



The Gatekeeper's Challenge

Eva Pohler

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Ten agonizing months have gone by since Therese faced off against her parents' murderer at Mount Olympus, and she suspects Thanatos's absence is meant to send her a message: go on with your life. She tries to return Pete's affections even though her heart aches for the god of death, but when Than shows up to take her hamster's soul, she becomes infuriated when he says he's "been busy." In cahoots with her new friend, who's gotten in with the Demon Druggies at school, Therese takes a drug that simulates a near-death experience, planning to tell Than off so she can have closure and move on, but things go very, very wrong.

Eventually she learns Than has been busy searching for a way to make her a god, and he's found it, but it requires her to complete a set of impossible challenges designed by Hades, who hopes to see her fail.

The Gatekeeper's Challenge Details

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From Reader Review The Gatekeeper's Challenge for online ebook

Pamela Beach says

OMG What a ride , this book took me to the edge of my seat many times but the last page of this book took me to the end and i didnt even realize i was til the last word read. This is a must read , on the the next im excited to find out what happened!

Jonel Boyko says

This novel is phenomenally well written. A great deal of time was put into formatting and editing. The descriptions are spot on, while remaining quite enthralling and entertaining. I love that this novel is mythologically, historically and scientifically accurate. It adds an entirely new level to the story, making it even more complex and enjoyable. Pohler manages to seamlessly blend mythology with reality to create an awesome world for readers to get lost in.

The characters in this novel were also awesome. Although most of them were quite well developed in the first novel of the series, development continues with leaps and bounds in this novel. They grow and mature the way that normal high school students do, even if some of them have challenges or fears that most of us will never face.

I appreciate that Pohler attacked some very difficult topics in this novel. Not only does she entertain us throughout, but loss, drugs, sex, and abuse are brought up in ways that make them approachable and open them up for conversation. These can be very difficult subjects to even think about, but Pohler tackles them and winds them into her phenomenal tale.

As a whole, I am thoroughly in love with this novel and this series. The mythology is sound, as is the writing. I cannot wait for the next instalment.

Please note that I received this novel free of charge from the author in exchange for an honest review.

Dianne says

Picking up ten months after the events in The Gatekeeper's Sons, there is a good background set up for this book with references to the past blending in well! Eva Pohler has picked up the pace in book 2, thrown in a few more curves, expanded the depth of many characters and created scenes that have you dreading what will happen next! When you stop thinking of a character as fictional, the author has done their job well!

Therese has been a normal teen, she loves Thanatos, she hates his lack of communication, she misses him, she wonders why he hasn't contacted her, after all, he IS a god, then, she hates him, then she loves him, and on and on her very real teen anguish goes! Therese also has a 'more than just a friend, not quite a boyfriend' relationship with her best friend's brother (who was hit with one of Cupid's arrows of love and is in love with her)- so she feels guilty about that, too. Again, she is a human teen, so she is flawed. She also seems more whiny and does a pretty dangerously stupid thing that costs the life of one of her friends, for which Therese

feels extremely guilty, (and she should). Her actions have not only ended a life, but caused a lifetime of suffering for others.

Meanwhile, Than is desperately seeking advice on how to be together with Therese for eternity and her 'prayers' to him have not gone unheard, just painfully unanswered. The rest of the gods have vowed NOT to interfere, not to help.

Finally, Hades gives Therese several more challenges for her to complete and if she finishes all of these challenges, she can be made a god. He made the challenges extremely difficult, especially for a human girl, after all, how many people are given another chance? But Therese can be very strong-willed and is able to think well on her feet. Is she strong enough to complete each task on her own? Does she deserve this second chance? Will love conquer all? Will Therese and Thanatos be together for all eternity?

Sometimes love is just not meant to be, one small mistake made by Therese may have doomed everything. Can Thanatos fix things?

The ending will have you 'burning' for the answer!

Alison says

This was a great follow up to *The Gatekeeper's Sons*. Hades decides to give Therese and his son, Thanatos a chance to be together and gives Therese 5 challenges to complete. They seem almost insurmountable to start with but she comes up with some very clever ways to complete them. This book ends on a bit of a cliffhanger, so I immediately downloaded the 3rd book and started on it. I needed to find out what happened to Than and Therese.

I enjoyed how the characters grew. Therese's character grew the most and she learned some very important lessons in this book. I loved how she took on the different challenges, faced them head on and came up with some inventive ways to succeed in her mission.

Joy (Otherworldly Romance) says

Full review here at [Once Upon a Story](#)

I waited a couple of days before I sat down and wrote this review because I wanted to be certain about my thoughts about this sequel. I've now just re-read my review of the first book and I'm pretty sure that even though I gave it the same rating as this one, I liked and disliked them in a different way.

