

**GRAPHIC
UNIVERSE™**

PERSEUS

THE HUNT FOR MEDUSA'S HEAD



**A
GREEK
MYTH**

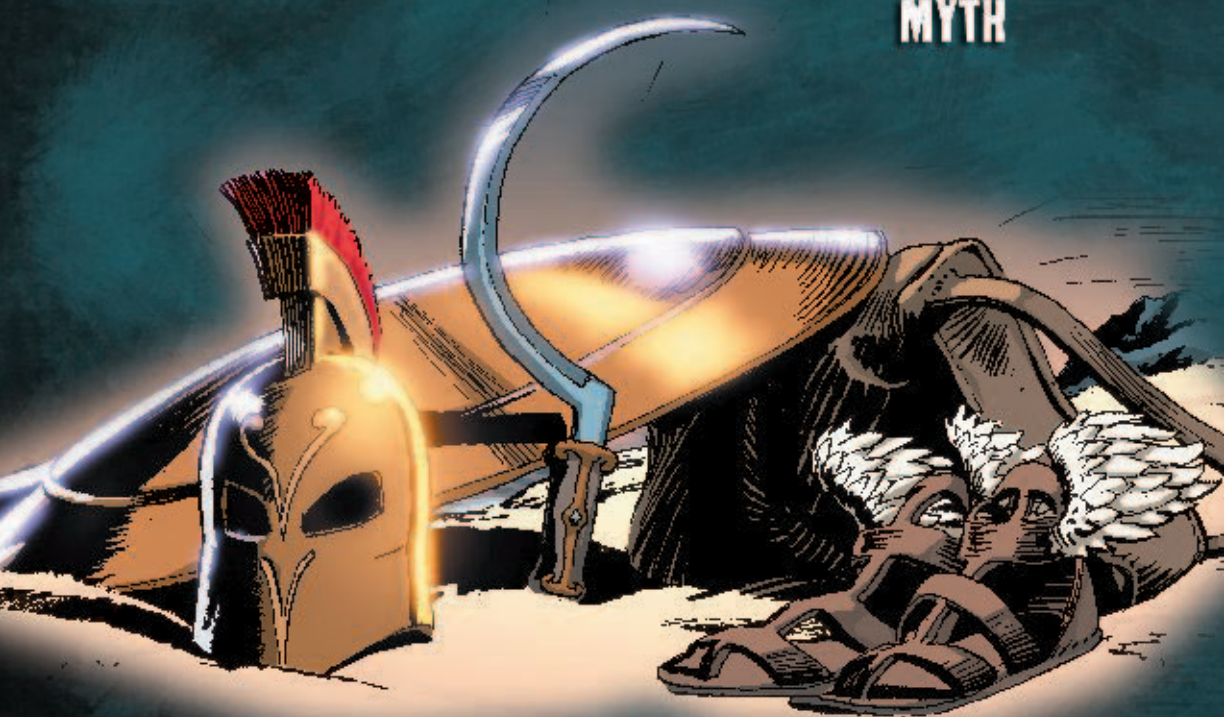
PAUL D. STORRIE • THOMAS YEATES

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PERSEUS

THE HUNT FOR MEDUSA'S HEAD

A
GREEK
MYTH



**GRAPHIC
UNIVERSE**



**STORY BY
PAUL D. STORRIE
PENCILS AND INKS BY
THOMAS YEATES**

EUROPE

AFRICA

PERSEUS

THE HUNT FOR MEDUSA'S HEAD

A
GREEK
MYTH

GREECE

TURKEY

ARGOS

SERIPHUS

M E D I T E R R A N E A N S E A

GRAPHIC UNIVERSE™ MINNEAPOLIS • NEW YORK

PERSEUS IS ONE OF THE GREATEST HEROES OF GREEK LITERATURE. THE LEGENDARY FEATS OF ZEUS' SON HAVE BEEN PASSED DOWN FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION FOR MORE THAN TWO THOUSAND YEARS. TO CREATE THE GRAPHIC MYTHS AND LEGENDS VERSION OF PERSEUS' STORY, AUTHOR PAUL STORRIE RELIED HEAVILY ON BOTH THOMAS BULFINCH'S *THE AGE OF FABLE*, FIRST PUBLISHED IN 1859, AND EDITH HAMILTON'S *MYTHOLOGY*, FIRST PUBLISHED IN 1942. BOTH OF THESE WELL-KNOWN WORKS DREW THEIR MATERIAL FROM THE WRITINGS OF THE ANCIENT POETS SUCH AS OVID AND VIRGIL. ARTIST THOMAS YEATES CONSULTED NUMEROUS HISTORICAL AND TRADITIONAL SOURCES TO GIVE THE ART AN AUTHENTIC FEEL, FROM CLASSICAL GREEK ARCHITECTURE TO THE CLOTHING, WEAPONS, AND ARMOR WORN BY THE CHARACTERS. PROFESSOR DAVID MULROY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MILWAUKEE ENSURED HISTORICAL AND VISUAL ACCURACY.

STORY BY PAUL D. STORRIE

PENCILS AND INKS BY THOMAS YEATES

WITH TOD SMITH AND KEN HOOPER

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**CONSULTANT: DAVID MULROY, PH.D.
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MILWAUKEE**

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AN UNEXPECTED VISIT

LONG YEARS AGO, IN THE LAND OF GREECE, A YOUNG HERO NAMED PERSEUS FOUND HIMSELF FACED WITH A TERRIBLE TASK. HE KNEW THAT IF HE ACCOMPLISHED WHAT HE WAS SETTING OUT TO DO, HIS FAME WOULD LAST FOR AGES.

THAT IS, IF HE SURVIVED ...





YOU SEEM
TROUBLED,
PERSEUS.

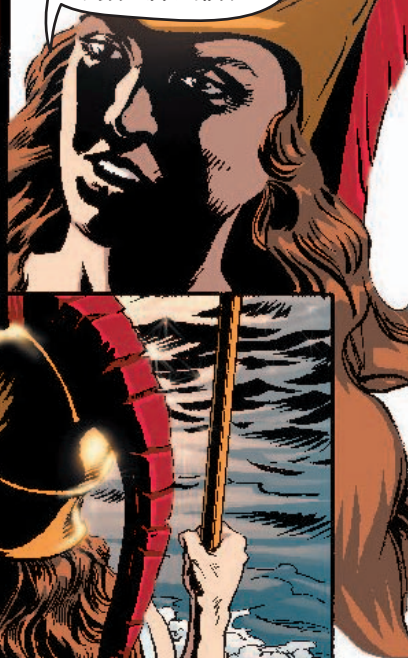
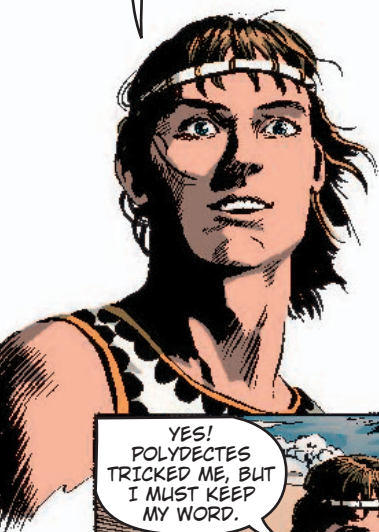
WHO???

ATHENA!

BUT WHAT BRINGS
THE GODDESS OF
WISDOM AND SKILL
IN BATTLE TO
THE ISLAND OF
SERIPHUS?

YOUR NEED,
PERSEUS.

YOU HAVE
PROMISED TO BRING
KING POLYDECTES THE
HEAD OF MEDUSA THE
GORGON. TO DO SO, YOU
WILL NEED HELP.



YES!
POLYDECTES
TRICKED ME, BUT
I MUST KEEP
MY WORD.

STAND, PERSEUS,
AND LET YOUR
SPIRITS RISE TOO.
I BRING YOU GIFTS
THAT WILL HELP YOU
IN YOUR QUEST.

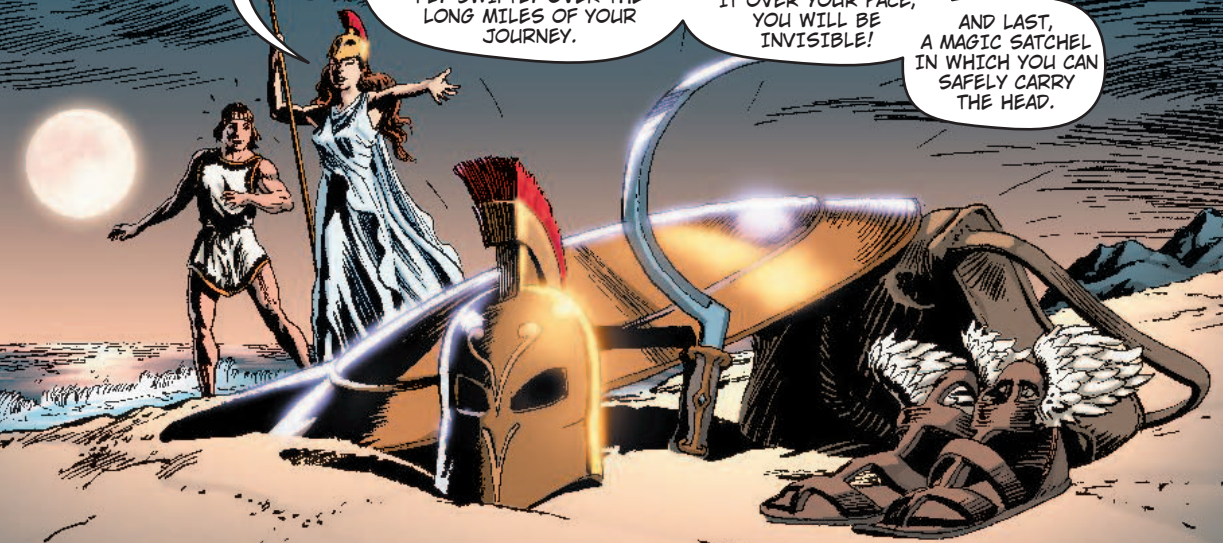


MEDUSA IS A
HIDEOUS CREATURE,
AND HER VERY GAZE
CAN TURN YOU TO STONE.
LOOK ONLY AT HER
REFLECTION IN
THIS SHIELD, AND
YOU WILL BE SAFE.

THE SICKLE IS
FORMED OF ADAMANTINE,
STRONGEST OF SUBSTANCES.
WITH IT YOU CAN STRIKE OFF
HER HEAD WITH ONE STROKE!
IT IS A GIFT FROM HERMES,
MESSENGER OF THE GODS,
AS ARE THE WINGED SANDALS
THAT WILL LET YOU
FLY SWIFTLY OVER THE
LONG MILES OF YOUR
JOURNEY.

THE HELMET
BELONGS TO HADES,
LORD OF THE UNDER-
WORLD. WHEN YOU LOWER
IT OVER YOUR FACE,
YOU WILL BE
INVISIBLE!

AND LAST,
A MAGIC SATCHEL
IN WHICH YOU CAN
SAFELY CARRY
THE HEAD.



WITH THESE GIFTS,
I CANNOT FAIL!



THAT IS, IF I
KNEW WHERE TO
FIND MEDUSA.

EVEN I CANNOT
TELL YOU THAT. BUT
I KNOW WHO CAN.



GRATEFUL FOR HER HELP, PERSEUS
LISTENED CLOSELY TO ALL ATHENA HAD
TO TELL HIM.

BUT TO UNDERSTAND WHY THE GODS
TOOK AN INTEREST IN PERSEUS, IT
IS IMPORTANT TO KNOW THE STORY
OF HIS BIRTH.



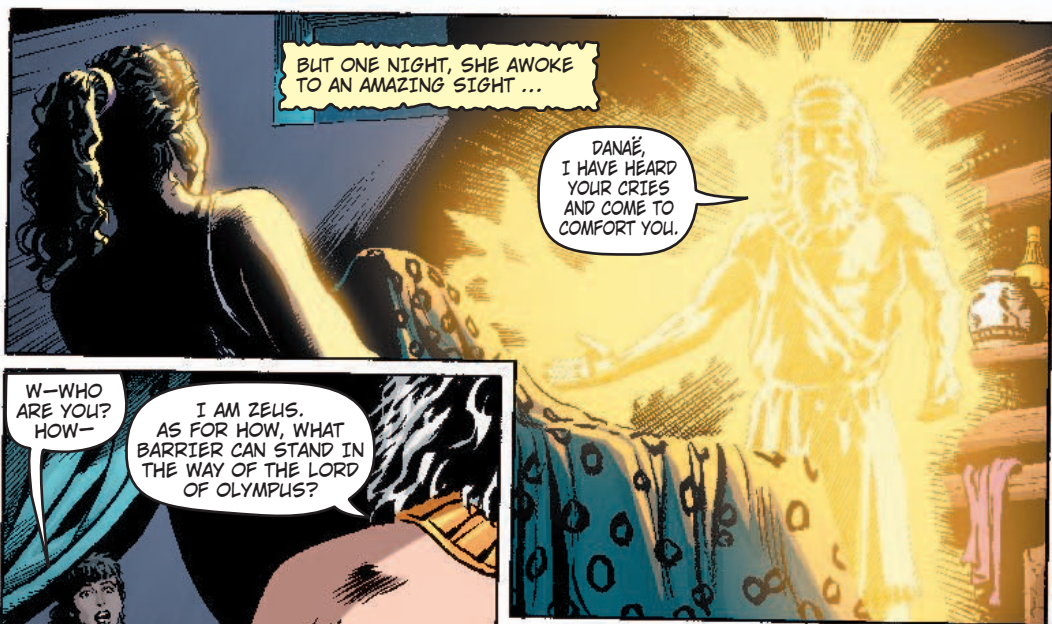
THE CRUELTY OF TWO KINGS

YEARS BEFORE, AN ORACLE HAD TOLD KING ACRIUS OF ARGOS THAT HE WOULD DIE AT THE HANDS OF HIS GRANDSON.

