

opening extract from

# The Adventures of Odysseus

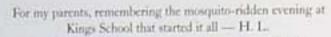
written by

### Hugh Lupton and Daniel Morden

published by

**Barefoot Books** 

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For Mick and Margaret, my first storytellers - D. M.

For Scott Croucher - C. B.

Harefort Books 124 Walest Street Birth BA1 JBG

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> First published in Great Britain in 2000, by Barring Berlin Ltd.

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This book was typeset to Caslon Old Face 18 on 20 pener and Toyon and Letters Regular The Bustrations were prepared as nateriologic genuche and grid inks on a prepared cold-present 300ger paper

Hardisch ISBN 1-84148-799-6.

Remith Cataloguing in Publication Data a catalogue record for this back is available from the British Library

133793642

#### Bibliography

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## ODYSSEUS.

HUGH LUPTON and DANIEL MORDEN

illustrated by

CHRISTINA BALIT



#### · PROLOGUE ·

One bright morning Prince Paris was out hunting. He was climbing the high rocky slopes of Mount Ida. Far below him his father's walled city, the city of Troy, lay like a circlet of stone, a shining diadem of towers. As he climbed there was a sudden shimmer of light to one side of the stony mountain path.

Paris turned and saw Hermes, the messenger of the Gods. He knew him at once by his winged sandals. Hermes smiled his inscrutable, playful smile. 'Paris,' he said. 'I have been sent by great father Zeus, the Cloudcompeller. He has told me to tell you that you must decide which of these three Goddesses is the most beautiful.'

Hermes clicked his fingers and Paris was blinded by light. He covered his face with his hands. Slowly he opened his fingers and saw standing before him the three most powerful Goddesses of all.

There was Hera, the wife of Zens, the Queen of Heaven, terrifying in her brilliance. There was owl-eyed Athene, the fierce and implacable Goddess of War and Wisdom. And there was beautiful Aphrodite, the Goddess of Love, to whose lilting tune the whole world dances.



