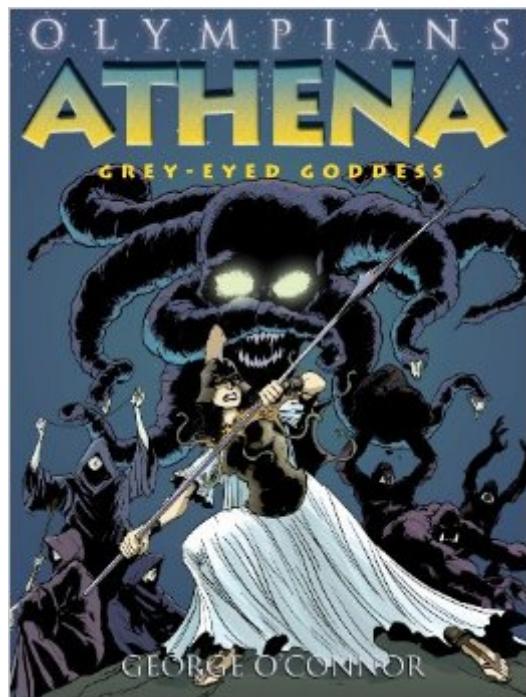


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# Athena: Grey-Eyed Goddess (Olympians)



## **Synopsis**

Boom! Pow! Crash! Greek Gods as you've never seen them before! The strong, larger-than-life heroes of the Olympians can summon lightning, control the sea, turn invisible, or transform themselves into any animal they choose. Superheroes? No! Greek gods. The ancient pantheon comes to explosive life in this new series where myth meets comic books. Epic battles, daring quests, and terrible monsters await readers within the pages of these books. Volume 2, Athena: Grey-Eyed Goddess, is the tale of the goddess of wisdom and war, recounting her many adventures. This title has Common Core connections.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

Reason for Reading: Next in the series. This second book starts off with a one page summary of volume one. It also introduces The Fates who are the storytellers of this issue. Different from Zeus, this volume is not one singular story but a collection of vignettes of Athena's creation and birth story and her other adventures. Each story, in the end, tells how Athena added to her Aegis, which became her most powerful weapon. Plus there are two versions of why she took the name Pallas Athena and of course no collection of Athena would be complete without the story of Arachne. A superb follow-up to Zeus and I'm definitely hooked on this series. The myths are brilliantly told, following mostly exactly as I expect them to with a few exceptions plus I'm also finding a few new-to-me tales as well along the way. One thing I didn't mention in my review of Zeus, which became an invaluable resource in this issue is the Genealogical Chart on the inside cover which

starts with Gaea goes straight through to the Olympians and then ventures off to show the lineage of the gods and demi-gods who one presumes will be seen in future volumes. Many characters are introduced in this volume from The Fates and The Gigantes to Pallas and Medusa and I loved being able to flip to that chart to see where everyone fit in! I'm loving the artwork. I really appreciate the facial expressions and the uniqueness of the creatures, it really brings the myths to life in a way that an all-text version just cannot accomplish. There is a lot of violence in this volume, considering Athena is the Goddess of War, but there is no bloodshed shown, (unless you count a puddle of green Medusa blood) in keeping with the age appropriateness of the series. The only thing I'd consider of concern to parents would be their comfort level with the word "lover". Looking forward to the next volume which will concentrate on Hera.

Purchased this book for our 11-year-old daughter, who loves reading graphic novels and books about Greek mythology. She loved this book and has read a few of the author's other graphic novels. For Christmas, she's asked that we purchase the author's entire series about Greek mythology.

I enjoyed this volume more than the volume on Aphrodite (in all fairness, that's probably because I like Athena more). These are fun, quick reads for fans of Greek mythology. I didn't like this volume enough to decide to read the whole series, but I'll definitely pick up Artemis's volume if he writes one about her.

There's an ancient, hokey kids' almanac on my bookshelf that will remain there because it introduced me to the twisted, inappropriate, fabulous world of Greek mythology. But I still can't help but wish I had learned about that world through George O'Connor's graphic novels. The Athena story comes second in the series after Zeus: King of the Gods, and though I didn't love it as much as the first, I wasn't disappointed, either. (I'd recommend starting with the Zeus book, since it sets up a pretty important character in this story in a way that the myth on its own really doesn't.) It's a rough being king of the gods, especially when you're going to be kicked off your throne by your firstborn kid. Ever since a prophecy told Zeus his first child by his wife, Metis, would be his undoing, he's been trying to think of a way to get rid of her. But he can't kill her. Her advice is much too good. So instead, he eats her. That way her voice is always in his head. And you probably think it can't get weirder, can you? If you're familiar with Greek mythology,

you already know that Athena, Metis' daughter, pops out of Zeus' head full-grown. You probably also know she's the goddess of wisdom and battle strategy. But you might not know some of the other stories twined together to form this book. For instance, have you ever heard Athena called "Pallas"? Well, that's because of a friend of hers who met an untimely end. And okay, you might know the story of Arachne and Athena, but Connor's art and storytelling made that tale so suspenseful, I almost forgot how it ended myself. I have to admit that the Zeus book is better, mostly because it focuses on a single story (creation of the world and rise of the Olympians) and fleshes it out rather than jumping from vignette to vignette. The stories chosen are important ones, to be sure, but I couldn't help but wonder about what was left out. It would have been really interesting to see The Odyssey from Athena's perspective, for instance. But you'll still enjoy Connor's version of Athena's story, I'm sure. Even if you've heard it a hundred times.

I picked this book up for my 8th grader for an English assignment on Athena. As a history teacher, I love finding things for struggling readers, this and other graphic novels fit the bill for many who need the visuals while reading. There are a few "inaccuracies" (again I am a teacher) but I will not highlight those. I am thinking of getting the rest of the series for my daughter/classroom, again there are a great introduction into a subject that is close to my heart. Thank you.

This is just about the best realization of Greek mythology storytelling and the graphic novel format. George O'Connor does such a wonderful job of using the illustrations and narrative in a compatible way that it actually makes the myths come alive for me in a way they never have (and I've been reading them for about 25 years). He also does a great job of illustrating the historical chicken vs. egg arguments about the name "Pallas" without belaboring them. I especially love the way that he tells the stories of the Moriae and Perseus so efficiently. Great character development all around. Btw, my 6 yo kids love this series, and I highly recommend it to parents interested in introducing their kids to graphic novels and the tales of legend!

Bought this on a whim. My 5 year old insisted I read this to him. My 4 year old came along (she has no patience for anything she's not interested in) and they both fell in love with this book. Great, clear storytelling about the Greek Gods. We've bought all of them in the series!

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