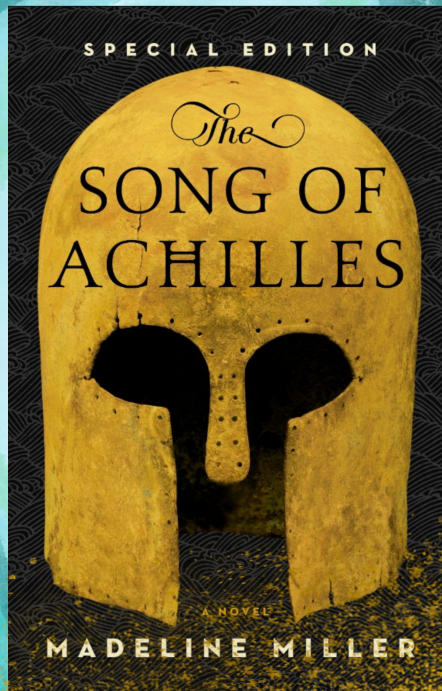




The Song of Achilles

a look at helicopter parenting in
the world of Achilles



a brief backstory...

- “I could recognize him by touch alone, by smell; I would know him blind, by the way his breaths came and his feet struck the earth. I would know him in death, at the end of the world.” -Madeline Miller
- Modernized, detailed, tragic, poetic
- The world of the Trojan War... less dense

Thetis

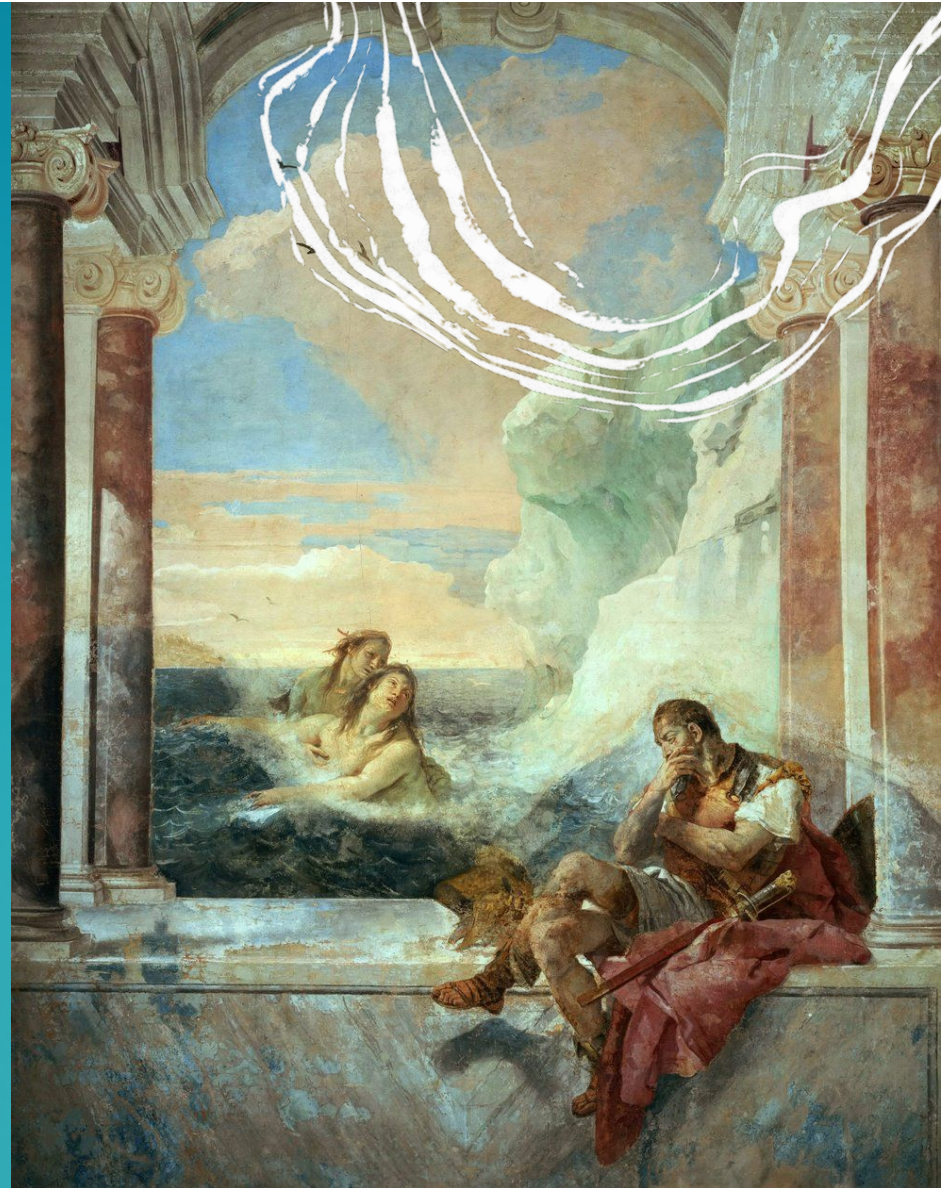
- Sea Nymph goddess
- Marriage to Peleus
- Destiny of Achilles, from her point of view; to become a god (river styx)
- intimidating, controlling, greek helicopter parent, much different than in the Iliad.
- Fuller, more human take on antiquity



Healthy or Unhealthy Parenting?

- Discourages the loving and caring relationship Patroclus and Achilles have
 - “I’m going to be the first...Because you’re the reason. Swear it....
I feel like I could eat the world raw.” -Miller
- Ultimately, because of protection, but she is less than understanding of what it means to Achilles
- Iliad, “I gave birth to you, doomed to a short life... and now you are grieving.”

(The Iliad, Book 18)





More about Thetis and her view.

- Isn't disapproving because of sexuality reasons
- Screwing up his destiny
- "I will make him a god"
- - Miller
- Obsessed with control
- Two sides of the coin, what does Achilles need and want versus what does Thetis want for him?
- Greek "Mommie Dearest"
- Has her reasons for acting the way she does.

Sources

- Miller, Madeline. *The Song of Achilles*. Ecco, 2012.

Thank you!!!

