



## Undercurrent

*Michelle Griep*

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## **Undercurrent Michelle Griep**

Professor Cassie Larson leads a life her undergrad students hope to attain, until she tumbles into the North Sea and is sucked down into a swirling vortex...and a different century. Alarik, son of a Viking chieftain, is blamed for a murder he didn't commit—or did he? He can't remember. On the run, saving a half-drowned foreign woman wasn't in his plan. Ragnar is a converted pagan shunned by many but determined to prove his Cousin Alarik's innocence. He didn't count on falling in love with Cassie or the deadly presence of evil that threatens his village in Alarik's absence. Reviews: "Michelle Griep has done it again. Undercurrent is a gripping historical romance that fulfills every expectation. Easy to follow and laced with adventure, Griep captivates readers by taking them to 10th century Norway and immersing them in the dangers of the Viking world." --Jill Williamson, Christy Award-winning author of *By Darkness Hid* "Thoroughly enjoyable! A thrill ride back in time to the days of the Vikings. Ms. Griep's historical research is evident as she weaves a plot that will both grip your heart and keep you on the edge of your seat. Unexpected twists, a passionate romance, battle between good and evil, and a brutal realism that is refreshing all combine to make *Undercurrent* a book whose story will stay with you well past the last page. Michelle Griep is an exciting new voice among Christian Romance and a welcome change to the standard fare." --MaryLu Tyndall - Christy nominee and best-selling author of the *Legacy of the King's Pirates* series

## **Undercurrent Details**

Date : Published May 1st 2011 by Risen Books (first published April 14th 2011)

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Author : Michelle Griep

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## From Reader Review Undercurrent for online ebook

### Susan Snodgrass says

This is the second book I've read of Michelle Griep's but it will not be the last. It is Christian fiction and wonderful.

Cassie Larson is a college professor on a field trip with a group of students to Northumbria, England. A brooch she buys in a gift shop that is not a gift shop accidentally falls overboard the boat she's in. She reaches for it, falls in, and sometime later wakes in tenth century Norway and a Viking (a REAL Viking!) has rescued her from the water.

At first she thinks she's been plunked down in some kind of festival, but soon realizes that she is really in Viking land.

Ragnar is a Viking unlike most other Vikings. Three years earlier he has found Christ after hearing about Jesus from a slave captured during a raid. Most of his contemporaries make fun of this Jesus that Ragnar follows, but Jesus changed Ragnar's life.

The author writes very convincingly of Viking times and habits. I love this time period also and it made the book seem even more real to me as I read. It's gritty and violent at times, but it's a wonderful story and I was so puzzled as to how she would end the novel. Would Cassie somehow be magically transported back to modern day? Would Ragnar come with her? For you see, they fall in love.

I have learned that Ragnar will feature in a future trilogy the author is working on. I can't wait.

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### Amber Stokes says

After falling in love with Griep's first time travel book, *Gallimore*, I knew this book was one I wouldn't want to miss--and I was right! *Undercurrent* took me on a thoroughly engrossing and wonderfully enchanting ride back to the time of the vikings, and I loved every minute of it!

If there's one thing for sure, it's that Griep knows how to write romance! Tummy tingling and gripping, this love story is thrilling. With a combination of viking strength, a touch of Phantom-of-the-Opera intrigue, and a heart with ocean-depth, the hero is quite swoon-worthy. ;) And beyond the wonderful historical details and the fantastic romance, this book also contains a powerful theme of sacrificial love as a picture of the way God loves us.

There are some rather gruesome descriptions of viking violence within the pages, and it is sometimes difficult to keep up with the characters' locations in the exotic world of the past, but overall this book is both moving and exciting. I read it all in one night because I just couldn't put it down--it is *that* good! Highly recommended!

\*With thanks to the author for providing me with a copy of the book in exchange for my honest opinion.\*

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## **Renee says**

I love time travel and can't remember the last time, if ever, that I've read a Christian time travel book like this. Well done and VERY romantic.

Full review soon!

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## **Jessica Wolf says**

*Undercurrent* is a whirlwind romance story set against the backdrop of ancient Viking history. It follows the story of Cassie Larson who accidentally travels back in time and finds herself mixed up with two Old Norse hunks and a battle against good and evil. Both main characters - Cassie and Ragnar - are a testament to trusting Christ even when it's the most tough, an all-together hopeful and endearing story.

