



# Winter of the Gods

*Jordanna Max Brodsky*

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## **Winter of the Gods** Jordanna Max Brodsky

Myth and reality collide in this sequel to *The Immortals* that sets Greek Gods against a modern Manhattan backdrop.

Manhattan has many secrets. Some are older than the city itself.

Winter in New York: snow falls, lights twinkle, and a very disgruntled Selene DiSilva prowls the streets looking for prey.

But when a dead body is discovered sprawled atop Wall Street's iconic Charging Bull statue, it's clear the NYPD can't solve the murder without help. The murder isn't just the work of another homicidal cult -- this time, someone's sacrificing the gods themselves.

While raising fundamental questions about the very existence of the gods, Selene must hunt down the perpetrators, tracking a conspiracy that will test the bonds of loyalty and love.

## **Winter of the Gods Details**

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Author : Jordanna Max Brodsky

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## From Reader Review Winter of the Gods for online ebook

### Paul says

winter of the gods is the follow up to the immortals.

more Gods, more romance, more action and suspense.

yet the novel isn't overly crowded with the more, more, more. Brodsky paced her second entry with a deft touch balancing out the info dumps with the plotting. she writes with skill and knowledge about ancient deities and of course the pantheon would have dysfunction.

overall I really enjoyed this book and felt the writing and characters were all strong and believable  
a special thank you to netgalley and the publisher for providing me a copy of this book to review.

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### Christa says

I really enjoyed this book but it wasn't as good as the first one. My favorite character was Philippe. I felt like he floated in from a better funnier book and I wanted him to take me with him when he left the scenes.

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### Lisa says

Review from Tenacious Reader: <http://www.tenaciousreader.com/2017/0...>

3.5/5 stars

Winter of the Gods is another enjoyable installment. It starts with somewhat familiar ground as it kicks off with a murder mystery. Of course, every murder and story behind it is different, so this is not a bad thing. And this time, it appears that the Gods themselves are the targets. Ohhh... fun. Someone out there is trying to take out the gods. Like the first book, I found the mix of mythology and urban fantasy to be fun. Theo and Selene, now an official couple, are working to solve the crime and take us along for the ride.

As I mention often, I am not a huge fan of mystery books, so there has to be more than that to carry a story for me. In this, I think the mix of the UF vibe with mythology is what creates that something a little different to keep me engaged.

As for the relationship in this book, I have to admit that I struggled a bit with the concept of a virginal character with a love interest. I just really felt like the romance in this felt somewhat artificial and also more problematic than it needed to be. Maybe I just didn't connect with the characters enough to feel chemistry between them.

I do know that when the conflict of Selene struggling with her relationship with Theo would surface, especially in terms of preserving her centuries old virginity, I found myself just not caring at all. That's not good. This was suppose to be a real trial for the character and my reaction was "just do it and be done with all this whining. More sex, less stress. Or don't and just get over it. I. Just. Don't. Care." Now, I am sure it is possible to have a successful romance without sex, but yeah. This one, with the stress surrounding it, just

wasn't working for me. Like at all. It was the entire strain on the relationship that irked me.

But outside of that, this was a fun story and I found enough aspects of it that I enjoyed to keep me interested and reading. If you enjoyed the first one, I don't think you'll be disappointed with this one.

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## Jo says

### Originally reviewed for & posted at Vampire Book Club

*Review source: copy provided by publisher in exchange for an honest review*

### Rating (out of 5): 4 stars

*Note: While this review will be spoiler free, it will make references to previous books.*

Three months have passed since Selene and Theo defeated the Classicists cult, and New York is in full Christmas mode (much to Selene's disgust). Things have been relatively quiet for the new couple: Theo is now running the Classics department (basically singlehandedly, because cult) and Selene continues to come to aid of women all over the city (guys, if you work with wild animals, don't piss her off, just sayin').

