



## Warrior

*Anna Hackett*

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## **Warrior** Anna Hackett

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

It was supposed to be an exciting job on a space station, but instead, scientist Dr. Regan Forrest finds herself fighting for her life when she's kidnapped by alien slavers. Far from Earth and forced into a violent gladiatorial arena on the outer rim, she finds herself swept into the brawny arms of a big, wild alien gladiator.

Weapon, brute, gladiator, warrior... Serrush warrior Thorin has been called many things. As a warrior of his people, he was a dark, dangerous weapon until even his own family were too afraid of him. Sold into slavery in the Kor Magna Arena, he has long ago earned his freedom. Now he enjoys the violent but rewarding life he's carved out for himself. Until he rescues one small, smart, and perplexing female from alien slavers.

Regan is determined to make a place for herself in her new home. She may not have the skills to fight in the arena, but she's smart and knows she can help...even as she fights her attraction to the big, bold, and fascinating Thorin. She knows he'll never be interested in her. But when Regan catches a glimpse of her cousin across a crowded market, she needs help to mount a rescue, and it comes in the form of the gladiator she desperately wants. A gladiator hiding a dark, uncontrollable secret with the power to destroy them both.

## **Warrior Details**

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## From Reader Review Warrior for online ebook

### Zuzu Lu says

This series is full of action and the romance I crave! Love knowing that there are so many books in this series, I feel like when I get to binge watch shows on Netflix! Going to gorge myself on the rest and then move on to Anna's Hell Squad series (16 in that one). If you loved the movie Gladiator (I sure did) then you should definitely check this series out. Does have Less death and more lovin'!

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### Carolyn Reilly says

Loved it! Looking forward to the next book in the Gladiator series :-)

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### Paraphrodite says

[We're back in the Kor Magna Arena where the Gladiators of the House of Galen fight against other Gladiator Houses in the open and then save slaves and help them gain freedom in secrecy. (hide spoiler)]

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### CC says

[ used OW to push her away - including kissing one of them (hide spoiler)]

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### Mei says

Cute SF romance, but the heroine was too weak and sometimes TSTL for me.

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### Hollie says

This was just an "ok" read for me. I found it to be overly predictable and cliché. I doubt I will continue this series.

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### Book Gannet says

I can't believe I'm about to say this, because I usually love Anna Hackett's stories, but I very nearly put this book down unfinished. Several times. I found the first book in the series fun, if a little formulaic with its alpha male fighters, but this one wasn't even fun. At least not at first. I have a few reasons for this.

Let's start with Regan. Having read the first book, Gladiator, I knew she was in the attack on the space

station and turned into a slave, which was a horrible time and got progressively worse as the others tried to rescue her. However, this book starts after all of that and doesn't bother to recap or go much into detail. Which means that despite the fact that Regan should have been a highly sympathetic character, I didn't care for her at all. A few scenes or a prologue dealing with the attack from her pov would have been great, but nope, all we get is whiny Regan doing stupid things for stupid reasons because, oh noes, she doesn't like being confined.

Not a great start. It isn't helped by her seemingly magical plant powers that enable her to apparently reverse engineer a highly sophisticated med-gel (with no previous knowledge of it) and improve upon it. I'm not even sure how long she's been free at this point, but I don't think it's long, days rather than months. She also brings plants back from the dead. Maybe if I'd seen her actually working on these things I might have cared, but as it is they're just presented as stuff she's done and I guess it's supposed to make her interesting or something. Sadly not.

Throw in childish tantrums and ridiculous behaviour and I was about done with her.

I stuck with it, though, because I like this author. I never came to care all that much for Regan, but her foolish behaviour does settle down. Mostly. It gets replaced with emotional issues that only ever felt skin deep, but I could just about cope with them. I just wish there had been more to Regan than whining, longing and silly stunts.

