



*Half-Blood* by Jennifer L. Armentrout

Reviewed by Fadila



Book 1 of *The Covenant Series*, Adventure, Greek mythology, love stories

### **Give a summary without spoilers!**

Alexandria (who goes by Alex) tries to continue on her life in the mortal world on the run with her mother. She is a half-blood, thus having the powers to see daimons, dangerous creatures who threaten mortals and immortals. Alex finds herself alone, and eventually back at the Covenant where she had grown up. The story progresses as Alex finds her way back into the old life she once ran, discovering that things were not always as they seem. Even who she is becomes a mystery as Alex finds out more about her past. Facing danger and romance, *Half-Blood* is fast paced, keeping you constantly turning pages and wanting more.

### **What drew you to this book?**

I've already read and liked some of Jennifer L Armentrout's works in the past, so I thought I'd discover more of what she has published. I'm also really interested in Greek mythology, and LOVE when historical seeming events of the past are turned into modern affairs. In *Half-Blood* this is seen through the Gods interacting and controlling life for people in the modern world with cars, phones, and stereotypical high school drama.

### **Did it remind you of something that you've previously read?**

The first book of the Covenant series reminds me of the first book of the Vampire Academy series. A strong female protagonist is on the run from a paranormal high school like society, they aspire to become bodyguards or officials, and once recaptured by the places they were running from, the love interest helps them train to keep up with the military-like curriculum. The major plot points overlap a lot, but *Half-Blood* definitely surpasses Vampire Academy in terms of character development, keeping up with a character's internal monologue, complexity, and high stakes.

### **To whom would you recommend this book?**

Half-Blood is a YA novel, so I would recommend it to people ages 14 and older. Jennifer L Armentrout tends to write more romance focused novels, and Half-Blood does fall into this category, meaning the series is geared towards people who like romance integrated into the plot. Anyone interested in Greek mythology retellings will definitely appreciate Half-Blood, but even if someone doesn't really know much on the subject, the book does an excellent job of informing the reader of who the Gods are, their significance, and how society works. There are quite a few violent scenes, so I wouldn't recommend this to people who are sensitive to blood, death, and emotional trauma. The language used is easy to understand and keep up with, and the plot moves very fast. The usage of profanities is common, if someone found this triggering I would suggest they read with caution as swearing makes frequent appearances. I would 100% recommend Half-Blood to someone who is trying to recover from a reading slump.

### **Overall, did you like it and would you recommend it to others?**

YES, I loved this book. The second I finished the first book of the Covenant series, I rushed to get the second book on hold from the library. I find the characters relatable, the stakes high, and the overall path of where the plot is headed extremely interesting. Half-Blood most certainly is not a boring book. I loved Alex's character so much, she is reckless and constantly making mistakes, keeping every chapter active. I loved how as I was reading the series the overarching theme of the plot began to present itself. While Greek mythology was relevant in the first book, as the reader enters books #3 and #4, Greek mythology becomes much more important to the development of the plot. As someone who enjoys a good romance novel, I appreciated all the different tropes tied into the story, love triangle, enemies to lovers, and forbidden romance. Half-Blood is full of plot twists, and finishes off leaving the reader unsatisfied and desperate to continue Alex's story in the next book.

### **Anything else that you would like to add to this review? What made you choose it? Did you like the cover? Was it recommended to you? Did you find it at the library?**

After I read less than half of the book, I decided it was my new favorite book. I had been reading a bunch of dry books at the time, and reading Half-Blood had been like catching a breath of fresh air. Reading Half-Blood has encouraged me to read more of Jennifer L Armentrout's novels, and to seek out authors like her.