



1-15 November 2018

Dear Readers,

I was honored to learn that *Circe* had been chosen as the OverDrive Together We Read selection. My mother was a librarian, and I spent my childhood in libraries, so I have witnessed firsthand the vital and transformative work they do in the world. I would not be the writer nor the person I am without their generosity and resources.

I have loved Homer's stories since I was a child, when my mother used to read pieces of the Iliad and the Odyssey before bed. As I grew up, I continued to seek them out, and became particularly fascinated by the vivid Circe, who turns Odysseus' men to pigs in the Odyssey. She is a thrilling character: the first witch in Western literature, a terrifying goddess who speaks with a human voice. But she is only a cameo in Odysseus' story. I wanted to imagine her whole history, to dig into the mysteries Homer gives us: why is she transforming men to pigs? How has she come to live on her island among tame lions and wolves?

In answering those questions, I discovered a passionate and independent woman, the aunt of the Minotaur, a maker of monsters, a healer, a weaver, a mother, a storyteller. Her story resonates across the millennia: a woman rejected by her family, who learns how to find her own power, and carve out a life for herself. In this novel Circe goes on her own epic odyssey, filled with adventure, loss and grief, friendship, love and hope. I hope that you enjoy spending time in her world as much as I did.

Warmest regards,

Madeline Miller