



Forthcoming Titles

February 2026

Adult

The Gods Must Burn

by T. R. Moore

release date: 02/24/2026

genre: Fantasy, dark fantasy, romance

shelved in: Science Fiction



War hero Basuin doesn't know what to believe in anymore. All Basuin knows is life as an army captain and the pain, loss, and disgrace it has brought him. Demoted and humiliated by his legion commander, he is led into the forest for one more mission: capture a god.

But when his commander uses innocent wolf pups as bait, Basuin dies saving them. The Wolf God, impressed by his sacrifice, deifies Basuin to protect the forest and its beautiful, sharp-tongued god from the legion's deforestation.

To the Forest God, Basuin is nothing more than one of the men sent to burn her forest down. Betrayed by humans too many times, she rejects him, working alone to protect the spirits of the forest as her home disappears around her. To save the god he is growing to love, Basuin must untangle the feelings between them.

Otherwise, they'll burn together.

Amber's why: Okay, I know this kind of sounds like someone took dark romance in one hand and Princess Mononoke in the other and then smushed them together, but I guess I'll need someone else to explain to me how that is a bad thing because that just makes me want to read it more.

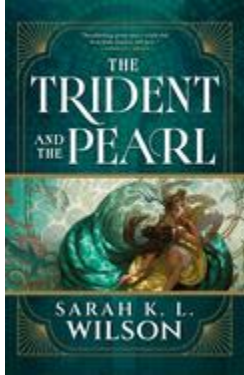
The Trident and the Pearl

by Sarah K. L. Wilson

release date: 02/24/2026

genre: Fantasy, romance, fairy tales, folk tales, legends & mythology

shelved in: Science Fiction



Queen Coralys rules the Kingdom of the Five Isles, but when disaster strikes, killing her husband and destroying half her nation, she pleads with the gods for salvation. And they do save her, turning back the terrible winds and tide and snatching her islands from the brink of destruction.

But the gods have a wicked sense of justice and they demand an exchange for their help: Coralys must marry the first man to set foot on her pier. Coralys expects the fleet of a neighboring country to come to rescue her people, led by its prince, a loyal ally. What she gets instead is a fisherman so sunburnt and stinking that her court can barely keep their breakfast down.

Coralys marries the fisherman just as she promised the gods, and sets out with him in his unkempt dinghy, with nothing but hopes of revenge against the gods to keep her from despair. But what she does not know is that the fisherman is actually the god of the sea. And he stepped on her dock for a reason.

His own kingdom besieged, his body terribly wounded, and his place as a god threatened, the fisherman has plans to turn the tides set against him and finally offer a place of refuge for his people. But working the magic he needs will require the help of the one woman bent on his destruction.

Amber's why: There are two books that I'm super excited about on this list and they're both on this page. Anyway, a sea god pretends to be a poor fisherman and tricks a human queen into marrying him. She wants to stab him, he yearns for her heart, what could be better?

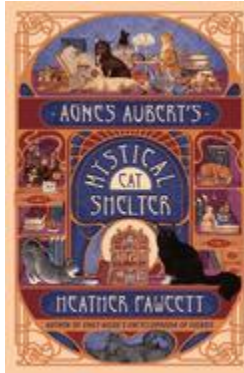
Agnes Aubert's Mystical Cat Shelter

by Heather Fawcett

release date: 02/17/2026

genre: Fantasy, cozy, romance

shelved in: Science Fiction



Agnes Aubert leads a meticulously organized life, and she likes it that way. As the proudly type-A manager of a cat rescue charity, she has devoted her life to finding forever homes for stray cats.

Now it's the shelter that needs a new home. And the only landlord who will rent a space to a cat rescue is a mysterious man called Havelock--who also happens to be the world's most infamous magician, running an illegal magic shop out of his basement. Havelock is cantankerous and eccentric, but not *not* handsome, and no, Agnes absolutely does not feel anything but disdain for him. After all, rumors swirl about his shadowy past--including whispers that his dark magic once almost brought about the apocalypse.

Then one day a glamorous magician comes looking for Havelock, putting the magic shop--and the cat shelter--in jeopardy. To save the shelter, Agnes will have to team up with the magician who nearly ended the world . . . and may now be trying to steal her heart.

