



# POLYN PUBLISHING HOUSE



# 2025

New publishing house «Polyn» (Artemisia) is producing Russian-language fantasy books.

**«MAGIC IN EVERY WORD»  
is our credo.**

We believe that our books can do miracles. We may not change the world with our texts, but at least we will add new colors to it...

First of all, we publish texts that are close to our hearts. We publish only what we are good at. The editorial board of «Polyn» consists of fans of the fantasy genre, including bloggers who specialize in such literature. That's why we focus on Russian-language fantasy in all its diversity.

Our texts are full of local mythology of Russian regions (Karelia, Siberia, Yakutia, Altai, Caucasus, etc.). Some books also contain legends of the Soviet period and from all of the different nations in the world: from Greek and Egyptian to Asian and Pacific. Through «Polyn» publishing house's books, readers can learn about the cultures, fairy tales and legends of various countries.





## GODS ARE LIKE PEOPLE duology by Yana Tkacheva

This story is about great battles, the war between gods, love, deceit and friendship. The god Veles had been betrayed by his own brother, Perun. He seized power by deceit and caught Veles in a trap where his beloved woman and their child died. Veles wants to take revenge on his brother and gathers the allies to overthrow the greedy Perun.

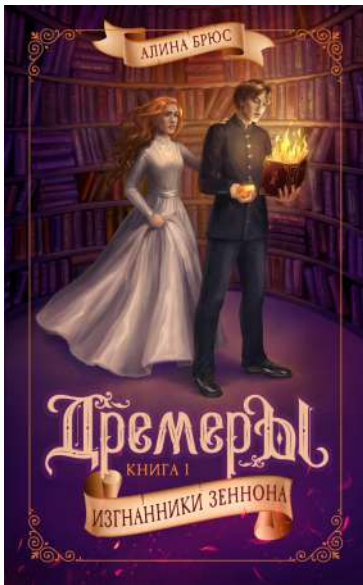
The battle ends with the Great Schism, but the war is not over. Veles wants to avoid total destruction of the universe at all costs.

The witch Yagishna and her beloved called Vladan, the goddess of death Mara punished by Perun, and the immortal Kalen – they all believe in Veles and are ready to do a lot so that after the Great Schism the world returns to harmony. Will the characters succeed in taking Perun's power over the worlds and what goal Veles actually pursues?

The Circles on the Water is the first book of Yana Tkacheva's dilogy Gods Are Like People based on the most popular mythologies in the world: Egyptian, Roman, Scandinavian and Slavic. Men are only pawns in the hands of the gods ready to sacrifice human lives to achieve their goals. But the gods also have their earthly passions that turn a novel into a story about love, power and betrayal on an epic scale.

**Recommended age:** 16+

**Tags:** mythology, gods, love, hatred, death, epic battle



## DREMERS

by Alina Bruce

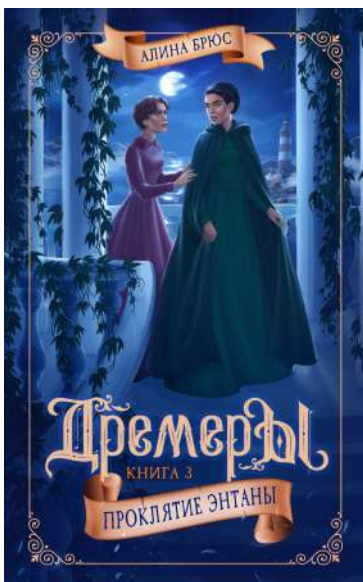
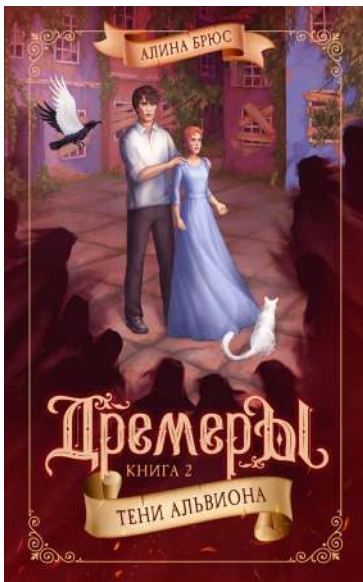
Serra is a world where every rock under your feet has its own magic. A world in which everyone has the gift of controlling the stones. Everyone except sixteen-year-old Vira Lind.

