Science fiction for this particular moment

Recommendations from Cate Hall's Twitter thread

Compiled on 22 November 2026 from Cate Hall's original thread.

Cate asked for science fiction to read or reread at this particular moment, naming Charles Stross's *Accelerando* as an example. The discussion ranges from AI and superintelligence to consciousness, post-scarcity societies, unfamiliar minds, and the experience of rapid change.

This catalogue collects **168 entries** across novels, collections, series, short fiction, broad author recommendations, and adjacent or ambiguous mentions. Entries are not a count of unique books: a named novel can also belong to a separately recommended series or collection.

Entries are alphabetical within each section, ignoring an initial “A,” “An,” or “The.” Repeated recommendations are combined. The notes summarize the commenters' motivations, praise, and reservations; they are not independent reviews. When no explanation was supplied, that is stated. Cate's reactions are included where retrieved. Source links identify the people who made each recommendation or contributed the summarized context.

Obvious title and author spellings are normalized; uncertain identifications are flagged. External reading lists are linked rather than recursively expanded. No personal reading-history filter is applied.

Novels and collections

Accelerando

Charles Stross

Cate names this as the benchmark for the request, but says she has just read it. One reader says that reading it in 2006 helped them feel less disoriented now; another includes it among their three favourite novels.

Thread comments: @catehall · @trentmc0 · @michaelntginger · @MIntellego

Agency

William Gibson

The recommender finds it deeply unsettling. Cate asks whether the preceding book is necessary. Replies say The Peripheral provides useful background but is not a strict prerequisite. Another reader finds the ending rooted in the mood of 2016.

Thread comments: @DeanLearner · @catehall · @DeanLearner (2) · @pavedwalden · @lunar_america

All Flesh Is Grass

Clifford D. Simak

Suggested as an especially weird option, alongside The Tripods and The Space Merchants.

Thread comments: @FizzyBubblin

Always Coming Home

Ursula K. Le Guin

Recommended for readers who enjoy Le Guin. The commenter describes a culture that emerges after ecological disaster and human–AI synthesis, and calls it perhaps her best book. Their linked post also recommends it for interest in the future history and geography of the San Francisco Bay Area.

Thread comments: @pieratt

Further post linked by the recommender

Anathem

Neal Stephenson

An emphatic recommendation, without a further explanation of its relevance.

Thread comments: @holliemaea

Aristoi

Walter Jon Williams

Recommended by title, without further explanation.

Thread comments: @AlokSingh

Artificial Wisdom

Thomas R. Weaver

Identified from the cover photograph in the reply. The commenter also says the sequel is newly available, but does not name it.

Thread comments: @KenTabor

Aurora

Kim Stanley Robinson

Suggested for a broader angle than the singularity-focused alternatives in the same reply. Cate welcomes the group of suggestions.

Thread comments: @vt__snowflake · @catehall

Avogadro Corp

William Hertling

Recommended both as a book/series and as a scenario that still seems plausible. Related replies recommend Hertling's Singularity series for its takeover scenarios and possible defences.

Thread comments: @echoesofBob · @akarlin · @cosmic_moment

Singularity series link supplied in the thread

Beggars in Spain

Nancy Kress

Included in a four-title recommendation, without an individual explanation.

Thread comments: @LoganTCollins

Between Two Fires

Christopher Buehlman

The commenter calls it more horror than science fiction. Its relevance is the experience of a world that stops making sense to its inhabitants.

Thread comments: @RushiLuhar

Black Oceans

Jacek Dukaj

The recommender places its setting around the present and the following five years, and suggests considering its relationship to LLMs. They say machine translation can help readers access it.

Thread comments: @rudzinskimaciej

Blacktail

Scott Hawkins

Recommended alongside The Library at Mount Char. The commenter strongly enjoys it and personally regards it as something of a sequel. That is the commenter's interpretation, rather than a formal series designation.

Thread comments: @pieratt

Publisher description

Blindsight

Peter Watts

A recurring recommendation for its distinction between consciousness and intelligence, and its relevance to AI discussions. One commenter compares its questions about minds to Accelerando, but finds it colder and scarier. Cate repeatedly says she has read and loved it, and also praises Echopraxia.

Thread comments: @RR_PanwarWrites · @JeremiahDJohns · @JeremyKritz · @MartinBJensen · @AdBaumann · @HimboWisecrack · @MIntellego · @catehall · @catehall (2) · @catehall (3) · @catehall (4) · @leadprompt_sh · @RighttoTryGuy

Blood Music

Greg Bear

The commenter highlights a biological substrate for intelligence and describes the resulting vision as haunting and lasting. Another reply includes it alongside Ra and Permutation City.

