

= The Titan 's Curse =

The Titan 's Curse is a 2007 fantasy @-@ adventure novel based on Greek mythology written by Rick Riordan . It is the third novel in the Percy Jackson & the Olympians series and the sequel to The Sea of Monsters . It charts the adventures of the fourteen @-@ year @-@ old demigod Percy Jackson as he and his friends go on a dangerous quest to rescue his friend Annabeth Chase and the Greek goddess Artemis , who have both been kidnapped .

The Titan 's Curse was published by Miramax Books , an imprint of Hyperion Books for Children and thus Disney Publishing (succeeded by the Disney Hyperion imprint) . It was released in the United States and the United Kingdom on May 1 , 2007 . The novel was also released in audiobook format , read by Jesse Bernstein .

Mostly well @-@ received , The Titan 's Curse was nominated for numerous awards , winning ones such as the No. 1 The New York Times children 's series best seller and Book Sense Top Ten Summer Pick for 2007 .

= = Plot = =

Percy Jackson , Annabeth Chase , and Thalia Grace get a ride from Mrs. Jackson to Westover Hall , a boarding school in Bar Harbor , Maine , to escort two sibling half @-@ bloods named Nico and Bianca di Angelo that Grover Underwood has found . They are attacked by a mantichore named Dr. Thorn . Though Artemis and her hunters arrive to help , Annabeth is captured by Dr. Thorn . Artemis is troubled by the mantichore 's mention of a " Great Stirring " of monsters , and goes off alone to hunt an Olympus @-@ destroying monster she believes to have finally returned from Tartarus . She sends the half @-@ bloods and Hunters (whose number now includes Bianca di Angelo) to Camp Half @-@ Blood with her brother Apollo .

While there , Nico settles into camp life ; Percy and Blackjack save a sea monster Percy nicknames Bessie ; and Artemis 's lieutenant Zoë Nightshade has mysterious dreams about the goddess being in grave danger . Percy has similar dreams about Annabeth . Both are unable to act , however , until the Oracle (a shriveled mummy) somehow leaves her storage room and delivers the Huntress a prophecy . Chiron and Zoë organize a quest , but Percy is not included because the Hunters refuse to travel with a boy . He successfully sneaks away from camp on Blackjack , though he is almost stopped by Mr. D (Dionysus) .

When they arrive in Washington , D.C. , Percy notices Dr. Thorn heading into the National Museum of Natural History , and follows him using an invisibility cap . Luke and a man called the General are there , and summon spartoi to hunt the official quest group , who are currently in the National Air and Space Museum nearby . Percy runs to warn them , but they are attacked by the Nemean Lion before they can leave . They flee , and , on the advice of Apollo , travel to Cloudcroft , New Mexico . In Cloudcroft , Grover senses the presence of Pan , who sends the Erymanthian Boar to help them escape the spartoi who have caught up with them . The boar carries them as far as Gila Claw , Arizona and the " junkyard of the gods " . After a brief encounter with Ares and Aphrodite , the group enters the junkyard , where Bianca tries to take a cursed statuette for Nico . Her theft awakens a prototype of Talos , and she gives her life to bring it down . The remaining quest members travel to the Hoover Dam , and , after narrowly escaping the spartoi again , arrive in San Francisco .

Once there , Percy seeks out Nereus and learns that the monster Artemis was hunting is Bessie , the monster he saved , who is an ophiotauros . After a final encounter with Dr. Thorn , Grover heads back to Camp Half @-@ Blood with the ophiotauros . Zoë , Percy , and Thalia go to find Frederick Chase in the hope that he will help them reach their final destination : Mount Tamalpais , which is the modern location of the Titans ' fortress on Mount Othrys . With Mr. Chase 's car , they travel to the Garden of Hesperides . Zoë is wounded by the dragon Ladon while they pass through . From the place where Atlas once held up the sky , they see Artemis now doing his job . Seeing Annabeth in chains and learning that " the General " is Zoë 's father Atlas , Percy takes the burden from Artemis so his companions can fight the Titan 's advance guard . Artemis manages to force Atlas back under his burden , but not before he seriously wounds her lieutenant . Thalia battles Luke , and

he falls from a cliff , apparently dead . With the help of Mr. Chase , who arrives in a biplane he has fitted with celestial bronze weaponry , they escape and travel to Olympus . Zoë dies during the trip and is turned into a constellation by the lady Artemis .

