

**GRAPHIC
UNIVERSE™**

THESEUS

BATTLING THE MINOTAUR

**A
GREEK
MYTH**

JEFF LIMKE • JOHN MCCREA



THESEUS

BATTLING THE MINOTAUR



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MYTH**

**GRAPHIC
UNIVERSE™**

**STORY BY
JEFF LIMKE**

**PENCILS AND INKS BY
JOHN McCREA**

EUROPE



THESEUS

BATTLING THE MINOTAUR



GRAPHIC UNIVERSE™ • MINNEAPOLIS

THESEUS IS ONE OF THE GREATEST HEROES OF GREEK MYTHOLOGY. HIS FEATS OF STRENGTH AND COURAGE HAVE BEEN PASSED DOWN FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION FOR MORE THAN 2000 YEARS. THIS PARTICULAR BOOK FOLLOWS THESEUS' EARLY ADVENTURES, AS HE COMES OF AGE AND ATTEMPTS TO FULFILL HIS DESTINY AS A GREAT HERO AND ATHENS' GREATEST KING. TO CRAFT THIS TALE FOR THE GRAPHIC MYTHS AND LEGENDS SERIES, AUTHOR JEFF LIMKE CONSULTED TWO OF THE MOST FAMOUS ANTHOLOGIES OF GREEK MYTHS, EDITH HAMILTON'S *MYTHOLOGY* AND *BULFINCH'S MYTHOLOGY* BY THOMAS BULFINCH. ARTIST JOHN MCCREA REFERENCED NUMEROUS HISTORICAL AND TRADITIONAL SOURCES TO GIVE THE ART AN AUTHENTIC LOOK, FROM CLASSICAL GREEK ARCHITECTURE TO THE CLOTHING, WEAPONS, AND ARMOR WORN BY THE CHARACTERS. PROFESSOR DAVID MULROY ENSURED HISTORICAL AND VISUAL ACCURACY.

STORY BY JEFF LIMKE

PENCILS AND INKS BY JOHN MCCREA

COLORING BY HI-FI COLOUR DESIGN

LETTERING BY HI-FI COLOUR DESIGN

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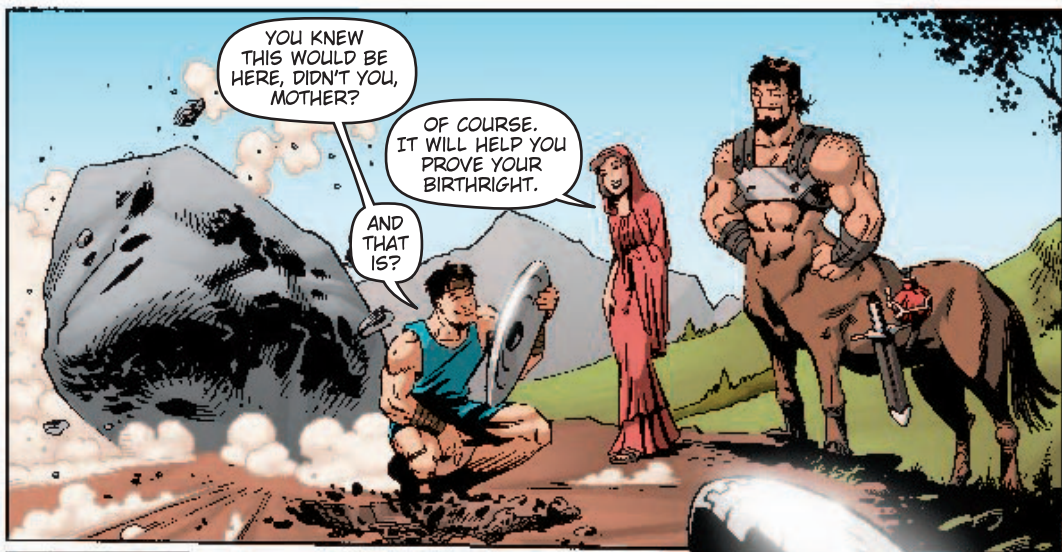
THE TREASURE BENEATH THE BOULDER

MY NAME IS **CONNIDUS** AND I TAUGHT **THESEUS** AS A CHILD. I TAUGHT HIM HISTORY, POETRY, AND MATHEMATICS. HIS MOTHER **AETHRA** TAUGHT HIM WHAT HE NEEDED TO KNOW TO BECOME KING. WHAT HE NEEDED TO LEARN TO BECOME ONE OF GREECE'S GREATEST HEROES, HE WOULD HAVE TO LEARN ON HIS OWN.

WHEN HE WAS OLD ENOUGH, HIS MOTHER TOLD HIM THAT THE FIRST OF MANY TASKS HE WOULD HAVE TO PERFORM WOULD BE TO MOVE THE BOULDER THAT STOOD AT THE TOP OF THE HILL ABOVE THE CAVE WHERE HE LIVED.

WHAT SHE DIDN'T TELL HIM WAS THAT HIS FATHER WAS THE CURRENT KING OF ATHENS. INSTEAD SHE HAD TOLD HIM HE WAS THE SON OF **POSEIDON**, THE GOD OF THE SEA.

THE TREASURE BENEATH THE ROCK WAS NOT WHAT HE HAD EXPECTED.



WHY, THESEUS, I WOULD HOPE YOU WOULD KNOW THE ANSWER BY NOW.



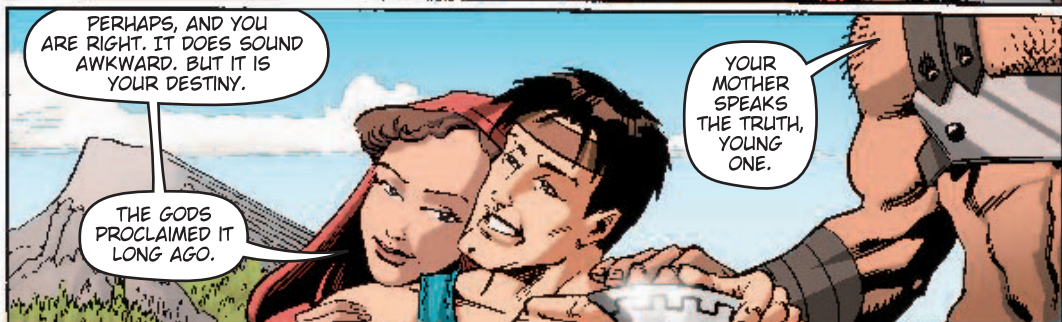
THOSE ARE THE SANDALS AND SHIELD OF THE KING OF THE GREAT CITY, ATHENS.



I AM TO BE KING OF ATHENS, CONNIDUS?



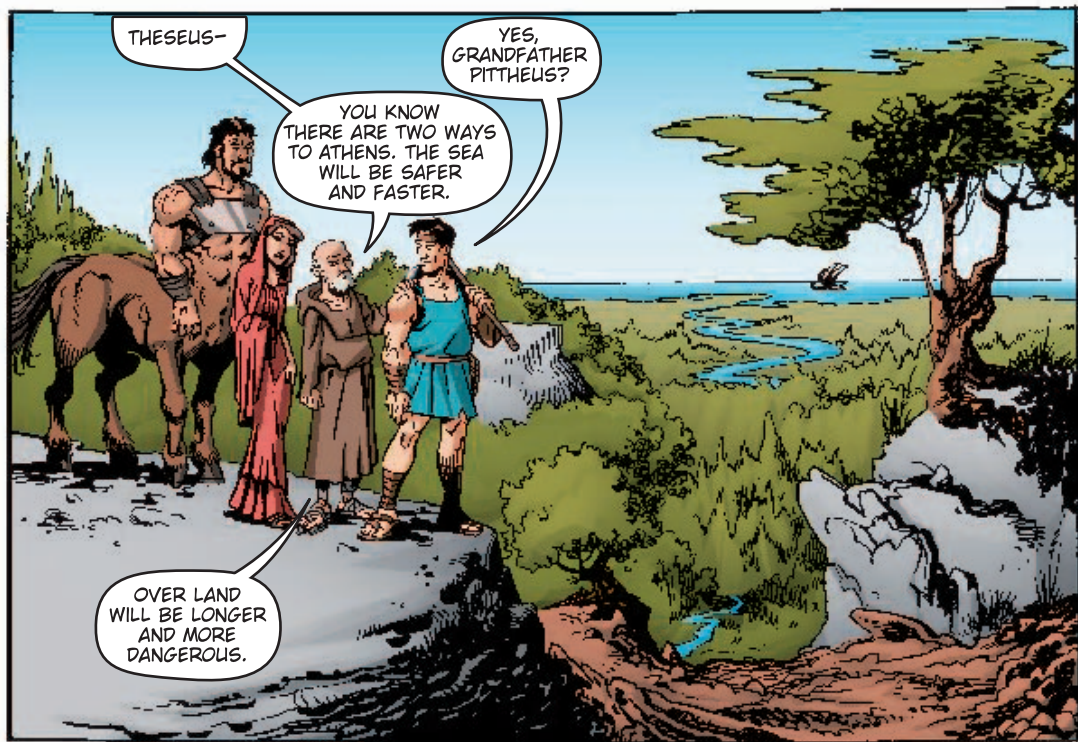
THAT JUST SOUNDS SO STRANGE.



