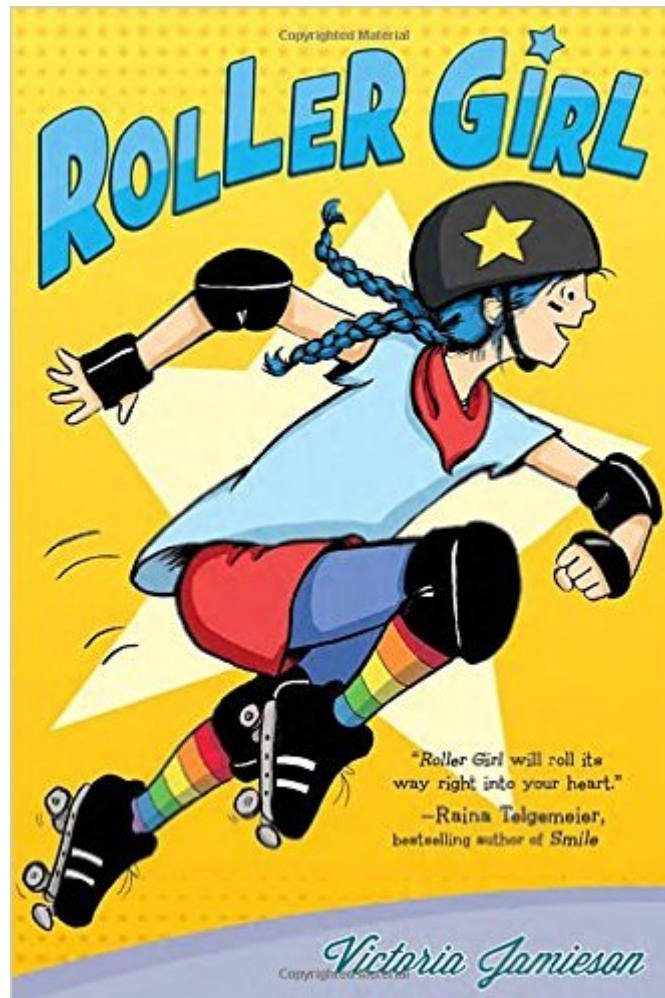


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# Roller Girl



## Synopsis

The Newbery Honor Award Winner and New York Times bestseller *Roller Girl* is a heartwarming graphic novel about friendship and surviving junior high through the power of roller derby. "perfect for fans of Raina Telgemeier's *Smile!*" For most of her twelve years, Astrid has done everything with her best friend Nicole. But after Astrid falls in love with roller derby and signs up for derby camp, Nicole decides to go to dance camp instead. And so begins the most difficult summer of Astrid's life as she struggles to keep up with the older girls at camp, hang on to the friend she feels slipping away, and cautiously embark on a new friendship. As the end of summer nears and her first roller derby bout (and junior high!) draws closer, Astrid realizes that maybe she is strong enough to handle the bout, a lost friendship, and middle school. In short, strong enough to be a roller girl. In this graphic novel debut that earned a Newbery Honor and five starred reviews, real-life derby girl Victoria Jamieson has created an inspiring coming-of-age story about friendship, perseverance, and girl power!

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: GN440L (What's this?)

Series: Roller Girl

Paperback: 240 pages

Publisher: Dial Books; 1 edition (March 10, 2015)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0803740166

ISBN-13: 978-0803740167

Product Dimensions: 5.6 x 0.8 x 8.3 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars. See all reviews (206 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #1,198 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #6 in Books > Children's Books > Sports & Outdoors #27 in Books > Children's Books > Comics & Graphic Novels #61 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Friendship

Age Range: 9 - 12 years

Grade Level: 4 - 7

## Customer Reviews

3 years ago, I fell hard in love with roller derby when my wife joined our local league and it changed

her life. It changed mine also, and I've gotten untold amounts of enjoyment supporting this sport, but also seeing how essential it is to the women who participate in it. Victoria Jamieson has nailed the essential spirit of roller derby in *ROLLER GIRL*, by giving it the respect it deserves and presenting the sport for exactly what it is; hard, tough and rewarding. Lead character Astrid's journey into derby is exactly what it needs to be; exciting, tough, and sometimes filled with hurt, both physical and emotional. Jamieson rides the line expertly in keeping the drama of the story compelling and engaging, but also not shying away from the reality of not always having a simple and clean resolution to all the problems. While this is an excellent young reader's book, it does not talk down to the audience, and lets the reader get all the info about Astrid's experience first hand, and then lets the reader see how she deals with it. This is always tough for an author to assume and trust their readers to not need to be hand held through a story, but Jamieson does it with good rewards for the reader who does follow along. She gets the reader up to speed with how roller derby works without bogging down the narrative, and throws in nice little Easter Eggs for experienced derby lovers to catch. The art is also a good balance; whimsical as it needs to be, but also accurate enough to sell the real life aspects of derby. Jamieson does a good job of showing Astrid as someone who can cry and be frustrated without resorting to tropey "fragile female" shorthand, and also showing her being tough and feisty like a young tween would be.

Victoria Jamieson's *Roller Girl* is a pure delight. It may have been written for young adults, but it's so thoroughly engaging that anyone can enjoy it. I picked it up on a whim when it showed up as an recommendation and now consider it money extremely well spent. Twelve-year-old Astrid embarks on the summer of her life when she decides to attend roller derby camp after her mom takes her and her best friend Nicole to see their first roller derby bout. But things don't go quite as smoothly as Astrid had envisioned, starting when she finds out that Nicole isn't going to be at roller derby camp because she signed up for dance camp instead. To make matters worse, Nicole is starting to spend time with Astrid's arch-enemy, Rachel. And is starting to get interested in boys! And then roller derby camp turns out to be a lot tougher than Astrid had anticipated and she discovers that it takes a lot of work to be a real roller girl. It's a rough start, but things start to get better as Astrid gets to know Zoey, a girl her age who's also at roller derby camp. In *Roller Girl*, we get to see Astrid deal with a lot of experiences that most kids have to go through at that age: finding that you and your best friend are drifting apart because you're reaching an age where you want different things than you did before. Making new friends. Finding that you're in competition with your new friend for something you really, really want. Not telling your mom stuff, and then dealing with the fallout that

comes when she finds out what you haven't been telling her. Learning that sometimes the things you want don't come easy and take a \_lot\_ of work and perseverance. Learning that being part of a team - and being a friend - sometimes means putting the needs of others before your own.

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