



# Touch of Frost

*Jennifer Estep*

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My name is Gwen Frost, and I go to Mythos Academy; a school of myths, magic and warrior whiz kids, where even the lowliest geek knows how to chop off somebody's head with a sword and Logan Quinn, the hottest Spartan guy in school, also happens to be the deadliest. But lately, things have been weird, even for Mythos. First, mean girl Jasmine Ashton was murdered in the Library of Antiquities. Then, someone stole the Bowl of Tears, a magical artifact that can be used to bring about the second Chaos War. You know, death, destruction and lots of other bad, bad things. Freaky stuff like this goes on all the time at Mythos, but I'm determined to find out who killed Jasmine and why; especially since I should have been the one who died...

## Touch of Frost Details

Date : Published August 1st 2011 by Kensington -Teen

ISBN : 9780758266927

Author : Jennifer Estep

Format : Paperback 350 pages

Genre : Young Adult, Fantasy, Mythology, Paranormal, Urban Fantasy, Magic

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# From Reader Review Touch of Frost for online ebook

**Stella [Stelletta Reads] says**

Ich liebe es... Brauche dringend Band zwei :)

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**Heather K (dentist in my spare time) says**

[ "I loved Samson; I really did. But he's a guy, after all, and he's always thinking with his dick. I expected this sort of thing from him. But Morgan and I grew up together... That's why she's going to pay for screwing my boyfriend." (hide sp

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**Khanh, first of her name, mother of bunnies says**

Ugh, what's with the slut shaming? So one girl at her school is beautiful, popular, and sleeps around. That's not exactly admirable behavior, but to bring it to the front and judge her and secretly slut shame her and have other characters talk about it behind her back is not cool. Jasmine's not the only character that Gwen names as a slut either, Logan Quinn supposedly sleeps around. Again, typical teenager behavior, and bringing it up constantly doesn't make for an entirely likable character when it says something that said character is judgmental like that.

The book is just all right, the idea of an academy full of descendants of legendary warriors and servants of the gods is nice, but oh god, Gwen does not fit in. And it's not only that, she is such a little whiner about it; I'm reminded of the goth and emo kids at my school who whines about everything and goes against the establishment just for the sake of being contrary. Gwen is like that, and she's not a very sympathetic character in my eyes. She's also hypocritical, since she breaks the rules herself by sneaking out of school to visit her grandmother every few days.

New premise, but not an entirely promising nor attractive one. Whiny, annoying lead character. Will continue the series, but only because I'm bored and lacking reading materials.

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**oliviasbooks says**

"Yucko". That is the heroine's favorite word. And it fits, a bit. However, if I were to blurb the paranormal sleuthress boarding-school romance ""Touch of Frost"" I would say ""Likable, but in the direct vicinity of 'meh'"".

I feel a little bit like venting, but I am in bed with a cold. So, please excuse me for amassing random thoughts here instead of a structured review:

- English is not my mother tongue. Therefore I am always happy to pick up additional tidbits that help me to understand and use it better. While reading ""Touch of Frost"", I learned that ""purple hoodie"" is actually a

composite word. The same might be true for "'violet eyes'", a narrower term being "'my violet eyes'". The broader term can be found sixteen times within this series' starter volume. Both can be used in sentences of remarkable literary value, i.e.: *"So I just stared at him, my feelings for him so obvious in my violet eyes."* The only way Gwenny could be so unwaveringly sure of the expressability of her Frost-Family-Brand-Eyes in PANTONE 261C is extensive self-study via mirror... or it might be that the author still has no idea how a first-person-narration is successfully implemented. That might also explain the long, long and kind of repetitive analytical monologues the heroine has in her mind - preferably in the face of imminent danger.

- Connected to the point-of-view is a lot of meta-information that gets dumped on the reader, which is either the result of judging the readers as being too dense to spot the author's applaudable ability to stick to certain paranormal romance or sleuthing-story formula on the dot on his or her own or it is a tell-tale-sign of parodistic writing. I tend to go with the first possibility.

Gwendolyn actually tells us *"Everything about Logan screamed bad boy, from the thick, silky, ink-black hair to his intense ice blue eyes to the black leather jacket that highlighted his broad shoulders."* A thousand things just feel "'off'" to the heroine, which certainly makes her investigate. But then she misses some important clues. And in case the reader has not just noticed that things are a tad too obvious here and the heroine has a plot-lengthening moment, she emphasises her own being behind: *"I felt a memory stirring in my subconscious. Something to do with illusions. Something that I'd seen or heard or read or thought about in the last few days. Something that was important."* Well, duh.

