



Godhead

Ken Mooney

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Olympus has fallen; new gods must rise.

The gods have been betrayed by one of their own. Zeus is dead, and the city is under siege by the demonic forces of Kaos. Their only chance of survival is to abandon the city, buying time to regroup and rebuild.

Thousands of years later, the children of the gods walk among us, protecting humanity from the demons. But not all of them know the secrets of the powers they have.

The gods are no more, eliminated by their greatest enemy. And now, she wants to return home; no matter who stands in her way.

Godhead Details

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Author : Ken Mooney

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From Reader Review Godhead for online ebook

Lizzie says

Imagine what would happen in a mash-up of The X-Men, Percy Jackson, and Nicholas Flamel, with a dash of Homer just for the fun of it. Ken Mooney's intelligent and action-packed adult novel starts with the destruction of Olympus, the home of the ancient gods; brings a vengeful Aphrodite, accompanied by blood-thirsty demons, into the 21st century; and then sets her against the descendants of those same gods. Aphrodite must kill all the descendants before she can reclaim her home at Olympus. The result: mass murder, "collateral damage," utter destruction -- starting with a NYC nightclub and ending just days later with a good portion of Greece. It reminded me of Dr. Peter Venkman in Ghostbusters: "... a disaster of biblical proportions."

Humankind's only hope is those descendants Aphrodite wants to wipe out, whose special powers include the ability to slow down or speed up time, perform mind melds, create force fields, and so on. Yet two, Megan and Karl, have only just discovered their heritage, and at first they're repulsed by what it means. They're also frustratingly slow in learning to control their powers. Will they come up to speed in time to stop the Goddess of The-Flip-Side-of-Love?

Mooney, who has a degree in English Studies from Trinity College in Dublin, tweaks the Greek gods' family trees to build motivation and sprinkles Homeric references (including his own invocations of the Muse) and quotes from Stan Lee and James Whalen throughout. These are fun to spot, if you can look up from the story.

Godhead is the first of a series. The ending allows you to take a breath, but you can't help thinking about all those demons on the loose, not to mention Aphrodite at the height of her power. The sequel promises to take readers for another break-neck ride through Greek mythology, running rampant through an unsuspecting world.

Claire Riley says

I enjoyed this book even though it isn't something that I would normally pick up and read. The cover however, attracted me to it, and the catch line just sounded epic!

I finished the story with a smile on my face and questions in my mind, which as a writer is exactly what you want.

It crossed genres, which I personally love, though for a writer it can be harder to market, but it works sooooo well.

The concept was original and the characters interesting enough for me to invest strong emotions towards. Aphrodite is a fantastic and cleverly written villain, and probably my favourite character.

It's clear that Ken put an awful lot of his own love and knowledge of greek mythology into writing this novel, and it shows.

Will I pick up the next one? Heck yeah!

Alina says

So, I love old Greek mythology. I'm a sucker for the classics and mysticism of the Ancients. When I read the synopsis for Godhead, I had to read it and was not disappointed. A new and fresh twist on old mythology is always a good thing and Mooney has proven himself worthy in my eyes.

An enthralling world full of lies, truths, myths, legends, old new, past and the present that any Greek Mythology buff would want to sink their teeth into.

I loved how Mooney gave us a peek into the "souls" of each of the main characters. Not just telling, but showing us their motivations for what they do, why they do it and how they think.

I was quit sad as I read the last page, knowing I'll have to wait awhile before I get to read the second installment of the series, "The Hades Contract".

I was given this ebook as an ARC by the author in exchange for an honest review.

Kealan O'ver says

Its hard to know what to say about it. Its obviously a first novel and from what I can tell its been self-published which is fair enough but I'm not sure whether its been through an editor or not and there are points in it that definitely could have been fine tuned.

Its definitely an original idea and there's obvious love for the Greek Mythology that inspired it along with various other fantasy and sci-fi works that it shares elements with.

The main problem I think is that it doesn't really know what it wants to be. The God aspect of it suggests fantasy, whereas the gore elements of it are so strong as to lean it towards adult horror. The main feeling that comes across is that of teen-fiction which contradicts the gore and the sex. The dialogue doesn't flow naturally and feels stilted in much the way that it does in The Hunger Games and Twilight series whereas the fact that all the major characters had to be paired off in some kind of romance/heartbreak side-plot makes the comparisons to the latter series even more glaringly obvious.

