

the book of strange new things michel faber

The Enigmatic Journey of The Book of Strange New Things by Michel Faber

the book of strange new things michel faber opens a captivating door to a universe where spirituality, human connection, and the vast unknown intertwine. This novel, penned by the acclaimed author Michel Faber, is much more than a conventional science fiction story—it is a profound exploration of faith, loneliness, and the challenges that arise when two worlds collide. For readers seeking a thought-provoking narrative that delves into both the cosmic and the deeply personal, this book offers a unique experience.

Understanding the Premise of The Book of Strange New Things Michel Faber

Michel Faber's novel takes place in a future where Earth is struggling with environmental and societal decay. The protagonist, Peter Leigh, is a Christian missionary dispatched to a distant planet called Oasis. His mission is to bring the Christian gospel to the native inhabitants, the Oasans. What makes the story intriguing is not just the science fiction setting but the emotional and spiritual journey Peter undergoes as he grapples with the vast cultural differences and his own personal dilemmas.

Blending Science Fiction with Spiritual Themes

One of the standout qualities of the book is how it harmoniously blends the genre of science fiction with deep, often philosophical, reflections on religion and belief. Unlike many sci-fi novels that focus primarily on technology or alien invasions, Michel Faber's work centers around the missionary's faith and the challenges it faces in an alien context. This intersection creates a rich tapestry of ideas that question what it means to believe, to communicate across cultures, and to maintain hope when separated from loved ones.

The Role of Communication and Language

Communication is a recurring theme throughout the novel. Peter's ability to convey Christian teachings to the Oasans depends heavily on understanding their language and customs. This aspect introduces readers to the complexities of intercultural exchange and the potential misunderstandings that can arise. Michel Faber deftly uses these moments to highlight how language shapes thought and belief, making the story resonate on both a literal and metaphorical level.

Characters and Their Emotional Depths

The emotional core of the book lies in the relationship between Peter and his wife, Bea, who remains on Earth. Their correspondence through letters forms a poignant subplot that reveals the strain of separation and the contrasting realities of their worlds. Bea's letters describe Earth's worsening conditions, creating a stark juxtaposition with Peter's alien environment. This dual narrative provides a compelling examination of distance—both physical and emotional—and the human need for connection.

Peter Leigh: A Missionary Torn Between Worlds

Peter is portrayed as a deeply human character, embodying both strength and vulnerability. His faith drives his mission, yet he is not immune to doubts and fears. Michel Faber gives readers a protagonist who is relatable in his struggles, whether it's adapting to an alien culture or coping with his growing isolation. This nuanced characterization elevates the novel beyond a typical sci-fi plot into a moving personal story.

Bea Leigh: The Earthbound Perspective

Through Bea's letters, readers witness Earth's decline and the impact of global crises on ordinary people. Bea's perspective is essential because it grounds the novel in contemporary concerns, such as environmental degradation and social upheaval. Her narrative complements Peter's by showing what he left behind and the emotional stakes involved in his journey.

The Book's Exploration of Faith and Doubt

At its heart, *The Book of Strange New Things* Michel Faber is a meditation on faith—its power, its fragility, and its role in human experience. The novel does not offer easy answers but instead presents faith as a complex, evolving relationship that can be both a source of strength and a cause of pain.

Faith as a Bridge and Barrier

Peter's mission is to share the Christian gospel, but the novel carefully examines how faith can both unite and divide. The Oasans' understanding of spirituality differs significantly from human concepts, raising questions about the universality of religious beliefs. Michel Faber challenges readers to think about how faith adapts in new contexts and whether it can survive radical change.

Doubt and Isolation

Peter's journey is marked by moments of doubt, especially as he confronts the vast unknown and the emotional toll of separation from Bea. These moments humanize him and make the narrative relatable to anyone who has experienced uncertainty or loneliness. The author's sensitive portrayal of doubt adds depth to the story's exploration of belief.

Why The Book of Strange New Things Stands Out in Contemporary Literature

Michel Faber's novel distinguishes itself through its unique combination of genres, its emotional resonance, and its literary craftsmanship. It appeals not only to science fiction fans but also to readers interested in philosophy, theology, and human relationships.

