SFA’S WINTER BREAK 2018 RECOMMENDATION LIST

from viewers like you

BOOKS

- **Aristoi**
  About: In the far future, artist-geniuses get to use nanomachines to rewrite their planets as they will. But what if someone uses this power for EVIL?
  Aspects: Fantasy, Sci-Fi
  Content Warnings: Blood, Character in a coma (discussed or onscreen), Human abuse or exploitation, Needles (injections, IVs, etc.), Pregnancy, Pregnancy loss (stillbirth, miscarriage, etc.), Sexual content (including enthusiastically amorous behavior), Torture (mental or physical), Violence - Gun, Violence - Realistic. [Some warnings may be forgotten]

- **Beanstalk** [by E Jade Lomax]
  About: “This is a story that believes in heroes in the same way it believes in forest fires, or apples dropping to earth, or stairs in a mountainside. Heroes are destructive. They are inevitable, inexorable, and drawn to fall. They are built.”
  At a school that trains heroes, four students with secrets and motives of their own are thrown together when their study group is attacked. Beautifully written character based fantasy story with fairy tale inspirations. First in a trilogy available for free download.
  Aspects: Drama, Fantasy
  Content Warnings: Human abuse or exploitation, Torture (mental or physical), Violence - Gun, Violence - Miscellaneous (ex. animal attack). [Some warnings may be forgotten]

- **Bionicle Chronicles #1: Tale of the Toa**
  About: Six canisters wash up on the shore of Mata Nui - an island inhabited by six tribes of biomechanical creatures called Matoran - containing warriors known as Toa. Together, they are prophesied to bring about the downfall of the sinister Makuta, the seemingly all-powerful being that threatens the island. Together they must find the Masks of Power, ancient relics that contain great power, to fulfill that destiny.
  If you've hear about Bionicle and want to know what's up, you can always start at the beginning. The cool stuff doesn't start until Adventures, but it also requires the context of the previous stories to make sense.
  Aspects: Child-Focused, Drama, Fantasy, Sci-Fi
  Content Warnings: Spiders (esp. closeups and/or mechanical spiders), Violence - Miscellaneous (ex. animal attack). [Some warnings may be forgotten]
- **The Book of Dust**  
  **About:** Prequel to The Golden Compass, about a young teen trying to save a baby from the encroaching forces of the generic eeevil church  
  **Aspects:** Fantasy, Mystery  
  **Content Warnings:** Animal cruelty, Gore, Human abuse or exploitation, Violence - Gun, Violence - Miscellaneous (ex. animal attack), [Some warnings may be forgotten]

- **Bridge of San Luis Rey** [by Thornton Wilder]  
  **About:** "On Friday noon, July twentieth, 1714, the finest bridge in all Peru broke and precipitated five travellers into the gulf below." (pg 1)  
  
  Brother Juniper, a monk who witnessed the collapse, attempts to collect evidence to show that their deaths were part of God's plan. The book itself explores the lives of the five individuals and the nuances that are missed in a mere measurement, trying to understand how we understand death.  
  **Aspects:** Adult-Focused, Drama, Historical, in a sense, Character Study  
  **Content Warnings:** Pregnancy, Description of injury, Death, attempted suicide, unhappy familial relationships, emotional abuse

- **Cat's Cradle**  
  **About:** Cat's Cradle is a science fiction novel by American writer Kurt Vonnegut, first published in 1963. His fourth novel, it explores issues of science, technology, and religion, satirizing the arms race and many other targets along the way. The narrator is a writer named Jonah, also known as John, who describes the events in the book with humorous and sarcastic detail. Cat's Cradle focuses on him writing attempting to write a book on the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, but inadvertently becoming involved with Newt, Franklin, and Angela Hoenikker, whose father, Felik Hoenikker, was the "Father of the Atom Bomb."  
  **Aspects:** Adult-Focused, Comedy, Sci-Fi  
  **Content Warnings:** Dictators, cold war references, Bokononism, and many irreverent, nihilistic and cynical observations about life and God

- **Discworld: Monstrous Regiment**  
  **About:** Discworld is a long series, so here's a good standalone book if you're not sure what you want to try. Polly's country is at war, and her brother is missing in action. But the army only accepts men. If she wants to find him, she'll have to disguise herself as a boy and prove herself in a regiment full of misfits -- trolls, Igors, and even a vampire. This sounds serious. It's mostly not.  
  **Aspects:** Adult-Focused, Comedy, Fantasy  
  **Content Warnings:** Blood, Domestic violence, Pregnancy, Sexual assault - implied, Sexual assault - speech referencing (ex. slang), Violence - Gun, Violence - Miscellaneous (ex. animal attack), [Some warnings may be forgotten], Ye Olde Fantasy Misogyny (was stupid
and we’re going to get rid of it), fantasy “drug” dependence, withdrawal

- **Every Heart a Doorway** [by Seanan McGuire (*Wayward Children* 1)]
  
  About: There are plenty of stories about children who travel to other worlds, become heroes, and then return to earth. What happens next? Eleanor West’s Home for Wayward Children is a school for those who desperately want to return to their otherworldly homes. This is a novella series, where most books work as stand-alones.

  *Aspects: Fantasy*

  *Content Warnings: Blood, Body horror involving fingernails/toenails, Eye trauma, Human abuse or exploitation, Needles (injections, IVs, etc.), Violence - Miscellaneous (ex. animal attack), [Some warnings may be forgotten]*

- **Everything Under Heaven** [short story]

  About: Kee is a cook, hunting dragons to create a dish that might help her understand her mother. Sarnai is a warrior, hunting dragons to repay a debt. They make good travelling companions, and better friends. Available here: https://uncannymagazine.com/article/everything-under-heaven/

  *Aspects: Fantasy*

  *Content Warnings: Animal cruelty, Blood, Unfair engagements, complicated and sad parental relationships, mentioned death of a child*

- **Fandom For Robots** [short story]

  About: Basically what it says on the tin, a story about a sentient robot who gets involved with online fandom and fanfic. Available online for free

  *Aspects: Comedy, Sci-Fi*

  *Content Warnings: Human abuse or exploitation*

- **Harry Potter and the Methods of Rationality** [Fan fiction]

  About: What if Harry Potter was a brilliant scientific prodigy? This fanfic starts out as a clever take on the first book’s storyline with this basic premise (and a few other minor changes to fit with the new version of Harry), but develops into a deeply engaging and philosophically earnest story in its own right. This is easily the most thought-provoking and persuasive piece of fanfiction (and very nearly fiction period) I’ve ever read. Your mileage may vary when it comes to the author’s philosophy and writing style, but when it works, it REALLY works.

  *Aspects: Adult-Focused, Comedy, Dramedy, Drama, Fantasy, Parody*

  *Content Warnings: Animal cruelty, Blood, Character in a coma (discussed or onscreen), Gore, Hospitals (on-screen only), Human abuse or exploitation, Nudity - explicit (might normally be censored), Sexual assault - implied, Sexual assault - speech referencing (ex. slang), Sexual violence, Suicide, Torture (mental or physical), Violence - Miscellaneous (ex. animal attack), Violence - Realistic, [Some warnings may be forgotten], This story is what convinced me that prisons need content warnings. Also lots of philosophical horror.*
- **Heir Apparent**  
  **About:** A girl who gets trapped inside a virtual reality game and has to win the game to escape  
  **Aspects:** Child-Focused, Drama, Fantasy  
  **Content Warnings:** Blood, Character in a coma (discussed or onscreen), [Some warnings may be forgotten]

- **Jane, Unlimited**  
  **About:** A girl visits the island home of a friend, which turns out to be full of mysteries. From there, the story takes five different paths, each a different genre and answering different questions.  
  **Aspects:** Drama, Fantasy, Horror, Mystery, Sci-Fi  
  **Content Warnings:** Domestic violence, Human abuse or exploitation, Torture (mental or physical), Violence - Gun, Violence - Miscellaneous (ex. animal attack), [Some warnings may be forgotten], One of the genres is horror, specifically body horror about beloved children's characters

- **Jonathan Strange and Mr Norrell** [also TV Show]  
  **About:** English magic / Napoleonic era  
  **Aspects:** Adult-Focused, Drama, Fantasy, Mystery  
  **Content Warnings:** Human abuse or exploitation, Torture (mental or physical), Violence - Gun, Violence - Miscellaneous (ex. animal attack), [Some warnings may be forgotten]

- **The Murderbot Diaries** [novella series by Martha Wells]  
  **About:** When Murderbot hacked its governor module, it could have gone rogue and killed the humans. Instead, it chose to continue following orders to protect survey groups on dangerous planets, now with plenty of media to watch. But this latest mission proves more deadly than expected, and Murderbot will have to risk its life, and even try interacting with other people, when all it wants is to watch another episode.  
  **Aspects:** Sci-Fi  
  **Content Warnings:** Blood, Human abuse or exploitation, Torture (mental or physical), Violence - Gun, Violence - Miscellaneous (ex. animal attack), [Some warnings may be forgotten]

- **The Name of the Wind**  
  **About:** A cool dude who is very good at doing magic shit. I write that jokingly, but this book is actually a modern classic in the fantasy genre.  
  **Aspects:** Fantasy  
  **Content Warnings:** Is a long book.

