

Nicolas Duffaut , H  l  ne Montardre

Little Stories from Mythology [Petites histoires de la mythologie] (Series)

France (2010)

TAGS: [Alcmene](#) [Amalthea](#) [Aphrodite](#) [Apollo](#) [Argonauts](#) [Cerberus](#) [Charon](#) [Chronos](#) [Cyclops / Cyclopes](#) [Demeter](#) [Eurydice](#) [Eurystheus](#) [Gaia / Gaea](#) [Golden Fleece](#) [Hades](#) [Hecatoncheires / Hundred-Handed](#) [Hera](#) [Hercules](#) [Hestia](#) [Maenads](#) [Nymphs](#) [Orpheus](#) [Persephone](#) [Poseidon](#) [Rhea](#) [Styx](#) [Titans](#) [Twelve Labours of Heracles](#) [Typhon / Typhoeus / Typhaon](#) [Zeus](#)



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Jeunesse - Nathan -
Syros - Pocket Jeunesse,
publisher.

Elżbieta Olechowska, "Entry on: Little Stories from Mythology [Petites histoires de la mythologie] (Series) by Nicolas Duffaut, H el ene Montardre ", peer-reviewed by Lisa Maurice. Our Mythical Childhood Survey (Warsaw: University of Warsaw, 2018). Link: <http://omc.obta.al.uw.edu.pl/myth-survey/item/50>. Entry version as of July 09, 2026.

General information	
<i>Title of the work</i>	Little Stories from Mythology [Petites histoires de la mythologie] (Series)
<i>Country of the First Edition</i>	France
<i>Country/countries of popularity</i>	France
<i>Original Language</i>	French
<i>First Edition Date</i>	2010



