

Prosperity 1 Alexis Hall

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Shackles

"First rule in this line of business: don't sleep with the client." My name's Kate Kane, and when an eight-hundred-year-old vampire prince came to me with a case, I should have told her no. But I've always been a sucker for a femme fatale. It always goes the same way. You move too fast, you get in too deep, and before you know it, someone winds up dead. Last time it was my partner. This time it could be me. Yesterday a werewolf was murdered outside the Velvet, the night-time playground of one of the most powerful vampires in England. Now half the monsters in London are at each other's throats, and the other half are trying to get in my pants. The Witch Queen will protect her own, the wolves are out for vengeance, and the vampires are out for, y'know, blood. I've got a killer on the loose, a war on the horizon, and a scotch on the rocks. It's going to be an interesting day.

Pansies

Some people fear and mistrust numbers. Others want to use them for everything. After a long career as a statistician, Paul Goodwin has learned the hard way that the ones who want to use them for everything are a very good reason for the rest of us to fear and mistrust them. *Something Doesn't Add Up* is a fieldguide to the numbers that rule our world, even though they don't make sense. Wry, witty and humane, Goodwin explains mathematical subtleties so painlessly that you hardly need to think about numbers at all. He demonstrates how statistics that are meant to make life simpler often make it simpler than it actually is, but also reveals some of the ways we really can use maths to make better decisions. Enter the world of fitness tracking, the history of IQ testing, China's social credit system, Effective Altruism, and learn how someone should have noticed that Harold Shipman was killing his patients years before they actually did. In the right hands, maths is a useful tool. It's just a pity there are so many of the wrong hands about.

How to Bang a Billionaire

With half a million copies in print, *How to Read a Book* is the best and most

successful guide to reading comprehension for the general reader, completely rewritten and updated with new material. A CNN Book of the Week: “Explains not just why we should read books, but how we should read them. It's masterfully done.” –Farheed Zakaria Originally published in 1940, this book is a rare phenomenon, a living classic that introduces and elucidates the various levels of reading and how to achieve them—from elementary reading, through systematic skimming and inspectional reading, to speed reading. Readers will learn when and how to “judge a book by its cover,” and also how to X-ray it, read critically, and extract the author’s message from the text. Also included is instruction in the different techniques that work best for reading particular genres, such as practical books, imaginative literature, plays, poetry, history, science and mathematics, philosophy and social science works. Finally, the authors offer a recommended reading list and supply reading tests you can use measure your own progress in reading skills, comprehension, and speed.

How to Read a Book

Can the full paid-up pansy make things right with the pink-tipped hipster? Alfie Bell is . . . fine. He's got a six-figure salary, a penthouse in Canary Wharf, the car he swore he'd buy when he was eighteen, and a bunch of fancy London friends. It's rough, though, going back to South Shields now that they all know he's a fully paid-up pansy. It's the last place he's expecting to pull. But Fen's gorgeous, with his pink-tipped hair and hipster glasses, full of the sort of courage Alfie's never had. It should be a one-night thing, but Alfie hasn't met anyone like Fen before. Except he has. At school, when Alfie was everything he was supposed to be, and Fen was the stubborn little gay boy who wouldn't keep his head down. And now it's a proper mess: Fen might have slept with Alfie, but he'll probably never forgive him, and Fen's got all this other stuff going on anyway, with his mam and her flower shop and the life he left down south. Alfie just wants to make it right. But how can he, when all they've got in common is the nowhere town they both ran away from.

Democracy in America

Surveys the online social habits of American teens and analyzes the role technology and social media plays in their lives, examining common misconceptions about such topics as identity, privacy, danger, and bullying.

Boyfriend Material

Jana McBurney-Lin's debut novel *My Half of the Sky* introduces Li Hui, a modern young Chinese woman of marriageable age who has recently graduated from Xiamen University. Her goal is to realize Mao's words: Women hold up half of the sky. Li Hui struggles with finding love and acting with honor. Guidance and advice come from all corners of her world as well as different and conflicting generational, historical and cultural values. Everyone wants something different for and from her, particularly her parents who mourn their lack of a son while attempting to marry Li to their greatest advantage. In fact most everyone has a selfish investment in what Li Hui will do and whom she might marry. Does this sound like Jane Austen writing about the dilemmas facing young women in China today? You

bet. This original and insightful work is in the best traditions of classic novels that explore people caught in the crucible of change in complex cultures. The rewards are rich for the reader, including intriguing insights into folk tales and conventional wisdom of a culture of which few of us have an intimate and timely knowledge.

