



Struck

Amanda Carlson

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When Phoebe Meadows gets struck by a strange light in the stockroom of Macy's, life as she knows it flies out the window. As if being hit by lightning isn't bad enough, she's accosted in the subway by a man with a missing hand, arrives home to find a raven on her kitchen counter, and her neighbor, Ingrid, shows up dressed like a gladiator hell-bent on protecting her.

Before Ingrid can shuttle her to safety, Phoebe is kidnapped and tossed into one of the Nine Worlds where she's quickly forced to come to terms with what she is: A valkyrie. The only problem is, she has no idea what that means.

After a narrow escape, she finds an unlikely ally in Loki's son, Fenrir. Together the valkyrie and the wolf must battle their way back to New York City and reach the valkyrie stronghold where Ingrid is waiting for her. But with danger and obstacles at every turn, she might not live long enough to learn the full truth about who and what she really is...

Struck Details

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From Reader Review Struck for online ebook

Sarah says

Phoebe thought she was just a normal girl trying to make ends meet in the big city until the day she gets struck by lightning in the stockroom of the Macy's store she works at. The next thing she knows her neighbour Ingrid is announcing that she's Phoebe's aunt and that Phoebe is the long lost child of a valkyrie and a god. Apparently her parents kept her a secret for a very good reason and now that Phoebe is starting to come into her powers she's become a beacon for the enemies that hunt her. After a botched kidnapping attempt leaves Phoebe trapped in one of the Nine Worlds she has no choice but to ally herself with the demigod Fenrir to try and find her way back to New York so that Ingrid can explain what the hell is happening to her.

I had so much fun reading this novel! **Amanda Carlson** has created a likeable and very normal heroine who is thrown into a world where creatures from Norse mythology are in fact very, very real. Poor Phoebe is completely out of her depth and she barely has a moment to catch her breath from the beginning to the end of this novel, she really is thrown in at the deep end and has to fight with every last scrap of strength she has just to survive. I loved that she wasn't perfect, she didn't always know how to react or what her best option was and she just had to do the best she could to muddle through but no matter what she went through she didn't give up and she did whatever she had to to hold her own in any fight. She was also fiercely loyal to the people she trusted, if you prove yourself to be her ally then she'll have your back no matter how bad the odds of survival.

Fen was another brilliant character, he's survived things that would have turned a lesser man insane but it's left him strong and with a highly evolved protective streak. He's not sure what to make of Phoebe at first but he admires her will to survive and I think he found her naivety endearing too. The pair have to work closely together if they're going to have any chance of escaping and I enjoyed seeing their relationship start to blossom as they got to know each other. I did find that the declarations of love came a little too quickly, up until that point their relationship had been progressing at a believable rate so it felt that things stepped up a gear just a bit too fast at the end, but I'd rather have things move fast than be stuck with another dreaded love triangle so I'm not going to complain too much. I think they fit really well together so I'm happy to see them as a couple and I think we're going to see things really develop further between them as the series continues.

There are a couple of great side characters in the god of war Tyr and Phoebe's human friend Sam and I'm also looking forward to getting to know more about the valkyries in future books. I don't know a huge amount about Norse mythology but I'm really enjoying what we've seen so far of the Nine Worlds and the various different creatures and gods that inhabit them. I'm sure there is a lot more to explore and I'm excited to find out what Phoebe will encounter next. **Struck** was a fabulous start to this series, it's very action packed and will suck you in from the first page giving you a wonderful new world to explore. I can't wait to revisit these characters again in the future and I have a feeling it's going to turn into a favourite series before too long.

Source: Received from the author in exchange for an honest review

Kristin says

In the mood for a new urban fantasy series that has a "world" that's easy to get into?

Have I got a story for you...

Struck by Amanda Carlson is out today (May 24th, 2016) and it's a brand new series for Ms. Carlson, who is probably better known for her *Jessica McClain* series. The story is centered around Phoebe Meadows, a girl from Wisconsin who recently moved to New York City and works in the shoe department at Macy's.