Rich World-Building and Imaginative Settings

The depiction of Oasis and its inhabitants showcases Faber's talent for immersive world-building. The alien environment is vividly described, from the planet's landscapes to its unique flora and fauna. This imaginative setting serves as a perfect backdrop for the novel's thematic explorations and adds a sense of wonder that complements the story's emotional weight.

Literary Style and Narrative Structure

Faber's prose is both accessible and poetic, making for an engaging reading experience. The use of letters as a narrative device lends intimacy and immediacy to the story, allowing readers to connect deeply with the characters' inner lives. The interweaving of Peter's and Bea's perspectives enriches the narrative and maintains a compelling pace.

What Readers Can Take Away from The Book of Strange New Things Michel Faber

Beyond its plot and setting, the novel offers meaningful insights into the human condition. It encourages readers to reflect on how we relate to others, how we maintain faith in difficult times, and how we navigate the unknown.

- **Empathy Across Differences:** The story underscores the importance of understanding and respecting cultures different from our own.
- **Resilience in Isolation:** It illustrates how faith and love can provide strength even when individuals are physically separated.
- **Environmental Awareness:** Through Bea's perspective, readers are reminded of the urgent

issues facing Earth today.

- **Questioning Belief:** The novel invites contemplation on the nature of belief and how it evolves in new circumstances.

Tips for Readers Approaching The Book of Strange New Things

For those diving into Michel Faber's novel, here are some helpful tips to enhance the reading experience:

1. **Embrace the Slow Build:** The novel takes its time developing characters and themes, so patience will reward you with a richer understanding.
2. **Reflect on the Letters:** Pay close attention to Bea's letters as they provide crucial context and emotional depth.
3. **Consider the Spiritual Themes:** Even if you're not religious, the exploration of faith offers universal insights into human resilience and hope.
4. **Appreciate the World-Building:** Allow yourself to be immersed in the alien world of Oasis and its unique culture.

Reading *The Book of Strange New Things* by Michel Faber is an invitation to journey beyond the familiar and engage with some of the most profound questions about humanity, belief, and connection. It's a story that lingers long after the last page, urging readers to ponder what it truly means to reach out to "strange new things."

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the main plot of 'The Book of Strange New Things' by Michel Faber?

The novel follows Peter Leigh, a missionary sent to a distant planet called Oasis to spread Christianity to the native alien population, while struggling with his relationship with his wife back on Earth amid a global crisis.

How does Michel Faber explore themes of faith in 'The Book of

Strange New Things'?

Faber examines faith through Peter's missionary work and personal doubts, highlighting the challenges of belief in an unfamiliar world and the impact of faith on human connection and survival.

What role does the setting of the planet Oasis play in the story?

Oasis serves as a stark, alien environment that contrasts with Earth, symbolizing isolation and the unknown while providing a backdrop for exploring cultural and spiritual encounters between humans and the native species.

How does 'The Book of Strange New Things' address issues of communication and language?

The novel emphasizes the difficulties and importance of communication, as Peter learns to understand and translate the language and beliefs of the alien natives, underscoring themes of misunderstanding and connection across cultures.

What is the significance of Peter's relationship with his wife, Bea, in the novel?

Their relationship highlights the emotional strain caused by distance, crisis, and differing experiences, serving as a poignant exploration of love, loss, and the human need for connection in extreme circumstances.

Additional Resources

The Book of Strange New Things Michel Faber: A Deep Dive into the Sci-Fi Literary Landscape

the book of strange new things michel faber stands as a compelling fusion of science fiction and profound human emotion, marking a distinctive entry in contemporary speculative fiction. Michel Faber, known for his sharp narrative voice and complex character development, invites readers into a future where faith, communication, and alien contact intertwine in unexpected ways. This novel not only explores extraterrestrial encounters but also delves into the fragile intricacies of human relationships, making it both a thought-provoking and emotionally resonant read.

In-depth Analysis of The Book of Strange New Things

Michel Faber's novel is set against the backdrop of a distant planet called Oasis, where Peter Leigh, a missionary, embarks on a mission to evangelize an alien race known as the Oasans. The narrative oscillates between Peter's experiences on Oasis and his wife Bea's life on Earth, creating a dual perspective that highlights the emotional distance and cultural divide brought by interstellar travel. This structure allows Faber to investigate themes of isolation, faith, and the limits of communication in a context that is both futuristic and deeply human.

