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Magnus Chase And The Gods Of Asgard, Book 1: The Sword Of Summer



Synopsis

Magnus Chase has always been a troubled kid. Since his mother's mysterious death, he's lived alone on the streets of Boston, surviving by his wits, keeping one step ahead of the police and the truant officers. One day, he's tracked down by an uncle he barely knows—a man his mother claimed was dangerous. Uncle Randolph tells him an impossible secret: Magnus is the son of a Norse god. The Viking myths are true. The gods of Asgard are preparing for war. Trolls, giants and worse monsters are stirring for doomsday. To prevent Ragnarok, Magnus must search the Nine Worlds for a weapon that has been lost for thousands of years. When an attack by fire giants forces him to choose between his own safety and the lives of hundreds of innocents, Magnus makes a fatal decision. Sometimes, the only way to start a new life is to die . . .

Book Information

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Age Range: 10 - 13 years

Grade Level: 5 - 9

Customer Reviews

I'm a huge Rick Riordan fan and I've been waiting for this book for a while, those who have been waiting as well won't be disappointed. I'm personally impressed; I know that the structure of the story is going to be similar to others of Riordan, but even with the structure similar, it's still a page turner, but this time in the context of Norse mythology. It initially appears to be a long book, but, it is an easy read that goes fast; I didn't want to put it down and read it in one

night. For those who are not familiar with Rick Riordan's writings, this is a perfectly fine book to jump into Riordan's fantasy world, there is no benefit gained in having read his other books that deal with heroes from Greek, Roman, or Egyptian mythology. The characters stand alone in their identities and are all affiliated with Norse mythology. The protagonist, Magnus, is quickly discovered in the story to have a background not quite like others, more so in his parenting and lineage; his father is a Norse god. As a result of this lineage, there are obligations that Magnus is thrust with, and the story is a modern day interaction of Magnus through components of Norse mythology, ranging from characters to weaponry of the ancient belief system. The story is told with humor, but also does a great job in outlining and establishing some of the belief systems of Norse mythology, such as the pantheon of the gods and goddesses. The characters have a different personality, much like those we meet out of Camp Jupiter vs. Camp Half Blood. The story takes place in Norse mythology, which I personally do not have as strong of a familiarity with, and allowed for a new sense of novelty in the story that has the format of hero discovered, hero goes to a camp, and hero goes on quest.

Oh man. First of all, I just want to say ten thousand thank yous to Tiemen and the American Book Center for making it possible for me to read this early. It might very well be the most exciting review copy I've ever had the honor of receiving. Those who know me will probably know that Uncle Rick is one of my absolute favorite authors. His mix of fantasy, adventure, mythology, and humor just steals my heart every single time. And *The Sword of Summer* is no different. *The Sword of Summer* is the start of a new series based around Norse mythology. Now, while I know quite a bit about Greek mythology, I would not say the same about the Norse myths – at least, definitely not before reading this book. But readers who are similarly unaware as I was will quickly discover just how much traditional fantasy stories rely on Norse mythology. The races of elves and dwarves (à la *The Lord of the Rings*), the concept of a world tree connecting different dimensions (à la *Tales of Symphonia* – for me. Tales fans represent!), and certain names found in fantasy RPGs – like Ragnarok, Midgard, Asgard, Yggdrasil – these all stem from Norse mythology. And as is Riordan's forte, he helps to fill in the blanks and teach you about so many other aspects whilst simultaneously building an awesome adventure. Now, one of my absolute favorite things about Riordan's storytelling has always been his sense of humor. The *Percy Jackson* books will forever remain near and dear to my heart just because of how much laughter and joy they brought to me. In the case of *The Heroes of Olympus*, that was a bit less. There was more distance, less humor, and less voice.

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