# CRASH COURSE

**IN FANTASY** 

Novelist 1





#### **Meet Your Panelists!**



#### Amy Dittmeier

Reference Librarian, Des Plaines Public Library, Illinois @roboticdinos



#### Jessica Trotter

Collection Development Specialist, Capital Area District Libraries, Michigan @JessLibrarian



#### Caleigh Haworth

Engagement Consultant, NoveList



LIBRARYREADS.ORG

THE TOP 10 ADULT
FICTION AND NONFICTION
CHOSEN MONTHLY BY
AMERICA'S LIBRARY STAFF.





#### LIBRARYREADS.ORG

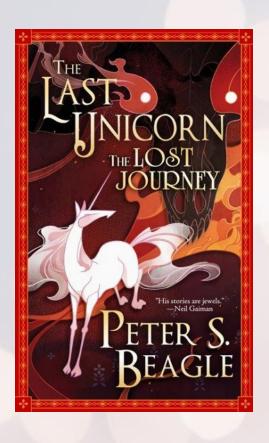
# What is Fantasy?

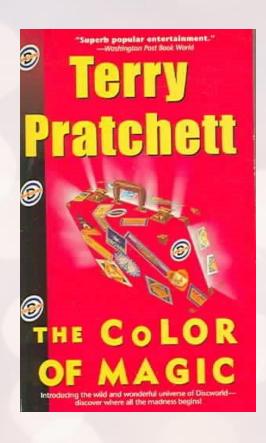
- Stories that take place in our own or other worlds —
  sometimes very different from our own, and occasionally
  parallel which are infused with magical, paranormal, or
  otherwise unexplainable elements.
- Fantasy subsists of many subgenres; including epic fantasy, high and low fantasy, swords-and-sorcery, and urban fantasy, and many more.
- Readers of fantasy should expect to stretch their imaginations to take in fantastical elements such as mythical animals, paranormal creatures, worlds of magic, and strange and exciting places.

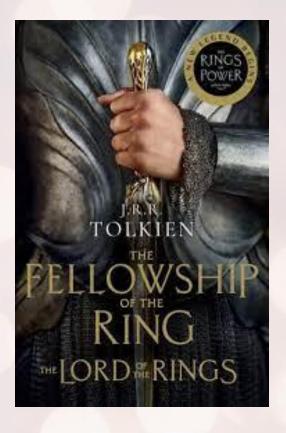


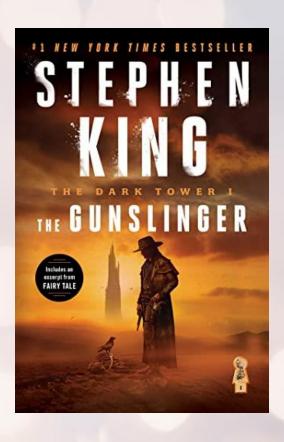


# **Elements of Fantasy**











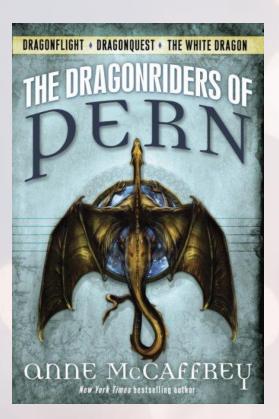


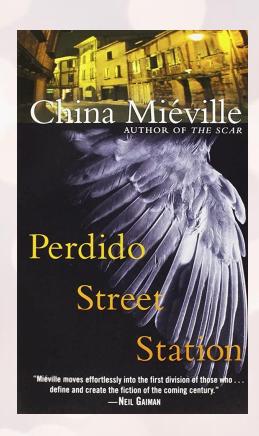
#### Subgenres, a selection of

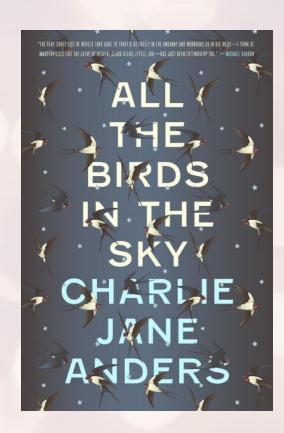
**Epic Fantasy AfroFantasy Science Fantasy Urban Fantasy Dark Fantasy** Magical Realism Sword and Sorcery Alternate History/Historical Fantasy **Portal Fantasy** Low Fantasy

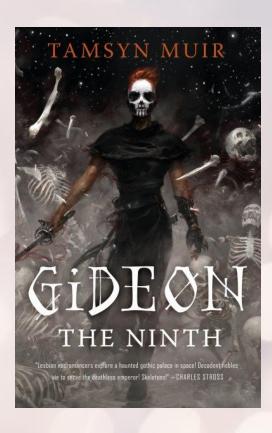
# **Science Fantasy**

Spaceships and dragons?





