



The SFF Last Books on Earth

*30 stunning books (and series) for
your end-of-the-world library*

Jemma Pollari

specificsociety.com

What books would you take on a desert island?

Let's play the desert island game. Imagine you're about to commit to the last books that you will ever read, for the rest of your life. But this isn't the standard game, where cruel people (who probably aren't even bookish) force you to choose just a measly three books, or sometimes, just *one* (what even is that?! Savages).

Here, you've got a nice big shipping container to take a luxurious 30 books with you. And, we'll even let you call a series a book. It's one continuous story, after all. It checks out! I'm ok with it. You are too, right?

In this list, you will find 30 of the most stellar examples of science fiction and fantasy to stock your last-books-on-Earth shipping container with. There are stories here for all ages, from illustrated fairy tales through to adult hard science fiction. The beauty of a wonderful story is that it speaks to us, regardless of age.

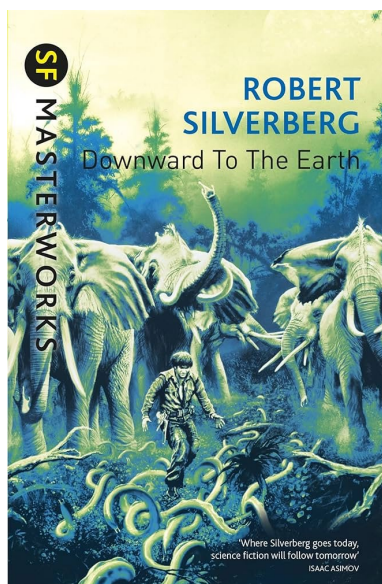
So, let's get into it. Uncover rare and unusual gems that have not even been *near* your radar, let alone on it. Discover characters that teach us about being human, no matter their world. These stories will keep you filled with awe and wonder for the rest of your life.

Tip: Tap book cover to go to Goodreads!

Downward to the Earth

by Robert Silverberg

#30



Stand-alone



1970



American author



Science fiction

Adult, hard sci-fi

Alien world

Post-colonialism

Metamorphosis

Sentient alien elephants

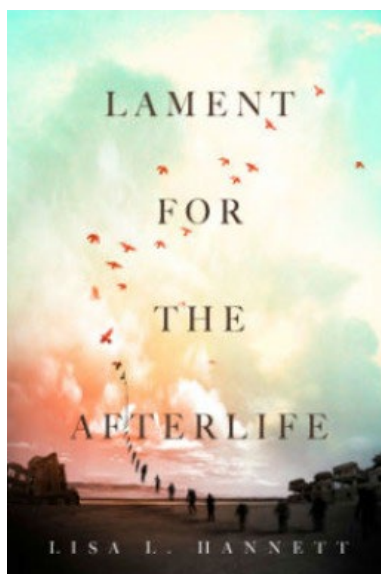
Vicious plant life

A strange and unsettling decent into self and humanity within the context of an alien world once colonised by Earth, but since returned to the two native sentient species. The protagonist goes on a parallel spiritual and physical journey seeking redemption for the acts he committed, and at journey's end discovers the secret this planet holds. There are plants that ensnare, absorb and transform humans into an energy source, mind-altering drugs, forbidden rituals, and elevations of consciousness. If you love *Children of Time* (#21), you'll love this classic sci fi.

Lament for the Afterlife

by Lisa L Hannett

#29



Stand-alone



2015



Canadian-Australian author



Science fiction

Adult, apocalyptic: war against invisible opponents

Literary speculative fiction

Fragility of memory

Wordwinds reveal thoughts to all

Do the greys even exist?

Soldiers, battlefronts and aftermaths

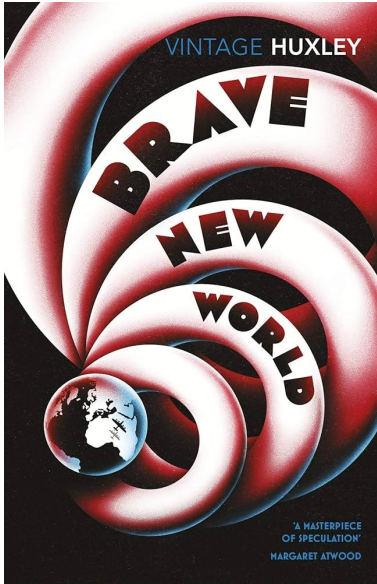
In *Lament for the Afterlife*, a mysterious force has brought humanity under siege. In war-torn civilisation, humans fight to defend themselves, all while their wordwinds reveal their innermost thoughts to all those around them. In their deepest fears, they question: do the greys even exist?

This story plays with language, memory, consciousness and belief, and is a compelling literary example of speculative fiction. Plays with similar concepts to *The Flame Alphabet* (#8) and *The Knife of Never Letting Go* (#13) but in a completely different way.

Brave New World

by Aldous Huxley

#28



- 📖 *Stand-alone*
- ⌚ *1932*
- 🌐 *British author*
- 🖋️ *Science fiction*
 - Adult, dystopian*
 - Stratified society*
 - Genetic engineering*
 - Medicated happiness*
 - Hedonism*
 - Worlds collide*

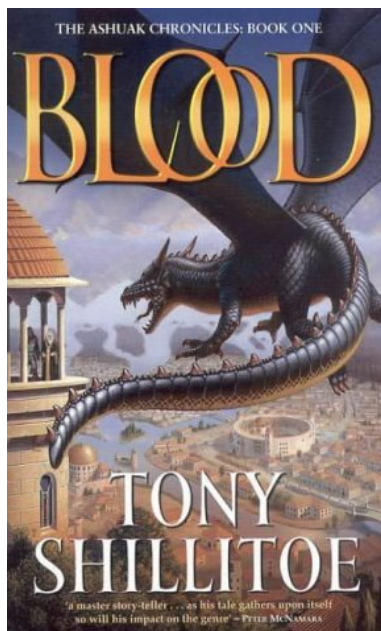
In the technologically-advanced *Brave New World*, humans are genetically built for their rank in society, and everyone is happy. The underclass are built to enjoy the menial labour which is their lot in life, entertainment and pleasure are key, and drugs are taken to ensure we all have the right emotions at the right time.