Havelock is everything Agnes thinks she doesn't need in her life: chaos, mischief, and a little too much adventure. But as she gets to know him, she discovers that he's more than the dark magician of legend, and that she may be ready for a little intrigue--and romance--in her life. After all, second chances aren't just for rescue cats. . .

Amber's why: Cat lady moves her sanctuary into a space owned by an infamous magician who runs an illegal magic shop out of his basement and once almost destroyed the world. Chaos (and romance) ensues.

Greedy

by Callie Kazumi

release date: 02/03/2026

genre: Thrillers, horror, psychological, suspense

shelved in: Fiction



They will kill me soon, Edward Cook thinks. And when the Yakuza are unable to collect what he owes, Ed realizes, they'll go after his wife and child next. Broke, desperate, and unemployed, he stumbles upon an unusual ad: *Chef wanted! Private chef for a high-profile businesswoman. One million yen per day.*

Ed accepts the job. He hasn't earned any Michelin stars, but he knows his way around a kitchen. Leaving his life in Tokyo behind, he departs for an opulent estate in the mountains owned by the enigmatic and reclusive Hazeline Yamamoto, a disgraced socialite with a predator's smile and an exacting palate. Hazeline's world is one of taste, connoisseurship, and experimentation--she is a certified gourmand. But when you can afford filet mignon for every meal, you begin to seek out the strange and forbidden.

The closer Ed gets to Hazeline and the brighter future that she promises--if he remains loyal--the nearer he is to realizing the chilling truth about her altruism. In this shadow world of unimaginable wealth, there are worse monsters than two-bit gangsters. The wind blowing through Hazeline's home carries the sound of screaming, and Ed finds himself feeding all kinds of beasts.

Amber's why: Why do I keep finding cannibalism books? I mean, I'm not 100% sure this is a cannibalism book, but this is a cannibalism book. Apparently, there needs to be at least one every Forthcoming list.

I'm Not the Only Murderer in My Retirement Home

by Fergus Craig

release date: 02/17/2026

genre: Mystery & Detective, amateur sleuth, women sleuths, humorous

shelved in: Mystery



After a decades-long stint in prison, former serial killer Carol is looking to kick back and relax in her new retirement home...until a fellow resident drops dead and Carol has to prove she actually didn't do it this time....

Carol is delighted to be leaving her tiny prison cell behind to take her place in a luxury retirement home. She's hoping her past as a serial killer won't come to light so she can make a few friends and find some murder-free hobbies. But it's not long before a fellow resident--who happens to be a former police commissioner--drops dead, and Carol's true identity is leaked--making catching up over daily activities of bingo and baking rather awkward.

Just her luck, Carol soon realizes that the victim wasn't the only former law enforcement officer at Sheldon Oaks--it's filled to the brim with former cops, barristers, and government representatives, her newfound friends included. And everyone thinks Carol's guilt is a no-brainer, but she is ready to prove them dead wrong...without killing anyone, for once.

Amber's why: I just love old lady murderers. Even better when old lady murderers are hunting other murderers and/or trying to solve murders they didn't commit.

She Made Herself a Monster

by Anna Kovatcheva

release date: 02/10/2026

genre: Gothic, literary, feminist, occult & supernatural, historical, women

shelved in: Fiction



We make monsters in order to destroy them. For thousands of years, we've named witches and burned them, suspected demons and exorcised them. When crops die and children fall ill, who better to blame than a monster?

Yana rides from one desolate town to the next, staging grisly displays while the villagers sleep: animal corpses in the public square, eggs filled with blood in the chicken coop. She tells the stricken villagers stories of vampires that stalk the night. Then she eliminates the threat, and sows seeds of hope in her wake.

The village Koprivci is plagued by exceptional illness and misfortune, its children rarely surviving infancy. There, Yana meets Anka: a headstrong orphan who the villagers blame for their curse. As Anka approaches womanhood, the village Captain is grooming her for marriage against her will. Anka is powerless against him—that is, until Yana arrives. Together, the orphan and the vampire slayer hatch a plan: to conjure a monster so vile, it might provide cover for Anka to

escape. But their plan quickly takes on a horrifying life of its own...

Amber's why: A vampire slayer (not relevant) and an ostracized orphan girl (emphasis on girl) conspire to summon a monster to attack a village so the orphan can escape a forced marriage to a creepy man.