PERHAPS, AND YOU ARE RIGHT. IT DOES SOUND AWKWARD. BUT IT IS YOUR DESTINY.

THE GODS PROCLAIMED IT LONG AGO.

YOUR MOTHER SPEAKS THE TRUTH, YOUNG ONE.



BANDITS ON THE ROAD

THESEUS LEFT HIS HOME IN THE MOUNTAINS AND BEGAN HIS JOURNEY.



HE KNEW HE WOULD HAVE TO FACE CHALLENGES. HE ALSO KNEW HE HAD TO BEAT THEM IF HE WAS GOING TO BE WORTHY OF BECOMING KING.

IN TRUTH, HE COULDN'T WAIT TO PROVE HIMSELF.

HE DIDN'T HAVE TO WAIT LONG.

KA-BOOM!

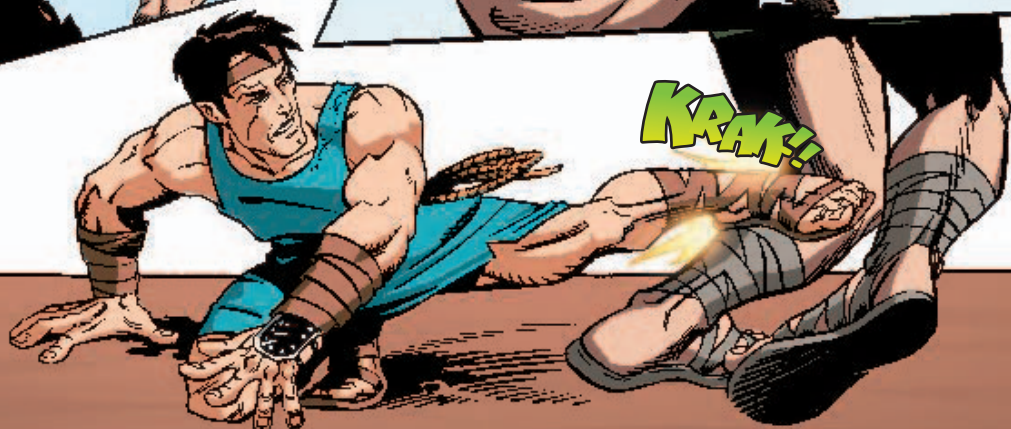
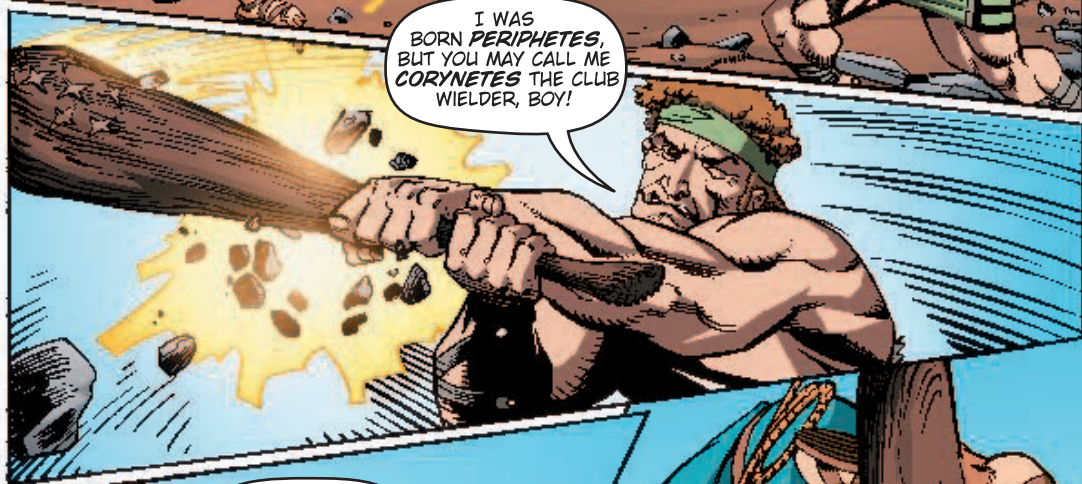
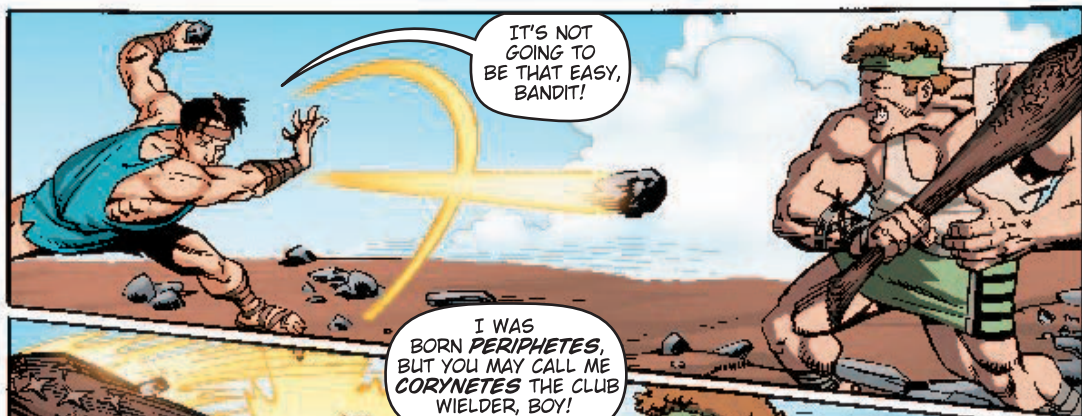
WELL, WELL, WELL, WHAT DO I HAVE HERE? A BOY DRESSED LIKE HE WANTS TO BE A HERO.

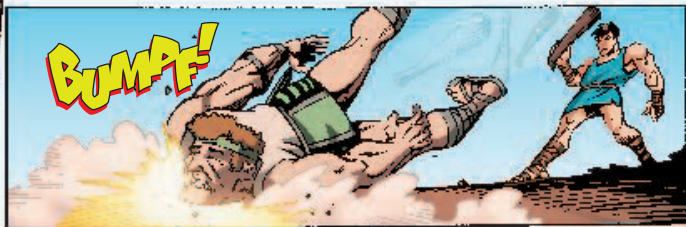
YOU HAVE THE SHIELD, BUT YOU'RE MISSING SOMETHING. A SWORD, PERHAPS?

OR MAYBE...

A CLUB?

KA-BOOM!





YOU
WERE SAYING
SOMETHING
BEFORE?

I GUESS
THAT EACH
OF THESE LITTLE
CROSSES STANDS
FOR A TRAVELER
YOU HAVE
CLUBBED?

HERAKLES PUNISHED
BANDITS BY DOING TO THEM
WHAT THEY DID TO
THEIR VICTIMS.



