



The Lightning Thief: The Graphic Novel (Percy Jackson & the Olympians, Book 1)

By Rick Riordan, Robert Venditti

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Mythological monsters and the gods of Mount Olympus seem to be walking out of the pages of twelve-year-old Percy Jackson's textbooks and into his life. And worse, he's angered a few of them. Zeus's master lightning bolt has been stolen, and Percy is the prime suspect. Now, he and his friends have just ten days to find and return Zeus's stolen property and bring peace to a warring Mount Olympus.

Series creator Rick Riordan joins forces with some of the biggest names in the comic book industry to tell the story of a boy who must unravel a treachery more powerful than the gods themselves.

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Editorial Review

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How could it have taken five years to see a graphic-novel adaptation of such a successful property as the Percy Jackson and the Olympians series, and one that, with its heroic destinies and epic action, seems tailor-made to the format? Riordan's original, like Harry Potter as if reimagined by Neil Gaiman, hits all the straightforward archetypes, with young Percy Jackson clued into the secret that he's actually the son of Greek god Poseidon, then educated at Camp Half-Blood with the other illegitimate demigods before embarking on a hero's journey to stop a war of the Olympians. But Riordan also injected a sense of thorny reality with twists like Percy's good-for-nothing stepfather and the entrance to Hades residing in a soulless Los Angeles. Where the slick and flashy movie version failed, Venditti's sharp-edged writing and Futaki's gritty and unprecious art capture the same sense of grunge amid the wonder. A timely release that can be recommended with George O'Connor's recent Olympians graphic novels, proving that while five years may seem too long, at least the wait was worth it. Grades 6-9. --Jesse Karp

Review

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Riordan's highly popular "Olympians" series (Hyperion/Disney) is now a graphic novel. Half-Blood Percy Jackson is the son of a mortal mother and the Greek god Poseidon, which explains why he has always felt out of place among his schoolmates. After learning of his paternity, he is charged with the dangerous mission of locating his Uncle Zeus's missing lightning bolt and returning this symbol of power to its rightful owner. Expert editing keeps the salient parts of the story intact while showcasing the additional storytelling capabilities that the graphic format allows. Excellent panel layout makes the story line easy to follow. The use of angled panels in highly dramatic action scenes is particularly effective. As readers follow Percy's adventures, they are also keenly aware of his personal struggles, as facial expressions help readers to relate to this boy "who doesn't fit in." Illustrations brilliantly illuminate the story, portraying seamless world-blending, from typical school drama and well-known U.S. landmarks to mythological elements. A man seated in one panel casually stands to reveal his true identity as a centaur, the eerie woman seated in the attic is an Oracle, and the Nereid of the undersea kingdom seems a natural part of Percy's world. This blend of mythology and magic with realistic action and adventure brings an added dimension and delightful nuances to this adaptation of the well-known novel. Both ardent followers of Riordan's books and those new to the series will not be disappointed. [SLJ](#)"

Venditti's adaptation of the critically acclaimed first installment of the Percy Jackson & the Olympians series faces a daunting challenge: to present a beloved, contemporary, young adult fantasy novel as a 128-page

visual narrative. But the team succeeds in spectacular fashion. Venditti (*The Surrogates*) takes the story of the half-blood Percy--who discovers that he is both the son of a god and the prime suspect in a theft of cosmic implications--and forges an adaptation that does justice not simply to Riordan's story but works perfectly as a graphic novel. The book retains the excellent pacing of the original and gives a face to Riordan's vision of the mythological made modern. Futaki's artwork is exemplary, but what leaves such a lasting impression is Villarrubia's coloring, which reveals both subtlety and spectacle when needed. The graphic novel compression must, of necessity, sacrifice something, namely some of the humor of the original. PW"

About the Author

Rick Riordan (www.rickriordan.com) is the author of *The Kane Chronicles, Book One: The Red Pyramid* as well as all the books in the *New York Times* best-selling Percy Jackson and the Olympians series: *The Lightning Thief*; *The Sea of Monsters*; *The Titan's Curse*; *The Battle of the Labyrinth*; and *The Last Olympian*. 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 San Antonio, Texas, with his wife and two sons.

Robert Venditti (www.robertvenditti.com) is the creator and author of *The Surrogates* and its prequel, *The Surrogates: Flesh and Bone*. In addition to creating comics, he works at Top Shelf Productions. He lives in Atlanta, Georgia.

Attila Futaki (pencils and inks) has illustrated *Spiral* (Editions Carabas, June 2008) and the forthcoming *The Strange Folks* (2010), as well as a number of book covers and interiors. He studied at the International School of Comics in Florence. He lives in Budapest, Hungary.

Jose Villarrubia (coloring) is an Eisner Award-nominated colorist who has worked for every major comic book publisher. Coloring work includes *Young X-Men*, *Crossing Midnight*, and *Halo Uprising*. Additionally, he is an art professor at the Maryland Institute College of Art. He lives in Baltimore, Maryland.

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Kimberly Dyson:

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