



Godsgrave

Jay Kristoff

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A ruthless young assassin continues her journey for revenge in this new epic fantasy from New York Times bestselling author Jay Kristoff.

Assassin Mia Corvere has found her place among the Blades of Our Lady of Blessed Murder, but many in the Red Church ministry think she's far from earned it. Plying her bloody trade in a backwater of the Republic, she's no closer to ending Consul Scaeava and Cardinal Duomo, or avenging her familia. And after a deadly confrontation with an old enemy, Mia begins to suspect the motives of the Red Church itself.

When it's announced that Scaeava and Duomo will be making a rare public appearance at the conclusion of the grand games in Godsgrave, Mia defies the Church and sells herself to a gladiatorial collegium for a chance to finally end them. Upon the sands of the arena, Mia finds new allies, bitter rivals, and more questions about her strange affinity for the shadows. But as conspiracies unfold within the collegium walls, and the body count rises, Mia will be forced to choose between loyalty and revenge, and uncover a secret that could change the very face of her world.

Set in the world of Nevernight, which Publishers Weekly called “absorbing in its complexity and bold in its bloodiness,” Godsgrave will continue to thrill and satisfy fantasy fans everywhere.

Godsgrave Details

Date : Published September 5th 2017 by St. Martin's Press

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Author : Jay Kristoff

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From Reader Review Godsgrave for online ebook

bran (brandonthebookaddict) says

F U C K. ME.

And I **HATE** you so much right now, Mr. Kristoff.

Literally GTFO.

* *screams for days* *

(I was going to do a review on my channel, but I'm waiting for the UK edition to arrive so I can show all of you how *beautiful* it is, so once I do, I'll leave a link to it down below.)

I think this book surpassed **all of my expectations and brought them up to an all new high**. It was so, *so* good. Again, Jay's writing was excellent, full of buttery prose and lyrical pieces. This time around though, I didn't mind the footnotes. With the first book, I was mildly annoyed and somewhat irritated but then I got used to it and by the time the *Godsgrave* came around, I was so interested and more invested in the story, I flew through *E V E R Y T H I N G*.

With **twice more** the action, blood, guts, violence, gore, and badassery, I really recommend you give this series (trilogy) a go. It's bloody fucking awesome and with the twists and unexpected surprises that this book has, your head will literally implode from all the insanity.

But really, **R E A L L Y**, Mr. Kristoff, that cruel, *c r u e l*, ending.

I see you. **I see you.** And how I hate you (relatively speaking).

5 BLOODY KICKASS STARS

Arc provided by author/publisher in exchange for an honest review.

Twitter | Bookstagram | Youtube |

Jessica ✶ ➡ Silverbow ➡ ✶ Rabid Reads-no-more says

3.5 stars

Last year, NEVERNIGHT, the first book in Jay Kristoff's NEVERNIGHT CHRONICLE, was at the top of my Best Books of 2016 list. The writing was brilliant, the story and characters compelling, the world-building was fantastic . . . I was smitten.

So I was understandably excited about its sequel GODSGRAVE. *sighs*

BUT.

The story was still compelling, just *not as* compelling, the writing was likewise *not as* brilliant, and the old characters manifested new flaws while several of the new characters were downright contemptible.

It took awhile for all of these slightly lesser versions to fully establish themselves, so initially I was more hopeful . . . Which only served to make the eventual disappointment that much worse.

For example, I love all things gladiatorial (b/c bloodthirsty). The obstacles, the arena atmosphere, the fighting to the death, be it man vs. man or man vs. beast, I don't care, I LOVE ALL OF IT. *laughs maniacally*

So when it became clear that Mia's endgame was dependent on her becoming enslaved and entering the arena, I did a happy dance in celebration . . . A celebration that turned out to be premature . . . B/c boring.

You: Shut up, nothing about arena fights-to-the-death is boring.

Me: One would think . . . And one would be mistaken.

You: *taps foot impatiently* Explain.

Me: Only one of the four fights resembled anything like traditional gladiator fighting (view spoiler)

. Okay, *two* of them, but chariot races are the least fun part of arena fights.

I've never been much for going in circles--I don't like NASCAR either--and shooting arrows at targets and people while you do it doesn't make it any more entertaining. As for the other fights, (view spoiler)

It was more spectacle than fight, and yes, arena fights are spectacles, but that's not *all* they are. At least, that's not all they're supposed to be.

Kristoff didn't get that memo.

The lackluster arena action was made worse by one of the aforementioned newly developed character flaws: (view spoiler)

Another issue I had with Mia was that she seemed to have regressed into a hormone-addled adolescent:

Peering in through the door, she saw Dona Leona emerging from a deep, steaming pool, water running in rivulets down her bare body. Her hair was damp, her face bereft of paint. It occurred to Mia that she was a beauty; full hips and fuller lips. Her eyes roamed Leona's curves, wreathed in steam, and she wondered at the thrill of it. Why, downstairs in the barracks, seeing naked bodies meant nothing, but here, her skin was prickling. Heart beating faster. Thinking, perhaps, of another beauty on Aurelius's bed, her taste on the young don's mouth, her golden kisses sinking ever lower.

She thought of Ashlinn, then. The kiss they'd shared when Mia left the Church. That kiss that

lasted a moment too long. Maybe not long enough?

And this was not a one or even a threetime thing. It was an over-and-over-again thing.

BUT.

GODSGRAVE wasn't terrible. There were lots of new clues about darkins and gods and prophecies, and something we were all hoping for did indeed come to pass, but in a completely unexpected way. And Kristoff excels at giving you information without revealing an iota more than necessary, effectively keeping you on his hook. So not an even remotely bad read . . . Just not on the same level as the experience that was NEVERNIGHT, comparatively speaking.

