

### Representative Paired Archetypes of Rachael's Fantasy Book Collection

When people ask me what is my favorite animal is, I usually say one of two things: either, "anything that is not trying to bite me" referring to actual animals, or I will say "a unicorn" referring to my favorite animal. Being a veterinarian, I get asked this question fairly regularly. But unicorns are not real, some people might protest. Neither are fairy tales or myths I would counter; and yet modern fantasy is my favorite genre of literature and film.

I have been reading and collecting books—especially fantasy books—since before I started school. My books came from bookstores, library cutout bins, used bookstores, and garage sales. Books serve as my primary form of entertainment and occupy the majority of my "free-time". My complete book collection is very large (it currently occupies a quarter of my parent's basement). The small portion of the collection I have with me currently takes up nearly an entire room (because I need to get more bookshelves). The books I have selected as a representative sample of my collection come from the "fun" books I squeezed into boxes on top of my textbooks when I moved to Baltimore, and books from metropolitan charity thrift stores. (I highly recommend Baltimore's The Book Thing, which has been the primary source for growing this portion of my collection.)

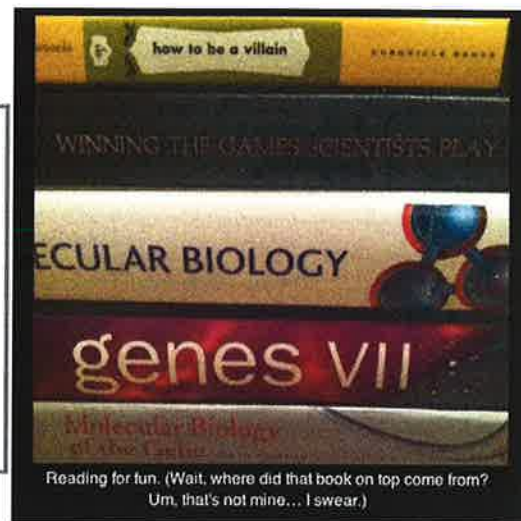
My interests are very diverse, and my complete collection of books reflects this. To narrow down my greater collection into this organized catalog, I simply thought of my favorite books. Not surprisingly, all of the books that came to mind were fantasy books. I have selected ten archetypes of paired books to serve as a representative selection of my greater book collection. This selection highlights the themes, stories, and authors I prize in my passion and appreciation for fantasy literature. Further I feel that the pairing of these books presents dichotomies or synergetic comparisons that enhance the collection as a whole.

The ten archetypes I have selected as representative of my fantasy book collection are: unicorns, villains, Good versus Evil, sovereignty of the universe, fairy tales and myths, fantasy art, high fantasy, epic fantasy series, a favorite author, and some of my favorite books.

Firstly, I must put unicorns at the top of this catalogue because they are my favorite animals. In Eastern cultures, they are divine creatures closely tied to an emperor's divine right to rule. In Western cultures they are symbols of innocence, purity, and a paragon creature of Good. In addition, the Western unicorn is one of the most easily recognizable fantasy creatures for the general public. (You might argue that this honor should go to a dragon, but a recent major film that was supposed to have a dragon as the title character—but actually animated a wyvern—illustrates the point that dragons are more complicated due to the numerous subspecies.) One of my favorite unicorns of all time is the title character of Peter S. Beagle's *The Last Unicorn*. I am also a fan of the animated movie and will sing the songs spontaneously. Further I have included *Fantasy: The Best Of The Year 2006*

edition, which contains Beagle's tragic novella "Two Hearts", recounting how Lir once again meets his unicorn.

To balance the selection of a Good creature, the second archetype is for characters of Evil: villains. Villains are the paragon character of Evil. The crown jewel in my collection is Eve Forward's *Villains By Necessity*. This book is the absolute favorite of several of my friends (who are also fanatical fantasy lovers). This book is also highly collectible, and I took it as a good omen (this is not a pun on the title of another excellent fantasy book) that I found this book at the Carry On Shop charity thrift store *the very first day* I was on the Johns Hopkins Medical campus to start my dual veterinary residency and graduate program. Neil Zawacki's handbook, *How To Be A Villain*, is also included because I find it very amusing. It also helped me win second in a photo contest by denying that I owned it. Below is my prize-winning entry.



