

GLOSSARY OF CHARACTERS

Since Greek mythology writers apparently liked to use a lot of characters, you'll notice myths don't always agree on these characters. Depending on who told the myths—and that person's particular views toward a group of people or a gender—you may get different versions of these people. Hence why pop culture has different “takes” on these beings.

Achilles: My goodness, what a drama queen. This guy didn't get to get with his favorite prisoner of war, so he decides not to fight in the Trojan War just to stick it to his war general. Then he finds out that his ... very good friend, Patroclus, fought in his armor and died. So he goes on a revenge fantasy until he murders a bunch of Trojans, and seals his fate in death.

Aglaope: One of the sirens. In Greek mythology, these are half-bird ladies, not the mermaid creatures you might be thinking of.

Alecto (Fury): A chaos agent, fury, known for her implacable anger. She can shape shift, instigate violence, and in DearHades, mess with the app. Not to be confused with a furry.

Ammit: Devourer of dead souls in Egyptian mythology. If your heart outweighed the feather of Ma'at (truth), you'd be her lunch.

Andromeda: The wife of Perseus, who is saved from being eaten by a sea monster by Perseus. Because Poseidon is always upset in mythology for some reason.

Antigone: One of the daughters of Oedipus who tragically dies when she cannot be united with her soon-to-be-husband Haemon. In our story, she comes back and is reunited with him. But the heroes use her as leverage for persuading Tiresias to kill Medusa.

Apollo: Back during Tiresias's first stay on earth, he served as a prophet for Apollo—one of the important Olympian gods. Apollo also drives a chariot that carries the sun across the world, bringing light to the people. Also a great getaway car after you attempt murder.

Arachne: Once human, but got cursed by Athena because she outwove her. And I guess you don't out-weave a goddess. So now she looks like a spider.

Ares: One of the OG deities, and obsessed with war. So much that they made him the god of it. And not thumb wars, mind you.

Artemis: Goddess of the hunt, and the name of Tiresias's dog who failed to pass training to be his working dog. He decided to keep her anyway.

Asclepius: This guy—god and hero of medicine—in general is not important and doesn't really make an appearance in the book. But what he does with gorgon blood in mythological accounts, reviving the dead, plays an important role in this story.

Aphrodite: The goddess of love, and one of the OG deities from the time of the Titans. Born out of sea foam, she is beauty, she is grace, she

will stab you in the face (if you think anyone is prettier than her). Unhappily married to Hephaestus, she finds herself in many liaisons apart from her marriage. One of the goddesses who started the Trojan War.

Athena: Sister of Ares, and apparently—even though she doesn’t curse people as much as Zeus and Hera—she still gets a participation trophy or something.

Bellerophon: Don’t let Disney trick you, this was actually the guy to tame Pegasus.

Briseis: A war captive. Don’t let the Iliad fool you, Achilles really didn’t love her. He saw her as a thing to be won.

Calypso: A daughter of a Titan and a nymph who found herself stuck on an island that Odysseus ends up on. Odysseus claims she came onto him, but he really doesn’t seem insanely eager to get back to Penelope, considering he spends a full seven years on Calypso’s island.

Cerberus: The three-headed dog who guards the gates of Hades. Heracles (Hercules) does capture Cerberus as one of the twelve labors he has to do for the love of his life. But we personally think he should’ve just given Cerberus a belly rub. Far more effective.

Charon: The ferryman of the dead, and apparently someone you don’t pay according to some British song from the 80s. He’s excited for a change of pace, to lead the dead through a jungle when Persephone’s nervous plant habit gets out of hand.

Charybdis: Once a human, now a seventy-foot sea monster who swallows ships in a whirlpool. But she has a great personality.

Circe: A sorceress who did, in fact, turn Odysseus's men into pigs. Probably an apt metaphor. But despite what Odysseus claims, she most definitely did not come on to him.

Demeter: The goddess of the harvest, and one of the OG deities from the time of the Titans. Grain would've played a huge role in the Ancient Greek world, so we imagine the Ancient Greeks were not the happiest when Demeter would get mad at Persephone being in the Underworld and throw "winter" tantrums. In any version of the myth between Hades and Persephone, she's not the biggest fan of their union and will do whatever she can to prevent it.

Echidna: Called "the mother of all monsters." Half woman and half snake (or serpent, or dragon), she and her mate Typhon were the parents of all sorts of Greek monsters. Now that she's back from Hades, she's the mom figure to the monster squad.

Echo: In love with Narcissus, she gets cursed by Hera (surprise, surprise). She can only repeat what people say.

Eros (Cupid): The god of passionate love and fertility. Not surprisingly, the son of Aphrodite in most versions of his myths. You know him as the guy who flings arrows at people and makes them fall in love.