- **Name of the Wind**  
  **About:** Basic coming of age novel in a magic world, but one with solid worldbuilding  
  **Aspects:** Drama, Fantasy
**Content Warnings:** Blood, Gore, Sexual content (including enthusiastically amorous behavior), [Some warnings may be forgotten], Book, so these are off-screen by definition

- **Planetfall** [by Emma Newman]
  **About:** A group of settlers followed a woman named Lee Suh-Mi to a promised planet beyond Earth, and settled at the base of "God's City." Renata Ghali, or Ren, is the narrator who works as the 3-D printer engineer, a recluse who keeps her secrets close. Then, a strange man with a resemblance to Suh-Mi arrives from a group that was thought lost, and the hidden unrest in the colony begins to surface.
  **Aspects:** Adult-Focused, Sci-Fi, I'd probably call it suspense
  **Content Warnings:** Blood, Character in a coma (discussed or onscreen), [Some warnings may be forgotten], the main character struggles a lot with paranoia and hoarding, and there is also like a dead body at some point.

- **Planet of the Apes** [by Pierre Boulle]
  **About:** Two astronauts find a manuscript written by a man named Ulysse about his expedition to the star Beetlejuice. When Ulysse's companions are killed by the apes with human-like intelligence and he's locked up with humans of ape-like intelligence, he struggles to prove his "humanity" and escape from the planet, which is made more difficult the more he discovers about their world.
  **Aspects:** Adult-Focused, Sci-Fi
  **Content Warnings:** Animal cruelty, Human abuse or exploitation, Needles (injections, IVs, etc.), Nudity - explicit (might normally be censored), Pregnancy, Sexual assault - implied, Sexual violence, Torture (mental or physical), Violence - Miscellaneous (ex. animal attack), [Some warnings may be forgotten]

- **Seveneves**
  **About:** Seveneves is a hard science fiction novel by Neal Stephenson published in 2015. The story tells of the desperate efforts to preserve Homo sapiens in the wake of apocalyptic events on Earth following the unexplained disintegration of the Moon, and the remaking of human society as a space-based civilization after a severe genetic bottleneck.
  **Aspects:** Adult-Focused, Sci-Fi
  **Content Warnings:** Violence - Gun, Violence - Miscellaneous (ex. animal attack), [Some warnings may be forgotten], People dying in space, malfunctioning spacesuits, the moon in 7+ pieces, the end of the world, lots of smart people making lots of stupid mistakes, cool mining robots

- **Solaris**
  **About:** "When psychologist Kris Kelvin arrives at the planet Solaris to study the ocean that covers its surface, he finds himself confronting a painful memory embodied in the physical likeness of a past lover. Kelvin learns that he is not alone in this and that other crews examining the planet are plagued with their own repressed and newly real memories."
Could it be, as Solaris scientists speculate, that the ocean may be a massive neural center creating these memories, for a reason no one can identify?"

**Aspects:** Adult-Focused, Drama, Mystery, Sci-Fi

**Content Warnings:** Blood, Human abuse or exploitation, Needles (injections, IVs, etc.), Nudity - explicit (might normally be censored), Sexual content (including enthusiastically amorous behavior), Torture (mental or physical), Violence - Miscellaneous (ex. animal attack), [Some warnings may be forgotten]

- **Speaker for the Dead**
  **About:** The sequel to the famed SF novel Ender’s Game, Speaker for the Dead is a thoughtful, powerful story that exemplifies the potential of SF to impart meaningful ideas about our world while not sacrificing great storytelling and world-building. It’s a riveting story with a fascinating take on the implications of space travel, colonization, and communicating with alien life. Reading Ender’s Game first is recommended but not required (I think this one is much more interesting).
  **Aspects:** Adult-Focused, Drama, Mystery, Sci-Fi
  **Content Warnings:** Animal cruelty, Blood, Body horror involving fingernails/toenails, Gore, Human abuse or exploitation, Torture (mental or physical), Violence - Miscellaneous (ex. animal attack), Violence - Realistic, [Some warnings may be forgotten], It’s been long enough that I don’t remember many of the possible warnings for this. Be aware that there is some very intense gore/torture/body horror, and some hard-hitting parallels with real-world colonialism and imperialism.

- **Throne of Glass**
  **About:** This is a young adult high fantasy series (the 7th and last book was just released) - an assassin named Celaena Sardothien is imprisoned by a king in a corrupt kingdom, and after a year she is chosen to compete with other assassins and thieves to be the king's champion. She makes some friends and soon crazy stuff starts to go down. The plot twists in this series are MASSIVE. It starts fairly tame, but soon there are faeries and wyverns and crazy monsters from other worlds. It's wild!
  **Aspects:** Adult-Focused, Drama, Fantasy
  **Content Warnings:** Blood, Human abuse or exploitation, Sexual content (including enthusiastically amorous behavior), Spiders (esp. closeups and/or mechanical spiders), Torture (mental or physical), Violence - Miscellaneous (ex. animal attack), Violence - Realistic, Vomit - Live Action, off-screen, [Some warnings may be forgotten]

- **The Traitor Baru Cormorant**
  **About:** Baru Cormorant has studied power ever since the day the Empire of Masks conquered her home with money and science and treaties. Now a bureaucrat in the Masks herself, Baru has dedicated herself to protecting her home and people, no matter what the cost.
  **Aspects:** Adult-Focused, Fantasy
  **Content Warnings:** Animal cruelty, Blood, Domestic violence, Gore, Human abuse or
exploitation, Sexual assault - implied, Sexual assault - speech referencing (ex. slang), Sexual assault/rape - explicitly depicted, Sexual content (including enthusiastically amorous behavior), Sexual violence, Suicide, Torture (mental or physical), Violence - Miscellaneous (ex. animal attack), Violence - Realistic, [Some warnings may be forgotten], colonialism, imperialism, racism, sexism, homophobia, transphobia, byg, this book is just really brutal but well done

- **Trilogy**
  - **About:** Long poem exploring spirituality, gender, and war
  - **Aspects:** Drama
  - **Content Warnings:** [Some warnings may be forgotten]

- **UNSONG** [Webseries]
  - **About:** Kabbalastic apocalyptic comedy including whale puns, alternate history, and an autistic angel Uriel, the sysadmin in charge of running the world simulation
  - **Aspects:** Comedy, Fantasy, Religious comedy
  - **Content Warnings:** Human abuse or exploitation, Violence - Miscellaneous (ex. animal attack), [Some warnings may be forgotten]

- **Wise Man's Fear**
  - **About:** Sequel to Name of the Wind, a more travel-focused exploration of various parts of the world of the Kingkiller Chronicles
  - **Aspects:** Adult-Focused, Drama, Fantasy
  - **Content Warnings:** Blood, Human abuse or exploitation, Sexual assault - implied, Sexual content (including enthusiastically amorous behavior), Violence - Miscellaneous (ex. animal attack), Violence - Realistic, [Some warnings may be forgotten], Somewhat aggressive sexual content, offset only by the fact that it's a book
  - **Editor's Notes:** *Name of the Wind*, to which this book is a sequel, is also listed in this recommendation list (also under Books).

**COMICS/WEBCOMICS**

- **Ava's Demon**
  - **About:** A young girl is tormented by the voice of a demon in her head. The demon is real, and an alien, and a giant, and a queen, and a god, and hyper-violent, and also dead. Also, she wants her army back so she can take down the guy who destroyed her kingdom. She's gonna use the young girl to do it. The art is impeccable, unrivaled in beauty.
  - **Aspects:** Cartoon, Drama, Fantasy, Horror, Sci-Fi
  - **Content Warnings:** Blood, Body horror involving fingernails/toenails, Eye trauma, Gore, Hospitals (on-screen only), Insects - flying, Needles (injections, IVs, etc.), Nudity - explicit (might normally be censored), Vomit - Cartoon, [Some warnings may be forgotten], Detailed portrayal of mental illnesses
**Boumeries**

*About:* Boumeries is mostly about the life of Boum (Samantha Leriche-Gionet) a freelance comic artist and illustrator who lives and works in Montreal, Canada. Boum shares a flat with her programming partner Pierre-Luc and their daughters Margot and Annette, while working at home, juggling with everyday chores and drawing, and having absurd dreams in the meantime. It's a fun light-hearted webcomic in English that's been running since 2011.

