



Son of Zeus

Glyn Iliffe

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The epic story, the greatest hero of them all

Heracles, renowned for his strength and spirit, has done something terrible. His gilded life lies in ruins. Seeking the Oracle he is given a new mission: pay penance by becoming the slave of his sworn enemy.

Twelve impossible labours await him. To restore his reputation, he must face monsters and mythical beasts that will test him to his limits and beyond. For he has become a pawn of Gods: of Zeus's pride and, above all, Hera's jealousy...

Can he fight back? Or even survive?

The astonishing new series from bestseller Glyn Iliffe takes us on an unforgettable journey of monsters, myth and man.

Son of Zeus Details

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From Reader Review Son of Zeus for online ebook

AnnMarie says

A wonderful retelling of the trials of Heracles. This book is the 1st in a trilogy and starts just after Heracles killed his children in a crazy frenzy. It features 3 of the 12 labors that Heracles must accomplish to understand why he committed such a heinous act and to atone for his crime. Son of Zeus is a well-researched and entertaining book that fans of Greek and Roman mythology will enjoy.

Karina says

Heracles(Hercules)is the son of Almedes and Zeus (who slept with her while pretending to be her husband Amphitryon). As a birthday present Zeus gives his son immeasurable physical strength(he lets Hera nurse him without her knowledge so he acquired this supernatural power of the goddess herself). Well,Zeus's good lady wife,the goddess Hera,is not best pleased with this dalliance and even less with the outcome. So Hera, who's middle name is revenge,works out a plan to get rid of this abomination. Meanwhile,Heracles has sowed some of his wild oats and is settled with his loving wife Megara and and their 3 children in Thebes when disaster strikes,in a fit of madness, he kills his 3 sons. After wandering for a while he asks the oracle of Delphi for advice. She tells him in no uncertain terms that if he wants to find out the truth about that night of madness and wants to find some redemption, he has to perform certain labours. For this reason he becomes a slave to his cousin who is king of Tiryns(also thanks to the lovely Hera). Of course Hera does not want Heracles to find out the truth nor find any atonement so she has her hand in the choice of these famous labours.This is historical fiction based on Greek mythology but it reads as a fantasy story(the lion of Nemea,a white hind with golden antlers and a seven headed snake)albeit with a sad and bitter undertone. One can not help but feel sorry for this giant who's life is manipulated by the whims of the gods. This is the first part of the trilogy (3 labours done,9 more to go)but it is not the classic retelling of the myth,Heracles and the other characters are so much more than individual parts of this myth. Yes,I think I will probably follow Heracles his further adventures...

Breakaway Reviewers says

One of my favourite Greek adventure stories!

The story of Heracles was being told to Odysseus, one of the victors at Troy. Heracles was the most famous hero in all the Greek city-states. He was the son of the King of Olympus, Zeus, and the mortal woman, Alcmene, who made Hera (Zeus's wife) jealous. Heracles was also the twin brother of Iphicles who became an advisor to King Eurystheus.

Hera was horrified because Zeus blessed Heracles more than Hera's own children. She was full of hatred and sent two snakes to kill Heracles who caught and killed them with his bare hands before he was one year old! Iphicles became jealous of Heracles because their mother loved Heracles more than him.

Heracles had to become King Eurystheus's slave because the gods told him so. Heracles killed his own sons. The king gave him ten most difficult labours.

Glyn (the author) explains that his novel is a bit different from the ancient Greek text about Heracles to spice up the adventures for the readers. I want to read Glyn's next novel about Heracles's remaining labours. I love this book!

Caesar 13

Breakaway Reviewer received a copy of the book to review

Angel Hatfield says

This is the story of Heracles, one of many illegitimate children of Zeus. It is the journey of Heracles and the 12 labors he must face.

I loved reading this story. As I read it, I felt as if I were there, watching everything with my own eyes. My heart cried for him and for everything he went through. I can't wait for the next book. I highly recommend.

