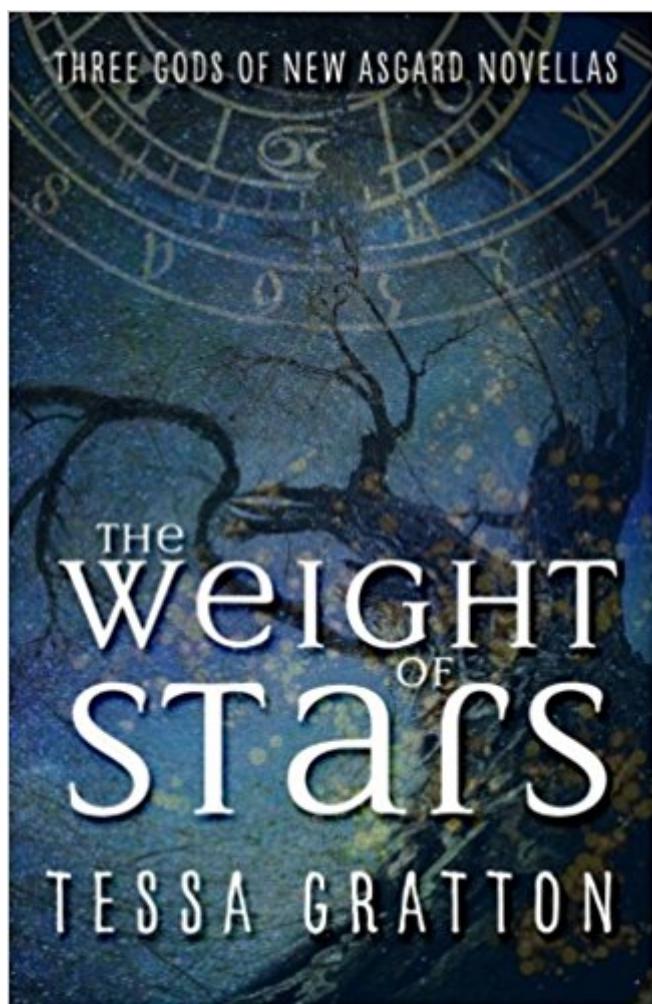


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Weight Of Stars: Three Gods Of New Asgard Novllas



Synopsis

â œThis infinitely exciting taleâ ™s twist and turns highlight the charactersâ ™ missions as they decide which identity to choose: hero, martyr, or villain. Readers looking for a sophisticated fantasy that shows a raw, rowdy, and rough side of life will be utterly satisfied. For fans of Robin LaFeversâ ™s His Fair Assassins series.â • â "School Library Journal The United States of Asgard is a nation of poets and warriors, of rock bands and evangelical preachers, of gods and their children. The media tracks troll sightings and reality TV is about dragon slaying and teen prophets. The president rules the country alongside a council of Valkyrie, and the military has a special battalion dedicated to eradicating the threat of Greater Mountain Trolls. Welcome to the United States of Asgard: Be sure to watch for troll-sign! GOLD RUNNER tells the story of Amon Thorson, bastard son of Thor Thunderer, a rebel who specializes in illegal troll artifacts and elf gold. Someone has stolen Lokiâ ™s Mask of Changing, and Amon is the prime suspect, putting a famous hunter and a mysterious stranger on his tail. LADY BERSERK is about Vider, the first female berserker warrior in generations, who is loved by Loki Changer but determined to stand on her own. One of six celebrities invited to participate in a televised dragon hunt, she knows things are not as they seemâ "which is usually a sign Loki is up to his old tricks. GLORYâ ™S TEETH offers a glimpse into the wild heart of the Fenris Wolf, also called Glory, trapped in the shape of a teenaged girl for hundreds of years so she cannot grow large enough to devour the sun and begin the end of the world. But Gloryâ ™s seen signs that now is the time sheâ ™s fated to hunt down Baldur the Sun and eat him. With evocative writing and lush world building, Tessa Gratton once again captivates readers with her inventive reimagining of Norse mythology and American life in this collection of novellas based on her Gods of New Asgard series. â œWith razor-sharp prose and bone-deep emotions, Tessa Gratton doesnâ ™t just tell a story. She invites readers into another world-- one we hate to leave when the last page is turned.â • â "Saundra Mitchell, author of Mistwalker and The Vespertine

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Customer Reviews

Tessa Gratton has wanted to be a paleontologist or a wizard since she was seven. Alas, she turned out too impatient to hunt dinosaurs, but is still searching for someone to teach her magic. After traveling the world with her military family, she acquired a BA (and the important parts of an MA) in Gender Studies, then settled down in Kansas to tell stories about monsters, magic, and teenagers. She's the author of the Blood Journals Series and the Gods of New Asgard Series. Visit her at tessagratton.com, @tessagratton, tessagratton.tumblr.com.