Vira is the daughter of a famous wizard who saved Zennon from the terrible people-consuming Shadows who came from the north. However, Vira herself is unable to awaken the stone or even feel it. To hide this shameful secret, her uncle decides to marry Vira off. But on the wedding day, her classmate Kinn burns the Book of the Law. For such an offense, he's at risk of being banished. Vira tries to help the boy, but unsuccessfully: they both are cast out from Zennon.

This punishment is like a death sentence: when night falls, the Shadows come out from hiding. Vira and Kinn need to find shelter – only that will save them from their doom. But can all of this help Vira escape from herself and Kinn to reach the goal he tried to achieve when he committed his crime?

**Recommended age:** 13+

**Tags:** heroic fantasy, author's mythology, adventures, romance





## THE CHRONICLES OF DRAGOMIR tetralogy by Tatiana Lakiziuk

Dragomir is a world built from minerals and gemstones. Its inhabitants – good wizards and witches – lived in harmony until the arrival of the cunning witch Jadeida. With the help of the books of black magic and of their old keeper, she learnt to master all the elements. She put a dreadful spell on Dragomir and started the war that has been lasting for 13 years. The evil witch can be stopped only by Luna, a girl born the night of the spell. But where to find her?

Luna ignores being the princess of Dragomir kept hidden from Jadeida for many years. She lives like an orphan in a world without magic, looked after by a cruel foster family. Once, the day of her birthday, she becomes aware of her magical powers and learns about her true origins. She is going to make a long way home, full of dangerous adventures. She will meet her real parents and will have to confront Jadeida in the battle that will settle the destiny of Dragomir.

Beyond Radiance is the first volume of the enthralling tetralogy The Chronicles of Dragomir. Tatiana Lakiziuk created a world striking the imagination. Each person there has a gift of mastering one of the four elements and the luckiest ones possess the gift of healing. With Luna and her friends, the readers will make an exciting trip, see the gemstones of unearthly beauty, magical animals and plants and will learn why Jadeida cursed this marvellous world and why she was so desirous for power.

**Recommended age:** 9+

**Tags:** magic, magical universe, magical powers, wizard, gems, minerals, elements, orphanhood



## THE FLOATING HOUSE

by Snezhana Karimova

17-year-old Dara and her younger sister Maya come to spend summer vacation at their great-aunt's house, where she also lives their cousin Elisha.

One night, to scare the girls, Elisha tells them a legend of Mologa, the Russian Atlantis. When the town was going to be flooded in order to make a reservoir, three hundred residents chained themselves to their houses, drowned with their town and are now luring fishermen to the bottom.

Dara, who is going to study History at the university, learns that their cousin hasn't completely invented his story. Mologa really existed and some of its houses were transferred by river to the neighbouring city. The three teenagers go visit it. They find the house which had belonged to their family.

Dara meets Ivy who used to live in Mologa when she was a child. By some magic she goes back in time and turns out in Ivy's memories where she sees what really happened to Mologa and its inhabitants. Ivy's family had had a magical cafe, which had been left in the past because of an unfulfilled promise. Dara witnesses little Ivy being condemned to serve the kikimore, the evil female spirit of their house. She decides to save Ivy but almost perishes herself.

Realising she won't be able to keep Ivy any longer, the kikimore tries to drown and enslave Dara. An unexpected saviour intervenes just in time. The stories of Dara and Ivy turn out to be surprisingly entwined.

Being a work of fiction, the novel is based on confirmed historical facts and popular legends linked to the fate of the real town of Mologa flooded in the first half of the XXth century.

**Recommended age:** 12+

**Tags:** summer holidays, legends, flooded city, lost city, History, adventures, friendship, sorcery



Film right sold



Long list of the prize  
International Children's  
Literary Prize  
named after  
V. P. Krapivin



## DEMONS LIVE HERE

by Snezhana Karimova

Every person has his own whirlpool – a viscous lake of melancholy, disappointment and other dark feelings. It's located where the heart should be and looks like a hole in the chest. When someone is calm and happy, the whirlpool decreases and it's more difficult for demons to get inside, but when the person has a hard time, he becomes an easy prey.

