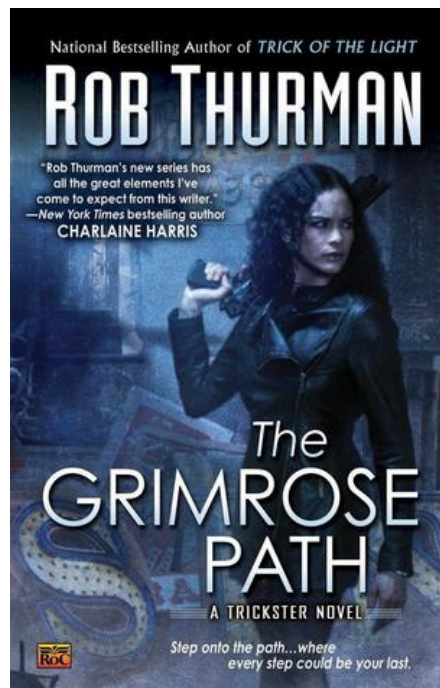




The Grimrose Path

Rob Thurman

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I looked at the metal coated with blood—so very much blood—the same color as the darkest crimson rose. I was undoing this. I was making this right. And I'd like to see the son of a bitch who thought he could stop me.

Bar owner Trixa Iktomi knows that inhuman creatures of light and darkness roam Las Vegas-especially since she's a bit more than human herself. She's just been approached with an unusual proposition. Something has slaughtered almost one thousand demons in six months. And the killing isn't going to stop unless Trixa and her friends step into the fight.

The Grimrose Path Details

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From Reader Review The Grimrose Path for online ebook

Nicole says

Trixa was pleasingly extra clever in this one--her scheme to help the Roses and her solution to the Cronus problem were both inspired. It was also good to see her more vulnerable, figuring out how to get around the loss of her shape-shifting power while also keeping it secret from Eli & co.

Griffin and Zeke were charming, fun, and sometimes even poignant. Griffin's temporarily self-destructive method of coping with his past identity led to some tense moments--and then some funny ones when Zeke was giving him a hard time for lying to him. Zeke's continued efforts to negotiate the grey areas of existence and budding attempts at a sense of humour were great.

Leo--AKA Loki--continued to get more complex as he also dealt with his past misdeeds and inclinations and his current power limitations. He's such a good friend to Trixa--but I'm also glad they're moving past that boundary. The section involving the trip to L.A. with a drunken Thor along for the ride was hilarious.

Eli didn't amuse me much this time, but I suspect he wasn't supposed to. The situation didn't lend itself much to evil-charming smartassery. His little homage to Indiana Jones near the end was cute, though.

There was a Leandros/Trickster crossover element that I suppose I should've expected--it involved Ishiah, not Cal or Niko. It was brief but pretty cool; and it's funny how Ish and Trixa know each other.

I still somehow prefer the Leandros brothers books to this series--but it's kind of like trying to explain a preference for Baby Ruth candy bars over Snickers.

Jana says

I loved her Cal Leandros series, and I liked the first book in this series, but this one was just over the top with clichéd behavior by the characters. I had to force myself to finish it and at that I skimmed some parts. Before I was a third of the way in I got sick of all the explanations of "trickster" realities. The whole time I just wanted to slap the protagonist and tell her to just shut-up. Not even hot male characters could save this one.

Sylvia McIvers says

I like Rob Thurman's patented snark, but when a trickster is narrating, "unreliable narrator" is an understatement. Very annoying.

(Tori-Smexybooks) smexys_sidekick says

Original review at smexybooks-<http://www.smexybooks.com/2010/09/rev...>

Favorite Quote: "Oranges and honey. It's not only on you but part of you. I could lay you down in an orange grove Trixa and cover you in honey."

"Then you would eat me and not in a way women usually care for."

Trixa Iktomi is a trickster; a semi divine shape shifter being who is several thousand years old. Youthful in appearance and dangerous in reality; Trixa "teaches" the naive to be wise and the shysters to beware. While

Trixa will lie, deceive, omit, and generally cause mischief; she has a unique sense of right and wrong and gives only what is deserved.

She manages a bar with her best bud Leo-otherwise known as Loki- the original trickster. In the Trick Of Light-Trickster #1, Trixa and Leo hunt down an artifact and use it to extract revenge for her brothers death. Due to some mischief on Leo's part, the artifact decided that some humility was needed and has made both Trixa and Leo "supernaturally challenged" for the next 4 years. All they have is their experience and wits to survive. Lucky for them, they have that in spades.

