



The Inner Kingdom: Quest One (Dragon Quest Book 1)

S.R. Gibbs , Latoya Coleman (Editor)

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Three Sisters

Two Worlds

One Epic Quest

“Unless you want to meet the same fate as your friend, I suggest you stay where you are.” The man warned, aiming his bow and arrow at Angie.

“Oh, are you going to shoot me too?” Angie asked, walking forward with her hands out on either side of her as if asking him to shoot her.

She really needs to work on her anger issues.

“Angie! Get back here!” I yelled, trying to stop her before it was too late.

Once again, I heard the release of the arrow before I saw it. There was no time to blink, since it happened so fast.

As soon as the arrow became free from the bow, the air around Angie heated up and the arrow instantly caught on fire moments away from piercing Angie’s heart.

April, Angie, and Ashley are just three ordinary adopted sisters, just trying to survive their senior year in high school. They live by four simple rules: They must not tell anyone that they are adopted sisters, sit at the same lunch table, speak more than necessary to one another during school hours, and the most important one, Never get involved in the problems of others.

The girls' rules no longer applied, when they are suddenly transported to a distant world; where they are welcomed as destined warriors, chosen at birth to save their world. In order to do this they will first have to journey to three of the four outer kingdoms, within six months to release their dragons, and defeat the evil Queen before she fully regains her strength, and continues the war she started over a hundred years ago. Even in her weakened state the Queen will not make it easy for them, with the girls' sudden manifestation of special abilities, they discover what they were really meant to be. Faced with a chance to be able to return home. They are forced to make the decision to stay in the world where they've found love, friendship, and a purpose, or go back to a world, that tried to take away their destiny.

The Inner Kingdom: Quest One (Dragon Quest Book 1) Details

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Latoya Coleman (Editor)**

From Reader Review The Inner Kingdom: Quest One (Dragon Quest Book 1) for online ebook

John Hennessy says

Think of the fantasies that thrilled you as a child, and influenced me as a writer, and the usual tales, Lord of the Rings, Chronicles of Narnia and others come to the fore.

In the case of CS Lewis' body of work, I felt that in author SR Gibb's debut novel, there lay the hallmarks of The Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe.

Of course, this story seeks to stand on its own, and it tells the tale of three sisters, Angie, April and Ashley, who find their normal day to day routine upturned when they find themselves in a fantastical world, full of danger, thrills and excitement.

The book has quite a large cast of characters, but as the action all surrounds the three sisters, and often the chapter focus is told from one sister's POV, it's an enjoyable and always engaging read.

In particular, I loved the ending. It was a great reveal, that I didn't see coming.

Thankfully, the author has another tale in the works. I think SR Gibbs is very talented and will hopefully delight us with a new release soon.

Chotley says

Author Gibbs has put together an excellent YA story. It's the first I've read in a while that has focused, believable heroines. The three girls show grit and determination in the face of half-truths, outright lies, and deadly situations. For once, we see teen females who can stay on point and aren't swooning and drooling every five seconds over whoever the nearest male is. When they're in danger, they're thinking about what to do to get out, not whether they've smeared their makeup or should have worn a different outfit. Hooray!

The alternate world is well drawn, although we don't see very much of it in this first installment. Descriptions don't get in the way of the story moving forward. It's a quick and breezy read with a cliff-hanger ending leading to the next book in the series.

I-Lanaa Twine says

The Inner Kindom: Quest 1 is the story of adopted sisters Angie, Ashley and April. When April wonders off one day, the girls are transported to the magical world of Eupai, filled with intrigue, danger and love, and the strength of their bond is tested as dark secrets are revealed.

The Inner Kingdom was a quick, delightful read. Though it was a simple tale, it boasted some beautiful writing.

“The lightning was deafening overhead as it cackled and lit up the night sky, highlighting the features of the trees around me.”

Lines like this hooked me from the start and kept me turning pages with ease. The story is fast-paced, but flows nicely and features an original premise, which was quite refreshing. The powers the girl’s eventually learn they possess are exciting! I can’t wait to see how they will develop and learn to control them. The storyline was inventive, and the author did a great job of offering several plot twists and unexpected surprises. One of the highlights of the novel is the awesome descriptions that really packed a punch.

“Not that far off in the distance, there was a tall wall of swirling liquid casting off a silvery light upon the snowy scenery as if it was made of mercury.”

