

# Pulp Fiction

## Science Fiction & Fantasy Bestsellers

June 2023

### **Witch King**

Martha Wells

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.

'*Witch King* is Martha Wells' first new fantasy in over a decade, drawing together her signature ability to create characters we adore and identify with, alongside breathtaking action and adventure, and the wit and charm we've come to expect from one of the leading writers of her generation' – *publisher's blurb*. Recommended!

Fantasy | TP | \$34.99



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### **Winter's Gifts**

Rivers of London novella

Ben Aaronovitch

They do things differently across the pond...

When retired FBI Agent Patrick Henderson calls in an 'X-Ray Sierra India' incident, the operator doesn't understand. He tells them to pass it up the chain 'til someone does.

That person is FBI Special Agent Kimberley Reynolds.

Leaving Quantico for snowbound Northern Wisconsin, she finds that a tornado has flattened half the town – and there's no sign of Henderson.

Things soon go from weird to worse, as neighbours report unsettling sightings, key evidence goes missing, and the snow keeps rising – cutting off the town, with no way in or out...

Something terrible is awakening. As the clues lead to the coldest of cold cases – a cursed expedition into the frozen wilderness – Reynolds follows a trail from the start of the American nightmare, to the horror that still lives on today...

Latest novella in the Rivers of London urban fantasy series. Recommended!

Urban fantasy | HC | \$34.99



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# Pulp Fiction Bestsellers

## Science Fiction & Fantasy June 2023 (continued)

### **Magic Claims**

Kate Daniels: Wilmington Years 02

#### **Ilona Andrews**

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 spawned in the nearby forest and is holding a defenceless town hostage. The 'due date' is rapidly approaching.

It's exactly the kind of fight the Lennarts can't resist, not for the prize 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.

Novella in the Kate Daniels universe. So many die-hard fans here love this urban fantasy series to bits. First one was *Magic Bites* (PBK, \$24.95) – but think you can start anywhere.

**Paranormal romance | TP | \$29.95**



# 3

### **Fourth Wing**

Empyrean 01

#### **Rebecca Yarros**

Enter the brutal and elite world of a war college for dragon riders from bestselling author Rebecca Yarros.

Twenty-year-old Violet Sorrengail was supposed to enter the Scribe Quadrant, living a quiet life among books and history. Now, the commanding general – also known as her tough-as-talons mother – has ordered Violet to join the hundreds of candidates striving to become the elite of Navarre: dragon riders.

But when you're smaller than everyone else and your body is brittle, death is only a heartbeat away... because dragons don't bond to 'fragile' humans. They incinerate them.

With fewer dragons willing to bond than cadets, most would kill Violet to better their own chances of success. The rest would kill her just for being her mother's daughter – like Xaden Riorson, the most powerful and ruthless wingleader in the Riders Quadrant.

She'll need every edge her wits can give her just to see the next sunrise.

Yet, with every day that passes, the war outside grows more deadly, the kingdom's protective wards are failing, and the death toll continues to rise. Even worse, Violet begins to suspect leadership is hiding a terrible secret.

Friends, enemies, lovers. Everyone at Basgiath War College has an agenda – because once you enter, there are only two ways out: graduate or die.

The publisher sent us a PDF proof of this, months ago, and Ron delved into it. Initially – being old and jaded - he thought, *Blah! Dragonriders of Pern derivative...* then in spite of himself – completely suckered in and *Needing To Know What Happened Next!!* So, we're thinking – that's a recommendation!

**Fantasy | TP | \$32.99**



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# Pulp Fiction Bestsellers

## Science Fiction & Fantasy June 2023 (continued)

### **Lost in the Moment and Found**

Wayward Children 08

**Seanan McGuire**

Winner: 2022 Hugo Award for Best Series.

A young girl discovers an infinite variety of worlds in this standalone tale in the Hugo and Nebula Award-winning Wayward Children series from Seanan McGuire.

*Welcome to the Shop Where the Lost Things Go. If you ever lost a sock, you'll find it here. If you ever wondered where your favourite toy from childhood ended up, it's probably sitting on a shelf in the back. And the headphones that you swore that, this time, you'd keep safe? You guessed it...*

Antoinette has lost her father. Metaphorically. He's not in the shop, and she'll never see him again. But when Antsy finds *herself* lost (literally, this time), she finds that however many doors open for her, leaving the Shop for good might not be as simple as it sounds.

Childhood and innocence, once lost, can never be found.

Fantastic series of novellas – the first is *Every Heart a Doorway* (HC, \$29.99).

Portal fantasy novella | HC | \$39.99



# 5

### **The Terraformers**

**Annalee Newitz**

From the *io9* founder and columnist and bestselling author of *Autonomous* (PBK, \$22.99).

Destry's life is dedicated to terraforming Sask-E. As part of the Environmental Rescue Team, she cares for the planet and its burgeoning eco-systems as her parents and their parents did before her.

But the bright, clean future they're building comes under threat when Destry discovers a city full of people that shouldn't exist, hidden inside a massive volcano.

As she uncovers more about their past, Destry begins to question the mission she's devoted her life to, and must make a choice that will reverberate through Sask-E's future for generations to come.

'Brilliantly thoughtful, prescient, and gripping.' – *Martha Wells*, author of the *Murderbot Diaries*.

