

## Fantasy

Fantasy is usually a radical departure from reality and **takes place in a real other than the earth we know**. The difference between the fictional world and our world is usually the **result of magic or some strange phenomenon**. Fantasy has its **roots in Greek and Roman mythology**. Fantasy borrows many of its features from myths, epics, and medieval romance. Sub-genres of fantasy include the following:

### HIGH FANTASY:

- **Invented or parallel worlds, serious** tone, epic in scope
- Fantastical **rac**es, **magic, wizards, made-up languages**
- Multi-volume works
- **Grand struggle** between the protagonist and supernatural evil

#### EXAMPLE:

*Lord of the Rings*

### SWORD AND SORCERY:

- **Muscular heroes** engaged in violent conflict
- Villains are usually **wizards, witches, or evil spirits**.

#### EXAMPLE:

*Conan the Barbarian*  
*Harry Potter*

### CONTEMPORARY (NOWADAYS):

- Set in our **“Real” world**, but magic and magical **creatures exist** (either in our world already or from elsewhere)
- Protagonist is filled with **wonder, not horror**.

#### EXAMPLE:

*Harry Potter*  
Japanese Anime

### DARK:

- **Supernatural beings** and **monsters** are **sympathetic** beings with human motivations.
- Contains **elements of horror**, but in **fantastic worlds**.

#### EXAMPLE:

Anne Rice books  
The *Twilight* series

### COMIC:

- **Humorous** in intent and tone.
- Are often **parodies of other fantasy stories**

#### EXAMPLE:

*Wyrld Sisters* by Terry Pratchett  
(I.e. Parody of *Macbeth*)

### ROMANTIC:

- Romantic **relationship between protagonists**.
- **Setting** is fantastic and **important to plot**

#### EXAMPLE:

Harlequin romance *LUNA* series.

### HISTORICAL:

- Set in a specific **historical period** with some alterations to stories
- Contain an element of fantasy

#### EXAMPLE:

Germany invades Britain during WWII and wins the war

### EROTIC:

- Erotica is in a **fantasy setting**
- Usually like romantic fantasy, but with **graphic depictions of sex**

#### EXAMPLE:

Well-known author: Laurell K. Hamilton

### SUPERHERO:

- Protagonist is capable of feats of **courage and nobility**
- Has a colourful **name and costume**

#### Example:

*Superman, Watchmen*