



# Opening Pandora's Box: Phrases Borrowed from the Classics and the Stories Behind Them

*Ferdie Addis*

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Are you known to **strike like a thunderbolt** when things don't go your way?

Are you fortunate enough to have the **Midas touch**?

Have you ever been struck by **Cupid's arrow**?

Classically derived expressions are commonly used in our everyday language, yet many of us have little knowledge of the Greek and Roman influences that inspired them. With *Opening Pandora's Box* you'll discover the fascinating stories behind familiar phrases like **Achilles' Heel**, a **Nemesis**, **To Fly too Close to the Sun**, and more. For example, did you know that...

- The lifesaving operation known as **the Caesarean section** is so named because Julius Caesar was delivered by being cut out of his mother's womb?
- The original **labyrinth** was built on the orders of King Minos of Crete after Aphrodite cursed his wife to fall in love with a bull and produce a monstrous baby? The king locked the baby in a maze so complicated and tangled that, once in, he would never emerge.
- The word **cereal** is derived from the Italian corn goddess Ceres?

Pry open the lid of the English language to find the secrets behind classical phrases we use every day.

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