Aftershock

Rules are made to be broken . . . If England had yearbooks, I'd probably be "Arden St. Ives: Man Least Likely to Set the World on Fire." So far, I haven't. I've no idea what I'm doing at Oxford, no idea what I'm going to do next and, until a week ago, I had no idea who Caspian Hart was. Turns out, he's brilliant, beautiful . . . oh yeah, and a billionaire. It's impossible not to be captivated by someone like that. But Caspian Hart makes his own rules. And he has a lot of them. About when I can be with him. What I can do with him. And when he'll be through with me. I'm good at doing what I'm told in the bedroom. The rest of the time, not so much. And now that Caspian's shown me glimpses of the man behind the billionaire I know it's him I want. Not his wealth, not his status. Him. Except that might be the one thing he doesn't have the power to give me. Arden and Caspian's love story continues in *How to Blow It with a Billionaire*, coming Fall 2017.

Prosperity

Laurence Dalziel is worn down and washed up, and for him, the BDSM scene is all played out. Six years on from his last relationship, he's pushing forty and tired of going through the motions of submission. Then he meets Toby Finch. Nineteen years old. Fearless, fierce, and vulnerable. Everything Laurie can't remember being. Toby doesn't know who he wants to be or what he wants to do. But he knows, with all the certainty of youth, that he wants Laurie. He wants him on his knees. He wants to make him hurt, he wants to make him beg, he wants to make him fall in love. The problem is, while Laurie will surrender his body, he won't surrender his heart. Because Toby is too young, too intense, too easy to hurt. And what they have-no matter how right it feels-can't last. It can't mean anything. It can't be real.

Huntress

Peace and Prosperity in an Age of Incivility presents a comprehensive theory about peace and prosperity. It asserts that three core political values-liberty, order, and equality- must be allocated by societies through law and policy. This book shows that the optimal allocation is pure balance. Balance of values provides the origin of the "democratic peace," the observation that democracies rarely fight each other and when they do, it is brief, does not escalate, and quickly results in a diplomatic resolution. By building on simple forms of spatial and game theories, this stunning analysis shows that the democratic peace is a "Nash equilibrium," where no player has an incentive to deviate from the solution, given the choices of other "players." Democracy, because it fosters compromise, drives the political values of liberty, order, and equality to intersect in perfect, or at least relative, balance. Maximum peace and prosperity is the consequence of balancing critical values. A nation's level of peace and prosperity, while perhaps not great, will be no greater than

when these core values are in balance.

It's Complicated

Experience the incredible adventure and heart-stopping romance of the Iron Seas in this thrilling steampunk tale from New York Times bestselling author Meljean Brook. A former smuggler and thief, Ariq—better known as the Kraken King—doesn't know what to make of the clever, mysterious woman he rescues from an airship besieged by marauders. Unsure if she's a spy or a pawn in someone else's game, Ariq isn't about to let her out of his sight until he finds out... After escaping her fourth kidnapping attempt in a year, Zenobia Fox has learned to vigilantly guard her identity. While her brother Archimedes is notorious for his exploits, Zenobia has had no adventures to call her own—besides the stories she writes. But when she jumps at the chance to escape to the wilds of Australia and acquire research for her next story, Zenobia quickly discovers that the voyage will be far more adventurous than any fiction she could put to paper...

Precinct 13

Dead mothers, missing husbands, disgusting dates, perverted "reverends," seductive gurus, infamous ingrates, and cheese thieves. These are just a few of the cast of characters that pepper Valerie Gilbert's true tales in Raving Violet. Enter the world of a solitary but intrepid New Yorker. Orphaned as a young adult, this divorced, smartass metaphysician has sought solace and insight from philosophers, seances, channels and mediums—a path that has, inevitably, led her back to her formidable fortress within. Join Valerie as she scales the castle walls on her journey for love, sex, sass, a chuckle, and really good chocolate. Love and Loss! Love and Glory! Love and Nausea! Raving Violet has it all.

