

Flowertown Sg Redling

Loul Pell is a middle class government functionary resigned to the loss of his ambitious dreams. Meg Dupris is a traveler from a distant galaxy, haunted by tragedy and committed to a lifelong journey of discovery. Their chance meeting will be the first step toward life-changing history: contact with an extraterrestrial race.

THE ONLY CROP LEFT IS HUMAN... Genetic modification has rendered Earth's croplands barren. Some survivors turned to Science. Some turned to God. Some turned to the Unthinkable. Dr. Tula Macoby is a proud member of the Haldanian Protectorate, a compound built by those who believe humanity must embrace the same technology that caused the apocalypse. Bio-engineered with photosynthetic skin, their mission is to eliminate the cannibalism ruling the world outside the safety of its walls, one conversion at a time. When a prisoner who is obviously not a cannibal arrives in Tula's lab speaking a language she's never heard before, she's intrigued. His gentle but firm refusal to be genetically modified makes her question for the first time the Protectorate's policy of euthanizing anyone who won't convert. But the law is clear; savages who refuse the modification must be exterminated. With time running out, will Tula risk everything to save the stranger from execution? (This book contains adult situations: sex, violence, drug references, and murder. You've been warned.) Eerily plausible, *Botanicaust* is a must read for any lover of science fiction, dystopia, and post-apocalyptic fiction. Awarded the Awesome Indies Seal of Approval in 2012

The citizens of San Antonio, Texas are threatened with extermination by a terrifying outbreak of the flu. Quarantined by the military to contain the virus, the city is in a desperate

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struggle to survive. Inside the quarantine walls, Detective Lily Harris is working burial statistics duty at the Scar, San Antonio's mass graveyard, when she finds a murder victim hidden amongst the plague dead. But Lily's investigation into the young woman's death soon takes a frightening turn as yet another strain of the deadly flu virus surfaces, and now Lily finds herself caught up in a conspiracy orchestrated by a corrupt local government intent on hiding the news from the world and fighting a population threatening to boil over into revolt. As the city erupts in violence, Lily is forced to do the unthinkable. With the clock ticking toward annihilation, Lily must lead her family through the quarantine walls and escape with news that just might save us all.

Yerusalem City is dying, and the king's fear of invasion renders him blind to the starvation and plague ravaging his people. Only Yirmiyahu the prophet can see the truth only he can hear God weeping behind her veil in the temple. He knows the locked citygates will keep no one out they will only keep the dead in. Fearful that God has abandoned her city, Yirmiyahu wrestles with the hunger of the living and the hunger of the dead as he struggles to hold onto his last vestige of hope.

Torturing and murdering beautiful young women in New York City... it's easy to remain anonymous. And there's another victim in the basement right now... Detectives Turner and Marcinko are trying to narrow their list of suspects. Only time will tell if screenwriter wannabe Marvin Waller is their man-- and time is one thing they do not have...

National Book Award finalist Julie Anne Peters delivers a moving, modern classic love story with a coming out theme -- now with a fresh, redesigned cover! With a steady boyfriend, the position of Student Council President, and a chance to go to an Ivy League college, high school life is just fine for Holland Jaeger. At least, it seems to be. But when Cece

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Goddard comes to school, everything changes. Cece and Holland have undeniable feelings for each other, but how will others react to their developing relationship? This moving love story between two girls is for fans of Nancy Garden's classic young adult coming out novel, *Annie on My Mind*. With her characteristic humor and breezy style, Peters has captured the compelling emotions of young love.

