



Last updated October 10th with Round 3 of "letters to the editor" and reader suggestions!

Dear Reader,

It's July 30, and I have just finished the first version of the "Life After Harry Potter" reading list. You may wonder why I'm going to all this trouble. It's one of my life goals to promote imaginative, good-quality books because of the great difference they can make in your life.

You see, I'm what you call a "bookworm." Ever since I was old enough to read, I have always loved books (mostly science fiction and fantasy) as my primary form of entertainment. I would stay up all night with a flashlight. I devoured everything with words, even to the point of getting in trouble with my middle school teachers for reading in class! (And in high school, I got a 740 on my English SAT.)

I have a grownup job that's pretty fun. I am in advertising, a so-called creative field, but there is a strange difference between me and my colleagues. While they struggle to "think outside the box," I have no trouble dreaming up ideas for campaigns. People often ask, "How do you come up with this stuff?" (I have to confess that many of them are so wild that Luna Lovegood would be proud!)

When I was a kid, I was just doing what I enjoyed most, but I think my reading habit had a lasting benefit. Highly imaginative stories helped to develop my creativity, and they can do the same for you.

By reading beyond your own experience, you exercise your imagination. It's just like going to a gym for your mind. You don't just passively watch or listen - you participate when you read a book, but your workout doesn't end when the book does. You keep thinking about what happened, maybe making up your own endings or side-stories in your mind.

In my experience, this is much more fun than watching a movie or TV. If the wizarding world of Harry Potter sucked you in, you have already experienced the feeling of imagining along with the story.

Now that the Harry Potter series has come to an end, you probably want to experience more stories. Once your creative mind has awoken, nothing else will do. It's my hope that this book list will help you get your fix.

- Kate (and Liz, Jane, and all my LT friends who have contributed)

PS - Never apologize for your love of fantasy or children's books. When I went out for coffee this morning, I saw no less than four people with the covers taken off their hardcover Harry Potter & the Deathly Hallows. They probably thought the cover looked like "kid's stuff" and were ashamed to read it in public. Don't be afraid to march right to the YA section of the library or bookstore - it's the stodgy adults who only read NY Times Bestsellers that should be sorry. They don't know what they're missing!

PPS - If you have any comments, requests, or book suggestions, email me: suggestions@adelejournal.com. We've only put books down that we have read and liked, but it is hardly a complete list. As I mentioned on the website, we're already working on a separate romantic fiction list.

LIFE AFTER HARRY POTTER

Reading List of Imaginative Fiction - Trilogies

Sabriel, Lirael, and Abhorsen

Author: Garth Nix

Published in 1995, 2001, 2003

Fantasy set in rural & modern "England."

Available at bookstores, used bookstores, and the library.

Read this completed trilogy in order for a fantastic magic and adventure story. They have everything you'd want in a fantasy: an imaginative magic system, heroines and heroes who grow into their roles, plenty of adventure, and dashes of humor and romance.

The characters are likeable, memorable, and flawed enough to relate to, so if you like HP for all the characters, this aspect of the Abhorsen trilogy should really appeal to you.

Riddle Master of Hed, Heir of Sea and Fire, Harpist in the Wind

Author: Patricia A. McKillip

Published in 1976, 1977, 1979

High fantasy with nice literary chops, set in magical "England."

Available at bookstores, used bookstores, and the library.

This isn't really like a trilogy - it's like one long story. If you don't read the books in order, you will be very confused. The strengths are the many memorable characters, both old and young, the complex "magic" system, and the deep mystery that takes 900 pages to unravel.

Lord of the Rings fans will appreciate the author's lush language, which is at an adult reading level (or advanced YA reader.) It may be a shock from the simple language of HP, but well worth it.

Nightpool, The Ivory Lyre, The Dragonbards

Author: Shirley Rousseau Murphy

Published in 1985, 1987, 1988

YA fantasy: dragons, bards, quests, coming of age.

Available at used bookstores and the library. Out of print.

Yes, there are sentient dragons - sentient animals in general, actually - and magical bards, but this old material was re-worked in a fresh, but still familiar, manner.

Just because it's YA doesn't mean that the darker side of life goes unexplored. Sex, drug use and addiction, exploitation of the poor, and persecution are dealt with in a tasteful but still emotionally-intense manner. Highly recommended for the human aspect - don't be scared off by the dragons and sentient animals.

The Dragonbone Chair, Stone of Farewell, To Green Angel Tower

Author: Tad Williams

Published in 1988, 1990, 1993

Epic fantasy for Tolkien Lovers: elves, dwarves, kitchen boys on Important Quests.

Available at used bookstores, new bookstores and the library.

Traditional high fantasy for people who want something "like Lord of the Rings." Elves, dwarves (even though they're not called that), distant lands, and a Great Evil that has to be Stopped by someone Totally Unqualified. Good epic stuff with a more memorable, well-balanced cast than Lord of the Rings.

There are some good mystery elements that propel the quest and keep you interested, but its main appeal is the journey and who you meet along the way.

LIFE AFTER HARRY POTTER

Reading List of Imaginative Fiction - YA & Children's

Neverending Story

Author: Michael Ende

Published in 1979

Fantasy set in a wildly creative imaginative world and the "real life" of the 70's.

Available at bookstores, used bookstores, and the library.

Below The Root

Author: Zilpha Keatley Snyder

Published in 1975

A forest society, religious conspiracies, psychic powers that fade as you age... good stuff!

Good luck - try used bookstores, especially online, and the library.

The Blue Sword

Author: Robin McKinley

Published in 1982

Teenage girl goes to "India," gets kidnapped, learns to fight and ride horses, and becomes a folk hero.

Available at bookstores, used bookstores and the library.

So You Want To Be A Wizard

Author: Diane Duane

Published in 1982?

Two geeky kids discover they're wizards and have to save the world despite knowing nothing at all. No school, just trial by fire.

Available at used bookstores, new bookstores and the library.

Diana Wynne Jones

It is impossible to choose any one of her books to recommend, so I'll just list her as a recommended author!

Available at used bookstores, new bookstores and the library.

Forget the cheesy 80's movie - the original Neverending Story book is much better. If you read it, you'll find that 70% of the story had been stripped out for the movie. Philosophy, imagination, and a hero-quest story that's not afraid of the dark side of human nature. It's far from the simple children's fantasy-adventure story that you may remember from the movie. And a bonus - no cheesy weather effects and dragon puppets.

Is this a children's book? I remember reading it at the library and thinking about it for days. Featuring a 13 year old boy-priest who discovers some things about the "perfect" peaceful forest society he lives in, foundlings, conspiracies, and psychic powers of children. If you like highly mythological or fairy tale-like stories, you will like this.

A good take on the "plucky girl with horse" paradigm, and a favorite of many people who grew up in the 80's and read fantasy. It is a pure adventure story with a little romance, but mostly action and survival. Swords and horses, desert culture, and intelligent animals (though nothing supernatural.) The great thing about YA fiction is that mostly, it's all about the story and characters, not "deep meaning" or "big important ideas."

