

## Roadside Picnic (S F MASTERWORKS)

"It reads like Snow Crash had a dance-off with Gideon the Ninth, in a world where language isn't a virus from outer space, it's a goddamn alien invasion." –Charles Stross In modern day Los Angeles, a shadowy faction led by the Governor of California develops the arcane art of combat linguistics, planting the seeds of a future totalitarian empire in Scotto Moore's Battle of the Linguist Mages. Isobel is the Queen of the medieval rave-themed VR game Sparkle Dungeon. Her prowess in the game makes her an ideal candidate to learn the secrets of "power morphemes"—unnaturally dense units of meaning that warp perception when skilfully pronounced. But Isobel's reputation makes her the target of a strange resistance movement led by spellcasting anarchists, who may be the only thing stopping the cabal from toppling California over the edge of a terrible transformation, with forty million lives at stake. Time is short for Isobel to level up and choose a side—because the cabal has attracted much bigger and weirder enemies than the anarchist resistance, emerging from dark and vicious dimensions of reality and heading straight for planet Earth! At the Publisher's request, this title is being sold without Digital Rights Management Software (DRM) applied.

SHORTLISTED FOR THE MAN BOOKER PRIZE 2011 Snowdrops. That's what the Russians call them - the bodies that float up into the light in the thaw. Drunks, most of them, and homeless people who just give up and lie down into the whiteness, and murder victims hidden in the drifts by their killers. Nick has a confession. When he worked as a high-flying British lawyer in Moscow, he was seduced by Masha, an enigmatic woman who led him through her city: the electric nightclubs and intimate dachas, the human kindnesses and state-wide corruption. Yet as Nick fell for Masha, he found that he fell away from himself; he knew that she was dangerous, but life in Russia was addictive, and it was too easy to bury secrets - and corpses - in the winter snows...

The author of Solaris critiques science fiction in a collection of provocative essays. Celebrated science fiction master Stanislaw Lem turns his always sharp and insightful pen to criticism in this bold and controversial analysis of the genre for which he is most known. In this collection of ten essays—ranging from an introspective examination of his own biographical and literary history to biting scrutiny of fellow authors and their works—Lem takes a keen look at the influence, shortcomings, merit, and importance of science fiction, touching on topics from Philip K. Dick ("a genius among the charlatans") to time travel, cosmology, and Jorge Luis

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Borges. Whether deriding the genre's tendency to adhere to well-worn patterns of adventure or lauding its ability to, when executed correctly, discover ideas that have not been thought of or done before, Lem's quick wit, razor tongue, and impeccable insights make *Microworlds* a master class of scientific and literary analysis from one of the undisputed legends of science fiction. "In a near-future world where tree pollen has made outdoor air unbreathable, a woman's safe but tedious life is thrown into turmoil when she witnesses a murder and her young daughter starts sleep-talking about the killer"--

Earth Abides

Helliconia Spring, Helliconia Summer, and Helliconia Winter

Worlds Apart

The Dead Mountaineer's Inn

The Fifth Head of Cerberus

**The city is winched along tracks through a devastated land full of hostile tribes. Rails must be freshly laid ahead of the city and carefully removed in its wake. Rivers and mountains present nearly insurmountable challenges to the ingenuity of the city's engineers. But if the city does not move, it will fall farther and farther behind the "optimum" into the crushing gravitational field that has transformed life on Earth. The only alternative to progress is death. The secret directorate that governs the city makes sure that its inhabitants know nothing of this. Raised in common in crèches, nurtured on synthetic food, prevented above all from venturing outside the closed circuit of the city, they are carefully sheltered from the dire necessities that have come to define human existence. And yet the city is in crisis. The people are growing restive, the population is dwindling, and the rulers know that, for all their efforts, slowly but surely the city is slipping ever farther behind the optimum. Helward Mann is a member of the city's elite. Better than anyone, he knows how tenuous is the city's continued existence. But the world—he is about to discover—is infinitely stranger than the strange world he believes he knows so well.**

