

CHAPTER 1: Birth of a Hero

A prophet once told King Acrisius, ruler of Argos, that his daughter, Danae, would one day give birth to a son who would cause the King's death.

So, Acrisius locked Danae in a tall bronze tower.

But King Acrisius could not prevent fate.

Zeus, king of the gods, fell in love with Danae.

He visited her by pouring through the tower's window as a shower of gold.

Not long after, Danae gave birth to Zeus's son.

She named the child Perseus.

Upon hearing that Danae had given birth, King Acrisius sealed them both inside a large wooden chest . . .

CLAP!



... and heaved the chest into the churning sea, hoping to never see them again.



But Zeus would not allow his own son to be lost ...



He sent powerful winds to guide the chest toward the island of Seriphus.



Then close to shore ...

Wooosh!!

Splish!!

What an odd catch!



"Poseidon, god of the sea, had fallen in love with Medusa."



"He secretly came to her in the temple of Athena, goddess of wisdom."

"Athena was angry. But she could not punish Poseidon."



"So, she punished Medusa instead."



"She transformed Medusa's silken hair into slithering serpents."

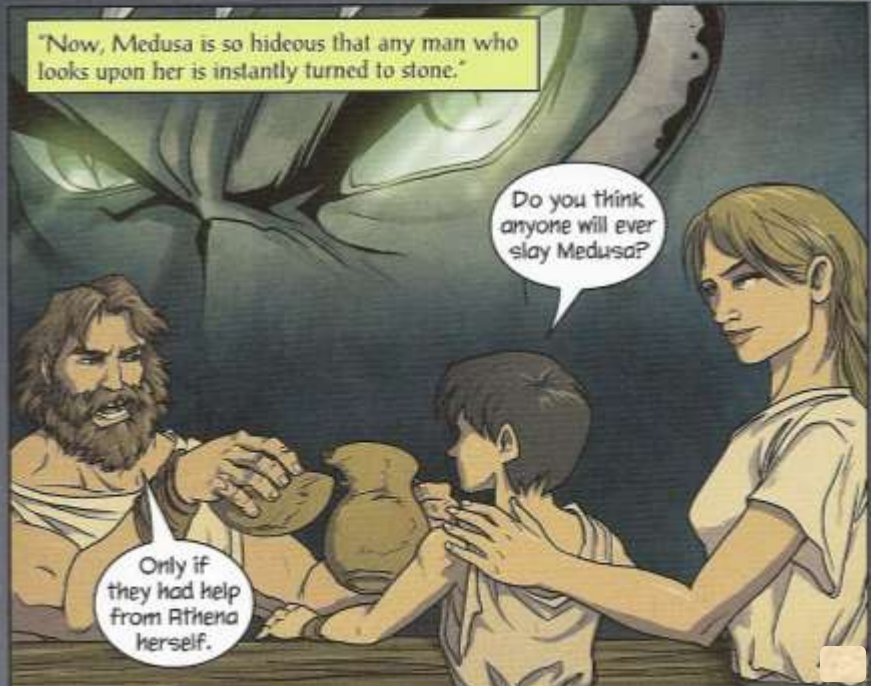
"Then, she turned her soft hands into crooked claws."



"Finally, her perfect white teeth became sharp, jagged fangs."



"Now, Medusa is so hideous that any man who looks upon her is instantly turned to stone."



