

# Personalized Reading Suggestions for *John Reader*

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## Appeal Factors

I selected authors and books based upon the following subject interests and appeal factors:

- ✓ Genres: Literary fiction, Fantasy, Thrillers, Science Fiction, Graphic Novels
- ✓ Tone: Funny, Dark/Ironic, Original/Unusual
- ✓ Writing style: Straightforward language
- ✓ Focus: Many, conflicted characters, issues and ideas
- ✓ Settings: Original/unique, cities and wild places
- ✓ Avoid/Include: Include religious themes; avoid politics

## Authors you might like

### [Jim Butcher](#)

Jim Butcher's dry, laconic tone tempers highly supernatural elements with earthy believability. Harry Dresden, titular protagonist of the Dresden Files series, first attracted Fantasy fans: An unshaven Wizard and Private-Eye for Hire in alt-reality Chicago where the police often need his (unofficial) help. Fast-paced action and good story-telling abounds, interlaced with humor from wry to near-slapstick. His characters' virtues and flaws are merely two sides of the same coin—neither "good guys" nor "bad guys" escape hubris. Butcher's knack for depicting real people in fantastic settings continues in his traditional Fantasy Codex Alera series. Start with: [Storm Front](#).

### [Michael Chabon](#)

Michael Chabon combines elements of Literary fiction and genres like Fantasy and Adventure, into novels centered around story, character, and a love of language. In his writing for both Adults and Teens, Chabon tells complex stories about complex characters, whose motivations and lives reflect the realities of the worlds in which they live. Even when examining philosophical or social issues, Chabon adds witty dialogue and a comedic touch that ranges from academic humor to the light-hearted whimsy found in his Teen novels.

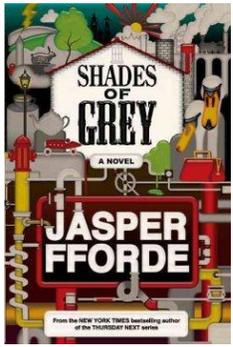
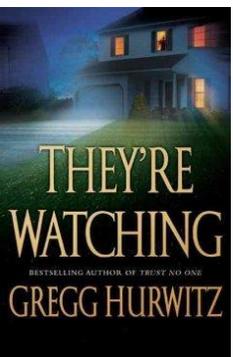
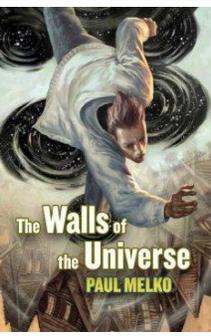
### [Graham Greene](#)

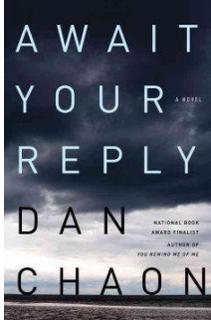
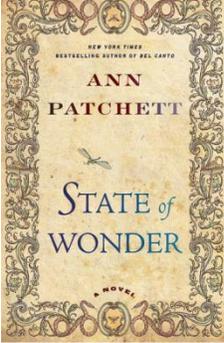
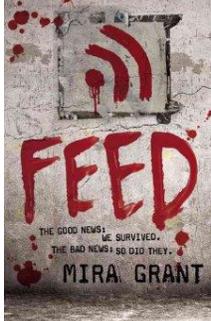
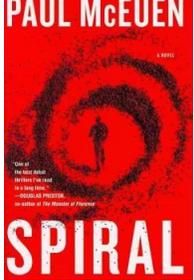
Graham Greene writes novels focused on the seriousness of moral choices. Free will is invariably at the center of the story. Stories are populated by fully human characters, driven by circumstances to make choices, and quite aware that they will bear the consequences. Ranging from settings in the postcolonial tropics to World War II England, plots treat the repercussions of secrets and hidden affairs. His most prevalent theme is the question of spiritual/moral redemption: how it is shaped, lost, and/or found. Complicated concepts are rendered in straightforward, compelling prose that will leave the reader thinking. Start with: [Brighton Rock](#).

