

Monday - Chapters 14 & 15



Read/listen to chapter 14 and answer the questions.

Then read/listen to chapter 15.





14. Myths and Legends

It was the fourth time that day that Elliot had travelled by immortal transport and flying by horse quickly became his favourite. As Pegasus climbed high into the sky, Elliot was treated to the most beautiful view of the English countryside below.

'There's my farm!' said Elliot after a few minutes, seeing his beloved home

like a little model in the fields near Stonehenge.

‘I couldn’t trouble you for a place to lay my hat, could I, old boy?’ Zeus yelled into Elliot’s ear. ‘Need to lie low for a few days.’

Elliot was caught off guard. On the one hand, the last thing he needed was another stranger on the farm drawing attention to him and Mum. On the other, Zeus had the Earth Stone – perhaps if he gave him somewhere to stay, he might let Elliot borrow it. Or perhaps Elliot might borrow it anyway. It was worth the risk.

‘Of course, Your . . . erm . . . Majesty,’ he said.

Pegasus touched down in the disused paddock of Home Farm and Elliot immediately jumped off and ran to the farmhouse. It was OK. He could see his mum sitting in the kitchen chatting away to herself. Now he just needed to find somewhere to conceal a handful of immortals.

Zeus removed the invisibility helmet as Virgo dismounted, ping-ponging them back into view. Elliot tried to look away as Zeus struggled to get his considerable girth off his horse. Zeus eventually managed to get both legs pointing in the same direction and plopped inelegantly to the ground. He pulled himself up, ripped off his tux and revealed bright orange Bermuda shorts and a red Hawaiian shirt underneath.

‘That’s better,’ he said. ‘Been dying to get rid of that wretched thing.’

1. What does Zeus mean by ‘a place to lay his hat’? **V**

2. Why does Elliot let Zeus stay? **I**

3. Why did Zeus have trouble getting off his horse? **R**

'The tux or the bride?' asked Hermes, screeching to a halt on his motorbike.

Virgo dropped into another dutiful low curtsy.

'Oh, enough of that nonsense,' boomed Zeus, his bright-blue eyes sparkling like sapphires. 'Come here and give your old King a hug.'

Virgo ran to Zeus with a relieved smile and was soon enveloped in a vast Bermuda bear hug.

'That's more like it,' laughed Zeus, his twinkling gaze lighting on Elliot. 'Wonderful to meet you too, Elliot. Some call me Jupiter, others call me Brontios. To at least five of my ex-wives, I'm a plumber called Bob. But you can call me Zeus.'

Elliot accepted a giant handshake, trying not to wince as the God crushed his fingers with his surprising strength.

'And this fine fellow,' said Zeus, gesturing towards the winged white stallion, 'is my trusty steed, Pegasus.'

At the sound of his name, Pegasus trotted over. Elliot had loved the horses they'd had on the farm and this one was truly magnificent. He gently lifted his hand to stroke the horse's elegant head.

'Hey, boy,' he whispered softly.

'If you require a dog to fetch you a stick, then please continue,' said Pegasus grandly, shocking Elliot into silence. 'But if you are referring to me, my name is Pegasus. And I'm gasping for a mineral water.'

4. How does the reader learn that Zeus is very strong? **I**

5. Why did Pegasus take Elliot by surprise? **I**

‘You can talk!’ exclaimed Elliot.

‘I’m a flying horse,’ said Pegasus pertly. ‘Talking’s the easy part. And I prefer sparkling with a twist of lime.’

Elliot looked blankly around him, having never catered for a talking, flying immortal horse.

‘Oh, don’t mind him,’ said Zeus dismissively. ‘Get off your high horse, Peg. There’s a water trough over there, that’ll do just fine.’

Pegasus looked over at the rusty trough filled with murky brown water and released a disdainful whinny.

‘I suppose a few ice cubes would be too much to ask,’ he huffed as he sauntered over, sticking his nose high in the air.

‘Zeus – we’ve got a problem,’ said Virgo, unable to look him in the eye. ‘I’ve done something dreadful.’

‘I’m sure we can fix it,’ said Zeus. ‘I’ve got a brilliant lawyer if we need one. She could get an Athenian out of a labyrinth and make the Minotaur pay costs. Elliot, is there a good spot to sit and chat, please?’

