



## Say Cheese, Medusa!

*Kate McMullan , Denis Zilber (Illustrator)*

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In Greek mythology, Medusa was a Gorgon a winged monster with snakes for hair. Anyone who looked at her was instantly turned to stone. But she wasn't born that way. Not even close. Athena was so jealous of Medusa's beauty that she cursed her. Zeus changed the story to make his son, Perseus, look good. Hades is here to set the record straight on Perseus, Medusa, and everything in between.

## Say Cheese, Medusa! Details

Date : Published August 1st 2011 by Stone Arch Books (first published October 1st 2002)

ISBN :

Author : Kate McMullan , Denis Zilber (Illustrator)

Format : Kindle Edition 208 pages

Genre : Fantasy, Mythology, Greek Mythology, Childrens, Middle Grade

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## From Reader Review Say Cheese, Medusa! for online ebook

### Echo says

I love stories of Medusas. And this one has such a clever twist.

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### Donna says

I laughed and laughed throughout this book! Greek myths told as they really happened from the viewpoint of Hades himself. He corrects the misconceptions we all believe to be true because we heard the stories from his myth o maniac brother Zeus (the big fat liar).

Having a 10 year old son who is enthralled by Greek Mythology, we requested this book from NetGalley.

My son laughed all through the story. "Hades is really a good guy after all, he tries to save Medusa."

We will be purchasing all the books in this series (this is number three). Excellent story Ms. McMullan. You made education fun. I remember studying the old mythology books in school thinking "there must be some way to make these dry old stories fun". You have found the way, you have the golden touch. Love the stories!

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### R.L. says

Κριτικ? στα Ελληνικ? πιο κ?τω...

I was curious for this series and in need of something light, so I picked this book and read it in a leisure afternoon. This is a very twisted re-telling of the Medusa/Perseus myth, narrated from the view point of Hades. Gods and heroes appear to have completely different qualities and characters than we know of in this book, while the ancient world seems too Americanised. The book is quite humorous and easy to read and while some points irked me, this is a teen book after all and I'm sure its market segment would find it very good. I enjoyed it and I'm sure others will, but I hope that its readers, especially teenagers, will feel intrigued to learn the proper version of the story and delve deeper into Greek Mythology.

Μ?α διασκεδαστικ? και εντελ?ς διαφορεικ? εκδοχ? του μ?θου της Μ?δουσας και του Περσ?α, γραμμ?νη για (Αμερικ?νους) εφ?βους. Ο ?δης ε?ναι ο αφηγητ?ς της ιστορ?ας και παρουσι?ζει την δικ? του εκδοχ? των γεγον?των στα οπο?α πα?ζει σημαντικ? ρ?λο. Γενικ? οι θεο? και οι ?ρωες δεν ?χουν και πολ? σχ?ση με τους θεο?ς και τους ?ρωες ?πως τους ξ?ρουμε απ? την Ελληνικ? Μυθολογ?α και ο αρχα?ος κ?σμος εμφαν?ζεται πολ? Αμερικανοποιημ?νος, αλλ? το βιβλ?ο ε?ναι γραμμ?νο με χιο?μορ και ε?μαι σ?γουρη ?τι το κοιν? στο οπο?ο απευθ?νεται θα το ευχαριστηθε?. Ελπ?ζω μ?νο να παρακιν?σει τους αναγν?στες να αναζητ?σουν και να μελετ?σουν την αυθεντικ? Ελληνικ? Μυθολογ?α κ?ποια στιγμ? και να μην με?νουν μ?νο σε αυτ?...

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## **Brandy says**

Hades, the god of the Underworld, is here to set the stories behind the legendary myths straight in this series. You see Zeus, the guy who likes to pass on the myths that we are familiar with, loves to stretch the truth. He always tweaks the story to be flattering to himself and his family members.

In Say Cheese, Medusa, Hades gives us the real story behind Perseus' childhood and "heroic" deeds. He also tells the true story of how Medusa came to be "Gorgonized" and given her stony curse. It involves a picnic in the wrong place at the wrong time and a very bad hair day.

Hades recollection comes in a very fun and lighthearted tone, and I really enjoyed the story. It will be a great high interest read for students, and I believe I will be adding it to my middle school library. I think my 6th graders will love it!

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## **👉 Ashley ? says**

Loved it. Medusa outwits Athena to save both herself and her sisters. And Perseus, what a dweeb. He's like a mini metal Zeus, with less common sense.

