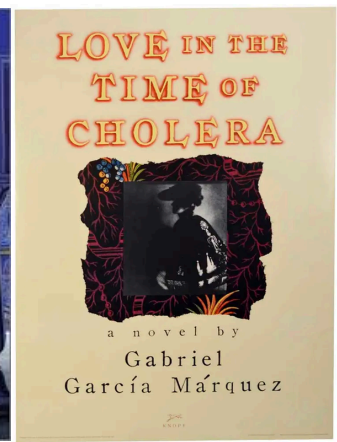
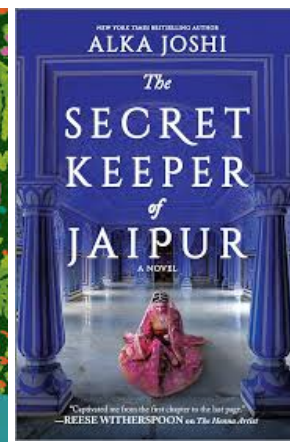
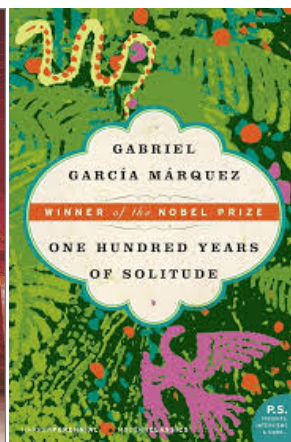
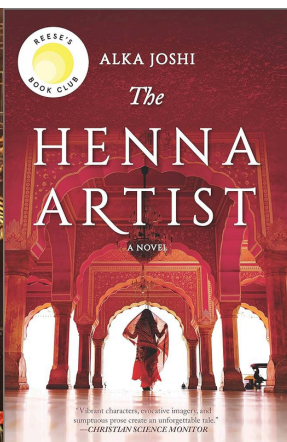
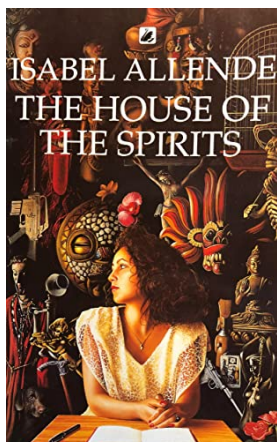


Literary Reads with Magical Realism and Gothic Elements

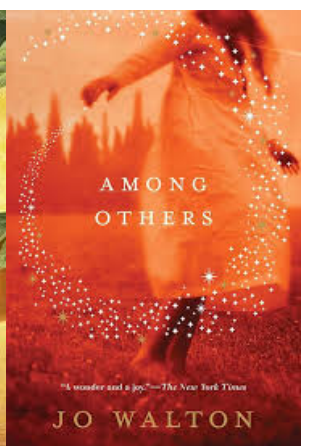
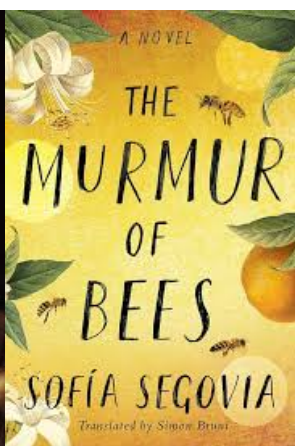
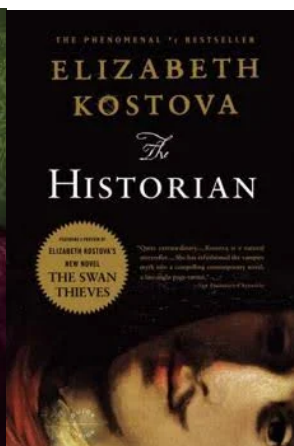
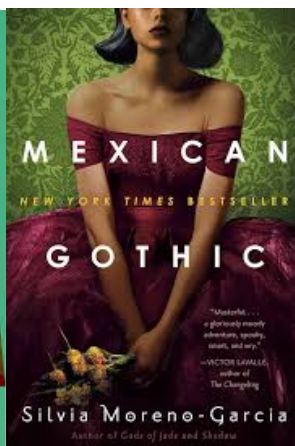
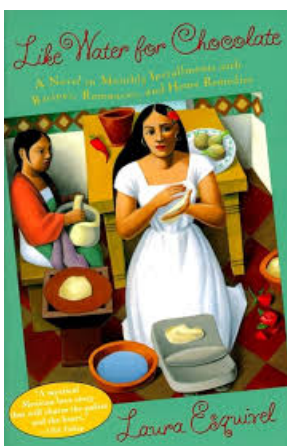
*This patron really enjoyed the books *Chocolat* and *The Shadow of the Wind* and wanted to find something with similar vibes. She particularly liked the elements of magic and the foreign settings.*

