

# Daughter of Ares

## Chapter One: My life

It is widely known that Ares, the God of War, is very manipulative and hot-tempered, but no, he's so much worse! As Ares' second oldest daughter, people thought I was lying, but really, I'm not like my father, and in my whole life, I have never seen a glimpse of him. I live with my foster mother. Everytime I mention my dad, without speaking a word, she changes the subject and avoids me like a plague!



My results at school were underwhelming, I had failed all my classes except the ones where my best friend Sebastian was in because he helped me pass. He is an amazing illustrator! I wasn't popular in school at all, in fact, I was probably the person you'd call an 'outcast'. I could never fathom why I was unable to ever be liked by anyone. Sometimes, I wondered if it was because I was **quirky** and unsociable. I was shunned by the school body, rumours circulated around the school about how I was abandoned by my biological parents and sent to this school where I don't even feel like I belong. Sitting in my bed at night and stare out the window with a blank face, I used to question why my parents did. I held resentment against them for never coming back for me, but at this point it had been fifteen years, should I or should I not give up? This thought kept coming back to me, but I finally had hope they would reunite with me again in the far distant future. But enough of that.

I was in Math class not giving a care in the world about this tedious class. A chair in front of me was my only friend whom I appreciated the presence of, Sebastian. I was doodling in my book, when there was a sudden knock on the classroom door. The teacher called my name with a stern expression.

“Astrid Aulos and Sebastian Galanis, I can’t believe what you two have done. Come with me,” The teacher spoke.

I followed behind her without uttering a word. I realised we were walking to the principal’s office. What have I done? Sebastian was right next to me looking relieved, but I don’t know why. The hair on my skin started to prickle, an anxious expression arose on my face and I was practically shaking. Internally my thoughts started to become almost a hurricane. With a reassuring look, Sebastian looked back with calming words. A warm smile spread across his face which made me feel at ease. I wondered if Sebastian had done something wrong instead.. No way, bad thoughts BEGONE! Now, I was at the entrance of the principal’s office, it’s all or nothing.

As soon as we entered, the principal motioned for us to sit and began speaking. “Astrid and Sebastian, it seems you have done a bad deed and therefore, me and your superiors have instructed to have you expelled. What you have done is utterly ridiculous and unacceptable!”

“Wha-,” I was cut off.

“I DON’T want to hear it Astrid and Sebastian, go home now!”

Contemplating my school life, trying to find what I have done wrong, I dragged my legs over the dry autumn leaves on the way home. I lay on my bed, ignoring the noise of my step-mothers voice, telling me to take the earliest flight to Coffs Harbour. She had urged me, extremely emphasising on the need to get there as soon as I could, trying to stop her nagging, I quickly bought a plane ticket online. Once I bought a ticket for the last available plane to Coffs harbour, I decided to go and practise on my keyboard. I aimed to become a famous music composer in my future after leaving my foster mother and pursuing a career in music, but fate told me I had another path to go towards. The next morning there was a BIG ISSUE. It seemed I had missed my flight to Coffs Harbour!

## Chapter Two: The Beautiful Carriage

I jumped out of bed, got dressed, had breakfast and I departed hastily to the airport. The last plane to Coffs Harbour had already left the airport. Sebastian’s lucky he’s an early bird, he must be on that plane without me right now! My head was dizzy, I couldn’t think.. I didn’t know what to do from then on.

