



Ithaka

By Adele Geras

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Many years have passed since the end of the Trojan War, and Penelope is still waiting for her husband, Odysseus, to return home. The city of Ithaka is overrun with uncouth suitors from the surrounding islands who are vying to win Penelope's hand in marriage, thereby gaining control of the land. When a naked, half-drowned man washes up on the beach, everything changes. . . .

Told through the eyes of Klymene, a young girl who is like a daughter to Penelope--and who longs for more than friendship from the young prince Telemachus--*Ithaka* captures the quiet strength and patience of a woman's enduring love for her husband and the ensuing chaos that threatens all as Penelope is pressured to remarry.

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Ithaka By Adele Geras Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From [Booklist](#)

Gr. 10-12. In *Troy* (2001), Geras retold *The Iliad* through the coming-of-age experiences of two orphaned sisters. Here she reimagines *The Odyssey*. As in the previous book, Geras revisits a classic epic through young protagonists--predominantly Klymene, a kindly servant girl who attends Penelope in her island castle while the Queen waits faithfully (for the most part) for King Odysseus' return from the Trojan War. Instead of focusing on Odysseus' fantastical journey toward hearth and home, this story remains with those the hero left behind, including his volatile son, Telemachus, and his loyal hunting dog, Argos. Hordes of unsuitable and highly unscrupulous suitors arrive to entrench themselves within the castle, hoping to claim Penelope's hand and lands when she finally accepts that her king will never return. The unwilling Penelope plays a tense game with the increasingly aggressive suitors, which impacts the lives of virtually all of Ithaka's denizens. Filled with intrigue and subterfuge and replete with visits from the gods, this visceral, lusty, tragic retelling will draw older teen readers. *Holly Koelling*

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Review

[set star] "Themes of loyalty and unrequited love . . . are brilliantly and movingly displayed throughout this ambitious, gripping novel."--*Publishers Weekly* (starred)

About the Author

ADELE GERAS is the celebrated author of many stories and novels, including *Troy* and the Egerton Hall trilogy: *The Tower Room*, *Watching the Roses*, and *Pictures of the Night*. She lives in Manchester, England.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Robert Young:

Have you spare time for a day? What do you do when you have a lot more or little spare time? Yes, you can choose the suitable activity for spend your time. Any person spent all their spare time to take a move, shopping, or went to the Mall. How about open or read a book called Ithaka? Maybe it is to be best activity for you. You know beside you can spend your time with the favorite's book, you can more intelligent than before. Do you agree with the opinion or you have some other opinion?

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