



Embrace of the Damned

Anya Bast

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New York Times bestselling author Anya Bast introduces her newest paranormal romance, set in the world of Norse mythology...

A damned Viking warrior.

Centuries ago Broder Calderson committed murder. As punishment, he was given over to the dominion of Loki, the Trickster God, made part of the Brotherhood of the Damned and condemned to an immortal life of battle against the Blight, blood-drinkers from Hel.

A mysterious woman he can't resist.

One thousand years to the day he was damned, Loki allows him a woman as reward for his good service and repentance of his crimes. Once Broder sees Jessamine Hamilton, he is overcome with need. But Jessa is no ordinary woman, and the truth of who—and what—she is could have dangerous consequences.

A tormented man she can't deny.

Though a future together is impossible, the warrior's touch ignites an irresistible passion in Jessa. But every heated kiss pushes them closer to destruction. Forced to return to the brutality of his Viking past to protect her, will Broder surrender forever to his darkest impulses?

Embrace of the Damned Details

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Author : Anya Bast

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From Reader Review Embrace of the Damned for online ebook

All Things Urban Fantasy says

Review courtesy of All Things Urban Fantasy

EMBRACE OF THE DAMNED, the first book in Anya Bast's new Brotherhood of the Damned paranormal romance series is like a cross between the movie Thor and Gena Showalter's Lords of the Underworld series. A brotherhood of cursed immortals who wage war against a demonic enemy, are denied the release of death and the pleasures of life. The god pulling their stings is the Trickster Loki, a capricious deity who punishes and rewards at his whim. His latest reward comes in the form of a woman, the only one granted to the warrior Broder in a thousand years.

In typical romance novel form, attraction is the driving force behind the relationship for the first half of the book. When it inevitably gives way to love, it's a little hard to see why, particularly in Broder's case. Yes, he's been magically celibate for a millennia, but Jessa hardly seems deserving of him. She may be the biggest tease I've read in a long time. She lets Broder touch and satisfy her time and again only to cry 'stop' the second before he shifts to his own release. Her reasoning feels flimsy at best and downright cruel at worst. Broder displays way too much understanding for her hot and cold mood swings, and really should have 'returned his gift unopened' to Loki in my opinion.

Despite my dislike of Jessa, Broder and the rest of the Brotherhood were more than enough to compensate for her shortcomings. Tortured Viking heroes, cursed in different ways, they each revealed slivers of their personalities that has me very excited and hopeful that they will find more worthy matches than Broder in upcoming Brotherhood of the Damned books. Fans of Kresley Cole, Gena Showalter, J.R. Ward, and Larissa Ione should flock to this steamy new series.

Sexual Content:

Scenes of sensuality. Graphic sex scenes

Francesca the Fierce (Under the Covers Book Blog) says

3.5 Stars

This review was posted at Under the Covers

The premise of this series is very interesting. There are some aspects that I found extremely original and can't wait to see more of this world develop. As the first book in the series there was a bit of explaining things but it wasn't overwhelming to the point that it interfered with my enjoyment of the book.

"I want to fuck you, Jessa. I want a night of pure, down and dirty sex with you. I want to make you come over and over." He took a shuddering, shaky breath. "I want to hear you scream my name at the top of your lungs. Now you know what I'm thinking about."

So let me explain why he seems to be coming on a bit too strong. Broder has been an immortal for a century and he has been part of the Brotherhood for that long. They are warriors that pretty much belong to Loki, a

temperamental God who made them all immortal because they had committed some pretty bad crimes. Loki cursed Broder to not be able to have sex with anyone until the one woman that was for him came on the 1000 anniversary of his mortal death.? And the day has come and his "chastity belt" has come off.

Jessamine was in theory everything he could ever hope for to get as his mate. Except that she got on my very last nerve! Not so much her personality but her hot and cold attitude towards Broder. She was just a bit TOO MUCH of a "cock-tease" to the point that I just wanted to slap her sometimes. Either you want him now or you want to wait, but quit doing this to him!!

Broder has a secret in his past and it has to do with Jessamine too. Now that he found her he will have to protect her. See she is actually a sort of powerful witch who doesn't know anything about her own powers. Her true family wants her back, the bad guys want her out of the picture. And she will have to trust Broder, a complete stranger, to protect her.

