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The Complete Idiot's Guide to Classical Mythology, 2nd Edition (Complete Idiot's Guides (Lifestyle Paperback))

By Kevin Osborn, Ph.D., Dana L. Burgess



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An exploration of timeless legends.

First told centuries ago, the ancient myths of the Greeks and Romans continue to fascinate and influence the world today. The expanded edition of this popular guide examines why these legends remain an integral part of human history, citing their literary value, and their presence throughout popular culture in such works as J.K. Rowling's *Harry Potter* novels, and the Coen brothers' film *O Brother, Where Art Thou?*

- Features a 50-page “who’s who” glossary of classical mythological characters— from both the Greek and Roman versions
- An updated look at recent movies and television series’ based on mythology, including *Helen of Troy*, HBO’s animated *Odyssey*, and the Disney Channel’s *Hercules*



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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

There are scads of reasons why *The Complete Idiot's Guide to Classical Mythology* is a great reference text and a worthwhile addition to your home, but its primary appeal lies in its accessible tone. The legends of mythology are fascinating and fun--they wouldn't have lasted this long if they weren't high in entertainment value--but that sometimes gets lost in the drive to be "educated" and the fear of appearing ignorant. When folks allude to Phaedra, does your brain draw a blank? When conversation turns to the works of Pindar, do you wax noncommittal while waiting for a clue? That kind of trepidation puts a real pall on enjoying the humanity, magic, and humor of classic myths; taking you past that is what the Idiot's Guide series does best. They explore the roots of mythology, introduce the Greek and Roman gods and heroes, and tell a lot of great stories. A nonthreatening introduction for students, it renews a love of a tale well told, revitalizes an interest in reading stories aloud, and dusts off some lively yarns. And if reading up on Theseus and Heracles makes you better educated and more conversationally versatile, that's just icing on the cake. --*Stephanie Gold*

From the Back Cover

You're no idiot, of course. You can find Greece on a map, know that Kevin Sorbo stars as Hercules on TV, and have heard of Freud's Oedipus theory. But when it comes to classical mythology, you feel like you've been foiled by the gods. Don't curse Zeus yet! The Complete Idiot's Guide to Classical Mythology has all you need for a working knowledge of the timeless world of Greek and Roman myths. In this complete Idiot's Guide, you get:

About the Author

KEVIN OSBORN is author of over three dozen books, including The Complete Idiot's Guide® to Bringing Up Baby and The Complete Idiot's Guide® to Parenting a Preschooler and Toddler, Too. He lives in Park Ridge, New Jersey.

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