

Stranded Lovers Take Another: Callirhoe and Odysseus' Infidelities

Many modern authors have noted the influence of the *Odyssey* as a predecessor of the Greek novel.¹ Although each novel adapts material from the *Odyssey* in different ways, Montiglio rightly observes that the heroines in the Greek novels are more similar to Odysseus than their male counterparts because they lie and come up with creative ways to escape difficult situations.² In this paper I will focus on the ways that Callirhoe's relationship with Dionysius calls to mind Odysseus' lengthy detention on the island of Calypso and the importance of this extended allusion for understanding the character of Callirhoe and the skill of Chariton.

¹ Schmeling 1974, 42; Anderson 1982, 2; Montiglio 2005, 227; etc.

² 2005, 240 spoke specifically about the close connection between Charikleia and Odysseus as active wanderers, but mentioned the generally stronger personalities of the heroines.