



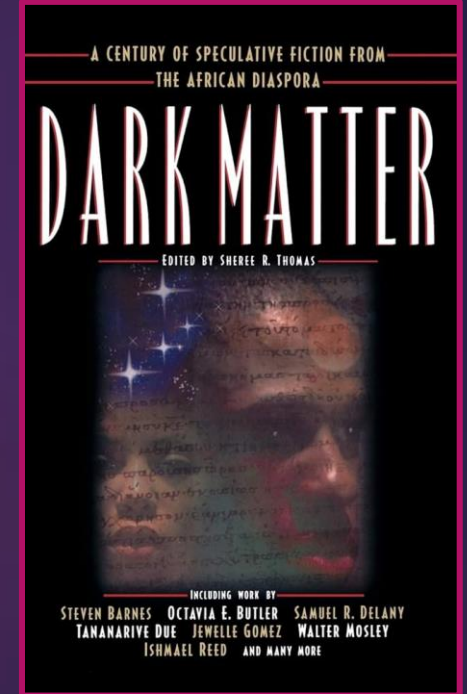
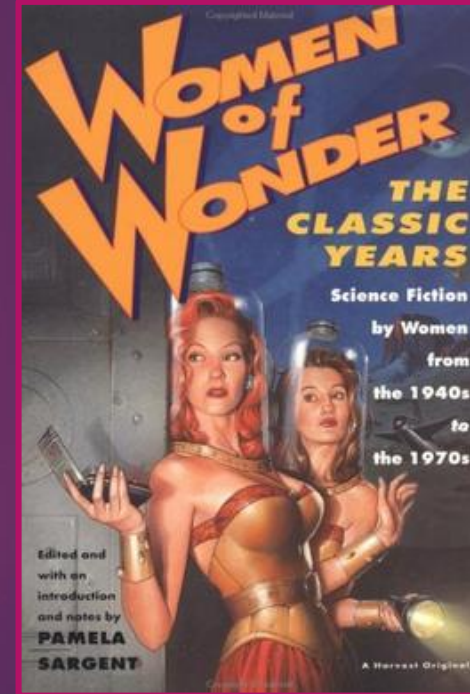
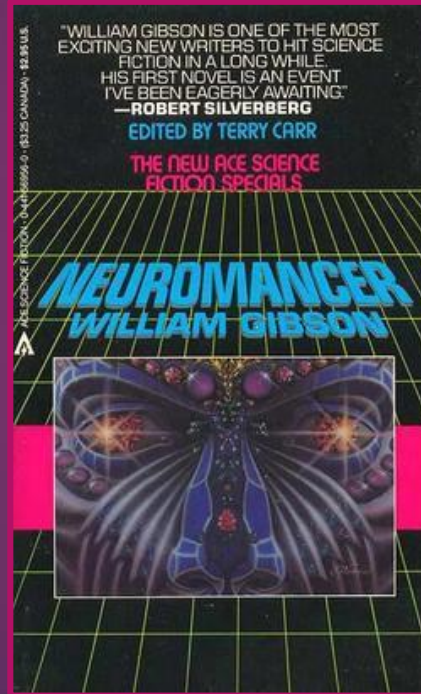
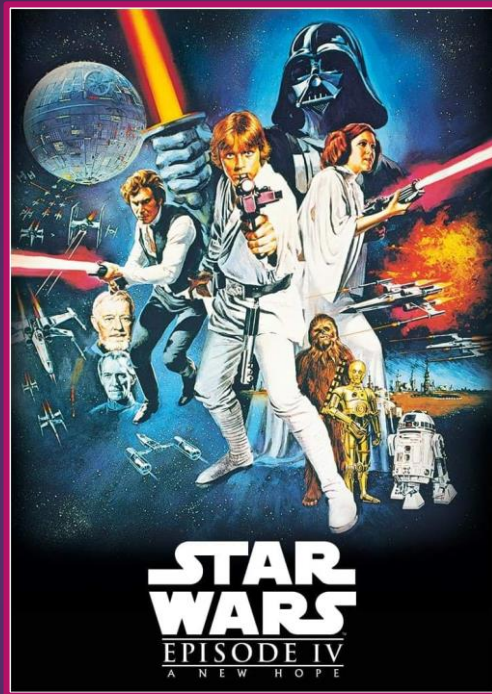
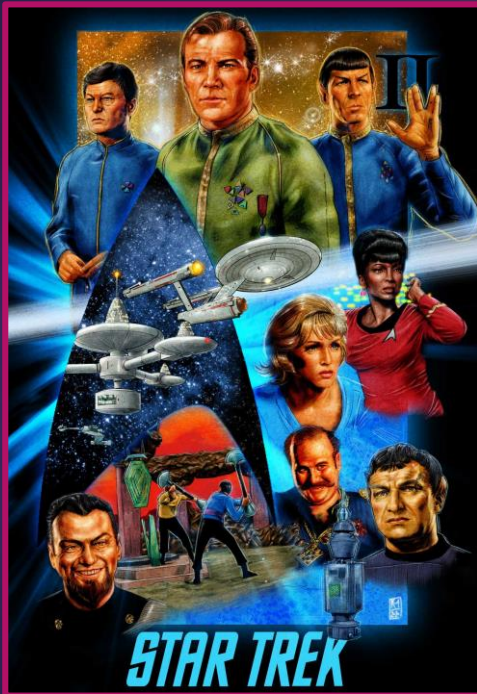
Engineers and Aliens and AI, Oh My! How Science Fiction Connects Us to the Past and Inspires New Futures