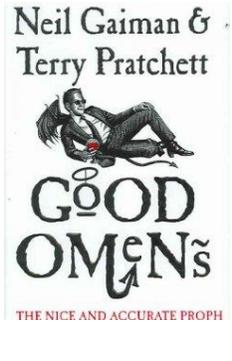
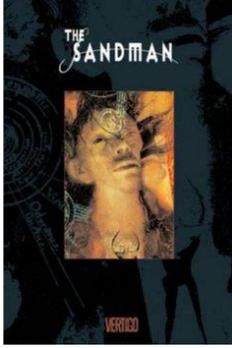
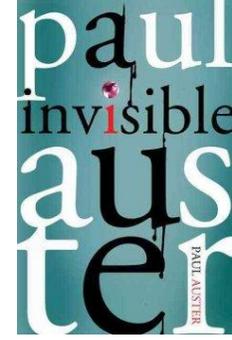
## Jonathan Tropper

Jonathan Tropper's wryly domestic fiction is full of lively, entertaining (if often somewhat dysfunctional) characters, fresh and witty dialogue, and irreverent humor. But the situations his late-20s, early-30's male protagonists find themselves in are often serious--say, the loss of a father and wife in the same day--and ultimately lead to a meaningful reassessment of what's important. His characters must grow up fast after a prolonged adolescence, but do so in a realistic manner, peppered liberally with wisecracks. Start with: [This Is Where I Leave You](#).

## Titles you might enjoy

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|  The cover of 'Shades of Grey' by Jasper Fforde features a colorful, stylized illustration of a town with buildings and a red fire truck. The title 'SHADES OF GREY' is at the top, and 'JASPER FFORDE' is in a large red box at the bottom.  | <p><a href="#">Shades of Grey</a> by Jasper Fforde</p> <p>Welcome to Chromatacia, where for as long as anyone can remember society has been ruled by a Colortocracy. Social hierachy is based upon one's limited color perception. Society is dominated by color. In this world, you are what you can see, and Eddie Russett, a better-than-average red perception wants to move up. "Fforde has built a complex, engaging, and unique world full of surprises, serious ideas, and serious fun that will appeal to those beyond the author's readers and sf fans" (from <i>Library Journal</i>, starred review). <b>Reason:</b> Science Fiction, Literary Fiction, Satirical, Witty, and Offbeat.</p>                       |
|  The cover of 'They're Watching' by Gregg Hurwitz shows a dark, two-story house at night with a few windows lit. The title 'THEY'RE WATCHING' is in large, gold letters, and 'GREGG HURWITZ' is at the bottom.   | <p><a href="#">They're Watching</a> by Gregg Andrew Hurwitz</p> <p>Struggling with setbacks in his marriage and Hollywood ambitions, Patrick Davis begins receiving mysterious DVDs that reveal that he and his wife are being stalked, a situation that is thrown into further turmoil by a mysterious e-mail offer of assistance. "This is a very well constructed thriller, full of twists and turns and unexpected revelations. Hurwitz frequently sets us up to expect one thing but delivers something entirely different. He keeps us constantly on our toes, and—this is especially good—he keeps us guessing right until the very last pages" (From <i>Booklist</i>, starred review). <b>Reason:</b> Thriller.</p> |
|  The cover of 'The Walls of the Universe' by Paul Melko features a man in a white shirt and dark pants, appearing to be in a state of motion or falling, against a background of swirling galaxies and stars. The title 'The Walls of the Universe' is in white and yellow, and 'PAUL MELKO' is at the bottom. | <p><a href="#">Walls of the Universe</a> by Paul Melko</p> <p>Tempted to trade places with a dishonest doppelganger who steals his life and traps him in another universe with a broken travel device, Ohio farm boy John Rayburn inadvertently disrupts the balance of power by introducing the game of pinball, while on earth his look-alike attempts to sell the Rubik's cube for profit. <b>Reason:</b> Science Fiction/Fantasy.</p>   |