I realise also that the book is the first in a projected series but the literary conceits of having characters discussing things to which we have no idea of the context gets tiresome after a while not to mention the fact that every character does seem to have a grudge against the main antagonist.

I'm not sure whether my point is coming across very well, it is a decent book, and it will make me read the sequel (if it happens) but cutting down on the relationship nonsense (which occupies the entire middle two quarters of the book) and actually getting to some plot development could work wonders. The dialogue could also do with being read out loud prior to being printed. Just a suggestion but maybe work-shopping the conversations would help.

Fangs for the Fantasy says

Back in the mists of history, the gods of Olympus fought against the demonic forces of Kaos. And they lost because one of their number, Aphrodite, turned against them.

With gods dead and facing utter destruction, Hera launched a last, desperate plan; sealing off Olympus and the tree, the source of their powers and with it sealing the demons away from the world and humanity.

Aphrodite is still active in the world, her schemes stopped only by the human descendants of the Olympians. Which is where Megan, newly grieving for her dead grandfather, and Karl come in – learning a lot about their ancestry, their abilities – and a sudden, high risk duty.

Greek gods! Demigods! Epic battles between the Olympians and the forces of Chaos! Demons, a rogue Aphrodite! Lots and lots of Greek mythology sprinkled around!

This book was almost designed for me. Throw in some human descendants developing super powers and discovering what they are and a big epic battle to save the world all coupled with a well realised and developed antagonist? Excellent idea, you've hooked me in; this concept will have me begging for more.

Unfortunately, the writing is very very slow – this is a long book that could have been a lot shorter. It was a shame because it opened extremely strong. The scenes of the ancient world, the history of Aphrodite and the Greek gods, what happened and what the consequences were were awesomely done. I actually want to read that book – just the war between the gods and the demons would be excellent. Not only do we have the prologue but the book is intercut with more snippets of the past from Aphrodite's point of view. All the scenes are excellent and really do a lot to flesh out and develop Aphrodite as a villain – giving some motives behind her destruction.

Really, the whole ancient world would have been an excellent series of books in their own right.

But having them cut in randomly from half way in the book felt more confusing to me than anything. Because the actual present being depicted was moving so slowly, these sudden flashbacks – to the ancient world, to Hannah and Unity when they were younger, to Meghan's grandfather's journal, while all considerably better than the main plot line, served to bog it down a lot, make the book longer than it had to be and make it all a little jarring. Sometimes I just didn't have any idea what was going on or why.

And there's a problem in that with all this backstory I actually felt like the protagonists took a back seat. We saw far more of Hannah and Unity than we saw of Megan and Karl. Especially Karl – Megan we saw her family connections and her own personal grief over what Aphrodite and Deimos have done to her. She becomes more involved – or at least more invested – and is more present during the flashbacks as well. Karl gets one flashback that's more to truly establish the fact he's gay than to add him to the story, his power is also the one that is the most low key. Even the decision of where to go, who to trust and what to do rests a lot more with Megan than with Karl, who spends most of the book following, hanging around in the background or – his most prominent role – being victimised by Aphrodite and then rescued.

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Liz Barnsley says

3.5 stars!

When I first started this novel I wasn't sure it was going to be for me, whilst I do love a good fantasy novel I'm a bit picky! The news on this one is – its GOOD.

Aphrodite has betrayed the Gods and in a last ditch attempt to save them Hera expels the remaining Gods to the mortal world. After some time has passed Aphrodite is on a mission to kill all the descendants and give her the power to return to Olympus and release the demons trapped there upon the world at large. The only thing standing in her way is a small group of eclectic people who do not really understand how to use the power they have..

And so the scene is set. This was quite a slow moving story, using flashback to good effect and building the characters in an interesting way. As the start of a series, I felt that this was cleverly done – I was especially

fond of the attention given to Aphrodite and her back story – motivation for characters in a novel is always important I feel. The best villains have the most intriguing reasons...

