



# The Greek and Roman Myths: A Guide to the Classical Stories

*Philip Matyszak*

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## **The Greek and Roman Myths: A Guide to the Classical Stories** Philip Matyszak

Who was Pandora and what was in her famous box? How did Achilles get his Achilles heel? What exactly is a Titan? And why is one computer virus known as a Trojan horse?

The myths of ancient Greece and Rome can seem bewilderingly complex, yet they are so much a part of modern life and discourse that most of us know fragments of them. This comprehensive companion takes these fragments and weaves them into an accessible and enjoyable narrative, guiding the reader through the basic stories of classical myth.

Philip Matyszak explains the sequences of events and introduces the major plots and characters, from the origins of the world and the labors of Hercules to the Trojan War and the voyages of Odysseus and Aeneas. He brings to life an exotic cast of heroes and monsters, wronged women and frighteningly arbitrary yet powerful gods. He also shows how the stories have survived and greatly influenced later art and culture, from Renaissance painting and sculpture to modern opera, literature, movies, and everyday products.

## **The Greek and Roman Myths: A Guide to the Classical Stories Details**

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Author : Philip Matyszak

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**Philip Matyszak**

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## From Reader Review The Greek and Roman Myths: A Guide to the Classical Stories for online ebook

### Makenzie Ryder says

Words can't describe how much I loved this book and the fascination of Greek Mythology I have that follows. Have proceeded to buy all other books related to ancient mythology written by Thames & Hudson

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### Natalie Quinn says

4.5 stars

An incredibly interesting book. I really wanted to know more about this subject as I just find it so interesting. It was so fun to read and I really feel like I learnt a lot, even though it was pretty confusing at times.

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### Olivia says

This was a great book that covered just the right amount of information to someone new to Greek and Roman mythology - or someone who studied it years ago like myself. I would highly recommend!

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### Marjorie says

I loved this book. The author set out the family trees and gave each of the major Gods a profile. He did the same with groups like the Titans and Furies. He gave a brief overview of the Iliad, Odysseus and the Aeneid. Following each God or section he showed and gave a list of the art that has been a spin off from these Myths. While doing this he wrote the book as though you are sitting having a lively and amusing conversation with him. Lines like, 'don't think of the Gods merely as spiteful super beings with poor impulse control . . . . If this topic interests one then this is a book to add to their library.

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### Lisette Marie says

Highly recommend!! This book was a very easy to understand overview of mostly Greek (with very little Roman) mythology. I quite enjoyed the humor throughout the book, and I would definitely recommend it to someone who has never read the classics like The Odyssey. As someone who HAS read The Odyssey and Mythology by Homer, Matyszak's rendition is a great refresher.

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### Lauren J says

This was tremendously good fun to read. Not at all what I expected. The hardback copy contains some beautiful illustrations too.

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### **Toni Harness says**

Considering a lot of mythology books can end up reading like a secondary school text book (boring even though the subject matter is interesting) the author manages to make this the opposite. It is divided into each subject matter in a way that doesn't cause confusion or the need to incessantly flip back and forth, and the language doesn't condescend. I'd say this is a good book for someone who wants introducing to the Greek and Roman myths, or fancies reading it from another perspective. Highly enjoyed this book.

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### **Rachel says**

My hat goes off to Philip Matyszak because he covers a \*lot\* of ground. He does so in a way that is methodical and matter-of-fact, a trait that extends to his humor. I particularly liked how he's quick to connect the names of gods and heroes to modern words and classical paintings. A good example of his style lies in his discussion of paintings depicting Perseus and Andromeda:

"Oddly enough, although nothing in the legend says Andromeda was chained naked, post-classical artists insist that the lady must always be so, perhaps because her garments might have got stuck in the monster's teeth."

Like modern religious denominations, many myths change with the tradition, and Matyszak is usually quick to note the differences in the stories. I say usually. He tells the more pleasant version of Medusa's transformation, for example, and doesn't note the implications of Odysseus's rape by Calypso. Matyszak does well at commenting on many of the myths, which is why these two stuck out to me as unusual. To be fair, the discussion on Odysseus and Calypso appears to be a more recent, open conversation.

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### **Stephanie says**

Really excellent and concise introduction to Greek and Roman mythology. Remembered some stories from school but was struggling to piece them together. This helped a lot!

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### **Tiffany says**

This is a great encyclopaediaesce take on Greek and Roman Myths. Everything is broken down into clear sections on each figure and even has great asides that tie what you are reading into art and modern day world. This is a great place to start if you ever wanted to know about Greek and Roman Mythology.

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### **Louise says**

8/10

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### **Megan says**

Review to follow.

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### **Kate says**

I read this because I had visited Athens and wanted a bit of background having not studied Classics. It's very accessible, doesn't make you feel an idiot for being in the dark and acts like a broad dictionary. Takes no time at all to read and definitely warms you up for the harder stuff.

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### **Grace says**

A great light-hearted introduction to the Greek and Roman gods told in a very engaging way. Really enjoyable to read.

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### **Karina Read says**

Really enjoyed this! Very easy to read with plenty of witticisms and humour. Definitely recommend.

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