

Apollo:

I was an ambitious, young, hard-working journalist until everything that could go wrong, went wrong. You see, reporting on the gods of Olympus is a demanding job but one that I always aspired to. Not many people knew about the gods' lives, not many had a real insight on things like their past, their family relations, their friendships. On the other hand, there was fiction about them everywhere. You take one walk down the Athenian high street and you'll see. There was certainly a demand. When I pitched the idea of doing an insight story on Zeus, the paper editor laughed at me. He said that I would never be allowed to do such a thing. He only agreed to me attending the wedding and writing a short piece of the brilliant feast. Yes - he used the word brilliant and stressed it as well.

I overheard Zeus and Cupid that night discussing the show, both excited and a bit drunk. I saw the opportunity and I took it. Naive and stupid, that's what I am. I proposed to Zeus that I could make a documentary about the filming of their show. One should be cautious when someone as powerful as Zeus agrees to anything. As you would know, the show flopped. Only three episodes aired. With the termination of the show, my documentary inevitably came to an end. But tonight, I am bringing you a special. These are the interviews I was able to conduct before the show ended. They provide an insight on what went wrong with the Real Housewives.

## Zeus and Cupid

Zeus: Well, I guess it all started on my wedding day, with all the gods gathered in club Olympus, flattering and bickering. Hades in his leather jacket, Pandora whispering in everyone's ear, Hercules flexing his muscles and the muses fainting with longing. I could see it in front of me! The best reality show to ever come out of Greece.

Cupid (interrupting): It was my idea really.... I ... I...

Zeus (continuing): And above all it was the prospect of money. But I'm getting ahead of myself. So, the wedding was a massive thing. Me and Hera wanted it to be the event of the century. We invited gods of every class, social media nymphs and even a couple of notable mortals.

Cupid (excitedly): Everyone who is someone was there!

Zeus: Cupid just shut up! I am the one being interviewed, not you!

Cupid (to the interviewer): We are both producers you know. And I was the one who brought in the big cash. Advertisements, magazines... That's all me!

Apollo: And how does Zeus ignoring your contributions make you feel?

Cupid: Well, first of all thank you for taking an interest in my feelings. Zeus ALWAYS does that. It's been going on for ceeeeenturies. It was me who first watched the Real Housewives of New Jersey and when I saw Pandora whispering in Aphrodite's ear I knew we could have the Real Housewives of Olympus.

Zeus: eh... hmm... well...

Apollo: Mr Zeus, can you not interrupt please.

Zeus: How dare...

Cupid (interrupting again): Thank you! (flashes hand in Zeus' face) So, as I was saying it all came from here (points at this temple). And humans and immortals have me to thank for the most divine (winks) show to ever be created.

Zeus: BUT I AM THE KING OF ALL GODS!

Hades

You should know who I am.

(pause)

Everyone knows who I am. I'm to be feared. All those stories you've heard about evil and death and shady dealings, I'm behind most of them.

That's my job as the gang leader..... wait, that doesn't do me justice.... I'm the boss, the mastermind, the agitator. Yeah I like that, I'm the agitator.

I don't see my work as a negative. Life needs death and I provide the world with what it needs, balance, and without me the world would be a much, much worse place.

I really do believe in this idea of balance and I live as I preach. Have you met my wife Persephone, the kindest, happiest person in the world, the total opposite of me but it works! As I said, balance.

Funny how we come together actually. My dog, Cerberus, poor fella had an accident, only the three legs - you can thank my nephew Hercules for that "accident", chasing him around, trying to capture him, the poor guy ended up one leg short.

Apollo: And how did that make you feel?

You wouldn't imagine me caring, would you. I've cut off my fair share of limbs during my career. But this was my dog. I've raised him since he was a puppy. As Persephone says though, when life gives you lemons, throw them back and ask for chocolate. And she is my chocolate.

Pandora

Pandora (out of breath): I am sooo happy to be here, like ecstatic, like no one understands, like isn't this just great, me, you, a god, a beautiful woman, just chatting, like, you know, just talking, it's great, and I think you are loving it to.

Apollo: ehh..

Pandora: what do you want to know? Everything? Anything? Just ask!

