



The Dark Prophecy

Rick Riordan , John Rocco (Illustrations)

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The second book in the the latest series from Percy Jackson creator Rick Riordan. The god Apollo, stuck in the body of a teenage boy, must undergo the second of his trials to regain his immortality.

The Dark Prophecy Details

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Author : Rick Riordan , John Rocco (Illustrations)

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Isa Cantos (Crónicas de una Merodeadora) says

"Mientras los dioses vivan, todo ese tiempo te amaré".

"As long as gods shall live, so long shall I love you".

Tras sobrevirir al desastre del Oráculo de Dodona y a la traición de Meg, Apolo debe seguir con su misión de hacer que los demás Oráculos funcionen, se restauren las comunicaciones entre los semidioses y el malvado Triunvirato Romano no se apodere del mundo mortal. Ahora, con la ayuda de Leo (YAY!) y Calypso, Apolo tiene que viajar a Indianápolis, lugar donde las fuerzas perversas del Segundo Emperador se están reuniendo para controlar el Oráculo Oscuro, para salvar a antiguos conocidos y escuchar la Profecía Oscura que los guiará en sus aventuras.

De todos los personajes que han aparecido en los libros de Rick Riordan, Apolo es de mis favoritos. En su condición de mortal como Lester Papadopoulos y sin ningún tipo de entrenamiento de batalla, Apolo como narrador de la historia es un genio. Sigue deleitándonos con sus comentarios de ex-dios, sus *haiku* malísimos, sus chistes niños y su mala memoria. Es imposible no leer *La Profecía Oscura* sin reírse un poco, a pesar de todas las tragedias por las que pasan los personajes.

Ahora, imagínense un libro en el que Apolo y Leo Valdez interactúan. ¡Oro puro! Nada más que decir.

En esta segunda entrega de *Las Pruebas de Apolo*, Rick Riordan nos adentra mucho más en la mitología romana, en los ires y venires de Apolo miles de años atrás y nos presenta nuevos personajes que aprenderemos a querer. Jo, Emmie, Litierses, Georgie e incluso una pareja de grifos se volverán partes vitales de la historia. De *La Profecía Oscura* me gustó muchísimo que Rick Riordan nos muestra que Apolo, incluso en su condición anterior de dios, cometió muchísimos errores e injusticias que, ahora, milenios después, vienen a acecharlo y a cobrarle.

En este libro, a diferencia de en *El Oráculo Oculto*, Apolo tiene mucho más los pies en la tierra y asume que debe *ganarse* de nuevo su inmortalidad por él mismo, pues si bien tiene amigos como Leo, Calypso y Meg, los méritos debe ganárselos con el sudor de su espalda. Y así lo hace, en este libro Apolo toma muchísimo más las riendas de las situaciones y empieza a actuar no sólo preocupándose por sí mismo, sino preocupándose por los demás y sacrificándose si es necesario.

La Profecía Oscura es un libro lleno de venganzas, explosiones, muertes, segundas oportunidades y momentos de redención. Con la profecía que nuestros héroes obtienen al final, Rick Riordan abre el camino a siguientes libros más complejos, con más peligros, poderes recuperados y reencuentros de personajes que extrañamos muchísimo de otras sagas.

Carlos. says

He intentado que me guste este libro. De verdad. Pero no he sido capaz, y no sé qué me pasa últimamente con todo lo que leo de Rick Riordan pero me da muchísima pena no estar disfrutando de sus libros como lo hacía antes. No sé si es porque después de unos... ¿20? libros que he leído de este señor ya he llegado a mi

límite, pero es que no los aguento.

No sé. Ya no me hace gracia, no disfruto de sus personajes y las "aventuras" nuevas me parece que están mal hiladas y contadas sin interés, como si este señor solo quisiera llegar de un punto a otro de la novela y metiera cosas de por medio para que le salga un libro medianamente largo. El sentido del humor que tanto disfrutaba antes lo veo diluido (por no decir inexistente), y es algo que echo mucho de menos.

