his dreams. It's not much of a life, he knows. The morning after Independence Day, Santa Mira, California, is so quiet Dave can hear the ocean from miles away. Traffic signals blink from red to green over empty intersections. Storefronts remain locked up tight. Every radio station whispers static. And all over town, there are bodies, lying right where their owners left them. Dead, right where they slept. Dave – along with his ex-girlfriend, Katie, his best friend, Matteo, and Linda, a nurse he's just met – struggle to unravel the mystery before sleep overtakes them all. Except the answer to the mystery might lie in the one place that frightens Dave most: His twisted, unnerving dreams. Now, Dave and his friends must straddle the liminal boundary between life and death as they fight to save everyone they've ever loved – and to keep their eyes open. Because if any of them falls asleep now, it will be the last thing they ever do.

Horror HC \$62.95

Dark Hunger

Carpathian 14, graphic novel

Feehan, Christine; et al

A Carpathian classic goes Manga! Christine Feehan has reinvented the vampire novel – and, this time, it's more graphic than ever. Riordan is an immortal Carpathian male, trapped and caged, his honour compromised by his captors. They're in his mind. They're in his blood. And not one can withstand his desire for revenge. Juliette is an activist devoted to liberating animals from a secret jungle lab. What she stumbles upon is a prisoner like no other. She will release him from his bonds. He will release her from her inhibitions.

Paranormal romance PBK \$39.95

Master of Furies

Firemane Saga 03

Feist, Raymond E

The final volume in Feist's epic heroic fantasy series, the Firemane Saga. War has swept across Marquensas. Ruthless raiders have massacred the inhabitants of Beran's Hill. Hatushaly, the last remaining member of the ruling family of Ithrace, the legendary Firemanes, seeks to control the magical powers he has inherited. He is able now to visualise and even travel among the filaments of energies that power all existence: the furies. But will he be able to channel his magic in time to combat the deepest, darkest threat the world of Garn has ever faced?

After all these years – Feist is still a firm favourite amongst regulars. The first in the series is *King of Ashes* (PBK, \$22.99).

Fantasy PBK \$22.99

The Infinite Miles

Fergesen, Hannah

To save the future, she must return to the beginning. Three years after her best friend Peggy went missing, Harper Starling is lost. Lost in her dead-end job, lost in her grief. All she has are regrets and reruns of her favourite science fiction show, *Infinite Odyssey*. Then Peggy returns and demands to be taken to the Argonaut, the fictional main character of *Infinite Odyssey*. But the Argonaut is just that... fictional. Until the TV hero, himself, appears and spirits Harper away from her former best friend. Travelling through time, he explains that Peggy used to travel with him but is now under the thrall of an alien enemy known as the Incarnate – one that has destroyed countless solar systems. Then, he leaves Harper in 1971. Stranded in the past, Harper must find a way to end the Incarnate's thrall... without the help of the Argonaut. But the cosmos are nothing like the technicolour stars of the TV show she loves, and if Harper can't find it in herself to believe – in the Argonaut, in Peggy, and most of all, in herself – she'll be the Incarnate's next casualty, along with the rest of the universe. A wacky time-travelling sf odyssey wrapped in an elegiac ode to lost friendship, and a clever homage to *Doctor Who*.

Time travel HC \$57.95

Maddalena and the Dark

Fine, Julia

A darkness takes shape beneath the waters of Venice... and somewhere in the Ospedale della Pietà, there are two girls breathing beside each other, legs entwined.

A gothic, Venetian fairy tale about the fierce bond between two teenage girls at an 18th-century music school, and the fateful bargains they make with a dark magic in the waters of Venice. *Venice, 1717.* Before Maddalena arrived at the Ospedale della Pietà, Venice's most illustrious music school, 15-year-old orphan Luisa has only wanted one thing: to be the best at violin. Luisa is good at violin, but she is not the best. She has peers, but she does not have friends. Until Maddalena. Sent to the Pietà, until her noble family can find her a husband, Maddalena is cunning, passionate, and unlike anyone Luisa has ever met. Maddalena can promise the world to Luisa, and when she does, their fates intertwine. But Maddalena has made a dangerous wager and, for both girls, there will be an unimaginable price to pay.

Gothic fairy tale TP \$32.99

Dead Water

Fletcher, C A

And the water shall call them home...

A waterborne blight hits a small community on a remote Scottish island. The residents are a mix of island-born and newcomers, seeking a slower life away from the modern world; all have their own secrets, some much darker than others. Some claim the illness may be a case of mass hysteria – or even a long-buried curse – but when ferry service fails and

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phone towers go down, inconvenience grows into nightmarish ordeal as the outwardly harmonious fabric of the community is irreversibly torn apart.

Folk horror PBK \$24.99

Rhymer

Rhymer 01

Frost, Gregory

Thomas the Rhymer, legendary 12th-century figure of traditional Scottish balladry, as you've never seen him before. He's known by many names over time – Tam Lin, Robin Hood, and numerous other incarnations reaching into the present – but at his heart he is still True Thomas, one man doing all he can to save us all from a powerful foe. When his brother is snatched, right before his eyes, Thomas hunts for justice and discovers that not only do these 'elves' steal people, but they also are skinwalkers who occupy humans in positions of power. Their goal: to obliterate humanity and take over our world. When Thomas is dragged into their alien realm, he's imprisoned and barely escapes alive; but, in the process, he gains near immortality and the ability to transform himself. Will it be enough to protect his loved ones and defeat this powerful foe? The first in a series.

Historical fantasy HC \$55.00

The Song of the Marked

Shadows & Crowns 01

Gaither, S M

The old gods are growing restless...

Mercenary Casia Greythorne cares about two things: completing her latest job and earning enough coin for the expensive medicine that's keeping her mentor alive. So, when the king commands her to investigate a strange plague devastating the empire, she can't resist the massive reward he offers – even if it does mean working with the arrogant and infuriating Captain Elander. But as the death toll rises and strange monsters wreak havoc across the realms, Cas and Elander find themselves up against meddling gods and very old magic. Because an ancient evil is stirring in the shadows. And their empire will not survive its full unleashing. The first in a series.

Paranormal romance PBK \$22.99

A Twist of the Blade

Shadows & Crowns 02

Gaither, S M

Mercenary. Survivor. Queen.

Casia Greythorne's world has been shattered. Still reeling from a devastating loss and the revelation of an identity she wasn't ready for, she must now also master the strange magic that's awakening within her. But, first, she must lead her friends through cursed lands and the dwellings of the gods, away from the crumbling empire and the king-emperor who clutches the crown with ever-bloodier hands. All while knowing the true threat may be someone, she came dangerously close to falling for... Elander Revenmar thought he knew who he was. He had a mission, a god he was content to serve. Then came a woman he should have stayed away from; whose life he never should have saved. Because salvation comes with a cost. And some debts must be paid in blood. The sequel to *The Song of the Marked* (PBK, \$22.99).

Paranormal romance PBK \$22.99

The Call of the Void

Shadows & Crowns 03

Gaither, S M

War is building. Blood is spilling. And the gods are not pleased.

Casia has survived her brother's attempts to crush her, but the battle is just beginning. Bitter, wounded, and carrying the curse of a dark upper-god, she journeys north to the elven court in search of allies. The Court of Moreth holds knowledge, secrets – and power. The kind of power that could shift everything in her favour. But only if she can survive it. Elander is losing his court, powers and divinity. But he's determined to stand behind Casia and bring his ancient, changeable allies to her side. He lost her once. He won't do it again. His devotion to her may be what destroys him. And when that destruction comes, it could change their entire world. The third in the series that begins with *The Song of the Marked* (PBK, \$22.99).

Paranormal romance PBK \$22.99

A Crown of the Gods

Shadows & Crowns 04

Gaither, S M

Gods have fallen. A queen is rising. And the world will never be the same.

The throne of the Kethran Empire lies empty, its ruler now a god bringing darkness and chaos to the world. The line between the divine and mortal realms is blurring. The battlefield is set, and a final, devastating war is on the horizon. Casia Greythorne is ready to take her place on the throne, to unite the empire and stand against the gods themselves. But to claim her crown – to save her world and the people she loves – she must confront her past and finally discover the answers hidden within it. Even though it may destroy her hope of a future. The fourth in the series that begins with *The Song of the Marked* (PBK, \$22.99).

Paranormal romance PBK \$22.99

Battery Life

Gilpatrick, Brennan & Lang, Gregory

Welcome to the Junkyard, a toxic wasteland where humans, machines, and everything in between fight for survival among the ruins of a long-forgotten war. This is where Diane Three-One-Seven finds herself, after the arkship *Cradle* – the only home she's ever known – falls out of the sky. When a mysterious scavenger named Virgil stumbles upon Diane's escape pod, the two strike a deal (if it can be called that). Virgil's spare, mechanical, battle suit, nicknamed the 'Grave Walker', can help Diane survive the ruined atmosphere – but it could kill her, if it runs out of power. And Diane's untainted blood, a precious resource in this radioactive hellscape, could keep Virgil alive long enough to finish one last mission – but, at what cost? The two will have to wait to work out their differences, however, as a new threat appears on the horizon: a masked man called the Messenger, who hopes to subdue the Junkyard with a mysterious new power. With the help of a ragtag team of misfits, Diane and Virgil may just have a chance to stop him – if they don't kill each other, first.

