

SUB-GENRES IN SCIENCE FICTION- MEETING READER EXPECTATIONS

PRESENTATION

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AGENDA

Introduction

Science Fiction Sub-Genres

Reader Expectations of Science Fiction

Space Opera

Military SF

CyberPunk

Dystopian SF/AH

INTRODUCTION
TO
THE GENRE
OF
SCIENCE FICTION

SATIATING
SCIENCE FICTION
READERS
EXPECTATIONS

ELEMENTS OF SCIENCE FICTION

Technologies- Based SF

Focuses on the emergence of a new Technology- which fundamentally changes the way people live.

Is this new Tech used for the betterment of Society or is it coopted into being used as a tool to control it?

Social SF

Conceptual Breakthrough- the point in which the worldview is challenged by a Paradigm shift.

Cognitive Dissonance- The point in which the two worldviews collide, and the struggle between the new worldview and old worldview ensues.

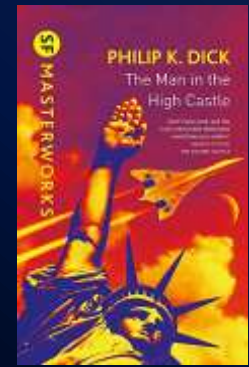
Paradigm Shift- Where the current worldview is challenged.

Setting/Plot- Based SF

The Setting- Is the story taking place on a different planet? Are we on Earth after an apocalyptic event? Is it in the distant past or Far future? Setting is essential in grounding the reader in the story and solidifying how much they suspend their disbelief.

SUB-GENRES OF SCIENCE FICTION

- Alternate History
- Cyberpunk
- First Contact
- Hard/Soft SF
- Military
- Space Opera
- Post Apocalyptic
- Utopian/Dystopian



ALTERNATE HISTORY

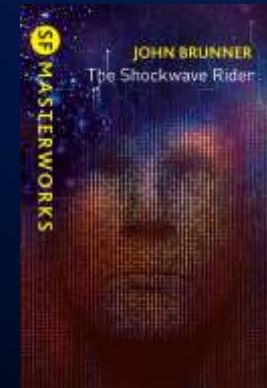
An exploration of what could have been. This subgenre emerged as a question of What if? Expanding upon the theory of what the world would look like when events in history had not happened, or ended differently

Generally, the main two elements in this subgenre are:

- Setting- What does the world look like after the pivotal change in history is changed?
- Social- How did this change affect society?

The supporting element is generally:

- Technology- for example if the Nazi's built the atomic bomb before America and the Allies. How would this development look now if the Germans and Japanese ruled the world?

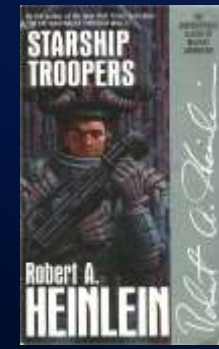


CYBERPUNK

Is a subgenre focusing on transformative technological advances causing a radical change or break down in the social order.

The two main elements of CyberPunk are:

- Technology- this is the primary focus of the subgenre. The use of which tech leads to a new human experience and even being able to enter a different plane of existence reminiscent to the web
- Social- This is the secondary focus in the subgenre. It is because of the change in tech that influences the complete reordering of the social system or conversely it could be what caused it to collapse.
 - The Supporting element is generally:
- Setting- having a vivid and detailed setting can expand upon the impact of the technology and the state of the social order.



MILITARY SF

War stories on different planets and in the future of warfare. In essence these are the trials and degradations of ultra modern warfare on the soldiers and humanity. This subgenre frequently crosses over into Space Opera.

The Two main elements are:

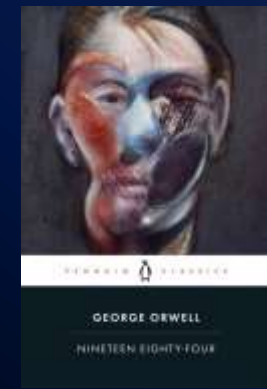
- Setting- the setting in military Sf is one of the driving factors. The need to see exotic and new worlds is a must have for readers.
- Technologies- new and more destructive weapons of war are a reality in our lives. This makes the genre exciting in seeing the new innovation in warfare. How will warfare change in the future?

The supporting element is:

- Social- is the supporting element in the subgenre generally, though in the example above Forever war leans heavily on the social changes happening in the world as Mandella goes through his military career. When writing series this is going to be an important addition to keep the series fresh.



"Utopias appear much more realizable than we formerly believed them to be. And now we find ourselves faced with a question which is painful in quite a new way: How can we avoid their complete realization?"— Nikolai Berdyaev



UTOPIAN AND DYSTOPIAN SF

Is focused on a sociopolitical issue ramped up to its highest intensity making either a tyrannical state or a paradise on earth. Generally set in the future but this can also be coupled with Alternate History to affect the past as well.

Main Elements are:

- Social- with the collapse of social order a new regime rules making it either the ideal place to live or transformed into the ultimate police state.
- Setting- plays a huge part in a dystopia the more detailed the world building the more immersed the reader will become.

The Supporting Element is:

- Technology- The tech in this subgenre is used in a way to expand the detail of the world whether it be a Dystopia or Utopia and how it played into the radical change that led to the change in social order.



QUESTIONS?



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THANK YOU FOR
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