

Science Concepts in Science Fiction

The Martian

FIC WEI Weir, Andy

Tags : space travel, space colonization, artificial gravity, terraforming, technology, engineering, botany

Astronaut Mark Watney is stranded and completely alone on Mars, with no way to even signal Earth that he's alive, but Mark isn't ready to give up and drawing on his engineering skills and determination, he faces each obstacle with resourcefulness, but will it be enough for him to survive?

Avalon

FIC ARN Arnett, Mindee

Tags: space travel

Seventeen-year-old Jeth Seagrave, the leader of a ragtag team of teenage mercenaries, skirts the line between honor and the law in an attempt to win freedom for his sister and himself in the form of their parents' old spaceship, Avalon

The Gardener

FIC BOD Bodeen, S. A. (Stephanie A.)

Tags: genetic engineering, human experimentation

When high school sophomore Mason finds a beautiful but catatonic girl in the nursing home where his mother works, the discovery leads him to revelations about a series of disturbing human experiments that have a connection to his own life.

Unremembered

FIC BRO Brody, Jessica.

Tags: memory, psychology, human experimentation

A girl, estimated to be sixteen, awakens with amnesia in the wreckage of a plane crash she should not have survived and taken into foster care, and the only clue to her identity is a mysterious boy who claims she was part of a top-secret science experiment.

Pathfinder

FIC CAR Card, Orson Scott.

Series: Pathfinder series

Tags: space travel, time travel, parallel universes

Thirteen-year-old Rigg has a secret ability to see the paths of others' pasts, but revelations after his father's death set him on a dangerous quest that brings new threats from those who would either control his destiny or kill him.

Timeline

FIC CRI

Tags: time travel, wormholes, quantum theory

When you step into a time machine, fax yourself through a "quantum foam wormhole," and step out in feudal France circa 1357, be very, very afraid. If you aren't strapped back in precisely 37 hours after your visit begins, you'll miss the quantum bus back to 1999 and be stranded in a civil war, caught between crafty abbots, mad lords, and peasant bandits all eager to cut your throat (summary from Amazon).

After the Snow

FIC CRO Crockett, S. D. (Sophie D.)

Fifteen-year-old Willo Blake, born after the 2059 snows created a new ice age, searches for his family, who mysteriously disappeared from their frozen mountain home, and encounters outlaws, halfmen, and an abandoned girl along the way.

Breathe

FIC CRO Crossan, Sarah

In a barren land, a shimmering glass dome houses the survivors of the Switch, the period when oxygen levels plunged and the green world withered. A state lottery meant a lucky few won safety, while the rest suffocated in the thin air. And now Alina, Quinn, and Bea--an unlikely trio, each with their own agendas, their own longings and fears--walk straight into the heart of danger. With two days' worth of oxygen in their tanks, they leave the dome. What will happen on the third day?

The eye of minds

FIC DAS Dashner, James

Tags: technology

Michael is a skilled internet gamer in a world of advanced technology. When a cyber-terrorist begins to threaten players, Michael is called upon to seek him and his secrets out.

The maze runner

FIC DAS Dashner, James

Sixteen-year-old Thomas wakes up with no memory in the middle of a maze and realizes he must work with the community in which he finds himself if he is to escape.

Seven second delay

FIC EAS Easton, Tom

Tags: Technology, sensation and perception

In a future where few places are still habitable and people share their entire lives on the Web, Mila illegally enters the Isles, is captured, has a telephone implanted in her brain, and escapes, but government agents are after her and her greatest asset is a seven second delay from the time she acts until they receive the signal.

Elusion

FIC GAB Gabel, Claudia

Tags: Technology, virtual reality

Teens uncover the dangerous secrets of a virtual reality program that's taking the country by storm

Black hole sun

FIC GIL Gill, David Macinnis

Tags: space travel, Mars, space colonization

Sixteen-year-old Durango and his crew of mercenaries are hired by the settlers of a mining community on Mars to protect their most valuable resource from a feral band of marauders.

BZRK

FIC GRA Grant, Michael

Tags: technology, nanotechnology, nanobots, human brain

In the near future, the conjoined Armstrong twins, under the guise of the Armstrong Fancy Gifts Corporation, plot to create their own version of utopia using nanobots, while a guerilla group known as BZRK develops a DNA-based biot that can stop bots, but at risk of the host's brain.