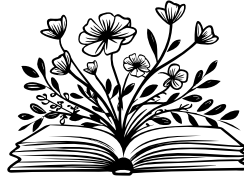
- **Isabel Allende's work.** Recommended for fans of both *Chocolat* and *The Shadow of the Wind*. Quintessential Latin American magical realist author who writes complex character-driven books with lyrical prose and atmospheric vibes, often involved in multi-generational sagas. Start with her classic ***The House of the Spirits***, which combines historical fiction with mystical elements in its chronicle of a Chilean family's fortunes.
- **Gabriel Garcia Marquez's work.** Another iconic Latin American magical realist writer, recommended for *The Shadow of the Wind* fans. Like Allende, he writes novels that are known for their evocative prose and haunting atmosphere, as well as their complex characters. Start with ***100 Years of Solitude*** (about a mythical town, based on his hometown in Colombia) and ***Love in the Time of Cholera*** (about a love triangle).
- **Alka Joshi's Henna Artist trilogy.** Highly recommended for fans of *Chocolat*, this series follows a spirited young Indian woman who flees an abusive marriage and reinvents herself in the city of Jaipur as a talented henna artist in the years after the country gains independence. Noted for its vivid depictions of Jaipur and other locations.
- **Laura Esquivel's *Like Water for Chocolate*.** Often recommended for fans of *Chocolat* because of its elegant prose, magical realism elements, focus on complex characters, and strong sense of place, this book is set in Mexico. Tita cannot marry her love Pedro because of a family tradition, so she channels her frustration and passion into her work as the family chef.





- **Silvia Moreno-Garcia's *Mexican Gothic*.** The author writes highly atmospheric gothic/horror fiction that blends with other genres and has some overlap with *The Shadow of the Wind*. This novel is an homage to the classic Gothic novel *Rebecca* but set in 1950s Mexico and follows a young woman who finds herself in an eerie mansion full of secrets.
- **Elizabeth Kostova's *The Historian*.** This is technically a Dracula novel but it isn't actually horror. It's more historical fiction that features lots of exotic atmospheric settings as the scholarly characters criss-cross Europe trying to figure out what is going on while Dracula mainly lurks in the background. It's not a deep dive into any one location but features highly evocative depictions of numerous European countries and cities, as well as a suspenseful, haunting tone and complex characters.
- **Sofia Segovia's *The Murmur of Bees*.** Set in the author's native Mexico, this evocative, haunting coming-of-age book blends both historical fiction and magical realism as it follows an orphan with mysterious powers against the backdrop of the Mexican Revolution.
- **Jo Walton's *Among Others*.** This is one of the more overtly magical books on the list and often comes up as a recommendation for *The Shadow of the Wind* fans. It is set in 1970s Wales and England, and young Morwenna has powers that put her at odds with her mother and with the world at large. She also has a strong connection with the science fiction books she finds solace in. Walton herself also has a flair for suspense and elegant prose.
- **Erin Morgenstern's *The Night Circus*.** This recommendation is also more of a fantasy than the other books listed, but it often comes up as a readalike suggestion for *The Shadow of the Wind*. It is set in a highly atmospheric night circus in Victorian England and follows the love story of two rival circus performers. It has a rich, haunting, dreamlike atmosphere and compelling, mysterious characters.





- **Markus Zusak's *The Book Thief*.** This intense, haunting YA novel is historical fiction about a German girl who helps hide a Jewish man during World War II, but it has a magical realism element in that it is narrated by Death.
- **Peter Hoeg's work.** A Danish writer, Hoeg is highly recommended for fans of *The Shadow of the Wind*. He blends magical realism with Scandinavian bleakness. Start with ***Smilla's Sense of Snow***. It's a suspenseful literary thriller/mystery about a Greenlander living in Denmark who believes her neighbor's tragic death was no accident. She soon launches her own independent investigation to discover the truth and finds herself drawn into a world of conspiracy.
- **Umberto Eco's work.** This Italian writer is often recommended as a readalike for *The Shadow of the Wind* fans. His work is more esoteric but also has a literary style and complex but engaging and suspenseful stories in vividly detailed settings. Start with ***In The Name of the Rose***, an unusual medieval murder mystery set in an Italian monastery.

