

Book Recommendations for Quarantine

By: Paige Platter

Being stuck at home during this time means you will get through your “to be read” list fast, at least I have. So why not expand that list? There are so many books out there just waiting to be read. Here are some of them:

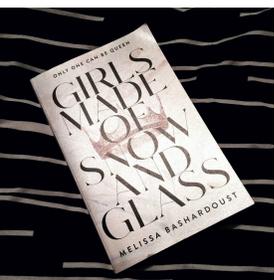
Young Adult Books:

- **Once and Future by Amy Rose Capetta and Cori McCarthy - Science Fiction, LGBT, Adventure-** An Arthurian Retelling set in space. *When Ari crash-lands on Old Earth and pulls a magic sword from its ancient resting place, she is revealed to be the newest reincarnation of King Arthur. Then she meets Merlin, who has aged backward over the centuries into a teenager, and together they must break the curse that keeps Arthur coming back. Their quest? Defeat the cruel, oppressive government and bring peace and equality to all humankind.* (Goodreads). Once and Future is full of space adventures with disaster gays. It's excellently written and full of well-rounded characters with little twists that make your jaw drop. Also dragons. Once and Future's sequel, Sword in the Stars was recently released and is available on Amazon.
- **Wicked Fox by Kat Cho - Urban Fantasy, Paranormal Romance-** Steeped in Korean mythology and culture, Wicked Fox brings Seoul to you. *Eighteen-year-old Gu Miyoung has a secret--she's a gumiho, a nine-tailed fox who must devour the energy of men in order to survive. Because so few believe in the old tales anymore, and with so many evil men no one will miss, the modern city of Seoul is the perfect place to hide and hunt.* (Goodreads). The book is full of adventure that will have you turning every page. From the unfolding romance to the desperation of Gu Miyoung to survive, the book is amazing. Wicked Fox's sequel, Vicious Spirits, is set to be released in August 2020.
- **Of Fire and Stars by Audrey Coulthurst - High Fantasy, LGBT, Adventure-** For when you want some gay princesses, one of whom can burn the entire world. *Betrothed since childhood to the prince of Mynaria, Princess Dennaleia has always known what her future holds. Her marriage will seal the alliance between Mynaria and her homeland, protecting her people from other hostile lands. But Denna has a secret. She possesses an Affinity for fire, a dangerous gift for the future queen of a kingdom where magic is forbidden.* (Goodreads). This was the first book I bought when I got a job and I was in love with it. If you can't get enough of Mare and Denna, just like me, don't worry there's a sequel, Of Ice and Shadows. There's also a prequel, Inkmistress.
- **The Mortal Instruments Series by Cassandra Clare - Urban Fantasy, Paranormal, Adventure-** New York is full of monsters, someones got to take care of them. *When fifteen-year-old Clary Fray heads out to the Pandemonium Club in New York City, she*



hardly expects to witness a murder— much less a murder committed by three teenagers covered with strange tattoos and brandishing bizarre weapons. Then the body disappears into thin air. It's hard to call the police when the murderers are invisible to everyone else and when there is nothing—not even a smear of blood—to show that a boy has died. Or was he a boy? (Goodreads). I started reading this series in sixth grade and I got in so much trouble for reading it in class. I read it everywhere. Teachers used to scold me for reading it while walking up the stairs. This is a six-book series and each one is better than the last. There is a movie semi-based of the first book called City of Bones and a tv show called Shadowhunters.

