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Zoe Calder has always been an outsider. Stashed away in boarding schools since her parents died, Zoe buries herself in the study of ancient worlds. Her greatest thrill is spending her summers with her archeologist aunt and uncle on digs around the world. And one day, while investigating a newly unearthed temple in Crete, Zoe discovers a luminous artifact that transports her to ancient Greece.

As Zoe quickly learns, the Olympian Gods are real, living people—humans with mysterious powers... Powers that Zoe quickly realizes she has come to possess, as well. However, when the people of ancient Greece mistake Zoe for an Olympian, the Gods must restore the balance of the ancient world... No matter what.

Zoe is forced to play a confusing and dangerous game as Hera rallies the gods against her—all except for Zeus, the beautiful, winged young god who risks everything to save her.

Out of time and out of her element, teenager Zoe Calder finds herself in ancient Greece, battling against the power of the Olympians and the vengeance of a scorned goddess—all for the strange and mysterious boy she has come to love.

The Dig Details

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From Reader Review The Dig for online ebook

Cande says

Zoe Calder tiene diecisiete años y como todos los veranos, desde que sus padres fallecieron, se va con sus tíos de excavación a Creta. Desobedeciendo a los adultos y movida por la curiosidad (y la vergüenza), entra al templo recientemente descubierto, en dónde encuentra un extraño objeto que la lleva a la Antigua Grecia. Desorientada y con ganas de ponerse a llorar, las cosas empeoran cuando al salvar una ninfa ocurre un extraño accidente y los habitantes de Grecia la consideran una diosa ¿Puedo ser eso verdad? A Zoe no le parece alucinante y ni siquiera le importa, sólo quiere volver a casa. Pero claro, no será tan sencillo.

Zoe es una chica sarcástica, tímida y solitaria, que tiene una fascinación por los libros y la arqueología, una romántica empedernida. En un principio me agradaba, aunque era demasiado romántica para mi gusto, en muchos pensamientos me sentía identificada con ella. Y cuando enfrenta situaciones desesperantes tiene una actitud fuerte que es admirable. Pero de la nada, se pone increíblemente incoherente e irritante. En vez de crecer, como se supone que hacen los héroes en las aventuras, yo sentí que retrocedía. Me agradaba pero terminé detestándola.

Y mejor no hablamos de Zeus, es un personaje tan plano y ridículo. ¿Dos días y ya ama a la protagonista? Claro, porque ni siquiera hace falta que la conozcas para jurarle amor eterno. Por favor.

El libro empieza realmente bien, con buen ritmo, misterios y una actitud heroica de parte de la protagonista. Lamentablemente decae hacia la mitad, se pone pesado, patético y predecible, las ganas de seguir leyendo desaparecen. Los últimos capítulos los sentí de puro relleno, párrafos que decían una y otra vez lo mismo.

Es que el problema principal es el mundo creó la autora. Quiero decir, entiendo que cada autor quiere darle su toque, es su libro claro. Pero eso no significa que puede patear a un costado todos los mitos griegos, destrozarlos y convertir a los dioses en adolescentes bobos sin ninguna explicación razonable.

No. No. No. No. No. ¿Poseidón con Atenea? ¿Artemisa con Ares? ¿Hermes mujer? ¿Hera diosa de la oscuridad? Eh, no. Y podría seguir y seguir con cambios sin razón... Dios, que ganas de llorar.

Otro problema es la falta de desarrollo (había temas que pudieron sacarse mucho más jugo) y de descripciones, la obsesión de la autora por las marcas y por emparejar a todos los dioses con alguien, y los patéticos monólogos de la protagonista.

Ha sido una lectura decepcionante, porque como decía, venía muy bien, lo estaba disfrutando y entonces todo se derrumbó, vino el dolor de cabeza y las ganas de llorar. ¿Continuación? No, gracias, no la quiero. He tenido suficiente.

Iris says

Wow, het is alweer een tijdje geleden dat een boek zoveel negatieve gevoelens bij mij wist op te roepen. Dit kwam voornamelijk door onze o zo geweldige hoofdpersoon zombie en de manier van schrijven. Met beide kon ik het totaal niet vinden. Voeg daar nog insta-love en een totaal onteerde Olympische geschiedenis aan toe en je hebt iets wat ik graag naar het andere eind van de kamer wil gooien.. The Dig was dus overduidelijk

niet voor mij bestemd!

Ga voor een uitgebreidere recensie naar mijn website!