I also appreciated the multiculturalism. It’s so refreshing to read about a variety of different characters, and sadly there is far too few of this in YA literature today. Angie was my favorite! Spunky. Outspoken. Passionate. Honest. There wasn’t much I disliked about her. In particular, I loved the author’s characterization of the love interests. Leo was my dreamy! All of the male characters in the book are complex and interesting individuals possessing flaws, but also a lot of heart, and it really made me develop a deeper connection with them.

That being said, there were a few areas where I felt the novel struggled. While the story was light and enchanting, it lacked the appeal that makes you say you just can’t put it down. The story is believable and has great potential, but there are aspects of it that need to be fine-tuned. Eupai is still in need of more world-development. In addition, I didn’t get a strong sense of who the girls were. There were also areas that are still in need of proofreading and copyediting.

My last and most earnest complaint is that I simply could not wrap my head around the “pact” that the girl’s make at the beginning of the book. The treatment of April is awful and to think that her sisters sat by and did nothing, with one of them even dating one of her tormentors, was quite disturbing to me. I found it hard to believe that they could have such a deep bond behind closed doors, with all the turmoil going on publically.

Still, The Inner Kingdom has much to offer. Strong, spunky heroines. Fascinating love interests. An exciting and mysterious new world. I cannot wait to see how the story develops in the next book.

Lena Belle says

The Inner Kingdom follows the journey of three adopted sisters. April is smart, odd, and sees things others don’t. Angie is athletic and quick-tempered. Ashley just wants to be normal, even if it means turning her back on her sisters. When the sisters find themselves in a strange new dimension they must learn to work together to overcome the challenges that fate has in store for them.

This book grabbed my attention and kept my interest from beginning to end. My favorite character, and the one I can relate to the most, is April. However, I think anybody who reads this book can find a character they can relate to. I very much enjoyed the mythical creatures that are incorporated into the story-line.

This book is well-written and has a well formed plot-line and characters. I'm really look forward to another installment. I recommend this book to those who like to read fantasy, adventure, and action.

J.R. says

This story had everything I look for in YA - action, adventure, and sarcastic female leads. There are three main characters that are each given an authentic voice and personality. Three adopted sisters are thrown into another world on a journey of self discovery that they could never have imagined. Each of them seem to represent the archetype of their hidden power, and I can't wait to find out what happens next!

From page one, the reader is pulled into a story that is so action packed that it's hard to put down. Is it May yet? I'm ready for the next book!

James Penn says

This is a story about 3 adopted sisters who are magically transported to the strange world of Eupai. After discovering that they are actually from this land originally, they must decide whether they will accept their destiny as the dragon warriors who are the only ones that can save this world.

The book includes a lot of cool and original ideas while revolving around the timeless theme of teenagers discovering and coping with the world around them. The first person perspective, changing with each chapter, is a fantastic way to approach this sort of story, and the author nails it.

The main flaw of this book is the high rate of typos, including over-use of commas and quotation marks. I know this can put a lot of people off, so I think it's worth the mention, and it's the main reason for the four stars instead of five. If you can get past the grammatical errors, it is well worth the read.

A.J. Raven says

I read this book to give it an honest review. I really liked the cover art. It shows the three adopted sisters and their dragons, and it looks cool!

If you are a fan of the Narnia series, or even animated shows like W.I.T.C.H, then you will surely find The Inner Kingdom by S.R. Gibbs an enjoyable read. It's fast-paced with a reveal at the end. I read the whole thing quite fast, wanting to know more about the three adopted sisters who find themselves in a different world and where they are supposed to defeat an evil Queen using their new found powers and Dragons.

The Inner Kingdom is a must-read for fans of fantasy and a story that has three independent female leads.

Note: The same review has been posted on Amazon US and UK.

Constance Roberts says

I received an ebook from the author in exchange for an honest review.

I started *The Inner Kingdom* right away. It was a quick read that moved the story along at a nice pace. I never found the story dragging or found myself waiting for more action or conflict.

S.R. Gibbs fascinated me with her well developed fantasy world and the intriguing government within. The kingdom had one magical surprise after another. I absolutely loved the "celtas", an enchanted scribble on a wall or object that can open a space that wasn't there before, revealing anything from a bathroom to a magic portal. I've half a mind to start drawing celtas on my own walls, hoping they will open up to a well lit, walk-in closet.

