



Painted Blind

Michelle A. Hansen

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Psyche Middleton vows her dad will never see the risqué photos she took during a summer modeling stint abroad, but one of them ends up on a billboard in her Montana hometown, where everyone—especially her dad—can see it. That becomes the least of her worries when she meets Erik, a mysterious guy who rescues her from a mob and who she's never actually seen because he can make himself invisible.

Erik takes her to his palace in an idyllic kingdom, and she is swept into the beauty and culture of his world, but his affection has one condition: she may not see him. Enchanted, intrigued, and not wholeheartedly believing he's real, Psyche can't bring herself to love him blindly. When she betrays his trust for a glimpse of his face, Psyche ends up at the mercy of Erik's controlling mother, who demands that Psyche prove herself in order to be reunited with him. Psyche knows love is never easy, but this is ridiculous. She agrees to complete three impossible tasks to prove her devotion to Erik—or die trying.

This modern retelling of the myth of Cupid and Psyche is a fantastical journey filled with laughter, danger, and the indomitable power of love.

Painted Blind Details

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From Reader Review Painted Blind for online ebook

Brooke says

This was a fun story. It is another YA Lit with a heroine who falls for a non-human within 30 seconds of meeting him, but I didn't find it as mushy or eye-rolling as other novels of this type. It was actually a really involved story-line, with a lot happening, a lot of action, and some fairly entertaining talk of greek mythology (which I usually don't care for, but Hansen gives us the modern day take on those greek gods).

While I do roll my eyes at stories of teenage girls, falling in love, instantly, and willing to give up their whole lives for this person they have known for a week, it was more tolerable to me in this story, perhaps because of the author. I liked her writing style, it seemed very natural and easy, the way reading a book should be.

roxtao says

I received Painted Blind by courtesy of Createspace publisher and Mrs. Michelle A. Hansen, the author of the book. Thank you for offering me the chance to read this wonderful story! Because English is not my native language and because, until now, my reviews were only written in Romanian, please accept my excuses for the possible mistakes.

Since I read the first books of Aimee Carter's series – Goddess Test, I was desperate to discover other books inspired by legends and mythology. As it happened, I found Painted Blind, but I had no idea that these pages were exactly what I was looking for. The synopsis caught me before even having the chance to finish reading it, so I missed the second paragraph. Therefore, when I began reading the book, I only knew that it was about a girl having problems because of a discreditable photo and that she was saved from a difficult situation by an invisible guy. That's all. I don't know why, the first page gave me the impression that I was reading a vampire story, so probably that's why I didn't notice the first hints. But then, I slowly began discovering (enthusiastically!) that I was wrong and that in Painted Blind I won't meet any vampires.

About 15 years ago I was reading The Legends of Olympus. Of course, I don't remember a lot of details, but I do know that the legend of Psyche and...(hmm..I'd better not reveal the name so I don't spoil the surprise)...one of the gods of the Ancient Greece was my favourite. I loved it and over the years I kept remembering the story and how much I liked it. And now I discovered a book inspired exactly by this myth! From the moment I began glimpsing the hope that this could be exactly that legend, I felt overenthusiastic and eager to discover the whole story. The premise of the book is the same on which most of the gods legends are built: he is a god, she is a mortal and we have a love story full of different obstacles, tests, enemies and the threat of a very unpleasant ending. But, the way the author managed to cover the book's core in order to obtain a complete story is beautiful. I was charmed the whole time. The characters are credible, their actions and gestures look so careless that you almost forget you're reading a fantasy novel. Some of their remarks are so funny that it's impossible not to giggle, even if you're reading in a public area and you find yourself getting all those weird looks because of it. A pro is that the female character is not enclosed by the classic types. She is neither the weak female character waiting to be saved by Prince Charming, nor the mighty fighter that can overcome anything alone. She's not always reacting the way you

would expect her to and she is not offering the most polite or appropriate remark. On the contrary, sometimes she's a little unfair in treating the people around her. But this only makes her incredible real.

The grumblers might say that the ending is a little similar to one of the novels from the Twilight series. I don't know if the author was inspired by those novels but indeed, there are few aspects that could remind you of the series, especially the family life of Psyche. Even more, after a couple of tests, we have the scene where Erik accompanies Psyche to her home, in order to meet her father, to tell him the truth and ask for his permission to take her away. Sounds familiar, right? It may, but from my point of view, Painted Blind offers a much better story! The book has a more enthralling action, the adventures of Psyche are certainly more tensed and the characters are designed better.