But when a body is found on top of the famous Charging Bull statue on Wall Street, with signs of ancient rituals, once again Theo and Selene find themselves brought into the police investigation. Initially they think it may be someone taking Orion's lead and trying to gain power once again but it soon becomes clear this killer has set their sights much higher. Selene must once again reach out to her immortal family to track down the killer, but with all their powers continuing to diminish will they be strong enough to take on this new enemy?

*The Immortals* was one of my favorite new releases of last year, and this sequel takes all the worldbuilding and character introductions from that first book and expands on it like crazy. One of the things I love about this series is just how vast the scope of the mythology is; it's abundantly clear just how much research and knowledge has gone into this side of the book. I genuinely felt like I was getting a classics lesson whilst reading (learning AND having fun FTW!), and I loved how the plot and character arcs were weaved seamlessly with all the corresponding ancient tales.

However, the sheer amount of backstory was somewhat of a double-edged sword, in that, phew, there is *a lot* going on in *Winter of the Gods*. It's not that it necessarily suffered for it, more that I really had to concentrate to keep up. When most of your characters are literally multifaceted and have hundreds of epithets, things can get confusing real quick! This wasn't the book I picked up before bed to unwind, and I found I needed to read it in chunks in order to be able to absorb everything, but I certainly enjoyed being challenged by it.

The plot had so many twists, weaving brilliantly from Olympus style action to intellectual investigations. There is a definite *The Da Vinci Code* feel to this book, with New York and its landmarks playing a pivotal role. I found myself constantly jumping over to Google Earth to fully visualize the setting. The pace builds to a crescendo that has consequences I can't wait to see play out.

In the middle of all this is the very new relationship between Theo and Selene. I loved that, while their feelings for each other are more than apparent, the complications of a man and goddess being in an equal relationship come right to the forefront. The conflicts they face—Theo's mortality, Selene's fear that being intimate will take more of her power as The Chaste One, her growing humanity (and inability to get pop

culture references)—cause real, and believable, roadblocks between them, ones they don't always know how to navigate. For me, this is one of the most complex and layered mortal/immortal relationships I read in urban fantasy for a while.

***Winter of the Gods* builds on the solid foundation set out in the first book, taking every aspect—complex plot, character relationships, a wonderful combination of Greco-Roman mythology and fresh fiction—and amping them up to the next level, to make an immersive and intelligent read. If you're a fan of *American Gods* or *The Iron Druid Chronicles* you may want to check this series out.**

Sexual Content: sex

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## Book Club Mom says

Columbia professor and mythology expert Theodore Schultz is enjoying a quieter life since his recent run-in with a violent religious cult. As a consultant to the NYPD, Theo had nearly died last summer and now he's recuperating nicely. And helping him is Selene DiSilva, the striking and powerful beauty he met during the investigation.

Selene is mythology's present-day Artemis. She's the daughter of Zeus, protector of the innocent and goddess of the hunt, virginity, archery, animals and the moon. While it may sound great to be immortal, Selene and her extended family have found themselves in a strange state. Their godly powers are fading and they are coping with the very human side of aging. Selene is still very tough, however, and she uses her power to protect and avenge.

Selene and Theo survived the dangerous adventures in *The Immortals*. Now they can relax and work on their relationship. As the goddess of virginity, Selene must consider a more modern lifestyle and Theo may be the one to make her change.

Modern romance is put on hold, however, when police investigators call Theo to help with a new murder investigation. A man's body has been discovered on Wall Street's Charging Bull statue and clues point to another ritualistic cult. When Theo and Selene discover the cult's evil plot, they rush to decipher the clues before the next murder.

*Winter of the Gods* is Book 2 of Brodsky's Olympus Bound Series, an imaginative science fiction adventure. In this story, Brodsky's characters take sides in the battle between good and evil, with a few of them caught in the middle. Within that fight are several layers of conflict between Selene and her family, who are often at odds with each other. Can they work together to fight against an imposing, but unnamed enemy? And does it help or hurt when mortals like Theo get involved?