Eve & Adam

FIC GRA Grant, Michael

With the help of her geneticist mother at Spiker Biotech Laboratory, sixteen-year-old Eve Spiker recovers incredibly quickly from the life-threatening injuries she suffered during an accident, and upon becoming friends with handsome teenage lab assistant Solo, the two make discoveries about the what is really going on at the laboratory.

Evil genius

FIC JIN Jinks, Catherine

Tags: technology

Child prodigy Cadel Piggot, an antisocial computer hacker, discovers his true identity when he enrolls as a first-year student at an advanced crime academy.

The Blending Time

FIC KIN Kinch, Michael P

In the harsh world of 2069, ravaged by plagues and environmental disasters, 3 friends are chosen to help repopulate Africa as their mandatory Global Alliance work, but civil war and mercenaries opposed to the Blending Program separate them and threaten their very lives.

Alienated

FIC LAN Landers, Melissa

Tags: space travel, space colonization

High school senior Cara Sweeney gets more than she bargained for when she agrees to participate in earth's first intergalactic high school exchange program.

The Memory Key

FIC LIU Liu, Liana

Tags: sensation and perception, memory, human brain

In the not-so-distant future, everyone is implanted with a memory key to stave off a virulent form of Alzheimer's. Lora Mint fears her memories of her deceased mother are fading, but when her Memory Key is damaged she has perfect recall--of everything-- which brings her mother's memory vividly back, but may also drive Lora mad.

Illusive

FIC LLO Lloyd-Jones, Emily

After a vaccine accidentally creates superpowers in a small percentage of the population, seventeen-year-old Ciere teams up with a group of fellow high-class, super-powered thieves to steal the vaccine's formula while staying one step ahead of mobsters and government agents.

Free to fall

FIC MIL Miller, Lauren (Lauren McBrayer)

In a near-future world where everyone is controlled by their smartphones, sixteen-year-old Rory Vaughn suddenly begins listening to the voice within--which kids are taught to ignore--and discovers a terrible plot at the heart of the corporation that makes the devices.

Ringworld

FIC NIV Niven, Larry

Tags: space travel, space colonization, artificial gravity, hyperdrive

A new planet is being built, three million times the area of the Earth. Can we start again?

Jumper

FIC GOU Gould, Steven

Tags: Teleportation

A boy from a bad home environment realizes that he has the power to “jump” to wherever he wants in the world, but his ability has hidden consequences.

Ready Player One

FIC CLI Cline, Ernest

Tags: technology, virtual reality

In the year 2044, Wade Watts, like the rest of humanity, chooses to escape reality and spends his waking hours in the limitless, utopian virtual world of the OASIS, but when Wade stumbles upon the first of the fiendish puzzles set up by OASIS creator James Halliday he finds he must compete with thousands of others--including those willing to commit murder--in order to claim a prize of massive fortune.

Deprivers

FIC ALT Altman, Steven Elliot

Tags: sensation and perception

In Altman's paranoid thriller, the "deprivers," victims of Sensory Deprivation Syndrome, have the capability of depriving others of one of their senses, causing everything from blindness to deafness to paralysis.

The Martian Chronicles

FIC BRA Bradbury, Ray

Tags: space travel, space colonization, telepathy, breathing on another planet

A collection of stories describing repeated attempts by humans to colonize Mars.

I, Robot

FIC AZI

Tags: Robotics, 3 laws of robotics, artificial intelligence, telepathy, consciousness, psychology

Isaac Asimov changed our perception of robots forever when he formulated the laws governing their behavior. Asimov chronicles the development of the robot through a series of interlinked stories: from its primitive origins in the present to its ultimate perfection in the not-so-distant future--a future in which humanity itself may be rendered obsolete. Here are stories of robots gone mad, of mind-read robots, and robots with a sense of humor --all told with the dramatic blend of science fact and science fiction that has become Asimov's trademark.

The Best American Science Fiction and Fantasy 2015

SC BES

In 'The Best American Science Fiction and Fantasy' award-winning editor John Joseph Adams delivers a diverse and vibrant collection of stories published in the previous year. Featuring writers with deep science fiction and fantasy backgrounds, along with those who are infusing traditional fiction with speculative elements, these stories uphold a longstanding tradition in both genres--looking at the world and asking, What if...?

Expiration Day

FIC POW **Powell, William Campbell**

Tags: robotics, artificial intelligence, consciousness, psychology

It is the year 2049, and humanity is on the brink of extinction... Tania Deeley has always been told that she's a rarity: a human child in a world where most children are sophisticated androids manufactured by Oxted Corporation.