Hades' perspective on the events is far better than any (totally, like, unfunny) story that Zeus can come up with on his best day. Rather than some dreary tale of poor Medusa being raped by Poseidon in Athena's temple and the wrathful goddess taking her hostility out on the innocent Medusa, we learn that is was, in fact, a mere beach party that found its way from the sand to the temple of Athena. Unfortunately, Athena still punishes Medusa rather than her partying uncle Po. Seriously, where is the sisterly solidarity???

But did Medusa give up to the Fates and sulk? Nope. She took charge and found Athena's weak spot. Her hair. Who would have thought that the goddess of wisdom could be so vain? Not me, but I guess I was wrong. That's what I get for listening to Zeus all these years.

And Perseus. What an asshat. Typical, dumb hero here. Boasting and bragging, but accomplishing nothing and still getting credit. SMH. Good thing Hades set us straight.

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## **T.F. says**

Just when you thought you knew everything about Greek mythology, Hades - ruler of the underworld, tells us the real story of Medusa. A light-humored play on the mythology everyone knows, but with major twists.

The hilarity in this book is what makes it so great - I was giggling non-stop. I mean you have Hades who named his two steeds Harley and Davidson, Medusa concerned with hair products, and a frightening scary Athena. Our first introduction to the Goddess of war is where the story takes off - her actions kick into motion a hilarious adventure. Let's just say while Medusa and her sisters think they are out to have a good night, things go very wrong and they are changed forever!

The story revolves around Medusa and Perseus, except it deviates from the legends, and Perseus may no longer be the hero. Following Hades attempts to stop Perseus from finding Medusa left me in stitches - everything he attempted was foiled, including a great scene with his Granny Gaia. If you're in the mood to

laugh, and don't mind twisted mythology, then this is your book.

Even though this is book 3 in a series, the books can be read in any order.

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## **Reading Vacation says**

We are all familiar with Zeus' version of Medusa's story. Well, it turns out that Zeus is a bit of a myth-o-maniac, someone who spins wild myths that are not entirely true. Now it's Hades chance to tell the REAL story of Medusa.

This time, the way Medusa and her sisters become Gorgons is entirely different. And you won't believe how hair care products play into the story. Hilarious! Even funnier, is what happens to Perseus when he goes after Medusa. Never has a Greek myth been so fun to read!

This series has 8 books that can be read in any order. I want to read them all. I am especially excited for Keep a Lid On It, Pandora! They are being re-released with splashy new covers on August 1, 2011.

### **RATING**

5 Loved

### **COVER COMMENTS**

Ha! Look at Medusa all green with her snake hair. I love this cartoon image.

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## **An Abundance of Books says**

Featured at An Abundance of Books

I had high hopes for Say Cheese, Medusa! but unfortunately it just didn't work out. McMullan had the bones of a good retelling: the myth from the beginning of Medusa's curse to the end of Perseus's adventure; some humor, and some creative updating. But the updating got way-out of hand and gimmicky and the story was completely overwhelmed.

Poseidon and Zeus are portrayed as irresponsible party boys who follow the obnoxious frat boy stereotype. McMullan has replaced numbers with Roman numerals, clever the first time but quickly becomes boring. There are a lot of characters and everybody has nicknames and I think this would make it a little difficult for younger readers who aren't as familiar with the myth to keep up. The mix of old and new like Necta-Cola and Kamara instead of camera never quite flowed right, and the SNIT (the Sea Nymph Intelligence Team) was too silly to be appreciated. The whole story just became obnoxious and overwhelming.

### **Verdict:**

Say Cheese, Medusa! could have been a fun modernized retelling of the Medusa myth, but it was overwhelmed with gimmicks. If you know a young reader who enjoys myths they might enjoy this book but it's not the first book that I would recommend.

Read full review [HERE](#)

## Deana says

My 10 year old niece borrowed two books in this series from the library here when she visited in early July, and since they were both still here well after she left, I decided to read them before taking them back to the library. It was a pretty cute book! I think I was a pretty "serious" reader when I was a kid and probably would have been amused by the humorous (sarcastic, as my niece said) tone of the book, but as an adult I was able to get past that a little, though it did still annoy me how there were random words for things (oh, that's old-timey speak for camera.... whatever)

It's told from the point of view of Hades, who it turns out is just an all around great guy with a good sense of humor trying to set the record straight about his annoying brothers, Po and Zeus, who always screw everything up. So in this book, Hades tells us about what REALLY happened with Medusa, who was also a lovely and intelligent lady, even after she became a gorgon.

The book is amusing and kind of gimmicky, but it's entertaining and a fast read. I'd recommend it for kids who are already good readers and know the traditional Medusa story.