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<p>First Edition Details</p>	<p>H��l��ne Montardre, Nicolas Duffaut, ill. <i>Dans le ventre du cheval de Troie</i> [In the Belly of the Trojan Horse]. Paris: Nathan, 2010.</p> <p>H��l��ne Montardre, Nicolas Duffaut, ill. <i>Pers��e et la Gorgone</i> [Perseus and the Gorgon]. Paris: Nathan, 2010.</p> <p>H��l��ne Montardre, Nicolas Duffaut, ill. <i>Jason et la Toison d'or</i> [Jason and the Golden Fleece]. Paris: Nathan, 2011.</p> <p>H��l��ne Montardre, Nicolas Duffaut, ill. <i>Le labyrinthe de D��dale</i> [Daedalus' Labyrinth]. Paris: Nathan, 2011.</p> <p>H��l��ne Montardre, Nicolas Duffaut, ill. <i>Ulysse et le Cyclope</i> [Odysseus and the Cyclops]. Paris: Nathan, 2011.</p> <p>H��l��ne Montardre, Nicolas Duffaut, ill. Les douze travaux d'Hercule [The Twelve Labours of Hercules]. Paris: Nathan, 2011.</p> <p>H��l��ne Montardre, Nicolas Duffaut, ill. <i>L'enl��vement de Pers��phone</i> [The Abduction of Persephone]. Paris: Nathan, 2012.</p> <p>H��l��ne Montardre, Nicolas Duffaut, ill. <i>Prom��th��e, le voleur de feu</i> [Prometheus, the Thief of Fire]. Paris: Nathan, 2012.</p> <p>H��l��ne Montardre, Nicolas Duffaut, ill. <i>P��gase, l'indomptable</i> [Pegasus, the Untameable]. Paris: Nathan, 2012.</p> <p>H��l��ne Montardre, Nicolas Duffaut, ill. <i>Achille le guerrier</i> [Achilles the Warrior]. Paris: Nathan, 2012.</p> <p>H��l��ne Montardre, Nicolas Duffaut, ill. Orph��e aux Enfers [Orpheus in Hell], Paris: Nathan, 2013.</p> <p>H��l��ne Montardre, Nicolas Duffaut, ill. Zeus le roi des dieux [Zeus, King of the Gods], Paris: Nathan, 2013.</p> <p>H��l��ne Montardre, Nicolas Duffaut, ill. <i>H��pha��stos et l'amour d'Aphrodite</i> [Hephaistos and the Love of Aphrodite]. Paris: Nathan, 2013.</p> <p>H��l��ne Montardre, Nicolas Duffaut, ill. <i>Th��s��e contre le Minotaure</i> [Theseus Against the Minotaur]. Paris: Nathan, 2013.</p> <p>H��l��ne Montardre, Nicolas Duffaut, ill. <i>La mal��diction d'Oedipe</i> [Oedipus' Curse]. Paris: Nathan, 2013.</p> <p>H��l��ne Montardre, Nicolas Duffaut, ill. <i>La belle H��l��ne</i> [The Beautiful Helen]. Paris: Nathan, 2014.</p> <p>H��l��ne Montardre, Nicolas Duffaut, ill. <i>Apollon, le dieu dauphin</i> [Apollo, the Dolphin God]. Paris: Nathan, 2015.</p> <p>H��l��ne Montardre, Nicolas Duffaut, ill. Le combat de R��mus et Romulus [The Fight between Remus and Romulus]. Paris: Nathan, 2015.</p> <p>H��l��ne Montardre, Nicolas Duffaut, ill. <i>Les monstres de l'Odyss��e</i> [Monsters of the Odyssey]. Paris: Nathan, 2016.</p> <p>H��l��ne Montardre, Nicolas Duffaut, ill. <i>Herm��s le dieu aux mille dons</i> [Hermes, the God of a Thousand Gifts]. Paris: Nathan, 2017.</p> <p>H��l��ne Montardre, Nancy Pena, ill. <i>Ulysse et le Cyclope</i> [Odysseus and the Cyclops]. Paris: Nathan, 2019.</p> <p>H��l��ne Montardre, Nancy Pena, ill. <i>Les monstres de l'Odyss��e</i> [Monsters of the Odyssey]. Paris: Nathan, 2019.</p> <p>H��l��ne Montardre, Nancy Pena, ill. <i>Jason et la Toison d'or</i> [Jason and the Golden Fleece]. Paris: Nathan, 2019.</p> <p>H��l��ne Montardre, Nancy Pena, ill. <i>Achille le Guerrier</i> [Achilles the Warrior]. Paris: Nathan, 2020.</p> <p>H��l��ne Montardre, Nancy Pena, ill. <i>Herm��s, le dieu aux mille dons</i> [Hermes, the God of a Thousand Gifts]. Paris: Nathan, 2020.</p> <p>H��l��ne Montardre, Nancy Pena, ill. <i>Le combat de R��mus et Romulus</i> [The Fight between Remus and Romulus]. Paris: Nathan, 2020.</p> <p>H��l��ne Montardre, Nancy Pena, ill. <i>Le Labyrinthe de D��dale</i> [Daedalus' Labyrinth]. Paris: Nathan, 2020.</p> <p>H��l��ne Montardre, Nancy Pena, ill. <i>Pers��e et la Gorgone</i> [Perseus and the Gorgon]. Paris: Nathan, 2020.</p>
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<i>ISBN</i>	Multiple numbers, all starting with: 97820925.
<i>Genre</i>	Illustrated works, Myths, Retelling of myths*, Short stories
<i>Target Audience</i>	Children (9-years and up)
<i>Author of the Entry</i>	El�zbieta Olechowska, University of Warsaw, elzbieta.olechowska@gmail.com
<i>Peer-reviewer of the Entry</i>	Lisa Maurice, Bar-Ilan University, mauril68@gmail.com



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Creators



Nicolas Duffaut , b. 1977 (Illustrator)

Born in 1977 in Aubenas, in the Ard eche region, he studied illustration at the  mile Cohl School in Lyons where he received his diploma in 2002. Since, he has been working as illustrator for a number of publishers, namely Bayard, Magnard, Flammarion, Milan jeunesse, Nathan, Sarbacane et Tourbillon. He also works for YA press. Among his illustrations connected to Antiquity are Homer's *Illiad and Odyssey*:

Courtesy of Univers
Jeunesse - Nathan -
Syros - Pocket Jeunesse.

L'Odys ee d'Homer, illustr e par Nicolas Duffaut. Paris: Nathan, 2009

L'Illiade d'Homer illustr e par Nicolas Duffaut, *Folio Junior*. Paris: Galimard Jeunesse, 2014.

Sources:

[Profile](#) at the editions-sarbacane.com (accessed: June 3, 2018);

[Profile](#) at the babelio.com (accessed: June 3, 2018);

[Blog](#) (accessed: June 3, 2018).

[Interview](#) on YouTube. Uploaded by Librairie Grangier, Illustrateur talentueux, Nicolas Duffaut nous parle de lui et de son travail (accessed: June 3, 2018).

Bio prepared by Elżbieta Olechowska, University of Warsaw,
elzbieta.olechowska@gmail.com

H el ene Montardre , b. 1954





Portrait, courtesy of Univers Jeunesse-Nathan-Syros-Pocket Jeunesse.