Instinctively feeling that a chubby God, a flying fashion model and a talking horse might be too much for Mum, Elliot ushered the immortals towards Bessie’s cowshed, where they pulled up some hay bales. Pegasus strode in behind them, earning a flirtatious moo from Bessie as he settled down for a rest

6. Why was it better for the immortals to sit and chat in the cowshed rather than in the house? **I**

7. How might Josie react to Zeus, Hermes and Virgo staying? **P**

on a pile of straw.

‘Isn’t this delightful!’ boomed Zeus, looking around the dilapidated shed as if he were in the Ritz. ‘So, who is going to fill me in?’

Virgo and Elliot recounted what had happened beneath Stonehenge in as much detail as they could remember, while Hermes and Zeus listened intently.

‘And that’s when I thought I should find you,’ said Virgo at the end of their story, hanging her head. ‘I’m so sorry, Zeus, this is all my fault.’

‘We’ll have no more of that,’ said Zeus kindly. ‘If anyone’s to blame, it is me.’

‘Charon said that Thanatos is still alive,’ said Elliot. ‘Is that true?’

‘Oh, for goodness’ sake, Elliot,’ snapped Virgo. ‘I’m sorry, Zeus, Charon’s been filling his head with—’

‘Yes,’ said Zeus quietly. ‘Yes, it is.’

‘What?’ gasped Virgo.

‘You’re ‘aving a laugh, Dad!’ yelled Hermes. ‘Since when?’

‘Since always,’ sighed Zeus. ‘You have to understand, when I made his father, Erebus, the King of the Daemons, we were like brothers. I’d hoped that the Gods and Daemons could work together to help the mortals. But the Chaos Stones changed Erebus. Made him power-crazed, greedy, blind to anything but his own ambition.’

‘But you killed him, right?’ asked Elliot.

‘I did,’ said Zeus, hanging his head. ‘It was one of the worst moments of my life. I was younger, angrier, stronger. I saw nothing but my own rage and the next thing I knew . . . Erebus was dead. His wife, Nyx, the Goddess of Night, was so grief-stricken that she was never seen again. But it got worse. As Erebus lay dying, his twin sons Thanatos and Hypnos – barely more than boys themselves – came running to their father’s body. I never quite recovered from that sight.’

‘What happened?’ asked Virgo.

‘Although Hypnos was the older twin, Erebus handed the Chaos Stones to Thanatos, naming him his heir with his final breaths. Hypnos was furious – the stones were his birthright – but Erebus said Thanatos would make the better King. Hypnos never forgave his brother for that.’

‘So Thanatos wanted to finish what his father had started?’ said Elliot.

‘Precisely,’ said Zeus. ‘A few centuries later, he wanted to avenge his father – and by now the Chaos Stones had corrupted him too.’

‘But you killed him in that legendary duel, bosh, job done?’ said Hermes.

‘How can Thanatos still be alive?’

‘I went to destroy his kardia and deliver the death blow, but I . . . I couldn’t do it,’ said Zeus. ‘All I could see was that young boy holding his father’s – my friend’s – body. I no longer had the stomach for killing. Or for being King of the

Gods. It was why I retired.'

'So you hid Thanatos under Stonehenge where no one could find him,' said Elliot, everything suddenly making sense. 'And the rest of the Daemons?'

'I held the Chaos Stones in my hands and I could feel their dark power flowing through me – I've never experienced anything like it,' explained Zeus. 'I had planned to take the Daemons' kardia and then wipe them all out with an earthquake or a tsunami – but something stopped me. I realized it wouldn't be a victory. It would be a massacre. I asked my brother Hades to build them a prison in Tartarus. They've been there ever since.'

'What happened to the Chaos Stones?' asked Elliot, trying to keep the need out of his voice.

'No worries, mate,' said Hermes. 'Dad will have them locked up tighter than jeggings in January. Won't you, Dad?'

Zeus's attention was suddenly drawn all around the shed.

'Daaaaaaaad?' asked Hermes suspiciously. 'You have got the stones, right?'

'Not . . . exactly,' said Zeus sheepishly. 'In fact . . . not at all.'

Elliot's heart plummeted. He'd been that close to solving his problems.

'So where are they?' he asked.

'There's the rub,' said Zeus. 'I can admit it now: Thanatos was stronger than me. I just couldn't defeat him while he had the stones. I wasn't able to win

them in a fair fight, so I rather . . . well . . . sort of . . .'