I don't want to give the impression that this book has no action. It has and plenty of it. Mr Mooney's descriptive talents are top notch – The nightclub scenes in particular I felt were very well written and drew you straight into the heart of what was going on. The "hero powers" our descendants have are varied and matched perfectly to their protagonists. I really would love the ability to slow down time – hey how many books would I get in then? The whole story kept me interested and intrigued to the end...a terrific first instalment. I don't know much about actual Mythology it has to be said, beyond watching the classic "Clash of the Titans" film but certainly I have now developed an interest in finding out more – I think this will add greatly to my enjoyment of the future books in this series.

All in all a great read – the only minor negatives for me were slightly over egging the pudding with descriptive prose on occasion and also some of the dialogue didnt flow quite as well as perhaps it could...I think that is a side effect that some self published novels suffer from but it didnt detract from the enjoyment and I would certainly recommend picking this up if you like a good fantasy novel, with a mythology base and a bit of an adventure....

Jessica Zelkovich says

I received this book from the author for a honest review. I'm really at a 3.5 stars here and really wish goodreads would implement that sort of rating. So back to this review and not my rating soapbox. I enjoy reading, just about anything as long as it is well written and the plot moves. While Greek mythology isn't a go to genre for me, I do acknowledge the rich history and basis for civilization as we know it to a large degree. Godhead caught my attention. Aphrodite betrays the gods of Olympus and seeks to spend her time killing all descendants in exchange for her to rule Olympus. The author's use of descriptions in scene setting is amazing. Really. Not too much but definitely created this world in my head. The plot twists as the characters develop which kept me intrigued and guessing as to what comes next, not only in this book but in perhaps future books in this series. Speaking of characters though, really got annoyed with the emphasizing of certain words for dramatic effect. I wasn't reading a play so the need for stage directions really was annoying as I continued. Simply putting the words out there and letting my imagination play out the scenes and how the characters sound is part of the fun of reading (for me at least). There were some gruesome demon attacks which had my face contorting. This was not a fast moving book which is not to say it was not intriguing. Really it was. So for me, that's the deciding factor between 3 and 4 stars...as per goodreads rating system. Not going to go there, really not going there again.

Alyssia says

Thank you to Making Connections and the author for providing me with a free copy of this book in exchange for an honest review.

A strong 3.5 stars.

This book was a ride. Sometimes, I thought it was absolutely amazing. I loved some of the phrasing and description. Early on, Aphrodite is referred to as a "beauty of superlatives" and I thought my head would explode with how awesome that was.

In general, Aphrodite was pretty awesome. She was a character that I could really sink my teeth into and feel for. However, that didn't come until about 50% into the book.

From about 50-60% of the book, I was riveted. The author provided all these vignettes (he did this again around 90%), and they were gorgeous. I came to the conclusion that Mooney is best when he's capturing a particular segment in time - a particular mood, scene, character. The day-to-day stuff was a lot harder to get into. But those vignettes - wow, they were gorgeous.

Cover - sure, yeah. It works.

Title - Makes sense.

Characters:

Protagonist - There were a lot of them. I had a hard time really "feeling" for most of them. Part of this was how much was going on. Part of it was the way they were described - like the reader already knew them. Phrases would tell us what was and was not common, and how he or she felt - we didn't get to see these things, they were told to us. (see above - the vignettes made everything better. I cared so much more once I saw (show, don't tell!) these past episodes.

Antagonist - She was one hawt lady. I mean. Yum. Aphrodite was brilliant. Most of her was right. I was really annoyed that she was just a psycho, but about halfway through the book, she suddenly wasn't (backstory is amazing). And by the end, I really felt that I understood her. However, she was the only character that I really "got" completely and felt for with any great immediacy.

Did I mention that she was hot? Sadistic and hot.

Plot - The pacing for the book felt weird. As I have mentioned previously, it took a while to get heated up. The things that happened in the "past" were infinitely better written/described than the present. It was really weird. I was hooked pretty quickly with the intro, then I was struggling, then I was really into it, and then struggling again. From 80-90% of the book was a single showdown. It took forever. Then there were the repercussion vignettes, which were pretty excellent, and then the end of the book. I think if Mooney honed his present tense, happening now scenes, the book would be a lot better. I really enjoyed huge segments of the book, and then I found other segments pretty hard to move through.

