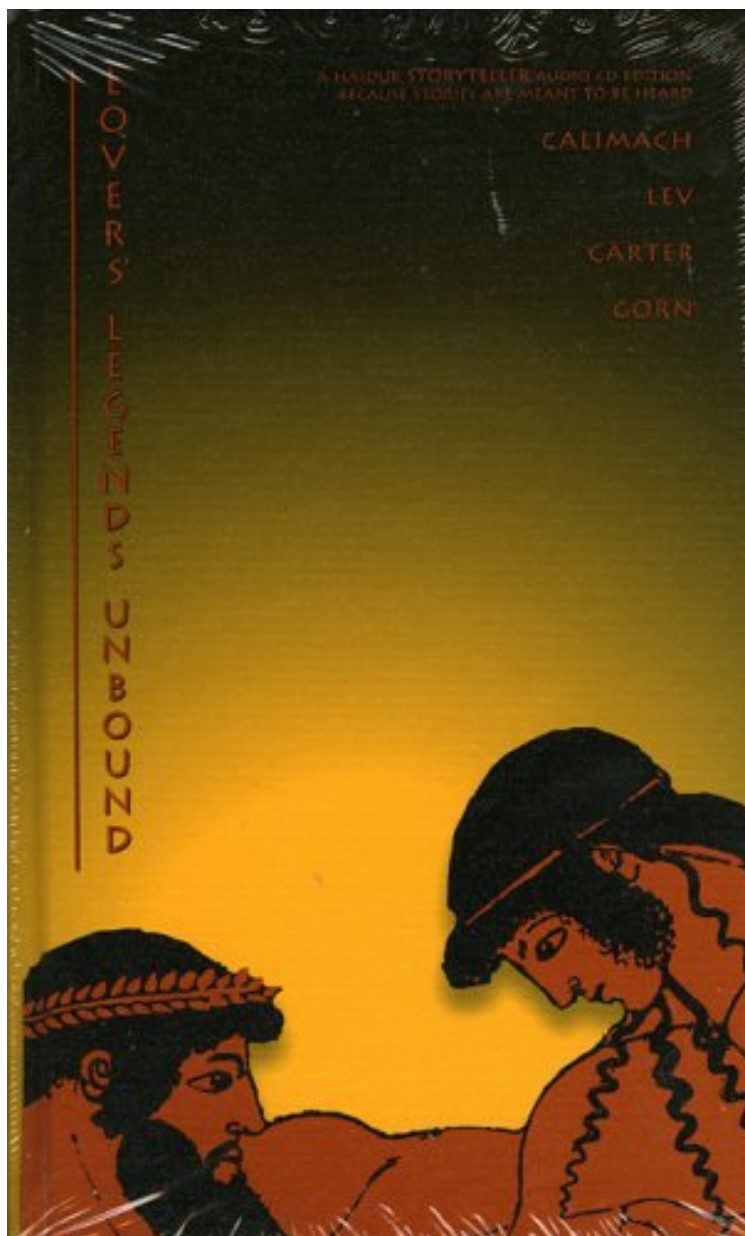


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Lovers' Legends Unbound

Andrew Calimach, Agnes Lev, Timothy Carter, Steve Gorn
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Andrew Calimach, Agnes Lev, Timothy Carter, Steve Gorn : Lovers' Legends Unbound before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Lovers' Legends Unbound:

7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. Where were these stories when I was in junior high? By A Customer This is a well-put-together package, a CD and a booklet with all the Greek myths they never told us about

when we were young. Frankly, I could have used them, back in those days before Stonewall. But better late than never. First, the CD. This is not a narration, it is more like performance art, and the tone and tempo of the stories evolves and progresses from first to last. It is obvious that a lot of work went into restoring these stories, and Calimach (the mythographer) has made some interesting and thought-provoking choices. Narcissus no longer has Echo for a foil. Now he plays opposite Ameinias, his male lover, who provides a symmetry and elegance to the story which Ovid's version, in its search for metamorphoses, lacks. Equally interesting is his separation of the myth of Pelops and Poseidon into two separate stories, one in which the god takes his beloved hero to Olympus, the other in which the god helps Pelops win a wife. This work should give all lovers of Greek myth something to think about. The book which accompanies the CD is very nicely done, and has some very nice reproductions of ancient art. Good job! 9 of 10 people found the following review helpful. Throw the book away and listen to the CD! By A Customer Drama at its best is mind-altering, and this stuff will have you reeling. This is gut-wrenching, gripping Greek tragedy, undiluted and not polite. But oh-so-true, and ever so cleansing, down to the core. Listen to it again and again, but not all at once, it is too condensed and too powerful. Kudos to the director for taking these stories in all their intensity and instead of narrating the action, acting the underlying human dilemmas, which know no time or country. And Timothy Carter's acting is superb through the twists and turns of passion. Truly masterful theater!