DR. LISA YASZEK

GEORGIA TECH

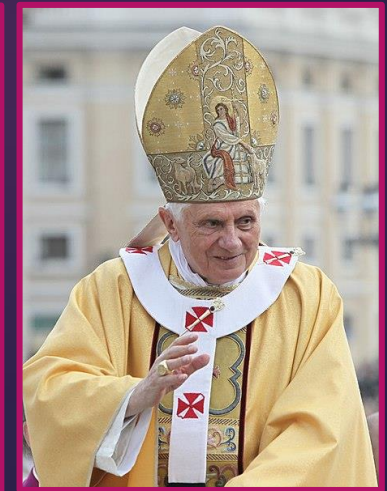
LISA.YASZEK@GATECH.EDU

Introduction: Learning to Dream

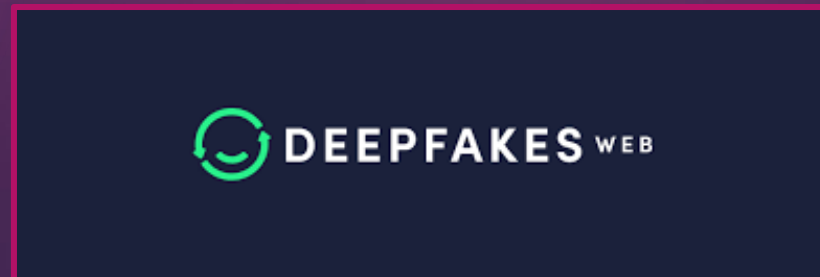


Hopeful Science Fiction: Saving the World One Story at a Time

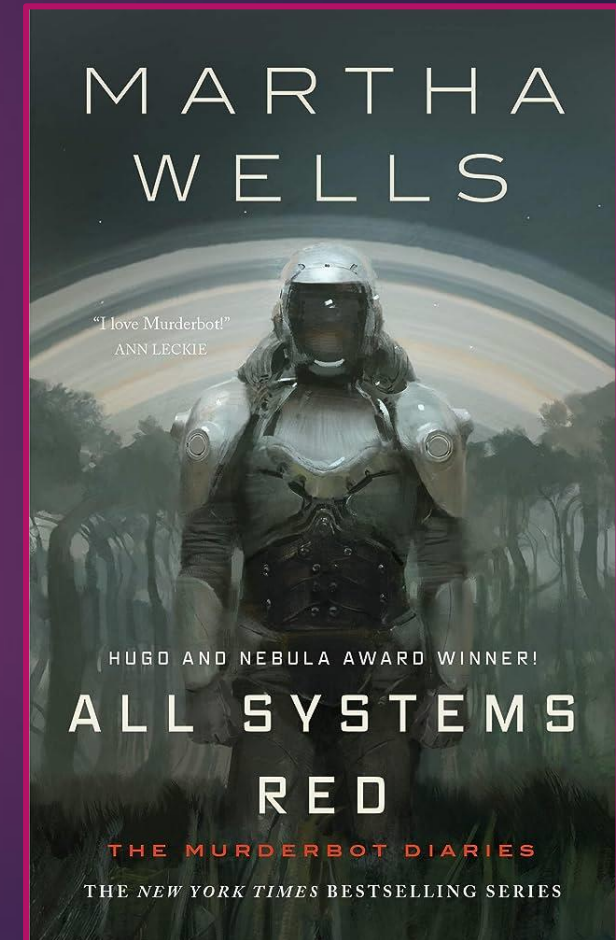
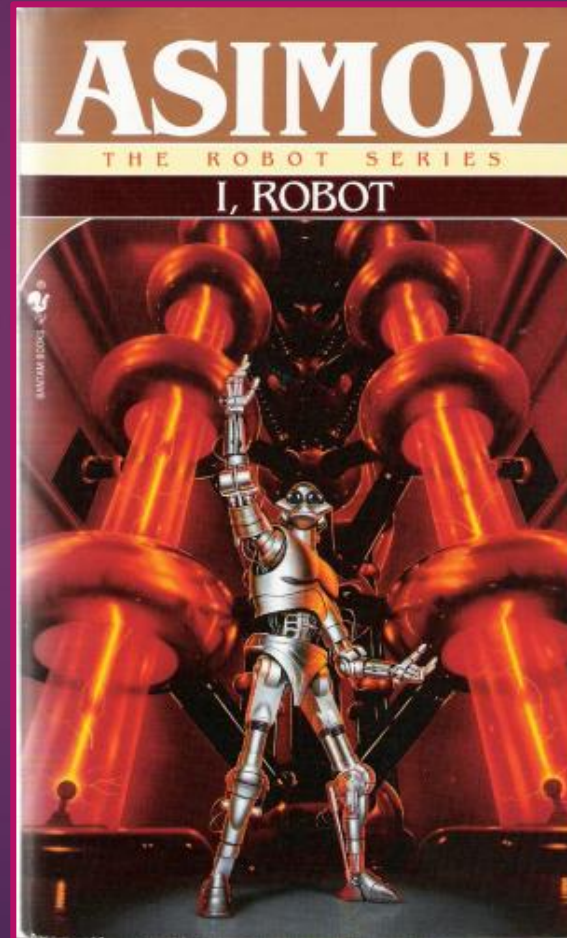
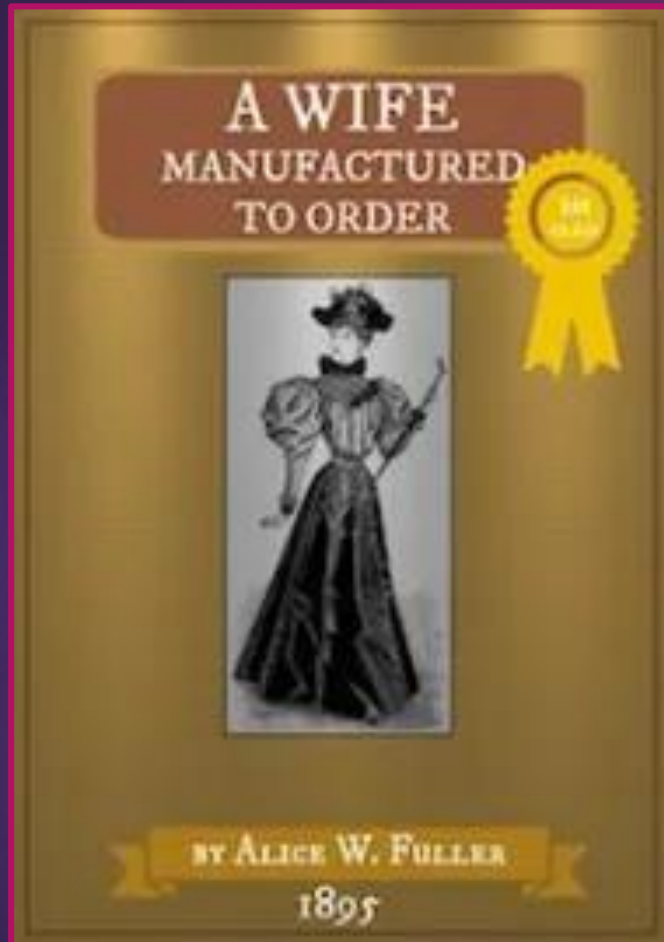
- ▶ “I think science fiction helps us think about possibilities, to speculate - it helps us look at our society from a different perspective. It lets us look at our mores, using science as the backdrop, as the game changer.” (Mae Jemison, astronaut)
- ▶ “Science fiction [is] useful because it reframes our perspective on the world. That’s why ... companies like Google, Microsoft, and Apple have brought in science fiction writers as consultants. Exploring fictional futures frees our thinking from false constraints.... It forces us to recognize that sometimes imagination is more important than analysis.” (Eliot Peper, *Harvard Business Review*)
- ▶ “[Cixin Liu’s *The Three Body Problem*] was fun to read, partly because [it made] my day-to-day problems with Congress seem fairly petty—[after all], aliens are about to invade!” (Barack Obama, US President)
- ▶ “[Scientific theories] are science fiction in the best sense: they are visions and anticipations, by which we seek to attain true knowledge.” (Pope Benedict XVI)