*Aspects:* Comedy, Absurd

*Content Warnings:* Pregnancy, Vomit - Cartoon, Pregnancy, insomnia, toilet dreams, embarrassing anecdotes, strange comicon attendants, miniwheats without frosting, cats drinking orange juice, spicy vietnamese food

**Cleopatra in Space** [by Mike Maihack]

*About:* "Zapped away as a teenager from her home era of 52 BC, Cleopatra VII found herself in the middle of a centuries’ long war in the far, far, really far, far future. Now she fights alongside P.Y.R.A.M.I.D. (Pharaoh Yasiro’s Research And Military Initiative of Defense), both human and alienkind’s only hope against the evil Xaius Octavian.

An ancient scroll prophesies that Cleopatra is destined to become the savior of the Nile galaxy; finally freeing its worlds from the tyrannical rule of the technologically advanced Xerx race. With help from her best friend and feline teacher, Khensu, Cleo is learning what it takes to be the great leader she is destined to become while still trying to figure out how she’s ever going to pass military school, make friends, avoid detention, and all of the other important things that come with being a reckless, fifteen-year-old future queen of the universe." (Official Website)

*Aspects:* Child-Focused, Comedy, Sci-Fi

*Content Warnings:* [Some warnings may be forgotten]

**Dumbing of Age**

*About:* A college slice of life story following an ensemble cast. Really really good/funny/touching. This is technically a reboot/au of the author’s early sci-fi comic, It’s Walky.

*Aspects:* Comedy, Drama, Superhero

*Content Warnings:* Blood, Domestic violence, Hospitals (on-screen only), Nudity - explicit (might normally be censored), Sexual assault - implied, Sexual assault - speech referencing (ex. slang), Sexual assault/rape - explicitly depicted, Sexual content (including enthusiastically amorous behavior), Suicide, Violence - Gun, Violence - Miscellaneous (ex. animal attack), Violence - Realistic, [Some warnings may be forgotten], depression, alcoholism, homophobia, transphobia, abuse

**The Gamer**

*About:* What if your life is just like playing a game? What if you can upgrade your status and gain more levels? This is the case for Han Ji-Han, a normal Korean high school
student who suddenly developed a special ability that allows him to treat the world around him as a game called 'The Gamer'. He notices that by leveling up, he could increase his stats and improve his body and mind, among other things. The day after noticing that he can also increase his stats through training (he studies to increase his Intelligence), he accidentally slips into a combat area for those who have a link to the Abyss, the hidden world of their own. The story describes Jihan's adventures in the abyss and the struggles he faces as he works to become stronger.

Read it for free on: www.webtoons.com/en/fantasy/the-gamer/list?title_no=88

Aspects: Comedy, Fantasy

Content Warnings: Blood, [Some warnings may be forgotten], Cartoon violence, sorcery, hive-minds, a kawaii witch, zombies, a spooky labyrinth, adorable golems

• Gunnerkrigg Court
  About: A girl with red hair goes to a magitech boarding school. It gets weirder. And then it gets weirder.
  Aspects: Fantasy, Sci-Fi
  Content Warnings: Blood, Insects - detailed imagery, Spiders (esp. closeups and/or mechanical spiders), [Some warnings may be forgotten]

• Homestuck [Video Game/Internet Multimedia Experience]
  About: "Four best friends play a video game over the internet. Meanwhile, a workplace dresscode dispute occurs, resulting in the deaths of millions." That's the most succinct, enigmatic way I've seen Homestuck described. Further attempts to describe the plot will not help.

A multimedia webcomic-video game internet phenomenon, Homestuck uses time travel, computer logic paths, transuniversal communication and dense symbology to befuddle its readers and weave a story that is wild from start to finish. Aliens! Swords! Curse words! Explosions! The rise and fall of universes! Ridiculously overcomplicated interpersonal relationships! Apple juice! Teenagers! Homestuck truly has it all.

Aspects: Comedy, Dramedy, Drama, Sci-Fi

Content Warnings: Animal cruelty, Blood, Domestic violence, Eye trauma, Gore, Human abuse or exploitation, Insects - detailed imagery, Insects - giant, Sexual assault - speech referencing (ex. slang), Sexual content (including enthusiastically amorous behavior), Spiders (esp. closeups and/or mechanical spiders), Suicide, Violence - Gun, Violence - Miscellaneous (ex. animal attack), [Some warnings may be forgotten], Sexual harassment, unhealthy parental relationships, child neglect, child abuse, Spartan hellscape dystopias, body horror, mind control, self destructive behavior, assassination attempts, child/teen death/undeath (game mechanics involve resurrection but it doesn't always work), death of animals, existential threats, internalized homophobia, non-specific but pseudosexual alien biology
- **Homestuck**
  
  **About:** No seriously just read it already
  
  **Aspects:** Comedy, Sci-Fi
  
  **Content Warnings:** Blood, [Some warnings may be forgotten]

- **Lore Olympus**
  
  **About:** Friends, gossip, parties, and of course love. A modern retelling of The Taking of Persephone.
  
  
  **Aspects:** Cartoon, Dramedy, Fantasy, Romance
  
  **Content Warnings:** [Some warnings may be forgotten], Zeus cheating on Hera because...well, he's Zeus.

- **Manly Guys Doing Manly Things**
  
  **About:** Manly Guys Doing Manly Things (MGDMT) is a webcomic about a temp agency to help "ludicrously macho guys" find work in the real world when they no longer have work as popular fiction characters. How well they actually integrate has...mixed results. Read it on [thepunchlineismachismo.com](http://thepunchlineismachismo.com).
  
  **Aspects:** Cartoon, Comedy, Dramedy, Sci-Fi
  
  **Content Warnings:** Insects - detailed imagery, Insects - giant, Violence - Gun, Violence - Miscellaneous (ex. animal attack), [Some warnings may be forgotten], cartoon violence, giant millipedes, unlicensed pokemon trainers, laser fish, time traveling shenanigans, model cars, kratos buying scented candles, contagious kawaii appearances, Mario shaving his mustache

- **Q2Q**
  
  **About:** Q2Q Comics is the Internet's best and onliest Tech Theatre webcomic! It follows a company of designers and technicians as they work on theatrical productions. It's relatable, it's silly, it's absurd, and sometimes it'll give you the feels. You don't have to know anything about theater or tech or theater tech to enjoy it (though you'll learn a lot about it if you do read it!)
  
  **Aspects:** Cartoon, Comedy
  
  **Content Warnings:** Warnings: theater gremlins, actors going off-script (gasp!), glitter that cannot be washed off, tech week, ancient paint monsters, wrenches being used as hammers, very tall ladders, broken fog machines, "found object art soup"

- **Scott Pilgrim** [Book]
  
  **About:** Scott Pilgrim is a series of graphic stories by Bryan Lee O'Malley. The series is about Canadian Scott Pilgrim, a slacker and part-time musician who lives in Toronto, Ontario and plays bass guitar in a band. He falls in love with American delivery girl Ramona Flowers, but must defeat her seven evil exes in order to date her.
  
  **Aspects:** Cartoon, Comedy, Drama
  
  **Content Warnings:** [Some warnings may be forgotten], cartoon violence, failed
skateboard stunts, 90s references, hair dye

- **Sufficiently Remarkable**
  
  **About:** Sufficiently Remarkable follows the lives of two young adults (and a host of supporting characters) who discover the hard way that you’re always coming of age. Living in Brooklyn, NY during uncertain times, they’ll try to carve out a place for themselves in life, not realizing their actions all ripple against one another.
  
  Read it for free on: [www.sufficientlyremarkable.com/](http://www.sufficientlyremarkable.com/)

  **Aspects:** Cartoon, Dramedy

  **Content Warnings:** [Recommender has chosen not to include content warnings]

- **Unordinary**

  **About:** Unordinary is a webcomic about a world where everyone has a super power, except for "cripples," those who lack a power or "ability" and must learn to struggle through the world as outcasts. The series focuses on John, a cripple attending Wellston high school, where some of the most powerful teenagers attend. For John, the world is not perfect and learning to deal with its flaws is just a normal part of life. But soon there comes a point where these imperfections spawn a crushing realization... that something needs to change...


  **Aspects:** Fantasy, Superhero

  **Content Warnings:** Blood, Needles (injections, IVs, etc.), Torture (mental or physical), Violence - Miscellaneous (ex. animal attack), [Some warnings may be forgotten], lots and lots of bullies, pig games, delicious mango bubble tea, cutting class, kawaii outfits, narcissistic teenagers, helicopter parents

- **Unsounded**

  **About:** Adventure, political intrigue, and world-shaking magical machinations in the incredibly rich and detailed fantasy world of Kasslyne. Full of moral ambiguity, messed-up but loveable characters, fascinating magical mechanics and other cool world-building, and some truly striking (and at times horrific) imagery. Ongoing.

