

Helen was the wife of King Menelaus of Sparta in Greece, and was considered the most beautiful woman in the world. One evening, Helen and Menelaus hosted a dinner party in honor of Paris, the visiting prince of Troy. Troy was a powerful city in Asia Minor (modern-day Turkey). Paris was so awestruck by Helen's beauty that he kidnapped her and took her to Troy, hoping they would be married there. When Menelaus discovered that Helen was missing, he was furious. He quickly organized the entire Greek army to sail to Troy to get Helen back. But when the Greek army arrived, the Trojan soldiers banded together and refused to let Helen return to Sparta. The conflict erupted into the Trojan War, which lasted 10 years. During the war, the entire city of Troy was destroyed, and many soldiers on both sides died, including the Greek hero Achilles. At last, the Greeks defeated the Trojans and the war ended. Helen returned safely to Menelaus in Sparta.

Menelaus (pronounced MEN-ah-LAY-uss)

Trojan (pronounced TROH-jin)

Achilles (pronounced ah-KILL-eez)

(fold)

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Modern situation: a young actor is so handsome that crowds of fans cause a riot trying to get tickets to his new movie