Science fiction | PBK | \$22.99



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# Pulp Fiction Bestsellers

## Science Fiction & Fantasy June 2023 (continued)

### All Systems Red

Murderbot Diaries 01

Martha Wells

Winner: 2018 Hugo Award for Best Novella.

Winner: 2018 Nebula Award for Best Novella.

Winner: 2018 Alex Award.

Winner: 2018 Locus Award. One of the Verge's Best Books of 2017.

New York Times and USA Today bestseller.

A murderous android discovers itself in *All Systems Red*, a tense (but: ALSO VERY FUNNY!) science fiction adventure by Martha Wells that interrogates the roots of consciousness through Artificial Intelligence.

*'As a heartless killing machine, I was a complete failure.'*

In a corporate-dominated spacefaring future, planetary missions must be approved and supplied by the Company. Exploratory teams are accompanied by Company-supplied security androids, for their own safety.

But in a society where contracts are awarded to the lowest bidder, safety isn't a primary concern. On a distant planet, a team of scientists are conducting surface tests, shadowed by their Company-supplied `droid – a self-aware SecUnit that has hacked its own governor module, and refers to itself (though, never out loud) as 'Murderbot'.

Scornful of humans, all it really wants is to be left alone long enough to figure out who it is. But when a neighbouring mission goes dark, it's up to the scientists and their Murderbot to get to the truth.

Yes – we keep recommending this – and it keeps selling – and people keep coming back for more – hence it and others are back in our bestseller lists. Mwah!

(If you haven't read this yet – WHY NOT?!?)

Science fiction novella | HC | \$29.99



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### The Malevolent Seven

Sebastien de Castell

*Seven powerful mages want to make the world a better place.*

*We're going to kill them first.*

Picture a wizard. Go ahead, close your eyes. There he is, see? Skinny old guy with a long straggly beard. No doubt he's wearing iridescent silk robes that couldn't protect his frail body from a light breeze. The hat's a must, too, right? Big, floppy thing, covered in esoteric symbols that would instantly show every other mage where this one gets his magic? Wouldn't want a simple steel helmet or something that might, you know, protect the part of him most needed for conjuring magical forces from being bashed in with a mace (or pretty much any household object).

Now open your eyes and let me show you what a real war mage looks like... but be warned: you're probably not going to like it, because we're violent, angry, dangerously broken people who sell our skills to the highest bidder and be damned to any moral or ethical considerations.

At least, until such irritating concepts as friendship and the end of the world get in the way.

My name is Cade Ombra, and though I currently make my living as a mercenary wonderist, I used to have a far more noble-sounding job title – until I discovered the people I worked for weren't quite as noble as I'd believed. Now I'm on the run and my only friend, a homicidal thunder mage, has invited me to join him on a suicide mission against the seven deadliest mages on the continent.

Time to recruit some very bad people to help us on this job...

Love de Castell's previous fantasy series – so recommended on the strength of those!

Fantasy | TP | \$32.99



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# Pulp Fiction Bestsellers

## Science Fiction & Fantasy June 2023 (continued)

### Titanium Noir

Nick Harkaway

A virtuosic mashup of Philip K Dick and Raymond Chandler by way of Marvel – the story of a detective investigating the murder of a Titan, one of society’s most powerful, medically-enhanced elites.

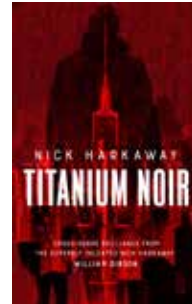
‘Cross-genre brilliance from the superbly talented Nick Harkaway.’ – *William Gibson*.

Cal Sounder is a detective working for the police on certain very sensitive cases. So when he’s called in to investigate a homicide at a local apartment, he’s surprised by the routineness of it all. But when he arrives on scene, Cal soon learns that the victim – Roddy Tebbit, an otherwise milquetoast techie – is well over seven feet tall. And although he doesn’t look a day over 30, he is ninety-one years old. Tebbit is a Titan – one of this dystopian, near-future society’s genetically altered elites. And this case is definitely Cal’s thing.

There are only a few thousand Titans worldwide, thanks to Stefan Tonfamecasca’s discovery of the controversial T7 genetic therapy, which elevated his family to godlike status. T7 turns average humans into near-immortal distortions of themselves – with immense physical proportions to match their ostentatious, unreachable lifestyles. A dead Titan is big news... a murdered Titan is unimaginable. But these modified magnates are Cal’s specialty. In fact, his own ex-girlfriend, Athena, is a Titan. And not just any – she is Stefan’s daughter, heir to the massive Tonfamecasca empire.

As the murder investigation intensifies, Cal begins to unravel the complicated threads of what should have been a straightforward case, and it becomes clear he’s on the trail of a crime whose roots run deep into the dark heart of the world.

SF noir | TP | \$32.99



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### Fair Trade

Liaden Universe 24

Sharon Lee & Steve Miller

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.

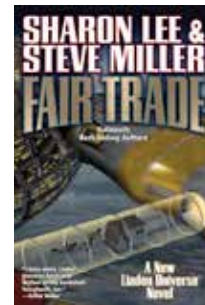
Jethri has inherited a mission from his father, a plan that will allow family Loop ships like the one he grew up on to survive the encroachment of Rostov’s Dust.

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



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