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|    | <p><a href="#">Await Your Reply</a> by Dan Chaon</p> <p>While Miles pursues elusive letters and clues in a perpetual search for his missing twin, Ryan struggles with the discovery that he is adopted, and Lucy finds her daring escape from her hometown posing unexpectedly dangerous consequences. <i>Await Your Reply</i> is a novel full of “elegant prose, haunting plot and knockout literary excellence” (Publishers Weekly, starred review). <b>Reason:</b> Literary fiction, suspenseful/psychological, many, conflicted characters.</p>   |
|    | <p><a href="#">State of Wonder</a> by Ann Patchett</p> <p>Marina Singh, who's given up her medical practice for the relative quiet of pharmaceutical research, finds her world upturned when she's suddenly sent to the Amazon. A field team there, working on a new drug, has been unresponsive for two years, and Marina's colleague Anders, who has gone to investigate, is reported dead. An adventurous story of science and responsibility. <b>Reason:</b> Upcoming title from Ann Patchett, Literary fiction, Character-driven, dealing with issues and ideas, science and technology.</p> |
|   | <p><a href="#">Feed</a> by Mira Grant</p> <p>In the year 2014, a new virus emerges, taking over bodies and minds with one, unstoppable command, FEED, and, now, 20 years later, two reporters will stop at nothing to expose the dark conspiracy behind the infected. “A masterpiece of suspense with engaging, appealing characters who conduct a soul-shredding examination of what's true and what's reported” (<i>Publishers Weekly</i>, starred review) <b>Reason:</b> Fantasy/Suspense genre with Horror elements, richly drawn characters, science and technology.</p>                     |
|  | <p><a href="#">Spiral</a> by Paul McEuen*</p> <p>Refusing to believe a ruling that his research partner, an eminent biologist, committed suicide, Cornell nanoscience professor Jake teams up with the man's grieving granddaughter to investigate a series of cryptic messages that leads them to the shores of Japan and the site of a doomsday plot. A first novel. <b>Reason:</b> Thriller.</p>   |

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|   | <p><a href="#">Good Omens</a> by Neil Gaiman and Terry Pratchett</p> <p>The world is going to end next Saturday, but there are a few problems-- the Antichrist has been misplaced, the Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse ride motorcycles, and the representatives from heaven and hell decide that they like the human race. <b>Reason:</b> Fantasy, Original/unusual story, Darkly humorous, satirical fiction.</p> |
|   | <p><a href="#">Absolute Sandman Series</a> by Neil Gaiman</p> <p>Collects every volume of the "Sandman" comic book along with miscellaneous information about the creation and production of individual titles and the contributing artists and previously unpublished graphic stories by Neil Gaiman. <b>Reason:</b> Graphic novel, Fantasy, Gaiman is listed as a read-alike for Alan Moore.</p>                  |
|  | <p><a href="#">Invisible</a> by Paul Auster</p> <p>Poet and student Adam Walker meets the enigmatic Frenchman Rudolf Born and his silent, seductive girlfriend, Margot, sending Adam into a perverse triangle that leads to a shocking act of violence that will alter his life. <b>Reason:</b> Thought-provoking, dealing with issues and ideas, literacy fiction, character-driven, suspenseful.</p>              |

## Book news and events

- ✓ [Book Discussion Groups](#) at TCCL locations
- ✓ Discover the [new titles](#) available at the library before everyone else
- ✓ [Reading Addict](#) Blog-- *Slightly skewed book thoughts by seriously dedicated librarians*
- ✓ BookSmart Tulsa [Visiting Author Series](#)
- ✓ Tulsa World [Books](#) section

## Resources

In addition the Tulsa City-County Library [Catalog](#), the [Books and Reading](#) Page, and my own reading lists and annotations, I used the following resources to compile your personalized reading suggestions.

The author information and some book annotations are from *NoveList*, a terrific database with author read-alikes, series information, fiction prize-winners and convenient links to the Tulsa City-County Library catalog. You may access *NoveList* from home or any TCCL location with your library card number. Go to the TCCL [Books and Reading](#) page and click on the NoveList icon.

Also:

- American Library Association's [Booklist](#).
- Goodreads available at [www.goodreads.com](http://www.goodreads.com)  
For user reviews of *Walls of the Universe*
- Hennepin County Library [Psychological Suspense Blog](#)

## A Final Note

Thank you for using *Your Next Great Read*, a Readers' Advisory service of the Tulsa City-County Library. We were delighted to share our knowledge of the wide range of books available to you for pleasure reading. Please give us feedback! You can reach us at (918) 549-7323 or [rlaskus@tulsalibrary.org](mailto:rlaskus@tulsalibrary.org).