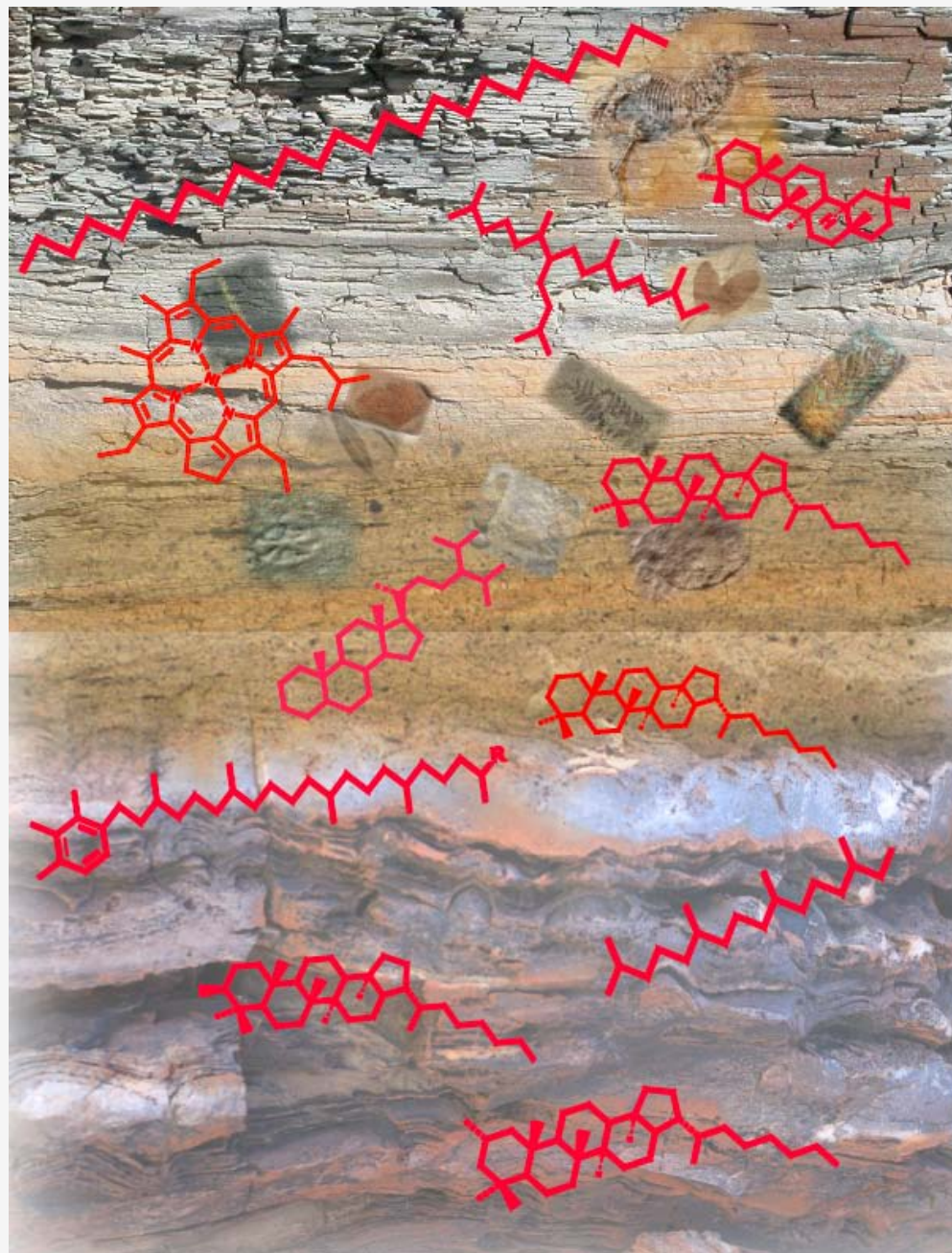
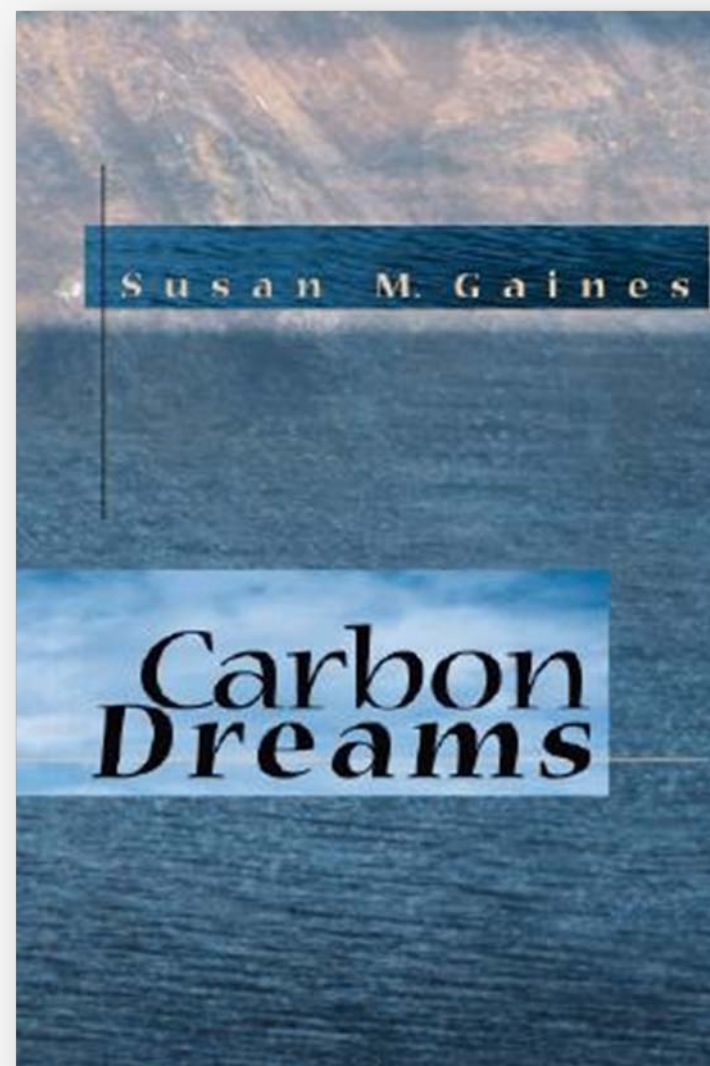
