

RECOMMENDED READS

Black Girl Magic



LEGENDBORN

Tracy Deonn

After her mother dies in an accident, Bree Matthews just wants to move on. A residential program for bright high schoolers at UNC-Chapel Hill seems like the perfect escape-- until Bree witnesses a magical attack her very first night on campus. A young mage who calls himself a 'Merlin' attempts-- and fails-- to wipe Bree's memory of everything she saw. His failure unlocks Bree's own unique magic and a buried memory with a hidden connection: the night her mother died, another Merlin was at the hospital. Now she'll do whatever it takes to find out the truth, even if that means infiltrating the Legendborn as one of their initiates.



BLOOD LIKE MAGIC

Liselle Sambury

A dark urban fantasy following a teen witch who is given a horrifying task: sacrificing her first love to save her family's magic. Can she do it? Even if she falls in love in time?

THE GILDED ONES

Namina Forna

Already different from everyone else because of her unnatural intuition, Deka prays for red blood so she can finally feel like she belongs. But on the day of her ceremony her blood runs gold



A PHEONIX FIRST MUST BURN

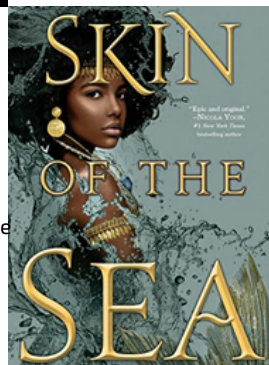
Black girls, including gender non-conforming individuals, star in this collection of sixteen stories of fantasy, science fiction, and magic.



SKIN OF THE SEA

Natasha Bowen

Simi, a Mami Wata--a type of mermaid who collects the souls of those who die at sea--goes against an ancient decree by saving the life of a boy, which threatens the fate of all Mami Wata.



A BLADE SO BLACK

L. L. McKinney

This isn't the Wonderland you remember. The first time the Nightmares came, it nearly cost Alice her life. Now she's trained to battle monstrous creatures in the dark dream realm known as Wonderland with magic weapons and hardcore fighting skills. Yet even warriors have a curfew. Life in real-world Atlanta isn't always so simple, as Alice juggles an overprotective mom, a high-maintenance best friend, and a slipping GPA. Keeping the Nightmares at bay is turning into a full-time job. But when Alice's handsome and mysterious mentor is poisoned, she has to find the antidote by venturing deeper into Wonderland than she's ever gone before. And she'll need to use everything she's learned in both worlds to keep from losing her head...literally



"I the fantasy book I've been waiting for my whole life."
—ANGIE THOMAS,
#1 New York Times–bestselling author of *The Hate U Give*

L.L. MCKINNEY



THIS POISON HEART

Kalynn Bayron

Briseis has a gift: with a single touch she can grow plants from tiny seeds to rich blooms. When Briseis's aunt dies and wills her a dilapidated estate in rural New York, Bri and her parents hope that surrounded by plants and flowers, she will finally learn to control her gift. But their new home is sinister in ways they never expected—it comes with a mysterious set of instructions, a walled garden filled with the deadliest botanicals in the world, and generations of secrets. There is more to Bri's sudden inheritance than she could have imagined, and she is determined to uncover it.



AKATA WITCH

Nnedi Okorafor

Description: Twelve-year-old Sunny lives in Nigeria, but she was born American, and to top it off, she is albino. There seems to be no place where she fits in. And then she discovers she is a "free agent" with latent magical power. Soon she's part of a quartet of magic students. But what will they when they are asked to catch a career criminal who knows magic too?