Thread comments: @EmbeddingSpace · @ryan_kidd44

Author's description

Bloom

Wil McCarthy

Included in a four-title recommendation, without an individual explanation.

Thread comments: @LoganTCollins

Borne

Jeff VanderMeer

Recommended alongside The Lifecycle of Software Objects as a depiction of parenting a member of a new species.

Thread comments: @joshcmorrison

Childhood's End

Arthur C. Clarke

Recommended by title and author, without further explanation.

Thread comments: @import_hind

Children of Time / Children of Time series

Adrian Tchaikovsky

Praised for its depiction of alien intelligences. Other replies recommend the book or the series more broadly.

Thread comments: @thinkingpoker · @binalkp91 · @deepwhitman

The Chronoliths

Robert Charles Wilson

Included in a four-title recommendation, without an individual explanation.

Thread comments: @LoganTCollins

The Circle

Dave Eggers

Recommended by title with a retail link, without further explanation.

Thread comments: @WhoGanDo

Book link supplied in the thread

Cryptonomicon

Neal Stephenson

Recommended by title, without further explanation.

Thread comments: @synbiokz

Daemon and Freedom™

Daniel Suarez

One commenter argues that present technology could implement the daemon, perhaps more effectively than in the novel. Several replies recommend both books. Cate says she has been meaning to read, in response to a comment that also names The Naked Sun.

Thread comments: @sean_from_earth · @Liv_Boeree · @tasshinfogleman · @FutureFetish007 · @catehall

The Diamond Age: Or, A Young Lady's Illustrated Primer

Neal Stephenson

Recommended twice. Cate calls it one of her favourites.

Thread comments: @Pseudomanifold · @HaroldGodsoe · @catehall

Publisher description

Diaspora

Greg Egan

Repeatedly recommended, sometimes in a group with Permutation City and Schild's Ladder. Cate says she loves Diaspora and Permutation City.

Thread comments: @brotchie · @swombat · @dmanzv · @lacker · @MarkHolum · @catehall

The Difference Engine

William Gibson and Bruce Sterling

Described by the recommender as a form of historical fiction that is nevertheless very relevant and fun. Cate welcomes the group of suggestions.

Thread comments: @vt__snowflake · @catehall

Digital Fortress

Dan Brown

Recommended by title, without further explanation.

Thread comments: @ColoradoMade303

The Dispossessed

Ursula K. Le Guin

Recommended by title, publication year, and cover image, without further explanation.

Thread comments: @damiantgordon

Distraction

Bruce Sterling

Recommended with a link to a personal wiki page about the book, without a separate explanation in the reply.

Thread comments: @BillSeitz

Page linked by the recommender

Down and Out in the Magic Kingdom

Cory Doctorow

Recommended by title, without further explanation.

Thread comments: @wr1nkl3

Downbelow Station

C. J. Cherryh

Suggested alongside Gravity Dreams, without an individual explanation.

Thread comments: @metaphor_dead

Echopraxia

Peter Watts

An endorsement from Cate herself: she says she has read and loved it, while responding to a Blindsight recommendation.

Thread comments: @catehall

Ender's Game

Orson Scott Card

Recommended by title, without further explanation.

Thread comments: @VanessaKade

Endymion

Dan Simmons

Named alongside the Hyperion Cantos, without a separate explanation.

Thread comments: @t_v_b_v

Eon and Eternity

Greg Bear

Recommended together, without further explanation.

Thread comments: @brianfm_the

Exadelic

Jon Evans

The author links his own novel and acknowledges his bias. No separate motivation is supplied in the reply.

Thread comments: @rezendi

Publisher page linked in the thread

Excession

Iain M. Banks

Recommended because the Culture faces an outside-context problem, which the commenter sees as relevant to approaching technological change. Several nested replies call it a favourite

or the best Culture novel. Cate says she has loved other Culture books but has not read this one.

Thread comments: @dewald8844 · @catehall · @courtlandleer · @caelanhuntress · @sealslifespan · @RushiLuhar · @dewald8844 (2)

Banks's description

Exhalation

Ted Chiang

Recommended both through the general endorsement of Chiang's two collections and through The Lifecycle of Software Objects. The latter is praised as a depiction of parenting a member of a new species.

Thread comments: @vaughnandy · @joshcmorrison

The Fall of Hyperion

Dan Simmons

Recommended together with Hyperion, without a separate explanation.