**"SF writing of a rare quality" lifts this collection of stories from the renowned author of *The Hustler* and *The Man Who Fell to Earth* (Time Out). The author of the competitive pool thriller *The Hustler* and the groundbreaking sci-fi novel *The Man Who Fell to Earth*, Walter Tevis was also a master of the short story. His work was published in *Playboy*, *Redbook*, *Cosmopolitan*, and many other magazines. This anthology collects some of his best short work. Full of wit, surprise, dark humor, and deep emotion, these stories pack a punch—and are ideal for fans of his longer work or those looking for an introduction to one of America's most iconic sci-fi writers. "The poetic**

imprints of a fine writer's trail." —The Times (London)

Evgeny Slavin, the first human born on Mars and the first faster-than-light traveler, is propelled one hundred years into the future in company with four futuristic musketeers

There's no doubt about it: Colin Harrison is a master storyteller. Critics and readers love his gripping, dark books. It's hard not to get sucked into his world. Entertainment Weekly calls him the "class act of the urban thriller," Michiko Kakutani of The New York Times lauds him as "a master of mood and atmosphere," and Publishers Weekly crowns that Harrison "writes like an angel." Now, the author of *The Havana Room*, *Afterburn*, and *Manhattan Nocturne* raises the stakes with an electrifying new thriller, *The Finder*. Harrison spins the story of a young, beautiful, secretive Chinese woman, Jin-Li, who gets involved in a brilliant scheme to steal valuable information from corporations in New York City. When the plan is discovered by powerful New Yorkers who stand to lose enormous sums of money, Jin-Li goes on the run. Meanwhile, her former lover, Ray Grant, a man who was out of the country for years but who has recently returned, is caught up in the search for her. Ray has not been forthcoming to Jin-Li about why he left New York or what he was doing overseas, but his training and strengths will be put to the ultimate test against those who are unmerciful in their desire to regain a fortune lost. Ray is going to have to find Jin-Li, and he is going to have to find her fast.

Monday Starts on Saturday

Rosewater

A Novel

The Helliconia Trilogy

Clean Air

*A Hugo Award Finalist: Humanity struggles to understand a killing labyrinth discovered on the Moon in this science fiction adventure about death and rebirth Hugo and Nebula Award-winning author Robert Silverberg credits *Rogue Moon* with containing "the most terrifying pages in any SF novel I have ever read." A monstrous apparatus has been found on the surface of the moon. It devours and destroys in ways so incomprehensible to humans that a new language has to be invented to describe it and a new kind of thinking to understand it. So far, the human guinea pigs sent there in hopes of unraveling the murderous maze have all died terrible deaths. The most recent volunteer survived but is now on suicide watch. The ideal candidate won't go insane even as he feels the end approaching. Al Barker has already stared into the face of death; he can handle it again. But he won't merely endure the trauma of dying. Barker will die over and over—even as his human qualities are preserved on Earth. With its cast of fascinating*

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characters—like brilliant scientist Edward Hawks, who is obsessed with rebirth—Rogue Moon is a rare thriller that doesn't just make you sweat. It makes you think.

*ENTER THE ADMINISTRATION* Peretz spends his days navigating the bureaucracy of the Administration, the institute tasked with governing the Forest below. Except no one ever seems to go there, and his attempts only trap him further within the workings of this strange organisation. *ENTER THE FOREST* Candide cannot remember how he got to the Forest, and he is certain he belongs somewhere else. Determined to escape, he finds that all paths lead him round strange bends and into encounters with bizarre creatures. *NOTHING IS AS IT SEEMS* This classic SF novel sees Boris and Arkady Strugatsky meditate on how little man can understand of the wider world, and in doing so produce one of the great literary works to come out of Soviet Russia.

“An awe-inspiring, helter-skelter journey through mind-blowing SF, western dime novel, noir mystery, and near-future dystopian horror” (Publishers Weekly, starred review). The debut novel from Zack Parsons, editor of the Something Awful website and author of *My Tank Is Fight!*, is a mind-bending journey through time and genres. Beginning in 1874, with a blood-soaked western story of revenge, *Liminal States* follows a trio of characters through a 1950s noir detective story and twenty-first-century sci-fi horror. Their paths are tragically intertwined—and their choices have far-reaching consequences for the course of American history. It's a remarkable mashup that “somehow manages to become a cohesive, thought-provoking whole . . . There's no way a novel with this many moving parts should hold together, but it does, and even readers initially daunted by the jumble will soon be glad to go wherever Parsons takes them” (Publishers Weekly, starred review). “Parsons's debut is a tour-de-force, a justifiably showy demonstration of the author's chameleon-like ability to write in several genres all at once, and it emerges as one of the scariest and bleakest tales I can remember.” —Cory Doctorow

First published in 1972, this SF masterpiece has been out of print for most of a decade. Now, this “subtle, ingenious, and poetic book” (Ursula Le Guin) entertains a new generation of readers with the story of two far-flung sister planets and a man's quest to find remnants of a lost.

