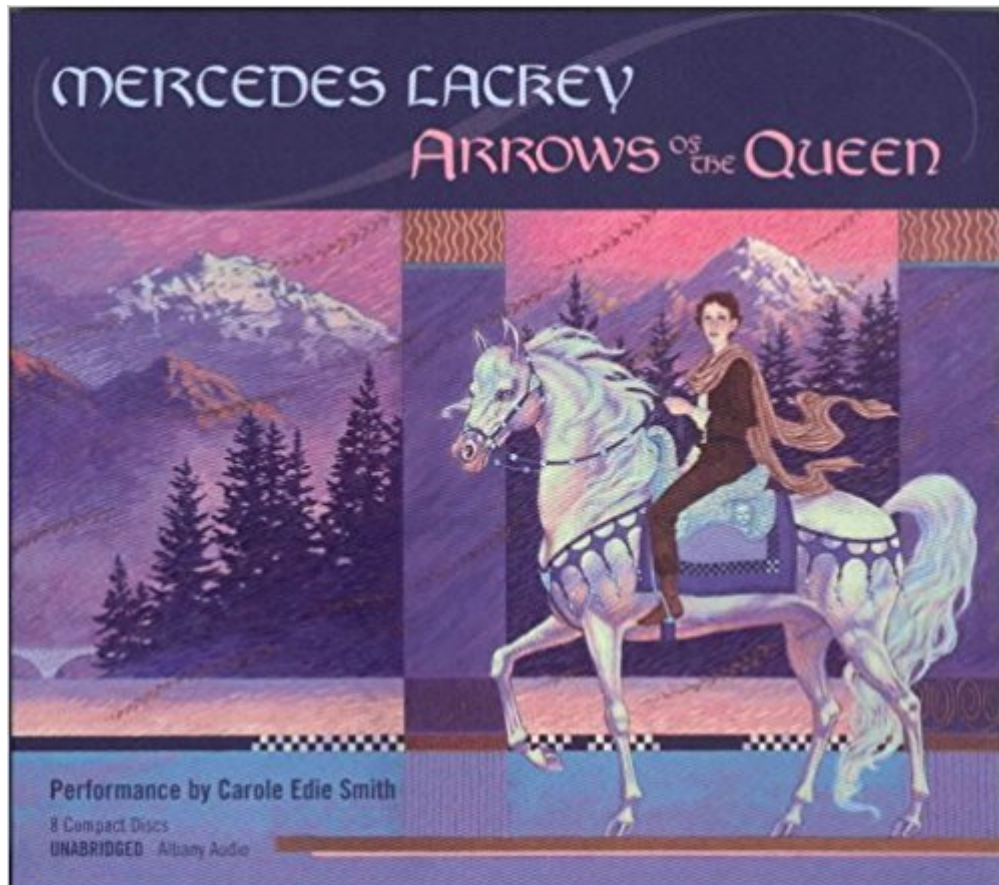




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Arrows Of The Queen



Synopsis

For almost 20 years, Mercedes Lackey has been one of the leading lights in the fantasy genre. With *Arrows of the Queen*, she introduced readers to Valdemar, a world full of fascinating creatures and compelling characters. This first story features Talia, a young girl desperate to escape the strictures of her conservative society. Her life is changed in an instant when she encounters a Companion and is chosen to replace the recently murdered Queen's Own Herald. As she begins her training Talia has no idea that a spoiled Princess, some nobly-born bullies, and a conspiracy that will threaten her life will all stand between her and the destiny she must fulfill.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Chosen by the Companion Rolan, a mystical horse-like being with powers beyond imagining, Talia, once a runaway, has now become a trainee Herald, destined to become one of the Queen's own elite guard. For Talia has certain awakening talents of the mind that only a Companion like Rolan can truly sense. But as Talia struggles to master her unique abilities, time is running out. For conspiracy is brewing in Valdemar, a deadly treason which could destroy Queen and kingdom. Opposed by unknown enemies capable of both diabolical magic and treacherous assassination, the Queen must turn to Talia and the Heralds for aid in protecting the realm and insuring the future of the queen's heir, a child already in danger of becoming bespelled by the Queen's own foes. Cover art by Jody A. Lee --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Mercedes Lackey is a full-time writer and has published numerous novels and works of short fiction, including the best-selling Heralds of Valdemar series. She is also a professional lyricist and a

licensed wild bird rehabilitator. She lives in Oklahoma with her husband, artist Larry Dixon, and their flock of parrots.

'Arrows of the Queen' by Mercedes Lackey is the first book in the 'Arrow' trilogy, and is set in the land of Valdemar. It tells the story of Talia, a young farm girl who is fated to become the 'Queen's Own' a position that will make her the advisor to the Queen of Valdemar, and the highest ranking person in the land next to the queen. It follows her in her training to become a Herald, and her relationship with all the other trainees, and teachers and mentors. It is also the story of the effort of all of the people who love and respect her to keep her safe from conspirators who would bring down the Queen and the Kingdom of Valdemar by destroying Talia, and thus her future assistance to the Queen. Like all of the books of Lackey's Valdemar series, this is a wonderful read for those who love fantasy, and I highly recommend it to them.

