



Sleeping Sands

C.A. King

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It's the final meeting of the camp before Willow and her friends find themselves whisked away to different schools hidden all over the main world. When Cassandrhea Tibbins interrupts, changes in plans are set in motion. With 'The Empowered' newspaper, run by the Quidnunks, continuing to pipe out damaging articles about Willow, there is no choice but to hide her from everyone. Never has she felt so isolated and helpless. It will take all of Willow's strength to muster enough courage to face old and new enemies without the support of her allies.

This fourth book of the Portal Prophecies series, delves deep into the understanding of magic and self-discovery. The plot continues to twist and turn as Cornelius' ideas dive further into madness. Will Willow be able to handle this new pressure of hiding everything about herself from assassins, reporters, and new enemies or will she end up on the run from everyone? Will she be able to figure out the meaning of the latest prophecy alone?

Sleeping Sands Details

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From Reader Review Sleeping Sands for online ebook

Jenni Bishop says

With William still on death's door Willow finds herself torn between having to leave for school and staying by his side. After packing and getting ready the gang all meet for final goodbyes before they go their separate ways to different schools, where they will have no contact with anyone. Just before they are ready to go a visitor turns up with unexpected news. They are all shocked at the news that Cassandra Tibbins brings. She tells them how the family who run The Empowered, a newspaper, are continuing to run more and more stories about Willow and painting her in a bad light. How they know some of the things they know, shows there may be a spy somewhere and because of that Cassandra has made the choice that Willow must be hidden from everyone to ensure her safety.

If Willow thought she was lonely before going to the school, she finds herself even more so once she is there. Being unable to show her true self, due to the people after her, the pressure, the fear and the isolation are taking its toll. Willow is not only trying to survive the pressures of school and without friends, but she is trying to fight to stay alive. Willow finds that old friends are now enemies and evil won't stop till they find her. Willow is learning more about herself and her magic and surprises them all but is she revealing too soon?

Can Willow find the strength and courage to carry on? Will Willow put her friends before herself to survive? Will truths be revealed before it is too late? Will lost friends be found? Will the evil that is after her find a new way to break her soul? Will Willow find allies in the most unlikely places? Just how many more enemies are there waiting to destroy her?

Sleeping Sands is the fourth book of the Portal Prophecies series and I must say that the writing gets better with each book. I feel so much for the main character that I could not put it down until I knew the outcome. I must say the way the book ended has me eager to start the next book as soon as possible. I know that if you love magic you will Love this book.

Anita Glover says

Sleeping Sands is Book Four in The Portal Prophecies Series. None of the books are standalone as each book continues on from where the previous books finish. Each book is based on a different prophecy and the entire series, delves deep into the understanding of magic and self-discovery, all the while questioning the right versus wrong equation on personal levels.

Readers will find some new explanations for old tales, myths, legends, folk lore and unusual phenomena that could just make you question the validity of stories we have grown up with. Vampires, Witches, Ghosts, Monsters, Santa Claus, Atlantis, Elves, Dragons, Faeries, find out the alternate truth to them all.

Willow and her friends must separate: all are whisked off to different schools hidden in the main world. With the newspaper 'The Empowered' writing false and damaging articles about Willow she is in much more danger than ever before and she has no choice but to go into hiding in disguise. No one must know who she is or where she is. She needs to find out quickly who she can trust yet again when Cornelius' plans for her become more insane and deadly. She also needs to find out what the newspaper reporters have against her and find out exactly who they are and why they are writing such things about her. What is the 'mystery'?

surrounding them? Why has everyone turned against her?

The prophecy she must decipher this time and seemingly alone is more of a riddle than ever. Will she be able to solve it? Will she be able to save herself? As new people come into her life and she is separated from those she knows and trusts will she even be able to survive the growing threats against her very life?

