

AN ILLIAD

A GRAPHIC NOVEL

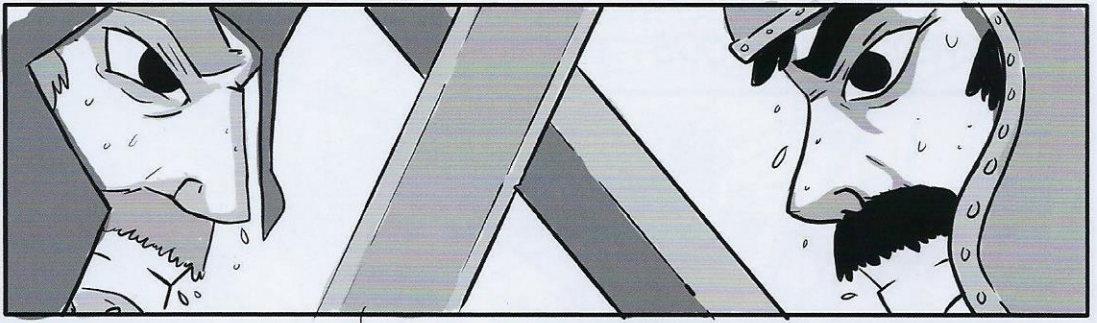


BY
AJ KNOX

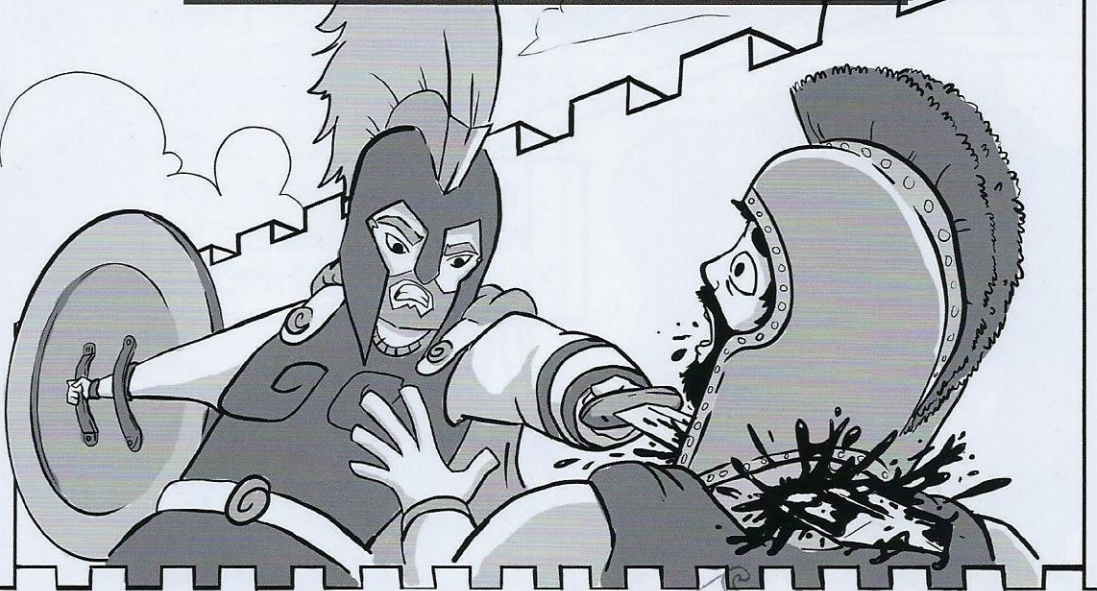


RAGE!!

