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ILLUSTRATED
SYNOPSISSES



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Luigi Cherubini, *Medea*

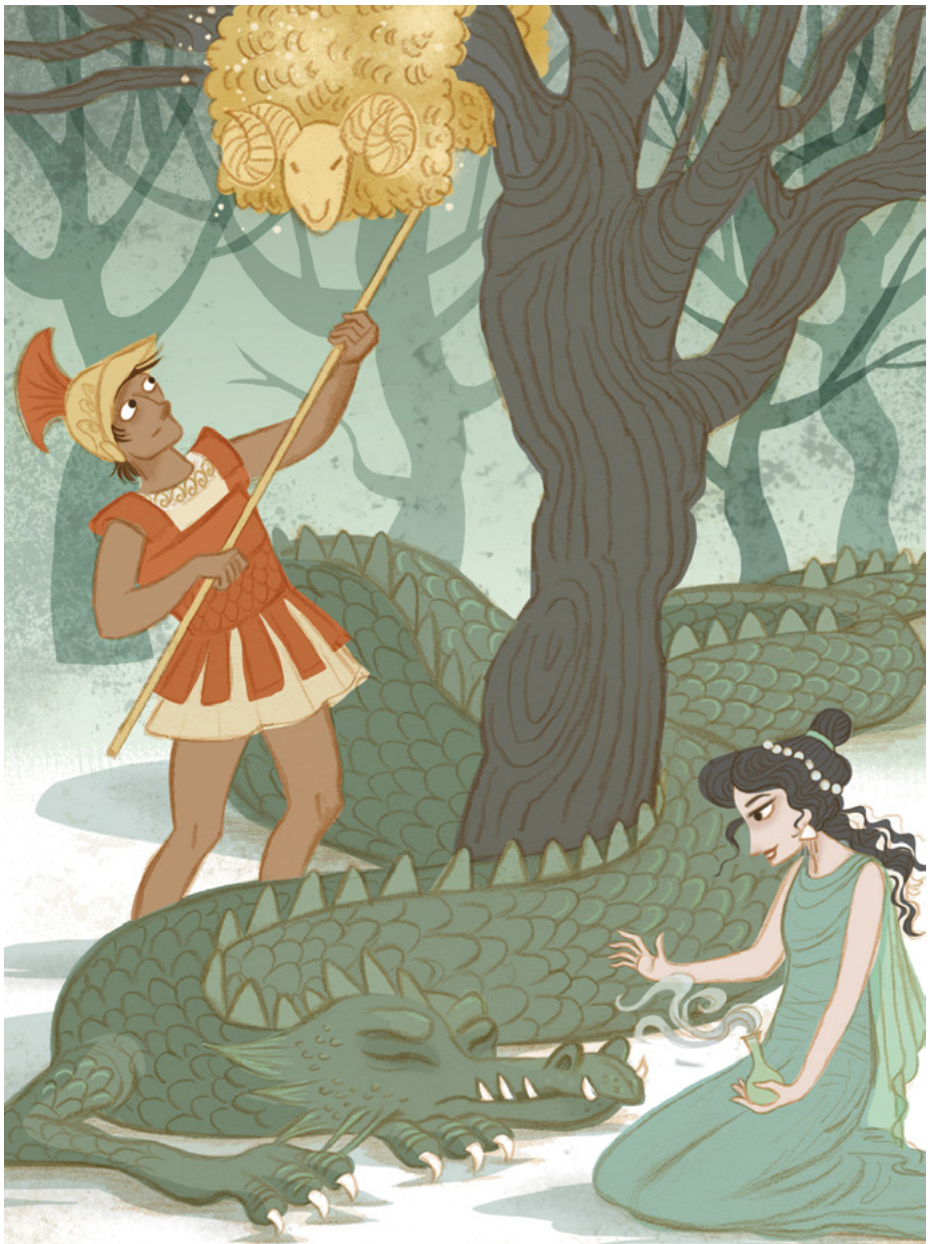
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Text by Kamala Schelling