C A King is a very skilful author being able to write multiple storylines and tie them all together in such a way that you uncover clues as you read without being overwhelmed or confused. You find out what each character knows, 'feels' and intends to do. I enjoyed this fast paced story and couldn't put it down – again. Willow and her friends continue to grow and develop in character and strength. In this story we see Willow becoming more mature as she learns to control her emotions better and think things through more thoroughly. Although this story ends on a sort of cliff-hanger, all the loose ends are tied up so you're not thinking but what happened to so-and-so. Willow is all ready to start her next adventure.

Well done Ms King. I look forward to reading Willow's next adventure.

Maura says

The Portal Prophecies: Sleeping Sands Book 4 of 6 in the Portal Prophecies series.

This is not a stand - alone book and should be read in the correct order which is as follows: A Keeper's Destiny, A Halloween's Curse, Frost Bitten, Sleeping Sands, Deadly Perceptions and Finding Balance

In Sleeping Sands we see more of the infrastructure of what is going on and how things are moving forward to keep people under the King's thumb. King Cornelius is losing his mind and everyone is feeling his wrath. "Can we not find a new world to conquer for you my lord? There must be something you would like your children to do for you?" His obsession with Willow is over the top. Revisionist history is something that the king is trying to achieve. He will do anything within his power to facilitate his need to gain control of Willow, including going down an evil path.

Side Note: I've said this in a review of one of the first stories. This is fantasy fiction, but it feels pretty real to me. Like someone in power might actually try to accomplish what the King is in his ultimate madness.

As all of this is going on, we get to see Willow and how she is coping and dealing with all that IS. She is coming into her own in maturity and power. She is both the student and a teacher. Her interactions with the elves had me chuckling. "What? Just because I'm an elf doesn't mean I can't enjoy tasty treats. I have a sweet tooth." Thank goodness there are pixie sticks in other worlds.

As the books progress, some questions are answered while new ones take their place. I look forward to the next 2 in the series for the conclusion on how this all comes together.

Sheri says

The Portal Prophecies: Sleeping Sands by C.A. King is the fourth book in the series. These are not standalone books but need to be read in order. The story continues almost seamlessly from one book to the next. Willow and her friends are still together for a short time. The group is being separated to go to different schools across the main world. They are apprehensive because they do not know what changes this will bring to them and helping Willow solve the prophecies. Willow is having a hard struggle because as her powers

are developing and becoming stronger she needs to reign them in to hide them from everyone. She does not know from all these new people who is her friend or enemy.

I enjoyed this book as I have the others in the series. King takes the time to develop the story and characters. It is interesting where Willow's challenges will take her and her friends and what will happen with Cornelius going mad. The change in story from a seasonal theme to school was cool also. I am excited to read the next book in the series and where Willow and her powers will go next.

These books are great for older tweens and adults as well. I enjoy stories that bring in fantasy, sci-fi, magic, etc. and have a good story and characters to go together as well. The characters are interesting, strong, and have to remember the value of friendship and strength in numbers to solve the prophecies.

Sandra Kaye says

Sleeping Sands is book four in the Portal Prophecies series by C.A. King. While sleeping may be in the title once you start reading sleeping is the last thing you will want to do. I found myself so enamored with this book that I reading the the early morning hours. King swept me away with this series. I love everything about it. In *Sleeping Sands* we find Willow away from all of her friends and very lonely, trying to hide who she is for the safety of everyone. However there is just something about this girl that no one can resist. In this book at a school for the best of the best of the magic users. Willow remains a step above or should I say ten. She just can't seem to help herself. Before she knows it her and her newly found friends are trying to solve more Prophecies while Willow fight for her life. This book continues to show that no one no matter how powerful can do everything alone. Soon her new friends are in a position where they have to decide what to do and if they want to help.

King continues to do an amazing job of pulling you into every moment, every scene. I've been along for every minute of this amazing ride while Willow tries to figure out how to do her best for everyone and how to know what real love is and learn what she can do. What she was meant to. As much as I hate it is can feel this series coming to an end and I want to know what happens. I have to know what happens. Yet I'm sad to see the end of characters that have become so real I am attached and don't want them to go. So I have to say Ms. King you have done an amazing job because Willow and her friends are so believable and well rounded that I have quite enjoyed my time with them.