- In addition there is the "'let's-have-a-paranormal-heroine-but-how-on-earth-can-we-make-use-of-her-powers'" dilemma. In "'Touch of Frost'" it is not as bad as in, for example, Clarity. But if the heroine would play her cards, or rather abilities, right, there would be no need for her to admit repeatedly that she is no Veronica Mars. Gwen, whose gift is "'touch magic'" - having visions when touching people or people's objects -, breaks into a room to find clues about a murder, but actually tries to avoid touching most things in there. She takes out a book with a sticky note tacked to a rather relevant looking paragraph, but a day later she has still not tried her power on it. Gwen's reluctance is feebly explained away by her fear of reliving horrible moments or learning secrets without the consent of people she respects, but in the light of solving the case - and the fact, that Gwen earns money by locating lost and sometimes embarrassing stuff - that sounds far-fetched.

- The heroine's "'I-avoid-touching-people'" strategy certainly works beautifully with the "'Save-the-heroine's-virginity-for-the-last-installment-or-forever'" rule most paranormal young adult romance sticks to. Gwenny is even of the un-kissed sort and ohhh does she want to make out with the bad, but life-saving boy, but then she would compromise him by learning all his and his family's dirty secrets and probably his hot and dirty thoughts on top. Therefore she takes down her open arms in time, makes a double morron out of herself verbally, has the love interest's half-melted ice-eyes turn to popsicles and does not get a third chance in the end, because by then we have - just in time - switched to the moody-broody "'I-cannot-have-you-know-my-dark-secret-and-my-utterly-ugly-side-yet-although-I-crave-you'" part of the required plot development. Who would have guessed, huh?

That would be all for now. Before you say it, I have to bring it on the table myself: I cannot successfully explain what made me read a paranormal boarding school romance *again* after so many disappointments. Must have been the high average rating plus the enthusiasm of several of my friends - *or* my indestructable hope that Enid Blythson and J. K. Rowlings *cannot* be the only ones who were able to pull off addictive stories set in boarding school environments.

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## Μαρ?α Γεωργοπο?λου says

Τον τελευτα?ο καιρ? ?ψαχνα να βρω μ?α νεανικ? σειρ? που θα κ?ρδιζε αμ?σως το ενδιαφ?ρον μου... Η αντ?δρασ? μου μ?λινς δι?βασα τις πρ?τες σελ?δες αυτο? του βιβλ?ου ?ταν χαρακτηριστικ?...

Τα ?χει ?λα... Ακαδημ?α (τρελα?νομαι για Ακαδημ?ες!), απ?στευτους πρωταγωνιστ?ς (κορ?τσια και αγ?ρια!), ωρα?α πλοκ? (hello!! Η παγκ?σμια μυθολογ?α ε?ναι π?ντα στη μ?δα!) και χιο?μορ (ποιος δεν αγαπ?ει ?να καλ? αστε?ο???)...

?πως καταλαβα?νετε, χα?ρομαι που ξεκ?νησα αυτ? τη σειρ? και ελπ?ζω να συνεχ?σει με το ?διο ενδιαφ?ρον!!

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## Colleen Houck says

I love the talking sword. Also the heroine and her enemy turned friend. I think this one would make a great tv series. The ending was hands down my favorite part. Everything comes together really well. Also I want some of grandma's cookies.

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## Sjule says

Ich fand den Auftakt der Mythos Academy Reihe wirklich gut.

Einziger Knackpunkt : Wieso glaubt sie nicht an Magie und die G?tter, wenn sie selber eine Gabe hat, denn es ist nicht normal Dinge anzufassen und Bilder zu sehen und zu f?hlen ? Hinzu redet sie aber immer von Spartaner und Co. Ihre Ungl?ubigkeit war nicht wirklich glaubw?rdig.

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## MISS VAIN says

"Come inside and all will be revealed"

Originally what caught my interest was that this book reminded me of Vampire Academy except mythical creatures instead of vampires. I was *not* disappointed. From the first page this author caught my attention and I was eager to learn more about Gwen, Mythos Academy, Daphne, and *Spartan-Licious* **"Logan freaking Quinn"**

Meet Gwen Frost, she's a gypsy, an outcast, a nerd and a comic book fanatic. She's one of my new favorite protagonist! She's also witty, charming, fun loving, empathic and smart.