As my second book by Michelle Griep, I was greatly looking forward to starting this story. I came away satisfied yet slightly disappointed. The characters are all very unique and lovable, especially Magus, and I greatly appreciated Griep not shying away from the not-so-Christian side of Viking history. While I enjoyed watching the always-bumbling Cassie transform, I felt like the overall story wasn't as fleshed out as it could have been. The antagonist was a little confusing at times; I honestly couldn't figure out for the life of me why he was doing what he was doing. Also, Cassie's relationship with Alarik had me confused at times, too. It was hard to tell what she felt for him and he for her.

If you like time-travel stories and you don't want to read yet another Highlander one, I recommend that you read *Undercurrent*. It's fresh and exhilarating.

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## **Masquerade Crew says**

### **BEC'S REVIEW**

This is one of those romance stories where the heroine is swept back in time to another era and must try to fit in. There are a few out there so the plot is a bit predictable at times, though that doesn't stop it from being a truly enjoyable read that had me hanging onto every word. Just because something has been done before doesn't mean that it can't be a fresh and riveting read and while most readers can predict from the synopsis how this story will end I can say that there are a few surprises waiting in the pages.

Set in the Viking Era, *Undercurrent* tells the story of Cassie (or Cass ee), who has been swept from her time into the past. Luckily she's a linguist so the language barrier doesn't prove a problem for long, though it does provide some cute misunderstandings. Our other main characters are two strong Vikings, though there is no love triangle in this book. You soon learn just who is interested in who. Despite knowing who Cassie would end up with before she did I was pleased with the progression of her relationship, from meeting the Viking in question, getting to know, learning of his affections and eventually falling for him herself. It had a natural and slow progression, different to the many speedy relationships that grace the romance genre, and it is this slow progression that makes it seem more authentic.

If time travel, Romances, or Vikings are your thing then this book is for you. I truly enjoyed it, devouring it in a lazy day spent reading. The author has an ability to set a scene and draw you in, so that you really feel for the plight of the characters and hope they succeed in their trials. All in all Undercurrent is a good read.

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### **Amber says**

Undercurrent was a fantastic time-travel journey filled with romance, suspense and an unwavering faith that touches your heart. When you read a novel that is from another time period, sometimes you may not quite understand the terms used. I found it very helpful that Michelle added a Glossary in the book to help out the reader. It was very useful and I appreciate the extra effort.

This isn't your average time-travel book. This is one where you fall into a vortex and end up thousands of years back into the Viking life. Professor Cassie Larson never imagined her class trip would lead her into a different century. This journey not only educates her but she first handedly gets to live a century's old life. There was a murder committed and the accused, Alarik, must escape until the guilty is accused. If you love masculine swoon worthy men, humor, action, deceit, viking history and a beautiful romance, this book is one you should read.

The plot was written with integrity and skill as well as the intriguing characters. You learn about viking life and hardships of not having the modern day conveniences. There were some pretty funny parts that were intwined beautifully into the storyline. Scandal, romance, hardships, some hardy viking fights kept me captivated. I grew a connection with these characters. I felt their fear, determination, loyalty, and love. Underneath this fantastic story lies what is truly important, which is your faith.

I would like to send a special "Thank You" to Michelle for sharing this fantastic story with me. I loved living in your written world and though it seemed it went by way too fast, this story will linger in my thoughts for quite some time.

I highly recommend Undercurrent!!

Underneath, there is a true message.

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### **Gwendolyn Gage says**

I was reading two other novels at the same time that I was reading Undercurrent, and this is the book I kept reaching for. I loved it. Not just because I have a taste for time-travel novels -- Michelle Griep tamed the writing critique beast in me. I was able to stop watching for pace, plot and writing style, and lose myself in the story as a reader. I thought for sure I knew how this book was going to end, and Michelle completely surprised and delighted me.

The history was wonderful! Michelle dotted all her "i"s and crossed all her "t"s in researching the Viking period. I learned everything from the details of their clothing, to the bear grease they used on the door hinges of their longhouses.

Because of the "Tazarn and Jane" start to the book, there isn't a lot of dialogue, but Michelle more than makes up for it with the humor she weaves into her writing. Seriously, she had me laughing out loud several times! Here's a couple of my favorite lines from the first chapter:

"She tried to side-step the girl, but Tammy mirrored her action as if they danced."

"Cassie stepped back before a fine spray of saliva could land on her and waited for the snort. Tammy didn't disappoint."

