

# WTBBL Book List: Celebrating Earth & Other Worlds

We love the time of the year when things begin to flourish. Here are some books in the science fiction genre that will get your mind flowering and your imagination sprouting!

**Ambiguity Machines & Other Stories** by Vandana Singh, 2018. ([DB098541](#))

A collection of speculative fiction short stories celebrating characters facing uncertainty and attempting to make sense of the people and settings around them. A woman seeks to make sense of her aunt's disappearance. Another can see the past. A poet wakes up as an AI.

**American Science Fiction: Four Classic Novels 1953-1956.** ([DB075921](#))

Four novels that exemplify the science fiction boom of the 1950s. In Frederik Pohl and C.M. Kornbluth's ***The Space Merchants***, an advertising copywriter must pitch inhospitable Venus to prospective colonists. Also includes Theodore Sturgeon's ***More than Human***, Leigh Brackett's ***The Long Tomorrow***, and Richard Matheson's ***The Shrinking Man***.

**Elysium: or, the World After** by Jennifer Marie Brissett, 2014. ([DB082044](#))

A computer program in the atmosphere observes and recounts the story of two people in love as they struggle to survive apocalyptic chaos. The program's data, however, has been corrupted.

**Exhalation: Stories** by Ted Chiang, 2019. ([DB094549](#) and [BR023244](#))

A collection of science fiction short stories from the author of *Stories of Your Life and Others* ([DB087031](#)). Includes two stories not previously published.

**Klara and the Sun** by Kazuo Ishiguro, 2021. ([DB102764](#), Español [DB104036](#))

Klara, an Artificial Friend, possesses great observational skills, and loves to watch the humans around her. When she is purchased to act as a companion for an ill girl, she studies the emotions of her new family closely and tries to learn from them.

**Parable of the Sower** by Octavia Butler, 1993. ([DB039777](#) and [BR021257](#))

In 2024, most middle class and wealthy families live in walled enclaves to protect themselves from the violence of the outside world. Lauren Olamina, eighteen, suffers from hyperempathy, which means that she feels not only her own pain but that of others. When the addicts overrun Lauren's community, she and others are forced to seek refuge outside the walls.

**Project Hail Mary** by Andy Weir, 2021. ([DB103718](#), Español [DB104736](#))

Ryland Grace awakens on a spaceship far from Earth with no memory and two dead crewmates. As he begins to remember the details of his impossible mission to try to save humanity from an extinction-level threat, he encounters an unexpected ally.

**Riddley Walker: A Novel** by Russell Hoban, 1980.  
([DB017355](#))

In Kent, England, some 2,000 years after a nuclear holocaust has devastated Britain, twelve-year-old Riddley Walker is having his "naming day," an initiation which includes killing a wild boar. Using a phonetic language that is both familiar and unfamiliar, Riddley takes us along on his quest to find out about the past as well as the future.

**The Clan of the Cave Bear** by Jean M. Auel, 1980.  
([DB015791](#), [BR016674](#), Español [DB054959](#))

After her people perish in an earthquake during the Ice Age, Cro-Magnon woman Ayla is adopted by a beetle-browed Neanderthal clan. Banished several times for flouting taboos, Ayla finally realizes that she must leave the group, doomed to extinction, and seek out her own kind.