*Alien Life Imagined*

*Inverted World*

*Narratology of Science Fiction*

*Noon, 22nd Century*

*Seven Articles on the Soviet Novel that inspired the film "Stalker"*

When Maxim Kammerer, a young space explorer from twenty-second-century Earth, crash-lands on an uncharted world, he thinks of himself as a latter-day Robinson Crusoe. Eager to establish first contact with the planet's humanlike inhabitants, he finds himself

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increasingly entangled in their primitive way of life. After his experiences in their nightmarish military, criminal justice, and mental health systems, Maxim begins to realize that his sojourn on this radioactive and war-scarred world will not be a walk in the park. The Inhabited Island is one of the Strugatsky brothers' most popular and acclaimed novels, yet the only previous English-language edition (Prisoners of Power) was based on a version heavily censored by Soviet authorities. Now, in a sparkling new edition by award-winning translator Andrew Bromfield, this landmark novel can be newly appreciated by both longtime Strugatsky fans and new explorers of the Russian science fiction masters' astonishingly rich body of work.

When young programmer Aleksandr Ivanovich Privalov picks up two hitchhikers while driving in Karelia, he is drawn into the mysterious world of the Scientific Research Institute of Sorcery and Wizardry, where research into magic is serious business. Where science, sorcery and socialism meet, can chaos be far behind?

In its first-ever unexpurgated edition, a sci-fi landmark that's a comic and suspenseful tour-de-force, and puts distraction in a whole new light: It's not you, it's the universe! Boris and Arkady Strugatsky were the greatest science fiction writers of the Soviet era: their books were intellectually provocative and riotously funny, full of boldly imagined scenarios and veiled—but clear—social criticism. Which may be why *Definitely Maybe* has never before been available in an uncensored edition, let alone in English. It tells the story of astrophysicist Dmitri Malianov, who has sent his wife and son off to her mother's house in Odessa so that he can work, free from distractions, on the project he's sure will win him the Nobel Prize. But he'd have an easier time making progress if he wasn't being interrupted all the time: First, it's the unexpected delivery of a crate of vodka and caviar. Then a beautiful young woman in an unnervingly short skirt shows up at his door. Then several of his friends—also scientists—drop by, saying they all felt they were on the verge of a major discovery when they got . . . distracted . . . Is there an ominous force that doesn't want knowledge to progress? Or could it be something more . . . natural? In this nail-bitingly suspenseful book, the Strugatsky brothers bravely and brilliantly question authority: an authority that starts with crates

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of vodka, but has lightning bolts in store for humans who refuse to be cowed. From the Trade Paperback edition.

A collection of essays and a book review relating to Roadside Picnic, the Soviet science fiction novel by Arkady and Boris Strugatsky. Topics include: \*Close reading of the novel to unlock its mysteries. \*Translation triumphs and errors. \*A British novel that had a profound influence on Roadside Picnic. \*The critical reception of Roadside Picnic in the West. \*The original plan for Roadside Picnic and the terrible compromise that came.

James Beard's Menus for Entertaining

The Inhabited Island

One More Last Rite for the Detective Genre

Science Fiction After 1900

Prisoners of Power

*Science fiction-roman.*

*Years after Ed Chianese's fateful trip into the Kefahuchi Tract, the tract has begun to expand and change in ways we never could have predicted—and, even more terrifying, parts of it have actually begun to fall to Earth, transforming the landscapes they encounter. Not far from Moneytown, in a neighborhood of underground clubs, body-modification chop shops, adolescent contract killers, and sexy streetwalking Monas, you'll find the Saudade Event Site: a zone of strange geography, twisted physics, and frightening psychic onslaughts—not to mention the black and white cats that come pouring out at irregular intervals. Vic Serotonin is a "travel agent" into and out of Saudade. His latest client is a woman who's nearly as unpredictable as the site itself—and maybe just as dangerous. She wants a tour just as a troubling new class of biological artifacts are leaving the site—living algorithms that are transforming the world outside in inexplicable and unsettling ways. Shadowed by a metaphysically inclined detective determined to shut his illegal operation down, Vic must make sense of a universe rapidly veering toward a virulent and viral form of chaos...and a humanity almost lost.*

