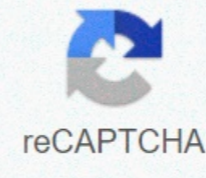




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Alanna the first adventure summary

Alana: The First Adventure by Tamura Pierce Alannah: The First Adventure is, indeed, the first volume of the four-book series by the well-known fantasy writer Tamura Pierce's the lioness song. First published in the 1980s, the quartet was remarkable in many ways, tackling issues such as gender roles, cultural tensions, self-determination and inheritance versus achieved power. Written at a time when a young adult didn't exist as a genre and feisty girls couldn't find much positive representation in mainstream fantasy, the series laid out many of the familiar and vibrant ways of what became a modern YA fantasy. Since reading a lot of novels influenced by Pierce's work, the 2014 series' finally redesigned and their caretaker author Afterwords was quite like following a river back to its source. Why didn't I read those books when I was younger? I was definitely aware of them. In fact, I have a clear memory of standing in my middle school library at 13, reading a synopsis of a paperback edition of Alannah, and feeling clearly unimpressed. A girl who wanted to ride horses and learn sword fights instead of being married to a nobleman's son just seemed so clear to my rainy young self. What girl wouldn't want that? What girl didn't rub up against the social expectations that felt cruelly unfair? What girl didn't look at her brother and think the genetic lottery was nice to him? I wanted a heroine who was proud of her identity, who had nothing to hide, who would shatter the early concepts of patriarchy and re-set up the pieces for something fairer for everyone. (I wasn't a fun kid.) Assuming Elena was stupid and a waste of my time, I put the book back on his shelf and checked out one of my wails in the expanded Star Wars universe. Decades older and wiser, I delved myself forward into the noble journey of fantasy literature to review every science fiction and fantasy book ever written. With that in mind, and satisfying my own curiosity, I approached Eliana with a more patient and hopeful approach than I had before. And you know what? It's a lot better than what I gave him credit for. There are some weak elements, especially when it comes to the magic system, and Pierce certainly wrote for Young Demographics, but the story is solid and Alana Materbond is a heartbreaking character. When the story begins, 10-year-old Alannah and her identical twin brother Tom talk about their planned fate for them by their emotionally distant father: Tom will be sent to the artist as a page at king Roald's palace, while Alannah will be sent to the convent and learn suitable skills for a lady like professing and flower arrangements. Alana came up with a plan for them to impersonate twin boys, one to be sent to And the other to the monastery, where boys are allowed to learn magic. Tom creates a letter from their father, Alana shortens her hair, and their adventures begin. Unfortunately, we see very little of their interactions before this point, so the comments other characters make about their lack of separateness should be taken at face value. Tom occasionally appears throughout the series, but only in the context of how the events of his life affect Alannah's. It's a shame, as I'd like to see what a magical workout in the City of the Gods will be, especially since we've been told that Tom is a prodigy. As Alanna and Tom grow into their identities for several years, their differences would have been more emotional weight if the reader had seen their twin beforehand. Alannah - nicknamed Ellen - rides to the capital Corus with her servant Corram and is quickly installed in the day-to-day roles of the page: education in various fields such as history and mathematics, weapons and combat training, night table service in the ballroom and more. Since it's smaller than all the other pages or caddies, and it's all overwhelmingly new and difficult for her, it's no surprise that she has a slight breakdown after just a few days: I move from sunrise to sunset and after it without stopping, and she has no end in sight. My free time is a joke -- I'm out of free time before I get to the third grade of the morning. And they expect me to keep up, and they punish me if I don't. And I need to learn how to fall; I'm learning the position with the rainbow again when I was the best hunter in Trabond, and if I say anything I get more work! She's not quitting, of course. She learns important lessons about humility and discipline, forces herself to train with swords and avoids long into the night and for hours before anyone else is awake. It's a longstanding process that's so my favorite, and that I'm grateful to see Pierce employ. Perfect characters are dull characters, and watching Alana mature into a talented fighter who fully appreciates the results of her hard work is rewarding. She is praised, she earns her friendships (and her fair share of iva), and experiences a logical arc of character growth. Life in court is usually separated by gender, so most of Alannah/Allen's social interactions involve the other boys in training, their male instructors and Duke Carreth, who oversees training at the palace. She besieges naughty Prince Jonathan, friendly Gary (son of the Duke), and a cunning George Cooper, a local boy who happens to be king of thieves. She is respected and trusted by Sir Miles, the history teacher. There's one well-known thug, Raton of Alban, who chooses Allen as his pet project and mercilessly answers the young page She's getting strong enough to defend herself. At all times, however, she makes sure never let her friends get too close, because she will certainly be able to from training and palace if her secret is known. It bothered me because, on her first trip to Corus, Alannah mentions the heavily armored and armed women guarding the Temple of the Great God. Someone has to train them, and obviously it's acceptable for some women to take up arms under certain circumstances, but there are no women to train with the young men, and somehow any other circumstances are prohibited. I would appreciate a little more information explaining this aspect of life in the field of tortal, since much is made of the need for secrecy. I'd also like to see more important female characters than George's mother, a