

Staff Suggestions Shelf

It probably won't surprise you to learn that many of your library staff members are avid readers! We will, of course, always keep you updated with the latest film and book suggestions on our various themed displays throughout the year, but have you ever wondered what we read ourselves when we want to escape reality? Each month over the next few months, a few of us will be writing brief reviews about our favourite 'Go-to' books in the hopes to inspire you to try something new!

This month, our book suggestion comes from Laura Quinn, one of your LRC Assistants, who loves to escape into fantasy books to get away from the stresses of everyday life. It can be hard to find the right fantasy book fit for yourself, as the genre is so varied and it's often hard to find stand-alone books - the last thing you want is to be drawn into a 15 book series if the story doesn't 'sing' to you! The following review will hopefully encourage you that there are some gems to be found in this genre, so read on!



Book Title: Green Rider
Author: Kristen Britain
Genre: Fantasy

What rating would you give it?



What's it about? (no Spoilers!)

Karigan G'ladheon, the daughter of a prominent merchant in Sacordia, is running away from school after an unfair suspension, when she comes across a dying King's messenger with two black arrows in his back. With his final dying breaths he makes her swear to carry his urgent message to the king in Sacor City for the 'love of her country'. She does not know what the message contains but who can say no to a dying man? She reluctantly sets off with the Rider's message, sabre, badge of office and messenger horse. When she finally reaches Sacor City and delivers the message, she soon finds herself unexpectedly caught up in the intrigues and politics of her country...



The story starts off with a typical 'girl on a quest' type journey (as you would expect, Karigan finds herself pursued by soldiers who are after the information in the message and also having to contend with other dangers on the road such as brigands and wild animals) but it soon develops into a much more in-depth and interesting story with magic, action and suspense. At first it seems a little predictable, but I think this was Kristen Britain finding her feet in her first novel. Stick with it though, as the world/story develops into its own as it progresses and you probably will not be able to put it down once Karigan reaches the castle. For those of you love story enthusiasts out there, there is also an unexpected romantic underlining which starts in this book and runs throughout the series.

Kristen Britain is a wonderful storyteller, with a really 'down-to-earth' and subtly humorous style. She is descriptive, creating a comprehensive and interesting fantasy world without droning on and on for pages to tell you details that really aren't necessary to the plot, which makes her work engaging and easy to read. That is not to say this story is for younger readers however - she certainly does not hold back on using some pretty vivid descriptions that might require you to have a strong stomach or a bad imagination! (This is particularly true in later books in the series, but I don't want to give too much away here). She creates a wealth of characters that you can really connect to, empathise with and in some cases loathe.

Green Rider can be read as a stand-alone book, but I can guarantee you will want to read the rest of the series:

1. Green Rider
2. First Rider's Call
3. High King's Tomb
4. Blackveil
5. Mirrorsight
6. Firebrand
7. Winterlight (releasing in Sep 2021)



Why are you recommending it?

If you have never tried reading a fantasy book before because you think it will be full of strange, unpronounceable words and over the top, unrelatable mumbo jumbo etc, then please, please start with this one! There are a few weird words, yes, but at its heart it is a story about a girl on a journey and the challenges she faces on the way. There are elements of magic and enough mystery to take you away from reality for a while without leaving you overwhelmed or lost and enough gritty bits to ensure you feel like you are not reading a child's fairy tale. There is also plenty of action and plot twists to hold your attention. The scenes are easy to picture in your mind's eye due to the style of writing and the heroine is so relatable and 'real' you will be invested in her journey from the beginning just to find out what happens. Most importantly, unlike other fantasy stories, you do not have to commit to buying/reading 15 books to get to the end of the story - you will feel complete with this book should you not wish to continue with the series (but who am I kidding, of course you'll want to read on....!)

Where can I get a copy?

You can find a copy in most book retailers:

- [Amazon](#)
- [Waterstones](#)
- [Ebay](#)

It is also available in ebook and audio formats.

Where can I find out more?

The Green Rider series has gathered quite a following and fandom over the last few years. There is a dedicated group on [Facebook](#) which regularly gather to discuss anything Green Rider and you can also follow [Kristen Britain on Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#), where she regularly posts snippets of the upcoming book to keep you wanting more. You can also find the latest news on her official website: www.kristenbritain.com