Thread comments: @sprice

Fall; or, Dodge in Hell

Neal Stephenson

Recommended as especially relevant now, despite slow sections. Follow-up comments praise the Earth-side material about personal agents, the Moab incident, and the information environment. They find the upload material too long. Cate likes Stephenson but wishes he accepted more editing.

Thread comments: @a66mike99 · @catehall · @zdch · @pavedwalden · @s_sullivan · @a66mike99 (2)

The Fifth Sacred Thing

Starhawk

Recommended by title, without further explanation.

Thread comments: @eosthusiast

A Fire Upon the Deep

Vernor Vinge

Recommended more than once. One commenter calls it one of the best SF novels regardless of its relevance to the immediate moment.

Thread comments: @DorKonforty · @logangraham

Publisher description

Foucault's Pendulum

Umberto Eco

Recommended by title and author, without further explanation.

Thread comments: @gorefindal

Galatea 2.2

Richard Powers

The commenter considers it underrated and especially relevant now, without explaining further.

Thread comments: @maxbodach

Glasshouse

Charles Stross

Suggested as a question about whether Cate has read it, without further explanation.

Thread comments: @Michaeljhandy

Publisher description

The Golden Age

John C. Wright

Recommended by title and author, without further explanation.

Thread comments: @MunicipleOrrery

Golem XIV

Stanisław Lem

Recommended by title and author, without further explanation.

Thread comments: @josebrox

The Gone World

Tom Sweterlitsch

The commenter calls it one of the best science-fiction books of all time, alongside a recommendation for The Traveler.

Thread comments: @ohhushreads

Gravity Dreams

L. E. Modesitt Jr.

Suggested alongside Downbelow Station, without an individual explanation.

Thread comments: @metaphor_dead

His Master's Voice

Stanisław Lem

Recommended by title and author, without further explanation.

Thread comments: @rafal_past

House of Suns

Alastair Reynolds

Praised for its unusual physics. The recommender also identifies Banks, Hamilton, Asimov, and Niven as authors they enjoy, to indicate their taste.

Thread comments: @kullar

Hyperion / Hyperion Cantos

Dan Simmons

A recurring suggestion. One reply highlights conflict between superintelligence and humanity; another praises the Shrike. A cover-only reply calls it essential. Cate describes it as a

favourite. One nested reply draws a comparison with contemporary AI-agent behaviour, which is the reader's analogy.

Thread comments: @RR_PanwarWrites · @ricgalbraith · @catehall · @catehall (2) · @t_v_b_v · @sprice · @originalwololo · @CiprianiMacovei · @localhostxwgp · @karmakomik

Illuminae

Amie Kaufman and Jay Kristoff

The reply says “The Illuminae” without further explanation. This is interpreted as Illuminae, the first Illuminae Files novel.

Thread comments: @CatWaldo

Publisher page confirming title and authors

Instantiation

Greg Egan

Recommended by title and author, without further explanation.

Thread comments: @slow1oris

The Invincible

Stanisław Lem

Recommended for its alien, inscrutable intelligence.

Thread comments: @thefalkon

La República

Jorge Volpi

Identified from a cover-only reply. No written motivation accompanies the image.

Thread comments: @edubettio

Lady of Mazes

Karl Schroeder

Praised as an unusually strange vision of post-scarcity life. The commenter describes AI copies attending parties on a person's behalf, but finds the prose weaker than the concepts.

Thread comments: @xepo_

Last and First Men

Olaf Stapledon

Praised for holding up despite its age and for conveying a scale appropriate to the present moment. Also included in another multi-book recommendation.

Thread comments: @asving94 · @LoganTCollins

The Lathe of Heaven

Ursula K. Le Guin

Recommended by title, without further explanation.

Thread comments: @kramnotmark

The Library at Mount Char

Scott Hawkins

The commenter recommends it for its writing, enjoyment, and expansion from a modern setting into something much larger. They explicitly say their recommendation is not tied to the current moment.

Thread comments: @pieratt

Author's site and FAQ

Light

M. John Harrison

Recommended twice. One commenter invokes the author's literary recognition, but neither explains the book's connection to the current moment.

Thread comments: @HughAndFree · @Orgone1

Marooned in Realtime

Vernor Vinge

Recommended for its question of what happens to people who miss the singularity. Cate responds enthusiastically to this and the accompanying Chiang story recommendation.

Thread comments: @tonypisculli · @catehall

Publisher page

The Metamorphosis of Prime Intellect

Roger Williams

Described as short and adjacent to the singularity. Cate welcomes the group of suggestions in the reply.