Tsvetana is only fifteen, and seemingly there's nothing remarkable about her. She's unaware that the whirlpool is growing inside of her. And it's happening because Tsveta feels eternally lonely: nobody notices her at school, she has no friends and even her mother doesn't care about daughter's problems. Tired of life without affection, Tsveta decides to take a desperate step – to persuade her grandmother, a witch, to cast a love spell, but she refuses. And Tsveta would have returned home empty-handed if she hadn't met Demona.

Demona – a real little demon in the guise of a blonde girl with horn-buns and green eyes – offers a deal: in return for help, she will borrow Tsveta's body for three days. But soon Demona discovers that the girl isn't as simple as she seems: she's not a human, but one of the forest spirits, who don't live up to 16 years old. Only true love can save Tsveta, but she has almost no time left.

**Recommended age:** 14+

**Tags:** Slavic mythology, demons, magic rituals, witches



## THE NIGHT BAZAAR duology by Mira Arim

The Night Bazaar is a magical world floating in space, where an enormous Moon shines instead of the Sun. It resembles an infinite maze, with its streets overflowed with tents, stalls and shops selling potions, amulets and magical artefacts. The Bazaar is inhabited by demons, wizards, werewolves and other fairy creatures. They tell only the truth because the spirit of their world prevents them from lying.

Kaz is the only human in the Night Bazaar. Sixteen years ago, he was saved by the mighty demon Holde, when his mother left him in a forest at the border between the real world and the Bazaar. Holde, who saw all the scene, pitied the helpless creature. As no one could cross the border of the magical world, Holde concluded a deal with the Bazaar. He gave out the locket where his power was enclosed and thus got the right to take the baby with him.

Kaz feels at ease on the streets of the Night Bazaar. He makes his living by thievery and has no problem with lying. Both these talents rescued him more than once. But one day another human turns out. A young girl named Aly is looking for her family. At the same time, Holde's power is running out and Kaz wants to get back his locket that turns out to be kept by a human. It becomes clear that Kaz and Aly have to get to the real world to settle their problems.

There they will face intrigues, take part in battles and achieve some of their goals. But between two worlds the breaches appear. Can the collapsing of the Night Bazaar be stopped? Will Aly find her family and Kaz the place where he belongs? What do they feel for each other? The readers will find the answers in the second volume of the dilogy to be published soon.

**Recommended age:** 14+

**Tags:** magical world, family mysteries, love, friendship, palace intrigue, business, fair







## RAGANA

by Anita Fevers

Yasmena is a white-haired herbalist, who's running from her past and hiding a cursed gift. People like her are called Raganas, but more often – simply witches. Only they can heal wounds caused by creatures from the World of the Dead. But, despite this, people hate Raganas, and fire wizards hunt them mercilessly.

This is all due to the events of long past years, the truth about which is hidden in the Gray Thicket. Chance brings Yasmena to a small village, where she finds friends, love and a new home. But challenges are right around the corner: not all the villagers are happy with her presence, she sees Gray Thicket in nightmares, the wizards are chasing young Ragana and soon will catch her.

Yasmena has to make a choice: go on the run again or face her fears. After all, she's the only one who can unravel the secrets of her past.

**Recommended age:** 16+

**Tags:** Baltic mythology, heroic fantasy, chase, romance



## FIREMAIDEN

by Anita Fevers

Everyone in Whitewaters knows that only men have the gift of fire. But that was just until one day a fire changed Itrida's life. Deprived of family and home, forced to wander around, she's looking for an opportunity to get rid of unsolicited gift. But the past catches Itrida, and now danger threatens those who are dear to her. Will she be able to tame her inner flame or will the fire break out and burn everything to the ground?

Meanwhile, the deivas Marii Bolotnik is looking for the people who killed the duke's parents and bride. The road leads Marii to Stonetown, where he meets the girl with the fire gift – the main character. How is she connected with the duke's family murders – and is she?

