

Black Ships Before Troy Notes - updated 5/18/06

## Ch. 1, "The Golden Apple"

4/10/06

King Peleus of the Myrmidons and a sea nymph named Thetis got married. All the gods of high Olympus were invited. Eris was NOT invited. She was the goddess of discord and she was mad! Eris dropped golden apple in a fruit bowl to cause trouble. It said "To the Fairest" on the apple.

Three greatest goddesses claimed apple:

Hera-wife of Zeus, queen of gods

Athene-goddess of wisdom

Aphrodite-goddess of beauty

The three goddesses wanted the wedding guests to choose the fairest, but no one would for fear of making an enemy of the other two. They argued for a long time.

Troy was a city surrounded by walls. King Priam made Troy rich by collecting tolls. King Priam and Queen Hecuba had a baby boy named Paris. The soothsayer predicted that Paris would be trouble and would burn down Troy eventually. Dad sends him to the forest to die. A herdsman finds the baby and raises him.

Paris grows tall and strong and beautiful. He falls in love with Oenone and she's a wood nymph who can heal all mortal wounds.

The three goddesses saw Paris and wanted him to choose the fairest. Athene promises wisdom,  
Hera promises power and honor,  
Aphrodite promises a pretty wife.  
Paris chooses Aphrodite. The other two were mad!

Aphrodite made the prize bull run off to Troy. Paris went looking for the bull. He meets his mom and she knew he was her son. The king forgot about the prophecy, was glad to see his son and gave him his own house in Troy. Paris would visit Oenone sometimes.

King Menelaus is king of Sparta. He marries Helen of the Fair Cheeks. Everyone wanted to marry Helen. Her father made her other suitors promise to be friends forever to King Menelaus.

Paris went to chase Helen. He totally told Oenone she was worthless and he asked his father for a ship for the journey.

It was a long journey across the Aegean Sea, but they got to King Menelaus' fortress in Sparta at last. Paris introduced himself as a prince, and the king welcomed him warmly.

Helen entered the room and spun yarn while listening to Paris's tales. Helen noticed Paris was young, and she didn't like being married to her father's choice, the old man Menelaus. Paris noticed that Helen was even more beautiful than the stories told about her.

When Menelaus was out hunting, Paris explained his love to Helen. She snuck away with Paris with the maidens taking care of the baby. She left her lord, babe, and honor. Aphrodite's plan came true.

### Black Ships Before Troy Notes

Chapter II, "Ship-Gathering," 4/12/06

Menelaus got back from hunting to find that his wife had fled with Paris. He called for aid from his brother, Agamemnon, high king of Greece. He also calls:

- \*Mycenae and Agamemnon of Lion Gate
- \*Nestor of Pylos
- \*Thisbe with wild doves of Pytho
- \*Ajax Lord of Salamis
- \*Diomedes, loud war cry of Argos (horses)
- \*Odysseus from Ithaca (cunning)
- \*Idomeneus of Crete

King Peleus and Thetis had a son, Achilles. The gods promised Thetis that if she dipped the baby in the River Styx then it would make it so that he couldn't die in battle. But she held him so tight by the heel that the water didn't get to him. So Achilles is vulnerable in that spot.

Achilles was trained with Patroclus by a centaur in how to fight. Thetis hid Achilles among women to keep him safe from the war.

Odysseus dresses up like a trader to give trinkets to the princesses. Achilles picked up a sword and his mom's magic disappeared. The other kings and chieftains rejoiced with Achilles joining them.

Achilles went back home to get his ships and men for battle. His mom tells him that he will die if he goes to battle but be famous, but if he stays he will live to be a happy old man who's not famous. Achilles decides to go to war even if he dies.

### Black Ships Before Troy Notes

#### Chapter III, "Quarrel with the High King," 4/13/06

The Greeks with Menelaus were racing to Troy. Prince Protesilaus was first to get to Troy, he jumped ashore and was shot in the neck with an arrow. There were more Greeks than Trojans, and the Greeks dominated the first battle on the beach.

The Greeks built a small village on the beach and they lived there while having war with the Trojans. The Greeks were on the beaches of Troy for nine years and they were getting tired and restless.

The Greeks attacked the villages and cut food off from Troy. They enslaved the women after their villages fell in battle.

