



Dead Radiance

T.G. Ayer

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Bryn Halbrook had always seen the glow on the people around her. And she knows all too well what psychiatrists do to people who claim impossible powers. She's always stayed below the radar, but when she discovers the meaning of the beautiful auras, she's not sure why she was cursed with the ability to see the soon-to-be-dead and be unable to do anything about it.

But Bryn is on the brink of the unbelievable truth - she is a creature from myth. Valkyrie- a warrior maiden of the God Odin. And a Collector of Souls.

Aidan Lee just can't do what he's told. Visiting Craven was not supposed to be a time to fall in love. He's just helpless when faced with the beautiful Brynhildr, but there is more to the biker dude that either Bryn or Aidan himself knows.

Can their fledgling love survive the secrets and intrigue, the reality of Odin's realm of Asgard, the pressures of being a warrior of the gods,

But Bryn lucks out when the Trickster god Loki sets his sights on her. Can Bryn hold her own against the charmingly manipulative god long enough to discover what Loki is really planning?

Dead Radiance Details

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From Reader Review Dead Radiance for online ebook

nick says

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The YA genre has had its fair share of vampires, ghosts, angels, demons etc ... It's difficult to find something new and refreshing. When I saw that Dead Radiance was about Valkyries, I immediately signed up for the blog tour because I liked the sound of the book.

Bryn Halbrook sees golden auras around certain people. Up until her best friend, Josh, dies she doesn't realize that these auras mean that these people's deaths are approaching. Soon after, Aidan, a mysterious and gorgeous guy comes to live with her foster mom. When Aidan suddenly disappears, Bryn is taken away to a secret location known as Asgar, where she comes to the realization that she's the re-incarnation of a powerful Valkyrie.

I liked Bryn as a character. She started off as an insecure loner, but throughout the story she grew and became a lot more stronger. I thought that by the end of the book she had overcome all her previous obstacles regarding her personal self. I really like reading about characters maturing since it's always very enjoyable to develop a liking to characters gradually. I liked the fact that Bryn accepted the fact that she was a Valkyrie in a brave way and didn't act all panicked because she thought she was a freak. Although she came across a few issues, she actually embraced her new life. Moreover, she was the kind of character who was naturally inquisitive and tried to find answers to the countless questions she had all by herself. She didn't wait for everything to be revealed to her magically. Overall, I thought Bryn was a character who was easy to root for.

There was a serious case of instant-love in Dead Radiance and I honestly couldn't stand it. In a way, this very immediate love dampened by full enjoyment of the book. I didn't understand the attraction between Bryn and Aidan. To be honest, I felt like they barely spent time together and knew next to nothing about each other. If it had been mentioned as lust or attraction, I would have been able to forgive the book, but towards the middle of the book, Bryn called Aidan the man that she loved and that annoyed me infinitely because they never even had a proper conversation. All they had ever done was make out. I've never been a fan of instant romance, so there's no way I could have enjoyed it in this book.

What I loved most about Dead Radiance was the fantastic world-building. The author went to great lengths to explain and thoroughly describe her setting, so that the reader can feel that he/she is present along with the characters. T.G Ayer did her research and I was absolutely enthralled by the myths and legends in the book. I don't know much about Norse Mythology, but I did learn quite a bit from Dead Radiance. The Gods, the different creatures and the lifestyles fascinated me. According to me, the prologue was smashing since it really set the tone of the book, but I was slightly disappointed with the first quarter of the book. In my opinion, it was slow and quite dreary. As soon as Bryn found herself in Asgar, things got so much better. Along with Bryn, I loved discovering this new world that she had come to. From that point onward, the plot became a lot more tense and my interest was piqued even further. T.G Ayer is a fantastic author. She has a beautiful and very descriptive writing style that brings her words to life. Because of the way she wrote, it was easy to vividly picture the setting of the book. Furthermore, the book ended in a cliffhanger, so there's no doubt that I'll be checking out the next installment.

If you're looking for a unique and not yet explored theme in YA paranormal books then I suggest you read Dead Radiance since despite its slight flaws it ended up being a highly entertaining read!

