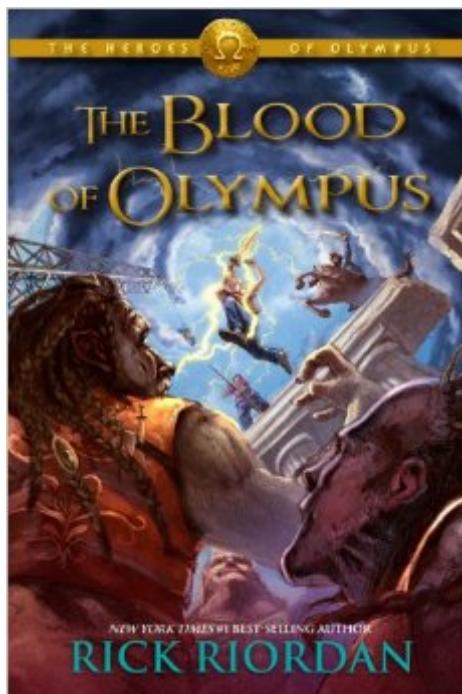


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The Heroes Of Olympus, Book Five The Blood Of Olympus



Synopsis

Though the Greek and Roman crewmembers of the Argo II have made progress in their many quests, they still seem no closer to defeating the earth mother, Gaea. Her giants have risen-all of them-and they're stronger than ever. They must be stopped before the Feast of Spes, when Gaea plans to have two demigods sacrificed in Athens. She needs their blood-the blood of Olympus-in order to wake. The demigods are having more frequent visions of a terrible battle at Camp Half-Blood. The Roman legion from Camp Jupiter, led by Octavian, is almost within striking distance. Though it is tempting to take the Athena Parthenos to Athens to use as a secret weapon, the friends know that the huge statue belongs back on Long Island, where it might be able to stop a war between the two camps. The Athena Parthenos will go west; the Argo II will go east. The gods, still suffering from multiple personality disorder, are useless. How can a handful of young demigods hope to persevere against Gaea's army of powerful giants? As dangerous as it is to head to Athens, they have no other option. They have sacrificed too much already. And if Gaea wakes, it is game over.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I've really enjoyed this series, and I enjoyed reading this final book. And yet, I still was a little disappointed by the Blood of Olympus. In some ways it's classic Riordan. Heroes, gods, limited time quest, the world in danger. Check. Heroes of Olympus follows both the 7 demigods quest to stop

the giants and Reyna's quest to return the Athena statue to Camp Half-Blood. There's plenty of adventure, humor, and a few dashes of romance along the way. It's a fun read in many ways. So, why was I disappointed? I missed Percy, for one thing. Point of view characters in this book are Jason, Piper, Reyna, Nico, and Leo. I understand to some degree why Riordan made the narrative choices that he did, but in this final book it would have been nice to hear from Percy and Annabeth one more time. I also felt that the book shied away from showing the real cost of war. In the Last Olympian there were some losses and deaths that we felt greatly because we had come to care about the characters. We don't see that as much in Blood of Olympus. Yeah, some characters die--mostly people we don't like. And the loss of one of the seven at the end is so heavily telegraphed that we know several chapters ahead who is going to die, why they are going to die, and what the likely escape clause will be. Sacrifice loses its power when you know there's a way out. Those moments in the Last Olympian where we linger and feel the pain, the moments when characters have to make real, hard choices--that's missing. Another thing I felt Riordan let drop in this book was the issue of Percy's fatal flaw. It's been mentioned consistently throughout the series, but it never came down to that pivotal moment in this book where Percy had to choose the greater good over a friend.

This was a good book but did not rise to the level of Riordan's other work. As others have pointed out, the climactic battle scene was not nearly as well developed as the final battle in "Last Olympian" with which it inevitably must be compared. Also, after the endlessly repeated references to Percy's "fatal flaw," where was it? For that matter, why were Percy and Annabeth relegated to virtually minor character status in this book? They're the two characters who sucked us all into this series in the first place; they deserved a greater role in the ending of it. While Nico and Reyna are interesting characters and had their own parts to play, I think Riordan found them much more interesting than they warrant; they dominated much of the book in ways that were not always essential to the plot. Percy and Annabeth had very small parts and pretty much a brush-off in the conclusion. Not a nice way to treat your heroes! I feel bad criticizing since I am a devoted fan of the series, but this was not the big finish I had hoped it would be. I got the distinct impression that in some ways, Riordan had already emotionally moved on to the Norse series -- not unexpectedly, since the first book in that series is due out in one year. His fans know that Norse mythology was always his first love, and like all his other fans I am looking forward to that series also. And yes, he neatly dropped the setup for the lead character in BoO -- looks like it will be a cousin of Annabeth. So maybe we can hope for the occasional future reference to Percy and Annabeth there. Even given

my disappointment with this final volume, it's still far better than 99.9% of the books out there.

I'm going to start by saying that I have been a HUGE fan of this series since I first read the Lightning Thief 4 years ago. I have freaked out when the books were about to be released, and agonized when I had to wait. The PJ&O and HoO series are two of my favorites ever. Each book in the Heroes of Olympus has built on the previous one in the series, raising the bar higher as each book came out, better than the one before. Which is why I'm disappointed with this rather confusing, anticlimactic ending. ***SPOILERS BELOW. You have been warned. Let me start with what I liked. Overall, I did enjoy this book. Riordan has a unique writing style that I really enjoy reading, and all of his characters rock. They've all been fleshed out incredibly well, and though they have their flaws, they're all loveable. I LOVED hearing more about Reyna's past. It was super interesting to see her powers, and to see (well, briefly see) the complicated relationship between her and her sister. Reading about the ghosts of her past (literally and figuratively) was one of the most enjoyable parts of the book, and it was very satisfying to finally understand her more fully. Getting a peek into Nico's mind was highly anticipated, and, in my opinion, did not disappoint. This kid has had it rough, and has never allowed himself to talk to anyone about his problems. Seeing him begin to heal through this book was *so* important for my peace of mind. It was so nice seeing him finally begin to lean on others for a change, and see him open up. The relationships between Percy and Jason, and Piper and Annabeth were AWESOME. I LOVED the way both sets of characters worked together and formed even closer bonds.

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