People who like the real life aspects of Harry Potter might like this. While HP takes place mostly at Hogwarts (except for the last book), the two heroes of this book have to deal with the Real World from the start while learning magic. They are very much beginners at the magic thing and have to use their problem-solving abilities, not just convenient spells, to get out of trouble.

DWJ is one of the best young adult fantasy authors with a long and active career. There are at least 40 books, and they're all good. Fire and Hemlock, one of my favorites, is a weird retelling of Tam Lin with a modern (well, 70's) setting. Witch Week takes place in a boarding school where magic is common, but illegal. Just go to the library and check out a few.

LIFE AFTER HARRY POTTER

Reading List of Imaginative Fiction - Darker Tales

John Bellairs

Dark mysteries for adults and children alike.
Available at bookstores, used bookstores,
and the library.

Sookie Stackhouse Mysteries

Author: Charlaine Harris

Published in 1975

*Southern waitress with ESP solves mysteries
for vampires. Sex and violence, though nothing
graphic.*

New, used, libraries.

Nightpool, The Ivory Lyre, The Dragonbards

Author: Shirley Rousseau Murphy

Published in 1985, 1987, 1988

*YA fantasy: dragons, bards, quests, coming of
age.*

Available at used bookstores and the
library. Out of print.

Black Jewels Trilogy: Daughter of the Blood, Heir to the Shadows, Queen of the Darkness

Author: Anne Bishop

Published around 2000

*Christians may be offended at some of the
ideas very loosely borrowed from Christian-
ity. As well as the sex, slavery, murder, and
intrigue. Not for kids.*

Available at used bookstores, new book-
stores and the library.

John Bellairs is another author who produced consistent good tales for both adults and children. They are scary! They deal with the occult and supernatural: witches, wizards, ghosts, and seances, but not in a cheesy way. They are genuinely creepy. Recommended, if you like the horror aspects of HP, like that bit about Voldie hiding out on the other side of Professor Quirell's head!

Dead Until Dark is the first book in this series, which I enjoyed. Sex, blood, and violence aside (there's a little, nothing too graphic), the narrator is an adult woman, and some of her thoughts will just go over a teen reader's head. I'm not really into vampires, but I liked the narrator's character enough to read all the books in the series. Some romance/relationship stuff, but more mystery, humor, and action.

Yes, there are sentient dragons - sentient animals in general, actually - and magical bards, but this old material was re-worked in a fresh, but still familiar, manner. Just because it's YA doesn't mean that the darker side of life goes unexplored. Sex, drug use and addiction, exploitation of the poor, and persecution are dealt with in a tasteful but still emotionally-intense manner. Highly recommended for the human aspect - don't be scared off by the dragons and sentient animals. even if you're not usually into that sort of thing.

These books have a very cool world and magic system. It's way too complex to explain, but there are jewels, Queens, Warlords, parallel realms, demons magic, madness... If these books had colors, they would be immense tapestries with rich jewel tones. They might be a little long for people who like things to move fast, but perfect for readers who like to spend a long time in a far-off land.

Heed the warnings - this is not for children or people offend-
ed by disturbing material.

LIFE AFTER HARRY POTTER

Reading List of Imaginative Fiction - Authors with many books and series.

William Sleator

Excellent science fiction for YA / children, but I like them too. Available at bookstores, used bookstores, and the library.

William Sleator consistently writes good children's / YA science fiction. I have been a fan for 20 years, ever since I was 10 and discovered "Interstellar Pig." People who like J.K. Rowling's straightforward style will like Sleator's, and he makes science just as weird and wonderful as fantasy magic. Even though his stories are targeted at a younger audience, they still make you think...

Orson Scott Card

He's written so many books for so many people that it's impossible to say which you'd like. Not really for children. New, used, libraries.

OSC is a well-known author of both science fiction and fantasy. His sci-fi book Ender's Game (and the sequels) is the most famous, but I like his other books as well. Fantasy fans might want to check out the Alvin Maker series and Hart's Hope. Songmaster is gouge-your-eyes-out sad, but very cool in its ideas. (It also contains homosexual themes but actual content is PG-13 and not the main focus of the book.)

Tamora Pierce

YA fantasy: dragons, lady knights, magic, adventure, sentient animals, high court intrigues, sword fights... New, used, libraries.

Tamora Pierce has written a ton of fantasy series for girls, but "boys like it too." They have female protagonists who often disguise themselves as boys. But don't be alarmed - these aren't Feminist Novels With A Message. They are fast-paced, entertaining adventure YA novels with a great sense of pace and plot. Her world is a pre-industrial high fantasy setting with magic; I would actually love to see her do a contemporary story someday!

Madeleine L'Engle

Many books with speculative science elements, but really about people. One of my favorite authors. Some religious themes, but always from a philosophical outlook. Available at used bookstores, new bookstores and the library.

I would never call Madeleine L'Engle's books science fiction or fantasy, because that is the least important element of them. Yes, she does have time travel, science speculation, journeys to other planets, and physics bending, but her books are all about people.

Her protagonists are mostly young, but my favorite, "The Silent Rain" is about a concert pianist in her 20's, and "A Severed Wasp" starts when that same pianist is at least 60. Most of her viewpoint characters are female.

LIFE AFTER HARRY POTTER

Reading List of Imaginative Fiction - Off The Beaten Path

Melusine and The Virtu

Author: Sarah Monette, 2005 &
Dark and definitely for adults only!
New, and probably used and libraries.

These books are unusual and ambitious. While they are definitely first novels with some technical flaws, I thought the tone and narrative was cool enough to overlook them. The main characters, brothers Felix and Mildmay, are a refreshing mix of both good and bad qualities. The city of Melusine is very cool! I don't want to give away the story, but be warned that her books contain "disturbing themes" such as homosexuality, rape, violence, slavery, and questionable morals. Nothing gratuitous or explicit.

12 Kingdoms / Juuni Kokki / Juuni Kokuki

Author: Fuyumi Ono
1991 (Japan), 2007 (US translation)
Adventure.
Only new, available online at Amazon
- search for "Twelve Kingdoms" and you'll
get the first book. They're just starting to
be released in the US.

12 Kingdoms is high adventure in a fantasy world that is parallel to the "real world" (of Japan.) The setting is quite imaginative with talking beasts, possessed swords, theater troupes, and immortality contracts - it is a decidedly Asian take on fantasy.

In 12Ks, you get the usual ordinary character destined to be something great story, but the difference is in the details. Youko, the empress-to-be (not a spoiler, you find that out in the start), has to overcome *many* deep insecurities and flaws. Read the online reviews for more information.

Kitchen

Author: Banana Yoshimoto
1994
Japanese slice-of-life about a girl who loves to cook, and her eclectic adopted family.
New, used, and library.

