



## The Gods Among Us

*D.C. Belton*

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Pallas is a friendless teen from a backwater village on a forgotten shore. She really doesn't believe in the gods except to peevishly blame them for drowning her mother. But she's forced to shelve her moody cynicism when she accidentally rescues an obnoxious cat.

Suddenly caught in a celestial war, Pallas must do the unthinkable - champion the very goddess she hates. Masquerading as a mythic princess, she convinces everyone she's a child of Atlantis.

Yet nothing can save her from certain doom, when the Volcano god reaches out to slay her. For how can a mortal fight a god?

## **The Gods Among Us Details**

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Author : D.C. Belton

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## From Reader Review The Gods Among Us for online ebook

### Natalie says

Was very excited when I received this book in the post today. I won it through first reads Goodreads. This made my day today so thank you will post a full review when finished :)

Update 12/07/2013

Would just like to start this review by thanking D.C Belton for sending me this book through first reads on goodreads :)

Right to start with I really loved the front cover of this book im a sucker for illustrations and it is a very unique front cover made me excited to read this book. Another thing that made me excited for this book was that it was to do with god mythology. Which I love and thought it was executed really well in this book. The author puts her own spin on god mythology which I really liked. I loved Pallas as the main female lead she is a very stubborn free spirited young girl who I can see becoming a very strong character. She made me laugh in several bits with her stubbornness. Also loved othello the very sarcastic cat sidekick you are never sure what is real intentions are.

The writing was very good you can tell the author knows how to write well it flows nicely. The story is of a good pace only wished a little more had happened but I suppose it is setting for the series.

Loved the god mythology aspects of this book made it a very interesting read cant wait to read the next book and find out what happens.

Overall very good book if you are into adventure and mythology you will like this book :)

Thank you again for sending me this book

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### Leigh Thompson says

I really liked and enjoyed this book. It was a new look at gods and what they did when they still roamed the earth. I think that some parts could have been described a little more, but the parts that were described were perfect, they showed you and created the ideal image in my head. It also focused on more things than just love and betrayal. This book looked at everything besides love and betrayal, it shows you different lives, and that anything could be possible. The characters were wonderful and very different from each other, but mostly they could have been real. You could tell that each character probably has their own back story, and that everything they have learned has made them how they are. All in all it was a magical journey to a past era where everything wants to be equally balanced.

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### Kristin says

I won this book in a Goodreads First Reads giveaway.

The story is about a teen slave girl (Pallas) who finds herself in a new land, hailed as a child of Atlantis set to bring on the dawning of the Age of Aquarius (yep, like the song). Aided by her talking cat (Othello), she tries to play the part, all the while cursing the goddess Aegeia for drowning her mother.

The author does a decent job of painting a picture of a teen girl - slightly whiney, self-involved, conflicted, and desperate to belong. I wish there had been a bit more about her missing her father, in order to increase

the conflict and sympathy factor. Despite having left home suddenly (and rather accidentally), there is only a passing mention of Pallas wanting to leave the new land to reunite with her dear old dad.

This book seems to be laying the background for books to come, rather than being much of a story in itself. There was very little action, and virtually no buildup to what little action there was. Grammar and punctuation mistakes were more frequent than they should have been, including the use of "you're" instead of "your," randomly placed commas, and, in one instance, the use of "chard" instead of "charred." Quibbles, perhaps, but enough to take me out of the story every time they occurred.

All said, I would be interested in reading future stories about Pallas (and Othello) to find out how the "Age of Aquarius" turns out in the end.

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### **iamjenai says**

The Gods Among Us is the first book to the Divine Masquerade Series. The book tells the story of Pallas, a young slave girl. She hates the gods, especially Aegeia (Water Goddess) because she believes her mother died in the sea. One day, while strolling along the seashore where her mother died, she found a weird boat full of amazing gadgets, a talking cat and some dolphins that can understand her! The boat soon lands on the other side of the shore she's from and the people from Capro Bay thinks she's a child from Atlantis, a goddess that they should praise and protect. Pallas soon catches the attention of one of the gods - Mulciber, the Volcano god and now he wants to slay her.

