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Robert V. S. Redick

MASTER ASSASSINS
The Fire Sacraments, Book One

Two village boys mistaken for assassins become the decisive figures in the battle for a continent in a thrilling new desert-based epic fantasy by the author of The Red Wolf Conspiracy.

Kandri Hinjuman was never meant to be a soldier. His brother Mektu was never meant for this world. Rivals since childhood, they are drafted into a horrific war led by a madwoman-Prophet, and survive each day only by hiding their disbelief. Kandri is good at blending in, but Mektu is hopeless: impulsive, erratic, and certain that a demon is stalking him. Is this madness or a second sense? Either way, Kandri knows that Mektu’s antics will land them both in early graves.

But all bets are off when the brothers’ simmering feud explodes into violence, and holy blood is spilled. Kandri and Mektu are taken for contract killers and must flee for their lives to the one place where they can hope to disappear: the sprawling desert known as the Land That Eats Men. In this eerie wilderness, the terrain is as deadly as the monsters, ghouls, and traffickers in human flesh. Here the brothers find strange allies: an aging warlord, a desert nomad searching for her family, and a lethal child-soldier still in her teens. They also find themselves in possession of a secret that could bring peace to the continent of Urrath. Or unthinkable carnage.

On their heels are the Prophet’s death squads. Ahead lie warring armies, sandstorms, evil spirits, and the deeper evil of human greed. But hope beckons as well—if the “Master Assassins” can expose the lie that has made them the world’s most wanted men.

Robert V. S. Redick’s Chathrand Voyage Quartet (The Red Wolf Conspiracy and sequels) is among the most beloved and critically acclaimed epic fantasy series of recent years. A social and environmental justice consultant, he has worked in Indonesia, Argentina, Colombia, and many other countries. His new fantasy series, The Fire Sacraments, will be published by Talos Press. He lives with his partner in Western Massachusetts.

“This book has everything I love: Clean, crisp worldbuilding. Characters that live and breathe. A story that teases and surprises me. I like Master Assassins so much I wish I’d written it, but deep down, I know I couldn’t have written it this well.” —#1 New York Times bestselling author Patrick Rothfuss
Edited by Ellen Datlow

THE DEVIL AND THE DEEP
Horror Stories of the Sea

From award-winning editor Ellen Datlow, an all-original anthology collecting terrifying tales of dark waters and horrifying creatures.

It’s only water, so why should we fear large bodies of it, such as the sea or the ocean? However, when you’re all alone, you realize how scary a place it can be.

In The Devil and the Deep, award-winning editor Ellen Datlow shares an original anthology of horror that covers the depths of the deep blue sea. Whether its tales of murderous pirates who stalk the waters in search of treasure and blood, creatures that haunt the depths below—ones we’ve only seen in our nightmares—or storms that can swallow you whole, the open water can be a dangerous and terrifying place.

With new stories from New York Times bestsellers and award-winning authors such as Seanan McGuire, Christopher Golden, Stephen Graham Jones, and more, The Devil and the Deep guarantees you’ll think twice before going back into the water.

Ellen Datlow has been editing science fiction, fantasy, and horror short fiction for more than thirty years. She was the fiction editor of Omni magazine and Sci Fiction and has edited almost one hundred anthologies. Datlow has also won lifetime achievement awards from three prominent genre organizations. Datlow has also won lifetime achievement awards from three prominent genre organizations and currently acquires short fiction for Tor.com.

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Horror
MARCH
BASH BASH REVOLUTION


Seventeen-year-old Matthew Munson’s a high school dropout, still living at home with his mom, doing little with his time but playing an outdated video game called Bash Bash Revolution and hanging around the local Dairy Queen. That is, until his dad turns up.

Jeffrey Munson is a computer geek who’d left home eight years earlier to work on a top-secret military project. As a father, Jeff’s been a sporadic presence in Matthew’s life. Now, much to his son’s displeasure, he’s back, and insists on bonding over video games. The two begin entering local tournaments together, where Jeff quickly shows surprising aptitude for Bash Bash Revolution in particular.

Then, as abruptly as he appeared, Jeff disappears again, just as Matthew was beginning to let him back into his life.

The betrayal is crushing, and Matthew decides to give chase, in the process discovering the true nature of the government-sponsored artificial intelligence program his father has been involved in. Told as a series of social media posts, including some between Matthew and the AI his dad helped create, Bash Bash Revolution is a wildly original novel of apocalypse and revolution, as well as a poignant story of broken family.

DOUGLAS LAIN is the author of Billy Moon and After the Saucers Landed, the editor of two speculative fiction anthologies, In the Shadow of the Towers and Deserts of Fire, and the publisher of Zero Books, which specializes in philosophy and political theory. He hosts the Zero Squared podcast, interviewing a wide range of fascinating and engaging people with insights for the new millennium. Lain lives in Portland, Oregon, with his wife and children.

“I don’t know anyone else doing quite what Lain is doing; fascinating work, moving, strikingly honest, powerful.” —Locus
Seabury Quinn

THE DARK ANGEL
The Complete Tales of Jules de Grandin, Volume Three

The third of five volumes collecting the stories of Jules de Grandin, the supernatural detective made famous in the classic pulp magazine Weird Tales.