"So," the Valkyrie said, cracking open the lid of her Perrier. "This is where you eat lunch. All the way in the back here. What are you? A vampire who's afraid of sunlight or something?"

Vampires? Were vampires real too? I wondered but I didn't want to look stupid and ask, especially since I didn't know what Daphne was doing here in the first place.

"Yeah," I said in a guarded voice. "You caught me. I've got this whole superhero thing going on, so I sit way back here to keep the paparazzi and rabid fans at bay."

Since tragedy struck at home six months ago she's been uprooted to Mythos Academy where Gwen finds herself surrounded by mythical warriors of all types. **Spartans, Romans, Valkyrie, Amazons** and she's the lonely new **Gypsy** on the block. As you learn these whiz kids ferociously powerful warrior gifts are compatible with the mythical creatures in *Clash Of The Titans* whereas Gwen's gift of Psychometry appears to be no match for their talent and skills, or so it may seem.

**Psychometry** is the ability to touch someone and read their emotions, thoughts, interests and deepest dark secrets. she's quickly labelled as a "freak", "a nobody", but she easily proves to herself that she's "not a nobody."

Gwen's new unlikely friend a rich, popular Valkyrie Daphne was an excitingly charismatic supporting character.

"Let me walk you to your room," Logan offered in a helpful voice. "You, me and the Gypsy girl could have our own bonfire tonight."

Daphne and I stared at each other. I rolled my eyes while Daphne sniffed.

"Oh please," she scoffed. "Like I need a guy to protect me. I'm a Valkyrie, remember? I could pick you up and break your back over my knee, Spartan. Like you were a piñata."

"Kinky," Logan said, smiling at her. "I like it."

Overall this book is an easy 5 stars because I **LOVED** it! The next book Kiss Of Frost comes out late this year as well. I'm eagerly looking forward to catching up with Gwen's life at Mythos Academy now that she's discovered her true Gypsy heritage while she's learning her inherited magical powers, as well as Daphne, and of course ~~The Spartan-Licious~~ "Logan freaking Quinn" ;) )

Like what you see here, check out more of my reviews at <http://missvainsparanormalfantasy.com/>

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Toby says

Ziemlich geniale Geschichte, die mir gezeigt hat, dass es doch möglich ist, die verschiedensten Fantasywesen in einem Buch unterzubringen - ohne sie lächerlich zu machen.  
Ich bin schon sehr gespannt, wie es in Band 2 weiter gehen wird.

Einziger Kritikpunkt sind die ständigen Wiederholungen der Autorin, die im Lesefluss gestört haben, der Geschichte aber nicht schaden konnten.

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## **Stacia (the 2010 club) says**

SKEPTICAL STACIA IS A LITTLE LESS SKEPTICAL TODAY.

*"Bitch," she said. "That was my favorite dagger."  
She had a favorite dagger? Seriously? And she thought that I was a freak.*

3.5 stars. Welcome to ~~Mythos Academy~~ ... **Warrior Academy**. Oh sure, there are all kinds of mythical races present, but let's get real here : all I could see was a story about who could kick ass the most.

**This is like House of Night without the raging diarrhea.** Meaning : this book still has the fun adventures, but you're less likely to want to slap the hell out of each and every character. Honestly, I was sort of expecting something similar to the Covenant series because of the mythology, but this really wasn't the same thing at all. Gwen reminds me a little of Claire from Morganville Vamps (starts off klutzy and unsure of herself, but you can tell she's going to gain her footing as the series proceeds), and the relationship with Gwen and her grandmother reminded me a lot of Zoey and Grandma Redbird from HoN.

So okay, we had the insecure lead and the all-too-gorgeous male counterpart, which is pretty stereotypical for the genre, but what can I say? Even I have days when I don't mind the stereotypes. Yes, I can picture your mouths dropping open in shock at that statement coming from me. If a book hooks me, it just does, regardless of how often I've bashed the stereotypes in previous books. Call me a sucker for hot guys who can fight and love to save the damsel in distress, but Logan was pretty swoon-worthy every time he came to Gwen's aid. Cliched, maybe. But it was awfully cute.

