



Thunder Hunter

Rachel Medhurst

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The sword will bring his death. His death will bring him peace.

After slaying almost two hundred demons, Trygger Odinson is struggling to track down the last five Fallen Ones. Just five more killings before he can die, and live with the gods. A goal he'll be happy to achieve.

He's well on his way to his goal, until Chloe comes along. Sent by the gods to help him, her fumbling ways do nothing but interfere with his mission. Her kindness digs at his hard exterior, attempting to soften him when he finally gets a lead on the Fallen One. What did she have to hide? And, why was there a cult suddenly threatening them? If he wasn't careful, he would die before his mission was done... and be sent straight to Helheim.

Contains mature content.

Thunder Hunter Details

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Coco.V says

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Blurb:

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Merissa (Archaeolibrarian) says

Thunder Hunter starts off many years ago, with Loki and Thor fighting. Freya is there too, plus many others, all of whom will die unless something changes. What changes is Loki kills Thor, but Freya puts Thor's power inside his grandson. Trygger must find all of the Fallen Ones before he can die, no matter how long it takes. Once that has happened, Thor will live, and Trygger will die at last, and live among the gods. Fast forward a few years, and Trygger only has five more to find. He has lived through many assassination attempts by Loki's descendants, and has killed more than his fair share too. And then Freya decides she will help him, by sending one of her descendants, Chloe.

I have to be honest, there were parts that I really enjoyed in this book, but there were also parts that I didn't like. Trygger has been by himself for a long time, and has focused only on completing his task so that he can die. Along the way, he has lost most of society's "niceties", but that doesn't stop EVERY. SINGLE. WOMAN. from throwing herself at him. Even if her job is to kill him! Sorry, but I don't get that bit. Also, he said that he never had women stay over at his place, but he has on hand a little black dress from someone he has killed just lying around!

This was an enjoyable book if you don't look to deeply at it. I'm not entirely sure where the story is going, which is a good thing, but I don't think I'll be reading any further along. If you enjoy tales of Norse mythology though, I would definitely recommend it to you.

* A copy of this book was provided to me with no requirements for a review. I voluntarily read this book, and my comments here are my honest opinion. *

Merissa
Archaeolibrarian - I Dig Good Books!

KelticKat says

Norse mythology interwoven with Modern day & magic.

There's a battle on field outside Valhalla. Loki kills Thor - Freyja intervenes and places Thor's Thunder inside his human grandson, Trygger. She sets before him a mission - Find and slay every Fallen One that has escaped to earth, all 200. Only then can Thor's Thunder be returned to him and he can live again.

So, fast forward to modern day, Trygger has been finding, slaying and sending Fallen Ones back to Folkvngr. Now, after 1000 years he is down to only five left on earth.

While, tracking a Fallen One, he is caught in a trap comes face to face with Chloe, who claims to be the descendent of Freyja who has been has been sent to help him.

Chloe is untrained and a bit useless when Try first meets her, but he commits to train her, thus begins their unlikely partnership. I enjoyed watching her grow as she trained and learned to fight and control her magic.

The tension, comraderie, and slightly dysfunctional way these two work together - endeared them to me. Then add in Chloe's dog Rusty (who is more than your average canine) & Jack, Try's only friend and a human and you get an ensemble that is worthy of remembering. When the action kicks up so does the bantering and bickering especially between Chloe & Jack & Try. Chloe begins to crack Try's world weary heart after all those years of seeing those whom he loved grow old and die.

We get some satisfaction in the ending battle but still left with many questions. Looking forward to the next installment.

I voluntarily and honestly reviewed this Advance Reader Copy.Norse mythology interwoven with Modern day.

Katherine Williams says

Once I started reading "Thunder Hunter", I found that it was nearly impossible to put down! I usually read light-hearted books about good guys and romance, so it was fun to read something more on the dark side. Don't let the familiar name "Thor" fool you. This story involves a man, a mission over a thousand years old, a dark underworld, death, fights, sexual tension, mysteries, plot twists, and suspense. This book is unlike any other book you have ever read. You'll be captivated and on the edge of your seat the entire time! Sensual and dark, you'll be left wanting more after the last page is turned!