The third archetype is Good versus Evil, which, I would say, is the most common plot device of the entire fantasy genera. I have included examples of two of these battles. In Emma Bulls's *War For The Oaks* the Seelie Court of faery battles the Unseelie Court for the fate of the world. While in Susan Cooper's *The Dark Is Rising* a young boy, Will, is integral in the fight against the Dark Rider—who is rallying his forces for the ultimate battle.

The fourth archetype is the sovereignty of the universe, as every author creates their own mythology to order the cosmos of their book. Two of my favorite examples of this are Neil Gaiman's SANDMAN series and Piers Antony's *Incarnations of Immortality*. In the SANDMAN series, the universe is ruled by seven immortal beings known as the Endless; they are Destiny, Destruction, Death, Dream, Desire, Despair, and Delirium. The Incarnations are Death, Time, Fate, War, and Nature. There are also two Eternals, Good and Evil. In both of these pantheons, the power of the cosmos is distributed amongst these beings so that they are approximately equal in terms of total power, but they are the masters of their designated dominion.

The fifth archetype is fairy tales and myths, because these stories provide the characters and plots which have been told and retold by every human culture for thousands of years. I would argue that very few authors write completely original works because of the wealth of stories preserved from humanity's cultural past. Many of the stories and characters found in modern fantasy have their origins in ancient myths or fairy tales. However, since I know a lot of stories from multiple world mythologies, I do sometimes choose not to read a work by an author if they have significantly departed from the original tale in a manner I do not find pleasing.

The sixth archetype is the visual world of fantasy. In addition to fantasy books and movies, I also appreciate fantasy art. I have selected two books to highlight this passion. The art of the SANDMAN series is very integral to the format of the stories – which were originally published as comics and are collected as graphic novels. I have also selected an art book from a favorite artist, Susan Seddon Boulet, who creates beautiful works depicting unicorns, goddesses, and other creatures of fantasy.

The seventh archetype is the genre of high fantasy. No fantasy collection would be complete without at least one high fantasy series. I have selected Steven R. Donaldson's *The Mirror of Her Dreams* and the sequel *A Man Rides Through* as my archetypal high fantasy series. This series has a bit of everything (except for pirates): adventure, romance, evil plotting sorcerers, daring princesses, a mercenary alien, a kingdom in peril, and of course, True Love.

The eighth archetype is for epic starts for epic fantasy series. The two series I have selected are Terry Goodkind's *The Sword of Truth* novels and Sara Douglass' *The Wayfarer Redemption* series. Both series tackle the archetypal battle of Good versus Evil and contain long-ranging plot lines that are resolved over the course of several books.

The ninth archetype is for a favorite author of mine, Mercedes Lackey. I have selected one of her fairy tale books, *The River's Gift*, and *The Valdemar Companion* to stand for her numerous novels of Valdemar. The tenth archetype is for some of my favorite books. I selected Mickey Zucker Reichert's *The Legend of Nightfall* and Mary Brown's *Pigs Don't Fly*. I was very impressed with *Nightfall*, and he remains my favorite assassin. (Sorry, Vlad Taltos!) Likewise Mary Brown has written one of my favorite dragons, but I will not spoil the plot for those who have not read it yet!

Eventually I envision assembling and cataloging my entire book collection in one location. This will allow me to identify which books I still need to collect as hardcover first-editions, and which books I still need to get signed by the author. (Did I mention that my collection currently includes books signed by Neil Gaiman, Jim Butcher, Holly Black, Christine Feehan, and Laurell K. Hamilton?) I also dream about having enough bookshelves (actually, TARDIS bookshelves) to display my collection. But in the meantime I will continue to collect more books. There are many fantasy worlds I have not yet discovered.

