

Dead on Arrival, But Make, It Funny

An Anti-Genre
Guide to Books That
Refuse to Behave.



Curated for the
terminally snarky and
the existentially tired.

The Death of the Neat Little Box

Welcome to the glorious, messy middle ground. We're celebrating the books that refuse to fit into the polite categories your high school English teacher preferred. These are stories where existential dread is served with a side of snark, thrillers meet dark comedy, and monsters meet menopause.

RIP boring fiction.



The Gold Standard: Not Quite Dead Yet

Holly Jackson's adult debut proves that the best motivation for solving a murder is realizing it's your own. Jet Mason is the ultimate procrastinator who finally stops waiting for her life to begin only when it's about to end.



A literal ticking time bomb
(Subdural hematoma.
7 days left to live).

Mid-eye-roll
(Directed at her wealthy,
dysfunctional Woodstock,
VT family).

Fueled purely by spite.

*Nancy Drew meets
an existential crisis.*



Victorian Psycho by Virginia Feito

THE HOOK:

Mary Poppins, but make it homicide.

THE VIBE:

A delightfully deranged governess who casually debates murder while teaching French to the insufferable Pounds family in Grim Wolds, England.

THE DAMAGE:

A wickedly sharp, pitch-black comedy comedy that proves 19th-century women had plenty of reasons to snap.

A masterclass in unhinged, corset-ripping feminist rage perfectly timed for Christmas morning.

Do not leave her alone with the children.