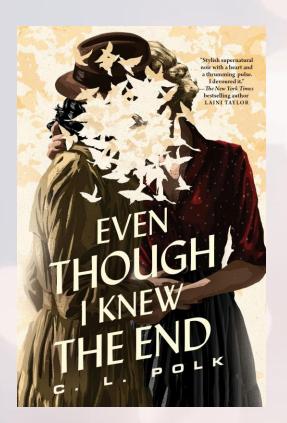


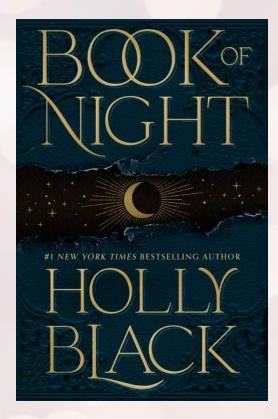


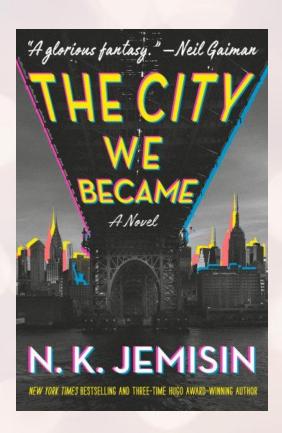


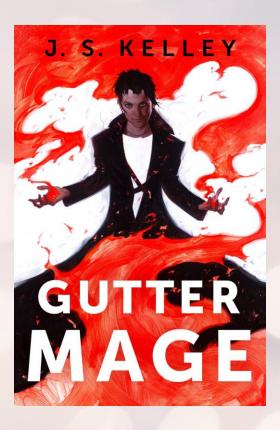
# **Urban Fantasy**

Magic in the Big City





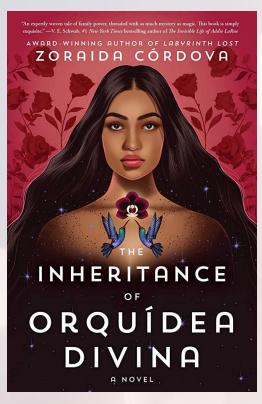


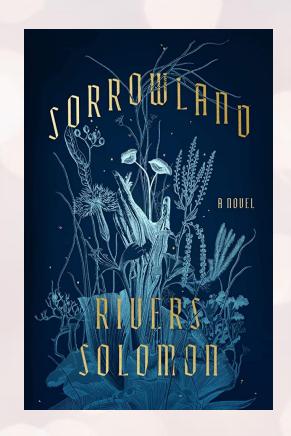


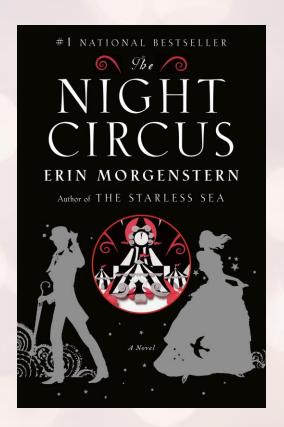


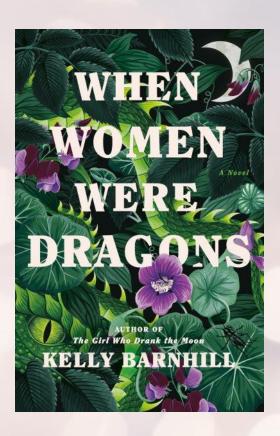
# **Magical Realism**

Fiction with a magical twist





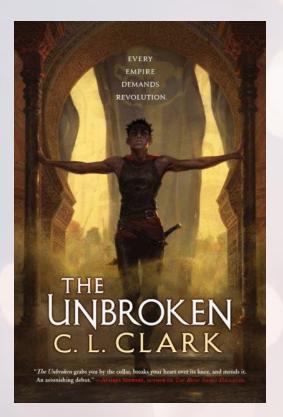


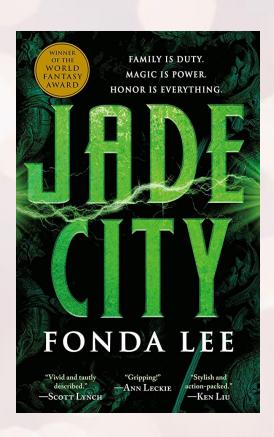


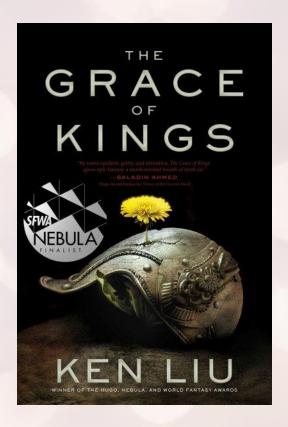


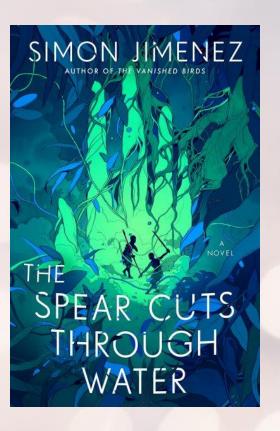
# **Epic Fantasy**

High stakes, original worlds





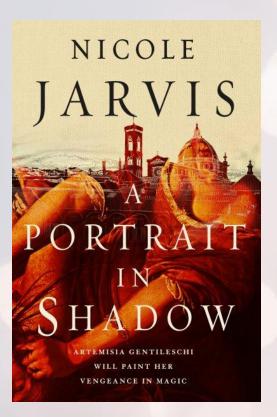


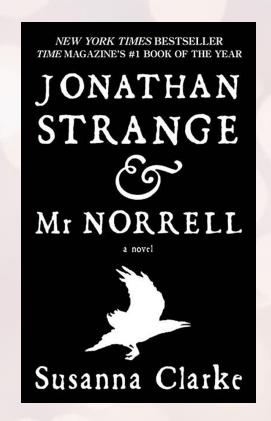


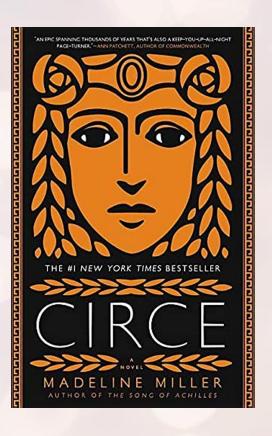


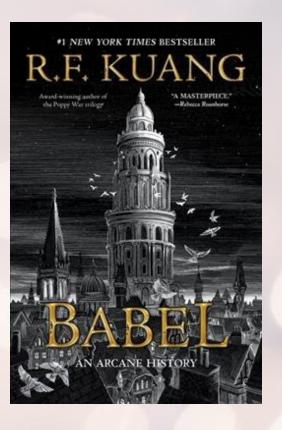
# **Alternate History/Historical Fantasy**

