



## Quarantine Reading List

Reading can be a great way to relax and escape from everyday stress—something we all need a little bit of these days. That said, I can't tell you how many people have told me how difficult they have found it to read during quarantine because they just can't focus or get into a book. I think certain genres lend themselves to grabbing and keeping our attention, and what better than fantasy/sci-fi to help us escape our surreal reality?

Luckily there have been some great ones in the last few years to try:

*Ninth House* by Leigh Bardugo is the first of a planned trilogy and I almost wish that I had waited for her to finish all of them so I could read through the series in one sitting. Galaxy "Alex" Stern finds herself at Yale as a result of her mysterious ability that the secret societies there want to exploit. The action is non-stop, the characters are smart and funny, the plot convoluted but not oppressive and the writing is spot on. It's Harry Potter for grown-ups—or at least older teenagers as there are adult situations and other mature themes your tweens might not be ready for.

N.K. Jemisin (*Broken Earth Trilogy* and *Inheritance Trilogy*) began a new series this year with *The City We Became*, bringing her amazing talent to a contemporary earth setting for the first time. The Enemy—in the guise of a white woman—has set its sight on destroying New York by planting seeds of hatred, and all that stands in its way are six people. Each one embodies the city's boroughs and New York itself, and they represent the varied populous that live there—white, black, straight, gay, multiple ethnicities, etc., and Jemisin pulls no punches in this metaphorical battle against white supremacy. The *City We Became* moves fast and sometimes even turbulently—it is not for the faint of heart with some profanity, PG violence, and adult situations.



Want a finished series to binge through? Katherine Arden successfully completed *The Winternight Trilogy* last year with *The Winter of the Witch* and it did not disappoint. Based on Russian fables, the books follow Vasalisa on her journey from her remote village in the wilderness to aristocratic Moscow and back. Drenched in mysticism, magic, and all kinds of folk story-ish characters, all three books allow readers to immerse themselves in a frozen, historical world. Begin with the first book, *The Bear and The Nightengale* and you will not be disappointed.

Other fantasy/sci-fi books I recommend:

*The Red Rising Series* by Pierce Brown

*The Night Circus* by Erin Morgenstern

*The Chosen Ones* by Veronica Roth

*Dread Nation* by Justina Ireland