Parallel

FIC MIL **Miller, Lauren**

Tags: parallel universes

A romantic, mind-bending novel about parallel worlds, soul mates, destiny, and the big-time consequences of even our smallest choices. Abby Barnes had it all planned out—high school, college, career—but one decision made in her senior year of high school changed her carefully mapped-out future. When Abby wakes up the morning of her eighteenth birthday, it's as though her past has been rewritten. Abby discovers that a cosmic collision of parallel universes has erased her old reality. Now Abby is falling in love with a boy from her Parallel's memories—a boy she's never even met.

Time Between Us

FIC STO **Stone, Tamara Ireland**

Tags: time travel

16 year old Anna's perfectly normal life is turned upside-down when she meets Bennett, whose ability to travel through space and time creates complications for them both.

Counter Clockwise

FIC COC **Cockcroft, Jason**

Tags: time travel

When Nathan's mother is hit by a bus in London, his father struggles with the tragedy and [travels] back in time [to] prevent her death; Nathan tries to prevent his father from changing the future.

Contact

FIC SAG

Tags: space travel, extraterrestrial life

In December, 1999, a multinational team journeys out to the stars, to the most awesome encounter in human history. Who--or what--is out there?

George's Secret Key to the Universe

FIC HAW Hawking, Stephen and Lucy Hawking

Tags: space travel, technology, black holes, asteroids, comets, planets, solar system

The adventures of a young boy and his neighbor as they travel through a computer portal into outer space, where they explore such mysteries as black holes and the origins of the universe, while trying to evade an evil scientist. (Technically this book was written for younger readers, but because it's by Stephen Hawking and full of cool science, it's a good read.)

The World Treasury of Science Fiction

808.8387 HAR

A collection of important works in sci-fi by greats like Kurt Vonnegut, Arthur C. Clarke, Isaac Asimov, and Robert A. Heinlein. Good prep for college—these are the classics in this genre that people will know and refer to. But it's a long collection, so you'll only be able to finish part of it for this project.

The Long Earth

FIC PRA Pratchett, Terry and Stephen Baxter

Tags: time travel, space travel, parallel universes, artificial intelligence, evolution

The first collaboration between sci-fi writer Stephen Baxter and fantasy author Terry Pratchett. 1916: The Western Front. Private Blakeney wakes up. He is lying on fresh spring grass. Where have the mud, blood, and blasted landscape of no-man's-land gone? 2015: Madison, Wisconsin. Police officer Monica Jansson is exploring the burned-out home of a reclusive--some say mad--scientist who seems to have vanished. Jansson finds an invention that will change the way humankind views the world forever.

The Adoration of Jenna Fox

FIC PEA Pearson, Mary E.

Tags: biomedical ethics, human brain, technology, consciousness

The ethics of bioengineering in the not-so-distant future drive this story. Jenna, 17, severely injured in a car crash, is saved by her heartbroken father, a scientist who illegally uses the latest medical technology to help her. Only 10 percent of her original brain is saved, but Dad has programmed her by uploading the high-school curriculum. She could live two years, or 200. Is she a monster or a miracle? Why have her parents hidden her away? The science (including

allusions to the dangerous overuse of antibiotics) and the science fiction are fascinating, but what will hold readers most are the moral issues of betrayal, loyalty, sacrifice, and survival (summary from *Booklist*).

The Year's Best Science Fiction and Fantasy for Teens

SC YEA **Yolen, Jane and Patrick Nielsen Hayden Eds.**

A collection of science and fantasy fiction from some of today's most popular writers, including Garth Nix, David Gerrold, and Delia Sherman. Focus on the sci-fi stories for this project.

Origin

FIC KHO **Khoury, Jessica**

Tags: genetic engineering

Pia has grown up in a secret laboratory hidden deep in the Amazon rain forest and is genetically engineered to be immortal and be the future of the human race, but on the night of her seventeenth birthday, Pia discovers a hole in the electric fence that surrounds her sterile home and sneaks outside the compound for the first time in her life.

