

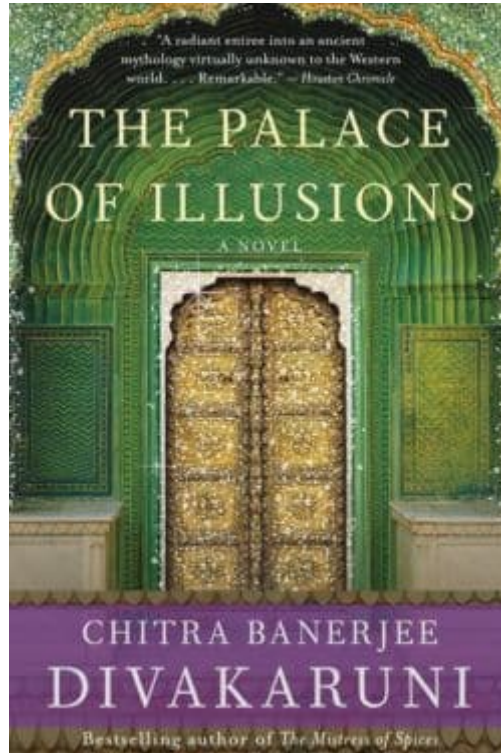


Mythology has always captivated the human imagination, serving as a wellspring of timeless tales that inspire our storytelling traditions across cultures. Asian mythology, in particular, offers an incredibly rich tapestry of myths, legends, and epic narratives that continue to influence modern literature. From the divine epics of India and the ancient folklore of China to the supernatural stories from Southeast Asia, these myths shape the identities and values of diverse cultures. In this blog “Top 10 Novels Inspired by Asian Mythology”, we’ll explore ten novels that breathe new life into these ancient tales, using mythology as a creative foundation to craft captivating stories. Whether through poignant retellings of well-known myths or imaginative worlds inspired by long-forgotten legends, each book on this list reveals the enduring allure of mythological storytelling.

Top 10 Novels Inspired by Asian Mythology

1. The Palace of Illusions by Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni (Rating: 4.1/5)
2. Journey to the West by Wu Cheng'en (Rating: 4.2/5)
3. The Ghost Bride by Yangsze Choo (Rating: 4.0/5)
4. Pachinko by Min Jin Lee (Rating: 4.4/5)
5. The Poppy War by R.F. Kuang (Rating: 4.1/5)
6. The Green Bone Saga by Fonda Lee (Rating: 4.3/5)
7. The Golem and the Jinni by Helene Wecker (Rating: 4.0/5)
8. The Grace of Kings by Ken Liu (Rating: 4.1/5)
9. The Devourers by Indra Das (Rating: 4.0/5)
10. The Priory of the Orange Tree by Samantha Shannon (Rating: 4.3/5)

***The Palace of Illusions* by Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni (Rating: 4.1/5)**



***The Palace of Illusions* by Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni (Rating: 4.1/5) - Top 10 Novels Inspired by Asian Mythology**

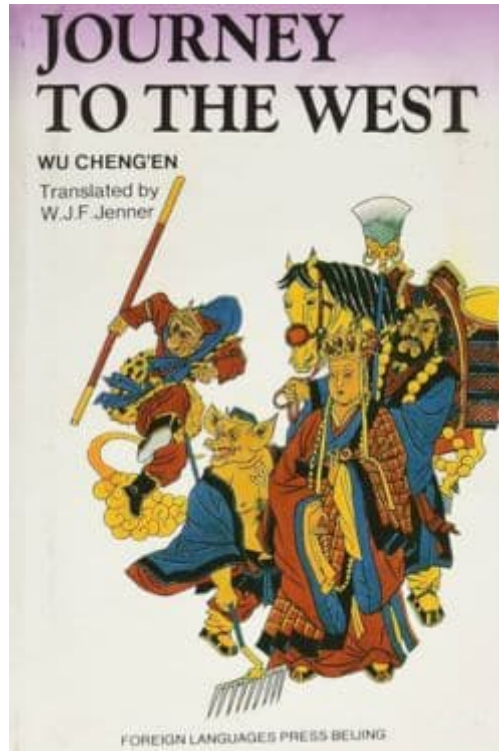
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In *The Palace of Illusions*, Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni provides a unique perspective on the ancient Indian epic, the *Mahabharata*, by retelling it from the viewpoint of Draupadi, also known as Panchali. This reinterpretation humanizes the legendary characters while exploring themes of ambition, power, love, and destiny. Draupadi emerges as a fierce yet vulnerable heroine whose voice sheds new light on the political intrigue and familial conflicts central to the epic.