Warning Signs

by Tracy Sierra

release date: 02/10/2026

genre: Thrillers, psychological, suspense, horror

shelved in: Fiction



Twelve-year-old Zach is cautiously optimistic. His father Bram, whose business is in dire need of cash, has put together a father-son backcountry ski weekend to wine and dine his biggest investors. Schooled in outdoor survival by his mother, Zach is eager to prove himself to the hypercritical Bram. Maybe if Zach shows how useful he is, he can earn his father's love.

But Zach knows to be on high alert around Bram, and he sees the way the group ignores the increasingly threatening conditions. For the first time in his beloved mountains, he is faced with the unknown, convinced that something watches their cabin from the treeline. Something that leaves behind strange tracks and picks its prey clean.

As the adults recklessly test the limits of the outdoors, Zach worries he might be in even more danger than he realized. Could the men around him prove more violent than the unforgiving weather, and the strange creature lurking in the dark? Zach will have to rely on his wits if he hopes to make it home safely. But he knows all too well that the wilderness can be

unpredictable even at the best of times. And at the worst? Deadly.

Amber's why: Did this kid's dad take him to the woods to hunt him and/or let others hunt him? I, for one, can't wait to find out.

A Forest, Darkly
by Angela Slatter

release date: 02/10/2026

genre: Fantasy, dark fantasy, fairy tales, folk tales, legends & mythology, feminist
shelved in: Science Fiction



Deep in the forest lives Mehrab the witch, quietly battling her demons. One evening, a young woman arrives at her door pursued by god-hounds, who wish to destroy all those practising magic, and Mehrab's solitary existence is disrupted. Together they forge a cure for their isolation with heartbreaking consequences...

Meanwhile, in the local village, children begin to disappear. Sinister offerings appear on Mehrab's doorstep, and a dark power pursues her through the trees. As the villagers turn hostile and the god-hounds close in, Mehrab finds herself at the centre of a struggle to save the soul of the forest, the life of an old love - and her own new-formed family.

Amber's why: Witches! Witches! Witches! Witches! Witches! Witches! Witches!

The Apple and the Pearl
by Rym Kechacha

release date: 02/03/2026

genre: Fantasy, paranormal, contemporary, fairy tales, folk tales, legends & mythology
shelved in: Science Fiction



As dawn breaks on All Souls Day, the lingering mists part to unveil an unending vista of serried gravestones. Between them looms a theatre like a haunted house and the sleek iron carapace of a steam train - the Pearl. On board are the cast, orchestra and crew of a travelling ballet company, performing *The Apple and the Pearl*.

As he stumbles toward the restaurant car the lighting director, Zach, asks the new recruit, Lara, "Have you ever worked in ballet before?"

"Have you had any contact with the supernatural?"

Everyone from the principal ballerina to the first violinist, from the wardrobe mistress to the newest members of the corps de ballet, have committed their lives to the perfection of the show. But every night they must also confront the malevolent glamour of their audience of Fae creatures only too eager to snatch them away into the Otherworld.

Amber's why: A cursed ballet company has to deal with the Fae much too often.

Apparently, Sir Cameron Needs to Die
by Greer Stothers

release date: 02/03/2026

genre: Fantasy, romance, LGBTQ+ | Gay, humorous

shelved in: Science Fiction



In Which Many Dangerous and Homosexual Things Happen.

All his life, Sir Cameron has stayed as far away from danger as possible. He is quite frankly too handsome to die a pointless death in battle. But then the Church hands down a prophecy to his fellow knights: the only way to defeat their nemesis, the mad sorcerer Merulo, is to kill Sir Cameron. Short of ideas, Cameron throws himself on the mercy of the one person who now actually wants him to survive: the mad sorcerer.

Merulo isn't thrilled to be babysitting a spoilt, attention-seeking knight, but transmogrifying him into a vulture is at least entertaining. Cameron, meanwhile, is on a voyage of self-discovery. It turns out he's really, really into surly sorcerers who lock him up and tell him what to do. Who knew?

As a legion of knights surround their stronghold, the sorcerer's poisonous ambitions draw ever closer to fruition. Cameron is quite invested in not dying, but he finds he's also invested in Merulo. And sometimes, supporting the sorcerer you care about means taking an interest in their hobbies. Even if that hobby is trying to kill God.