  **Aspects:** Adult-Focused, Drama, Fantasy, Horror

  **Content Warnings:** Animal cruelty, Blood, Body horror involving fingernails/toenails, Domestic violence, Eye trauma, Gore, Human abuse or exploitation, Insects - detailed imagery, Insects - flying, Insects - giant, Needles (injections, IVs, etc.), Nudity - explicit (might normally be censored), Scalp/head trauma, Sexual assault - implied, Sexual assault - speech referencing (ex. slang), Sexual assault/rape - explicitly depicted, Sexual content (including enthusiastically amorous behavior), Sexual violence, Spiders (esp. closeups and/or mechanical spiders), Torture (mental or physical), Violence - Miscellaneous (ex. animal attack), Violence - Realistic, Vomit - Cartoon, [Some warnings may be forgotten], Really quite a lot of body horror and psychological horror. Also pedophilia and child murder.
MOVIES

- **Batman: Mask of the Phantasm**
  About: The movie of Batman TAS, which we watched this term. Bruce Wayne wasn't always so committed to being the Batman. At the same time his ex-fiancée Andrea Beaumont has arrived back in Gotham to stir up bad memories, a new vigilante going by the name "Phantasm" is murdering Gotham's crime bosses Punisher-style. Why did she break up with Bruce? Who is the Phantasm, and why is it on this reign of terror? How is the Joker involved?
  Aspects: Cartoon, Drama, Fantasy, Mystery, Superhero
  Content Warnings: Blood, Violence - Gun, Violence - Miscellaneous (ex. animal attack), [Some warnings may be forgotten]

- **The Day After Tomorrow**
  About: A climatologist named Jack is concerned about the environment and is ignored. His warnings and research proves true when a superstorm develops and sets off catastrophic natural disasters all over the world. Lots of wacky and cool weather sci-fi stuff! (Includes a young Jake Gyllenhaal).
  Aspects: Adult-Focused, Drama, Live Action, Sci-Fi
  Content Warnings: Blood, Gore, Hospitals (on-screen only), Violence - Miscellaneous (ex. animal attack), [Some warnings may be forgotten]

- **The Lake House**
  About: Two lovers struggle to connect through a mailbox with the ability to transcend the constructs of time.
  Aspects: Comedy, Sci-Fi, Also romcom
  Content Warnings:

- **Primer**
  About: 2004 indie movie about time travel. No special effects but insanely complex plot. Dialogue is realistic, meaning no "dumbing down" of any concepts.
  Aspects: Live Action, Sci-Fi
  Content Warnings: Needles (injections, IVs, etc.), Over-the-counter drugs, a shotgun (never fired), characters' mental states deteriorating and 1 ear bleeding due to abuse of time travel, characters knocking each other out (choking, gas) in brief scenes.

- **Space Jam**
  About: The Looney Tunes have been attacked by very short aliens trying to kidnap them to become their slaves. Bugs makes the decision to challenge them to a game of basketball for their lives. Unfortunately, the aliens have the power to steal the talents of other beings - and take the basketball abilities of Charles Barkley and four other top b-ballers mid-game. Now the Tunes' only hope is Michael Jordan - retired from basketball and playing in the MLB - to train them to play b-ball like no one's every played b-ball
before. Also some subplot about Newman from Seinfeld.

**Aspects:** Cartoon, Child-Focused, Comedy, Dramedy, Fantasy, Live Action, Parody, Superhero

**Content Warnings:** Animal cruelty, Eye trauma, Violence - Miscellaneous (ex. animal attack), [Some warnings may be forgotten], cosmic horror (no seriously), absurd amount of slapstick violence, disturbing body contortions, terrible special effects

**PODCASTS/RADIO DRAMAS**

- **Alba Salix, Royal Physician**
  **About:** Alba Salix is the wearied, put-upon, generally grouchy healer for... well, most of the kingdom, honestly. The House of Healing is overworked, understaffed, and frequently the site of unwelcome shenanigans. But can Alba and her two new assistants (an overenthusiastic Good Fairy and a sulky teenage ex-monk) wrangle their workplace long enough to uncover any plots that might threaten the kingdom? ... Probably not. Will they get some peace and quiet? Also probably not.
  Now in its second season, and featuring multiple spin-offs in the form of a short series taking place in a tavern, and a longer actual-play podcast about time travel and the power of stories.
  **Aspects:** Adult-Focused, Comedy, Fantasy, Medical Sitcom
  **Content Warnings:** Blood, Hospitals (on-screen only), Needles (injections, IVs, etc.), Violence - Miscellaneous (ex. animal attack), [Some warnings may be forgotten], Magical body horror, vomit (heard but unseen), obnoxious teens, frustratingly well-meant incompetence, obstructive bureaucracy, smarmy jerks, Note: all warnings given are for Alba Salix and not its spinoffs, this is an audio-only medium and so no warnings are visual, most warnings are given not because I know they're there but because I expect them from a medical sitcom

- **Alice Isn't Dead**
  **About:** A truck driver goes on a road trip across the United States to look for her missing wife Alice, who she believes isn't actually dead. Along the way she encounters a whole lot of dangers and encounters with the Gods of the Furthest Ring and other non-human monstrosities. Written by the Welcome to Nightvale people, so it's guaranteed to be really good. Expect spookiness.
  **Aspects:** Drama, Horror, Mystery
  **Content Warnings:** I don't know but likely descriptions of violence, because well, there's monsters.

- **The Far Meridian**
  **About:** An agoraphobic young woman lives in a lighthouse. One evening, the fog rolls in. In the morning, it rolls out, and when Peri looks out the window, everything has changed. Despite the subject matter (a person with anxiety and trauma working through a stressful situation) this whole show feels like a breath of fresh air. There are tense or sad moments,
but every episode leaves me feeling peaceful and meditative.

**Aspects:** Adult-Focused, Drama, Magical Realism

**Content Warnings:** Hospitals (on-screen only), Insects - flying, [Some warnings may be forgotten], Mental health - anxiety, mental health - paranoia, some existentially spooky parts, thunder and lightning, injuries from the aforementioned, the true horror - talking to strangers

- **Girl in Space**
  **About:** She's a girl in space. X has lived on the Cavatica, a space station orbiting the star Ra, for her entire life. Her parents, the only others on the ship, have passed on, but she's not lonely - she has the greenhouse, her animals, and a malfunctioning AI helperbot named Charlotte. Then one day, she finds a button. She presses it. It puts out a signal. And someone answers the call.
  **Aspects:** Adult-Focused, Drama, Mystery, Sci-Fi, Solarpunk themes
  **Content Warnings:** Animal cruelty, Blood, Character in a coma (discussed or onscreen), Gore, Hospitals (on-screen only), Human abuse or exploitation, Insects - detailed imagery, Needles (injections, IVs, etc.), Pregnancy, Pregnancy loss (stillbirth, miscarriage, etc.), Torture (mental or physical), Violence - Gun, [Some warnings may be forgotten]. The character in a coma has become the life force for a small fungal ecosystem and it's a lot like that episode of Hannibal, implied/discussed death of infants and children, concussions, electrocution, cyborg body horror (but he's shaped like a friend), depressing but realistic relationships with an unsuited parent, nonconsensual body modification, reducing people to objects, this is a minor thing but the main character generates all her food from the ship's ecosystem so if you're squeamish about the process of cheesemaking beware

- **The Penumbra Podcast: Second Citadel**
  **About:** The Knights of the Second Citadel are sworn to serve and protect all citizens against monsters, and carry out the will of their queen. An ensemble-cast cop fantasy dramedy, featuring: an anxious wreck of a knight, his sarcastic herbalist fiancee, and their mutual misanthropic lizardman crush; the strongest, sweetest, and stupidest knight in all the kingdom; the only female knight on the squad, who brooks no nonsense and will beat you up; and a paralyzed inventor/wannabe knight, his horse/mobility device, and his socially awkward nerd of a brother.
  **Aspects:** Adult-Focused, Comedy, Dramedy, Fantasy, Cop Sitcom, LGBTQ+ Aimed
  **Content Warnings:** Animal cruelty, Blood, Insects - detailed imagery, Insects - flying, Sexual content (including enthusiastically amorous behavior), Violence - Miscellaneous (ex. animal attack), [Some warnings may be forgotten], Internalized bi/homophobia, transphobia, ableism, casual misogyny, (all social prejudices exist to be dragged by the narrative but many do appear in various main characters), sexual objectification, kidnapping, obligatory beauty and the beast, scalies, medieval fantasy violence, death of a (monster) dog, social ostracism and the sadness that goes with it, really hammy writing
at times

- **Sawbones**
  **About:** Dr. Sydnee McElroy and her husband Justin McElroy dive deep into all of the weird ways humans have tried to fix themselves over the years.
  **Aspects:** Adult-Focused, Comedy
  **Content Warnings:** There are many, many episodes of this podcast. It is not serialized, and the individual episode titles and descriptions give a much better idea of what individual episodes contain.

