

Royalslinger was such an exciting and magical book I couldn't put it down (literally)! Half the time I was on the edge of my seat and the other half my heart was accelerating and my breath was quickening. Such a good book!

Graci Kim really hooks you in with the first book and in the second book she grabs your heart and makes you want more. I wish there was a third book! When Aria's heart was sad I felt every bit as sad but when she was as happy as the sun I could feel all my worries about Aria, Lion and Tui drifting away.

- Arielle, 10 Wellington

Royalslinger is a MUST read for anyone of any age group over 10 years old. It's a very impactful story with totally unexpected twists at almost every single moment! It's fantastic at making your jaw drop when you most likely expect it, and shows you to never give up, even when it seems there is nothing you can do. And the characters are very relatable.

Aria is a very well written character in my opinion, because she stands for what she believes in for most of the book. She isn't afraid to admit to her mistakes, she is forgiving to the ones she loves and extremely hard working all throughout the book.

I really loved the second book because it was honestly addicting in a way. Like I would go up to go to the bathroom or grab a snack but end up creeping my way back to the book and reading five more chapters. The ending is fantastic! If you told me any spoilers from the second book when I was reading the first book I would have been SHOCKED! Honestly I could never guess any of the twists in a million years.

The map at the start of the book was fantastic. Any time I would get confused where they were I could just take a quick peep at the map and then I would get it! Honestly I think every book that mentions places should have a map no matter how good they explain it, since you can't really tell how far away something is from another based just on descriptions. Honestly if there was no map I would be thinking that the Beyondash and the North Sea of Ice were right next to each other, but thanks to the trusty map I could tell they are not even close at all!

Overall I'd give this book a 10/10 because I love how creative it is and I think it's very, very under rated. I love how the UK Dreamslinger cover looks and honestly wish I got my hands on one since it is really pretty! I also like how it takes inspiration from Pokemon! I really like Pokemon and it seems in the same genre as but with a lot more character and culture. I think this book was really cool and I think it's fantastic for anyone who likes fantasy books. I hope that there will be a third book.

- Annabelle, 10, Wallacetown

This book was one of the best books I have ever read! It really just made me keep wanting to turn the page and read more. My mum ordered some of your other books from the library and I have started reading Dreamslinger. The ending of Royalslinger was AMAZING and I loved how everything just made sense and clicked. Aria was such an interesting and unique character to read about and her friends (Tui and Lion) are so supportive and nice. I loved the part at the end when she met The God Of Death and saw Rio for the first time after he had gone through the Frontier. You are super talented and have a great imagination. Thank you so much for letting me read your book, it was fantastic.

- Cora, 11, Auckland

This book follows Aria through her journey in training with her bloom dragon Rio, as she tries to be a fully fledged fellow and tame her powers throughout her training as a trialeer to a novice. To succeed, she relies on her friends who help her see how strong and brave she really is. She also has to be honest to be a fellow.

The main characters are Aria, Rio, Lion, Echo, Tui, Tweak, Librarian Yong, the king, Royal Mudang, Head scholar Byun, Head scholar Tak, Head scholar {2 more head scholars}

I would absolutely recommend this book to fans of magic and well-written stories. This book was so unputdownable and had pulse-pounding plot twists. It was also very immersive and atmospheric. It was mind-bending, as well as very compelling. It was so addicting. That's why it is such a cool book to read. It would also help people learn that sometimes you have to tell the truth.

This book is suitable for ages 8+ and made both for boys and girls. It is also suitable for people with a deep interest in female protagonists, magic of acid, fire, ice, and autumn leaves, plus mythical creatures to go with it. And maybe even fans of plot twists and betrayals. And it will be amazing for people who love well-written and detailed novels or chapter books.

- Sophia, 10, Thames

I was so glad to have the opportunity to get to read this book before it was released. I felt like I had a connection to the story straight away because I share a name with the brave main character and heroine Aria and her loyal dragon has the same name as my dog Rio.

I struggled to understand some things at first because this is the second book in the series and I had not read the first one so I didn't know about the world the book is set in. But I soon picked up the storyline and enjoyed learning about the fantasy world which is filled with magic and getting to know the characters very much. One of the things I liked the most was the close friendship between Aria and Rio.