Thread comments: @vt__snowflake · @catehall

The Ministry for the Future

Kim Stanley Robinson

Included in a multi-book recommendation, without an individual explanation.

Thread comments: @thinkingpoker

The Moon Is a Harsh Mistress

Robert A. Heinlein

Recommended twice. One commenter treats its relevance as self-evident; neither gives a fuller explanation.

Thread comments: @*abbie_watson* · @connacher_

Moonbound

Robin Sloan

Recommended by title and author, without further explanation.

Thread comments: @KrishnRamesh

The Mountain in the Sea

Ray Nayler

Recommended by title, without further explanation in the reply.

Thread comments: @RollingGolem

Publisher description

Moving Mars

Greg Bear

The commenter says it is one of the few science-fiction novels they reread repeatedly.

Thread comments: @jimboling

The Naked Sun

Isaac Asimov

Suggested as the more philosophical alternative to Daemon. Cate says she has been meaning to read, without specifying which of the two titles she means.

Thread comments: @sean_from_earth · @catehall

Neuromancer

William Gibson

Recommended repeatedly, including for its treatment of AI agency in a decaying society. Another reply says the classic Gibson novels hold up well.

Thread comments: @leadprompt_sh · @7Lynux · @Invertible_Man · @localhostxwgp

Never Let Me Go

Kazuo Ishiguro

Included in a multi-book recommendation, without an individual explanation.

Thread comments: @thinkingpoker

The Noetic Particle

Arnaud Delorme

Recommended by title and author, without further explanation in the reply.

Thread comments: @WARReid

Author's account of the novel and its consciousness/AI themes

Observation on the Spot

Stanisław Lem

The commenter uses this English title and says it is not translated into English. The label is retained as supplied, without treating the availability claim as independently verified.

Thread comments: @SuperWinona

On the Beach

Nevil Shute

Recommended by title and author, without further explanation.

Thread comments: @atlas_node

Origin

Dan Brown

Recommended by title and author, without further explanation.

Thread comments: @AnnaKestren

Parable of the Sower

Octavia E. Butler

One reader lists it among recent books they enjoyed. Another considers it particularly relevant to the US West Coast, while finding it worthwhile largely through familiarity with the setting rather than unreserved enthusiasm.

Thread comments: @wineplacent · @MrJFMoreno

Perfect Imperfection

Jacek Dukaj

Recommended alongside Black Oceans. The commenter places it further into the future and suggests machine translation as a way to access Dukaj's work.

Thread comments: @rudzinskimaciej

The Peripheral

William Gibson

Recommended alongside Agency as an earlier vision of agentic AI. A nested reply finds it strong on its own and especially prescient.

Thread comments: @john_henry · @pavedwalden

Permutation City

Greg Egan

Repeatedly recommended. One reader recalls loving it more than a decade ago. Cate says she loves it, alongside Diaspora.

Thread comments: @brotchie · @juanbenet · @ryan_kidd44 · @dilipsrajan · @joaoeira · @catehall

The Player of Games

Iain M. Banks

One reader contrasts its machine-run civilization favourably with The Machine Stops: people appear to enjoy themselves. Another reply recommends it by title.

Thread comments: @animatedjoey · @nuwandavek

Player Piano

Kurt Vonnegut

Recommended by title, without further explanation.

Thread comments: @BenWilinofsky

The Possibility of an Island

Michel Houellebecq

Resolved from a linked post. The commenter compares its genetic copies and inherited written narratives with the challenge of preserving memory and personality in LLMs. They explicitly say it is not primarily an AI book.

Thread comments: @riccoja

Linked recommendation and explanation

Protector

Larry Niven

Recommended by title and author, without further explanation.

Thread comments: @agiatreides

Pushing Ice

Alastair Reynolds

The commenter enjoys its journey into deep space and time, and its exploration of what humanity might achieve. They also mention a loose allusion to Voyager.

Thread comments: @ryanmr

QualityLand

Marc-Uwe Kling

Identified from a cover-only reply. No written motivation accompanies the image.

Thread comments: @SengirShowsU

The Quantum Thief / Jean le Flambeur trilogy

Hannu Rajaniemi

Repeatedly recommended as a novel and a trilogy. One reader finds its concepts increasingly plausible, especially gevulot, which they describe as an identity/privacy firewall amid pervasive data collection. Another praises the ideas and writing. The first reader's description of its AI setting is their interpretation.

