



Beauty's Daughter: The Story of Hermione and Helen of Troy

By Carolyn Meyer



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What is it like to be the daughter of the most beautiful woman in the world?

Hermione knows . . . her mother is Helen of Troy, the famed beauty of Greek myth. Helen is not only beautiful but also impulsive, and when she falls in love with charming Prince Paris, she runs off with him to Troy, abandoning her distraught daughter. Determined to reclaim their enchanting queen, the Greek army sails for Troy. Hermione stows away in one of the thousand ships in the fleet and witnesses the start of the legendary Trojan War.

In the rough Greek encampment outside the walls of Troy, Hermione's life is far from that of a pampered princess. Meanwhile, her mother basks in luxury in the royal palace inside the city. Hermione desperately wishes for the gods and goddesses to intervene and end the brutal war—and to bring her love. Will she end up with the handsome archer Orestes, or the formidable Pyrrhus, leader of a tribe of fierce warriors? And will she ever forgive her mother for bringing such chaos to her life and the lives of so many others?



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Editorial Review

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Meyer's latest historical novel delves into Greek mythology with a retelling of the Trojan War from the point of view of Hermione, the daughter of Helen and Menelaus of Sparta. Hermione lives in the shadow of her vainglorious mother, whose beauty bewitches all men. Though her mother is often critical or neglectful, Hermione is hurt when Helen runs away with Paris, abandoning her and her father but taking her brother. Menelaus and the Greek army follow in the lovers' wake, with Hermione as a stowaway. As the war wages, Hermione grows into a woman with her own romantic and political prospects, including an arranged marriage to a hated man. The dry litany of Greek figures and myths that Hermione recites throughout the story may provide context, but they overshadow the scant details she offers about her own life. Still, the sheer scope and brutality of the war and the complications caused by the gods' meddling are absorbing; if anything, this account should whet readers' interest in additional source material. Grades 8-11. --Krista Hutley

Review

"*Beauty's Daughter* burrows into the recent interest in Greek mythology and builds a fictional account of the young woman's quest to find her lost love."—VOYA

"This title would make a great pairing for students studying Greek mythology or reading the *Iliad* or *Odyssey* and will appeal particularly to students interested in ancient history."—SLJ

"For readers intimidated by the language of the *Iliad*, this makes a fine companion piece, highlighting the soap opera of relationships among the key players and the interventions of the gods into their daily affairs."—*Bulletin*

"This account should whet readers' interest in additional source material."—*Booklist*

Praise for Carolyn Meyer's Young Royals books:

"High drama . . . irresistible."—*Booklist*

"Riveting."—*Publishers Weekly*

"Masterful."—VOYA

"Captivating."—SLJ

About the Author

Carolyn Meyer is the acclaimed author of more than fifty books for young people. Her many award-winning novels include *Mary*, *Bloody Mary*, an ABA Pick of the Lists, an NCSS-CBC Notable Children's

Trade Book in the Field of Social Studies, and an ALA Best Book for Young Adults; *Anastasia: The Last Grand Duchess*, a New York Times bestseller; *White Lilacs*, an ALA Best Book for Young Adults, an NYPL Best Book for the Teen Age, and an IRA Young Adults' Choice; and *Marie, Dancing*, a BookSense Pick. Ms. Meyer lives in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Visit her website at www.readcarolyn.com.

Users Review

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