



Five Things to Know in Top Genres

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Kaite Mediatore Stover, Director of Readers' Services, Kansas City Public Library

Becky Spratford, *RA for All*

Rebecca Vnuk, Editor for Collection Management and Library Outreach, *Booklist*

Kaite Stover on Thrillers:

Five Must-Know Classic Authors

- **Michael Crichton**—Science is out to get you. The master of the Scientific Thriller with *Jurassic Park*. The film adds a light-hearted touch that is not present in the book. This trend is coming back.
- **Tom Clancy**—The Military is out to get you. The master of the Techno Thriller with *The Hunt for Red October*. This trend is on the wane.
- **John le Carre**—Interpol is out to get you. This trend never goes out of style and gets retooled with different types of “spies.”
- **Gillian Flynn**—She’s out to get you. *Gone Girl* became an instant classic and made the fairer sex a formidable opponent. (big wink to DuMaurier’s *Rebecca*)
- **John Grisham**—Corporate lawyers are out to get you. *The Firm* is still a great David-and-Goliath legal tale. A timeless trend, the cases are becoming more “of the moment.”

Five Must-Know Books

- ***The Da Vinci Code* by Dan Brown**—the book that had everyone searching for a religious relic by becoming art experts.
- ***Silence of the Lambs* by Thomas Harris**—the novel that launched a thousand catch-phrases for likable, yet frightening, crazy geniuses. And a creepy pop tune from Greenskeepers. Adapted to an Oscar-winning film. (psychological thriller)
- ***Presumed Innocent* by Scott Turow**—a legal thriller full of plot twists and a surprising conclusion. Good film adaptation with great secondary performances. (legal thriller)
- ***Native Tongue* by Carl Hiaasen**—everyone in Florida is a little bit batty, even the bad guys. Hiaasen mixes environmental issues with his criminal elements and witty rejoinders (comic thriller)
- ***Gone Girl* by Gillian Flynn**—Amy and Nick are a golden couple with tarnished hearts. Amy’s disappearance on their anniversary makes Nick a suspect and twists the reader’s brain inside out. A blockbuster movie that changed the ending with the author’s blessing. (domestic thriller)

Five Up-and-Coming Authors

- Mary Kubica
- Laura McHugh
- Holly Brown
- Susan Crawford
- Wendy Walker

Top Five Trends

Get Gone, Girl—books with unreliable and/or unlikable female leads

- *The Luckiest Girl Alive* by Jessica Knoll
- *The Passenger* by Lisa Lutz
- *Pretty Girls* by Karin Slaughter
- *The Good Girl* by Mary Kubica
- *The Girl on the Train* by Paula Hawkins

Family Nightmare—losing, protecting, defending, or searching for a child can be nerve-wracking

- *The Dinner* by Herman Koch
- *The Girl in the Red Coat* by Kate Hamer

- *Reconstructing Amelia* by Kimberly McCreight
- *The Widow* by Fiona Barton
- *The Last Child* by John Hart

Have Passport, Will Thrill—thrillers with a strong sense of place

- *Zodiac Station* by Tom Haper
- *Calvin's Head* by David Swatling
- *The Martian* by Andy Weir
- *Out* by Natsuo Kirino
- *Black Water Rising* by Attica Locke

Audio Originals—some of the best thrillers can't be seen and must be heard

- *Amok* by Sebastian Fitzek
- *Starling Project* by Jeffrey Deaver
- *Gun Church* by Reed Farrel Coleman
- *Junkie Quatrain* by Peter Cline
- *Missing or Murdered: The Disappearance of Agnes Tufverson* by R. Barri Flowers and Kevin Kollins

Historical Thrillers

- *The Dark of the Island* by Philip Gerard
- *The North Water* by Ian McGuire
- *The Memory Painter* by Gwendolyn Womack
- *Live by Night* by Dennis Lehane
- *The Three Emperors* by William Dietrich

Five Personal Favorites

- *Some Dead Genius* by Lenny Kleinfeld
- *Head Case* by Craig McDonald
- *Night Film* by Marisha Pessl
- *Relative Danger* by Charles Benoit
- *The Death and Life of Bobby Z.* by Don Winslow

Becky Spratford on Horror:

"Horror is a story in which the author manipulates the reader's emotions by introducing situations in which unexplainable phenomena and unearthly creatures threaten the protagonist and provoke terror in the reader."

