



The Singing River (Legend #1)

R.K. Ryals

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NEW ADULT ROMANCE by Amazon bestselling author R.K. Ryals

In Mississippi, there's a legend about a Singing River, a tragic love story that ended with an entire Indian tribe singing a death chant as they marched stoically into the Pascagoula River to die ...

At eighteen, Haven Ambrose isn't just a high school graduate. In her head, she's an aspiring writer, a traveler, a chef, a slayer of injustice, an astronomer, an archaeologist, and the love child of a famous, rich musician. But reality is harsher. Reality is overdue bills, a crumbling trailer, an absent father, an old addiction, and a hot, crushing summer that may end in disappointment.

For twenty year-old River Brayden, life seems good, but appearances can be deceiving. The oldest son of a wealthy family, he has finished his first year at Harvard to return home for the summer only to discover his younger brother headed down an unforgiving road.

They will be drawn together by a song. For during the late summer, they say the Pascagoula death chant can still be heard near the Singing River. Its call is haunting, its chant a testament of love and sacrifice. It calls to some ... beckoning.

The Singing River (Legend #1) Details

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From Reader Review The Singing River (Legend #1) for online ebook

Ginny Gallagher says

Fast Read -Well Written - Full of Emotion

Grab the tissues before you start "The Singing River" by R.K. Ryals.

I enjoyed the story, the characters, and found myself lost within the moments of several emotional scenes.

Book works well as a stand alone but I'm looking forward to reading book 2 and spending more time with the great characters of R.K. Ryals "Legend Series".

Nance says

I can't tell you the story. It's just too sad. Too heartbreaking. But, what I can tell you is what a beautiful beautiful story it is! Haven has got to be one of the best heroines ever! Sensitive but yet strong. So so brave and confident. And, River, well what can I say? He's just perfect! Great looking and smart! Knows just what to say. Supportive and protective. And, then there's Roman. So lost and trying to find his way. My heart broke for him. I was so freakin' sad for him. And, near the end, I cried. Big huge whopping tears for Haven's mom and everyone else. WOW! Such a great story! It really broke my heart. If you're looking for a heartbreaker. A sad one. A book that will rip your heart out and have you blubbering with tears, then this one is for you. It's a sad but touching novel, and R.K. Ryals is brilliant. Lovely prose. Lovely characters. And such a lovely friggin' story.

MAGNIFICENT! MAGICAL! And, just plain ole' MARVELOUS! What else could I possibly say????? Maybe a sequel for Roman's HEA???

"I stared at the water below. My mother had named me for a river. When she was alive, she'd told me I often reminded her of the calm, strong waters of a river; sometimes churning angrily and overflowing its banks, but always steady, always flowing and constant. Roman, she'd said, had been like a tiny soldier from the day he was born, the kind of child she was afraid would be mighty but would fall as quickly as he rose in success. It was why she'd named him Roman, like he was a miniature gladiator." ~ River (Chap. 10)

"Mom had once told me she'd named me Haven for two reasons. The first because it had sounded romantic when she'd read it in a book, the second because having me in her life had rescued her, had given her a reason to live for something, had given her a reason to keep fighting for better things. I was her haven." ~ Haven (Chap. 15)

"My favorite color is cerulean," I blurted it out, and then blushed because I didn't know where it came from. It just felt important somehow. "Not blue," I continued, "but cerulean. Because it's what the sky looks like just before nightfall. Because it's what I imagine the ocean looks like when you're sitting on a tropical island in the middle of nowhere." ~ Haven (Chap. 25)

"Black," he said, "Mine is black. Because it's what I see when I close my eyes, the moment of peace and

darkness right before I rest, the color of the clouds right before a massive storm. Because it's that perfect night when there is no moon.” ~ River (Chap. 25)