Spare opera HC \$62.95

Dead Country

Craft Wars 01

Gladstone, Max

Since her village chased her out with pitchforks, Tara Abernathy has resurrected gods, pulled down monsters, averted wars, and saved a city, twice. She thought she'd left her dusty little hometown forever. But that was before her father died. As she makes her way home to bury him, she finds a girl, as powerful and vulnerable and lost as she once was. Saving her from raiders twisted by the God Wars, Tara changes the course of the world. *Dead Country* is the first book in the Craft Wars series, a tight sequence of novels that will bring the sprawling saga of the Craft to its end, and the perfect entry point to this incomparable world. The first book in the Craft Sequence is *Three Parts Dead* (TP, \$42.95).

Urban fantasy TP \$29.99

Piñata

Gout, Leopoldo

It was supposed to be the perfect summer. Carmen Sanchez is back in Mexico, supervising the renovation of an ancient abbey. Her daughters Izel and Luna, too young to be left alone in New York, join her in what Carmen hopes is a chance for them to connect with their roots. Then, an accident at the worksite unearths a stash of rare, centuries-old artefacts. The disaster costs Carmen her job, cutting the family trip short. But something malevolent and unexplainable follows them home to New York, stalking the Sanchez family and heralding a coming catastrophe. And it may already be too late to escape what's been awakened... They were worshipped by our ancestors. Now, they are forgotten. Soon, they'll make us remember.

Horror HC \$49.99

Demons of Good and Evil

Hollows 17

Harrison, Kim

Rachel Morgan, witch-born demon, suspected that protecting the paranormal citizens of Cincinnati as the demon *subrosa* would be trouble. But it's rapidly becoming way more trouble than even she could have imagined. While Rachel and her friends may have vanquished the trickster demon Hodin, his mysterious associate known only as 'The Mage' is eager to finish what Hodin started, beginning with taking down Rachel's power structure piece by piece. With her world falling apart, Rachel desperately needs help. But with all of her supporters under attack, her only hope is to make a deal with the unlikely of allies...

Paranormal romance HC \$57.95

The Chaperone

Hendrix, M

Like every young woman in New America, Stella knows the rules: Deflect attention. Abstain from sin. Navigate the world with care. Give obedience. Embrace purity. Respect your chaperone. Girls in New America must have a chaperone with them, at all times. Because of this, Stella is never alone. She can't go out by herself or learn about the world. She can't even spend time with boys except at formal Visitations. Still, Stella feels lucky that her chaperone, Sister Helen, is like a friend to her. And then the unthinkable happens. Sister Helen dies

suddenly, and Stella feels lost. Especially when she's assigned a new chaperone just days later. Sister Laura is... different. She has radical ideas about what Stella should be doing. She leaves Stella alone in public and even knows how to get into the 'Hush Hush' parties where all kinds of forbidden things happen. As Stella spends more time with Sister Laura, she begins to question everything she's been taught. What if the Constables' rules don't actually protect girls? What if they were never meant to keep them safe? Once Stella glimpses both real freedom and the dark truths behind New America, she has no choice but to fight back against the world she knows, risking everything to set out on a dangerous journey across what used to be the United States.

YA dystopia TP \$29.95

The Lottery and Other Stories

75th anniversary edition

Jackson, Shirley

One of the most terrifying stories of the 20th century, Shirley Jackson's 'The Lottery' created a sensation when it was first published in *The New Yorker*, in 1948. Today it is considered a classic work of short fiction, a story remarkable for its combination of subtle suspense and pitch-perfect descriptions of both the chilling and the mundane. *The Lottery and Other Stories*, the only collection of stories to appear during Shirley Jackson's lifetime, unites 'The Lottery' with 24 equally-unusual short stories. Together, they demonstrate Jackson's remarkable range – from the hilarious to the horrible, the unsettling to the ominous – and her power as a storyteller.

Horror (reissue) TP \$37.95

The Spear Cuts Through Water

Jimenez, Simon

The people suffer under the centuries-long rule of the Moon Throne. The royal family – the despotic emperor and his monstrous sons, the Three Terrors – hold the countryside in their choking grip. They bleed the land and oppress the citizens with the frightful powers they inherited from the god locked under their palace. But that god cannot be contained forever. With the aid of Jun, a guard broken by his guilt-stricken past, and Keema, an outcast fighting for his future, the god escapes from her royal captivity and flees from her own children, the triplet Terrors who would drag her back to her unholy prison. And so it is that she embarks with her young companions on a five-day pilgrimage in search of freedom – and a way to end the Moon Throne, forever. The journey ahead will be more dangerous than any of them could have imagined. Both a sweeping adventure story and an intimate exploration of identity, legacy, and belonging, this is an ambitious and profound saga that will transport and transform you – and is like nothing you've ever read before.

Fantasy TP \$42.95

Fairy Tale King, Stephen

Charlie Reade looks like a regular high school kid, great at baseball and football, a decent student. But he carries a heavy load. His mom was killed in a hit-and-run accident

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when he was 10, and grief drove his dad to drink. Charlie learned how to take care of himself – and his dad. Then, when Charlie is 17, he meets a dog named Radar and her aging master, Howard Bowditch, a recluse in a big house at the top of a big hill, with a locked shed in the backyard. Sometimes, strange sounds emerge from it. Charlie starts doing jobs for Mr Bowditch and loses his heart to Radar. Then, when Bowditch dies, he leaves Charlie a cassette tape telling a story no one would believe. What Bowditch knows, and has kept secret, all his long life, is that inside the shed is a portal to another world. King's storytelling in *Fairy Tale* soars. This is a magnificent and terrifying tale about another world than ours, in which good is pitted against overwhelming evil, and a heroic boy – and his dog – must lead the battle. Now in paperback.

Dark fantasy PBK \$24.99

Aurora Koepp, David

When a solar storm hits the earth, electrical power is knocked out across the planet, and the blackout could last for years. Soon, food becomes scarce, and the rule of law begins to collapse. In their small community, Aubrey and her teenage stepson now face the biggest challenge of their lives. Across the country, Aubrey's estranged brother Thom, a self-made billionaire, retreats to a desert bunker – where he can ride out the crisis, in perfect luxury. But the complicated history between the siblings is far from over. As Aubrey struggles to live, what feels like the end of the world is just the beginning of a long-overdue reckoning, and not everyone can survive... Soon to be a Netflix film from Oscar-winning director Kathryn Bigelow.

Post-apocalypse PBK \$22.99

Driftwood Orphans Krueger, Paul

Before she was betrayed and left for dead, Tenny was many things: prodigal daughter of the Driftwood City underworld. Leader of the Thorn Orphans, the gang fighting for a better tomorrow. City shaman, able to bend her home's boroughs to her will. Partner-in-crime to Cole, the runaway rich boy with powers just like hers. But that was all before. Four years later, Tenny is an exile, sleepwalking through life and waiting to die. But a chance encounter puts her on a bloody path back to the life she left behind. Friendless and powerless, she returns to Driftwood City, only to find a world where the Thorn Orphans have finally won. A better tomorrow, today. And all that progress tethered to the heartbeat of the friend who ordered her death. Her city. Or her vengeance. It's an impossible choice. But if Tenny wants to survive, she'll have to choose. A meditation on friendship, greed, and the uneasy intersection between justice and vengeance, this standalone fantasy puts a magical spin on pulpy revenge sagas like *John Wick* and *Kill Bill*.

Fantasy PBK \$24.99

Yellowface Kuang, Rebecca

Athena Liu is a literary darling. June Hayward is literally nobody. *White Lies*... When Athena dies in a freak accident, June steals her unpublished

manuscript and publishes it as her own, under the ambiguous name Juniper Song. *Dark humour*... But as evidence threatens June's stolen success, she will discover exactly how far she will go to keep what she thinks she deserves.

Deadly consequences... What happens next is entirely everyone else's fault. 'Satirical and humorous' – *Cosmopolitan*. The new book from the bestselling author of *Babel* (TP, \$32.99) and the Poppy War series (PBK, \$19.99 each).

Satirical mystery TP \$32.99

The Trees Grew Because I Bled There: Collected Stories

collection
LaRocca, Eric
Eight stories of literary dark fiction from a master storyteller. Exploring the shadow side of love, these are tales of grief, obsession, and control. Intricate examinations of trauma and tragedy in raw, poetic prose. In these narratives, a woman imagines horrific scenarios whilst caring for her infant niece; online posts chronicle a cancer diagnosis; a couple in the park with their small child encounter a stranger with horrific consequences; a toxic relationship reaches a terrifying resolution... Originally published under the title *The Strange Thing We Become* and *Other Dark Tales*, this is a much-praised collection of deeply unsettling, painfully-dark tales.