Other Notes - This is a part of a series. I don't actually mind that, but I did feel that the conclusion of the book, especially for the lack of resolution, was a long time coming. I was hard pressed to think of what had taken so many pages.

Value - This book is currently \$1.99 for Kindle (also, it is prime eligible).

It is definitely worth buying. It's not a perfect book, by any means, but the author has some clear talent. He mentions that this is his first book. I think that he's someone to watch, because the man can turn a phrase.

Deborah says

Godhead was a fun new take on the myths of the Greek gods, bringing them into the present day. There was plenty of action, and the story moved along at a brisk pace.

I understand that *Godhead* is Ken Mooney's first novel, and his writing was about par for the course for a new author. There were, however, several writing quirks which bothered me sufficiently to distract me from the plot:

1. *Godhead* is set in the New England portion of the United States, and most of the characters are American. Much of the dialogue was not realistic because Mooney, who is from Ireland, used UK terms, rather than American ones. Among the examples I noted were "plasters" for Band-Aids; "locker" for nightstand; "fringe" for bangs; "jumper" for sweater; and "fancy" for like. I was also irritated by the use of unusual UK spellings; the whole "er" v. "re" thing doesn't bother me, but words like "kerb" jumped out at me.
2. Mooney relied too much on ellipses to indicate pauses and italics to provide emphasis. Reading should be a collaboration between the author and reader; I wanted to add my own emotion, not have Mooney dictate how a character should sound in my head.
3. Mooney frequently misplaced descriptive phrases. For example, he wrote, "Sandra's palm struck the table, leaning closer to Megan." Sandra, not her palm, was leaning. Or this: "Hannah's response was already prepared, raising an eyebrow and challenging him for his ingratitude." Her response didn't raise an eyebrow; she did.
4. Mooney began too many sentences in close succession with the word "but"; the following example comes from the beginning of Chapter XVII:

But in denying their dreams, the gods also denied that which had once made them human.
But Morpheus had no time for the politics of the gods; he had his own world to play in, his own reality to form and shape. But he could never share that with his kin: his dreams were just some plaything that they coldly dismissed.

While I was not impressed with the quality of Mooney's writing, I did enjoy his imagination and will be interested to see where he takes the story arc after the big revelation at the end of *Godhead*.

I received a free copy of *Godhead* through Read It & Reap in exchange for an honest review.

Claire Riley says

I enjoyed this book even though it isn't something that I would normally pick up and read. The cover however, attracted me to it, and the catch line just sounded epic!

I finished the story with a smile on my face and questions in my mind, which as a writer is exactly what you want.

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The concept was original and the characters interesting enough for me to invest strong emotions towards. Aphrodite is a fantastic and cleverly written villain, and probably my favourite character.

It's clear that Ken put an awful lot of his own love and knowledge of greek mythology into writing this novel, and it shows.

Will I pick up the next one? Heck yeah!

Eli Constant says

Godhead; Ken Mooney

5-stars; Finished 10/12/2013

A modern reflection of idyllic, mythological classics with an action sensibility better suited for this century.

Mooney's *Godhead* is a written, modern reflection of such idyllic classics as Homer's *Iliad* and *Odyssey* with an action sensibility better suited for the 21st century remake of the 80's mythological phenom. *Clash of the Titans*. It is complex and convoluted; obviously written with great care for detail and mythological accuracy, with the expected creative license molding minor things to propel the storyline.

Sections written with the classical sensibility are interwoven with modern day descriptors; Mooney is especially adept at drawing the reader in and out like a well-oiled sewing machine. The story that evolves from his style is fluid backstory, modern action and lyrical prose. At times, I feel the prose is better suited for the actual *Iliad* or *Odyssey* rather than a current work; however, it also further enforces Mooney's great love of the classics.

When reading *Godhead*, I was attracted to certain characters and relationships, particularly because these certain characters and relationships experienced marked transformation as the storyline unfolded.