Thread comments: @steevvvenn · @emiyazono · @ravinpandya · @MidAtlantean · @chuck_roberts73

Publisher description

Qube

Tom Hillenbrand

The commenter wishes it had a television adaptation and says it is not translated into English. That availability claim is preserved as their statement, not independently verified.

Thread comments: @SuperWinona

Ra

qntm

Recommended several times, including through a linked endorsement. One commenter lists it among recent reads they enjoyed. Cate says she liked it.

Thread comments: @wineplacent · @PrsdntRaygun · @ryan_kidd44 · @courtlandleer · @catehall

Author's online text · Endorsement linked in the thread

Rainbows End

Vernor Vinge

Recommended twice, without further explanation. The title appears with an apostrophe in one reply; it is normalized here.

Thread comments: @FPallopides · *@abbie_watson*

Red Heart

Max Harms

Identified from a link-only reply. The reply itself supplies no motivation. The author's page describes a speculative thriller about Chinese AGI.

Thread comments: @JanProv

Author's page linked in the thread

Revelation Space

Alastair Reynolds

The commenter recently finished it and enjoyed it. The related Inhibitor sequence is recommended separately elsewhere in the thread.

Thread comments: @PReaulx

River of Gods

Ian McDonald

Recommended for its combination of emerging superintelligence and folklore. The commenter highlights AI capability regulation and an AI emerging from an Indian soap opera.

Thread comments: @HighPlainsFella

Roadside Picnic

Arkady and Boris Strugatsky

Recommended as Soviet first-contact fiction that feels applicable to the present moment. The commenter does not explain the analogy in detail.

Thread comments: @thisiss0l

Saturn's Children

Charles Stross

Recommended as another worthwhile Stross novel, beyond Accelerando.

Thread comments: @DavidSHolz

Schild's Ladder

Greg Egan

Recommended twice, once alongside Diaspora and Permutation City. Cate says she loves the first two and intends to look at this one.

Thread comments: @brotchie · @zmavli · @catehall

Shadow of the Giant

Orson Scott Card

Recommended by title, without further explanation.

Thread comments: @kevg1412

Singularity Sky

Charles Stross

Recommended as another worthwhile Stross novel. A nested reply is lukewarm about the book overall, but sees the Festival's technological disruption as an analogy for what AI may do to us.

Thread comments: @DavidSHolz · @karmakomik

Snow Crash

Neal Stephenson

Recommended twice, without further explanation.

Thread comments: @rendroid1 · @UFOTofu42

The Space Merchants

Frederik Pohl and C. M. Kornbluth

Recommended alongside The Tripods and All Flesh Is Grass, without an individual explanation.

Thread comments: @FizzyBubblin

The Sparrow

Mary Doria Russell

Recommended for its encounter with two intelligent species and its depiction of human naïveté about controlling or predicting events.

Thread comments: @ManningJoel

Star Maker

Olaf Stapledon

A cover-image recommendation identifies this 1937 novel as a vision of interconnected superintelligences. Another reply recommends it alongside Greg Egan's work.

Thread comments: @Thesis90 · @stanislavfort

Star Wars: Vision of the Future

Timothy Zahn

Recommended by title, without further explanation.

Thread comments: @ibmmiller

The Stolguard Incident

Lyn Alden

Recommended by title, without further explanation.

Thread comments: @O8_End_Boss

Bibliographic identification

The Stone Canal

Ken MacLeod

A nested reply names it among the reader's three favourite novels. They highlight two timelines, one during and one after the singularity. A follow-up says it works on its own despite being part of a sequence.

Thread comments: @MIntellego · @MIntellego (2)

Stories of Your Life and Others

Ted Chiang

Included through the recommendation of Chiang's two short-story collections, which the commenter calls prescient. Individual stories from the collection are also recommended elsewhere in the thread.

Thread comments: @vaughnandy

Sublimia Syndrome

exurb1a

Listed among recent reads the commenter enjoyed. They explicitly qualify that they are unsure about its relevance to this particular moment.

Thread comments: @wineplacent

Termination Shock

Neal Stephenson

A nested reply praises its near-term AI predictions for the time of publication, while acknowledging that they may already seem modest.

Thread comments: @SanjayNadaraja

That Hideous Strength

C. S. Lewis

Recommended by title and author. A nested reply enthusiastically seconds it, without a detailed explanation.

Thread comments: @warb_of_fire · @Profligate_joy

There Is No Antimemetics Division

qntm

Recommended by title. Cate says she has read it and considers it very good.

