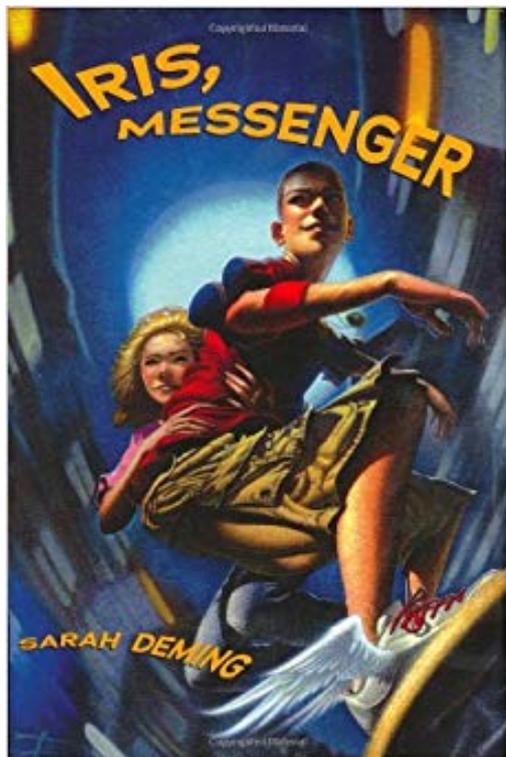


## Iris, Messenger *by* Sarah Deming



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**Author:** Sarah Deming

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Dreamer Iris Greenwold doesn't care much for the real world. It's generally pretty disappointing: divorced parents, unsympathetic peers, and a middle school that is hell. But then, on her twelfth birthday, Iris mysteriously receives a copy of *Bulfinch's Mythology* and discovers that the entire pantheon of gods are living in the greater Philadelphia area. Poseidon's running a clam shack, Aphrodite's doing makeovers, Apollo's playing tenor sax. . . .



## Reviews of the *Iris, Messenger* *by* Sarah Deming

### Thorgahuginn

This book is a great tool for bringing the personalities of classical mythology to life for young readers. It's an easy, fun, well-styled read, and I have the feeling some kids will revisit the book when they're older, at which point they'll discover elements of sophistication that may have been beyond their youth. That's a good thing. I agree that the cover art is strange; it's comic book feel is belied by the novel's rich content. *Iris, Messenger* is a winner.

### Mitynarit

In "Iris, Messenger" we meet wonderfully flawed gods and goddesses in suburban east coast America. This short novel is a wonderful vehicle to get reacquainted with Greek mythology. Sarah Deming's clever retelling of ancient stories enable me to recall the myths much more than I ever did in my 6th grade English class.

Iris suffers the Sturm and Drang of many modern preadolescents and adolescents. This book effectively weaves 21st century concerns of how we search for meaning in our lives with stories that have held up for eons. When I reached the end of the book I realized I had been hoping for redemption of these mythic characters. The book's conclusion reminded me that transformation occurs in quieter, individual ways.

This book is written for "10 and up" and this does not convey what a gem this novel is for all ages. Highly recommended for everyone you know who is attracted to mythology and great storytelling.

### **Dainris**

My daughter is 9 and has devoured this book again and again and again. It's her favorite book of all of them. And she's read quite a few. Is it the awesome heroine? Hades as a school principal? The tofu loving vegan mom? All of it?

It's now our go-to birthday gift.

### **Akisame**

My granddaughter needed this for a class. Great!

### **lets go baby**

The stories that carry religion are treasures and Ms. Deming has mined them with humor and wisdom. The gods of the past, the God of the present, and the promise of a future for humans willing to question, trust and risk make this a page-turner with a smile.

### **Tansino**

This book was pretty confusing to me, and I never really understood what was going on in the book. I had to read it for school, meaning I had to stick with it for about a month. Iris Messenger just never really grew on me despite all the essays and quizzes I had on it (though that may be the reason for my dislike :)

It is Greek Mythology related, but the gods aren't represented quite like we think they usually are in our minds. It's kind of weird, and I just didn't like that aspect of the book very much.

### **Impala Frozen**

Yes, it's another Greek pantheon novel (no doubt attempting to capitalize on the success of Rick Riordan's Percy Jackson series). It's distinctive, though, because the voice is so good. Witty, light; this book moves fast. The plot is a little slight and episodic, but the told stories (several deities relate their back stories) are wonderful. And the dynamic between Iris and her soybean-ologist mom is terrific.

One thing that bothered me is the cover (and I know the author has no control over this; her publisher could have done better by her). The girl, Iris, is the protagonist, yet the cover features a character who, while somewhat important to the plot, is peripheral. And male. Iris protags, why not have her as the central actor on the cover? Even so, I'll definitely look for more from this author, with the hopes that she takes on something more substantial next time.

Filippa's son speaking! I found this book at the library almost as soon as it came out, and I fell in love with it. Since I was 9 then, and just beginning to dive into mythology, It was perfect. Though I know the entire book by heart, I think that Sarah Deming is absolutely, completely and totally brilliant. I'm almost expecting winged sandals to be delivered to my doorstep!! Very realistic. LOVE

THIS BOOK!!!!

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