



Persephone

Kaitlin Bevis

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Daughters of Zeus, Book One

One day Persephone is an ordinary high school junior working at her mom's flower shop in Athens, Georgia. The next she's fighting off Boreas, the brutal god of Winter, and learning that she's a bonafide goddess—a rare daughter of the now-dead Zeus. Her goddess mom whisks her off to the Underworld to hide until Spring.

There she finds herself under the protection of handsome Hades, the god of the dead, and she's automatically married to him. It's the only way he can keep her safe. Older, wiser, and far more powerful than she, Hades isn't interested in becoming her lover, at least not anytime soon. But every time he rescues her from another of Zeus's schemes, they fall in love a little more. Will Hades ever admit his feelings for her?

Can she escape the grasp of her powerful dad's minions? The Underworld is a very cool place, but is it worth giving up her life in the realm of the living? Her goddess powers are developing some serious, kick-butt potential. She's going to fight back.

Persephone Details

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From Reader Review Persephone for online ebook

Summer says

It seems like I've been constantly let-down with all the attempts of Greek mythology retellings. Namely, The Goddess Test series, Everbound, and now, Persephone.

I'm not exactly sure what made me dislike this book. It was either the stupidly simple plot, the characters, or even the absence of anything remotely interesting. It was likely a combination of the above, and along with the mediocre writing, leading to my disliking of this book.

Generally, it never really felt like anything was at stake. Ya, Persephone successfully (view spoiler), but this was fairly easy, when I was expecting, based on the characters' explanations, a difficult and life-threatening task.

The fact that everything was predictable as heck also caused me to not take this book seriously.

The writing was atrocious at worst, mediocre at best. Let's take a few examples, shall we?

"She rolled her eyes to show her opinion of that particular dieting method."

Well, DUH, if you roll your eyes, OBVIOUSLY you're showing your opinion.

I peered past her out the window, grinning so she knew I was joking."

The second parts of those sentences were merely unnecessary and annoying and were just one of those DUH moments. The book was full of these. I found myself making this face quite a bit while reading *Persephone*:

Hades was... Bleh. A disgrace to Greek mythology and all the badass gods we expect from it. His relationship with Persephone is kind of unbelievable and I didn't feel very impressed by it as everyone else seems to be. The protagonist was naive and stupid and I never found myself sympathizing with her.

Why is this book appealing to most? I've no idea. I certainly found it very unappealing. Excuse me while I go diligently search for an entertaining Greek mythology book.

If you are looking for a good book on Greek myth, go read some of Rick Riordan's books. Don't make the same mistake I made.

Suzanne says

I loved this book. Greek mythology is a favorite of mine and Bevis wrote a fascinating book here. I will continue on with the series for sure.

Brittney ~ Reverie and Ink says

2.5 stars. I'm a sucker for anything Hades/Persephone, so naturally I had to give this one a go. I liked the general idea/concept behind the plot, but I think the dialogue was what threw me off the most. Everyone talked very predictably... very teenager-like? Hah yes I know that isn't a word. The general idea was awesome and I loved the villain concept.. but it just fell short in the execution phase.

Hades was definitely awesome (like when is he not?!) But I just can't see why he fell for this version of Persephone. She was just boring imo.. very childish. Not just immature... but no allure to her. She didn't stand out to me. So on that front, I was a little disappointed by their "romance." I just wanted more from them.

That being said- the world was cool and the plot wasn't all bad. Definitely had some moments. The ending was set up enough that I'll continue to the next book... I hear it gets pretty emotional. SOOO cheers to book two?

Dani says

There's something so compelling and timeless about the Persephone/Hades romance – the beauty falling in love with the beast – as I choose to read the story as though she did end up falling for him over time. You know, despite the whole caveman club-her-over-the-head-and-drag-her-back-to-his-hovel/palace/Underworld-and-force-her-to-stay-there bit. Perhaps it's the idea of such polar opposites attracting, of finding redemption in another's love, of compromise, of coming to a deeper understanding of a person despite misconceptions or preconceptions, of loving someone enough to let them go, or perhaps it's the idea of a hard-won, though slightly tragic, love that flourishes despite the odds. And more than likely it's a combination of all of those things. But whatever the reason, it's a romance that remains one of my favorites.