Something Doesn't Add Up

I like my women like I like my whiskey: embroiled in a magical war Ten years ago I fought for the Witch Queen of London in a mystical showdown against a King Arthur wannabe with a shaved head and a shotgun. Back then, the law did for him before he could do for us. I don't think we'll get that lucky again. As if the mother of all wizard battles wasn't bad enough, fate or destiny or a god with a really messed-up sense of humor has dropped a weapon that could rewrite the universe right into the middle of London, and anybody with half a sniff of arcane power has rocked up to stake their claim on it. Last time this happened, the city went to pieces. This time, it might just go to Hell. Also, still dating a vampire. Still got an alpha werewolf trying to get in my pants. Still sharing a flat with a woman made of animated marble—only now apparently there are two of her. But you know what they say: the more things change, the more they stay the same crap that's been trying to kill you your entire life. This book is approximately 96,000 words

The Affair of the Mysterious Letter

Recent college grad Alex Conner is thrilled to have landed a job as the Hughes County coroner/medical examiner in Pierre, South Dakota. But when her first day

on the job ends with a missing corpse, Alex starts to wonder if she would have been better off collecting unemployment. When the cops made some cryptic comments about being careful with the body they brought in, Alex just thought the boys in blue were messing with her. That is, until something freaky happens that no amount of med school could have prepared her for. By the time Alex gets herself together, the body has disappeared and the other residents of the morgue start talking her ear off. After working up the courage to report the missing body, Alex is transferred to the mysterious Precinct 13 where she discovers that her new co-workers—including a cute technomage named Jack—are paranormals just like her. Now, Alex is being encouraged to use her ability to speak to the dead to solve crimes. And despite being in the middle of nowhere, Hughes County sure does have a lot of paranormal activity...

Iron & Velvet

"A breathtaking tale of passion and adventure in the untamed skies " Prosperity, 1863: a lawless skytown where varlets, chancers, and ne'er-do-wells risk everything to chase a fortune in the clouds, and where a Gaslight guttersnipe named Piccadilly is about to cheat the wrong man. This mistake will endanger his life . . . and his heart. "Thrill "As our hero battles dreadful kraken above Prosperity. "Gasp " As the miracles of clockwork engineering allow a dead man to wreak his vengeance upon the living. "Marvel "At the aerial escapades of the aethership, "Shadowless." "Beware "The licentious and unchristian example set by the opium-addled navigatress, Miss Grey. "Disapprove Strongly "Of the utter moral iniquity of the dastardly crime prince, Milord. "Swoon " At the dashing skycaptain, Byron Kae. "Swoon Again " At the tormented clergyman, Ruben Crowe. This volume (available in print, and for the first time on mechanical book-reading devices) contains the complete original text of Piccadilly's memoirs as first serialised in "All the Year Round." Some passages may prove unsettling to unmarried gentlemen of a sensitive disposition.

Peace and Prosperity in an Age of Incivility

"In the small mountain town of Amorea, it's stretching toward autumn of 1954. The memories of a world at war are fading in the face of a prosperous future. Doors are left unlocked at night, and neighbors are always there to give each other a helping hand. The people here know certain things as fact: Amorea is the best little town there is. The only good Commie is a dead Commie. The Women's Club of Amorea runs the town with an immaculately gloved fist. And bookstore owner Mike Frazier loves that boy down at the diner, Sean Mellgard. Why they haven't gotten their acts together is anybody's guess. It may be the world's longest courtship, but no one can deny the way they look at each other. Slow and steady wins the race, or so they say. But something's wrong with Mike. He hears voices in his house late at night. There are shadows crawling along the walls and great clouds of birds overhead that only he can see. Something's happening in Amorea. And Mike will do whatever he can to keep the man he loves" -- Page [4] of cover.

There Will Be Phlogiston

Previously published; newly revised by author I like my women like I like my whiskey: liable to kill me. The two parts of being a paranormal private investigator I could really do without are being forced to eat bananas by an animated statue with a potassium fixation, and being put on trial for murder by a self-appointed council of vampire oligarchs. To be fair, I did kind of do it (the murder, not the bananas). But I was kind of saving my girlfriend, who is kind of one of them. On top of this, I've also wound up with a primordial queen of the damned trying to strangle me in my dreams. And the conspiracy of undead wizards who tried to sacrifice me fifteen years ago has decided that now is the best possible time to give it another go. Throw in the woman who left me for a tech start-up, the old girlfriend who I might sort of owe eternal mystical fealty to and a werewolf "it girl" who can't decide if she wants to eat me in the good way or the bad way, and I'm beginning to think life would be easier if I made better choices. Then again, it'd be a whole lot less fun. This book is approximately 98,000 words

The Old Regime and the Revolution

Explores the history of the American rich, from the founding of the nation to the present day, exposing a detrimental political pattern that has hindered the democratic process and profoundly impacted the nation's economy.

