

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Perse Unveils the Story of a Forgotten Heroine's Power, Resilience, and Quest for Peace in this Bold Greek Myth Retelling

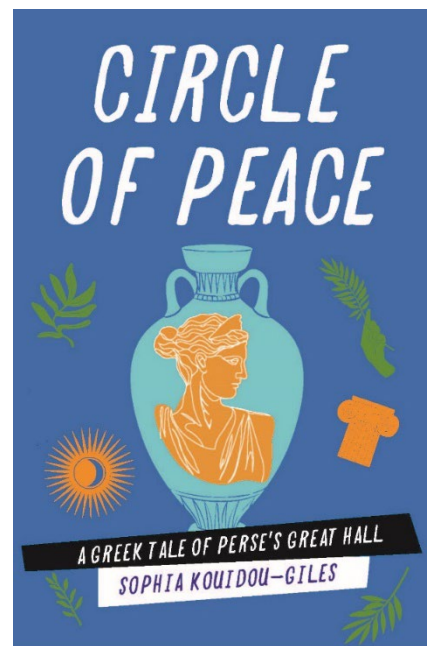
Seattle, WA – From acclaimed author [Sophia Kouidou-Giles](#) comes *Circle of Peace - A Greek Tale of Perse's Great Hall* (She Writes Press, March 11, 2025), a stunning standalone novel that offers a captivating blend of history, drama, and timeless human emotion to illuminate the untold story of Perse, Circe's mother and the formidable wife of the sun god Helios. In this bold retelling, Perse emerges as a compelling heroine who navigates the complexities of grief, loyalty, and resilience to become a voice for peace in a tumultuous world.

Perse, a figure often overlooked in Greek lore, confronts her husband Helios with a daring request—a grand hall of her own. This demand is not just a matter of luxury but is linked to a courageous promise Perse has made. In return for aiding Helios's sister, Selene, who has incited Zeus's wrath by falling for a mortal, Perse seeks recognition and autonomy within her husband's opulent home. Her efforts succeed, but joy is short-lived in the House of Helios.

Through tragedy and turmoil, Perse steps forward not just as a mother and wife, but as a champion of peace, determined to bring healing and stability to her fractured household and to a world unraveling in the chaos of war. Perse's journey reveals themes of loss, resilience, and the relentless pursuit of hope even in the darkest times.

"While the house of Helios works to turn tragedy into a movement for peace, others prefer to sow the seeds of war and unrest, leading to a battle of wills of mythic proportions. Sophia Kouidou-Giles's Circle of Peace is an imaginative tale you won't soon forget."

~ Maria A. Karamitsos, author, poet, & former publisher, and founder of Windy City Greek magazine



Circle of Peace, the latest addition to Sophia Kouidou-Giles's award-winning Greek mythology-inspired series that includes [An Unexpected Ally](#), [A Greek Tale of Love, Revenge, and Redemption](#), invites readers to see familiar myths through a fresh lens, appealing to fans of mythology and epic tales of heroism alike.

Greek born Sophia Kouidou-Giles, winner of the American Writer Awards and Reader's Favorites in the fiction category, delivers a story that captures the essence of Perse's spirit—one of unyielding resolve and compassion, making Perse a powerful meditation on the courage it takes to seek peace in a world wracked by loss and discord.

Circle of Peace: A Greek Tale of Perse's Great Hall

Sophia Kouidou-Giles | March 11, 2025

She Writes Press (SWP) | Historical Fiction + Greek/Roman Mythology

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Sophia Kouidou-Giles was born in Thessaloniki, Greece, and university educated in the USA. She holds a bachelor's degree in psychology and master's in social work. In her over-30-year child welfare career, she served as a practitioner, educator, researcher, and administrator and published articles in Greek and English professional journals.

In recent years, Sophia Kouidou-Giles focus has shifted to writing nonfiction, fiction, poetry, and translation and teaching writing seminars. Her work has appeared in *Voices*, *Persimmon Tree*, *Assay*, *The Raven's Perch*, *The Time Collection*, *Story Wits*, *Women Writers Women Books*, *The Fantasy Hive*, and *The Blue Nib*. Her poetry chapbook is *Transitions and Passages*. She has contributed to anthologies, including *The Time Collection*, *Visual Verse*, and *Art in the Time of Unbearable Crisis*. She is also the author of the memoir [Επιστροφή Στη Θεσσαλονίκη | Return to Thessaloniki](#), published in Greek (Tyrfi Press); [Sophia's Return: Uncovering My Mother's Past](#) (SWP); and the novella [An Unexpected Ally: A Greek Tale of Love, Revenge and Redemption](#) (SWP); and [Μια Απρόσμενη Σύμμαχος | An Unexpected Ally](#), published in Greek (A.Germanos Press).