Rachel says

I have always had a love of Greek mythology. I don't consider myself an expert on it or anything, but the stories of the gods and all the crazy creatures has fascinated me for as long as I can remember. I've seen a whole lot of interpretations of the stories, and the *The Dig* is definitely one of my favorites. All of our favorite gods are there--Zeus, Hera, Hades, Poseidon, Aphrodite, Hermes--but they're human teenagers. I really love this idea, because I always felt like the gods seemed like big, powerful teenagers anyways, with their scrabbling over stupid things and falling in love with their own reflections. Audrey Hart has incorporated all of the things we love about Greek mythology within the coming-of-age story of Zoe Calder, and it's a fun ride.

Zoe was definitely a highlight of the book. I know there are a lot of "introverted" young adult protagonists, but Zoe felt like the most genuine and realistic interpretation of this, and I felt like she and I would get along. She's smart and intuitive. Sure, she freaks out about somehow ending up in ancient Greece, but she doesn't whine about it for the whole book: she does something about it. Her insecurities felt real and much like how I felt in high school. She doesn't have the same interests as her classmates, and can't quite relate, but somehow knows there's really nothing wrong with that. At the same time, Zoe's journey is a trip to find herself. Though she knew she was strong, she never had to really show it, and she learns just what kind of person she is.

I also thought the relationship between Zoe and Zeus was well-developed, which is a rarity recently. In true teenager fashion, Zoe rushes into labels for what they are and thinks she's way more in love than she really is, but their real relationship (not the one in Zoe's head) moves at a good pace. There's no insta-love, just attraction, and their relationship develops over time spent together having a good time, not brooding stares. Zeus is also a very worthy love interest. I'm definitely looking forward to more of him.

The Dig is a very fast-paced and fun read. At just above 200 pages, you can read it in one sitting and be very satisfied with how you've spent your last few hours. It is packed full with action, mythology, and romance that all blend together for a great adventure, and I can't wait for the rest of the trilogy!

A big thanks to Audrey Hart for contacting me and providing me with an advance copy of The Dig!! :)

You can read more reviews and other fun stuff on my blog: Paper Cuts.

Misty Baker says

****A 3.5 Review****

My son once asked me why I love to read. He sat there, perched on the edge on my bed, (me sprawled out with my Kindle,) and just laid it on me. "Tell me mom...tell me the truth." So I did. "I like to read because it takes me away from here. First of all...not the best response when you are talking to a 5 year old. I meant..."I get to visit cool and exciting places from the comfort of my own bed." He heard..."Mommy

doesn't want to be here...with him." Not a fun thing to back peddle from, I assure you. But yesterday, (almost 3 years later) something clicked with him, and he got it. See...B is now a reader. Much to the dismay of my husband, (who is not a reader, and would rather be knee deep in Boy Scout dirt) B never goes anywhere without a book. He likes the adventure of it all, loves to learn new things and paint pictures in his head.

Why is this important? Well...besides the obvious, (watch what you say around your kids) "The Dig" is a very good example of escapism.

"Zoe Calder has always been an outsider. Stashed away in boarding schools since her parents died, Zoe buries herself in the study of ancient worlds. Her greatest thrill is spending her summers with her archeologist aunt and uncle on digs around the world. And one day, while investigating a newly unearthed temple in Crete, Zoe discovers a luminous artifact that transports her to ancient Greece.

As Zoe quickly learns, the Olympian Gods are real, living people—humans with mysterious powers... Powers that Zoe quickly realizes she has come to possess, as well. However, when the people of ancient Greece mistake Zoe for an Olympian, the Gods must restore the balance of the ancient world... No matter what.

Zoe is forced to play a confusing and dangerous game as Hera rallies the gods against her—all except for Zeus, the beautiful, winged young god who risks everything to save her"

Some books are designed to tug on your heart-strings. Some are designed to teach you a lesson, or convey a message. Some are designed to scare the living bejeezus out of you, and some are meant for one and one thing only...entertainment.

"The Dig" by Audrey Hart is not going to change the world, or end life long suffering, but what it will do... is take you away from reality's harsh existence for a while. Is this a bad thing? Of course not. Reading shouldn't be a chore, and while it's self-fulfilling to dive into deep books like "The Book Thief" or "The Storyteller" from time to time, (because they ARE deep and meaningful) sometimes it's necessary to reboot. (Oh dear Lord...I sound like my husband.) One of the best ways to do this is with a book that is fun. And... what is more fun than a bunch of pissy Greek Gods, and a girl all hopped up on Ambrosia?

Now, while this book is in no way perfect, (She travels through time by way of a 7ft iPhone? Really?) and does have a few holes, (I'd REALLY like to fall in love that fast!) that doesn't (by any means) make it bad. Just...quirky. As a matter of fact...it was very reminiscent of Rick Riorden's Percy Jackson series, in a let's-throw-every-thing-but-the-kitchen-sink-at-this-girl-and-see-what-happens sort of way. It was funny in some places, serious in others, and without a doubt, 100% action packed!