Alexis says

Aj'sbookthoughts.blogspot.com

Let me first start off by saying R.K. Ryals is probably one of if not my all time favorite author (aside from my childhood love of Judy Blume of course). R.K. Ryals is beyond talented, her writing is always amazing. Once I book up one of her books I CANNOT put it down which is what happened last night... It was 1 in the morning before I got to sleep all thanks to The Singing River. I said to myself I would just start it read a few pages... That did not happen! Not for the fun, the review- this is a 5 out of 5 stars book! It was great, kept me interested (and awake!). I liked all the characters and Haven wasn't a whiny girl, she was strong but not bitchy and that is big for me in a book! As for River, swoon! Total book boyfriend material, sweet, considerate, actually I think I love him, hehe! I have to be honest and say that I was a little worried it would not keep my attention because normally R.K. writes Fantasy/Paranormal awesomeness and I wasn't sure if there would be enough action in The Singing River but there was! She did such a good job that I was feeling what the characters felt, at one point in the book I even started crying! Yes there is one incredibly sad part, I thought I saw one thing coming but that did not happen, it was something totally different! As far as the NA part of this book it was done classy this is NOT smut. The sexual scenes were described just enough that you knew what was going on in their mind and some what of how they are feeling. I really have no complaints about this book, oh wait I do... It was not long enough! I want MORE River and Haven! But from what I understand this is a stand alone book, and even though it is for sure strong enough to be a stand alone I just loved the characters so much I want more! Seriously as soon as this book is out read it, you won't be sorry!

Jessy says

Unbelievable! Author R.K. Ryals is genius! Oh my goodness I loved this story!

Where expectations and responsibilities are all we have had and it's shaped you into who you are, but leaves you with a hope of needing something more...then there's nothing left to do but leap for faith and reach for something better!

That's what this story brings. Two people from two different worlds. Both fractured with past circumstances. But both holding on to something that is at the brim for release to complete their own happiness.

Haven is a beautifully written female lead. She is strong willed, hopeful, she is a fighter and a dreamer. She hasn't been handed a life of luxury but she is luxuriating in life. Absolutely breath taking to read a character like this. Gives you hope.

River has a powerful effect on you. He is tied down to being everything his last name holds. Everything he works for is to please the family name. What you find with him is someone who has had to be strong for so long he needs someone to let him find release from the pressures. Haven may just be that person.

Entwined is also a story of nature. A story of the singing river. Are the stories true? could it be about death or will some finally see truth...

This novel is enchanting and full of a great cast. With flaws and all you find every character important to the story. The author paced it just so your interest continues at every turn of the page...just a beautiful tale of hope and love. Not only for family, but for a stranger that takes a risk to join you on a journey to a river. I give this book my thumbs up! Loved it!

Ann-marie says

I am a huge fan of RK Ryals; her books never disappoint. I've had this book on my Kindle for some time now, and I do not know what took me so long to read it, but I am glad I finally did. I usually read Paranormal books, and this was a nice change of pace. I especially like how each chapter you see it from a different characters point of view. IE: one chapter will be Haven, the next will be River.

Haven Ambrose is a young woman living in a run-down trailer with her mom; working in the local diner to help make ends meet. Her love and loyalty for the only family she has keeps her from running off to college like she dreams of. She is a hard worker and a fighter, and realizes that nothing in life comes easily.

River, on the other hand, has lived the privileged life. However, money does not buy happiness. His father was killed during a home robbery, leaving River, his brother Roman, and his step-mom behind to pick up the pieces. River is off to college, studying courses that he couldn't care less about, instead of his true passion-weather. Roman is very troubled, and gives their step-mother a hard time daily.

When River arrives home from college for the summer, he finds out that Roman is in deep with some kind of drug to heal the pain of losing their father. When he takes him out to lunch at the local diner, they have a chance encounter with a beautiful young waitress that captivates River. But then the brothers are kicked out of the diner for fighting, and neither Haven nor River can stop thinking about the other.

