

Dwarf Fortress Writing



Dwarf Fortress Writing: Crafting Compelling Narratives in a Pixelated World

Have you ever stared at the chaotic beauty of a Dwarf Fortress embark, a sprawling underground complex teeming with dwarves, livestock, and the occasional terrifying goblin siege? The sheer volume of stories unfolding within that digital landscape is staggering. But how do you capture that epic scale, that intricate tapestry of dwarven triumphs and tragedies, in a way that captivates readers? This post explores the unique challenges and rewarding aspects of Dwarf Fortress writing, providing tips and techniques to transform your pixelated adventures into compelling narratives. We'll delve into structuring your stories, developing compelling characters, and finding the right voice to truly bring your Dwarf Fortress experience to life.

H2: Uncovering the Narrative Riches of Dwarf Fortress

Dwarf Fortress isn't just a game; it's a limitless source of dramatic material. Every playthrough is a unique story waiting to be told, filled with unexpected twists, hilarious mishaps, and moments of breathtaking heroism (or spectacular failure). The key to writing about Dwarf Fortress lies in recognizing and exploiting this inherent narrative potential.

H3: Beyond the Raw Data: Finding the Story

The raw data generated by a Dwarf Fortress game – the intricate histories of individual dwarves, the epic battles, the bizarre accidents – is fascinating, but it's not a story in itself. To craft a compelling narrative, you need to choose a focus. Will you tell the saga of a single legendary dwarf? Document the rise and fall of a mighty fortress? Or chronicle the terrifying events leading to the infamous "funnel-of-death"?

H3: Structuring Your Dwarf Fortress Narrative

Once you've chosen your focus, consider a strong narrative structure. A classic three-act structure (setup, confrontation, resolution) can work well, or you could adopt a more episodic approach, chronicling events as they unfold. Regardless of your chosen structure, maintaining a clear narrative thread is crucial. Avoid overwhelming the reader with irrelevant details; focus on the elements that contribute to the overarching story.

H2: Character Development in the World of Dwarves

While Dwarf Fortress doesn't feature detailed character models, the game generates rich backstories and personalities for each dwarf. These quirks and traits form the foundation of compelling characters.

H3: Exploring Dwarven Personalities

Pay close attention to the individual quirks of your dwarves. Are they skilled miners, renowned brewers, or perhaps prone to tantrums and violence? These personality traits can shape their actions and influence the narrative. Don't shy away from depicting flawed characters; their imperfections often make them more relatable and compelling.

H3: Beyond the Stereotype: Creating Unique Dwarves

While dwarves might share certain cultural traits, each individual is unique. Highlight these differences to create memorable characters. A seemingly unremarkable miner might possess a hidden talent for poetry, while a powerful warrior might harbor a secret fear of spiders. These unexpected details add depth and complexity to your characters.

H2: Finding Your Voice: Narrative Style and Tone

The style and tone you adopt will significantly impact the effectiveness of your Dwarf Fortress writing.

H3: The Epic Saga vs. the Humorous Anecdote

Consider whether you want to tell an epic, sweeping saga or focus on shorter, more humorous anecdotes. Your chosen style should align with the chosen focus of your narrative and the tone of the specific Dwarf Fortress events you are narrating.

H3: Using Descriptive Language

Even though Dwarf Fortress is a pixelated game, you can use descriptive language to evoke the sights, sounds, and smells of the underground world. Paint vivid pictures for your readers. Describe the clang of pickaxes, the scent of brewing beer, the chilling roar of a monstrous creature.

H2: Sharing Your Dwarf Fortress Stories

Once your narrative is complete, you need to share it with the world!

H3: Finding Your Audience

Consider your target audience. Are you writing for seasoned Dwarf Fortress players who appreciate the game's intricacies, or a more general audience who might need more context? Tailor your writing accordingly.

H3: Platforms for Sharing Your Writing

There are numerous platforms for sharing your Dwarf Fortress stories, including blogs, online forums dedicated to the game, and even dedicated writing communities. Experiment with different platforms to find the best fit for your writing style and audience.