I think that with a little more time, and maybe a tad more focus on the development of the characters inside the story, this could have been a great book. Instead, you have a fun little read that is sure to entertain you when you are feeling blue. Just remember to not take it too seriously...if you do, you'll be disappointed.

My overall thought...this would be a GREAT book for younger female audiences...say around 12-13. It will teach them to respect themselves, as well as whisk them away into hot boy territory, (which let's be honest...all 12-13 year old girls LOVE.)

Happy Reading my fellow Kindle-ites and remember: if you can suddenly form the Grand Canyon with your MIND... chances are you're not normal Norma from Normandy. (geez...that was lame, even for me. *sigh*)

Melissa Henstra says

I identify with the loner girl persona so in theory Zoe is exactly the kind of character I would get along with just fine, and in the beginning I did. What the dig has going for it is a female protagonist that can hold her on and I will always get behind that. Zoe's internal streams of conscious were the highlight of the book for me. The thing is I had to keep reminding myself that this was a YA novel, that's not so good. I read a lot of YA fantasy and I think that a good book is a good book regardless of it's target audience While reading The Dig I couldn't get away from the feeling that I was being pandered to. as if an interesting premise a good looking male lead and a whole lot of no he's my best friend tug of war drama is all it takes to make the pages turn. To be fair I'm in the minority here, The Dig is being very well reviewed all over the place. so maybe I just over think things.

It's just that to establish a relationship with the main character you have to get to know her in order to walk in their shoes and cheer them on. I didn't get that with Zoe, the reader gets little tastes of who she is and where she's coming from but there was no sense of connection for me. this I think may have been helped by more back story. which may be forthcoming in the next books, but without that initial connection I have to say I wasn't really invested in the outcome.

I feel like the issues presented in Zoe's story were over simplified self esteem, personal identity, the need to belong while staying true to one's self are I think supposed to be the driving force of this story. Zoe's journey of self discovery, but it didn't really ring true because there was no process of getting there just action and result. Also there are distinct similarities between Zoe and Hera that glossed over or ignored or glossed over again maybe saved for the next installment. but it made Zoe have serious likability problems and consistency issues. Hera was power crazy yes, but she believed know less strongly then Zoe that she and Zues were meant to be and was prepared to fight just as hard to keep things the way they had been with mirror's Zoe's initial need to get back to the stability of her old life. I think Hera and Zoe are dark and light reelections of each other and using that would have added a lot more to a story that is sort of shallow.

as Far as Zoe and Zues go, I'm actually ok with the instatraction because being 17 makes things seem that intense. but where it fell apart for me was that if Z&Z really are soul mates were's the chemistry, no not sex, chemistry. For the premise to work it needed to jump off the page at you. I got tepid at best.

the only places where the story came alive for me were the vivid descriptiveness of the veil of nymphs Creusa was my favorite character in the book. In the end I wanted, really wanted to like The Dig much more then I actually did.

Ana Banda says

Que me ha encantado! Si,fueron 100 paginas para conocer a Blondie pero oh como lo ame!
Amo totalmente libros sobre dioses, no soy experta en ellos,es mas solo se lo que representan(algunos) pero es que tienen unas batallas de lo mas interesantes!
Obviamente tenia otra imagen de los Dioses; Sherrilyn hizo de Artemisa una diosa perra, guaperrima pero super mala; aqui es mala & hippie..loco pero le queda Jajaja.

Ares lo acabo de leer, bueno por el que tomo el nombre pero que odioso ¬¬'
Apolo es un cerdo en Dark Hunters así que todo bien
-SPOILER por si te interesa empezar con DH pero no lo has hecho
Afrodita tiene sus etapas bipolares pero la amo porque es la madre de Julian de Macedonia♥

En fin; Zeus totalmente nada que ver con lo que he leído de el; pero Oh como lo ame! Blondie es una cosita tierna, divina, carismática pero con ese liderazgo propio de un Dios! Lo odio en algunas partes, pero ash típicos de los hombres tener dos caras ¬¬' pero esos últimos momentos luchando fueron lo mas ;)
Zoe me agrado, a mi también me habría shockeado viajar 1000 a.C. & descubrir que tengo poderes! & luego ver a Artemisa así en vivo&en directo? HORROOOOR! Pero aw la forma en la que lucho con Zeus, como enfrento los sentimientos..hermoso!
&lo repito; El amor esta donde menos lo esperas ♥
quiero los otros dos libros ya! porque se que Hera encontrara la manera de perseguirlos ¬¬

Scimone Jackson says

2.5 Stars

So let me start off by saying I am a huge Mythology buff. It's to the point where i wonder myself why i haven't sat down to write my own spin on the infamous Greek Gods...I remember picking up one book of Percy Jackson and the Olympians...finishing it and the second one...but by the time i reached the third book i couldn't take it anymore...It lost me. Why? No idea...it was probably the only book/movie that tried to stick to the century old stories...yet it failed somehow during the end for me. With that being said..."The Dig"...i'm so thoroughly confused. I honestly have no opinion. I didn't dislike it...nor did i like it persay. Here are my reasons...

