AUTHOR BACKSTORIES

Kurt Vonnegut

Reading list

Every book in order of first publication. Each series is kept together, in reading order, starting where its first book appeared. Tick the box as you finish each one.

29 books · List updated November 14, 2026

- ☐ 1952 *Player Piano*
  Novel
  His first novel.
- ☐ 1959 *The Sirens of Titan*
  Novel
  Nominated for the Hugo Award.
- ☐ 1961 *Canary in a Cathouse*
  Story collection
- ☐ 1961 *Mother Night*
  Novel
- ☐ 1963 *Cat's Cradle*
  Novel
  Nominated for the Hugo Award; it later counted as his University of Chicago master's thesis.
- ☐ 1965 *God Bless You, Mr. Rosewater, or Pearls Before Swine*
  Novel
- ☐ 1968 *Welcome to the Monkey House*
  Story collection
- ☐ 1969 *Slaughterhouse-Five, or The Children's Crusade: A Duty-Dance with Death*
  Novel
  Draws on his time as a prisoner of war in Dresden; his first bestseller.
- ☐ 1973 *Breakfast of Champions, or Goodbye Blue Monday*
  Novel
- ☐ 1974 *Wampeters, Foma and Granfalloons (Opinions)*
  Nonfiction
- ☐ 1976 *Slapstick, or Lonesome No More!*
  Novel
- ☐ 1979 *Jailbird*
  Novel
- ☐ 1981 *Palm Sunday: An Autobiographical Collage*
  Nonfiction
- ☐ 1982 *Deadeye Dick*
  Novel

- [ ] 1984 *Nothing Is Lost Save Honor: Two Essays*
  Nonfiction
- [ ] 1985 *Galápagos*
  Novel
- [ ] 1987 *Bluebeard, the Autobiography of Rabo Karabekian (1916–1988)*
  Novel
- [ ] 1990 *Hocus Pocus*
  Novel
- [ ] 1991 *Fates Worse Than Death: An Autobiographical Collage*
  Nonfiction
  He wrote openly about depression in it.
- [ ] 1997 *Timequake*
  Novel
  His last novel.
- [ ] 1999 *Bagombo Snuff Box*
  Story collection
- [ ] 2005 *A Man Without a Country*
  Nonfiction
  His last book published in his lifetime, and a bestseller.
- [ ] 2008 *Armageddon in Retrospect*
  Story collection
  Published after his death; stories, letters and essays on war and peace.
- [ ] 2009 *Look at the Birdie: Unpublished Short Fiction*
  Story collection
  Published after his death.
- [ ] 2011 *While Mortals Sleep: Unpublished Short Fiction*
  Story collection
  Published after his death.
- [ ] 2012 *Kurt Vonnegut: The Cornell Sun Years 1941–1943*
  Nonfiction
  His student journalism, published after his death.
- [ ] 2012 *We Are What We Pretend to Be: The First and Last Works*
  Other
  Published after his death.
- [ ] 2013 *If This Isn't Nice, What Is?: Advice to the Young*
  Nonfiction
  His commencement speeches, published after his death.
- [ ] 2013 *Sucker's Portfolio: A Collection of Previously Unpublished Writing*
  Story collection
  Published after his death.