Alexis de Tocqueville on Democracy, Revolution, and Society

In a submerged Manhattan where outcasts have paranormal powers, Aria Rose is engaged to Thomas Foster, and their powerful families--once enemies--are uniting politically, but Aria cannot remember meeting Thomas or falling in love with him.

The Kraken King

The nineteenth-century French writer examines the development of democratic government in the United States and the state of political and social life

Regional Integration: Key to Caribbean Survival and Prosperity

"The universe is a glitterball I hold in the palm of my hand." Once the golden boy of the English literary scene, now a clinically depressed writer of pulp crime fiction, Ash Winters has given up on love, hope, happiness, and-most of all-himself. He lives his life between the cycles of his illness, haunted by the ghosts of other people's expectations. Then a chance encounter at a stag party throws him into the arms of Essex boy Darian Taylor, an aspiring model who lives in a world of hair gel, fake tans, and fashion shows. By his own admission, Darian isn't the crispest lettuce in the fridge, but he cooks a mean cottage pie and makes Ash laugh, reminding him of what it's like to step beyond the boundaries of anxiety. But Ash has been living in his own shadow for so long that he can't see past the glitter to the light. Can a man who doesn't trust himself ever trust in happiness? And how can a man who doesn't believe in happiness ever fight for his own?

Prosperity

The Well-being of Nations The Role of Human and Social Capital

Don't miss the epic conclusion to Caspian Hart and Arden St. Ives' love story! If you love someone, set them free I thought I'd be okay when Caspian Hart left. He was a brilliant, beautiful billionaire with a past he couldn't escape. And I was just me: an ordinary man lost in his own life. It would never have lasted. It should never have happened. Not outside a fairytale. And I am okay. I've got my job, my family, my friends, and everything Caspian taught me. Except it turns out he's going to marry his ex-boyfriend. A man who doesn't understand him. A man who almost broke him. And I've finally realized it's not enough for me to be happy. I need Caspian to be happy too. Problem is, I've already done all I can to help him. I've followed his rules and broken his rules and learned his secrets. And he still won't believe I can love him. So now it's his turn. His turn to fight, and trust, and hope. It's time for Caspian Hart to choose me. The Arden St. Ives Series: How to Bang a Billionaire How to Blow it with a Billionaire How to Belong with a Billionaire

Raving Violet

A breathtaking tale of passion and adventure in the untamed skies! Prosperity, 1863: a lawless skytown where varlets, chancers, and ne'er-do-wells risk everything to chase a fortune in the clouds, and where a Gaslight guttersnipe named Piccadilly is about to cheat the wrong man. This mistake will endanger his life and his heart. Thrill! As our hero battles dreadful kraken above Prosperity. Gasp! As the miracles of clockwork engineering allow a dead man to wreak his vengeance upon the living. Marvel! At the aerial escapades of the aethership, Shadowless. Beware! The licentious and unchristian example set by the opium-addled navigatress, Miss Grey. Disapprove Strongly! Of the utter moral iniquity of the dastardly crime prince, Milord. Swoon! At the dashing skycaptain, Byron Kae. Swoon Again! At the tormented clergyman, Ruben Crowe. This volume (available in print, and for the first time on mechanical book-reading devices) contains the complete original text of Piccadilly's memoirs as first serialised in All the Year Round. Some passages may prove unsettling to unmarried gentlemen of a sensitive disposition.

O'Mandingo!

In Marking Modern Times, Alexis McCrossen relates how the American preoccupation with time led people from across social classes to acquire watches and clocks.

How to Belong with a Billionaire

Twenty-five-year-old Alexis de Tocqueville's account of America's social and political characteristics, which he observed in the early 1830s while visiting from France; contains the complete two volumes based on the second revised and corrected text of the 1961 French edition.

Murmuration

-- NOTE: This book ends on a cliffhanger! See how Arden and Caspian's love story ends in the third book, coming Summer 2018! --

Fire & Water

The Queen of Xana is an adult fairy story, not for children, and a political allegory. In the mythical land of Xana, Queen Julia governs as a typical medieval monarch in which the country's vast wealth is concentrated in a tiny aristocracy. Her daughter, and heiress to the throne, Princess Agatha, is champion of the impoverished commoners. The evil sorcerer Magi comes to Xana, kills the queen, and ravages aristocrats and commoners alike. Princess Agatha is protected by her fairy godmother, who declares that she can save her people only if she identifies her handsome prince incognito in the crowd on her very first try and makes love to him. She will not have a second chance. She succeeds by being alert when an extraordinary event happens. Then she asserts her right to rule instead of disappearing into pampered obscurity like most fairytale princesses. Queen Agatha now concocts one radical political scheme after another as she strives relentlessly to achieve her goal of prosperity for all. On the way she must deal with corruption on her own council of advisors, a vicious usurer, the school bully, barbarians kidnapping and enslaving her people, and invasion by a foreign army much larger than her own. And on the way she nurtures several children of humble background into adult greatness. But will the prosperity that she has created outlast her own lifetime?