Megan is the undeniable MC, but I also find her taking a secondary, supportive role at times throughout the text. More than any character, she experiences a transformation that not only changes her personally, but also the dynamic between herself and others, namely her mother, Sandra. In the beginning, Megan is definitely the quiet/distractible type; her mind pulled in many directions, not the least of which is her grandfather's death. As the story unfolds and Megan is drawn deeper into the world of magic and mythology, she reads her grandfather's journey and discovers within herself a power- both real and emotional. She shines and suffers as the end draws near, becoming less protected sheep and more leader. I especially appreciated that Megan was the one that realized Aphrodite's plan toward the end of the book.

Sandra, Megan's mother, I can see being an easily looked-over character, but she is essential. Megan's father, Bryan, wanted nothing more than a normal, safe childhood for his daughter, but his demise, his death at the hands of the demon Deimos, inevitably tracks Megan. Sandra has done her best to honor Bryan's wishes; keep their daughter away from the pain of the knowledge of his death, her abilities, her destiny. Sandra's biggest transformation is the realization that she is small in the scheme of her daughter's fate; she has done what she can to protect her daughter, but now must accept that her role is finished. The dynamic between mother and daughter is irrevocably altered by Megan's reading of her grandfather's diary, bloom into magic and actions toward the end of the book to take revenge against her father's killer.

I feel like Mooney foreshadows this relationship change by creating a deliberate separation between mother and daughter in joint scenes. The last scene between mother and daughter is especially touching; Megan sobbing for what has come to pass and Sandra's protective, regretful words: 'I never wanted you to have to.' BUT, the separation still exists, the space between mother and daughter's bodies as they embrace. The space that indicates a child birthing into adult.

I'm sure many people focus on Aphrodite; she's the villain, a quintessential 'bad guy' full of piss and vinegar. I find she's a bit more clever than some classic bad guys though, deliberately misleading her

enemies until they fulfill her wishes without even realize it. She's a well-written character; Mooney makes sure that readers pinpoint her as the focus of dislike, urging his readers to 'root for the good guy.'

Several other characters warrant mentioning: Karl, misunderstood and brooding, searching for his past. Hannah, an orphan whose will for revenge against Aphrodite allows her anger to change her fundamentally away from good.

Now, going into this, one must realize that Godhead is not a standalone piece; it is meant to progress and continue into subsequent works. Because of this, some readers might find the ending leaves more questions than answers.

I am one of those readers, but, like with any classic quest, I plan to bide my time patiently, toil past the Kraken bravely and grab the golden fleece that will be Mooney's follow-up work: THE HADES CONTRACT.

chucklethescot says

I received a free pdf copy of this book from the author in exchange for an honest review

I love urban fantasy. I love Greek Mythology. I love horror. This book sounded as if it had elements of all three so I was looking forward to it.

The Gods of Olympus have been betrayed by Aphrodite, who lets demons in to their home to destroy them all. The last throw of the dice for Hera is to seal in the demons and expel the rest of the gods to live in the mortal world. Fast forward to the present day and Aphrodite has been killing all the descendants of the Gods to give her the power to return to rule Olympus and set the demons on the world. A group of talented people must continue the battle...if they can learn how to use their skills in time.

There is a lot of good about this book. The descriptions of Olympus and the Gods are vivid and detailed without the dreaded info dumps. Flashbacks are spaced out and used to give only important backstory about the characters and past events. It was a good use of that resource. The author's descriptions are well worded and easy to imagine and the characters are well developed with the clever use of grief as a way to bring them closer together. That was a nice touch. Aphrodite herself is an excellent evil character and her flashbacks give her depth and help the reader to understand why she did what she did. Each of the characters have great potential which I assume will develop in the next book. I developed opinions of the characters which shifted and changed with the plot, which was enjoyable. It was also interesting to see the powers being used and it gave you an idea of the real potential within this group.

There was a bit of an issue for me with the way the dialogue was presented. During conversations, words were continually highlighted in italics to tell the reader where to put the emphasis in the sentence. I feel that was unnecessary. If the dialogue is good, the reader will know what your characters are saying and the emotions they are feeling. It's not necessary to spell it out to us, especially with good descriptive work throughout the book.

