



## Lore: Tales of Myth and Legend Retold

*Brinda Berry, Karen Y. Bynum, Laura Diamond, Jayne A. Knolls, Theresa DaLayne, Cate Dean*

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## **Lore: Tales of Myth and Legend Retold Details**

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# From Reader Review Lore: Tales of Myth and Legend Retold for online ebook

## Holly says

*\*Review can be found [here](#).*

It's so hard for me to review short stories. I'm a reader who loves deep story-lines and complex characters, but novellas/anthologies don't always have either of those two things. And it makes it hard for me to like them. But overall, I really enjoyed *Lore*!

## Overall Rating: 3.5 Stars!

### *Shimmer*

A cute, flirty tale of a mermaid and a boy on summer vacation. I liked the two characters a lot, and even though it was a short story, I could still connect with them. Draven is sassy, determined, and just wants to get over his heartbreak. Coral (*okay, her name isn't at all fishy*) is a tomboy who doesn't have many friends and who can't get close with anyone. She's determined to keep Draven at a distance, but he makes it impossible. And even when she shares her secret, he doesn't run. Draven's and Coral's friendship grows, as do their feelings. But that wasn't the only secret she was keeping. I wish there'd been more information on her ancestry and the mermaids and I think the letter was a bit of a cop-out. But I did love how the ending was left open to the imagination. It ended the story nicely.

**3.5 stars.**

### *Between*

This story was about a girl who struggled with her identity and sexuality, a girl who made a series of choices that results in unimaginable consequences. To be honest, I was not a fan of this one. I hated the main character. She was mean, and selfish, and too busy worrying about fitting in and pleasing her mother than doing what she wanted. And I would have been okay with that had she actually grown as a character. Yeah, in the end she found her footing. But I still didn't care for her, and she was so freaking clueless about everything. And I was expecting something different with the genie aspect.

**2 stars.**

### *Sunset Moon*

I liked this story! I've been wanting to read more Native American inspired stories, especially those of its myths and legends. And I enjoyed this one, but everything just felt so rushed. Eloise's character development, the mythology, the relationship between her and Ven. It's hard, because this is a novella, but I wished it'd been longer. I would have gladly read a full-length novel with these characters, this story-line, and the myth. I liked the main character, and I'm glad she realized that she deserved better in life. But I'm still confused on the whole legend that the author was telling. I wanted more details about it.

**3 stars.**

### *The Maker*

This one was dark and edgy with a main character who was hell-bent on revenge. It kind of felt a little bit Gothic, and I liked the bleakness of it. It was very fast-paced. I thought the main character was a douchebag; he was arrogant, weak, a monster living in the shadows and outskirts after an accident damaged his body and left him for dead. He blamed everyone but himself for it. And then he decided to ruin another person's life

because of his mistake. But it wasn't supposed to be cheerful or happy. It was a short story that had a Frankenstein feel to it and that ended how it should have.

### **3.5 stars.**

#### *A Beautiful Mourning*

I loved this story of the Mayan gods, forbidden love, and the sacrifices people are willing to make in the name of it. I loved the characters, Ishel and Kinnich, and was rooting for them so badly. Their romance was so sweet. There were also a few secondary characters, one of whom I hated, another I was indifferent about, and the last I loved. And I liked where the story-line headed. It was very heartbreakingly, though, but it ended on a high note that made me extremely happy.

### **4 stars.**

#### *The Barricades*

I loved this one! I think it was maybe the shortest one out of all of them, but I loved it a lot more than all of these (even the one above). I loved the characters, Daniel and Casey. They were both pretty sassy and determined to do the right thing no matter what. I liked Casey's strong-will and Daniel's protective side. Even if they fell for each other fast, I didn't care. I thought they were great together. This story was very fast-paced, and I loved the world the author created. I would have loved more background on it, but I still enjoyed the descriptions and details given. And that ending was really great; a silver lining of hope intertwined with newfound love.

### **4 stars.**

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## **Hilda says**

I was in the mood for anthology, so *Lore, An Anthology: Tales of Myth and Legend Retold* was a great read for me. I like some stories more than the others, but overall it was a nice read and I came out knowing much more about myths and legends.