I didn't like Therese here as much as I did in Book 1. It's ten months since she and Than parted, and he hasn't

contacted her because it would (a) endanger her life; (b) break The Vow; and (c) he's busy finding a way to make her immortal. Instead of seeing these reasonable reasons for his absence, she (a) entertains Pete, knowing she will never feel the same way; (b) whines about being mortal, ignoring all the good people in her life [I love her adopted parents!]; and, worse, (c) takes a fake-death-enducing drug endangers not only her life but another person's. I don't know about you, but love should bring out the best in people. Not this. And so, to me, Therese was immature. I was annoyed with her 90% of the time. Also, the language in the Thesese POVs wasn't consistent. Sometimes she sounds like a fifteen year old, sometimes older (not wiser).

But then, as I read through Than's perspective, I started thinking about whether that was deliberate. I mean, every character has a Fatal Flaw and a Saving Grace, right? Because in my mind, Therese's childishness enhanced Than's awesomeness. I definitely liked him better in this book. He reflected on Therese's actions and realized that she was being unfair-- not grovelling for forgiveness because she's the love of his life or anything melodramatic like that. He acknowledged that he was indeed bothered by Therese's decision in the last book which, if she'd decided differently, he wouldn't have to suffer for eternity just so they could be together.

After that misunderstanding, the books started to pick up. I love the idea of Hades' challenges. Although the challenges themselves weren't new, a lot of it was similar if not exactly the same with what we read about in Greek Mythology, there was a lot of God-politics going on alongside it where some gods are on Therese's side and others aren't. Then there are gods who, even though they're both on Therese's side, don't get along. So, I love the meandering of favors and allegiances. I got to see a side of Greek mythological creatures that are unexpected and a bit more modern. Apollo's gender, for example. Ariadne and Asterion's complicated sibling relationship, for another.

Although I would say this is a good thing, it definitely caused me to shift my attention from the actual challenges to these minor details. As a result, I skimmed most of the challenges because I wasn't engaged in the action and I could (accurately) predict that she wasn't going to finish them. She was going to fail at the last one. I totally saw that coming! What I didn't count on was the actual ending of the book in which she turns into a goddess so violently and painfully that I'm so thankful there's an excerpt of the first chapter of the third book. I'm not sure what's going to happen. Just that there's going to be some sort of civil war in Olympus because of Than's and Therese's action. And that's something to look forward to.

PS. I received a copy of this book from the author. Thank you, Ms. Pohler!

S.Shade says

I enjoyed this book far better than the first. You can tell in this one that Therese is definitely maturing as she gets older, which I'm hoping continues throughout the series.

This book takes place ten months after Therese fails to avenge her parents, upsetting the gods. All the gods have sworn an oath on the River Styx to not make her a god and anyone who breaks this will be punished by being torn apart by the maenads each year for the rest of well forever.

Of course Therese being a teenage girl feels the doubt of Than's love for her after ten months of not hearing from him. She feels like he might have changed his mind when in reality he is searching for any possible way for them to be together.

Finally after some very unfortunate events Therese is given a second chance to prove she is worthy to be Than's wife. Hades has agreed to help her become a god if she can complete five challenges. Hades has however made these challenges extremely difficult for a human. Will Therese be able to overcome her trials? Or will one small mistake ruin everything for them.

The ending will definitely leave you with a burning desire for more.

Maggielou says

I enjoyed reading this book just as much as the first. We start off right where we left off. After the battle against the man who killed her parents Therese was sent home still human. She was deemed unworthy to be a God, unworthy to be Than's wife. For how could the wife of Death not kill a man in the name of justice?

Than never gave up trying to find a way for him and Therese to be together but as time passes Therese becomes restless and starts doubting his feelings for her. A normal reaction to not seeing or talking to the person you love for several months. Finally, Hades comes up with 5 challenges that Therese must complete in order to prove her worth.

Now it's clear she really cares about him because WOW the things she does goes above and beyond, but as of yet I really don't know why. That's neither here nor there, sometimes there is no explanation for matters of the heart.

In the midst of Therese going through all these obstacles we are presented with quite some disturbing information. A very sad incident with Vicky (school mate) and then there's that thing with Jen and her father. Though Pohler doesn't write exactly what's going on there we all know it's definitely NOT GOOD!

And without providing spoilers, we come to the conclusion of book 2 and I'm shocked at what these two characters have put themselves through. I guess love knows no bounds. I just really hope it all works out in the end!