After ten years, Achilles led a battle and won then captured Chryseis and Briseis as slaves. Chryseis went to Agamemnon because he was high king and he always got the best prize. Briseis went to Achilles because he led the raid. Chryseis is the daughter of the high priest of Apollo. The priest begged for his daughter's return. Agamemnon insulted the priest and refused to release Chryseis.

Apollo was mad because the Greeks refused to return Chryseis. The Greeks are getting fevers from Apollo's wrath. Agamemnon said he would return Chryseis if Achilles would give the high king Briseis instead. Achilles had grown to care for Briseis, but Athena told him to let the slave go. Achilles insulted the king for taking other men's prizes after battle when

the king doesn't even fight.

Achilles said that Agamemnon dishonored him and so Achilles wouldn't fight for the Greeks any more until the brave warrior's honor was restored. Agamemnon sent Odysseus to take Chryseis back in a ship to appease Apollo. Then Agamemnon had his guards go get Briseis from Achilles. After she left Achilles went to the shore to cry.

Thetis came to Achilles and tried to calm him. Achilles asked his mom to tell Zeus to make the Trojans win the next battle so Agamemnon will give Briseis back.

Thetis swore that she would ask after Zeus got back. Odysseus returned and said Apollo was not against them any more.

### Black Ships Before Troy Notes

Chapter IV, "Single Combat," 4/24/06

On the twelfth day Zeus returned to the crest of Olympus. Thetis went up to him and asked him to do as Achilles said and have the Trojan's win the next battle. So Zeus complied and said yes. Zeus sent a false dream to Agamemnon saying that the Greeks would defeat Troy in a battle. When Agamemnon woke up he realized that dreams can lie and he went to ask the other kings their opinion of battle.

Agamemnon wanted to test the troops to see how "psyched" for battle they were. One guy got mad and everyone else was battle weary. Odysseus beat down the dissenter and got the troops ready for battle.

The Greek army and the Trojan army are lined up for battle. Paris said he'd fight any Greek warrior one on one for Helen. Menelaus came out to fight Paris, and Paris chickened out.

Hector, his big brother, talked some courage back into Paris. Who ever won the battle would get to keep Helen, and who ever lost would die. This battle would end the war.

Helen found out that Menelaus and Paris were fighting over her. She went to watch. King Priam was already there. His advisors were there and they thought Helen should leave because she was a distraction to the Trojans. But King Priam comforts Helen and tries to change the subject and asks her the names of Greek warriors to make her feel better.

Both sides took an oath to honor the winner of the battle. Paris won

the right to the first spear-throw. So he went to spear Menelaus and the spear was deflected by Menelaus' shield.

Menelaus' spear pierced Paris' shield and he tried to drag Paris back to the Greek battle line. Aphrodite snapped the strap off the helmet so Paris got loose. Then she draped a cloak of invisibility over Paris and sent him back to his chambers in his father's house. Menelaus said that since Paris disappeared that the Greeks won that battle by default.

Helen turned against Paris and went to his high chamber and said she wished that Paris had died in the battle. Helen also said that Menelaus was a better man than Paris. Aphrodite said that Helen had better be nice to Paris or the hearts of Greeks would turn against her. Paris got up and sweet-talked Helen. Helen was still mad at him. Aphrodite cast a spell on Helen so she would hug Paris and remember him fondly.

### Black Ships Before Troy Notes

#### Chapter V, "The Women of Troy," 4/25/06

After Paris disappeared, Pandarus, a Trojan prince, was made to shoot Menelaus by Athena's orders so that the truce would be broken. The war broke out and was fought fiercely by both sides. Menelaus didn't die; he was just wounded. They warred violently. When someone died the armor was stolen from their body.

A soothsayer tells Hector to leave the battle field and ask his mother, the queen, to make an offering to Athena so the battle will go better for the Trojans. Hector's mom makes the offering and he stops by to see Helen before he returns to the battlefield.

Hector finds Paris in Helen's chamber playing with his armor and bow. Hector tells his brother to get out to the battle field and fight with the men who are dying because of Paris' decision 10 years ago. Paris said he would, he just needed to catch his breath and stop feeling grief.