The first story, *Shimmer*, is a mermaid story with a twist in the end. It has romantic atmosphere, but the pacing is a bit too slow for my taste. I found the second story, *Between*, very interesting. It's a classic high school elite clique story, but the appearance of djinn (genie) make this story memorable. I think the LGBT stuff can be taken more carefully, but I like the story in general. In my opinion, *Sunset Moon* has the strongest characterization in this anthology. It's a bad girl meet good guy story, and their relationship is definitely swoon-worthy! I love Native American folklore, so it's not hard for me to fall for this one. :)

*The Maker...* what can I say? It's a take on golem mythology and the story reminds me a bit of Frankenstein. The guy makes a golem in order to take revenge on his girlfriend. The story lays heavily on description of action and it can bug you at times, but the plots are simply intriguing. I can definitely see the author's potential in the story. *A Beautiful Mourning* has very beautiful, flowing written style. The story has poetic atmosphere in it which I'm sure many will appreciate. I love the ending in *The Barricades*. It ends with a hopeful note, and I think it suits well as the last story in this anthology.

All in all, *Lore, An Anthology: Tales of Myth and Legend Retold* is a fascinating read for me. If I have to play favorite, I think it would be *A Beautiful Mourning*. I'm a sucker for beautiful writing style and melancholic plots. ;) *Sunset Moon* is good as well. This anthology is a recommendation for anyone who wishes to visit many myths and legends in one go. From mermaid story to golem myth: just pick your favorite lore! :)

*The heat from his skin dulled as his sharp eyes softened. "I will love as the mortals." He leaned in and brushed his lips against mine. My eyes fluttered shut. "Fearlessly and without limitations."*

*from A Beautiful Mourning*

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### **Chelsea says**

\*I received this book free to read and review. Thanks to Brinda Berry.\*

Shimmer: ★★★

This story revolved around the love between a human boy and a mermaid who longs for more than what she has. I loved Cora's feisty spirit and Draven's persistence in wanting to help her. I loved the relationship between them, but I was not too fond of how the book ended. Don't get me wrong, it's not a horrible ending, but I would have preferred if it had ended a different way than how it had ended. Overall, it was a cute quick read with enjoyable characters.

Between: ★★

I was not a huge fan of this one, just because I felt like there was a lot left unexplained and I just kept think, "What does that even mean?", or "Why is this relevant?", or "What does this do to add to the story?", but it was still a quick read. I also found myself just overall frustrated with the main character, I couldn't connect with her (I did at times feel bad for what she was going through though) and it kept me from fully enjoying the story. I did like the description of the djinn (or a genie for those who don't know the term we got genie from). The only person that I actually kind of liked was Sienna because nothing she did within the story irked me, and she seemed like the kind of person who genuinely cared about those she claimed to care about.

Sunset Moon: ★★★★☆

Scarlet Moon was a fascinating story with very well-written characters. It was a quick read that held my attention from the beginning until the end. It would have been nice to see Eloise have an amazing ending with all her issues resolved, but I will have to settle for the wonderful ending that had occurred. I enjoyed Ms. Wren and Ms. Morgan, but who wouldn't? Ven - Eloise's "love interest" - I wouldn't necessarily call it love because they had just met, but he was a pretty amazing character who wanted to help her without even knowing her.

The Maker: ★★

I couldn't get into this book and maybe that's because I'm not really into revenge (although I do understand why he was driven the way he was), it just felt lacking in my opinion with no real attention-grabbing point at all. I did like the myth involving the golem because it's not something that I normally read when I pick up a book, so that was refreshing to read.

A Beautiful Mourning: ★★★★☆

This story was beautiful and sweet. The characters were enjoyable, and I loved all but Nacon. I really wished I could have been in that story to shake him, and let him know that men don't own women!! The ending torn my heart to shreds, but it was also a satisfying ending.

The Barricades: ★★★★☆

This story was fascinating, and hard to put down. It was a borderline forbidden romance that bloomed between the two main characters that was sweet and adorable. The characters were very well written, and

instead of there being a damsel in distress there was a prince in distress. I definitely enjoyed that little switch up, because usually it's the opposite. The ending was great, and this story was a great choice to conclude this anthology.

