

## Orbus Spatterjay 3 Neal Asher

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Snow in the Desert: Short Reads Hachette UK

Best-selling author Neal Asher was far from idle during the isolation of lockdown; he kept himself occupied in the best way possible: he wrote. And his imagination was clearly in overdrive. Five brand new novellas and novelettes and one novella reworked and expanded from a story first published in 2019. Together, they form *Lockdown Tales*, exploring the latter days of the Polity universe and beyond. What lies in wait for humanity after the Polity has gone? Six stories, 150,000 words of fiction that crackle with energy, invention and excitement. Within their pages you will encounter prador, hoopers, sassy A.I.s, resurrected Golem, a mutated giant whelk that can ravage an island, hooders, megalomaniacs, war drones, Penny Royal, an intriguing sfnal take on *High Planes Drifter* and another with echoes of *Robinson Crusoe*... In fact, everything you might expect from concentrated Neal Asher and more. *Lockdown Tales*: An introduction *The Relict Monitor* Logan Bad Boy Plenty Dr. Whip Raising Moloch

[The Human: The Rise of the Jain 3](#) Macmillan

Few authors have had careers as successful as that of Connie Willis. Inducted into the Science Fiction Hall of Fame and recently awarded the title of Grand Master by the Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America, Willis is still going strong. Her smart, heartfelt fiction runs the gamut from screwball comedy to profound tragedy, combining dazzling plot twists, cutting-edge science, and unforgettable characters. From a near future mourning the

extinction of dogs to an alternate history in which invading aliens were defeated by none other than Emily Dickinson; from a madcap convention of bumbling quantum physicists in Hollywood to a London whose Underground has become a storehouse of intangible memories both foul and fair—here are the greatest stories of one of the greatest writers working in any genre today. All ten of the stories gathered here are Hugo or Nebula award winners—some even have the distinction of winning both. With a new Introduction by the author and personal afterwords to each story—plus a special look at three of Willis’ s unique public speeches—this is unquestionably the collection of the season, a book that every Connie Willis fan will treasure, and, to those unfamiliar with her work, the perfect introduction to one of the most accomplished and best-loved writers of our time. Praise for *The Best of Connie Willis* “ Filled with warmth and sadness, great drama, witty dialogue, characters you will care about and moments that you will remember for a long time. ” —SFF World “ If anyone can be named ‘ best science fiction writer of the age, ’ it ’ s Connie Willis, and these stories are the best of her best. Truly. ” —Analog “ Ranging from the hilarious to the profound, these stories show the full range of [Connie] Willis ’ s talent for taut, dazzling plots, real science, memorable characters, penetrating dialogue and blistering drama. ” —Kirkus Reviews “ Thank goodness [for] Connie Willis, who says many things that desperately need saying in more than one delightful way. ” —Milwaukee Journal Sentinel “ The Best of Connie Willis? Isn ’ t that like sorting through

diamonds? ” —Lytherus

[The Song Is You](#) Night Shade Books

Visible in the night sky the Argus Station, its twin smelting plants like glowing eyes, looks down on nightmare Earth. From Argus the Committee keep an oppressive control: citizens are watched by cams systems and political officers, it's a world inhabited by shepherds, reader guns, razor birds and the brutal Inspectorate with its white tiled cells and pain inducers. Soon the Committee will have the power to edit human minds, but not yet, twelve billion human beings need to die before Earth can be stabilized, but by turning large portions of Earth into concentration camps this is achievable, especially when the Argus satellite laser network comes fully online... This is the world Alan Saul wakes to in his crate on the conveyor to the Calais incinerator. How he got there he does not know, but he does remember the pain and the face of his interrogator. Informed by Janus, through the hardware implanted in his skull, about the world as it is now Saul is determined to destroy it, just as soon as he has found out who he was, and killed his interrogator...

