

Alexander Outland

Sci-fi action meets steamy paranormal romance in Gini Koch's Alien novels, as Katherine "Kitty" Katt faces off against aliens, conspiracies, and deadly secrets. • "Futuristic high-jinks and gripping adventure." —RT Reviews Life's never easy... The Mastermind has finally been identified, but before Jeff and Kitty Katt-Martini can take him down, they, their daughter Jamie, Charles Reynolds, Paul Gower, Christopher White, and several others are zapped out of their solar system and into another. Landing in scattered groups on various areas of Beta Eight in the Alpha Centauri system means getting the team back together will be a major issue. But it's only one of the challenges they'll face. Kitty and Company have to forge alliances with the wide variety of sentient natives on the planet while plotting to create a civil war and overthrow the king—who just may be a clone of one of their bitterest enemies, Ronaldo Al Dejah. Of course, to do this, they have to overcome an assortment of dangerous obstacles, protect a group of refugees, take mind reading lessons, and seek out unexpected new allies as they journey to the CenterPoint of the World. And once they reach the All Seeing Mountain, new issues and surprises await. Because there's more than a small war going on—they're in the midst of the Alpha Centauri Civil War!

THREE VERY DIFFERENT BAKER STREETS. THREE VERY DIFFERENT SHERLOCKS. THREE EXTRAORDINARY NEW CASES. Brilliant, distracted, sarcastic, abrasive, superior, fiercely loyal and—above all—ferociously principled, Sherlock Holmes is a hero for all times. Every era has its thieves and monsters, its exploiters and abusers, and in every era the detective of Baker Street will piece together the clues and bring the guilty to book. In alt.sherlock.holmes, the creators of Two Hundred and Twenty-One Baker Streets have invited three talented writers to bring startling visions of the Great Detective and the redoubtable Doctor Watson to the page: as a carnival owner and fortune teller in the 'thirties American Dust Bowl, as a drugged-up, tuned-out weirdnik in 'sixties New York City, and as the most irregular consultant in present-day Hollywood. The game's afoot! Whether hunting a vandal, a killer, or a shadowy conspiracy, in Indiana, California or New York, Holmes and Watson are on the case.

SCIENCE FICTION, FANTASY, HUMOR The Unidentified Funny Objects series delivers an annual dose of funny, zany, and unusual science fiction and fantasy stories. All-new fiction from the genre's top voices! * Superheroes mired in government bureaucracy. * Cat cat-burglars. * Grandmotherly golems. * Literal-minded self-driving cars. * Evil overlords retired in Florida. * Indifferent aliens.

SCIENCE FICTION, FANTASY, HUMOR * Cranky Goblin Cooks * Unscrupulous Chemists * Lecherous Space Pirates * Disagreeable Alien Symbiotes * Soul-Searching Snot Elementals The Unidentified Funny Objects series serves an

annual dose of funny, zany, and unusual science fiction and fantasy stories. All-new fiction from the genre's top voices! Our sixth volume features a Mad Amos story by Alan Dean Foster, a Harry the Book tale by Mike Resnick, and an Alexander Outland short by Gini Koch. Jim Hines reimagines a Game of Thrones with goblins in it, Ken Liu begs a sentient AI to spare him, and Esther Friesner takes us on a tour of Chelm, complete with dragons and gratuitous footnotes. There are also tales of an interdimensional secret agent, a warrior-writer on a quest from an evil god, a necromancer intent on rehabilitating the image of his profession, and many more. TABLE OF CONTENTS Foreword by Alex Shvartsman "A Game of Goblins" by Jim C. Hines "The Breakdown of Parasite/Host Relationship" by Paul R. Hardy "From This She Makes a Living?" by Esther Friesner "Twenty-Nine Responses to Inquiries About My Craigslist Post: Alien Spaceship for Sale \$200, You Haul" by Tina Connolly "Tyler the Snot Elemental Scours the Newspaper, Searching for Change" by Zach Shephard "Agent of Chaos" by Jack Campbell "Display of Affection" by P. J. Sambeaux "The Great Manhattan Eat-Off" by Mike Resnick "An Evil Opportunity Employer" by Lawrence Watt-Evans "Common Scents" by Jody Lynn Nye "A Mountain Man and a Cat Walk into a Bar" by Alan Dean Foster "Lost and Found" by Laura Resnick "A Crawlspace Full of Prizes" by Bill Ferris "Return to Sender" by Melissa Mead "The Friendly Necromancer" by Rod M. Santos "An Open Letter to the Sentient AI Who Has Announced Its Intention to Take Over the Earth" by Ken Liu "Approved Expense" by David Vierling "Alexander Outland: Space Jockey" by Gini Koch "Dear Joyce" by Langley Hyde "Impress Me, Then We'll Talk About the Money" by Tatiana Ivanova (translated from Russian by Alex Shvartsman)

