

# Thinklings' Thoughts



Hello,

Do you and your friends and family exchange book recommendations? We sometimes do with ours, and we thought this time we'd tell you some of the very best ones we've gotten.

(Hopefully nobody's relationships were rec-ed by a bad book rec! 😊)

Happy holidays, and we look forward to bringing you more fun content in the new year!

Any suggestions you have for book-rec lists can be emailed to [contact@thinklingsbooks.com](mailto:contact@thinklingsbooks.com) (please remove the spaces we added).



## The best book recs we've gotten

This list comes from [Deborah](#) and [Sarah](#).

1. [Fairest](#) by Gail Carson Levine: a Snow White retelling of sorts, in which our heroine is nowhere near the fairest of all, but has the loveliest voice in a kingdom where music plays an integral part in daily life. (Also check out [Ella Enchanted](#) and [The Two Princesses of Bamarre](#).)

2. [Sabriel](#) by Garth Nix (and the whole [Old Kingdom](#) series): In the Old Kingdom, the dead refuse to stay dead. After Sabriel's father goes missing, she must journey through that perilous land and save him from a sinister magical entity. To do so, she has to enter Death itself.

3. [Howl's Moving Castle](#) by Diana Wynne Jones: a beloved classic.

Cursed by a witch, Sophie seeks out the traveling castle of the infamous Wizard Howl. She discovers there's more to him--and herself--than meets the eye. Sophie must confront the witch to save not only herself but Howl too. (We also love the [movie!](#))

4. [Chalice](#) by Robin McKinley: Young beekeeper Mirasol is suddenly named the new Chalice (a kind of sorcerer) for her community. She must quickly learn the duties and help bind the new Master to the land and his people. But he's a Fire Priest who can't touch anything without burning it....

5. [I Am Not a Serial Killer](#) by Dan Wells: John Cleaver has the classic traits of a serial killer but is determined not to become one. His unique insight allows him to help the police solve a mystery and save his town from a monster. Starts a [series](#).

6. [Dracula](#) by Bram Stoker: Does this book need an introduction? Deborah's sister read it to her when she was 9. Sarah read it during college after she randomly found it in the college's library.

7. [The Books of Bayern series](#) by Shannon Hale: It begins with [The Goose Girl](#), a retelling of the fairy tale in which a princess can talk to birds. Certain characters are able to speak the language of various elements and control fire, water, air, or learn secrets through trees. Each book takes you on an exciting adventure!

8. [Thief of Time](#) by Terry Pratchett: I (Sarah) asked my professor which Discworld book to start with, and he said this one. I loved it so much that I read a good chunk of the series. I think I like the [City Watch](#) books the best, but I will always have a special fondness for *Thief of Time*. "Bikkit! Wanna bikkit!"

9. [The Six of Crows duology](#) by Leigh Bardugo: Criminal mastermind Kaz Brekker and his crew must break into the most secure fortress in their world, to rescue a scientist whose invention could wreak havoc. In the second book, the crew is out for revenge, with their whole city pitted against them.

10. [Nowhere](#) by Neil Gaiman: A young businessman discovers a secret world below the streets of London, a labyrinth full of angels and monsters. There, he must help a noblewoman save her kingdom from destruction.

11. [The Bear and the Nightingale](#) by Katherine Arden: a many-layered tale of a family living at the edge of the Russian wilderness. Vasya's new stepmother tries to remake the family's whole life, while evil from the forest creeps closer to their village. Starts a [trilogy](#).

12. [The Hollow Kingdom trilogy](#) by Clare B. Dunkle: The goblin king kidnaps Kate to be his bride, and her younger sister Emily comes along. The second and third books feature elves and their longstanding feud with the goblins, which may reignite into full-blown war.

## Darcia's deeper dive

*Darcia's favorite book recommended to her this year:*

Toss the confetti and free the balloons! [Blood Sugar](#) was a thriller

party for my tired brain!

Can I like a killer? Empathize with her? Hope she gets away with her crimes? Yes, yes I can.

I loved the way this story unfolded, the storytelling style, Ruby's character, and the way it was all both absurd and relatable.