The first quarter of the book was a slow read. I also couldn't keep track of the names of all the gods and goddesses plus the human characters mentioned in the story. The pace picked up after Pallas was introduced. I liked Pallas - she's not a typical slave girl who whines at everything. She lost her mother at an early age and because of this, she became a brave and smart girl. I loved her relationship with her dear father. I loved Othello, the talking cat, my favorite character in the story. Othello's lines were funny, I tremendously enjoyed the story because of this character. I was also intrigued by why Aegeia and the other gods took notice of Pallas when she is just a slave girl. I was thinking maybe Pallas' parents did something bad to the gods or maybe her mother is a goddess too. I loved the book and can't wait to read the second book "Whom the Gods destroyed". A must read book for lovers of Greek mythology.

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### **Jennifer Ricketts (Donnie Darko Girl) says**

I signed up for a free copy of this book to review honestly through the group We ♥ YA Books on goodreads.

I love the world the author has built as well as the characters he has created. The main character, Pallas, was easily likable though she can be stubborn at times. I really felt for her since she has lost her mom, was born a slave, and ends up in much danger; however, she is very strong and never feels sorry for herself. She accepts the challenges thrown her way and meets them head on, and I really admired that about her.

There were so many quotes from this book that I found to be so beautiful and poetic and have really stayed with me even after finishing reading. I absolutely flew through this book, hooked on the action and wanting to find out how Pallas gets herself out of the situations she finds herself in.

I was torn between liking and despising the cat she ends up rescuing. It's a mystery as to whether he's helping Pallas stay alive, or if he has devious plans and is secretly plotting against her. Also, it's very nerve wracking to watch Pallas pretend she is a princess and a child of Atlantis. I'm so afraid something is going to go wrong! Especially since I don't believe the cat can be trusted.

After reading this first book in the series, I absolutely have to read the next one. I've just got to find out what happens next!

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### **Penumbra says**

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First the cover is pretty interesting, different from most YA covers.

The book blurb gives you some of the details of the story, but it's much more complicated than just the blurb and too long to put in the review. In short, Pallas is a 'drone' another word for slave. She rescues a talking cat from the ocean and is then swept into the war between the Gods of the Elements and political houses.

This stor

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### **Midu Hadi says**

The author was kind enough to give me a free review copy.

You know those books that you just don't wanna put down? Not because there's something exciting happening in the story or it is a good story...not only that but mostly because the writing flows and the story is being told so smoothly that you just read on and on. This book was such a book.

The parts I loved the most began when Pallas is aboard the ship and meets the crew. Their humor, lightheartedness and loyalty towards each other made them lovable.

I also liked that we're set up to hate Elena in the beginning of the story but we find out she has more depth and understands political intrigue much better than her younger sisters give her credit for.

Othello, I feared and hated just like I was supposed to. Even when I laughed at his antics, I wasn't less creeped out by him!

About the gods and their machinations: a) I'm not yet sure if they're actually deities and not humans who know what opposable thumbs are, b) they just don't care whose life they ruin, do they? Even Pallas who claims not to believe in gods & goddesses can't escape their schemes!

Pallas keeps mentioning how her father must miss her and I couldn't shake the feeling that there's something

wrong there. Poor Pallas!

What would have made the book even better was a little more world building, maybe? Or a map, so we could understand what this world is like even better.

**Also reviewed at:**

PBD Blog

Amazon

Shelfari

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**Cyndi Stauff says**

I finally found the time to be able to finish this book, hard to do when my little one is sick.

Although it was hard to get into in the beginning, it didn't disappoint. I was rewarded with an adventure unlike no other, that I've read to date. The characters are hard to understand at first, at least to me, but as you read further on, things become much clearer.

I love Pallas and her innocence, Othello I'm still in limbo over. Read the book and find out why. I do hope to find some type of romance between Pallas and Oliver, as I really like him.

Overall, I enjoyed this book and didn't want to put it down. I can't wait to read the next book titled "Whom the Gods Destroy".

