

= God of War ( comics ) =

God of War is a six @-@ issue American comic book limited series set in the God of War universe . The series was written by Marv Wolfman , illustrated by Andrea Sorrentino , and the cover art for each issue was produced by Andy Park , who was also an artist for the video game series . The first five issues of God of War were published by WildStorm . Due to the company 's closure in December 2010 , the final issue was published by their parent company , DC Comics . The series ' launch coincided with the release of the video game God of War III in March 2010 . The final issue was published in January 2011 , and a collected edition was published in March 2011 .

The limited series chronicles the adventures of Kratos , the protagonist of the video game series . The majority of the story is told in flashback and shows a past quest for the Ambrosia of Asclepius , and also relates the story of Kratos ' present search for the same object . The two stories are told simultaneously ; Kratos first attempts to save his dying daughter , Calliope , and years later , he is seeking to destroy the Ambrosia to prevent the resurrection of the former God of War , Ares .

The series received mixed reviews . Some critics praised Wolfman 's writing , while others said that although the setting was a good comic book incentive and a good prequel for the video game series , the story did not make sense . Sorrentino 's interior artwork was criticized for being " muddy " by critics , but some did praise it for being distinctive and did a good job at setting the tone and atmosphere .

= = Publication history = =

The comic book series was announced at the 2009 Comic @-@ Con International , and was scheduled to debut in October 2009 , but its launch was delayed to coincide with that of God of War III . Scott A. Steinberg , Vice President of Product Marketing at SCEA said , " we are thrilled to work with the world 's largest comic book publisher to bring one of our most beloved PlayStation franchises ... to comic book fans . " In an interview with IGN , the series writer Marv Wolfman stated that when he heard a rumor of the series , he " put [ in his ] name right away and kept pushing " to be chosen as the writer because God of War is one of his favorite video games . Wolfman said that he had already played the first two games , so there was no research to be done and " it 's because [ he ] loved the game that [ he ] wanted to do the comic . " He received copies of the scripts for all the games to ensure his work was as accurate as possible , and stated that he worked very closely with Sony Santa Monica ? the developer of the video games ? and tied the comic book 's narrative directly to the story they created for the games . Wolfman said that Santa Monica ensured the mythology was consistent while revealing new facts about Kratos ' past .

In an interview with Comic Book Resources , Wolfman stated that Santa Monica suggested the use of two time periods , with past events affecting the narrative in the present . He introduced new characters , including Kratos ' wife ? who appeared in the games but was never named . He stated the final script was a combination of his ideas and Santa Monica 's character @-@ appropriate dialog . Series artist Andrea Sorrentino stated , " it was clear from the start that for this project Sony and DC [ Comics ] wanted something a bit different from a ' classical ' comic . So I just took my usual style and added to it something new , like new colors from the videogame palette . " She stated that the games have strong , epic images , and that she easily adapted her style to Wolfman 's writing as he " did really good work showing both dramatic and epic scenes . " Sorrentino used color to give importance to each scene , adding hot colors ( red , orange , or brown ) in action scenes and cold ones ( green or light blue ) in others so that readers could immediately have an emotional reaction .

The series was published on a bi @-@ monthly schedule between March 2010 and January 2011 . In March 2011 , the series was collected into a trade paperback .

= = Synopsis = =

### === Setting ===

As with the video games , the comic book series is set in an alternate version of Ancient Greece , populated by the Olympian Gods and other beings of Greek mythology . The story is split between two chapters in the video game chronology ; a period before Ascension ( 2013 ) , and a later period between God of War ( 2005 ) and Ghost of Sparta ( 2010 ) . For the majority of the series , it narrates the events of the past via flashbacks with occasional focus on present events . In both , protagonist Kratos traverses Ancient Greece and the Aegean Sea on a quest for the Ambrosia of Asclepius .

