The Trials of Apollo: The Hidden Oracle

Loretta Farnsworth
Apollo is punished by Zeus by being turned into a mortal and is stunned to find that he retains none of his godly strength or glamour. He is also forced to serve Meg, a snarky daughter of Demeter. They retreat to Camp Half-Blood and find it in turmoil. Apollo and Meg overhear a plot by the ancient Roman emperor Nero to destroy all oracles, including the Grove of Dodona near Camp Half-Blood. Apollo and Meg determine to locate the grove and the missing campers. Meg and Apollo find the grove and missing campers, but before they can rescue them, Nero appears. Following Nero’s orders, Meg forces Apollo to open the grove. Nero tries to burn down the grove, but he is unsuccessful. The grove gives a prophecy to Apollo. Meg, confused by Nero’s manipulations, releases Apollo from servitude and flees. Apollo returns to Camp Half-Blood to help Percy Jackson and the other campers stop an attack on the camp.

Percy Jackson takes a backseat in this sequel series to The Heroes of Olympus. Apollo tells his story with a rather self-absorbed, arrogant tone. Readers may struggle to connect with Apollo, as he is quite an unsympathetic protagonist at times, although he does learn compassion in the book from experiencing being human and interacting with others. He comes to understand that he was not a good father to his children at Camp Half-Blood, and he forms a friendship with Meg, whom he initially finds annoying. Meg herself is an intriguing character who struggles to make good choices as she is manipulated by her stepfather. Apollo does reminisce about his romantic relationships with both women and men throughout the book and makes it a point to approve of Nico’s homosexual relationship, although the emotions surrounding the relationships are what is primarily discussed.

*Contains moderate sexual content, mild language, and mild violence.