After her shift at the diner, Haven's mom lets her know that she finally found a job and that means that Haven can take a few days off to help a man with his investigation about the legend of the river. Since Haven knows the history of the legend, she makes a great asset. However, when he comes to pick her up, she is shocked to see River and Roman sitting in the truck as well. After all, that man is their uncle. River is hoping to help Roman through whatever demons he is dealing with, and Haven is looking forward to a few days off from work and responsibilities.

River and Haven are drawn to each other, and the attraction is undeniable. Perhaps this camping trip is the perfect opportunity to find out what just might be.

Over all, an amazing book that draws you in and keeps your attention until the very end. I am hoping to hear more of Roman's struggles from his point in view in future novels.

Fab Fun & Tantalizing Reads says

All right so I am going to start here. I was already a huge fan of R.K.Ryals. That being said.. Holy smokes. I loved this book!

It was new- fresh- touching-emotional and over all touched my heart! Sometimes in life we need more. We want more. We desire more. Does this make us a bad person? Do we have to live in the mold that has been carved out for us, or can we challenge the mold? Make our own mold and start a new path.

"All I could see was the look in his eyes, the one that screamed words he probably didn't know were there, a gaze that begged for shelter."

Two broken souls in need of something find escape in each other. The question remains, is it just an escape or something more?

Haven broke my heart and gave me courage. She is strong and broken at the same time. I see a fire in her and independence, however I think part of her wanted to be saved. Part of her needed to know another person found her valuable, cherished.

Her level of responsibility is beyond anything someone her age should deal with, although she takes in stride. Haven is a old soul with a huge heart and capacity of love and forgiveness. Such a gem! What a beautiful person R.K. wrote for us!

River is troubled. Not trouble like a wayward youth on the street. Troubled inside his own head. Expectations and plans made, obligations and demands. He wants to forget his demons. He is a runner. Leave the sadness- remove it from your line of sight. Reality only takes a back door for so long and eventually you must face it.

Neither of them expected the other.

With all that happens in this story.. Your mind is taken on such a strong emotional journey. I felt myself daydreaming about this book. The ebb and flow of the river, the love and life we lead. Tragic events happen to anyone. Class and social standing do not set us apart as much as you think, when your dealing with death and loss. Can you rise above who you are? Can you take a leap and love with your heart? This book is beautiful. Each story weaves together with magic page after page. Maybe the author borrowed some magic from the folklore as she weaves the spell. Each page drew me in more, each chapter left me wanting. I was overwhelmed in the story, and felt myself being swept away. Read this book, escape into the pages. Settle down awhile because once you are there you won't want to leave.

I cannot wait to see where she takes us next, Bravo!

Nanette Bradford says

Today I read a book that touched my heart. This was about strength, heartache, and freedom.

Are we to be the person that others expect us to be even if we lose who we truly are in return? Are we allowed to go after what our heart feels is right even if others look down on us? These are things I imagine River thinking. He has always lived his life by the rules. Doing everything that was expected of him as a "Brayden" but is it enough? Does River have the strength to go for what he wants, his dreams and needs?

Always taking care of others and doing what is right. Struggling her whole life to make ends meet but being totally happy in the process. With the love of a wonderful mother by her side Haven can do anything. "Don't ever let life rob you of who you are". These are words Haven would remember always.

Pain, pain, and more pain. Roman, at only 17 years old has seen things no one should ever see and they constantly haunt him. Roman is lost. He doesn't want to remember that horrible night that haunts his dreams. He wants the images to go away and the pills do just that. Roman is a bad boy with a good soul but right now he needs to find the strength in himself to break free of the Demons he has inside. He's acting out in every way he knows how.

These 3 broken and strong people each have their own set of trials to overcome and when you are done

reading this you will find out just how much they all have to endure. This book had me crying and giggling but also left me wondering why! You'll see what I mean. Total must read. I knew it would be though. It's an R.K. Ryals book. Enough said.

