



Secrets of Valhalla

Jasmine Richards

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"Readers will clamor for more, especially those who loved Rick Riordan's Norse-themed *The Sword of Summer*." --ALA Booklist

Two friends awaken a world of myth and magic in this epic middle grade fantasy perfect for fans of Rick Riordan and Anne Ursu.

It's not every day that you find a famous weatherwoman bound by magic to a tree deep in the woods. Or discover that the weatherwoman is in fact Sunna, the Norse Goddess of the Sun, and one of the seven day guardians who keep time in order. But that's just what happens to new friends Buzz and Mary—and it's only the start of their adventure.

Now, as the people of Earth are forced to repeat the same Saturday over and over again, Buzz and Mary must journey to collect the Runes of Valhalla and awaken the other day guardians, before vengeful god Loki can get to them first.

Secrets of Valhalla Details

Date : Published January 19th 2016 by HarperCollins

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Author : Jasmine Richards

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From Reader Review Secrets of Valhalla for online ebook

Madeline (The Bookish Mutant) says

Okay. Let me just have you guys understand that I am totally fine with different mythologies being mashed up in books-don't get me wrong, I'm a huge fan of the Hunters of Chaos series. But why market a book as about the Norse Gods when at least 60% of it is ROMAN mythology?

/Users/Madeline/Desktop/JNDA_f-maxage-0.gif

Also, the fact that the different branches on the world tree led to places in Roman/Greek mythology just bothered the living heck out of me. Just no. No. NO.

/Users/Madeline/Desktop/Randomness/Gifs/Stop it. Right now..GIF

The characters weren't the greatest, either. Buzz was kind of arrogant, especially during the whole "EarthWorm" incident, and the others were overall just cliched. So, overall, this book was pretty meh.

Linda C. says

Great mix of typical teen angst, mythology, and fantasy...told with an underlying thread of the importance of family relationships and friends.

Lexie says

More of a 3.5, but I appreciate the use of Norse mythology here.

Hannah Belyea says

Buzz is unsure whether or not to befriend new girl Mary, but he has little choice when the worlds suddenly becomes trap in a Saturday loop, caused by a conflict of the Norse gods that will take the duo on a wild adventure to awaken the sleeping deities from within the townsfolk! Richards is sure to keep young readers enthralled with this magical journey full of twists and charm. Can Buzz find the strength to help Mary save the world from Loki and his terrifying beasts?

Amber says

It was a good, easy, fast read. I enjoyed the introduction to Norse mythology. Well-written, good pacing, and I love that it's a standalone book! Not too many of those being written nowadays.

Teresa says

e-Arc provided by Edelweiss

Billie says

I don't know why exactly, but it just didn't work for me. There are, in my opinion, better middle grade series about Norse mythology out there.

Isabelle says

Wonderful magical book which included some Norse mythology which I did not know much about. Really like the relationships in the book between friends and between father and son. The book had a great pace and interesting, lovely characters. Perfect children's book. I cannot recommend enough!

Mary says

I enjoyed this book. As a fan of Rick Riordan's books, this book was perfect. The characters and plot are well developed, but things seem to happen at lightening speed. This is a great high interest read and I think middle school kids will love it. I am looking forward to reading the next book.

Meredith says

Exactly what you want in a middle grade book. Action, adventure, academics.

Anya says

A cute story about the Roman and Norse gods featuring a brilliant girl and steadfast boy. I liked that our pair failed sometimes and had to try again and it was fun learning about where the names of the days came from. Also great to see a girl with dark skin and tight braids as a main character!

Mr. Holt says

While at first I enjoyed Jasmine Richards' take on the myth stories that most authors have overdone for years, by the middle of the book, the storyline read like all of the other novels in this genre. Sure, I was interested in the story and the characters seemed relatable, but this book felt almost exactly like the Rick Riordan series. Kids who find out that they have special mythological powers go on a quest to save the world

from the evil gods and goddesses. There was certainly plenty of action and I did like how the author strayed away from the typical sarcastic humor of heavy situations that Riordan uses in his novels on the same topic. If you like action-packed stories based on mythology, then you are sure to love this first book in the series.

Abigail H. Leskey says

Odin: In the first place, I was on that tree for nine days, not seven. How dare this mortal reduce my noble deed!

Abigail: *coughs* This book was diverting--

Jormungand: Excuse me, but I really want to say that I am straight.

Thor: You are around the world. You are not straight.

Jormungand: *sighs*

Abigail: I liked the author's versions of the misunderstood in mythology.

Loki: So did I. It was really charming of the skald to notice that my desire to end the world isn't merely random, without incitement. And she's quite brilliant to realize that I may not have had purpose to kill Baldur. Odin impaled himself, and was fine; Mimir was decapitated, and was fine; why in the Nine Realms would Baldur die because of being shot with an arrow?

Abigail: *quickly* Recommended to mythology fans.

West Hartford Children's Library says

In this middle grade fantasy, two friends awaken a world of myth and magic. Filled with Norse and Roman mythology, vengeful gods, a kidnapped weatherwoman, dragons, and Friday the 13th. There's not a dull moment in this book; easy, fast, action-packed. Definitely for fans of Rick Riordan,

Mandy says

I received Secrets of Valhalla in return for an honest review from the publisher HarperCollins. Buzz and Mary find the missing weatherwoman in the woods freeing her and finding out that she's not just the weather woman but a Norse Goddess. After the encounter with Sunna things start to get a little odd like the same Saturday replays over and over for them but something is a little off with each day after the first. The only way to fix everything is to free the day guardians by collecting all the runes and to stop Loki before it's too late.

Buzz with the help of Mary set out to collect the runes but are quickly joined by Theo one of the boys in school who's caused trouble for Buzz in the past. They are also joined by Buzz's Uncle Mark who happened to have a couple of the runes that had ended up at the police station. They learn that Mark and Theo are hosts for the day guardians but without the correct rune the guardian is suppressed. They travel the different

worlds searching for the runes before Loki can get them. Do they have what it takes to beat Loki or will they be too late?

I like Buzz and Mary they work well together even when you add in Theo as well as Uncle Mark. It's been a while since I've read a middle grade book but the characters felt more mature than I had expected but I really like it. I felt that I was really able to connect with Buzz as well as Mary. I wasn't sure about Theo because he started out not a nice guy but at the book progressed he redeemed himself. It's interesting seeing how the day guardian's took over their host bodies when the time came.

My husband happened to be looking over my shoulder while I was checking out the new books on Edelweiss when I happened to land on this one. He instantly said he wanted to read it which is code for I'll read it and when he has time he'll read it too. I typically don't read a lot of Middle grade novels because sometimes they feel very immature but this one worked out better than I expected. The concept for the day guardians with the runes is very interesting and I enjoyed reading about the Norse gods because I don't know much about them. I also liked that it's not so much Thor is the main god but the other's all have an important role in the story. While I haven't read a Rick Riordan novel I am familiar with them and would suggest Secrets of Valhalla for any fans. This is my first novel by the author but I think she did a great job creating a captivating story kids as well as adults will enjoy.
