

Science Fiction: The Mythology of the Future

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Part I

What is Science Fiction? Why is it so Popular?

On the Magazine Cover is Braxa, a Martian Holding a Rose - as a Symbol of Bittersweet Connection between Herself & Human Character who has Impregnated Her, Saving the Martian Race from Extinction - "A Rose for Ecclesiastes" (1963) by Roger Zelazny - Science Fiction Hall of Fame - Contradicts Techno-Stereotype of Science Fiction - Humanistic Tale Takes Place on Mars - Story of Religion & Fate & Fatalism About the Future - Of Love & Seduction - Of Mysticism vs. Rationalism - Central Character is Poet & Linguist Not a Scientist or Technologist - Zelazny Incorporated Themes of Mythology into much of his Science Fiction

Science fiction is clearly the most visible & influential contemporary form of futurist thinking in the modern world.

Science fiction is so popular because science fiction speaks to the whole person—intellect, imagination, & emotion—and stimulates holistic future consciousness.

Definition of Science Fiction: Although not all science fiction deals with the future, its primary focus has been on the possibilities of the future. In this regard, science fiction can be defined as a literary and narrative approach to the future, involving plots, story lines and action sequences, specific settings, dramatic resolutions, and varied and unique characters, human and otherwise. It is imaginative, concrete, and often highly detailed scenario-building about the future set in the form of stories.

The Allegory of "Surface Tension" James Blish (1952) - Science Fiction Hall of Fame - Story of Escaping Confines of a Puddle of Water & Seeing the Stars - Represents Transcending the Boundaries of Imagination, World View, Present Reality - Importance of Courage, Imagination, & Breaking Through the Constraints of the Normal - Discovery that the Cosmos Extends Vastly Beyond Present Reality & Thinking

Comparison of Myth, Fantasy, and Science Fiction

Humans in Myth and Fantasy have been Creating Stories & Visions of Strange Lands, Incredible Adventures, & Fantastical Beings Since Beginnings of Recorded History

Comparison of Imagery of Fantasy/Myth & Science Fiction

Spirits and Rocket Ships, Angels and Robots, Dragons and Aliens - The “Plausible” versus the “Implausible” (Depending on Ancient/Classical vs. Modern Theory of Reality)
- Similarities in Imagery & Meaning

Comparison of The Power of Myth - The Power of Science Fiction

“The universe is made of stories, not of atoms.”

Muriel Rukeyser

Truth and Value Revealed through the Narrative Rather than Facts or Theories

Prometheus & Dave Bowman (2001): Stealing the Fire or Be Given the Light (Metaphorically, the Power and the Knowledge) of the Gods (Highly Advanced Aliens)

- Narration & Drama
- Personification
- Archetypal Themes (Good & Evil; Birth, Death, & Resurrection; Reproduction & the Giving of Life; The Heroic; Sacrifice; Redemption; Realizing Wholeness; Communion; Love & Loyalty; the Mother & the Father; Wonder & Worship; Transcendence)
- Ethics and Values (Illustrating & Teaching)
- Educating on Deep Principles of Reality
- Inspiration & Emotion
- Personal-Cosmic Connection
- Connection of Past & Future vs. Primarily Future Focus
- Invention of Fantastical Realities - Informed by Classical Thought/Religion/ Mythology & Divine Providence vs. Informed by Science, Contemporary Thought & the Enlightenment Theory of Progress - The Strange/Different Set in the Future (Set in the Context of Evolution & Progress Will Not be the Same as the Present)

Science Fiction as the Mythology of the Future

“...our aim is not merely to create aesthetically admirable fiction. We must achieve neither mere history, nor mere fiction, but myth. A true myth is one which, within the universe of a certain culture... expresses richly, and often perhaps tragically, the highest aspirations possible within a culture.” Olaf Stapledon

The Dreams & Visions of a Mind Set, a Culture, a Time, Set in the Form of a Story
Two Meanings: Our Contemporary Myths About Our Future & The Myths that Will Inform and Inspire Us in the Future

