

The Witch and The Princess

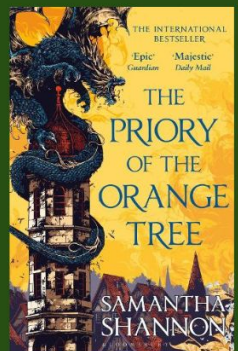
My Project

I'm writing the pilot episode of a medieval fantasy TV series. The plot will revolve around Cressida and Adeline, a witch and a princess caught in a love affair on opposite sides of a revolution.

I've been inspired by works such as *Lord of the Rings* (Tolkien, 1954) and *Game of Thrones* (Martin, 1996).

However, I'm putting my own spin on the genre, as well as aiming to diversify it, particularly in terms of gender and sexuality. Influenced by more recent takes on fantasy, such as *The Priory of the Orange Tree* (Shannon, 2019), I'm placing women at the forefront of my work, in the hopes of balancing out the gap. Of course, gender is much more complex than men and women, something that will also be reflected in my work.

I aim to incorporate some of the harsh reality of medieval life as depicted in *Game of Thrones* (2011-2019), but through a more sensitive lens. I believe there are issues we still face today that are worth discussing, but the overexposed depictions can be unnecessary and it's not reflective of my personal creative instincts.



The Priory of the Orange Tree by Samantha Shannon

Picture from Waterstones.com

Preparation and Research

Me at Tintern Abbey, August 2024

During the early stages, I scribbled out maps, family trees, and flow diagrams to help me visualise the plot.

I was able to use Inkarnate to make digital copies of these maps, as well as using Google Slides to recreate the family trees.

As part of my research, I was able to visit Tintern Abbey and gather useful information about medieval life and the progression of monks throughout Europe in that time.



Preparation and Research

In order to flesh out the world and the finer details of the plot, I'm researching witchcraft and medieval life, as well as Native American history to better understand the culture of oppression.

Moving forward, I plan to read around the works that have inspired me, including interviews with writers and reviews. I hope to discover their influences, the challenges they faced, and tropes that should be avoided. I aim to do this for many books and TV shows, including Disenchantment, Shadow and Bone, The Witcher, and others previously mentioned.

For the more critical aspect of the project, I have been researching feminist theories of fantasy and sci-fi TV franchises, including Star Wars and Game of Thrones. I hope to gain an understanding of what is missing from these genres in terms of representation and diversity, so that I can provide a progressive take on the medieval fantasy genre.

These are all reflected in my bibliography, a sample of which is on the next slide.