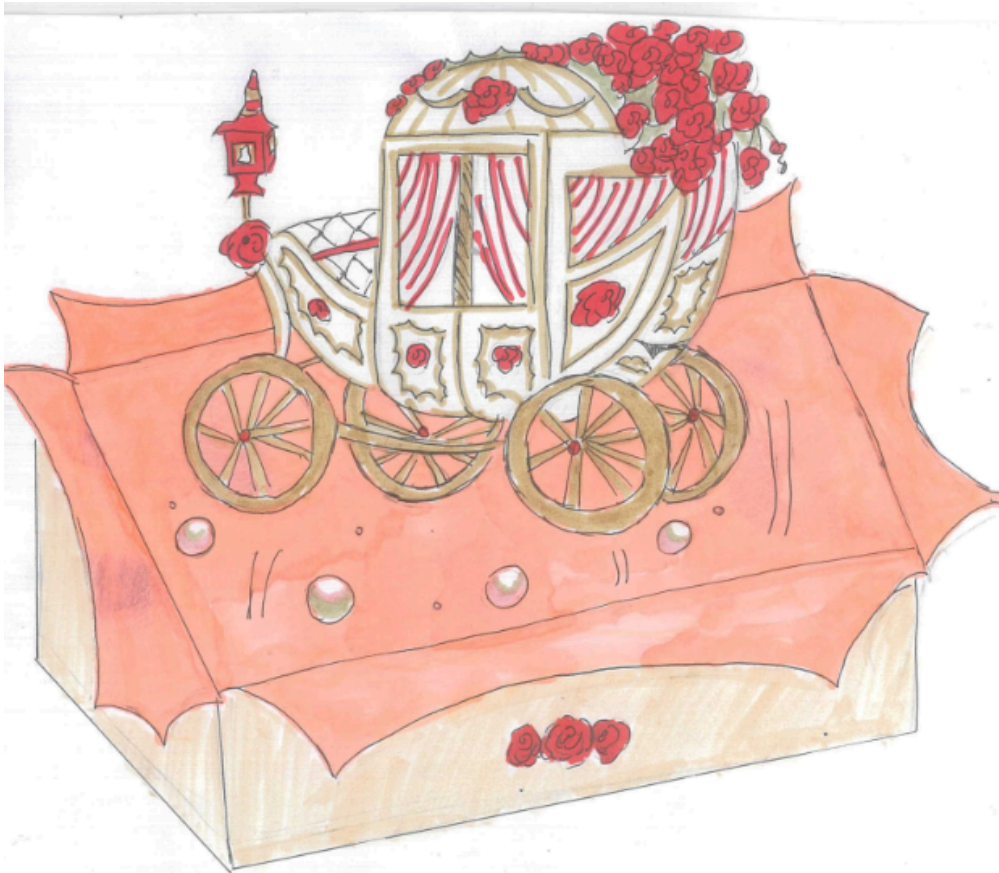
I started to panic but a sudden obscure feminine voice whispered something in my ear. It gradually became louder until I realised it was uttering my name. It began to murmur saying she had something to give specifically to me. I was instructed to walk into the woods without company. I questioned this abnormal voice in my head however curiosity was bubbling up from within me. I walked into the woods and it was an old woman, who had a very **wrinkled** face, she also had silvery hair that glistened in the sun, but something seemed really odd, she had **dazzling** light ocean blue eyes that looked exactly like mine, but something seemed odd and familiar about her, it felt like I have seen her somewhere before in my life, but I couldn't put my finger on it.



I was given a box coloured tendered pink. The woman urged me to open the box, once it opened bubbles popped out sending out a beautiful ceramic white carriage, adorned with gold streaks, and scarlet red roses entwining around the golden poles, with wonderful white lace curtains. The old woman told me to throw it on the ground. Once I did, a beam of light had shot out of the ceramic carriage then. It was a peculiar carriage unlike the ones you would imagine in all those fairy tales of princesses and princes. The carriage that had been gifted to me by a strange woman, who had appeared out of nowhere was not pulled by horses but six elegant pearl white pegasi with gold tack upon them. I thought that the foot men had looked normal despite being only a metre tall until I had glanced upon the ground and my jaw dropped. **THEY HAD ECHIDNA FEET??** Half human and half echidna footmen could this carriage become even more outlandish?? I wondered in disbelief. Although I agreed with the decision with them wearing fancy little black top hats and bow ties. I thought I was dreaming! I tried to thank the old woman but she smiled at me then disappeared. The footmen already

somehow knew where I was headed, so I hopped into the magical carriage and flew all the way to Coffs Harbour.

