

Read. Return. Repeat.

A ReadICT Podcast

Show Notes

Season 4 Episode 6: Intergalactic (featuring Alex White)

August 9th 2024



In this episode

Sara and Daniel interview author Alex White, who is a science fiction and horror writer, best-known for the Salvager series and their tie-in novels for the Aliens and Star Trek franchises. In this episode that explores ReadICT Category 6, a book set in space, Alex talks about their newest novel, *August Kitko and the Mechas from Space*, why writing speculative fiction can be cathartic, and why sci-fi is so much more than “big robots punch each other.”



Photo by Kyle Cassidy

About Alex White

Alex White was born in Mississippi and has lived most of their life in the American South. Alex is the author of the Starmetal Symphony Trilogy and The Salvagers Trilogy as well as official novels for Alien and Star Trek. They enjoy music composition, calligraphy and challenging, subversive fiction.

More about Alex White

Alexwhite.com

[Facebook](#)

Instagram: [@the_alex_white](#)

Books by Alex White

The Starmetal Symphony #2: Ardent Violet and the Infinite Eye (December 2024)

The Starmetal Symphony #1: August Kitko and the Mechas from Space, 2022

Star Trek Deep Space Nine: Revenant, 2021

Alien: Into Charybdis, 2021

The Salvagers #3: The Worst of All Possible Worlds, 2020

The Salvagers #2: A Bad Deal for the Whole Galaxy, 2018

The Salvagers #3: A Big Ship at the End of the Universe, 2018

Alien: The Cold Forge, 2018

Every Mountain Made Low, 2016

Books, films & other media mentioned in this episode

[The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy by Douglas Adams](#)

[Galaxy Quest \(film\)](#)

[A Star is Born \(film: 1937, 1954, 1976 & 2018\)](#)

[Final Fantasy XIV \(2010 video game\)](#)

[Star Trek Deep Space Nine \(television series\)](#)

[Dune series by Frank Herbert](#)

The Martian by Andy Weir, 2014

Ten Low by Stark Holborn, 2021

The Space Between Worlds by Micaiah Johnson, 2020

Those Beyond the Wall by Micaiah Johnson, 2024

Nophek Gloss by Essa Hansen, 2020

Topics discussed in this episode (with timestamps)

- About *August Kitko and the Mechas from Space* 03:05
- Anime influences 06:25
- Sci-fi and queer representation 08:11
- Music and sci-fi 15:38
- The *August Kitko* theme song (yes, really) 21:24
- Neurodivergent and Queer identities and *August Kitko* 25:46
- How speculative fiction helps us explore “big” concepts 41:50
- Common misunderstandings of the sci-fi genre 52:54
- What is space opera? 57:00
- Working in established universes (*Aliens*, *Star Trek*) vs. their own universe 1:04:09
- What’s next 1:13:29
- Alex’s reading recommendations 1:15:42

Relevant links to topics mentioned in this episode

[New York Public Library \(blog post\): A Beginner’s Guide to Mecha \(April 4, 2019\)](#)

[BBC.com: “The theramin: The strangest instrument ever invented?” \(November 12, 2020\)](#)

[Know your meme: Fully Automated Luxury Gay Space Communism](#)

[Soundcloud.com/countermeasures](#)

[BBE Music: J Jazz: Deep Modern Jazz from Japan 1969-1984](#)

[By Arcadia: “Science Fiction as a Tool for Social Commentary” \(Kazanci, H., April 2, 2023\)](#)

[Film School Rejects: “Adventure Awaits: A Brief History of Space Opera” \(December 15, 2017\)](#)

[Scientific American: Quantum Entanglement Isn’t All That Spooky After All \(February 13, 2023\)](#)

[Eco Capitalism \(or green capitalism\)](#)

[Link to episode transcript](#)

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