

IT'S GOING TO GET WEIRDER

READING LIST

A SHORT, SUBJECTIVE SELECTION OF
THE AUTHORS AND BOOKS THAT
INFLUENCED TERENCE MCKENNA

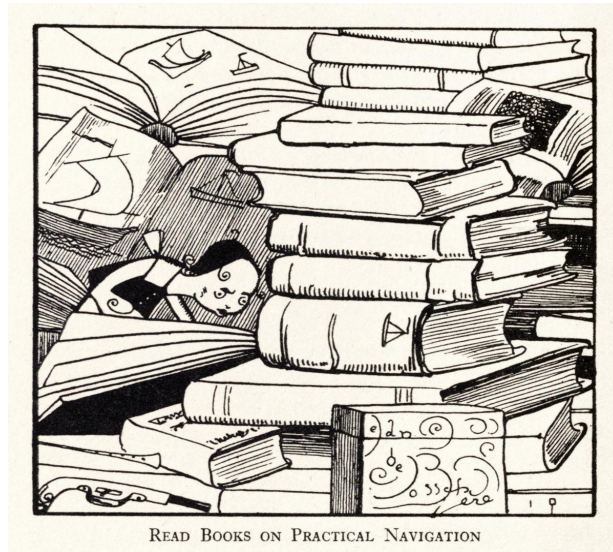
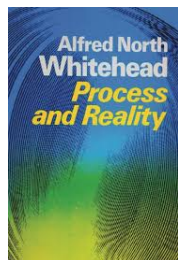


Image from the amazing illustrated book [Weird Islands, by Jean de Bosschère](#).

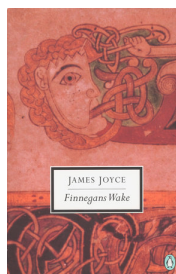
A wide range of subjects have come up during my interviews for the forthcoming documentary, "It's Going to Get Weirder: The Terence McKenna Story," but hearing others comment on the influence of writers, thinkers and philosophers on the mind and oratory of Terence McKenna has definitely been a highlight. Known for his voracious (is there an even stronger word?) appetite for consuming books across a wide range of subjects, McKenna nonetheless did have a "playlist" of thinkers that he would draw upon often as he weaved together multiple threads into a spellbinding discourse on one topic or another. I did not attempt to recount all of those influences here (I'm not sure that's possible!) but instead have subjectively curated a short list of works that came up the most often in my interviews and research. I have also tried to provide a cross-section of material - spanning the academic to the fanciful, the extremely challenging to the deeply entertaining. I've also included two books written about Terence McKenna at the end. Enjoy!

ALFRED NORTH WHITEHEAD - PROCESS AND REALITY



Whitehead, the father of "process philosophy," was an English mathematician and philosopher. Terence McKenna frequently mentioned Whitehead's impact on his views about the nature of reality, time, and novelty. He often recommended that others read Whitehead, even though the material could be challenging.

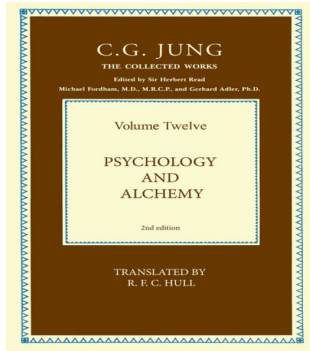
JAMES JOYCE - FINNEGANS WAKE



McKenna once said of Finnegans Wake, "It's about as close to LSD on the page as you can get." The complexity and lyricism of Joyce's writing is reminiscent of McKenna's own storytelling style. One of my interviewees said he was blown away by Terence's ability to not only "finish Finnegans Wake, but to actually understand it."

CARL JUNG - PSYCHOLOGY AND ALCHEMY

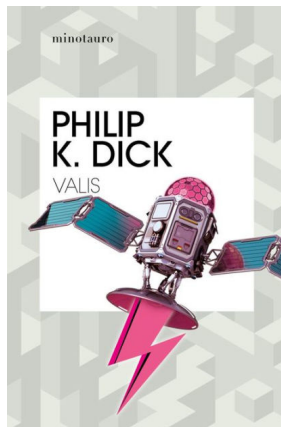
Drawn to Jung's work at a young age, McKenna often referenced his writing about archetypes and the collective unconscious.



His talks were often peppered with Jungian ideas related to ego, shadow, self, synchronicity, and the transformative power of creativity and consciousness.

PHILIP K. DICK - VALIS

Terence McKenna's father was a science fiction fan, which exposed him to a range of SciFi writers at a young age. Among the many that fascinated him was Philip K. Dick.

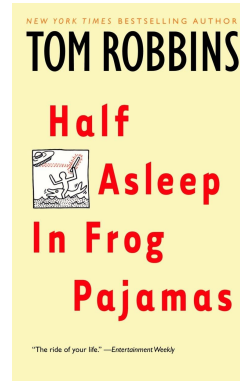


He linked the author's concept of Valis from the novel to the idea of hyperuniverses and holograms, suggesting that our universe is a holographic projection involving multiple interacting dimensions.

FURTHER READING - BOOKS ABOUT TERENCE MCKENNA

THE BROTHERHOOD OF THE SCREAMING ABYSS BY DENNIS MCKENNA

STRANGE ATTRACTOR: THE HALLUCINATORY LIFE OF TERENCE MCKENNA
BY GRAHAM ST. JOHN



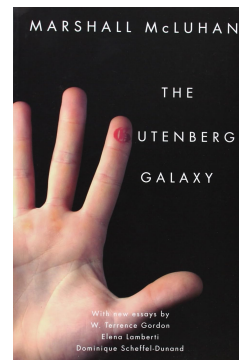
TOM ROBBINS - HALF ASLEEP IN FROG

PAJAMAS Terence and

Tom Robbins were friends; Robbins wrote the forward to The Archaic Revival and Robbins' writing was influenced by

McKenna's ideas and personality. Although never explicitly stated, the character of the charming and eccentric philosopher Larry Diamond in Half Asleep in Frog Pajamas was thought to be inspired by Terence McKenna.

MARSHALL MCLUHAN - THE GUTENBERG GALAXY



The media philosopher and theorist Marshall McLuhan was often referenced by McKenna, himself a prescient observer of the impact of media and culture on society. In a transcribed lecture, McKenna referred to

McLuhan as "...an extraordinarily complex intellectual, a medievalist who became a Joyce scholar who became a communications expert..."

THIS LIST WAS CREATED BY SHARON MCKENNA/SEANCHAI STUDIOS FOR SUPPORTERS OF THE DOCUMENTARY FILM, "IT'S GOING TO GET WEIRDER: THE TERENCE MCKENNA STORY."