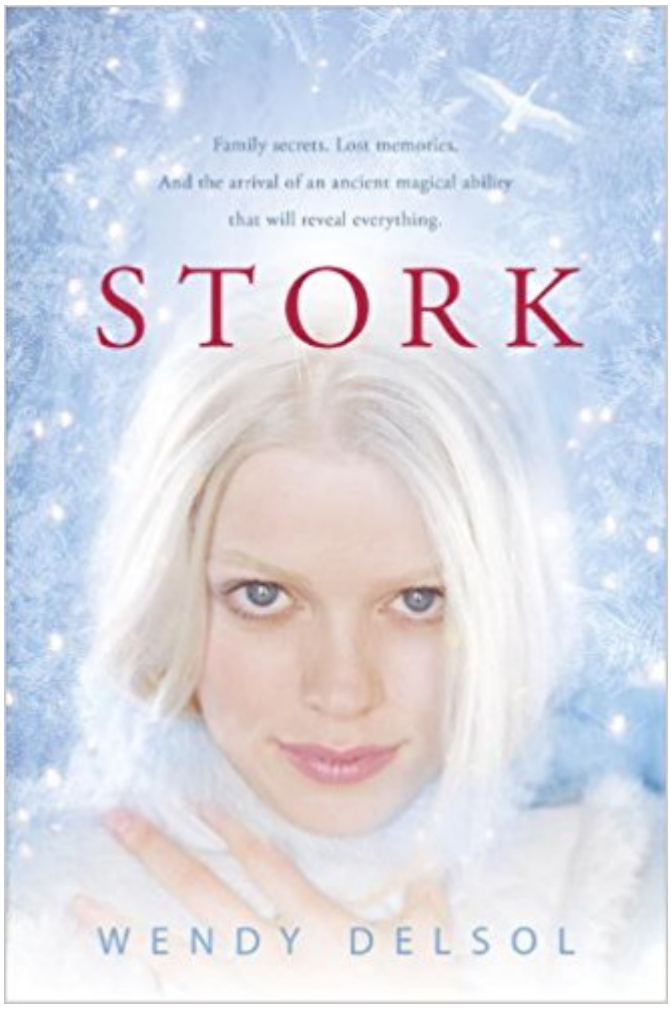
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Stork (Stork Trilogy (Paperback))



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Synopsis

Family secrets. Lost memories. And the arrival of an ancient magical ability that will reveal everything.Sixteen-year-old Katla LeBlanc has just moved from Los Angeles toÃ Â Minnesota. As if it werenÃ¢â ¬â„¢t enough that her trendy fashion sense draws stares, Katla soon finds out that sheÃ¢â ¬â„¢s a Stork, a member ofÃ Â a mysteriousÃ Â order of women tasked with a very unique duty. But KatlaÃ¢â ¬â„¢s biggest challenge may be finding her flock at aÃ Â new school. Between being ignored by Wade, the arrogantÃ Â jockÃ Â she stupidly fooled around with, and constantly arguing with gorgeous farm boy and editor-in-chief Jack, Katla is relieved when her assignment as the school paperÃ¢â ¬â„¢s fashion columnist brings with it some much-needed friendship. But as Homecoming approaches, Katla uncovers a shocking secret about her past Ã¢â ¬â • a secret that binds her fate to JackÃ¢â ¬â„¢s in a way neither could have ever anticipated. With a nod to Hans Christian Andersen andÃ Â inspired byÃ Â Norse lore, Wendy DelsolÃ¢â ¬â„¢s debut novelÃ Â introducesÃ Â a hip and witty heroineÃ Â who finds herself tail-feathers deep in small-town life.

Book Information

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Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

Customer Reviews

Grade 7 UpÃ¢â ¬â •Katla Leblanc has recently moved from LA to northern Minnesota, the ancestral home of her mother's family. The story immediately takes on a magical twist when she is summoned to the scary basement of a seemingly abandoned fabric shop only to find a chair being held for her among a circle of old women. It's a secret meeting of the Aslendigas Storkur SocietyÃ¢â ¬â •storks who recommend and vote on the placement of new souls in "vessels." Couple that with the new boy who apparently knows her from "before," and you have the making of a breathtaking urban fantasy. Delsol uses colloquialisms and rich language to create vivid characters and detailed settings. The inclusion of Nordic mythology and a sense of fate add to the tenor of mysticism, and the two young men in Katla's life, one of whom might be posing a danger to her, add interest and suspense.Ã¢â ¬â •Leah Krippner, Harlem High School, Machesney Park, IL (c) Copyright 2011. Ã Â Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted. --This text refers to the Preloaded Digital Audio Player edition.