*"I think so." Logan stared at me, and a smile pulled up his lips. "But maybe you should give me mouth-to-mouth, just to make sure."  
I rolled my eyes and stood up. "Do you ever think about anything besides sex?"  
His smile widened. "Not when you're around, Gypsy girl."*

Also, I felt like a lot of Gwen's insecurities mirrored real feelings that many of us would have had at that age. Random side note : the signing of the mattresses thing...I KNEW THIS GUY. No joke. I had a friend who did this. Not that you needed to know this info about me, but an ex of mine and I went and hooked up on that guy's bed and signed HIS mattress. Because I'm craaaazy like that.

The TENSION (oh-no-he-didn't) issue at the end of the book has me wanting to run out and grab the next book (or just download it because I'm far too lazy to run anywhere). For people who've read the series : (view spoiler) It's been a while since I've wanted to read book 2 of a series right away. Usually, I don't do this.

### **The few minor issues :**

I didn't mind the cliches this time, but there were a LOT more of them than I'd normally like. Fortunately, the story itself made up for some of this.

Friends of mine have mentioned this author's repetitive nature with mundane details. Since this is the first book I've read, I can't confirm that this will keep happening, but I did notice a few details/scenes which were repeated unnecessarily more than once.

While the second half of the book was completely awesome, it took me a few chapters to wade past some dull scenes and silly drama. However, given the direction of the second half of the book, I feel like this series has potential to bring it in later books the way that VA did.

**Overall, I'm excited to have found a new author and series to vibe on!**

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### **bookspumpkin says**

Mein erstes Buch 2016 hat mir sehr gut gefallen! Zum Glück habe ich Band 2 und 3 schon in meinem Regal stehen, sodass ich bald weiter lesen kann.

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### **‘Jennifer | Wortgetreu says**

Ich muss sagen, dass der Schreibstil nun wirklich nichts besonderes ist und ich ihn teilweise schon zu “einfach” fand und trotzdem hat mir das Lesen total viel Spaß gemacht. Auch die Handlung ist nichts besonderes, konnte mich nicht groß überraschen oder so und trotzdem mochte ich das Buch sehr. Wieso kann ich gar nicht so genau sagen. Es war einfach das richtige Buch zur richtigen Zeit. Kein Meisterwerk, aber große Freude hatte ich trotzdem dran.

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### **Rayne says**

The book had an interesting premise, even if somewhat sketchy. I liked some of its concepts, but the protagonist completely ruined any chance this book had with me.

-----Edit 6/02/2012

I hated this book. In case the 1 star rating wasn't clear enough, I absolutely despised it. I gave it 2 stars at first, because I really hate giving books a 1 star rating. I do give out 1 star ratings when a book deserves it, but I like thinking that (almost) every book has something to offer. But, after sleeping on it, I came back the next day and got a great amount of pleasure out of giving this one the single, lonely star I feel it deserves. I know I'm in the minority here, seeing as how this book has an overall rating of over 4 stars, but I really fail to see the appeal of this one, and it is not because of a lack of trying. While reading it, I gave up on this book



three times. Three freaking times I put it aside, completely decided to never bother with it again, but I came back again and again. I just want to make it clear that I did not come back because I was intrigued or because I wanted to know the big "mystery": Everything about this book is ridiculously predictable right from the start. The reason I came back was because I kept hoping I could see what everyone was raving about. I think the 1 star rating makes it pretty clear that I never stumbled upon what makes this book deserve the praise.

Gwen is one of the most detestable characters I've ever had the misfortune of reading about. She's right up there with Luce, Nora and Zoey in the list of characters I wish I could erase from literary existence by flushing them down a toilet. She's whiny, judgmental, self-absorbed, self-righteous, oh, and she wants me to remind you that she has no friends. God, I swear she said that last thing about 50 times per chapter. Please, remind me how much of a loner and a rebel you are about five freaking times per page, I don't get tired of it at all. Oh, and you wear hoodies and read comic books? Wow, that is so interesting and original and totally explains why absolutely no one gets you. (Yeah, right. Guess what? That was me in high school and that never had as a result a shortage of friends or cruel rejection from everyone.) And, of course, Gwen is a loner because she's not as rich or as "pretty" or as "special" as the rest of the mean girls in class, when the truth is she actually is, but, of course, she just doesn't know it. But that's okay. Gwen comforts herself by declaring all the other girls "raging sluts" and knowing that no matter what she does, says, wears or who she likes, she will never be like those "raging sluts". The whole characterization of one of the pseudo-antagonists in the story is that she is gorgeous and is only popular because she's been with every boy in school and likes labels and brands and is mean to poor little Gwen. Sounds familiar? Yes, like every other generic YA mean girl out there. And the plot is not that different, either.

