



# West of Want

*Laura Kaye*

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Betrayal is all he's ever known, but in her, he'll find a love strong enough to be trusted...

When Marcella Raines' twin brother dies, she honors his request to be buried at sea, never expecting the violent storm that swamps her boat. Though she's gravely injured—and still emotionally damaged from her recent divorce—Ella fights to survive.

Zephyros Martius is the Supreme God of the West Wind and Spring, but being the strongest Anemoi hasn't protected him from betrayal and loss. Worse, he's sure his brother Eurus is behind it. When Zeph's heartbreak whips up a storm that shipwrecks a human, his guilt forces him to save her. Ella is drawn to the vulnerability Zeph hides beneath his otherworldly masculinity and ancient blue eyes. And her honesty, empathy, and unique, calming influence leave Zeph wanting...everything. When Eurus threatens Ella, she and Zeph struggle to let go of the past, defend their future, and embrace what they most want—a love that can be trusted.

Each book in the Hearts of the Anemoi series is STANDALONE:

- \* North of Need
- \* West of Want
- \* South of Surrender
- \* East of Ecstasy

## West of Want Details

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Author : Laura Kaye

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## From Reader Review *West of Want* for online ebook

### Angie says

If I ignored the plotheoles, *West of Want* is pretty good. But I can't, so it's just okay. This time we're following Zephyros, the god of Spring, as he finds his one true love in Ella. Ella has taken her sailboat out to spread her twin's ashes when a storm hits. It's no ordinary storm. It's actually Zeph is his elemental form, and he's quite upset. The storm is raging and Ella is tossed from her boat. Of course, Zeph is drawn to her and rescues her. After getting her to the hospital, he sticks around to make sure she's okay, but there's something else keeping him in the human realm with this woman.

In addition to the romance, *West of Want* also has more plot than the first book. Zeph and his brother Eurus do not get along at all, and it's causing some major upheaving. Eurus stole Zeph's wife and had a child with her, whom he wants to get placed as heir of the west in place of Zeph. That is, unless Zeph can get an heir within the next week or so. Well, Ella is infertile, but Zeph wants her anyway! But then things happen and he believes she's in cahoots with his brother, and blah blah blah.

*West of Want* had a few moments that made me go huh? First of all, in the beginning Zeph feels really responsible for Ella getting hurt on her boat. But being a wind god, hasn't he caused many storms before? And don't people die in storms all the time? So why all of a sudden does he feel someone dying during one of his storms and has to rescue them? I highly doubt he attempts to save everyone who gets caught in his storms, or else, just don't cause huge storms! Then there's a scene of Elle and Zeph out for dinner, he eats something that's SOOO hot that he has to turn into his elemental form to heal. Seriously? That sounds like a lawsuit waiting to happen, if crab dip is served so hot it nearly burns a god to death. This wouldn't be such a big deal, except it's the catalyst to the inevitable temporary break up.

So, *West of Want* was okay. The plot-holes were really distracting, and I don't feel like the romance was all that well developed. All in all, they probably spend like one day together total, mostly just having sex or apologizing to each other. Not really the kind of romance I want to read about.

Read more of my reviews at [Pinkindle Reads & Reviews](#).

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### GraceMyBookSnack says

Delve into the Realm of Gods!

North of Need is one of my favorites! I adored Megan and Owen's story! So it was natural that I highly anticipated its sequel.

*“Undeniably, there was some connection between them, and he found himself flirting with the most dangerous emotion there was—hope.” --West of Want, Laura Kaye*

Zephyros Martius is a sensitive Supreme God of the West Wind and Spring. As his story unfolds you'll find out why. When he's upset, he can stir up a strong storm like no other. So, he was just blowing off steam over the water when he accidentally injures Ella Raines, who was out on her boat spreading the ashes of her twin brother.

Ella and Zeph each have endured great loss and betrayal that trust is a major issue to both of them. As their instant chemistry blossoms into something more, they must work through a mountain of obstacles...one of them being Zeph's brother, Eurus. Oh boy, does he create havoc for them! Now this is where the story really delves into the Realm of Gods. We get a more detailed view of this world than we did in North of Need. When Zeph finally tells his story to Ella, it is like he is describing a soap opera! So much drama happens in the Anemoi world! We get introduced to a few more gods, among them being Chrysander, whose story will be next in South of Surrender. He seems very interesting!

What I enjoy about this series is the subtle way it pays homage to the environment and nature, and how it is woven into the story lines. The setting of Annapolis, Maryland and the Chesapeake Bay is both perfect and beautiful for Ella and Zeph's story. Emotional, sensual, heartbreaking, and magical, West of Want proves to be a worthy addition to the Hearts of the Anemoi series.

