



Transcendent

Lesley Livingston

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LOVE CONQUERS

On a storm-swept terrace high above the streets of Manhattan, Mason Starling holds the fate of the world in her hands as her beloved Fennrys lies bleeding at her feet, his life hanging in the balance. The ancient Norse prophecy of Ragnarok stands poised on the knife edge of fulfillment. Mason's transformation into a Valkyrie—a chooser of the slain and the one who will ultimately bring about the end of the world—is complete. Still, she remains determined to thwart her father's apocalyptic desires. Whatever is to come, it won't happen because of what the prophecy foretold, or what Gunnar Starling has planned, or what the fates have already decided. What happens next will be up to Mason and the Fennrys Wolf. The world had better hope they haven't reached the limits of what their souls and swords can survive.

Perfect for fans of Cassandra Clare's Mortal Instruments series, and set in the same universe as Lesley Livingston's much-loved WONDROUS STRANGE trilogy, with roots in Greek, Roman, Norse, Egyptian, and Celtic myths and legends, this thrilling conclusion to the acclaimed Starling trilogy is filled to the hilt with sweeping adventure and soaring romance.

Transcendent Details

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Author : Lesley Livingston

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From Reader Review Transcendent for online ebook

Rashika (is tired) says

***This review has also been posted on *The Social Potato*

I read *Starling* over two years ago and while I was taken by the book it took me a long time to finally pick up the sequel, which I did when I saw the trilogy finale on Edelweiss. I was ready to dive back into the world Livingston had created but was afraid that it might not live up to everything I had remembered it to be and I'd be lying if I said I wasn't a little disappointed. When I picked up *Transcendent* though, I was ready, and **I was not the least bit disappointed. This book lived up to the expectations one might have from a finale and there wasn't a moment where I wasn't practically bouncing off the walls with excitement.**

I think the key to why this book made me so happy is that with finales there is always a good chance the author might decide to throw in some unnecessary romantic drama to make the stakes higher but Livingston didn't go down that road. **What made her book work was that with all this chaos unfolding, the main characters decided to stick together and see it through.** There were no secrets, no nothings, they planned together and they TALKED. **It's beautiful seeing communication done so well.**

Mason is a good female lead. I say good and not great because I am starting to realize that the two are not one and the same but Mason was a good female lead. **I cheered for her and she's just one of those female leads who isn't impulsive and actually likes to think things through.** It doesn't mean she doesn't make mistakes. Of course she does, she has her selfish moments too but all of them are realistic so you cannot help but relate to her dilemma. She didn't ask for any of this but now she's trying to handle it with the best of her ability.

Fenrys is good character as well. I think my favorite thing about him is that he is always willing to stick with Mason no matter what. He is a great shoulder to lean on and he is there for her when she needs him. He complements her perfectly which is why they make such a great couple. They are both brave and smart but neither of them are perfect and they work so well together!

You might have realized this by now but I'll mention it anyway, they are great as couple. They work well together. In fact, while they've had some bumps in their relationship, none of it was ever the result of unnecessary drama. This is the kind of relationship you want to read about. End of story.

The fact remains that this series doesn't have any mind blowing world building but the way the author adopts some of the mythological aspects and makes them her own are definitely worth mentioning. I particularly enjoyed her take on Loki! And I loved the way she mixed in other myths and gods too. So while the series focused particularly on Nordic mythology, there were some elements of other myths present which made not just this book, but the entire series, fun to read.

Considering that Ragnorak is just around the corner in this book, or actually, pretty much taking place, the stakes are high. It's clear from the way this book is written. **It's very fast paced and keeps you on your toes but the author makes sure that while things are serious, there are always little moments that relieve the tension and just make the reading experience all the more better.**

But getting back to the fact that this book is a finale, **I personally enjoyed the final showdown.** I thought it was well written. Everything has been building up to the moment and while I would have been happy had the

moment laster longer, by no means was it rushed. The author did the series justice with her finale and I loved the way things were wrapped up. It wasn't too neat but it wasn't depressing either. Which is just the way I like it.

While this isn't the most amazing or the most interesting series out there, I'd still suggest giving this one a shot just because of how fun it is. The pages fly by and the characters are all interesting to read about. I know I am definitely going to be missing them. So if you're looking for a fun series to read that won't take too much of your time, how about picking this one up?

