

## The Games Ted Kosmatka

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Up Jumps the Devil Harper Collins

The Games Titan Books

Parallelities John Joseph Adams

Jurassic Park meets The Hunger Games in this stunning new high-energy, high-concept tale from first-time novelist Ted Kosmatka, a Nebula Award and Theodore Sturgeon Memorial Award finalist. NAMED ONE OF THE BEST BOOKS OF THE YEAR BY PUBLISHERS WEEKLY Brilliant geneticist Silas Williams oversees U.S. selections for the Olympic Gladiator competition, an internationally sanctioned bloodsport with only one rule: No entrants may possess human DNA. Desperate to maintain America's edge in the upcoming Games, Silas's superior engages an experimental supercomputer to design the ultimate, unbeatable combatant. The result is a highly specialized killing machine, its genome never before seen on earth. But even a genius like Silas cannot anticipate the consequences of allowing a computer's cold logic to play God. Growing swiftly, the mutant gladiator demonstrates preternatural strength, speed, and—most chillingly—intelligence. And before hell breaks loose, Silas and beautiful xenobiologist Vidonia Joño must race to understand what unbound science has wrought—even as their professional curiosity gives way to a most unexpected emotion: sheer terror. Praise for The Games “ Blends the best of Crichton and Koontz. ” —Publishers Weekly (starred review) “ Outstanding . . . very like something Michael Crichton might have written . . . [a] bold mix of horror and SF . . . Expect big things from [Ted] Kosmatka. ” —Booklist (starred review) “ Kosmatka successfully captures the thrill of groundbreaking technology. . . . The pleasure of his polished, action-packed storytelling is deepened by strong character development. This near-future SF thriller . . . seems destined for the big screen. ” —Library Journal (starred review)

*Soon I Will Be Invincible* Penguin UK

Ahmed A. Khan's incredible range is apparent in this collection of fifteen stories. In the land of Ghelenden, the land is threatened by an evil magician no one can destroy. Two men struggle with being stranded on a far away planet. A man changes the physical traits of his face to change his destiny. How short can a short story be? And what if the only sound you heard, were the conversations of the future? Including the award winning story "The Meaning of Life and Other Cliches" and several new stories by a rising star of science fiction and fantasy, this is one collection that will spark imaginations and discussions. Ahmed Khan's writing is as stylish as it is ambitious. -Ted Kosmatka

*The Year's Best Science Fiction: Twenty-Seventh Annual Collection* Crown

MANHATTAN IS UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT. THEY'RE NOT FROM AROUND HERE. Welcome to the Big Apple, son. Welcome to the city that never sleeps: invaded by monstrous fusions of meat and machinery, defended by a private army that makes Blackwater look like the Red Cross, ravaged by a disfiguring plague that gifts its victims with religious rapture while it eats them alive. You've been thrown into this meat grinder without warning, without preparation, without a clue. Your whole squad was mowed down the moment they stepped onto the battlefield. And the chorus of voices whispering in your head keeps saying that all of this is on you: that you and you alone might be able to turn the whole thing around if you only knew what the hell was going on. You'd like to help. Really you would. But it's not just the aliens that are gunning for you. Your own kind hunts you as a traitor, and your job might be a bit easier if you didn't have the sneaking suspicion they could be right. . . .

*Bronze Summer* Penguin

On the eve of a secret military operation, an assassin's bullet strikes President Seth Jerrison. He is rushed to the hospital, where surgeons struggle to save his life—and where Professor Ranjip Singh is experimenting with a device that can erase traumatic memories. Then a terrorist bomb detonates. In the operating room, the president suffers cardiac arrest. He has a near-death experience—but the memories that flash through Jerrison's mind are not his own. The electromagnetic pulse generated by the bomb amplified and scrambled Professor Singh's equipment, allowing a random group of people to access one another's minds. One of those people can retrieve the President Jerrison's memories—including classified information regarding the upcoming military mission, which, if revealed, could cost countless lives. But the task of determining who has switched memories with whom is a daunting one—particularly when some of the people involved have reason to lie...