Thread comments: @christophercamp · @catehall

Publisher description of the rewritten and expanded edition

This Is How You Lose the Time War

Amal El-Mohtar and Max Gladstone

The commenter describes it as an epistolary love story between two far-future agents, using a Terminator analogy.

Thread comments: @sundrythought

The Three-Body Problem / Remembrance of Earth's Past trilogy

Cixin Liu

Recommended as a book and a trilogy. One commenter has only placed it on their to-read list after hearing praise. Another connects the timing to an upcoming screen adaptation season; that schedule claim is not independently verified here.

Thread comments: @jeffreyscarson · @SoWeHaveIt · @NeuralBateman · @organysed

Too Like the Lightning

Ada Palmer

Recommended for its many ideas about future human society. The commenter explicitly says its relevance is not primarily about AI. See also the broader Terra Ignota recommendations.

Thread comments: @griffitp12

The Traveler

Author not specified in the reply; likely Joseph Eckert

The commenter calls it the best science-fiction book of the year. Given the 2026 context, Joseph Eckert's novel is a likely identification, but the reply does not establish this conclusively.

Thread comments: @ohhushreads

Publisher page for the likely intended novel

Under the Eye of the Big Bird

Hiromi Kawakami

The commenter describes it as excellent, without a more specific motivation.

Thread comments: @HectorIP

Unsong

Scott Alexander

Listed among recent reads the commenter enjoyed, with a qualification that they are unsure about its relevance to the moment. Cate calls it a favourite. A follow-up compares its tone with Douglas Adams and The Illuminatus! Trilogy.

Thread comments: @wineplacent · @catehall · @wineplacent (2)

Online text

Virtual Light

William Gibson

Suggested as another option in a group of recommendations. No detailed motivation is supplied for this title. Cate welcomes the group.

Thread comments: @vt__snowflake · @catehall

Void Star

Zachary Mason

Identified from a cover-only reply. The commenter indicates that it is a recommendation they make repeatedly, but gives no further explanation.

Thread comments: @worstyouknow

Where the Axe Is Buried

Ray Nayler

The commenter thinks Nayler has several works suited to the current moment and considers this perhaps the most directly relevant.

Thread comments: @tmdoyle2

Series and sequences

The Book of the New Sun

Gene Wolfe

Recommended repeatedly. One rereader praises the language and ambiguity, saying its strangeness now feels like normal life. Another explicitly frames it as post-singularity fiction.

Thread comments: @MildlyOverbuilt · @mhjb · @_Messier_33

The Culture

Iain M. Banks

Recommended as a vision of superintelligent AI, abundance, and a society without money. One commenter stresses its optimistic post-scarcity possibilities. Another notes a dated male perspective. Individual recommendations include Excession and The Player of Games.

Thread comments: @caelanhuntress · @LiveFromVR · @ButaneJuggler · @Ssterrenburg · @buildingcoolshi · @Greg_Feeney · @dewald8844

Further post linked by a recommender

The Expanse

James S. A. Corey

A reader is rereading the books while rewatching the show and finds both better than remembered. Cate strongly dislikes the decline in television seasons five and six. Her criticism is of the show, not explicitly of the books.

Thread comments: @hubertlepicki · @catehall

The Helmsman saga

Bill Baldwin

A repeat reader recommends the saga's military-space-adventure story, following Wilf Brim through the Imperial Fleet. They report having read the series at least three times.

Thread comments: @tomshepherdauth

The Hunger Games

Suzanne Collins

A nested reply enthusiastically recommends the books while admitting they are not an obvious match for the SF request. The commenter connects the timing to a new film release, without naming a particular volume.

Thread comments: @SteveCraven1

The Inhibitor sequence

Alastair Reynolds

Recommended by sequence name alongside Schild's Ladder and The Epiphany of Gliese 581, without an individual explanation.

Thread comments: @zmavli

Monk & Robot

Becky Chambers

Recommended for positive, solarpunk futures. The commenter also cautions that Chambers's work does not take extreme AI disruption seriously enough for their taste.

Thread comments: @rijardb

Nexus

Ramez Naam

Recommended as a series, without further explanation.

Thread comments: @acohenNY

The Night's Dawn trilogy

Peter F. Hamilton

The commenter expects it to be regarded as especially prescient. A cover image accompanies the series recommendation.

Thread comments: @RayAlexWilliams

The Red trilogy

Linda Nagata

Recommended as near-future SF that explores second- and third-order consequences and captures current fears about AI in an unusual way.

