



The Blood of the Hydra

Michelle Madow

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A demigod who can kill with a touch. It's an ability that must be kept secret, even from those trusted most.

Finding out that she was a witch was strange enough, but now Nicole must face the realization that she has the rare power to kill with just a touch. No one can know her secret -- not even Blake, who she's had undeniable chemistry with since first moving to town.

Now Nicole, Blake, and the three others with elemental powers must stop a series of monsters that they previously believed to be dead from rising once again and destroying the mortal world. The creatures they face on this journey will be more dangerous than anything they've encountered yet. Will they all survive the quest? And how long will it be until Nicole is forced to use her ability to kill in front of everyone, revealing the true darkness of her powers?

Find out in *The Blood of the Hydra*, and join the Elementals on their quest to save the world -- or die trying.

The Blood of the Hydra Details

Date : Published April 18th 2016 by Dreamscape Publishing

ISBN :

Author : Michelle Madow

Format : ebook

Genre : Fantasy, Mythology, Paranormal, Romance, Magic, Greek Mythology

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From Reader Review The Blood of the Hydra for online ebook

Vanessa ?Queen Alchemy ? Novel Nerd Faction? says

I received this book for free from the author and publisher via Netgalley in exchange for an honest review.

I raced through the first book in this series and I enjoyed it very much, so I knew that I would be picking up the second book! The Blood of the Hydra picks up where The Prophecy of Shadows leaves off. If you are familiar with Michelle Madow's writing and love her fast-paced books, then you will love this one as well!

The thing that has drawn me into this series is the unique premise. I love the way that Greek mythology is integrated into the story to make it what it is. The magic/witches angle is wholly original, and I am such a fan of it!

The pacing is quite fast. If you love short and breezy reads, then this series is one that you should pick up. Though since it is such a fast-paced read, there aren't as many details. The story, while interesting and unique, lacks depth.

The plot of the book is strong and compelling. I couldn't wait to find out what was going to happen next. I love books that can take hold of me and drive. The suspense was great. I eagerly anticipated the outcome.

There is plenty of action and adventure in this book, which I love! It was balanced out quite nicely with the rest of the story.

The characters didn't really develop more in the second book. They pretty much stayed the same. I would have loved to see more into each character. We did get a little more from Nicole and Blake, but only because of the romance. I needed to know more about the characters past, inner workings, and drive. I did love the addition of new characters to the story. It was refreshing to see the change in dynamic and chemistry.

Overall, this is a quick and enjoyable read. The story is very fun, and will hold you until the last page. If you liked the first book in this series then you will like this one as well. I will definitely be continuing this series!

More reviews on my blog: [The Alchemy of Ink](#)

Cora Tea Party Princess says

5 Words: Magic, elements, friendship, responsibility, heritage.

If you know me at all, then you'll know that I usually do not get on with books that blend contemporary America with ancient Greek mythology. But this series? I get on with it very, very well. I couldn't put the first one down (my review [here!](#)) and when I finished it I could barely wait for the next one.

So when I saw this, I jumped at the chance.

And I wasn't disappointed.

This book dove straight back into the fast paced story, but now with added tension and a changed group dynamic. The way that the relationships between the characters evolves and changes makes this so very, very real, even in the fantasy setting.

I liked that Nicole didn't jump straight on Blake, that there was this distance between them, some respect for Danielle and her feelings at the beginning. It was refreshing and something I'd like to read more of. That's not to say that there isn't any passion, because it's simmering along there, building slowly.

Out of all of the characters, I think I like Danielle the most. She doesn't take any crap, she says it as she sees it, she has some serious flaws, and there's just something about her that I totally love.

This series takes something that so many authors do badly, and it totally excels. It takes a well-written trope and makes it come alive. Michelle Madow has got something good here, and it's going from strength to strength.

I received a copy of this for free via NetGalley for review purposes.

Beyond the Pages says

The Blood of the Hydra (Elementals #2) was sensational. Book number two picked up right where book number one left off. I absolutely loved it!