"The brain may take advice, but not the heart, and love, having no geography, knows no boundaries: weight and sink it deep, no matter, it will rise and find the surface: and why not? any love is natural and beautiful that lies within a person's nature; only hypocrites would hold a man responsible for what he loves, emotional illiterates and those of righteous envy, who, in their agitated concern, mistake so frequently the arrow pointing to heaven for the one that leads to hell." Truman Capote *Other Voices, Other Rooms* (1948)

Review also posted at: <http://entirelybooks.wordpress.com/>

Ely says

Originally posted at <http://abooksofathomless.blogspot.com.au>

Possibly one of my favourite moments last month was when I finally had enough time to pick up this book. It's about a month or so since Chami and I read and reviewed the first book, and it had long ago reached the

point where I was aching to get back into the world. I felt like the characters in the book were my friends, and I hadn't seen them in what felt like ages...honestly, I swear the book was mocking me from its place on my bookshelf for weeks.

From page one I was drawn quickly back into the world of Therese and Than, and let me tell you it felt so good to be back. I enjoyed being back in Therese's mind and hearing about her life ten months after Than. I'm with Chami on this one, I find Therese's character really likable and I love her for both her strengths and her weaknesses. While I enjoyed Than's character as well, I would definitely have to pick Hip as my favourite (#teamhipforever) though we don't get to see as much of him in this book as I would have liked. In general, I liked the rest of the characters, though there were a certain few whose actions drove me slightly crazy. I think it was how Therese reacted and moved on from some of the terrible things that happened to her that made me really want to be on her side the whole way through the novel.

Similarly to the first novel, I enjoyed the pacing and the action of *The Gatekeeper's Challenge*- my favourite part was, indeed, the challenge. As Chami said in her review, I really liked how Eva kept track of all the things that had happened in the first book as this isn't always something you see with authors, especially with young adults authors, I believe. The main part of this was Eva included everything from the start, rather than just remembering halfway through and shoving everything in.

Again, following in the footsteps of Chami, I gotta agree with those feelings towards the endings. The main reason this review had taken so long to put up was because I honestly couldn't put words to paper on how that made me feel- I was absolutely gobsmacked for days, even thinking about it now makes me want to go back and read it again and again to make sure I haven't missed any tiny little hints that Eva might have left for us (she must have left us something!), that's honestly how good this book is.

I don't think that this is necessarily a book someone would pick up out of nowhere- it hasn't got the hype of those really popular young adult novels that you see bloggers, booktubers and just regular people on Goodreads raving about for hours on end, which I think is a real shame because I honestly believe that this book deserves more hype and that many more people should be aware of its existence and the brilliance of it and of the lovely Eva Pohler. Now excuse me, while Chami and I go and hug each other and cry as we count how many days exactly it is until we can read the third book.

Kristi says

I am not sure how its possible but these keep getting better. I'm hooked.....I had to read 2 after 1 and now I HAVE to read 3! This series is so enthralling, entertaining, and compelling that you just can't put them down. Than and Therese are the best couple to show true love, even faced with impossible odds they keep fighting. They are willing to go through anything necessary to be together. They have ups and downs like any couple but they truly love each other. I have to find out what happens next. I am scared and excited for the next book because its the last, I love the humor and excitement in these books and watching everyone grow and change. I even enjoy the fact that these books have me emotionally attached. I like anyone don't like crying however if a book is so well written it can make me smile, laugh out loud, cry, and hug the book then it is an exceptional read!

The Reviewer says

I liked this book way much more than the first. After the gods make an oath in River Styx not to make Therese a God because she is not worthy of Thanatos after she failed to kill the man who murdered her parents, she is left alone. She keeps having dreams of Than but she hasn't really seen him in ten long months.

I understand why Than is in love with her but not the other way around. Yes, he is H-O-T, she met him at the skirts of the underworld when she followed her parents after the accident, and kissed him because he was very lovely, but we never really know what does she sees in him besides being gorgeous, the God of death and kind to her. There were parts that made me laugh by the wit of them both.

I was seriously glued to my kindle when reading the five challenges. She had to (view spoiler) She almost passed with honors each and one of the challenges and guess which one did she failed?! She was soooo Soooo easily tricked and that is something I didn't like at all and in my opinion the Furies were extra information we didn't have to read.. She was already calling for Vicky, they didn't have to "force"/"scare" her to do it. Seriously?! I think the series could end with this one but I'll give the benefit of the doubt and read the third installment why?! Because I want my HEA without Than suffering year by year (view spoiler). How are you going to pull that off Mrs. Pohler?!

"May I pet him?" - I was glad not to see this very often in the story. There were parts I thought I saw a glimpse of a more mature Therese.

