



October 2019

Chris K. recommends:

[The Robots Are Coming!](#)

by Andre Oppenheimer

From goodreads: *The Robots Are Coming* centers around the issue of jobs, and their future in the context of rapid automation and the growth of online products and services. As two of Oppenheimer's interviewees -- both experts in technology and economics from Oxford University -- indicate, forty-seven percent of existing jobs are at risk of becoming automated or rendered obsolete by other technological changes in the next twenty years. Oppenheimer examines current changes in several fields, including the food business, legal work, banking or medicine, speaking with experts in the field, and citing articles and literature on automation in various areas of the workforce. He contrasts the perspectives of "techno-optimists" with those of "techno-negativists," and generally attempts to find a middle ground between an alarmist vision of the future, and one that is too uncritical. A self-described "cautious optimist," for his part, Oppenheimer believes that technology will not create massive unemployment, but rather drastically change what work looks like .

Business

Maranda B. recommends:

[Frankenstein by Mary Wollstonecraft](#)

Shelley

For my October staff pick I have chosen a classic that is very fitting for the season. *Frankenstein* by Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley is a masterpiece of horror, and many scholars also credit it with giving birth to the science fiction genre. Now most of us have seen at least one film adaptation of this beloved work, but although many are good, none compare to the original novel. No film ever tells the full tale and I believe the original tale is actually more chilling than any movie made of it. So if you are looking for a classically creepy tale to read this Halloween's Eve, give *Frankenstein* a try!

Classic Horror

Stephanie H. recommends:

[The Lager Queen of Minnesota by J. Ryan](#)

Stradal

From goodreads: A novel of family, Midwestern values, hard work, fate and the secrets of making a world-class beer. Two sisters, one farm. A family is split when their father leaves their shared inheritance entirely to Helen, his younger daughter. Despite baking award-winning pies at the local nursing home, her older sister, Edith, struggles to make what most people would call a living. So she can't help wondering what her life would have been like with even a portion of the farm money her sister kept for herself. Here we meet a cast of lovable, funny, quintessentially American characters eager to make their mark in a world that's often stacked against them. In this deeply affecting family saga, resolution can take generations, but when it finally comes, we're surprised, moved, and delighted.

Fiction

Liz C. recommends:

[The Blue Salt Road by Joanne Harris](#)

This book is written as if someone is transcribing a story being told to them. The whole time I was reading it, I could picture myself sitting in a pub somewhere, listening to a wizened old sailor tell this story. It's the tale of a Selkie prince, lured away from his ocean home and of the sea faring community he then inhabits. It mixes love, loss, and adventure on the high sea. This book is a quick read, but I'm still thinking about it weeks later.

Fantasy Fiction

Melissa J. recommends:

[The Secret Keepers by Trenton Lee Stewart](#)

I was about a third of the way through this adventure saga when I realized that *The Secret Keepers* is as good as *Harry Potter*, with the bonus that nobody dies. That's all you really need to know, so I won't give away the plot. Suitable for upper elementary school to adults who enjoy fantasy or young adult fiction.

Fantasy Children's

Rachel B. recommends:

[The Time Keeper by Mitch Albom](#)

From goodreads.com: The inventor of the world's first clock is punished for trying to measure God's greatest gift. He is banished to a cave for centuries and forced to listen to the voices of all who come after him seeking more days, more years. Eventually, with his soul nearly broken, Father Time is granted his freedom, along with a magical hourglass and a mission: a chance to redeem himself by teaching two earthly people the true meaning of time. He returns to our world - now dominated by the hour -counting he so innocently began - and commences a journey with two unlikely partners: one a teenage girl who is about to give up on life, the other a wealthy old businessman who wants to live forever. To save himself, he must save them both. And stop the world to do so.

