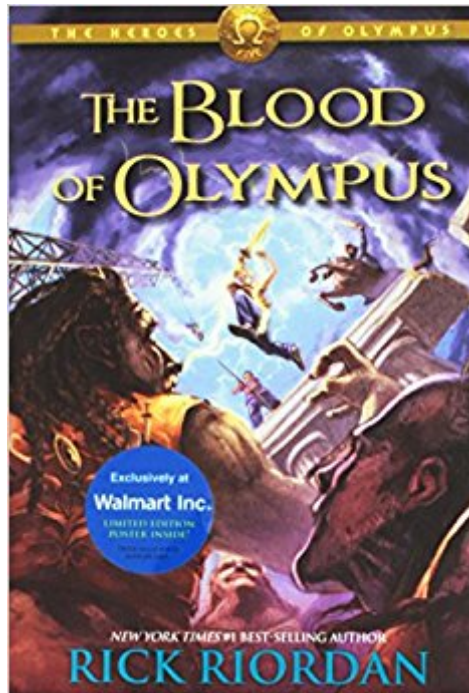




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The Blood Of Olympus (The Heroes Of Olympus)



Synopsis

Though the Greek and Roman crewmembers of the Argo II have made progress in their many quests, they still seem no closer to defeating the earth mother, Gaea. Her giants have risen-all of them-and they're stronger than ever. They must be stopped before the Feast of Spes, when Gaea plans to have two demigods sacrificed in Athens. She needs their blood-the blood of Olympus-in order to wake. The demigods are having more frequent visions of a terrible battle at Camp Half-Blood. The Roman legion from Camp Jupiter, led by Octavian, is almost within striking distance. Though it is tempting to take the Athena Parthenos to Athens to use as a secret weapon, the friends know that the huge statue belongs back on Long Island, where it might be able to stop a war between the two camps. The Athena Parthenos will go west; the Argo II will go east. The gods, still suffering from multiple personality disorder, are useless. How can a handful of young demigods hope to persevere against Gaea's army of powerful giants? As dangerous as it is to head to Athens, they have no other option. They have sacrificed too much already. And if Gaea wakes, it is game over.

Book Information

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Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 5 - 9

Customer Reviews

PRAISE FOR THE LOST HERO "Readers longing for a return to Camp Half-Blood will get their wish.... ...the action scenes come frequently as the three heroic teens fight monstrous enemies in North American locales..... Flashes of humor lighten the mood at times, but a tone of urgency and imminent danger seems as integral to this series as the last. With appealing new characters within a familiar framework, this spin-off will satisfy the demand for more." —Booklist

PRAISE FOR THE SON OF NEPTUNE "Should pacing and wit continue unabated into the third volume, whose foretold European setting promises further freshness, fans will eagerly await numbers four and five." —Kirkus

Rick Riordan (www.rickriordan.com) is the author of the # 1 New York Times best-selling The Heroes of Olympus, Book One: The Lost Hero; The Heroes of Olympus, Book Two: The Son of Neptune; The Heroes of Olympus, Book Three: The Mark of Athena; The Heroes of Olympus, Book Four: The House of Hades; the #1 New York Times best-selling Kane Chronicles; and the five books in the #1 New York Times best-selling Percy Jackson and the Olympians series. His previous novels for adults include the hugely popular Tres Navarre series, winner of the top three awards in the mystery genre. He lives in Boston, Massachusetts with his wife and two sons.

I'm very sad to be saying goodbye to a good series and to some characters I met 6 years ago. I'm also very sad I'm giving it three stars. It was an ok book, not nearly as good as the others. I was definitely expecting more out of it. It had a very entertaining plot, but it felt so rushed like Riordan just wanted to get it over with. The characters that Riordan chose to give POVs were Nico, Reyna, Jason, Piper, and Leo. I loved learning more about Nico. In my opinion, he was one of the most interesting characters in book. Leo is still determined to find Ogygia again, but I was disappointed that it wasn't spoken about more. Jason and Piper were ok characters, not really unlikeable or likeable. I don't think they had enough time to develop. Reyna's story was rather boring. We do learn about her past, but I think that could've easily been found out through one of the other characters POVs. She didn't really deserve her own POV. SPOILER ALERT!!! Now let's get on to the things that made one of my favorite authors get three stars for this book. I was so sad and disappointed that Percy or Annabeth didn't get their own POV. Percy was the one that basically started it all! In this book, he seemed to be put into the background along with Annabeth. I strongly believed that Percy should've had his own POV in probably the last long book he would ever appear in. In the book, we also heard a lot about Percy's big flaw, but we never ended up seeing it in