Today the names of H. P. Lovecraft, Robert E. Howard, August Derleth, and Clark Ashton Smith, all regular contributors to the pulp magazine Weird Tales during the first half of the twentieth century, are recognizable even to casual readers of the bizarre and fantastic. And yet despite being more popular than them all during the golden era of genre pulp fiction, there is another author whose name and work have fallen into obscurity: Seabury Quinn.

Quinn's short stories were featured in well more than half of Weird Tales's original publication run. His most famous character, the supernatural French detective Dr. Jules de Grandin, investigated cases involving monsters, devil worshippers, serial killers, and spirits from beyond the grave, often set in the small town of Harrisonville, New Jersey. In de Grandin there are familiar shades of both Arthur Conan Doyle's Sherlock Holmes and Agatha Christie's Hercule Poirot, and alongside his assistant, Dr. Samuel Trowbridge, de Grandin's knack for solving mysteries—and his outbursts of peculiar French-isms (Grand Dieu!)—captivated readers for nearly three decades.

Collected for the first time in trade editions, The Complete Tales of Jules de Grandin, edited by George Vanderburgh, presents all ninety-three published works featuring the supernatural detective. Presented in chronological order over five volumes, this is the definitive collection of an iconic pulp hero.

The third volume, The Dark Angel, includes all of the Jules de Grandin stories from “The Lost Lady” (1931) to “The Hand of Glory” (1933) as well as The Devil’s Bride, the only novel featuring de Grandin, which was originally serialized over six issues of Weird Tales.

Seabury Quinn was a pulp magazine author, whose popular stories of the occult detective Jules de Grandin were published in Weird Tales between 1925 and 1951. Quinn penned ninety-two short stories and one full-length novel featuring “the occult Hercule Poirot,” which were enormously popular with readers. Quinn lived in Washington, DC, and died in 1969.
THE BEST SCIENCE FICTION OF THE YEAR
Volume Three


To keep up-to-date with the most buzzworthy and cutting-edge science fiction requires sifting through countless magazines, e-zines, websites, blogs, original anthologies, single-author collections, and more—a task accomplishable by only the most determined and voracious readers. For everyone else, Night Shade Books is proud to introduce the latest volume of The Best Science Fiction of the Year, a new yearly anthology compiled by Hugo and World Fantasy award–winning editor Neil Clarke, collecting the finest that the genre has to offer, from the biggest names in the field to the most exciting new writers.

The best science fiction scrutinizes our culture and politics, examines the limits of the human condition, and zooms across galaxies at faster-than-light speeds, moving from the very near future to the far-flung worlds of tomorrow in the space of a single sentence. Clarke, publisher and editor in chief of the acclaimed and award-winning magazine Clarkesworld, has selected the short science fiction (and only science fiction) best representing the previous year’s writing, showcasing the talent, variety, and awesome “sensawunda” that the genre has to offer.

Neil Clarke is the editor of Clarkesworld and Forever Magazine, the owner of Wyrm Publishing, and a five-time Hugo Award Nominee for Best Editor (short form). He currently lives in New Jersey with his wife and two children.
Chris Roberson

**FIREWALKERS**
A Recondito Novel

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A police investigation threatens to unleash a city’s secret history of evil in the gritty urban fantasy sequel to *Firewalk*, from the *New York Times* bestselling author and cocreator of the comic book–turned–hit TV show *iZombie*.

After reopening a long closed murder investigation, FBI agent Izzie Lefevre and police detective Patrick Tevake have uncovered a bizarre connection between a dangerous new drug on the streets of Recondito, California, and a series of mass murders and serial killings carried out around the coastal city going back at least one hundred years.

Their discovery has unlocked a secret history of mystics and madmen who believed that Recondito was a special place, where it was possible to make contact with beings from other planes of existence, beings best described as demons. For generations there have been those who secretly dedicated themselves to protecting humanity against threats from beyond our world, but Izzie and Patrick realize that not only did their investigation eliminate the last remaining defender, but they are now the only ones standing in the way of a full-scale invasion.

**Chris Roberson** is a writer whose novels and short stories have been nominated for the World Fantasy Award, the John W. Campbell Award, and the Sidewise Award for Best Alternate History. As a comic book writer, he cocreated *iZombie*, wrote *Superman* and several *Cinderella* miniseries set in the world of Bill Willingham’s *Fables*, and is currently the cowriter of *Hellboy and the B. P. R. D.* He is the copublisher of MonkeyBrain Books and the MonkeyBrain Comics imprint and lives in Portland, Oregon.

“[A] gripping supernatural thriller . . . Terrific pacing and detailed police work mixed with supernatural elements will serve well horror and urban fantasy fans alike.” —*Library Journal*, starred review on *Firewalk*

“A haunting thriller in which ancient evil and modern tech intertwine in streets of a dying city—and where the darkness hides things much older and more frightening than the darkness itself.” —Richard Kadrey, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Sandman Slim*
Neal Asher

THE SOLDIER
Rise of the Jain, Book One

Humanity, artificial intelligences, and monstrous aliens clash over control of deadly technology in this explosive beginning to Neal Asher’s newest Polity series.

