

Questions to consider (Fiction):

1. How did you experience the book? Were you immediately drawn into the story—or did it take a while? Did the book intrigue, amuse, disturb, alienate, irritate, or frighten you?
2. Do you find the characters convincing? Are they believable? Are they fully developed as complex human beings—or were they one-dimensional?
3. Which characters do you particularly admire or dislike? What are their primary characteristics?
4. What motivates different character's actions? Do you think those actions are justified or ethical?
5. Do any characters grow or change during the course of the novel? If so, in what way?
6. Who in the book would you like to meet? What would you ask, or say?
7. If you could insert yourself as a character in the book, what role would you play?
8. Is the plot well developed? Is it believable? Do you feel manipulated along the way, or do plot events unfold naturally, organically?
9. Is the story plot or character driven? Do events unfold quickly or is more time spent developing characters' inner lives? Does it make a difference to your enjoyment?
10. Consider the ending. Did you expect it or were you surprised? Was it manipulative or forced? Was it neatly wrapped up—maybe too neatly? Or was the story unresolved, ending on an ambiguous note?
11. Can you pick out a passage that strikes you as particularly profound or interesting?
12. Does the book remind you of your own life? An event? A person—like a friend, family member, boss, co-worker?
13. If you were to talk with the author, what would you want to know? (Many authors enjoy talking with book clubs. Contact the publisher to see if you can set up a phone or Skype chat.)
14. Have you read the author's other books? Can you discern a similarity—in theme, writing style—between them? Or are they completely different?



About the Author

Full text biography:

Genevieve Cogman

Place of Birth : United Kingdom

Nationality: British

Occupation : Writer

Table of Contents:

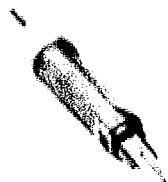
Personal Information

Career

Writings

Sidelights

Related Information



about this author

Personal Information:

Born in the United Kingdom. **Education:** Holds an M.Sc. **Addresses:** Home: Northern England.

Career Information:

Worked as a freelance roleplaying game writer; worked as a clinical coder, data analyst, classifications specialist; works for the National Health Service in the Health and Social Care Information Centre in England.

Writings:

"INVISIBLE LIBRARY"; FANTASY NOVEL SERIES

- *The Invisible Library*, Roc (New York, NY), 2016.
- *The Masked City*, Roc (New York, NY), 2016.
- *The Burning Page*, Roc (New York, NY), 2017.

Contributor to role-playing games, including *GURPS Vorkosigan*, *In Nomine*, *Exalted*, *Dresden Files RPG*, *Orpheus*, and *Hearts, Swords and Flowers: The Art of Shoujo for Magnum Opus*.

Sidelights:

British fantasy novelist Genevieve Cogman is a freelance author who has written for several role-playing game companies such as Steve Jackson Games and White Wolf Publishing, making contributions to table-top games *GURPS Vorkosigan*, *In Nomine*, *Exalted*, *Dresden Files RPG*, *Orpheus*, and *Hearts, Swords and Flowers: The Art of Shoujo for Magnum Opus*. She is the writer of "The Invisible Library" fantasy novel series featuring a multidimensional library. With an M.Sc. in statistics with medical applications, she has worked as a clinical coder, data analyst, and classifications specialist. She works for the National Health Service in the Health and Social Care Information Centre in England as a clinical classifications specialist. She lives in the north of England.

In 2016, Cogman published her debut novel, *The Invisible Library*, which follows a team of librarians who travel to alternate realities to acquire books to put in their mysterious library that exists outside of normal space and time so the unique books can be preserved. The story draws on numerous fantasy elements, including steampunk, supernatural beings, and magic. "I had the idea for a secret agent collecting books for an interdimensional library. Some details were planned from the beginning, while others got developed or created as it went along," said Cogman in an interview online at the *Book Plank*.

Compared to the works of Diana Wynne Jones and Neil Gaiman, the first book of Cogman's series finds librarian Irene traveling to an alternate London where vampires, werewolves, and Fair Folk live. The goal of her and her apprentice, Kai, is to acquire a dangerous book that can be safely kept in the Library. The problem is that the book has already been stolen. Searching for the book draws Irene and Kai into an underground world of factions of mystical creatures willing to kill for the book.

Praising Cogman for vivacity, wittiness, and refreshing banter between the main characters, a *Publishers Weekly* contributor remarked: "Marrying political and academic intrigue with high-stakes battle scenes, the plot moves at a fair clip." Writing in the *Guardian Online*, Eric Brown said it was a breath of fresh air to find a book with "a fantastical world that defies easy provenance and brings something new to the genre."

