



ERIC S TOWNSEND

ORION

SAGAS

ORION SAGAS

# ORION SAGAS

## **AUTHOR**

Eric S. Townsend

## **EDITOR**

Sue LaLumia

© 2012 Glimpse Digital. All rights reserved.  
No part of this book may be reproduced  
without permission from the Publisher.

Publisher: Go Booklets of Fairfax, VA 22030. [www.gobooklets.com](http://www.gobooklets.com).  
Parent Company: Glimpse Digital. Distributed worldwide on Amazon.

Yes, we provide marketing services to individuals and businesses.  
Get started at [www.glimpse.digital/REP](http://www.glimpse.digital/REP).

We thank you for your interest in *Orion Sagas*, as well as our publisher Go Booklets. Our parent company, Glimpse Digital, provides full-spectrum marketing consultation and services to a select number of clients. That website is located in the footer.

**Here's the Go Booklets library:**

- *Bizkü Volume I*
- *Bizkü Volume II*
- *Catch: Bond in Meaningful Ways (abridged)*
- *Catch: Because Telling Ain't Selling (complete primer)*
- *Command Parallels*
- *First World Maladies Volume I*
- *Lovely*
- *Orion Sagas*
- *Score Big*
- *Sharking*
- *The Legend of Tabula Raisa*
- *150 Sharks (abridged from Sharking)*

[Shop Paperbacks](#)

[Shop Audio Books](#)

[Join Mailing List](#)

*“But see, Orion sheds unwholesome dews;  
Arise, the pines a noxious shade diffuse;  
Sharp Boreas blows, and Nature feels decay,  
Time conquers all, and we must Time obey.”*

— Alexander Pope

*“In 100,000 years,  
the emerging Grand Nebula in Cassiopeia  
may replace the fading Orion Nebula  
as the favorite object for amateur astronomers.”*

— Tom Megeath

*“Orion is a bustling cauldron of activity.  
It’s a treasure-trove of beauty and astonishing detail  
for comprehensive scientific study.”*

— Jennifer Wiseman

*“The Arms of Orion,  
that’s where I want to be.  
Since you’ve been gone,  
I’ve been searching for a lover  
in the Sea of Tranquility —  
drowning without you here,  
my dear.”*

— Prince Rogers Nelson

## DEDICATION

This book is dedicated to every amateur astronomer who's stared into the night sky and allowed his mind to wander.

# FOREWORD

Like many boys, I owned a telescope. The first constellation I learned was Orion.

My mom enjoyed taking me to the Hayden Planetarium in New York City. It was probably my favorite thing to do.

My high school also staged a star show. I went there alone on many occasions. I was locked into what the narrator had to say.

I kept star charts, asked for fancy lenses as gifts and generally went against the grain. The skies above New Jersey were polluted. It was heavily populated, so street lights further complicated the viewing. Nothing would deter me.

Recently, I stumbled upon mini-sagas — short passages of exactly 50 words.

Wikipedia credits the artform to writer Brian Aldiss and the news team at *The Daily Telegraph*, who have held several competitions. They elaborate further:

*Mini-sagas are used in business, as an educational tool, a creative outlet and a source of entertainment. They're not poems, but are rather "bite-sized lessons for life and business."*

*They are often used to stimulate creativity, stretch thinking, determine the essential elements of a story or enhance discipline in writing. They're often funny or surprising.*

Using my new discovery, I offer 26 mini-sagas on the pages that follow. Together, they revise ancient mythology and provide a new twist to the tale of Orion.

Writing in a restrained manner has strengthened my ability to communicate. Each phrase carries a renewed burden to signify, inform and entertain. I highly recommend the exercise.

We live in a time when brevity is king. Attention spans are stretched thin at 8 seconds in length (or one second less than that of a goldfish). The leaner we communicate, the greater our opportunities to connect with others. It's long been said that reading is fundamental. With small books you can read in the shortest breaks of your day.

ORION SAGAS

# SAGAS I-XXVI

## **I.**

# **Torn was the son of Orion from the Book of the Sky.**

He catalogued smalls: fescue needles, worm tunnels,  
locust songs and pinholes of light winking over the knoll.

His favorite was Regulus.

Legends say Orion pierced the sky during swordplay,  
revealing infinite wonder windows.

The radiance beyond tantalized Torn.

## **II.**

Life wasn't always magical.

# **Torn was born into tumult.**

Olympus shadowed his father.  
Orion battled mortals, the gods and personal demons.  
He was exiled to Crete.

Torn's mother bartered with a chieftain to raise him.  
Her heart and mind were irreparably broken.

Retracing the history, this could have gone differently.