Horror HC \$29.99

The Book that Wouldn't Burn Lawrence, Mark

All books, no matter their binding, will fall to dust. The stories they carry may last longer. They might outlive the paper, the library, even the language in which they were first written. The greatest story can reach the stars... Evar has lived his whole life trapped within a vast library, older than empires and larger than cities. Livira has spent hers in a tiny settlement out on the Dust where nightmares stalk and no one goes. The world has never noticed them. That's about to change. Mark Lawrence's newest novel.

Fantasy TP \$32.99

Translation State

Imperial Radch
Leckie, Ann
Qven was created to be a Presger translator. The pride of their Clade, they always had a clear path before them: learn human ways, and eventually, make a match and serve as an intermediary between the dangerous alien Presger and the human worlds. The realisation that they might want something else isn't 'optimal behaviour'. It's the type of behaviour that results in elimination. But Qven rebels. And in doing so, their path collides with those of two others. Enae, a reluctant diplomat whose dead *grandmaman* has left her an impossible task as an inheritance: hunting down a fugitive who has been missing for over 200 years. And Reet, an adopted mechanic who is increasingly desperate to learn about his genetic roots – or anything that might explain why he operates so differently from those around him. As a Conclave of the various species approaches – and the long-standing treaty between the humans and the Presger

is on the line – the decisions of all three will have ripple effects across the stars. Masterfully merging space adventure and mystery, and a poignant exploration about relationships and belonging, *Translation State* is a triumphant new standalone story set in Leckie's celebrated Imperial Radch universe. 'There are few who write science fiction like Ann Leckie can. There are few who ever could' – *John Scalzi*.
Science fiction TP \$32.99

Fair Trade

Liaden Universe 24
Lee, Sharon & Miller, Steve
Jethri Gobelyn has risen far: from despised youngest on a Terran family Loop ship to second trader on premier Liaden tradeship *Elthoria* under the guidance of his unlikely foster-mother Norn ven'Deelin Clan Ixin. Master Trader ven'Deelin has taught Jethri much, and she expects great things from him. Indeed, one might say she demands them. Jethri has inherited a mission from his father, a plan that will allow family Loop ships like the one he grew up on to survive the encroachment of Rostov's Dust. In this, he's backed by several prominent Looper families who are scheduled to meet and plan at the South Axis Trade Fair. In what seems to be a fortunate pairing of missions, Master Trader ven'Deelin sees Jethri become lead trader on his own small ship, which is scheduled to arrive at the South Axis Fair. Unfortunately, that 'fortunate coincidence' may instead be a test of Jethri's loyalties, as he's thrust into a tangle of grey-trading, mistaken identity, misinformation, and galactic politics... The most recent Liaden Universe novel, now in paperback. Highly recommended.
Space opera PBK \$26.95

Perilous Times

Lee, Thomas D
They say, 'old soldiers never die' – and, in Sir Kay's case, the ballad can be taken literally. For hundreds of years, Kay and his fellow Knights of the Round Table have been woken from their long slumber, whenever Britain had need of them; they fought at Agincourt and at the Somme. But, now, a dragon has been seen for the first time in centuries, the realm is more divided than ever... and, what's worse, there are rumours of Arthur himself returning. Kay just wants to go back to sleep. And Kay is not the only ancient thing to come crawling up out of the ground; Lancelot is back as well, with orders to track down Kay, and stop him from doing anything stupid. Mixing Arthurian legend with contemporary fantasy, this sharply-witty and relevant debut novel will delight fans of Terry Pratchett and Ben Aaronovitch.
Arthurian/urban fantasy TP \$32.99

The Knave of Secrets

Livingston, Alex
A twisty tale of card sharps and con artists, in a world of magic where secrets are traded and gambled like coin. Never stake more than you can afford to lose. When failed magician turned cardsharp Valen Quinol is given the chance to play in the Forbearance Game – the invitation-only tournament where players gamble with secrets – he can't resist. Or refuse, for that matter, according to the petty gangster sponsoring his seat at the table. Valen beats the man he was sent to play,

and wins the most valuable secret ever staked in the history of the tournament. Now, Valen and his motley crew are being hunted by thieves, gangsters, spies and wizards, all with their own reasons for wanting what's in that envelope. It's a game of nations where Valen doesn't know all the rules or who all the players are, and can't see all the moves. But he does know if the secret falls into the wrong hands, it could plunge the whole world into war... *The Lies of Locke Lamora* (PBK, \$22.99) meets *Casino Royale*.
Fantasy crime TP \$37.95

House of Sky and Breath

Crescent City 02
Maas, Sarah J
Bryce Quinlan and Hunt Athalar have made a pact. As they process the events of the Spring, they will keep things platonic until Winter Solstice. But can they resist when the crackling tension between them is enough to set the whole of Crescent City aflame? And they are not out of danger, yet. Dragged into a rebel movement they want no part of, Bryce, Hunt and their friends find themselves pitted against the terrifying Asteri – whose notice they must avoid at all costs. But as they learn more about the rebel cause, they face a choice: stay silent while others are oppressed, or fight. And they've never been very good at staying silent. In this sexy, action-packed sequel to *House of Earth and Blood* (PBK, \$22.99), Maas weaves a captivating story of a world about to explode – and the people who will do anything to save it.
Fantasy PBK \$22.99

Arca

Five Queendoms 02
Macalister, G R
The Drought of Girls has ended, but the rift it broke open between the Queendoms is not so easily healed. Political tensions roil the senate of Paxim, where Queen Heliane vows to make her son Paulus the nation's first ruling King or die trying. Scorpion troops amass on the border of Arca, ready to attack. And within Arca itself, its young, unready queen finds her court a nest of vipers and her dreams besieged by a mysterious figure with unknown intentions. As iron and magic clash on the battlefield and powerful women scheme behind the scenes, danger and violence abound. Can anyone stop chaos from ripping the Queendoms apart? The Five Queendoms begins with *Scorpica* (PBK, \$19.99).
Fantasy PBK \$19.99

Hopeland

McDonald, Ian
When Raisa Hopeland, determined to win her race to become the next electromancer of London, bumps into Amon Brightbourne – tweed suited, otherworldly, guided by the Grace – in the middle of a London riot, she sets in motion a series of events which will span decades, continents and a series of events which will change the world. From rioting London to geothermal Iceland to the climate-struck islands of Polynesia, from birth to life to death, from tranquility to terror to joy, Raisa's journey will encompass the world. But one thing will always be true. Hopeland is family – and family is dangerous. A time-travelling,

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futuristic saga of a family trying to outlast and remake a universe with a power unlike any we've seen before.

Science fiction TP \$32.99

Seasonal Fears

Alchemical Journeys 02

McGuire, Seanan

The king of winter and the queen of summer are dead. The fight for their crowns begins! Melanie has a destiny, though it isn't the one everyone assumes it to be. She's delicate; she's fragile; she's dying. Now, truly, is the winter of her soul. Harry doesn't want to believe in destiny, because that means accepting the loss of the one person who gives his life meaning, who brings summer to his world. So, when a new road is laid out in front of them – a road that will lead through untold dangers toward a possible lifetime together – walking down it seems to be the only option. But others are following behind, with violence in their hearts. It looks like Destiny has a plan for them, after all... A new novel set in the world of *Middlegame* (TP, \$32.99), now in softcover.

Fantasy TP \$34.99

Firetide Coast

Monstrous Heart trilogy 03

McKenna, Claire

Arden Beacon has nothing left to lose. Having fought monsters, the deep waters and the establishment to fulfil a promise the man she loved – she is no closer to peace. But against the odds, she has found Jonah once more and they are together now. She means to keep it that way. Jonah, Arden, and Chalice are bound for Clay city. Warnings come that the scorned, yet powerful Miah and Bellis have joined forces and turned their eyes to the capital, now following the direction of the slippery Mr Lindsay. Wanton destruction and death will surely follow if they cannot be distracted, tricked and stopped. All the while, the coins sewn into Arden's hands continue to poison her. Time is running out. With intrigue and beasts behind every wave, Jonah and Arden must face this final chapter together – or risk losing everything. The epic conclusion to the Monstrous Heart trilogy; a magical tale of intrigue on dark waters and a love story for the ages.

Gaslamp fantasy PBK \$22.99

Psyche and Eros

McNamara, Luna

The greatest love story ever told...