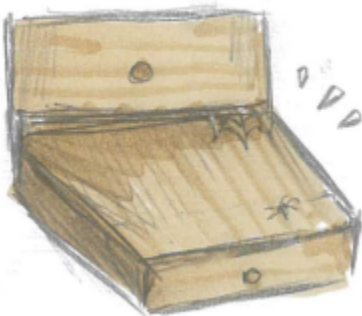
I can't believe the sights I was seeing! The top of The Blue Mountains and the



ginormous green eucalyptus forests surrounding it which was like a huge olive green blanket that covered the land below me, I could see The Opera House, and The Harbour Bridge from a bird's eye view, it was so fascinating. I slept in the

carriage throughout the journey. As soon as I woke up, the echidna footmen gave me a small brown paper package tied with twine attached to a clean white tag that had my name written in cursive, signifying the importance of this. He carefully advised me not to lose it.

### Chapter Three: Camp Sylvatica



I set foot in a campsite. I was astonished by the sight. A variety of activities were occurring through this place. Soon after, I was quickly shown to my cabin and I left the package on one of the

tables as I left to grab a cup of herbal tea which might be unnecessary for my jet lag. I contemplated but eventually decided to grab one anyway. After a few hours of strolling and drinking away I thought to myself "Did I lock the door"? I rushed quickly back to my cabin to see the sight of my door open, likely an intruder who had invaded. I went inside but the house was pristine and NOTHING was stolen, or was it. I went to the table where I laid the package down only to find that it was gone.

I checked everywhere for it, behind every cupboard and table I could possibly see, but it was still missing. Seeming that it was of very high importance that the footmen told me not to lose the package, I kept looking around. "Looking for this?" cackled a menacing voice that came from the shadows in the back of the room. "Did mum, never tell you about me". My eye shifts onto the dark figure on the other side of the room, "Who Are You?" I asked in an angry voice.

"Use your head to figure it out".

"I've Never Met Mum!" I was outraged.



"You Can Have This, You Said I'm Not Good Enough..."

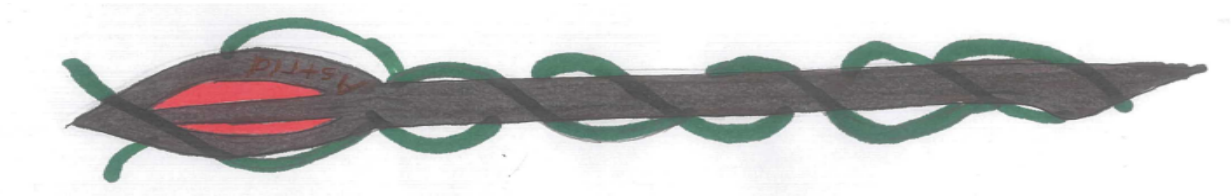
The person left me a beige antique, as I picked it up I smelt a fresh bouquet on a sunny day as I felt the bag there was seemingly nothing weighing nothing more than but a feather. I wondered of the journeys and adventures I would encounter during the time I reside here.

Pondering on what weapon I could specialise in to be my trademark I envisioned a 2 metre spear with a sharp steel blade with gold embellishments, pushing away

these thoughts back to the canvas bag. As I held



onto the bag I had felt a cylindrical pole, being inquisitive reaching into the bag I held onto the pole pulling it out of the bag. A big flash of blinding light deprived me of vision for a few seconds. Once I was able to see again there was a spear, an exact vision of what I conjured up in my mind. On the side of the steel blade there was something being engraved, it was my name once done the engraving had turned as red as freshly spilled blood.



