

1 GODS & MONSTERS PRESENT
2 **BATTLE GAMES**

3 WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY PHIL WILLMOTT
4

5 Free Theatre at the Scoop, More London 2015
6

7
8 **CASTING**
9

10	Battalaxia	
11	CLYTEMNESTRA / PERSIS	Penelope Day
12		
13	Urchinia, puppetry & 1 st Shiftichic	
14	HELEN / EOS	Emily Sitch
15		
16	Foximinx	
17	CALCHAS THE SOOTHSAYER / ALEXIA	Anne Odeke
18		
19	Tiffanyknokoff & 2 nd Shiftichic	
20	IPHIGINIA / HEBE / CASSANDRA	Hannah Kerin
21		
22	Capter-Traffica	
23	MENELAUS	Joseph O'Malley
24		
25	Ariadne	
26	PRIESTESS/ ANDROMACHE	Jasmeen James
27		
28	Narrator (VO)	
29	AGAMEMNON	Phil Willmott
30		
31	Oldchronia	
32	HECUBA	Ursula Mohan
33		
34	Stenchapix	
35	POLYMESTOR	Terry Frish
36		
37	Timmidius	
38	SOLDIER	Zac Hamilton
39		
40	Aroggantius	
41	ACHILLES/ ODYSEUS	Eddie Eyre
42		

1
2

CAPTAIN SHOW-OFF!

3
4 A FAMILY SHOW ADAPTED FROM THE ROMAN COMEDIES OF PLAUTUS

5
6 CHARACTERS

7
8 Battalaxia - Queen of Waitross (F Late 30s/Early 40s)
9 Ariadne - Her Slave (F Early 20s)
10 Timmidius - Her timid son (M 20s)
11 Aroggantium - His arrogant twin brother (M 20s)
12 Foximinx - Aroggantium's wife (M 20s)
13 Tiffanyknokoff - A jeweller (F 20s)
14 Capter-trafficca - A slave merchant (M 20/30s)
15 The Shiftichics 1 & 2 - his servants
16 Stenchapix - Landlord of The Cock and Bull
17 Oldchronia - A decrepit public servant
18 Mr Tiddles - Her cat (PUPPET)
19 Urchinia - A bag snatcher
20

21
22 SETTING

23 An empty stage mostly representing the town square of Tesgoss in the Roman
24 province of Ev'ryliddle-helps 17AD

25
26 PROLOGUE - WAITROSS

27
28 Enter BATTLEAXIA

29
30 BATTLEAXIA: (CALLS) Jack, Chloe, Thomas, Emily, Joshua, Megan, James,
31 Jessica, Daniel, Sophie, Harry, Lauren -

32
33 HER VOICE APPEARS TO FADE AS IF WE'VE TURNED THE VOLUME DOWN ON HER.

34
35 NARRATION VO: Once upon a time in an ancient land there ruled the mighty
36 Roman queen, Battleaxia. She was so stout of heart and sturdy of frame that
37 she had a hundred children, many of whom would grow up to be important
38 heroes and heroines in Roman myth.

39
40 BATTLEAXIA: Maximus, Dido, Heracles, Twins! Come in all of you. Your tea's
41 ready!

42
43 VO: Perhaps we can't blame Battleaxia, a hundred children is a lot to keep an
44 eye on but one terrible day one of her twin boys, Arogantium, wandered off and

1 was kidnapped by pirates who sold him to a merchant from Tesgoss. The
2 master was kindly and brought the child up as his only son, leaving the
3 handsome boy a considerable fortune.
4
5 ARROGANTIUS STEPS FORWARD.
6
7 ARROGANTIUS: Take a look at me girls. I'm hot and I'm loaded.
8
9 VO: The spoilt young man had grown up showered with every luxury he
10 demanded and had risen to high rank.
11
12 ARROGANTIUS: Call me Captain, ladies!
13
14 VO: And they did. But they also called him Captain Show-off behind his back
15 because of his arrogance.
16
17 TIMMIDIUS STEPS FORWARD.
18
19 Timmidius, the twin that was left behind grew increasingly anxious that he
20 might also disappear. He reached the rank of captain too but his men mostly
21 laughed at him.
22
23 TIMMIDIUS: Yeah, yeah guys. You know. Do whatever.
24
25 VO: His soldiers *also* nicknamed him Captain Show-Off but in jest, because he
26 was as timid as a mouse. Two identical twins, played here by actors enhanced
27 to look identical by the latest CGI, or our Collective Group Imagination.
28
29 The boys grew up many leagues apart and into two very different young men.
30 This captain found himself a beautiful wife.
31
32 FOXIMINX JOINS HER HUSBAND, ARROGANTIUS. SHE IS FLICKING THROUGH A
33 MAGAZINE AND NOT REALLY LISTENING TO HIM.
34
35 ARROGANTIUS: Darling, did I ever tell you how I once charged against a
36 marauding hoard of Persia's finest axemen only to emerge the other side,
37 unscathed, holding aloft their severed heads?
38
39 FOXIMINX: (TURNING A PAGE WITH DISINTEREST) Riiiiight.
40
41 TIMMIDIUS STEPS FORWARD
42
43 VO: Whilst his twin brother, though quite as comely, was not a hit with the
44 girls. He'd have liked to have chatted up his mother's slave Ariadne, but -
45
46 TIMMIDIUS: I don't know. I just get all shy.

1
2 VO: Our story starts in Tesgoss.

3
4 ACT ONE

5
6 SONG

7
8 TESGOSS
9 (The Company)

10
11 (LYRICS TBC)

12
13 *Tesgoss is a pitiful town*
14 *A wonky place with the batteries down.*
15 *The streets as rough and tough and grim*
16 *As the last remainder in the bargain bin.*
17
18 *If you like to travel and discover places*
19 *You'd be best to give Tesgoss a miss*
20 *Move along there's nothing what so ever to see here*
21 *As horrid as a gorgon's scaly kiss.*

22
23 *Tesgoss is a real disgrace*
24 *You won't have known a worser place*
25 *A nest of criminality*
26 *Enough to make a spartan flee*

27
28 *What's that dodgy rumb-a-ling of our volcano?*
29 *The whole place is about to blow I'd say*
30 *Better keep your running shoes to hand I tell you*
31 *You'd be wise who try to get away.*

32
33 *Tesgoss is the roman town*
34 *The emperor said he's pulling down,*
35 *An utter eyesore, look and see*
36 *It's the worst kept town of seventeen AD*

37
38 BATTLEAXIA AND TIMMIDIUS DISEMBARK FROM A SHIP.

39
40 BATTLEAXIA: Here we are! Tesgoss. Thank goodness. Dry land at last. What a
41 voyage, I feel like a tossed salad.

42
43 TIMMIDIUS: Mother, the sea was as calm as a millpond.

44
45 BATTLEAXIA: Don't contradict me, Timmidius! I don't know what I've done to
46 deserve such a foolish, disrespectful son.

1
2 TIMMIDIUS: I'm not disrespectful mother it's just that sometimes you're wrong
3 about things.
4
5 BATTLEAXIA: Wrong! Wrong! I am never wrong, I am a great lady of the mighty
6 house of Waitrose.
7
8 TIMMIDIUS: It's pronounced Waitross.
9
10 BATTLEAXIA: There you go again. I will not be contradicted. Now what sort of a
11 place is this Tesgoss? My spies tell me it's where the pirates brought your twin
12 brother all those years ago.
13
14 TIMMIDIUS: Looks pretty quiet at the moment. I hope we find him.
15
16 BATTLEAXIA: Let us first organize appropriate accommodation.
17
18 THERE'S A SIGN WITH A BELL THAT SAYS "TOURIST OFFICE"
19
20 TIMMIDIUS: Oh look, a tourist office.
21
22 BATTLEAXIA: Ask them what's the best hotel in town.
23
24 TIMIDIOUS RINGS BELL
25
26 OLDCRONIA APPEARS.
27
28 OLDCRONIA: All right, all right don't get your knickers in a twist, I'm a coming.
29 (TO THE VISITORS) Yeees?
30
31 TIMMIDIUS: Are you the tourist office?
32
33 OLDCRONIA: The what, Ducky? Ooh you're lovely. I'nt he lovely? Very shapely
34 calves, I do love a shapely calf. Lovely.
35
36 TIMMIDIUS: I'm looking for some tourist information.
37
38 OLDCRONIA: Thinkin' of going on holiday, Ducky? Lovely.
39
40 TIMMIDIUS: No, I am on hol - I mean I'm a traveller.
41
42 OLDCRONIA: Took a wrong turning, Handsome? Where you trying to get to?
43
44 TIMMIDIUS: I'm trying to get here. This is my destination.
45
46 OLDCRONIA: This dump? Oooh you are funny, in't he funny? Lovely.

