

## Not Your Mother's Library Transcript

### Mini-Episode 14: High Fantasy

(Brief intro music)

Rachel: Hello, and welcome to Not Your Mother's Library, a readers' advisory podcast from the Oak Creek Public Library. I'm Rachel, and you might be familiar with my voice by now because both Leah and I have been recording a whole bunch of mini-episodes while the library is closed due to the Coronavirus pandemic. Ya know, I played that board game once. "Pandemic," I mean. I thought it was too complex, but that's coming from someone who periodically forgets the rules of "Yahtzee." Anyway, yes, at time of recording Oak Creek Public Library is closed, and staff like myself are offering virtual services in lieu of in-person interactions. Practice social distancing with us, and stay safe out there, everyone. Or, preferably, stay safe in there. Like, indoors. At home. You can catch up on being a couch potato by listening to podcasts, or take us with you while you go for a jog around the neighborhood. New media is versatile like that, and exercise is important. Technically. But, back on track. Leah and I are sharing some of our favorite books, movies, and other schtuff [sic]. Since this episode and the few that follow will be going out in May 2020, I thought I'd go with a new format just for the month. Let's look into specific genres. This episode, as you can see from the title, we'll explore high fantasy, and I plan to touch on other genres like horror and comedy and...niche...in future eps. Let's get started! The heck is 'high fantasy'? Well, think fantasy—you know, speculative fiction with myths and magic and monsters—but there are a lot of ways you can break that down. Is the story set in our modern world? Are there ghosts or vampires? Do people fly around in airships? There are many different subgenres to choose from. High fantasy—sometimes also referred to as 'epic' fantasy—is distinguished by having a setting in another world. Narnia, Middle Earth, Westeros, Earthsea, Fantastica, you name it. Stories tend to center around an important quest set upon by the main hero, or band of heroes, and a big baddie to fight against. My top pick for this genre is a series of books called "The Sword of Truth" by author Terry Goodkind. The first title in this very long series came out in 1994. So, I was two years old and definitely not into it at the time. Not to be ageist or anything, but the story isn't exactly aimed at toddlers. Honestly, I wasn't into "The Sword of Truth" at all until I was a teenager and started watching a TV show called "Legend of the Seeker." The show is based on Goodkind's books, and holy crow, it's good. Both follow the character Richard Cypher, the prophesized and tropey chosen one who becomes the 'Seeker of Truth' alongside his Confessor, Kahlan Amnell and mentor, Zedd, who's a wizard. Sidenote: Confessors have the ability to kind of mind-control people into helping them at any cost. But they use that power for good. Usually. Anyway, these three heroes fight against evil together, protecting the people from tyranny and no-good-nics. The show has over 40 episodes spread across two seasons, and then it was cancelled much to my personal chagrin. But it's fun to rewatch, and a good gateway into the books if you want more. And there's a lot more. The show diverges from Goodkind's work pretty quickly, and the books are as rich and as detailed as any epic fantasy should be. There's loads of action, drama, adventure, and romance. I'm not really into romance as a standalone genre, but I do quite like when it's interwoven into a larger story. So, that's my recommended read. Oak Creek Public Library has many of Goodkind's titles available on the shelf, and "The Sword of Truth" series is available on OverDrive. Download the Libby app to check 'em out on your smart device. A handful of these titles are also available on Hoopla, which has no wait time. Plus, the maximum number of checkouts for Hoopla has been temporarily expanded from four to

eight per month while we all stay safe at home. There are some pretty cool read and watch-alikes for “Legend of the Seeker.” First, if you like the magical aspect, try BBC One’s “Merlin.” This show also first came out in 2008, but it’s much more kid-friendly. Based on Arthurian legend of old, the show follows not-yet-king Arthur and the eponymous wizard, Merlin, as young adults living in Camelot. It bounces between serious and silly, but if you go in with an open mind, it’s a fun ride. Anthony Head plays Arthur’s father—Uther Pendragon—and he’s always fantastic. There’s also a dragon, so that’s fun. The CGI budget was, ah, lacking, but they tried! If you prefer darker fantasy, go with “The Witcher.” This one is pretty popular right now because of a new Netflix original series of the same name. Based on novels and short stories by...an author whose name I really do not want to mispronounce—check the shownotes—“The Witcher” is about a beast hunter with magical abilities, named Geralt of Rivea. The books are insanely popular in Poland where the author hails from. I’m more familiar with the videogame trilogy. The most recent of which is available cross-platform and has some great gameplay. And, of course, I also know the Netflix show which is absolutely binge-worthy. My husband and I viewed it twice, because there was some time-jumpy stuff that I didn’t catch onto until, like, halfway through the first watch. I am kind of slow on the uptake, though, so don’t let that discourage you. Anyway, the series stars Henry Cavill who is somehow perfect for the role of Geralt. There’s a bard who tags along on some of his adventures, too, and his songs are total earworms. Uh, the books, show, and games aren’t intended for young audiences, so be forewarned if you were planning to share the world of “The Witcher” with your children. Many Milwaukee County Libraries have these books and short story collections available to check out or put on hold, as does OverDrive. For something a bit more lighthearted, you can’t go wrong with watching the ’90s television show “Xena: Warrior Princess.” Portrayed by Lucy Lawless, Xena kicks butt and helps the hopeless. The show is actually a spinoff of “Hercules: The Legendary Journeys,” but the character was so popular that she got her own series full of gods and men-made-into monsters. This show also features a bard, who helps Xena redeem herself—cuz the warrior princess has kind of a dark past. If you love the show and want more, there are quite a few in-canon comics available via OverDrive. And, now that I’m looking more into it, it looks like Hoopla has quite a few comics and graphic novels, as well. Hoopla has a cool thing called ‘Dynamic View’ that makes reading comics and graphic novels really easy no matter what kind of eReader you’re using. If you would like a list of recommended high fantasy titles available through OCPL, visit [oakcreeklibrary.org](http://oakcreeklibrary.org) and expand the Books, Movie, More menu to access all of our adult booklists. I curate those lists myself, and there are over 40 fiction genres to choose from right now, so take a look! That’s all she wrote, and by she I mean me. You can reach out to us through the library’s website or Facebook page using the [#notyourmotherslibrary](https://www.facebook.com/notyourmotherslibrary). Subscribe and rate the podcast if you like what you hear. Just a reminder to always check the episodes’ shownotes for a list of everything we talk about. I’m not using the royal ‘we’, here, I just mean both Leah and myself. Yeah. Thanks for listening and, until next time, happy reading.

(Brief outro music)

Rachel: The show is actually a spinosh... “Spinosh?” Spinosh. Brilliant.