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### **Maryalice says**

This is a book of short stories, well really myths and tales. Like all books of short stories there were stories I couldn't put down, stories that made me cry, stories that made me think and 1 I couldn't get into, and some that were several of those things. All were well written and i enjoyed the book very much. The publisher gave me the book and I would like to thank them

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### **\*?az?? - th? ?ock C?ick ?airy\* says**

I don't usually read anthologies, but this one is pretty good. :)

Shimmer - This is quite a different take on The Little Mermaid. I wish I could say that I was wowed by the story, but sadly no. It's kind of sad and it left me hanging. I thought it was just normal because of the length of the book, however, once I finished all the other stories, this one just pops into my um-open-ended-ending-sucks list.

Between - THIS IS MY VERY FIRST GIRL X GIRL RELATIONSHIP BOOK. At first it was weird for me, but as the story went on, I understood how the main character felt. She is as frustrated and as confused by the events in this book. She just couldn't be herself in front of everybody. She just wants the love, acceptance and attention of her mom, so she resorts into what she thinks is best for her. However, her decision affected the life of a very important person to her. This is her story of forgiveness, wishes and revelations. It has many lessons, but the glaring one would be... (I'm quoting Gobber from How To Train Your Dragon here) "stop trying so hard to be something you're not". I think it's just plain exhausting. Needless to say, this was a good read. :)

Sunset Moon - A troubled girl meets a really troubled boy who leaves her to lie for his ass. Not a fun story? You can say that again. Half the time, I was thinking of virtually hitting the girl on her head for not listening to adults who are there for her. She was given another chance though. A good chance for rebirth. Except for the love story part, I pretty much like this book. This is a good book for all teens because it will make them realize what's important and unimportant in life. This will teach teens not to dwell on the bad parts, but think of what's good instead. Lastly, this book tells everyone that there's hope for everyone.

The Maker - This is probably the creepiest, most disturbing story in this bunch. A guy gets left by his girl after being in an accident. He wanted revenge, but at the same time, he admits to still being obsessed with the girl! He's so confusing. He calls upon an entity which is basically good. He orders this entity to do his bidding to extract revenge on his ex. The ending is kind of bizarre in my opinion. Anyway, this is a good book to read when you feel like you want to have revenge on someone because it shows only one ending and it's not good. REVENGE = BAD KARMA FOR YOU TOO.

A Beautiful Mourning - This is a very good story of forbidden romance. Dieties are one of my favorite type of characters. The possibilities are endless with them. This book is about two of them who finds themselves

in love, only to be blocked by a wall named "father". Yeah, I know It's a bit cliche, but I still enjoyed reading about their perils and their sweet moments. I like the setting and its descriptions. I believe that the author made me really imagine the heavens and middle land. The ending is nicely woven. I don't particularly love it, but it's the best that could happen, all things considered.

**The Barricades** - This story takes on a different angle on fairies. It's has a somewhat dystopian kind of feel. The two main characters comes from two very different worlds. They meet after a very bad scenario. From thereon, the story tell us how they smooth out their differences. I think the main point of this book tells us that trust should be earned and you must choose carefully on whom you give it to. I would be very honest as to say that this would've been better if it was made into a full blown novel. The two main characters have great chemistry (judging from the really short time that they had in the story). The story has a lot of promise if it was continued and expanded. I would read this if it becomes a full blown novel. #pleaseauthorplease :)

All in all, these stories are great. It kept me company for a few days and I enjoyed reading them. Not only did I enjoy their adventure, romance, thrill and full plot, I also enjoyed figuring out lessons behind each story. I recommend this book to the young and young at heart who wants books with meaning. Teens definitely should read this! :) I give this 5 fairy wings!!!

This review can also be seen here on our blog: Musings of the Book-a-holic Fairies, inc.

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### **Future Slayer Girl says**

Lore was quite an interesting read for me, as well as a nice change from a few reading choices I had just made before diving into this. It is more an anthology of fairy tale retellings. I have to say from the opening story to the closing story they were very beautiful and magical retellings. You can go very wrong when you mess with a world created by another genius. It can become a horrible train wreck. But I found that each story in its own way almost improved on the original. The character were all very well written and the new world created around them were very much brought to life and I enjoyed them. I have to say though, the first story was my favorite. I have a soft spot for mermaid, and the lead female just came off to me as so strong and selfless. She was independent and didn't allow herself to be walked all over. Strong and knowing exactly what she wants even after falling for someone, she still made the sacrifice.