I've loved every book in the U.S. of Asgard series so far, but this collection of novellas might be my very favorite so far. All three of these novellas are smart and snarky, emotional and intense, full of fierce girls and wild magic. They would work just fine as standalone pieces whether or not you've ever read the novels (although of course I recommend the novels really highly, too). Each novella has a very different emotional tone, and every one of them is fantastic. My very favorite of the three, though, was the second one, Lady Berserk. How could it not be? It's a fun, witty romance where the unreliable trickster god Loki himself is the romantic hero (but does not get any free passes because of his godhood from the very, very awesome berserker heroine). SO MUCH FUN.

Excellent bind up of Gratton's three USAsgard novellas. These novellas can be read in any order and as standalones. These novellas function separately from the novels that comprise this trilogy but do feature tangential events and characters. In featuring different perspectives Gratton also widely expands the intricate world she created in this series.

Here we get to see some of the rest of the world, and some more of the characters and their lives. My favorite story was the middle one, where we get to see more of Loki, but I liked them all.

:D :D :D

Interesting take on the realm of Odin/Thor/Loki. Definitely going to read the novels now that my interest has been captured by the characters.

After reading The Lost Sun, Gratton's first novel in the United States of Asgard series, I was delighted by the level of detail in her worldbuilding. She created a convincing alternate universe with references to ours that were just-similar-enough to be recognizable, but never forced or twee. The fact that she managed to build a brilliant world without sacrificing attention to the depth of her characters is impressive. Strange Maid amazed me in that it added even more depth to the environment—subtly, by showing how the different environment affected the lives of the characters. Somehow she manages to take the exploration even deeper and more convincingly with the three novellas in The Weight of Stars. By giving the reader three shorter stories with different protagonists but intertwined themes and overlapping characters, Gratton lets us experience the United States of Asgard through contrasted themes. While the overarching genre is the same, the three stories have their own moods and messages. Goldrunner can be read as a thriller—a chase story that throws together two characters looking for adventure. They find themselves in a situation more perilous than expected, and the practical and emotional stakes are high. Lady Berserk is a coming-of-age tale that takes the “what you wanted was in front of you the whole time” trope and turns it on its head beautifully. It engages more heavily with the fantastical elements of this world than the previous works in the series, and does so in a believable and convincing way. Those fantastical elements come through most strongly in Glory's Teeth, which give long-time fans of Gratton's writing a return to her horror style. While Glory's Teeth isn't necessarily a horror story, the theme is based in fear and darkness and how to live with those aspects of ourselves. Gratton's characters, like her world, are complex and multi-faceted. Everyone doesn't get a happy ending, and not everyone wants or deserves one. Even when they end on a bittersweet note, though, the stories are satisfying. Gratton obviously loves the world she has created. She also loves all the characters who live in it, and she does right by them—which is, to my mind, the best thing any author can offer her readers.

There are three novellas in this collection: Gold Runner, Lady Berserk, and Glory's Teeth. Each tale had me turning the pages for more. The world building in these stories is rich and so brilliantly

woven in. Gratton immerses the reader in her inventive spin on Norse mythology, with prose full of raw and powerful emotion. I'm a fan of stories with a romantic bent, and there's plenty here to love. My favorite is Lady Berserk. A female berserker warrior? Yes, please. Plus, there are dragons and Loki. I can't remember the last time I was so utterly destroyed by a story (in a good way). The other two novellas had me captivated as well. Gold Runner is a thrilling ride, and Glory's Teeth is a delightful snapshot of Lady Fenris, a girl who's a wolf. I was immediately drawn into this imaginative world full of complex, smart characters. And I didn't want the journey to end. I'm looking forward to reading book #3 in the USAsgard series (THE APPLE THRONE). In short, I feel like Fenris Wolf: hungry for more.

The only part of this book I didn't like was when I finished it, looked up, and realized that the gods don't interact with people in our world. While I've enjoyed her novels set in the US of Asgard, I didn't realize how extensive her world-building was until I read these novellas. It's so intense and thorough that it hurts to know this world doesn't exist. The other fantastic thing about this book was the diversity of the characters. We read from the points of view of a godling, a berserker, and a god. All of them have vastly different lives and views of their world. Gold Runner was my favorite simple because the main character is a person of color and queer. While these characteristics are a large part of the story, they're also not the plot. Reading about a character who is not the traditional straight white male go on a cross-country adventure is a story I didn't know I was craving. Additionally, all of the ladies throughout the novellas totally kick ass. I don't know if I could be best friends with Vider, the protagonist of Lady Berserk, but I would absolutely want her on my side in a fight. I love that these novellas show how the gods we worship affect our lives in complex ways. I especially liked that they focused on gods other than those in Gratton's two previous novels in this world. I look forward to reading the last book in this series!

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