1/10/17:

We have a title, cha-cha-cha! We have a title, cha-cha-cha! *is lonely in conga line of one* But who cares? B/c GODSGRAVE.

Warda says

So like I accidentally read the last WORD of GODSGRAVE as I was checking the page count AND I AM FREAKING THE FUCK OUT RIGHT NOW!

amy says

ladies and gentlefriends, let me introduce you to the cause i now feel like a dead lump living inside a human shell that is incapable of feeling anything else but endless despair and suffering: **GODSGRAVE**, or, as i call it **[incoherent mumbling about how everything was easier before i read this book]**

(apologies in advance for the absolute mess that is this review, but what i'm feeling towards this book can only be described as

'AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAaaaAAAAAAA' and i have no idea how to form that into words let alone a coherent review.....)

i know i can be a.....*touch* dramatic at times, but that's how i process the O, so very real *feelings* i had to deal with while reading this hellbook (i don't remember signing up for tears btw, @ jay kristoff just letting you know that this is false advertising, pal)

so, what is godsgrave about?

i don't even know how to convey the plot in a few sentences because 90% of the time while reading this series you never know exactly what the hap is fuckening, you see, that's the charm of it. i *can* tell you though that it's basically about a **tiny angry girl stabbing people** (my new favorite genre)

the characters are very complex and authentic and sadly it's very hard not to get attached, especially since **grumpy old pricks that are soft on the inside** is my favorite trope and that applies to most characters in this book anyway (the rest are very likeable bastards and assholes in a variety of ways)

to summarise: godsgrave contains just as much **savagery** ("...What's the map of?" "It provides detailed directions to the Empire of None of Your Fucking Concern."), **swearing** ("Shit cock twat fucking fuckitall!"), and **badassery** ("...you'd best warn them to bring an extra pair of balls, because I'll be ripping off the first and wearing them for earrings.") as nevernight did, and i am absolutely delighted by that fact.

©

mia corvere is probably the most badass character you'll ever encounter and honestly, it's so much fun to experience this book through her point of view.

!!!!!!!!!!!!!! can i just mention really quickly that not only does this book already excel at plot, characters and everything in between but there's also a **canon f/f couple** and **bisexual rep** IN A FANTASY BOOK, you guys it's happening, jay kristoff is leading the revolution!!! let the gays have more lgbtq+ rep in fantasy books you cowards

so i guess now that i got all this pent-up angst off my chest i'm going to go back to bed..... maybe nap for a few years so i can recover from all the exhaustion that godsgrave caused me.....with all due respect, *fuck you* for doing this to me @ jay kristoff (jk love u dad)

special **shoutout** to my br partner maram, i wouldn't have made it to the other side without being able to scream with you, baby turtle

[i might add some structure to this review once i regain my basic human functions but at the moment i'm still dealing with the aftermath of this book, you see, all i'm capable of doing is sitting on my bed, staring into space, thinking about what it would be like to live in a world where i don't feel personally victimised by asshole authors]

as a final comment, **what the entire fuck** was this book, and when can i have more?

"The heavens grant us only one life, but through books, we live a thousand."

pre-review:

Arc provided by Netgalley in exchange for an honest review (thank you Jesus i mean Jay Kristoff)

~~Nevernight ripped my heart out of my chest and beat it into a bloody pulp..... so that was fun and i'm excited to do it again!! :)~~ **spoiler:** it wasn't fun, everything is on fire, and i can't feel my body

~~sidenote, if anything happens to mia, i'm going to cyberbully jay on twitter for the rest of my life i swear to god see you in hell fucker (meant in a loving, admiring way)~~

Anne says

4.5 stars

That's right, folks. We've transitioned from assassins to gladiators!

Now, some of you will (like me) love this, but some of you?

Ehhhhh. Maybe not so much...

Personally, I loved the way Kristoff mixed it up this time around. There was *pseudo*-Roman empire feel to the setting of the story in the first book, so (to me) this was a natural progression of that same story. But I can see how some might find the transition jarring because my mind doesn't *automatically* translate ninja assassins into gladiators, either.

Regardless of the setting, I felt like Mia's character remained consistent, and that was really the most important thing for me. I thought the change in scenery was an extremely interesting pivot for a second book to take and, to me, the story benefitted from it quite a bit.

Again, that's just my personal take on it.

Speaking of personal preferences, for those who found the *sillyish* footnotes annoying and/or weird? If you didn't like them before, you probably still won't like them.

BUT. <--and I have no data to back this up

It seemed like there were *less* of them this time around. Now, considering the fact that I *did* like them and thought they were a funny way to break up any monotony, you may want to take that with a grain of salt. I wasn't exactly taking notes for my extensive data collection about the footnotes.

So how *does* Mia end up fighting in an arena?

Well, she sells herself into slavery, of course!

And *why the fuck* would she ever do something like that?

Well, *I'm* sure as hell not going to tell you. I mean, that would ruin the story, don't you think?

What I can tell you is that Mia continues to be a badass, the old *and* new characters continue to be amazingly 3 dimensional, and the plot continues to thicken.

Highly recommended.

Em says

It's been over a month since I read this book and you see, the trouble with writing this review is that it literally always seems easier to just lie facedown on the floor and make inarticulate noises (most of this review could actually be replaced with crying baby noises without huge loss of meaning tbh)

Listen. I am a **HUGE** fan of Jay Kristoff but he needs to go to jail for something. I don't care what. just like, *crimes*. I mean why doesn't he pick on someone his own size?? I genuinely believe that his passion is willfully making everyone's emotional devastation over his fictional characters somehow even *worse*. Because my heart is still so confused!! I've never felt those emotions before and I wouldn't even know how to recognize them on the street but there's **A LOT OF THEM!!!!**

Anyway this is an open invitation to come over and just like, come to my backyard with me and then just **SCREAM** for three years!!