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## **Meaghan says**

I loved the first book in this series, North of Need ([review here](#)) and was so incredibly excited to get my hands on West of Want. When we enter the world of West of Want we are following Zephyros and Ella. Zephyros is the Supreme God of the West Wind and Spring and has never been lucky when it comes to love. He has been burned numerous times and when we meet him in this book he is in the middle of creating a storm fueled by his grief. His story was heartbreaking and my heart went out to him because of his painful past. Ella was not much better off than him though. Her twin brother just died and she has no real family to speak of. The two of them are so lost and they recognize that in one another. Especially Ella when she says to Zeph:

“Ella twisted her lips and studied him. “I just...when I look into your eyes, I see something there that reminds me of myself.”

While Ella tries to work through her pain, Zeph likes to wallow in his and does not always make it easy for Ella to get through to him. He is talking to Boreas at one point when Boreas says:

“I have never known someone who tormented himself as much as you. Everyone makes mistakes, but not everyone shoulders them like Atlas carrying around the weight of the world. Not everyone bleeds for them.”

That pretty much sums up how Zeph is acting for quite a bit of this book. He does not give himself credit for anything and does not feel like he deserves to be happy again. He has been broken by his past loves and his brother. Watching him go through the journey of trying to find happiness in this book was very sweet. While trying to decide what she wants Ella slowly brings Zeph back to life and strives to prove to him that not every road leads to betrayal.

Laura excels at writing tender moments. This book is filled with so many of them, but my favorite was this one coming from Zeph:

“There’s just me.” He kissed her ear. “And you.” Her eyelid. “In this moment.” Her nose. “There’s just this lost soul.” His lips lingered over the corner of her mouth. “Who wants the most beautiful woman he’s ever seen.”

The romance in this book is intense and it is almost an insta-love, but I thought it worked. These two have

such big holes in their hearts and are searching for something to fill that void. They found what they were looking for in one another. There are definitely obstacles in their way and things they have to overcome, but the romance really is the main focus. There was one point towards the end that I thought everything was leading towards a resolution, but Laura did save one final twist and I loved that.

West of Want is a wonderful escape into a enchanted world that I loved being a part of. Laura delivers a heartfelt romance with a touch of magic that had me captivated from beginning to end. I cannot wait for the next book, South of Surrender, because it centers around Chrysander. He is funny, sarcastic and has great banter with the guys. While he is known as the carefree one of the group I am sure he is hiding something and I am eager to get to know him better. I highly recommend checking out this series if you have not already!

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### **Tamara says**

I can't believe I can only give West of Want 5 stars it deserves 10 at least! Laura Kaye has 3 series that I love. Every time a new book comes out I think "It will be good, probably great, but it can't possibly be as good as the first one" With West of Want I was sure this would be the case, because frankly North of Need is one of my all time favorite novels...however, Laura proved me wrong again!

West of Want takes us deeper into the mythology of the Anemoi, a unique and fascinating take on Greek and Norse mythology. I just love this world and it's imperfect Gods. There is just something so uplifting about these stories of powerful, magic beings who live long and lonely lives of service and responsibility. Who with all their power find that the one thing that makes them complete is love.

Zeph and Ella will tug your heartstrings, make you want to hold and comfort them both, and cry happy tears when they finally find their happiness.

But, Laura four books aren't going to be enough for me! Boreas and Aoelus need their stories told too! Just saying.

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### **Heather Book Savvy Babe says**

With her believable characters, touching romances, and sizzling heat, Laura Kaye continues to be a favorite author of mine. I can always count on Ms Kaye's books for a touching romance story that I fully enjoy. West of Want is the second book in The Hearts of Anemoi series, and I am an official fan of this paranormal/mythological romance series.

The setting and background of this series is intriguing. The Anemoi are based in mythology and bring the paranormal/fantasy element into the series. The Anemoi are part of Greek mythology, but they are not part of the main pantheon (Zeus, Hera, etc). With being lesser-known myths (at least to me), the anemoi are refreshingly different for a paranormal series, and well-written, unique characters are not always easy to find.

The male protagonist in West of Want is Zephyros, the God of the West Wind and of Spring. Zephyros has been betrayed throughout his whole life and he struggles with the burdens of his emotional scars and hurts.

His brother, Eurus, the God of the West Wind, adds to Zeph's misery by blaming Zephyros for his own hurts. When the story begins, Zephyros is at an all time low, he can't take much more hurt, and unwittingly places Ella in danger with his emotional outburst that results in a heavy storm. Feeling guilty that he caused a human harm, Zephyros determines to help and heal Ella, but he is drawn to this woman and the thought of leaving her is unsettling.

