

Perseus - an ancestor of Heracles in Greek mythology (Hercules in Roman) - was cast adrift in a sea chest not long after he was born. With him was his mother, Danaë. Who would do such a thing to a child?

According to the story, it was Perseus' grandfather (Acrisius) who had his only daughter (and her boy) disposed of in such a manner. But the two in the chest were not dead. They were just ... out-of-the-way.

Why?

We learn the background in *Bulfinch's Mythology*:

Perseus was the son of Jupiter [that's Zeus, to the Greeks] and Danaë [meaning the child was a "demigod"]. His grandfather Acrisius, alarmed by an oracle which had told him that his daughter's child would be the instrument of his death, caused the mother and child to be shut up in a chest and set adrift on the sea.

The chest floated toward Seriphus, where it was found by a fisherman who conveyed the mother and infant to Polydectes, the king of the country, by whom they were treated with kindness.

(Bulfinch's Mythology, page 80.)

Actually ... the fisherman, whose name was Dictys, became a father-figure to Perseus.

His story, of course, doesn't end here.

See, also:

Video: Perseus - Severs the Head of Medusa

Video: Perseus - Son of Zeus

Credits:

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"The Storyteller: Greek Myths" (1990)

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Cast:

Michael Gambon - The Storyteller

Brian Henson - The Dog (voice)

Jeremy Gilley - Perseus

Frances Barber - Medusa

See Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/Perseus-Clash-of-the-Titans1>

See Learning Tasks for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/Perseus-Clash-of-the-Titans1>