action. This is less important, but I still would've like to see more of Grover, Tyson, and of course how can you forget about Mrs. O'Leary. I would've even been happy with more Clarisse and Thalia. Last of all, I was a bit disappointed in the ending. The ending was rushed which made it seem like all the buildup about Gaea and the giants rising was wasted. They do rise, but then they're defeated right away. In the beginning of the book, Rick Riordan warned me that there would be a cliffhanger, but I didn't think that it would be one I pondered for days after. I really wished he'd tied up all loose ends because all of Leo's friends basically think Leo is dead when he isn't. I can't help but wonder if they ever find out if Leo is still alive. It was still a good book, and worth reading. Those were just my problems with it. I would for sure recommend it to others. I am super happy that Rick Riordan is writing another series, and can't wait until it comes out.

SPOILER ALERT!!!! I really wanted to give this five stars (since I would definitely give all five to the previous four books) but it didn't quite make it there for me. First what I liked: 1) The writing style, as always, was fantastic. All the wit and irreverence was still there. The personalities of all the characters continued to be well fleshed out. The descriptions of everything was great. 2) Nico. Need I say more??? I was so glad to see him get some spotlight for once. He did so much during the first series and even more this time around and deserves the recognition. In fact, in this book he quickly catapulted up to the top of my list of favorite characters. Although I know it's too much to ever hope for and completely unrealistic, I would love to see a Nico-centric series in the future. 3) The plot for the most part was great. I thought some of the side quests got a little tiring and distracting from the main storyline though. It may have been better to just focus more on the final battles. What I didn't like: 1) Percy gets kind of sidelined in this one. I know that he had a huge role in the last book and that was sort of the point of this series, to demonstrate that sometimes you have to step back and let someone else be the hero. But it sucked that he didn't have a single chapter to himself for the finale. In particular, the "huge sacrifice" that he supposedly would have to make never really happened. Rick mentioned it a lot throughout the series so it's kind of disappointing. It apparently was meant to be when he let the original three pursue Gaea into the sky, but that scene was allotted only a few sentences and had zero emotional impact. 2) This book seems pretty rushed to me, almost like he was struggling to meet his publisher's deadline and had to race through it. I know a lot of reviewers thought the battle with the giants was rushed and "too easy" but I actually disagree on that aspect. We spent the last four books seeing the giants be defeated so I didn't really feel like reading a bunch about that same thing over again. In fact, I think it really says a lot about the power of the gods working with their children that they were able to overcome the giants so quickly. I found

the demise of Thoon to the Fates to be especially rewarding. However, the battle at Camp Half-Blood and the fight against Gaea WERE definitely rushed. Gaea appeared, was whisked into the air, and blown up over a matter of a few pages. She didn't even get to wreak any sort of havoc or carnage. We had five books of build up about how terrible and all-powerful she was, only for her to be vaporized as soon as she awakened. Very anticlimactic. Really sucked all the meaning out of everything the heroes had done up to this point. I also found the epilogue-type material to be exceptionally rushed and glossed over.³) Many characters were mentioned yet completely overlooked and ignored (i.e. Chiron, Clarisse, Grover, Rachel, etc).⁴) And finally, the thing that really basically ruined this book for me. The physician's cure was an absolutely TERRIBLE idea. It completely invalidated the idea of sacrifice. Not to mention it was so heavily foreshadowed that you knew exactly who was going to "die" and that they were going to come right back to life well before it actually happened. It completely obliterated all meaning and emotional impact for me. You tried to mentally prepare yourself for the death of one or more major characters, only for it not to happen. There is no feeling. No depth. The only casualties were the nameless Greeks and Romans that were mentioned off-hand at the end of the battle. I found that I couldn't connect with the story on anything other than an action/adventure level (aka superficial entertainment value). The only part that drew me in and gave me any kind of feels was the emotional development of Nico and his budding friendship (romance?) with Will Solace. So in conclusion, I think this book is definitely worth a read, especially if you've read the rest of the series, but that it is ultimately a disappointment on many levels. I honestly think Rick either grew tired of the topic or, as I mentioned, he was close to missing his deadline and had to rush through it at the expense of quality. I really believe if he had given some more thought and time to this, it could have been the best book he's written. But, alas, that did not happen.

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