Born into an era of heroes, a prophecy claims that Psyche – Princess of Mycenae – will defeat a monster feared even by the gods themselves. Rebelling against society's traditions, she spends her youth mastering blade and bow, preparing to fulfil her destiny. But she is soon caught up in powers beyond her control, when the jealous Aphrodite sends the God of Desire, Eros, to deliver a fatal love curse. The last thing, Eros wants, is to become involved in the chaos of the mortal world, but when he is pricked by the very arrow intended for Psyche, he is doomed to love a woman who will be torn from him the moment their eyes meet. Thrown together by fate, headstrong Psyche and world-weary Eros will face challenges greater than they could have ever imagined. And as the Trojan War begins and the whole of the heavens

try to keep them apart, will they find their way back to each other... before it's too late? Luna McNamara's exquisitely-written debut will appeal to fans of Madeline Miller, Jennifer Saint, and Susan Stokes-Chapman. Myth retold TP \$32.99

Ascendant:

Star Spangled Squadron

graphic novel

Macris, Alexander; et al

In December 2012, The US government launched a secret program to create superhumans, called Ascendants. In July 2018, the US government lost control over them. Now, America enters a new era in which ordinary men and women can become the heroes we need... or the monsters we fear. When firefighter Bill Goddard raced into a blazing building to rescue trapped children, he expected to die. Instead, he became something more than human – the nation's first ascendant. Now, known as American Eagle, Bill must assemble a team of other ascended heroes to defend the country from villainous forces intent on wreaking chaos and destruction. But the process of ascension is fraught with peril, and not everyone emerges with their mind and morality unscathed. In America's hour of need, who will answer the call? And can they do what it takes to protect the nation without sacrificing the values they've sworn to uphold?

Superheroes PBK \$42.95

Feed Them Silence

novella

Mandelo, Lee

What does it mean to 'be-in-kind' with a nonhuman animal? Or in Dr Sean Kell-Luddon's case, to be in-kind with one of the last remaining wild wolves? Using a neurological interface to translate her animal subject's perception through her own mind, Sean intends to chase both her scientific curiosity and her secret, lifelong desire to experience the intimacy and freedom of wolfishness. To see the world through animal eyes; smell the forest, thick with olfactory messages; even taste the blood and viscera of a fresh kill. And, above all, to feel the belonging of the pack. Sean's tireless research gives her a chance to fulfil that dream, but pursuing it has a terrible cost. Her obsession with work endangers her fraying relationship with her wife. Her research methods threaten her mind and body. And the attention of her VC funders could destroy her subject, the beautiful wild wolf whose mental world she's invading. A 112pp, Tor.com novella.

Science fiction HC \$36.99

Shadows of the Lost

Guild of Night 01

Martineau, Maxym M

As a member of the Charmers Council, Gaige is able to form lasting bonds with the magical beasts of his world. At least, he used to be a Charmer... until he died and was brought back as one of the immortal assassins of Cruor. Now he's far more dangerous... and something beyond the shadows lies in wait, hungry to claim him for its own. As leader of the assassins, all Kost can do is watch as Gaige struggles with his new life day by day. He wants nothing more than to ease Gaige's suffering – yet, how can he when they both know he's the one responsible? There is

nothing left but bitter memories and hopeless longing between them. Yet, when Gaige is lost to the shadow realm, Kost is the only one with any chance of bringing him back: if they can learn to trust (and, perhaps, love) each other again. The first in a new series.

Paranormal romance TP \$37.95

God of Neverland

Defenders of Lore 01

Martinez, Gama Ray

Peter Pan is missing; Neverland is in trouble. For adults, that might not matter all that much, but for children – whose dreams and imagination draw strength from the wild god's power – the magic we take for granted in the real world is in danger of being lost forever. Such is the life of a now-grown-up Michael Darling. Michael returned from Neverland with the dream of continuing his adventuring ways by joining the Knights of the Round, an organisation built to keep humanity safe from magical and mythological threats. But after a mission gone terribly wrong, he vowed to leave the Knights behind and finally live as a 'civilian', finding order and simplicity as a train engineer, the tracks and schedule tables a far cry from the chaos of his youth. He hasn't entered the narrative in years. So, what could the Knights need from him, now? Maponos – or how he's better known, Peter Pan – has gone missing, and Neverland is now on the edge of oblivion. Michael realises he has no choice and agrees to one last mission. Alongside the young Knight Vanessa and some old friends, Michael embarks on the ultimate adventure: a journey to a fantasy world to save a god. Determined to stop evil, fight for Neverland, and find Maponos, will Michael be able to save the magical and physical world? Or will his biggest fear come true? The clock is ticking, and in Neverland, that's never a good sign.

Peter Pan TP \$34.99

Wild and Wicked Things

May, Francesca

On Crow Island, people whisper that real magic lurks just below the surface. But magic doesn't interest Annie Mason. Not after it stole her future. She's on the island only to settle her late father's estate and, hopefully, reconnect with her long-absent best friend, Beatrice, who fled their dreary lives for a more glamorous one. Yet, Crow Island is brimming with temptation, and the most mesmerising may be her enigmatic new neighbour. Mysterious and alluring, Emmeline Delacroix is a figure shadowed by rumours of witchcraft. Soon, Annie is drawn into a glittering, haunted world. A world where the boundaries of wickedness are tested, and the cost of illicit magic might be death. *To those who are bright and young; to those who are wild and wicked; welcome to Crow Island.* In the 1920s, a lush, decadent gothic tale unfolds as a young woman slips into a glamorous world filled with illicit magic, tantalising romance, and murder.

Historical fantasy PBK \$22.99

Capture the Sun

Starlight's Shadow 03

Mihalik, Jessie

As a recovery specialist, Lexi Bowen's jobs typically require more trickery and thievery than honest work. Her former captain might

not approve of her flexible morals, but stealing artefacts for rich assholes pays the bills, and Lexi's had enough of war and death. The FHP left her to die once; she doesn't plan to give them a chance to finish the job. Unfortunately, her latest contract takes her to Valovia, itself – and right back into the orbit of Nilo Shoreen, a Valovian teleporter who already cost her one payday and nearly stole her heart. Armoured against his clever charm, Lexi plans to get in, get the job done, and get out. But when her former crew goes missing in Valovian space, Lexi will have to work with Nilo to figure out what happened – and stop it – before the galaxy's two superpowers can use the disappearance as an excuse to return to war. *We expect to have this edition of Capture the Sun from our Australian distributors in November, at a lower price.*

Space opera TP \$43.95

Luda

Morrison, Grant

Luci LaBang is a star: For decades, this flamboyant drag artist has cast a spell over screen and stage. Now she's the leading lady in a smash hit musical. But as time takes its toll, Luci fears her star is beginning to dim. When Luci's co-star meets with a mysterious accident, a new ingénue shimmers onto the scene: Luda, whose fantastical beauty and sinister charm infatuate Luci immediately... and who bears a striking resemblance to Luci herself at a much younger age. Luda begs Luci to share the secrets of her stardom and to reveal the hidden tricks of her trade. For Luci LaBang is a mistress of the Glamour, a mysterious discipline that draws on sex, drugs, and the occult for its trancelike, transformative effects. But as Luci tutors her young protégée, their fellow actors and crew members begin meeting with untimely ends. Now Luci wonders if Luda has mastered the Glamour all too well... and exploited it to achieve her dark ambitions. What follows is an intoxicating descent into the demimonde of Glasgow, a fantastical city of dreams, and into the nightmarish heart of Luda, herself: a femme fatale, a phenomenon, a monster, and, perhaps, the brightest star of them all.

Urban fantasy TP \$39.95

Lapvona

Moshfegh, Ottessa

In a village in a medieval fiefdom buffeted by natural disasters, a motherless shepherd boy finds himself the unlikely pivot in a power struggle that puts all manner of faith to a savage test... Little Marek, the abused and delusional son of the village shepherd, never knew his mother; his father told him she died in childbirth. One of life's few consolations for Marek is his enduring bond with the blind village midwife, Ina, who suckled him when he was a baby, as she did for many of the village's children. Ina's gifts extend beyond childcare – she possesses a unique ability to communicate with the natural world. Her gift often brings her the transmission of sacred knowledge on levels far beyond those available to other villagers, however religious they might be. For some people, Ina's home in the woods outside the village is a place to fear and to avoid, a goddess place. Among their number is Father Barnabas, the town priest and lackey for the depraved lord and governor, Villiam, whose hilltop

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manor contains a secret embarrassment of riches. The people's desperate need to believe that there are powers that be who have their best interests at heart is put to a cruel test by Villiam and the priest, especially in this year of record drought and famine. But when fate brings Marek into violent proximity to the lord's family, new and occult forces upset the old order. By year's end, the veil between blindness and sight, life and death, the natural world and the spirit world will prove to be very thin, indeed.

Historical fantasy-ish PBK \$22.99

How High We Go in the Dark Nagamatsu, Sequoia

Dr Cliff Miyashiro arrives in the Arctic Circle to continue his recently deceased daughter's research, only to discover a virus, newly unearthed from melting permafrost. The plague unleashed reshapes life on earth for generations. Yet, even while struggling to counter this destructive force, humanity stubbornly persists in myriad moving and ever inventive ways. Among those adjusting to this new normal are an aspiring comedian, employed by a theme park designed for terminally ill children, who falls in love with a mother trying desperately to keep her son alive; a scientist who, having failed to save his own son from the plague, gets a second chance at fatherhood when one of his test subjects – a pig – develops human speech; a man who, after recovering from his own coma, plans a block party for his neighbours who have also woken up to find that they alone have survived their families; and a widowed painter and her teenaged granddaughter who must set off on cosmic quest to locate a new home planet. This is a story of unshakable hope that crosses literary lines to give us a world rebuilding itself through an endless capacity for love, resilience and reinvention.