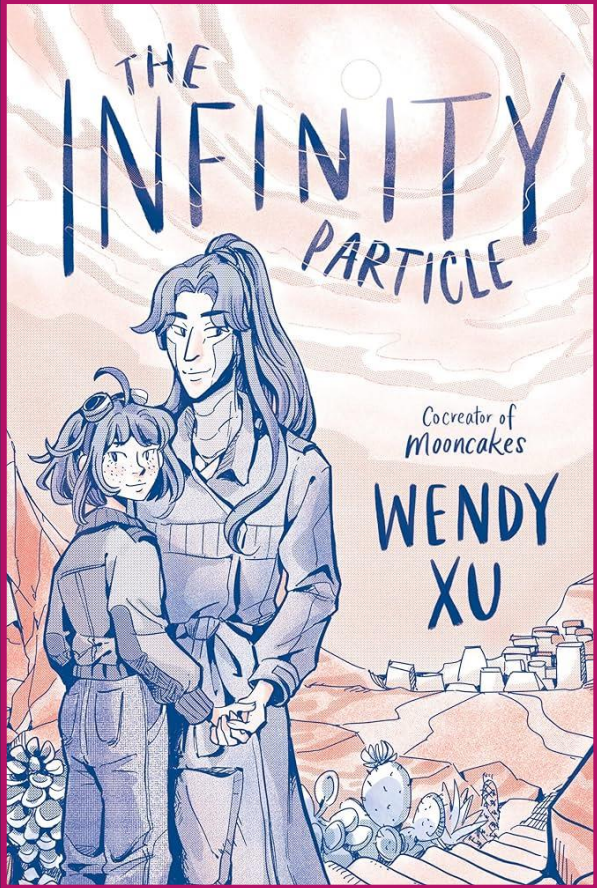
AI: Artificial Intelligence



AI in Print SF: Wives, Nannies, and... Murderbots!



