



# **A Tangled Web: A Fantasy Retelling of a Greek Mythology Romance**

*Mercedes Lackey*

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Coming soon! A Tangled Web by Mercedes Lackey will be available Sep 11, 2017.

## A Tangled Web: A Fantasy Retelling of a Greek Mythology Romance Details

Date : Published September 1st 2017 by Harlequin Special Releases (first published January 1st 2012)

ISBN :

Author : Mercedes Lackey

Format : Kindle Edition 106 pages

Genre : Fantasy, Romance, Fairy Tales, Mythology, Fiction

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## From Reader Review A Tangled Web: A Fantasy Retelling of a Greek Mythology Romance for online ebook

### Michelle Owens-Koeppen says

Normally I love a Mercedes Lackey novel, but I think she may have grown tired of this particular series. The story was super short, terribly predictable, and not much of a departure from the Hades/Persephone/Demeter mythology. Rather disappointing coming on the heels of the third in the Hunter series (which was a very enjoyable read).

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### Scratch says

Typically, my complaint about Mercedes Lackey's more recent novels is that they are too simple and trite, following a preset pattern with minimal creativity.

Strangely, this little novella had the potential to be way MORE engaging than a lot of her recent works, but she chose to forego suspense and complications in the interest of brevity.

We start out with Leo and Brunhilde happily exploring their world's equivalent of Ancient Greece, enjoying married life, with the one caveat being that Leo is mortal. We are also introduced to Persephone and Hades and their tale as old as time. Due to a case of mistaken identity on the part of Thanatos, the Greek chooser of the slain, Leo and Brunhilde got swept up into Persephone and Hades' classic myth. That is the eponymous "Tangled Web."

I was thrilled when the story went from the classic myth of Persephone to the lesser-known tangent about Demeter becoming nursemaid to a mortal baby boy. However, after that storyline was introduced, the author summarized the entire conflict in about a page and a half, without giving the details about why Demeter was unsuccessful in turning that mortal baby immortal. The author just... skipped it. Some people might argue that would be a tangent too far for a story that is supposed to be principally about Leopold and Brunhilde (introduced in the earlier 500 Kingdoms novel, *Sleeping Beauty*), and secondly about Persephone and Hades. However, I would have INFINITELY preferred to have read about Demeter's adventures in babysitting.

Overall I enjoyed this little novella, but I am upset about the missed opportunities. Mercedes Lackey, you already published at least one novel every month or two. You write so much anyway, why not just dedicate a little more time on this story and give us something more substantial? A true novel, complete with Demeter's Adventures in Babysitting?

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### Lyndi W. says

I only read "Harvest Moon/A Tangled Web" by Mercedes Lackey. This story features the supporting characters Leo and Bru from the previous book along with Persephone and Hades. Always more than one romance happening in Lackey's books.

I think I prefer her full length novels because she tends to go on these infodump rants and have her characters mull over *every* single possibility, even though none of it is in any way relevant. And she simply

doesn't have time to do that *and* keep a story flowing in a short story. It was interesting to see how The Tradition worked on the Gods of Olympus, but the author failed to take advantage of her own (very interesting) mythos by wasting page time on how many god damn different fields there are in the Underworld (a lot, apparently) and not showing us why the gods behave the way they do.

With the jumping around between 3 different relationships, none of them are very fleshed out. You're told that these people love each other and why, but you don't *see* it because they're literally together for like 4 pages each. Things just are in this story, there is no character development really.

It's quite a ridiculous way to write, but it seems to be this author's way of doing things. It works in her full length novels because there is plenty of time for the over abundance of pointless information and things are just so crazy that you'll go with it anyway. Here in a shorter story, it just does not work. Not for me, anyway.

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### **Susan says**

Interesting take on the Persephone story. She goes willingly with Hades to his realm, because she loves him and is fed up with being treated like a child by her mother. In the meantime, the idiot Hades sent to bring her abducts the wrong blonde - he gets Brunnhilde instead. Bru's husband Leo goes to the gods to see about getting her back, while Persephone's mother Demeter is so grieved that she leaves Olympia, causing disaster among living things - plants, trees, etc. - that she is supposed to care for. The gods decree that both Leo and Persephone must undertake "impossible tasks" in order to achieve their wishes. This is a quick-read novella, but a nice addition to the Five Hundred Kingdoms collection.

Note: The story of how Leo and Brunnhilde met is told in The Sleeping Beauty. You don't have to have read that to enjoy this novella, but it does provide some background that explains a few things mentioned in this story.

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### **Anne says**

This was a great short from the **Five Hundred Kingdoms** series.

In fact, I wish this one had been a full length novel, because I thought some of the characters had more depth than usual.

It's the Persephone/Hades story, but (naturally) with a twist. Also, some of the minor characters from another book show up as main characters here.

If you haven't read any of the stories from this series yet, this wouldn't be a bad choice to start with. If you are already a fan of Lackey's books, then you will probably love this one.

### **Recommended**

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### **Erzsabet says**

Not bad, a bit short, but interesting twist on the classic tale, as Lackey often does.

## **RumBelle says**

This novella picked up after "The Sleeping Beauty" ended, and continued Leopold's adventures. It was a take on the Persephone myth, with some wild, and humorous, twists, turns and tangles. A highly entertaining, rollicking adventure. Just the right length, it had great pace.

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## **Linda says**

Good young adult novel - one of the latest in the 500 Kingdoms series. In this one Hades is kidnapping Persephone as per the legend. However, Persephone is more than happy to go with him as he as wooed her before hand and she has fallen in love - and also cannot wait to get out from under Demeter's constant supervision.