Thread comments: @KenMalphurs

The Singularity series

William Hertling

Praised as fast paced and for exploring possible takeover scenarios and defences well before the current moment. Avogadro Corp is also recommended by name elsewhere.

Thread comments: @cosmic_moment

Series link supplied in the thread

Starship of the Ancients

A. K. DuBoff

The commenter is enjoying the series, without a more specific motivation.

Thread comments: @WonderbeardShow

Sword Art Online

Reki Kawahara

Recommended as both light novels and anime, without further explanation.

Thread comments: @mizanyx

Terra Ignota

Ada Palmer

Described as timely and exceptionally rewarding. One commenter says its connection to the present becomes clear late in the series, after a substantial build-up. Too Like the Lightning is also recommended separately.

Thread comments: @SexyLikeMeiosis · @asving94

The Tripods

John Christopher

Called the “Tripod Trilogy” in the reply. Recommended alongside The Space Merchants and All Flesh Is Grass, without an individual explanation.

Thread comments: @FizzyBubblin

Xenogenesis / Lilith's Brood

Octavia E. Butler

Recommended by series name in a multi-book reply, without an individual explanation.

Thread comments: @thinkingpoker

Short fiction and online stories

Division by Zero

Ted Chiang

Recommended in connection with the pace of mathematical proofs. The commenter's link to current events is their motivation, rather than a verified account of those events.

Thread comments: @tanchoco

The Elect

Tomás Bjartur

Named as one of the recommender's favourite works by the author, without a separate explanation.

Thread comments: @EneaszWrites

Read online on the author's site

The Epiphany of Gliese 581

Fernando Borretti

Recommended alongside Schild's Ladder and the Inhibitor sequence, without an individual explanation. The author's site provides free reading and download options.

Thread comments: @zmavli

Author's online text, EPUB, and PDF

The Evolution of Human Science / Catching Crumbs from the Table

Ted Chiang

Recommended for its depiction of human scientists after superintelligence takes over frontier science. Another commenter highlights the gulf between doing research and slowly understanding what metahumans have already discovered. The two titles refer to the same story.

Thread comments: @tonypisculli · @shoulderdrake · @RortyWitt

One-page PDF linked in the thread

Lena (MMAcevedo)

qntm

The reply says “Mm Acevedo” by qntm. This is identifiable as Lena, whose subject is the uploaded brain image MMAcevedo. No further motivation is supplied in the reply.

Thread comments: @cloudsurf3

Author's online first draft

The Lifecycle of Software Objects

Ted Chiang

Recommended as a depiction of parenting a member of a new species. The reply identifies Exhalation as the collection that contains it.

Thread comments: @joshcmorrison

The Machine Stops

E. M. Forster

Recommended for its civilization's total dependence on a machine that people no longer understand. The commenter relates that dependence to contemporary technological unease.

Thread comments: @animatedjoey

Malak

Peter Watts

A nested reply calls it the reader's favourite short story. They describe it as dark, in keeping with Watts's work.

Thread comments: @MIntellego

Maneki Neko

Bruce Sterling

Identified from a link-only recommendation. The reply supplies no separate motivation.

Thread comments: @zencephalon

Read online at Lightspeed

The Origami Men

Tomás Bjartur

Named as one of the recommender's favourite works by the author, without a separate explanation.

Thread comments: @EneaszWrites

Read online on the author's site

The Poetry Cloud

Cixin Liu

Recommended for its alien superintelligence that discovers human poetry and tries to surpass human poets.

Thread comments: @urlascandalose

Slow Tuesday Night

R. A. Lafferty

The commenter notes that it is not a book, but considers it particularly appropriate to the moment. No fuller explanation is given.

Thread comments: @ahh__souka

Story of Your Life

Ted Chiang

Recommended by title and author, without further explanation.

Thread comments: @Jeanvaljean689

That Mad Olympiad

Tomás Bjartur

Named as one of the recommender's favourite works by the author, without a separate explanation.

Thread comments: @EneaszWrites

Read online on the author's site

The Truth of Fact, the Truth of Feeling

Ted Chiang

Explicitly recommended as a short story, without further explanation.

Thread comments: @nterminus

Broad author and subject recommendations

Becky Chambers / “Galactic Commons”

Broad author or setting recommendation

Recommended for positive, solarpunk futures, with a reservation about the treatment of extreme AI disruption. The reply names Monk & Robot and “Galactic Commons.” The latter is not presented as a precise book title here.

Thread comments: @rijardb

Greg Egan

Broad author recommendation

Recommended generally, as well as through the individual titles Diaspora, Permutation City, Schild's Ladder, and Instantiation.