J.D. Cunegan says

Sleeping Sands had a Harry Potter feel to it... not the latter, darker editions of the series, but the earlier installments, where the characters were younger and the tone wasn't quite so doom-and-gloom.

Make no mistake: the stakes are high in *Sleeping Sands*, the fourth installment of C.A. King's Portal Prophecies series. Willow is separated from her friends -- who might not be her friends -- and she finds herself with a new group of friends -- who, again, might not be her friends.

Or maybe they are. Who knows? Willow certainly doesn't.

But even with the change in surroundings, Willow still manages to learn about herself and the world surrounding her, even as she has to watch out for a rival student, a suspect journalist, and the ever-evolving machinations of King Cornelius. The chess pieces are more numerous than ever now, and King is showing

an ability to juggle multiple storylines at once, even finding a way to tie them all together without leaving the reader confused or overwhelmed.

A lot of writers can struggle in that regard, but King is showing it's a strength of hers.

Much like *Frost Bitten*, *Sleeping Sands* shows this series finding its footing and its identity. It really feels like the first two installments were all about King discovering her voice and that of her characters, and now that those have been sussed out, the stories and the characters are truly allowed to shine.

This series keeps getting better, and *Sleeping Sands* is right up there with *Frost Bitten* as my favorite of the series thus far.

Jean Martin says

Portal Prophecies -- Sleeping Sands

By

C. A. King

Another amazing five star read. C. A. King is indeed a master of adventure. *Sleeping Sands* is the Third in the Portal Prophecies series. What a great book.

C. A. King writes this adventure with fresh originality every time. No disappointment in *Sleeping Sands*. Willow had made new friends in a new school, where she is mastering everything except her own fate. A fate which she is unfortunately not mastering at all. In fact, she is woefully out of control of her fate. And now there is a whole new challenge. Dream world, potions and illusion magic are no problem. Especially in contrast to a high bounty on her head and every assassin this side of forever after her. Willow has her work cut out for her just trying to stay alive.

In *Sleeping Sands*, C. A. King has given yet another amazing performance as storyteller and author. She has proven to be excellent at both. Her characters never falter and remain true to themselves. The changes that happen are all part of growing up and consistent with realizing that all is not as it appears and people in authority are not always to be trusted.

I absolutely love this series and am so happy to be able to review it. Again, five fabulous stars for *Sleeping Sands*. If I could give more stars, I would. Kudos, Kudos, Kudos for C. A. King. Bravo!

Francis says

Sleeping Sands is the fourth book in C. A. King's The Portal Prophecies series. I have really been enjoying this series so far and *Sleeping Sands* is yet another great read. It steps away from the holiday themes of the previous two books, *A Halloween's Curse* and *Frost Bitten*. This came as a relief as, whilst I enjoyed those books and the clever ways King worked the festive traditions into her fantasy world, I was not ready for the Easter Bunny to be kidnapped by a race of sinister eggs.

As *Sleeping Sands* begins, our protagonist Willow is preparing to go to a magical boarding school, knowing

that she will be cut off from her friends who will be attending different schools. As a fan of other series such as Children of the Red King and Harry Potter, I was very excited for a whole new magic school and Sleeping Sands did not disappoint. My only complaint is that, with so much focus on Willow in Sleeping Sands, we didn't get a glimpse into any of the schools that the others were attending. Not seeing them, however, helped us to share in Willow's isolation.

Although we didn't get to see much of the usual cast, at Sleeping Sands Willow (disguised as a boy, deceptively named Will) is in a group with four elves. They make an exciting addition to the cast, teaching us more about the history and customs of another world (also all the elves are essentially bisexual and that makes me so happy I hope we actually get some elvish romance in the coming books). They work well with Willow, having far superior knowledge and skills in some areas and much to learn from her in others. I particularly like how the chemistry between the five of them develops over the book!

With Willow's exceptional magical abilities she does, to an extent, seem too perfect in this book. Even in the areas she supposedly struggles with she seems to have natural abilities. It has the potential to get a bit annoying, but then also means that less time is devoted to the basic learning stuff and more to the drama and more exciting displays of magic.