In a far corner of space, on the very borders between humanity’s Polity worlds and the kingdom of the vicious crab-like prador, is an immediate threat to all sentient life: an accretion disc, a solar system designed by the long-dead Jain race and swarming with living technology powerful enough to destroy entire civilizations.

Neither the Polity nor the prador want the other in full control of the disc, so they’ve placed an impartial third party in charge of the weapons platform guarding the technology from escaping into the galaxy: Orlandine, a part-human, part-AI haiman. She’s assisted by Dragon, a mysterious, spaceship-sized alien entity who has long been suspicious of Jain technology and who suspects the disc is a trap lying-in-wait.

Meanwhile, the android Angel is planning an attack on the Polity, and is searching for a terrible weapon to carry out his plans—a Jain super-soldier. But what exactly the super-soldier is, and what it could be used for if it fell into the wrong hands, will bring Angel’s and Orlandine’s missions to a head in a way that could forever change the balance of power in the Polity universe.

In *The Soldier*, British science fiction writer Neal Asher kicks off another Polity-based trilogy in signature fashion, concocting a mind-melting plot filled with far-future technology, lethal weaponry, and bizarre alien creations.

Neal Asher is a science fiction writer whose work has been nominated for both the Philip K. Dick and the British Fantasy Society awards. He has published more than twenty books, many set within his Polity universe, including *Gridlinked*, *The Skinner*, and *Dark Intelligence*. He divides his time between Essex and a home in Crete.
AN ARGUMENTATION OF HISTORIANS
The Chronicles of St. Mary’s Book Nine

The ninth book in the bestselling British madcap time-travelling series, served with a dash of wit that seems to be everyone’s cup of tea.

Behind the seemingly innocuous facade of St. Mary’s Institute of Historical Research, a different kind of academic work is taking place. Just don’t call it “time travel”—these historians “investigate major historical events in contemporary time.” And they aren’t your harmless eccentrics either; a more accurate description, as they ricochet around history, might be unintentional disaster-magnets.

From Tudor England to the burning city of Persepolis, from a medieval St. Mary’s under siege to Victorian Rushford and a very nasty case of gaol fever, Max is struggling to keep her private life intact. There’s an ambitious programme hindered by giant teapots, plus Mrs. Midgely’s objection to dead hamsters in her airing cupboard, and Mr. Markham’s stubborn refusal to reveal his exact marital status.

And as if that’s not enough—the unfortunately not leprosy-laden Malcolm Halcombe is back. Admittedly, none of this is the most secure platform from which to launch an initiative to bring down the renegade Clive Ronan, but hey—what’s the worst that could happen?

Jodi Taylor is, and always has been, a history nut. Her Chronicles of St. Mary’s, a wild mix of history, adventure, comedy, romance, tragedy, and anything else the author could think of, began as a self-published book entitled Just One Damned Thing After Another. It’s now a bestselling, wildly addictive series.

“A carnival ride through laughter and tears with a bit of time travel thrown in for spice . . . readers will be impatient for later installments.” —Publishers Weekly, starred review

“What a mess. A glorious, glorious mess. Let no one ever say that Just One Damned Thing After Another is a book that fails to live up to its title. . . . These books are so perfectly bingeable.” —B&N Sci-Fi & Fantasy Blog
Logan J. Hunder

ASTRO-NUTS

Laser-sharp zingers and out-of-this-world puns pile up at an astronomical pace in this zero gravitas sci-fi spoof from the author of Witches Be Crazy.

Never meddle with unidentified spying objects . . .

The year is: The Future. Mars and Earth are like that divorced couple who don’t exactly like each other but have at least stopped fighting in public. Floating somewhere in between them, amid all the garbage and Gene Roddenberry’s ashes, a transport vessel called the SS Jefferson is homeward bound. Its crew might have even made it on time for once, too . . .

Captain Cox is no stranger to encountering the odd pickle in space, but when a tantalizingly derelict ship crosses paths with the Jefferson, he unwittingly parks in the middle of a NASA-ty interplanetary squabble. Faced with a marauding Martian and a squad of snobby secret agents, Cox and crew embark on a mad scramble across the solar system, to save themselves from either murder-via-space rifle or imprisonment in the notorious Guantanamo Docking Bay. Maybe they’ll also get around to dealing with the biological weapon that accidentally wound up in their fridge, too.

Logan J. Hunder’s Astro-Nuts in this riotously funny send-up of spaceships and space exploration. Discover adventure, love, loss, gain, losing what was gained, gaining some of it back, and all the different ways the Outer Space Treaty can be violated.

Logan J. Hunder is a Canadian comedy writer who breaks into a wicked case of the shakes if he goes more than a half hour without making fun of something. He treats this rare self-diagnosed illness by rambling via text. His first novel, Witches Be Crazy, was published by Night Shade Books in 2015.

“Aliens and space cowboys beware! Astro-Nuts is an irreverent trip into the cosmos on the SS Jefferson. Suit up. It’s gonna be a hell of a ride.”
—Edward Zajac, author of A Swift Kick in the Asteroids

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Science Fiction
MAY
Rich Larson

TOMORROW FACTORY
Collected Speculative Fiction

Twenty-three stories from one of speculative fiction's up-and-coming stars, Pushcart and Journey Prize–nominated author Rich Larson.

