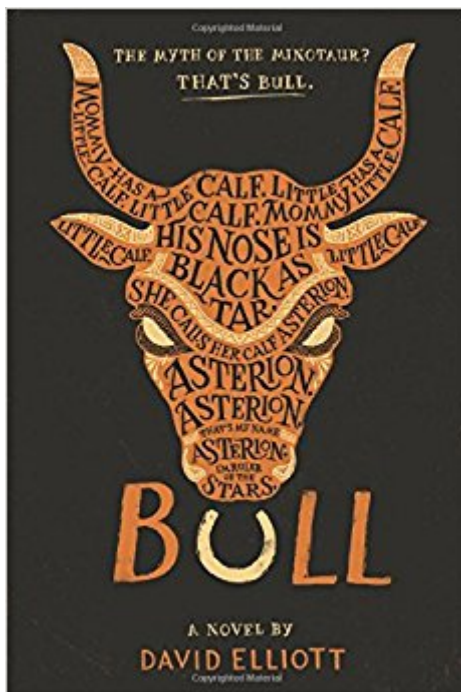


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# Bull



## Synopsis

Much like Lin-Manuel Miranda did in *Hamilton*, the *NY Times* best-selling author David Elliott turns a classic on its head in form and approach, updating the timeless story of Theseus and the Minotaur. A rough, rowdy, and darkly comedic young adult retelling in verse, which NPR called "beautifully clever," Bull will have readers reevaluating one of mythology's most infamous monsters.

SEE THE STORY OF THESEUS AND THE MINOTAUR IN A WHOLE NEW LIGHT

Minos thought he could Pull a fast one On me, Poseidon! God of the Sea! But I'm the last one On whom you Should try such a thing. The nerve of that guy. The balls. The audacity. I AM THE OCEAN! I got capacity! Depths! Darkness! Delphic power! So his sweet little plan Went big-time sour And his wife had a son Born with horns and a muzzle Who ended up In an underground puzzle. What is it with you mortals? You just can't seem to learn: If you play with fire, babies, You're gonna get burned.

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## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Beautifully clever." *Weekend Edition Saturday* | "Razor-sharp rhyme schemes and sly, vicious humor make Bull a bawdy yet sophisticated romp, a literary feast fit for the gods." *Shelf Awareness*, starred review | "Elliott contemporizes the ancient story of blackmail, betrayal, and revenge with humor, poignancy, and profanity . . . the personalities and voices Elliott brings to these mythical characters make this powerful and engrossing book a genre of its own." *Publishers Weekly*, starred review |

"...Elliott's clever verse version of the classical story of the Minotaur: its title, *Bull*, is topically and colloquially apt." *Horn Book*, starred review |

"There's nothing half-blooded or Disneyfied in David Elliott's energetic, multi-voiced verse novel retelling . . . Brief, useful notes explain both the liberties taken with the myth and choices of form for each character. Nods to Hamilton are inevitable, but whether or not Lin-Manuel Miranda had anything to do with inspiring what we hope will be a trend of transforming old stories into hip-hop gold, all readers and educators can say at this point is keep it coming." *Bulletin*, starred review | "Elliott's absolutely magnetic rhythms will wake up any high school class, and the book could also work as a play. Irresistible, slick, and sharp (no bull!) with plenty of bull to dissect." *Kirkus*, starred review | "This striking reexamination of the Greek myth Theseus and the Minotaur [is] a conceit that easily could have floundered; in Elliott's capable hands, it soars." *Booklist*, starred review "Elliott's contemporary take on the classic myth incorporates modern slang, profanity, and a bawdy sense of humor into an accessible, highly entertaining, and original novel... Recommended for most large collections, particularly those in need of engaging interpretations of classic myths." *School Library Journal* "It's rude, it's crude, and it's a whole bunch of fun." *BookPage* "David Elliott's *Bull* does for mythology what Lin-Manuel Miranda's *Hamilton* has done for U.S. history. Teens of all genders and reading levels will devour this salty, quick-witted retelling and the timely truth of this story: It takes a god to make a boy into a beast, but it is us humans who turn him into a monster. I loved this book." *Allan Wolf*, author of *The Watch That Ends the Night* and *New Found Land* "Stunning, explosive, and brilliantly-crafted. *BULL* is a perfect addition to the new canon of classics." *Liz Wright*, *Brazo Books* "Dark, disturbing, and devastatingly good." *Elana K. Arnold*, author of *Infandous* and *Sacred* "What an extraordinary book! Saucy and thoroughly modern, *Bull* feels both ageless and of our time, and is, above all, a bracing, unforgettable read." *Jane Brox*, author of *Brilliant: The Evolution of Artificial Light* "The voices in this poem as much hip hop as epic taunt in a spirit that is at once modern ghetto and ancient philosopher. As a lover of the Greek tales, I'm so grateful for this dizzying ride." *Donna Jo Napoli*, author of *Sirena*, *Bound*, and *Beast* "Irreverent and witty, the book is a fantastic labyrinth of its own, with new turns and twists that deliver us to the wisdom at its center." *Kyoko Mori*, author of *One Bird* and *Shizuko's Daughter* "A remix told in striking and affecting verse, *BULL* offers a modern, haunting look at this story of power, lust, love, and revenge."