Conclusion

Dwarf Fortress offers a wealth of storytelling potential, waiting to be unlocked by those willing to delve into its chaotic depths. By focusing on a compelling narrative, developing memorable characters, and adopting the right voice, you can transform your pixelated adventures into truly captivating stories. So, embark on your next adventure, and let the dwarves inspire your next great tale!

FAQs

1. What software is best for writing Dwarf Fortress stories? Any word processor will suffice; Microsoft Word, Google Docs, or even a plain text editor are all viable options. The most important aspect is finding a tool you're comfortable with.
2. How can I avoid overwhelming readers with game mechanics? Focus on the narrative impact of events rather than getting bogged down in technical details. Explain crucial mechanics only when necessary to understand the story.
3. How can I make my Dwarf Fortress stories funny? Embrace the absurdity! Dwarf Fortress is full of hilarious mishaps and unexpected events. Highlight the comedic potential of these moments.
4. Where can I find feedback on my Dwarf Fortress writing? Dedicated Dwarf Fortress forums and subreddits are excellent places to share your work and receive feedback from fellow players.
5. Should I include screenshots or illustrations in my Dwarf Fortress stories? Visual aids can

enhance your story, but ensure they complement the narrative rather than distracting from it. Choose high-quality images and use them sparingly.

dwarf fortress writing: Getting Started with Dwarf Fortress Peter Tyson, 2012-05-25 Dwarf Fortress may be the most complex video game ever made, but all that detail makes for fascinating game play, as various elements collide in interesting and challenging ways. The trick is getting started. In this guide, Fortress geek Peter Tyson takes you through the basics of this menacing realm, and helps you overcome the formidable learning curve. The book's focus is the game's simulation mode, in which you're tasked with building a dwarf city. Once you learn how to establish and maintain your very first fortress, you can consult the more advanced chapters on resource management and training a dwarf military. You'll soon have stories to share from your interactions with the Dwarf Fortress universe. Create your own world, then locate a site for an underground fortress Equip your party of dwarves and have them build workshops and rooms Produce a healthy food supply so your dwarves won't starve (or go insane) Retain control over a fortress and dozens of dwarves, their children, and their pets Expand your fortress with fortifications, stairs, bridges, and subterranean halls Construct fantastic traps, machines, and weapons of mass destruction

dwarf fortress writing: Getting Started with Dwarf Fortress Peter Tyson, 2012-05-31 The author presents a guide to the computer game Dwarf Fortress, playable on Windows, Linux, and Mac OS X-based computers, with the author focusing on the game's simulation mode and how to establish and maintain a Dwarf Fortress city, manage its resources and train a dwarf military--

dwarf fortress writing: Writing for Visual Media Anthony Friedmann, 2021-11-28 Writing for Visual Media provides writers with an understanding of the nature of visual writing behind all visual media. Such writing is vital for directors, actors, and producers to communicate content to audiences. Friedmann provides an extended investigation into dramatic theory and how entertainment narrative works, illustrated by examples and detailed analysis of scenes, scripts, techniques, and storylines. This new edition has a finger on the pulse of the rapidly evolving media ecosystem and explains it in the context of writing and creating content. Friedmann lays out many of the complex professional, creative, and commercial issues that a writer needs to understand in order to tell engaging stories and construct effective and professional screenplays. This new edition includes: A new chapter on storytelling A fresh examination of dramatic theory and how to apply it to constructing screenplays Updated discussion of mobile platforms A lengthened discussion of copyright, ethics, and professional development issues An updated companion website with sample scripts and corresponding videos, an interactive glossary, sample storyboards and screenplays, links to industry resources, and materials for instructors such as slides, a syllabus, and a test bank.

