

Space Adventures



These books are also known as '*Space Operas*' and "the term was originally used to belittle stories containing worn-out clichés and that were considered to be of poor quality. Now, however, it stands for adventure among the stars, featuring entire galaxies fighting for dominance or survival. The characters are larger-than-life and engage in fantastic adventures using incredible technologies." — Novelist

[Hidden Empire](#) by Kevin J. Anderson

A long time from now in a spiral arm of our own galaxy, three factions of the human race have the place more or less to themselves. As for resident aliens, the Ildrians are aging pacifists, and the Killkiss are extinct. Unfortunately, two archeologists, using an ancient Killkiss artifact to turn a gas giant into a minor star to make its system habitable, thoroughly incense its inhabitants, the Hydrogues, who swarm out from their home world in a fleet of huge, deadly ships. The *Saga of Seven Suns* series continues with [A Forest of Stars](#).

[Nemesis](#) by Isaac Asimov

In the 23rd century pioneers have escaped the crowded earth for life in self-sustaining orbital colonies. One of the colonies, Rotor, has broken away from the solar system to create its own utopia around an unknown red star named Nemesis two light-years from Earth. A Rotorian girl has learned of the dire threat that Nemesis poses to Earth's people. Soon she will realize that Nemesis endangers Rotor, as well. And so it will be up to her alone to save both Earth and Rotor as they hurtle toward certain disaster. Also try Asimov's classic [Foundation series](#).

[The Precipice](#) by Ben Bova

Once, Dan Randolph was one of the richest men on Earth. Now the planet is spiraling to environmental disaster, with floods and earthquakes destroying the lives of millions. Randolph knows the energy and natural resources of space can save Earth, but the cost may be the loss of the company he founded. Martin Humphries, wealthy heir of the Humphries Trust, also knows that space-based industry is the way of the future. But unlike Randolph, he doesn't care if Earth perishes in the process. The *Asteroid Wars* have begun - and continue with [The Rock Rats](#).

[The Hammer of God](#) by Arthur C. Clarke

In the year 2110 technology has cured most of our worries. But even as humankind enters a new golden age, an amateur astronomer sees an asteroid hurtling toward Earth that could annihilate civilization. While a few fanatics welcome the apocalyptic destruction as a sign from God, the greatest scientific minds of Earth desperately search for a way to avoid the inevitable. On board the starship Goliath, Captain Robert Singh and his crew must race against time to redirect the meteor from its deadly collision course. Also try [Fountains of Paradise](#).

[The Dreaming Void](#) by Peter Hamilton

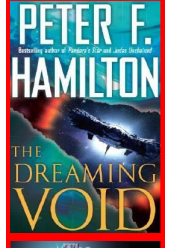
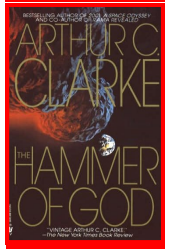
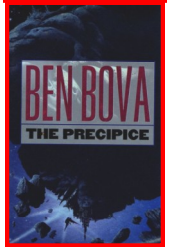
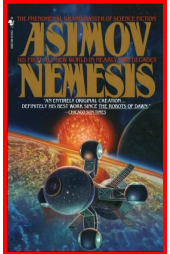
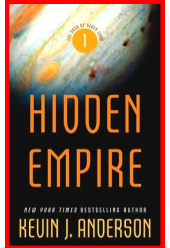
At the center of the galaxy is the Dreaming Void, an artificial black hole that may hold paradise within its walls. When a human named Inigo begins dreaming of what lays within the Void, the word spreads, triggering a religious pilgrimage into the Void and possibly a catastrophic expansion that threatens the peace of the Commonwealth Universe. The sequels are [The Temporal Void](#) and [The Evolutionary Void](#).

[The Wizard of Karres](#) by Mercedes Lackey, Eric Flint & Dave Freer

A sequel to 1966's *The Witches of Karres* — After eliminating the Worm World threat and outwitting a deadly gang of space pirates, Captain Pausert embarks on a mission for the Empress Haile to stop a nanite plague before it can devastate entire worlds. To do this, however, they book passage and jobs with Petey, Byrum & Keep, the Greatest Show in the Galaxy, and make their way to the imperial capital--slowly, of course, because the show must go on, regularly. Also try [The Sorceress of Karres](#) by Eric Flint & Dave Freer.

[The Engines of God](#) by Jack McDevitt

500 years ago humans made a stunning discovery in the far reaches of the solar system: a huge statue of an alien creature, with an inscription that defies translation. Now, as faster-than-light drive opens the stars to exploration, humans are finding other relics of the race they call the Monument-Makers – each one different and beautiful. On an epic journey that covers four planets, a group of archeologists uncovers ruins that offer clues to the builders' identity and follows them to the farthest reaches of the galaxy. Also try McDevitt's [Chindi](#), [Omega](#) and [Polaris](#).