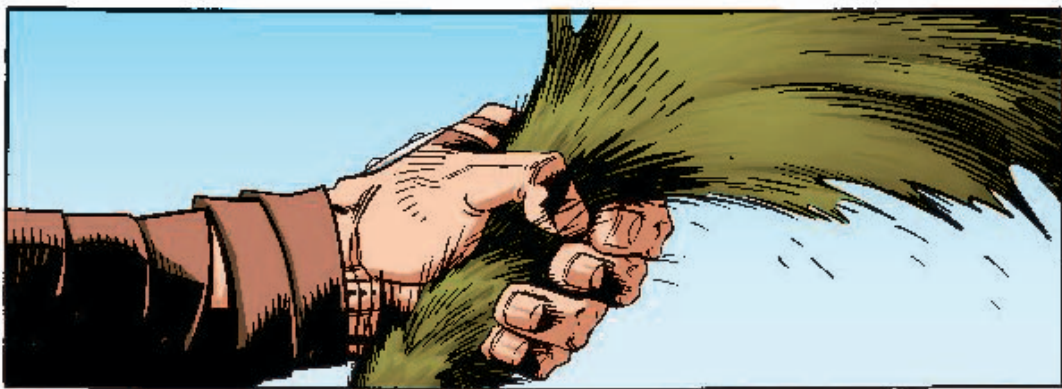
SINCE IT
WORKED FOR
HIM—

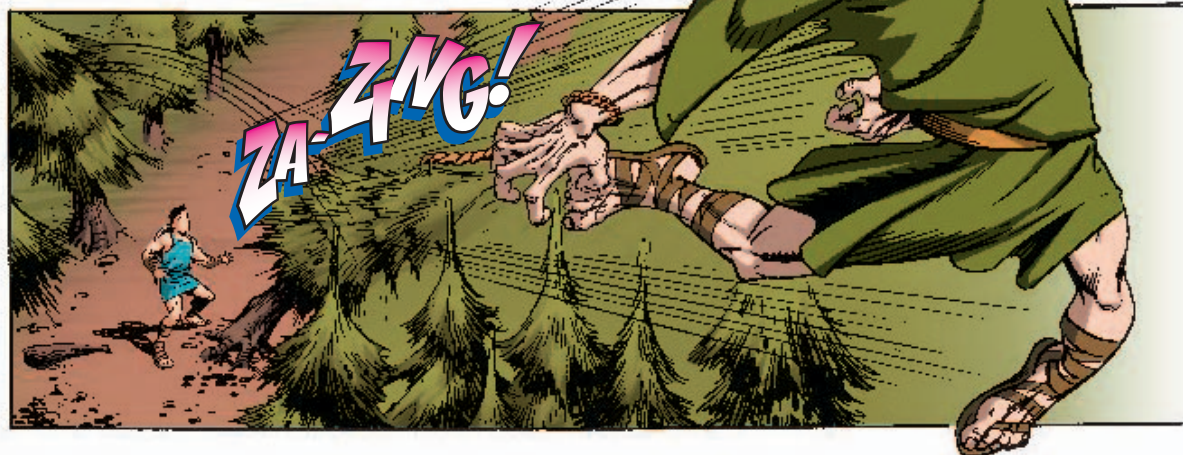
—IT WORKS
FOR ME.

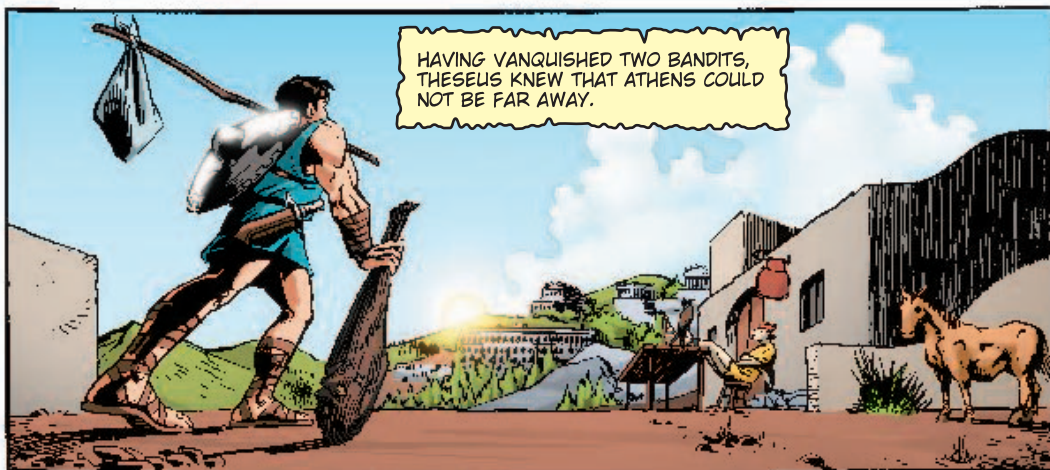
KA-BOOM!











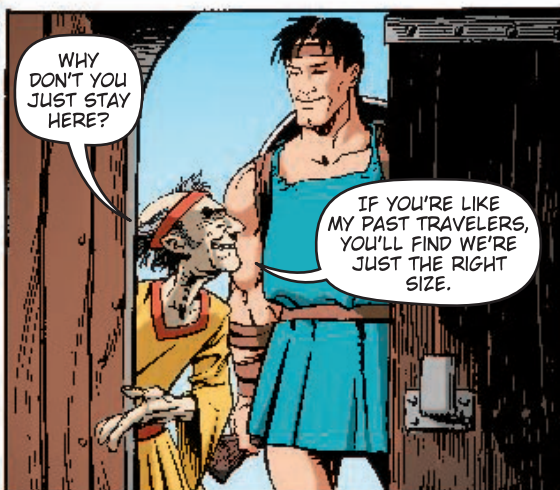
HAVING VANQUISHED TWO BANDITS, THESEUS KNEW THAT ATHENS COULD NOT BE FAR AWAY.



GOOD TRAVELER, I AM *PROCRUSTES* AND THIS IS MY INN.

HOW FAR IS IT TO ATHENS?

FROM HERE TO ATHENS IT WILL TAKE A STRONG MAN OF YOUR HEIGHT A GOOD FULL DAY OF WALKING.



WHY DON'T YOU JUST STAY HERE?

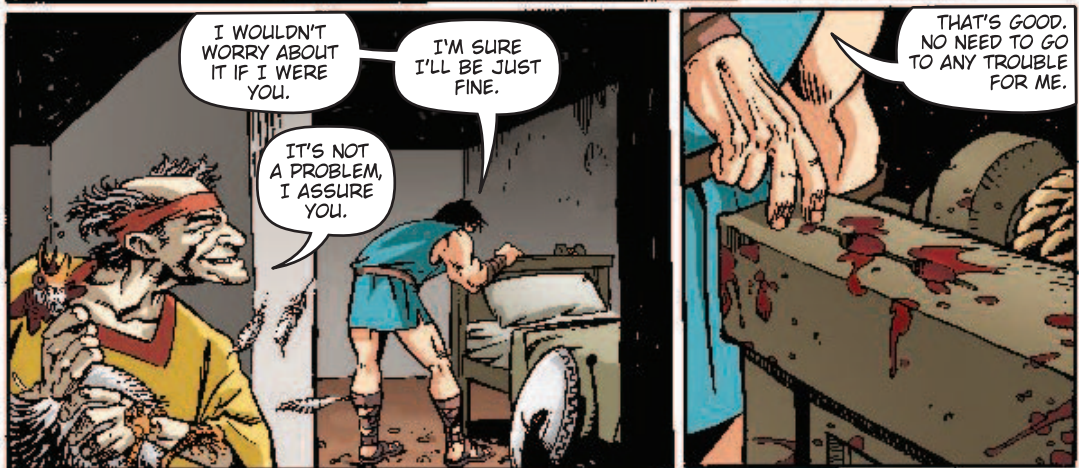
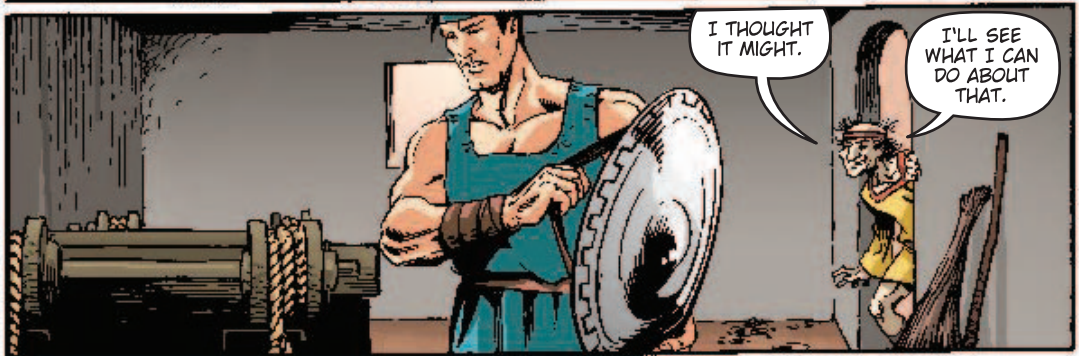
IF YOU'RE LIKE MY PAST TRAVELERS, YOU'LL FIND WE'RE JUST THE RIGHT SIZE.



