



## For The Immortal

*Emily Hauser*

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**Thousands of years ago, in an ancient world where the gods control all and heroes fight to have their names remembered down the ages, two extraordinary women become entangled in one of the greatest heroic tales of all time . . . and must face how much they are willing to risk for immortality.**

Desperate to save her dying brother, Admete persuades her father, the king of Tiryns, to let her join Hercules on one of his legendary twelve labours. Travelling to the renowned female warrior Amazons in search of a cure, Admete soon discovers that both Hercules and the fearsome Amazons are not as they first seemed.

The Amazons greet the arrival of the Greeks with mixed feelings – and none more so than Hippolyta, the revered queen of the tribe. For Hercules and his band of fighters pose a threat to her way of life – but also stir up painful memories that threaten to expose her deepest secret.

As battle lines are drawn between the Greeks and the Amazons, both women soon learn the inevitable truth – in war, sacrifices must be made; especially if they are to protect the ones they love most . .

## For The Immortal Details

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Author : Emily Hauser

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## From Reader Review For The Immortal for online ebook

### Samantha says

This story is told from the point of view of three women; Hippolyta the Queen of the Amazons, in the Land of the Saka. Admete the daughter of Eurystheus, King of Tiryns. and Hera, goddess and wife of Zeus.

We follow Admete as she travels away from Greece with Hercules to discover new herbs to discover a cure for her brother Alexander and on her voyage hopes to meet her mother who returned to her homeland when Admete was a young girl. Hercules is also on his quest to gain immortality and must seize the war belt from Queen Hippolyta and find the golden apples that were stolen on the night of Hera's marriage. Hera is determined to prevent Hercules from completing his final quests as she is angry with his father and her husband Zeus for having an affair with a mortal. Will Hera prevent Hercules and can Admete find her mother and the herbs to save her brother in time?

For the Immortal is a journey of finding out how to truly become immortal. It's a different take on greek legends, and even though its the 3rd story in the series it is a stand alone read. It pushes the strong female characters and their caring sides, and hammers it home that it all about the heroines rather than heroes. At first the flow of flicking between the characters was a little confusing, especially as they had what seemed like different time lines, one following the Day of the Fire in the Season of Tabiti, 1250BC or Day of Month of the Grape Season, 1250BC, though in reality it was just different places or calendars according to the person. I learnt much about the legends and overall I enjoyed it, but didn't need it rammed down my throat at the end that it was about heroines.

I received this book from netgalley in return for a honest review.

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### Jo-anne Atkinson says

Hippolyta is the Queen of the Amazons, a race of fierce female warriors who live in Scythia, proud to be an Amazon, Hippolyta has a secret she keeps from her people. Admete is a princess of Greece but her mother was an Amazon, skilled in healing Admete wants to travel to the lands of her mother's race to seek a cure for her sick brother. Alcides is the son of Zeus but in order to gain immortality he must complete 12 labours and his final one is to capture the warbler of Hippolyta.

Weaving together the twelve labours of Hercules, the backstory of Achilles and the Trojan War, this book gives a different perspective on the Great myths. Hauser is an accomplished writer, her knowledge of the myths and Ancient Greece as a whole are outstanding and the artistic licence she takes is fully explained in the accompanying notes. What is also strong in her writing is the characterisation and emotions she brings to the tales. The humiliation of Hippolyta at the hands of Theseus is heart-wrenching.

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### Yaël says

Wonderful. Enjoyable. Good storytelling from start to finish...turning mythology into a reality for the mortals on earth.

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## Natalie L says

I have just finished the final book in this exquisite trilogy, and For The Immortal has been my favourite of the three. Emily Hauser's trilogy has come to us amid a flurry of Classics-themed feministic literature in the last year of so: Madeline Miller's Circe, Emily Wilson's unsparing translation of Homer's Odyssey, and even Mary Beard's enrapturing little book, Women and Power.

Hauser achieves a similar result to that of Miller: we are taken on the torturous but inspiring journeys of these mythical women who are constantly at the mercy of the males around them, but often manage to break through the unrelenting patriarchy in desperate, clever ways. The persecution of women is central to Hauser's trilogy, and Hauser is very aware of her exposure of this theme. She does it in a way that makes her twenty-first century audience cringe at the way Admete's male counterparts speak to her in what most of us now deem as archaic: "...keep your opinions to yourself, as befits a woman." But what I like in Hauser's trilogy is that she seems to present a slight discomfort even among the men themselves, an awareness of the accepted injustice between genders.

