

APOLOGIA

No corgis were harmed in the making of this novel. However, many beloved books, films, franchises, individuals, and abstract concepts may have been lampooned, satirized, parodied, and unceremoniously pantsed in the service of protecting those corgis. I am reliably informed that at least several of them (the ridiculed, not the corgis) might be litigious. Therefore, I'd like to take this opportunity to apologize to the following, alphabetized and attributed with all the academic rigor of a comedian.

Should any readers use this list to see if they caught all the Easter eggs and pop culture references the author intended, they'd be doing so of their own volition and probably against Terms of Service. They'd also be voiding this book's warranty.

My sincere and heartfelt apologies to:

Voltaire, *Candide* (which inspired this entire book)

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Douglas Adams, *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*

Douglas Adams, *The Restaurant at the End of the Universe*

Isaac Asimov, *Foundation*

Isaac Asimov, the Robot series

Marvel's *Avengers*

Frank L. Baum, *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*

The Bible, author unknown or unknowable,
depending on whom you ask

Terry Bisson, "They're Made Out of Meat"

Ray Bradbury, "A Sound of Thunder"

Ray Bradbury, *Dandelion Wine*

David Brin, *Sundiver*

Mel Brooks, *Spaceballs*

James Cameron, *Avatar*

James Cameron, *The Terminator*

Joseph Campbell, *The Hero with a Thousand Faces*

Canada, eh?

Orson Scott Card, *Ender's Game*

Bertram Chandler, "The Cage"

Anton Chekhov's gun (also known as Chekhov's
knife in the United Kingdom)

Daniel Chulsky, he knows why

Winston Churchill, 1947 Speech to the British House
of Commons

Arthur C. Clarke, "Hazards of Prophecy: The Failure
of Imagination"

Arthur C. Clarke & Stanley Kubrick, *2001: A Space
Odyssey*

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Stephen Colbert, *The Colbert Report*

Stephen Covey, *The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People*

Michael Crichton, *Jurassic Park*

Pierre Dac, "Le Schmilblick"

Greg Daniels, *Upload*

Arthur Conan Doyle, *Sherlock Holmes*

Dr. Who

Duck Tales

The Eagles, "Hotel California"

The Ecumenical Council of Nicaea

Roland Emmerich, *Independence Day*

Benjamin Franklin, *Poor Richard's Almanack*

Sir Clement Freud, the *Observer* article

William Gibson, *Neuromancer*

Elizabeth Gilbert, *Eat, Pray, Love*

DC's *Green Lantern Corps*

Simon R. Green, *Deathstalker*

Matt Groening, *Futurama*

Marvel's *Guardians of the Galaxy*

Stephen Hawking

Robert A. Heinlein, *Starship Troopers*

Howard V. Hendrix, Note to the SFWA Membership,
2007

Frank Herbert, *Dune*

Jim C. Hines, *Terminal Uprising*

Alfred Hitchcock and Angus MacPhail, The
MacGuffin technique

Thomas Hobbes, *Leviathan*

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Marvel's *The Hulk*
The Jetsons
Billy Joel, "Miami 2017"
Marie Kondo, *Spark Joy*
Lethal Weapon
C.S. Lewis, *The Chronicles of Narnia*
Ken Liu, "The Gods Will Not Be Chained"
Chuck Lorre, *The Big Bang Theory*
Lost in Space
H.P. Lovecraft, *At the Mountains of Madness*
George Lucas, *Star Wars*
Gen. Douglas MacArthur, Farewell address
Bob Marley, "I Shot the Sheriff"
George R.R. Martin, *A Song of Ice and Fire* series
Karl Marx, *A Contribution to the Critique of Hegel's
Philosophy of Right*
Patrick McGoohan, *The Prisoner*
Memes. So many memes.
Microsoft Office
Lin-Manuel Miranda, *Hamilton*
Monty Python and the Holy Grail
Elon Musk
Christopher Nolan, *The Dark Knight*
William F. Nolan and George Clayton Johnson,
Logan's Run
George Orwell, *Animal Farm*
Trey Parker & Matt Stone, *South Park*
Queen, "Bohemian Rhapsody"
Mike Resnick, *Soothsayer*

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Gene Roddenberry, *Star Trek*
Antoine de Saint-Exupéry, *The Little Prince*
George Harry Sanders and Clarence Z. Kelley, "I'm a
Little Teapot"
Jean-Paul Sartre, *No Exit*
John Scalzi, *When the Moon Hits Your Eye*
Ridley Scott, *Alien*
Ridley Scott, *Blade Runner*
Jerry Seinfeld, *Seinfeld*
William Shakespeare, *Hamlet*
Mary Shelley, *Frankenstein*
E.E. "Doc" Smith, The Lensman series
The Sopranos
The Sound of Music
Marvel's *Spider-Man*
Steven Spielberg, *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*
Steven Spielberg, *Raiders of the Lost Ark*
Stargate
J. Michael Straczynski, *Babylon 5*
DC's *Superman*
Jonathan Swift, *A Modest Proposal*
Taylor Swift, "The Tortured Poets Department"
Adrian Tchaikovsky, *Shards of Earth*
J. R. R. Tolkien, *The Lord of the Rings*
Transformers
Joan D. Vinge, *Snow Queen*
A.E. van Vogt, *The Weapon Shops of Isher*
The Wachowski siblings, *The Matrix*
Warhammer 40,000

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Martha Wells, *The Murderbot Diaries*

Joss Whedon, *Firefly*

World of Warcraft

Timothy Zahn, *Heir to the Empire*

Timothy Zahn, *Outbound Flight*

... and the good people of Sheboygan, Wisconsin