

Canadian YA Female Fantasy: Annotated Bibliography for Teens aged 14 and up

By: Julie Timm

Canadian authors are just starting to come into their own and the fantasy genre is no exception. Thankfully, there are several Canadian authors who see the value in writing about strong female leads in their books. Here is a list of a few of those authors and their books in no particular order.

Megan Crewe – The Way We Fall

Crewe, Megan. (2012). *The way we fall*. New York: Hyperion.

An epidemic takes over a small island community and one girl journals the whole event while struggling to understand herself. Kaelyn fights to survive as her home is taken over by a mysterious infection and she struggles to keep hope as the world around her falls apart. This book is part of the Fallen World Trilogy.

Maggie L. Wood – Captured

Wood, Maggie L. (2011). *Captured*. Montreal, Quebec: Lobster Press.

Willow Kingswell is transported from her home to the magical world of Mistolear and finds herself embroiled in the conflict between two opposing forces. At the same time, she must deal with discovering she has royal blood in her veins. Willow marches forward to fight the faerie prince Nezeral and to find out who she really is. This book is part of the Divided Realms Series.

Kelley Armstrong – The Masked Truth

Armstrong, Kelley. (2015). *The masked truth*. Toronto, Ontario: Doubleday Canada.

This dark novel deals with the deep emotional trauma that young Riley Vasquez faces after the tragic murder of a child she was caring for. At the same time, Max Cross deals with deep physical trials, all while trying to keep his illness a secret. These two troubled teens meet for the first time at a therapy camp and find a surprising fate awaits them.

Sarah Raughley – Fate of Flames

Raughley, Sarah. (2016). *Fate of flames*. New York: Simon Pulse.

At a time when all the mystical beasts known only in fairy tales start appearing in the real world, four girls, known as Effigies, also appear. These four girls control the air, fire, earth, and

wind and use those powers to defend the world from the mystical beasts that have been appearing. When one Effigy passes away a normal girl is torn from her life and propelled into a role no young girl should have to face.

Moira Young – Blood Red Road

Young, Moira. (2011). *Blood red road*. New York: Margaret K. McElderry Books.

Fierce, young Saba grew up scavenging to survive and she hasn't minded the harshness because she has her twin brother Lugh to keep her company. However, when Lugh is taken from her, Saba strikes out to bring him home and, on the way, makes new friends and changes her world forever.

Lesley Livingston – Wondrous Strange

Livingston, Lesley. (2009). *Wondrous strange*. Toronto, Ontario: Harper Trophy Canada.

A production of Shakespeare's *Midsummer Night's Dream* takes an interesting turn when the young actress, Kelley Winslow, finds out that she has more in common with fairy queen Titania than she first thought possible. Kelly, after finding out about her fairy blood, must deal with a world she didn't know existed, and with her growing feelings for the one who first told her about her heritage. This book is the first instalment in the Wondrous Strange Series.

Deborah Kerbel – Girl on the Other Side

Kerbel, Deborah. (2009). *Girl on the other side*. Toronto, Ontario: Dundurn Press.

Two girls living completely different lives are attending the same school and are struggling to keep the dark secrets in their lives hidden. Tabby Freeman and Lora Froggett find each other during a very difficult time in their lives and have to fight together to make it through the dark times they are both facing.

Courtney Summers – Sadie

Summers, Courtney. (2018). *Sadie*. New York: St. Martin's Press.

Two strangers, both following something, are desperate to find what they are looking for before it is too late. Sadie is searching for the person who murdered her younger sister, the only family Sadie had left. And West McCray, after hearing about Sadie's quest for her sister's killer, is following Sadie hoping to save her from whatever danger she is putting herself in by hunting a murderer.