

Echo? Echo? Echo?

Dear Diary,

Today started off just like a normal day. I was playing with my friends in the stream beside the woods, when Zeus appeared. He had told me that I am the prettiest of all the nymphs. It's so amazing! I mean, the King of the Gods, and he likes ME!!!

Anyway, Zeus and I were chatting in the woods, when Hera appeared, in her chariot pulled by peacocks. This was not good, seeing as Hera is Zeus's wife, and she hates him having other girlfriends. I remembered the stories of Semele, Io, and Alcmene, among others (all these women were girlfriends of Zeus, who suffered thanks to Hera) and did not want that kind of thing to happen to me.

Hera was by the stream, just through the trees. She would have spotted us, had it not been for Echo, my sister, who (literally) saved my life! She popped her head out from behind a bush, right beside Hera, and started to distract her. When Hera asked if Zeus was nearby, Echo told her that he wasn't here and was in Thespieae today. Hera looked so embarrassed being caught out looking for her husband and disappeared.

Echo skipped happily off into the forest, and Zeus left me for today. He said we should wait before meeting again, so Hera wouldn't catch us. I think he's right. I would not like to face Hera's rage!

I can never thank Echo enough. I sped off to find her and let her know how grateful I was. We both laughed and ran off to play with the other nymphs.

Dear Diary,

Echo is missing! It has been two days now since Hera came to look for Zeus, and this morning she had vanished. She is probably mooning after Narcissus, but what if Hera has found her? I can't bear to think what would happen to Echo if she was discovered to be lying to the Queen of the Gods!

Oh – who is Narcissus, you ask? He is the most handsome youth in all the land, probably in the whole world too. Many people have fallen in love with him, but have all been rejected. Echo has no chance of Narcissus falling in love with her, though she is very pretty. Oh, I do hope that Echo has stayed out of Hera's way. What would my life be like without my sister?

Dear Diary,

Echo has come back! However, she is acting very strangely. Our conversation went something like this:

Me: "Where have you been?"

Echo: "Where have you been?"

Me: "What do you mean? I've been right here!"

Echo: "I've been right here!"

Me: "No you've not! I've looked for you all morning!"

Echo: "All morning?"

Me: "Yes, all morning! Were you with Narcissus?"

Echo: "Were you with Narcissus?"

Me: "No! I don't even like him!"

Echo: "I don't even like him!"

Me: "What's happened to you?"

Echo: "What's happened to you?"

Me: "Nothing! Wait a second, did you see Hera?"

Echo: "Did you see Hera?"

Me: "No, that's why I'm asking you!"

Echo: "I'm asking you!"

I was suddenly struck with an awful thought. Was Hera responsible for this?

"Has Hera done this?" I asked.

"Hera done this." Echo confirmed.

I felt sick. So, Hera had cursed my dear sister Echo to forever repeat the last part of what people said! I had thought Hera was unkind, but this was downright evil. Echo loved to talk; this would be torture for her. Also, it was not for herself that Echo lied, it was for me, so I would not be hurt by Hera. This is so unfair.

Dear Diary,

It has been half a year since Hera cursed Echo. She has been ridiculed and teased by everybody (not me, though), just because she can't speak, and can only repeat things. To make matters worse, Narcissus fell in love with his own face, and killed himself a few weeks ago, because his true love was only a reflection. Echo has lost nearly everybody, except me. I would never make fun of my sister.

But I seem to be losing Echo. She has been spending a lot of time in the temple of Aphrodite, her favourite goddess, and seems to be turning into a ghost. I put my hand through her by accident this morning. Apparently, she prayed to Aphrodite, asking to be freed from the curse. Aphrodite could not lift the curse, but took pity on Echo and removed her from her body, meaning that only her voice remained. When I went to the temple of Aphrodite and called for Echo, I could only hear her voice, repeating me. Oh, Echo! My darling sister Echo!