

## MAGICAL REALISM

(fiction stories in which the real and the magical exist in the same stream of thought)

**Allen, Sarah Addison. Garden Spells.** The women of the Waverley family are heirs to an unusual legacy that grows in a fenced plot behind their home. An apple tree bearing fruit of magical properties looms over a garden filled with herbs and edible flowers. These fruits and flowers possess the power to affect in curious ways anyone who eats them.

**Allen, Sarah Addison. The Sugar Queen.** Josey has settled into an uneventful life in her mother's house. Her one consolation is the stockpile of sugary treats and paperback romances she escapes to each night - until she finds her closet harboring none other than local waitress Della Lee Baker, a tough-talking, tenderhearted woman who is one part nemesis and two parts fairy godmother.

**Allende, Isabel. The House of the Spirits.** Esteban is a volatile, proud man whose voracious pursuit of political power is tempered only by his love for his delicate wife, Clara, a woman with a mystical connection to the spirit world. When their daughter Blanca embarks on a forbidden love affair in defiance of her implacable father, the result is an unexpected gift for all.

**Bender, Aimee. The Particular Sadness of Lemon Cake.** On the eve of her ninth birthday unassuming Rose Edelstein, a girl at the periphery of schoolyard games and her distracted parents' attention, bites into her mother's homemade lemon-chocolate cake and discovers she has a magical gift. She can taste her mother's emotions in the cake.

**Erdrich, Louise. Love Medicine.** Set on and around a North Dakota Ojibwa reservation, this is an epic story about the intertwined fates of two families: the Kashpaws and the Lamartines. Filled with humor, magic, injustice and betrayal, Erdrich blends family love and loyalty in a stunning work of dramatic fiction.

**Esquivel, Laura. Like Water for Chocolate.** This sumptuous feast of a novel relates the bizarre history of the all-female De La Garza family. Tita, the youngest daughter of the house has been forbidden to marry and condemned by Mexican tradition to look after her mother until she dies. But then Tita falls in love with Pedro whom she seduces with the magical food she cooks.

**Gaiman, Neil. Neverwhere.** Under the streets of London there is a place most people would never dream of. Monsters and saints, murderers and angels, knights in armor and pale girls in black velvet exist together in this city of people who have fallen between the cracks.

**Gaiman, Neil. The Ocean at the End of the Lane.** A middle-aged man returns to his childhood home to attend a funeral. He visits a ramshackle old farmhouse and the unremembered past comes flooding back. And it is a past too strange, too frightening, too dangerous to have happened to anyone, let alone a small boy.

**Graham, Janice. Firebird.** In the tradition of the *Horse Whisperer* comes a story of a man caught between two women. This is a story of universal truths – of the love between men and women and mothers and daughters and of passion that transcends tragedy and death.

**Hamill, Pete. Forever.** Cormac O'Connor arrives in New York in 1740 and remains ... forever. He is granted immortality as long as he never leaves the island of Manhattan. Through his eyes we watch New York grow from a tiny settlement on the tip of an untamed wilderness to the thriving metropolis of today.

**Hoffman, Alice. The Ice Queen.** When a small town librarian is struck by lightning and survives, she finds that she is freezing from the inside out. Baffled by this development she searches for a man aptly named Lazarus Jones, who also has gone through the same ordeal and yet has become her perfect opposite. While she is frozen, he is constantly burning.

**Hoffman, Alice. Practical Magic.** Sally and Gillian Owens are orphaned at a young age and are taken to a small town to be raised by their eccentric aunts. As they become more aware of their aunts' mysterious and sometimes frightening powers -- and as their own powers begin to surface -- the sisters grow determined to escape their strange upbringing by blending into "normal" society.

**Lafferty, Mur. The Shambling Guide to New York City.** A travel writer takes a job with a shady publishing company in New York, only to find that she must write a guide to the city - for the undead!

**Morgenstern, Erin. The Night Circus.** The circus arrives without warning. No announcements precede it. It is simply there, when yesterday it was not. Within the black-and-white striped canvas tents is an utterly unique experience full of breathtaking amazements. It is called *Le Cirque des Rêves*, and it is only open at night.

**Niffenegger, Audrey. The Time Traveler's Wife.** Clare is a beautiful art student, and Henry is an adventuresome librarian. They have known each other since Clare was six and Henry was thirty-six, and were married when Clare was twenty-three and Henry thirty-one. Impossible but true, because Henry is one of the first people diagnosed with Chrono-Displacement Disorder, making him a time traveler.

**Russell, Karen. Swamplandia!** Ava, a resourceful but terrified twelve-year-old, must manage seventy gators and the vast, inscrutable landscape of her own grief. Her mother, Swamplandia!'s legendary headliner, has just died; her sister is having an affair with a ghost called the Dredgeman; her brother has secretly defected to the World of Darkness in a last-ditch effort to keep their sinking family afloat; and her father, Chief Bigtree, is AWOL. To save her family, Ava must journey on her own to a perilous part of the swamp called the "Underworld," a harrowing odyssey from which she emerges a true heroine.