



## King of Ithaca

*Glyn Iliffe*

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*Glyn Ilfie*

## **King of Ithaca** Glyn Ilfie

The first in the epic and unputdownable series of war and legends

Greece is in turmoil, divided by feuding kingdoms desiring wealth, power... and revenge.

When **Eperitus**, a young exiled soldier, comes to the aid of a group of warriors in battle, little does he know what's in store. He is about to join the charismatic **Odysseus**, Prince of Ithaca, on a vital quest to save his homeland.

Odysseus travels to Sparta to join the most famous heroes in paying suit to the sensuous **Helen**. Armed with nothing but his wits, he enters a treacherous world of warfare and politics to compete for the greatest prize in Greece.

But few care for the problems of an impoverished prince when war with Troy beckons...

**An unmissable and ferociously exciting adventure for readers of David Gemmell, Christian Cameron and Simon Scarrow.**

The Adventures of Odysseus **King of Ithaca** The Gates of Troy The Armour of Achilles The Oracles of Troy The Voyages of Odysseus Book 6 coming summer 2017 Praise for Glyn Ilfie

'It has **suspense, treachery, and bone-crunching action**... It will leave fans of the genre eagerly awaiting the rest of the series' *Times Literary Supplement*

This is a **must read** for those who enjoy good old epic battles, chilling death scenes and the extravagance of ancient Greece' *Lifestyle Magazine*

'The reader does not need to be classicist to enjoy this epic and stirring tale. It makes a **great novel**' *Historical Novels Review*

'I found it utterly fascinating, the historic detail was excellent. This was an easy and enjoyable read, and I am looking forward to the next instalments. As a personal read **I can absolutely recommend it**' *Book Talk Bournemouth*

'An exciting story with plenty of action, and the requisite supernatural elements ... **if you are a fan of writers like Bernard Cornwell, Simon Scarrow and Conn Iggulden you will enjoy this.**' Rachel Hyde, *Myshelf.com*

## **King of Ithaca Details**

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## From Reader Review King of Ithaca for online ebook

### Athena Velea says

I was always looking for a book about Odysseus and thanks to my history teacher who gave me this book to read (cause I'm Greek lol) I finally feel accomplished. The sad thing is that I don't have the other 5 books to read cause I fell in love with this story. It may not be 100% as Homer's tale but it's still a very good book and I suggest you to read it if you like Greek mythology.

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### Graham says

A gutsy and compelling retelling of the life and times of Odysseus, beginning with his wooing of the Princess Penelope and his attempts to suppress a revolt on his beloved island kingdom of Ithaca. This is the first in what promises to be a long-running series encompassing the Trojan War and all manner of mythical adventures on top of that.

The story of Odysseus has long been a popular one, with the hero showing up in film, television and novels over and over again. Despite the familiarity of the subject matter, the author's contribution to this mythos is a sterling one. Iliffe writes with authority and enthusiasm, sweeping us along as his book alternately involves political machinations, pure fantasy and of course bloodthirsty battles.

Iliffe takes the step of making up the leading character, Eperitus, a close friend and confidante of the legendary hero Odysseus. This allows him to have some fun and a little leeway with the plotting. I found the story to be full of "meat", with excellent action sequences, the requisite amount of traitorous doings and a large cast that's well-handled despite the oft confusing character names.

It does slow down a little halfway through, where we get stuck in the Spartan palace for what seems like an age, but things kick in again ready for some breakneck action come the climax. This is a very well written book and one that makes me hungry for the sequels. Bring 'em on!

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### Sabina says

3.5 stars

First book in a series retelling the story of Odysseus and the war at Troy. There are many versions of this classic epic and I read a fair few of them over the years. This one is by no means my favourite, but it is a competent, detailed and interesting and I'm looking forward to continuing this series. In this installment, we meet Odysseus as a young man, about to take on the responsibilities for his small kingdom. I like this Odysseus; he is a thoughtful, intelligent character, trying to do the right thing by his people, make sense of the politics of the wider region and interpret the will of the gods. There are well structured battle scenes, customs and beliefs brought to life and the supernatural element, in the shape and form of the Greek gods, added in just the right amount. The let-down for me were the female characters - I found them all to be two-dimensional, unrealistic and devoid of any kind of personality. The love story, such as it was, of Odysseus and Penelope was not believable. All in all though, a good retelling (so far) of a familiar story.

