

Every prolific author has that one book or series that will be associated with their name until the end of time: J.K. Rowling's *Harry Potter*, Suzanne Collins's *Hunger Games*, Frederick Bachman's *A Man Called Ove*, Stephenie Meyer's *Twilight*, Kristen Hannah's *Firefly Lane*, Christopher Paolini's *Eragon* -- the list only grows from there.

These books are so well-known and internationally beloved that they've been given their own screen adaptations. Bachman's *Ove* is even getting a second movie in the form of an Americanized remake this year (be on the lookout for *A Man Called Otto*, as American audiences can't quite grasp the name *Ove*).

George R.R. Martin's *Song of Fire and Ice* series inspired a television series (maybe you've heard of it?), Rowling's wizard series boasts movies, video games, and a theme park, and Meyer's angsty vampires made being a brooding teenager cool again. While Paolini's *Eragon* big screen adaptation in 2006 was a universally acknowledged failure, the book series is loved and adored all over the world.

There's comfort in these titles as well. *Harry Potter* encouraged us to grieve the loss of loved ones, and told us that it was okay to lean on your friends, while *The Hunger Games* taught us to never give up no matter how unfavorable the odds. *Twilight* gave us permission to choose our own destinies. Who knows what lesson *The Song of Fire and Ice* will give us, as we are all patiently waiting for that series' conclusion (looking at you, George R.R. Martin...). These novels are iconic; books that have been read and reread billions of times, and will continue to be read and reread until civilization collapses, and even then they will live on.

Okay, enough sentimentality. I could go on and on about "the books that made us," but these aren't the only works these authors have penned. What about the other books, the ones that have fallen off the radar because their wordy siblings are so famous?

Having published *Eragon* at the tender age of 15, there were a lot of expectations for Christopher Paolini's future career. After finishing the quartet in 2011 with the publication of *Inheritance*, Paolini turned his attention to a more mature audience with his first work of adult fiction, *To Sleep in a Sea of Stars* (2020). The novel follows Kira Navárez, a xenobiologist in the 23rd century who accidentally disturbs an ancient - and sentient - alien technology that binds itself to her body. The story is sprawling, covering whole galaxies and opening up the future Fractalverse series. Don't be intimidated by its heft - lovers of science fiction will enjoy all 880 pages of thrilling space adventure.

Published five years before *The Hunger Games*, *Gregor the Overlander* (2003) is the first book of Suzanne Collins's fantasy series *The Underland Chronicles*. It follows an eleven year old boy who finds himself in an underground world called The Underlan. He must align with the kingdom's humans to battle King Groger and his army of oversized rats to fulfill the "Prophecy of Gray" and undercover the mysterious disappearance of his father. Unlike Collins's tale about Katniss Everdeen, targeted at a young adult audience, Gregor's epic journey is tailor made for young readers. Give this one a chance to become one of your family's favorites!

While we all know the Twilight series, and many have also read Stephanie's Meyer's first non-vampire novel, *The Host*, far fewer have discovered 2016's *The Chemist*. This offering can't quite live up to Meyer's first novels, but despite its 500+ page length, it's a quick read for those of us who enjoy suspense thrillers and detective novels. The heroine - whose real name we never learn - is a former government interrogator on the run after leaving her top secret position. The offer of a chance to clear her name is too tantalizing to resist, but who can be trusted? Once this novel picks up steam, you won't be able to put it down.

We are naturally creatures of comfort and seek out books that we can read year after year. We gladly get together and have heated debates about what we would name our dragons, whether to choose Team Edward or Team Jacob, and how far we would make it in the Hunger Games. You can continue to love the books that made your favorite author famous, but give their lesser known titles a chance - you never know what you might discover.