

WTBBL Book List:

Found Families

Sometimes family is more than just blood; it can be chosen, found, or created. Here are some of our favorite “found families” in literature!

Legends & Lattes: A Novel of High Fantasy and Low Stakes by Travis Baldree, 2022. ([BR024733](#), [DB111420](#), en español [DB122449](#))

After a lifetime of bounties and bloodshed, Viv is hanging up her sword. The battle-weary orc aims to start fresh, opening the first coffee shop in the city of Thune. But old and new rivals stand in the way— not to mention the fact that no one has the faintest idea what coffee actually is. –description from publisher’s website

A Darker Shade of Magic by Victoria Schwab, 2015. ([BR020752](#), [DB081154](#), en español [DBG17674](#))

Kell is one of the last Antari—magicians with a rare ability to travel between parallel Londons; Red, Grey, White, and, once upon a time, Black. Officially, Kell serves the rulers of Red London as an ambassador, traveling between White London and the court of George III in Grey London, the one without any magic left. Unofficially, Kell is a smuggler, servicing people willing to pay for small glimpses of another world. After an exchange goes awry, Kell escapes to Grey London and runs into cutpurse Delilah Bard, who first robs him, then saves him from a deadly enemy, and finally forces Kell to spirit her to another world for a proper adventure. Now perilous magic is afoot, and treachery lurks at every turn. To save all of the worlds, they'll first need to stay alive. –description from publisher’s website

The Girl Who Drank the Moon by Kelly Barnhill, 2016.
([BR021836](#), [DB085739](#))

Every year, the people of the Protectorate leave a baby as an offering to the witch who lives in the forest, hoping this sacrifice will keep her from terrorizing their town. But the witch in the Forest, Xan, is kind. Xan rescues the children and delivers them to welcoming families on the other side of the forest, nourishing the babies with starlight on the journey. One year, Xan accidentally feeds a baby moonlight instead of starlight, filling the ordinary child with extraordinary magic. Xan decides she must raise this girl, whom she calls Luna, as her own. As Luna's 13th birthday approaches, her magic begins to emerge with dangerous consequences. – description from publisher's website

Lumberjanes: Unicorn Power! by Mariko Tamaki, 2017.
([DB093046](#))

Welcome to Miss Qiunzella Thiskwin Penniquiquil Thistle Crumpet's Camp for Hardcore Lady Types. The five scouts of Roanoke cabin—Jo, April, Molly, Mal, and Ripley—love their summers at camp. They get to hang out with their best friends, earn Lumberjane scout badges, annoy their no-nonsense counselor Jen...and go on supernatural adventures. That last one? A pretty normal occurrence at Miss Qiunzella's, where the woods contain endless mysteries. Today is no exception. – description from library catalog

Under a Painted Sky by Stacey Lee, 2015. ([DBC06850](#))

Missouri, 1849: Samantha dreams of moving back to New York to be a professional musician—not an easy thing if you’re a girl, and harder still if you’re Chinese. A tragic accident dashes any hopes of fulfilling her dream, and instead, leaves her fearing for her life. With the help of Annamae, on the run herself from slavery, Samantha flees town for the unknown frontier. But life on the Oregon Trail is unsafe for two girls, so they disguise themselves as Sammy and Andy, two boys headed for the California gold rush. Sammy and Andy forge a powerful bond as they each search for a link to their past, and struggle to avoid any unwanted attention. – description from Goodreads

Light from Uncommon Stars by Ryka Aoki, 2021. ([BR024241](#), [DB105930](#))

Shizuka Satomi made a deal with the devil to escape damnation: she must entice seven other violin prodigies to trade their souls for success. She has already delivered six. When Katrina Nguyen, a young transgender runaway, catches Shizuka's ear with her wild talent, Shizuka can almost feel the curse lifting. But in a donut shop off a bustling highway in the San Gabriel Valley, Shizuka meets Lan Tran, retired starship captain, interstellar refugee, and mother of four. Shizuka doesn't have time for crushes or coffee dates, what with her very soul on the line, but Lan's kind smile and eyes like stars might just redefine a soul's worth. And maybe something as small as a warm donut is powerful enough to break a curse as vast as the California coastline. –description adapted from Goodreads

Upright Women Wanted by Sarah Gailey, 2020. ([DB098684](#))

Esther is a stowaway. She's hidden herself away in the Librarian's book wagon in an attempt to escape the marriage her father has arranged for her—a marriage to the man who was previously engaged to her best friend. Her best friend who she was in love with. Her best friend who was just executed for possession of resistance propaganda. The future American Southwest is full of bandits, fascists, and queer librarian spies on horseback trying to do the right thing. They'll bring the fight to you. – description from Goodreads

Vera Wong's Unsolicited Advice for Murderers by Jesse Q. Sutanto, 2023. ([DB113039](#))

Sixty-year-old self-proclaimed tea expert Vera Wong enjoys nothing more than sipping a good cup of Wulong and doing some healthy “detective” work on the internet (AKA checking up on her son to see if he's dating anybody yet). But when Vera wakes up one morning to find a dead man in the middle of her tea shop, it's going to take more than a strong Longjing to fix things. – description adapted from library catalog and Goodreads

Sandry's Book by Tamora Pierce, 1997. ([DB049333](#))

First book in the Circle of Magic series. With her gift of weaving silk thread and creating light, Sandry is brought to the Winding Circle community. There she meets Briar, a former thief who has a way with plants; Daja, an outcast gifted at metalcraft; and Tris, whose connection with the weather unsettles everyone, including herself. At Winding Circle, the four misfits are taught how to use their magic - and to trust one another. – description from Goodreads

The Thursday Murder Club by Richard Osman, 2020. ([DB100981](#), en español [DB104861](#))

In a peaceful retirement village, four unlikely friends meet weekly in the Jigsaw Room to discuss unsolved crimes; together they call themselves the Thursday Murder Club. When a local developer is found dead with a mysterious photograph left next to the body, the Thursday Murder Club suddenly find themselves in the middle of their first live case. As the bodies begin to pile up, can our unorthodox but brilliant gang catch the killer, before it's too late? – description from publisher's website

Witch King by Martha Wells, 2023. ([DB114938](#), en español [DB123734](#))

After being murdered, his consciousness dormant and unaware of the passing of time, demon Kai wakes to find a lesser mage attempting to harness Kai's magic to his own advantage. That was never going to go well. But why was Kai imprisoned in the first place? What has changed in the world since his assassination? Kai will need to pull his allies close and draw on all his pain magic if he is to answer even the least of these questions. He's not going to like the answers. – Book description from publisher's website

The Lies of Locke Lamora by Scott Lynch, 2006. ([DB078165](#))

An orphan's life is harsh—and often short—in the mysterious island city of Camorr. But young Locke Lamora dodges death and slavery, becoming a thief under the tutelage of a gifted con artist. As leader of the band of light-fingered brothers known as the Gentleman Bastards, Locke is soon infamous, fooling even the underworld's most feared ruler. But in the shadows lurks someone still more ambitious and deadly. – description from Goodreads