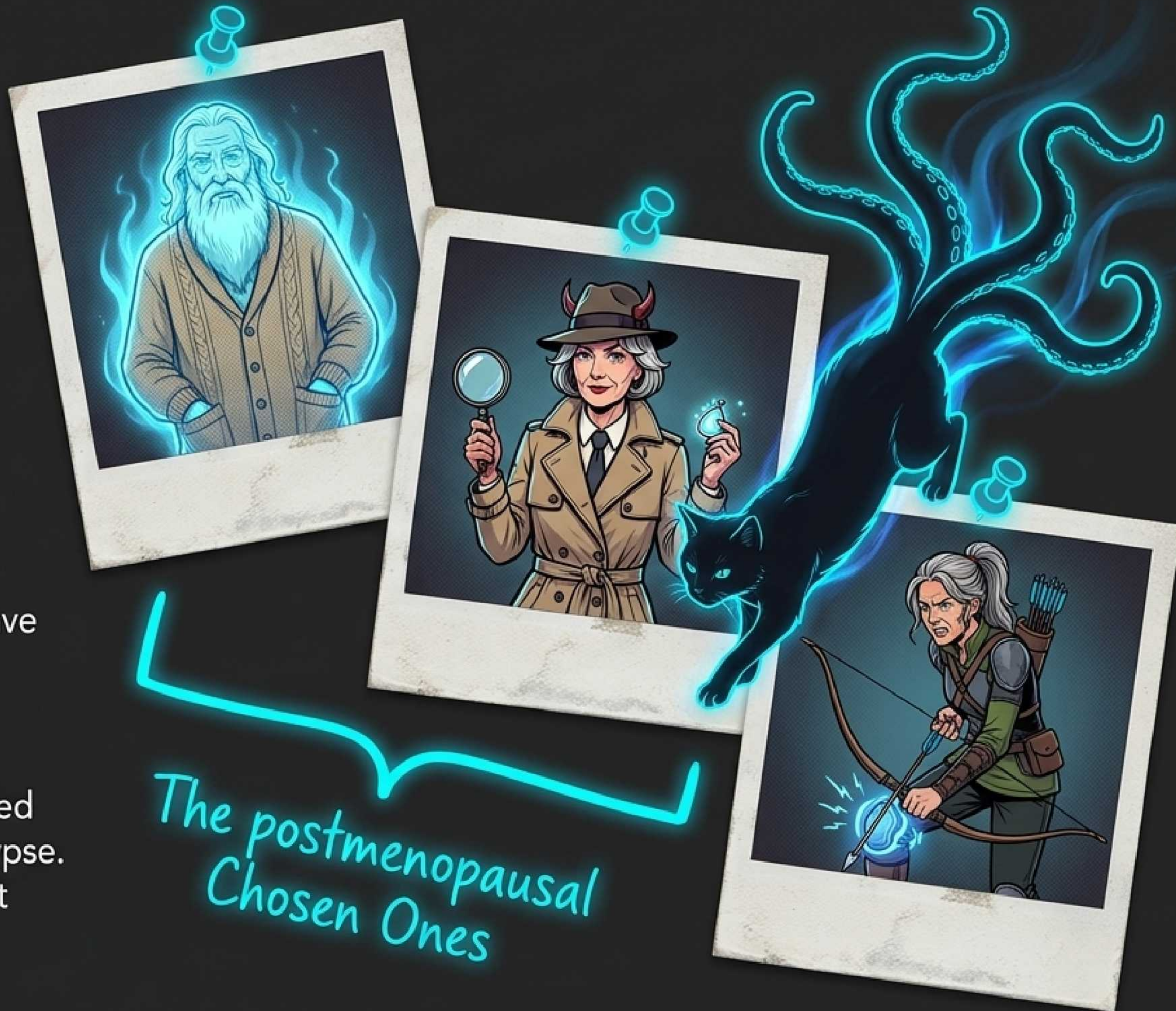
Slayers of Old

by Jim C. Hines

THE HOOK: Buffy meets The Golden Girls.

Why save the world when you could just eat scones in your Salem, MA bookstore? Because eldritch horrors have absolutely no respect for retirement.

THE DAMAGE: A Lovecraftian threat handled by heroes who are more worried about their bad knees than the apocalypse. Cozy, action-packed, and full of militant mice and possessed vans.



*The postmenopausal
Chosen Ones*

Futility by Nuzo Onoh

THE HOOK: Good soup, bad men, and demonic body-swapping.

INGREDIENTS FOR REVENGE:

- ✓ - 1 beautiful Abuja restaurant owner (Chia).
- ✓ - 1 bitter 50-year-old British expat (Claire).
- ✓ - 1 trickster spirit (Efu).
- ✓ - A generous helping of male betrayal.



THE DAMAGE: The Queen of African Horror serves up a monstrous, gleefully grotesque look at what happens when two deeply petty women are given a supernatural blank check for vengeance. Existential futility has never tasted so spicy.

Ring the Bells by C.K. McDonnell

THE HOOK: A chaos god possesses a mall Santa to ruin Christmas.

THE VIBE: Inept supernatural journalism meets festive doom.

THE DAMAGE: When a Manchester book club accidentally triggers a holiday apocalypse, it's up to the deeply unqualified, foul-mouthed staff of *The Stranger Times* to stop it.

Proof that
book clubs are
dangerous.



The Unorthodox Reanimations Double Feature



Soul Fraud by Andrew Givler

THE HOOK: Hell isn't fire and brimstone; it's middle management. A darkly funny look at literalizing corporate soul-collection.



Anima Rising by Christopher Moore

THE HOOK: *Poor Things* meets *Bride of Frankenstein*. Gustav Klimt accidentally sketches an undead woman back to life in 1911 Vienna.

Because whether you are navigating demonic bureaucracy or waking up a century late to your own life, existence is exhausting.

The Vibe Check Matrix

Pick your poison.

	Not Quite Dead Yet	Victorian Psycho	Slayers of Old	Futility	Ring the Bells
Gore Level	 Papercut	 Slaughterhouse	 Moderate	 Spicy	 Festive Chaos
Protagonist's Main Annoyance	Impending Aneurysm	The Pounds Family	Bad Knees	Men	Holiday Cheer
Unlikely Weapons Used	Pure Spite	A Frilly Parasol	Sentient House	Hot Pepper Soup	Mall Santa
Likelihood of Ruining a Holiday	Halloween Ruined	Christmas Guaranteed	Retirement Interrupted	Everyday Ruined	Christmas Apocalypse

Which Not Quite Dead Yet Read-Alike Are You?

Read
Futility



A
Poison
their soup.

**How do you
handle a minor
inconvenience?**

B

Complain about
your arthritis
while casting a spell.

Read
Slayers
of Old



D

Casually debate
murder in a
corset.

Read
Victorian
Psycho



E

Ignore it
until your
brain aneurysm
bursts.

Stick with
Not Quite
Dead Yet



C

Wait for
a mall Santa
to fix it.

Read
Ring the
Bells



Go forth and
read weird things.