- **Rebel of the Sands by Alwyn Hamilton - High Fantasy, Romance, Adventure-** Full of Arab mythology, the desert becomes a place full of life and lead. *Mortals rule the desert nation of Miraji, but mythical beasts still roam the wild and remote areas, and rumor has it that somewhere, djinn still perform their magic. For humans, its an unforgiving place, especially if you're poor, orphaned, or female.* (Goodreads). I picked this book up at Half Price Books and didn't really expect much. I was pleasantly surprised when I fell in love with this book. I couldn't get enough of Amani and Jin. Rebel of the Sands is book one of a trilogy about the Blue-Eyed Bandit and her campaign of regicide.
- **Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children by Ransom Riggs - Urban Fantasy, Historical Fiction, Paranormal, Adventure-** Nazi's weren't the only thing Grandpa Abe was fighting back then. *A mysterious island. An abandoned orphanage. A strange collection of very curious photographs. It all waits to be discovered in Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children, an unforgettable novel that mixes fiction and photography in a thrilling reading experience.* (Goodreads). I actually didn't read this book until this year, but I was surprised by how amazing it was. I've only read the first book, but I couldn't put it down. There are six full books in this series and two side stories.



- **Girls Made of Snow and Glass by Melissa Bashardoust - High Fantasy, Adventure, LGBT, Fairy Tale-** A retelling of Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs, where the evil queen isn't all that evil. *Entwining the stories of both Lynet and Mina in the past and present, Girls Made of Snow and Glass traces the relationship of two young women doomed to be rivals from the start. Only one can win all, while the other must lose everything unless both can find a way to reshape themselves and their story.* (Goodreads). Two girls looking for love and acceptance through harsh winter and magic. I hate the winter, but this story warmed the frozen landscape.
- **Tell Me Again How a Crush Should Feel by Sara Farizan - contemporary, LGBT, Romance-** High school's full of secrets, even fancy private ones. *High-school junior Leila has made it most of the way through Armstead Academy without having a crush on anyone, which is something of a relief. Her Persian heritage already makes her different from her classmates; if word got out that she liked girls, life would be twice as hard. But when a sophisticated, beautiful new girl, Saskia, shows up, Leila starts to take risks she*

never thought she would, especially when it looks as if the attraction between them is mutual. (Goodreads). I read this in my sophomore year and I couldn't put it down. Bordering between Middle Grade and Young Adult, *Tell Me Again* brings some needed f/f to both genres.

- **If You Could Be Mine by Sara Farizan - Contemporary, LGBT, Romance-** Another f/f Middle Grade bordering Young Adult book. *Seventeen-year-old Sahar has been in love with her best friend, Nasrin, since they were six. They've shared stolen kisses and romantic promises. But Iran is a dangerous place for two girls in love Sahara and Nasrin could be beaten, imprisoned, even executed if their relationship came to light.* (Goodreads). I never really read contemporary novels before this book but it was amazing and has turned me to the genre forever. Romance, drama, adventure, what more could you want?

Middle-Grade Books:

- The author, Avi, has written many middle-grade books that have become loved by many. Many of them are novelettes rather than full novels, but they're still fun reads. Avi writes more paranormal, such as *The Seer of Shadows*, in which a photographer in 19th century New York sees ghosts in the photos he's taken. Or *The Book Without Words*, where a servant and a talking Raven must search for a way to make gold and immortality to survive being put on the streets. When I was in fifth grade, *The Book Without Words* was my favorite book because of the beauty in the words and the magic of the story.
- **The Looking Glass Wars by Frank Beddor - High Fantasy meets Urban Fantasy, Adventure, Fairy Tale, Steampunk-** *Wonderland isn't so wonderful. When Alyss Heart, newly orphaned heir to the Wonderland throne, flees through the Pool of Tears to escape her murderous Aunt Redd, she finds herself lost and alone in Victorian London. Befriended by an aspiring author named Lewis Carrol, Alyss tells the violent, heartbreaking story of her young life.* (Goodreads). I love *Alice in Wonderland*, and this book gave it a whole new light that I never imagined and never want to forget. There are two other books in this series, but if you don't feel up to reading them, *The Looking Glass Wars* ends neatly with a pretty bow.
- **The Price Guide to the Occult by Leslye Walton - Urban Fantasy, Paranormal-** *Witch ancestry and messed up parents lead to an interesting life. When Rona Blackburn landed on Anathema Island more than a century ago, her otherworldly skills might have benefited friendlier neighbors. Guilt and fear instead led the island's original eight settlers to burn "the witch" out of her home. So Rona cursed them. Fast-forward one hundred—some years: All Nor Blackburn wants is to live an unremarkable teenage life. She has reason to hope: First, her supernatural powers, if they can be called that, are unexceptional. Second, her love life is nonexistent, which means she might escape the*



