

## LGBTQ2SIA+ Science Fiction & Fantasy for Escaping the World

Kate Anderson

Thankfully, science fiction and fantasy are no longer dominated by straight white men; there are many authors championing diversity and inclusivity in these genres, much to the relief of LGBTQ2SIA+ communities. These books are just some of the works of science fiction and fantasy that centre LGBTQ2SIA+ characters and narratives for young people. Because these narratives sometimes include exploration of topics like sexuality, relationships, and other issues that readers may or may not be equipped to explore, trigger warnings for these titles have been included.



Image: <https://bit.ly/3rTpEHH>

### ***Lumberjanes***

Graphic novel/comic series by Noelle Stevenson, Grace Ellis, Shannon Waters, & Brooklyn Allen

*Recommended audience:* 10+

Friends and fellow Lumberjane scouts Jo, April, Mal, Molly, and Ripley are spending their summer at Miss Quinzella Thiskwin Penniquiquil Thistle Crumpet's Camp for Hardcore Lady Types. There they find themselves dragged into a mysterious quest full of puzzles, math, and magical creatures, and they'll use all their brains, brawn, and friendship to complete it!

*Representation:* trans main character, lesbian main characters, nonbinary main character, f/f relationship, badass lady types

*Potential triggers:* some sexism, fantasy violence



Image: <https://bit.ly/31PV6vM>

### ***Trials of Apollo***

Novel series by Rick Riordan

*Recommended audience:* 12+

Set in the same universe as *Percy Jackson* and *Heroes of Olympus*, this new series sees Apollo banished from Mount Olympus for meddling in mortal affairs and is forced into the form of a teenage boy. Stranded, he joins forces with the demi-gods of Camp Half-Blood to seek out five Greek oracles and find his way back to godhood.

*Representation:* bisexual main character, gay side characters, characters of colour

*Potential triggers:* fantasy violence, implied domestic violence, emotional abuse



Image: <https://bit.ly/3dZrSHd>

### ***Carry On: The Rise and Fall of Simon Snow***

Novel by Rainbow Rowell

*Recommended audience:* 14+

Orphan and chosen one Simon Snow reluctantly joins forces with his roommate and archenemy Bastillon Pitch to fight against the looming threat of the Insidious Humdrum, a magic devouring entity with its sights on the whole Magickal world. With the world teetering on the edge of war and chaos, Simon tries to unravel the mysteries of his magic, the history of Watford School of Magick, and his confusing and quickly changing feelings for his former enemy.

*Representation:* bisexual main character, gay love interest, Indian side character, m/m romance, side f/f relationship

*Potential triggers:* some language, violence, emotional/physical abuse, character death, racism



Image: <https://bit.ly/3ulsMh6>

### ***Hunger Pangs: True Love Bites (Fluff and Fangs edition)***

Novel by Joy Demorra

*Recommended audience:* 16+

When Captain Nathaniel J. Northland, a war-injured werewolf, accepts the position as Captain of the Guard on an island ruled by vampires, he finds himself in a conflicted position. The attractive Vlad Blunstein, vampire viscount of Eyrie, doesn't help simplify matters, and mutual pining ensues. And things only get more complicated when the mysterious Lady Ursula appears, bringing troubling news that could have devastating consequences.

*Representation:* Queer/bi main characters, BIPOC characters, m/m romance, m/m/f romance, disabled main character, neurodivergent main characters

*Potential triggers:* violence, implied sexual content (fade to black), ableism, discussions of injury, sexuality, and sexual content. (Full list on Joy Demorra's website!)



Image: <https://bit.ly/3rPpy3N>

### ***Cemetery Boys***

Novel by Aiden Thomas

*Recommended audience:* 14 and up

In an attempt to show his family that he's a true man and brujo, Yadrial, a trans Latinx boy, performs a ceremony to summon the spirit of his dead cousin. When the ritual doesn't work as intended, the wrong ghost is summoned and refuses to leave. As Yadrial and the spirit of bad boy Julian work together to solve the mystery surrounding his death, Yadrial slowly realizes that he doesn't want the ghost to leave either.

