

EPIC FANTASY ADVENTURES

Also known as **High Fantasy**, these books feature heroic quests, overwhelming odds and the struggle against evil. These novels are epic in scope and set in highly detailed worlds; many of these books are part of trilogies or longer series.

[The Darkness That Comes Before](#) by R. Scott Bakker

It's a world scarred by an apocalyptic past, evoking a time both two thousand years past and two thousand years into the future, as untold thousands gather for a crusade. Travelling among them, two men and two women are ensnared by a mysterious traveler, Anasurimbor Kellhus—part warrior, part philosopher, part sorcerous, charismatic presence—from lands long thought dead. This novel is a history of this great holy war, and like all histories, the survivors write its conclusion. *The Prince of Nothing* series continues with [The Warrior Prophet](#).

[Sword of Shannara](#) by Terry Brooks

Living in peaceful Shady Vale, Shea Ohmsford knew little of the troubles that plagued the rest of the world. Then the giant, forbidding Allanon revealed that the supposedly dead Warlock Lord was plotting to destroy the world. The sole weapon against this Power of Darkness was the Sword of Shannara, which could only be used by a true heir of Shannara—Shea being the last of the bloodline, upon whom all hope rested. Soon a Skull Bearer, dread minion of Evil, flew into the Vale, seeking to destroy Shea. To save the Vale, Shea fled, drawing the Skull Bearer after him. The *Shannara Series* continues with [The Elfstones of Shannara](#).

[Furies of Calderon](#) by Jim Butcher

In the realm of Alera (which appears quite similar to Ancient Rome), where people bond with the furies -- elementals of earth, air, fire, water, wood, and metal -- fifteen-year-old Tavi struggles with his lack of furocrafting. But when his homeland erupts in chaos as the High Lords for an alliance with the Marat barbarians to wrest control from first lord Gaius Sextus, and rebels war with loyalists and furies clash with furies -- Tavi's simple courage will turn the tides of war. The *Codex Alera* series continues with [Academ's Fury](#).

[Lord Foul's Bane](#) by Stephen Donaldson

He called himself Thomas Covenant the Unbeliever because he dared not believe in the strange alternate world in which he suddenly found himself. Yet he was tempted to believe, to fight for the Land, to be the reincarnation of its greatest hero. The fact that Covenant doesn't quite believe in himself and that he is not a hero born and bred may be helping him to find a readership among Americans, who are also, perhaps, a bit dubious about their taste in fantasy. The *Chronicles of Thomas Covenant, the Unbeliever* continue with [The Illearth War](#).

[The Wayfarer Redemption](#) by Sara Douglass

The realm of Achar's security is threatened as a millennia-old prophecy predicting the return of the Forbidden Ones flares into life. An unnatural winter grips the land as the Ice Lord Gorgrael moves his armies of demonic wraiths and IceWorms south. Faraday, betrothed of Achar's War Lord, Duke Borneheld, is as frightened as everyone else. While fleeing to safety with Axis, legendary leader of the Axe-Wielders, Faraday learns all that she has been taught about her people's history has been based on lies. Leaving the company of Axis, a man she secretly loves, Faraday embarks on a journey that will forever change both her life and those of her people. The *Wayfarer Redemption* series continues with [Enchanter](#).

[Lord of the Isles](#) by David Drake

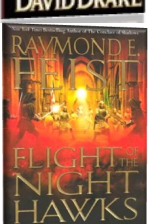
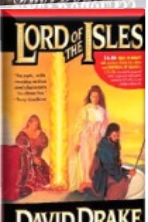
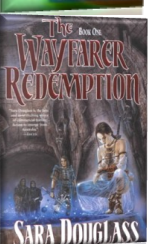
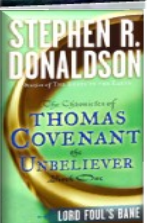
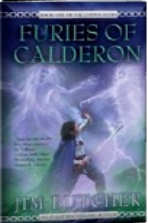
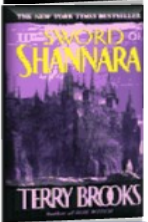
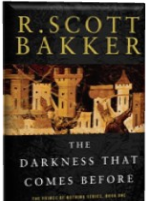
Mysteriously transported one thousand years into the future after a cataclysm destroys the empire of the Isles, a woman sorcerer finds herself in a small town, far from the centers of power, where she and a small group of individuals become the focus of a new struggle for dominance. The *Lord of the Isles* series by North Carolina author Drake continues with [Queen of Demons](#).

[Pawn of Prophecy](#) by David Eddings

Long ago, in this first book of *The Belgariad*, the evil god Torak drove men and Gods to war. But Belgarath the Sorcerer led men to reclaim the Orb that protected men of the West. So long as it lay at Riva, the prophecy went, men would be safe. But Garion did not believe in such stories. Brought up on a quiet farm by his Aunt Pol, how could he know that the Apostate planned to wake dread Torak, or that he would be led on a quest of unparalleled magic and danger by those he loved, but did not know...? [Queen of Sorcery](#) is next in the series.

[Flight of the Nighthawks](#) by Raymond Feist

A new evil threatens Midkemia, its web stretching from the deepest criminal underworld all the way up to the highest seats of power in ancient Kesh. And the Conclave of Shadows, charged unexpectedly with the training of two apprentices, must also best powerful agents of the darkest magic . . . for the sorcerer Pug has seen that the fate of two worlds lies in the balance, in a prophetic nightmare. The *Riftwar: Darkwar* saga continues with [Into a Dark Realm](#); and the first of all of the *Riftwar* novels is [Magician: Apprentice](#).