Helen said the gods would be a lot nicer if the war was not just about her. Hector left telling Helen to get Paris ready for battle. Hector finds his wife and baby on the Scaean Gate. She said she did not want him to go back to fight. He says he must and is there to say goodbye to her. He said he feared that she would be made a slave by the Greeks. Hector held his baby, who was afraid of the helmet. Hector played with his baby and held his family in his arms like he could not let them go. He tells his wife to stop crying and return to women's work and he will return to battle.

Black Ships Before Troy Notes  
Chapter VI, "The High King's Embassy," 4/26/06

Paris and Hector return to war together and began to fight. They drove the Greeks back almost to the black ships. Athena was so mad that she put the idea into the head of Hector for another single combat. All the men stopped and sat down while another name was pulled from the helmet, Ajax of Salamis, the tallest and strongest Greek warrior there stepped out to face Hector.

Hector and Ajax fought; Hector throwing the first spear which did not get through Ajax's shield. They attacked each other with pieces of spears. Hector got hit in the neck and he threw a rock at Ajax. Ajax threw a bigger rock at Hector and it smashed his shield and got really really hurt by that.

The herald brought messages from each side and commanded that they stop the single combat. They ended in friendship and gave each other gifts.

The next day they had a truce and burned their dead. The Greeks also dug a ditch all along the shore to protect their camp. The wall was made of turf and stakes.

The next day when the sun rose the fighting began again. Hector had two chariot drivers killed beside him. Diomedes would have led a Greek charge on Troy, but Zeus sent his lightning bolts to stop him. The Trojans had forced the Greeks into their camp with their backs to the water. The Trojans were so confident of victory they camped out on the battlefield to as not to lose any ground the next day.

Agamemnon says he wants to go home. Diomedes stands up and says he wants to stay fighting and not to bring shame to the dead or the living by giving up.

King Nestor wanted Agamemnon to send an embassy to Achilles so he would fight within their ranks again. Agamemnon said he'd give back Briseis along with gold, horses and riches. Ajax, Odysseus, and Phoenix went to see Achilles as the embassy.

Achilles leapt up to welcome the embassy. Then he asked Patroclus to get food and wine so they could feast. Odysseus told him why they were there. He offered Agamemnon's apology and Briseis, riches, gold, horses, slaves, land, and Agamemnon's daughter in marriage.

Achilles can not release his anger. He says he would rather choose his own bride, and that he can not trust Agamemnon. Phoenix pleads with Achilles to master his anger. Achilles refuses to listen to reason and sends the embassy back to Agamemnon empty handed.

Black Ships Before Troy Notes

## Chapter VII, "The Horses of King Rhesus," 4/27/06

Agamemnon couldn't sleep because he was worried about the war. Menelaus was also up and he devised a plan to spy on the Trojans that night because the Trojans were camping out on the battlefield. So they woke up the council and old Nestor.

The council sends Diomedes and Odysseus to spy on the Trojans. Hector thinks of the idea of sending a Trojan to spy on the Greeks to see if they were keeping close watch and just how tired they were.

Hector chose Dolon for his spy. Dolon is ugly, foolish, swift and loves horses. Draped in a grey wolf skin, Dolon ran off to spy on the Greek beach camp. Odysseus and Diomedes heard Dolon coming and acted as dead bodies until he passed by. Once the Greek spies caught the Trojan spy, Dolon shook in fear.

Dolon told Odysseus that Hector promised Achilles' horses to the spy that returned with information. Odysseus asked Dolon for an update on the Trojan battle plan.

Dolon told Odysseus and Diomedes that King Rhesus had the best horses and after he told them that, the two Greeks cut off Dolon's head.

Odysseus and Diomedes snuck into the camp of King Rhesus while they slept. Diomedes slew the twelve body guards and the King and ran off with the King's horses.

When the two Greeks got back to their camp, they were met with a celebration for having dispersed a thousand Thracian warriors by killing the King. Odysseus saved Dolon's stuff to make an offering to Athena. Both Odysseus and Diomedes washed up in the ocean and went to breakfast.

Black Ships Before Troy Notes

## Chapter VIII, "Red Rain," 5/1/06

Rain that was very very red, vermillion color was falling the day after Diomedes and Odysseus went on the raid to kill King Rhesus and take his horses. Even though this was a bad omen, the Greeks were still happy and celebrating the victory they had accomplished. They put on their war gear and met the Trojans at battle. Arrows started falling like rain and swords were killing.