(Author)

Born in 1954 in Montreuil, in a family with origins in the Forez Mountains. Because of her father's occupation (the writer Georges Montforez, 1921-1974), during her childhood and adolescence she frequently moved and lived in many different places: Saint- tienne, Marvejols, Nantes, Loudun, Issoire. She studied English at the University of Clermont-Ferrand, where she obtained her PhD (*L'image des personnages f eminins dans la litt rature de jeunesse fran aise contemporaine de 1975   1995*. Lille: Presses universitaires du Septentrion) in 1999. For the last forty years or so, she has lived with her family in the Haute-Garonne, Occitanie. During the last decade, she wrote a number of books based on a variety of Greek myths, with illustrations by Nicholas Duffaut; the books appeared in two series published by Nathan and called: *Petites histoires de la mythologie* and *Contes et l gendes jeunesse*.

She has written over fifty books, mainly for children and received many literary awards:

- 1995 2nd prize for roman jeunesse du Minist re de la Jeunesse et des Sports;
- 1998 Price Livrami of the city of Pithiviers;
- 2003-2004 Price Tatoulu ;
- 2004 Price Livre, mon ami, New Caledonia;
- 2007 Price of the City of Cherbourg-Octeville, XVIIIe Livre d'Or des Jeunes Lecteurs Valenciennois, Price Ruralivres en Pas-de-Calais, Price Latulu des coll giens du Maine-et-Loire;
- 2007 and 2008 Price of Readers' Spring, Narbonne, 2007-2008 Literary price of the Montagnes d'Auvergne;
- 2008 Price Jasmin, Agen, Price Tr gor ados, Price Livrent te Culture et Biblioth ques Pour Tous, category Junior Novel.

Chronological bibliography of H el ene Montardre's books related to classical antiquity

Non-fiction

- H el ene Montardre. *L'Empire romain, Les Essentiels Junior*. Toulouse: Milan, 2004.
- H el ene Montardre. *La Gr ce ancienne, Les Encyclopes*.

Toulouse: Milan, 2004.

- Hélène Montardre. *La mythologie grecque, Les Encyclopes*. Toulouse: Milan, 2008.

Series *Petites histoires de la mythologie*

- Hélène Montardre, Nicolas Duffaut, ill. *Dans le ventre du cheval de Troie*. Paris: Nathan, 2010.
- Hélène Montardre, Nicolas Duffaut, ill. *Orphée aux Enfers*, Paris: Nathan, 2013.
- Hélène Montardre, Nicolas Duffaut, ill. *Les douze travaux d'Hercule*. Paris: Nathan, 2011.
- Hélène Montardre, Nicolas Duffaut, ill. *Zeus le roi des dieux*. Paris: Nathan, 2013.
- Hélène Montardre, Nicolas Duffaut, ill. *Héphaïstos et l'amour d'Aphrodite*. Paris: Nathan, 2013.
- Hélène Montardre, Nicolas Duffaut, ill. *Thésée contre le Minotaure*. Paris :Nathan, 2013.

Series *Contes et légendes jeunesse*

- Hélène Montardre, Nicolas Duffaut, ill. *Persée et la Gorgone*. Paris: Nathan, 2010.
- Hélène Montardre, Nicolas Duffaut, ill. *Jason et la Toison d'or*. Paris: Nathan, 2011.
- Hélène Montardre, Nicolas Duffaut, ill. *Le labyrinthe de Dédale*. Paris: Nathan, 2011.
- Hélène Montardre, Nicolas Duffaut, ill. *Ulysse et le Cyclope*. Paris: Nathan, 2011.
- Hélène Montardre, Nicolas Duffaut, ill. *L'enlèvement de Perséphone*. Paris: Nathan, 2012.
- Hélène Montardre, Nicolas Duffaut, ill. *Achille le guerrier*. Paris: Nathan, 2012.
- Hélène Montardre, Nicolas Duffaut, ill. *Pégase, l'indomptable*. Paris: Nathan, 2012.
- Hélène Montardre, Nicolas Duffaut, ill. *Prométhée, le voleur de feu*. Paris: Nathan, 2012.
- Hélène Montardre, Nicolas Duffaut, ill. *Apollon, le dieu dauphin*. Paris: Nathan, 2015.
- Hélène Montardre, Nicolas Duffaut, ill. *Les monstres de l'Odyssée*. Paris: Nathan, 2016.
- Hélène Montardre, Nicolas Duffaut, ill. *Hermès Le dieu aux mille dons*. Paris: Nathan, 2017.



