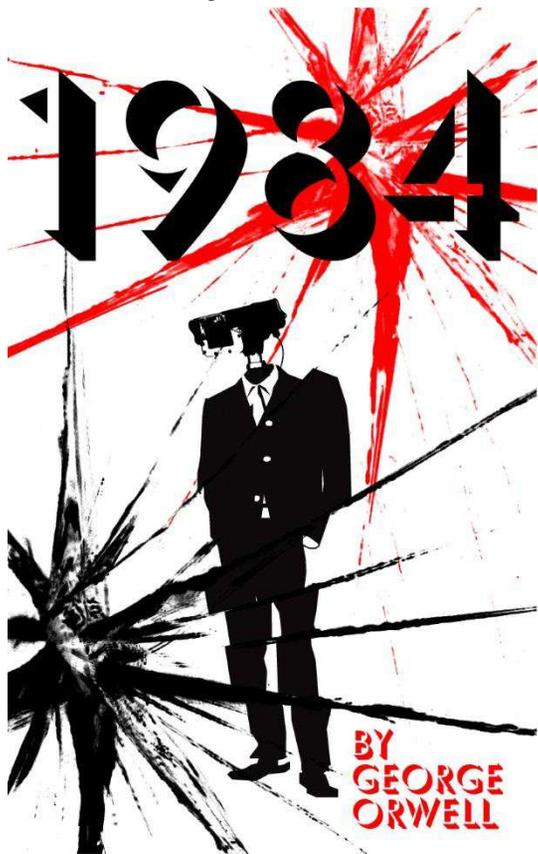


# What to Read (and Watch) After 1984



George Orwell's *1984* recently shot up to number one on Amazon and iBooks. Many readers are turning to this classic dystopia, first published in 1949, to gain perspective on the current social and political climate.

These titles were excerpted from a longer list that was compiled by several Library Journal editors, with additional suggestions crowdsourced from librarians via social media (and your friendly librarians here at the Brown Deer Library!).

## Films/TV

### **Arrival**

A linguist is called in to communicate with an extraterrestrial being, but human greed and fear may jeopardize the mission and bring the world to the brink of war.

### **Children of Men**

In a future where women have mysteriously become infertile, the discovery of a long pregnant woman rekindles hope for humanity.

### **The Hunger Games**

An adaptation of the wildly popular YA book.

### **I, Robot**

Robots threaten to make humanity extinct by attempting to strip individual humans of their free will.

### **Logan's Run**

In the year 2274, everyone lives a wonderful life until they're 30 years old-- then they're executed.

### **Minority Report**

Three psychics can predict murders in 2057 Washington's "PreCrime Unity", virtually eliminating violent crime.

### **Never Let Me Go**

A remarkable story of love, loss and hidden truths which poses the fundamental question: What makes us human?

### **Rogue One: A Star Wars Story**

A young woman joins the resistance to help destroy the Death Star plans.

### **The Truman Show**

Prophetic in its depiction of the artifice of media and the ease with which humans participate in their own deception.

## History

### **In the Garden of Beasts** by Erik Larson

**943.086 LAR**

The author of *Devil in the White City* tells the true tale of William E. Dodd, the U.S. ambassador to Germany who watched and recorded the development of the Third Reich.

### **It's Even Worse than it Looks: How the American Constitutional System Collided with the New Politics of Extremism** by Thomas E. Mann and Norman J. Ornstein

**320.9730905 MAN**

Congressional scholars Thomas Mann and Norman Ornstein identify two overriding problems that have led Congress—and the United States—to the brink of institutional collapse.

### **Dark Money: the Hidden History of the Billionaires Behind the Rise of the Radical Right**

by Jane Mayer

**320.52 MAY**

Mayer painstakingly explores the goals and inner workings of organizations such as Americans for Prosperity, the rise of the Tea Party, and the *Citizens United* court decision.