“So it begins,” Furian whispered.

“And so it ends,” Mia replied.

GODSGRAVE is what a sequel **SHOULD** be. It furthered the plot. It highlighted all the characters and deepened our understanding of them. It's literally like NEVERNIGHT sat itself in flames and this is *it* emerging better and brighter!! so if you haven't picked up the first book, my dude **GO GRAB IT!!!**

‘What is my name?’

“CROWCROWCROWCROW!”

Dark delight in her belly.

Warm blood on her hands.

It was **faster** and **darker** and **more brutal** and you're in just the right mood that your eyes light up with the fire and angst of a thousand punk rockers and you just feel so alive!!! I mean why need to do adventurous shit when you can just read this book and have your adrenaline kilter surprise you at various intervals including, but not limited to... uuuh let's see... every single fucking chapter??

Mia closed her eyes.

Raised her blade.

'O, Mother, blackest Mother, what have I become?'

It was more **terrifying** and so unexpectedly **emotional** and just excuse me book... but how dare you upset my chill and uncaring aesthetic??

I just think the author could really use a '*dude you've killed too many characters already*' or '*hey hey buddy pal amigo plot twists LIMIT*' notification because I have been fluctuating drastically between highs and lows while reading this until I was so emotionally exhausted I ended up looking like I was in some renaissance painting gazing hauntingly into the distance.

Mia grinned. "Well, you told me once I'd never be a hero."

Mercurio's eyes filled with tears. He wrapped her up in a tight embrace, pulled her close to his chest. And there in the dark, just the pair of them, holding the girl he thought of as his own, the old man whispered.

"I might have lied."

I don't know about y'all... but i'm really ready for the next phase of my life to begin aka the part where I'm stable and secure and not constantly worried about the wellbeings of these characters. please.. just leave them alone, they've been through enough. Heck, I've been through enough!! no more angst!! and no more deaths!! I would literally rather watch these idiots do laundry and make toast and be domestic and happy for the rest of my trash life!!!

yeah... mirror mirror on the wall I'm probably the biggest dumbass of them all if I actually believe that was even an option.

"My father used to say the art of telling a good story lies in knowing when to stop. Keep talking long enough, you'll find there's no such thing as a happy ending."

Anyway *long sigh that echoes for eternities* **I really just fucking love this series**

But why, you may ask. Well, here's the thing: there's an infinite amount of parallel universes out there and we're lucky enough to live in the one with **A FANTASY NOVEL STARRING A BISEXUAL MC IN A F/F ROMANCE.**

Sorry what?? I can't hear you over the sound of **GIRLS LOVING GIRLS.**

Look, this book was so fucking **BEAUTIFUL** and so fucking **GAY** and I swear sometimes I just want to stab myself with a rusty nail because **Mia** and **Ash** exist and are in love and nothing you ever do or say will take that away from me!!!!!! I mean it's just so weird when you realise your OTP is real and canon and not a concept art installation!!!! because these girls are the moonlight and true love and salt water and jasmine flowers!!! two cold blooded spirits bound through space and time and negativity just holding onto each other for body heat!!!!

And not to be dramatic or anything but like, I wanna staple every single word they've ever said to each other to the back of my fucking eyelids, I want it all tattooed on my forehead, I want those words on my fucking epitaph, I want them turned into a song that's stuck in my head forever

All the world against them. Death looming large on a vicious horizon. And for that single, simple moment, none of it mattered.

None of it mattered at all.

“This feels like a dream,” Mia whispered. “And I don’t want to wake.”

She met her eyes, then.

“This is love,” Mia said simply.

And leaning in, she closed her eyes and gifted Ash a gentle kiss.

I don't even care what happens in the next book, I'm holding onto the idea of Mia and Ash falling in love/finding each other in every alternate universe or timeline because tonight's a good night for good vibes and wishf-

Actually, no. I take it back. If Mia doesn't hug Ash in an unexpected rush of foreign human emotions when they first meet again, I will fucking quit this plane of existence!!!

Anyways, I would really appreciate it if Jay Kristoff soon summons me to the nearest woods and announces some spoilers to me through a series of telepathic symbols and codes... *only* then will my soul be at peace.

“Six years in chains for one moment of principle. That’s the tithe I paid. But you know what I learned in all the years between then and this, little Crow?”

“...No.”

Sid fixed Mia in his ice-blue stare.

“There’s no softer pillow than a clear conscience.”

arc provided by the publishers via netgalley in exchange for an honest review

Catrina (LittleBookOwl) says

Please excuse my colourful language.....

But to quote our dear little Mia:

What the "shit cock twat fucking *fuckitall*", man!?

Mister Kristoff, you are a cruel, brilliant man.

Review copy provided by author in exchange for an honest review.

Val...Shameless.Skanky.B*tchy. says

5 Stars

(And I'm being stingy with these this year, so this is a big deal, gentle friends.)

I originally marked this as 4+ stars.

But after further consideration of the following:

1) I read this book in ONE sitting because I was so spellbound.

And, 2) I re-read my review for book one and realized that ALL the things I said I couldn't stand about book one, I adored about book two...

I decided to say, fuck it, 5 stars for everyone, folks. And because good on you, Sir Kristoff.

He really is a creative talent.

