

100 LESS THAN  
USEFUL BOOKS TO  
FIND ON A FANTASY  
BOOKSHELF

AZUKAIL  
GAMES

# 100 LESS THAN USEFUL BOOKS TO FIND ON A FANTASY BOOKSHELF

Adventurers will often come across books in various places during their travels, especially in the residences of those foes, or friends, of a more learned nature, such as wizards, priests and sages. Some of these books may be useful or valuable, but what about the rest of them? Not every book found will be of relevance to a quest, or even useful, so here is a listing of books that can be used to further flesh out a bookshelf, with books that are, by and large, junk. In some cases, simply owning a library of books confers status, even if the books are not really of any relevance.

None of the books described here are particularly useful or valuable in themselves, but given that books themselves are comparatively rare, they will have usually some small value, perhaps 1d6 gp at most, or even as low as 1d2 gp. They will also have weight, perhaps 1d6 pounds, for those players who insist on stripping a room of all of its valuables and carting them away.

## CREDITS

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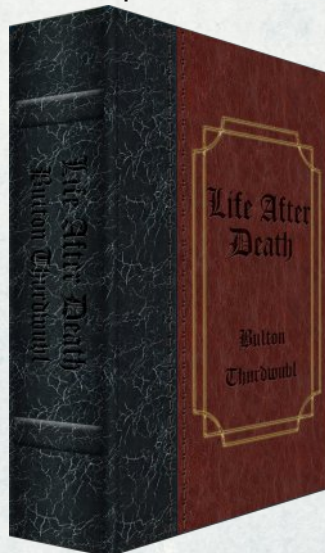
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## COMPATIBILITY

This product is designed to be system agnostic and usable with any pen and paper fantasy role playing game system.

The books listed here have their name, the author's name, whether the book is fiction or non-fiction and some notes on their contents. They do not have to be books either, as these could also be found as scrolls, or perhaps clay or stone tablets. In both cases the value would be reduced and in the latter case the tablets would be much harder to transport, and much heavier.

When players ask what the books they find are, either pick them randomly by rolling d100, or choose preferred results.



1. *101 Uses for a Dead Kobold* by **Arkon Deguul** - Non-fiction, most of them not terribly useful, but including such as stuffed door stops, small stools and mounted heads; a book really not appreciated by kobolds themselves
2. *657 Days in Hell* by **Ruthergot Tradswell** - Fiction, a thriller about a woman who was kidnapped
3. *A Biography of Brother Bornat* by **Joist Hinchdrew** - Non-fiction, an accurate biography of a little-known minor religious figure
4. *A Children's Hymnal* by **Father Jondir** - Non-fiction, a collection of bland religious songs suitable for children
5. *A Guide to the Windward Isles* by **Sleaford Nibbins** - Non-fiction, a dated, and perhaps now inaccurate, guidebook to a group of islands
6. *A History of Gravestone Design* by **Lasilous Shorg** - Non-fiction, how gravestone designs have changed and evolved over the years
7. *Alchemy of the Divine* by **Excrutior Tarnackis** - Non-fiction, a book on spiritual alchemy and how it stems from and reveals the divine
8. *An Alternative Approach* by **Gisbert Mundinning** - Non-fiction, it presents a different, and useless, way of interacting with other people
9. *Ancestor Worship of the Desert Ancients* by **Master Petrie** - Non-fiction, a scholarly and hard to read, for those lacking academic knowledge in the specific field, work
10. *An Explorer's Guide to the Underearth* by **Filgar Yuus** - Fiction, but not obviously such, a fantastical account of the author's invented adventurers under the ground
11. *An In-depth Guide to Cheese Rolling* by **Erasmus Ostern** - Non-fiction, a history of the sport, cheese rolling techniques and official cheese types; utterly boring to any who aren't interested in it
12. *A Short History of the Longsword* by **Ragnad Thrug** - Non-fiction, Thrug fancied that he had a sense of humour, hence the title, and the completely unfunny book follows suit
13. *A Tale of Two Tigers* by **Dionis Yatterly** - Fiction, a children's story about the adventures of a pair of talking tigers
14. *A Tragedy of Errors* by **Billam Sharesoar** - Fiction, a rather depressing play where the main character's life falls apart following one error after another
15. *Basic Armour Maintenance* by **Hamgor Kopligh** - Non-fiction, covers little more than oiling and keeping armour dry to prevent rust, but in excruciatingly boring detail
16. *Beer and How to Drink It* by **Troipgan Beermeister** - Non-fiction, descriptions of beers from different regions and different types of drinking vessels
17. *Beneath the Waves* by **Yorig Varn** - Fiction, a story about a group of adventurers who travel the seas beneath the surface in a magical boat and the things they encounter there
18. *Better Towers and Dungeons* by **Hildra Loodsat** - Non-fiction, how to make a wizard's lair, whether above- or underground, a more pleasant place to live for its occupant
19. *Beyond the Veil of Death* by **Unig Kol** - Non-fiction, an existential examination of life after death; doesn't match with any known facts
20. *Big Book of Riddles* by **Kilf Drogan** - Non-fiction, a collection of over 1,000 fairly simplistic riddles
21. *Bone and Blade* by **Aardgar Brift** - Non-fiction, an unnecessarily thorough discussion on how bones can chip the blades of weapons and ways in which the damage can be reduced or prevented
22. *Cheeses and Cheesemaking* by **Flitherwick Chesman** - Non-fiction, a catalogue of many, many different