"Stormy" - Something about that name makes me feel bile in the throat. She is 16 and names a foal Stormy..(Maybe I prefer strong names)

Again I think Therese should have been older, there is strong content in this one.. (view spoiler)

Aside from the things I didn't like, I read this book in a day, It's good indeed. This woman knows her way through Greek Mythology. Maybe she is a Historian ... hmmm

April says

Check out my other listens at Eargasms Audiobook Reviews

Such a wonderful follow up to the first book in the series! Really solid read! I was not overly happy with the end of the first book and this one helped complete that story line! Yeah, mostly HEA!

I have always been a fan of Therese and Thanatos!! They are such a great pair!! She really balances out his seriousness and makes him see more to the world than death! I really wanted them to work things out and hated that they might not be together because she showed compassion!

This book catches up with doomed lovebirds. You really see how each struggles with letting go and also realizing that they can't because they have that rare thing called true love. Sigh. The challenges they must face to be together definitely show that their love is real. I would hate for them to fall apart after all they have been through. Such great characters that make you want them to succeed!

Again, I loved all the reference to Greek Myths I always loved. And seeing a bit more into the Gods and Goddesses. Love the idea of Aphrodite and Aries actually being in love, sigh such a pair! I have also come back to loving Hades. He really was one of my all time faves!

I did have some issues with her friend Jenn's story as more is revealed. It was uncomfortable to read and I just wanted to shake her family for not taking better care of her!! And after what I read and was implied I can't understand why they would ever let the Dad move back home. No excuses and no second chances.

I listened to the audiobook and once again love the narrator, Debbie Andreen. She does a fabulous job of bringing the emotions out of the characters and makes the story even more enjoyable. I loved her pace and that each character has a very distinct voice that is easy to differentiate. I have very happy ears and I hope she sticks around for the future books!

I can't wait for the next book to see what happens next. What will Therese's contribution be? What will happen to Persephone and Demeter? How will friends and family deal? Really loving this series!!

Kasey Cocoa says

Entertaining easy read for all ages. Well layered characters with believable elements leaving little to distract you from the story. This one was actually fun to read and left me wanting to read the final book.

Thank you for the generosity in providing the first two installments of the trilogy when I won the third.

Bj Gaskill says

I'm in love with death and haven't seen him for 10 months....no biggie!

Hey, that's an everyday normal thing for every girl right?

Well Therese has to jump through hoops to get him back and I'm not talking about little things here.

I'm talking Hades is ticked off.

All because an oath sworn on the river Styx....really???

This book is like a roller coaster of fun.

Therese and Than are an amazing couple. Their characters are so well put together and believable.

I love how the story involves Greek gods and the myths of old. Even more so how it all ties into today's world.

The black box, the Minotaur, and even the Hydra is in there. Each a different challenge Therese has to make it through....Just to get to her love....so SWEET!

Let it be known....I hate ARES!!!!

It's a total page turner right down to the burning at the end!!!

Yep that's where you're DYING for the next book!!!!

Cathy Pratt says

Oh geez that was so good and so sad. Now on to the last book of this trilogy but there is more to this series.

Michelle's Paranormal Vault of Books says

I really enjoyed this 2nd installment in the Gatekeepers Saga. I remember when I listened to the audio book of the first that I was a bit unsure, but I think in part that was my adjustment to listening to a book vs. reading it. But also part in just getting to know the characters and such.

The biggest issues I think I had is that the main character, Therese is 15 in the first book, and it seemed a bit unrealistic that an ancient Greek God, Thanatos would fall so deeply in love with her. It's major robbing the cradle to me, lol. But I try to look past that, and think in a more supernatural way. So once I put that out of my mind, I was able to get into the book. And then continue to care about these characters in this book.

The excitement really picks up in this one. Therese has challenges that the Gods set for her, to earn their respect and immortality to be Thanatos's wife (still too young, she's just now 16, a child!). She is a strong and compassionate girl, and you can't help but like her. She really cares for animals, and so do I, so that really helps me connect with her.

As for this being an Audible audio book, I think the reader did a great job, and has a pleasant voice. Easy to listen too.

I highly recommend this book and series to anyone who likes to dip into the mythology world, and doesn't mind the main character being so young. This book ended in a huge cliffhanger too! Man do I hate cliffhangers! But I have the rest of the saga, so can now start the next, yay!

5 out of 5 stars. It's a captivating story.

I was gifted an audible audio book from the author, for my honest review. (Thanks Eva!!)

You can get the Kindle version of Book 1 The Gatekeeper's Sons for free, just click the cover below to go to the download. (At Amazon)

The other books in this series:
