**Transformations in Ovid’s Metamorphoses**

These stories are arranged in the order Ovid tells them and use Roman names.

This is **not** meant as a substitute for reading the *Metamorphoses*; only the actual transformations are included – less than two-thirds of the book.

\* indicates there is another version of a story, or additional information, that Ovid doesn’t mention, which you should look up.

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| **Who** | **What** | **Why/By Whom** |
| Lycaon  ~wicked Arcadian king | Wolf | By Jupiter  ~when he came to visit, Lycaon tested his divinity by feeding him a Molossian hostage  ~Jupiter immediately sensed the trick and turned Lycaon into a wolf |
| The bones of Deucalion’s and Pyrrha’s mother  ~read: stones | Men and women | Being the only ones left after the flood, they prayed at Delphi for help. Themis told them to throw the bones of their mother over their shoulder. |
| Daphne  ~nymph  ~daughter of the river Peneus  ~refused all suitors | Laurel tree | By her father  ~Apollo snubbed Cupid, who shot him with a golden arrow and Daphne with a leaden one. Apollo chased her and she fled, calling to her father for help  ~her father turned her into a tree |
| Io  ~daughter of the river Inachus  ~mother of Epaphus, who mocked Phaethon’s boasting about his father being the sun  ~she and her son were worshipped in Egypt as Isis and Horus | A cow (and back) | By Jupiter  ~He hid with Io in a cloud, and when Hera found them turned her into a cow. Hera then forced him to give her the cow and tied her up.  ~Mercury killed Argus and freed Io, who was chased by Hera’s gadfly all the way to Egypt until she allowed her to turn back into a human |
| Syrinx  ~Arcadian nymph  ~hunter on Mt. Lycaeus  ~devotee of Diana | reeds | Her sister nymphs  ~Pan fell in love with her and chased her to the river Ladon, where she begged her sisters to save her.  ~Pan cut some of the reeds and made them into panpipes. |
| Heliades  ~sisters of Phaethon  ~daughters of Clymene and the Sun | Poplar trees  (tears turned to sap/amber) | Mourned Phaethon on the banks of the Eridanus River until they became trees |
| Cygnus  ~cousin of Phaethon  ~musician from Libya | Swan | Played and sang by the Eridanus in mourning for his cousin until he became a swan – which sings sad songs before it dies |
| Callisto  ~Arcadian nymph  ~daughter of Lycaon  ~companion of Diana | Bear, Ursa Maior | By Juno  ~Jupiter approached her in the form of Diana and then caught her  ~she hid her pregnancy until all the huntresses went for a swim one day and, when she hesitated, pulled her clothes off for her  ~Diana banished her  ~she bore a son, Arcas, and Juno took revenge by turning her into a bear |
| Arcas  ~son of Callisto  ~raised at Lycaon’s court | Ursa Minor | By Jupiter  ~out hunting one day, was about to kill his mother in bear form  ~Jupiter snatched them both and put them in the sky  ~Juno, angry, got Oceanus and Tethys never to let the constellations rest in their waters |
| The white raven  ~gossipy  ~Apollo’s bird | The black raven | By Apollo  ~the raven revealed to Apollo his mistress Coronis’ infidelity with the mortal Itys  ~Apollo killed her, later repenting and saving her unborn son (Aesculapius)  ~angry at the world in general, Apollo blamed the raven and scorched it |
| Phocian princess, daughter of Coroneus | Crow | By Minerva  ~pursued by Neptune, she cried for help and became a bird  ~later she reported to Minerva the disobedience of the Athenian princess Aglauros, who looked into the box which held Erichthonius against Minerva’s orders; Minerva got mad and demoted the crow below the owl |
| Nyctimene | Owl | By Minerva  ~she was raped by her father  ~her shame was so great she wouldn’t come out in the daylight, so she became a nocturnal bird |
| Ocyrhoe  ~daughter of Chiron and the nymph Chariclo | Horse | Prophesied Aesculapius’ death at Jupiter’s hands, and Chiron’s death after accidentally being shot with one of Hercules’ arrows; having given too much away, she was transformed |