The Double-Edged Sword of Science Fiction: Hope & Fear - Terror & Wonder

“These are the days of miracle and wonder.” Paul Simon

“...nightmares are dreams whose usefulness is to keep us on our toes.” J.T. Fraser

Evokes Both Negative & Positive Anticipatory Emotions - Not Simply About Inventive Thought/Imagination but as Psychologically Holistic Experience Includes Emotional Dimension - Critical Dimension - Moves/Stimulates the Reader

Philosophy of Romanticism - Passion & Distrust (Enlightenment Provokes Positive Emotions, Hopes, and Visions of the Future - Romanticism was Critical of Enlightenment Vision of Rational Scientific Progress - Romanticism Emphasized Centrality of Emotion in Human Life & the Future)

Mary Shelley (1797 - 1851) - *Frankenstein: or the modern Prometheus*

" . . . Frankenstein is the modern theme, touching not only science but man's dual nature, whose inherited ape curiosity has brought him both success and misery."
Brian Aldiss

Frankenstein (1818) Frequently Identified as First Modern Science Fiction Novel
Science Fiction Begins in Fear - Inclusive of Fear of the Unknown, as Well as Progress & Science

Stealing the Fire/Light/Creativity/Power of the Gods - Playing God through Science & Technology - But Due to Limitations/Flaws in Human Psyche (Wisdom) Backfires & Destroys Creator - Not Much Science/Tech in Frankenstein but Rather as a Romantic Vision a Good Deal of Psychological Ruminations - Pervasive "Warning" Theme in Science Fiction - Do We Have Faith in Ourselves & in Our Inventions?

The Extraordinary Voyages of Jules Verne - Adventure, Optimism & Progress, & Scientific Romance (1828-1905)

A Journey to the Center of the Earth, Around the World in Eighty Days, The Mysterious Island, From the Earth to the Moon, & 20,000 Leagues Under the Sea

"Extraordinary Voyages" (1860s & 1870s) - Encompass Earth & Universe - Adventure Stories Written with Style

Immensely Popular - Belief in Both Science/Technology & the Positive Qualities of the Human Spirit

Extensively Studied & Incorporated Geographical/Earthly Knowledge & Ongoing Scientific & Technological Advances

H. G. Wells: The Father of Modern Science Fiction & the Father of Modern Futures Studies (1866-1946)

"Yet across the gulf of space, minds that are to our minds as ours are to those beasts that perish, intellects vast and cool and unsympathetic, regarded this earth with envious eyes, and slowly and surely drew their plans against us." *The War of the Worlds*

Wells Wrote Extensively in Both Fiction & Non-Fiction About the Future

A Multiplicity of Visions & Predictions of the Future

Men Like Gods, The War in the Air, The Invisible Man, The War of the Worlds, The Shape of Things to Come, The Sleeper Awakes, The Time Machine, The Food of the Gods, The Island of Dr. Moreau, and In the Days of the Comet

Utopian & Dystopian Novels - Tales of Scientific Invention & Terror - Anticipated Aerial Warfare, Atomic Bomb, World Brain, Second World War (1895-1933)

The Awe & Wonder of the Future (and Science Fiction)

Deep Sense of Vast Possibilities of Evolution & Time

"It is possible to believe that all the past is but the beginning of a beginning, and that all that is and has been is but the twilight of the dawn.

It is possible to believe that all that the human mind has ever accomplished is but the dream before the awakening."

Evolution, Future Histories, Global Ethical Utopianism, & Despair: Prediction, Warning, and Prescription

Vision of History & Future Based on Evolution - Many Non-Fiction Works: *The Outline of History, Anticipations: Of the Reaction of Mechanical and Scientific Progress on Human Life and Thought, The Open Conspiracy: Blueprint for a World Revolution, The New World Order, & Mind at the End of Its Tether* (1901 - 1945) - Advocate for Positive Social & Technological Change - Establishment of World Government to Eliminate Hostilities of Nations/Nationalism - Having Observed Two World Wars Wells Ends in Despair on Future Viability of Humans & Human Civilization

The Father of Science Fiction Cinema & Special Effects - The Creative, Fantastical, Surrealistic Visions of George Melies (1861-1938)