One day she is struck by lightning while INSIDE the storeroom at Macy's and life, as she knows it, changes forever. On her way home from work she is stopped by a big, scary, smelly man who is missing a hand, her neighbor goes all "Valkyrie" on her, including toga and weapons, and she's chased into a tree until she's captured by a scary "witch".

Not one of Phoebe's better days.

I was impressed by how close Ms. Carlson stayed to Norse mythology. If you know anything about Odin, Loki, Thor, and Valkyries, even in passing, you'll do just fine with the world building in this series. I'm not an expert on my Norse gods and demigods so I had to Google a few. But they were all easy to find and fit into the story easily. I loved that!!

Full of action and quick on it's pacing, this isn't a long story and it won't tie you down like some urban fantasy mass markets do. I will give you heads up that there are some corny moments towards the end of the story. But after the humor in the beginning, I sort of saw some it coming. The humor worked well, the cheesiness, not so much for me.

BUT... I am definitely eager to get my hands on the next installment in the *Phoebe Meadows* series, **Freed**, coming this fall!

Review appears on

Amanda says

So the first half of the book im not sure I was feeling too much. Lots of action but the dialogue was killing it for me. It was kind of ... cheesy?? Not sure thats even the right word for it. But it didnt feel like a real conversation. Little by little tho I got more into the book and by the end I chugging along.

There is some insta-love going on that I dont really buy but I did really like Fen. He is strong, loyal and willing to throw down even if he's battling full gods unlike his demi-god status. I liked the best friend (I can't remember her name) but she was funny and really rolled with whatever was going down. I could easily imagine her as a Valkyrie. I liked her more than the main character and im kind of hoping for a match with Tyr for her. I also liked Tyr, he doesn't talk much but he definitely has a presence as the God of war.

There is plenty of action in this book there is always peril around the corner as Phoebe and crew fight to stay alive. We travel between realms popping up all over the place which is pretty fun. There is a lot going on and I think that a lot of people will enjoy this book. I'm somewhat curious to see how this all turns out but all in all its not a very memorable book it doesn't stick out among other UF titles and I'm not sure that I'll even remember to pick up the second title when it comes out. But it was a decent read and if I remember, I would read the next book in the series.

Marsha says

There is a flood of mythology and reworked fairytales on the market presently to the point of nauseam. Yet, being a fan of Amanda Carlson, I decided I would definitely give "Struck" a try. I am so happy I did but this little gem had me hooked from the beginning and didn't release me until the last word on the last page.

While working in the shoe department of Macy's, Phoebe Meadows is struck by lightning in the stockroom. Instead of feeling the wear and tear of the experience she is somehow energized. When she ventures home for the night she is accosted by a stinky homeless guy who warns her to leave town and then her friend and neighbor, Ingrid come over to her apartment dress as a warrior including a breastplate warning her they need to leave before she is kidnapped by creatures from Norse mythology. Oh, and did I mention a giant raven names Biggie is in her kitchen speaking to her in her mind? He warns her to leave as well.

Although Phoebe thinks everyone including herself is off their rockers, she goes with Ingrid and the raven. Unfortunately, she is kidnapped by nettins and taken to an alternative world where she is to be killed by a trio of ugly bags Yet, there is hope when Phoebe uses a spear given to her by Ingrid and and inserts it into a magical tree. She is thrust into another dimension where she meets Fenrir, the wolf who is the sworn enemy of valkyries and her newly discovered father, Odin. Although he wants to kill her he recognizes something is different about her as well as the fact she is a novice to his world and culture. Soon the two of them are linked in ways neither can imagine and now they are reliant upon each other for freedom, safety and even love.

As they flounder their way back to New York, they will overcome many obstacles, pick up friendships in the oddest places as Phoebe tries to wrap her head around her heritage and destiny. There is so much action your head will spin and the characters are divine! I can't wait for "Freed," the next book in this series which is due out this fall. This could be another series that is destined to be a favorite.