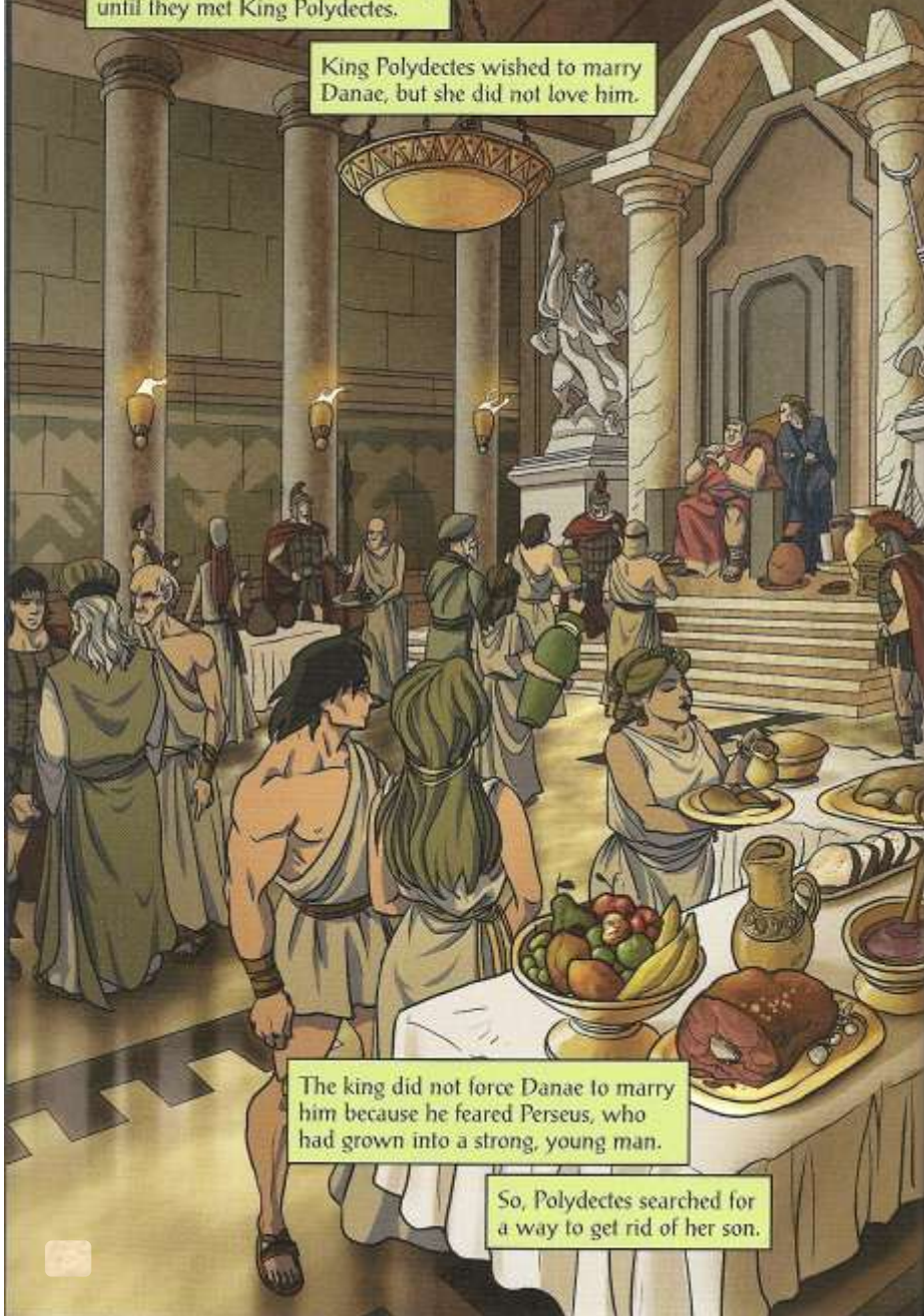
"Do you think anyone will ever slay Medusa?"

"Only if they had help from Athena herself."

CHAPTER 2: An Impossible Quest

Danae and Perseus lived peacefully until they met King Polydectes.

King Polydectes wished to marry Danae, but she did not love him.



The king did not force Danae to marry him because he feared Perseus, who had grown into a strong, young man.

So, Polydectes searched for a way to get rid of her son.

One day, Polydectes held a great banquet. Guests were expected to bring gifts . . .



Perseus! I see you've come empty handed.

Do you not respect your king?

. . . but Perseus was just a poor fisherman, and could not afford one.



It is I who allowed you to make Seriphus your home!

What do you offer me in return?!



I have no items of value to offer, my king.

But if there is something else that you desire, name it -

- and I will get it for you.



Send him on an impossible mission... He will surely perish.

Then you can marry his mother.



I see. Then bring me...

... the head of Medusa!



Oh!



As you wish, my king.



Perseus, you can't do this!

Those who enter Medusa's lair never return!

I must, or King Polydectes will never leave us alone.

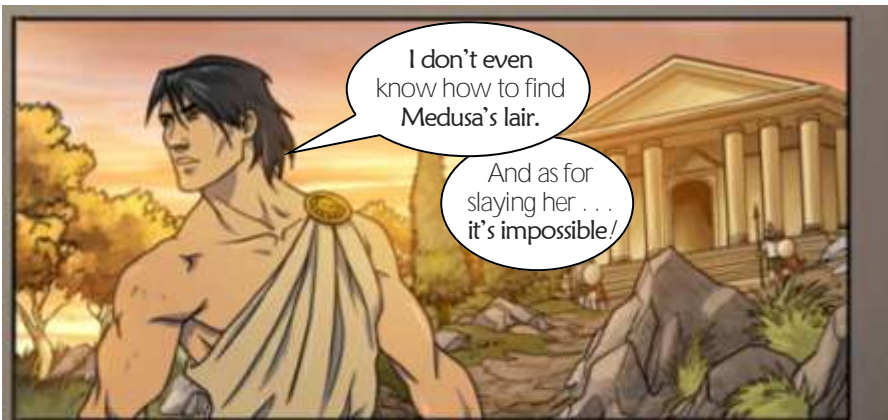


No! Don't go, my son!



Fear not, Danae, your son is very brave.

The gods will watch over him.



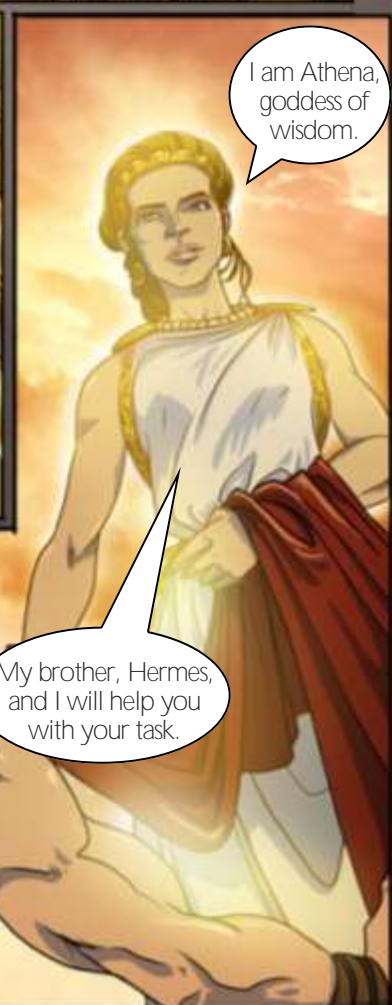
I don't even know how to find Medusa's lair.