My favorite part of this world was the bad guys. Some sort of blood drinkers that when killed shatter into shards of ice. Hell is frozen not hot, ice not fire. I thought that concept was very cool. And the Brotherhood members are made immortal by having that ice embedded in their heart. I'm intrigued to see what's to come in the series.

*ARC provided by publisher

Scooper Speaks says

2.5 I think the heroine is a tease and she about drove me mad. I liked the idea of the demons who drank blood like vampires but turned into chunks of ice when they were killed. I liked the brotherhood. I understood the hero's attraction to the heroine, but didn't get how it transformed into love.

Melliane says

Mon avis en Français

My English review

I was quite surprised by this novel, I knew Anya Bast by another of her series and I was curious to see how her other books were. We discover in this novel Broder, a former Viking, serving Loki after having committed a terrible crime thousand years ago. In addition to his service for eternity, Loki has prohibited him any woman until today. To thank him for his work, he gives him the possibility to have the woman of his dreams. But he knows it is only ephemeral, and he must constantly keep that idea in mind.

Jessa is a determined and lively young woman, something that I loved about her. She does not trust anyone and when Broder saves her life, she is determined to thank him and to leave as soon as possible, but this is not the opinion of our beloved Viking who is determined to keep her near him. Of course it will not be so easy, especially as our heroine is very stubborn and wants to do what she wants. But then, he will do everything to make her succumb to his charm, but well, Jessa will not let him do that or at least not until the end. Broder tries to control himself as he can in her presence but I still think the attitude of Jassemine was

really mean. She'll make him do everything she wants. And when she really realizes that she feels guilty, but she does not really stop either. I think it would have been better if she could have decided what to do with him and not let him wait and hope for so long as it is ultimately always sad to see what Broder endured throughout the book.

But the story between our two characters will not do everything, we discover the true identity of this young woman and thus, the reason behind the fact that everyone wants to have her, whether to kidnap or kill her. I must say that this is quite intriguing from the start. Everyone is very interested in her, and when Loki realizes that our heroine will not agreed to his wishes, he is ready to do anything too.

I enjoyed this novel, it's an easy read and the end was really cute. I loved all the characters and I admit that I'm curious to see the crimes of all the other Brothers. Dimitri, the rebellious demon is also interesting, we do not know what made him change lanes, as he helps his enemies, but I'd really like to know more now. Another good paranormal romanceseries I'll follow with pleasure.

Miki says

This Review was first published on my blog [Lecture toute une Aventure](#)

I took this book because of an excerpt I saw on Anya's blog, I was drawn to it and I don't regret it even if when I finished this book I had a strange thought but let's start with the beginning.

I love Vikings and Norse mythology, it's a great change in my reading and I took pleasure in it. Loki was exactly like I imagined him and he is so devious that you want to slap him, strangle him, etc. The story starts when Broder is committing a massacre, we don't know why he is fighting like a berserker but I got the feeling there was a lot behind his action. Then Loki enters and punishes him by cursing him. He will now be a fighter under Loki's orders for the duration of his existence... eternally if he doesn't find the demon that he is the source of the splinter Loki put in his soul. Cruel, yes but in the Norse mythology things aren't soft like the life at that time still I was angry with Loki since the starts, how can he do that and then tell him that if he is a good boy, do it's job he will get the woman made for him.... But only for the time he, as a god, decide. Grrr bad Loki!

At the present time, Broder is in a group of other Norwegians, cursed like him for a bloody crime, however the curse can have different specificities. The only common thing is the only way to break it, and then the rest is up to Loki's mood when he curses you. In Broder case he can't touch a woman except the one made for him (and only 1000 after the curse was given) So when he feels the woman made for him, the fighter starts to get feelings again like hope...even he suspects a trick from Loki. And he was right, yes Jessamine is perfect for him but she is also a witch and Broder has a strong history with them so while he is deeply attracted, and tries to act with honor and not ravish her, he is also determined to keep his distance because he knows they can't be forever together.