***Flora* says**

A Great Start To A New Urban Fantasy Series. *You can read my full review on my WordPress blog, Flora's Musings...*

So, what did I like about it?

I have read a couple of books by Rachel Medhurst before; I find her writing style easy to read, her plots well paced and her characters engaging.

Thunder Hunter is written in the first person, from the point of view of our hero, Trygger who is the grandson of the Norse God of Thunder, Thor. I never felt lost in this story although there are a few story-lines running through the book. I liked the way this book begins; the prologue tells us how Trygger was tasked with his mission from Freya to kill the *Fallen Ones* who are living on earth. There are 200 of them that Trygger has to find and dispatch before he himself can die and his soul join the gods in *Valhalla* as a heroic warrior.

Trygger is an immortal Viking warrior who has serious social issues; all he wants, is to complete his mission the way he wants to do it. He is stubborn and used to getting his own way, I've got to confess and say so far Trygger isn't an alpha male that gets my girl parts all tingly but I still enjoyed the story.

Supporting Trygger we have Jack, his informant and the only person on earth he trusts and Chloe a descendant of Freya who the Goddess has put in his path to aid his mission but has secrets of her own. Jack is definitely a man-whore but he's also a lovable rogue too with a sense of humour that I appreciate, he made me smile a lot throughout the book. Although Chloe comes across as innocent, meek and mild, there is definitely more to her than meets the eye, she's intelligent, resourceful, has a nice dry sense of humour and has gumption (*those who have read my reviews before will know how much I love that in fictional female characters*) and I liked it when her training was mentioned, showing that she put in the time and energy to improve. Keep an eye out for Rusty too, as he's another character that stole my heart; he's got hidden depths and has secrets that will hopefully be revealed in subsequent books.

I really liked that Thunder Hunter kept me gripped; I found myself staying up into the wee hours just to find out what would happen next.

So, ummm, was there anything I disliked about it?

Ok, so here's where I have to be honest; although I did really enjoy this book there were few niggles with some of the scenes and characters that took the shine off for me.

So the main one is I'm not sure if I like our hero, Trygger. During this book he didn't exhibit any of the traits (*actions or thoughts*) that I like in my broody kickass alpha type heroes and although this book is written from his perspective (*in the first person*) the inner dialogue that we did get didn't help me much to understand or like him better. However, I am hoping that as the series progresses, he will become my alpha wet dream hero. Lol!

I would also like to mention that although there is no life-or-death cliffhanger at the end of this book - Woohoo! *You know how I hate those!* - Thunder Hunter is the first book in a new series and as such we are left with more questions unanswered and mysteries unsolved than you can shake a sword at plus the other *Fallen Ones* still need dispatching.

So, basically what I'm saying is...

I really liked this book; it's a great start to new urban fantasy series. I liked that Ms Medhurst used Norse mythology as a base for her tale, it's got a good mix of personalities in our main cast of characters, the plot was nicely paced with a good balance of mystery and action that was not only intriguing but kept me guessing. I have already bought the next book Lightning Seeker: Viking Soul Book 2 and can't wait to see what happens next.

Due to the nature of some of the scene and language used I'd recommend this book to adults who are not offended by content of this nature who are fans of urban fantasy action adventures with story-lines edging towards the darker side.

Lyn Mckenzie says

I voluntarily reviewed an advanced reader copy of this book.

I completely fell in love with this book pretty much as soon as i stared reading it, and the way it ended...Wow! That is definitely one way to leave us craving for more...I can't wait to read the next book and hope it won't be too long before it is written and published.

Ever since i was young i have had an obsession with Vikings and their mythology and deities, their whole belief system fascinates me so as you can imagine this book was a perfect fit for me! An immortal viking warrior fighting evil...it just gets better and better!

The storyline for this catches your attention literally from the first sentence, you are seriously hooked and can't stop turning pages to find out what is going to happen next in this action packed tale. The way that the author wrote this story is very compelling and she creates a magical world where you feel like you are part of the story, she is an extremely talented author and after reading this book i will definitely be reading all of her books!