Importance of the Visual (Cinematic) Media in Evolution of Science Fiction

A Trip to the Moon (1902) and *The Impossible Voyage* (1904) - Fantasies, Horror Movies, Science Fiction, Historical Sagas

Over 500 movies from 1896 to 1913 (One to Forty Minutes) - Invented Hundreds of Special Effects Techniques - Many of Films Lost or Destroyed but Some Can be Viewed on YouTube

A Bright & Terrible New Century: Futurist Cities, The Collapse of Civilization, Rockets & Space Travel, Aliens & Other Worlds, Mighty Machines & Fantastic Inventions, Lost Lands & Terrifying Beasts, Airplanes & Air War, Tanks, World Wars, and Atomic Weapons

Both Hope and Fear as Pass Into New Century & Go Through First World War - Adventure, Escapism, Predictions & Warnings, Social & Technological

The *Amazing* (1926), *Wondrous* (1929) & *Astounding* (1930): Science Fiction Becomes Self-Conscious (1920-1935) - Books, Magazines, Art, & Film

Hugo Gernsback (1884-1967), Frank Paul (1884-1963), & John Campbell (1910-1971)

Ralph 124C 41+ (1911 Serialized/1925 Book Published) (“One to foresee for many”) Scientific Fiction (1923) -> Scientifiction (1928-1929) -> Science Fiction (*Science Wonder Stories*, October, 1929) - Also Used “Prophetic Fiction” in Early 1930s Discovering & Articulating Its History - *Amazing Stories* Initially Collected & Republished Numerous Stories of Verne, Wells, and Poe Early Proliferation & Popularity of Science Fiction Magazines in 1920s & 1930s - Fiction Serving Science Education - Fiction as Adventure - Fiction Serving Juvenile Minds - Beginnings of Science Fiction Fandom (*Science Fiction League*) Hugo Awards

Frank Paul - “Father of Science Fiction Art” - Did Original Covers for Gernsback for *Amazing*, *Wonder Stories*, Numerous Other Magazines - Imaginative Depictions of Aliens, Technologies, Alien Worlds/Civilizations

Campbell - Writer/Editor - *Astounding* (1938) - Improving Standards of Writing/Story Telling - Story of “Who Goes There?” - Discovered & Nurtured Many of the Top Writers of the Golden Age

Isaac Asimov’s Collection of Short Stories (1931-1938) - *Before the Golden Age* (Three Volumes)

Fritz Lang (1890-1976) & Thea von Harbou (1888-1954): *Metropolis* (1926) & the Robot as Archetype

Apocalyptic - Immense & Often Dark Religious Symbolism - Dystopian Vision of Future - Filled with Intense Emotionality, Heightened Sensation, Madness, & the Dionysian - Order & Technology vs. Humanity - Redemption and the Triumph of Love & the Heart - Robot as Symbolizing Both Hope & Fear within Us About Our Technologically Empowered Future Self

Best Science Fiction Movie of Early Era

Olaf Stapledon: *Cosmic Evolution & the Future of History* (Philosophy Professor in England - 1886 - 1950)

“Probably the most powerful work of imagination ever written.” Arthur C. Clarke

Last and First Men - Star Maker

Last & First Men (1930) - Two Billion Years Into the Future - Eighteen Species of Men - Holistic Vision of Entire Future Human Evolution (Physical/Genetic, Technological, Ecological, Social, Psychological, Spiritual & Philosophical)

Star Maker (1937) - Over Fifty Billion Years Into the Future - Philosophical Cosmology & Ethics in Narrative Form - Immense Scope in Space & Time - Positively Accelerated Curve of Imagination - The Diverse Evolution of Life, Mind, Intelligence, Social Systems, & Galactic/Cosmic Systems within the Universe - Astronomical Engineering - Transcending the Universe & Seeing God - More Novel & Influential Ideas than Any Other Science Fiction Novel

On Transversing the Entirety of Cosmic Evolution & Seeing God End of Part I

Part II

The Golden Age (1938 - 1950): Space Operas, Aliens, Dystopias, & Future Histories (Two More of Frank Paul's Fantastical Images of Alien Worlds - Instigated/Ignited/Created by Campbell & *Astounding Science Fiction* - Short Stories & Novellas, Many of Which Evolved into Novels)

