



Thursday, December 7, 2023



Cross-Platform Development / Software Design

Grace

An open-source, cross-platform collection management platform



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Introduction

The idea behind Grace began as an observation of a common problem domain: those who enjoy reading and collecting books often wish they had a better way to keep track of what they own.

Other platforms on the market exist to serve this function, but they are notoriously:

- difficult to deal with due to poor user experience
- riddled with unmonitored, inaccurate data
- too expensive or too advertisement-centric

And thus, Grace development began.



Core Feature Set

Extracted from user requirements to be developed in the first major iteration

Addition

1

Users should be able to add books to their collection to track what they own and do not own.

Overview

2

Users should be able to access a quick overview of the books in their collection.

Detail

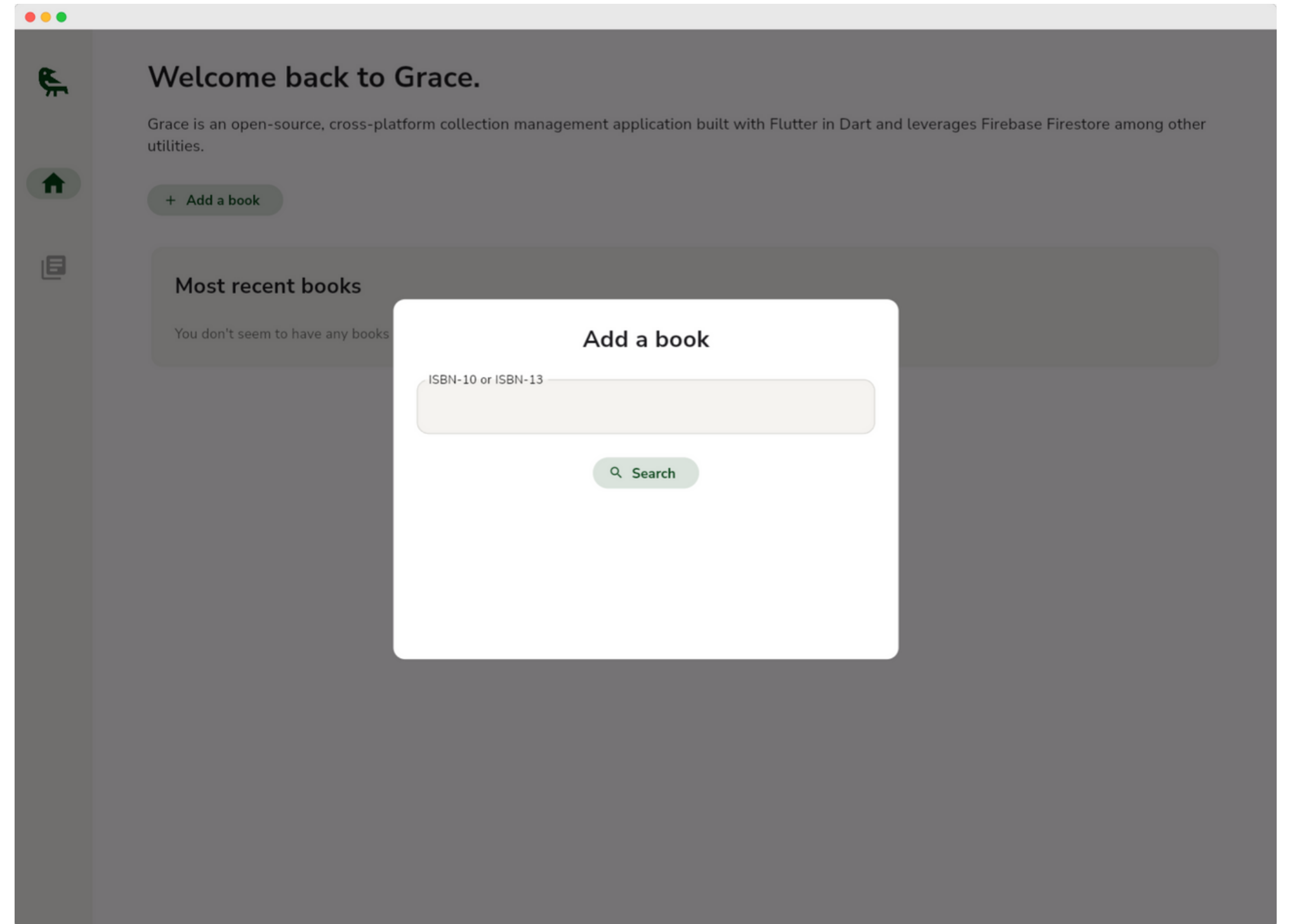
3

Users should be able to access more detailed information about each book in their collection.