I THINK YOU'RE RIGHT. YOUR INN LOOKS TAILOR-MADE FOR ME.



I COULDN'T AGREE MORE.







P-P-LEASE
LET...ME...

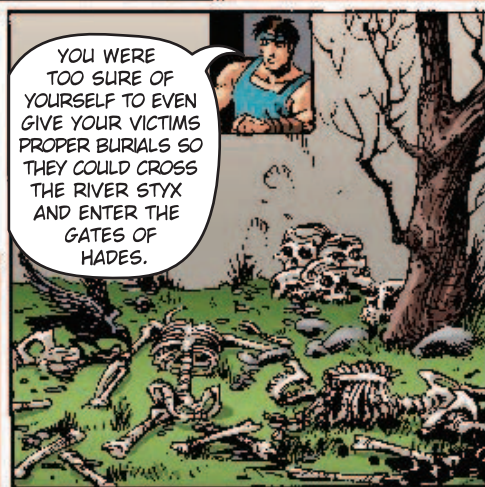


...G-GO.

NO. THIS IS
WHAT YOU WOULD
HAVE DONE
TO ME.



I AM MERELY
DOING TO YOU
WHAT YOU HAVE
DONE TO OTHER
UNWARY
TRAVELERS.



YOU WERE
TOO SURE OF
YOURSELF TO
EVEN GIVE
YOUR VICTIMS
PROPER
BURIALS SO
THEY COULD
CROSS THE
RIVER STYX
AND ENTER
THE GATES
OF HADES.



BE GLAD
YOU WERE TOO
SHORT OR I
WOULD HAVE
USED THE
SWORD YOU
USED TO
MAKE
TALLER
TRAVELERS
FIT.

YOU MADE
YOUR BED,
PROCRUSTES-

NOW,
YOU CAN
SLEEP IN
IT!

THE KING OF ATHENS

SEND A MESSENGER TO THE PALACE! A LONE MAN CARRYING A WEAPON APPROACHES.



MAKE WAY, I HAVE AN URGENT MESSAGE FOR THE KING!

WHAT NEWS DO YOU BRING ME?

A LONE TRAVELER ARRIVES!

THAT IS NOT NEWS!

BUT THIS TRAVELER CARRIES A WEAPON OF ONE OF THE BANDITS KNOWN TO LIVE ON THE ROAD TO ATHENS.

THIS I MUST SEE.

TAKE ME TO SEE HIM.



YOU
SPOKE
THE
TRUTH.

THIS MAN
COULD BE THE
PERSON WHO
COULD UNITE
ATHENS BEHIND
ME.



BRING
HIM TO ME
IMMEDIATELY.



YOU WILL
COME WITH US.
KING AEGEUS
DEMANDS TO
SPEAK WITH
YOU.



WHY?



LET ME
GIVE YOU SOME
ADVICE, COUNTRY
BOY—



—WHEN YOU'RE
KING, YOU CAN
ASK QUESTIONS.



YES.
IT'S MINE
NOW.

I DON'T
THINK HE'LL
BE BOTHERING
ANY MORE
TRAVELERS.



TELL ME
YOUR NAME,
BOY.

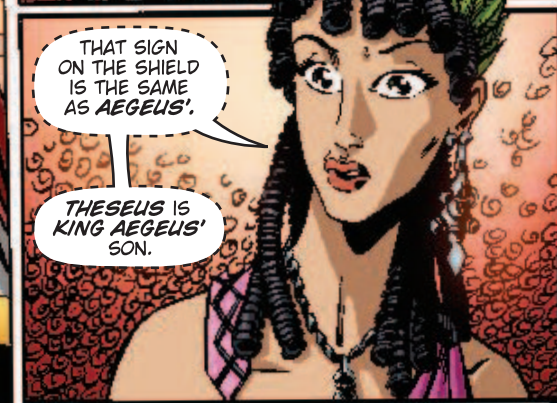
MY MOTHER
NAMED ME
THESEUS.

AND
THIS CLUB?
IT BELONGED
TO **CORYNETES**
DIDN'T IT?



SO I HEAR.
MY SOLDIERS TELL
ME YOU HAVE MADE
TRAVEL SAFE
ON THAT ROAD.

YOU
HAVE MY
THANKS.

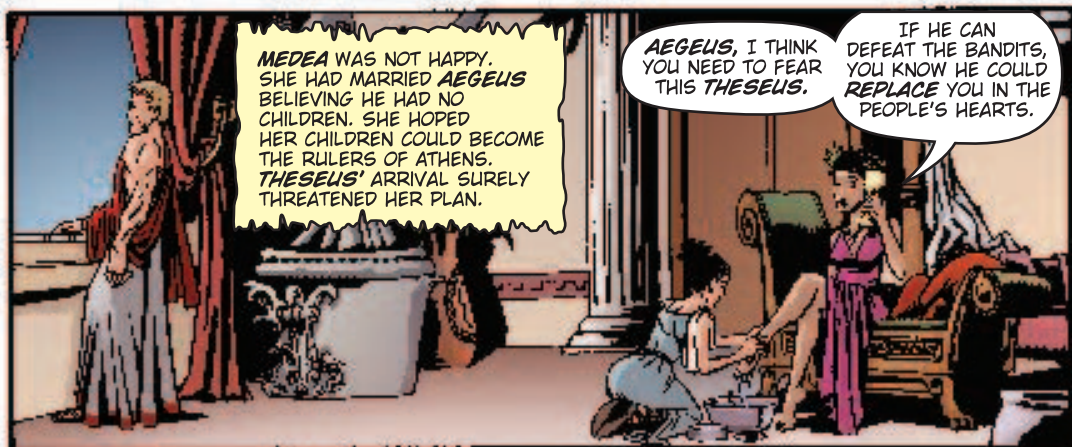


THAT SIGN
ON THE SHIELD
IS THE SAME
AS **AEGEUS**'.

THESEUS IS
KING **AEGEUS**'
SON.



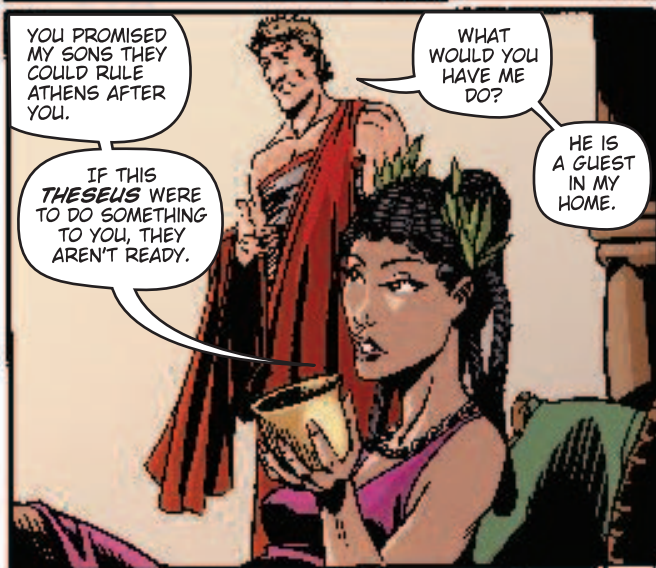
YOU'RE A GUEST
IN MY PALACE.



