

A LABYRINTH IN LUCCA: THREE VIEWS

Three Travel Writing students illustrate their different takes - historic, symbolic and mythical - on the labyrinth feature of San Martino Cathedral in Lucca.



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Photos by Shaye Lynn DiPasquale

MYTHICAL

by Victoria Giordano

I trace my fingers along the raised lines of the Labyrinth. I'm trying to find my way out, but quickly become frustrated by the constant twists and turns obscuring my path to freedom. The monster is in the center, however this center is barren. The story goes like this: Minos called upon Daedalus, and his son Icarus, to build a maze that trapped the half-man and half-bull monster, the Minotaur. When Daedalus designed a maze so complicated that even he could not escape, Minos trapped the father-son duo in a high tower to stop them from revealing what hid in the center of the

maze. Daedalus and Icarus managed to escape by flying out of the tower on wings they created. This symbolizes the soul raising above the difficulty of the maze, or the difficulty of life. Personally, I can still not find my way out, and I am getting frustrated after countless restarts.

Yet, I must not be like Icarus, who was so eager to escape, and so sure he left behind the troubles of the maze, that he flew too close to the sun. I think about this story as I take a deep breath; I trace my finger along the lines of the maze that will lead me to freedom.