The second book in the series, *The Masked City*, finds Irene and Kai in an alternate Victorian London when Kai, the son of dragon royalty, is kidnapped by the Fae. Irene joins with detective Peregrine Vale to rescue him and avert a war between the dragons and the Fae. Reluctantly, Irene agrees to also work with the impulsive Lord Silver of the Fae. If they fail, the forces of chaos and order could devastate all the dimensions. "Series fans will be thrilled to learn more about dragon-kind and the capricious Fae," said Lucy Lockley in *Booklist*.

The third book, *The Burning Page*, has Irene and Kai on probation from the interdimensional Library after the events of the last book. As they perform fetch-and-retrieval assignments, Irene's arch nemesis, Alberich, has resurfaced, aiming to destroy the Library and Irene with it. As Irene faces Alberich, she suspects there is a mole in the Library. In an interview on the Tor Books Web site, Cogman explained the stakes, "Vale's got chaos contamination, Kai's got PTSD ... And Irene herself is having to make serious moral decisions about her duty to the Library versus her duty to her friends." A *Publishers Weekly* reviewer noted, "Cogman's writing is fresh, with a rich tonality ranging from the whimsical and witty to the suspenseful." A writer online at the *Caffeinated Book Review* said: "What makes this series magical are the incredible scenes and creative imagination of the author. The creatures, portals, attacks and investigation are all surrounded by a feast for your mind's eye."

Related Information:

PERIODICALS

- *Booklist*, September 1, 2016, Lucy Lockley, review of *The Masked City*, p. 65; December 15, 2016, Lucy Lockley, review of *The Burning Page*, p. 32.
- *Publishers Weekly*, April 25, 2016, review of *The Invisible Library*, p. 73; November 14, 2016, review of *The Burning Page*, p. 36.

ONLINE

- *Book Plank*, <http://thebookplank.blogspot.com/> (January 15, 2015), interview with Genevieve Cogman.
- *Caffeinated Book Review*, <http://caffeinatedbookreviewer.com/> (January 10, 2017) review of *The Burning Page*.
- *Genevieve Cogman Home Page*, <http://www.grcogman.com> (March 1, 2017).
- *Guardian Online*, <https://www.theguardian.com/> (January 16, 2015) Eric Brown, review of *The Invisible Library*.
- *Tor Books*, <http://www.torbooks.co.uk/> (December 16, 2016), interview with Genevieve Cogman.*

Source: *Contemporary Authors Online*, 2017

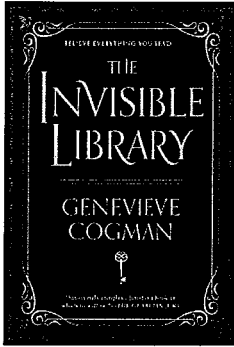
Gale Database: Contemporary Authors Online

Gale Document Number: GALE|H22913242

Source Citation: "Genevieve Cogman." 2017. *Books & Authors*. Gale. Farmington Community Library. 2 Nov 2017 <http://bna.galegroup.com/bna/start.do?p=BNA&u=lom_metronetmncf>

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About the book



Community Rating ★★★★★

eBook

1101988657 E-Book

9781101988657 E-Book

Audio

1531811000 CD MP3

9781531811006 CD MP3

Softcover

9781101988640 Trade Paper

1101988649 Trade Paper

The Invisible Library (2016)**PRINT****CANCEL**

Genevieve Cogman (Author)

In the first book of Genevieve Cogman's Invisible Library series, readers are introduced to Irene, a spy of a most unusual kind. She works for a group known as the Library, who collect rare books from across various realms of time, space, and reality. Her latest assignment sends her to a library in an alternate London to retrieve a fantasy tale. Unfortunately, Irene is not the only one looking for the book, and the others who are interested got there first. To make matters worse, this version of London has magic, good, and evil, and Irene needs to sort out this strange new world to complete her mission. Her mission has another element that only complicates things further: Kai, an assistant in training, accompanies her. Kai appears to have secrets that Irene must deal with if she is to succeed. Available in large print.

