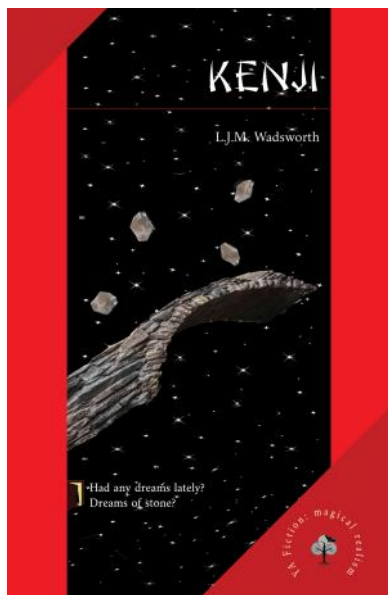


# Kenji

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By L.J.M. Wadsworth



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Genre: YA Fiction

In a world where balance is key, a boy who doubts his own sanity suddenly finds himself in charge of saving everyone else's.

Steeped in ancient lore, Kenji is the story of a troubled boy who, after a violent domestic tragedy, is forced to seek for his lost father in a shadowland riven with conflicting forces of light and dark.

And after a while, his eyes felt heavy and he closed them. And at last his mind became still. It was a peculiar sensation, like he was floating and falling at the same time. There was nothing to tell him he was still in the bedroom, although he could picture himself there, lying on the bed, the beech tree scraping at the window, the gentler light of the evening gathering quietly. It was easier to imagine he was in the dark, and to watch the image that was forming behind his eyes, far away still, yet closer, closer, as he steered himself into it. Until suddenly he was standing at the start of a bridge, the curve of it rising up in front of him. A stone bridge, like a dark, cold scar across the night. The huge paving stones were still laying themselves, one after the other, appearing from out of the darkness like spinning grey moths to crash at his feet.



## The Author

LJM Wadsworth grew up in the shadow of the Pennines, where anyone with an interest in legends, ghosts, UFOs and all things 'strange' could take a walk on the moors and expect not be disappointed.

Kenji is Wadsworth's first published novel. She has had short stories published in the past, her first being 'The Boy Who Saw' (Thistle-down Press), which was also listed on the curriculum of the Saskatchewan School Board in the category 'The Unknown' alongside John Wyndham; and her most recent being 'The Gardener' (again with a YA protagonist), which was selected as one of the runners-up in the Mslexia Short Story Competition 2021 (judged by Costa Book Award winner A L Kennedy) and appeared in their anthology Best Women's Short Fiction 2021.



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