Even if it might get you killed, too.

Amber's why: This book is freaking funny. I haven't read it yet, but I know this to be true.

Blood Relay
by Devon Mihesuah

release date: 02/14/2026

genre: Indigenous, mystery & detective, women, thrillers, suspense

shelved in: Mystery



Choctaw Detective Perry Antelope has been with her partner, Sophia Burns, for only six months. Perry is a seasoned investigator while the ex-Olympian shot putter Sophia is a former street-smart police officer. Together, they are an intrepid pair with an established record of success. But when Perry and Sophia are called to investigate the disappearance of Dels Billy, a beloved women's Indian Horse Relay rider, they quickly realize that it's not as cut-and-dry as anything they've faced before.

Piece by piece, they uncover unsettling connections between Dels's disappearance and a series of unsolved abductions of women from Oklahoma reservations. But the perpetrator always seems to be one step ahead, and Perry soon finds herself--and her family--in the crosshairs of a ruthless killer. Despite her husband's pleas for her to drop the case, Perry is determined to prevent Dels from becoming another statistic.

As the investigation deepens, Perry and Sophia follow a tangled web of clues that point to a close-to-home plot more chilling than they could have imagined. Torn between her family's safety and her duty to her community, Perry must race against the clock, and across tribal Nations, to find Dels before her murderous abductor can carry out their sinister plan.

Amber's why: This sounds so intense! Also, Devon Mihesuah is a member of the Choctaw Nation (so... own voices) and a professor at KU (so... supporting local authors).

Teen

The Darkness Greeted Her

by Christina Ferko

release date: 02/03/2026

genre: Horror, monsters, thrillers & suspense, supernatural

shelved in: Teen Horror



Penny's abusive father is dead...but she still hears his voice in her head, encouraging her to hurt those around her. She can't go to school or be around her friends or even draw with a sharp pencil without her intrusive thoughts urging her toward violence. Desperate to get a handle on her OCD, she agrees to spend the summer at Camp Whitewood--an exclusive therapy retreat in the woods.

She feels optimistic when she arrives. The other girls all have their reasons for being there, which makes Penny feel a little less alone. But then she starts seeing things that can't possibly be there: the gold watch her father was buried with, his favorite whiskey spilled on her cabin floor...a terrifying figure she calls the Shadow Man looming at the foot of her bed. Penny thinks she is losing her mind, but when a girl goes missing, and is later found dead, it's clear that whatever is happening at Camp Whitewood isn't all in her head.

As the hallucinations become increasingly intense and more girls wind up dead, Penny must work with whoever is left standing to figure out what is real before the Shadow Man uses their traumas against them and claims their lives.

Amber's why: A girl with OCD fights her inner demons at a mental health camp and also maybe an actual demon...

Red Star Rebels

by Amie Kaufman

release date: 02/10/2026

genre: Science Fiction, romance, action & adventure

shelved in: Teen Science Fiction



It's 2067, and the Graves family has transformed Mars from a lifeless rock into a chaotic patch of settlements. You can buy a one-way ticket to a new life--if you're rich.

Enter Hunter Graves, the handsome, ambitious grandson of the man who settled Mars. With spectacularly bad timing, Hunter arrives at the United Nations base just as an emergency evacuation sends everyone scurrying for safety. Except he's left behind. Uh-oh.

Also stranded: Cleo, a sharp-tongued stowaway with no intention of dying today, and even less patience for overconfident trust fund boys. But the enemy of your enemy might just help you survive, so here we are.

It turns out the evacuation is just a cover for the mercenaries who come next, and the plan to blow up the base--and every trace of their crime--in eight hours.

Now, Hunter and Cleo have one shot to stop the explosion, escape alive, and deal with the inconvenient fact that they're falling for each other.

The clock is ticking.

Amber's why: A rich boy and a poor girl race the clock to stop a gang of mercenaries from blowing up a base on Mars.

PostScript

by Cory McCarthy

release date: 02/17/2026

genre: Action & Adventure, death, grief, bereavement, survival stories, LGBTQ+, apocalyptic
shelved in: Teen Science Fiction



On the far side of a swift and unknowable apocalypse, a few sapiens are surviving off the last scraps of humanity. No longer recognizable as Cape Cod, the dunes of their archipelago are empty apart from regrets and ruins--until West blows in like a storm.

