

## Introduction

Feminism and strong female characters in fantasy literature go hand in hand. Feminists have advocated for the rights of women for a very long time now and the results of that advocacy are starting to show in the types of female characters that are being written in fantasy literature. Female characters are no longer the weak princesses that must be rescued from their tower by the strong handsome young prince. They are the warriors who are going out and saving themselves and the ones they love. Women like Audrey Rose from *Stalking Jack the Ripper*, Celaena Sardothien from *Throne of Glass*, or Aly Crow from *Trickster's Choice* show that women are now taking control of their lives and doing some pretty cool things while they are at it. These women are excellent role models for young girls, and even young boys, to look up to; if they see their favourite characters doing cool things and fighting for what is right, then they will be empowered to do the same thing in their lives. Knowing about this shift of female roles in literature is very important for teachers, librarians, and anyone who interacts with young adults on a regular basis as they need to be able to direct those young people to the right resources. This issue of the YA Hotline will provide many tools to help librarians understand and promote strong female characters in fantasy.