I give this book five out of five stars. I'm already thinking of a list of friends to recommend this series to - if you like young adult fantasy consider yourself added to that list! It is definitely worth reading the books in order to get the full story (and don't be put off by the festive themes of the earlier books - they are still fantastic stories and I managed to thoroughly enjoy them in the heat of the summer!).

Emma Morreale says

The fourth installment of the Portal Prophecies series honestly makes me love these books so much more. I cannot get enough! Anyone who likes Harry Potter will enjoy this series.

Our main character, Willow, has been required to attend a school for magic but because of so much bad press concerning her, she must attend in disguise. She is isolated from everyone she knows and has never felt more alone and helpless. Development of abilities was so limited on her home world that Willow fears she will not do well at Sleeping Sands. Since the final marks for her group is an average of individual grades, I can only imagine the pressure of what amounts to one giant group project.

In this book Willow finds herself at a school for magic which begs the comparison to Hogwarts. Being the huge Harry Potter fan that I am, I thought I would be pretty bias while reading. I could not have been more wrong. I adore how Sleeping Sands is set up. Although I thought there was a lack of homework mentioned for it being school, the class structure and teachers were amazing. It makes me wish more schools were like this one and not just the magic portions. There could have been so much more detail about the school and I'm a little sad there wasn't more about classes but that could just be the huge nerd in me.

The end of this book came with a huge twist and potential for so much more information about the world of elves in the next installment. I would not be surprised if this series is turned into movies at some point. There is so much originality in this universe even with characters as common in fantasy as elves.

Bobbi Wagner says

The Portal Prophecies: Sleeping Sands by CA King is the fourth book in the Portal Prophecies series. This book is a continuation of Willow and her friends journey into the Portal Prophecies. This story is action, suspense and you will notice the characters are getting a little older. One thing that I enjoy about this author is how she can create these characters will just pull you into their world. In this book, Willow goes through self discovery and finds herself under new pressures. She will take you on twists and turns that you won't want to miss and they will keep you engaged throughout the story. Find out what happens to Willow as she starts her journey to the latest prophecy.

Willow and her friends find themselves in the final meeting before they are shipped away to different schools that are hidden all over the main world. Changes are set in motion when Cassandrea interrupts. What will happen when the newspaper keeps putting out damaging articles about Willow? Will it force her into hiding? It will take everything that Willow has to find the courage to face old and new enemies without support of her allies. Will she survive? Who will she trust, anyone? Will she have to run from everyone?

The stakes get higher and higher in each installment for these characters. When Willow gets separated from her friends, will she learn who to trust and who not to trust? Willow has been a strong character in each installment of this series and in this one she gets even stronger. She maybe confused on who to trust and who her friends are but she is learning on who she is. Willow and the other characters seem to really come into their own in this book. They are older but they seem to be wiser too. I think that you will enjoy the development of these characters and the direction the author has taken with them. The author certainly has been creative with these characters but they are also teenagers. The magic and self discovery for these characters are where the twists and turns come from but it is also what keeps the story flowing. Find out if Willow is able to handle the pressure of hiding from assassins and if she will have to keep running to stay safe.

This story keeps getting better with each installment of this series by CA King. I can't wait to see what next she has for Willow and her friends. She has a way of creating characters that really pop off the page with their own attitudes and sass. C.A. currently lives in Ontario, Canada with her two sons, she was born and raised in Halton County. After losing her parents and husband, she turned to writing and after some soul searching it has become her passion. She was able to put her emotions on paper and started publishing her stories. Once again, she has created a fast paced book that will keep you reading until the last page. I had a hard time putting it down. These characters will leave you wanting more from them. You will want to see what is hiding behind each page you turn. I highly recommend this story as I know you will want to see what happens next with Willow and her friends.

Erin says

I give The Portal Prophecies: Sleeping Sands by C.A. King 5 stars.