Annie (Under the Covers Book Blog) says

If you love valkyries, then you're guaranteed to love this series. STRUCK is deeply rooted in mythology but Carlson puts her own unique spins on things.

Phoebe Meadows is a fantastic heroine. Funny, sarcastic, and genuine, she's the type of heroine I'd love to go have drinks with. And I'm already heads over heels in love with Fen so I loved that Carlson put a romance in this one.

This book moves at breakneck speed, hitting you with multiple twists and turns. I meant to read only a couple of chapters but two hours later, I finished the book so that's a testament to how addicting this story is.

There aren't many stories that are like this one and that's why I think many readers will fall in love with this world. STRUCK is a must-read!

Under the Covers Book Blog says

Since like forever since I last read an Amanda Carlson book, I can honestly say, I've missed her work. In this first installment of Phebe Meadows series, Ms. Carlson brought an action packed story with snarky characters, and a hero and heroine fall in love with.

Phoebe Meadows has lived in the human world as long as she can remember but has no memory of being a valkyrie much less being the daughter of a Odin, the God of war. Due to an impending situation she is brought back to the magical world of Norse Mythology. Now that there is a price for her head, her aunt and friend to somehow guide and protect her. Unfortunately, they cannot be there at all times, but she meets Fenrir, a wolf shifter who will help her through her trials.

Struck is a great start to this Urban Fantasy series. Ms. Carlson filled this story with with Norse mythology which I could not get enough of. As expected from this author's work, it was action packed, suspenseful and funny. Not to forget sexy.

Fen was such an intrigue and I loved his character as Phoebe's protector. He was sexy, funny and is protective streak was adorable. Phoebe was the same way. She is a strong character and knows exactly what she wanted and stuck with it. She was loyal to the core and easy to fall in love with. There was a tiny hint of instant love between Fen and Phoebe as well as a hint of instant acceptance of her acceptance of magical world which I think can easily be washed out if the book was a bit longer.

Overall, an enjoyable read. Not quite four but definitely more than three and a half stars. 'M hoping for a longer book next time. I can't wait to see where Ms Carlson will take this series.

*ARC provided by author
Reviewed by Angela

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Meigan says

I used to be a Macy's stockroom rat. I totally need this book in my life :)

Shera (Book Whispers) says

*****Review copy received for an honest review.*****

There is something undeniably addicting about Amanda Carlson's writing. Combine that with her new peppy lead, Phoebe Meadows, who is a new born Valkyrie and you've got a hit. Phoebe kind of reminds me of the FRIENDS Phoebe, not just because of the name but they both are quirky gals. Ones that I like. Though admittedly no one can be as quirky as the FRIENDS Phoebe and Phoebe Meadows is brighter.

I will say upfront that Struck reminds me a lot of Full Blooded. The plot, feel, and pacing is the same. Plot wise it's just shadowing, not copy and pasting. The feel is more like the flavor of an author's writing style, because Struck is admittedly more funny and lighthearted. Though there are plenty of dark elements and themes. Pacing is fast and a wild ride that Carlson is well known for.

Phoebe annoyed me at first, but she quickly grew on me. She's a book bestie now. As she ventures through the realms and comes into her powers I couldn't not like her! Phoebe is hilarious, fun, sweet, and genuine. She's not magically a bad ass. She fumbles, learns, and grows. Which, with the books I've been reading lately, is something I greatly appreciate.

The male love interest was pretty awesome. He's alpha and polite. Well most of the time. I had a few issues with some of his ideas about Phoebe and her blade. (Not some kind of pun.) I feel like Carlson didn't over do it. Fen is relatable and you understand what motivates his actions.