I recommend this book to anyone that likes fairy tales. They are new twists that still hold true to the stories they were evolved from without going to flowery.

\*I received a FREE copy via Xpresso Book Tours\*

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### **Fiza says**

*"A beautiful Mourning"* is a story in the *Lore* anthology.

*The Ancient Maya civilization is often viewed in modern society as bloodthirsty and cruel. But hidden*

*beneath their common practices of human sacrifice and bloodletting, secret gems of love and altruism can be found.*

*A Beautiful Mourning is just that—the tale of two middleworld (earth) deities who give up everything for love. The flower goddess, Ishel, (also known as Xochiquetzal) and the sun god, Kinich, take center stage in this prequel to determining the fate of all mortals.*

‘\*•,(•,♥,•\*)•\*’Review‘\*•,(•,♥,•\*)•\*’

Ishel takes care of the greenery of the middleworld. She loves the mortals and wants nothing more than for them to be happy. Their happiness reminded her of her own sorrow though and a part of her maybe even envies them. The mortals are allowed to love freely while her love was given away by her father.

**“I have no shame in admitting I need you.”**

This is a short tale of a sweet, forbidden love. Kinich is desperate for Ishel’s love and Ishel is desperate for Kinich’s love. But with her hand already promised to someone else, Nacon, their hands are tied. Their deep sorrow for the situation will only grow deeper with time and eventually they will have to make certain sacrifices if they want to be together.

Ishel’s father isn’t necessarily a cruel man, it pains him to see his daughter unhappy. His distress is very much evident but he is a man of his word. I could live with that, I couldn’t live with him not doing anything to help Ishel, he didn’t even offer solutions...

Nacon may be the bad guy here, but he’s not. Not really. He is capable of feeling love, even showing mercy. Which goes completely against his nature as the god of war and wrath.

**“You believe my heart to be black.” He lowered his tone even more and pulled me closer to him. “That was true until the day I first saw you.”**

I think I might love Nacon more at this point. Even found myself hoping Ishel would grow to love him instead of Kinich.

Everything about this story is just lovely. Bit cliché with the dramatics but the blurring lines between love and hate, good and evil is evident. In my opinion the latter is a key element in most myths and Ms. DaLayne nailed it. I love myths so I couldn’t resist the temptation to read this and if I didn’t know better I’d say I’d just read a real myth. I’d just wish it was longer, but that’s a minor ‘issue’. Anyway I really liked the writing style and I’m curious to what she will come up with next!

‘\*•,(•,♥,•\*)•\*’Rating‘\*•,(•,♥,•\*)•\*’

3.5 stars

??•\*•\*•,, ♥ I was gifted a copy of the anthology in exchange for an honest review.??•\*•\*•,, ♥

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## April Wood says

Full review @ <https://aprillwood.wordpress.com/2015...>

Shimmer by Brinda Berry

A beautifully told YA love story between a boy named Draven and a mer named Coral. Summer love with a fantasy twist! One of my favorites in the anthology, and a great story to kick off Lore: Tales of Myth and Legend Retold. (5 Stars)

Between, by Karen Y. Bynum

Between was another really good YA/Fantasy story in this anthology. Two teenage lesbian lovers, a butterfly charm that releases a genie, ‘mean girls’, and a whole lot of regret.

A great, well-written story that explores teenage angst, and homophobia. I also learned from this story what the word Genie comes from! -(Djinn) (5 Stars)

Sunset Moon, by Laura Diamond

I picked up this anthology BECAUSE OF Sunset Moon, and I am glad that I had. It’s a great short story about a young, troubled juvenile delinquent who is sent off to a Native American group home, in exchange for doing time. Sunset Moon is a wonderfully crafted story that will forever change the way I look at dreamcatchers! (5 stars)

The Maker, by Jayne A. Knolls

The Maker is a story about revenge, based loosely on the myth of Golem.

A young man left incapacitated by a car accident, creates a “man” to exact revenge against his ex-girlfriend who left him behind, for dead.