A provocative and exhilarating tale of teen rebellion against global corporations from the New York Times bestselling author of *Little Brother*. Not far in the future... In the twenty-first century, it's not just capital that's globalized: labour is too. Workers in special economic zones are trapped in lives of poverty with no trade unions to represent their rights. But a group of teenagers from across the world are set to fight this injustice using the most surprising of tools - their online video games. In Industrial South China Matthew and his friends labour day and night as gold-farmers, amassing virtual wealth that's sold on to rich Western players, while in the slums of Mumbai 'General Robotwallah' Mala marshalls her team of online thugs on behalf of the local gang-boss, who in turn works for the game-owners. They're all being exploited, as their friend Wei-Dong, all the way over in LA, knows, but can do little about. Until they begin to realize that their similarities outweigh their differences, and agree to work together to claim their rights to fair working conditions. Under the noses of the ruling elites in China and the rest of Asia, they fight their bosses, the owners of the games and rich speculators, outsmarting them all with their gaming skills. But soon the battle will spill over from the virtual world to the real one, leaving Mala, Matthew and even Wei-Dong fighting not just for their rights, but for their lives...

Olivia "Livvie" Owen feels things differently than her parents and two sisters. Livvie is autistic. Her family has had to move repeatedly because of her outbursts. When they again face

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eviction, Livvie is convinced she has a way to get back to a house where they were all happy, once. The problem is, Livvie burned down that house. But she's not giving up. Here is her story.

Seven years ago, a chemical spill brought the U.S. Army to rural Penn County, Iowa, where soldiers established a long-term, medically maintained quarantine. Officially, it's called the PennCo Containment Area. But to the people trapped inside, their bodies tainted with chemicals that give off a sweet smell, it's known simply as Flowertown. The quarantine was supposed to save their lives, but many of the survivors have grown suspicious of the government's real motives. But not Ellie Cauley--her rage long ago burned down to hard, cynical pessimism. When a series of deadly events forces Ellie out of her apathy, she must prepare to face an enemy powerful enough to unleash her greatest nightmare.

"Something is happening, Cephas, and it will be like sword and like fire and like bread in the mouths of a thousand, thousand children, and nothing will ever, ever be the same way again." First-century Israel. A man wanders out of the desert one day and finds a village in ruins after a night of the walking dead. The survivors have thrown the snarling corpses into the Sea of Galilee, only to starve as the ghoulish sea yields no fish. Will the stranger's coming bring back the fish, or the hungry dead? In this

reimagining of the opening chapters of the book of Mark, an ancient story is made dangerous and raw again... "Stant Litore has been doing fascinating phantasmagorical things with zombies in biblical times." - Jeff Vandermeer, author of "Annihilation" "Intensely troubling and sharply beautiful. I highly anticipate the opportunity to reread it." - Timothy Widman, "Wandering Paths" "Nothing about this novel was phoned-in. Even parts of the story that we already knew by heart were revealed brilliantly with the gentle hand of a master surgeon. And Litore told the story his way. I found it refreshing, respectful, and loving." - James Garcia, Jr., author of "Seeing Ghosts"

Lucy Hall arrives in the Seychelles determined to leave her worries behind. The tropical paradise looks sun-soaked and picture-perfect--but as Lucy soon discovers, appearances can be very deceptive. A deadly secret lurks in the island's history, buried deep but not forgotten. And it is about to come to light. As black clouds begin to gather over what promised to be a relaxing family break, Lucy realises that her father stands in the eye of the coming storm. A shadow from his past is threatening to destroy all that he holds dear--including the lives of his loved ones. A dark truth is about to explode into their lives, and that truth is going to hit them right between the eyes.

What if when you died, no one would ever know you

were all that stood between man and the enemy?When Jonathan Tibbs awakes in a puddle of his own blood, there isn't a scratch on him to explain it. In the weeks to follow, he comes to find he's been drafted for a war with a violent otherworldly species. A war that only he can remember. Now, the man Jonathan imagined himself becoming is no longer the man who can endure his future. The first installment in this science fiction action adventure series, *The Never Hero* is a gritty and honest look at the psychological journey of a man forced to forge himself into a weapon. Abandoned with little guidance, and at the mercy of a bargain struck far outside his reach, Jonathan races to unlock the means to surmount the odds, and understand the mystery behind a conflict raging outside of time and memory. In the end, the real question is what Jonathan is willing to become to save a planet that will never see his sacrifice.