Traces ancestral family of Strouds in Newnham Park, Devon, England, Parnham, Dorset, and Shepton-Mallet, Somerset. Also discusses first Strouds who came to Virginia, as well as others who settled in New Jersey and North Carolina. Also includes Jordan, Holeman, and variations on name, i.e. Strowd, Strode, etc.

Although generations of readers have derived enormous satisfaction from the victories of Willa Cather's great woman characters, and recent lesbian critics and others have triumphantly claimed her as a lesbian writer, few readers or critics have noticed the strain of mistrust for most women that runs through virtually all of Cather's work. This study traces the troubling undercurrent of misogyny signalled by isolation and masquerade in Cather's fiction. It also discusses the ways it affects her portrayals of all her female characters, and how we as readers may respond.

In space, nobody can hear you scheme. . . . Sometimes piracy just doesn't pay. Captain Alexander Outland of the Sixty-Nine (short for Space Vessel 3369, of course) is the best pilot in the galaxy. He's also a pirate, a smuggler, and loved and loathed by women in umpteen solar systems. His crew of strays and misfits includes an engineer of dubious sanity, a deposed planetary governor, an annoyingly unflappable Sexbot copilot, and a slinky weapons chief who stubbornly

refuses to give the captain a tumble. Outland just wants to make a decent living skirting the law, but when an invisible space armada starts cutting into his business, he soon finds himself in hot water with the military, the mob, mad bombers, and an extended family of would-be conquerors. And that's not counting an occasionally telepathic spy.... Like any sensible scoundrel, he hates heroics. They're risky and they don't pay well. But to keep his ship and crew in one piece, and make time with a certain hard-to-get weapons chief, he might just have to make an exception—and save the galaxy despite himself! “Laugh-out loud, read until you drop. Alexander (the) Outland is my favorite space pirate.” —New York Times bestselling author Patricia Briggs

Sci-fi action meets steamy paranormal romance in Gini Koch's Alien novels, as Katherine “Kitty” Katt faces off against aliens, conspiracies, and deadly secrets. • “Futuristic high-jinks and gripping adventure.” —RT Reviews For Alien Super-Being Exterminator Katherine "Kitty" Katt, anti-alien conspiracies, threats from outer space, and a couple of killer alligators are all in a day's work. It's been five months since Kitty joined Centaurion Division, working with the aliens from Alpha Centauri. She and Jeff Martini have grown closer and life looks rosy. But when an experimental spacecraft is unexpectedly returned to the Kennedy Space Center, Kitty and the rest of Alpha Team are called on to investigate and are immediately embroiled in life-or-death situations that scream "political conspiracy." The team must survive murderous attacks, deal with a mysterious space entity that has seized control of a group of astronauts, and evade a woman who'll do anything to eliminate the competition when she develops an obsessive crush on Kitty's old high school boyfriend. And that's all before the evil masterminds decide Kitty's extermination is vital... Alien Tango is the thrilling second installment of the Alien series.

Sci-fi action meets steamy paranormal romance in the Alien novels, as Katherine “Kitty” Katt faces off against aliens, conspiracies, and deadly secrets. • “Futuristic high-jinks and gripping adventure.” —RT Reviews It's a typical day of bureaucracy and stress for President and First Lady Jeff and Kitty Katt-Martini, in part because Kitty's been tapped to represent Earth in the Galactic Council. Kitty feels that's a bad idea, and she might be right. When her first official TV morning show goes awry, it's only the quick thinking of the actor determined to make the “Code Name: First Lady” movie a reality that saves the day. It also forces Kitty to work with Hollywood. Meanwhile, the Embassy Daycare kids are all about to enter “real school”—and none of them want to go. They may have grounds to be concerned because many of the other students and their families seem shady, and everyone seems to have an evil agenda. Dealing with the assimilation of the aliens who have come to Earth, while fending off advances from a variety of Hollywood types, seems like Kitty's biggest challenge. But then she and Jeff discover that Stephanie Valentino—Jeff's niece and the true Heir Apparent to the original Mastermind—is back. Can Jeff and Kitty thwart the most insidious attacks yet, while keeping tenuous peace on Earth and goodwill toward all sentient species going? And can they also find time to be part of the most truly terrifying organization they've ever encountered—the school's parent-teacher association?