WINGS OF EBONY

J. Elle

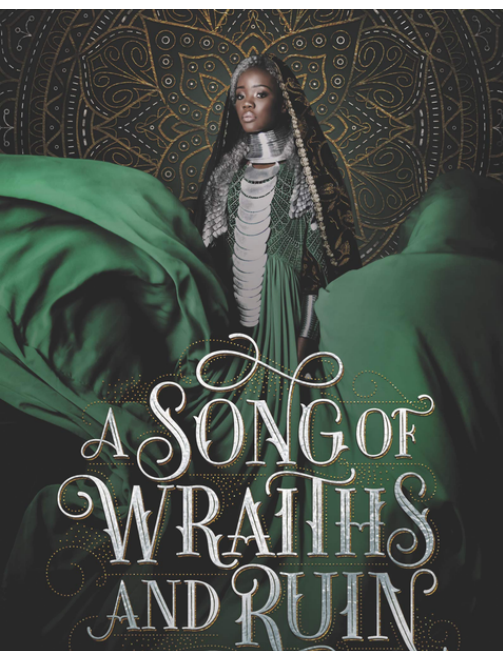
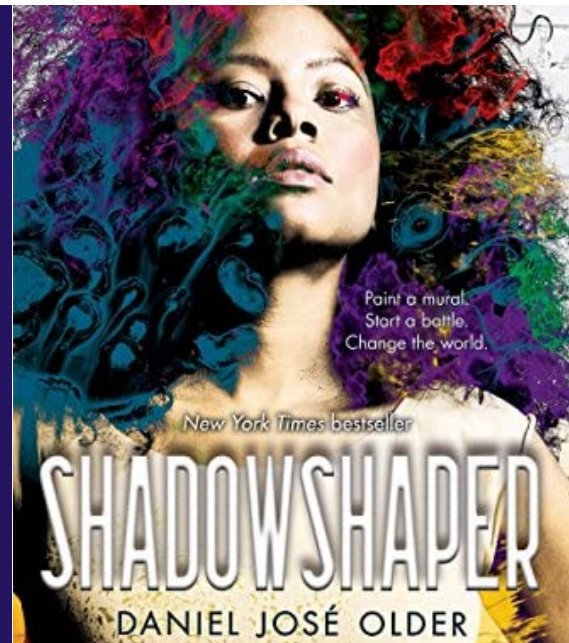
Description: After Rue's mother died, the father she never met takes her to Ghizon, a secret island of magic. Rue, unwilling to leave the only home and family she ever knew, sneaks back home to visit her sister. While there, she discovers that things in her old neighborhood have gotten bad, a new gang has taken over, and some how it is all connected to Ghizon and why she and her father seem to be the only black people on the black people on the whole island.



SHADOWSHAPER

Daniel Jose Older

When the murals painted on the walls of her Brooklyn neighborhood start to change and fade in front of her, Sierra Santiago realizes that something strange is going on--then she discovers her Puerto Rican family are shadowshapers, meaning that they can call spirits into the art they create. It is not just the murals that are fading, but the shadowshapers who made them are dying as well. Sierra finds herself battling for the lives of her family and friends, while trying to learn enough of her new magic, to keep the shadowshaper tradition alive.



A SONG OF WRAITHS AND RUIN

Rosanne Brown

For Malik, the Solstasia festival is a chance to escape his war-stricken home and start a new life with his sisters in the prosperous desert city of Ziran. But when a vengeful spirit abducts his younger sister, Malik strikes a fatal deal--kill Karina, Crown Princess of Ziran for Nadia's freedom. But Karina has deadly aspirations of her own. Her mother, the Sultana, has been assassinated; her court threatens mutiny; and Solstasia looms like a knife over her neck. Grief-stricken, Karina decides to resurrect her mother through ancient magic that requires the beating heart of a king. And she knows just how to obtain one: by offering her hand in marriage to the victor of the Solstasia competition. When Malik rigs his way into the contest, they are set on a heart-pounding course to destroy each other.



A SONG BELOW WATER

Bethany C. Morrow

In a society determined to keep her under lock and key, Tavia must hide her siren powers. Meanwhile, Effie is fighting her own family struggles, pitted against literal demons from her past. Everything changes in the aftermath of a siren murder trial that rocks the nation, and Tavia accidentally lets out her magical voice at the worst possible moment.