Many characters from *The Immortals* return, including Selene's twin brother Paul (Apollo) as well as a couple mortals: Theo's best friend Gabriela and the story's sleeper love interest, Ruth Willever. As a fan of mythology, I enjoyed learning many particulars about these imperfect gods and goddesses, their loyalties and their rivalries. Mythology buffs will appreciate the author's knowledge and her detailed explanations of the Olympians' complicated family tree. I had fun imagining the gods using their magical weapons and other devices with mortals, including winged helmets and gleaming swords. Brodsky makes the mystery real by placing many New York landmarks in the story, including Wall Street, Rockefeller Center, Roosevelt Island and North Brother Island. A terrific scene takes place at Grossinger's the now-deserted Catskills resort.

As they decipher clues and gain entry into the cult's chambers, Theo and Selene race against time to stop the

murders, with numerous obstacles. The story ends in a wild finish, with many twists, surprise heroes and a few hints at what may happen in the next book.

I recommend Winter of the Gods to readers who like fantasy adventure stories in which characters must pull strength from their innermost reserves to save the day.

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### **Lourdes says**

4.5 \*s Great sequel.

Review: <https://chapterswelove.com/2017/09/05...>

The Immortals, Book 1: <https://chapterswelove.com/2017/06/07...>

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### **Blodeuedd Finland says**

So I just read the blurb, aha, so it is a trilogy. I so wondered about that when finishing this book. It had a feeling of being the final book, but at the same time, it was so obviously not over. And I worried that it was indeed the end because more should have been told, and will be told ;) So yay for that.

In this one, Selene finds out that someone is hunting gods to kill them. Why is this? Who is doing it? So many questions, but at least she has Theo by her side. I like their relationship, they take it slow (because the myth is true so...) He is more relaxed now, he jokes, and he does love her. And she, I do feel sorry for her, she cares for him, but she is a Goddess, she has her issues.

I like this series. The gods running around, well some have faded away long ago, they are not as they used to be. They need worship in some form or another. I do like this mythology, and I would love to see it explored more, as one god does mention other gods, but are those still around too?

Anyway, this one feels darker, or maybe I just do not remember the darkness in book 1, because people died there, and people sure die here too. It was sad.

I am glad there will be another book because more is sure to come.

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### **Helen says**

I expect New Yorkers would blaze through this book, I can't stop looking up locations and statues!

Selene and Theo return to battle man and his insatiable desires. Fun plot and likeable characters.

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### **Mogsy (MMOGC) says**

As *The Immortals* was one of my top reads from last year, I couldn't wait to dive into its sequel, *Winter of the Gods*. And while I didn't feel this sequel was as good as its predecessor, I wasn't disappointed either—returning to Jordanna Max Brodsky's extraordinary vision of New York City, where Greek gods walk the earth in human guises, was once again a pleasure to experience.

Our story opens several months after the end of the first book. With the weather getting colder and Christmas fast approaching, Selene DiSilva's antipathy for the holiday spirit is enough to make Ebenezer Scrooge look like a paragon of cheer. On the bright side though, as Artemis, goddess of the moon and the hunt, defender of women and girls, Selene has also been keeping her spirits up with her vigilantism to bring justice to the abusers of those she has taken under her protection. And trust me, Selene DiSilva is not someone you'd want as an enemy.

However, Theo and Selene's lives are soon turned upside down by a body found on top of the iconic Wall Street Charging Bull statue, surrounded by evidence pointing to a ritual performed by a sacrificial cult. The identity of the dead man comes as a shock as Selene realizes that she and the other gods are still in danger. Someone out there is hunting her and her brethren, and once again there's a possibility that the culprit may be one of their own. Now she must reach out to the other immortals for help while Theo scours his knowledge of mythology and his field of classical studies to make sense of the mysterious clues left at the murder scene, all in the hopes they'll catch the killer before it is too late.

