



Introduction

Novelist is a tremendous resource for book lovers of all ages. It provides a variety of tools for readers, librarians and educators alike. For example, it can be used to find the sequence of books in a series, “Read-alikes”, lists of award winning books, and Book Talks. Novelist is also great resource for generating booklists based on plot and setting characteristics.

Who is this for?

Novelist contains profiles of books for all ages, from picture books to adult novels. The simple interface makes it accessible to wide range of users, from older elementary school students to adults.

Sample Search

You have just read a book called Dragon by Steven Brust and would like to find a list of the other books in the series.

The basic search box allows us to combine all of our search terms together. For this search we don't need to use any of the age limiters below.

A screenshot of the Novelist search interface. At the top, there are links for 'Home' and 'Advanced Search', and a 'Sign Out' link on the right. Below this is a yellow 'Search' bar with a 'Search' button on the right. Underneath the search bar is a 'Find:' label followed by a text input field containing 'steven brust dragon'. To the right of the input field are 'Search' and 'Clear' buttons, and a help icon (a question mark in a circle). Below the search bar is a 'Limit To' section with four checkboxes: 'Adults', 'Teens', 'Older Kids', and 'Younger Kids', all of which are currently unchecked.

This search retrieves 9 items. The first one listed is the book we have read. From this point we can click on the books title to bring up additional information and reviews or we can simply click on the series link. Here we can see this book is number 8 in the Vlad Taltos series.

All Results Books Series

[Refine Search](#) [Add search to folder](#) [Display link to search](#) [Create alert for this search](#)


Results: 1-9 of 9 for *steven brust dragon AND Automatically "And" s...*

Page: 1 Sort by: Relevance [Add \(1-9\)](#)

Narrow Results by Subject

- [Fantasy fiction, American](#)
- [Taltos, Vlad](#)
- [Assassins](#)
- [Dragons](#)
- [Draqaera \(Imaginary place\)](#)
- [Telepathy](#)
- [Magic swords](#)
- [Black magic](#)
- [Magic](#)
- [Elves](#)

1. [Dragon](#)



Author: *Brust, Steven*, 1955- Adults Fiction

Publisher: TOR Books **Series:** [Vlad Taltos series](#), 8

Pub Date: 1998 **Popularity:** ★★★★★ **ISBN:** 9780312838921

Summary: Swashbuckling assassin Vlad Taltos and his smart-mouthed reptile familiar Loiosh find themselves in over their heads when they become caught in the middle of a war between two rival Dragonlords.

[Review\(s\)](#) [First Chapter](#) [Check Sno-Isle Libraries at NextReads Newsletter](#) [Add](#)

Clicking on the series link brings up a list of the books in the series, the default is volume order. You can use the dropdown menu to change this to order of publication, relevance, title or popularity. From this screen we see that the book Jhereg is the first book in the series and Yendi is the second.

Sort by: Volume

1. Jhereg

No Image Available

Author: Brust, Steven, 1955-
Publisher: Ace Fantasy Books
Pub Date: 1983

Adults
 Fiction
Series: [Vlad Taltos series](#) 1
ISBN: 9780441385515
NoveList Best

Links: [Recommended Reads](#)

[Check Sno-Isle Libraries at](#) [NextReads Newsletter](#)

2. Yendi

Author: Brust, Steven, 1955-
Publisher: Ace Fantasy Books
Pub Date: 1984

Adults
 Fiction
Series: [Vlad Taltos series](#) 2

[Check Sno-Isle Libraries at](#) [NextReads Newsletter](#)

By clicking on the title Jhereg we can learn about more of Novelist's features.

View: Citation [Print](#) [E-mail](#) [Save](#) [Add to folder](#)

Title:	Jhereg
Author:	Steven Brust
Series, Volume:	Vlad Taltos series, 1
Related Information:	Recommended Reads ←
Publication Information:	New York: Ace Fantasy Books copyright 1983. 239 p.
Reading Level:	Adults
ISBN:	9780441385515 0441385516
Fiction/Nonfiction:	Fiction
Author Information:	All books by: Brust, Steven, 1955-

Topics [Find Similar Books](#)

Subject Headings:	Taltos, Vlad Assassins Elves Magic Dragons Fantasy fiction, American
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Related Features

Recommended Reads - [Adult -> Fantasy -> Sword and Sorcery](#) ←
Author Read-alikes - [Robert B. Parker](#)
Author Read-alikes - [Roger Zelazny](#)
Author Read-alikes - [Jim Butcher](#)

Novelist provides us with a number of tools for finding more books that might match our reading interests.