Where do I begin?

About the Characters:

Nicole -> I really like this character. She is peculiar in the very best way. She is still learning things about herself, but at the same time she knows, at the end of the day, what she wants. I just know that I've only seen the tip of the iceberg where she is concerned. I believe that she is going to be extremely powerful in a way that's not expected. Her sense of loyalty and honor in this episode was admirable. She cared about her friends and others, and that drove her largely. Regarding Blake, I was happy about two things that the author did: 1) I was glad to see that she allowed Nicole and Danielle to talk about the Blake dilemma versus fight about it. 2) I was shouting happy that Nicole finally let Blake know about her feelings for him.

Blake -> This dude is a dream. He is brave, patient, supportive, and wise. I like the role he played in book two. He definitely made his presence known. With each challenge, he showed himself to be a leader...a humble leader. I liked the fact that he wasn't obnoxious where Danielle was concerned. That spoke volumes! I also liked how protective he was of Nicole. He didn't minimize her role at all. Worth stating where he and Nicole are concerned, I liked how they worked together; they seemed to enhance one another. I can only imagine what is next for them.

Danielle -> This fiesty female warrior surprised me in this story. I wasn't expecting her to show a sense of compassion in the way that she did. Wow! I want to see more from her. She's intriguing.

Kate -> This girl rocks! She is smart, resourceful, and focused. Oh boy, when she used her voice, people listened. I cannot wait to see her come into her fullness. I think Chris (and everyone else) is going to be blown away. I loved the new angle the author worked into her storyline, in terms of lineage. Sweet!!!

Chris -> He is not a weak link, that's for sure! This guy showed up in a major way in book two. He is getting more comfortable with his abilities. I like that. The only thing he doesn't seem to have a clue about is Kate...and I wonder whether or not he is fully aware of Rachel. Hmm...

Eric and Rachel -> I liked these two. They added flavor to the story. Their arrogance will be their downfall though. In this story, Eric changed positions in such a way that I was sucker punched. I can only hope that he will get a clue and gain perspective. Rachel, unfortunately, suffered the most. Still, I don't think we've heard the last from her. I just don't. I could be wrong, but I hope not. ;) Wouldn't that be a cool angle?

Zeus -> Surprised - that's what I was. (Tehehe...)

The Head Elder -> Yeah, she was a woman. BAM! (Mic dropped.)

About the Story:

The Lotus Challenge: Score! (I was not expecting the darkness to show up in that situation. Can you say tension?)

The Sacred Milk Challenge: Score! (This part of the story was so funny to me. I wasn't laughing by the time they had to leave though. I loved the added layer of tension associated with this part of the storyline.)

The Hydra: Score and woo to the hoo! (It was so worth it to get to this part of the story. I have words, lots of words, but I don't want to give anything away. Man!)

Ethan's Portal: :-o (Duh duh duh!!!)

Making It Official: Well done.

Final Comments: Bring on the next and the next and the next and the next story. I am a fan! Quite honestly, I am hooked.

Rating: 5/5

Recommend: Yes

Audience: YA-A

Status: P, S/F

Chemistry/Intensity: Yes

Conflict/Drama: Yes

Suspense/Intrigue: Yes

Humor/Wit: Yes

Family Dysfunction: Yes

HEA: Yes...

Stand Alone: Yes (The story would be so much richer if book one was read first.)

Part of Series: Yes

Strong Characters: Yes

Good versus Evil: Yes

Re-read: Yes

Hard copy or e-book: Both

Source: NetGalley

Diana says

I mean, this was definitely an improvement from the first book... But, once again, I'm not going to give it a rating. It was more action packed and exciting since you know, they had some crazy mission to fulfil. Nicole's and Blake's romance is actually getting on my nerves a little bit, but I guess they're cute(?) Will most likely read the next book, just to see what happens.