**Recommended age:** 18+

**Tags:** Baltic mythology, epic fantasy, justice, traveling



## MEDIATORS

### duology by Daria Budantseva

Witches, wizards and animagi live among us, walk along the same Moscow streets and take the same subway lines. But, also, they don't value human life very much, so meeting them can result in death. However, mediators from the Ministry of Magical Supervision, who protect mere mortals, don't allow them to create chaos. A century ago, mediators learned to borrow magic from wizards and forced magical creatures to obey the law. Now the animagi are fined for transforming in the wrong place, and wizards are forced to go through the procedure of the migration registration.

Many still haven't come to terms with this state of affairs. War is coming – the magical creatures unite against the Ministry. The witch Zoe has her own reasons of hating mediators – because for the ministerial hounds, she lost a dear person. The major of the homicide department, Yana Voinova, lives for her work. Three years ago she already suppressed the Rebellion of the Sorcerers and is determined to do so again. Whose truth will prevail this time? Will equality or freedom win?

**Recommended age:** 16+

**Tags:** modern Moscow, werewolves, witches, revolution, investigations, urban fantasy





## MOUNTAIN OF SPIRITS duology by Lea Rain

When your father and mother are killed; when your own uncle decides to betray you, usurps power and goes to war with neighboring countries; when you are a prisoner in ancient tombs, and the whole world considers you dead – all that remains is to remember who you are.

Shamai, heir to the throne of the Great Khanate of Altan-Ghazar, not only saves her own life, but decides to go on a dangerous journey in the company of a stranger, Damir, across the entire continent to the legendary Tau-asha – a city that can give magical powers.

But will they help her stop this dishonorable war and regain the throne?

**Recommended age:** 14+

**Tags:** Mongolian mythology, Chinese mythology, revenge, revolution





## THE COAST OF THE DEAD FORGET-ME-NOTS by Ekaterina Zvontsova

Now is the time when Darkness will turn into Light, and Light will turn into Darkness.

This story is about a king rotting alive who's forced to bear the burden of power in order to maintain a shaky peace. It's about his noble enemy who's doomed to the path of revenge. It's about the genius who painted in fresco the temple of Death and about his student, whose heart is poisoned by envy of his teacher's talent. These heroes will tell about the decline of the Civilization of the Common Coast – the ancient peal of the Two Seas. And about how a religious conflict instantly flared up into the fire of war throughout the continent.

Now is the time for a difficult choice to make for everyone who has taken up arms.

**Recommended age:** 16+

**Tags:** dark fantasy, epic fantasy, religious conflict, revolution, war



## MARAKEL by Maria Tovich

Students of the Faculty of Philology, Kira and Sveta, go to collect folklore in a remote northern village. They are accompanied by Sveta's boyfriend, Yasha. Not having reached the appointed point, Sveta unexpectedly gets off the train at an abandoned railway station and hides in the forest. Her friends rushed after her.

The path leads them to the cave in which Sveta hid. Having followed their friend, they realize that they are lost in a maze of underground tunnels...

**Recommended age:** 16+

**Tags:** Karelian mythology, Egyptian mythology, traveling, another world, riddles



## THE AGE OF SILVER AND STEEL

by Denis Lukyanov

After Jean-François Champollion deciphered Egyptian hieroglyphs in 1822, the ancient gods of Egypt revealed themselves to the people. Since then, the world and history have changed. Christian and Muslim shrines are dedicated to other gods now. People stopped being afraid of death. On the contrary – now they seek it, because, after all, only there, among the golden Reed Fields, can they find eternal life and bliss.

The aging gendarme Viktor Govorukhin, the young barber Alexas Ossmiy and his resurrected lover Ana find themselves embroiled in a series of arson attacks, conspiracies and terrible discoveries. Will they be able to stop those who encroached on the sacred and survive? And who really hides behind the mask, lurks in the mirrors and calls himself by the name of Sargon of Akkad?

**Recommended age:** 16+

**Tags:** Egyptian mythology, gods, ghosts, terror, revolution



## JULIUS & FELTON

by Maria Dubinina

Great Britain at the beginning of the twentieth century. The «Julius & Felton» detective agency opens its doors to those who cannot be helped by the police.

Their specialization is unusual cases: supernatural phenomena, bloodthirsty ghosts and deadly curses. The companions easily investigate any case, but a bloody crime from the past forces Philip to think about the main question – who Julius really is? And... Who is he himself?

