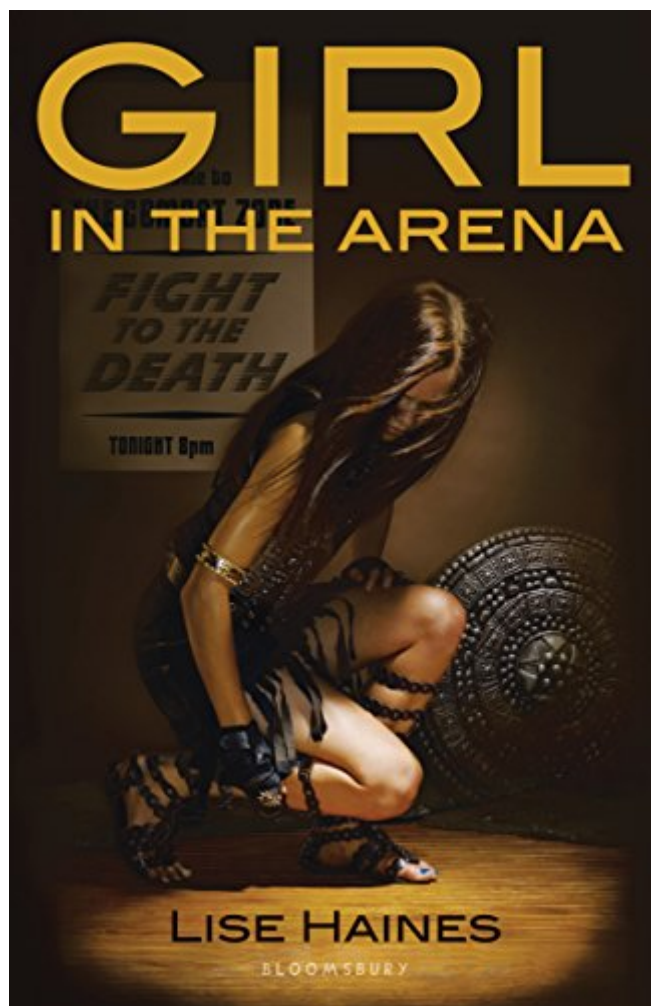


The book was found

Girl In The Arena



Synopsis

As a modern gladiator's daughter, Lyn and her family live by the rules of the Gladiator Sports Association. But those rules can turn against you. When Lyn's seventh father dies in the ring, his opponent, Uber, captures Lyn's dowry bracelet-and her hand in marriage. To win her freedom, Lyn will do what no girl has done before: enter the arena and fight her father's murderer-even though she's falling in love with him.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This book has a great premises. The idea is amazing, the writing...not so much. i feel like this was more the authors notes on a book not her final copy. Very hard to read with all of the run on sentences, and with no quotation marks .around what anyone is saying it makes it very hard to know when someone is talking or just thinking. Very disappointed that this is what I choose for our book club this month. Most couldn't even finish this it was so badly written

What if history took a strong turn away from its current path? What if that turn in history slowly led to the legitimization of modern day gladiators. Not the gladiators with foam swords and colorful arenas,

