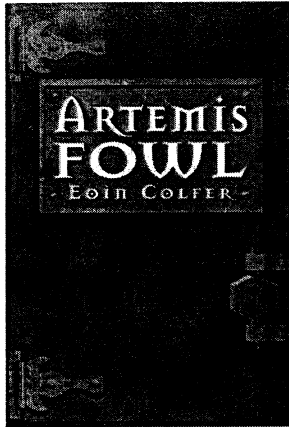
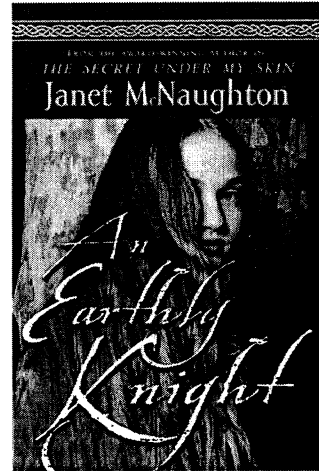


Reviews



Title: Colfer, Eoin. *Artemis Fowl*. New York: Scholastic Inc., 2001.

This novel, centering on twelve-year-old Artemis Fowl, brings the world of fairies and other magical creatures into the twenty-first century. As a young criminal mastermind, Artemis steals the sacred book of the fairies and cracks their secret code on his computer. Concluding that fairies are real, and in order to increase his family's flagging fortune, Artemis captures a fairy and demands a ransom for her return. Unfortunately, Artemis captures a plucky member of the underground police force and ends up involved in an inter-species conflict involving magic and high-tech equipment. This fantasy, consisting of high-tech magic and lowbrow humor, is most entertaining. The long stretches devoted to the fairy world's maneuverings are most engaging and it is interesting to see how the fairies opt for technological gadgets over pixie dust. This is an action packed adventure that should appeal to fans of Harry Potter and those fond of technical detail.

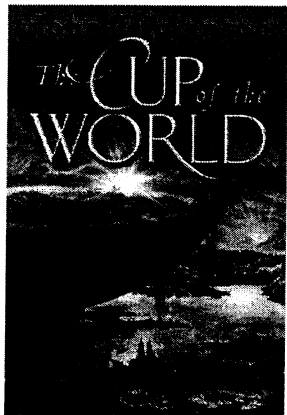


Title: McNaughton, Janet. *An Earthly Knight*.

Toronto: Harper Trophy Canada, 2003.

The year is 1162 and sixteen-year old Lady Jeanette Avenel (Jenny) is thrust into the role of eldest daughter when her older sister, Isabel, disgraces the family by running away with a knight from her father's court whom she then killed, defending her own life. While Jenny worries about her sister's future, her father's attention turns toward finding Jenny a worthy suitor and saving his family's reputation. When Jenny is chosen as a potential bride for the selfish, womanizing, William de Warenne, brother of the King of Scotland and heir to the crown, she is thrust into a world she detests. Amid formal banquets and jousting tournaments, she struggles to impress the aloof Earl William. At the same time, however, she finds herself drawn to Tam Lin, a gentle and mysterious young man residing in the woods of Carter Hall. Rumoured to have been kidnapped by fairies, the forest-and ruin-dwelling Tam Lin harbors a dark secret from his past that threatens everyone close to him, including Jenny. Drawn to his quiet, tender ways, Jenny keeps their relationship a secret as stories of his insanity and odd behavior fuel the locals' fear of him. Though she still plans to marry

Earl William for her family's sake, even though she is in love with Tam, Jenny spends a passionate night with her mysterious young man. Only when her betrothal is about to be announced does Jenny finally realize she cannot go through with the marriage. In the end, she reveals that she is pregnant with Tam Lin's child, rejects Earl William, sees Isabel in a loving relationship, and saves Tam Lin from the fairy queen. This novel is fantasy at its best. This is a beautiful story that transports readers to another place and time and should be read by lovers of both historical fiction and fantasy.



Title: Dickinson, John. *The Cup of the World*.

New York: David Fickling Books, 2004.

Phaedra, the sixteen-year-old beautiful and willful daughter of the widowed Warden of Trant, rejects each of her nobly born suitors in turn because none of them can compare to the mysterious and elusive young knight who has visited her dreams since childhood. When she finally meets her beloved in the flesh, Phaedra sacrifices home, father, and Kingdom to be with Ulfin, the March-Lord of Tarceny. When Phaedra marries her beau, despite his family's reputation for black magic and his leadership of a territory on the verge of rebellion

against the king, she sets off an unforeseeable chain of events and a battle between good and evil. Left alone in Ulfin's castle, as he is off fighting in the war, Phaedra receives visits from unearthly visitors who bring with them a pervading sense of evil. Fearing she has gone mad from her guilt and shame over the war, she hopes for salvation from Ulfin, only to find that her mate has a dark soul and darker secrets. Soon, Phaedra's father is dead, she is pregnant, and Ulfin's dark secrets are revealed. As her country further descends into civil war, Phaedra learns the chilling truth about her husband's powers and finds the strength to save what she holds dear. This compelling and exceptionally well written novel should appeal to the older teen reader.