Cassie James says

Thanks to Michelle Madow for giving me an arc for a honest review. Blood Of The Hydra is a whirlwind of adventure, romance and magic. Michelle Madow has outdone herself with this Installment, she proves herself to be a master storyteller. Blood Of The Hydra began with action, The group was immediately plunged into the job of fighting monsters escaped from the weakened Kerberos. In search of a weapon to defeat the monsters, they discovered a method to keep them in limbo for a year giving them enough time to strength Kerberos. The group journeyed to Greece to acquire the ingredients. On the course of the quest, they make a few friends, two demigods Ethan and Rachael also meeting Zeus in the process. From the Land Of The Lotus Eaters to milking the immortal cattle of Helios and confronting the Hydra, their adventure is one that keeps you on the edge of your seat wanting more. Filled with humor and heartfelt romance, This is my favorite Installment.... For now. I especially loved when Nicole was thinking that it would be "nice if everyone in the real world could put aside their prejudices and simply enjoy each other's company", that touches my heart. The moments where the group took photos at Helios's island remind that despite the severity of the situation, they are still teenagers. Nicole and Blake's relationship is something I was expecting and I was not disappointed, they many 'Aww' inspiring moments especially that moment towards the ending. Danielle is not a character I could have guessed I would end up liking, I saw a different side to her that impressed me enough for her to become a total badass in my opinion. But what I loved most about this book is the Magic, I love anything that has to do with magic and this book is full of it. Michelle knows how to write her stuff. Blood Of The Hydra is definitely one of the best the YA genre has to offer.

Lisa Mandina says

I was lucky enough to get an e-galley of this title from Netgalley, Dreamscape Publishing, and being part of the author's street team. I've been a big fan of Michelle Madow since I first read her book Remembrance. And the first book in this series so far, Elementals, started off with some great ideas and I was very excited to read on and see where the story would go.

Just like in my review of the first book, the synopsis above tells you pretty much what happened, and I don't want to repeat all of it. So again I'll just talk about what I liked or didn't like!

Honestly, for the most part, there wasn't much that I didn't like in this one! I really enjoyed the quest that they had to go on. When they went to the island that was the Land of the Lotus Eaters, and had to keep from eating the fruit, it was great how the author thought of every way that the fruit might get into the people's system besides just eating the fruit. They found some other demi-gods, Rachel and Ethan, on the island, and they were great to join into the quest and help. Trying to figure out how to get between Scylla and Charybdis

was really stressful. Trying to not have to do what Odysseus had to do, and sacrifice six people from the boat, that got them to have to figure out another way, and even earned them a visit from Zeus. Then, the next part of the quest was to get the milk of the immortal cattle on Helios's island. That proved to be pretty difficult, not to mention also brought about another issue they will have to deal with.

Then, getting to the final battle with the hydra. All I can say is that Rachel, well she kind of annoyed me, and what she did, well, let's just say I feel like what happened to her was her own fault. It seemed like for a minute Ethan might become a love triangle, but I feel like the author kept that from happening perfectly. In a way that I'm sure will pop up in book 3 and lead to a really good story arc. The five of the Elementals: Kate, Blake, Danielle, Chris, and Nicole, are learning to work together better. To get past the personal issues from Blake and Danielle breaking up. And Blake just wanting to be able to be with Nicole, they will be able to figure out how that can work with the group and still have them be able to take care of the things they need to.

Another great book from Michelle Madow, as well as a great new book about Greek mythology in the footsteps of the Percy Jackson series by Rick Riordan, and the Goddess Test series by Aimee Carter.

Liz says

I absolutely loved this book! There is so much action and suspense which I really enjoyed. I cannot wait for The Head of Medusa! Thank you Michelle for sending me an ARC!

Dani (Dani Reviews Things & Love in a time of Feminism) says

I received this book for free in exchange for an honest review. This does not affect my opinion of the book or the content of my review.

The following review is for the second book in the *Elementals* series. If you haven't read the first book, *The Prophecy of Shadows*, read my review [here](#)!

What I can say straight out is that, if you enjoyed the first book, you'll enjoy this one as well. Madow is very consistent in her writing style.