[Wizard's First Rule](#) by Terry Goodkind

A mysterious woman named Kahlan appears in Richard Cypher's forest sanctuary in the aftermath of the murder of his father. She seeks Richard's help ... and more. In a dark age when it takes courage to live, and more than mere courage to challenge those who hold dominion, Richard and Kahlan must take up that challenge or become the next victims. Yet, Richard fears nothing so much as what secrets his new sword might reveal about his own soul. In their darkest hour, hunted relentlessly, tormented by treachery, Kahlan calls upon Richard to reach beyond his sword, to invoke within himself something more noble. [Stone of Tears](#) is next in *The Sword Of Truth* series.

[Assassin's Apprentice](#) by Robin Hobb

Young Fitz is a bastard son of the noble Prince Chivalry, raised in the court of the Six Duchies by his father's gruff stableman. He is ignored by all the royalty except the devious King Shrewd, who has him secretly tutored in the arts of the assassin. But now, as the barbarous Red Ship Raiders ravage the coasts and sleepwalkers prowl the heartland, Fitz is growing to manhood. Soon he will face his first dangerous, soul-shattering mission. For Fitz is a threat to the throne...but he may also be the key to the survival of the kingdom. The first in the nine volume *Farseer series*; also try Hobb's *Rain Wilds* series starting with [Dragon Keeper](#).

[The Eye of the World](#) by Robert Jordan

Set in a world where two kinds of magic exist, one female and the other male, this novel features an epic quest to unite the diverse people of this world against the Dark One, who threatens to destroy everything. A complex and enjoyable adventure featuring a cast of unforgettable characters: Rand, a simple shepherd who is stalked by an evil he does not yet understand; Egwene, Rand's love interest, who happens to possess her own special gift; Moraine, the beautiful, but possibly dangerous, member of a powerful legion of sorceresses; and Lan, Moraine's fearless companion and guardian. The *Wheel of Time* series continues with [The Great Hunt](#).

[A Wizard of Earthsea](#) by Ursula K. LeGuin

This coming-of-age tale about a boy destined to become the world's greatest sorcerer has been heralded as one of the most beautifully written novels ever penned. Born in the realm of Earthsea, a world dominated by an extensive archipelago, Ged is a poor blacksmith's son born with an innate understanding of magic. But after he is sent to Roke Island to study the craft, he lets his arrogance and antipathy for another student lead him into a disastrous mistake: unleashing an evil spirit bent on devouring Ged's essence! The *Earthsea Series* continues with [The Tombs of Atuan](#).

[A Game of Thrones](#) by George R.R. Martin

A contemporary masterpiece of fantasy that combines intrigue, action, romance, and mystery in a family saga. The cold is returning to Winterfell, where summers can last decades and winters a lifetime. The Stark family has long anticipated this shift of seasons, but are they prepared to deal with the members of the Lannister family? Martin creates a society almost without magic but with human perversity at its most abundant and active. He reaches a new plateau in narrative technique with the almost dauntingly large cast and number of viewpoint shifts, one of the most appealing aspects of the *Song of Ice & Fire series*, which continues with [A Clash of Kings](#).

[The Innocent Mage](#) by Karen Miller

Dreaming of a grand world beyond the life of his humble fisherman father, Asher is delighted when he is summoned to Dorana, the home of princes, beggars, and warrior mages, unaware that members of the Circle, a secret cabal dedicated to preserving an ancient magic, are watching his every move and plan to help him discover his destiny. The *Kingmaker, Kingbreaker* duology continues with [The Awakened Mage](#).

[Mistborn](#) by Brandon Sanderson

For a thousand years the ash fell, no flowers bloomed and the Skaa slaved in misery and lived in fear. The Lord Ruler, the "Sliver of Infinity," reigned with absolute power and ultimate terror, divinely invincible. Then, when hope was so long lost that not even its memory remained, a terribly scarred, heart-broken half-Skaa rediscovered it in the depths of the Lord Ruler's most hellish prison. Kelsier "snapped" and found in himself the powers of a Mistborn. A brilliant thief and natural leader, he turned his talents to the ultimate caper, with the Lord Ruler himself as the mark. This trilogy continues with [The Well of Ascension](#).

[The Lord of the Rings](#) by J.R.R. Tolkien

Frodo, a young hobbit, embarks on a quest to take the evil ring of power to be destroyed. He is joined by some of his hobbit friends, an elf, a dwarf, a couple of men and the enigmatic wizard, Gandalf. A long and treacherous journey separates the group, and they each realize that they all must play different roles in helping the ring-bearer complete his quest and defeat the Dark Lord. An amazing adventure filled with vivid characters, it is essential reading not only for fans of fantasy but for lovers of classic literature as well. Also try [The Hobbit](#).

[The Dragonbone Chair](#) by Tad Williams

In the peaceful land of Osten Ard, the good king is dying-and a long-dreaded evil is about to be unleashed. Only Simon, a lowly castle scullion apprenticed to a secret order dedicated to halting the coming darkness, can solve the dangerous riddle that offers salvation to the land. Simon must travel from drought-stricken lands to ice-bound peaks as he follows his far-seeing dreams. Williams weaves all of the classic ingredients of fantasy into his tale--trolls, giants, elf-like sithi, and dragons. The land of Osten Ard is well created, and readers quickly become immersed in the story. The *Memory, Sorrow and Thorn* trilogy continues with [Stone of Farewell](#).