También quiero decir que ya me pasó con el primero de esta saga. Quizás no lo disfrute tanto porque no dejo de buscar a Percy, a Nico y a Annabeth inconscientemente, y este libro cuenta otra historia. No sé, de verdad que no sé. Rick Riordan siempre ha sido uno de mis autores favoritos, pero últimamente no consigo conectar con él ni con sus libros. Espero que con el tercero de Magnus Chase la cosa cambie un poco. :(

no says

WHY YOU NEED TO READ THIS BOOK:

- lesbian warriors who gave up immortality to live with each other & build a home open to anybody who doesn't have one
- bisexual main character
- a talking arrow who sprouts bits of shakespearean wisdom randomly (yes he's my favorite character,, riptide who?)

**LEAVEST THOU WELL BEFORE DAWN. 'TIS A COUNTER-COMMUTE, AYE,
BUT THERE SHALL BE CONSTRUCTION ON HIGHWAY THIRTY-SEVEN.
EXPECTEST THOU TO TRAVEL ONE HOUR AND FORTY-TWO MINUTES.**

I narrowed my eyes. "Are you somehow...checking Google Maps?"

A long pause.

- a riordan character with a screwed moral compass who goes through HEAPS OF CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT
- Apollo's narrative is genuinely hilarious (and completely different from all of riordan's characters so!! look forward to that!!)

"Meg, what I'm about to do - never, ever try this on your own." I felt a bit silly giving this advice to a girl who regularly fought monsters with golden swords, but I had promised Bill Nye the Science Guy I would always promote safe laboratory practices.

- Meg McCaffrey?? why is everyone sleeping on her she's a GODDESS (not a real goddy person) i would trust this 12 year old with my life
- Leo & Calypso are basically main characters and yes their story is everything you could want after BoO and more ((view spoiler))
- the next book will have the entire squad from Heroes of Olympus and idk about you but that's a reunion i'm not going to miss for a hundred sand dollars

Natalie Monroe says

2.5 stars

"I, the most important passenger, the youth who had once been the glorious god Apollo, was forced to sit in the back of the dragon."

More than once while reading I've had to ponder: **Am I getting too old for Percy Jackson?** That thought filled me with such terror I had to drink from my Butterbeer cup and gaze up at my wall of Taylor Swift posters to confirm that, yes, I was a stinkin'no-good millennial who blows her money on stupid shit instead helping the economy.

But as I read on, I realized the problem wasn't me—well, not *all* me anyway—it's Apollo. **I can't stand the whiny human-god.** He was great in small doses like with the previous series, but being in his head for 300+ pages is **agonizing.** All he does is complain about how great he used to be, then sulk about his powerlessness.

I felt like going Kaz Brekker on his ass—"You think you know what pain looks like? Then he would paint a picture for them using his fists." Obviously, this is a very subjective opinion. Lots of reviewers adore Apollo, some actually preferring this series over its predecessors because of him.

Stale jokes aside—I didn't laugh out loud *once* while reading—the other wonderful stoutheart primary character we're supposed to root for is Meg. **Rude, bratty, crude Meg.**

I am in no way putting down her character arc. I think it's awesome that her relationship with Nero represents a soft abusiveness, one based on emotional manipulation and attacking her self-esteem instead of hard fists, and lots of kids and younger teens will be able to relate and learn from it. But as an adult-in-training, I feel it could have been written with more finesse. Basically I've read better.

And someone needs to teach Riordan how to **properly withhold information without stabbing a big red flag in the narrative soil every time.** It was like that in the Heroes of Olympus series, too. A character would think of something foreboding, then right when readers are about to see what the object is, the train of thought snaps off as the characters resolutely thinks, "It can't be THAT monster/Thinking about THAT monster will just make me more scared." Here, the monster's identity is concealed by the Rule of Voldemort—if you say his name, he can and will track you down.