1
2 TIMMIDIUS: No, I'm serious. I chose to come here. Don't you get many tourists?
3
4 OLDCRONIA: Here? Are you crazy?
5
6 TIMMIDIUS: Don't you have any attractions?
7
8 OLDCRONIA: My warts are quite a talking point. One's got its own hair.
9
10 BATTLEAXIA: Step aside, stupid boy, let me show you how to deal with local
11 peasantry.
12
13 TIMIDIUS STARTS THUMBING THROUGH A GUIDE BOOK AS BATTLEAXIA ADDRESSES
14 OLDCRONICA.
15
16 Now listen here, I am Battleaxia.
17
18 OLDCRONIA: Charmed I'm Oldchronia. You with him? Lovely.
19
20 BATTLEAXIA: Do you have any up to date tourist information?
21
22 OLDCRONIA: I hear Magaluf's lively.
23
24 BATTLEAXIA: I meant about this town.
25
26 OLDCRONIA: Tourist Information?
27
28 BATTLEAXIA: Your most up to date.
29
30 OLDCRONIA: About this place? Let me see.
31
32 SHE PRODUCES A VERY OLD BOOK AND BLOWS DUST OFF IT.
33
34 Lovely.
35
36 BATTLEAXIA: Is that up to date?
37
38 OLDCRONIA: Depends on which date.
39
40 BATTLEAXIA: What is the best hotel in town?
41
42 OLDCRONIA: (CONSULTING BOOK) That'd be The Bestwestioss "luxuriously
43 appointed rooms with their own ensuite slave"
44

1 BATTLEAXIA: The Bestwestioss Hotel, Tesgoss! Of course I remember now,
2 when I was a girl it was famous as an oasis of culture and refinement. That will
3 be perfect.
4
5 TIMMIDIUS: According to the Gruff Guide it's under new management and now
6 called The Cock and Bull.
7
8 BATTLEAXIA: Is it affiliated to a respectable company?
9
10 OLDCRONIA: It says here it's a free house.
11
12 TIMMIDIUS: More like "flea house". "A den of gambling, hard drinking and
13 crafty girls."
14
15 BATTLEAXIA: Nonsense! (INDICATING TIMMIDIUS' GUIDE BOOK) What would a lot
16 of back-packing hippies know about luxury travel? (TO OLDCRONIA) And you,
17 Madam, could be trying to put me off, working for some rival establishment.
18
19 TIMMIDIUS: Oooh lovely, do they pay minimum slave wages?
20
21 BATTLEAXIA: Stop babbling and send word to the Bestwestioss that I'll take
22 their finest room and most servile slave.
23
24 OLDCRONIA: Rightie-oh ducks. (LOOKING AT TIMIDIOUS) In't he lovely!
25
26 EXITS
27
28 BATTLEAXIA: What an extraordinary creature, she made it sound like no one
29 ever comes here.
30
31 TIMMIDIUS: (READING FREOM THE GUIDE) "Tesgoss, in the Roman province of
32 Ev'ry-Liddlehelps: full of thieves and tricksters. Don't drink the water, eat the
33 food or camp by the volcano."
34
35 BATTLEAXIA: Why are you trying to put me off? Don't you want to find your
36 twin brother?
37
38 TIMMIDIUS: Of course I do, I just want you to stay somewhere safe.
39
40 BATTLEAXIA: If any dodgy characters dare to put anything over on me they'll
41 feel the sharp edge of my tongue.
42
43 STENCHAPIX, THE HUMPBACKED LANDLORD OF THE COCK AND BULL ENTERS.
44
45 And look at that pleasant peasant. Delightful. Don't let him get too close if he
46 smells.

1
2 SHE STARTS FANNING, THUS OBSCURING HER FACE.
3
4 STENCHAPIX ADDRESSES TIMIDIAS IMAGINING HIM TO BE ARROGANTIUS.
5
6 STENCHAPIX: (GLAD TO SEE HIM) Back again, Captain? What a night you had last
7 month, eh? Gambling, drinking my cellar dry and you had the ladies in stitches.
8
9 TIMMIDIUS: I beg your pardon.
10
11 STENCHAPIX: Ashamed of yourself now, eh? I don't blame you. You certainly
12 know how to party.
13
14 TIMMIDIUS: I'm sorry but I've no idea what you're talking about. I'm a stranger
15 newly arrived in town.
16
17 STENCHAPIX: Yes, of course you are. And I'm Julius Caesar's Aunt Daisy. Don't
18 try any of your practical jokes on me. I'd know you anywhere.
19
20 BATTLEAXIA: (TO TIMIDIUS) What is the meaning of this, Timmidius? Have you
21 been here before?
22
23 TIMMIDIUS: I can assure you I haven't.
24
25 BATTLEAXIA: Just a minute, didn't you tell me you were volunteering at an owl
26 sanctuary last month?
27
28 TIMMIDIUS: I was.
29
30 STENCHAPIX: You dirty devil, those salty tales you were telling us, very naughty
31 indeed. I don't know how you have the energy, I really don't. The ladies were
32 all over you.
33
34 BATTLEAXIA: So that's what you meant by observing bird life.
35
36 TIMMIDIUS: I promise you I've never been here in my life.
37
38 STENCHAPIX: (INDICATING BATTLEAXIA) Whose this beauty behind the fan?
39 Another of your conquests, eh? Allow me to introduce myself, I'm Offal to my
40 friends. Offal Stenchapix, publican and local character. Oh she's a coy one,
41 better make sure your wife doesn't find out.
42
43 BATTLEAXIA: Your wife! Your wife! Who is this floozy you've been too ashamed
44 to bring home?
45
46 TIMMIDIUS: There is no wife.

1
2 STENCHAPIX: No, course not. Say no more! Nudge, nudge, wink, wink! Don't
3 want to put off the young lady. Heaven only knows what nonsense you've got
4 her believing. I'll sort you a table for tonight, get in a new slave to wait on you
5 and some nice oysters to keep you going. Owl sanctuary!
6
7 TIMMIDIUS: Stop this at once.
8
9 STENCHAPIX: It's no bother. You're my best, and thirstiest, customer! Say no
10 more! Nudge, nudge, wink, wink!
11
12 EXIT STENCHAPIX
13
14 BATTLEAXIA: No wonder you were trying to put me off looking for your brother
15 here. Tesgoss is obviously where you sneak off to indulge your unwholesome,
16 carnal appetites.
17
18 TIMMIDIUS: But Mother, can't you see? He must have been one of the tricksters
19 they mention in the Gruff Guide.
20
21 BATTLEAXIA: I don't want to hear another word about that nasty book. I
22 suppose there's a chapter on how to make a fool of your poor mother too.
23
24 TIMMIDIUS: (PITIFUL) Ma -
25
26 BATTLEAXIA: And you'd better tell whatever common girl believes she's
27 married to you that she's no such thing. When you've found a suitable wife, I'll
28 let you know. Now, where's my slave with our luggage?
29
30 TIMMIDIUS: She's got a name. She's called Ariadne.
31
32 BATTLEAXIA: I don't care if she's called Harry Stopenise. She's a stupid, idle,
33 good for nothing. And I want our luggage carried to the Bestwestioss Hotel.
34
35 TIMMIDIUS: Just a minute. I thought we agreed we'd pay porters. She can't
36 manage all that on her own.
37
38 BATTLEAXIA: Of course she can, she's got the constitution of an ox. Eating me
39 out of house and home.
40
41 ARIADNE COMES ON WEIGHED DOWN WITH LUGGAGE.
42
43 There you are, you stupid girl. Keep up!
44
45 TIMMIDIUS: (TO ARIADNE) Let me help you with that.
46

1 ARRIADNE: Thank you, Captain.
2
3 TIMMIDIUS: Please call me Timmidius.
4
5 BATTLEAXIA: She'll do no such thing. You might be accustomed to familiarity
6 from serving wenches in this town but not whilst I'm here. Girl, give me my
7 mirror.
8
9 SHE DOES.
10
11 There. I want to look my best when I check into the Bestwestioss. (TO
12 TIMMIDIUS) You, ask around and see if anyone knows the whereabouts of your
13 twin and no more of your mischief.
14
15 TIMMIDIUS: But I haven't done anything.
16
17 BATTLEAXIA: Your father was the same. Butter wouldn't melt.
18
19 EXITS.
20
21 TIMMIDIUS: (INDICATING LUGGAGE) Please, let me help you.
22
23 ARIADNE: Oh don't worry; I've got the hang of it. It's just a question of balance
24 really. Where is the Bestwestioss?
25
26 TIMMIDIUS: The guide book says it's "at the sign of the crooked man".
27
28 ARIADNE: The "crooked man", got it.
29
30 TIMMIDIUS: Are you sure I can't help?
31
32 ARIADNE: Please don't. Your mother would give me a good beating if she saw
33 us. Not far to go now, I'm sure. If you could just -
34
35 TIMMIDIUS: Of course.
36
37 HE HELPS HER LOAD UP WITH LUGGAGE. UNBEKNOWNST TO THEM A FAN IS
38 DROPPED AND LEFT BEHIND.
39
40 See you later.
41
42 ARIADNE: Thank you for your help.
43
44 EXITS
45
46 TIMMIDIUS: Now, where to start looking for my twin brother?