dwarf fortress writing: Play/Write Douglas Eyman, Andréa D. Davis, 2016-04-06 Play/Write: Digital Rhetoric, Writing, Games is an edited collection of essays that examines the relationship between games and writing - examining how writing functions both within games and the networks of activity that surround games and gameplay. The collection is organized based on the primary location and function of the game-writing relationship, examining writing about games (games as objects of critique and sites of rhetorical action), ancillary and instructional writing that takes place around games, the writing that takes place within the game, using games as persuasive forms of communication (writing through games), and writing that goes into the production of games. While not every chapter focuses exclusively on pedagogy, the collection includes many selections that consider the possibilities of using computer games in writing instruction. However, it also provides a bridge between academic views of games as contexts for writing and industry approaches to the writing process in game design, as well as an examination of a variety of game-related genres that could be used in composition courses.

dwarf fortress writing: Literary Theory for Robots: How Computers Learned to Write (A Norton Short) Dennis Yi Tenen, 2024-02-06 In the industrial age, automation came for the shoemaker and the seamstress. Today, it has come for the writer, physician, programmer, and

attorney. Literary Theory for Robots reveals the hidden history of modern machine intelligence, taking readers on a spellbinding journey from medieval Arabic philosophy to visions of a universal language, past Hollywood fiction factories and missile defense systems trained on Russian folktales. In this provocative reflection on the shared pasts of literature and computer science, former Microsoft engineer and professor of comparative literature Dennis Yi Tenen provides crucial context for recent developments in AI, which holds important lessons for the future of humans living with smart technology. Intelligence expressed through technology should not be mistaken for a magical genie, capable of self-directed thought or action. Rather, in highly original and effervescent prose with a generous dose of wit, Yi Tenen asks us to read past the artifice—to better perceive the mechanics of collaborative work. Something as simple as a spell-checker or a grammar-correction tool, embedded in every word-processor, represents the culmination of a shared human effort, spanning centuries. Smart tools, like dictionaries and grammar books, have always accompanied the act of writing, thinking, and communicating. That these paper machines are now automated does not bring them to life. Nor can we cede agency over the creative process. With its masterful blend of history, technology, and philosophy, Yi Tenen's work ultimately urges us to view AI as a matter of labor history, celebrating the long-standing cooperation between authors and engineers.

dwarf fortress writing: Story Machines: How Computers Have Become Creative Writers Mike Sharples, Rafael Pérez y Pérez, 2022-07-05 This fascinating book explores machines as authors of fiction, past, present, and future. For centuries, writers have dreamed of mechanical storytellers. We can now build these devices. What will be the impact on society of AI programs that generate original stories to entertain and persuade? What can we learn about human creativity from probing how they work? In Story Machines, two pioneers of creative artificial intelligence explore the design and impact of AI story generators. The book covers three themes: language generators that compose coherent text, storyworlds with believable characters, and AI models of human storytellers. Providing examples of story machines through the ages, it covers the history, recent developments, and future implications of automated story generation. Anyone with an interest in story writing will gain a new perspective on what it means to be a creative writer, what parts of creativity can be mechanized, and what is essentially human. Story Machines is for those who have ever wondered what makes a good story, why stories are important to us, and what the future holds for storytelling.

dwarf fortress writing: Procedural Generation in Game Design Tanya Short, Tarn Adams, 2017-06-12 Making a game can be an intensive process, and if not planned accurately can easily run over budget. The use of procedural generation in game design can help with the intricate and multifarious aspects of game development; thus facilitating cost reduction. This form of development enables games to create their play areas, objects and stories based on a set of rules, rather than relying on the developer to handcraft each element individually. Readers will learn to create randomized maps, weave accidental plotlines, and manage complex systems that are prone to unpredictable behavior. Tanya Short's and Tarn Adams' Procedural Generation in Game Design offers a wide collection of chapters from various experts that cover the implementation and enactment of procedural generation in games. Designers from a variety of studios provide concrete examples from their games to illustrate the many facets of this emerging sub-discipline. Key Features: Introduces the differences between static/traditional game design and procedural game design Demonstrates how to solve or avoid common problems with procedural game design in a variety of concrete ways Includes industry leaders' experiences and lessons from award-winning games World's finest guide for how to begin thinking about procedural design