There are many reasons why *Winter of the Gods* is a strong sequel. Those who enjoyed *The Immortals* will be pleased to find it continuing central themes from the first book, including the fresh perspective on popular Greek myths and the premise that the Old Gods live among us in secret. And like the first book, this sequel also reads like a mystery thriller, taking the reader on a Dan Brown-esque race around New York City to locate certain landmarks by solving problems and symbolic clues related to classical mythology. It's a modern day murder mystery with a fantastical twist, and you're definitely going to want to keep reading (or start this series) if you enjoy your urban fantasy spiced up with a touch of myth and magic.

However, there were a few disappointments as well. Selene DiSilva has always been a dangerous woman, but there's no denying that the events from the first book have transformed her into an even more ornery and aggressive character. While I admired her as a powerful and strong-willed protagonist in *The Immortals*, in *Winter of the Gods* I confess I found her a lot harder to like, not to mention her behavior also cast an unhealthy shadow on her relationship with Theo. Selene is may be the protector of women and girls, but that doesn't stop her from frequently extending that protection to all the needy and vulnerable of New York, which she sees as "her" city. Knowing this while reading about how she abuses Theo—emotionally and, at one point, physically—was a little hard to swallow. Let's just say the following interactions between Theo and his friend Ruth gave me a real eye-opener on the nature of his relationship with Selene:

“Theo forgot how much he liked spending time with someone who always laughed at his jokes—someone whose emotions he could not only predict but, to some extent, influence. When Ruth was sad, he could cheer her up. When she was happy, he knew why.”

“Theo was a little taken aback by her alacrity. He was used to bargaining, cajoling, convincing. It felt odd to have someone so willing to help.”

Wait, so someone being pleasant towards him is actually something he finds surprising? What does that say

about Selene? And Theo's acquiescence and excuses for her, argh! The whole thing left me with a bad taste in my mouth which slightly affected my enjoyment of this novel, and it didn't help that the romantic drama—like all the bickering and the jealousies—often caused pacing issues and distracted attention from the main mystery. When all is said and done, I was glad that the story ultimately had Theo and Selene looking more introspectively at their relationship to see if it was really the best for them or not (it's an important conversation and kudos to the author for addressing the issues). For me though, all the chemistry had already been leached out of their romance by then, and unfortunately I think that might have dampened the emotional impact of the ending.

Still, despite my complaints, they didn't take too much away from my overall enjoyment of the novel. While a few minor flaws give *Winter of the Gods* less of an edge compared to the first book, I still highly recommend this sequel especially if you liked the ideas from *The Immortals* and wanted to see them expanded and explored. I can't wait for the final book of this trilogy to see how the remaining conflicts and questions will resolve themselves.

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### **Fantasy Literature says**

Jordanna Max Brodsky's *Winter of the Gods* (2017) is the second installment in her *OLYMPUS BOUND* trilogy and a direct follow-up to 2016's *The Immortals*, continuing to follow Selene DiSilva (formerly known as the Greek goddess Artemis, whose epithets include The Huntress and Mistress of Animals) and her mortal boyfriend, Theodore Schultz. Though Selene and Theo were able to determine the cause of the strange murders in *The Immortals* — and stopped the cult behind it all — a new threat has arisen, once which will be impossible to stop without divine assistance.

*Winter of the Gods* begins at Christmastime, and Selene's not exactly feeling full of holiday spirit, to put it lightly: she loathes the holiday, especially the very concept of Christmas trees, and her relationship with Theo has hit a point of serious contention for them both. He wants to move things to what he sees as the logical physical conclusion, while she fears what will happen to her powers and attributes if she discards her identity as The Chaste One. After only a few months of rising arguments over the subject, they need a serious distraction, or else something major will have to change between the two of them. Read the rest: <http://www.fantasyliterature.com/revi...>

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### **Robyn says**

Oh, a good follow up to the first! A tiny bit too action-packed for my taste, but lots of fun.

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### **Dark Faerie Tales says**

Review courtesy of Dark Faerie Tales

Quick & Dirty: Another body is found with a cult ritual and it's up to Selene and Theo to figure out what is going on.

