

Clover's newbie-friendly reading list

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Real quick glowfic 101

What is glowfic?

Glowfic is a genre of webfiction! It's a cross between a text roleplay and a coauthored story. It started as a collaboration by a couple of writers, Alicorn and Kappa, on dreamwidth; now it has its own website, called "the Constellation."

If you want more information, here's the [community guide to glowfic](#) and the [wiki glossary](#).

There's an awful lot of glowfic and no obvious way to tell which things are prerequisite for which other things! Where do I start?

If you just want a single generic rec: Start with [in color](#) by Alicorn and lintamande. It was the first glowfic I (and a lot of other people) read and requires basically no background. If you want you can read [this](#) setting explanation first.

If there are specific themes you're interested in reading about, or if you want something pretty short: you can take [this](#) [uquiz](#) to recommend you a starter glowfic.

If you want a list of options: Check out the [newbie-friendly reading list](#) on the next page of this guide.

What if I want to read things by a specific author, or involving a specific character?

You can go to their author page (respectively, character page) on the Constellation and choose from their list of threads or continuities. You can also enter, for example, `[author="Alicorn"]` into the wiki search bar to find wiki pages for glowfic written by Alicorn.

Reading list

A list of glowfic I recommend, in what I think is a basically reasonable reading order.

- Purple = highly recommended
- Reading time = time it took me to read, for those where I kept track.
- Spoiler warnings are not thorough. I have basically included spoiler warnings for things I personally would have wanted to be warned about.
- Nothing listed is more than mildly NSFW.
- This list was written in 2019-2020. I am not planning to update it.

Easy stuff to start with:

- **in color** (Sandbox) - Alicorn, lintamande
 - Prerequisites: optionally, [this setting description](#)
 - Reading time: ~days
 - [Wiki link](#)
- **i've got a list of names** (Sandbox) - Alicorn, lintamande
 - Prerequisites: [in color](#); possibly benefits from having read Silmaril first but I didn't and it was fine
 - Reading time: ~days
 - [Wiki link](#)
- **with the time that is given us** (Continuity) - apprenticebard, lintamande
 - Prerequisites: none
 - Reading time: ~days
 - Moderate spoilers for early Buffy (don't remember if season 1 or 2)
 - I read this before watching Buffy and kinda wished I'd done it in the other order
 - [Wiki link](#)
- **while there's still evil afoot** (Sandbox) - apprenticebard, lintamande
 - Prerequisites: [with the time that is given us](#)
 - [Wiki link](#)

Where it all began:

- **Luminosity and Radiance** (Fanfic) - Alicorn
 - Prerequisites: none (not even Twilight)
 - This is not a glowfic, but it's very good and it's what the foundational glowfic, Effulgence, is based off of
- **Effulgence** (Continuity) up to subcontinuity "will you marry me" - Alicorn, Kappa
 - Reading time: a month (it will eat your life)
 - Major spoilers for Ender's Game
 - [Wiki link](#)

More Effulgence please:

- **catch without release** (subcontinuity of Effulgence) - Alicorn, Kappa
 - Prerequisites: none
 - Reading time: < an hour
- **like a thief in the day** (Sandbox) - Alicorn, lintamande
 - Prerequisites: [in color](#), [catch without release](#)
 - Reading time: a couple hours
 - [Wiki link](#)
- **in spite of a nail** (Sandbox) - Alicorn, Kappa
 - Prerequisites: Effulgence up through “they bite”
 - Reading time: ~half an hour
 - [Wiki link](#)
- **the prime directive** (subcontinuity of Effulgence) - Alicorn, Kappa
 - Prerequisites: none
 - Reading time: hours
- **an art project** (subcontinuity of Effulgence) - Alicorn, Kappa
 - Prerequisites: none
 - Major spoilers for the Vorkosigan Saga up through "Mirror Dance"
 - I am so serious about the spoilers, I delayed reading this until I'd read the Vorkosigan saga and I'm really glad I did things in that order
- **something that i want** (subcontinuity of Effulgence) - Alicorn, Kappa
 - Prerequisites: none
 - Reading time: hours
- **seidr and spear** (subcontinuity of Effulgence) - Alicorn, Kappa
 - Prerequisites: none
- **unfashionable tattoo** (subcontinuity of Effulgence) - Alicorn, Kappa
 - Prerequisites: none
 - Reading time: half an hour?