Sci-fi action meets steamy paranormal in Gini Koch's Alien novels, as Katherine “Kitty” Katt faces off against aliens, conspiracies,

and deadly secrets. • “Futuristic high-jinks and gripping adventure.” —RT Reviews After the wildest wedding ever, Katherine “Kitty” Katt-Martini and her Alpha Centaurion husband Jeff are hoping life will settle down. But alien attacks are on the increase, and someone is testing a dangerous new drug on unwilling subjects within their group. As if that's not enough, they discover that their newborn's talents are off the charts—and the bad guys want their baby. The last thing anyone in Centaurion Division needs after that is a conspiracy to kill the heads of the C.I.A.'s Extra-Terrestrial Division and the Presidential Terrorism Control Unit, otherwise known as Charles Reynolds and Kitty's mother, Angela Katt. Then, suddenly, key members of Alpha and Airborne start vanishing. Can Kitty, her remaining team members, friends old and new, and a totally unexpected new partner rescue everyone and figure out why Kitty's become a superhuman? Most importantly, can they pull it all off before the event Kitty dreads most—her Alpha Centaurion baby shower? Alien Proliferation is the fourth installment of the thrilling Alien novels.

Sci-fi action meets steamy paranormal romance in Gini Koch's Alien novels, as Katherine “Kitty” Katt faces off against aliens, conspiracies, and deadly secrets. • “Futuristic high-jinks and gripping adventure.” —RT Reviews The President and First Lady, aka Jeff and Kitty Katt-Martini, don't get any downtime once the Mastermind has been revealed to the world. Not only do they have myriad high-level government positions to fill, but the scrutiny and pressure on this Administration has gone into overdrive. The sudden reappearance of a long-forgotten adversary turns out to be the tip of the iceberg. New robots and androids attacking, old enemies making new alliances, and new aliens with interesting abilities almost overshadow the fact that the U.S. still has to host a peace summit at Camp David between Israel and Iraq. It's clear that while the Mastermind may be down, there are plenty of others ready to take his place—and all that stands between them and success are Kitty and Company. Kidnappings, rescues, creepy hideouts, a hidden black site, and a domestic dispute that could end Jeff and Kitty's marriage are nothing compared to finding not one but two hidden labs where dangerous and deadly things are brewing. But when the President and his entourage finally get to the peace talks, things are no better. Mossad rightly suspects something's wrong with both their Prime Minister and the President of Iraq. A hidden in-control superbeing, an android replacement, and an army of Fem-Bots turn the peace talks into a Battle Royale that the team might not actually survive. And if they don't make it, Earth won't make it, either. But no pressure.

Sci-fi action meets steamy paranormal romance in Gini Koch's Alien novels, as Katherine “Kitty” Katt faces off against aliens, conspiracies, and deadly secrets. • “Futuristic high-jinks and gripping adventure.” —RT Reviews Marketing manager Katherine “Kitty” Katt had just finished a day on jury duty. When she stepped out of the Pueblo Caliente courthouse, all she was thinking about was the work she had to get caught up on. Then her attention was caught by a fight between a couple that looked like it was about to turn ugly. But ugly didn't even begin to cover it when the “man” suddenly transformed into a huge, winged monster right out of a grade Z science fiction movie and went on a deadly killing spree. In hindsight, Kitty realized she probably should have panicked and run screaming the way everyone around her was doing. Instead she sprinted into action to take down the alien. In the middle of all the screeching and the ensuing chaos, a hunk in an Armani suit suddenly appeared beside her, introduced himself as Jeff Martini with “the agency,” and then insisted on leading her to a nearby limo to talk to his “boss.” And that was how