In Kaitlin Bevis's retelling, the setting is modern day and it's as though this particular myth hasn't yet happened. Persephone, 16, has been raised by her mother as a human with no knowledge of her powers or her divine heritage. Living in Athens, GA, Persephone attends a normal high school, pals around with her bestie Melissa, and loves her part-time job at her mother's flower shop, Demeter's Garden. But when strange, unexplainable events begin occurring around her, she learns that she's a goddess going through goddess growing pains. But her new-found, uncontrolled powers begin attracting attention from the wrong sort of... people, putting Persephone in unimaginable danger. When Hades – yes, that Hades – intervenes during a kidnapping attempt, Persephone's life just gets a little crazier when she discovers that to save her from an unimaginable fate, Hades had to do the also unthinkable and claim her as his queen.

Sixteen, a goddess who hasn't fully come into her powers, and married to the Lord of the Underworld.

Yeah.

Who saw that coming? Not Persephone, surely.

Her world having been turned upside down, Persephone must begin to adjust to her new reality as she comes to certain realizations about herself, her capabilities, her feelings for Hades, and who it is that controls her fate.

The girl & the goddess. Persephone is a very endearing and empathetic character – a goddess, but also a normal, authentic teenage girl with the usual assortment of teenage worries and insecurities. Bevis strikes a fantastic balance between Persephone's human-born innocence and naivete and her goddess-like maturity and inner strength. She's sweet, not naturally confrontational or very outgoing, and she has a compassion and love for people that isn't common among the Greek deities. However, meeting Hades brings out a very different side of Persephone – being around him causes her to be more tenacious, stubborn and more aggressive than she was prior to their meeting. It's a gradual change, and it's so fun to see this teenager goddess go toe-to-toe up against this ageless, immortal, slightly terrifying being... and hold her own to boot. Her growth as a character is wonderful as she undergoes the typical, and yet not-so-typical, foundational moments of growing up – discovering who she is, who she wants to become, and who her responsibilities dictate she must be.

The Lord of the Underworld. Hades as a viable YA love interest? Yeah. Challenging. I mean, with a literary legacy spanning thousands of years, plus his title and reputation, he's not exactly bring-'im-home-to-meet-the-parents kind of material. You don't give Hades a curfew by which he must have your teenage daughter home by, right? That's just asking to be smited? Smote? Smitten? My poor verb tense knowledge aside, there would most likely be smiting involved.

And yet, this Hades is different than the various incarnations I've read or seen over the years. While still retaining that dark, slightly sadistic side, that impressively intimidating divine otherness, and a healthy dose of entitled arrogance, Hades – at heart – isn't such a bad guy. Though he's nowhere near a "bleeding heart," Hades is a fair ruler, and surprisingly understanding toward those who reside in the Underworld. Seems as though a little humanity, the tragedy of death, or the profound sense of loss felt by those souls who've been sent to his realm has made a bit of an impression over time. As with Persephone, Hades character strikes just the right tone between the human and the divine, and it's not hard to see why Persephone could possibly fall for him.

A May-December romance. Or more accurately, a November-April romance, but you know what I mean. Updating this particular love story for modern times has the potential to be tricky. Firstly, the age gap. Though he might look like a early-twenty-something A&F model, Hades is still... well... ancient. He's been around the block countless times, and if there was ever a confirmed bachelor who was set in his ways... Hades would be it. However, despite the obvious age difference and contrast in life experience, Bevis creates a romance between these two that is believable. Hades might have several thousand years on Persephone, but she can certainly hold her own against him. She challenges him, and it would appear as if that's something that hasn't happened in quite awhile... if ever. Persephone brings out a rare vulnerability in Hades while he brings out the fire and fight in her, and it's really interesting to watch their relationship progress as they're

forced to be in close proximity to one another, slowly seeing the other for who they truly are.

Now some of you savvy readers might be wondering... ok, what about the fact in the original myth that Hades is technically Persephone's uncle? You know brother of Zeus... and she's Zeus' kid? 'Tis dealt with. Your 21st century sensibilities will not be offended I assure you. **wink**

Persehone 2.0. One of the reasons I enjoyed this story so much is because while it retells and reinvents the original myth, the story we're familiar with is only the tip of the iceberg. In this version, Persephone's stint in the Underworld is the beginning of a much bigger, more complicated plot. While this book deals largely within the confines of the original myth, Bevis lays some fantastic groundwork for the next book, right up to the "OMGOSH!" of a cliffhanger ending. I am so very curious to see how all of this plays out in Daughter of the Earth and Sky.