And as for slaying her . . . it's impossible!



Suddenly two shining figures appear.

We admire your bravery.



I am Athena, goddess of wisdom.

My brother, Hermes, and I will help you with your task.



I am Hermes, winged messenger of the gods. Athena and I bring you weapons for your quest.

Use it wisely, and it will protect you from your enemies.

Athena's shield, called the Aegis.

This sword is my own. The blade can pierce Medusa's thick skin.

I give it to you now, Perseus. Use it well.



Now you must go the Nymphs of the North. They have other items you will need.

But only the Gray Witches can tell you where to find these Nymphs. The Gray Witches are sisters of Medusa and live near the feet of Atlas at the western edge of the world.

CHAPTER 3: *Eye of the Witches*



Hermes flew Perseus to the land where Atlas the Titan held up the sky.



At Atlas's feet, Perseus found the cave of the Gray Witches.

Mmmm, dinner is about ready.

Perseus quietly entered the cave. He was surprised by what he saw.



My turn! My turn!

Give me the eye!



Yes, yes, dinner is almost ready.

My turn! Let me see!



The eye!
Give it to me!

YOINK!



I just handed it to you

What?!
I don't have it!

Then where is it?!



I have it!

Who's there?



Please give us the eye!

Yes, yes, so we can see you.

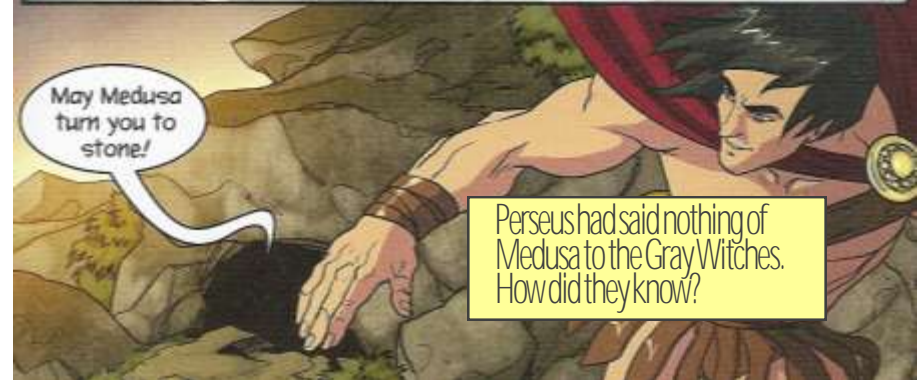
We beg you!



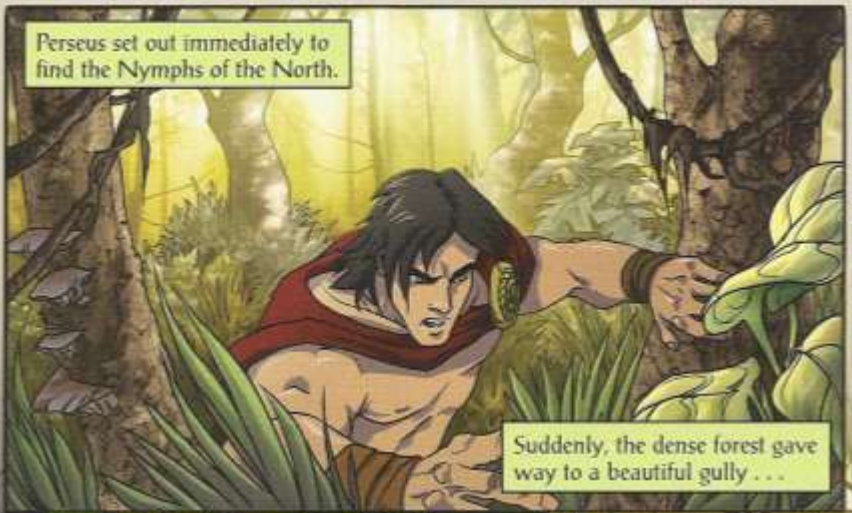
I will, but you must answer one question.

Where are the Nymphs of the North?

We'll never tell you!



Perseus set out immediately to find the Nymphs of the North.



Suddenly, the dense forest gave way to a beautiful gully . . .

Perseus, we three have been waiting for you.



We have what you need for your quest.



