

sparknotes do androids dream of electric sheep

sparknotes do androids dream of electric sheep is a highly searched phrase among readers, students, and science fiction enthusiasts seeking a comprehensive summary and analysis of Philip K. Dick's renowned novel. This article provides a detailed exploration of the novel's plot, characters, major themes, and literary significance. Readers will find in-depth insights into the dystopian world of "Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?", as well as an examination of its philosophical questions and cultural impact. Key topics such as empathy, identity, humanity, and technological advancement are discussed, with clear explanations that are easy to understand. Whether you are preparing for a class discussion, writing an essay, or simply curious about the novel's deeper meanings, this guide delivers everything you need. The article also includes a helpful Table of Contents for easy navigation, making it an essential resource for anyone searching for sparknotes do androids dream of electric sheep.

- Overview of "Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?"
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Overview of "Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?"

"Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?" is a seminal science fiction novel written by Philip K. Dick and first published in 1968. Set in a post-apocalyptic San Francisco following a devastating global war, the narrative examines the blurred lines between human and artificial intelligence through the lens of bounty hunter Rick Deckard. The novel is renowned for its exploration of complex ethical dilemmas, its atmospheric world-building, and the way it questions the nature of empathy and reality. Sparknotes do androids dream of electric sheep provides readers with a concise summary and analysis, making the novel more accessible to a broader audience.

Frequently referenced in academic settings and popular culture, this novel has profoundly influenced the science fiction genre. Its themes resonate with contemporary debates about artificial intelligence, environmental decay, and the definition of humanity.

Plot Summary

Setting and Background

The story unfolds in a near-future Earth, ravaged by nuclear fallout known as "World War Terminus." Most animals have died, and owning a live animal is a status symbol of empathy and wealth. The desolate environment sets the stage for the novel's philosophical questions about existence and morality.

Main Events

Rick Deckard, a bounty hunter, is assigned to "retire" six Nexus-6 androids that have escaped from Mars and are hiding on Earth. The advanced androids, indistinguishable from humans, pose significant challenges for Deckard. The narrative follows his encounters with these androids, his internal struggles, and his quest to acquire a real animal to replace his electric sheep.

- Deckard's pursuit of the androids leads him into moral conflict about the act of "retirement."
- He meets Rachael Rosen, an advanced Nexus-6 android, who complicates his understanding of empathy and love.
- Deckard's journey culminates in a confrontation with the final androids, forcing him to question his own humanity.

Resolution

After completing his assignment, Deckard returns home, emotionally exhausted and disillusioned. He discovers a toad, initially believing it to be real, only to find it is artificial. The ending leaves readers contemplating the authenticity of emotions and the true nature of empathy in a world dominated by artificial beings.

Main Characters

Rick Deckard

Rick Deckard is the protagonist, a bounty hunter tasked with eliminating rogue androids. His profession forces him to confront difficult moral and existential questions. Deckard's personal quest for a real animal symbolizes his longing for authentic connection and empathy in an increasingly artificial world.

Rachael Rosen

Rachael Rosen is a sophisticated Nexus-6 android who manipulates Deckard's emotions and challenges his perceptions of reality. Her ambiguous motivations and complex relationship with Deckard form the emotional core of the novel.

John Isidore

John Isidore is a "special" or "chickenhead," a human with diminished intelligence due to radioactive fallout. He befriends fugitive androids and represents the marginalized, raising questions about the value of life and compassion.

Supporting Characters

- Eldon Rosen: Rachael's relative and a powerful figure at the Rosen Association.
- Pris Stratton: A Nexus-6 android, involved in the group Deckard hunts.
- Buster Friendly: A media personality whose presence satirizes mass culture and reality.

Themes and Symbolism

Humanity vs. Artificial Intelligence

The novel's central theme revolves around the distinction between humans and androids. Through the Voigt-Kampff empathy test, Dick questions whether empathy is a uniquely human trait and what it means to be "alive." The androids' emotional responses and the humans' mechanical behaviors blur these boundaries.