TO KEEP THAT FROM HAPPENING, HE HAD A TALL TOWER BUILT TO LOCK AWAY HIS BEAUTIFUL DAUGHTER, DANAË.

THOUGH DANAË PLEADED WITH HER FATHER NOT TO SHUT HER IN THE TOWER, HE WAS CONVINCED IT WAS THE ONLY WAY TO KEEP THE PROPHECY FROM COMING TRUE.

EXCEPT FOR THE KING, ONLY WOMEN WERE ALLOWED IN THE TOWER TO BRING THE PRINCESS WHAT SHE NEEDED. THE KING'S PLAN SEEMED FOOLPROOF. WITH NO MEN COMING NEAR HER, SHE WOULD NEVER BE ABLE TO BEAR A CHILD.



BUT ONE NIGHT, SHE AWOKE
TO AN AMAZING SIGHT ...

DANAË,
I HAVE HEARD
YOUR CRIES
AND COME TO
COMFORT YOU.



W—WHO
ARE YOU?
HOW—

I AM ZEUS.
AS FOR HOW, WHAT
BARRIER CAN STAND IN
THE WAY OF THE LORD
OF OLYMPUS?

ZEUS HELPED DANAË TO FORGET
HER LONELINESS AND SORROW.



HER SERVANTS COULDN'T HELP BUT
NOTICE THE CHANGE IN HER MOOD, BUT
DANAË KEPT HER VISITOR A SECRET.

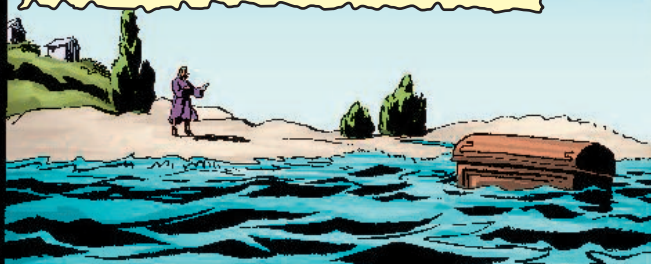
BUT SHE COULD NOT KEEP THE SECRET FOREVER. ACRIUS WAS TERRIFIED WHEN HE LEARNED THAT HER BABY WAS THE SON OF ZEUS.



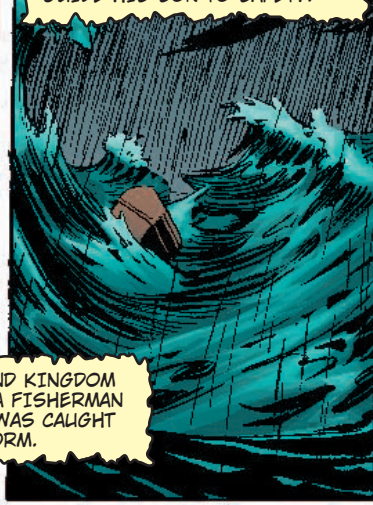
CAUGHT BETWEEN THE PROPHECY AND THE WRATH OF ZEUS, ACRIUS DECIDED TO PUT THE LIVES OF DANAË AND HER BABY, PERSEUS, IN THE HANDS OF FATE.



HE HOPED THAT IF THEY WERE TAKEN BY THE SEA, THE GODS WOULD NOT HOLD HIM ACCOUNTABLE.



BUT ZEUS KNEW WHAT HAD HAPPENED. HE ASKED HIS BROTHER POSEIDON, GOD OF THE SEA, TO SEND A STORM TO GUIDE HIS SON TO SAFETY.



NEAR THE ISLAND KINGDOM OF SERIPHUS, A FISHERMAN NAMED DICTYS WAS CAUGHT OUT IN THE STORM.



SNAGGING THE CHEST WITH ONE OF HIS NETS, HE DRAGGED IT TO SHORE. HE WAS ASTOUNDED TO FIND OUT WHAT IT CONTAINED!



WHEN HE HEARD DANAË'S STORY, DICTYS IMMEDIATELY TOOK HER TO SEE HIS BROTHER, KING POLYDECTES.



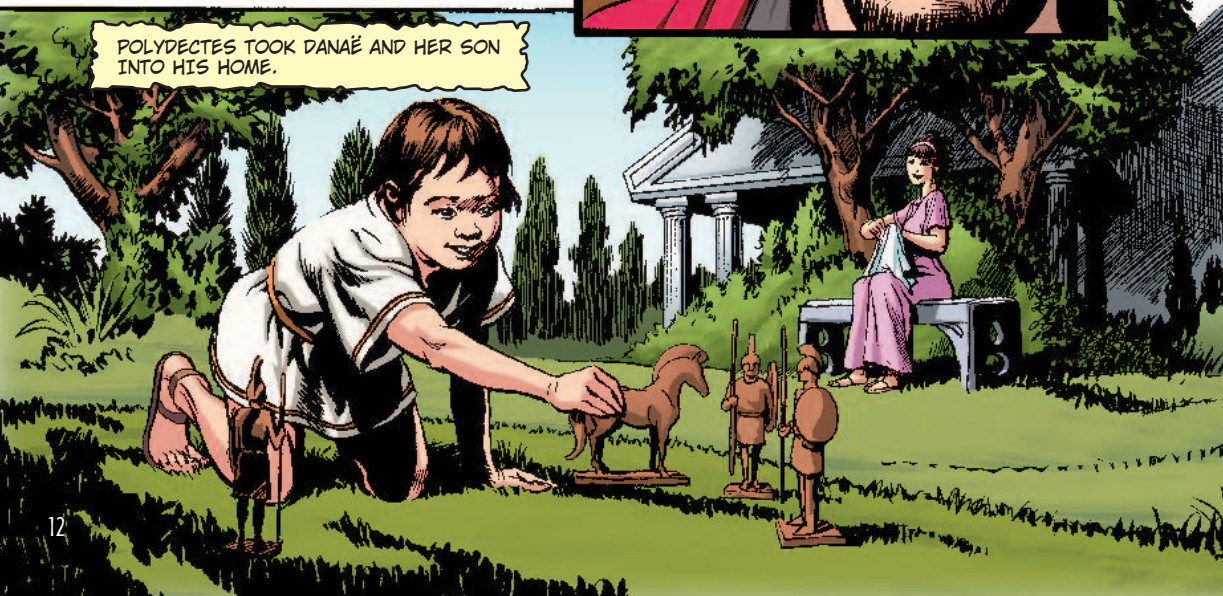
EVEN THOUGH SERIPHUS WAS SUCH A SMALL KINGDOM THAT THE KING'S BROTHER HAD TO WORK AS A FISHERMAN, POLYDECTES THOUGHT OF HIMSELF AS A GREAT RULER.



HE IMMEDIATELY SAW THAT HAVING THE BEAUTIFUL DANAË AS HIS QUEEN WOULD MAKE HIM THE ENVY OF ANY KING.



POLYDECTES TOOK DANAË AND HER SON INTO HIS HOME.



HE DID EVERYTHING HE COULD TO TRY TO MAKE HER LOVE HIM.



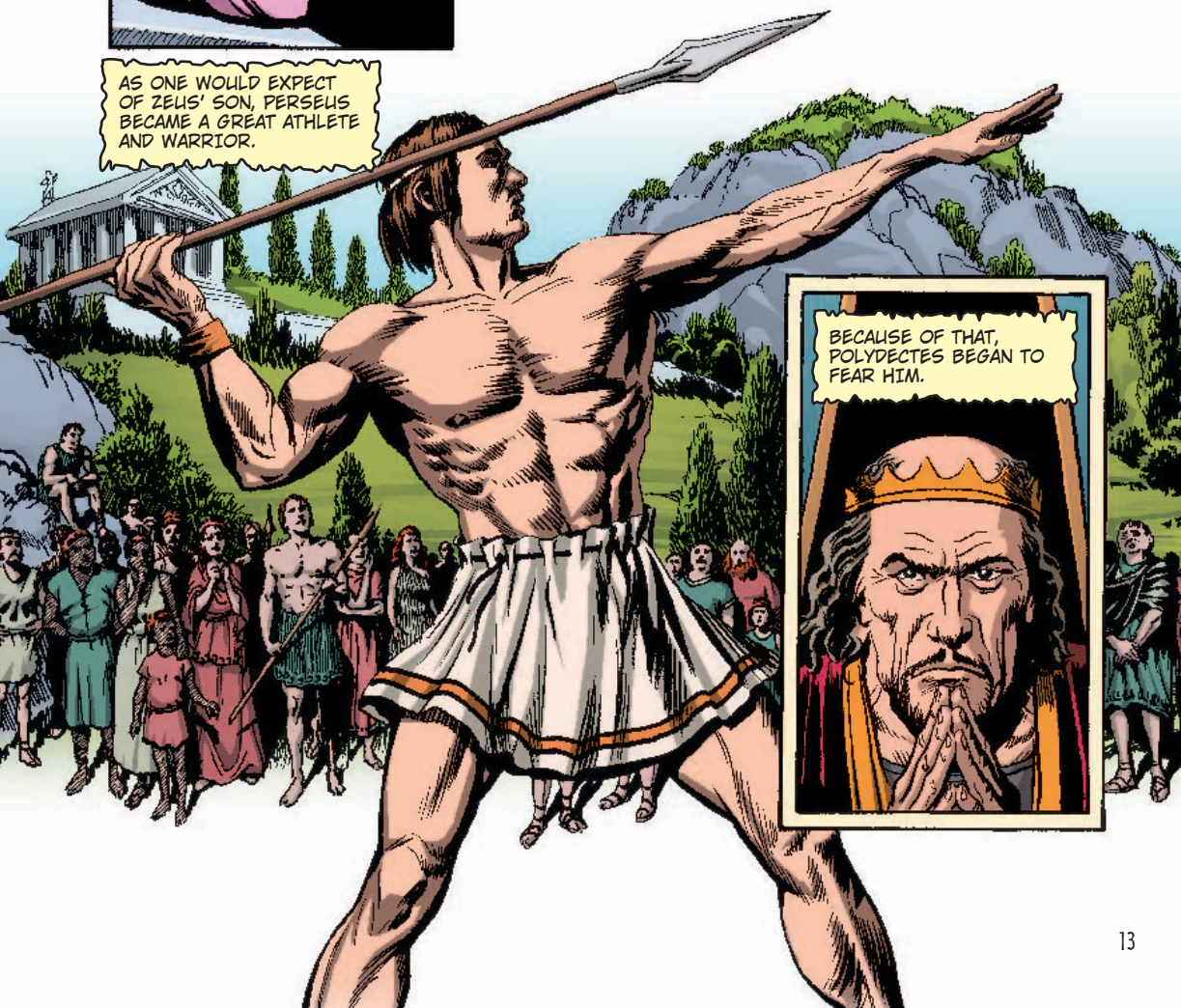
NOTHING HE DID WORKED. ALTHOUGH DANÆE WAS THANKFUL FOR HIS GENEROSITY, SHE REFUSED TO CONSIDER MARRYING HIM.



AS PERSEUS GREW OLDER, HE DID HIS BEST TO HELP HIS MOTHER KEEP THE KING AT A DISTANCE.



AS ONE WOULD EXPECT OF ZEUS' SON, PERSEUS BECAME A GREAT ATHLETE AND WARRIOR.



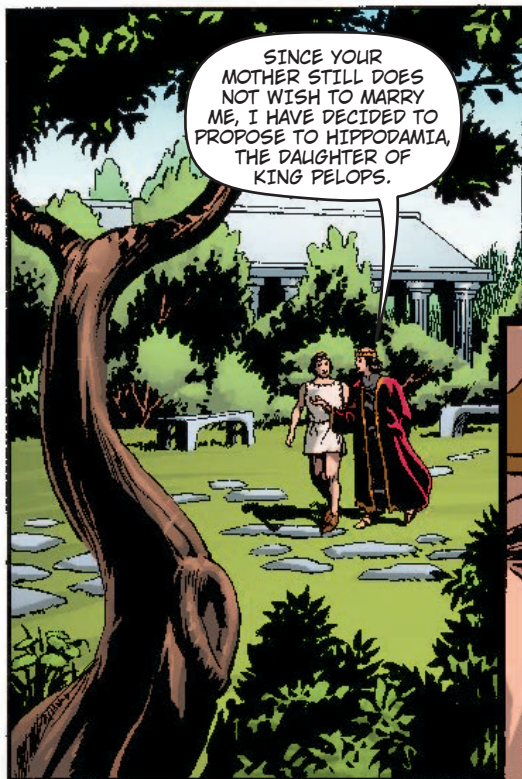
BECAUSE OF THAT, POLYDECTES BEGAN TO FEAR HIM.



BUT POLYDECTES WAS CUNNING. HE CAME UP WITH A PLAN TO GET RID OF PERSEUS. THAT WAY DANAË WOULD HAVE TO RELY UPON THE KING FOR STRENGTH AND PROTECTION.



SINCE YOUR MOTHER STILL DOES NOT WISH TO MARRY ME, I HAVE DECIDED TO PROPOSE TO HIPPODAMIA, THE DAUGHTER OF KING PELOPS.