cheeses and how they are made

23. *Claytus' Lectures on Magic* by **Claytus** - Non-fiction, an uninteresting collection of lectures on the theory of magic

24. *Denizens of the Planes* by **Arcas Quora** - Non-fiction, a bestiary of creatures from other planes which is, however, based on hearsay rather than actual knowledge and is, as a result, totally inaccurate

25. *Dirt - Can You Dig It?* by **Mathius Joik** - Non-fiction, a long-winded and dull book on grave digging

26. *Dreams: What They Mean* by **Smund Efrud** - Non-fiction, a book on the interpretation of dreams, heavily influenced by the author's own interests in the opposite sex to the degree that it is worthless

27. *Etiquette* by **Lady Estrella Dranac** - Non-fiction, a book on proper deportment and behaviour for the well born lady

28. *Ecology of the Blind Albino Cave Worm* by **Stubbins Petifrog** - Non-fiction, an in-depth study of a normal-sized and rare, but otherwise uninteresting, worm

29. *Flower Arranging for Orcs* by **Flota Plantspinner** - Non-fiction, and extremely niche book on flower arranging for a largely uninterested audience

30. *Giants: A Field Guide* by **Utica Whelf** - Non-fiction, allegedly provides detailed information on all types of giants but highly inaccurate, as it is not based on any actual fieldwork on the part of the author, but on hearsay, rumour and old wives tales

31. *Goblin Throat Singing: A Study* by **Bard Killian** - Non-fiction, an in-depth musical analysis of this little-known field of singing by the bard, including notes on techniques and some performances

32. *Hammer of the Orcs* by **Krigle Battlesmiter** - Fiction, the adventures of the fictional Dwarf hero Helmut Steelhammer and his wholesale

destruction of various Orcish tribes

33. *Her Master's Voice* by **Lillian Fairnuddle** - Fiction, a bodice-ripper of a romance intended for overly-romantic ladies

34. *Horror in the Monastery* by **Shulder Terroft** - Fiction, a gory horror story about a remote monastery and how a group of travellers who stay for the night and tortured and killed by the twisted monks who live there

35. *Horseshoe Forging* by **Gerribut Smith** - Non-fiction, a needlessly detailed account on how to make horseshoes

36. *House Xidane: A History* by **Garius Xidane** - Non-fiction, a historical account of an obscure noble house

37. *Howling at the Moon* by **Thrannok Kryzac** - Fiction, a collection of tedious werewolf poetry about hunting, the wilderness and the moon

38. *How to Catch Fish Using Flies* by **Jayar Hart** - Non-fiction, a book on methods of fly fishing

39. *How to Make Your Spells Sparkle* by **Elibeth Ninith** - Non-fiction, supposedly gives techniques for adding cosmetic effects to spells

40. *How to Paint a Dragon* by **Hissus Wurmfood** - Non-fiction, an art book on painting a dragon from life, rather than otherwise, including suggestions as to gifts to use to propitiate the dragon in question

41. *How to Train a Sheepdog* by **Shepherd Dislock** - Non-fiction, useful guide on how to train a sheepdog, as long as the reader is really interested in sheep

42. *Humans: Why They Are Inferior* by **Lostalis Moonglimmer** - Non-fiction, an inaccurate description of every way in which humans are inferior to Elves

43. *Intelligent Monsters and How to Cook Them* by **Shork Lipset** - Non-fiction, a collection of recipes and preparations for cooking intelligent monsters of all types once they have been killed; banned in many places

