

FURTHER READING:

GLIMPSES OF THE
EXTRAORDINARY:

A READER'S GUIDE TO

SCIENCE FICTION & FANTASY

This website was created by Spring Lea Henry to help readers connect with beloved books. The site includes bibliographies, descriptions of the various types of science fiction and fantasy, links to great online resources, book reviews, and a list of some great reasons to read science fiction and fantasy. The titles featured at this site are directly linked to Amazon.com for easy purchase.

WWW.SPRINGLEA.COM/GLIMPSES/

GLIMPSES OF THE
EXTRAORDINARY

A Reader's Guide
to the Fantasy
Theme:

Dark Fantasy



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CHARACTERISTICS OF DARK FANTASY:

- Ominous but not necessarily terrifying or horrifying tone pervades the novel.
- Characters may include non-human creatures such as vampires, werewolves, or ghosts.
- Magic may be an element of the world in which the story is set and may be darker magic, such as soul-stealing or life-sucking.
- The setting often has a “gothic” feel to it, such as old castles or haunted houses.
- Protagonist may not be particularly heroic or morally upright.
- Supernatural elements are almost always included. Sometimes they are the powers of the protagonist, sometimes they provide the main source of conflict.
- Much of the plot may take place at night, especially if creatures who cannot tolerate daylight are involved.
- Family curses or prophecies may be a large part of the protagonist's role in the story.

SOME MAJOR CONTRIBUTING AUTHORS:

- Anne Rice: Her vampire sagas are well known, even by mainstream audiences, especially since the movie *Interview With a Vampire*.
- Dean R. Koontz: His works often verge on horror because of the malicious intent of the antagonist or the vicious nature of his crimes. His stories also invoke the supernatural.
- Laurell K. Hamilton: Her novels involve vampires, werewolves, faeries, and witchcraft with a spellbinding effect on the reader.
- P.N. Elrod: This dark fantasy author's books are considered to be classics of the genre.
- Jim Butcher: His series *The Dresden Files* is about a private investigator/wizard who fights against supernatural forces.
- Stephanie Meyer: Although billed for teens, many adult readers also enjoy the *Twilight* books about star-crossed lovers, one of whom is a vampire!

RECOMMENDED STARTER BOOKS:

- *Interview With a Vampire* by Anne Rice. This first book of a multi-part series is a page turner with complex characters and a lush New Orleans setting that is a character unto itself.
- *Watchers* by Dean R. Koontz: This book includes a lonely widower, a reclusive yet pretty woman, a smart and charming golden retriever... and his evil twin!
- *Witchlight* by Marion Zimmer Bradley. The first of five books, this novel tells the story of Truth Jourdemayne and her dark and mysterious heritage.
- *Blood and Chocolate* by Annette Curtis Klause. This coming of age story wraps typical teenage angst around the added problem of the heroine reconciling with her inner werewolf.
- *A Great and Terrible Beauty* by Libba Bray. Set in a Victorian boarding school, this supernatural mystery explores how the actions of one generation can impact the next.
- *Fantasy Lover* by Sherrilyn Kenyon. Greek gods and goddesses, ancient curses, and erotic writing mix in this first book in the *Dark Hunter* series.