Reimagined history with a magical twist





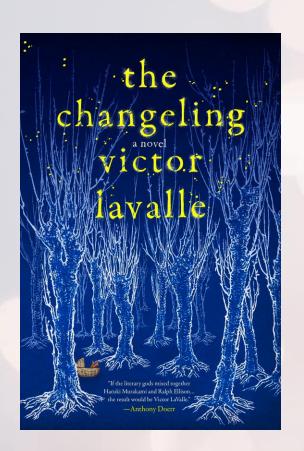


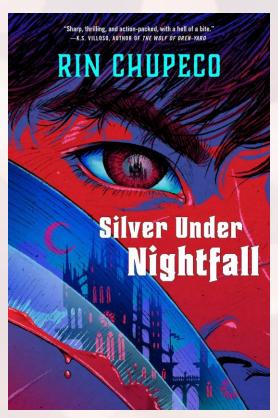


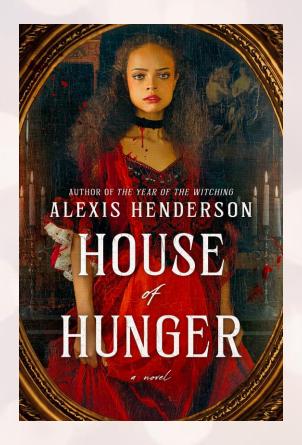


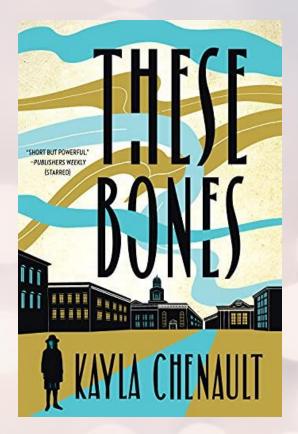
# **Dark Fantasy**

Blending fantasy and horror









# Appeals, a sampling of



Storyline
Worldbuilding
Systems of Magic
Fantastic Creatures
Heroic Tales

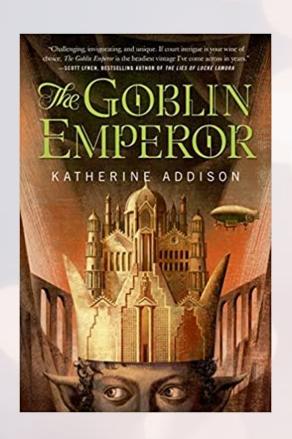
Character
Anthropomorphic
Believable
Well-developed
Marginalized
identities

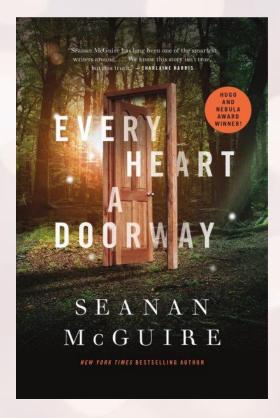
Tone
Emotional
Quiet
Thought-provoking
Humor

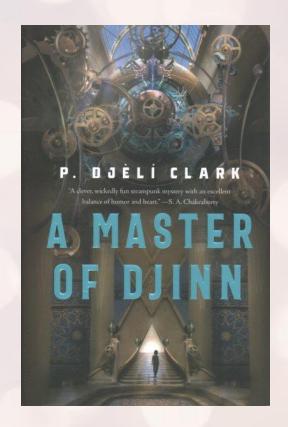
Writing Style
Banter-filled
Attention-grabbing
Spare
Descriptive

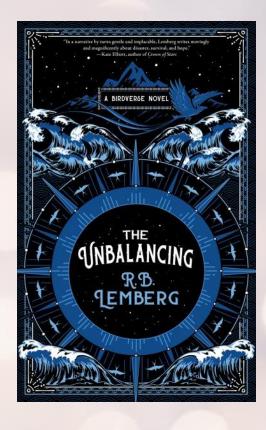
# Worldbuilding

The many pieces that make the incredible whole





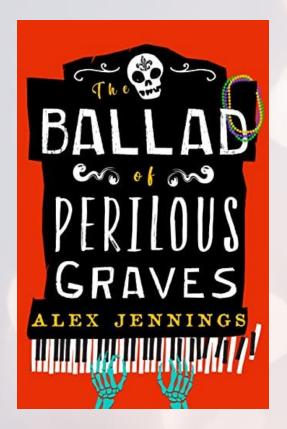


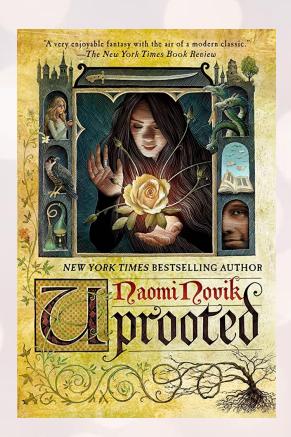


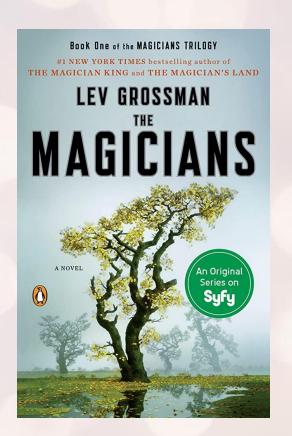


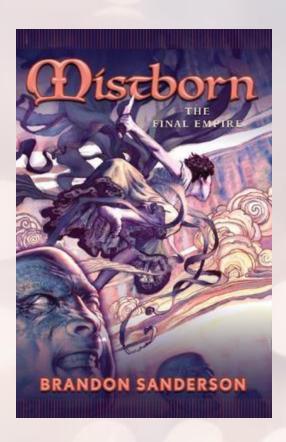
# Systems of Magic

Hard magic vs soft magic, etc.