Sophia Kouidou-Giles loves music, walking outdoors and travel. She lives in the Pacific Northwest, near her son, daughter-in-law, and two grandsons. To learn more about Sophia Kouidou-Giles visit her website at www.sophiakouidougiles.com. [Circle of Peace](#) is a sequel to *An Unexpected Ally*. She is currently working on her third book in the Greek mythology inspired series about Ariadne, a Minoan princess who is Circe's cousin.

[Preorders now available.](#)



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Advanced Praise for *Circle of Peace*

“Circle of Peace breathes new life into these ancient Greek myths for a new generation of readers to enjoy.”

—G.G. Kellner, author of *Hope, A History of the Future*

“Sophia Kouidou-Giles is a master storyteller who can make faraway places and long-ago times feel like they are here and now.”

— Theo Nestor, author of *Writing is My Drink*

*“A captivating retelling of a Greek myth. Sophia Kouidou-Giles delights us from beginning to end in this modern retelling of the sorceress Circe. Inventive and captivating, **An Unexpected Ally** deserves a sequel.”*

—Susan Ayres, professor and poetess, author of *Walk Like the Bird Flies*

“Circle of Peace is very highly recommended reading for readers who enjoy twists on traditional stories of the Greek gods . . . [it’s] fiction that sizzles with an action, insight, and a reimagined mythology worthy of discussion and debate.”

—Midwestern Review

*“While the house of Helios works to turn tragedy into a movement for peace, others prefer to sow the seeds of war and unrest, leading to a battle of wills of mythic proportions. **Circle of Peace** is an imaginative tale you won’t soon forget.”*

—Maria A. Karamitsos, author, poet, & former publisher, and founder of *Windy City Greek* magazine

*“Sophia Kouidou-Giles captures the nuances of Greek legend with elegance, clarity, and wit. . . . This book explores loss, resilience, and the enduring quest for peace despite all odds. I highly recommend **Circle of Peace** to anyone who loves mythology, particularly Greek myths and legends!”*

— Readers’ Favorite, FIVE STARS

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Topics Sophia Kouidou-Giles covers in interviews include:

- Creating a fantasy world based on Greek myth and the challenges faced when re-interpreting an already well-known story
- Her unique reasons for choosing the story of Perse in her retelling
- The importance of sharing Greek myth with readers and bringing more people to love the classics
- Her love for Greek culture and mythology and how it has played a role in her career and life
- Her love for Perse's story and how it fueled her inspiration for this book after years of translation work and memoir-writing
- Her experiences as an author and her approach when creating fiction
- Which character in Circle of Peace she most enjoyed writing about and why
- Why did she decide to become an author in retirement, and what sparked her novel
- How has her bilingual background been beneficial to her writing

For Media Inquiries, Review Copies, or Author Interviews:
Contact: Christine Collenette christine.collenette@surpassem.com



An Interview with Sophia Kouidou-Giles

1. Can you tell our readers a bit about yourself?

Hello! This is Sophia, the author of *Circle of Peace: A Greek Tale of Perse's Great Hall*. Born and raised in Greece in my early years, it is no surprise that I am a huge fan of Greek mythology. Living in the US I have found working with ancient stories as a satisfying way to stay in touch with my Greek heritage and share it with readers of the English-speaking world. This novella, *Circle of Peace*, is the second book in my 'Greek Tale' series. It follows the first book, titled *An Unexpected Ally: A Greek Tale of Love, Revenge and Redemption*, and it sheds a new light on Circe's mother, Perse. Aside from myths, I love my family, travel, music, and walks.

2. When did you first discover your love for writing and stories?

My love for writing and storytelling goes back to high school, though I cannot pinpoint exactly what drew me to it, but it's been with me ever since. I've always loved reading. My family knew that books were a perfect gift for my birthdays, allowing me to spend hours absorbed in them. One book that had a profound impact on me was *A Child Counts the Stars* by the Greek author, Loudemis. It spoke deeply to the teenage yearning for love and connection, a theme that has stayed with me through my own writing journey.

3. When did you start writing this book and what was the stimulus that motivated you to start?

The inspiration for these books originated from reading a series of historical fiction books, (Madeline Miller, Ellen Barker, Natalie Haynes) and many others, based on Greek mythology. I saw the potential of historical fiction/fantasy to bridge one culture (Greece, where I was born) with another (America, where I live). That is when I began delving into Greek myths and reading original sources, such as Homer and Xenophon, Apollonius and Ovid to learn more. I realized I wanted to amplify the female perspective of these mythical characters.