The story focuses on three sisters, Angie, Ashley, and April. Each girl has the makings of a relate-able, intelligent heroine, but the author only illustrates a few differences between them. I know one is rash and hot-headed, but I honestly wouldn't be able to tell you if it's Angie or April. Things get a little confusing as each chapter is narrated by a different girl, but their individual voices sound too similar to tell them apart. I kept having to flip back to the beginning of the chapter to remember which girl I was reading. The writing style just kind of seemed like I was listening to someone casually telling me something that happened to them. I wished there had been more description to make me feel like I was right along side the girls in the kingdom of Eupai. Maybe everything would have been less confusing if the book was just written in third person instead of switching characters every chapter.

I appreciated some mysterious characters, a budding romance, and the ending. After the climax, enough conflicts were resolved to make the book feel complete, yet left enough open to lead in to the sequel, *Sapphire Kingdom*. Each book after *The Inner Kingdom* will continue the story of the three Dragon Warriors, focusing on one particular girl in each book.

Ju Ephraime says

The Inner Kingdom by S.R. Gibbs is a quick, enjoyable read, which is why I ignored some of the roughness in the writing. I admire anyone who can use his/her imagination so creatively, and in this regard Gibbs did not disappoint. The story of these three sisters and the situation in which they find themselves in the stuff fantasies are made of, which indeed this was. Lovers of YA sci-fi/fantasy will have a fun time with this story.

E.M. Cooper says

I was drawn to the intriguing title 'The Inner Kingdom', the first book in the Dragon Quest series and it proved to be a thoroughly entertaining read.

In their final school year, adopted sisters Angie, Ashley and April have some interesting school rules about not being seen together or becoming involved with each other's problems. April's classmates regard her as unhinged and disturbingly she's the only one who can see a troubling ghost boy. Life becomes stranger when

the sisters are drawn through a liquid wall, a mysterious portal to Eupai, a world powered by two suns. The sisters learn their true identities and if they choose it, their daunting destiny.

As untrained dragon warriors, the sisters are strong, distinct and feisty characters. The girls, drawn from different kingdoms in Eupai, are thrown into a strange world on the brink of war with the awakening of the powerful but evil, Princess Jewel.

The book offers action, magic, mystery and the promise of romance set in a dazzling world complete with castles and kingdoms. The inhabitants of Eupai are an intriguing lot including potential suitors for the sisters who aren't the types you'd expect in a fairy-tale setting.

I can't wait to see how the sisters' power and romances blossom and for them to take on the evil Prince Jewel and her cronies in book two of the series!

Angel says

S.R. Gibbs "The Inner Kingdom" brought to my mind the female superheroes like SuperGirl and Wonderwoman. Gibbs brings those characters who were strong female leads back to life in this book with well developed characters April, Angie, Ashley three dynamic young women who discover their true calling and destiny. This beautifully written story reads like a strategic and very interactive video game, yet a coming of age fantasy letting the girls coming into the discovery of their powers gradually. S.R. Gibbs shows with fluidity in characterization how new the girls are to the discovery of their powers and has done a brilliant job in showing the newness and wide eyed innocent way in which they approach this discovery. At the beginning of this fantastic novel, Gibbs draws you in with a surreal event in one of the girl's lives heightening the intrigue in the story bringing the reader into the thick of the action with phantasmagorical imagery which is so vividly descriptive that you don't even realize at first that one of the girls is experiencing a very vivid and fertile dream which shows the symbolism as well as foreshadowing in what possibly will happen next but, still leaving an air of mystery. This gives insight into how vivid, wild and fertile the author's imagination is which make for good reading and a good novel. Well Done S.R.! I see a movie of this series in your future.

Josephine Calabrese says

There are grammatical errors, but overall an interesting story. It's another story of characters entering a different world and saving it from destruction.

Josephine Calabrese
Writer, Lyricist, Publisher, and Teacher

Khadija Grant says

"The lightening was deafening overhead as it cackled and lit up the night sky, highlighting the features of the trees around me. The place was unfamiliar, and I had no idea..."

From the first paragraph, I was hooked. I felt like I was wandering around with April feeling lost and confused. Without giving out spoilers, the book is about a girl who is struggling to fit in, like most teenagers in the world. She has two adopted sisters, but even they shun her. The three sisters will end up in some deep trouble, but will have to work together to find their way. It's a great story that reminded me of a mix between The Wizard of Oz and The Chronicles of Narnia. The world was created so vividly on paper that at some points I wanted to jump in just so that I could be them twirling around in the finest dresses.
