Allison Rosenblum, "Entry on: Hercules: The Man, the Myth, the Hero by Mark Hess, Kathryn Lasky", peer-reviewed by Lisa Maurice and Elżbieta Olechowska. Our Mythical Childhood Survey (Warsaw: University of Warsaw, 2018). Link: http://omc.obta.al.uw.edu.pl/myth-survey/item/257. Entry version as of October 30, 2026.

Mark Hess , Kathryn Lasky

Hercules: The Man, the Myth, the Hero

United States (1997)

TAGS: Apollo Atlas Augean Stables Centaur(s) Cerberus Ceryneian Hind Cretan Bull Deianeira Delphic Oracle Diomedes (of Thrace) Diomedes' Mares Eurystheus Geryon Hades Hera Heracles Hercules Hippolyta's Belt Hydra Lydia Megara Minyans Nemean Lion Nessus Olympus Omphale Palaemon Stymphalian Birds Thebes Twelve Labours of Heracles Zeus





We are still trying to obtain permission for posting the original cover.

General information	
Title of the work	Hercules: The Man, the Myth, the Hero
Country of the First Edition	United States of America
Country/countries of popularity	United States
Original Language	English
First Edition Date	1997
First Edition Details	Kathryn Lasky, *Hercules: The Man, the Myth, the Hero.* New York: Hyperion Books, 1997, 32 pp.
ISBN	9780786803293
Genre	Myths, Picture books
Target Audience	Children (5–9 years)
Author of the Entry	Allison Rosenblum, Bar-Ilan University, allie.rose89@gmail.com
Peer-reviewer of the Entry	Lisa Maurice, Bar-Ilan University, lisa.maurice@biu.ac.il Elżbieta Olechowska, University of Warsaw, elzbieta.olechowska@gmail.com

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Creators



Mark Hess , b. 1954
(Artist, Illustrator)

Mark Hess (1954) has a Fine Arts degree from the University of Colorado. He began his career as a painter in 1975 in New York, and won his first gold medal from the New York Art Directors Club in 1976. He currently has 41 pieces at the Smithsonian Museum in Washington, D. C., and has created 46 U.S. postal stamps and 12 United Nations stamps.

Source:

Profile at the hessdesignworks.com (accessed: July 2, 2018).

Profile at the behance.net (accessed: July 2, 2018).

Bio prepared by Allison Rosenblum, Bar-Ilan University, allie.rose89@gmail.com



Courtesy of the Author.

Kathryn Lasky , b. 1944
(Author)

Lasky was born in Indianapolis, Indiana. She went to the University of Michigan. Her first job was writing for a fashion magazine. She has written over 100 books for children and adults, and is a Newberry Honor author. She has worked on multiple series such as *Guardians of Ga'Hoole*, *Wolves of the Beyond*, *Horses of the Dawn*, *Daughters of the Sea*, *The Diaries*, and *The Deadlies*.

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Sources:

Official website (accessed: June 27, 2018).

Profile on Scholastic's website (accessed: June 27, 2018).

Bio prepared by Allison Rosenblum, Bar-Ilan University, allie.rose89@gmail.com

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Additional information

Summary	This of Hercules begins with his birth as "Palaemon" and Hera's initial attempt on his life by sending the two serpents to his cradle. After accidentally killing his teacher, Palaemon's mother sends him away. Although he thinks of himself as a monster, Palaemon goes on to make quite a name for himself as a strong warrior, not a monster, and was very happy until Hera tricks him into killing his family. This is when he becomes "Hercules", Hera's glory, and is sent to serve King Eurystheus and perform the Twelve Labours. The illustrations in this book are very realistic and reminiscent of Greek statuary.
Analysis	The story is told in first-person narration, explaining more about Hercules' inner thoughts and feelings than about the Labours themselves. It runs through the Labours in five short pages, simply naming the task and moving on, highlighting instead the collective importance of Hercules' journey as a man and not the specific details of each Labour and how he succeeded. It shows that Hercules' glory does not stem only from completing the Labours successfully, but in conquering his own passions (triggered by Hera's involvement), and that this is what elevates him to a god-like status.
Classical, Mythological, Traditional Motifs, Characters, and Concepts	Apollo Atlas Augean Stables Centaur(s) Cerberus Ceryneian Hind Cretan Bull Deianeira Delphic Oracle Diomedes (of Thrace) Diomedes' Mares Eurystheus Geryon Hades Hera Heracles Hercules Hippolyta's Belt Hydra Lydia Megara Minyans Nemean Lion Nessus Olympus Omphale Palaemon Stymphalian Birds Thebes Twelve Labours of Heracles Zeus
Other Motifs, Figures, and Concepts Relevant for Children and Youth Culture	Character traits Emotions Heroism Punishment Relationships

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