Inspirational Fiction

Christopher T. recommends:

[The New Annotated H.P. Lovecraft by H.P. Lovecraft, Leslie S. Klinger \(Editor\)](#)

October has arrived! Halloween will soon be upon us and now it is time to dive deep into horror! H.P Lovecraft is without a doubt my absolute favorite horror writer and this annotated collection of H.P Lovecraft is a fantastic book that offers insight into some of the most famous stories of one of horror's greatest contributors! From "The Colour out of Space" to the "Haunter of the Dark", this collection that includes deities from Lovecraft's "Yog Sothothery" that will drive any intellect insane! "Ph'nglui mglw'nafh Cthulhu R'lyeh wgah'nagl fhtagn"

Horror Fiction

Kathleen M. recommends:

[Something Wicked This Way Comes by Ray Bradbury](#)

This is a great book to dip into when the weather is changing from the warmth of summer to the coolness of autumn. Two young boys in their thirteenth year (one shadowed, one in the light) experience a carnival like no other, the October carnival of the Night People. This is also the story of a man who finds himself in his own coming autumn and his coming to peace with it. Mostly though, this is a story of how kindness is not powerless in the face of despair and loss. Ray Bradbury is one of those authors that you just have to read. His knack for capturing those little glimpses of what makes us human is still unmatched. So, read this book... then go watch the movie!

Horror Fiction

Ainslee G. recommends:

[Ghosts of Tsavo: Stalking the Mystery Lions of East Africa by Philip Caputo](#)

When we think of serial killers, mass deaths, and other grisly crimes, our minds immediately go to the human monster, Jonestown and its cyanide-garnished Flavor Aid. The Family and their party at Sharon Tate's home. Jeffrey Dahmer and his diet of Long Pig. Aileen Wuornos and the trail of men she left for dead. Brenda Ann Spencer, who shot up an elementary school because "I don't like Mondays. This livens up the day." However, there are plenty of similar, impressive feats committed by animals- Gustave the Crocodile, a gigantic Nile Crocodile who has a victim count somewhere in the 300s and the Champawat Tiger- with an estimated kill count in the 430s, for starters. This particular book tells the tale of some of my personal favorites of these killer animals-The Tsavo Man-Eaters (aka "The Ghost" and "The Darkness,"), a pair of maneless male lions who exhibited never-before-seen behavior of actively hunting people- rather than eating them as a last resort. The pair has been immortalized in various media formats- books, movies (*The Ghost and the Darkness, Killers of Kilimanjaro*, and more), and they have even made appearances in video games (*Railroad Tycoon II, a World of Warcraft* beast named after them, and a *Cabela's Dangerous Hunts* name-drop.). The book, in addition to giving some basic information on the Man-Eaters, contains an investigation to see what could have made these lions- as well as other animals- turn to eating human flesh.

Non-Fiction

Morgan S. recommends:

[Aalfred and AAlbert by RL Stine](#)

From goodreads.com: Aalfred and AAlbert lead solitary lives. Sometimes, Aalfred thinks he might like to be part of a pair, and sometimes AAlbert thinks he might like to be one of two. But Aalfred sleeps all day, and AAlbert sleeps all night--so how will the two ever meet? Luckily, a helpful bystander intervenes and when Aalfred and AAlbert's paths cross, it is the most unexpected way, they find that they go together quite well, just like cheese and broccoli.

Children's

Joan R. recommends:

[Pokemon Detective Pikachu \(DVD\)](#)

Fun for the whole family!

From rottentomatoes.com: The story begins when ace detective Harry Goodmon goes mysteriously missing, prompting his 21-year-old son Tim to find out what happened. Aiding in the investigation is Harry's former Pokémon partner, Detective Pikachu: a hilariously wise-cracking, adorable super-sleuth who is a puzzlement even to himself. Finding that they are uniquely equipped to communicate with one another, Tim and Pikachu join forces on a thrilling adventure to unravel the tangled mystery. Chasing clues together through the neon-lit streets of Ryme City - a sprawling, modern metropolis where humans and Pokémon live side by side in a hyper-realistic live-action world - they encounter a diverse cast of Pokémon characters and uncover a shocking plot that could destroy this peaceful co-existence and threaten the whole Pokémon universe.

Action Animation

The leaves are changing, it's time to try something new.

Pick a new genre and let us know what you think.

Til next month.....keep reading!