1. As stated before i am an avid historical/mythological nerd. I feel as though some stories are so old and well known they just should not be touched. I loved the idea of "The Dig", but i wasn't too hyped about the idea of all the Gods being viewed as stuck up snobby teenagers. We just deleted an entire history with this book. In almost every story that i've ever read...Zeus is who he is...Zeus...the unfaithful hardly ever loyal unrepentant God of Thunder. Yet in this...he is not seen as such...that didnt bother me as much. I thought the love between Zoe and Zeus were cute...honestly i liked the side of Zeus when it came to Zoe...but i'm getting track. We've just deleted stories and stories and stories of mythology in 200 pages. They've obviously lived 500 years in this book...so why is Hera Zeus's girlfriend...and why on earth is it that Zoe knew Hera as the Goddess of Marriage but it escapes her mind that Zeus has a "girlfriend"? Why is it that Zeus and Hera have no kids...? When we know darn well that everyone on Mount Olympus is related in some kind of way. I don't fault Audrey Hart for the changes that she's made. For some of you this may not be such a big deal...but for me it killed my fire for this book. Another aspect....The Giant Iphone...was not even half way explained...we still know nothing of it...there were things that just weren't explained as well. I feel as though NOTHING happened in this entire book. Zoe was transported back in time...she did 3 quick tests...water, fire, air (4 if you include the hydra)and then the rest of the book was mostly metaphors and reminiscing about things that in no way helped us understand how or why Zoe was transported to ancient greece with the power of the gods. If we took out half of the random memories she brought on during something as simple as a peanut butter sandwich...the book would be 10 pages long. The first page captivated me for some reason. I immediately bought it after reading the first page! I never do that. But the rest of the book is exactly like those first couple of pages full of comparisons and too short a story. She literally tells us how she feels about every single thing and how it all relates back to present day Earth...which was all fine...but if you're going to

fill the book with metaphors...please add an extra 200 pages so that i can walk away feeling like i learned more about her situation. :-(I'm in the exact same spot i was before i started the book. So assuming i assuming i remember to read book 2....please give us a little background. Right now i don't know if Zoe was what she was simply because she found the small circular disk object...or if her history somehow already indicates that she would have been a god anyways. I also didn't enjoy watching how utterly scared and defenseless Zeus seemed. He's the King of Gods! I mean of course in every aspect of Greek Mythology...his family goes against him...but they are damn well smart enough to do it behind his back than to his face....knowing Zeus could literally smite them with a blink of an eye. So many Gods were missing...it was as if Mount Olympus only had 12 Gods...when we all know there were many more missing. Which is fine because hey this was only book 1! But she never even so much as mentioned the other Gods. It's like she literally had no questions. She was the a lone leaf...she just went wherever the wind took her.

Sooooo to sum it all up. This was not an awful book though i know my previous writing will have you raising your eyebrows asking me if i've bumped my head...but it wasn't. I am just an extremely biased (i guess) harsh critic because it is dealing with mythology. Its a hit or miss for me. It was a quick read...i read it all...i haven't refunded my money...that's an extremely good sign for me.

Just if you are an A V I D mythology fan...go into this book with wary eyes...if not and you're just here for the fantasy element...you'll probably enjoy it.

Ana says

Also posted on <http://whatyareading.com/?p=202>

You've seen Disney's Hercules.

You've read Percy Jackson and The Olympians.

You've marveled at the special effects of Clash of the Titan's remake.

Greek mythology is not new. You must have heard the gods mentioned at some point; Athena's intelligence, Hera's jealous wrath, Zeus's power.

Zeus. What with his scraggly beard, eternal state of irritability and fatal lightning bolts, he is definitely the world's oldest bad boy.

But take away the age, the sourness, and the bad attitude and you've got—that's right, ladies,— a hot, immortal, teenage boy. Who can fly. Yep, that's the whole package.

But wait—teenage gods? That's right. Mix Greek mythology, high school cliques and a sarcastic heroine and you've got The Dig: an action-packed adventure with a hint of romance and a much-needed fresh take on the classics myths you thought you knew.