| Battus  ~horse-herder for Neleus, king of Pylos | Stone (“touch-stone”) | By Mercury  ~when Mercury stole Apollo’s cattle, Battus saw him driving them away  ~Mercury bribed Battus not to talk, then came by in disguise and bribed him to talk  ~Battus took the bribe and was turned into a statue |
| Aglauros  ~Athenian princess  ~daughter of Cecrops  ~sister of Pandrosos and Herse  ~had alone of her sisters betrayed Minerva’s trust and opened the chest containing half-snake Erichthonius | Stone | By Mercury  ~Mercury fell in love with Herse and came to visit her at night  ~Minerva, angry at Aglauros’ disobedience, sent Envy to haunt her  ~Aglauros became insanely jealous of Herse and blocked Mercury’s way twice, demanding payment  ~the second time Mercury turned her to stone |
| Jupiter | Bull | In order to carry Europa away from Sidon  ~carried her to his homeland, Crete, where she bore Minos, Rhadamanthys, and Sarpedon |
| Teeth of a dragon of Mars | Spartoi | Cadmus was sent to find his sister Europa, but was told by an oracle to found a city instead  ~followed a white cow to the building site, where he sent his men to fetch water for a sacrifice  ~when none came back, he followed to find a dragon had been eating them; he killed the serpent (then heard a prophecy that he would one day be a serpent himself)  ~Minerva instructed him to sow the dragon’s teeth, which produced full-grown warriors, and to throw a rock among them, which caused them to fight until only five remained  ~Echion, Udaeus, Hyperenor, Chthonius, and Pelorus = the Spartoi, founders of Thebes |
| Actaeon  ~son of Autonoe and Aristaeus  ~maternal grandfather = Cadmus | Stag | By Diana  ~while hunting, saw her bathing  ~she flung a handful of water at him, which turned him into a stag  ~he was hunted down by his own dogs |
| Semele  ~daughter of Cadmus  ~Lover of Jupiter  ~mother of Bacchus | A pile of ashes | By Jupiter and, indirectly, Juno  ~jealous (as usual), Juno disguised herself as an old nurse Beroe and planted doubts in Semele’s mind about Jupiter’s identity  ~Semele was persuaded to ask to see him in his true form  ~she made him swear on the Styx to do what she asked, so he had to; and she was incinerated  ~her unborn son was saved and sewn into Jupiter’s leg until birth |
| Tiresias  ~prophet of Thebes | A woman, then a man again, then a blind man, then a blind man with the ability to see the future | By snakes  ~he struck apart a pair of copulating snakes with his staff and turned into a woman  ~after 7 years he did the same thing and turned back into a man  By Juno and Jupiter  ~he was asked to settle a debate over which gender got more pleasure out of sex; he took Jupiter’s side  ~Juno blinded him, then Jupiter compensated him with foresight |
| Echo  ~nymph who distracted Juno while Jupiter was off philandering | An echo | By Juno, indirectly  ~she was found out and Juno punished her by making her only able to say the last words of whoever had last spoken  ~pined away over Narcissus until nothing but her voice was left |
| Narcissus  ~son of the nymph Liriope  ~beloved by every girl (and boy) who saw him | A narcissus flower | By Nemesis  ~a youth spurned by Narcissus (much like Echo) prayed for revenge  ~Narcissus fell in love with his own reflection in a pool and wouldn’t move from the spot, wasting away  ~now gazes eternally at his reflection in the Styx |
| Pentheus  ~son of Agave and Echion  ~maternal grandfather = Cadmus | Dismembered body | By Agave and, indirectly, Bacchus  ~Pentheus denied Bacchus’ divinity when he came to Thebes, holding his followers in prison until the doors magically opened and they danced out  ~in spite of warnings from Tiresias, followed the Theban Bacchanales to Mt Cithaeron to watch their rites  ~was mistaken for a lion and torn apart by his mother and her companions |