Shadows & Dreams

Based on the controversial but popular e-zine, this collection of opinion pieces and essays analyzes current topics facing postapartheid South Africa; including black economic empowerment, affirmative action, race, poverty, and affluence, while also touching on such lighter topics as sports, movies, love, and friendship. Black pride, strength, unity, and prosperity are central themes in these articles, creating a unique picture of the current South African black consciousness movement.

Less is Beautiful

Kestrel Evans hates Mondays. Mostly because she's disappointed in her job. She studied literature and language but she's working at a spaceport, selling guns and supplies to snooty galactic tourists. A deafening crash comes from her back room. An eight-foot cylinder appears out of nowhere and flattens all the boxes—and out of it steps a young man in a leather jacket, toting some sort of long, sawed-off gun. And he's smoking a cigarette. Which is EXTREMELY illegal. All at once, Kestrel's life spirals out of control. Jack Wolfe, this sharp, scarred, irascible stranger, demands Kestrel's help in finding William Jakiv, a scientist whose methods are as famous as they are morally questionable. And when Kestrel's family enters Jakiv's crosshairs, Kestrel has no choice. It's now an interstellar race. Kestrel and Jack are pitted against hired mercenaries, disease, mechanical soldiers and inner demons, and along the way, Kestrel begins to suspect that Jack Wolfe may be an integral part of a dangerous and galactically-forbidden time-travel project: The Paradox Initiative.

Looking for Group

Listen -- can you hear it? The explosive sequel to THE ROAR! From a whisper to a scream! Telepathic twins Mika and Ellie at last are reunited. But if they're ever to free the brainwashed, microchipped child soldiers, they must pretend to play along with the tyrant Mal Gorman's maniacal plan, even as they mind-read his every evil thought. Members of an elite squadron of mutants, the brother and sister have specialized skills that will enable them to steal the top-secret formula for an age-reversing drug developed by rebel scientists on the wild side of The Wall. Juiced by these potent pills, the cadaver-like Gorman foresees a future in which he'll be forever young - released from the machinery that now supports him. Unless, that is, Ellie and Mika have a master plan of their own: to bring the all-powerful Gorman to his knees, and face-to-face with his greatest fear.

Mystic City

the success of nations, communities and individuals are linked, more than ever before, to how they adapt to change, learn and share knowledge. This report helps clarify the concepts of human and social capital and evaluates their impact on economic growth and well-being.

For Real

The Paradox Initiative

So, yeah, I play Heroes of Legend, y'know, the MMO. I'm not like obsessed or addicted or anything. It's just a game. Anyway, there was this girl in my guild who I really liked because she was funny and nerdy and a great healer. Of course, my mates thought it was hilarious I was into someone I'd met online. And they thought it was even more hilarious when she turned out to be a boy IRL. But the joke's on them because I still really like him. And now that we're together, it's going pretty well. Except sometimes I think Kit--that's his name, sorry I didn't mention that--spends way too much time in HoL. I know he has friends in the guild, but he has me now, and my friends, and everyone knows people you meet online aren't real. I mean. Not Kit. Kit's real. Obviously. Oh, I'm Drew, by the way. This is sort of my story. About how I messed up some stuff and figured out some stuff. And fell in love and stuff.

The Queen of Xana

WANTED: One (fake) boyfriend Practically perfect in every way Luc O'Donnell is tangentially—and reluctantly—famous. His rock star parents split when he was young, and the father he's never met spent the next twenty years cruising in and out of rehab. Now that his dad's making a comeback, Luc's back in the public eye, and one compromising photo is enough to ruin everything. To clean up his image, Luc has to find a nice, normal relationship and Oliver Blackwood is as nice and normal as they come. He's a barrister, an ethical vegetarian, and he's never inspired a moment of scandal in his life. In other words: perfect boyfriend material.