*This Is Not a Test* Del Rey

A tale set in a solar system of weather-controlled planets and drug-induced refugees finds Network Intelligence Organization contract detectives Dave Crowell and Alan Brindos investigating links between a world-destroying terrorist group and an interstellar conspiracy. *The Best American Science Fiction and Fantasy 2021* Titan Books

A mindbending, relentlessly surprising thriller from the author of the bestselling Wayward Pines trilogy. "Are you happy with your life?" Those are the last words Jason Dessen hears before the masked abductor knocks him unconscious. Before he awakens to find himself strapped to a gurney, surrounded by strangers in hazmat suits. Before a man Jason's never met smiles down at him and says,

"Welcome back, my friend." In this world he's woken up to, Jason's life is not the one he knows. His wife is not his wife. His son was never born. And Jason is not an ordinary college physics professor, but a celebrated genius who has achieved something remarkable. Something impossible. Is it this world or the other that's the dream? And even if the home he remembers is real, how can Jason possibly make it back to the family he loves? The answers lie in a journey more wondrous and horrifying than anything he could've imagined—one that will force him to confront the darkest parts of himself even as he battles a terrifying, seemingly unbeatable foe. Dark Matter is a brilliantly plotted tale that is at once sweeping and intimate, mind-bendingly strange and profoundly human—a relentlessly surprising science-fiction thriller about choices, paths not taken, and how far we'll go to claim the lives we dream of.

*By Force of Arms* Del Rey

Jeremy Bremen has a secret. All his life he's been cursed with the ability to read minds. He knows the secret thoughts, fears, and desires of others as if they were his own. For years, his wife, Gail, has served as a shield between Jeremy and the burden of this terrible knowledge. But Gail is dying, her mind ebbing slowly away, leaving him vulnerable to the chaotic flood of thought that threatens to sweep away his sanity. Now Jeremy is on the run—from his mind, from his past, from himself—hoping to find peace in isolation. Instead he witnesses an act of brutality that propels him on a treacherous trek across a dark and dangerous America. From a fantasy theme park to the lair of a killer to a sterile hospital room in St. Louis, he follows a voice that is calling him to witness the stunning mystery at the heart of mortality.

*Mother of Eden* Inkshares

The thirty-two stories in this collection imaginatively take us far across the universe, into the very core of our beings, to the realm of the gods, and the moment just after now. Included here are the works of masters of the form and of bright new talents, including: John Barnes, Elizabeth Bear, Damien Broderick, Karl Bunker, Paul Cornell, Albert E. Cowdrey, Ian Creasey, Steven Gould, Dominic Green, Nicola Griffith, Alexander Irvine, John Kessel, Ted Kosmatka, Nancy Kress, Jay Lake, Rand B. Lee, Paul McAuley, Ian McDonald, Maureen F. McHugh, Sarah Monette, Michael Poore, Robert Reed, Adam Roberts, Chris Roberson, Mary Rosenblum, Geoff Ryman, Vandana Singh, Bruce Sterling, Lavie Tidhar, James Van Pelt, Jo Walton, Peter Watts, Robert Charles Wilson, and John C. Wright. Supplementing the stories are the editor's insightful summation of the year's events and a lengthy list of honorable mentions, making this book both a valuable resource and the single best place in the universe to find stories that stir the imagination, and the heart.

*Dark Matter* Penguin

Stephen Baxter's "imaginative [and] bold" (Daily Mail, UK) Stone Spring drew readers into an alternate prehistoric scenario. Now, thousands of years have passed, and a wall that was built to hold back the sea must now hold back the advancing armies of a reviving Troy... Created by the building of the Wall, Northland has become a society of prosperous, literate, and self-sufficient people. Inhabited from end to end, the Wall is a linear city stretching for hundreds of miles, and a wonder of the world. For millennia, the Wall has also kept the growing empires of the Bronze Age at bay. But a new and turbulent age is dawning. For any wall, no matter how strong, can be breached—particularly from within...

