Michael Stierstorfer, "Entry on: The Isle of Nyx. The Prophecy of Gods [Insel der Nyx. Die Prophezeiung der Götter] (The Isle of Nyx, 1) by Daniela Ohms", peer-reviewed by Markus Janka, Elizabeth Hale and Elżbieta Olechowska. Our Mythical Childhood Survey (Warsaw: University of Warsaw, 2019). Link: http://omc.obta.al.uw.edu.pl/myth-survey/item/858. Entry version as of September 14, 2026.

Daniela Ohms

The Isle of Nyx. The Prophecy of Gods [Insel der Nyx. Die Prophezeiung der Götter] (The Isle of Nyx, 1)

Germany (2013)

TAGS: Atlantis Fates Hesiod Hesperides Hypnos Katabasis Nyx Philotes Theogony Underworld Zeus

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

General information	
Title of the work	The Isle of Nyx. The Prophecy of Gods [Insel der Nyx. Die Prophezeiung der Götter] (The Isle of Nyx, 1)
Country of the First Edition	Germany
Country/countries of popularity	Germany
Original Language	German
First Edition Date	2013
First Edition Details	Daniela Ohms, *Insel der Nyx. Die Prophezeiung der Götter* (The Isle of Nyx. The Prophecy of Gods). Berlin: Planet Girl/Thienemann, 2013, 356 pp.
ISBN	9783862651375
Genre	Fantasy fiction, Novels, Romance fiction, Teen fiction*
Target Audience	Crossover (children/young adults)
Author of the Entry	Michael Stierstorfer, University of Regensburg, Michael.stierstorfer@ur.de
Peer-reviewer of the Entry	Markus Janka, University of Munich, janka@lmu.de Elizabeth Hale, University of New England, ehale@une.edu.au Elżbieta Olechowska, University of Warsaw, elzbieta.olechowska@gmail.com

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Creators

Daniela Ohms , b. 1978
(Author)

Daniela Ohms was born in 1978 in Rheda-Wiedenbrück in Germany. She was brought up on a farm, in daily contact with farm animals. She began to write as a teenager. Later she studied literature, history, and psychology in North Rhine-Westphalia but did not complete her studies. To this day, history, mythology and the human psyche are important inspirations for her books. She lives with her husband and children in Berlin. Ohms was a founding member of the label INK REBELS, a publishing platform for new and independent writers. Her novels are also published under the pseudonym "Daniela Winterfeld." Her works focus on urban fantasy and criminal stories combines with fairy tale motifs. The 2012 *Blood of the Harpy* is her first novel. Since then, she wrote a two volume fantasy novel *The Isle of Nyx* (2013-2014).

Sources:

Profile at autorenwelt.de (accessed: October 1, 2019)

Blog (accessed: October 1, 2019)

Bio prepared by Michael Stierstorfer, University of Regensburg, Michael.stierstorfer@ur.de

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Additional information

Translation	The book was published only in German and was not a bestseller.
Sequels, Prequels and Spin-offs	Sequels: Daniela Ohms, *Insel der Nyx. Die Kinder der Schatten* (The Isle of Nyx. The Children of Shadows), 2014.
Summary	In this fantasy novel for young adults, 13-year old Eleni, who owns the strange gift to prophesy about other people's future in her sleep, moves with her mother, Arjana, and half-sister, Leandra, from Berlin to Crete. Arjana is an archaeologist in charge of archaeological excavations of a temple of Zeus there. Soon after their arrival at the island Zeus himself appears to Eleni at night and reveals to her that she will save many people thanks to her courage. She gets to know the mysterious local girl Philine, who lives there with her father in a small hut. Very soon both girls become close friends. Eleni learns that Philine is also gifted with supernatural powers: by means of a peaceful gift she is able to free other people from negative or hateful feelings. One day Atlantis, which in this novel is the island of death, emerges from the sea. Later Eleni turns out to be the daughter of Hypnos, the god of sleep, and Philine turns out to be the daughter of Philotes, the goddess of friendship. Then Philine is kidnapped by the bad Hesperides, servants of the goddess Nyx who rules over Atlantis and is eager to bring death to the inhabitants of Crete. With the help of the native boy Makaio, who lives at Atlantis and owns a black Pegasus with big wings, Eleni saves Philine so that they are able to leave the dangerous island, but Makaio as an inhabitant has to return to his home. The novel ends with Eleni's sadness at being separated from Makaio, with whom she has fallen in love. This is the first novel of a duology.
Analysis	The myth of Atlantis (as told in Plato's dialogues *Timaios* and *Critias*) is combined in a typically postmodern and eclectic way with other