Relativity

FIC BIS **Bishara, Cristin**

Tags: parallel universes, wormholes, quantum theory

What if there were multiple parallel worlds being lived out all at the same time? Science brainiac Ruby has been uprooted to small town Ohio after her father remarries; her mother died when she was four; she is in love with best buddy George; and her new stepsibling is more of an evil stepsister. When Ruby is introduced to a portal to other time lines and travels from world to world, her mother is still alive, she has an older brother, George is her boyfriend, and her stepsister is actually tolerable. Ruby tries to travel to the perfect time line (summary from *Booklist*).

The Moon is a Harsh Mistress

FIC HEI **Heinlein, Robert A.**

Tags: space travel, space colonization, technology, artificial intelligence

Robert A. Heinlein was the most influential science fiction writer of his era. *The Moon is a Harsh Mistress* is a tale of revolution, of the rebellion of the former Lunar penal colony against the Lunar Authority that controls it from Earth. It is the tale of the disparate people--a computer technician, a vigorous young female agitator, and an elderly academic--who become the rebel movement's leaders. And it is the story of Mike, the supercomputer whose sentience is known only to this inner circle, and who for reasons of his own is committed to the revolution's ultimate success.

Ashes

FIC BIC **Bick, Ilsa J.**

Tags: electromagnetism

Alex, a resourceful seventeen-year-old running from her incurable brain tumor, Tom, who has left the war in Afghanistan, and Ellie, an angry eight-year-old, join forces after an electromagnetic pulse sweeps through the sky and kills most of the world's population, turning some of those who remain into zombies and giving the others superhuman senses.

Cell

FIC KIN **King, Stephen**

Tags: electromagnetism

Maine artist Clayton Riddell, elated after closing the deal for his first comic book, comes down to Earth quickly when a brain-zapping energy burst--The Pulse--strikes, reducing cell phone users to zombie-like creatures, and leaving Clayton desperate to find a way home from Boston to see if his wife and son have survived.

Crescent City Rhapsody

FIC GOO **Goonan, Kathleen Ann**

Tags: electromagnetism, nanotechnology, technology, genetic engineering

When a powerful electromagnetic pulse originating in space triggers a communications blackout that threatens the future of the world, scientists turn to nanotech and genetic engineering to find an alternate means of communicating, but their solution also has the power to destroy the human race.

A Journey to the Center of the Earth

FIC VER **Verne, Jules**

Three men dare to adventure into the Earth's mysterious core in this science fiction classic.

Gridlinked

FIC ASH **Asher, Neal**

Tags: space travel, teleportation, technology, artificial intelligence

Cormac is a legendary Earth Central Security agent, the James Bond of a wealthy future where "runcibles" (matter transmitters controlled by AIs) allow interstellar travel in an eye blink ... Unfortunately Cormac is nearly burnt out, "gridlinked" to the AI net so long that his humanity has begun to drain away. He has to shake his addiction to having his brain on the net. Now he must do without just as he's sent to investigate the unique runcible disaster that's wiped out the entire human colony on planet Samarkand in a thirty-megaton explosion. Cormac must get

there by ship, but he has incurred the wrath of a vicious psychopath called Arian Pelter, who now follows him across the galaxy (summary from Amazon).

2001: A Space Odyssey

FIC CLA **Clarke, Arthur C.**

Tags: space travel, technology, artificial intelligence

2001: A Space Odyssey is the classic science fiction novel that changed the way we looked at the stars and ourselves. When an enigmatic monolith is found buried on the moon, scientists are amazed to discover that it's at least 3 million years old. Even more amazing, after it's unearthed the artifact releases a powerful signal aimed at Saturn. What sort of alarm has been triggered? A manned spacecraft is sent to investigate. Its crew is highly trained--the best--and they are assisted by a self-aware computer, the ultra-capable HAL 9000. But HAL's programming has been patterned after the human mind a little too well. He is capable of guilt, neurosis, even murder, and he controls every single one of *Discovery's* components.

Ender's Game

FIC CAR **Card, Orson Scott**

Tags: space travel, gravity, extraterrestrial life

Young Ender Wiggin may prove to be the military genius Earth needs to fight a desperate battle against a deadly alien race that will determine the future of the human race.

The Garden of Rama

FIC CLA **Clarke, Arthur C.**

Tags: space travel, robotics

By the twenty-third century Earth has already had two encounters with massive, mysterious robotic spacecraft from beyond our solar system.

War of the Worlds

FIC WEL **Wells, H.G.**

Tags: space travel, extraterrestrial life

In this sci-fi classic, toward the end of the nineteenth century, several newspapers in England carried a small account of the discovery of a mass of flaming gas, chiefly hydrogen, originating on the planet Mars and moving with enormous speed toward the Earth. The world ignored what proved to be one of the gravest dangers that ever threatened the human race.