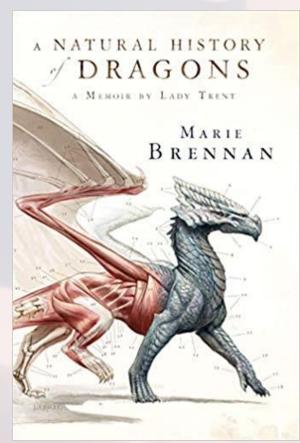




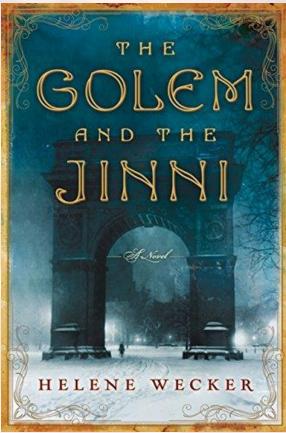


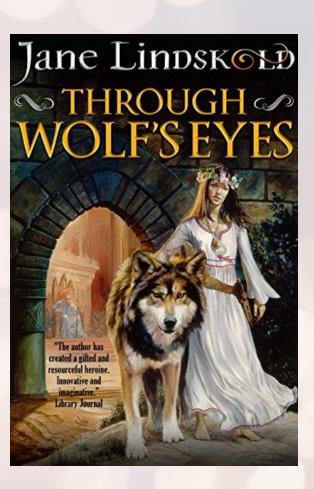
#### **Fantastic Creatures**

Dragons and centaurs and gnomes, oh my!



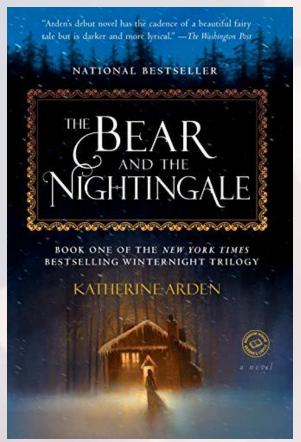


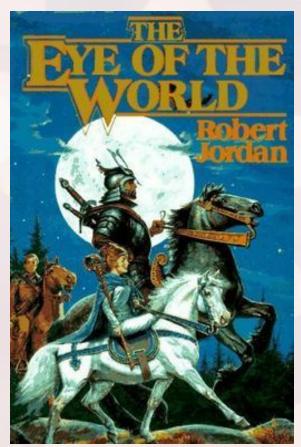


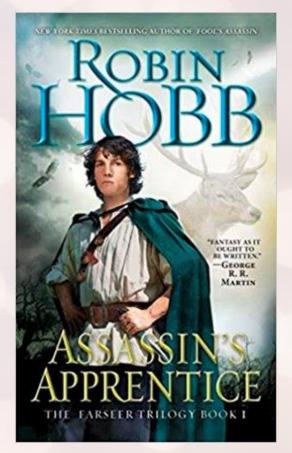


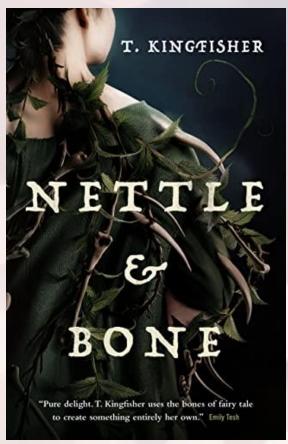
#### **Heroic Tales**

Yep, that one











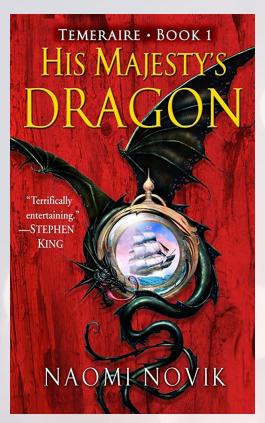
# Themes, common and popular

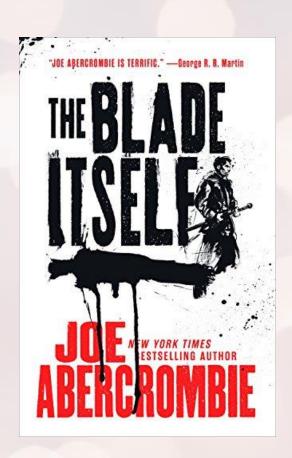
Academies of Magic Rightful Heir Hidden Among Us To the Rescue! Chosen One Court or Political Intrigue Dark Lord Magical Items
War and Magic
Loss/Return of Magic
The Gods Provide
Vengeance is Mine
Dark Lord
Scum and Villainy

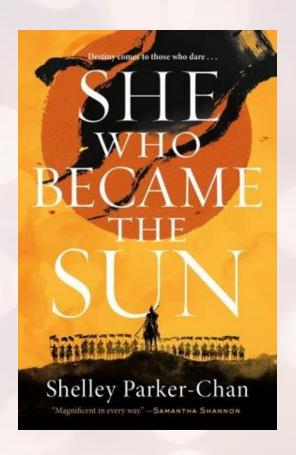


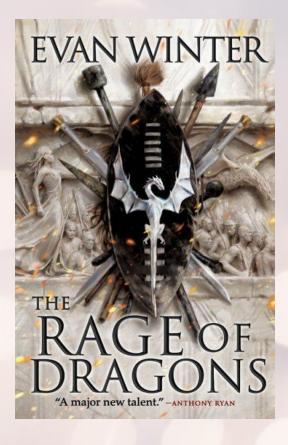
# War and Magic

Epic battles, wars, and fights - all with magic!