*GODDESS,
SING THE RAGE
OF PELEUS' SON
ACHILLES...*

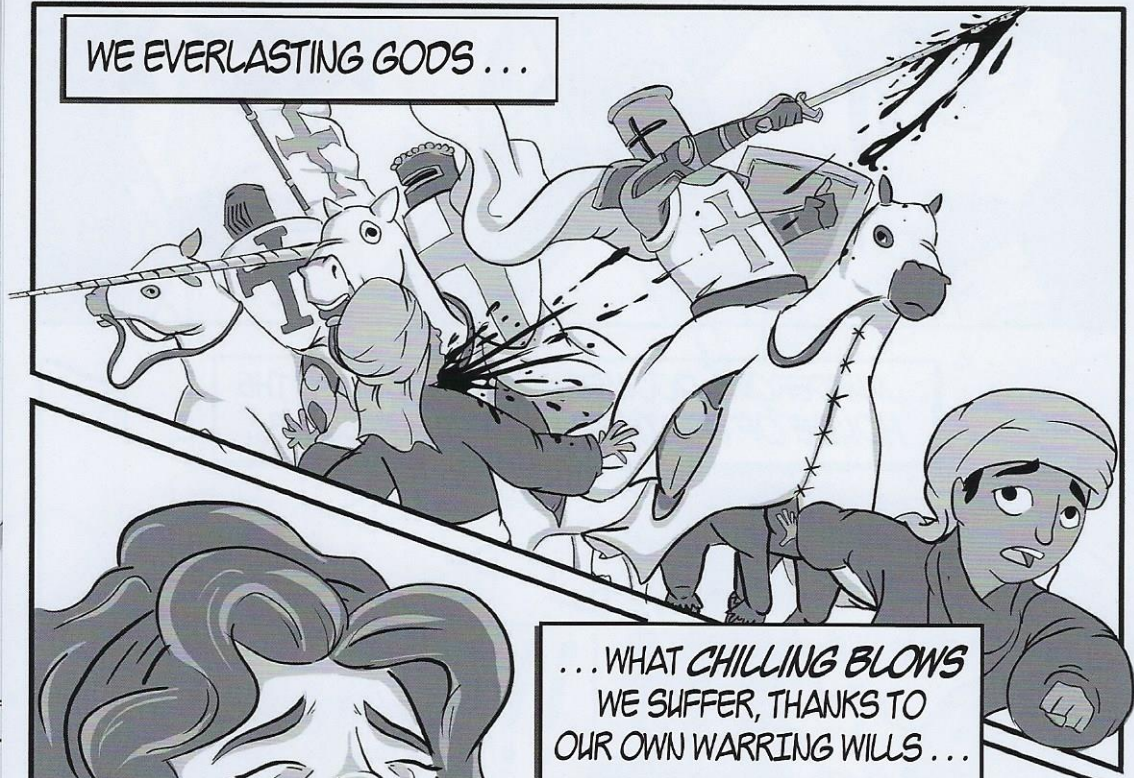


...MURDEROUS, DOOMED, HURLING DOWN TO THE HOUSE OF DEATH SO MANY STURDY SOULS...



... GREAT FIGHTERS' SOULS... BUT MADE THEIR BODIES CARRION, FEASTS FOR THE DOGS AND BIRDS.

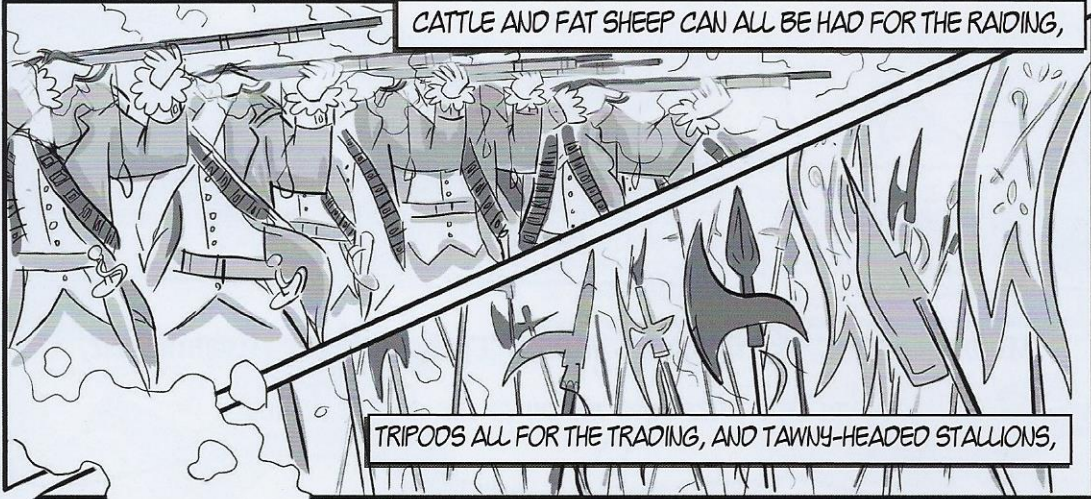
WE EVERLASTING GODS...