Apollo: Well, I was thinking we could talk about...

Pandora (conspiring, whispering): Did you hear about the instagram incident? I mean, you must know. People are trying to blame a certain person (points at herself) but the truth is that is Zeus (mouths his name) is to be blamed. I try never to involve myself in other peoples' business, it's not who I am, but he decided to involve me. He sent me a text saying 'I'll forward an email to you for safekeeping. DO NOT OPEN IT.' I mean that is like telling someone to open it right? I waited and waited and waited. I told a few people that Zeus has this secret and they urged me to read it. It's their fault really.

Apollo: And you did? What was in the email?

Pandora: (giggling) Passwords. Everyone's passwords. The things I found out because of this. Pain, misery, despair. Demeter accusing Hades of using 'memory pills' to keep Persephone locked in the house, and how Artemis and her Nuns are not that pure. Hippolytus has been having an affair with her for years. And Cupid! Oh Cupid! He has a certain inclination.

Apollo: A what?

Pandora: He likes *mortals*! He has been going by the username Eros on dating apps. And he had been talking to a certain Miss Psyche. I had to tell her... You understand. Poor thing, she was so confused. Her sisters wanted to report him to the police because they thought he was a dangerous criminal. She never actually saw his real face, just heavily edited pictures. She lost it when I told her and she tried to kill him. Laughable really, she is only a mortal.

Apollo: What about Hercules? You used to be friends?

Pandora: Oh, can't say anything about him... That's a bit too deep. I just pretend that there was nothing in there about him (giggles nervously, looking around). Just don't tell Zeus that I've even mentioned Hercules.

Hercules:

(Holding a mirror) Do you know how many followers I have? 3.8 billion *women, females...* WHICH I DO LIKE! (pulls a hair) Do you know much this is worth? 2.8 thousand drachmas. And that's the starting price. Why are you looking at me like that? Wanna fight? Because I can fight! Like a real man! Punch, punch, punch, death. Cheer up man, only joking. If you get scared so easily, maybe we should gym together (whispers) *not that you need it, you hottie.*

Apollo: Sorry, what?

Hercules: Just saying how unattractive I find you, because you are a man, and I am a man and my father says... Anyway.

Apollo: What do you know about Pandora's secret messages?

Hercules: .....

Apollo: (stares)

Hercules: ....

Apollo: So?

Hercules: (looks at mirror)

Apollo: Hercules?

Hercules: Noooothing.

Apollo: Are you sure about that?

Hercules: (lips trembling) It's so hard. I am suffering. 3.8 billion women yet I am alone. What do I want? Nobody cares. They only care about this (flexes muscles). I have feelings you know, like everyone else, but I'm being treated like a piece of flesh. I have feelings. And... and... and I have feelings for you.

Apollo: Hercules... I

(Hercules storms off in tears)

Apollo: I love you too. (turns to camera) cut, cut.

Apollo:

As you have seen, Pandora exposed everyone's secrets. Following the interview with Zeus and Cupid, Cupid decided to end their professional relationship and send me a letter exposing Zeus himself. The king of Gods was found guilty of mishandling data belonging to the participants of the show. According to Cupid's statement and Zeus' confession, the passwords were sent to Pandora in an effort to create controversy. Zeus, seeing the show fail, felt that by creating suspense and tension he could save the Real Housewives. He went on trial in front of the Titans and is now serving 20 lifetimes as a mortal.

Cupid moved on and now runs a dating site called Love's Arrow, with great success. Pandora left Greece, unable to cope with the clapback. With gods and mortals realising what big part she had played in exposing some of their favourite celebrities, the criticism proved too much. Her last sighting was in Spain where she was stirring some trouble with the Giants and dwarves of Catalonia.

As for Hades, he somehow managed to come out of this unharmed. The allegations of using 'memory pills' were dismissed and he still works on preserving the balance. And Hercules... With Zeus on trial he lost his status as the favourite semi-god and is now working as a personal trainer for a global fitness enterprise. With the gods scattered across the globe, my job as a deity reporter became redundant. This will be my last contribution to the world of divine beings. It has been a curse and an honour.