

Pulp Fiction

Science Fiction & Fantasy Bestsellers

September 2023

Starter Villain

John Scalzi

Inheriting your mysterious uncle's supervillain business is more complicated than you might imagine.

Sure, there are the things you'd expect. The undersea volcano lairs. The minions. The plots to take over the world. The international networks of rivals who want you dead.

Much harder to get used to... are the sentient, language-using, computer-savvy cats. And the fact that, in the overall organisation, they're management...

We say, it's Scalzi, just read it! Recommended.

SF caper | TP/HC | \$34.99/\$64.95



1

A Prayer for the Crown-Shy

Monk & Robot 02

Becky Chambers

'Tender and healing... I'm prescribing a preorder to anyone who has ever felt lost. Stunning, kind, necessary.' – Sarah Gailey on book one, *A Psalm for the Wild-Built*.

A Prayer for the Crown-Shy is a story of kindness and love from one of the foremost practitioners of hopepunk.

After touring the rural areas of Panga, Sibling Dex (a Tea Monk of some renown) and Mosschap (a robot sent on a quest to determine what humanity really needs) turn their attention to the villages and cities of the little moon they call home.

They hope to find the answers they seek, while making new friends, learning new concepts, and experiencing the entropic nature of the universe.

Becky Chambers' new series continues to ask: in a world where people have what they want, does having more even matter?

This series has been out for a while now – but the buzz keeps getting bigger – lots of Best Things She's Ever Written comments from readers! – and the Oz distributors finally received more stock (let's see how long this lasts!).

Start with *A Psalm for the Wild-Built* (see #7, below).

Science fiction novella | TP | \$26.99



2

Pulp Fiction Bestsellers

Science Fiction & Fantasy September 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's back in our bestseller lists. Mwah!

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

Science fiction novella | HC | \$29.99



3

City of Bones

new edition

Martha Wells

Before Martha Wells captured the hearts of millions with her Murderbot series, there was Khat, Sagai, and Elen, and a city risen out of death and decay...

The city of Charisat, a tiered monolith of the Ancients' design, sits on the edge of the vast desert known as the Waste. Khat, a member of a humanoid race created by the Ancients to survive in the Waste, and Sagai, his human partner, are relic dealers working in the bottom tiers of society, trying to stay one step ahead of the Trade Inspectors.

When Khat is hired by the all-powerful Warders to find relics believed to be part of one of the Ancients' arcane engines; he, and his party, begin unravelling the mysteries of an age-old technology.

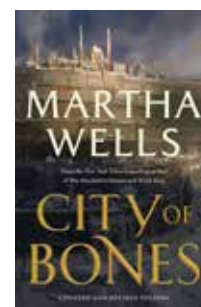
This they expected.

They soon find themselves as the last line of defence between the suffering masses of Charisat and a fanatical cult, bent on unleashing an evil upon the city with an undying thirst for bone.

That, they did not expect...

Reissue of Wells' second novel – a standalone – first published in 1995. This updated and revised edition is the author's preferred text.

Fantasy | TP | \$34.99



4

Pulp Fiction Bestsellers

Science Fiction & Fantasy September 2023 (continued)

The Goblin Emperor

Katherine Addison

The youngest, half-goblin son of the Emperor has lived his entire life in exile, distant from the Imperial Court and the deadly intrigue that suffuses it.

But when his father and three sons in line for the throne are killed in an 'accident', he has no choice but to take his place as the only surviving rightful heir.

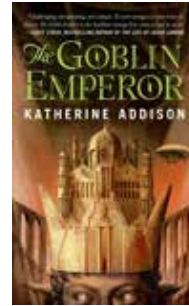
Surrounded by sycophants eager to curry favour with the naïve new emperor, and overwhelmed by the burdens of his new life, he can trust nobody.

Amid the swirl of plots to depose him, offers of arranged marriages, and the spectre of the unknown conspirators who lurk in the shadows, he must quickly adjust to life as the Goblin Emperor.