Science fiction PBK \$22.99

Terciel and Elinor

Old Kingdom 06

Nix, Garth

Returns to the Old Kingdom, for the never-before-told love story of Sabriel's parents, Terciel and Elinor, and the charter magic that brought them together – and threatened to tear them apart. In the Old Kingdom, a land of ancient and often terrible magics, 18-year-old orphan Terciel learns the art of necromancy from his great-aunt Tizanael. But not to raise the Dead, rather to lay them to rest. He is the Abhorsen-in-Waiting, and Tizanael is the Abhorsen, the latest in a long line of people whose task it is to make sure the Dead do not return to Life. Across the Wall in Ancelstierre, a steam-age country where magic usually does not work, 19-year-old Elinor lives a secluded life, her only friends an old governess and an even older groom who was once a famous circus performer. Her mother is a tyrant, who is feared by all despite her sickness and impending death... but, perhaps, there is even more to fear from that. Elinor does not know she is deeply connected to the Old Kingdom, nor that magic can sometimes come across the Wall, until a plot by an ancient enemy of the Abhorsens brings Terciel and Tizanael to Ancelstierre. In a single day of fire and death and loss, Elinor finds herself set on a path which will take her into the Old Kingdom,

into Terciel's life, and will embroil her in the struggle of the Abhorsens against the Dead who will not stay dead. A long-awaited prequel to a classic fantasy series – which begins with *Sabriel* (PBK, \$22.99) – now in paperback.

YA fantasy PBK \$22.99

The Golden Enclaves

Scholomance 03

Novik, Naomi

Saving the world is a test no school of magic can prepare you for... 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. Sequel to the wonderful, hugely-popular *A Deadly Education* (PBK, \$22.99), concluding the trilogy.

Fantasy PBK \$22.99

The Blighted Stars

Devoured Worlds 01

O'Keefe, Megan E

When a spy and her mortal enemy crash land, on a dying planet, she must figure out how to survive... long enough to uncover the deadly, galaxy-spanning conspiracy that landed them there. She's a revolutionary. Humanity is running out of options. Habitable planets are being destroyed as quickly as they're found, and Naira Sharp thinks she knows the reason why. The all-powerful Mercator family has been controlling the exploration of the universe for decades, and exploiting any materials they find along the way under the guise of helping humanity's expansion. But Naira knows the truth, and she plans to bring the whole family down from the inside. He's the heir to the dynasty. Tarquin Mercator never wanted to run a galaxy-spanning business empire. He just wanted to study geology, and read books. But Tarquin's father has tasked him with monitoring the settlement of a new planet, and he doesn't really have a choice in the matter. Disguised as Tarquin's new bodyguard, Naira plans to destroy the settlement ship – before they land. But neither of them expects to end up stranded on a dead planet. To survive and keep her secret, Naira will have to join forces with the man she's sworn to hate. And, together, they will uncover a plot that's bigger than both of them. The first

book of a thrilling new space opera trilogy, from the author of the Philip K Dick-nominated *Velocity Weapon* (PBK, \$24.99). 'A delightfully twisty space opera filled with unique world building and deft explorations of humanity, family, and power. Add in a dash of rebellion and a hint of romance, and I'm hooked – I can't wait for the next book!' – *Jessie Mihalik*, author of *Hunt the Stars*.
Space opera PBK \$24.99

The Mimicking of Known Successes

novella

Older, Malka

On a remote, gas-wreathed outpost of a human colony on Jupiter, a man goes missing. The enigmatic Investigator Mossa follows his trail to Valdegeld, home to the colony's erudite university – and Mossa's former girlfriend, a scholar of Earth's pre-collapse ecosystems. Pleiti has dedicated her research and her career to aiding the larger effort towards a possible return to Earth. When Mossa unexpectedly arrives and requests Pleiti's assistance in her latest investigation, the two of them embark on a twisting path in which the future of life on Earth is at stake – and, perhaps, their futures, together. A 176pp, Tor.com novella.

SF mystery HC \$36.99

The Ghost Theatre Osman, Mat

On a rooftop in Elizabethan London, two worlds collide. Shay is a messenger-girl and trainer of hawks who sees the future in the patterns of birds. Nonesuch is the dark star of the city's fabled child theatre scene, as famous as royalty yet lowly as a beggar. Together, they create the Ghost Theatre – a troupe staging magical plays in London's hidden corners. As their hallucinatory performances incite rebellion among the city's outcasts, the pair's relationship sparks and burns against a backdrop of the plague and a London in flames. Their growing fame sweeps them up into the black web of the Elizabethan court, where Shay and Nonesuch discover that if they fly too high, a fall is sure to come...

Historical fantasy TP \$32.99

A Tidy Armageddon Panhuyzen, Bh

The world is utterly transformed: every product of human creation has been organised by an unknown hand into a vast grid of nine-storey blocks, each comprised of a single item type: watering cans, lighthouses, fake Christmas trees, helicopters, plastic spoons, and everything else Earth's culture and technology have ever produced, stacked in homogenous towers and separated by a maze of passageways. Navigating this depopulated environment, a small contingent of diverse soldiers tries to make sense of this enigmatic apocalypse, while desperately searching for survivors. They are led by Elsie Sharpcoat, a Cree woman who has endured the military's rampant racism and misogyny, and Dorian Wakely, her PTSD-afflicted second-in-command. Both veterans of the war in Afghanistan, they lead a group of army misfits; while they all struggle – against the elements and each other – to survive. Passing with fear and wonder through this museum of human achievement, provisioning

themselves from its resources, the group races to outrun the approaching winter and find a home.

Post-apocalypse TP \$32.99

March's End Polansky, Daniel

The Harrows are a typical suburban family who, since time immemorial, have borne a sacred and terrible charge. In the daylight, they are teachers, doctors, bartenders, and vagrants; but, at night, they are the rulers and protectors of the March, a fantastical secondary world populated with animate antiquated toys and sentient lichen, a panorama of the impossible where cities are carried on the backs of giant snails, and thunderstorms can be subdued with song. But beneath this dreamlike exterior lie dark secrets, and for generation after generation the Harrows have defended the March from the perils that wait outside its borders – when they are not consumed in their own bitter internecine quarrels. In the modern day the Harrow clan are composed of Sophia, the High Queen of the March, a brilliant, calculating matriarch, and her three children – noble Constance, visionary, rebellious Mary Ann, and clever, amoral Will. Moving back and forth between their youth, adolescence, and adulthood, we watch as this family fractures, then reconciles in the face of a conflict endangering not only the existence of the March, but of the 'real world', itself. *March's End* is a multi-generational portal fantasy of strange magics, epic warfare, and deadly intrigue, in which the personality conflicts and toxic struggles of the Harrow family are reflected in the fantasy world they've sworn to protect.

Portal fantasy TP \$27.99

The Surviving Sky Rao, Kritika H

High above a jungle-planet float the last refuges of humanity – plant-made civilisations held together by tradition, technology, and arcane science. Here, architects are revered deeply, with humanity's survival reliant on a privileged few. If not for their abilities, the cities would plunge into the devastating earthrage storms below. Charismatic and powerful, Iravan is one such architect. His abilities are his identity, but to Ahilya, his archaeologist wife, they are a method to suppress non-architects. Their marriage is thorny and fraught – yet when a jungle expedition goes terribly wrong, jeopardising their careers, Ahilya and Iravan must work together to save their reputations. But as their city begins to plummet, their discoveries threaten not only their marriage, but their entire civilisation. The first book of an explosive trilogy, inspired by Hindu philosophy, perfect for fans of N K Jemisin, Tasha Suri, and Martha Wells.

Science fiction PBK \$24.99

Hidden Pictures Rekulak, Jason

Mallory is delighted to have a new job, looking after gorgeous four-year-old, Teddy. She's been sober for a year and a half, and she's sure her new nannying role in the affluent suburbs will help keep her on the straight and narrow. That is, until Teddy starts to draw disturbing pictures

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of his imaginary friend, Anya. It is quite clear to Mallory and to Teddy's parents, even in his crude childlike style, that the woman Teddy is drawing in his pictures is dead. Teddy's crayons are confiscated, and his paper locked away. But the drawings, somehow, keep coming – telling a frightening story of a woman murdered... and they're getting more sophisticated. But if Teddy isn't drawing the pictures anymore, who is? And what are they trying to tell Mallory about her new home?

Horror PBK \$22.99

The Devil's Playground **Russell, Graig**

Where horror is silent... 1920s, *Silent Era Hollywood*. Carbine International Pictures is making *The Devil's Playground*, 'the greatest horror movie of all time', about a mediaeval community that saves itself from the Black Death by turning to the demon and Lord of Hell, Beelzebub, for protection. Based on a mysterious screenplay, in turn based on a novel written by a defrocked priest, *The Devil's Playground* is rumoured to be the subject of a deadly curse. When the film's glamorous star Norma Carlton, 'the most desirable woman in the world', is found dead in her luxurious Hollywood Hills home, everything points to a suicide. Cynical studio fixer Mary Rourke moves quickly to cover up anything that could involve the studio in a scandal. However, when she realises she has been duped into helping cover up a murder, Mary Rourke, more used to concealing truth, finds herself seeking it out. When the production of the movie becomes beset with horrific accidents, and people connected to Norma Carlton are murdered or disappear, Rourke sinks deeper into the darkness behind the glamor of Golden Age Hollywood. She finds herself navigating a world of speakeasies and secret societies, occultists and crooked officials. And begins to wonder if the Devil's Playground is Hollywood, itself.