One of the standout features of the book is its exploration of religious faith within a science fiction framework. Unlike many sci-fi novels that treat religion as a peripheral or even an antagonistic element, Faber places spirituality at the core of his story. Peter's unwavering Christian faith becomes a lens through which the alien world is interpreted, raising questions about the universality of belief systems and the potential for cross-cultural understanding—or misunderstanding—between species.

Characterization and Emotional Depth

The emotional landscape of *The Book of Strange New Things* Michel Faber crafts is rich and multifaceted. Peter is not portrayed as a stereotypical space missionary; rather, he is a deeply flawed and relatable individual. His internal struggles with doubt, loyalty, and love provide a grounding counterpoint to the alien environment. Similarly, Bea's character represents the emotional toll of separation and the challenges of coping with uncertainty on Earth.

Faber's writing showcases his ability to humanize the science fiction genre, making the characters' emotional journeys as compelling as the speculative elements. This dual focus enhances reader engagement, as it is not just the alien contact that intrigues but also the profound personal sacrifices and transformations that unfold.

World-Building and Linguistic Innovation

The novel excels in its intricate world-building, especially in the depiction of the Oasans and their culture. Faber invents a believable alien society with unique customs, language, and worldview, which serve as both obstacles and bridges to communication. The linguistic challenges Peter faces underscore the broader theme of the difficulties inherent in truly understanding "the other," whether alien or human.

This emphasis on language and translation enriches the narrative, highlighting the nuances of intercultural dialogue and the potential for both connection and alienation. The Oasans' gentle, non-aggressive nature contrasts with the often harsh realities of Earth, prompting readers to reflect on humanity's own social and environmental issues.

The Book of Strange New Things Michel Faber in Context

In the broader context of science fiction literature, Faber's work occupies a unique space that blends speculative futurism with literary fiction's introspective qualities. While it shares thematic elements with classics like Arthur C. Clarke's "Childhood's End" or Ursula K. Le Guin's anthropological sci-fi, it distinguishes itself through its focus on religion and emotional realism.

Comparisons with Similar Works

- **Arthur C. Clarke's "Childhood's End"**: Both novels explore alien contact and its impact on humanity, but Faber prioritizes personal faith and intimate relationships over grand cosmic transformations.
- **Ursula K. Le Guin's "The Left Hand of Darkness"**: Le Guin's anthropological approach to alien cultures parallels Faber's detailed depiction of the Oasans, though Faber incorporates a more explicit religious dimension.
- **Mary Doria Russell's "The Sparrow"**: Similar in its portrayal of a missionary's journey to an alien world, "The Sparrow" and Faber's novel share thematic concerns about faith, communication, and cultural clash.

Strengths and Limitations

- **Strengths:** The novel's emotional depth, sophisticated exploration of faith, and nuanced portrayal of alien culture stand out as significant achievements.
- **Limitations:** Some readers might find the pacing slow, as the narrative often dwells on introspective and philosophical themes rather than action-driven plotlines.
- **Accessibility:** The novel's complex themes and literary style may appeal more to readers who appreciate thought-provoking science fiction rather than those seeking conventional space adventure.

SEO and Readership Appeal

For those searching online about "the book of strange new things michel faber," interest often centers on its blend of science fiction and spirituality, its unique take on alien contact stories, and its emotional resonance. Incorporating LSI keywords such as "Michel Faber science fiction," "alien missionary novel," "faith in sci-fi literature," and "Oasans culture" can help contextualize the content for search engines while appealing to readers intrigued by these topics.

By examining both the speculative and human elements of the book, this article aligns with searches related to literary analysis, religious themes in fiction, and futuristic storytelling. Furthermore, discussions about character development, world-building, and comparisons to other sci-fi classics enhance its relevance to literature enthusiasts and academic readers alike.

Why The Book of Strange New Things Resonates Today

In an era marked by global uncertainty, technological leaps, and cultural clashes, Faber's novel resonates with contemporary concerns. Its portrayal of communication barriers and the search for

meaning in unfamiliar environments parallels real-world challenges faced by humanity. The book's engagement with faith also invites readers to reconsider the role of spirituality in modern society and how belief systems shape our understanding of the universe and each other.

Ultimately, *The Book of Strange New Things* Michel Faber offers more than a science fiction tale; it is a meditation on what it means to connect across divides—whether cosmic, cultural, or emotional—and the enduring human quest for hope and understanding in strange new worlds.

