



The Gods of Love

Nicola Mostyn

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Meet Frida. Divorce lawyer, cynic and secret descendant of the immortal love god Eros. She's about to have a really bad day . . .

When a handsome but clearly delusional man named Dan bursts into Frida's office and insists that she is fated to save the world, she has him ejected faster than you can say 'prenup'.

But a creepy meeting, a demon or three and one attempted kidnapping later, Frida is beginning to face the inconvenient truth: Dan is in fact The Oracle, the gods of Greek mythology are real and Frida herself appears to be everyone's only hope.

The world is doomed.

Bridget Jones by way of Neil Gaiman, this smart and quirky story will change the way you look at love forever.

A warm, funny love story with a difference, this is truly a super-heroine story for the modern age.

The Gods of Love Details

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Author : Nicola Mostyn

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Genre : Fantasy, Urban Fantasy, Mythology, Contemporary, Romance

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From Reader Review The Gods of Love for online ebook

Jayne Catherine pinkett says

I received a copy of this book in return for my independent honest review.

This choice is totally outside my comfort zone as I rarely read SciFi or Fantasy books, and I know very little about Greek Mythology. However the premise of this sounded exciting and it is a great book for new starters to the SciFi Fantasy genre as the plot is not overly complicated and the element of humour is refreshing. I'm not sure it would contain enough to satisfy hardened sci-fiers though who expect complex world building. That's why I enjoyed it though as it wasn't like that. I felt the characters of Frida and Dan were well developed. Frida especially as an independent divorce lawyer who's sassy, but at times shows her vulnerability.

At times though I struggled with the Mythological terminology as it seems to come on a mass sporadically throughout the book and I found it a little overwhelming. I found I had to keep re-reading those sections to get a sense of 'who was who and who did what to who' !!!!! However it did teach me something new about the subject

Overall this was an enjoyable book suitable for its YA audience and adults alike especially if you fancy a relatively fast paced not too hard core fantasy.

Elena says

I received this book from NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

Frida is a successful divorce lawyer. Her job and her past experiences might have made her a little cynic, but she's good at what she does and she is happy with her life. But her world is turned upside down when a strange man, Dan, bursts into her office and tells her she is destined to save the world. Frida doesn't believe it at first, but after the powerful NeoStar society goes after her, she is forced to accept who she really is - a descendant of Eros, the god of love.

The Gods of Love is an interesting mix of chick lit and fantasy. The story was not very memorable nor life changing, but it was entertaining and had some funny quotes and moments. However, I enjoyed the first half more than the second. I think the story started to drag a little, and although there were some twists they weren't so unexpected.

The fantasy aspect, while important, was not much explored: I would have liked to know more about the gods and the other mythical creatures, although we do meet some of them and I liked those scenes. For example, I enjoyed the scenes with Persephone and Medusa, but they were very short.

The characters were a bit up and down for me. Frida was a likeable heroine, she was witty and cynic but she also had a good heart. Her struggles were understandable and I admired her determination and courage. I didn't much like Dan, however, and I really wasn't invested in their relationship. I didn't feel the chemistry between them.

All in all, *The Gods of Love* was not phenomenal, but it's good if you are looking for an easy and quick read, and if you like Greek mythology.

Nanou says

J'ai beaucoup aimé ! Je l'ai pris par curiosité à Londres parce que la couverture était jolie et le résumé donnait envie, je regrette pas :) et quelle joie de savoir que l'auteure va écrire une suite yeah !

On a une héroïne sarcastique, un Dan Choupi-chou-graou, de l'action, du fantastique/magique, des mythes, de l'humour, un méchant... c'est le genre de lectures qui se lisent toutes seules, sans prises de tête et qui fait du bien.

En plus le héros s'appelle Dan, et Frida aime Bruce Willis et Sam Worthington xD

Steph Warren says

I received a free review copy of this novel via NetGalley. The decision to review and my opinions are my own.

If you are a fan of Tom Holt's mythological comic works, Douglas Adams' chaotic Dirk Gently duology (and a bit!), and/or the Good Omens collaboration between Terry Pratchett and Neil Gaiman, then you will love this book as much as I did.

The story is a fast-paced merger between Greek mythology and modern urban fantasy, with our heroine a cynical divorce lawyer with romance issues and a snarky attitude.

The book has also been compared to Bridget Jones' Diary, and I can see why, as the first-person narrative gives us immediate insight and intimacy with Frida's motivations and thought processes, and it is her missteps and mistakes that help endear her to the reader.