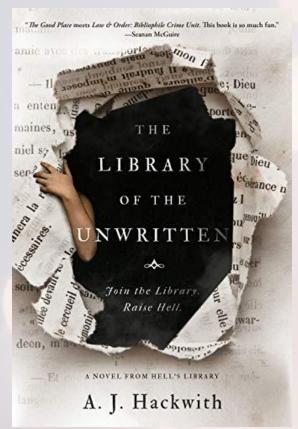




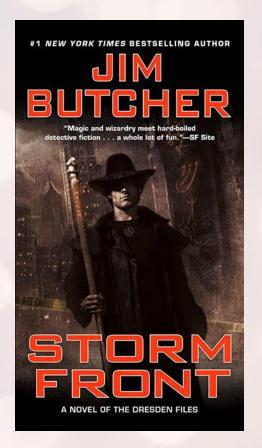


# **Magical Items**

Cool swords and more!





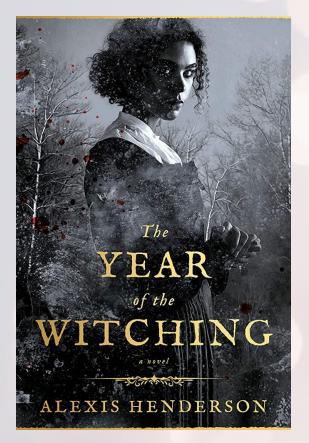


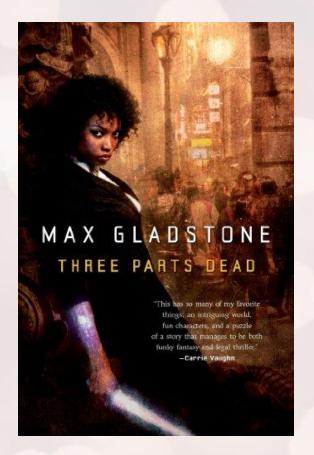


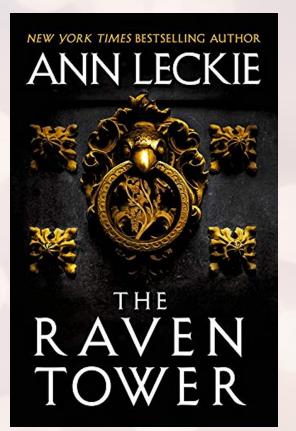


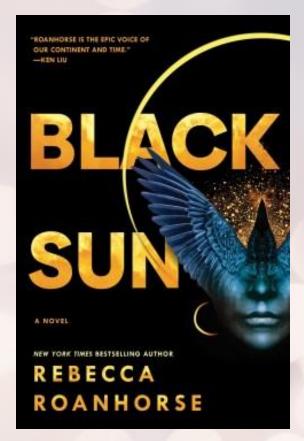
#### **The Gods Provide**

Religion plays a big part in the worldbuilding and magic of the book



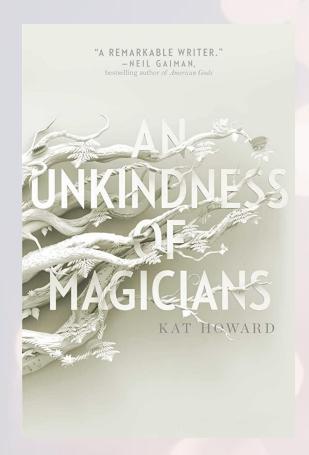


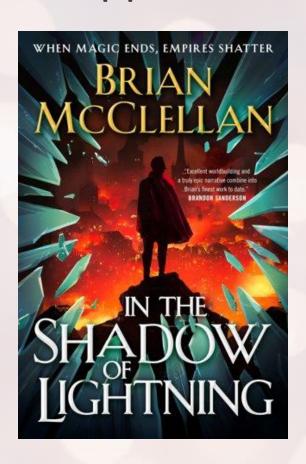


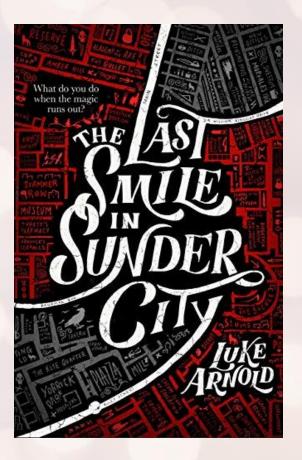


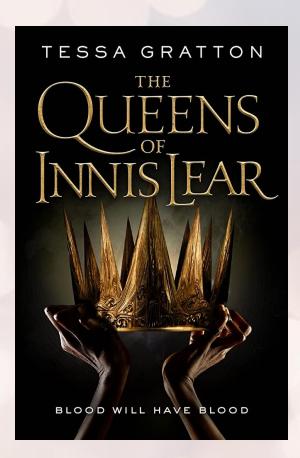
# Loss/Return of Magic

What happens when magic is in peril?