MEDEA WAS NOT HAPPY. SHE HAD MARRIED AEGEUS BELIEVING HE HAD NO CHILDREN. SHE HOPED HER CHILDREN COULD BECOME THE RULERS OF ATHENS. THESEUS' ARRIVAL SURELY THREATENED HER PLAN.

AEGEUS, I THINK YOU NEED TO FEAR THIS THESEUS.

IF HE CAN DEFEAT THE BANDITS, YOU KNOW HE COULD REPLACE YOU IN THE PEOPLE'S HEARTS.



YOU PROMISED MY SONS THEY COULD RULE ATHENS AFTER YOU.

IF THIS THESEUS WERE TO DO SOMETHING TO YOU, THEY AREN'T READY.

WHAT WOULD YOU HAVE ME DO?

HE IS A GUEST IN MY HOME.



IT IS INTOLERABLE FOR A HOST TO HARM HIS GUEST.

PERHAPS, BUT HE ISN'T MY GUEST.



YOU JUST LET ME WORRY ABOUT THESEUS.



YOU WORRY ABOUT RULING.

LATER, **AEGEUS** INVITED THE NOBLES TO A GREAT BANQUET TO TALK, TO EAT, AND TO INTRODUCE THEM TO THE YOUNG HERO WHO HAD MADE THE ROAD SAFE.

YOUNG **THESEUS**. WHO ARE YOUR PARENTS, AGAIN?

I DIDN'T KNOW MY FATHER. I WAS TOLD IT WAS **POSEIDON**, BUT HE HAS NEVER VISITED ME.

BUT MY MOTHER'S NAME WAS—

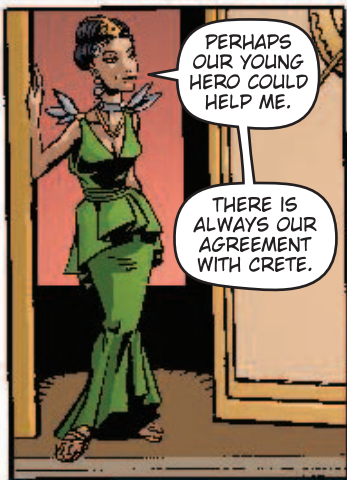
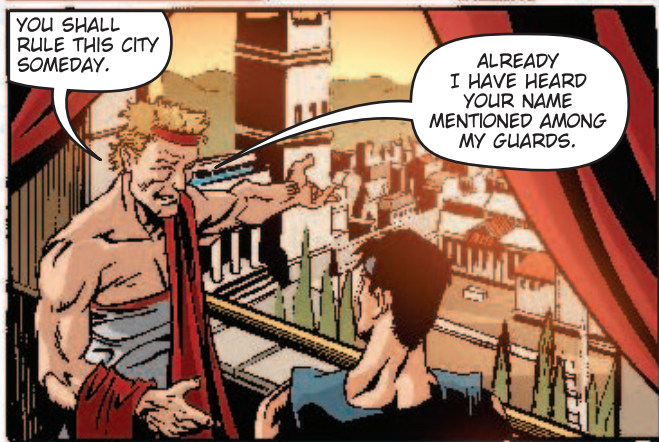
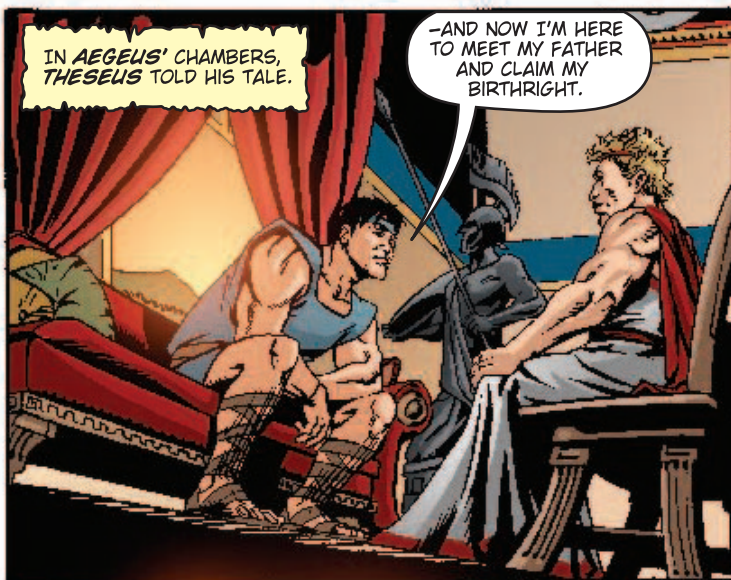
—**AETHRA**

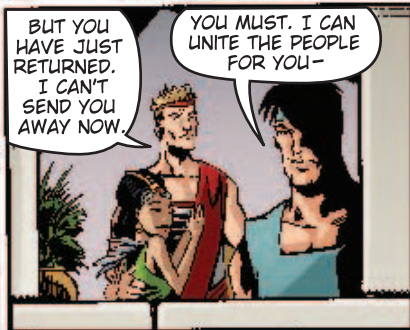
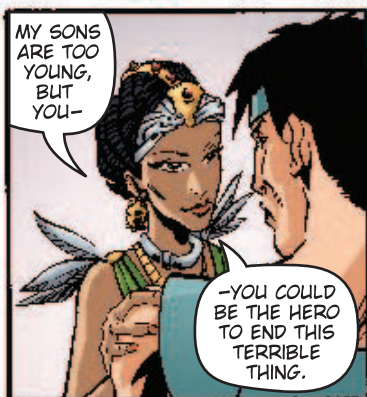
SAY THAT NAME AGAIN, BOY!

AETHRA?

DON'T LET HIM DRINK THAT—

—AND BRING HIM TO ME!







BE
SAFE.

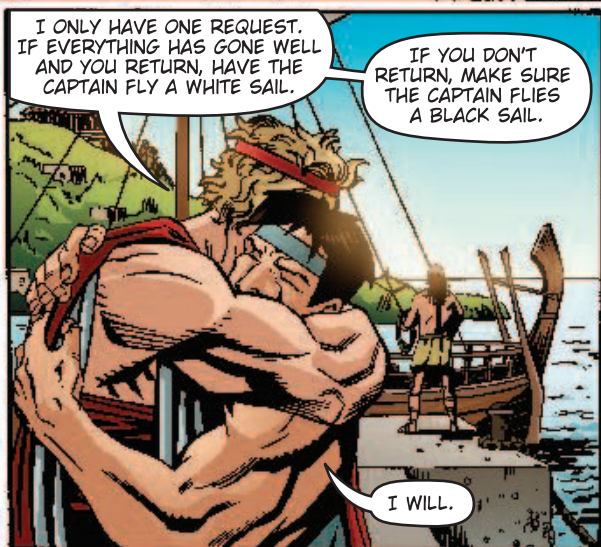
I WILL BE,
FATHER. ONE WAY
OR ANOTHER I WILL
END THIS.

YOU SPEAK
LIKE A RULER.

LET'S HOPE
THAT I HAVE
THE CHANCE TO
BE ONE.



LET'S
HOPE
NOT.



I ONLY HAVE ONE REQUEST.
IF EVERYTHING HAS GONE WELL
AND YOU RETURN, HAVE THE
CAPTAIN FLY A WHITE SAIL.

IF YOU DON'T
RETURN, MAKE SURE
THE CAPTAIN FLIES
A BLACK SAIL.

