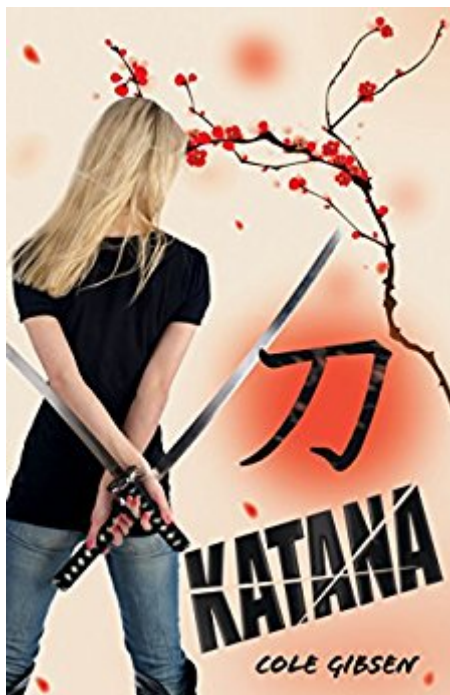


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# Katana (A Katana Novel Book 1)



## Synopsis

Skater girl or supernatural samurai? Raleigh Martin wants to believe that adrenaline gave her the strength to fend off three muggers in the mall parking lot. But adrenaline doesn't explain the voice in her head giving her battle tips and warnings. While worrying that she's going crazy (always a reputation ruiner), Raleigh gets a visit from Kim, a handsome martial arts instructor, who tells Raleigh she's harboring the spirit of a five-hundred-year-old samurai warrior. Relentlessly attacked by ninjas, Raleigh has no choice but to master the katana—a deadly Japanese sword that's also the key to her past. As the spirit grows stronger and her feelings for Kim intensify, Raleigh is torn between continuing as the girl she's always been and embracing the warrior inside her.

“An action-packed page-turner.”—Booklist

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

So that you know where I'm coming from, I'm a 28 year old male. This places me pretty far outside the young adult demographic they were going for but when I saw I could buy this book for a penny, I

figured "What the hell". My overall opinion is a negative one since this book could have been much more than it was. Here are some of the things that annoyed me:

1. The stereotypically flamboyant gay friend - Did he have to be made of cardboard? Would it have killed the author to give him even a little depth? It seemed that his only purpose in the book was to snark at the main character and make remarks about how fantastically gay he is. Nothin wrong with having a gay character, of course. Lots of great characters are gay (I'm looking at you, Dumbledore!) but, unlike this character, being gay is not their only discernible trait or why they're remarkable. The treatment of this character did nothing to enhance the story or give you insight into any character's hearts. Hell, even the other samurai heroes barely noticed him there.
2. The fighting - For a martial arts story there seemed to be very little care taken with the fights. The descriptions sounded as though the author watched an entire season of Buffy before writing this book. There was just nothing present that had shown me Gibsen knew the first thing about martial arts and combat.
3. The romance - I know they're teenagers but they're also, literally, 'old souls' too. So why is that they can't help but say things like, "I would rather die a thousand deaths than have you think for a second that I don't love you". Puke.
4. The history - I am no Asian history scholar but there are many instances that tell me that Gibsen knows even less than I do when it comes to Japanese history. Foremost that one cannot be granted samurai status; it is something you are born into.
5. The villain - He goes from Cedric Diggory to Tom Riddle with no transition, no triggering event, no nothing. He just simply comes back in the end all evil and the reader is supposed to just go with it. Sorry Gibsen but this didn't fly with me at all and came off like this was a last minute decision. I bought this book hoping for another "Sensei" (read it, its good) but what I got was a 21st century coming of age story about a girl with skinny jeans and mommy-issues. I'll pass on the sequel.

This book grabbed me by page ten and didn't let go. Raleigh, Quentin and Kim were all intriguing characters and I couldn't get enough of them. After finishing the book, I immediately bought two more copies as gifts. This book is a must read!

My rating: 4.5 out of 5 stars  
This novel was pretty darn good. Being a HUGE fan of Japanese culture, I ate this book up like crazy! The premise of Katana was unlike anything I have ever read before! It was a real page-turner for me and I instantly fell in love with all of the characters. Gibsen's characters are unique, and their dark pasts define who they are in a way that's so different and refreshing compared to the other cliched novels out there. Raleigh Martin was a kick-ass, strong-willed, do-it-herself kind of protagonist, and I grew to like her within pages. I liked how it took

her a while to accept what was going on as well. In a look of books these days, the hero accepts things a little too quickly, and here we see Rileigh struggling with her issues in a way that makes her more realistic, believable, and relatable to people. My favorite thing about the book has got to be the relationship between Rileigh and Kim. Since I don't wanna spoil anything for anyone, I'll just leave it at this: Wow :) Their relationship is so complicated, so steamy, and so darn awesome that when the book ended I had this "O" face goin' on because I wanted to know more about them. Fantastic chemistry in this novel with the characters. Not just with Rileigh and Kim, but with Drew, Michelle, Whitley, and Braden as well. I can't express just how refreshingly unique this story was! I had NO idea what was going to happen, and the suspense literally kept me up until 1 in the morning trying to find out what would happen next. Very promising novel, Gibsen. I'm very impressed, and looking forward to the next one. :)

If you're looking for a YA book that is fun, entertaining, and never takes itself too seriously, this is for you. Katana has action, adventure, and will make you laugh at times and cringe at others. I loved it and didn't want it to end.

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