This novel is like a counterpoint to *1984* (#11), a mirror world reflection of two totalitarian societies with very different goals – but ultimately, the same prison is built for those within.

Blood

by Tony Shillitoe

#27



Series: *The Ashuak Chronicles*

Hourglass icon: *Blood*: 2002

Passion: 2003

Freedom: 2003

Globe icon: *Australian author*

Quill icon: *Fantasy*

Adult, high fantasy

Subtly Australian setting

Dragons

Prophecy

Sweeping power struggles

Rebels, gladiators and priests

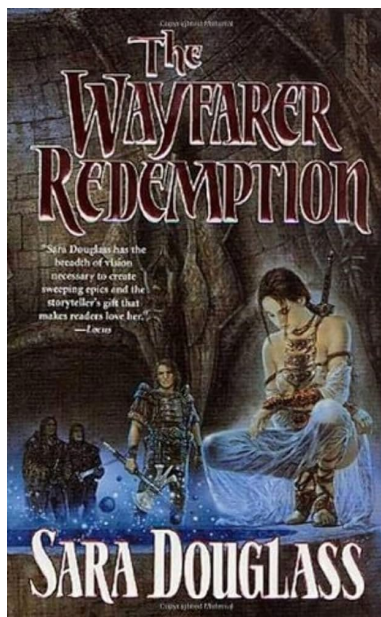
A vivid and richly-imagined world within a subtle Australian setting, *Blood* is the first book of a sweeping epic. There are Dragon Priests that control the dangerous dragons, a gladiator brother-sister team, slaves, and a military governor fighting to establish himself in a newly overthrown country.

A series that will appeal to lovers of political intrigue, twisted plots, and the power wielded by mysterious dark actors, *The Ashuak Chronicles* is a cracking, atmospheric journey.

The Wayfarer Redemption

by Sara Douglass

#26



Series:

The Axis Trilogy (first three) and The Wayfarer Redemption (all six, or the last three, depending on who you ask)



*The Wayfarer Redemption: 1995
Enchanter: 1996 | Starman: 1996
Sinner: 1997 | Pilgrim: 1998
Crusader: 1999*



Australian author



Fantasy

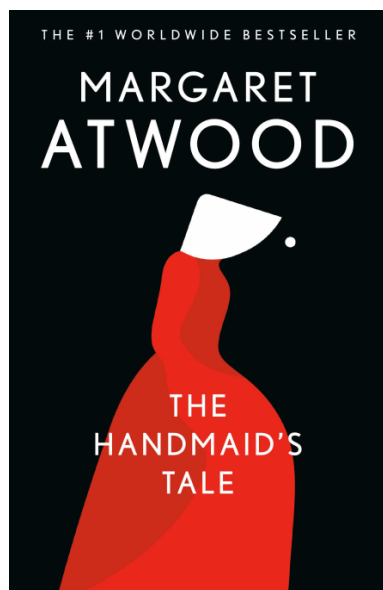
*Adult, high fantasy
Winged people | Star gate
Love triangle | Evil siblings
Chosen one | Prophecy*

In this sweeping epic, winged hero Axis must overcome evil to save both his kingdom and the women he loves, all while carrying the burden of an age-old prophecy and siblings who just won't cooperate. Monsters and sorceresses, legends and war – and a slow burn, fated lovers romance plot – make this a series that will live on with you. This award-winning series can be read as two arcs of three books, but best to invest in the whole set.

The Handmaid's Tale

by Margaret Atwood

#25



Series: *The Handmaid's Tale*



The Handmaid's Tale: 1985
The Testaments: 2019



Canadian author

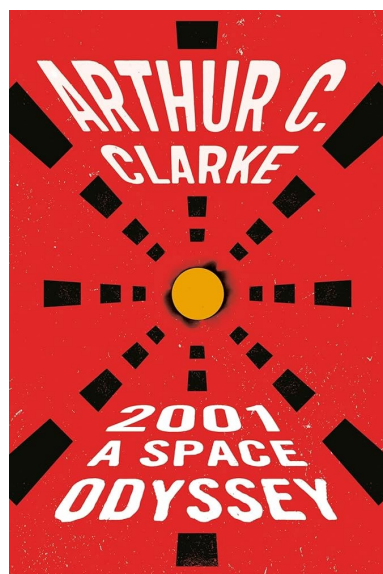


Science fiction
Adult, dystopian: totalitarian religion
Almost universal infertility
Brainwashing
Secret chess games
Lost previous lives
Underground resistance

In a near-future version of the United States, birth rates are declining and a totalitarian religious regime has taken over. Main character Offred is a Handmaid: one of the few still-fertile women left, who is assigned to produce babies for her Commander. Her past life, including her daughter, is lost to her, and her only connections are through whispered conversations with the other Handmaids – and elicited chess games with the Commander. In a world where no one can be trusted, and death is a constant threat, *The Handmaid's Tale* is an essential speculative fiction read.

2001: A Space Odyssey by Arthur C Clarke

#24



📖 *Series: Space Odyssey*

⌚ *2001: A Space Odyssey: 1968*
2010: Odyssey Two: 1982
2061: Odyssey Three: 1987
3001: The Final Odyssey: 1997

🇬🇧 *British author*

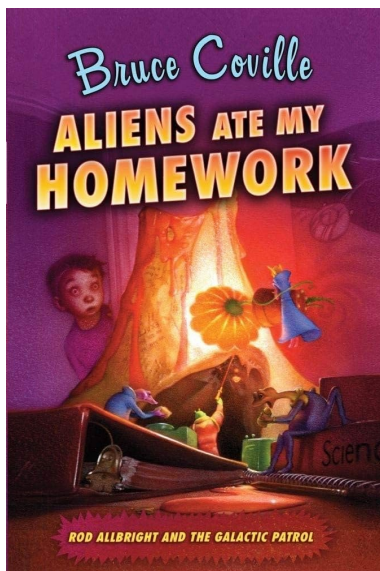
👁️ *Science fiction*
Adult, hard sci-fi
First contact
AI on a murderous rampage
Mysterious artefacts
Wormholes

2001: A Space Odyssey in book form was created collaboratively and simultaneously with the movie of the same name. Arthur C Clarke wrote the story down and Stanley Kubrick created it on film. The book is an excellent example of classic science fiction, and adds much-needed context and explanation to the (let's face it) pretty obtuse movie. With an ending that will resonate with readers of *Downwards to the Earth* (#30), this first contact novel sweeps from the dawn of humankind to galactic consciousness.

