



Ever

Gail Carson Levine

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Falling in love is never easy, but falling in love with an immortal god while your days on earth are numbered is almost more than a young girl can bear.

Newbery Honor author Gail Carson Levine has created a stunning new world of flawed gods, unbreakable vows, and ancient omens in this spellbinding story of Kezi, a girl confronted with a terrible destiny. Attempting to thwart her fate, Kezi and her love, Olus—the god of wind and loneliness—embark on a series of dangerous and seemingly impossible quests.

Ever Details

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From Reader Review Ever for online ebook

Rachel says

I bought this book with great anticipation. I loved the author's previous works, and I was looking forward to a nice enjoyable read. I found something quite different.

First, I found the characters to be flat, one dimensional, and simplistic. Perhaps Levine was trying to catch the simplicity of the setting, ancient times, with her tale, but I found it lacking her usual magic.

Second, and most importantly to me, I found her presentation of the female's god hitting too close to home. Though she probably didn't mean to liken that deity to the God of the Bible, she did. Perhaps she did intend to give her reference to a passage in the Old Testament in the beginning of the book to a story that she paralleled in the book. Either way, I found it uncomfortable to have the Almighty possibly presented in a way that made Him appear uncaring, powerless, and apparently ineffective in communicating His will clearly or having a personal relationship with his people. All of which is not true of the true and living God of the Bible.

Elisabeth says

I almost didn't read this because of the horrible reviews it received, and now I wish I hadn't, because I should've been doing laundry, cleaning, errands, paying attention to my daughter, etc. I didn't get anything done because reading this book was like having a plate full of warm chocolate chip cookies in front of me. I can't eat just one, I have to eat the whole plateful and then sit around and hate myself. Well, I don't hate myself, but I definitely couldn't put this book down. I absolutely loved it.

Laura says

This is the first time I've been disappointed in one of Levine's books. It is very atheist and anti-christian. It makes anyone who has "faith" look dumb and superstitious. And it makes god-like figures faulted, mean, and petty. It wasn't even written that well, and seems mostly the platform for a politically correct agenda. Not a good read.

Regan says

All over, I enjoyed this book much more than Ella Enchanted and Fairest (to this day, I still don't really like Ella Enchanted, but Fairest is high on my list of favorites). Olus and Kezi are star-crossed lovers in a desert world, and they meet at a wedding only to fall in love immediately.

Ever is fantastically funny at times, and also heart-wrenchingly sappy. There are indeed its moments of

cliche, but it's all-over well done. Imagination takes over, with only a few details to give the setting structure, and it has a beautiful, non-cliched ending.

I love how Ms. Levine has a romance as the central plot in Ever, unlike Fairest or Ella Enchanted, where romance is in the side-plot. It's a breath of fresh air to me, having been romance-deprived for the past months. Olus and Kezi have fresh views on the world, and would seem like ordinary people to me, had Olus not been a god and so on.

I reccomend it to anyone.

Emily Beeson says

Ever by Gail Carson Levine
Review by Emily of Deliciously Clean Reads

Ever is a brand new fairy tale brought to you by the author of Ella Enchanted, Fairest, and many other great stories. Ever is told from both the perspective of Olus, god of winds, and the mortal girl he falls in love with, Kezi.

Olus lives a lonely life. None of the other gods are even close to his age. When he turns 17, he leaves the Akkan gods and seeks a life with the mortals. He becomes a goatherd for Kezi's father. He watches Kezi and grows to care for her. The other gods tell Olus that it is a waste to care about mortals because they are soap bubbles. They are here one moment and die the next. But when Kezi's life nears its end, Olus can't stand the thought of it. He and Kezi embark on a hero's journey to save her.

As I mentioned, Ever is an original fairy tale. The characters are fun and interesting, but I'm not sure they are as fleshed out as I would have liked. The plot is fresh. Seeing from each character's point of view is intriguing, although occasionally confusing.

I definitely recommend Ever to teens and preteens who enjoy fairy tales. I didn't love it as much as Fairest and Ella Enchanted, but it is still worth reading.

Amber says

A great fast read, this book had part Norse, part Mesopotamian myth incorporated its story lines. I of course I snatched up this book immediately when I saw Gail Carson Levine had published a new one, but even if she wasn't one of my favorite Juvie/YA authors, the first few lines on the back cover would have captured me:

He is watching me.