- **StarTripper!!**
  **About:** Feston Pyxis has had ENOUGH of his boring desk job. No more! Now he's an intergalactic wanderer, traveling the stars with his helpful navigation AI, Proxy! He's going on an adventure, and by gum, he's going to enjoy himself.
  Imagine Hitchhiker's Guide, but instead of nihilism, you have simple zest for life.
  **Aspects:** Adult-Focused, Comedy, Sci-Fi
  **Content Warnings:** [Some warnings may be forgotten]

- **We Fix Space Junk**
  **About:** Kilner is a cyborg and a mechanic, deep in debt to the galactic megacorporation Automnicon. Samantha is an ex-socialite, disowned by her family and also deep in debt to Automnicon. Together, they fix space junk. (Well, mostly Kilner, honestly.)
  **Aspects:** Adult-Focused, Comedy, Sci-Fi, Space Opera, BritCom, Cyberpunk themes
  **Content Warnings:** Blood, Gore, Human abuse or exploitation, Industrial machine injury, Insects - detailed imagery, Insects - flying, Insects - giant, Needles (injections, IVs, etc.), Pregnancy, Scalp/head trauma, Sexual content (including enthusiastically amorous behavior), Torture (mental or physical), Violence - Gun, Violence - Miscellaneous (ex. animal attack), [Some warnings may be forgotten], Body horror, alien injector pregancy, bees, mind control, abusive weightloss programs, snakes, indentured servitude

- **Wolf 359**
  **About:** Douglas Eiffel is the communications officer of the USS Hephaestus, a space station that orbits red dwarf star Wolf 359. With his coworkers - an overenthusiastic mad scientist, a passive-aggressive and potentially homicidal AI, and his no-nonsense commanding officer - on his case, Eiffel might not even have time to avoid doing his job: searching for signs of alien life.
  **Aspects:** Adult-Focused, Dramedy, Mystery, Sci-Fi
  **Content Warnings:** Blood, Body horror involving fingernails/toenails, Gore, Torture (mental or physical), Violence - Gun, Violence - Miscellaneous (ex. animal attack), Violence - Realistic, [Some warnings may be forgotten], Amputation, self-inflicted cryogenic horror, paranoia, existential horror, child endangerment (discussed), alcoholism, explosions, non-consensual medical procedures, mind control, AI reprogramming
**TV SHOWS**

- **Babylon 5** [seasons 2-5]
  
  **About:** Now that you've seen season 1 you should watch the rest
  
  **Aspects:** Drama, Sci-Fi
  
  **Content Warnings:** Blood, Character in a coma (discussed or onscreen), [Some warnings may be forgotten]

- **Bernd das Brot**
  
  **About:** Germany is weird. This show proves it. It is literally about, and I quote, "a talking and often depressed piece of box white bread with very short arms whose hobbies include mastering the pattern of his wallpaper." Bernd is a loaf of bread that gets a job with a television service called "the Kika lounge" and is forced to do things he doesn't want to do, like act as a late night chill out coach or be the host of a nerd lounge where he has to be introduced to roleplaying, anime, sci-fi and cosplay. It is oddly highly entertaining, so if you're just reaaallly bored, why not watch a piece of bread with a face complain about his television channel and argue with a voice that makes him host it anyway. (English subtitled episodes available)
  
  **Aspects:** Cartoon, Child-Focused, Comedy
  
  **Content Warnings:** A literal piece of bread with over sized hands

- **Futurama**
  
  **About:** Animated humor by the creator of The Simpsons. Set in the year 3000, Futurama makes fun of all sci-fi that you've heard of. Pizza delivery boy Philip J. Fry has accidentally frozen himself in a cryotube for a thousand years, and now has to work for his great great (etc) nephew's delivery company with a robot and a cyclops.
  
  **Aspects:** Adult-Focused, Cartoon, Comedy, Parody, Sci-Fi
  
  **Content Warnings:** Human abuse or exploitation, Industrial machine injury, Insects - flying, Insects - giant, Sexual content (including enthusiastically amorous behavior), Suicide

- **Gravity Falls**
  
  **About:** Twins Dipper and Mabel Pines spend the summer with their great uncle (grunkle) Stan in the town of Gravity Falls, Oregon. Things get weird really really quickly.
  
  **Aspects:** Cartoon, Child-Focused, Comedy, Mystery
  
  **Content Warnings:** Eye trauma, Human abuse or exploitation, Torture (mental or physical), Violence - Gun, Violence - Miscellaneous (ex. animal attack), Vomit - Cartoon, [Some warnings may be forgotten]

- **Legends of Tomorrow**
  
  **About:** A group of time-travelling misfit superheroes journey throughout history, causing problems and occasionally solving them. It started out trying to be serious in S1, then pretty much rebooted itself in S2, which is much better and works as a starting point.
**Aspects:** Parody, Sci-Fi, Superhero  
**Content Warnings:** Blood, Gore, Violence - Gun, Violence - Miscellaneous (ex. animal attack), [Some warnings may be forgotten]

- **Life**  
  **About:** Detective Charlie Crews is released from prison after a judge rules that he was wrongfully convicted of the murder of his best friend. While he was inside, he found zen, or he went crazy, or both. Now he wants to know who actually killed his friend.  
  **Aspects:** Adult-Focused, Drama, Mystery  
  **Content Warnings:** Animal cruelty, Blood, Gore, Needles (injections, IVs, etc.), Scalp/head trauma, Violence - Gun, Violence - Miscellaneous (ex. animal attack), Violence - Realistic, Vomit - Live Action, off-screen, [Some warnings may be forgotten], It's weird and violent, all the time.

- **Planetes**  
  **About:** Trash collectors in space  
  **Aspects:** Adult-Focused, Dramedy, Sci-Fi  
  **Content Warnings:** Blood, Hospitals (on-screen only), Human abuse or exploitation, Needles (injections, IVs, etc.), self-destructive behavior

- **Pushing Daisies**  
  **About:** The Piemaker and Dead Girl find too much time to be annoyingly cute together between solving mysteries with the wonderful Emerson Cod  
  **Aspects:** Dramedy, Fantasy, Live Action  
  **Content Warnings:** Insects - detailed imagery, Insects - flying, [Some warnings may be forgotten], melodramatic violence designed to be comedic; incredibly unempathetic portrayal of eating disorder (S1E2)

- **Rick and Morty**  
  **About:** Alcoholic mad scientist Rick takes his grandson Morty on interdimensional adventures, and thereby ruins his life a dozen times per day.  
  **Aspects:** Adult-Focused, Cartoon, Comedy, Horror, Parody, Sci-Fi  
  **Content Warnings:** Animal cruelty, Blood, Body horror involving fingernails/toenails, Character in a coma (discussed or onscreen), Domestic violence, Eye trauma, Gore, Hospitals (on-screen only), Human abuse or exploitation, Industrial machine injury, Insects - detailed imagery, Insects - flying, Insects - giant, Needles (injections, IVs, etc.), Nudity - explicit (might normally be censored), Pregnancy, Scalp/head trauma, Self-harm, Sexual assault - implied, Sexual assault - speech referencing (ex. slang), Sexual assault/rape - explicitly depicted, Sexual content (including enthusiastically amorous behavior), Sexual violence, Suicide, Tooth horror (trauma, mutilation or teeth in weird places), Torture (mental or physical), Violence - Gun, Violence - Miscellaneous (ex. animal attack), Violence - Realistic, Vomit - Cartoon, [Some warnings may be forgotten], Crude Humor, Alcoholism,
general badness of human beings and alien beings

- **RWBY**
  
  **About:** RWBY is set in Remnant, a world where monsters known as Grimm are held back only by the four great kingdoms of humankind. Experts called hunters and huntresses fight the Grimm menace. Ruby Rose aspires to be a huntress, and is accepted to one of the four great hunter academies.
  
  **Aspects:** Drama, Fantasy, Horror, Sci-Fi, 3D animation
  
  **Content Warnings:** Animal cruelty, Blood, Character in a coma (discussed or onscreen), Eye trauma, Gore, Hospitals (on-screen only), Human abuse or exploitation, Violence - Gun, Violence - Miscellaneous (ex. animal attack), Entire Team, Fantastic Racism, Horrible Death, Nuckelavee

- **Stargate SG1**
  
  **About:** Long in Earth's past, aliens called the Goa'uld conquered Earth and used their people as slaves, calling themselves their gods. The humans overthrew them and buried the device they used to travel to Earth, the Stargate, in the deserts of Egypt. Now, in 1998, the Stargate has been reactivated by the US Government. Now Teal'c, the former head guard of a Goa'uld named Apophis, Air Force Colonel Jack O'Neil, Astrophysicist Samantha Carter, and archaeologist Daniel Jackson are SG1, the leading team of the Stargate project to explore what lies beyond the gate. Also, there's a movie if you want more backstory.