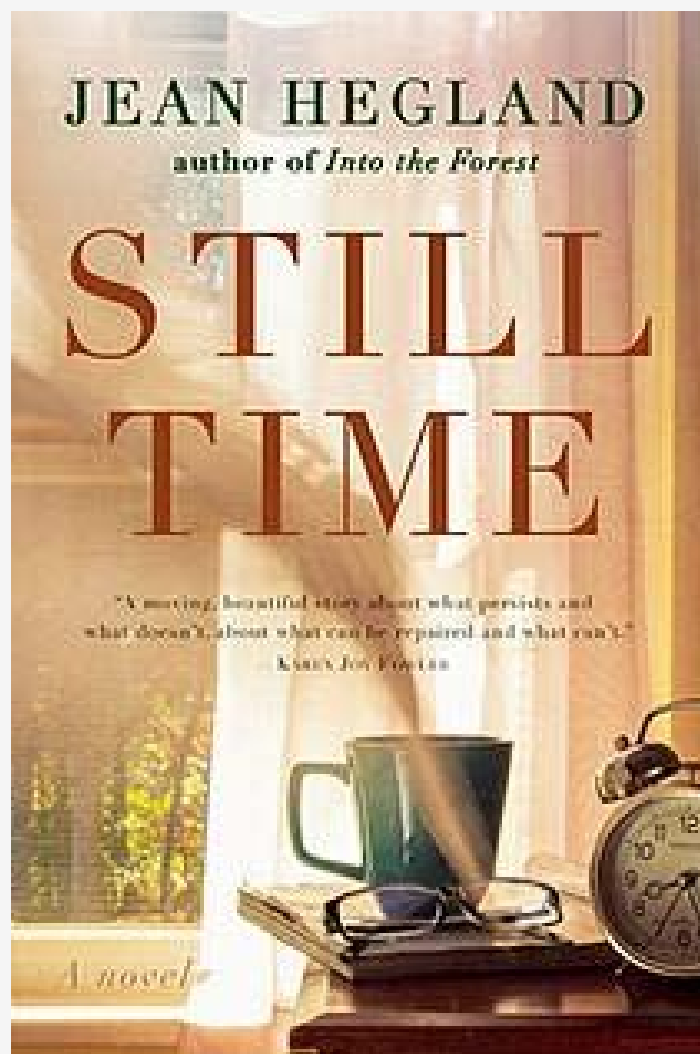