Empathy and Identity

Empathy is depicted as the defining characteristic of humanity. Deckard's interactions with androids and animals highlight the complexity of genuine emotion versus programmed responses. The Electric Sheep and other animals symbolize longing for authenticity and connection.

Environmental Decay

The radioactive fallout and mass extinction of animals serve as metaphors for environmental destruction and its impact on society. The obsession with owning real animals underscores the value of nature and the consequences of its loss.

1. Loss of biodiversity as a symbol of moral and spiritual decay
2. Artificial animals reflecting the loss of genuine experiences
3. Urban desolation reinforcing themes of isolation

Religion and Belief Systems

Mercerism, a fictional religion in the novel, offers hope and shared suffering through empathy boxes. It reflects humanity's need for spiritual meaning in a fragmented world, contrasting with the skepticism brought by artificial beings and mass media.

Philosophical Questions

What Does It Mean to Be Human?

Sparknotes do androids dream of electric sheep highlights Dick's inquiry into the essence of humanity. The narrative challenges readers to consider whether behavior, thought, or feeling defines personhood. The androids' sophisticated mimicry raises ethical dilemmas about rights and consciousness.

Moral Ambiguity of Technology

The novel explores the double-edged nature of technological advancement. While technology offers solutions, it also creates new problems—such as artificial life and ethical uncertainty about its treatment.

Authenticity vs. Artificiality

The prevalence of artificial animals and androids forces characters to grapple with the authenticity of their experiences and emotions. The line between real and fake becomes increasingly blurred, inviting reflection on the value of truth in a manufactured reality.

Literary Style and Reception

Writing Style

Philip K. Dick employs a sparse, direct prose style, blending noir elements with philosophical introspection. The narrative's structure is tightly focused, alternating between action-driven sequences and contemplative passages.

Critical Acclaim

"Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?" has been praised for its originality, depth, and prescient vision of technological society. Critics highlight its ability to provoke thought about the future of humanity and artificial intelligence.

Influence on Science Fiction

The novel is considered a cornerstone of modern science fiction, inspiring countless works in literature, film, and philosophy. Its themes and style have shaped the genre's approach to exploring technology, ethics, and identity.

Cultural Impact and Adaptations

Film Adaptations

The most famous adaptation is Ridley Scott's 1982 film "Blade Runner," which reimagines the novel's plot and characters while retaining its philosophical core. The movie has become a cultural phenomenon, sparking debates about artificial intelligence and humanity.

Legacy in Popular Culture

Sparknotes do androids dream of electric sheep remains relevant through references in academic discourse, media, and technology debates. The novel's influence extends to video games, television, and philosophical discussions about the future of AI.

Continued Relevance

Themes of environmental decline, empathy, and identity continue to resonate in contemporary

society. As advancements in robotics and artificial intelligence accelerate, the questions raised by Dick's novel remain more pertinent than ever.

Trending and Relevant Questions and Answers about sparknotes do androids dream of electric sheep

Q: What is the main theme of “Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?”?

A: The main theme is the exploration of empathy as the defining trait of humanity and the blurred line between humans and artificial intelligence.

Q: Who is Rick Deckard?

A: Rick Deckard is the protagonist, a bounty hunter assigned to “retire” rogue androids, and his journey raises complex moral and philosophical questions.

Q: How does the novel address the concept of empathy?

A: Empathy is tested through the Voigt-Kampff machine and is portrayed as the core difference between humans and androids, questioning whether it can be artificially replicated.

Q: What role do animals play in the story?

A: Animals, both real and artificial, symbolize status, empathy, and the loss of nature in a post-apocalyptic world.

Q: How is Mercerism significant in the novel?

A: Mercerism serves as a fictional religion that offers spiritual solace and explores the shared suffering and hope of humanity.

