

John Dougherty , Georgien Overwater

## Zeus to the Rescue

United Kingdom (2007)

TAGS: [Actaeon](#) [Artemis](#) [Danae](#) [Europa](#) [Leda](#) [Zeus](#)



We are still trying to obtain permission for posting the original cover.

General information	
Title of the work	Zeus to the Rescue
Country of the First Edition	United Kingdom
Country/countries of popularity	United Kingdom
Original Language	English
First Edition Date	2007
First Edition Details	John Dougherty, Georgien Overwater, <i>Zeus to the Rescue</i> . London: Young Corgi Books (a Division of Random House Children's Books), 2007, 104 pp.
ISBN	9780552553735
Genre	Fiction, Humor, Illustrated works, Mythological fiction, School story*
Target Audience	Children
Author of the Entry	Elizabeth Hale, University of New England, ehale@une.edu.au
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## Creators



### **John Dougherty , b. 1964 (Author)**

John Dougherty was born in Larne, in Northern Ireland. He is a writer of children's books. In the 1990s and early 2000s he was a teacher at Hillbrook Primary School, in London. He has written a number of series of children's picture books and readers, usually with comic themes, and some with mythical or fairy-tale elements, including the *Bansi O'Hara* series about a girl with connections to faery folk; picture books on retellings of folktales, such as *Finn MacCool and the Giant's Causeway*, *Twice Upon a Time*, *The Story of Sir Dave* (drawing on Arthurian legend), and adaptations of Shakespeare plays such as *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *The Tempest*. He has also written a trio of books about Zeus (*Zeus on the Loose* (2004), *Zeus to the Rescue* (2007), and *Zeus Sorts it Out* (2011)). He lives in Stroud, Gloucestershire.

Source:

Official [website](#) (accessed: October 1, 2018)

Bio prepared by Elizabeth Hale, University of New England,  
[ehale@une.edu.au](mailto:ehale@une.edu.au)



### **Georgien Overwater , b. 1958 (Illustrator)**

Georgien Overwater is a Belgian-Dutch illustrator of children's books. She was born in Gorichem, and from a child was interested in drawing. She trained at the Art Academy in Arnhem and has illustrated many children's books around the world, including animated films (with Paul Driessen, and Sesame Street), the children's series Floor, with Marjon Hoffman, the *Dr Procession* series by Jo Nesbo, and *Munkel Trough* by Jan Foxley. She illustrated the three *Zeus* books, the *Jack Slater Monster Investigator* and *Niteracy Hour* books, by John Dougherty. She lives in Amsterdam.

#### Sources:

Official [website](#) (accessed: October 1, 2018)

[Profile](#) at the [leopold.nl](http://leopold.nl) (accessed: October 1, 2018)

Bio prepared by Elizabeth Hale, University of New England,  
[ehale@une.edu.au](mailto:ehale@une.edu.au)

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him back.

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## Analysis

This is an example of comic intrusion fantasy, in which the mythical elements intrude into the real life of modern characters. Zeus's traditional irascible nature, association with lightning, vengeance, and wilfulness are deployed to comic effect, in a story that provides a quick snapshot of well-known elements of Greek mythology. *Zeus to the Rescue* also provides a comic introduction to the story of Actaeon catching Artemis bathing, and to the attributes of Artemis as well. Diana/Artemis is appropriately haughty, and her girls-only policy is applied to the classroom scene. Some of the uncomfortable aspects of Zeus's different attempts at courtship are glossed over, given the age group of the target audience, but the general impression of the Greek gods being unruly, capricious, and vengeful is conveyed to comic effect in contrast with the mild boys, Charlie and Alex. Zeus's masculinity is sent up through his feminised attire (bath towel).

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Classical, Mythological,  
Traditional Motifs,  
Characters, and  
Concepts

[Actaeon](#) [Artemis](#) [Danae](#) [Europa](#) [Leda](#) [Zeus](#)

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Other Motifs, Figures,  
and Concepts Relevant  
for Children and Youth  
Culture

[Adventure](#) [Boys](#) [Girls](#) [Knowledge](#) [Learning](#) [Relationships](#) [School](#) [Sport](#)

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