dwarf fortress writing: Procedural Storytelling in Game Design Tanya X. Short, Tarn Adams, 2019-03-14 This edited collection of chapters concerns the evolving discipline of procedural storytelling in video games. Games are an interactive medium, and this interplay between author, player and machine provides new and exciting ways to create and tell stories. In each essay, practitioners of this artform demonstrate how traditional storytelling tools such as characterization, world-building, theme, momentum and atmosphere can be adapted to full effect, using specific examples from their games. The reader will learn to construct narrative systems, write procedural

dialog, and generate compelling characters with unique personalities and backstories. Key Features
Introduces the differences between static/traditional game design and procedural game design
Demonstrates how to solve or avoid common problems with procedural game design in a variety of concrete ways World's finest guide for how to begin thinking about procedural design

dwarf fortress writing: Output Lillian-Yvonne Bertram, Nick Montfort, 2024-11-05 An anthology of seven decades of English-language outputs from computer generation systems, chronicling the vast history of machine-written texts created long before ChatGPT. The discussion of computer-generated text has recently reached a fever pitch but largely omits the long history of work in this area—text generation, as it happens, was not invented yesterday in Silicon Valley. This anthology, Output, thoughtfully selected, introduced, and edited by Lillian-Yvonne Bertram and Nick Montfort, aims to correct that omission by gathering seven decades of English-language texts produced by generation systems and software. The outputs span many different types of creative writing and include text generated by research systems, along with reports and utilitarian texts, representing many general advances and experiments in text generation. Output is first and foremost a collection of outputs to be encountered by readers. In addition to an overall introduction, each of the excerpts is introduced individually and organized by fine-grain genre including conversations, humor, letters, poetry, prose, and sentences. Bibliographic references allow readers to learn more about outputs and systems that intrigue them. Although Output could serve as a reference book, it is designed to be readable and to be read. Purposefully excluded are human-computer collaborations that were conceptually defined but not implemented as a computer system. Copublished by Counterpath Press

dwarf fortress writing: *Comparative Textual Media* N. Katherine Hayles, Jessica Pressman, 2013-12-01 For the past few hundred years, Western cultures have relied on print. When writing was accomplished by a quill pen, inkpot, and paper, it was easy to imagine that writing was nothing more than a means by which writers could transfer their thoughts to readers. The proliferation of technical media in the latter half of the twentieth century has revealed that the relationship between writer and reader is not so simple. From telegraphs and typewriters to wire recorders and a sweeping array of digital computing devices, the complexities of communications technology have made mediality a central concern of the twenty-first century. Despite the attention given to the development of the media landscape, relatively little is being done in our academic institutions to adjust. In *Comparative Textual Media*, editors N. Katherine Hayles and Jessica Pressman bring together an impressive range of essays from leading scholars to address the issue, among them Matthew Kirschenbaum on archiving in the digital era, Patricia Crain on the connection between a child's formation of self and the possession of a book, and Mark Marino exploring how to read a digital text not for content but for traces of its underlying code. Primarily arguing for seeing print as a medium along with the scroll, electronic literature, and computer games, this volume examines the potential transformations if academic departments embraced a media framework. Ultimately, *Comparative Textual Media* offers new insights that allow us to understand more deeply the implications of the choices we, and our institutions, are making. Contributors: Stephanie Boluk, Vassar College; Jessica Brantley, Yale U; Patricia Crain, NYU; Adriana de Souza e Silva, North Carolina State U; Johanna Drucker, UCLA; Thomas Fulton, Rutgers U; Lisa Gitelman, New York U; William A. Johnson, Duke U; Matthew G. Kirschenbaum, U of Maryland; Patrick LeMieux; Mark C. Marino, U of Southern California; Rita Raley, U of California, Santa Barbara; John David Zuern, U of Hawai'i at Mānoa.

