Ayelet Peer, "Entry on: Cupid and Psyche: A Love Story by Edna Barth, Ati Forberg ", peer-reviewed by Lisa Maurice and Susan Deacy. Our Mythical Childhood Survey (Warsaw: University of Warsaw, 2018). Link: http://omc.obta.al.uw.edu.pl/myth-survey/item/237. Entry version as of November 03, 2026.

Edna Barth , Ati Forberg

Cupid and Psyche: A Love Story

United States (1976)

TAGS: Cupid Greek Gods Psyche Venus





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

General information	
Title of the work	Cupid and Psyche: A Love Story
Country of the First Edition	United States of America
Country/countries of popularity	United States
Original Language	English
First Edition Date	1976
First Edition Details	Edna Barth, *Cupid and Psyche: A Love Story.* New York NY: Clarion Books, 1976, 64 pp.
ISBN	9780395288405
Genre	Fiction, Illustrated works, Myths, Novels
Target Audience	Crossover
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Creators



Edna Barth , 1900 - 1981
(Author)

Edna Bath was born in Keokuk Iowa. She worked as a librarian and teacher and was also an editor and an author of children's books. among her books were *Hearts, Cupids and Red Roses: the Story of Valentine symbols*; *Balder and Mistletoe: A Story for the Winter Holidays*, *Jack O'Lantern,* and more.

Sources:

Profile at the bookologymagazine.com (accessed: July 4, 2018).

Profile at the goodreads.com (accessed: July 4, 2018).

Profile at the bookologymagazine.com (accessed: July 4, 2018).

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Ati Forberg (Illustrator)

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Additional information

Summary

The book offers a short retelling of the love story between the mortal Psyche and the god Cupid, son of Venus. The original tale appeared in Apuleius' *Metamorphoses* (the golden ass). The god of love falls in love with the beautiful mortal Psyche, who is at first ignorant of his true identity. Yet his mother objects to their relationship. Thus the lovers need to fight many obstacles to keep their love. The story is a retelling of the well-known love story, adapted for a young readership. It narrates the obstacles facing young couples and how love can triumph all.

Analysis

This is a retelling of Apuleius' *Cupid and Psyche*. The story is accompanied by attractive black and white illustrations of the characters, with a drawing of an Ionian column between the pages, adding to the classical feel. It is a standard retelling of the myth; Psyche's beauty and the jealousy it causes with her sisters and Venus. However, a new addition to the story is that Cupid sprinkles Psyche with water from Venus' bitter fountain while she is asleep. Yet he becomes captivated by her beauty, and regretting his action, he sprinkles her with sweet fountain waters. This seems to be taken from Thomas Bulfinch's influential, *The Age of the Fable*, clearly a source for this version.

Another aspect highlighted in the story is that Psyche wished to perform great deeds; she longed to be a prince who could do brave things; as a princess, her only prospect was marriage. From these lines, we can see the empowering message in the story, for, unlike in Apuleius or even Bullfinch, in the end, Psyche can achieve great deeds regardless of her gender. Her determination is put to the test when she needs to convince Venus of her love for Cupid. In her journey for Cupid, Psyche encounters Ceres and Juno, who refuse to help her against Venus, forcing Psyche to fulfil Venus' tasks. The end of the story is joyful with Psyche and Cupid happily married, a marriage of equals as Zeus promises her. Psyche has learned to act bravely and independently, rather than being a pawn of her parents or jealous sister. Learning to fight for what was truly important to her, she is no longer a helpless victim.

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Classical, Mythological, Traditional Motifs, Characters, and Concepts	Cupid Greek Gods Psyche Venus
Other Motifs, Figures, and Concepts Relevant for Children and Youth Culture	Adventure Coming of age Emotions Knowledge Learning Love Relationships
Further Reading	Maurice, Lisa, "Cupid and Psyche for Children", in Stephen Harrison and Regine May, *Cupid and Psyche: The Reception of Apuleius' Love Story since 1600*, Oxford: OUP, 2020.

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