| Pirates who kidnapped Bacchus | Dolphins | By Bacchus  ~offered to take him to Naxos, but really meant to hold him to ransom (thinking he was a prince)  ~all but the helmsman Acoetes scoffed at signs of divinity  ~all but Acoetes went mad when ivy started growing out of the ship and lynxes and leopard started appearing  ~all but Acoetes turned into dolphins |
| Alcithoe &her sisters  ~daughters of Minyas, a Theban nobleman | Bats | By Bacchus  ~they denied his divinity and shut themselves in their house weaving and storytelling rather than celebrate his rites |
| The white-mulberry tree | The dark-mulberry tree | Pyramus and Thisbe, forbidden lovers who arranged, through a crack in the wall between their homes, to meet at the mulberry tree outside Babylon  ~Thisbe arrived early and was scared away by a bloody-mouthed lion, who played with the veil she dropped  ~Pyramus came and thought the blood on the veil was Thisbe’s and killed himself  ~Thisbe returned and found him dead and killed herself too  ~their blood stained the white mulberries |
| Leucothoe  ~Persian princess  ~daughter of King Orchamus and Eurynome | Frankincense bush | By the Sun  ~Clytie, the Sun’s precious lover, became jealous and told Orchamus of Leucothoe’s affair  ~Leucothoe was buried alive by her father |
| Clytie | Sunflower (actually, heliotrope) | Ignored still by the Sun in his grief for Leucothoe, she sat outside and watched him cross the sky for nine days, finally becoming a plant which turns to follow the sun |
| Crocus & Smilax\*  ~lovers | Saffron crocus & bindweed, respectively | Either they were unhappy in their relationship, OR Mercury accidentally killed his friend Crocus is a game of discus |
| Hermaphroditus & Salmacis  ~he: son of Mercury and Venus (conceived when Jupiter’s eagle stole Venus’ sandal for Mercury, who wouldn’t give it back until she slept with him)  ~she: nymph of a Lycian pond | A hermaphrodite | Salmacis fell in love with him and caught him when he bathed in her pool, praying that they would never be separated.  The pool afterward was known to afflict anyone who bathed in it with impotence. |
| Ino  ~daughter of Cadmus  ~2nd wife of Athamas, king of Orchomenus  ~arranged for the sacrifice of Phrixus and Helle to secure the throne for her sons Learchus and Melicertes  ~temporary nurse of the infant Bacchus | Leucothea | By Neptune  ~Juno, angered by Ino’s pride at raising Jupiter’s bastard son, sent the Furies after her and Athamas  ~Athamas killed Learchus in his madness  ~Ino fled and jumped off a cliff with Melicertes  ~Venus persuaded Neptune to spare them; he turned them into minor sea deities |
| Melicertes  ~Ino’s younger son | Palaemon | See above |
| Ino’s Theban servant girls | Sea birds | Cursing Juno, leapt off the cliff after their mistress |
| Cadmus & Harmonia  ~he: king of Thebes  ~she: daughter of Mars and Venus, queen of Thebes | Snakes | After all the misfortunes of their daughters and grandchildren, not knowing Ino hadn’t in fact died, the couple left the city for Illyria and eventually both turned into (harmless) snakes |
| Medusa’s blood | Vipers | As Perseus flew with the severed head over the Libyan desert, blood dripped onto the sands |
| Atlas\* | Mt. Atlas | By Perseus  ~while flying home, Perseus asked permission to rest in Atlas’ garden for the night  ~an ancient prophecy from Themis said a son of Zeus would steal the golden apples of the Hesperides  ~Atlas refused; Perseus took out Medusa’s head |
| Seaweed on the shore of Ethiopia | Coral | By Perseus  ~he put Medusa’s head down on it, and it was petrified |
| Medusa  ~beautiful priestess of Minerva | Medusa  ~snaky-haired monster | By Minerva  ~Found Medusa sleeping with Poseidon in her temple and punished her |
| Phineus\*  ~uncle of Andromeda and her fiancé | A statue | By Perseus  ~was angry at Andromeda being given to Perseus, though he himself hadn’t even tried to save her  ~after a long battle (which Ovid describes in detail, complete with names) Perseus turned Phineus and at least 200 other men to stone with Medusa’s head |
