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The Woman Who Rides Like A Man (Song Of The Lioness Quartet Book 3)



Synopsis

From Tamora Pierce, the third book in the Song of the Lioness Quartet, honored with the Margaret A. Edwards Award. Newly knighted, Alanna of Trebond seeks adventure in the vast desert of Tortall. Captured by fierce desert dwellers, she is forced to prove herself in a duel to the death "either she will be killed or she will be inducted into the tribe. Although she triumphs, dire challenges lie ahead. As her mythic fate would have it, Alanna soon becomes the tribe's first female shaman "despite the desert dwellers' grave fear of the foreign woman warrior. Alanna must fight to change the ancient tribal customs of the desert tribes "for their sake and for the sake of all Tortall.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

SONG OF THE LIONESSE: BOOK III - THE WOMAN WHO RIDES LIKE A MAN, takes us through one-year of Alanna of Trebond's life, from shortly after she is knighted at the age of eighteen, until the one-year anniversary of her knighting, at the age of nineteen. Newly knighted Alanna of Trebond is finally enjoying showing the world that she is a woman, and not a man, as she begins her journey through the vast desert of Tortall. There, however, she is captured by vicious desert dwellers, who

have challenged her to a duel. A duel to the death that will prove whether she is worthy of being invited into the tribe, or killed in battle. Alanna receives a triumph from the battle, though she is headed for tough times. Times that will test her in everything she attempts. Before long, Alanna's mythic fate comes into play, and Alanna is soon the first female shaman of the tribe, training three amateur sorcerers to follow in her footsteps, and become shamans, like herself. But when one of her young students succumbs to greed and tragedy, Alanna realizes that she must fight to change the customs of the desert tribes, or tragedy will strike all of Tortall. As if that weren't enough for her to handle, Alanna must also make a choice: marry Prince Jonathan, and spend her days trying to give him an heir, or live alone as the knight she has strived so hard to become. I will be the first to admit that I never would have imagined that I could enjoy a series about a female knight so much, but Tamora Pierce has made me a fan for life. Her SONG OF THE LIONESSE series has quickly become one of my favorites, and I was enthralled by the outcome of this book.

I read the Alanna books for the first time when I was ten years old, 17 years ago. Ever since I've read them about once a year, and I've never gotten bored with them. Alanna provided a complicated feminine hero when I desperately longed to see one. They are excellent books, and although I like the series that have come later in the world of Tortall, these remain my favorites. First, read these books in order; it's definitely the best way to experience Alanna's story. And stop reading this review - I don't want to spoil the experience. Just go buy the first two. Second, this book is going to be slower than the first two. And that makes sense. Alanna has been through a traumatic experience; she killed a man, arch-enemy or no, and much of the book is spent dealing with her own personal demons over that fact. So, that means fewer straight forward over-arching battles, and more talking. For those who felt that Alanna cried too much in this book, I would say wouldn't you? I liked the fact that Alanna could be portrayed as a strong heroine who could be an amazing warrior and still be feminine, a strong willed, intelligent woman who could still feel emotions and even sometimes get scared, jealous, or sad. Alanna's is an adult now and she's carving her place in the world. That's complicated stuff. Personally, I found that interesting. Since people have expressed concern about the relatively mature content of the books, I thought I should address it: In regard to the romances in Alanna's life (an oft discussed topic on this page): Alanna is not actually that promiscuous. Over the course of four books she has relationships with exactly three men. And she is perfectly ethical, although not adhering to the Christian concept of no sex before marriage.

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