

# GRACELING

by Kristin Cashore

Published in 2008

Rating (0 stars is the absolute worst, 10 stars is the BEST BOOK EVER)



Genre(s):

Contemporary

Action/adventure

Science Fiction

Fantasy

Romance

Horror

Mystery

Nonfiction

Historical fiction

Other:

"Graceling" is a fantasy novel by Kristin Cashore set in the Seven Kingdoms. The story revolves around Katsa, a young woman with a "Grace," a special skill or talent. Katsa's Grace is killing, and she is used as a thug by her uncle, King Randa. As she questions her role, Katsa meets Prince Po, who challenges her perspective on her Grace and opens her eyes to a broader world. Together, they embark on a quest to uncover a sinister plot, encountering political intrigue, mysterious Graces, and a journey of self-discovery. Cashore weaves a tale of empowerment, love, and the consequences of unchecked power, creating a richly detailed world with complex characters.

I believe this concept could have been executed more effectively; it seemed somewhat unpolished to me. While I appreciated the characters, I found a lack of emotional depth in the narrative, hindering my connection to the events. Despite Katsa being a strong, independent character, I occasionally found her irritating, whereas Po became my preferred character. Although the story's flow and adventure were satisfactory, the absence of emotional resonance made it feel somewhat lacking. Nevertheless, I still appreciate the fundamental story and intend to continue reading Cashore's future novels, hoping for a more impactful experience.

By Monisha R, 11th grade, enjoys reading mystery, fantasy, horror, and romance