When her parents divorce, 16-year-old Katla Leblanc and her mother leave Los Angeles for the tiny rural Minnesota town where her mother grew up. Fashionista Katla misses Starbucks and shopping but is soon absorbed with her inadvertent and unwanted induction into the Icelandic Stork Society, an ancient order of local women who pair up unborn babies with would-be mothers. Then thereÃ¢â ¬â„¢s Jack Snjosson, the gorgeous, brooding farm boy who seems fascinated with KatlaÃ¢â ¬â •when he is not being rude and distant. (It turns out that Jack and Katla have met before, in a traumatic near-drowning accident five years earlier.) This snappy, lighthearted supernatural romance blends Norse mythology and contemporary issues with an easy touch. Although not as deep a read as something from Shannon Hale or Donna Jo Napoli, DelsolÃ¢â ¬â„¢s debut novel offers an engaging, humorous narrative voice along with the comfortable predictability of the folklore on which it draws. Grades 7-11. --Debbie Carton --This text refers to the Preloaded Digital Audio Player edition.

This isn't so much a book review as a "read this book now!" thing.When I downloaded the sample of Wendy Delsol's debut novel Stork to my Kindle, I whipped through it and clicked "Buy Now!" without hesitation. But then I decided to hold off reading it as I had promised myself I'd read something in Spanish first (living in Spain, I really need to improve my Spanish).Then I broke that promise. On the bus home the day I downloaded the book, not having anything else to read, I started in on Stork and couldn't stop. I normally try to limit my reading to bus rides so that I'm not spending ALL my time in

English (too much time in English does a lot of harm to my already iffy Spanish). However, I couldn't resist. The story pulled me in and didn't let me go.The main character goes from sarcastic whiner to caring young adult without it being too much of a stretch. By nature she's obviously happy and giving - she's just pissed off at her change in circumstances - so it only takes the friendliness of a few people around her to to bring her out of her sulk.Of course, gaining a (semi?) boyfriend doesn't hurt.This growth mirrors the progression of her powers. She's forced to act as a responsible adult when choosing a vessel for the next baby that's to come to the community which can't help but flow out into other areas of her life.The supporting characters are all believable and each has enough of a unique voice that they don't all merge into one. Plus although I had guessed the true villain early enough on, Delsol threw in enough distractions to make me doubt my guesses.I have just one complaint - it wasn't long enough. As the final confrontation came upon me I looked down at the progress bar in my Kindle and realized I was almost done. No! It wasn't just because I was enjoying the book and the characters though. I feel the final conflict could have had an even stronger impact if I had been given a few more mini conflicts before the biggie. There was nothing wrong with the way Delsol chose to deliver the climax, but if I had my druthers (what a great word, no?), I would ask for a slightly longer second half of the second act.The book ends, however, with the hint of a sequel, or even a whole series. And if we're lucky Delsol is already working on the next Katla and Jack novel.

Stork yanked me out of my paranormal comfort zone (you know, vampires and werewolves) and into a rich world steeped in Nordic legends. I was lost and loving every single detail I could soak up on off-beaten path. Katla was a take charge character, the small town Minnesota felt like home and the cast of characters were as rich and diverse as the legends in the story. Stork was an absolute pleasure!The thing that set Kat apart for me was her willingness to accept what she was, When it is revealed that she is a stork, instead of denying it, she sort of just goes with it. I wish she'd been a little more inquisitive about what her powers actually mean but it was nice to see a character not freak out. It was also nice because she was pretty open-minded. Instead of shunning everyone, she welcomed friendship with Penny and even put herself out there. Her sarcasm and quick-wit provided some laugh out loud moments and her passion for fashion was fueled in every decision she made.Because of Kat's love of all things runway, it provided a lot of comedy and contrast between her and Jack. Their relationship was sweet and I really liked how opposite they were.Jack was simple, Kat complicated. Jack liked the cold, Kat didn't. They worked well as a pair, alike enough to be attracted to each other but different enough to challenge each other. The ladies of the Stork

Society were great. Hulda is one of the endearing memorable characters and I loved listening to her advice and watching it play out. In a lot of ways, she replaced Kat absent amma (grandmother) who had passed. Grim was delightfully strict and poor Penny for having her as a guardian. I loved watching Penny's confidence grow as the novel continued and she was a great friend to Kat. Even the little town where Kat lived was like a character, rich in history and lovably familiar.The mythology in the novel was by far its shining star. I'm not familiar with Norse mythology and while I found it frustrating that I didn't know much (I kept feeling like I was missing clues) it was also very interesting to learn it. One minor problem I had with the story was I felt like some of the words were unnecessarily complex and took away my enjoyment a little bit. I felt like some of their meaning was lost on me and it pulled me out of the story.Stork is definitely a novel you'll want to traverse. Like a snowy field, it is straightforward but upon closer inspection the detailing and magic sparkle. With an able lead, fun characters and an amazing setting, Stork shines. The mythology will capture you and Kat's journey will hold you. I loved this one!

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