



Gabriela Whitley: The Rise of the Kingdom

Lyana Jo

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Gabriela Whitley's life as a college senior is both ordinary and enviable. Blessed with beauty, brains, good friends, and a handsome, athletic boyfriend who adores her, Gabriela is looking toward a future filled with success and happiness. She has no idea that she is being watched by someone who longs for her-that is, until she hears a strange, distinctively seductive voice in her head one evening while searching the local bookstore for another great book about vampires. She is terrified and runs into the night, but finds herself inexplicably drawn to the handsome and mysterious stranger, whose name is Maddox.

Unable to resist the lure of Maddox and his world of vampires, Gabriela learns that he knows even more about her than she knows herself, such as her true past and the circumstances around her mother's death years earlier. She discovers that she is no ordinary young woman but heir to the throne in a place that she thought existed only in dreams. But danger lurks there, too. For instance, Maddox tells her of his sister, Madison-but who is Madison really, and how far will she go to get what she wants?

As more and more is revealed, Gabriela is torn between fulfilling her destiny and returning to her perfect life, which is spiraling out of control. In a story both romantic and unnerving, every choice has consequences-and no one is immune to temptation.

Gabriela Whitley: The Rise of the Kingdom Details

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From Reader Review Gabriela Whitley: The Rise of the Kingdom for online ebook

Sarah-Jayne Briggs says

(I received this book for free as part of Goodreads First Reads giveaways).

(This review may contain spoilers).

Just as a first comment - I think a lot of my reviews do seem to indicate that I have a strong dislike for vampire romances. That's not actually the case. When I was younger, I read and adored the Night World novels. And there are other books that I've enjoyed with romances between vampires and humans.

I found this book to be a disappointing read, because it hit so many of my turn-offs. Although a couple of the characters were quite well-defined, by the end of the book, I actually didn't like any of them.

A good example of this about-face is Jimmy. He was great as an older brother figure and I was starting to like his relationship with Suki (even if I didn't much like Suki)... and then his whole character got ruined when his best friend was forced into a kiss (and yelled for the person to get off her)... and Jimmy decided to demand details from the guy. And not in the, 'I'm going to punch you for hurting my friend!' way.

I felt, with quite a few of the characters, that they had one defining quality about them... and nothing else. When some of them were introduced, I was interested to know more about them... but then the focus seemed to be on Gabriela and literally nothing else. Her human friends didn't even seem to have a life outside of her. She certainly didn't spend a single thought on them when she was away. And there was exactly one scene with her father, which was literally only to add some tension, and then he's hardly mentioned at all either.

There were some parts of the book that were well-written and some characters I would have liked if I'd been able to meet them outside of Gabriela. Madison could have been an interesting character, but I was repeatedly told that she was wicked with zero background on her. The best villains are the ones you can see redeeming qualities in. (I was also repeatedly told about how thin Gabriela was and how beautiful she was. It got very irritating after a while).

Also... the amount of giggling/laughing that went on in this book (at really inappropriate times) didn't really work. And not with the same character doing that three times in one paragraph.

The concept of this book was really intriguing and there's nothing wrong with a chosen one plotline. But when the lives of every other character revolves around this one person... it gets a bit boring to read about. I don't think I'll be reading the sequel to this book.

Andrea says

A good read for this 1st time author. If you like romance and vampires this book is for you.

Wendy says

I loved this book! Not usually a fan of vampire stories, I found this to be a very easy read, captivated by Gabby and Maddox from start to end. I'd love to read more and see where the author could take them..

Tabitha says

(I won this book through Good Reads)

The description of the book sounds intriguing: vampires, mystery, and romance. I am a fan of mystery, I enjoy well-written vampire novels, and I can tolerate romance when it is balanced with other elements. Parts of this book were very well written, but others seemed to just fall apart. The characters seemed fake and flat, with the main character actually devolving as the "plot" moves along. The book starts of very strong - it held my attention for quite a while before it became a chore to read - almost as though the author lost the intention and thought "this sounds ok" and kept writing. It leaves readers with a "the end or beginning?" but I personally do not care if there is more to these characters' story. It is not the worst book I have read, but it is not the best either.

Wendy says

"Gabriela Whitley: The Rise of the Kingdom" which I won through Goodreads Giveaways is a romantic yet darkly chilling novel and begins in the college town of Calderon where the streets are flooded with people celebrating their version of Mardi Gras. The story opens with Gabriela Whitely a beautiful college student who's enthralled by the enigmatic world of vampires and who's being stalked by a deadly stranger. What she doesn't expect is to hear the voice of the mysterious and handsome vampire Maddox Soldati in her head. Frightened but intrigued at first, as the romance blossoms not only are revelations uncovered about Gabriela's past especially the death of her mother but also her destiny is revealed. Yet as love between Whitley and Maddox grows heartbreak and danger loom, jealousy threatening to destroy any hope for a happy and successful future.

The plot is intoxicating as Gabriela Whitley's comfortable life with friends, school and her athletic boyfriend Camden Mansfield suddenly becomes topsy - turvy when Maddox dramatically enters her life linking to her, his voice connecting her to a life she only read about in books and a destiny she never expected. Slowly Lyana Jo builds intensity and suspense especially when Madison, Maddox's sister and Camden, Whitley's ex-boyfriend forge an alliance based on hatred and jealousy that threatens the lovers. In a plot that looks at the redeeming balm of love that has a vampire changing his desultory and unsatisfying lifestyle to a destiny bound to his lovely soul mate the storyline vibrates with elements of power, mystery, jealousy and desire. It's a story that keeps you riveted from the beginning to a surprising ending that makes you beg for a sequel.

The characters are unforgettable like Gabriela, a young girl haunted by the mysterious circumstances around her mother's tragic death and who wants to make her father proud by graduating from college. She's smart, impulsive and brave; a young woman with powerful abilities yet untapped. Maddox (Antonius) Soldati the charming, good-looking two hundred year old vampire can be impatient, arrogant and conniving, but when he falls in love is self-sacrificing and willing to accept a future he once rejected. Camden Mansfield is amiable and caring until faced with competition for Gabriela's love. Wanting her love at any cost, he becomes self-absorbed, angry, cruel and vengeful like Madison, a seductive vampire who craves power and wealth. As her jealousy, hatred and bitterness grows she becomes malicious, heartless and violent. All these

personalities and more, add to the passion, drama and energy of a story that's darkly gripping.

For a first novel "Gabriela Whitley: The Rise of the Kingdom" is fascinating, even though its filled with unanswered questions like "where did Madison get an army? Why isn't Gabriela's father more involved in her life? Yet, I enjoyed it and look forward to a sequel.