MAIN CHARACTERS : Irene, Leader (of Kai), Spy, Kai, Apprentice (of Irene), Spy (in training)

GENRE : Science fiction, Fantasy fiction

SUB GENRE : Fantasy, Alternate World, Science Fiction, Series

SETTING(S) : London, England

SUBJECT : Libraries, Books, Fantasy, Espionage, Alternative worlds, Science fiction, Time travel

TIME PERIOD : 21st century AD

Gale Document Number: GALE|M1300231544

Gale Database: *What Do I Read Next?*, 2017

SOURCE CITATION : "The Invisible Library." 2017. [Books & Authors](#) Gale. Farmington Community Library. 2 Nov 2017 <http://bna.galegroup.com/bna/start.do?p=BNA&u=lom_metronetmnc>

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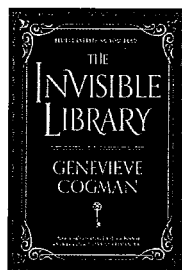
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The Invisible Library (2016)

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Published Reviews:

Title : The Invisible Library

Source : Publishers Weekly 263.17 , : pg.73(1)

Document Type : Book review

Book review, bookreview1.

* The Invisible Library

Genevieve Cogman. Roc, \$15 trade paper (352p) ISBN 978-1-101-98864-0

[ILLUSTRATION OMITTED]

The first entry in Cogman's debut fantasy series follows the adventures of feisty spy Irene. She's employed by the mysterious organization known as the Library, which exists across space and time, to find unique works of fiction across alternate realities and store them for posterity. Her latest mission is to find a tome in a version of London populated with vampires, werewolves, and Fair Folk while training one of the Library's newest recruits, the enigmatic Kai. She gets more than she bargains for when the book is stolen and she's thrust into a dangerous underworld where magic and intrigue meet. Cogman writes with a vivacity and wit that breathes new life into the genre. Marrying political and academic intrigue with high-stakes battle scenes, the plot moves at a fair clip, with a captivating cast of characters. The relationship between Irene and Kai omits clichéd romantic tension, and the banter they share is quite refreshing. Reminiscent of the works of Diana Wynne Jones and Neil Gaiman, Cogman's novel is a true treat to read. Agent: Lucienne Diver, Knight Agency. (June)

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GENRE

[Science fiction {10193} »](#)[Fantasy fiction {12805} »](#)

SUBJECT

[Espionage {1947} »](#)[Fantasy {10736} »](#)[Science fiction {8238} »](#)[Libraries {240} »](#)[Alternative worlds {1197} »](#)[Books {2860} »](#)[Time travel {1494} »](#)

LOCATION

[London {5090} »](#)[England {16687} »](#)

TIME PERIOD

[21st century AD {35337} »](#)

The Warlock's Gray Book

Enchanting Book Treats for a Reading Addict

Interview with Genevieve Cogman, author of *The Invisible Library*

17/06/201616/06/2016

21416690

Hi there! I had the pleasure to interview Genevieve Cogman, author of *The Invisible Library*, the review of which you can find here! Please read along, and don't forget to take a look at the book also 😊



*Genevieve Cogman got started on Tolkien and Sherlock Holmes at an early age, and has never looked back. But on a perhaps more prosaic note, she has an MSC in Statistics with Medical Applications and has wielded this in an assortment of jobs: clinical coder, data analyst and classifications specialist. Although *The Invisible Library* is her debut novel, she has also previously worked as a freelance roleplaying game writer. Genevieve Cogman's hobbies include patchwork, beading, knitting and gaming, and she lives in the north of England.*

1. Hi, Mrs. Cogman! Thank you for agreeing to this interview! I would like to start with an all-time classic : Could you enlighten us a little bit about yourself?

I'm a clinical classifications specialist (it has to do with recording medical data) and I work for the NHS. I live and work in the north of England, a couple of hours north of London. My hobbies include patchwork, knitting, beading, role-playing games, and reading far too much.

2. How did your passion for books start?

As far back as I can remember, I've been reading, and losing myself in a good story. I remember my parents reading me **The Hobbit** as a bedtime story when I was five or six. I started on **The Lord of the Rings** at seven, even if I didn't properly appreciate large parts of it at the time. I was always reading anything I got my hands on from the family bookshelves, and the school library, and the local library...

3. What made you want to mash up spies and libraries?

It started as just the concept of a librarian who was “collecting” books from alternate universes, rather than as a deliberate plan to mix the two genres, but when I started writing it, I found out that in practice Irene had to use quite a number of spy (or heist) techniques to succeed. All that early reading of Modesty Blaise novels and various “How To Be A Spy” handbooks for children must have had more influence on me than I realized.