Greek myths in spoken and written form bring to life stories suppressed since antiquity, revealing a nuanced morality integrating spirituality and male love. The CD is elegantly packaged in a hardbound book with many color illustrations. Book club rights optioned by Bookspan. Adapted from *Lovers' Legends: The Gay Greek Myths*, Winner of ForeWord Magazine 2003 Book Of The Year Award (Silver, Gay Lesbian); Finalist in 2003 Lambda Awards (Spirituality, and Children/Young Adults), and in Benjamin Franklin Awards (Gay Lesbian). FIC010000; HIS002010; REL072000

A delight to the ear, an excitement to the mind, and a solace to the heart. A truly fine work. --Sir Derek Jacobi I am impressed. It is a work of great devotion, and scholarly as well. --Vern L. Bullough, Author and sex historian Now these classic tales are brought to voice. Calimach renders the spirit of the myths in words fresh and unfusty. --The Guide Magazine, Dec 2003 From the Publisher THE GAY GREEK MYTHS RE-AWAKEN AS THEATER AFTER TWO THOUSAND YEAR SLEEP In a tour-de-force combining archaeology, literature, theater and music, four artists from New York have united their efforts to bring back to life the lost Greek myths of male love. Culminating four years of labor, they have released their work as a one-man radio-drama production on audio-CD, presented in an elegant libretto. The stories, pieced together by Andrew Calimach from ancient fragments, feature characters we all thought we knew but who reveal here a side censored out of popular literature ever since Roman times. Listening to these tales read by Shakespearean actor Timothy Carter and spiced with flute music by Steve Gorn, of the contemplative music band Drala we discover that Narcissus, cursed for having spurned the love of another man, fell in love with a beautiful boy in a pond. Here too are Hercules and Hylas, in love, and together "morning, noon and night." The stories integrate passion with spiritual and moral teachings: there is the shamanic story of Tantalus and Pelops - founder of the Olympic Games; followed by that of Pelops and Hippodamia, in which his lover helps Pelops gain a wife but can't shield him from paying for his crimes. Stories about Orpheus, the prophet of male love; Zeus Ganymede and jealous Hera; the gay side of the Trojan war in Achilles and Patroclus, and others complete the collection. "Books of folk tales and myths were the daily fare of my childhood, since my parents were too poor to afford a television set, and helped me understand myself and the world." says Calimach. "I felt cheated when I realized that a whole family of myths had been suppressed. I don't think I would have felt so alienated when growing up if I had learned about the gay love instinct through the tales of the Greek gods and heroes." Calimach is the author of the acclaimed "Lovers' Legends: The Gay Greek Myths" the source text for the current work, winner of the FOREWORD MAGAZINE Book-of-the-Year Silver Award for Gay Lesbian Non-Fiction, and finalist in Education. The book was also a BEN FRANKLIN AWARD finalist and a LAMBDA BOOK AWARD finalist in Children / Young Adults, and Spirituality categories. Calimach's work has been well reviewed in popular and professional journals. School Library Journal praises the original text, rating it appropriate for High School and College audiences and adding, "Young adults will have an opportunity to learn about mythology with new explications and insights. Not only of interest to the gay community, the book will appeal to all lovers of myth as it is a work of considerable scholarship suitable for use in courses on gender studies or Greek history and culture." To produce the CD, Calimach joined forces with Agnes Lev, the noted Israeli theater director. "Mythology is historical and narrative," says Lev, "but my approach was to make the stories personal and emotional. Conflict became dilemma, and story line became inner action." Calimach adds, "We wanted to present the myths the way the ancients might have heard them. In the old days they were not meant to be read but to be told." The stories have a timeless appeal, springing from the Greeks sophisticated understanding of human psychology. Calimach explains, "In our ancestors time, same-sex love was considered natural, and often was analogous to marriage. It colored every aspect of life: war, religion, and education. Listening to myths we get drawn into that world, and discover that self-indulgence, betrayal, and violence are to be despised, and love is the highest

good."From the AuthorWhat are the gods and heroes? Fiction? Folk tales? To the Greeks, they were the encounter with the divine, as well as true history. Their myths proclaim that self-indulgence, betrayal and violence are to be despised, and that love is the highest good. They communicate enduring human values, and speak to us all in a secret language of the heart.