There are no fantasy or sci-fi elements to this book at all, but it might as well be a different world! Kitchen is Japanese slice-of-life; I read it for my Asian Lit class in college and loved it. Featuring a girl who wants to be a chef, a transgendered drag club owner, a ton of delicious food, and a realistic look at coping with grief at a relative's death. For certain readers who like in-depth character development, this is one of those books that stays with you forever.

Snow Crash & The Diamond Age

Author: Neal Stephenson
1992, 1995
Dense doorstep tomes of cyberpunk. Cool world-building and technology with some plot and characters, too.
New, used, and library.

Young female protagonists fight their way through levels of culture and society to save the day. Innovative technology that may or may not be possible. Predictions that have actually come true in some way or another (these were written before the internet took off, and one of his "inventions" is a lot like 2nd Life!)

I was fascinated by the interactive book technology in The Diamond Age, and I desperately wanted one of those cool skateboards in Snow Crash. These are definitely books for hackers, geeks, technophiles, and pop-culture watchers.

LIFE AFTER HARRY POTTER

*Reading List of Imaginative Fiction - Romance /
"Women's Fiction"*

War For The Oaks

Author: Emma Bull, 1987

*Featuring a blonde guitarist in a rock band
and a faerie who's "cuter than Prince."*

New, used, and libraries.

This is an urban fantasy classic - for many people, it is the perfect book, and the one that got them into fantasy in the first place. Some mystery, some romance, and enough of the intriguing Faerie culture to make you wish it was real. There are a few off-screen sex scenes, but they are tasteful and non-explicit. Suitable for teens and older.

Twilight, New Moon, Eclipse

Author: Stephenie Meyer

2005 onward, 4th book coming

*Vampire boy falls in love with an average
high school girl, but it's more than a simple
romance story. From readers' suggestions.*

Probably won't find them used, but new
on Amazon and the library.

These are tearing up the YA paranormal romance scene. I have not read them, but they were strongly suggested by readers. The main characters are Bella, a normal high-school girl, and Edward, a vampire. It's more than a romance story - there is a lot of suspense and mystery. However, you just can't escape the cliched (though completely logical) distress of inhuman-loves-human, so if you can't stand that sort of thing, avoid these books. Teen and older.

Demon's Daughter

Author: Emma Holly, 2004

*Alternate Victorian England setting, ec-
centric female artist (who wears pants!), a
repressed inspector... love and lust.*

New, used, and library.

I don't usually like a ton of romance, but I liked this book. The alternate England was really cool, with humans uneasily co-existing with a more powerful race (with technology.) This is a romance - the main focus is the relationship of the two main characters - but there is a cool suspenseful sub-plot involving the heroine's father and heritage. There are some sensual scenes, but nothing too hard-core.

Staying Dead, Curse The Dark, Bring It On, Burning Bridges

Author: Laura Anne Gilman, 2004?

*Adult heroine with unusual talent lives in
modern Manhattan, solves crimes and finds
things.*

New, probably used, and probably library.

These books are more mystery and action oriented, not romantic, but the understated chemistry (and developing relationship) between the heroine, Wren, and her partner, gallery owner Sergei, is well done. And finally, an "older" heroine (she's all of 28 in Curse the Dark) that mature readers can identify with! I really like the take on "magic" in a modern world, especially how it doesn't really like to exist alongside technology.

Tam Lin

Author: Pamela Dean, 1989?

*College English major falls in with a very
strange crowd at Carleton College.*

Was out of print, possibly reprinted re-
cently?

Pure "college experience" wish fulfillment. This is a retelling of the romantic Scottish folk tale Tam Lin, but you don't have to know it to enjoy this story. The world-building part is best exhibited in the descriptions of life at Carleton - the main character's roommates, her boyfriends, her professors. There is a touch of fairy about this story, but most of it takes place in the fake-real world of university. Wish I would've gone to Carleton!

From Amanda M. Callisaya, 8/2/2007:

Dear Kate,

What about Lloyd Alexander? I love his Prydain Chronicles, which are good for young adults but also child-friendly, and I would consider his Westmark Trilogy to be about on par with Harry Potter as far as the reading level, level of graphic violence, death, etc. All of his characters are colorful and easy to get to know, and while I haven't had a chance to read any of his other books, the storylines of these two series are very captivating. Even if you don't put them in the list, if you haven't read them yet, you should check them out.

Thanks!
Amanda

I read the Prydain Chronicles a few years ago and thought it was charming. The Westmark trilogy sounds more up my alley, though, since I enjoy a darker tale. Thanks!

From Stacie Brown, 8/4/2007:

I do have a suggestion for your booklist.

A series called The Death Gate Cycle by Margaret Weis and Tracy Hickman.

The series has 7 books in it and is High Fantasy/Sci-Fi.

- #1 Dragon Wing
- #2 Eleven Star
- #3 Fire Sea

- #4 Serpent Mage
- #5 The Hand of Chaos
- #6 Into the Labyrinth
- #7 The Seventh Gate

The following link to Wikipedia has more information on the books but I highly recommend reading them instead. (The info at Wikipedia contains spoilers) The first book is guaranteed to get you hooked!

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Death_Gate_Cycle

Thanks for the booklist, I look forward to reading them!!!

This sounds cool, and not your usual “dragons-n-swords” high fantasy. (Not that there's anything wrong with that; I devoured the Dragonlance books in jr. high.)

From “Rosean”, 8/4/2007:

A great book to read, which is also one of my favorites at the moment, is Magician by Raymond E. Feist. This is a book mainly for teens, but I guess adults could like it too, if they are into fantasy.

Magician is a story about a young boy named Pug who is apprenticed to a magician. His friend is apprenticed to a swordmaster. When something alien appears in their world, they begin to realise how little they actually know and how this invasion could result in a long war. This is the story of their adventures through life, the hardships they face, and their attempts to master their gifts that they had been granted with.

When one gets past the complex plot and confusing storyline, Magician is a must read book.

Thanks - I haven't personally read any Feist, but many people have recommended his books. I'll be sure to add them to my own library!

From Anirin, 8/4/2007:

I enjoyed Jonathan Strange & Mr Norrell immensely, but I was disappointed when I didn't see it on the list :(It's just a suggestion, and it's completely your choice, but I really feel like it's one of the best books *ever*.

- anirin [I haven't read this yet, but I do plan to. I have heard it and a book called “Sorcery and Cecelia” mentioned as magic-in-Victorian \(or Edwardian?\) times. Thanks for the rec - it sounds great!](#)

From Lance McPheeters, 8/5/2007:

Both suggestions are for an adult reader.

Suggestion 1 - Rune Lord's series of 7 books by David Farland

This series is about a prince who must overcome an adversary which the world has never seen before!

