



Hero

Anna Hackett

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Fighting for love, honor, and freedom on the galaxy's lawless outer rim...

Raised from birth to be a soldier, Kace Tameron is a disciplined, military-trained gladiator. He is on contract to the Kor Magna Arena to hone his fighting skills on the blood-soaked arena sand and then return to the military. He lives for one thing: to protect his planet, and on his world, love is forbidden. But then he collides with a feisty redhead from Earth who threatens to shatter his legendary control.

One moment, Rory Fraser was an engineer on a space station circling Jupiter and the next, she is abducted by evil alien slavers. After suffering at the hands of the Thraxians, she is rescued by her friends—with the help of the tough gladiators of the House of Galen. Rory finds herself outrageously attracted to straight-laced Kace. He is a skilled fighter, ultra-disciplined, and a hero at heart—but she knows passion beats within him, if only he'll let it loose.

Rory is obsessed with finding another fellow abducted female from Earth, but as she asks questions, she finds herself ducking bullets and explosions. Someone wants Rory dead. Kace steps in as her protector, and together, they embark on a dangerous mission that will take them deep into the bowels of the arena, and deep into a scorching desire...both of which could lead them to lose not only their guarded hearts, but their lives as well.

Hero Details

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Ariel Marie says

Series just gets better!

I'm in love with this series. Can't get enough of these alien gladiators!! Rory and Kace were perfect for each other!! Now I need the next one!!

Celestine says

Welcome to the Assembly Line

This Galactic Gladiator series is fun and just my favorite mix of action adventure and romance. It is incredibly light on the world building, and my dissatisfaction with this aspect is growing as the series advances. The plot is totally recycled. Nothing changed from book two to book three except a few quirks of the main characters, their backgrounds and details of the fights. There is a SERIOUS formula going on here, with the story flow mapped out exactly the same as book two, Warrior, except instead of the scary fighting in the bio-genetic jungle of the second book, we get scary fighting in the pits and tunnels of the underground fight arena. The emotional paths are the same, the women have their independent TSTL moments, the heroes get all possessive, the villains use the women as leverage to get the gladiators to crumble, the House of Galen comrades save the day, and there is even a nearly identical "moment" between the two characters who will lead the next installment. By book three it was incredibly easy to predict even how/when the intimacy with the couple would progress.

Besides this series I've only read one other book by Ms. Hackett, but what I've learned is that though well-written, by book three I am done being surprised. Clearly I am frustrated with the formulaic tone. With that said, Hackett writes characters that you care about, and who deserve their HEA. The characters are kind, true heroes, and you feel kind of good reading about their deeds. The flow is smooth, grammar is solid, and the story zips by in a blink. And even knowing how the plot is likely to progress, I still want to read Galen's story. I will definitely hold out for that one.

Book source: Kindle Unlimited subscription

Ira says

I like the heroine and the pretty boy! :)

♥?

Kristiej says

As I've read most of this series now, the rest are going to be more like mini-reviews than full fledged

reviews. As a background the series is about a spaceship from Earth that was captured by an evil alien race and most of the survivors who are mostly women, are sold as slaves. The planet they've been sold to is a most interesting kind of place. Most of the heroes who rescue the women one book at a time are gladiators in the House of Galen. It's kind of a mash-up of ancient Rome, Medieval Times like meets Los Vegas. In this one Kace is our hero. He comes from another planet and is working on a training assignment learning to fight better and with different types of weapons. His is a very militaristic planet, constantly at war. As such, love and affection and all that jazz aren't even a blip on his radar but that changes when the gladiators rescue Rory.

She was an engineer on the space ship and was rescued in the previous book. Kace is most astonished when he begins to develop feelings for Rory and they are returned. but there is a time limit on any kind of relationship as he has to go back and once again pickup the mantle of battling for his planet.

This is one of my more favourite books in this series. I love seeing a tough guy flummoxed and knocked over by love. As with the others of course, their issues are solved and as the fairly tale says, live happily ever after. This one gets a 4.5.

namericanwordcat says

I have really enjoyed this series so far. The heroine is a very cool engineer on a quest to find the other abducted human women and the hero is a gladiator on the planet to improve his fighting skills.

The series plot arc advances nicely and the world building is good but the romance needs to be more in balance with the action to make me completely happy.

TJ says

When I read the synopsis for the first book, I thought this would be a series that would be entertaining. The first book for the most part peaked my interest and I believed the second book would answer questions left by the first book.