dwarf fortress writing: **Great Writing** Harvey S. Wiener, Nora Eisenberg, 1987 *Great Writing* provides a multi-genre collection of rhetorically organized essays, memoirs, speeches, stories, poems, and a play - all presented within familiar rhetorical contexts.

dwarf fortress writing: *Spelunky* Derek Yu, 2016 A game's creation as told by its creator, perhaps the best primer on game design.

dwarf fortress writing: Austerlitz W.G. Sebald, 2014-04-01 From one of the undisputed masters of world literature, a haunting novel of sublime ambition and power about a man whose

fragmentary memories of a lost childhood lead him on a quest across Europe in search of his heritage. Jacques Austerlitz is a survivor – rescued as a child from the Nazi threat. In the summer of 1939 he arrives in Wales to live with a Methodist minister and his wife. As he grows up, they tell him nothing of his origins, and he reaches adulthood with no understanding of where he came from. Late in life, a sudden memory brings him the first glimpse of his origins, launching him on a journey into a family history that has been buried. The story of Jacques Austerlitz unfolds over the course of a 30-year conversation that takes place in train stations and travellers' stops across England and Europe. In Jacques Austerlitz, Sebald embodies the universal human search for identity, the struggle to impose coherence on memory, a struggle complicated by the mind's defences against trauma. Along the way, this novel of many riches dwells magically on a variety of subjects – railway architecture, military fortifications, insects, plants and animals, the constellations, works of art, a small circus and the three cities that loom over the book, London, Paris and Prague – in the service of its astounding vision.

dwarf fortress writing: Aesthetic Animism David Jhave Johnston, 2016-06-03 A poetics appropriate to the digital era that connects digital poetry to traditional poetry's concerns with being. This book offers a decoder for some of the new forms of poetry enabled by digital technology. Examining many of the strange technological vectors converging on language, it proposes a poetics appropriate to the digital era while connecting digital poetry to traditional poetry's concerns with being (a.k.a. ontological implications). Digital poetry, in this context, is not simply a descendent of the book. Digital poems are not necessarily "poems" or written by "poets"; they are found in ads, conceptual art, interactive displays, performative projects, games, or apps. Poetic tools include algorithms, browsers, social media, and data. Code blossoms into poetic objects and poetic proto-organisms. Introducing the terms TAVs (Textual-Audio-Visuals) and TAVITS (Textual-Audio-Visual-Interactive), Aesthetic Animism theorizes a relation between scientific method and literary analysis; considers the temporal implications of animation software; and links software studies to creative writing. Above all it introduces many examples of digital poetry within a playful yet considered flexible taxonomy. In the future imagined here, digital poets program, sculpt, and nourish immense immersive interfaces of semi-autonomous word ecosystems. Poetry, enhanced by code and animated by sensors, reengages themes active at the origin of poetry: animism, agency, consciousness. Digital poetry will be perceived as living, because it is living.

dwarf fortress writing: The Dwarves Markus Heitz, 2009-11-03 For countless millennia, the dwarves of the have defended the stone gateway into Girdlegard. Many and varied foes have hurled themselves against the portal and died attempting to breach it. No man or beast has ever succeeded. Until now. . . Abandoned as a child, Tungdil the blacksmith labors contentedly in the land of Ionandar, the only dwarf in a kingdom of men. Although he does not want for friends, Tungdil is very much aware that he is alone -- indeed, he has not so much as set eyes on another dwarf. But all that is about to change. Sent out into the world to deliver a message and reacquaint himself with his people, the young foundling finds himself thrust into a battle for which he has not been trained. Not only his own safety, but the life of every man, woman and child in Girdlegard depends upon his ability to embrace his heritage. Although he has many unanswered questions, Tungdil is certain of one thing: no matter where he was raised, he is a true dwarf. And no one has ever questioned the courage of the Dwarves.