Kitty's new life among the aliens began... Touched by an Alien is the thrilling first installment of the Alien novels. Sci-fi action meets steamy paranormal romance in Gini Koch's Alien novels, as Katherine "Kitty" Katt faces off against aliens, conspiracies, and deadly secrets. • "Futuristic high-jinks and gripping adventure." —RT Reviews Being the wife of the vice president isn't easy. Especially when your talents lie in kicking butt and rocking out, rather than politics and diplomacy. Jeff and Kitty Katt-Martini find out just how difficult it can be when Kitty accidentally offends the Australian prime minister. Now they have to smooth things over, pronto, or risk creating an international incident the worldwide anti-alien coalitions will be able to use to force Jeff to resign and the A-Cs to leave the planet. Before Kitty can make things even worse, a cosmic congruence and a little help from some powerful beings shoves her into another world—one where she's been married to Charles Reynolds for years and aliens don't exist. She's also landed in the middle of a huge conspiracy and is marked for death...but at least that's business as usual. Kitty's not the only one who's confused, because the Kitty from that world has taken her place in this one. Now Alpha Team and the Diplomatic Corps have to make sure that no one realizes there's been a switch, while preventing World War III from happening. And they have to do it while keeping this new Kitty in line, because she has views about what to do and how to do it, and time is running out. Can each Kitty save the day before it's too late and then go home to her own universe? Or will one Kitty decide to keep the other's life—forever?

Sci-fi action meets steamy paranormal in Gini Koch's Alien novels, as Katherine "Kitty" Katt faces off against aliens, conspiracies, and deadly secrets. • "Futuristic high-jinks and gripping adventure." —RT Reviews It's a typical day of bureaucracy and stress for President and First Lady Jeff and Kitty Katt-Martini, made more stressful when alien spacecraft are spotted making a beeline for Earth, none of them from the Alpha Centauri system. Then a cryptic request from an old adversary pulls Kitty out of the White House and into an explosion—and an even more explosive situation. Not only is the Mastermind back in the game, influencing the Club 51 True Believers to find and destroy all Centaurion bases, but he's also found a dangerous benefactor and created some frightening new cloning abilities. And, just to make things a little more challenging, those alien spacecraft are coming to ask Kitty for protection, and asylum on Earth. Police stations being blown up and war helicopters in play aren't enough to keep Kitty down, especially when she's got some new alien friends helping out. But what these aliens share will rock the world—the other aliens on their way to Earth are fleeing an enemy so terrifying that even a Z'porrah ship is trying to get to Earth for safety and protection. And if Earth isn't able to stop this threat, there may not be anything left of humanity. Now Kitty and Company have to figure out where the Mastermind is and stop him, before any new aliens land. And then they have to save the world from a deadly invasion. Or, as Kitty calls it, Thursday.

The fourth volume of the annual Unidentified Funny Objects series features the theme of dark humor. What happens when you ask some of the genre's masters to interpret this theme? The enclosed twenty-three darkly humorous tales range from black comedy to biting satire to morbid irony and everything in between. Inside this book you'll find Faustian bargains gone awry, time-traveling ghosts, flawed supervillains, talking hamsters, and much more. Featuring stories by: George R. R. Martin Neil Gaiman Andrew Kaye Caroline M. Yoachim Esther Friesner

Brent C. Smith Laura Pearlman Tim Pratt Piers Anthony Ian Creasey Oliver Buckram Anaea Lay Karen Haber Eric Kaplan Jody Lynn Nye Tina Gower Zach Shephard Mike Resnick James Aquilone Michael J. Martinez Tina Connolly Gini Koch Jonathan Ems

THE WORLD'S MOST FAMOUS DETECTIVE, AS YOU'VE NEVER SEEN HIM BEFORE! This is Sherlock Holmes as you've never seen him before: as an architect in a sleepy Australian town, as a gentleman in seventeenth-century Worcestershire, as a precocious school girl in a modern British comprehensive. He's dodging his rent in the squalid rooms of the notorious Chelsea Hotel in '68, and preventing a bloody war between the terrible Lords Wizard of a world of fantasy. Editor David Thomas Moore brings together the finest of celebrated and new talent in SF and Fantasy to create a spectrum of Holmes stories that will confound everything you ever thought you knew about the world's greatest detective. Featuring fourteen original stories by Adrian Tchaikovsky, Emma Newman, Gini Koch, Guy Adams, Ian Edginton, James Lovegrove, Glen Mehn, Jamie Wyman, JE Cohen, Jenni Hill, Joan de la Haye, Kaaron Warren, Kasey Lansdale and Kelly Hale.

Sci-fi action meets steamy paranormal romance in Gini Koch's Alien novels, as Katherine "Kitty" Katt faces off against aliens, conspiracies, and deadly secrets. • "Futuristic high-jinks and gripping adventure." —RT Reviews Despite not having run for office, nor wanting to remain in office, Representative Jeff Martini is being wooed as the vice presidential running mate for a charismatic senator who seems likely to win the campaign. While the Diplomatic Corps has to deal with the pressures of a political campaign sure to uncover secrets they don't want shared with the world, Ambassador Kitty Katt-Martini has other worries—handling the reemergence of her most potent nemesis, thought dead and buried.