“Ressurect, reanimate, revenge.”

This story wasn’t my favorite, and I actually felt bad for Jake who was a pawn in his master’s game. I wasn’t able to connect with the main character, Brett, due to his bitter nature. Overall, it was OK. (3 Stars)

A Beautiful Mourning, by Theresa Dalayne

This is a story about the Sun God, and the Flower Goddess, who give up everything in the name of love.

A wonderfully told fantasy tale based loosely on Mayan mythology, with vivid descriptions that will transport you into the middleworld with the characters.

The ending was bittersweet. I didn't know whether to cry or smile!

Definitely worth a read! (4 stars)

The Barricades, by Cate Dean.

The Barricades is a fantasy story about a girl named Casey who saves an 'eternal' boy named Daniel who is gravely wounded. Casey goes where no mortal human dares to go, in order to save his life...

I liked this story, and enjoyed the 'star crossed lovers' romance between Casey and Daniel. I also liked that the setting wasn't on earth, and that Fae and humans coexisted together. (4 stars)

Overall, I enjoyed these short fantasy stories, some more than others, and I am giving the anthology 4 stars.

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### **Cassy Le says**

\*I got this book for free in exchange of an honest review\*

Honestly, I could only read through the first and the two last stories. The other three were just horribly written and the storyline is flat and plain ; the characters not well developed... I considered stopping the book after the fourth story, as it really bored me, but then I started the fifth one and I loved it, as well as the last story. The idea is fantastic and the characters are interesting :)

All in all, I loved the idea of 6 "modern" ish folktales ;) I will try to read the three stories I couldn't finish again and update my review if necessary :P

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### **Ivette says**

First: Thank you Karen Y. Bynum, for this ecopy you gave me, for an honest review in return!

About Shimmer: I can't remember when I read a story about mermaids. This one was sucking me in the water, I wanted to know why Coral was who she was and what was going on in her mind. I wanted Draven to be happy, because of his broken heart! And I don't say this much either, but I liked the open ending; I can dream about them all over again, with every day another ending ;) haha!

About Between: Another LGTB-story, yay! I like those :) I had to grown a bit in the story though, but with every word I read I felt the love for this story grow. It's about growing up, get to know your feelings and don't be afraid of what you feel. It's about decisions; bad decisions, but I think it was good for Lucy to make them, so she can grow up to a girl who isn't afraid of the rest of the world anymore and will get respect for

herself. Loved it!

About Sunset Moon: A story about drugs, an unhealthy relationship and dreamcatchers. Dreamcatchers with spiders and butterflies... What if the dark side is pulling you so hard that you think it's normal that it does, that you deserve it? It's also a story about learning to have to trust people, even when you don't know them at all. Sometimes they can give you the best energy you can get!

About The Maker: I think this was the most dark story of the book. It was cruel sometimes. But it's also about being so angry at someone that you forget everything around you. Is it okay to live like that, even when you are not able to live the life you had before again, and live in all this anger and hell in your heart? What if you can forgive, how will you feel then? Is the anger and revenge worth it? Yep, a story which making me think all these things, haha!

About A Beautiful Mourning: Oh, I wanted more! Such a beautiful lovestory. I also liked the way the world was written down and how the powers of the Gods were described, it was like I was there. It's about how to love and don't be afraid of what you feel, even if it's not like what you used to feel or how it must be.

About The Barricades: a bit of a Romeo and Juliet story! Girl saves boy, while the boy at first is not pleased with this... but then they hang around together and there is a "poof" and both are confused about what they start to feel. What if you love someone from another country, another culture, another world. How to explain this to the rest of your own world, where these feelings are not normal? How to convince them it's right to stay together?

I really liked this book. Maybe you will think the stories have nothing in common at first, but that's not true: they have a lot in common!

It's about believing in yourself, trusting yourself, and don't care about what other people think of you. You are as good as you are, and yes, maybe you make stupid, bad decisions, but you will learn from them. You will grow because of them. And you will respect yourself more because of the lessons you learned.

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### **Becky Stephens says**

The cover is initially what drew my attention to this anthology. It is beautifully crafted and hints at the magic inside. With well-written stories and a good editor, this is a nice piece of fiction that will temporarily transport you to worlds filled with magic.