Basically in the books of the Rune Lords, its about people who using a magical “crucible” can give their attributes to someone. So a soldier can receive someone's Strength, by magic, and they in turn become weak, but the other person becomes 2x as strong. So Trusted guards in this series receive the strength of 10 men, and the speed of 2 or 3 and the wisdom of 1, and they become a “rune lord” and in turn, the people who give their attributes, must do so willingly in turn they are given a life of comfort in the rune lords keep where they are taken care of, and their family's are too.

So daughters of a family will receive the mothers beauty and all the sisters beauty, in order to become as beautiful as 3 women combined, in order to marry a rich man.

The enemy in this series, is a lord who is using beauty to guile people into giving their attributes to him, so he is trying to become the “sum of all men” and so he is 10,000 times as beautiful as any person, 3000 times as strong, 10,000 times as wise, etc etc etc....

I found that the whole idea of crucible magic absolutely amazing. All seven books are finished.

Suggestion 2

The second series is not yet finished, its by a newish author ... and his books are quite good. Elantris by Brandon Sanderson was good, but not as good as the new series that is absolutly amazing.

The new series book 1 is Mistborn, and book 2 is coming out on the 23rd of this month (august 2007) This series features a new form of magic ive thats quite revolutionary.

The magic is called “Allomancy” where the magic user eats metal and puts it in their stomach, certain metals give certain powers, such as pewter gives them strenght and stamina, Tin gives the user incredible body senses ... such as being able to instantly know how many grains of sand you are standing on that are in contact with your feet on a beach.... Brass makes people around you angry, Zinc soothes them, Copper hides your Allomancy from others, and Bronze reveals others allomancy to you.... and finally the most interesting is Iron and Steel.... that

gives you the ability to push and pull metals.... which the Author uses with amazing ingenuity, such as throwing a penny on the ground and pushing against it to leap up over a building.... or grabbing a weathervein on top of a building and pulling yourself up..... and they have great metal battles flinging metal coins as fast as bullets at each other, or throwing a brick of iron over a bad guy's head and then pulling it to hit him in the back.

I found it fascinating and unable to put down, and i have been dieing for the 2nd book that is very soon to come out.

Both these series sound awesome. I keep meaning to read Elantris, but the Mistborn books sound cooler. I like all the metals! Thanks for your detailed summaries; I'm sure readers will really appreciate your work.

From "narutogod1", 8/6/2007:

Philip Pullman wrote one of the most interesting trilogy's I've read so far. The books are The Golden Compass, The Subtle Knife, and The Amber Spyglass. It has action, an epic adventure, a little romance thats starts in the second book and progresses to the third, and character's you'd think you've in real life at the end of the trilogy. Although it's categorized as science fiction, I think it's a bit magical too. I've enjoyed reading these books so much that I'd say it matches up with Harry Potter, if not better. Just thought you would like to add it to your list of things to read after Harry Potter.

I loved the first book, but I have not read the second or third. Lyra is one of the most interesting heroines I have ever encountered, and Mrs. Coulter one of the best villains. I think "science fantasy" is a good description of the genre, what do you think?

From "Aera," 8/7/2007:

I know of several series that could be of interest.

- 1) The "Septimus Heap" Series by Angie Sage
- 2) "The Lost Years of Merlin" Epic & "The Great Tree of Avalon" Trilogy by T.A. Barron
- 3) "The Wizard of Earthsea" Series by Ursula K. LeGuin
- 4) "The Enchanted Forest Chronicles" by Patricia C. Wrede
- 5) "The Dark is Rising" Sequence by Barbara Cooper
- 6) any book or series by Jane Yolen ("The Young Merlin" Trilogy, for example)
- 7) any book or series by Anne McCaffrey ("The Dragonriders of Pern," for example)
- 8) "The Arthurian Saga" by Mary Stewart
- 9) "The Lord of the Rings" Trilogy by J.R.R. Tolkien (plus the pre-quel book, "The Hobbit")
- 10) the books "Eragon" and "Eldest" by Christopher Paolini

There are probably more that I know of, but these are the only ones

I forgot about Jane Yolen! She wrote a trilogy of books about dragons that I would love to read again. Earthsea is great for people who like "quieter" fantasy stories, like me.

that come to my mind currently. All of these would be under Young Adult, or Science-Fiction/Fantasy; they all have magic and/or magical creatures in their stories.

~Aera

P.S.

To be quite honest, the "Septimus Heap" Series by Angie sage is somewhat similar to Harry Potter. When I read books, I sometimes find myself comparing the story to others I've read: "This story feels like a mix between [book titles]." When I started reading the "Septimus Heap" Series, my first 'comparison' book(s) were Harry Potter (then "Eragon"/"Eldest").

From Drew A., 8/7/2007:

The series is actually split up into 3 trilogies, but there isn't any major timeskip cross-trilogy, so it's like one big series (so far). As of now, 5 books are out, with the 6th slated for release late 2007.

The Trilogies are called the Chronicles of Blood in Stone (The Fifth Sorceress, The Gates of Dawn, The Scrolls of the Ancients), The Destinies of Blood and Stone (Savage Messiah, A March into Darkness, Rise of the Blood Royal (not yet released)), and The Victories of Blood and Stone (No titles released yet).

In the first book, Prince Tristan is to be coronated when flying demon-ish beasts come and slaughter the guests, forced to murder his own parents (the king and queen) in front of those left alive, Tristan is seen as a traitor by his people. The head wizard, Wigg, saves Tristan and he learns that the rest of the Directorate (the council of Wizards, so to say) has been killed. Upon escaping, Tristan must travel to a place of magic, where he learns these demons have been created by The Conclave, four sorceresses who were long ago banished to the point in the Sea of Whispers past where none had ever returned. They had wreaked havoc upon Eutracia (the country/continent Tristan was set to rule, and the only known continent at this point) because females trained in the craft can pool their power for greater castings. And these four sorceresses have kidnapped Tristan's twin sister.

Along his journey to rescue his sister, Tristan learns more about magic, about the Vagaries (evil) and Valors (good) sides of magic, about how he is the chosen one, and his sister is also, if he should fail at his task of combining the two sides of magic, and also what lies across the Sea of Whispers. But he and his sister are not the first chosen ones, and may not be the last if they fail, as many have before them.

One great thing of this series is that magic is not truly understood, and so throughout the series you, as well as the characters, learn more and more about magic and about those who once lived within the ring of mountains that encloses Eutracia, the Sea of Whispers, and what lies beyond it, and about what Tristan must sacrifice for the sake of his destiny.

I have never head of these books, which are by Robert Newcomb. They sound like they'll keep readers busy for a while! I also like books where you learn along with the main character, so I'll be sure to investigate these. Thanks!

From Cate Rice., 8/8/2007:

This is a book series that actually has helped me cope much with the end of Harry Potter. And I think every fan (of a certain age) should read it for the laughs if nothing else. Michael Gerber's Barry Trotter series is a parody of HP in a way that gets even the most avid, dedicated JKR fan to laugh with and at themselves a little.

