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Recounts the glorious days when gods and goddesses who dwelt on Mount Olympus ruled over the world of mortals below, and fabled heroes performed mighty deeds of valor.

Greek Gods and Heroes Details

Date : Published October 15th 1965 by Laurel Leaf (first published 1960)

ISBN : 9780440932215

Author : Robert Graves

Format : Paperback 160 pages

Genre : Fantasy, Mythology, Nonfiction, History, Classics

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From Reader Review Greek Gods and Heroes for online ebook

Mike-p says

Greek Gods and Heroes
by Robert Graves

The book Greek gods and Heroes is the mixture of some of the story though out Greek mythology. I believe that is fantasy because is talk about gods and magic. What i in joined about the book is that it has at the beginning of the book there is the was the beginning of the world in the and that the the end of the book it the book has the way the world will end.

The the book Greek Gods and Heroes i learned a new thing a god that has dead a that is way the is so much pollution and that it was this gods job to keep the world clean. A part i like is the the author tried to keep the mystical fell the the mythology but still using his own words.

I would say that this book is for people that like the stories of the ancient Greek.

Ivlas says

Como introducción muuuy introductoria a la mitología griega está requetebién. Te enteras un poco de todo pero no profundiza en nada, tocará investigar más sobre el tema porque había mil cosas que desconocía y me han sorprendido para bien.

A.C. Bauch says

At the library, I looked for a book containing a solid Greek mythology overview, and this was the best one I found. This one was all right, although I found it inferior to the Evslin, Evslin, and Hoopes *The Greek Gods and Heroes & Monsters of Greek Myth*. Regardless, this book does provide ample information for a reader to gain a foundational knowledge of the most famous Greek myths.

However, something about the writing style bothered me. Can't quite identify the cause (maybe it seemed juvenile?), but I found myself getting exasperated with it at times.

(Didn't finish reading because it was a library book, and I got tired of renewing it. That I didn't finish such a short book is probably telling in and of itself.)

Jak says

This is almost like reading a crib sheet for Greek Gods and Heroes. Each tale told is done with the barest minimum of hyperbole which is great if you want to dip into a story to remind yourself of salient facts and

avoids some of the bloated and over complicated descriptions some others have.

That said it is VERY stripped back. To the bone in fact. Kind of along the lines of “So-and-So fought a monster, won the maiden and married her.” While I welcome shortening the story to concentrate on the important parts of the ‘plot’ it really could have done with some story telling to bring the tales alive more.

Overall a good starting place for people unfamiliar with Greek mythology but if you want to read an entertaining story there are better options.

Mel Foster says

Choose this book for a brief, sanitized (only so much sanitation is possible, but it's intended to be appropriate for children) review of the main stories of the gods and goddesses of ancient Greece. The chapters are short and clearly indicate the contents. An index helps there as well.

Leez Matías says

Tuve que buscar árboles genealógicos y usar mis mapas de la antigua Grecia, lo que me dio un buen ejercicio de búsqueda de información de fuentes, tengo una duda respecto a Prometeo, que tendré que investigar más a fondo y no me gusto mucho que omitiera a Aquiles.

W says

This is a generally enjoyable read which succeeds as an introduction to the topic, even for adults. The writer, being a poet, produces some nice lines. Take this one, on Sisyphus:

'As soon as he got the stone almost to the top, it never failed to bound down with mighty leaps, and he had to begin all over again, exhausted though he was by his continual efforts.' (28)

The text and the world which it depicts are clear and direct throughout. Graves is confident in his account of things, even though one can find different versions of most of the people and events concerned. What emerges from the reading is not so much the 'basic facts' of Greek myth, as an impression of the genre. Graves's fondness for its ancient mystique, bringing absurd surprises, cruelty, and humour, is apparent. These are not parables for children, but enigmatic poetic images.

The opening chapter, depicting Olympus, is the best, and the book seems to grow weary of itself as it approaches the end. There are too many new names and events, without enough description or contemplation.

Ting Tong says

A really interesting read into ancient Greek culture and how their portrayal of the Olympians was far from our westernised ideal of a benevolent God. Zeus is portrayed as having a base character and epitomised by instincts such as spite, retribution, aggression, power, lust etc. He is not portrayed in a good light and neither are any of the Gods or Goddesses, except the one who gave up her seat to another. I wonder what the purpose of these myths were and if they were based on real characters as there is rarely a moral thread through any of them. If anything they act as a talisman for recurrent human abasement. The only story which resonated with me on a deeper level was when Theseus and Peirithous sat down on Hades' bench and they became attached to it as it explained that they could never escape without tearing away part of themselves; attachment is like that. I found myself picturing some of the characters as I'd read and watched Percy Jackson and so I realised that what this book is missing is the emotional attachment to the stories; they are very descriptive and academic but lack heart and therefore I found myself drowning in a sea of foreign names like I was back in Middle Earth.

Rusty says

A fun, fun read! When I saw the author of this one I knew I had to read it. Graves fills the tales with wit and plain good prose. The gods and goddesses are like a bunch of children or a dysfunctional family. They quarrel, play tricks on one another, lie and seek revenge for real or imagined wrongs. The first tale describes the palace where the major gods live and the major gods and their basic characteristics. Once the stage is set you find yourself reading about major gods and their adventures, minor gods and their conflicts with humans, each other and the major gods. As one reads through tales, you find yourself laughing and just plain enjoying these tales. Of course, most of the tales are just plain unbelievable but that makes it all the more enjoyable. Some of my favorite tales were Orpheus, Orion, King Midas's Ears, Theseus and Jaspm amd the Golden Fleece.

