



**Title:** Roller Girl

**Author:** Victoria Jamieson

**Imprint:** Dial Books

**Publisher:** Penguin Young Readers

**On sale date:** March 10, 2015

**ISBN:** 9780525429678 and 9780803740167

**Format:** Hardcover and Paperback

**Age Range\*:** 9 and up

**Grade Range:** Gr 4-8

# BOOK RESUME: ROLLER GIRL

## BOOK 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!

## REVIEWS AND PRAISE

★ "Jamieson's dialogue captures coming-of-age...so authentically"  
—*The Horn Book*, starred review

★ "Readers will stand up and cheer." —*Publisher's Weekly*, **starred review**

★ "Jamieson captures this snapshot of preteen angst with a keenly decisive eye, brilliantly juxtaposing the nuances of roller derby with the twists and turns of adolescent girls' friendships...Full of charm and moxie—don't let this one roll past."  
—*Kirkus*, **starred review**

★ "The story will engage readers... Offer this comic to fans of Telgemeier's *Smile* and Laura Lee Gullledge's *Page by Page*." —*School Library Journal*, **starred review**

★ "[A] sharp and engaging graphic novel" —*BCCB*, **starred review**

"A touching look at the ups and downs of following one's dreams, in addition to introducing readers to a relatively unknown sport." —*Booklist*

"This spiky, winning graphic novel captures the bittersweetness of finding a new passion and saying goodbye to your former, more uncertain self."  
—*New York Times Book Review*

## AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

Updated 6.20.2025

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Contact [BannedBooks@penguinrandomhouse.com](mailto:BannedBooks@penguinrandomhouse.com)

\*Publisher suggested age range covers the wide range of readers publishers envision using the book, whether for independent reading, family sharing, group study, or in other ways. Educators have the best sense of the appropriate range for their diverse learners they work with and understand these ranges vary depending on a book's intended use.

- A Newbery Honor book
- A Texas Bluebonnet Award winner
- A *New York Times* Bestseller
- A Spring 2015 Indie Next Pick
- A *New York Times Book Review* Notable Children's Book of the Year
- A New York Public Library Best Book for Reading and Sharing of 2015
- A *Publishers Weekly* Best Book of the Year
- A *School Library Journal* Best Book of the Year
- A *Kirkus Reviews* Best Book of the Year
- A Top 10 Latin@ Book of 2015
- A *Parents Magazine* Best Children's Book of the Year
- A Chicago Public Library Best Book of the Year
- A YALSA Quick Picks for Reluctant Readers selection
- A YALSA Popular Paperback selection
- A YALSA Great Graphic Novels for Teens selectoin
- An ALA Notable Children's Book of the Year
- A Nerdy Book Club Award Winner for Best Graphic Novel
- A Junior Library Guild Selection, Graphic Novels
- A Read for Empathy Collection Selection
- A ALSC Notable Children's Book selection
- A CCBC Choices Selection
- A Children's Book Council Children's Favorites Award Selection
- A Children's Book Council Young Adult Favorites Award Selection
- New South Wales Premier's Reading Challenge
- Pacific Northwest Library Association Young Reader's Choice Award selection
- A Colorado Children's Book Award selection
- A Connecticut Nutmeg Book Award selection
- A Delaware Diamonds Award selection
- A Georgia Children's Book Award selection
- Helen Ruffin Reading Bowl, for Grades 4-6 (GA)
- Helen Ruffin Reading Bowl, for Grades 6-8 (GA)
- A Hawaii Nēnē Award selection
- An Illinois Rebecca Caudill Young Readers' Book Award selection
- An Illinois Bluestem Award selection
- An Indiana State Library Book Kits selection
- An Indiana Young Hoosier Book Award selection
- An Iowa Teen Award selection
- A Southwest Iowa Middle School Battle of the Books selection
- A Kasnas William Allen White Award selection
- A Maine Student Book Award selection
- A Maryland Black-Eyed Susan Book Award selection
- A Massachusetts Children's Book Award selection
- A New Hampshire Great Stone Face Book Award selection
- A New Hampshire Isinglass Teen Read List selection
- A New Jersey Garden State Children's Book Award selection
- A New Mexico Land of Enchantment Lizard Reading List selection

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- New Mexico Battle of the Books for Middle Schools (NM)
- A North Carolina Children's Book Award selection
- An Oklahoma Sequoyah Children's Book Award (Grades 3-5) selection
- An Oklahoma Sequoyah Intermediate Book Award (Grades 6-8) selection
- An Oregon Battle of the Books selection
- An Oregon Reader's Choice Award selection
- A South Carolina Children's Book Award selection
- A South Carolina Battle of the Books, Independent Schools, Elementary School List selection
- Battle of the Books, Independent Schools, Lower School List (SC)
- A South Carolina Junior Book Award selection
- A Tennessee Volunteer State Book Award selection
- A Texas Little Maverick Graphic Novel Reading List selection
- A Utah Beehive Award selection
- A Vermont Dorothy Canfield Fisher Children's Book Award selection
- A Virginia Readers' Choice selection
- A Wisconsin Read On Wisconsin Book Club, Grades 6-8 selection
- A Wisconsin Read On Wisconsin Book Club, Grades PK-12 selection
- A Wisconsin Battle of the Books, 2016-2017 -- Middle Division for Grades 6-8 selection
- A Wisconsin Battle of the Books, 2025 -- Middle Division for Grades 6-8 selection
- A Wisconsin Golden Archer Award selection
- A Wisconsin Indian Paintbrush Book Award selection

## **MEDIA AND RESOURCES**

- [TeachingBooks.net resources](#)
- [The Making of \*Roller Girl\* PDF](#)
- [Kirkus Interview with Author](#)
- [International Literacy Association Interview with Author](#)
- [Watch. Connect. Read. Interview with Author](#)
- [Red Tricycle Interview with Author](#)
- [Oregon Public Broadcasting Interview with Author](#)
- [Scholastic Interview with Author](#)
- [Texas Blue Bonnet Award Acceptance Speech](#)
- [Follett Interview with Author](#)
- [Novel Study from Reed's Study Guides](#)
- [Book Club Guide from Girls Leadership](#)
- [Discussion Questions from Unleashing Readers](#)
- [Activities from Texas Bluebonnet Award 2017](#)
- [Readers' Theater Script from Texas Bluebonnet Award 2017](#)
- [Discussion Guide from Vermont Department of Libraries](#)

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