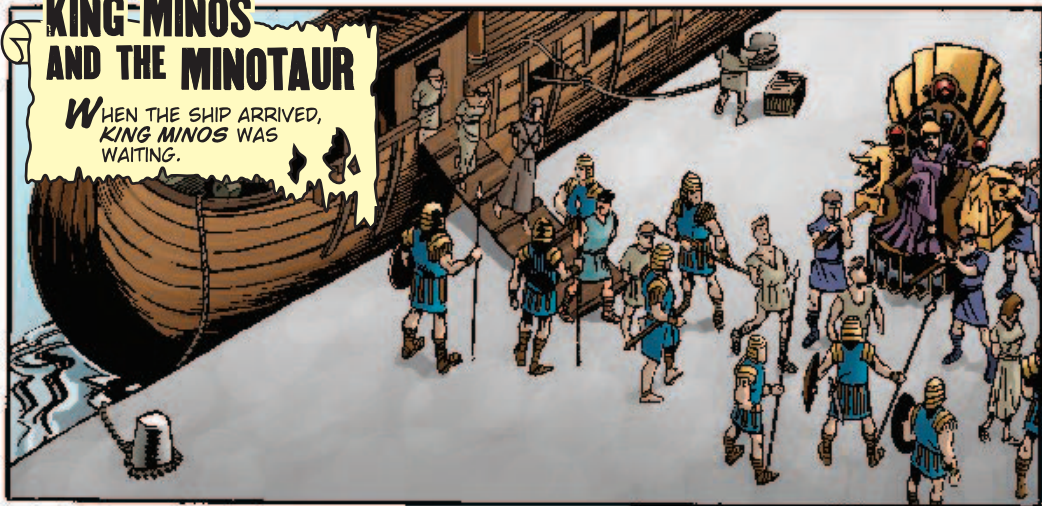
I WILL.



AND SO THE SHIP SAILED
FOR THE ISLAND OF CRETE'S
CAPITAL, KNOSSOS, RULED
BY KING MINOS.

KING-MINOS AND THE MINOTAUR

WHEN THE SHIP ARRIVED,
KING MINOS WAS
WAITING.



TOO SMALL.

TOO SKINNY.

TOO FAT.

TOO WEAK.



AH, THAT
ONE LOOKS
FINE.



I
WANT
HIM.

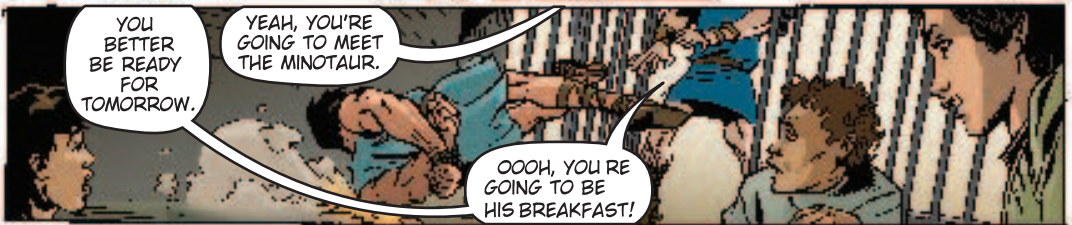
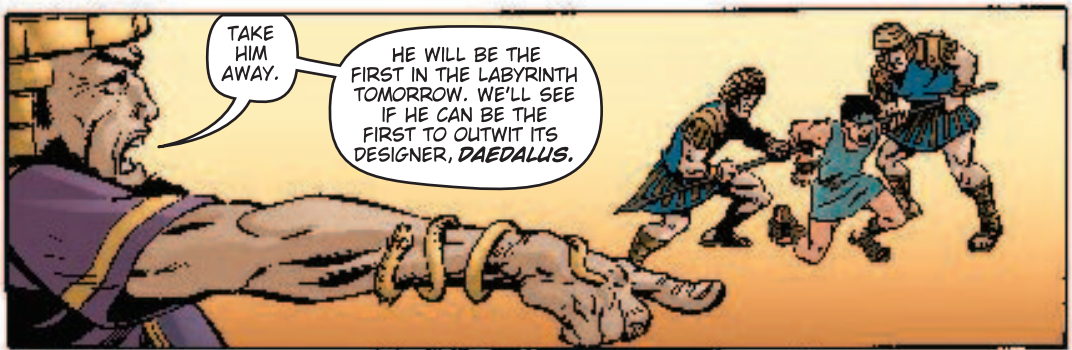


WHAT
IS YOUR
NAME,
BOY?

THESEUS.



ADDRESS
ME PROPERLY,
SLAVE!





IT'S A SAD TALE.

MY STEPMOTHER PASIPHAË WAS WITH CHILD.

THE LABOR HAD BEEN LONG AND PAINFUL. HER SERVANT WOMEN WEREN'T SURE SHE WOULD SURVIVE.

BUT SHE DID AND SO DID HER CHILD. BUT NO ONE EXPECTED HIM TO LOOK LIKE—

—THIS!

MINOS REFUSED TO ADMIT THE CHILD WAS HIS.

IN FACT, HE WAS SO EMBARRASSED HE WOULD HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH IT.

MINOS WENT TO THE TEMPLE TO FIND OUT WHAT TO DO WITH THE MONSTER.

HE RECEIVED MANY DIFFERENT SUGGESTIONS.

MOST SAID HE SHOULD DESTROY THE MONSTER. BUT HE COULDN'T DO THAT. HE KNEW THE GODS WOULD CURSE HIM IF HE KILLED HIS OWN CHILD.

ONE PRIEST TOLD HIM TO BUILD A MAZE IN THE EARTH FROM WHICH THE MONSTER COULD NEVER ESCAPE.

MINOS THOUGHT THE PRIEST WAS A FOOL. BUT THE PRIEST WARNED HIM THE MONSTER WOULD EAT PEOPLE AND RUN WILD IF NOT KEPT CAPTIVE.

SO, MY FATHER CAPTURED DAEDALUS. MINOS FORCED HIM TO BUILD A LABYRINTH, OR MAZE, THAT THE MINOTAUR COULD NOT ESCAPE.

DAEDALUS IS THE SMARTEST MAN IN THE WORLD. HE HAD MANY OTHER THINGS HE WOULD RATHER HAVE DONE.

BUT HE WAS MINOS' PRISONER, SO HE HAD NO CHOICE.

I BEFRIENDED DAEDALUS. HE TOOK CARE OF ME WHILE THE LABYRINTH WAS BEING BUILT.

I GOT TO KNOW MY HALF-BROTHER. HE WAS NOT AS SMART AS THE OTHER CHILDREN AND HE HAD A TERRIBLE TEMPER.

HE WAS NICE TO ME, BUT HE WAS NEVER LET OUT OF HIS CAGE.

THE FINISHED LABYRINTH WAS EVERYTHING MINOS HAD WANTED.

DAEDALUS GUARANTEED THAT NO ONE WOULD EVER BE ABLE TO FIND THE WAY OUT UNAIDED.

THEY PUT THE MINOTAUR INSIDE.

I FELT VERY SORRY FOR HIM. HE DIDN'T DESERVE TO BE KEPT LIKE THAT.

NO ONE SHOULD HAVE TO LIVE LIKE THAT.

THE LABYRINTH HAS NEVER BEEN SOLVED. NO ONE EXPECTED THE MINOTAUR TO FIGURE IT OUT.

BUT **DAEDALLIS** TOLD ME THE ONLY WAY TO SOLVE THE PASSAGES.



HERE!

TAKE THIS!

THIS?

WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO? KNIT A MAP?



NO SILLY, YOU TIE ONE END OF IT TO THE ENTRANCE AND LET IT PLAY OUT BEHIND YOU.

THEN YOU ONLY HAVE TO FOLLOW IT BACK TO GET OUT.

I DON'T WANT ANYONE ELSE TRAPPED IN THERE EVER AGAIN.



I HAVE TO GO. THE GUARDS WILL BE HERE SOON.

