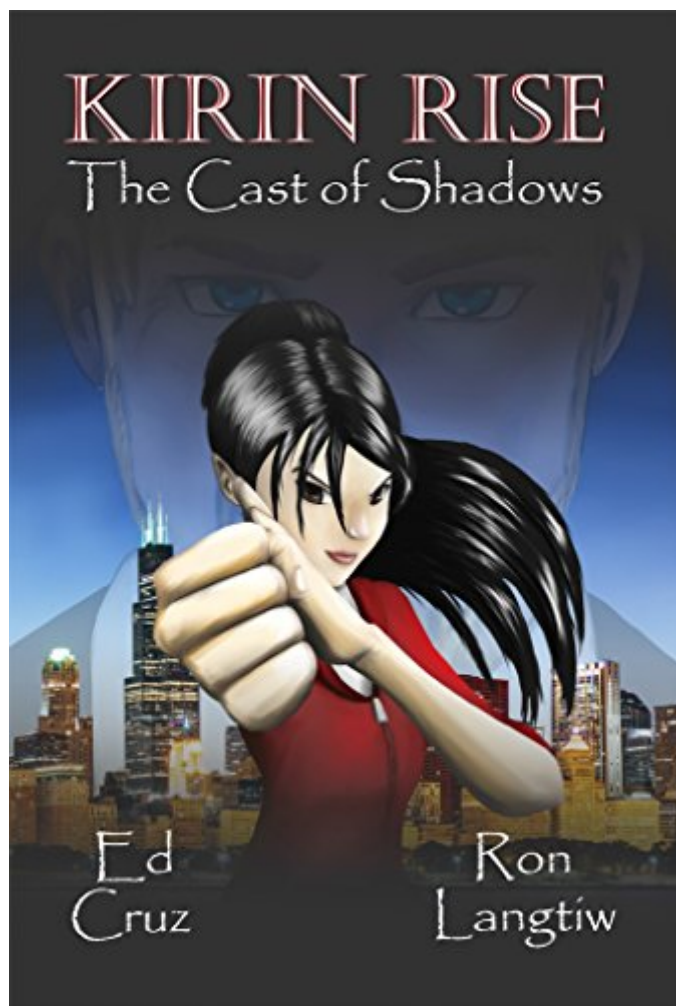


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Kirin Rise The Cast Of Shadows



Synopsis

It's 2032, and the world has new gladiators. The fighters in the United Federation of Mixed Fighting keep audiences entertained with brutal bouts of uninhibited violence. Each year at the annual culmination of the tournament, competitors fight to the death in the DOME. Chicago teen Kirin Rise didn't begin martial arts for the power or the glory. She fights for her family, her friends, and her city. Kirin Rise: The Cast of Shadows details Kirin's first experience with the fighting style she would grow to love and embody, Wing Chun Gung Fu. As a young Korean American teenager dealing with the harsh realities of racism and sexism, she's drawn to a martial art that uses her opponent's own aggression and power against him. In this new young adult adventure, author and experienced martial artist Ed Cruz gives you a new heroine to root for. Under the tutelage of her teacher, Sifu, Kirin learns the rigorous mind-set and practice of Wing Chun Gung Fu, the only martial art style invented by a woman. Kirin knows that she can serve as an inspiration to the people of Chicago, but powerful enemies will do anything to stop her from winning her next big fight.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This book is nearly impossible to put down once you start reading it! I am only about halfway through it as of this review, and if I don't finish it soon I may find myself divorced, unemployed, and hated by my kids...Boss: "Do you have those reports ready yet?",Me: "Nope! Still working on it." (actually, haven't even started)Wife: "Honey, come to bed. It's late!"Me: "Ok baby, just let me finish this chapter. Really."Kids: "Dad, are you almost done in the bathroom? I really need to go!"Me: "One more paragraph, errr, I mean, minute!"But seriously, although the story is fiction, it correctly teaches some principles of martial arts that go way beyond what you learn in your typical martial arts school. There's more to it than just punch/kick/block. The book portrays martial arts as a way of life that everything else centers around. A way to condition your body and life, so that you are balanced, giving you what appears to be super-human abilities. It also shows the amazing relationship between students and their instructor. It shows how, if taught correctly, people tend to become more humble as their abilities increase. Not the other way around.All that, and a great story too!