**Recommended age:** 16+

**Tags:** detective, ghosts, spells, riddles, adventures



## MOUNTAIN SPRING WIND

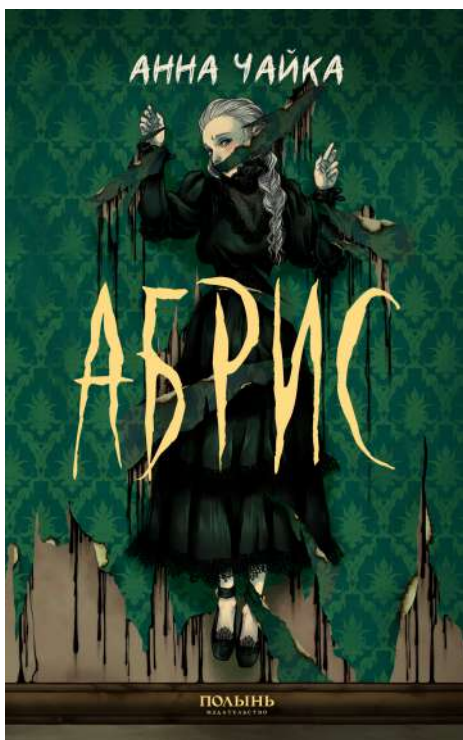
by Vika Malikova

If you're a curious girl, you're only sixteen, and also you live in Japan during the Edo era, never, under any circumstances, break the rules of your village! Kaori was always naughty and paid for it. The girl was betrayed by her own mother, then forcibly initiated into demons, tried to be killed several times, betrayed again... She accidentally connected the life of Mark, who was born hundreds of years after her, with the world of demons and thereby launched a chain of many tragedies: from stolen stories to kidnapped children.

Mountain Spring Wind, or haru no yama-kadze, is a story about how rash actions affect not only the hero himself, but also those who have not yet been born.

**Recommended age:** 14+

**Tags:** Japanese mythology, world of demons, writing, teenagers, thriller



## ABRIS

by Anna Chaika

What to do if you are left alone in a foreign city and you have no money, no work and even no place to sleep?

Of course, to respond to a suspicious ad and move into a hostel that is rumored to be haunted!

A mysterious house that comes to life after midnight. Cruel jokes from neighbors, nightmares and whispers telling her to perish – that's what awaited Cora Sonina.

Crying is useless, running is impossible. The girl can only try to unravel the mysteries of this place, learn to defend herself and try to survive. After all, the darkness is lurking nearby and waiting for the moment to attack.

**Recommended age:** 14+

**Tags:** horror, Yakut mythology, ghosts, adventure



**Winner: 2022 - New Children's Book  
(Library Choice)**



## FLORIENDELE. One of them by Katerina Romm

Fifteen years ago, Surface refugees took over Floriendale. The queen was imprisoned, and, since then, magic began to fade. In place of the ruins and ashes of the revolution, a new state arose: the United Federation.

Veronica has been growing up in captivity since birth. Freedom seems unattainable to her, but, before her sixteenth birthday, the cage doors suddenly swing open. But can you trust someone for whom promises, loyalty and honor are empty words?

Twins Marie and Cassandra live on the outskirts of the Federation and dream of a future after school, but everything falls apart when the state security service appears on their doorstep and arrests Marie. Cassandra immediately goes in search of her sister.

Three girls. Only one of them will be able to sort out the mistakes of the past, bring back the magic and save Floriendale. But which one? No one knows, not even herself.

**Recommended age:** 14+

**Tags:** epic fantasy, kingdom, mystery, journey

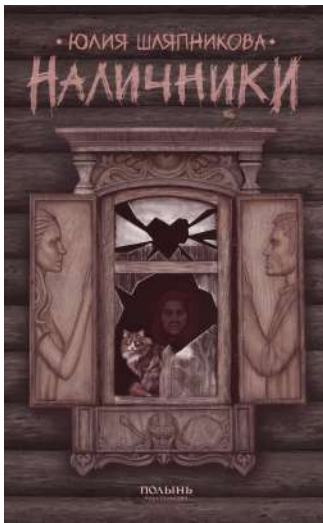


## LAND OF MONSTERS by Anastasia Nekrasova

Dragons attacked the Highlands, kidnapped the queen and fled. The king is set against his eldest daughter, Girada, as a result of which he decides to quickly marry her off and send her away from the palace. Girada realizes that her father isn't ready to hand over power to her, so she decides to prove her right to the throne by defeating the dragons with the help of the Book of Chaos, which she thinks is kept in the royal library of a neighboring state.