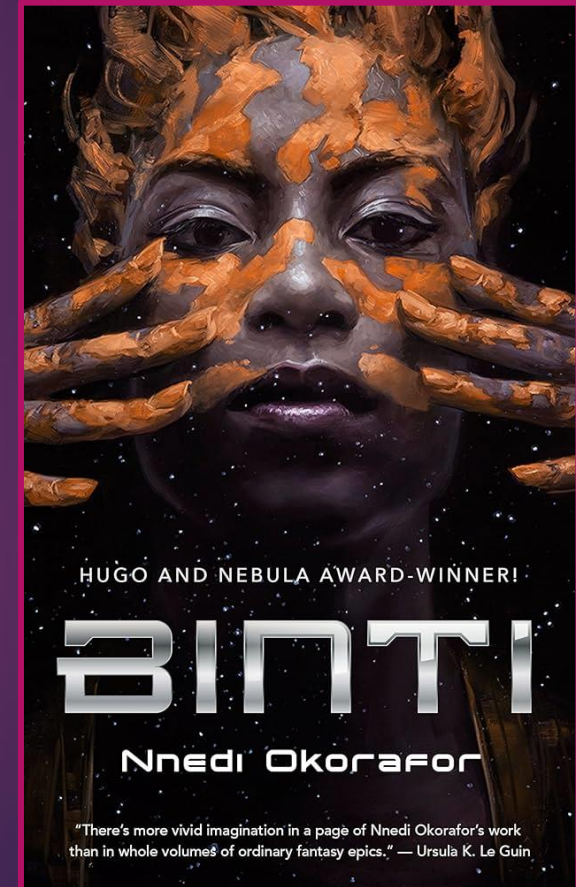
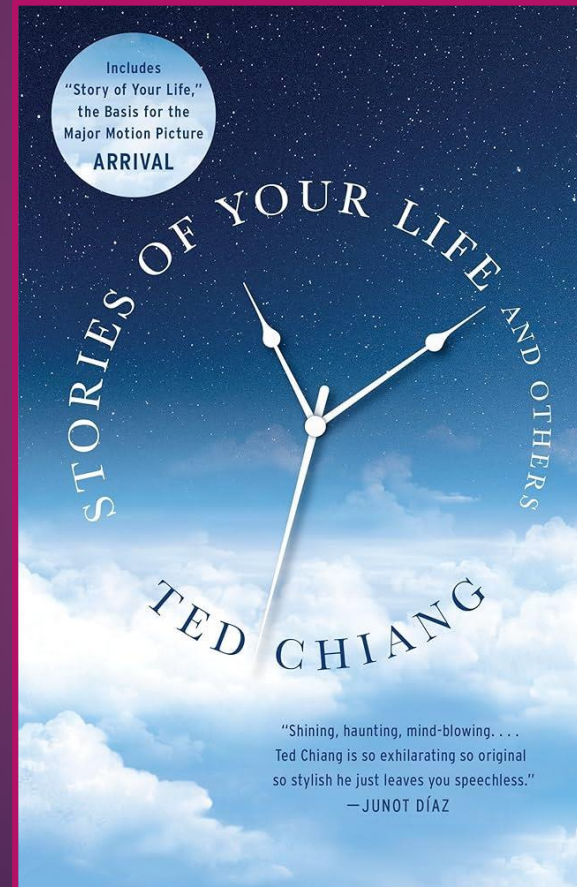
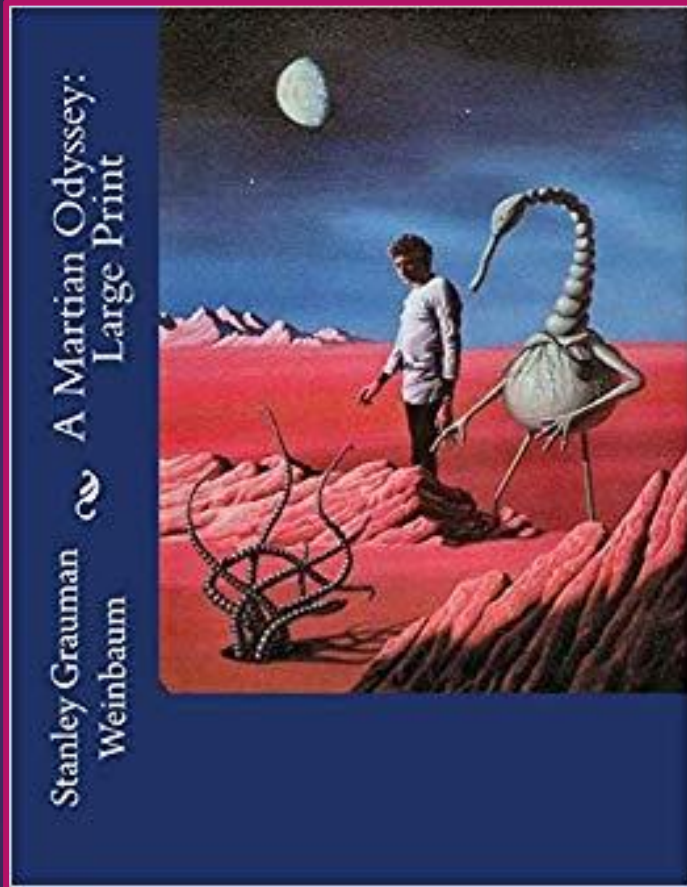
AI in Visual SF: Companions, Caretakers, and Partners in Crime