He is flawless, without a blemish. Majestic... Muscular.

Our hero, Olus, an Akkan God, is lonely in the heavens; the only child amongst immortals. He decides to live among the mortals~ soap bubbles, as his mother calls them. There he discovers Kezi, the daughter of the

man whose sheep he shepherds for. She is beautiful, but more than that- she dances her feelings, and is the most talented knotted rug weaver in the town, and Olus falls in love with her almost instantly. Kezi, on her part doesn't know Olus has been watching her, but when he does make himself known to her, she is swept up by his unusual character, but is frightened by his command of the winds and believes he is her guardian. Even though Kezi must fulfill a death oath sworn by her father, Kezi loves this immortal and follows him to his home on Enshi Rock to try to thwart her own fate and strive for a happier outcome...

Jennifer Wardrip says

Reviewed by Lynn Crow for TeensReadToo.com

Olus, the young god of the wind, prefers to live with humans rather than his divine companions, all of whom are hundreds of years older than he is. In his travels he can't help noticing and falling in love with the beautiful and talented Kezi. At first he forces himself to be content merely watching, but then Kezi's father makes a deadly oath, and Kezi has only a month left to live. Unwilling to let her die, Olus reveals himself and offers Kezi a chance at life.

But before Olus and Kezi can defy fate and make a new life for her, they must survive the most frightening tests of their lives -- alone. Can they prove themselves worthy in the gods' eyes, and their own?

EVER is a touching novel about the power of love in overcoming fear, and the many different types of faith. The myth-like story takes place in a unique setting, more like India than the traditional medieval backdrop of most fantasies, and which makes for a fascinating world to explore. Olus and Kezi make for sympathetic narrators, passionate but wiser than their years would suggest.

Readers may wish that their adventures lasted longer. What adventure there is will have them turning the pages, eager to find out whether Kezi will survive, and what she may have to give up in the process. An excellent novel for older children and teens, especially those interested in other cultures and questions of faith.

James Carroll says

A lot of people reviewing this book are complaining about the writing style and seemingly flat characterizations in the story. The writing style used in this book is an intentional imitation of ancient Mesopotamian texts and story telling techniques, which was a quirk that I really enjoyed, perhaps because I knew where it was coming from and what she was doing. However, I can understand why others who don't know where this is coming from are having problems with it. This imitation also impacts her characterizations, which are complex when the motives of the characters are examined, but appear flat since the author doesn't make any of these motivations explicit, exactly as was common in most Mesopotamian texts. Again, I liked this, but I admit to not being the average reader. I minored in Ancient Near Eastern History, and even spent a few months trying to learn Sumerian once upon a time, (hint, if you ever go crazy and for some strange reason think of trying to learn Sumerian, don't... Sumerian is HARD).

The plot also has many parallels to ancient Mesopotamian stories, including Ishtar's descent to the underworld, which is specifically referenced in the introduction, along with Judges 11:34. If you are

interested in reading some of these stories, then I recommend getting a copy of Ancient Near Eastern Texts Relating to the Old Testament with Supplement by James Bennett Pritchard.

The themes of faith, doubt, sacrifice, and the search for a seemingly absent God in this story are fascinating, and well worth considering. As is the evaluation of whether we should be willing to do something truly awful in the name of an "almighty" deity.

The book is short, and a very quick read, but is very enjoyable. Although the book is primarily for children, I thought that the complexities of the themes explored made it well worth reading for adults as well.

I highly recommend this book.

Jessica says

Neat! Set in a world not unlike Mesopotamia, young Kezi is devout in her prayers to the god Admat. But what happens if you pray to one god, and another answers? And what if the god that answers is . . . well, young and attractive?

Robbie says

From <http://rowijo.void-star.net>

The title of this post is my favorite quote from Ever, the new novel by Gail Carson Levine. Y'know, she wrote Ella Enchanted? And then some other books that weren't as good in my personal opinion? Anyway, this one is amazingly good to the point of being ridiculous. It's so good, it's almost like eating chocolate. Unless you don't like chocolate, in which case you probably aren't allowed to read in the insane asylum you are in.

