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Why Centaurs Do Not Rape Anymore? Looking for Sexuality in Contemporary Children’s and Young Adult Culture Inspired by Classical Antiquity

As we all know, in Greek and Roman mythology, centaurs were described as wild and brutal creatures: half-men, half-horses. They ate raw meat and their customs were unusually wild: they were famous for raping and drinking, and almost every single one of them was identified as savage creature that endangered humans on their travels. However, two of them, Chiron and Pholus, were born as demi-gods and their personalities were different: they had a quiet disposition and were friendly towards humans. They could also foresee the future and read the stars.

Those definitely complicated creatures often appear in the children’s culture - books, movies, video games, and so on. Centaur characters are usually loosely based on motifs drawn from antiquity, and almost never play the role of a rapper or an aggressor. This poster presents examples of how they were depicted, and if not raping and violence, what was shown as their main character trait. I took my examples from children’s literature, movies based on books, and animation, being highly aware of the fact, that there are certainly many more examples to discuss.



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