#### Shimmer: ★★★★

Though not normally a fan of teenage love stories, I was surprised I liked this one. I especially like unexpected take on the physical appearance of mermaids. My heart ached for Coral, who is torn between helping the Mer people thrive and her new love for Draven. This story didn't have a happy-ever-after ending, but it wasn't exactly horrible either.

#### Between: ★★★

How can one person possibly make so many bad decisions and stupid mistakes? It took Lucy much too long to try to make things right. And I found that frustrating. It was as if her character refused to grow. Though I found the djinn lore fascinating, plopping it into a story with snobby high school girls ruined it for me. I have always disliked those cliques, so this story didn't appeal to me as much as it could have.

### Sunset Moon: ★★★★

Being of Native American decent, though far removed, and knowing very little of that lineage, I found the lore of the Blackfeet American Indian mythology very interesting. I like Sunset Moon very much. Eloise is one of those characters that starts at rock bottom. You know there's nowhere to go but up, but still she fights it. At first. By the end, she has grown in such a tremendous way that she is almost unrecognizable. Author Laura Diamond did a fantastic job making that happen, which would seem an impossible feat in a short story. So, I say kudos to her.

### The Maker: ★★★★★

I was intrigued from the start. And not only because I've always loved the myth of the golem. The last golem I read about was made of dry leaves and debris from an alleyway, and was terrifying. This modern golem, who looks like a cross between Ashton Kutcher, Leonardo DiCaprio, and its handsome maker, is so very different. Though bound to obey his creator, Brett, the golem known as Jake has a conscience. The last line made me teary-eyed. I won't spoil it for you, but this story that started out with heartbreak, anguish, and anger ended beautifully.

### A Beautiful Mourning: ★★

I didn't feel a connection with the characters in this fable. Oddly enough, my favorite character was Balad, who only spoke a handful of words.

### The Barricades: ★★★★★

This is quite possibly the best short story I've read in some time! It was so much more than a young love story. Under that is a tale about seeing past our differences and accepting individuals as just that - individuals. Set on another planet after humans and Fae fled a dying Earth, this story is a blend of sci-fi, supernatural, and a pinch of romance. Definitely my favorite of the anthology! I love how three-dimensional the characters are, and I'm amazed that the author was able to accomplish that in such a short space. I can only hope that the characters continue speak to author Cate Dean so that she will write more of their story because this was simply not enough!

I received this book for free in exchange for an honest review. This does not affect my opinion of the book or the content of my review.

This review originally posted at Twisted Book Junkie

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### Laura Roberts says

Originally reviewed at Black Heart Magazine: <http://blackheartmagazine.com/2014/08...>

This collection of myth and magic had me hooked from page one. Which makes sense, as it begins with "Shimmer," the tale of a girl who can change into a mermaid – and whose family works a fishing boat. Though Coral is misunderstood and hides her changeable nature from everyone, including Draven Manning – a boy her age who rescues her from drowning one night – it's clear that she's got a lot more weighing on her mind than the typical adolescent fears and anxieties about school and her relationships. Author Brinda Berry weaves a dark but delightful take on the classic Little Mermaid story that's much different than Disney's version, and much more enjoyable. I only wish we could've seen more of Coral's underwater world.

The next story, “Between,” offers a peek behind the Royal curtains to see just what’s at stake for the rich, powerful and popular – in high school. Though Lucy craves affection from her mother, she knows the only way to achieve it is to become slim and join her school’s ruling elite, despite the fact that they’re terrible people who prey on their fellow students with cruel pranks and cutting insults. When she’s finally crowned Queen, she’s got to choose between her summer camp love affair with Natasha – a girl who accepted her just as she was – or the Royals crowd, where popularity is everything. Lucy’s bad decisions have terrifying consequences, but a genie appears to help. Karen Y. Bynum’s story borrows elements from many different stories, creating something new for readers to enjoy.

Things get even darker in “Sunset Moon,” a story by Laura Diamond that incorporates traditional Blackfoot Nation myths into a modern story of teenage rebellion and rehabilitation.

