



PHOENICIA ROGERSON
DISCUSSION GUIDE

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1 How does the author's choice to focus on the supporting characters in the Hercules myth change our understanding of the story? Does this retelling contribute to a more inclusive narrative by shifting the perspective to the contributing characters?
2. In what ways does the portrayal of Alcmene challenge traditional gender roles and expectations?
3. How does the inclusion of Hylas as Herc's first lover challenge conventional notions of masculinity in mythology?
4. Discuss the significance of Megara's perspective on her marriage with Hercules. How does it differ from the traditional portrayal of their relationship?
5. What role does Eurystheus play in the story, and how does his perspective shed light on the nature of power dynamics?
6. Characters throughout the book often claim their actions are the result of divine interference. How much does intent matter versus the outcome?
7. Analyze the use of humor in this retelling. How does it enhance or complicate the portrayal of these characters?
8. How does this retelling explore themes of feminism and queerness within the context of Greek mythology?
9. Discuss the portrayal of Hercules as both a hero and a flawed individual through the eyes of the supporting characters.
10. What impressions of Hercules did you have before reading the book? Did these change by the end, and how?
11. Discuss the importance of different kinds of strength in the book. Who are the strongest characters?