dwarf fortress writing: Blizzard Night (Disaster Strikes #3) Marlane Kennedy, 2014-10-21 When disaster strikes, the only thing you can count on is yourself! A winter trip in the remote Michigan wilderness seemed like the perfect way for Jayden to get to know his new foster family. Though he doesn't have much in common with siblings Maggie and Connor, he's hoping they'll get to like each other over snow mobile races and steaming mugs of cocoa. But when the snow really starts to come down, the family van crashes and the three kids must go out into the bleak, white storm to search for help. Soon the wind is howling and night is starting to fall. Jayden, Maggie, and Connor will have to think fast, find shelter, watch out for bears, and somehow stay warm if they don't want to end up frozen in their tracks....

dwarf fortress writing: *Summoner: Origins (The Prequel)* Taran Matharu, 2015-04-01 The prequel to the explosive new fantasy trilogy, *Summoner*. Set in a time before *The Novice*, this prequel is the perfect introduction to the world of the *Summoner*. Arcturus is just an orphaned stableboy when he discovers he has the ability to summon demons from another world. He is sent to Vocans Military Academy where the lost arts of summoning, spellcraft and demonology are taught to the noble children of the Empire. As the first commoner gifted with this ability, his discovery challenges the nobility and the powers that be. At the Academy Arcturus quickly makes enemies. With no one but his demon Sacharissa by his side, Arcturus must prove himself as a worthy *Summoner* ...

dwarf fortress writing: *Shadow Moon* Chris Claremont, George Lucas, 2018-04-17 From two of the greatest imaginations of our time comes a magnificent novel of adventure and magic...*SHADOW MOON*: First in the *Chronicles of the Shadow War*. The genius of *Star Wars*(r) creator George Lucas and the vision of Chris Claremont, the author of the phenomenally bestselling *The Uncanny X-Men* adventures, merge in what must be the fantasy event of the year. In *Shadow Moon*, war and chaos have gripped the land of Tir Asleen. An ancient prophecy reveals one hope: a savior princess who will ascend to the throne when the time is right. But first, a Nelwyn wanderer must face forces of unimaginable malevolence and dangerous, forbidden rites of necromancy that could bring back a powerful warrior from soulless sleep. George Lucas reshaped filmmaking in the '70s and '80s with his *Star Wars* and *Indiana Jones* films. When Bantam Books asked Lucas if he had any stories he would like to develop as novels rather than as films, Lucas turned to his 1988 fantasy film, *Willow*. When I wrote the story for *Willow*, I began with the pre-story, Lucas said, but the full story was yet to be told. Now, Lucas's vision is being fulfilled with the talented help of Chris Claremont. Having previously taken the reins of what was for a decade the bestselling comic in the western hemisphere (*The Uncanny X-Men*) Claremont assumes the responsibility of foster parent to Lucas's creation. On sale in hardcover now, and available on BDD Audio Cassette as well, *SHADOW MOON* is a momentous new adventure for readers looking to spend part of this summer in a fantastic world. *SHADOW MOON* is one of Bantam Spectra's most exciting publishing events in 1995, the year we celebrate our 10th Anniversary as the premiere publishing imprint of books of speculative fiction.

dwarf fortress writing: *The Iron Ship* K. M. McKinley, 2015-05-26 Merchant, industrialist and explorer Trassan Kressind has an audacious plan - combining the might of magic and iron in the heart of a great ship to navigate an uncrossed ocean, seeking the city of the extinct Morfaan to uncover the secrets of their lost sciences. Ambition runs strongly in the Kressind family, and for each of Trassan's siblings fate beckons. Soldier Rel is banished to a vital frontier, bureaucrat Garten balances responsibility with family loyalty, sister Katriona is determined to carve herself a place in a world of men, outcast Guis struggles to contain the energies of his soul, while priest Aarin dabbles in forbidden sorcery. The world is in turmoil as new money brings new power, and the old social order crumbles. And as mankind's arts grow stronger, a terror from the ancient past awakens... This highly original fantasy depicts a unique world, where tired gods walk industrial streets and the tide's rise and fall is extreme enough to swamp continents. Magic collides with science to create a rich backdrop for intrigue and adventure in the opening book of this epic saga.