The Book Of Strange New Things Michel Faber

the book of strange new things michel faber: *The Book of Strange New Things* Michel Faber, 2014-10-28 A monumental, genre-defying novel that David Mitchell calls Michel Faber's second masterpiece, *The Book of Strange New Things* is a masterwork from a writer in full command of his many talents. It begins with Peter, a devoted man of faith, as he is called to the mission of a lifetime, one that takes him galaxies away from his wife, Bea. Peter becomes immersed in the mysteries of an astonishing new environment, overseen by an enigmatic corporation known only as USIC. His work introduces him to a seemingly friendly native population struggling with a dangerous illness and hungry for Peter's teachings—his Bible is their "book of strange new things." But Peter is rattled when Bea's letters from home become increasingly desperate: typhoons and earthquakes are devastating whole countries, and governments are crumbling. Bea's faith, once the guiding light of their lives, begins to falter. Suddenly, a separation measured by an otherworldly distance, and defined both by one newly discovered world and another in a state of collapse, is threatened by an ever-widening gulf that is much less quantifiable. While Peter is reconciling the needs of his congregation with the desires of his strange employer, Bea is struggling for survival. Their trials lay bare a profound meditation on faith, love tested beyond endurance, and our responsibility to those closest to us. Marked by the same bravura storytelling and precise language that made *The Crimson Petal* and *the White* such an international success, *The Book of Strange New Things* is extraordinary, mesmerizing, and replete with emotional complexity and genuine pathos.

the book of strange new things michel faber: *Perishing Heathens* Julius H. Rubin, 2017-10 In *Perishing Heathens* Julius H. Rubin tells the stories of missionary men and women who between 1800 and 1830 responded to the call to save Native peoples through missions, especially the Osages in the Arkansas Territory, Cherokees in Tennessee and Georgia, and Ojibwe peoples in the Michigan Territory. Rubin also recounts the lives of Native converts, many of whom were from mixed-blood métis families and were attracted to the benefits of education, literacy, and conversion. During the Second Great Awakening, Protestant denominations embraced a complex set of values, ideas, and institutions known as "the missionary spirit." These missionaries fervently believed they would build the kingdom of God in America by converting Native Americans in the Trans-Appalachian and Trans-Mississippi West. *Perishing Heathens* explores the theology and institutions that characterized the missionary spirit and the early missions such as the Union Mission to the Osages, and the Brainerd Mission to the Cherokees, and the Moravian Springplace Mission to the Cherokees. Through a magnificent array of primary sources, *Perishing Heathens* reconstructs the millennial ideals of fervent true believers as they confronted a host of impediments to success: endemic malaria and infectious illness, Native resistance to the gospel message, and intertribal warfare in the context of the removal of eastern tribes to the Indian frontier.

the book of strange new things michel faber: *Prizing Scottish Literature* Stevie Marsden, 2021-02-15 This history of the Saltire Society Literary Awards demonstrates the significance the awards have had within Scottish literary and cultural life. The book explores how the prizes have influenced understandings of Scottish literature over eight decades and explores what they reveal

about the wider mechanisms of how literary prize culture functions in the UK today.

the book of strange new things michel faber: *More Than Things* Paul Louis Metzger, 2023-08-08 In a world dominated by things, we must work hard to account for one another's personhood. Drawing a diverse set of thought leaders, Paul Louis Metzger helps us navigate a pluralistic world through a personalist moral framework, addressing issues such as abortion, genetic engineering, immigration, drone warfare, and more.

the book of strange new things michel faber: *New Perspectives on International Comparative Literature* Cao Shunqing, Theo D'haen, Liang Chang, Zhou Shu, 2022-07-25 Bringing together 17 articles by renowned scholars from around the globe, this volume offers a multi-dimensional view of comparative and world literature. Drawing on the scope of these scholars' collective intellects and insights, it connects disparate research contexts to illuminate the multi-dimensional views of related areas as we step into the third decade of the 21st century. The book will be of particular interest to scholars working in comparative literary and cultural studies and to readers interested in the future of literary studies in a cross-culturized world.

