

Author Read Alike

Laurell K. Hamilton

Genre: Urban Fantasy

When you tire of reading the latest teen vampire book, it may be time for you to take it to the next level by reading Laurell K. Hamilton, whose books have been described as grown up versions of the **Buffy the Vampire Slayer** TV series.

Hamilton's books are divided into two series, **Anita Blake: Vampire Hunter**, and the **Merry Gentry** series.

The **Anita Blake: Vampire Hunter** series is what Hamilton is most famous for, currently standing at 17 novels. The series follows Anita Blake, a diminutive vampire executioner, Federal Marshall, and necromancer, in a world where vampires and wereanimals mingle with regular humans.

When the vampires and other creatures get out of line, Blake springs into action. The books are part detective story, part horror, part fantasy. Readers should start with **Guilty Pleasures**, which introduces Blake and the world of the vampires. The stories are brutal, violent, and very sexual. **Anita Blake** recently became a graphic novel series, which are interpretations of the novels.

The **Merry Gentry** series, like the Anita Blake series, is part detective story, part fantasy story. It centers around Meredith NicEssus, a fairy princess and private investigator in a world where fairies live among humans. The books also take on an alternate history tone with past



Laurell K. Hamilton

events and people intertwined with fairy folk. The first book in the series is **A Kiss of Shadows**.

Hamilton has also contributed short stories to several anthologies including: **Bite**, **Out of this World**, and **Cravings**.

Read Alike—Charlaine Harris

Part romance and part fantasy, Harris' hugely successful **Sookie Stackhouse** series centers around a telepathic waitress who falls in love with a 175 year old vampire named Bill Compton

In Stackhouse's world, vampires exist out in the

open, but receive varying levels of tolerance and acceptance by humans.

The book series inspired the HBO series **True Blood** featuring Anna Paquin that recently completed its second season. The first book in the series is **Dead Until Dark**.

In addition to the **Sookie** series Harris has a second urban fantasy series featuring **Harper Connelly**, a young woman who was struck by lightning and is now able to find the final resting place of the dead. The first book in the Harper Connelly series is **Grave Sight**.

plainfield
PUBLIC
library

800 Park Avenue
Plainfield, NJ
07060

908-757-1111
ref@plfdpl.info

Read Alike—Patricia Briggs

Like Hamilton's books, Brigg's **Mercedes Thompson Series** takes place in a world where vampires, werewolves and fairy folk are real.

The main character, Mercedes Thompson, a young woman of Native American origin who was raised by werewolves.

However, while a shifter, Mercedes is a "Walker" (a Native American shapeshifter not linked to the moon) who turns into a coyote, a gift she inherited from her father. The first book in the series is ***Moon Called***.

Briggs has a second series set in the same world as

Mercedes Thompson. The **Alpha and Omega** series follows members of the werewolf pack that raised Mercedes. Specifically it follows Charles (the Alpha) and Anna (the Omega) in their adventures together. The first book in the series is ***Cry Wolf***.

Read Alike—Kim Harrison

Instead of a necromancer or fairy detective, Harrison's character in her **Rachel Morgan** series, also known as **The Hollows** series, is a witch.

Like Hamilton's Anita Blake, Morgan is also a detective of sorts, however Rachel lives in a world

where a virus decimated the world's human population and supernatural beings (Inderlanders) have taken center stage.

Set primarily in the city of Cincinnati, the city itself is mostly separated in two parts. The main part of the town (usually called

downtown) where the humans live, and the enclave on the opposite side of the river nicknamed "The Hollows" where most of the Inderlanders in Cincinnati live. The first book in the series is ***Dead Witch Walking***.

Read Alike—Sherrilyn Kenyon

Kenyon is best known for her **Dark-Hunter** series, which is about warriors pledged to destroy vampires, gods, and goddesses working to destroy mankind.

The series centers around the group of warriors, or Dark-Hunters, who are led by the mysterious Acheron

on their quest to protect the humans from the supernatural creatures they don't even know exist.

In addition to fighting evil forces each Dark-Hunter is looking for their soul-mate, the only woman who can return their soul to them after centuries of darkness and battle.

The first book is called **Fantasy Lover**. Kenyon has written many other series under her name and as Kinley MacGregor.