THAT'S WONDERFUL! I HOPE THE TWO OF YOU WILL BE HAPPY TOGETHER.



IT'S NOT SO SIMPLE, PERSEUS. PELOPS RULES A GREAT LAND. MANY KINGS WISH TO MARRY HIS DAUGHTER.



ALL THE MEN OF SERIPHUS HAVE GIVEN ME FINE HORSES TO PRESENT AS A GIFT TO PROVE TO HIPPODAMIA AND HER FATHER THAT I AND MY KINGDOM ARE WORTHY.



I HAVE NO HORSES TO GIVE, BUT ASK ME FOR ANYTHING, AND I PROMISE THAT I WILL GET IT FOR YOU!

ANYTHING?

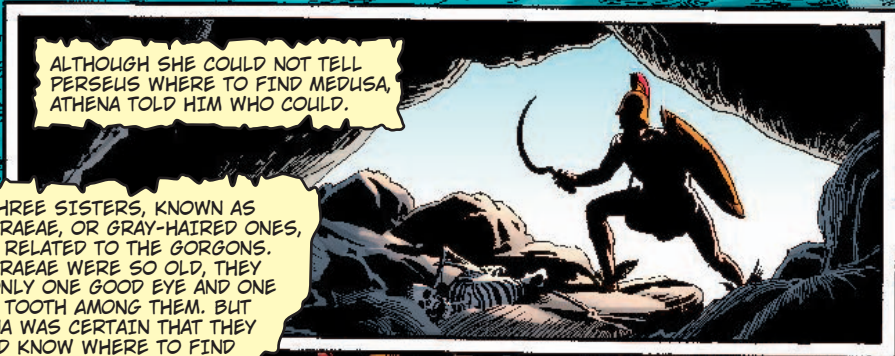


THE HUNT FOR MEDUSA'S HEAD

AND SO THE KING MADE PERSEUS PROMISE TO FETCH THE HEAD OF THE GORGON MEDUSA. POLYDECTES WAS CERTAIN THAT PERSEUS WOULD NEVER RETURN FROM HIS JOURNEY.

A large illustration of Perseus, a young hero with a red plumed helmet, a white tunic with a brown belt, and a large golden shield. He is flying over a blue ocean with white-capped waves. In the background, there are dark, rocky islands under a blue sky with a few white birds. Perseus is holding a curved sword in his right hand and has white winged sandals on his feet.

THE YOUNG HERO HOPED THAT THE WEAPONS PROVIDED BY THE GODS WOULD BE ENOUGH TO HELP HIM PROVE POLYDECTES WRONG.

A smaller illustration showing Perseus in a dark cave. He is standing on a rock, looking down at a small, glowing object on the ground. He is holding his sword and shield. The cave walls are dark and jagged.

ALTHOUGH SHE COULD NOT TELL PERSEUS WHERE TO FIND MEDUSA, ATHENA TOLD HIM WHO COULD.

THE THREE SISTERS, KNOWN AS THE GRAEAE, OR GRAY-HAIRED ONES, WERE RELATED TO THE GORGONS. THE GRAEAE WERE SO OLD, THEY HAD ONLY ONE GOOD EYE AND ONE GOOD TOOTH AMONG THEM. BUT ATHENA WAS CERTAIN THAT THEY WOULD KNOW WHERE TO FIND MEDUSA AND HER SISTERS.

A large illustration of Perseus in a cave, looking into a pool of water. He is holding a torch. In the background, three old women (the Graeae) are sitting around a fire. One of them is holding a large eye.

GIVE ME THE EYE!

IT'S MY TURN TO SEE!

I'M HUNGRY. I WANT THE TOOTH NOW!

PERSEUS WAS CAUTIOUS. THE GRAEAE WERE KNOWN TO EAT UNWANTED GUESTS ...

I'LL TRADE YOU THE TOOTH FOR THE EYE.

SINCE THEY HAD NO REASON TO HELP HIM, HE KNEW HE MUST BE CLEVER.

GIVE ME THE EYE FIRST!

NOT FAIR! I HAVE NOTHING TO TRADE!

NOW GIVE ME THE TOOTH!

WAIT, WHERE'S THE EYE?

WELL, I DON'T HAVE IT!

WHICH ONE OF YOU TOOK THE TOOTH?

I HAVE BOTH YOUR TOOTH AND YOUR EYE!

WHO ARE YOU? WHY HAVE YOU STOLEN OUR EYE AND OUR TOOTH!

YES, WHY?

WHY???



DON'T WORRY ABOUT WHO I AM. AS FOR WHY I TOOK YOUR TOOTH AND EYE, I NEED TO KNOW SOMETHING. TELL ME, AND I'LL GIVE THEM BACK!

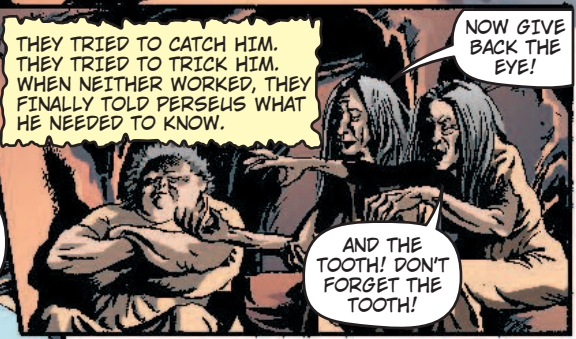
I'LL TELL YOU WHATEVER YOU NEED TO KNOW. JUST GIVE ME THE EYE AND THE TOOTH!



TELL ME WHERE I CAN FIND THE GORGONS!

WHAT? WHY?

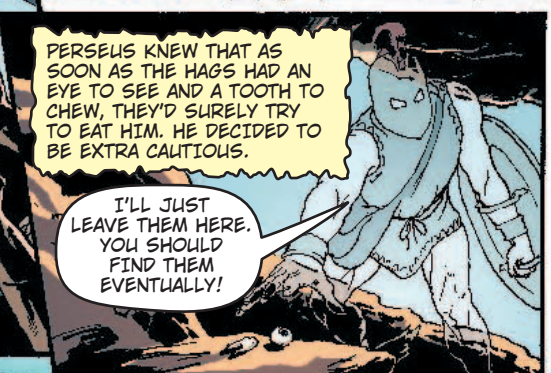
OOOOO, THEY WOULDN'T LIKE THAT ONE BIT!



THEY TRIED TO CATCH HIM. THEY TRIED TO TRICK HIM. WHEN NEITHER WORKED, THEY FINALLY TOLD PERSEUS WHAT HE NEEDED TO KNOW.

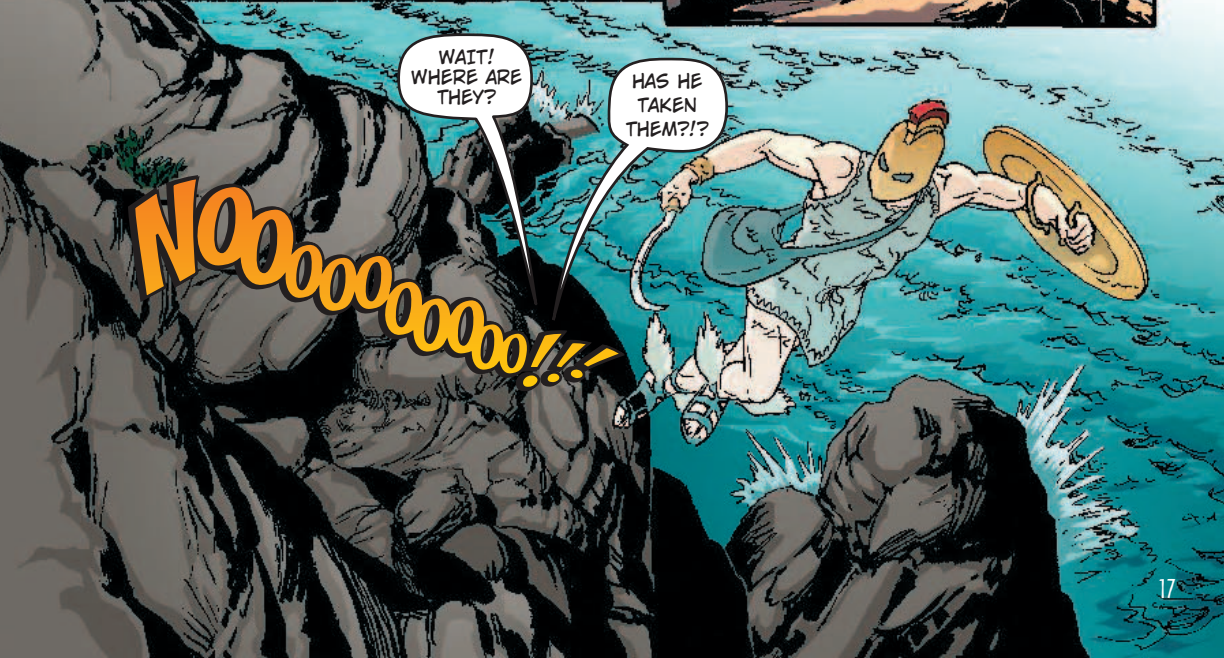
NOW GIVE BACK THE EYE!

AND THE TOOTH! DON'T FORGET THE TOOTH!



PERSEUS KNEW THAT AS SOON AS THE HAGS HAD AN EYE TO SEE AND A TOOTH TO CHEW, THEY'D SURELY TRY TO EAT HIM. HE DECIDED TO BE EXTRA CAUTIOUS.

I'LL JUST LEAVE THEM HERE. YOU SHOULD FIND THEM EVENTUALLY!



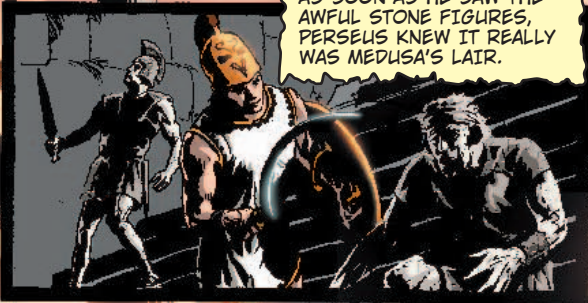
WAIT! WHERE ARE THEY?

HAS HE TAKEN THEM?!

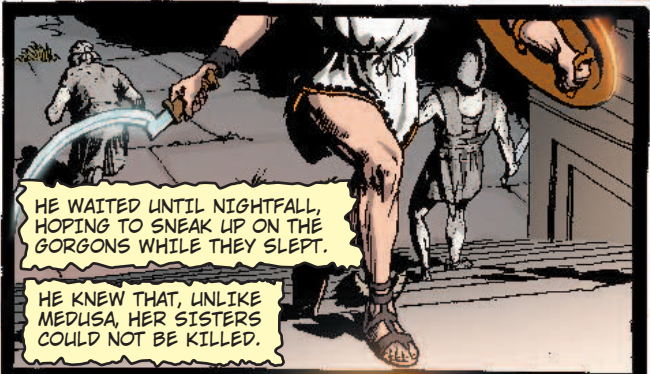
Noooooooooo!!!!



IT WASN'T LONG BEFORE HE CAME TO THE PLACE WHERE THE GORGONS WERE SUPPOSED TO BE.

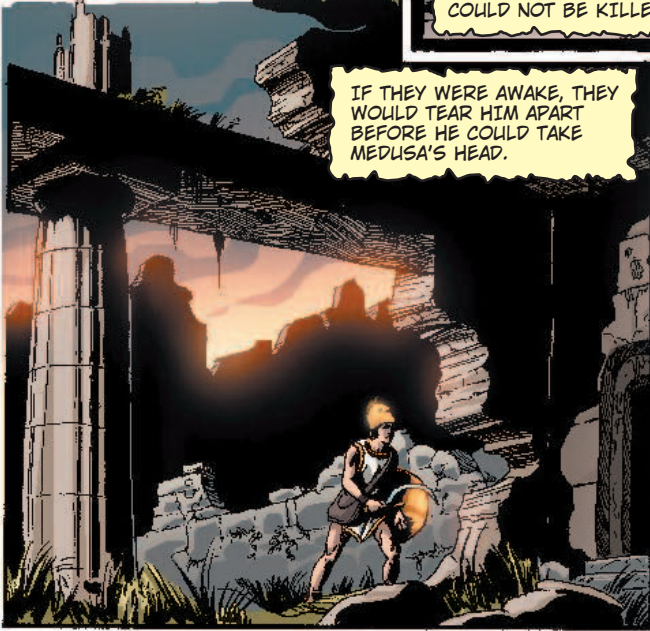


AS SOON AS HE SAW THE AWFUL STONE FIGURES, PERSEUS KNEW IT REALLY WAS MEDUSA'S LAIR.

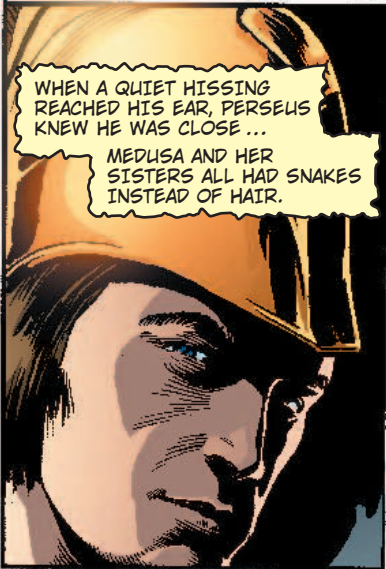


HE WAITED UNTIL NIGHTFALL, HOPING TO SNEAK UP ON THE GORGONS WHILE THEY SLEPT.