Pros:

- I think it's the first novel in which you can get to know the secondary characters that well. Their portraits are outlined so well, that they could even rival with the ones of the main characters. I had moments when I felt more attached with Aeas, Titus or Thomas than with Psyche or Erik.

Cons:

- One part from the beginning, when Psyche gets harassed by the paparazzi because she posed (almost) nude in a public campaign, seemed a little exaggerated. Considering that the book's action takes place in our time, I don't see why such a thing would generate so much chaos. I've got the sensation that this part wasn't reviewed enough and that it was only a compromise solution in order to cast the plot.

Soma Rostam "IOB" says

Real love is something hard to find, but once it's there, it's also very hard to keep. Michelle A. Hansen draws a line between fake affections and real, overwhelming love, she shows you that real love is worth any sacrifice, and that it's indeed worth fighting for.

17-year-old Psyche, swears that her strict father will never see the photos she took in some modelling sessions, but one of the photos ends up on a huge billboard in the main street.

After this incidence, Psyche struggles to stay normal, but against her will she starts to fall for Erik, the mysterious guy who saved her from a group of admirers by making her disappear. Yes, Erik can be invisible. After taking her to his magical kingdom, Psyche knows that Erik can touch her, talk to her, or kiss her lips, but she can only hear him, she can only feel him when he's near. Erik doesn't let her see him, so Psyche has to prove to herself that she can fall in love blindly. She has to prove that real emotions come from the heart not from the eyes. But that's not as easy as it seems.

After struggling so hard to keep herself from trying to see Erik, she finally gives up. But betrayal is something not easily forgiven, Psyche has to try quite hard to bring her real love back.

What will Psyche have to do to bring Erik back? Will Psyche succeed in making him forgive her? And will they finally be together and live their magical happily ever after? Check this out when you read, Michelle A. Hansen's first novel, the captivating standalone, Painted Blind...

Michelle A. Hansen created a huge masterpiece, the characters are all so overwhelming. I loved Psyche's wit, her teasing attitude, and her cute sense of humor. Actually, the whole book has a touch of humor in it, which had me laughing hard. I loved how Psyche developed from the first line till the end, she makes a few silly mistakes but she tries real hard to correct them. Psyche is stubborn, definitely a plus!

Erik is gorgeous, magical, caring, loyal, emotional and over-protective (I'm not exaggerating), he is definitely special. Although he makes a few mistakes, but he grows up and fixes them. I full-heartly adored most of the good guys in the book, they were all so gentle and kind.

And I loved the touch of Greek mythology in the novel, you might not know what I am talking about now, but when you read the book, you will be surprised at how many unexpected, wonderful twists you will encounter.

This book will take your breath away, it will leave your heart pounding, and your skin tingling. Although it's a standalone, but you will enjoy it as much as you could have enjoyed reading a whole series, maybe even more. This novel is thought-provoking, it is full of intriguing characters, exhilarating twists, and wonderful scenes. No matter what you like, you should definitely read Painted Blind....

Aimee (Getting Your Read On) says

I read a few reviews for this book and decided to check into this book. I picked it up at Amazon for four dollars for my kindle. Yesterday afternoon when I sat down to read I decided to take a peek at it before I started back into the books I'm supposed to be reviewing. I stayed up until after midnight to finish this book and I never got back to the books I was supposed to be reading. oopsy. That should tell you how much I was enjoying the book though! :)

I was pleasantly surprised by this book. It had romance, mythology, and that suspense element that keeps you wanting to know more. Very enjoyable writing. I'm really looking forward to reading more by Michelle Hansen.

It's funny though, the different takes on mythology in different books. I just read Goddess Interrupted where Hades is a good guy and Persephone harmless (mostly) and this book Hades and Persephone have gone bad and the underworld is horrible, evil and scary place.

If you enjoy Mythology you really ought to check this book out.

There were a few instances of mild swearing.

✕Tabby✕ says

THE REVIEW

Why this book?

The myth always interested me

What I thought

This is a modern day retelling of The Cupid & Psyche myth and its absolutely my favorite. I devoured this book I couldn't wait to see what happened next. Psyche falls in love with the invisible Erik and gets convinced by her jealous friend that she must see his face. When she does the whole adventure to win his love starts. She must complete three tasks set by his mother Aphrodite or she will never see his face or hear

him talk again. But that doesn't stop him from from stopping by invisibly now and again. This was full of romance, adventure, friendship, great characters and Greek mythology. It had Great characterization, characters you wanted to root for. I can't recommend this book enough this is a must read.

