



## North of Need

*Laura Kaye*

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Desperate to escape agonizing memories of Christmas past, twenty-nine-year-old widow Megan Snow builds a snow family outside the mountain cabin she once shared with her husband, realizing too late that she's recreated the very thing she'll never have.

Called to life by Megan's tears, snow god Owen Winters appears unconscious on her doorstep in the midst of a raging blizzard. As she nurses him to health, Owen finds unexpected solace in her company and unimagined pleasure in the warmth of her body, and vows to win her heart for a chance at humanity.

Megan is drawn to Owen's mismatched eyes, otherworldly masculinity, and enthusiasm for the littlest things. But this Christmas miracle comes with an expiration—before the snow melts and the temperature rises, Megan must let go of her widow's grief and learn to trust love again, or she'll lose Owen forever.

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

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

## North of Need Details

Date : Published May 1st 2012 by Entangled: Select (first published October 1st 2011)

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Author : Laura Kaye

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## From Reader Review North of Need for online ebook

♥Rachel♥ says

3.5 Stars

*"I know what this sounds like, Megan, but I was sent here. For you." He released a deep breath. "A Christmas gift, of sorts."*

This is exactly what Megan Snow needs after grieving the death of her husband, for the last two years (heck I wouldn't mind this kind of gift either!). Megan is keeping up tradition by spending Christmas in a cabin out in the snowy woods, just like she always did with her late husband. Megan can't stop thinking on what she may never feel again: true love and companionship. To get her mind off her grief she tries to busy herself by making a snowman. This turns into making a snowman, snow-woman, and snow-child. When Megan realizes she's made a family, she breaks down into tears, thinking of all she lost, and may never experience. However, little does she know that her tears and silent pleas do not go unnoticed. Someone has heard, and plans to bring Megan happiness and peace. One hunky Owen Winters coming up! Owen show up a Megan's door at night, passed out with no boots or coat, in the middle of a snow storm. Megan can't leave this man outside to the elements and drags him into her cabin. She quickly notices that he is gorgeous. He looks like a god (hee hee) in the flesh. Little does she know!! Can Megan unlock her heart and accept that she can fall for someone again without getting hurt, again? Can Owen convince her in time to love him before time runs out on his human existence?

This was a very sweet story with a fairy-tale quality to it. To enjoy this tale, you must suspend some of your belief in reality and just go with it. This takes place over the span of four days, a week maybe, so immediate attraction must take place for this story to work. I was fine with this because it fit the story. Plus, haven't you ever been immediately, powerfully and intensely attracted to someone? I have. Not sure that I could fall in love so soon, but definitely in lust! Let me tell you, there is definitely time for lust in this story! Laura Kaye is a master at writing nice and steamy scenes! I'll never think of peach ice cream or snow cones in the same way again! Here's a little teaser for you:

*He stifled a groan when she licked her lips and he added another attribute to his newfound favorite dessert: dangerous. Because it made him want to throw his peach ice cream away in favor of tasting it from her tongue. He looked down into his bowl and decided to save the peach for last. So he could savor the same flavor coating the inside of her mouth.....The thought that this was what she tasted like, right now....He had to shift in his seat.*

\*Fans self\*!!

So, anyhow.... I had fun reading this with my favorite ladies: Laura, Bethany, Sara, and Brandie. Thanks for the laughs and gossip!!

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Jo ★The Book Sloth★ says

3 Not What I Expected Stars

## **There will definitely be huge SPOILERS**

I have to admit that after reading the BLURB and seeing the hunk on the cover I expected this to be some kind of Alpha, Immortal Warrior PNR. There is nothing in the premise to suggest it but come on, you see a half naked guy in the cover, you read the words PNR and Greek Gods and your next thoughts are "When are the daggers coming out?". That's what I get for not reading reviews before I pick up a book, because this book was completely romance-focused, had zero action and while the guy was sweet he wasn't exactly Alpha material. So I don't know if my completely average rating(3) is a reflection of the book or of the fact that it wasn't what I expected going in.

The book is cute and sweet and a little cheesy, which is usually not a problem with me but this time I was a tiny bit bored. There was the PNR angle but it really read more like Chick Lit, what with the heroine trying to get over her husband's death and the guy being there for her all cute and understanding. There were a few glitches though.

- 1) The whole "Your dead husband sent me so you can be happy again and get over his death" angle was creepy. Listening the voice of your dead husband urging you to "love" a new guy is freaking CREEPY!
- 2) The insta-love was HEAVY. The hero was in love with the heroine practically from the moment he met her and the heroine was in love with him about two hours later.
- 3) There were way to many "Oh"s. "Oh, Owen", "Oh, Megan", "Oh, Angel", etc...
- 4) The snowman coming to life thing was kind of fun but I couldn't help picturing this guy every time I thought of Owen:

Still the book was cute and I would've have overlooked all of that because I'm all for fluff but I expected more action and when that didn't come I wanted the book to move a little faster, which it didn't.

