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Science Fiction: Space Opera Fiction

These science fiction novels include themes of drama, adventure, and romance in an outer space or alien world environment. To order any of these titles, contact the library by email, phone, mail, in person, or order through our [online catalog](#). Most titles can be [downloaded from BARD](#).

Foundation by Isaac Asimov

Read by Robert Donley

7 hours, 54 minutes

The old Galactic Empire dies, and Hari Seldon and his band of psychologists create a new world dedicated to art, science, and technology. 1951.

[Download from BARD: Foundation](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB010365

Matter by Iain Banks

Read by Gary Tipton

20 hours, 38 minutes

Ferbin, heir to the embattled world of Sursamen, survives an assassination attempt that claims his father, King Hausk. Ferbin locates his sister, Djan, in the Culture, a technologically advanced interstellar civilization, and the siblings seek revenge against their father's killer. Strong language, some violence, and some descriptions of sex. 2008.

[Download from BARD: Matter](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB067810

Time by Stephen Baxter

Read by Gary Tipton

13 hours, 35 minutes

2010. Reid Malenfant sets up the Bootstrap corporation to lure humans into space with the promise of limitless natural resources. Sheena Five, a genetically engineered smart squid, pilots the unmanned first mission. Malenfant plows ahead despite NASA's attempt to shut him down. Followed by Space (DB 54341). Strong language. 2000.

[Download from BARD: Time](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB054340

Hull Zero Three by Greg Bear

Read by Mike Stefanelli

7 hours, 49 minutes

Jerked awake, naked, and cold from Dreamtime--a deep hibernation state--the few amnesiac crew members remaining on an interstellar colony ship discover their vessel has gone astray. They struggle to survive and to determine the cause of their colonization plan's failure. Some violence and some strong language. 2010.

[Download from BARD: Hull Zero Three](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB072718

Dauntless by Jack Campbell

Read by Christian Rummel

9 hours, 58 minutes

Captain "Black Jack" Geary awakens from a hundred-year hibernation to find he is worshipped as a hero by the Alliance. It is still at war with the Syndics--the enemy Jack fought when he first went to sleep. Jack is now the Alliance's only hope. Some violence. Commercial audiobook. 2006.

[Download from BARD: Dauntless](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB077149

Ender's Game by Orson Scott Card

Read by Bob Askey

10 hours, 1 minute

In a future Earth engaged in an interstellar war against insectoid aliens, Ender Wiggin is chosen at the age of six to be trained as the military genius who will carry his people to victory. Along with his brother Peter and his sister Valentine, he not only brings the conflict to an end, but also affects the evolution of human society. Strong language.

[Download from BARD: Ender's Game](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB022934

The Long Way to a Small, Angry Planet by Becky Chambers

Read by Rachel Dulude

14 hours, 26 minutes

A crew of wormhole builders hops from planet to planet on its way to the job of a lifetime. The crew includes a young Martian woman and a pacifist captain. They travel against a backdrop of curious cultures and distant worlds. Some violence, strong language, and some descriptions of sex. Commercial audiobook. 2014.

[Download from BARD: The Long Way to a Small, Angry Planet](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB088145

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Also available in braille BR021751

2001 a Space Odyssey by Arthur C. Clarke

Read by Michael Kramer

7 hours

On a voyage into the unexplored universe, the spacecraft Discovery hurtles its human passengers through time toward a confrontation with an unknown, powerful intelligence. Written for the production of a science fiction film of the same name. 1968.

[Download from BARD 2001 a Space Odyssey](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB058814

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Also available in braille BR015307 OR BR001206

Imperial Earth by Arthur C. Clarke

Read by Mark Delgado

10 hours, 6 minutes

2276. Decades ago, Malcolm Makenzie founded a colony on Titan, Saturn's largest moon. But radiation from years of space travel damaged his genes, and his family cannot reproduce through natural means. His grandson Duncan Makenzie travels to Earth for the American Quincentennial--and to clone the next heir. 1976.

[Download from BARD: Imperial Earth](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB074241

Leviathan Wakes Book One of the Expanse by James S.A. Corey

Read by Jim Zeiger

20 hours, 20 minutes

When Jim Holden and the crew of his ice miner stumble upon the derelict ship Scopuli, they uncover a dangerous secret. Meanwhile, Detective Miller's search for a missing girl leads him to the same ship and interplanetary civil war threatens. Violence and some strong language. 2011.

