

Sci-Fi

What's it all about...

The genre label Science Fiction is usually applied to novels that mix entertainment with science speculation. Alternative worlds or futures are presented within the realm of plausibility informed by scientific principles, in contrast to the magic and supernatural content found within the Fantasy genre.

Common features of Science Fiction include settings in outer space, futuristic technology, characters such as aliens and robots, and dystopias and post-apocalyptic social-political systems.

The classic works:

- *The War of the Worlds* (1898) by H.G. Wells
- *The Martian Chronicles* (1929) by Ray Bradbury
- *Dune* (1965) by Frank Herbert
- *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* (1979) Douglas Adams
- *Ender's Game* (1985) by Orson Scott Card

Resources to find the best in Sci-Fi:

- **Anatomy of Wonder: a Critical Guide to Science Fiction:** full history of the genre with lists of awards and author biographies,
- **Read On: Science Fiction Reading Lists for Every Taste:** Steven Torres-Ramon authored readers' advisory guide
- **Sfreviews.net:** in-depth reviews of current and classic titles
- **Thehugoawards.org:** one of the most prestigious awards for science fiction writing, the site features winners since its inception

Your list of recent titles:

- *Cauldron of Hosts* (2013) by David Weber and Eric Flynt



A detailed, world-building epic. The Republic of Haven and the Star Empire of Manticore forge an alliance that hinges on an undercover mission by Zilwicki and Cachat to expose an ancient Mesan Alignment conspiracy.

- *The Martian* (2014) by Andy Weir



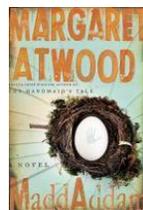
Stranded on Mars by a dust storm that compromised his space suit and forced his crew to leave him behind, astronaut Watney struggles to survive in spite of minimal supplies and harsh environmental challenges that test his ingenuity in unique ways.

- *On Such a Full Sea* (2013) by Chung-rae Lee



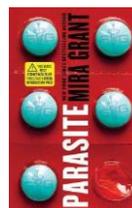
In a class-divided future America where urban neighborhoods function as labor colonies for elite charter villages, Fan, a female fish-tank diver, embarks on what becomes a legendary quest to find the man she loves in a region overcome by anarchic forces.

- *Maddaddam* (2013) by Margaret Atwood



The final volume of Atwood's trilogy imagines the end of the world, but also its origins. Atwood follows the trail of civilization from oral tradition to the written word. The earlier volumes of the trilogy are *Oryx and Crake* and *The Year of the Flood*.

- *Parasite* (2013) by Mira Grant



Genetically engineered tapeworms that protect most of the human populace from illness, boost everyone's immune system, and even secrete designer drugs. Too bad they begin to evolve and want out of human bodies they occupy.

Enjoy!