HE KNEW THAT, UNLIKE MEDUSA, HER SISTERS COULD NOT BE KILLED.



IF THEY WERE AWAKE, THEY WOULD TEAR HIM APART BEFORE HE COULD TAKE MEDUSA'S HEAD.



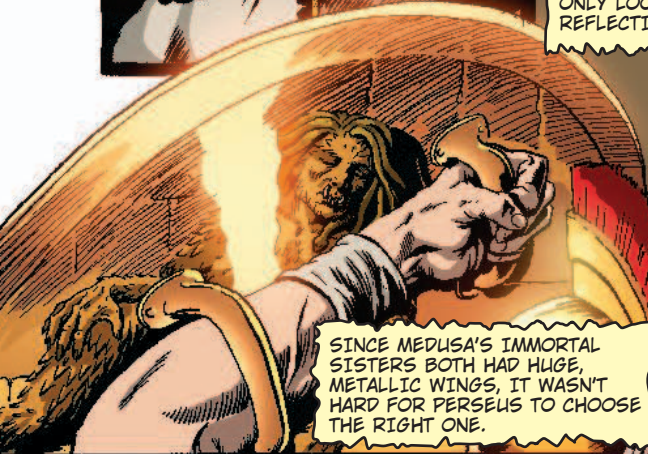
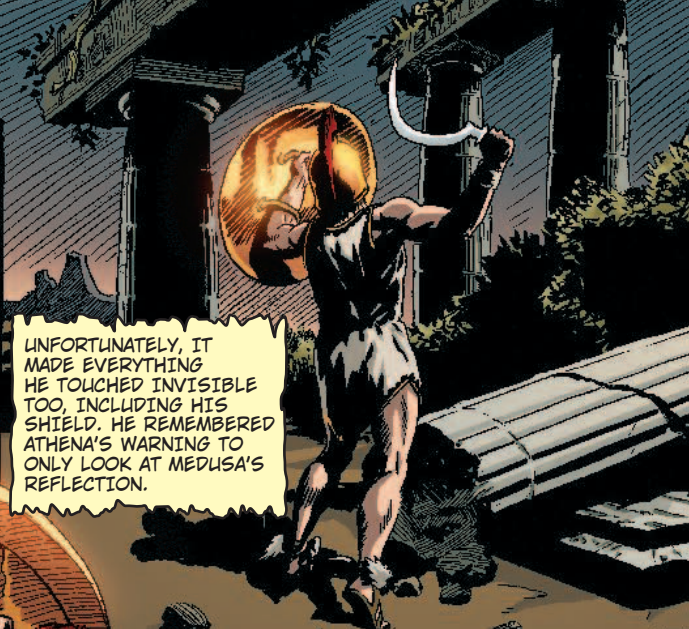
WHEN A QUIET HISsing REACHED HIS EAR, PERSEUS KNEW HE WAS CLOSE ...

MEDUSA AND HER SISTERS ALL HAD SNAKES INSTEAD OF HAIR.

PERSEUS WISHED HE COULD
USE THE HELMET OF HADES TO
APPROACH THE GORGONS.



UNFORTUNATELY, IT
MADE EVERYTHING
HE TOUCHED INVISIBLE
TOO, INCLUDING HIS
SHIELD. HE REMEMBERED
ATHENA'S WARNING TO
ONLY LOOK AT MEDUSA'S
REFLECTION.



SINCE MEDUSA'S IMMORTAL
SISTERS BOTH HAD HUGE,
METALLIC WINGS, IT WASN'T
HARD FOR PERSEUS TO CHOOSE
THE RIGHT ONE.



PERSEUS HAD TO STRIKE
SWIFTLY, BEFORE MEDUSA
COULD WAKE HER SISTERS!



AS HE RETRIEVED THE MONSTER'S HEAD, HE NOTICED SOMETHING STRANGE HAPPENING TO THE BLOOD THAT HAD SPILLED ON THE MARBLE FLOOR.



IMAGINE HIS SURPRISE WHEN IT BECAME THE WINGED HORSE, PEGASUS!

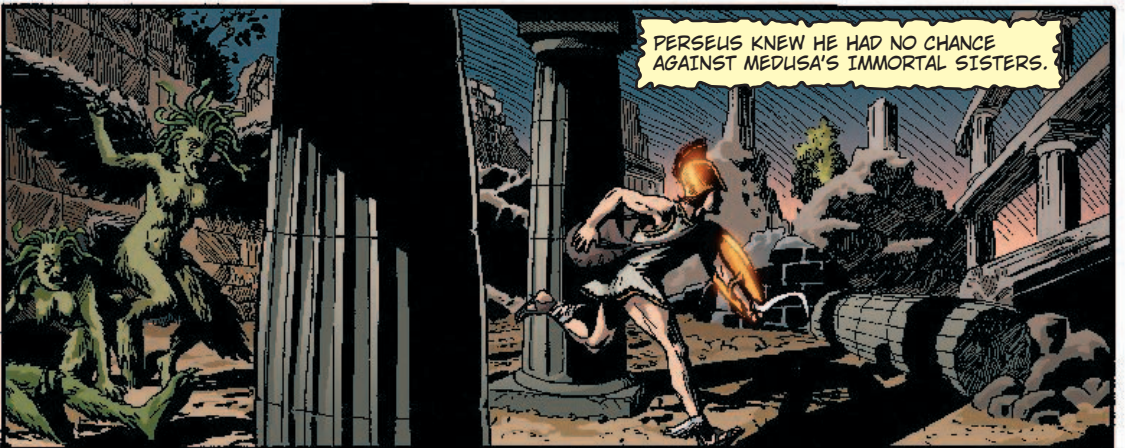
NEEEIGHHHH!!



SSSSSSSSSSSS?



MEDUSASSSSSSSS!



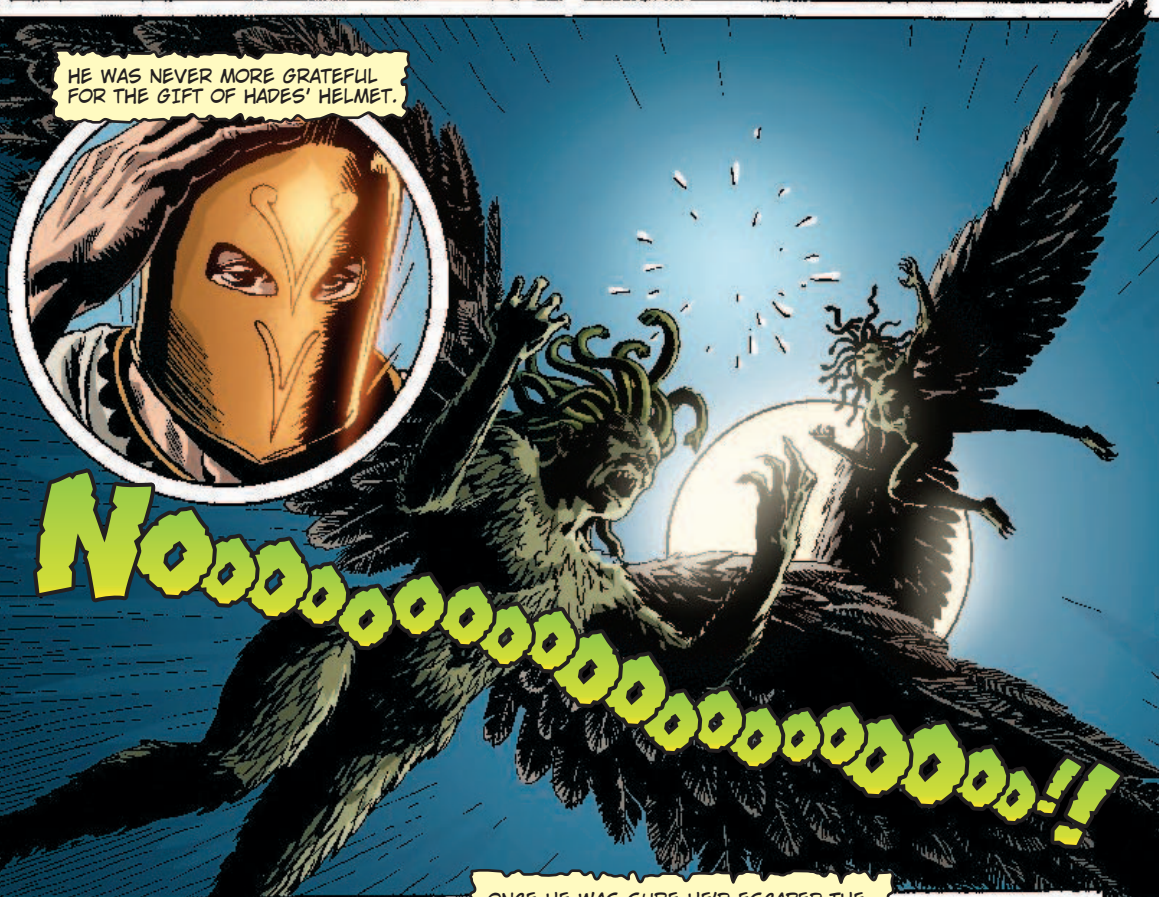
PERSEUS KNEW HE HAD NO CHANCE AGAINST MEDUSA'S IMMORTAL SISTERS.



HE TOOK TO THE AIR,
HOPING TO ESCAPE THEM.



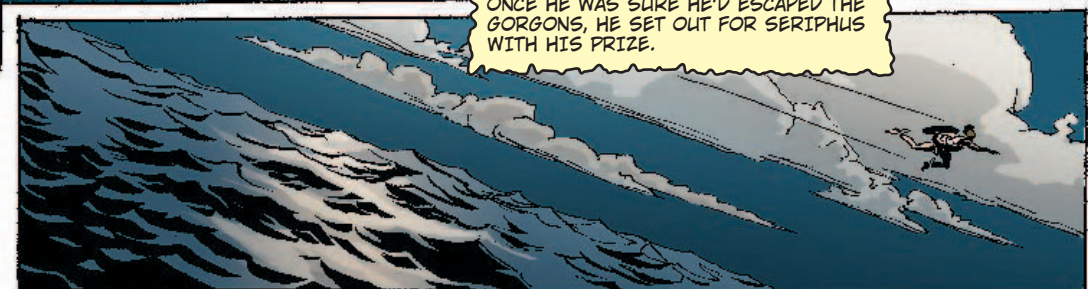
THEY FOLLOWED HIM
INTO THE SKY.



HE WAS NEVER MORE GRATEFUL
FOR THE GIFT OF HADES' HELMET.

Nooooooo!!

ONCE HE WAS SURE HE'D ESCAPED THE
GORGONS, HE SET OUT FOR SERIPHUS
WITH HIS PRIZE.

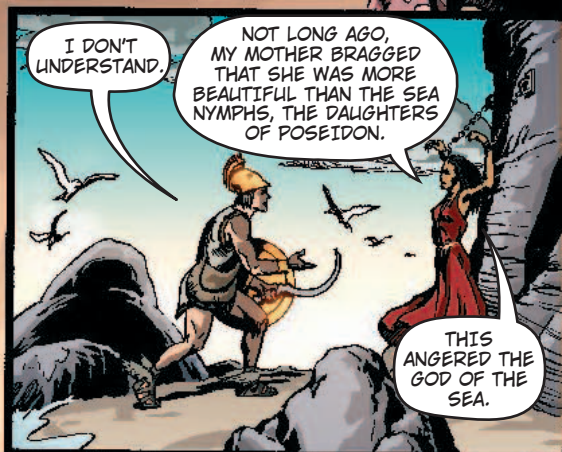


ANDROMEDA AND THE KRAKEN

ON HIS WAY HOME, PERSEUS CAUGHT SIGHT OF SOMETHING THAT CONFUSED AND ALARMED HIM.

WHO ARE YOU,
BEAUTIFUL LADY?
WHO CHAINED
YOU HERE AND
WHY?

I AM THE PRINCESS
ANDROMEDA, DAUGHTER OF
KING CEPHEUS AND QUEEN
CASSIOPEIA OF ETHIOPIA!
THOUGH I DO NOT WISH
TO DIE, I AM HERE FOR
THE GOOD OF
MY PEOPLE.

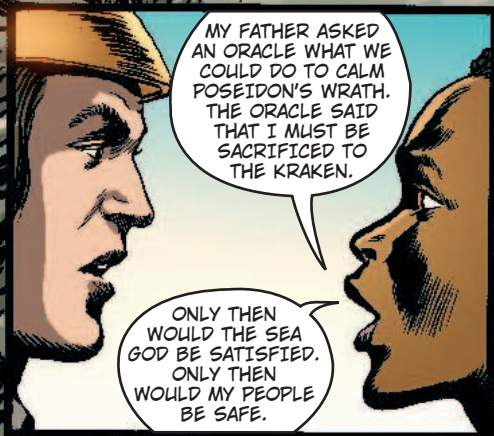


I DON'T UNDERSTAND.

NOT LONG AGO, MY MOTHER BRAGGED THAT SHE WAS MORE BEAUTIFUL THAN THE SEA NYMPHS, THE DAUGHTERS OF POSEIDON.

THIS ANGERED THE GOD OF THE SEA.

HE SENT THE MONSTROUS KRAKEN TO PUNISH THE KINGDOM FOR MY MOTHER'S PRIDE. MANY OF OUR FISHING BOATS WERE LOST, AND MANY MEN DIED.



MY FATHER ASKED AN ORACLE WHAT WE COULD DO TO CALM POSEIDON'S WRATH. THE ORACLE SAID THAT I MUST BE SACRIFICED TO THE KRAKEN.

