

CHRISTINE RECOMMENDS...

Rainbow Rowell!

This book tells the story of a shy college freshman named Cath who is a HUGE fan of the *Simon Snow* series. In the world of this book, *Simon Snow* is an incredibly popular English fantasy book series about an orphan who is recruited by the Watford School of Magicks. Baz, a cruel boy from a rich family, is Simon's classmate and roommate. Remind you of a real book series? Yeah, it's supposed to be a *Harry Potter* type phenomenon.

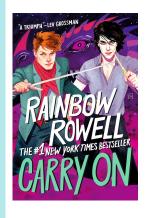
Cath's twin sister Wren has grown away from fandom, but Cath can't let go. She's a famous (but anonymous) fanfiction author and she has a story to finish for her fans. Wren has told Cath she doesn't want to be roommates, so Cath is truly on her own. Can she make it through college without Wren holding her hand? And does she even want to move on from her teen years if it means leaving *Simon Snow* behind? This is a really fun, sweet book that you will relate to if you've ever felt too shy to be your true self outside of the anonymous internet.



Fangirl

by Rainbow Rowell

Available as an e-book & audiobook on the Libby app





Simon Snow Series

by Rainbow Rowell

Available as e-books & audiobooks on the Libby app

Okay, stick with me here. In *Fangirl*, Cath writes a fanfiction story called *Carry On* about Simon and Baz's bitter rivalry turning into love. Well, *Carry On* by Rainbow Rowell is a fully-written book version of Cath's fanfiction story. You don't need to read *Fangirl* to enjoy these books. This quote sums up why I love this series: "It has just as much kissing and talking as you'd expect from a Rainbow Rowell story - but far, far more monsters."

Simon is The Chosen One in the World of Mages, apparently destined to defeat The Insidious Humdrum someday. Unfortunately he's a pretty bad student at Watford School of Magicks and his rude roommate Baz never hesitates to to point that out. When Baz doesn't show up for their last year at Watford, Simon should be relieved. But all he can do is obsess about where Baz is. You will notice plenty of similarities to the Harry Potter universe, but this series is more of an angsty romance with magic woven into it. Try it if you're looking for more queer representation in fantasy books or if you just love character-focused fantasy.