The Shadow Out of Time/H.P. Lovecraft, *With Folded Hands*/J. Williamson, *Private Eye*/Kuttner & Moore, *The Mule*/Asimov, *Slan*/van Vogt, *Grey Lensman*/Smith, *Aesop*/Simak, and *Black Destroyer*/van Vogt (Precursor/Inspiration for *Alien*)

Classics of Science Fiction & the Golden Age

The Science Fiction Hall of Fame (Three Volumes) - Voted as Best Science Fiction Stories by Science Fiction Writers of America (Mostly 1934-1964)

Fritz Leiber, "Doc" Smith, Cordwainer Smith, Frederick Pohl, C.M. Kornbluth, Henry Kuttner and C. L. Moore, Ray Bradbury, Theodore Sturgeon, Clifford Simak, Jack Vance, A.E. van Vogt, and Jack Williamson

Asimov & Heinlein: Predicting Future History, War, Robots, Space and Time Travel & Cosmology (Two of the Most Popular & Influential Writers of the Golden Age)

Isaac Asimov (1930s to 1990s) - Prolific Writer of Both Fiction & Non-Fiction Science - Comprehensive Scope of Topics: *The Foundation Trilogy* (Predicting & Controlling the Future of Civilization), *The Last Question* (Favorite Story/Cosmic), *The End of Eternity* (Superb Time Travel Story), *Nightfall* (Voted Best Science Fiction Short Story), and *I, Robot*

Three Laws of Robotics (Safeguards in the Development of Artificial Intelligence) (Formulated Together with John Campbell):

1. A robot may not injure a human being or, through inaction, allow a human being to come to harm.
2. A robot must obey the orders given to it by human beings, except where such orders would conflict with the First Law.
3. A robot must protect its own existence as long as such protection does not conflict with the First or Second Law.

Robert Heinlein (1930s to 1980s): *Universe* (One of Best Science Fiction Novellas), *Stranger in a Strange Land* (Science Fiction Novel for the Hippie Culture), *The Moon is a Harsh Mistress* (Best Novel Award), *By His Bootstraps* (One of the Best Time Travel Stories), & *Starship Troopers* (Military Science Fiction) - Five Hugo Awards for Best Novel of Year - Social-Political Dimension - Intricate Future History through Series of Stories & Novels Beginning in 1939

Neil Postman - *Amusing Ourselves to Death*

“What Orwell feared were those who would ban books. What Huxley feared was that there would be no reason to ban a book, for there would be no one who wanted to read one. Orwell feared those who would deprive us of information. Huxley feared those who would give us so much that we would be reduced to passivity and egoism.

Orwell feared that the truth would be concealed from us. Huxley feared the truth would be drowned in a sea of irrelevance. Orwell feared we would become a captive culture. Huxley feared we would become a trivial culture, preoccupied with some equivalent of the feelies, the orgy porgy, and the centrifugal bumblepuppy.”

Dystopias: *Brave New World* (1932), *1984* (1949), and *We* (1921) (Outside the Mainstream of Pop Science Fiction)

“It was a bright cold day in April and the clocks were striking thirteen.”

A World of No Pain - No Pleasure - No Soul or I

BNW: Loss of Depth/Intelligence - Hierarchical Control - Trivial/Sensationalistic/Pleasure Seeking Reality - Genetic/Biological Engineering & Manipulation;

1984: Totalitarian Nightmare, Big Brother Controlling & Watching Us, Ultimate Paranoid Trip, Distortion of Truth & History to Serve the State;

W: Powerful Depiction of Human Mind of the Future; World of Transparency, Mathematics, & Order - Ambiguity of Dystopia

The Silver Age (1950-1965) (The Emergence & Popularization of the Inexpensive Paperback Novel - A New Proliferation of SF Magazines Beyond *Astounding* - A Wave of Popular New Science Fiction Movies)