There were a lot of unfinished sentences during the conversations which annoyed me a bit, along with half explanations that would cut off. I wanted to yell 'spit it out already!' on quite a few occasions! This was especially true when Unity and Hannah were explaining things to Megan and Karl in the most confusing manner and our two heroes just weren't asking the questions I wanted answers to. While I thought that this bit was frustrating, it might have been the author's way to avoid big info dumps, or it was the intended plot

device to space out what we learn. Either way it didn't spoil the actual story. I am a bit impatient when I want to know what is happening which I guess is good as it means I was getting into the story.

OVERVIEW

A few niggles aside, I did like the story and I am interested enough to look for book 2. This is not an action filled book like some urban fantasy but I'd describe it as a slow burner that keeps you interested all the time. The second half of the book is fast moving due to short sections and switching POV.

For readers who are interested, the sexual content is minor: a partial short sex scene, while the rest is more implied than described fully. Swearing is minimal and used purely for effect, which was good. A few gory bits when the demons attack. Suitable for older teens and adults.

ETA I'm moving this up from 3.5 to 4 stars based on looking at the book again and wanting to read more in the series.

Ivan Amberlake says

GODHEAD Review

What struck me about Godhead is how well-written this book is. Ken Mooney is a gifted writer, no doubt. I'm really impressed with his manner of writing, ability at characterization and description. I was hooked from the beginning, both by the Prologue which was set in Olympus and by the opening chapters set in a town (or city?) of Carthin. The rest of the book doesn't disappoint as the author does a great job weaving Greek mythology with Paranormal Fantasy, setting them in modern times.

The characters are really well done. I felt for Megan who lost her granddad. I was so interested in Karl who also had a person he loved and lost. Hannah and Unity are also great characters who had their mysteries. It is through the flashbacks that we get to know all these characters better. The appearance of a traitor in the book was quite a surprise to me. I totally didn't see it coming, but I'm not going to spoil the fun for those who are going to read this novel.

There's lots of action in the book, and I enjoyed the scenes as they were visual and I could easily see everything I was reading about as if I was watching a movie. And the ending leaves me wanting for more.

GODHEAD is such an impressive mix of Greek mythology, fantasy and horror that I'm sure this book will stay with me long after I've finished reading it. I definitely look forward to reading Book 2 in the series.

Adam Oster says

Ken Mooney's ability to coin a phrase is outstanding. Throughout this epic tale of demi-gods fighting against the goddess of procreation, he manages to build emotions, actions, and a fantastic world one feels instantly connected with.

From the opening prologue, the reader is pulled into a tale that could have been written by Homer himself, gods at war with each other, battling for supremacy. He moves on from there to a more modest setting, but doesn't keep us there for long, as we suddenly find our protagonists squaring off against the exact same foe

that Zeus and Hera found themselves struggling to contain. . . Aphrodite.

And Aphrodite is where this tale really hits its stride. In this goddess, Mooney has managed to create a villain that the reader both immediately hates and yearns to learn more about. She uses everything at her disposal to get her way, and even has an evil henchman to assist her dastardly deeds.

By the end of the book we are stuck craving the next piece of this tale. I can only hope that Mooney doesn't take too long to give us what we desire.

Renee Deschamps says

In exchange for an honest review, I was given the book "Godhead" by Ken Mooney through Read It & Reap on Goodreads.

If you like Greek mythology, or any kind of mythology, this is for you. I've always loved the stories we've read, and been told, through school, books and movies. This one just added it's name on my list.

A good combination makes for a great story, take today's technologies, ideas and society then mix in a darker side to Aphrodite with the shades and some pretty amazing descendants of the gods, equals one helluva exciting read.

Godhead also delivers some unexpected possibilities as to who and what the Greek gods really were. Were they human before becoming gods? Was pride their downfall, like the rest of mankind? Does these alternate explanations related to being gods, apply to everyday people who may have exceptional talents (ie. ESP, telekinesis etc...)?

It was a nice change to see some new perspectives on old stories. Between the old and new myths, lies a wonderfully balanced cast of characters, I'm still unsure which is my favorite. Ken provided just enough information about each to give them a full background, while also leaving tasty tidbits to make the reader want (need) to dig into their histories.

I didn't expect the twists near, and at, the end, but they were thought out, and played in a such a brilliant way that once I realized I was 5 pages from the end, I didn't want to finish. Deadline or not...

Bring on The Hades Contract...PLEASE!