Annalisa Christensen says

Painted Blind is a wonderful title for a novel and it immediately grabbed my attention. The story is a modern interpretation of ancient Greek mythology. I am weary of angels, vampires, and poorly written dystopian fantasies so a young adult twist on Eros and Psyche intrigued me. The story started with promise but quickly deteriorated into what felt like Twilight-esque fan fiction. Almost all the elements were there: misunderstood beautiful teenage girl, flaky absentee mother, bewildered and ineffectual father, otherworldly gorgeous potential boyfriend, powerful and jealous enemy, boys queuing up to worship at teenage girl's feet - check, check and check. There is even one scene that involves a storm, a tent, and two testosterone oozing boys - one teasing, the other barely holding his jealousy in check - sound familiar?

I felt like the characters were underdeveloped and many things were unexplained. Why does Psyche hate being touched? What is the back story on her mother? What is it about Psyche that Eros loves besides her beauty? I believe the author wanted to paint Eros as someone so jaded by immortal magnificence that he skips past Psyche's perfect mortal shell and dives straight for her beautiful soul to fall helplessly in love. The author missed her own point here. The courtship was short and without inspiration: hot Greek god falls for hot Earth chick. In the end, physical beauty is all that matters.

I particularly wished Eros was a more complicated character. He came across as a kind of dull yet oddly temperamental type of nice guy. In mythology Eros (Cupid) is a Puck-like character who causes all sorts of mischief and mayhem with his ability to induce lust and love on a whim. I didn't see a trace of that impish personality in this Eros. The plot slugged along without much tension, emotion, or surprise. A story about Psyche (the soul) and Eros (love) has endless possibilities. This story ended up reading like a young teenage girls' wish list: be the prettiest girl in the room, have the hottest boyfriend, be better than your BFF (in looks and morals), get rich modeling, have a tricked out I-pod with coolest playlist, have the best ride (winged horse -who can beat that?), live in a mansion by the beach and best of all - leave school early.

Lyra Gill says

This review is also posted [HERE](#).

Out of all the mythological retellings I've read over the past year, Painted Blind is my favorite. The world-building is sublime; the plot is relatively fast-paced; and the characters are engaging. The writing is beautiful - the descriptions of Erik's world are intricately detailed - and not a page of this book bored me. Though I pretty much knew how the story will progress since I am well acclimated with the myth of Cupid (Eros) and Psyche, Michelle Hansen threw little plot twists here and there to make this story truly her own.

I love how Hansen portrayed Psyche. Usually, when authors attempt to make a beautiful girl insecure and frightened of all the stares and attention, everything falls flat. They make the girl sound too whiny and ungrateful - and most of the time irritating - but that isn't the case for Psyche. Sure, she may be described as

being unearthly beautiful, but like every girl who has to go through life with eyes feasted upon her every move, she quakes under the stares. Like every girl thrust into the public eye for something she's not proud of, she does everything she can to hide herself. The way Hansen talked about Psyche's fear of people and unwarranted attention was definitely believable, and in no way did I even doubt how Psyche felt throughout the book.

What I loved the most about this book was its supporting characters. While I didn't blink my eyes in disbelief about Psyche and Erik's love, I never felt like I actually got to know Erik as opposed to his servant, Aeas, and Psyche's servant, Titus. (Be warned - I'm using the term servant very loosely here.) Yes, I do see that he's very protective and that he does indeed love Psyche very much, but I think that that's all that I got from what I read and nothing else. I really wish that his character could have been explored more, but then again, this book was told from Psyche's point of view. I guess you can't really expect her to paint the man she loves in a bad light. However, as Aeas and Titus were both there for Psyche every step of the way when she had to accomplish the impossible, I really felt like I got to know the both of them. Moreover, Psyche described both characters as she saw them - no sugarcoating whatsoever. If they did something that she didn't like, or they wanted her to do something that she won't do, she'd call it as it is. I also loved how Psyche and Titus interacted with each other - their banter was fun to read, and seeing their friendship progress was also entertaining.

Overall, Painted Blind was an entertaining and enjoyable read. I would definitely recommend it to readers who love retellings of myths - you won't regret reading this book!

Monica says

looooved this one!

Ronda says

Painted Blind is a great, fun read!

Seanean says

<http://librarytalker.blogspot.com/201...>

Psyche has always been beautiful and has always hated that beauty. It has caused her nothing but trouble. After going away for the summer to model, she returns to find her image plastered on billboards and in magazines.

High school just became a whole lot more difficult.

With the paparazzi and fans following her everywhere, Psyche often finds herself surrounded by crowds of people. When she's rescued one day by someone who can become invisible at will, she finds that she's fallen completely in love, even without seeing him.

Now she must prove her love to him by never looking at him. If she can't follow that simple rule, she may lose everything.