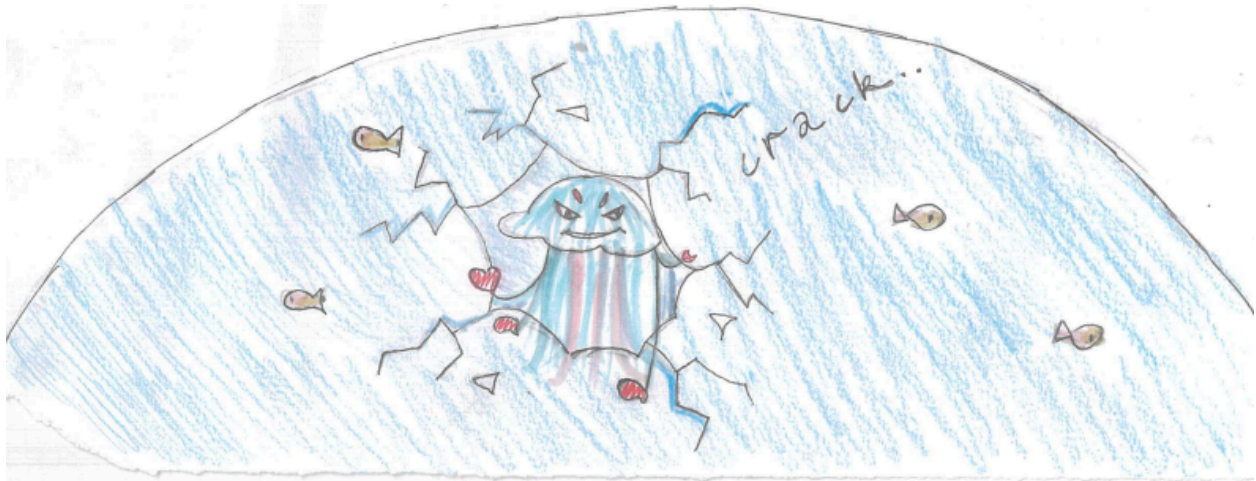
## Chapter Four: The Way of the Spear

I sought an instructor to satisfy my need to defend myself. Luckily, the search was not . I went to Apollo but people called him Instructor Lee as he had trained many people to master a variety of mythical spears. However, after my first lesson he was not willing to accept me anymore for some reason I didn't know. I kept asking why but he refused to even speak a word about this. "Fine then young lady, if you really think you're worthy then I challenge you to a hand to hand duel". My stance was awkward while he stood unwavering.

Not even a second later, I raised my fist and swung it at him. I felt my hand connect but I couldn't visually confirm it. Then a distant figure appeared to my side and jabbed me with their hands, and more and more punches landed on my abdomen as I got knocked out. "Uhhhh, what happened", I said in a raspy and drowsy voice. "Rise and shine little one, it has been a while since you got your head on the ground, I commend your bravery but you need to work harder, come see me tomorrow morning, we're going on an adventure." My face lit up in excitement as I rushed back to the camp gathering my belongings. I tried to find Sebastian, but he was in his own dorm.

## Chapter Five: A Trip to Sea Life

After training with a spear day and night, I was exhausted. I took a sip of cold water and flopped onto my bed wanting to relax my body for a few hours. When I woke up, I felt a piece of paper on my chest. I sat up to open the letter which was an excursion to an aquarium to explore and see extravagant music and inspiring poems. The trip to the Opera House would have been a great experience to enjoy the only subjects I like so I did. I went. It was a long trip to the Opera House and on the way I saw someone on the bus behind us who looked very familiar, someone from my old school, someone that looked like Sebastian, but he had snake-like green eyes. He walked up to me and greeted me immediately. I was so happy to see him, we walked to every section of sea animals until we reached the jellyfish.



Something was wrong, the glass was shattered and a huge jellyfish's silhouette was made out of the broken glass and water spilt out really quickly, everyone was panicking and all Poseidon's sons were helping everyone stay afloat. But where was the jellyfish? It was right behind Sebastian, who captured him in the trenches of the flooded aquarium. I screamed after him and one of Poseidon's sons gave me a scuba diving helmet, so I can breathe underwater easily. I swam after him into the trenches. I saw the giant jellyfish, I remembered the ways of fighting pollo taught me and used it on the jellyfish but I missed, but I heard the same feminine whisper I heard at the airport and it told me to "Use Your Father's Spear!" So I pulled it out of my canvas bag and I tried to poke the jellyfish with it but I kept missing, but finally I poked it in the tentacle and it **faded** away and then disappeared. The flood was reverted back to how it was and Sebastian was okay, just a bit soaked.

