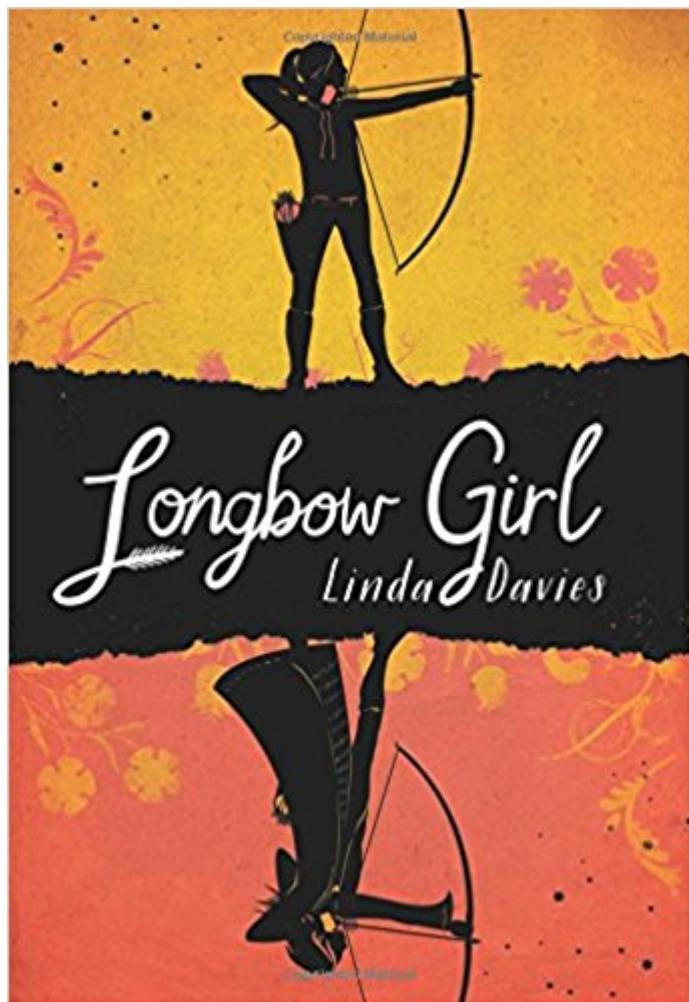


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# Longbow Girl



## Synopsis

Set in the wilds of the Welsh mountains, the brave and beautiful longbow girl, Merry Owen, discovers a river that takes her back in time to the autocratic kingdom of King Henry VIII. While there she finds she must compete in an archery tournament to save her ancestors' land from being seized by their aristocratic neighbors the de Courcys. Merry's best friend James de Courcy (and heir to the de Courcy wealth) follows her back in time and the two get tangled up in their families' ancient histories. There are forces working against them both in the past and the present. Will they be able to survive their pasts to save their futures?

## Book Information

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Best Sellers Rank: #101,816 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #2 in Books > Travel > Europe > Great Britain > Wales #89 in Books > Children's Books > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Science Fiction > Time Travel #108 in Books > Teens > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Science Fiction > Time Travel

Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

## Customer Reviews

Praise for *Nest of Vipers*: "Authentic, gripping, utterly fascinating." -- Entertainment Weekly "Look for this one to be big." -- USA Today "Fast-paced fun." -- Chicago Tribune "This book is a class act." -- Glamour, UK

Linda Davies is the bestselling author of several financial thrillers for adults and a forthcoming book about being held hostage in Iran. *Longbow Girl* is her young adult debut. She lives in Suffolk, England with her husband and three children. You can visit her online at [www.lindadavies.com](http://www.lindadavies.com).

This book was great. There is a good story line, action and history. It was fast paced and I looked forward to the adventures. I would highly recommend Longbow girl. I have read several of Linda Davies books and have enjoyed each one. I am a huge reader and I love to find good authors and Linda Davis is a good author

I bought two of these books for both of my 12-year-old granddaughter's. They loved the book. I asked what they liked the most, they said everything. I would highly recommend this book, by Linda Davies.

Time travel back in time to Wales during King Henry VIII's reign. Merry and James learn a lot about their ancestors and themselves during their trip back in time.

Time traveling with two great characters was a great adventure to be on while reading this book! I highly recommend!

I liked the book, but not as much as Davies' financial thrillers.