The story wasn't exactly heart-stoppingly thrilling, but it was pretty fun. I was surprised by some of the ways the gang had to adapt their strategies to tackle the tasks. Not everything played out the way they and I expected based on the tales of yesteryear. There were some silly bits that were maybe *too* ridiculous, and I had to roll my eyes. I couldn't help it. I mean, kissing in the middle of a fight? Luxurious barns? Yeah.

My favourite thing about this series is reading how the Greek gods and goddesses, and stories such as *The Odyssey*, weave into the adventure. One of the gods actually made a surprise appearance in this book! Having read *The Odyssey* a few years ago, I enjoyed linking up the different stories to the different hurdles the gang encountered. The Lotus Eaters' island was particularly interesting, especially Nicole's rumination over how nice it was that all of these different people from different times and cultures could get along so easily on the island with the lotus fruit chilling them out. I'm personally not so sure the island is a bad idea! It's certainly a place I would want to visit for a while... (Especially with attractive twin surfers...)

Given that the main action takes place in Greece, I would have liked for more of the Greek setting and culture to shine through. The Elder for Greece was said to barely have an accent when she spoke English, and this... Well, it annoyed me. What does that even mean? EVERYONE has an accent. Americans have accents. And why couldn't she have a Greek English accent? If the implication was that she sounded *almost* American to Nicole, all I can say is – how arrogant. I don't feel like any actual research was done on Greece itself, as the book could have taken place *anywhere*.

And since I've mentioned accents, why is that Americans automatically assume that people who don't sound like them must be British? And vice versa. This assumption by people from both countries that there are only two English-speaking countries in the world is a personal pet peeve of mine, as I have to correct new acquaintances all the time. I didn't think it would be so hard to distinguish an Australian accent from a British one.

The characters were very much the same as the first book. I was disappointed that we didn't see any extra layers in them; they'd been assigned their characteristics from the moment Nicole met them, and they didn't reveal any more nuance. Kate was smart. Danielle was nasty. Blake was cocky. That was that. There was supposedly this overwhelming tension between Blake and Nicole, but I never really felt the chemistry. It was all very "telling" instead of "showing". Oh, and everyone was naturally gorgeous.

Overall, this was a pretty easy and mindlessly fun story, but it lacked depth or development. The absence of evidence of research into a very interesting area of the world and the Americanisation of other cultures annoyed me. However, if you enjoyed the first book and want more of that, then you'll enjoy this book.

Will I be continuing, though? Probably not.

See this review in its natural environment, Dani Reviews Things.

You can find me on Twitter and Instagram.

Ria says

Full Review to Follow @ <http://www.abookishescape.com/2017/04...>

The End, smart I liked that Nicole finally came clean and the result was genius on the author's part and also the characters. Their pressing mission is now complete thanks to Nicole and her connection to Apollo. More needs to be revealed and I'm looking forward to seeing what the book of shadows has to say. The ending was good because there was plenty of resolution but the ending was great because it reveals what I hope becomes a major conflict a little later. The author did a wonderful job of modernizing some very treasured tales. There was a good blend of humor and action that kept me turning the pages. I hope everyone is able to seal the portal without a major character dying as that is always a major bummer.

My Rating

4.0 Because it was good the characters, story, concepts, problems, resolutions and I enjoyed the read... filled stars.

Rottgrl88 says

This is the sequel to the Elementals series. There are five books total in the series. I enjoyed this book. It was interesting and it moved at a nice pace. This story helped develop some more about the main characters. The writing style itself is directed towards a younger audience and it does read that way. I did find some typos and grammatical errors but not a lot to drive me crazy. This book surrounds their first real big mission to help them on their journey to save the world from the "eventual" release of the Titans. I enjoyed it and would recommend the series. One thing i really enjoy about this series so far is that it claims to be a story based on characters that have elemental control and lives within mythology. And the book actually displays both of these characteristics nicely. It actually delivers on the claims. I am looking forward to see how this adventure continues to play out.

