

## Pandora's box

### Extract 2

After the wedding, the box was placed in a corner of the room. Pandora tried to put it out of her mind, but she could not. She would finger the intricate knot in the golden cord that bound it. One day, certain she could hear a murmur of voices whispering, "Pandora let us out!" Her nimble fingers untied the knot and she flung the lid wide open.

A tempest of sounds tore from the box. Pandora slammed the lid shut. Too late. All the ills of the world had been released on man! Pain, sickness and death. Silence. Then Pandora heard a whisper deep within the box.

"Release me! You'll be sorry if you don't. I'm all man has left now."

"I won't fall for that trick again!" Pandora sobbed.

"But I am Hope and when all is lost, Hope is all that is left."

Pandora lifted the lid. A tiny, white flame flickered and fluttered into the world. "Remember Pandora, when all seems lost, there is only Hope".

Pandora hoped that Epimetheus would find it in his heart to forgive her. For what else could she do in the face of despair, but hope?