There are three characters that are in most of this story, Tryggar, Chloe and Jack. Jack has to be my first mention, i adored his character, he made me smile a lot throughout the book - there is just something so endearing about him. My favourite character was definitely Chloe, although she can come across as meek and mild, there is definitely more to her than meets the eye, there is a definite steel to her and i loved that...You see her progress so much throughout the book and it is brilliant to see. And of course who doesn't love an immortal viking who has serious social issues and all he wants is to do what he wants to do. He is stubborn and used to his own way so it's brilliant to see when this doesn't happen and when his authority is challenged.

I really did adore this book and is well worth the 5* rating, an amazing must read that will have you obsessively turning pages!!!

Graeme says

Good fun read with an interesting premise.

Trygger is the viking descendant of Thor tasked with eliminating the Fallen Ones by Freya.

At first I struggled with this one and I almost DNF. Chloe was more than a little annoying and Trygger was an A-hole. I'm glad I pushed through though, because it turned into an enjoyable read with just enough character development, between the action scenes to keep the reader wanting more.

The ending did feel a bit rushed and focused more on setting up the next book, which was a bit of a shame, but not enough to ruin the experience.

Energy says

I received this book from Rachel and was so glad to receive it. I have quite a few books from Rachel and they never fail to disappoint. I love Norse and Greek mythology and was so excited to hear that Rachel was going to take this subject on.

Trygger, grandson of Thor, carries Thor's lightning inside of him. Sent on a quest to kill all 200 of "the fallen ones", (the most evil spirits being kept), who have managed to escape from Freya's meadow (Folkvangr). Trygger cannot die until he kills them all.

After 1000 years and a handful of Fallen One's left, Trygger is close to his goal. But he is a loner. He is hardened against people on Earth, with the exception of his only friend, Jack. That is, until he meets Chloe, descendant of Freya, and he is forced by Freyja to take on Chloe, and teach her how to fight.

I loved reading the relationship build between Trygger and Chloe. I loved how Rachel incorporated a dog into the story as well (Rusty). Thunder Hunter has tension, suspense, romance, sexual tension and some laugh out louds. The characters are well developed and relatable, and it's a book that is hard to put down. I am so excited for the second book!!

Stephanie says

I'm going to start this positive, so here's my favorite quote from this book:

Every now and then, back in the times when I still had a bit of a heart, I allowed myself friendships with interesting people. It had been a while, though. Watching those you were fond of die, over and over, wasn't enjoyable. It hardened the soul.

– page 21/115

Well, I didn't DNF this book. The plot idea – a 1000-year-old grandson of Thor Viking hardened by living so long in order to complete a mission that would return Thor's thunder to him and earn him a place in heaven must now not only capture the last 5 Fallen Ones, but do so with the help of a surprise woman with magic who a goddess thrusts upon him, saying she'll be needed to help him complete his mission at last – is decent, but that Viking, Trygger, is annoying as all get out to be around. I don't think I could find one solid, no-strings-attached positive thing to say about him, except that he's aware of what he's become (see favorite quote above). He's sexist to the extreme, only thinks about two things (killing the Fallen Ones and getting laid), and despite having lived for over a thousand years (though really because of it, I'll grant him that boon), he's a massively horny lonely jerk.

And to top off how much I disliked that, since there wasn't much killing/fighting going on, there was a lot of him thinking about how much he wanted to have sex with basically any woman who came within his line of sight other than Chloe (the woman sent to him). And towards the end, when Trygger started making the comparison that he was the dark and Chloe the light, coupled with his sexist and men-are-superior-than-women ways, I was getting serious vibes of Christine Feehan's Dark series, where the men live absurdly

long lives falling ever further into darkness and risk turning completely evil until they find their light, their soul mate, the one woman who can bring them back from the darkness. Right down to being overbearing and pushy towards the woman and all – all that's left for Trygger to really fall into line with those Dark men is to push sex on Chloe no matter her willingness at the onset, and that she'd be okay with it before the end of the moment because she's meant to be his light. (She basically said as much at one point, too, that she was to be the light to his darkness. Sigh.) For the time being, at least, I am thankful that Trygger has absolutely ZERO interest in pursuing Chloe. Though I wouldn't hold my breath on that staying the case through the series, as there were already a few moments where I could see the positive effects she was having on him, and could surely lead to later romantic times between them.

