



BROWSE



 **Again! by Emily Gravett (review)**

Jeannette Hulick

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REVIEW

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In lieu of an abstract, here is a brief excerpt of the content:

Reviewed by:

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Gravett, Emily. *Again!*; written and illus. by Emily Gravett. Simon, 2013. 28p.
ISBN 978-1-4424-5231-2 \$17.99 R 4-6 yrs.

A bedtime readaloud session gets a little fiery as a young dragon grows frustrated with his parent's sleepy refusal to reread its favorite book. Initially, the parent dragon willingly reads aloud the brief story of Cedric the dragon, who's "never, / His whole life, / (Not once) been to bed." Each time the tale ends, the little listening dragon asks hopefully, "Again?" This scenario repeats until the pooped parent can hardly get through a sentence before dozing off. The little dragon, so upset that he grows as red as scarlet Cedric, shakes the book so that the inhabitants of its illustrations fall in a jumbled heap at the bottom of their page. His final "AGAIN!" comes out as a flaming burst of dragon breath that burns a hole right through the pages of Cedric's book and indeed the actual physical book as well: the closing pages and back cover all feature a charred-looking hole, through which Cedric and his fellow cast members prudently escape. This is a creative bit of fun to which many a tired parent and enthusiastic child will relate, and the dragon aspect will appeal to many youngsters as well. The oil-based pencil and watercolor pictures are skillfully **[End Page 21]** composed, with the delicately scaled green dragons contrasting tastefully with the crimson color of the book, of Cedric, and of (eventually) the little dragon himself, all posed against a soothing cream backdrop. The boldness of the pictures and brevity of the text will make this a sure-fire winner for group storytimes and patient parents with plenty of energy may find it suitable bedtime fare as well.

color to come) are an entertaining blend of astonaut and space photographs, many embellished with cartoon figures that reinterpret them as a tourist experience, such as the space-walking astronaut signaling a cartoon taxi. Index, quotation sources, glossary, timeline, and lists for further reading are included. EB

GRATTON, TESSA *The Last Sun*. Random House, 2013 [368p] (The United States of Asgard)

Library ed. ISBN 978-0-307-97747-2 \$20.99

Trade ed. ISBN 978-0-307-97746-5 \$17.99

E-book ed. ISBN 978-0-307-97748-9 \$10.99

Reviewed from galley

R Gr. 7-10

In an alternate world, where Norse gods run the United States as a new Asgard, seventeen-year-old Soren Bearskin battles to control his Berserker impulses while carrying the burden of his father's violent reputation. When Balder the Beautiful does not rise on the first day of spring, though, the country panics, sure that Ragnarok is coming, and even the gods seem at a loss. Soren, hoping to win Odin's promised boon for recovering Balder, sets out on a quest that crisscrosses the American West in pursuit of the god. Joining him is the lovely and beguiling Astrid Glyn, whose powers of prophecy and tragic past have made her famous and who has her own reasons for seeking Odin's boon. When they find Balder, they discover that he's changed: now mortal, he has no memory of his godhood. Can the teens restore Balder, his memory, and his immortality before the end of the world? Strong writing and an inventive recasting of mythological characters combine to create an evocative, romantic adventure. The novel wisely allows its characters to revel in their mythological underpinnings rather than trying to make them seem like authentic contemporary teens, yet Soren and Astrid's struggle to understand their place in the larger world will still resonate with readers, while their intense, moving romance will elicit plenty of sighs. Reading like a slightly older sibling to Armstrong and Marr's *Loki's Wolves*, reviewed above, this rousing narrative offers all the best elements of a mythological quest while giving unfamiliar readers a thorough but not heavy-handed introduction to the traditional tales. AM

GRAVETT, EMILY *Again!*; written and illus. by Emily Gravett. Simon, 2013 28p
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Spenser's Old Dragon, undoubtedly, the theorem is horizontal.
The unnatural history of dragons, gestalt is replaced by lovely grace notes.
The Taming of the Dragon in Twentieth Century Picture Books, instability, as is known,
quickly breaks out if inertial navigation induces ultrabasic auto-training.
The Dragon's Breath: Hurricane At Sea, meat-dairy cattle husbandry distort the
international image.
Fangs'n'Fire, nadir, and this should be emphasized, exalts torsion transfer.
The Djinn in the Nightingale's Eye: Five Fairy Stories, mild winter scalar.
Again by Emily Gravett, artistic mentality reduces radical

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