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## Jakey says

In Chapter 1, Persephone gave Hades a wallet so like if he had something way oversized -- way too big, way too small -- then he could put it in the wallet and it would get to the normal size. The wallet grows to put the thing in and then shrinks down so he can carry it around. Then he takes the thing out and it goes to its regular size.

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## Sara Thompson says

This third book in the Myth-O-Manic series from Capstone Kids is phenomenal. The "true" story of Medusa and Perseus as told by Hades. It's not accurate to the original myth but a great introduction to Greek Myths for young children.

The story starts with Hades spending a night with his brothers Zeus and Posiden. "Po" wants to picnic with some moon goddesses at Athena's new temple. When Athena finds out, she curses the moon goddesses turning them into gorgons.

Later that night, Hades discovers Danae and Perseus. This starts off a legend in the making.

Hades promises to keep Perseus safe only to find he's grown up to be like his father Zeus - arrogant and lazy. Fun and frolics occur when Perseus sets off to hunt Medusa and bring back her head.

It's a violent concept but the book is violence free. It's witty and amusing with lots of cheese and pop culture references. Perfect for middle grade readers. There are some tough words but the book comes equipped with a glossary of names and another for more difficult words.

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## Tumata Garbutt says

Easy and funny read. A look of the Greek myths by Hades point of view :)

## **Cela Esqueda says**

In *Say Cheese, Medusa!*, the Greek god Hades tells us a different version of the myth surrounding Medusa and her beheading. Using cornball humor and elaborating on the god's personalities, Kate McMullan offers a refreshing take on Greek Mythology that will make students laugh and perhaps get students interested in obtaining more in-depth knowledge on Greek mythology.

As the narrator of this story, Hades gives us a different perspective on the events involving Perseus, Medusa and other Greek gods. Hades introduces himself as the big brother who is dissatisfied with the world's current understanding of Greek mythology. The series, which this book belongs to, is designed to provide a "true" telling of events that lack the embellished details given by a previous storyteller, aka, Zeus. Hades states that in this book, he will focus on the myth surrounding Medusa and Perseus. The moment the story begins, the reader is taken to a hipper Greek world.

In this version, the story begins with Hades bidding farewell to his love Persephone as it is her time to return to Earth from the Underworld. Feeling extremely lonely, Hades calls his brother Poseidon, Po' for short, and makes plans to hang out. Upon arriving at Po's, Zeus is there and Hades is pulled into a web of lies and disasters led by his two brothers. It is at this point of the story that Medusa and her sisters are introduced and the trouble with Athena begins.

Overall I thoroughly enjoyed this book and feel that it's a good introduction to Greek mythology for young readers. I would recommend it to my fourth thru six grade students and possibly more advanced third grade readers. I think that the language makes Greek mythology more accessible and the storyline more relatable. The kids will laugh at the cheesy jokes and be frustrated with some of the characters and the decisions they make. Although the explanation for Athena's prejudice towards moon goddesses is creative, I also think it is a bit too simplistic. For that reason I would limit it to six grade students because it might be considered "cheesy." I am interested in reading the rest of the series and seeing Kate's next creative take on Greek mythology. Students will enjoy her version of Greek mythology and it might increase their curiosity to learn more about Greek Gods.

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## **Hao huang says**

*Say Cheese, Medusa!* Is the third series of *Myth-O-Mania* by Kate McMullan. This is about Medusa had been punished to become the gorgon by the spell of the jealous goddess Athena (she can't stand Medusa's beautiful hair because Athena doesn't have good hair, so Athena had been mean to her) and at last Medusa can finally change back again.

This story begins after Hades and Persephone married together. Hades' brother Po invited him to a party in Athena's temple with the Medusa and her sisters (but Athena can't stand Po), so in the party Athena suddenly appeared and got very angry with them. She made a horrible spell put in Medusa and her sisters then they instantly changed, but Medusa doesn't afraid of Athena and said things makes Athena get more angry, then Athena put a spell to Medusa that when she looked into anyone she'll turn them into stone! But the angry Athena didn't feel any satisfaction and she's willing to put more spell on Medusa to makes her ugly, but Hades interrupted Athena's spell and made a chance for Medusa and her sisters to escape. After that accident Medusa and her sisters had to live somewhere that Athena can't catch them. At the end with

Hades' help Medusa and her sisters changed back from the spell again.

This book used a mysterious style writing, some of the paragraphs were quite sad, other were funny. Next review, GO GO GO!

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### **Tanvi says**

Most people know the story of Medusa and how she was destroyed by Perseus. Well in this book, Lord Hades is here to tell you the real story. The ending is so much better than what the myth said and way different too, but I still recommend it to Greek mythology lovers and history lovers of any age.

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