1
2 HE EXITS IN THE OTHER DIRECTION.
3
4 STENCHAPIX RETURNS
5
6 STENCHAPIX: (ASIDE) Blimey, it never rains but it pours. Not only is Captain
7 Show-off on heat with some new girl and needing a table and a slave but I've
8 just had this message to say a grand lady's on her way. She'll want dinner, a
9 room and a slave too. I don't know if I've got enough pillows. Oh well, there's
10 a sack of pig food out the back. That'll do for one of them. Things are looking
11 up. The only guests we've had recently are fleas, rats and cockroaches. The
12 fleas checked out early, the rats demanded a refund and you should have seen
13 what the cockroaches wrote on Tripadvisor. Better give the place a good wipe
14 round.
15
16 HE GOBS ON A RAG.
17
18 (TO AUDIENCE) What? Nice bit a spit polishes up the place a treat. It does leave
19 green streaks though. Still, can't be helped. And I'll need to buy two new
20 slaves.
21
22 CAPTER-TRAFFICA , THE SLAVE MERCHANT ENTERS
23
24 CAPTER-TRAFFICA: Excuse me, Sir, Did I hear you say you were looking for
25 slaves.
26
27 STENCHAPIX: Well yes, not too expensive.
28
29 CAPTER-TRAFFICA: It's your lucky day, I am Capter-Traffica, Tesgoss' newest
30 slave supplier. Something to suit all tastes and pockets.
31
32 HE SINGS
33
34 EV'RYBODY OUGHT TO HAVE A SLAVE
35 (CAPTER-TRAFFICA with STENCHAPIX)
36
37 CAPTER-TRAFFICA:
38 *Ev'rybody ought to have a slave*
39 *A slave can wave domestic chores away*
40 *In any circumstance*
41 *Someone pickin' up your pants*
42 *Has got be the highlight of your day.*
43
44 STENCHAPIX: *There's no denying a slave is so nice.*
45 CAPTER -TRAFFICA: *Fresh in this morning and cheap at the price.*
46

1 *Ev'ry body ought to have a slave*
2 *A slave can pave the way to married bliss*
3 *If you didn't have your chores you'd*
4 *Be free of all that bores you*
5 *And find the time to give your wife a kiss.*
6
7 BOTH:
8 *No doubt about it, a slave is so cool*
9 *For shoppin', moppin'*
10 *And droppin' at school.*
11
12 CAPTER-TRAFFICA: *Everybody ought to have a slave*
13 STENCHAPIX : *Nobody wants to clean behind the loo!*
14 CAPTER-TRAFFICA: *A slave can clear your stuff up*
15 STENCHAPIX : *And give your life a buff up*
16 CAPTER-TRAFFICA: *Then mix you a martini when they're through.*
17
18 STENCHAPIX : *Yes sir!*
19
20 BOTH: *They'll mix you a martini when they're through.*
21
22 TENCHAPIX: Do you do buy now, pay later?
23
24 CAPTER-TRAFFICA: (RATTLES OFF) Nothing to pay until October, terms and
25 conditions apply, ATOL protected. Your home may be at risk if you cannot keep
26 up payments on your slave or concubine.
27
28 STENCHAPIX: Oooh sounds good. It's just like Sofa Worldicus.
29
30 CAPTER-TRAFFICA: Give me your order and I'll deliver you two new slaves
31 within the hour.
32
33 STENCHAPIX: How compliant are your cheapest slaves?
34
35 CAPTER-TRAFFICA: How much do you want to spend?
36
37 STENCHAPIX: No more than two denarii on each.
38
39 CAPTER-TRAFFICA: I'm afraid for that price I can only promise you two from
40 our "feisty bordering on insolent" range.
41
42 STENCHAPIX: They sound hard to keep in line.
43
44 CAPTER-TRAFFICA: That's why you need one of these.
45
46 HE PRODUCES A STICK.

1
2 STENCHAPIX: What is it?
3
4 CAPTER-TRAFFICA: It's the very latest thing in slave control. It's called the
5 happy stick. If the slave's misbehaving you simply give them a poke with this
6 and they're in your power. I use mine all the time.
7
8 STENCHAPIX: Sounds good.
9
10 CAPTER-TRAFFICA: I'll throw in one free, but the price will go up to three
11 denarii per slave.
12
13 STENCHAPIX: How is that free?
14
15 CAPTER-TRAFFICA: We give you three denarii cashback.
16
17 STENCHAPIX: Oooh can I have that now?
18
19 CAPTER-TRAFFICA: Yes, you just need to put down a three denarii deposit.
20
21 STENCHAPIX: (COUNTS THEM INTO CAPTER-TRAFFIC'S HAND) Here you are, one,
22 two, three denarii.
23
24 CAPTER-TRAFFICA: Thank you very much. That's three denarii I owe you. Oh,
25 hold on. Now you've lent me all your money you've none left for yourself. Let
26 me lend you one denarri, there you are. (HANDS HIM A DENARII)
27
28 STENCHAPIX: Thank you very much.
29
30 CAPTER-TRAFFICA: So that's two denarri I owe you and one dennari you owe
31 me. Right? So if I give you the two denarri I owe you (GIVES HIM BACK TWO) and
32 you give me the denarii you owe me. (TAKES BACK ONE) Now we're straight,
33 right?
34
35 CAPTER-TRAFFICA STARTS TO EXIT
36
37 STENCHAPIX: Just a minute.
38
39 CAPTER-TRAFFICA: What's the matter?
40
41 STENCHAPIX: That's not right.
42
43 CAPTER-TRAFFICA: Of course it is, look, I'll be you and you be me. (THEY
44 CHANGE SIDES. CAPTER-TRAFFICA TAKES THE THREE DENARRI) Now, ask me to
45 lend you three denarii.
46

1 STENCHAPIX: Please will you lend me three denarii?
2
3 CAPTER-TRAFFICA: (COUNTS THE DENARII INTO HIS HANDS) Certainly, one,
4 two, three, Now, that's three denarii you owe me.
5
6 STENCHAPIX: Thank you. (BOTH START TO EXIT)
7
8 CAPTER-TRAFFICA: Just a minute. Now that I've lent you all my money I've
9 none left for myself.
10
11 STENCHAPIX: That's all right. I'll lend you a denarri.
12
13 CAPTER-TRAFFICA: Thank you. So now I owe you one denarri and you owe me
14 two denarri, right? So if I give you the one denarri I owe you (HANDS HIM ONE)
15 and you give me the two denarii you owe me, (TAKES TWO) now we're straight.
16
17 (STARTS TO EXIT)
18
19 STENCHAPIX: No we're not.
20
21 CAPTER-TRAFFICA: You know what's confusing you, don't you? You're on the
22 wrong side. (THEY CHANGE SIDES. CAPTER-TRAFFICA TAKES THE THREE
23 DENARII) Now, ask me to lend you three denarii.
24
25 STENCHAPIX: Please will you lend me three denarii?
26
27 CAPTER-TRAFFICA: Certainly. (COUNTS THE NOTES INTO HANDS.) One, two,
28 three. Now that's three denarri you owe me, right?
29
30 STENCHAPIX: Right.
31
32 CAPTER-TRAFFICA: Are you sure?
33
34 STENCHAPIX: Yes. I'm sure.
35
36 CAPTER-TRAFFICA: Right. Then I'll take it all at once. (SNATCHES THE MONEY
37 FROM STENCHAPIX) Enjoy your happy stick. I'll send you two slaves within the
38 hour.
39
40 STENCHAPIX: (PLEASED) What tremendous value for money.
41
42 EXIT
43
44 AROGANTIAS ENTERS PERSUED BY HIS WIFE, FOXIMINX.
45
46 FOXIMINX: Don't walk away when I'm talking to you, husband.

1
2 ARROGANTIUS: Oh, were you still talking to me? I thought there was a chicken
3 clucking in my ear.
4
5 FOXIMINX: I was simply trying to explain to you why we're going to my mother's
6 for the solstice. What's that got to do with chickens?
7
8 ARROGANTIUS: The news was fowl.
9
10 FOXIMINX: I've only one more thing to say to you, Aroggantium.
11
12 ARROGANTIUS: Thank Jupiter!
13
14 FOXIMINX: Happy Anniversary.
15
16 ARROGANTIUS: What?
17
18 FOXIMINX: It's our anniversary today.
19
20 ARROGANTIUS: Why didn't you warn me it was coming up? You always warn me.
21 You can't suddenly not warn me then expect me to know.
22
23 FOXIMINX: I wanted to see if you'd remember.
24
25 ARROGANTIUS: That's a dirty trick!
26
27 BATTLEAXIA ENTERS IMAGINING ARROGANTIUS TO BE TIMIDIUS. SHE OVERHEARS
28 -
29
30 FOXIMINX: I don't think it's a lot to ask, to remember to give your wife a treat
31 once a year.
32
33 SHE EXITS
34
35 ARROGANTIUS: (CALLING AFTER HER) My darling, every day married to me is a
36 treat!
37
38 BATTLEAXIA: What did I say to you about picking a wife without my permission?
39
40 ARROGANTIUS: Who are you?
41
42 BATTLEAXIA: Don't you give me any of your cheek. BEATING HIM WITH HER
43 BAG. You're a naughty boy, a very, very naughty boy.
44
45 ARROGANTIUS: Ouch. Get off me you old - Ow!
46

1 BATTLEAXIA: And take that for calling me old. Now don't let me catch you
2 messing around with girls again. (STARTS TO EXIT) This dust is driving me mad.
3 I'm going to the spa for a beauty treatment.

4
5 EXITS

6
7 ARROGANTIUS: (CALLING AFTER) That'll keep them busy!

8
9 BATTLEAXIA: (CALLING BACK) I heard that!! You wait till I get you home. No
10 abacus for a month!

11
12 ARROGANTIUS: What on earth was that all about? That mad woman seemed to
13 know me? How odd. Just typical of the trouble my wife gets me into. In fact I
14 *had* bought her an emerald necklace I just forgot to give it to her. Last year.
15 I'm still carrying it around. Well, she shan't have it. I don't think she even
16 loves me anymore. Nag, nag, nag. She's only herself to blame if now and again
17 I take a lady friend to The Cock and Bull. In fact it's high time I had a little
18 dalliance with a new poppsie. I shall wine and dine the very next pretty girl
19 that comes by.

20
21 ARRIADNE ENTERS AND IMAGINES ARROGANTIUS TO BE TIMMIDIUS.

22
23 Ah ha! An attractice stranger!

24
25 ARIADNE: Oh Captain, I'm so happy to see you.

26
27 ARROGANTIUS: (TO AUDIENCE) She's probably heard about my glorious war
28 record. Nothing gets the chicks as excited as meeting a real life action hero.
29 (TO ARROGANTIUS) Hello my love, want me to rub some love ointment on your
30 bruises?

31
32 ARIADNE: Bruises?

33
34 ARROGANTIUS: From when you fell from heaven.

35
36 ARIADNE: Oh. Um. (LAUGHS WEAKLY) I just came back because I dropped her
37 ladyship's fan. There it is.