Now, if you read my review for book one (which you can find [HERE](#)), you will see that - while I enjoyed the overall story itself - I had problems with Kristoff's almost satirical, dark humor style and his employment of footnotes as a narration tool.

For those who don't feel like checking out that review (and who could blame you) or haven't read the books, here's a picture I jacked from it for reference of said footnotes:

Now, perhaps it was the fact that I went into this book *prepared* for those things...or perhaps more aptly, I just went in to this one *understanding* Kristoff's style and thus - now unclouded by confusion and its subsequent resistance - I was able to just absorb the story and its characters.

Either way, I just enjoyed the shit out of this book.

It's original and edgy and weird and bloody and violent and I loved it.

And - after that ending - I can't fucking WAIT for book three.

And now - after once considering tossing both books without even cracking book two open - I find myself fighting not to re-purchase book one in hardcover. I have it in paperback and it doesn't match my book two hardcover (and future book three hardcover).

Because, well...

Yes, yes, I know.

#ShamelessBookHoarderIssues

We can't all be perfect.

And thank fuck.

Delirious Disquisitions says

You should read this if you like: murder, stabbings, multiple murder via stabbings, devious girls, assassins, Hogwarts School of Assassins, bisexual protagonists, sexy times, murder during sexy times, multiple plot twists, adrenaline rush that feels kind of like a heart attack, shadow cats, shadow wolves, way too much sarcasm, and more stabbings.

I'm going to preface this review with a little note about Jay Kristoff. I love him, I really do. He is one of my current favorite YA authors and on a very short list of authors I would love to meet in person someday. His books are always fantastic, with their badass heroines, impossible quests, snarky banter, and lots of action. A Kristoff book is one that's bound to be chock full of metaphors and melodrama. And above all else, they are always, always entertaining.

Which is why I tend to buy and binge read them the day they are released. And you know what? Sleep deprivation riding on an adrenaline high is, ideally, the best state in which to read his books. Everything feels so much more epic and urgent; it's all one big adrenaline rush from start to finish. Down in one shot like fine whiskey, burning all the way to the end.

Incidentally this was the first time I read one of his books the regular way and actually took my time (a ridiculous amount of time really. It took me over two weeks) to read this book. And well, did not hold so good under scrutiny.

The plot: One of the reasons I was so freaking excited about this book was because of the way things were left off in book one. It seemed to me that by murdering someone not assigned by the Red Church, Mia had summarily cut her ties to them and was now free to go off into the world and seek revenge. I was very interested to see where things would go from there. And boy, the first half of this book did not disappoint.

We start off with bloody murder, with our heroine smack dab in the middle of things with her revenge plot well underway. From then, we weave back and forth between the present and the past, in what is one of my favorite narrative styles, as we try to piece together the events that lead Mia to this point in the story.

This aspect of Kristoff's writing is something that I really love. He masterfully parallels both narratives in such a way that the stakes in one timeline are informed and then intensified by events in the other. It's some really stuff right there! In fact, everything leading up to the first half of the book, is pretty damn epic! It's only in the second half that the plot starts to go downhill.

At the end of *Nevernight*, there is still so much we don't know about Mia and where her powers originate from. I had hoped *Godsgrave* would answer some of these questions. And yet, beyond a couple mentions of Mia's power in the beginning and some cryptic hints at the very end, the book doesn't address any of the questions I had regarding Mia's powers.

The main plot of *Godsgrave* is set up for some gladiator style hunger games which gives Mia plenty of opportunities to bloody things up. This is the first time that Mia has been alone and without (many) allies and it was very entertaining to watch her plan things out as she goes. One of the best things about her character is that for all her badassery she is not infallible; something that we are constantly reminded of in this book. Despite being an assassin of the Red Church, she is not automatically proficient in all fighting techniques nor is she the best at defense; which makes sense since the acolytes of the Red Church are basically thieves and murderers and only know basic fighting techniques in case they need to fight their way out when on a job.

Therefore, Mia learning the Gladiatii style of combat and merging it with her own cunning and intellect was one of the plot highlights. The fights themselves were very creative and reminiscent of the one between The Mountain and Oberyn from Game of Thrones. However, I soon started losing interest as they started to get repetitive and seemed to drag on forever! There was so much of the fighting going on when all I could think of was that it's a waste of time better spent learning more about her powers and how to use them.

Characters: Speaking of powers, I was actually very excited to learn there was someone else who shared Mia's powers. Furian started off as a potentially strong character. To learn that he has chosen to shun his powers thinking them abhorrent, instead of using them like Mia, was such an intriguing concept. And yet, we get nothing substantial out of his character. Furian spends the whole book alternating between a red herring love interest and a colossal pain in the ass! So much time is spent hammering on Mia and Furian's lust/hate relationship. And yet, his only real purpose in the book is to serve as a foil for Mia. Which would have been very interesting had we gotten to explore their diverging ideologies, moralities, or motives and how that shapes their characters and relationships with the people around them. I wanted reluctant friendships! Barring that, I wanted begrudging acceptance of the other's ways. At the very least, I wanted training montages! But instead, we get disapproving Furian who, by the way, is one half of the most annoying characters in this damn book! He spends the entire book glaring daggers at Mia and fuming in disapproval or reproaching her character. I get it. Mia's not a good person. But damn it, if she isn't a billion times more interesting than Furian!

Which is not to say that I don't want people disapproving of our protagonist. She's an assassin! Of course someone needs to question her character. I want to see Mia being questioned and prodded and poked at. I want her to question her own intentions. Especially in light of the reveal about Mia's family, which I thought was an excellent plot twist. I want to see that Mia be the lowest of the low and still somehow find a way to redeem herself to the readers.