First comes the red rain: a strange, scarlet downpour from a cloudless sky that spreads across cities, nations, and the entire globe. In a matter of panicked hours, every living thing on earth succumbs to swift, bloody death. With only wits, weapons, and a bicycle, Emily must undertake a grueling journey across a country that's turning increasingly alien. For though she fears she's been left to inherit the earth, the truth is far more terrifying than a lifetime of solitude.

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It's been thirty years since the terrifying abduction of twin sisters Rebecca and Molly Underhill by a deranged man who lived in a cabin behind their house. Fearful of retribution against their family, the girls kept the incident secret. Rebecca, now a painter and art teacher, suddenly begins getting mysterious text messages. Is Molly--long lost to cancer--trying to communicate? It couldn't be their attacker from so many years ago; he was imprisoned for a similar crime at about that same time. Surely he'd still be in jail or dead by now--wouldn't he? When one of Rebecca's art students--an autistic savant--gives her a series of paintings, Rebecca realizes the paintings' scenes match the nightmares she's had every night since the horrific ordeal three decades earlier.

Escape into a pulse-pounding story that poses the question: What if you were forced to relive the most horrifying moment of your life?

"When you see another's face -- the face of a child, or of someone hungry or hurt, someone pleading for your love -- their eyes look back. You look at them. They look at you. Only the dead don't look back." It is 1160 BC. For years, the prophet Devora has blamed other tribes for the hunger of the dead and the gruesome death of her mother. But this day will bring her both tidings of a swarm of the dead greater than any she has ever known and a supplicant who will shatter every hard shell she has formed around her heart: Hurriya, who has carried her infant across

the length of ancient Israel in search of a miraculous cure. Hurriya, a refugee from the tribes Devora has hated. Hurriya, who is receiving terrifying visions of the future-like Devora's own. In the nights to come, all strangers in the land must stand together if they are to survive. "To say I loved this book would be an understatement. I could not put it down." - "The Seattle Post-Intelligencer" "Beyond the rich historical background and the desperate fight for survival, Strangers in the Land is a story about otherness, what it means to be a 'stranger' ... Far from being 'just another zombie book', it is a remarkably clear look at what it means to impose a system of inequality among a culture." - "Examiner.com" "Stant rebuilds the zombie mythology from the ground up." - Rob Kroese, author of "Mercury Falls" and "Schrodinger's Gat"

How do things work? Hmmm. Let me think. That's How! Christoph Niemann invites you to look below the surface in this visual exploration of the way things work. Turns out there is more to it than meets the eye!

A novel of slow burn horror. Carole knows there can be no tie between her autistic daughter and the strange events in Port Massasauga. It's not logical. It's not possible. The Ceiling Man has picked up other watchers in his travels, but they all dismissed him as a nightmare. The girl is different. She knows he's real. Teenage Abby is an innocent.

The stranger only she sees and hears introduces her to evil. When Carole falls under the stranger's sway, Abby must solve the puzzle of The Ceiling Man and save them both.

Working the Homicide squad, Alexis Bianco believes she's seen every way a life can be taken. Then she meets the mysterious Lola and finds out she's wrong. More weapon than woman, Lola pursues a predator with a method of murder like no other. The Tormenta. If you think you've never encountered Tormenta, think again. You're friends with one.

Have worked for one. Maybe even fallen in love with one. They walk amongst us—looking like us, talking like us. Coercing our subconscious with their actions. Like the long-legged beauty who seduces the goofy geek only to break his heart, causing him to break his own neck in a noose. Or the rock star whose every song celebrates self-harm, inspiring his devoted fans to press knives to their own throats.

