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Oryx & Crake
Margaret Atwood

Pigs might not fly, but they are strangely altered. So, for that matter, are wolves and raccoons. A man, once named Jimmy, now calls himself Snowman and lives in a tree, wrapped in an old bed sheet. The voice of Oryx, the woman he loved, teasingly haunts him. The green-eyed children of Crake are his responsibility. Originally published: London: Bloomsbury, 2003

The Paris architect: a novel
Charles Belfoure

Paris, 1942. When a wealthy industrialist offers architect Lucien Bernard a large sum of money to devise ingenious hiding places for Jews throughout the city, he struggles with the choice of risking his life or refusing the job and starving. But Lucien agrees and begins designing hiding places so expertly concealed that the Germans could rip up an entire apartment and never find them - behind a painting, within a column, inside a drainpipe. It isn’t long though before Lucien begins to feel emotionally invested in the lives he is saving.

Mother of Eden
Chris Beckett

We speak of a mother’s love, but we forget her power. Power over life. Power to give and to withhold.’ Generations after the breakup of the human family of Eden, the Johnfolk emphasise knowledge and innovation, the Davidfolk tradition and cohesion. But both have built hierarchical societies sustained by violence and dominated by men - and both claim to be the favoured children of a long-dead woman from Earth that all Eden knows as Gela, the mother of them all.
**Dark Eden**  
*Chris Beckett*

You live in Eden. You are a member of the Family, one of 532 descendants of Angela and Tommy. You shelter beneath the light and warmth of the Forest’s lantern trees, hunting woollybuck and harvesting tree candy. Beyond the forest lie the treeless mountains of the Snowy Dark and a cold so bitter and a night so profound that no man has ever crossed it. The Oldest among you recount legends of a world where light came from the sky, where men and women made boats that could cross between worlds. One day, the Oldest say, they will come back for you. You live in Eden.

**Red rising**  
*Pierce Brown*

Darrow is a Helldiver, one of a thousand men and women who live in the vast caves beneath the surface of Mars, generations of people who spend their lives toiling to mine the precious elements that will allow the planet to be terraformed. Just knowing that, one day, people will be able to walk the surface of the planet is enough to justify their sacrifice.

**A clockwork orange**  
*Burgess, Anthony*

In this nightmare vision of youth in revolt, 15 year-old Alex and his friends set out on a diabolical orgy of robbery, rape, torture and murder. Alex is jailed for his teenage delinquency and the State tries to reform him - but at what cost? Originally published: London: Heinemann, 1962
Clockwork angel
Cassandra Clare

London, 1878. 16-year-old Tessa Gray's priority should be finding her brother, not falling in love with two boys. She is soon caught in a dangerous love triangle where a wrong decision could prove fatal. Tessa will need all her strength to save her brother and stay alive as she learns about what really lurks on London’s streets after dark.

Ready player one
Ernest Cline

This is a jaw-droppingly cinematic, genre-busting debut that’s part virtual space opera, part classic coming-of-age story, part brilliant pop-culture mash-up. Originally published: London: Century, 2011

The girl in the steel corset
Kady Cross

In 1897 England, 16-year-old Finley Jayne has no one except the ‘thing’ inside her. When a young lord tries to take advantage of Finley, she fights back. And wins. But no normal Victorian girl has a darker side that makes her capable of knocking out a full-grown man with one punch.
True love
Jude Deveraux

Just as Alix Madsen is finishing up architectural school, Adelaide Kingsley dies and wills her, for one year, the use of a charming 19th-century Nantucket house. Alix accepts the quirky bequest, in part because it gives her time to plan her best friend's storybook wedding. But it seems that Adelaide Kingsley had a rather specific task for Alix: to solve the strange disappearance of one of the Kingsley women, Valentina, more than two hundred years ago.

Do androids dream of electric sheep?
Philip K Dick

Popularly known as Blade Runner, because of its incarnation as a movie, 'Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?' is Dick’s most famous title. Stalking androids in 21st century megalopolis, Deckard begins to question just who is human and what human is.

Down and Out in the Magic Kingdom
Cory Doctorow

The prophetic debut novel from the visionary author fo LITTLE BROTHER, now published for the first time in the UK. Jules is a young man barely a century old. He’s lived long enough to see the cure for death and the end of scarcity, to learn ten languages and compose three symphonies ...and to realize his boyhood dream of taking up residence in Disney World.
Sheer folly
Carola Dunn

March 1926. Daisy Dalrymple, at work on her book of architectural follies, heads for Appsworth Hall, reputed for its finest example. Daisy’s plans are thrown off course, alas, when the grotto in the grounds of the stately home explodes, taking with it houseguest Lord Rydal.