other perverse side effect of the matriarch's backfiring curse, too. But then a mysterious book comes out, promising to cast any spell for the right price. Nor senses a storm coming and is pretty sure she'll be smack in the eye of it. (Goodreads). I picked this up at the library for a quick read, and I was not disappointed. It was short but oh so good. I'm still a little confused on the romance in the book, I'm not really sure who I was supposed to be rooting for to get with Nor. This book is good for settling down and reading all the way through in one sitting.

Adult Books:

- **[Mo Dao Zu Shi](#) by Mo Xiang Tong Xiu - High Fantasy, Adventure, LGBT- Magic, murder, and romance, what more do you need in a book? *As the grandmaster who founded the Demonic Sect, Wei WuXian roamed the world in his wanton ways, hated by millions for the chaos he created. In the end, he was backstabbed by his dearest shidi and killed by powerful clans that combined to overpower him. He incarnates into the body of a lunatic who was abandoned by his clan and is later, unwillingly, taken away by a famous cultivator among the clans—Lan WangJi, his archenemy. This marks the start of a thrilling yet hilarious journey of attacking monsters, solving mysteries, and raising children. From the mutual flirtation along the way, Wei WuXian slowly realizes that Lan WangJi, a seemingly haughty and indifferent poker-face, holds more feelings for Wei WuXian than he is letting on.* (Exiled Rebels Scanlations). I'm currently reading this novel and I can't put it down. Even with 126 chapters, the novel is worth it. The novel is originally in Chinese, however many fans have translated it to English. If you want more Wei Wuxian and Lan Wangji, check out the tv show *The Untamed*, loosely based on the novel. There is also an anime with the same name as the book which follows the story more accurately, and an Audio Drama.**
- ***The Savior's Champion* by Jenna Moreci - High Fantasy, Romance, Adventure- Bloodshed, filicide, and secrets. *Tobias Kaya doesn't care about The Savior. He doesn't care that She's the Ruler of the realm or that She purified the land, and he certainly doesn't care that She's of age to be married. But when competing for Her hand proves to be his last chance to save his family, he's forced to make The Savior his priority.* (Goodreads). I follow the author on YouTube, so when I picked up *The Savior's Champion* I knew it was going to be good. I didn't know how good though until I finished it. It's a gorgeous story and I love the romance within it. *The Savior's Champion* has a sister novel in the works, *The Savior's Sister*.**



- ***The Phryne Fisher series* by Kerry Greenwood - Historical Fiction, Crime Drama, Murder Mystery- 1920s Australia, a female detective, and murder mysteries. *The London season is in full swing at the end of the 1920s, but the Honorable Phryne Fisher (she of the gray-green eyes and diamanté garters) is tired of polite conversations with retired colonels and dances with weak-chinned men. When the opportunity presents***



itself, Phryne decides it might be amusing to try her hand at becoming a lady detective in Australia. (Goodreads). I am desperately in love with the aesthetic of the 1920s and murder mysteries, so this was just the best thing ever and the romance between Phryne and Jack is amazing and I adore it. If you enjoy the books, check out the show Miss Fisher's Murder Mysteries, the movie Miss Fisher and the Crypt of Tears and its spin-off show Miss Fisher's Modern Mysteries.

- **The Temperance Brennan series by Kathy Reichs - Mystery, Thriller, Crime, Suspense-** The basis for the FOX show Bones. *Her life is devoted to justice; for those she never even knew. In the year since Temperance Brennan left behind a shaky marriage in North Carolina, work has often preempted her weekend plans to explore Quebec. When a female corpse is discovered meticulously dismembered and stashed in trash bags, Temperance detects an alarming pattern and she plunges into a harrowing search for a killer.* (Goodreads). I grew up watching the show based on these books, so when my grandma gave me the books I was ecstatic. There are nineteen books in this series and a collection of four novellas.