There's really nothing original about this book. I considered giving this one extra points for bringing different types of warriors and mythical creatures into one school until I realized that, not only is the whole concept far-fetched in itself, the book never offers a real explanation for it. Oh well, I suppose it does. The school is supposed to train all these warriors for a war that even the protagonists is convinced is just a whole lot of superstitious bogus. Which if you think about it, for a girl that has powers and lives constantly surrounded by mythical warriors like the Valkyries to not believe that there could be a war with other mythical beings, well, it's pretty stupid all-around.

This book was really infuriating and frustrating. There's barely a plot in there, but I couldn't be bothered to follow it anyway when I had to see it flow through a character like Gwen, who is ready to judge and insult and scorn everyone around her but falls for a guy that's popular because he hurts people and signs the mattresses of all the girls he sleeps with on campus, because, of course, that makes him so hot. There's no character development in this book, no real mystery driving the plot, a ridiculous resolution that continues to belittle girls and furthers the stereotype about the mean girls and condemns woman sexuality, an interesting, but ultimately unsatisfying concept and a terrible lead I wish I could bleach out of my mind. It's been, what?, 3 or 4 months since I read this one and I still can't get over how much it disappointed and angered me. The thing is that I was actually expecting a lot out of this one, but a book like this one is nothing but a slap in the face to YA readers out there. It's nothing but a generic, formulaic story that has been done many times because someone out there believes we are not smart enough to recognize it for what it is, throw in there a bunch of high school stereotypes and some half-assed mythology to make it paranormal, and there you go. To conclude this rant, I vow to never read any more books in this series and to try my very best to even forget I wasted my time reading this.

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## Sabrina says

Everything that I've already said for the prequel still stands.

And in this one we get a shitload of pumpkins, too.

Seriously, I don't understand the pumpkins.

I don't understand the fixation with the designer clothes, either. In every paragraph we are reminded that everyone in that school wears designer clothes. And that there are pumpkins.

From now on, I'm going to cram pumpkins everywhere just to prove how annoying they are.

Well, I suppose now it's time to say something review-like.

Our heroine (pumpkin! ) has the gift of being able to tell the history of every object by touching it (that works even for pumpkins!).

So this could have been a story telling how this girl became a stellar detective, who solved every case just by touching some odd scrap of evidence. It could even have been the story of this girl becoming a famous historian, who unveiled weird events about weirder artifacts by simply touching them. Or a Doctor House with a skirt, diagnosing unknown exotic diseases (or healing sick pumpkins).

I could go on for hours, but the sad truth is that this novel is none of the above.

The girl uses her gift to retrieve stuff for her schoolmates, in exchange of petty cash.

Just sad, isn't it?

Even the pumpkins are sad for that:

So, this girl has this fantabulous gift. The author reminds us of it every single page, but sometimes the protagonist herself forgets (how could she! Call the avenging pumpkins!)

My dad, Tyr, had died from cancer when I was two, and the only memories I had of him were the faded photos my mom had shown me.

See? She FORGETS. She could just touch something and have full knowledge of everything concerning her father.

This happens a lot, throughout the entire book.

Bad editor, no cookie!

But you can have a pumpkin, here it is:

Our girl then goes to a special school for magical kids. Think of Hogwarts, but without the medieval stuff and full of mythological nonsense.

There she finds a lot of other magical kids who all have some special superpower and wear designer clothes.

It's important to highlight that second aspect again, you know.

And there are pumpkin fudges, pumpkin rolls and other pumpkins.

All very interesting.

Do I have to go on?

I think you can get the gist of it.

There's some abs-staring and some oh-no-I-didnt-think-you-liked-me-even-though-you-tried-to-kiss-me.

Quite uneventful. And boring. And don't forget the pumpkins.

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## Edie says

Double standards alive and well in modern YA it seems. :(

I am not sure how to grade this one, it is easy to read, a little easy to guess plot points, but a fun and interesting read except for one thing. It hit a MAJOR hot button for me.

At the school there is a girl who is denigrated throughout the book as a slut.. continuously.. now while that would always set off my buttons majorly, what makes it worse is that the love interest is a bloody man-whore. And apart from a couple half jokey remarks this is completely brushed aside... and we are back on his awesomesauceness.