This is the book that started the whole of the Valdemar saga and was, I believe, Lackey's first published book. As a freshman novel, it is incredibly good, though many modern readers might find it to be a bit simplistic. Certainly it falls well into the Young Adult category by modern standards, though there is plenty for adults to appreciate here as well. Unlike many other books from its time, this one has also aged quite well, though that is likely as much a function of the genre as anything. Fantasy tends to not become as dated as, say, romance novels do over time as readers' tastes and opinions change. Talia is eminently likeable and a very easy character for anyone who has felt like an outcast for whatever reason to relate to. While her struggles, both internal and external, are shown in a very sympathetic light it is never a pitying one. Even when she is in the darkest periods of her time as a student at the Collegium her inner strength is quite evident. True, she makes various critical mistakes in judgement, particularly as regards trusting those around her, but what adolescent doesn't? Talia may be wise well beyond her years in many regards, but she is still just a scared and lonely teenage girl beneath the capable and dependable demeanor. The heart often breaks for her and the things she must endure, but it's impossible to feel too much pity for a young girl who faces every obstacle and crisis with as much courage and determination as Talia does. It's difficult for me to comment too much on the story in general at this point, for my perception of it is too heavily colored by my knowledge of all that comes after it in the saga. I suppose one of my main comments for those who haven't read the whole extended series is to pay attention here, for though it seems a simple enough tale on the surface, the groundwork for several complicated plots is being laid here, many of which won't come to light until much later. There is also a lot of worldbuilding

here of course, and many characters that we will come to know and love over the course of the saga are introduced here, but Talia's story always takes center stage. I've given this one 4 stars, which is a somewhat arbitrary rating perhaps, though not undeserved. I certainly enjoy it that much, even now after however many times I've read it, but I've never considered it to be one of my favorites. Looking at it a bit more critically this time through (since I can't seem to help noticing various problems in books these days) I noted several times where POV wavered a bit, shifting focus between characters without proper breaks, often between paragraphs in a single scene. Some may find this distracting, though I don't let such things bother me overmuch unless they get really bad, and it doesn't in this instance. Despite such flaws, this is still a book (and series) that I'd definitely recommend to anyone interested in Fantasy, particularly "old school" epic or sword & sorcery type Fantasy.

It took me a bit of time to get into this book - I definitely enjoyed it more once Talia was a bit older. It was a bit dated, and I wasn't a fan of the methods Thalia used to discipline Elspeth, but overall I really liked it. I enjoyed the final quarter enough that I'll definitely read book 2. It reminded me a bit of Tamora Pierce's books because it was appropriate for younger teens, but didn't shy away from any issues.

I found this book to be sweet and engaging without feeling like a saccharine fairy tale. This was something that enchanted me with its wit and charisma and a bit of danger, the blend of fantasy, mystery and magic in an archaic setting was easy to read and to enjoy. Mercedes Lackey has dozens of books under her belt so I wanted to start from the very beginning; this initial novel was a wonderful introduction to the realm of Valdemar and all the intense and magical things that can happen in it. I adored this tale so much that I read it during all my free time, of course once I finished I pounced on the second one, and I'm happy to say that so far I'm loving it too, this is a trilogy whose roots reach into many of Lackey's later books so I recommend starting her off with this story first, it's quite wonderful and makes for a great way to spend the time. It all begins with young Talia, a wisp of a girl who loves to sneak horseback riding and reading into her chores, acts almost unthinkably useless to her parents and fellow Holderfolk inhabitants, girls after all should either marry off or live at the temple, both options are visions of horror for young Talia for she has bigger dreams, ones that make no sense to the simple but quite brute people she lives with. So running away to save her freedom doesn't seem too scary when it happens and luckily she meets Rolan. He is a snow white horse, one whose velvety nuzzle makes her completely melt in his presence, one

that looks like an important animal, one she recognizes from her reading about warriors and the evil creatures who pursue them, suddenly her life feels like one of the books she reads, unfortunately with heroism comes danger, and with danger comes death. When Talia tries to return the horse to the collegium that houses the queen, heralds and important figures she realizes that this was no chance meeting, Rolan picked her because he felt something special about her, something that will change her life forever and help determine the future of the whole kingdom. Talia has a choice to make, she can stay but the price can equal her mortality, the new life she can enter is rewarding but dangerous and it has claimed many young and bright ones before her. She will have to face her heart and soul to find the right path for her, luckily she has Rolan, after all how can such a gorgeous creature hurt her. I don't want to spoil too much but this was simply marvelous, I loved the book, it was such an easy and wonderful read that it felt like pure pleasure and not even a bit of a chore like (for those new to this genre) some fantasy books can be overwhelming but this was straight dessert. Few parts moved me to tears, for some reason I felt not only attached to Talia but to her horse as well, Lackey had done an incredible job in her first book, she's someone who truly loves what she does, it really shows and it hits the reader back, I'm ready for more!- Kasia S.

I am very angry that I purchased the Kindle "Heralds of Valdemar" trilogy. I did not realize that it was simply a renamed version of "The Arrows Trilogy" which I purchased last year. In the past I have always been informed that I had already purchased Kindle books. I don't understand why I wasn't warned this time, before I wasted my money by purchasing it again. Please don't rename anything else I already have.

Great story. Can't wait for Audible to get the next book recorded. I read these books many years ago, but having them read to you is rather special. Great fun!

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