And Hauser is far from painting all of her male characters as villains. Yes, there are some real dirt bags throughout, and Theseus shoulders the burden of the antagonist in For The Immortal. But there is also an encouraging balance of "good guys" throughout, and some of the best male characters are the ones who struggle with where to place their loyalty – with the women they love or with the men with whom they abide. Alcides/Hercules in For The Immortal is a case in point.

On a different note, and a bit of a spoiler at that, I was delighted with Hauser's decision to merge three mythical Amazons – Hippolyta, Antiope and Penthesileia – into the one. As a student of Classics, I could recognise the tropes of each as I progressed through the book, but it wasn't until the final encounter with "the Greek" that I fully realised Hauser's creative act of genius. If you are not one to take diversions from the "original myth" lightly, then Hauser's explanation in the author's note justifies her merging of the Amazon myths.

Finally, I enjoyed the sense of feeling the author grow into her writing as the trilogy progressed. I remember feeling a bit baffled with Hauser's depiction of the Olympian gods in For The Most Beautiful; I can't remember any specific examples, but I felt like she'd given them such relaxed speech that it came across as a bit "backstreet." As much as I appreciated the sense of carelessness that the gods espoused, I did feel that the writing itself matured throughout. I can't wait to see more of Hauser's work in the future.

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## Holly says

2.5 stars \*\*\*

This started off really strong for me, sounded like something I would love. However, the ending fell flat & ruined it ):

Check out the Nerd Daily for a review soon

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## Helen says

Emily Hauser's Golden Apple trilogy investigates various women from Greek mythology. Although the three books are connected, they can be viewed as a standalone as each covers a different legend. The final

book in this trilogy centres around three women Hippolyta the Queen of the Amazons, Admete the daughter of Eurystheus and Hera, goddess and wife of Zeus.

For the Immortal mostly alternates between the stories of Admete and Hippolyta - two seemingly unrelated stories, but in time, the paths of these two women do cross. Admete and Hippolyta come from such different backgrounds and way of life, but both face similar problems - the overriding authority of living in a male dominated world. These (in)famous men are portrayed very differently here - you really won't like them - but that is the point.

These stories are, in the words of the author, 'based around a conglomeration of different myths from all sources'. In this instalment, you will encounter the stories of: Hercules (formerly Alcides); Hippolyta, Queen of the Amazons; briefly, Theseus; and of course, the Greek Gods themselves with the spotlight here on Hera. Hauser's notes at the end of the story clearly outline her decision making in which myths and characters she included and her interpretation of them. I particularly enjoyed her portrayal of Hippolyta and her two sisters and how she fictionalised each of them in distinct phases.

There are some slow parts but overall another wonderful escape into the world of Greek mythology. It is clearly evident the amount of research Hauser has undertaken, and how she cleverly provides a wealth of information, merged and translated for fictional purposes in an effort to create her unique and fascinating interpretation. Definitely worth a read for lovers of Greek mythology.

'You are a bard, and I a scribe. Together we may make a story, a tale of heroes that will be told down the generations'

This review is based on a complimentary copy from the publisher and provided through NetGalley in exchange for an honest review. The quoted material may have changed in the final release

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## **Elena says**

I received this book from NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

Alexander, heir of Tiryns, is dying. His sister Admete is a skillful healer, but her knowledge can't save him, so she persuades her father to let her join Hercules on one of his labours: they will travel to the Amazons, the legendary female warriors, in search of a cure. The Greek are seen with suspect by the Amazons, but queen Hippolyta gives them hospitality. The encounter will have consequences both on Admete's and Hippolyta's lives, and will be the start of an immortal story.

When I requested the book I had no idea it was the third in a trilogy, but luckily it read much like a stand alone. The stories are connected, but I think you don't miss that much reading one without the others. That being said, I will definitely check out the previous novels because I really enjoyed this one.