Then there's Thorin. Who has an axe. But is not a dwarf. No, he's this huge humanoid alien who sometimes has scales and has a Tragic Past that means he is an Abomination and a Monster who has done Bad Things and is not worthy of the love of a Good Woman. He is big and muscled and alpha and should really only communicate in grunts. Like Regan, he is stunningly lacking in any back story, and it takes ages for us to learn what his big secret was (and then only in the vaguest of terms), which left me feeling lukewarm at best towards him. He's just too much of a cliché.

There is of course a romance between big brute and fragile female. It wasn't the well balanced partnership I usually love from this author. It wasn't really anything except sex and some melodrama about no one ever truly loving me for who I was before I met you.

However, away from those two, there is a rescue to accomplish, which was enjoyable in a everything-including-the-kitchen-sink-attacks kind of way. I liked seeing a bit more of Kace and that casino owner was intriguing to say the least. I wasn't happy at the way Harper seems to have been sidelined, though. I liked how she earned Raiden's respect in the last book, but now she seems to get a lot of pats on the head as she's left behind in various places in some token role while the big manly men go off and do the dangerous stuff, with Regan dangling under Thorin's arm in a scantily-clad-damsel way.

All in all, I found this one disappointing. I was really excited for this series, but it lacks the intelligent fun of the Phoenix Adventures and the passion and drama of Hell Squad. The sex is still hot, but the characters aren't coming alive for me and the relationships are lacking in both depth and balance. I'll certainly try the next one, but so far I've been left sadly underwhelmed by these gladiators.

(ARC provided by the author.)

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## Inka says

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### **The big bad warrior!!**

Loved this one just as much as the first!! I'm truly hooked to this series!! Lots of kick ass action and steamy scenes! On to the next one!

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### **SheLove2Read says**

Just not feeling it. DNF

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### **Raine says**

#### **Was ok**

I wasn't as enthusiastic about this second book as I was of the first book. I liked the characters well enough along with the storyline, but something about this book just didn't click with me. Maybe I feel it is the same recipe over again - human slave rescued by barbarian gladiator and they fall in love. The action is there, but I think it is missing that emotional component. I think I'll take a break from. Reading the next in the series.

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### **Marta Cox says**

Having somehow survived a hellish ordeal Regan is now far from home with no way to return. Thrust into a world of violence where might equals right. Yes she's overjoyed to be reunited with her friend Harper but it's the scarily remote gladiator Thorin that catches her eye. Determined to be useful Regan utilises her botanist skills to find a way to be productive. When out in the market though Regan realises her cousin Rory is being held as a slave somewhere on the planet. Regan will do everything in her power to save Rory even if it means sacrificing herself. Although there's a big, bad gladiator who definitely isn't happy about that but then again Thorin hasn't exactly been honest with Regan!

I like the ideas in play here and it's a scenario that works surprisingly well. However in this the follow up to Gladiator we see far less of the arena and much more of the world surrounding it. I was over the moon that the author gave us a heroine who uses her brains and not her brawn as the idea of a small human female besting giant aliens just didn't ring true. Regan plays to her strengths and although she is devastated at her abduction she doesn't just sit in a corner and give up.

Thorin is a more complicated hero. As a reader we know there's something unusual about him and it isn't something he wishes to share with Regan. This makes him unapproachable at times, almost quixotic as he obviously does want Regan and yet believes he isn't worthy. There's very strong chemistry between the couple but it's not as straightforward as some relationships.

The fact that slavery is rife on Kor Magna is used to good effect here as the author introduces even more vile aliens and Regan volunteers for something that gets very messy indeed. If brutally honest there's a scene that I felt went too far over the top as not only do we encounter bloodthirsty aliens but also a myriad of creatures and even vicious flora and fauna! Less is more and unfortunately this part of the book felt too fanciful to this reader. What I can say is I did prefer this story and the author is fleshing out supporting characters which makes it very interesting indeed. If you enjoy stories that take you away from reality whilst allowing even the most mixed up, lonely characters to find love then this series should definitely be on your book radar!

This voluntary review is of an Advance Reader Copy

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## Ira says

3.75 stars.

♥?

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