

Graceling (Graceling Realm, 1)

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Discover the Graceling Realm in this unforgettable, award-winning novel from bestselling author Kristin Cashore

A New York Times bestseller

ALA Best Book for Young Adults

Mythopoeic Fantasy Award for Children's Literature Winner

Publishers Weekly, School Library Journal, Booklist, and BCCB Best Book of the Year

"Rageful, exhilarating, wistful in turns" (The New York Times Book Review) with "a knee weakening romance" (LA Times). Graceling is a thrilling, action-packed fantasy adventure that will resonate deeply with anyone trying to find their way in the world.

Graceling tells the story of the vulnerable-yet-strong Katsa, who is smart and beautiful and lives in the Seven Kingdoms where selected people are born with a Grace, a special talent that can be anything at all. Katsa's Grace is killing. As the king's niece, she is forced to use her extreme skills as his brutal enforcer. Until the day she meets Prince Po, who is Graced with combat skills, and Katsa's life begins to change. She never expects to become Po's friend. She never expects to learn a new truth about her own Grace-or about a terrible secret that lies hidden far away . . . a secret that could destroy all seven kingdoms with words alone.

And don't miss the sequel *Fire* and companion *Bitterblue*, both award-winning, New York Times bestsellers, and full of Kristin Cashore's elegant, evocative prose and unforgettable characters.

If you had the power to kill with your bare hands, what would you do with it?

Graceling takes readers inside the world of Katsa, a warrior-girl in her late teens with one blue eye and one green eye. This gives her haunting beauty, but also marks her as a Graceling. Gracelings are beings with special talents-swimming, storytelling, dancing. Katsa's Grace is considered more useful: her ability to fight (and kill, if she wanted to) is unequalled in the seven kingdoms. Forced to act as a henchman for a manipulative king, Katsa channels her guilt by forming a secret council of like-minded citizens who carry out secret missions to promote justice over cruelty and abuses of power.

Combining elements of fantasy and romance, Cashore skillfully portrays the confusion, discovery, and angst that smart, strong-willed girls experience as they creep toward adulthood. Katsa wrestles with questions of freedom, truth, and knowing when to rely on a friend for help. This is no small task for an angry girl who had eschewed friendships (with the exception of one cousin that she trusts) for her more ready skills of self-reliance, hunting, and fighting. Katsa also comes to know the real power of her Grace and the nature of Graces in general: they are not always what they appear to be.

Graceling is the first book in a series, and Kristin Cashore's first work of fiction. It sets up a vivid world with engaging characters that readers will certainly look forward to following beyond the last chapter of this book. (Ages 14 and up) --Heidi Broadhead

KRISTIN CASHORE grew up in the northeast Pennsylvania countryside as the second of four daughters. She received a bachelor's degree from Williams College and a master's from the Center for the Study of Children's Literature at Simmons College, and she has worked as a dog runner, a packer in a candy factory, an editorial assistant, a legal assistant, and a freelance writer. She has lived in many places (including Sydney, New York City, Boston, London, Austin, and Jacksonville, Florida), and she currently lives in the Boston area. *Graceling*, her first book, was an ALA Best Book for Young Adults.

Other Books

Bonded, A Bestselling YA Epic Fantasy and the #1 Norse Myths Bestseller! Here's what readers are saying about this breakout novel: FANTASTIC WRITING AT ITS BEST! "Bonded is an intriguing, addicting immersion into lives of young heroes and heroines making their way in a beautiful but dangerous world. With rich descriptions of fantastic places and people—their struggles and celebrations—this is fantasy writing at its best!" - Bestseller: Ann Mauren, author of *In the Spotlight: Mayne Attraction* "I'm captivated... Bonded totally sucked me in; I could not put it down..." "A rollercoaster of emotion! I literally teared up, laughed out loud, and gasped in surprise!" OVERVIEW: Hallad Avarson's vow to protect a mysterious warrior maiden pits his best friend against him, endangers the life of his little sister, and leads him into a treacherous realm of magic and intrigue. This richly imagined epic fantasy transports readers into a tale of seductive power, heart-wrenching love, and edge-of-your seat thrills, while following inspiring young heroes and heroines as they discover their abilities and destinies interweave with the fate of a captivatingly original world. More praise for **Bonded**: "It feels like a big budget Peter Jackson movie in my head." "This book has it all: magic, romance, humor, suspense, and a pace that keeps you reading all night long!" "I absolutely loved my introduction into the world of the ShadowLight Saga... I felt like I'd lived through an epic adventure." "An incredibly talented wordsmith with a promising career ahead of her; this book is fantastic! I can't wait for the sequel. I have to see what will happen next!" If you like *Graceling*, *Xena Warrior Princess*, *Twilight Saga*, or *The Wheel of Time*... you'll love **Bonded: Book One of the ShadowLight Saga**.

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