Jack, Trygger's only friend, was a character. I'm not qualifying that as good or bad, because he's a mix of both in his actions, in his characterization, and what he potentially represents. Though I do think I'm glad he's around, as mixed up/messed up as he is. Chloe is okay too, she actually has a pretty strong character/personality, and she asserts herself quite nicely. She's no damsel in distress, she can and does take care of herself, ultimately.

But there was one thing that just about killed me, it was so blatantly ridiculous even considering the rest of this book: Trygger gave the specific example of an animal with magic being a witch's dog he knew: the witch went blind, and so cast a spell on the dog so that what he saw would be relayed to the witch's brain so the witch could 'see' again. Yet when he realizes (view spoiler)

This probably says a fair amount: I wrote this entire review until the spoiler above calling Chloe Claire instead. And only realized my mistake when I looked up the section which had the quote about Rusty's magic. (Which as you can see, I fixed before posting this.)

Typos and a couple weird things:

And, / So, / But, -- these were *all over the place*: a connecting word like and/so/but starting a sentence and being immediately followed by a comma. Maybe that's a British thing I never noticed, but it sure did get annoying. And just an excessive comma usage throughout the book in general, too.

...ever getting out of out of control. – page 2/115 – remove one “out of”

Whoever was on the other end, wasn't her niece. – page 5/115 – Ah, my much despised pausing comma makes an appearance! Yes, this incited me to make a shelf especially for the pausing comma!

(view spoiler)

Kaer says

I voluntarily and honestly reviewed this advance reader copy and was not compensated in any way.

I thoroughly enjoyed meeting Trygger (Thunder Hunter) and Chloe and watching their relationship progress. Trygger was at times the jaded hero and at times the naive innocent longing for his past. Chloe was the socially awkward and eager trainee. Throw in Jack (the friend/informant) & Rusty (the dog), their two loyal sidekicks, and you had a great mixture of historical & modern day methodologies and humour. This is a great start to what appears to be a very promising series.

Kitty_ranma says

Book version 4

"Wrong voices for main characters."

Audio version

Overall 3

Performance 3

Story 4

What did you like best about Thunder Hunter? What did you like least?

The story is enjoyable, though Triggers attitude was a bit annoying.

What do you think the narrator could have done better?

Oh my where to start. The voices for Trigger and Chloe sounds like there from the slums of London. After 1000 years and being Viking raised, I don't believe he'd sound like that. Chloe is over 200 also raised somewhere else I don't remember where, well educated and so nope wouldn't sound like that.

Was Thunder Hunter worth the listening time?

When I got past the wrong voices for characters the narrator was fun to listen to.

Any additional comments?

There's a 5 second or so spot where it skips a little, dang I can't remember where.

I was voluntarily provided this review copy audio book at no charge by the author, publisher and/or narrator. This did not impact my review in any way.

Sadie Forsythe says

Well, I did not like that AT ALL. I have rarely come across a 'hero' that I liked less than Trigger Thunder Hunter. There was 100% no character development to him except that of horn-dog, sexist misogynist His constant internal dialogue about every woman he saw irritated me beyond bearability. Every waitress, female villain, club-goer and passer-by on the street had to be remarked upon. Even the ones he was actively battling to the death. I swear every single one had a pert bottom or lush lips or a pinched waist and EVERY SINGLE ONE threw themselves at him. (Talk about a male gaze, geez!) He was beyond nsufferable. I hated him.