Thank you D.C. Belton for this book!

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**Gina says**

I received this book through a Goodreads giveaway!

The Gods Among Us by D.C. Belton follows a young girl named Pallas who though born a slave finds she may be much more than that. This story is set in the background of Greek mythology where all citizens belong to one of four houses; Air, Water, Fire and Earth, each represented by a series of Gods.

Pallas' mother disappears when Pallas is quite young and while she blames Aegeia, a God of the sea, she soon learns that she is much more connected to the Gods than she knows. Through a series of circumstances Pallas soon finds herself mistaken for a representative of the God she so hates. She is rescued from Capro Bay (an Earth House) and taken in by Lord Catagan, head of the House of Catagan (a Water House) and Commodore of the Three. She is aided by Othello, pet of the daughter of Mulciber, a fire God and enemy of Aegeia. Not knowing whether to trust him or not, she is forced to rely on him to ensure her secret remains a secret. She is assisted also by Lucy and Casey, the boisterous granddaughters of the Commodore, and is shown great reverence from all in the Catagan House who believe it is their duty to Aegeia to ensure Pallas' safety and well being.

At times in the beginning the story is difficult to follow. We are introduced to a new world organization and

the characters can be challenging to keep straight. However, as Pallas enters the world of nobility we are learning alongside her. Pallas is an intriguing lead and someone whom we cheer to succeed.

I really enjoyed the Greek mythology background for this story, and I feel that Belton has offered her own interpretation of this style. She writes with such descriptive visuals that it is very engaging to read. She writes her characters with such detail that they really come alive and seem real.

I would absolutely recommend to read this book. It is a refreshing take on Greek mythology and doesn't follow the typical story mold. The author envisions a unique path for Pallas which keeps us guessing along the way right up until the end.

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### **Rachael says**

For more reviews, check out my blog @ Moosubi Reviews!

Disclaimer: The fact that I received a free copy of this book has not affected my rating. This review reflects my honest opinions.

As a huge fan of mythology, I am probably a little biased towards this book. Basically, any good use of mythology in a book automatically rates highly in my head. It's just a factor that I love exploring, and *The Gods Among Us* explores it perfectly. That being said, one can probably tell that my favorite part of this book is its mythology! I loved learning about the various gods and houses, as well as the concept of the four elements and their alliances! The world that the author describes and explores is simply enthralling and definitely brings back good memories of when I was even more fascinated with mythology than I am now.

Another plus for me was Othello! Even though Pallas may not necessarily enjoyed his company, I loved reading about him and his thoughts! I would love to have a cat like him(: He was a clever and interesting character, poking fun into the story. In a way, however, Othello also seems complex - on one hand, he's the pet of Mulciber's daughter, the very house that's hunting Pallas down. He also definitely seems annoyed at her at times. However, on the other hand he *does* care for her deeply, considering all the things that Othello teaches her! Definitely a clever cat.

The relationships between the characters was also well developed. I liked seeing the loyalties form between Lucy & Casey with Pallas, the "Old Man" and Pallas, Elena and Pallas, etc., as well as older relationships maybe being repaired or strengthened. Elena, in particular, was an interesting side character, regarding her attitude towards Lord "Bore-us-loads" and her family. However, even though *The Gods Among Us* is set in a mythical world, these relationships are definitely present today, which is another plus for me!

My only complaint is probably regarding the plot. Don't get me wrong - the plot's definitely interesting and moves at a reasonable pace. There were a few plot holes regarding the summary on the back of the book vs. the plot (I think I saw this in another review, but I wanted to point on that Pallas is not friendless, and she didn't *accidentally* rescue Othello). Moreover, compared to the other wonderful aspects in the book, I felt the plot was a bit lacking action, which I probably always look in a book, but was rather focused on world building and relationship development. Again, don't get me wrong - it wasn't *bad* per se, but thinking back on it, due to my personal tastes, I felt it was a bit lacking.