38
39 SHE BENDS OVER TO PICK UP THE FAN. HE LOOKS AT HER ARSE.

40
41 ARROGANTIUS: I can never resist a pretty face.

42
43 ARIADNE: You... you.. think I'm pretty? You've never mentioned this before.

44
45 ARROGANTIUS: Well give me a chance I've only just noticed you.

46

1 ARIADNE: Noticed me?
2
3 ARROGANTIUS: I can see you're hot totty.
4
5 ARIADNE: This is a very sudden change.
6
7 ARROGANTIUS: Whatever you've changed it suits you.
8
9 ARIADNE: Well... I suppose I have pushed my hair back.
10
11 ARROGANTIUS: All the better to see your beautiful face, baby!
12
13 ARIADNE: I don't know what to say. I can't pretend I haven't wanted this. I've
14 been in love with you for years.
15
16 ARROGANTIUS: (INDICATING HIMSELF) What girl wouldn't be?
17
18 ARIADNE: What shall we tell her ladyship?
19
20 ARROGANTIUS: Oh don't worry about Foximinx.
21
22 ARIADNE: Who?
23
24 ARROGANTIUS: All she does is nag me, we needn't let that dragon spoil a
25 romance between us.
26
27 ARIADNE: Is this a trick? Or a cruel joke?
28
29 ARROGANTIUS: Not at all. No doubt you've heard of my reputation. I always
30 make a little lady feel really special. (SUDDEN IDEA) In fact here's an emerald
31 necklace! A token of my appreciation.
32
33 HE HANDS IT OVER.
34
35 ARIADNE: It's beautiful.
36
37 ARROGANTIUS: Let's see it on you. Note the little dragon clip. There's none
38 like it in the whole of Tesgoss.
39
40 ARIADNE: I don't know what to say.
41
42 ARROGANTIUS: Don't say a word, just meet me at The Cock and Bull for supper
43 and we can get better acquainted.
44
45 ARIADNE: If I can sneak away.
46

1 ARROGANTIUS: Cupid will inspire us.
2
3 ARIADNE: This is all so sudden. I need to think about it.
4
5 EXITS
6
7 ARROGANTIUS: Dream about it more like.
8
9 THEY PART IN OPPOSITE DIRECTIONS.
10
11 FOXIMINX COMES ON.
12
13 FOXIMINX: Why can't he be a better husband? He was so romantic when we met
14 but ever since he came back from the war he's been an absolute pig. Well he
15 won't be getting my anniversary gift, I can tell you that.
16
17 TIFFANYNOKOFF, THE JEWELLER ENTERS.
18
19 TIFFANYNOKOFF: Excuse me are you, Foximinx, the wife of Captain Show-off? I
20 mean Captain Aroggantium.
21
22 FOXIMINX: Yes, that's me, worse luck. Do I know you?
23
24 TIFFANYNOKOFF: I'm the world famous, highly exclusive jewellery designer,
25 Tiffanyknokoff. I was wondering if you enjoyed the beautiful necklace your
26 husband had me make for you.
27
28 FOXIMINX: A necklace?
29
30 TIFFANYNOKOFF: Yes, the emerald one with the dragon clasp. It's very
31 distinctive, don't you find?
32
33 FOXIMINX: I'm sorry but my husband hasn't given me any necklace.
34
35 TIFFANYNOKOFF: Oh, how embarrassing, he must be meaning to surprise you
36 with it. I'm so sorry if I've spoiled things.
37
38 FOXIMINX: No problem. It's good to know.
39
40 TIFFANYNOKOFF: Do let me know what you think.
41
42 EXITS.
43
44 FOXIMINX: Oh, I'm so happy. He loves me after all.
45
46 SONG.

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(LYRICS TBC)

SING HALLELUJAH!
(FOXIMINX)

*Sing hallelujah I love my man
I can't think why my doubts began
He's still my biggest fan
No beat'n, cheat'n stan
He's my hot and hunky, luvin man.*

*Sing hallelujah I love my bloke.
To think I said we were a joke.
I thought that we were broke
But now I know we're oak
He's my sizzlin', sexy luvin bloke.*

*I love his eyes,
I can't disguise
I love his smile
I love his thighs
I love his grip
I love his size
All this jabberin' implies
I love my guy!*

*Sing halleluiah I love my hus-band.
No one else gives me this kinda buzz-man
Venus had our marriage planned
Side by side and hand in hand
My temptin', tasty, luvin husband.*

I love him to bits!

EXIT

ARIADNE ENTERS.

ARIADNE: (TO THE AUDIENCE) Oh I'm so happy. Ever since I was a slave girl I've wanted two things. My freedom. And the handsome young master to notice me. But he always looks so thoughtful. I don't blame him for being shy. Not with his horrible mother. She's always calling him names and telling him he's stupid. And as for me, she has me beaten if I make the slightest mistake which is easy to do because she's always changing her mind. In fact now I've found her fan I'd better get her luggage back from the harbour master and take it all to the

1 Bestwestioss hotel. But where is it? Oh it's so hot. (SHE FANS HERSELF) It's by
2 the sign of the crooked man. That could mean anything.
3
4 STENCHAPIX: (ASIDE) I wish my new slaves would arrive. The fine lady's going
5 to be here any minute. (HE SEES ARIADNE WITH THE FAN AND NECKLACE) Oh
6 good gracious look at that glamorous stranger. Expensive necklace, stylish fan.
7 It must be her. She's going to think The Cock and Bull is such a dump. And
8 what's she going to say when she finds I've no slaves. I'll just have to give
9 extra licky service myself. (TO ARIADNE) Good afternoon, Miss.
10
11 ARIADNE: Oh hello. You must be the crooked man?
12
13 STENCHAPIX: You flatter me!
14
15 ARIADNE: I'm looking for the Bestwestioss Hotel.
16
17 STENCHAPIX: (ASIDE) Gosh, I haven't called the place that since I took it over.
18 Still, look how rich she is. Look at those emeralds. The little gold dragon clasp.
19 She's going to be a big tipper. If she wants to call my dump the Bestwestioss
20 that's fine by me. (TO ARIADNE) Look no further.
21
22 ARIADNE: Are you in charge?
23
24 STENCHAPIX: You're the boss at our place, traveller.
25
26 ARIADNE: Gosh. Wow! Really? I think there's been some mistake. I'm a sl-
27
28 STENCHAPIX: Anything you want me to do, just ask. Your wish is my command.
29
30 ARIADNE: Are *you* a slave?
31
32 STENCHAPIX: Ah, slaves, I'm glad you brought that up. I'm afraid we're a little
33 short staffed at the moment but it's a temporary situation I assure you.
34
35 ARIADNE: Oh don't worry. I can help out in the kitchen. Sweeping the
36 bedrooms, emptying chamber pots. I'm used to it.
37
38 STENCHAPIX: (IMAGIING ARIADNE A FINE LADY) You empty your own chamber
39 pot?!!
40
41 ARIADNE: Of course and everybody else's.
42
43 STENCHAPIX: How odd. A fine lady -
44
45 ARIADNE: There's nothing fine about ladies I've discovered. The one I'm
46 thinking of is an absolute brute.

1
2 STENCHAPIX: Well, I'm sure you could do with a break from all that chamber
3 potting.
4
5 ARIADNE: I certainly could.
6
7 STENCHAPIX: At the Bestwestioss you shall live like a goddess.
8
9 ARIADNE: Really, not on scraps and leftovers?
10
11 STENCHAPIX: Certainly not. I don't know what kind of rubbish hotels you're
12 used to but only the best for you. (RATTLES OFF) Tell your rich friends, we're
13 conveniently located twenty hours from the Great North Road, discount for
14 early booking, ATOL defective, pets welcome and cooked to order.
15
16 ARIADNE: Oh you are sweet! I'll go and fetch the luggage. Then I'll peel some
17 potatoes.
18
19 STENCHAPIX: I wouldn't hear of such a thing. Slaves do that kind of work
20 around here.
21
22 ARIADNE: Oh, I wouldn't want to trouble a local slave.
23
24 STENCHAPIX: I'm no slave, lovely lady. Except where your concerned.
25
26 ARIADNE: This is a very funny town.
27
28 STENCHAPIX: You just wander about, enjoy the sunshine. Don't lift a finger. All
29 will be as you've always wished.
30
31 EXIT
32
33 ARIADNE: My goodness, they treat visiting slaves very well here.
34
35 TIMMIDIUS ENTERS.
36
37 TIMMIDIUS: Hello Ariadne.
38
39 ARIADNE: Oh master, I mean Timmidius. I've thought about your offer and the
40 answer's yes.
41
42 TIMMIDIUS: Is it?
43
44 ARIADNE: Yes, yes, yes!
45
46 TIMMIDIUS: Could you just remind me of the question.