*Brass Man* Start Publishing LLC

A fictionalized account based on the mysterious 1949 disappearance of actress Jean Spangler, whose demise had been linked to the Black Dahlia killings, is a darkly sensual tale that imagines what may have been her fate. By the Edgar Award-shortlisted author of *Die a Little*. Reprint. 15,000 first printing. *Infinity Engine* Start Publishing LLC

Skillfully combining complex science with finely executed prose, these edgy, award-winning tales explore the always-shifting border between the known and the alien. The beauty and peril of technology and the passion and penalties of conviction merge in stories that are by turns dark, satiric, bold, and introspective. A seemingly humanized monster from John Carpenter's *The Thing* reveals the true villains in an Antarctic showdown. An artificial intelligence shields a biologically-enhanced prodigy from her overwhelmed parents. A deep-sea diver discovers that her true nature lies not within the confines of her mission but in the depths of her psyche. A court psychologist analyzes a psychotic graduate student who has

learned to reprogram reality itself. A father tries to hold his broken family together in the wake of an ongoing assault by sentient rainstorms. Gorgeously saturnine and exceptionally powerful, these collected fictions are both intensely thought-provoking and impossible to forget.

#### **The Human** Tor Books

*Weaponized* is a thrilling far-future adventure by acclaimed science fiction author Neal Asher. A bright new future for humanity – or a dark and inescapable past. With the advent of new AI technology, Polity citizens now possess incredible lifespans. Yet they struggle to find meaning in their longevity, seeking danger and novelty in their increasingly mundane lives. On a mission to find a brighter future for humanity, ex-soldier Ursula fosters a colony on the hostile planet Threpsis. Here, survival isn't a given, and colonists thrive without their AI guidance. But when deadly alien raptors appear, Ursula and her companions find themselves forced to adapt in unprecedented ways. And they will be pushed to the very brink of what it means to be human. As a desperate battle rages across the planet, Ursula must dig deep into her past if she is to save humanity's future.

#### Gridlinked Tor UK

Mysterious aliens ... ruthless terrorists ... androids with attitude ... genetic manipulation ... punch-ups with lasers ... giant spaceships ... what more could you want? This great collection of 10 short stories by the author of *Gridlinked*, *The Skinner*, *In the Line of Polity*, and many more is a great read!

#### Weaponized Tachyon Publications

In a world devoid of hope, is revenge the only way out? The Argus Space Station looks down on a nightmarish Earth. And from here, the Committee enforces its despotic rule. It governs a corrupt world, where the poor are starving - and are policed by mechanized overseers wielding identity-reader guns. There are also too many people and too few resources, so the Committee has decided twelve billion people must die. So they prepare to unleash the full power of their Station's weaponry to make this happen. Alan Saul wakes to this world, confined in a crate bound for a Calais incinerator. He doesn't know why he's there; he only remembers pain and his tormentor's face. And he has company: Janus, a rogue intelligence, who is inhabiting forbidden hardware in his skull. As Janus shows his host a

damaged Earth, Saul resolves to discover who he was - and kill his interrogator. Next he will take on the Committee and topple their debased regime. *The Departure* is the first fast-paced book in the *Owner* trilogy by acclaimed science fiction author Neal Asher. 'Delivers plenty of thrills' - SFX 'Fast, dramatic stuff . . . rapid pace, great action, messy consequences' - SFFWorld *The Departure (Owner Trilogy #1)* Simon and Schuster The first book-length appearance of Václav Cílek's work in English translation, *To Breathe with Birds* delves into the imaginative and emotional bonds we form with landscapes and how human existence—a recent development, geologically speaking—shapes and is shaped by a sense of place.

#### Orbus Start Publishing LLC

No one can outrun the past in *Brass Man*, is the third novel in Neal Asher's popular *Agent Cormac* series. Imperfectly resurrected by Jain technology, Mr Crane is back from the dead. The brass killing machine is haunted by a violent past he can't fully forget or truly remember. He seeks to heal his shattered mind as his new master, an old biophysicist enemy of *Agent Cormac*, sets him on an improbable mission: to hunt a dragon on the frontier world of Cull. On Cull, each day is a struggle for survival. Ferocious insectile monsters roam the volatile planet. And the low-tech human settlers are desperate to reach their ancestors' starship - orbiting tantalizingly out of reach. An entity calling itself *Dragon* assists them, but what are its real motives, and why is the biophysicist really here? *Cormac* must find the answers, and face multiple threats to the Polity. *Brass Man* is followed by *Polity Agent*, the fourth book in the *Agent Cormac* series.