Synnie says

I managed to get my hands on an ARC. It was fantastic. It concluded the trilogy perfectly, I can't think of any loose ends. It was riviting. More than once I had my hand covering my mouth as I read. I found I was more emotionally invested in this one than the other too. And the end was just so GOOD! I wish I could say who was involved but I don't want to give anything away. All I can say is that it was so deserved and it was beautiful. Even though I have my ARC I'm still going to buy the hardcover when it comes out to complete my series. I love Lesley's story telling. It's so interesting and action packed and it's always filled with sass. She's fantastic and I can't wait to see where she's taking her readers next.

Wendy says

"Transcendent" is the explosive and action-packed third novel in the "Starling series" that begins when Fennrys is brought back to life as the Fenris Wolf and Gwen Littlefield sacrifices her life to save humanity from a curse. On the cusp of the Ragnorak, Mason Starling who's been transformed into a legendary Valkyrie is fated to choose the third chess piece in her father's game to bring about the apocalypse although she's determined to thwart him and save humanity. In the finale of a thrilling series Mason with the help of Fennrys, Rafe the Egyptian god of death, and her friends will fight one last battle to undo the destiny planned for mankind.

Set in Manhattan, Lesley Livingston has created a story that binds Greek, Roman and Norse mythology with Egyptian and Celtic legends to produce an imaginative and heart-pounding series that sweeps you into a highly intense and suspenseful adventure to determine the survival of mankind. In a plot where hope and love prosper, and prophecies can either be undermined or fulfilled in ways least expected, Mason struggles against a fate that means choosing a leader among the slain who'll bring about Ragnorak, while Fennry's resists his destiny as the Fenris Wolf. The plot is fast-paced and saturated with violent clashes as Mason and Fennrys fight storm zombies, frost giants and harpies that threaten the lives of their friends.

Although the mood is filled with darkness and violence it still vibrates with romance and the unconditional love of Fennrys and Mason who would bargain or sacrifice their life to save the other. Even Heather Palmerston's unrequited love for Calum Aristarchos takes on a new dimension when she's given a choice which could satisfy her greatest desire. Cleverly the author ties all the loose ends of a series filled with secrets, lies, supernatural games, political backstabbing and subterfuge together into a gripping and mesmerizing adventure that reveals details of Fennry's lineage and brings back Mason's mother. Even the ending of a tale that twists and turns as events progress overflows with surprises.

The characters come alive in the pages of this novel, and are unforgettable with all their flaws, faults, doubts and expectations. Mason Starling is impulsive, defiant and determined in thwarting her father's plan while Fennrys' loyal, dependable and brave. In times of trouble they not only strengthen but encourage each other.

Included among a score of personalities that add drama, power and passion to this riveting novel are; the quiet, controlled and overprotective Roth Starling; the frank, proud and tenacious Heather Palmerston; the egotistical and arrogant Daria Aristarchos and her smart, calculating son Calum, a teen who doesn't like to take chances. But it's the self-absorbed, maniac Rory Starling, and his father, the fanatical and selfish Gunnar who add chilling menace to the tale.

I thoroughly enjoyed "Transcendent" and the entire "Starling series", an intoxicating paranormal adventure that sparks with romance. I can't wait to see what Lesley Livingston has in store for her fans next.

Angela Blount says

3.5 Stars

Originally reviewed for YA Books Central: <http://www.yabookscentral.com/yaficti...>

This third and final book in the Starling series is a multi-POV work of urban fantasy, heavy on the Norse mythology angle while incorporating a mashup of pantheons that include ancient Greek and Egyptian elements.

I will admit upfront that I haven't read the first two in the series, and as this book doesn't seem meant to stand alone particularly well, I recognize my lack of foreknowledge has likely impeded my enjoyment. Still, the story took off from a high point of action (which must have been a cliffhanger in the previous book) and didn't slow until about halfway through. This reader would liken the feel of Transcendent to a sort of matured YA version of the Percy Jackson series—demi-god teens (who may or may not be aware of their ancestry) all attending a special school for the preternaturally-inclined, gods running amuck causing external conflict, destiny vs. personal choices causing internal conflict, cryptic prophecies, an emphasis on teamwork and loyalty, etc. The story features a fairly large (though largely distinct) cast, and is told from numerous 3rd-person points of view—though the primary focus (outside of the Ragnarok end-of-the-world scenario) is on the romantic relationship between Mason and Fennrys.

