



## Gladiator

*Anna Hackett*

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## **Gladiator** Anna Hackett

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

When Earth space marine Harper Adams finds herself abducted by alien slavers off a space station, her life turns into a battle for survival. Dumped into an arena on a desert planet on the outer rim, she finds herself face to face with a big, tattooed alien gladiator...the champion of the Kor Magna Arena.

A former prince abandoned to the arena as a teen, Raiden Tiago has long ago earned his freedom. Now he rules the arena, but he doesn't fight for the glory, but instead for his own dark purpose—revenge against the Thraxian aliens who destroyed his planet. Then his existence is rocked by one small, fierce female fighter from an unknown planet called Earth.

Harper is determined to find a way home, but when she spots her best friend in the arena—a slave of the evil Thraxian aliens—she'll do anything to save her friend...even join forces with the tough, alpha male who sets her body on fire. But as Harper and Raiden step foot onto the blood-soaked sands of the arena, Harper worries that Raiden has his own dangerous agenda...

## **Gladiator Details**

Date : Published October 23rd 2016

ISBN :

Author : Anna Hackett

Format : Kindle Edition 176 pages

Genre : Science Fiction, Romance, Aliens, Science Fiction Romance

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## From Reader Review Gladiator for online ebook

### Emma says

My first sci-fi romance, it was a light read, I enjoyed a few chapters and struggled with others, overall it was ok.

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### AvidReader says

An easy 5 star ?? read.

My only regret is I didn't start the series with this first book. Well I guess it's never too late.

Recommended.

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### Rhea\_Sways says

\*kissing my teeth\*

Let's just put it simply so far I have not found a lot variety in sci-fi. The authors seems to come up with a generic barely passable plot and a mediocre love story. Nothing to write home about or I should say nothing to write a review about. We need a lot more of creativity in this genre.

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### ? Garima ? says

Couple of months ago, I watched entire series of Spartacus on binge and even though it was very blood thirsty and lust driven, I ended up liking it. Same goes here...mixed with alien and abduction and several other things. But main thing is Arena and fights.

*"Ready to fight?" Raiden asked.*

*"For Freedom and honor," Saff called out.*

*"For Freedom and honor," Thorin, Kace, Lore and Nero said together.*

It has been premise which has been used many times but I ended up liking more than I should because Anna Hackett sure can write. Beautiful sentence composition without over doing is something of an art.

*The crowd cheered, and he knew many were locals, but more came in especially for the fights from all parts of the galaxy. Lured by the thrill of watching man pitted against man, for the chance to see blood spray across the sand.*

Story flowed without much difficulty and I found myself invested in story and secondary characters as well.

Also it was refreshing to see heroine, instead of damsel in distress, was also a Gladiator.

I will read more on this series....

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### **Katrina says**

3.5\*, rounded to 4

This is a "Yes" book

Formulaic - yes

Predictable - yes

Does not offer anything new - yes

BUT:

Easy to read - yes

Nicely written - yes

Fun - yes

Very likable characters - yes

Steamy - yes

Enjoyable - yes

Want me to read the next one - yes

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### **Umaiya ?Insignificant September? says**

Not a lot of strong feelings for this. It was a nice way to pass the time, I'm not particularly regretting reading this. Though it could use more work and imagination. There wasn't much world building but it wasn't alien smut fluff either. Also at the same time it didn't feel very alien/sci-fi-y, I mean I can totally see this possible in some corner of Earth.

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### **CC says**

I started this and got a little nervous. Really "tough" heroines are not my thing, but I REALLY liked Harper! She was a badass. I was also nervous about the free flowing sex always going on. But the hero was really into her from the beginning and other than some "flutterers" hanging on him for a bit - there were no OW about.

I really loved Raiden too and thought the world building was compelling. I was expecting a typical short, simple, fluffy KU sci-fi book and felt I got a lot more. SO even though the next book was about the ultimate manwhore - I am happily moving on to it!

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## **Kiki says**

Because I'm weak and have zero self control and can't stick to my principles when looking at that cover ?

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## **Mei says**

This is a classic SF-gladiator-alien-abduction-sold into slavery romace.

It's well written, but actually nothing new is here. A nice light read for a lazy week-end! :)

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## **Marta Cox says**

I was very excited when I heard that this author was starting a new series about alien gladiators as usually her heroes are more human. It's an interesting idea and one that whilst still sci fi has an almost historical feel to it as it made me think of the arenas used in the past here on Earth. There is technology in this story that has a futuristic edge but I thought that mainly it's a insight into a barbaric practice with pain and bloodshed being celebrated.