[Newton's Wake: A Space Opera by Ken McLeod](#)

In the aftermath of the Hard Rapture, a cataclysmic war sparked by the evolution of Earth's artificial intelligences into godlike beings, a few remnants of humanity managed to survive. Some even prospered. Lucinda Carlyle had carved out a profitable niche for herself by taking control of a chain of interstellar gates left behind by the post-humans. But on a remote planet at the farthest rim of the galaxy, Lucinda stumbled upon a forgotten relic that could shatter the balance of power and change the nature of reality itself.

[The New Space Opera edited by Gardner Dozois and Jonathan Strahan](#)

The rich space opera tradition, extending from the off-world voyages of Verne and Wells to this galaxy-embracing anthology, is arguably SF's most prolific subgenre. Dozois and coeditor Strahan present some of the newest boundary-stretching variations on the category's many themes. Accordingly, the roster of contributors includes some of contemporary SF's brightest innovators, such as Peter Hamilton and Robert Silverberg, as well as such rising stars as Tony Daniel and Mary Rosenblum. *(Note: this book is filed by title under "New.")*

[Fleet of Worlds by Larry Niven](#)

More than 500 years ago, a gentle race of aliens, the Citizens, gave refuge to the unborn descendants of an abandoned starship. Raised to think of themselves as Colonists, the humans born from freeze-dried embryos now assist the Citizens in their interstellar explorations. Then Kirsten Quinn-Kovacs, a math whiz and navigator of the research vessel Explorer, uncovers information that leads to the discovery of a disturbing body of lost knowledge. The relationship between Citizens and Colonists enters a new phase—just in time to make contact with the "wild" humans fleeing Earth's imminent destruction. First in the series of prequels to Niven's classic [Ringworld series](#).

[Star Soldiers by Andre Norton](#)

The first starships from Earth have burst out into the universe...only to run straight into the restraining grasp of the alien federation known as Central Control. Humans can only go to the stars as interstellar mercenaries; the aliens who already dominate the galaxy allow no other recourse. But when Swordsman Third Class Kana Karr and his comrades-in-arms are betrayed and abandoned on a hostile world by their alien masters, the warriors from Earth begin a desperate but glorious march across a planet whose every sword is against them.

[Revelation Space by Alistair Reynolds](#)

In the far future, a singular question haunts humanity: why are there so few intelligent civilizations in the universe? *Revelation Space* is a sprawling operatic novel that ranges across vast gulfs of time and space to arrive at a terrifying answer. Nine hundred thousand years ago, something annihilated the Amarantin civilization just when it was on the verge of discovering space flight. But the Amarantins were destroyed for a reason – and if that reason is uncovered, the universe, and reality itself, could be irrevocably altered. The *Revelation Space* series continues with [Chasm City](#).

[Old Man's War by John Scalzi](#)

On his 75th birthday John Perry did two things—he visited his wife's grave and then he joined the army. The Colonial Defense Force (CDF) has extended its reach into interstellar space to pave the way for human colonization of other planets while fending off marauding aliens. Perry's youth is restored with a new body and soon fights for his life on various alien-infested battlegrounds. This series continues with [The Ghost Brigades](#).

[Hyperion by Dan Simmons](#)

On the planet Hyperion, beyond the Hegemony of Man, there waits the creature called the Shrike. There are those who worship it, those who fear it, and those who have vowed to destroy it. On the eve of Armageddon, with the entire galaxy at war, seven pilgrims set forth on a final voyage to Hyperion, and the Shrike, seeking the answers to the unsolved riddles of their lives. Each carries a desperate hope – and a terrible secret. And one may hold the fate of humanity in his hands. The *Hyperion Cantos* series continues with [Fall of Hyperion](#).

[Star Wars: The Clone Wars by Karen Traviss](#)

Jabba the Hutt's infant son has been kidnapped, and when the frantic parent applies to the Jedi for help, it falls to Anakin, Obi-Wan, and their clone troops to track down the evidence and retrieve the missing Huttlet. And more is at stake: for a grateful Jabba just might allow the Republic access to the Hutt-controlled space lanes that the Grand Army desperately needs in order to beat the Separatists into submission. For more clone wars try [Shatterpoint](#) and [The Cestus Deception](#); also try any other [Star Wars](#) novel. *(Note: these books are filed by series under "Star Wars.")*

[War of the Worlds by H. G. Wells](#)

The War of the Worlds remains the definitive tale of the first encounter and clash of alien and human civilizations. When the Martian cylinders fall from the sky and release the terrible tripod fighting machines, it seems that earth's invaders are bent entirely on the extermination of humanity.

