

FANTASY

Alexander, Lloyd

The Book of Three (1964)

Book One of Chronicles of Prydain. Taran wanted to be a hero, and looking after a pig wasn't exactly heroic, even though Hen Wen was an oracular pig. But the day that Hen Wen vanished, Taran was led into an enchanting and perilous world. With his band of followers, he confronted the Horned King and his terrible Cauldron-Born. These were the forces of evil, and only Hen Wen knew the secret of keeping the kingdom of Prydain safe from them. But who would find her first? (*Epic/High Fantasy*) MR

Anthony, Piers

Split Infinity (1982)

Book One of The Apprentice Adept. On the technological, decadent world of Proton, someone was trying to destroy Stile, serf and master Gamesman. His only escape lay in Phaze, a world totally ruled by magic. Soon he learned that his alternate self had already been murdered, and that he was next. On Proton, his fate depended on winning the great Games. On Phaze, he must master magic to survive. And if he used any magic at all, his friends were determined to kill him at once! (*Alternate and Parallel Worlds*) MR

Brackston, Paula.

The Witch's Daughter (2011)

Witnessing the death of her witch mother in the spring of 1628, Bess Hawksmith turns to secluded warlock Gideon Masters for protection and learns formidable powers, including immortality, skills she begins teaching to a new apprentice centuries later. (*Historical Fantasy*) NP

Bray, Libba

The Diviners (2012)

After humiliating her parents with her unrestrained behavior at a party, privileged young Evie O'Neill is sent to live with her eccentric uncle in New York City -- a "punishment" that utterly delights Evie, who can't wait to mix with Ziegfeld girls and sneak into some big-city speakeasies (it's the Roaring Twenties). But when her Uncle Will, curator of the Museum of American Folklore, Superstition, and the Occult, is called on to help solve a rash of bizarre, other-worldly murders, Evie is drawn in to the investigations because of a special ability she's tried to keep secret. (*Young Adult Fantasy, Historical Fantasy, Steampunk*) JFS

Gaiman, Neil

The Ocean at the End of the Lane (2013)

Returning to his childhood home in the English countryside for a funeral, the unnamed middle-aged narrator of this haunting, lyrical fable finds himself drawn to an ordinary-looking farmhouse that's anything but. As long-buried memories surface, he recalls events that occurred at Hempstock Farm when he was seven. (*Fantasy Fiction, Mythological Fiction*) AS

Joyce, Graham

Some Kind of Fairy Tale (2012)

Twenty years ago, sixteen-year-old Tara Martin disappeared from a small town in the heart of England. Now, her sudden return and the mind-bending tale of where she's been will challenge our very perception of the truth. For twenty years after Tara Martin disappeared, her parents and her brother, Peter, lived in denial. Then suddenly on Christmas Day, the doorbell rings at her parents' home, and

there, dishevelled and slightly peculiar looking, Tara stands. It's a miracle, but alarm bells are ringing for Peter. Tara's story does not add up. And, incredibly, she barely looks a day older than when she vanished. (*Urban Fantasy*) JFS

Lackey, Mercedes

One Good Knight (2006)

When a dragon storms the castle, what should a (virgin) princess do? Why, turn to her studies, of course! But nothing practical-minded Princess Andromeda of Acadia finds gives a definitive solution. The only Traditional answer, though, is soothing the marauding dragon by a virgin sacrifice. Things are going fairly smoothly with the lottery--except for the women chosen, of course--until Princess Andromeda herself is picked! (*High Fantasy/Fairy Tales*) BM

Maguire, Gregory

Wicked: The Life & Times of the Wicked Witch of the West (1995)

Set in an Oz where a morose Wizard battles suicidal thoughts, the story of the green-skinned Elphaba, otherwise known as the Wicked Witch of the West, profiles her as an animal rights activist striving to avenge her dear sister's death. (*Fantasy Fiction*) AS

Martin, George R. R.

A Game of Thrones (1996)

Long ago, in a time forgotten, a preternatural event threw the seasons out of balance. In a land where summers can last decades and winters a lifetime, trouble is brewing. The cold is returning, and in the frozen wastes to the north of Winterfell, sinister forces are massing beyond the kingdom's protective Wall. To the south, the king's powers are failing--his most trusted adviser dead under mysterious circumstances and his enemies emerging from the shadows of the throne. At the center of the conflict lie the Starks of Winterfell, a family as harsh and unyielding as the frozen land they were born to. Now Lord Eddard Stark is reluctantly summoned to serve as the king's new Hand, an appointment that threatens to sunder not only his family but the kingdom itself. (*Sword and Sorcery*) NP

McKinley, Robin

Sunshine (2003)

All hope for stopping the vampiric elite from controlling earth depends on human SOFs (Special Other Forces) and the success of their attempt to recruit Sunshine, the daughter of legendary sorcerer Onyx Blaise. (*Urban Fantasy*) BM

Roberts, Nora

Key of Light (2003)

Book One of Key Trilogy. The life of gallery manager Malory Price is stalled when she is invited to a reception at a mansion near her small Pennsylvania town. Upon her arrival, she discovers that she is one of only three guests--all of whom are feisty young women with life challenges just like her own. Their mysterious hosts explain that centuries earlier, they allowed the souls of the three demigoddesses under their care to be stolen by a sorcerer. Legend says the demigoddesses cannot be freed until three mortal women find the keys to the glass box in which they are housed. They nervously accept, and Malory is the first to tackle her task, with the help of Dana's charming but commitment-phobic brother Flynn. (*Romantic Fantasy*) MR

Tolkien, J.R.R.

The Hobbit, or there and back again (1937)

Bilbo Baggins, a respectable, well-to-do hobbit, lives comfortably in his hobbit-hole until the day the wandering wizard Gandalf chooses him to take part in an adventure from which he may never return. (*Fantasy Fiction*) AS

Turner, Megan Whalen

The Thief (1997)

Gen flaunts his ingenuity as a thief and relishes the adventure which takes him to a remote temple of the gods where he will attempt to steal a precious stone. (*High Fantasy*) BM

Updike, John

The Witches of Eastwick (1984)

Toward the end of the Vietnam era, in a snug little Rhode Island seacoast town, wonderful powers have descended upon Alexandra, Jane, and Sukie, bewitching divorcées with sudden access to all that is female, fecund, and mysterious. Alexandra, a sculptor, summons thunderstorms; Jane, a cellist, floats on the air; and Sukie, the local gossip columnist, turns milk into cream. Their happy little coven takes on new, malignant life when a dark and moneyed stranger, Darryl Van Horne, refurbishes the long-derelict Lenox mansion and invites them in to play. Thenceforth scandal flits through the darkening, crooked streets of Eastwick—and through the even darker fantasies of the town's collective psyche. (*Humorous Fantasy, Literary Fantasy*) JFS

Zimmer Bradley, Marion

The Mists of Avalon (1982)

When Morgan le Fay (Morgaine) has to sacrifice her virginity during fertility rites, the man who impregnates her is her younger brother Arthur, whom she turns against when she thinks he has betrayed the old religion of Avalon. (*Arthurian Fantasy*) AS