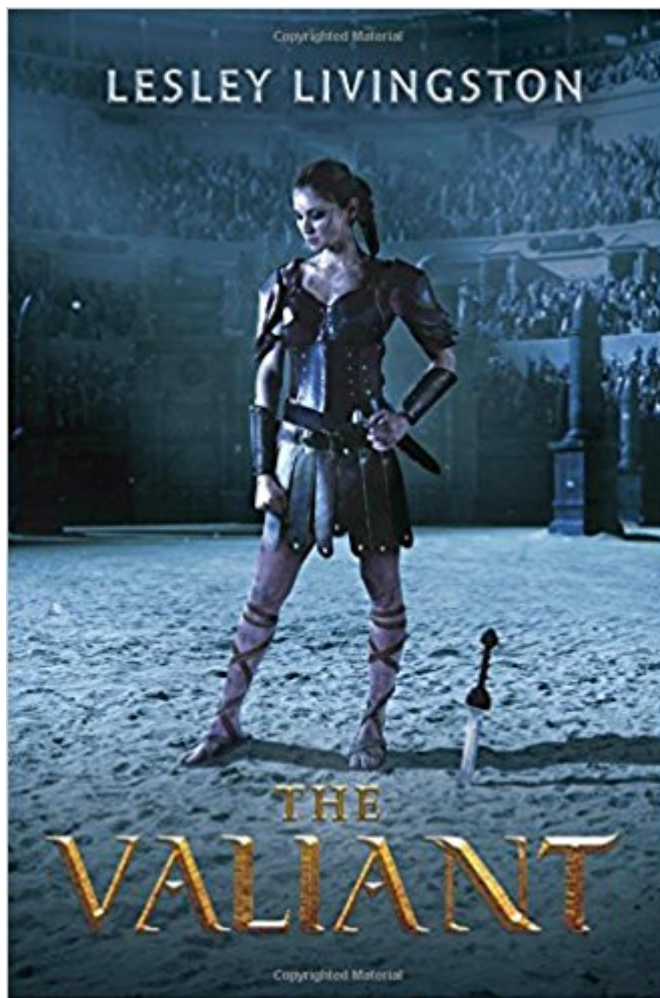


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# The Valiant



## Synopsis

Princess. Captive. Gladiator. Always a Warrior. Fallon is the daughter of a proud Celtic king and the younger sister of the legendary fighter Sorcha. When Fallon was just a child, Sorcha was killed by the armies of Julius Caesar. On the eve of her seventeenth birthday, Fallon is excited to follow in her sister's footsteps and earn her place in her father's war band. She never gets the chance. Fallon is captured and sold to an elite training school for female gladiators owned by none other than Julius Caesar himself. In a cruel twist of fate, the man who destroyed Fallon's family might be her only hope of survival. Now, Fallon must overcome vicious rivalries, deadly fights in and out of the arena, and perhaps the most dangerous threat of all: her irresistible feelings for Cai, a young Roman soldier and her sworn enemy. A richly imagined fantasy for fans of Sarah J. Maas and Cinda Williams Chima, *The Valiant* recounts Fallon's gripping journey from fierce Celtic princess to legendary gladiator and darling of the Roman empire.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Livingston has written an exciting and absorbing tale that is deftly paced and deliciously detailed." **Booklist** "This title manages to weave political intrigue and pitch-perfect dialogue with gladiatorial combat in a way that will engage fans of all

genres." **School Library Connection** "Livingston (the *Wondrous Strange* trilogy) skillfully illustrates Fallon's emotional growth as she becomes a fearsome

gladiatrix. Publishers Weekly "It's easy to be swept into this ambitious novel that offers romance, ferocious battles, political intrigue, and even an appearance from Cleopatra. BCCB "Spectacular, brutal, tender, and romantic | I couldn't turn the pages fast enough. Mary E. Pearson, New York Times bestselling author of the Remnant Chronicles "The Valiant has everything I love in a book: danger, violence, and a badass protagonist with a sword. Julie Kagawa, New York Times bestselling author of the Iron Fey series "The Valiant is an absolutely delicious read filled with forbidden romance and packed with action! Morgan Rhodes, New York Times bestselling author of the Falling Kingdoms Series "Set in ancient Rome; this fierce tale of becoming a female gladiator grabs hold of your heart-strings and doesn't let go until its spell-binding conclusion. Lush and adventurous, THE VALIANT is the girl power novel we've all been waiting for." Summer Webb, ButterMyBooks "During a time of political unrest in Ancient Rome, this captivating story explores one girl's quest for honor--and how each of us must choose how to define it. Fallon and her sisterhood of girl gladiators flip power dynamics in thrilling ways, particularly through stunning action sequences and lethal combat scenes. Long after I turned the final page, I could feel chariot wheels vibrating beneath my feet and blood lust burning in my veins. THE VALIANT is nothing short of spectacular, and I cannot wait to watch it set the world on fire." Wendy Darling, The Midnight Garden "Lesley Livingston "It's THE VALIANT had me entranced from the first page with her vivid descriptions and kick-ass heroine Fallon. We follow her journey from Celtic princess to being a female gladiator in ancient Rome. Livingston weaves themes of betrayal, loyalty and family into a story rich in action scenes and battles of will. Kristen Williams, My Friends Are Fiction "THE VALIANT is an illustrative novel as brutal as it is beautiful. A riveting blend of an explosive storyline, a forbidden romance, and the valiance of an unbreakable sisterhood in a ruthless period of history. Gladiatrices, betrayal, honor and freedom need I say more about this rich page-turner? Hafsah Faizal, IseyBooks "A courageous and action-packed story that defines sisterhood and the meaning behind honor, THE VALIANT captivated me from the first page to the very last. This book will leave you feeling empowered and ready to take on the world yourself." Carmen Seda, Oh the Book Feels "Following a fierce heroine who desires blood and vengeance for her warlord sister's death, Leslie Livingston's take on the female gladiators of Rome is bloody, exhilarating, and poignant. Thea James, The Book Smugglers "Sensational! THE VALIANT has everything I love! A strong heroine, a romance that swept me off my feet, gladiator