... WHAT CHILLING BLOWS
WE SUFFER, THANKS TO
OUR OWN WARRING WILLS...



... WHENEVER WE SHOW
THESE MORTAL MEN
SOME KINDNESS.

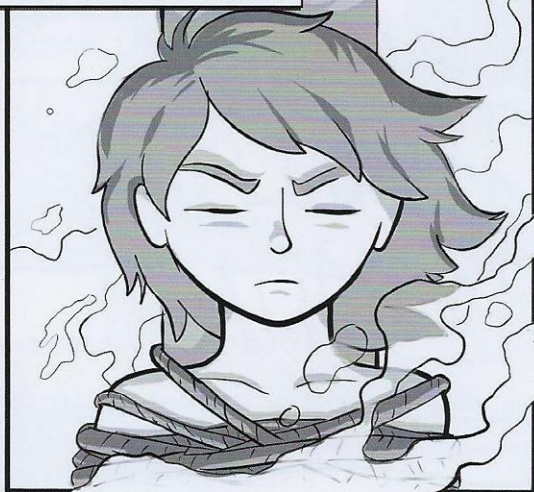


CATTLE AND FAT SHEEP CAN ALL BE HAD FOR THE RAIDING,

TRIPODS ALL FOR THE TRADING, AND TAWNY-HEADED STALLIONS,




BUT A MAN'S LIFE BREATH CANNOT COME BACK AGAIN.



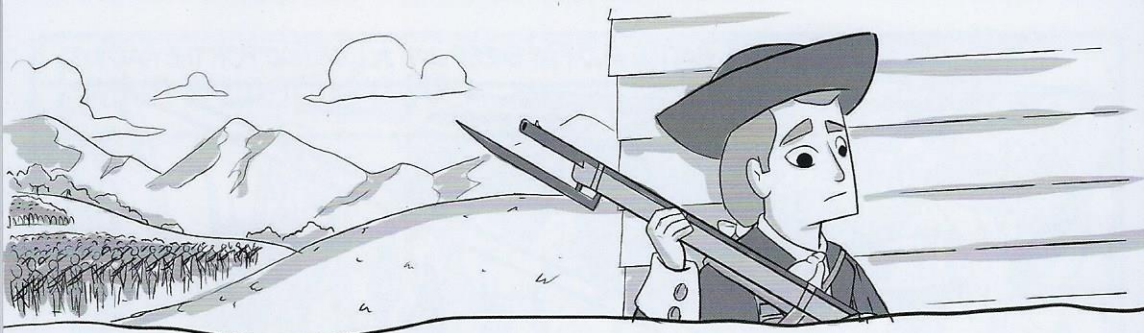
NOW THE SUN OF A NEW DAY STRUCK ON THE PLOUGHLANDS, RISING OUT OF THE QUIET WATER AND THE DEEP STREAM OF THE OCEAN TO CLIMB THE SKY.

THE TROJANS ASSEMBLED TOGETHER.
THEY FOUND IT HARD TO RECOGNIZE
EACH INDIVIDUAL DEAD MAN;

BUT WITH WATER THEY WASHED AWAY THE BLOOD THAT WAS ON THEM
AND WEPT WARM TEARS AS THEY LIFTED THEM ON TO THE WAGONS.



AND IN SILENCE, THEY PILED THE BODIES UPON THE PYRE,
WITH THEIR HEARTS IN SORROW, AND BURNED THEM UPON THE FIRE.