I really loved to see his turmoil and how he wasn't acting like a barbarians quite the opposite even. Jessamine doesn't know who she is anymore. After the death of her parents she was raised by her aunt... at least that was she thought, until she died suddenly. Then she discovered in her aunt house some pictures of her parents but older pictures with different name. That added to the fact that she is starting to get new strange abilities is starting to make her doubt what she was always told. So when she is attacked and saved in an underground parking she is only half surprised. Attracted to Broder but wanting answer more than anything she start a journey with him and enter a new world that didn't suspect until after a kiss he

announces her that she is a witch.

Jessa is strong minded, she knows what she wants and doesn't hesitate to tell Broder what she thinks.

However I didn't like her at first because she was teasing him too much. She isn't sure she is ready for a short relationship So he can give her pleasure yes but not take his own. Not fair even crueller when we know his history. She get better thought and I admire her, but still I resent her for their beginning^^;;.

What I really appreciate was the ending. We get answers and the heroine doesn't need to change, be transformed etc for the relationship to have a chance. No, Love really prevails and we get to see a goddess determined, moved and fair. Loki isn't the only master that can decide everything anymore and what happen after really made me smile. That being said, I also told you that when I was closing the book something came to my mind... I don't feel like I want to read the next book, or at least not soon. It's really strange because I really loved the book, perhaps it's because the ending is so perfect that I don't want something to alter that, that I was to savour it longer not sure but being honest I had to say it (now perhaps when I will read the next summary I will be anxiously waiting to read book 2 but so far book 1 is a wonderful stand alone too)

If you want a book with a wonderful happy ending, where love conquers all etc, a touch of mythology and lot of action this is an excellent book for you.

(and if you could have a thought for Anya to support her to face her medical ordeal it would be really appreciated)

Darcy says

This book was pretty good for a first book in a series. The set up was done with a little bit of info given at a time versus an info dump. I do, however, wish there was more back ground on the Brotherhood, there was enough to understand but I wanted more, especially with the seidhr.

It was hard not to like Broder from the start. He went all alpha male, the only thought to protect Jessa at any costs. Jessa, on the other hand, I am not sure about. She was a bitch at the beginning, then for most of the book she turned in to a tease, even called herself that. She did handle learning all the supernatural stuff well, but it was her personality that turned me off of her.

Because I liked the overall theme of the book I will check out the next one in hopes that the characters are more likeable.

Dark Faerie Tales says

Review Courtesy of Dark Faerie Tales

Quick & Dirty: Anya Bast has created a dark and thrilling world of demons and damned men. The romance is H.O.T. hot! Embrace of the Damned is completely engrossing; I didn't want to put this book down.

Opening Sentence: Other people's blood seeped into Broder's wounds, making every slash and scratch on

his body burn.

The Review:

Imagine a good-looking (but at the same time scary-looking dude) frightening the crap out of you in a dark parking garage basically telling you “They know what you are. They are coming after you. Good Luck!” That is what happens to Jessamine Hamilton. She doesn’t even know what she is. She has only just become suspicious of little things that she can do. She is looking into her past when she is attacked in the parking garage by a demon.

Broder Calderson comes to Jessa’s rescue. Broder has been a member of the Brotherhood of the Damned for one thousand years and on this day Loki has given Broder his freedom to be with a woman and not just any woman. Broder feels the pull of Jessa once the veil has been lifted and he finds her just in time. The demons want Jessa dead. It is up to Jessa and Broder to find out what she is and why she is being hunted down.

As a member of the Brotherhood, Broder is a part of an army that hunts demons for the god Loki. The demons are part of the war to create Ragnarok. The Brotherhood must fight to prevent it. All the brothers are damned and immortal. Loki recruited them for his army after they participated in unspeakable crimes. Broder is a big man with no emotion. He lost all rights to emotion when he became a brother. He fights his battles but what he really wants is to die.

When Broder meets Jessa she starts to break down his shields but she doesn’t have to work very hard. Broder wants her. Jessa wants Broder too, but she doesn’t want a quick fling, a love ‘em and leave ‘em relationship. She has been hurt badly in her past and she doesn’t want the heartbreak of another relationship. They both know there can be no future for them after Jessa learns what she is and because Loki will eventually take her away from Broder.

Embrace of the Damned starts off action-packed. Broder and Jessa are on the run but when they make it to Broder’s house in Scotland the action slows down a bit but not too much. Jessa learns how to protect herself while having to endure mental manipulation and kidnappings. Jessa isn’t the strongest of heroines. In fact she is quite a bit of a tease, so much so she even admits it to herself. But she knows her limitations and that is what I liked about Jessa.