Barry Trotter and the Unauthorized Parody
Barry Trotter and the Unnecessary Sequel
Barry Trotter and the Dead Horse
Cate Rice

Haha, that's great! I've always thought HP would be fun to parody.
Thanks Cate.

8/8/2007 - Vittani recommends...

- » The Nightrunner series by Lynn Flewelling, Luck in the Shadows, Stalking Darkness and Traitor’s Moon.
- » The Nightside series by Simon R Green.
- » Anything by Mercedes Lackey, especially the Elemental Masters series, the Last Herald Mage Trilogy (part of the Valdemar saga) or the Obsidian Mountain Trilogy.
- » The books by Victoria Laurie, Psychic Eye Mysteries and her new series.
- » Tanya Huff, the Snoke series. (SO GOOD YOU CANT BELIEVE IT).
- » Lynsay Sands, the Argeneau Vampires.
- » The Black Magician Trilogy by Trudi Cannavan.
- » The DragonMaster Trilogy by Chris Bunch.
- » Or Anne Rice’s Vampire books, though her Witches one aint bad either.
- » Oh and finally Shanna Swendson’s the Katie Chandler series.

Oh, so many books to check out! I haven’t read any of these except the Anne Rice books. Thanks, Vittani, for your recommendations. I am sure that the “Life after HP” seekers will appreciate it.

8/9/2007 - Marilyn recommends...

1. The Last Unicorn, by Peter S. Beagle- Classic, amazing fantasy, with poetic words and splashes of dark humor here and there.
2. Ella Enchanted, by Gail Carson Levine- Definitely for young adults, but also a fantastic take on the classic Cinderella story.
Judging from the preview, the movie was a heresy, but the characters in the book are extremely well realized, and the created world is wonderfully imaginative. Probably my favorite version of Cinderella, ever.
3. Dragons of Autumn Twilight, “ “ Winter Night, “ “ Spring Dawning- Dragonlance trilogy by Margaret Weis and Tracy Hickman- Like Lord of the Rings, but much easier to get through.
4. Bedlams’ Bard Series (Bedlam’s Bard, Spirits White as Lightning...) by Mercedes Lackey- Not necessarily young adult, but excellent urban fantasy. I find her books to be hit or miss, but these for the most part flow well.
5. Elemental Masters series (The Fire Rose, Gates of Sleep, The Serpent’s Shadow, Pheonyx and Ashes, Wizard of London)- excellent new interpretations of old fairy tales, but not as young adult oriented. Also The Black Swan.
6. Peter Pan, by J. M. Barrie- Technically written for children, but with an indescribable sense of deeper things between the lines.

7. Any and all Terry Pratchett- One young adult series beginning with Only You Can Save Mankind, then Johnny and the Dead, and Johnny and the Bomb. These are slightly more science-fictiony, but still excellent stories.
The Wee Free Men, A Hat Full of Sky, Wintersmith- another young adult series around a strong female character.
His other books are comprised mostly of Discworld books- comedic fantasy in the truest sense of mirroring our own world and its many shortcomings.
The Amazing Maurice and his Educated Rodents (version of the Pied Piper)- young adult fantasy
8. Artemis Fowl series by Eoin Colfer- 12 year old criminal mastermind antihero set in the modern world, with technologically advanced fairies- written to a younger audience, but with excellent ideas.
9. Kushiel’s Dart, “ “ Chosen, “ “ Avatar- NOT FOR THE UNDERAGED- *very* explicit sexual themes, but gorgeous descriptions and dizzyingly thorough characterizations. Fantasy in the truest form of awesome characters set in a “what Europe might have been with magic” world.
10. The Princess Bride, by William Goldman- excellent comedic/classic fantasy.
11. Series beginning with Daggerspell, by Katherine Kerr- not necessarily young adult.
12. Incomplete trilogy beginning with the Ruins of Ambrai, then Mageborn Traitor- by Melanie Rawn
13. Hitchhiker’s Guide to the Galaxy, and its 4 sequels, by Douglas Adams- In a genre all its own. I would probably call it science fiction, but it is absolutely hysterical and effortlessly random; I’m not normally into science fiction, but I loved these.
14. Seconding the Enchanted Forest Chronicles by Patricia C. Wrede; I started reading those in middle school, and I still reread them once a year. Also her Of Two Minds and the sequel, More Minds. Perfect for young adults.
15. Wheel of Time, beginning with the Eye of the World, by Robert Jordan- the most epic of all series- up to 13 humongous books and still not finished. Lord of the Rings in a whole new dimension. Plots within, around, between, and on top of plots and more plots. Detailed characterization, not so much for young readers.

Maybe you will inspire people to check out those classics, such as the Princess Bride and Peter Pan, once again. I haven’t yet had the courage to tackle Wheel of Time since I generally like short series, but so many people have mentioned it that I think I should at least try it. Thanks!

8/11/07 - Kayleigh recommends...

I would suggest that you add *The Dresden Files* by Jim Butcher to your list. They're a cross between *Charmed* and *CSI*. The leading man Harry is a wizard (that's where the Potter comparisons end!) who is the only wizard for hire in Chicago. He solves supernatural crimes in his home city which is home to different types of vampires, wizards who all hate him, psychotic fairies (one of whom is Harry's godmother) and magic that really messes with Harry. His best friend is a talking skull called Bob! The books are very funny and Harry is one of the most likeable characters in books right now!

Storm Front
Fool Moon
Grave Peril
Summer Knight
Death Masks
Blood Rites
Dead Beat
Proven Guilty
White Night

Somebody already suggested *His Dark Materials* but I also loved Philip Pullman's other series, the Sally Lockhart quartet. Sally is a fantastic heroine, just like Lyra, but these books are set in the murky depths of Victorian London and are mysteries.

The Ruby in the Smoke
The Shadow in the North
The Tiger in the Well
The Tin Princess

I started *Storm Front* this week, and I like it so far. Many people say that the series gets better with each book! The Sally Lockhart quartet is excellent with a mature, well-rounded heroine.

8/15/07 - Dee recommends...

There are a few books I think should, at the very least, get an honorable mention. All are by Scott Westerfeld (by far one of my favorite authors).

1. *Uglies*, *Pretties*, *Specials* trilogy
2. *Midnighters* trilogy
3. *Peeps* and *Last Days*
4. *So Yesterday*

All are very appropriate for YA. With the exception of *So Yesterday* all of these books have a mix of what seems to be well-researched science presented in such a fast-moving, thrill-seeking way it was near impossible to put them down. *Peeps* definitely had me moving in a completely different direction as to the books I was reading and *Midnighters* turned me into a life-long letter-counter. (read the books and you'll understand exactly what I mean!!) Just thought these books **MUST** be on the list.

It's good to have some more science fiction representation on this list!