There are positives. Thumbs up for diversity in the form of lesbian parents, Apollo's bisexuality/pansexuality, and fleshing out token minorities. The Hidden Oracle, while retaining many of these features, didn't quite handle it as well, so yay improvement!

(view spoiler)

I'll continue the series because Riordan is the self-deprecating love I keep running back to, but my expectations will remain at a reasonable height below my ankle socks.

My review of The Hidden Oracle

April says

Reading a Rick Riordan book is just pure fun.

Alexxy says

MAY 2017?

P says

“Please get off!” the trooper wailed. “Please and thank you!”

I hysterically laughed my ass off while I was reading this book on the BTS. The Dark Prophecy picks up after what happened in The Hidden Oracle. Lester, aka Apollo, teamed up with Leo and his girlfriend and comes to Indianapolis to pursue the prophecy he was bestowed. The tone of this book is as good as the first book but the pace is quite slow. Apollo reminded me of Deadpool talking with readers with his sarcastic tone. His development is prominent and what I have expected. His attitude is frivolous as always, you know, but it's the point of this series why it's so much different from the Percy Jackson series despite the fact that it's sharing the same world-building.

Leo, on the other hand, is a solid character in this book. Although he is oafish at times, he still got my attention as he did in The Heroes of Olympus. Moreover, the emperor, Commodus, is exactly a narcissistic character that I almost died of laughing, and I think he might be my favorite villain of all time. Meg is one of the best protagonists I've ever seen. From the first half of this book, I thought her character was such a typical heroine, and I had no idea how wrong I was until the very end of this book. She's so intricate !

“He looked like a hallucinating ballerina in boxer shorts,”

The griffins are excellent that (view spoiler) However, sometimes I didn't get what Lester were talking about, I knew it's all his music or rhyme, but it's also one of the reasons why I didn't enjoy this fully.

The ending of this led me to the long wait for the next book. Yet I have a gut feeling it's gonna be as exciting as the fourth book of the Percy Jackson series.

“Being productive. Ugh. It's such a human concept. It implies you have limited time (LOL) and have to work hard to make something happen (double LOL).”

Maureen says

I honestly don't know how Rick Riordan's books keep getting funnier but they do somehow. Being in Apollo's head, while annoying at times, is hilarious.

I enjoyed this book but didn't *love* it. I think Apollo just doesn't appeal to me as much as Percy or any of the other Demigods, but it's really interesting and entertaining to have a new perspective. I'm excited to see where it goes next!

C.G. Drews says

Basically it's just the #1 fact of life that any book in the Camp Halfblood world CAN DO NO

WRONG. This was a completely fabulous sequel to The Hidden Oracle! Although I didn't like it *quite* as much because **(A)** it wasn't *as* hilarious, although still funny, and **(B)** the plot wasn't as exciting and twisty as the first one. But it was still an entirely solid read for me and I think I'm half in love with Apollo -- who is a DORK and narcissist and but what can you do. He's adorable.

I think Apollo's character development is just so fabulous. He's still 100% full of himself and really surprised when the world doesn't revolve around him (this happens to the best of us tbh), but he keeps getting more and more loyal to his demigod companions. And he's utter trash for looking after Meg. And, on occasion, he might even do something self-sacrificial instead of letting everyone else perish in his wake. **#lovely I do hate how they ALWAYS give him a rough time though!!** I mean, I get it...he's was horrible god. But like he tries so hard and Meg is so mean to him and Calypso and Leo give him 500% a rough time. Althoooooough. That is also what friends are for. And everyone they meet blames him for EVERYTHING. It's actually surprising that he stays in such good spirits about his own godliness when he's cleaning toilets and peeling carrots.

I'm still waiting to warm up to Meg though??? I wasn't really invested in her in book #1, and she just continues to be a rude little turnip. I suppose it's meant to be endearing??? I find the actual root vegetable more endearing. I guess I'm a fan of manners and kindness, both of which Meg is allergic to.