West is a prophet of instinct, the last amateur anthropologist, ever aware of being present in life. He can't help but move through Ani's rage, Karen's anxiety, and Emil's immense longing with curiosity and care. West's unbridled love and grief challenge the survivors to defy extinction with the most beautifully human thing imaginable: a family.

He may even impress Death.

Amber's why: This sounds very poetic and sad and maybe even a bit beautiful.

Beyond Seven Forests

by Amanda McCrina

release date: 02/03/2026

genre: War & Military, death, grief, bereavement, historical, Europe, World War I
shelved in: Teen Fiction



A blizzard. An oath. A war outside and within.

By the winter of 1916, World War I has ravaged the Austro-Hungarian Empire. Eighteen-year-old Renata Zamoyska, Polish countess and doctor-in-training, has lost everything to the Russian occupation: her family, her home, her fiancé. But with the Russians in retreat and the Germans now in charge, life isn't much easier. Wounded soldiers keep arriving from the front, Renia's house remains in ruins, and the scars of the occupation linger.

When two Polish deserters from the Russian army turn up on her doorstep just before a fierce blizzard, Renia finds herself trapped in her own home alongside people she's long considered enemies. Cut off from the outside world while the storm rages, Renia must fight to survive, grapple with her wartime scars, and decide what justice, freedom, and healing look like for her.

Amber's why: This is a World War I book! World War I! One! For teenagers! The Great War is not being forgotten or ignored!

According to Plan
by Christen Randall

release date: 02/03/2026

genre: Romance, LGBTQ+, neurodiversity

shelved in: Teen Fiction



Mal Flowers expected senior year fall to be full of cozy sweaters, good coffee, and copyediting. As the new editor-in-chief of their school's literary magazine, they just want to follow The Plan to graduate and get out of their small midwestern town--a place where, as a broke, fat, queer person with ADHD, they've never really fit in. But when budget cuts result in the lit mag's cancellation, Mal is suddenly left scrambling for something to replace it.

That is, until Emerson Pike--who also has ADHD but is loud, confident, and Mal's complete opposite--suggests the staff go rogue and create a zine instead. Which would be cool, except that making and selling contraband isn't exactly what Mal envisioned listing as the extracurricular activity on their college application. A zine would be unofficial, unapproved, and *definitely* not in The Plan.

But a zine is also a good way to spend more time with Emerson, whose playful banter and bad jokes Mal can't seem to get enough of. And maybe, with a group of new friends, the back of the charming coffee shop where Emerson works *could* be somewhere Mal *does* belong. Because breaking the rules with Emerson--and flirting with her over coffee--is *fun*.

Maybe The Plan isn't the only way to find happiness, but can Mal let go of something they've depended on for so long?

Amber's why: Queer, neurodivergent teens drink coffee, make zines, and take a chance on something unexpected.

A Practical Guide to Dating a Demon
by Hannah Reynolds

release date: 02/03/2026

genre: Fantasy, romance, fairy tales & folklore

shelved in: Teen Fantasy



As a scholarship student at the magical Lyceum, Naomi would rather focus on deciphering ancient scrolls than dating. Especially since the only boys asking her out are less interested in a night in Naomi's company than an introduction to her influential aunt.

So Naomi devises an excuse to turn down her persistent suitors: She claims to be betrothed to a demon.

Her story works perfectly. Until she arrives home one night and finds the demon Daziel lounging in her rooms, insisting he's her betrothed. Naomi knows he's lying--after all, the betrothal was never real--but the gorgeous and infuriating demon is surprisingly resistant to her banishing spells. And with his penchant for baking and home décor, it's not so bad having him around.

Besides, she has other worries--like the ancient scroll she's trying to translate, and the way the city's magic has become suddenly unstable. But the more Naomi learns about the scroll, and the more she gets to know Daziel, the more it seems like she might be at the center of something bigger than she could have imagined.

Amber's why: It's a demon romance for teens! This looks seriously cute.

Ungodly Chaos
by Selma Soren

release date: 02/17/2026

genre: Fantasy, romance, thrillers & suspense

shelved in: Teen Fantasy



Amira Shah is having a perfectly good, perfectly normal year--until her boyfriend (and hottest boy in school) Kaidan Jaziri breaks up with her on her seventeenth birthday. But Amira is never one to let things go, and after overhearing Kaidan loudly arguing with someone in town, she follows him, only to fall through a portal to the underworld, also known as Duat.