| Polydectes  ~king of Seriphos  ~had sent Perseus after the Gorgon in order to more easily seduce his mother Danae | A statue | By Perseus  ~when Perseus returned, Polydectes, angry, dismissed his tale and tried to get rid of him  ~Perseus took out Medusa’s head |
| The Pierides  ~nine daughters of Pierus, king of Pella, and Euippe | Magpies | By the Muses  ~proud of their musical abilities, they challenged the Muses to a contest and lost |
| The Olympians\* | Ram (Jupiter), crow (Apollo), cat (Diana), goat (Bacchus), heifer (Juno), fish (Venus), flamingo (Mercury) | When Typhon/Typhoeus first fought the gods, they all fled into Egypt in the form of animals |
| Cyane  ~nymph of a Sicilian pool | Water | She tried to stop Pluto’s abduction of Proserpina, but he cast her aside and broke open her pool to descend to the underworld. Wounded and grieving, she melted. |
| Ascalabos  ~also known as Stellio, the spot-marked | A newt | By Ceres  ~while wandering as an old crone in search of her daughter, she was offered a drink of barley water by an old woman  ~Ascalabos saw her drink greedily and laughed; she threw the barley water at him and he turned into a newt |
| Ascalaphus\*  ~son of Acheron and Orphne | Screech-owl | By Proserpina  ~he saw her eating the pomegranate seeds and tattled |
| The daughters of Achelous\*  ~companions of Proserpina | The Sirens | Seeking Proserpina after her kidnapping, they came to the ocean and could not go further; they prayed for wings |
| Arethusa  ~Arcadian nymph, devotee of Diana | Arethusa  ~Sicilian spring | By Diana  ~in Arcadia, she bathed one day after the hunt in the river Alpheus  ~the river god fell in love with her and chased her; Arethusa prayed to Diana for help  ~Diana turned her into a spring, and when that didn’t fool Alpheus opened the ground for her to flow away to Sicily |
| Lyncus  ~king of Scythia | Lynx | By Ceres  ~when Triptolemus came showing people how to sow grain as Ceres taught him, he was jealous  ~tried to kill Triptolemus in his sleep, but Ceres stopped him and transformed him |
| Arachne  ~girl from Lydian village of Hypaepa  ~weaver | Spider | By Minerva  ~overly proud of her skill at weaving, Arachne challenged Minerva  ~Arachne’s weaving turned out to be just as good as the goddess’; Minerva, jealous, attacked Arachne, who fled and hanged herself  ~Minerva took pity on her and brought her back to life as a spider |
| Haemus and Rhodope  ~Thracian couple | Mountains | By Jupiter and Juno  ~were transformed when they impersonated the king and queen of the gods |
| Gerana  ~queen of the Pygmies | Crane | By Juno or Diana  ~she disdained their beauty in favor of their own  ~as a crane she attacked her own people, starting a perpetual war between Pygmies and cranes |
| Antigone  ~Trojan princess, daughter of Laomedon | Stork | By Juno  ~she compared her beauty to Juno’s |
| Daughters of Cinyras | Steps of a temple |  |
| Jupiter | Bull, eagle, swan, satyr, Amphitryon, shower of gold, flame, shepherd, snake | According to Arachne’s tapestry, in order to woo Europa, Asteria, Leda, Antiope, Alcmene, Danae, Aegina, Mnemosyne, and Proserpina |
| Neptune | Bull, river, ram, stallion, bird, dolphin | Canace, Tyro, Theophane, Ceres, Medusa, Melantho |
| Niobe  ~daughter of Tantalus  ~wife of Amphion, king of Thebes | Weeping rock | After she scorned the urging of Manto, Tiresias’ daughter, to worship Latona, comparing herself to the goddess, all her fourteen children were killed by Apollo and Diana.  Because she wouldn’t stop weeping, she was carried back to Lydia as a weeping rock |
| Some Lycian peasants | Frogs | By Latona  ~While passing through with the infant Apollo and Diana, she stopped to drink at a pond  ~the locals tried to chase her off, not listening to her pleas  ~she sent them to live in their pond as frogs |