SERIOUSLY!

What freaking year is this???

\*slight spoiler\*

\*

\*

And of course she had to be brought down and hobbled by the end of the book in a way as humiliating as possible.

While the slutty dude who helped with her demise, gets off free.

\*

\*

\*end of slight spoiler\*

It may be my feminist hackles standing on end, but is this really an appropriate message to be reinforced in a YA novel??

It grates me when it happens (all too frequently) in adult romance books, but I find it impossible to swallow in YA.

I don't read much YA, does this happen a lot in YA?? Should I just avoid the genre?

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## Anja says

es war einfach nur so gut \*\_\*

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## Samantha says

### DNF at 41%

This just isn't doing it for me. Maybe it's because I'm fighting off the sickness and have no time for nonsense, or maybe I just need to stop making excuses for this.

I've never been a fan of slut shaming. I'm especially not a fan of slut shaming when it's sexist and one-sided. To Gwen, chicks who sleep around are sluts and whores. Logan, however, who has been in every girl in school's bed, is *sexy, mysterious, and dark* when he does it. She even goes so far as to say she understands why he sleeps around, because his body is just so perfect. Wait, what? Yeah... but don't you dare be a chick with big boobs, or it's straight to hell for you!

I also couldn't find any spare fucks to give over who murdered Jasmine. Seems I'm all out of fucks. I should make a note to stop and get more from the store on the way home from work...

Finally, if I have to hear one more god-damned-blasted-time how Gwen is *different* and just *doesn't fit in* at Mythos, my next step will be to start sawing off the end of a shotgun. Seriously. WE GET IT GWEN, YOU ARE A SPECIAL FUCKING SNOWFLAKE who happens to be poor and a geek in the midst of the preppy and rich. Go feel guilty about your dead mother some more. I don't see how that could possibly be unhealthy. You'll turn out fine.

And because this review would be incomplete with out a zero fucks gif (how could I deprive you like that?), I give you one of my favorites:

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## Jessi says

Mehr auf: <http://xobooksheaven.wordpress.com/>

### Inhalt:

Im Mittelpunkt der Serie steht die 17-jährige Gwen Frost, die über ein außergewöhnliches Talent verfügt: Sie besitzt die »Gypsy-Gabe« – bei der eine einzige Berührung ausreicht, um alles über einen Gegenstand oder einen Menschen zu wissen. Doch dabei spürt Gwen nicht nur die guten Gefühle, sondern auch die schlechten und die gefährlichen. Auf der Mythos Academy soll sie lernen, mit ihrer Gabe sinnvoll umzugehen. Aber was Gwen nicht weiß: Die Studenten werden dort ausgebildet, um gegen den finsternen Gott Loki zu kämpfen. Und obwohl sie der Meinung ist, an der Mythos Academy nichts verloren zu haben, erkennt Gwen bald, dass sie viel stärker ist als gedacht und all ihre Fähigkeiten brauchen wird, um gegen einen übermächtigen Feind zu bestehen.

Quelle: piper.de

### Meinung:

*"»Ich kenne dein Geheimnis.«*

*Daphne Cruz schob ihr Gesicht näher an den Spiegel über dem Waschbecken und trug eine weitere Schicht hellen Lipgloss auf. Sie ignorierte mich demonstrativ, wie es alle hübschen, beliebten Mädchen taten."*

Das Cover finde ich jetzt nicht so berauschend, es ist ganz ok, aber mehr auch nicht. Darauf sind nämlich nur zwei Augen zu sehen, der Rest des Gesichts geht in Rauch und Weiß unter, wobei ich nicht weiß, wieso gerade alles weiß sein muss, selbst die Haare. Vielleicht weil Gwen mit Nachnamen Frost heißt? Es ist also ein sehr schlichtes und einfaches Cover, welches man aber ausbauen könnte. Die blauen Rauchfäden ganz

unten gefallen mit allerdings ganz gut.

Der Schreibstil der Autorin ist einfach und nicht sehr anspruchsvoll. Das Buch ist aus Sicht von Gwen geschrieben, allerdings gibt es hier sehr viele unnötige Gedankengänge, die man, wenn man sie schon einbauen muss, besser und spannender hätte schreiben können. Der Satzbau und auch die Wortwahl sind einfach gehalten, dadurch kommt man schnell voran.

