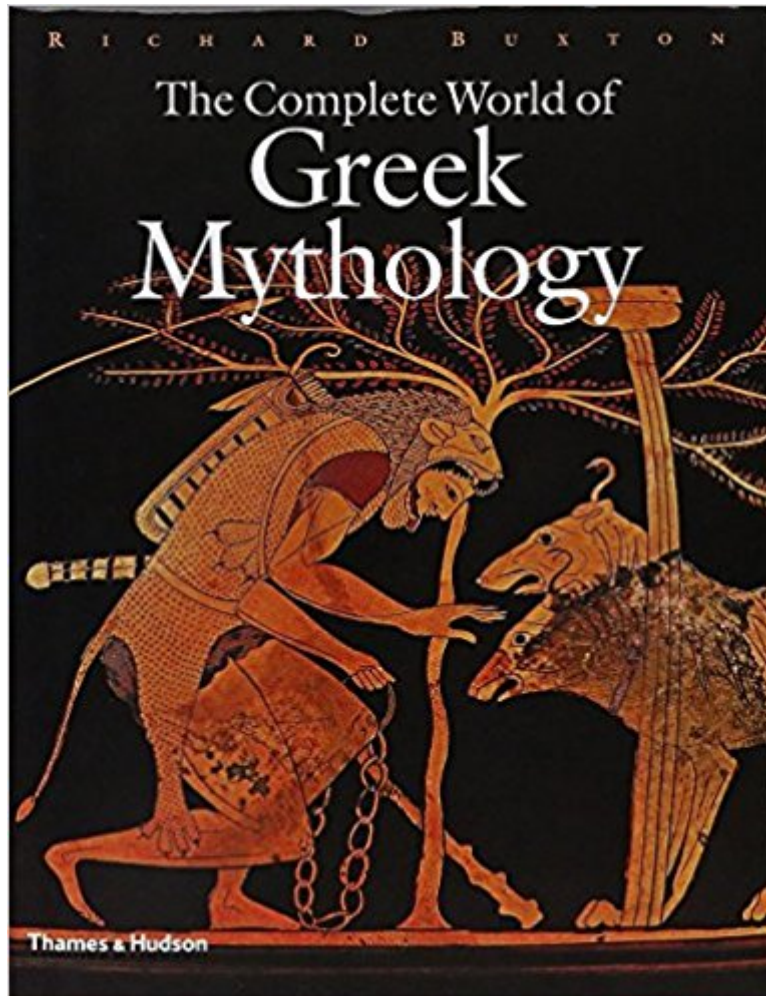




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The Complete World Of Greek Mythology



Synopsis

A full, authoritative, and wholly engaging account of these endlessly fascinating tales and of the ancient society in which they were created. Greek myths are among the most complex and influential stories ever told. From the first millennium BC until today, the myths have been repeated in an inexhaustible series of variations and reinterpretations. They can be found in the latest movies and television shows and in software for interactive computer games. This book combines a retelling of Greek myths with a comprehensive account of the world in which they developed. It covers their themes, their relevance to Greek religion and society, and their relationship to the landscape. "Contexts, Sources, Meanings" describes the main literary and artistic sources for Greek myths, and their contexts, such as ritual and theater. "Myths of Origin" includes stories about the beginning of the cosmos, the origins of the gods, the first humans, and the founding of communities. "The Olympians: Power, Honor, Sexuality" examines the activities of all the main divinities. "Heroic exploits" concentrates on the adventures of Perseus, Jason, Herakles, and other heroes. "Family sagas" explores the dramas and catastrophes that befall heroes and heroines. "A Landscape of Myths" sets the stories within the context of the mountains, caves, seas, and rivers of Greece, Crete, Troy, and the Underworld. "Greek Myths after the Greeks" describes the rich tradition of retelling, from the Romans, through the Renaissance, to the twenty-first century. Complemented by lavish illustrations, genealogical tables, box features, and specially commissioned drawings, this will be an essential book for anyone interested in these classic tales and in the world of the ancient Greeks. 250 illustrations, 120 in color

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Engrossing and lavishly illustrated, this survey demonstrates once again why Greek mythology is so enduringly popular. Greek lit prof Buxton (*Imaginary Greece: the Contexts of Mythology*) treats the subject thematically, covering Greek origin myths, the character and functions of the Olympian gods, the exploits of heroes, the Homeric epics and the sagas of the House of Atreus and other tragic clans in which there is a "seamless connection between heroic exploits and domestic catastrophes." Maps and family trees are provided to chart the progress of mythic quests and to help keep straight the tangled ancestry and couplings of gods and mortals, along with hundreds of superb photos of landscapes, ruins and objects d'art that steep readers in the atmospherics of ancient Greece. Buxton does not bowdlerize the elements of rape, incest, adultery, homosexuality, castration, bestiality, phallic overstimulation and Dionysian abandon in these stories, or the ubiquitous motif of parents devouring (and regurgitating) their children. But he is alive to their more profound psychological and social import. As mythic cycles of violence and retribution, hubris and nemesis play themselves out, he pegs them as explorations in extremis of the tensions people feel as they are torn between squabbling relatives, family and polis, or duty and fate. Buxton's engagingly written blend of erudition and insight makes these primordial tales seem fresh again. Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

“Engrossing and lavishly illustrated, this survey demonstrates once again why Greek mythology is so enduringly popular.... Buxton's engagingly written blend of erudition and insight makes these primordial tales seem fresh again.” - Publishers Weekly

Informative, stuffed full with tons of information on the subject. The reading level is more for teens and older. Great for mythology enthusiasts and anyone writing a paper on the genre.

It is a very interesting book, but is kind of more for scholars on the subject. I was looking forward to get more on the storytelling of the different myths... it is however, a good book if you are researching on Greek myths

This book is well written and informative. It articulates Greek mythology from its beginnings to their

present-day cultural representations in movies and stories. I would recommend this book.

Very informative and well written, suggest adult supervision for children under 12.

Great book! Took a Classical Mythology course this semester and this book definitely helped. Easy read but with tons of information you won't find elsewhere! Thanks Buxton!

This book is full of great mythology stories. It's almost more like a textbook but still good. It's pretty in depth so if you're looking for a summed up mythology for dummies type of book than this is not for you. I think it's great!

I got this book for school and it was full of information of Greek Mythology. We used a book by Bulfinch as well but this one was by far better at giving the background and the genealogy of the characters. It also has some pretty cool pictures of art and landscapes. It's more focused on the history aspect than on the actual stories though. While it covers what happens in the Greek Myths it doesn't tell it like a story.

Very nice. Good starter book. Have read better. But a good gift for someone who has little knowledge of mythology.

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