Agamemnon led a really big charge during which a lot of people died. Agamemnon killed two of Hector's brothers and the Greeks drove the

Trojans back to the gates of the city. Hector ordered his warriors to get back into lines. Agamemnon got a spear in the arm and had to stop and go back to the ships.

Hector got really mad and wanted to drive the Greeks back to the ships but Odysseus and Diomedes stood against him. Diomedes threw a spear at Hector's head, but it did not pierce the shining bronze. Hector still fell to the ground. Hector rose again in just a couple seconds and got into his chariot. The charioteer got the team going to the left wing of the Greek war host. Paris shot an arrow into Diomedes' foot and pinned it to the ground. Odysseus covered him with a big shield and helped him get into his chariot to go back to the ships.

Odysseus was the only leader left in the center of the battle field. A Trojan warrior threw a spear at him and it pierced his breastplate. Odysseus killed the warrior and shouted for aid. Ajax and Menelaus came and pulled Odysseus into his chariot. Ajax took Odysseus' place in battle.

When Hector came back from the left side, Paris loosed (shot) an arrow that hit Machaon, the Greek healer. Machaon got taken to old Nestor's tent to be healed himself.

Achilles had been watching the fighting from his ship. Once he saw Machaon carried into old Nestor's ship, Achilles sent Patroclus to find out if the healer was dead or alive.

Patroclus was told by old Nestor to tell Achilles that if his stomach was not for fighting, he should send his Myrmidons out with another captain. Patroclus could do it because he was the same size as Achilles and could wear the famous armor. Then Patroclus met another wounded warrior and friend who needed help with his injuries, too.

### Black Ships Before Troy Notes

#### Chapter IX, "Battle for the Ships," 5/2/06

The Greeks were closing their gates and the Trojans were right behind them. They were throwing rocks and spears at each other.

There is a red snake that Zeus' eagle drops onto the battlefield by the Trojans. The Trojan men think it is an evil omen, but Hector tells them that it is to make them fight more fiercely for their country. Sarpedon and Glaucus lead the allies and they broke a hole in the wall around the Greek camp. Glaucus got an arrow in his arm and had to go back and rip it out... ouch.

Hector heaved a big rock at the gate and broke it open. The Trojans



rush fiercely in to defeat the Greek army.

Zeus lost interest in the battle and turned his mind elsewhere. Then Poseidon, his brother, who saw the Greeks in trouble, saddled his horses and rode the waves into the Greek camp with his huge sea monsters by his side. Poseidon went through the Greek camp and gave their soldiers the strength to stand firm and fight the Trojans.

Ajax threw a big rock at Hector's chest, who then fell to the ground. The Trojans carried Hector off. Zeus looked down again at Troy and saw the Trojan's being pushed back, and saw Hector throw up black blood. Zeus called Apollo to breathe fresh life into Hector.

Apollo gave Hector life and the warrior rose and got in his chariot and told everybody to charge. All the Greeks were in a shield of men and Hector drove right through it. Then Hector told everyone to grab fire and burn the ships.

The Trojans came with fire and started burning the ships. Ajax was trying to get the Greeks to keep fighting, and used a pike as tall as three men to reach the Trojans on the ground.

### Black Ships Before Troy Notes

#### Chapter X, "The Armor of Achilles," 5/3/06

Achilles decided to give Patroclus his armor and chariot to lead the Myrmidons out to war because Achilles refused to go himself. Achilles did so because that would make the Trojans lose heart in battle. Achilles said that after the Myrmidons had driven the Trojans away Patroclus should come back instead of give chase.

Patroclus went out and got the Myrmidons and met the Trojans. The Trojans' hearts lurched and sickened within them when they saw Achilles' armor led the attack. Achilles got red wine and went to his doorstep and poured it on the ground while he prayed to Zeus for Patroclus' safe return unscathed. Zeus decided to grant only half the wish.

The ships were clear and the fires quenched (put out). The Trojans went out of the Greek camp. The horses ran free because the chariots broke. Patroclus cleared the gate.

Patroclus killed Sarpedon who was the leader of all the Trojan allies (and he was also one of Zeus' sons of a mortal mother). Zeus sends his other sons, Sleep and Death on wings to return Sarpedon to Mount Olympus.

Patroclus should have remembered his promise to Achilles and gone back at this point. But Zeus breathed Battle Rage into Patroclus and the

warrior forgot his promise.

