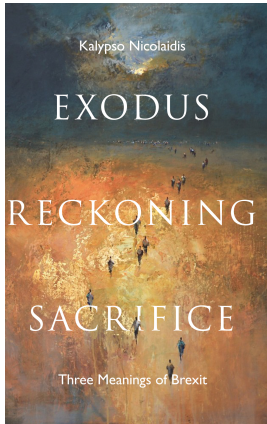


# “Exodus, Reckoning, Sacrifice: Three Meanings of Brexit”

## A NEW BOOK ABOUT GREEK AND BIBLICAL MYTHOLOGY, POLITICS AND BREXIT by Kalypso Nicolaidis



In her new book, published through crowdfunding by Unbound, (June 2019) Kalypso Nicolaidis steps out of the bounds of traditional academia to offer a unique take both on Brexit and on the power of mythical stories to frame our democratic conversation. She conjures up three archetypes to explore the competing visions that have clashed so dramatically over the meaning of Brexit, whether as the ultimate demonstration of British exceptionalism, a harbinger of terrible truths for the EU and the West or a sacrifice on the altar of EU unity. While she castigates the European project for its failure to accommodate the longings of the continent in all their glorious variety, she contends with the ironic possibility that after and perhaps because of Brexit, the EU will live up to the pluralist ideals that define both the best of Britain and the best of Europe. Ultimately, the book offers a plea for a smarter, kinder Brexit 2.0. and for acknowledging each other's stories, with their many variants, ambiguities and contradictions.

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Dazzling, tolerant, wise, pyrotechnic, thoroughly up-to-date yet steeped in millennia-old story patterns, this book is a must read for anyone tempted to believe that Brexit – or, for that matter, ancient mythology – is a simple matter....This is a book which neither Remainers nor Leavers can afford to ignore.’ Richard Buxton, author of *Myths and Tragedies in their Ancient Greek Contexts*

‘One of the most original, learned and surprising treatments of Brexit I have seen, interpreting it through the symbolic language of myth. Such a welcome change from the usual Brexit debate. I recommend it most warmly.’ Timothy Garton Ash, author of *Free Speech: Ten Principles for a Connected World*

‘Essential reading....Kalypso Nicolaidis has bravely gone where none has so far dared and has extended her exceptional empathy and intelligence to the imagined powers of escaping and embracing Europe from which none of us can escape.’ Antony Barnett, author of *The Lure of Greatness*

‘Truth is the poetic residue of reality and Kalypso Nicolaidis brings us the truth within the Brexit mess. Believe it or not she does it with joy. Read this book to refresh your faith in humankind and see how today's confusion echoes through time.’ Ece Temelkuran, author of *How to Lose a Country*

‘Enjoy the best of treats – a story told in the long-lost style of insightful and informed reflection that was typical of the Enlightenment, when a writer's erudition supplied both edification and amusement – enticing a craving to hear more.’ Alben Azmanova, author of *The Scandal of Reason*

‘This is a book about Brexit which will not make you yawn. Different, imaginative, thought-provoking’ J. H. H. Weiler author of *The Constitution of Europe*

A profound, insightful and often strangely lyrical account of the most bizarre episode in recent British history... an impressive, important book, an antidote to those who think that rationality rules, or that myths have lost their power.’ Iain Pears, author of *Arcadia*.

Kalypso Nicolaidis offers a striking and pithy exploration, aptly recast as epic Greek and Biblical tragedy and as Socratic dialogue, of how the case for Brexit became a mêlée of myths, both eviscerating and tantalizing. Amidst the plethora of writings on Brexit, her brilliant and highly entertaining narrative stands out as a chastening and revealing account of human hope, hubris, ardour, and folly. Nicolaidis tells her rich and finely crafted tale with subtlety, imagination, great historical insight, and compassion for all involved—the British tribes and their continental counterparts—and tenders her own vision for the future.’ Michael Freeden, author of *The Political Theory of Political Thinking*

I have known Kalypso Nicolaidis over the last three decades not only as one of the greatest experts on the EU, but one capable of engaging with it through countless angles, from policy wonk to storyteller. This book is the ultimate expression of her passionate life-long commitment and a beacon on the road of our never-ending Brexit’ Shirley Williams, author of *God and Caesar: Personal Reflections on Politics and Religion*

e-book: £7, \$6; hardback: £12, \$16, €17 - book webpage: <http://kalypsonicolaidis.com/unbound>