The Hugo & the Nebula Awards

Hugo Beginning in 1953 - World Science Fiction Convention Members - Fantasy & Science Fiction - Novels, Novellas, Novelettes, Short Stories, Films, New Writers, etc. - First Winner *The Demolished Man* by Alfred Bester

Nebula Beginning in 1965 - Science Fiction & Fantasy Writers of America - Similar Categories - First Winner *Dune* by Frank Herbert

Movies, Catastrophes, Monsters, and Invasions (Fear of the Bomb/Atomic War/End of Civilization/Space Race - Mixture of Horror & Science Fiction)

A Canticle for Leibowitz by Walter Miller & *Earth Abides* by George Stewart (Two of the Best Science Novels Ever) - Tales of the Future After the Fall of Human Civilization - Humanistic, Comical, Tragic, Religious

Earth vs. the Flying Saucers, *Invasion of the Body Snatchers* (Aliens Invading Earth), *When Worlds Collide* (Destruction of the Earth), *The Thing from Another World* (*Who Goes There?*), and *Forbidden Planet* (Based on *The Tempest*, Great Visions of Alien World & Advanced Alien Civilization - Story of Realizing Absolute Power within the Mind & Backfiring Again)

Human Evolution & Transformation

Flowers for Algernon by Daniel Keyes, *The Demolished Man* by Alfred Bester, and *More than Human* by Theodore Sturgeon

Space Travel, Astro-Engineering, and Alien Minds

The Martian Chronicles by Ray Bradbury, *Solaris* by Stanislaw Lem, and *Ringworld* by Larry Niven

Arthur C. Clarke: Science, Myth, and Evolution (Synthesizing Elements of Religious Themes & Myths, the Promises of Future Human Evolution, Highly Evolved Aliens, and Solid Science & Technology Extrapolation - *Childhood's End* - Explaining Myth as Premonition)

The Nine Billion Names of God, *2001*, *The Star*, *The City and the Stars*, *Childhood's End*, *The Fountains of Paradise*, and *Rendezvous with Rama*

The New Culture & the New Wave: Psyche, Society, Ethics, Gender, Sex, Religion, & the Taboo (1965-1980)

"If Jules Verne could have really looked into the future, say 1966 A.D., he would have crapped in his pants. And 2166, oh, my!"
Philip José Farmer

Challenging the Cultural Norms of the Contemporary World - Reflection of Counter-Culture - Further Evolution in Writing Literacy - Emphasis on Social-Psychological Themes - Often Bleak & Pessimistic Views of the Future

Deathbird Stories (Retelling of Genesis), *Dangerous Visions* (Famous Anthology of Innovative Stories of New Wave), & *I Have No Mouth and I Must Scream* by Harlan Ellison, *Riders of the Purple Wage*, *Flesh*, & *To Your Scattered Bodies Go* by Philip José Farmer (Introduction of Sex in Science Fiction), *The Female Man* by Joanna Ross, *The Drowned World*, *The Wind from Nowhere*, *The Crystal World*, *The Terminal Beach*, & *The Atrocity Exhibition* by J. G. Ballard (World Catastrophes - Loss of Faith in Modern Human Society), *Dhalgren* by Samuel Delany, *Lord of Light* by Roger Zelazny, *The Book of Skulls* by Robert Silverberg, and *Behold the Man* by Michael Moorcock (Central Figure in New Wave - Time Travel Story - Searching for Truth of Resurrection - Becomes Christ - Time Loop on God)

Philip K. Dick: Reality, Madness, & Mind

The Man in the High Castle (Hugo Winner - Story of Alternate Reality), *Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?* (*Bladerunner*), *Minority Report*, *Total Recall* (*We Can Remember It for You Wholesale*), *Flow My Tears*, *The Policeman Said*, & *The Three Stigmata of Palmer Eldritch*

Questioning the Nature of Reality - Questioning the Meaning of Sanity & Realism in the Human Mind - Poor & Increasingly Obsessed with Hearing Voices/Communications from Another Reality - Great Popularization in Contemporary Science Fiction Movies - *Bladerunner* & *Minority Report* (Two of the Best SF Movies)

Women of Science Fiction: Ursula LeGuin

Most Significant Development of the New Wave - The Emergence of Women Science Fiction Writers - History - Catherine Moore

The Left Hand of Darkness & *The Dispossessed* (Hugo & Nebula Winners - Two of the Best Science Fiction Novels Ever Written - Writing Level, Psychological, Cultural, & Social Insight)

Women of Science Fiction: James Tiptree, Jr.