Zoe Calder is that introverted teenager who frequents your high school. She skips school dances in favor of

reading books, lives the bare minimum of a social life, and spends her summers digging up history. But on an archeological dig in Crete, her life changes when she breaks the rules and goes beyond the safe area cordoned off with red tape. Curiosity killed the cat... but it transported Zoe back in time to ancient Greece. Within minutes of arriving, Zoe sees a Nymph being attacked. This leads her to discover two things: 1, she's actually in ancient Greece, not some festival or movie set, and 2, she has magical super powers. Zoe sets off to visit the Oracle in order to inquire about her newly revealed powers, and is sent by the Oracle to Mount Olympus (which is not the heaven you thought it was.) She meets the gods and gets entwined in a drama that could will probably end her life. And all in an effort to get back to the future... but when the time comes, will she really want to?

The thing I most liked about Zoe is the fact that she's not just playing the part of the introverted teenager—she is the introverted teenager. How many plot lines involve a 'shy' girl getting swept off of her feet by a hot guy? Too many. The Dig is not one of them. Zoe actually prefers spending time by herself, and her passion for archaeology rings true. And although she does fall in love, she kicks some behind and saves herself. She may be introverted, but she is a strong heroine.

I equally enjoyed her sense of humour. I was giggling throughout the whole novel...

Victory only lasts a few seconds, however, since, despite all the books I've read and movies I've seen, I seem to have forgotten the most essential truth about multiheaded Hydras. Cut off one head and another grows back with a friend in tow. It's like trying to pluck eyebrow hairs.

See what I mean?

Zeus was a... conflicted character. On the one hand, he was really sweet and nice and patient. But that completely changed whenever he was with his friends. Zoe noticed this, however, and quickly made it clear that she was bent on avoiding superficiality. Whenever they had problems, they talked it out. Such a cute couple! Be that as it may, I don't see how Zeus was ready to give up so much for Zoe. I understand that he was fed up with his god friends, but what he sacrifices during the finale of this book is crazy.

And completely unpredictable. And riveting. And sweet. But crazy.

Let me just talk about the world building for a while. My absolute favourite part of ancient Greece is the vale of the Nymphs. It reminds of Willy Wonka's Chocolate Factory, and I love it! I must also applaud Audrey for the world building of Olympus's society. Hera's monarchy and the way the 6 couples interacted— you will not expect who dates whom! — was entertaining in a high-school-clique sort of way, with just enough jealousy and power that you know that what you're dealing with is not bickering teenagers, but rather gods and goddesses that could kill at any given moment. Mount Olympus was quite the escape!

One more thing that I need mention is the reference to our media; the comments on Rhianna's Umbrella and Kim Kardashian's TV show were really quite amusing. Or maybe it's the way that the gods reacted to them. Either way, this had me chuckling.

Finally, The Dig deserves 4.1/5 stars. A light read, a fresh take on Greek myth, and a hilarious, action-packed plot. Love it.

Katie says

I don't venture much into self-published territory, but I had to after reading the synopsis for *The Dig*, by Audrey Hart. Time travel? Mythology? Sexy Zeus? Yes, please! But I've got to say that I was really disappointed in this one. While the MC had a cute, spunky voice, I just couldn't get behind the intense insta-love, the egregious historical inaccuracies, and the mismatched plot and pacing.

First, let me give you my schpeal on historical fantasy and time travel novels - yes, this is fantasy. I know that your protagonist is a time traveler. I also know that you don't want to write in an archaic style. But why do you have your historical characters talking and acting like modern people with modern sensibilities?! This is the first rule in historical fiction - **YOUR SETTING ISN'T MODERN SO WHY ARE YOU WRITING LIKE IT IS?** I found this to be true in both *The Dig* and the other self-published novel I recently read, *Destined*, by Jessie Harrell (though at least Harrell's novel was well paced and had an interesting storyline).

It really irritated me that all the Greek gods and the nymphs and everything threw around words like "boyfriend" and "cantina." Uhh...I'm pretty sure that cantina is a Spanish word, and as this is supposed to be ancient Greece, I'm gonna go out on a limb and say they didn't have that word.

So yeah, I was really tripped up by the historical inaccuracies. But I was also bothered by the almost product placing. Seriously, Apple should have paid Hart for publishing this book. It's practically a commercial for the iPhone! She's always talking about all the cool apps it has, and a freakin' iPhone is what transports her back in time! Wow, I didn't know they had an app for that! It was all very weird, that.

Then there's the issue of characterization. While I enjoyed reading about Zoe because she was a little snarky and funny, I really kind of hated all how all the other characters are portrayed. I was excited to see that Zeus was getting more facetime in this book, as he's usually overlooked in YA. But what I found here was a spineless teeny bopper that magically falls in love with our average heroine, playing into the ultimate YA stereotype. He's supposed to be centuries old, but all I could see was a ninth grader who's too cute for his own good. He's so cookie cutter, it hurt my heart a little. This is Zeus, a.k.a. god of lightning and king of the Pantheon who's a classic womanizer and castrated his dad for rule of Olympus. **SUCH** good material to work with here. But it was all wasted in *The Dig*.