# Nerd Novels

## Changing Relationships with Knowledge?

Susan M. Gaines and Jean Hegland



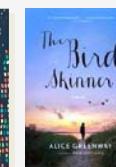
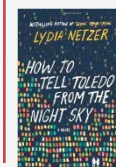
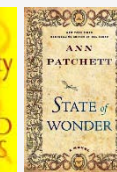
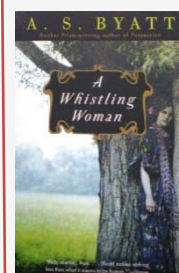
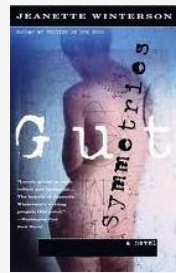
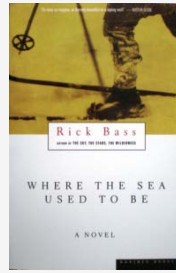
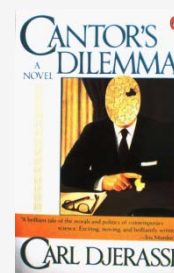
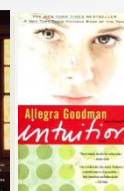
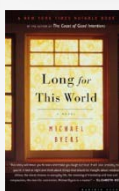
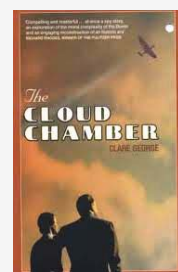
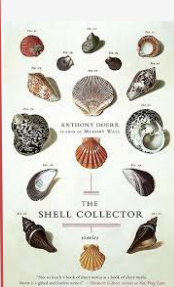
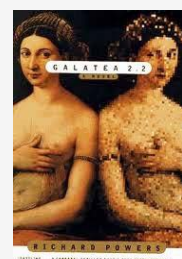
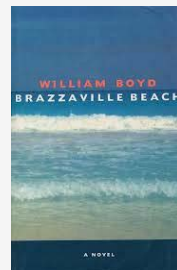
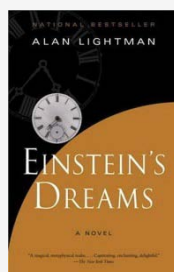
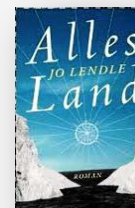
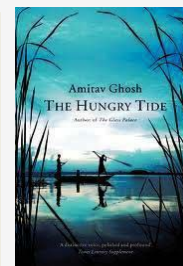
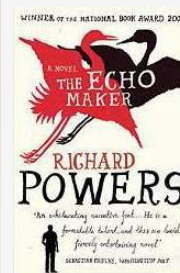
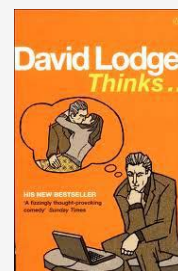
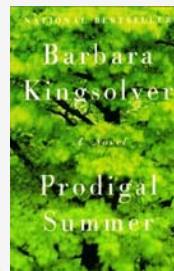
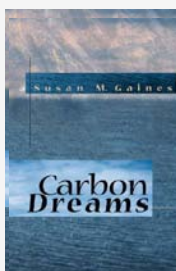
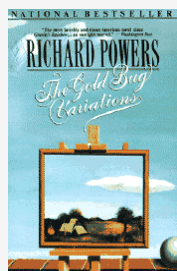
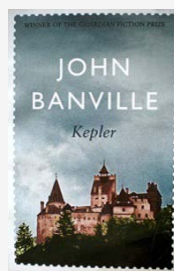
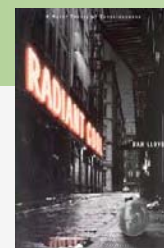
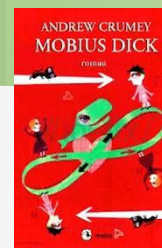
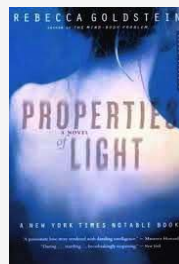
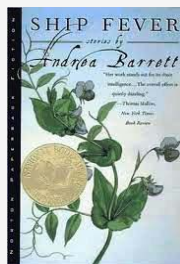
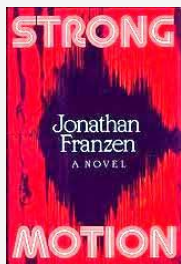