When Trixa is approached by Eligos for help in finding out who's mass slaughtering the demons of hell she is naturally hesitant. Trixa lives to kill demons-not save them. But this is not an ordinary killer and Trixa will need all her skills and friends to stop this one. With Zeke, Gabriel, and a few new friends, Trixa's response to the situation is astonishingly Machiavellian in it's construction and confirms that she is indeed THE Trickster.

Rob Thurman's second installment of her Trickster novels-The Grimrose Path-is a fast paced, twisted roller coaster of a ride filled with much laughter, plenty of sarcasm, and enough questionable characters that leave you wondering just who wrote the original description of good and evil. And did they know about these people?

Ms Thurman's supernatural world is rather simplistic in it's constructions but all the more stunning for it. Using Greek mythology as the base, Ms. Thurman manipulates and skews everything we have ever read. The result is a fascinating and addictive read you won't want to end.

I adore the rambunctious slew of characters that inhabit this world. Highly developed, personable, and filled with much delish snark; I found myself in awe of how easily they slipped under my skin. Zeke and Gabriel are back, along with the very sexy & very demonic Eligos. Zeke has to be my all time favorite character. A fallen angel, he now crews with Trixa and his trainer Gabriel(a fallen demon). While Zeke is not slow per say...he's unique. What you see and hear is what you get and he had me crying with laughter through much of the book.

"It's not a weird bondage thing. It's a perfectly natural bondage thing. The porn magazine said so."

While this is not a romance book, you still get glimpses of love through out the story. Love of a friend being the most being the most poignant. Trixa truly cares for her friends and would walk through Hell, literally, for them. We do see some romantic advancement for some of the characters in this story which added a nice touch to the over all arc.

The plot is exciting and wonderfully complex in it's execution. Action packed and tense, the ending left me elated, hooked, and jonsing for more.

One small note. The entire story is from Trixa's point of view but in the 3rd person, which leaves the telling a little "off" at times. As Trixa is the ultimate trickster, we, along with the rest of her friends and enemy's, are tricked, deceived, and misdirected right along with them. Once you get a feeling for the rhythm of the writing, the story is pure enjoyment.

Rating: 4/5

Cathy says

I'll expand of this tomorrow, but for now I'll just say that it was exactly what it was supposed to be. The premise is great, especially having a trickster as a main character. The characters are memorable and easy to care about, and the plot was full of action, emotion, triumph, risk and a good dose of snark. The author and the characters are intelligent, use history and knowledge in their favor, and take risks to either save the world or entertain it, both goals I fully support. It all worked.

Kelly says

Trixa Iktomi comes from a long-lived, semi-divine trickster race. (Think “relative of Coyote” here.) She currently makes her home in Las Vegas, running a bar with her friend Leo, who is really the god Loki. As a result of events that occurred in the first Trickster book, *Trick of the Light*, Trixa and Leo are de-powered at the moment and now have to solve their problems with very little in the way of magical ability.

Trixa is approached by a demon, Eligos, who needs her help to stop a powerful being that is killing demons by the hundreds. Trixa and Leo brainstorm, trying to figure out who or what is behind the deaths, but the truth is much worse than they expected:

We hadn't even put him on our list, because it would've been ludicrous. Overkill. Like making a list of what could possibly ruin your camping trip. Rain. Cold. Bugs. Or an asteroid the size of the moon hitting your tent dead on.

So... how do you battle the bad-guy equivalent of a giant asteroid, when your powers are kaput? If you're a trickster, you lie and steal and bluff, and have a heck of a time doing it. It's lots of fun for the reader, too, as Trixa thumbs her nose at both Heaven and Hell and makes sarcastic comments all the way.

As befits her trickster nature, Trixa isn't the most reliable of narrators. She doesn't exactly lie to the reader in this book, but she leaves out a few things, lies to the other characters, and lets the reader jump to the wrong conclusion. I love unreliable narrators, so I enjoyed this twist (and the heartstring-tugging reason behind Trixa's lie), but your mileage may vary.

There are a few spots in *The Grimrose Path* that flow oddly or that are a little confusing (though some of these make sense once Trixa comes clean about her deception). Overall, though, I found the book entertaining; by turns it had me laughing hysterically, shuddering at the creepy villain, and sniffing a little at a touching moment or two. If you're looking for a wisecracking-and-asskicking fix, *The Grimrose Path* will hit the spot as long as you're OK with an unreliable narrator. You don't need to have read *Trick of the Light* to follow *The Grimrose Path*, though I plan on going back and checking it out. Review originally published at Fantasy Literature's Rob Thurman page.