of course, but instead the same gladiators who fought to the death with ferocious animals and other gladiators. The same gladiators who were bound by their servitude, either as slaves or through contracts. These gladiators are one and the same. The only difference? The gladiators from *Girl in the Arena* by Lise Haines are present day fighters- complete with technology and all the other trappings we have these days. They are "neo-gladiators". Lyn grew up in the glad culture. Her father started fighting on the streets in underground glad events and was eventually one of the first legitimate glads... until he was killed. Then Lyn's mother remarried- another glad. In glad culture, glads, their widows, and their children stick together. Glad widows often remarry other glads, but seven is the limit. When Lyn's 7th glad father is killed in the ring by an up-and-comer, Uber, something goes horribly wrong. Lyn gave her stepfather, Tommy, her dowry bracelet to wear for luck in the arena. When he is killed, Uber picks up the bracelet and puts it on, and glad laws clearly state a man who puts on a woman's dowry bracelet is then betrothed to her. Now Lyn is expected to marry her father's killer. Lyn refuses to follow glad bylaws just to appease Caesars, the company that owns and runs the gladiators and their events. She intends to fight Uber to the death to protect her mother and brother (who is described as being autistic but never labeled as such) as well as regain her freedom. Family glad friends help her train secretly, and she remembers a lot from her stepfathers who taught her fighting techniques over the years. There is only one problem, though. Uber isn't a bad guy. In fact, he adored her stepfather he was supposed to kill. He also hates Caesar's as much as Lyn does. And he wants to marry Lyn... for real, not just for the bylaws. Now Lyn must find a way to win in the arena without killing a man who doesn't deserve to die. This is a very interesting book with an amazing premise, but at times it falls a little flat. I loved the characters, especially Lyn and Uber. The supporting characters like Lyn's mother and brother are also fascinating. Her mother is a tragic character who can barely keep herself together, and her brother is perpetually teetering on the edge. The plot is thoughtful and novel, but it stretches out a bit in certain places. My biggest complaint was the ending. While the book ended the way I wanted it to, it was rushed through in a brief few pages- I wanted more! We spent a couple hundred pages learning about Lyn's training and the most exciting part- the last battle with Lyn and Uber and its aftermath- are rushed through! It seemed like a waste of a good climax to end it so quickly. As a whole, I would give this book to a student who is more comfortable reader and can wade through an occasionally slow part in a story. The premise is incredible and can lead to so many amazing discussions with students- especially about violence in our society. The author is also very nice and very open to conversations with students about her book! It would be an incredible experience to hook her up with a student and let them pick her brain about the story!

Girl in the Arena fooled me - I thought I would see a lot of Gladiator action involving a girl. Alas, it was only once and I get to see it in only in the end. The plot was averagely executed when it could have been ruthless. I still like it though; the premise of a future world adapting the Roman ways is unique. This book is more of a family-oriented story with a slight touch of dystopia. I was excited for the dystopia element! But all I read was family drama. You see why I felt cheated? On the bright side, I like Lyn's relationship with Tommy (she loved him the most among her fathers) and Thad (she loved him whole - with his being 'special' and all). I like how Mark and his parents protected and helped Lyn in times of trouble. I like how Uber is considered one of the fiercest Neo-gladiators but usually appeared clumsy and awkward with Lyn. It's strange how I like the supporting characters more than Lyn - I just did not see her doing enough (to take charge of her mother, to defy the GSA). She's smart, though. All the things she did seemed all too late for me. There are instances where I took a sharp intake of breath - moments triggered by man's cruelty. These are the only times I was reminded that I am reading dystopia. Girl in the Arena bored me half the time. I won't say that it's a waste of time; I'd rather say I should have read another dystopia instead.

Girl in the Arena is an interesting story concept taking place in a society where gladiator-style fights to the death are big business, high-stakes sports. The lead-in to the story was kind of tough to get through as it is supposed to be an excerpt from a book on the history of how gladiator fighting began, written by a teenaged girl who has grown up in that lifestyle. That intro comes across as a poorly written book report by any random highschooler and is not indictative of the writing style of the rest of the book. That particular method of introducing the setting was, to me, kind of heavy handed and almost made me put this one down; however, I continued to read on and found the writing style changed to a more tolerable flow. The main character is the teenaged girl and the story deals with her internal conflict at being involved in a lifestyle where human life is not really valued except with regard to fighting skills and what happens when she has to work outside the rules of her society. The story contains violence with descriptions of bloody arena fights as well as references to suicides and deaths. It would probably be considered Young Adult genre due to the main character being a teenaged girl. Was not happy about references to animals being used in ring by organization in charge of gladiators.

When originally reading the synopsis for this book, the plot was very interesting and attention grabbing. I still think it is. What the book provided was A LOT of information on "Glad" culture that

was excessive and un-needed as it did not appear or have a place in the rest of the book. The main characters were flat and undeveloped with little interaction occurring between the two essential characters of Lyn and Uber....it was confusing as to why the author took the storyline in some of the directions they did when there did not seem to be connection to what had come before....Essentially if the right storyteller had authored this it could have been an amazing story with depth well created characters and a smooth plot without the disconnected jumping around which seemed to be the mainstay of this book....

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