| Procne and Philomela  ~Athenian princesses, daughters of Pandion | Nightingale and swallow | Procne’s husband Tereus went to fetch Philomela to visit her, he fell in love.  She refused him, so he raped her, cut out her tongue so she couldn’t tell, imprisoned her in a cottage and told Procne she’d died.  Philomela wove the story into a tapestry and sent it to Procne, who freed her, and the sisters took revenge by killing Tereus’ son Itys and feeding him to his father.  Tereus found out and hunted them down; all three turned into birds. |
| Tereus  ~Thracian king  ~Procne’s husband | Hoopoe bird | See above. |
| An old ram | A little lamb | By Medea  ~She killed and cooked the ram in a kettle of magic potion; he came out a lamb  ~This was part of a horrific trick she played on the daughters of Pelias; for the whole Jason-and-Medea story, see Book 7 of the Metamorphoses |
| Cygnus  ~resident of Tempe  ~lover of Phyllius  ~son of the naiad Hyrie | A swan | According to Ovid, Phyllius tamed all sorts of wild animals as gifts to Cygnus; when Cygnus demanded a lion, Phyllius tamed it but wouldn’t give it to him, so Cygnus jumped off a cliff out of spite. He turned into a swan. |
| Combe  ~daughter of Ophius | A bird | She transformed to escape her sons, who tried to kill her (these sons may or may not have been the Corybantes) |
| Phocus\*  ~grandson of the river Cephissus | A seal | By Apollo |
| Botres  ~son of Eumelus, devotee of Apollo | Bee-eater (type of bird) | By Apollo  ~at a sacrifice, he once tasted the victim’s brains before the ritual was done; his father, angry, hit him upside the head  ~it turned out the blow was fatal; Apollo decided, since Botres was a devotee, to turn him into a bird rather than let him die |
| Periphas and Phene  ~husband and wife  ~priest of Apollo  ~king and queen in Attica | Eagle and osprey, respectively | By Jupiter  ~Jupiter was envious of the reverence Periphas received as priest and king, and meant to kill him  ~Apollo begged him to be merciful; so he turned Periphas and his wife into birds instead |
| Ants on the island Aegina | The Myrmidons (warriors) | By Jupiter  ~Juno was jealous of Aegina, after whom the island was named, and mother of the king – Zeus’ son Aeacus  ~Juno sent a plague upon her rival’s people, killing almost all of them  ~the pious Aeacus prayed for help to his father, who created new people out of the island’s many ants  ~the Myrmidons were famously tough and excellent warriors; Aeacus’ grandson Achilles led them to Troy |
| Laelaps the hound and the Teumessian vixen  ~Laelaps: an infallible hound, gift from Diana to Procris and from Procris to Cephalus  ~Teumessian vixen: monster ravaging area around Thebes | Statues | By Jupiter  ~the Teumessian vixen was destined by Juno to never be killed; Laelaps was destined to catch whatever prey he chased  ~the hound was set loose after the fox; the hound couldn’t catch up but the fox couldn’t escape, so eventually Jupiter turned them both to stone |
| Scylla\*  ~daughter of Nisus  ~princess of Megara | Shearer (type of waterbird) | Minos besieged her city, which would not fall as long as a certain lock of purple hair grew on her father’s head; falling in love with Minos she cut off the lock and gave it to Minos. He took the city but rejected her; she jumped into the sea trying to follow Minos’ ship back to Crete. |
| Nisus  ~king of Megara | Osprey | Transformed when Minos took the city and attacked his traitorous daughter. |
| Ariadne’s crown | Corona Borealis (constellation) | By Bacchus  ~he found her on Dia (Naxos) when Theseus left her |
| Perdix  ~nephew of Daedalus | Partridge | By Minerva  ~apprenticed to Daedalus as a child  ~Daedalus became jealous of his skill as an inventor and threw him off the Acropolis |
| Sisters of Meleager\* | Guinea hens | By Diana  ~After the death of Meleager, which followed his murder of his uncles, which followed the Calydonian boar hunt, his sisters grieved so much that Diana (who sent the boar) took pity on them  ~…except Gorge and Deianira |
| Five Calydonian nymphs | Echinades Islands (in the mouth of the river Achelous) | By Achelous  ~they sacrificed ten bulls to all the local gods but left him out |