4. Did you have to do any research while writing The Invisible Library? If so, what did you research about?

The main area of research was the geography of various points in London. Though there were other points, such as “famous lost works of fiction”, “vocal patterns of Sherlock Holmes”, “types of alligator”, “curare and antidotes”, and “how to spell Liechtenstein”...

5. How would you summarize your book in one sentence?

Heroine has to obtain rare text while hunted by arch-enemy of Library and coping with an unwanted mentorship role, and finds out that famous detectives are more complex in real life than they are in fiction.

6. What was your favorite element to write about? (a character, an event, a description,...)

Silver is my favourite character to write about. He's just so gloriously melodramatic and tacky. My favourite event was the alligator attack. (I'd probably better not say where or how, in case people haven't read that scene yet.)

7. What do you notice most when reading a book? (Characters, characters' development, plot holes, etc.)

I think it would be characters, but it really does depend on the book.

8. What would you like people to notice most while reading your book?

I wouldn't want them necessarily to “notice” things. I'd just like them to enjoy reading it, and to come out the far end with a headful of cool images and some entertaining new daydreams. And maybe to want to know what happens next.

9. Could you give us 3 book recommendations?

Rivers of London, by Ben Aaronovitch.
A Wizard of Earthsea, by Ursula Le Guin
The Goblin Emperor, by Katherine Addison

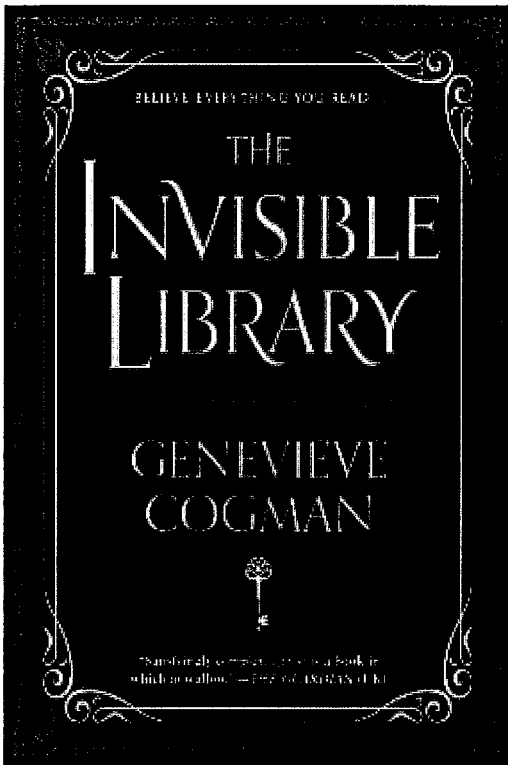
10. Thank you for your time, and good luck for the future!

-
Thank you very much!

The Reading Chick

I read therefore I blog

An Interview with Genevieve Cogman author of The Invisible Library



(https://deborahkehoe.files.wordpress.com/2016/06/img_0463-2.png) Previously, I had reviewed this author's book, The Invisible Library (<https://thereadingchick.com/2016/05/26/this-chick-read-the-invisible-library-by-genevieve-cogman/>), and loved it! (Click the title for the review) I was fortunate to have been given the chance to interview the author, Genevieve Cogman about the book, and it's release June 14, 2016 in the United States.

Hi Genevieve, thank you so much for taking the time to answer a few questions for your readers.

ME: I see that we have the love of fantasy in common! Your bio states that you grew up reading Tolkien, as did many of us, and I definitely see his influence in The Invisible Library, in the characters Silver and Kai. Your love for Sherlock Holmes was also referenced in this book. Did any other influences from your childhood reading surprise you while writing this book?

GC: I'm not sure it's exactly childhood reading, but I grew up watching Doctor Who. I didn't realize quite how strong an influence it was on the books until my editor pointed it out to me! Another influence on the books was early reading in Michael Moorcock, and the conflict in his books between law and chaos, where humanity is placed somewhere between the two. And there's the Journey to the West, which I read in an abridged translation quite young, and which I've loved throughout my life.

ME: Looking at your background, and degrees in Statistics and Medical Application specifically, it seems a big contrast to writing fantasy and/or steam punk fantasy. Your descriptions of the mechanical creatures, dirigibles, etc. were so detailed, did you ever get caught up in the practicalities or impracticalities of what your imagination was creating?