I wasn't familiar with the myth, so the story kept me interested. There were some slow parts, but for the most part I enjoyed myself. I liked both Admete's and Hippolyta's storylines. They were distinct characters who found themselves in different situations, but they faced similar challenges, the main one being struggling in a male-dominated world. I was glad there wasn't romance in this book, because the male characters were all awful! I was constantly mad at them, but their behaviour was in accordance with the time period and also

made the two heroines stand out more. I admired both of them for what they had to suffer and for how they found their strength despite everything.

Lastly, the author's note at the end was great. It is clear Emily Hauser did a lot of research and that she is passionate about the subject. She gives lots of interesting information about the original sources and also explains how she changed or merged them in order to create her own story. Definitely worth a read.

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## Joanna Park says

I've been a huge fan of the Golden Apple trilogy for a while, so you can imagine my delight when I was invited onto the For The Immortal blog tour.

Emily really has a fantastic way of making the Greek legends come to life in this fantastic book. The reader really feels like they have been transported to ancient Greece, watching events unfold. I could almost smell the herbs that Admete used for her healing and smell the sweat, fear and blood from the fierce Amazon battles.

The story is told from the point of view of two very strong and determined women from very different worlds. Hippolyta is a fierce Amazon warrior queen who shows great skills on the battlefield but has a big heart when it comes to her tribe, particularly the children. Admete is a princess but works hard at being a healer which she really enjoys. She too has a big heart when it comes to her family and it is her desire to help her I'll brother that makes her go on Hercules' quest. I actually liked both characters which made it hard to decide whose side I was on as I wanted them both to succeed!

This is a fast paced and gripping story that intrigued me straight away. I was instantly hooked and kept turning the pages to find out what would happen next. The author clearly knows her stuff when it comes to Greek history and I loved all the historical details about what life was like then and the food they used to eat. I had of course heard of Hercules before (mainly sadly from the Disney film) but didn't know much about his story so found this book to be a fascinating read.

This is Emily's third book and a brilliant conclusion to the Golden Apple trilogy. It can easily be read as a standalone alone however as each book is about a different Greek Legend so there isn't much overlap.

Huge thanks to Hannah Bright and Transworld publishers for my copy of this book and for inviting me onto the blog tour. If you like gripping historical fiction I think you'll like this book!

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## Iset says

I have to reiterate my *For the Winner* review: where was this quality of writing in *For the Most Beautiful*? The latter two books in this trilogy are better by far than the first book, and I can only assume that Hauser's debut novel was severely curtailed by the publishing house, who gave it a distinctly frothy, juvenile spin. *For the Winner* and *For the Immortal* are thankfully much more interesting.

*For the Immortal* returns to a dual protagonist set up, but this time it's well-founded on Hippolyta, queen of the Amazons, and Admete. Admete is such a minor character in myth that honestly I had to be reminded of who she was, but I think Hauser was right when she says in her author's note that the concept of retrieving Hippolyta's war-belt simply as a shiny trinket for Admete feels like a half-baked idea, and not terribly

compelling. Hauser has elaborated upon that unspectacular beginning to create a stronger motivation for the quest, as well as increasing Admete's role in it. I didn't object to the author portraying a darker Hercules (although I wish he'd been named Herakles, since this was a Greek world novel), as there's plenty in the character's ancient mythos to suggest a darker side, but I was frankly disappointed that it is just let go at the end. I felt that his twisting, his descent into a darker personality, could've provided more of a crisis than it did for the other characters, and that there should have been a final confrontation between Hercules and Admete.

As for Hippolyta, I wasn't bothered by her being combined with Antiope, since again there is grounds for it in ancient myth. Ancient writers went back and forth on the question of whether the Amazon queen who Hercules stole the war-belt from was the same person as the one who became Theseus' queen. Plus, from a story-telling point of view, it gives Hippolyta a lot more story. However, I didn't like the portrayal of Theseus. The ancient writers also give different accounts as to whether Theseus and his Amazon queen were a love match, or whether she was an unwilling captive. Hauser chooses to make her an unwilling captive, and Theseus a special brand of scum. I simply prefer a better Theseus – the one portrayed by Mary Renault and Amalia Carosella – than I do Hauser's evil Theseus. Maybe it just felt like a bit too much what with a darker Hercules being portrayed as well. Besides, I kept thinking; "But what about Hippolytus?!" There's no Hippolytus here, and Phaedra, we're told has long since been acquired and discarded before Hippolyta's arrival. There's more. Hauser's Hippolyta is also combined with and reworked Penthesilea. Oh, and by the way she was married to and had a child with Achilles long before the events of this book happen and she's captured by Theseus. Wait, what?