Q: What is the relationship between Rick Deckard and Rachael Rosen?

A: Their relationship is complex, involving emotional manipulation and challenges to Deckard's understanding of love and empathy.

Q: How does “Blade Runner” relate to the novel?

A: “Blade Runner” is a film adaptation that retains the philosophical themes of the novel while reimagining its plot and characters.

Q: Why is “Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?” considered influential?

A: Its innovative exploration of technology, ethics, and identity has helped shape the science fiction genre and remains relevant in contemporary discussions about artificial intelligence.

Q: What are the androids’ main challenges in the story?

A: The androids strive to evade detection and “retirement,” raising questions about consciousness, personhood, and moral rights.

Q: How does the novel depict post-apocalyptic society?

A: It presents a world devastated by nuclear war, marked by environmental decay, isolation, and the struggle for authentic experiences and connections.

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SparkNotes Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep: A Deep Dive into Philip K. Dick's Dystopian Masterpiece

Are you facing the daunting task of tackling Philip K. Dick's philosophical sci-fi masterpiece, Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep? Feeling overwhelmed by the complex themes and intricate plot? This comprehensive guide serves as your ultimate SparkNotes for Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep, providing a detailed summary, analysis of key themes, and insights to help you fully appreciate Dick's visionary work. We'll unravel the complexities of empathy, humanity, and what it truly means to be alive in this chillingly relevant dystopian future.

A Quick Synopsis: Setting the Stage

Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep? is set in a post-apocalyptic San Francisco, ravaged by a nuclear war that decimated the Earth's population and environment. Society is deeply fractured, with a palpable sense of societal decay and spiritual emptiness. The story centers around Rick Deckard, a bounty hunter tasked with "retiring" (killing) escaped Nexus-6 androids, virtually indistinguishable from humans. The novel explores Rick's internal struggles as he grapples with his assignment, questioning the very nature of humanity and the meaning of empathy in a world where it's increasingly difficult to tell the difference between human and machine. The central conflict revolves around Rick's mission, his own emotional and spiritual state, and the blurring lines between human and android.

Key Characters: Unveiling the Players

Understanding the characters is crucial to grasping the novel's complex themes. Here's a brief overview:

Rick Deckard: The protagonist, a bounty hunter wrestling with his conscience and the ethical implications of his job. His emotional journey forms the backbone of the narrative.

Rachael Rosen: A particularly advanced Nexus-6 android whose emotional depth challenges Rick's perception of what it means to be human. Her existence forces him to confront his own biases and prejudices.

John Isidore: A "chickenhead," a mentally handicapped human, who provides an alternative perspective on humanity and societal outcasts. His connection with the androids highlights the limitations of societal classifications.

The Nexus-6 Androids: These escaped androids, each with unique personalities and motivations, force the reader to question the very definition of humanity. Their actions and desires challenge the moral boundaries set by society.

Major Themes: Exploring the Philosophical Depth

Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep? is far more than a simple science fiction thriller. Dick masterfully weaves together several profound and enduring themes:

The Nature of Empathy:

This is arguably the central theme. The novel explores the significance of empathy, its rarity in the post-apocalyptic world, and its role in defining humanity. Owning an empathy box, a device that simulates emotional connection, becomes a status symbol, highlighting the societal devaluation of genuine human connection.

The Definition of Humanity:

Dick challenges the reader to question what truly separates humans from machines. Are humans simply biological beings, or is there something more—a spiritual essence or inherent capacity for empathy? The androids' increasing sophistication blurs the lines, forcing a critical examination of our own humanity.

The Illusion of Reality:

The prevalence of electric animals (artificial replacements for real animals, wiped out by nuclear war) and the potential for false memories in androids raise questions about the nature of reality itself. What is real, and what is merely a manufactured simulation? This questioning of reality underscores the novel's exploration of truth and perception.