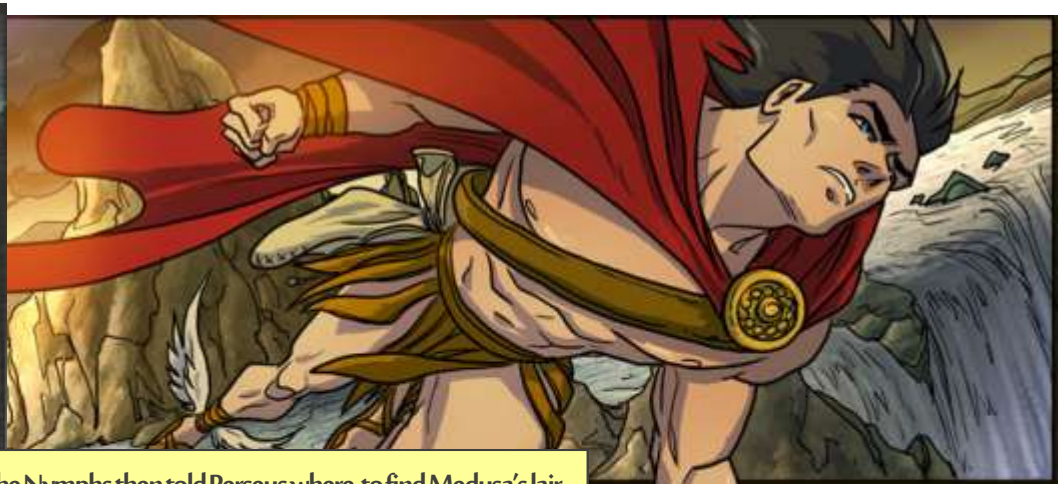
Please come inside, Perseus.

This pair of winged sandals will fly you to Medusa's lair.



And this helmet will grant you invisibility.





The Nymphs then told Perseus where to find Medusa's lair.



But they warned him that Medusa's two sisters, the Gorgons, also lived there. They were immortal and could not be killed.



Perseus flew south and far to the west ...

... to the gloomy island of the Gorgons.

CHAPTER 4: *Medusa!*

Perseus found the courtyard littered with the stone remains of many men.

By the gods!

So many have fallen victim to her vile gaze!



I cannot let her claim another life.

My destiny awaits . . .



Perseus ventured forth, prepared to face his fate.



HISSSSSSSSS

Who dares to enter my domain!?







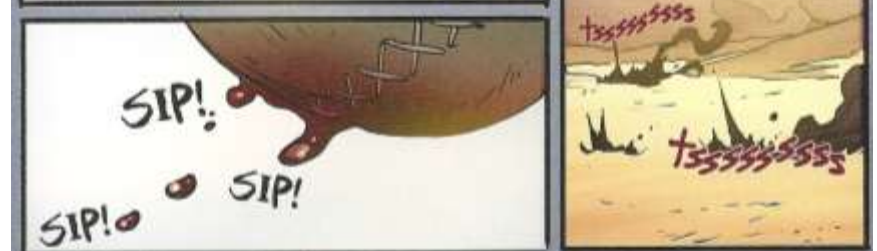




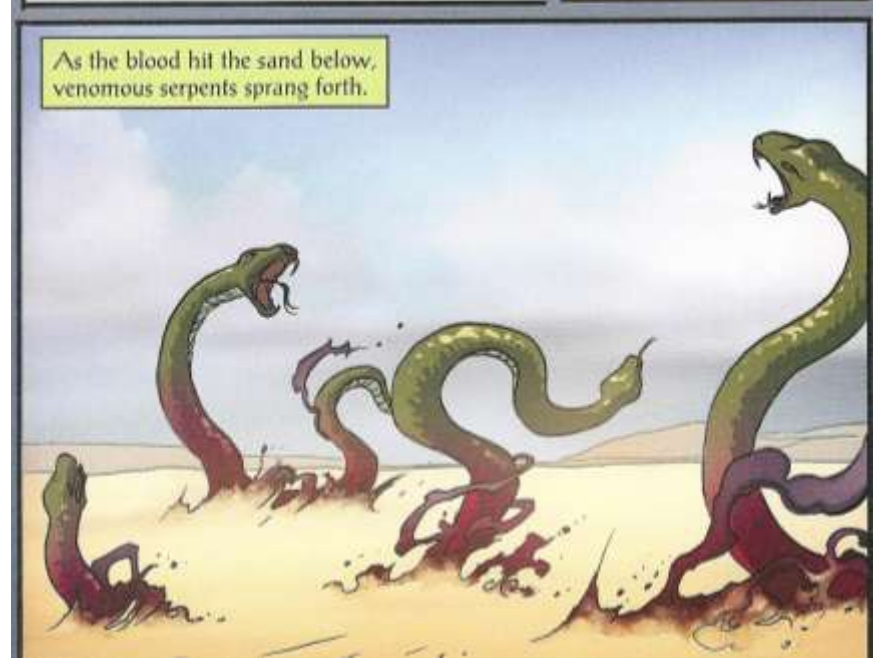
After escaping the Gorgons, Perseus flew north, over the African desert.



As he flew, Medusa's blood leaked from the magical bag.



SIP!
SIP!



As the blood hit the sand below, venomous serpents sprang forth.

CHAPTER 6: *The Evil King*



After saving Andromeda, Perseus received a message from Dictys.

Polydectes had tried to force Perseus's mother to marry him.



Ah, it's Perseus. So the rumors are true.

Perseus immediately went to visit the king . . .



Medusa did not kill you as I had hoped.

No, she did not.



Then we must fix that problem.

Guards! Kill him!