### === Characters ===

As in the video game series , the comic book 's protagonist is Kratos . The story references two periods in Kratos ' life ; his boyhood training and life in the Spartan Army as the unwitting champion of Ares , and the narrative present , in which he has assumed the role of God of War after defeating Ares . The segments of the story set in the past feature several Olympian Gods , including Ares , the God of War ; Artemis , the Goddess of the Hunt ; Hades , the God of the Underworld ; Helios , the God of the Sun ; Hermes , the God of Speed , Thievery , and Wild Animals ; and Poseidon , the God of the Sea . In the present , Kratos encounters his ally and mentor Athena , the Goddess of Wisdom , and the Chaos Giant , Gyges . Minor characters from Kratos ' first adventure include Captain Nikos , the King of Sparta , and Kratos ' wife , Lysandra , and daughter , Calliope . The champions of the gods include : Pothia , champion of Artemis and the warrior @-@ queen of an Amazonian tribe ; Cereyon , fiery champion of Helios ; Danaus , champion of Hermes who can magically control beasts ; Herodius , champion of Poseidon from the village of Thera ; and Alrik , champion of Hades and prince of the Barbarians .

### === Plot ===

The story is set after Kratos ' defeat of the former God of War , Ares . Now the new God of War , Kratos is on a quest to destroy the legendary Ambrosia of Asclepius , an elixir with magical healing properties that he once found when he was a soldier in Sparta . During his quest , Kratos has flashbacks to this period , as he searches for the Ambrosia to save his newly @-@ born daughter , Calliope , who is suffering from the plague . Given until the next full moon , General Kratos travels with a host of Spartans to find the Ambrosia . During this period , he takes counsel from Captain Nikos , his superior in the Spartan army who instructs him about the Spartan code of honor .

Several of the Olympian Gods ? Artemis , Hades , Helios , Hermes , and Poseidon ? decide to enter into a wager with Ares . Each will choose a champion who is in search of the Ambrosia , with the successful god receiving an award ( e.g. , having statues erected in their honor across Greece ) . Kratos kills two of the champions ? Herodius and Pothia ? and repels attacks by monsters sent by the gods to thwart him . A desperate Hades kills Nikos , who sacrifices himself to save Kratos , passing on the rank of Captain . Danaus is killed by Alrik , who retains Danaus ' head to possess his magical ability . Kratos locates the " Tree of Life " , the source of the Ambrosia located on a small island , and confronts Cereyon . After being almost burned alive , Kratos drowns his foe and successfully retrieves the Ambrosia , but as he leaves , he and his Spartan troops are ambushed by Alrik 's horde of barbarians . When Hades observes the Spartans defeating the Barbarians , the god attempts to have the Spartans dragged to the Underworld . Alrik uses the head of Danaus to summon rocs to attack Kratos as he flies away on a similar bird with the stolen Ambrosia . Kratos pursues Alrik on a captured roc , knowing that although his men will be taken to the Underworld , they will be honored in Sparta for their sacrifices . Alrik and Kratos battle , with Alrik critically wounding Kratos . The Spartan , however , is sprayed by the Ambrosia and subsequently healed .

Kratos gains control of Danaus ' head and uses its power against Alrik , who is torn apart by rocs . Having also been covered with the Ambrosia , Alrik is revived only to be killed once again until the Ambrosia is spent . Kratos then escapes and returns to Sparta with the Ambrosia , saving his

daughter , and giving the King of Sparta the rest of the elixir , who then officially awards Kratos the rank of Captain in the Spartan Army . Bitter at having lost the wager , Hades resurrects Alrik , who becomes King after his father dies and swears vengeance against Kratos .

In the present , Kratos overcomes several obstacles in his quest to find the Ambrosia , including defeating a giant spider , ignoring Athena 's pleas to stop his quest , and overcoming the reanimated corpses of Captain Nikos and his men ? a final attempt by Hades to stop the Spartan . On returning to the island , Kratos discovers that the island is actually one of the Chaos Giants , the fifty @-@ headed and one hundred armed Gyges . An outraged Gyges explains that Kratos had thwarted the Giant 's plan to use the elixir to resurrect his brothers Briareus and Cottus , and then reclaim the world . In his fiery battle with Cereyon , Kratos inadvertently burned off Gyges ' one hundred arms , and then stole the Ambrosia . Without arms and now unable to reach the Ambrosia , Gyges was forced to wait for Kratos ' return . During the battle , Kratos reveals that he seeks to destroy the elixir to prevent the worshipers of the slain god Ares from resurrecting their master . Kratos then uses the Fire of Apollo to destroy both the Tree of Life and Gyges .

