

Newest Entry in Young Adult Series an Adventurous Read

“The Son of Neptune” by Rick Riordan.
Disney Hyperion Books, 2011. \$19.99, 513 pages.

Percy Jackson, the teenage demigod and son of Poseidon (god of the sea) has a problem. He’s been on the run for days from two gorgons, Stheno and Euryale (sisters of the famous Medusa) who are intent on killing him. But no matter what Percy does to them, dropping a crate of bowling balls on them, running them over with a police car, beheading them, they just keep coming after him.

It’s been eight months since the events of “The Lost Hero” when Percy disappeared from Camp Half-Blood and Jason Grace showed up in his place, but it’s only been two months since Percy awoke with no memory of anything but his name and of a girl called Annabeth.

Kidnapped by the goddess Hera, wife of Zeus (or Juno, wife of Jupiter depending on whether she’s Greek or Roman at the moment) Percy has been sent to Camp Jupiter, the Roman counterpart of Camp Half-Blood, training grounds and sanctuary for the children of the Greek gods as a way to try and unite the two groups against a greater threat either could face on their own.

Initially distrusted by many of the Romans, Percy connects with two other demigod outcasts, Frank Zhang, son of Mars, and Hazel Levesque, daughter of Pluto, both of whom have secrets and mysteries haunting their pasts.

Percy, Frank and Hazel are sent on a quest by Mars himself to release Thanatos, one of the guardians of the underworld whose capture by Gaea, the ancient earth goddess, has wreaked havoc on the world of demigods and monsters.

Traveling from San Francisco to the glaciers of Alaska, Percy, Frank and Hazel encounter a variety of friends and enemies along their journey from some malevolent wheat to a book loving harpy to a tribe of Amazons. The young demigods have a difficult time ahead of them, and they must use all their talents, strength and courage to save their world from certain destruction.

The first Percy Jackson series, “Percy Jackson and the Olympians” introduced young readers all over the world to Greek mythology in a fun and engaging story. “The Son of Neptune” is a satisfying second entry in “The Heroes of Olympus” series that is currently set to run as a five book series. Filled with the same light hearted humor and themes of friendship and courage that made Riordan’s previous books bestsellers, “The Son of Neptune” continues to bring ancient mythology to young readers in an accessible and compelling narrative.

Rebekah Scott is a reference librarian at May Memorial Public Library. Visit us on the web at www.alamancelibraries.org.