A fun, bingeable read that kept me blissfully on edge throughout.

Check out Darcia Helle's [Linktree!](#)



Kindle Paperwhite (16 GB) – Now with a 6.8" display and adjustable warm light – Agave Green

\$149.99  prime

Rated 4.7 out of 5

[Buy Now](#)

Still got some holiday shopping to do? Check out Barbies, board games, Squishmallows, Legos, and more [here!](#)

## What are we enjoying?

**Deborah:** I'm currently reading [Chasers of the Wind](#) by Alexey Pehov despite the fact the publisher has no intention of translating any of the rest of the sequels. I'm also reading [Jack Plank Tells Tales](#) by Natalie Babbit. It's charming.

**Sarah:** I'm still reading [Of Beast and Beauty](#) by Stacey Jay (still enjoying it) and playing a game on Steam that I bought for myself when it was on a great Cyber Monday sale!

# Matching game

Match the famous author's birth name with their pen name. Answers are at the very bottom of the newsletter.

- |                                 |                  |
|---------------------------------|------------------|
| 1. Anne Bronte                  | a. Maya Angelou  |
| 2. Howard Allen Frances O'Brien | b. George Orwell |
| 3. Charles Dickens              | c. Acton Bell    |
| 4. Eric Blair                   | d. Anne Rice     |
| 5. Marguerite Annie Johnson     | e. Boz           |

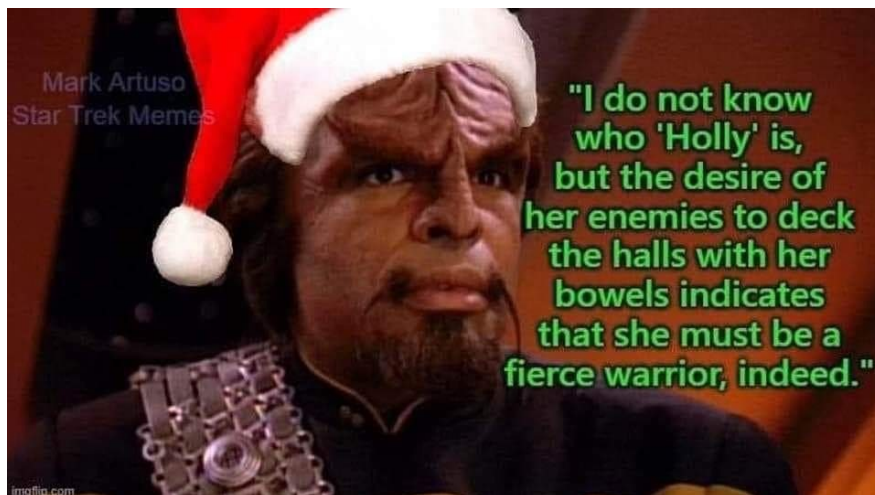
## Perfect pairings

### *If you liked (a)...*

- 1a. [A Discovery of Witches](#)
- 2a. [Silver](#) by Rhiannon Held
- 3a. [The Discworld series](#)
- 4a. [Harry Potter](#), [Percy Jackson](#)
- 5a. [The Hitchhiker's Guide series](#)
- 6a. [The Mummy](#)
- 7a. [Alice in Wonderland](#)
- 8a. [Piranesi](#), [Anne Rice](#)
- 9a. [The X-Files](#)

### *Then you might also enjoy (b)!*

- 1b. [Bargaining Power](#)
- 2b. [Hunter's Moon](#)
- 3b. [The Plot Bandits series](#)
- 4b. [The Rag and Bone Chronicles](#)
- 5b. [The Cosmic Turkey series](#)
- 6b. [Painter of the Dead](#)
- 7b. [The Land of the Purple Ring](#)
- 8b. [Tales from the Mythusian Empire](#)
- 9b. [The Midnight Files](#)



We hope you're enjoying Thinklings' Thoughts, and stay tuned for more awesome recommendations of all things speculative fiction!

Read long and prosper!

extra cost to you!



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**Matching game answers:**

1. c
2. d
3. e
4. b
5. a

Our source is [this article](#).