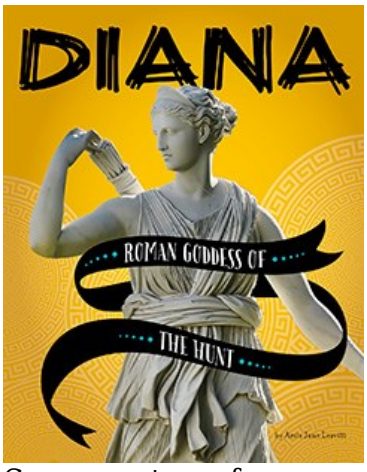
Ayelet Peer, "Entry on: Diana, Roman Goddess of the Hunt by Robyn Le Blanc, Amie Jane Leavitt", peer-reviewed by Lisa Maurice and Elizabeth Hale. Our Mythical Childhood Survey (Warsaw: University of Warsaw, 2020). Link: http://omc.obta.al.uw.edu.pl/myth-survey/item/1067. Entry version as of November 21, 2026.

Robyn Le Blanc , Amie Jane Leavitt

Diana, Roman Goddess of the Hunt

United States of America (2020)

TAGS: Actaeon Apollo Artemis Diana Egeria Juno Jupiter Leto Orion Virbius



Cover courtesy of Capstone publishing.

General information	
Title of the work	Diana, Roman Goddess of the Hunt
Country of the First Edition	United States of America
Country/countries of popularity	worldwide
Original Language	English
First Edition Date	2020
First Edition Details	Amie Jane Leavitt, *Diana, Roman Goddess of the Hunt*, "Legendary Goddesses". North Mankato: Snap Books (Capstone Press), 2020, 32 pp.
ISBN	9781543575521 pb
Genre	Myths
Target Audience	Children (young readers, 6–8 year olds)
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Creators



Robyn Le Blanc (Historical advisor)

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Robyn Le Blanc is an assistant professor of Classical Studies at the University of North Carolina., Greensboro. She received her Ph.D. from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill in 2016. She researches archaeology of the Roman provinces, mythology, religion, Hellenistic and Roman coinage, and ancient identities.

Bio prepared by Ayelet Peer, Bar-Ilan University, ayelet.peer@biu.ac.il



Amie Jane Leavitt (Author)

Amie Jane Leavitt is an author and a writer. She writes material for various fields, such as travel, education, health and more. She has written nearly 100 books for children and young adults. Amie Jane Leavitt was a student at Brigham Young University majoring in education. She was also a teacher at a private school for at-risk youth.

Source:

Official website (accessed: August 19, 2020).

Bio prepared by Ayelet Peer, Bar-Ilan University, ayelet.peer@biu.ac.il

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Additional information

Summary

This book is part of a *Legendary Goddesses* by Capstone publishing, a set of short informational books on ancient goddesses, which includes books on Aphrodite, Athena, Hera, Persephone, Freya, Hathor and Isis. The book provides numerous facts on the goddess, such as myth and cults, supplemented by photos and illustrations (from various picture archives such as Alamy, Getty and many more listed in the book's inner cover.). The photos in the book are accompanied by explanatory notes which describe the illustrated scenes. The book also contains short facts about the goddess which are scattered across the chapters.

The book offers a brief and adapted information on Diana's related mythology. The myths are included within the various chapters. The different chapters refer to: Actaeon, Diana's birth by Latona and family tree, a list of Greek gods and their Roman equivalents (Diana, Jupiter, Latona, Apollo, Juno, Minerva, Vesta, Neptune, Venus, Pluto, Ceres, Mars, Mercury, Cupid). Diana's companions (Egeria and Virbius), Orion, a brief account of Jupiter's birth, Diana's Family Tree (grandparents, parents, aunts/uncles and half-siblings), characteristics of the goddess (maiden, symbols and art), her clothing, her powers, her festivals and shrines (with an emphasis on Ephesus) and lastly Diana in pop culture (Wonder Woman).

The book also contains glossaries, both within the individual chapters and at the end of the book, short further reading and index.

Analysis

It is a part of a series of informational texts that use a mixture of storytelling, and archival images to present the goddess Diana.

The author uses the character of the Roman Diana to share information mostly on the Greek Artemis (since less is known about her Roman equivalent). The purpose was perhaps to show the readers how the Romans appropriated the Greek pantheon with its myths. It could also be that since the series display goddesses from various ancient cultures, it was important for the authors/editors of the series to include a Roman goddess as well, and not much is known on the native Roman goddesses (for example Bellona).There is no real difference between the goddesses, except in the inclusion of her

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Roman festival. Since the book was written with the help of a classical scholar, the difference between the goddesses was probably known to the author, or made known to her, yet she chose not to differentiate between the Greek origin and Roman equivalent. The part on Diana's festivals is purely Roman and refers to the ancient Roman festivals of Nemoralia. It is noted how this festival was later appropriated by the Catholic church and was renamed "The Feast of the Assumption of Mary". This fact reveals how the origins of some Christian religious services share an origin with ancient Roman religion and cult.

The pop culture addition reveals to the young readers how the image of Wonder Woman is connected with an ancient mythological character and hence connects ancient mythology with present pop culture, perhaps the revival of the Wonder Woman franchise featuring Gal Gadot (whose photo appears in this chapter) contributed to this addition.

As noted, the book is adapted for young readership. However, the story of Actaeon may be too gruesome for young children. In the narrated myth, after turning into a deer, Actaeon tries desperately to call his friends but they of course do not understand him and unleash the hounds. In the end, it is mentioned that "they overtook him" (p. 7). Yet the story does not end there. It is further narrated that in the evening his friends fathered for a hearty meal and say: "Actaeon missed a great hunt today…he's always wanted to get a giant deer. I can't wait to tell him about it!" (p. 7). This conversation highlights the tragic end of Actaeon and may even allude to some kind of cannibalism, if his friends ate the deer. In the ancient versions of the story (by Pausanias, Callimachus, Pseudo-Apollodorus, Ovid) the dogs are the ones which devour his flesh.

The version of the story in the present book appears to be an adaption of Ovid's *Metamorphoses* although the source in that specifically mentioned. In Ovid, Actaeon's friends encourage the dogs and wonder where he is, but this takes place before the killing and not after. As Ovid pointedly writes (*Metamoprhoses* book 3, lines 242ff.), "but his companions, witless of his plight, urged on the swift pack with their hunting cries. They sought Actaeon and they vainly called, "Actaeon! Hi! Actaeon!" just as though he was away from them. Each time they called he turned his head. And when they chided him, whose indolence denied the joys of sport, how much he wished an indolent desire had haply held him from his ravenous pack." (The translation is by Brookes More, 1922, and cited from the Theoi.com website,

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	accessed: August 19, 2020). Regarding Orion, the author preferred the version in which he was killed due to Apollo's jealousy of his friendship with Diana, probably because mentioning his attempt to rape her companion was too threatening for young readers. The myth of Orion displays connection to modern astronomy, and, as with the church and Wonder Woman, presents the ancient mythology as an ever relevant and evolving field and show how mythology is present at various aspects of our modern life.
Classical, Mythological, Traditional Motifs, Characters, and Concepts	Actaeon Apollo Artemis Diana Egeria Juno Jupiter Leto Orion Virbius
Other Motifs, Figures, and Concepts Relevant for Children and Youth Culture	Adventure Animals Conflict Family

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