the book of strange new things michel faber: *The Rejects* Jamie Collinson, 2024-02-22 'Very readable . . . the history of the late 20th century empire music business' Bret Easton Ellis Imagine you've made it. You and your friends have hit the big time in music and you're going to be a star. But then, quite suddenly, it's over. Your best friends don't want you anymore, and you're on the outside. Perhaps they're tired of your bad habits, they think you're not good enough, or they sense you just don't want it as much as they do. Whatever the cause, you're a reject. So, what do you do next? Featuring a player rejected by both Nirvana and Soundgarden who became a decorated special forces soldier, Britpoppers who spiralled into addiction before becoming novelists and missionaries, the terrifying story of Guns N' Roses' first drummer, super-rejecting band leaders, self-destroying rappers, troubled hard rock bassists and girl-band burnouts, *The Rejects* takes an intimate, thoughtful look at people who've been kicked out of bands, what they experienced and what came afterwards. Coming from a writer with twenty years' music industry experience, *The Rejects* is a sympathetic study of some of music's most fascinating characters, and what happens when the dream comes crashing to an end. The result is a compelling alternative history of popular music.

the book of strange new things michel faber: *Tribe of Mentors* Timothy Ferriss, 2017 Life-changing wisdom from 130 of the world's highest achievers in short, action-packed pieces, featuring inspiring quotes, life lessons, career guidance, personal anecdotes, and other advice

the book of strange new things michel faber: *Listen* Michel Faber, 2023-11-28 I'm not here to change your mind about Dusty Springfield or Shostakovich or Tupac Shakur or synthpop. I'm here to change your mind about your mind. There are countless books on music with much analysis given to musicians, bands, eras and/or genres. But rarely does a book delve into what's going on inside us when we listen. Michel Faber explores two big questions: how do we listen to music and why do we listen to music? To answer these questions, he considers a range of factors, which includes age, illness, the notion of cool, commerce, the dichotomy between good and bad taste and much more. From the award-winning author of *The Crimson Petal and the White* and *Under the Skin*, this idiosyncratic and philosophical book reflects Michel Faber's lifelong obsession with music of all kinds. *Listen* will change your relationship with the heard world.

the book of strange new things michel faber: *Outpost* Dan Richards, 2019-04-04 There are still wild places out there on our crowded planet. Through a series of personal journeys, Dan Richards explores the appeal of far-flung outposts in mountains, tundra, forests, oceans and deserts. Following a route from the Cairngorms of Scotland to the fire-watch lookouts of Washington State; from Iceland's 'Houses of Joy' to the Utah desert; frozen ghost towns in Svalbard to shrines in Japan; Roald Dahl's writing hut to a lighthouse in the North Atlantic, Richards explores landscapes which have inspired writers, artists and musicians, and asks: why are we drawn to wilderness? What can we do to protect them? And what does the future hold for outposts on the edge?

the book of strange new things michel faber: *Buzz Books 2014: Fall/Winter*, 2014-05-08

BEA In A Book More than 30 books for adults only are included in our fifth edition of Buzz Books, as we spin off young adults in a separate volume. We offer all the excitement of Book Expo America by sharing substantial pre-publication excerpts from forthcoming books of note. Now everyone has the same access to the newest voices the publishing industry is broadcasting for the fall/winter season. Highly-anticipated debuts include multi-generational family epic *We Are Not Ourselves* by Matthew Thomas, featured on the Book Expo America “buzz books” editors panel alongside another highly touted debut set for publication in over 30 countries, Jessie Burton’s *The Miniaturist*. We have Nayomi Munaweera’s novel longlisted for the 2012 Man Asian Literary Prize, *Island of a Thousand Mirrors*, and Audrey Magee’s *The Undertaking*, already shortlisted for the Baileys Women’s Prize in Fiction. Well-established authors such as Tana French, Marlon James, John Scalzi and W. Bruce Cameron are represented, and we include excerpts from the last books in two hugely popular series by Lev Grossman and Deborah Harkness. Our largest selection yet of new nonfiction is jammed with celebrities—Alan Cummings, Billy Idol, and Neil Patrick Harris—as well as investment star, PayPal co-founder Peter Thiel. And there are penetrating real-life stories, from Pulitzer-winning journalist Matt Richtel on the darker side of what our technology is doing to us, and Morten Storm’s personal journey inside al Qaeda and the CIA. In addition to the excerpts, there’s a comprehensive round-up from Publishers Lunch of dozens of noteworthy fall/winter books to add to your must-have list. Start reading some of the best future books right now, and invite your friends and book groups to download their own free copy of the ebook from any major ebookstore or at www.buzz.publishersmarketplace.com. And be sure to look for Buzz Books 2014: Young Adult, also available now (9780989321365), for the best in children’s literature.