We only meet a limited cast of mythical beings in this book, and the ones we do are reimagined in a fascinatingly fresh way, so there is a lot of scope for further books with the same characters, which I am really excited about because Frida's 'secret identity' is a perfect fit for this storyline, but also versatile enough to meddle in almost any field. Perhaps a private detective agency like the tv series Angel, or Psych?

In addition to excellent plot and characters, the writing is smooth and accomplished, and the author's style is light and witty.

This book is definitely going to be one of my top reads for 2018, and I will look forward to more from Nicola Mostyn in the hope I have found a new favourite author to add to my all-time favourites list.

I press the small button that alerts the guard in charge of patrolling this whole row of offices. As I do so, Dan stands up. Instinctively I jerk backwards and, wishing I'd kept the pepper spray to hand, grab the nearest sharp object.

He smiles again. 'Are you going to write me a sternly worded note?'

I glance down at the fountain pen in my hand. Oh dear. Witty, as well as mad. I better get him out of here

before I start dating him.

– Nicola Mostyn, *The Gods of Love*

(Review by Steph Warren of Bookshine and Readbows blog)

Kath Elizabeth says

The Gods of Love is a book that defies genre, but if I had to give it one I'd say it's a cross between contemporary and urban fantasy. And it's so much fun!

Our main character is Frida, a divorce lawyer and cynic. She doesn't believe in love - she's single, she profits from other people's relationship failures and she's very happy, thank you very much. That is until a man called Dan shows up at her practice to tell her he's the Oracle and she's a descendent of the love God Eros, and it's her destiny to save the world.

This book really surprised me. I loved Frida - she's so kick-ass. She faces so many dangers and trials and crazy experiences and she does so with courage, bravery and a whole lot of sarcasm. I enjoyed the modern take on Greek mythology, especially the Underworld, and I actually learnt a lot of myths that I didn't know about before!

I also enjoyed that multiple times characters expressed surprise that the prophecy hero turned out to be a woman, and Frida was just not having their sexism. She proved that a woman can save the world and needs nobody to help her do it.

The whole book is written in a very readable, fast paced way and I enjoyed myself immensely! My only gripe is that some of the characters Frida encounters only get a very small part in the book - I would've enjoyed a little more screen time for characters like Hades and Medusa! But overall a great read and one I'd recommend.

Jessica Hinton says

I really liked the idea of this book - to take the Greek mythology of the Gods and say 'What if this actually happened?'

I'm a shameless fan of the Netflix series *Lucifer*, where 'The Devil' and other affiliated angels come and live on Earth and I anticipated this would be in that same tongue-in-cheek vein of mixing mythology and reality.

Frida is a great character - and I do love me strong, female lead. (It was interesting to read the author's notes at the end and learn that originally the protagonist was male - definitely a wise swop!) She's sassy, smart and funny and likeable right from the off. Mostyn gets you into the story straight away which is great (I can't stand books that have pages and pages of 'scene setting' before they get going.)

This is a really fun and lighthearted read, however it did sometimes border on being a bit silly - I think there was supposed to be peril and drama in the story but the absurdity of some of the situations kept detracting

from that.

There's a 'sort of' romance also going on in this book that I didn't completely buy - I just didn't feel their chemistry (you know when two people like each other in a book and sometimes it makes your toes tingle....yeh not so much of that here) but perhaps that will evolve more, as I understand that there is to be a sequel.

I probably would recommend this as an easy holiday read, perfect to race through, while lounging by the pool. However, I don't think this is one that I will remember too much about in 6 months or so.

See all my reviews at hintonhitsthebooks.wixsite.com/blog

Many thanks to the Publisher and to Netgalley for the Advanced copy in exchange for an honest review.

The Gods of Love is published on 1st Feb 2018 by Little, Brown Book Group UK

Jo says

Originally reviewed for & posted at Vampire Book Club

Review source: copy provided by publisher in exchange for an honest review

Rating (out of 5): 3.5 stars

Frida is rocking life right now: She runs her own divorce law practice, has a beautiful flat with beautiful things in it, and is about to go for an interview for a career-making contract at the world's biggest technology company, NeoStar. And so what if she's single? In her line of work she knows better than most that love is overrated.

When a man barges into her office, claiming to see the future and talking about Greek mythology and Frida being "the chosen one," she kicks him out and chalks it up to him having "issues." That is until things going very very awry during her interview, where Frida is left with the stinking feeling this guy may actually have been onto something.