At the top of the screen in the Related Information section is a link to [Recommended Reads](#). This link will lead us to a list of Sword and Sorcery titles that were gathered by Novelist contributor. This link is the same as the Recommended Reads – [Adult-> Fantasy -> Sword and Sorcery](#) link at the bottom.

Additionally, at the bottom of the screen, we are given links to 3 other authors whose work might match our reading interests.

We can click on the Author Information link to bring up a complete list of books by [Brust, Steven](#), including any additional titles not in the “Vlad Taltos” series.

When we click on the [Find Similar Books](#) link we are given the following screen options to search for books that have similar plot elements. We can customize this search to emphasize the plot points that are of most interest to us. Below I have emphasized the Subject Headings

Assassins and *Elves*. We could narrow our further by using the grade, reading level or any of the other limiting options below.

Subject Heading	Required	Desired	
Assassins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Dragons	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Elves	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Fantasy fiction, American	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Magic	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Taltos, Vlad	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Reading Level: All

Grade Level: All

Lexile Reading Level: All (dropdown menu open with options: 200 - 400, 300 - 500, 500 - 700)

Lexile Range Search: []

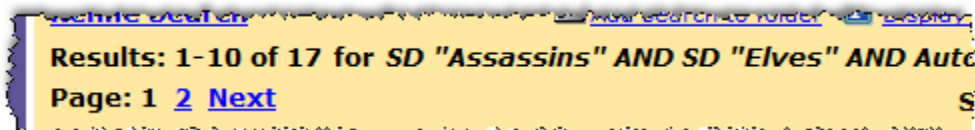
Publication Year: [] to []

Number of Pages: All []

Author's Gender: All

Limiters

This search retrieves a list of 17 titles that share the subject headings *Assassins* and *Elves*.



Warning: Because the [Find Similar Books](#) feature only searches on broad plot or setting characteristics the results are often misleading. Titles can be listed together that are dramatically different in style and composition.

Additional Features

Novelist provides a number of additional features that are valuable to readers.

- A vast number of book lists, including award winning books and recommended titles within a huge array of genres and reading levels.
- Book Reviews
- Book Discussion Guides
- Book Talks
- Articles that cover “Read-alikes”, curriculum aids, and more.

These additional features can be accessed through individual title entries, as we saw above in the *Sword & Sorcery* Recommended Reads list connected to Jhereg by Steven Brust or through the Browse links on the main Novelist page. These additional features can also be targeted by using the Advanced Search feature.

Tips

Novelist contains summaries as well as reviews of books. All of the words in these features are searchable. This can be a valuable tool for trying to identify a book when all you have is a general plot description.

Practice Questions

1. Find a Book Discussion Guide for The Sparrow by Maria Doria Russell.
2. Find a list of Recommended Horror titles for a teenage reader. Preferably books that are about vampires.
3. Find a list of awards given to adult Mystery books.

Answers

1. At the Advanced Search screen, search on the title Sparrow and the author *Maria Doria Russell*. Limit the results to just Book Discussion Guides.

Search [Search History/Alerts](#) | [Search Other Databases](#) | [Database Help](#)

Find: in

in

in

[Search Tips](#)

Include when searching:

Document Types

- Books
- Author Biographies
- Author Read-alikes
- Award Winners
- Book Discussion Guides
- BookTalks
- Curricular Connections

Browse

- [Subject](#)
- [Author](#)
- [Series](#)
- [Title](#)

2. In the Browse section of main Novelist page click on the [Recommended Reads](#) link in the Teens area. Click on the [Horror](#) link. Click on the [Vampires](#) link.
3. In the Browse section of the main Novelist page click on the [Award Winners](#) link in the Adults area. Click on the [Mysteries and Thrillers](#) link to bring up a list of awards and their descriptions. (Note: The [All Awards Winners](#) will not sort awards by their genres, it only provides an alphabetical list.)