Overall. Holding to the spirit of the original myth, Kaitlin Bevis successfully expands upon the story of Hades & Persephone, reinventing, modernizing and weaving a romance and plot that is both compelling and timeless.

Lauren says

I love retellings of stories and especially about mythology so I was extremely excited to read this. I wasn't disappointed!

I loved the characters. Persephone's voice really shows through and her own personality was able to shine through. Hades personality was surprising in a good way; he has his own reasons for doing what he did. Hades did not do everything right but it was for the right reasons. I like the build up of the love story and not having it happen all at once in a love-at-first-sight situation. Both of their characters were able to develop and grow throughout the story.

Note: I received this book from the author in exchange for an honest review.

Also on <http://lrjohnson13.blogspot.com/2012/...>

Hufflepuff_princess says

I have so many books that i loved, but never actually took the time to review. This book however is different, this book is by far the most amazing, well written and exciting books i have ever read! I highly recommend this book to anyone who likes romance, action, bad boys or even adventure.

Jess says

As you might have guessed by my nickname, I love mythology and I am especially fascinated by Hades and Persephone's myth. Therefore I was really, *really* excited about this book but at the same time, wary because I've already read a few modern rewritings of this myth and they were downright terrible (The Goddess Test, anyone? Diddn't think a book could make me feel that angry).

And this is undoubtedly the best rewriting I've read so far.

The characters were well-written.

Persephone doesn't care for being a damsel in distress and takes matter into her own hands. Her reaction to the whole "hey you're a goddess" is not downplayed at all, like it usually is, and quite realistic I've found. I loved Cassandra in the beginning, I found her hilarious because she was always rectifying Hades - she made me actually giggle. Hades is alright but quite different from what I'd thought : the author slightly changed the myth. This Hades is not really the "bad guy" of the story, he actually "kidnaps" Persephone so that she can stay safe in the Underworld from the real bad guy, a psychopath and serial rapist : Boreas, God of Winter. At first, it slightly unsettled me but I realised that I don't really want to read a love story with an abusive and pedophile Hades... So that's actually for the better!

Speaking of the love story, this one mercifully avoided the classic "insta-love" situation. Persephone seems particularly unimpressed by Hades at first and only learns to like him and eventually love him with time, upon seeing how he rules on the Underworld. Also, I found quite mature (view spoiler). It was really refreshing compared to the cheesy stuff you usually see in YA.

Another aspect of the story I really liked : the transformation of the Gods in the modern world. Honestly, that was just GREAT. It was just as good as Percy Jackson. The more I read about it, the more I thought "omg this is awesome, THIS IS AWESOME.". Everything just made a lot of sense and there were no loose ends or discrepancies.

The writing style was clear, and honestly I prefer a book with a nice, classic writing style than a book where the author tried to be poetic but ended up making it look ridiculous. The dialogues were quite witty and made me giggle sometimes and the Twilight references under the name "Dusk" really amused me.

Another aspect of the book I really appreciated, speaking of Twilight, is that they never downplayed the importance of the age difference between Hades and Persephone. It didn't feel like it was just a momentary hindrance to increase the sexual tension and anticipation, it felt like it was a real problem that Hades (and the author) carefully considered so that it wouldn't be creepy. Honestly, these days I've read so much YA where seriously wrong and unhealthy relationship were glorified that I just *have* to highlight how this book was a breath of fresh air compared to them because it avoided these pitfalls.

I am so glad it didn't disappoint me and I really can't wait for the second installment in the series!

Rukhsana Sukhan says

OMG!!!! LOVE, LOVE, LOVE this book. 6 stars out of 5 for sure! I can hardly wait for the second book in this series!!!!

How can I write a review that does justice to this book? I LOVE this book. It grabbed me from the first page and did not let go. Actually, it still hasn't, since now I'm pining away for the sequel! Thru this book, Kaitlin Bevis has taken the epic and sometimes far-removed stories of Greek Mythology and transformed it into a Young Adult novel that has wide appeal.

Well written, with a sound plot, the book made some turns I wasn't expecting. I love that this is a character-driven story. The story is told from Persephone's POV and this connects the reader in a intimate way to her story. I love that Persephone's flaws drive the plot and how, sometimes, even trusting too readily can sometimes be a character flaw. The fact that gods cannot lie throws a wrench into things sometimes, making promises things that must be kept, even if solicited via trickery.