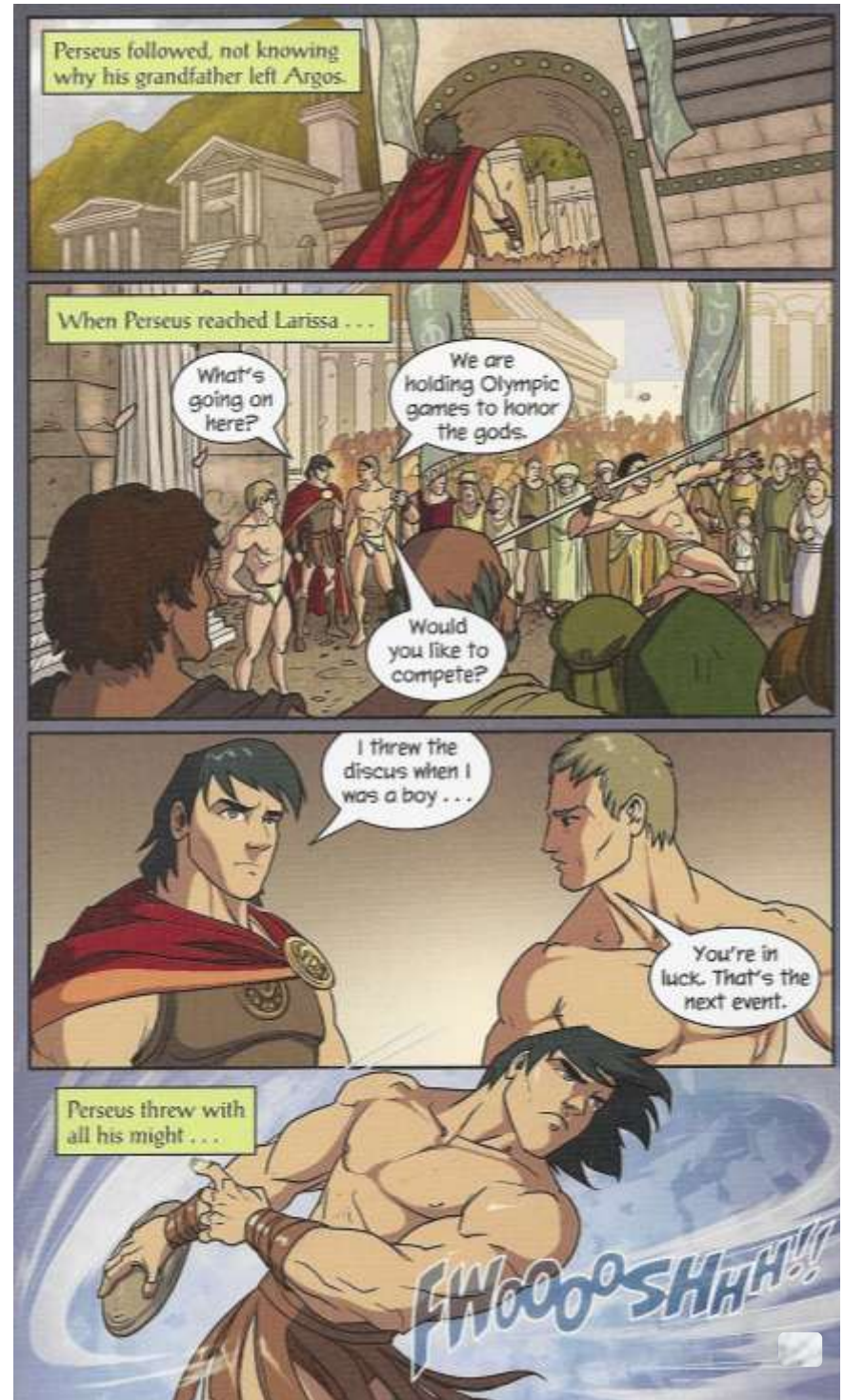
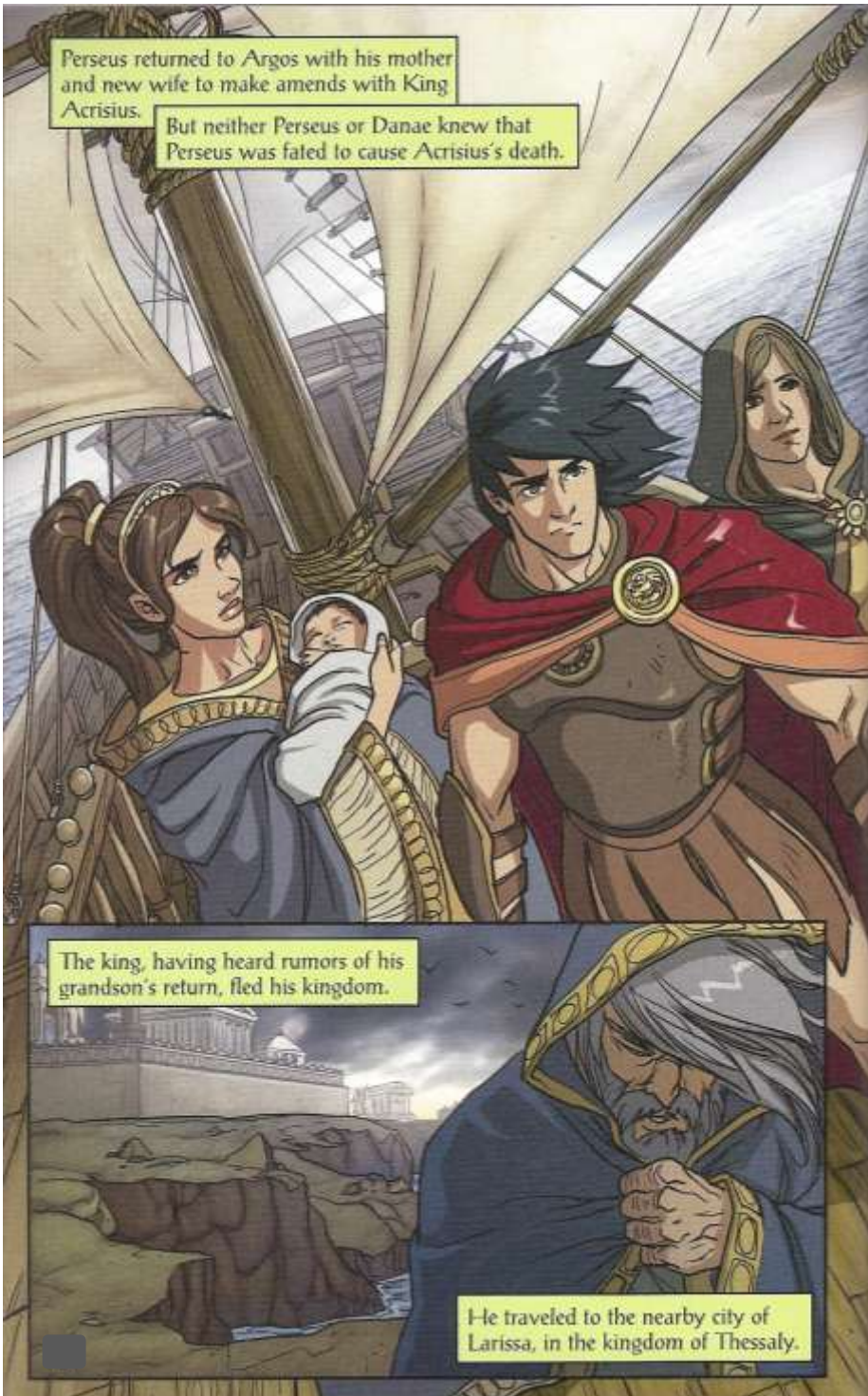