### III.

**In the land of Boetia,  
there lived a kind man named Hyrieus.**

He toiled day and night to the benefit of others,  
while loneliness burdened him.

The gods admired Hyrieus.  
Hermes pleaded with his father, Zeus:  
“We’re Olympians, let us help this deserving mortal.”

Zeus obliged.  
Neptune joined the visitation.

### IV.

**Lightning struck the road  
ahead of Hyrieus.**

The sky was clear. No storms loomed.

He came upon three men dressed in burlap and rope.  
They carried satchels painted with mountains and stars.  
They were lost — but amused.

Hyrieus offered his hospitality.  
“My home is simple, but please be my guests.”

## V.

The four men shared a late dinner.  
Each time a guest spoke, the oil lamp sputtered.

Neptune's voice rose first.

**“If you could have anything in the  
world, what would that be?”**

“A son,” Hyrieus responded.

“Sacrifice a bull, bring us the hide.”  
The god of the oceans avoided cipher.

## VI.

Hyrieus was trusting by nature.  
This was especially true when he drank wine.

He fulfilled the slaughter and returned with the hide.

His guests emptied urns over the prize,  
then buried it in the garden.

“A great warrior shall rise,” proclaimed Zeus.

**With the sharpest of thunderclaps,  
the visitors disappeared.**

## **VII.**

The garden exploded that spring.  
The calamity of color was astonishing.

Cradled in an ivy bed lay a baby boy.  
Hyrieus fell to the ground in tears.

“My son, Orion!”

He was raised as a farmer.  
His star shone bright for hunting.

**Orion was salt and sultan of the earth.**

## **VIII.**

Orion was the most handsome of mortals.  
He could walk on water — a gift from Neptune.  
He was adored wherever he traveled.

**No battle scar or confidence would  
prepare him for his greatest challenge.**

Days after tying the knot,  
he was devastated by the loss of his first love, Side.

## **IX.**

Little is known of the deceased —  
except that she was fatally flawed.  
Side was vain.

One morning, she compared her beauty to Hera.  
The goddess could not be pacified.  
Her husband punished swiftly.

## **Zeus struck Side down with a single bolt.**

He gave Orion life,  
and he took it away.

## **X.**

After Side's funeral, Orion decided to leave home.  
There were too many memories he couldn't escape.

"I'll return with a new life and no sorrows."  
Hyrieus was saddened, yet understood.

## **Orion left at sunset with two hunting dogs.**

He traveled for two weeks.  
His destination was a land called Chios.

## **XI.**

Upon arrival in Chios, Orion received a new charge.

Giant hares threatened the nearby island of Leros.  
They invaded homes and devoured rations.

Orion organized a hunt.  
The raid lasted just short of a day.  
His success caught the attention of a local.

**Merope was impressed by acts of valor.**

## **XII.**

Orion and Merope became close.  
The king of Chios was her father.

**Oenopion was a suspicious man.  
He didn't trust strangers.**

Why had he traveled so far from home?  
Was he escaping punishment for crimes?

“Orion's a threat to everything I cherish.”  
He devised a plan to divide the couple.

### **XIII.**

Oenopion staged an intimate dinner.  
He offered his blessing.

He poured a toast (and another, and another).  
Soon, Orion feel asleep.

The king reached for a poker from the wood stove.  
He blinded both of the huntsman's eyes.

**Orion awoke on the beachfront —  
the tide and his dogs tickling him.**

### **XIV.**

Orion headed north to the island of Lemnos  
and the forge of Hesperaestus.

The iron worker showed pity on his tragedy.  
He offered his giant assistant Cedalion as guide.  
The warrior climbed atop his broad shoulders.

An oracle directed the pair eastward.

**The sun god Helios  
would restore Orion's vision.**

## **XV.**

They reached the eastern edge of the globe  
on the speed of Cedalion's long strides.

Helios instructed simply.

“Face forward and clear your mind of angry thoughts.”

Orion felt a warm glow blanket his eyes.  
When it was lifted, he saw anew.

**“Go forward with your life  
and be happy.”**

## **XVI.**

Orion thanked Cedalion and Helios,  
though his mind returned to vengeance.  
He called his dogs and left for Chios.

**Neptune heard the huntsman's plans  
and hid Oenopion in a cave.**

Zeus intervened.

“Listen to Helios and forget revenge.”

The warrior and his dogs retreated to Crete  
and lived in solitude.

## **XVII.**

Pleione was wife to the titan Atlas  
and mother of seven daughters.

**Orion feigned courtship of the Pleiades,  
when he instead adored their mother.**

The gods respected the titan's might.  
The scandal angered them.

Zeus sheltered the sisters in the constellation of Taurus,  
where Orion continues to chase them today.