Through in another young blond immortal female who just happens to be in a nearby meadow and Hades rather inept assistant and the wrong female gets kidnapped. This leaves several people scrambling to make things work out right before Tradition and Demeter destroy Olympus. An enjoyable and quick read.

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## **Kelsey says**

Quick, easy, fun, and a great retelling with a different twist.

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## **Kristin says**

I love this world! It is fascinating how she's crafted this idea of The Tradition. You'll definitely need to pull out your Greek mythology reference guide if you want to understand all the back story behind each character.

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## **Robin Lynne Rogers says**

kinda short and predictable, but still worth reading. hope the next one is more like the previous ones in this set!

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## **Kathy Davie says**

A short story, 5.5 in the Five Kingdoms fantasy series, revolving around two couples: Hades and Persephone and Leopold and Brunnhilde.

This is also found in the anthology, *Harvest Moon* .

### My Take

This is too much fun and combines the myth of Demeter, Persephone, and Hades to explain the seasons with Brunnhilde and Leopold into Lackey's fairytale of Tradition. And we discover that the gods had meant to be like the Godmothers we've read in other Five Hundred Kingdoms' tales.

I did enjoy the debate that Brunnhilde and Leopold are having about gods. It's a different twist on the origins of the Titans and gods and makes as much sense as any other. More sense in some ways. It also neatly ties in with the concept of Tradition that runs through this series.

Aw, Persephone is such a compassionate woman in her pity for the penniless dead. She'll make a good consort for the sober and understanding Hades.

### The Story

Her mother has tangled up all her plans. Today was the day Hades was "kidnapping" her. Oh, would she never get away from her mother!

Meanwhile Brunnhilde is anxious to find a way to make her mortal husband immortal, and these Greek gods seem to have a few ways to do that.

### The Characters

**Persephone** (her childhood nickname is Kore) is the daughter of **Demeter**, the goddess of fertility and marriage vows who also knows how to give immortality.

**Hades**, the god of the dead, is pretending to be **Eubeleus**, a simple shepherd. **Thanatos** is the not-too-bright god of death who collects the dead. **Charon** ferries the dead over the River Acheron. **Minos** is one of three judges of the dead. **Rhadamanthus**, the son of a Titan, is the ruler of Elysium.

**Leopold**, the People's Prince, and **Brunnhilde**, a Valkyria and battle-goddess, are man and wife, arguing over whether it's best to be a Godmother or a god. **Erda** is her mother; **Wotan/Odin** is her father. **Siegfried** is her nephew (a **Firebird** is his constant companion) who has just married **Rosa**, the Queen of Eltaria. **Drachen** is Leo's horse, one of a pair of Valkyria mounts given the bridal pair by Brunnhilde's sisters. **Gina** is a Dragon Champion. **Fricka** is Wotan's wife.

*The Greek gods are...*

...half-fae, half-human whom humans believed into their roles. **Zeus** is the king of the gods. **Hecate**, a goddess of justice, is one of the Titans who took their side. **Helios** is the sun god. **Hermes** is a prankster and god of merchants. **Apollo**; **Aphrodite** falls genuinely in love, often; **Athena**; **Poseidon** is the god of the sea and Persephone's father; **Ares**; **Bacchus** is the god of wine; **Artemis** and **Pan** are in charge of wild animals; **Crius** is in charge of domestic animals; **Hera** is Zeus' wife and truly loves him; and, **Hephaestus** is married to Aphrodite and adores her even as he hates her little affairs.

**Kronos**, the king of the Titans, and his fellow Titans are in **Tartarus**.

**Celeus** is **Callithoe**'s father and **Meitaneira** her mother with a new babe, **Demophoon**. The other three girls at the spring are **Callidice**, **Cleisidice**, and **Demo**.

**Godmothers Elena** and **Lily** are mentioned.

### The Cover and Title

The cover is the beautiful, blonde Persephone with pearls twisted in her dangling curls, a white gown and

diamonds around her neck standing within a cave in the Underworld as she looks back to an opening from which moonlight pours.

The title is a combination of metaphor and situation, for Demeter's daughter weaves "A Tangled Web" of anger with her overprotective mother into a complicated kidnapping plot.

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### **Andi says**

Mercedes Lackey has lost her mind. I'm so sad. On the other hand, she's written about sixty amazing books so I think she gets a pass for life on the whole writing career thing and earns another star just for being one of my favorite writers of all time.

This story is beyond terrible.

First off, she brings in (boring) characters that are clearly from another book and then uses her exposition time to basically clumsily retell their story. If I cared about their book, I would've read it.

Second, absolutely nothing about the characters is new or compelling. It's a retelling of the Persephone story with basically no twist on it. Just dull.

Reread the Last Herald Mage or Brightly Burning. There is more heart in two pages of Vanyel or Lan's story in the entirety of this tedious book.

I still love Lackey. Forever.

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### **Katie says**

I just forever want good Persephone/Hades stories! But this wasn't it. I think the primary problem is that this doesn't stand on its own. The world is under-explained. Plus, it's only half-Persephone and Hades' story and half another couple's. Originally, I figured the other couple had got a whole book of their own and this was an epilogue of sorts, but it looks like they're actually side characters from another book. And I also just wasn't into the writing.

Like, maybe it's my "fault" for reading a novella from late in a series, but I feel like it should've at least made me more interested in going back and seeing what I missed.

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### **judith driggs says**

#### **Good read**

I enjoyed it, it was definitely entertaining, although I felt that her other 500 kingdoms books were better and more humorous.

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