Eurydice: In her original myth, she's trapped in the Underworld. When her lover Orpheus comes to rescue her, she's given instructions to follow behind him on the way out of the Underworld. If Orpheus turns around, she dies. Well, Eurydice sneezes or something, IDK, and he turns around. So she dies. But in our story, they both get brought back.

Fates (also known as Moirai): These three beings determine someone's life by weaving a thread for them. They are referenced by the characters in terms of things being outside of their control and

dictated by other beings with more power. A popular theme in the book, considering the gods can do whatever they want willy-nilly, and the characters take quite a few punches because of it.

Gaia: The Ancient Greek version of Mother Nature (or Mother Earth). She never makes an appearance in this book, but the characters frequently use her name to do an Ancient Greek version of cursing.

Gorgons (Stheno and Euryale): Other gorgons, apart from Medusa, existed in Greek myth, such as Stheno and Euryale. Unfortunately, during the time of our story, Medusa is the only gorgon to make it back to the land of the living.

Hades: The god of the Underworld and one of the OG gods involved in the war against the Titans. Important to note, he does not kill people. He just handles and organizes the dead people. In some myths, he kidnaps Persephone and makes her stay in the Underworld with him—not a great start to a relationship in our opinions. But in the more original versions of the myth, Persephone got annoyed with her overbearing mother and decided to chill in the land of the dead with Hades. You can take a wild guess at which version of the myth we went with.

Haemon: Antigone’s soon-to-be husband. He dies in the play *Antigone*, but our story brings him back.

Hector: The person who killed Patroclus (who Achilles afterward killed, and dragged his body around for several days via chariots). It’s interesting that they would’ve been in the same group chat—until Medusa un-alived Hector—considering how much they hated each other during the Trojan War. But they both had people they loved they wanted to bring back. So we can assume they had a temporary truce.

Hera: Like many deities, especially the OG deities from the time of the Titans, Hera doesn't like her marriage arrangement with Zeus. The goddess of a lot of things, queen of heaven, etc., hates the fact that her husband can't stay faithful to her for literally two seconds. This tends to make her embittered and not one to mess with. One of the goddesses who started the Trojan War.

Hercules (Heracles): Known better to us by his Roman name, rather than his Greek name—thanks to a certain Disney movie that has some bops and a sassy Hades—we also know him for his ability to complete several tasks for the woman he loves (twelve of them, to be specific). Unlike the Disney film, his union with Megara ends tragically when Hera, being Hera, turns Hercules mad and he kills Megara.

Hermes: Mainly the messenger of the gods—although he had a side job herding cattle. We translate his role into helping Hades and Persephone with the messaging capabilities of their app.

Hephaestus: The god of blacksmiths and fire, he is born with a disabled leg or foot. He marries Aphrodite, but Aphrodite isn't the biggest fan of the arrangement. He's also a craftsman and metalworker, and we've translated his role in the modern day as a master coder.

Hestia: Goddess of the hearth (aka the home). The home would've been an important concept in Ancient Greek culture, especially when it came to women making the home. Because Ancient Greece was all like, "Whaa? Women exist? This is terrible. We must hide them in houses." She plays a role in this book by providing housing to all the displaced mortals who returned from the dead. Although she's one of the nicer deities, we notice she chooses a place with cheap rent and not necessarily the nicest apartments. Gods had a tendency to bestow blessings rarely on humans in Greek culture, so this reflects their stinginess.

Hippolyta (Amazons): Queen of the Amazons. This group of female warriors made themselves adept in all areas of fighting. They show up in myths such as those featuring Hercules and Theseus. And briefly in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, for some reason.

Io: One of the women Zeus goes after who gets transformed into a cow. Hera catches on and sends a gadfly (a bitey bitey bug) after her. She manages to reunite with the love of her life thanks to an app glitch.

Iris: Messenger goddess and goddess of the rainbow. She helps Hermes in developing the messenger capabilities of the DearHades app.

Jason: A famous Greek hero, most known for stealing some golden fleece. Because he's a hero, and heroes steal things.

Lamia: A beautiful woman with removable eyeballs. (Long story.) After Zeus got a little too interested in Lamia, Hera cursed her (surprise, surprise) and she went mad and began stealing and eating children. Depending on the myths, she may have moved on to seducing young men in order to devour them, able to shapeshift into a normal woman or a half-serpentine creature. Back from the dead, she's really excited about all the tasty young men in Hollywood.

Loki: A frost giant, from Norse mythology, who often makes Thor's life harder. Thor seeks to find him on the DearHades app, and suspects Medusa may be a disguise of Loki's, seeing that Loki sometimes had ties with snakes.

Manto: We don't know a ton about Tiresias's daughter. She makes cameos in certain myths, but we do know that she can prophesy. Like father, like daughter. As mentioned in the story, she was a war captive at an early age. Sadly, this wasn't an uncommon fate of many women back then.

Medea: A play, and a woman who killed her husband's new wife and her children after Jason (her husband) cheated on her.