Five Classic Authors

- Stephen King (*The Shining*)
- Dean Koontz (*Odd Thomas*)
- Anne Rice (*Interview with a Vampire*)
- H P Lovecraft (Cthulhu Stories)
- Ramsey Campbell (*Nazareth Hill*)

Five Must-Read Books (To understand 21st Century Horror)

- *The Rising* by Brian Keene
- *The Devil in Silver* by Victor LaValle
- *John Dies at the End* by David Wong
- *The Keeper* by Sarah Langan
- *The Terror* by Dan Simmons

Top Five Trends in Horror

Weird Fiction Re-Emerges as a Subgenre

- Southern Reach Trilogy by Jeff VanderMeer; Kelly Link

Science Fiction and Horror Team Up

- Justin Cronin Passage Trilogy; David Wellington

Horrific Women

- Tananarive Due and Sarah Pinborough

A Return to a Pulp Sensibility

- Richard Laymon and Brian Keene

Horror on Audio

- *Ghost Radio* by Leopoldo Gout and *Locke and Key* by Joe Hill

Five Up and Comers

- Joe Hill (*NOS4A2*)
- Jonathan Maberry (*Rot and Ruin*)
- Sarah Pinborough (*Mayhem*)
- Jonathan Janz (*Children of the Dark*)
- Paul Tremblay (*A Head Full of Ghosts*)

Becky's Five Favorites [Besides *NOS4A2*]

- *The Ruins* by Scott Smith
- *House of Leaves* by Mark Z. Danielewski
- *Bird Box* by Josh Malerman
- *Anything* by Shirley Jackson
- *The Reapers are the Angels* by Alden Bell

Rebecca Vnuk on Science Fiction:

Five Classic Authors

- Philip K. Dick
- Isaac Asimov
- Arthur C. Clarke
- Ray Bradbury
- Kim Stanley Robinson

Must-Read Books – A Twist

Rather than five books, try five stories from each of these anthologies, and you'll be up to speed on the basics of SF.

- *Masterpieces: The Best Science Fiction of the Century*. Ed. by Orson Scott Card
- *The Big Book of Science Fiction* (pub date 07/16). Ed. by Ann and Jeff Vandermeer

Five Up-and-Coming Authors

- Daniel O'Malley
- Dexter Palmer
- Holly Jennings (debut 2016)
- Steve Toutonghi (debut 2016)
- Elizabeth Bonesteel (debut 2016)

Top Five Trends

Techno-Geeks—Video gamers/Hackers/The future is NOW.

- Cory Doctorow, John Scalzi, Ernest Cline

Diversity – FINALLY some women. Different ethnicities represented. Everyone’s equal in space?

- China Mieville, Karen Sandler

It’s the End of the World as We Know It. And I don’t feel fine.

- William Forstchen, Neal Stephenson, Margaret Atwood; All the zombies.

YA SF – of course teens are interested in dystopia, their lives suck, didn’t you know?

- Julianna Baggot’s Pure Trilogy; Ally Condie’s Matched Trilogy

Genre-blending SF/Thrillers – The future is NOW and it’s REALLY FAST PACED

- John Barnes, Blake Crouch (forthcoming *Dark Matter*, 8/16), Manuel Gonzales

Five of Rebecca’s Favorites

- *Ender’s Game* by Orson Scott Card
- *The Girl with All the Gifts* by M.R. Carey
- *When She Woke* by Hillary Jordan
- *Lathe of Heaven* by Ursula K. Le Guin
- Philip K. Dick’s short stories

Use Novelist and Booklist for more genre help!

- <https://www.ebscohost.com/novelist-blog/novelist-article/product-release-better-book-discovery-with-new-browse-features-in-novelist>
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- <http://www.booklistonline.com>. Search: “Top 10” and “Core Collection” in the title search box to bring up feature lists on any and every genre. Every print issue is a “Spotlight” theme, many of them fiction.
- <http://www.booklistreader.com>. Use genre terms in the search box to find blog posts tagged with specific genres.