= = Reception = =

The God of War comic series received mixed reviews . Mike Murphy of Platform Nation stated that although the comic series serves as a good prequel to the video game series , " the story is bogged down by horrible art ... [ it 's ] muddy , confusing , and consistently pulls you out of the story as you try to figure out just what is going on from panel to panel . " Rating it 5 out of 10 , Murphy said that he " can ? t give this one a pass , even to the hardcore God of War fans " who should " skip it . "

After reading God of War # 1 , Joe Juba of Game Informer said " If you have a choice between reading this comic and doing something else , you should do something else ... like play God of War III again . " He said that the story adds nothing of value and it is rough . Despite being written by Marv Wolfman , he said the story does not satisfy fans of the video game series : " I didn 't think the story made much sense , and it doesn 't contribute to the overall lore of the universe ; it just seems to be setting Kratos up for another fetch @-@ quest . " He also felt that the writing was exceptionally low in quality . Comic Vine said , " The idea here screams comic books , " however , the " results were a mixed offering . " The reviewer stated that the idea of Kratos finding the Ambrosia to save Calliope was a " perfect comic book incentive , " however , things started to disintegrate when the distinction between the present and the past became unclear . A four out of five star review from Binary Messiah praised the comic series , saying that it could be made into a full game : " That 's one freaking awesome story . That right there is a premise to a whole new God of War game . " They said that it " does a good job showing the hot headedness of Kratos and his selfishness . " Saying that the comics do the video game series justice , for fans of God of War , this should be in their comic collection .

GameSpot stated that the art appears moody , but also said it is " muddy ... with a heavy digital assist from Photoshop . " Although the effects were sometimes stunning , other times they were " distracting , or even chuckle @-@ inducing . " Despite the criticism over the art , GameSpot said that the art is " distinctive , and lends the story a very specific tone " , and that " [ it ] matches the world of God of War well enough , ... the same way Kratos ' anger overshadows any possible storytelling subtlety in the [ video game ] series . " Joe Juba gave some praise to the art , stating that it " is kind of neat " and " it 's stylish , if nothing else " . Binary Messiah was disappointed in the art . They said it is very murky and washed out with black . Although there is some realism in the art , it does not match the art of the games . They also noted a mistake with the flashback scenes , as in these scenes , it shows Kratos with his ash @-@ white skin and red tattoo , but he did not receive these until after he slayed his family . They did praise it for being gory like the games , and said " While the art may be iffy , it does have an excellent atmosphere of darkness and constant betrayal . "

= = = Issues = = =

Wolfman , Marv ( w ) , Sorrentino , Andrea ( a ) , Temofonte , Saida ( let ) , Abernathy , Ben ( ed ) .  
God of War # 1 ( March 2010 ) , WildStorm  
Wolfman , Marv ( w ) , Sorrentino , Andrea ( a ) , Temofonte , Saida ( let ) , Abernathy , Ben ( ed ) .  
God of War # 2 ( May 2010 ) , WildStorm  
Wolfman , Marv ( w ) , Sorrentino , Andrea ( a ) , Temofonte , Saida ( let ) , Abernathy , Ben ( ed ) .  
God of War # 3 ( July 2010 ) , WildStorm  
Wolfman , Marv ( w ) , Sorrentino , Andrea ( a ) , Temofonte , Saida ( let ) , Abernathy , Ben ( ed ) .  
God of War # 4 ( September 2010 ) , WildStorm  
Wolfman , Marv ( w ) , Sorrentino , Andrea ( a ) , Temofonte , Saida ( let ) , Abernathy , Ben ( ed ) .  
God of War # 5 ( November 2010 ) , WildStorm  
Wolfman , Marv ( w ) , Sorrentino , Andrea ( a ) , Temofonte , Saida ( let ) , Abernathy , Ben ( ed ) .  
God of War # 6 ( January 2011 ) , DC Comics