dwarf fortress writing: *The Fortress at the End of Time* Joe M. McDermott, 2017-01-17 One of the *Verge's* Best Books of 2017 Captain Ronaldo Aldo has committed an unforgivable crime. He will ask for forgiveness all the same: from you, from God, even from himself. Connected by ansible, humanity has spread across galaxies and fought a war against an enemy that remains a mystery. At the edge of human space sits the Citadel—a relic of the war and a listening station for the enemy's return. For a young Ensign Aldo, fresh from the academy and newly cloned across the ansible line, it's a prison from which he may never escape. Deplorable work conditions and deafening silence from the blackness of space have left morale on the station low and tensions high. Aldo's only hope of transcending his station, and cloning a piece of his soul somewhere new is both his triumph and his terrible crime. *The Fortress at the End of Time* is a new science fiction novel from Joe M. McDermott. At the Publisher's request, this title is being sold without Digital Rights Management

Software (DRM) applied.

dwarf fortress writing: *The Cleric Quintet* R. A. Salvatore, 2002-01-01 The five popular novels featuring Cadderly, the heroic scholar priest, come together in a giant omnibus edition that includes *Canticle*, *In Sylvan Shadows*, *Night Masks*, *The Fallen Fortress*, and *The Chaos Curse*. Reprint.

dwarf fortress writing: *The War of the Dwarves* Markus Heitz, 2010-03-23 The dwarves have gone to battle and they have been victorious. But outside the realm, dark forces are at work.. . A secret army of Orcs, made immortal by the hidden powers of the Black Water, now marches towards Girdlegard, set to unleash its fury upon the kingdom. Sooner than they realize, Tungdil and his comrades will need to summon all their courage to do battle against this bloodthirsty horde. The Orcs are not the only threat. An unspeakable new power is growing and threatens the very existence of the dwarves. But both enemies have forgotten one very important truth: a dwarf is never more dangerous than when total obliteration seems inevitable . . .

dwarf fortress writing: *The Beasts of Valhalla* George C. Chesbro, 2017-10-31 A detective takes on mad scientists when a D&D fantasy world turns deadly in this “thrilling combination” of “not-quite-science-fiction and suspense” (Playboy). With a genius IQ, a past career as a circus acrobat, and a black belt in karate, criminology professor Dr. Robert Frederickson—better known as “Mongo the Magnificent”—has a decidedly unusual background for a private investigator. He also just so happens to be a dwarf. When Mongo’s sister asks him to investigate the death of his nephew, Tommy—the victim of an apparent murder-suicide—the private detective soon learns that everything’s tied to the computer game Tommy and his friends created: an elaborate quest based on J. R. R. Tolkien’s *The Lord of the Rings*. The clues send Mongo on a cross-country journey, from a painful visit to his former hometown in Nebraska and back to New York, then on to the rugged coastline of California’s Big Sur and, ultimately, the frozen depths of the Arctic Ocean, where a mad genius will stop at nothing to achieve total Armageddon. Grounded by his completely original private detective Mongo, author George C. Chesbro “writes wonderfully strange mystery novels” (Boston Sunday Herald). *The Beasts of Valhalla* is the 4th book in the Mongo Mysteries, but you may enjoy reading the series in any order.

dwarf fortress writing: *Senlin Ascends* Josiah Bancroft, 2017-08-22 The first book in the word-of-mouth phenomenon debut fantasy series about one man's dangerous journey through a labyrinthine world. One of my favorite books of all time -- Mark Lawrence *The Tower of Babel* is the greatest marvel in the world. Immense as a mountain, the ancient Tower holds unnumbered ringdoms, warring and peaceful, stacked one on the other like the layers of a cake. It is a world of geniuses and tyrants, of luxury and menace, of unusual animals and mysterious machines. Soon after arriving for his honeymoon at the Tower, the mild-mannered headmaster of a small village school, Thomas Senlin, gets separated from his wife, Marya, in the overwhelming swarm of tourists, residents, and miscreants. Senlin is determined to find Marya, but to do so he'll have to navigate madhouses, ballrooms, and burlesque theaters. He must survive betrayal, assassins, and the illusions of the Tower. But if he hopes to find his wife, he will have to do more than just endure. This quiet man of letters must become a man of action.