Kari Chapman says

"The Grimrose Path" follows not long after the end of "Trick of the Light". Trixa is learning how to deal with the fact that she's human for now, which means, among other things, she can't eat whatever she likes with no consequences. She also is trying to figure out how to keep some powerful beings that she's annoyed from seeing her vulnerability.

Then she learns that something has killed almost 1000 demons over the last 6 months. Something that big could potentially jeopardize everything, depending on what they are after and if they are willing to stop with demons or not. So Trixa and Leo start looking into it.

I really like all of the characters. Leo is still my favorite. Trixa is slightly improved in this book since she's no longer hiding what she is. There are some nice developments in Zeke and Griffon's relationship as they deal with the truth of what they are.

The weakness of the book is in the writing. The author is very repetitive, reminding us of character traits and previous actions pretty much every time a character enters a scene. For me it was slightly annoying, but easy enough to put up with, as I was enjoying the story. Others may find it to be a deal breaker.

What I found more annoying was having voice of the narration. The book is written with Trixa narrating and most of the time it appears to be happening in the moment. However, there are occasional mentions of "if only I noticed this thing at the time, but I didn't" which threw me off a bit. Also, Trixa lies or deliberately misleads in order to make the reveal of the tricks more dramatic. However, I don't care for that. If the character is narrating, we should get an honest view inside their head - what they know, we know. If secrets need to be kept from the reader, then a third person narrative voice would be much better.

Despite that, I would gladly read more books in this series if any more get published.

Nightwings81 says

I didn't like these books as much as the Cal Leandros series. The focus on demons and angels just wasn't as enjoyable to me, and neither was the main character of Trixa. The highlight of this book and Trick of the Light, to me, was Griffin and Zeke, who were funny and endearing. I would love to read a book from their point of view, such as a prequel of their younger years.

Kathy Davie says

It's a conundrum. On the one hand, I love discovering an author new to me with a long-established series. On the other hand, once I've been through those books, I have to wait for the author to publish the next in the series. This is my problem with Thurman. I'm all caught up and now I have to wait...!!!

In *Grimrose Path*, Thurman has taken us further into the lives of Trixta, Leo, Zeke, Griff, and Eli with a dip into the Viking gods pantheon plus a touch of Greek mythology. With a mix of angels (shades of Thorn St. Croix and the Guild Hunter!) and demons, our naughty trickster can't resist mixing it up with Cronus using the tools from three different cultures to create an irresistible weapon while pissing off the Lord of Hell.

And Zeke, I can't help but love Zeke for his novel approach to problems, e.g.,

"He's curled up and I can't see his d@#k anymore, but I heard a crunch. A nice, loud crunch. Is that enough of a lesson or should I go ahead and shoot him?"

"What do you think?" I called back.

"That I should shoot him," he said promptly.

'No,' I said with a loud sigh, and he heard it.

'Just a little?' he wheedled."

Reminds me of Ringo's "baddest bunny in the valley". I also like how she pulls in characters from her Cal and Nikko Leandros series (be sure to read this series first!).

Megan says

Exact same review as the first book in the series. I'm kinda glad there isn't a book 3, because I'm just a little too bored with the characters at this point. It was okay, but not interesting enough to turn into a successful series I want to keep reading.

J'aime says

I was undecided about this series after reading book one, though I love the author's Cal Leandros series. I decided to give Grimrose Path a try hoping it would improve. Sadly, it didn't. This series is lacking the very thing that makes the Cal series so good - great character development. I don't like Trixa. At first I thought it was because she's constantly tooting her own horn about how awesome she is, or how smart she is, how unusual, blah blah. She reminds me of Robin Goodfellow constantly boasting of his sexual prowess; only, that works for him because he's a secondary character providing comic relief in a dark storyline. Trixa is the protagonist, and her boasting becomes boring after a few chapters. I began skimming a lot of that. But, I realized after finishing that my real issue with her is that she is one dimensional - a one note character. Moreover, so is everyone else. Leo, Zeke, Griffin - all one dimensional.