WOOOSH!!

After petrifying Polydectes, Perseus made Dictys king of Serpibus as a reward for his friendship and loyalty.

Perseus then gave Medusa's head to Athena, to honor her for helping him on his quest.

Athena mounted the head on her shield, the Aegis, to frighten her enemies in battle.





The prophecy was fulfilled. Danae's son caused the death of King Acrisius.

Despite the accident, Perseus became known as Greece's first great hero.





ANDROMEDA AND THE KRAKEN

ON HIS WAY HOME, PERSEUS CAUGHT SIGHT OF SOMETHING THAT CONFUSED AND ALARMED HIM.



WHO ARE YOU, BEAUTIFUL LADY? WHO CHAINED YOU HERE AND WHY?



I AM THE PRINCESS ANDROMEDA, DAUGHTER OF KING CEPHEUS AND QUEEN CASSIOPEIA OF ETHIOPIA! THOUGH I DO NOT WISH TO DIE, I AM HERE FOR THE GOOD OF MY PEOPLE.



I DON'T UNDERSTAND.

NOT LONG AGO, MY MOTHER BRAGGED THAT SHE WAS MORE BEAUTIFUL THAN THE SEA NYMPHS, THE DAUGHTERS OF POSEIDON.

THIS ANGERED THE GOD OF THE SEA.

HE SENT THE MONSTROUS KRAKEN TO PUNISH THE KINGDOM FOR MY MOTHER'S PRIDE. MANY OF OUR FISHING BOATS WERE LOST, AND MANY MEN DIED.



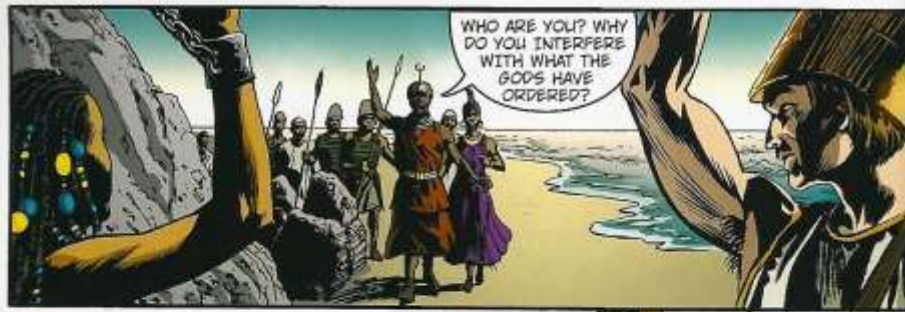
ONLY THEN WOULD THE SEA GOD BE SATISFIED, ONLY THEN WOULD MY PEOPLE BE SAFE.

MY FATHER ASKED AN ORACLE WHAT WE COULD DO TO CALM POSEIDON'S WRATH. THE ORACLE SAID THAT I MUST BE SACRIFICED TO THE KRAKEN.



THAT ISN'T RIGHT! WHY SHOULD YOU PAY FOR YOUR MOTHER'S PRIDE? FEAR NOT, ANDROMEDA. I WILL SET YOU FREE!

STOP!



