

Professional Book Review



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just barely satisfies your itch for fantasy.*

Read Review



Sorcery of Thorns

By Margaret Rogerson • Release Date: June 4, 2019

In the Great Libraries, books will not only grant you sorcerous wisdom, but also potentially bite your arm off.

Elisabeth Scrivener is an apprentice librarian at the Great Library of Summershall, a magical library whose shelves are lined with mystical grimoires and has armories full of salt rounds and iron weapons. The library's enemy? The books themselves. In this mystical Harry Potter-esque world, magic is not so much celebrated as it is feared. When she's not in trouble, Elisabeth is learning to fight against sorcerers and the transformations of provoked grimoires, the Maleficks. As Elisabeth becomes closer with the not-so-scary after all bisexual sorcerer Nathaniel Thorn, her feelings towards both saving the Austermeer kingdom and him grow. What stops this book from being successful is the direction of the romance subplot: it is never fully convincing. In a world full of sorcery and demons, there is something lacking in the imagination of the romantic development; all the potential for a magical confession is there, but never realized. Rogerson's characters are still intriguing in their own way and so the biggest disappointment for this novel are the unexplored character relationships. Nathaniel's handsome and otherworldly servant, Silas, is perhaps the most intriguing; his abilities range from doing the laundry to slaughtering fiends all while remaining mysterious. This is what hinders the book from being a larger success: the relationships surrounding him and other characters are underdeveloped and unexplored. The characters and their witty banter are still reminiscent of Maas's fantasy world: a strong-headed female protagonist, a snarky male romantic interest, and ancient magic that is long forgotten by the residents. More frightening are the descriptions of grimoires than Rowling's fantasy world of Harry Potter; these grimoires contain sewn on faces and books made from human eyes that invokes a sheepish curiosity from readers. The curiosity and worldbuilding is enough to placate fantasy lovers, but the novel does little to traverse

past the standard cliches of the fantasy genre or characters in terms of relationships. Although Rogerson's best attempts stumble throughout the novel, there is still enough substance to be enjoyed for a casual reader.

A magical and frightening stand-alone novel; just barely satisfies your itch for fantasy. (*Fantasy*. 14+)