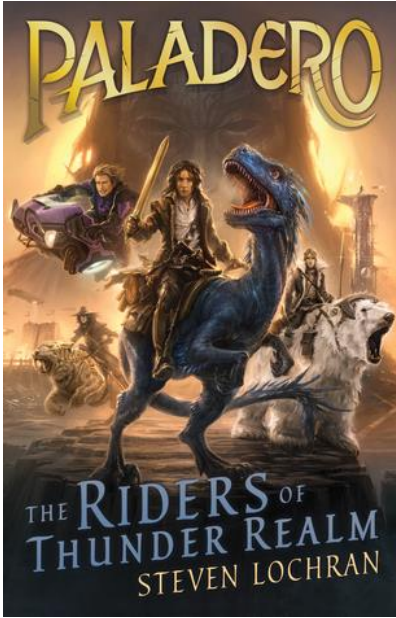




RIVERBEND STANDING ORDERS

JULY SELECTIONS 2016 | MIDDLE SCHOOL FICTION



The Riders of Thunder Realm (Paladero #1)
by Steven Lochran
Published: Hardie Grant
Egmont
ISBN:
Price: \$18.99

THE BOOK

Welcome to Thunder Realm, where cowboy-knights known as paladeros herd dinosaurs during peacetime, and take up arms during war. Joss, a young orphan, has always wanted to be a paladero - but first he must prove himself by going on The Way, a treacherous journey through the kingdom to retrieve a rare Questing Egg. With his trusty raptor Azof by his side, Joss will face off against witches, bloodthirsty monsters and even his own brethren to learn what it truly means to be a paladero - all while uncovering a dark conspiracy at the heart of the kingdom.

WHY WE CHOSE THIS BOOK

This steampunk Western book has everything an adventure story aims to include: dinosaurs, races, magic, witches, monsters, predictable bad guys, a character who turns to the dark side and a quest. Essentially this is a coming of age story for Joss, an orphan who, although exceptionally skilled in riding raptors, has to face his enemies, learn who to trust and conquer his own fears in order to be a paladero. Steven Lochran, a graduate of QUT's Creative Writing program, came up with the word paladero by combining the word paladin ('knight') and the word vaquero (the Spanish term for 'cowboy') to basically describe a cowboy/girl-knight who rides dinosaurs. There is an interesting mix of old style Western tropes with hi-tech weaponry and gadgets.

It is a book which defies genre labelling, and we were delighted to see such a positive gender representation of equality throughout the book. This book will appeal to both girls and boys who love adventure and who enjoy stories that mash up genres. This is the first book in the series.

Suitable for 11+ - an inference of LGBTQ theme, dinosaur, fighting.