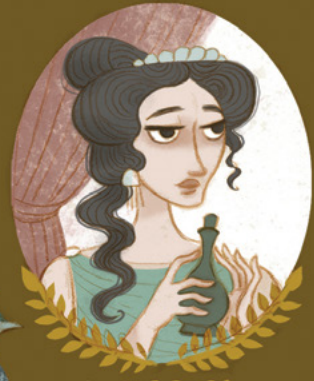


Jason and the Golden Fleece

A GREEK MYTH



JASON
a warrior hero



MEDEA
*a princess of Corinth
under enchantment*



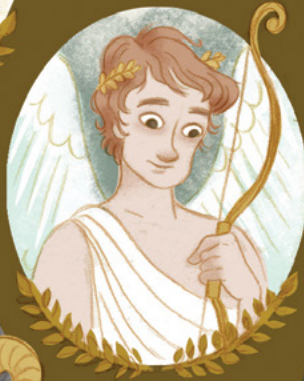
HERA
*the goddess of
family*



PELIAS
*Jason's uncle, current
king of Iolcus*



AESON
Jason's father



EROS
the god of love



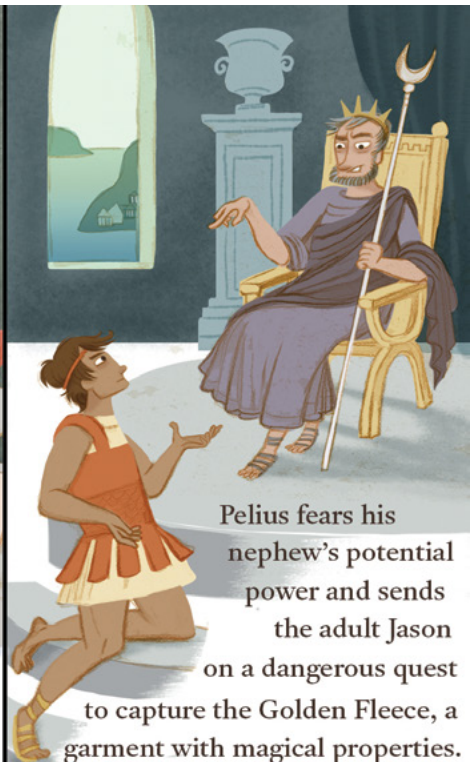
AËTES
Medea's father, king of Corinth



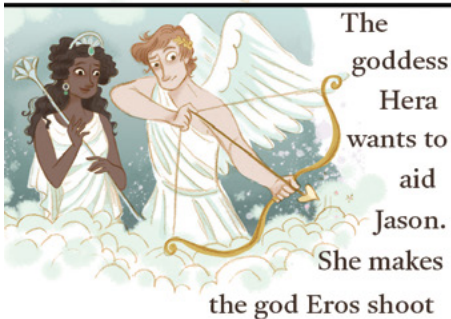
THE SLEEPLESS DRAGON
the beast guarding the fleece



When Jason was a baby, his uncle Pelias stole the throne of Iolcus from his father, Aeson.



Pelias fears his nephew's potential power and sends the adult Jason on a dangerous quest to capture the Golden Fleece, a garment with magical properties.



The goddess Hera wants to aid Jason. She makes the god Eros shoot

Medea, a princess of Corinth, with an arrow of passion for Jason.



Impelled by charmed love, Medea resolves to use her magic to help Jason in three challenges,

betraying her father, Aeëtes, who guards the fleece.



Jason tames fire-breathing oxen thanks to Medea's ointment which makes him impervious to flames.



Jason plants the seeds of a dragon and uses Medea's advice to distract the soldiers erupting from the earth.

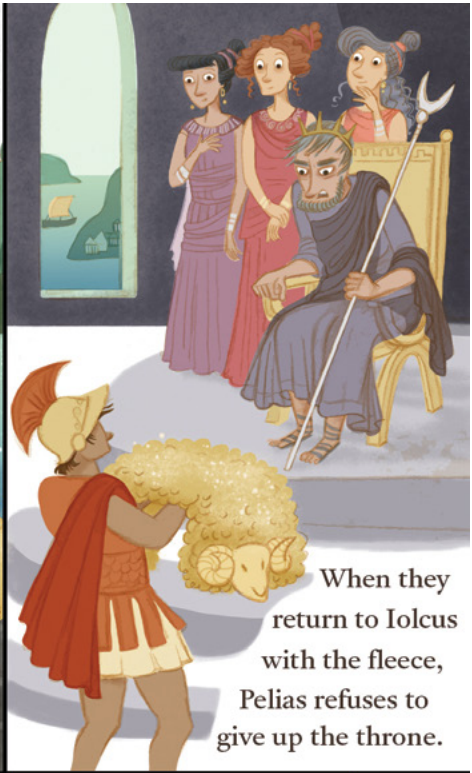


Before the final challenge, the grateful Jason swears an oath of fidelity and love to Medea.