#### **Polity Agent** Tor

As any reader of Jo Walton's *Among Others* might guess, Walton is both an inveterate reader of SF and fantasy, and a chronic re-reader of books. In 2008, then-new science-fiction mega-site Tor.com asked Walton to blog regularly about her re-reading—about all kinds of older fantasy and SF, ranging from acknowledged classics, to guilty pleasures, to forgotten oddities and gems. These posts have consistently been among the most popular features of Tor.com. Now this volumes presents a selection of the best of them, ranging from short essays to long reassessments of some of the field's most ambitious series. Among Walton's many subjects here are the *Zones of Thought* novels of Vernor Vinge; the question of what genre readers mean by "mainstream"; the underappreciated SF adventures of C. J. Cherryh; the

field's many approaches to time travel; the masterful science fiction of Samuel R. Delany; Salman Rushdie's *Midnight's Children*; the early Hainish novels of Ursula K. Le Guin; and a Robert A. Heinlein novel you have most certainly never read. Over 130 essays in all, *What Makes This Book So Great* is an immensely readable, engaging collection of provocative, opinionated thoughts about past and present-day fantasy and science fiction, from one of our best writers. At the Publisher's request, this title is being sold without Digital Rights Management Software (DRM) applied.

#### The Departure Tor

This high-octane adventure is set in the same world as Neal Asher's acclaimed Polity universe. It's a thrilling, fast-paced standalone novel, perfect for fans of Alastair Reynolds and Stephen Baxter. Created to die—determined to live . . . Jack Four—one of twenty human clones—has been created to be sold. His purchasers are the alien prador and they only want him for their experimentation program. But there is something different about Jack. No clone should possess the knowledge that's been loaded into his mind. And no normal citizen of humanity's Polity worlds would have this information. The prador's king has been mutated by the *Spattejay* virus into a creature even more monstrous than the prador themselves. And his children, the King's Guard, have undergone similar changes. They were infected by the virus during the last humans-versus-prador war, now lapsed into an uneasy truce. But the prador are always looking for new weapons – and their experimentation program might give them the edge they seek. *Suzéal* trades human slaves out of the *Stratogaster* Space Station, re-engineering them to serve the prador. She thinks the rewards are worth the risks, but all that is about to change. The Station was once a zoo, containing monsters from across known space. All the monsters now dwell on the planet below, but they aren't as contained as they seem. And a vengeful clone may be the worst danger of all. 'Neal Asher's books are like an adrenaline shot targeted directly for the brain' John Scalzi, author of the *Old Man's War* series 'Magnificently awesome. Then Asher turns it up to eleven' Peter F. Hamilton, author of *Salvation* and others, on Asher's *The Soldier*

#### Brass Man (Agent Cormac #3) Hachette UK

The second novel of the galaxy-spanning *Sun Eater* series merges the best of space opera and epic fantasy, as Hadrian Marlowe continues down a path that can only end in fire. Hadrian Marlowe is lost. For half a century, he has searched the farther suns for the lost planet of *Vorgossos*, hoping to find a way to contact the elusive alien *Cielcin*.

He has not succeeded, and for years has wandered among the barbarian Normans as captain of a band of mercenaries. Determined to make peace and bring an end to nearly four hundred years of war, Hadrian must venture beyond the security of the Sollan Empire and among the Extrasolarians who dwell between the stars. There, he will face not only the aliens he has come to offer peace, but contend with creatures that once were human, with traitors in his midst, and with a meeting that will bring him face to face with no less than the oldest enemy of mankind. If he succeeds, he will usher in a peace unlike any in recorded history. If he fails...the galaxy will burn.

#### **Jupiter War Tor**

Visible in the night sky the Argus Station, its twin smelting plants like glowing eyes, looks down on nightmare Earth. From Argus the Committee keep an oppressive control: citizens are watched by cams systems and political officers, it's a world inhabited by shepherds, razor guns, razor birds and the brutal Inspectorate with its white tiled cells and pain inducers. Soon the Committee will have the power to edit human minds, but not yet, twelve billion human being need to die before Earth can be stabilized, but by turning large portions of Earth into concentration camps this is achievable, especially when the Argus satellite laser network comes fully online . . . This is the world Alan Saul wakes to in his crate on the conveyor to the Calais incinerator. How he got there he does not know, but he does remember the pain and the face of his interrogator. Informed by Janus, through the hardware implanted in his skull, about the world as it is now Saul is determined to destroy it, just as soon as he has found out who he was, and killed his interrogator . . .