Patti Larsen says

I LOVED this book, the debut from T.G. Ayer. I'm a huge fan of all mythology, but Norse myth is something I haven't seen tackled in YA before. I found myself gleefully making connections, remembering things I'd forgotten from my uni days studying Odin and Freya and the amazing Valkyries. Ayer has done an amazing job with not only the accuracy of the myth, but with the development of her MC, Bryn. A teen abandoned to a life as a foster kid, Bryn is real and told in a sharply accurate emotional voice. I hate giving too much away in reviews, but I will say this--Ayer will have you from the very first chapter and you'll not be able to stop until the book is done.

Great debut, looking forward to the sequel!

Jenny Whetzel says

I believe this is my first Valkyrie book that I have read and I doubt it will be the last, especially by this author. I very much enjoyed it and found it difficult to put down. The main characters are nice (mostly) and likable.

?? Carmen the Bootyshaker Temptress ?? says

Read August 23,2015

After being placed in foster care after her father's death, Bryn begins to discover something about herself. She sees people's auras before they die. She starts to believe that she has some type of curse until the new foster kid, Aidan. He shows affections to Bryn and then disappears but leaves behind book that suggests Bryn might be a valkyrie. That's when things change for her and the journey begins. This was a very good book and I can't wait to continue this series.

Re-Read Sept.2016

I'm glad that I re-read this. It was a good refresher so I can continue with the the next book with a fresh start.

Cameo says

Holy Halls of Valhalla! :) Dead Radiance is an awesome telling of ancient Norse Mythology. It took me on a wonderful journey from a small town of Craven, to Asgard and Valhalla, to the Underworld and back. Bryn, a girl who sees people glow before they die, finds out that she is a Valkyrie. But, not only a Valkyrie, a reincarnation of the Warrior Brunhilde.

I don't want to give away the story, but this book was hard to put down. I can't wait for Dead Embers!

Tariel says

NOT PART OF REVIEW

I wrote my whole review and then I have no idea what happened, so I hope I don't miss out too much :(

START OF REVIEW

I showed my grandmother my bingo board, as she is a very avid reader and has worked at Whitcoulls for fifteen years. She gave me a list of books that she thought might fit the criteria of each section. I chose this book from the list of "New Zealand Authors" because the blurb interested me. It was interesting because it is a fantasy-fiction. This is a genre I am interested in and it also based around Norse Mythology which I find intriguing, as I know very little about Norse Mythology.

This is the first book in a trilogy, it is set in a fictional small town called Craven, in America. Bryn, the main character is a foster-child and main character in the book. Becoming more important to the world as the book develops.

The book had so many interesting characters, most of the characters in the book all have important parts to play in the story of Bryn's transformation. The main protagonist is Bryn or Brynhildr. Bryn is an orphan living in foster care, she has always been different and more so now she is a teenager. She could see auras of people, a golden glow, as it was described in the book. She soon found out that when she saw a person surrounded by a golden glow it meant they would soon be dead and she couldn't do anything about it. But this was just the start of all the changes that would happen to Bryn. As the story develops the reader finds out why Bryn has feelings of being different and goes on an incredible journey with her and all the others she meets along the way. I like that the way the author slowly builds the character of Bryn, using teenage angst as a starting point, as I think many teenagers feel like they don't know who they are and the unknown of what is to come is scary for many.

You could never expect anything in this book and if you did it was wrong, it made it so much more exciting, wanting to turn the page and find out what was going to happen, everything was a mystery, you never knew if it was going to go Bryn's way or another way and it was never clichéd, even to the ending. This gave you a chance to predict what could happen, make you want to keep reading, along the way finding out if your predictions were true or false, this helped the book to stay in your hands for as long as it takes to read.

If you like the hunger games, then you will definitely like this book, it has such strong plots that go through the entire book, your imagination will run wild, making you think you were actually there. The way this book is written, made you imagine what Bryn and the other main characters visually looked like, you'd stop reading and think about it, pausing just to imagine the scene you have just read about. It may not be a book full of action, but the interesting events that keep happening keep it in your hands.