8/16/07 - j q recommends “three series that can get addictive, very quickly”...

MERCEDES LACKEY’S “HERALDS” SERIES

This series takes place on the world of Velgarth, focusing mostly on the kingdom of Valdemar and the Heralds who keep it safe. Lackey’s not going to be writing any more for a while, but there’s enough to keep you busy for at least six months. I’ve also starred the ones with female protagonists:

- * “The Heralds of Valdemar” trilogy (Arrows of the Queen, Arrow’s Flight, Arrow’s Fall, also published as a single volume with the title Queen’s Own)
- * “Vows and Honor” duology (The Oathbound, Oathbreakers)
- “The Last Herald-Mage” trilogy (Magic’s Pawn, Magic’s Promise, Magic’s Price)
- * By the Sword (single volume)
- * “The Mage Winds” trilogy (Winds of Fate, Winds of Change, Winds of Fury)
- “The Mage Wars” trilogy (The Black Gryphon, The White Gryphon, The Silver Gryphon)
- “The Mage Storms” trilogy (Storm Warning, Storm Rising, Storm Breaking)
- “Darian’s Tale” trilogy (Owlflight, Owlsight, Owlknight)
- “Alberich’s Tale” duology (Exile’s Honor, Exile’s Valor)
- Brightly Burning (single volume)
- Take a Thief (single volume)
- Short story collections (Oathblood, Sword of Ice, Sun in Glory, Crossroads)

MERCEDES LACKEY’S URBAN FANTASIES

These, like the Harry Potter books, take place in a fictionalized version of the real world. They’re not meant to be the same series, but they take place in the same universe and characters from each show up in the others.

DIANA TREGARDE INVESTIGATIONS

Burning Water

Children of the Knight (takes place about 10 years before Burning Water)

Jinx High

Spirits White as Lightning

Mad Maudlin

SERRATED EDGE

Born to Run

Wheels of Fire

When the Bough Breaks

Chrome Circle

STEVEN BRUST’S DRAGAERA SERIES

This focuses on Vlad Taltos (pronounced TAL-tosh), a fantasy version of a Mafia captain. It also has five prequel novels written in the style of Alexandre Dumas (The Three Musketees). I’m listing them in publication order, but with numbers in parenthesis denoting where they fall in Vlad’s life.

ERIC BANYON NOVELS

Knight of Ghosts and Shadows

Summoned to Tourney

Beyond World’s End

Jhereg (4)

LIFE AFTER HARRY POTTER

“Letters to the Editor” – Suggestions from readers.

Yendi (3)

Teckla (5)

Taltos (1)

Phoenix (6)

Athyra (7)

Orca (8)

Dragon (2, but there are some interlude chapters that take place after Yendi)

Issola (9)

Dzur (10)

PREQUELS

The Phoenix Guard

Five Hundred Years After

The Paths of the Dead

The Lord of Castle Black

Sethra Lavode

Word of warning: none of these books are written for small children, or even junior high school kids. Lackey unabashedly includes gay and bi characters in her stories, and several of her protagonists suffer rape during the course of their particular story. The Diana Tregarde novels in particular are horror novels, and Lackey doesn't stint on description. Brust's characters use language that would make a sailor blush, and the writing style in the prequels might be a bit beyond younger readers.

However, they're all wonderful series, and I highly recommend them.

Thanks for the Mercedes Lackey breakdown! Now people can make their way through a prolific author's immense number of books with a little guidance.

Good thinking on the Brust recs, and thanks for the warning. Some of these are definitely not for children! I was a bit shocked when I read *Arrows of the Queen*, etc, when I was 13. Readers should be warned; these “young adult” novels contain some rape, murder, child abuse, though nothing graphic.

8/19/07 - Katy K. recommends...

#1 The Inkheart trilogy by Cornelia Funke

#2 Crown Duel and Court Duel by Sherwood Smith

The third of the Inkheart trilogy has yet to be published but will be out this next spring. I fell in love with both of these. Inkheart is more for the YA but is also enjoyed by adults too. Crown Duel and Court Duel are more along the lines of kings, castles, and swords but has a bit of magic included!

I really look forward to reading Cornelia Funke's books. I have heard that they are highly imaginative. Thanks for writing in!

8/24/07 - Vanessa recommends...

1. Tales of the Otorie by Lean Hearn.

The series has four books as of now, but the fifth and probably final is supposed to be released by the end of October. The first four books are about Takeo, at the beginning a young boy who lives among the hidden until his whole town is slaughtered by the Tohan Clan. He is rescued by Lord Shigeru, who later adopts him and introduces him to the ways of a warrior.

2. The shadow of the wind by Carlos Ruiz Zafon

One of the best books I have ever read. Its not fantasy or for children/teens and not at all comparable to Harry Potter, but its amazing just the same. The novel, set in post- Spanish Civil War, concerns a young boy, Daniel. Just after the war, Daniel’s father takes him to the secret Cemetery of Forgotten Books, a huge library of old, forgotten titles lovingly preserved by a select few initiates. According to tradition, everyone initiated to this secret place is allowed to take one book from it, and must protect it for life. Daniel selects a book called The Shadow of the Wind by Julian Carax. That night he takes the book home and reads it, completely engrossed. Daniel then attempts to look for other books by this unknown author, but can find none. All he comes across are stories of a strange man - calling himself Lain Coubert, after a character in the book who happens to be the Devil- who has been seeking out Carax’ books for decades, buying them all and burning them. In time this mysterious figure seeks out Daniel and attempts to make him part with the book. Terrified, Daniel returns the book to the Cemetery of Forgotten Books. But by now Daniel is already in the middle of a story that began many years ago, and will come to threaten his own life. (summary taken from Wikipedia)

These sound awesome! I like books that are outside the normal fantasy / sci-fi genre conventions, and these both seem to fit that description. #2 sounds like a great example of fiction that is imaginative but not exactly fantasy or sci-fi.

9/7/2007 - “Lord Sesshomaru” seconds the Jim Butcher nomination...

“Jim Butcher is an author that I enjoy that writes great fantasy fiction. His works include The Dresden Files, The Furies of Culderon, Academ’s Fury, and Cursor’s Fury. The three previous titles are part of his ongoing new series Codex Alera”

9/7/2007 - Cassidy L. also recommends David Eddings...

“I don’t know if these books have already been recommended, but I really enjoyed reading David Edding’s series “The Belgariad” and the follow up series to that “The Malloreon.” They would be more for YA and older readers, not really for children. They were a delight to read, extremely engaging, and extrodinarily well written.

There are five books in the “Belgariad” Series:

1) Pawn of Prophecy

- 2) Queen of Sorcery
- 3) Magician's Gambit
- 4) Castle of Wizardry
- 5) Enchanter's End Game

(I am horrible at summaries but I'll try) They follow the life of Garion, a boy who discovers he has a very large part to play, and how he and his group of companions fight to defeat a great evil.