Sherlock Holmes and her new partner Dr. John Watson are settling in as roommates and consulting detectives in their new home in Los Angeles, when notorious reality starlet Irene Adler comes to call, asking for their help solving an extraordinary - and embarrassing - theft. As a thoroughly smitten Watson closes the door on Adler's back, TV producers Joey Jackson and Tony Antonelli call on the pair. Their partner, Cliff Camden, has disappeared without a trace on the eve of filming for the new show; rumour has it he's taken off with their money. The LAPD aren't interested and Watson has nothing but contempt for the three, but Holmes takes the case. As they pick their way amongst the grumbling crew, the neurotic actors and the low-level sleaze that permeates the city, it starts to become clear the two cases are connected - when a murder turns everything on its head... A Study in Starlets is the second of three new novellas following on from the stories in Two Hundred and Twenty-One Baker Streets. Includes the story "All the Single Ladies."

Sherlock Holmes as you've never seem him – or is it her? – before, as the Great Detective travels through time and across continents to master a set of three new mysteries. A Study in Starlets, by Gini Koch Sherlock Holmes and her partner Dr. John Watson have barely set up as consulting detectives in LA before Tinsel Town's finest come calling. Joey Jackson and Tony Antonelli are in trouble: their partner, Cliff Camden, has disappeared without a trace on the eve of filming for a new show. The LAPD don't care and Watson has his own reasons for wanting to stay out of it, but Holmes takes the case. But she gets to work amidst neurotic actors, grumbling film crews and low-level sleaze that permeates LA, a fresh murder turns everything on its head... The Case of the Tattooed Bride, by Jamie Wyman Winter, and the Soggiorno Brothers' Traveling Wonder Show has pulled into its berth in Peru, Indiana. Sanford "Crash" Haus, proprietor and genius, and his friend, the retired soldier-turned-surgeon Jim "Dandy" Walker, are looking forward to a quiet few months. By happy coincidence, just as the Strong Man and the Tattooed Lady announce their betrothal, the Wonder Show's old manager Professor Sylvestri – a minister, no less - rolls into town with his ward in tow. Preparations for the happy day begin, but violence and misfortune attend on them... Half There/All There, by Glen Mehn Glen Mehn's novella is a drug-fuelled descent into the experimental world of Warhol's Factory. Holmes and Watson are faced

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with a mystery unlike any other, set against the backdrop of social, cultural and racial issues that rocked society and brought about the fierce (and sometimes violent) changes at the end of the swinging sixties...

Katherine "Kitty" Katt faces off against aliens, conspiracies, and deadly secrets in the seventeenth novel in the Alien series, where sci-fi action meets steamy paranormal romance. When a call for help from an unknown entity comes to Kitty, she figures it's just business as usual for her life. Only the call isn't from someone in her own universe but from one of the many others, where her life is even more different than the one she discovered in Bizarro World. And, this time, it's not just Kitty who changes universes. The fate of the multiverse is now resting on Kitty and company's shoulders, but they may not be able to save it alone--and the help Kitty's come to rely on may not be able to intervene, assist, or even show up to watch. Or, as the multiverse calls it: Game On.

The Unidentified Funny Objects series serves an annual dose of funny, zany, and unusual science fiction and fantasy stories. All-new fiction from the genre's top voices! Our sixth volume features a Mad Amos story by Alan Dean Foster, a Harry the Book tale by Mike Resnick, and an Alexander Outland short by Gini Koch. Jim Hines reimagines a Game of Thrones with goblins in it, Ken Liu begs a sentient AI to spare him, and Esther Friesner takes us on a tour of Chelm, complete with dragons and gratuitous footnotes. There are also tales of an interdimensional secret agent, a warrior-writer on a quest from an evil god, a necromancer intent on rehabilitating the image of his profession, and many more.

SCIENCE FICTION, FANTASY, HUMOR* Cranky Goblin Cooks* Unscrupulous Chemists* Lecherous Space Pirates* Disagreeable Alien Symbiotes* Soul-Searching Snot ElementalsThe Unidentified Funny Objects series serves an annual dose of funny, zany, and unusual science fiction and fantasy stories. All-new fiction from the genre's top voices! Our sixth volume features a Mad Amos story by Alan Dean Foster, a Harry the Book tale by Mike Resnick, and an Alexander Outland short by Gini Koch. Jim Hines reimagines a Game of Thrones with goblins in it, Ken Liu begs a sentient AI to spare him, and Esther Friesner takes us on a tour of Chelm, complete with dragons and gratuitous footnotes. There are also tales of an interdimensional secret agent, a warrior-writer on a quest from an evil god, a necromancer intent on rehabilitating the image of his profession, and many more.