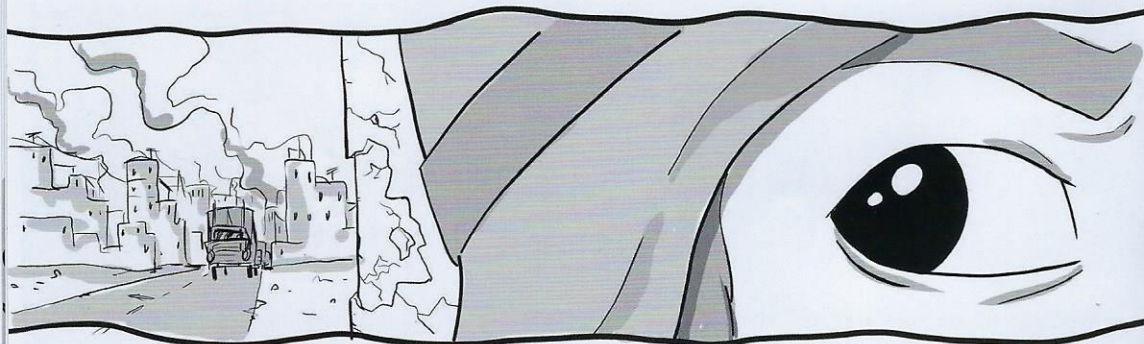
*Mother tells me, the immortal goddess Thetis with her glistening feet,
that two fates bear me on to the day of death.*



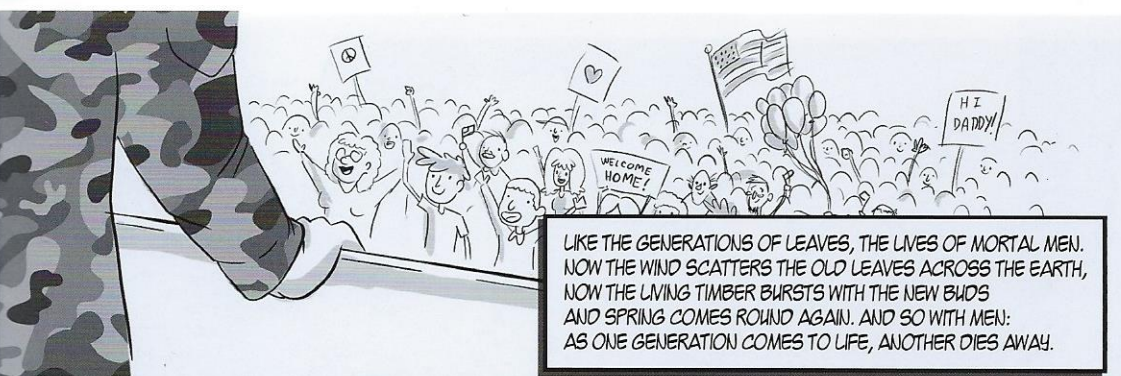
*If I hold out here and I lay siege to Troy,
my journey home is gone, but my glory never dies.*



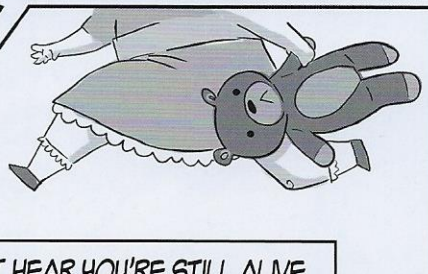
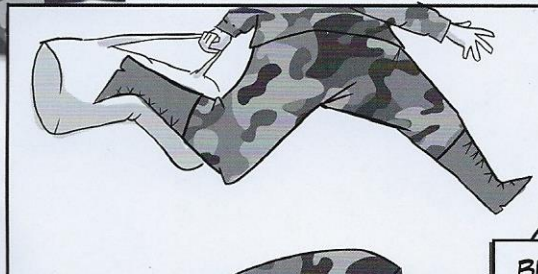
*IF I VOYAGE BACK TO THE FATHERLAND I LOVE,
MY PRIDE, MY GLORY DIES....*



*LET ME NOT THEN DIE INGLORIOUSLY AND WITHOUT A STRUGGLE, BUT LET ME
FIRST DO SOME GREAT THING THAT SHALL BE TOLD AMONG MEN HEREAFTER.*



