

Universes to Get Lost In: Book List

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I am a firm believer that we should never feel shame for what we choose to read. I know that I have been guilty of trying to covertly read on a bus or at a café with the cover of my book slyly disguised or hidden. Why is that? I never know why I hide what I read, but I suppose I tend to hide when I am reading something that's not classified as "literature" or "literary," but I think it's time to break free of this restraint. Bhramsandra (2020) argued that

A vast, democratizing revolution is happening within literature — a revolution that is changing who can read it, what it means and why it exists for us in the 21st century. Literary genres are constantly evolving and reacting to one another as they strive to respond to the time we live in. Among these genres, the young adult novel stands out as a widely accessible platform that typically stars sympathetic, relatable characters who traverse intelligible plots and end up okay in the end (para. 1).

Bhramsandra (2020) noted that it's the accessibility of young adult (YA) literature that can lead to the misconception that it's not "real" literature. However, what exactly constitutes as literature anyway? I definitely have been guilty of feeling insecure when reading YA books, whether I was a teenager or not. I think this is a real shame because YA books have some really amazing and unique attributes to them. When I really need to escape from reality, and let's be honest, it's frequently that I want to escape this past year, I pick up a YA book and delve into their unique and quirky universes. So, without further ado, please pick up one of these books and let's get lost in their universes. C'mon, I know you want to.

Need by Carrie Jones

Zara isn't crazy. She's NOT. So she thinks that some creepy guy is kind of stalking her? And okay, maybe she has a thing for collecting phobias, BIG DEAL. Although she's pretty sure her mother probably thinks she's crazy, and that's why she had to move to some small Maine town to live with her Grandmother after the death of her stepfather. Get ready to delve into Zara's world and discover that she is indeed not going insane, but that she is being followed and that he's not exactly human. Follow Zara as she discovers that there is more to fear than the phobias she loves to collect. In this eerie and compelling series, look out for creatures one would never think scary, romance, and resilience.

The Devouring by Simon Holt

Dive headfirst into the creepy, eerie, sleepy town of Cutter's Wedge where the Vours, demonic beings that steal your soul on Sorry Night (the winter solstice) terrorize Reggie (Regina) by stealing her little brother's soul. Reggie must work together with her best friend horror movie buff Aaron to conquer their deepest fears in order to save her brother's soul before it is too late. Get ready to curl up under the covers with all the nights on and join Reggie and the gang on their perilous journey to face their deepest fears and learn a little about themselves and what truly matters to them along the way.

Clockwork Angel by Cassandra Clare

Travel back to nineteenth century London's dark, supernatural underworld where Tessa Gray is on a mission to find her missing brother. She must seek help from a pair of mysterious boys- Will and Jem- Shadowhunters who are known for their knack for demon slaying. Tessa finds herself attracted to both of these boys but as a downworlder, she doesn't know if she can trust them, but she has no other choice but to if she wishes to find her brother and conquer the evil and dangerous Pandemonium Club, who

aims to rule the British Empire with their unstoppable clockwork creatures. Will Tessa, Jem, and Will be able to work together in order to stop the club? And will Tessa ever find her brother?

***Stalking Jack the Ripper* by Kerri Maniscalco**

Ever wonder who the real Jack the Ripper who terrorized the streets of nineteenth century London was? Find out with seventeen-year-old Audrey Rose Wadsworth- a typical lord's daughter- except she has a fascination with all things forensic medicine. Oh, and did I mention that she stalks *the* Jack the Ripper in her spare time. Audrey must endure the mundane things of a privileged life such as silk dress fittings and social teas. What will Audrey discover, and will she be able to handle it once she realizes that this murderous evil, she has been chasing is actually a lot closer to home than she ever imagined? Get ready to investigate London's seedy underworld with this courageous and inquisitive protagonist.

***The Gentleman's Guide to Vice and Virtue* by Mackenzi Lee**

Do you love history and romance? Even if you don't, I highly recommend that you journey with Henry "Monty" Montague on his Grand Tour of Europe. Monty was born and bred to be a gentleman, yet nothing seems to be able to be tamed despite his father's attempts and heavy and violent disapproval of Monty's antics. Even the finest boarding schools in England could not convince Monty to settle down and become a gentleman and take on all the responsibility that ensues. Monty can't seem to give up on vice including gambling, drinking, and a slew of one-night stands. Monty embarks on the Grand Tour, but it does not go as planned, for one, he is hopelessly in love with his best friend Percy. Get ready to embark on an adventure spanning a continent involving magic, epilepsy, and pirates, although not necessarily in that order!

***Saga* – Brian K Vaughan and Fiona Staples**

Get ready to go on an exciting interstellar adventure! Join Alana and Marko as they venture across the universe in order to find a safe place to raise their baby- a baby that should never exist as Marko and Alana are on two opposing sides of a never-ending war that spans multiple planets. Get immersed in their journey and struggle and that of those who've made it their mission to hunt and capture the new parents. You will find yourself invested not only in the story but in Staples' captivating and beautiful artwork. This is so much more than an intergalactic love story!

***The Chronicles of Vladimir Tod* by Heather Brewer**

Being a teenager is hard enough without the added stress of finding out that your father was a vampire, and your mother was a human. Vladimir Todd has no such luck of being a "normal" teenager. He must struggle with coming to terms with his identity and the morality of his existence; however, he does not do this alone, with the help of his aunt and his friend, Vlad tackles the problems that are constantly thrown at him as well as the never-ending quest to find out more about his parents who died in a mysterious fire when he was an infant.

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