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The Bow by Catherine Mayo

Publisher: Walker Books

RRP \$19.99

A fascinating novel set in Bronze Age Greece with strong characters whom young teenagers in today's world will easily identify with.

Odysseus sets out on a dangerous quest to retrieve his father's inheritance of gold from the land of Argos, which is ruled by a devious king. Accompanied by his father's squire, Eurybates, Odysseus is constantly challenged by enemies eager to kill him and take the gold for themselves.

The adventure takes the pair on a roundabout route to try and find a safe passage home. Along the way Diomedes, the commander of Tiryns, helps them evade capture with dramatic consequences. Odysseus finds a champion in Stenelos, a lieutenant who trains the young man in the art of archery and pushes him to the limit of his endurance.

Odysseus also meets a slave girl, Skotia, whom he later rescues from a band of soldiers. He falls in love with the feisty young woman and is torn between his duty to his homeland and his heart. But Skotia avoids his advances and doesn't seem to return his affection.

Well-written and steeped in mythology, *The Bow*, is an adventure filled with daring deeds, bloody battles, courage, friendship, and betrayal. It's an exciting tale that gives a glimpse into an heroic era peopled with convincing characters who take readers on a grand journey through time.

Reviewed by children's book author, Jean Bennett

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