Tiptree as Young Woman - Tiptree as the Mature Writer of Science Fiction

“The Women Men Don’t See” - The Story of Alice Sheldon & James Tiptree, Jr. - Mystery “Man” of Science Fiction in Late 1960s - Presumably CIA or FBI - Pseudonym from Marmalade Jar

The Girl Who Was Plugged In, Her Smoke Rose Up Forever, Ten Thousand Light-Years from Home, Warm Worlds & Otherwise (Love is the Plan, the Plan is Death - Graphic, Poetic, Psychologically Insightful Story of Alien Love), & Star Songs of an Old Primate

Part III

***The Dreams Our Stuff is Made Of: How Science Fiction Conquered the World* Thomas Disch (2000)**

How Science Fiction Influenced and Reflected Popular Culture/Technological Development - Self-Fulfilling Prophecies in Prediction - Most Popular Movies Became Science Fiction Movies in 1980s/1990s

Close Encounters of the Third Kind, Star Wars: A New Hope, E.T., Jurassic Park, Aliens, Terminator, & Star Wars: The Phantom Menace

Cyberspace, Cyberpunk, & Postmodernism (Post 1980): Pushing the Envelope (Metaphysics) of Reality

Cyberpunk - Weaving Together of Computers, Computer Culture, and Urban (Night) Counter-Culture ("low life street culture") - Dystopian & Dark

Cyberspace - William Gibson

"...a consensual hallucination experienced daily by billions of legitimate operators... A graphical representation of data abstracted from the banks of every computer in the human system....Lines of light ranged in the non-space of the mind, clusters and constellations of data"

Cyberpunk: Shift to Techno-Facilitated "Inner Space" - Virtual Reality (Cyberspace) not Limited by Constraints of Physical Reality - Reflection of Postmodernism both in Ontological Freedom & Narrative Freedom (Flow of Consciousness Narratives)

Neuromancer by William Gibson (1984 - Hugo/Nebula Winner - Most Influential Well Known Cyberpunk Novel), *Islands of the Net* (1988) by Bruce Sterling (Second Noteworthy Cyberpunk Author), *The Ware Tetralogy* (1982 - 2000) by Rudy Rucker (Inventive, Comedic, The Evolution of AI, Robots, VR, Aliens, Higher Dimensions, Material & Chemical Evolution), & *Snow Crash* (1992) by Neal Stephenson (Superb Techno-Razzle Dazzle - Mafia, Pizza Delivery, Swordsmanship, Drugs, Virtual Reality, & Robotic Dog)

The Matrix (Trilogy 1999-2003) (a Cyberpunk Movie) as Techno-Metaphysics & Regressive Romanticism

Embodies Fear of Technological Evolution/AI - Derivative from Descartes' Hypothetical Omnipotent Demon Stimulating a Brain Producing "Normal Experience" - How Would

You Know? - Combining Technology & Mysticism/Messiah Myth - Ambivalence about Technology

"This is your last chance. After this, there is no turning back. You take the blue pill - the story ends, you wake up in your bed and believe whatever you want to believe. You take the red pill - you stay in Wonderland and I show you how deep the rabbit-hole goes."
Morpheus (*The Matrix*)

Avatar (2009) & Romantic Naturalism

Most Beautiful Movie Ever Made - Apotheosis of Special Effects - Derivative from Poul Anderson's "Call Me Joe," Anti-Technological & Pro Naturalism/Noble Savage - Romantic Critique of High Tech/Industry but Contradictory Message (Main Character is Techno-Enhanced/Techno-Created)

Sci-Fi, Special Effects, Macho Men, Ultra-Violence, & the Science Fiction Movie

Emphasis on Special Effects Over Character, Plot, Imagination, & Intelligence & Scientific/Technological Credibility - Tough Macho Men as Central Protagonists/Heros - Excessive Violence/Action