The pusher who urges the addict toward one more hit, bringing him a high from which he'll never come down. The tyrannical boss, crushing an assistant's spirit until a bridge jump brings her low. We call it a suicide. Tormenta call it a score, their demonic powers allowing them to siphon off the unspent life span of those who harm themselves. To Bianco, being a cop is about right and wrong. Working with Lola is about this world and the next . . . and maybe the one after that. Because everything is about to

change. The coming of a mighty Tormenta is prophesied, a dark messiah known as the Mosca. To stop him, Bianco and Lola must fight their way through a cryptic web of secret societies and powerful legends and crack an ancient code that holds the only answer to the Mosca's defeat. If this miscreant rises before they can unmask him, darkness will reign and mankind will fall in a storm of suicides. Nobody's safe. Everyone's a threat. ***

TORMENTA: THE FACTS Walking amongst us—looking, sounding, and acting just like us—is a type of demon called Tormenta. And, as demons go, they are particularly . . . fiendish. *** A hand locked hard around her neck and the muzzle of her own Magnum, impossibly pulled from its holster, twitched an inch from her chin. “Do I have your attention, Detective?” Alexis Bianco found herself staring at a swath of cropped blond hair, the only feature of her assailant visible in the darkness. She mustered a nod. “Then listen good.” Lola's voice was no more than a whisper but it seemed twisted tight, sinking like a needle into her ear. “Humans are born with a predetermined life span, an allotted number of years to live. Some consume their spans and pass away. Some have their spans prematurely snatched from them by murder or mishap. But some surrender their lives by choice. Humans call it suicide. Tormenta call it opportunity. From their method comes their name. They torment their human prey into giving up their

lives.” Bianco swallowed, attempted to speak, but no words came. She licked her lips, easing a path, and tried again. “You—you say these Tormenta walk amongst us . . . in plain sight.” “They are everywhere.” “I’ve never seen one.” “Weren’t you listening?”

Winner of the Nebula Award: A boy and his telepathic dog fight to survive in a war-torn, postapocalyptic world in this hard-hitting science fiction novella. In an alternate world in which John F. Kennedy survived and scientific breakthroughs in animal research and telepathy allow for advanced communication with animal companions, fifteen-year-old Vic and his telepathic dog, Blood, scavenge the wastelands of a war-torn United States, survivors of a nuclear World War III between the Americans and the Soviets. While Blood guides Vic toward women—to be used for sex—Vic ensures that Blood has food, but the symbiotic relationship is put at risk when the pair meets Quilla June Holmes, who lures the boy to an underground civilization. A piece of shocking, dystopic science fiction, *A Boy and His Dog* questions the boundaries and nature of love while crafting a vision of a dark future guaranteed to leave chills. Also included here is “Ahbhu: The Passing of One Man’s Inspiration and Best Friend,” a personal essay by author Harlan Ellison, which lovingly recounts the life of his canine companion, Ahbhu, the true-life basis for Blood. Ellison recalls

rescuing Ahbhu from the West Los Angeles Animal Shelter and gives a brief chronicle of life with his furry friend, whom he stresses was both “a person” and “impossible to anthropomorphize.” The nostalgic in memoriam frames the author’s relationship with animals while casting a personal light on the inspiration for the novella with which it is paired. Winner of the Nebula Award for Best Novella and a Hugo Award finalist, *A Boy and His Dog* was adapted into a cult classic film and fully solidifies Ellison as a master of his craft. This volume combines a dark, dystopian future of animal telepathy, sex, and postapocalyptic underworlds with a real-life account of the author’s muse for the feisty but loyal Blood. Indispensable reading material for any fan of Ellison or dark science fiction, animal lovers will also delight over the relationship between Vic and Blood.

When Private Matt Duffy wakes up in an army hospital in Iraq, he's honored with a Purple Heart. But he doesn't feel like a hero. There's a memory that haunts him: an image of a young Iraqi boy as a bullet hits his chest. Matt can't shake the feeling that he was somehow involved in his death. But because of a head injury he sustained just moments after the boy was shot, Matt can't quite put all the pieces together. Eventually Matt is sent back into combat with his squad—Justin, Wolf, and Charlene—the soldiers who have become his family during his time

in Iraq. He just wants to go back to being the soldier he once was. But he sees potential threats everywhere and lives in fear of not being able to pull the trigger when the time comes. In combat there is no black-and-white, and Matt soon discovers that the notion of who is guilty is very complicated indeed. National Book Award Finalist Patricia McCormick has written a visceral and compelling portrait of life in a war zone, where loyalty is valued above all, and death is terrifyingly commonplace.

