

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.

WWW.SPRINGLEA.COM/GLIMPSES/

GLIMPSES OF THE
EXTRAORDINARY

A Reader's Guide
to the Fantasy
Theme:

Science Fantasy



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CHARACTERISTICS OF SCIENCE FANTASY:

- Elements of fantasy and science fiction are mixed almost equally.
- Magic and scientific laws co-exist in the same universe, although one may be dominant over the other.
- Magic may be used in lieu of technology but yield the same results (Example: magic flying cars instead of hovercars)
- Characters may be ignorant of either magic or science--or both--as an explanation for natural phenomena.
- The everyday world may be used as a backdrop for the scientific laws, but it is not as prominently used as it is within the Modern Fantasy sub-genre. The scientific element tends to either be Earth's future, a parallel dimension, or another planet entirely.
- Sometimes the science and magic are split into different realms, and the characters travel between them during the story.

SOME MAJOR CONTRIBUTING AUTHORS:

- Anne McCaffrey: From bio-genetically engineered dragons to ships powered by telepathy and song, McCaffrey is a master at mixing science and fantasy.
- Piers Anthony: His Adept series successfully splits the setting between a world of magic and a world of science while Incarnations of Immortality series mashes them together in the same realm. The Mode books explore the differences through a series of parallel dimensions.
- Marion Zimmer Bradley. The Darkover books, while set on another planet, rely on elements of magic for the stories. Some of the characters have tremendous psychic powers that are not fully explained in a scientific way.
- Madeleine L'Engle. Her Time Quartet is a series of books where travel through space and time are more or less logically explained, but in the end the story is a more esoteric battle between good and evil that defies physics.

RECOMMENDED STARTER BOOKS:

- *Dragonflight* by Anne McCaffrey. The first of many Pern books, this novel tells the story of a young woman's rise to power as the Dragon Lady of Pern and her search for the truth about the planet's past.
- *Split Infinity* by Piers Anthony. This book is the first in a series to follow a man who can travel between the alternate dimensions of all science and all magic on his world.
- *Plague of Angels* by Sherri S. Tepper. In a far future Earth, society has been destroyed by a mass exodus to the stars and ancient monsters attacking those left behind.
- *Job: A comedy of justice* by Robert A. Heinlein. The supernatural element in this book is an encounter with the divine forces of good and evil, a theme explored marvelously over parallel dimensions.
- *Epic* by Conor Kostick. On a colony world much like Earth, the citizens deal with everyday life concerns through the use of a virtual reality video game where magic is key.