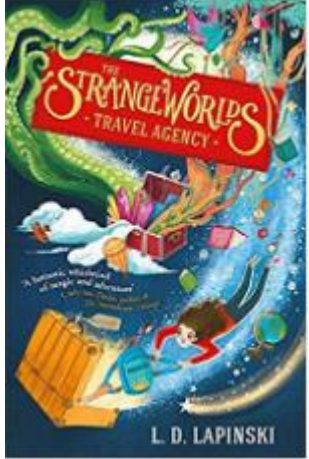


Book Cover	Book Title and Author	Blurb	Reason for choice
	<p>The House in the Cerulean Sea – T.J. Klune</p>	<p>A magical island. A dangerous task. A burning secret.</p> <p>Linus Baker leads a quiet, solitary life. At forty, he lives in a tiny house with a devious cat and his old records. As a Case Worker at the Department in Charge Of Magical Youth, he spends his days overseeing the well-being of children in government-sanctioned orphanages.</p> <p>When Linus is unexpectedly summoned by Extremely Upper Management he's given a curious and highly classified assignment: travel to Marsyas Island Orphanage, where six dangerous children reside: a gnome, a sprite, a wyvern, an unidentifiable green blob, a were-Pomeranian, and the Antichrist. Linus must set aside his fears and determine whether or not they're likely to bring about the end of days.</p> <p>But the children aren't the only secret the island keeps. Their caretaker is the charming and enigmatic Arthur Parnassus, who will do anything to keep his wards safe. As Arthur and Linus grow closer, long-held secrets are exposed, and Linus must make a choice: destroy a home or watch the world burn.</p> <p>An enchanting story, masterfully told, <i>The House in the Cerulean</i></p>	<p>This is the best book I've read this year. Everyone should give it a go, visit the island in the Cerulean sea and meet the family that live there.</p> <p>It has amazing characters from Linus the civil servant who does everything by the book to Lucy the son of the devil who doesn't want to be bad but is only 6 so someday when the webs take him he can't help it.</p> <p>Klune builds a world you can imagine, makes me laugh and cry as we follow Linus on his way to finding a family. With the sweetest romance and an undercurrent of acceptance of differences this blew me away. I'm sure I read it too fast and if I had it on the island I could savour every word &amp; imagine the future for the inhabitants of the House.</p>

		<p><i>Sea</i> is about the profound experience of discovering an unlikely family in an unexpected place—and realizing that family is yours.</p>	
	<p>Strange Worlds Travel Agency – L.D. Lapinski</p>	<p>At the Strangeworlds Travel Agency, each suitcase transports you to a different world. All you have to do is step inside . . .</p> <p>When 12-year-old Flick Hudson accidentally ends up in the Strangeworlds Travel Agency, she uncovers a fantastic secret: there are hundreds of other worlds just steps away from ours. All you have to do to visit them is jump into the right suitcase. Then Flick gets the invitation of a lifetime: join Strangeworlds' magical travel society and explore other worlds.</p> <p>But, unknown to Flick, the world at the very centre of it all, a city called Five Lights, is in danger. Buildings and even streets are mysteriously disappearing. Once Flick realizes what's happening she must race against time, travelling through uncharted worlds, seeking a way to fix Five Lights before it collapses into nothingness -- and takes our world with it.</p>	<p>Welcome to Strange worlds, can we find a suitcase to the world of your dreams?</p> <p>I would want this book because it has the most wonderful writing style with strains of Lewis &amp; Tolkien and the adventure of Nesbit clear from its opening lines Flick and Jonathan take us on a wild ride through suitcases and beyond.</p> <p>The way the book ends wraps up this edition perfectly but leaves me plenty of scope to imagine more adventures</p>



Bloody Rose –  
Nicholas  
Eames

Live fast, die young.  
  
Tam Hashford is tired of working at her local pub, slinging drinks for world-famous mercenaries and listening to the bards sing of adventure and glory in the world beyond her sleepy hometown.

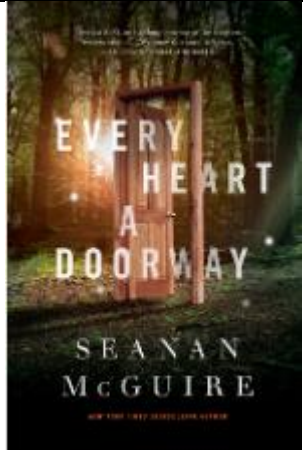
When the biggest mercenary band of all rolls into town, led by the infamous Bloody Rose, Tam jumps at the chance to sign on as their bard. It's adventure she wants - and adventure she gets as the crew embark on a quest that will end in one of two ways: glory or death.