There are pros though. Boreas was awesome(I want a Winter God for a Grandpa too), the epilogue was sweet and fun and Owen's child-like enthusiasm in everything was adorable. I did like Owen a lot, in "cute, goofy" guy kind of way.

All in all, sweet and fun but nothing remarkable.

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### **Erika says**

When I am in the right mood, I plan to read this. Not a fan of deceased spouse tropes, but this storyline still appeals to me.

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### **Rachel Harris says**

North of Need had me at the cover. I don't think a woman alive would argue that the man isn't hot. But what kept me eagerly clicking the button on my kindle, so emotionally tied to the story and needing to see what happens next, was Laura Kaye's amazing characters.

Megan has to be one of the best-written protagonists I've seen in a long time. The story really only has two characters . . . she talks on the phone with a few family members and friends, and later in the story a couple other characters make brief appearances, but the heart and majority of this story centers on Megan and Owen. And in the beginning, it's just Megan.

In my opinion, to ask your readers to hang out with only one person and want to keep turning the pages--without the lovely distraction various minor characters can bring--you have to have a main character who is relatable, lovable, endearing, and have at least a touch of wit . . . which in this story could've been difficult since Megan was so heartbroken in the beginning. But in the talented hands of Laura Kaye, I didn't even realize until the story was over how few characters there were. I \*wanted\* to hang out with Megan. I wanted to be her friend. And when Owen appeared on the scene, I completely rooted for her to risk her heart again.

Owen was an awesome love interest. Sexy, strong, compassionate, with just a touch of innocence, he swept me off my feet right along with Megan. The mystical, paranormal elements he added to the story were fun and fresh, and oh, my goodness, was he HOT!!

I will NEVER look at ice cream the same way.

In fact, I got so wrapped up in this story that I started craving whatever they were eating, which granted was often ice cream, but then I had a mad need for chicken salad sandwiches, and of course, snowballs.

You want steamy? North of Need and Laura Kaye have your back.

You want romance? Yep, it's here.

You want a story that transports you, makes you smile, laugh, and feel all warm and fuzzy? This is a must.

And with Christmas right around the corner, there is no book more perfect to buy for yourself, or for a friend. AND then, while you are at it, check out book two, West of Want . . . I DARE you not to drool over that cover!

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## **Claire Robinson says**

### 4.5 - Snowflake, Snowman & Teddy Stars.

Imagine yourself waking up on Christmas morning, you slip downstairs, and find a present under the tree, you have no idea who sent it or where it came from, but when you open it, imagine to your surprise that it is that one thing you have been secretly lusting after, but haven't told anyone that you actually wanted... North of Need is just that, an unexpected and totally remarkable gift.

This isn't a review as such, just a few quotes and images to show how much I loved Owen and Megan's Story, and my continued Fan-girling for the awesomeness that is Laura Kaye.

**Owen – Want me. Need me. Love me. Your love will hold me here, with you. Forever.**

**Owen - See me. Believe in me.**

Straight onto West of Want!

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### **Cocktails and Books says**

Megan Snow, still grieving the loss of her husband two years ago (on Christmas day) in a car accident, heads to the mountain cabin she and John shared to spend the anniversary of his death in solitude. She heads outside, deciding she needs the physical activity to stop her mind from remembering John and how his death was her fault.

In the middle of a blizzard, she builds a snow family. A snowman with mismatched eyes, a black knit cap and John's old flannel shirt. Next she builds a snow woman and the child. But it's the snowman that calls to her broken heart. Seeing John's things on the snowman, she breaks down clinging to the snowman.

It's Megan's grief that sends Snow God, Owen, to help her. But she also is his chance at humanity. If he can get Megan to admit her love for him, before the snow melts, then he'll be able to stay with her forever. But for Owen, winning over Megan must be done in days instead of the weeks he thought he had. He'll charm her, woo her and worship her body like it's never been worshiped before. But can he show Megan that she should give up her grief and start living life again?

Laura Kaye is fast becoming one of those authors that I will immediately buy. Why? Because she creates characters that you can immediately connect with.

Megan was a broken woman. Her grief seemed to leap off the electronic pages at you. She blamed herself for her husband's death (since he ran out to get her the missing eggnog) and couldn't seem to get past the fact that he was gone. So it was a little surprising when she immediately reacted to Owen. Sure he had the body of a Greek God, but I think innately her soul was drawn to it's match in our her the Snow God.