Librarians who work with readers will find this well-loved guide to be a treasure trove of information. With descriptive annotations of thousands of genre titles mapped by genre and subgenre, this is the readers' advisor's go-to reference. • Helps librarians answer the challenging question "What should I read next?" • Helps LIS students understand popular genres and better select books for which readers are looking • Serves as a starting point for library patrons looking for their next read

Sci-fi action meets steamy paranormal romance in Gini Koch's Alien novels, as Katherine "Kitty" Katt faces off against aliens, conspiracies, and deadly secrets. • "Futuristic high-jinks and gripping adventure." —RT Reviews As Kitty can tell you, it's not easy being the wife of the vice president—especially not when he's an alien from the Alpha Centauri system. But she and her A-C husband, Jeff, have learned how to roll with whatever life and the bad guys throw at them—they think. When the Alpha Centauri Planetary Council requests a visit with the president and vice president, things look politically dicey. When the most dangerous prisoners in the most secure supermax prison escape with ease, things look bad. But when the Mastermind releases a virus that kills people in a week, things go to Defcon Worse fast. Now it's up to Kitty to save everyone important in the U.S. government—including her mother, her husband, and herself—before the virus spreads through the rest of the country, and then the world. Plus she's facing invisible attackers, crazed assassins, a teenager in hiding, the most dangerous train ride ever, the disappearance of her beloved flyboys, and a mysterious alien who could be an enemy or the ally she needs. And this time,

the Mastermind's made it very personal. Either he's going down...or Kitty is.

Sci-fi action meets steamy paranormal romance in the Alien novels, as Katherine "Kitty" Katt faces off against aliens, conspiracies, and deadly secrets. • "Futuristic high-jinks and gripping adventure." —RT Reviews With the human population growing and alien refugees pouring in from around the galaxy, Earth is becoming too overcrowded to sustain itself—and the solar system is filling up with the alien overflow. Advanced technology from the Alpha Centauri and Vatusan systems offers one possible solution. It's time to explore new planets and see if any uninhabited ones can be claimed. The President and First Lady, aka Jeff and Kitty Katt-Martini, aren't supposed to be on this mission, but what looks like a snafu during a political photo op on the newly christened Distant Voyager spaceship turns out to be a call for help from a planet that might be Earth's salvation...or its destruction. The discovery of a world at the opposite end of the galaxy that seems like it could be a twin to Earth creates the usual issues for Kitty & Company. It also raises questions of Z'porrah and Ancient influence—not to mention cloning, the multiverse, and, scariest of all, whether or not the Black Hole Universe Police are starting to take too much of an interest in this particular universe.

Alexander OutlandSpace PirateNight Shade

The majority of Prosaic City's residents don't know that their town exists on top of another place -- Necropolis, City of the Undead. For the most part, the two planes of existence manage to remain separate. And when they don't, Necropolis Enforcement has beings in place to ensure the general human population remains blithely clueless. Victoria Wolfe is more than just a policewoman. She's an undercover werewolf assigned by Necropolis Enforcement to work Prosaic City Police's Night Beat. Victoria's comfortable working the shift where all the weird comes out to play, especially since her partner is also her perfect man. Or would be, if Victoria could ever work up the nerve to tell him she isn't like other girls. It's hard enough being a werewolf in disguise, but when a creature from the Depths of Hell shows up in an alley preferred by junkies, bums, and hookers, it's going to take more than just Victoria's special gun and werewolf skills to subdue the ancient Sumerian demon. Especially when the demon is merely the start of what appears to be a major takeover attempt by the Prince of Darkness. Soon all of Necropolis Enforcement's Undead Brigade is involved in the fight to stop the Prince's Major Minions from taking over Prosaic City and the rest of the human plane. But it's Victoria who has to face the Adversary and figure out what intricate plan Lucifer has up his wings before everyone she cares about is destroyed. In other words, it's just another day on the Night Beat.

SCIENCE FICTION, FANTASY, HUMOR * Aztec Astronauts * Punster Prophets * Apocalyptic Apps * Cantankerous Cryptids * and the Duck Knight Fifth annual volume of the Unidentified Funny Objects anthology series features eighteen lighthearted science fiction and fantasy tales from the masters of the genre. Read about planetary adoptions, secret agent princesses, alien cooking reality shows, rigged elections, magical insurance agents, and much more.