1
2 ARIADNE: Yes, I will join you for supper at The Cock and Bull.
3
4 TIMMIDIUS: I... er. OK.
5
6 ARIADNE: Well, you don't look very happy.
7
8 TIMMIDIUS: Oh, no... I am... it's just a bit sudden that's all.
9
10 ARIADNE: Didn't you mean tonight?
11
12 TIMMIDIUS: Tonight.
13
14 ARIADNE: You've other plans?
15
16 TIMMIDIUS: No I... what if Mother finds out?
17
18 ARIADNE: It's like you said, we won't care!
19
20 TIMMIDIUS: You're very brave.
21
22 ARIADNE: You inspire me. If you can stand up to her -
23
24 TIMMIDIUS: You mean if I stand up to Mother you'll... (CAN'T BELIEVE HIS LUCK)
25 have supper with me?
26
27 ARIADNE: Yes.
28
29 TIMMIDIUS: That would be lovely. (SEEING THE NECKLACE) What's that your
30 wearing?
31
32 ARIADNE: Don't you recognise it?
33
34 TIMMIDIUS: No, should I?
35
36 ARIADNE: Oh I understand, it's a secret. I shouldn't be wearing it so openly.
37
38 TIMMIDIUS: No, no wear it. It looks great.
39
40 ARIADNE: Any sign of your twin brother yet?
41
42 TIMMIDIUS: No, I'd better start asking around again. Mother will want a
43 progress report.
44
45 ARIADNE: The old dragon.
46

1 TIMMIDIUS: Steady on.
2
3 ARIADNE: Ooops sorry, when I look at you I get so excited I get carried away.
4 See you later for supper, handsome Captain.
5
6 TIMMIDIUS: Yes absolutely!
7
8 ARIADNE: I think I'm going to like it here.
9
10 TIMMIDIUS: Me too!
11
12 SHE EXITS.
13
14 FOXIMINX ENTERS.
15
16 TIMMIDIUS: (ASIDE) This is so exciting! I think Ariadne's lovely. But I've always
17 been too shy to say anything. And now she's made the first move, what a
18 splendid, happy little town.
19
20 FOXIMINX: (TO TIMMIDIUS. IMAGINING HIM TO BE ARROGANTIUS) Well, hello,
21 sexy.
22
23 TIMMIDIUS: Is there something in the water here?
24
25 FOXIMINX: Look at my big, handsome... generous man.
26
27 TIMMIDIUS: Are you talking to me?
28
29 FOXIMINX: Oh, don't be cross with me about earlier. I know now!
30
31 TIMMIDIUS: Know what?
32
33 FOXIMINX: That you're a very generous husband.
34
35 TIMMIDIUS: Everybody thinks I'm married.
36
37 FOXIMINX: Of course they do. I've spread the word. Any girl messing with my
38 man is tiger meat.
39
40 TIMMIDIUS: Goodness. I don't know what you see in me.
41
42 FOXIMINX: Sometimes I wonder, when you're an inconsiderate pig.
43
44 TIMMIDIUS: Well... er... I can be a Mr. Grumpy Bunny in the mornings.
45

1 FOXIMINX: (IGNORING HIM) But then I hear what a generous man you are and I
2 remember how much I love your spirit. At the end of the day. We have a lot of
3 fun you and I.
4
5 TIMMIDIUS: At the end of the day...?! Er, well unfortunately... I'm afraid I have
6 supper plans tonight.
7
8 FOXIMINX: Well hurry home with my present.
9
10 TIMMIDIUS: A present? I'm afraid I'm not in the habit of giving ladies of your
11 persuasion presents.
12
13 FOXIMINX: Oh, right. Right. Let's pretend you haven't been to the jewellers. I
14 shall act like it's a complete surprise!
15
16 TIMMIDIUS: So shall I.
17
18 FOXIMINX: Do you want yours now or later?
19
20 TIMMIDIUS: My what?
21
22 FOXIMINX: Present.
23
24 TIMMIDIUS: Er... Oh, I get it. Your trying to fleece me.
25
26 FOXIMINX: No silly, it's far too early in the year for a fleece. But I've got you a
27 lovely neck tie. Emerald green. Emerald to match my neckl- sorry, my "you
28 know what"?
29
30 TIMMIDIUS: I really don't. But you have been a lovely diversion, a wonderful
31 break from my busy day and you are a most beautiful and witty companion.
32 HE GIVES HER A COIN. Please accept this gold coin from Waitross. They are
33 unique to the royal family and a rarely bestowed mark of deep appreciation
34 and affection.
35
36 FOXIMINX IS THRILLED TO TAKE IT.
37
38 FOXIMINX: Give me a kiss my big cuddle bear.
39
40 SHE KISSES HIM AND EXITS.
41
42 TIMMIDIUS: What on earth is going on? No girl's ever looked at me before and
43 today I'm fighting them off! I should have asked her about my twin brother.
44
45 EXITS
46

1 Enter BATTLEAXIA.
2
3 BATTLEAXIA: (TO THE AUDIENCE) Urgh, perhaps my son was right about this
4 place. Call that a beauty treatment? I'd get more pampering in a lion's den! Oh
5 I'm all flustered. To think I thought my son was the nice quiet type and all this
6 time he's been running off to this horrid town to be a very, very naughty boy. I
7 should have been stricter with him. Wait till I get him home, he'll be grounded
8 until the next Gladiator Games. I can't wait for a long bath in the luxury of the
9 Bestwestioss. I sent a message warning them of my arrival ages ago. You'd have
10 thought they'd have sent a slave to meet me by now.
11
12 URCHINIA COMES ON AND BUMPS INTO HER.
13
14 UERCHINIA: Ooops, sorry, Madam.
15
16 BATTLEAXIA: (IMAGINING HER TO BE A REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE HOTEL) Ah!
17 You there, are you looking for me?
18
19 URCHINIA: You'll do.
20
21 BATTLEAXIA: I'll do! How dare you. I shall report you to your master for a good
22 flogging.
23
24 URCHINIA: I'm self employed.
25
26 BATTLEAXIA: What as?
27
28 URCHINIA: A bag snatcher. (HOLDS UP BATTLEAXIA'S BAG)
29
30 BATTLEAXIA: You give me that back this instant.
31
32 URCHINIA: I'll have that nice broach too.
33
34 SNATCHES IT, RIPPING BATTLEAXIA'S DRESS AT THE NECKLINE AND RUNNING
35 OFF.
36
37 BATTLEAXIA: Oh you beast! Look at me! I'm in rags! The sooner I find this hotel
38 the better!
39
40 EXITS
41
42 TIMMIDIUS ENTERS.
43
44 TIMMIDIUS: Wow! I mean wow! I can't stop thinking about it. Mum's lovely
45 slave, Ariadne, thinks I'm hot and has asked me out to supper. What should I

1 wear? (LOOKING AT HIS CLOTHES) We're on a tight costume budget so let's
2 hope this'll do nicely if I polish up my shiny bits.
3
4 TIFFANYNOKOFF THE JEWELER ENTERS, MISTAKING TIMMIDIUS FOR
5 ARROGANTIUS.
6
7 TIFFANYNOKOFF: There you are, I've been looking all over Tesgoss for you.
8
9 TIMMIDIUS: For me?
10
11 TIFFANYNOKOFF: Don't play the innocent, Captain. I made up a present for
12 your wife.
13
14 TIMMIDIUS: I'm not married! Why does everybody think I'm married!
15
16 TIFFANYNOKOFF: You owe me money!
17
18 TIMMIDIUS: What for? I've never seen you before in my life!
19
20 TIFFANYNOKOFF: Don't think I'm falling for the innocent stranger routine. You
21 promised to send payments and I haven't received a penny.
22
23 TIMMIDIUS: Honestly, the way you all try to fleece tourists here is a disgrace. I
24 shall call the authorities.
25
26 TIFFANYNOKOFF: No, I shall call the authorities.
27
28 AFTER A SCUFFLE THEY RING A BELL MARKED "AUTHORITIES".
29
30 Enter OLDCRONIA
31
32 OLDCRONIA: All right, all right don't get your knickers in a twist, I'm a-coming.
33 (TO TIFFANKNOKOFF & TIMMIDIUS) What is it ducks, how can I be of service,
34 what day is it?
35
36 TIMMIDIUS: But you were the tourist - Now you're the town's authority figure?!
37
38 OLDCRONIA: Yes ducks, mind you I don't see a lot of crime around here.
39
40 TIMMIDIUS: What are you talking about? This harbour's crawling with tricksters.
41
42 OLDCRONIA: Yes, but I can't find my glasses so, like I say, I don't see a lot of it.
43 (ASIDE) Oooh in't he lovely? What a lovely boy. Lovely. (TO TIFFANYNOKOFF) I
44 do like a shapely buttock, don't you ducks?
45
46 TIFFANYNOKOFF: I demand you arrest this man.

1
2 OLDCRONIA: What this one? I don't think so dear, I haven't got the room for a
3 start. Mr Tiddles doesn't like the cells to get messed up.
4
5 TIFFANYNOKOFF: Who's Mr Tiddles?
6
7 OLDCRONIA: Our local CID.
8
9 TIMMIDIUS: Thank goodness. Can I talk to him please?
10
11 OLDCRONIA: Who dear?
12
13 TIMMIDIUS: Mr Tiddles.
14
15 OLDCRONIA: You can try but he won't understand. Silly. He's a cat.
16
17 TIFFANYNOKOFF: You've got a police *cat*?!
18
19 OLDCRONIA: Yes, like I said. He's C.I.D. Cat Instead 'a Dog. (BEAT) So you want
20 this boy arrested? Ooh in't he lovely? Aren't you lovely?
21
22 TIMMIDIUS: Yes, I want him arrested.
23
24 TIFFANYNOKOFF: And I want her arrested.
25
26 OLDCRONIA: Well, we can try asking him. (CALLS) Mr Tiddles!
27
28 ENTER MR TIDDLES, A CAT.
29
30 Here he is. (TO THE CAT) There's been trouble DCI Tiddles. (TO TIMIDIUS)
31 Would you care to make a statement? I think he's listening.
32
33 TIMMIDIUS: I'm sorry to bother you but..
34
35 OLDCRONIA: (CORRECTING HIM) Ah ah!
36
37 I'm sorry to bother you (LOOKS AT CHRONE UNCERTAINLY THEN GETS IT) I'm
38 sorry to bother you *DCI Tiddles* but - (TO OLD CHRONICUS) What does DCI stand
39 for?
40
41 OLDCRONIA: Dog or Cat Inspector.
42
43 TIFFANYNOKOFF: Oh this is ridiculous. I want this man arrested for taking
44 delivery of designer jewellery and not paying for it!
45