The Invisible Man

FIC WEL **Wells, H.G.**

Tags: invisibility

Another classic. A mysterious, bandaged stranger arrives in the small village of Iping and shuts himself in his room at the inn. Around the same time, a series of unexplained events begin to occur, perpetrated by an unseen force...

The Time Machine

FIC WEL **Wells, H.G.**

Tags: time travel

Wells' classic begins at an English dinner party where a group of gentlemen are discussing the device that one of them is making so he can explore the fourth dimension. When the men gather the following week, the device's inventor, referred to as Time Traveler, is strangely absent. When he arrives later, he recounts his amazing sojourn into the future. One of the "Best Hard Science Fiction Books of All Time" according to the *MIT Technology Review*.

R is for Rocket

FIC BRA **Bradbury, Ray**

Tags: space travel

A collection of short stories from classic science fiction author Ray Bradbury.

Fantastic Voyage

FIC ASI **Asimov, Isaac**

Tags: biology, human anatomy

In this sci-fi classic, four men and a woman are reduced to a microscopic fraction of their original size, sent in a miniaturized atomic sub through a dying man's carotid artery to destroy a blood clot in his brain. If they fail, the entire world will be doomed (summary from Amazon).

Foundation

FIC ASI **Asimov, Isaac**

Tags: space travel, space colonization

The task of Foundation, a group of savants established by Seldon on the remote planet Terminus, is to compile the "Encyclopedia Galactica", a complete account of human knowledge.

Buy Jupiter

FIC ASI **Asimov, Isaac**

A collection of short stories from classic science fiction author Isaac Asimov.

S is for Space

FIC BRA **Bradbury, Ray**

16 classic sci-fi stories from a Star Wilderness that stretches as far as the eye and mind can see and imagine. Creatures who walk from the grave, children who sabotage the earth, Martians and mushrooms, space ships and superbeings.

T2: Infiltrator

FIC STI **Stirling, S.M.**

Tags: robotics, artificial intelligence

The Cyberdyne Corporation is back in business and a new kind of terminator who understands human thought and emotion hunts Sarah Connor and her son John.

Red Rising

FIC BRO **Brown, Pierce**

Tags: space colonization, Mars, terraforming

Darrow is a Red, a member of the lowest caste in the color-coded society of the future. Like his fellow Reds, he works all day, believing that he and his people are making the surface of Mars livable for future generations. But Darrow and his kind have been betrayed. [Darrow discovers that he]—and Reds like him—are nothing more than slaves to a decadent ruling class.

Inspired by a longing for justice, and driven by the memory of lost love, Darrow sacrifices everything to infiltrate the legendary Institute. There, he will stop at nothing to bring down his enemies . . . even if it means he has to become one of them to do so.

The Book That Proves That Time Travel Happens

FIC CLA **Clark, Henry**

Tags: time travel

Twelve-year-olds Ambrose, Tom, and Frankie are transported to the boys' hometown of Freedom Falls, Ohio, in 1852. To return home they will have to use both Morse code and the ancient form of divination known as the I-Ching.

3:59

FIC MCN **McNeil, Gretchen**

Tags: parallel universes

Just when Josie Byrne thinks life can't get worse, she starts having dreams about a girl named Jo. Every night at the same time—3:59 a.m. Jo's life is everything Josie wants: she's popular, her parents are happily married, and her boyfriend adores her. It all seems real, but they're just dreams, right? Josie thinks so, until she wakes one night to see a shadowy image of herself in the bedroom mirror. Except it's not her at all—it's Jo. The two girls are doppelgängers whose universes overlap every twelve hours at 3:59. Fascinated by Jo's perfect world, Josie jumps at the chance to pass through the portal and switch places for a day. But Jo's world is far from

perfect, and when Josie finds herself trapped there, her life becomes more dangerous—and more deadly—than she ever imagined.

The Theory of Everything

FIC LUN Luna, Kari

Tags: parallel universes, string theory

Parallel universes with talking pandas? Sophie can deal with it. Her father is missing, and she and her mother move often, sometimes quickly, because of Sophie's so-called "episodes." Now Sophie, 14, is starting over at another new school. Learning that physics-geek Finny will be her lab partner gives her hope this might be the place she finds friends. Although her mother fears Sophie is suffering from mental illness, Sophie, with Finny's help, sets out to prove her father's string theory of parallel universes. In this blend of realism, science fiction, and fantasy, Sophie learns about love, acceptance, and how to control her travel episodes (summary from *Booklist*).

