

Samatar, Sophie

A Stranger in Olondria (2013)

Samatar's wonderful pan-African fantasy adds immeasurably to the tradition of Tolkien by allowing world-building and language to inform everything that her narrator, Jevik, tells us about his life and experiences. With depth and subtlety, she explores ideas of learning and cultural scattering, urbanization, and, again like Tolkien, how we can be so changed by our journeying that we can never quite go home again.

Suri, Tasha

The Jasmine Throne (2021)

Set in an imaginary version of Ancient India, Suri's novel follows Priya, a humble servant with a powerful secret, and Malini, the imprisoned sister of a cruel emperor. As forbidden magic seeps back into the Parijatdvipa empire, Priya and Malini, as well as a rich and diverse cast of characters, navigate the tumultuous waters of power in the first of the acclaimed *Burning Kingdoms* trilogy.

Wells, Martha

Network Effect: A Murderbot Novel (2020)

More battles in Outer Space. More AI run amok. Book 5 in the beloved *Murderbot* series forces Murderbot into a situation where he must grudgingly decide if he's going to save his imperiled friends or let them - and everyone else - die a gruesome death.



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Science-Fiction & Fantasy



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Adeymi, Tomi

Children of Blood and Bone (2018)

Inspired by both Harry Potter and West African mythology, this coming-of-age novel explores ideas of repression in our world through the communities of Orisha. As Zélie Adebola tries to bring magic back to a world in desperate need of it, she faces the brutality of the ruling class of magicians.

Bardugo, Leigh

Ninth House (2019)

Bardugo's narrative follows Alex Stern, a Yale freshman whose resume includes surviving a homicide and the ability to see the dead. The terms of her full scholarship become clear when she is tasked with joining Lethe, a secret society whose members must watch the Houses of the Veil, other clandestine fellowships steeped in the evil magics.

Callender, Kacen

Queen of the Conquered (2019)

Ranked as one of the top fantasy novels of all time, this novel is a Caribbean-based, anti-colonial narrative in which mind-control magic allows Sigourney Ross to rise to power and gain revenge against the people who enslaved and murdered her people.

Chambers, Becky

A Psalm for the Wild Built (2021)

In this gentle story, a tea monk encounters the first robot that any human has seen since robots were emancipated ages ago. It has been sent on a quest by robot-kind to discover what people need. Only through this journey will the monk and the robot find themselves. (This is part one of the *Monk and Robot* series, which now includes part two: ***A Prayer for the Crown Shy***)

Updated 2023

Clark, P. Djèli

A Master of Djinn (2021)

The year is 1912 and Fatma el-Sha'arawi is the youngest woman employed by Cairo's Ministry of Alchemy, Enchantments, and Supernatural Entities. In this multi-award-winning fantasy steampunk, Fatma, who has already saved the universe once, must investigate a man claiming to be the most dangerous and powerful man in recent history returned to destroy what he sees as a decadent, failed world.

Clark, Susanna

Piranesi (2020)

Set in a parallel universe made up of an infinite series of rooms, staircases, vestibules and statues, the story is told from the perspective of Piranesi. He has no memory of himself or his past life, but gradually, his natural curiosity leads him to discover the dark mystery at the heart of his existence - and its relationship to the Other, the only companion he occasionally encounters in the world he calls The House. A masterpiece of mystery, world-building, and self-discovery.

Johnson, Alaya Dawn

Trouble the Saints (2020)

Set in an alternate New York of the 1940's, this powerful and beautifully-written book shows us a whole new world and all new magics, including 'saint's hands,' the supernatural ability to throw knives that is possessed by the protagonist, Phyllis LeBlanc. As she navigates the underworld of the city and attempts to pass as white, LeBlanc's relationship with Dev Patil, her prophetic boyfriend, leads to new challenges.

Klune, TJ

In the Lives of Puppets (2023)

With his usual sensitivity and effervescence, Klune retells the story of Pinocchio in a post apocalyptic world ruled by robots. This exciting tale features Klune's usual warmth and humor while exploring some of the darker aspects of family, love, and the inevitable explorations that are essential to growth and self-discovery.

Kuang, R.F

Babel (2022)

The Nebula Award winner for 2022, *Babel* is a sweeping period drama set in the British Empire in an alternate 1830s. The book follows the story of Robin Swift, a Cantonese orphan who has been groomed to become a prestigious Oxford translator, working in Babel to forge the magic that powers and sustains the empire. But as the connection between knowledge and power becomes clearer to him, Robin must decide where his loyalties truly lie.

Martine, Arkady

A Memory Called Empire (2019)

Mahit Dzmare has just been named ambassador to Teixcalaanli, the greatest empire the galaxy has ever known. In this world, important figures are implanted with a device that gives them access to the thoughts, feelings, and memories of the individuals who have held their position before them. Unfortunately, Mahit's imago is damaged and she begins to suspect that her predecessor was murdered. But why? And how does his death relate to dangers facing the entire empire?

Miller, Madeline

Circe (2018)

The smash hit of 2018, this award-winning novel traces the life and times of Circe, the great "witch" of Greek mythology. With profound depth and sensitivity, Miller develops Circe's story, spanning the beginning of time through the events of *The Odyssey* and beyond. Groundbreaking, amazing, and deeply moving, this novel is a must-read for any fan of mythology, storytelling, or self-discovery.

Muir, Tamsyn

Gideon the Ninth (2019)

In a solar system of necromancers, all ruled by an immortal God-Emperor, political intrigue and a chance to become immortal themselves, pits the rulers of the nine planets against one another. A refreshing blend of gothic horror and snarky modernism, this novel seamlessly blends the best elements of HP Lovecraft with contemporary slang. If you're looking for something new, daring, funny, and creepy, this may be the novel for you! (First in the *Locked Tomb series*)

Okorafor, Nnedi

Akata Warrior (2017)

Okorafor's second book follows Sunny, an American-born Nigerian albino, troubled by visions as she enters the secret Leopard society. She must encounter djinni, her family, and the consequences of her own decisions in order to avert the apocalypse and win her rightful place in her community. (Also check out the first book in the series, *Akata Witch!*)

Parker-Chan, Shelley

She Who Became the Sun (2021)

In this award-winning debut novel, Parker-Chan reimagines the 14th-century founding of the Ming dynasty. Imagining the emperors as having literal divine powers, Parker-Chan's exciting political and military adventure also deftly explores gender and sexuality as the protagonist, Zhu, tries to fill her brother's role in this rapidly-changing world. (First in the *Radiant Emperor duology*)