A significant positive to this book is Livingston's appealing prose and solid handling of the many battle scenes. The pacing of this story carried me along engrossingly for the first half, dropping in enough breadcrumbs that I could piece together critical events from the previous books. I even found myself wanting to know several characters better so I'd know if I wanted them to succeed. Unfortunately, with so much going on and a set of flat villains whose motives I didn't really understand, the second half of the story ended up feeling needlessly drawn out.

Mason makes for a sturdy, determined heroine—though in this book it was never very clear why she and Fennrys developed such a passion for each other over the course of what this reader understands to be the few days (or possibly weeks) time this series is taking place within. Mason's claustrophobia issue is brought up now and again, but an explanation of its cause was only alluded to. (My assumption is that the past trauma with her brother somehow killing her when she was a child is given vividness in one of the previous

books.)

Heather, the only mundane human featured in this storyline, turned out to be one of the most likeable and interesting characters. The ex-boyfriend she still loves is ridiculously, senselessly in love with Mason—who is already clearly involved with someone else. But while she's in pain, Heather is not bitter enough to hate Mason for what she can't control, nor petty enough to twist fate in her favor. Her bravery in the face of her own frailty carried more emotional weight and meaning than most (if not all) of the other nearly indestructible players on this chessboard o' fate.

I would recommend this book for those with a penchant for Norse mythology and a preference for series that feel like one long, continuous work that's been broken into more manageable pieces.

Favorite quote:

"War up close and personal is bad. At a distance, it's monstrous."

Ruman says

4.5 stars!

Mason Starling

Fennrys' Fenris Wolf

Leah (Jane Speare) says

Good ending for the series. Few problems: It seemed like she was trying to fit too many mythologies into one story, Nordic, Celtic, Greek and Roman--just everything. It's a bit much. Also, it kinda irks me when the last book in series takes place in a few hours, and is one long battle-like sequence...such a short time frame makes for little character development in my opinion.

I really liked the first trilogy that this is a spin off from, Wondrous Strange. I have a feeling she may do yet another one with Maddox's story since his ending was left completely open. Would I read it? We'll see...

Kathy says

Great end to the series.

Content: Language and innuendo

Shelley says

I received this book for free from HarperTeen via Edelweiss in exchange for an honest review. Thank you!! This does not affect my opinion of the book or the content of my review.

Genre Young Adult, Paranormal

Rating 3.5

My Thoughts

Transcendent is the final installment in the Starling trilogy. The story picks up right where the cliffhanger ending to Descendant left off. 17-year old fencing champion Mason Starling never really had to fight for her life until the world changed in an instant.

Full Review posted @ Gizmos Reviews

<http://gizmosreviews.blogspot.com/201...>

Recvd 09/30/2014 via Edelweiss Expected publication: December 23rd 2014 by HarperTeen (first published August 19th 2014)

!Aria! says

She raised the bow to her lips.

“The world, Rory,” she whispered in a voice like judgment, “love the whole damned world . . .”

Then she aimed, and pulled the trigger.

I give this book a 3.5 star rating.

OMG I've FINALLY FINISHED IT.

I felt that most of this book was good and interesting, but the book was kind of long and drawn out. The book had major battle scenes and they took up quite a lot of the book and I feel that Fennrys and Mason's relationship didn't really get expressed that much in the book. Don't get me wrong I was excited to read the last book in the series, but I feel like the reason it took me a long time to finish was because I lost a little interest in finishing it..... . Also I felt that the epilogue was a little vague and didn't end well. I didn't know what happened with Rory (Mason's brother) after the surprise that happened in the book and I wanted to know if anything happened between Heather and Valen or Cal. I feel the book definitely ended too quickly and that there could be room for another book after this one. Overall I'd say read the book, but only if you are bored or just need a book to read. It was good, but not great.....

Tressa (Wishful Endings) says

Originally posted for its tour here.

