

# Pulp Fiction

## Science Fiction & Fantasy Bestsellers

July 2023

### **A Castle Full of Blackbirds**

graphic novel

**Angela Slatter & Mike Mignola; et al**

New from the world of *Hellboy!*

Sara May Blackburn has always been an odd girl. Plagued by mysterious powers her whole life, Sarah heads to New York to seek Miss Brook at the Linton School for Girls.

But the school is shrouded in strangeness, and the more secrets Sara discovers, the more dangerous and challenging her studies become. Sarah must reveal the forces that seek to control her power.

Join *Hellboy* creator Mike Mignola, as he partners with celebrated Brisbane author Angela Slatter, and artist extraordinaire Valeria Burzo for a new adventure full of witchcraft and magic.

Collects *Castle Full of Blackbirds* #1–4. Signed copies are available.

**Hellboy universe | HC | \$44.99**



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### **Salvage Right**

Liaden Universe 25

**Sharon Lee & Steve Miller**

*A door never closes, but a window opens...*

With origins in the Old Universe, the malevolent, acquisitive intelligence of Tinsori Light sought to infect others with itself, and send those agents out into the wide new universe to infect even more.

For centuries, two heroes stood between Tinsori Light and the vulnerable universe – Light Keepers Jen Sin yos'Phelium and Lorith of the Sanderat.

Just when it seemed that they – merely human – must fail, Tinsori Light, enfeebled by aged systems, succumbed to the stress of a unique spatial event – and died, leaving the station a shell.

Luckily, the light keepers have backup. A mismatched team of arcane specialists are on-station, working non-stop to preserve the Light, build trustworthy systems, and open the refurbished station for business.

In fact, ships are already incoming, and it becomes a matter of urgency to sort friend from foe. In particular, the Lyre Institute wishes to acquire Tinsori Light, and will do anything, spend anyone, to achieve that goal.

Latest in the long-running series of good old-fashioned space opera that our regulars adore.

Try the omnibus volume of three early tales – *The Dragon Variation* (TP, \$31.95) – as an introduction to the universe! Recommended!

**Space opera | HC | \$57.95**



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# Pulp Fiction Bestsellers

## Science Fiction & Fantasy July 2023 (continued)

### **The Golden Enclaves**

Scholomance 03

**Naomi Novik**

The one thing you never talk about while you're in the Scholomance is what you'll do when you get out.

Not even the richest enclaver would tempt fate that way. But it's all we dream about: the hideously slim chance we'll survive to make it out the gates and improbably find ourselves with a life ahead of us, a life outside the Scholomance halls.

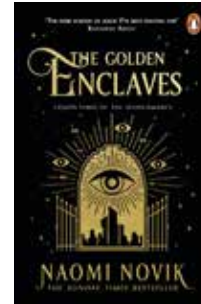
And, now, the impossible dream has come true. I'm out, we're all out – and I didn't even have to turn into a monstrous dark witch to make it happen. So much for my great-grandmother's prophecy of doom and destruction.

I didn't kill enclavers, I saved them. Me and Orion and our allies. Our graduation plan worked to perfection: We saved everyone and made the world safe for all wizards and brought peace and harmony to all the enclaves everywhere.

Ha, only joking! Actually, it's gone all wrong. Someone else has picked up the project of destroying enclaves in my stead, and probably everyone we saved is about to get killed in the brewing enclave war. And the first thing I've got to do, now, having miraculously gotten out of the Scholomance, is turn straight around and find a way back in.

Novik never disappoints – fantastic! Now in paperback. The first is *A Deadly Education* (PBK, \$22.99).

**Dark academia | PBK | \$22.99**



# 3

### **Translation State**

Imperial Radch

**Ann Leckie**

The mystery of a missing translator sets three lives on a collision course that will have a ripple effect across the stars in this powerful novel from a Hugo, Nebula, and Arthur C Clarke award-winning author.

'There are few who write science fiction like Ann Leckie can. There are few who ever could.' – *John Scalzi*.

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.

