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Martin's Seven Kingdoms resemble England during the Wars of the Roses, with the Stark and Lannister families standing in for the Yorks and Lancasters. The story of these two families and their struggle to control the Iron Throne dominates the foreground; in the background is a huge, ancient wall marking the northern border, beyond which barbarians, ice vampires, and direwolves menace the south as years-long winter advances. Abroad, a dragon princess lives among horse nomads and dreams of fiery reconquest. Book 1 of the Song of Ice and Fire.

MCKILLIP, PATRICIA A <u>OD MAGIC</u>

Some 400 years earlier, Od, a formidable magician, broke the siege of Kelior and saved the land of Numis. She was allowed to found a school of magic in the city, and then she was left to wander. Later the school became part of the king's palace and was controlled over the years by the rulers, who deemed wild magic dangerous. Then Brenden Vetch arrives, invited by Od herself to become the school's gardener because of his intimate knowledge of the ways of the plants. His talent, which he isn't aware of, is old magic, and his arrival triggers a rebelion at the school. This is a story that will bind readers in its spell.