

GIRLS WHO KICK BUTT

The heroines in these books don't have time to chat – they're too busy fighting evil, saving the world, and just generally being awesome!

Shadowland

By Meg Cabot

YA CABOT

After moving from New York to California with her newly married mother, 16-year-old mediator Susannah has to cope not only with her new stepbrothers, but also with the handsome ghost sitting in her new bedroom and the angry girl ghost haunting her new school. [First in a series]

Heist Society

By Ally Carter

YA CARTER

A group of teenagers uses their combined talents to re-steal several priceless paintings and save fifteen-year-old Kat Bishop's father, himself an international art thief, from a vengeful collector. [First in a series]

I'd Tell You I Love You, But Then I'd Have to Kill You

By Ally Carter

YA CARTER

As a sophomore at a secret spy school and the daughter of a former CIA operative, Cammie is sheltered from "normal teenage life" until she meets a local boy while on a class surveillance mission. [First in a series]

Graceling

By Kristin Cashore

YA CASHORE

In a world where some people are born with extreme and often-feared skills called Graces, Katsa struggles for redemption from her own horrifying Grace, the Grace of killing, and teams up with another young fighter to save their land from a corrupt king. [Has companion novel: *Fire*]

Devil's Kiss

By Sarwat Chadda

YA CHADDA

Fifteen-year-old Billi SanGreal has grown up knowing that being a member of the Knights Templar puts her in danger, but if she is to save London from catastrophe she must make sacrifices greater than she imagined. [First in a series]

City of Bones

By Cassandra Clare

YA CLARE

Suddenly able to see demons and the Darkhunters who are dedicated to returning them to their own dimension, fifteen-year-old Clary Fray is drawn into this bizarre world when her mother disappears and Clary herself is almost killed by a monster. [First in a series]

Clockwork Angel

By Cassandra Clare

YA CLARE

When sixteen-year-old orphan Tessa Fell's older brother suddenly vanishes, her search for him leads her into Victorian-era London's dangerous supernatural underworld, and when she discovers that she herself is a Downworlder, she must learn to trust the demon-killing Shadowhunters if she ever wants to learn to control her powers and find her brother. [First in a series]

The Hunger Games

By Suzanne Collins

YA COLLINS

In a future North America, where the rulers of Panem maintain control through an annual televised survival competition pitting young people from each of the twelve districts against one another, sixteen-year-old Katniss's skills are put to the test when she voluntarily takes her younger sister's place. [First in a series]

Book of a Thousand Days

By Shannon Hale

JFIC HALE

Fifteen-year-old Dashti, sworn to obey her sixteen-year-old mistress, the Lady Saren, shares Saren's years of punishment locked in a tower, then brings her safely to the lands of her true love, where both must hide who they are as they work as kitchen maids.

Skulduggery Pleasant

By Derek Landy

YA LANDY

When twelve-year-old Stephanie inherits her weird uncle's estate, she must join forces with Skulduggery Pleasant, a skeleton mage, to save the world from the Faceless Ones. [First in a series]

Vampire Academy

By Richelle Mead

YA MEAD

Two years after a horrible incident made them run away, vampire princess Lissa and her guardian-in-training Rose are found and returned to St. Vladimir's Academy, where one focuses on mastering magic, the other on physical training, while both try to avoid the perils of gossip, cliques, gruesome pranks, and sinister plots. [First in a series]

Rampant

By Diana Peterfreund

JFIC PETERFREUND

After sixteen-year-old Astrid Llewelyn survives a vicious unicorn attack, she learns that she is a descendant of the most famous unicorn hunter of all time and she must travel to Rome, Italy, to train in the ancient arts in order to carry on her family legacy and save the world from the threat posed by the reemergence of lethal unicorns. [First in a series]

Alanna: The First Adventure

By Tamora Pierce

JFIC PIERCE

Eleven-year-old Alanna, who aspires to be a knight even though she is a girl, disguises herself as a boy to become a royal page, learning many hard lessons along her path to high adventure. [First in a series]

Trickster's Choice

By Tamora Pierce

YA PIERCE

Alianne must call forth her mother's courage and her father's wit in order to survive on the Copper Isles in a royal court rife with political intrigue and murderous conspiracy. [First in a series]

Ninth Ward

By Jewell Parker Rhodes

JFIC RHODES

In New Orleans' Ninth Ward, twelve-year-old Lanessa, who can see spirits, and her adopted grandmother have no choice but to stay and weather the storm as Hurricane Katrina bears down upon them.