AND Here's the thing, Trigger is said to have had sex with several of the female descendants of Loci. (You might notice him having sex to be a theme of this review. It sure was of the book.) I know the author meant this like him being so irresistible, having such machismo that any woman would want him, even his enemies. But this makes no sense to me. I could not fathom how women who had been raised since birth to believe a man evil and it their moral duty to kill him could turn around and let their guard down enough to have sex with him. So, the only way I could make the idea of him having sex with the women he turned around and killed make sense was through coercion and/or rape. And once that idea set in, I couldn't lose it. At one point he had a little black dress from a past lover/victim in his home to lend out. But it had also been made abundantly clear that he didn't ever bring anyone home. So, did he have sex with her, kill her and then bring the dress home as some sort of macabre trophy?

Honestly, even if he isn't a rapist (which in my mind he must be), what sort of man repeatedly, even regularly has sex with women he plans to kill when he's finished? Not a good one, which might be fine, as the Thunder Hunter is meant to be an antihero, but he sure isn't one I'm interested in reading about. And I was so sick of his constant commentary on women that I wanted to slap him and the author for writing him. Plus, there was just too little story around his apparent sexual irresistibility.

And just in case anyone has made the mistake of thinking this a romance, give that idea up now. It is not. The only people he was shown actually having sex with were randos in the club while he treated the female main character abominably over and over and over again.

There is just SO much sexism in this book. The whole thing is just steeped in it, and since it's written by a woman it felt a lot like internalized misogyny to me. Should we expect to be looked at as objects that men can give out as gifts? As I hinted above with Trigger's very male gaze, every single woman was present solely in sexual context. Even random ones like a waitresses and secretaries. What's more Trigger, written as THE MAN is shown as so full of himself and arrogant that even goddesses kneel at his feet. What chance have mere mortal women, who must be less than him, have? I absolutely had to force myself to finish this book.

Then there is the 220-year-old virgin girl. 220-years-old and the most important things about her are that she's small, cute, naive and innocent. Sorry, what? 220-years-old and you expect me to believe she basically hasn't lived. What's she supposed to have been doing for 220 years to stay so innocent and ignorant?

Then there is the uncomfortable treatment of queerness. A man who was clearly and openly bisexual is repeatedly referred to in ways such as having a "confused sexuality." There is more than one such comment. Trigger seems ok being hit on by men, but it's always with a sense of making fun of the person attracted to him. There is lesbian sex directed by a man solely for the benefit of a male viewer. It all very very uncomfortable, but it's supposed to be titillating and dark.

Less egregious than all that were the annoying flashbacks and the way information just happened to fall in Trigger's lap just when he needed it.

Lastly, the narrator was completely wrong, or at least his portrayal of Trigger was. Trigger was Scandinavian, but Ian Fisher played him a very English. True, Trigger lived in London, but he's not a Londoner. The very same thing could be said for Chloe, the female side character, she's Scandinavian but played as English (even when she's teased for sounding American). This I think is more a reflection of the author choosing the wrong narrator, than him doing a poor job. Because honestly he did a fine job with the actual narration.

All in all, I very much disliked this book and have no desire to continue the series. The writing itself is

mechanically fine, but I'm not interested in subjecting myself to more.

Esmerelda Weatherwax says

This one was part of Fantasy Book Critic's grouping and has since been eliminated.

Plot:

This was a mash-up of Norse mythology and urban fantasy. It starts out with Trygger, the main character, and Thor being attacked by Loki. Trygger is Thor's grandson and is trying to help fight against Loki but they're overpowered. Loki manages to deal some serious damage to Thor, and basically kills him. Freya comes and tries to intervene, and raises the spirit of Thor and transfers Thor's power to his grandson. She meanwhile traps Loki in a field and tasks Trygger with capturing nearly 200 Fallen who have escaped using the powers she's transferred to him.

It takes him almost 1000 years to capture 195/200, and he's seen a lot of shit. There are many descendants of Gods, but he's never met one that live extended lives or have the powers that he has, their bloodlines are too diluted and removed since the Gods aren't messing around with humanity anymore.

That is until he meets the descendent of Freya, Freya shows up after 1000 years of not talking to him and tells him this woman, Chloe, who's there to help him round up the last 5. But he's completely confused why Freya showed up after all this time, and with this woman who doesn't even know how to fight. It turns out Chloe is over 200 years old, but hasn't been training to fight, she's been living among Loki's descendants as a spy for Freya.

