



Game of Stars

Sayantani DasGupta

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When the Demon Queen shows up in her bedroom, smelling of acid and surrounded by evil-looking bees, twelve-year-old Kiranmala is uninterested. After all, it's been four months since she last heard from her friends in the Kingdom Beyond, the alternate dimension where she was born as an Indian princess. But after a call to action over an interdimensional television station and a visit with some all-seeing birds, Kiran decides that she has to once again return to her homeland, where society is fraying, a reality show is taking over, and her friends are in danger.

However, things are a lot less clear than the last time she was in the Kingdom Beyond. Kiran must once again battle witches, solve riddles, and avoid her evil Serpent King father - all while figuring out who are her true friends, and what it really means to be a demon.

Game of Stars Details

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From Reader Review Game of Stars for online ebook

Adiba Jaigirdar says

So Princess Kiranmala is back!! And she has to save Prince Neel from where he has been kidnapped by the Serpent King by competing in *Who Wants To Be A Demonslayer?* a new reality TV show in the Kingdom Beyond.

I really enjoyed the first book of this series, *The Serpent's Secret*, but this book took everything that was great about book one and ***made it better!*** The worldbuilding is both fantastic and hilarious, the characters become more complex (and can I just say I am absolutely in love with the concept of the Pink Sari Skateboarders...I mean!!!!!!!!!!). I love, again, how absolutely Bengali it is. We see more creatures straight out of Bengali folktales, all of them spouting rhymes and riddles that Kiran has to figure out if she wants to save Neel.

This book also leans heavily into some important themes, and does it *so* well. It deconstructs the black/white nature of morality, that just because someone is human or rakkosh doesn't define them as good/evil.

It's also just a really fun, fast-paced book that I absolutely loved reading!! I highly recommend this to everyone!

Heather Taake says

I didn't love it as much as the first one, but still fun!

Adiba Jaigirdar says

yessssssssssss Kiranmala is back!!!!!!!!!!

Julia says

Magic and moral complexity and monsters and pink-sari-wearing resistance fighters on skateboards... oh my! What a fun middle-grade adventure.

This is a great follow-up to the first book, and it sets up the next one quite nicely.

I guessed a key plot twist fairly early on, but that in no way diminished how amusing the adventure was. And [spoilers] any book that ends, after a major magical climactic battle, with our heroes shouting "To New Jersey!" [/spoilers] is a book well worth reading. Heehee.

Tova says

I AM SO EXCITED FOR MORE KIRANMALA!!!

Things I Want From This Book:

- more of the cuteness that is my half human/half Rhakkhosh prince, Neel
 - more bad puns about eggs from Tuni
 - Kiranmala to kick Naga's ass
 - My moon snake princess Kiranmala kicking general ass
 - Kiranmala's mom and dad being their hilarious selves
 - Kiranmala spending some quality time with her parents (the moon & the serpent king) being a happy family
 - LOTS MORE AI-MA!!!!!!!
-

Ms. Yingling says

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Kiran has survived her ordeals in *The Serpent's Secret*, and is back in Parsippany, New Jersey. and is trying to settle back into school. However, Neel's mother, the burping, rhyming demon queen, finds her at school and says that Neel is being held captive by Kiran's serpent birth father, and only she can rescue him. With the help of a portal that appears on the school soccer field, she travels to the underground hotel/prison, but is unable to rescue her friend. Not only that, but Neel does not want her to try. It's too late, and Kiran and Naya must travel to the Kingdom Beyond, where Kiran applies to be on the reality television show, *Who Wants to Be a Demon Slayer*. The people in that Kingdom have heard of her exploits, and her image is splashed everywhere. Kiran finds out that she must not only free Neel, but must find two stones that are critical to keeping the balance in the kingdom. It's not easy to get anything done, and even meeting up with Neel's brothers (in the forms of an owl and monkey god) and the Pink-Sari skateboarders causes more problems than it solves. Kiran even needs to trick her father into providing a fang to break Neel out of his prison, but the final battle has a few surprises, and the story is not yet over.

Strengths: I enjoyed how Dasgupta took traditional Indian tales and adapted them for middle grades. Her notes at the back about girl power groups in Indian, and the influence of things like game shows and off beat products (I sort of want to be Princess Pretty Pants for Halloween) on modern Indian culture are interesting. Kiran is a great character, and her friendship/possible romance with Neel is engaging.

Weaknesses: This often slips into elementary levels of goofiness. My fantasy readers tend to be my most serious students, and they take their fantasy books very seriously! The rhymes got a bit wearing, and some of the dialogue was a bit much.

What I really think: Will definitely purchase, but I would like this better without the goofiness.

Kim says

This is the second installment in this exciting fantasy series with Princess Kiranmala. This spunky 12-year-old is a regular middle school kid in New Jersey when she's living in our plain old 2D world. But in the Kingdom Beyond, she's a Princess, daughter of the evil serpent king and her moon goddess mother. In this adventure, Kiran goes back to the Kingdom beyond to save her friend Prince Neel who has been taken prisoner by the Serpent King. To do this, she has to join the reality TV show, "Who Wants To Be A

Demonlayer." She has to solve riddles, fight demons, and suffer through endless puns and bad jokes to get to her friend. The hardest puzzle to solve is who to trust because not all demons are trying to eat her and some of the humans are trying to stop her. But which ones?

This fun, action adventure, fantasy story with heart and humor is set in a world of traditional Bengali folktales.

Missy Howie says

I really enjoyed returning to the world of Kiranmala with book 2. Book 1 was more of self-discovery, where this book had more of a lesson against prejudice and racism, with the framework of Bengali folktales and girl power. Awesome read for upper elementary readers and beyond.

I received a free advance copy of this book, but am not compensated in anyway for a review