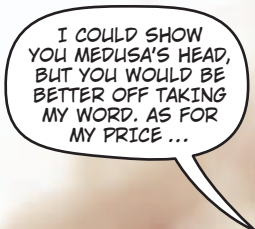
ONLY THEN WOULD THE SEA GOD BE SATISFIED. ONLY THEN WOULD MY PEOPLE BE SAFE.



THAT ISN'T RIGHT! WHY SHOULD YOU PAY FOR YOUR MOTHER'S PRIDE?

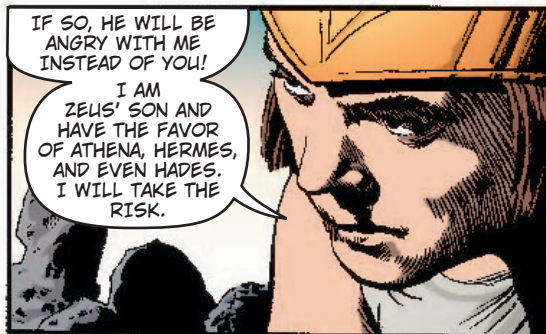
FEAR NOT, ANDROMEDA. I WILL SET YOU FREE!

STOP!



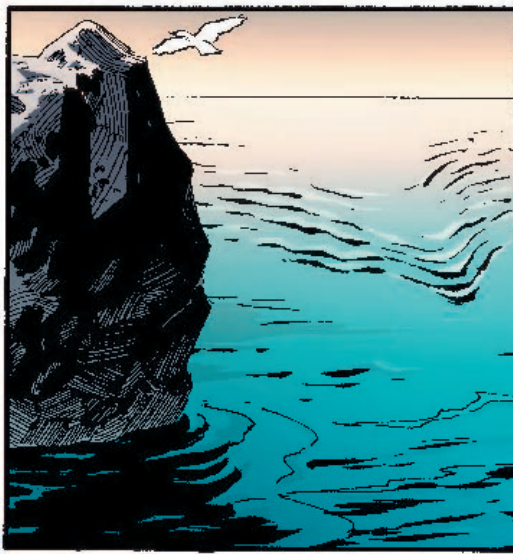


IF YOU DID
KILL THE KRAGEN,
THAT MIGHT ANGER
POSEIDON EVEN
MORE.



IF SO, HE WILL BE
ANGRY WITH ME
INSTEAD OF YOU!

I AM
ZEUS' SON AND
HAVE THE FAVOR
OF ATHENA, HERMES,
AND EVEN HADES.
I WILL TAKE THE
RISK.



KING CEPHEUS,
LOOK!

THE
KRAGEN
COMES!!!



THERE IS NO
MORE TIME! SAVE
ANDROMEDA! SAVE
HER, AND SHE WILL
BE YOUR WIFE!



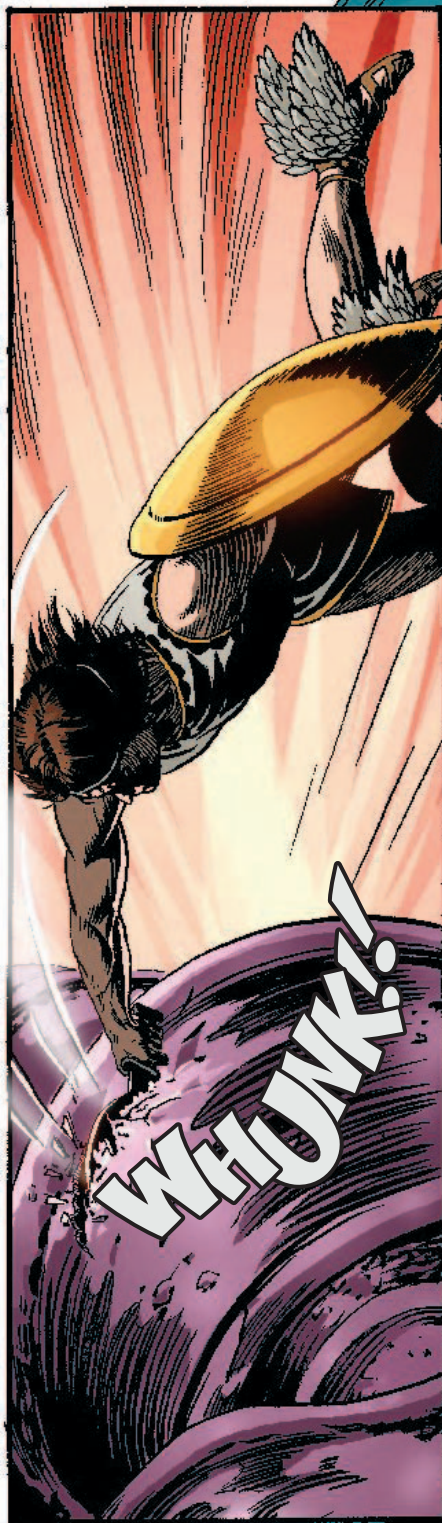
DO YOU HEAR,
ANDROMEDA?
YOU WILL NOT
DIE TODAY!

BE CAREFUL,
PERSEUS! DEFEAT
THE KRAGEN,
AND COME BACK
TO ME!

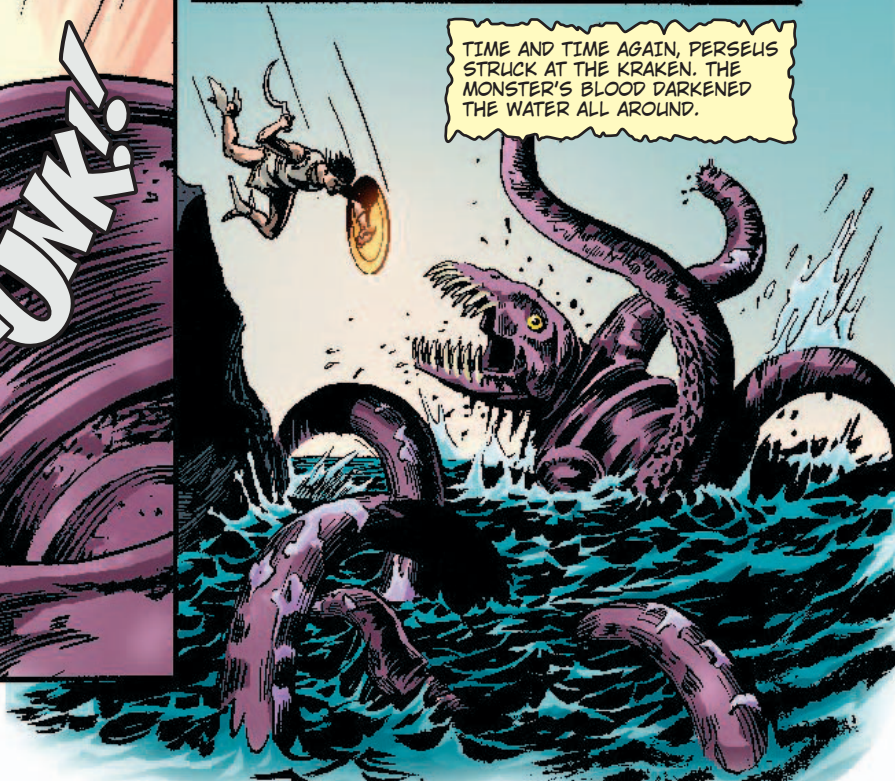
THOUGH PERSEUS' BLOOD RAN COLD WHEN HE SAW THE TERRIBLE MONSTER RISING FROM THE WAVES, HE DID NOT HESITATE.

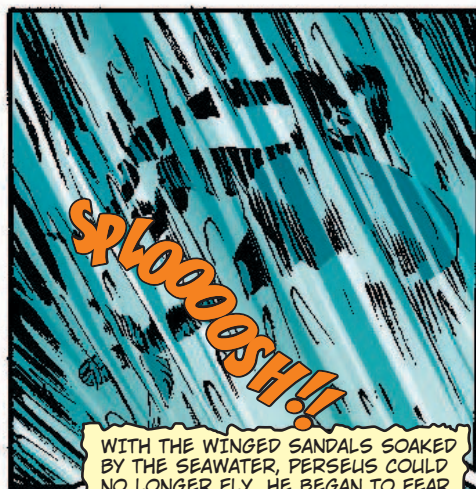
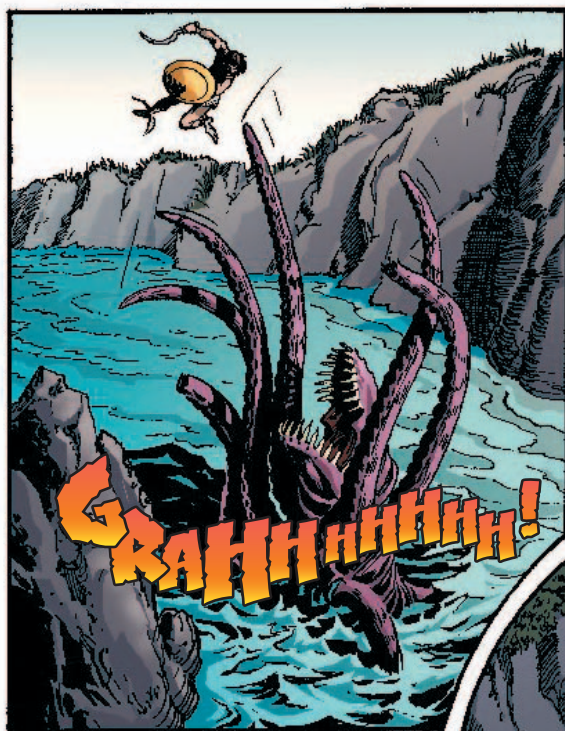
GRRRRR Aooooooo AAAAA RRR!!