My Heart and Other Black Holes

FIC WAR Warga, Jasmine

Tags: physics

Aysel Seran suffers from severe depression and is haunted by and ostracized on account of an act of violence that her father committed three years ago. She and the "black slug" inside her are convinced that suicide is her best and most sensible option. Although she doesn't interact much with other people, concern about her latent self-preservation instincts leads her to partner up with Roman, another suicidal teen from the next town over. As they plan their suicide pact, however, her doubts begin to increase. This is more of a book that uses science as a metaphor rather than a science-fiction book, FYI.

Red Mars

FIC ROB Robinson, Kim Stanley

Tags: space travel, space colonization, terraforming

In the year 2026, a group of one hundred colonists go to Mars to fulfill mankind's dream of populating the planet. One of the "Best Hard Science Fiction Books of All Time" according to the *MIT Technology Review*.

Twenty Thousand Leagues Under The Sea

FIC VER Verne, Jules

One of the "Best Hard Science Fiction Books of All Time" according to the *MIT Technology Review*. Their summary: "Verne wrote some of the earliest works recognizable as science fiction (even though the term 'science fiction' wouldn't enter popular culture for another 60

years.) *Twenty Thousand Leagues* is probably his most prescient work, anticipating submarine warfare (not for nothing was the first nuclear submarine), scuba diving, and even the taser.”

Manifold: Time

FIC BAX Baxter, Stephen

Tags: space travel, space colonization, terraforming

The year is 2010. More than a century of ecological damage, industrial and technological expansion, and unchecked population growth has left the Earth on the brink of devastation. As the world's governments turn inward, one man dares to envision a bolder, brighter future. That man, Reid Malenfant, has a very different solution to the problems plaguing the planet: the exploration and colonization of space. Now Malenfant gambles the very existence of time on a single desperate throw of the dice. Battling national sabotage and international outcry, as apocalyptic riots sweep the globe, he builds a spacecraft and launches it into deep space. The odds are a trillion to one against him. Or are they?

Gateway

FIC POH Pohl, Frederik

The Heechee gateways, remnants of an ancient civilization, provide instantaneous passage to the far reaches of the universe but do not ensure destination, return, wealth, or survival.

Starship Troopers

FIC HEI Heinlein, Robert

Tags: space travel

An example of the “military sci-fi” branch of science fiction, this story follows an army recruit of the future through the toughest boot camp of the Universe--and into battle with the Terran Mobile Infantry against mankind's most alarming enemy.

The Lathe of Heaven

FIC LEG Le Guin, Ursula

Tags: psychology, dreams

In a future world racked by violence and environmental catastrophes, George Orr wakes up one day to discover that his dreams have the ability to alter reality. He seeks help from Dr. William Haber, a psychiatrist who immediately grasps the power George wields. Soon George must preserve reality itself as Dr. Haber becomes adept at manipulating George’s dreams for his own purposes.

Starclimber

FIC OPP Oppel, Kenneth

Tags: space elevator, space travel

In this alternate history, engineers have built a space elevator to travel into outer space. As members of the first crew of astronauts, Matt Cruse and Kate De Vries journey on the "Starclimber" and face a series of catastrophes that threaten the survival of all on board.

The Caves of Steel

FIC ASI Asimov, Isaac

Tags: robotics, androids, artificial intelligence

Science fiction suspense as a robot named R. Daneel Olivaw investigates the murder of Spacetown's leading scientist.

Mila 2.0

FIC DRI Driza, Debra

Tags: robotics, androids, artificial intelligence

Sixteen-year-old Mila discovers she is not who--or what--she thought she was, which causes her to run from both the CIA and a rogue intelligence group.

The Stars, Like Dust

FIC ASI Asimov, Isaac

Tags: space travel

Biron Farrell was young and naïve, but he was growing up fast. A radiation bomb planted in his dorm room changed him from an innocent student at the University of Earth to a marked man, fleeing desperately from an unknown assassin. He soon discovers that, many light-years away, his father, the highly respected Rancher of Widemos, has been murdered. Stunned, grief-stricken, and outraged, Biron is determined to uncover the reasons behind his father's death.