Welcome to the Tomorrow Factory.

On your left, post-human hedonists on a distant space station bring diseases back in fashion, two scavengers find a super-powered parasite under the waves of Sunk Seattle, and a terminally ill chemist orchestrates an asteroid prison break.

On your right, an alien optometrist spins illusions for irradiated survivors of the apocalypse, a high-tech grifter meets his match in near-future Thailand, and two teens use a black-market personality mod to get into the year’s wiciest, wildest party.

This collection of published and original fiction by award-winning writer Rich Larson will bring you from a Bujumbura cyberpunk junkyard to the icy depths of Europa, from the slick streets of future-noir Chicago to a tropical island of sapient robots. You’ll explore a mysterious ghost ship in deep space, meet an android learning to dream, and fend off predatory alien fungi on a combat mission gone wrong.

Twenty-three futures, ranging from grimy cyberpunk to far-flung space opera, are waiting to blow you away.

So step inside the Tomorrow Factory, and mind your head.

Rich Larson was born in West Africa, has studied in Rhode Island and worked in Spain, and now writes from Ottawa, Canada. His award-winning short fiction has been translated into Chinese, Vietnamese, Polish, French, and Italian and appears in numerous Year’s Best anthologies.

“Larson is one of the best new writers to enter science fiction in more than a decade. His stories are always exciting, inventive, evocative, and sometimes profound.” —Gardener Dozois

“Every now and then the science fiction field sees the arrival of a startling new talent. Rich Larson is just that. A writer of powerful, perceptive stories that stand with the best. One of the books of the year.” —Jonathan Strahan

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MAY
For fans of Joe Abercrombie, Scott Lynch, and Mark Lawrence comes a brutal grimdark fantasy debut of dark gods and violent warriors.

The Mireces worship the bloodthirsty Red Gods. Exiled from Rilpor a thousand years ago, and left to suffer a harsh life in the cold mountains, a new Mireces king now plots an invasion of Rilpor’s thriving cities and fertile earth.

Dom Templeson is a Watcher, a civilian warrior guarding Rilpor’s border. He is also the most powerful seer in generations, plagued with visions and prophecies. His people are devoted followers of the god of light and life, but Dom harbors deep secrets, which threaten to be exposed when Rillirin, an escaped Mireces slave, stumbles broken and bleeding into his village.

Meanwhile, more and more of Rilpor’s most powerful figures are turning to the dark rituals and bloody sacrifices of the Red Gods, including the prince, who plots to wrest the throne from his dying father in the heart of the kingdom. Can Rillirin, with her inside knowledge of the Red Gods and her shocking ties to the Mireces king, help Rilpor win the coming war?

Anna Stephens is a member of the Birmingham Writers’ Group, a friendly bunch of geeks with a penchant for Doctor Who bordering on collective obsession. She has a second Dan black belt in Shotokan Karate and is no stranger to being punched in the face, which is more help than you would expect when writing fight scenes. She lives in Birmingham, England.

“Godblind is Anna Stephens’s debut, and it writes her name in blood on the roster of masters of grimdark alongside the likes of Mark Lawrence and Joe Abercrombie. . . . This is a grimdark fantasy that truly lives up to the name.” —B&N Sci-Fi & Fantasy Blog

“A brilliantly brutal debut from an exciting new voice in dark fantasy. Highly recommend!” —Michael R. Fletcher, author of Swarm and Steel and Beyond Redemption
Available for the first time in trade paperback, the third of five volumes collecting the complete fiction of William Hope Hodgson, an influential early twentieth-century author of science fiction, horror, and the fantastic.

William Hope Hodgson was, like his contemporaries Algernon Blackwood and Arthur Machen, one of the most important, prolific, and influential fantasists of the early twentieth century. His dark and unsettling short stories and novels were shaped in large part by personal experience (a professional merchant mariner for much of his life, many of Hodgson’s tales are set at sea), and his work evokes a disturbing sense of the amorphous and horrific unknown.

While his nautical adventure fiction was very popular during his lifetime, the supernatural and cosmic horror he is most remembered for only became well known after his death, mainly due to the efforts of writers like H. P. Lovecraft and Clark Ashton Smith, who often praised his work and cited it as an influence on their own. By the latter half of the twentieth century, it was only his weird fiction that remained in print, and his vast catalog of non-supernatural stories was extremely hard to find.

Night Shade Books’ five-volume series presents all of Hodgson’s unique and timeless fiction. Each volume contains one of Hodgson’s novels, along with a selection of thematically linked short fiction, including a number of works reprinted for the first time since their original publication. The third book of the five-volume set, *The Ghost Pirates and Other Revenants of the Sea*, collects more of Hodgson’s nautical fiction, including his 1909 novel *The Ghost Pirates*.

**William Hope Hodgson** was an early twentieth-century English author who produced a large and critically acclaimed body of short fiction and novels spanning several overlapping genres, including horror, fantastic fiction, and science fiction. Hodgson was killed in action in WWI in 1918, at the age of forty.
In the second book of the Blue Gemini trilogy, two astronauts face dangers no one could have imagined.

In the second book of the Blue Gemini trilogy, Air Force Majors Scott Ourecky and Drew Carson continue to fly highly classified missions to intercept and destroy suspect Soviet satellites.