He had the time of his life. Then it turned into a nightmare. Davis Briggs, a kind-hearted family man, travels to LA to promote a new business. A slick, charming stranger asks Davis one simple question: "Are you ready to have the time of your life?" Davis wakes up the next morning with no memory and caught in the stranger's web.

Accompanied by his childhood friend Bobby, Jimmy sets out to fulfill his dying father's request for a Mexican prostitute, but granting the request puts them at odds with members of the underworld residing in the border towns of Calexico and Mexicali.

"The ethics in a world of blood are gray--and an underground strata of blood magicians has been engineering disasters for centuries in order to acquire enough fuel for their spells. They are not good people. Some practitioners, however, use the Words and a swipe of the blade to cast simpler

spells, such as Charms and Cantrips to gas up one dollar bills so they appear to be twenty dollar bills. Lem Vonnegan and his sidekick Mags fall into this level of mage, hustlers and con men all. Lem tries to be ethical by using only his own blood, by not using Bleeders or "volunteers." But it makes life hard. Soon they might have to get honest work. When the pair encounters a girl who's been kidnapped and marked up with magic runes for a ritual spell, it's clear they're in over their heads. Turning to Lem's estranged master for help, they are told that not only is the girl's life all but forfeit, but that the world's preeminent mage, Mika Renar, has earth-shattering plans for her-- and Lem just got in the way. With the fate of the world on the line, and Lem both spooked and intrigued by the mysterious girl, the other nominates him to become the huckleberry who'll take down Renar. But even if he, Mags, and the simpletons who follow him prevail, they're dealing with the kind of power that doesn't understand defeat, or mercy."--Amazon.com

Daniel Suarez's New York Times bestselling debut high-tech thriller is "so frightening even the government has taken note" (Entertainment Weekly). Daemons: computer programs that silently run in the background, waiting for a specific event or time to execute. They power almost every service. They make our networked world possible. But they also make it vulnerable... When the obituary of

legendary computer game architect Matthew Sobol appears online, a previously dormant daemon activates, initiating a chain of events that begins to unravel our interconnected world. This daemon reads news headlines, recruits human followers, and orders assassinations. With Sobol's secrets buried with him, and as new layers of his daemon are unleashed, it's up to Detective Peter Sebeck to stop a self-replicating virtual killer before it achieves its ultimate purpose—one that goes far beyond anything Sebeck could have imagined...

"Dani, a data analyst with an elite security firm, possesses the unnerving ability to read people by the trash they leave behind. Receipts, parking tickets, the detritus of daily life--if you leave it behind, she will figure you out. Her latest case involves high-tech industrial espionage at a corporation with ties to the military ... When a team of assassins sweeps through the firm, stealing all files and killing her coworkers, Dani narrowly escapes"--Page 4 of cover.

Human sexual nature today experiences many unanswered questions. Why does woman respond more slowly than man in arousal? What is the significance of the human orgasm? Why does sexual experience so often fail to form a lasting relationship? When is the most vulnerable time for a relationship in the process of formation? These and other questions are supported to find answers in our

evolutional history.

'One of the boldest thriller writers working today'

TESS GERRITSEN 'Her characters, plot, and

pacing are unrivalled' MICHAEL CONNELLY

From the hallucinatory noir of 'Go Deep' to the twists of 'Necessary Women' and 'Remmy Rothstein Toes the Line,' this collection showcases the Sunday Times No. 1 bestselling author's dark humour, limitless imagination, and masterly command of voice and character. GO DEEP The arrangement is simple: Charlie picks up a suit from the dry cleaner's. In the suit pocket is the name of a very important man. The next day, that man walks into the dealership, drives out in a new car, and Charlie gets a fat envelope full of cash. Everyone's happy. No one gets hurt. So long as Charlie doesn't cross his business partner. But with one twist of a knife, the unthinkable happens. And suddenly Charlie is in deeper trouble than he could have possibly imagined. NECESSARY WOMEN In a border town between Georgia and Alabama, in a three-room house made of cement block, a fourteen-year-old girl watches her mother die. Now, her father tells her, she's the woman of the house, and she must do all the necessary things that a woman must do. But there's a lot more to being a woman than fixing dinner and doing the wash. She won't end up like her mother - and she'll do anything to prove it. REMMY ROTHSTEIN TOES