Overall, *The Gods Among Us* is a great magical and mythical read! I can't wait to read the next book (I'm actually trying to track down a paperback copy right now since I love this series so much, although the only ones I found are \$50 including shipping!) to find out more about Pallas and her heritage, as well as the fate of the Houses. I would recommend this book to fans of mythology or something along the lines of high fantasy - the world is amazingly vivid and will definitely appeal to you.

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### **Rachel V. says**

I enjoyed this book and look forward to reading the next one in the series. *The Gods Among Us* speaks of the different gods and goddess.

The start of the book was a little hard for me to follow simply because there was so many different gods and goddesses. However the book soon pulled me along on Pallas's adventure.

The story follows a 16 year old drone by the name of Pallas. Drones are the lowest station of humans and their job is to feed the gods. Pallas is causing or finding trouble everywhere she goes in this story, but she stands up for what she believes in. She is much smarter than the other drones in the story because her father taught her various things that no other drones really understands. She later learns to read and is schooled on how to act among the more noble class of people.

Pallas lost her mother to the sea when she was younger and she blames Aegeia (goddess of the sea) for it. On her 16th birthday she is strolling on the beach wishing to escape when she sees something floating in the sea. She decides to swim out to see what it is and her life is never the same. She makes it to the egg as she calls it and climbs in with the help of some dolphins. There she meets a cat named Othello who is able to talk.

Othello and Pallas have many adventures in this book and encounter many dangers including Pallas almost becoming a sacrifice and later is believed to be the one to fulfill a prophecy "The Age of Aquarius". The book leaves you waiting for the next installment of The Divine Masquerade series called *Whom the Gods Destroy*.

Overall I enjoyed the plot and the characters. I wish we had been able to meet the father of Pallas. Also maybe in the second book we will find out more about Pallas's mother? I hope to see a little romance blossom in the next one. I like the cover on this book. I liked how the book ended. It left it ready for the next book but it did not leave this book unfinished either.

Source: I received a copy of this book from the author to provide an honest and fair review.

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### **Ashley Stoyanoff says**

Although this is not the kind of story I would typically read, I am glad I did. I really enjoyed it. The main characters, Pallas and Othello were unique and well developed. Their personalities kept the story moving nicely. Pallas had me remembering my stubborn teenage years, giggling away at the resemblances. She is a typical teenage girl wanting to do everything on her own with no help from others.

As for the minor characters, I wish there had been more development. Some of them were intriguing, and I

hope some of them (Oliver) plays more of a role in the next book.

The POV changes slowed the pacing, but in the end, the overall adventure and plot was well done and keeps you wanting more.

The Gods Among Us was a well-written story, and I look forward to reading the next one in this series.

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### **Lucinda says**

A truly magical and enchanting children's story...

Book 1 of the divine masquerade 'the gods among us' is a fresh, new fantasy story that beautifully blends historical and detailed mythology in an inventive way. 'The Zoo' is an extraordinary world consisting of five different realms (the elements; water, fire, air, earth and life) that is governed by Gods and ruled by magic. Based on the Greek God Athena and Atlantis, this tale brings ancient myth and legend vibrantly to life with a uniquely singular twist. Within this world creatures called Drones reside upon the Earth, as well as all kinds of beings such as Magi, Elders and Goddesses. Magic flows through the writing in such a mystical way as to dazzle and intrigue. Unlike anything I have encountered before this compelling read was unexpectedly surprising, and ideally tailored towards the younger reader with a vivid imagination!

Pallas is a Drone from the Water realm, who leads an unremarkable life and yet is unknowingly destined for great things. She has always longed for something more, with her curiosity and fascination leading her into the path of a rather peculiar cat. Othello the Cat and Pallas (similarly to Alice and the Cheshire cat) are both talkative and intelligent. Their chance meeting forms the catalyst for change, with a mighty celestial war and the fight between mortality and eternal life springing up before them. Despite loathing the Gods and blaming Aegeia for the death of her mother, Pallas must defend the goddess and undertake the unthinkable. This is a story of courage and fighting for all that is good and true. Ultimately it is a tale that explores the meaning of life and love, whilst revealing to its reader their own personal journey of the heart.