Aliens Ate My Homework

by Bruce Coville

#23



📖 *Series: Rod Albright and the Galactic Patrol*

⌚ *Aliens Ate My Homework: 1973*
I Left My Sneakers in Dimension X: 1994
The Search for Snout: 1995
Aliens Stole My Body: 1998

👤 *American author*

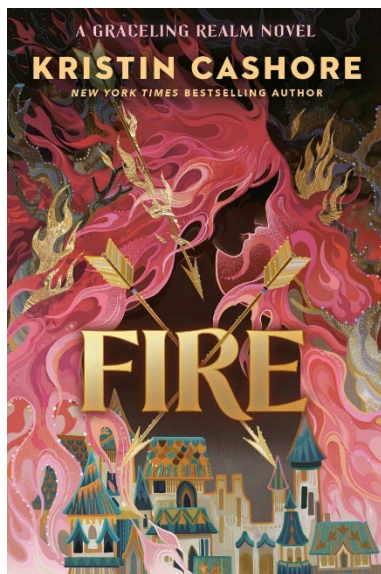
🖋️ *Science fiction*
Middle-grade, space opera
Alien biology
Mind-swapping
Found family

Aliens Ate My Homework is a compelling, emotive series packed with vivid characters, unique alien biology and heart-rending friendships. Protagonist Rod ends up on a spaceship with a motley crew of aliens, and adventures ensue. There's secret backstories, disappearances and searches, accidental brain swaps, and an alien whose lifecycle includes splitting into two separate entities. Strange planets, other dimensions, mental powers of all kinds and really nasty bad guys round out the series. This is one of those stories that transcends demographics and will delight all ages.

Fire

by Kristin Cashore

#22



📖 *Series: Graceling Realm*

⌚ *Graceling: 2008*

Fire: 2009

Bitterblue: 2012

Winterkeep: 2021

Seasparrow: 2022

🌐 *American author*

🖋 *Fantasy*

Young adult, romantasy

Creatures with mesmerising power

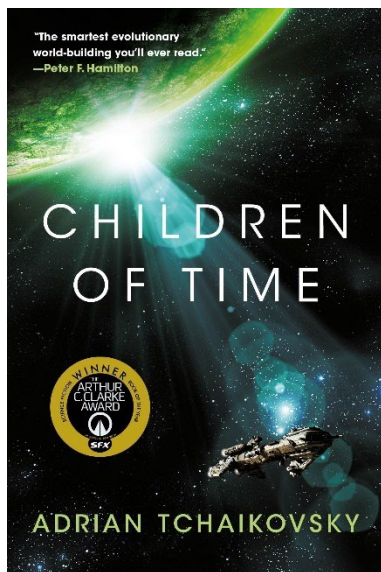
Protecting the world from herself

Fire is the second book of the *Graceling Realm* series, but the books stand-alone well, especially Fire. This book has beautiful imagery, vividly describing the compelling allure of strange monstrous variations of normal animals which exert a power over those around them. Fire is a human one of these monsters, and has isolated herself from the rest of her people because her own power terrifies her. That is, until she is forced to act to save her kingdom. With a compelling romance threaded throughout, Fire is a book that will keep you awake at night until it's done.

Children of Time

by Adrian Tchaikovsky

#21



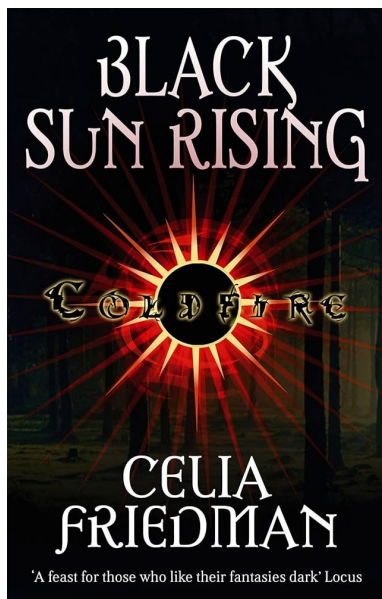
- 📖 *Series: Children of Time*
- ⌚ *Children of Time: 2015*
Children of Ruin: 2019
Children of Memory: 2022
- 🌐 *British author*
- 🖋️ *Science fiction*
Adult, hard sci-fi, space opera
Alien evolution
Generation spaceship
Travelling in stasis
Isolated society

Children of Time begins with a generation spaceship and an alien planet populated by large spiders. These parallel stories cover immense swathes of time. One protagonist wakes from deep sleep, discovering new societies have evolved each time he rejoins the rest of the spaceship crew. On the alien planet, a sentient species is slowly evolving. The characters are given continuity through lines of descendants from their ancestors. A deep, profound exploration of speciation and societal evolution, with world-building lovers of *Downwards to the Earth* (#30) will revel in.