The Dangers of Technology and Dehumanization:

The novel serves as a cautionary tale about the potential negative consequences of technological advancement. The reliance on technology to compensate for environmental devastation and emotional deficits highlights a potential path toward dehumanization and societal collapse.

The Significance of the Voight-Kampff Test:

The Voight-Kampff test, used to distinguish between humans and androids, becomes a crucial plot device. Its fallibility underscores the difficulty in objectively defining humanity and highlights the limitations of technological solutions to complex moral dilemmas.

A Final Thought: The Enduring Legacy

Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep? remains relevant today, prompting us to consider the ethical implications of technological advancements, the importance of human connection, and the ever-blurring lines between humanity and artificial intelligence. Dick's insightful exploration of these themes continues to resonate with readers decades after its publication, solidifying its status as a classic work of science fiction.

Conclusion:

Navigating the complexities of *Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep* can be a rewarding experience. By understanding the characters, exploring the central themes, and appreciating the novel's exploration of philosophical questions, you can gain a deeper appreciation for Dick's visionary storytelling and its enduring relevance to our modern world. This SparkNotes guide is just a starting point; delve into the book itself to uncover the full richness and depth of Philip K. Dick's literary masterpiece.

FAQs:

1. Is the movie Blade Runner a direct adaptation of the book? While inspired by the novel, Blade Runner takes creative liberties and departs significantly from the book's plot and themes.
2. What is the significance of the electric sheep in the novel? The electric sheep symbolizes the artificiality and lack of authenticity in the post-apocalyptic world, highlighting the longing for genuine connection with nature and life.
3. How does the novel explore religious themes? The novel touches upon religious themes through Rick's wavering faith and the significance of Mercerism, a religious movement emphasizing empathy and collective consciousness.
4. What is the meaning of the title? The title itself poses the central question of the novel: Can androids, with their advanced capabilities, experience emotions and consciousness on par with humans?
5. What is the overall message of the novel? The novel ultimately encourages reflection on what defines humanity, the importance of empathy, and the potential dangers of unchecked technological advancement and the resulting dehumanization.

sparknotes do androids dream of electric sheep: Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?

Philip K. Dick, 1975 By 2021, the Terminus War had driven mankind off-planet and entire species into extinction. Now only the rich can afford living creatures; others may buy amazingly realistic simulacrae: horses, cats, sheep ... Even humans. These artificial people are so advanced it's impossible to tell them from true men and women--except for their lack of empathy. Without empathy, androids can--and do--kill their owners and blend into society, so they're illegal on Earth. It's Rick Deckard's job to find these rogues and retire them. But andys tend to fight back--with deadly results.

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Wholesale Philip K. Dick, 1987 This volume of the classic stories of Philip K. Dick offers an intriguing glimpse into the early imagination of one of science fiction's most enduring and respected names. Since his untimely death in 1982, interest in Dick's work has continued to mount and his reputation has been enhanced by a growing body of critical attention as well as many films based on his stories and novels. Featuring the story We Can Remember It for You Wholesale, which inspired the major motion picture Total Recall, this collection draws from the writer's earliest fiction, written during the years 1952-55. Also included are fascinating works such as The Adjustment Team (basis of the 2011 movie The Adjustment Bureau), Impostor (basis of the 2001 movie), and many others. A useful acquisition for any serious SF library or collection. --Kirkus Reviews More than anyone else in the field, Mr. Dick really puts you inside people's minds. --Wall Street Journal The collected stories of Philip K. Dick are awe-inspiring. --Washington Post

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2009-05-01 Have you ever awoken from a particularly vivid dream to wonder what it could possibly mean? Do our nighttime reveries have real meaning and significance, or are they nothing more than random white noise generated as our brains recharge? In *The Secret of Dreams*, author Yacki Raizizun presents a remarkably comprehensive overview of the deeper meaning of these strange and wondrous mental fantasies.