well-known clinic in the city of Corus. Alana takes Ms. Cooper into her confidence once puberty strikes, since hiding her physical changes becomes a little more complicated after that point, and Ms. Cooper provides Elena with a special charm that somehow has contraceptive properties. She also encourages Alannah to start informing her friends of her secret, which is the kind of advice you'd expect to hear from a reasonable person. I all include the mystery of the mysterious in a fantasy novel, but I think magic must follow a system of inner logic. If pages should be instructed to have adequate uses of magic and its applications, I don't want to see then an authoritative hand waving when someone gets a seemingly magical jewel. How will a worn-out magic around the neck interfere with complex and internal biological function? Will there be any side effects? Would no person with a magical tendency notice a protective or inhibiting aura around magic? If Alana wants to get pregnant at a later date, does magic's protection stop as soon as she takes it off? I doubt the intended audience will ask such questions, which is fine, but I stopped to wonder about these things for a while. Pierce seems to fall back on magic whenever a plot point requires some grease: Alannah has access to large reserves of healing energy or various other magical gifts that appear just when the plot calls them, but don't put any of this healing power to use until her friend Prince Jonathan falls ill and death. She also has fortnightly visions and dreams throughout the series, and despite the fact that they always take into account the principled conflict of each book, Alannah ignores them as nonsense up to a point, when they suddenly become crucial. But in the end, it's a small nuisance compared to the other, well-written aspects of the novel. There's legal intrigue, an attempt to procure the throne, algebra homework, and the relentless pressure of A false identity while you follow the heart. There's witchcraft, swords, and the forbidden black city deep in the desert. Alana is quick and easy reading, and usually quite fun. As the series goes on, the material gradually becomes less child-friendly, but adults and teenage fans of fantasy need to find it quite enjoyable. - Jemma Nieman I've been reading Tamura Pierce novels since I was ten, but for some reason I've never been through all four books of her first series: The Lioness Song. I have no idea why, but it's time to fix the omission. Alana: The first adventure introduces us to Alannah and Day: two red-eyed, purple-eyed twins with a lack of interest who plans to send each of them to a separate upbringing - Tom will become Knight Valana to become a lady. None of them are interested in these futures, so they're reeling from a plan to avoid a life of misery. By forging a few letters, Tom will be admitted to a monastery where he can learn witchcraft, and Alannah (after camouflaging herself as a child) will train to be a knight in the King's Army. By today's standards, this is fairly generic fantasy material, but at a time when the book was first published in 1983, it was glorified - it wasn't necessary for the idea of a woman becoming a fighter (after all, the likes of Mulan and Evin and Joan of Arc were around for a long time) but because Pierce didn't compromise in describing Alannah's physical and mental journey. If she wants to be a knight, she has to work for it. Every cut, every scratch, every bunch Elena sustains throughout her training, are counted here; Nothing comes easy to her, and it takes every ounce of grit and determination to make her dreams come true. It's a book that's very much about a person's physicality, and how it can get better over years of hard work. More than that, however, Pierce never loses sight of the fact that Elena is also a young woman. She's miraculously no better than the boys just because she's the heroine of this story; In fact, there are some areas where she's always at a disadvantage (wrestling, for example). And, of course, once she reaches puberty, she has to deal with her first period and breasts grow. Even today, I am impressed by Pierce's uncompromising and realistic account of Alannah's body - he does not exist to be admired or worshipped, but rather that she will train and become stronger and often struggle with it. The first book covers several years, and is titled like a series of experiences that Elena learns and grows from. In many ways she reads more like a school story than a fantasy story, as she goes through her training and education, faces a series of morally challenging decisions, and also becomes loyal friends as well as committed adversary. Among them is Prince Jonathan, who - as heir to the throne - even Hurdles overcome than Alannah, George Cooper, a cocksure crook who provides Alannah with a spy network, and Sir Miles, an older knight who loves his drink, but who takes a kindly interest in Alannah's progress (or as she knows: Alan). It's fun to look back and see how much Pierce has improved as a writer since her first book, but at the same time there's plenty of skill on display in how she presents the reader with a quick story and cast of endearing characters. The final chapter is a bit anti-climax (Pierce introduces a group of almost invincible enemies just for Alannah to overcome them effortlessly) and much of what is shown here is set for the following books in the series, but Alannah: The First Adventure ends on a note of promise and hope. - Rebecca Fisher Lioness Song - (1983-1988) Young adult. Publisher: Becoming a legend isn't easy, as young Elena of Trebond discovers when she disguises herself as a child and starts training to be chivalrous. Alannah's skills and tenacity help her befriend Prince Jonathan and keep out his evil uncle, Duke Roger. Full of swords and witchcraft, adventure and intrigue, good and evil, this book is a rousing prelude to Alannah's very satisfying story. Share: Follow: If you plan to buy this book, you can support FanLit by clicking on the book cover above and buy it (and everything else) on Amazon. It doesn't cost you anything extra, but Amazon pays us a small referral fee. Click any book cover or link. We use this revenue to keep the site running. It pays for web hosting, mail for gifts, and bookmarks and T-shirts. Thank you! You!

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