During the winter solstice meeting , the gods are finally convinced by Artemis to take action against the Titans . Thalia is also asked by Artemis to become an immortal Huntress , and her acceptance is the only thing that prevents the onset of the Great Prophecy . Percy is told by his father that Luke is somehow not dead , and he and Annabeth return to Camp Half @-@ Blood worried about the future . Before he can relax , however , Percy is forced to explain Bianca 's death to Nico . Nico blames Percy , and when a group of spartoi arrive to attack the son of Poseidon , Nico banishes them to the realm of Hades . Percy realizes Nico must be a son of Hades . Nico runs away , and the only people Percy tells the truth are Annabeth and Grover . They promise to hide this fact from everyone else , especially the Titan 's army .

= = = Prophecy = = =

The prophecy given by the oracle to Zoë Nightshade reads :

Five shall go west to the goddess in chains ,
One shall be lost in the land without rain ,
The bane of Olympus shows the trail ,
Campers and Hunters combined prevail ,
The Titan ? s curse must one withstand ,
And one shall perish by a parent ? s hand .

= = = = Meaning = = = =

1.The group consisting of Zoë , Thalia , Grover , Bianca , and Percy (originally Phoebe) . The questers travel to Mount Othrys in the west to free Artemis from her confinement .

2 . Bianca sacrificed herself in the desert to save the group against a defective prototype of Hephaestus ' robot , Talos .

3 . They followed the Ophiotauros , which was called the bane of Olympus because if he was sacrificed in flames , the person that sacrificed it would have the power to destroy Olympus . During the quest , it keeps appearing in various bodies of water .

4 . The only way the quest would be successful was if campers and Hunters worked together . The quest consisted of three campers (Percy , Grover , and Thalia) and two Hunters (Bianca and Zoë)

5 . The curse of holding the sky above the earth had to be taken by someone (Luke took the sky from Atlas ; Annabeth took the sky from Luke ; Artemis took it from Annabeth ; Percy took it for Artemis and Artemis forced Atlas back under the sky) .

6 . In the end , Zoë after already suffering from being poisoned by the dragon Ladon , was killed by her father Atlas after he tossed her against a wall .

= = Major characters = =

Percy Jackson : Percy , a 14 @-@ year @-@ old demigod and son of Poseidon , is the protagonist as well as the series ' narrator . He embarks on a journey to save Annabeth and the Greek goddess Artemis , who have both been kidnapped .

Thalia Grace : Thalia is a 15 @-@ year @-@ old demigod daughter of Zeus . Though she appears in Percy 's dream in the first book , she makes a full appearance at the end of The Sea of Monsters and is given a greater role in the third book . Thalia is described as looking very punk , with electric blue eyes , black clothes , and spiky hair . Her personality is often described as " independent and many times sarcastic . " Thalia is a lot like Percy and consequently , they often butt heads . She is heartbroken by Luke 's betrayal , it is supposed that she had feelings for him . She is also afraid of heights , which she reluctantly admits to Percy , despite the fact that she is daughter of Zeus , God

of the Sky .

Annabeth Chase : Annabeth is a 14 @-@ year @-@ old demigod and the daughter of Athena . She is friends with Percy , Thalia and Grover . She is kidnapped along with Artemis by the Titans . She has a great passion and interest for architecture and she wishes to be an architect when she is older . Although she has a growing love interest in Percy , her feelings for Luke remain a problem between the two . Percy returns her feelings without realizing it , and is oblivious to how she feels about him .

Grover Underwood : A large @-@ hearted satyr whose favorite foods are aluminum cans and cheese enchiladas . He is 28 years old , yet has the appearance of a teenager due to the satyrs ' slower growth rate (half that of humans) . He wants to become a searcher for Pan , the satyr god of nature and the wild , who fell into a " deep sleep " due to the humans ' pollution of the world .