Final thoughts: This was a compelling read and retelling of the Eros/Psyche myth. It was a fast read and drew me in. However, upon finishing it, I found myself questioning a large number of things that happened. Psyche's "friend" is a horrible person who seems to only hang out with Psyche because she wants to catch the boys around her. She's fickle, selfish, and tricky, yet Psyche thinks only good things about her during most of the book. The author doesn't explain enough about things like how Psyche got her name (her mother is a ditz and her father's in construction, so why "Psyche"?), why she hates crowds, or why she is so scared of heights. It's also strange that the moment she has one ad campaign out, she's being followed everywhere to the point where she has to go into hiding. There are also a couple of Twilight moments with her waiting in the forest after being rejected and having to be rescued, then falling into a deep depression. Having read the myth after reading the book, a few more things make sense now, but it needs a little work.

Renaë says

I am getting very, very fed up with books that perpetuate sexist behavior, condone treating women like possessions, and send the message to teenage girls that this sort of mentality is acceptable and desirable. I just don't understand how this sort of thing happens. Outwardly, *Painted Blind* looks really cute, like a sort of modern-day fairytale. But I quickly realized that, while Michelle A. Hansen is a pretty good writer, the content of her writing was...well, sexist and bigoted and a self-respecting woman's worst nightmare.

But more on that later.

First off, I'm going to talk about agoraphobia, because whatever was going on in this book was definitely not agoraphobia, as advertised by the summary. Because in spite of her "agoraphobia", Psyche didn't seem to have any problems jet-setting off to Milan, the Caribbean, frat parties, a whole other dimension, etc. By definition, an agoraphobe is a person who is extremely and/or irrationally afraid of leaving his or her house. Not once in *Painted Blind* was there a moment where Psyche expressed fear of stepping outside her door. So either Hansen doesn't understand the medical condition she chose to write about, or she forgot that Psyche was supposed to be agoraphobic, or whoever wrote the summary was an idiot. If you want to read a truly excellent novel about agoraphobia, go check out *The Awakening* by Angela Elwell Hunt (bonus: it's a retelling of *Sleeping Beauty*!).

Anyway.

Psyche is a teen girl who meets up with this insanely attractive guy, falls instantly in love with him, and is swept off to his mythical kingdom. Yadda yadda, typical YA ridiculousness, which I was mostly okay with.

But then the love interest, Erik, hands Psyche a pendant without telling her what it means and tells her to wear it on her wrist. Turns out, that the pendant is a signal to any other male that Psyche is Erik's property, so HANDS OFF. Whoa, whoa, whoa. First, branding a girl like she's a cow is barbaric and medieval. Second, and more importantly, when did Psyche ever give Erik permission to claim her as his? Oh yeah, she didn't! But when she found out about their "engagement", she wasn't mad or anything. She just accepted and moved on.

And what Psyche and Erik moved on to was even more disgusting. Erik gets Psyche some new clothes, and

she thanks him. Erik's response? That if she didn't wear nice clothes, she would be a "disgrace" to him in front of his friends. No. Are you kidding me? Way to objectify your "fiancée" and prove how much she's truly worth to you. Right there, Erik treated Psyche like a piece of disposable arm candy who might embarrass him if she didn't wear expensive clothes, jewelry, and makeup. Are you kidding me? I think everyone agrees that teen girls spend too much time obsessing about appearances as it is. Why not send out the message that men value good looks primarily, over personality or inner beauty, yet again?

But wait, there's more!

At one point, Psyche and her best friend have pizza together. After eating, the Best Friend "jokes" that she's going to purge because she ate so much. Psyche laughs. NO. Turning bulimia into an opportunity for comedic relief is beyond tasteless. You do not make jokes about eating disorders, no no no. Oh my gawd.

Bottom line? I'm sure Michelle A. Hansen had the best of intentions, but telling teen girls that the man of your dreams should treat you like a pretty painting or a shiny sports car is wrong. I don't care who you are, but men should respect their daughters/wives/girlfriends/sisters/whatever. Painted Blind did not portray a romantic relationship based on respect (or even mutual consent), and because of that, I'm furious and horrified.

...I'm fed up, like I said. Fed up.

Daphne Delacroix says

[Eros threw her out of his kingdom (hide spoiler)]

Giselle says

An Electronic Advanced Reader Copy was provided by the publisher for review. Quotes have been pulled from an ARC and may be subject to change.

I joined the blog tour for this because I thought the premise sounded so interesting. I seriously thought it was a contemporary romance and that she was an artist of some sort. Boy I'm sure glad I was wrong. This is the retelling of Eros and Psyche. I love mythology tales, but I only know the most popular ones. So imagine to my surprise I haven't heard of this one. I'm so grateful to join this tour, because I enjoyed it immensely.