## Bibliography

### Archetype 1: Unicorns

**1.) Peter S. Beagle. *The Last Unicorn*. New York: Roc, 1991.**

This book is one of the most well known books of modern fantasy. The title character is told by a passing butterfly that she is the last unicorn, and she goes on a quest to discover where the rest of the unicorns have gone. I love this book and it is one of my absolute favorites.

**2.) Peter S. Beagle. "Two Hearts," in *Fantasy: The Best Of The Year 2006 edition*, ed. Rich Horton, 187-219. Rockville: Prime Books, 2006.**

This novella recounts the tragic reunion of Lir and the unicorn. As the unicorn is one of my favorite characters, I read this novella to see the fate of the star-crossed lovers. I highly recommend reading *The Last Unicorn* first so that you reach the maximal capacity for sorrow upon reaching the climax of "Two Hearts".

### Archetype 2: Villains

**3.) Eve Forward. *Villains By Necessity*. New York: Tor, 1995.**

This book is highly collectible for fantasy book collectors, and may have artificially inflated the price of Sara Woods's *Villains By Necessity*. I got a hardcover, first edition, of this book from The Carry On Shop charity thrift store the *very first day* I was on the Johns Hopkins medical campus for my combined veterinary residency and graduate program. The plot is so epic that this book is the favorite book of multiple friends. The premise is that the ultimate battle of Good versus Evil has already been fought and Good won. However, since Evil was banished from the world, the world is going to ascend into a blinding flash of Goodness and Light—unless a desperate band of minor rogues can introduce Evil back into the world. Thus they are villains because they deem it necessary to save the world. It is an awesome book.

**4.) Neil Zawacki. *How To Be A Villain*. San Francisco: Chronicle Books, 2003.**

This handbook details multiple career paths for the aspiring villain. My favorite is the Mad Scientist. Since I am currently in training to become a scientist, I have firsthand knowledge of how hard it is to do science as a normal person. Therefore I'm not sure how effective Mad Scientists would be in the real world. "Your main goal," Zawacki writes, "will be to build gigantic and powerful inventions such as weather machines, doomsday devices, and giant robotic spider monsters." (Zawacki, *How To Be A Villain*, 35.) Stop everything! I think I just found the inspiration for my thesis! Muahahahaha!

### Archetype 3: Good versus Evil

**5.) Emma Bull. *War For The Oaks*. New York: Tor, 1987.**

The Seelie Court of faery battles the Unseelie Court for the fate of the world. Eddi's life gets turned upside-down when a phouka appears, thus signaling her

entrance into the war between the faery Courts. (For readers wishing to see a more ghostly phouka, I suggest Piers Anthony's *Crewel Lye*.) I also love that the plot takes advantage of the fairy archetype of a mortal dueling a faery queen with music.

**6.) Susan Cooper. *The Dark Is Rising*. New York: Scholastic, 1973.**

A young boy, Will, is integral in the fight against the Dark Rider—who is rallying his forces for the ultimate battle. Readers new to *The Dark Is Rising* series can choose to start reading at this book, or its prequel, *Over Sea, Under Stone*. I love this novel, but I was severely disappointed by the movie adaption. The only thing I liked about the movie was the casting of Christopher Eccleston as the Dark Rider. I gave up all hope for the movie as soon as I saw that they put the Dark Rider on a white horse for the poster. The Dark Rider rides a black horse in the book. The White Rider (an awesome female leader of the Dark) rides a white horse.

Archetype 4: Sovereignty of the Universe

**7.) Neil Gaiman. *THE SANDMAN: Preludes & Nocturnes*. New York: DC Vertigo, 1995.**

This book is the first of the SANDMAN series and it introduces the reader to the protagonist, Dream of the Endless, and his siblings: Destiny, Destruction, Death, Desire, Despair, and Delirium. We also meet numerous characters from fairy tales, myths, DC superheroes, and even Shakespeare. A word of caution to future readers: many of the stories in this series are not idle daydreams, but nightmares.