44. *Irritating Pointy-Ears* by **Orgud Smashbane** - Non-fiction, a more than a little prejudiced dissection of Elves and their flaws
45. *Keepers of the Sacred Flames* by **Xindin Klous** - Non-fiction, covers a variety of religions and cults that revolve around fire
46. *Knightly Pursuits* by **Sir Aradon Possingly-Thurdon** - Non-fiction, a listing of those activities that the author considered to be suitable for a knight
47. *Last King of the Elves* by **Viold Pregabber** - Fiction, a story on how a deposed Elven king sent into exile finally regained his throne
48. *Law: A Handbook* by **Judge Gruder** - Non-fiction, a weighty, thorough and extremely tedious explanation of the laws of the land
49. *Life After Death* by **Bulton Thurdwubl** - Non-fiction, a discussion and analysis of the benefits and disadvantages of the different types of undead
50. *Lion of the Law* by **Adon Yarric** - Non-fiction, a biography of a renowned paladin of yesteryear
51. *Lockpicking for Beginners* by **Rondos Shadowswift** - Non-fiction, a completely inaccurate guide to lockpicking published by a lock maker under a pen name in order to hinder potential thieves
52. *Lost Lands of the Desert* by **Cuthbert Diggerly** - Non-fiction, a not entirely accurate investigation into legends about civilisations now buried beneath the sands
53. *Modern Magic* by **Thalmus the Wise** - Non-fiction, a theoretical book on how spell casting has evolved over the years into its modern style, largely incomprehensible to most
54. *Necromancy: The Misunderstood Art* by **Raknard Drakfor** - Non-fiction, an essay on the good uses of necromancy and how its practice can be beneficial
55. *Official Charter of the Guild of Wainwrights* by **Guildmaster Thorp** - Non-fiction, full of legalese on topics such as how apprentices are trained, the different levels of membership and how to become a master
56. *One Last Gasp* by **Letise Trill** - Fiction, a murder mystery about an undead assassin
57. *On the Nature of Alteration* by **Mage Dinmer** - Non-fiction, an extremely esoteric, theoretical and difficult to read essay on the magic school of alteration
58. *Orcs: A Study* by **Jerimas Ludenprox** - Non-fiction, a reasonably unbiased look at the Orc race
59. *Orthodoxy* by **Bishop Trudeis** - Non-fiction, how to worship a specific deity in the approved manner
60. *Pin Collecting for Beginners* by **Juf Norbert** - Non-fiction, a dull and encyclopaedic book on the different types of pins that can be found
61. **Plague: The Punishment of the Gods** by *Inquus God-Blessed* - Non-fiction, a hellfire and brimstone text on how plagues are sent by the gods to punish the unworthy and how trying to prevent or cure them is a crime against the gods
62. *Practical Monster Taxidermy* by **Herbun Rolfgat** - Non-fiction, a handbook on how to stuff and mount many different types of monsters, including intelligent ones
63. *Proper Mandolin Maintenance* by **Guille Wesda** - Non-fiction, how to keep mandolins, and nothing else, in proper working order
64. *Revolution!* by **Citizen Free** - Non-fiction, an incoherent diatribe about society and how it oppresses its citizens, all of which problems can be easily fixed by putting the author in charge
65. *Riverside Tales* by **Init Poil** - Fiction, a collection of children's stories about talking animals
66. *Saga of the Shieldmaiden* by **Rolf Rolfsson** - Non-fiction, a telling in verse

of a legendary story from mythology

67. *Scimitar of the Desert* by **Ambrahim Sindar** - Fiction, a tale of a freedom fighter and his successful efforts to defend his people against an invading empire

68. *Sheep Diseases and How to Cure Them* by **Hagrit Libberslop** - Non-fiction, an accurate listing of diseases that can afflict sheep but the cures don't work

69. *Silent Blade* by **Urkal Qeeg** - Fiction, an adventure story about an assassin who fights for the right and only kills bad people

70. *Sky Without End* by **Alsto Starmaster** - Non-fiction, details various inaccurate astronomical theories

71. *Song of the Fallen* by **Laita Ertin** - Fiction, an epic song about fallen angels

72. *Spiderweb* by **Shan Atkin** - Non-fiction, paranoid ravings about a vast conspiracy that controls the events of every country

73. *Stories of the Deathless One* by **Tibius Renalt** - Non-fiction, a compilation of stories, many of them contradictory, about a powerful being who, at different times, was claimed to be a powerful mage, undead or a demigod

