

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 races, magic, wizards, made-up languages**
- **Multi-volume works**
- **Grand struggle** between the protagonist and supernatural evil

SWORD AND SORCERY:

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

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**.

DARK:

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

COMIC:

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

ROMANTIC:

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

HISTORICAL:

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

EROTIC:

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

SUPERHERO:

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

EXAMPLE:

Lord of the Rings

EXAMPLE:

Conan the Barbarian
Harry Potter

EXAMPLE:

Harry Potter
Japanese Anime

EXAMPLE:

Anne Rice books
The *Twilight* series

EXAMPLE:

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

EXAMPLE:

Harlequin romance *LUNA* series.

EXAMPLE:

Germany invades Britain during WWII and wins the war

EXAMPLE:

Well-known author: Laurell K. Hamilton

Example:

Superman, Watchmen