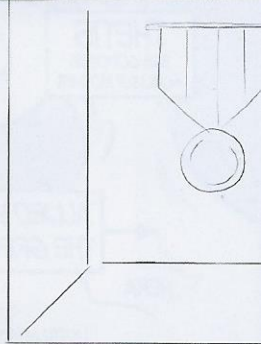
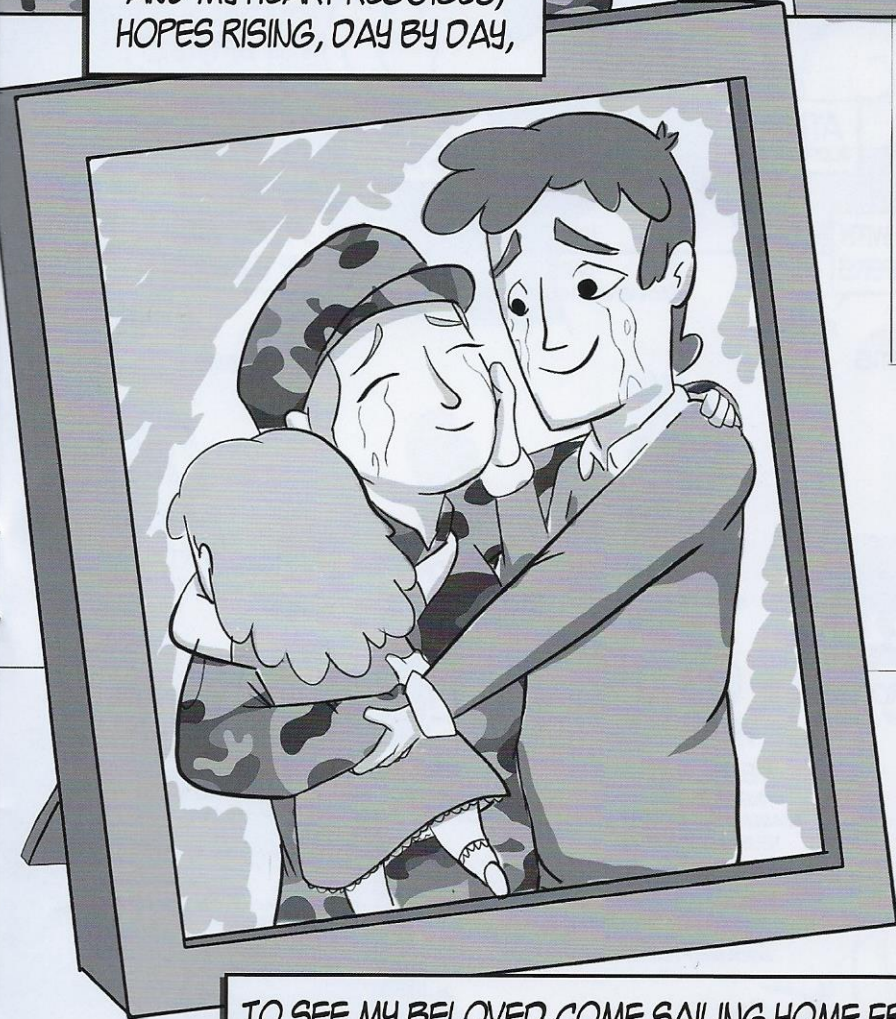
LIKE THE GENERATIONS OF LEAVES, THE LIVES OF MORTAL MEN. NOW THE WIND SCATTERS THE OLD LEAVES ACROSS THE EARTH, NOW THE LIVING TIMBER BURSTS WITH THE NEW BUDS AND SPRING COMES ROUND AGAIN. AND SO WITH MEN: AS ONE GENERATION COMES TO LIFE, ANOTHER DIES AWAY.



