Legendborn by Tracy Deonn
16 y.o. Bree wants nothing to do with her family memories...or the mysterious teenage mage who calls himself a “Merlin” and attempts—and fails—to wipe Bree’s memory. His failure unlocks Bree’s own unique magic and hidden connection: the night her mother died, another Merlin was at the hospital, and she’ll do whatever it takes to infiltrate their secret society of the Legendborn, the descendants of King Arthur’s knights.

The Gilded Wolves by Roshani Chokshi
Paris, 1889. No one keeps tabs on dark truths better than treasure-hunter & wealthy hotelier Séverin Montagnet-Alaric. When the ever-powerful Order of Babel coerces him to help them on a mission, Séverin is offered a treasure that he never imagined: his true inheritance. To hunt down the ancient artifact the Order seeks, a band of unlikely experts join Séverin as he explores the dark, glittering heart of Paris.

*Woven in Moonlight by Isabel Ibanez
Ximena is the decoy Condesa, a stand-in for the last remaining Illustrian royal. When the real Condesa’s hand is demanded in marriage, it’s Ximena’s duty to go in her stead—and her chance to hunt for the magical relic used to overtake her nation, using her weaving ability to hide messages in tapestries for the resistance.

*Sorcery of Thorns by Margaret Rogerson
All sorcerers are evil. Elisabeth has grown up among the tools of sorcery—magical grimoires that whisper on shelves and rattle beneath iron chains. Then an act of sabotage releases the library’s most dangerous grimoire. With no one to turn to but the sorcerer Nathaniel Thorn and his mysterious demonic servant, she finds herself entangled in a centuries-old conspiracy.

Six of Crows by Leigh Bardugo
Criminal prodigy Kaz Brekker is offered a chance at a deadly heist that could make him rich beyond his wildest dreams. But he needs the help of his crew: a convict with a thirst for revenge, a sharpshooter who can’t walk away from a wager, a runaway with a privileged past, a spy known as the Wraith, a Heartrender using her magic to survive the slums and a thief with a gift for unlikely escapes—if they don’t kill each other first.

Akata Witch by Nnedi Okorafor
Born in New York, but living in Aba, Nigeria, 12 y.o. Sunny is albino and struggling to cope with not being able to play in the sun like all the other kids. Then Sunny is plucked into the world of the Leopard People, where your worst defect becomes your greatest asset.

Blade of Secrets by Tricia Levenseller
18 y.o. Ziva prefers metal to people. Then Ziva receives a commission from a powerful warlord, and the result is a sword capable of stealing its victims’ secrets. When Ziva learns of the warlord’s intentions to use the weapon to enslave all the world, she takes her sister and flees. Joined by a distractingly handsome mercenary and a young scholar with extensive knowledge of the world’s known magics, Ziva and her sister set out on a quest to keep the sword safe.

The Chosen by Taran Matharu
Cade is settling into a new boarding school, contemplating his future, when he finds himself transported to another realm. He soon discovers their new world is populated with prehistoric creatures, ancient relics, and stranger still—people. Overwhelmed by his new surroundings, Cade has little time to adjust, for soon he and his fellow classmates are forced to become contenders in a brutal game, controlled by mysterious overlords.

*Girl, Serpent, Thorn by Melissa Bashardoust
Soraya, a princess poisonous to the touch, must decide if she’s willing to step outside of the shadows for the first time. Below in the dungeon is a demon who holds knowledge that she craves, the answer to her freedom. And above is a young man who isn’t afraid of her, whose eyes linger not with fear, but with an understanding of who she is beneath the poison.

Infinity Son by Adam Silvera
Brothers Emil and Brighton always idolized the Spell Walkers—a vigilante group sworn to rid the world of specters. While the Spell Walkers are born with powers, specters take them, violently stealing the essence of endangered magical creatures. Brighton wishes he had a power so he could join the fray. Emil just wants the fighting to stop. In a brawl after a protest, Emil manifests a power of his own—one that sets him up to be the heroic Spell Walker Brighton always wanted to be.

