

## Mythos

Author: Stephen Fry

Publisher: Penguin Books Ltd

Date of publication: 2 November 2017

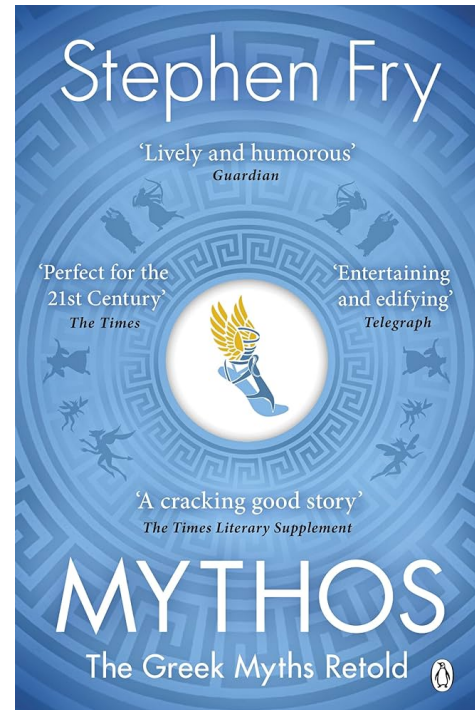
Genre: fiction

Themes: man v nature, loyalty and betrayal, conflict, morality, injustice, hierarchy and love

I think that the characters' personalities didn't really stand out in their descriptions. They were mostly stuck with their roles - heroes or villains, and the gods and goddesses very rarely changed. For example, you have Athena who is patient, sweet and beautiful, very rarely losing her temper, which is almost maddening. However, this is mostly not the fault of Stephen Fry, because he only has so much to work with, and I think he did a brilliant job of bringing the characters to life. I could almost see them on the page, even when they are so hard to make sense of.

Mythos is a book that retells the Greek myths in chronological order, piecing together well-known myths, and adding in some unknown ones, and resulting in the retelling of a spectacular story. Mythos starts at the beginning, telling the story of how Erebus, Nyx, Gaia and Tartarus sprang from Chaos, all the way through to the stories of Persephone, Cupid, Arachne, Prometheus and Pandora. However, it does not finish at the end, because there is still so much more to be told.

I found that once you are used to the language used in this book, Mythos is riveting and draws you in. I think there was a good balance of context (provided by the footnotes at the bottom of each page, which I found very



helpful) and fiction. I also love the way that the random myths I have heard throughout my life have been retold in a different way, and in chronological order, without it being too confusing.

I think the book was quite hard to get into at first, and as the book went on and more characters were introduced, I frequently lost track of who was who and everyone's relationship to each other (despite the 'family trees' at the start of the book). Occasionally, Stephen Fry did give a small reminder if a character was reintroduced, but not always. However this didn't matter too much as I still got the gist of things. I also found it hard to read big chunks at once, which was mildly irritating as some parts were quite suspenseful.

I would give this book a 4 out of 5 because I did love reading it and because it's such a long book it took me quite a while to read it which was nice. It was also not something that I would usually read but I really enjoyed this book.

Recommended readers: I would recommend this book to people over 11 because the language and the plot might be hard to follow and there are some scenes that might make people uncomfortable. However, I would not recommend this book to people who dislike reading long descriptions as those appear frequently.