Aliens and the Race for Space



Aliens in Print SF: Explorers, Communicators, and Warriors



Aliens in Visual SF: Competitors, Communicators, and Colleagues



Georges Melies, "A Trip to the Moon" (1902)



Denis Villeneuve, *Arrival* (2016)

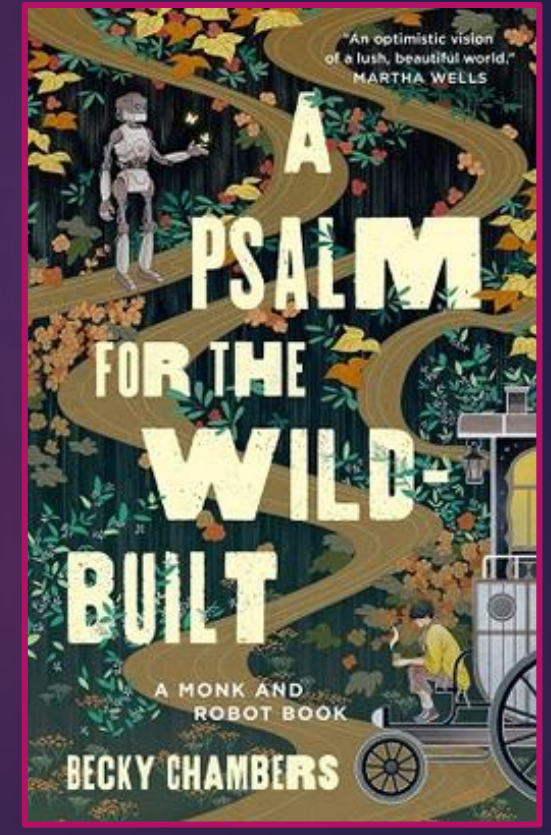
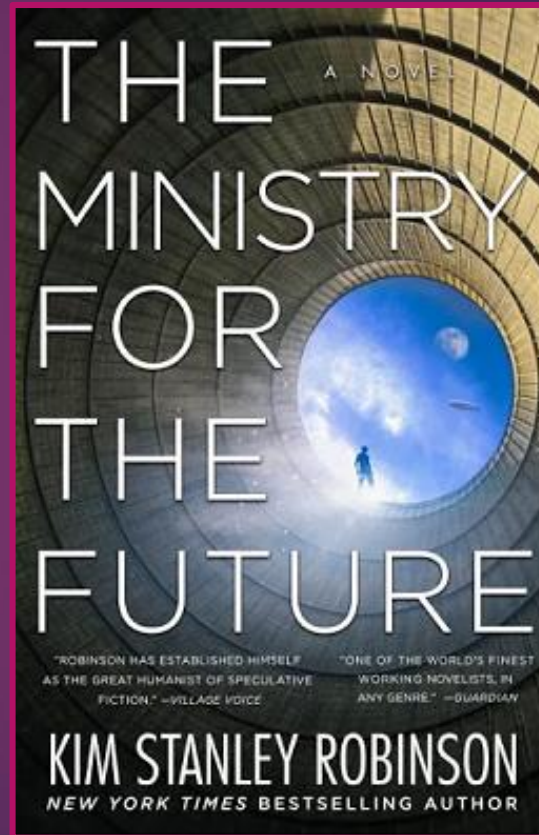
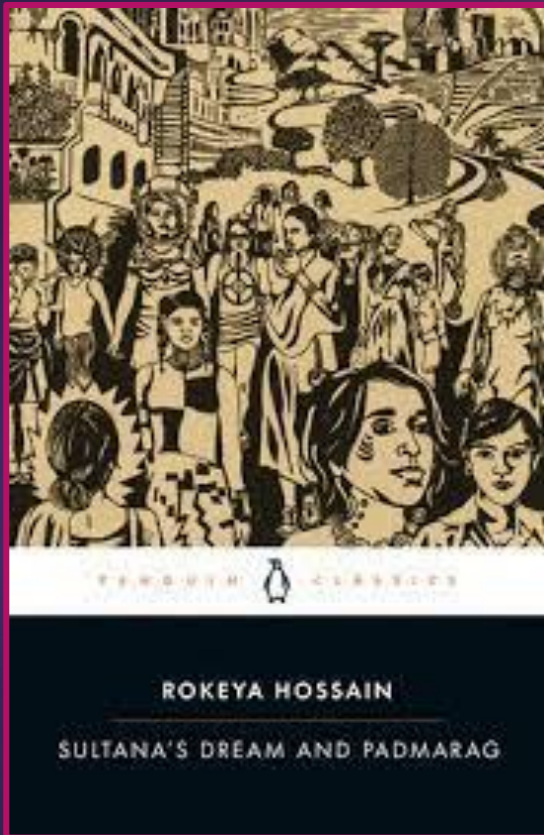


