SFA's Summer 2020 Recommendation List

BOOKS

An Absolutely Remarkable Thing
• **About:** April May is living her normal life in basically the modern world (with a few changes) when she finds a weird giant robot statue thing that just kind of appeared out in public. She makes a video about it that goes viral, because it turns out these giant robot statue things actually appeared in many places all over the world. The story features some interesting sci-fi elements. It’s also about how being a social media #influencer kinda fucks you up.
• **Aspects:** Adult-Focused, Sci-Fi
• **Warnings:** [Some warnings may be forgotten], Gore, Violence – gun, Violence - miscellaneous (eg. animal attacks), (the gore is warned for in the text itself)

Gideon the Ninth
• **About:** Gideon Nav is a buff lady with a big sword and a need to leave her horrible home planet. Harrowhark, the princess-but-not-a-princess of said horrible planet, needs Gideon to not leave because the God-Emperor of All Space needs each planet to send a fighter and a necromancer to compete for immortality! Harrow is a necromancer and she wants to be immortal. She needs Gideon to be her fighter. A murder mystery ensues! Drama! Lesbians! NECROMANCY!!!
• **Aspects:** Child-Focused, Drama, Fantasy, Horror, Mystery, Sci-Fi
• **Warnings:** [Some warnings may be forgotten], Blood, Body horror – general, Gore, Suicide, Violence - miscellaneous (eg. animal attacks)

Riddlemaster of Hed
• **About:** There's a guy named Morgon. He's the prince of Hed. Hed is a tiny island that primarily has pigs and pigherders. Morgon graduated from college, but his college is the college of riddle-solving. He's got a big big destiny that he needs to go confront, related to the fact that God, who lives in a mountain, hasn't been heard from in a while. Morgon does not want to go visit God. Morgon wants to run his tiny island and not get caught up in prophecy or destiny. A harpist arrives on Hed and informs him that he does not actually have a choice. So begins an epic fantasy about identity, nature, leadership, destiny, peace, and harp-playing.
• **Aspects:** Adult-Focused, Fantasy
• **Warnings:** [Some warnings may be forgotten], Blood, Torture – mental, Torture – physical, Violence – realistic

The Secret of Chimneys (Agatha Christie)
• **About:** You know how Agatha Christie has all those classic detectives who are totally memorable and relevant to detective fiction? This is not one of those. The narrator Anthony Cade is a youngish man searching for his fortune in Africa (yay British imperialism). He has very few brain cells, but is immensely loyal and also full of secrets. Various murders and the turbulent government of Herzoslovakia suck Anthony back into Classic British Murder Mystery Drama, and into the fancy rich person party hosting house of Chimneys, which itself holds many secrets. This book made me chuck my phone across the room at the end.
• **Aspects:** Mystery
• **Warnings**: Violence – gun, Murder, Imperialism, Sexism (I assume), So much Imperialism, kidnapping, anti-communist propaganda

### TV SHOWS

**Doctor Who**
- **About**: An alien stole a time machine from the other aliens and is now traversing the universe having adventures in space with humans that they befriended and/or kidnapped. There are history episodes, there are future episodes. There are episodes set in the actual historical past on Earth and there are episodes set in space in the year five billion. (That's not just a big number I picked, there are really episodes set in the year five billion.) Depending on what you want, this show features everything from bad special effects from the 60s to David Tennant standing in the rain looking sad.
- **Aspects**: Live Action, Sci-Fi
- **Warnings**: Blood, Violence - miscellaneous (eg. animal attacks), I’ve selected warnings that appear often-ish; the exact content varies by episode and trying to warn for all of it would be tedious and probably not all that helpful.

**Ducktales**
- **About**: Ducktales (uwu) is a fun adventure and fantasy family cartoon which follows triplets Huey, Dewey, and Louie Duck, as well as their new friend Webby Vanderquack, on their adventures after they find out they're the nephews of the richest duck in the world, David Tennant. Unfortunately, David Tennant has a lot of enemies. One of whom happens to be Catherine Tate, or "Magica De Spell" an evil witch sorceress who wants revenge for being trapped by David "Scrooge McDuck" Tennant long in the past. At the same time, Dewey Duck tries to uncover the mysterious disappearance of their mom Della.