4.5 stars

Transcendent was a fabulous ending to this urban fantasy series! This series has it all: the brooding and damaged bad boy, the golden hero, a fierce and also damaged leading lady, characters facing the end of the world as they know it, some great villains, and plenty of players, action, and twists to keep things interesting. Then you can't forget the humor, sarcasm, banter, and hopeless romance.

What I loved the most about this series was Mason and Fenn. In the beginning they are two possible enemies/love interests who circle each other. They are both a little wary while they try to figure out if they can trust each other and what exactly is going on. They both need a safe haven, but they don't know if they can be that for each other. Then when they find strength in each other, it is a test to stay together. I really loved how their friendship grew and their relationship was strengthened through each book. They come out changed from what they have faced, but decide that they will stick it out together no matter what. The desire and choice to stick it out together wasn't between just them, but they also had some family and friends that backed them up. It was sweet and endearing and I loved it!

I also really loved this group of characters. Fennrys was fabulous as was Mason. I also loved Heather. She was definitely my third favorite character, followed by Loki and Rafe. Toby wasn't bad either. Cal I both loved and hated.

I loved the twists and turns on the whole Greek/Norse mythologies and also that this series is set in the same world as Wonderous Strange (which I didn't realize until a third of the way through the second book). There was plenty of action, plotting, mystery, and some sweet romance.

Here's a scene that shows some of the banter and sweet romance that I loved:

She turned and kissed Fennrys for as long as she thought she could get away with and-before the vision faded and she found herself back in Rory's dorm room-she pulled away from Fennrys and said, "I have an idea."

"I do too," Fennrys said, and drew her back toward him. "My idea is that you should keep doing that."

She grinned and put a finger to his lips. "Saving the world first, kissing after that."

"The world had better appreciate my self-control, he said and sighed languidly.

(location 2473, Kindle)

I loved reading this series! If it would have omitted all the swearing then it would pretty much have been five stars for me. I just connected with and loved these characters. I also felt there was a great balance between the bad things that happened and the lighter side with romance and humor. I'd definitely recommend the series to urban fantasy readers who enjoy a good dose of romance.

Content: Quite a bit of mild language as well as the s-word. Some violence and innuendo. Otherwise clean.

Source: From the publisher through the tour host and Edelweiss, which did not affect my review in any way.

Sarah says

(Source: I received a digital copy of this book for free on a read-to-review basis. Thanks to HarperCollins and Edelweiss.)

“Prophecies don’t always come true. And even when they do, it’s usually in all the ways you never expected they would.”

This was a good end to the series, and I liked the action.

I liked the characters in this book; they stayed strong in the face of danger, and never stopped looking for a way to not only save themselves, but to save the world.

The death god’s eyes were black, hard, and glittering as obsidian. “In this case... the touch of the Odin spear transforms the chosen warrior into the third Odin son, whose prophesied destiny, according to the Norns, is to lead the Einherjar out of Valhalla, alongside your two brothers.”

“And when that happens?” she asked, knowing full well the answer.

“Ragnarok.”

The storyline in this was pretty good, although I have to admit to still getting a bit confused in places! I liked the action in this book though, and I liked the little twists we got, and the constant threat of death, dismemberment, and the end of the world!

“I promised an end. Not their end...” Mason pulled Fennrys toward her, looking up at him, until her nose almost touched his chin. “And one way or another Fennrys Wolf... we will end this.”

There was a bit of romance in this, and it was actually pretty nice. I liked how Mason and Fennrys admitted the way they felt about each other, and how they stuck together no matter what.

“I will tear the world apart to keep us together,” he said.

“I’m afraid that’s what they want,” she whispered.

The ending to this was good, and I liked the way things all worked out in the end! I particularly liked the action, and the way it wasn’t obvious how things would be solved until the very end.

“What do you think we’re fighting for here? Frail, flawed, ridiculous humanity. And all the crap and pain and sorrow that goes with it.”

7.25 out of 10

Abbie says

4.5/5 stars. After a brilliant first book, a lackluster second, Transcendent was a fantastic end to a good trilogy. I had no real fears about the turn out of this book, and everything happened pretty much as I expected it to for a few exceptions.

(SPOILERS!!!!!!!)