Ella is a woman who has her own hurts. She was betrayed herself and she is grieving the loss of her brother. When Zephyros comes into her life, Ella is also at a low point in her life. Even though the pair have completely different lives and upbringings, they understand each other's hurts. When Ella learns who Zephyros truly is, she is surprised, but she handles the situation well. This couple's biggest challenge is trust, both are hesitant to open up. They go through some difficult back and forth feelings and when Zeph's brother decides to make trouble, their relationship may be decidedly over before it even really begins.

Zephyros and Ella's relationship has plenty of obstacles, but they are a couple that belong together. I enjoyed their story and was happily surprised by the ending. West of Want reinforced for me why I love Laura Kaye's writing so much, her romances are believable. Even with mythology and paranormal beings, the characters have realistic flaws and idiosyncrasies that are easy to identify with and understand.

In West of Want, readers learn more about the Anemoi and their role in mythology. A few other Anemoi make appearances, and I really enjoyed getting to know more of these characters. I am already a big fan of Chrysander and am looking forward to his book (hint hint Ms Kaye!)

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## **Sue "DavinciKittie" Brown-Moore says**

See the full review, with Memorable Quotes and Recommended Reads on GraveTells:  
<http://gravetells.com/2012/07/16/arc-...>  
(live July 16th)

Zephyros is the Supreme God of the West Wind, Guardian of Spring, and one of the four Cardinal Anemoi. If you read North of Need and remember Father-of-Time-resembling Boreas, Zeph is his brother. No minor deity here, and his power alone is something to admire. Kind and passionate, Zeph is the kind of man who loves with all his soul, even when he thinks it might end in heartache. He is both gentle and fierce, and so accustomed to hurt and betrayal that he lives a stark, solitary existence... until he meets Ella, that is.

Ella is a sweetheart who has lost everyone she ever cared about and just wants to make a positive difference where ever she can. She doesn't have any delusions of grandeur. Wholesome and reserved, determined and enthusiastic, Ella is the perfect match for Zeph. And boy do they have chemistry!

There are more private moments between Ella and Zeph than we got to see between Owen and Megan, so all you PNR fans will be happy to know that, and the scenes never get boring or repetitive. Laura Kaye writes extremely strong character relationships, makes you really feel their passion and experience their energy, and the first time Ella and Zeph get together? Gold. Pure hot, steamy, sweaty gold!

I practically bawled my way through North of Need, so the bar was set pretty high for this one. While I wasn't as blown away emotionally as I was with Owen's book, West of Want had some serious heart and just when I thought things were starting to get formulaic, the plot sprinted off in a different direction. I don't

think we've seen the end of the non-romance portion of this story arc just yet.

Laura Kaye either has a giant stash of super secret sauce or is simply a master at her craft, because just about every book I've read from her to-date has been a homerun, the Hearts of the Anemoi stories especially so. The characters have depth, the plots are compelling, and the sexual tension is nearly unmatched. Not many authors can take a couple who has never met before and have them itching to jump each others bones within a few days so effectively that you feel more eager than they do.

This second installment in the Hearts of the Anemoi brings back some old friends, and gives us glimpse into the drama and family ties between the other gods. In true Laura Kaye fashion, all the characters are unique and entertaining. If i wasn't already hooked on this series, meeting Chrysander would definitely prime my interest in the sunny, aggressive Supreme God of the South Winds. West of Want is a GraveTells must read!

@~~~ Did you enjoy this review? Rate it up on Amazon! ~~~@

\*Review copy provided by author. No compensation was received for this review.

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## **Heather says**

Guys, you're not going to believe how awesome this book turned out. Zeph is hotness personified and I love that Laura takes readers deeper into the world of the Anemoi. My favorite read of the year so far!

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## **Stephanie says**

ORIGINAL POST: WEST OF WANT, Mars Comes in Like a Lion

### **West of Want**

Hearts of the Anemoi, Book Two

Laura Kaye

Paperback 400 pages, e-book

7/10/12 Entangled Publishing

Received via publisher with no expectation other than a fair review. No remuneration exchanged and, except as noted all opinions are my own.