1 TIMMIDIUS: And I swear I've never seen this woman before in my life, she's just
2 another person who's tried to defraud me since I landed here, DCI Tiddles. Sir.
3
4 THE CAT IS STILL.
5
6 OLDCRONIA: He's thinking.
7
8 MR TIDDLES PONDERES FURTHER.
9
10 He has decided!
11
12 MR TIDDLES: Meow.
13
14 OLDCRONIA: He says happy to help, that'll be 5 denarii each. 6 if you want the
15 Golden Service Package.
16
17 TIMMIDIUS: I don't believe it. Now even Mr Tiddles is trying to make money out
18 of me!
19
20 TIFFANYNOKOFF: This is ridiculous - I'll have you arrested, in the end, just you
21 wait and see! (EXIT)
22
23 TIMMIDIUS: (TO OLDCRONIA) What's Mr Tiddles' Golden Service Package
24 anyway?
25
26 OLDCRONIA: One denarri extra and he'll pee on your enemy's carpet.
27
28 TIMMIDIUS: (EXASPERATED) Oh, I can't be bothered with all this! I've got a hot
29 date to prepare for.
30
31 EXITS
32
33 OLDCRONIA: What a lovely boy. I don't know about you Mr T, but I've a fancy
34 for a macaroon. Let's check in on the Parthenon Tea Rooms in case they're
35 having a crime wave.
36
37 EXITS
38
39 FOXIMINX AND ARIADNE ENTER FROM OPPOSITE DIRECTIONS BOTH BLISSFULLY
40 IN LOVE.
41
42 FOXIMINX: Isn't it a wonderful day.
43
44 ARIADNE: Oh yes it is!
45
46 FOXIMINX: Are you new in town? You'll find it the perfect place to be in love.

1
2 ARIADNE: Oh I agree! I only arrived a little while ago but already Cupid has
3 struck.
4
5 FOXIMINX: The love goddess has been making merry with me too.
6
7 ARIADNE: There must be something in the air here in Tesgoss that encourages
8 romance.
9
10 FOXIMINX: It might be our neighbourhood volcano. It's long been a symbol in
11 these parts for tranquillity and harmony. It belches gases like a wet dog, but
12 let us ignore that on this beautiful day.
13
14 ARIADNE: Have you known your lover long?
15
16 FOXIMINX: He's my lover *and* my husband! Passion "till death do us part."
17
18 ARIADNE: Good luck with that. Mine is so handsome. To be honest he's always
19 been a bit of a Mummy's boy but here in Tesgoss he's a strident and generous
20 suitor.
21
22 FOXIMINX: My husband's very generous with his gifts too. Poverty is no
23 impediment to love but I do find jewellery brings couples together.
24
25 ARIADNE: Look at what my Captain has given me. Me, who's never had more
26 than a string of onions before.
27
28 SHE SHOWS FOXIMINX THE NECKLACE.
29
30 These are real emeralds and see the little gold dragon clasp? Totally unique,
31 not another necklace like this in existence.
32
33 FOXIMINX: (PATOIS) Is it! (NORMAL) So what's your man like?
34
35 ARIADNE: Well he's single, about this high, (ADD DESCRIPTION APPROPRIATE TO
36 CASTING). What does yours look like?
37
38 FOXIMINX: Similar but soon he'll have a broken nose, two black eyes and my
39 sandal up his bottom.
40
41 ARIADNE: My goodness. Sounds quite a character.
42
43 FOXIMINX: Don't play the innocent with me. How dare you try to steal my
44 husband *and* my emerald necklace!?
45
46 ARIADNE: Your husband? I've never even met your husband.

1
2 FOXIMINX: You lying little ferret! Give me that necklace!
3
4 ARIADNE: I will not, you crazy witch. You need a head doctor.
5
6 FOXIMINX: I'll head doctor you in a minute.
7
8 THEY FIGHT.
9
10 TIMMIDIUS ARRIVES AND SEPERATES THEM. FOXIMINX THINKS ITS HER HUSBAND.
11
12 TIMMIDIUS: Woah, woah, what's going on here? (INDICATING ARIADNE TO
13 FOXIMINX) That's my girlfriend you're attacking!
14
15 FOXIMINX: Your girlfriend?!
16
17 ARIADNE: Oh Timmidius!
18
19 TIMMIDIUS: (TO FOXIMINX) Yes.
20
21 FOXIMINX: You dare stand there and say that to my face.
22
23 TIMMIDIUS: Yes, she's my girlfriend. I don't care what mother says.
24
25 FOXIMINX: What's your long lost mother got to do with this?
26
27 TIMMIDIUS: Here is the girl I love.
28
29 FOXIMINX: After two years of marriage, this is how you treat me?
30
31 TIMMIDIUS: Two years of - I am not married.
32
33 FOXIMINX: You're heartless, heartless! To tell me this, here, now, in public!
34
35 TIMMIDIUS: I don't see it's any business of yours.
36
37 FOXIMINX: No business of mine -
38
39 TIMMIDIUS: Now go away you... you... shouty baggage!
40
41 FOXIMINX: Did you just call me a baggage in front of your fancy woman?!
42
43 ARIADNE: Shouty too.
44
45 TIMMIDIUS: Look, if it'll make you any happier you have the necklace. Ariadne
46 and I have true love. We don't need expensive jewellery.

1
2 ARIADNE: (NOT SURE ABOUT THIS) Well -
3
4 TIMMIDIUS: Let's show her how little we care, darling.
5
6 ARIADNE: It was so nice.
7
8 TIMMIDIUS: Don't worry I'll get you something else. Would you like a nice set of
9 saucepans... or your own kitchen slave?
10
11 ARIADNE: My own slave!!? Yes please!
12
13 FOXIMINX: (TAKING THE NECKLACE FROM TIMMIDIUS) This'll be a start. As for
14 the rest of your fortune you'll be hearing from my lawyer, Claimsdirecticus.
15
16 EXITS
17
18 TIMMIDIUS: Are you alright my sweet?
19
20 ARIADNE: So happy, Angel!
21
22 TIMMIDIUS: If there's a missing persons' bureau in Tesgoss I'll track it down.
23 You get mother settled and I'll see you for supper. Now say bye bye.
24
25 ARIADNE: No, you say,
26
27 TIMMIDIUS: No, you say,
28
29 ARIADNE: No, you say,
30
31 ETC ETC UNTIL HE'S GONE.
32
33 ARROGANTIUS RETURNS BUT ARIADNE THINKS IT'S TIMMIDIUS.
34
35 ARROGANTIUS: Ah, there you are. Give me that necklace back.
36
37 ARIADNE: What?
38
39 ARROGANTIUS: That necklace back, now. Hurry up wench.
40
41 ARIADNE: Wench?!
42
43 ARROGANTIUS: Yep, got the jeweller after me, a bit short of dosh so I need to
44 return it, so chop, chop. Don't worry poppsie. You still get to have supper with
45 me tonight.
46

1 ARIADNE: I'd rather eat with the other slaves. At least we don't play nasty
2 mind games on each other!
3
4 ARROGANTIUS: Fascinating, now cough up the gems.
5
6 ARIADNE: I just gave them to you. You gave them to her.
7
8 ARROGANTIUS: Her? Who?
9
10 ARIADNE: That crazy woman. I suppose you love her too.
11
12 ARIADNE BUSIES HERSELF SNIVELLING OUT OF EARSHOT AS OLDCRONIA ENTERS.
13
14 ARROGANTIUS: What crazy woman?
15
16 OLDCRONIA: Oooh hello ducks, in' he lovely? Back again?
17
18 ARROGANTIUS: Ah ha! Good day to you, crazy woman. This girl seems to think
19 I'm in love with you -
20
21 OLDCRONIA: Are you! Oooh lovely.
22
23 ARROGANTIUS: No, I most certainly am not.
24
25 OLDCRONIA: Gis a kiss.
26
27 ARROGANTIUS: Get your hands off me! I just want my necklace back.
28
29 OLDCRONIA: What do you want a necklace for, big strapping bloke like you? Are
30 you a friend of that RuPaulicus?
31
32 ARROGANTIUS: I don't want to wear it, Anchovy Breath, I want to give it back
33 to the jewellers but this woman has stolen it from me and now she says you
34 have it.
35
36 OLDCRONIA: Do I?
37
38 ARROGANTIUS: Well don't you?
39
40 OLDCRONIA: I don't think so. Maybe it was stolen. You should tell the
41 authorities.
42
43 ARROGANTIUS: Yes, yes. That's exactly what I'm going to do. If one of you
44 doesn't give me back the necklace right away I'm going to tell the authorities.
45
46 OLDCRONIA: Right oh. Wait here a minute.

1
2 ARROGANTIUS: What now!?

3
4 OLDCRONIA: I'm going to get the authorities. (CALLS) Mr Tiddles!

5
6 EXIT

7
8 ARIADNE: I think you're horrid, when I think of all the nights I lay awake longing
9 for us to be together.

10
11 RUNS OUT.

12
13 ARROGANTIUS: (TO AUDIENCE) Well, that's just typical isn't it? Once a woman
14 gets her hands on your jewels she'll never let go. What am I going to do?! I
15 can't pay Tiffanyknokoff for them so they've got to be returned. I'd better give
16 the poppsie a great night out and see if I can't get her to surrender them.

17
18 STENCHAPIX ENTERS.

19
20 Ah, Stenchapix. There you are. I'll need a table for tonight, I need to give a
21 certain young lady a night to remember.

22
23 STENCHAPIX: As discussed I've got you in two dozen oysters and a bottle of
24 Vatican red.