| Perimele  ~daughter of Hippodamas  ~lover of Achelous | Island of Perimele | By Neptune  ~her father, finding out about her affair with the river god, threw her off a cliff  ~Neptune transformed her when Achelous begged him not to let her die |
| Baucis & Philemon  ~Phrygian peasants | Linden and oak tree, respectively | By Jupiter  ~Jupiter and Mercury visited their neighborhood testing mankind’s hospitality; Baucis and Philemon, the poorest, were the only ones not to turn them away  ~all the neighboring houses were destroyed by a flood except theirs, which became a rich temple (and they the priests)  ~they were offered one request; they asked not to outlive one another |
| Mestra  ~daughter of Erysichthon | A man, a mare, a heifer, a bird… | By Neptune  ~her father, cursed with starvation for cutting down the tree of a nymph dear to Ceres, sold her to pay for more food  ~she ran away to the seashore, where Neptune, who loved her, transformed her so that she duped the man who’d bought her.  ~Erysichton then sold her multiple times to pay for more food; each time she transformed to escape |
| Achelous  ~Aetolian river god | Bull | He transformed in an attempt to defeat Hercules in a fight for the hand of Deianira; Hercules broke off one of his horns and won |
| Lichas  ~messenger of Hercules | A rock | He unwittingly brought Hercules the poisoned robe from Deianira; his master, mad with pain, threw him into sea off Euboea, where he became a rock |
| Galanthis  ~handmaid of Alcmena | Weasel | By Lucina  ~Lucina, goddess of childbirth, was charged by Juno to stop the birth of Hercules  ~she sat outside Alcmena’s room with her legs crossed  ~Galanthis, figuring out the trick, came out of the room and proclaimed that the child was born; Lucina, shocked, jumped to her feet, uncrossing her legs – which allowed Hercules to be born  ~angered, the goddess turned Galanthis into a weasel |
| Dryope\*  ~daughter of Eurytus  ~half-sister of Iole  ~wife of Andraemon  ~mother of Amphissos | Black poplar tree tree | She picked a flower for her infant son which turned out to be the nymph Lotis |
| Lotis\* | Lotus flower | She fled from the lustful god Priapus, finally escaping him by turning into a flower |
| Byblis | A spring | She fell in love with her own brother Caunus, who fled in horror; she ran off into the forest and wept until she became water |
| Iphis  ~daughter of poor man from Phaestus (Ligdus) and his wife (Telethusa) | A man | By Io/Isis  ~her father couldn’t afford to keep more children than necessary, and determined to kill his first child if it was a daughter  ~Io (called Isis by the Egyptians) came to Telethusa in a dream and told her to raise her daughter disguised as a man  ~Iphis, when grown, was engaged to Ianthe and fell in love; she and her mother prayed and sacrificed to Isis, who turned Iphis into a man so the marriage could go forward |
| Olenos and Lethaea  ~lovers  ~lived on Mt. Ida | Stone | Lethaea was punished for claiming to be more beautiful than any goddess; Olenos chose to share her fate |
| Cyparissus  ~lover of Apollo from Cea  ~had a pet deer | Cypress tree | By Apollo  ~when his pet deer was shot by a hunter he wanted to die himself  ~rather than let him die, Apollo turned him into a tree of mourning |
| Jupiter | Eagle | To kidnap Ganymede, a handsome Trojan prince, to be his cupbearer |
| Hyacinthus\*  ~Spartan youth  ~lover of Apollo | Hyacinth | By Apollo  ~Hyacinthus was killed by a discus to the face while he and Apollo played together  ~from his blood grew a flower on whose petals were written “*ai*” (a cry of mourning) |
| Daughters of Amathus  ~had horns on their head  ~Amathus = town of Cyprus | bulls | By Venus  ~she was angered that they profaned her sacred island by murdering guests  ~she transformed their bodies to match their horns |
| The Propoetides  ~daughters of Propoetus from Amathus on Cyprus | Stone | By Venus  ~they scorned the worship of Venus  ~she made them the first whores; thereafter they grew so hard-hearted that they turned to stone |