[Download from BARD: Leviathan Wakes Book One of the Expanse](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB074083

Stars in My Pocket Like Grains of Sand by Samuel R. Delany

Read by David Bratcher

15 hours, 2 minutes

The magnetic bond between Rat Korga, sole survivor of his planet's destruction, and Marq Dyeth, son of a powerful diplomatic clan, threatens to upset the delicate balance of forces in a future world. A sensual, cerebral, and lyrical science fiction novel. Strong language and explicit descriptions of sex.

[Download from BARD: Stars in My Pocket Like Grains of Sand](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB023110

The New Space Opera by Gardner R. Dozois

Read by John Polk

26 hours, 10 minutes

Eighteen tales of interstellar adventure. In Stephen Baxter's "Remembrance," an old man's recollection of a legendary resistance fighter who battled Earth's alien conquerors inspires a new generation of dissidents. Includes Greg Egan's "Glory," Nancy Kress's "Art of War," and works by Alastair Reynolds, Robert Silverberg, and others. Some violence. 2007.

[Download from BARD: The New Space Opera](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB067821

Incandescence by Greg Egan

Read by John Polk

11 hours, 52 minutes

After meeting a traveler who has bits of information from an uncataloged DNA world, discontented Amalgam explorer Rakesh journeys to the galactic core in search of the Aloof race. Meanwhile Roi and Zak, members of Aloof, begin to discover their place in the universe. 2008.

[Download from BARD: Incandescence](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB069233

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The Forever War by Joe Haldeman

Read by Rick Rohan

7 hours, 26 minutes

William Mandella is drafted after college to fight a war in outer space. William only ages months while earthlings age by decades. He finds civilization completely changed each time he returns from bloody combat. After 1,143 years, the war's end brings him home. Some strong language. Hugo and Nebula Awards.

[Download from BARD: The Forever War](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB048659

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR20996](#)

Also available in braille BR020996

The Dreaming Void by Peter F. Hamilton

Read by Kristin Allison

21 hours, 3 minutes

The Void, an impenetrable microuniverse that is steadily expanding, threatens to consume the entire galaxy. Telepath Inigo's revelatory dreams of humans living in worlds within the Void spark a mass pilgrimage that some believe could trigger the apocalypse. Strong language, some descriptions of sex, and some violence. 2007.

[Download from BARD: The Dreaming Void](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB067257

Starship Troopers by Robert A. Heinlein

Read by Christopher Hurt

8 hours, 26 minutes

Thousands of years in the future, a young man joins mobile infantry and fights in an interplanetary war against insect-like aliens. Hugo Award.

[Download from BARD: Starship Troopers](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB017818

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Also available in braille BR021102

Dune by Frank Herbert

Read by J.P. Linton

22 hours, 47 minutes

In this science fiction novel with sociological and religious overtones, an exile with psychic powers becomes the prophet of the savage people on the planet Dune. Prequel to Dune Messiah (RC 19126). 1965.

[Download from BARD: Dune](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB044126

Steal Across the Sky by Nancy Kress

Read by Gary Tipton

10 hours, 9 minutes

The alien Atoners invite twenty-one human volunteers on an exploration of seven distant planets to witness the results of Atoners' crimes against humanity committed ten thousand years ago. When recruits Cam, Lucca, and Soledad arrive in the Kular system, they slowly uncover the horrible truth. Some strong language. 2009.

[Download from BARD: Steal Across the Sky](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB070030

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Also available in braille BR018666

Ancillary Justice by Ann Leckie

Read by Mare Trevathan

11 hours, 7 minutes

Nineteen years after her ship was destroyed, artificial intelligence Breq travels across space in the body of Lieutenant Awn. After finding the frozen body of a former officer thought long dead, Breq begins to unravel a conspiracy that leads to revenge. Violence and strong language. Nebula Award, Clarke Award. 2013.

[Download from BARD: Ancillary Justice](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB079102

A Talent for War by Jack McDevitt

Read by Ray Childs

14 hours, 10 minutes

Antiques dealer Alex Benedict investigates the exploits of galactic war hero Christopher Sim, who died two centuries ago. When Alex uncovers information that could expose Sim as a fraud and damage the Confederacy, he launches an interstellar expedition with female pilot Chase Kolpath to uncover the truth. Some strong language. 1989.

[Download from BARD: A Talent for War](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB063482

Gateway by Frederik Pohl

Read by Jim Jensen

8 hours, 7 minutes

Earthman Robinette Broadhead wins a one-way lottery ticket to Gateway, an abandoned interstellar depot of the vanished Heechee race, but does not know whether the trip will make him a millionaire or a corpse. Strong language.