What I don't want is to root for Mia at the cost of someone else's character development. Make me like Mia, by making her flawed; by making her human. Not by making everyone else around her turn out to be a complete moron!

This happens not just in Furian's case, but also for Donna and Arkades. All three of these characters start off very strong, driven characters. All three of them are later revealed to be weak, pathetic, fools driven by childish motives and love/lust for the other. Donna is a spoiled brat seeking revenge on her father with no means of actually accomplishing them. She talks big and yet her actions make her seem very silly and indecisive. Arkades, on the other hand, had the potential to actually be a good teacher for Mia. And yet, he's reduced to a foolish old man brought low by love for his mistress. Also, can we stress that she was just a child when he began to have "feelings" for her??? Any respect I had for his character just disappeared for me after that.

The only characters I actually liked in *Godsgrave* were the other Gladiatii, specially Sid, and Mia's interaction with them. Although at one point toward the end everyone pretty much started sounding the

same. And of course, Mr. Kindly and Eclipse (although can Eclipse please stop calling Mr. Kindly “moggy”?? It sounds pretty ridiculous and I hate it. Up your diss game Eclipse!).

Sexuality: Mia’s bisexuality and subsequent relationship with Ashlinn was actually done pretty well. I like how complex their relationship is and especially in light of the fact that Ash betrayed and then killed Mia’s former lover in book 1. However, despite how complex their relationship is, it is believable and happens quite organically. Moreover, Mia’s love for one does not automatically lessen her love for Tick. They are just two very different relationships between people who have undergone a lot of change in the past year and emerged from that as very different people. I could’ve done without those needlessly long sex scenes though.

Less believable was the reveal about Mia’s father. Unlike the reveal about Mia’s mother’s character, where the twist was kind of hinted at in *Nevernight*, this one seemed a little out of nowhere. In the end, it seemed a little like unnecessary drama added in for pure shock value.

I wish they had explained the idea of sexuality more in terms of world building. I’m still unclear about the stance on sexuality taken up in Mia’s world; it’s never really mentioned how people of the LGBTQ community are treated here. Are people of all sexual orientations treated equally? Are there prejudices in place against non-heteronormative individuals? From what I have seen so far, sexuality doesn’t seem to be much of a big deal in this world. Whether you are bisexual like Mia or gay like her father, everyone just seems to roll with it.

World building: I have always been very fascinated with ancient Roman culture so the world building works for me. The Gladiatii match on Chariots was a particularly good touch as it showcased how much of this world is influenced by Roman culture. The games were underscored with a sense of dread and desperation; the slaves performing like animals at the circus, highlighting the barbaric nature of the people in power.

But slavery itself is not fully explored, despite it being one of the main issues in *Godsgrave*. Slave culture not fully explored. We are constantly told, rather than shown, that slavery is an issue in *Godsgrave*; that the master’s exert complete control over their slaves and disobedience is severely punished. And yet, Mia often breaks those rules. She not only talks back to her Donna, but goes so far as to advise, reproach, and even order her around on one occasion. And yet, no punishment is ever doled out for Mia (save for that one time in the beginning). I can understand that since Mia is not a slave, obedience is not something she’s used to. But for the Donna to let her treat her that way seems questionable. It just makes the whole issue with slavery feel very half assed the way it is written, almost as if Mia and the Gladiatii behave as slaves only when it suits the plot.

Writing: I generally enjoy Kristoff’s overly dramatic writing style. He has a flair for melodrama and for writing some really good action sequences. There are two standout instances of this in *Godsgrave*: one, which I already mentioned earlier, was the way he experiments with time in the beginning of the book. The second, is the way in which Kristoff draws parallels while narrating the story. We saw some really beautiful writing in the first chapter of *Nevernight* when Mia’s sexual encounter is paralleled with her first murder. In *Godsgrave*, we see the same style of writing when Kristoff describes both Mia and Furian’s having sex with their respective partners, mirroring each other’s actions and dialogues while simultaneously bringing out the contrast between the two couples. It’s beautifully done in both books, and is something that I particularly enjoy about Kristoff’s writing.

That and the excess metaphors, I kind of miss them now that Kristoff has toned it down in this book.

I do think Kristoff tends to get a bit over dramatic at times. Especially with some of Donna's high handed manner of speaking that just grated on my nerves. Or maybe that was just her character. But those are minor complaints since I really do enjoy his writing.

Overall, 4 stars as I liked this book despite all my criticisms. It is still a vastly entertaining novel and Kristoff's writing keeps you on the edge of your seat, makes it hard to put this book down. I just did not enjoy it as much as *Nevernight*.

🦊 Jessi ♥? H. Vojsk says

*"When you take a person out of the world, you don't just take them, do you?
You take everything they were, too."*

Story ??????????

A short summary of what happens in the book:

Sex and murder (yes, at the same time), fight, train, Gladiatii, kill, fight, train, murder, sex, intrigues, fight, murder, surprise, kill, fight and brutal plot twists.

That left me like this:

Whereas the first book was concentrated in the school for killing (that's my personal name for it...) this book played in the arenas of the gladiatii.

All in all this is a masterpiece!

Brilliant. Jay Kristoff is a genius for writing and creating this story!

Characters ????????

So much lovable characters in this one!

I mean... they're all killers but kind of lovable?

Do I sound crazy? Probably.

Is it still true? Yes.

Starting with my favorite killer in the world: talented blade, bisexual bomb and super badass Mia.

She's so skilled and intelligent.

All the thoughts and emotions she felt made her so real and human.

