

Book Discussion Kits (Science Fiction)

[The Book of the Unnamed Midwife](#)

by Meg Elison

In the wake of a fever that decimated the earth's population--killing women and children and making childbirth deadly for the mother and infant--the midwife must pick her way through the bones of the world she once knew to find her place in this dangerous new one. Gone are the pillars of civilization. All that remains is power--and the strong who possess it. A few women like her survived, though they are scarce. Even fewer are safe from the clans of men, who, driven by fear, seek to control those remaining. To preserve her freedom, she dons men's clothing, goes by false names, and avoids as many people as possible. But as the world continues to grapple with its terrible circumstances, she'll discover a role greater than chasing a pale imitation of independence. After all, if humanity is to be reborn, someone must be its guide.

[MaddAddam](#)

by Margaret Atwood

In this final volume of the internationally celebrated MaddAddam trilogy, the Waterless Flood pandemic has wiped out most of the population. Toby is part of a small band of survivors, along with the Children of Crake: the gentle, bioengineered quasi-human species who will inherit this new earth. As Toby explains their origins to the curious Crakers, her tales cohere into a luminous oral history that sets down humanity's past--and points toward its future. Blending action, humor, romance, and an imagination at once dazzlingly inventive and grounded in a recognizable world, MaddAddam is vintage Atwood--a moving and dramatic conclusion to her epic work of speculative fiction.

[The Martian](#)

by Andy Weir

Six days ago, astronaut Mark Watney became one of the first people to walk on Mars. Now, he's sure he'll be the first person to die there. After a dust storm nearly kills him and forces his crew to evacuate while thinking him dead, Mark finds himself stranded and completely alone with no way to even signal Earth that he's alive--and even if he could get word out, his supplies would be gone long before a rescue could arrive. Chances are, though, he won't have time to starve to death. The damaged machinery, unforgiving environment, or plain-old "human error" are much more likely to kill him first. But Mark isn't ready to give up yet. Drawing on his ingenuity, his engineering skills--and a relentless, dogged refusal to quit--he steadfastly confronts one seemingly insurmountable obstacle after the next. Will his resourcefulness be enough to overcome the impossible odds against him?

[Monk and Robot](#)

by Becky Chambers

The novellas follow Sibling Dex, a tea monk, and Mosschap, a sentient robot, as they explore questions of purpose, happiness, and what humans truly need.

[Oryx and Crake](#)

by Margaret Atwood

A new work by the Booker Prize-winning author of *The Blind Assassin* and *Alias Grace* is set in a future world that has been devastated by a series of ecological and scientific disasters.

[Playground](#)

by Richard Powers

Playground is a story about a three-way friendship that explores the interplay between human life and technology, centering on the conflicts and connections between art, science, and the natural world.

[Project Hail Mary](#)

by Andy Weir

This is a hard science-fiction novel about Ryland Grace, a disgraced molecular biologist turned middle-school teacher. He wakes up on a spaceship with amnesia, slowly remembering he is humanity's last hope to stop astrophage-an alien microbe that is eating the sun and causing global extinction.

[Station eleven](#)

by Emily St. John Mandel

Station Eleven is a post-apocalyptic novel that examines human survival, art, and memory, highlighting that "survival is insufficient" and that connection, culture, and creativity are essential facets of a meaningful life.