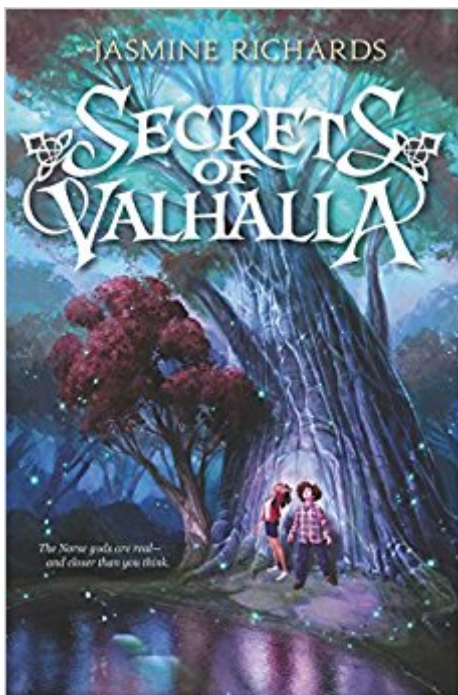


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Secrets Of Valhalla



Synopsis

"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.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 690 (What's this?)

Series: Secrets of Valhalla (Book 1)

Hardcover: 320 pages

Publisher: HarperCollins (January 19, 2016)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0062010093

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Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 5 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #852,128 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #129 in Books > Children's Books > Fairy Tales, Folk Tales & Myths > Norse #186 in Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Explore the World > Middle East #547 in Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Explore the World > Europe

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

Customer Reviews

"The combination of adventure, appealing characters, and high stakes should satisfy middle-grade fantasy fans." (Kirkus) "Richards excels at weaving stories that mesh the real, modern world and classic mythologies. Readers will clamor for more, especially those who loved Rick Riordan's Norse-themed *The Sword of Summer*." (Booklist) "A worthy addition to the

recent Norse mythology kick, particularly as it includes some aspects and figures that have been underrepresented to date. • (Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books)

Jasmine Richards was born in London, grew up in a library, and was the first in her family to go to university. After graduating from Oxford she had a brief stint at New Scotland Yard, then chose a career in publishing over being the next Sherlock Holmes. Today Jasmine is a senior editor at a leading British publishing house and living in Oxfordshire with her husband in an old wool mill. The Book of Wonders is her first novel, and she would love to know what you think about it.

This is such a cute little book for children! I originally purchased this for a completely different reason that was actually work related, but when I read through the book I found that I loved it! I love the perspective that offers young readers on ancient mythology and how it puts it all on a level that they understand- great read for young minds!

What could go wrong for the small town hiding sleeping Norse gods? Just everything. Fun, fast paced story that made me want to study Norse mythology.

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 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 guardians 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.

Jasmine Richards, author of the enchanting BOOK OF WONDERS, has penned a mythological masterpiece in the form of her new book, SECRETS OF VALHALLA. Buzz leads an ordinary life. Aside from his father's eclectic love of mythology, Buzz's days are filled with school and soccer games. That is, until he meets the quirky new girl, Mary. Buzz's acceptance of odd personalities draws Mary to seek out his friendship, and she happily accompanies him on his trip home from school. Along the way, Buzz and Mary stumble upon missing local weather woman, Eleanor Bright. Tied to a tree, Eleanor pleads for the duo's help in freeing her from this hostile predicament. Little do they know how much this small act of kindness will change everything. Eleanor quickly informs Buzz and Mary that she is, in fact, an ancient Norse god named Sunna. Long ago, Sunna and a collection of gods and goddesses known as the day guardians engaged in a battle against Loki, the trickster god of Saturday. Though the day guardians won and imprisoned Loki, the battle left these mighty figures exhausted and nearly powerless. A prophecy issued by the head god, Odin, predicted that Loki and the day guardians would face off again. In order to better their chances, the guardians deposited their powers into a collection of stones known as the Runes of Valhalla, and allowed their sleeping souls to travel down the bloodlines of their most faithful followers. The day guardians now rest in an enchanted sleep within these host bodies. With Sunna unexpectedly held hostage by a sinister dragon, it is up to Buzz and Mary to gather the protected runes and awaken the sleeping gods. After all, without some otherworldly interference, the human realm will rot from the chaos of reliving the same Saturday over and over again. During this wild quest, Buzz and Mary encounter a series of challenges (including a giant worm of knowledge and a group of bewildered merfolk) that tests their sense of

bravery and ability to face unforeseen threats. Armed with just their sense of courage, Mary and Buzz will do whatever it takes to save their loved ones from the decaying human realm. But will their bravery be enough to save the day? This modern-day mythological gem is a wild ride from start to finish. The author masterfully navigates Buzz and Mary through a host of imaginative and engrossing adventures that keep you on the edge of your seat. Through her thrilling odysseys, Richards will undoubtedly entrust the new generation of readers with a love of mythology. I cannot wait to see what this tremendous talent comes up with next. Reviewed by Christi Sheehan

I received a free review copy in exchange for an honest review. This is part of what I think of as "mythology fan fiction" along the lines of Rick Riordan. However, unlike those releases, this one combines deities from both Norse and Roman legends. Of course Loki plays a huge role in the mischief, but he doesn't play quite the role you think. And while some of the plot points will be predictable for older readers, I was genuinely surprised and in many places touched by Richards' insights. I also chuckled over how she has some of the gods adapt to modern circumstances. Oh, those clever gods... The quest of the two main characters is the real draw though. Both are easy to relate to in their own ways: Buzz, the Every Boy who can't relate to his father and Mary, the awkward, perpetual new kid who has to hide what makes her unique in order to survive. You quickly root for the both of them even when they're in conflict. Not everything worked perfectly, but what didn't stuck out because most of it worked so well. The end wraps up very nicely. I'd happily read more from Richards.

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