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## Donmar says

Glyn Iliffe wrote the book and it is the first part of his series about the life and adventures of the Greek hero Odysseus. As a student of Classical Studies, I always believed that authors or movie directors should always be chronologically accurate about their writings or their films about ancient histories and mythologies. That simply because people, who doesn't study Classics, can easily say to their children and grandchildren that Herakles was the squeaky-clean hero that Disney World was trying to portray or that Hades was evil and the bad guy.

This book is one of those that lack the chronological accuracy of the Greek mythology and the errors are very visible to those who studied Classical Studies.

Here are some errors I found in the book "King of Ithaca":

- The author mentions in the book that the meeting between Odysseus and Iphitus took place during Odysseus' journey to Sparta as a suitor of Helen while Iphitus was on journey to Tiryns looking for Herakles. The chronological error of that line is that Iphitus and Herakles should have been long dead by the time the suitors of Helen marched to Sparta.
- Part of the book leads up to the courting of Helen and the King of Mycenae was Agamemnon. Therefore, the hero Herakles should have been long dead, not during the courting of Helen and at least one Herakleids (sons and descendants of Herakles) invasion should have already taken place at the time of the reign of Atreus (Agamemnon's father).
- If the hero Herakles were alive then, he would not waste his time courting Deianera or Iole since he can have the beautiful Helen to himself just southwest of Tiryns, forcefully if he wants to.
- In this book, Spartan King Tyndaerus hates Herakles. Why would the Spartan king hate Herakles when the hero himself helps restored Tyndaerus to the throne of Sparta from his brother/uncle Hippocoon.
- In this book, Telamonian Ajax (the Greater Ajax) and Achilles were not cousins. In most primary sources of Greek mythology, Ajax and Achilles were cousins. Their fathers, Telamon and Peleus were exiled brothers; both were Argonauts and founded their own respective kingdoms.
- The old swineherd Eumaios is younger than Odysseus.
- Herakles' arrows are magical according to the author. However, Herakles' arrows are not magical, but rather poison arrows dipped from the deadly poisonous blood of Hydra.
- In this book, the Dioskouris (Castor and Pollux), the brothers of Helen were not mention at all.

Despite the errors and inaccuracy, the book was a good reading and a great story for the non-Classics students. I would say its way better than the Percy Jackson series. period.

Anyway, as a Classical Studies student, I learned to accept the story in the book and that modification of the Greek myth is necessary to spark interests to non-Classics students. I realize that Greek Mythology are bound to be modified in this modern times and that not because to degrade it but rather to enrich it. I am already looking forward to read the sequel "Gates of Troy".

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## Kost As says

To King of Ithaca με εξ?πληξε θετικ?, μπορ? να πω! Καταρχ?ς να ξεκιν?σω λ?γοντας ?τι οτιδ?ποτε αρχαιοελληνικ? με συναρπ?ζει!! Π?λινο πιατ?κι βλ?πω σε μουσε?ο και βουρκ?νω! Οπ?τε, ?ταν ?χω ?να βιβλ?ο, του οπο?ου η ιστορ?α εκτυλ?σσεται στην Αρχα?α Ελλ?δα πριν τον Τρωικ? Π?λεμο, ε?ναι σ?γουρο ?τι θα μου αρ?σει! Οι ?ρωες ε?ναι γνωστο? απ? την Α' και Β' Γυμνασ?ου,

αλλ? ο κ. Glyn Iliffe ?χει φτι?ξει και ?λλους, ?πως για παρ?δειγμα ο κεντρικ?ς ?ρωας, ο Ηπε?ρητος! Η σκιαγρα?φηση των ηρ?ων ε?ναι αρκετ? καλ?, οι περιγραφ?ς το ?διο και η πλοκ? μου φ?νηκε να εκτυλ?σσεται σε αρκετ? καλ? ρυθμ? επ?σης! Ανυπομον? για τα επ?μενα βιβλ?α!