**Recommended age:** 14+

**Tags:** epic fantasy, dragons, genies, traveling, struggle for the throne



## PLATBANDS

by Yulia Shlyapnikova

A year ago, Anya returned to her small hometown of Dzhuketau to heal emotional wounds after a difficult breakup. She has been seeing ghosts since childhood and can communicate with them, help them go to another world. Now Anya has writer's block – she runs a photo blog, where she publishes photographs of wooden platbands. At the beginning of the story, Anya, while walking, finds a beautiful house with platbands, the owner of which, Firuza, mistakes a girl for her grandmother, Ulyana.

The next time Anya comes to this house, she meets Firuza's grandson, Ruslan, who tells her that she died at night. He promises to hand over any materials and photographs that he finds while sorting through his grandmother's things. Soon they meet for this purpose, and Anya learns that her nationalist grandmother in her youth was friends with Ruslan's Tatar grandmother. Young people gradually begin to get closer and go to the archives, studying the history of their families...

**Recommended age:** 16+

**Tags:** Tatar mythology, magical realism, ghosts, family history



## THE DESERT MISTAKE

by Maria Solovyova

The young orphan Lala isn't like any other inhabitant of Furd Castle – she's considered ugly, but isn't bullied, because she's the concubine of the cruel Captain Roster, the castle's owner's brother.

Lala has a secret – she sees sounds. One day, Lala learns from Roster that in the port of Etola he killed a man similar to her. Lala kills Roster and flees the castle in the hope of reaching Etola to find her fellow tribesmen.

**Recommended age:** 18+

**Tags:** heroic fantasy, journey, magic of sounds, revenge





## DEMON HEART

trilogy by Anna Sesht and Alexander Sero

The last Remean Emperor was a great sorcerer and explorer, but the power bestowed by the gods on his family wasn't enough for him. He decided to go further, and, wanting to finally defeat the enemies of Remei, the heirs of the fairies, he used the energy of the pyramids, Places of Power. He distorted it, which led to disaster.

This reshaped the face of the continent, and by now most of the fertile lands have become desert, the Great River's bed has dried up, and the sands are now home to creatures mutated from the local fauna. This is aggravated by the general instability of the magical background of the world...

**Recommended age:** 16+

**Tags:** Egyptian mythology, alternative world, disaster of civilization, magic



## SEASON OF INSPIRATION

by Elena Osadchaya

Every year a competition is held on Olympus – the Season of Inspiration. To win, each muse must present something that is directly related to the area of its influence. The reward is the fulfillment of a wish by Zeus.

The main character is the muse of history, Clio. She has been in a toxic relationship with Zeus for many years, which she hides from everyone except Terpsichore. The character understands that their connection is wrong and brings her more pain than joy, however, as soon as she sees Zeus, her mind seems to turn off. Clio wants to win the competition and make her deepest wish – to openly love God.

**Recommended age:** 16+

**Tags:** romance, abusive relationships, revenge, Greek mythology



## THE LAST GIFT by Ronnat

The novel interprets the myth of Pandora's Box. The goddess builds people's destinies with the help of boxes with magical gifts. One day, the girl named Lika opens an empty box – and finds herself drawn into the mystery of the goddess's disappearance. Some characters claim that she was captured by a monster, others – that she died. Together they are destined to go in search of her to save the world.

**Recommended age:** 16+

**Tags:** retelling, Greek mythology, alternate world, epic fantasy, gods



Recommendation from the popular  
Russian book critic Galina Yuzefovich



## EMPIRE OF DREAMS by May

Ten years ago, Prince Beryll was poisoned. He survived and now, together with his younger brother, is trying to find out why the magic is weakening. But the poison still pulsates in the blood, and the priests again start talking about ancient prophecies. The answers will be found in the ruins of the ancient city of Sha'harara, from where the wind brings long-forgotten spells.