*When Maxim, a space explorer from Earth, accidentally discovers a planet inhabited by humanoids who destroy his spaceship, he thinks of himself as a modern-day Robinson*

*Crusoe. But after his experiences in the planet's nightmarish military and mental health facilities, he begins to realize that his sojourn on this radioactive and war-scarred world will not be a walk in the park. The Inhabited Island is one of the Strugatsky brothers' most popular and acclaimed novels, yet the only previous English-language edition was based on a heavily censored version. Now, in a sparkling new translation by award-winning translator Andrew Bromfield, this landmark novel can be newly appreciated by both longtime Strugatsky fans and new explorers of the Russian science fiction masters' astonishingly rich oeuvre.*

*Compelling account of how ideas of alien life have evolved for general readers, amateur astronomers and undergraduate students studying astrobiology.*

*Hard To Be A God*

*A Century of Russian and Soviet Science Fiction*

*SHORTLISTED FOR THE MAN BOOKER PRIZE 2011*

*The Second Marxian Invasion*

*Hard to Be a God*

Roadside Picnic Hachette UK

Arkady and Boris Strugatsky are widely known as the greatest Russian writers of science fiction, and their 1964 novel *Hard to Be a God* is considered one of the greatest of their works. It tells the story of Don Rumata, who is sent from Earth to the medieval kingdom of Arkanar with instructions to observe and to influence, but never to directly interfere.

Masquerading as an arrogant nobleman, a dueler and a brawler, Don Rumata is never defeated but can never kill. With his doubt and compassion, and his deep love for a local girl named Kira, Rumata wants to save the kingdom from the machinations of Don Reba, the First Minister to the king. But given his orders, what role can he play? *Hard to Be a God* has inspired a computer role-playing game and two movies, including Aleksei German's long-awaited swan song. Yet until now the only English version (out of print for over thirty years) was based on a German translation, and was full of errors, infelicities, and misunderstandings. This new edition—translated by Olena Bormashenko, whose translation of the authors' *Roadside Picnic* has received widespread acclaim, and supplemented with a new foreword by Hari Kunzru and an afterword by Boris Strugatsky, both of which supply much-needed context—reintroduces one of the most profound Soviet-era novels to an eager audience.

Anton is an undercover operative from future Earth, who travels to an alien world whose culture has not progressed beyond the Middle Ages. Although in possession of far more advanced knowledge than the society around him, he is forbidden to interfere with the natural progress of history. His place is to observe rather than interfere - but can he

remain aloof in the face of so much cruelty and injustice ...?

It is a mysterious city whose sun is switched on in the morning and switched off at night, bordered by an abyss on one side and an impossibly high wall on the other. Its inhabitants are people who were plucked from twentieth-century history at various times and places and left to govern themselves, advised by Mentors whose purpose seems inscrutable. This is life in the Experiment. Andrei Voronin, a young astronomer plucked from Leningrad in the 1950s, is a die-hard believer in the Experiment, even though his first job in the city is as a garbage collector. As increasingly nightmarish scenarios begin to affect the city, he rises through the political hierarchy, with devastating effect.

Battle of the Linguist Mages

The Finder

From the Steam Man to the Stars

One Billion Years to the End of the World

Communicating the Science and Culture of Astrobiology

*"[Malmgren] succeeds in formulating a typology of science fiction that will become a standard reference for some years to come." –Choice "... the most intelligently organized and effectively argued general study of SF that I have ever read." –Rob Latham, SFRA Review "... required reading for its evenhanded overview of so much of the previous critical/theoretical material devoted to science fiction." –American Book Review*

*Worlds Apart provides a comprehensive theoretical model for science fiction by examining the worlds of science fiction and the discourse which inscribes them. Malmgren identifies the basic science fiction types, including alien encounters, alternate societies and worlds, and fantasy, and examines the role of the reader in concretizing and interpreting these science fiction worlds.*