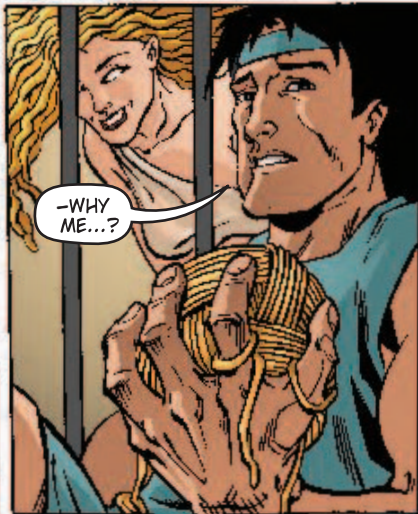
I'VE BEEN HERE LONG ENOUGH TO KNOW THEIR SCHEDULE.

WAIT!

I NEED TO KNOW—



—WHY ME...?



INTO THE LABYRINTH

THE NEXT DAY, THESEUS WAS TAKEN TO THE LABYRINTH.

PEOPLE JEERED LOUDLY AS HE WAS PARADED PAST THEM.



HE WAS PREPARED FOR WHAT WAS TO COME.

HE HADN'T BEEN AFRAID WHEN HE LEFT HOME TO GO TO ATHENS—



—HE WASN'T AFRAID NOW EITHER.



HE KNEW HE COULD DEFEAT THIS MONSTER JUST AS HE HAD DEFEATED THE BANDITS—

—NO MATTER HOW MANY OTHERS BEFORE HIM HAD DIED BELIEVING THE SAME THING.



THE BOY YOU SEE BELOW IS RATHER IMPORTANT.

THE OTHERS HAVE TOLD MY GUARDS HE IS THE SON OF KING AEGEUS.

HE MUST BE DESPERATE TO SEND HIS HEIR TO DIE.

WHAT DO YOU THINK, DAEDALUS? SHOULD I GIVE HIM AN INCENTIVE.

HE IS ROYALTY, AFTER ALL.



KING MINOS, HE IS YOUR PRISONER. YOU CAN DO WITH HIM AS YOU WISH.

YOU'RE RIGHT, OF COURSE. YOU'RE ALWAYS RIGHT.



PRISONER!

YOUR FATHER BELIEVES ME TO BE AN EVIL MAN. AND YET HE SACRIFICES YOU TO DIE IN THE LABYRINTH AT THE HAND OF MY SON.

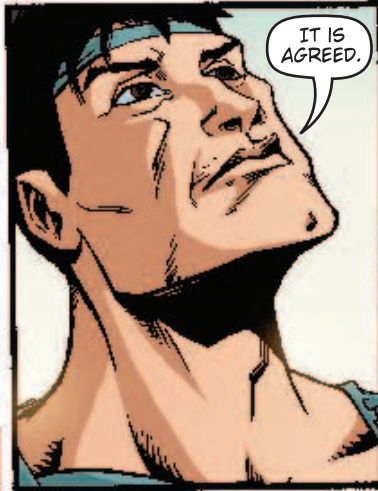
LET ME MAKE YOU A PROPOSITION.



IF YOU MAKE IT OUT OF THE LABYRINTH...

...ALIVE...

I WILL RELEASE ATHENS OF ITS TRIBUTE AND RELEASE YOU AND THOSE WHO CAME WITH YOU.



IT IS AGREED.



THE AIR WAS MUSTY AND SMELLED AWFUL.
THE STENCH MADE **THESEUS'** STOMACH
ROLL WITH EVERY BREATH.

THE GUARDS HAD TOLD **THESEUS**
THAT THE MINOTAUR WOULD
DEFEAT HIM EASILY.

THE BEAST WAS
FAR TOO STRONG
FOR ANY MORTAL
MAN TO DEFEAT
WITHOUT A
WEAPON.

STILL, **THESEUS** KNEW HE HAD BEEN STRONG
ENOUGH TO BEAT BANDITS WHO WERE SUPPOSED
TO BE STRONGER THAN HE WAS.

AND HADN'T HE
OUTSMARTED
THE OTHER BANDIT?

HE KNEW THAT NO
MATTER HOW STRONG
THIS BEAST COULD BE,
HE WOULD BE ABLE TO
OUTWIT IT AND USE
ITS STRENGTH
AGAINST IT.

WOULDN'T
HE?

DEEPER INTO THE LABYRINTH
HE WALKED.

HIS HEART BEAT
FASTER WITH
EVERY STEP.

THUMP

THUMP

EVERY STEP BRINGING HIM
CLOSER TO HIS TEST
OF BEING A HERO.

THUMP

THUMP

EVERY DECISION BECAME
MORE DIFFICULT.

WHERE
ARE
YOU?

THUMP

THUMP

THUMP

THUMP

THUMP

THUMP

THUMP

THUMP

THUMP

RAWR!

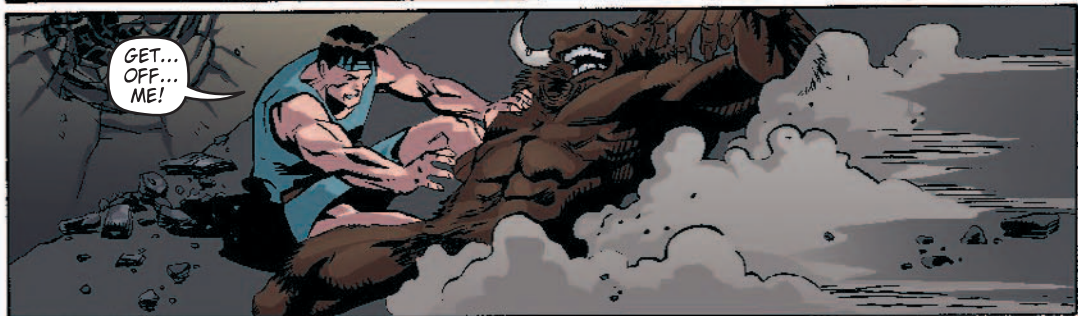




THESEUS' LUNGS
BURNED, HIS RIBS
ACHED AND IT HURT
TO STAND.

HE HAD GIVEN THE MONSTER HIS
BEST SO FAR, YET THE BEAST
WOULD NOT STAY DOWN.









GUARDS!!

KILL HIM!

FATHER, YOU CAN'T DO THAT.

ARIADNE! BE QUIET!

WHAT?



YOU PROMISED TO FREE HIM.

IF YOU DON'T, THE GODS WILL PUNISH YOU AND CRETE.

SHE IS RIGHT, MY KING.



YOU ARE RIGHT, GIRL.

THE GODS CURSED US BEFORE. THEY WILL AGAIN.

HE IS FREE. YOU ARE FREE. **DAEDALUS**, I WILL DEAL WITH YOU LATER.



YOUNG HEIR OF ATHENS, YOU HAVE PROVEN YOUR WORTH.

TAKE YOUR PEOPLE AND RETURN HOME.

I RELEASE YOU AND YOUR CITY OF ANY OBLIGATIONS.

RETURN TO ATHENS

THE BOYS AND GIRLS WHO HAD COME WITH **THESEUS** CELEBRATED TOGETHER ON THE SHIP.

THEY WERE BEYOND HAPPY KNOWING THEY WOULD RETURN HOME TO THEIR FAMILIES.

THEY CELEBRATED THE WHOLE WAY WITHOUT A WORRY IN THEIR HEARTS.

HAVE THERE BEEN ANY SIGHTINGS?

A SHIP IS ON THE HORIZON, BUT NO ONE IS SURE.

BUT WHAT OF THE SAIL?

WHAT COLOR IS THE SAIL?

WE JUST CAN'T TELL.

MY KING, MY KING. WE CAN SEE THE SHIP!

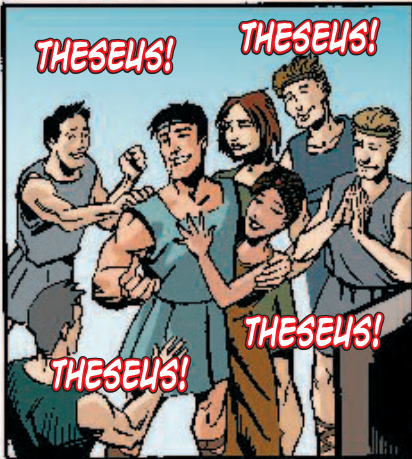
IT IS BLACK!