But High Quality Science Fiction Movies (Not Already Mentioned) Have Been Produced - Some of Best: *Clockwork Orange*, *Cloud Atlas*, *Dr. Strangelove*, *Gattaca*, *Dark City*, *12 Monkeys*, and *Brazil* (Along with *Bladerunner*, most Noteworthy)

Best Science Fiction Movies: http://www.centerforfutureconsciousness.com/sf_movies.htm

The Farthest Reaches of Space, Time, and Mind (1990 to the Present)

"How to explain? How to describe? Even the omniscient viewpoint quails." Vernor Vinge

Continued Evolution in Literary Quality, Intellectual Heights, Scientific & Technological Inventiveness, Cosmic Imagination - Selective Highlights of a Few Contemporary Authors & Novels

Dan Simmons: The *Hyperion* Epic ("Hyperion Cantos")

Immortality, Time Travel, Infinite Worlds, The Second Coming, Archetypes of Good & Evil, & Just About Everything Else

Hyperion, *The Fall of Hyperion*, *Endymion*, & *The Rise of Endymion*

Spans Roughly 300 years Beginning in the 28th Century - Structured in Terms of *Canterbury Tales* - Incredible Literary Color & Complexity - Immense & Rich Imagination Ecologically, Culturally, & Technologically - Archetype of the "Shrike" (Time Traveler/

Mysterious/Enigmatic/Murderer & Savior) (Memorable Character) - Debate of Dali Lama & Grand Inquisitor - Reincarnation of Poet John Keats - Rise of the Catholic Church to Power - Traveling between Star Systems Instantaneously - Second Coming (as Female) Dies & is Resurrected through Time Travel

Vernor Vinge: The Singularity, Virtual Reality, Alien Minds, & the Galactic Internet

A Fire Upon the Deep, A Deepness in the Sky, Marooned in Realtime, Rainbows End, & The Children of the Sky (Hugo & Nebula Winners)

Creator of “Technological Singularity” Concept (When Computers Exceed Humans in Intelligence) - Superb Inventiveness of Alien Minds - Pack Minds & Technological Giant Spiders (Good Guys) - Vision of Far Distant Future (Thousands of Years Ahead) - Galactic Virus (The Perversion) Within Galactic Internet & Destruction of Galactic Civilization - Growing Infusion of VR into Our World

Kim Stanley Robinson Ecological Engineering & the Utopian Dream

Red Mars, Green Mars, Blue Mars & 2312

Best Series of Books (Hugo & Nebula Winners) on Colonization of Mars, Ultra-Realism, Integrative (Geological, Biological - Ecological, Scientific-Technological, Social, Psychological, Political, Ethical, and Mythic) Vision of Terraforming & Settling Mars - A Contemporary Utopian Creation - *2312* (Nebula Winner Best Novel 2012) - Ecological Inventiveness - Literary Inventiveness - Colonizing & Terraforming the Solar System

Connie Willis

Doomsday Book, To Say Nothing of the Dog, Blackout, & All Clear

Time Travel, Historical Fiction (Weaving Together of Past & Future), Time Paradoxes, Issues of Free Will & Determinism in Context of Manipulating Time, Comic Element, Most Hugo (11)/Nebula (7) Awards of Any Science Fiction Author

Charles Stross & the Singularity

Singularity Sky, Accelerando, & Glasshouse

Accelerando Feels Like Written on Speed - Traces Emergence of Techno-Singularity through the 21st Century - Growing Complete Dependency on Interfaced Technology - “Vile Offspring” are Assimilating Solar System - Turning it Into a Matrioshka Brain - Multiple Lives through VR

“The ‘Accelerando’ stories represent one of the most dazzling feats of sustained imagination in science fiction history, and radically ups the Imagination Ante for every

other writer who wants to sit down at the Future History table and credibly deal themselves into the game.” Gardner Dozois

Stephen Baxter - The Cosmological Narrative: The Xeelee & the Photino Birds

Vacuum Diagrams

Time Line (20 Billion BCE to 10 Million AD) - Birth to Death of Universe - Great Cosmic Conflict of Beings of Light & Dark Matter - Cosmic Armageddon - Creation of the Ring & Leaving the Universe - Narration by God/Super-Computer