Other early Bell continuities:

- **Incandescence** (Continuity) - Aestrix, Alicorn
 - Prerequisites: Effulgence up to “truth be told”, plus “unfashionable tattoo”
 - Reading time: a week
 - [Wiki link](#)
 - After you're done, read [this](#) wrap-up post
- **Bluebell Flames** (Continuity) - Alicorn, Red
 - Prerequisites: optionally, previous exposure to Bells, e.g. Effulgence
 - Reading time: hours
 - [Wiki link](#)
- **Eclipse** (Continuity) - Alicorn, Red
 - Prerequisites: some of Effulgence (optional, for template background)
 - Reading time: days

- [Wiki link](#)

Long Arda continuities:

- **Elentári** (subcontinuity of Silmaril) - Alicorn, lintamande
 - Prerequisites: optionally, [seidr and spear](#)
 - Reading time: a week
 - This is the first, and best standalone, part of Silmaril; it's worth reading on its own
 - [Silmaril wiki link](#)
- **Silmaril** (Continuity) - Alicorn, lintamande
 - Prerequisites: details on wiki page; all are optional
 - Reading time: over a month (it will eat your life)
 - Major spoilers for Puella Magi Madoka Magica in subcontinuity "West"
 - If you plan to read Golarion sandboxes (later in this recommendation list), then I recommend delaying reading the subcontinuity Starstone until after you do that
 - [Wiki link](#)
- **if the world can't be saved i'll save it anyway** (Continuity) - lintamande, swimmer963
 - Prerequisites: optionally, [A Song For Two Voices](#) (Fanfic series by swimmer)
 - ASFTV is very long but also very good; if you care about spoilers it's worth reading that first
 - [Wiki link](#)

Golarion:

- **ask yourself if you could have predicted this** (Sandbox) - lintamande, apprenticebard
 - Prerequisites: none, but benefits from prior exposure to Feanorians and/or Imrainais, e.g. in [color](#) or with the time that is given us
 - [Wiki link](#)
- **baubles and bangles** (Sandbox) - lintamande, Alicorn
 - Prerequisites: none, but benefits from prior exposure to Feanorians and/or Isama, e.g. in [color](#)
 - [Wiki link](#)
- **fascinate** (Sandbox) - lintamande, Alicorn
 - Prerequisites: none, but benefits from prior exposure to Feanorians and/or Rebecca, e.g. in [color](#)
 - [Wiki link](#)
- **Starstone** (subcontinuity of Silmaril) - lintamande, Alicorn
 - Prerequisites: none
 - [Silmaril wiki link](#)
- **only that which they defend** (Continuity) - lintamande, swimmer963
 - Prerequisites: preferably at least one thread with lintamande's adventuring party (e.g. [ask yourself if you could have predicted this](#) or [Starstone](#)) and exposure to Vanyel and Leareth (e.g. [A Song For Two Voices](#) or [if the world can't be saved i'll save it anyway](#))
 - [Wiki link](#)
- **free will was a mistake** (Sandbox) - lintamande, Alicorn, swimmer963
 - Prerequisites: [we know we once were gods](#) (subcontinuity of [only that which they defend](#))
 - [Wiki link](#)

- **necessities are free** (Sandbox) - lintamande, Alicorn
 - Prerequisites: lbyabek (short story by Alicorn) and we know we once were gods (subcontinuity of only that which they defend)
 - Wiki link

Vampires, demons, and Imrainais:

- **what you are in the dark** (Sandbox) - apprenticebard, root
 - Prerequisites: preferably, previous exposure to Imrainai/Karen (e.g. with the time that is given us) and previous exposure to Z (e.g. his Amenta RP blog, industrialbruise.tumblr.com)
 - Reading time: < half an hour
 - Wiki link
- **jealous is the night when the morning comes** (Sandbox) - Alicorn, apprenticebard
 - Prerequisites: what you are in the dark, Effulgence up through "raise the stakes," optionally "Daevinity" (subcontinuity of Incandescence)
 - Reading time: an hour
 - Moderate spoilers for Buffy season 2
 - Wiki link
- **every breath you take** (Sandbox) - Alicorn, apprenticebard
 - Prerequisites: "Daevinity" (subcontinuity of Incandescence)
 - Reading time: an hour or two
 - Wiki link
- **bro you need to stop summoning demons in the frat house** (Sandbox) - Alicorn, lintamande
 - Prerequisites: with the time that is given us and optionally "Daevinity" (subcontinuity of Incandescence)
 - Wiki link
- **tough guy talk** (Sandbox) - lintamande, apprenticebard
 - Prerequisites: with the time that is given us
 - Wiki link
- **raises some questions for gary gygax** (Sandbox) - lintamande, apprenticebard
 - Prerequisites: with the time that is given us, and prior familiarity with lintamande's adventuring party, e.g. ask yourself if you could have predicted this or Starstone
 - Wiki link
- **much of the world is lawless and cruel** (Sandbox) - lintamande, apprenticebard
 - Prerequisites: none, but benefits from prior exposure to Feanorians and/or Imrainais (e.g. in color or with the time that is given us) and/or from prior exposure to lintamande's adventuring party (e.g. ask yourself if you could have predicted this or Starstone)
 - Wiki link
- **Desperate Measures** (Sandbox) - lintamande, apprenticebard
 - Prerequisites: much of the world is lawless and cruel
 - Wiki link

