In The Forest Of Forgetting
Theodora Goss
FIC GOSS

A collection of 16 stories possessing a spare, surprising beauty, though the modern-day characters, like those in fairy tales, are constrained by the hard lessons Goss sets out to teach. The three linked stories, “Miss Emily Gray,” “Conrad” and “Lessons with Miss Gray,” turn on the character of the title, a dark Mary Poppins—like woman who exists to grant children their hearts’ desires—often at a high price. Goss layers the Victorian tone and everyday magic of these tales with commentary on familial negotiations and the grave consequences for heedless behavior.

Ysabel
Guy Gavriel Kay
FIC KAY

Saint-Sauveur Cathedral of Aix-en-Provence is an ancient structure of many secrets—a perfect monument to fill the lens of a celebrated photographer, and a perfect place for the photographer’s son, Ned Marriner, to lose himself while his father works. While exploring Saint-Sauveur, Ned meets American exchange-student Kate Wenger, and the two surprise a knife-carrying, scar-faced stranger, who tells them that they have blundered into the corner of a very old story. Ned and Kate, then the rest of his family, are drawn into an ancient conflict with the shades of Celtic spirits.

In The Night Garden
Catherynne M. Valente
FIC VALENTE

Secreted away in a garden, a lonely girl spins stories to warm a curious prince. Peculiar feats and unspeakable fates loop through each other and back again to meet in the tapestry of her voice. Inked on her eyelids, each twisting, tattooed tale is a piece in the puzzle of the girl’s own hidden history.

The Book Of Lost Things
John Connolly
M CONNOLLY

High in his attic bedroom, 12-year-old David mourns the death of his mother. He is angry and alone, with only the books for company. But those books have begun to whisper to him, and as he takes refuge in his imagination, he finds that reality and fantasy have begun to meld. While his family falls apart around him, David is violently propelled into a land that is a strange reflection of his own world... a world populated by heroes and monsters and ruled over by a faded king who keeps his secrets in a mysterious book... The Book of Lost Things.

The Bards Of Bone Plain
Patricia A. McKillip
FIC MCKILLIP

Scholar Phelan Cle is researching Bone Plain—which has been studied for the last 500 years, though no one has been able to locate it as a real place. Archaeologist Jonah Cle, Phelan’s father, is also hunting through time, piecing history together from forgotten trinkets. His disciple is Princess Beatrice, the king’s youngest daughter. When they unearth a disk marked with ancient runes, Beatrice pursues the secrets of a lost language that she suddenly notices all around her, hidden in plain sight.

The Worm Ouroboros
E.R. Eddison
FIC EDDISON

In an imaginary world that appears mainly medieval and partly reminiscent of Norse sagas, the story follows the protracted war between the domineering King Gorice of Witchland and the Lords of Demonland.

Luka And The Fire Of Life
Salman Rushdie
FIC RUSHDIE

Luka must save his father, for Rashid Khalifa, the legendary storyteller of Kahani, has fallen into sleep from which no one can wake him. To keep his father from slipping away, Luka must travel to the Magic World and steal the Fire of Life. Thus begins a quest replete with unlikely creatures and seemingly insurmountable challenges as Luka and an assortment of companions race through peril, pass through the land of the Badly Behaved Gods, and reach the Fire, where Luka’s fate, and that of his father, will be decided.
Stardust
Neil Gaiman
SF GAIMAN
In the tranquil fields and meadows of long-ago England, there is a small hamlet that has stood on a jut of granite for 600 years. Just to the east stands a high stone wall, for which the village is named. Here, in the hamlet of Wall, young Tristran Thorn has lost his heart to the hauntingly beautiful Victoria Forester. One crisp October eve, Tristran makes his love a promise—an impetuous vow that will send him through the only breach in the wall, across the pasture...and into the most exhilarating adventure of his life.

Jonathan Strange & Mr. Norrell
Susanna Clarke
FIC CLARKE
English magicians were once the wonder of the known world, with fairy servants at their beck and call; they could command winds, mountains, and woods. But by the early 1800s they have long since lost the ability to perform magic. They can only write long, dull papers about it, while fairy servants are nothing but a fading memory. But at Hurtfew Abbey in Yorkshire, the rich, reclusive Mr. Norrell has assembled a wonderful library of lost and forgotten books from England's magical past and regained some of the powers of England's magicians.

The Stolen Child
Keith Donohue
FIC DONOHUE
When Henry Day runs away at age seven, he is captured by a gang of hobgoblins, or changelings. One of them assumes his identity and takes his place in his family, and the original Henry, now called Aniday, adapts to life with ageless children who survive in the woods, awaiting their turn to change places with a human. Told in alternating voices by the impostor and the real Henry, this story shows how their lives intertwine as they come to terms with their new realities.

The Magicians
Lev Grossman
FIC GROSSMAN
Quentin Coldwater is brilliant but miserable. A senior in high school, he's still secretly preoccupied with a series of fantasy novels he read as a child, set in a magical land of Fillory. Imagine his surprise when he finds himself unexpectedly admitted to a very secret, very exclusive college of magic in upstate New York, where he receives a rigorous education in the craft of modern sorcery. He also discovers the other things people learn in college: friendship, love, sex, booze, and boredom. Something is missing, though. Magic doesn't bring him the adventure he dreamed it would. After graduation he and his friends make a stunning discovery: Fillory is real.

The Summer Tree
Guy Gavriel Kay
FIC KAY
Five university students embark on a journey of self-discovery when they enter a realm of wizards and warriors, gods and mythical creatures—good and evil. This is the first novel of the critically acclaimed fantasy trilogy, The Fionavar Tapestry.

The Last Unicorn
Peter S. Beagle
FIC BEAGLE
This tale recounts the quest of the last unicorn, who leaves the protection of the enchanted forest to search for her own kind, and who is joined by Schmedrick the Magician and Molly Grue. When they arrive in the kingdom of the evil King Haggard, they must meet the challenge of the Red Bull and the unicorn becomes just a little bit mortal.

In The Land Of Time
Edward (Lord) Dunsany
SF DUNSANY
A pioneer in the realm of imaginative literature, Lord Dunsany has influenced such authors as J.R.R. Tolkien and H. P. Lovecraft. This unique collection of short stories ranges over five decades of his work. Liberal selections of earlier tales—including the entire Gods of Pegana—are followed by memorable later tales, including several about the garrulous traveler Joseph Jorkens and the outrageous murder tale "The Two Bottles of Relish." Throughout, the stories are united by Dunsany's cosmic vision, his impeccable and mellifluous prose, and his distinctively Irish sense of whimsy.

The Night Circus
Erin Morgenstern
FIC MORGENST
The circus arrives without warning. No announcements precede it. It is simply there, when yesterday it was not. It is called Le Cirque des Rêves, and it is only open at night. Behind the scenes, a fierce competition is underway—a duel between two young magicians, Celia and Marco, who have been trained since childhood expressly for this purpose. They do not know that this is a game in which only one can be left standing. However, Celia and Marco tumble headfirst in love—a deep, magical love that makes the lights flicker and the room grow warm whenever they so much as brush hands.