I'm not one for reading much fiction, but this book is incredibly well thought out. While having, essentially, three different 'timelines' happening, it all comes together really well. It makes an effort and succeeds in back story at the same time as current story AND at the same time as character development, which gave me more depth in the characters and setting. Something that I particularly loved was the varied cast of characters, different ethnic backgrounds and how it was dealt with, being Filipino / British, it was something that really made me instantly relate and appreciate. It might sound odd, but I strongly suggest picking it up because it makes total sense when you read it. Especially, if you're looking for something with a very unique structure.As far as content for Wing Chun enthusiasts... I will say, if you're looking for a 'manual', then this isn't it (thank goodness because there are enough of those out there). BUT, if you're looking for theory and principles, it does such an amazing job at explaining fundamental concepts (which can be the most difficult to internalize). It provides those theories and principles in such a way that, I don't think, has ever been broached because the theories and principles are delivered with context based in scenarios and rewards/consequences. The explanations aren't beating-you-over-the-head, it shows you a way but gives you breathing room to think about it and not just talk AT you. There is valuable information in this book that very few Wing Chun books have.I look forward to the next one. Seriously, cannot wait. And, this book is very much appreciated.

This book is a mixed bag. Ed Cruz is a talented Sifu who knows a lot about Wing Chun and he spins a decent yarn. If you want a book that gives some insight into his understanding of Wing Chun it's

worth the Kindle price. If you only want well-written fiction, you may want to look elsewhere. The thinking behind the writing is good and the ideas are solid enough to build a good story around. The characters are engaging and sympathetic, and I found myself liking them a great deal. The plot rolls along, and Cruz intersperses Wing Chun concepts, precepts and wisdom smoothly into the story. However he does too much Telling and not enough Showing in his description and exposition for me to view the book as serious writing. Make no mistake: I admire Ed Cruz and I appreciate his dedication to the art of Wing Chun and his enthusiasm for this project. If you are a Wing Chun student or are curious about the art, this is a good investment. It's a decent story written by a sincere and knowledgeable amateur, and it serves its purpose well enough.

I love Martial Art movies. My favorite part, other than the actual fighting, is the training and philosophy. You get all that and more in Kirin Rise! This book reads like a great martial art epic. It has action, drama, comedy, nuggets of wisdom, a great message and a whole lot of fun! I love Kirin's journey and her fight against injustice. I like her friends and family, they are very real. I really like her Sifu (her Gung Fu teacher) and his words of wisdom! I want him to be real and to be my Sifu! Kirin learns and uses Wing Chun Gung Fu in this story. You come to realize through this story that Wing Chun is not just a martial art that you use for defense or fighting but it is a way of life that permeates everything that you do. You don't have to know Wing Chun to enjoy or understand this story but if you are familiar with it, it adds another layer to the whole thing. I highly recommend this book, it is a great read and a fun one too! I wish there were more Martial Art stories like this!

Excellent book, I really enjoyed the characters and the friendly banter and friendship they developed with the main person Kirin, it is apparent that Sifu Cruz is an accomplished Wing Chun teacher and anyone who has even a rudimentary knowledge of the art will easily notice how Mr. Cruz wove his vast knowledge and love of the art into a sometimes funny, sad, and very dramatically crafted story. If you have practiced or are familiar with the art you are going to really love this wonderful book!

Great read and can't wait for the next book! I enjoyed the fight scenes and the personal growth of the characters. The descriptions of the movements and fight scenes are well written so you can imagine the movements and really get into it. The author includes lessons of Wing Chun so the reader learns throughout. I typically give a book until the 3rd chapter to continue reading but this book had a great story line and setup within the first chapter which kept me interested for the entire book. I'm really happy with my purchase!

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