WHO ARE YOU? WHY DO YOU INTERFERE WITH WHAT THE GODS HAVE ORDERED?



I AM PERSEUS, SON OF ZEUS! I HAVE SLAIN THE GORGON MEDUSA AND ESCAPED THE WRATH OF HER SISTERS.



WHEN THIS KRAKEN COMES TO DEVOUR ANDROMEDA, I WILL SLAY IT! BUT RESCUING YOUR DAUGHTER AND YOUR KINGDOM WILL COME AT A PRICE.



IF YOU HAVE DONE WHAT YOU CLAIM, PERHAPS YOU CAN HELP. BUT HOW CAN WE BE SURE?

AND WHAT IS THE PRICE THAT YOU ASK OF US?

I COULD SHOW YOU MEDUSA'S HEAD, BUT YOU WOULD BE BETTER OFF TAKING MY WORD. AS FOR MY PRICE ...



YOU WERE READY TO GIVE UP YOUR DAUGHTER AS A SACRIFICE. WHY NOT GIVE HER UP TO BE MY WIFE, INSTEAD?



IF YOU DID KILL THE KRAKEN, THAT MIGHT ANGER POSEIDON EVEN MORE.



IF SO, HE WILL BE ANGRY WITH ME INSTEAD OF YOU!

I AM ZEUS' SON AND HAVE THE FAVOR OF ATHENA, HERMES, AND EVEN HADES. I WILL TAKE THE RISK.



KING CEPHEUS, LOOK!

THE KRAKEN COMES!!!

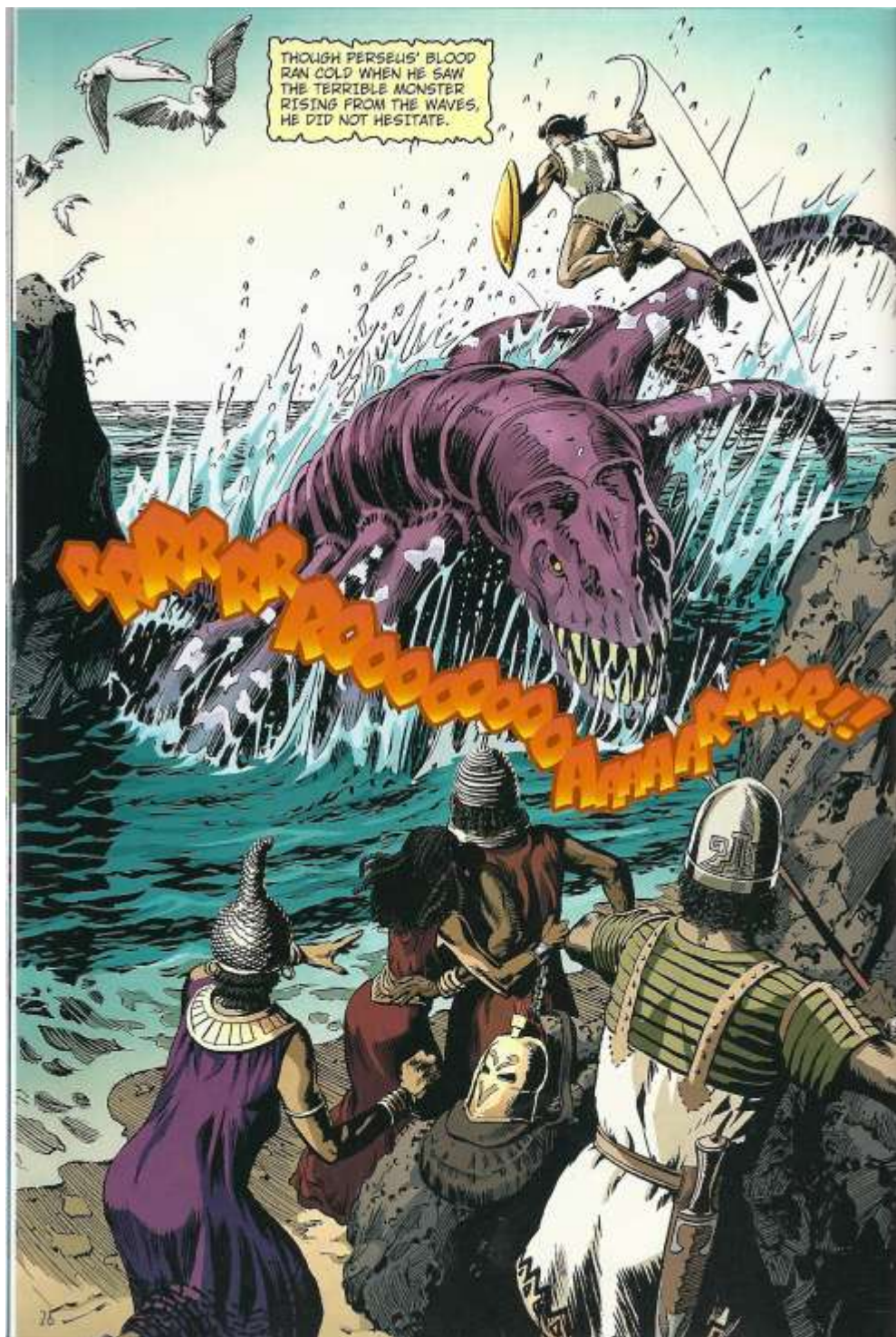


THERE IS NO MORE TIME! SAVE ANDROMEDA! SAVE HER, AND SHE WILL BE YOUR WIFE!