From Linda Davies comes LONGBOW GIRL, perfect for anyone who watches "Doctor Who" or reads Ranger's Apprentice. Set in Wales, Great Britain, this book tells the story of Merry Owen, a one-eyed archer who travels between the present and the time of the ancient book known as the Mabinogion. The Mabinogion is a collection of 11 stories from medieval Welsh manuscripts dating from around 1060 to 1200 --- one of them being the story of the Longbow Girl. The well-to-do de Courcys and the down-on-their-luck Owens have remained tense neighbors for many generations. The protagonist Merry Owen strives to find a way to save her family's farm from being taken by the de Courcys in both the past and present. When she finds the Mabinogion, she realizes it could save them. If she is lucky, situations in both the past and present can be resolved to benefit the Owen family. However, Merry soon discovers the book holds answers to many mysteries. Author Linda Davies employs an interesting parallel structure in this novel with the past and present conflicts. In the present day, the Owen family struggles to pay its debt to keep the farm that has been their home for many generations. Likewise, in the past, the Owen family must fend for themselves farming and hunting when the father of the family is imprisoned. Merry sees to both conflicts, with the help of her best friend James de Courcy, though in different

ways. In the past, she competes at a royal tournament to try to win her ancestor's freedom and lands, despite being female. In the present, she tries to sell the *Mabinogion* book she found in the woods on the Owen land to save the farm. The weakness in this novel is character development. The novel doesn't have the feel of a coming-of-age story. Merry Owen doesn't really change or grow during the course of the story. Even though Merry's vision is compromised as she has only one eye, there is no emphasis of her overcoming challenges because of it, like an archery contest for example. I would suggest this book for readers between the ages of 10-12. There is no foul language or romance. The reading level is not difficult, and the movements between the past and present create no difficulty to follow. The time travel and female hero will keep pre-teens engaged. Reviewed by Cat S., Teen Board Member

Some books defy genres. *Longbow Girl* is one of them. It is well-researched historical fiction and also a meticulously crafted, time travel novel. No easy feat, but one that Linda Davies pulls off with aplomb. If you study this beautiful cover, you'll get a clue as to what this amazingly-plotted tale is about. *Longbow Girl*, which takes place in Wales, spans twenty-one generations (or for those of you who are math-challenged like myself, 500 years.) Fifteen-year-old Merry Owens is descended from a long line of longbow warriors. But she is unique: she is the first girl to master the bow. The opening chapters set up Merry's stubborn, smart, and loyal personality as well as her problem: unable to pay his bank debt, her father may have to sell their family land to their wealthy neighbors. This estate just happens to belong to her best friend--James DeCourcy's--parents, the Earl and Countess DeCourcy. The young people do not condone the rivalry between their families that spans generations, and instead, champion each other's dreams. Merry will do anything to keep the land in her family. But how? Her dilemma is compounded when she finds an extremely rare and valuable copy of the *Mabinogion*, a collection of eleven stories collated from medieval Welsh manuscripts. While it is in her possession her life is threatened and she considers how to get rid of it to protect herself and her family. The book speaks of a treasure near a waterfall in a riddle pool. Risk-taker that she is, Merry follows the book's directions in order to try and find the treasure which could save her family from financial ruin. Her decision is full of high stakes danger as Merry finds a watery tunnel (later she names it the river of time) which brings her to a land that looks vaguely familiar. The land is filled with people that look like her family and the DeCourcys. Gradually, she realizes that she has traveled "500 years from home." When she discovers that her ancestor has been falsely imprisoned, she has no choice but to try and rescue him and save her family's legacy. If he dies, she reasons, she may never have been born! Linda Davies next to Maen Lila, the Neolithic standing stone that

guides Merry. This action-packed story is full of Merry's and James' gut-wrenching choices which hook the reader. Merry's survival and longbow skills are tested; James' physical prowess and ability to deceive his captors are tried; and both young people prove that their friendship can not only withstand immense challenges--but grows stronger as a result. The novel is full of high action adventure, but Davies does not neglect to show both characters' internal struggles. Although writers are instructed to "show, not tell," Davies names feelings such as anger and relief. To be honest, that never bothered me. But there were some loose ends which I wondered about. What happens to their antagonist, the evil professor who follows Merry back through the tunnel. Does he get trapped in the time of the Tudors? Similarly, a wild stallion follows Merry into the 21st century. Why doesn't her father question his sudden appearance? Since I listened to the audio version, this review is not as full of quotes as most of my book reviews are. But I jotted down this memorable line. Merry is facing capture and possible death and she thinks, "The 16th century was not a playground for the privileged children of the 21st." At first, I was a little put off by Emily Wilden's Welsh accent. But fairly quickly I adjusted to her manner of speaking and when I finished listening to the performance, her voice stayed in my head for days. Ms. Wilden annunciated her words well and helped the reader form an emotional connection to the characters. Since I listen to audio books in the car, I often couldn't wait to be driving somewhere to hear what happened next to Merry or James.

I'm sad to have gotten to the end of this book. Linda Davies story is dramatic and entertaining and her descriptions pull you into Merry's rich world. There a bit of romance between the two main characters, but nothing that would make a preteen (or her parent) uncomfortable. The adventure is slow to build, but exciting. There is some violence, but it is never lurid. I have passed it on to my eleven year old, I think she'll love it!

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