The story is told in alternating (short) chapters by Olus, the Akkan God of the Winds, and Kezi, a girl living in Hyte. Olus has decided to do what no god has ever done before and live among humans in Hyte, the country bordering Akka. Kezi, along with the rest of Hyte, has never heard of Akka or their gods, and worships Admat, the One and the All. There are two problems with this. The first is that Admat has "declared" that Kezi must be sacrificed in a month and she has fallen in love with Olus. The second is that Admat doesn't exist. What ensues is a breathtaking ride full of enchantment, romance, adventure, excitement, and wonderful storytelling.

The plot is well paced, not too fast or too slow, with just the right amount of twists. The ending, while partially predictable, is fulfilling and satisfying, with a sadness mixed into the happiness. The short, alternating chapters allow the reader to see through both characters' eyes without alienating them from one character for too long. It also allows both characters to comment on the same event. Also of note is that at the top of each chapter, the number is written in either Akkan or Hyte-an. I don't know which.

The cover is remarkable. Perfect. Flawless. Go google a bigger image and fawn over its intricacies. The two people on the cover look like they are real and drawings at the same time, and though they are looking at the reader, it didn't unnerve me like this usually does. The models are also both pleasing to look at and

accurately portray the two characters.

This book is appropriate for fantasy, romance, or Norse and Greek mythology lovers. The prose is set in such a way that the story is accessible to younger readers while being substantial enough for older ones. Exquisite, it will remain in my memory for Ever.

5Q, 4P

Addy S. says

I surprised myself by finishing this book in one day! I really enjoyed Ever, and I will definitely read Gail Carson Levine's other books!

Here are the stats:

- Romance: nothing bad or too descriptive, a good deal of kissing.
- Violence: hmm... I wouldn't say there is violence, but there is a lot of talk of making human sacrifices.
- Language: nothing bad in this area! I appreciated reading a book that's clean.

What I didn't like..

- Kezi and Olus fell in love WAY too quickly and were kissing before I got halfway through the book! I feel like there needed to be some more time for them to get to know each other.
- All the talk about gods: the story is all about gods and people making sacrifices to them... of course I know this is all made up, but I'm not too crazy about stories like this! It did not, however, make the story bad in any way.
- Human Sacrifice: Kezi was supposed to be a human sacrifice, (SPOILER:)which she was, though she survived.

The romance was sweet, and the whole storyline was really intriguing. I would give this a fair 4 star rating!

Give this book a shot!

Laura Petto says

I was a bit baffled by this book at first. I couldn't figure out if I liked it because it is by Gail Carson Levine who I highly admire or because I actually enjoyed the book. I certainly like Fairest and Ella Enchanted more, but Ever is still really good.

Kezi lives with her Mati and Pado under her God, Admat. Her Mati gets sick very suddenly, and her Pado promises to Admat to sacrifice the first person to congratulate him if her Mati gets better. Kezi is already nearly 16, the age at which girls are married. She has an eye out for a certain boy, until she meets Olus.

Even though she knows that she will die in thirty days, Kezi can't help but fall in love with Olus. She's very offended by Olus's confession that he is the Akkan god of winds. He is immortal, while her death approaches rapidly. Olus thinks he has a way to save Kezi, but it will take a lot of work, and a good amount of chance as well. Kezi must say goodbye to her Mati and Pado in order to survive. She questions her God

Admat and doubts her existence thus far.

I generally enjoyed this book. It seems that Levine has stepped out of normal fairy-tale retellings such as Fairest and Ella Enchanted. I think that it might be a sort of compilation of Greek myths. The idea of many Gods and a scene at the end certainly led me to believe that. Except in Greek Myths, there were many Gods of winds, one for each direction. I'll be interested to ask Ms. Levine this when I go to one of her signings in May.

This book was written differently than other books she wrote, in that each chapter switches between Kezi and Olus. Half of me likes this, because it enhances the romance between them. On the other hand, I don't think that I would have liked Olus that much if it had been narrated just by Kezi. Their romance seemed a little quick, and I only felt that Olus really loved Kezi, and Kezi said she loved him. By the end, of course, I saw that Kezi really did love Olus, but it wasn't apparent at all times.

