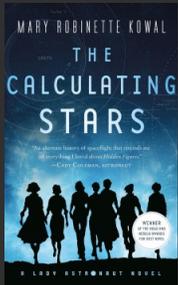# SCIENCE FICTION

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Alternate history is considered a subgenre of historical, literary and science fiction which often uses tropes from any or all of these genres. These stories usually contain "what if" scenarios at crucial points that produce different outcomes in the past, present or near future.

Mary Kowal
Lady Astronaut series
In 1952, a meteor destroyed much of the eastern United States. The ensuing climate cataclysm calls for a radically accelerated effort to colonize space, Elma York's experience as a pilot and mathematician earns her a place in the space program as a calculator but it doesn't take long before Elma begins to wonder why women can't go into space, too.
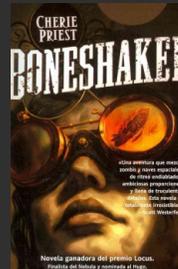
Robert Harris
Fatherland
Set in a universe in which Nazi Germany won WWII, the protagonist is a homicide detective investigating the murder of a Nazi official As more details emerge, he is caught up in a political scandal involving senior officials, who are apparently being systematically murdered under staged circumstances.

Header

Kim Stanley Robinson
The Years of Rice and Salt
The 2002 novel explores how world history might have been different if the Black Death plague had killed 99 percent of Europe's population, instead of a third as it did in reality. The novel explores themes of history, religion, and social movements in rich, realistic detail.

William Gibson and Bruce Sterling
The Difference Engine
The computer has arrived a century early due to the Difference Engine and the more-advanced Analytical Engine. Part detective story, part thriller, the novel begins with the discovery of punched Engine cards someone is willing to kill for. Widely regarded as establishing the genre conventions of steampunk.

Phillip K. Dick
The Man in the High Castle
U.S. president Franklin Delano Roosevelt is killed before taking office, Nazi Germany develops the atom bomb and the Axis Powers prevail in World War II. This harrowing, Hugo Award-winning novel established Dick as an innovator while breaking the barrier between science fiction and "serious ideas."
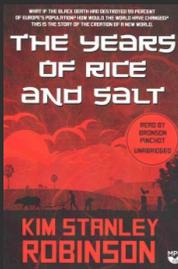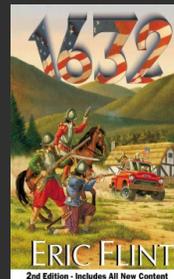
Cherie Priest
The Clockwork Century series
The first book of this acclaimed series combines steampunk with zombies in an alternate history version of Seattle, Washi, winning the 2010 Locus Award for Best Science Fiction Novel.
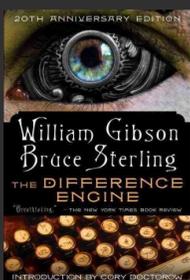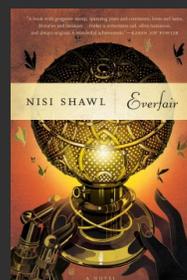
Eric Flint
1632
The town of Grantville, W.V. and its power plant are sent from the year 2000 to the Holy Roman Empire during the Thirty Years War. The flagship novel kicked off a collaborative writing effort that has involved hundreds of contributors and dozens of authors.

Nisi Shawl
Everfair
This book explores what might have come of Belgium's disastrous colonization of the Congo if the native populations adopted steam technology first. Shawl reframes the notorious atrocities of King Leopold's reign into an exciting exploration of the possibilities for Africans and African-Americans..

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