**8.) Piers Anthony. *On A Pale Horse*. New York: Del Rey, 1983.**

This book is the first of the *Incarnations of Immortality* series and introduces the reader to the Incarnation of Death. A young man named Zane kills—and thus becomes—Death. Zane has to quickly learn to master his new powers to try and save his lover from the machinations of the Eternal, Evil. I greatly enjoyed this series until book seven, which I did not really like. But books one through six were excellent and highly recommendable.

Archetype 5: Fairy Tales and Myths

**9.) Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm. *Grimm's Fairy Tales*, ed. George Stade. New York: Barnes and Noble Classics, 2003.**

This book contains some of my favorite fairy tales: Rapunzel, Cinderella, and the Goose Girl. The elements of these stories have been in human culture for thousands of years, but the Grimm's written collection as had a profound hand in shaping the path of modern fantasy; or so I would argue.

**10.) Ingri and Edgar Parin d'Aulaire. *D'Aulaires' Book of Greek Myths*. New York: Delacorte, 2003.**

This book has been a favorite of mine for around twenty years. It collects the most popular Greek myths and presents them in a story format suitable for children to read. The myths and illustrations first introduced me to the gods,

monsters, and heroes of Greek mythology. I especially love the monsters and the illustrations of them in this book.

Archetype 6: Fantasy Art

**11.) Neil Gaiman. *The Quotable SANDMAN*. New York: DC Vertigo, 2000.**

This book contains memorable quotes from multiple characters in the SANDMAN series and is paired with amazing illustrations and paintings of the characters. I display this book next to my mint SANDMAN action figures and my two DC SANDMAN cards. Needless to say, I want to collect more SANDMAN items.

**12.) Susan Seddon Boulet. *SHAMAN: The Paintings of Susan Seddon Boulet*. San Francisco: Pomegranate, 1989.**

This book highlights some of the works of Susan Seddon Boulet involving subjects that blur the line between human and animal. My favorite painting is “The Fox Maiden”, which graces the cover of Kij Johnson’s *The Fox Woman*.

Archetype 7: High Fantasy

**13.) Stephen R. Donaldson. *The Mirror of Her Dreams*. New York: Del Rey, 1986.**

This book is the first volume of the series. This series has a bit of everything (except for pirates): adventure, romance, evil plotting sorcerers, daring princesses, a mercenary alien, a kingdom in peril, and of course, True Love. A shy girl leaves behind her boring life when a strange man appears in one of her mirrors, and she accepts the invitation to follow him through the mirror into his world.

**14.) Stephen R. Donaldson. *A Man Rides Through*. New York: Del Rey, 1987.**

This book is the concluding volume that wraps up the multiple storylines started in the first volume. Can the kingdom be saved? Or will the evil sorcerers prevail? I have both of these books in hardcover with the Michael Whelan cover art.

Archetype 8: Epic Fantasy Series

**15.) Terry Goodkind. *Wizard’s First Rule*. New York: Tor, 1994.**

This book is the first novel of an epic series in which Good battles Evil, multiple times. Richard lives a fairly normal life as a woodsman, but when a mysterious (and beautiful) woman appears, danger will dog him for twelve (or more) books. The first book is the best, in my humble opinion.

**16.) Sara Douglass. *The Wayfarer Redemption*. New York: Tor, 2000.**

This book is the first novel in another series in which Good battles Evil. The soldier Axis has to learn the truth about who he actually is and then choose to fight for this truth. A young noblewoman, Faraday, is also entangled in the fight. I have read the first three books of this series, and hope to finish reading the series in the future.

Archetype 9: A Favorite Author

**17.) Mercedes Lackey. *The River's Gift*. New York: Roc, 1999.**

This book is a fairy tale type of story. A young woman is practicing the healing arts and meets a wounded kelpie, which changes her life for the better. It is a lovely book. Most kelpie stories do not have this ending though.

**18.) Mercedes Lackey. *The Valdemar Companion*, ed. John Helfers and Denise Little. New York: DAW, 2002**

This book contains a novella and glossary of characters from the Valdemar series. If you haven't read all of the Valdemar books yet, I would advise against glancing through the glossary to avoid potential spoilers.