I must say that the cover really bothers me. Olus describes Kezi as...

She is lovely. Her skin is bronzed, a little oily, so she seems to shine. Her eyebrows, her lashes and her hair match the amber beads at her sash's fringe. Her eyes are the golden brown of autumn oak leaves. Her nose bulges a little at the end- an olive nose, Hannu would call it.

The girl on the cover has very pale skin and very dark hair. Her nose does not bulge at the end at all. Kezi comes from a rich family, but the girl on the cover is wearing a tunic that looks rather poor to me.

Overall, Ever impressed me. I enjoyed the plot, and Olus's voice. It's not my favorite of Levine's books, but probably third best.

Comes out May 6, 2008.

June says

A quick read. Fated to die, Kezi, falls in love with Olus, the Akkan god of the winds. She decides to fight her fate. Love also gives Olus the strength to confront his fears. A light romance that takes on some deeper questions of faith.

I remembered reading it before, but after misplacing Tale of Two Cities, I picked it up again and enjoyed it again, though their trials were a little slow re-reading.

Melissa T says

I wanted to like this because I like so many other books by this author...but it was utterly impossible. The very first chapter starts out stupid -- strange-and-hard-to-remember-names, odd notions about gods etc., and absurdly short sentences. Why is it that when certain authors are trying to write from the perspective of someone from long ago he/she assume the characters don't speak their language very well? It's almost as if Levine was trying to imitate a weak translation into English. She also switches points of view between the main characters every chapter, without letting the reader know she's doing it. It's obviously easy enough to

catch on, but when I've seen other authors employ this writing style they usually change the font or heading or something. And lastly, even to a young reader (which I realize this is geared to), the characters are not particularly likable or well-developed. All in all, this was a huge disappointment.

Christina says

I love Gail Carson Levine. She has a classic style that I love, which is also easy to read. That being said, this newest novel of hers was nothing like the Gail I knew! I did enjoy this one, quite a bit in fact, but it was definitely not you average princess story!

So, if you are going to read this novel, I have 3 bits of advise. First, just keep moving past the beginning. You are going to read the first two pages and go "hmmmmmm...." but keep going! Second, get used to having two narrators and switching between them chapter to chapter. If you forget who's talking, it can be very confusing for a minute. Third, beware the name game going on in this book. This is set in a middle eastern country, so names for Mom and Dad are different than ours. Also, these parents, or whoever else is involved also have first names. This gets really confusing when you are trying to remember that the character Mati can also be Merem or Hannu, depending on which chapter it is and who's speaking. Really, you'll get used to it, but it can send you back to previous pages quite a few times! Good luck and enjoy!

Katy says

I really wanted to like this book, but I just didn't - at all.

I thought this book had a lot of potential because I'm always interested in cultures that explore other gods. And I liked how the characters are supposed to perform certain tasks and lessons in order to become a champion or heroine.

However, I found that I did not like the characters. Olus was kind of a ridiculous character. We never find out why he wanted to leave other than he was lonely. But he leaves to become a sheep herder, technically to be by himself (that is until he met Kezie). He instantly grows fond of her, but we don't really know why except the instalove and the way he likes how she dances, I guess. And his tasks were kind of silly. I can see how the well sort of fits into it, but I think it just kind of lacked the deep, life-altering epiphany, you know?

And Kezie was just a flat character to me. I think her character had so much potential as far as believing in Admat being the all, to realizing there are other gods to changing her beliefs. It just seems like the whole story was too light for something that meaningful. And her relationship with Olus is just strange. It wasn't love at first sight, though he did catch her attention. She didn't really know him that well and almost immediately after they left home, she felt she loved him. There wasn't anything to lead into that realization just it slipped from her mouth and viola, amour.

I was also disappointed with the end because this god that was supposed to be her all turned out not to be. Does he really exist at all? Who knows. But the way her fate was played out at the end just seemed quick and easy.

So what message was Levine trying to convey about fate and beliefs? This book had potential to explore deep, thought-provoking questions through its characters. But all it ended up being was a light story with surface emotions in a folklore that didn't teach any symbolic lessons.