As you can probably guess from the teenage heroines described thus far, this book is a YA collection starring troubled teens from all walks of life. While the classic fairy tales usually set readers up for Happily Ever Afters with princesses marrying their Prince Charmings, Lore gives us average girls looking to escape their everyday lives and problems at home. But that’s not to say that these girls are ordinary, or that their stories are a dime a dozen. Instead each of the authors in the collection have managed to spin fantastic tales around these girls, showing us just how extraordinary their lives can be.

The question then is whether the magic that helps them succeed in their journeys comes from within or from some outside source – and why?

I enjoyed the fact that these stories were darker than Disney’s versions, especially since the original folk and fairy tales were much more frightening than the cartoons suggest. By avoiding the princess cliché, each writer recaptures some of that original menace and fear, spinning a new story from Grimm threads. Additionally, though folk tales often contain a rather preachy lesson to be learned, these stories contain similar morals or guidance for a younger reader, but without the sanctimonious attitude. Told from the point of view of teenage main characters, it’s easy to see how these stories will connect with kids from the same age bracket who are fighting similar battles in their own lives.

Combining stories from a fairly diverse offering (Mayan culture, Native American folklore, Jewish golems, Irish Fae, and more), Lore offers plenty of twists and turns that will surprise and delight readers looking for an escape from the ordinary.

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### **John says**

\*\*\*Disclaimer: I received this book in exchange for a review.\*\*\*

LORE is an anthology of six short stories based on various myths and mythologies ranging from Native American to Aztec to Hebrew. It’s a bit of an odd mix but they’re all pretty interesting. And unlike Disney, it ain’t always a Happily Ever After ending.

Shimmer by Brinda Berry- a young mermaid struggles to assimilate into the modern world. But does she even want to... especially after meeting a handsome young man? Don’t look for Little Mermaid here; this is a New Adult tale laden with angst and conflict.

Between by Karen Bynum- high school peer pressure boils over when uptown girl Lucy has to decide

between popularity and Natasha, the girl she loves. The choice she'll make changes everything, and the consequences may be more than she can bear. Tragedy, drama and sorrow- this one's loaded like Shakespeare. With djinn, no less.

Sunset Moon by Laura Diamond – Eloise is a troubled young girl sent to connect with her Native American heritage in an attempt to steer her away from self-destruction. The signs are all there, but is it truly the beginnings of a spiritual journey or just a really bad high? This one's full on teen rebellion complete with drugs and abusive boyfriend. Too much time spent on her tragic backstory and buildup, and not enough on the mysticism and Native culture; plus the romance seemed forced.

The Maker by Jayne Knolls- after a car accident leaves his mind and body shattered, Brett seeks ice cold revenge on his ex-girlfriend Cassandra for abandoning him in the wreck, dished and dispensed by the best golem his money and intellect can buy and create. But will it be enough for this modern-day Frankenstein? Or his creation? Got all the makings of a good ol' fashioned horror story in this one.

A Beautiful Mourning by Theresa DaLayne- Aztec gods Ishel and Kinich pledge their eternal love to one another, despite her betrothal to Nacon. Their love compels them to flee to the middle world, jeopardizing all of Nature and incurring her father's and Nacon's wrath. Kinda on the light side and a little confusing on the magical elements. The non-speaking character Balam was the best part of it.

The Barricades by Cate Dean- Celtic gods and humans have resettled on a distant planet. Humans are driven into servitude and squalor while the Eternals reign over them once again. Daniel, son of an Eternal and a human, finds himself entangled in a fatal conspiracy and only a human girl can save him. Very intriguing premise that teases you with the possibilities. Thankfully the author plans on expanding upon it.

It's an interesting collection of shorts- all new twists on the old favorites. Read and enjoy.

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### **Tnt Reviews says**

I received a copy of this book in exchange for an honest review.

Lore is an anthology of short stories. It's an easy and quick read. I enjoyed it. It was nice to be able to read one short story and then be able to put it down between stories. I didn't have the urgent need to finish the book in one sitting which can get me in trouble at times, especially at dinner time.

I enjoyed each story. The only one I had a little trouble understanding was "Between". I just really didn't get that one. I loved all the other stories. They all left me with a warm, happy feeling. Overall it's a nice, well-written book.

4-Bombs

Reviewed by Tracy

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### **Amber says**

[got over her dead girlfriend (hide spoiler)]

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