Captain Alexander Outland of the Sixty-Nine (short for Space Vessel 369, of course) is the best pilot in the galaxy. He's also a pirate, a smuggler, and loved and loathed by women in umpteen solar systems. His crew of strays and misfits includes an engineer of dubious sanity, a deposed planetary governor, an annoyingly unflappable Sexbot copilot, and a slinky weapons chief who stubbornly refuses to give the captain a tumble. Outland just wants to make a decent living skirting the law, but when an invisible space armada starts cutting into his business, he soon finds himself in hot water with the military, the mob, mad bombers, and an extended family of would-be conquerors. And that's not counting an occasionally telepathic spy Like any sensible scoundrel, he hates heroics. They're risky and they don't pay well. But to keep his ship and crew in one piece, and make time with a certain hard-to-get weapons chief, he might just have to make an

exception—and save the galaxy in spite of himself!

ALL-NEW STORIES TAKE THE WILD, WILD WEST TO THE FINAL FRONTIER An actual wagon train to space? Gunslinging cowpokes riding in rickety rocketships? What isn't possible when you mix science fiction and Westerns? The final frontier ain't so final in these 12 tales of space exploration and adventure: each a timeless yarn told around the warm glow of a nuclear reactor just before it goes supernova. There's a story for everyone who's ever dreamed of traveling the stars. From the lone stranger who flies into town to help a widow and her daughter to the alien rancher trying to pose as human, they are familiar, yet with completely new twists. Take the pair of mercenaries who sign on to stop a mining camp insurrection only to discover they might be on the wrong side of the revolution, or the prospector who finds the strike of a lifetime but ends up stranded on a barren moon without hope of rescue. And if that's not enough to catch your fancy, then how about a cloned Doc Holliday making his way in a future where both sickness and gambling are ancient history? Assembled inside are the biggest names in science fiction, taking you to the farthest reaches of the galaxy like they've never done before. Elizabeth Moon, Alan Dean Foster, Jane Lindskold, and Wil McCarthy are some of the exciting yarn-spinners inside. So get ready to hit the hyper-thrusters as you set course for adventure, mystery, romance, and two-lasergun slinging action! Featuring Elizabeth Moon, Alan Dean Foster, Jane Lindskold, Wil McCarthy, Gini Koch, Martin Shoemaker, Cat Rambo with J.R. Martin, Alastair Mayer, Alex Shvartsman, Patrick Swenson, and Michael L. Haspil. Edited by David Boop (Straight Outta Tombstone). At the publisher's request, this title is sold without DRM (Digital Rights Management). About Straight Outta Dodge City: "A dark, diverting anthology of 14 original tales, the third in a series. . . . By tossing weird fiction concepts into western settings, these tales give rise to unusual what-ifs. . . . [T]he ever-enjoyable Joe R. Lansdale is on hand with 'The Hoodoo Man and the Midnight Train,' an energetic tale of a mystical gunfighter, and Harry Turtledove presents the delightful 'Junior & Me,' set in an alternate world in which evolution favored reptiles rather than mammals, and the ornery galoot narrating the yarn is actually a highly evolved dinosaur. The result is an amusing . . . bunch of stories."—Publishers Weekly About Straight Outta Tombstone: "The authors were having fun. Even when they are not playing the stories for laughs, they are taking an opportunity to . . . tell a story with a fresh twist, and expand out of their expected boundaries."—The Galveston County Daily News

Anna Pavlova's revolutionary debut in 1910 at the Metropolitan Opera House captivated the nation and introduced Americans to the charms of modern ballet. Willa Cather was among the first intellectuals to recognize that dance had suddenly been elevated into a new art form, and she quickly trained herself to become one of the leading balletomanes of her era. Willa Cather and the Dance: "A Most Satisfying Elegance" traces the writer's dance education, starting with the ten-page explication she wrote in 1913 for McClure's magazine called "Training for the Ballet." Cather's interest was sustained through her entire canon as she utilized characters, scenes, and images from almost all of the important dance productions that played in New York.