# Shakespeare and chemistry: mutual craft problems, but not much else!

- Intensive research
- Working from within the POV of someone whose patterns of thought are informed by years of study in a subject readers may be completely unfamiliar with.
- Creating empathy with our characters' intellectual obsessions
- Bringing across the facts, information, and ways of thinking that readers have to know to understand the novel
- Balancing “intellectual plots” with the rest of the novel's action and trajectory.
- Including information that enhances the reading experience for expert or more engaged readers without turning off novice or impatient readers
- Negotiating the wavery lines between fact and fiction



# THE NEW SCIENCE NOVELS



1995

2000

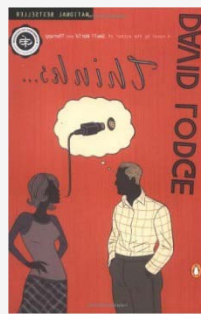
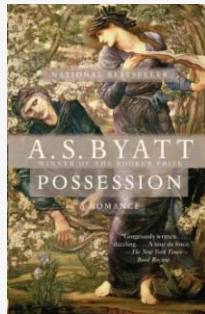
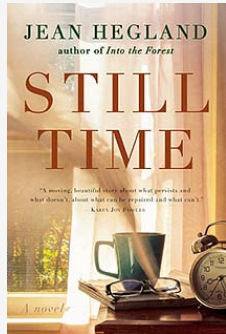
2004

2009...

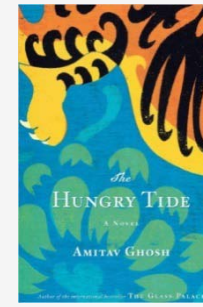
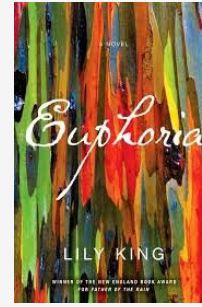
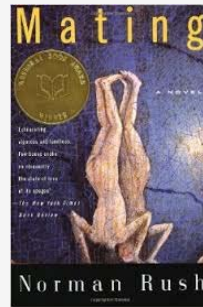