Twenty-first Century Design
Marcus Fairs

A mysterious depiction of masked revellers at the Venice carnival hangs in the college rooms of Oliver’s old professor in Cambridge. On a cold winter’s night, its eerie secret is revealed by the ageing don.

The man in the picture
Susan Hill

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Loving Frank: a novel
Nancy Horan

In the early 1900s polite Chicago society was rocked by scandal as renowned architect, Frank Lloyd Wright, ran off with Mamah Cheney, a client’s wife. For the rest of her life Mamah paid an extraordinary price for moving outside society’s rules, in a time that was unforgiving of a woman’s quest for fulfilment and personal happiness.

Skylight Confessions
Alice Hoffman

On the night that Arlyn Singer’s father dies, she is certain her destiny will find her. Then John Moody shows up at her door, with no inkling that the tall, red-haired girl he has asked for directions will haunt him for the rest of his life. Years later, Arlyn is gone, leaving her children, Sam and Blanca, alone with their distant father in the glass house they have made their home.

Dust
Hugh Howey

The much-anticipated final instalment of the Wool trilogy. In a time when secrets and lies were the foundations of life, someone has discovered the truth. And they are going to tell. Jules knows what her predecessors created. She knows they are the reason life has to be lived in this way. And she won’t stand for it. But Jules no longer has supporters. And there is far more to fear than the toxic world beyond her walls.
Shift
Hugh Howey

In a future less than 50 years away, the world is still as we know it. Time continues to tick by. The truth is that it is ticking away. A powerful few know what lies ahead. They are preparing for it. They are trying to protect us. They are setting us on a path from which we can never return. A path that will lead to destruction; a path that will take us below ground.

Wool
Hugh Howey

In a ruined and hostile landscape, in a future few have been unlucky enough to survive, a community exists in a giant underground silo. Inside, men and women live an enclosed life full of rules and regulations, of secrets and lies. To live, you must follow the rules. But some don’t.

The Master Builder and Other Plays
Henrik Ibsen, Una Mary Ellis-Fermor

The four plays in this volume, written late in Ibsen’s career as a dramatist, move away from his earlier preoccupation with people at odds with society to instead explore the inward struggle with their own thoughts, feelings and dreams.
The dispossessed
Ursula K. Le Guin

Shevak, a brilliant scientist, wants to tear down the wall of hatred that has isolated his planet of anarchists from the rest of the civilized universe. So he journeys to the utopian Urras in an attempt to ignite the fires of change.

Information is Beautiful: The Information Atlas
David McCandless

A visual guide to the way the world really works. Every day, every hour, every minute we are bombarded by information - from television, from newspapers, from the internet, we're steeped in it, maybe even lost in it. We need a new way to relate to it, to discover the beauty and the fun of information for information's sake. No dry facts, theories or statistics.

Station eleven
Emily ST. John Mandel

Moving backwards and forwards in time, from the glittering years just before the collapse to the strange and altered world that exists 20 years after, 'Station Eleven' charts the unexpected twists of fate that connect six people: famous actor Arthur Leander; Jeevan - warned about the flu just in time; Arthur’s first wife Miranda; Arthur’s oldest friend Clark; Kirsten, a young actress with the Travelling Symphony; and the mysterious and self-proclaimed 'prophet'.
Perdido Street Station
China Mieville

The metropolis of New Crobuzon sprawls at the centre of its own bewildering world. Humans, mutants and arcane races throng in the gloom beneath its chimneys. A stranger has come, with an impossible demand, and soon the city is to be gripped by terror.

The society of blood
Mark Morris

Alex Locke is still searching for his missing young daughter. Transported through time to the dank streets of Victorian London, Alex Locke seeks to unravel the mysteries of the obsidian heart, the enigmatic object to which his fate is inextricably bound. When a string of grisly murders takes place across the capital, Alex follows a trail that will lead him through the opium dens of Limehouse into the dark and twisted world of the Society of Blood, and ever closer to unlocking the secret of the heart - and finding his daughter.

Wolves of London
Mark Morris

Psychology professor Alex Locke is an ex-convict, forced back into the criminal underworld when his daughter is threatened. After he agrees to steal a mysterious Obsidian Heart, Locke is pursued by unearthly assassins known as the Wolves of London. Soon he discovers the heart can take him into alternate and outlandish realities, and while it bestows him with his own dark powers, it also corrupts.
Night music
Jojo Moyes

The Spanish House is known to locals as an architectural folly, and it is now nearly derelict to boot. When its reclusive owner dies intestate the Spanish House is left to his city-dwelling niece. For the recently-widowed Isabel, the house is a potential lifeline.