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2007-04-01 From New York Times bestseller and Hugo Award-winner John Scalzi, a wild-and-woolly caper novel of interstellar diplomacy A human diplomat creates an interstellar incident when he kills

an alien diplomat in a most . . . unusual . . . way. To avoid war, Earth's government must find an equally unusual object: a type of sheep (The Android's Dream), used in the alien race's coronation ceremony. To find the sheep, the government turns to Harry Creek, ex-cop, war hero and hacker extraordinaire, who, with the help of a childhood friend turned artificial intelligence, scours the earth looking for the rare creature. But there are others with plans for the sheep as well. Mercenaries employed by the military. Adherents of a secret religion based on the writings of a 21st century SF author. And alien races, eager to start a revolution on their home world and a war on Earth. To keep our planet from being enslaved, Harry will have to pull off a grand diplomatic coup, a gambit that will take him from the halls of power to the lava-strewn battlefields of alien worlds. There's only one chance to get it right, to save the life of the sheep—and to protect the future of humanity. Other Tor Books The Android's Dream Agent to the Stars Your Hate Mail Will Be Graded Fuzzy Nation Redshirts 1. Lock In 2. Head On The Interdependency Sequence 1. The Collapsing Empire 2. The Consuming Fire Old Man's War Series 1. Old Man's War 2. The Ghost Brigades 3. The Last Colony 4. Zoe's Tale 5. The Human Division 6. The End of All Things At the Publisher's request, this title is being sold without Digital Rights Management Software (DRM) applied.

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sparknotes do androids dream of electric sheep: The Bladerunner Alan E Nourse, 2013-04-12 Billy Gimp was a bladerunner . . . one of the shadowy procurers of illegal medical supplies for the rapidly expanding, nightmare world of the medical black market. Doc was a skilled surgeon at a government-operated hospital by day . . . and an underground physician by night, providing health care for the multitudes who could not - or would not - qualify for legal medical assistance. Trapped by Health Control Police, Billy Gimp knew he had to warn Doc that they were closing in on him. But something even more deadly than the law had already made its first move . . . a

new plague that Health Control could not handle!

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sparknotes do androids dream of electric sheep: Marionettes, Inc Ray Bradbury, 2009 In five stories (one of them original to this collection, plus a rare, previously unpublished screen treatment) Bradbury explores the concept of Robotics and examines its impact on the day-to-day lives of ordinary people.

sparknotes do androids dream of electric sheep: How to Read Like a Writer Mike Bunn, When you Read Like a Writer (RLW) you work to identify some of the choices the author made so that you can better understand how such choices might arise in your own writing. The idea is to carefully examine the things you read, looking at the writerly techniques in the text in order to decide if you might want to adopt similar (or the same) techniques in your writing. You are reading to learn about writing. Instead of reading for content or to better understand the ideas in the writing (which you will automatically do to some degree anyway), you are trying to understand how the piece of writing was put together by the author and what you can learn about writing by reading a particular text. As you read in this way, you think about how the choices the author made and the techniques that he/she used are influencing your own responses as a reader. What is it about the way this text is written that makes you feel and respond the way you do?

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Invasion and The Transmigration of Timothy Archer). This disorienting and bleakly funny work is about a schizophrenic hero named Horselover Fat; the hidden mysteries of Gnostic Christianity; and reality as revealed through a pink laser. Valis is a theological detective story, in which God is both a missing person and the perpetrator of the ultimate crime. The fact that what Dick is entertaining us about is reality and madness, time and death, sin and salvation--this has escaped most critics. Nobody notices that we have our own homegrown Borges, and have had him for thirty years.--Ursula K. Le Guin, New Republic From the Trade Paperback edition.