*Seeds of Change* Tachyon Publications

In a future where the most popular sporting event is a bloody gladiator competition that pits genetically engineered life forms in a fight to the death, Dr. Silas Williams is the brilliant geneticist tasked with creating the U.S. entrant. Desperate to win, his superiors engage an experimental supercomputer to design a highly specialized killing machine, its genome never before seen on earth. When the creature demonstrates inexplicable strength, speed, and—most disquietingly—intelligence, Silas calls in Dr. Vidonia Joño, an expert in extraterrestrial biology. As the contest approaches, the pair race to understand the horror wrought by the computer's cold logic, and their scientific curiosity soon gives way to sheer terror.

*The Flicker Men* Spectra

In her now-classic tale *The Silver Metal Lover*, award-winning author Tanith Lee told the spellbinding story of Jane and her forbidden love for a robot named Silver. In this stunning follow-up, the legend of their tragic romance lives on. But nothing is as it was—or as it seems. . . . As an orphan growing up in the slums, Loren read her clandestine copy of Jane's Story over and over, relishing every word. But Loren is no Jane. Savvy and street-smart, Loren could never be stirred by a man of metal, her passion never ignited by an almost-human—even one designed for pleasure. Still, when the META corporation does the unthinkable and brings back updated versions of robots past—Loren knows she must see Silver. And just like Jane, it

is love at first sight. But Silver is now Verlis. If he was perfection before, he is now like a truth. . . . As soon as you finish, you'll want more."—Analog "A debut novel unlike any other . . . god. Yet he is more human than his creators think—or fear. While Loren doesn't quite trust him, she will follow her twice-born lover into a battle to control his own destiny—one that will reveal to her the most astonishing illusion of all.

Ballantine Books

From the award-winning author, "a breathtaking journey of revenge and redemption that pits a stubborn, devoted girl against an unknown evil" (Kirkus Reviews, starred review). On Gullstruck Island, legend has it that the mountain ranges and volcanoes are in charge. Anger them, and you'll pay the price. Keep them happy, and you'll enjoy their protection. These stories of the land's command come in handy for quiet, near-invisible Hathin when she must run for her life. Hathin's sister, Arilou, is believed to be a Lost. The Lost are held nearly sacred by those on Gullstruck, for they can send their senses away from their bodies. If Lost, Arilou can read a message across the island. If Lost, Arilou can hear whispers in the corners of private rooms. If Lost, Arilou can smell bread baking in the governor's mansion. All from her beachside hut. But the question remains: Is Arilou really a Lost? When all the Lost drop dead, except Arilou, she and Hathin are swept into a grand conspiracy that leads them to the most sinister depths—and heights—of the island. "Filled with sentient volcanoes, gem-studded teeth, villains, heroes, revenge, love, and the world's most frightening dentist, this is a book to rival The Princess Bride in scope, adventure, and excitement. It's Hardinge's magnum opus. One that I dearly hope both kids and adults enjoy in equal measure." —A Fuse #8 Production, School Library Journal "Delightfully inventive . . . Ripe, rollicking, and endlessly creative." —The Guardian "A luminous example of gifted storytelling at its best." —Publishers Weekly (starred review)

**Triggers** St. Martin's Griffin

"It seems you have acquired about you a field that affects the links between multiple parallel worlds, causing objects and individuals from these worlds to slip into yours . . . or you to slip into theirs . . ." It was just an average day for tabloid reporter Max Parker when he arrived in Malibu for a demonstration of a brand new parallel-universe machine. But everything changed in an instant when inventor Barrington Boles succeeded in making Max the human gate to numerous parallelities. Now Max was lost in a virtual sea of collateral worlds, confronting man-eating aliens, dinosaurs, talking frogs, dead Maxes, girl Maxes, old Maxes, even ghost Maxes. His only chance to escape the space-time continuum was to find Boles and hope the loony genius could rescue him. But how could he be sure which world was real, which Max was Max, and which Boles was the Boles who could stop the madness—or trap Max in the wrong world forever. . . ?