# OTHER KINDS OF KNOWLEDGE

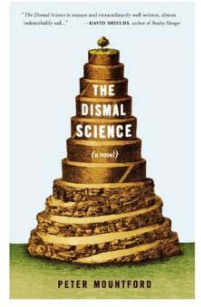
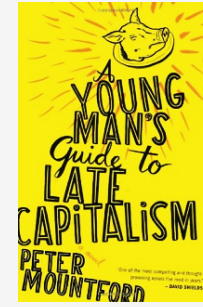
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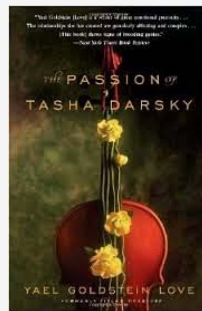
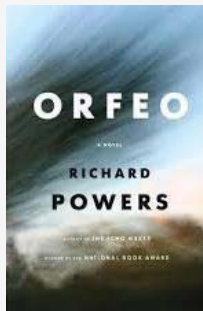
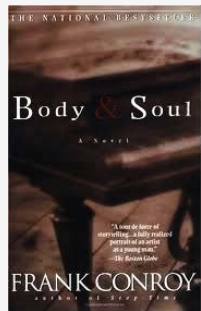
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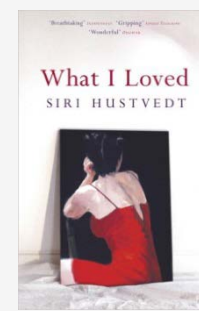
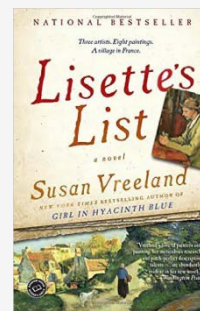
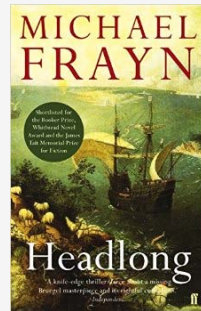
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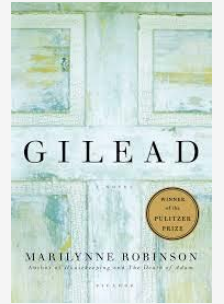
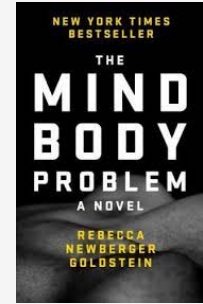
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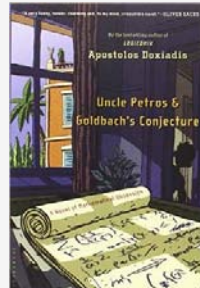
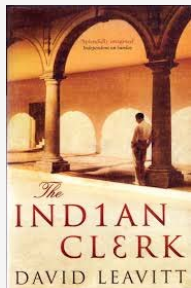
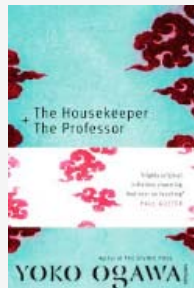
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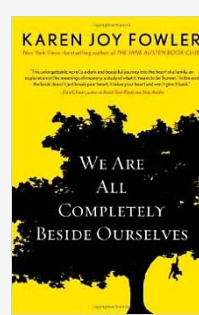
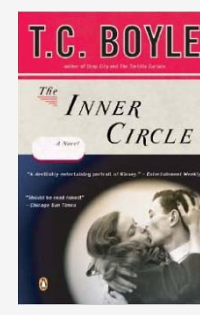
## Philosophy & Theology



## Mathematics



## Psychology



## nerd, n.

**Pronunciation:** Brit. /nə:d/ , U.S. /nərd/

**Forms:** 19– gnurd, 19– nard, 19– nerd, 19– nurd.

**Etymology:** Origin uncertain and disputed (see below). Perhaps < *nerd*, a fictional animal in the children's story *If I ran the Zoo* (1950) by 'Dr. Seuss', depicted as a small, unkempt, humanoid creature with a large head and a comically disapproving expression.

*slang* (orig. U.S.). Mildly derogatory.

An insignificant, foolish, or socially inept person; a person who is boringly conventional or studious. Now also: *spec.* **a person who pursues an unfashionable or highly technical interest with obsessive or exclusive dedication.**

**OED | Oxford English Dictionary. The definitive record of the English language**

## Nerd novel, n.

**A novel that depends on some form of systematic knowledge; a story about relationships between people and knowledge. The emerging science novel may be a specific sub-category.**

**Gaines and Hegland. A non-definitive record of writers' language**

# Some Aspects of the Nerd Novel Approach

- The nerd knowledge is of interest in its own right
- Usually involve an “intellectual plot”
- Explore relationships between characters and systematic knowledge
- Plots hinge on characters coming into knowledge
- Information heavy, extensively researched
- A different sort of reading experience? (Lend themselves to reading twice, background reading)
- A realist approach to established knowledge



# Authenticity?

The fact or quality of being true or in accordance with fact; veracity; correctness. Also accurate reflection of real life, verisimilitude.

# Plausibility and Verisimilitude