Nope, the first couple was wrapped up in a haphazardly bow and it was on to the next couple with a wet, wash, rinse, and repeat plot. However I didn't enjoy these characters as much. I was really confused how they kept calling the aliens a man. You're the best man I ever known! But the man has scales....I don't know of any human that has scales or tattooed at the age of 16'with the promise to become the monarch of a planet. How about you're the best male I'd ever known?

The third book... I just found myself skipping pages, chapters, and eventually skipped to the end. Just like the other two it ends with them finding their lost human friend with one of them grievously injured yet they make it back in time to the med chamber where their bodies are healed in a matter of hours. But wait there is a another human we must save them too! Not yet one of us is injured and bleeding heavily we must get them back to house.

Where is the intrigue, the angst? I wanted to know where Rory and Regan's kidnapping lead them to. Instead it starts off the same they are watching their potential albeit eventual significant others in the arena about to fight their mortal enemy whom they are not allowed to kill because they can get a verbal warning.

So many questions with so few answers....There is potential here, but the author really needs to research and stretch her imagination and rebuild the worlds, characters, and the plots. Not horrible just a work in progress.

CC says

Another good edition to the series - but not great. Kace was in denial basically the entire book (which is a pet peeve of mine) and Rory (for a tough chick) kept coming back when I really wanted her to make him suffer a bit. Kace was not interested in other women and did not use them against her (thank goodness). While Kace is not the manwhore Thorin was (hero from the last book) the story with Thorin and Regan was better and hotter than this one.

The next book is NOT looking good. An almost feminine "showman" magician hero and an uptight bitch heroine is not a combination that appeals to me.

Where the hell is Galen's book?!?!

Inka says

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Carolyn Reilly says

Another winner! So hooked on this series :-)

Suzanne (Under the Covers Book blog) says

Review to come

Amyiw says

3 1/2 stars

This is pretty good scifi romance fluff. The thing is that it is blending in one with the other. Seems the Gladiators all fall for their human as "love at first sight" yet might be stand offish. Love is the lust of first meeting as they really don't know one another at all or their story. Still that is the way of these shorts that have a lot of world building too. At least this one makes pretty good sense even if the timing is so coincidental for some of the scenes and finding out stuff.

Elizabeth says

Enjoyed in one gulp

The books in this series just get better and better. The characters are interesting, the action fast-paced. The heroine and hero of the next book are usually introduced at the end, leaving you looking forward to their story.

Haven't yet felt compelled to re-read this story or the two earlier ones but definitely want to read others by this author.

Literati Literature Lovers says

Recycled Plot

The first two books in the series were fun, light hot gladiator escapism. This third book seems like a recycled plot of the first two books in the series, of lets go rescue our friend. There was nothing new in this book that propelled the series forward, so I will be jumping off the alien gladiator train.

Now if you like your escapism with loads of hot sex, then you might like this book. But FYI don't read one book right after the other or it will seem as if you've read the book before.

Happy Reading. I read this via kindle unlimited.

Marta Cox says

Four and a half from me

Finally the book I knew this author could write. I loved the idea of combining sci fi romance with the more barbaric and ancient practice of gladiator's squaring up to each other in the arena and yet with both the previous two stories I have not been as totally convinced as I'd wanted. With this book the author steps slightly more away from the idea of slaves fighting in the arena and introduces the idea of warriors using the fights as extended training and a way to hone their fighting skills.

So here is Rory, abducted from the space station she worked on and now trapped on an alien world. Ok she is no longer a prisoner and resides in the House of Galen but it turns out she is still far from safe! It's a good thing that the taciturn gladiator Kace seems determined to protect her but this strong silent, type has an agenda that doesn't include having feelings . Now Rory might not be totally onboard with that and if it's up to her Kace will give in and indulge but as a male of principles Kace will have to decide for himself just what's really important .

So I really liked this book and if honest thought it ended too soon! What really worked for me was seeing the world expanded and new characters are being added. Unfortunately the sneaky Thraxians are still causing trouble and I'm starting to wonder if there's ever going to be a resolution there. Our leads are interesting with Rory being somewhat hot headed so pairing her up with Kace who has been raised without love made for an interesting twist. It's always fun seeing the gladiators interact and I'm impressed by the differences the author imbues her characters with. As for the title , well you just have to trust that Ms Hackett has a trick up her sleeve! A good mixture of suspense , action and of course romance so it's another book that happily helped me while away an afternoon

Hollie says

~2.5 star~

This will likely be my last book to read in this series. The first 3 books just all seem way too similar. Everything from the plot to the characters. They are just too much alike. Several times I caught myself thinking "have I already read this book"? I do still think the writer is skilled, and will check out her other work, but for me personally this particular series has run its course.
