

Sorcery of Thorns

Margaret Rogerson

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Elisabeth grew up in the Library of Summerville. Left on the steps of the library 16 years ago as an orphan baby, she grew up among the smells of parchment and ink. But the libraries of this land are no ordinary libraries. Filled with talking, singing, and occasionally menacing books known as grimoires, the library is never quiet. Ranked on a scale of 1-10, the grimoires have minds of their own with the highest ranking being the most dangerous due to not only the dark valuable knowledge they contain, but also their ability to transform into horrific, evil creatures called Maleficts. The library is protected by wardens, trained in the libraries to guard the secrets within the books while also protecting the village people from the dangers of the grimoires.

An apprentice in training, Elisabeth has dreamed of being a warden for her whole life; however, when a level 8 grimoire is released in the dead of night with only her there to defeat it, she is falsely accused of treason, crushing all of her dreams. Escorted by Nathaniel, a charming sorcerer, and his demon, Elisabeth is forced to leave her only home to stand trial in the capital, but when the group runs into trouble along the way, her innocence in the Summerville library incident is revealed. Though she no longer faces a trial, she finds that she has a much bigger problem in store for her, Nathaniel, and everyone else—the Summerville library incident was sabotage, and whoever did it is still out there ready to move on to the next library. With her friends by her side, Elisabeth embarks on a new journey to save lives and everything she loves from dangers darker and more evil than she imagined. Though she is forced to question everything she has ever known, the young apprentice finds not only truth, independence, and love but also the strength that comes with being a real child of the library.

Despite its magical nature, *Sorcery of Thorns* carries valuable themes of friendship, independence, and strength. The beginning is a bit confusing, but it all comes together to make sense later as secrets and mysteries are slowly revealed. What I find very intriguing about this story is that, though the story is built around magic, the main character does not have magic, but rather a special bond to the library. This book is magical rollercoaster that is wild and engaging in a way that will leave you holding your breath with chills running up your spine. However, this book is a romance and includes hints of violence, so I would recommend this book for readers 12 and up. This story is a great adventure, but this is a book that I would just get from the library rather than give as a gift to someone as it is not a book that I feel very drawn to reread many times. This book is perfect for readers who practically live in the worlds of magic in books or who are just looking for a wild adventure to set their heart racing

Recommended Titles:

Spy Princess by Sherwood Smith

An Enchantment of Ravens by Margaret Rogerson

Song of the Current by Sarah Tolcser