



SORCERY OF THORNS BY MARGARET ROGERSON

Fantasy

Ages 12 to older

Love everything about it

Sorcery of Thorns is (sadly) a stand-alone book set in the land of Austermeer, whose five Great Libraries ring its capital of Brassbridge. Raised at the Library of Summershall (is it pronounced “summers-hall” or “summer-shall”), since she was young, Elisabeth Scrivener loves grimoires, which are magical books. One day, a sorcerer arrives at Summershall, leading Elisabeth on a journey to Brassbridge, where she meets demons and evil sorcerers galore!

Sorcery of Thorns is one of my favorite books. I say that for most every book I read, but I’m serious this time. The characters, the world building, and the writing are everything.

The world of Austermeer is built around grimoires, magical books classified on a scale of one to ten. Class One grimoires are the least dangerous, and Class Ten grimoires are the most dangerous, needing special confinement and high-level security. When a grimoire is damaged, it becomes a dangerous Malefict. What I like about grimoires is that they almost have personalities.

Austermeer also has demons, both lower forms of them (called fiends) and highborn demons. These highborn demons act as magical servants to human masters, giving them the power of magic.

This brings us to the characters (!!!!). My favorite is young sorcerer Nathaniel Thorn, the last member of an ancient bloodline. His personality is equally sarcastic and humorous, reminiscent of the humor in Disney’s *Tangled* (which I love, by the way); Nathaniel does have a soft side, though. Elisabeth is a great character to read from the point of view of, because she is there to witness all of the drama and action that happens in the book, so readers miss very little.

The ending of the book is sad because something happens to one of the characters. Not sad enough to make me dislike the book, but sad that even though it was hinted that the character was fine, it came very close to making me extremely sad.

All in all, *Sorcery of Thorns* is a fantasy book that does very well as a book of its genre, with relatable characters and fresh world building. Anybody who likes tall, book-loving heroines or libraries would love this book. 10/10.