**I voluntarily read and reviewed this book

Stephen says

this review is going to be short and....not so sweet im afraid. In theory, i should of really enjoyed this book, i like the genre, the era, the subject, but i just could not get into this story.

i want to just say that this in no way reflects badly on the author, they did absolutely nothing wrong, it was well written, and to the right person i am sure they will love it, unfortunately though that wasnt me.

Chloe says

I received an ARC of this book in exchange for an honest review.

I thoroughly enjoyed this book. Heracles' twelve labours are among the most well-known of Greek myths, but this book still managed to create something new and interesting for readers. The best parts of this book were undoubtedly its action sequences. Every one was well-written, engaging and exciting; by far the strongest aspects of the book. That said, Heracles' reflections upon the actions that led him to servitude are also thoughtful and nuanced, giving depth to a character who very easily could have been reduced to simple brute strength with a splash of remorse. Son of Zeus offers a reflective Heracles, powerful and brave but also riddled with guilt and trapped in the cycle so often experienced by Greek heroes: rise and ruination.

Heather says

I tried to not let my love and previous knowledge of the Heracles legend get wrapped up in this book. It was hard cause Greek Mythology is one of my favorite things to read. I think I managed it though.

The author is basically re-telling the Heracles legend from Heracles point of view but at the same time putting some different twists into the story. You get the point of view from many different people in this book and to me it is a refreshing way of telling the legend. I thoroughly enjoyed this re-telling am eagerly awaiting the next book to continue in Heracles impossible labors.

If you like Greek mythology in any way, shape, or form then you will enjoy this book. Even if you don't I do suggest trying it out. The story line is complex enough it keeps your attention yet, it is not one that you keeps you reading long after you are tired. It is engaging do not let me make you think it isn't. I just know the labors so I knew what was coming next so it was easier for me to put down. I would add this to your to-read pile cause it is worth the read.

Taylor says

I recently finished Son of Zeus, by Glynn Iliffe. I received this book from NetGalley in exchange for an honest review. The book's planned publishing date is April 16, 2018.

This book is about the Son of Zeus, Heracles (or Hercules if you go with the Roman version). This tells about Heracles after he murdered his children because of a fit of madness created by Hera, Zeus's husband who hates Heracles because Zeus cheated on her by sleeping with another lady. Heracles is, of course, grief-stricken because of the terrible act he committed. To rid himself of his grief, he goes to the Oracle who tells him he must work as the king's slave (which he should have been if Hera had not interfered) and complete ten tasks, or labors. The story follows Heracles as he goes through his first few labors.

I loved this book. And I don't think it was just because I find mythology awesome and fascinating. I think one of the reasons I liked this book so much, was because it seemed real. Not realistic per say, but more... I'm not sure what word I'm looking for. What I mean by this is when you hear the myths and all, it doesn't give too much detail to what else is going on, or convey the characters thoughts and feeling. That would probably be the reason why I really liked this, that you got a lot more detail. I definitely recommend this book, especially to anyone who finds greek myths or other legends/myths, but really to anyone who likes a good story.

Paul Bennett says

Heracles, the natal result of a Zeusian dalliance, is the subject of Mr. Iliffe's new series. Son of Zeus is a wonderful telling of the first part of the Heracles myth; the enmity and hatred of Hera toward him is the focal point as Heracles struggles mightily not only with the first three challenging labors but with his own peace of mind as he tries to understand why he murdered his children. Heracles, while known for his strength, is shown to be a man totally driven to find the redemption he is promised, and it is this aspect that drives the narrative. The three labors in this tale are marvelously written; the rank bestiality and cunning of the Nemean Lion; the absolute innocence of a young girl in the Ceryneian Hind; the seeming unstoppable Hydra, take the reader into the heart of the action and drama. While Heracles is up against impossible tasks, his wife Megara is also trying to come to grips with the horror she had gone through. This story line, her search for the answer as to why he did what he did, is crafted in a heart rending fashion, and is another example of the authors skill in presenting believable characters. I am certainly looking forward to book 2, the author ends book 1 with a lovely nugget for us to chew on.

4 stars