26

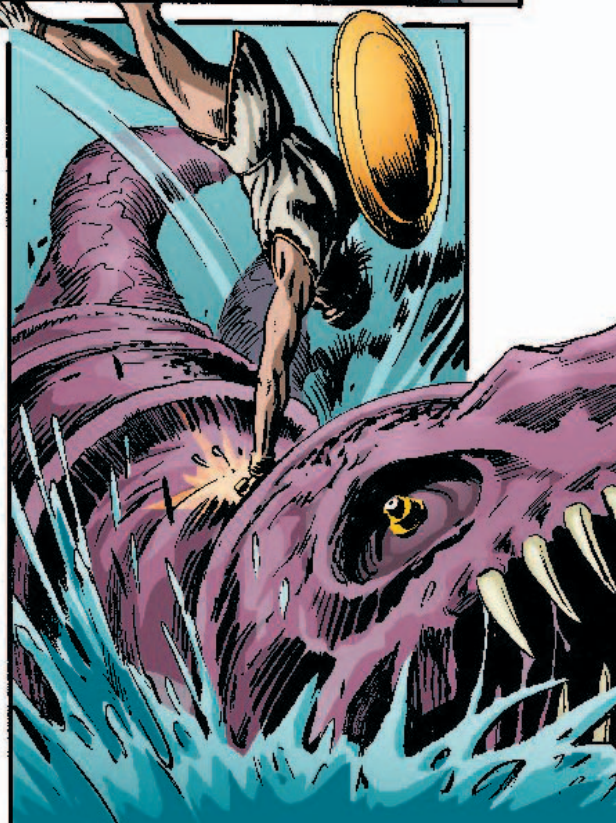


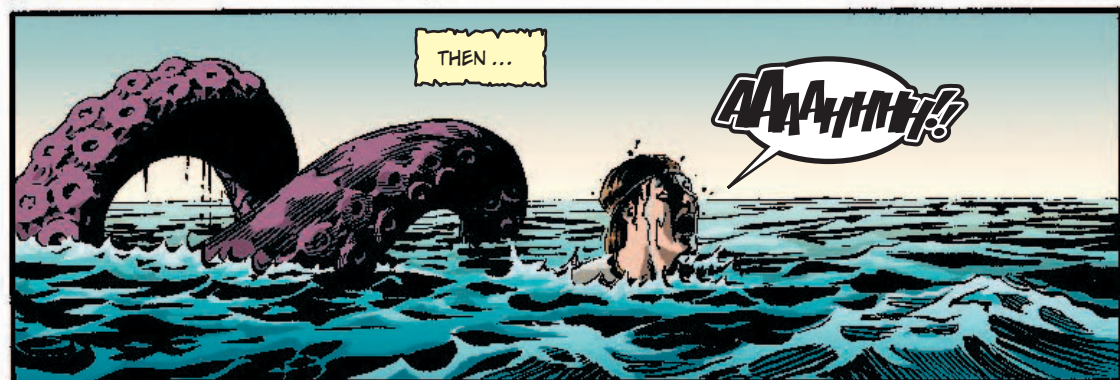
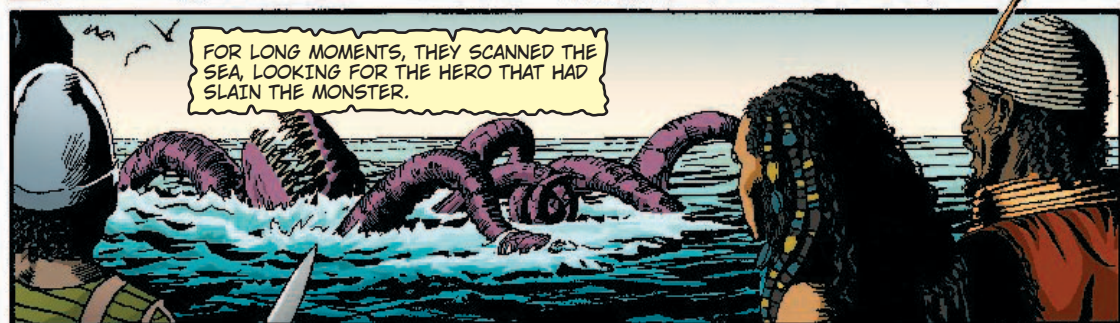
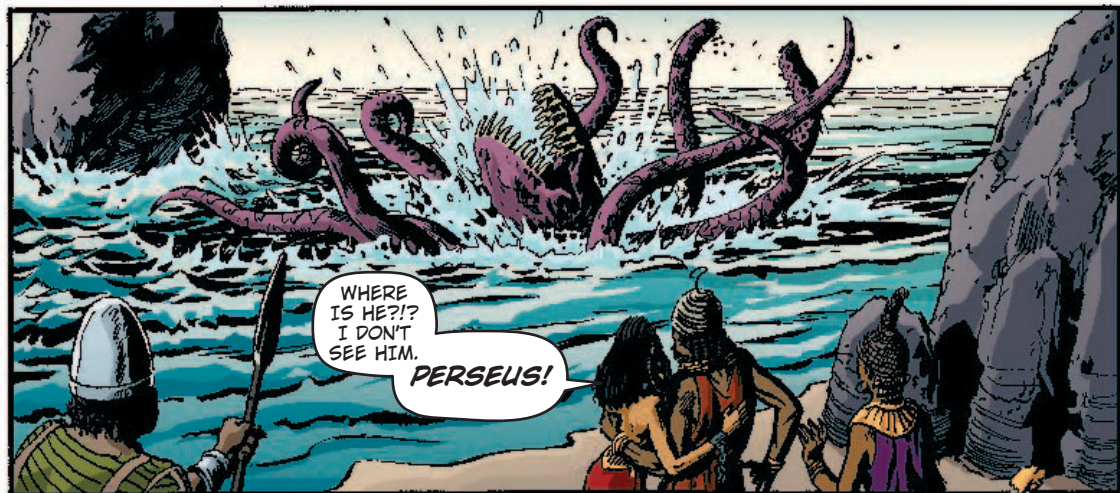
TIME AND TIME AGAIN, PERSEUS STRUCK AT THE KRAKEN. THE MONSTER'S BLOOD DARKENED THE WATER ALL AROUND.





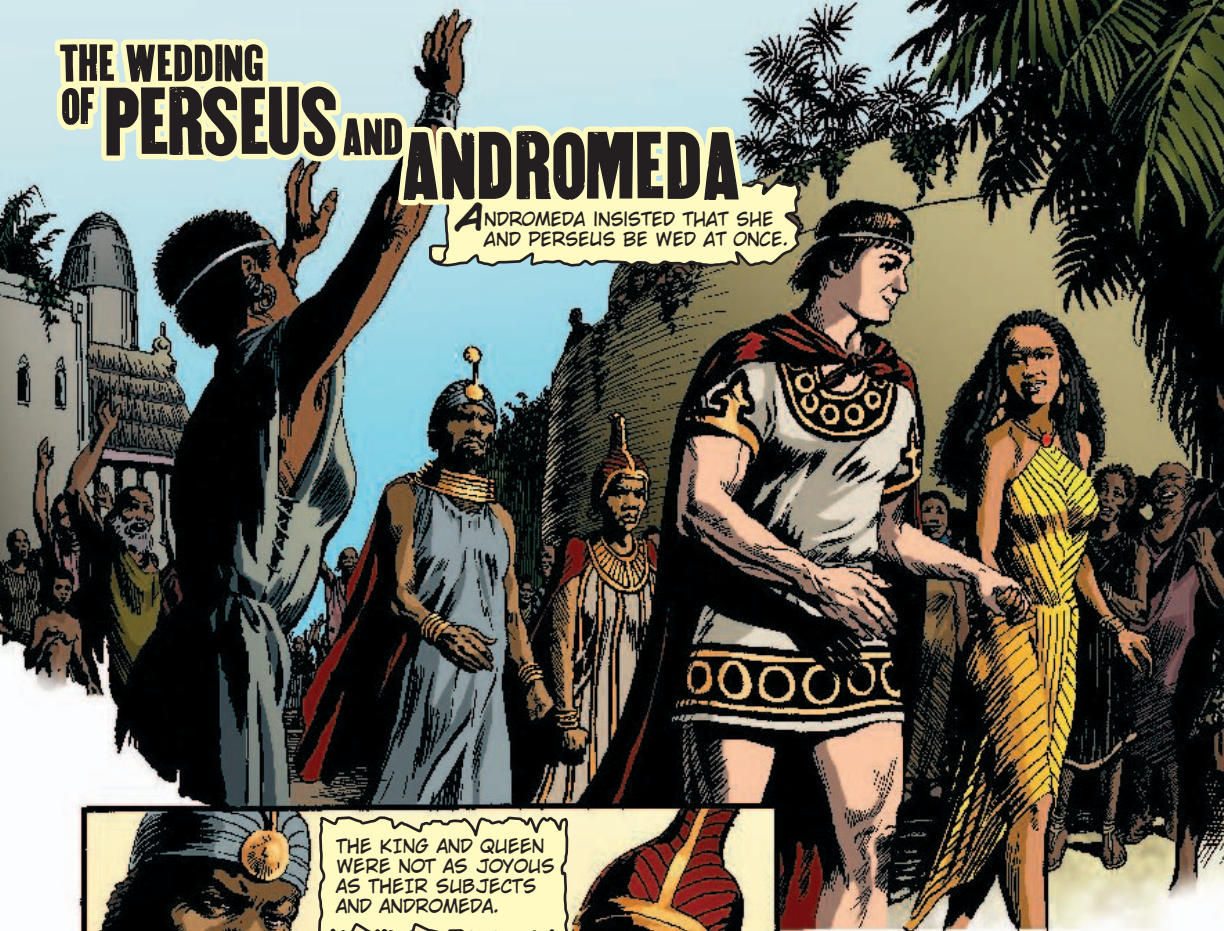
WITH THE WINGED SANDALS SOAKED BY THE SEAWATER, PERSEUS COULD NO LONGER FLY. HE BEGAN TO FEAR THAT THE KRAKEN WOULD BE THE DEATH OF HIM.



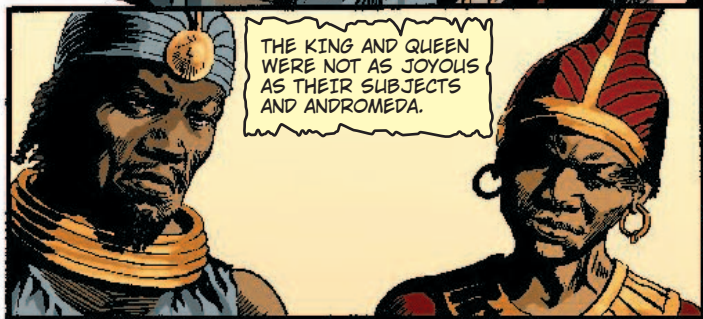


THE WEDDING OF PERSEUS AND ANDROMEDA

ANDROMEDA INSISTED THAT SHE
AND PERSEUS BE WED AT ONCE.

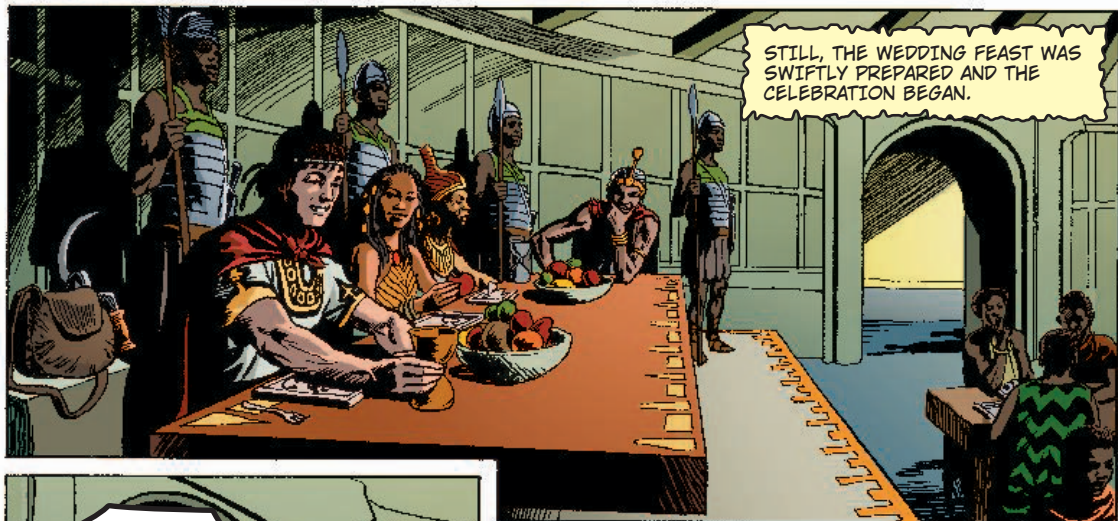


THE KING AND QUEEN
WERE NOT AS JOYOUS
AS THEIR SUBJECTS
AND ANDROMEDA.



THOUGH THEY WERE PLEASED
THAT THE HERO HAD SAVED
THEIR DAUGHTER, THEY FOUND
THEMSELVES MARRYING HER
TO A TOTAL STRANGER.





STILL, THE WEDDING FEAST WAS SWIFTLY PREPARED AND THE CELEBRATION BEGAN.



WHAT IS THIS?!!?



WHO IS THIS? WHY DOES HE INTERRUPT OUR WEDDING?

IT IS PHINEUS, KINSMAN TO MY FATHER ...

... HE AND I WERE TO WED, UNTIL THE ORACLE SAID I MUST BE SACRIFICED.

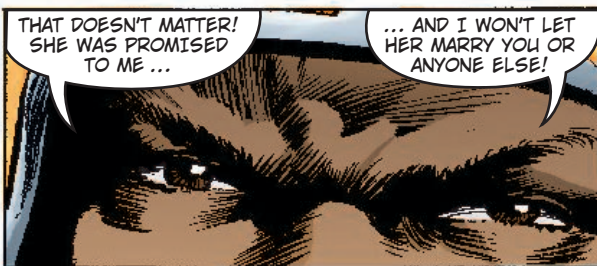


HOW DARE YOU MARCH INTO MY PALACE WITH ARMED MEN, PHINEUS!

WHAT DO YOU WANT?

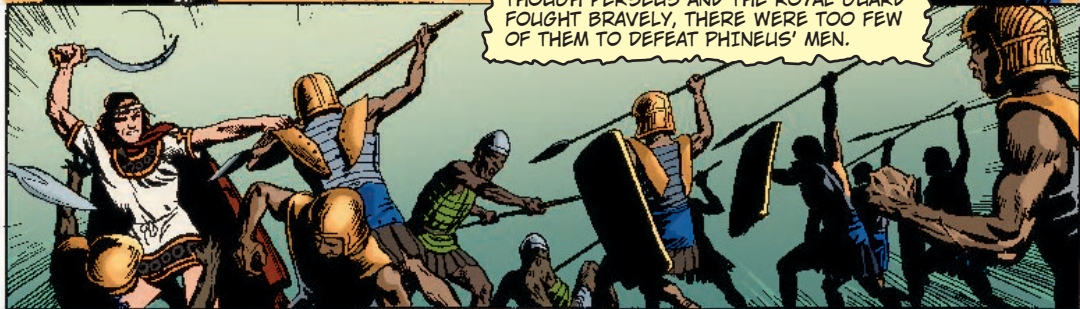


ANDROMEDA WAS PROMISED TO ME! HOW DARE YOU MARRY HER TO SOMEONE ELSE!





THOUGH PERSEUS AND THE ROYAL GUARD
FOUGHT BRAVELY, THERE WERE TOO FEW
OF THEM TO DEFEAT PHINEUS' MEN.

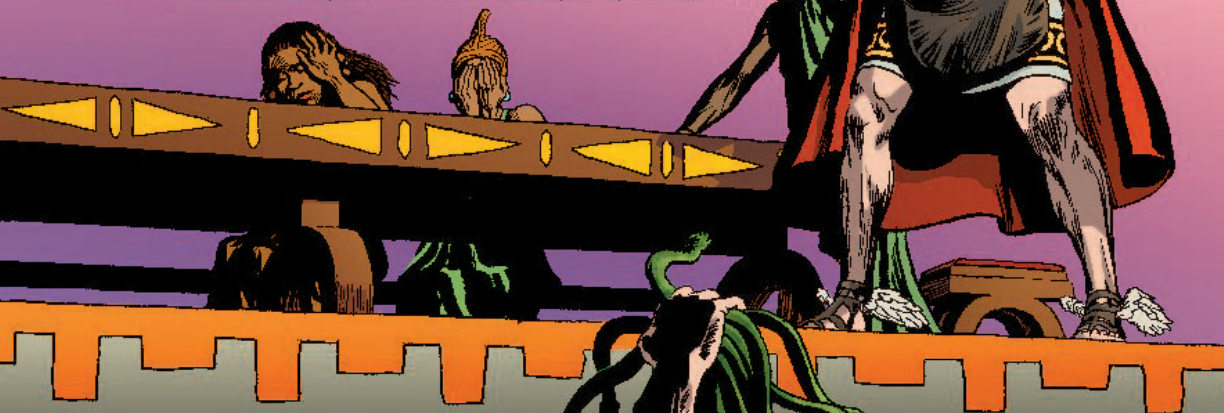




HE KNEW THERE WAS ONLY ONE WAY TO STOP THE TRAITORS.