Broder and Jessa aren’t the only points of view during the story. Roan is a bad/good guy. He provides more insight into what Jessa is and the people she comes from. Roan was one of those guys that I hated during the story but in the end I just felt sorry for him and the situation he was put in.

The tension of Broder and Jessa’s relationship is what kept me riveted. I wasn’t sure how this story would end but when everything was said and done it was warm and heartfelt. I think this is a great start to a new series and I can’t wait for the next book. There are several characters that I hope to get to see more of in the future.

Embrace of the Damned is a sexy, dark paranormal romance. If you like sexy Vikings, smart-ass women and Norse mythology then this is one Viking romance I definitely recommend.

Notable Scene:

Jessa leapt out of the way, narrowly missing the swipe of an enormous hand. This was probably a low-level demon and he looked it—an unintelligent grunt. Pivoting on the ball of her foot, she brought her boot around

and clipped the thing in the side of the head.

The demon staggered to the side, shaking his ringing head, as she spun away. A split second later he lunged for her again, catching her by her shirt. The material ripped as she lurched to the side and nearly tripped, her sword swinging wildly. Her heart thudded. This was not the time to lose control.

Listing to the side to catch her balance, she madly swiped with the sword, cutting only air. The demon sensed he had her, growled something in a foreign language, and leapt.

Staggering backward, she swung again. This time the tip of the blade sliced through fabric, bit into the demon's upper chest. It had been purely luck.

The thing roared, blood coursing down his chest, but this was no Loki blade she wielded; he didn't explode into ice fragments. The wound only seemed to enrage him. He stalked toward her again.

Jessa retreated backward, sword hanging loose in one hand. She had to kill this thing. It was her life or his. She stumbled over a piece of refuse, nearly falling on her ass.

When the demon smiled, sensing he had her. Whimpering deep in her throat, she slouched her shoulders. Oh, God, she was going to die. The agents smile widened. Good. Stupid, gullible thing.

Jessa leapt forward, right into the demon, bringing her fist around into the tender flesh of his nose. The demon howled, his head snapping to the side. Her hand burst with pain, but that was no matter now. With a two-handed grip on the sword handle, she pivoted, bringing the blade around to bite into the nape of his neck with as much force as she could muster. The blade was incredibly sharp and it slid into the demon's flesh like butter.

The Brotherhood of the Damned Series:

1. Embrace of the Damned

FTC Advisory: Penguin/Berkley provided me with a copy of Embrace of the Damned. No goody bags, sponsorships, "material connections," or bribes were exchanged for my review.

Nicole says

Review originally posted here: <http://thebookpushers.com/2012/05/07/...>

I've long been a fan of Anya Bast, her paranormal stories are sexy and original and I usually quickly become wrapped up in the worlds she creates. I was anxious to start the Brotherhood of the Damned series, and while it didn't quite live up to my expectations, I am intrigued by the world.

Broder long ago committed a crime so violent that the Norse god Loki damned him to eternal service in the brotherhood, fighting against the demons from Hel, the Blight. His one moment to look forward to is a thousand years into service, he will be given the chance to be with a woman. Little does he know the woman, Jessa, he rescues from the Blight is one extraordinary woman.

Jessa is looking for answers to her family's history, and being rescued by Broder puts a kink in her plans. Although she is wildly attracted to him, she is also scared to move forward with a relationship. As the truth surrounding her heritage unravels and Jessa finds out more than she ever expected, she finds herself pulled into the world of the Blight more than she or Broder expected. When Loki and someone from Jessa's ancestry work to pull her away from Broder, will he be able to let go of the one woman who has touched his heart in over a millennium? And will Jessa be able to let go of the Warrior who finally won her heart?

The world building in this book and series is somewhat unique from the other standard paranormal romance books on the shelves right now. We get to see a different kind of mythology than normal, and I always like when books take on something new that I haven't read a lot of. Having Loki and Freyja play a fun role throughout the story was great as well, I always love seeing god/goddess characters portrayed actively throughout the story. However, while the world-building was different and unique, it did take awhile to me to get a good understanding of everything that was going on.