But after experiencing numerous close calls in orbit, the astronauts soon discover that not all perils reside in the sky. With his marriage already at risk because he cannot explain his frequent absences and strange activities to his wife, Ourecky learns that his unborn child may be in grave danger as a radiation consequence of his flights into space.

Even as Ourecky and Carson accumulate successful mission after successful mission in space, other crucial events occur much closer to home. Interservice rivalries reach new heights as a caustic but highly influential Navy admiral schemes to steal control of the project from the Air Force. Realizing that a Soviet GRU agent is operating in their midst, a shadowy team of counterintelligence operatives scramble to shield the project’s secrets from discovery, leading to a confrontation that bears fatal consequences.

As they train to accomplish more difficult missions against complicated targets, Ourecky and Carson are asked to volunteer to risk their lives one more time in an extremely hazardous rescue mission. The stakes are high; even as they leave the launch pad, there is no certainty that either man will return.

Mike Jenne is a licensed pilot, lifelong aerospace aficionado, and amateur space historian. As a child, he felt the ground shudder as the Saturn V moon rockets were tested at the nearby Marshall Space Flight Center. Trained as an Army Ranger and Military Free Fall (HALO) Parachutist, he has served across the globe, including deployments to Africa, Central America, Haiti, the Middle East, and Afghanistan. Mike and his wife, Adele, make their home in Trussville, Alabama.
A young man looking for death finds purpose in a world beyond our own in this sweeping fantasy from Greg Keyes (The Briar King, Newton’s Cannon).

Errol Greyson hadn’t intended to commit suicide. Or so he told himself. But waking up after his “cry for help” in the body of a wood-and-metal construct magically animated by Aster—the strange girl from school—was not a result he could have imagined.

Aster’s wild explanations of a quest to find the water of health that would cure her father seemed as unreal as her description of Errol’s own half-dead existence, his consciousness stuck in an enchanted automaton while his real body was in a coma from which it might never wake. And of course, they would need to recruit a girl—a virgin, no less—who had been dead for thirty years, to lead them through something called the Pale, beyond which a bunch of magical kingdoms existed. Plus, the threat that Aster could turn him off like a light switch, sending him into a hellish oblivion, was a convincing incentive to cooperate.

It all seemed quite mad: either Aster was nuts or Errol was hallucinating. But if it meant a new chance at life, he reckoned it was worth playing along.

Greg Keyes has written numerous books and short stories since his debut novel, The Waterborn, was published in 1996, including The Age of Unreason and The Kingdoms of Thorn and Bone series. He lives in Savannah, Georgia, with his wife Nell, children John Edward Arch and Dorothy Nellah Joyce, and far too many pets.
THE BEST HORROR OF THE YEAR VOLUME TEN

“Datlow’s The Best Horror of the Year series is one of the best investments you can make in short fiction.” —Adventures Fantastic

For more than three decades, Ellen Datlow has been at the center of horror. Bringing you the most frightening and terrifying stories, Datlow always has her finger on the pulse of what horror readers crave. Now, with the tenth volume of the series, Datlow is back again to bring you the stories that will keep you up at night.

Encompassed in the pages of The Best Horror of the Year have been such illustrious writers as:

- Neil Gaiman
- Kim Stanley Robinson
- Stephen King
- Linda Nagata
- Laird Barron
- Margo Lanagan
- And many others

With each passing year, science, technology, and the march of time shine light into the craggy corners of the universe, making the fears of an earlier generation seem quaint. But this light creates its own shadows. The Best Horror of the Year chronicles these shifting shadows. It is a catalog of terror, fear, and unpleasantness as articulated by today’s most challenging and exciting writers.

Ellen Datlow has been editing science fiction, fantasy, and horror short fiction for more than thirty years. She was the fiction editor of Omni magazine and Sci Fiction and has edited more than fifty anthologies. Datlow has also won lifetime achievement awards from three prominent genre organizations, and currently acquires short fiction for Tor.com. She lives in New York City.
Hugo Award–winning hard science fiction master Greg Egan returns with a new novel featuring one of science fiction’s most unusual worlds.

Seth is a surveyor, along with his friend Theo, a leech-like creature running through his skull who tells Seth what lies to his left and right. Theo, in turn, relies on Seth for mobility, and for ordinary vision looking forwards and backwards. Like everyone else in their world, they are symbionts, depending on each other to survive.

In the universe containing Seth’s world, light cannot travel in all directions: there is a “dark cone” to the north and south. Seth can only face to the east (or the west, if he tips his head backwards). If he starts to turn to the north or south, his body stretches out across the landscape, and to rotate as far as north-north-east is every bit as impossible as accelerating to the speed of light.

Every living thing in Seth’s world is in a state of perpetual migration as they follow the sun’s shifting orbit and the narrow habitable zone it creates. Cities are being constantly disassembled at one edge and rebuilt at the other, with surveyors mapping safe routes ahead.

But when Seth and Theo join an expedition to the edge of the habitable zone, they discover a terrifying threat: a fissure in the surface of the world, so deep and wide that no one can perceive its limits. As the habitable zone continues to move, the migration will soon be blocked by this unbridgeable void, and the expedition has only one option to save its city from annihilation: descend into the unknown.

