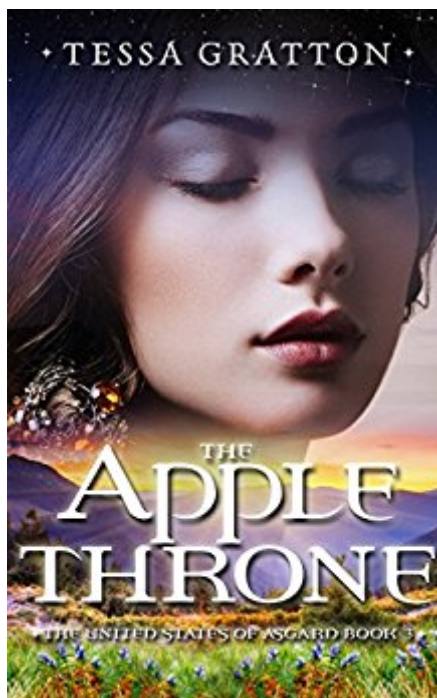


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The Apple Throne (Gods Of New Asgard Book 3)



Synopsis

• • "The Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books • • With razor-sharp prose and bone-deep emotions, Tessa Gratton doesn't just tell a story. She invites readers into another world • • "one we hate to leave when the last page is turned. • • " Sandra Mitchell, author of *Mistwalker* and *The Vespertine* There is only one person in the whole world who remembers the famous prophet Astrid Glyn: the berserker Soren Bearstar. Ever since Astrid agreed to give up her life, her name, and her prophetic dreams to become Idun the Young, the almost-goddess who protects the apples of immortality in a secret mountain orchard, she's been forgotten by everyone. Everyone except Soren. For the last two years he's faithfully visited her every three months. Then one day he doesn't come. Though forbidden to leave the orchard, Astrid defies the gods by escaping with a bastard son of Thor to find Soren. But ancient creatures are moving in the mountains beneath the country. They are desperate to leave the shadows and Astrid's quest might be the key they need. Not-quite-a-goddess, but no longer only a girl, Astrid finds herself in a situation where fate • • and not just her own • • lies in the balance. Is there a way to save herself and those she loves, or will this choice unravel the ancient magic holding the nine worlds together? • • A gorgeously written tale of the beauty of death, the pain of love, and having the courage to face our darkest selves. An utterly compelling book! • • " Robin LaFevers, bestselling author of the *His Fair Assassin Series*

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"It is by touching gods and godlings, elves and trolls and men and women, by starting a new story for ourselves and our names, that we reach into the future. "That is how we thrive." Astrid Glynn traded her life as a talented prophet and seethkona to save the person she loves. Soren Bearstar struck a bargain in turn so that he would remember Astrid even as the rest of the world forgot her. It has been two years since Astrid gave up her name, her prophetic dreams, and her life to become Idun the Young--the not-quite goddess who guards and distributes the apples of immortality. In those two years Soren's bargain has allowed him to visit her every three months. Until he doesn't come. Certain that something terrible is keeping Soren away, Astrid goes against the gods to escape her hidden orchard and search for him. With unexpected help from one of Thor's bastard sons, Astrid travels across New Asgard to find Soren and save him. Astrid is no longer the seer she once was nor is she exactly a goddess. She will have to bridge the gap between her old life and new if she wants to save the people she loves and protect the world as they know it in *The Apple Throne* (2015) by Tessa Gratton. *The Apple Throne* is the conclusion to Gratton's *Songs of New Asgard* (United States of Asgard) series. It is preceded by *The Lost Sun* and *The Strange Maid*. All of the books function very well as stand-alone titles however, because of timeline and character overlap, *The Apple Throne* does include spoilers for the earlier books. These titles have all been reissued by the author through CreateSpace as paperbacks and eBooks. *The Apple Throne* is a fantastic conclusion to one of my favorite fantasy series. This story starts soon after the conclusion of Soren's story and references the events of Signy's ascension to her title as Valkryie. Although Astrid's story is removed from that of the other protagonists in this series, her arc culminates in a finish that neatly ties all three books together. Astrid accepts her current role as Idun, a quasi-goddess, gladly. But the loss of her identity as young prophet Astrid Glynn and her separation from Soren still sting. More importantly, Astrid isn't sure who she is without a place in the world and her dream visions to guide her. Throughout the story Astrid has to reconcile who she used to be with who she has become as she tries to correct past mistakes and protect the people she holds dear. A feminist story literally about a young woman carving a place for herself in the world, *The Apple Throne* is another thoughtful fantasy filled with the intricate world building that Gratton's fans will expect. Highly