*Representation:* Trans, gay, and Latinx main character, Latinx gay love interest with ADHD, Latinx cast, lesbian side character, trans side character

*Potential triggers:* implied abuse, character death, homophobia, transphobia, gender dysphoria



Image: <https://bit.ly/3upf0u4>

### ***Girls of Paper and Fire***

Novel series by Natasha Ngan

*Recommended audience:* 16+

Lei, a village girl with a troubled past, is recruited along with eight other young women to serve as a Paper Girl, consorts to the King of Ikhara. However, when she instead falls in love with the wrong person, her world—and the court—is thrown into chaos.

*Representation:* Asian and lesbian main character, Asian side characters, f/f romance

*Potential triggers:* sexual/physical/emotional abuse, sexual violence, rape, sexism, violence, genocide, forced prostitution, character death



Image: <https://bit.ly/3wuS663>

### **Once & Future**

Novel series by Amy Rose Capetta and Cori McCarthy

*Recommended audience:* 15 and up

In this sci-fi reimaging of Arthurian legend, Ari Helix finds a sword on Old Earth and discovers that she is the 42<sup>nd</sup> reincarnation of the legendary king. With a teenage Merlin, she sets off on an adventure to break a curse and save the galaxy.

*Representation:* lesbian main character, bisexual main character, gay main character, nonbinary side character, asexual side character, characters of colour

*Potential triggers:* animal abuse/death, attempted suicide, character death, violence, racism, implied sexual violence, homophobia, transphobia, plague plot



Image: <https://bit.ly/3fHS84F>

### **Six of Crows**

Novel duology by Leigh Bardugo

*Recommended audience:* 16 and up

When teen crime boss Kaz Brekker is offered 30 million krugge to breach an impenetrable fortress and break out the creator of a dangerous drug, he assembles a motley crew of six incredible individuals to pull off the heist, the outcome of which could save or doom the world.

*Representation:* bisexual and disabled main character, gay side character, character with ADHD, black character, East Asian character, South Asian character

*Potential triggers:* child abuse, violence, sexual abuse, genocide



Image: <https://bit.ly/3mm2TuN>

### **Huntress**

Novel by Malinda Lo

*Recommended audience:* 14 and up

When the seasons stop changing and strange creatures begin encroaching on the borders of the kingdom, students Kaede and Taisin are sent to accept an invitation from the Fairy Queen. Drawn together by destiny and circumstance, the girls find themselves growing closer as they navigate dangers, mysteries, and feelings. Meanwhile, a dangerous figure looms in Taisin's visions, posing a threat to both the human and fairy world.

*Representation:* Asian POC cast, lesbian main character, f/f romance

*Potential triggers:* implied sexual content, character death, animal death, self-harm, violence

Looking for more inclusive reads? Check out these resources for more genre and sexuality specific booklists!

- [lgbtqreads.com](https://lgbtqreads.com)
- [readingwhilequeer.tumblr.com](https://readingwhilequeer.tumblr.com)
- <https://bookriot.com/best-lgbt-fantasy-books/>

## References

- Bardugo, L. (2015). *Six of crows*. Henry Holt and Co.
- Capetta, A.R. & McCarthy, C. (2019). *Once and future*. Little, Brown and Company.
- Demorra, J. (2020). *Hunger pangs: True love bites*. Humerus Intentions Publishing.  
<https://joydemorra.com/true-love-bites-fluff-and-fangs/>
- Lo, M. (2011). *Huntress*. Little, Brown and Company.
- Ngan, N. (2018). *Girls of paper and fire*. Jimmy Patterson/Little, Brown.
- Riordan, R. (2016). *Trials of Apollo 1: The hidden oracle*. Disney Hyperion.
- Rowell, R. (2015). *Carry on: the rise and fall of Simon Snow*. St. Martin's Press.
- Stevenson, N., Ellis, G., Waters, S., & Allen, B. (2021). *Lumberjanes Vol. 1: Beware the kitten holy*. Boom!Box.
- Thomas, A. (2020). *Cemetery boys*. Swoon Reads.