The author(T.G Ayer)had researched her subject matter, because after reading or during parts I went and looked up what a Valkyrie could be, Norse Mythology, Odin, Brynhildr and more and everything mentioned in the book I was able to get more information on, this made it more than just something to fantasize about, but also allowed you to think above and beyond this novel.

I like how it had a little bit of romance between Bryn and Aidan, it added excitement to the book although

this wasn't a love story. I liked how everyone thought Bryn was special, such a humble person, not thinking anything more of herself than any other person. Odin, the largest and most powerful god provoked in the book handed Bryn help whenever needed, seemed to always think of her as a gift, one in need of great care to succeed, same with many people who were sent to serve Bryn, they would do anything to fulfil what Bryn had in mind, especially Sigrun, who slowly became best friends with Bryn. My favorite moment which showed just how special Bryn really is, was when she watched a golden leaf float downward to lay on her shoulder, the leaf wasn't any leaf as Bryn's friend and witness of the scene Sigrun said "This Rowan is special. No season affects it. No leaves fall from it unless Glasir wishes it. We believe that Glasir will only give you a leaf if you are important or special" After Sigrun informs Bryn with that information she then explains that everyone knew Bryn was special, but the blessing from Glasir clarified it.

The book was a fantastic read, it made me think more than any other book has. I would recommend this book to teenagers who like adventure, fantasy and with a historical theme, that creates further subjects to learn about.

Sarah says

(Source: I received a digital copy of this book for free on a read-to-review basis. Thanks to author T. G. Ayer.)

16-year-old Bryn always knew that she was different, but despite a pushy psychiatrist, she's always been able to see a golden glow around certain people. Now Bryn knows what the glow means though, and she's scared.

It started with a girl at school – she glowed gold, then she died. Then it was Bryn's best friend Joshua, and he died too. Now it's Bryn's younger foster brother Brody, and she doesn't know what she can do to stop what seems inevitable. Her newest foster brother Aidan is different though. She barely knows him, but she can't help but be attracted to him, and to also feel like she can confide in him.

What or who is Bryn? Can she trust Aidan? And is there anything she can do to prevent her younger brother's death?

This was an interesting story about a teenage girl who is a reincarnated Valkyrie, and her discovery of her true heritage.

I have never read anything about Valkyries before, so this was new for me! I liked the storyline in this book but it was actually the first few chapters that I found most compelling. Bryn's grief over the loss of her best friend, and her blossoming feelings for Aidan were compelling reading, and I really felt for her, and sympathised with the situation she was put in. I found the Valkyrie stuff a little confusing in places, I've never read anything about Valkyries before, and have no clue about their background or the ideas behind them at all. Thankfully the story had enough explanation to get me through without needing to know any extra information, but if you already have an interest in this subject then I'm guessing that the story would probably mean more to you!

Bryn was a really caring person, and I was impressed at how well she was coping following her father's death and her mother's abandonment. I also thought she showed great feeling and respect when she expressed a desire to let her foster mother know that she was okay, and again when she wanted to tell her

dead friends that she was okay too, even if it wasn't exactly possible.

I liked Aidan, and I would have liked for there to have been maybe a touch more romance between the pair. Aidan's flirting and character was really sweet, and really wanted Bryn and Aidan to be together properly. I thought they made a really good couple, and it was a shame how their situation seemed to be keeping them apart.

I did enjoy this story overall, although I wasn't the biggest fan of the cliff-hanger ending. I did like the main characters Bryn and Aidan, and it was interesting to learn a little about Valkyries. It will certainly be interesting to see what happens to Bryn and Aidan in the next instalment! Overall; an enjoyable and different story about a reincarnated Valkyrie. 6.75 out of 10.

Dale Ibitz says

Okay, so I admit, when I first started the book, I didn't think I was going to like it. I was a bit confused with some of the present/past bouncing, and sometimes I didn't know if we were in the present or the past or a flashback or what, and all I could think was, "Oh boy, is the whole book gonna be like this?"

Well, it wasn't. And it was well worth getting through that rocky start.