| Galatea\*  ~statue made by Cyprian sculptor | A living woman | By Venus  ~Pygmalion scorned all women, but fell for his beautiful statue  ~he prayed at a festival of Venus for a woman just like his Galatea; when he came home she had come alive |
| Myrrha  ~daughter of Cinyras, son of Paphos, daughter of Pygmalion and Galatea  ~mother of Adonis | Myrrh tree | She fell in love with her own father and seduced him in the dark; when he found out he chased her with a sword. She fled until, utterly exhausted, she turned into a myrrh tree (whose trunk split open when Adonis, the child she conceived with Cinyras, was born) |
| Atalanta and Hippomenes\*  ~married couple  ~Hippomenes won her by beating her in a footrace (which he could only do by distracting her with 3 golden apples given him by Venus) | Lions | By Cybele  ~Hippomenes never gave proper thanks to Venus for helping him win Atalanta  ~she made them so mad with passion that they slept together in Cybele’s temple  ~Cybele turned them into lions and yoked them to her chariot |
| Mentha | Mint plant | By Proserpina  ~when she found out Pluto had been cheating on her, she turned his mistress Mentha into a mint plant |
| Adonis\*  ~son of Cinyras and Myrrha | Anemone | By Venus  ~he was killed by a boar which Venus had begged him not to hunt  ~a flower – the anemone – grew from his blood |
| Maenads  ~specifically, those who killed Orpheus | Oak trees | By Bacchus |
| The sands of the river Pactolus\*  ~Phrygian river | Gold | When Midas washed off his golden touch, he transferred it to the river |
| King Midas’ ears\* | Donkey’s ears | By Apollo  ~Midas sided with Pan against Apollo in a musical contest |
| Thetis\* | A bird, a tree, and a tigress | She shapeshifted when Peleus attempted to catch her and marry her |
| Daedalion  ~brother of Ceyx  ~son of the Morning Star  ~father of Chione | Hawk | By Apollo  ~his daughter Chione was wooed by both Apollo and Mercury, and bore them Philammon and Autolycus, respectively  ~she boasted that she was more beautiful than Diana, who killed her  ~Daedalion, in grief, jumped off a cliff of Mt Parnassus |
| Wolf of Psamathe\*  ~Psamathe = Nereid | Stone | By Psamathe  ~she sent the wolf to slaughter the cattle of Peleus as revenge for killing her son (his half-brother) Phocus, but relented when Thetis intervened for her husband |
| Ceyx and Alcyone\*  ~king and queen of Trachis | Kingfishers | Ceyx drowned while on a voyage to consult an oracle; Alcyone learned of this in a dream sent by the gods. She then found Ceyx’ body washing up on the shore and jumped into the sea; but both were turned into sea birds |
| Aesacus  ~son of Priam and Arisbe | Diver bird | By Tethys  ~Aesacus, a shepherd, fell in love with Hesperia, daughter of the river Cebren  ~when Hesperia died by snakebite, he jumped off a cliff into the ocean  ~when he turned into a bird he kept diving deeper into the water, trying to drown |
| Serpent at Aulis\*  ~port from which the Achaean fleet sailed for Troy | Stone | The Greeks witnessed a snake eat eight baby birds and their mother, and then turn to stone. Calchas interpreted this as a sign that Troy would fall in the tenth year of the war. |
| Cygnus\*  ~son of Neptune  ~king of Colonae, ally of Troy | swan | By Neptune  ~his father had made him invulnerable to weapons  ~when he taunted Achilles with this fact, the Greek hero strangled him with his own helmet straps  ~Neptune kept the body from being defiled by turning Cygnus into a swan |
| Caenis  ~Thessalian girl, daughter of Elatus | Caeneus (a man, invulnerable to weapons) | By Neptune  ~the god, spotting her walking alone on the beach one day, raped her  ~he then offered her any favor she asked; she asked to no longer be a woman |
| Caeneus\* | Golden-winged bird | In the battle between the centaurs and the Lapiths\*, the centaurs, unable to kill Caeneus with weapons, buried him under a pile of trees and boulders; suffocating, he was turned into a bird and flew away. Or possibly was crushed right through the ground into Tartarus. |