Betrayal is all he's ever known, but in her, he'll find a love strong enough to be trusted... When Marcella Raines' twin brother dies, she honors his request to be buried at sea, never expecting the violent storm that swamps her boat. Though she's gravely injured--and still emotionally damaged from her recent divorce--Ella fights to survive. Zephyros Martius is the Supreme God of the West Wind and Spring, but being the strongest Anemoi hasn't protected him from betrayal and loss. Worse, he's sure his brother Eurys is behind it. When Zeph's heartbreak whips up a storm that shipwrecks a human, his guilt forces him to save her. Ella is drawn to the vulnerability Zeph hides beneath his otherworldly masculinity and ancient blue eyes. And her honesty, empathy, and unique, calming influence leave Zeph wanting...everything. When Eurys threatens Ella, she and Zeph struggle to let go of the past,

defend their future, and embrace what they most want--a love that can be trusted.  
<http://laurakayeauthor.com>

Laura always finds a way to reach into the heart of a story and bring it to life. She gives her characters a full range of emotions and personalities and here puts in just the right amount of plot complexities.

While fairly vanilla, the sex is passionate with respect being a very important feature. It's very realistic and exciting, even without handcuffs. Vanilla is a great flavor when made with good ingredients.

I liked that the magic used has a cost although the Seasonal Gods' father is an example of very poor parenting skills. I wanted to flog dear old dad.

The male love interest in this story is Zephyros Mauritius, and as it says above he is the high god of the westerlies and spring. But, he is, like Spring very sensitive. He's emotional and caring. When he's ticked off though he can swamp your sailboat but he has a tendency to feel guilty about things.

Ella is a little less developed although we see she is thoughtful and intelligent. Her passion is sailing and she is a bit lost due to her brother's death. But, after the freaking out period of learning about the Anemoi she shows some decent resilience.

Laura introduces a hot, new character in here, Chrysander. You are going to really enjoy meeting this compassionate male. And, Laura informs us a bit more about the hierarchy of these elemental gods and their powers.

I can highly recommend WEST OF WANT to lovers of Steamy Romance. There are some supernatural elements but it's the story that's important. Gods are people too.

JULY 11 we'll be kicking off the WEST OF WANT blog tour with a giveaway at ,a href="http://fangswandsandfairydust.com&quo..., Wands and Fairy Dust. You'll definitely want to stop by for that AND the Hot Jocks Giveaway Hop!

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## **Claire Robinson says**

4 - Poofing and M & M Stars.

No review as such, just a few pics and quotes to highlight some of my favourite parts of the book.

Laura Kaye is one of my "go-to" authors, when I am looking for a well written, sexy, entertaining read and she never lets me down.

**Zeph - "There's just you and me."...**

**"In this moment."...**

**"There's just this lost soul."...**



**"Who wants the most beautiful woman he's ever seen."...**

**Zeph - "You don't understand how much you intrigue me."...**

**"You don't understand how much you attract me. You're in my head. All the time. You make my heart beat faster, my body ache with want."**

Another winner for me, straight onto South of Surrender.

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**Lyndi W. says**

*"Zephyros Martius is the Supreme God of the West Wind and Spring..."*

That shit made me snort out loud. I'm sorry, but it's just so pretentious sounding. I'll still read it, though.

And now that I've read it... I liked it, but I'm kind of embarrassed that I liked it. You know what I mean?

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**All Things Urban Fantasy says**

Review courtesy of All Things Urban Fantasy

Hearts of the Anemoi is a new paranormal romance series built around seasonal mythology (gods of winter, spring etc). It's a great springboard for a series, sadly, WEST OF WANT was a really sub par paranormal romance that included just about everything that I dislike about the genre.

The two lead characters are completely flat and two dimensional. They don't have personalities or even really distinguishing characteristics. They were each burned by love in the past, but apart from some weepy moments where they unload their woe-is-me histories, it didn't really matter. As a reader, I had to sit through this twice, once in internal thoughts and then again when spoke up. Very tedious.

The worst thing though was the insta-love. This may be the most glaring example I've read in years. He almost drowns her with his I-can't-control-my-emotions storm, then out of guilt, secretly stalks her in the hospital and follows her home. She wakes and finds him sleeping in her room. That same day, his brother curses her with clumsiness and the only way to remove the curse is with sexy shower time. They are pretty much in love at this point, and start declaring it a few pages later. I have no idea why. They barely spoke about anything significant, and even the attraction came out of nowhere.

WEST OF WANT left me wanting big time. Flat characters, cliched plot, and a DOA romance. Stick with Kenyon, Showalter, and Ione for good paranormal romance. The third book in the Hearts of the Anemoi series, SOUTH OF SURRENDER, will be out on December 11, 2012 from Entangled and features Chrysander Notos, Supreme God of the South Wind and Summer.

Sexual Content:

A few graphic sex scenes

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### **Pamela says**

Love, love, love this series. Cannot wait for the next book.