'You cheated!' shouted Hermes. 'You dirty dog!'

'In a manner of speaking. Well – yes,' admitted Zeus. 'I remembered the look on Hypnos's face when his father passed him over in favour of Thanatos – it was pure hatred. I knew I could exploit that – and that Hypnos was the only person who could get close enough to Thanatos. They lived together in the Cave of Sleep and Death. So I struck a deal with him. If Hypnos brought me the Chaos Stones, he would escape the fate of his Daemon comrades when I won. He didn't even think about it – the opportunity for revenge was just what he'd been waiting for. He brought me the stones that very hour.'

'But . . . but that's not possible,' exclaimed Virgo in disbelief. 'That's not in our history. You can't have lied?'

'I'm afraid I did,' said Zeus, shamefaced. 'After all, history is only what the winners wrote down.'

Elliot shot a triumphant look at Virgo, which she chose to ignore.

'Once Thanatos and the Daemons were defeated, the power of the stones scared me,' said Zeus. 'I didn't want them to corrupt me like they had Erebus and Thanatos. I told Hypnos that his brother and the Daemons were dead, then made him swear on the Styx that he wouldn't use the Chaos Stones himself. I commanded him to hide them where they could never be found – not even by

8. How does Hermes feel when he finds out his dad cheated?
How do you know? **I**

9. Why did it come as a surprise to find out that Zeus did not have the stones? **I**

10. Summarise up what happened between Erebus, Zeus, Hypnos and Thanatos **S**

Answers

1. Somewhere to stay
2. Elliot thinks Zeus may repay the favour by allowing him to borrow the Earth stone
3. His large girth (waist) made it difficult for him to get off
4. He crushed Elliot's fingers when he shook his hand
5. Elliot knew Pegasus could fly but he was not aware that he could also talk
6. Josie would be even more confused if she were to meet the Gods
7. Children's own predictions using their understanding of Josie's character
8. He is angry and disappointed as he calls his father names
9. Everyone thought he had the stones - it is what is written in their history
10. Children's own summary of the key events

Tuesday - Chapters 16 & 17



Read/listen to chapters 16 and 17.

Then fill out a dating profile for one of your favourite characters, demonstrating your understanding of them. Use evidence from the text or do some research on one of the other Gods to find out more information.

See the example on the next slide to help you. You could use the template saved on the website if you wish.



EROS

Where love don't cost a thing



Name: Hermes **Age:** 2029 **Height:** 6ft 1

Description:

I am an easy-going, young-at-heart fashion icon. I have light brown hair, chiselled cheekbones and a cheeky smile. I dress to impress and you will recognise me by my winged footwear. People call me 'The Messenger' and I'd be sure to send you a love letter or two.



Likes:

Saying 'Bosh' and giving fashion advice to those in need.

Dislikes:

When my IGOD runs out of battery

Five words to describe myself:

Fun, fashionable, fabulous, on fleek

How others would describe me:

Others may see me as fashion forward and young at heart

What I am looking for in a partner:

I am looking for a total babe: someone who likes to have fun and would want to soar around the world with me



Wednesday - Chapters 18 & 19



Read Chapter 18. Then look at the extracts from chapter 19 and complete the activity before reading the rest of the chapter.



Read the extracts below which describe Home Farm at the beginning of the story in Chapter 2 and in Chapter 19 once the Gods have made their alterations.

Create a table comparing the descriptions e.g.

Chapter 2	Chapter 19
Rotting gate Holes in roof	Fresh coat of paint Plush new sofas

cient stone circle of Stonehenge, which was just visible from his front gate. The mysterious stones looked magical in the glistening light and Elliot drank in his favourite view. He lifted the rope that held the rotting gate in place and dragged his tired feet up the path. He and Mum had laid those stones together and every wonky step reminded Elliot of them flinging mud at each other in fits of giggles as they worked.

The farm had been his family's home for generations. He could see the holes where fallen tiles made the roof look like a mouth missing some teeth, the dirty windows that blocked more light than they let in and the peeling red paint on a door that could barely keep out a draught, let alone a burglar. And Elliot loved every crumbling brick.





19. Be Careful What You Wish For

By Monday morning, Elliot was starting to appreciate living with a cowshed full of immortals.