  In season two, we get fun space adventures. In season three, which is still airing, we get fun spy adventures. Ducktales is great because it has a compelling overarching plot, but also lots of vibrant playing around with genre and characters outside of the plot as well. Please google the episode order if you watch on Disney+. Disney+ is wrong.

  Ducktales is full of fun characters, such as Lin-Manuel Miranda except he's a clumsy superhero robot, literally just a lightbulb, terrifying child, emo teenager dog who does black magic, teenage ne'er-do-well shadow figure, ZEUS, and a pirate who does musical numbers. These are just a few of the interesting characters you'll meet in DUCKBURG, home. Of ducks.
- **Aspects**: Cartoon
- **Warnings**: Hospitals, Kidnapping (of children), Cartoon violence, possession

**Guardian: The Lonely and Great God/Goblin**
- **About**: it is a modern day fantasy show involving an immortal korean goblin and his fate happening on modern day korea. Its super cool and has an amazing story. Is kinda lovey-dovey.
- **Aspects**: Adult-Focused, Fantasy, Live Action, romantic fantasy comedy...? is about relationships but immortal ones
- **Warnings**: [Some warnings may be forgotten], Blood, Body horror - general, Child abuse, Hospitals, Pregnancy, Violence - miscellaneous (eg. animal attacks)
**The Librarians: Season 3**

- **About:** Look, we've watched seasons 1 and 2 of this. It's fun. You know what to expect. This season we get: egyptian gods, evil government agency, vampires, Cassandra kissing a cute girl vampire, frost giants, speed run therapy, and the usual being mean to/sad Ezekiel hours. A bunch of nerds save the world using their nerd knowledge and sometimes magic. The egyptian god Apep and also the government try to stop them. IDK, cause they hate existence or something.
- **Aspects:** Fantasy, Live Action
- **Warnings:** [Some warnings may be forgotten], Hospitals, Sexual content (including enthusiastically amorous behavior), Torture – physical, Violence – gun, Major Cassandra Brain Tumor Plot, kidnapping (of adults), self-sacrificing of one's own life, love potion plot, clown plot, alcohol

**She-Ra and the Princesses of Power**

- **About:** Adora lives and works in the Evil Horde, but pretty soon she realizes that the Evil Horde is, well, evil, and also she has magic powers, so she joins the rebellion. She and her friends go off to find more friends with different magic powers. There are funny moments and emotional ones. It's just a really good show please watch it.
- **Aspects:** Cartoon, Fantasy, Superhero
- **Warnings:** [Some warnings may be forgotten], Torture - physical, Violence - miscellaneous (eg. animal attacks), brainwashing/mind control

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**VIDEO GAMES**

**Hacknet**

- **About:** You receive a message from someone named Bit, who informs you that he is dead and needs someone to investigate his death. He walks you through the basics of hacking in the OS Hacknet, before turning you loose to gain experience. A narrative told almost entirely through reading txt files and typing in terminal commands about corporate greed and espionage.
- **Aspects:** Drama, Mystery
- **Warnings:** Character in a coma (discussed or on-screen), Domestic violence, Hospitals, Human abuse or exploitation, Sexual assault - speech referencing (including slang), murder, loading bars, epic hacker aesthetic, major plot cul-de-sac(s), not-4chan, euthanization, felonies, very fake email, BSOD game over

**Xenoblade Chronicles: Definitive Edition**

- **About:** A young scientist named Shulk finds out that he can wield the Monado, a magic sword that can kill robots real good. Unfortunately, he finds this out during a robot invasion of his home. Swearing revenge, he and his best friend Reyn set out on a quest to find and destroy whatever is controlling the robot army.
  