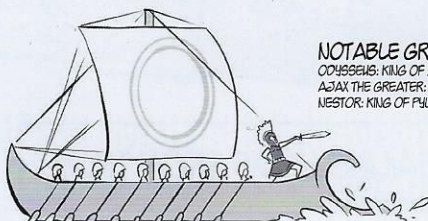
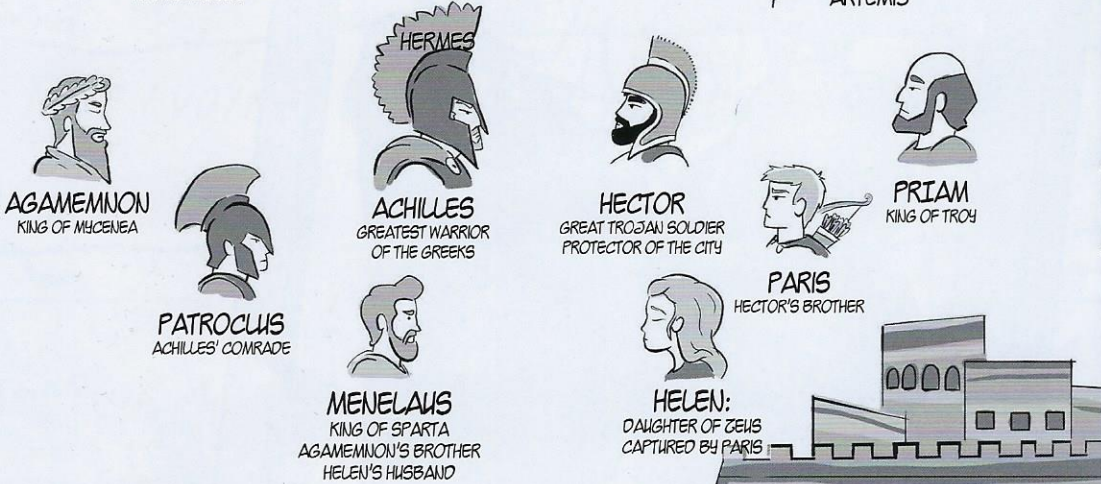
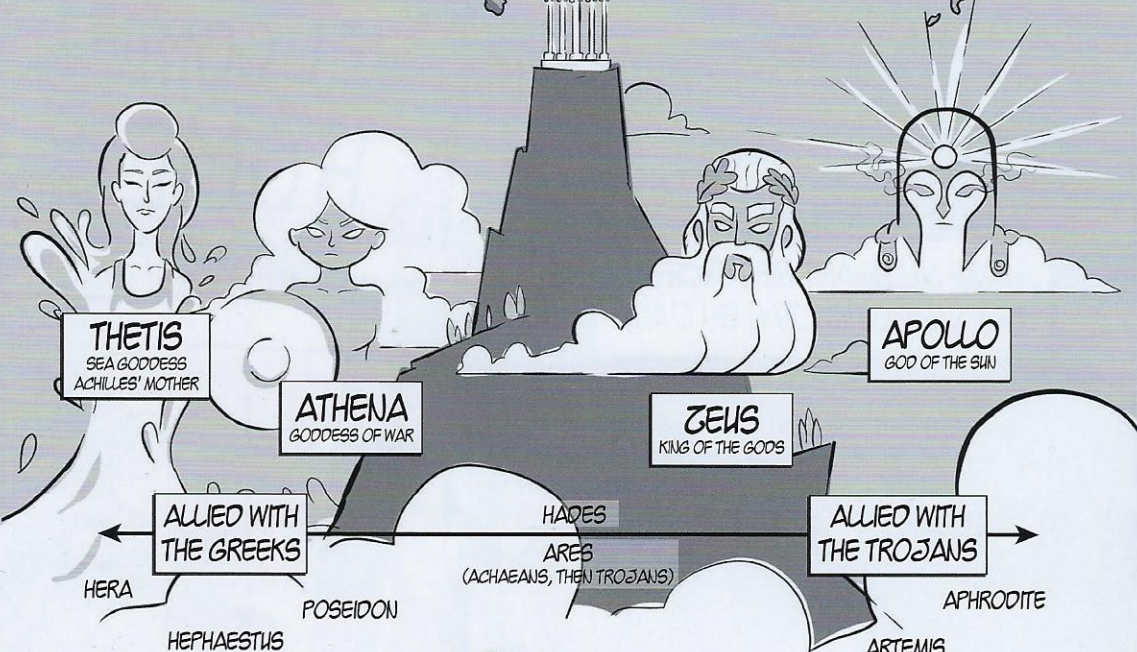
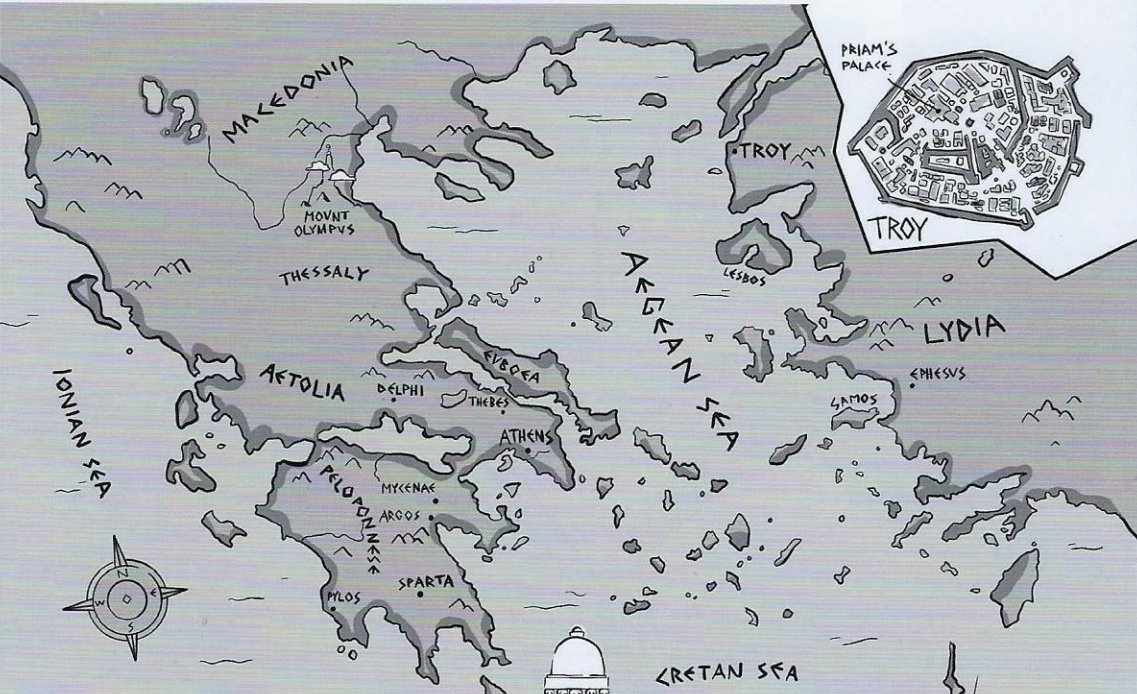
BUT AT LEAST I HEAR YOU'RE STILL ALIVE,



AND MY HEART REJOICES, HOPES RISING, DAY BY DAY,



TO SEE MY BELOVED COME SAILING HOME FROM TROY.



NOTABLE GREEKS:
 ODYSSEUS: KING OF ITHACA, GREEK COMMANDER.
 AJAX THE GREATER: A GREAT, BUT FLAWED WARRIOR.
 NESTOR: KING OF PILOS, AGAMEMNON'S ADVISOR.

NOTABLE TROJANS:
 POLYDAMAS: A PRUDENT COMMANDER, HECTOR'S FOIL.
 SARPEDON, SON OF ZEUS: KILLED BY PATROCLUS.
 DOLON: A SPY UPON THE GREEK CAMP.
 ANTEOR: PRIAM'S ADVISOR, BELIEVES RETURNING HELEN CAN END THE WAR.
 HEKUBA: PRIAM'S WIFE.
 BRISIS: CAPTURED BY ACHILLES IN A PREVIOUS SIEGE, WHICH BEGAN ACHILLES'S QUARREL WITH AGAMEMNON.