It's time to take a walk on the wyld side.

Ok so this is book 2 in a loosely connected series but was definitely my favourite to date, Kings of the Wyld introduces Roses dad on a quest to save her, but this moves forward in time when the sense of adventure and enthusiasm has worn thin for Rose.

Rose is getting tired of the adventuring life but Tam wants an adventure and joins her band. What follows is a tale of family, friendships and adventure against the things that go bump in the night.

I'd take this to the island because the writing and sense of adventure as well as the slower family driven moments make it a brilliant read.



Every Heart a  
doorway-  
seanan  
McGuire

**Eleanor West's  
Home for Wayward  
Children**  
No Solicitations  
No Visitors  
No Quests


Children have always disappeared under the right conditions; slipping through the shadows under a bed or at the back of a wardrobe, tumbling down rabbit holes and into old wells, and emerging somewhere... else.

But magical lands have little need for used-up miracle children.

Nancy tumbled once, but now she's back. The things she's

This book is just the best! Full of diverse characters who make you feel you've come home I've reread it over and over and every time I find something new as our characters find or lose their doorways.

From this I could replot the books that come after & continue the stories of some favourite characters.

		<p>experienced... they change a person. The children under Miss West's care understand all too well. And each of them is seeking a way back to their own fantasy world.</p> <p>But Nancy's arrival marks a change at the Home. There's a darkness just around each corner, and when tragedy strikes, it's up to Nancy and her new-found schoolmates to get to the heart of the matter.</p> <p>No matter the cost.</p>	
	<p>Protector of the Small box set – Tamora Pierce</p>	<p>Keladry has finished her page training, she's passed her exams and now she's a fully-fledged squire. Which is great - except that you can't really be a squire if no knight will take you on.</p> <p>But Kel's luck is in. After weeks of waiting, a knight-master has come forward. A true warrior to follow - if she can cope with the gruelling life on campaign. Bandits are renegade centaurs are just what she's trained for - it couldn't be better. But eventually Kel will have to return and face the Chamber of the Ordeal, the final test of a squire. One boy has already died in the chamber this year...</p>	<p>I couldn't go to a desert island without these volumes, so this is a bit of a cheat. It's a quartet of adventure following Kel from 10 to 19 as she earns to be a knight and experiences her first combat and first war alongside first love, with squire as part 3.</p> <p>She has such a conviction that everyone matters you find yourself wanting to be a better person. The minor characters are all well rounded and you fall in love or hate with some. I've read these every year since they were published so my coies are falling apart but I can't imagine feeling miserable without having these to pick me up.</p>



Once and Future – Amy Rose Capetta & Cori McCarthy

*I've been chased my whole life. As a fugitive refugee in the territory controlled by the tyrannical Mercer corporation, I've always had to hide who I am. Until I found Excalibur.*

*Now I'm done hiding.*

*My name is Ari Helix. I have a magic sword, a cranky wizard, and a revolution to start.*

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.

No pressure.

I'm a sucker for an Arthurian retelling and this is one of the best.

Set in the far future when humanity has spread across the galaxy, Arthur is now female and Merlin a teenager we see a varied cast of characters are falling in line to take their place in the story as it plays out for the final time.



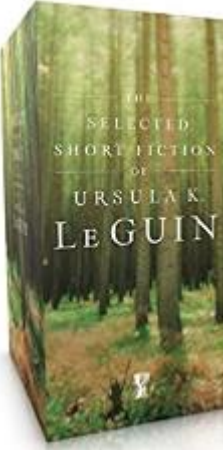
Enchanted Forest Chronicles – Patricia C Wrede

Cimorene is everything a princess is *not* supposed to be: headstrong, tomboyish, smart - and bored. So bored that she runs away to live with a dragon - and finds the family and excitement she's been looking for.

Another bit of a cheat, after all you can't start a set without finishing it. I love how Cimorene is a strong willed princess who, not wanting to be married to a simpering prince, sets out to change her fate and goes from Dragon Princess to Queen of the Enchanted forest.

