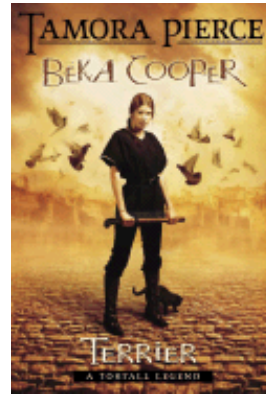


The Menlo Park Library and Kepler's are proud to present...

**Tamora Pierce at the
Menlo Park Library,
800 Alma St. - Friday,
November 17 at 7:00
PM.**



Pierce will speak about her latest book, *Beka Cooper: Terrier*, the first in her just-released new trilogy. Her fast-paced, suspenseful writing and strong, believable heroines have won her much praise and a large, devoted following. She is also the co-creator (with novelist Meg Cabot) of www.sheroes.com, a site for young readers to learn about remarkable women in fact and fiction.

Tamora Pierce's fantasy novels for young readers are noted for their strong female protagonists and imaginative, well-drawn plots. In her "Song of the Lioness" quartet, Pierce features Alanna, a young woman who disguises herself as a man in order to train as a knight, and then uses her physical strength and healing capabilities to serve Prince Jonathan and engage in numerous medieval adventures. "I enjoy writing for teenagers because I feel I help to make life easier for kids who are like I was."

"I owe my career as a writer and my approach to writing to people like my writing mentor, David Bradley, who taught me that writing is not an arcane and mystical process, administered by the initiate and fraught with obstacles, but an enjoyable pastime that gives other people as much pleasure as it does me. I enjoy telling stories, and, although some of my topics are grim, people get caught up in them."

(Contemporary Authors Online, Gale, 2003)

Tamora Pierce begins a new Tortall trilogy with Beka Cooper, an young woman who lived 200 years before Alanna.

Beka Cooper is a novice in the Provost's Guard, and she's been assigned to two veterans to enforce the law in the Lower City. Beka has limited ability to communicate with the dead, but this ability leads her to discover an underworld conspiracy. Profits from dark magic serve to stimulate an intense crime wave.

Katy Larid, age 12, a devoted Pierce fan, has this to say about the author's newest book... Beka Cooper has her heart set on being the fastest puppy to ever rise to the coveted

rank of dog. After all, who could know the Lower City better than one who grew up in the cesspool? Beka eyes are fond of examining the floor, but she has talent, which lands her with Tunstall and Goodwin, the best of the best. They hadn't had a puppy in years, but they soon learn of her true talent, and as she begins to trust them, of her magical talent. Beka's contentment to bash out brawls with her baton is abruptly cut off. Someone has taken a monster out of legends, and began terrorizing the Lower City with it. Someone is stealing children, and demanding costly valuables for them in exchange for the Childs return, alive. But the wealthy from other districts are caught up in it too. They are in danger now. Fires were started in a wealthy manor. Pigeons, messengers of the Black God, carry news of unhappy spirits, unable to go to the Peaceful realms. Beka's dusters whirl with news of murders underground. Also, multiple people, nine, disappeared at once. It isn't normal, not even for the lower city. Beka pokes around asking questions here, then strolling over there. She works efficiently, but time is running out. The hourglass is moving. The Lower City is in danger, is it a creature from ledged? Or just a man, with a complex mask?