Though the characters are very weak, I still kept reading because Thurman is a good writer. The world building is excellent. Heaven and Hell are engaged in a not always cold war, but there are many other heavens and hells. Demons, angels, tricksters, vampires - this world, the same as Cal's, has them all and makes them fit with a clever mythology. Ishiah even makes a cameo in the story. The plot was interesting, requiring a clever resolution (fitting for a trickster) rather than an outright battle. But, the book is often bogged down by Trixa's near-constant internal monologue - most of which concerns how wonderful she is. Her devious nature does make for some great moments, such as when she dupes Hell out of thousands of souls, but it just wasn't enough. I'm not sure I'll read another book in this series. But, I would be very excited to see a crossover novel with Cal. Trixa isn't strong enough to carry a novel, but she'd make a great recurring character.

Carmen says

I didn't see any of it coming. The archvillian, the solution, how Zeke and Griffin get along, any of it. I love Trixa and Leo, Zeke and Griffin, even Eligos. I definitely need to brush up on my mythology. I hope there's more!

April Steenburgh says

I picked up this book expecting a continuation of Trick of the Light- and all the sarcasm and mayhem contained therein. I was not let down.

About halfway through I actually had to set the book down and applaud quietly. Well played, Trixa. Well played. That...was a plot twist to end all plot twists, and I should have seen it coming. But I didn't, and therein lies the beauty.

Mayhem, casual violence, shenanigans, Gods and angels and devils and everything in between- Grimrose Path takes the promise of Trick of the Light and turns it up a notch. Whereas I had originally described the relationship between Griffin and Zeke as a clone of that of Nik and Cal from Thurman's other series, that comparison proves superficial as I was hauled through Grimrose. My only problem with the series, laid to rest. What more could a reader ask for?

Maybe a fantastic incarnation of Loki? check.

An incarnation of Thor too delightfully wrong to ignore? taken care of.

An urban fantasy heroine that does not jump in bed with every sexy were-thing or vampire in town? Trixa's on it.

The politics of Heaven and Hell get even more complicated in this one, and our Trixa is right in the middle of it. As always.

This one does not let you down. It builds and builds and the payoff at the end is magnificent.

Andi says

Like the first Trickster novel by Rob Thurman, this book is a roller-coaster ride--one of those coasters that drags you up the first long hill, building anticipation to the heights, then drops you over the top and never lets up for the rest of the ride--with lots of unexpected twists and turns along the way to keep you clinging to your seat.

The stakes are ramped higher this outing, although that almost seems impossible. But if you've read the first book, you know our heroine is laboring under the burden of a little extra vulnerability--as is her friend-with-sexual-tension Leo. But she's still Trixa. Still facing the world with no illusions, with snark as a shield, and with a surprising amount of compassion. Still very much the Trickster who needs to exercise her calling, and sometimes needs to save the world--usually by kicking something's ass with her bright red, high-heeled boots. The threat in this adventure is almost overwhelming and Trixa's response is beyond clever and audacious.

Trixa's boys--Zeke and Griffin--are back, of course, with new challenges of their own to face, together. Sexy demon Eligos returns as well to cause havoc. And there's a new angel in town who may be more trouble than a roomful of demons. Then there is the delightful surprise visit from Ishiah the peri--and if you don't know who that is, you need to be reading the Cal Leandros books. (You need to be reading them anyway!)

Rob Thurman's supernatural world is stunningly unique. Mythology, as her characters often note, usually gets it wrong. In my opinion, Rob gets it right. Her slightly skewed and deliciously twisted version of all things supernatural is a constant delight that sets me to rubbing my hands and giggling evilly.

There's a huge amount of fun to be had following Trixa and her friends. So strap in for the ride and don't expect to get off until it's over. Then start clamoring for more!

Shelley says

Things to know about this story;

Trickster Trixa Iktomi is now human and no longer able to shape-shift after taking down Solomon, the one most responsible killing her brother. So, now she has no ability to shape shift, or escape trouble like she did before the events of Trick of the Light. She has to remain human for 4-5 years.

Leo, aka the God Loki, also is mostly human, but at least he can still shift into his alter ego, a raven like bird called Lenore. (Think Poe).

Griffin is dealing with the fact that he is a former demon who was placed in Eden House to spy on the Angels but didn't know that until the events of TOTL. He also doesn't really like himself and tries to prove that he's worthy by going out secretly and killing demons. Call it a show of redemption on his part.

His partner, in every single meaning of the word, Zeke, is a fallen angel who has turned his back on Heaven. That makes him an abomination in the eyes of the Angel of Death Azrael, who makes an appearance in this book.

The storyline revolves around the fact that a major God named Cronus, is taking down the Demons of Las Vegas in order to put together a road map directly to Lucifer's doorstep and Eli demands that Trixa help find a way to stop him from succeeding.