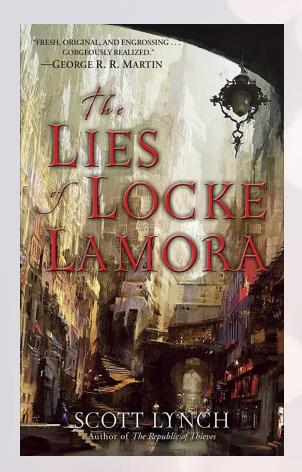


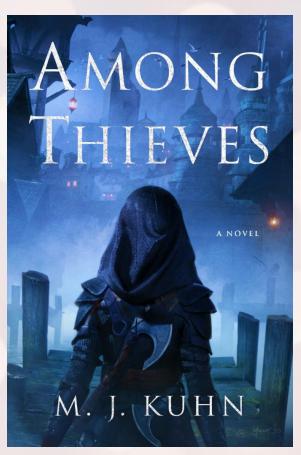


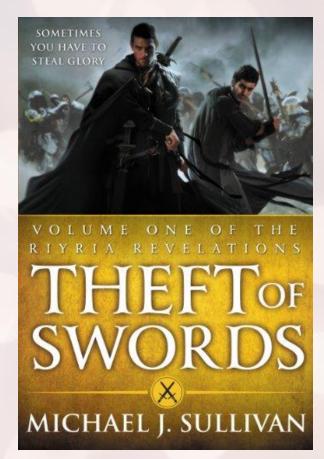


# Scum and Villainy

Working class, but magic





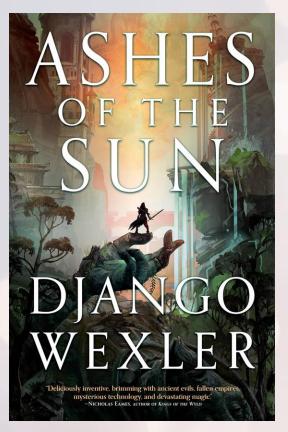


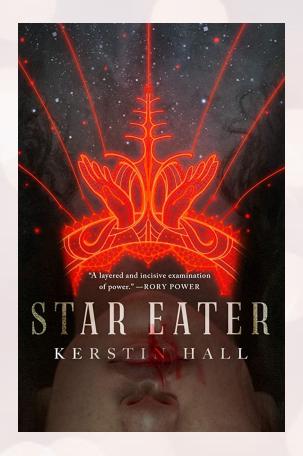




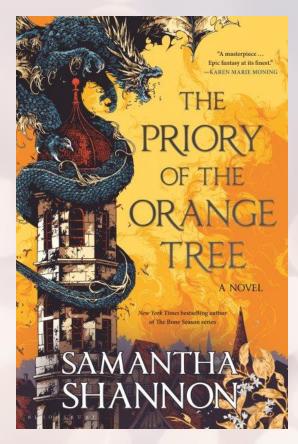
# **Court or Political Intrigue**

#### Backstabbers and ladder climbers







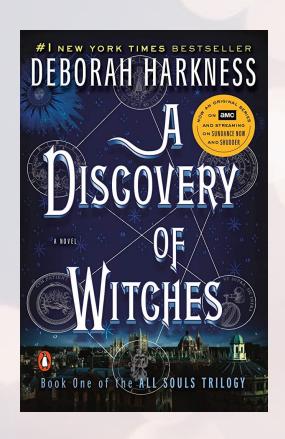


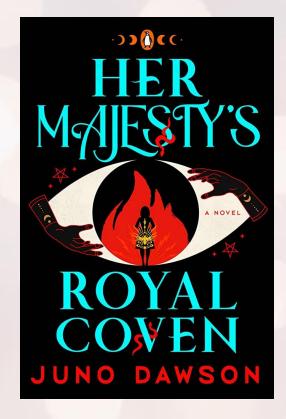


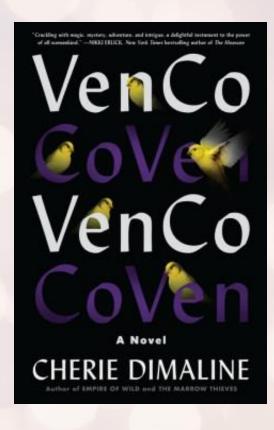


# **All Things Witches**

Double, double toil and trouble...