The characters were awesome and memorable. Cassie is clumsy, sarcastic, and always embarrassing herself in front of her new viking friends. And Ragnar -- I loved Ragnar! You can feel his passion for God and his love for his friends. One whole side of his face is scared, and he is understandably self-conscious about it. He's always smoothing his hair forward to cover the scar, and believes that no woman will ever be able to love him because of it.

Now, this is an "edgy" read because of an attempted rape and a viking "getting it on" with his woman (there are no details), plus there is a lot of blood, gore and violence throughout the story. (It's 900 A.D. -- go figure.)

The romance scenes didn't happen until close to the end of the book, but it fit -- Cassie was coping with the idea of being in 10th century Norway through the majority of the story, and it took time for her to adjust and fall in love. And wow, what a kissing scene! Michelle certainly knows how to write them! I had to go back and re-read it!

Definately 5 stars. And its going on my shelf of favorites to re-read.

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## **Kara says**

Review by Kara Grant

Dr. Cassie Larson is having a bad day. First, her boyfriend breaks up with her over the phone. Then her button pops off her blouse making her feel more exposed in front of her students while on a boat headed to Holy Island in Northumberland, England. The entire time this is going on, Cassie is avoiding her most annoying student, Tammy, who insists on being clingy. Lastly, Cassie finds a small gift shop that only appears for her and she purchases a strange, medieval brooch in order to close the small gap in her blouse. However, the brooch never makes it to her blouse before she is sucked into a whirlwind of water and travels to the late 10th Century in Norway.

Alarik is also having a bad day. He's a Norseman warrior, a medieval Viking who knows how to use a sword in battle. However, he has awoken in pain to find his brother murdered and his cousin, Ragnar, bloodily injured with no recollection how this all took place. It is the day he is to wed his beloved Signy and yet he has to escape to Jorvik where he has family so that he can figure out how to prove his innocence.

Alarik finds Cassie en route to Jorvik, saves her life, and ends up protecting her while she adjusts to life in the late 900s with a language mix of Old English and Norse. Not only is Cassie unable to communicate

properly, but she is clumsy, scared and completely out of her element despite her educational background of linguistics. While she regains her memory of how she ends up in this strange land surrounded by medieval customs and traditions, Alarik goes about finding out how his brother ended up dead and planning how to prevent Torolf, an evil and determined shape-shifter, from taking his home at Rogaland.

I absolutely loved the adventure Cassie goes on and for most of it she's trying to figure out how to get home. Alarik and Ragnar bring her to life while providing her protection and friendship. Even her faith is restored after being forgotten. I enjoyed the references in the story to Grendel, Thor, lattes, and porridge. Cassie misses her life, but she soon forgets what she considered so important and meaningful while she helps Alarik and Ragnar figure out how to get justice. The story is taken from Alarik, Ragnar and Cassie's point-of-view. This way the reader can see from three different perspectives and it works well as the story progresses.

This story has adventure, betrayal, battles, and romance. It's not a laugh out loud read, but it is comical, intriguing and has unexpected points in the plot that are both exhilarating and suspenseful. Just when you think you've figured out what will happen next the plot twists even more. There is violence in this story, but I found it to be appropriately done within the plot without being graphic. Ragnar is the only character in the story who constantly thinks and speaks of Jesu and living his life accordingly. Even though the character Torolf is the perfect villain who is deeply possessed with sorcery, there is nothing in Undercurrent that I would consider creepy or offensive. There is no profanity; there is reference to lust and roaming gazes, but it fits with the story. There is lots of romance, faith, and character development. I definitely recommend Undercurrent for anyone who loves a good story with clean action and a bit of time travel.

\*\*re-reading Oct. 2014....such a great story but the second time reading I would give it FOUR STARS because there is witchcraft/sorcery from the villain which definitely gives the story a creepy factor. However, VERY well written and just loved how the story ended for Cassie, great characters and a happy ending\*\*

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### **Tessa Stockton says**

Time travel romantic adventure with Vikings!

One of the best romantic adventures I've read in a long time. "Undercurrent" pulled me in and absorbed my attention for the entire 300+ pages. The author's wit is ruthless. This book made me laugh A LOT, and—dang it!—made me cry, too. Learning about the Vikings was a treat...those strong, muscular, and vicious warriors—those desirable hotties. Yet, honor and truth prevail amongst them. If this book isn't made into a movie I'll be sorely disappointed.