Patroclus is fighting Hector. Then Apollo hit Patroclus from behind and knocked off his helmet. A Trojan warrior speared Patroclus in the back and Hector got him from the front. Before Patroclus died he foretold Hector's death at the hand of Achilles at the same Scaean Gateway. It is well known that dying men see far.

Hector took Achilles' armor off Patroclus' body and put it on. Hector's armor was sent back to offer to Athena. The Trojans wanted to feed Patroclus' body to the dogs, but the Greeks wanted to bury him honorably. Achilles' horses got sad when they saw their friend dead, so Automedon had to comfort them and then Zeus sent strength back into the horses. Ajax covered their backs while the Greeks took Patroclus' body back to camp.

### Black Ships Before Troy Notes

#### Chapter XI, "Vengeance for Patroclus," 5/4/06

Antilochus, Nestor's son, ran from the battle field and told Achilles of Patroclus' death, hoping that would bring Achilles back to fight. Antilochus also told Achilles of how Hector took his armor. Achilles was so mad that he started to throw ashes on his head. Thetis came up from the sea, his mom and the one married in the first chapter of the book. She comforted him and told him that she would go get him new armor from Hephaestus, lord of armorers. Thetis said that Hephaestus would make Achilles the best armor any mortal person had ever seen.

Achilles got up on the Greek wall and yelled three times really loud and the Trojans got scared and ran away. Then the Greeks were able to get Patroclus away and bring him back to Achilles' hall. They put the body on a bier and wept. Even the slave women cried because he was nice to them. Everyone was really sad.

The Trojans wanted to go back inside the city walls that night for fear of Achilles in the front fighters once more. But Hector was tired of the city walls and wanted to meet Achilles on the field. So they built campfires and camped out.

The armor was way good. Thetis brought it back to Achilles. Achilles put it on and wanted to fight, but Odysseus said he first needed to make peace with Agamemnon. Achilles accepted the gifts from the king's embassy before. Then Hera had given Achilles' horse the power of human speech. Xanthus told Achilles his death was near. Achilles knew that, but just wanted his horses to run fast.

Achilles went out and killed tons of Trojans out of anger and pushed them into the river. The river ran red with the blood of the dead. He pushed them back to the walls of Troy. Hector was standing in front of the gate with his spear in his hand. Hector's dad was watching from the wall. They saw Achilles coming.

Hector's courage faded when Achilles rushed toward him so he ran around the walls of Troy three times. Then Hector's courage returned and he turned to face Achilles in battle. Then Achilles flung his spear and it went over Hector's shoulder. Then Hector threw his spear and it couldn't pierce the wonderful shield of Achilles.

The fight continued and Achilles had one spear left and Hector had none. Hector sprang at Achilles to die with honor. Achilles stabbed him with a spear right through the neck. In Hector's last breathe said his father would pay gold to get his body back for an honorable. Then Achilles didn't agree to that. Then Hector said his brother Paris would slay Achilles in that very gateway. Then the Greeks came and each stabbed Hector's body dishonorably. Then Achilles cut into Hector's ankles and tied him behind the chariot and dragged the body back to camp.

### Black Ships Before Troy Notes

#### Chapter XII, "Funeral Games," 5/8/06

Hector's wife, Andromache heard Hector's mother's cry and ran to the Scaean Gate to see her husband's body being dragged away. Andromache cried for Hector and her baby not having a father.

Achilles was awakened by the ghost of Patroclus who asked for a proper burial so he could go to the land of the dead. Achilles gathers wood for the funeral pyre, and adds to the pile Patroclus' body. Also in the pyre Achilles added cattle, horses, hounds, 12 Trojan captives with slit throats, along with jars of honey and oil. The fire burned all night. Achilles wanted his ashes mixed with Patroclus', so asked to have the gold drinking mug unsealed until his own death.

The Funeral Games began the next day. They included chariot races, boxing matches, wrestling matches, and spear fights. They stopped the spear fight because they didn't want the men to kill each other. The prizes were all from Achilles and included animals, slaves, and riches. At the end of the day they all had a feast at Achilles' Hall.

For the next 12 nights Achilles dragged Hector's body around and displeased the gods.