  Not quite done with it, so be warned that there may be missing warnings. The list should be complete through about halfway into season four though.
  
  **Aspects:** Dramedy, Drama, Live Action, Sci-Fi
  
  **Content Warnings:** Character in a coma (discussed or onscreen), Hospitals (on-screen only), Human abuse or exploitation, Industrial machine injury, Pregnancy loss (stillbirth, miscarriage, etc.), Self-harm, Sexual assault - implied, Spiders (esp. closeups and/or mechanical spiders), Suicide, Torture (mental or physical), Violence - Gun, Violence - Miscellaneous (ex. animal attack), Vomit - Live Action, off-screen, [Some warnings may be forgotten], ripping off Star Trek plots, expendable extras, not talking like adults for draaaaama

- **Steven Universe** [Cartoon]
  
  **About:** The Crystal Gems are a team of magical beings who are the self-appointed guardians of the universe. Half-human, half-Gem hero Steven is the "little brother" of the group. The goofball is learning to save the world using the magical powers that come from his bellybutton and he goes on magical adventures with the rest of the Crystal Gems, even though he's not as powerful -- or smart -- as fellow group members Garnet, Amethyst and Pearl. Despite his shortcomings, Steven usually finds a surprising way to save the day.
  
  **Aspects:** Cartoon, Comedy, Fantasy, Sci-Fi
Content Warnings: [Some warnings may be forgotten], Cartoon battles, children with swords, giant hands from space, donuts running out, people fusing together, pink lions

- Yu-Gi-Oh!
  About: Yugi is an ordinary high school kid in Japan who happens to be also possessed by the spirit of an ancient Egyptian pharaoh (due to his grandfather being an archaeologist-turned-gameshop owner). This makes him very good at the most popular card game in the world, Duel Monsters. Thus, he matches up against all those who would abuse the power of the ancient egyptian gods an/or the orichalcos and/or holographic technology.
  Aspects: Cartoon, Child-Focused, Drama, Fantasy, Sci-Fi
  Content Warnings: Character in a coma (discussed or onscreen), Hospitals (on-screen only), Human abuse or exploitation, Torture (mental or physical), Invisible Guns, Monster Cardo, the Shadow Realm

VIDEO GAMES

- 9 Hours 9 Persons 9 Doors
  About: Anime Saw (the movie) but actually good. 9 Persons are kidnapped by a figure named Zero, and wake up on a boat that will sink in 9 Hours. They must find and explore the puzzle rooms behind all 9 numbered Doors on the ship to figure out what's really going on. Trust nobody, not even yourself.
  Aspects: Adult-Focused, Dramedy, Drama, Horror, Mystery
  Content Warnings: Blood, Needles (injections, IVs, etc.), Torture (mental or physical), Violence - Gun, Violence - Miscellaneous (ex. animal attack), Vomit - mentioned in text, not shown, Mind screw

- Antichamber
  About: Solve mind-bending puzzles with nothing but a cube-placing gun.
  Aspects: Puzzle
  Content Warnings: Go by your own clock, and not someone else's.

- Batman: Arkham Asylum
  About: A large section of Gotham City has been cordoned off and designated a free-roam prison due to the machinations of Hugo Strange. Batman has to stop him (and also the rest of his rogues' gallery). Uses the iconic freeflow combat system.
  Aspects: Adult-Focused, Drama, Sci-Fi, Superhero
  Content Warnings: Blood, Domestic violence, Gore, Human abuse or exploitation, Torture (mental or physical), Violence - Gun, Violence - Miscellaneous (ex. animal attack), Violence - Realistic, You fell for the old fake Joker gag, Batman!

- The Beginner's Guide
  About: I can’t say much about this one without spoiling it, largely because it is very short
and very unique. This is a fascinating video game narrative presented in the form of a narrated interactive essay of sorts. It does things with storytelling techniques that I've never seen anywhere else, and remains one of the most memorable experiences I've had in a video game years after playing it. Please take a couple hours out of your break to play it if you're at all interested in game design or storytelling.

**Aspects:** Adult-Focused, Difficult to classify

**Content Warnings:** Suicide, [Some warnings may be forgotten], There aren’t many conventional content warnings, but it might be quite disturbing depending on how you engage with it. Budget some time for emotional processing after playing.

- **Borderlands (series)**
  
  **About:** Borderlands is a series of looter-shooter RPGs centered around getting better guns and shooting people with them. They are also very humorous.
  
  **Aspects:** Adult-Focused, Comedy, Drama, Parody, Sci-Fi
  
  **Content Warnings:** Animal cruelty, Blood, Body horror involving fingernails/toenails, Domestic violence, Eye trauma, Gore, Hospitals (on-screen only), Human abuse or exploitation, Industrial machine injury, Insects - flying, Insects - giant, Needles (injections, IVs, etc.), Scalp/head trauma, Sexual assault - speech referencing (ex. slang), Spiders (esp. closeups and/or mechanical spiders), Suicide, Torture (mental or physical), Violence - Gun, Violence - Miscellaneous (ex. animal attack), [Some warnings may be forgotten]

- **Caves of Qud**
  
  **About:** Exploring an ancient world and dying many times.
  
  **Aspects:** Sci-Fi
  
  **Content Warnings:** Animal cruelty, Blood, Human abuse or exploitation, Industrial machine injury, Insects - flying, Insects - giant, Needles (injections, IVs, etc.), Scalp/head trauma, Spiders (esp. closeups and/or mechanical spiders), Violence - Gun, Violence - Miscellaneous (ex. animal attack), Caves of qud uses small, non-animated pixel sprites.

- **Chef Boyardee's Presents: Tales of Games' Barkley Shut Up and Jam: Gaiden: Chapter One of the Hoopz-Barkley Saga**
  
  **About:** In Post-cyberapocalyptic Neo-New York, Charles Barkley is one of the last few survivors of the government elimination of b-ballers. As the only baller left alive powerful enough to perform the Chaos Dunk, Barkley and his son, Hoopz, must recruit other b-ballers and find out the secret behind the shadowy organization that destroyed b-ball: SHADOWMOSES. Also he's being hunted by a cyborg Space Jam Michael Jordan.
  
  **Aspects:** Comedy, Dramedy, Fantasy, Parody, Space Jam Expanded Universe
  
  **Content Warnings:** Blood, Scalp/head trauma, Violence - Gun, Violence - Miscellaneous (ex. animal attack), [Some warnings may be forgotten]

- **Crosscode**
  
  **About:** Legend of Zelda/Secret of Mana-style RPG with a sci-fi theme and excellent story, characters, and combat.
Aspects: Drama, Fantasy, Mystery, Sci-Fi
Content Warnings: Animal cruelty, Character in a coma (discussed or onscreen), Human abuse or exploitation, Insects - flying, Insects - giant, Spiders (esp. closeups and/or mechanical spiders), Torture (mental or physical), Violence - Gun, Violence - Miscellaneous (ex. animal attack)

- **Don’t Starve**
  About: Players collect resources and try not to die in the wilderness.
  Aspects: Cartoon, Mystery, Sci-Fi
  Content Warnings: cartoon violence, death of character, actually terrifying depiction of sanity loss, spiders, insects, insectoid monsters

- **DOOM**
  About: An updated entry into the venerable DOOM franchise: play as the Doom Marine, and slaughter legions of demons in gruesome fashion.
  Aspects: Adult-Focused, Horror, Sci-Fi
  Content Warnings: Animal cruelty, Blood, Eye trauma, Gore, Hospitals (on-screen only), Human abuse or exploitation, Industrial machine injury, Scalp/head trauma, Torture (mental or physical), Violence - Gun, Violence - Miscellaneous (ex. animal attack), Violence - Realistic, Violence: Additional.

- **Let’s Play Neverwinter Nights 2: Mask of the Betrayer by Lt. Danger** [Screenshot-based let’s play]
  About: This is a bit of an unusual one. First off, I'm not recommending the game, but only this particular let’s play (found at https://lparchive.org/Neverwinter-Nights-2-Mask-of-the-Betrayer/) — and it’s not even a let’s play of the main game, but rather an expansion to that game. Nonetheless, this is one of the best gaming-related pieces of media I have had the pleasure of experiencing.

  Mask of the Betrayer is an expansion to the classic Dungeons & Dragons-based RPG Neverwinter Nights 2. Set in the classic Forgotten Realms universe, it is a self-contained tale of betrayal, love, and injustice on a cosmic scale. It is also, according to the author of this let’s play, the best-written RPG of all time. Read this let’s play to see why. (Note: the same author did a let’s play of the main game as a precursor to this one. It's good, but not strictly required to enjoy this.)
  Aspects: Adult-Focused, Drama, Fantasy
  Content Warnings: Blood, Human abuse or exploitation, Violence - Miscellaneous (ex. animal attack), [Some warnings may be forgotten], I read this a long time ago so my memory of possible warning-needed content is fuzzy at best.