Medea charms the sleepless dragon with a song and uses herbs to send it to sleep, allowing Jason to grasp the golden fleece.

Aeetes' soldiers chase the couple, but Medea and Jason get away by killing the leader, Medea's brother.



When they return to Iolcus with the fleece, Pelias refuses to give up the throne.

Medea tricks the king's daughters into slaying their own father and the couple are forced into hiding once more.



Jason and Medea sail onwards to a new home as husband and wife, with two children, but Jason begins to resent Medea and the destructive trail of her magic.





MEDEA

by Luigi Cherubini



JASON
a warrior hero



GLAUCE
Jason's betrothed



MEDEA
*Jason's ex-wife,
a sorceress*

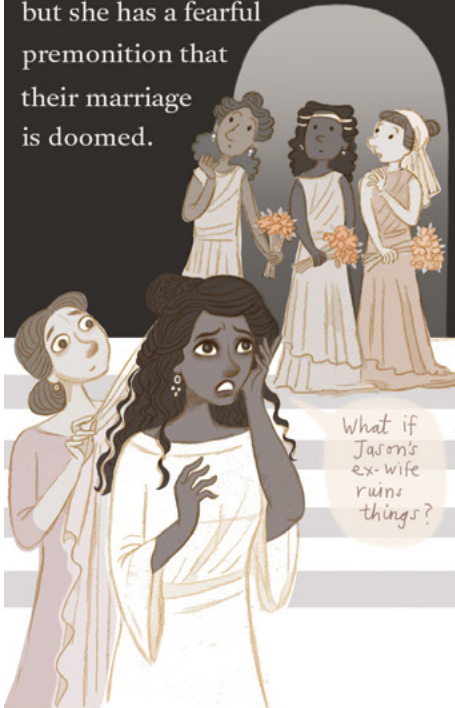


KING CREON
*ruler of Corinth,
Glauce's father*



NERIS
Medea's servant

It is Glauce's wedding day to Jason, but she has a fearful premonition that their marriage is doomed.



As the wedding celebrations begin, Jason reassures Glauce that he does love her, and not his ex-wife Medea.



The ceremony is disrupted by the appearance of Medea, the mother of Jason's two children. She is furious that he cast her aside.



Medea demands that Jason return to her, but she is rejected. She curses him.



King Creon demands that Medea leave Corinth because her presence is too destructive.



Medea appears to submit to her exile, comforted by her faithful servant, Neris.



She even prepares a wedding gift of a gown and crown for Glauce.

Later, Medea spends time with her two children, dreading that she must abandon them.

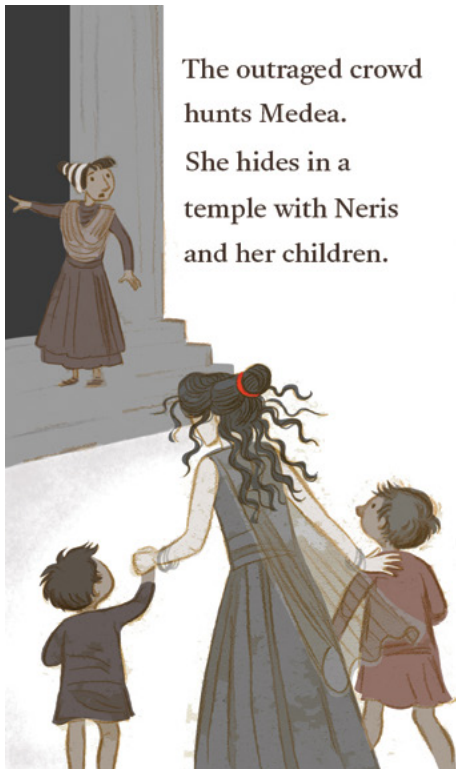


Suddenly, cries pierce the air:



Glauce has died because Medea's presents were soaked in poison.

The outraged crowd
hunts Medea.
She hides in a
temple with Neris
and her children.



When Jason and the crowd arrive
at the temple, Medea reveals that
instead of abandoning her sons,
she chose to slay them.



Jason collapses at the news of his
sons' deaths, as Medea delivers
a final curse on Corinth.



Medea, finally avenged, sets the
temple on fire and disappears
into thin air.