Matt Groening, *Futurama* (1999--)

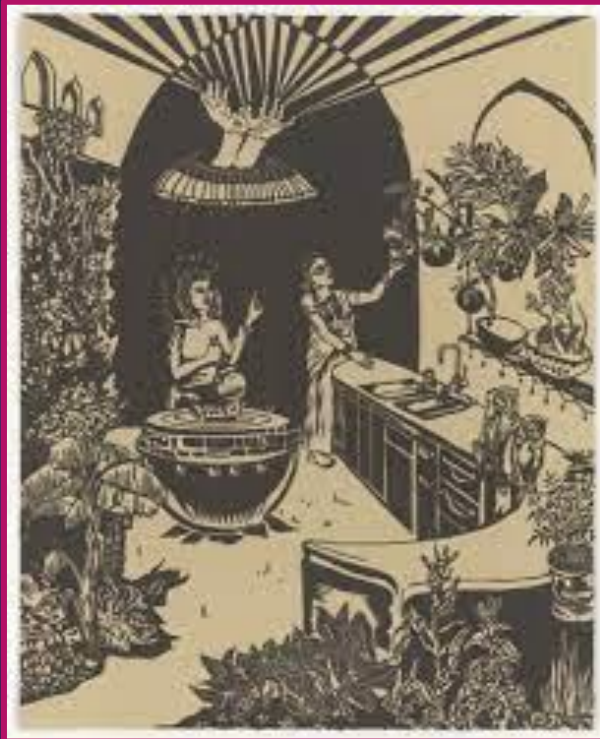
Energy Utopias: Engineering Better Futures for All



Energy Utopias in Print SF: Domestic Engineers, Indigenous Scientists, and Cozier Futures for All



Energy Utopias in Visual SF: Ladyland and Wakanda



Chitra Ganesh, *Sultana's Dream Woodcuts* (2017)



Isabel Herguera, *El Sueño de la Sultana* (2023)



Ryan Coogler, *Black Panther* (2018)

More Energy Utopias in Visual SF: Farmers and Freedom Fighters



Eric Barone, *Stardew Valley* (2016)