I did not want Rory to be hit with the golden arrow and learn to love. Sure, he realizes just how much of a terrible human being he was, but I really wanted him to die. Seriously. Gunnar's ending was more fitting, but it kind of left me with a bad taste in my mouth. Don't know why, but it did.

Since book one, I figured the perfect way for Mason to circumvent Ragnorak, to stop it, was to turn Fennrys into the third Odin son, and lo and behold, that's what happened. It was obvious to me from the get-go, and I was so happy my theory was correct.

Cal, of course, annoyed me. I get why he was in love with Mason now, that it was all because of Heather's Venus worshipping mother, but still. He annoyed the heck out of me. I hated him at the beginning, and I still hate him at the end.

I felt sorry for Roth in this one. Just, the guy deserved a happy ending and he didn't really get one. He's alive, yes, but without his love.

Toby, Rafe, and Maddox were just awesome. I love all three of them so much.

Daria was still a bitch, but she redeemed herself. I felt bad for Douglas, Cal's father.

I'm happy with how the story ended for Mason and Fenn. I was happy for them and with the way (most) things turned out.

I'm gonna probably pick up the Wondrous Strange trilogy soon, to see more of the other characters, and see how all this started out.

Dark Faerie Tales says

Review courtesy of Dark Faerie Tales

Quick & Dirty: Gods, half gods, Ragnarok! Can Mason save the world?

Opening Sentence: "This is not right..." Mason Starling murmured softly as sank to her knees beside the crumpled form at the center of a swiftly widening circle of blood."

The Review:

So please be aware that if you have not read Starling or Descendant this will contain spoilers. So please STOP now and read the first two books before reading Transcendent. Literally, Transcendent starts where Descendant ends. Mason has become a Valkyrie and Cal stabbed Fennrys, so in moments Mason is begging Rafe to save Fennrys. In doing so she has fulfilled another part of the prophecy by making Fennrys the Wolf!

Fennrys finds his mother and finds out that he is Loki's son, and he was sent away so that he wouldn't fulfill his part in the prophecy, but considering the love between Mason and Fennrys, things are different than they should be. In the shocking conclusion of Descendant we find out Roth killed Mason while under some form of control by a god. Mason's mother had become Hel, so she sent her back but all of this is part of what enables her to become a Valkyrie. Mason is working overtime to not start Ragnarok. I can't say too much more along these lines because of spoilers!

Transcendent is a pretty satisfying ending to the trilogy! All-in-all, these were good books. I think the romance could have been done a touch more, but I did love Mason and Fennrys. I did find it a little funny that in each book these kids are finding out they aren't quite human. The stretching out of all the half gods unveiling was a little silly, but I will say it all made sense within the storyline. It played into a larger part of the story, which I found interesting!

I want to say I loved this book and the trilogy, but I didn't. I enjoyed them and I liked them. I just didn't quite connect with all of the main characters. I didn't quite get all the additions from other pantheons of gods. For the most part this was a Norse story, but Venus and Poseidon and a whole other host of Greek gods and Egyptian gods just kept popping up. They didn't detract from the story as a whole; I just didn't get how they fit in other than with the main theme of keeping Ragnarok from happening.

Notable Scenes:

“But even still, she couldn't stop from feeling the girl's death in her Valkyrie's heart.”

“So she could burn down the world.”

“When Mason Starling was a child, she'd died.”

FTC Advisory: HarperTeen provided me with a copy of Transcendent. No goody bags, sponsorships, “material connections,” or bribes were exchanged for my review.

Michele (Reading Lark/CanadianTwiMom) says

My review can also be found on Reading Lark: <http://readinglark.blogspot.ca/2014/1...>

4.5 stars!

Wow! That was quite a ride! A long time ago, after completing the Wondrous Strange trilogy, I SO wished for more of this world from Lesley...particularly more of Fennrys. And she sure did deliver. While the Starling books do take place in the same world, with some favourites from the original trilogy making an

appearance along with Fennrys, this was still predominantly Mason Starling's story with Fenn as a rather large (and HOT) co-star. In my reviews for books one and two, I stated that you did not necessarily need to read the Wondrous Strange books but you DO get so much more out of this story if you do...but at the very least...I would suspect that many would like to read them if they haven't already following Mason & Fennrys's journey.