It also took me a long while to actually feel a connection from the hero and heroine. Especially Jessa, she struggled so much with having a relationship with Broder. She teased and kissed him, got naked and then stopped. The sexual tension was intense, but it wasn't until over the halfway mark that the two actually FINISHED any of their sexy times. I felt like Jessa was unfair to Broder in that regard, and I didn't like that she dragged out the relationship drama between these two.

I also didn't really feel like we got to really know their characters until late in the book. I wanted more of a connection between myself and the characters, instead it seemed like I was always on the outside looking in, never really getting to feel as if I was IN the story. It wasn't until the story really picked up about half-way to three quarters of the way through that I got sucked in and actually felt as if the plot moved at a pace that kept me engaged.

I also wished that we had a little more time to spend with the actual brothers of the Brotherhood of the Damned. I assume that the remainder of the stories will be about them, however we only got a page or so of time with all the brothers, and a few pages with their leader. Although we were given the chance to explore other paranormal factions within the world, I would have liked to see more of the Brotherhood itself.

All in all this wasn't my favorite Bast read. I struggled through the first half or so with the slow moving plot and the lack of connection between myself and the book, and the characters themselves. I do, however, look forward to more books within this series, because I think that the world is intriguing and exciting and one that I can see myself falling in love with.

I give Embrace of the Damned a C

Julie says

Posted at Yummy Men & Kick Ass Chicks

Embrace of the Damned is the first book in Anya Bast's newest series, The Brotherhood of the Damned. After reading this book, I decided to give it 3 stars. But even if I gave it a decent rating, there were things about the book I really liked and there were things about the book I really didn't enjoy. Therefore, I think I'm going to write my 'pro and con' style of review because it will be the easiest way to write this.

The story/series is about almost thousand year old Vikings who performed unspeakable acts of violence

when they were young and are now cursed to serve the god Loki, fighting the Blight and trying to prevent a war amongst the gods that would destroy humanity. Each Brother is cursed with something else too as an extra punishment for their acts committed. Broder can't have sex for 1000 years. Then he can but only for a bit then Loki will make him not be able to anymore again.

What I liked about the book:

I like the idea of the Brotherhood and how each member has their own 'special' curse. We don't know anyone's but Broder's so it will be interesting to learn more about each member of the gang in future books. Assuming there will be more.

I really liked the bad guys. Well, I should say I loved how different they were. The Agent of Blight are essentially vampires but aren't called that. They are demons. They have fangs and suck blood but they are also very cold. They are so cold that you get frostbite where they touch you. Even their saliva freezes. And when they are killed, instead of turning to dust, they turn to ice crystals! I just found these twists to be pretty neat.

I liked the idea of Jessa's character, how she's discovering she has new powers that she can't explain and that she's looking for answers. And I liked that she didn't just accept everything she learned right away. I also sort of liked how she didn't just jump into bed with Broder as soon as they met. I didn't like how she teased him but we'll get to that in the next part of the review.

Even though this was a first book in a new paranormal series, there was no info dump. You learned all you needed to but it was spread out nicely throughout the book. So when you read about the Brotherhood's background or about Loki and Hel's feud, your eyes don't cross.

The way the story was written was good. What we learn early on is that the Blight want Jessa dead but we're not sure why exactly. The mystery of what and who Jessa truly is quite well done.

What I didn't like about the book:

I didn't understand why Broder's 'other's curse was what it was. I mean, why celibacy? He didn't rape thousands of women or anything so why was that Loki's curse for him?

As you probably guessed, because this is a paranormal romance book after all, at the beginning of the book Broder reaches 1000 years working for Loki. That means he can do the nasty and he's itching for it. When he meets Jessa, he knows that she is the one who was sent by Loki to um...help him out. He feels an intense connection to her and needs to have her Now. As you can well imagine seeing he's been celibate for 1000 years. Jessa feels a connection too but she's also got a lot to deal with. So what does she do? She gets turned on by Broder, lets him get too far then...stops him. Again and again and again. Actually, I lost count as to how many times she did this. Yes, I get it, you don't know him much and that 'so not you' blah blah blah, but don't be a cock tease! How many orgasms do you let a man give you before you realize that maybe you're being a little bit of a hypocrite here? It's frustrating for poor Broder and annoying for the reader. I just found that if she wasn't wanting, she shouldn't have let anything start. No matter how hot she found the guy.