Christina Silcox says

The Singing River is aptly titled, not just because of the legend in the book, but because the book itself has its own song. It flows, almost melodically from the pages as you read. The Singing River is an emotional and heart wrenching look into the lives of two very different people, each broken in their own way. R.K. Ryals manages to convey the deepest feelings through her words. The reality of those feelings, strikes you at your core. Each time I read one of her books, I don't think I can be more impressed than before, and each time, I am proven wrong. River and Haven's story moved me to tears, made me laugh, made me melt, and made me fall in love.

Christina

Ashley Ubinger says

Utterly amazing story! Well done AGAIN R.K!

This is a love story, a story of learning oneself, a story of love and decication and so much more!

You start off meeting Haven an amazingly strong willed young woman, born into poverty but learning from a wonderful mother how to accept the cards you are dealt and be strong. Haven works as a waitress to make ends meet for her and her mom while also taking care of a neighbor who turns to be her best friend!

River a young man from old money doing what his father wants, his father is brutally murdered which leaves the family business and family in shambles.

These 2 meet each other by chance and know from first glance they need each other..

with out going into to much.. read the story of love, commitment, sadness, willpower, and faith in each other you will not regret this book or the emotional rollercoaster each charachter goes through.

Jacek says

Wow. I was pleasantly surprised at the writing. So poetic, inspiring, and passionate. I love this author's style, the story, and especially the characters. The heroine is one of the best. An old soul with anguish and determination. She's a role model. The development of her romance with River is beautiful. They have deep connections that have definitely turned into love and triumphed their differences.

I really loved this book. And I can't wait for the Roman's story.

Heather andrews says

I liked this book so much, and since the beginning of the book I was so gunning for Haven and River to get their issues worked out and be together. Haven she's just so pure there was literally nothing, flaws or otherwise wrong with her, she just had this perspective on life and you couldn't help but fall in love with her. River he's trying to do what's right by his family's name and not really in it for himself, that is until Haven comes along and challenges him, and makes him see things in a different view. Haven she's just...I loved her, "well, I know I ain't gotta, but you know how I hate taking free stuff without paying, and I'm thinking about those vegetables in that garden of yours." She's also not one to hold things back, "I'm stronger than I look, but I'm also not afraid to admit my weaknesses. I can give you the boxes from up here, but you're definitely more able to carry them." Sometimes I think it was the River (no not River himself) that brought the two together, it was like it knew these two souls needed each other. I'm also hoping for Roman's story to come next.

Crystal says

Responsibility is a Bitch...The South is still stuck on old money, blue blood, and the wrong side of the tracks. The wealth groups and classes don't mix, it's always been that way, especially for the Brayden's. With their father murdered a year ago, River went off to Harvard and Roman lives with their stepmother Marissa. Roman's life is in shambles. He's flunking school, on drugs, and gotten a girl pregnant. It's time that River confronts not only his demons, but the ones haunting his brother. Neither can forget the way their father died.

A chance meeting... Haven and her mother struggle day to day. The only thing keeping them fed and with a roof over their heads is Haven's minimum wage job at the local Dairy Bar. Things are tough, her dad took off when she was 10 and left her to help pick up the pieces with her mother. While at work she meets River and Ramon. The two brothers are fighting and the police are called. Somehow a connection is made and River can't get the blond haired girl with the amazing green eyes out of his head.

A piece of luck....Haven's mother goes for a job interview and gets a job that will turn things around. She also meets Uncle Marley Brayden who is writing a book about the Death Song a legend of an entire tribe marching to their death in the river. It is agreed with Haven's mother and Uncle Marley Brayden that Haven will go along on the expedition to the river.

A coincidence that will change lives....River has had enough of Roman's way and is going to straighten him up one way or another. They're going with Uncle Marley to the river, where there are no pills and no distractions, for Roman that is. When the big black truck pulls up Haven sees River is the driver. There's excitement and trepidation. The pull is magnetic. Who is this girl? Does he just need an escape? Will Roman pull it together? Is the song real or legend?