Black Ships Before Troy Notes

## Chapter XIII, "Ransom for Hector," 5/9/06

The gods sent Thetis to tell Achilles that they were mad and wanted him to give back the body of Hector to the Trojans. The gods sent Eris to King Priam to say that Achilles would return the body. So Priam loaded a cart with gold and fine clothes, and rode out to the Greek camp.

Hermes made all the Greeks go to sleep so if they looked upon King Priam they would not see him. When the king arrived he spoke to Achilles and befriended each other. King Priam knelt and kissed the hand of Achilles and begged for Hector's body back. The ransom was traded for the body.

Achilles asked his slave women to clean up Hector's body and lay it out in the wagon to return home in a beautiful white shroud. Achilles granted eleven days of truce to bury Hector properly.

In Troy, Andromache, Hecuba and Helen lamented the loss of Hector. Then King Priam ordered everyone to gather trees and wood for the fire to burn Hector's body in the funeral pyre. Then with the ashes and bones, they wrapped a bundle of purple cloth and laid it in a gold box and kept it in a chamber. Then they had a feast to honor Hector, Tamer of Horses.

Black Ships Before Troy Notes

## Chapter IVX, "The Luck of Troy," 5/10/06

The eleven day truce had ended and the Trojans were still waiting for a few armies to help them in the war. They wouldn't dare go outside the city gates. Odysseus thought that it might be nice to have the rock that looks like Athena's shield that fell from heaven. It is called The Luck of Troy or the Palladium. Odysseus came up with a plan to get it.

Odysseus went to go get the king of Delos' daughters who could make wine, bread and olive oil out of water, stones and mud. Then a beggar came to camp and ate Diomedes' food and slept in his tent.

The beggar roamed around the Greek camp stirring up trouble by telling ugly tales. The warriors hit him for insulting their families. He stole Nestor's gold cup and got whipped out of camp to the gates of Troy. He was left to starve or go into Troy.

The beggar was lying down in front of the Gates of Troy when Helen came out. She brought him in to her own house in Troy because he was treated poorly by Greeks and he said he knew her dad, brothers and daughter. Helen washed him up and gave him fresh clothes and discovered that the clean "beggar" was Odysseus, her friend from the old days in Greece.

Once Helen discovered the beggar was Odysseus she was afraid he would be in danger. She told him about Paris going to get the Amazons to help with the fighting. Then she was afraid that he would tell the other Greeks and the Amazons would be killed. Odysseus said he would not tell her secret. He also promised that when the Greeks rushed through the gates of Troy, he would keep her safe and return her to King Menelaus. She gave him a golden vial when he left her dressed as a beggar again.

Odysseus went out on the street and went into the temple of Athena to sleep. He pretended to be asleep and when the last priestess came he waited for her to walk by and then he left the vial out for her to see.

The priestess tastes the drug inside the vial and falls asleep. Odysseus takes the Luck of Troy and replaces it with a fake. In the morning he goes off to the mountains hiding the treasured stone in his pouch. He ate his last food and slept till dark. At night Odysseus returned to the Greek camp. Showed them the Luck of Troy and said not to hit beggars so hard anymore!

In Troy they were shocked with the loss of their treasure and lost heart.

### Black Ships Before Troy Notes

#### Chapter XV, "Warrior Women," 5/11/06

Paris got the Amazons to Troy without any problems because Odysseus kept his promise. These Amazons were women warriors who were just as strong as any men. Penthesilea, the queen of the Amazons, led the others out of sorrow for having accidentally killed her sister while hunting.

When the Amazons arrived in Troy, they were greeted with flowers and cheers. A feast was held and Priam gave them gifts. Penthesilea vowed to kill Achilles with her new sword.

Penthesilea led the Trojans in battle the next morning. She took Hector's place in the lead but on horseback. The Greeks were wondering who led the Trojans. The plains were red like vermillion and half the Amazons died. Then Penthesilea yelled that this would be the day that the Greeks pay for the grief of Priam. She wants the strongest warriors to come out and fight. The Greeks got pushed back over the ditch with fire brands intended to burn the ships.

Achilles had just returned from a raid and Penthesilea started fighting with them. Her two spears bounced off the men's armor, but Achilles fought back. He killed her and her horse.

Once Achilles saw Penthesilea's hair and knew she was a girl he was

filled with sorrow. He cried over her body. The Greeks didn't take their armor, but sent them back to Priam respectfully. Priam built a funeral pyre and put the Amazon's ashes in golden caskets to be kept in a tomb.