battles, lush world building, and a rich Roman history. This is a beautifully told, captivating story I enjoyed every moment reading. I didn't want this book to end. —Katie Bartow, Mundie Moms

Lesley Livingston is an award-winning author of teen fiction, best known for her Wondrous Strange trilogy. She holds a master's degree in English from the University of Toronto and was a principal performer in a Shakespearean theatre company, specializing in performances for teen audiences, for more than a decade. Visit her at [www.lesleylivingston.com](http://www.lesleylivingston.com) and follow her on Twitter @LesLivingston.

4.5 stars Let me just start by saying that I loved pretty much everything about this story. I had high, high hopes because of some of the raves I had seen floating around, and it truly didn't disappoint. Fallon lives in the shadow of her older sister Sorcha who died in battle against Julius Caesar. She strives to be the warrior that she was and hopes her father will appoint her to his royal war band, even pushing the boy she loves aside to attain this one honor. Her father however has other plans for her, and instead of facing them she runs, only to be captured by a ruthless group of slavers who end up selling her to a training school for female gladiators in Rome. I think what I loved most about this story was the idea of the female gladiators. We've all seen Gladiator and I binge watched Spartacus on a weekend, but you never see anything about the women of the time who fought, and The Valiant gives a no-holds-barred look at what that could have looked like for these strong and brutal women. The story-telling is so vivid and filled with so much action that I couldn't put this book down. But underneath the blood and violence, the story encompasses so much more, exploring themes of sisterhood, politics, freedom and honor, and Livingston did an amazing job keeping me riveted to the story. Of course there is some romance here and Fallon, in her homeland, is in love with Mael, who from the first page you can tell is sweet and lovely and you can see how their friendship evolved into more of a sort of. Admittedly the beginning part of the book kind of rushes by to set up Fallon falling into the hands of the slavers and then being delivered to the training school, but the connection between the two rings true to me. That is until she meets Cai, a young Roman soldier. This is where the romance gets a bit muddied because while Fallon fights against the idea of falling for Cai, Mael seems to become a distant memory pretty quickly, and I don't know that I truly believed the evolution of these two falling for each other. I think I needed more of their

connection to buy into it. That said, the romance is really not what this story is about. Sisterhood is a major theme here... Fallon's new family are the gladiators she is forced to fight among and I really enjoyed watching her build bonds and relationships with those around her. Elka is probably my favorite secondary character in this book and I hope we see so much more of her in book 2. There is a bit of a twist that I'm not going to spoil, but just know that you might see it coming and you might not. I kind of had a feeling about it so it didn't come out of left field for me, but Livingston doesn't make it easy to guess for sure. There is also a bit of a side-plot where someone is threatening Fallon upon her arrival to the training camp, and while it wasn't readily given away who was behind it all, it is pretty easy to figure out who it is, though ultimately, I wasn't sure how this really was meant to impact the story as a whole, because big picture it really didn't, and at times it sort of felt like unnecessary filler. The end of this story is amazing! Everything builds into this spectacular, action-packed ending that will have you turning the last page and dying for more. I love where this story ends for Fallon and I can't wait to see what Livingston has in store for her in the future. If you're a fan of historical fiction and kick-ass women then this is the book for you. I promise you'll get a wild, adventure filled with battles, friendship and romance that you won't want to put down until you turn the last page.

I bought this book on 's recommendation and the ratings of others. I couldn't put this book down! I finished it within hours of starting it. The author has a story line that kept me intrigued. She kept it interesting and made me want to keep reading with the cliff hangers she left in certain chapters. After reading this book, I'm going to look into the author and see if she has any other books for purchase.

It was so awesome! From the very first page it held my attention. It never became boring. It was a great book

I liked the story and was entertained. I wish the relationship between Cai and Fallon had more depth to it rather than "I'm attracted to you, I think you're a cool person, therefore I'm in love with you." kinda boring. The story line with Aeddán fell flat for me too. He seemed dangerously delusional in the beginning of the story and I didn't buy his sudden change of heart. I hope there is a sequel coming that might resolve some of the remaining issues in this story.

Well written account of the Roman conquest of the Celts and the rest of the world. The fictional account of actual historical events is an entertaining imaging of what life must have been like for those conquered.

I was skeptical at first, there seemed to be a lot of plot for not a lot of pages but this book fulfilled it's promises. It's a quick and exciting read with a strong female protagonist and just the right amount of blood and roses.

Loved it. The story moves fast, and the protagonist is really likeable. I'll be buying the next book in the series when it comes out.

Not worth the money I paid for it, but still a good read.

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