And while I'm on the gods, can I just say that Hermes was not a girl! **WHAT?!** I understand that this gender reversal was used as a plot device so that everyone could be all matchy matchy, but if you're going to do that, just swap him out for a goddess or something. I mean, that's practically blasphemy (well...it would have been if this were ancient Greece, I suppose...). And while I appreciated that Hera was the vengeful shrew that she often is in myth, I felt like she was shrunken so much that she became petty. In fact, they were **ALL** petty. It was just weird.

And do I even have to mention the bit about Kim Kardashian? And Rihanna? Oh, and more iPhones? Yeah, I don't think so. You're getting the picture. All these really weird elements came together in an awkward plot with bad pacing and too much telling, and it was just all-around NOT entertaining. The beginning had promise; Hart should have just kept Zoe in modern times. This book needs some **SERIOUS** renovations before I would recommend a big time publisher picking it up; but then again, books get published every day that I don't think should have been...

I almost feel bad giving such a scathing review, but this one pushed my buttons. I had high hopes, and I love to support authors who don't get hype. But I'm sorry. This one wasn't for me.

C.C. Thomas says

Finally--a female Percy Jackson! I have been waiting and waiting and wondering when an enterprising author would hit upon the idea and I have finally found it. Zoe is all the best of Percy--funny, spunky and prone to a lot of trouble which made for one great read.

After wandering into a forbidden temple while on a trip with her archaeologist uncle and aunt, Zoe is transported to ancient Greece. Really ancient Greece-1000 BC or so. To find her way back, she must travel to the oracle (isn't there always an oracle) and follow said directions. Of course, along the way, she must endure trials on Mt. Olympus, rescue various creatures from destruction and get in a catfight with a teenaged Hera.

Did I mention she also meets and falls in love with a cute teenage boy who saves her on more than once occasion. Maybe because he's Zeus and, like, the god of everything. His friends and girlfriend Hera are not happy with the arrangement and throw even more deadly obstacles in the path of the star-crossed lovers.

There is so much to like about this book. Right away, from the very first paragraph, I felt like I knew Zoe and she was talking straight to me. That kind of connection isn't often found in books and I relished it, reading way past the time I usually give to myself and burning a few dinners in the process. It has a great message in it for young girls and isn't just mindless drivel like many of the girly books out there. This is one heroine a young girl could really sink her teeth into and learn a valuable message about to boot; namely, that, the trials and obstacles in life often teach us about what we are made up of and teach us what we want in life and what is really important. The perfect combination of romance and adventure.

The book is a first in a trilogy so be prepared to keep reading--the first one ends in a cliffhanger that wasn't satisfying at all. Now, I just have to wait for the next installment!

Cyna says

I tried really, really hard to like this book. I wanted to, I wanted to so badly. Around the point where our heroine, Zoe, was using her newly-discovered powers to single-handedly take down the Hydra, I found myself thinking, Oh my God, this is what The Goddess Test should have been. Hallelujah, someone answered my prayers. I was excited - here is a book about a modern girl, who is told that she has to face a series of actual life-or-death trials to maybe become a god or something, IDK, but look a HYDRA! And sure, there's a boy and insta!love, but she doesn't need his saving. In fact, she tells him to book it when she thinks there may be danger. And sure, there are some narrative and coherency issues, but I can muscle through those if this turns out to be The Goddess Test that I've been waiting for.

...and then Zoe had finished the trials, and we were only halfway through the book, and things kinda went downhill from there.

But to avoid getting...well, overly rant-y, we're going to look at this in terms of the story. As the summary above suggests, The Dig follows Zoe, a girl who travels to Greece for the summer to assist on her aunt and uncle's archeological dig. Once there, she intentionally wanders off on her first day to explore, and ends up

in a room with a giant iPhone mounted on the wall. Except, of course, it's not an iPhone, just some sort of doorway that inexplicably looks like an iPhone, and - again, inexplicably - transports Zoe thousands of years in the past, to ancient Greece. There, she discovers a new-found ability to manipulate the earth, which gets her mistaken for a god.

Yes, she was transported back in time by a not-iPhone. And no, it doesn't really make any sense, nor do we ever get any explanation whatsoever as to why it looked like that, or why Zoe traveled back in time in the first place. But that didn't bother me very much, because let's be honest, any reasoning we get is just going to be an excuse. The author wanted to set a modern story in ancient Greece, it sounded fun, and the rest is just window dressing. Of all the as-yet-unfulfilled plot holes, that concerned me the least.