25
26 ARROGANTIUS: The Vatican make wine?

27
28 STENCHAPIX: No, but this stuff'll have you on your knees faster than holy
29 communion.

30
31 ARROGANTIUS: That sounds like an excellent start, have the slave standing by
32 in case we need a second bottle.

33
34 STENCHAPIX: Ah, the slave... I'm afraid the slave delivery hasn't arrived yet.
35 So good news, as you're such a valued customer I'm going to wait on you
36 myself.

37
38 ARROGANTIUS: You most certainly are not. I'm not having you leering all over
39 the young lady making your off colour jokes. You get me an attentive slave or
40 I'll take my custom elsewhere.

41
42 EXIT

43
44 STENCHAPIX: Yes Captain, of course Captain, anything you say Captain.
45 (ARROGANTIAS HAS GONE) Obnoxious little twit. Still, I can't afford to turn him
46 away. Where's those slaves Capter-Traffica promised to send me?

1
2 BATTLEAXIA ENTERS. HER CLOTHES ARE STILL TORN.
3
4 STENCHAPIX: (ASIDE) Oh, ragged clothes, haunted expression, this must be the
5 first. (TO BATTLEAXIA) Where have you been?
6
7 BATTLEAXIA: I beg your pardon?
8
9 STENCHAPIX: I was expecting you hours ago.
10
11 BATTLEAXIA: How dare you adopt that tone with me. I am - just a minute.
12 You're the crooked man aren't you?
13
14 STENCHAPIX: I can see you're going to be a handful, my girl.
15
16 BATTLEAXIA: (FLATTERED) Girl? (WINSOME) Would it surprise you to learn that
17 I'm... well, how old do you think I look. Go on, go on guess? You won't believe
18 it.
19
20 STENCHAPIX: 60?
21
22 BATTLEAXIA: 60!
23
24 STENCHAPIX: 55?
25
26 BATTLEAXIA: I'm 28. Oh alright 42.
27
28 STENCHAPIX: I don't give a weasel's armpit. I've got guest rooms need sorting.
29
30 BATTLEAXIA: Thank goodness. Then you are indeed the representative of the
31 Bestwestioss Hotel. Kindly show me to my room. And I should like a bath of
32 asses' milk and rose petals.
33
34 STENCHAPIX: You'll get a scrub down at the yard pump if you're lucky.
35
36 BATTLEAXIA: I'm sorry?!
37
38 STENCHAPIX: And you don't get a room. The cheek. You can sleep under the
39 kitchen table with the other slave.
40
41 BATTLEAXIA: Is this some kind of a joke? Slave?! (REALISES HOW SHE LOOKS)
42 Oh, you're obviously confused by my ragged clothes. My noble bearing should
43 have alerted you to my importance.
44
45 STENCHAPIX: The only thing important right now is that you start scrubbing the
46 floors.

1
2 BATTLEAXIA: You want me to what?
3
4 STENCHAPIX: Scrub.
5
6 BATTLEAXIA: Scrub? I've never scrubbed anything in my life.
7
8 STENCHAPIX: Uppity little tabby cat aren't you. Well, I suppose you get what
9 you pay for.
10
11 BATTLEAXIA: What are you suggesting?
12
13 STENCHAPIX: I'm suggesting you get on your knees and start cleaning my pub.
14
15 BATTLEAXIA: I would rather extract teeth from Cerberus the three headed
16 hound of the underworld.
17
18 STENCHAPIX: Let me get this straight. Are you refusing to obey me?
19
20 BATTLEAXIA: I've never heard such impudence.
21
22 STENCHAPIX: Right, I'm getting the happy stick.
23
24 BATTLEAXIA: You'd better start making sense, right now.
25
26 WHILST STENCHAPIX GOES FOR THE STICK.
27
28 This is an absolute disgrace. Does no one in this town have any respect for
29 royalty. You wait until I get home, I shall raise an army that will crush this vile,
30 ugly little town and all the lying, cheating conniving, disrespectful vermin who
31 live here. I'll have you all boiled alive. I'll have you flayed, gutted and sold to
32 the Spartans as sausages. When I'm done with this place, it'll make the worst
33 excesses of the Mongol empire seem like Disneylax. You filthy, ignorant,
34 thieving peasa-
35
36 STENCHAPIX PRODS HER WITH THE HAPPY STICK AND SHE SUDDENLY SHRIEKS
37 WITH PLEASURE.
38
39 BATTLEAXIA: Do it again.
40
41 STENCHAPIX: You like that?
42
43 BATTLEAXIA: Just prod me. Peasant prod me!
44
45 HE DOES, SHE SHRIEKS AGAIN.
46

1 STENCHAPIX: You ready to scrub some pots and muck out the pigs?
2
3 BATTLEAXIA: I'm afraid I'm a lazy, lazy girl.
4
5 STENCHAPIX: You need another poke.
6
7 BATTLEAXIA: I'm so lazy, punish me peasant!
8
9 STENCHAPIX: Take that!
10
11 HE PRODS HER, SHE RESPONDS.
12
13 Now, get in that kitchen and get the spuds on!
14
15 BATTLEAXIA: Oh yes, Master, yes.
16
17 HE CHASES HER OFF. HIM PRODDING. HER SHRIEKING WITH PLEASURE.
18
19 ENTER TIMMIDIUS
20
21 TIMMIDIUS: What on earth is going on over there. I must find mother, locate
22 that missing persons' office, grab my brother and get us the Hades out of here.
23 But if we stay in Tesgoss, maybe Ariadne and I will stand a chance as a couple.
24 Once we get back to Waitross who knows what will happen. I'll be a prince
25 again and Arry will be mother's slave and -
26
27 A DART BOARD IS THROWN ON AND NEARLY HITS HIM.
28
29 Who threw that! Are you crazy? That could have knocked me out!
30
31 NEXT A BAG OF GOLF CLUBS GETS THROWN ON.
32
33 Zeus protect me from flying sporting equipment. Somewhere in heaven a god
34 must be having a garage sale.
35
36 FOXIMINX ARRIVES WITH A HASTILY PACKED SUITCASE OF ARROGANTIUS' STUFF
37 WHICH SHE DUMPS AT TIMMIDIUS' FEET, IMAGINING HE'S HER HUSBAND.
38
39 FOXIMINX: I want all your junk out of my house now!
40
41 TIMMIDIUS: Not, you again! You are completely bonkers. I've never even been
42 to your house. Will you please get this into your crazy Tesgoss head - we are
43 not married! I am not your husband. You are not my wife. You are nothing to
44 me!
45
46 FOXIMINX: You're heartless! Heartless! Take your stuff and get out of here!

1
2 TIMMIDIUS: But this isn't my stuff!
3
4 FOXIMINX: Make a clean start of it then, see if I care. All I know is I'm turning
5 your man cave into a palates studio.
6
7 TIMMIDIUS: You can do whatever you like. Just leave me and my new girlfriend
8 alone.
9
10 FOXIMINX: If I ever see either of you around here again I'll set my father's dogs
11 on you.
12
13 TIMMIDIUS: (HUGE) I will not be told what to do! (SUPRISED AT HIMSELF) Oh!
14
15 FOXIMINX: What?
16
17 TIMMIDIUS: I've never stood up to anyone before. It feels rather good. I'm not
18 going to be bossed around anymore.
19
20 FOXIMINX: (PICKING UP GOLF CLUB) Oh, aren't you?!
21
22 TIMMIDIUS: Now, Madame please, put down that golf club. We can get you
23 help. Let's go sacrifice a pig to the gods of insanity.
24
25 FOXIMINX: Get out! Get out!
26
27 TIMMIDIUS: Madame please!
28
29 SHE CHASES HIM OFF.
30
31 STENCHAPIX CHASES BATTLEAXIA ACCROSS THE STAGE WITH THE HAPPY STICK.
32
33 AROGANTIUS COMES IN AND SEE'S HIS STUFF STRWEN OVER THE FLOOR.
34
35 ARROGANTIUS: What's this? Just a minute this is the nine iron I bought in
36 Syracuse. These are my clubs.
37
38 OPENS THE CASE.
39
40 And this is my stuff. That crazy wife of mine's thrown me out.
41
42 FOXIMINX RUNS BACK ON FROM THE DIRECTION SHE RAN OFF AND DOES A
43 DOUBLE TAKE WHEN SHE SEES HER HUSBAND AT THE SUITCASE.
44
45 AROGANTIUS PULLS OUT A TEDDY WITH ITS HEAD DETACHED FROM ITS BODY.
46

1 Oh no, not Teddy!! Look what she's done to Teddy!
2
3 FOXIMINX: How did you get past me?
4
5 ARROGANTIUS: You're a horrible, horrible woman!
6
7 FOXIMINX: Sinking in now, is it? If I'm horrid it's because you've made me this
8 way, but I will never be your doormat.
9
10 ARROGANTIUS: For heaven's sake, woman. All I did was forget our anniversary.
11 If that was a crime half the blokes here would be banged up. Am I right, guys?
12
13 FOXIMINX: And you humiliated me by inviting some foreign strumpet to supper.
14
15 ARROGANTIUS: How did you know about that?!16
17 FOXIMINX: You must think I'm an idiot. You introduced me to her. Remember?
18
19 ARROGANTIUS: What?! When!?
20
21 FOXIMINX: At least have the decency not to lie to my face! Men! This beautiful
22 coin, all those loving words. Here take it back.
23
24 ARROGANTIUS: A gold coin from Waitross? How did that get here? Have you
25 been seeing another man?
26
27 FOXIMINX: It'd serve you right! You don't deserve a shred of loyalty. I'm going
28 to see Eve.
29
30 ARROGANTIUS: Eve?
31
32 FOXIMINX: The matchmaker Eve Harmony-dot-commicuss. I want a another
33 husband. Consider yourself dumped.
34
35 ARROGANTIUS: But you can't dump me?
36
37 FOXIMINX: Why not?
38
39 ARROGANTIUS: (BLURTS OUT) Because I love you. (AMAZED TO REALISE THAT'S
40 TRUE) I... love you. I've always loved you. (SINCERE) From the moment I saw
41 you, dancing that night in the discotecticus, all eyes on you, I thought that big,
42 beautiful, extraordinary woman is all I want, all I'll ever want. I must make her
43 mine. So why am I messing around with other women?
44
45 FOXIMINX: You tell me.
46