In a single day, Hestia the Goddess of the Hearth had transformed Elliot's tatty farm into a home that looked like it had jumped out of the pages

of a magazine. Some changes were simply the result of a good eye for interior design – the peeling walls were covered in fresh coats of bright paint, sumptuous fabrics covered the plush new sofas and armchairs, and the bedrooms now had enormous fluffy beds that sank a foot when you lay on them.

Other alterations, however, suggested that this was no average DIY job. The bathroom had a shower that flowed like a warm, scented waterfall, with a bathtub permanently filled with hot, bubbly water that was big enough to swim in. Even the toilets played a Mozart piano concerto when you sat on them. But Elliot's favourite changes were in the kitchen, which boasted a self-emptying dishwasher, a washing machine that dried, ironed and folded clothes before spiriting them back into their drawers and – Elliot's personal favourites – a fridge and a kitchen cupboard that always contained exactly what you wanted to eat.

Josie had accepted Elliot's explanation that some friends were staying to help with the farm, even when Virgo had staggered into the kitchen under a tomato the size of a satellite dish, or when Hestia transformed their black-and-white TV into a flat-screen plasma with that expensive games console Elliot had fancied. If anything, Elliot thought Mum seemed better for having the Gods around, chatting to her about life on the farm and none of them batting an eyelid when she asked the same question several times or forgot something



Use the notes you have collected to write an article for an interior design magazine describing the changes that have been made to Home Farm. Choose your vocabulary carefully to build an image in the reader's mind. You can continue on from the opening below if you wish.

Mysterious Makeover

Home Farm, once a rotten wreckage, has undergone a mysterious makeover. The uneven tiles and holes in the roof are a thing of the past and the gleaming, white windowsills are a far cry from the flaky, old paintwork which once stood there. Now, the house stands proudly....

Thursday - Chapters 20 & 21



Read chapter 20 and answer the questions and then read chapter 21.





1. What does author mean when she refers to Call Me Graham as a 'soft touch'? V

20. The Perfect Parents

Call Me Graham was renowned for being a soft touch and Elliot had always managed to talk himself out of serious punishment. But this time, Mr Boil stayed too and no amount of sob stories was going to help. 'Elliot, I'm very sorry to hear that your great-aunt has died. Again,' said Call

Me Graham, nervously flicking his fringe. 'But Mr Boil is right, this time you have gone too far. You will have to be disciplined.'

'Expelled!' cried Boil triumphantly.

'Oh, r-really?' stammered Graham, turning to look at Mr Boil. 'I was thinking more along the lines of a stern letter home. Maybe. If that's OK?'

'The boy is a menace,' said Boil, not taking his piggy eyes from Elliot's angry face. 'And the girl has "Trouble" written through her like a stick of rock.'

'I can assure you that my physical composition has nothing to do with rock,' said Virgo disdainfully. 'I am a carbon-based entity who—'

'You see!' screamed Boil. 'I will not see the Brysmore name dragged into the dirt. You're both expelled!'

'But that's ridiculous!' cried Virgo, nudging a belligerent Elliot into defending himself. 'It wasn't even a real exam.'

'Not another word!' yelled Boil. 'The headmaster's decision is final!'

'Er – I haven't actually made a decision,' Call Me Graham piped up.

'Yes, you have. And an excellent one it is too,' said Boil, slamming his hand on Call Me Graham's shoulder in approval.

'Right. Oh. Well, then. I'll need to see your parents,' said the head, and Boil gave an enthusiastic wobble.

Elliot's blood froze. This was exactly what he'd been trying to avoid. There

Why had Elliot been trying to avoid the headteacher having to speak to his parents? **I**

was no way Mum could come to the school. If Call Me Graham found out about Elliot's home life, the head would have to tell the authorities, then all the months he'd spent trying to keep Mum safe would have been in vain. He looked desperately at Virgo.

'Why. Don't. You. Call. My. Parents?' said Virgo loudly, with spectacularly bad acting skills.

Of course. The Gods. Elliot asked permission to telephone Home Farm from the school office.

'Helloooo,' Aphrodite breathed down the line after a few rings.

'It's me,' he whispered furiously. 'We're in trouble.'

'Thanatos?' gasped Aphrodite.

'No. School,' said Elliot, 'We need some parents, quick.'