*Red Schuhart is a stalker, one of those strange misfits who are compelled by some unknown force to venture illegally into the Zone and, in spite of the extreme danger, collect the mysterious artefacts that the alien visitors left scattered around. His life is dominated by the Zone and the thriving black market in the alien products. Even the nature of his daughter has been determined by the Zone. And it is for her that Red makes his last, tragic foray into the hazardous and hostile depths.*

*'A beautiful book' Ursula K. Le Guin This mordantly funny and provocative tale from Soviet Russia's leading science fiction writers is the story of astrophysicist Dmitri*

*Malianov. As he reaches a major breakthrough, he finds himself plagued by interruptions, from a mysterious crate of vodka to a glamorous woman on his doorstep. Is the Universe trying to tell him something? 'On putting down one of their books, you feel a cold breeze still lifting the hairs on the back of your neck' The New York Times*

*From a Science Fiction Grand Master: The sweeping epic of a planet veering from one extreme atmosphere to another—and the humans trying to survive on it. Helliconia Spring introduces us to a tumultuous world that follows an eccentric orbit around a double-star system—and the satellite from Earth secretly monitoring it. Hugo and Nebula Award-winning author Brian W. Aldiss then explores the social and religious divisions keeping the planet's population in conflict even as they're devastated by plague in Helliconia Summer, and concludes the trilogy with Helliconia Winter, which recounts both the threat of a looming, frigid age of decay and the hope of a new future. The Helliconia Trilogy is both a riveting story and a thought-provoking examination of how our destinies are shaped by the environment around us. Aldiss's study of fields from astronomy to climatology to geobiology endow all three novels with rich details of the planet Helliconia. This riveting, century-spanning saga is a timely exploration of what climate change can mean for our own planet. "Brian Aldiss's towering imagination places his Helliconia Trilogy far above standard science fiction" (Daily Mail).*

*Downward to the Earth*

*Microworlds*

*Roadside Picnic*

*The Doomed City*

*Liminal States*

**Stephen W. Potts presents Arkady and Boris Strugatsky in terms of their dual contributions to the SF genre and to modern Russian literature, placing their work in both its historical and literary context.**

**For over a century, most of the science fiction produced by the world's largest country has been beyond the reach of Western readers. This new collection aims to change that, bringing a large body of influential works into the English orbit. A scientist keeps a severed head alive, and the head lives to tell the tale... An explorer experiences life on the moon, in a story written six decades before the first moon landing... Electrical appliances**

**respond to human anxieties and threaten to crash the electrical grid... Archaeologists discover strange powers emanating from a Central Asian excavation site... A teleporting experiment goes awry, leaving a subject to cope with a bizarre sensory swap... A boy discovers the explosive truth of his father's "antiseptic" work, stamping out dissent on distant worlds... The last 100 years in Russia have seen an astonishing diversity and depth of literary works in the science fiction genre, by authors with a dizzying array of styles and subject matter. This volume brings together 18 such works, translated into English for the first time, spanning from path-breaking, pre-revolutionary works of the 1890s, through the difficult Stalinist era, to post-Soviet stories published in the 1980s and 1990s.**

**First published in 2003. Routledge is an imprint of Taylor & Francis, an informa company.**

**Long ago the world fell into twilight, when the great empires of old consumed each other in sorcerous cataclysms. In the south the Star Towers fell, swallowed by the sea, while the black glaciers descended upon the northern holdfasts, entombing the cities of Min-Ceruth in ice and sorcery. Then from the ancient empire of Menekar the paladins of Ama came, putting every surviving sorcerer to the sword and cleansing their taint from the land for the radiant glory of their lord. The pulse of magic slowed, fading like the heartbeat of a dying man. But after a thousand years it has begun to quicken again. In a small fishing village a boy with strange powers comes of age . . . A young queen rises in the west, fanning the long-smoldering embers of magic into a blaze once more . . . Something of great importance is stolen - or freed - from the mysterious Empire of Swords and Flowers . . . And the immortals who survived the ancient cataclysms bestir themselves, casting about for why the world is suddenly changing . . .**