The follow up series "The Malloreon" also has five books:

- 1) Guardians of the West
- 2) King of the Murgos
- 3) Demon Lord of Karanda
- 4) Sorceress of Darshiva
- 5) The Seeress of Kell

Slightly darker than the first series, but not terribly so, they deal with Garion's life after "the Belgarid" and how he must face another evil. From my sub-standard summary it may seem like it's going to be repetitive, but believe me it isn't.

There are actually three prequels to the first series-- "Belgarath the Sorcerer," "Polgara the Sorceress," and "The Rivian Codex" (the codex being similar to J.R.R Tolkien's The Silmarillion)-- but it is not necessary to read those to understand what is going on. I believe Eddings actually wrote them after he wrote the other series."

9/25/2007 - Nienke gives us a great rec for Kim Harrison, Laurell K. Hamilton, and Kate Macallister:

Hi,

Thirst of all I wanted to thank you for starting up this list, it had a lot of new books for me so I am sure to check them out !!!

Now on to the suggestions:

Kim Harrison her hollows series ADULT :-)<http://www.kimharrison.net/>

Dead Witch Walking

Rachel Morgan is a leather-wearing red-headed witch who works for Inderland Security in Cincinnati, the agency that polices the preternatural denizens of the community. Rachel's job title is runner, meaning she chases down and arrests felons such as leprechauns who fabricate rainbows to illegal traffickers in brimstone, a vampire party drug. Rachel has terrible luck in her job, including having a truculent vampire boss. When she resigns she discovers that her bad luck was due to interference from her boss who steps up the harassment upon Rachel's departure and ultimately hires assassins to kill her.

While Rachel is dodging preternatural assassins, she is also trying to set up her own private detective business with a female vampire, Ivy, and Jenks, a pixie. She moves in with Ivy and rents out the garden to Jenks. Little

does she know that Ivy yearns to make Rachel her blood buddy.

The Good, the Bad, and the Undead

Rachel Morgan's back, and in more trouble than ever! Fans of Laurell K. Hamilton and other vampire novels won't want to miss the second novel in Kim Harrison's addictive supernatural series.

Former-bounty-hunter Rachel Morgan has it pretty good. She's left the corrupt Inderland Runner Service and started her own independent service. She's survived werewolves, shape-changing demons, bad-hair days, and sharing a church with her vampire roommate Ivy. She even has a cute (if human) boyfriend--what more could a witch want?

But living with a reformed vampire isn't all it's cracked up to be, particularly when your roommate's very bad ex-boyfriend wants her back, and wouldn't mind you in the process. And especially when he's six feet of sheer supernatural seduction, and you've got a demon mark that makes vampires literally hotter than hell....

To save herself and Ivy, Rachel must confront the vampire master--and the dark secrets she's hidden even from herself.

Every Which Way but Dead

In Harrison's third Rachel Morgan novel, the witch strikes a deal with the devil. To get demon Algaliarept to testify at the trial of evil vampire Piscary, who poses an imminent threat to witch Rachel, she agrees to let Algaliarept become her familiar and share her aura. Rachel is certain she can maintain control, since she is keeping her soul. When she changes places with the demon's old familiar, Ceri, she takes pity on the girl and rescues her from the demon's clutches. Rachel is distracted by the two men in her life. Boyfriend Nick is pulling away after Rachel accidentally made him her familiar (see *The Good, the Bad, and the Undead*, 2005). Unsure of how to reconnect with him, Rachel finds she isn't immune to the charms of Kisten, a sexy vampire who worked for Piscary. As she finds herself falling for Kisten, she learns that Algaliarept poses a greater danger than she first expected. Fans of Laurell K. Hamilton's Anita Blake series will be drawn to Harrison's smart, supernatural series.

A Fistful of Charms

The evil night things that prowl Cincinnati despise witch and bounty hunter Rachel Morgan. Her new reputation for the dark arts is turning human and undead heads alike with the intent to possess, bed, and kill her -- not necessarily in that order.

Now a mortal lover who abandoned Rachel has returned, haunted by his secret past. And there are those who covet what Nick possesses -- savage beasts willing to destroy the Hollows and everyone in it if necessary.

Forced to keep a low profile or eternally suffer the wrath of a vengeful demon, Rachel must nevertheless act quickly. For the pack is gathering for the first time in millennia to ravage and to rule. And suddenly more than

Rachel's soul is at stake.

For a Few Demons More

With her action-packed Hollows series, featuring former bounty hunter--and mistress of the dark arts--Rachel Morgan, Kim Harrison has become one of the hottest authors in the incredibly popular genre of sexy supernaturalism. In her latest Hollows tale, *For a Few Dollars More*, Rachel unleashes all kinds of undead fury on the greater Cincinnati area when she tries to track down a serial killer.

Katie Macalister <http://www.katiemacalister.com/> ADULT

The Aisling Gray Series:

You Slay Me:

The first book in a sexy, humorous paranormal thriller series featuring Aisling Grey, an apprentice Guardian, and her sometimes boyfriend, sometimes foe Drake Vireo, wyvern (leader) of one of the four dragon septs. Aisling finds her true calling when she travels to Paris to deliver a medieval object that is part of a set sought after for the power it wields.

There she meets the handsome Drake, a man who is not at all what he seems. Implicated in the circumstances of two murders, Aisling, the demon she summons for help (and subsequently can't get rid of) named Jim, and Drake find themselves caught up in a web of lies and confusion that could well result in the demon lords of hell ruling the mortal world.

Fire Me Up:

Aisling Grey is back--and in more trouble than ever. She thought being a courier would be easy. It's not. She thought being a Guardian would come naturally. It doesn't. She thought she could get out of being a wyvern's mate. She can't. And she never thought she'd be irresistible to men. But she is...

Light My Fire

It's not easy being a demon lord, a Guardian, and a wyvern's mate all at once. Luckily, I just moved to London to study all things Guardian with my mentor. A new start is just what I need since being betrayed (again!) by Drake, wyvern of the green dragons. Though I'm supposedly immortal, I'm not so sure my heart can take another beating.

But I'm still officially Drake's mate—and my presence is required at a meeting of the green dragons. How I'm going to keep my distance from that fire-breathing hunk is beyond me. It doesn't help that several attempts have been made on my life. Or that I'm wanted by the entire otherworldly population of imps since Jim, my doggie demon sidekick, accidentally ate their ruler. Being an alpha-dragon and all, Drake is sure to get protective of me. Which might not be a bad thing when war breaks out and all hell breaks loose—literally...

And Laurell K. Hamilton's Anita Blake and Merry Gentry Series REALY ADULT

<http://www.laurellkhamilton.org/>

Anita Blake:

Anita Blake is an Animator and Vampire Slayer. Actually, she is a monster slayer. Though sometimes the monsters are human and even Anita is not sure she is not one of them.

