

经典文学简易读物丛书

# 赫拉克勒斯奇遇记

THE AMAZING ADVENTURES OF  
HERCULES



商務印書館  
THE COMMERCIAL PRESS

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赫拉克勒斯奇遇记

Claudia Zeff 改写

〔英〕 Gill Harvey 改编

〔英〕 Stephen Cartwright 插图

高剑妩 译



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The Commercial Press

2008 年 · 北京

图书在版编目(CIP)数据

赫拉克勒斯奇遇记 / 泽夫(Zeff, C.)改写; [英] 哈维  
(Harvey, G.)改编; 高剑妩译. —北京: 商务印书馆, 2008  
(经典文学简易读物丛书)  
ISBN 7-100-04867-2

I. 赫… II. ① 泽… ② 哈… ③ 高… III. ① 英语—汉语—对  
照读物 ② 神话—作品集—古希腊 IV. H319.4: I

中国版本图书馆 CIP 数据核字(2006)第 025000 号

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商务印书馆出版

(北京王府井大街 36 号 邮政编码 100710)

商务印书馆发行

北京中科印刷有限公司印刷

ISBN 7-100-04867-2/I·102

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2008 年 2 月第 1 版

开本 850×1168 1/32

2008 年 2 月北京第 1 次印刷 印张 3 1/4

印数 5 000 册

定价: 8.50 元



THE AMAZING ADVENTURES OF HERCULES (Young Reading series)

Copyright ©2003,1982 by Usborne Publishing Ltd.

English-Simplified Chinese bilingual language ©2008 by The Commercial Press Published by arrangement with Usborne Publishing Ltd. through Bardon-Chinese Media Agency.

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## 出版前言

“经典文学简易读物丛书”是商务印书馆专门为我国中小學生精心挑选并组织翻译的一套优秀英汉对照简易读物，共10本。有驰名中外的英美经典文学著作，也有家喻户晓的希腊、罗马神话和寓意深刻的寓言和传说。每本均由英国专家简写而成，英语地道，通俗易懂；插图精美，妙趣横生；译文准确，语言流畅。

本套丛书适合中小學生阅读。相信他们一定会被大师们塑造的文学人物所吸引，被引人入胜的故事情节所感动，在世界文学的殿堂里得到熏陶，并在不知不觉的阅读过程中既提高了英语语感，也培养了浓厚兴趣。

**商务印书馆编辑部**

2008年1月

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## Chapter 1

# The jealous goddess

- 1 Long ago, the great god Zeus had a baby son called Hercules with a human. All the other gods loved him, or nearly all...



- 2 The goddess Hera was jealous of Hercules from the start.

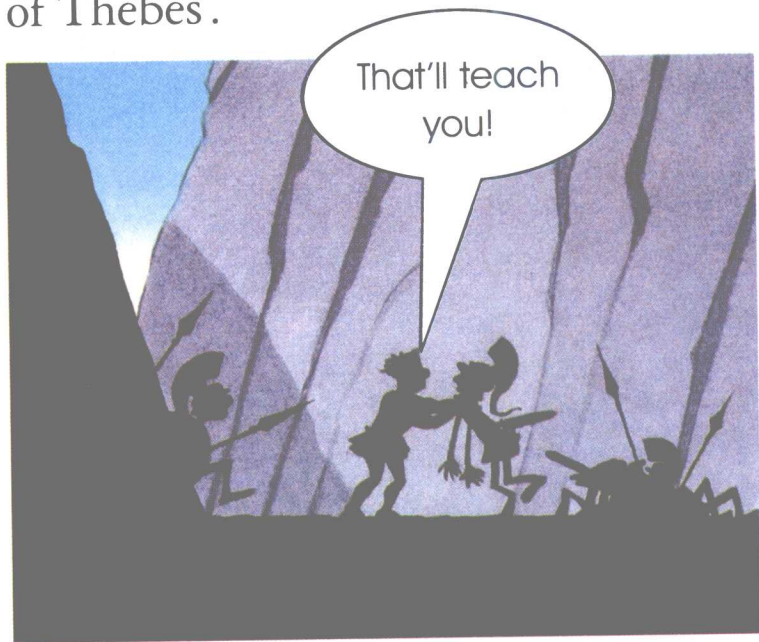
3 “I’ll soon get rid of him,” thought Hera. She sent some **poisonous** snakes **slithering** into his cradle.



4 But Hercules was already so strong, he strangled the snakes easily. Hera was furious.



5 As he grew up, Hercules got stronger and stronger. One day, he heard that a wicked lord was stealing cows from the King of Thebes.



6 Hercules challenged the lord to a battle. Then he waited on a narrow path and, all on his own, killed the lord's soldiers, one by one.

- 7 The King of Thebes was delighted.  
“Thank you!” he cried. “You may  
marry my daughter Megera as  
a reward.”



- 8 Hercules and Megera were  
very happy and had three fine  
sons. Hercules loved teaching  
them everything he knew.

