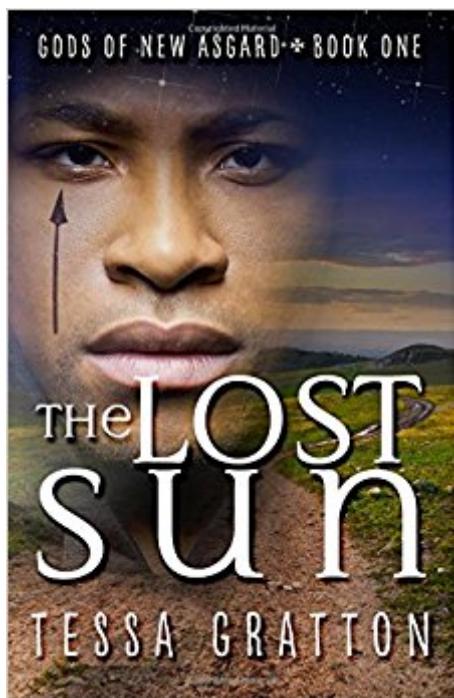


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# The Lost Sun (The Gods Of New Asgard) (Volume 1)



## Synopsis

Fans of Neil Gaiman's American Gods and Holly Black's The Curse Workers will embrace this Norse-mythology-infused USA in book one of Gods of New Asgard. Seventeen-year-old Soren Bearskin fears both the past and the future. His father, a famed berserker warrior, went to prison after killing thirteen innocent people during a mindless battle-frenzy. Berserking is in Soren's blood, too: constant fevers and insomnia promise the power will explode in him any day. He's terrified of himself. When Baldur — Odin's son and the god of light — vanishes, Odin offers a boon to any who bring him news of his son. Soren sees his chance to change his fate: with that boon, he could ask Odin to strip berserking out of him forever. Along with Astrid Glyn, a teen prophet who's dreamed of Baldur's location, Soren takes off on a road trip across the United States of Asgard in search of the lost god and a new future. "A moving and original romance." — Publisher Weekly "Strong writing and an inventive recasting of mythological characters combine to create an evocative, romantic adventure." — Kirkus Reviews

## Book Information

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Age Range: 12 - 17 years

Grade Level: 7 and up

## Customer Reviews

Gr 8 Up — Soren Bearskin and Astrid Glyn meet for the first time at a boarding school in an

alternative America with places called Nebrasge and Colorada. Soren is a berserker who wants to resist his destiny to be a fighter. Astrid is a seethkona, a seer, whose famous mother has recently died. Everyone in the country is watching the television when the god of light, Baldur, does not rise from the dead for his yearly renewal. Astrid decides to seek him out, and she enlists Soren for the mission. They find him, and the journey to return him to his father without being followed is where most of the action takes place. The protagonists learn that the gods are manipulating the annual ritual to suit their needs. Soren and Astrid become romantically attached, and many sacrifices have to be made for them to deliver Baldur safely to his home. The mix of contemporary living and technology with mythology and fantasy is jarring at first, but readers will quickly get a hang for the unusual names and attributes of the characters. Hand this to fantasy lovers who might be ready to branch out of their comfort zone. Elizabeth Kahn, Patrick F. Taylor Science & Technology Academy, Jefferson, LA (c) Copyright 2013. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Soren, doomed from the start by his berserker lineage, is falling in love with Astrid, whose own lineage carries the dark power of a seer. When Baldur, the god of light, disappears, the world is thrown into chaos. Compelled to find him, Astrid and Soren instead discover a mortal man with no memory, and in an apple orchard that holds the keys of immortality, they are torn between their love for each other and the balance of the entire world. Gratton sets up an alternate universe where Norse gods are juxtaposed with typical American life in this first novel in a new series. Clever word alterations are just familiar enough, and Soren's first-person point of view and single-minded determination to win Odin Alfather's reward for returning his beloved son gives the quest to rescue Baldur a frantic immediacy. While Astrid dreams of apples and Soren battles the berserker rage inside, they forge new alliances and a bond of friendship that puts them squarely in the path of a cat-and-mouse game played by gods. Grades 7-12. --Charli Osborne --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Welcome to the United States of Asgard where the Norse gods walk among men and play with their fates at their whims. Soren Bearskin is determined not to give in to his berserker heritage. After all, he was only eight years old when he saw his beloved father give in to the frenzy and massacre innocent bystanders at a mall. He knows that everyone at his school is afraid of what he might do and chooses to isolate himself from others. Then Astrid Glyn comes to the school and won't let him

remain in isolation. She is the only one he knows who is not afraid of him. She comes to him and says that she has seen him in her dreams. She is the daughter of a famous seether who has disappeared and is a budding seether herself who gives herself to the frenzy and sees visions. When Baldur the Beautiful fails to rise at the appointed time, Soren and Astrid are determined to find him to make the world right again. Astrid has the visions and Soren is determined to protect and help her. Both want to ask Odin Alfather for a boon for successfully returning his son to him. Astrid wants her mother back and Soren wants to get rid of all that could make him a berserker. But finding Baldur only begins their quest. Baldur has lost his memory and become mortal too. I really enjoyed getting to know something about Norse mythology in this story. I also liked the juxtaposition of modern conveniences like cell phones and the internet with the mythology. I liked the relationship between Astrid and Soren. Fans of adventure, romance, and mythology are the perfect audience for this first book in a new series.

I particularly enjoyed the narrator in this book. Soren had a complex internal conflict that was so clearly developed. I actually liked all of the characters, and that is a true rarity! The world building was engaging, and the way the author introduced aspects of Norse mythology without info dumping was pretty impressive. It was nicely paced to create the feel of a quest, and I appreciated how it had goals that were met along the way so that I wasn't left waiting foreverlong for an event to happen. I thoroughly enjoyed the book, and I don't have a single complaint. I think that my high school students would also enjoy this book, and I like the way that students of both genders can find something that will engage them. I'm added it to my classroom library.

This story is slow moving and it has a strange re-identifying of country and state names as well as the government. It describes the Norse gods and how the characters identify with them but I could not believe that 2 teens could find a missing god out of all the people in the country who were searching to get the reward. The story had weird dueling rules and some of the characters die and come back to leave messages, and I had difficulty trying to read the story to the end. I found the first half of the book tedious and unfortunately, I won't buy the next one.

One of those books I kept getting distracted from for no good reason. But really one of the most creative alternate universe fantasy books I've read in a while--a more serious Percy Jackson where everyone is in on the joke. Charming and heart breaking and solid ya

I really enjoyed this thoughtful fantasy, with lots of commentary on American militarism and warrior culture through Vikings and Norse myth. I loved Astrid--so glad to see that she gets her own book.

I have really enjoyed the recent trend in Norse mythology YA adventures, and this was a nice twist on that theme with an interesting unexpected plot and nicely developed characters. I postponed another book to read this one straight through. Looking forward to the sequels.

Loved her earlier books, so I kept at it. After a slowish start, I was hooked, and sorry when I came to the last page. Looking forward to more of her work!

This is a great Young Adult novel. I thoroughly enjoyed the Norse mythology aspect in the modern day. Adventure, romance and Norse Gods, what more can you ask for?

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