

Lost Hero Book Review by Sarina

The Lost Hero is the first book in Rick Riordan's The Heroes of Olympus series, a spin-off of the popular Percy Jackson & the Olympians series. The story follows three new protagonists: Jason Grace, Piper McLean, and Leo Valdez, as they embark on a dangerous quest to save the goddess Hera and prevent the rise of the first goddess, Gaea.

The novel opens with Jason Grace waking up on a school bus with no memory of his past. He finds himself holding hands with Piper McLean, who claims to be his girlfriend, and sitting next to Leo Valdez, who says he's Jason's best friend. They are on a field trip to the Grand Canyon with their school, the Wilderness School for troubled teens.

During the trip, their coach, Gleeson Hedge, is revealed to be a satyr. Suddenly, they are attacked by storm spirits called venti. Jason instinctively fights back, discovering he can fly and has a magical coin that transforms into a sword or spear. In the chaos, Coach Hedge is captured by the venti.

Annabeth Chas arrives in a flying chariot to rescue them. Annabeth is disappointed to find that Jason is not her missing boyfriend, Percy Jackson. The group flies to Camp Half-Blood which has children of Greek gods. At Camp Half-Blood, Leo is claimed as a son of Hephaestus, god of fire and craftsmanship. Piper is revealed to be a daughter of Aphrodite, goddess of love and beauty. Jason, though unclaimed, is believed to be a son of Zeus due to his ability to control the air.

The camp's oracle, Rachel Elizabeth Dare, issues a prophecy that sends Jason, Piper, and Leo on a quest to rescue Hera, who has been captured. They must free her before the winter solstice, just four days away, to prevent a great evil from rising. As they prepare for their quest, Leo discovers and repairs a bronze dragon automaton, which he names Festus. This mechanical dragon becomes their mode of transportation. Meanwhile, Piper learns she has the rare gift of charmspeak, allowing her to persuade others with her voice.

The trio's journey takes them across the United States. They encounter various mythological beings and overcome numerous challenges. In Chicago, they meet Boreas, the North Wind, and his children. They learn that their enemies are working for Gaea, who is slowly awakening and plans to overthrow the Olympian gods.

During their travels, Jason slowly regains fragments of his memory. He realizes he is actually a son of Jupiter - Zeus's Roman aspect - and comes from a Roman demigod camp. There was a long-hidden divide between Greek and Roman demigods, and now it is back around!

The group also encounters Jason's sister, Thalia Grace, a daughter of Zeus and lieutenant of the Hunters of Artemis. Jason is able to piece together a little bit more of his past.

As they continue their quest, they battle the giant Enceladus to rescue Piper's father, who had been kidnapped to force Piper's cooperation. They also confront Khione, the goddess of snow, who betrays them to Gaea's forces.

They then go to the Wolf House in Sonoma, California. Here, they find Hera imprisoned and guarded by Khione and the giant king Porphyron. As the winter solstice arrives, Gaea's plan begins to unfold.

Leo overcomes his fear of fire, embracing his rare ability to generate and control flames. Piper uses her charmspeak to confuse their enemies and free Hera from her cage. Jason faces Porphyron in combat, showcasing his skills as a Roman demigod. Wow, they are so skilled!

Hera is freed, but not before Porphyron rises fully formed - the first of a new race of giants born to oppose the gods. Hera unleashes her true divine form to destroy the remaining monsters, forcing the demigods to look away to avoid death. Porphyron escapes, promising future conflict.

With Hera rescued and the immediate threat averted, the group returns to Camp Half-Blood. Hera reveals that she orchestrated an exchange of leaders between the Greek and Roman camps - Jason was taken from the Roman camp, while Percy Jackson was sent there with his memories wiped. And that's it!

This book still held onto the magic of the Percy Jackson series, so of course I loved it. I rate it a 8/10!