*Dark and Deepest Red by Anna-Marie McEelemore
1518. A strange sickness sweeps through Strasbourg: women dance in the streets, some until they fall down dead. As rumors of witchcraft spread, suspicion turns toward Lavinia and her family. 500 years later, red shoes seal to Rosella Oliva’s feet, making her dance uncontrollably. They draw her toward Emil, whose family was blamed for the fever 500 years ago. But there’s more to what happened in 1518 than Emil knows, and discovering the truth may decide whether Rosella survives the red shoes.

An Ember in the Ashes by Sabaa Tahir
In this brutal world inspired by ancient Rome, Laia, a slave, risks her life to spy for the Empire from within the greatest military academy, where Elias is the school’s finest soldier—and the most unwilling to enforce its rule.
These Violent Delights by Chloe Gong

Shanghai, 1926. A blood feud between two gangs runs the streets red, leaving the city helpless in the grip of chaos. But when both sides show signs of instability culminating in clawing their own throats out, the people start to whisper. Of a contagion, a madness. Of a monster in the shadows. As the deaths stack up, Juliette and Roma must set their guns—and grudges—aside and work together, for if they can’t stop this mayhem, then there will be no city left for either to rule.

*Carry On by Rainbow Rowell

Simon Snow is the worst Chosen One who’s ever been chosen. Half the time, Simon can’t even make his wand work, and the other half, he starts something on fire. His mentor’s avoiding him, his girlfriend broke up with him, and there’s a magic-eating monster running around, wearing Simon’s face. Baz would be having a field day with all this, if he were here—it’s their last year at the Watford School of Magicks, and Simon’s infuriating nemesis didn’t even bother to show up.

*The Midnight Girls by Alicia Jasinka

In a snow-cloaked kingdom where witches are burned, two enchantresses secretly compete for the heart of a prince, only to discover that they might be falling for each other.

*Beasts of Prey by Ayana Gray

Magic doesn’t exist in the broken city of Lkossa anymore, especially for girls like 16 y.o. Koffi. Indentured to the notorious Night Zoo, she cares for its fearsome and magical creatures to pay off her family’s debts and secure their eventual freedom. But the night her loved ones’ own safety is threatened by the Zoo’s cruel master, Koffi unleashes a power she doesn’t fully understand—

*Cemetery Boys by Aiden Thomas

When his traditional Latinx family has problems accepting his gender, Yadriel becomes determined to prove himself a real brujo. With the help of his cousin Maritza, he performs the ritual himself, and then sets out to find the ghost of his murdered cousin and set it free. However, the ghost he summons is actually Julian Diaz, the school’s resident bad boy, and Julian is not about to go quietly into death.

We Hunt the Flame by Hafsah Faizal

Zafira is the Hunter, disguising herself as a man when she braves the cursed forest of the Arz to feed her people. Nasir is the Prince of Death, assassinating those foolish enough to defy his autocratic father, the sultan. If Zafira was exposed as a girl, all of her achievements would be rejected; if Nasir displayed his compassion, his father would punish him in the most brutal of ways. Both are legends in the kingdom of Arawiya—but neither wants to be.

The Midnight Lie by Marie Rutkoski

Where Nirrim lives, you either follow the rules, or pay a tithe and suffer the consequences. But then she encounters Sid, a rakish traveler from far away who whispers rumors that the High Caste possesses magic. Sid tempts Nirrim to seek that magic for herself. But to do that, Nirrim must surrender her old life. She must place her trust in this sly stranger who asks, above all, not to be trusted.

*Sisters of Sword & Song by Rebecca Ross

Evadne will finally be reunited with her older sister, Halcyn, who has been proudly serving in the queen’s army. But Halcyn is on the run, charged with murder. Though Halcyn’s life is spared during her trial, the punishment is heavy. And when Eva volunteers to serve part of Halcyn’s sentence, she’s determined to find out exactly what happened.

Fantasy Reads For Teens

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