

unusual protagonists (and some secondary characters) in fiction



- Abbott, Edwin - **Flatland: A Romance of Many Dimensions** (a Square) – e only
- Adams, Richard - **The Plague Dogs** (dogs escaped from research lab)
- Adams, Richard - **Watership Down** (rabbits)
- Alexander, Bruce – Sir John Fielding mysteries (Fielding is blind and a judge)
- Allen, Sarah Addison - **Garden Spells** (apple tree)
- Andrews, Donna - The Turing Hopper series (self-aware sentient artificial intelligence)
- Asimov, Isaac - **The Gods Themselves** (alien race in which 3 juveniles become one adult)
- Atherton, Nancy - Aunt Dimity mysteries (ghost protagonists)
- Bakis, Kristen - **Lives of the Monster Dogs** (genetically and biomechanically engineered dogs possess human intelligence, speak human language, have prosthetic humanlike hands, walk upright on hind legs and suffer human frailties)
- Bakker, Robert T. - **Raptor Red** (raptor)
- Beagle, Peter - **The Last Unicorn** (a unicorn)
- Bear, Elizabeth – **Karen Memory** (a teen-aged lesbian whore in an alternate 19th century)
- Bishop, Michael - **Brittle Innings** (Frankenstein's monster as a minor league baseball player)
- Bujold, Lois McMaster - Miles Vorkosigan series (Miles is a “mutie” severely malformed by a prebirth attack in a society which automatically kills mutants)
- Bulgakov, Mikhail - **The Heart of a Dog** (dog turns into a man)
- Card, Orson Scott - Ender Wiggin series (alien “Buggers” evolve from insect-like to mammal-like to sentient trees)
- Chesbro, George – Mongo mystery series (dwarf, former circus performer, with PhD and brother, a detective, who is police detective)
- Christie, Agatha - **The Mysterious Mr. Quin** (detective is the Harlequin)
- Crichton, Michael - **Terminal Man** (man with computer implant in his brain)
- Deaver, Jeffrey - Lincoln Rhyme mysteries (Rhyme is paralyzed)
- Denton, Bradley – **Blackburn** (an ethical serial killer)
- Diotalevi, David – **Miracle Myx** (Myx, aged 14, has been declared dead twice, sees words as colors or shapes, has a photographic memory, never sleeps, and can not be seen)
- Disch, Thomas - **The Word of God** (God, Jesus)
- Donaldson, Stephen - Thomas Covenant series (title character has leprosy)
- Donoghue, Emma - **Room** (five-year-old boy trapped with his mother in a room)
- Dunn, Katherine – **Geek Love** (hunchback albino dwarf carnival attraction) - e only
- Eugenides, Jeffrey - **Middlesex** (intersex)
- Fforde, Jasper - Thursday Next series brings literary characters to life--literally
- Fforde, Jasper - **The Fourth Bear** features nursery rhyme characters
- Fischer, Tibor - **The Collector Collector** (narrator is a centuries old bowl)
- Fitzgerald, Kittie – **Pigtopia** (boy with a monstrous appearance)
- Francis, Dick - **Whip Hand** (former jockey with only one hand)
- Freedman, Nancy - **Joshua, Son of None** (clone of John F. Kennedy)
- Garcia, Eric - The Rex mystery series (protagonist is a T-Rex disguised as a human working as a PI)
- Gardner, John - **Grendel** (monster)
- Gentle, Mary – **Rats and Gargoyles** (alternate medieval world where highly intelligent rats, directed by gods, rule humans)
- Gowdy, Barbara - **The White Bone** (elephants)
- Grass, Gunter - **The Tin Drum** (Oskar is a strange little fellow)
- Green, George - **The Caveman's Valentine** (detective is homeless paranoid schizophrenic man)
- Greer, Andrew Sean - **The Confessions of Max Tivoli** (main character is a man who ages backwards)
- Gruen, Sarah - **Water for Elephants** (Rosie the elephant)
- Haddon, Mark - **The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time** (narrator has autism)
- Haldeman, Joe - **Camouflage** (protagonist is an alien who has lived on earth since before the dinosaurs)
- Harris, Charlaine - Harper Connelly series (Harper can ‘see’ how a person died)

Highsmith, Patricia - **The Animal Lover's Book of Beastly Murder** (pets take revenge on their owners)

Hegi, Ursula - **Stones from the River** (conjoined twins)

Hoeg, Peter - **The Woman and the Ape** (woman & ape fall in love)

Ingalls, Rachel – **Mrs. Caliban** (woman falls in love with giant frog) - **e only**

Jackson, Shelley - **Half Life: a novel** (conjoined twins)

Kafka, Franz - **The Metamorphosis** (protagonist becomes giant cockroach)

Jennings, Gary - **Raptor** (protagonist is a hermaphrodite)

King, Stephen – **Christine** (evil car as protagonist)

Koontz, Dean – **Watchers** (a dog with special talents). (OO?)