The mystery takes him deep into space where he finds himself in a relentless struggle with the power-mad despots of Tyrann. Now it is not just a case of life or death for Biron, but a question of freedom for the galaxy.

Farmer in the Sky

FIC HEI Heinlein, Robert A.

Tags: space colonization, terraforming

The Earth is crowded and food is rationed, but a colony on Ganymede, one of the moons of Jupiter, offers an escape for teenager Bill Lerner and his family. Back on Earth, the move sounded like a grand adventure, but Bill soon realizes that life on the frontier is dangerous, and in an alien world with no safety nets, nature is cruelly unforgiving of even small mistakes. Bill's new home is a world of unearthly wonders—and heartbreaking tragedy. He will face hardships,

survive dangers, and grow up fast, meeting the challenge of opening up a new world for humanity and finding strengths within himself that he had never suspected existed.

Variant

FIC WEL **Wells, Robison**

Tags: robotics, androids, artificial intelligence

After years in foster homes, seventeen-year-old Benson Fisher applies to New Mexico's Maxfield Academy in hopes of securing a brighter future, but instead he finds that the school is a prison and no one is what he or she seems.

The Three-Body Problem

FIC LIU **Lin, Cixin**

Tags: space travel, extraterrestrial life

By a famous Chinese science-fiction author. Set against the backdrop of China's Cultural Revolution, a secret military project sends signals into space to establish contact with aliens. An alien civilization on the brink of destruction captures the signal and plans to invade Earth. Meanwhile, on Earth, different camps start forming, planning to either welcome the superior beings and help them take over a world seen as corrupt, or to fight against the invasion.

Snow Crash

FIC STE **Stephenson, Neal**

Tags: virtual reality, technology

Hiro Protagonist, a pizza delivery man in future America, lives an alternate life as a warrior prince in the Metaverse where he embarks on a search-and-destroy mission for the virtual-reality villain who is trying to bring about infocalypse.

Angels and Demons

FIC BRO **Brown, Dan**

Tags: antimatter, science vs. religion

World-renowned Harvard symbologist Robert Langdon is summoned to a Swiss research facility to analyze a cryptic symbol seared into the chest of a murdered physicist. What he discovers is a deadly vendetta against the Catholic Church by a centuries-old underground organization--the Illuminati. Desperate to save the Vatican from a powerful antimatter time bomb, Langdon joins forces with the beautiful and mysterious scientist Vittoria Vetra. Together they embark on a frantic hunt for the long-forgotten Illuminati lair.

Deception Point

FIC BRO **Brown, Dan**

Tags: satellites, meteors, NASA, extraterrestrial life, fossils

When a NASA satellite discovers an astonishingly rare object buried deep in the Arctic ice, the floundering space agency proclaims a much-needed victory...but CIA intelligence analyst Rachel Sexton uncovers the unthinkable: evidence of scientific trickery—a bold deception that threatens to plunge the world into controversy.

Digital Fortress

FIC BRO Brown, Dan

Tags: technology, cryptography, mathematics

Cryptographer Susan Fletcher finds herself fighting for her country, her life, and the life of the man she loves when she is called in by the National Security Agency to decipher a mysterious code and discovers a plot that has the power to cripple U.S. intelligence.

Nebula Awards 32

SC NEB

Modern stories that have won the Nebula Award, a high-profile national literary prize for science fiction.

Timescape

FIC BEN Benford, Gregory

Tags: time travel, light speed, tachyons

In 1993, scientists attempt to reach back in time to warn the people of the 1960s that they must stop the experiments that will cause ecological disaster in the future.

A Beautiful Friendship

FIC WEB Weber, David

Tags: space travel, space colonization, extraterrestrial life

Twelve-year-old Stephanie Harrington, a genetically-enhanced girl on the pioneer planet of Sphinx, bonds with a treecat, a telepathic and fully sentient animal, putting her in danger from highly placed enemies who want to ensure that the planet remains entirely in human hands.

Station Eleven

FIC MAN Mandel, Emily St. John

Tags: epidemics, pandemics, infectious disease, apocalypse

In a future in which a pandemic has left few survivors, actress Kirsten Raymonde, having witnessed paparazzo-turned-EMT Jeevan Chaudhary try to save the life of actor Arthur Leander after he suffered a heart attack on stage, travels with a troupe performing Shakespeare and finds herself in a community in which a prophet will not let anyone leave alive.