Plot hole that did bug me a bit? The language. Zoe speaks Greek, I get that, but she mentions briefly that the people she encounters in this ancient era are speaking a much older version of Greek than the one she understands. Her first few conversations are pretty rocky, coming down to awkward one-word exchanges...and then that issue just sort of disappears. Her conversations with every other important character is flawless, natural, to the point that I seriously wondered, "Did I miss some scene where they said that everyone started speaking English?"

I know that language is another one of those time-travel details that gets excused away, but after the initial shock, there's not even an attempt made here at any sort of communication difficulties or "olde" speak. Characters are only confused by the most obvious technological references (movies, Facebook), and many utilize modern idioms and slang. My personal favorite example of this is probably the way the goddess Hera speaks like the teen queen she's supposed to be, passive-aggressively insulting Zoe's clothes and condescendingly calling her "sweetie" and "dear". Does ancient Greek even have an equivalent to those words, with the same kind of catty connotations? And if it did, would Zoe understand it? Dialect is a tricky thing. Ask anyone who's taken a high-school Spanish class and then tried to use it in Mexico.

Then there's Zoe. As far as protagonists go, she kinda gave me trouble from the start. While her characterization is fairly typical for heroines of the YA genre - a Pretty-Ugly loner who doesn't feel she "fits in" with other girls her age - we're blatantly and repeatedly told that this is what Zoe is from the start. By Zoe. Without getting the chance to suss it out for ourselves. It gets old, fast, and gives her a serious likability problem.

I've said it before, but it's incredibly irritating when otherwise potentially likable characters feel the need to drone on and on about how much they don't fit in with other people, and doubly so when they do it with a haughty, condescending attitude. According to Zoe, she isn't like other girls, you see, because other girls are vapid bimbos only concerned with things like Gossip Girl and boys and makeup and celebrities, where as our heroine is sooooooo much better, because she's interested in important and deep things like archaeology.

URGH. This really is the single most unlikable attitude a heroine can have, and I really can't tell if Hart is trying to portray this as Zoe's rationalization for isolating herself from everyone, or if she's honestly trying to capture and express the feelings of neglected bookworms and nerds and teenagers outside the mainstream. Either way, it's incredibly annoying. It turned me off of Zoe's character almost instantly, and the way the plot ultimately ended up going only exacerbated the problem for me.

Fortunately, Zoe's relatively decent sense of humor kept me from wanting to continuously strangle her. She generally reacts to her situation like a normal teenager - sarcasm, fear, despair - and you can relate to her sense of displacement. Her likability issue flares mostly when she has time to reflect on her life at home, so when she's kept otherwise occupied by the plot and other characters, Zoe is generally a tolerable character.

Unfortunately, once we hit the romance portion of the book, her actions become a little less relatable.

In a bid to get back to her own time, Zoe is told to seek out the Oracle - and of course, she meets a boy along the way. Almost immediately, Zoe's attraction to the boy begins to detract her from her quest to get home...

Read more at [You're Killing.Us](http://You'reKilling.Us).

Abi says

4.7 stars. I liked the spin on the gods and goddesses; it was interesting. Zoe and Zeus were cute together. I'd really like to read the next one.

Celine says

My review:

Cover:

I adore the cover. It's cute and represents the story. The little wings on the feet is CUTE!! I love how the way the title and the picture is set on the cover!

4 Forget-me-not flowers for the cover!

Story:

Indiana Jones meets Percy Jackson with a sweet romance! When Zoe first arrived in Ancient Greece, the book progressed quite slowly, with Zoe meeting some new characters and trying to adapt with her new situation. I almost didn't enjoy it since I really wanted Zeus to appear and read the romance! (I know, I know, I'm so silly for wanting the romance barely in the beginning already!) There's a character who Zoe called Blondie and I didn't expect he was going to be the main character. I am surprised. After Zoe meets with Zeus, I am completely into this book. I loved meeting the Greek gods and goddesses as young adults (about seventeen years old). Even though the gods are remake by making them younger, unlike the Greek myths illustration we've seen with Zeus and his beard, it is still true to the mythology like how Zeus likes to disguise as a regular mortal and he had a jealous wife or 'girlfriend', Hera who became an antagonist in this novel. I also enjoyed reading about the use of modern technology back in ancient times such as how Zoe uses her iPhone for compass to help her escape the labyrinth. It's an interesting blend of modern and ancient times. Zoe uses phrases like FB, Twitter in the book and even singing Umbrella by Rihanna song with Zeus! The book is filled with adventures and I really enjoyed it after Zoe meets Zeus!