Vivien says

This review, along with many others can be found [here](#)

There are so many cringe worthy, sickening romance scenes. Each page mentions Blake and how Nicole's heart beats faster when they're in close proximity, how much she loves him or how his presence makes her all gooey and disgusting. There is a lot of staring, a lot of denial and pining. If you feel so strongly for each other, you wouldn't have doubt and all that delay. The book has a lot of petty problems and fluff. It's more of a Contemporary Romance book than a Greek Mythology/Adventure book. The romance is the main plot and the quests are the sub-plots.

Along with that, Nicole has a superiority complex. She thinks she's so exceptional because she can heal people and can shoot arrows. She also thinks she's limitless/god-like. The fact that the people foster her ego makes me ill. She's already a demigod and incredibly special snowflake already. She creates so much unnecessary drama. The other Elementals are the same. They show off their power and never really used their head, except for Kate. They are all rather unfeeling, dull and petty.

The writing is incredibly juvenile. Reading the words is like reading an essay I write for English class. There is a lot of speculation in the book and doubt. It feels like the author is still testing the waters and is unsure of her book's mythology/world.

Miranda (MrsLeif's Two Fangs About It) says

3.5 - 4 / 5 Fangs

I read the first book in this series and I felt kind of "meh" about it. I decided to continue with the series though, because I felt like it had a lot of potential. I am glad I did that, because this book was an improvement from book one!

Compared to book one, this book was much more exciting. There was a lot more action and mythology woven into this book. I was eating it up! I find Greek mythology so fascinating, and I love that this book was

really focused on that.

There are still some things about the world, witch craft, and mythology that were left unexplained. I am hoping to see more depth and discussion of those aspects in the next book. As of right now, I think Michelle is doing a good job at trying to explain the complicated world of Greek mythology.

The romance between Nicole and Blake definitely improved in this book, but it still isn't my favorite. There were some really well written moments between them, but most of those moments were overshadowed by angst. I thought there was a lot of unnecessary drama between Blake and Nicole. If they would have just talked to each other, then there wouldn't have been a problem. When Blake and Nicole actually talk things out, they make a great couple! That was what was really frustrating about their relationship.

My favorite ship in this series is Chris and Kate. They are my favorite characters by far! I love how smart and level headed Kate is. The group would be no where without her brain and magic. Chris is hilarious and lovable. I would have liked to see Chris and Kate interact more in this book. I ship them so hard, so I was a little disappointed that they didn't interact very much. I just know they are meant for each other!

I liked the character development that Danielle had towards the end of the book. In the first book, I hated that she was the typical "bitch" character. It was nice to see her develop into more than just the resident bitch.

Nicole was fine. She still tends to annoy me. I feel she falls into that typical "special snowflake" trope. I hope to see less of that as the series goes on.

Nicole's whining about Blake really got on my nerves. I would have liked to see less of Nicole pining, and more of her kicking booty! I wish she would think things out more, and trust the people around her more. I don't hate Nicole by any means. I really like her loyalty and kindness. She cares a lot about the people around her, which I appreciate. She also is pretty bad ass with a bow and arrow!

This was a fun book, even though I had some issues with it. I would have liked there to be less romantic angst and more action. However, the action and mythology portions of this book were definitely an improvement from book one. I have a feeling the books will only continue to get better as the series goes on.

3.5 - 4 / 5 Fangs

This ebook was given to me in exchange for a honest review.

MrsLeif's Two Fangs About It

Facebook

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Kaitlin says

?*****I received a copy of The Blood of the Hydra by the author in exchange of a honest review. This did not influence my review in any way.*****

My review can also be found here: <http://kaitbooktopia.blogspot.com/201...>

Let's backtrack a bit to The Prophecy of Shadows. The Prophecy of Shadows is about a girl named Nicole who moves to a new town and during her first day of school she discovers that witches exist. Witches are descendants of the Greek Gods. Nicole discovers that she had the power of Spirit which is the ability to heal. Her four other friends have one of the following: Earth, air, fire, or water. They had to use their powers in order to decipher an ancient prophecy also known as the Prophecy of Shadows.