Horror TP \$32.99

Nothing But the Rain

novella

Salman, Naomi

The rain in Aloisville is never ending, and no one can remember when it started. There's not much they can remember. With every drop that hits their skin, a bit of memory is washed away. Stay too long in the wet, and you'll lose everything you used to be. By the time Laverne begins keeping a journal, the small town she calls home has been irreparably changed. Every drop of water is dangerous, from leaky faucets to the near-constant rainfall, and a careless trip outside can mean a life down the drain. With mysterious forces preventing escape, calls for rebellion seem to be on every resident's lips. But Laverne has no interest in fighting. She has no interest in rebellion. She just wants to survive.

A 96pp, Tor.com novella.

Apocalypse TP \$29.99

The Nobodies

Schubach, Alanna

'Sometimes I wondered if I imagined it,' said Nina. 'But deep down I knew I didn't.' Jess said, 'We did too much damage for it not to be real.'

Jess and Nina, Nina and Jess... to everyone else, they're typical best friends, sharing closeness and confidences in their own little world. But Nina and Jess have a secret. Simply by touching their foreheads together, they can swap bodies. In Jess' assertive persona, self-conscious Nina turns bolder, free to say what she's frightened to voice on her own. Inhabiting Nina, Jess becomes part of the loving, stable family she craves. Now, in crisis after her father's death, Jess has re-entered Nina's life following a long separation. Once again, they switch bodies, and their worlds begin to mesh. Each deceives the other, confesses, is forgiven. But how deeply can you sink into another's life before there's nothing left of you?

Urban fantasy TP \$37.95

When Dark Roots Hunt **Shapter, Zena**

Don't go out onto the lake. Wyann trees search the shallows to spear passing prey with their roots. Giant water-ants hunt anything that moves on the water-skin. Sala's village survives hidden behind a wall of poisonous ivy, because everyone agrees: don't go out onto the lake. But when her village refuses to listen to sense, and continues squeezing beautiful pond-bred 'keelings' fish to death for their precious saliva oils, Sala has no choice. She will risk it all to prove herself one last time, else leave everything behind for the dark shaded swamps beneath the towering hillfarms of Palude. At least, that's the plan before a strange comet crosses the night sky, throwing her and her pet pointer into a race through wyann-infested swampland to unearth long-hidden truths and stir rivalries into a terrifying conflict set to change the world of Palude forever. Sala must do whatever it takes to face the truth of who she is: to save her village, to save her family, to save herself. If only they had listened.

YA science fiction PBK \$19.99

SubOrbital 7 **Shirley, John**

Lieutenant Art Burkett, US Rangers Airborne, is called up to take part in an urgent rescue mission, using an innovative insertion from orbit. Three scientists have been kidnapped by the terrorist group Thieves in Law and their combined knowledge could result in worldwide devastation. The rescue is swift but violent. Art and his team return to SubOrbital 7, the military space-plane they landed in, intending to return to safety with hostages rescued and prisoners in tow. But Thieves in Law are not the only people looking for SubOrbital 7 and its occupants. With casualties onboard the orbiting craft and a dwindling oxygen supply, Art and his team must fight an ever-growing threat before time runs out for them, and possibly for the rest of the world. *We expect to have this edition of SubOrbital 7 from our Australian distributors later this year, at a lower price.*

Military sf PBK \$37.95

Ring Around the Sun

Simak, Clifford D

Jay Vickers was an ordinary man, or so he thought. All he wanted was to be left in peace to finish his next book. However, strange things started happening – from his

discovery of a mouse that was not a mouse, to the visit of an old neighbour that was not a man. Or, at least, he was not an ordinary man. For as it turned out, neither was Jay Vickers. A reissue.

Science fiction (reissue) TP \$39.95

The Visitors

Simak, Clifford D

Forestry student Jerry Conklin is fly-fishing, when something huge lands on his car, crushing it into the earth. It looks like a big black box – about 50 feet high and 200 feet long – and the object stirs up quite a commotion among the townspeople of Lone Pine, Minnesota. One of them even shoots at it – and quickly pays for it with his life. Around the country, people scramble to determine what exactly the box is. Is it a machine? Or, maybe, a sentient being? What does it want? They have no way of knowing. Jerry, meanwhile, has firsthand knowledge after the visitor abducts him. Then, just as he discovers it is a living, intelligent creature, it releases him into the darkness of night. As Jerry searches for a way back to civilisation, more visitors descend upon Earth. They seem harmless enough. Then they begin eating trees, and that's only the beginning...

Science fiction (reissue) TP \$39.95

They Walked Like Men

Simak, Clifford D

Money was worthless; it had no value! It couldn't buy housing, clothing, or food. Someone with enormous quantities of cash was buying houses and tearing them down, buying stores and closing them. Perhaps, a few people could have stopped the transactions before it was too late. They could have said that Earth was being taken over by alien beings in the shapes of bowling balls, talking dogs, and dolls that walked like men. In fact, they did say it. The trouble was no one believed them! A reissue.

Science fiction (reissue) TP \$39.95

The Endless Vessel

Soule, Charles

A few years from now, in a world similar to ours, there exists a sort of 'depression plague' that people refer to simply as 'The Grey'. No one can predict whom it will afflict, or how, but once infected, there's no coming back. A young Hong Kong based scientist, Lily Barnes, is trying to maintain her inner light in an increasingly dark world. The human race is dwindling, and people fighting to push forward are increasingly rare. One day, Lily comes across something that seems to be addressing her directly, calling to her, asking her to follow a path to whatever lies at its end. Is this the Endless Vessel to happiness? She leaves her life behind and sets out through time and space to find out. From its opening heart-stopping scene in the present day at the Louvre in Paris, through the earthly meetings between Lily and her loved ones – past and present, to a shocking and satisfying conclusion in a truly enchanted forest, Charles Soule has channelled history, science, and drama to create a story for the ages – a story of hope, and love, and possibility.

Science fiction HC \$64.95

Wolf on the Wild Side

Run with the Wolf 01

Spear, Terry

Two wolves are better than one, but a pack of wolves beats trouble, any day... Ski Lodge owner and grey wolf Kayla Wolff hasn't had the best romantic history, so dating Private Investigator and fellow pack mate Nate Grayson feels like she's hit the jackpot. When she thinks about the way her last relationship ended, Kayla worries that she'll screw up again and lose Nate too. When Nate's latest investigation puts Kayla in the crosshairs, the pack comes together to help while Nate stays by her side day and night to protect the wolf he loves. There's no doubt in his mind that Kayla is the mate for him, but does she feel the same way?

Paranormal romance PBK \$24.95

The Jaguar Path

Songs of the Drowned 02

Stephens, Anna

The Empire of Songs reigns supreme. Across all the lands of Ixachipan, its hypnotic, magical music sounds. Those who battled against the Empire have been enslaved and dispersed, taken far from their friends and their homes. In the Singing City, Xessa must fight for the entertainment of her captors. Lilla and thousands of warriors are trained to serve as weapons for their enemies. And Tayan is trapped at the heart of the Empire's power and magic, where the ruthless Enet's ambition is ever growing. Each of them harbours a secret hope, waiting for a chance to strike at the Empire from within. But first they must overcome their own desires. Power can seduce as well as crush. And, in exchange for their loyalty, the Empire promises much. The sequel to *The Stone Knife* (PBK, \$19.99).

Fantasy TP \$32.99

The Marigold

Sullivan, Andrew F

In a near-future Toronto buffeted by environmental chaos and unfettered development, an unsettling new lifeform begins to grow beneath the surface, feeding off the past. The Marigold, a gleaming Toronto condo tower, sits a half-empty promise: a stack of scuffed rental suites and undelivered amenities that crumbles around its residents as a mysterious sludge spreads slowly through it. Public health inspector Cathy Jin investigates this toxic mould as it infests the city's infrastructure, rotting it from within, while Sam 'Soda' Dalipagic stumbles on a dangerous cache of data while cruising the streets in his Camry, waiting for his next rideshare alert. On the outskirts of downtown, 13-year-old Henrietta Brakes chases a friend deep underground after he's snatched into a sinkhole by a creature from below. All the while, construction of the city's newest luxury tower, Marigold II, has stalled. Stanley Marigold, the struggling son of the legendary developer behind this project, decides he must tap into a hidden reserve of old power to make his dream a reality – one with a human cost.