GC: I'm not sure if practicality/impracticality is quite the right word for what I'm thinking of, but I did try to bear in mind whether things were plausible in terms of the story. I was prepared to handwave quite a lot of mechanical implausibility (such as how you'd get a giant mechanical centipede to work, or whether you could rapid-brake a zeppelin by doubling its weight) as long as it felt right for the world in question. I'm afraid this isn't the sort of novel which has a full scientific explanation justifying the creation of zeppelins, so I apologise to anyone who was expecting that.

ME: When I read a series, with a female lead character, I enjoy reading about how their character grows and changes. Irene seems to be very practical in nature, not allowing emotions to overcome her mission. However, we see her struggle more with her emotions as the story progresses. Would you please give us insight into what we will see in future from Irene? How her character will continue to develop?

GC: *I don't want to veer too far into "female character was previously obsessed by her work, but comes to realize that she can have friends too". But it is true that Irene has previously avoided considering the future, and has been occupying herself with day-to-day assignments. I think part of her development will be the realization that everyone has to pay attention to what's going on around them, and take responsibility for their action or inaction.*

ME: I am a big fan of the romance genre, and it seems that Irene could have a couple men vying for her attention in future books. Regardless of her future responsibilities, will you allow Irene to relax into a romantic role? If so, can you give a hint as to who her leading man may be?

GC: *Romance is definitely a possibility, though feelings of responsibility (on the one hand) and feelings of gentlemanly conduct (on the other hand) are going to be confusing the issue. There's also the fact that both Kai and Vale have very different opinions of what a relationship should involve. So I can only say, wait and see. (Silver would like to be the leading man, but Irene has more sense than that...)*

ME: I don't want to give away the ending to The Invisible Library, because it sets the stage for future novels. Will Irene and Kai explore other alternate universes in future? My imagination was running wild with the infinite possibilities. If you could have them explore any alternate universe, what would be some characterizations of that universe? What kind of book would they search for?

GC: *I can definitely confirm that they will be visiting other alternate worlds. In book two, The Masked City, you get to see a couple of them. As for what type of world... well, it could be almost anything, but it will generally have something in common with Earth as we know it. The Librarians always collect fiction, but it might be anything – sagas, fairy tales, myths, novels, manga... Irene would claim that she just wants to go somewhere nice and peaceful for a change, where she can get hold of the latest target novel without any death-defying chases or dangerous schemes, but I think that she'd be bored within a few months.*

ME: Genevieve, thanks for giving me a little insight into how you created this world and the characters that inhabit it. I really enjoyed The Invisible Library. The world you created was so descriptive and real,

that it really made Irene and Kai pop against that imagery. Can you tell your readers when to expect the second book in the US?

GC: Thank you for taking an interest, and I'm very glad that you enjoyed The Invisible Library. The second book, The Masked City, is due out in September 2016, and I hope that you'll like it too.

(https://deborahkehoe.files.wordpress.com/2016/06/img_0472.jpg)

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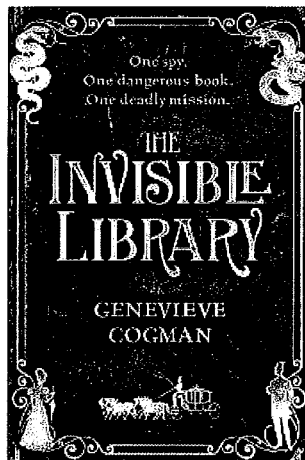


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The Invisible Library by Genevieve Cogman



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A Recommended Book of the Month

I have never before in my life wanted to write in someone else's created world more than I do now that I have read Genevieve Cogman's 'The Invisible Library'.

And, as a writer, that is essentially the highest praise I can think of giving a piece of fiction.

When I first read the blurb for The Invisible Library, I was hooked. And while technically the author's debut novel, her Goodreads profile confirms that she has been published before as a freelance roleplaying game writer – which shows, because The Invisible Library is not the work of an amateur – nor even a lucky beginner.

The Invisible Library is everything I could ever want out of a book – almost eerily so, given that I've never met Genevieve

Cogman. Set in a world of alternate Earths, a library between worlds exists to collect and ensure the continuity of every book it can get its hands on. Manned by lovers of books, named Librarians, these ageless superheroes (in my eyes, at least) spend their preternaturally long lives scouring the alternates for copies of books that may exist only there, or books that are inherently important to that alternate, or different variations on books so many of us have heard of.

The Invisible Library is both the name of the book and the name of this library between worlds, and it is a brilliant concept (that I imagine has at least something to do with Terry Pratchett's own writings about libraries). It appeals instinctively to readers who love books on so many levels.