•Sara Grochowski, Brilliant Books “An entirely refreshing twist on the indelicate undercurrents of Greek Mythology, BULL will inspire today’s readers to rediscover the classics.”  
•Sara Hines, Eight Cousins Books

David Elliott is a NY Times bestselling children’s author. His many titles include: And Here’s to You!, The Transmogrification of Roscoe Wizzle, The Evangeline Mudd books, Finn Throws a Fit!, Jeremy Cabbage and the Living Museum, and In the Wild. His most recent titles include On the Wing, This Orq. books, and Nobody’s Perfect. Born in Ohio, David has worked as a singer, a cucumber washer, and a popsicle stick maker. Currently, he lives in New Hampshire with his wife and a three-footed dog. If you’d like to know more about David and his books, visit his blog/website at [davidelliottbooks.com](http://davidelliottbooks.com)

I have to be honest, this book really suffered from what I wanted it to be, and my preconceived notions. One of my favorite myths, I had very high hopes, and expectations of tone and content. That said, once I got over the way the self-consciously modern language pricked my pretense, there is a lot of good here, and the author is commended for the risks they took. It is a fine book, and I liked some of the ways they tied together and developed loose ends of the myths. One criticism would be that the author’s note at the end would have served us better at the beginning. A discussion of the poetic forms used would have made this work much more accessible to the casual reader, as I was lost for much of the book, trying to make heads or tails of the patterns that, once I knew them, seemed obvious.

I found this book while searching for a young adult novel based on Greek myth and boy, am I happy that I did. I’ll be writing a compare and contrast essay on the actual myth and this book for my college Mythology class and really can’t wait to begin. Elliott stays so closely aligned with the facts of the original myth while giving the reader an insight into the relationships of the characters involved, creating a much more emotional and captivating retelling of the story of Theseus and the Minotaur. I flew through this novel, aided by the spectacular flow of the verse and form of each character. I am impressed that Elliott let his characters decide which forms or poetry he used according to their temperament and intent. This is a fantastic quick read and so much fun. I caught myself giggling out loud on more than one occasion.

Fun! This has some bad behavior in it and bad language, but is a wonderful retelling of the Minotaur

and the labyrinth under Crete. So much fun. Buy this and read this only if you don't mind the bad behavior inherent in Greek Mythology.

Witty, intelligent and poetic, Bull is a creative retelling of a classic myth. Elliott innovatively allows for the reader to have a newfound empathy for each of the characters, especially the popularly disliked character of the Minotaur. Using the poetic form, intermittent comic relief, and a delightful understanding of human nature, Elliott brings to life the story in ways that give you a view into each of the character's personalities. I would recommend it as a teaching tool, or if you just want something smart and playful to read one evening.

Funny, smart, an old tale re-told in a modern way, unstuffy poetry - what more could you want?! I think this would be the perfect bookclub book.

The whole book is a poem, of sorts. Cannot recommend.

Bull is a fabulous retelling of the Minotaur tale. The entire time I was reading I thought that this should really be done as a stage production a la Hamilton. The story is told in poetic form that differs with each of the main characters:1. Poseidon is the narrator and his voice is flip, his format is changeable (the author says "like the sea")2. Minos is the King of Crete and uses couplets to tell his part of the tale. This often comes off as Rap and you can envision this horrid king prancing around a stage overcome with self-satisfaction.3. Daedalus is the Royal Engineer and speaks in the common four line stanzas.4. Pasiphae is the wife of Minos, mother of the Minotaur and batshit crazy. Her scant speaking parts are rambling and dark.5. Asterion is the Minotaur. Head of a bull, body of a man. Sad, sad, sad.6. Ariadne is a Royal daughter who has good intentions that are not necessarily fulfilled. Her voice, to me, was the most "Rap" of the bunch.7. Theseus is a young man from Athens come to Crete to make a name for himself and slay the beast. There is humor and pathos in the retelling of this dark Greek tale. I can honestly say that I would not have picked this book if it had not come highly recommended. I am now so glad I did. Author David Elliot has stepped out of the box and given us a work of pure genius. As I said this is not my genre, nor does it adhere to any of my interests but I loved every word.

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