

Circe

Madeline Miller

Reviewed by: Drishti Upadhyaya, 16

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

www.bethestaryouare.org

In a unique retelling of The Odyssey, Madeline Miller focuses on Circe, the shunned nymph who falls for a mortal. In Circe, the enchantress gains a new backstory and is painted in a more sympathetic light. We see her struggles with her family and magic, and watch as she slowly grows more and more divine and less and less human.

The writing style is just incredible. Miller's imagery really paints a vivid scene, and the depth to the characters brings the whole story to life. Miller also has an interesting and unique take on the original mythology, one that complements the prose perfectly. The book's absolutely captivating and will pull you in either through its intricate plot or gorgeous writing. The novel leaves you with many questions, but gives you enough clues to find the answers yourself. All of the characters feel human despite their divinity, but their flaws never seem forced. Every aspect of every character is completely natural. I didn't have any issues with the book in the slightest, and it's one that I reread frequently.

Circe is perfect for middle schoolers, older teens, and young adults. Younger readers might find the prose a little off putting at first, but it's really easy to get into after a couple pages. This is definitely a book you'll find yourself reading again and again, and finding new things to admire each time, so I'd suggest buying rather than borrowing. This would make a fantastic gift for anyone interested in Greek mythology.

Recommended Titles:

Percy Jackson and the Olympians and related series by Rick Riordan

The Song of Achilles by Madeline Miller

Galatea by Madeline Miller