YOU MUST BE WRONG!

I MUST SEE IT MYSELF.

MY KING! BE CAREFUL SO YOU DON'T-

Noooooo!





THESEUS HAD
PROVED TO
HIMSELF THAT
HE COULD BE
A HERO.

NOW HE WOULD
HAVE TO PROVE
TO HIS PEOPLE
THAT HE COULD
BE A HEROIC
KING.

GLOSSARY AND PRONUNCIATION GUIDE

AEGEUS (eh-jee-us): the king of Athens and Theseus' father

AETHRA (ee-thrah): Aegeus' wife and Theseus' mother

APHRODITE (a-fruh-dy-tee): the Greek goddess of love and beauty

ARIADNE (ah-ree-ad-nee): Minos' daughter, who helps Theseus to escape the labyrinth

ATHENS (a-thenz): one of the great historic Greek city states

CONNIDUS (kun-eye-duhs): Theseus' centaur (half-horse, half-human) tutor

CRETE (kreet): a large island in the eastern Mediterranean Sea, off the southern coast of Greece

DAEDALUS (deb-deh-lus): the engineering genius who built the labyrinth for King Minos

HERAKLES (hair-uh-kleez): a legendary Greek hero; also known by his Roman name, Hercules

LABYRINTH (la-buh-rinth): a place full of confusing passageways and dead ends; a maze

MEDEA (muh-dee-uh): Aegeus' wife

MINOS (my-nohs): the king of Crete and the father of the Minotaur and of Ariadne

MINOTAUR (my-nuh-tor): a ferocious half-man, half-bull; the son of Minos and Pasiphaë

PASIPHAË (pas-uh-fay): wife of Minos, mother of the Minotaur

PERIPHETES (puh-reh-fee-teez): a bandit who preys on travelers along the road to Athens

PITTHEUS (pit-thee-us): Theseus' grandfather

POSEIDON (poh-sy-duhn): the Greek god of the sea

PROCRUSTES (proh-krus-teez): an evil innkeeper who murders his guests by stretching them or cutting off their limbs

SINIS (sin-uh-s): a sinister bandit who kills his victims by forcing them to hold the tops of two trees at the same time, causing them to be torn apart

THESEUS (thee-see-uhs): son of Aegeus and Aethra; Aegeus' successor as king of Athens

FURTHER READING, WEBSITES, AND MOVIES

Bolton, Lesley. *The Everything Classical Mythology Book: Greek and Roman Gods, Goddesses, Heroes, and Monsters from Ares to Zeus*. Avon, MA: Adams Media Corporation, 2002. This who's who guide introduces young readers to Greek and Roman mythology.

Day, Nancy. *Your Travel Guide to Ancient Greece*. Minneapolis: Twenty-First Century Books, 2001. Day prepares readers for a trip back to ancient Greece, including which cities to visit, how to get around, what to wear, and how to fit in with the locals.

Jim Henson's The Storyteller: Greek Myths. DVD. Directed by David Garfath and John Madden. Hollywood, CA: Sony Pictures, 2004. In this entertaining series of stories, four famous Greek myths—including Theseus and the Minotaur—are brought to life using live actors and puppets.

Limke, Jeff. *Jason: Quest for the Golden Fleece*. Minneapolis: Graphic Universe, 2007. Read about the exciting adventures of another great Greek hero, Jason, and his relationship with a certain woman named Medea.

MythWeb. <http://www.mythweb.com/index.html>. This site, with a searchable encyclopedia, provides students with information on gods, goddesses, and places in Greek myth, as well as ample information about Theseus.

Storrie, Paul D. *Hercules: The Twelve Labors*. Minneapolis: Graphic Universe, 2007. Learn about Theseus' hero and inspiration, Hercules, one of Greece's greatest legends.

CREATING THESEUS: BATTLING THE MINOTAUR

To craft this tale for the Graphic Myths and Legends series, author Jeff Limke consulted two of the most famous anthologies of Greek myths, Edith Hamilton's *Mythology* and *Bulfinch's Mythology* by Thomas Bulfinch. Artist John McCrea referenced numerous historical and traditional sources to give the art an authentic look, from classical Greek architecture to the clothing, weapons, and armor worn by the characters. Professor David Mulroy ensured historical and visual accuracy.



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ABOUT THE AUTHOR AND THE ARTIST

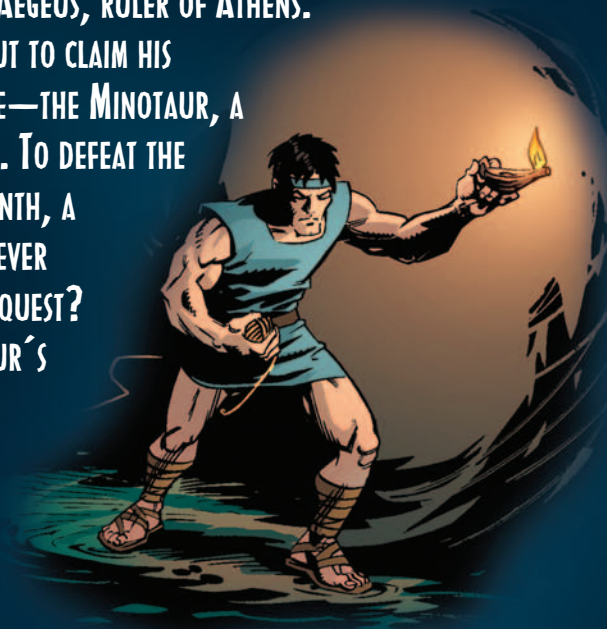
JEFF LIMKE was raised in North Dakota. There he read, listened to, and marveled at stories from the day he learned to read. He later taught stories for many years and has written adaptations of them. Some of his stories have been published by Arrow Comics, Caliber Comics, and Kenzer and Company. His titles for Graphic Universe include *King Arthur: Excalibur Unsheathed*; *Isis & Osiris: To the Ends of the Earth*; *Thor & Loki: In the Land of Giants*; *Jason: The Quest for the Golden Fleece*; and *Arthur & Lancelot: The Fight for Camelot*. Along the way, he got married, and he and his wife had a daughter who loves to read, listen to, and marvel at stories.

JOHN MCCREA was born in Belfast, Northern Ireland. He has been drawing comics professionally for nearly twenty years. His work has become well known through comics for both DC and Marvel, including titles for such series as *Judge Dredd*, *Hitman*, and *Section 8*. He currently lives in Birmingham, England.



DEEPER INTO THE LABYRINTH HE WALKED HIS HEART BEAT FASTER WITH EVERY STEP.

RAISED BY HIS MOTHER AND TUTOR, YOUNG THESEUS FINALLY LEARNS THE TRUTH OF HIS BIRTH: HE IS THE SON OF KING AEGEUS, RULER OF ATHENS. ARMED WITH HIS FATHER'S SHIELD, HE SETS OUT TO CLAIM HIS BIRTHRIGHT AND FACE HIS GREATEST CHALLENGE—THE MINOTAUR, A SAVAGE BEAST WHO IS HALF-MAN, HALF-BULL. TO DEFEAT THE MINOTAUR, THESEUS MUST ENTER THE LABYRINTH, A BEWILDERING MAZE FROM WHICH NO ONE HAS EVER ESCAPED ALIVE. WILL THESEUS SUCCEED IN HIS QUEST? OR WILL HE SUFFER THE FATE OF THE MINOTAUR'S MANY OTHER VICTIMS?



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HERCULES: THE TWELVE LABORS

ISIS & OSIRIS: TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH

JASON: QUEST FOR THE GOLDEN FLEECE

KING ARTHUR: EXCALIBUR UNSHEATHED

ODYSSEUS: ESCAPING POSEIDON'S CURSE

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