Okay, that version of events does, I admit, give a much better reason for Achilles weeping over the queen of the Amazons he just killed than love at first sight. But I had trouble getting over that particular hurdle. I'm not sure the timelines match up. If Achilles, as we're told in ancient myth, was too young to compete for Helen's hand, and, in order to avoid being called to the Trojan War successfully disguised himself as a young woman – but old enough to father Neoptolemos during the same time – he must've been in his teens at the start of the Trojan War, and less than 30 when he is killed. The events of this book take place roughly between ten and five years before the start of the War, and during it Hippolyta is reminiscing back to about ten years or so earlier than that when she remembers her time with Achilles. Plus, Theseus is supposed to be an old man when he kidnaps a ten-year-old Helen, which is supposed to occur much later than his prime with Hippolyta – both occur together here. Eh, my brain just couldn't accept this.

I was very surprised when, at about 80% of the way in, the book jumps ahead fifteen years to the Trojan War. It felt tacked on, sudden, and jarring. I prepared myself to criticise this section heavily in my review. I've softened to it a little, although I still feel it was overall a misstep. The section doesn't really add anything to Admete. I like that it recognises Hippolyta's heroism, and provides a more compelling reason for Achilles to weep over the corpse of the Amazon queen. But I still can't buy into the Hippolyta/Achilles relationship. I can completely understand the author being tempted to revisit the Trojan War in the story – who wouldn't want to rewrite the stumbles of *For the Most Beautiful* and provide a rather more dramatic, mature, and heroic slice of the Trojan War than the passive angsty voices of Briseis and Chryseis – but it did feel very last-minute and just not part of Admete and Hippolyta's stories.

However, I've really enjoyed the more sophisticated writing style of *For the Winner* and *For the Immortal*, and the focus of both of them on lesser-explored but active and heroic women of ancient Greek myth, and I do recommend this book. If I were to re-read it though I'll probably just end the book before the out-of-place time skip.

**7 out of 10**

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### **Nicki Markus says**

I came to For the Immortal without having read the first two books in the series, but that didn't matter, because it is a standalone story. I loved Hauser's recreation of the well-known tale. She tells it from an intriguing new perspective, and that worked incredibly well. The different narrators all had interesting and unique voices, and I found myself caught up in their personal dramas and decisions. I particularly enjoyed the chapter lengths, which made it easy to pick up the book and read the odd bit here and there when I had time. Occasionally, during the more narrative passages, my attention wavered, but the action soon drew me back in. Actually, one of the things I found most enjoyable was the author's afterword, in which she discusses her approach to recasting the myth. Overall, this is a good read for those who enjoy fairytale and myth retellings, and I give it a solid 4 stars.

I received this book as a free eBook ARC via NetGalley.

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### **Mai says**

The premise of the book sounded interesting, however I couldn't get into it. I found it very boring and hard to read.

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### **Ruth Harwood says**

Wow, I absolutely loved reading this! The stories of Homer have been rehashed so many times, or I've read so many of them, but this is different, covering a period prior to the Trojan war about two women, one a princess of Greece and the other Queen of the Amazons, and their exploits up to and including the final battles of this war. At a point near 3/4 through I thought it was finished, but then there was more, and aside from taking me by surprise, it showed me a different side to the story and a female perspective on the times and cultures of these two 'tribes'. I'm sure I've read one of the other of this trio of books, but I'm going to take a look for that I have definitely yet to read, as the writing was scintillating and done exceedingly well.

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### **Frederique says**

"...she thinks that at least, at the very least, she can ensure that mortals all over the dark-soiled earth will tell the tales of the immortal heroes through the ages... and also, the heroines.

Emily Hauser does an excellent job in her retellings of the famous Greek myths from the women's point of view. For The Immortal is one of my favourite 2018 reads so far. I am a fan of the Greek myths and the whole Golden Apple trilogy is a must read for everyone who is.

For The Immortal is I think the best of the three, the stories of Admete and Hippolyta are beautiful, especially Hippolyta's. I would recommend these books to everyone who is interested in myths, history and fantasy.

