



The Shadow Thieves (The Cronus Chronicles)

By Anne Ursu

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The Shadow Thieves (The Cronus Chronicles) By Anne Ursu

Something extraordinary is about to happen to Charlotte Mielswetzki.

It's not the very cute kitten that appears out of nowhere. It's not the arrival of her cousin Zee, who believes he's the cause of a mysterious sickness that has struck his friends back in England. And it's not the white-faced, yellow-eyed men in tuxedos who follow Charlotte everywhere. What's so extraordinary is not any one of these things. It's *all* of them.

When Charlotte's friends start to get sick, Charlotte and Zee set out to find a cure. Their quest leads them to a not-so-mythical Underworld, where they face Harpies that love to rhyme, gods with personnel problems, and ghosts with a thirst for blood.

Charlotte and Zee learn that in a world overrun by Nightmares, Pain, and Death, the really dangerous character is a guy named Phil. And then they discover that the fate of every person -- living *and* dead -- is in their hands.

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The Shadow Thieves (The Cronus Chronicles) By Anne Ursu Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #425121 in Books
- Brand: Atheneum Books for Young Readers
- Published on: 2007-04-24
- Released on: 2007-04-24
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 7.63" h x 1.20" w x 5.13" l, .63 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 432 pages

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Grade 7-9-With a wit and cynicism that will enchant most readers, Ursu weaves an extraordinary tale filled with Greek gods, sick and shadowless children, and a plot to overthrow the Lord of the Dead. Charlotte Mielswetzki is in such a bad mood that she doesn't notice a freakish man in a tuxedo following her home from school. But something extraordinary is about to happen. Charlotte's cousin Zee lives in England, where all of his friends are becoming mysteriously and seriously ill. Sent to Charlotte's family in America, he discovers that the same thing is happening to his new friends. It turns out that Philonecron, born in the Underworld, is determined to overthrow Hades and builds an army from children's stolen shadows, getting at them through Zee. The quick-paced novel takes readers on a danger-filled journey from the Midwest to Hades, where Charlotte and Zee make their final stand against the evil threatening to destroy the world of the dead. *The Shadow Thieves* is a great addition to this newly popular Greek-myth genre. Readers of Rick Riordan's Percy Jackson and the Olympians series (Hyperion) and Jane Yolen's Young Heroes series (HarperCollins) will delight in this new helping of myth-based fiction.-*Lisa Marie Williams, Fairfax County Public Library System, Reston, VA*

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From [Booklist](#)

Gr. 5-8. Forget heaven and hell, the Greek underworld isn't a myth! When it's time to leave the corporeal world, everyone makes the journey to Hades' realm, where they spend eternity as a Shade, first waiting in line to cross the river Styx, and thereafter roaming aimlessly. All is status quo until power-hungry Philonecron resolves to reanimate the dead with blood from the living, create an army from the shadows of living children, and usurp Hades' throne. Enter Charlotte Mielswetzki, unwitting accomplice; her cousin Zee, a boy with an unusual bloodline and an unusual shadow; and a kitten named Mew. The cousins come to understand they are at the center of a nefarious underworldly plot, and must protect themselves, foil Philonecron, and reunite the children with their shadows. This story is charmingly silly, but has enough serious moments to carry the plot forward. It unwinds with such unabashed cheerfulness and gusto that readers will find much to enjoy, especially if they can connect with its mythological base. *Holly Koelling*
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Review

"(A) flashy debut...Ursu draws her characters with broad, nimble-witted strokes..." -- *Kirkus Reviews*
Spring/Summer Preview

"...genuinely creates excitement not only about itself but about what might follow..." -- *Chicago Tribune*,
2/26/06

"..genuinely creates excitement not only about itself but about what might follow..." -- *Chicago Tribune*,
2/28/06

"A fast-paced action adventure...this Greek-themed frolic is set apart by the voice of its omniscient narrator."
-- *Horn Book*, March/April 2006

"A fun and funny tale of youthful heroism." -- *Kirkus Reviews*, March 1, 2006

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Andrew Waite:

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