Next are her awesome partners in crime lurking in the shadows.

Mr. Kindly and Eclipse.

I said it once, I say it again: can I have darklin powers and followers aka friends like those two?

I mean, yes, they don't get along well, but the "fights" they have are absolutely hilarious and I loved them for it.

But if anyone ever asked me which one is my favorite, it'll always be Mr. Kindly.

Because, duh, a cat.

A shadow cat.

Absolutely-freakin-awesome.

Next is Furian: I wasn't sure about him if I'm truly honest. He was a little bit interesting but the major part of it I felt like he was just a part of the book the author needed to put in there. Buuuuut... That's just my opinion.

Sid: This fluffy big mouth guy was one of my favorites. As soon as he showed his real face he was the absolute best with his humor, his stupid words and kind heart.

All the other characters were created in a really brilliant way, because it didn't matter how small their role

was: if they died or were killed I was really sad about it...

World ????????

When I first met Mia in Nevernight I was really intrigued by the talent or power that made Mia a darklin. I was always fascinated by shadows, darkness. They do have a huge power in the world. Just look at the Darkling in the shadow and bone series. He was pretty powerful.

But this Darklin-power is different. It has some positive sides but also negative sides.

In the end the universe is in balance, right?

Next to these awesome powers there are beasts that sound like the worst nightmare ever and people that make you really uncomfortable.

In the world of the gladiatii There is only one way to earn your freedom. Kill everyone in the magni and survive as the last one standing.

Relationships ????????

Oh well. This was one hot thing. All the tension, all the heat, all the passion, (all the hatred).

I knew it would end in some way. I hoped it would be a good way.

And oh my good, guys, smut scenes.

Puh-huh. Get some ice cream because the scenes in this book are smoking hot!

Also... the friendships made my heart feel some things and my face smile.

Even if you need to kill for a living, when you're surrounded by the same people for months, in some way they start to be your family.

Writing style ????????????

The most important thing first: People who hate curse-filled-books should probably leave this book in the bookstore shelf and never touch it.

Because this one is filled with heavy language.

And you know what?

I loved it.

It's some fresh air in a normally really organized and strict book writing factory.

Also: Jay Kristoff writes really good fighting-/killing-/love making-scenes.

And he's definitely a master in plot twists!

So. Definitely one of my favorite series of all time! So addictive and different. Read it!

Melissa ♥ Dog/Wolf Lover ♥ Martin says

Inside the BN special edition. Beautiful pictures and some deleted scenes at the end.

The girl reached out to the shadows beneath the wagon, gathering them up like a seamstress

pulling thread. It was so bright out here, so different from the belly of the Quiet Mountain. But ever so slowly, she stitched the shadows together, weaving them into a cloak. And beneath it, she became little more than a smudge, like a greasy fingerprint on a portrait of the world.

Oh Mia, I still love you and your badassery =)

This book was a lot bloodier than the first book and there was a lot of fighting. Revenge, Revenge, Revenge it the name of the game.

I didn't even write down any of the characters I liked in the book! I didn't write down a thing but the page number for the excerpt. It's like I forgot everything and just read, which I actually like better anyway. I should have put more excerpts because there were many and they were awesome!

Mia puts herself in a sort of gladiator pit and it's all go for the bloody battles. But you have to do what you have to do to get where you want to go. Ya, get me?

The main thing is that if you loved the first book you're going to love this one. I don't see how you couldn't because it's even better. I did miss some characters from the first book but it is what it is.

I have nothing else people. The ending blew my mind so hard that I have nothing else to try to tell you that isn't spoilery.

That freaking ending! I mean Mr. Krisoff did leave us with some words about the story not being over and so on and so forth. He made it seem like it might be okay. I don't trust Jay K for a minute. I know he's going to rip our hearts out in the last book. Or will he????????????? Don't do it! I mean I can't get over that end, it CAN NOT be that . . . I'm just going to shut-up. I need to talk to someone that has read it!

Mel ♥

Melissa Martin's Reading List

Maram says

I don't know where to begin with this review???

I mean I think i've already mentioned everything I needed to say in my review of *Nevernight*...

Either way, to recap and reciprocate the points I mentioned in *Nevernight*'s review, Godsgrave had even more witty banters. more blood. more pain. lots of angst. plentiful twists. the suspense could give you a clean kill, and even more traumatic than its prequel.

Tbh the moment I was done with this book, I almost gave into my weak mind telling me I was wrong to read this so early on especially because book 3 doesn't have a publication date yet, let alone a freakin title. If you think for one second to dive into this book without being aware that there is a major cliffhanger in the end, I wish you the best of luck! So please take your poor heart into consideration before jumping in, okay? ?

Remember how I previously mentioned that this book is even more gruesome than it's predecessor? Well, we're introduced to new characters in Godsgrave as this book continues where Nevernight left us off with. **New characters aka more deaths, you get it ?** There's nothing different about the format used, we have the story told to us in past and present tense but this time it's spiced up a bit with the past tense being Mia post-Red Church and the present: 3 months post-Red Church. (view spoiler) Mia takes up a new task assigned by the Red Church and travels to Godsgrave to bid herself to become a slave of Leona (daughter of a shitty dude in the Senate, his name is irrelevant). There she meets other slaves and all of them have to fight with each other in a bunch of bloody contests (in public because hello, it's *fun*) set out by the Senate (*she tried not to care about them but hahahah*). **The last one standing will be free from slavery foreveerrrrrrr.** That said, her mind didn't drift from wanting to avenge her father's death so the closer she is to where she once belonged, the better she can get both jobs done. However, there's a plot twist here and a plot twist there and a plot twist everywhere and as a requirement by sir Jay Kristoff, things just don't go as planned ?

