

FURTHER READING:

GLIMPSES OF THE
EXTRAORDINARY:

A READER'S GUIDE TO

SCIENCE FICTION & FANTASY

This website was created by Spring Lea Henry to help readers connect with beloved books. The site includes bibliographies, descriptions of the various types of science fiction and fantasy, links to great online resources, book reviews, and a list of some great reasons to read science fiction and fantasy. The titles featured at this site are directly linked to Amazon.com for easy purchase.

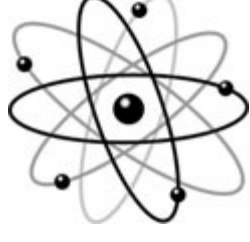
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GLIMPSES OF THE
EXTRAORDINARY

A Reader's Guide
to the Science
Fiction Theme:

Hard

Science Fiction



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CHARACTERISTICS OF HARD SCIENCE FICTION:

- Stories are based on real scientific theories from many branches of study, such as physics, chemistry, and quantum mechanics.
- Plot devices hinge on the characters' knowledge of scientific law and theory.
- Controversial speculation is often explored in areas where scientists are not currently in agreement, such as cloning and artificial intelligence.
- Scientific explanations are usually offered for all new technology introduced within the story, especially in areas of space travel and computers.
- Authors will often provide notes in the back of the book discussing the research done while writing the story.

SOME MAJOR CONTRIBUTING AUTHORS:

- Kim Stanley Robinson: most notable for his work on books about terraforming Mars.
- Isaac Asimov: himself a scientist in several branches of study, he is most famous for his books about robots.
- Arthur C. Clarke: deep discussions about humanity's place in the cosmos.
- David Brin, Greg Bear, and Gregory Benford: Known collectively as "The Killer B's" for their individual novels incorporating hard science theory into complex plot lines.
- Charles Sheffield: Hard focus on science. Some of his stories come with extensive notes about the research behind the story.

RECOMMENDED STARTER BOOKS:

- Contact by Carl Sagan. An astronomer who discovers an alien radio signal learns to balance science and spiritualism in Sagan's only work of fiction.
- Foundation by Isaac Asimov. A system of statistical analysis changes the course of a galactic empire.
- Rendezvous with Rama by Arthur C. Clarke. A team of Earth astronauts explore a giant alien artifact traveling through our solar system.
- Tomorrow and Tomorrow by Charles Sheffield. A man is cryogenically frozen and awakened time and again through the end of the universe.
- Ringworld by Larry Niven explores what happens when humans encounter technology far in advance of anything they are capable of creating.