

The Wooden Horse

Where to start? Hi, my name's Ajax but most people call me Ajax the Lesser. That really annoys me as everybody says I'm not as important as the other Ajax. We can't all get to be trained by a centaur, fight Hector and be really massive. At least I'm still alive even if I am sitting in a wooden horse.

We've been fighting here against Troy for ten years now – I told my wife and kids I'd be back within a few weeks. They won't have a clue where I am or what's been happening. They'll also be furious at missing out on all those birthday presents. And all because Paris took Helen away from Menelaus – couldn't they have just come to an agreement? Menelaus could have handed over some pottery and we'd be home now.

Now the horse was my idea – hopefully the Trojans will think it's a present, take it into the city and celebrate. At night we'll climb out and capture the city. I told the idea to my boss, Odysseus, and next thing I know, he's taken all the credit and told Agamemnon 'his' idea.

I've been in here for hours now and it's really hot. The carpenters didn't put many air holes in and there's forty of us in here. I'm sitting next to Acamas who won't stop complaining and saying it'll never work. He refuses to believe that the Trojans will just accept a present after ten years fighting. Diomedes keeps nudging me with his elbow and Eumelus keeps asking why we couldn't have brought cushions or had better seats. Teucer and Thrasymedes keep clanging their spears so Odysseus has told them already to stop making a racket.

Wow! What happened there? Someone's just thrown a spear into the belly of the horse and it could have had someone's eye out. It only just missed me. I look out through a crack and see Laocoon standing there. Typical of him to be suspicious but there's Sinon, one of our guys. I don't really know him, we're not friends, but he's always putting on shows for the warriors – apparently he wants to be an actor when he gets home. Sinon's trying to persuade the Trojans it's a present but Laocoon keeps shouting and saying 'Burn it!'. Hang on, two sea snakes are coming up and now they've killed Laocoon and his sons. It's handy having Poseidon and all the gods on our side.

Bump, bump, bump! The Trojans are pulling the horse into Troy and Odysseus should have put more time into the suspension. It's really hard to keep quiet and you'd have thought the Trojans would have heard us. Happily they're all too busy laughing and cheering.

It's now night and Helen has turned up. She clearly still likes Paris as she's pretending to be Anticlus' wife calling to him to get us found out. We sit on him to keep him quiet. She goes away and we open the trapdoor....