BETH C. GREENBERG

stories for the open-hearted

All You Need to Know About the Gods

In one handy, colorful, downloadable pdf ~ all yours, 100% free!

I get it. It's been a while since you last studied Zeus and his cronies. Perhaps you've forgotten which goddesses fought over Adonis or why Pandora opened that dang box in the first place. Maybe you're feeling apprehensive about picking up a book with the REAL Cupid, aka Eros, on the cover (even if he is an adorable cartoon version). Or maybe you're worried you're going to have to THINK while you read.

If any of this sounds like you, FEAR NO MORE!

First off, everything you need to know about the gods and goddesses is already built into *First Quiver*. I promise. Sure, dig deeper if you love backstory, but no previous knowledge is required.

Secondly, if you keep scrolling, you'll find a handy-dandy full-colored guide that will get you through the 4-book series.

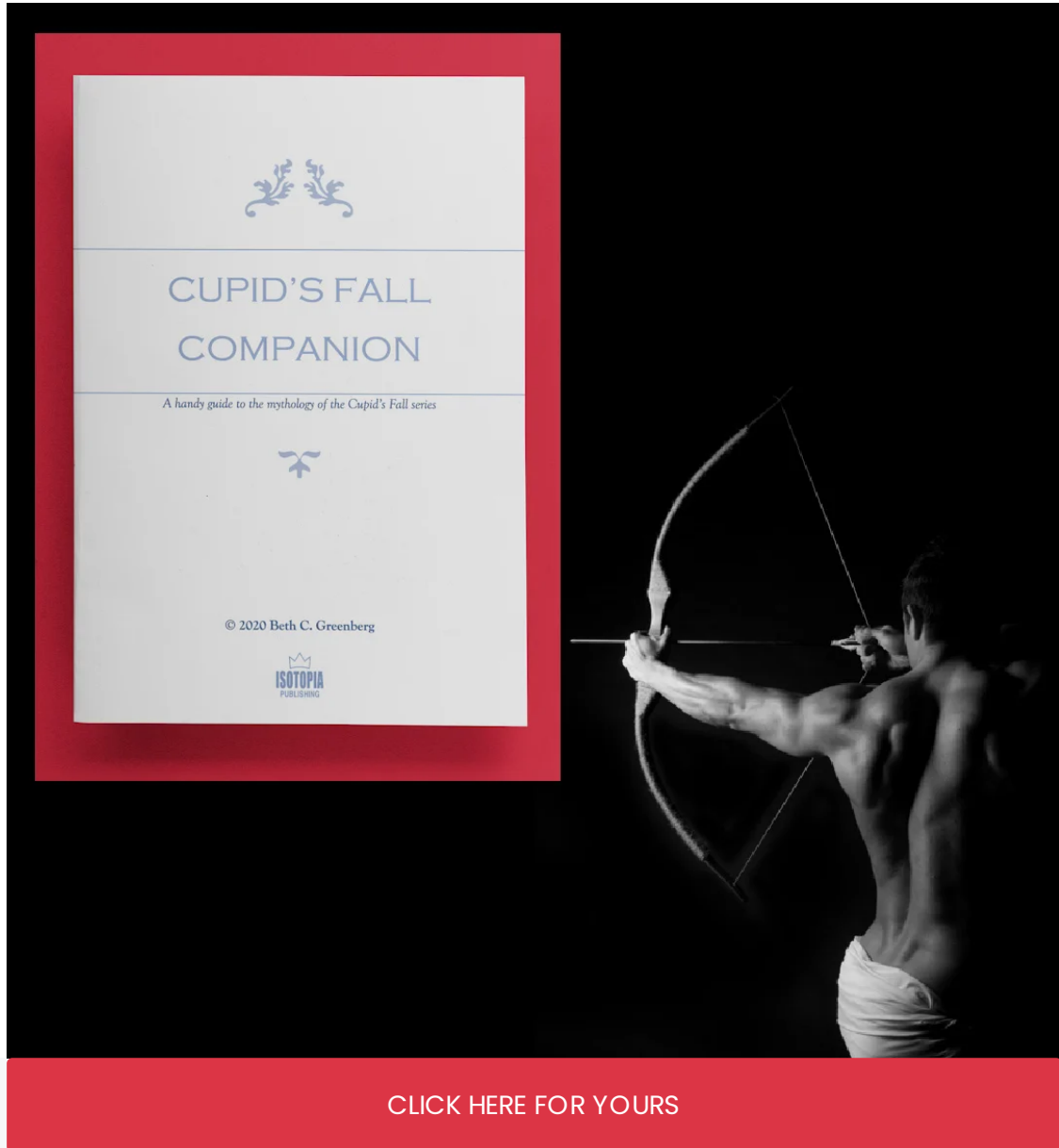**What's Inside the *Cupid's Fall Companion?*** Glad you asked.

- A (partial) family tree of those wild and crazy gods of Olympus;
- A chart of the Major Gods' Greek and Roman names and dominions;
- A snapshot of 30+ gods and goddesses who make an appearance in the *Cupid's Fall* series, accompanied by full-color paintings and statuary;
- Illustrations of common clothing items worn by the ancient Greeks and Romans.

Why am I sharing this now? Another great question! As you may know, some Advance Review Copies (ARCs) are out and about in the reading universe. While

the early reviews are super encouraging, I keep hearing variations on this theme: "I didn't think I'd like this because I don't know much about mythology..."

Spoiler alert- they gleaned whatever they needed from the context.

However - for you, my early adopters, my brave first subscribers, I want to cut off any hesitation before it has a chance to take hold. My book won't be available until January 26, but I want you to download this guide now so you know it's there, at your fingertips in case you wish to refer to it. I don't mind if you never open it, honest! But I bet you will.

CUPID'S FALL COMPANION

A handy guide to the mythology of the Cupid's Fall series

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And now, a tragic love story, one of my favorites...

3 MINUTE MYTHOLOGY

THE STORY OF DAPHNE AND APOLLO

What happens when you insult the God of Love'? Apollo - God of light and music and a skilled archer - finds out the hard way when he taunts Eros about his bow skills. Eros responds by firing off two arrows: a gold, love-tipped arrow at Apollo, filling him with unrelenting desire for the river nymph Daphne; and a lead arrow into Daphne, causing her to run from Apollo's hot pursuit. In his love-struck state, Apollo does not take no for an answer, chasing at Daphne's heels. It is said the two were evenly matched in the race until Eros intervened, helping Apollo catch up to Daphne. Desperate to preserve her virginity, Daphne cries out to her father, Peneus, for help. Daddy dearest solves the problem by turning his daughter into a laurel ("daphne") tree.

Bernini's gorgeous sculpture (above) depicts the agonized expression on Daphne's face as her hands turn into branches. For his part, Apollo is too smitten to back off even as his beloved takes root. This gorgeous passage from Ovid's *Metamorphoses* captures the moment best:

> "Even like this he loved her and, placing his hand against the trunk, he felt her heart still quivering under the new bark. He clasped the branches as if they were parts of human arms, and kissed the wood. But even the wood shrank from his kisses."

Sigh. In the end, Apollo vows to honor her forever, wearing a laurel wreath to symbolize his promise: "Always my hair will have you, my lyres will have you, my quivers will have you, laurel tree." Using his powers of eternal youth and immortality, Apollo renders Daphne evergreen. This is why the leaves of the Bay laurel do not decay.

I hope you'll enjoy your mythology cheat sheet!

Got suggestions? Questions? Complaints? Your replies go straight to my inbox.

Until we meet again, stay safe out there!

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