Divakaruni's elegant prose brings to life the fantastical world of ancient India, blending myth with historical drama. Through Draupadi's lens, readers gain a deep understanding of the social and emotional challenges faced by women in a patriarchal society, making this novel both empowering and thought-provoking.



***Journey to the West* by Wu Cheng'en (Rating: 4.2/5)**



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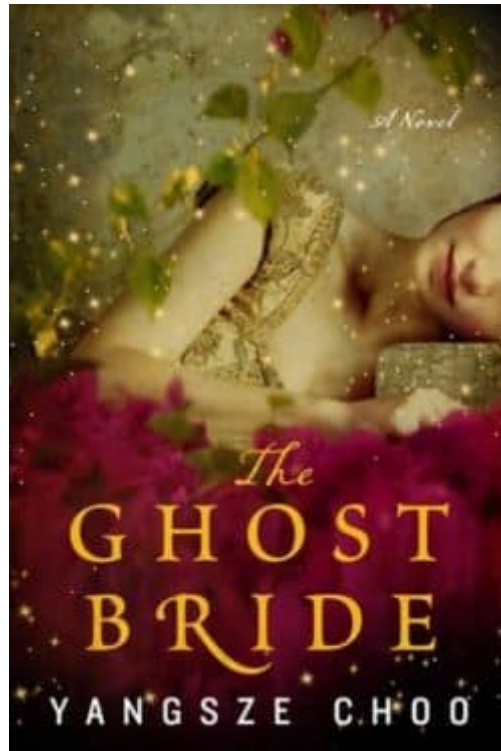
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A cornerstone of Chinese literature, *Journey to the West* by Wu Cheng'en follows the adventurous pilgrimage of the monk Xuanzang, accompanied by his disciples, including the iconic Monkey King. This 16th-century novel draws upon Buddhist mythology and folklore, weaving a richly imaginative tale about faith, perseverance, and transformation.

Readers are immersed in a world where deities, demons, and magical creatures blend seamlessly with humor and philosophical musings. Its enduring appeal lies in the profound exploration of the human condition, making it a must-read for anyone fascinated by the cultural and spiritual heritage of China.



***The Ghost Bride* by Yangsze Choo (Rating: 4.0/5)**



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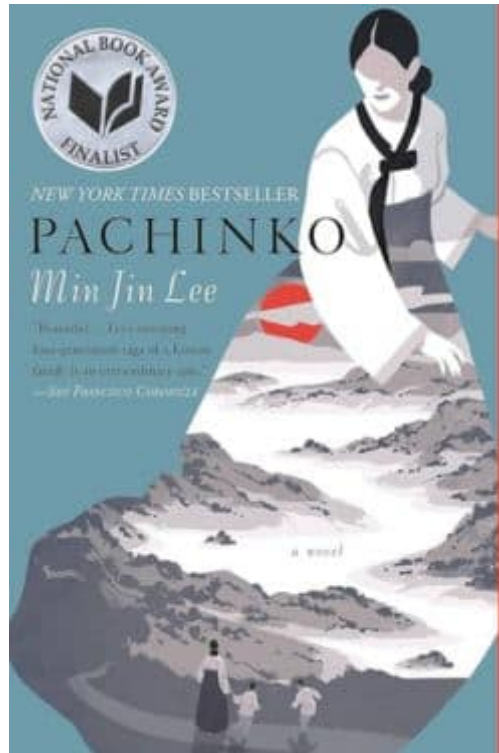
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Set in colonial Malaya, Yangsze Choo's *The Ghost Bride* explores a fascinating blend of Chinese mythology and local superstitions. When Li Lan is offered a proposal to marry the deceased son of a wealthy family, she must navigate a ghostly world that blurs the lines between life and death.

Choo's atmospheric storytelling paints a vivid picture of 19th-century Malaya, inviting readers into a suspenseful mystery as Li Lan grapples with love, betrayal, and ancient spiritual beliefs. The intricate blend of mythological elements and historical detail makes this novel a compelling read.