#### **Cow! Wildside Press LLC**

Set in a lethal waterworld, *The Skinner* is the first novel in the far-future Spatterjay series by Neal Asher. The savage ocean planet of Spatterjay draws visitors with very different agendas. Erlin is immortal and seeks a reason to keep living. Janer hosts a hive mind, which paid him to find this planet. And Keech is an agent of Earth who's been dead for seven hundred years – but still hunts a notorious criminal. On Spatterjay's vast waterscapes, only the Old Captains risk the native life forms and their voracious appetites. However, they are now barely human. And somewhere out there Keech's target – the

Skinner – runs wild. Keech pursues the Skinner for atrocities committed in a centuries-past war, fought with the alien Prador. But one of these Prador is fast approaching Spatterjay to exterminate witnesses to his own war crimes. And he won't spare its visitors. Continue the science fiction adventure with *The Voyage of Sable Keech and Orbus*.

#### **The Soldier Night Shade Books**

*Brass Man* is the third novel in Neal Asher's popular Agent Cormac series. On the primitive world Cull, a knight errant called Anderson hunts a dragon, not knowing that elsewhere is a resurrected brass killing machine, Mr Crane, assisting in a similar hunt. Learning that this old enemy still lives, agent Cormac pursues, while scientist Mika begins discovering the horrifying truth about an ancient alien technology. Each day is a survival struggle for the people of Cull. Ferocious insectile monsters roam their planet, as they try to escape to their forefathers' starship still orbiting far above them. But an entity with questionable motives, calling itself Dragon, assists them with genetic by-blows created out of humans and the hideous local monsters. And now the supposedly geologically inactive planet itself is increasingly suffering earthquakes . . .

#### **The Best of Connie Willis Tor**

From 800 years in the future, a runcible gate is opened into the Polity and those coming through it have been sent specially to take the alien 'Maker' back to its home civilization in the Small Magellanic cloud. Once these refugees are safely through, the gate itself is rapidly shut down – because something alien is pursuing them. The gate is then dumped into a nearby sun. From those refugees who get through, agent Cormac learns that the Maker civilization has been destroyed by pernicious virus known as the Jain technology. This, of course, raised questions: why was Dragon, a massive bioconstruct of the Makers, really sent to the Polity; why did a Jain node suddenly end up in the hands of someone who could do the most damage with it? Meanwhile an entity called the Legate is distributing pernicious Jain nodes . . . and a renegade attack ship, *The King of Hearts*, has encountered something very nasty outside the Polity itself.

#### **Orbus Simon and Schuster**

The dangers of ancient technology loom over the Polity in the sequel to *The Soldier*, Neal Asher's latest action-packed space opera series. The haiman Orlandine, charged with safeguarding lethal Jain tech swirling inside an accretion disc located in the distant reaches of space, has weaponized a black hole to eliminate

the threat. But others are suspicious of her motives, and both the Polity AIs and the leaders of the alien prador kingdom dispatch fleets of warships in anticipation of conflict. As the black hole continues to eat its way through the planets in the accretion disc, making its way towards a dead sun, it becomes clear the disc has been hiding a larger secret. Nefarious forces with ulterior motives have manipulated Orlandine into deploying the black hole, triggering a series of larger events that will uncover a danger far older than even the Polity itself. From British science fiction writer Neal Asher, *The War Ship* picks up right where its predecessor, *The Soldier*, left off, showcasing Asher's unique take on cutting-edge and fast-paced science fiction.

#### **Africa Zero Simon and Schuster**

#### **OrbusTor**

#### **A Call to Arms Start Publishing LLC**

On the brink of burnout, Cormac disconnects his brain from the artificial intelligence network that enables rapid interstellar travel and is forced to track and elude a vicious psychopath while uncovering fiercely guarded secrets on the recently destroyed planet of Samarkand. Reprint.