

The Pluto Files Neil deGrasse Tyson

2006. August the International In Astronomical Union voted Pluto out of planethood. Possessing a great deal of affection from the public, debate about the status of Plute raged. Only Tyson can tell this story: he was involved in the first exhibits to demote Pluto, and, consequently, Pluto lovers have freely shared their opinions with him, including endless hate mail from third graders.



Ender's Game Orson Scott Card

A hostile alien race attacked Earth, and if not for the legendary heroics of Fleet Commander Mazer Rackham, all would have been lost. In preparation for the next attack, Colonel Hyrum Graff is training only the best young children. Ender Wiggin, a shy, but brilliant boy, is soon ordained by Graff as the military's next great hope. Once at Command School, he's trained by Mazer Rackham, himself, to lead them into an epic battle that will determine the future of Earth and save the human race.



Wicked Plants Amy Stewart

A tree that sheds poison daggers; a glistening red seed that stops the heart; a shrub that causes paralysis; a vine that strangles; and a leaf that triggered a war. Stewart takes on over two hundred of Mother Nature's most appalling creations that kill, maim, intoxicate, and offend. otherwise Menacing botanical illustrations and splendidly ghastly drawings create a fascinating portrait of the evildoers that may be lurking in your own backyard.



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Book Group



S2: Science Sauared

SCIENCE TWO WAYS @ TPL

Meets on the first Monday of the month @ 7:00pm except on holidays when meetings are the 2nd Monday.

Jan-Dec 2024



Jan. 8

Ready Player One Ernest Cline

In the year 2045, reality is an ugly place. Wade Watts feels alive only when he's jacked into the OASIS, a vast virtual world where most of humanity spends their days. The founder of OASIS dies and leaves behind fiendish puzzles to solve to win money and control OASIS. When Wade cracks the first clue, he's beset by rivals who will kill to win. The race is on and the only way to survive is to win.



What is Life Paul Nurse

Paul Nurse writes with delight at life's richness and a sense of the urgent role of biology in our time. Nurse takes readers on a wondrous journey through five fundamental biological ideas—the Cell, the Gene, Evolution by Natural Selection, Life as Chemistry, and Life as Information. Nurse also addresses biology's most pressing ethical issues and biology's role in tackling infectious disease.

Mar. 4

Devolution Max Brooks

As the ash and chaos from Mount Rainier's eruption swirled and finally settled, the story of the Greenloop massacre has passed unexamined, until now. The journals of resident Kate Holland, recovered from the town's bloody wreckage, capture a tale too harrowing and too earth-shattering in its implications. If what Kate saw in those days is real, then we must accept that the creature known as Bigfoot walks among us, and that it is a beast of terrible strength and ferocity.

Apr. 1

Moby Duck Donovan Hohn

The true story of 28,800 bath toys lost at sea and of the beachcombers, oceanographers, environmentalists, and fools, including the author, who went in search of them. When the author heard of the mysterious loss of thousands of bath toys at sea, he figured he would interview a few oceanographers, talk to a few beachcombers, and read up on Arctic science and geography. But questions can be like ocean currents: wade in too far, and they carry you away.

May 13

The Humans Matt Haig

When an extraterrestrial visitor arrives on Earth, his first impressions of the human species are less than positive. Taking the form of Professor Andrew Martin, the visitor is eager to complete the gruesome task assigned him and hurry back home to the utopian world of his own planet. He is disgusted by the way humans look and behave and is baffled by the concepts of love and family. As time goes on, he starts to realize there may be more to this weird species than he thought.

June 3

The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind William Kamkwamba

Born in Malawi, William had read about windmills, and he dreamed of building one that would bring to his small village electricity and running water. Called crazy he refused to let go of his dreams. With a small pile of once-forgotten science textbooks; some scrap metal, tractor parts, and bicycle halves; and an armory of curiosity and determination, he embarked on a daring plan to forge an unlikely contraption.

Jul. 8

An Unkindness of Ghosts Rivers Solomon

Aster lives in the lowdeck slums of the *HSS Matilda*, a space vessel organized much like the antebellum South. For generations, *Matilda* has ferried the last of humanity to a mythical Promised Land. The ship's leaders have imposed harsh moral restrictions and deep indignities on dark-skinned sharecroppers like Aster. Embroiled in a grudge with a brutal overseer, Aster learns there may be a way to improve her lot--if she's willing to sow the seeds of civil war.

Aug. 5

Spare Parts Joshua Davis

Born in Mexico but raised in Phoenix, Arizona, four teens from an underfunded high school, arrived at the Marine Advanced Technology Education Robotics Competition at UC. No one had ever suggested to Oscar, Cristian, Luis, or Lorenzo that they might amount to much, but two inspiring science teachers had convinced these impoverished, undocumented kids from the desert who had never even seen the ocean that they should try to build an underwater robot. And build a robot they did.

Sep. 9

The Kaiju Preservation Society John Scalzi

Jamie, an eager volunteer signs on to protect animals at the Kaiju Preservation Society. What he doesn't know is that the animals are not here on our Earth. In an alternate dimension, massive dinosaur-like creatures named Kaiju roam a warm and human-free world. They're the universe's largest and most dangerous panda and they're in trouble. It's not just the Kaiju Preservation Society whose found their way to the alternate world. Others have, too.