

FURTHER READING:

GLIMPSES OF THE
EXTRAORDINARY:

A READER'S GUIDE TO

SCIENCE FICTION & FANTASY

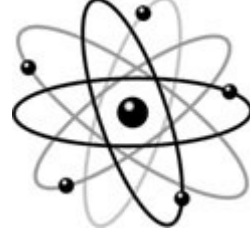
This website was created by Spring Lea Henry to help readers connect with beloved books. The site includes bibliographies, descriptions of the various types of science fiction and fantasy, links to great online resources, book reviews, and a list of some great reasons to read science fiction and fantasy. 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 Science
Fiction Theme:

Space Opera



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CHARACTERISTICS OF SPACE OPERA:

- Stories are generally about people who live in, work in, or visit outer space and other planets on a regular basis.
- Scientific theory is not necessary to the telling of the story.
- The characters' loves and lives are central to the plot, as opposed to how the aliens breathe or how the spaceship works.
- Often an alien society's culture such as their music, class system, family structure, etc.. is central to the plot.
- This sub-genre is usually more accessible to young adults and mainstream audiences.
- Pure space opera is becoming harder to find as stories bleed over into other science fiction themes.

SOME MAJOR CONTRIBUTING AUTHORS:

- Lois McMaster Bujold: her Miles Vorkosigan books focus on the life and times of a young man making his way in the universe.
- Orson Scott Card: the Ender books (starting with Ender's Game) have strong humanist elements even though there are alien races a-plenty!
- Charles Sheffield: The "Jupiter" series of books are great stories about young men and women coming of age in outer space.
- Edgar Rice Burroughs: His classic works are best described as a scientific romance crossed with an epic adventure.
- John Scalzi: The men and women of the Colonial Union's armed forces may be modified through genetics and technology, but they're still human underneath it all.

RECOMMENDED STARTER BOOKS:

- Battlefield Earth by L. Ron Hubbard tells the story of Johnnie Goodboy Tyler's fight to wrest control of Earth out of alien hands.
- Orbital Resonance by John Barnes tells the story of a young girl's coming of age on a space station.
- Old Man's War by John Scalzi is a sci-fi romp in the classical sense. Plenty of laugh-out-loud moments pepper this story of a man finding his feet as he deals with a new body, a new life, and several interstellar combats.
- This Place Has No Atmosphere by Paula Danziger demonstrates that living on the moon isn't all it's cracked up to be.
- Acorna by Anne McCaffrey tells the story of an alien orphan's search for her past with the help of some big-hearted humans to help take care of her.