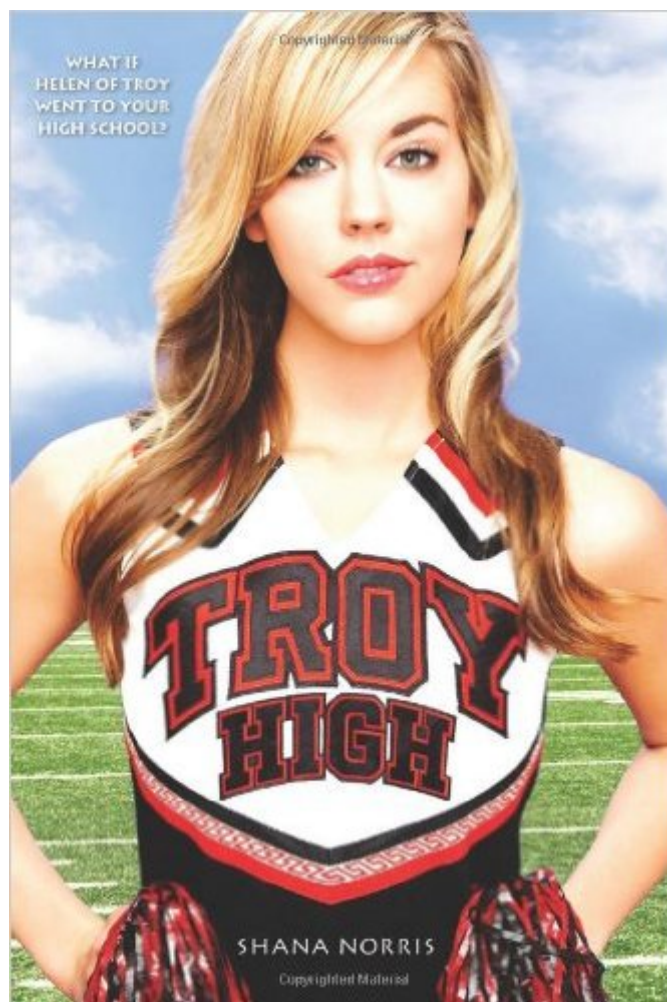


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Troy High



Synopsis

Homer's Iliad, the classic tale of love and revenge, is shrewdly retold for teens in Troy High. Narrated by Cassie, a shy outsider at Troy High, the story follows the Trojans and Spartans as they declare war on the football field. After the beautiful Elena, who used to be the captain of the Spartan cheerleaders, transfers to Troy High and falls madly in love with Cassie's brother Perry, the Spartans vow that the annual homecoming game will never be forgotten. Off the football field, an escalating prank war fuels tensions between the schools. The stakes are raised when Cassie is forced to choose between the boy she loves (a Spartan) and loyalty to her family and school. Troy High will seduce readers with its cast of mythic proportions.

Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 3.9 out of 5 stars See all reviews (27 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

I loved this book! I'm a sucker for anything involving ancient Greek mythology and this book was just too good to be true! You start off with a character who is relatable to all teenage girls, Cassie Prince (a.k.a. Cassandra the Seer, princess of Troy), she feels left out, shy, awkward and frustrated (Okay so that's only some teenage girls, okay maybe it's just me!). Cassie has a best friend, Greg or Agamenon, brother of Menelaus, commander in chief of the Greeks. Whenever a girl has a boy best friend you know what's bound to happen, a forbidden crush emerges. Take into that fact that he's the enemy and now you've got a doubly forbidden crush. And what girl hasn't had a crush on a boy that she knows she shouldn't? Hmm... Then there's Cassie's brothers, Hunter/Hector and Perry/Paris, who were so thick-headed that it makes you want to strangle them! But what sibling

doesn't want to kill, metaphorically speaking of course, their unfortunate blood relative? There are fun moments. Moments that made you scream, "What in the world is wrong with these people!?" and best of all were the moments that had you biting your nails because you just wanted to know what happens! This book was sooo amazing that I finished it in less than four hours! I came home from school, checked the mailbox, opened the package from Ms. Norris and immediately went at it. I was finished by SEVEN! If you haven't read this book yet, GO GET IT NOW! It deserves 5/5 stars.