Greg Egan is a computer programmer, and the author of the acclaimed SF novels Permutation City, Diaspora, Teranesia, and Quarantine and the Orthogonal trilogy, all published by Night Shade Books. He has won the Hugo Award as well as the John W. Campbell Memorial Award. Egan’s short fiction has been published in a variety of places, including Interzone, Asimov’s, and Nature. He lives in Australia.

“Impressively bizarre . . . Egan may have out-Eganed himself with this one.” —Publishers Weekly
M. H. Boroson

THE GIRL WITH NO FACE
The Daoshi Chronicles

The adventures of Li-lin, a Daoist priestess with the unique ability to see the spirit world, continue in the thrilling follow-up to the critically acclaimed historical urban fantasy The Girl with Ghost Eyes.

It’s the end of the nineteenth century. San Francisco’s cobblestone streets are haunted, but Chinatown has an unlikely protector in a young Daoist priestess named Li-lin. Using only her martial arts training, spiritual magic, a sword made from peachwood, and the walking, talking spirit of a human eye, Li-lin stands alone to defend her immigrant community from supernatural threats.

Now Li-lin has gotten her hands on an amulet that makes its bearer bulletproof. But there’s a problem: the amulet is powered by a child’s soul. To save the spirit, Li-lin will have to voyage to Fengdu, the City of the Dead, but first she must protect the amulet from the gangsters who want it for themselves, her own father, a renowned Daoist exorcist who wants to destroy it, and the Ghostkeeper who created the amulet by murdering his own son.

With hard historical realism and meticulously researched depictions of Chinese monsters and magic that have never been written about in the English language, The Girl with No Face draws from the action-packed cinema of Hong Kong to create a compelling and unforgettable tale of historical fantasy and Chinese lore.

M. H. Boroson was obsessed with two things as a young man: Buffy the Vampire Slayer and kung fu movies. He has studied Chinese religion at Naropa University and the University of Colorado and now lives in Denver, Colorado, with his wife and three cats. The Girl with No Face is his second novel, following The Girl with Ghost Eyes.

“Martial arts and Asian magic set in Old San Francisco make for a fresh take on urban fantasy, a wonderful story that kept me up late to finish.” —Patricia Briggs, #1 New York Times bestselling author

“A thrilling adventure through historical Chinatown, and an exquisite blend of history and myth set in a spirit world you’ll never forget.” —Rob Thurman, New York Times bestselling author
THE FINAL FRONTIER
Stories of Exploring Space, Colonizing the Universe, and First Contact

The vast and mysterious universe is explored in this reprint anthology from award-winning editor and anthologist Neil Clarke (Clarkesworld magazine, The Best Science Fiction of the Year).

The urge to explore and discover is a natural and universal one, and the edge of the unknown is expanded with each passing year as scientific advancements inch us closer and closer to the outer reaches of our solar system and the galaxies beyond them.

Generations of writers have explored these new frontiers and the endless possibilities they present in great detail. With galaxy-spanning adventures of discovery and adventure, from generation ships to warp drives, exploring new worlds to first contacts, science fiction writers have given readers increasingly new and alien ways to look out into our broad and sprawling universe.

The Final Frontier delivers stories from across this literary spectrum, a reminder that the universe is far larger and brimming with more possibilities than we could ever imagine, as hard as we may try.

Neil Clarke is the award-winning publisher and editor in chief of Clarkesworld magazine, winner of three Hugo Awards for Best Semi-prozine, and the editor of many anthologies, including the annual Best Science Fiction of the Year series for Night Shade Books, as well as the stand-alone collections Galactic Empires and More Human Than Human.
Mike Bockoven

PACK
A Novel

Real, raw, and funny, small-town cops, hard-drinking locals, and a family of werewolves make for an uneasy coexistence in this pulpy supernatural thriller set in a sleepy Nebraska town.

Cherry, Nebraska, population 312, is just off the highway between the sticks and the boonies. It’s where Dave Rhodes and his friends have lived all their lives. They own businesses, raise families, pay taxes, deal with odd neighbors, and, once or twice a month—just like their fathers before them—transform into wolves.

It’s not a bad life, but when one of the group members goes astray, it sets in motion a series of events that will threaten to destroy the delicate balance that has kept Dave and his clan off the radar. Between a son getting ready for his first transformation—called The Scratch—a wife with sordid secrets, a new sheriff who knows nothing of the creatures in his midst, and a mysterious man in a bow tie with a shady agenda, the middle of nowhere is about to get very dangerous.

Mike Bockoven writes thriller/horror novels while his kids are in gymnastics class or at piano lessons. He lives with his wife, Sarah, two daughters, Emaline and Tessa and an exceptionally dumb wiener dog named Sherlock. You can find him at his website, mikebockoven.com, on Facebook (facebook.com/Bockovenbooks), and on Twitter @mikebockoven. He lives in Grand Island, Nebraska.

“Utterly horrifying and impossible to put down—for a dozen reasons, but most of all, for how plausible the whole thing feels. Do not read this book after eating.” —Rob Hart, author of the Anthony Award-nominated New Yorked

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World (W) • CQ 28  
6” x 9” • 368 pages  
Horror  
ebook ISBN 978-1-945863-26-4  
JULY
THE SILVER SCAR
A Novel

Two men with a bond forged by magic and destroyed by violence must build a new alliance to stop a holy crusade in this post-apocalyptic fantasy.