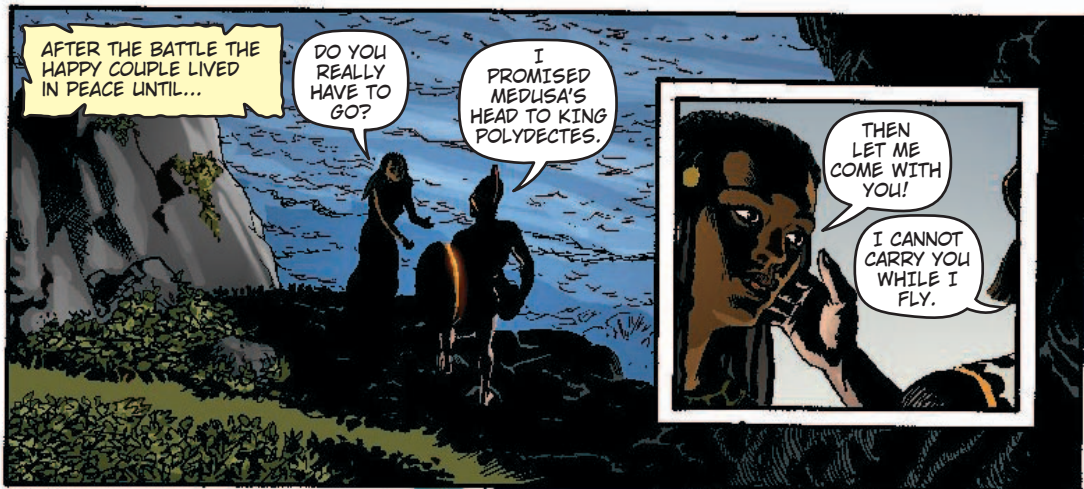


IF YOU CALL ME FRIEND, LOOK AWAY!



EVEN THOUGH SHE WAS DEAD, MEDUSA'S GAZE WAS STILL DEADLY.





THE FATE OF FOUR KINGS

THE FIRST THING PERSEUS DID WHEN HE RETURNED TO SERIPHUS WAS VISIT THE TEMPLE TO GIVE THANKS TO THE GODS. HE KNEW THAT IF IT WEREN'T FOR THEIR GIFTS, HE WOULD NOT HAVE SLAIN MEDUSA OR SAVED ANDROMEDA.





IT'S BEEN AWFUL SINCE YOU LEFT! POLYDECTES NEVER MEANT TO WED HIPPODAMIA. HE'S BEEN TRYING TO GET ME TO MARRY HIM ALL THE TIME YOU WERE AWAY!



I DON'T THINK HE EVER EXPECTED YOU TO RETURN, PERSEUS. I'VE DONE MY BEST TO PROTECT YOUR MOTHER FROM MY BROTHER, BUT I'M NOT A YOUNG MAN ANYMORE.



WE HOPED THAT TAKING REFUGE IN THE TEMPLE WOULD MAKE HIM LEAVE ME ALONE, BUT HE IS COMING HERE TODAY TO MAKE ME MARRY HIM!



DON'T WORRY! I HAVE ACCOMPLISHED A GREAT DEAL SINCE I LEFT SERIPHUS. I THINK I CAN HANDLE KING POLYDECTES.



IS THAT SO?

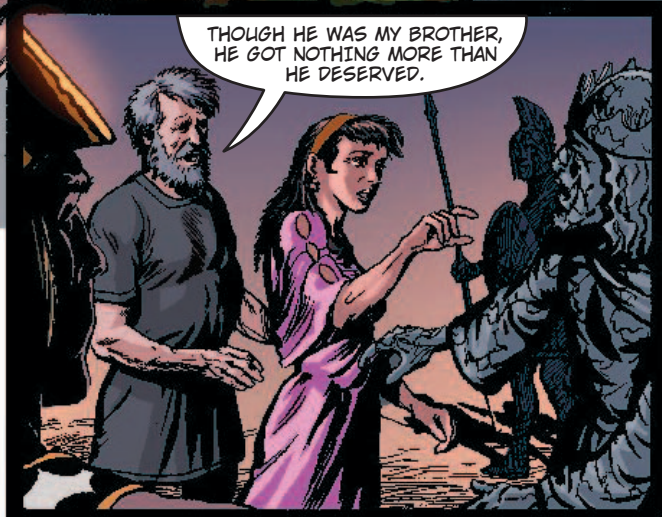




BEHOLD,
THE GIFT I
PROMISED
YOU!



YOU ASKED
ME TO BRING YOU
THE HEAD OF MEDUSA.
PERHAPS YOU SHOULD
HAVE ASKED FOR
SOMETHING LESS
DEADLY!



THOUGH HE WAS MY BROTHER,
HE GOT NOTHING MORE THAN
HE DESERVED.



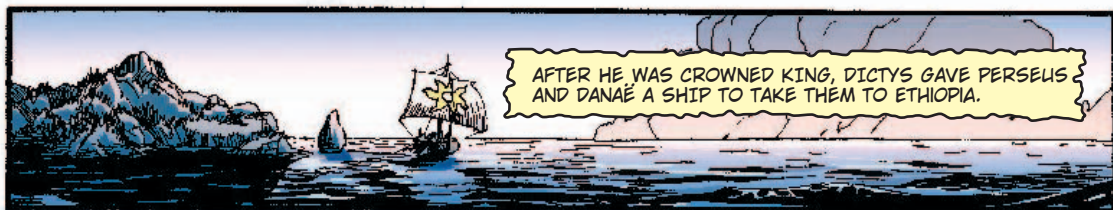
JUST AS
YOU DESERVE
THE CROWN
OF SERIPHUS!

THE
CROWN?



THE KINGDOM MUST HAVE A KING!
I CAN THINK OF NO ONE BETTER
TO RULE SERIPHUS.

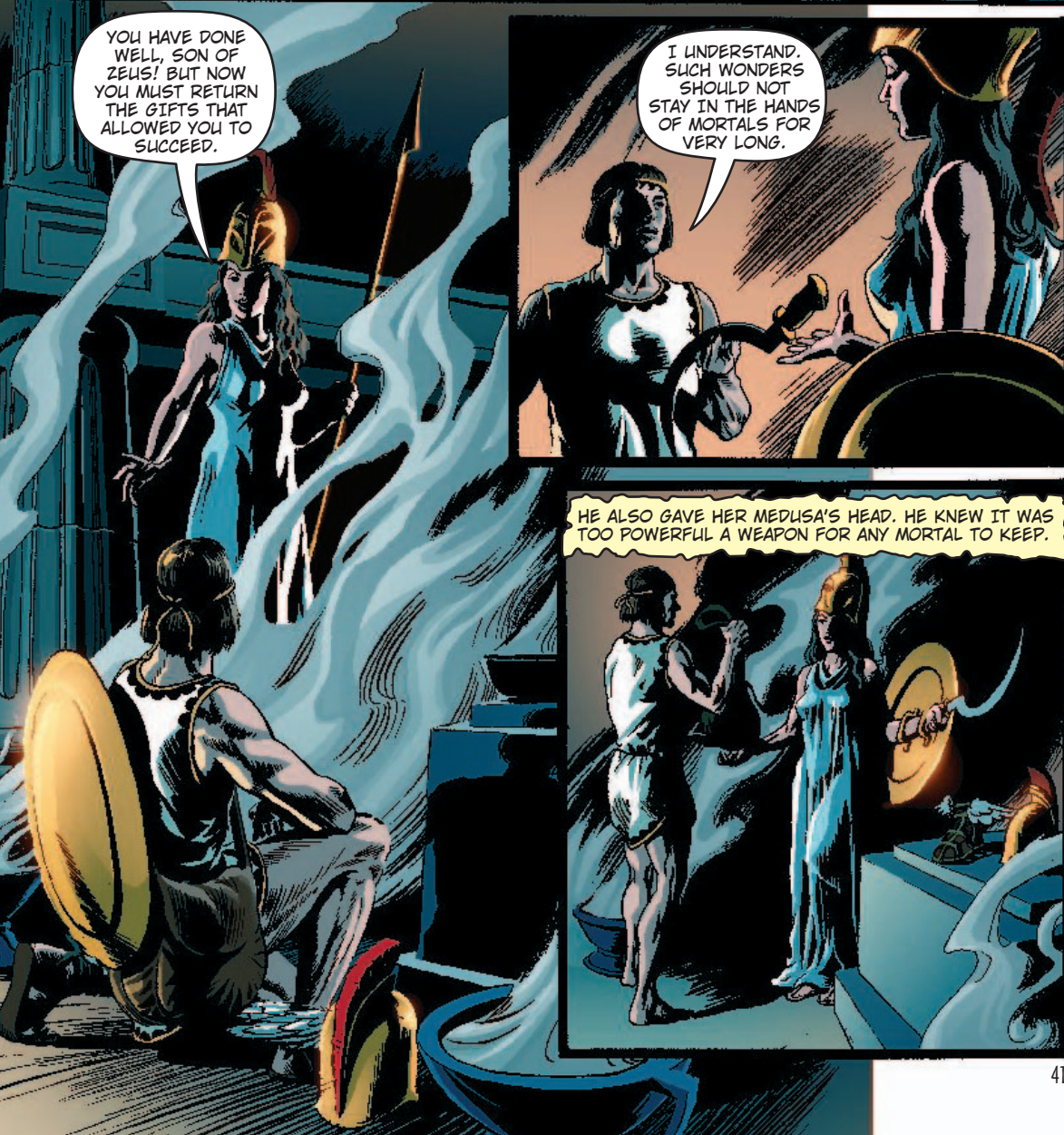
YOU HAVE ALWAYS
BEEN A GOOD FRIEND
TO US, DICTYS, SINCE
YOU FIRST PULLED US
FROM THE SEA.



AFTER HE WAS CROWNED KING, DICTYS GAVE PERSEUS AND DANAË A SHIP TO TAKE THEM TO ETHIOPIA.



BEFORE PERSEUS LEFT SERIPHUS, HE WENT TO THE TEMPLE AND GAVE THANKS TO THE GODS FOR HIS VICTORIES.



YOU HAVE DONE WELL, SON OF ZEUS! BUT NOW YOU MUST RETURN THE GIFTS THAT ALLOWED YOU TO SUCCEED.



I UNDERSTAND. SUCH WONDERS SHOULD NOT STAY IN THE HANDS OF MORTALS FOR VERY LONG.



HE ALSO GAVE HER MEDUSA'S HEAD. HE KNEW IT WAS TOO POWERFUL A WEAPON FOR ANY MORTAL TO KEEP.



DANAË WAS NEVER HAPPIER THAN THE DAY SHE MET ANDROMEDA. SHE WAS OVERJOYED THAT HER SON HAD FOUND SUCH A BRAVE AND BEAUTIFUL WIFE.



FOR A TIME, THEY ALL LIVED HAPPILY.



BUT THERE CAME A TIME WHEN DANAË BECAME HOMESICK FOR THE LAND OF HER BIRTH.



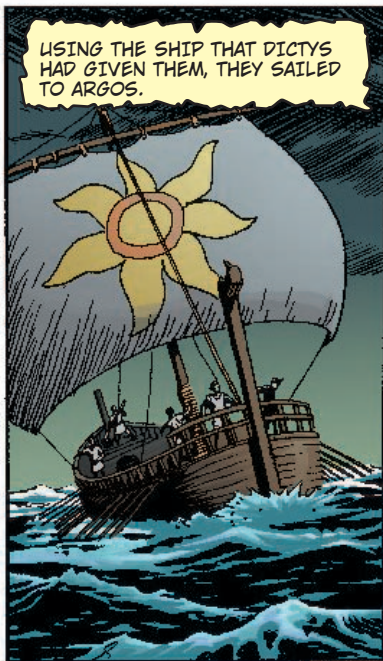
EVEN AFTER WHAT HE DID, I WOULD STILL LIKE TO SEE MY FATHER ONCE MORE, IF ONLY TO LET HIM KNOW THAT I HAVE FORGIVEN HIM.



I HAVE NO GRUDGE AGAINST HIM EITHER. IF ACRISIUS HADN'T SENT US AWAY, I MIGHT NEVER HAVE MET ANDROMEDA.

BESIDES, I WANT TO TELL HIM THAT HE HAS NOTHING TO FEAR FROM ME, NO MATTER WHAT THE ORACLE SAID.

USING THE SHIP THAT DICTYS HAD GIVEN THEM, THEY SAILED TO ARGOS.