[Download from BARD: Gateway](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB012683

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR15605](#)

Also available in braille BR015605

House of Suns by Alastair Reynolds

Read by Erin Jones

16 hours, 56 minutes

Every two hundred thousand years, the shatterlings--one thousand male and female clones of Abigail Gentian--congregate to share the news from space. But at this reunion, shatterlings Campion and Purslane discover that someone is massacring their siblings and they must track down the killers before the Gentian line disappears. 2008.

[Download from BARD: House of Suns](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB070315

Old Man's War by John Scalzi

Read by Jim Zeiger

10 hours, 2 minutes

Seventy-five-year-old widower John Perry relinquishes his earthly existence and enlists in the Colonial Defense Forces. John and fellow aging recruits are restored to youthful bodies to battle enemy aliens in the interstellar race to colonize the universe. Strong language, some descriptions of sex, and some violence. Hugo Award Finalist. 2005.

[Download from BARD: Old Man's War](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB064670

To Be Continued the Collected Stories of Robert Silverberg Volume One by Robert Silverberg

Read by John Polk

17 hours, 49 minutes

Silverberg, a Hugo and Nebula award-winning author, selects twenty-four stories from his early work done between 1953 and 1958, the first five years of his career. Each story is headed by a context note. 1958.

[Download from BARD: To Be Continued the Collected Stories of Robert...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB074207

Hyperion by Dan Simmons

Read by Ray Foushee

17 hours, 21 minutes

On Hyperion, home of the Hegemony, also dwells the Shrike, a creature who lives in the Valley of the Time Tombs. Seven people who have suffered at the hands of the Shrike go to Hyperion to confront the beast and to uncover the Time Tombs' secrets. But a battle brews on Hyperion, between the Hegemony and their enemy, the Ousters. Some violence, some strong language, and some descriptions of sex. Prequel to "The Fall of Hyperion."

[Download from BARD: Hyperion](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB033583

Also available in braille BR008683

Chronicles of the Lensmen. Volume 1: Triplanetary; First Lensman; Galactic Patrol by E.E. "Doc" Smith

Read by Richard Davidson

38 hours, 35 minutes

The first three books in the Lensmen series. Two advanced and diametrically opposed races, the good Arisians and the evil Eddorians, have lived in conflict for billions of years. A bracelet called the Lens grants select members of the Galactic Patrol telepathic and other powers. 1948.

[Download from BARD: Chronicles of the Lensmen. Volume 1...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB064818

Saturn's Children a Space Opera by Charles Stross

Read by Mary Kane

11 hours, 55 minutes

Freya, an obsolete android concubine for the extinct human race, takes a job with the mysterious Jeeves Corporation to deliver a sensitive package from Mercury to Mars. The mission turns dangerous as various parties vie for possession of the precious cargo. Strong language and some explicit descriptions of sex. 2008.

[Download from BARD: Saturn's Children a Space Opera](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB067567

A Fire Upon the Deep by Vernor Vinge

Read by Gary Tipton

23 hours, 46 minutes

Space is divided into zones of intelligence from the Unthinking Depths to Slow Zone, where Earth resides to the Beyond, and finally to the Transcend, where the inhabitants are intelligent but survive for only a brief time. When a colony within the Beyond releases a predator, known as the Blight, all zones are endangered. One ship escapes to the Unthinking Depths, but when it lands, the only survivors are two children. Violence and strong language.

[Download from BARD: A Fire Upon the Deep](#)

Also available on cassette RC035758

On Basilisk Station by David Weber

Read by Madelyn Buzzard

14 hours, 28 minutes

Begins a series chronicling the career of spaceship naval officer Honor Harrington, accompanied by her six-legged telepathic cat. Having antagonized her male superiors, Honor is exiled to the galactic outpost Basilisk Station, from where she proves her mettle and military prowess. Some strong language. For senior high and older readers. 1993.

[Download from BARD: On Basilisk Station](#)

Also available on cassette RC053759

Leviathan by Scott Westerfeld

Read by Mark Ashby

8 hours, 39 minutes

Alek Ferdinand, prince of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, escapes in a Cyklop Stormwalker from the clutches of the Clanker powers who are plotting global domination. He forms an uneasy alliance with Deryn, a girl disguised as a boy fighting genetically engineered beasts like the airship Leviathan. For senior high readers. 2009.

[Download from BARD: Leviathan](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB070906