Prophet of Bones Del Rey

Doctor Impossible—evil genius, would-be world conqueror—languishes in prison. Shuffling through the cafeteria line with ordinary criminals, he wonders if the smartest man in the world has done the smartest thing he could with his life. After all, he's lost every battle he's ever fought. But this prison won't hold him forever. Fatale—half woman, half high-tech warrior—used to be an unemployed cyborg. Now, she's a rookie member of the world's most famous super-team, the Champions. But being a superhero is not all flying cars and planets in peril—she learns that in the locker rooms and dive bars of superherodom, the men and women (even mutants) behind the masks are as human as anyone. Soon I Will Be Invincible is a wildly entertaining first novel, brimming with attitude and humor—an emotionally resonant look at good and evil, love and loss, power and glory.

Gullstruck Island The Floating Press

The Plague Forge delivers an unbeatable combination of knockout action and kick-ass characters as the secrets to the ultimate alien mystery from The Darwin Elevator and The Exodus Towers are about to be unraveled. The hunt is on for the mysterious keys left by the alien Builders. While Skyler's team of immune scavengers scatters around the disease-ravaged globe in search of the artifacts, Skyler himself finds much more than he expected in the African desert, where he stumbles upon surprising Builder relics—and thousands of bloodthirsty subhumans. From the slums and fortresses of Darwin to the jungles of Brazil and beyond, Skyler and company are in for a wild ride, jam-packed with daunting challenges, run-and-gun adventure, and unexpected betrayals—all in a race against time to finally answer the great questions that have plagued humanity for decades: Who are the Builders, and what do they want with Earth? Praise for The Darwin Elevator "A hell of a fun book."—James S. A. Corey, New York Times bestselling author of Abaddon's Gate "[Jason M.] Hough's first novel combines the rapid-fire action and memorable characters associated with Joss Whedon's short-lived Firefly TV series with the accessibility and scientific acumen of [James S. A.] Corey's 'Expanse' series."—Library Journal (starred review) "The best part about alien stories is their mystery, and Jason Hough understands that like no other. Full of compelling characters and thick with tension, The Darwin Elevator delivers both despair and hope along with a gigantic dose of wonder. It's a brilliant debut, and Hough can take my money whenever he writes anything from now on."—Kevin Hearne, New York Times bestselling author of The Iron Druid Chronicles "Newcomer Hough displays a talent for imaginative plotting and realistic dialogue, and the brisk pacing and cliffhanger ending will keep readers enthralled and eagerly awaiting the next installment."—Publishers Weekly "Jason M. Hough does a great job with this huge story. The world of Darwin and the Elevator is deliciously complex and satisfying. Skyler, Tania, and all the other characters are delightfully drawn and fun to spend time with. . . . The story unfolds with just the right balance of high adventure, espionage, humor, and emotional

This is something special. Something iconic. The Darwin Elevator is full of majesty and wonder, mystery and mayhem, colorful characters and insidious schemes."—SF Signal "Fun, action-packed and entertaining . . . a sure contender for science fiction debut of the year!"—Pat's Fantasy Hotlist "Claustrophobic, intense, and satisfying . . . I couldn't put this book down. The Darwin Elevator depicts a terrifying world, suspends it from a delicate thread, and forces you to read with held breath as you anticipate the inevitable fall."—Hugh Howey, New York Times bestselling author of Wool The Games Del Rey

"The sustained comedy in this hilarious novel is equaled only by its heart, and the myriad ways there are for it to break. I love this book. Michael Poore writes like an angel." —Daniel Wallace, author of Big Fish John Scratch, the Devil himself, is the protagonist in this stunningly imaginative, sharp, funny, and tender novel, as he tricks, teases, and prods America to greatness in the hope of luring his lost love back down to Earth from Heaven. Up Pops the Devil is fiction with humor and heart, the kind of hilarious, off-beat, and original reading experience that fans of Chris Moore, Joe Hill, Chuck Palahniuk, and Jim Shepard would sell their souls for—a brilliant blending of the occult and the outrageous starring the anti-hero of anti-heroes, the one and only Prince of Darkness.