Υ.Γ.: Δεν ?λειψαν, β?βαια, κ?ποιες γκ?φες! Η Σ?μος δ?πλα απ? την Ιθ?κη;; Απ? π?τε;; Μ?πως εννοο?σες τη Σ?μη της Κεφαλλην?ας;; Μπορε?! Ευτυχ?ς για ?λους μας, δε δουλε?εις σε καν?να Booking.com ? TripAdvisor, κ. Glyn!! Και ?ταν η ιδ?α μου ? ?κλεισε το τελευτα?ο κεφ?λαιο του βιβλ?ου πολ? απ?τομα; Σαν να ε?χε καθυστερ?σει να τελει?σει το βιβλ?ο και ο εκδ?της του τον π?εζε να το παραδ?σει! Κουφ?λες εκδ?τες!!!

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## Paul Bennett says

King of Ithaca is the first book in this series about the Greek warrior and hero Odysseus. The story begins with Laertes still the King but there is a revolt brewing that threatens to remove Laertes and his line as the royal family. Odysseus is consulting the oracle on Mt. Parnassus about his future. It is this journey where he meets the other main protagonist of the book, Eperitus, an exiled prince looking to find glory under a new lord. The Odysseus in this story is not portrayed in the Homeric mode but is rather more human than mythic. His crafty like nature is not some spur of the moment inspiration, instead Odysseus wrestles with each problem to find solutions. There is doubt and anguish involved in the process. This very human quality is found in all of the characters involved including the three main women in the story, Helen, Penelope and the most formidable of them, Clytaemnestra.

In juxtaposition to the human equation we find a taste of the Olympians mainly in the portrayal of Athena. She has promised to lend her aid to Odysseus in his quest to reclaim the throne of Ithaca but you know Olympians, they can be a bit fickle at times and Odysseus knows this.

There are many scenes of action, battles with human foes and one with a monster in the mythic tradition, and a sort of humorous scene of the hero Ajax entering the hall of Tyndareus in Sparta. He reminded me somewhat of Angus Donald's Little John but on steroids. There are also a few well placed quirks in the story line that make one pause for a second to negotiate an unexpected turn in the road. It is a very enjoyable account of my favorite Greek hero, Odysseus and look forward to continuing his story in the sequel. This book rates a strong 4 stars.

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## Terri says

This book was a little disappointing. It wasn't a bad book, but for my tastes, it lacked a little spark. I never felt anything for the characters or the story. Some parts, the parts centred on Greek mythology, I found enjoyable though so all was not lost. However, there weren't enough of them to squeeze another star out of me to make this a 4 star book. It is a very definite 3 star book for me.

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## Greg at 2 Book Lovers Reviews says

Homer with a twist. Glyn Iliffe has taken Homer's epic poems and retold them (not translated) in a modern way.

The King of Ithaca begins ten years before the famous war and twenty years before the infamous Trojan Horse. He has introduced a new character to the mix, Eperitus, an honorable warrior from the north of Greece. Eperitus befriends the hero, Odysseus, earning his trust and confidence. The story is told from his perspective giving us an inside view to the events building up to the Trojan War, including the selection of Helen's husband.

The events in the King of Ithaca are not from the Homeric Epics, but give all the necessary background for anyone who is unfamiliar with The Iliad and The Odyssey.

I like the introduction of Eperitus into the tale, he allows us to see the story from the first person point of view and get a different view on the events from the story.

What I enjoyed most is that Glyn Iliffe did not translate it into some kind of English poetry or try and mimic the Homeric style. He is simply telling the story in his own way.

\*4 Stars

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## Reader says

Setting/Premise: 3/5:

The story of Ulises is well-known, perhaps a bit less so its origins, what was before he became the King of Ithaca.