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### **Englishrose says**

This was an interesting story that took on an almost epic feeling to the story. With several plot arcs the story built and continued as various parts of the story came to light. Engaging and exciting, the adventures of the main characters suck you into a new story and a new world. Various characters create a full world, complete with love, friendship and villains. The romance is fun and sweet and wonderful. The Christian theme was very prevalent, emphasizing the importance of forgiveness, love, and peace. A good book and one I would recommend.

### **Deborah Mitchell says**

My oh my, what a wild ride . Vikings here, Vikings there, Vikings everywhere.. This book is indeed an adventure to behold. From the moment Cassie got thrown into this other world, I found myself wondering how she was ever going to survive. I had no idea of the Viking ways and I care not to experience it myself. Michelle did a fantastic job with her descriptions of the people and places. There is so much action from beginning to end, I found myself completely exhausted by the time I finished reading it....a good exhaustion...

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### **Ane Mulligan says**

Undercurrent rates up with the top 10 books I've ever read. I fell in love with the characters, quirky Cassie, heroic Ragnar, loyal Magnus, and host of others. It's the most creative time travel story, romantic and completely mesmerizing. Griep is such a descriptive writer, you easily suspend disbelief, diving head first into the story and traveling through time with Cassie. I didn't want it to end and can't wait for the sequel. Novel Journey and I give it our highest recommendation: a MUST read.

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### **Janet Sketchley says**

In late-tenth-century Norway, Alarik regains consciousness to discover his cousin bleeding and his brother dead by Alarik's own blade. With no memory of the fight, Alarik must flee or be executed.

Meanwhile, in the present day, Cassie Larson is a career-oriented professor and linguistics expert shepherding a group of university students on a tour of historic islands in England's Northumberland Strait—until she falls over the side of the boat and surfaces beside Alarik's small vessel.

Alarik's cousin, Ragnar, is their village's only Christian, who longs to convince his people of his Saviour's reality and Alarik's innocence. He's often ridiculed, and his disfigured face keeps him unmarried, yet he dreams of a woman speaking a strange language, who will love him.

In some ways Undercurrent is a historical romance, filled with rich details of Alarik's place and time. It's also a time-travel fish-out-of-water story as a self-sufficient woman of our day learns to function in a primitive, male-dominated Viking society.

I enjoyed the characters, the peek into this period in history, and the occasional humour. Ragnar's sincerity of faith is a good challenge to present-day Christians who may not feel our roles as ambassadors quite as strongly as he does among his people.

Michelle Griep has a fast-moving writing style that drew me in and made me care about the people and their circumstances. You can read a sample chapter of Undercurrent and learn more about Michelle Griep at her website and her blog, Writer Off the Leash. She's also the author of Gallimore.

[Review copy from my personal library.]

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### **Lis K says**

Cassie Larson is transported back in time to the Viking world of the late 10th century and lands in the middle of a murder mystery. Alarik is on the run, afraid of being blamed for murdering his older brother and seriously wounding his cousin, Ragnar. On his way to his mother's country, he rescues Cassie from the North Sea and decides to keep her as a gift to his betrothed. Thus begins Cassie's journey---physically, emotionally, and spiritually---to find where (or to whom) she belongs. What a fun and exciting story! I'd consider it more edgy than the usual Christian fiction because it does contain murder, violence (those Vikings were not kidding around), attempted rape, a couple "being" together (although nothing is described), and some pretty passionate kissing. However, the story is also humorous, suspenseful, romantic, and portrays what a Christ-follower can really look like. I really enjoyed all the characters (except the crazed villain Torolf), the bantering between Cassie and Alarik, and the romance between Cassie and Ragnar. Initially, Cassie is a hard person to like. She is self-absorbed, judgmental, and a bit mean. However, she is also independent, strong, and willing to change---characteristics that make you root for her. Ragnar was just plain awesome. He had his own struggles but tried to look towards Jesus for help and peace. There are some twists and turns in the book, one of which made me gasp in shock. I couldn't believe what the author did but I appreciate how she used it to show what sacrificial love really means. This is a book that picks readers up and plops them down in the middle of the Nordic world to experience romance, suspense, adventure, and Christ's love. An excellent read, I recommend it!

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### **Melanie Dickerson says**

If you're looking for a historical romance story that delves below the surface, dipping deep into spiritual waters, then *Undercurrent* is the novel you've been looking for. Not for the faint of heart, this medieval story is gritty and realistic, well-written and insightful. It will make you think again about your purpose in life, about grace and forgiveness, and about what God requires of every person. This is skillful, no-holds-barred writing and an enjoyable love story. Unpredictable and memorable. I highly recommend it.

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