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Opening Pandora's Box Phrases We Borrowed From the Classics and the Stories Behind Them

Ferdie Addis

Description

It has been one of those days. You've worked like a Trojan, displaying titanic strength and stoic endurance to overcome the Herculean labours that have faced you in order to meet that deadline. We regularly employ classically-derived expressions in our everyday language, yet many of us have little understanding of the origin of these common phrases. But an incomplete classical education need no longer be your Achilles heel. *Opening Pandora's Box* offers a light-hearted yet fascinating look at the stories behind the expressions. For example, did you know that the phrase 'the face that launched a thousand ships' originates from the story of the kidnapping of Helen of Troy, but the actual line comes from a poem by Christopher Marlowe? *Opening Pandora's Box* provides a useful introduction to classical mythology as well as giving an insight into our language.

Sales Points

- Now in paperback, this is an intriguing look at how the myths and legends of the Greeks and Romans have infiltrated our modern-day language
- From Elysian Fields and epic proportions to Oedipal desires, spartan conditions, siren voices, and the hounds of hell, no longer will these Classical phrases remain shrouded in mystery
- Light and witty in tone, it explains the Classical tales behind the stock expressions we use everyday
- From the publishers of *A Classical Education* (over 58,000 copies sold to date)

Reviews

- 'Entertaining and informative, this book provides a fascinating and useful introduction to classical mythology, history and culture' - *The Oldie*
- 'A light-hearted yet fascinating look at the stories behind the expressions... a useful introduction to classical mythology as well as giving an insight into our versatile language' - *Lancashire Evening Post*

Author Biography

Ferdie Addis is a writer, classicist and freelance author currently living in London. His previous book for Michael O'Mara is *I Have a Dream* (2011).

Michael O'Mara.

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