recommended. Possible Pairings: *Brightly Woven* by Alexandra Bracken, *Graceling* by Kristin Cashore, *Vessel* by Sarah Beth Durst, *The Curiosities* by Tessa Gratton, *Maggie Stiefvater* and *Brenna Yovanoff*, *Fire and Hemlock* by Diana Wynne Jones, *Dark Triumph* by Robin LaFevers, *The Outlaws of Sherwood* by Robin McKinley, *Soundless* by Richelle Mead, *Clariel* by Garth Nix, *Sisters Red* by Jackson Pearce, *Bone Gap* by Laura Ruby, *Song of the Sparrow* by Lisa Ann Sandell, *The Near Witch* by Victoria Schwab, *Midwinterblood* by Marcus Sedgwick, *The Thief* by Megan Whalen Turner

Oh man. I have so much love for this series. *The Lost Sun* just blew me away! I fell and fell hard for the story (and the audiobook version!) *The Strange Maid* deepened my love for the series. Reading *The Apple Throne* was so bittersweet. I absolutely loved it. However, I am not ready to leave the United States of Asgard yet! (I guess I had better savor the short stories in *The Weight of Stars*!) With *The Apple Throne* the focus returns to one of the main characters from *The Lost Sun* – Astrid Glyn. I loved Astrid and hated leaving her at the end of book one. We see her briefly in book two but I was excited to learn more about her new life as Lady of the Apples. She’s no longer a regular girl but she’s not quite a goddess either. Watching her find her place in the world was so interesting! And of course there’s a quest. This one involves Soren! Astrid and Soren’s love for one another shines through the pages of these stories. I loved seeing Astrid take charge and do what had to be done to find Soren and help him right what was wrong. I’m trying to avoid spoilers here but it’s hard! I want to talk all about all the things!!! If you haven’t checked out *The United States of Asgard* books yet you really should! Such an excellent combination of mythology and the modern world!!

Tessa’s writing paints a portrait of a beautiful world with characters I immediately fell in love with. *Apple Throne* does a great job of tying up loose ends from the first two books while telling a story I couldn’t stop reading. Can’t wait to read the novellas next and hope more Asgard books are soon to come!

Great book, I love how all the stories come together and give such great detail of the main character.

Sometimes you read a book, and the only difficult part about it is writing the review. The temptation even comes up to skip the review, and just rate it; that would be easier. But when a book is as good

as Tessa Gratton's last entry into her United States of Asgard series, you just have to let people know about it. Set in an alternative (way cooler) world where Odin and Thor steer national policy, The United States of Asgard series has a ton of awesome going for it. Creatively interwoven into our own world, the reader is able to escape to a much more magical place, a place where you could not only get a good job or get to serve your country, you might even get the honor of being born a Berserker or earn your way into becoming a Valkyrie. You could get to meet Baldur the beautiful, or be able to help others by seething the direction their lives are heading. All of these things are fantastic, fun and enamoring. But you hardly notice them, because they are just a setting for the complex and incredibly well written characters.. You will KNOW Tessa's characters . You will be annoyed by them, you will be mad at them, you will be ashamed at and for them. But most of all, you will love them, because they are all real, and full and oh so human. The Apple Throne is this idea nearly to perfection - we get to know imperfect characters, and get to love them because of their imperfections. Perhaps best of all, we get to see how we can love others because of the power of her characters and how powerfully they can care for others, even when everything says they should not, they should be full of anger. I don't feel like I can even iterate how powerfully Tessa pulls this off; let's just leave it at, some of her characters leave me wanting to be a better person, and the bookworm/daydreamer in me just wishes the characters were real so I could actually get to know them. In a year of amazing books, this is one of my favorites. Do yourself a favor and read it.

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