| Periclymenus  ~son of Neleus, brother of Nestor | Eagle | Periclymenus could change shape at will, and when Hercules attacked Pylos took the form of an eagle to fight him (he was promptly shot down). |
| Hecuba\*  ~second wife of Priam | Bitch | When Hecuba found that her youngest son Polydorus, who had been sent for safekeeping to Thrace, had been killed by the king Polymestor, she went (somehow) to Thrace and clawed out Polymestor’s eyes. She then turned into a howling mad female dog. |
| Ashes/smoke from Memnon’s pyre  ~Memnon = son of Aurora, killed at Troy by Achilles | Memnonides (flock of birds) | By Jupiter  ~Aurora begged some small honor for her son’s death |
| Daughters of Anius  ~given by Bacchus the power to turn what they touched into corn, wine, and olive oil | Doves | By Bacchus  ~Agamemnon kidnapped them to feed the Greek fleet  ~two escaped to Euboea and two to their brother Andros; the Greeks came after Andros and threatened him  ~the sisters, about to be taken away again, prayed to Bacchus and were turned into birds |
| Ashes of Orion’s daughters | The Coroni | The Orionids (both virgins) committed ritual suicide; during their funeral two sons were born from the ashes, named the Coroni by the Thebans |
| Acis  ~lover of the sea nymph Galatea | The river Acis | The Cyclops Polyphemus, who also loved (but was spurned by) Galatea, threw a boulder at him. His body turned into a river. |
| Glaucus\*  ~fisherman from Anthedon | Sea god | By Oceanus and Tethys  ~upon eating an unfamiliar herb, he jumped into the sea, praying to Oceanus and Tethys, who made him an immortal half-fish |
| Scylla | Monster with rabid dogs for legs | By Circe  ~Glaucus fell in love with Scylla, who fled him, and asked Circe for help  ~Circe fell in love with Glaucus, but he refused her  ~Circe put a potion into the pool where Scylla bathed, causing her to become a monster |
| The Cercopes  ~twin thieves | Monkeys | By Jupiter  ~the brothers were punished for their tricks, lies, and crimes |
| 21 of Ulysses’ crewmen | Pigs | By Circe  ~when they came to investigate her palace, she fed them potions |
| Picus  ~Italian king, son of Saturn | Woodpecker | By Circe  ~while gathering herbs in Italy she fell in love with him, but he, already in love with a girl named Canens, refused her  ~Circe revenged herself by turning him into a bird; when Picus’ men attacked her she turned them into beasts  ~Canens wasted away into thin air grieving on the banks of the Tiber |
| Acmon, Lycus, Idas, Nycteus, and Rhexenor  ~crewmen of Diomedes | Seabirds | By Venus  ~they insulted the power of Venus (whom Diomedes had wounded at Troy) |
| An Apulian shepherd | Olive tree | He chased and mocked nymphs who danced outside his caves, until his bitter words turned him into a tree with bitter fruit |
| Aeneas’ ships  ~cut from trees sacred to Cybele on Mt Ida | Sea nymphs | By Cybele  ~when Turnus tried to burn the ships, Cybele saved them |
| The ashes of city of Ardea | A heron | When Aeneas sacked and burned this Italian city, a heron flew up from the ashes |
| Anaxarete | Stone | She cruelly spurned Iphis, who loved her, causing him to kill himself. When she turned away from watching his funeral procession she was turned to stone |
| Egeria  ~wife of Numa Pompilius  ~nymph | A spring | By Diana  ~she wept for Numa’s death until the goddess took pity on her |
| A clod of earth in an Etrurian field | Tages the prophet |  |
| Romulus’ spear | A tree | When he planted it on the top of the Palatine, claiming the hill, it grew roots and branches |
| Aesculapius  ~god of healing | Giant serpent | When Romans came to the god’s temple at Epidaurus to beseech his help with a plague, he turned into a snake, slithered aboard their ship, and was brought to Italy. He slithered ashore again on Tiber Island, where a temple to him was built |