Lansens, Lori - **The Girls** (conjoined twins)

Lee, Gypsy Rose - **The G-String Murders** (ecdysiast author as detective) – **e only**

Letham, Jonathan - **Motherless Brooklyn** (would-be detective with Tourette's Syndrome)

Lindholm, Megan – **Cloven Hooves** (Fairbanks girl's childhood 'friend' is Pan, a satyr)

Lindsay, Jeffry - Dexter series (Dexter is a serial killer AND blood splatter specialist for Miami Police)

Liu, Ken – **The Grace of Kings** (two protagonists: one is 8' tall; the other is a carefree thief)

London, Jack – **White Fang** and **The Call of The Wild** (wild & domestic dogs)

Martin, Ann - **A Dog's Life: the autobiography of a stray** (Squirrel is a stray dog)

McCaffrey, Anne - BrainShip series ("brain" of malformed humans implanted in space ship; maintains ships piloted by human "brawn")

McCaffrey, Anne - Dragonrider series (dragons are strong secondary characters)

McCaffrey, Anne - Acorna series (features a race of beings who resemble humans crossed with unicorns (bipedal, horn, hooves)

McCammon, Robert - **Gone South** (includes Flint, a bounty hunter with a partially-formed conjoined twin and his trainee, Cecil, an Elvis impersonator) - **e only**

McCracken, Elizabeth - **The Giant's House** (giant is a giant)...

McEwan, Ian - **Nutshell** (unborn child)

Meyer, Stephenie - **The Host** (alien "soul" transplanted into the body of a unwilling human)

Miller, Rebecca - **Jacob's Folly** (man reincarnated as fly)

Miller, Walter M. - **A Canticle for Leibowitz** (important secondary character has a head that grows out her shoulder)

Morrow, James - **The Last Witchfinder** (narrated by a book, Newton's **Principia Mathematica**).

Niffenegger, Audrey – **Time Traveler's Wife** – (time traveler tumbles back and forth in time – always landing naked)

O'Connell, Carol - Mallory series (Mallory is a street child)

Okri, Ben - **The Famished Road** (spirit child)

Orwell, George - **Animal Farm** (farm animals are protagonists)

Pamuk, Orhan - **My Name is Red** (multiple narrators: people, ideas, dead body, coin, the color red)

Pratchett, Terry - **Reaper Man** (Death)

Quinn, Daniel – **Ishmael** (large male gorilla is the teacher of human narrator) **e only**

Rosen, Jane L. - **Nine Women, One Dress** (the dress is the unifying "character")

Ruff, Matt - **Set This House in Order** (two protagonists with dissociative identity disorder – what used to be called "multiple personalities")

Sebold, Alice - **The Lovely Bones** (narrator is dead)

Self, Will - **Great Apes** (man turns into chimpanzee)

Sherrill, Stephen - **The Minotaur Takes a Cigarette Break** (Minotaur - half-man, half-bull - works as a cook in a small town in North Carolina)

Shetterly, Will – **Chimera** (jaguar-woman, created to be a sex-slave)

Shiel, M. P. - **The Purple Cloud** (last man on earth)

Shuman, George D. – Sherry Moore series (blind Philadelphia psychic can relive victim's last moments by touching the body)

Sinisalo -Pessi, Johanna - **Troll: a love story** (narrator is a troll)

Smith, Scott - **The Ruins** (the plant is a main character)

Smith, Thorne – **Topper** (ghosts)

Smith, Wayne - **Thor** (told from German Shepherd's point of view)

Spiegelman, Art – **Maus: a survivor's tale** (mice & the Holocaust)

Stein, Garth - **Art of Racing in the Rain** (Enzo is a dog)

Stout, Rex - Nero Wolfe series (orchid-raising stay-at-home gourmand and acerbic detective who epitomizes ratiocination)

Swann, Leonie - **Three Bags Full: a sheep detective story** (detectives are a flock of sheep)

Trueman, Terry - **Stuck in Neutral** (narrator is severely disabled by cerebral palsy who realizes his father is preparing to kill him)

Trumbo, Dalton - **Johnny Got His Gun** (narrator is a horribly wounded, blind, deaf, mute, bedridden war casualty)

Unsworth, Simon - **Devil's Detective** (protagonist is a human detective working in Hell for the Devil)

Ure, Louise - **The Fault Tree** (protagonist is a blind mechanic)

Valentine, Genevieve - **Mechanique: a tale of the Circus Tresaulti** (circus performers are mechanically enhanced humans)

Vukcevic, Ray - **The Man of Maybe Half a Dozen Faces** (detective protagonist has multiple personalities AND a serious, life-threatening addiction to tap dancing)

Walton, Jo Tooth and Claw – everyone in this Regency-like world is a dragon

Wells, H.G. - **The Island of Dr. Moreau** (Moreau is a vivisectionist; characters are the animals upon which he experiments)

Wecker, Helene - **The Golem and the Jinni** (a jinni and a golem in New York)

Williams, Tad - **Caliban's Hour** (Caliban is the beast in Shakespeare's **Tempest**)

Wolf, Virginia - **Orlando** (protagonist is nearly immortal, who changes sex every few centuries)

Wroblewski, David - **The Story of Edgar Sawtelle** (mute title character communicates telepathically with the dogs his family breeds)

Yu, Charles - **How To Live Safely in a Science Fictional Universe** (time-traveling repairman helps clients return to their biggest mistakes, which they incorrectly believe they can repair) – BOCD only

Zelazny, Roger - **A Night in the Lonesome October** (Jack the Ripper's dog)

Georgine Olson, August 2017

Based on a Fiction_L project, with input from Samantha Enters