

Urban Fantasy

These noir-ish tales are usually set in the real world. The cities are often large, always dangerous and magic and technology exist side-by-side. Some stories are marked by the mingling of the real world and faerie. Others feature human characters with magical powers.



Destiny by Alex Archer

Obsessed with the past, archaeologist Annja Creed, while exploring the caves of France, discovers a brotherhood of monks hiding a dark secret, a black-market occultist with his own agenda, and a historical artifact that links her to Joan of Arc, forever changing her destiny. The *Rogue Angel* series continues with **Solomon's Jar**.

Bitten by Kelly Armstrong

Elena's trying hard to be normal. She hates her strength, her wildness, her hunger for food, for sex, and for the night-time chase and the kill. She wants a husband, children...even a mother-in-law. Or at least that's what she tells herself. And then the inevitable happens. The loyalty of her nature calls her home, and into the fight, which tests just who Elena is: the werewolf or the would-be human. The *Women of the Otherworld* series continues with **Stolen**.

Moon Called by Patricia Briggs

Mercedes "Mercy" Thompson is a talented VW mechanic living in Washington. She also happens to be a walker, a magical being with the power to shift into a coyote at will. Mercy's next-door neighbor is a werewolf. Her former boss is a gremlin. And she's fixing a bus for a vampire. This is the world of Mercy Thompson, one that looks a lot like ours but is populated by those things that go bump in the night. **Blood Bound** is the next in the series.

War for the Oaks by Emma Bull

Musician Eddi McCandry has reached a crossroads in her life. She just broke up with her boyfriend and has decided to quit the band she plays for. Eddi's reality is turned upside down when she is informed that she's to play a vital role in the upcoming battle between the courts of the Fey. Eddi is an ordinary mortal, chosen to bring her mortality to a battlefield of immortals – and neither side is particularly happy about it.

Storm Front by Jim Butcher

Meet Harry Dresden: Wizard For Hire. Lost items found. Paranormal Investigations. Advice. Reasonable Rates. Harry also consults for the Chicago PD and on the latest case two people have been murdered using magic. Soon, Harry finds himself in over his head, as a dark wizard is now stalking him and the White Council is convening to consider Harry's questionable use of magic. The *Dresden Files* series continues with **Fool Moon**.

Magic Street by Orson Scott Card

Mack Street was found in a grocery sack as a baby. He lives with his adopted parents in Los Angeles and has a unique and sometimes terrifying gift: he dreams the dreams of others. As Mack grows up, he learns how to handle his gift—until it leads him to the land of Fairy. Of course, no one expected that the residents of Mack's middle-class African-American neighborhood would also get caught up in this battle between the fairy king and queen.

Dreams Underfoot by Charles De Lint

Newford's citizens – fey folk, magicians, hustlers, painters, fiddlers and ordinary people – stumble headfirst into enchanting adventures in this collection of short stories by one of the masters of Modern Urban Fantasy. It's a delightfully naturalistic fairy tour of the city of Newford, where events are at times shocking, involved or dreamlike. Ghosts, spirits of place, goblins and conjure men all make appearances and remind readers that it's their ability to see magic that allows it to exist. Also try **The Onion Girl** and **The Little Country**.

Unshapely Things by Mark Del Franco

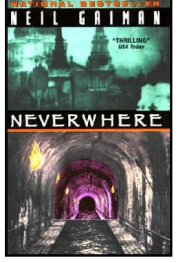
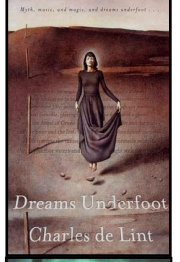
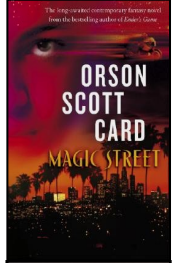
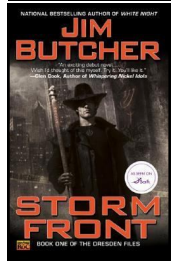
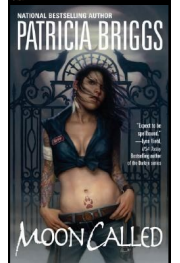
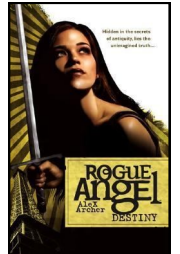
In the alleys of the decrepit Boston neighborhood known as the Weird, fairy prostitutes are turning up dead. The crime scenes show signs of residual magic, but the Guild, which polices the fey, has more "important" crimes to investigate and dumps the case on human law enforcement. And the Boston P.D. calls in Connor Grey, a druid and former hotshot Guild investigator.

Neverwhere by Neil Gaiman

In a bizarre and chilling underground London, Richard Mayhew, a plain man with a good heart who is unhappy in love and in life, is thrust into a dark world when he stops to help a young girl bleeding in the street. Now Richard has much more than work and girlfriend dilemmas on his mind -- now he's wanted by two very evil, powerful, and nasty mercenaries who like to think that they are, in fact, rather gentlemanly.

The Better Part of Darkness by Kelly Gay

Returned from the dead, an unexplained revival that has left her plagued by nightmares, cop and single mom Charlie Madigan must stop the distribution of an off-world drug called ash, while protecting her loved ones from a force more powerful than heaven and hell combined. Also try **The Darkest Edge of Dawn**.