- **Let’s Play Star Wars: Knights of the Old Republic II by Scorchy** [Screenshot-based let’s play]
  About: Knights of the Old Republic II is a classic Star Wars RPG with a reputation as one
of the best-written video games around. It’s a deconstruction of the typical black-and-white morality of Star Wars and a fascinating reflection on the famed first game in the series. It’s fantastic and you would do well to play it—but that’s not what I’m recommending. No, I’m recommending this (https://lparchive.org/Knights-of-the-Old-Republic-II/) written let’s play of the game.

This is one of those rare instances where a thoughtfully-curated presentation of a game actually elevates it as a narrative experience. The author does a fantastic job providing additional information where it helps to appreciate the subtleties of the narrative, skimming over the less-impressive parts of the game, and just providing funny written commentary. If you’ve already played or watched the original KotOR and want to experience the sequel, this is a great alternative to playing through the whole thing yourself. If you haven’t played the original KotOR and you like either or both of RPGs and Star Wars, go do that first (I believe it’s available on iOS, in addition to being like $5 on Steam and able to run on a toaster).

**Aspects:** Adult-Focused, Comedy, Drama, Sci-Fi

**Content Warnings:** Character in a coma (discussed or onscreen), Eye trauma, Gore, Human abuse or exploitation, Needles (injections, IVs, etc.), Scalp/head trauma, Sexual assault - speech referencing (ex. slang), Sexual violence, Spiders (esp. closeups and/or mechanical spiders), Torture (mental or physical), Violence - Gun, Violence - Miscellaneous (ex. animal attack), [Some warnings may be forgotten]

- **Machinarium**
  
  **About:** Point-and click puzzle adventure game set in a dieselpunk world where everything is robots.

  **Aspects:** Cartoon, Drama, Mystery, Sci-Fi

  **Content Warnings:** Character in a coma (discussed or onscreen), Insects - flying, Violence - Miscellaneous (ex. animal attack)

- **Magicka**

  **About:** You’re a wizard and must save the world (with up to three other friends). Friendly fire is set to on.

  **Aspects:** Child-Focused, Comedy, Fantasy, Parody

  **Content Warnings:** Animal cruelty, Blood, Gore, Insects - giant, Suicide, Violence - Miscellaneous (ex. animal attack), BLEIGH

- **Persona 3, 4, and 5**

  **About:** The Persona series is one of the big names in JRPGs these days, and for good reason. They combine traditional RPG dungeon-crawling (replete with evocative monster designs inspired by mythology from various cultures as well as Jungian psychology) with a surprisingly engaging visual novel-esque simulation of Japanese high school life. Key selling points include EXTREMELY loveable main casts with some of the best character development (especially in 3) and party dynamics I’ve ever seen, and killer soundtracks
that might take some getting used to but can really pack a punch when needed. (I've been listening to basically nothing but playlists from these games for the past month)

Each of the three big Persona games (which are unconnected and can be played in any order) has a distinctive character: 3 is a moody, dramatic epic, 4 is an indefatigably cheerful small-town murder mystery, and 5 is an eye-bleedingly stylish picaresque adventure about bringing abusers of power to justice. 4 is probably the most accessible and endearing, but it's also mired in some uncomfortably conservative Japanese social politics. 5 has the best visual design I have ever seen in ANYTHING, and is generally kick-ass. If you don’t have a console and want a convenient entry point to the series, I recommend NakaTeleelli’s let’s play of 3 on YouTube, since I think it has overall the most interesting plot and world-building.

**Aspects:** Adult-Focused, Cartoon, Drama, Fantasy, Mystery

**Content Warnings:** Animal cruelty, Blood, Character in a coma (discussed or onscreen), Domestic violence, Hospitals (on-screen only), Human abuse or exploitation, Needles (injections, IVs, etc.), Sexual assault - implied, Sexual assault - speech referencing (ex. slang), Sexual content (including enthusiastically amorous behavior), Sexual violence, Suicide, Torture (mental or physical), Violence - Gun, Violence - Miscellaneous (ex. animal attack), [Some warnings may be forgotten], 3: the main combat mechanic involves very graphic suicidal imagery (characters place fake guns to their heads); 4: extremely blatant casual homophobia and transphobia (3 and 5 have this too, but somewhat less-blatant); 5: this whole game is about privileged people abusing their power in basically every way you can think of.

- **Shaq Fu**
  - **About:** Legendary basketball player and martial artist Shaquille O'Neil visits a gym in Tokyo before a charity game and is teleported to a strange alternate dimension called the "Second World" full of dangerous kung-fu monsters, where he must fight the army of the evil mummy king Sett-Ra to escape in time for the game.
  - **Aspects:** Cartoon, Dramedy, Fantasy, Horror, Live Action, Parody, Part of the Space Jam cinematic universe
  - **Content Warnings:** Torture (mental or physical), Violence - Miscellaneous (ex. animal attack), [Some warnings may be forgotten], Self-harm (to yourself for playing this), Deepest Lore, bugs, bad balancing, OP catgirl

- **Sins of a Solar Empire**
  - **About:** Space RTS about the struggle for survival in the distant, distant future. Your goal is the destruction of all your enemies. Smash their fleets and burn their worlds.
  - **Aspects:** Sci-Fi
  - **Content Warnings:** Orbital Bombardment, Genocide

- **Stellaris**
  - **About:** Stellaris is a 4X (explore, expand, exploit, exterminate) grand strategy game
published by Paradox studios (the makers of crusader kings). You play as a new civilization exploring the stars, contending with aliens for control of the galaxy.

**Aspects:** Drama, Sci-Fi

**Content Warnings:** Human abuse or exploitation, Industrial machine injury, extremely genocide

- **SUPERHOT**
  
  **About:** Superhot is the most innovative shooter I've played in years! Time only moves when you move. Kill the red dudes and don't die yourself.
  
  **Aspects:** Sci-Fi
  
  **Content Warnings:** Violence - Gun, Violence - Miscellaneous (ex. animal attack), SUPER. HOT. SUPER. HOT. SUPER. HOT. SUPER. HOT. SUPER. HOT.

- **Superman 64**
  
  **About:** Superman's friends have been trapped in a virtual world created by Lex Luthor, and Superman must venture into this world to save them! In order to do so, he will fly through rings. So, so many rings.
  
  **Aspects:** Cartoon, Child-Focused, Horror, Superhero
  
  **Content Warnings:** Violence - Gun, Violence - Miscellaneous (ex. animal attack), Self-harm (to yourself for playing this), bad clipping, existential crises, rings, more rings, so many rings, memes

- **Terraria**
  
  **About:** Often called "2D Minecraft," this game actually has way, WAY more content than Minecraft could ever dream. A very complex gear-based movement system and literally hundreds of options for combat gives it tons of replayability. If you like 2D platformers or metroidvanias, it'll probably be up your alley. Also, it goes to like 2.50 on Steam sales, so it's more than worth it.
  
  Note: blood/gore can be turned off in the settings, if you don't want that. The eldritch horrors will still be as terrifying, but at least there's that.
  
  **Aspects:** Cartoon, Fantasy, Horror
  
  **Content Warnings:** Animal cruelty, Blood, Insects - flying, Insects - giant, Spiders (esp. closeups and/or mechanical spiders), Tooth horror (trauma, mutilation or teeth in weird places), Violence - Gun, Violence - Miscellaneous (ex. animal attack), [Some warnings may be forgotten], Eldritch Horrors, every fantasy monster you can dream of, no not the bees, more eldritch horrors, possibly very addictive

- **Transistor**
  
  **About:** A very good RPG with a very good soundtrack. Transistor is set in a mysterious city, where the protagonist has just found a man with a sword buried in his chest. Fortunately for the player, the sword talks.
  
  **Aspects:** Sci-Fi
  
  **Content Warnings:** Human abuse or exploitation, Spiders (esp. closeups and/or
mechanical spiders), Suicide, [Some warnings may be forgotten], Bittersweetness

- **Undertale**
  
  **About:** In this RPG, you don't have to kill anyone. Each enemy can be "defeated" nonviolently. Dance with a slime. Pet a dog. Whisper your favorite secret to a knight. Or, ignore this choice and rain destruction upon your foes. But your journey will take determination. Each adversary has unique bullet patterns that you must dodge as well. Emphasis on humor, character dialogue, and player choice. Average playtime: 6 hours.
  