Picking up where Descendant left off, the pace of the story didn't really let up...at all. Revelations were a plenty and the many questions I had all along were answered.

Tricked into taking up Odin's spear, Mason has taken up the mantel and huge responsibility of Valkyrie...the ultimate chooser of the slain of Norse legends, and catalyst for the impending Ragnarok...the Norse term for the apocalyptic ending of the world. Her love, Fennrys, lay dying at her feet, and having just learned of her family's betrayal, she certainly had a lot to overcome. But Mason was strong willed and smart. But was it enough to defeat the impending Ragnarok and save the world...with limited casualties? I always felt she had the tools and support to do it...but I have to admit it looked pretty bleak.

Fennrys had his own obstacles as well. I knew from his previous tenure in the Wondrous Strange books, there was much more to him than the impulsive yet self-serving Janus guard. I KNEW there was much more behind that mask...and we got to see it full-on (in more ways than one), in this new chance at life (even if the reasons behind his second chance were perhaps nefariously orchestrated). I think he softened as his love was reciprocated this time around, and having learned the truths of his history and why's and how's of where he ended up. Not to mention, he had my heart melting with every searing look and awkward smile he gave Mason.

Mason and Fennrys had a lot going against them...prophecies, fate, magick...it really felt like the cards were stacked against them. But I loved, loved, loved how both worked together in this last book. They are just awesome together.

Lesley took on the enormous task of mixing several mythologies into this trilogy...Norse, Roman, Greek, Egyptian...did I leave out any? Oh, yeah...celtic! I will admit that, at times, it was a bit hard to follow...including the terminology of much of the Norse legends...like trying to remember if Einherjar was an event or a person, for example...but when I stopped myself from getting hung up on details and just sat back and enjoyed the story, it didn't really matter. I also loved how key characters from the Norse legends we have heard about in other popular stories, like Loki, and Asgard, were tied into all of this. I found it all quite fascinating.

This last book in the Starling series ties up all loose ends and left me feeling completely satisfied. Albeit, I would still love MORE! How about another trilogy with Kelly, Sonny, Mason and Fennrys and all the other friends we have come to love? Hmm? I hope you're listening Lesley!

Rachel says

TRANSCENDENT is the electrifying, edge-of-your-seat exciting and action-packed end to a series that delivered awesome battles, mythology, characters and writing. The pace was nonstop. The shocks and surprises kept coming. And the tension continued to build until its explosive conclusion.

With a fierce heroine who became even more intense in this third and final book in the trilogy, a swoon-

worthy hero who never stopped fighting for what and who he wanted, a number of enemies whose motives and aims may have been at odds but were each one of them deadly, and a host of interesting and engaging supporting characters whose outcomes readers are sure to be invested in, this story brings more than just a riveting plot. And with the promise of heartbreak, danger and a seemingly unavoidable fate, as well as the hope for a happy ending, this book will be unputdownable.

Lesley Livingston knows just how to create stories that will keep readers hooked and develop characters they'll love. She will make readers smile, laugh out loud, bite their nails, hold their breath, sigh, and keep those pages rapidly turning with TRANSCENDENT. It is suspenseful from the very first page to the very last. And while it is certain to be an exhilarating read, it makes no guarantee there won't be moments that are absolutely heartrending.

The story picks up immediately where things left off following that killer cliffhanger ending. It yanks readers right back into the story, amidst the chaos and devastation before adding even more. New abilities will be revealed, new characters will be introduced, new obstacles will be placed in Mason Starling's way.

The fight may end early for some, but the looming question as to whether destiny will be fulfilled or thwarted won't be answered until the very end. Most other questions will be answered, about Mason, Roth, Rory, Fenn, Rafe, Heather and Cal, but the door may have been left open just a crack in regard to a few others.

Fans of the series will be more than satisfied with this story's conclusion and its epilogue. TRANSCENDENT takes readers on a wild and amazing ride. It brings them deeper into the Norse mythology on which this series is based. It gives them one last look at the very loyal and immeasurably charming Fennrys Wolf. It transforms a girl into a heroine who has the ability to save the world.

There will be carnage. There will be loss. There will be a touch of romance. And altogether it will be awesome.

Original GR comments:

Wow, a LOT happened in this book. LOVED it. Review TK.