Sella Malin says

I love this book!!! It's so creative and amazing. The plot is so well-developed and complex, as are the characters. It's so fast-paced and exciting; the book captivated me from the first page to last, and I literally couldn't put it down- I finished it in a day, and only took breaks when I had to. I love Levine's writing style; it is really unique...it's poetic and musical and feels like a song. And something about it is so mesmerizing; her style has me hypnotized.

This is even better than Fairest, in my opinion. I love how this has a hint of another fairy tale- this time I think it was Sleeping Beauty, although I'm not sure, because it's so different. I loved trying to figure out what fairy tale it was a twist on, and then uncovering all the events that were like the fairy tale! Except, this one didn't have as much similarity to Sleeping Beauty as Fairest had to Snow White; but I like that better. It makes the book more mysterious and full of depth.

This book was sooooo good!!!! ;D

Sam says

I wasn't expecting much, and didn't get much out of this book. Gail Carson Levine just hasn't written as good a fairytale since "Ella Enchanted".

Besides the fact that I thought the whole storyline was rather *ahem* stupid, I thought it was weak, the characters were weak...it just lacked the special "something", I thought. I didn't care about the characters, didn't care what dangers they went through, or whether or not they'd make it in the end. It won't be one I'll read again...

Sylvia says

Jadi gini critanya:

Seorang anak dewa nih, namanya Olus. Olus ini dewa angin. Diramalkan bahwa nanti Olus tidak akan bahagia sampai dia bisa mendapatkan apa yang seharusnya dia tidak boleh dapatkan *bingung? silahkaaann...* :p

Trus ada lagi seorang anak manusia, dia ini cantik dan suka menganyam. Namanya Kezi. Kezi ini anak gadis normal lah, seperti halnya gadis-gadis lainnya, ingin memiliki pacar yang ganteng (dan udah punya incaran), ingin hidup bahagia, de el el.

Nah, bagaimana keduanya bisa bertemu? Apakah ramalan tentang Olus berhubungan dengan Kezi?

Ya iyalaahhh!!! dari sini aja udah ketebak ya? hehehe...

Oke, lanjut... jadi nih, Olus ceritanya pengen ngerasain hidup seperti manusia biasa. Dia ingin berempati lah gitu sama manusia. Kedua orang tuanya sih menentang, tapi secara Olus kesepian di rumahnya yang di atas awan itu, akhirnya teteup pergi juga, dan dia memilih sebuah tempat yang jauh dari rumahnya, yang ternyata sesembahan mereka pun dewa yang berbeda.

Olus nyewa tempat ke bokapnya Kezi, dia menjadi penggembala kambing gitu deh. Naahh.. untuk mengobservasi kehidupan manusia, Olus memilih utk mengamati kehidupan keluarga Kezi ini. Dan lama kelamaan kok ya keknya ada sesuatu yang menarik hati Olus dari diri Kezi.

TAPI!!!! Olus kan gak kenal ama Kezi, begitu juga sebaliknya. Naahhh gimana tuh caranya mereka bisa ketemu? Ya udah deh, dibaca aja sendiri kali ye? Dari pada panjang-panjang trus isinya spoiler semua. Lagian juga lagi males nulis panjang. Pokoknya cluenya: sumpah, petualangan, immortality. Buat gw sih kurang asik karena banyak ngelindurnya ni buku.

Pokoke intinya: Love will conquer all *tau deh bener apa nggak spellingnya* xixixi... males kan baca review ini?

Amy says

I normally love anything by Levine.

Normally.

But this was book....different. I wasn't expecting much, gotta love goodreads reviews, but I was expecting something!! Someone pointed out the characters were flat, another said the writing was simplistic. Its all that but more. I felt no sympathy for the main characters, not the mortal girl or her supposed god of the wind. The writing wasn't as magical, its almost impossible to imagine, or care, what happens next.

Mostly though, I was disgusted the "gods" and particularly Admat. One excellent reviewer pointed out that, perhaps without meaning to, it almost mocks the Christian God. An all-seeing being who is everywhere, but apparently no-where. Though I don't think this is Levine's first time at attempting to touch on religion, I was disgusted.

So, my final thoughts? For those of you who normally enjoy her books, don't bother. Please! It is a major waste of time. As tempting as it is to try out a favorite author, some things just aren't worth it.