The Year's Top Hard Science Fiction Stories 2 Del Rey

Nebula award-nominated author Ted Kosmatka's latest novel is The Flicker Men: a gripping tale about the struggle between science and theology, free will and fate. Research scientist Eric Argus has four months to prove himself during a probationary period with Hansen Research. Haunted by his past and struggling with alcohol abuse, he is certain that he will squander this opportunity. That is until a mysterious crate from a now-defunct laboratory arrives at his office. The contents of the crate give Eric an idea for an experiment, which is all he needs to keep his job. But the significance of his findings will be more than he, or anyone else, could have ever imagined. Find out why Hugh Howey calls The Flicker Men "Brilliant, disturbing, and beautifully told."

The Ultra Thin Man Macmillan

"Baxter has an uncanny gift for mixing a punchy, cyberpunk cynicism with his resolutely hard SF story base. . . . [Exultant] rivals Asimov in its boundless vision for the future evolution of humanity."—Kirkus Reviews (starred review) For more than twenty thousand years, humans have been at war with the alien race of Xeelee. Faced with certain death, a young pilot, Pirus, disobeys orders and travels into the future. Upon his return, Pirus is court-martialed and sentenced to penal servitude. But it is not only Pirus who pays the price. In flying into the future and back again, Pirus returned to a time before he'd left, a time inhabited by his younger self, who also receives punishment. Commissary Nilis believes that the elder Pirus, whom he dubs Pirus Blue, may know how to defeat the Xeelee. But Nilis can do nothing for Pirus Blue. Instead, he takes the younger Pirus—Pirus Red—back to Earth. There Pirus Red will discover truths that shatter his preconceived notions of all that he is fighting for, while Pirus Blue will learn even harsher truths. But the most shocking revelation of all is still to come. "Absurdly ambitious, technically brilliant, and downright exciting."—SFX Magazine "Striking . . . chilling . . . [with] a triumphant conclusion."—Starburst

The Omega Theory Del Rey

Prophet of Bones is a thrilling novel by Ted Kosmatka. An ancient discovery. A hidden past. A deadly conspiracy to bury the truth. He was told his was the only name on their list. But for brilliant young anthropologist Paul Carlsson, asked to examine the cache of bones found on a remote Indonesian jungle island, fascination soon turns to fear. Because waiting for him east of Java is evidence of something that shouldn't exist; a revelation that if made public will turn scientific and religious orthodoxy on its head. If Carlsson discovers the truth too many powerful interests have far too much to lose. But not every prophet is without honour. And Carlsson, alone and on the run, is determined to reveal the discovery to a world in which the church and science have conspired to hide it. A world which, it's been proven, is only 5,800 years old... Prophet of Bones is Ted Kosmata's enthralling second novel. The Games showcased Kosmata's imaginative genius and Prophet of Bones is no different. Fans of Robert Harris, Michael Crichton and Sam Bourne will be hooked. Praise for Ted Kosmata: 'A masterwork of intrigue and menace. I was enthralled.' Clive Cussler 'A hell of a storyteller ... one of those increasingly rare novels that immediately takes you on a journey into the world of the author's wondrous imagination ... truly hard to put down. This is what a novel is about.' Nelson DeMille Ted Kosmatka studied biology at Indiana University. He has worked as a zookeeper, steel mill worker, lab technician, and videogame writer for the extremely successful studio, Valve, publisher of mega-hits such as the Half-Life series and Portal. His work has been nominated for both the Nebula and Hugo awards and won the 2010 Asimov's Reader's Choice Award. He lives in the American Pacific North-west. [www.tedkosmatka.com](http://www.tedkosmatka.com)