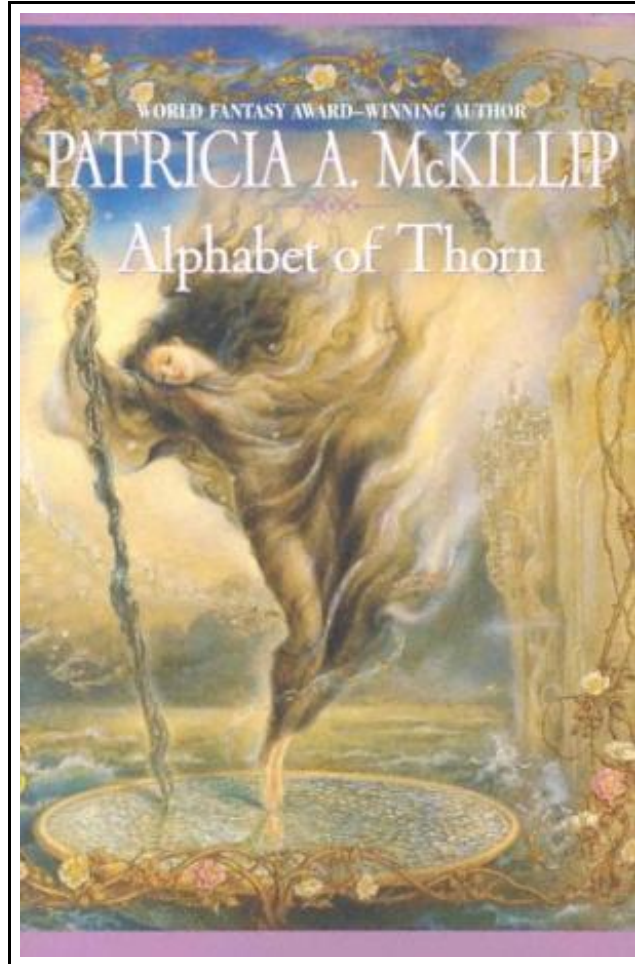


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Reviews

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(Alexandre Cruickshank)

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Ace Books, United States, 2005. Paperback. Book Condition: New. Reprint. 192 x 128 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book. Fantasy author Patricia A. McKillip, the 21st century s response to Hans Christian Andersen, has mastered the art of writing fairy tales -- as evidenced by previous works like *The Tower at Stony Wood*, *Ombria in Shadow*, and *In the Forests of Serre*. *Alphabet of Thorn* is yet another timeless fable suitable for children and adults alike. In the kingdom of Raine, a vast realm at the edge of the world, an orphaned baby girl is found by a palace librarian and raised to become a translator. Years later, the girl -- named Nepenthe -- comes in contact with a mysterious book written in a language of thorns that no one, not even the wizards at Raine s famous Floating School for mages, can decipher. The book calls out to Nepenthe s very soul, and she is soon privately translating its contents. As she works tirelessly transcribing the book -- which turns out to be about the historical figures of Axis, the Emperor of Night, and Kane, his masked sorcerer -- the kingdom of Raine is teetering on the brink of chaos. The newly crowned queen, a mousy 14-year old girl named Tessera who wants nothing to do with matters of state, hides in the woods as regents plot revolution. The queen s destiny, however, is intertwined with Nepenthe s ability to unravel the mystery of the thorns.



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