Style: 2/5.

Somehow amateurish, but not to the point of becoming unpleasant to read.

Characters: 2/5: Main characters are flat and with very limited personalities, lacking of ethos and guided by simple, direct and (occasionally) unconvincing motivations. Almost every secondary male character is virtually undistinguishable from each other.

Plot: 3/5: Simple and straightforward, but more or less consistent.

Dénouement: 3/5: Counting that more or less everybody knows from beginning how the story will end the predictability is not much of a disappointment. It doesn't give anything, but neither it takes. Correct.

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## Mia says

An young exile befriends Odysseus and shares in his adventures.

It was a pretty good book. The author had lots of detail, carefully provided world building, and character development. I picked this book up for some Greek history. I was disappointed that the main story was completely fictional. An invasion of Ithaca didn't happen, it helps the author build up relationships before the whole Troy incident.

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## Neeke says

Definitely not what I hoped it would be. It looked promising, historical fiction, lots of action, and most important: Odysseus! It's a miracle not more fiction is written about Odysseus and his adventures, so I had my hope on this series.

.. but wat was it disappointing. Also the last time I trust users reviews "If you loved David Gemmell's Troy series, you'll love this book". I loved the Troy series, but comparing this to it, that's a huuuuge insult. Doesn't even come close.

It started OK-ish, but it just didn't get me. In stead of Ody being the main protagonist, there was also another boyish dude who wanted glory blabla. Can't even remember his name. That's how much it got me! To me the writing style feels like it's been written by a 16 y/o. If that would've been the case: good book! But no.... Too much focus on the battles and gore. Some people can, but Iliffe can't, at least not in this installment.

And what's with all the 'handsome' guys?!? More or less everybody but Ody and Little Ajax was described as such. That's getting really annoying...

The characters were changed from Homer's descriptions. Once again, nothing wrong with that, but you just have to be able to do it.

Obviously, this book/series is not for me going to be the new epic about the Trojan war. No one can beat Gemmell!

Still it's a pity that this book just didn't have the right feeling to become a new epic/cool book. Guess I'm a little bit biased by having read David Gemmell's epic Troy series.

So, if you're new to the genre/mythology in general, and/or between 16-20 y/o, you have a chance to like this book :P

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### **Adam says**

I really enjoyed this first novel in Glyn Iliffe's historical fantasy series about Odysseus and the Trojan War. Partly because he writes how I like to write and what I like to read but also for his great ability to recreate a sense of the ancient world. Glyn does not shy away from bringing the gods into the story which adds a whole other dimension to the novels. The characters are also very human. I would highly recommend the books in this series. Be sure to read them in order.

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### **Margaret says**

Was expecting historical fiction whilst this is actually historical fantasy. Not in the mood to deal with cranky goddesses at the moment.

May try again some other time.

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### **K says**

This one started out promising, and ended okay, but there was just so much unwanted information (do I really need two pages of someone putting on makeup?). If a hundred pages had been cut out this would have been great. Once I employed my skim reading techniques I was able to finish. I read another review of this

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book where they made the comment that all the men are described as handsome, so while reading the book, that became annoying. When the story focused on Odysseus it was compelling, but it was his companion, epertius, that was not so interesting.

Note to self: dont bother with the sequels.

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## **Jeanne says**

DNF like 60 pages in.

I'm not gonna lie, the 60 or so pages that I did read really dragged on. I might have not minded if I had found myself invested in the characters or the plot but nothing really enticed me to continue on.

As far as I can tell the protagonist lacks a personality, and I don't particularly like the changes made to the characters that I do know well.

Also, on a more personal note: why do the characters keep referring to Greece? As a concept Greece doesn't exist yet, and no one would consider the skirmishes between the cities as a form of civil war. Why is this idea of a bunch of city states so hard to accept.

So while this definitely wasn't for me, I can definitely see others enjoying it for what it does provide. I just don't see a point of continuing something I don't enjoy!!

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