Owen knew his soul purpose with Megan was to get her to love him in order to obtain his humanity. But he was drawn to Megan and almost immediately realized that she was the one for him. He chose the harder path in winning her heart. He made her laugh, he put her first and made sure she knew that she was the most important to him and she always would be.

A heartwarming story that will remind you how important it is to say "I love you" to those you love.

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**Rachel Annie says**

Books on my "Yum! Cotton Candy Reads" Shelf are just that. Hot, light, and fluffy like freshly-spun cotton candy at a fun park. Sure, it's not perfect or even good for me, but it's damn enjoyable!

\*Okay. I really do like this author. In fact, as demonstrated by my gushing review, Hearts in Darkness is my all time fave novella.

This one though... I didn't love the "Frosty retelling" premise but the idea of elemental nature gods was new to me and worked well. My biggest issue however, was the saccharine-sweet hero. Now don't get me wrong, I don't prefer alpha-holes by any means but Owen was really, seriously, so very over the top nice. It wasn't my thing but if you're sick of jerk heroes and want something fresh, definitely give this a shot.

It is quite hot.

Or do I mean cool... :D

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## **Sarah says**

Megan is still struggling to cope after the death of her husband so rather than face Christmas with her family and friends she follows their tradition and heads off to the isolated cabin they own in the mountains. Trying to take her mind off her grief she builds a snow family but the reminder of what will never be just makes her feel worse. When Owen appears on her doorstep in the middle of a blizzard she isn't able to leave him outside to freeze and reluctantly allows him into her cabin. What she doesn't realise is that Owen is a snow god who was brought to life by her tears and wants to help mend her broken heart. Can Owen win her love before the snow melts and he is forced to leave her forever?

OK I'll admit it - the main reason I wanted to read this story was the cover. Come on, I dare any woman to look at that cover and not want to get to know Owen! I hadn't read anything by Laura Kaye before but North of Need was a fantastic paranormal romance and I'll definitely be picking up the rest of this series (and I'm planning on working my way through her back list too). If you're looking for a steamy read to chase away the winter blues then North of Need is perfect but I'll warn you now it will leave you wanting to build a snowman in the hope of nabbing your very own snow god. You might want to stock up on ice cream before you get started too because I doubt you'll make it through the whole book without caving in and eating a tub full!

I'm not always a big fan of stories that only really have two characters (Megan does speak on the phone to a few people and we are introduced to a couple of others towards the end of the book for most of the book it is just Megan and Owen). It can be difficult to keep my interest without the interactions that friends and family can bring to the story and I have to really like the leads to want to spend so much time with them. In this case it worked really well though and it really allowed us to get to know Megan and Owen. Owen swept me off my feet right alongside Megan and I was desperate to see them both get a happy ending.

Megan was a great character, she is heartbroken and misses her husband desperately but at the same time she is still going about her life just getting through one day at a time. She could have been quite a depressing character to spend time with but I didn't find that at all, I felt for her but I respected her too and I wanted to see her move forwards in her life. I don't even have the words to describe Owen - he is gorgeous but also such a sweetheart, strong, sexy, dynamite in bed but at the same time a little bit innocent and infectiously enthusiastic about everyday things. He was definitely one of my favourite heroes for a while!

I loved the fact that North of Need is a bit different from your usual paranormal romance, the actual romance had more depth to it because of Megan's loss and the way Owen pulls her out of her grief. They are a fantastic couple who I would be happy to spend more time with and I'm sure I'll be re-reading the book again in the future. I enjoyed the mythology that the author has used around the different gods but I would have liked a bit more information about that side of things. As this is the first book in the series I'm confident that we'll discover more later on though and I'm looking forward to that. I can't wait to get my hands on West of Want and am pleased that the release dates for the whole series are fairly close together (the next 3 books are all due for release within the year).

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### **Jill says**

This was a beautiful sweet story. It wasn't hard to guess what was going on, it wasn't even hard to guess what was going to happen in the end. It was a sweet romance through and through and I loved it.

Owen was an entirely different kind of hero than what we get now a days. Gentlemen, caring, his words **You needed me** and **I am here for you** have not been read by me coming from a mans mouth in a long time. He was patient and really was there for her.

Anyway if you want a change of scene and are after a little sweet romance with a bit of a paranormal twist, give North of Need a go.

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### **Marlene says**

Originally published at <http://www.readingreality.net/2012/04...>

Humans have personified the great forces of nature since mankind (and womankind) first created fire. The winds howling outside of those early cave-dwellings must have seemed like gods...and so some of the world's most fascinating and enduring myths were born.