Opening Sentence: The Salvation Army Santa Claus narrowly escaped having his bell ripped from his hands and shoved down his throat.

### The Review:

Selene and Theo have been dating and things are going great until Theo is called down to assist with another murder. Once there he brings Selene and she realizes during the autopsy report that it's not a person who was murdered in a ritual, it was a god, the god of Death, Hades. This spells trouble for all the remaining gods, but it's especially troubling as Hades hadn't faded like the rest of them and still retained his powers.

Theo and Selene begin the hunt and warn the other gods, that someone is hunting them bearing their own weapons. Selene begins working with the other gods located in New York, and they are later joined by some from out of town. Most of the gods are still missing or no one knows where they are. Selene begins to think that Ares is behind this cult in an attempt to regain more of his former glory.

But that all changes when he is found dead. It is a race against time to figure out who is next and try to prevent the sacrifice. When Selene is taken, it is up to Theo to infiltrate the cult and attempt to save her. But they have been betrayed, and not just Selene has been taken. Will Theo be able to save her? Will other gods be sacrificed?

Whew, this book hit the action right from the start and such a jump from the first one. It was scary to see Olympians being hunted and killed, and I hung on for the whole ride. I still adore Theo and Selene, and this book only made me love them more. Although I wasn't super happy about the ending, spoilers, so I won't tell you why. I love the cult aspects of her books, which are obscure forgotten things that took time and research and she made them extremely creepy and super interesting.

I learn so much about greek mythology every time I read these books, and this time she included the roman aspect as well. Which I totally admit didn't thrill me as much. I mean they are the same gods with different names, but literally the roman aspect didn't add anything to them. It just felt stolen, but she won me over in the end. I can't wait to see what happens in the next book. I can't believe I have to wait a whole year.

### Notable Scene:

Selene let out a long shuddering sigh. "I think we've already done enough." And then, for a long moment, the gods simply sat in silence listening to the reports of the havoc a war between immortals could wreck on a city of men.

FTC Advisory: Orbit/Hachette provided me with a copy of Winter Of The Gods. No goody bags, sponsorships, "material connections," or bribes were exchanged for my review.

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### Lauren says

I enjoyed the world built in The Immortals and thought a second trip there would be enjoyable. The single star above probably tells you the truth of it.

Far, far too much of this book is devoted to Selene and Theo's physically abusive (her to him) and emotionally manipulative (him to her) relationship. Theo's insistence that Selene have sex with him - she is the goddess of virgins and has, for thousands of years, repped that - is creepy. Perhaps Bronsky meant this to be romantic, the ultimate sacrifice of the virgin goddess because she just loves her man so very much. But the vibe is much more "25-year-old dude with bad facial hair in the backseat of a Camaro pressuring his 18-year-old girlfriend to give it up" than "Rochester and Jane/Bogey and Bacall/Posh and Becks love for the ages."

Honestly it took over all my memories of this book.

There's murders in there, too.

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## Tammy says

**The nitty-gritty:** Another fantastic entry into *The Immortals* series, with more Greek gods, more action, more romance and much more danger. Sign me up for Book #3!

I had so much fun last year with *The Immortals*, the first of the *Olympus Bound* series, and I was hoping for more of the same. I wasn't disappointed. Brodsky gives us a very strong sequel that builds on the world-building of the first book and introduces a new threat to our present-day Greek gods and goddesses. Even better, she moves along the romance between Selene and Theo and makes it feel realistic, even though we're dealing with a millennia-old goddess and a present-day history professor/geek/authority on all things Greek. I think I enjoyed the first book slightly more, since this seemed to take ages to get through. (Not that I was bored, but it felt longer than the first book and it literally took me two weeks to read.) Still, if you love puzzles and enjoy finding hidden meanings in historical places and objects, you'll love this series. I will even go so far as to say *Winter of the Gods* can be read without having read *The Immortals* first. It has a self-contained plot, and although the first book introduces you to the characters and their relationships, Brodsky does a great job of jogging our memories and subtly bringing new readers up to speed.