When Trinidad was twelve, his Wiccan parents blew themselves up in an ecoterror attack that killed several Christians. Orphaned and disillusioned, he fled his home and his best friend Castile to become a soldier for the powerful Christian church operating inside the fortress city of Boulder, Colorado. Raised by a priest and trained by a godless warrior, Trinidad learned the brutal art of balancing faith and war. He is the perfect archwarden, disciplined and devout.

But when the church’s bishop arrives with a silver scar she claims is proof of angelic orders to crusade, Trinidad alone knows her story is a lie. The silver scar comes from a mystical, ancient graveyard called the Barren—a place of healing reached only by Wiccan magic, a place that could turn Christianity on its head.

Accusing her outright would be treason. Searching for proof would mean committing heresy. Either is a death sentence for an archwarden. Instead, torn between the lure of powerful magic, his love for Castile, and his vows to defend the Church, Trinidad must turn to the very people he’d left in his past to stop the crusade. But as everyone he trusts is mired in betrayal and vengeance, he soon realizes his own righteousness is no weapon against the slaughter of thousands.

Betsy Dornbusch is the author of several short stories, novellas, and novels, including the Books of the Seven Eyes trilogy. In addition to speaking at numerous conventions and teaching writing classes, she spent a decade editing the online magazine Electric Spec. She can be found online at at Sex Scenes at Starbucks (betsydornbusch.com). She and her family split their time between Boulder and Grand Lake, Colorado.
THE TROPIC OF ETERNITY
Volume Three of the Amaranthine Spectrum

The sequel to the critically acclaimed and ambitious literary space opera debut The Promise of the Child.

It is the 147th century.

The mighty era of Homo Sapiens is at an end.

In the Westerly Provinces of the Old World, the hunt is on for the young queen Arabis, and the vile creature that holds her captive.

In the brutal hominid Investiture, revolution has come. The warlord Cunctus, having seized the Vulgar worlds, invites every Prism to pick a side.

In the Firmament, once the kingdom of the Immortal Amaranthine, all ships converge on the foundry of Gliese. The grandest battle in the history of mammalian kind has begun.

Perception, ancient machine spirit, must take back its mortal remains in a contest for the Firmament itself.

Ghaldezuel, now the Grand Marshal of Cunctus’s new empire, must travel to the deepest lagoon in the Investiture, a place where monsters dwell.

Captain Maril, lost among the Hedron Stars, finds himself caught between colossal powers the likes of which he’d never dreamt.

But for Aaron the Long-Life, he who has waited so very, very long for his revenge, things are only getting started . . .

Tom Toner was born in Somerset, England, in 1986. After graduating with a degree in fine art from Loughborough University and the FHSH in Schwäbisch Hall, Germany, he spent some time in Australia teaching life drawing and working in an art gallery near Melbourne. The Tropic of Eternity is the third volume in Toner’s debut trilogy, following The Promise of the Child and The Weight of the World. Toner currently lives in London.

“To call The Promise of the Child one of the most accomplished debuts of 2015 so far is to underestimate its weight—instead, let me moot that it is among the most significant works of science fiction released in recent years.” —Tor.com
An omnibus edition of the final Dread Empire trilogy (*Reap the East Wind*, *An Ill Fate Marshalling*, and *A Path to Coldness of Heart*) from a pioneer of gritty and realistic epic fantasy, Glen Cook.

The Dread Empire spans a continent: from the highest peaks of the Dragon’s Teeth to the endless desert lands of Hammad al Nakir; from besieged Kavelin to mighty Shinshan . . .

The time of the wrath of kings is close at hand. Bragi Ragnarson, now the king of Kavelin, has decided to join forces with Chatelain Mist, the exiled princess of Shinshan looking to usurp her throne. But in the deserts on the outskirts of the empire, a young victim of the Great Eastern Wars becomes the Deliverer of an eons-forgotten god, chosen to lead the legions of the dead.

*Wrath of Kings* collects the final Dread Empire trilogy into a single volume. This epic narrative had been put on hold when the original manuscript to the final volume was stolen. Glen returned to the Dread Empire twenty years later, completely rewriting the concluding novel, *A Path to Coldness of Heart*.

From the author of The Black Company comes an elaborate tale of nation-shattering conflict, maddening magic, strange creatures, and raw, flawed heroes, all shown through the filter of the author’s inimitable war-correspondent prose.

**Glen Cook** is the author of dozens of novels of fantasy and science fiction, including The Black Company series, *The Garrett Files*, and *The Tyranny of the Night*. Cook was born in 1944 in New York City. He attended the Clarion Writers Workshop in 1970, where he met his wife, Carol. He currently makes his home in St. Louis, Missouri.
In the near future, the line between entertainment and brutality has blurred. Mysterious billionaire and entertainment magnate Gideon Gellar is a household name from his questionably legal televised spectacles where death-row inmates fight to the death. But his old shows pale in comparison to the recently announced and eagerly anticipated global event, The Crucible. A gladiatorial tournament open to the general public to enter, the show’s winner is promised unimaginable wealth and fame if they’re able to survive a series of globally broadcast, fight-to-the-death cage matches.