the book of strange new things michel faber: *The Readers' Advisory Guide to Genre Fiction, Third Edition* Neal Wyatt, Joyce G. Saricks, 2019-07-03 Everyone’s favorite guide to fiction that’s thrilling, mysterious, suspenseful, thought-provoking, romantic, and just plain fun is back—and better than ever in this completely revamped and revised edition. A must for every readers’ advisory desk, this resource is also a useful tool for collection development librarians and students in LIS programs. Inside, RA experts Wyatt and Saricks cover genres such as Psychological Suspense, Horror, Science Fiction, Fantasy, Romance, Mystery, Literary and Historical Fiction, and introduce the concepts of Adrenaline and Relationship Fiction; include everything advisors need to get up to speed on a genre, including its appeal characteristics, key authors, sure bets, and trends; demonstrate how genres overlap and connect, plus suggestions for guiding readers among genres; and tie genre fiction to the whole collection, including nonfiction, audiobooks, graphic novels, film and TV, poetry, and games. Both insightful and comprehensive, this matchless guidebook will help librarians become familiar with many different fiction genres, especially those they do not regularly read, and aid library staff in connecting readers to books they’re sure to love.

the book of strange new things michel faber: *How to Be Sort of Happy in Law School* Kathryn M. Young, 2018-08-07 Each year, over 40,000 new students enter America’s law schools. Each new crop experiences startlingly high rates of depression, anxiety, fatigue, and dissatisfaction. Kathryn M. Young was one of those disgruntled law students. After finishing law school (and a PhD), she set out to learn more about the law school experience and how to improve it for future students. Young conducted one of the most ambitious studies of law students ever undertaken, charting the experiences of over 1000 law students from over 100 different law schools, along with hundreds of alumni, dropouts, law professors, and more. *How to Be Sort of Happy in Law School* is smart, compelling, and highly readable. Combining her own observations and experiences with the results of her study and the latest sociological research on law schools, Young offers a very different take from previous books about law school survival. Instead of assuming her readers should all aspire to law-review-and-big-firm notions of success, Young teaches students how to approach law school on their own terms: how to tune out the drumbeat of oppressive expectations and conventional wisdom to create a new breed of law school experience altogether. Young provides readers with practical tools for finding focus, happiness, and a sense of purpose while facing the seemingly endless onslaught of problems law school presents daily. This book is an indispensable

companion for today's law students, prospective law students, and anyone who cares about making law students' lives better. Bursting with warmth, realism, and a touch of firebrand wit, *How to Be Sort of Happy in Law School* equips law students with much-needed wisdom for thriving during those three crucial years.

the book of strange new things michel faber: *Make-Believe* David Dickinson, 2020-01-01 'I will tell you a story that will make you believe in God.' No story can guarantee being able to do this. Yet novelists can tell stories that make us think about what we believe about God and why. Despite repeated predictions of the death of the novel, thousands of works of fiction are published and read in Britain each year. Although Western society is less religiously observant than it was, many 21st-century novelists persist in pursuing theological, religious and spiritual themes. *Make-Believe* seeks to explain why. With chapters offering analyses of novels from several genres – so-called literary fiction, historical fiction, science fiction, fantasy and dystopia – David Dickinson discusses a wide spectrum of novelists. Both those who are avowedly atheistic and those who have a vested interest in perpetuating biblical stories feature. Well-known writers such as Rushdie, McEwan, McCarthy and Martell rub shoulders with some you may be meeting for the first time. Appealing to literature students and people who simply enjoy reading, whether Christian or not, this study of God in novels invites us to open our minds and allow aspects of our culture to shape our understanding of God and to change our ways of talking about the divine.