GREAT THINGS TO EXPECT:

- the unexpected; because seriously you have no idea what this book is going to throw at you next
- gods on facebook
- monsters, murder, and mayhem
- booby traps
- prophecies that nearly kill you
- tofu
- mechanical dragons that are designed like lego
- a house that only shows you the rooms it wants to and expands when requested
- griffins
- featuring f/f parent couple
- bisexual Apollo
- sass
- fighting
- SASSSSSSSSSS

I laughed so much omg. The lines are HYSTERICAL and I think Apollo's tendency to use "god like speech" but then mesh it with modern pop-culture references and narcissistic haikus is just the best thing since cupcakes were invented. I am such a fan omg. He's got a relaly different voice to Percy Jackson too, which is GREAT.

And I also love how the structure of these books are less like the PJO books. They're on an adventure that continually unravels, so it's not the same-old-same-old plot set up (get a prophecy, assemble a team, go on a quest, nearly die, etc.) of the PJO books. It's just a bit refreshing and sets them apart.

BUT SHOULD YOU BE READING APOLLO IF YOU HAVEN'T READ THE PERCY JACKSON BOOKS? Erm. No. There *are* spoilers for the Percy books. And even that aside, you wouldn't get a lot of the references/characters.

ALL IN ALL: this was definitely a hilariously glorious sequel! Maybe it wasn't as fast moving or exciting as other Halfblood books, and maaaaybe it dragged a bit in the middle. But it was still funny and used a LOT of the more obscure Greek myths so I was forced to *learn things*. How dare it. I'm definitely a huge fan of Apollo!! 10/10 will recommend giving Apollo a cookie and perhaps a break, but also it's hilarious to watch him suffer through being a human.

***** QUOTES *****

I tried to think of a brilliant plan. Unfortunately, the only thing that came to mind was weeping in terror.

I wondered if Meg knew that [names redacted] had been beheaded for letting her escape. I decided not to mention it. If Meg was really curious, she could check their Facebook status updates.

"Commodus blames me for his death," I said.

"Why?" Meg asked.

"Probably because I killed him."

"Ah." Leo nodded sagely. "That would do it.

"No sweat," Leo said. "I'll handle the first two hundred or so myself, then if I get tired--"

"Leo, stop." Calypso gave Emmie an apologetic frown. "He jokes more when he's nervous. He also jokes *worse* when he's nervous."

"I have no idea what you're talking about." Leo inserted carrot fangs into his mouth and snarled.

Meg almost choked on her stir-fry.

"Oh!" I said. "Um...nah." I leaned against the wall, hoping to look casual, attractive and suave. Unfortunately, I missed the wall.

My eyelids fluttered open. I sat up, groaning. When you are the sun god, it's a rare treat to be able to sleep late. Now here I was, a mere mortal, and people kept waking me up at the crack of dawn. I'd spent millennia *being* the crack of dawn. I was tired of it.

Zain Otoom says

Oh my lord O_o

I think I've gone blind looking at this cover O_o

Yasamin Seifaee says

update: 6/4/2017

Wonderful!

Riordan did a great job on creating the character Apollo! Can't wait for the next book (?_?)

The only thing that bothered me a little was the prophecy quest thing that has been a thing in all of Riordan's books.

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I. NEED. THIS. NOW.

CRIES FOR AN ETERNITY

Ahmed Ejaz says

Most of you must have gotten by now that I have gotten *completely* addicted to Rick Riordan. This is the 12th book I have read by him and I read the previous eleven books almost in row. And the thought of *any* regret didn't even pass before me.

Well, for this book it was much better than the last one. It was more gripping and more interesting. The only thing which was missing here was Percbeth!! Annabeth didn't even appear in the last one. She is helping her relative or something....WHATEVER! I really want PERCBETH IN THE NEXT BOOK!

It's not how long you live that matters. It's what you live for.

I loved Apollo! His sense of humour is unique in the entire series. He is changing. But I was enjoying his whining more than this. Anyway, I don't mind how he is doing.

>>The scene of revelation of Prophecy here was the best. I loved that.