'Hang in there, sweetie,' said Aphrodite, instantly catching his drift. 'Two prize parentals coming up.'

'Thanks, Aphrodite,' he said, hurrying back to Call Me Graham's office before Virgo's mouth could get them into any more trouble.

Ten minutes later, the screech of Aphrodite's car tyres broke the tense silence in the headmaster's office. There was a thundering knock on the door and Mr Boil sprang to answer it, clearly delighted to have a ringside seat at Elliot's

3. What plan did Virgo think of to avoid Elliot's mum coming into school? **R**

expulsion.

‘Hi,’ boomed a vast man in an American accent, grabbing Boil’s hand in a handshake so violent it made him wobble like a jelly. If the huge, muscular body and cropped hair were unfamiliar to Elliot, the orange Bermuda shorts and red shirt were not. He tried not to laugh at Zeus’s disguise. ‘I’m Brad. And this little cutie is my wife, er . . .’

‘Bridget,’ purred Aphrodite, extending her lovely hand towards Boil’s sweaty paw, just giving him time to adjust the glasses that Zeus-Brad’s shaking had dislodged. ‘You must be Mr Boil. I’d know that handsome face anywhere from Elliot’s description.’

Aphrodite shot the youngsters a shifty wink as she walked towards them.

‘Now what have you two scamps been up to?’ she said, wagging a finger at Elliot and Virgo as she perched on the edge of the headmaster’s desk. ‘You know how seriously I take your education.’

‘Welcome to Brysmore School,’ said Graham. ‘I’m Mr Sopweed. But please, call me Graham. . .’

Call Me Graham came out from behind the desk to shake hands, allowing Boil to breeze past him and sit in his chair, leaving the headmaster looking rather lost in the middle of his own office.

‘So,’ murmured Call Me Graham as he took a seat on a footstool to one side,

4. Who do Zeus and Aphrodite disguise themselves as? R

‘I’m afraid the children have disrupted a school examination.’

‘And been insolent to a teacher! And it would take me all day to list your nephew’s crimes!’ roared Boil.

‘I’d happily spend all day with you, Mr Boil. All night too, if necessary,’ said Aphrodite breathily, leaning so far over the desk that Boil spat out the mouthful of the tea he’d just slurped.

‘Now, kids,’ said Zeus-Brad, manoeuvring his huge frame behind Mr Boil at the desk. ‘Sounds like you owe Mr Wart here an apology.’

‘It’s Boil,’ shouted Boil, tempering his volume when he considered the size of the man behind him. ‘And an apology won’t come close. What little I’ve seen of your daughter doesn’t impress me, but Elliot Hooper is a disgrace to the Brysmore name and must be expelled!’

‘Oh, come on now, Graham,’ boomed Zeus-Brad sternly, moving to the headmaster and bringing a hand the weight of a bowling bowl crashing down on his weedy shoulder. ‘I’m sure we can work this out. They’re just a couple of excited kids.’

‘I love the way your chins wobble,’ said Aphrodite to Boil, perching on the desk so that her lovely legs were right in front of Boil’s third chin. ‘And the way the spit glistens on your lips is just heavenly. But expelled – that’s so, so final. Is there any way I could persuade you to give our little Elly one more chance?’

5. How do we know that Boil is furious when Zeus gets his name wrong? **I**

‘Absolutely not,’ gasped Boil, not taking his eyes from Aphrodite’s long legs.
‘He’s had too many chances.’

‘Aw, you seem like a reasonable guy,’ said Zeus-Brad, squeezing his huge hand on Call Me Graham’s shoulder, releasing a pained whimper from the headmaster. ‘Let’s not be hasty.’

‘Please,’ implored Aphrodite, puffing her lips into an irresistible pout.

‘Well – I – the Brysmore rules state—’ spluttered Call Me Graham, earning him another painful squeeze from the hulk of a man behind him.

‘Pretty please,’ said Aphrodite, batting her luscious eyelashes.

‘I s-s-suppose Mr Boil here might have been a little harsh,’ he stammered, wiping the sweat from his brow with a frilly handkerchief.

‘Wh-WHAT?!’ shouted Boil. ‘No, headmaster, expulsion is the only possible consequence—’

‘I think you’ll find that Graham here has spoken,’ said Zeus-Brad, striding over to Mr Boil and towering over him. ‘Unless there’s anything you wanna add?’