the book of strange new things michel faber: The Palgrave Handbook of Twentieth and Twenty-First Century Literature and Science Neel Ahuja, Monique Allewaert, Lindsey Andrews, Gerry Canavan, Rebecca Evans, Nihad M. Farooq, Erica Fretwell, Nicholas Gaskill, Patrick Jagoda, Erin Gentry Lamb, Jennifer Rhee, Britt Rusert, Matthew A. Taylor, Aarthi Vadde, Priscilla Wald, Rebecca Walsh, 2020-11-26 This handbook illustrates the evolution of literature and science, in collaboration and contestation, across the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. The essays it gathers question the charged rhetoric that pits science against the humanities while also demonstrating the ways in which the convergence of literary and scientific approaches strengthens cultural analyses of colonialism, race, sex, labor, state formation, and environmental destruction. The broad scope of this collection explores the shifting relations between literature and science that have shaped our own cultural moment, sometimes in ways that create a problematic hierarchy of knowledge and other times in ways that encourage fruitful interdisciplinary investigations, innovative modes of knowledge production, and politically charged calls for social justice. Across units focused on epistemologies, techniques and methods, ethics and politics, and forms and genres, the chapters address problems ranging across epidemiology and global health, genomics and biotechnology, environmental and energy sciences, behaviorism and psychology, physics, and computational and surveillance technologies. Chapter 19 is available open access under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License via link.springer.com.

the book of strange new things michel faber: *Genre Bending* Jeremy Rosen, 2025-12-09 Detective, horror, fantasy, romance, science fiction, spy thrillers, westerns, zombie novels. In recent decades, acclaimed and ambitious writers of literary fiction have increasingly gravitated to popular fiction genres. In this comprehensive account, Jeremy Rosen describes literary fiction's embrace of genre fiction's conceits as genre bending and argues that while literary writers adopt genres for a wide variety of purposes, what they share is a revitalized attitude toward genre—a recognition that while genres can be used in formulaic ways, they can also be adapted and transformed endlessly. Rosen reads across the outpouring of fiction of the last several decades by writers like Margaret Atwood, Michael Chabon, Jennifer Egan, Louise Erdrich, Kazuo Ishiguro, Chang-rae Lee, David Mitchell, Cormac McCarthy, Ian McEwan, Haruki Murakami, and Colson Whitehead. He finds that literary writers' embrace of popular genres is the product of several seemingly contradictory forces, including their attempt to extend a modernist-inspired project of formal experiment, to pursue high cultural prestige, and to preserve the distinctiveness of the literary, which they perceive to be under threat, while also embracing the role of providing pleasure to readers. Examining what today's most critically acclaimed and widely read literary writers have done with the genres of genre fiction,

Genre Bending reveals the values, practices, and forms, as well as the tensions, that constitute literary fiction today.

the book of strange new things michel faber: Gospel as Work of Art David Brown, 2024-03-07 A lushly illustrated, magisterial exploration of the imaginative truth of the gospel In the modern academy, truth and imagination are thought to be mutually exclusive. But what if truth can spring from other fonts, like art, literature, and invention? The legacy of the Enlightenment favors historical and empirical inquiry above all other methods for searching for truth. But this assumption constrains our theological explorations. Though the historicity of Jesus's life, death, and resurrection is important, it is not the only thing that matters. For instance, is John's Gospel any less "true" than the Synoptics just because it's less historically accurate? David Brown challenges us to expand our understanding of the gospel past source criticism and historical Jesus studies to include works of imagination. Reading Scripture in tandem with works of art throughout the centuries, Brown reenvisions the gospel as an open text. Scholars of theology and biblical studies, freed from literalism, will find new avenues of revelation in Gospel as Work of Art. This volume includes over one hundred color illustrations.

the book of strange new things michel faber: Consumerism, Waste, and Re-Use in Twentieth-Century Fiction Rachele Dini, 2016-10-21 This book examines manufactured waste and remaindered humans in literary critiques of capitalism by twentieth-century writers associated with the historical avant-garde and their descendants. Building on recent work in new materialism and waste studies, Rachele Dini reads waste as a process or phase amenable to interruption. From an initial exploration of waste and re-use in three Surrealist texts by Giorgio de Chirico, André Breton, and Mina Loy, Dini traces the conceptualization of waste in the writing of Samuel Beckett, Donald Barthelme, J.G. Ballard, William Gaddis, and Don DeLillo. In exploring the relationship between waste, capitalism, and literary experimentation, this book shows that the legacy of the historical avant-garde is bound up with an enduring faith in the radical potential of waste. The first study to focus specifically on waste in the twentieth-century imagination, this is a valuable contribution to the expanding field of waste studies.

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