dwarf fortress writing: *Rights of Man* Thomas Paine, 2017-03-06

dwarf fortress writing: *Finch* Jeff VanderMeer, 2009 In a world where mysterious underground dwellers rule the state of Ambergris and control its residents with addictive drugs, internment camps and random acts of terror, John Finch and his partner, Wyte, must solve a double murder for their oppressive masters, all while trying to make contact with the scattered rebel resistance.

dwarf fortress writing: *Around the Bloc* Stephanie Elizondo Griest, 2007-12-18 Desperate to escape South Texas, Stephanie Elizondo Griest dreamed of becoming a foreign correspondent. So she headed to Russia looking for some excitement—commencing what would become a four-year, twelve-nation Communist bloc tour that shattered her preconceived notions of the “Evil Empire.” In *Around the Bloc*, Griest relates her experiences as a volunteer at a children’s shelter in Moscow, a propaganda polisher at the office of the Chinese Communist Party’s English-language mouthpiece in

Beijing, and a belly dancer among the rumba queens of Havana. She falls in love with an ex-soldier who narrowly avoided radiation cleanup duties at Chernobyl, hangs out with Cuban hip-hop artists, and comes to difficult realizations about the meaning of democracy. is the absorbing story of a young journalist driven by a desire to witness the effects of Communism. Along the way, she learns the Russian mathematical equation for buying dinner-party vodka (one bottle per guest, plus an extra), stumbles upon Beijing's underground gay scene, marches with 100,000 mothers demanding Elián González's return to Cuba, and gains a new appreciation for the Mexican culture she left behind.

dwarf fortress writing: *The Land of Stories: An Author's Odyssey* Chris Colfer, 2016-07-12 The fifth book in Chris Colfer's #1 New York Times bestselling series *The Land of Stories!* The Masked Man has captured all the royal families from the Land of Stories with the help of his army of literature's greatest villains, including the Wicked Witch of the West, the Queen of Hearts, and Captain Hook. With his sinister plan finally in motion, he is eager to destroy the families and take his place as emperor. Alex and Conner know they are no match against the Masked Man's legion of villains, but they realize that they may be in possession of the greatest weapon of all: their own imaginations! So begins the twins' journey into Conner's very own stories to gather an army of pirates, cyborgs, superheroes, and mummies as they band together for the ultimate fight against the Masked Man. Meanwhile, an even more dangerous plan is brewing--one that could change the fates of both the fairy-tale world and the Otherworld forever. Conner's tales come alive in the thrilling fifth adventure in the #1 New York Times bestselling *Land of Stories* series.

dwarf fortress writing: *The Naming* Alison Croggon, 2010-12-07 An epic fantasy in the Tolkien tradition, with a strong girl hero. . . . I couldn't put it down! - Tamora Pierce Maerad is a slave in a desperate and unforgiving settlement, taken there as a child when her family is destroyed in war. She doesn't yet know she has inherited a powerful gift, one that marks her as a member of the noble School of Pellinor and enables her to see the world as no other can. It is only when she is discovered by Cadvan, one of the great Bards of Lirigon, that her true identity and extraordinary destiny unfold. Now, she and her mysterious teacher must embark on a treacherous, uncertain journey through a time and place where the forces of darkness wield an otherworldly terror. The first book in a projected quartet, Alison Croggon's epic about Maerad and her remarkable yet dangerous gift is a beautiful, unforgettable tale. Presented as a new translation of an ancient text, *The Naming* evokes the rich and complex landscape of Annar, a legendary world just waiting to be discovered.

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