Sci-fi action meets steamy paranormal romance in Gini Koch's Alien novels, as Katherine "Kitty" Katt faces off against aliens, conspiracies, and deadly secrets. • "Futuristic high-jinks and gripping adventure." —RT Reviews Planning any wedding is hard enough, but Katherine "Kitty" Katt and Jeff Martini have a lot more to worry about than seating arrangements, because multiple inter-stellar invasions, Alpha Team in mortal peril, and inter-alien conspiracies are all on the guest list—and the gifts they've brought contain some explosive surprises. The discovery that Martini is actually a member of the Alpha Centaurion Royal Family brings additional bad news—emissaries are on their way to see if Kitty's royal bride material. And they're not the only things coming from the Alpha Centauri system. Amazonian assassins, spies, alien beasties, shape-shifters, and representatives from the Planetary Council, combined with a tabloid reporter who's a little too on the mark,

create a deadly situation for Kitty and the rest of Alpha Team. When the assassins strike far too close to home for anyone's comfort, Kitty realizes it's going to come down to more than throwing a bouquet—she's going to have to face an entire planetary consciousness and dethrone a monarch in order to make it to the church on time... Alien in the Family is the thrilling third installment of the Alien novels. It is by far the richest twentieth-century source of philosophical ideas, which it will take us more decades yet properly to apprehend and to absorb; despite the difficulty with which his work presents the reader, there is nothing that is likely to be more rewarding. The philosophy of mathematics was one of his earliest and most persistent .

TOP AUTHORS POKE FUN AND PAY TRIBUTE TO H.P. LOVECRAFT'S CTHULHU MYTHOS. Knock, knock! Who's there? Cthul. Cthul who? Exactly! I've come to tickle your funnybone. Oh, and also to eat your soul. In 1928, *Weird Tales* debuted "The Call of Cthulhu" by H.P. Lovecraft, and the Cthulhu Mythos was born. In the 90 years since, dozens of writers have dared play within HPL's mind-blowing creation—but never with such terrifyingly funny results. Now top authors lampoon, parody, and subvert Lovecraft's Mythos. See Cthulhu cut short his nap at the bottom of the Pacific Ocean to invade North Korea! Watch the Unspeakable Eater of Souls solve crimes on the pulpy streets of Innsmouth! And speaking of largish Elder Gods, listen to a plastic Elvis doll dispense folksy advice straight from the heart of the Emperor of Dread! Again O! Tentacle-Face is confronted by frail humans who dare defy the Incarnation of Ultimate Evil—but this time not by brave monster hunters and terrified villagers, but by fan fiction writers, clueless college students, and corporate lawyers (okay, we realize it's hard to know who to root for in that confrontation). Twenty-three mirthful manifestations within the Cthulhu Mythos from best-selling and award-winning authors Neil Gaiman, Mike Resnick, Esther Friesner, Ken Liu, Jody Lynn Nye, Laura Resnick, Nick Mamatas, and many more! Guaranteed to leave you howling. Because if you look at it just right, there's nothing funnier than a soul writhing in cosmic horror before a tentacled maw of malevolence. As HPL himself saith: "From even the greatest of horrors irony is seldom absent." Praise for the *Unidentified Funny Objects* anthologies, edited by Alex Shvartsman: "This book is a delight. There are a lot of giggles here, and every now and then you'll laugh your head off. This is a hoot from start to finish."—*Galaxy's Edge* "Shvartsman delivers a wonderful anthology and if you want to broaden your humorous SFF reading, *Unidentified Funny Objects* is a great place to start."—*A Fantastical Librarian* Praise for Alex Shvartsman: "Shvartsman is an entertaining writer who can take on many voices and make them his."—*Locus* "Alex Shvartsman's comedy is bright and direct with clever dialogue of both the inner and outer sort."—*Tangent Online* Complete Contributor List: Neil Gaiman Jody Lynn Nye Mike Resnick Ken Liu Nick Mamatas Esther Friesner David Vaughan Kevin Wetmore Shaenon K. Garrity Brian Trent Alex Shvartsman Rachael Klahn Jones Yvonne Navarro Scott Huggins Gini Koch Aidan Doyle Konstantine Paradias Amanda Helms Laura Resnick Matt Mikalatos Laura Pearlman Lucy A. Snyder Original stories by David Vaughan, Jody Lynn Nye, Mike Resnick, Brian Trent, Yvonne Navarro, G. Scott Huggins, Gini Koch, Aidan Doyle, Amanda Helms, Laura Resnick, Laura Pearlman, Lucy Snyder, and Nick Mamatas. Reprints by Esther Friesener, Kevin Wetmore, Shaenon K. Garrity, Alex Shvatsman, Ken Liu, Rachael K. Jones, Neil Gaiman, Konstantine Paradias, and Matt Mikalatos. **

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