Briefly—in case you haven't read *The Immortals*—it turns out the Greek gods and goddess of mythology are actually real, and they're alive and well and many of them are living in Manhattan. Selene DiSilva used to be known as Diana, Goddess of the Hunt, but now she protects women from abusive men. Her brother Apollo is now known as Paul and is a famous rock star, and other gods and goddesses have also taken on modern roles and appearances in order to keep their secret identities safe.

Theo is a professor at Columbia University, whose specialty is ancient Greek and Roman history. In the previous book, he met Selene during a murder investigation. Over the course of the story, Selene and Theo start to fall for each other.

After the events of the last book, Selene and Theo have settled into a mostly comfortable relationship, although the virgin Huntress is still a virgin, much to Theo's chagrin. But their happy existence doesn't last for long, as the two are called in to help investigate a ritualistic murder. The body of an older man has been found draped over the statue of *The Charging Bull* on Wall Street, surrounded by several dead animals—a crow, a scorpion and a dog—which have been carefully placed around the body. Theo takes one look at the crime scene and suspects a cult might be involved, but he and Selene have lots of digging to do before they uncover the truth.

When they realize that the victim is none other than the god Hades, they are horrified that an immortal god is dead. And when Selene is attacked and her golden bow and arrows are stolen, both she and Theo start to put the pieces together: someone is targeting gods and goddesses. In order to track down the cult responsible for Hades' death, Theo and Selene team up with several of Selene's immortal family members, and it isn't long before everyone finds themselves in grave danger.

Once again, Brodsky's prose is compulsively readable, and her dialog is so funny. When you're writing a story about the ups and downs of family relationships, good dialog is very important, and this book is chock full of wonderful moments between Selene and Theo, and Selene and her problematic siblings. If you think reading about mythological characters is dry material, then think again. Brodsky breathes life into three-thousand year old Selene and her brothers, aunts and uncles with snappy dialog interspersed with interesting facts about mythology.

Theo and Selene go through lots of changes in this story. You would think it would be hard to maintain an interesting romance when Selene continues to insist on staying a virgin, but I thought the author handled it very well. Selene is a prickly character and isn't that easy to get along with, so it says something about Theo that he wants to stay with her, even after everything that's happened between them.

There are plenty of interesting facts about the gods, and for mythology buffs, this story is like catnip! But don't worry: Brodsky knows how to incorporate a damn good story with her love of history, and the two mesh wonderfully together. She's obviously done a ton of research, and it shows.

A couple of things didn't work quite as well for me this time, although they were very minor. For some reason, Theo grated on my nerves more than the last book. He came across as whiny, especially when Selene tries to cut him out of the action (for his safety, of course), and his constant "know it all" attitude about historical facts became a bit too much. He's also very jealous of Selene in this book, especially when she's interacting with her half-brother Flint (Hephaestus, God of the Forge). I also thought the writing was overly dramatic in some spots, but it didn't affect my overall enjoyment of the story.

The last several chapters are action-packed and emotional, and an unexpected twist at the end caught me off guard, but I can see why the author decided to go in that direction. Brodsky does a great job of wrapping things up at the end, but leaving just a crumb or two unresolved to whet our appetites for the third (and final?) book of the series, *Olympus Bound*. This series is highly enjoyable, and if you haven't started it, I recommend you do so right away.

**Big thanks to the publisher for supplying a review copy.**

Read my review of *The Immortals* here! This review originally appeared on Books, Bones & Buffy

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## Jane says

Interesting premise using the Greeks gods and goddesses in modern guise in this fantasy-serial murder mystery but disappointing. I figured out early on the "baddies" would have something to do with a certain sect when the author began to use the Latin and Greek terms. I did like the tie-ins of astronomy and myths. But even for a fantasy the story got too outlandish. With so many pop culture references, I figure it will become dated quickly.

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