

## American Gods by Neil Gaiman Review

One man, fresh out a prison and straight off on an adventure with a storm coming.

Shadow, in the employment of a man by the name, Wednesday, travels all across the continental United States doing the bidding of a 'god'. Wednesday convinces Shadow to help him convince the gods to join in his battle after Shadow's wife passes.

Through the entire book two themes remain consistent. These two themes can be rolled into one. A metaphorical storm is coming. A battle in America against the old gods and the new gods. The old gods were brought to America by the many immigrants that came over many centuries. The new gods are represented by technology and what is the next big thing, the cutting edge of tomorrow. Both of these gods die when they are forgotten. The new gods fade as quickly as the old gods the moment people stop believing and move on to something else.

So is this a battle with a winning side or is it all one big con that results in a bloodbath? What is Shadow's role in this battle? Will he walk away or will he perish in the coming storm?

Overall, the book was not a difficult read in terms of vocabulary. I would place vocabulary at an average reading level. What was difficult was the format and the writing style. Gaiman did a lot of skipping around. He would start in the present with Shadow and in a sub chapter he would go back in time to tell about an immigrant and how he/she brought his/her god to America and the god set roots in the new land. Another difficult thing to follow was the change from present awake to present dream. Often I had to reread sections to understand that Shadow was dreaming and that some of the characters he interacted with were dreams.

American Gods was a good story, though it could have used more cohesion and a better plot flow. It took a long time for me to begin to grasp the concept of the book. Even now, I'm not sure I fully understand the message Gaiman was trying to convey. It's dark and mysterious, I will give it that. Though I will only give this book a 2.5 star rating. It was just too confusing and often times I just wanted to stop reading.