Two men show up and murder everyone in the house where Chloe was living with Loki's descendants, they were being trained to hunt down and kill Trygger, but many of them were just kids and Chloe takes it rather hard.

The rest of the book revolves around Chloe being trained, her relationship with Trygger -strained at best - and hunting down The Fallen One's, and Crawlers.

Final Score: 7.5/10

Characters:

Trygger is over 1000 years old and a loner, he's extremely cold and closed off and he prefers it that way. He gets really annoyed with Chloe and how emotional she can be. He doesn't mention anyone he's ever loved, saying that he prefers sex over love. He's a very machismo "alpha male" kind of persona. He's pretty rough with Chloe too, doing some rather harsh shit like letting her wander through a city covered in blood, and doesn't really feel bad about it. He has one friend that he trusts, and my god do I hate that character - he's super obnoxious.

Chloe - despite being over 200 years old I would peg her experience and maturity level at like 25 years old. She hasn't been training to be able to defend herself, she doesn't seem to know how to cope with things well either. She is putting up with a lot though, Trygger is not someone I'd ever want to have to live with. She has a dog named Rusty who's adorable, and also magical and she risks her life to save him - so she won some

points from me there.

Final Score: 6.5/10

World Building

The gods used to be involved with the world but they've since lost interest. There are many different descendants of the Gods living on Earth, but their god-blood is so thin it doesn't do much for them outside of giving them special attention from the Gods.

There are Witches in this world, and things called Crawlers. Crawlers are evil spirit/demon things that hop from host body to host body feeding off their human hosts 'light'. People who are prone to 'sin' are more likely to be victims of the Crawlers, they smell bad too - you can tell there's a Crawler in the room if it smells like rotten eggs.

The book is set in London despite it starting out in ancient Norway, Tryggers been living there for 200 years trying to track down the last 5

Final Score: 6.5/10

Originality:

I haven't seen much in the way of Norse mythology so far in SPFBO, a few light mentions here and there - but they haven't been urban fantasy. There was a slight spin on the old Norse mythology and it's not often used, at least in the books I've picked up.

Final score: 7.5/10

Pacing/Prose/Tone:

This is a lighter book overall, I think the relationship between Chloe and Trygger was supposed to be an oddball couple pairing that plays off one another. It's not really a dark book despite demons and assassins being in it, there's some violence and action but it's not really the focus.

The pacing was okay, it was shorter so I got through it in a day or so.

Pacing Final Score: 7/10

Writing Final Score: 7/10

Audience:

For people who like urban fantasy

For people who like smaller cast

For people who like Norse mythology

For people who like opposites stuck together

For people who like shorter faster paced books

Final Score: 42/60 or 7/10

Emily G says

Trygger Odinson is Thor's grandson, who is on a mission for Freya that has already taken over a thousand years. Loki got the best of Thor on the battlefield and Freya gave Thor's thunder to Trygger, charging him with returning the Fallen Ones, evil souls who have escaped the afterlife to Earth. We meet up with Trygger just before Freya introduces him to one of her descendants, 200 year old Chloe. Chloe's innocence and lack of life experience causes them to butt heads at first.

This story didn't get off to a good start for me. I'm a Thorki fan so I prefer the Marvel interpretation of Thor and Loki's relationship, rather than them being mortal enemies. I also didn't gel with Trygger and his views of women, which boils down to, they are pretty, soft things to have sex with, or Chloe, because who lives for so long and is still so naive?

The character I did like was bisexual Jack, but even that was tainted by him being described as sexually confused. Bisexuals are not sexually confused, far from it!

I also didn't find the story very engaging, as hunting down zombie-like evil creatures isn't very original. There were hints at something more intriguing with a new cult springing up, but if what is revealed at the end of the book is their sole purpose, again, it is not very interesting. 2 stars

Mary says

Very good plot idea not told well enough. Trygger is a macho ass, who after 1,000 years of living should be more interesting. Chloe acts... forget it...it's boring. Maybe the next books will be better. I don't think I'll be reading them.