Yes, we know it came out several years ago – but Ron finally got around to reading it (a few years ago, now) and is obsessed and forcing copies upon anyone who will listen to him... (It's very, very good!)

Ignore the drab cover art! Ignore the lacklustre blurb! *Just read it!*

Fantasy | PBK | \$24.95



5

War Bodies

Neal Asher

Rebellion could be their salvation – or their doom. *War Bodies* by Neal Asher is a gripping, high-octane standalone set in his expansive Polity universe.

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 civilization-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



6

A Psalm for the Wild-Built

Monk & Robot 01

Becky Chambers

Winner of the Hugo Award for Best Novella 2022.

In *A Psalm for the Wild-Built*, bestselling Becky Chambers's delightful new Monk and Robot series, gives us hope for the future.

It's been centuries since the robots of Panga gained self-awareness and laid down their tools; centuries since they wandered, en masse, into the wilderness, never to be seen again; centuries since they faded into myth and urban legend.

One day, the life of a tea monk is upended by the arrival of a robot, there to honour the old promise of checking in. The robot cannot go back... until the question of 'what do people need?' is answered.

But the answer to that question depends on who you ask, and how.

They're going to need to ask it a lot.

Becky Chambers' new series asks: in a world where people have what they want, does having more matter?

This series – just two novellas, so far – is getting so much love from readers! Recommended.

Science fiction novella | TP | \$32.99



7

Pulp Fiction Bestsellers

Science Fiction & Fantasy September 2023 (continued)

Artificial Condition

Murderbot Diaries 02

Martha Wells

Artificial Condition is the follow-up to Martha Wells' Hugo, Nebula, Alex, and Locus Award-winning, New York Times-bestselling *All Systems Red* (HC, \$29.99).

It has a dark past – one in which a number of humans were killed. A past that caused it to christen itself 'Murderbot'. But it has only vague memories of the massacre that spawned that title, and it wants to know more.

Teaming up with a Research Transport vessel, named ART (you don't want to know what the 'A' stands for), Murderbot heads to the mining facility where it went rogue. What it discovers will forever change the way it thinks...

This won the Nebula Award for best novella – and if it's possible – I think I love this even more than the first one (it's the interaction between AIs – just great!) Really – you just have to read these! – Ron.

Note that *Artificial Condition* won both the Nebula and Hugo Awards for Best Novella (just as the first one did!) in 2019.

Science fiction novella | HC | \$29.99



8

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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Pulp Fiction Bestsellers

Science Fiction & Fantasy September 2023 (continued)

The Long Way to a Small Angry Planet

Wayfarer 01

Becky Chambers

'A quietly profound, humane *tour de force*' – *Guardian*.

The beloved debut novel that will restore your faith in humanity.

#SmallAngryPlanet

When Rosemary Harper joins the crew of the Wayfarer, she isn't expecting much. The ship, which has seen better days, offers her everything she could possibly want: a small, quiet spot to call home for a while, adventure in far-off corners of the galaxy, and distance from her troubled past.

But Rosemary gets more than she bargained for with the Wayfarer. The crew is a mishmash of species and personalities, from Sissix, the friendly reptilian pilot, to Kizzy and Jenks, the constantly sparring engineers who keep the ship running. Life on board is chaotic, but more or less peaceful – exactly what Rosemary wants.

Until the crew are offered the job of a lifetime: the chance to build a hyperspace tunnel to a distant planet. They'll earn enough money to live comfortably for years... if they survive the long trip through war-torn interstellar space without endangering any of the fragile alliances that keep the galaxy peaceful.

But Rosemary isn't the only person on board with secrets to hide, and the crew will soon discover that space may be vast, but spaceships are very small indeed.

'Explores the quieter side of sci-fi while still wowing us with daring leaps of imagination' – *iBooks*.

Oldie but a goodie – we think customers who've discovered her Monk & Robot series (see above) may all now be starting on this earlier series as well? Recommended!

Space opera | PBK | \$22.99



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