



TRANSLATIONS

## Speculative Fiction in Translation: 15 Works to Watch Out For in 2016

Rachel Cordasco

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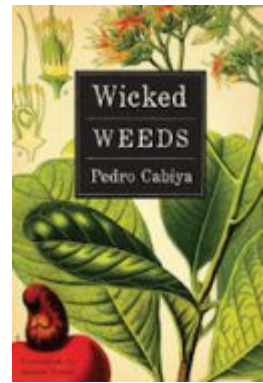
Art by Stephan Martinière

You might think that speculative fiction in translation is hard to come by in the U.S., and on the surface, that seems true. But if you dig a little deeper (Google, Edelweiss, etc.), you'll find a number of fantastic-sounding books to keep your SFF-heavy TBR pile stacked *way* too high. But don't worry about doing all that work—I've done it for you!

Allow me, then, to present an annotated list of the speculative fiction in translation out between now and December. You've got your Caribbean zombies, your Iraqi Frankensteins, your literary polar bears, and much more. Enjoy, and tell us what books you're looking forward to!

***Wicked Weeds: A Zombie Novel* by Pedro Cabiya**  
**Translated by Jessica Ernst Powell (Mandel Vilar Press, October 25)**

You know what's been missing in your life? A work of Caribbean noir and science fiction! in *Wicked Weeks*, a smart and successful zombie desperately searches for the formula that would reverse his “zombie-hood” and turn him into a “real person.”



***Isra Isle* by Nava Semel**  
**Translated by Jessica Cohen (Mandel Vilar Press, October 25)**

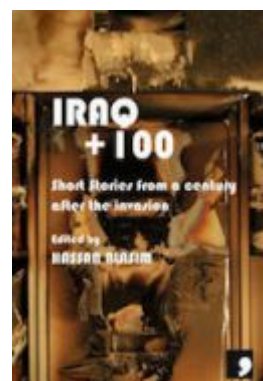
Reminiscent of Michael Chabon's *The Yiddish Policemen's Union*, Semel's novel imagines a world in which Jews have a refuge on Grand Island, bought in 1825 by a Jewish diplomat. When one of his descendants goes missing in an attempt to reclaim this island, a Native American investigator follows in his tracks.



***Iraq + 100: Short Stories from a Century After the Invasion***

**Edited by Hassan Blasim (Carcanet Press, October 27)**

This collection of stories by contemporary Iraqi writers asks us to imagine the many ways in which the war-scarred country might heal and emerge from the chaos unleashed in 2003. Both a critical lens on current events and a space for speculative storytelling, *Iraq + 100* promises to be a fascinating read.



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Rachel S. Cordasco earned a Ph.D in Literary Studies from the University of Wisconsin, Madison in 2010, and taught courses in American and British literature, and Composition. She has also worked at the Wisconsin Historical Society Press. A Book Riot and SF Signal contributor, Rachel recently launched [a site devoted to speculative fiction in translation](#). You can follow her [@Rcordas](#) and on facebook at [Bookishly Witty](#) and [Speculative Fiction in Translation](#).