The only negative thing to say about the book is that at times characters fall victim to some lazy writing by the author – in one case a character so vehemently reveals a plot point that you cannot help but feel the author didn't know how else to drop this information in other than blatantly and uncharacteristically.

This particular book takes place in an alternate world where technology is somewhat steampunk-ish, but less so, as magic and 'chaos' have perverted the world and made some technology useless and magic more important. The Fae have a strong presence in this London, but Irene, the Librarian star of this book, is up to the challenge. Along with a mysterious (not-so mysterious) student Librarian, a brilliant detective (who is Sherlock Holmes in all but name, and therefore someone Irene is instinctively drawn to), and a cast of other miscreants, law officers, and villains, The Invisible Library is a stunning work of art that has me absolutely begging for more.

As I said at the top, The Invisible Library is a world I want to write in. I want the opportunity to play in this sandbox, to visit the Library and meet someone new, and to take them on adventures through this intricate and magical world of alternate Earths and mysterious interdimensional libraries. However, I will have to satisfy myself with Genevieve Cogman treating me to future stories in this world, and I would recommend that you give yourself that same opportunity.
Joshua S Hill, 8.5/10

The Invisible Library is what I like to call a joyful little Sunday read, one of those books that I can pick up with my morning coffee and read in a single day as the sun shines (or if you're in the UK, the rain falls) and its okay to sit in your pyjamas all day.

Cogman has given us a very well written and formed novel, with a solid and vivid plot. The story revolves around the Librarian Irene, who is sent on a mission to recover a unique book for a Chaos infected world. However, it appears everyone else wants this book too, the result of which are obstacles such as vampires, werewolves, Fae and getting a little smitten for the worlds own

Rating

8.8/10

Intricate and magical world of alternate Earths and mysterious interdimensional libraries.

Genevieve Cogman interview

2015-03-24



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Dan Adams

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Roald Dahl

[Coming Home](#)

Jack McDavitt

[The Ghost of Shadow Vale](#)

Jonathan Stroud

[The Cheapside Corpse](#)

Susanna Gregory

version of Sherlock Holmes. There are flashes light and colour set against a world of darkness and secrets, and secrets within secrets. The Victorian era setting mixes effortlessly with the steampunk, magical creatures and zeppelins, the themes fluid and smooth in contrast to their opposing concepts.

The main character, Irene, is likeable and the overarching villain Alberich (who really only shows his face towards the end of the book) – while initially an abstraction and campfire nightmare tale told to other Librarians – was intriguing and left the reader wanting more.

Kia's presence for me did feel a little understated, I would have liked a more focus on his role and background, but can tell there is a lot more to come so was not greatly disappointed. I am looking forward to seeing how Kia personal history unfolds for Irene.

There were some nice mystery's and uncertainties left to the reader, my favourite being the planting of some seeds of doubt regarding the library as well as the mystery surrounding Alberich himself.

Overall, I really could not find fault with this story or it's writing. Cogman has provided a tale that is fun, with twists of darkness and secrets and plenty of action that will keep you turning the page and counting the days until the next book.

If you like you worlds colourful but dark, fantastical and adventurous, this is the book for you. Speak the name of the Library in the Language and the door will open. Step through at your own risk.

Fergus McCartan, 9/10

This The Invisible Library book review was written by [Joshua S Hill](#) and [Fergus McCartan](#)



All reviews for: The Invisible Library Series



[The Invisible Library](#)
The Invisible Library
Series #1
8.8

Irene is a professional spy for the mysterious Library, which harvests fiction from different realities. And along with her enigmatic assistant Kai, she's posted to an ...



[The Masked City](#)
The Invisible Library
Series #2
8.5

Librarian-spy Irene is working undercover in an alternative London when her assistant Kai goes missing. She discovers he's been kidnapped by the fae faction and the rep...



[The Burning Page](#)
The Invisible Library
Series #3
9.0

When it's your job to save the day – where do you start? Librarian spy Irene has standards to maintain, especially while on probation. And absconding from a mission via...

Have you read The Invisible Library?

We've found that while readers like to know what we think of a book they find additional reader reviews a massive help in deciding if it is the right book for them. So if you have a spare moment, please tell us your thoughts by writing a reader's review. Thank you.

[Write a reader review](#)

The Invisible Library reader reviews

8.8/10 from 1 reviews

There are currently no reader reviews for this book. Why not be the first?

Write a reader review

Thank you for taking the time to write a review on this book, it really makes a difference and helps readers to find their perfect book.

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Country where you live

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Paul McAuley

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