## Chapter Six: The Eccentric Bus

An abnormal disturbance left all the students dumb-founded. Towards the entrance sat a mysterious yellow bus that looked like it came out of an American Heartthrob movie from the 80s. Though no one overlooked this sudden appearance, they were swept off their feet, scurrying to escape this horror of an aquarium. I, of course, stood there, hesitating to trust such an extraordinary entity. Questioning the existence of this bus, with a final breath, I finally succumbed to the unpleasant scenarios piling in my head.



While walking inside, checking the surroundings inside the bus, amongst the crowd of people, I chose to sit next to a girl in pink. The drive started but there was a peculiar aura around this bus. When I knew there was something wrong, I peeked outside the window. The road started to become irregular, somewhat looking possessed. A slight chuckle I heard alarmed me about the presence of another entity who shouldn't exist in this world.

Throughout this bizarre bus ride, I was struggling to sit comfortably. We were crossing a bridge.. yet it seemed like we were crossing a border to danger. It seemed an eerie fog started to flow around them as soon as they were crossing the border. A sudden bang appeared and startled me and all the people on the bus. It was being held tightly by approaching green vines. They seemed to have a life of their own. It seems my theory was correct, this uncanny bridge would make them endangered.



## Chapter Seven: Exotic Gardens of Sensations

The road broke down and vines started to entangle itself between the road and the bus creating a thick and thorny wall covering the road. The driver pushed on full throttle and allowed the bus to snap the vines, however it quickly regenerated, catching the bus, then one of the vines punctured a wheel disabling our means of movement. Everyone panicked and multiple branches reached and captured everybody in its vicinity.



Eventually the tentacle-like-roots grabbed me as well, its grip was unbreakable like diamond, I clinged onto fragments of the bus but the tentacle's grasp was crushing me while I couldn't do a single thing, it eventually broke my grip and dragged me down a pit, all light left from my empty pupil. Anxious I let a faint cry "help" I then saw a figure, it was Instructor Lee! "You still have much to learn, disciple of mine". Instructor said calmly, "we're falling down!" Astrid screamed. Instructor Lee took out his spear seemingly out of nowhere and started to rapidly spin it creating a light tornado that would bring everyone down to the ground carefully. He then did a wind slash at the vines to finally scare it away." It seems we're very deep in this rabbit hole" said Instructor Lee. Instructor Lee informed us to walk close by and keep an eye out for anything hostile. After what seemed to be an eternity, we finally saw the end, The Exotic Gardens, it bloomed majestically and was filled with an excessive amount of plantation.

## Chapter Eight: The Final Boss-Waratah Monster



The Exotic Gardens, were very beautiful with multiple white gazebos with stained glass panels on every side, there were over 100 different species of plants and flowers that grew in the gardens creating swirls of vivid colours and half-human and half-kangaroo people watering the plants making the garden nice and neat. The sun shone from the clear, glistening

glass. In the centre of the greenhouse, was a large, bright red waratah. The waratah was fed a plentiful amount of water and food. Crash! The glass panes on the roof fell and broke into millions of pieces. The humongous plant rustled and shot a branch out of the ground. The giant plant then stood up with its thick roots and slapped the girl in pink with its arm. Sebastian who I hadn't seen for a while cowered in fear and froze. He suddenly pushed me in front to sacrifice me and then ran away. I turned around to see everyone watching me and Sebastian running away in cowardice.

Suddenly, the space between me and the rest of the group was filled in by a colossal rock. "Fight me you chicken!" roared the Waratah. I had no other option but to fight. The area was too small to run and there was no escape path either. "Pupil of mine, when you fight an opponent, you must always wait and listen then strike at the moment your opponent's weakness is unveiled" said Instructor Lee.