***Pachinko* by Min Jin Lee (Rating: 4.4/5)**



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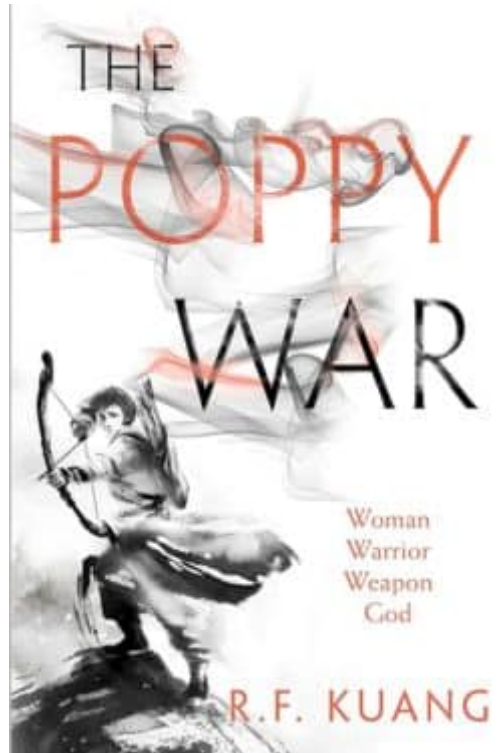
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Pachinko is a multigenerational saga that chronicles the lives of a Korean family living in Japan over the course of nearly a century. Though not strictly mythological, the novel incorporates Korean beliefs and cultural practices, exploring themes like fate, resilience, and identity.

Min Jin Lee's rich storytelling is deeply evocative, blending the personal stories of its characters with the broader historical context. This layered narrative captivates readers as it tackles the complexities of displacement and belonging, making it an essential addition to any literary collection.



***The Poppy War* by R.F. Kuang (Rating: 4.1/5)**



***The Poppy War* by R.F. Kuang (Rating: 4.1/5) - Top 10 Novels Inspired by Asian Mythology**

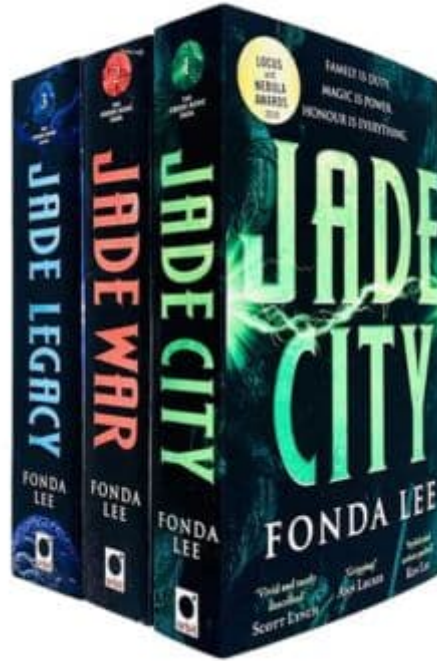
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R.F. Kuang's *The Poppy War* blends Chinese history and mythology with grimdark fantasy to explore the rise and fall of nations through the eyes of Rin, a peasant girl turned soldier. Inspired by 20th-century China and its military conflicts, the story combines war, politics, and shamanic magic.

Kuang masterfully crafts a world where personal ambition and historical tragedy collide, creating a compelling and complex anti-heroine. Her stark and unflinching portrayal of war is balanced with rich mythological lore, making this novel a remarkable exploration of the dark side of power.



***The Green Bone Saga* by Fonda Lee (Rating: 4.3/5)**



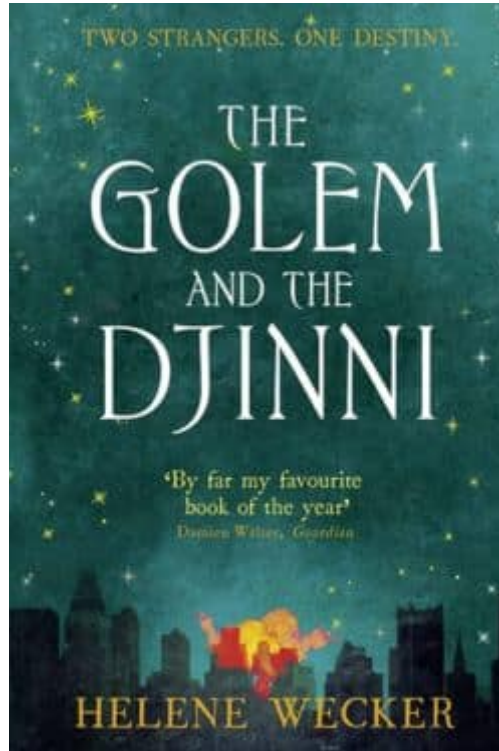
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Fonda Lee's *The Green Bone Saga* explores a modern fantasy world heavily influenced by East Asian culture, with clan politics, magical jade warriors, and ancient traditions. It begins with *Jade City*, where rival clans vie for control of the city and its valuable jade resources.

Lee's saga blends mythological inspirations with crime drama, creating an intricate and immersive world. Her characters navigate the complexities of loyalty, family, and ambition while wielding magic-infused jade in a story that feels both contemporary and timeless.