Characters:

I love every single characters in this book, particularly Zoe and Zeus of course! I love their relationship, they are so cute together and their powers. Their story of when they first met was simply funny and interesting! Zeus being young compared to how we originally know the Greek myths make me like him a lot. He seemed innocent, kind and loving. Zoe is also a very funny character who also has powers like the gods. Reading about their relationship makes me really enjoy the book!

Overall:

Indiana Jones meets Percy Jackson with a sweet romance! I really enjoyed it. I am looking forward to the sequel and the ending was great. If you love Greek Mythology, you'll love this book as much as I do!

5 Forget-me-not flowers for The Dig!

Booknut says

I LOVED THIS BOOK!

- Zeus is adorable. I never ever thought that I would ever say/type/think that but there it is. He's a hottie with a sensitive side that makes me want to ship him and Zoe until I can't possibly fangirl anymore!
- Zoe is so strong, internally. She's a great heroine and I admire her selflessness and wonderful modern way of thinking!
- The jokes were hilarious
- Every story I read about the Greek Gods, Hera is always the nasty *itch. Always. And this book is no different!

I can't wait to read book 2!!

Andrea says

I'm just going to put myself out there and open by saying this is a tough review to write. I hate being a "bearer of bad news. Hate it. I wanted so much to love The Dig. The cover is adorable, making me smile everytime I looked at it. The synopsis sounds like a great deal of fun. But sadly, things just didn't work out that way. So, instead of me sitting here stalling, let's get to it!

Typically, I don't give an overview of the story in my review. That's what a synopsis is for, right? But in this case, I can't explain or justify my feelings if I don't. Bear in mind, this is very general, but gives you the main idea of the plot. Zoe, having completed her junior year of high school, accompanies her aunt and uncle on an archealogical dig in Greece. Like many teenagers, Zoe wanders where she shouldn't and comes across an artifact that looks like a giant iPhone. She can't keep her hands to herself and said giant iPhone thingy is actually a device that transports her to ancient Greece, whereupon she stumbles into a handsome young man who happens to be the main man of Greek mythology, Zeus. Then, the story turns into "The Greek Gods: The Teen Years". Yes, all the major Greek gods are teens; really cranky, hateful, evil teens, with the exception of Zeus. All of them are paired up into couples, but, and I am assuming here, because the there are more girls than guys and the numbers don't add up, Hermes is actually a girl (I'll come back to that later). Now, all of them are out to get Zoe because she seems to have powers of her own and has wandered in, upsetting the balance of power. Chaos ensues, and in the meantime, Zoe and Zeus have fallen in love. They must struggle to make it back to safety with the power of the magical iPhone-ish device before Zoe is destroyed. Got it? Good.

Where to begin. How about the iPhone transporter. It's a cute idea, but without some sort of reasoning, logical or not, I just didn't get it. An ancient, dusty box or a cool medallion would have been cool, but the iPhone just didn't cut it for me.

Next up, the characters. Zoe was a neat character in some ways. She was smart, and had a somewhat funny internal dialogue. As for the rest, they fell flat for me. Zeus had a few real moments, but otherwise, he and all of the other Greek gods felt one-dimensional. They were catty, bratty and in general just no fun at all to read.

This leads me to Hermes, who by every account I have ever read, was a man. In this story Hermes is a girl and is paired up with Apollo. Weird. If the numbers don't add up, add in a few of the minor deities, or just make him gay. Perhaps there is a great reason behind the decision to make Hermes a girl. I don't know.

Now I'm onto the math. Zeus tells Zoe that he is five hundred years old. The story takes place in 2011. Which means the Greek gods have only been around, and correct me if I'm wrong, since 1511. I may have been a crappy math student, but I rocked history and literature. Greek mythology was around well before the sixteenth century, this I know. I'm all for suspending disbelief, but my compulsion for historical accuracy won't let me let that slide.

And... the insta-love. I'm not a person who typically gripes too much about insta-love, the bane of many reader's existence. I don't like it, but if it's well-written enough, I can handle it. I may be well beyond my teen years (not too beyond!), but I remember very well being a teen. And I never, no matter how good looking and sweet talking the guy was, fell in love with a guy the first day I knew him. I just don't like when a girl is willing to throw everything to the wind over the first guy who pays her attention.

Okay, so what did I like about *The Dig*? The idea in general was appealing. I love Greek mythology, love when I can find a great re-imagining. The concept of the deities being teenagers was cool. If they had had more depth, it would have been great fun. The author's style did have a certain sense of charm, with several funny references to current pop culture trends. There was one really beautiful kissy scene that had me swooning a bit.

As a whole, I would say *The Dig* was an interesting premise, but with all of the issues mentioned above, just didn't cut it for me.

Favorite Quote:

"Time travel. Magic. And- can't say I saw this one coming either- peacocks."