"But what if I can't" exclaimed Astrid, "I believe in you, even if I haven't taught you much, I depart you with this final knowledge, a spear is an extension of your body, think of it as more than a tool". My eyes set on the Waratah with determination, my body heated until boiling point, ready to fight. I grabbed my spear and spun it around to block the first Waratah jab, I then sliced the tree down but it eventually regenerated. The Waratah used its other branch and splitted into multiple arms each grabbing my limbs, I struggled and squirmed but it inevitably grabbed me and threw me down into the ground. Now my arm and leg were bruised up as I struggled to stand, I threw my spear hoping it would do something as Instructor Lee told me, spoiler alert, it did not work. However moments later it sank back into the ground and left a gift for my resilience and fighting skills.

## Chapter Nine: Ares's Wrath



I could hear an eerie cackling voice deep in the shadows of the garden, it was Sebastian! I was so shocked and bewildered as to why he was laughing and the purpose behind his actions. "Astrid, you are so naive." I questioned what he was talking about, being sceptical of his actions. "I'm no longer Sebastian anymore" I asked him what he meant by this? He began to float into the sky and his eyes went burgundy, he bellowed "I am, The song of Athena, Malum, I wanted revenge on your family for belittling my mother and underestimating her capabilities, I only sweet-talked with you, so I could get the pearl so my mother and I can teleport to

Olympus, take all the weapons of the Greek Gods and Goddesses so we can rule all of Olympus!"

"Looking for this, cousin?" He had the pearl in his hand and he grinned mischievously. He was my cousin all along!!!!" He was the one who took it in the first place! "Now to get it back, choose the right pearl and if you lose I get to rule Olympus, but if you win, I will disappear, there is no way you will win!" Sebastian cackled. "I heard another voice in my head but it was mysterious. It was a deep male voice that sounded just like Dad's voice! It said "Choose none of them, it's hidden in his locket!" I gladly was about to take the one on the right podium until I made a switch and crushed both of them with my spear. "It was none of them, it's hidden in your locket!" I bellowed. Malum screamed and disappeared into thin air, he was finally gone. I felt exhausted, but guilty that I made him disappear, he was my only real friend. I didn't know what to do, I began to feel extremely lonely and I started to tear up.

## Chapter Ten: The Savior



I saved the whole camp from Malum and his evil deeds, and now everyone respects me, however I still have a bashful and humble personality. Now I have lots of friends. I trained to become stronger and stronger everyday, and now I was the best swordsman of the whole camp, I taught a lot of the juniors how to fight and they succeeded, as I was teaching Poseidon's son, a familiar female voice came towards me, It was the old woman from the airport, she whispered "You passed my final test, Astrid." I was so confused, what test

was she talking about? She began to float and pastel bubbles and swirls of light surrounded her, transforming her as her true form.

She began to walk close to me and hugged me, but I don't know why. I questioned why she hugged me and she whispered in my ear "You are the heiress of love and war, you are my only daughter.

The woman who was speaking to me was Aphrodite, Goddess of Love, so that means I am not a half blood, I am a full blood, A full goddess. Astrid, I grant you as Goddess of Victory! I was granted my powers, I grew more powerful and attained the ability to make plants grow, I could create lightning and command the seas, I could talk to animals, I could do everything! "You are the prophecy!!!" my mother had said. Everyone from the camp cheered and created a huge celebration. The shadow from my dorm came out and revealed to be my father, Ares, who wasn't as scary as he seemed in Greek mythology, he had long brunette hair like mine and wore dark clothes. He carried various swords and weapons on his belt. I went up to him and worked things out with him. I asked him why he abandoned me and he said "It was for my own good, to keep me safe" half of me didn't believe him but I changed my mind, because mum wouldn't really abandon me, she was The Goddess of Love, why would she? So I reunited with my parents and would live in Olympus full time. Zeus even granted me the honour of getting my own musical instrument named after me, The Aulos.

**THE END**