Zu Beginn lernen wir hier Gwen Frost kennen, sie geht auf die Mythos Academy, da sie eine Gypsy ist und dort ihre Gabe erlernen soll. Als sie in der Bibliothek arbeitet wird ein Mädchen, Jasmin ermordet und es scheint keinen richtig zu kümmern. Gwen möchte also mit Hilfe ihrer Gabe herausfinden, was passiert ist und gerät in einen uralten Krieg.

Hört sich doch spannend an, oder? Dachte ich auch, aber das Buch war durchzogen von Klischees und es war alles total vorhersehbar. Ich habe es zusammen mit Ney gelesen. Ich habe mit schon schwer getan überhaupt in die Geschichte zu finden, denn Gwen war mir zuerst richtig unsympathisch. Sie wirkte wie der Typ Mädchen, denen alles egal ist und die ihr Ding durchziehen, dabei aber auch noch sehr arrogant sind. Dann war auch schon von vorn herein klar, dass sie etwas besonderes ist, denn Außenseiter sind ja immer was besonderes. Wobei wir schon das erste Klischee hätten. Und dann läuft sie auch noch in einen Jungen, lässt ihr Zeug fallen und er hilft ihr dabei es einzusammeln. Klischee ahoi, aber wie sollte es anders sein ist er der geheimnisvolle Junge, der jedes Mädchen um den Finger wickelt, vor dem sich aber auch alle irgendwie fürchten (wie funktioniert dann das mit den Mädchen?) und der nichts von sich preis gibt. Ab der ersten Erwähnung von diesem Jungen war klar, dass die beiden sicher zusammen kommen. Das muss nicht in Band eins sein, auch nicht in Band zwei oder drei, vielleicht erst in Band sechs, aber es passiert sicher. Dann gibt es aber auch noch das taffe und beliebte Mädchen, dass sich als gar nicht so dumm herausstellt, wie man denkt und die dem Außenseiter dann hilft. \*hust\* Klischee \*hust.

Ok, genug Sarkasmus, das könnte wirklich jedes x-beliebige andere Jugendbuch sein, denn im Moment wird man von solchen Stories ja überschüttet. Die Idee, dass alle auf Mythos von Vikingern, Göttern, Spartanern und sonstigen Helden abstammen fand ich ziemlich cool und ich habe gehofft, dass man mehr über diese erfährt. Leider bleiben wir hier auch bei den nordischen Göttern und erfahren nur mehr über Loki und den Chaoskrieg. Die einzelnen Gruppen haben aber gewisse Merkmale und jeder läuft mit einer Waffe herum. Gwen nicht, die sie fühlt sich nicht so, als wäre sie etwas besonderes, daher passt sie auch beim Waffentraining nie wirklich auf. Als sie dann begann den Mord an Jasmine zu untersuchen, kam ich mir wie in einem schlechten Krimi vor, denn sie hatte keine Ahnung, wo sie beginnen soll und stolpert auch nur über Hinweise, mehr als dass sie sie findet.

Doch irgendwie war es dann auch spannend zu lesen, wie alles zusammen hängt. Klar war das meiste davon schon vorher klar, aber es zu lesen ist nochmal was ganz anderes. Es gab einen Kampf, wobei ich mich fragte, woher sie plötzlich kämpfen kann, wenn sie doch immer behauptet, dass sie beim Training nicht aufpasst. Helden können aber immer alles. Logisch. Zwischendurch gab es aber Szenen, die sich einfach nur gezogen haben, ich wollte schon Kapitel überspringen, hab mich dann aber zusammen gerissen und alles gelesen. Das Ende war aber das schlimmste vom Buch, ich musste mich richtig zwingen, dass ich die letzten 20 Seiten noch lesen, da sowieso nichts Spannendes mehr passieren konnte und es mich auch nicht interessierte.

Zu diesen langweiligen Szenen kamen dann auch noch so viele Überlegungen von Gwen selbst, die es nicht gebraucht hätte, das Buch war manchmal wirklich einschläfernd. Durch die Vorhersehbarkeit war es auch nicht sonderlich spannend. Nehmen wir denn Ball her, zuerst überlegt sie einmal, ob sie überhaupt hingehen soll, aber natürlich geht sie hin und natürlich trifft sie ihren Schwarm da und natürlich ist der mit einer

anderen dort, was wieder zu unnötigen Gedanken und Gelaber führt, das für mich zu viel war. Dies alles trug nichts zur richtigen Geschichte bei und ich empfand es einfach nur als störend. Was mich noch störte war, dass Gwen ungefähr in jedem zweiten Satz erwähnte, dass ihre Mutter tot ist und sie keine Freunde hat. Mädchen, jeder Leser hat das nach den ersten 50 Erwähnungen verstanden.