My name is Red
Orhan Pamuk

From the award-winning author of ‘The White Castle’, ‘My Name is Red’ is a historical thriller set among an elite group of artists in 16th-century Istanbul.

The Long Earth
Terry Pratchett, | Stephen Baxter

2015: Madison, Wisconsin. Cop Monica Jansson has returned to the burned-out home of one Willis Linsay where she finds an invention that would change the way mankind viewed his world forever.
Raising steam
Terry Pratchett

Change is afoot in Ankh-Morpork - Discworld's first steam engine has arrived, and once again Moist von Lipwig finds himself with a new and challenging job.

Boneshaker
Cherie Priest

At the start of the Civil War, a Russian mining company commissions a great machine to pave the way from Seattle to Alaska and speed up the gold rush that is beating a path to the frozen north. Inventor Leviticus Blue creates the machine, but on its first test run it malfunctions and creates havoc.

Dreadnought
Cherie Priest

Nurse Mercy Lynch is recently widowed, but the war has further unpleasant surprises in store. While working in a Confederate hospital, she receives word that her estranged father is dying and wants to see her. But reaching the far side of the country will be a harrowing adventure though war-torn border states. When her dirigible is shot out of the sky, Mercy is forced to join the mighty Union-operated steam engine known as the Dreadnought.
The Inexplicables
Cherie Priest

Adventures await Rector “Wreck ‘em” Sherman. About to turn eighteen, he’s facing ejection from the orphanage that passed for home. He should also choose a trade, but work is scarce in steam-powered Seattle. And Rector has more unconventional plans. He’s started dealing in sap, a yellow narcotic produced by rebels and outlaws within the city’s toxic walled enclave. What’s worse, he’s been sampling his wares.

Mortal Engines
Philip Reeve

This novel is a stand-alone story which takes two extraordinary characters and follows them as they, independently, begin to unravel some of the greatest mysteries of our universe. Their missions are dangerous, and they are all venturing into the unknown - and if they can uncover the secret to faster-than-light travel then new worlds will be at our fingertips. But innovation and progress are not always embraced by everyone.

Poseidon’s wake
Alastair Reynolds

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Summer in February
Jonathan Smith

This novel is a disturbing and moving re-creation of a celebrated Edwardian artistic community enjoying the last days of a golden age soon to be shattered by war. It is a love story of beauty, deprivation and tragedy.

Lust for life
Irving Stone

No artist has been more ruthlessly driven by his creative urge, nor more isolated by it from most ordinary sources of human happiness, than Vincent Van Gogh. A painter of genius, his life was an incessant struggle against poverty, madness and despair.

Children of time
Adrian Tchaikovsky

The last remnants of the human race left a dying Earth, desperate to find a new home among the stars. Following in the footsteps of their ancestors, they discover the greatest treasure of the past age - a world terraformed and prepared for human life. But all is not right in this new Eden. In the long years since the planet was abandoned, the work of its architects has borne disastrous fruit.
The widow’s confession
Sophia Tobin

Broadstairs, Kent, 1851. Part sea-bathing resort, part fishing village, this is a place where people come to take the air, and where they come to hide. Delphine and her cousin Julia have come to the seaside with a secret, one they have been running from for years. The clean air and quiet outlook of Broadstairs appeals to them and they think this is a place they can hide from the darkness for just a little longer.

The time traveller’s almanac
Ann Vandermeer

Your own time machine: the ultimate treasury of time travel stories, from the beginning of time to its very end.

Steampunk
Ann Vandermeer

Steampunk is Victorian elegance and modern technology: steam-driven robots, souped-up stagecoaches, and space-faring dirigibles fueled by gaslight romance, mad scientists, and oh-so-trim waistcoats.
Girl in hyacinth blue
Susan Vreeland

This series of tales revolves around an imaginary painting by Vermeer. Each tale reflects the impact the painting has on the lives of the people whose lives it either illuminates or darkens.

The Mammoth Book of Steampunk
Sean Wallace

An anthology focusing on newer elements of steampunk, one which deconstructs the staples of the genre and expands on them, rather than simply repeating them, with a greater spread both in terms of location and character.