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mythical elements. The isle is no longer an utopian prehistoric setting, but a dystopian one. The novel could be compared to *Fire in the Sea* by Myke Barrett (see the entry), an Australian novel, that also engages with ideas about death for young readers, and similarly involves Atlantis. It is considered the island of death because Nyx rules over it and has spread her sinister power. There, the underworld is dominated by draconic tyranny under the archaic goddess Nyx, who is eager to bring death to the inhabitants of Crete. The figure of Nyx is taken from Greek mythology and in particular from Hesiod's *Theogony* where she is a neutral goddess of nature with the power to cause darkness and night. In the novel, she is interpreted as a demonic figure in order to provide an evil antagonist for Eleni and Philine and create suspense and mystery. Nyx seeks the girls and sends her servants to persecute them. Also the island of Nyx, on which a jungle grows, is described as very dangerous because of the wild animals living there. This contributes to a reflection on the nature of death.

Additionally, the myth of Hercules is combined with the myth of the Hesperides, young women who look after golden apples (Ovid's *Metamorphoses*, book 4 and 11) into a fantastic plot. In this adaptation, however, the Hesperides display a hybrid status between mermaids and vampires, because they have fish-tails and sharp teeth with which they bite people. In the novel, the Hesperides look more dangerous than in the ancient version of the myth.

Based on Christian tradition, Eleni is designed as a Messianic figure, who saves other people's lives with the support of God. The Fates, who emerge at the beginning of the story, have black hoods and scull-like faces similar to the iconography of death personified. They say that Eleni will save the world from evil. Eleni's katabasis to the island of Nyx, which is the Underworld, is a descent to hell – reminiscent of Christ - to save humanity from the danger of death. Nyx cannot kill Makaio, because Eleni saves his life. Also Nyx is not able to leave the island and capture the lives of the inhabitants of Crete after Eleni has reduced her power. Eleni's coming of age is put into a mythical context; falling in love with Makaio makes her able to control her superpower of telling the future. There are no intimate scenes between the two young people – to make the narrative suitable for children. The author mentions Hesiod's *Theogony* in the novel in order to briefly inform readers about this ancient Greek author. To sum up, the novel is a composite of several myths with Christian values in the background and makes the young readers socialized in the western

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	civilization aware of their ancient, mythological heritage.
Classical, Mythological, Traditional Motifs, Characters, and Concepts	Atlantis Fates Hesiod Hesperides Hypnos Katabasis Nyx Philotes Theogony Underworld Zeus
Other Motifs, Figures, and Concepts Relevant for Children and Youth Culture	Adventure Coming of age Death Friendship Heroism Individuality Romance
Further Reading	Hodkinson, Owen, "His Greek Materials: Philip Pullman's Use of Classical Mythology", in Katarzyna Marciniak, ed., *Our Mythical Childhood: Classics and Children's Literature Between East and West,* Leiden: Brill, 2016, 267–290. Lovatt, Helen V., "East, west and finding yourself in Caroline Lawrence's Roman Mysteries", in Katarzyna Marciniak, ed., *Our Mythical Childhood: Classics and Children's Literature Between East and West*, Leiden: Brill, 2016, 411–427. Lovatt, Helen V. and Owen Hodkinson, eds., *Classical Reception and Children's Literature: Greece, Rome and Childhood Transformation*, London: I. B. Tauris, 2018. Müller, Volker, „Verjüngtes Atlantis: die Rezeption des platonischen Atlantis-Mythos in Kinder- und Jugendmedien der letzten 40 Jahre", Markus Janka and Michael Stierstorfer, eds., *Verjüngte Antike. Griechisch-römische Mythologie und Historie in zeitgenössischen Kinder- und Jugendmedien*, (Studien zur europäischen Kinder- und Jugendliteratur, 5), Heidelberg: Winter, 2017, 265–286. Stierstorfer, Michael, *Antike Mythologie in der Kinder- und Jugendliteratur der Gegenwart. Unsterbliche Götter- und Heldengeschichten?* [Ancient Mythology in Contemporary Children's

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Literature. Immortal Stories of Gods and Heroes?], Frankfurt am Main: Peter Lang, 2017, 365 pp.

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