I love the characters, think the way Bevis has personified the Greek gods is pure brilliance. Hades, ruler of the Underworld, is actually a pleasant and quite handsome chap. Who would have guessed? Seems counter-intuitive, right? Well, that's what makes it so clever! The characters are real, multidimensional and make the book feel like an alternate plain of existence that readers can just slip into as they read the words.

This book was a freakin' fabulous read. It was so cool being in Persephone's mind as she tried to wrap her head around the fact that she's a goddess and the daughter of Demeter and Zeus. And also to follow her throughout the book and watch her come into her own, as an individual, as a goddess and as queen of the Underworld. The book ends by giving us a taste ~ first chapter ~ of the sequel. It's quite a tease, actually. And I can hardly wait.

Suzanne Rogers says

This book is a contemporary, re-imagined take on the Persephone mythology. Beautiful Persephone is raised on Earth, without any idea who she is. When she's about to turn seventeen, strange things begin to happen. I enjoyed the developing relationship between her and Hades, who is much more the good guy here than in most other literary depictions I've read. I especially enjoyed the descriptions of the Underworld. I'm looking forward to the sequel, to see what Persephone is really capable of!

Treece says

Rating: 3 1/2 stars

I took my own sweet time reading this book simply because I could. The best part of this book is the world building. Also the remaking of Greek gods, goddess and persons associated, such as Helen of Troy. Persephone is only 16, true, but she is also a whiny annoying cry-baby. I got sick of her constant pity parties. When the mean girls at the school weren't picking on her, then the meanies in the Underworld were being mean, or Hades was the worst meanie of them all to her. Actually, I like Hades and the others better than her. I would read the series to see happens to Hades but that would be investing more money in a series I am ambivalent about. So no go. I can spend time and money on better books, some of which are free.

Shay J says

HOLY HADES THIS WAS PHENOMENAL!

Stop what you are doing. Do you like Greek Mythology? Particularly Persephone and Hades retellings... Have you read so many that have left you unimpressed? Well look no further, Kaitlin Bevis has created an amazing world surrounding our favourite greek gods and goddess that will know your socks off.

“Families think they know what’s best for you. Your friends let you figure that out for yourself.”

This book worked for me in *every* way, it had great characters with individual development, the romance department was on point and of course some killer twists that had me reaching for book two immediately.

I’ve always loved the tale of P&H but it often doesn’t get the fantastic writing the story deserves...Whether because of insta-love or just general boring writing, I don’t often feel satisfied. I went in to this with a wary heart but damn I am glad I gave it a try.

So lets get straight to it.

Pro’s:

No insta-love per say, I can’t say anything because of spoilers, but lets say I approve of the heroine in this so much. She is strong and just wonderful. And she held her own against Hades.

“At my disbelieving look he sighed again. I thought about offering him an inhaler, but he continued.”

Often huge age gaps are ignored (between 16 year olds and a [thousands, maybe more] year old.), a lot of books ignore the fact that a huge age gap can change things in a relationship. Maturity being the most obvious one. What I loved about this book is it was never glorified, i was never creeped out, Hades was a gem. He was considerate and the one to keep things appropriate because of her age. He wanted her to be wise enough to make her own decisions. There was nothing pervy about their situation.

Hades is dark and mysterious but I never disagreed with his choices. He was a fantastic hero, couldn’t have asked for a better one. Did I mention how great Persephone also was? *I looooooooooooooved how her personality grew and flourished.*

“Charm me into giving you the red M&Ms. They’re my favorite.”
I looked Hades in the eyes. ‘Give me the red M&Ms.’
‘Still not good enough.’
‘Give me the damn M&Ms,’ I snapped.
He snickered. ‘That wasn’t very charming.’”

There was a great set of side characters; Cassandra, Helen of Troy, Thantos, and so many more. The mythology was fantastic, well described and very unique from other books I’ve encountered. Particularly the description of the Underworld and souls within it.

Hades reading psychology books to understand the souls that die better was so heartwarming.

THAT ENDING. OMG. Did not see it coming at all!

Con's:

The beginning was a little bizarre but quickly fixed itself as she was taken to the Underworld. It felt like there were a few scenes that happened so quickly that I was confused but I think the author was trying to keep up the pace.

I wanted more, why wasn't it longer!?

THAT ENDING.

...And on to book two!