Black Sun Rising

by Celia Friedman

#20



☰ *Series: The Coldfire Trilogy*

⌚ *Black Sun Rising: 1991*
When True Night Falls: 1993
Crown of Shadows: 1995

🌐 *American author*

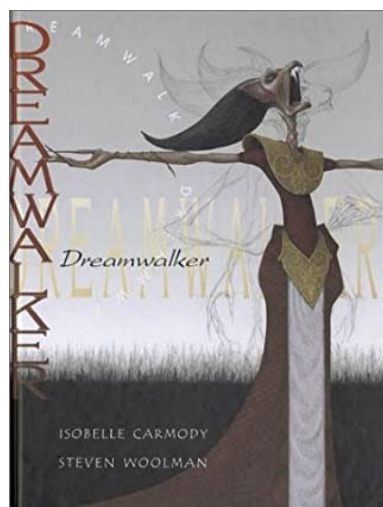
🖋 *Fantasy*
Adult, dark fantasy
Creepy living forest
Dark magic
Really good bad characters
Mind-warping and warped by minds

The forest is alive, and it is evil, in *Black Sun Rising*. At its heart lurks a sorcerer who has given up everything in exchange for the ultimate prize: eternity. Forced to make pact with a warrior priest who is everything he is not, the two must work together to overcome something even more malevolent. Writhing with rot and corruption, the world of *Black Sun Rising* will stay with you long after the last page. This is dark fantasy at its best, packed full of bad guys, demons, maleficent forces, hellishly corrupted souls, supernatural monsters and a critically acclaimed story arc to boot.

Dreamwalker

by Isobelle Carmody

#19



Stand-alone



2000



Australian author



Fantasy

Young adult | All ages

Fully illustrated by Steven Woolman

Alternative reality

Dream-walking

Drawing creatures to life

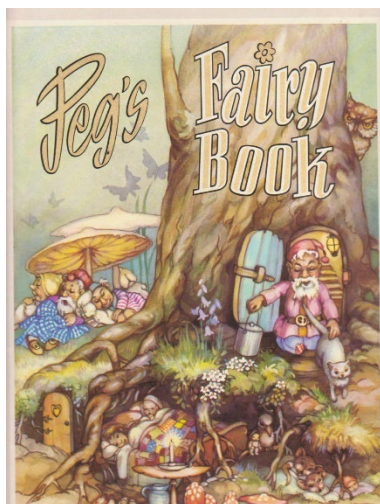
This story is stunningly illustrated with evocative, creepy-cool cat-like people who come to life from the drawings of the main character, Ken. A graphic novel written for young adults but with appeal across ages, the story follows aspiring comic artist Ken as he is drawn into the world he has created.

In this comic book realm, he is confronted by the heroes and villains he has made, and the nature of his own world and his own existence. With themes that will echo *Lament for the Afterlife* (#29), *Dreamwalker* questions what is real and what is imaginary.

Peg's Fairy Book

by Peg Maltby

#18



Stand-alone



1944



Australian author



Fantasy

Children | All ages, fairy-tale

Fully illustrated by Peg Maltby

Mermaids

Witches

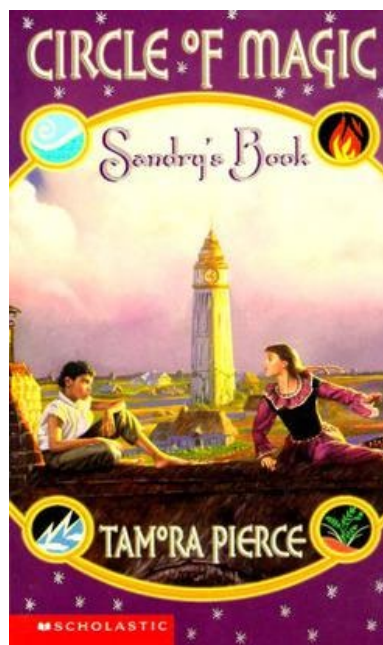
Fairy wedding

Illustrated with fairies, mermaids, witches and gnomes in a beautiful Australian fauna and flora setting, *Peg's Fairy Book* is a treasured (and very rare) gem. The artwork is worthy of the wall, and the story is sweet and lyrical, filled with crisply rendered characters going about their fairy business. There're mermaids teaching their baby how to swim. A fairy wedding to prepare for with delicate gossamer gowns. And the daily life of shopping, playing, and socialising as fairy creatures. If you can find an original copy, grab it with both hands. There's a reprint version too, but the artwork has been filtered a little too bright and garish.

Sandry's Book

by Tamora Pierce

#17



Series: *Circle of Magic*

Sandry's Book: 1997

Tris's Book: 1998

Daja's Book: 1998

Briar's Book: 1999

American author

Fantasy

Young adult, high fantasy

Element-based magic

We need each other to be complete

Medieval world

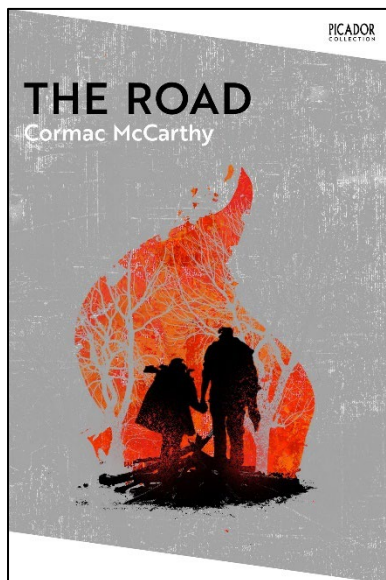
Misfits

Sandry, Tris, Daja and Briar are four youths with magical abilities, each bringing a unique elemental power to a perfect complete circle. Sandry's ability is to weave magic itself, Tris has control of the weather and earth, Daja's magic is over fire, heat and metal, and Briar's control is over plants. Across the series the four must work together to overcome the dangers facing the family they have found in each other. Packed with emotive relationships, a medieval-style setting and fantastic magic.