**Recommended age:** 16+

**Tags:** heroic fantasy, royal secrets, illness, prophecy, magic



## LAMP FOR THE GENIE

by Anastasia Evlakhova

Vovka has a cherished desire: to go to university and live an independent life, separate from her parents. «The Genie» app promises «dreams quickly coming true», and Vovka knows what to ask. That's when it turns out that her parents have disappeared, there are ghosts in the apartment, and threats are received on the phone from an anonymous person who knows everything about Vovka...

**Recommended age:** 14+

**Tags:** magical realism, ghosts, modern technology, horror



## UNDER THE COVER OF SILENCE

duology by Tatyana Lakizyuk

Is it easy to live in a country ruled by a crazy king and a despotic queen? They took everything from you – your family, your home, and even yourself. They declared your age to be forbidden. You hide from the authorities by wearing a disguise every day and cutting your hair at the root.

Christine, living under the male name Christopher Vermont, is drawn into the fight against injustice and the creature of hatred living under the royal castle – the true evil, lutum Mortus. She will try to master the ancient magic of the ain – spirits who live under the cover of silence and wield the power of sound. She will try to return everything that was taken from her. She will try to prove that she still exists.

**Recommended age:** 16+

**Tags:** heroic fantasy, alternative world, gender intrigue, dystopia



In the list  
of TOP 20  
bestsellers  
according  
to MTS  
company

## NO SUPERNATURAL ALLOWED

by Ekaterina Lander

Sixteen-year-old Margot's family moves to St. Petersburg because of father's work. She gets a job as a courier for a food delivery service in order to feel independent. Delivery work brings Margot to the laboratory, where magical creatures are being studied. By chance, an ancient key, the value and purpose of which Margot knows nothing about, falls into her hands. That same night, Margot's younger sister, eight-year-old Vasilisa, disappears under mysterious circumstances. All the blame falls on Margot's shoulders: she was careless, she was negligent. Margot goes in search of Vasilisa to the laboratory, where she first encountered the inexplicable.

Vasily is a graduate of the Faculty of Art History and a restoration artist who works as a decorator in a theater. While the parents are on another archaeological expedition, Vasily and his student sister live alone. A friendly dispute leads Vasily to a séance with the sorcerer: a master of dolls and a designer of destinies. Vasily finds himself imprisoned in a place without time – the Supernatural Reality, where forgotten works of art and historical monuments live their final days...

**Recommended age:** 16+

**Tags:** urban fantasy, St. Petersburg, Mysticism



## LAND OF THE LOST

by Ksenia Levonesova

Orf wakes up in an unknown city, where all the newbies have no memory of the past. Not even the simple words – he has to learn everything all over again. But over time, when his memory returns to him, Orf begins to remember words and sell them. He runs errands and soon realizes where he ended up – in the City of the Dead.

On one of the unusual quests that the weaver goddess gives him, he meets Dita, his girlfriend. He descended into the World of the Dead for her, but both of them are still alive: Dita had a car-accident, and Orf «died» of grief, and now both of them are in a coma. They need to get out of the City of the Dead before too much time passes in reality.

**Recommended age:** 16+

**Tags:** retelling, Greek mythology, love



## INCARNATION

by Yulia Babchinskaya

Adele dreamed of a better life for herself, of bathing in luxury, attending balls in the very heart of Montsalvage, and maybe even becoming a queen. Is that possible for an ordinary craftswoman? And where will her ambition lead? Into the clutches of the insidious Chancellor Frost, a monster who shouldn't be crossed? Or into the arms of a charming prince? Or maybe to the battlefield? The power of the Grail is about to be revived, and magic will return to Monsalvage... The main thing is that the heart of the true queen must still beat.

But what if the queen is dead? In the kingdom of Monsalvage, there is a tradition: one of the «chosen» girls-candidates, in whom the reincarnation of the previous queen will be revealed, becomes the next one. At the same time, the magic of the Holy Grail is awakened. However, the place of one of the candidates is taken by an impostor who's obsessed with the idea of becoming the queen. And stern Chancellor Frost unexpectedly helps her...