### Black Ships Before Troy Notes

#### Chapter VIX, "The Death of Achilles," 5/15/06

The Trojans wanted to stay within their walls that night because they were waiting for King Memnon to bring the Ethiopians for their aide in battle. Polydamas, who was a Trojan leader, didn't want to fight any more but just send Helen back. Paris called him a coward. The Ethiopians got there and didn't want to boast but they celebrated with a feast the night before the battle.

King Memnon went out to the war and Antilochus got speared in his breast plate going through to his heart. He died in front of his dad, old Nestor. Then Nestor went to Achilles and begged him to come get Antilochus' body so it would not be dishonored. Memnon then speared Achilles in the shoulder.

Achilles basically ignored the blow to his shoulder. Memnon and Achilles were pretty much evenly matched, move for move, until Achilles had enough and killed the king of the Ethiopians.

Up on the Scaean Gate, Paris got a new string for his bow. He pulled out an arrow from his quiver and loosed it upon Achilles. Apollo guided it to Achilles' vulnerable spot on his ankle.

Achilles died. The Trojans watched him die to make sure he was dead. Then the Greeks and Trojans fought over his armor because it was god made. Hector's prophecy was true; Paris had killed Achilles with an arrow at the Scaean Gate. Odysseus picked up Achilles' body and carried him back to the ships while Ajax guarded them. Briseis cleaned the body and spread a white mantle over the fallen warrior.

Thetis came out of the sea with all her maidens singing to see Achilles' body. They burned Achilles with sacrificed oxen, bottles of oil. Achilles' ashes were mixed with Patroclus' in a gold cup. They had the funeral games and Thetis gave the prizes to honor the winners. Lastly Thetis said the armor was to go to the bravest warrior who protected Achilles' body. Then she left.

Ajax and Odysseus stood up and wanted to get the armor of Achilles because they both thought they were the deserving one. But Nestor decided to have the Trojan captives decide so then there would be no bad blood in the Greek camp. Dionysus breathed drunkenness into Ajax so he

would speak foolishly and call Odysseus a weakling. Odysseus asked them to judge for themselves and reminded them that it was he who carried off the Luck of Troy. The Trojans picked Odysseus.

Ajax was jealous and had a lot of bad thoughts. He decided to go after Odysseus. Ajax ran out but saw the sheep first and he started swinging his sword at the sheep and killed them all in a blind rage. Then when dawn came, his senses returned to Ajax when he woke up. He was ashamed of himself and fell on his sword purposely.

### Black Ships Before Troy Notes

#### Chapter VIIIX, "Poisoned Arrow," 5/16/06

Everybody in the Greek camp was sad when they saw what happened to Ajax. They burned his dead body and buried it lamenting all the while. Odysseus said that he would have rather Ajax get the armor, than kill himself out of jealousy.

The Greeks knew that even after defeating all Troy's great warriors and getting the Luck of Troy, they were no closer to winning the battle than they were ten years before. Calchas, their soothsayer, told the Greeks to go to Lemnos and bring back Philoctetes, the archer. Ten years earlier, Philoctetes had fought a dragon on Lemnos which bit him in the foot. The venom in that wound smelled really bad and made Philoctetes very sick. Even though Philoctetes had killed the dragon, he suffered and kept the camp awake with his cries.

The Greeks deserted Philoctetes ten years ago when they had stopped for fresh water. Odysseus and Diomedes set sail for Lemnos and found Philoctetes in a cave with bird bones and feathers. His foot was still poisoned and painful. He was going to shoot his former sword brothers, but they declared peace. Odysseus and Diomedes got him to go to Troy with them by trying to heal the smelly wounds.

After they all went to Agamemnon's hall and Philoctetes got lots of things. Once his strength returned he joined the war. Then Philoctetes wanted to shoot arrows his way using poison, but the Greeks didn't think that was honorable. He did it anyway because he had learned it the ten years on Lemnos. Philoctetes saw Paris in battle and boasted that his bow had been drawn by Heracles himself.

Paris and Philoctetes were in battle and Philoctetes shot Paris with a poisoned arrow. Paris fell to the ground. The poison caused agony and the doctors in Troy couldn't make it better. So Paris' friends carried him to Oenone's cave. She came out and heard him beseech (beg) her for mercy.