>>In the Blood of Olympus, I was glad that Leo had rescued Calypso. And I was really looking forward to their proper relationship here. But in this book, the spark that should have been in their relationship was drastically missing. I didn't feel liking this ship the way I liked in Heros of Olympus series.

>>And...wow! One of my favourite characters from Percy Jackson and the Olympians series is BACK!!!!!! Wowowowowowow!! Can't wait. Not a chance after the interpretation of the Prophecy.

Regardless of the fact, this book follows the formula of previous books, regardless of it being very predictable (at least for me), regardless of everything, I *enjoyed* this book. How can you not LOL at his humor? He's got a powerful tool to enchant his readers. And that is *freakin'* humor!

P.S

So, this is the last book I have read for now. I won't be reading novels for a little long time in future because I am getting very busy. Exams, studies..you know. But I will be reading comics and short stories in this time as they are very short and less addictive than novels. **something is better than nothing**

14 December, 2017

Emily May says

I tried to think of a brilliant plan. Unfortunately, the only thing that came to mind was weeping in terror.

What an absolute dork. **I love him so much ♥**

Honestly, Apollo is hands down my favourite character that Riordan has ever created. I know all of these books have the same light, humourous tone, but none of the others seem to make me laugh so much. Apollo is just so sassy and snarky, and his disdain for humans rings with hilarious truth.

I think I like these Apollo stories so much more because they feel the most unique. Many of the other voices - e.g. Percy Jackson and Magnus Chase - started to blend together after a little while, and their characters were hard to distinguish from one another. And the plots of the other books seemed to move in similar cycles of prophecy-quest-resolution, whereas this and The Hidden Oracle contained more surprises.

Did I mention that it's full of laughs?

"Oh!" I said. "Um...nah." I leaned against the wall, hoping to look casual, attractive and suave. Unfortunately, I missed the wall.

Also, I just kind of love that Apollo is a narcissistic ass. Don't get me wrong, I praised the Percy Jackson series for being all about how a seemingly regular kid discovers he is actually so much more and proceeds to become a hero. This is a great message. But sometimes there is just something so delightful about a character who is definitely NOT a hero and doesn't even pretend to be.

In this book, Apollo has left Camp Half-Blood behind and is venturing out to restore Oracles and - hopefully - regain his place on Mount Olympus after Zeus cast him out and made him human. It is full of **adventure, haiku and mechanical dragons**, as well as some great LGBTQ+ representation (Apollo is, himself, bisexual). I can't wait for more.

Quick note: there are spoilers for the Percy Jackson books, so maybe don't read this if you haven't read them yet.

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Claudia Ramírez says

More like 3.5 stars.

I enjoyed this book, I really did. Apollo was hilarious (again).
But to be honest, I didn't feel it had anything special or memorable. It was just okay.

Arch says

UPDATE

It's out. We did it guys. We made it through the waiting.

And boy, was it worth it. (Full review coming soon!)

"Expected Publication: 2017"

2017

2017

WE HAVE TO WAIT TILL 2017

UPDATE: On further reflection I've decided to add a handy guide to help you get through this wait. Here are some steps I recommend from experience:

- Obsessively re-read The Hidden Oracle
- Obsessively re-read the Percy Jackson and Heroes of Olympus series
- Obsessively re-read every single thing Rick Riordan has ever written
- Repeat three steps above
- Scour the internet for interesting and exciting theories about this book
- Read many, many fanfics of the Trials of Apollo
- Write many, many fanfics of the Trials of Apollo
- Enjoy a brief respite when Magnus Chase and the Hammer of Thor comes out
- Freak out when you see the cover for The Dark Prophecy when it's released
- Freak out when you read the excerpt when it's released
- Continuously repeat steps 1-3

Interject all of that with a healthy dose of cursing Zeus for not bringing this book to you faster and freaking out every time you realise you're going to have to wait till next year for the book, and you should be good.

Hope that helps... I'm going to, yeah you guessed it, re-read the Hidden Oracle...