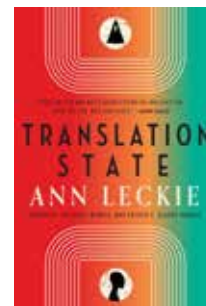
As a Conclave of the various species approaches – and the long-standing treaty between the humans and the Presger is on the line – their decisions will have ripple effects across the stars.

Masterfully merging space adventure and mystery, and a poignant exploration about relationships and belonging, *Translation State* is a triumphant new standalone story set in the celebrated Imperial Radch universe.

'Leckie's humane, emotionally intelligent, and deeply perceptive writing makes this tautly plotted adventure feel fundamentally true while also offering long-time fans a much-anticipated glimpse into the Radch's most mysterious species. Readers will be thrilled.' – *Publishers Weekly* (starred review).

'Another of Leckie's beautiful mergings of the political, philosophical, and personal.' – *Kirkus* (starred review).

**Science fiction | TP | \$32.99**



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# Pulp Fiction Bestsellers

## Science Fiction & Fantasy July 2023 (continued)

### **The Wrong Girl and Other Warnings**

collection

**Angela Slatter**

In *The Wrong Girl and Other Warnings*, Slatter shows us that ‘innocent’ should never be mistaken for ‘safe’, while spinning tales of witches, Victorian-era detectives, bad parents, unrepentant killers, and ancient wisdom.

In ‘A Matter of Light’, detective Kit Casswell is called upon to lend her experience with the supernatural to a very unwilling consulting detective. In ‘Widows’ Walk’, a quartet of witches band together in a single house, secretly working to protect young women.

In the titular tale, ‘The Wrong Girl’, a frustrated artist turns the romance of her fickle friend and tiresome sister into a deadly masterpiece.

Wry, savage, and written with the precision of a writer at the top of her game, *The Wrong Girl and Other Warnings* is a gift to those who already love Slatter’s fiction, and those discovering her exquisite stories for the first time.

Recommended!

**Gothic fantasy | PBK | \$24.95**



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### **All Systems Red**

Murderbot Diaries 01

**Martha Wells**

Winner: 2018 Hugo Award for Best Novella.

Winner: 2018 Nebula Award for Best Novella.

Winner: 2018 Alex Award.

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

*New York Times* and *USA Today* bestseller.

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

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

In a corporate-dominated space-faring 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 is back in our bestseller lists. Mwah!

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

**Science fiction novella | HC | \$29.99**



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# Pulp Fiction Bestsellers

## Science Fiction & Fantasy July 2023 (continued)

### 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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### War Bodies

Neal Asher

Rebellion could be their salvation – or their doom.

Long ago, the Cyberat left Earth to co-evolve with machines. Now, led by the powerful dictator Castron, their Old Guard believe that machines should replace the physical body. But these beliefs are upended with the arrival of the human Polity – and their presence ignites rebellion.

Piper was raised as a weapon against the Cyberat, implanted with secretive hardware. When his parents are captured by the Old Guard, the Polity offer him unexpected aid. Piper knows the Polity want more from him, but at what cost?

The rebellion also attracts the deadly prador, placing an entire world in peril.

As war rages across the planet, Piper must battle with the unknown technology implanted in his bones. It may be the Polity's answer to their relentless fight against the prador. It could also be civilisation-ending Jain tech – or something far more extraordinary.

New standalone set in the Polity universe – Asher continues to be a firm favourite among our hard science/military space opera fans. Recommended!

Science fiction | TP | \$34.99



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# Pulp Fiction Bestsellers

## Science Fiction & Fantasy July 2023 (continued)

### **A Peril So Dire**

Constabulary Casefiles 04

#### **Eric Thomson**

When Caelin Morrow took over Anti-Corruption Unit 12, she figured hunting down dishonest senior officers would be her biggest challenge. But she wasn't counting on Rear Admiral Hera Talyn making the job interesting by having her investigate treasonous Fleet personnel as well. And traitors are much more dangerous than crooks.

With her usual independent attitude, Morrow is creating waves at the highest levels and quickly finds herself at the wrong end of a gun. But she's becoming known as a deadly force herself, even in the heart of Fleet Headquarters, and will do what she must to put away those who betray everything she holds dear.

The latest in the series that starts with *The Warrior's Knife* (TP, \$35.95).

**Military sf | TP | \$37.95**



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