9 But Hera  
grew more and  
more jealous.

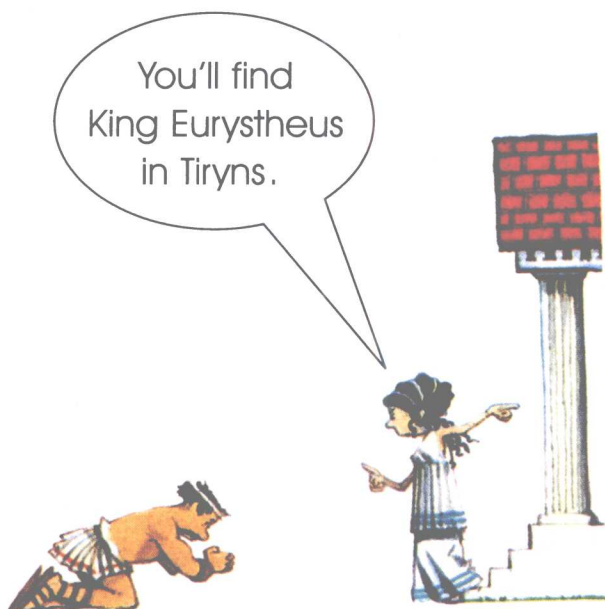
I'll put  
an evil spell  
on him!



10 Under her spell, Hercules  
suddenly went crazy and killed  
his **beloved** sons. Then he felt  
terrible. "What  
have I done?"  
he cried.



11 He rushed to a temple to beg for **forgiveness**. A priestess listened to his prayer. "You must see King Eurystheus," she said.



12 "The king will give you twelve tasks," she said. "If you do them all, the gods will forgive you."



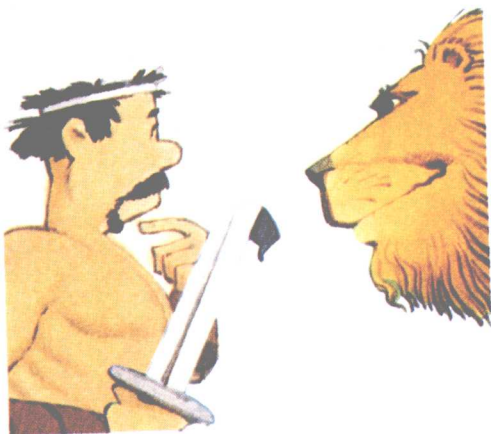
## Chapter 2

# The tasks begin

- 1 Hercules went to find the king.  
“What are my tasks?” he asked.  
“There’s a huge lion **prowling**  
**around**,” said the king.



2 Hercules hunted the lion for a whole month. Finally, he spotted it lurking near a cave. He jumped out and stabbed it with his sword...



3 ... but the lion's skin was too tough. So he hit it over the head with a club.

4 The lion was stunned, but it was still alive.

5 Hercules crept after the monstrous beast and followed it into a cave. Suddenly, the lion sprang on top of him.

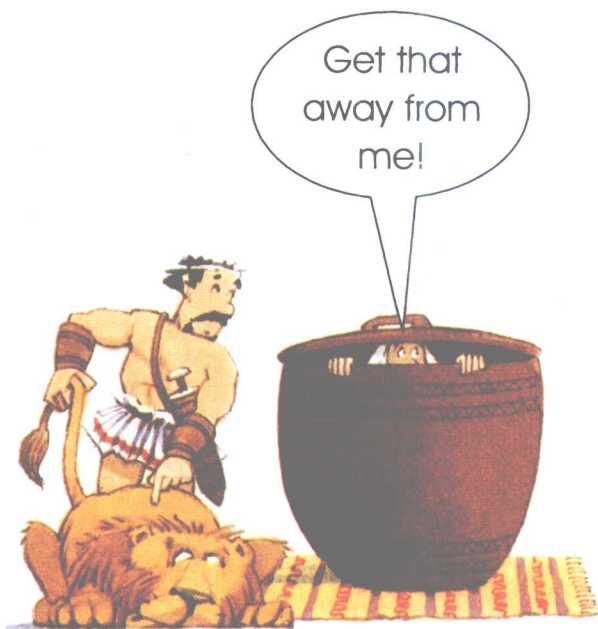


6 They rolled around fighting for hours. In the end, Hercules grasped it by the throat, and strangled it.



7 The king was terrified when he saw the lion.

8 “Don’t worry,” said Hercules.  
“It’s dead!”

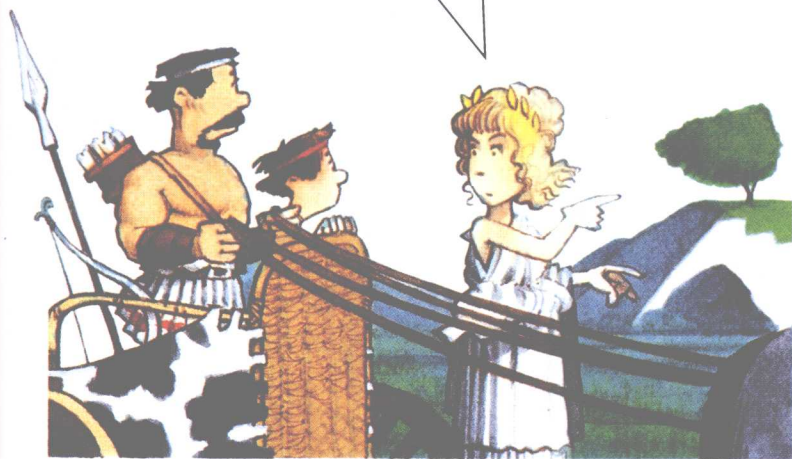


9 But the king was so scared, he jumped into a big brass pot. “Go and kill the Hydra!” he shouted. “That’s your next task!”



10 The Hydra was a horrible nine-headed monster that lived in a gloomy marsh. Hercules took his nephew for company. As they set out, the goddess Athene appeared.

You must shoot flaming arrows to make the Hydra come out.



11 “One sniff of its poison will kill you, so hold your breath,” she said.