‘No – no,’ whimpered a gibbering Boil. ‘But they are both suspended. I don’t want to see either of these children until the end-of-term exams next month. And if they get half a mark beneath eighty-five per cent, they’ll be out of this school.’

6. Why is a dash used in the speech, “Wh-WHAT?” spoken by Boil? **E**

7. Which word portrays Zeus as tall and strong in the office? **V**

8. Explain the differences between how Zeus tries to appease Mr Boil, and how Aphrodite tries to appease Mr Boil. **E**

Answers

1. He is a pushover
2. They would realise that there was something wrong with his mum
3. The Gods would pretend to be their parents
4. Brad and Brigit - Virgo's fake parents
5. He shouts at Zeus
6. He is surprised by what the headmaster has just said and is not happy about it. The dash is used to show the delay in the speech as he is thinking about what has just been said.
7. Towering
8. Aphrodite tries to win him over with compliments whereas Zeus is intimidating with his strong handshakes and shoulder squeezes

Friday - Chapters 22 & 23



Read chapter 22. Then, answer the questions and finish chapter 23.





23. Crowning Glory

The Tower of London rose majestically from the early-morning fog on the banks of the River Thames. Elliot, Virgo, Zeus and Pegasus popped back to the exact spot in the sky from which the wishing pearl had snatched Zeus, and flew down to where the other Olympians were hiding by the

Beauchamp Tower, one of the smaller towers that lined the main courtyard.

‘Where did you go?’ said an annoyed Aphrodite. ‘We had to climb over the wall! I nearly gave myself a hernia getting Fatso over . . .’

‘I’m all muscle,’ whispered Athene. ‘Why are the children here?’

‘We had a train to catch,’ said Zeus, winking at Elliot. ‘But look lively – Hypnos is on to us. What’s the score?’

‘The crown’s about to leave the Jewel House!’ whispered Hermes. ‘This is our last chance before it goes to Buckingham Palace! Not even joking.’

‘This is magnificent,’ said Virgo, looking around the historic grounds of the fortress. ‘What was it for?’

‘Chopping people’s heads off,’ said Elliot.

‘Urgh – mortals are barbaric,’ said Virgo. ‘Our punishments are civilized. Fines . . . imprisonment . . . your organs feasted upon by an immortal eagle . . .’

‘Shhhhhh!’ chided Athene.

They all peered out from their hiding place again. Three armoured trucks stood outside the Jewel House, surrounded by heavily armed soldiers.

‘How big is this crown?’ asked Virgo, looking at the three huge vehicles.

‘Only one will carry the crown,’ said Athene. ‘The other two are decoys. We need to swap the crown before it’s loaded into the truck.’

Nearby, four beefeaters were leaning on their pikes, enjoying a quiet cup of

1. Why was Aphrodite annoyed that Zeus had left? I

2. What does barbaric mean? V

3. Why does Virgo assume the crown is large? I

4. What are decoys? V

coffee: one very tall man, one very short man, one rather distinguished man and one rather scruffy lady.

‘Right – children – you go and find Hephaestus outside and wait for us there,’ ordered Athene, to an outcry from the youngsters. ‘No arguments! Places, everyone! Aphrodite, you create a distraction. Daddy, you and I will tackle the soldiers. Hermes, disguise yourself as a guard and swap the crowns.’

Elliot and Virgo reluctantly climbed aboard Pegasus and strapped the invisibility helmet on Elliot’s head, shimmering them out of sight. They were about to take off over the wall when a raven swooped down and landed on Athene’s shoulder.

‘But what about me?’ it whined. ‘I wanna play.’

They all whipped around as Hypnos dissembled back to himself.

‘It’s horribly early, isn’t it?’ said the Daemon of Sleep, raising his ivory trumpet to his lips and blowing a thick fog of black smoke towards the Gods. ‘Perhaps you’d like a little sleep?’

The Olympians scattered away from Hypnos’s blast, tumbling across the grass on Tower Green, hidden from the soldiers’ view by the White Tower.

‘Oh, please,’ whispered Aphrodite, getting back to her feet. ‘There’s only one of you. There are four of us. How hard do you like your butt kicked?’

‘Good point, cutie,’ laughed Hypnos. ‘Only fair that we even up the teams.’