I was greatly impressed by the in-depth world-building and creation as a whole, which is incredibly detailed and inspired. Full of such originality and distinctive flair, this is something that certainly stands-out on the bookshelf. The use of colloquial language (i.e whatdy) reflected the ages of the main characters and was only one of the many combined elements that make this credible as a children's story, rather than something perhaps for the older young adult. Cindy and Pallas' divergence as they grew up brought nostalgic memories to the fore, as I was reminded of how different my outlook on life was when I was younger to now. Swept off on an exciting adventure into a vast universe, this spellbinding story had me glued to the pages in intense rapture. 3.5 rating.

\*I won a copy of D.C Belton's book 1 of the divine masquerade: the gods among us, through a GoodReads first-read giveaway\*

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### **Emma says**

I won this books through Goodreads Firstreads.

Possible Spoilers!

What can I say about this book? I really enjoyed it!

My main concern was if I would be able to follow the complexities of Gods and Goddesses, Houses of each element and Members of the Zoo etc, which I wondered about from the table at the start of the book! Thankfully the book is so well written I found myself picking everything up as we went along without having to use the guide and I even seemed to retain the information which is impressive in itself given my dodgy grey matter.

I got completely caught up with the drama and enjoyed getting to know all the characters. As well as the overall plot of Pallas VS the Gods, there were lots of other plots to capture the attention and I'm eager to read more.... Whats the deal with Othello, is he a spy? What will happen between Pallas and Oliver?

I would definately reccomend this book to anyone who enjoys a good read. The style flowed really well and I say the book just keeps pulling you in with different dramas and curiosities as you go along.

Many thanks Firstreads!

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### **Liz says**

The Gods Among Us by D.C. Belton was a very interesting fantasy story depicting a world of warring factions loyal to the different Gods and Goddesses of the four elements: Water, Fire, Earth and Air. Changing loyalties of the elements causes conflict amongst the people in the world. The story focuses on a sixteen year old slave-girl named Pallas and the adventure she embarks on after meeting a white cat named Othello with the ability to speak.

Possible spoilers ahead:

I was a tad confused about what was happening at the very beginning of the novel and it was a little slow, but once the story shifted to Pallas, I couldn't wait to see what happened next.

It was wonderful to see the smart, curious and rebellious character of Pallas get swept into a world where she could learn new information and see the hidden magic/technology of the "Gods". In order to protect herself and the father she left behind, Pallas is forced to pretend she came from the mysterious Golden Egg as a token of the Water Goddess Aegeia, who she despises and believes is responsible for killing her mother. A possible prophecy about herself compels Pallas to reevaluate her belief in the Gods. I enjoyed seeing her character develop from a young, naive slave-girl into the mysterious princess of Atlantis that is able to somehow hold her own amongst all the people she comes across. Pallas' love/hate relationship with her cat companion Othello leaves many secrets and knowledge to uncover. I look forward to seeing her character develop more in the next installment of the series while also hearing more of her back story and more information about what really happened to her mother.

The characters of the House Catagen act as allies and supporters for Pallas. The Commodore's loyal support and protection of Pallas gives her a great opportunity to learn more about the world. The interactions between Pallas and the sisters Elena, Lucy and Casey lead to moments for Pallas to show her intelligence and bravery while also be reminded that she is still a young girl with much to learn. The sisters' father, Captain Dewey Catagen is another very interesting character and I really hope to learn more about him after seeing the glimpse of his birth and how he saved House Catagen when he was very young. Pallas' time with the House Catagen also leads to the hint of a romance with the midshipman Oliver that will hopefully be explored in the next novel.

The climax of the novel introduces the dangerous fire God Mulciber who has been trying to capture/kill Pallas and indicates there is a spy among Pallas' allies. The novel ends at a nice moment, leaving you with plenty of mysteries to learn more about in the next book.

I was given this book through the We Love YA Books ARR Readers' Corner. I am very thankful to have had the opportunity to read it and look forward to reading the next book in the series.

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