Struck, to me, has enough Urban Fantasy and Paranormal Romance elements to please fans of both. I love the quiriness of the story and humor. Not to mention the mythology of the world is steeped in Norse lore, but has Carlson's own magic touches. Oh, my gosh! The characters. I won't spoil anything but I can't wait to meet other mythological creatures/beings of Norse lore. Finally I have a Valkyrie story to look forward to. For years I've been waiting for someone to write a book/series that I would like with Valkyries as leads. (I was starting to think that Valkyries were cursed/jinxed for me.) I look forward to the rest of the books in the Phoebe Meadows series. Not to mention the twists and turns of the plot! Yeah!

Sexual Content: Yeah, I'd say so. Sexual humor, talk about torture and rape. Nothing too scary.

4/5- Great! Really enjoyed it.

Originally posted at Book Whispers.

(Tori-Smexybooks) smexys_sidekick says

DNF

Struck is the first in her new PNR Phoebe Meadows series. A young woman finds out the hard way that she is the result of a liaison between Odin and a shieldmaiden. Forced on the run, she finds herself struggling to accept her destiny while trying to stay alive. I am a fan of Amanda Carlson's and Viking/Norse mythology so I was excited to be offered an arc. I really wanted to like this one but there was just no connection for me. I like the potential of what Phoebe and the arc could become but watching her and the arc set up was painful. Her inability to accept what was right in front of her left her and those helping her in hot water. I found her struggles to survive more irritating than adventurous. The narrative was odd. It felt forced at times; the humor an uncomfortable addition. The storyline also seemed to struggle to find balance between the seriousness and more comedic aspects, giving the story an unbalanced feel. While reading, I kept feeling as

though I was missing some pivotal scene. Certain plotlines didn't reveal well or skipped around so much I became lost. I did like the secondary characters-especially the witches who I thought were very well developed-but not enough to keep me engaged. I may try again in the future but for now I don't feel this series is for me.

Sandra "Jeanz" says

INITIAL THOUGHTS

I have read quite a lot of books by Amanda Carlson, such as Bks 1,3 & 5 in the Sin City Collectors Series which is co-written with Kristen Painter as well as Bks 0.5 through to Bk 5 in Amanda's Jessica McClain Series which I admit to being totally besotted with since reading Blooded. So I do have high expectations as I approach reading Struck. One of the immediate questions I have is will Phoebe Meadows be as kick butt as Jessica McClain? I'm hoping so. Looking forward to discovering a new character & series. I also haven't read about a Valkyrie before either.

THOUGHTS WHILST READING

15% - I don't normally like reading mythology and Gods but I can feel this book pulling me in already!

34% - Phoebe is quickly learning to kick butt! A great new character from Amanda Carlson.

49% - Ooo my! the hot Fenrir, Loki's son #bookcrush #bookboyfriend and the innocent new to being a Valkyrie Phoebe, Odin's daughter are getting rather steamy!

55% - Should Fenrir and Phoebe be placing so much trust in the snakes?

60% - I am really hating having to put this one down to go to sleep! Lots of action, danger, mythology, gods, demons, monsters, a newbie Valkyrie and a little romance thrown in with Fenrir, the son of Loki."

REVIEW

I was fortunate enough to be offered a free e-arc of Struck in exchange for my honest review.

The cover features a young woman who upon reading the book you find out is Phoebe Meadows. Phoebe seems to be being struck by lightning, yet at the same time she appears to be controlling it too. There is also a large bird on the cover who is an important character from within the book. I love the font and format of the book title, series title and the Authors name appears boldly on the cover but at the same time compliments the cover rather than dominating it. There is also a byline which says "Lightning is about to strike twice. . ." which pertains to things that happen within the book as well as fitting well with the title of the book too. So would this cover alone make me pick this book up from a book store shelf? Yes, just the cover would have me taking it from the shelf to learn more about it. Of course as an Amanda Carlson fan I would always pick up any book written by her to investigate it further.