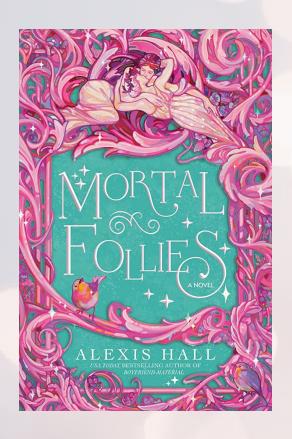


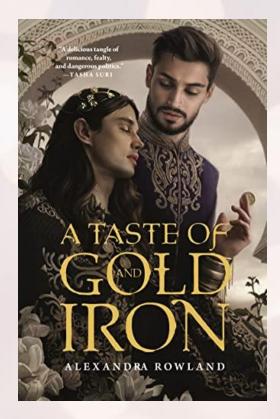




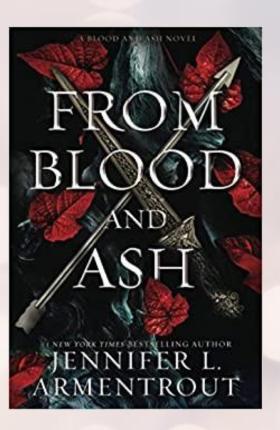
## **Romantic Fantasy**

#### Love and magic





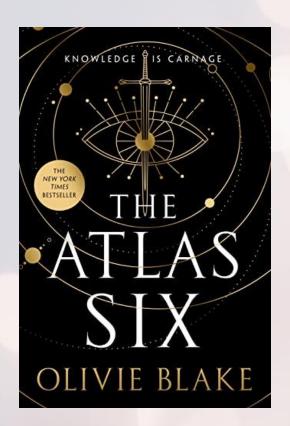


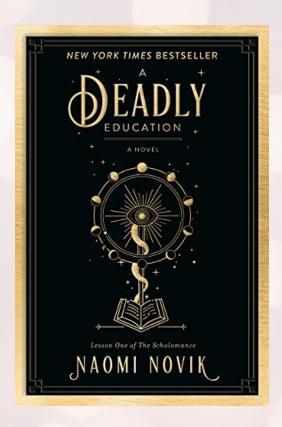


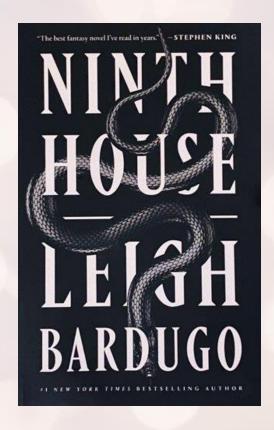


#### **Dark Academia**

Smart but sullen, and effortlessly cool





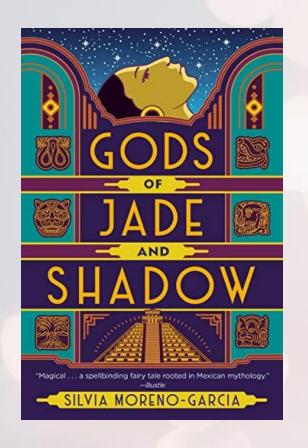


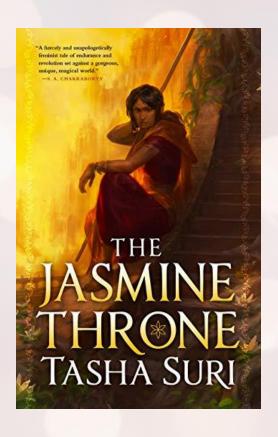


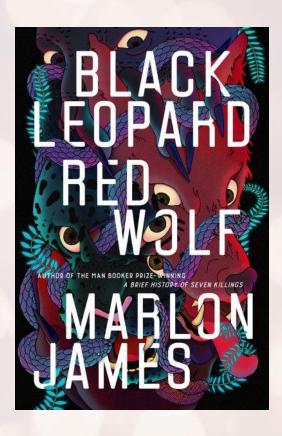


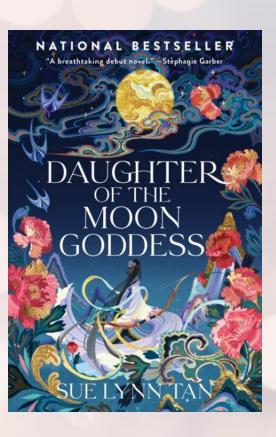
# Re-Centering the Narrative

Non-Eurocentric stories are coming to the fore



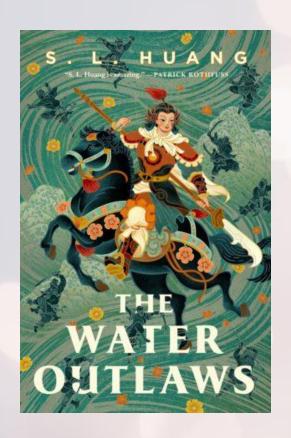




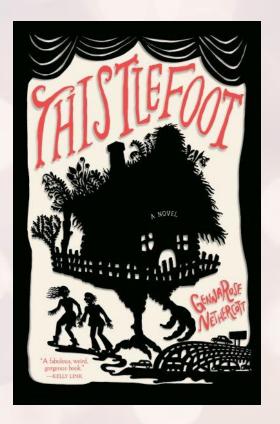


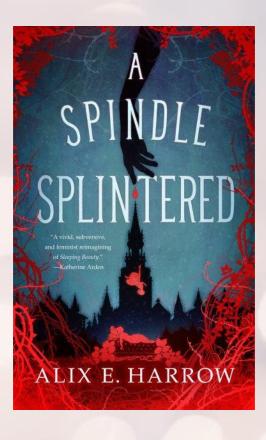
# Retellings & Reimaginings

#### Old stories remade





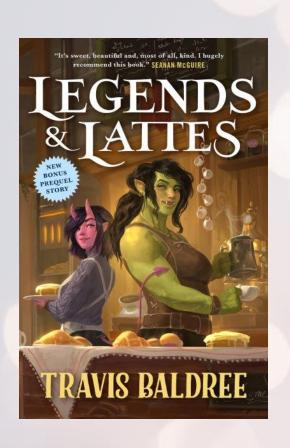


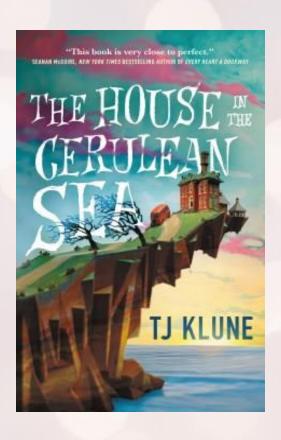




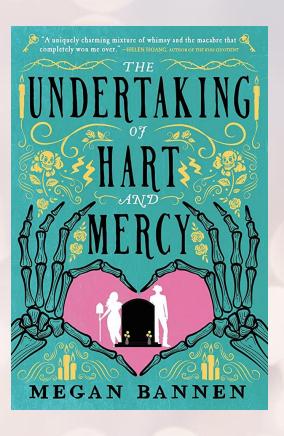
# **Cozy Fantasy**

Low stakes magic that makes you feel good





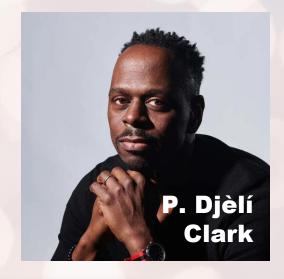




### **Authors to watch**













# Helping readers

- Check in with patrons about how much they want to invest in their reading – do they want to visit a fantasy world with a standalone novel or be immersed in a world with a long-running series?
- Keep in mind reader expectations about series! There are many great fantasy series out there, but some (such as *A Song of Ice and Fire*, the *Kingkiller Chronicles*, etc.) have no end in sight. Make sure to check in with readers to see if they're okay waiting and, if so, for how long.