The diamond queen:

- **you were kind to something once** (Sandbox) - lintamande, apprenticebard
 - Prerequisites: none
 - Wiki link
- **some only had hearts that were brave and true** (Sandbox) - lintamande, apprenticebard
 - Prerequisites: none
 - Wiki link
- **anyone who says differently is selling something** (Sandbox) - lintamande, apprenticebard
 - Prerequisites: while there's still evil afoot
 - Wiki link
- **give me the wretched refuse of your teeming shore** (Sandbox) - lintamande, apprenticebard
 - Prerequisites: while there's still evil afoot
 - Wiki link
- **most foolish of all** (Sandbox) - lintamande, apprenticebard
 - Prerequisites: give me the wretched refuse of your teeming shore and you were kind to something once
 - Wiki link
- **you can't warm the stars with your hands** (Sandbox) - lintamande, apprenticebard
 - Prerequisites: none, but benefits from prior exposure to Feanorians and/or Imrainais
 - Wiki link
- **origin of the diamond queen** (Continuity) - lintamande, apprenticebard
 - Prerequisites: much of the world is lawless and cruel (Korva), some only had hearts that were brave and true (Elizabeth), give me the wretched refuse of your teeming shore (huddled-masses), you were kind to something once (Catherine), and while there's still evil afoot (Slayer Karen)
 - Wiki link

Forever is a long, long time:

- **repeat after me** (Sandbox) - Aestrix, Alicorn
 - Prerequisites: Queen, Visitor, and Changeling (short stories by Alicorn), and Phixable (subcontinuity of Incandescence)
 - Reading time: ~half an hour?
 - Wiki link
- **exact words** (Subcontinuity of Effulgence) - Alicorn, Kappa
 - Prerequisites: Effulgence, optionally some previous exposure to the Harmonics setting (e.g. repeat after me)
 - Effulgence wiki link
- **blood sweat tear** (Sandbox) - Alicorn, Kappa
 - Prerequisites: Effulgence up through "raise the stakes," plus "exact words"
 - Reading time: a couple hours
 - Wiki link
- **Fairylights** (Continuity) - Alicorn, Red
 - Prerequisites: previous exposure to the Harmonics setting, e.g. repeat after me or exact words (optional, for setting and character background)
 - Reading time: a day or two

- [Wiki link](#)
- **choose wisely** (Sandbox) - Alicorn, lintamande
 - Prerequisites: previous exposure to the Harmonics setting, previous exposure to fastfairyland (e.g. you were kind to something once)
 - [Wiki link](#)

Miscellanea:

- **ademption** (Sandbox) - swimmer963, Alicorn
 - Prerequisites: Will (short story by Alicorn) and preferably prior familiarity with Vanyel and Leareth (e.g. A Song For Two Voices or if the world can't be saved i'll save it anyway)
 - [Wiki link](#)
- **cleanliness is next to godliness** (Sandbox) - Alicorn, westwind
 - Prerequisites: in color, familiarity with the Cascadia setting, and optionally the Cascadia RP blogs the-fear-of-childishness.tumblr.com and stitchesinablanket.tumblr.com
 - Reading time: a couple hours
 - [Wiki link](#)
- **i don't know how to play this hand** (Sandbox) - hearts, westwind
 - Prerequisites: none
 - Major spoilers for The Magnus Archives up to season 3
 - [Wiki link](#)
- **people being fundamentally people** (Sandbox) - apprenticebard, westwind
 - Prerequisites: none, but benefits from familiarity with Imrainai (e.g. with the time that is given us) and Lev (e.g. i don't know how to play this hand)
 - Minor spoilers for Good Omens
 - [Wiki link](#)
- **complete disrespect of the institutional review board** (Sandbox) - Unbitwise, root
 - Prerequisites: none
 - [Wiki link](#)