Former black-ops operative Mark Wei wants nothing more than to be left alone with his drink after sacrificing everything—including his family—in America’s covert war against China, a war won largely because of Mark. But there are rumors that Gideon’s background and business dealings involve shady connections to foreign powers, and soon Mark is reluctantly convinced to dust off his training and enter the tournament as an undercover agent. It’s the most dangerous assignment he’s ever been given—racing to expose The Crucible founder’s secrets while navigating the pitfalls of fame from a viral phenomenon where the stakes are literally life and death.

**Paul Tassi** decided after years of consuming science fiction through a steady diet of books, movies, TV shows, and video games to write his own stories in the genre. Now the author of the Earthborn Trilogy from Talos Press, Paul also writes for *Forbes*, and his work has appeared on IGN, the *Daily Dot, Unreality, Men’s Fitness*, and more. He lives with his beautiful and supportive wife in Chicago.
Good and evil team up to bring down corruption in this pulpy mash-up of superheroes and noir detectives.

To some people, Pinnacle City is a glittering metropolis, a symbol of prosperity watched over by the all-star superhero team the Pinnacle City Guardians. But beneath the glitz and glamour is a gritty underbelly, one still feeling the physical and economic damage of the superhero-villain battles of generations past, where the lower class—immigrants, criminals, aliens, sorcerers, and nonhumans alike—jostle and elbow for scraps to scrape by on.

Private investigator Eddie Enriquez is an ex-con and veteran with powers of his own who still bears the scars of his time as a minion for a low-level supervillain. Good work’s been hard to come by until a mysterious woman shows up at his office with a case the police and superheroes are ignoring: the suspicious death of a prominent non-human rights activist.

Meanwhile, superhero Kimberly Kline, a.k.a. Solar Flare, has just hit it big, graduating to the Pinnacle City Guardians. With good looks, incredible superpowers, and a family name that opens doors, the sky is the limit. But in trying to make the world a better place . . . she’ll discover Pinnacle City isn’t as black and white as it once seemed.

From the minds of Matt Carter and Fiona J. R. Titchenell, Pinnacle City is a pulpy, throwback noir of yesteryear, where two people from opposite sides of the track must team up to do good in a world full of bad.

Matt Carter and Fiona J. R. Titchenell are married sci-fi, horror, and YA writers who together have coauthored The Prospero Chronicles series. Matt has also written Almost Infamous: A Supervillain Novel, while Fiona has written Confessions of the Very First Zombie Slayer (That I Know Of). They live in sunny San Gabriel, California, with their pet king snake Mica.
The salaciously pulpy adventures of occult detective James Brimstone continue in the sequel to *Hex-Rated*.

Winter 1970. As rock stars die of excess and revolution fills the air, newly minted private investigator James Brimstone is spending his days wandering the streets of Los Angeles, looking for low-rent cases as far as possible from his last work-for-hire, an unfortunate run-in with the occult on a pornographic film set. But fate has a funny way of slapping Brimstone with the dark hand of magic.

When a deadly attack on a veteran's hall nearly kills his Korean War buddy Cactus, the only clue left behind is a leaf from the Black Lotus, a war drug used in ancient Babylonia . . . that's supposedly been extinct since the pyramids were young.

Between bump-ins with rock star prophets and berserk professional wrestlers, Brimstone races to find out who's behind the supernatural drug turning the City of Angel's citizens into sex- and violence-crazed maniacs, as well as a mysterious creature of smoke and evil stalking the streets of L.A. On the boardwalk between our world and nightmares, Brimstone must face the darkness within himself to see if he, too, will fall victim . . . to the Black Lotus Kiss.

Anna Stephens

DARKSOUL

Evil gods walk the land as armies prepare for war in the thrilling grimdark sequel to the fantasy debut Godblind.

In the besieged city of Rilporin, Commander Durdil Koridam is crowned a reluctant king, and orders that the city’s people must fight to the last rather than surrender to the surrounding armies of the Mireces and their evil Red Gods.

Outside Rilporin, the uneasy truce between King Corvus’s Mireces and the traitorous Prince Rivil’s forces holds, but the two armies are growing desperate to force a breach of the walls before the city’s reinforcements arrive.

Meanwhile, prophet Dom Templeson reaches Rilporin on a mission: the Red Gods have tortured and broken his mind, and he surrenders himself to Corvus, willing to tell him anything to make the pain go away.

Elsewhere, in Yew Cove, only a few survivors remain from a Rank of thousands of Rilporin warriors, but they are determined to reach Rilporin and aid in its defense. Yet only Dom knows the important role one of those survivors, Crys Tailorson, will take on as the events to come unfold. As Crys grows into his position as a leader, that role becomes clearer—and far darker. Will he be willing to pay the price to fulfill his destiny?

Anna Stephens is a member of the Birmingham Writers’ Group, a friendly bunch of geeks with a penchant for Doctor Who bordering on collective obsession. She has a second Dan black belt in Shotokan Karate and is no stranger to being punched in the face, which is more help than you would expect when writing fight scenes. Her first novel, Godblind, was released in 2017.

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**The Swordbearer**

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