So you have Bryn, a likeable foster kid robotically moseying through her days, watching her best friend, Josh, glow and then die, and then dealing with the brunt of the other girls who blame her for (a) being Josh's friend and (b) being alive.

Those bitches!

Anyhoo, along comes Aiden, sexily dark and mysterious with an obvious Einstein-sized brain and a seeming attraction to Bryn. Gotta love these 2 characters.

Gotta love the plot, too. So Bryn's life becomes inter-woven with Norse mythology. Valkyries. Asgard. Valhalla. King Odin. His wife, Frigga. Freya. And not let's forget that little devil, Loki. I'm not all familiar with Norse mythology, so this as all very interesting to me, and fresh. If there are boo boo's in the interweaving and retelling, I wouldn't know. And I certainly don't care. I was so caught up in the plot and the betrayals and the sniping and the mischievous antics that it was all good fun.

The end is cliff-hanger worthy. Definitely makes you want to pick up the next book and continue the story, which I shall do!

Karen says

OMG! I Loved this story! Right up there with Twilight as far as I am concerned!

Natalie says

I really love Norse mythology, but this book was a disappointment. It was too hodgepodge to be taken seriously. Here is why I didn't really like this book:

1. Bryn and Aidan. She hates him, but then they kiss passionately and apparently they are dating. The whole book is based on this premise. They seriously have about 2 conversations and then the author acts like they have this deep relationship. I know that teens are always falling madly in love in young adult novels, especially in this genre, but this was too much.
2. What is the point of being a valkyrie if you end up back on earth acting like a bumbling teenager? On earth they are scared and running from two goons, but then end up defeating an ancient dragon God? How does this make sense?
3. The story always had this feel: "and then this happened, and then we saw this, and then I wanted to love Aidan but I couldn't, and then I fought a God, and then my wings magically caused no problems on earth, and then..., and then..., and then..." It was hard to follow the story because it was told like that.

Won't be reading anymore, but if anyone has any good suggestions for fictional Norse mythology books, please let me know!

Maria V. Snyder says

This is the first in a series and it's also the first book written by T.G. Ayer. [Full disclosure - T.G. is a friend of mine] I really liked the premise for the story - the Norse mythology is a fun new aspect for me as I haven't read any other YA books with Valkyries in them. Of course, it's not new to the sf/fantasy world - Thor & the Avengers anyone? :) The characters were likable and there were some nice touches of humor and description. There was a little too much world building at times and it slowed the pace, and sometimes the plot just sped up and skipped certain things that I would have liked to see played out - for example Aiden's family and background - what happens to him in the story is a really big deal (view spoiler). The ending was rushed (like most books I've reviewed here :) and a bit...hard to believe. However I see lots of potential and talent in these pages.

Mitch says

Eh, another book I had a hard time getting into - really, really not for guys, though there's some cool mythology and with some creative editing here and there, deleting a lot of the first third of the book and then a few paragraphs every chapter or so in the second third, I might actually have really liked it. As it is, this book kind of suffers from somewhat overwritten, angsty prose (the prologue and first chapter are really bad offenders) and a cliched start (plus the Aidan character), though after the bad first third the plot does get better ... and more interesting.

Still, it's not what I was expecting from a book about Valkyries, I guess I expected there'd be more fighting and action and there really isn't any until the last third. Before that, the writing makes Bryn seem really mopey and down all the time, a lot of talk about death, so she ended up really annoying me - at least until she

got out of dodge. I liked her a lot better after that, when she stopped being so morbidly depressing and actually loosened up abit. I think all of her good quotes come in the final third when she's finally written with some spunk.

The mythology (sort of) impressed me. From a lot of the details and descriptions, I think it's pretty clear that Ayer did more than just copy and repeat the basic Wikipedia entries about the Norse gods (as some authors are wont to do, not naming names). I wanted to see more though, the first third was really overwritten and I was kind of disappointed that the second third in Asgard felt in comparison underwritten; I guess all the fancy writing was used up on the funeral at the beginning so going through Odin's palace didn't feel as epic in comparison.