The main character in the book is Phoebe Meadows, and we first meet her whilst she is working in her local Macy's shoe department. Phoebe has gone in search of a certain pair of shoes for a customer, then there is some sort of "sonic boom" and she is struck (hence the title) and blacks out amidst a pile of shoes! That is the moment Phoebe's life changes, though she isn't yet aware of it. Phoebe returns to her small apartment, to find a large black bird in it! A woman called Ingrid who Phoebe initially believed was a just a friendly neighbour turns out to be a Shieldmaiden/Valkyrie who is actually quite closely related to Phoebe. Ingrid does try to help Phoebe and reveal's who her real parents are. Phoebe can hardly believe that she is the offspring of a union between a God and a Sheildmaiden. (see I am trying not to reveal too much ere which is difficult when I just want to rave about the book!). Ingrid informs Phoebe that the large bird, called Hugin has been sent by her father to warn that danger is coming! Ingrid explains that other supernatural beings in different realms who wish to harm Phoebe. Ingrid goes on to say they need to travel as quickly as possible to the safety of the Valkyrie stronghold Phoebe learns if she is caught by the Norns they will either send her to

one of the Nine Worlds or even kill her. To say it's a lot for Phoebe to take in is an understatement! In fact it takes a mixture coaxing, scaring and bullying to finally make Phoebe agree to go with Ingrid even though at this early stage she is still finding the whole story somewhat unbelievable. The two women set off on what will be a long arduous, possibly dangerous journey to the Valkyrie stronghold. Ingrid hands a knife that she refers to as Gram to Phoebe, informing her that her father sent it for her to defend herself with if attacked. I have to say that Amanda Carlson really keeps your attention from the first words on the first page to the last words on the last page. There is lots of detail and scene setting throughout the whole book. You can read what may seem to be an insignificant piece of information at first but then later in the book all becomes clear.

This book contains many different supernatural elements, there's the mythology of the Gods and all their disagreements with both each other and the other supernaturals such as other shieldmaidens, valkyries, norns, sutyr, and ettings. Then there's also the shifter element of Loki's son Fenrir, and his powers, and banishment. . . I loved how Phoebe's parentage and siblings are revealed to her, and I think her romance with Fenrir is a great part of the book too. I am wondering what will happen when her father finds out about it. I thoroughly enjoyed this book, and am eagerly awaiting the next book as I have so many questions and so many possible scenarios spinning around in my head. For the future romantic parts of the book, I'm thinking there may be a promising future romance between Sam and Tyr. . . then there's the steam and sizzling relationship between Phoebe and Fenrir. After reading the sneak peek of book two that is revealed at the end of this book, I am highly anticipating the training that Phoebe will have to undergo, which I can imagine will be both informative, interesting and humorous to read. I'm looking forward to learning more about and hopefully "meeting" Phoebe's parents and other siblings. Another question that sprung to my mind was I wonder if Phoebe & Jessica will ever cross paths?

So did I enjoy reading Struck? Yes, as I have said in my review I enjoyed reading this book from the first word to the last. Oh and I loved the sneak peek at book two.

Would I recommend reading this book? Yes, if you love mythology, or even if you are like me and don't know much about the subject it's a really great read.

Would I want to read another book in the Phoebe Meadows Series? Yes! It was rather cruel and sneaky of Amanda giving a sneak peek of book two. . . and now I'm wanting even more now!

Would I want to read other titles by Amanda Carlson? I already have read other titles by Amanda. I am also looking forward to more of the Jessica McClain Series.

FINAL THOUGHTS

Wow another fantastic kick butt female from Amanda Carlson! In my opinion this book is a promising start to yet another brilliant series by Amanda Carlson. I highly recommend reading this one. When can I read more?

Karen (Mess) says

What's sexier than a Norseman? A Norse god. Or demigod. I was so thrilled that this was a book with Fenrir. I don't think I've read another book with him in it. Weak ass werewolves can't make the grade when up against Loki's son Fenrir. And I did make note when Fenrir mentioned coming back with a key. hmmm. Could that be Loki's key?