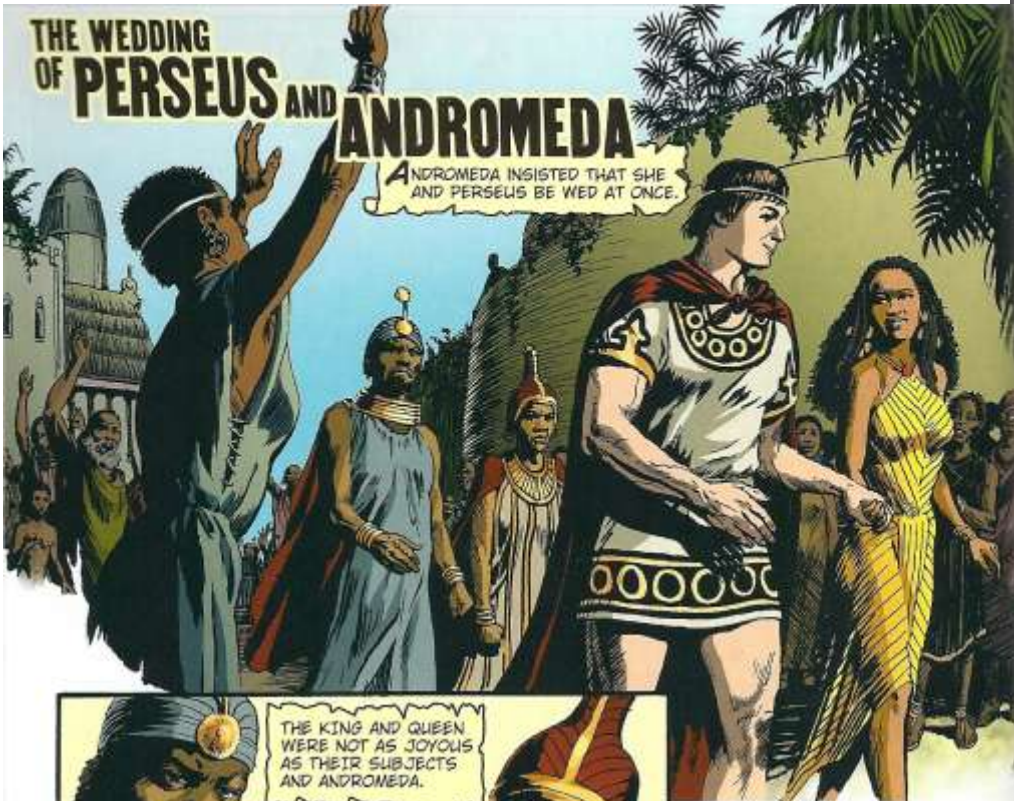


DO YOU HEAR, ANDROMEDA? YOU WILL NOT DIE TODAY!

BE CAREFUL, PERSEUS! DEFEAT THE KRAKEN, AND COME BACK TO ME!







THE WEDDING OF PERSEUS AND ANDROMEDA

ANDROMEDA INSISTED THAT SHE AND PERSEUS BE WED AT ONCE.



THE KING AND QUEEN WERE NOT AS JOYOUS AS THEIR SUBJECTS AND ANDROMEDA.



THOUGH THEY WERE PLEASED THAT THE HERO HAD SAVED THEIR DAUGHTER, THEY FOUND THEMSELVES MARRYING HER TO A TOTAL STRANGER.



STILL, THE WEDDING FEAST WAS SWIFTLY PREPARED AND THE CELEBRATION BEGAN.



WHAT IS THIS!?!?



WHO IS THIS? WHY DOES HE INTERRUPT OUR WEDDING?

IT IS PHINEUS, KINSMAN TO MY FATHER ...

... HE AND I WERE TO WED, UNTIL THE ORACLE SAID I MUST BE SACRIFICED.



HOW DARE YOU MARCH INTO MY PALACE WITH ARMED MEN, PHINEUS!

WHAT DO YOU WANT?



ANDROMEDA WAS PROMISED TO ME! HOW DARE YOU MARRY HER TO SOMEONE ELSE!



YOU WERE QUICK ENOUGH TO LEAVE HER TO THE KRAKEN! IF IT WEREN'T FOR ME, SHE WOULD BE DEAD!



THAT DOESN'T MATTER! SHE WAS PROMISED TO ME ...

... AND I WON'T LET HER MARRY YOU OR ANYONE ELSE!



I SLEW MEDUSA AND THE KRAKEN. THINK CAREFULLY BEFORE YOU CHALLENGE ME!



YOU ARE ONLY ONE MAN, AND MOST OF CEPHEUS' SOLDIERS ARE OUTSIDE!



LOOK OUT!



KILL HIM, BUT DO NOT HARM MY BRIDE!



ARRRRH!



THOUGH PERSEUS AND THE ROYAL GUARD FOUGHT BRAVELY, THERE WERE TOO FEW OF THEM TO DEFEAT PHINEUS' MEN.



ANDROMEDA! GIVE ME THE SATCHEL!



IF YOU CALL ME FRIEND, LOOK AWAY!