Unfortunately, apart from being gay, single, and really, really in need of a date for a big event, Luc and Oliver have nothing in common. So they strike a deal to be publicity-friendly (fake) boyfriends until the dust has settled. Then they can go their separate ways and pretend it never happened. But the thing about fake-dating is that it can feel a lot like real-dating. And that's when you get used to someone. Start falling for them. Don't ever want to let them go. Discover the LGBT romance about exact opposites falling in perfectly imperfect love that New York Times and USA Today bestselling author CHRISTINA LAUREN calls "hilarious, witty, tender, and stunning."

Glitterland

An instructive story in which vice receives its just reward. Inspired by true and scandalous tales of the Gaslight aristocracy, we present the most moral and improving tale of Lady Rosamond Wolfram. Weep, reader, for the plight of our heroine as she descends into piteous ruin in the clutches of the notorious Phlogiston Baron, Anstruther Jones. Witness the horrors of feminine rebellion when this headstrong young lady defies her father, breaks an advantageous engagement, and slips into depravity with a social inferior. Before the last page is turned, you will have seen our heroine molested by carnival folk, snubbed at a dance, and drawn into a sinful ménage a trois by an unrepentant sodomite, the wicked and licentious Lord Mercury. Reader, take heed. No aspect of our unfortunate heroine's life, adventures, or conduct is at all admirable, desirable, exciting, thrilling, glamorous, or filled with heady passion and gay romance.

My Half of the Sky

Dear Dr. Howard, The enclosed comprises the complete personal correspondence of Patient #137 prior to her admittance to Bethlem Royal Hospital. It is my hope that these documents will provide valuable insight into the events immediately preceding her current episode and may, therefore, usefully inform your treatment of her. Since arrival, her behaviour has been characterised by long periods of docility, punctuated by outbursts of hysteria, in the grip of which she has seduced into deviant behaviour a nurse, a Quaker, and two representatives of the Fallen Women's Society. She has also spoken in unknown, inhuman languages, inscribed the floor with malignant, ever-shifting runes, and revealed to the other inmates an infinite sky of alien constellations, much to the distress of the staff. I trust you will have greater success with her than we have. Yours sincerely, Dr. L. Phillips

The Whisper

This publication contains a number of papers on issues which are key to Caribbean survival and prosperity. They critically review the challenges facing Member States of CARICOM. Written by a number of outstanding authors of recognized academic pedigree, these analyses look at the Region across a spectrum of issues: political, economic, social and environmental, among others. Attention is focused on efforts at regional integration as well as on the options to be pursued by CARICOM if it is to survive in the new political, economic and social dispensation. The book is replete with insightful presentations on the evolution of the Community at this

point in its history.

Wealth and Democracy

In this charming, witty, and weird fantasy novel, Alexis Hall pays homage to Sherlock Holmes with a new twist on those renowned characters. Upon returning to the city of Khelathra-Ven after five years fighting a war in another universe, Captain John Wyndham finds himself looking for somewhere to live, and expediency forces him to take lodgings at 221b Martyrs Walk. His new housemate is Ms. Shaharazad Haas, a consulting sorceress of mercurial temperament and dark reputation. When Ms. Haas is enlisted to solve a case of blackmail against one of her former lovers, Miss Eirene Viola, Captain Wyndham is drawn into a mystery that leads him from the salons of the literary set to the drowned back-alleys of Ven and even to a prison cell in lost Carcosa. Along the way he is beset by criminals, menaced by pirates, molested by vampires, almost devoured by mad gods, and called upon to punch a shark. But the further the companions go in pursuit of the elusive blackmailer, the more impossible the case appears. Then again, in Khelathra-Ven reality is flexible, and the impossible is Ms. Haas' stock-in-trade.

How to Blow it with a Billionaire

Marking Modern Times

Nature is out of balance in the human kingdom. The sun hasn't shone in years, and crops are failing. Worse yet, strange and hostile creatures have begun to appear. And the people's survival hangs in the balance. To solve the crisis, the oracle stones are cast, and Kaede and Taisin, two seventeen-year-old girls, are picked to go on a dangerous and unheard-of journey to Tanlili, the city of the Fairy Queen. Taisin is a sage, thrumming with magic, and Kaede is of the earth, without a speck of the otherworldly. And yet the two girls' destinies are drawn together during the mission. As members of their party succumb to unearthly attacks and fairy tricks, the two come to rely on each other and even begin to fall in love. But the Kingdom needs only one huntress to save it, and what it takes could tear Kaede and Taisin apart forever. The exciting adventure prequel to Malinda Lo's highly acclaimed novel *Ash* is overflowing with lush Chinese influences and details inspired by the *I Ching*, and is filled with action and romance.

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