She could make pain leave men. Oenone had no pity for Paris so she went back inside and after awhile her heart softened and she came back out hoping to see him and help him. Paris was already dead.

Oenone saw the smoke from the funeral pyre and wanted to be with him. She wanted him for herself. She put a veil over her head and ran into the fire and held Paris' body to die with him. The Trojans put both sets of ashes in the same cup. The wood nymphs planted two wild roses on the grave that eventually braided to become one.

### Black Ships Before Troy Notes

#### Chapter VIIIIX, "The Wooden Horse," 5/17/06

After Paris died, Helen was still kept in Troy because the Trojans feared she might be killed by Menelaus.

The Greeks tried another desperate attack on Troy but were driven back by arrows. Whenever the Trojan's tried to leave the safety of their walls, they were either crushed by a rock, or killed by a spear. Eventually they went to their soothsayer again and asked for their advice. He told them about how this hawk was chasing a dove. The lesson was to learn from the hawk to use cunning rather than strength. Athena gave Odysseus a very, very good idea.

Odysseus' plan was to make a hollow horse to hide some warriors inside. The best warriors would be in the horse one guy would be left on the beach, and the rest would leave on the ships.

The Trojans will be tricked by the Greek left on the beach. He will tell them that the horse is an offering to Athena and should be taken in to her temple.

Sinon is the guy left behind on the beach. Inside the horse goes Odysseus, Menelaus, Diomedes, Epeius (the horse builder) with others. The armor inside the horse was muffled with cloaks. The ships sailed for Tenedos to wait for dark.

Trojans came out of the city and the King and everyone thought the horse was pretty neat. But the priest of Poseidon, Laocoon, warned the King that it was probably a trick from the Greeks. The priest threw a spear at the belly of the horse right as Sinon came forth.

The Trojan's threatened to burn Sinon's feet if he didn't tell why the Greeks made the horse. But then Sinon said the Greeks wanted to kill him too so the Trojans asked Sinon why he was there and he tells his fake story.

After Sinon tells his story, two serpents come out of the water to kill Laocoon. Poseidon wanted Laocoon killed because the god of the sea wanted the Greeks to win the war. Laocoon was warning the Trojans of the Greek



trick. The serpent killed Laocoon and his two young sons.

The Trojans haul the horse inside the city gates and into the citadel in front of Athena's temple. Paris's sister, Cassandra, knew ahead of time that the horse would destroy Troy. Nobody listened to her.

### Black Ships Before Troy Notes

#### Chapter IXX, "The Fall of Troy," 5/18/06

The Trojans were all getting ready to celebrate a festival the next day. When night fell, the ships of the Greeks stole back to shore. As soon as Sinon saw the signal from Agamemnon's ship he made a shore bird call to signal the men inside the horse to get out. Epeius opened the trap door and the soldiers all dropped to the ground.

The once hidden Greeks ran to the Scaean Gate and opened them to let their war-host in. They burned all of Troy and killed the sleepy Trojans. Odysseus disappeared. Diomedes led a group of warriors to the royal chambers.

There was a tree in the courtyard with an altar next to it. The princesses were around the tree and King Priam was praying at the altar. A warrior with blood-rage pulled Priam by the hair and ran his sword through him. The royal women were taken captive.

Menelaus ran to the house of Deiphobus, Paris' only remaining brother, to find Helen. He saw Deiphobus laying on the ground dead, and footprints in the blood leading into the darkness of the hall.

Menelaus saw Odysseus leaning on a pillar. Menelaus asked where Helen was. Odysseus asked for the favor Menelaus had promised earlier. Odysseus asked for Helen's life to be spared as she had spared his when he stole the Luck of Troy. Menelaus granted the favor and Helen came out to kneel before her true husband. If it wasn't for the promise Menelaus had made, he would have killed Helen. Then Menelaus remembered all the good times with Helen and he dropped his sword and hugged her.

At dawn the Greeks looked back on the city Troy and saw the remains of war and waited for the dogs to eat the carnage. They took the babies and threw them off the ramparts (balconies with railings) to kill them. Andromache was a slave to the new prince of the Myrmidons. Princess Cassandra was carried to Agamemnon's ship as a captive slave. Helen was brought back to Menelaus' ship as a queen. The Greeks set sail for home after ten years of battle.