THE LINE As an intrepid adjudicator of World Records, Mindy Patel has met lots of strange people in lots of strange places. But none stranger than the Swampers of the Georgia bayou. Mindy has braved the oppressive August heat in search of Remy Rothstein'. If the photos are indeed accurate, she might be about to certify Remy as the World Record Holder for Longest Tongue in the World . . . and maybe even the Widest! But nothing could prepare her for an eyeful of Remy himself: a man who measures up to his singular reputation in ways that will change the course of Mindy's life. 'Go Deep' and 'Remy Rothstein Toes the Line' also available as single stories and 'Necessary Women' also available as part of a bundle with 'The Mean Time.'

Covering such genres as fantasy, horror, chick lit, graphic novels, sci-fi, and mystery, an all-encompassing, must-have resource profiles more than 700 of the best books for teens, from the classics to the latest bestsellers. Simultaneous.

"I wait in a crouch with the javelins, and I can hear my own blood. The night is sharp. I hold my death close; it is my own, and these unsteady corpses will not take it from me." Marked for sacrifice by her own father, a young woman flees to the hills, knowing her father may appear with his stone blade at any time to claim her - while the unburied dead of her people also hunt her in the low ravines. Guided by the memory of how her mother stood bravely against the

dead, Jephthah's daughter begins her long flight in the dark. The centuries to come will not recall her name. But generations of young women will climb the hills to remember her. "Like Cormac McCarthy's novels, "I Will Hold My Death Close" does not pull its punches. A beautiful, brilliant tale, it offers a pretty bleak picture of the human condition and the human struggle against the terrors of this world." - Andrew Hallam, Ph.D., Metropolitan State University of Denver "I find myself riveted to Stant's prose, not only because I'm eager to find out the characters' fate but because his words are so beautiful. The story has stayed with me days after reading it. I highly recommend." - Denise Grover Swank, author of "The Curse Keepers"

On the run after the government-sanctioned massacre of her co-workers, Dani Britton settles in remote Redemption Key, Florida, taking a job in a bar owned by a local operator who has a use for Dani's ability to "read" the sketchy patrons.

"Jimmy Veeder and Bobby Maves are back at it, two years after the events of Dove Season--they're not exactly the luckiest guys in the Imperial Valley, but, hey, they win more fights than they lose. Settled on his own farmland and living like a true family man after years of irresponsible fun, Jimmy's got a straight life cut out for him. But he's knocking years off that life thanks to fun-yet-dangerous Bobby's booze-addled antics--especially now that Bobby is

single, volatile, profane as ever, and bored as hell. When Bobby's teenage daughter goes missing, he and Jimmy take off on a misadventure that starts out as merely unfortunate and escalates to downright calamitous. Bobby won't hesitate to kick a hornets' nest to get the girl to safety, but when the rescue mission goes riotously sideways, the duo's grit--and loyalty to each other--is put to the test."--Publisher's website.

Hauntings lurk and spirits linger in the Mountain State Reader, beware! Turn these pages and enter the world of the paranormal, where ghosts and ghouls alike creep just out of sight. Author Rosemary Ellen Guiley shines a light in the dark corners of Virginia and scares those spirits out of hiding in this thrilling collection. From the headless ghosts wandering Droop Mountain to the tortured spirits of the Trans-Allegheny Lunatic Asylum, there's no shortage of bone-chilling tales to keep you up at night. Around the campfire or tucked away on a dark and stormy night, this big book of ghost stories is a hauntingly good read.