Anita lives in a world very similar to our own. The difference: things that go bump in the night are real. Vampires, magic, zombies, werewolves, shapeshifters all exist and are active. Owning businesses, having love lives and living or unliving their day to day existence.

Anita works for Animators, Inc. She routinely raises zombies for a living. Have a questionable will and died? Anita can raise you for your heirs to find out what you intended. Need to tell someone how you really feel about them but they died first? Anita can bring them back long enough for you to have your say. Anita also works as a consultant for the Regional Preternatural Investigation Team (RPIT), a division of the St. Louis Police force that deals with supernatural crimes.

Of course Anita's boss at Animator's Inc, Bert Vaughn, will farm out his folks for all kinds of things; if the price is right. Though there are some things that even Bert is not willing to do for money. Unfortunately for Anita, some folks don't take NO for an answer.

Don't worry, Anita is a tough lady. She can handle a gun with the best of them. Of course some things even a weapon won't help her with. Like her love life. Too complicated for even her, she is being wooed by the Master of the City, and a Alpha werewolf. Have to be careful not to give away too much here!

Join Anita as she solves mysteries relating to all the scary things in the world. If you enjoy a good mystery, a tough female character with an attitude, spiced with creatures that only exist in the realms of fantasy, Anita Blake is what you have been searching for.

- | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Guilty Pleasures | 8. Blue moon |
| 2. The laughing corpse | 9. Obsidian butterfly |
| 3. Circus of the damned | 10. Narcissus in chains |
| 4. The Lunatic cafe | 11. Cerulean sins |
| 5. Bloody bones | 12. Incubus dreams |
| 6. The killing dance | 13. Danse Macabre |
| 7. Burnt offerings | 14. The harlequin |

15. Micah.

Merry gentry Series:

If someone offered you a throne would you accept?

What if it was for the wrong side?

Meredith NicEssus, Princess of the Sidhe courts, should have had a dream life. What little girl doesn't dream of being a princess? Unfortunately for Meredith, she not only has royal, but has lesser Fey and human blood flowing through her veins. A combination that left her as mortal as any human being and weaker than most Fey.

Born into culture with a class structure where such small things as blood lines make a very big difference. A life at court, where politics and petty games of arrogance, cruelty, sadism and the occasional assassination, were regular parts of the daily regime and anyone different was fair game. To save her life, knowing that the Court would view it as a betrayal, Meredith fled for the human city of Los Angeles. Adopting the name Merry Gentry and accepting a job with the Grey Detective Agency as a "magical consultant" she tried to keep her past a secret.

Three years of evading Court searches comes to a crashing halt when Meredith investigates a man using magic against humans. There is no way for Meredith to avoid scrutiny or hold her cover. The Queen of Air and Darkness never forgets and never forgives, even for family. Once discovered Merry must trust those she has no reason too. Expecting to be killed, whether it be quick and merciful or long and slow, Merry comes home. But the Queen wants Merry alive for her own reasons. Just as surely as someone else wants her dead for those very same reasons. Merry's aunt, Andias the Queen of the Unseelie Court has set a contest between her son and Merry. The first to bear an heir will inherit the throne.

As Merry beds the Ravens, guardians of the queen, in an attempt to get pregnant before Cel inherits the throne, she and the guards must fight off numerous attempts at assassination. All this and she still has her day job as a private detective at Grey's Detective Agency. No one ever promised being a Fairie Princess would be easy.

1. A kiss of shadows
2. A caress of twilight
3. Seduced by moonlight
4. A stroke of midnight
5. Mistral's kiss

[Thank you for taking the time to do this. I have heard a lot of people recommend these authors, and I am glad to give our readers something to latch onto.](#)

Hope that helps,

Nienke

10/02/2007 - Kate represents Latin American author Isabel Allende...

"Since I'm a southamerican teen, I have not only explored the English Written YA novels, but I have had the great opportunity to read a lot of Latin American novels from a lot of genres. Through I enjoy classic literature as well as modern, there is something about Fantasy Worlds, Magic and Misteries that has always made my heart beat faster. I have read thousands of american and european fantasy novels for young adults and kids and I'd like to recomend a little bit of latinamerican literature, because I think it's a great thing to explore cultures different from our own.

The Memories of Jaguar and Eagle by Isabel Allende is an amazing book trilogy that not only explores the great misteries and magic of the southamerican landscape, but also covers other great parts of the world such as Asia and Africa. Another relevant fact about this trilogy is that one of the main characters, Alexander Cold (Jaguar), is an american teen who finds himself in the middle of a cultural shock, never before having left his sunny californian hometown and suddently finding himself thust in the amazonian jungle; this is something that maybe northen people can relate to.

The first book in the trilogy is City of the Beasts. This book tells the story of Alexander and his brazilian friend Nadia Santos (Eagle) and their wild and dangerous adventures in the Venezuelan Amazon jungle as they fight to save a forgotten tribe of “invisible people” and to find the misterious Beast that has been killing people from nearby towns.

The second book in the trilogy is The Kingdom of the Golden Dragon. It transpires mainly in the Tibet and a few other asian reagions. The second-richest man in the world has hired “The Specialist” to get the mithycal statue of the Golden Dragon, wich is said to foretell the future, hoping to use it to foresee future stocks and prices and triplicate his welth and so become the first-richest man on earth. With the help of a tribe of the yeti, a monk and his disciple, Jaguar and Eagle are in for the adventure of their lives.

Lastly, the third book in the trilogy is Forest of the Pygmies. The story opens with the main characters Nadia Santos and Alexander Cold being on a safari in Kanya and accompanying Alex’s grandmother Kate, who works as a reporter for the magazine International Geographic. Days into the tour, a Catholic missionary approaches their camp in search of his companions who have mysteriously disappeared. Kate, Alexander, Nadia, and their team, agreeing to aid the rescue, enlist the help of a local pilot to lead them to the swampy forests of Ngoubé. There they discover a clan of Pygmies who unveil a harsh and surprising world of corruption, slavery and poaching.

Well, that was my two cents (or maybe a little more).

I hope readers of all ages enjoy these books and learn a bit more about real-life fantasy worlds.

You can find more information on Isabel Allende and these books, as well as on her other books at <http://www.isabelallende.com/>

Ta Ta For Now,
- Kate

Thanks, Kate! I haven’t read any Isabel Allende, but they sound great! The only book that comes close to this genre is Like Water For Chocolate, which I really liked. I’ll check these out!

Read any good books lately?

Help the “Life after Harry Potter” reading list grow! Send in your recommendations to suggestions@adelejournal.com. Over 350 people are on the mailing list, and they will all appreciate your contributions. - Kate

PS - Did you already take the polls on the website? You can’t miss ‘em - just go to www.adelejournal.com and you’ll find them on the right below the paper clip. It’s anonymous and only takes a few seconds!

<http://www.adelejournal.com>