As we pick up the book, he has already killed over 900 demons, and wants more. He wants to take down Hell, and that would lead to a direct assault on the other worlds; including earth, as well.

Adding Thor to the mix did absolutely NOTHING for the storyline except to show that he's a drunkard who can't die no matter how many times you shoot him, or throw him out of a car. The part where Trixa shoots him several times, was that supposed to be comedy relief? Not sure what the point was in that bit.

The one thing about Trixa's character is that she doesn't give alot away. She tells a story, but leaving out major parts in order to keep the reader engaged, is a nice hook, and it works.

I personally thought that TOTL was better, but there were parts of this book that were very well done.

Devann says

A trickster, a Norse god, and an ex- angel and demon walk into a bar ...

It sounds like the beginning of a great joke and an even better series but honestly it's just underwhelming. I thought this book would be better than the first because everyone's real identities were out in the open and we could finally get down to business, but unfortunately it was just as run-of-the-mill as before.

I think one of the big problems is that Thurman doesn't usually write from a woman's POV [out of like 15

books, these are the only two] and you would think that that wouldn't really matter since she is herself a woman [yes, Rob is short for Robyn], but it just comes out so forced and overdone that's incredibly grating. Like, I haven't forgotten Trixa is a woman, you don't need to remind me every five pages about her hair or her heels or her weight problems or what men she thinks are attractive. Not to mention how weirdly stereotypical the whole "I can like guns AND high-heels too!" thing is.

The side characters don't really feel very fleshed out either. Zeke and Griffin are completely two-dimensional, to the point where actually I forgot several times during the narrative that they're dating now and had a 'wait, what?' moment. And Leo ...or should I say 'Loki'. Ugh. Listen, I love Loki so much but Leo is no Loki. I think that might be what is most disappointing to me in this series because usually I like her take on different creatures/characters, but she took my favorite one and make him soooo booooooring.

Honestly I only read this series so I could say I had read all her books so I would recommend anyone who isn't a completionist to skip it. If you like the Cal Leandros series then Ishiah makes a small cameo here, but it's honestly not worth it. Also now I'm trying to figure out the timeline between this and Robin's party that Loki goes to in the Leandros series and things are just not adding up so I'm more confused than ever... Oh well, A for effort I guess.

Crystal says

Sequel to Trick of the Light, don't try to read this book if you haven't read the first. You really will have a very hard time catching up to speed. If I have any complaints about this book it's that at times it's almost too fast paced. Lots of sarcasm and humor mixed in with the drama and violence so it doesn't feel heavy. I must say that the plotting in this series is excellent-you really don't expect the twist at the end but after it happens you see where the author laid the groundwork. I was equally surprised both with this book and it's predecessor. Her characterization is just awesome. I loved all of her characters-good and bad alike. They were all textured and dynamic and she really shows that the good guys aren't always so good and the bad guys aren't always all bad. She mixes mythologies expertly with modern day so it almost seems plausible.

I'm not such a big fan of this author's attitude as evidenced by some of her rants on her blog but I can't fault her work. She is genuinely amusing and snarky and a real genius when it comes plotting. This book may have one of the tightest plots out of any book that I have read this year. She had stated earlier in the year that this would be the last book in the series because the first book didn't make enough money, not sure if that is still the case but it's a shame if this series does end.

Elizabeth says

DNF did not start really, to be honest. I just couldn't get past all the blathering at the beginning, most of which I could barely understand, despite having not long finished the first book in the series. I just can't be bothered pushing on with this book, or any more in the series

Jennifer Harper says

Trixa, Leo, Griffin and Zeke are back!!

Someone is killing demons by the hundreds and Eligos goes to Trixa to find the answer. The answer turns out to be horrifying. Cronus, the last Titan, is using demon wings to form a map to get to Hell and Lucifer, and his end game is to take over not just the World, but all the worlds. What's a trickster turned human to do? What she does best, of course. Trick!

A great book #2 in Thurman's Trickster series. Compelling characters and a plot that will keep you guessing, plus you get to enjoy Trixa's smart-assery. Fun read with a sassy female lead, plus demons and angels to boot. Enjoy!

Joyce says

Good story but a lot of repetitious description all the way through.

P.S. well this stinks. There are no more books in this series. BOO!!!

P. S. apparently this is a spinoff from her other series. I didn't know that. Guess I will be reading that series as I have it downstairs. How weird is that??