(review edited and I added some fun quotes)

Victoria says

Everyone secretly wished they were special. But in all my dreams of discovering I was a superhero, or a witch, or maybe even a princess, I'd never gone as far as goddess.

takes a deep breath THIS IS ONE OF THE BEST HADES PERSEPHONE RETELLINGS I'VE EVER READ.

Persephone is a normal teenage girl that loves plants, has a supportive best friend and a loving mother. But Boreas, the God of Winter wants her, so Hades takes her to the Underworld for her protection.

Persephone is just so... perfect. Yes, she's innocent and naive sometimes but she has a personality. She gets angry, she questions things, she cares about the dead people and while she appreciates being protected she doesn't like being coddled. She wants to train and be ready for whatever happens.

Hades is never a douchebag or distant or truly evil. He's not Satan. I like his character a lot. Their relationship reminded me a lot of Feyre and Rhys in ACOMAF: they talk, train and respect each other. They banter and have different views but at the end of the day they are equals.

I JUST LOVE THEM OKAY!!

Also the Underworld is not a super dark place or a cave, I like how original this take of this place was. There are many awesome side characters too, and they become close to Persephone (yep, she has female friends!)

I'm glad that I ignored the cover and synopsis, because this is a truly awesome book.

Julia (ten_thousand_books) says

"See, I had a vision-" Cassandra began.

"Always visions with you," Thanatos groaned.

"- that Persephone was in trouble. So I calmly told Hades-"

"If by calm you mean bursting into the throne room shrieking like a banshee," Hades teased.

"I do not shriek," Cassandra said indignantly.

"Anyone who comes down here with the intention to do you harm will regret it."

"Ah yes," Cassandra teased. "Charon could do something really helpful, like hit them with an oar."

"Hey! I'm the self-defense guru! Remember?"

"He could always talk them to death," Thanatos said.

Okay. I kinda knew I would like this book from the start. The characters are honestly hilarious and I may have laughed out loud a few times. They are basically like a big weird family and I love it!

"What happened? What did he do?" Thanatos took a few steps at a run over the grass- covered hill until he reached my side.

I thought Thanatos was a pretty awesome guy! He would be the friend that I would love to have. This big guy who has a soft heart.

But everyone has their secrets.

"Don't be afraid of me," he pleaded. "Not you. I never wanted to hurt you. I'm sorry."

Okay y'all. Hades is a heartthrob on this book. I'll admit it without embarrassment. I love him. He was funny and loveable and at times a little arrogant and full of himself but he was also charming.

On to the second one!

5/5 Mythical Stars! <3

Feb 24- 5 Stars

April 8- 4 Stars

✕Tabby✕ says

THE REVIEW

Why this book?

I am a sucker for anything with Greek mythology

What I thought

Like I said I am a sucker for anything with Greek mythology. I especially love the tale of Persephone and Hades, so when I saw this was modern day version I had to read it. Sad to say I was disappointed Persephone is your run of the mill female protagonist. I couldn't connect with her and she annoyed me at times with her actions. Hades on the other hand was dark yet soft at times totally swoonworthy. Their relationship though was lacking at times I was like swoon and then I like damn where did that come from when he totally ripped into her. Gotta admit I agreed with him though she did some stupid shit. Overall it was an okay read. I'll give the next book a try then I'll make my decision if I'm going to continue with this series.

Tanja (Tanychy) St. Delphi/James says

Review posted at Ja ?itam, a ti?

You've all heard about ancient myths, yeah I did to. I've heard about them a lot but about Persephone I haven't heard of before. So I should start this with thank you note, cause today I've learned something new and I'm grateful for that.

I, as a real geek, did my research so it took me by surprise how the author did really good job by creating the story out of it. Just so you know the myth has some similarities but here the story fits better in our time. Here the story has been written in a way that you can relate to the gods and feel them. They're not that mysterious creatures that live far away, they're beings with feelings and you can walk with them through the story. I won't tell you more about the story cause the blurb tells enough. But I really did like the story only the problem is relationship between Persephone and Hades cause it was rushed in my opinion. I couldn't see it or feel it for the matter to develop and that's the only thing that bothers me here. Yes I know that's the thing with gods, but problem is the story is set in present time so I guess the relationships should be too.

All in all I'd like to read the second book cause I see that there is a lot of interesting things I'm yet to learn about.

Now please excuse me while I go and ready myths until my head blows.