I don't want to dive in to the characters as I feel it's best to go in blind but note that you're going to love them all, even if they suck. To conclude, this book is um great. it's um the best and um brace yourselves in the last 10% of the book because it could damage chunks of your brain cells in one go. I'm out ?

special shoutout to cuteamy who was buddy reading this with me. thank you for pushing me to read while i was in a weird slump, it was so worth it and one of the best br experiences i've had in forever. and most of all, thank you for holding your screams in so that i could catch up to you, it must have been really painful lol

BUDDY READ with my bodyguard, cuteamy

Elise (TheBookishActress) says

I am..... how do you say..... Shook

With so many insane plot reveals I had trouble keeping track, a really great slow burn romance, and the most excellent lead character, this book kind of killed my soul. It's a sequel, so we'll split this up into sections. Let's talk!

→ *theme work* ←

Aaaaaah, this was so great. I think this book was more focused on the fact that every single person is the hero of their own story. In the first half, I was thinking this book *really* could have done more with the discussion of slavery - like, come on - but the second half DOES that shit far better than I was expecting.

→ *writing* ←

I think the thing that saves the writing of this book for me is that it feels like it's laughing at itself. **I can feel the dilapidated, possibly soulless ghost of Jay Kristoff laughing at himself as he types these ridiculous words, and I sort of love it.** Every weird sentence is a reminder that this story has a narrator, a sarcastic and slightly pretentious narrator whose identity we still do not know.

→ **plot and twists** ←

This one started sort of slow but it ended *brilliantly*. This series has a lot of battle scenes - trust me, I get it if you need to skip sections due to gore etc, I get it. The plot reveals are the best - um, my favorite was the backstory reveal and the way that worked thematically. I am so fucking sorry that I cannot say anything more than that.

also, me an uncomfortable amount of times during this book:

→ **characters** ←

Miaaaaaa. I adore Mia as a character so much and I would read the series for her alone. She is such a complex and compelling antihero with such a complex and nuanced arc. I never know if she's going to swerve evil or good, but I know I'm desperately invested in who she becomes. **I love that she does evil things with good intentions and toes that line.**

→ **romance** ←

Ash and Mia are the GREATEST. They have this friends-to-enemies-to-lovers slow-burn dynamic I basically adore. Uh... yeah. I really love the juxtaposition of them to other romantic relationships as being far healthier, even though they're both literal assassins?

→ **more thoughts** ←

The cissexism is really bothersome? I mean, it feels like every two chapters there's some mention of vaginas vs. dicks and like... I get that you like being Gritty and Dark, but what am I reading. I also think occasionally the Grittiness overpowers the plot. Which I dislike. That part is bad and I dislike it.

→ **enjoyment factor** ←

I don't even know, guys, these are just so addicting. I always have trouble getting into the beginning but from there, **I just enjoy every second I spend reading these**. This book took a while to get started, but once it got going, it became a straight-up [gay-up] masterpiece of plot twists and of character development. And I adore it.

and, to end this all off:

→ **spoiler theories, look away now** ←

there's some narrative of the fall of Ashkahi Empire, the crown of the moon, and the monstrosities left behind being connected

Mia being able to summon Sand Krackens is going to be super relevant. I KNOW this

[Blog](#) | [Goodreads](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Youtube](#)

Melanie says

1.) *Nevernight* ★★★★★

“The heavens grant us only one life, but through books, we live a thousand.”

Well, I'm not entirely sure how I'm supposed to function while lying in wait for the third and final book in this series. That last chapter made me feel things that very few books are able to evoke from me. I honestly am not sure how I could possibly string together words to let you guys know how much I loved this book, but I do suppose I should at least try.

Godsgrave picks up right after the events of *Nevernight*. But where *Nevernight* felt like an adult *Harry Potter* (with an amazingly gothic floo powder network) where our main protagonist, Mia, is learning to become an assassin for the Red Church and the Lady of Blessed Murder, *Godsgrave* is an all-out gladiator gauntlet, where our characters are fighting to the death and only the very best may rise in rank.

Mia also has grown a lot since the end of *Nevernight*, and she is figuring out rather quickly that she is truly unable to trust anyone. *Godsgrave* is way more brutal and gory, but it's also much more raw and emotional.

“The choice between looking plain and pretty isn’t really a choice at all. But any fool knows looking dangerous is preferable to both.”

One of my favorite parts of *Nevernight* is how Mia never explains that she is bisexual, but her actions just show it. There isn't a big coming out story, or any explanation on why she feels the things she does for men and women, Mia is just herself and I loved it more than words. Well, *Godsgrave* really delves into Mia's sexuality, and it's honestly a thing of beauty. Honestly, all I want in my adult fantasy is to read about queer girls saving their worlds, and Jay Kristoff delivered that to me better than maybe anyone else has. I will forever cherish this series for that alone. Also, I will go down with that fucking ship. OTP is an understatement. This is honestly the queer, f/f, assassins taking over the world, high fantasy, love story, I've been searching for my entire life.

Mia Corvere is one of my favorite characters of all time. She tries so hard to be morally grey, and I guess she truly is to most extents, but seeing her able to be soft and capable of unconditional love is something I don't even have words for. Mia is strong, and brilliant, and clever, and brave, and everything I love in a main protagonist. And she always acknowledges how beauty, too, can be a weapon, but how important it is to never have it be your only weapon. And Mia has had so many shitty hands dealt to her, but she is able to overcome it all realistically and inspirationally. I honestly love Mia, and Mister Kindly and Eclipse also bring me more joy than I should probably admit.