Yep, this book has all my likes. Mythology, action, magic, and a bit of romance. I loved it!! So why 4 stars instead of 5? Amanda Carlson lost me from Sam's apartment and on. It fell out of book character. She had me firmly in her grip. Flipping pages and losing sleep. And then Amanda went stupid. I'm going to blame Sam because that's when the book lost its grip on me.

I am excited to start the 2nd book to see if Phoebe's character grows and does some serious butt kicking.

Ian says

...and drama.

Stacy says

I gave it 2.5 stars

I really hate that I didn't love STRUCK. It had such a great idea going in, but there were some pretty big issues that kept me from falling in love with the storyline and characters.

I liked the characters enough that I wanted them to make it to the end of STRUCK. Phoebe, although kinda foolish, had an interesting background to learn. I probably would have loved her if she wasn't so ridiculously unwilling to see and believe what was right in front of her face. Because she was so adamant that everything was some huge mistake or joke she got in more trouble and did the stupidest things that I'm surprised she made it past the first couple of chapters. I liked Fenrir and don't really have any big complaints about his character. He seemed to make good decisions and did a good job of protecting Phoebe. There were a few other side characters that seemed to have decent heads on their shoulders as well. The relationship between Phoebe and Fen had it's moments, but I didn't feel there was enough development involved. It was more of an insta-love situation and I thought they needed to grow a bit more than they did for the amount of feelings they were feeling.

A lot of the dialogue just about killed me. Not only is most everything way over explained, but it felt fake and somewhat forced a lot of the time. The whole book wasn't like that, but enough of it was that it totally ruined the flow for me.

The action is one thing that STRUCK didn't lack. There is danger and fights around every corner of the book which left the characters with very little down time. There were a lot of different nooks and crannies in the world that Carlson created in STRUCK and they were all very well built. I had no problem imagining I was there.

The biggest bummer I had with STRUCK is that I didn't feel the need to read book two when it was over. That is something that I look for in every book I read and if you don't feel that urge it's hard to want to put the next book on your wishlist. Unless I see some reason that will make me think that book two will fix some of my biggest issues—I really do hope I do see something because this series has great potential—I don't think I will be reading it.

* This book was provided free of charge from the author in exchange for an honest review.

Cass says

4,5/5

Melliane says

Mon avis en Français

My English review

I was really intrigued when I learned that Amanda Carlson would release a new book and I admit that I was looking forward to immersing myself in this new story. How not to be? Especially when we see that the Norse mythology is being honored here! I love everything related to mythology and urban fantasy is a genre that I like more than anything, this novel therefore seemed perfect for me!

Phoebe lives her life as anyone else until it changes dramatically the day a light hits her in the back room of the store where she works. Indeed, it is at this time that she learns she is supposed to be a Valkyrie and that she is the daughter of Odin, exiled since birth. That's a lot to swallow for someone who knows nothing about this world, especially when it includes a manhunt where she is nothing more than a prey. And what a prey! It seems that all the most powerful beings are in pursuit for her. When her neighbor and Aunt, Ingrid, is not able to explain what she is and what she has to do, Phoebe finds herself propelled into another world where she will have to find new allies and to understand very quickly the limits of her capacity to survive in this new world.

I took a lot of pleasure in discovering this novel. The mythology is a main point of the story and I found that the ideas were carried out brilliantly. Many characters are found here and I loved to meet and get to know them all. But the one really featured here is no-one but the demi-god Fenrir! Oh yes, how not to fall in love with this character who is finally ready to do anything to help and save our heroine. But I'll let you the opportunity to learn more about him. In terms of Phoebe, we understand her confusion over what is happening but it was fascinating to see the evolution and to find out who she is and what she can really do. She progresses from this rather awkward girl into a young woman determined and desperate to help the persons she loves!

Yes it was a nice discovery for an introduction into a new series and I'm really excited to be able to read more now!
