



# Cupid and Psyche

By M. Charlotte Craft

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Magically, Psyche finds herself in a magnificent castle fitted with sweet music, attentive servants, and a charming but invisible host. Soon she falls in love with this man she has never seen, but in a moment of doubt she betrays his trust. To win back his love, Psyche must show that she is as brave as she is beautiful by performing three impossible tasks.

Perhaps the greatest love story of all, *Cupid and Psyche* is unsurpassed in its richness and drama. Marie Craft's lively, suspenseful retelling of this classic Greek myth will appeal to young and old alike. And these legendary lovers have inspired forty lush luminous paintings by award-winning artist Kinuko Craft.

Lavishly illustrated and thrillingly told, here is a book to be treasured forever.

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## Cupid and Psyche By M. Charlotte Craft Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #290558 in Books
- Brand: Harper Collins
- Published on: 1996-06-03
- Released on: 1996-06-03
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 11.00" h x .25" w x 9.00" l, .97 pounds
- Binding: Hardcover
- 48 pages

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## Editorial Review

### Amazon.com Review

First-time author Marie Charlotte Craft and her mother, award-winning illustrator Kinuko Craft combine detailed oil-over-watercolor paintings and easy-to-read text to introduce the story of the arrow-shooting Cupid, god of love, and the beautiful Princess Psyche to younger readers. Though the story is about their union, the book unfolds as a fairy tale, skirting over the details of love so that it's appropriate for even the smallest children. Cupid's nocturnal visits are for conversation only and the two don't marry or have their child until the last sentence.

### From School Library Journal

Grade 5-8?The late post-Hellenistic story of Cupid (Eros) and Psyche is more fairy tale than myth. It allegorically represents the maturing of the soul (psyche) under the influence of love (eros). Craft retells Apuleius's story (although Apuleius's name nowhere appears) with several minor and two significant changes. When Venus seeks revenge on the too-beautiful Psyche, she instructs her son to make the girl a slave (in various translations) to an "unworthy," "poor and abject," or "ugly and monstrous" love. Craft's charge is to make her love "the most frightening creature in the world," neatly meshing with the description of Cupid as one whose power even the gods fear. In abridging the story, Craft loses some of the tension in the family drama of the sisters' envy, Venus's enmity, and Psyche's efforts (here she is aided by Cupid, while in Apuleius even stones spontaneously help her). When she returns from her last task, with the box containing one day's beauty, Craft misses the connection between sleep and beauty, emphasizing instead the sleep of death. The sensational oil-over-watercolors should guarantee this book wide circulation. Elegantly bordered, the elaborate paintings incorporate elements of neoclassical, 19th-century, and Art Deco design into richly detailed, idealized romantic tableaux. The over-the-top lushness of the art compensates for the insipidity of the characters' faces, drawn from type rather than from life. This gorgeous Valentine will long outlast February's flurry. ?Patricia (Dooley) Lothrop Green, St. George's School, Newport, RI  
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### From [Booklist](#)

Gr. 3<sup>+</sup>-5, younger for reading aloud. Doris Orgel's *The Princess and the God* retells this archetypal love story for an older audience in Psyche's personal narrative voice with drama and passion and no illustrations. Here, the telling is simple and direct; the text is really a basis for the glowing narrative art. Craft's 40 full-page framed paintings, done in oil over watercolor, are lush and romantic in the style of the old European masters, with tempestuous goddesses and brooding landscapes that draw you deeper and deeper into the dark. The light is always around Psyche, the glamorous maiden, who acts out the tale of love and trickery, betrayal and courage. Readers will see the connections with all our versions of Beauty and the Beast, and this would be a good book to use across the curriculum for units on myth, literature, and art. *Hazel Rochman*

## Users Review

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#### John Drew:

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**Cathy Spearman:**

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**Olga Andres:**

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**Gary Wells:**

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