Also, let me state that this book is definitely not Young Adult. Not only do I believe this is Adult Fantasy, I think it holds up to all the beloved and highly praised High Fantasy out there. This book/series can get rather dark at times, so know that going in. Also, there is a decent amount of sexual content in this book, so use caution if that makes you uncomfortable. And **trigger warnings** for violence, murder, gore, slavery, child abuse, and things along those lines. But I hope that doesn't discourage you, because this world is amazing, these characters are perfection, the messages are beautiful, and the discourse is so damn important.

“So much wealth held in so few palms. A kingdom of the blind, built on the backs of the bruised and the broken.”

From the first page to the last page, this book had me so enthralled. I loved this more than words. *Godsgrave* will easily be one of my top ten favorite books of 2017, and the third book will be all I look forward to in (hopefully) the coming year. Jay Kristoff has perfected his craft at writing, and I'd honestly do just about

anything to get my hands on anything new from this world. Even though I shouldn't give him anything, because he is now the proud owner of the heart he ripped out from me reading the ending of this book.

“That's the power of words; twenty six little letters can paint a whole universe”

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Buddy read with Jules! ❤

sofia (sam willows) says

this is not a simple book. it's art.

FULL REVIEW NOW FINALLY POSTED

me? actually sitting down and writing a review? yes lads, it's happening. and not for some bland ass book, but for my favorite book of ALL TIME, Godsgrave.

it's been more than two months since I last finished this and *oh boy*, I'm still processing that ending. like holy shit, kristoff, did you really have to write and ending that's the equivalent of burning my bookshelf, strangling me in my sleep, bringing me back to life, then stabbing me repeatedly in the eye and then sending me a text apologizing ???? like damn son what did I do to you

but the worst of all? I liked it. I begged for more. I laughed when I turned the last page. I smiled when I thought *wow, that was the single best piece of literature I have ever read. I need more right now*. It's truly incredible the power books have over us.

anyways, now that I'm done talking about how this book will forever be imprinted on my soul, it's time I actually gave *you*, poor innocent soul, a reason to read this. And for that, I will have to make a list (yes, another one) about the characters, the writing, and some (obvious) theories.

CHARACTERS

- * Mia Corvere (aka my girlfriend) is the badass motherfucker everybody asks for but no one recognizes
- * Seriously, she is incredible. She's an assassin, and she shows no mercy, but she still manages to be a softie on the inside. Master characterization.
- * Also, she !!!! is !!!! bisexual !!!!
- * During my reread, I legit tried counting how many people she killed. I lost count by page 50.
- * She's an amazing character, she will stop at nothing to achieve her goal, no matter what gets in her way
- * I know it's getting boring, so I'll stop praising the LITERAL BEST CHARACTER EVER now. sorry lmao
- * I also wanna talk about Ashlinn. I LOVE HER SO MUCH
- * She had been crushing on that person since book one. AND THEIR ROMANCE IS SO WELL DEVELOPED !!!!
- * Ash is also unapologetically badass. Wish we got to see her fight more tho
- * I need to talk about SIDONIUS
- * HE'S SUCH A SOFTIE

- * like he's rude on the outside, but a huge teddy bear on the inside
- * the way he took care of Mia was so sweet, him feeling like she was his responsibility (*considering everything*) was so on character and so expertly done, kudos to mister kristoff
- * MISTER KINDLY AND ECLIPSE ARE EVERYTHING
- * their banter is incredible
- * also, I cant really talk about some characters bc of spoilers, but some noteworthy ones deserve mentions anyway. Those are: Leona, Bladesinger, Furian (I fucking hate this bastard.)

THE WRITING

- * this is the tricky part of reading nevernight/godsgrave: the writing
- * it's tricky, but also very simple. either you love the unique writing style and the wittiness, and is interested in the footnotes, or you hate it.
- * That's why this book, my favorite of all time, is not my go-to recommendation. because not every one likes the writing, and it can make someone hate this book with a burning passion
- * for me, it was the contrary. I loved everything about it. I was always reading the footnotes, laughing out loud with the narrator, enjoying every time they "broke the 4th wall", and, although it's not an easy writing to get through, I finished my ARC copy in two days.
- * Everything about this book, especially the writing, can be described in three simple words: **"brutal, bloody, and beautiful."**

I legit can't seem to come up with shit to say about this other than *"it's great, you should read it. please read it. please message me after.*, because that's all I feel right now: pain, and a burning need for more. and I last read this in September.

now, SOME (PRETTY OBVIOUS) THEORIES:

okay, so one thing that we know is that Mister Kindly is the narrator. His way of speaking and knowledge of the ancient, matched with his personal connection to Mia lines him up perfectly with the narrator. Example:

"But I think someone should at least try to separate her from the lies told about her. Through her. By her.

Someone who knew her true.

also, something that's pretty obvious (it has been stated on page) is that Mia will die in book three. The first page of Nevernight says:

"She's dead herself now — words both the wicked and the just would give and eyeteeth smile to hear. A republic in ashes behind her. A city of bridges and bones laid at the bottom of the sea by her hand."

So... Mia dies, destroys the Republic and sinks Godsgrave.

Sounds like one hell of a book.

I can't wait for the ONE FUCKING YEAR anticipation for the sequel to my FAVORITE BOOK OF ALL TIME. I'm not losing my mind or anything.

Overall, in three words, this book was brutal, bloody and beautiful. Poetically written, the sequel to *Nevernight* lives up to everything its predecessor set it up to be: astonishingly cruel, hauntingly poetic and utterly mindblowing. Definitely the best book I've read all my life.