Bianca di Angelo : Bianca is a 12 @-@ year @-@ old demigod and the daughter of Hades . She and her ten @-@ year @-@ old brother Nico were trapped in the Lotus Casino , where time is slowed down , but in the beginning of the book , they were released and attended quest in the " Junkyard of the Gods " .

Zoë Nightshade : Zoë is the daughter of Atlas , a banished Hesperid for helping the hero Hercules , and the first lieutenant of the Hunters of Artemis . She often has trouble updating her language and uses Old English . She dies after being bitten by Ladon , who protects the immortality @-@ giving golden apple tree , and after her father Atlas , throws her against a pile of rocks . Artemis turns her spirit into a constellation soon after her death for remembrance . She and Thalia developed grudges against each other after Thalia did not want to join the hunters , but they get along when they do not think about it .

Luke Castellan : The 21 @-@ year @-@ old demigod son of Hermes , Luke is the main antagonist of the series . He is the sidekick to , Kronos ; Kronos ' followers and army gather on a ship called the Princess Andromeda .

Nico di Angelo : The 10 @-@ year @-@ old demigod son of Hades and older sister Bianca di Angelo are rescued from a mantichore by Percy , Annabeth , Thalia , and Grover . He is left at camp during the quest , but stays in the Hermes cabin because his parentage has not yet been discovered . He leaves camp after hearing Percy broke his promise , letting Bianca die . Before he leaves , he sends an army of skeletal warriors back to the underworld .

= = Critical reception = =

" The Titan 's Curse " received relatively positive reviews , which often lauded the humor and action in the story . Children 's Literature , which commended the book 's fast pace and humor , wrote , " Readers will relate to good natured Percy , the protagonist . " Kirkus awarded it a starred review with , " This third in the Olympians series makes the Greek myths come alive in a way no dreary classroom unit can ... will have readers wondering how literature can be this fun . This can stand alone , though newcomers to the series will race back to the first two volumes and eagerly await a fourth installment . " School Library Journal praised the " adventurous " plot as well as the book 's appeal : " Teachers will cheer for Percy Jackson and the Olympians as they inspire students to embrace Greek mythology and score the ultimate Herculean challenge : getting kids to read . All in all , a winner of Olympic proportions and a surefire read @-@ aloud . " Booklist 's starred review approved of the novel 's humor action , and plotting : " The Percy Jackson & the Olympians series is built around a terrific idea ? that the half @-@ mortal offspring of Greek gods live among us , playing out struggles of mythic scale ? and Riordan takes it from strength to strength with this exciting installment , adding even more depth to the characters and story arc while retaining its predecessors ' nonstop laughs and action . " Kidsreads raved , " Rick Riordan 's Olympian adventures have gained great popularity thanks to their combination of humor , adventure and a winning hero ... Readers who are familiar with ancient mythology will enjoy Riordan 's tongue @-@ in @-@ cheek approach ; those who aren 't just might be tempted to go to the original sources to learn more . "

= = Awards and nominations = = =

The Titan 's Curse received several literature @-@ related awards , including : number one The New York Times children 's series best seller and Book Sense Top Ten Summer Pick for 2007 . It was also a Quill Award nominee .

= = Audiobook = =

An eight @-@ hour @-@ and @-@ forty @-@ eight @-@ minute audiobook read by the actor Jesse Bernstein and published by Listening Library was released on April 24 , 2007 .

AudioFile Magazine lauded Bernstein 's interpretation , writing , " Sounding alternately young , or old , or really scary , Jesse Bernstein ... effectively voices the confusion and loss the team experiences . "

= = Sequel = =

In The Battle of the Labyrinth , Annabeth and Percy find an entrance into the Labyrinth during a game of capture the flag . Percy soon learns that Luke had used the entrance and will lead his army through the Labyrinth straight in to the heart of camp . To get into the Labyrinth , Percy has to find the symbol of Daedalus , the Greek letter delta , (?) on a passageway , touch it , and then enter the Labyrinth . Using the Labyrinth , Percy tries to find Daedalus so Luke cannot get Ariadne 's string , thereby foiling Luke 's invasion .