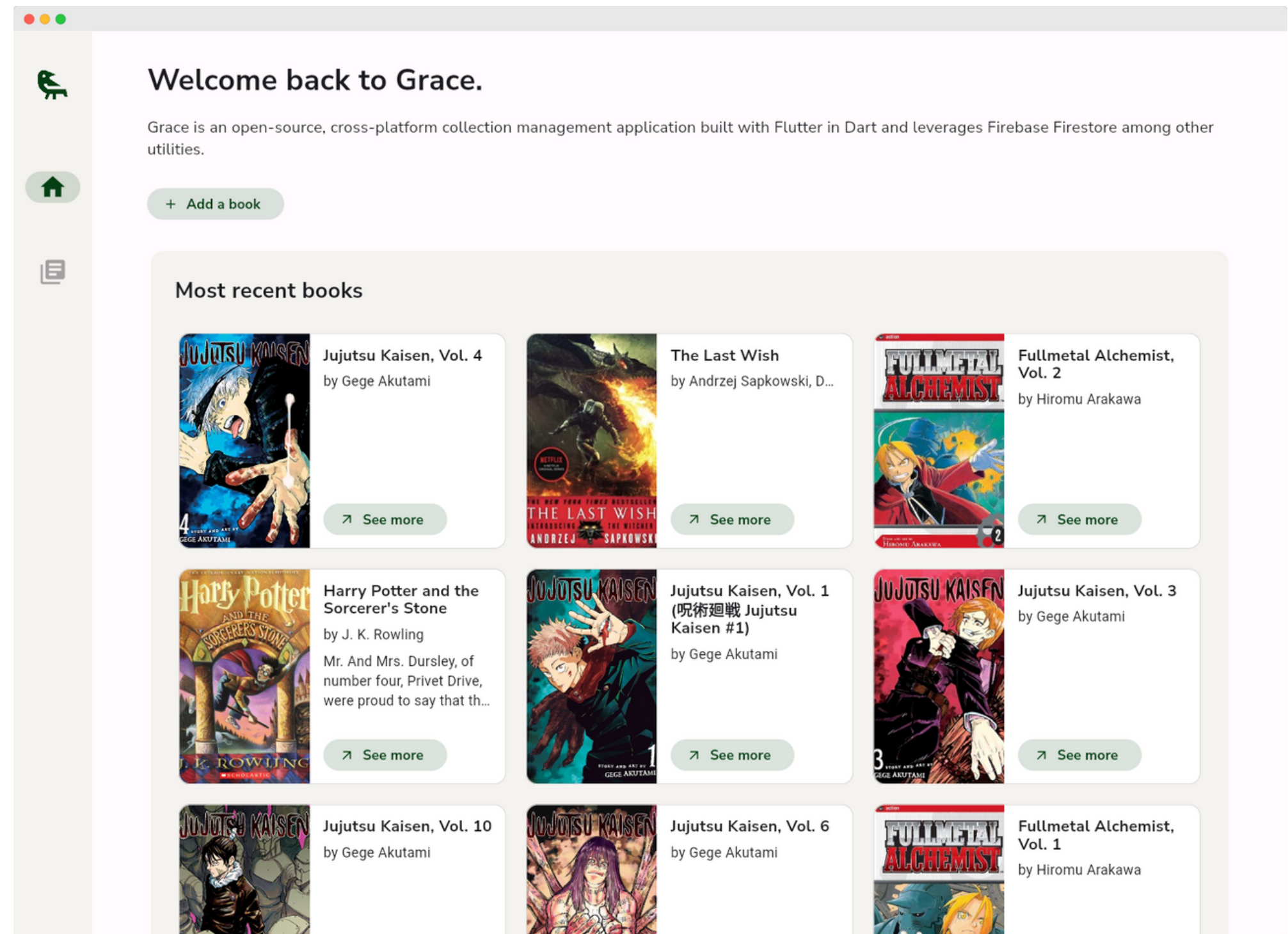
Addition

Users can click or tap the “Add a book” button to open this resource addition modal, which allows the user to enter an ISBN to add to their collection.