### **A People's History of the United States, 1492-Present** by Howard Zinn

**973 ZIN**

Zinn argues that the history that most children are taught in school is mere propaganda, instead asserting that America's rise as a nation was predicated on the exploitation and oppression of Native Americans, African Americans, women, immigrants, and the lower classes.

## Fiction for Kids & Teens

**Feed** by M. T. Anderson

**YA ANDERSON**

In the near future, everyone has a feed implanted directly into their brain that enables access to the Internet, instantaneous chat functions with others, and a nonstop barrage of targeted advertising. A biting satire and commentary on the erosion of privacy and individual choice in the face of technology.

**The Hunger Games** by Suzanne Collins

**YA COLLINS**

The YA dystopian novel that launched the genre, this story is set in a bleak world where teenagers are forced to fight to the death before a live televised audience.

**The Inquisitor's Tale** by Adam Gidwitz

**MS GIDWITZ**

In 1242 France, the paths of a Muslim-born oblate, a Jewish boy, and a gifted peasant girl collide as they run for their lives and fight to save precious holy texts from the fire of the Inquisition.

**The Giver** by Lois Lowry

**YA LOWRY**

In this classic work of children's literature, 12-year-old Jonas comes to realize that the harmony and bliss of his so-called perfect society has come at a horrifying cost.

**Scythe** by Neal Schusterman

**YA SCHUSTERMAN**

In a very distant future, a benevolent artificial intelligence runs all human and governmental affairs, eliminating war, poverty, and even death. The only problem is overpopulation. Enter the Scythes.

**Battle Royale** by Koushun Takami

**YA TAKAMI**

In order to keep the population in an obedient state of fear, every year, the authoritarian Japanese government randomly selects high school students to take part in a battle against their fellow classmates to the death, with only one survivor.

## Fiction for Adults

**A Handmaid's Tale** by Margaret Atwood

**F ATWOOD**

A totalitarian, extreme Christian theocracy overthrows the US government, and women's rights are obliterated.

**Fahrenheit 451** by Ray Bradbury

**F BRADBURY**

In a world where possessing books is a crime and firemen burn the belongings of those who read, Bradbury follows a fireman who defies the rules when he picks up a book one day.

**World War Z** by Max Brooks

**F BROOKS**

Through a series of interviews, characters describe the zombie apocalypse, offering glimpse into the government corruption and ineptitude that stymied efforts at control and containment.

**Lord of the Flies** by William Golding

**F GOLDING**

When a group of English schoolboys are stranded on an island, they initially work together to be rescued, but eventually destructive impulses tear them apart.

**Catch-22** by Joseph Heller

**F HELLER**

This satirical look at US Army soldiers during WW2 exposes the absurdity of bureaucracy, using humor to examine the utter horror that results when power is placed into the hands of the ignorant.

**Brave New World** by Aldous Huxley

**F HUXLEY**

Huxley draws back the curtain on what initially appears to be a utopia, revealing a society soothed into a state of ignorant bliss.

**The Lottery** by Shirley Jackson

**F JACKSON**

Inspiring one of the most famous scenes of *The Hunger Games*, Jackson's now legendary short story uses spare prose to present a haunting look at the role of ritual in society.

**The Road** by Cormac McCarthy

**F MCCARTHY**

A father and son journey across a perilous post-apocalyptic America.

**Animal Farm** by George Orwell

**F ORWELL**

This allegory featuring barnyard animals satirizes Stalin's rise to power and the brutal realities of dictatorship.

**The Plot Against America** by Philip Roth

**F ROTH**

In an alternate reality where Nazi sympathizer Charles Lindbergh is elected president in 1940, a Jewish American family looks ahead to a frightening future.

**Gulliver's Travels** by Jonathan Swift

**F SWIFT**

Master satirist Swift details the journeys of Lemuel Gulliver, in the process delivering sharp and scathing parody of government and the nature of man.

**Slaughterhouse-Five** by Kurt Vonnegut

**F VONNEGUT**

Through the experiences of time-traveling Billy Pilgrim, Vonnegut presents one of the greatest, most original antiwar novels.