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### **The BookChick says**

I loved the mythological corollaries. Ella and Zeph were interesting and the story was paced well. Although I enjoyed North of Need more, this was a good story.

The only point of the story that I didn't care was the excessive use of 'Jesus' as an expletive replacement. 19 in all throughout the story. It was off-putting because of repetitive use.

Overall, a quick and easy read.

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### **Leslie says**

I would like to suggest that "Women's Fantasy" become a new genre, because that's exactly what you get with Kaye's second book, West of Want in her Hearts of the Anemoi series. The hero, Zephyros, god of the West Wind and Spring, and his human heroine, Ella steamed up the atmosphere even more than he himself could; boat accident and all! Which is why Zeph ultimately sticks around once he regretfully figures out that Ella's sailboat fell victim to his wind storm tantrum at sea. Yep, he can heal her and that's exactly what he intends to do, once he properly introduces his gorgeous human form to her. (Not a bad way to wake up, finding a seriously hot guy waiting for you). Okay, so it's a little far fetched and after only a short time, their "insta-love" was pretty convenient, but since this IS a fantasy, and let's face it, all paranormal is, just go with it because it's oh, so HOT!

Right off the bat however, our happy couple discover they have another problem and he is, Eurys, Zeph's estranged brother and god of the East Wind. He is seriously dead set on breaking any happiness Zeph has found and Zeph realizes quickly, Ella isn't safe. (Not good news for the newly infatuated love birds). Fortunately, he can protect her against his brother's maliciousness but his own fears of betrayal that have been branded on his soul is an entirely different obstacle he must overcome.

This is well written story about two vulnerable, heart-broken characters and although it's somewhat predictable, Kaye's male protagonist is a sensitive hero who has been abandoned and deceived by everyone he has ever loved. Admittedly, I typically prefer alpha males but Zeph's vulnerability and brokenness made me want to root for him. His gentle, sensitive side, made me swoon even more once he proved he wasn't

afraid to kick a little tail when needed. Ella is a multifaceted character with a heartbreaking past of her own as her parents died when she was relatively young, her ex-husband betrayed her, and her twin brother, who was also her best friend, is recently deceased. Because of her tragic life and finding herself alone with no one, you just couldn't help but want things to work out for her, too. Both characters were full of depth, personality, and passion. They have been wronged in the past and trust isn't easy for either of them and they must overcome their fears yet learn to trust each other in order to find love.

As this story comes to an end there is an array of twists and turns and even a few surprises along with an epilogue that is wonderfully fulfilling. So, bottom line, if you love a good paranormal/fantasy filled with tons of steamy scenes AND a self deprecating, yet charming and even chivalrous beta-hero, you will be extremely happy you picked up this book! Kaye has produced another winner in her Hearts of the Anemoi series, (which are also stand alones), and I for one am glad she's not quite finished.

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### **Angela Carr (Under the Covers Book Blog) says**

Review also posted at Under The Covers Book Blog

Ms. Kaye surprised me with this brilliant love story. Though I missed North of Need, I feel like I did not miss a thing. This book is well written with full background details and well developed characters. I actually was doubtful at first but as circumstances as they are, I took a chance. I'm glad I did as now I have another series and author to follow.

Ms. Kaye starts out the book with a bit of suspense that kept me turning the pages nonstop. And the ongoing story of love, betrayal, family drama with the background of Greek mythology kept me interested throughout the book.

Zephyros Martius, Supreme God of the West Wind Guardian of Spring and one if the four Cardinal Anemoi had nothing but heart ache in the past but not without doubt that a few were brought on by his jealous brother Eurus, Supreme God of the East Wind and Harbinger of Misfortune. And yes, he can bring misfortune among other things. After another heart ache, Zeph took his frustrations out by storming through the seas. Unfortunately, he was not by himself and unintentionally bumps into a 32 feet True Blue. An encounter that will change him forever.

Marcella Raines is not without a painful past. She had recently lost her twin brother and a failed marriage before that. But hands down to this heroine, she's not one to fold over to hardship. In the midst of chaos, her response was "Is that all you got? Well, fuck you. Fuck you and the cloud you blew in on!..." and after all that chaos she still got up for more.

Zeph was a very emotional hero, though he's a powerful God, he's not one to maintain his emotions and this just got him in all kinds of trouble. He's not my favorite hero but he is perfect for Ella. Because of their similar past, they complimented and understood each other. And Zeph's instant attraction and obsession with Ella was definitely romantic. But what I love most was the interaction of all the Gods in this book. Their interactions were full of drama as expected from the Greek Gods. Overall, the romance was great, H/h were great, sub-characters were great and story was great. Another great read.