sparknotes do androids dream of electric sheep: *The Golden Man* Philip K. Dick, 2014-12-16 The DCA is a government agency tasked with tracking down humans born with superhuman mutations, all of whom are considered a threat to the continued survival of the human race. But even seasoned veterans of the DCA worry that one day they will encounter a mutant that they cannot best—the mutant who will be the first of an entirely new species that will replace Homo sapiens as the dominant species on the planet. Philip K. Dick was an American science-fiction novelist, short-story writer and essayist. His first short story, "Beyond Lies the Wub," was published shortly after his high school graduation. Some of his most famous short stories were adapted for film, including "The Minority Report," "Paycheck," "Second Variety" (adapted into the film *Screamers*) and "We Can Remember It For You Wholesale" (adapted into the film *Total Recall*). HarperCollins brings great works of literature to life in digital format, upholding the highest standards in ebook production and celebrating reading in all its forms. Look for more titles in the HarperCollins short-stories collection to build your digital library.

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sparknotes do androids dream of electric sheep: *The Best of Walter M. Miller Jr* Walter M. Miller, 2000 From the author of the acclaimed *A Canticle for Leibowitz* (for which he won the Hugo Award) comes this classic collection of short fiction.

sparknotes do androids dream of electric sheep: *Bük #13* Richard Wright, 2005

sparknotes do androids dream of electric sheep: *Silent Interviews* Samuel R. Delany, 2018-08-14 Collected interviews featuring the Nebula Award-winning author and his thoughts on topics like literary criticism, comic books, race, and sexuality. For nearly three decades, Samuel R. Delany's science fiction has transported millions of readers to the fringes of time, technology, and outer space. Now Delany surveys the realms of his own experience as a writer, critic, theorist, and gay Black man in this collection of written interviews, a type of guided essay. Because the written interview avoids the "mutual presence positioned at the semantic core" of traditional interview, Delany explains, "a kind of cut remains between the participants—a fissure in which the truths there may be more malleable, less rigid." Within that fissure Delany pursues the breadth and depth of his ideas on language and theory, the politics of literary composition, the experience of marginality, and the philosophical, commercial, and personal contexts of writing today. Gathered from sources as diverse as *Diacritics* and *The Comics Journal*, these interviews reveal the broad range of Delany's thought and interests. "Delany has a unique place in late twentieth century letters. A lifelong inhabitant of the margins, both social and literary, he has used his marginalized status as a lens to focus his astute observations of American literature and society. From these interviews his voice emerges, provocative, precise, and engaging." —Kathleen Spencer, University of Nebraska "Samuel R. Delany never shies away from contestable positions or provocative opinions. In his fiction, Delany can write like quicksilver, and in lectures or panel discussions, he is easily SF's most articulate spokesperson in academia. . . . There is much here that is not covered in Delany's critical or autobiographical writings, and much that anyone seriously interested in SF—or many of Delany's other favorite topics—ought to consider." —Locus "Delany is fascinating whether discussing SF, comics, or his experiences as a Black American, and this collection . . . is as entertaining as it is informative." —Science Fiction Chronicle "Yevgeny Zamyatin? Stanislaw Lem? Forget it! Delany is

both, with a lot of Borges and Bruno Schultz thrown in.” —Village Voice

sparknotes do androids dream of electric sheep: Burning Chrome William Gibson, 2014-04-15 “A breath of fresh air . . . the vision is deeply imagined, very complete and controlled . . . Gibson is truly brilliant.”—Washington Times magazine From a true master of science fiction comes a collection of short stories that show how, no matter the length, Gibson is one of the greatest writers working today. Known for his seminal science fiction novel *Neuromancer*, and for the acclaimed books *Pattern Recognition*, *The Peripheral*, and *Agency*, William Gibson is actually best when writing short fiction. Tautly written and suspenseful, *Burning Chrome* collects 10 short stories, including some written with Bruce Sterling, John Shirley, and Michael Swanwick, and with a preface from Bruce Sterling, now available for the first time in trade paperback. These brilliant, high-resolution stories show Gibson’s characters and intensely realized worlds at their absolute best, from the chip-enhanced couriers of “Johnny Mnemonic” to the street-tech melancholy of “Burning Chrome.”