  If you've been on the SFA server, you've heard me rant about this game probably. It's a JRPG made by and for JRPG fans at its core though, so be warned. Here are some hilights:
- The entire world is on the bodies of two primordial titans, and this actually is shown to the player visually in-game, as most of the story is about climbing from the foot of the Bionis to its head. The Mechanis is always visible in the background too, almost taunting you. Very Bionicle-inspired, especially later on.
- To build on that, much of the game is built on exploration in its semi-open world. Finding
new areas rewards much more XP than battling, and there are hidden areas in almost every region, almost all of which give both a XP reward and a majestic view.
- The battle system has a ton of depth, allowing the seven characters to become very customizable by sharing skills between them and choosing which arts (battle skills) to use.
- The game has a feature called the affinity chart: every other NPC actually has a name and a personality, and by talking to them and doing quests, you can fill out a giant web of interpersonal connections spanning the entire world.
- The game is long. If you want a lot of playtime/dollar, that ratio will be greater than one, even ignoring everything but the main story.
- The dorky British VA makes it sound like a Doctor Who episode. Now it's Reyn Time!

- **Aspects:** Drama, Fantasy, Mystery, Sci-Fi, JRPG, RPG, tragedy, gnostic parable (of course), Bionicle-inspired
- **Warnings:** Blood, Body horror – general, Character in a coma (discussed or on-screen), Human abuse or exploitation, Industrial machine injury, Spiders or spider-like creatures (esp. closeups), Violence – gun, Violence - miscellaneous (eg. animal attacks), battle swimsuits, betrayal, anime, alien landscapes, weird shit that never gets explained, gnosticism, British VAs, Reyn Time, cycle of vengeance, very tragic, royalty as good kinda, fantasy racism, impractical wings, drug trade (shown as bad), forces hetero romance, literal hours of cutscenes, flashback to thing that happened five minutes ago, mOnAdO, melia deserved better, power of friendship

**XCOM 2**
- **About:** In 2015, the UN’s XCOM project was assembled to fight an alien invasion. We lost. It is now 2035, and XCOM has become the resistance against the alien government Advent. You are the Commander, the leader of this organization, and you have but one goal: free Earth.

  Gameplay consists of two segments: tactical and strategy. Individual battles are fought by a squad of 4-6 soldiers that you control directly in grid and cover based maps. The strategic section takes place in your home base and on a map of Earth as you acquire the resources and technology to make your tactical squads more efficient. Simple to pick up but increasingly complex as it goes on, XCOM 2 is a brilliant strategy game even if you're a casual. Good luck, Commander.
- **Aspects:** Horror, Sci-Fi, Tactics, Strategy
- **Warnings:** Blood, Body horror – general, Human abuse or exploitation, Needles (injections, IVs, other), Spiders or spider-like creatures (esp. closeups), Torture – mental, Torture – physical, Violence – gun, Violence - miscellaneous (eg. animal attacks), horrible aim, character customization nightmares, bad fake accents, silent protagonist, you must construct more pylons, permadeath, unclear larger scope plot, chrysalids gave me nightmares, timers, modded madness

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**YOUTUBE**

Marble Hornets
- **About:** I’ve submitted this before but I love it so I’m submitting it again. Think a wonderfully great found footage horror series about Slenderman, except the monster is not really Slenderman, just based on it, and a group of college friends who are just trying to make a student film but have a very bad time. The protagonist receives some tapes from a friend of
his who starts acting strangely for an unknown reason and vanishes, so the protagonist decides to investigate, only to end up in a psychological mystery with masked cryptid people, tapes, abandoned buildings and memory loss. This series (about 9 hours long) will make you have feelings. So many feelings. The plot starts off slow but gets intense I swear. It's a cult fandom that is reviving itself.