The Road

by Cormac McCarthy

#16



Stand-alone



2006



American author



Science fiction

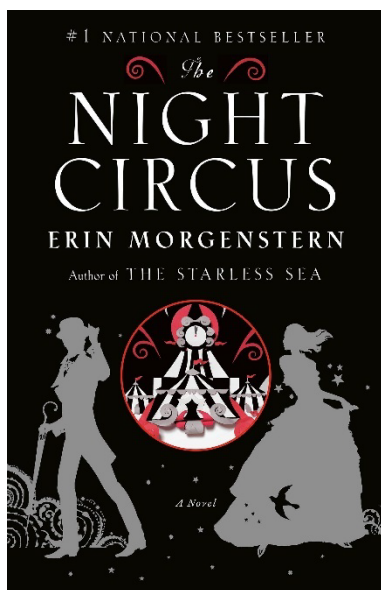
*Adult, literary post-apocalyptic:
unnamed strife collapsed civilisation
Survivalist father and son duo
Roving bands of cannibals
Extinction of most life on Earth
A day at the beach*

The Road: Father and son survivalists are crossing post-apocalyptic America to get to the ocean, where it will be warm enough to survive the winter. The undescribed cataclysm, an extinction level event where there are few animals left, has left the landscape covered in ash, and the coming winter is a terrifying prospect. All they have is their rucksacks and a shopping trolley of gear. On the journey they must face roving bands of cannibals and other desperate survivors. Uniquely told from a tight, intimate perspective, this story is disturbing and evocative.

The Night Circus | The Starless Sea

by Erin Morgenstern

#15



Both are stand-alone



*The Night Circus: 2011
The Starless Sea: 2019*



American author



Fantasy

Adult, magical realism

*Mysterious appearances: circus appears
at night, hidden underground library*

Magical strangeness within our world

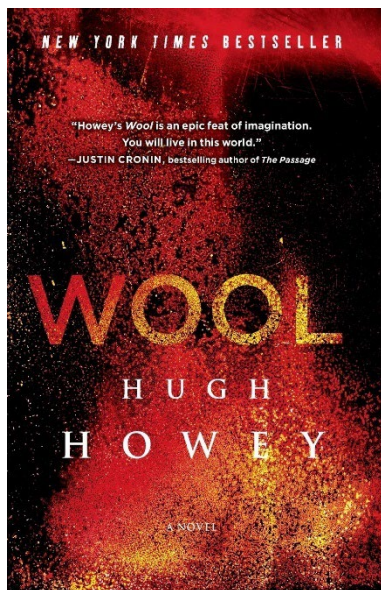
Pairs of duality main characters

The Night Circus and *The Starless Sea* are both stand-alone novels, but with similar resonances in the dark, hidden, mysterious worlds that they create, and the duality of the two main characters. *The Night Circus* only appears at night, and within, two magicians are pitted against each other by their shadowy masters. *The Starless Sea* is set in an underground, mystical library, endless changing rooms of books on books on books. Both are stunning in their use of imagery: *The Night Circus* for its striking black and white palette and *The Starless Sea* for its lush bookishness.

Wool

by Hugh Howey

#14



Series: Silo



Wool: 2012

Shift: 2013

Dust: 2017



American author



Science fiction

Adult, post-apocalyptic: nuclear war

Leave and die (but why?)

The world is not as it seems

Underground silo bunker

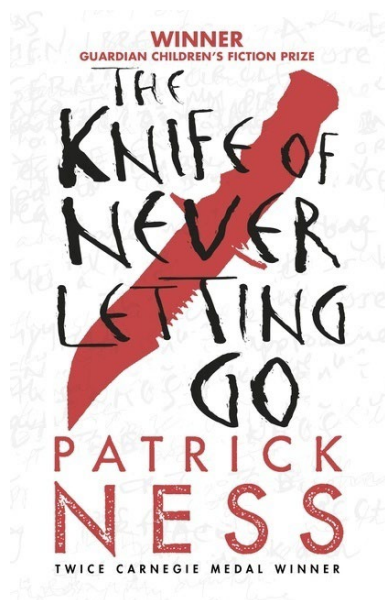
I'm a delivery guy!

Wool was an early self-published runaway success and is well-deserving of its acclaim. Inside silo bunkers deep within the ground, society survives in a self-contained world, where there's one view out into the ruined earth above, pumps in the lowest levels keeping the water out, and getting from top to bottom is a multi-day walk. Following a porter whose job it is to carry things up and down through the literal stratification of their society, *Wool* is a slow unravelling of truth and lies, with stunning world-building that only grows more enthralling with each book in the *Silo* series.

The Knife of Never Letting Go

by Patrick Ness

#13



Series: Chaos Walking



The Knife of Never Letting Go: 2008
The Ask and the Answer: 2009
Monsters of Men: 2010



American author



Science fiction
Young adult, science fantasy
Dystopian
Alien world
We all hear everyone else's thoughts
World of only men and one boy

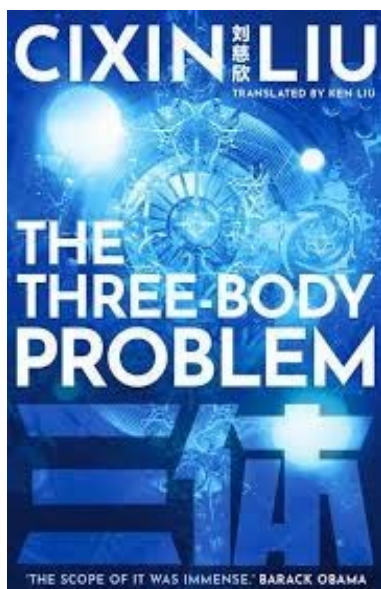
On an alien planet, humans are trying to colonise the world of the spackle. But only the men and boys have survived, and their thoughts are put on public display, scribbled in the air for all to see, read and understand. There is no privacy within one's own head. Then, one day, a girl is found.

With a setting rendered in stark clarity, a unique alien species, and a protagonist who's the last boy in his colony, *Chaos Walking* explores themes of colonialism, our own alienness, and morality.

