

The Trials of Apollo: The Tower of Nero

Rick Riordan

Reviewed by: Joshua Wahl, 16

Star Teen Book Reviewer of Be the Star You Are! Charity

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The Greek god Apollo is cast to earth as a normal teenager by his father, Zeus. Apollo's mortal name is Lester Papadopoulos. Lester fights to survive with the help of his demigod friends. Two of the three Roman Emperors have recently been defeated. Only Nero remains alive. Nero happens to be Meg's abusive stepfather. Lester travels with his demigod master, Meg back to New York to confront Nero at his tower. Meg has always struggled to escape Nero's influence. Apollo, as Lester, is concerned how Meg will handle a showdown with Nero. Luguselwa, who helped raised and train Meg as a child, is ordered to capture Meg and Lester. She defies Nero and instead helps the teens to escape and get to Camp Half-Blood and reunite with their friends, including Apollo's other children. They then travel to Rachel Dare, the oracle's house with Nico and Will. Rachel's oracle powers don't work because Python has inhabited Delphi. They then head back towards Nero's tower with a plan to stop him from burning the city of New York to the ground. They are victorious in stopping Nero but pay a heavy cost. Apollo is injured but must head to Delphi to face Python to regain his godly powers.

This book flushed out a lot of side characters from the original Percy Jackson series, like Rachel Dare and Will Solace. It was entertaining and informative to find out the essence of these characters. It was a meaningful end to Apollo and Meg's arch throughout the series of The Trials of Apollo. I thoroughly enjoyed this book in the series. I found it well written and exciting. The entire set of Trials of Apollo books are a great read for anyone who enjoys Greek Mythology.

The book does have some violence and a few characters are killed, so I think this book would be appropriate for any teenager, but maybe not pre-teens. There are a few graphic scenes, one character's hands get chopped off and it is fairly graphic, so I would not suggest this book as a read for very young readers. But this book would make a great gift for teen fans of mythology.

Recommended Titles:

The Trials of Apollo: The Hidden Oracle by Rick Riordan

The Trials of Apollo: The Dark Prophecy by Rick Riordan

The Trials of Apollo: The Burning Maze by Rick Riordan

The Trials of Apollo: The Tyrant's Toom by Rick Riordan