- **Aspects:** Horror, Mystery
- **Warnings:** Blood, Torture - mental, Violence - gun, Violence - realistic, A character has a seizure (entry 61), coughing up blood, mental illness depiction, attempted overdose

**Mitten Squad**

- **About:** A YouTuber who primarily does playthroughs of videogames while adhering to certain requirements, such as beating Skyrim with only a fork, or beating Pokemon without taking any damage. It's very amusing to watch someone get frustrated trying to beat enemies to death with a fork or trying to deal with very unfair situations.
- **Aspects:** Comedy
- **Warnings:** It depends on the videogame that is being played

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**EVERYTHING ELSE**

**Dr Horrible's Sing-Along Blog (Movie)**

- **About:** Musical. Follows the story of a mostly sympathetic up-and-coming villain who is more an anarchist than evil but wants to be accepted into the Evil League of Evil, contains a love triangle between him, an optimistic and kind woman, and the "hero" of the city who is the real villain of the story in a frat boy kinda way. There is a sentient horse and singing cowboys that randomly appear.
- **Aspects:** Comedy, Live Action, Parody, Superhero
- **Warnings:** [Some warnings may be forgotten], Blood, Sexual content (including enthusiastically amorous behavior), Violence - miscellaneous (eg. animal attacks), Vomit - cartoon, Moist, Stalking, part of the r-word

**Harry Potter illustrated in the most ridiculous way possible (Comic/Webcomic)**

- **About:** Pretty much exactly what I titled this. This person draws things from Harry Potter, most of them actual canon scenes, in the most ridiculous, hilarious possible way. I never fail to die laughing. See them here: [perhpsarat.tumblr.com/tagged/hp+comic](https://perhpsarat.tumblr.com/tagged/hp+comic)
- **Aspects:** Cartoon, Comedy, Fantasy
- **Warnings:** [Some warnings may be forgotten], Body horror - general, Hospitals

**Judi’s Tumblr (Tumblr)**

- **About:** There are many things which are not Judi’s tumblr. Boatzrcool is not Judi’s tumblr. The flower behind canute is not Judi’s tumblr. Canute is not Judi’s tumblr. Shipping containers are not Judi’s tumblr. Batman is not Judi’s tumblr. Staff is not Judi’s tumblr. I-am-a-fish is not Judi’s tumblr. Unfortunately, neither is samepictureoflegolas. Judi’s tumblr is not glumshoe. It is not John Green’s tumblr, before he got bullied off of tumblr. Judi is, in fact, not any of the famous tumblr people.

  However, one thing is Judi’s tumblr. And another is Judi’s sideblog on tumblr. Perhaps Judi’s tumblr contains Doctor Who, or Harry Potter, and it certainly contains memes. It is not all fandom content, although Judi’s tumblr does talk about fandoms. Judi’s tumblr must be interesting and compelling, because Judi is interesting and compelling. It’s obligatory.
Find Judi's tumblr, and your summer will be filled with joy (?), fun (?), and tumblr posts (!). No guarantees, no refunds, no helpful hints.

- **Aspects:** Drama
- **Warnings:** [Some warnings may be forgotten], Embarrassment (for you, for taking the joke this far. maybe for Judi. I don't control them)

**LOONA discography (Music)**

- **About:** Awesome kpop group with really interesting lore if you are into that sort of thing. Although it is pop, it is really well made and covers a lot of genres. The artists are all really talented and amazing, Chuu is my favourite member. The MVs are artistry. Also lots of gay vibes also namely in Chuus solo music video.
- **Aspects:** Adult-Focused, Fantasy, Sci-Fi, Mobius strip universe
- **Warnings:** [Some warnings may be forgotten], Insects - closeup, Insects - flying, Spiders or spider-like creatures (esp. closeups)

**Magnus Archives (Podcast/Audio Drama)**

- **About:** A spooky podcast that gives off the same vibes as Welcome to Nightvale. The narrator looks into the horrors that lurk within the Magnus Institute, an organization that studies the strange and unusual. A mix of SCP with the rich storyline of Nightvale.
- **Aspects:** Fantasy, Horror, Mystery
- **Warnings:** Varies among episodes, but generally unnerving things or whatever you'd expect from horror stories