

Drakosden – July 2, 2013 <http://drakosden.net/2013/07/02/reflection-of-the-gods-by-lisa-llamrei/>

Blurb: "This is the story of how my third life began. And how my second life ended. They're the same thing, you know—endings and beginnings. We're taught to believe they're different, but in order for one thing to begin, something else must end."

Newly divorced Das MacDermott longs for a fresh start. As he packs up and prepares to move out of the city, he spots a young woman being held at gunpoint by three men. Despite being outnumbered and unarmed, Das does his best to intervene. Once liberated, the victim seems oddly ungrateful, but on an apparent whim decides to join Das in his new life in rural Ontario. Aislinn, as she is called, returns the favour; with her encouragement and support, his start-up photography business takes off, and more importantly, Das is saved from loneliness and self-doubt.

Das, however, is never quite able to fully dismiss the contrary aspects of Aislinn's nature, and is strictly forbidden from asking about Aislinn's past. All seems too good to be true, and indeed it is. Aislinn's unusual talents and odd behaviour, unbeknownst to Das, come from her demigod status. Aislinn is half-Sidhe, daughter of Fionvarra, Ireland's fairy king, and a human woman. Sidhe wars have so disrupted the mortal world that Aislinn has joined with other immortals in an effort to permanently separate it from Tir N'a Nog, the fairy realm.

Born in ancient Ireland, Aislinn spends millennia as the plaything of the cruel and narcissistic gods. The pain of being neither human nor Sidhe is offset by her relationship to the Fir Bolg, another race of fair folk who take pity on her lonely state; and the refuge she takes in being Das's lover and protector. As Das comes to accept the possibility that Aislinn belongs to a supernatural world, he discovers that the two worlds are set to collide in a way that may mean the destruction of all humanity.

Review: Ok, I do have some trouble sometimes getting into books written in first person. It's just weird to me. But I had no such problem with this book. It was very engaging because the story is quite different from what I've read before. Das is a recent divorcee who is moving from a larger city in Canada to a small town. On his way out of town, he acts against his better judgment to attempt to save a damsel in distress, Aislinn. But she's no damsel. She's an immortal.

Just when I thought it would be told totally from Das' point of view, it switches to Aislinn's. The two take turns, with Aislinn choosing to tell her tale a bit out of order, but it makes sense because she's immortal and has little concept of time. She tells things as she wants and she has a long history. Half mortal, half Sidhe, she's an outcast of all worlds. She has the powers of the Sidhe, who were once gods, and the sentiments of a human. She makes many mistakes in her lifetime, which she owns up to. I like that about her.

So she's caught in the middle of a war. Interesting. The Sidhe have been warring since before any can remember. It's a game to them. A bit twisted but alright. Aislinn wants to end that war. She can be a bit harsh and she's very forward. She's not approving of churchgoers because she's seen what their interpretation of God has caused. Das seems like a fling, until pieces start getting put together. Towards the end, I have to admit I don't like Das very much. He gets kinda whiny and just as selfish as the Sidhe. Heh, good reason behind that but still. I'd like to smack him forward to the next millenia.

That's a good thing though. This story is well written and told and leaves you wanting more from it. I sincerely hope there's a part 2 at the least.

Author Bio: Lisa Llamrei was born Toronto. She studied languages at York University. At various times, she has been an actor, professional belly dancer and holistic nutritionist. She has been a practising Wiccan for twenty years. She presently lives in the Toronto area with her four daughters, and works at a school of holistic nutrition. Reflection of the Gods is her first novel.

Reflection of the Gods is available in both print and electronic formats.

Contact information:

Lisa Llamrei

2 Campbell Dr., Suite 777

Uxbridge, ON L9P 0A3

Canada

(905) 852-1785

author@lisallamrei.com

<http://www.lisallamrei.com>