It starts with a space station being attacked and Harper finds herself at the not so tender mercies of brutal aliens. Arriving at Kor Magna she is thrown into the deadly world of fighting in the arena and she quickly stands out. She may be small in comparison to others but Harper doesn't quit. She can be as fierce as the other gladiators but her speed and quick thinking get her a place in the House of Galen. Harper doesn't trust anyone and it doesn't matter that the big butch Raiden is hotter than the noon day sun, he's still part of this heinous practice. It's a world with very few rules and cheating is often overlooked but Harper learns to survive until she can find a way home. Yet the more she sees of Raiden the more Harper starts to learn about his background and when she discovers she's not the only human captive there's only one man to turn to, Raiden!

The idea of this big tough gladiator being struck almost dumb by the much smaller Harper was an immensely appealing one as the bigger they are the harder they fall but if honest I struggled initially. Yes Harper is a trained marine but I just couldn't believe in her prowess in the arena. She's almost like the energiser bunny but it just didn't convince me. The opponents they face are bigger and frequently actual beasts feeling nothing but bloodlust and yet they are set loose? I just wasn't convinced by it. The second half of the book actually did ramp up the story with both action and romance and the author gradually opened up the world she's created. There's clearly more to come as Harper wasn't the only human taken captive but I'm hoping any future heroine gets to use her brains and not just her supposed brawn. An interesting idea but at times I just wasn't as completely immersed as I'd hoped.

This is a voluntary review of an advance reader copy

Three and a half from me

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## **Celestine says**

3.5 rounded to four stars.

In under 50 words, my friend Katrina perfectly described my thoughts on this book. I thought I would just link you to her review: <https://www.goodreads.com/review/show...>

### Carolyn Reilly says

Oh, I had so much fun reading this! Definite recommendation if you're into space gladiators, aliens and strong, kickass heroines.

Luckily book two will release soon. Can't wait :-)

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### Mara says

This book showcases perfectly the difference between a competent author and a talented writer. Without using heavyweight word, like world building, this story lacks much: in logic, in characterization, just to name 2.

It has a plot, as in there's a story, yes. But it's not really interested in it, all of it screams superficiality. Characters are cardboard, world building is clearly a prop, romance is non existing. There's just one word that fits: insta. You have insta-lust, insta-trust, insta-love. Nothing really mattered, teflon is the name of the game. And it contrast strongly with the story it tries to sell.

Is it a bad book? No, it reads easily. But this is the best thing I can say about it.

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### Ira says

Higher 3.5 stars.

I've read this last weekend, just like boogenhagen said, look at those abs! ??

Her reviews about this series and those fabulous abs keep show up on my updates line!! LOL.

It was a fun read, a bit too short but the main storyline continues to the next couple's book, lovely! ❤️?

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### Anne Boleyn's Ghost says

**3.5 stars.** *Gladiator* doesn't reinvent the wheel, but it was an entertaining read that exceeded my standard KU expectations.

Hackett's world-building is simple and straightforward. **In a *Star Wars*-esque universe of different worlds and different beings, there are benign aliens and malevolent aliens and everything in-between.** When alien slavers attack her ship, **Harper**, a United Nations space marine, is sold to a house of gladiators. On a planet dedicated to fighting and slavery and the brutality that comes with that, Harper finds that her house is, in fact, a beacon of light in the darkness. Trying to save as many slaves as they can, her fellow warriors are fierce and formidable. And kind. And sexy. Especially **Raiden**, the reigning arena champion who was a prince on his destroyed planet. **Their attraction is instantaneous, and a connection forms between the two tenacious yet vulnerable souls.**

I loved Harper...for the most part. **She was strong and smart, and humans and aliens alike looked to her**

**for guidance.** That's why I was disappointed when she pulled a TSTL move at 57%, and why I deducted a half star from my rating. I think that people generally overuse the expression "TSTL", but this really and truly was a poor way to move the plot and the relationship forward. (view spoiler) Meanwhile, Raiden, who had lost everything and everyone, alternated between hot and cold, distant and possessive, open and closed. Oh, I wanted to give him a good spanking! Fortunately, Harper beat me to it ? and I appreciated how she challenged him. **They were a well-matched pair, even if I didn't always feel the intensity or sweetness of emotions.**

*Gladiator* was a fun and fast read. I may skip ahead to Saff's book because I'm SO here for a black alien warrior goddess romance.

*Read for SBTB July - September 2018 Quarterly Challenge: A book with aliens.*

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