It turns out Frida is in fact a descendant of the Greek god Eros, and her immortal uncle, the lesser know God of anti-love, Anteros is hell-bent on taking down the human world. As if that wasn't enough, apparently Frida is the one prophesied to stop him. With Dan's (aka the Oracle, aka crazy office guy) help, Frida will have to unlock the secrets of the ancient myths, some of which turn out not to be myths at all.

With the tagline "*Bridget Jones* by way of Neil Gaiman" there was absolutely no way I could resist picking up *The Gods of Love*. With a late twenties female main character, traversing the singles life in a UK city (I think, more on that later), I can see what they were going for with that tagline, but lacking the levity or humor of *Miss Jones*, this is much more *American Gods* than it is *Bridget*. And that isn't a bad thing, just not necessarily what I was expecting.

I liked Frida. She's smart and logical, taking as much of this new world in her stride as she can, but still has those "WTF is going on" moments that make her feel realistic and relatable. She feels somewhat detached at

the beginning the story, and I thought Mostyn did a great job of working her backstory into her character growth. While love is a dominant theme within this book, I liked that any form of romance between Frida and Dan was slow build. It had poignant moments, but in no way overshadowed the action.

The imaginings of certain settings from mythology were absolutely fantastic, most notably the underworld and the labyrinth. I loved the idea of waning gods latching on to modern day consumerism to try to restore their sway over the world. This translated into a plot that has a definite quest vibe, wrathful gods and scary minions included.

My major issue with this book was that there are hints throughout that something is up with how people love, but it never really explains whether this is a comment on modern society as we know it, or this is in fact a dystopian/alternative world where there is actually a supernatural force interfering with mortals abilities to retain relationships. This isn't helped by the fact that Frida only ever refers to where she lives as "the City," so I never knew if this was London, another UK city, or in fact a totally made up one. Not knowing the full parameters of the world was like an annoying wasp buzzing in my ear the whole way through.

All in all, I really enjoyed *The Gods of Love*. I think there is going to be a sequel, and while the lack of clarity in the worldbuilding bugged me, I'd actually be happy if it went either direction. I'm definitely interested to see not only how Dana and Frida's relationship progresses, but also what other interpretations of classic mythology Nicola Mostyn has up her sleeve.

Sexual content: kissing

Em B says

A new take on some classic myths; overall a quick and fun read. Frida was a really great character - smart and in control of her life, happy with her single status and overall pretty badass. Too often the female protagonists in modern romances are portrayed as hot messes who aren't satisfied with their lives, so Frida was a refreshing lead in this book. I feel like there's potential for a sequel, and I'd be interested in seeing where Frida and Dan go after this.

Chris Roberts says

Girlfriend

Leave this world, my love,
bedlam devotion, slice-to-the-bone-motion,
bleed out...lovely and silken...a prostrate sculpture.

Devastation

Reap now,
I have twisted art
and sculpted love away from the heart.

Familial Love (The Only True Love)

She seduced me, black dress dangerously,
as we lay after, hearts racing - sated,
mom said I would be young in the electric chair.

They dance grandly,
tight to one another other,
"I love you sister, I love you brother,"
eyes lock, sensuous long kiss.

Cousin, tongue licking your lips is seduction signal,
if we lust-lock, your father will follow us midnight-days,
rock 'n' roll soundtrack, we sear night-scape.

Chris Roberts, God of Tuesday

Vicky says

I have to confess before we start that Rick Riordan sort of ruined Greek literature for me. Bar the original myths, any take on Greek mythology in the present day will invariably conjure comparisons to Percy Jackson, and get my cogs whirring as I analyse the writing for signs of sarcasm, humour and otherwise-unusual takes on characters from Greek myth.

It's to Nicola Mostyn's credit, then, that she puts her own unique spin on the idea of Greek mythology, crafting a neat little story that's exciting, interesting and owns the myths it draws from.

The tale itself follows the story of Frida, a seemingly ordinary divorce lawyer who suddenly finds herself embroiled in a millennia-old battle to find Eros, the God of Love's, missing arrow- before his brother Anteros, the God of anti-love, does. As it turns out, Frida is actually the chosen one: the person destined to find and destroy the arrow before it's used for evil. With a little help from the Oracle of Delphi, Dan, she has to take on monsters, mythical figures and the forces of evil.

The first thing that struck me was how engaging a writer Mostyn is. From the start, she creates an inner voice for Frida that is chatty, likeable and just quirky enough to hold your attention from the off as she tackles her divorcee customers. The story itself is exciting from the get-go: though perhaps it starts off a little vague, it has plenty of twists and turns, and kept me hooked as Frida gets thrown into ever-more dangerous events, from getting locked and drugged in a boardroom to- spoilers- descending to the depths of Hades.