In the second book, the portal that locked the titans away in the Underworld is growing weaker. Nicole and friends must find a way to keep the creatures locked away or else. In order to help make the portal stronger, they embark on a journey through Greece in order to find the ingredients they need to use. Their perilous journey is full of sacrifices, choices, a little romance, and even some death.

Here's what I liked:

Blake & Nicole- Blake and Nicole have always had a connection. That was made clear at the very beginning of the first book, however, Blake had a girlfriend. The Blood of the Hydra starts off letting the readers know that Blake has broken up with his girlfriend. Nicole, however, refuses to let anything happen with Blake in fear that if they start dating, then his ex-girlfriend will abandon the Elementals. Towards the end, Nicole talks to his ex-girlfriend and she tells Nicole to date Blake. Therefore, Blake and Nicole decide to give their relationship a chance. I absolutely love their connection and I enjoyed how there was more romance in this book.

Black Magic- We find out in book one that black magic is extremely illegal to use and will result in serious consequences. Well, guess what? Black magic is used a few times in this book while the Elementals fight the many evil creatures that have escaped through the portal. Black magic is dangerous and yet it is used in this book which made it all the more interesting. Everyone has a rebellious side and in their world black magic is rebellious. We all love a good rule breaker which is why black magic is amazing.

Zeus- Zeus makes a surprise appearance in this book. And although he may not be father of the year, he definitely proved to be caring and helpful. All the dialogue he had in the one scene that he was in was spot on. He made me laugh while reading this book and I really hope he will make another appearance in future books!

Writing Style- The writing was great. Everything flowed together nicely and all of the characters emotions, actions, and dialogue felt natural (even if they are fighting mythological creatures). The writing definitely improved in this second novel which was wonderful to see. It was very captivating which is why I was able to read this in one sitting.

Setting- The Elementals head to Greece during their February Break to embark on the mission. Can I go to Greece during my school vacations? Although, they do not go fully into Greece to explore because they stay mainly on the water, it was nice to see a change of scenery from Kinsley, Massachusetts which is where the first book takes place. Being in Greece was absolutely necessary to the story and I cannot wait to see where

they go to next.

What I didn't like as much:

Ethan- Okay, okay, I am very much conflicted about Ethan. At first I can say with all of my heart that I liked him. Then after they finish their mission and a death occurs, he becomes really mean and blames it all on Nicole. I understand why he was angry, but it wasn't entirely her fault. But I do think if I were in his position I would feel the same way. So I don't like how he acted, but I think it was the right way he should've. Which is exactly why I am conflicted about him.

The Blood of the Hydra is a well-written and fast paced novel that will leave the reader wanting so much more. This book was highly addictive. Michelle Madow is officially the Queen of Greek Mythology to me. I cannot wait to read the rest of this series and any of her future books.

I highly recommend the series and overall this book was a 4.5 read for me. Can June 29th, when the third book comes out, come any sooner?! This series is absolutely a must-read.

Five words to describe this book:

Addictive. Magical. Fun. Exciting. Powerful.

Donita Luz says

"Centuries of safety have definitely left most of us unprepared for battle."

Still a fast-paced read like the first one and a **bit** better. I just can't tolerate all the unnecessary drama. I just hope Danielle have her own happy ending because if not I'm going to throw things! lol.

Also, I just hope that I get to see a real flaw of Nicole. She and Blake make it so hard for me to fully enjoy this novel. There a lot of character in this novel, yet, the limelight all focused on Nicole. It's like the other characters exist to highlight Nicole's perfection. It tends to get annoying really. But still, I get to enjoy the adventures included in the book, so 3 stars it is.

P.S I'm looking forward to reading the next book. The cover stars Danielle - my favorite character in this series. She's relatable and full of flaw, exactly how I like the characters to be.

Ben Alderson says

Finished this sequel in one sitting.

A brilliant mix of Witches and Greek mythology set in modern day! LOVE LOVE LOVE!

Need the rest!