sparknotes do androids dream of electric sheep: The Witches Stacy Schiff, 2015-10-27 The Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *Cleopatra*, the #1 national bestseller, unpacks the mystery of the Salem Witch Trials. It began in 1692, over an exceptionally raw Massachusetts winter, when a minister's daughter began to scream and convulse. It ended less than a year later, but not before 19 men and women had been hanged and an elderly man crushed to death. The panic spread quickly, involving the most educated men and prominent politicians in the colony. Neighbors accused neighbors, parents and children each other. Aside from suffrage, the Salem Witch Trials represent the only moment when women played the central role in American history. In curious ways, the trials would shape the future republic. As psychologically thrilling as it is historically seminal, *The Witches* is Stacy Schiff's account of this fantastical story -- the first great American mystery unveiled fully for the first time by one of our most acclaimed historians.

sparknotes do androids dream of electric sheep: A Journey Edith Wharton, 2014-03-01 *A Journey* is a short story by Edith Wharton. Edith Wharton (born Edith Newbold Jones; January 24, 1862 – August 11, 1937) was a Pulitzer Prize-winning American novelist, short story writer, and designer. She was nominated for the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1927, 1928 and 1930. Wharton combined her insider's view of America's privileged classes with a brilliant, natural wit to write humorous, incisive novels and short stories of social and psychological insight. She was well acquainted with many of her era's other literary and public figures, including Theodore Roosevelt. Wharton was born to George Frederic Jones and Lucretia Stevens Rhineland in New York City. She had two brothers, Frederic Rhineland and Henry Edward. The saying *Keeping up with the Joneses* is said to refer to her father's family. She was also related to the Rensselaer family, the most prestigious of the old patroon families. She had a lifelong friendship with her Rhineland niece, landscape architect Beatrix Farrand of Reef Point in Bar Harbor, Maine. In 1885, at 23, she married Edward (Teddy) Robbins Wharton, who was 12 years older. From a well-established Philadelphia family, he was a sportsman and gentleman of the same social class and shared her love of travel. From the late 1880s until 1902, he suffered acute depression, and the couple ceased their extensive travel. At that time his depression manifested as a more serious disorder, after which they lived almost exclusively at The Mount, their estate designed by Edith Wharton. In 1908 her husband's mental state was determined to be incurable. She divorced him in 1913. Around the same time, Edith was overcome with the harsh criticisms leveled by the naturalist writers. Later in 1908 she began an affair with Morton Fullerton, a journalist for *The Times*, in whom she found an intellectual partner. In addition to novels, Wharton wrote at least 85 short stories. She was also a garden designer, interior designer, and taste-maker of her time. She wrote several design books, including her first published work, *The Decoration of Houses* of 1897, co-authored by Ogden Codman. Another is the generously illustrated *Italian Villas and Their Gardens* of 1904.

sparknotes do androids dream of electric sheep: Generation X Douglas Coupland, 1991 Three twenty-something young adults, working at low-paying, no-future jobs, tell one another modern tales of love and death.

sparknotes do androids dream of electric sheep: Tender Is the Flesh Agustina Bazterrica, 2020-08-04 Working at the local processing plant, Marcos is in the business of slaughtering humans—though no one calls them that anymore. His wife has left him, his father is sinking into dementia, and Marcos tries not to think too hard about how he makes a living. After all, it happened so quickly. First, it was reported that an infectious virus has made all animal meat poisonous to humans. Then governments initiated the “Transition.” Now, eating human meat—“special meat”—is legal. Marcos tries to stick to numbers, consignments, processing. Then one day he’s given a gift: a live specimen of the finest quality. Though he’s aware that any form of personal contact is forbidden on pain of death, little by little he starts to treat her like a human being. And soon, he becomes tortured by what has been lost—and what might still be saved.