The Bauhaus Group
Nicholas Fox Weber

Nicholas Fox Weber, for thirty-four years head of the Albers Foundation, spent many years with Anni and Josef Albers, the only husband-and-wife artistic pair at the Bauhaus (she was a textile artist; he was a professor and an artist, in glass, metal, wood, and photography).
Retribution falls: a tale of the Ketty Jay
Chris Wooding

Frey is the captain of the Ketty Jay. He and his gang make a living on the wrong side of the law, running contraband, robbing airships and making a nuisance of themselves. An easy heist and a fast buck sound great until a heist goes wrong and the freighter explodes.

We
Yevgeny Zamyatin, Clarence Brown

A seminal work of dystopian fiction that foreshadowed the worst excesses of Soviet Russia, Yevgeny Zamyatin's “We” is a powerfully inventive vision that has influenced writers from George Orwell to Ayn Rand. This “Penguin Classics” edition is translated from the Russian with an introduction by Clarence Brown. In a glass-enclosed city of absolute straight lines, ruled over by the all-powerful ‘Benefactor’, the citizens of the totalitarian society of OneState live out lives devoid of passion and creativity - until D-503, a mathematician who dreams in numbers, makes a discovery: he has an individual soul. Set in the twenty-sixth century AD, “We” is the classic dystopian novel and was the forerunner of works such as George Orwell's “1984” and Aldous Huxley's “Brave New World”.

A little history of science
W.F. Bynum

Emphasising surprising and personal stories of scientists both famous and unsung, ‘A Little History of Science’ traces the march of science through the centuries.

Purple cow: transform your business by being remarkable
Seth Godin

This is a book about what it takes to create and sell something remarkable. It is a manifesto for marketers who want to make a big difference to their company by helping create products and services that are worth marketing in the first place.

Just my type: a book about fonts
Simon Garfield

Simon Garfield meets the people behind the typefaces and along the way learns why some fonts, (like men) are from Mars and some are from Venus. From type on the high street and album covers to the print in our homes and offices, Garfield is the font of all types of knowledge.
101 things to learn in art school
Kit White

What is the first thing to learn in art school? ‘Art can be anything.’ The second things? ‘Learn to draw.’ With this book, Kit White delivers and develops such lessons, striking an instructive balance between technical advice and sage concepts.

Realisation - from seeing to understanding:
the origins of art
Julian Spalding

Our world view has changed from a flat earth under the dome of heaven to a planet spinning in the universe. We perceived the world as a body, like ours, then as a tree, a pyramid, an altar, and finally as a veil which became a window through which we peered only to discover ourselves on a sphere, a bubble which might burst at any moment. This is a short account of how art and architecture has contributed to our evolution.

Scottish artists 1750-1900: from Caledonia to the continent
Deborah Clarke

Throughout its history, Scotland has produced a wealth of great works of art, and the Scottish Enlightenment in particular provided a powerful impetus for new forms of art and new artistic subjects.
A new kind of bleak: journeys through urban Britain
Owen Hatherley


The architecture of happiness
Alain De Botton

Rooted in the idea that architecture and interior design have the power to influence how we feel and that we are, for better and for worse, different people in different buildings, this book suggests how we might learn to build better, more attractive dwellings in which we would stand a higher chance of happiness.

BIG - hot to cold: an odyssey of architectural adaptation

Architecture is the art and science of accommodating the lives we want to live. Our cities and buildings aren’t givens; they are the way they are because that is as far as we have come to date. They are the best efforts of our ancestors and fellow planetizens, and if they have shortcomings, it is up to us to continue that effort, pick up where they left off.
A history of architecture in 100 buildings
Cruickshank, Dan

Architecture is an all-embracing adventure without end. It is a story that can never be completed - not as long as mankind continues to build, to invent, to discover; it is the story told in this book.

How to read Scottish buildings
MacCannell, Daniel

Scotland has a huge and diverse amount of built heritage spanning hundreds of years. This book provides an informative companion to Scottish architecture. It allows anyone to appreciate buildings with regards to their ages, styles, influences, and functions.

The future of architecture in 100 buildings
Mark J. Kushner

A pavilion made from paper. An inflatable concert hall. A building that eats smog. A bridge that grows grapes. This book captures the soaring confidence, the thoughtful intelligence, the futuristic wonder, and at times the sheer whimsy of the world’s most inspired and future-looking buildings.

Materials for design
Chris Lefteri

Over the last ten years there has been a huge growth in the area of materials for design, but most books on this subject deal with advanced, semi-formed materials (that is, materials sold as sheet, rod, tube, etc.).