  **Aspects:** Comedy, Drama, Fantasy
  
  **Content Warnings:** Blood, Spiders (esp. closeups and/or mechanical spiders)

- **VA-11 Hall-A: Cyberpunk Bartender Action**
  
  **About:** Being a bartender in a cyberpunk future.
  
  **Aspects:** Adult-Focused, Comedy, Dramedy, Parody, Sci-Fi
  
  **Content Warnings:** Human abuse or exploitation, Scalp/head trauma, Sexual assault - speech referencing (ex. slang), Sexual content (including enthusiastically amorous behavior), Violence - Miscellaneous (ex. animal attack), [Some warnings may be forgotten]

- **Warframe**
  
  **About:** For countless centuries, you've slept. Now wake into a shattered system, and bring it justice by the only means you know. Warframe is a game about being a ninja robot zombie, where you kill legions of clones, corporate drones, and zombies. Third person free-to-play shooter with an incredible amount of gear, the best movement system I've seen in any game, and a shockingly reasonable microtransaction model.
  
  **Aspects:** Fantasy, Horror, Sci-Fi
  
  **Content Warnings:** Animal cruelty, Blood, Gore, Human abuse or exploitation, Industrial machine injury, Needles (injections, IVs, etc.), Scalp/head trauma, Spiders (esp. closeups and/or mechanical spiders), Violence - Gun, Violence - Miscellaneous (ex. animal attack), Violence - Realistic

- **Warhammer 40000: Space Marine**
  
  **About:** In the grim darkness of the 41st Millennium, there is only war. Play as a space marine killing orks, demons, and cultists as you try to save a world.
  
  **Aspects:** Adult-Focused, Sci-Fi, Superhero, Action
  
  **Content Warnings:** Blood, Gore, Human abuse or exploitation, Scalp/head trauma, Violence - Gun, Violence - Miscellaneous (ex. animal attack), Violence - Realistic,
  
  Chainsword, human sacrifice, demons

- **XCOM 2**
  
  **About:** Earth has fallen and is now ruled by aliens. It falls to the remains of the XCOM
project to take back the planet. XCOM 2 is a turn-based strategy game which emphasizes positioning and building customized units to fight against alien overlords.

**Aspects:** Adult-Focused, Horror, Sci-Fi

**Content Warnings:** Alien monsters, genocide

- **XCOM 2**
  
  **About:** In 2015, the aliens invaded Earth. We lost. Now, in 2035, the organized paramilitary organization XCOM has become the resistance, the only hope to overthrow the alien's regime ADVENT and restore human control over Earth. As the long-lost Commander, your job is to direct XCOM's efforts, allocating resources, directing research and development, and connecting resistance cells in the long term and directing your highly customizable squads of soldiers through individual battles in the short term.

  **Aspects:** Horror, Mystery, Sci-Fi, Strategy, Cyberpunk

  **Content Warnings:** Blood, Gore, Hospitals (on-screen only), Human abuse or exploitation, Self-harm, Torture (mental or physical), Violence - Gun, Violence - Miscellaneous (ex. animal attack), Violence - Realistic, [Some warnings may be forgotten], soul-crushing difficulty, continuity, prone to glitches, no one can aim properly, every alien theory is true

- **17776**
  
  **About:** Three space probes discuss sports.

  **Aspects:** Comedy, Mystery, Sci-Fi

  **Content Warnings:** Suicide

- **Bacon** [Youtuber]
  
  **About:** Do you like the game Oblivion? Do you like Skyrim? Well here is a channel that is entirely devoted to Oblivion memes and glitches. Things happen that don't make sense. It's Oblivion after all. It's hilarious. You can laugh about when games go horribly, horribly wrong.

  **Aspects:** Comedy

  **Content Warnings:** [Recommender has chosen not to include content warnings]

- **Call Me Kevin** [Youtube]
  
  **About:** A really funny Irish let's player who plays games that just go wrong. He also plays older games with a lot of weird glitches and is hilarious about them. His Sims videos are especially entertaining.

  **Aspects:** Comedy

  **Content Warnings:** It depends on what game he is playing

- **CaughtNotSleeping** [YouTube Series]
  
  **About:** This is kind of a niche thing that not everyone might be interested in, but if you want to be dragged into the abyss with me, this is a horror mystery Youtube series about
a guy named Caught (he doesn't remember his real name) and his problems with being
stalked by an eldritch being who may or may not be Slenderman (gosh I wonder who
suggested this). He finds himself in danger after trying to regain his lost memories and
deal with unexplained sleepwalking, creepy evil puppet things controlled by unknown
creatures, an unknown possibly friendly supernatural force, houses that don't exist and a
guy in a mask with unknown intentions. Caught is also really sarcastic about his very
bleak situation, which is funny. It's spoopy, it's intense, and pretty well done.
-This genre isn't dead fight me

**Aspects:** Horror, Mystery

**Content Warnings:** Blood, Gore, Torture (mental or physical), Violence - Realistic

- **Das Musical Elisabeth (The Elizabeth Musical)** [Musical (as the name suggests)]
  **About:** Do you like really good musicals? Great. Would you like to see a German musical,
  that is entirely in German, but with English subtitles, that has never been shown in the US?
  Also great. Das Musical Elisabeth is a super awesome historical musical about the life of
  Queen Elisabeth of Austria and her struggles with both rapidly evolving politics, her sense
  of self, and love. There's a really good English trailer on Youtube. You can also watch the
  entire musical on Youtube for free with English subtitles. Normally I'd call that last part
  heterosexual nonsense, but it is death himself who's in love with her. This leads to
  problems. Death is really dramatic and isn't happy that Elisabeth marries the then Kaiser
  of Austria, Franz Joseph. Death proceeds to keep showing up, be edgy about her
  refusing to go with him, and manipulate people. He's also my favorite character. But yeah,
  this musical has great songs and the acting is spot on.
  **Aspects:** Drama, History?
  **Content Warnings:** Human abuse or exploitation, Sexual assault - implied, Suicide,
  Violence - Gun

- **Dear Wormwood** [Concept Album by *The Oh Hellos*]
  **About:** A concept album about recognizing what's bringing you down and fighting back hard.
  **Aspects:** Fantasy
  **Content Warnings:** Christian themes

- **The Dolls of New Albion** [Musical]
  **About:** Weird steampunk musical (can find soundtrack with all songs on iTunes and
  elsewhere, can find YouTube videos of productions)
  **Aspects:** Adult-Focused, Drama, Steampunk
  **Content Warnings:** Human abuse or exploitation, Sexual assault - implied, Violence -
  Miscellaneous (ex. animal attack), [Some warnings may be forgotten]

- **The Lightning Thief** [Musical]
  **About:** You probably read Percy Jackson as a kid, so you know what this's about. Here's
  the funny, goofy, heartfelt adaptation the movie was not. The songs are catchy and
hilarious, and all on Youtube.  
**Aspects:** Comedy, Fantasy  
**Content Warnings:** [Some warnings may be forgotten]

- **Monster Factory** [Youtube Series]  
  **About:** Brothers Justin and Griffin McElroy take games with character customizers to their logical (and probably illogical) extremes.  
  **Aspects:** Comedy  
  **Content Warnings:** Eye trauma, [Some warnings may be forgotten]

- **Shape Shift With Me** [Concept Album by Against Me!]  
  **About:** Love, hate, and gender. Oh, and yelling. Lots of yelling about those things.  
  **Aspects:** Adult-Focused  
  **Content Warnings:** Blood, Human abuse or exploitation, Self-harm, Suicide, [Some warnings may be forgotten], Strong, strong language.

- **Winter Break 2018 Recommendation List** [Webpage]  
  **About:** Helping out sci-fi pals  
  **Aspects:** Child-Focused, Live Action, Mystery  
  **Content Warnings:** 
  **Editor’s Note:** You’re wonderful.

- **Worm** [Web Serial]  
  **About:** Parahumans (aka Worm) is a self-published completed web serial that subverts common tropes of superhero fiction. It is one of the most popular webserials on the internet, with a readership in the hundreds of thousands. In Worm, Parahumans or "Capes" are humans who have undergone a traumatic experience (known as a "trigger event") and awakened superpowers. The story follows one particular Parahuman, Taylor Herbert, shortly after her powers have awakened, letting her control insects. Wanting to become a hero, she goes undercover and joins the gang of supervillains known as the Undersiders, but while with them, she soon realizes that the world of heroes and villains is not as black and white as it appeared to be. You can read it for free on: [parahumans.wordpress.com](http://parahumans.wordpress.com).  
  **Aspects:** Adult-Focused, Sci-Fi, Superhero  
  **Content Warnings:** [Some warnings may be forgotten], Gore, Gun Violence, Insects, Miscellaneous Violence, Spiders, superhero fights, mind control, bullying, references to drug use, human experimentation, one badass psychic, giant world-ending monsters, a scary 11-year old