Archetype 10: Some Of My Favorite Books

**19.) Mickey Zucker Reichert. *The Legend of Nightfall*. New York: DAW, 1993.**

This book recounts the legend of the infamous assassin, Nightfall. Nightfall believes he will never be caught—until he falls into a trap and is forced to become the guardian for a foolhardy young prince. I loved reading this book and I thought it was better than the sequel, but *The Return of Nightfall* is still a wonderful read.

**20.) Mary Brown. *Pigs Don't Fly*. New York: Baen, 1994.**

This book recounts how a young woman named Summer is trying to find her place in the world. She is forced to leave her home and finds other lost creatures on her journey. My favorite member of her group is not the handsome knight, but the winged-piglet. Read the book and you will understand why.

**Wish List**

**1.) Unknown, *The History of the Time War*. Gallifrey: unknown, unknown. (Steve Thompson, "Journey to the Centre of the TARDIS," *Doctor Who*, season 7, episode 11, directed by Mat King, aired April 27, 2013.)**

This book is the most coveted book on my wish list as it contains the lost history of the Time War. More importantly, this book contains *the name of the Doctor*. The book was last seen being read by the Doctor's companion, Clara Oswald, in the library of the TARDIS in an alternative timeline.

**2.) Peter S. Beagle. *The First Last Unicorn and Other Beginnings*. San Francisco: Tachyon Publications, 2015.**

This book is a collection of previously unpublished work by Beagle and contains a novella of the unicorn searching for the rest of her species. I hope it is less tragic than "Two Hearts".

**3.) Jim Butcher. *Skin Game*. New York: Roc, 2014.**

This book is number 15 in the Dresden Files series. Dresden has to perform a service as the Winter Knight (i.e. steal something) and somehow survive in the

backstabbing world of faery politics. This is one of the few series where I will buy the book immediately when it comes out in hardcover and I will read the book in one sitting. I am anxiously waiting for this book to be released so I can read it.

**4.) Steven Brust. *Hawk*. New York: Tor, 2014.**

This is book number 14 of the Vlad Taltos series. The plot is not yet released, but I am sure it will continue Vlad's story. I have read all of the other books in the Vlad Taltos series, and I am starting to read the books associated with the series.

**5.) Kristen Britain. *Mirror Sight*. New York: DAW, 2014.**

This is book number 5 of the Green Rider series. Karigan is still fighting the ancient evil trying to lay claim to the world—and I hope Karigan will start fighting for her one true love in this book. I have read all the previous books in this series and I look forward to reading this one given the abrupt ending of the last book.

**6.) James Goss and Steve Tribe. *The Doctor: His Lives and Times*. Britain: BBC Books, 2013.**

I am a Whovian, and so this is a book I really want to get my hands on! I'm not sure why it is only published in Britain as there are lots of Doctor Who fans in the United States as well.

**7.) Terry Goodkind. *Unknown*. Unknown: unknown, unknown.**

This book will be the next Richard and Kahlan novel, hopefully concluding the open story threads from Goodkind's *The Third Kingdom*. I was severely disappointed by Goodkind's *The Omen Machine* and *The Third Kingdom*; however, I will give the author one more chance to win me back as a reader since I loved most of *The Sword of Truth* novels.

**8.) Dan Abnett. *Doctor Who: The Silent Stars Go By*. Britain: BBC Books, 2013.**

This is a collection of eleven stories about the Eleventh Doctor. The Eleventh Doctor is my favorite. I crave more adventures with the Eleventh Doctor now that the television series has moved on to the next Doctor.

**9.) George R.R. Martin. *Dance With Dragons: Dreams and Dust (A Song of Ice and Fire)*. USA: Harper Voyager, 2012.**

I am currently only a quarter of the way through the first book in the series. I love reading paperback books, so I look forward to reading this one. I have the first four books in the series already on my bookshelf.

**10.) George R.R. Martin. *Dance With Dragons: After the Feast (A Song of Ice and Fire)*. USA: Bantam, 2012.**

After I read the first half of *Dance With Dragons* I will immediately start reading the second half. (This is why I have placed reading this series on hold while I pursue my graduate course work this spring.)