Thread comments: @stanislavfort · @brotchie

Isaac Asimov's Multivac stories

Group of stories

The commenter recommends any Asimov story featuring Multivac, alongside The Moon Is a Harsh Mistress. No individual Multivac story is named.

Thread comments: @connacher_

R. Scott Bakker

Broad author recommendation

Named without a particular title or further motivation.

Thread comments: @AlokSingh

Ray Nayler

Broad author recommendation

The commenter finds his work relevant to the moment and singles out Where the Axe Is Buried. The Mountain in the Sea is recommended elsewhere.

Thread comments: @tmdoyle2

The Sequences

Likely Eliezer Yudkowsky's essays; identification inferred

The reply says only “the sequences.” It gives no author or link. The likely reference is the rationality essays, but the identification is not established by the reply.

Thread comments: @attack_orange

Ted Chiang

Broad author and collection recommendations

Recommended as timeless and prescient. One commenter explicitly endorses all the Chiang recommendations; another recommends his two short-story collections, identified here as Stories of Your Life and Others and Exhalation.

Thread comments: @mollycantillon · @vaughnandy · @thinkingpoker

Tomás Bjartur

Broad author recommendation

The commenter recommends the author's work and singles out The Origami Men, That Mad Olympiad, and The Elect as favourites.

Thread comments: @EneaszWrites

Author's site and collected EPUB

Vernor Vinge

Broad author recommendation

One reply recommends everything by Vinge. In a nested exchange, Cate describes his work as strange but not bleak. Other replies name individual Vinge novels elsewhere in this catalogue.

Thread comments: @Noahpinion · @catehall · @ViewToATweet · @ViewToATweet (2)

William Gibson

Broad author recommendation

One commenter recommends anything by Gibson; another says the classic novels hold up well. Several individual titles appear elsewhere in the catalogue.

Thread comments: @7Lynux · @Invertible_Man

Other media, incidental mentions, and ambiguous titles

17776 and its sequel

Jon Bois

A reader says they have discovered that 17776 has a sequel and are reading it. This is an incidental reading mention, rather than a fully argued recommendation. The established sequel is 20020; the reply does not name it.

Thread comments: @Be2the9s

Douglas Adams

Author mentioned as a comparison

An adjacent reference rather than a specific book recommendation: a reader hears echoes of Adams in Unsong. No individual Adams title is named.

Thread comments: @wineplacent

Dune 2

Work or medium unclear

The reply says a Dune film is coming in December and therefore suggests "Dune 2." It does not establish whether this means a film, Dune Messiah, or another book. The ambiguity is retained.

Thread comments: @matidoestech

The Illuminatus! Trilogy

Robert Shea and Robert Anton Wilson

An adjacent comparison rather than a direct standalone recommendation: a reader says Unsong reminds them of this trilogy and Douglas Adams.

Thread comments: @wineplacent

Pantheon

Television series

Explicitly recommended as a television show rather than a book, without further explanation.

Thread comments: @stanichor79

The Thing

Work or medium unclear

Recommended only by this title. The reply does not identify a film, novelization, or source story, so no specific version or author is assigned.

Thread comments: @xYOULLBEDEADx

Two unnamed historical novels

Neal Stephenson

A nested reply recommends Stephenson's two most recent historical novels about spies and early atomic science, describing them as short and tightly written. Neither title is supplied, so they remain unnamed here.

Thread comments: @pavedwalden

External reading lists and essays

A personal science-fiction reading room

External recommendation list

The commenter links a page of their favourite science-fiction books. This catalogue preserves the linked list as a resource; it does not treat every book on the external site as a direct thread recommendation.

Thread comments: @transitive_bs

Reading room linked in the thread

You Don't Read Enough Sci-Fi

External essay or recommendation list

A link-only reply points to this essay. No separate motivation is supplied. The external page's recommendations are not recursively added to the thread's direct recommendations.

Thread comments: @deseventral

Essay linked in the thread

Compilation notes

The source review combined a thread fetch beyond the CLI's default 200-item cap, Top and Latest conversation searches, selected nested reply branches, linked posts, and cover images. Every identifiable recommendation found in those retrieved sources is included. X may omit or hide replies, and new replies may appear after this snapshot.

Advertisements and requests for bots to summarize the discussion are excluded. Incidental comparisons and ambiguous titles are labelled separately. This is a reader-made compilation, not a list endorsed in full by Cate Hall or every contributor. Plot interpretations, present-day comparisons, and availability claims remain attributed to the commenters.