Summary

Aria is training to become a fully qualified dreamslinger, which is someone who has the magical power to go into dreams and fight dangerous dream creatures. Aria is about to take her dreamslinger exam when the King suddenly cancels it. He sends her on a dangerous mission to find a magical relic called the Touch of Death instead. When she discovers who stole the relic the mission becomes tricky!

She is grieving the loss of someone close to her and has to make some difficult and dangerous decisions. As she uncovers shocking secrets about her own family and about the kingdom, Aria wonders which kind of Dreamslinger she really wants to be - a Royalslinger for the king or a Freeslinger. They both have good and bad sides and she isn't sure who she can trust.

In the end, Aria learns that she should think for herself and make her own decisions about what she believes is right instead of following what others expect of her. I think a lot of readers my age can relate to that theme.

If you like magical worlds, mythical creatures like dragons and characters who have to overcome challenges and get to do exciting missions, this book would be a great choice for you!

- Aria, 13, Nelson

Royalslinger by Graci Kim is about a 15-year-old girl named Aria from Texas. She and her peers are about to resume training for their second year with the Royal League of Dreamslingers in Seoul, South Korea. But when the ancient relic, the Bleeding Bloom, is stolen by Aria's mother, the notorious rebel Ko Iseul, Aria is determined to retrieve the

relic and erase her previous mistakes. As she and her friends set off to claim the Bleeding Bloom back for the Kingdom of Royal Hanguk, disaster strikes yet again. Aria's dreampanion, Rio, passes into the beyondash, in the world of Awake, where souls are guided into the afterlife. Will Aria be able to bring Rio back from the beyondash, retrieve the bleeding bloom AND prove she is worthy of a place in the Royal League of Dreamslingers?

Graci Kim's Royalslinger is an awesome fantasy read made up of complexly built worlds. It celebrates themes of diversity and friendship. The storyline follows Aria on a journey of self discovery as she navigates her quest. The illustrated map showing the two worlds of The Asleep and The Kingdom of Royal Hanguk is beautifully detailed and brings the worlds to life, helping you to visualise each place. I found this book very relatable because of the connection and aspect of Aotearoa brought into it. Another relatable aspect of the story is Aria's trouble with her family. I would highly recommend this intriguing, adventure filled story.

- Georgia, 12, Nelson

Graci Kim is back ! with the second book in her exciting and fantastical Slinger series, where dragons soar above the skies of the magical realm of Seoul. Royal Slinger is a powerful and super emotional adventure that gripped me from the start. Readers will feel the shock and heartbreak as Aria and her best friends discover dark secrets that were never meant to be discovered about the ways of Royal Hanguk that lead to Rio becoming trapped in the Beyondash, the dangerous underworld beyond the vast and forbidden wall of the Ash Frontier. Her devastating loss shatters Aria completely, leaving a Rio-shaped hole in her heart and soul. Searching for answers to get her dreampanion back, Aria confronts her mother and uncovers a truth too painful to accept ; the terrible cost of bringing back her beloved baby bloom dragon. She knows she should do it, but she can't bear to become a murderer, and the risk of the mission to bring back her beloved bloom dragon becomes too much, forcing her to run away.

In the end, it's her best friend Tui, fiercely loyal and is the kind of friend who shows up when it matters most. who had returned home after Aria's disappearance. She had sent a letter with butterfly mail to Aria inviting her to come and celebrate Matariki with her family in New Zealand. Slowly but surely with Tui and her nana's gentle wisdom, Aria begins to truly understand the culture and meaning of Matariki. Her journey to New Zealand, where she learns and connects with Tui's traditions as they prepare for

Matariki and listening to Tui's nana's stories, brings a warm and hopeful close to the story. This book is vivid, surprising, and full of emotion, and honestly; it left a deep yearning in me to step inside its pages, honestly left me wishing I could be part of the magical realm Graci Kim created and especially if it meant I could wear one of those sunfruit-dyed hanboks that warm themselves. As someone who's always cold, I would give literally anything to have one of those in my possession. And I can't lie cause I'm completely in love with Aria's adorable bloom dragon Rio.

- Senuli, 13, Auckland