**Media Release**

**A new Viking Queen has risen.**

July 2021

If you like your Vikings with heroes and villains, bloodthirsty battles, steamy romance, conspiracies and political intrigue, then Australian author, Tanya Nellestein’s four book series, ***The Valkyrie of Birca*** is for you.

The seriespays homage to the author’s long standing love affair with history. Ancient, modern and everything in between has always fascinated Tanya Nellestein. She’s also a hopeless romantic, who’d prefer watching action movies to romcoms.

“The Viking age is a fairly limited period of time, but one of great intrigue and inspiration for many,” said Tanya. “Viking women, unlike other ages and cultures, actually had some rights and freedoms.”

Another major plus for the self-confessed femimist.

***The Valkyrie of Birca*** is a four book series with the third instalment, ***The Valkyrie Queen,*** due out in August. The book follows on from the first two releases ***The Valkyrie’s Viking*** and ***The Valkyrie’s Rule***. The characters and their adventures are purely fictional, but their origins are steeped in centuries of culture and history.

The book is set in Birca, Sweden, which is the site of the famous 10th-century grave belonging to a great Viking warrior. The ancient warrior was given a prestigious Viking burial, complete with deadly Viking weapons, a bag of gaming pieces purported to be used by those in command of the military, and two horses, one bridled for riding. This mighty warrior — long thought to be a man —made headlines in 2017 when researchers in Sweden announced that the individual was, in fact, a woman.

Not to be deterred by her limited knowledge of Vikings, or even Viking Romances, Tanya took a deep dive into Viking culture and found herself completely infatuated. The learning experience was definitely enhanced by bingeing *Vikings* on Netflix.

“Between Ragnar Lothbrook and his sons, there was no turning back,” said Tanya. “But most of all, there was Lagertha! Fierce, determined, fearless - a veritable goddess. She became a huge inspiration for my Viking series.”

The story stalled in the early phases until fate came knocking. Aiki Flinthart is an author and martial artist. She is the creator of *Fight Like a Girl*, a how-to for authors writing fight scenes for women. Aiki was diagnosed with terminal cancer and when she found herself at a loose end after completing her bucket list and still very much alive, asked if anyone wanted her to look at a fight scene.

Not only did Aiki critique the first battle scene in the book, she went on to mentor Tanya and the development of the manuscript from an idea to a story, and into a series. Unfortunately, by the time the first draft was done, Aiki’s time had run out. Her support and guidance live on in ***The Valkyrie’s Viking.***

The book tells the story of Sheildmaiden Brenna and Viking Vali. Young lovers separated by the decisions of others, and their own ambitions. Brenna always wanted to rule, and believes she is fated by the gods to do so. Vali craves a life of adventure at sea.

Fate conspires to bring Brenna and Vali together, only to tear them apart again. Meanwhile, the battle for Birca rages - with the ultimate prize being the Valkyrie of Birca. Is Brenna and Vali’s love fated or cursed? Only the gods know.

***The Valkyrie of Birca*** series is available through Amazon: [mybook.to/TheValkyriesViking](http://mybook.to/TheValkyriesViking)

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**About the author:**

Tanya writes page-turning, gut-churning Viking romance, romantic suspense and crime/mystery with a romantic angle that always includes good sex and a happily ever after - eventually.

Tanya was shortlisted in the 2020 Australian Romance Readers Awards for Favourite Debut Author and Favourite Holiday/Christmas Story. As a freelance journalist, Tanya specialises in all things romance - and anything else she pleases. She was shortlisted for the Romance in the Media Award in 2020.