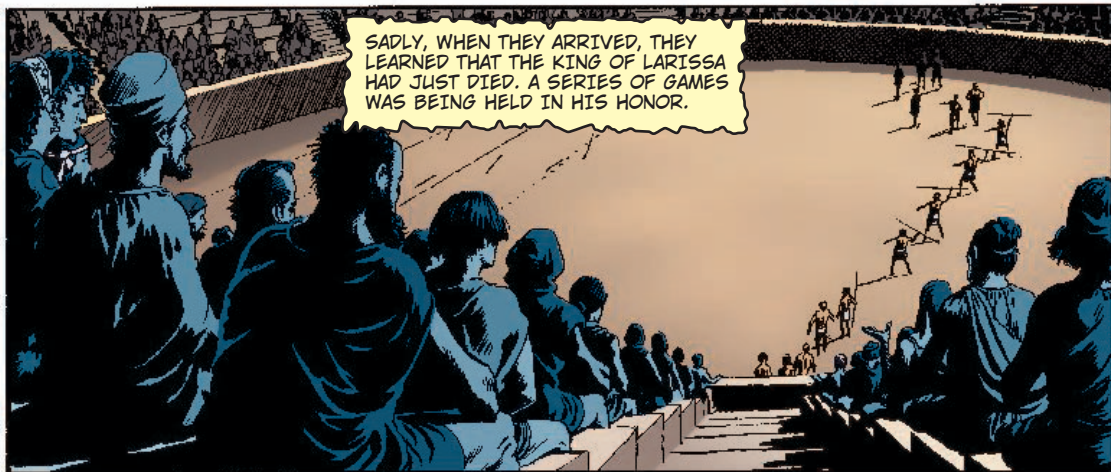
WHEN THEY ARRIVED, THEY FOUND OUT THAT ACRISIUS HAD LEARNED OF THEIR JOURNEY AND HAD RUN OFF TO THE KINGDOM OF LARISSA. EVEN THOUGH YEARS HAD PASSED, HE WAS STILL AFRAID OF THE ORACLE'S PROPHECY.



THEY DECIDED TO FOLLOW ACRISIUS TO LARISSA, SO THEY COULD TELL HIM THAT IT WAS SAFE TO RETURN HOME.



SADLY, WHEN THEY ARRIVED, THEY LEARNED THAT THE KING OF LARISSA HAD JUST DIED. A SERIES OF GAMES WAS BEING HELD IN HIS HONOR.

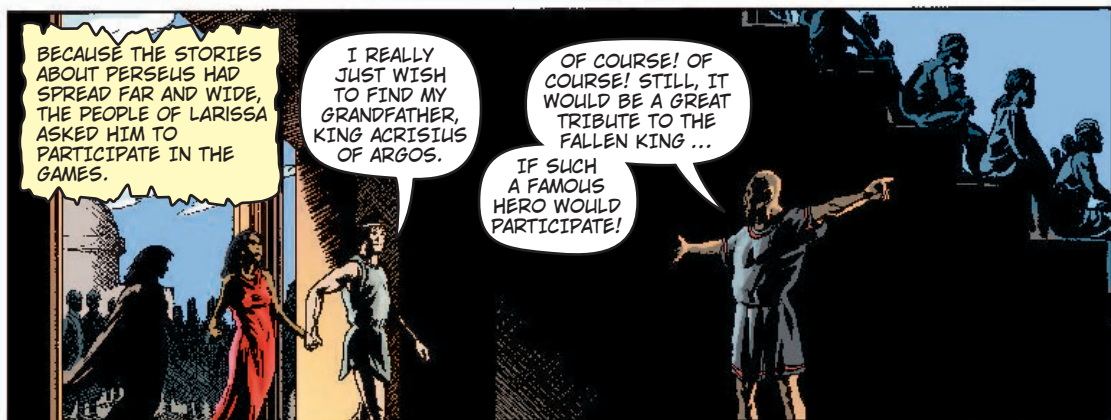


BECAUSE THE STORIES ABOUT PERSEUS HAD SPREAD FAR AND WIDE, THE PEOPLE OF LARISSA ASKED HIM TO PARTICIPATE IN THE GAMES.

I REALLY JUST WISH TO FIND MY GRANDFATHER, KING ACRISIUS OF ARGOS.

OF COURSE! OF COURSE! STILL, IT WOULD BE A GREAT TRIBUTE TO THE FALLEN KING ...

IF SUCH A FAMOUS HERO WOULD PARTICIPATE!

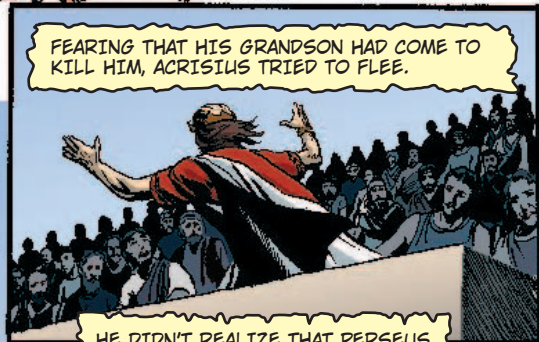




WHILE PERSEUS PREPARED TO COMPETE, DANAË AND ANDROMEDA FOUND A PLACE WHERE THEY COULD WATCH.



ACRISIUS CAUGHT A GLIMPSE OF HIS DAUGHTER AS SHE TOOK HER SEAT.



FEARING THAT HIS GRANDSON HAD COME TO KILL HIM, ACRISIUS TRIED TO FLEE.

HE DIDN'T REALIZE THAT PERSEUS WAS ON THE FIELD, ABOUT TO TAKE PART IN THE DISCUS THROW.



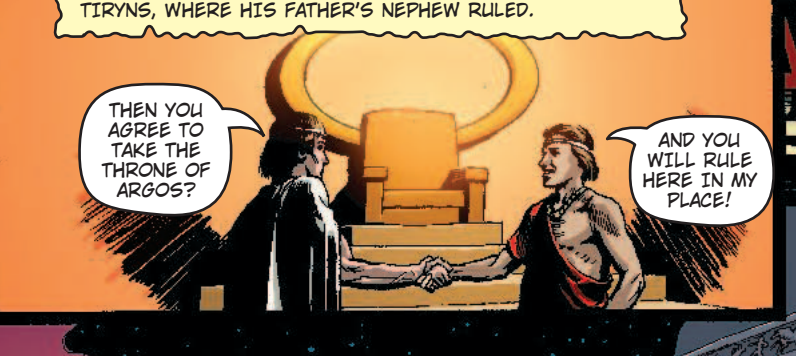
JUST AS PERSEUS MADE HIS THROW, A SUDDEN WIND BLEW IT ASTRAY.



AND SO THE PROPHECY WAS FULFILLED, EVEN THOUGH PERSEUS AND ACRISIUS BOTH TRIED TO PREVENT IT.



HORRIFIED AT HAVING KILLED HIS GRANDFATHER, PERSEUS HAD ACRIUS BURIED IN THE TEMPLE OF ATHENA.



THOUGH PERSEUS WAS THE RIGHTFUL HEIR TO THE THRONE OF ARGOS, HE COULD NOT STAND TO RULE THERE AFTER CAUSING HIS GRANDFATHER'S DEATH. INSTEAD, HE WENT TO TIRYNS, WHERE HIS FATHER'S NEPHEW RULED.

THEN YOU AGREE TO TAKE THE THRONE OF ARGOS?

AND YOU WILL RULE HERE IN MY PLACE!



PERSEUS HAD A LONG LIFE. HE EXPANDED HIS KINGDOM, BUILDING A NEW CITY CALLED MYCENAE.

IT IS SAID THAT WHEN HE AND ANDROMEDA DIED, THE GODS TURNED THEM INTO STARS THAT WOULD SHINE FOREVER IN THE NIGHT SKY.

GLOSSARY AND PRONUNCIATION GUIDE

ACRISIUS (*ah-cree-see-uhs*): the King of Argos, father of Danaë, and grandfather of Perseus

ADAMANTINE (*a-duh-man-teen*): an unbreakable material

ANDROMEDA (*an-drah-meh-deh*): the princess of Ethiopia, whom Perseus rescues from the Kraken

ARGOS (*abr-gohs*): ancient Greek city where Perseus was born

ATHENA (*uh-thee-nuh*): the Greek goddess of wisdom

CASSIOPEIA (*ka-see-uh-pee-uh*): the wife of King Cepheus and mother of Andromeda

CEPHEUS (*see-fee-uhs*): the king of Ethiopia, husband of Queen Cassiopeia, and father of Andromeda

DANAË (*da-nah-ee*): Perseus' mother

DICTYS (*dik-tees*): a fisherman, brother of King Polydectes

GRAEAE (*gray-ay*): the three blind witches from whom Perseus learns the location of the Gorgons

HADES (*bay-deez*): the Greek god of the underworld

HERMES (*bur-meez*): the messenger of the gods of Mount Olympus

MYCENAE (*my-see-nee*): an ancient Greek city founded by Perseus

ORACLE (*obr-uh-kul*): in ancient Greece, a priestess or other person through whom the gods were believed to communicate

PEGASUS (*peg-uh-sus*): a winged horse that arises from the blood of the slain Medusa

PERSEUS (*purrr-see-uhs*): the son of Zeus and Danaë and king of Mycenae

PHINEUS (*finn-ee-uhs*): Cepheus' kinsman, to whom Andromeda had been promised in marriage

POLYDECTES (*pah-lee-dehk-tees*): the king of Seriphus and brother of Dictys

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

SERIPHUS (*sah-ree-fuhs*): a small island kingdom located in the Aegean Sea

TIRYNS (*teer-inz*): an ancient Greek kingdom, ruled by Perseus for many years

FURTHER READING, WEBSITES, AND MOVIES

Clash of the Titans. DVD. Directed by Desmond Davis. Hollywood, CA: Warner Brothers Entertainment, 1981. The story of Perseus' adventures is told in this classic early 1980s special effects extravaganza.

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.

Limke, Jeff. *Theseus: Battling the Minotaur*. Minneapolis: Graphic Universe, 2008. Follow the adventures of another great Greek hero in this exciting volume from the Graphic Myths and Legends series. Theseus shows he is fit to be king of Athens by defeating several enemies, including the fearsome Minotaur, a monster who is half-man, half-bull.

Mythweb. <http://www.mythweb.com/index.html>. This site, with a searchable encyclopedia, provides readers with information on gods, goddesses, and places in Greek myth, including information about Perseus.

Storrie, Paul. *Hercules: The Twelve Labors*. Minneapolis: Graphic Universe, 2007. Ancient Greece's greatest hero tackles his greatest challenge in this volume of the Graphic Myths and Legends series.

CREATING PERSEUS: THE HUNT FOR MEDUSA'S HEAD

Editor's Note: Sources conflict as to the home of Andromeda and her parents. Some say she was a princess of the ancient East African kingdom of Ethiopia—the setting chosen for this book. Others place her in the ancient city of Joppa, which is located near the modern-day city of Tel-Aviv, Israel. To retell this ancient story for modern readers, author Paul D. Storrie consulted the two classic English-language anthologies of Greek tales—*The Age of Fable* (1859) by Thomas Bulfinch and *Mythology* (1942) by Edith Hamilton. Both books are based upon the classic works of ancient poets, including Ovid and Virgil. Artist Thomas Yeates based the story's visual details on reference books on ancient Greece and East Africa, as well as photos and scenes from classic films such as *Clash of the Titans*. Special thanks to Professor David Mulroy of the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, who lent his expertise to ensure that the story was accurate visually and historically.

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR AND THE ARTIST

PAUL D. STORRIE was born and raised in Detroit, Michigan, and returned to live there again and again after living in other cities and states. He began writing professionally in 1987 and has written comics for Caliber Comics, Moonstone Books, Marvel Comics, and DC Comics. Some of the titles he's worked on include *Batman Beyond*, *Gotham Girls*, *Captain America: Red, White and Blue*, and *Mutant X*.

THOMAS YEATES began his art training in high school and continued at Utah State University and Sacramento State University. Subsequently, he was a member of the first class at Joe Kubert's School, a trade program for aspiring comic book artists in New Jersey. Yeates has worked as an illustrator for DC Comics, Marvel, Dark Horse, and many other companies, drawing *Tarzan*, *Zorro*, *The Swamp Thing*, *Time Spirits*, *Captain America*, and *Conan*. Yeates's many titles for the Graphic Myths and Legends series include *King Arthur: Excalibur Unsheathed*, *Arthur and Lancelot: the Fight for Camelot*, *Atalanta: the Race against Destiny*, *Robin Hood: Outlaw of Sherwood Forest*, and *Odysseus: Escaping Poseidon's Curse*.

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COULD A MONSTER WHOSE GAZE TURNS MEN TO STONE... ... BE THE DEATH OF THE SON OF ZEUS?

KING POLYDECTES HAS DESIGNS ON PERSEUS' MOTHER, DANAË. BUT TO WED HER, THE KING MUST GET RID OF YOUNG PERSEUS. SO POLYDECTES HATCHES A PLAN TO TRICK THE HERO INTO PERFORMING AN IMPOSSIBLE TASK—SLAYING THE SNAKE-HAIRED MEDUSA, WHOSE VERY LOOK TURNS MEN TO STONE. YET THE MONSTROUS GORGON WOULD PROVE TO BE JUST ONE OF MANY PERILOUS CHALLENGES FOR THE SON OF ZEUS.

WILL PERSEUS PREVAIL?

GRAPHIC MYTHS AND LEGENDS TITLES:

ALI BABA: FOOLING THE FORTY THIEVES
AMATERASU: RETURN OF THE SUN
ARTHUR & LANCELOT: THE FIGHT FOR CAMELOT
ATALANTA: THE RACE AGAINST DESTINY
BEOWULF: MONSTER SLAYER
DEMETER & PERSEPHONE: SPRING HELD HOSTAGE
GUAN YU: BLOOD BROTHERS TO THE END
HERCULES: THE TWELVE LABORS
THE HERO TWINS: AGAINST THE LORDS OF DEATH
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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ROBIN HOOD: OUTLAW OF SHERWOOD FOREST
SINBAD: SAILING INTO PERIL
SUNJATA: WARRIOR KING OF MALI
THESEUS: BATTLING THE MINOTAUR
THOR & LOKI: IN THE LAND OF GIANTS
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THE TROJAN HORSE: THE FALL OF TROY
YU THE GREAT: CONQUERING THE FLOOD



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