Zephyrus, the west wind, Eurus the East Wind and Notus, the South Wind are three of these, but the greatest and most feared is Boreas, the North Wind. Boreas is feared because the North Wind brings Winter.

In North of Need, the first of Laura Kaye's Hearts of the Anemoi series, Megan Snow has gone north to face the heart of winter alone. Megan believes that she needs to face Christmas, and the second anniversary of her young husband's death, alone. Alone in the isolated cabin where they shared their love, and their all too few Christmases.

Out of a need to escape the confines of the cabin, the walls that are closing in, Megan goes out into the snow and builds a snow man, and a snow woman, and last, a snow child. Finished, she stares at her handiwork, and realizes what she has unconsciously done. She's built a vision in snow of what she can never have in real life--the Snow Family. Her husband is dead and she is alone.

Megan breaks down and sobs, wrapping her arms around the snowman, her tears fusing her to its solid snow body. Tearing herself away leaves a snow burn on her cheek.

Stumbling into the cabin after her emotional storm, Megan crashes into sleep as a blizzard descends on the isolated area. She wakes to find a man on her doorstep. She doesn't want to give up her grief-stricken



isolation, but the man will freeze to death before he reaches the next cabin, if he can even find another shelter in the white-out. She must take the stranger in, and hope for the best.

What she finds even more strange is that the man on her doorstep has no shoes, but is wearing the clothes that she used to "dress" the snowman.

Owen Winters is the snowman. And he will be again, if Megan doesn't grab this chance at love. Owen is one of the Anemoi, one of those primal forces, an agent of the North Wind. And he has one precious chance, a few brief days, to convince Megan to fall in love with him.

The West Wind is coming, bringing the thaw. When the snow thaws, Owen will be gone, unless Megan can commit to him first. But love in the face of death is the one thing that Megan fears above all. She's loved and lost before, and she's not in the least bit sure it's better than never having loved at all.

Will Megan's heart thaw first, or will the snow?

Escape Rating A: Now I understand what all the fuss was about! Besides the fact that the use of Greek mythology was awesome (Boreas hasn't been this much fun since he was used as Bigby Wolf's father in Fables) the metaphor of winter for grief was done just right. It's a trope that can easily be overplayed, but Kaye went just far enough, and then turned it on its head by having Owen and Megan have so much fun in their winter sports. For Owen, wintertime equals playtime, and he makes Megan see it too.

Owen has a much harder time getting Megan to trust him, especially when he starts by understandably not revealing his true nature. But his courtship, and the building of their friendship, is what makes the story so incredibly good. It helps that the romance part of this paranormal romance is both sweet and hot.

West of Want, book 2 of Hearts of the Anemoi, is coming on July 10, 2012. Book 3, South of Surrender, not until December, 2012. For the grand finale, East of Ecstasy, I'm going to have to wait until April 2013. Just in time for my next birthday.

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## **Christa says**

If you have ever been sitting by your Christmas tree, drinking eggnog and listening to Christmas music like "Frosty the Snowman" and thought, "This song would make a great paranormal romance novel" - then this is the book for you.

Our heroine Megan is a widow, spending Christmas alone in a cabin, thinking about how her husband died on Christmas in a car accident getting her eggnog.

And that's why you shouldn't drink eggnog - also it's disgusting.

She builds a snowman family, as one does, and then realizes she's all alone and cries on the snowman. And little does she know that her tears will bring the snowman to life.

He goes by Owen Winters, although I called him Frosty the whole time and will continue to do so. Frosty is

a god of winter, sent by Megan's husband to help her move on. He's super sexy of course.

Oh yeah...

Frosty is silly and funny and sweet, as one would expect from a snowman come to life who only eats ice cream. This was a straightforward romance with little drama. It's funny and free if you want a silly book to read around the holidays.

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### **?? Carmen the Bootyshaker Temptress ?? says**

Rated between 3.5-4 stars

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### **Aly is so frigging bored says**

Buddy read with Jo

I didn't know what to rate it, but in the end I really loved the epilogue so 4\* it is :)

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### **Katie(babs) says**

A cute, sexy romance perfect for the holidays. But something that happens with Owen that makes me go hmm...

The heroine Megan is mourning the death of her beloved husband after 2 years. To stop from becoming too depressed on the anniversary of his death, she makes a snowman. The snowman transforms into the hero, Owen, who is also a god. But, if Owen gets too overheated, his body parts will vanish. So this is where I ask, when his peen is having fun with Megan's hoo haa, which is toasty warm, wouldn't his peen disappear also?

Inquiring minds want to know...

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### **Amy (Foxy) says**

**3.75**

Fun read for BW's birthday book.

I feel the need to go outside and make a snowman. Only problem is we don't have any snow here.

**Snowman + hot guy =**

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