Hard Magic by Laura Anne Gilman

Bonnie Torres and four other paranormal investigators are hired to prove that the deaths of two Talents were murder, not suicide, while dealing with a vast array of high-profile people who want to shut them down. Also try Gilman's *Retrievers* series, including **Free Fall** and **Blood From a Stone**.



Something From the Nightside by Simon R. Green

John Taylor, a down-and-out private detective with supernatural abilities, specializes in finding lost things in Nightside. The realm of Nightside is "the secret, hidden, dark heart" of London, a subterranean world where time and reality have no meaning, a place where it's always three o'clock in the morning, and something dangerous is most definitely lurking around the corner. When a desperate blonde comes searching for her daughter, he takes the case, although it means returning to Nightside. *Nightside* series continues with **Agents of Light and Darkness**.



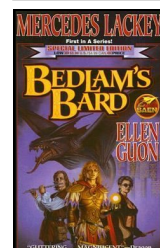
Guilty Pleasures by Laurell K. Hamilton

Introducing Anita Blake, vampire hunter extraordinaire. Most people don't even bat an eye at vampires since they've been given equal rights by the Supreme Court. But Anita knows better--she's seen their victims. . . . A serial killer is murdering vampires, however, and now the most powerful vampire in town wants Anita to find the killer. This is the first in the highly popular *Anita Blake* series, which continues with **The Laughing Corpse**. Readers may also enjoy Hamilton's *Merry Gentry* series, beginning with **A Kiss of Shadows**.



Dead Witch Walking by Kim Harrison

Sexy bounty hunter and witch Rachel Morgan prowls the dark streets of Cincinnati, keeping tabs on the vampires (including her new roommate and business partner Ivy) and other creatures of the supernatural who prey on the city's innocent and vulnerable inhabitants. **The Good, the Bad, and the Undead** is next in the *Hollows* series.

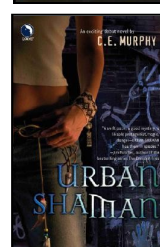


Smoke and Shadows by Tanya Huff

A former ally of private detective Vicki Nelson and vampire Henry Fitzroy, one-time street kid Tony Foster embarks on a new career as a producer of the new syndicated TV series *Darkest Night*, a show about the adventures of a vampire detective, but his success is soon threatened by unexpected and lethal dark forces. **Smoke and Mirrors** is the next in the series; also try **The Enchantment Emporium**.

Bedlam's Bard by Mercedes Lackey and Rosemary Edgehill

Eric Banyon is a talented musician whose lady has left him singing the blues at the Renaissance Faire. He couldn't have known that the sadness of his music would free Korendil, a young elven noble, from the magical prison he has been languishing in for centuries. Suddenly, Eric has no time to be sad, as he has to help Korendil fight against the evil elf lord who imprisoned him and now seeks to conquer California. **Beyond World's End** is the next book.



Urban Shaman by C. E. Murphy

Joanne Walker has three days to learn to use her new shamanic powers and save the world from the Wild Hunt. No worries. No pressure. Never mind the lack of sleep, the odd new talent for healing from fatal wounds, or the cryptic, talking coyote in her dreams. And if all that's not bad enough, in the three years Joanne's been a cop, she's never seen a dead body, but she's just come across her second in three days. It's been a bitch of a week, and it isn't over yet. **Thunderbird Falls** is the next in the *Walker Papers* series.

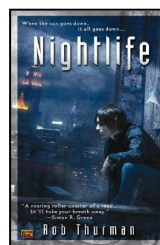
Greywalker by Kat Richardson

Following a savage, near-fatal attack, private detective Harper Blaine discovers that she has become a Greywalker, and now has the ability to move between the ordinary world and a mysterious, cross-over zone, known as "the grey" – the paranormal dimension, occupied by ghosts, monsters and other unspeakable things. **Poltergeist** is the next in the *Greywalker* series.



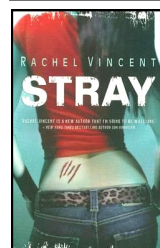
Nightlife by Rob Thurman

In New York, there's a troll under the Brooklyn Bridge, a boggle in Central Park, and a beautiful vampire in a penthouse on the Upper East Side. Of course, most humans are oblivious to this, but Cal is only half-human. His father's dark lineage is the stuff of nightmares, and he and his otherworldly race are after Cal. Cal and his half-brother Niko have stayed a step ahead for three years, but now they've been found again. Also try **Moonshine**.



Kitty and the Midnight Hour by Carrie Vaughn

When Kitty Norville, a DJ for a Denver radio station and a secret werewolf, accidentally launches a late-night advice show for the supernaturally disadvantaged, she becomes the target of a werewolf hunter and several homicidal undead. The *Kitty Norville* series continues with **Kitty Goes to Washington**.



Stray by Rachel Vincent

After narrowly escaping an attack by a Stray, Faythe, a shape-shifting young werecat and rebellious member of a Pride, discovers that two of her fellow female werescats have disappeared and launches a personal campaign to find her missing friends and stop the kidnappers before it is too late. The *Shifters* series continues with **Rogue**.