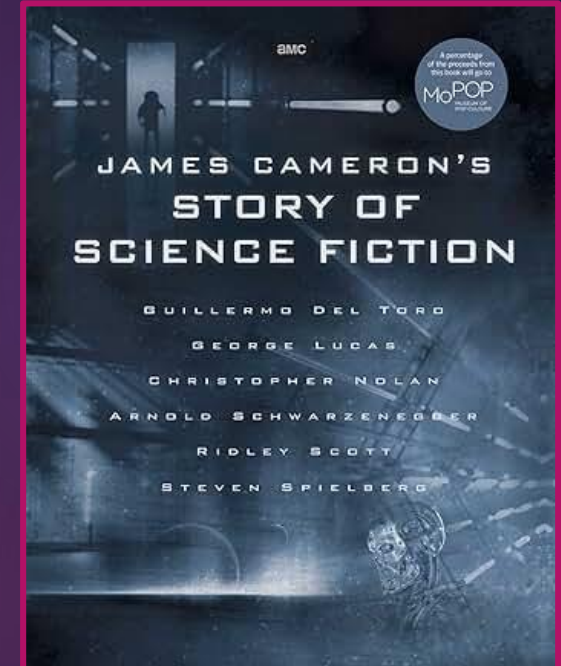
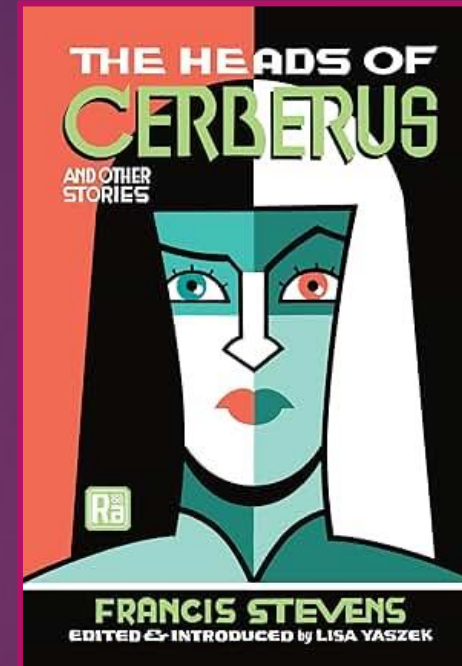
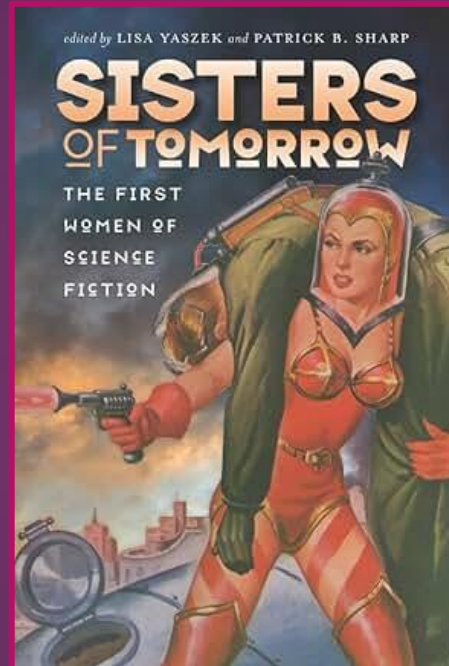
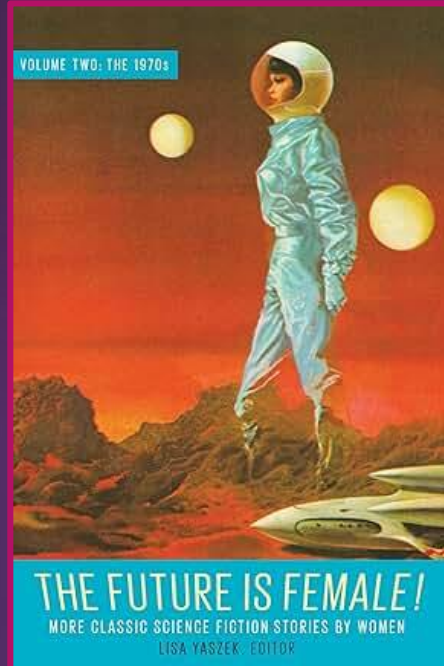


Olaekan Jeyifous, "The Frozen Neighborhoods" (2021)



Starhawk, "One Act of Courage" (2013); Matt Cerini, "Dear Alice" (2018)

Thank You!



<https://www.amazon.com/author/lisa.yaszek>

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLTceTAmYEmFROyW-8coZgraBk9yDSC_Lx

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<https://iac.gatech.edu/people/person/lisa-yaszek>

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