Classics:

- Dracula by Bram Stoker - Horror, Paranormal, Urban Fantasy.
- Edgar Allan Poe's works.
- Alice's Adventures in Wonderland by Lewis Carroll - High Fantasy, Adventure.
- The Brother's Grimm's works.

Comics:

- **Batwoman: Rebirth by Marguerite Bennett, Ben Oliver (Illustrator), Steve Epting (Illustrator), James Tynion IV (Writer), Jeremy Cox (Colours), Jae Lee (Variant Cover Artist) - LGBT, Adventure, Crime-** Kate Kane, Gotham socialite, and cousin to Bruce Wayne turned vigilante. *The newest chapter of Batwoman's life begins here! Monster Venom is the hottest new bioweapon on the market and to break up the syndicate spreading it around the world, Batwoman is going to have to return to the place where she spent some of her darkest hours!* (Goodreads). For those who love Batman but want to see some women take the stage.
- **Batman & The Signal by Scott Snyder, Tony Patrick, Cully Hammer (Illustrator) - Crime, Adventure, Paranormal-** The only meta hero in Gotham is Batman's son. *Batman may own the night, but with new villains emerging during the day he needs an ally to defend the city when he can't. Only one teen is up to the challenge, Duke Thomas. After months of training, he's ready to step out of the shadow of the bat to become his own kind of hero.* (Goodreads). It's time Duke got his taste of the spotlight.

- **Batgirl: Stephanie Brown by Bryan Q. Miller (Writer), Lee Garbett (Artist) - Crime, Adventure-** Former Spoiler and Robin Stephanie is taking the mantle of Batgirl. *Battling both inner and external demons, Stephanie must learn to balance school and*



crime-fighting or face the wrath of Barbara Gordon! With guest appearances from Batman and Robin and villains like Man-Bat and Clayface, Batgirl must step up to the mantle! (Goodreads). College life is hard, but fighting crime is harder.

- **Batgirl: Silent Knight** by Kelley Puckett, Scott Peterson, Damion Scott (Illustrator), Chuck Dixon, Koi Turnbull (Illustrator), Dale Eaglesham (Illustrator), Mike Deodato (Illustrator), Robert Campanella (Illustrator), Pablo Raimondi (Illustrator) - **Crime, Adventure**- Some fear The Bat most fear The Batgirl. *Cassandra Cain is a fighter like no other. At only 17, the teenage assassin takes down enemies three times her size without batting an eye. But her incredible skills come at a cost: unable to speak or write, Cassandra instead reads body language as naturally as breathing-an ability that makes her even deadlier.* (Goodreads). From Orphan to Batgirl, Cassandra Cain encompasses the spirit of the bat.
- **Birds of Prey: End Run** by Gail Simone (Writer), Ed Benes (Illustrator), Adriana Melo (Illustrator), Alvin Lee (Illustrator) - **Crime, Adventure**- The girls are back in town. *Oracle, Black Canary, Huntress and Lady Blackhawk all return to Gotham City, where they belong - and they've brought a couple of new friends (or are they foes?) along with them.* (Goodreads). For those who want some girl gangs kicking butt and taking names.
- **Ms. Marvel: No Normal** by G. Willow Wilson, Adrian Alphona (Artist) - **Crime, Adventure, Coming of Age**- Beauty, strength, she's gonna punch you in the face. *Kamala Khan is an ordinary girl from Jersey City — until she's suddenly empowered with extraordinary gifts. But who truly is the new Ms. Marvel? Teenager? Muslim? Inhuman? Find out as she takes the Marvel Universe by storm!* (Goodreads). Thomas Edison is a cockatiel.



That's a lot of books, so hopefully, they can keep you busy during these trying times.