

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:

Modern Fantasy



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CHARACTERISTICS OF MODERN FANTASY:

- Magical creatures such as unicorns and elves often are mixed with ordinary people from our world.
- Humorous fantasy is included in this category because the puns are usually based on concepts only a modern reader would understand, such as computers.
- Magic is present, but not always explained as well as in other types of fantasy.
- The setting can be either our world, a new fictitious country or a re-hash of a pre-existing fictitious country such as Oz.
- Culture clash between magic and mundane might be central to the plot.
- Many stories sport new inventions that combine technology and magic in unique ways.
- Stories can either be a mundane person visiting a magical realm in secret (or vice-versa) or be a society that blends the two cultures in such a way that everyone is aware of the mingling.

SOME MAJOR CONTRIBUTING AUTHORS:

- Piers Anthony: His Xanth series of books is famous for devious puns that sometimes build over the entire novel.
- Robert Lynn Asprin: His M.Y.T.H. books are fun-filled adventures with plenty of mirth sprinkled in for good measure.
- Terry Brooks: *Running With the Demon* and its sequels do a great job of illustrating a normal person's reactions to the supernatural.
- J.K. Rowling: The Harry Potter books are now famous the world over and loved by fans of all ages.
- Stephen R. Donaldson: Both the Thomas Covenant books and the Mordant's need duology feature a person from modern Earth being transported to a magical realm in order to save it.
- Guy Gavriel Kay: *The Fionavar Tapestry* features five university students transported to a magical realm to battle a great evil.

RECOMMENDED STARTER BOOKS:

- *Finder* by Emma Bull. This mystery exposes all the difficulties when elves and humans live side by side.
- *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe* by C.S. Lewis is the first of a classic seven volume series about English children who visit the land of Narnia.
- *So You Want To Be a Wizard?* by Diane Duane. Similar to Rowling's works, young people living in New York study magic and have great adventures.
- *Glimpses* by Lewis Shiner. This book tells the story of a man who speaks with dead rock stars. Well-researched and packed with nostalgia.
- *Nine Princes in Amber* by Roger Zelazny. The first in his series about a prince trying to regain his throne after waking up in a hospital with amnesia.
- *Magic Kingdom For Sale: SOLD!* by Terry Brooks. This book is about a man who buys a magic kingdom from a catalog. But caveat emptor--this kingdom has some problems!
- *Tinker* by Wen Spence. Imagine if Pittsburgh spent most of the year on a planet populated by elves. What would happen if people from both cultures fell in love?