

Reader Information Guide

Pubs & Pegasi (Tales from the Broken Claw Book 1)

Approximate Reading Grade Level

- **Grade Level: 7th – 9th Grade**
- **Rationale:** The prose is smooth and accessible, typical of the "cozy fantasy" subgenre²². While the vocabulary is fairly standard for fantasy (e.g., *sennight*, *mercenary*, *emplacements*), the narrative structure follows a slice-of-life pace that is easy to follow

Recommended Grade Level for Readers

- **Recommendation: Middle Grade to Young Adult (Ages 12+)**
- **Themes and Content:** The book is designed as a "cozy fantasy," emphasizing comfort, community, and low-stakes conflict over violence. It is an excellent choice for younger teens transitioning into fantasy who want a story focused on building a home rather than saving the world.

Trigger Warnings & Sensitive Content

- **Grief and Loss:** The protagonist, Sam, experiences a "crushing wave of grief" regarding a former companion and shieldmate, Leeta
- **Mild Threats of Violence:** There are several encounters with aggressive travelers, "thugs," and "minor warlords"⁷. In one scene, Sam uses her sword to break an antagonist's blade to enforce the town's peace
- **Dangerous Creatures:** Mention of "battle-mages" creating bloodthirsty rabbits with "wickedly sharp teeth" and other rare, dangerous beasts like basilisks and colddrakes
- **Body Horror (Magical):** A witch uses magic to give a group of threatening men "the runs" as a non-violent way to incapacitate them.

Racy, Adult, or Spicy Content

- **Synopsis:** The novel contains **no graphic sexual content or "spice."**
- **Mild References:** There are brief, lighthearted mentions of "wenches" dancing on tables in "wild romance" within minstrel songs, but these are depicted as bawdy tavern humor rather than explicit scenes. The "adult" elements are limited to the pub setting, involving the responsible serving of ale and wine

Themes for Parents of Under-18 Readers

- **Found Family and Community:** The story centers on a "Common town" where people "take care of each other, each to our abilities".
- **Finding Your Place:** Sam, a former mercenary, struggles with the transition from a life of war to a life of service, exploring the theme of personal destiny and "fitting in"
- **Conflict Resolution:** The village emphasizes peace ("Come in peace, stay in peace, leave in peace"), showing that strength can be used to protect a community without resorting to unnecessary killing
- **Environmental Impact (Humorous):** A recurring, lighthearted theme involves the mess left behind by "verminous" pegasi, teaching a lesson on the unglamorous side of magical creatures