There, she learns the chaotic ex-boyfriend who would endlessly rope her into trouble inherited his impulsive nature from his ancestor Apep, the god of chaos.

Kaidan is intent on solving a spree of murders happening in the human realm. Someone is killing other descendants--and if Kaidan isn't careful, he might be next. Feeling a mystical pull to Kaidan and the underworld, Amira insists on helping solve the mystery.

Together with Kaidan's rival and descendent of the sun god, Zain Neilos, they uncover secrets behind Amira's mysterious connection to the Egyptian pantheon and pursue the clever killer who may have been hiding among them all along.

Amber's why: Girl follows her ex-boyfriend into the underworld, finds out he's descended from the god of chaos, then helps him solve some murders.

A Stage Set for Villains
by Shannon J. Spann

release date: 02/03/2026

genre: Fantasy, romance, loners & outcasts

shelved in: Teen Fantasy



The gods are dead. All that's left are the Players...

The performers of the Playhouse are as worshipped as they are feared, their enchanting shows bending hearts, minds, and even reality itself. Vicious, godlike, lethal. Eighteen-year-old Riven Hesper knows the dangers better than anyone, after her own encounter with a Player resulted in a curse that is slowly killing her.

When the Playhouse announces the spectacle of a lifetime--a chance for one mortal to steal a Player's immortality--Riven sees her last chance to live. Desperate for answers, she infiltrates the competition. There, she finds Jude, the Playhouse's brilliant, merciless Lead Player, whose charm is as dangerous as his Craft, and strikes a deadly bargain to save her life.

But with time running out and the Playhouse's secrets unraveling into a disturbing picture, Riven faces a grim possibility: she might not be the hero of her story after all. In fact, she may be the villain.

Because the Playhouse doesn't just tell stories. It rewrites them.

And Riven's might end in blood.

Amber's why: I know this is romance, but it sounds so creepy to me. I love it.

The Secrets Below

by Camilla Sten and Viveca Sten; translated by A. A. Prime

release date: 02/01/2026

genre: Thrillers & Suspense, paranormal, occult & supernatural, Europe

shelved in: Teen Mystery



What happened out there in the woods?

Twelve-year-old Tuva couldn't imagine living anywhere other than the Stockholm archipelago and her island home of Harö. Even if she mostly keeps to herself at her small school. Even if she sometimes gets kind of lonely.

But when a classmate goes missing, Tuva finds herself at the center of the mystery, along with Rasmus, the new boy at school. Neither one of them can understand what they saw that day in the woods near the water: Is something magical at work? Something evil?

And it's not just their classmate who has gone missing. Other people around the islands have gone missing this fall, disappearing from their boats on the water, never to be heard from again. Can Tuva and Rasmus discover what secrets are lurking below...before it's too late?

Amber's why: 12-year-olds investigate the (possibly magical) disappearance of a classmate (and others).

Paradise Coast

by Suzanne Young

release date: 02/24/2026

genre: Romance, action & adventure, thrillers & suspense, social themes: class differences

shelved in: Teen Fiction



Some secrets won't stay buried. Not even in the Everglades.

Deep in the Everglades, there was once a luxurious and legendary hotel enjoyed by the wealthy elite. Until one mysterious night when a fire tore through the building, killing a young socialite and casting blame on a local dock worker. Soon after, the hotel vanished, swallowed up by the wetlands like it never existed at all.

Until now.

When a powerful hurricane unearths the ruins of the long-forgotten hotel, the past is dragged back to the surface as clues to the devastating truth about the night of the fire are revealed.

It's the truth that die-hard local Noa and her friends have been chasing for years in the hopes of clearing their ancestor's name and pushing back against the rich families trying to force them out. With the help of Jamie, the rebellious son of a wealthy businessman, Noa and her crew begin a desperate fight for the justice they deserve.

It won't be easy. Because the wealthy control just about everything on Paradise Coast--including the truth. And they will do whatever it takes, even kill, to make sure the past stays buried.

Amber's why: It's giving Veronica Mars—though a bunch of people on Goodreads likened it to Outer Banks, which... maybe? I never watched that show—and I'm perfectly okay with that.