5. Who seems to be in charge of the whole plan? How do you know? **I**

6. What is Hypnos disguised as initially? **R**

The Daemon aimed his trumpet towards the four beefeaters and blew another almighty cloud of black smoke their way. It wafted around their big navy-blue hats, splitting into four small cyclones that circled over their heads for a second before simultaneously sucking into their left ears. The strange sensation made them all instinctively put their hands to their head, but then, as one, they snapped to attention, drew their pikes and started marching slowly towards the Gods with their weapons aimed at their enemies.

‘Ex-e-cute,’ they droned together. ‘Ex-e-cute.’

‘Look – the crown!’ whispered Elliot to Virgo. ‘It’s coming out of the Jewel House!’

They both strained their necks to see the Imperial State Crown as a security guard carried it out on a red cushion. The purple velvet cap at the centre was encased by a frame of gold, platinum and silver. Every kind of gemstone covered the crown – rubies, emeralds, pearls and sapphires. And in the centre shone the most brilliant diamond.

‘There’s the Earth Stone!’ gasped Elliot.

Even in the morning mist, the diamond outsparkled its companion gems with a penetrating, otherworldly light.

‘Ex-e-cute,’ moaned the beefeaters as they marched on the Gods. ‘Ex-e-cute.’

‘What’s he done to them?’ asked Hermes.

7. Why did Hypnos take control of the Beefeaters? I

‘They’re sleepwalking,’ said Athene.

With the Gods rooted to the spot, Hypnos raised his trumpet to his lips to blast them again. Elliot dug his heels into Pegasus’s side and cantered towards Hypnos.

‘I’ll have that, thanks,’ he said and snatched the trumpet from Hypnos’s hands.

‘Wha—? Who’s there?’ hissed the Daemon of Sleep as his trumpet vanished into thin air. ‘Don’t play with me . . .’

‘Where’s the crown?’ said Elliot, making Hypnos spin around to find the direction of the unseen voice.

‘I can’t see,’ said Virgo. ‘We need to get closer.’

‘Is that you, child?’ grinned Hypnos. ‘So you wanna game of hide and seek? You’re it.’

Elliot put his fingers to his lips to silence Virgo as Hypnos put his hands in front of him to feel for the invisible thieves.

The beefeaters were now just metres away from the Gods.

‘Looks like it’s time for some fisticuffs,’ said Zeus, rolling up his sleeves. ‘Back in the day we enjoyed a good scrap.’

‘We have to be gentle with them,’ said Athene. ‘They don’t know what they’re doing.’

Elliot smiled as Hypnos walked straight past him. The Gods were going to nail this.

‘Forget fisticuffs,’ said Hermes, drawing his slender body into a low crouch with his hands raised. ‘I can handle this . . . beefeaters! Hold tight! I am the Karate King! I am a trained master in Sucks-To-Be-U! I’m a black belt – bosh!’

Hermes performed an elaborate series of martial-arts moves, kicking and lunging with a chorus of high-pitched cries.

‘H-iiii-ya!’ he yelled each time, kicking his right leg higher with each shout. ‘H-iiii-ya! H-iiii-ya!’

The beefeaters stopped and stared.

‘Scared now, aren’t you?’ shouted Hermes, drawing his leg back for even bigger kicks. ‘Well, then check this action out – H-iiii-ya! H-iiii-ya! H . . . AM-STRING! HAMSTRING! OW! OW! OW!’

Hermes yelped painfully across the grass, clutching his injured thigh.

Elliot gently urged Pegasus on to get a better view of the crown. But the moment the horse’s hooves hit the cobblestones, Hypnos flew over. They froze as he felt around, barely a metre from Pegasus’s head.

‘Here I come, ready or not . . .’ sang the Daemon.

Elliot looked to the Gods for help, but the beefeaters had their full attention.

‘Theney – we’ve got this,’ said Aphrodite, signalling to her sister as two of the

What gave away Elliot’s hiding place? **I**

Answers

1. She had to climb the wall herself rather than fly over it on Pegasus
2. Savagely cruel
3. There are three lorries that are waiting to be loaded and she thinks they may be for the crown
4. An imitation of an object used to fool somebody
5. Athene - she is giving everybody orders
6. A raven
7. He needed extra support so he didn't have to fight all the Gods by himself
8. The sound of Pegasus' hooves on the cobbles