Dark fantasy TP \$34.99

Pulp Fiction

Science Fiction & Fantasy June 2023 (continued)

Walk the Vanished Earth **Swan, Erin**

The year is 1873, and a bison hunter named Samson travels the Kansas plains, full of hope for his new country. The year is 1975, and an adolescent girl named Bea walks those very same plains; pregnant, mute, and raised in extreme seclusion, she lands in an institution, where a well-meaning psychiatrist struggles to decipher the pictures she draws of her past. The year is 2027 and, after a series of devastating storms, a tenacious engineer named Paul has left behind his banal suburban existence to build a floating city above the drowned streets that were once New Orleans. There with his poet daughter he rules over a society of dreamers and vagabonds who salvage vintage dresses, ferment rotgut wine out of fruit, paint murals on the ceiling of the Superdome, and try to write the story of their existence. The year is 2073, and Moon has heard only stories of the blue planet – Earth, as they once called it, now succumbed entirely to water. Now that Moon has come of age, she could become a mother if she wanted to – if only she understood what a mother is. Alone on Mars with her two alien uncles, she must decide whether to continue her family line and repopulate humanity on a new planet. A sweeping family epic – told over seven generations, as America changes and so does its dream – exploring ancestry, legacy, motherhood, the trauma we inherit, and the power of connection in the face of our planet's imminent collapse.

Post-apocalypse TP \$39.95

Eyes of the Void

Final Architects 02

Tchaikovsky, Adrian

After 80 years of fragile peace, the Architects are back, wreaking havoc as they consume entire planets. In the past, Originator artefacts – vestiges of a long-vanished civilisation – could save a world from annihilation. This time, the Architects have discovered a way to circumvent these protective relics. Suddenly, no planet is safe. Facing impending extinction, the Human Colonies are in turmoil. While some believe a unified front is the only way to stop the Architects, others insist humanity should fight alone. And there are those who would seek to benefit from the fractured politics of war – even as the Architects loom ever closer. Idris, who has spent decades running from the horrors of his past, finds himself thrust back onto the battlefield. As an Intermediary, he could be one of the few to turn the tide of war. With a handful of allies, he searches for a weapon that could push back the Architects and save the galaxy. But to do so, he must return to the nightmarish unspace, where his mind was broken and remade. What Idris discovers there will change everything. The sequel to *Shards of Earth* (PBK, \$22.99) now in paperback.

Science fiction PBK \$22.99

The King Is Dead: Stories collection

Tevis, Walter

Walter Tevis is widely regarded as a master for both his gritty poolhall novels and his brilliant rendering of the world of competitive chess. This long overdue collection establishes Tevis' rightful

place as a maestro of the short form, as well. Including previously unpublished stories from journals and magazines, this entertaining collection showcases Tevis' characteristic perceptiveness, empathy, and range. In one story, a man receives a phone call from his future self and follows their instructions to unpredictable, calamitous results. In another, a famous actor and a young actress showcase their talent for acting both on and off the stage. Here also are five short stories set in pool halls, including one that features Fast Eddie Felson and another that was the basis for the novel *The Hustler*. Here also is his first fictional foray into chess, with a ranked chess player finding fellowship in the prison yard with another player. In all of them, Tevis reminds us again and again why his writing has long been revered for its roving curiosity and innate humanity.

Short fiction PBK \$22.99

The Art of the Lord of the Rings

60th anniversary edition

Tolkien, J R R & Scull, Christina & Hammond, Wayne G

A sumptuous, full-colour, art book containing the complete collection of almost 200 sketches, drawings, paintings, and maps created by J R R Tolkien for *The Lord of the Rings*. As he wrote *The Lord of the Rings*, J R R Tolkien's mental pictures often found expression in drawing, from rough sketches made within the manuscript to more finished illustrations. Only a few of these were meant for publication; most were aids to help Tolkien conceive his complex story and keep it consistent. Many do not illustrate the final text, but represent moments of creation, illuminating Tolkien's process of writing and design. In addition to pictorial sketches, numerous maps follow the development of the Shire and the larger landscape of Middle-earth, while inscriptions in runes and Elvish script, and 'facsimile' leaves from the burned and blood-stained *Book of Mazarbul*, support Tolkien's pose as an 'editor' or 'translator' of ancient records. *The Art of the Lord of the Rings* by J R R Tolkien collects these drawings, inscriptions, maps, and plans in one volume. More than 180 images are included, all of them printed in colour from high-quality scans and photographs. Wayne G Hammond and Christina Scull, two of the world's leading Tolkien scholars, have edited the book and provide an expert introduction and comments. Readers who have enjoyed *The Art of the Hobbit* by J R R Tolkien, with which the book is uniform, will find much of interest also in *The Art of the Lord of the Rings*.

Tolkien HC \$49.99

Wake of War **Topping, Zac**

It's 2037, and the United States government is on the brink of collapse amid rebel uprisings and aggressive political manoeuvring turning the country into an active war zone. In a nation where opportunity is sequestered behind doors open only to the privileged, joining the Army seemed like James Trent's best option. He just never thought he'd actually see combat. Now, Trent finds himself on the front lines of a second American Civil War, fighting for a cause he's not sure he even believes in.

The last thing he wanted was to spend his days breaking down doors and chasing after fellow Americans – rebels or not. Retribution is the only thing driving Sam Cross, and her sharpshooting skills have made her invaluable to the rebel efforts tearing their way across the Midwest. With every successful mission, she's reminded that she's enacting real change, but that hasn't made pulling the trigger any easier. And with each step she takes into the heart of the war effort, she can't help but wonder if there isn't another way. When these opposing forces clash, alliances are shattered, resolve is tested, and when the dust clears, the only certainty is that the country and its fighting forces will never be the same.

Military sf TP \$42.95

A Fate of Wrath and Flame

Fate & Flame 01

Tucker, K A

She would know the world of vengeful gods and monsters, and the lengths one would go for love. And nothing would ever be the same for her again. Gifted thief Romeria steals jewels under a notorious New York City crime boss. But when an enigmatic woman secures her services at sword point, Romeria is wrenched from this world and transported into a realm of opposing thrones, warring elven societies, and elemental magic. Waking up in the body of a treacherous elven princess, Romeria quickly realises she's entangled in a deadly plot and must hide her identity at all costs – not least from the princess' betrothed, King Zander, who detests her. Romeria is forced to play the smitten princess as the unwilling pair work together to uncover the danger that surrounds them. But with their enemies closing in – and as she fights her growing feelings for the king – it's time for Romeria to find out who she truly is. The first book in a new series.

Fantasy PBK \$22.99

A Curse of Blood and Stone

Fate & Flame 02

Tucker, K A

Romeria has fled Cirilea as a traitor. Zander has sacrificed his crown to save her life but dreads what her existence means for the future of his realm. They both know that no immortal will ever welcome her as Islor's queen. Side by side, as outcasts – yet, with a growing distance between them – they watch as a new threat to the kingdom unfurls, one larger than they could have imagined. Guided by an uncertain prophecy and with their allies rapidly losing faith, their company journeys to the Venhorn Mountains in search of answers. Yet with Romeria struggling to wield her newfound abilities and the mortal rebellion growing in strength, it may already be too late. The sequel to *A Fate of Wrath and Flame* (PBK, \$22.99).

Fantasy PBK \$22.99

Siren Queen

Vo, Nghi

It was magic. In every world, it was a kind of magic. 'No maids, no funny talking, no fainting flowers.' Luli Wei is beautiful, talented, and desperate to be a star. Coming of age in pre-Code Hollywood, she knows how dangerous the movie business is and how limited the roles are for a Chinese American girl from Hungarian Hill – but

she doesn't care. She'd rather play a monster than a maid. But in Luli's world, the worst monsters in Hollywood are not the ones on screen. The studios want to own everything from her face to her name to the women she loves, and they run on a system of bargains made in blood and ancient magic, powered by the endless sacrifice of unlucky starlets like her. For those who do survive to earn their fame, success comes with a steep price. Luli is willing to do whatever it takes – even if that means becoming the monster herself. *Siren Queen* offers up an enthralling exploration of an outsider achieving stardom on her own terms, in a fantastical Hollywood where the monsters are real, and the magic of the silver screen illuminates every page.

We hope to have this edition of Siren Queen from our Australian distributors later this year, at a lower price.

Fantasy TP \$42.95

The Light of Stars

Night of Legends 01

W, Leslie

A tale of self-discovery set in a new fantasy world where the definition of morality may be but a matter of perspective. Keix sets off on her journey to find her father and meets a mysterious Kulcan who offers to take her to her destination. Back at Atros, Zej and the rest of the gang, thinking that the organisation had kidnapped Keix, hatch a plan for a rescue mission. But they soon gain knowledge of a vicious group whose aim is to bring the world to its knees. Racing against time, Zej has to find Keix and convince her to help the people who had previously betrayed her. With innocent lives at stake, will Keix agree to the uneasy alliance, and put her own goals on the line again to go in blind against an enemy that's even more ruthless than Atros?