I highly recommend this book, not just for the beautiful love story even though it was instant, but because Psyche never gave up on Erik. I just wished they fell in love a lot longer. I also wanted to know more about Erik. There was a lack of personality happening there, just because Psyche saw him as perfect. I loved the secondary characters though. I felt I knew them more than I did Erik.

Michelle writes so beautifully, adding details here and there. The pacing is perfect as it picks up in different chapters and slows down in others to give us a break from the emotional cries. I can't help but love the world she has painted. It actually seems like paradise. On the other hand, Hades is exactly how I would picture it. Pain and suffering beyond belief, I couldn't help but feel a little scared. It was too vivid, too real. Too freaky! Maybe it had to do with the fact that I read it late at night?

The only thing that should change is the cover. The cover lacks personality and could be a beautiful cover if they redesigned it.

Take a chance on this one, I highly recommend it. This is one of my favourite reads I've read this year. I want to read it again because I'm sure I missed something.

Jude says

I have this serious issue where I can't seem to actually read the summaries of books. I thought *Painted Blind* was a contemporary romance novel about blind dates, which is the reason why I signed up for the tour (this happened between one and two months ago). And before I started reading the novel I went back to read the summary - to refresh my memory - and encountered a totally different thing: an invisible dude? She falls in love with an invisible guy? What the hell? It sounded dumb. Completely delusional. My first thought when I started the book? *Oh God, I'm gonna hate this one.* My first thought when I finished the book? *Oh God, this is one of my favorites.* He. He. And HE.

I have absolutely no idea where to begin with this book. It started out with a mixture of fantasy and romance, but somehow the story completely transitioned to the point where the first half of the book was one story, and the other half a completely different one. All of this in a good way. It turned adventurous, deeply romantic and I got chills at times. These aspects are not mentioned in the summary, and I don't want to go too far because, it's not really a spoiler, but you'll be more surprised if I don't tell you (I know I was).

This book blew me away. So many elements, so many details, so many characters and changes! Not once did I lose track, and there was no dull moment. Each character was well developed and I fell in love with every one of them as they were introduced into the story. Psyche was never annoying, she was strong and sarcastically funny. Erick was also fantastic. They both made mistakes and learned and paid the price for them - Literally - But I really want to make emphasis on the rest of the characters: Aaeas, Rory, Titus. Tomans, even Savannah and Theron; they were all magnificently done. They were all so rich and so different and I really, *really* felt connected to all of them.

Painted Blind was simply amazing. I had never read anything like it, or met characters like those. The cover isn't bad, but it does absolutely no justice to the book; even the title seems a bit off. But even this won't stop me from giving this book 5 stars (on Goodreads).

Aly says

I got this book from the author and when I first saw the cover I was close to dismissing it because the cover isn't all that interesting (not to mention she was never blindfolded at any point during the book). On a random whim I clicked it and read the synopsis. Totally blindsided that it was about a myth (Yes, mythology nerd here.) and then blindsided again by how flawlessly it was written.

I loved Psyche because she wasn't whiny. Or ungrateful. Or another Bella-reincarnate. She was strong, beautiful (She hid her beauty but for a very good reason, she wasn't just hiding being gorgeous because the author wanted a completely stunning protagonist that wasn't showcasing her looks because then readers wouldn't be able to connect to her), determined and kindhearted. She didn't want to "marry" Theron because

he was gorgeous and abusive (that shouldn't EVER be a trait that makes you want to "marry" a guy, no matter how sparkly he is or how pretty his wings looks). (view spoiler) No stupid unnecessary love triangle.

Besides the no love triangle, I loved this book because of the dynamic side characters. Mostly in YA, side character development takes a backseat to make-out scenes and the protagonist lamenting over how gorgeous her boy-toy is (or in most cases *boy-toys are). Titus, Aias, Thomas (even though he appeared towards the end he still managed to make me feel for him) Savannah (view spoiler) Rory and her dad. Everyone was beautifully developed and characterized, including Aphrodite, Zeus, Hephaestus and Persephone.

They didn't make out for half the book which in a world where books had more plot then making out wouldn't be a surprise but sadly we don't live in that and until we do, I will continue to be pleasantly shocked when the male and female protagonists have a decent conversation.

The book was a fun (and at times not so fun) play on the myth of Eros and Psyche. It was, simply put, as seductive as mortal sin and since (finally) getting around to reading it yesterday, I was pleasantly surprised.