Troy High and Overtime feature a story narrated by Cassie during her dramatic high school sophomore year. Having attended a university with one of the most well known rivalries on the west coast, I get the fun and spirit of it. That doesn't mean that Troy High or Overtime were realistic. Most of the pranks and the drama were way over-the-top. It reminded me a bit of High School Musical and Glee, where the drama has some real life basis, but is overly dramatic you know it's not real life. It was interesting though that some of the unrealistic drama was possibly there on purpose to take Homer's Iliad and set it in a modern day high school. So overall it was very entertaining, just a tad unrealistic. Reading it, I was constantly aware that it was a book and wasn't as immersed in the story as others. If you want a quick, fun read though, this definitely fits. I read both the novel and novella in one evening. Some characters that I loved were Greg, Cassie's love interest. He was adorable and totally the typical sweet high school guy that constantly plays video games. Also I loved Hunter, one of Cassie's older brothers. Aside from him pushing Cassie to choose sides, he showed great loyalty and love for Cassie, which I loved.

This was a great modern day retelling of The Iliad. I'm a total sucker for Greek Mythology, but to write good retellings of Greek Mythology is hard, and this one did not let me down. I pretty much read straight through in a couple of hours. It was totally original, and will appeal to different groups of readers. Troy High was smart and well-written. The characters were fitting. Cassie, the narrator of the story, is the only one with her head on straight, seeing the stupidity of everyone around her. She was easily my favorite character, probably for the reason stated above. The rest of the characters have the sole focus of kill the other side, and it did get a bit old at times. Cassie and Greg were so oblivious to the other, which drove me nuts! But once again, I think that was part of their charm. All the characters fit nicely together to the whole story. I really like the cover. It totally fits the story, as Elena is the girl responsible for everything.

Troy High is a hip re-vamping of a classic tale. It highlights the implications of high school rivalries

as the Trojans take on the Spartans (both on and off the football field). Cassie, the narrator, is sucked into a war she wants no part of and must determine where her loyalties lie: with her Spartan best friend, or her football-playing Trojan brothers. Norris's storytelling is witty and engaging, and readers will love the classic pranks played by both schools. Though many parts are laugh out loud funny, Norris does an excellent job showing just how deep rivalries run, and the devastating effects they sometimes have. Shana Norris (Something to Blog About, 2008) is a funny new voice in YA literature, and definitely an author to keep an eye on.

Check out my full review on my blog! mmmmm | Where to start? I'm really into Greek mythology, especially modern retellings. So, cliché as this book looked like it may end up being, I was excited to read it. It was a fast read, mostly because it was purely fluff. There was nothing to it. YAWN. The one part that I truly loved about the book, was the only thing that the author made up. Which leads me to think that Shana Norris might actually be a decent author, if she's not restrained to high school drama and overused mythologies. Honestly, what I hated most about the book was the high school, and how it was portrayed. It was so stupid, and TOTALLY unrealistic. That is NOT how school social structures work. The group dynamic was awful, and it was clear that the author didn't really know what goes on inside modern high schools. I understand that she needed to elaborate and exaggerate to bring the myth to life, but it wasn't very well done. Except, as I already stated the part that wasn't part of the myth. Can you tell I didn't like this book? Well, the plot consisted of a bunch of back-and-forth pranks between the two schools, the Helen and Paris relationship that started it, and the forbidden love of Cassie and her Trojan love interest. There. Entire book. Well, I didn't really hate this book. I enjoyed it in the moment, it was a fun-ish read, but in hindsight I just felt like it was a waste of time. The relationship between Cassie and her friend was basically what kept me reading the book. They were totally adorable and awkward and I loved it. For ages 11+.

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