Flowertown Thomas & Mercer

Andrew Sumner is certain that new flame Charlie is the woman of his dreams, until strange things begin happening to him and misfortune strikes his loved ones, forcing him to face a frightening prospect.

Repairman Jack, F. Paul Wilson's vigilante hero from the New York Times bestseller *The Tomb*, returns in a thriller

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that thrusts him back into the weird, supernatural world that he thrives in. Looking for clues to the mysterious disappearance of leading conspiracy theorist Melanie Ehler, Jack attends a convention of bizarre and avid conspiracy theorists. It's a place where aliens are real, the government is out to get you, and the world is hurtling toward an inevitable war of good versus evil incarnate. Jack finds that nobody can be trusted--and that few people are what they seem. Worse yet, Jack's been having vivid dreams that make him wonder whether he's headed for a clash with his own past--maybe The Tomb's evil rakoshi beasts aren't through with him quite yet. At the Publisher's request, this title is being sold without Digital Rights Management Software (DRM) applied.

Author's first novel takes place in a community in modern America --Back cover.

Jane Eyre meets Twilight in *Dark Companion*, a lush and romantic YA gothic tale about an orphaned girl who attends an exclusive private school and finds herself torn between the headmistress's two sons. Orphaned at the age of six, Jane Williams has grown up in a series of foster homes, learning to survive in the shadows of life. Through hard work and determination, she manages to win a scholarship to the exclusive Birch Grove Academy. There, for the first time, Jane finds herself accepted by a group of friends. She even starts tutoring the headmistress's gorgeous son, Lucien. Things seem too good to be true. They are. The more she learns about Birch Grove's recent past, the more Jane comes to suspect that there is something sinister going on. Why

did the wife of a popular teacher kill herself? What happened to the former scholarship student, whose place Jane took? Why does Lucien's brother, Jack, seem to dislike her so much? As Jane begins to piece together the answers to the puzzle, she must find out why she was brought to Birch Grove—and what she would risk to stay there.... At the Publisher's request, this title is being sold without Digital Rights Management Software (DRM) applied.

Imperial Rome is a city on the brink, her citizens divided by class, religion -- and zombies who feast upon the living. The patricians cling to the old faith, hoping to appease their ancestors by lavishing food upon the tombs of the dead, even as the poor starve in the streets. They blame the zombie outbreak on the Christians, certain they have angered the ancestors into unleashing this ungodly plague. Father Polycarp, however, believes differently. He is blessed with the Apostle's Gift, and is the only one who stands against the corruption of the living and the hunger of the dead.

They have always been among us. An ancient, nature-loving race, the Nahan have protected their secret world by cultivating the myths of fanged, bloodsucking monsters that haunt legends. Yet they walk through our world as our coworkers and our neighbors, hiding in plain sight and coexisting in peace. They survive...and they prosper. A shy young dreamer, Tomas wanders through his life with help from his good friends and influential family on the ruling Council. Now, he's decided his future lies with the Nahan's most elite class: the mysterious Storytellers. But his family is troubled by his new

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choice—and by his new girlfriend, Stell, a wild, beautiful, and deadly outcast from a fanatical Nahan sect. As Tomas descends into the dark wonders of the Nahan's most powerful culture, Stell answers her own calling as an exceptional assassin. But when a lethal conspiracy threatens their destinies, Tomas and Stell must unite their remarkable talents against the strongest—and most sinister—of their kind.

Jake Reese is an ordinary guy with an ordinary job, trying to block out the memory of his violent past by planning for the future with his new wife, Diane. But the past has a habit of refusing to stay buried... When two men attack Jake in a car park and cut off his ring finger, he tries to dismiss it as an unlucky case of being in the wrong place at the wrong time. But when events take a more sinister turn and Diane goes missing, Jake knows he can no longer hide from the truth. As he embarks on a mission to find Diane, Jake finds himself dragged back into the life he thought he had walked away from forever and the days ahead begin to unfold in terrifying ways...

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