***The Golem and the Jinni* by Helene Wecker (Rating: 4.0/5)**



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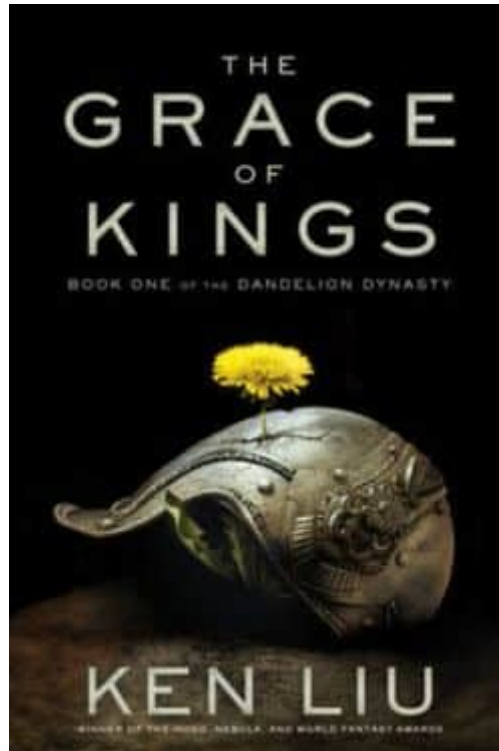
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In *The Golem and the Jinni*, Helene Wecker combines Middle Eastern and Jewish mythology in a magical reimagining of historical New York. The story follows a golem created to serve her master and a jinni trapped in a copper flask, who both find themselves in an immigrant neighborhood.

Wecker crafts a moving narrative that explores the immigrant experience and the human need for identity and belonging. Her characters struggle against cultural expectations and their own nature, bringing mythological creatures to life in a way that is both captivating and relatable.



***The Grace of Kings* by Ken Liu (Rating: 4.1/5)**



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The Grace of Kings is the first novel in Ken Liu's *Dandelion Dynasty* series, a fantasy epic blending Chinese mythology with wuxia martial arts traditions. It follows two unlikely allies, Kuni Garu and Mata Zyndu, who overthrow an empire, only to be pitted against each other in the quest for power.

Liu's storytelling is full of intrigue, political machinations, and deep philosophical undertones. The intricate world-building, paired with the richly developed characters, creates a saga that explores ambition, loyalty, and the moral ambiguities of leadership.

***The Devourers* by Indra Das (Rating: 4.0/5)**



The Devourers by Indra Das (Rating: 4.0/5) - Top 10 Novels Inspired by Asian Mythology

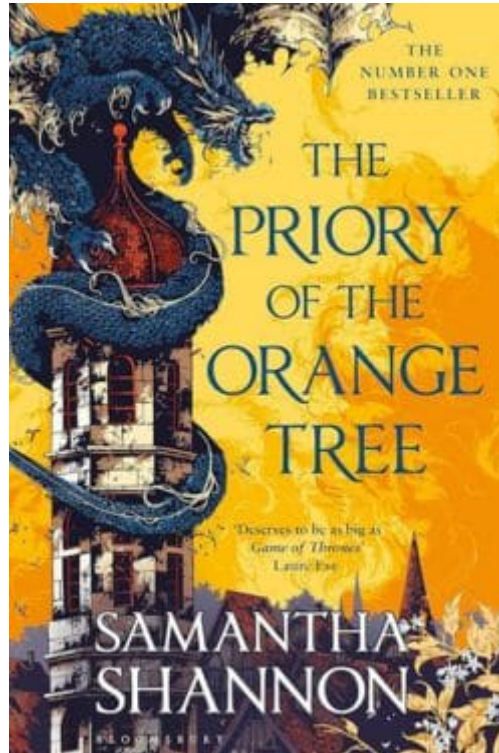
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Set in modern-day Kolkata, *The Devourers* blends Indian mythology and folklore with dark fantasy. The novel explores the relationship between a historian and a mysterious stranger who reveals stories of ancient shape-shifters and their complicated relationship with humanity.

Indra Das writes with lyrical beauty and psychological depth, weaving a tale that explores identity, transformation, and the power of storytelling itself. His imaginative world challenges readers' perceptions of the monstrous and the divine, making it an unforgettable read.



***The Priory of the Orange Tree* by Samantha Shannon (Rating: 4.3/5)**



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Samantha Shannon's standalone fantasy novel, *The Priory of the Orange Tree*, draws inspiration from various mythological traditions, particularly from Asia. The story features a divided world on the brink of war, where dragons are either revered or feared.

Shannon masterfully combines intricate world-building with strong female protagonists, creating a compelling saga that explores power, religion, and identity. With dragons, magic, and political intrigue, *The Priory of the Orange Tree* stands out as an epic fantasy novel that pays homage to myth while crafting a wholly unique adventure.

Also Read: [How Location Becomes a Character in Mystery Literature](#)