The *Manifold Trilogy*, Human and Cosmic Evolution, & Back to *The Time Machine*

Manifold Time, Manifold Space, & Manifold Origins, Evolution, Exultant, & The Time Ships

Extensive Incorporation of Contemporary Physics & Cosmology, Scientific Science Fiction, Fermi's Paradox, Realistic Depictions of Pre-Human Ancestors, First Person Saga of Evolution of Intelligent Minds, & the Continuation of the Time Machine with Multiple & Evolving Time Lines, Looping Back on Themselves - Experiment in Metaphysics

The Breadth & Depth of Science Fiction

- Scientific & Technological Discovery & Innovation
- The Relationship of Humanity & Technology - Hopes & Fears
- The Future Evolution of Life – Biotechnological Augmentation
- Environmental, Ecological, Solar, & Galactic Engineering
- Robots & Androids - Technological & Computer Intelligence
- Space Exploration & Colonization – Exploring & Understanding the Cosmos
- Alien Contact, Alien Civilizations, & Alien Mentality
- Time Travel – The Manipulation of Time - Seeing Into the Future
- Human Society & Cities in the Future – Future Cultures - Utopian & Dystopian Visions
- Future Wars
- Women, Men, Love, & Sex in the Future
- Morality & Values – Good & Evil in the Future
- Human Evolution & the Future of Mind, Self, & Intelligence
- The Transcendence of Humanity
- Natural & Cosmic Disasters – The End of Humanity
- The Nature & Value of Progress
- Philosophical, Religious, & Spiritual Themes - Enlightenment – The Existence & Nature of God
- New or Alternative Forms of Reality - Alternative Universes
- The Unknown & the Mysterious
- “Life, the Universe, & Everything”

Life, the Universe, and Everything Douglas Adams

The Value of Science Fiction

"...if the world is becoming too conscious of the innumerable possible futures jostling for its attention, science fiction had a central role in creating that urgent consciousness."

John Clute

Included are a Set of Classic & Award Winning Scientific Novels & Authors Not Mentioned in the Presentation - See http://www.centerforfutureconsciousness.com/sf_novels.htm for my evolving list of best science fiction novels.

- Breath & Integration of Topics/Themes - Interdisciplinary
- Pluralistic: Multiple, Varied, & Realistic Predictions/Scenarios of the Future
- Holistic Synthesis of Cognition, Emotion, & Values (Drama Stimulating Intellect & Heart)
- Stimulates Both Thinking & Imagination - Provides an Expansive & Flexible Cognitive Space - Pushes Boundaries of Metaphysics
- Provokes Hope, Fear, Excitement, Vicarious Power - Importance of Emotional Dimension
- Unique Mirror/Reflections on the Present - Standing Back from Present See It Better
- Escapism & Deep Revelation
- Creates/Inspires the Future & Provides a Medium for Expression/Reflection of Futurist Ideas
- Creates New Symbols, Icons, Images, and Archetypes
- Psychologically Impactive Warnings
- Stimulates Future Consciousness & Future Evolution of Consciousness/Human Mind
- Both Entertainment & Artistic Creation - Aesthetic Creation
- Synthesis of Science & Art – Synthesis of Science & Myth - Myths About the Future for the Future

City by Clifford Simak

Ender's Game by Orson Scott Card

Cyteen by C.J. Cherryh

Tower of Glass by Robert Silverberg

The Man Who Folded Himself by David Gerrold

Gateway by Frederik Pohl

Stand on Zanzibar by John Brunner

Queen of Angels by Greg Bear

Spin by Robert Charles Wilson

Hominids by Robert Sawyer

The Uplift War by David Brin

Slaughter-House Five by Kurt Vonnegut

Matter by Iain Banks
Brain Wave by Poul Anderson

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References

Tom Lombardo's Evolving List of All-Time Best Science Fiction Novels
http://www.centerforfutureconsciousness.com/sf_novels.htm

Tom Lombardo's Evolving List of All-Time Best Science Fiction Movies
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