Another read I can't imagine my life without although my 1990's



			<p>copy is falling apart due to persistent rereading.</p> <p>The side characters again help make the story especially Morwen and her cats.</p>
	<p>Lost &amp; Found, Seen &amp; Unseen: The selected short fiction of Ursula K LeGuin</p>	<p><b>Combining <i>The Found and the Lost</i> and <i>The Unreal and the Real</i>, this comprehensive boxed set contains many of Ursula K. Le Guin's award-winning short stories and novellas.</b></p> <p>For the first time, the legendary Ursula K. Le Guin's most iconic short stories and novellas have been combined into one boxed set. Coming in at over fourteen hundred pages, this collection is the perfect addition to your bookshelf.</p>	<p>The only book on my list I haven't read all of, after all you need something new to keep the imagination working if you are stuck on a desert island.</p> <p>I have read some of these over the years in other anthologies so am looking forward to diving into strange worlds and experiences from a classic SFF author.</p>
	<p>The Books of EarthSea Illustrated Edition – Ursula K LeGuin &amp; Charles Vess</p>	<p><b>Celebrating the 50th anniversary of the timeless and beloved <i>A Wizard of Earthsea</i> - '...reads like the retelling of a tale first told centuries ago' (David Mitchell) - comes this complete omnibus edition of the entire Earthsea chronicles, including over fifty illustrations illuminating Le Guin's vision of her classic saga.</b></p> <p><b>Contains 'Firelight', a brand new story</b></p>	<p>Wizards, words and strange Worlds. The books of Earthsea wander a world created of islands and the magic that is in every thing.</p> <p>Before Harry Potter there was Ged, setting out to learn the magic of the naming in a strange wizarding school. So as I can probably tell Harry Potter from memory I'm taking the other wizard of my childhood with me to weave the magic.</p>

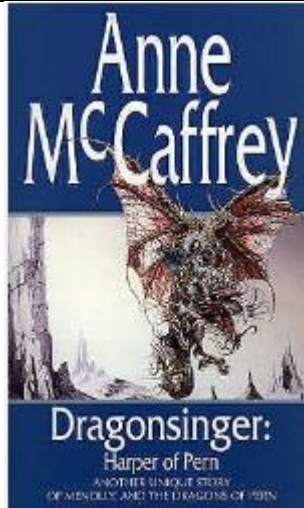
**about Ged's last days  
and 'The Daughter of  
Odren'**

Ursula K. Le Guin's Earthsea novels are some of the most acclaimed and awarded works in literature-they have received prestigious accolades such as the National Book Award, a Newbery Honor, the Nebula Award, and many more honors, commemorating their enduring place in the hearts and minds of readers and the literary world alike.

Now for the first time ever, they're all together in one volume-including the early short stories, Le Guin's "Earthsea Revisited" Oxford lecture, and new Earthsea stories, never before printed. With a new introduction by Le Guin herself, this essential edition will also include over fifty illustrations by renowned artist Charles Vess, specially commissioned and selected by Le Guin, to bring her refined vision of Earthsea and its people to life in a totally new way.

		<p><b>Stories include: 'A Wizard of Earthsea', 'The Tombs of Atuan', 'The Farthest Shore', 'Tehanu', 'Tales From Earthsea', 'The Other Wind', 'The Rule of Names', 'The Word of Unbinding', 'The Daughter of Odren', 'Firelight' and 'Earthsea</b></p> <p><b>Revised: A Lecture at Oxford University'</b></p> <p>With stories as perennial and universally beloved as <i>The Chronicles of Narnia</i> and <i>The Lord of The Rings</i>-but also unlike anything but themselves-this edition is perfect for those new to the world of Earthsea, as well as those who are well-acquainted with its enchanting magic: to know Earthsea is to love it.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 1,008 pages</li> <li>- 56 illustrations (including 7 lavishly coloured plate sections)</li> <li>- maps of Earthsea</li> <li>- stunningly beautiful endpapers</li> <li>- Six novels</li> <li>- 4 short stories</li> <li>- An essay</li> </ul>	
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Dragon Singer  
– Anne  
McCaffery

When Menolly, daughter of Yanus Sea Holder, arrived at the Harper Craft Hall, she came in style, aboard a huge bronze dragon, followed by her nine fire lizards. The Masterharper of Pern, aware of her unique skills, had chosen her as his only girl apprentice. But the holdless girl had first to overcome many heartaches in this strange new life. Two things sustained her — her devoted lizards, a subject on which she was fitted to instruct her Masters — and the music... music of compelling beauty, music-making where at last she was accepted. In the Great Hall, Menolly could fulfil her destiny.

My last pick is another comfort read the middle of a trilogy set on a planet where dragons defend the world and knowledge is split into guilds.

Menolly is a singer who comes from a family that didn't appreciate her skills, having lived holdless she now arrives at the Harper Hall and finds life doesn't have to be painful. I love the hope in this book as well as two of my favourite characters from my teens Master Robinton and Menolly.

It wouldn't be right to leave them home.