

# MYSTERY and SCIENCE FICTION

BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS FROM BOOKSHOP SANTA CRUZ STAFF



## **Deep Secret**

by Diana Wynne Jones • TOR

A secret society of magic-users, policing the infinite multi-verse. An ancient empire, on the brink of catastrophic civil war. An Easter weekend science fiction and fantasy convention, where everything will be decided. Also: Ghosts, centaurs, comics, nursery rhymes, veterinary surgery, and a scene inspired by breakfast with Neil Gaiman. Find out why Diana Wynne Jones was a legendary influence on the SFF world: read one of her only books for adults, finally back in print. —Jocelyn



## **Soulless**

by Gail Carriger • ORBIT

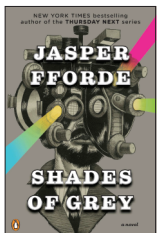
Steampunk fantasy with a side of Jane Austen. . . what's not to love? Alexia is unusual not only because she cares not a whit for social niceties or her unmarriageable status, but because she is "soulless" and lacks the vital energy that vampires and other supernaturals consume. There's a plot afoot, and Alexia's special gift just may come in handy. I love this book; it warms the cockles of my gear-driven heart. —Jax



## **The Martian**

by Andy Weir • BROADWAY BOOKS

Mark Watney is a NASA astronaut, and he's got a small problem: he's been accidentally left behind on Mars and nobody knows he's still alive. He's got short term shelter, very little food and at least a few years before anyone can rescue him. That is, if he can even make contact with anyone. This book is perfect if you enjoyed Apollo 13 or anything where the hero is as funny as he is resourceful and brilliant. —Jax



## **Shades of Grey**

by Jasper Fforde  
PENGUIN BOOKS

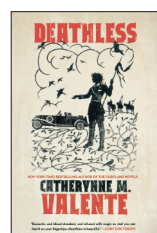
Through a patina of darkly humorous wit, Fforde thumbs his nose at our own society's obsession with class and race; his invented world of Chromatica is strictly divided by one's ability to see a particular color. When Eddie Russet (a Red) is banished to East Carmine for a mandatory chair census, everything he knows is thrown into question...like why spoons are forbidden, the truth behind mystical High Saffron, and the possibility of falling in love with a Grey. —Kimberly



## **You**

by Austin Grossman  
MULHOLLAND BOOKS

*You* isn't just about the magical moment when you first laid eyes on a video game console. It's about everything that goes into creating a game: fleshing out imaginary universes sentence by sentence and tearing out your hair writing code at 3 in the morning. The magical realism and ☆90s flashbacks☆ made this emotional, introspective look at the development of gaming super enjoyable to read. —Andrea



## **Deathless**

by Catherynne M. Valente • TOR

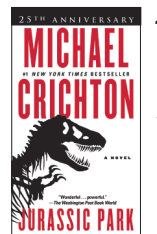
Marya Morevna had three sisters who in turn had three suitors, but only she knew their secret. They weren't men at all, but birds. This secret forged her path anew. She was thrown headlong into the arms of Koschei the Deathless and the watchful eye of Baba Yaga. Valente beautifully retells this ancient Russian folktale against the backdrop of Stalin's regime. —Ivy



## **Old Man's War**

by John Scalzi • TOR

They don't make them like this anymore. John Scalzi takes you back to the heyday of pulp science fiction, full of space ships, space guns, space aliens, and spaaaaace. Scalzi takes the most unlikely of heroes, and sends you straight into battle and adventure with them, keeping the action going so quickly that you might almost miss that there is a heart, and serious thought, behind this hilarious, ridiculous, action-packed book. —Jocelyn



## **Jurassic Park**

by Michael Crichton  
BALLANTINE BOOKS

This was the first "adult" book I read as a child. It scared the pants off me, but still kept me reading. With the shiny new movie—Jurassic World—just released out, it's good to remember where the gory magic began. Before the hype, *Jurassic Park* was a captivating, page-turner filled with chills and thrills waiting to take its place in Sci-Fi/Fantasy history. —Ivy

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