Ich war richtig froh, als ich fertig war mit dem Buch, ich habe noch den zweiten Teil hier stehen und werde den auch lesen, aber ob ich danach weiter lese wage ich einmal zu bezweifeln. Außer Band zwei haut mich total um. Ich glaube das wird aber nichts mehr, oder wie Danny Glover in *Lethal Weapon* sagte: "Ich bin zu alt für diesen Scheiß".

### **Fazit:**

Ein Buch, das eine gute Grundidee hat, das sich aber so vielen Klischees bedient, dass es für mich nicht mehr unterhaltsam war. Ich vergebe daher 2 von 5 Sterne.

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### **Cindy says**

**This review may also be found on *A Thousand Little Pages*.**

Gwen Frost is being forced to attend Mythos Academy, an elite school set apart to train kids who just so happen to be descendants of various mythical warriors. Of course, Gwen doesn't believe in any of the supernatural skills her classmates supposedly possess. The only type of magic she actually accepts is her own and that of her own family. When the school's most popular girl, the icy Valkyrie princess Jasmine, is murdered right in the library next to a stolen mythical artifact called the Bowl of Tears, Gwen is determined to get to the bottom of the entire situation. It's never a good idea to poke your head into other people's business, though. So the results? Who else is to blame but yourself?

*Touch of Frost* belongs to the new batch of paranormal stories that all seem exactly the same, only with different character names and fantastical elements. This novel's back story is a mishmash of tons of various warriors -- from Norse gods to ninjas. While that is certainly a nice idea, it's never really delved into. Except for a few key warrior gods, all the others felt extraneous and were barely mentioned at all.

The characters aren't especially mind-blowing, either. You have the blonde mean girl clique, the quirky and unpopular heroine, and the hot bad boy who falls in love with the heroine anyways; just the same formula used over and over and over again. The character with an actual personality was Vic, the ancient magical sword, who has a grand total of about five lines in the entire novel. That is just sad. A sword beats out all those other full-fledged human characters? Sad, sad, sad.

*Touch of Frost* is quite a cliché, but lovers of stereotypical teen paranormal stories (I know there are a lot of you out there) will devour it with glee.

Book Source: ARC via Flamingnet

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### **Mizuki says**

1.5 stars. This book is one of those *"Oh I'm the poor, humble girl who has to go to a school filled with spoiled rich kids"* books. We're all supposed to be guilt trapped into feeling bad for the poor heroine, but sadly I found myself being annoyed by both the main character and the story.

The author, Jennifer Estep tried very hard to make her heroine and her story humorous, but both come off very forced and awkward. Not to mention the 'heroine' also loves to label people with stereotypes such as 'the band geek', 'the slut' and 'the spoiled brat' and so on, such attitude makes her rather unlikable.

Yes, we're treated with tons and tons of slut shaming. And according to the heroine, a girl sleeping around with boys is a slut and a bitch, but a bad boy who sneaked out from girl's dorm and asked another girl whom he had barely spoken to before to "get back to his dorm" makes the boy a sexy dangerous bad boy? Oh....this is double standards.

There's also no sense of reality in Estep's mythology and the magical school for mythical warriors. Supposedly all students and professors were trained and prepared to battle the evil villains but their actions and how they handle the incident of a girl student being murdered on campus shows me none of them---even the professors who are adults, can handle serious issues logically and maturely. I mean, no one ever thinks about searching the murdered girl's dorm for evident or questioning her friends in order to find the murderer? Are you kidding me!? So the whole thing looks just damn fake and make-believe. Ms. Estep, why don't you take a writing lesson before you start writing anything else in the future?

Last but not least, how the murder mystery is revealed at the very end is so cliched and forced---so the bad guy wastes time to inform-dumps the entire evil plan to the heroine, instead of finishing her off then and there!? It's so cliched that it reads like some badly written detective novels. It also reminds me of how J K. Rowling reveals the 'mysteries' of each of her Harry Potter book (I'm referring on the ones I did bother to read, you know).

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