The Three Body Problem

by Cixin Liu

#12



📖 *Series: Remembrance of Earth's Past*

⌚ *The Three Body Problem: 2006*
The Dark Forest: 2008
Death's End: 2010

👤 *Chinese author*

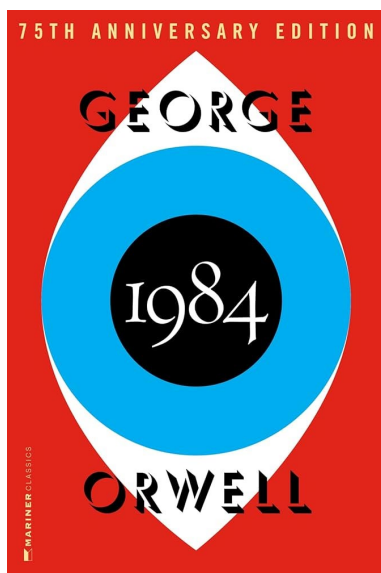
🖋 *Science fiction*
Adult, hard sci-fi
First contact and the end of science
Computing, simulation, and reality
Why haven't we found aliens yet?
Storyline until the end of the universe

The Three Body Problem begins at the end of science and ends at the death of the universe. What begins as first contact expands to the ultimate consequence of sentience. Covering an extraordinary narrative arc with everything from computer theory, to general relativity, to string theory, to soap bubbles and surface tension, and with compelling characters throughout, this series will crack open your mind. The descriptive language paints a picture of complex concepts with masterful brushstrokes, making this as much a delight for visual effect as it is for its intricate scientific detail.

1984

by George Orwell

#11



Stand-alone



1949



British author



Science fiction

Adult, dystopian: totalitarian total surveillance policing all thought

Romance and betrayal

Brainwashing

Thoughtcrime

Doublethink

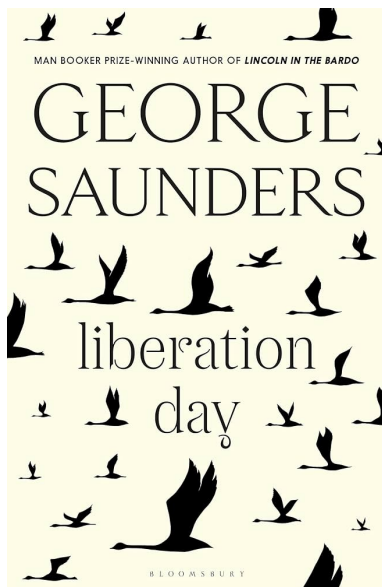
Big Brother is watching

1984: A totalitarian regime has surveillance everywhere. Don't get caught for thoughtcrimes, use doublespeak to hold two incompatible things to be true simultaneously, and Big Brother is always watching. This classic dystopian story follows a character who works for the Ministry of Truth, and whose job it is to change the records of the past to match current propaganda. Filled with desire to dissent, he seeks someone he can dissent with, but who can he trust? Packed with ominous echoes of our world, this is the flip side of *Brave New World's* (#28) hedonistic coin.

Liberation Day

by George Saunders

#10



Short story collection



2022



American author



Science fiction

Adult, short stories

Sparse world-building

Voluntary memory erasure

Unique character voices

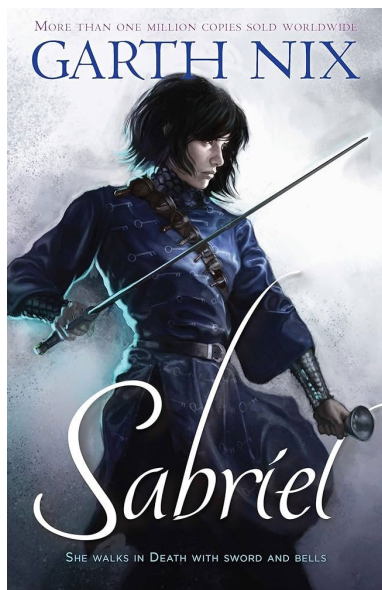
*World is never as it seems but also
precisely experienced from within*

George Saunders renders his characters and their worlds with a precise emersion that gives a pervasive sense of reality as experienced from within another human. His writing is sparse but does so much with the words he chooses. In *Liberation Day*, each short story is a strange and eerie snapshot. The eponymous story of the collection is a perfect example: a tale of a man whose life is spent suspended from the wall of a rich owner's home, as part of a musical instrument. We come to know the lunacy of his world from the way he takes it at face value, the only way any of us ever can.

Sabriel

by Garth Nix

#9



📖 *Series: The Old Kingdom*

⌚ *Sabriel: 1995 | Lirael: 2001*
Abhorsen: 2003 | Clariel: 2014
Goldenhand: 2016
Terciel and Elinor: 2021

🌐 *Australian author*

🖋️ *Fantasy*
Young adult, high fantasy
Necromancers
Bells with power over the underworld
River of the dead
Don't cross the wall

The Old Kingdom is an epic series that follows different characters in each book, in a world where the raised dead and Free Magic are held back beyond the Wall. On the other side, Charter Magic is wielded, a benevolent system that has bound the dangerous Free Magic. Sabriel must learn to become the Abhorsen, a necromancer who can send the dead to their final resting place with a bandolier of bells, while walking the river of death. Books 1 to 3 are her arc, with the later books exploring other characters in the world.

The Flame Alphabet

by Ben Marcus

#8



Stand-alone



2012



American author



Science fiction

Adult, dystopia: epidemic causes voices of children to become lethal to parents

Literary magical realism

Surrealism

Experimental

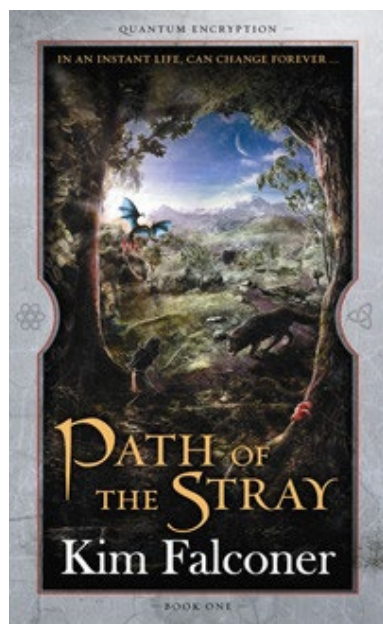
Societal collapse

When an epidemic causes the speech of children to become lethal to adults, society begins to crumble. Slowly, as parents wither and sicken in the face of their children's toxic language, a couple trying to survive with their daughter try to tear themselves away and leave her. But leaving the child you still love is harder than dying.

