

China's grand sci-fi is going global

In the future, when the Sun runs out of fuel and begins to expand, **Earthlings** dig thousands of mountain-sized rockets into their planet's surface and use them to **propel** their home away from certain destruction.

earthling 世人

propel 推进; 驱使

This is the plot of “The Wandering Earth”, a Chinese film adapted from a short story of the same name by Liu Cixin, China's leading writer of science fiction. After taking over \$700m in cinemas, mostly in China, it launched on Netflix in May, making it the first Chinese sci-fi movie to go global.

As China's economy has grown over the past 30 years, its sci-fi writers' vision has expanded, too. Their stories tend to focus on Earth itself — **eschewing** galaxies far far away and long ago — while being **conceived** on a **stupendous** scale. One recurring wide-angle shot in “The Wandering Earth”, for example, shows the planet gliding through space on a pincushion of blue flame, its atmosphere trailing off into a vacuum.

eschew 避免

conceive 怀孕; 设想

stupendous 惊人的; 巨大的

trilogy 三部曲

Chinese sci-fi took its first step towards the global stage in 2014 with the English publication of “The Three-Body Problem”, the first book in a **trilogy** by Mr Liu. A crop of younger writers are now emerging. The writers of Chinese science fiction anticipated their genre's rising profile. In 2010 Fei Dao, another author, described its devotees as a “lonely hidden army”. Chinese sci-fi, he said, might “unexpectedly rush out and change heaven and Earth”. That has not quite happened yet. But in the future, anything is possible.