YA Fantasy TP \$29.99

Savage Crowns

Savage Rebellion 03

Wallace, Matt

The final war for the nation of Crache has begun. At the helm of the people's rebellion is Evie, the Sparrow General. She has been captured by the Skrian, Crache's vicious army, and is being brought back to the Capitol for punishment. But reinforcements are coming for her. Dyeawan, who has climbed from street urchin to Crache's highest seat of power through clever schemes and ruthless bloodshed, finds trouble on every front once she arrives. The rebellion approaches, and there are whispers of a martyr within the city who holds enough sway to stage a coup. If she doesn't act quickly, her rule will be short lived. As the women who hold the nation's future meet each other from different sides of the battlefield, will they be able to find a shared vision of Crache, or will they destroy each other first? This trilogy begins with *Savage Legion* (TP, \$39.95).

Military fantasy TP \$42.95

The Weltall File

Gordian Division 04

Weber, David & Holo, Jacob

Come for the games. Stay for the murder. The Weltall Tournament's professional VR games were supposed to be a symbol of cooperation between SysGov and its militaristic neighbour, the Admin. But that

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was before star Admin player Elly Sako received a death threat, written in blood next to a copy of her own severed head. The Admin's Department of Temporal Investigation swiftly seizes control of the crime scene, and the tournament transforms into a flashpoint of charged politics and conflicting jurisdictions. SysPol Detective Isaac Cho and DTI Special Agent Susan Cantrell – partners in the officer exchange program – are sent in to take charge of the investigation and bring the situation under control. But solving this mystery won't be easy, and the pair struggles to determine who is telling the truth. A jilted relationship between players soon explodes into signs of a far-reaching conspiracy, and the two detectives find themselves racing against time before the tournament ends. Because the killer will be the only one who wins, should they fail. A mystery in the Gordian Division universe.

Science fiction HC \$57.95

Witch King Wells, Martha

'I didn't know you were a... demon.'
'You idiot. I'm the demon.'

Kai's having a long day... After being murdered, his consciousness dormant and unaware of the passing of time while confined in an elaborate water trap, Kai wakes to find a lesser mage attempting to harness Kai's magic to his own advantage. That was never going to go well. But why was Kai imprisoned in the first place? What has changed in the world since his assassination? And why does the Rising World Coalition appear to be growing in influence? Kai will need to pull his allies close and draw on all his pain magic if he is to answer even the least of these questions. He's not going to like the answers. From the breakout superstar author of the Murderbot Diaries comes a remarkable story of power and friendship, of trust and betrayal, and of the families we choose – Martha's first new fantasy in over a decade. Recommended.

Fantasy TP \$34.99

Hide White, Kiersten

The challenge: spend a week hiding in an abandoned amusement park and don't get caught. The prize: enough money to change everything. Even though everyone is desperate to win – to seize their dream futures or escape their haunting pasts – Mack feels sure that she can beat her competitors. All she has to do is hide, and she's an expert at that. It's the reason she's alive, and her family isn't. But as the people around her begin disappearing one by one, Mack realises this competition is more sinister than even she imagined, and that together might be the only way to

survive. Fourteen competitors. Seven days. Everywhere to hide, but nowhere to run.

Come out, come out, wherever you are.

Horror PBK \$22.99

In the Heart of Hidden Things

Gyrford 01

Whitfield, Kit

When you live next door to the People, life is never going to be simple – or safe... Everyone knows that if you fall afoul of the People, you must travel the miles to Gyrford – where uncounted generations of fairy-smiths have protected the county with cold iron, good counsel, and unvarnished opinions about your common sense. But shielding the weak from the strong can make enemies. Ephraim Brady has money and power, and the bitter will to hurt those who cross him. And if he can't touch elder farrier Jedediah Smith, he can harm those the Smiths care about. The Smiths care about Tobias Ware, born on a night when the blazing fey dog Black Hal roared past the Wares' gate. Tobias doesn't understand the language or laws of men, and he can't keep away from the Bellame woods, where trespass is a hanging offence. If Toby is to survive, he needs protection. It should be a manageable job. Jedediah Smith has a head on his shoulders, and so too (mostly) does his son Matthew. Only Matthew's son John has turned out a little... uncommon. But he means well. It wasn't his fault the bramble bush put on a berry-head and started taking offence. Or that Tobias upset it. But John's not yet learned that, if you follow the things other folk don't see, they might drag those you love into the path of ruin. The first in a series, followed by *All the Hollow of the Sky* (TP, \$34.99).

Fantasy PBK \$24.99

The Book of Gems Gem Universe 03

Wilde, Fran

It's been centuries, since the Jewelled Valley and its magical gems were destroyed. In the republics that rose from its ashes, scientists craft synthetic jewels to heat homes, power gadgetry, and wage war. Dr Devina Brunai is one of these scientists. She also is the only person who believes true gems still exist. The recent unearthing of the Palace of Gems gives her the perfect opportunity to find them and prove her naysayers wrong. Her chance is snatched away at the last moment when her mentor steals her research and wins the trip for himself. Soon, his messages from the field transform into bizarre ramblings about a book, a Prince, and an enemy borne of the dark. Now, Dev must enter the Valley, find her mentor, and save her research before they, like gems, become relics of a time long forgotten.

Fantasy TP \$42.95

The Dead Man and Other Horror Stories Wolfe, Gene

Although best known for his world-building Book of the New Sun science-fantasy saga, Gene Wolfe wrote brilliant fiction that resisted encapsulation within rigid genre categories. This volume collects 28 tales, spanning nearly a half century – six of them never before collected – and gathered from venues as varied as men's magazines, periodicals devoted to short works of fantasy and science fiction, and tribute anthologies to the works of authors as wildly opposed in their literary visions as Dante and H P Lovecraft. Although selected for their overtones of 'horror', they frequently defy the conventions that contemporary category label conjures. Wolfe's tales of horror, like all of his fiction, are stories in which readers – however uneasily – recognise, and relate to, much of themselves. A pricey, limited edition from Subterranean Press – which *may* be out of print, on release.

Horror (reissue) HC \$99.95

The Shadow Casket

Darkwater Legacy 02

Wooding, Chris

It's been three years, since Aren seized the Ember Blade. Three years, since they struck the spark they hoped would ignite the revolution. But the flame has failed to catch. The Krodans have crushed Ossia in an iron grip of terror. The revolution seems further away than ever. Far in the north, the Dawnwardens seek to unite the fractious clans of the Fell Folk and create a stronghold from which to retake their land. But even if they can overcome the danger of treachery from within, they still have to contend with the dreadknights. Only the druidess Vika can resist these near-unstoppable foes, and there's only one of her. But what if there was a weapon that could destroy the dreadknights? A weapon of such power it could turn the tide? A weapon that, if it fell into the wrong hands, might mean the end of all hope? The Shadow Casket has returned from out of the past, and it will save or damn them all. A (very) long-awaited sequel to *The Ember Blade* (PBK, \$27.99) – of which, we sold loads – which our customers really loved. *'The Ember Blade is... an epic world full of history, depth and adventure'* – Ed McDonald.

Fantasy TP \$32.99

The Collarbound Zahabi, Rebecca

A man marked by magic. A woman marked by her past. On the other side of the Shadowpass, rebellion is brewing and refugees have begun to trickle into the

city at the edge of the world. Looming high on the cliff is The Nest, a fortress full of mages who offer protection, but also embody everything the rebellion is fighting against: a strict hierarchy based on magic abilities. When Isha arrives as a refugee, she attempts to fit in amongst the other mages, but her Kher tattoo brands her as an outcast. She can't remember her past, or why she has the tattoo. All she knows is that she survived. She doesn't intend to give up now. Tatters, who wears the golden collar of a slave, knows that this rebellion is different from past skirmishes. He was, once, one of the rebels... and, technically, they still own him. He plans to stay in the shadows, until Isha appears in his tavern. He's never seen a human with a tattoo, and the markings look eerily familiar... As the rebellion carves a path of destruction towards the city, an unlikely friendship forms between a man trying to escape his past and a woman trying to uncover hers, until their secrets threaten to tear them apart. The first in a series, *The Collarbound* hooks from the opening page, and will appeal to fans of magical, brink-of-war settings, like that of *The Poppy War* (PBK, \$19.99) and *The City of Brass* (PBK, \$22.99).

Fantasy PBK \$22.99

The Remembrancer's Tale Zindell, David

What happens when a man tasked with developing perfect memory forgets the most important thing in the universe? After a cataclysmic stellar war, peace has come to the trillion human beings who live on the Civilised Worlds. In Neverness, the City of Light, the pilots of the Order of Mystic Mathematicians resume their ancient quest to discover the real purpose of the human race. Crucial to their success will be a mastery of the One Memory, believed to hold the secret of how humanity might evolve. Thomas Rane is the Order's Lord Remembrancer. He has become the teacher to a new generation of humans called the Asta Siluuna – the star children – and, so, has a crucial part to play in the development of the human race. But at the end of the war, his beloved – the mysterious and beautiful Maria – died. Memory is strange, and Rane comes to believe that Maria might have survived the storm. Perhaps, a memory virus left over from the war has robbed her of her identity and she wanders the streets of Neverness, lost and alone. Perhaps, she's still out there, among the stars. 'David Zindell is one of the finest talents to appear since Kim Stanley Robinson and William Gibson – perhaps the finest' – Gene Wolfe.

Fantasy PBK \$22.99