The bizarre premise expands to a world that is viciously rendered, causing a visceral reaction in the reader. One of those books that is either loved or hated, *The Flame Alphabet* is a literary speculative fiction novel that will twist the knife inside you.

Path of the Stray by Kim Falconer

#7



Series: *Quantum Encryption*

Path of the Stray: 2010

Road to the Soul: 2011

Journey by Night: 2011

Australian author

Science fiction

Adult, post-apocalyptic science
fantasy: ecological and nano-tech

disasters lead to dystopia

Parallel worlds

Wiccan magic is real

Time running backwards

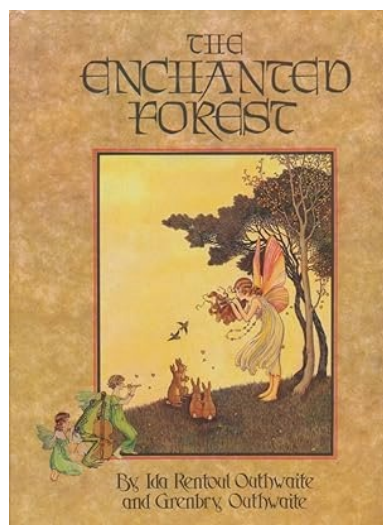
Wolves as familiars

Quantum Encryption is the second of Kim Falconer's series in this world (the first being *Quantum Enchantment*). While the first has a more classic fantasy feel, *Quantum Encryption* is solidly science fantasy. Parallel worlds connect from our own, where a totalitarian regime rules after eco and nano-tech disasters left society in chaos. Backwards flowing time, bonded wolves, wicca as a real force, and rich layers of quantum and metaphysics elements make this a joy.

The Enchanted Forest

by *Ida Rentoul Outhwaite & Grenbery Outhwaite*

#6



📖 *Stand-alone*

🕒 *1921*

🌐 *Australian author*

🖋️ *Fantasy*

Middle grade | All ages, fairy tale

Australian flora and fauna fully

illustrated by Ida Rentoul Outhwaite

Rabbit pet brought to life

Magical journey into fairy world

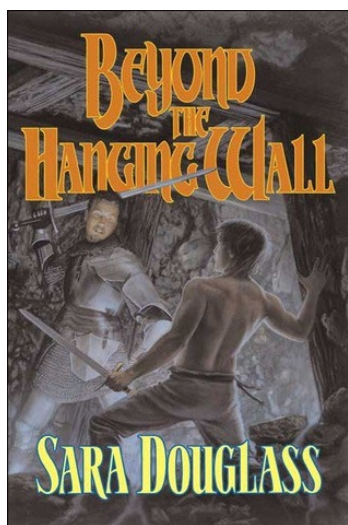
Petulant fairy witch brat

Born in June 1888, Ida Rentoul Outhwaite is an incredible Australian illustrator known for her whimsical fairy illustrations within an Australian bush setting. With words added by her husband, Grenbery Outhwaite, *The Enchanted Forest* is an illustrated middle grade novel following a young girl who is thrown from her horse into a world of fairies, witches, goblins and talking creatures. Accompanied by her pet rabbit, she encounters the benevolent witch who oversees the fairy kingdom, her petulant brat of a younger sister (a wonderfully rendered character), and must find her way home again. Rare, but worth it if you can find it.

Beyond the Hanging Wall

by Sara Douglass

#5



Stand-alone



1997



Australian author



Fantasy

Young adult, high fantasy

The Touch allows magical healing

Prisoners in gloam mines

Secret identities

Magical tattoo

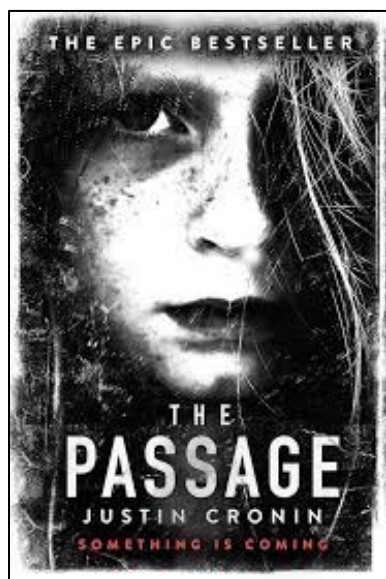
Land of Dreams

Beyond the Hanging Wall is an evocative fantasy set mostly beneath the ground in the gloam mines, where prisoners toil to extract the valuable substance that keeps their kingdom rich. When a young boy with the power of The Touch follows his father into the mines to help the prisoners, he discovers a secret that the king has buried deep in the Veins of the mines – all surrounding the mysterious prisoner known only as Lot No. 859. World-building that leaves you tasting the grit between your teeth, characters with heart-rending arcs and a magic system that feels innate and core to the world's functioning make this a novel not to be missed.

The Passage

by Justin Cronin

#4



Series: The Passage



The Passage: 2010

The Twelve: 2012

The City of Mirrors: 2016



American author



Science fiction

Adult, apocalyptic: bio lab leak

Vampires (not the Transylvanian or shiny vegetarian kind)

Orphan chosen one

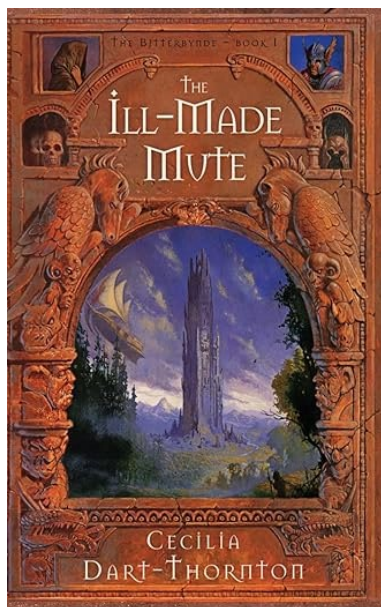
Odessey to save the world

Our world dies overnight, and a new one is born, when a secret lab leak unleashes ravenous vampires on human society. Across a ruined landscape, an orphan refugee, Amy, travels under the protection of an FBI agent haunted by his past. They must face the dangers of the cracked, dry, destroyed landscape – and the horrors it now contains – to undo what happened. The series spans years and then decades as the reality of the disaster coalesces, and Amy's role in saving humanity becomes clear. Read for the intense world-building, the emotion-packed relationships and intricate plot.