Alejandra Restrepo B. says

En esa búsqueda infinita del ser humano por entender lo desconocido y lo que lo atemoriza, por darle nombre y hallarle una explicación a las fuerzas vivas de la naturaleza aparece la mitología griega.

A mi me encanta, aunque como lectora común y silvestre, antes de leer un libro como Odisea quiero hacer un recorderis de los principales dioses y héroes que la conforman.

Este libro empezó bien, con un lenguaje cercano nos presenta los dioses más conocidos, sus "poderes", sus intrigas y sus propias tragedias, sin embargo, sentí que pierde ritmo muy rápido y se desvía a dioses y héroes secundarios que no me interesaban tanto, entonces para mi se volvió un poco tedioso y sentí que la información no fue lo suficientemente completa.

Javier C says

Esta obra casi podría considerarse una referencia rápida sobre los mitos griegos. Desde ese punto de vista, es un libro práctico y fácil de leer: cortito y muy esquemático, y escrito con cierto sentido del humor, lo que lo

hace ameno. Pero esa misma brevedad y concisión se convierte en un inconveniente para quien, como yo, esperaba un relato más elaborado y ameno basado en los mitos griegos. Sí, esta obra da una buena visión general de la mitología griega, y se convierte en una guía de referencia rápida para consultar cualquiera de estos mitos en cualquier momento (aunque para ello un buen complemento hubiera sido un glosario de nombres, una especie de referencia genealógica de los personajes). Pero no es un libro cuya lectura se pueda disfrutar realmente, como yo esperaba. Quizás esperaba más de un autor como Robert Graves... Aún así, interesante de leer como culturilla general.

Laura Ruá says

La narración no era mala, en su mayoría. Sin embargo, es un libro muy pobre que, a duras penas, puede valer como introducción al mundo de la mitología griega. La labor de investigación no parece haber pasado más allá de la visita a Wikipedia.

Además, querer meter un número tan alto de historias en tan poco espacio las simplifica tanto que no hay absolutamente nada de profundidad en ninguna de ellas.

♠ Eze ♠ says

Esto, no solo es un libro de mitología griega para dummies, esta escrito por uno.
Sin palabras, una imagen lo dice todo:

Will Potter says

I liked it.

Nuria says

Una joya que se hace corta corta

Carlos says

Amo la mitología griega oficialmente. Las historias son muy amenas, con un ritmo muy rápido, gráficas, divertidas y excéntricas, repletas de venganzas, asesinatos, guerras, monstruos, pruebas apoteósicas, viaje, miles de nombres que alguna vez hemos escuchado y que embadurnan nuestra cultura, etc.

Para mí los mejores cuentos han sido en los que sale Apolo, que verdaderamente es un salvaje y un celoso y

está metido en todos los fregados, así como Zeus, que es ridículamente cruel.

Algunas historias o extractos que me han encantado han sido Los siete contra Tebas, el hilo de Ariadna, las pruebas de Hércules, las rebeliones de los titanes, la caja de Pandora, la historia de Narciso y Eco...

Imprescindible.

Javier Mariscal says

Robert Graves fue un elegante poeta y novelista británico, que en algún momento decidió despojar de solemnidad a los dioses de Grecia y presentárnoslos como lo haría el vecino que te cuenta la vida de alguien. Genial. Genial. Leyendo estas historias acerca de las disputas familiares y líos amorosos de los dioses griegos, nos enteramos de la mitología más hermosa de la historia como quien ve un programa de televisión. Su estilo lúdico, gracioso, atrayente, provoca saber más y más de la historia mitológica griega, y nos revela sorprendentes detalles gracias a los cuales entendemos de dónde muchos de los términos actuales, que usamos día a día, y que a partir de este libro se dotan de una maravillosa aura mitológica. Si no tienen de qué hablar en las fiestas, lean este libro. Luego me cuentan.

Febo says

Le daría 3,5 estrellas pero goodreads sigue con su sistema paleolítico jaja. En fin, es un buen libro para adentrarse en la mitología griega (o si tienes doce años y tu madre censura tus lecturas), pero si ya la conoces y encima te gusta...se queda bastante corto.

Daniel says

It seems that when Robert Graves wrote this book, he wrote from memory, recalling as an adult tales he had read as a boy. He tells that "wise though" Athene was, "she did not know the names of her parents."

Say, what? Her relationship to her father Zeus is a key aspect of her own story--and essential to understanding her father's rule--and his ability to maintain his power. And he gets another hero's parentage wrong, telling us that Sisyphus "became the father of Odysseus".

Well, maybe his school curriculum didn't include the Odyssey where Homer makes it clear that the great Ithacan was the son of Laertes (who serve a significant role in the conclusion of the epic).

Elise says

One thing that seems to have been missed by many of the previous reviewers is that this book was written to be accessible to children (as well as adults). Yes the tales are concise, but they are meant to be an introduction, not an exhaustive retelling.

This is a retelling of many of the greatest myths and legends of the Ancient Greek gods. The stories are told in a simple, engaging style, well suited to a children's book, without ever being patronising - which is quite a feat for an historian of Graves' standing.

This could be read alone by children from about 8 years or be read by an adult to even younger children. For an adult, either wanting a very quick reminder of certain tales - to look up the bare bones of a certain myth, or one who has never heard certain Greek Myths before, it will also give a useful and very accessible introduction.

Some of the stories are (of necessity, for a children's book, given the sexual adventures of most of the Gods) bowdlerised - e.g. Zeus "marries" girls continually, rather than having the rather more impermanent relationships that the adult version of these myths would explain - but not to an extent that it affects the feel or the content.
