



TEEN SERVICES COMMUNITY SERVICE TEEN BOOK REVIEW

The Dark Prophecy By Rick Riordan Reviewed by Ali Chaudhry

Name: Ali Chaudhry

Grade: 8th

Book Title: The Dark Prophecy

Author: Rick Riordan

Number of Pages: 432

Rating (on a scale of 1-5): 3.5/5

Character List:

- **Apollo:** The god Apollo now has become mortal and has to deal with mortal problems like acne and flab, but Apollo has other problems he has to worry about. Like saving the world from evil.
- **Meg:** Meg is a 12-year-old demigod who is the daughter of Demeter. She befriends Apollo and helps him through his adventures to save the world.
- **Leo:** Leo is a 15-year-old demigod who is a son of Hephaestus. He makes a return late in the first book of this series but he was part of the other series *Heroes of Olympus*. Leo is a funny likeable guy who just basically came back from the dead.
- **Calypso:** Calypso is a goddess who was trapped on an island called Ogygia. She was rescued by Leo and now they are here to help Apollo and Meg on their mission.
- **Peaches:** Peaches is the bodyguard of Meg. Since Meg is the daughter of Demeter, she can summon Peaches to help her when she is in trouble. He may not be that cute but he still is powerful, strong, and brave.
- **Nero:** Nero is the antagonist of the story. He also is Meg's adopted father so things are kind of awkward. Nero is a bad guy who bullied Meg into listening to him. Now Apollo is trying to stop him from taking over the world.

Review:

Apollo arrives at the waystation (which is a secret hideout in Indiana) with Leo and Calypso. Apollo, Leo, and Calypso arrived here from Camp Half-Blood because a prophecy from the oracle of Dodona was made which described how Apollo had to have three people on his quest. Apollo chose Leo and Calypso. After that, they needed to go to Nero and stop him. They meet Emmie and Josephine, who are a couple that tend to the Waystation. Their adopted daughter had gone missing and they had been trying to find her. A goddess appears and she tells them that someone had stolen their griffins, which are really important to Emmie and Joe. So the group goes on mission to save them. This is where they find their first real opponent, Lit (He was in *The Lost Hero* if you recall, son of Midas). They were now surrounded by lots of Nero's soldiers, the Germani. Then Meg comes in out of nowhere and saves Apollo from Lit. After getting back to the waystation, Apollo thinks about a plan of getting into Lit's base. After coming up with a plan, Leo, Apollo, Calypso, and Meg go into Lit's castle after defeating some monsters on their way there. Once they get in there they get caught and tossed into a makeshift jail with other prisoners. This is where their story really starts.

This book is funny. Maybe not as funny as the last one, but it's still funny. Apollo's god speech combines with modern mortal ones to make some pretty funny dialogue. Having humor in a book like this keeps it a bit lighter and a more enjoyable read in general. The author develops Apollo's character more in this book than the first. He becomes more heroic and selfless in *The Dark Prophecy* than he was in the previous book, *The Trials of Apollo*. He becomes more loyal to his companions and he has moments of self-sacrifice. I feel the author did a good job in the area of character development. Except for Meg: she doesn't really fit into the story and isn't as likeable because she is rude to Apollo and does not have an appealing personality. This hurts the book because she is a main character. In contrast, Leo is a funny, caring, and loyal person and Calypso is a serious and passionate character, which shows the great character development that Meg unfortunately does not possess in *The Dark Prophecy*. The plot is different than the original Percy Jackson books. Instead of the old get a quest, go there, nearly die and come back, the sequel is a lot more complex and has more plot twists than the first. The plot of *The Dark Prophecy* has surprises which keep you on your feet. The book has pieces of true Greek mythology and lore that make it an enticing read, especially to those who enjoy Greek mythology and its roots. The main downside of this book is the execution and development of Meg. The high standards of Rick Riordan make this ending seem mediocre since it lacks the full, rich story that we usually get from Riordan. It seems like this book has to bring back old characters to mask the bad ones they have like Meg. They brought back Will Solace, Nico Di Angelo, and others in the first book, and now they bring back Leo and Calypso and one other mystery person who is revealed at the end of the book. It seems annoying that he had to do that and not invent some new characters that are more interesting.