The Ill-Made Mute

by Cecelia Dart Thornton

#3



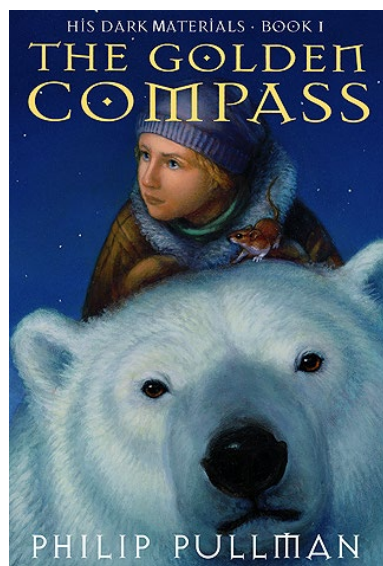
- Series: *The Bitterbynde*
- Hourglass icon: *The Ill-Made Mute: 2001*
The Lady of the Sorrows: 2002
The Battle of Evernight: 2002
- Globe icon: *Australian author*
- Wing icon: *Fantasy*
Adult, mythic high fantasy
Main character is a mute, scarred, enslaved amnesiac foundling
Winged horses
Romance, faeries and dark forces

An amnesiac foundling, mute, scarred, works as a slave in Isse Tower, where Stormriders fly with their winged stallions over a world packed full of folkloric creatures. They have no idea how they came to be there, nor even if they are male or female. Uniquely told, as dark forces gather and threaten their world, each revelation of the past remakes the protagonist anew. Cecelia Dart Thornton's second series, *The Crowthistle Chronicles*, is similarly stunning: an intergenerational tale of consequences and fate.

The Golden Compass

by Phillip Pullman

#2



📖 *Series: His Dark Materials*

⌚ *The Golden Compass: 1995*
The Subtle Knife: 1997
The Amber Spyglass: 2003

🌐 *British author*

🖋️ *Science fiction | Fantasy*
Young adult, science fantasy
Steampunk
Animal friends
Parallel universes
Quantum physics
Consciousness
Original sin

The Golden Compass and the *His Dark Materials* series is a stunningly well rendered alternate reality world(s) where our selves are split into human body and daemon, an animal-like creature that is separate but still self. Lyra, a scallywag from Oxford, is drawn into an adventure that unravels reality, physics and religion, when her friend goes missing. Steampunk vibes, alien planets and loyal relationships make this story unmissable.

Obernewtyn

by Isabelle Carmody

#1



📖 *Series: The Obernewtyn Chronicles*

⌚ *Obernewtyn: 1987*
The Farseekers: 1990 | Ashling: 1995
The Keeping Place: 1999
The Stone Key: 2008
The Sending: 2011
The Red Queen: 2015

🌏 *Australian author*

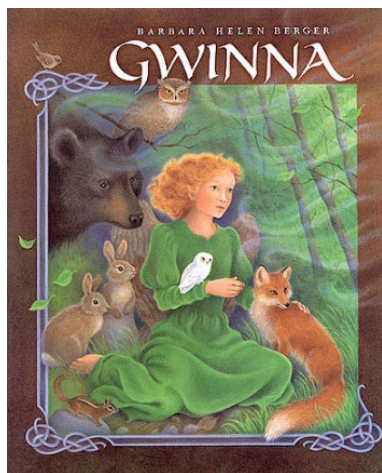
🖋️ *Science fiction*
Young adult, post-apocalyptic: nuclear
holocaust, world mostly uninhabitable
Our world buried in the deep past
'Magical' school of Misfits and animals

Obernewtyn began as young adult fiction and then we all grew up together. Elspeth Gordie is an orphan living in a medieval-style world, and totalitarian rulers mean she must hide her telekinetic abilities. The series tracks her quest to prevent another Great White cataclysm, peeling back the layers to reveal that their world is far-future, built over the ruins of ours. Compelling relationships, an artful 'magic' system of abilities, rebels, religions, mutants, animal equals and a phenomenal setting make this a stellar read.

Gwinna

by Barbara Helen Berger

#0



Stand-alone



1990



American author



Fantasy

Children | All ages, fairy tale

Fully illustrated by Barbara Helen

Berger in mystical, magical style

Winged guardians of nature

Animal friends and gryphons

And just one more. A beautiful bonus book to round out your list: *Gwinna* is a magical and stunning example of children's literature, but with an allure that will appeal to readers of all ages. *Gwinna* is gifted to her infertile parents by a forest guardian spirit, with the proviso that she be returned to the forest when the time is right. She grows wings, and through fear of losing her, her parents bind them tight with snow white ribbons. The pain of this tells *Gwinna* she is crippled and damaged. When she is called to the forest, she discovers her wings. She journeys to a distant mountain to meet a gryphon and a tree spirit, and with them, takes full possession of who she is. Lyrical, crystalline and heart-rending: a true treasure.

What's on your last books on Earth reading list?

So here we are: shipping containers packed, ready to be marooned with the last books we'll ever get to read again. Did you remember to pack a pocket knife, some rope, and maybe some antibiotics and bandages as well? No? Oh well. Too late now.

Luckily, no list of books is ever really final. That's why we all have towering TBR piles that threaten the structural integrity of our houses (and bank accounts).

So tell me, friend...

How many of these have you read already?

Are they making it into your shipping container library?

And most importantly, what stories would you add to this list?



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