Though I found it hard to buy into the idea of Anteros to start with- specifically because he appeared to have become a capitalist, who owned NeoStar, the powerful, anonymous company with a grudge against Frida- when he actually shows up things get a lot more interesting. And kudos for digging up such an overlooked

part of Greek mythology into the bargain.

The Greek element was great, too: Mostyn uses her characters sparingly, with only a few established myths making it into the story. Eros gets a mention, but only Psyche, Persephone and Anteros get much screen time- and honestly, the story is better for it, because you get to focus on Frida and Dan, and their relationship. Dan is a great foil for Frida: witty, sparky and with enough friction to make things interesting. It's their relationship that sold it for me, really, especially because the baddies that they're being chased by for most of the book are pretty anonymous.

All the different plot threads tie together into a story that takes the best bits of Greek mythology and hones it into an interesting and heartfelt discussion on the pitfalls (and benefits) of love. It's full of twists and turns, packed with engaging characters, and is a neatly packaged read you can devour in one. If you like your romances with an exotic flavour then this is for you!

Johnny (Aurora Sights) says

I RECEIVED THIS BOOK FROM THE PUBLISHER VIA NET GALLEY IN EXCHANGE FOR AN HONEST REVIEW.

'The Gods of Love' by Nicola Mostyn was a whirlwind.

Synopsis: Frida is a divorce lawyer and she's good at her job, but what she doesn't realise, is that she is a descendant of Eros, the god of love. When a seemingly crazy man barges into her office and warns her against a meeting with a famous and renowned company, it sets off a chain of events that could either damn the world as she knows it, or she could save it.

I liked Frida, she came across strong although her gullibility and naivety were her downfall. Her capability reminded me a lot of Feyre (ACOTAR) especially throughout those trials. I would have liked to have seen more of her 'ability' – the one where she is able to sense things about people and subtly manipulate them but I guess she didn't really notice/realise this until much later in the book. I was suspicious of Dan to begin with but warmed up to him quite quickly. I found his honesty about his visions a bit lacking. It's good that he admitted his visions broke his marriage but he should have told Frida about ALL his visions.

The concept of this book is pretty awesome. At first you think 'how is the god of love's descendant going to save the world?' but it does somehow make sense with the more you read. I liked the inclusion of Anteros and actually found him to be a fitting villain. It helped that we didn't meet him until the very end – this gave him an air of danger. Imagine yourself in a dark room with the knowledge that a murderer was in there with you. The knowing and not seeing can sometimes be scarier and have more of an effect.

This book wasn't at all what I was expecting. Of course I read the summary of the book before I requested but it for some reason didn't stick with me! I enjoyed it though, and the surprise of it was actually a lovely escape. I needed a bit of greek mythology in my life and this was just what the doctor ordered. There's laughs, there's despair and there's good versus evil: what more do you need?

“Secrets, even ones kept for a good reason, are still secrets, after all.”

Alison says

Well this was refreshing.

Frida McKenzie is a single divorce lawyer. After a failed relationship with Billy (I feel I missed something here), she just loves her single life. She also has the opportunity of a lifetime, she has been asked to meet with representatives of the world's biggest tech company, NeoStar (think Apple). Then a strange man called Dan forces his way into her office and tells her that he is an Oracle and that a very bad man is going to do something terrible and only Frida can stop him.

Of course Frida has him thrown out of the building, but when her interview at NeoStar turns very peculiar, Dan is the only one who can rescue her. NeoStar is actually the vehicle for one of the forgotten Greek Gods (I'll give you a clue, it's not one of the nice ones) and he is about to unleash his evil plan upon an unsuspecting world.

Although I've never read any of Rick Riordan's Percy Jackson series I have seen a couple of films and this has a similar vibe, without the swords and sandals. Some gods and goddesses still walk among us, plotting to regain their powers and return to Olympus.

This was a fun, fast-paced easy read that kept me entertained with plenty of twists and turns in the plot.

I received a free copy of this book from the publisher via NetGalley in return for an honest review.

Jackie Law says

When I offered to review *The Gods of Love* I expected from the synopsis that it wouldn't be the sort of book I normally read. What tempted me was the promise of the gods from Greek mythology coming to life in a contemporary setting. I was curious to see if the author could pull this off without turning them into superheroes as is done in the Marvel universe. Although the story is somewhat frothy in places, she succeeds in presenting the gods as intriguing, beguiling and suitably dispassionate given the havoc they willingly wreak on their own and the so easily manipulated mortal's realms over millennia.