Broder was constantly after Jessa. And I mean the *wink wink nudge nudge* "after". Yes buddy, we know you've been without a woman for a loooong time, but that don't mean you can just grope her in the middle of a conversation. And that's what was happening. They are talking then suddenly bam! Jess would talk about witches then Broder would answer about witches then the next sentence – and not because they were

finished talking about witches – would be Broder saying something like “you are mine and I will have you” then he’d start licking or touching or whatever...then after it goes “too far for Jessa’s comfort”, she would snap to her senses and say “I’m sorry, so sorry but...” So basically, the whole sex thing with these two was just done...oddly.

What didn’t help either is that I just didn’t really click with the characters in this book. They were fine and all but overall they didn’t grab me. The strange part is that I can’t really put my finger on why not. Perhaps there wasn’t enough depth to them? Perhaps all the groping was getting in the way? I was very curious about what would happen to them and that kept me reading, but I never really truly cared about them.

So there you have it. All in all, it wasn’t a terrible book. There were lots of neat parts and twists, but nothing that really wowed me. I didn’t find any information about the future of this series, meaning I’m not sure how many more books are planned, but I’m not sure if I’ll continue on with it. Maybe I’ll wait to see what you guys think of the next book before deciding.

Michelle Leah Olson says

Our Review, by Michelle L. Olson - LITERAL ADDICTION'S Pack Alpha:

The premier book of Anya's new series was a hit!

Our hero, Broder Calderson, is a dark, brooding, charming, sexy, faithful immortal 'owned' by the trickster God Loki and sentenced to fight the Blight for all time. As an added sentence, his ability to be with a woman was taken away for 1,000 years to ensure that he fulfilled his duties to the Brotherhood of the Damned.

Our heroine, Jessamine Hamilton is a feisty, independent gal with an interesting history and a soul deep desire to find love.

When Broder and Jessa meet up, fireworks are the result. Appointing himself Jessa's guardian, Broder steals her away to keep her safe and help her learn more about her heritage, though there are plenty of hurdles thrown in their path throughout the journey.

The heat between Broder and Jessa was intense and fabulous. Along with the action, mythology, and suspense, this was a book that I devoured in just a few sittings.

As we've come to expect from Ms. Bast, the world and premise were beautifully built and delivered. Her new literary land will enthrall and hook readers both new and old.

LITERAL ADDICTION gives "Embrace of the Damned" 4 Skulls and recommends it for all Anya Bast fans, paranormal romance readers, Viking and Mythology lovers, and Urban Fantasy lovers far and wide. Take a trip with Anya's Brotherhood of the Damned... you won't be disappointed!

Jen (That's What I'm Talking About) says

My Rating: 3.5 stars: Liked it - recommend (B+)

Full Review: <http://www.twimom227.com/2012/05/revi...>

Anya Bast's newest world opens with a history lesson about our hero. One thousand years ago, Viking Broder slaughtered a lot of people - men, women and children, and as punishment for his crimes, he was involuntarily recruited to be an immortal warrior for the trickster god, Loki.

Forward to present day and we meet Jessa. After the recent death of her aunt, Jessa notices she can do some odd things - like get people to do what she wants just by thinking about it. And after finding photos of her parents that were taken over 100 years ago, Jessa is determined to find out more about her mysterious history.

The book opens beautifully - the history and story grabbed my full attention. The mood is exciting and the story easy to follow. It is action packed right from the get go, and well, it is funny. One of my favorite scenes occurs near the beginning when Jessa wakes to find herself in a strange place full of good looking warrior men. As she looks to make her escape, she is discovered:

"I'm leaving. You have a whole house filled with beefcake and no explanation for it."

He narrowed his eyes and tilted his head to the side a little. "So you're fleeing because of beefcake?"

I enjoyed the play between Jessa and Broder, but it was a tough dynamic at times. He continually demands personal information from Jessa, but he refuses to return the favor. At times he is downright rude, especially about sharing anything from his own past. Mostly Jessa takes it, and that frustrated me. But there were times when she stands up for herself and that had me cheering.