In *Circle of Peace*, Perse, a sea goddess and Circe's mother embodies the timeless and profound bond between family members, and mother and child. Her character not only highlights the enduring connection between generations but also illustrates her as a powerful figure who, despite her divine nature, is deeply engaged in networking, and resolving conflicts. Her journey through the narrative underscores her commitment to both her familial responsibilities and her broader mission of fostering peace, making her a compelling symbol of strength and compassion in a quest for balance, understanding and peace.

4. Are your characters entirely fictitious or have you borrowed from real-world people you know?

In original myths, one finds that characters have already been formed to represent certain elements in two-dimensional ways:

- Zeus = father of all, mighty, lover of women
- Circe = enchantress, sorceress
- Odysseus = leader, crafty, etc.

Beyond these basic elements, I expand and elaborate who they are in new interactions that add complexity. In the unfolding story their persona is colored with strengths, flaws, and struggles. I thoroughly enjoy detailing the dynamics of these relationships. Eventually, the characters in the story, to some extent, are composites of people and situations I have experienced. I have also been told that readers see themselves and people they know in the stories.

5. How do ancient myths influence your reading and writing, and how do you connect them to contemporary themes?

Reading is a form of learning, and writing is a way to express what I've learned. It's a cycle that keeps me engaged, with each story leading to new discoveries. Whether I am writing about personal experiences or retelling ancient myths, I believe that the act of storytelling is a way to connect with others and make sense of the world.

Writing about these myths helps me address not just ancient stories but contemporary concerns as well. The challenges faced by these characters echo the issues we face today—how we respond to adversity, how we seek control in an unpredictable world, and how we pass on lessons to future generations. Through storytelling, I find a way to make sense of my own hopes and anxieties about what's to come, following in the footsteps of authors like Margaret Atwood, whose works often blur the line between myth and modern life.

6. The characters in your book are fascinating. With a powerful pen, the settings come alive, the thoughts of the heroes and heroines echo for readers who are surprised as they identify and sympathize with them in the process. Do you ultimately believe that peace is achievable?

How to achieve peace is a thought-provoking question that addresses the complexities of war and peace, the Ying and Yang of life! Isn't it fascinating that wars contain both moments of sheer bliss (victory) and lasting heartache? Grief and loss teach gods lessons about the virtue of peace. The beginning of the journey is full of hope and promise, and as it unfolds. No one really knows where it will lead. The sorrow and pain of loss and the aftermath of war accentuates the price and bears hunger for peace. Yet, in life's unpredictable odyssey, isn't it undeniable that peace is a journey worth taking?

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7. Do you outline? If so, do you do so extensively or just chapter headings and a couple of sentences?

I do not outline my work, and I draft and redraft chapters sequentially. I like to review source notes, and previous chapters as I begin to work on the next chapter; it helps me make sure I stay within the parameters of the given myth, the time, plot and character arc and stay consistent. I usually return to previous chapters to add details that foreshadow what is to come, move sections around and at the end, delete what seems irrelevant after all.

8. Do you edit as you go or wait until you've finished?

I edit as I go and re-edit the completed draft several times. Early on I focus on the plot, ensuring the story's structure and narrative flow are solid, before turning to improving the language. I prefer to shorten sentences and choose better suited words as I go. I find that spreading the editing over multiple revisions makes the task less overwhelming. And as they say, it is not done, until one turns it in to be published!

9. What has been your reader response to the 'Greek Tale' series so far?

Readers describe the writing style as descriptive, immersive, and evocative. When they review the novellas, they comment that the language is vivid, imaginative, painting a picture of the setting and the characters' actions. There is suspense and intrigue, as the presence of opposition and potential conflicts add tension to the narrative. Diane Donovan, editor at Donovan's Literary Services and author of *San Francisco Relocated* wrote the following for Circle of Peace: *"Very highly recommended for readers who enjoy twists on traditional stories of the Greek gods . . . fiction that sizzles with an action, insight, and a reimagined mythology worthy of discussion and debate."*

10. What would you like readers to know about you?

I am a bicultural, bilingual immigrant to this country that has given me great opportunities and am delighted to share my natal land's heritage through my novels. I love to talk with my readers, zoom or attend book clubs and I answer all the inquiries I receive via my website:

<https://sophiakoudougiles.com>

And I also host seminars on the art of writing and the craft all writers work to perfect. And one more thing: my grandsons' love of myths has been a great motivation for me to work in this genre.

11. What are you working on now?

Currently, I am working on the third book in the 'Greek Tale' trilogy, drafting chapters and thinking more about the myths and themes about Acacalli, also known as Akalli, a Minoan princess who is Circe's niece. What I know is that it will be a Greek mythology retelling that gives me the opportunity to address new themes that are universal.