## **XVIII.**

A goddess called him,  
"Orion, turn around."

**Her skin was luminous like the moon.**

She had black curly hair and wore a tunic.  
Her bow and quiver were silver.  
Her arrows were pearlescent.

"I am Artemis.  
I have never loved,  
but we're meant to be together."  
She was Zeus' daughter.

## **XIX.**

They hunted the forests as one.

Orion was euphoric.

“I’m so happy. No beast will defeat me.”

Mother Nature mistook his words for a threat.

She sent a scorpion in self-defense.

**While Artemis carried the moon to the sky, Orion was stung in his sleep.**

The huntsman then passed.

## **XX.**

**The goddess cried to Hades  
as he arrived to claim Orion’s body.**

“Don’t take the only man I ever loved!”

Zeus rescued the warrior’s body  
and placed him prominently in the sky —  
where he remains today.

His stars shine bright and clear:  
an easy beacon for her chariot to locate.

## **XXI.**

Artemis feared her lover would be lonely.

Her father provided Orion with company:

Canis Major and Canis Minor, his dogs.

Lepus, a giant hare.

Scorpio, the only to defeat him.

“Please father, keep Orion safe from the scorpion.”

Zeus rearranged the stars.

**As Scorpio rises in the east,  
Orion sets.”**

## **XXII.**

A young boy visited Artemis.

The goddess fell to her knees.

“I am Torn, son of Orion.”

**The two sat in the orchard for hours,  
staring at each other.**

With the passing of his grandfather,

his mother revealed the identity of his father.

He left from Chios the next morning.

## **XXIII.**

Artemis kept silent until nightfall.

**She guided Torn's fingers across the sky,  
tracing the Orion constellation.**

"Your father has passed away.  
He was the first I loved.  
Olympus honors him."

Torn pulled a hand drum from his bag.  
Tippity tap, tippity tum.  
He was left to the stars until dawn.

## **XXIV.**

What the gods call honor can haunt an child.  
Torn couldn't sleep at night.

One morning, Artemis brought him a gift.  
"Your father would want you to have this."

**Some play with imaginary friends.  
Torn had his father's bronze club.**

It kept him safe.  
It dominated the cricket pitch.  
Thwack!

## XXV.

Artemis introduced Torn to a reflecting pool.  
He wasn't sleeping and needed solace.  
He strung a hammock across it.

Dragonflies skimmed the surface, left ripples to count.  
Frogs and fish rose to greet him.  
Lotuses winked with passing clouds.

**None in nature could believe  
this was the son of Orion.**

## XXVI.

Let's leave this epic without end —  
no sweet victory or bitter defeat.

**Some tales of worthy men  
take a quieter turn.**

Woven by Hyrieus.  
Unraveled by Orion.  
Darned by Artemis.

Torn discovered a secret that eluded his father.  
The world was one, and it was not his.  
That was enough.

ORION SAGAS

**THE  
END**

This concludes *Orion Sagas* from publisher Go Booklets. Our parent company, Glimpse Digital, provides full-spectrum marketing consultation and services to a select number of clients. That website is located in the footer of every page.

**Here's the Go Booklets library:**

- *Bizkii Volume I*
- *Bizkii Volume II*
- *Catch*
- *Command Parallels*
- *First World Maladies Volume I*
- *Lovely*
- *Orion Sagas*
- *Score Big*
- *Sharking*
- *Telling Ain't Selling*
- *The Legend of Tabula Raisa*

[Shop Paperbacks](#)

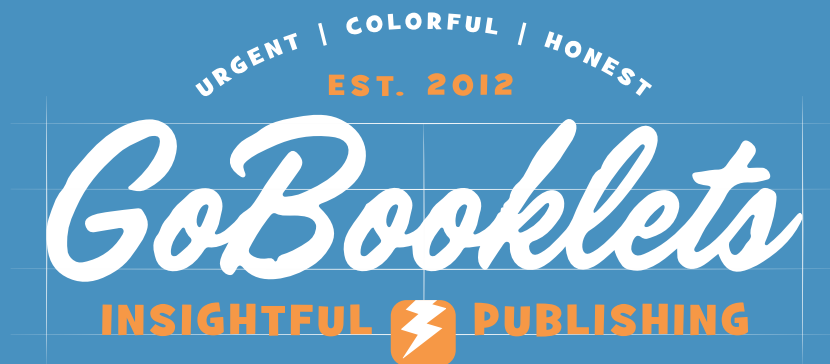
[Shop Audio Books](#)

[Join Mailing List](#)

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]



**[gobooklets.com](http://gobooklets.com)**

Go Booklets | division of Glimpse Digital