

Steve Kurth , Barbara Schulz , Paul D. Storrie

## Hercules: The Twelve Labors

United States (2007)

TAGS: [Atlas](#) [Augean Stables](#) [Cerberus](#) [Ceryneian Hind](#) [Diomedes' Mares](#) [Eurystheus](#) [Geryon](#) [Hades](#) [Hera](#) [Heracles](#) [Hercules](#) [Hippolyta](#) [Hydra](#) [Minos](#) [Nemean Lion](#) [Stymphalian Birds](#) [Twelve Labours of Heracles](#) [White Bull](#)



Picture courtesy of ©Graphic Universe, an imprint of Lerner Publishing Group.

General information	
<i>Title of the work</i>	Hercules: The Twelve Labors
<i>Country of the First Edition</i>	United States of America
<i>Country/countries of popularity</i>	United States
<i>Original Language</i>	English
<i>First Edition Date</i>	2007
<i>First Edition Details</i>	Paul D. Storrie and Steve Kurth, <i>Hercules: the Twelve Labors: a Greek myth (Graphic myths and legends)</i> . Minneapolis, Minn.: Graphic Universe, 2007, 48 pp.
<i>ISBN</i>	9780822530848
<i>Genre</i>	Comics (Graphic works), Mythological comics, Myths
<i>Target Audience</i>	Children (Children, grade 5 and up )
<i>Author of the Entry</i>	Ayelet Peer, Bar-Ilan University, ayelet.peer@gmail.com
<i>Peer-reviewer of the Entry</i>	Lisa Maurice, Bar-Ilan University, mauril68@gmail.com Susan Deacy, University of Roehampton, s.deacy@roehampton.ac.uk

## Creators



### Steve Kurth (Illustrator)

Kurth is an American artist of various comic books. He has worked on *Iron Man*, *X-Men*, *Transformers*, *Green Arrow*, and *The Walking Dead*, for Marvel Comics, IDW Publishing, Image Comics, and Skybound Entertainment. He graduated from the University of Wisconsin and holds a B.A. in fine arts and illustration.

Source:

[Profile](#) at the [comicvine.gamespot.com](http://comicvine.gamespot.com) (accessed: June 28, 2018).

Bio prepared by Ayelet Peer, Bar-Ilan University, [ayelet.peer@gmail.com](mailto:ayelet.peer@gmail.com) and Sonya Nevin, University of Roehampton, [sonya.nevin@roehampton.ac.uk](mailto:sonya.nevin@roehampton.ac.uk)



### Barbara Schulz (Illustrator)

Schulz is a professional comic artist. She is also a professor of comic art at the University of Wisconsin-Superior, MA, and lecturer at Minneapolis College of Art and Design, where she helped to establish and now runs the comic art degree programme. She has been working professionally in comics since 1991. Schulz created comic book art for DC, Dark Horse, Image, and Devils Due comics as well as illustrating numerous graphic novels.

Sources:

[Profile](#) at the mcad.edu (accessed: March 8, 2018).

[Profile](#) at the cargocollective.com (accessed: March 8, 2018).

Bio prepared by Ayelet Peer, Bar-Ilan University, ayelet.peer@gmail.com, and Sonya Nevin, University of Roehampton, sonya.nevin@roehampton.ac.uk

---



### **Paul D. Storrie (Author)**

Storrie is a graphic novel author from Detroit. He worked for Caliber comics, DC comics, Marvel among others. Among his comic books are *Perseus: The Hunt for Medusa's Head: a Greek Myth*, *Beowulf: Monster Slayer: a British Legend*, *Yu the Great: Conquering the Flood* and many more.

Sources:

Author's [website](#) (accessed: June 24, 2018).

[Interview](#) with the Author (accessed: June 24, 2018).

Bio prepared by Ayelet Peer, Bar-Ilan University, ayelet.peer@gmail.com

---

## Additional information

### Summary

This is a graphic novel retelling of the myth of Hercules from his youth to after the labours. It includes glossary, index and further reading. There are only 4 panels devoted to Hercules' youth and then we are told that as a grown man Hercules was told by the oracle of Delphi (which was manipulated by Hera) to serve King Eurystheus. Unsurprisingly, there is no mention of the murders he committed, this being a children's story. All the 12 labours are then portrayed and we also meet people Hercules helps along the way. Hera keeps intervening, even causing a fight between Hercules and the Amazons. The book ends with the note that (45) "all his life Hercules never stopped making dangerous journeys and fighting against fearsome enemies, but those are stories for another time" as if to leave the young readers curious about more of Hercules' tales.

### Analysis

According to the back of the book, the author relied on Thomas Bulfinch's *The Age of Fable* and on Hamilton's *Mythology*. The illustrator, it is stated, was influenced by classical Greek art. Towards the end, Hercules contemplates (33): "again I am a thief for Eurystheus. I like it less every time." This is a rare glimpse into Hercules' psyche, since his character is elsewhere not developed. He is more of the stereotypical muscle man. No definite reason is given for the labours since the murder of Hercules' family by his own hand is missing. Therefore the labours could be seen as a pretext to exhibit Hercules' muscles and super human strength as he is fighting different rivals.

### Classical, Mythological, Traditional Motifs, Characters, and Concepts

[Atlas](#) [Augean Stables](#) [Cerberus](#) [Ceryneian Hind](#) [Diomedes' Mares](#) [Eurystheus](#) [Geryon](#) [Hades](#) [Hera](#) [Heracles](#) [Hercules](#) [Hippolyta](#) [Hydra](#) [Minos](#) [Nemean Lion](#) [Stymphalian Birds](#) [Twelve Labours of Heracles](#) [White Bull](#)

### Other Motifs, Figures, and Concepts Relevant for Children and Youth

[Adventure](#) [Character traits](#) [Tricksters](#)



Ayelet Peer, "Entry on: Hercules: The Twelve Labors by Steve Kurth , Barbara Schulz, Paul D. Storrie", peer-reviewed by Lisa Maurice and Susan Deacy. *Our Mythical Childhood Survey* (Warsaw: University of Warsaw, 2018). Link: <http://omc.obta.al.uw.edu.pl/myth-survey/item/279>. Entry version as of October 04, 2023.

---

Culture

---

Addenda

Illustrators: Steve Kurth (pencils), Barbara Schulz (ink).

---



This Project has received funding from the European Research Council (ERC) under the European Union's Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation Programme under grant agreement No 681202, *Our Mythical Childhood... The Reception of Classical Antiquity in Children's and Young Adults' Culture in Response to Regional and Global Challenges*, ERC Consolidator Grant (2016–2021), led by Prof. Katarzyna Marciniak, Faculty of "Artes Liberales" of the University of Warsaw.