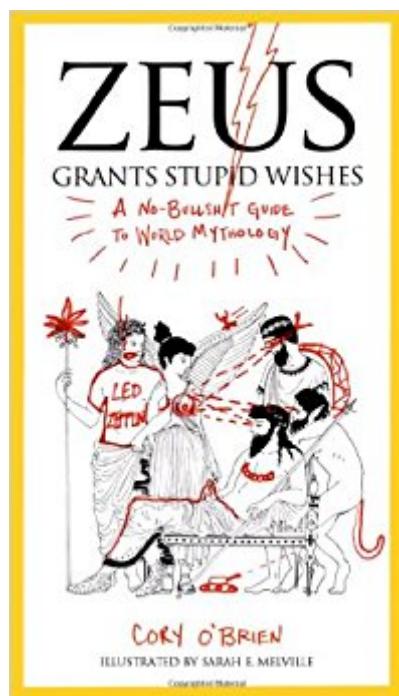


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Zeus Grants Stupid Wishes: A No-Bullshit Guide To World Mythology



Synopsis

From the creator of *Myths Retold* comes a hilarious collection of Greek, Norse, Chinese and even Sumerian myths retold in their purest, bawdiest forms! All our lives, we've been fed watered-down, PC versions of the classic myths. In reality, mythology is more screwed up than a schizophrenic shaman doing hits of unidentified. Wait, it all makes sense now. In *Zeus Grants Stupid Wishes*, Cory O'Brien, creator of *Myths RETOLD!*, sets the stories straight. These are rude, crude, totally sacred texts told the way they were meant to be told: loudly, and with lots of four-letter words. Did you know? Cronus liked to eat babies. Narcissus probably should have just learned to masturbate. Odin got construction discounts with bestiality. Isis had bad taste in jewelry. Ganesh was the very definition of an unplanned pregnancy. And Abraham was totally cool about stabbing his kid in the face. Still skeptical? Here are a few more gems to consider: Zeus once stuffed an unborn fetus inside his thigh to save its life after he exploded its mother by being too good in bed. The entire Egyptian universe was saved because Sekhmet just got too hammered to keep murdering everyone. The Hindu universe is run by a married couple who only stop murdering in order to throw sweet dance parties on the corpses of their enemies. The Norse goddess Freyja once consented to a four-dwarf gangbang in exchange for one shiny necklace. And there's more dysfunctional goodness where that came from.

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Customer Reviews

"Blessed with the drinking tolerance of Bacchus and the wisdom of Minerva, O'Brien has

compiled some of the best of the best in the realm of sarcastic myth telling with his book *Zeus Grants Stupid Wishes: A No Bull-Shit Guide to World Mythology.*" --Fanboynation.com" I was giggling by the first page and full blown LOLing by the first myth. It's really that funny. With chapter titles like "Cronus Likes To Eat Babies", "Abraham Is Totally Cool About Stabbing His Kid in the Face," and "Odin Gets Construction Discounts with Bestiality," you can't help but want to read these retold myths, whether it be from morbid curiosity or a dire need to know what this guy could possibly be getting at with these titles." --Electricfeast.com "O'Brien's writing is gruff, hilarious...but there's no doubt that he's thoroughly researched his topics. His candor likens to a tirade of Liz Lemon's deranged ex-boyfriend, Dennis Duffy of *30 Rock*, had his skull contained a well-read brain." --Chicagoist

Cory O'Brien is a word-wizard and technojester of the first degree and the creator of *Myths Retold!* (BetterMyths.com), as well as the author of *Zeus Grants Stupid Wishes* and *George Washington is Cash Money*. He reads and writes mythology, science fiction, and computer code. He has camped with gypsies, juggled for food, and driven across the country in a car powered by vegetable oil. Now he lives in Chicago, where he recently graduated with an MFA in writing from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. Cory's dream is to one day travel to Mars, or at least to own a jacket made entirely of pockets.

No really, this is the most epic of books I've ever read. I laughed myself into an asthma attack it was so awesome. It puts a new perspective on a great subject and gives these myths an edgier more modern spin. Plus, the lessons learned at the end of each myth is priceless. I highly recommend this to anyone with a sense of humor and a passion for mythology.

I was familiar with at least half of these myths, so I can verify that he isn't bulls***ting. As each tale-teller puts their own spin on the story Cory O'Brien has a 3 drinks in style that frames the stories around more contemporary views and language. I read about 70 pages outloud to a friend and couldn't stop laughing. This would have made some of my old classes subject matter much more entertaining.

A friend of mine had this book at his apartment, and I picked it up while exploring his belongings that were within arms reach, as one is apt to do when the host is in the kitchen or bathroom. I read maybe 5 lines of one story and immediately knew I had to have this book. I was laughing (out loud)

so much, that my friend returned, saw what I was looking at, and also started laughing. We basically sat there, me reading chapters of the book out loud and then both of us laughing loudly, for about 30 minutes. Now that I have my own copy, I leave this book on my coffee table, and when I have company over, I read them a story. It usually results in some weird looks at first, but it also causes intense laughter (and definitely sets a tone for a visit). Not only is the writing super entertaining, it's also a very handy resource for world mythology! You know. If you decipher the super entertaining text. I think I enjoy this book so much because it's written in a way that I think/write. Basically, I want to be best friends with the author, Cory O'Brien. (As far as I'm concerned, we are already best friends, he just doesn't know it yet.)

I had never been much of an ancient myth enthusiast; I never sought them out or researched them simply for the pleasure of it. I found the old myths frankly boring and somewhat hard to understand. But how wrong was I?! Huge awesome parties, crazy orgies, and so much high school drama that ends in murder is ridiculous! O'Brien retells these myths like no one we've seen before, in a way that is not only hilarious, but also legitimately interesting. Chalked full of cursing and vaguely inappropriate, this is just what we need to make myths interesting for all people again. I never really understood myths before reading them retold by O'Brien, but I finally get and I can't stop laughing. Seriously, buy this book. You won't regret it.

This is a great book, but I fear that a lot of the references and language won't age very well. Still, for what it is, it's fantastic. A retelling of myths with an eye to absolutely how completely ridiculous they are. I bought this to read to my husband as we commuted -- he drives, I read -- and at several moments I had to stop myself and take several deep breaths because I was laughing so hard that I couldn't read. My eyes were completely watered over and I was gasping for breath. These stories are not at all appropriate for kids, not the way that they're told, but let's be honest, mythology was never TRULY for kids. That the author turns a wonderful gimlet eye on the myths is fantastic. More, please!

I knew coming in that this book was going to be funny. But it literally had me rolling on the couch laughing while my roommate grew more and more concerned about my mental state, and I'm honestly still laughing at some of the things I read. I seriously plan on reading a bunch of these to my kids, or make them do show and tell reports based on it. The conclusion is also quite a fantastic way to end a book made up of the basics of a ton of religions, proving that we are all trying to find a way

to make sense of where we are by telling the same story.

It's rare to find a book so uniquely interesting that tells a story but also manages to make a strong argument as well. I bought the ebook but I am also going to purchase a paper copy because I loved this book that much. I intend to make everyone I know read it at knife point if necessary. That seems appropriate.

At first I was put off by the crude, low-brow writing style. I thought it was insulting to one's intelligence to tell the stories so simplistically. But boy, was I ever wrong. I kept on reading and it's just too damn hilarious to be stodgy about the "casual" prose. Besides, as the author points out, the original oral tradition of mythology allowed the tales to be told in a vulgar, funny and ribald way. They're much more memorable that way.

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