This review includes spoilers from the previous books in this series

Willow's life is in turmoil. William, a man she cares deeply for, has been in a coma for quite some time after a serious injury. She had a part in saving him, but she feels responsible for him getting injured in the first place. Not to mention they had to move camp and she doesn't feel like this new place is home. Now all of them under 18 have to go to schools. That's not too bad, but none of the people from her camp will be going to the school she was assigned to.

She ends up in the school Sleeping Sands, and because of the bounty that's been put on her head, she has to

go in disguise. She is placed in a group where everyone else are elves. Elves are known to keep to themselves and not let others in. They seem to want nothing to do with her. This makes things difficult since they are graded by their overall group, meaning they have to work together.

Then there is still the constant problem they face – the king that wants to destroy them all, and Willow in particular. Although going to school and being in disguise should hide her, she knows he is relentless and will not stop looking for her. And he will destroy her as soon as he finds her. Even his son and her friend, Lance, may not be able to help her.

Not to mention the weird things that are still happening in this town. Can Willow get through the school year without being discovered? Can she discover what is really going on? Will she ever have any friends that she can keep? Will she ever stop endangering those she does hold dear?

This series is so good and it gets better with every book. Although it has the same basic characters, you will be introduced to more in this book yet again. The story is so entertaining and engrossing too. This time, it revolves around the school Willow is attending. So much is happening, you will never be bored. I highly recommend this book.

Angela says

4 Stars

“Willow sat quietly, watching her two best friends chatting with excitement. For them, heading to a school was something to look forward to, an adventure waiting to happen. For Willow, it was a disaster. Fighting to hold back her tears, she slouched down, pulling her covers up so they almost covered her nose - already feeling how alone she would be in the months to come.”

Sleeping Sands is the fourth book in The Portal Prophecies Series By C.A King. This is a YA paranormal/fantasy full of action, adventure, drama, some mystery and intrigue. This series is full of all sorts of mystical, magical and fanciful creatures and beings- which Ms. King has lovingly crafted using myths, legends and tall tales as her inspiration.

Willow and her friends are separated, all sent to different schools that are hidden on the main world. ‘The Empowered’ continues to print very damaging and false articles about Willow, placing her in a bad light and getting everyone questioning everything she does. So the decision is made to hide her away from everyone. Willow feels completely isolated, unsupported and helpless. When old enemies surface, Willow has no choice but to face them alone- without the support of her friends. She’s not sure she can do it alone and it takes all her courage to step out on her own.

“Willow let out a lengthy sigh as she picked up the newspapers in front of her. They were riddled with articles about the camp - each one trying to answer who they were and what they were trying to accomplish - all with the ability to leave negative impressions after reading them. There was no denying the power of the writing. This reporter, Keith Quidnunk, was talented. His stories flowed with visions of daily news, capturing the attention of readers throughout the magical world. He had only one flaw. The stories weren't completely true. Of course there was a base truth to every article he wrote, but the details in between tended to be stretched or fabricated. The end result was a story that led readers to make the wrong conclusions. It was sensationalism at its best.”

King Cornelius' deranged depravity and instability become even more evident through this story. Willow also has much danger to contend with as assassins are on her tail. She also needs to be vigilant about not disclosing anything about herself because she doesn't know who she can trust, she no longer feels she knows who her friends are- and with new enemies to deal with, she has a lot to contend with. Then there is the matter of deciphering the latest prophecy, on her own.

As with the other stories in this series, this book contains all manner of wondrous beings and life forms. I have discovered that Ms. King has a real flair for her vivid descriptions and strong, detailed characterisations of both humans, humanoids, and all types of 'creatures'.

"A strong breeze blew over her body. It wasn't wind she was feeling, but more like an industrial-sized fan suddenly turned on beside her. She tilted her head out of curiosity. Willow bolted to a stiff position, her wand held out in front of her and gulped down the saliva that had formed in her mouth. "Why not?" she said, chuckling. "I've seen just about everything else." She remained motionless, staring at the sandy brown-coloured dragon that was hovering beside her just above the fog. It snorted. Warm air thrust into her face, almost knocking her over from the force. The beast pushed one of its legs forwards to her and bowed its head. "Are you offering me a ride?" she asked."