**Roadside Picnic Revisited**

**Red Star Tales**

**Far from Home**

**Three Novellas**

**The Fiction of the Strugatsky Brothers**

**“Vividly realized and inventive . . . A brooding masterpiece of social science fiction” from the Hugo and Nebula Award-winning author (Science Fiction and Other Suspect Ruminations). After eight years away from the planet known as Holman’s World, Edmund Gunderson has returned. Before, as the assistant station manager, he helped the Company exploit the bustling colonial outpost for Earth’s gain—mining its riches and putting its native species to work. Now, the planet has been given back to its inhabitants: the intelligent, elephant-like beings known as the nildoror, who peacefully coexist with carnivorous bipeds known as the sulidoror. And Edmund Gunderson has come back to relive his past and meet up with old acquaintances. Or so he says . . . What Gunderson really wants is to witness the rebirth of the nildoror,**

*a sacred ceremony performed in the northern mist country. Given permission from the elders, he travels deeper into the exotic world than he has ever gone before, through tropical jungles teeming with alien creatures. It is a journey that will take Gunderson deep within himself, where his own failings and fears reside, and bring him face to face with the planet's greatest mysteries—and the evil within men's souls . . . “Brilliantly imagined . . . One of the finest writers ever to work in science fiction.” —The Philadelphia Inquirer on Tom O'Bedlam “Like all truly superior sci-fi, Downward to the Earth is the sort of novel that just bursts with some imaginative idea or unexpected touch on every single page. It is a terrific feat of the imagination, wonderfully well written by Silverberg, and with fascinating characters, both alien and human.”*

—Fantasy Literature

*A hilarious spoof on the classic country-house murder mystery, from the Russian masters of sci-fi—never before translated When Inspector Peter Glebsky arrives at the remote ski chalet on vacation, the last thing he intends to do is get involved in any police work. He's there to ski, drink brandy, and loaf around in blissful solitude. But he hadn't counted on the other vacationers, an eccentric bunch including a famous hypnotist, a physicist with a penchant for gymnastic feats, a sulky teenager of indeterminate gender, and the mysterious Mr. and Mrs. Moses. And as the chalet fills up, strange things start happening—things that seem to indicate the presence of another, unseen guest. Is there a ghost on the premises? A prankster? Something more sinister? And then an avalanche blocks the mountain pass, and they're stuck. Which is just about when they find the corpse. Meaning that Glebsky's vacation is over and he's embarked on the most unusual investigation he's ever been involved with. In fact, the further he looks into it, the more Glebsky realizes that the victim may not even be human. In this late novel from the legendary Russian sci-fi duo—here in its first-ever English translation—the Strugatskys gleefully upend the plot of many a Hercule Poirot mystery—and the result is much funnier, and much stranger, than anything Agatha Christie ever wrote.*

*Culinary master James Beard's ultimate guide to entertaining is a must for any host or hostess Expert chef James Beard was passionate about food and even more passionate about entertaining. Beard's cookbooks, with recipes that have delighted for decades—such as duck glazed with honey and curry, and zucchini frittata—have long been a staple in the culinary libraries of home cooks. This thorough guide combines Beard's delicious menus with his expertise on hosting any event from an intimate dinner party to a much larger gathering. The indispensable tips and advice in James Beard's Menus for Entertaining make anything from a lavish champagne breakfast to a festive beach picnic easy for the host and unforgettable for the guests. In addition to his scrumptious tried-and-true recipes, Beard also offers guidance on pairing the perfect wines, liqueurs, and aperitifs to round out your meal. Featuring more than 100 menus, 600 dishes, and Beard's wisdom on everything from planning to plating, Menus for Entertaining will make your next event a delectable success.*

*Tade Thompson's Rosewater is the start of an award-winning, cutting edge trilogy set in Nigeria, by one of science*

*fiction's most engaging new voices. \*Arthur C. Clarke Award for Best Science Fiction Novel, winner\*Nommo Award for Best Speculative Fiction Novel, winner* *Rosewater is a town on the edge. A community formed around the edges of a mysterious alien biodome, its residents comprise the hopeful, the hungry and the helpless - people eager for a glimpse inside the dome or a taste of its rumored healing powers. Kaaro is a government agent with a criminal past. He has seen inside the biodome, and doesn't care to again -- but when something begins killing off others like himself, Kaaro must defy his masters to search for an answer, facing his dark history and coming to a realization about a horrifying future.*

*The Wormwood Trilogy*  
*Rosewater*  
*The Rosewater Insurrection*

*World Soul*

*Nova Swing*

*The Snail on the Slope*

*The Crimson Queen*

*The Sea Demons*