# Entry points into the genre

#### Book to screen and video game adaptations

House of Dragons, Dungeons & Dragons: Honor Among Thieves, video games like Hades and The Witcher

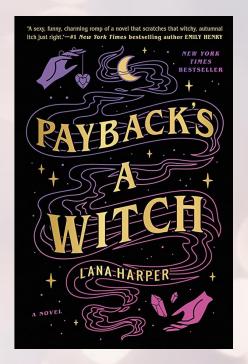
#### **Graphic adaptations and original comics**

Chivalry by Gaiman, Solo Leveling by Chugong, Monstress by Liu

#### Cross-genre appeal and following crossover authors

PNR romance, science fantasy/weird fiction, mystery with fantastical elements







#### Questions to ask the reader



What setting appeals?
Our contemporary
world plus magic, or
something more
original?

What Fantasy shows or movies have you enjoyed?

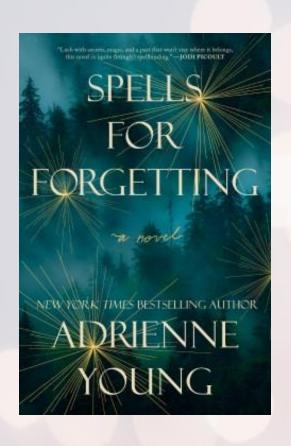
Would you want to be a magic user?

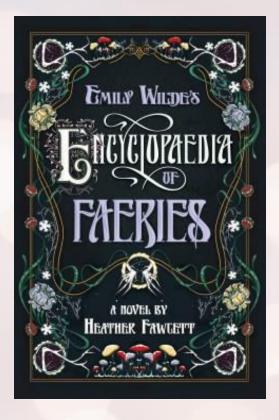
Who are some of your favorite fantasy characters?

What fantasy creature do you want to pet the most?

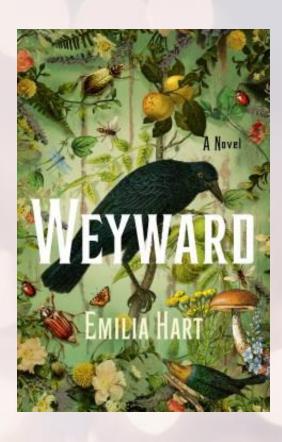


#### **Recent LibraryReads selections**









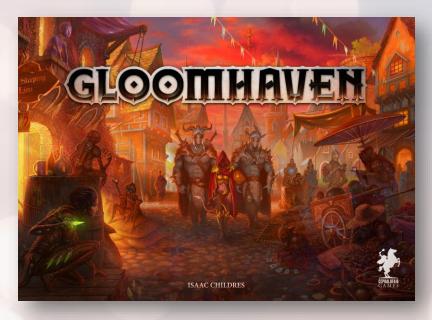
#### Other media

Actual play podcasts like Critical Role, The Adventure Zone, and Dimension20

Non-fiction podcasts about the genre like Imaginary Worlds

Board games
Gloomhaven, Mice & Mystics, Magic the Gathering

Video Games Baldur's Gate III, Skyrim, Elden Ring

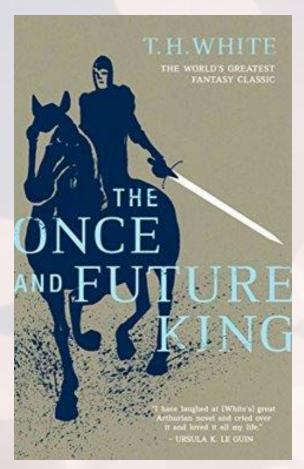


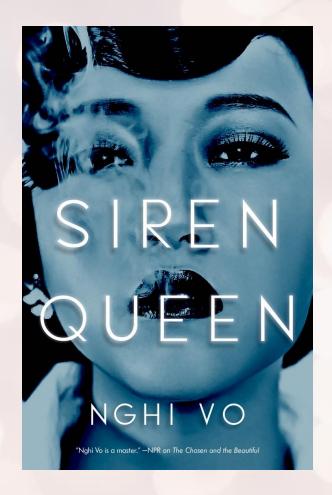




# **Amy's Recs**

A "true classic", a current fave, and a forthcoming title I can't wait to read



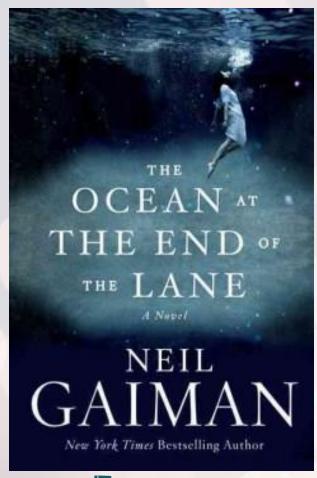


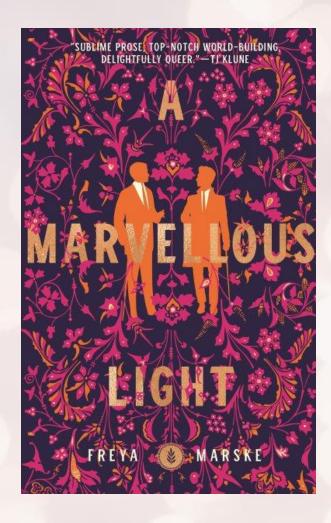


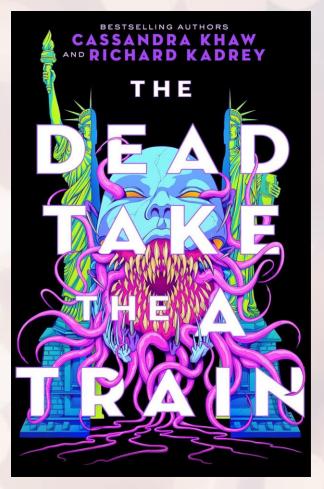


#### Jessica's Recs

A "true classic", a current fave, and a forthcoming title I can't wait to read











# **Any questions?**



# 

Novel'ist





# FINDING FANTASY

IN NOVELIST

Novel ist