The final third's the best part, with the sort of action and plot development I'd been expecting (though Aidan's still written badly, too passive and really out of character with what happened in the first third), and I would've happily given this book another star had I not had to slog through the first third. For the future, I'd just skip down to the Valhalla part, the characters will repeat the previous plot points anyway, and then this book won't be as bad. Too bad the entire book's not written like the last third, but based on the preview the next book seems to be, so there's that. Two and a half stars (rounded up).

Book Chatter-Cath says

After reading the first chapters online I had high hopes for a great book, and Dead Radiance did not disappoint.

I can quite happily report that I thoroughly and enthusiastically LOVED this book.

I LOVED the story.

Norse mythology threaded into an intricately woven teenage tale of loss and hardship, mystery and intrigue, first love, deceit, self discovery and more.

I LOVED the characters.

Bryn is a typically normal kid dealing with the heavy burden of being in the foster system and never quite fitting in anywhere, while struggling with a strange and haunting 'gift'.

Her quiet and soft nature at odds with the realisation of what she is to become, Bryn is both challenged and tormented by that new life.

Aidan is cute bad boy, come geek, come secret agent, come saviour, come love interest, come everything! He is secretive and intriguing and has strong and confusing feelings for our heroine that will ultimately lead to his possible demise.

The secondary characters also, are interesting and diverse, with a couple of complete little biarches you'll want to slap a time or two thrown into the mix.

And lets not forget the Norse Gods.

Some I think you will love and want to learn more about, others, well with their holier than thou attitudes we'll lump them in with the biarches!!

I LOVED the writing.

The story flows smoothly and effortlessly from the page.

It is clear and concise without unnecessary fillers and overly detailed sentences that do nothing more than fill the word count.

T.G. Ayer has written this book in a real and believable teenage voice that I literally could not put down. After dropping my three girls off at school I sat down with coffee and snacks at hand, and except for toilet breaks and an unexpected storm front closing my daughter's school early, I did not move until I was finished.

Dead Radiance had me completely engrossed, I lost myself amongst its pages and I was enraptured with Bryn and her story.

A beautifully written and endearing tale, Dead Radiance is a definite 5 Star read ~<:]

Hmr28 says

I am not sure why authors' don't take advantage of every single avenue of publication open to them. I know that if I come across a recommendation from goodreads or a friend I check the book out right away, if it is available and is interesting to me, I buy it. If it is not available for me to buy on the Nook, I don't and then...I forget about it. Essentially the author has lost the chance at a sale, because I am not going to remember that I wanted a particular book 1 week from now much less 3 months from now when the author finally gets around to putting it up on other vendors sites. I don't read or buy Amazon books and I never will because I don't agree with Amazon's business practices (and I own a Nook and 1 e-reader is enough for anyone!) Anyway this was a rather long rant to simply say, this book looks good...too bad I won't be able to read it. I think I'll be posting this note on every book that I look up here that looks interesting to me but is not actually available for me to purchase!

Tana says

Dead Radiance by T.G. Ayer

Dead Radiance is a Mythology adventure, this is something I don't normally read but to be honest I loved the cover and decided I should read it. T.G. Ayer writing is good, the story flowed well, character descriptions were well written well and I felt like I got to know and understand the main characters.

We meet Bryn Halbrook, her mother deserted her and when her father died she was placed into foster care. Bryn knows she is different and feels as she has never really fit in. Figuring out that she sees a person's aura and when it lights up they usually end up dying. She of course tells no one. When a young man comes to live in her foster home things start to unravel for her. Finding out more about her father work and where she came from is very confusing, trying to piece everything together and realizing she is in danger she must leave her home to keep her foster family safe. The next part of this story then takes place Asgard, the city of Odin. Bryn learns she is a Valkyrie and a very powerful one. We meet some new characters and some old ones return. This story is faced paced, has some mystery/suspense and is full of some very interesting Mythology.

This book takes you on a Mythology ride and I quite enjoyed it.

I have rated Dead Radiance 4 stars and I cannot wait to read Dead Embers (Valkyrie, #2).

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