The story is told from the point of view of a young and feisty divorce lawyer, Frida McKenzie, who is smugly satisfied with her achievements and eager to further her career. Early in the story she is visited in her office by a stranger, a young man named Dan, who tells her he is an Oracle and that he has seen her in visions. Naturally Frida calls security and has him removed. Ignoring Dan's advice she keeps an appointment with an all powerful tech company, Neostar, and thus starts her unasked-for adventure. Frida is indeed the chosen one and is required to save the world.

A big, bad tech company that can use its control over harvested data to manipulate user's lives is an excellent cover for a vindictive god. I was less impressed by the sidekicks he used to do his dirty work. Presented as aliens it was never explained where they came from or why they were needed given there are always plenty of callous and greedy mortals readily available for such tasks.

Thus far the story is all very Matrix. Frida must call upon strengths and skills she did not know she could muster. She receives assistance from unlikely places. She must accept that mythical beings exist, that there

are few she can trust, and that most are out to fulfil their own agendas by harnessing her prophesied fate.

In essence then, Frida must recover and destroy a lost arrow before the boss of Neostar can acquire it for his own nefarious ends. In order to achieve this she and Dan work together to find out where the arrow is. Frida must then face trials to retrieve the lost talisman that put her in deadly peril. Her challenging journey brought to mind the adventures Harry Potter and his chums went through, the tales of the Greek gods having inspired many such tales.

The writing style is somewhat tongue in cheek which may be why the perils didn't come across as quite perilous enough, nor the love interest sufficiently convincing to justify its cost. Each short chapter ended with a cliff-hanger which became a tad tedious but did keep me reading. Frida's humanity is shown to be a weakness which paves the way for a planned sequel. The plot is one of a supernatural action adventure, perhaps never intended to be taken too seriously

Any Cop?: The aspects that drew me to read the book delivered. The harnessing of the Greek myths worked well in the setting and Frida was a convincing protagonist. The story is a mostly entertaining romp with the gods providing such depth as exists. A light but sufficiently engaging read.

miss.mesmerized mesmerized says

Frida McKenzie has exactly what she wanted in life: a successful divorce lawyer at a very young age, her career is speeding up and the meeting at NeoStar is going to secure her place at the top. Yet, the encounter there does not go as planned and she finds herself locked in a meeting room. A mysterious message in her handbag and a hidden cell phone lead her to Dan whom she already met the days before and identified as mad. However, what he has to tell her now appears in a completely different light: Dan is actually the Oracle and Frida a descendant of Eros, the god of love. And, not to forget: she is destined to combat Anteros, the old enemy.

"The Gods of Love" is quite a unique mixture of a treasure hunt, a love story and masses of Greek mythology. This sounds a bit weird and it actually is, but I had a lot of fun reading it. Well, of course, the story is all but realistic and far from credible, but leaving this aspect aside, the gods that show up are more than human in their characters and possess all the vices you can find in any human being.

Frida, the protagonist, can easily carry the burden of the action – well, there is godly blood running in her veins, so there must be some hidden strengths after all. She appears to be strong and determined in her role as a lawyer. Rather cynically she condemns the naivety of her clients. Yet, when you look under the surface, the fragile and lonely Frida appears who is herself susceptible to affection and easy to seduce and deceive. However, she is becoming stronger throughout the story, not only because she gets aware of her heavenly ancestry. I liked her a lot, even though she appears to be arrogant at the beginning, she is actually quite lovable.

Nicola Mostyn cleverly integrated the Greek mythology and the gods that show up are more than just decals of the ancient myth. Nimble their stories are told in passing so even if you are not too familiar with them, you know everything you need to get an idea of their role. I liked Psyche especially, her first appearance is simply hilarious just as the narrative tone.

All in all, a wonderful and funny novel best read close to February 14th.

Keri (BooksWithKeri) says

Mostyn does herself credit with this debut. It's a quick and easy read that manages to tell multiple – but similar – stories at the same time. The focus is very heavily on women and women in love and what love means in the modern world. I really enjoyed the idea of Anteros, of anti-love and how the purity of love has been tarnished for humanity. It was an interesting idea to start a story from and even more so to have that story be told from the point of view of a divorce lawyer.

Full Review here: <https://bookswithkeri.wordpress.com/2...>