This book will pull at you emotionally. I felt a connection to all the characters. You will feel the joy of young

love fighting against the odds. The sadness of loss of life and handling of grief. The fear of the unknown and warring emotions of things beyond your control.

The match between Haven and River is one of need, understanding, and desire. Haven is the compliment the whole Brayden family needs and the Brayden family is the bond that Haven needs to share. She's been alone and in control too long. Her constant need to help makes the connections strong as they are in need of the help she offers. I await to see if there is a sequel for the ending and to see if Haven and River reunite after college. Will Roman find his justice and will River escape his responsibilities? Was River actually there to hurt Haven or rescue her from her life of despair?

Saunders says

read this - wonderful heart wrenching love story.

Sara Bree High says

All right so I am going to start here. I was already a huge fan of R.K.Ryals. That being said.. Holy smokes. I loved this book!

It was new- fresh- touching-emotional and over all touched my heart!

Sometimes in life we need more. We want more. We desire more. Does this make us a bad person? Do we have to live in the mold that has been carved out for us, or can we challenge the mold? Make our own mold and start a new path.

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beautiful. Each story weaves together with magic page after page. Maybe the author borrowed some magic from the folklore as she weaves the spell. Each page drew me in more, each chapter left me wanting. I was overwhelmed in the story, and felt myself being swept away. Read this book, escape into the pages. Settle down awhile because once you are there you won't want to leave.

I cannot wait to see where she takes us next, Bravo!

Michelle says

Sometimes, when you finish a book I find myself having to just take some time to absorb it all, this was one of those books. This book had so much in it, love, loss, strength, perseverance, class differences, addiction, struggle and hardship and as much as it is gut-wrenching at times I also found myself almost with a sense of calm after I'd finished, as if things certain things had been put to rights, whether that is actually the case or not though, remains to be seen. I found this to be a really quite emotional book, I laughed, I cried, I rooted for the characters to get their happy endings, I really got involved in the storyline and everyone involved. This is the first book I've read by this author but I know in the future I will be reading more, the writing is emotional and descriptive without going overboard. This meant that I could picture, crystal clear in my head certain scenes as they played out, the authors words building the scene completely until I felt like I had been there and experienced it all with my own eyes. I may have fell a little bit in love with Haven, she was not the typical book female, she was in fact an extremely strong person, who carried no bitterness, didn't complain and actually just got her down and got on with it. She didn't exactly have an easy life, wrong side of the tracks, struggling for every penny was more her existence but not once did she bemoan her lot in life, she wasn't whiny or poor pity me and for that reason alone I wanted things to get better for her, I didn't want her to have to struggle, and face hardships cause she deserved so much more. River was in many ways her opposite, growing up on the right side of town, seemingly having an ideal life, but in reality, that came with its own issues. Again he wasn't really a character to moan, he wasn't happy but felt he had to do what was expected, mostly due to this sense of responsibility and propriety being drilled into him from a young age. Both had struggles, the same but different but in these struggles is where you see the strength of character they both posses. Roman too, is an intriguing character, I'm glad he's getting his own book cause I really wanna know more about him, I think he has the potential to be an amazing protagonist. The legend of the river is, in itself, a beautiful story and also the connection that brings these characters together without seeming contrived. My only (slight) issue with this book is the ending, if I'm being totally honest, I would've liked to see it slightly longer, though I'm sure the characters will still be featured quite heavily in the next book, I would've preferred a bit more exploration in this book. This is very much a book that will stay with me and I'll certainly read it again, I think there's a good chance that this book will be one of those that every time I read it I see things slightly differently, or more in depth than the time before, making it even better. Although this book does deal with some very serious issues in a real and upfront way I don't think that should be enough to put anyone off, it confronts the issues without shoving them down your throat, and overall is a fantastic read. I would recommend this to anyone who is looking for a book with some substance without being overbearing, perfect for those book slump times, I really do believe if you're stuck in a rut and can't find anything to lift you back out, give this a go and you'll be back in no time :)
