

B@DASS Females: Fantasy Series Starring Strong Female Characters Annotated Bibliography for Teens aged 14-18

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Along with the popularity of Sarah J Maas' *Throne of Glass* series, there has been a re-emergence of strong and different female characters leading YA fiction, fantasy in particular. They are warriors who go against typical female stereotypes with dark personalities, or they are women of colour from different cultures. Perhaps they do not even actively fight, but without their courage, their world would not be saved.

This annotated bibliography highlights these types of books in the hopes of making teen readers take another chance at reading YA fantasy series fiction.

Book series

An Ember in the Ashes [Book 1], by Sabaa Tahir. 2015.

The first book in an exciting trilogy Inspired by ancient Rome, follows Laia, a slave who is forced to help rebels after her brother is arrested. This leads her to the military academy where she meets conflicted soldier, Elias. Their fate is tied together and will potentially change the Empire as they know it. This series is perfect for teens interested in Ancient Rome and fighting adventures.

A Torch Against the Night [Book 2], by Sabaa Tahir. 2016.

A Reaper at the Gates [Book 3], by Sabaa Tahir. 2018.

The Young Elites [Book 1], by Marie Lu. 2014.

When Adelina was young, a terrible fever left many kids her age dead, and those who survived were left with strange markings and even stranger powers. Adelina is found by a rebel group of teens with powers like hers. She has finally found a place to fit in, but her new home is in danger as she is forced to betray their secrets to the inquisition. The protagonist, Adelina, is unlike other heroines and holds a darkness to her. Will this consume her and those around her?

The Rose Society [Book 2] 2015.

The Midnight Star [Book 3] 2016.

Rebel of the Sands [Book 1], by Alwyn Hamilton. 2016.

In the magical deserts of Miraji, Amani is a gun slinging heroine who dresses like a boy to escape her situation. With her perfect aim, she attracts the attention of Jin in a shooting contest. He takes her off on a magical horse to the heart of the desert where she quickly becomes wrapped up in a rebellion. This Middle-Eastern fantasy will quickly capture your attention with its adventure.

Traitor to the Throne [Book 2] 2017.

Hero at the Fall [Book 3] 2017.

And I Darken [Book 1], by Kiersten White. 2016.

Vicious. Vengeance. Brutal. Not words that are often associated with princesses, and yet Lada Dragwlya is all three. The first book in *The Conqueror's Saga* is a historical and fantastical fiction about Lada's life as a hostage in the Ottoman courts. Lada navigates court with her sensitive younger brother while she plots her revenge. Lada and her brother befriend the Sultan's lonely son, complicating things. Life at court is never simple after all. Lada adds to the gritty and compelling story that will make you want to pick up the next book ASAP.

Now I Rise [Book 2] 2017.

Bright We Burn [Book 3] 2018.

Wonder Woman: Warbringer [DC Icons 1], by Leigh Bardugo. 2017.

The first book in the DC Icons series is centered around the teenage version of Wonder Woman; each book is a different take on a teen Superhero by a different author. Princess Diana wishes to prove herself as a warrior but risks her chance to save a mortal called Alia. Alia is known as a 'Warbringer' and will bring about an age of bloodshed. The two girls must forge an alliance to save both the mortal and divine worlds.

Batman: Nightwalker [DC Icons 2], by Marie Lu. 2018.

Catwoman: Soulstealer [DC Icons 3], by Sarah J. Maas. 2018.

Superman: Dawnbreaker [DC Icons 4], by Matt de la Pena. 2019.

The Sword of Summer [Book1], by Rick Riordan. 2015.

The first book in the Norse Mythology-based series called ‘Magnus Chase and the Gods of Asgard’. Magnus is assisted by Valkyrie Samirah al-Abbas, a young Muslim girl who wears a hijab. Lovers of Rick Riordan’s *Percy Jackson* series will enjoy Magnus’ sarcasm and Samirah’s strength as they seek a weapon that has been lost for thousands of years. In the second book of the series, they are joined by Alex, the genderfluid child of Loki, the god of mischief.

The Hammer of Thor [Book 2] 2016.

The Ship of the Dead [Book 3] 2017.

Graphic novel series

Lumberjanes, Vol. 1: Beware the Kitten Holy, by Noelle Stevenson (Author), Shannon Watters (Author), Grace Ellis (Author), and Brooke Allen (Illustrator). 2015.

A compilation of the first 4 issues of ‘Lumberjanes’ is a delightful graphic novel about a girl’s summer camp. But this summer camp is not your typical camp. There are three-eyed foxes, secret caves, supernatural critters, and more that will make the girls’ summer full of magical adventures. Read about the adventures of Jo, April, Mal, Molly, and Ripley, 5 butt-kicking best pals.

Volumes 1-10 currently available with volumes 11 and 12 being published later in 2019.

Ms. Marvel, Vol. 1: No Normal, by G. Willow Wilson (Author) and Adrian Alphona. 2015.

Kamala Khan suddenly develops extraordinary gifts that she must hide from her strict Muslim-American family and her friends. Captain Marvel herself inspires Kamala to take on the superhero mantle of Ms. Marvel. Follow her adventures as she tries to balance both aspects of her life, try to fit in, and find out who she really is. A Muslim superheroine is a refreshing addition to the Marvel World.

Currently, there are 10 collected editions available.

Paper Girls, Vol. 1, by Brian K. Vaughan, Cliff Chiang (Illustrator), Matthew Wilson (Colorist), and Jared K. Fletcher (Lettering). 2016.

Paper Girls is about a diverse group of tweens that deliver paper as a part-time job. Their ordinary lives quickly change as time traveling, aliens, and monsters are introduced into their life. While it is a series for older teens, readers will enjoy the nostalgic feel of first jobs and the last days of childhood.

There are currently 5 collected volumes of this series.