Medusa: Once human, now a gorgon—a creature with snakes for her hair. How she becomes a gorgon depends on the myth. But she was most likely raped in Athena's temple by Poseidon. And Athena, seeing this go down, transforms Medusa. Some people reading the original myths say it's a punishment. Others say it's a blessing, to protect Medusa from men by turning them into stone. In either case, recently, many people have attempted to reclaim the myth, turning Medusa from a monster into a woman who, despite horrible circumstances, defends herself with her new powers.

Megara: Hercules's wife, who is tragically killed (along with her family) when Hera (wow, shocker) mind-controls Hercules and makes him murder them all.

Narcissus: You know him, probably hate him, have probably called someone his name as an insult. He is in love with himself. And in our story, keeps swiping right on himself with the multiple profiles he's set up.

Odysseus: Wow, this guy is the worst. He fights in the Trojan War and ends up taking twenty years to get back home. Killing all of his men due to his selfishness and sleeping with a bunch of women. And to make it worse, when he returns home, he goes in a disguise, to make sure his wife stayed faithful to him all this time. She did. But because some men have decided to hit on her—because, you know, Odysseus has been gone for two decades—Odysseus slaughters them all. Odysseus is known for his cleverness and tricking people into doing things they don't actually want to do.

Oracle at Delphi: Basically, priestesses at Delphi would inhale some noxious (and lethal) fumes and would spew out nonsense. And people were all like, "Wow. It's a prophecy. We must listen and travel from far

lands to hear what she has to say.” So when Odysseus says something is as understood as a Delphinian oracle, he really means that it *isn’t* understood. He’s a trickster, so, makes sense.

Orpheus: Eurydice’s lover who also plays music. And is really bad at following instructions when leading people out of the Underworld.

Paris: The man who kidnapped Helen (the reason for the Trojan War). And who is the butt of the jokes throughout the *Iliad* for being more concerned with how he looks than his actual fighting skill. Medusa un-alives him during his second go in the mortal world.

Patroclus: The very good friend of Achilles who tragically died in the Trojan War. He’s the whole reason Achilles goes on a rampage and kills a bunch of people in the *Iliad*.

Pegasus: A winged horse, who now apparently vibes with the Amazonians.

Penelope: The wife to Odysseus who has quite a few tricks up her sleeve. Odysseus is personally impressed with how she swindles the suitors who try to hit on her of all their wealth and possessions.

Persephone (Kore): Known as the goddess of spring, and the daughter of Demeter (and for three months out of the year “Queen of the Dead”) Persephone has a very diversified resume. But overall, she—in the original myths—has a deep love for Hades. Enough to want to permanently stay in the Underworld with him. Of course the gods intervene and shorten that time period. In some myths, it is six months. In others three or four. For the purposes of this book, we went with three.

Perseus: Known for beheading Medusa before they all came back, he isn’t super happy that she’s returned along with the rest of them. Known as the “monster slayer,” it would totally make sense why he’d

join the Hero group chat in the first place, to make sure they rid the app of all monsters.

Plutus: The god of wealth in Greek culture, who kindly gives all of our mortals a yearly salary, so they can find their footing. Based on what Harper Lee's friends did for her. They paid her bills/expenses for a year, so she could go on to write *To Kill a Mockingbird*. So if you're ever wondering how to help your writing friends ...

Scylla: The bestie of Charybdis, Scylla lived on the opposite side of the narrow channel and ate some of Odysseus's men. You can't blame her, though, she does have, like, six dogs around her waist. They must get hungry.

Sirens: Greek sirens did drive men mad to the point of drowning. But unlike the modern depictions of sirens, the Ancient Greek ones had birdlike bodies.

Telegonus: Io's lover, and a king of Egypt.

Telemachus: Odysseus's "wimpy" son. Who allows suitors to flirt with his mom for years, for fear that if he stands up to them they will try to kill him. They still *do* try to kill him anyway.

Thanatos: The personification of death. He ACTUALLY deals in offing people. Unlike Hades, who often gets mistaken for doing that.

Thor: A Norse god of thunder. Many of us know a beloved iteration of him from Marvel movies.

Tiresias: A blind prophet from Thebes. He wasn't always blind. Accounts differ, but many point to him accidentally seeing Athena bathing—and Athena, not the biggest fan of that, strikes him blind. Tiresias has a history of being the bearer of bad news, especially to the family of Oedipus. He also has a briefly bizarre history where, when

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he stepped on two snakes doing the do, Hera transformed him into a woman for a few years. We don't get to find out much about his wife, but we do know he has a daughter named Manto. Also gifted with prophecy, she gets taken to Delphi as a prisoner of war.

Zeus: King of gods, and really not someone you want to model your dating life after. He has a history of trying to get with literally anything that has the slightest hint of femininity. His escapades have gotten him in trouble with Hera frequently. He also has a tendency to not do anything when gods or goddesses decide to start wars. Because he's kind of the worst.