**Recommended age:** 16+

**Tags:** romantic fantasy, retelling, Celtic mythology



## ASHES OF HIS NAME

by Denis Lukyanov

The Carthaginian merchant Baalaton dreams of selling fantastic creatures from all over the world, and he's ready to take the risk to achieve his dream. Having gone to the legendary country of the Copper Drums, he dooms himself to damnation because of return from there with valuable treasure, a strange disease, and a savage girl who will change his life.

While no one – neither healers nor sorcerers – understands why Baalaton's face becomes covered with scales and snake voices whisper in his head, evil rumors spreading through the streets of Carthage. The Chaldean prophet Falazar and Roman Culleon make a deal. They hate each other, but agree on only one thing: Carthage must be destroyed.

And they will certainly hasten the hour of its doom.

**Recommended age:** 16+

**Tags:** historical fantasy, Sumerian mythology



## CITY WITH LION HEART

by Ekaterina Zvoncova

The world, once harmed by a global sandstorm, is living its final days in fear and hunger. Its rulers are saved by books, rain, and war for that little what is left. The Three Seas – Light, Bitter, and Blind – haven't hit the barren shores for a long time, and not a single ship leaves the harbors of the Five Forgetful Capitals.

This world burns down those who it once glorified and tells horrible stories about the Traitor Shirkukh, the Sorcerer of the Sand, who, after all, always protected the world from any trouble and didn't allow the sand to close above people's heads. But one day he made a mistake: he betrayed his friend, the Sorcerer of the Stars, and was punished for it. Now all heroes and wizards are dead, radio stations are silent, railways are rusted, and even vultures rarely circle in the sky.

The insurmountable Desert of the Dead Cities became the heart of the prosperous lands. In one of the corners of it, a fallen Star with the wonderful and terrible name, Kara, is asleep, and in the other is a great warrior, the very Traitor Shirkukh, whose tomb nobody can find.

**Recommended age:** 12+

**Tags:** parable, fairy tale, philosophy



## GRIM

by Anastasia Khydyakova

A mystical story about the search for justice and love, with icy Norway as a background, tells about a successful and charming lawyer, Roman Areklette, who keeps a frightening secret: he's a killer of liars and criminals bringing evil to his world.

Ancient Scandinavian legends come to life before his eyes when Roman meets a creature that's surrounded by mystery – a harbinger of his own death. Grim is an ironic and insightful squirt, but he also serves a purpose and will take Roman with him when he disappears. But the one who considered to be an enemy suddenly becomes a friend, a supporter, and vanishing time threatens to take away everything that Roman has just found.

**Recommended age:** 18+

**Tags:** thriller, magical realism



## WILLOWS OF BABYLON

by Maria Vorobyi

Before the great battle, the King of Babylon vows to dedicate his next child to the goddess of war and carnal love, Ishtar. He wins, but, being wounded and spending a lot of time in oblivion, he forgets about his oath.

One of the slaves gives birth to his daughter, Shemkhet. The priests see that some forces have power over the child, but they aren't able to figure out what they are. She's given up to worship the goddess of death, Ereshkigal.

The girl grows up, learning the mysteries of funeral rites. After the palace coup the king is overthrown by his brother, who seizes the throne, taking one of his nieces, the Shemkhet's sisters, as his wife. He kills all the sons of the former king. Shemkhet is safe – she isn't dangerous to her uncle-king. She's full of anger, but lives as she did before. One day, while sleeping in the temple, Shemkhet sees dreams in which her little nephew turns into a threatening god of plague. Now she must find him fast to stop the invasion of the dead...

**Recommended age:** 16+

**Tags:** Sumerian mythology, philosophy, love



## ERINYES AND EUMENIDES

by Regan Hayes

West River is an elite Academy with an impeccable reputation. But behind the external gloss, dirty secrets, the depravity of the students, and their dangerous enmity are hidden. Once, Beatrice Becker was surrounded by friends and love, but overnight she acquired cruel enemies in the form of Academy star Danielle Lanford and her faithful companions.

Day after day, Beatrice suffers bullying from her friend. In a fit of desperation, she turns to occult practices and makes a deal with supernatural forces to carry out an act of revenge. Darkness envelops the Academy and sets off a chain of tragic events.

Beatrice faces a choice: overcome her own cruelty or surrender to it entirely?

**Recommended age:** 16+

**Tags:** dark academy, bullying, calling spirits



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