Embrace of the Damned is an interesting story and enjoyable read. It kicks off a new series with a promising start. There are a few parallels with Sherrilyn Kenyon's Dark Hunter series; however, Brotherhood of the Damned series is uniquely different. I did find some sections of the story repetitious, and I was middle-of-the-road about Jessa due to her fluctuation between a strong and weaker character, but overall I enjoyed this story. The ending left me wanting to know what will happen next, and I have several unanswered questions. I certainly hope that Jessa and Broder's story will continue in the next book--and I am already looking forward to what is next.

Bookaholics says

Embrace of the Damned by Anya Bast

Paranormal Romance –May 1st, 2012

4 ½ stars

As the first book in the Immortal Brotherhood of the Damned, Anya Bast is off to a stunning start. As a brooding, yet sexy warrior finds his soul mate.

In a bloody act of retribution Broder Calderson awaits his death in ancient Norway only to be claimed by the trickster God Loki. He is now one of the Immortal Brotherhood and pay for his crimes. But Loki promises Broder his suffering will end in one thousand years if he is a faithful servant and revealed the woman of his dreams.

It is one thousand years later and Jessamine Hamilton is walking in a dark, parking lot. She has been warned rather cryptically by a stranger that she is being watched and to be careful. When she finds herself attacked soon after by a creepy man with fangs! But suddenly she is saved by the sexiest man on a bike she has ever seen and then getting hot and heavy with him after he rescues her! When he claims she is in danger and must stay with him for protection she is in disbelief, especially when he tells her that she is a witch with magical powers and he is over a thousand years old. Jessa tries to leave, but she has been targeted and Broder is determined to protect her. He wants to help her learn to control her powers. But Jessa's heritage complicate matters as others seek to use her for their own purposes. For Jessa's powers may help prevent the Apocalypse that Loki's daughter Hel want to occur.

This was an intense romance that I could not put down. Broder is brooding and sexy. He has a funny, dark humor that makes him irresistibly charming. He longs for Jessa yet doesn't know to court her. Instead he settles for kissing her out of her mind! Yet he is honorable, he tries to keep his hands away from her and give her time to 'warm' up to him. But their mutual attraction keeps getting in the way of his good intentions. Jessa has a lot of spunky attitude and admirably copes with the hectic paranormal changes in her life well. I liked how she stood up to the Brotherhood, especially Broder and wouldn't just take their word and fall in line. As they both fight evil and their attraction the story heats up. The chemistry between them was believable and off the charts. I wanted to be Jessa and have Broder ravish me! The author does a wonderful job of creating a fully fleshed world of rugged Vikings and powerful Gods.

Anya Bast has created an original new world that will captivate and enthralled readers. If you are interested in Viking mythology and hunky, immortal heroes do not miss this book!

Reviewed by Steph from the Bookaholics Romance Book Club

Erica says

That was awesome!! 4.5 stars

Thoroughly enjoyable story.

The characters are interesting and there is full disclosure in the past present and future of character building. The names are just Awesome!!! Broder and Jessamine fabulous so original, I'm a fan of an interesting names in books.

Jessamine is kick ass but she doesn't start off that way, you see her grow throughout the novel. Broder is tortured and gruff and you see him fall for Jessa, Having been a thousand years older than her you can see he is from a different time and his values are a little different.

There was a little more of Jessamine's back story I would have liked to have known like who was the aunt that her parents picked for her, but that's just nit picking.

I absolutely loved the way they talk about the God Loki Hilarious

The story flows smoothly you don't want to put it down the world created is beautiful and full of promise for more there are little twists here and there to keep the story interesting.

Im really excited to see the next installment of this series.

FV Angela says

Although I liked it, I thought Jessa was a wishy washy tease. One minute she's kissing Broder and letting him put his hands down her pants in public then she's all " I said NO!". I mean come on, there comes a point when you're just being a bitch. I thought her cock tease routine disguised as "what if I get hurt" stupidity was kind of cruel after a while. The man hasn't had sex in a thousand years, and I felt bad for him that the only option after all that time was Jessa.

Other than that... I enjoyed it.

Kara Callahan says

This book was only okay. I usually really enjoy Ms. Bast's works but this one did not hold my attention. I had to force myself to finish it.