sparknotes do androids dream of electric sheep: Machines Like Me Ian McEwan, 2019-04-23 From the Booker Prize winner and bestselling author of *Atonement*—“a sharply intelligent novel of ideas” (The New York Times) that asks whether a machine can understand the human heart, or whether we are the ones who lack understanding. Set in an uncanny alternative 1982 London—where Britain has lost the Falklands War, Margaret Thatcher battles Tony Benn for power, and Alan Turing achieves a breakthrough in artificial intelligence—*Machines Like Me* powerfully portrays two lovers who will be tested beyond their understanding. Charlie, drifting through life and dodging full-time employment, is in love with Miranda, a bright student who lives with a terrible secret. When Charlie comes into money, he buys Adam, one of the first generation of synthetic humans. With Miranda’s assistance, he codesigns Adam’s personality. The near-perfect human that emerges is beautiful, strong, and smart—and a love triangle soon forms. Ian McEwan’s subversive, gripping novel poses fundamental questions: What makes us human—our outward deeds or our inner lives? Could a machine understand the human heart? This provocative and thrilling tale warns against the power to invent things beyond our control. Don’t miss Ian McEwan’s new novel, *Lessons*, coming in September!

sparknotes do androids dream of electric sheep: *Tears of the Trufflepig* Fernando A. Flores, 2019-05-14

sparknotes do androids dream of electric sheep: **Minority Report** Philip K. Dick, 2002 Imagine a future where crimes can be detected before they are committed, and criminals are convicted and sentenced for crimes before committing them. This is the scenario of Philip K. Dick’s classic story, now filmed by Steven Spielberg, starring Tom Cruise. In addition to ‘Minority Report’ this exclusive collection includes nine other outstanding short stories by the twentieth century’s outstanding sf master, three of which have been made into feature films.

sparknotes do androids dream of electric sheep: **The Divine Invasion** Philip K. Dick, 2005-03-08 In *The Divine Invasion*, Philip K. Dick asks: What if God—or a being called Yah—were alive and in exile on a distant planet? How could a second coming succeed against the high technology and finely tuned rationalized evil of the modern police state? *The Divine Invasion* blends Judaism, Kabbalah, Zoroastrianism, and Christianity into a fascinating fable of human existence (West Coast Review of Books). From the Trade Paperback edition.

sparknotes do androids dream of electric sheep: **My Mother is a Fish** William Faulkner, Janet C. Nosek, 2000 This book is a powerful discussion of the novels, short stories, and poems of William Faulkner. Intended for both the general reader as well as those already fully acquainted with his work, *My Mother is a Fish* illustrates the wisdom and genius of this great modernist of classical twentieth century American Literature. Janet C. Nosek provides a personal commentary on quotations and short passages that show the wide range of style, language, themes, and connections found in Faulkner’s fiction. Both instructive and entertaining, this book will be of great interest to literary scholars and a helpful ancillary text as well.

sparknotes do androids dream of electric sheep: **Martian Time-Slip** Philip K. Dick, 2011-03-24 Mars is a desolate world. Largely forgotten by Earth, the planet remains helpless in the stranglehold of Arnie Kott, who as boss of the plumbers’ union has a monopoly over the vital water supply. Arnie Kott is obsessed by the past; the native Bleekmen, poverty-stricken wanderers, can see

into the future; while to Manfred, an autistic boy, time apparently stops. When one of the colonists, Norbert Steiner, commits suicide, the repercussions are startling and bizarre.

sparknotes do androids dream of electric sheep: *Motherless Brooklyn* Jonathan Lethem, 1999 A black comedy in New York's criminal underworld. The twitching hero--he suffers from Tourette's syndrome--is one of four misfits who were rescued from an orphanage by a man who gave them jobs in his detective agency. Now the man has been killed and the boys intend to get the killer.

sparknotes do androids dream of electric sheep: *The Days of Perky Pat* Philip K. Dick, 1990

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