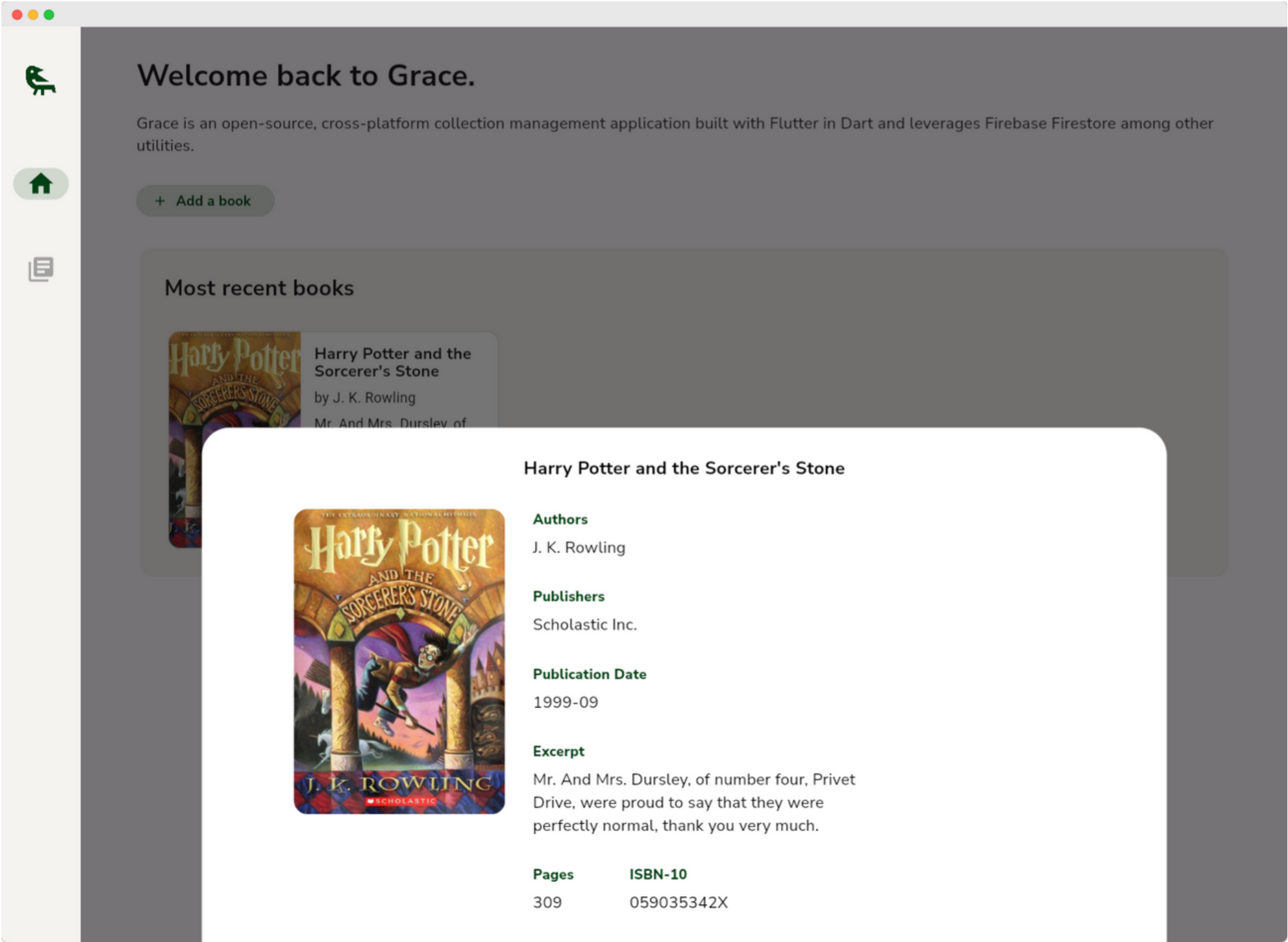
Overview

Once books have been added to a collection, the home screen presents a quick snapshot of the books most recently added.



Detail

Users can click or tap on the “See more” button on each resource card from the home screen, which will open this modal with additional information about each book.





Learning and the Future

I learned one very important lesson from building this application: cross-platform application development seeks to manage the complexities of building for multiple platforms, but as with everything, there is a trade-off - building all-for-one can result analysis paralysis for how to build:

- flexibly enough that the application can be used across multiple platforms
- not so verbose that a separate codebase would he been justified

In the future, I intend to:

- continue to refine software design patterns to manage this complexity
- seek out packages to accomplish what I need in an effort to “buy, not build”