Source:

[Website](#) of the Maison des  crivains et de la litt rature (accessed: June 26, 2018).

Bio prepared by El bieta Olechowska, University of Warsaw,
elzbieta.olechowska@gmail.com



Additional information

Summary

Five of the volumes of the series tell stories connected to Homer's *Iliad* and *Odyssey*: *The Beautiful Helen*, *Achilles the Warrior*, *In the Belly of the Trojan Horse*, *Odysseus and the Cyclops*, *The Monsters of the Odyssey*; five describe Olympian gods: [Zeus, King of the Gods](#), *The Abduction of Persephone*, *Hephaistos and the Love of Aphrodite*, *Apollo, the Dolphin God**, and *Hermes, the God of a Thousand Gifts*; eight volumes feature demi-gods, heroes and their stories: *Prometheus, the Thief of Fire*, *Perseus and the Gorgon*, [Twelve Labours of Heracles](#), *Theseus and the Minotaur*, *Jason and the Golden Fleece*, *Daedalus' Labyrinth*, [Orpheus in Hell](#), *Oedipus' Curse*; one volume focuses on a magical animal (*Pegasus, the Untameable*), and one on the Roman myth of the twin brothers and founders of Rome ([The Fight between Remus and Romulus](#)). At the end of each volume, a "Pour en savoir plus" section provides basic information about the presented myth's characters and sources.

* There is a play on words in the title *Apollon, le dieu dauphin*. Dolphins are Apollo's animals but he is also "le dauphin", the son of the King.

Analysis

Adaptations of well-known myths for primary school children (the publisher indicates the age of 9+ as the target) are presented as stand-alone, fascinating stories; pleasant reading for that age group. Expressive illustrations, even though they are only in black and white. The three selected stories are typical for this kind of children's series. There are practically no deviations from the canonical versions of the myths. Still, the manner, style, and language of the gentle narration align with the simple poetics of stories for young children and their specific educational purpose.

A didactic-cognitive aspect is present in the stories themselves and the final more encyclopedic section included in each book. A good balance maintained between the interesting, adventurous narrative and general mythological information. The series covers the best-known myths and individual volumes constituting a cohesive and representative collection of myths for young school children, who



acquire a basic knowledge of Greek mythology by reading it. Only a single volume is dedicated to the beginnings of Rome and the myth of Romulus and Remus.

The vocabulary and style of writing represent modern usage; the characters speak in unpretentious 21st century French.

From the point of view of literary content, the series finished in 2017. All volumes published from 2010 to 2017 were illustrated by Nicolas Duffaut, however, starting in 2019, the previously published eight volumes have been reissued as new editions with illustrations by Nancy Pena. It is unclear yet whether the remaining twelve are also going to be republished with new illustrations. The books are also available on Kindle.

Classical, Mythological,
Traditional Motifs,
Characters, and
Concepts

[Alcmene](#) [Amalthea](#) [Aphrodite](#) [Apollo](#) [Argonauts](#) [Cerberus](#) [Charon](#)
[Chronos](#) [Cyclops / Cyclopes](#) [Demeter](#) [Eurydice](#) [Eurystheus](#) [Gaia / Gaea](#)
[Golden Fleece](#) [Hades](#) [Hecatoncheires / Hundred-Handed](#) [Hera](#)
[Hercules](#) [Hestia](#) [Maenads](#) [Nymphs](#) [Orpheus](#) [Persephone](#) [Poseidon](#)
[Rhea](#) [Styx](#) [Titans](#) [Twelve Labours of Heracles](#) [Typhon / Typhoeus /](#)
[Typhaon](#) [Zeus](#)

Other Motifs, Figures,
and Concepts Relevant
for Children and Youth
Culture

[Adventure](#) [Character traits](#) [Child, children](#) [Family](#) [Heroism](#) [Love](#)
[Morality](#) [Prediction/prophecy](#) [Relationships](#) [Siblings](#) [Violence](#) [War](#)

Further Reading

Montardre, H el ene, [Fiche d'auteur, Maison des  crivains et de la litt erature](#) (accessed: October 26, 2020).

Ni eres-Chevrel, Isabelle, *Introduction   la litt erature de jeunesse*, Paris: Didier Jeunesse, 2009.

Prince, Nathalie & Servoise, Sylvie, *Les personnages mythique dans la litt erature de jeunesse*, Rennes: Presses universitaires de Rennes, 2015.

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