This story had a lot of twists and turns, and was quite intense at times. The storyline is quite complex and multi-faceted and Ms. King orchestrated the plot effortlessly and it all came together to create one of my favourites in the series so far.

I had to know what was happening and so I ended up reading it in one session.

The story is another great instalment in this intriguing series.

Thank you Ms. King!

Laura Furuta says

The Portal Prophecies: Sleeping Sands

By: C.A. King

5 out of 5 stars

The story The Portal Prophecies: Sleeping Sands by C.A. King is a fantasy book. This is the fourth book in The Portal Prophecies series and one that has Willow feeling alone and helpless. It starts with Willow and her friends being split up and going to different schools. Everything is about to change for Willow with the arrival of Cassandra Tibbins. Willow is to be on her own and must make sure no one finds out who she is. Willow has always depended on her friends to help her with revealing the meaning of the prophecies. Will she be able to reveal the meaning of the latest one on her own? How will sadness and loneliness effect Willow? What new dangers await her?

In this installment of The Portal Prophecies, I really felt for Willow as she has never been so alone and in so much danger. She is in a situation that will take every ounce of strength and all of her magical skills to survive. The teachers at the school Willow is at are amazed at her skills and praise her highly. I found some of the ways the school teaches to be quite humorous and the teachers amusing. I really enjoyed reading this book as it shows you the strength that Willow has and how smart she is. Willow finds new friends at the school and new information on old enemies. Discouragement is felt by the stories that 'The Empowered' newspaper is putting out and Willow is determined to find out where they are getting their information from.

In the world outside the school, we find a situation has occurred that causes Willow distress when she finds out about it. Will Willow be able to uncover the true meaning of the next prophecy? Will she be able to survive with her enemies closing in on her? Who can Willow trust?

When I first started reading The Portal Prophecies I had no idea what a remarkable series I was starting. Each book builds on the relationships and friendships of the one before. All of the characters have their part to play, whether it be helpful or harmful to Willow and her friends. The stories will have you rooting for Willow and her friends all the way. This book also was a bit more emotional than the others as I was distressed to read of all the hardships that Willow goes through. The author is truly a talented writer. I have read books by her other than this series and all of her work is top rate. It is important to read these books in order as each one builds on the next. Come find out what the prophecies have in store for Willow!

Kerry Baker says

Sleeping Sands by C.A. King is the fourth book in the absolutely fantastic Portal Prophecies series. This book takes a slight departure from the pace of the rest, taking the series in a new but equally captivating direction as the previous ones.

“Time is fleeting, things now change.
Alone in sadness all sees strange.
Protection comes look in the sand.
Help is offered by outstretched hand.
The key to knowledge was taken away.
Hidden and lost, you must not sway.
Another foe not yet discovered.
Misplaced distrust, faith recovered.
Far away, one must travel.
She spins a web of lies to unravel.
To stay safe from threats unknown.
A queen hopes to sit on a new throne.”

Despite saving them from the Prince's and their wrath, Willow finds herself on the wrong side of the council. Determined to discredit her and keep her from fulfilling any more prophecies, regardless of the growing dangers all around them, they decide that Willow and her friend must all attend one of the numerous schools scattered around the City.

Reluctantly agreeing Willow goes with the intention of learning anything she can that may help her in this fight. Cut off from her friends and allies she realises that she will only have herself to rely on throughout this experience. Unless she can make some new allies from the unwelcoming group of elves she has been put with.

This book was even better than the ones that came before. A slightly slower pace I felt that you got to know more about the characters during this story. With the distance between some of the previous characters it paved the way for new, interesting characters to come forth. A great writing style that showcased just how good this author is. My favourite of the series so far.

John Stratford says

It took 6 hours for me to read the fourth installment of the Portal Prophecies. It was that good. The best in the series so far. Much more mystery and intrigue I was devastated that i finished it, I wanted it to be much longer. It was that good. Sleeping sands was every thing I look for in a great book! I can not wait for the next book.