74. *Symbols: What they Mean* by **Dlyran Kristof** - Non-fiction, an analysis of symbols used by various cultures and the author's personal, and ludicrously abstruse, interpretation of their meanings

75. *Tears of the Lich* by **Damsa Gord** - Fiction, a tale about a lich who wishes to become mortal once more

76. *Ten Tales of Ghoulish Terror* by **A. G. Host** - Fiction, a collection of overblown horror short stories

77. *The Adventures of Baron Thybuschan* by **Roik Woid** - Fiction, a collection of totally implausible, yet entertaining, adventures as the Baron manages to place himself at every major event for the past few decades

78. *The Book of the Sacred Dance* by **Diaon Hallfyn** - Non-fiction, a religious book for an obscure, and now vanished, cult

79. *The Bumper Book of Orc Jokes* by **Krrakk Bonesnapper** - Non-fiction, a collection of Orcish jokes which tend heavily towards the practical, and often towards the potentially crippling or lethal

80. *The Devoured* by **Grugak Bordan** - Fiction, a horror story about a community of cannibals

81. *The Divine Crusade* by **Yorus Mrytars** - Non-fiction, a history book about a religious crusade launched against a faction of a religion that believed a slightly different thing to the majority

82. *The Dragon War* by **Redfus Groaw** - Fiction, a surprisingly boring novel about a war between two draconic clans

83. *The Frangible Fiend* by **Ignoia Yorst** - Fiction, a quasi-humorous tale of the devastation caused by a fiendish creature with a tendency to break things

84. *The Gourmet Troll's Cookbook* by **Mrokast** - Non-fiction, a collection of 32 trollish recipes; most of the recipes are disgusting, to read or to eat, for anyone who isn't a troll or has the same taste in food, and in most civilised nations many are outright illegal, given their use of sentient beings as ingredients

85. *The Immortal Wanderer* by **Yanost Gredgo** - Non-fiction, an attempted biography of a legendary figure who wanders from trouble to trouble helping those he finds

86. *The Maiden and the Unicorn* by **Sir Pedigrew** - Non-fiction, a rather staid book on why unicorns are most easily tamed by maidens

87. *The Mystery of the Vanishing Chest* by **Eribur Lotan Thoil** - Fiction, a reasonably entertaining locked room mystery

88. *The Ogre and the Elf: An Opera of Unrequited Love* by **Crassus Dictan** -

Fiction, a fairly standard and undistinguished story of star-crossed lovers

89. *The Opium Prophecies* by **Tindus Malterns** - Non-fiction, the ravings of an insane drug addict collected and published by a fringe religious group who believed they were prophetic in nature

90. *The Repentant Demon* by **Helhund the Inquisitor** - Fiction, but with strong religious overtones, about a demon who repented his sins and was rewarded for it

91. *The Secret People* by **Suter Unigak** - Non-fiction, a collection of myths and rumours about a degenerate race that reputedly lives under the ground

92. *The Undead are Our Friends* by **Lester Druid** - Non-fiction, the author's attempts to make friends with various dangerous undead before his untimely demise

93. *The Vampire's Lover* by **Sindan Lestwith** - Fiction, daft love story for people with an overly-romantic impression as to the nature of vampires

94. *They Come by Night* by **Sigisdun Zorak** - Non-fiction, a book on vampires and their abilities and weaknesses, unfortunately with many potentially dangerous errors

95. *Thieftaking* by **Sert Jupil** - Non-fiction, less a book on catching thieves than on how to make money by doing so

96. *True Magic* by **The Great Mysterio** - Non-fiction, a book on how to perform tricks of prestidigitation, illusion and stage magic, tricks disregarded by most actual spell users

97. *Unsolved Mysteries* by **Kliop Bruin** - Non-fiction, a collection of various reputedly mysterious occurrences and disappearances

98. *Wars of the Rebellion* by **Tir Helgarth** - Non-fiction, a historical account of some revolutionary wars, but it doesn't detail either the location or the date of the wars in question, making it rather useless as a historical reference

99. *Witchhunting: The Basics* by **Malificus Hexenhammer** - Non-fiction, how to identify, test and kill alleged witches, describes a largely inaccurate process, although the methods of killing will work on witches - or on pretty much anything

100. *Zombie: A Love Story* by **Nissus Sarwat** - Fiction, a rather disturbing, and sometimes nauseating, work about a love affair between a living man and a zombie woman