1 ARROGANTIUS: Maybe it's because I'm afraid I don't deserve you, I could never
2 stop a rival stealing you, someone better looking, cleverer -
3
4 FOXIMINX: Taller.
5
6 ARROGANTIUS: All I know is sooner or later someone else will steal you away
7 so perhaps I mess around with other girls to protect myself from the heartbreak
8 to come. But I never wanted love elsewhere. I wanted you. I just never thought
9 I'd be lucky enough to have such a wonderful wife.
10
11 FOXIMINX: That is well bogus! (TO THE AUDIENCE) What do we think, gang?
12 Should I believe him? (THEY REACT) Guys should I trust him? (REACTION) Girls
13 would you take him back? (REACTION)
14
15 ARROGANTIUS: Look please, please give me another chance to show how much
16 I love you. Meet me tonight for supper at The Cock and Bull, let me wine and
17 dine you and try to show you that from now on, I can and will be the husband
18 you deserve.
19
20 FOXIMINX: Oh all right, but if you're a minute late or I sense anything dodgy
21 going on then this marriage is over and Claimsdirecticus will clean out your
22 bank account faster than a rabbit at a salad bar.
23
24 ARROGANTIUS: Agreed. Till later, my angel! (TIMIDLY) If you could just sew
25 Teddy's head back on.
26
27 FOXIMINX: (FIERCE) Don't push your luck.
28
29 SHE STARTS TO EXIT.
30
31 ARROGANTIUS: Till 8 o'clock then.
32
33 FOXIMINX: You'd better be there or Teddy won't be the only person with
34 detachable bits!
35
36 CAPTER-TRAFFICA ENTERS.
37
38 CAPTER-TRAFFICA: Look at the time! The sun's almost dipped behind the
39 aqueduct and I've still got to find two slaves for the landlord of The Cock and
40 Bull. I'm not wasting good slaves on him. Not for what he can afford. I'll just
41 have to find some low lifes and enslave them. But where am I going to find two
42 scum bags? (HE SPOTS THE AUDIENCE) You lot look suitably tatty and
43 desperate. Better call my girls to help. (CALLS) Shiftichics! Help needed!
44
45 THE GIRLS BOUND ON!
46

1 BOTH: Shifty Chix!
2
3 1st: (TO 2nd) You looking at me?
4 2nd (TO 1st) You looking at me?
5
6 1st: Whatever!
7
8 2nd : Innit!
9
10 CAPTER-TRAFFIKA: Girls I need to find two new slaves from this rabble. Who've
11 we got in?
12
13 1st (PICKING A HOT ADULT MALE IN THE AUDIENCE) What about this brother?
14 What's your name? (RESPONSE) Where you from? (R) I'm Sorry? (R) No, I heard
15 I'm just sorry. Show us your muscles!
16
17 2nd (TO AN ADULT FEMALE MEMBER OF THE AUDIENCE) What do you think of
18 him? (R) How much would you pay for him as a slave? (R) Is it! Whatever! Stand
19 up sister, let's have a look at you.
20
21 CAPTER-TRAFFICA (TO AUDIENCE WOMAN) Had much experience emptying
22 chamber pots? (R) (IF NECESSARY: A likely story!) Sit down. Rubbish, rubbish!
23 Put your hand up if you think you'd be a good slave. (TO A MALE CHILD THAT
24 WANTS TO BE NOTICED) Oooh look at this young man, he looks big and tough.
25 What's your name (R - FOR INSTANCE BOB)
26
27 1st SHIFTY CHICK PICKS OUT A WILLING GIRL.
28
29 1st: Boss, you don't want to bothered with that tiddler! Look at this fine young
30 lady? Do you get me? What's your name. (R - FOR INSTANCE TRACY) Let's have
31 a big cheer for Tracy the Mighty! (R)
32
33 CAPTER-TRAFFICA: I want to hear a big cheer for Bob the Conqueror! (R)
34
35 2nd: I don't know what your cheering for, everybody knows girls are better than
36 boys. Isn't that right, Tracy?
37
38 CAPTER-TRAFFICA: That is a load of old nonsense. Boys are much mightier than
39 girls, aren't we lads? (R)
40
41 1st: Whatever! There's only one way to solve this.
42
43 2nd: That's right. Innit!
44
45 CAPTER-TRAFFICA: I think you're right. It's time to play Slave Challenge!
46

1 FX QUIZ SHOW STING.
2
3 Right here we have our two competitors -
4
5 1st: Tracy the Mighty!
6
7 2nd ELICITS CHEERS.
8
9 CAPTER-TRAFFICA: And Bob the Conqueror.
10
11 HE SOLICITS THE CHANTING OF BOB, BOB, BOB
12
13 SHIFTY CHIX SOLICIT THE CHANTING OF TRACY, TRACY, TRACY.
14
15 CAPTER-TRAFFICA: SILENCE EVERYBODY!
16
17 CAPTER-TRAFFICA: (TO COMPETING KIDS) Right, champions all you have to do
18 is, when I shout “go!” Gather up all this stuff (INDICATING PROPS LEFT OVER
19 FROM THE PREVIOUS SCENE) and take it to our lovely stage manager, Toby,
20 over there. And we’ll see who gets the biggest cheer. (TO AUDIENCE) Right you
21 lot, ready to cheer for your champ? Come on boys!
22
23 HE STARTS A HUSHED CHANT OF BOY’S NAME.
24
25 1st SHIFTICHIX: Come on girls.
26
27 THE CHICS START A HUSHED CHANT OF GIRL’S NAME.
28
29 CAPTER-TRAFFICA: Ready? Go!
30
31 FX: QUIZ SHOW MOMENTUM MUSIC.
32
33 KIDS WITH HELP OF THE THREE ACTORS CLEAR THE STAGE.
34
35 CAPTER-TRAFFICA: Let’s have a big hand for both our competitors! A happy
36 stick for you both. But you’re too small. Back to your seats. Thanks for nothing!
37 The search goes on. There must be two nobodies I can sell as slaves. It’s time
38 to bring in the big guns!
39
40 2nd: What are you going to do?
41
42 CAPTER-TRAFFICA: Ask my Mum!
43
44 EXIT CAPTER-TRAFFICA AND THE SHIFTICHIX.
45

1 THIS TIME IT'S BATTLEAXIA WHO CHASES STENCHAPIX ACROSS THE STAGE WITH
2 THE HAPPY STICK.
3
4 EXIT.
5
6 FX AN APPROACHING POLICE SIREN OVER THE NOISE OF A GALLOPING HORSE
7 CONCLUDES WITH BOTH SCREECHING TO A HALT.
8
9 ENTER OLDCRONIA PUSHING ON ARROGANTIUS AT THE END OF A SPEAR.
10
11 OLDCRONIA: Freeze. It's the fuzz! Lovely. Get down in your knees and put
12 your hands above your head.
13
14 ARROGANTIUS: What!
15
16 OLDCRONIA: Your under arrest for stealing an emerald necklace.
17
18 ARROGANTIUS: This is absurd. I'm going.
19
20 OLDCRONIA: But you can't, we've gone to a lot of trouble. The cell's all nice
21 and tidy.
22
23 ARROGANTIUS: Madam you have no jurisdiction over me.
24
25 OLDCRONIA: But I'm the authorities. I've got back up.
26
27 ARROGANTIUS: Where?
28
29 OLDCRONIA: (CALLS) DCI Tiddles! Oh where is he?
30
31 MR TIDDLES APPEARS AMIDST SMALL CHILDREN IN THE AUDIENCE CAUSING A
32 SENSATION.
33
34 There you are Mr T, (TO AUDIENCE) I'm so sorry. He does like to make new
35 friends. (TO CAT) DCI Tiddles, will you please concentrate. We've an arrest to
36 make! As I was saying young man, you're nicked.
37
38 ARROGANTIUS: Do you think I'm frightened of an old woman and a cat?
39
40 FX CAT YOWEL.
41
42 MR TIDDLES LAUNCHES HIMSELF AT ARROGANTIUS' FACE.
43
44 Ow, ow get off. All right, all right I surrender.
45
46 OLDCRONIA: Lovely. (CALLS) Neville!

1
2 CAPTER-TRAFFICA APPEARS.
3
4 CAPTER-TRAFFICA: What is it Ma?
5
6 OLDCRONIA: I've found you a low-life to sell.
7
8 CAPTER-TRAFFICA: Thanks Ma, much obliged. He should do nicely.
9
10 ARROGANTIUS: What!
11
12 CAPTER-TRAFFICA HANDS OVER CASH TO OLDCRONIA.
13
14 OLDCRONIA: Lovely. Such a good boy. How's your athlete's foot clearing up?
15
16 CAPTER-TRAFFICA: Not bad at all. Thanks for the lotion.
17
18 OLDCRONIA: Lovely. Now you take care. Lovely.
19
20 SHE EXITS.
21
22 ARROGANTIUS: I refuse to be sold into slavery.
23
24 CAPTER-TRAFFICA: Want me to call back the old lady and the cat!
25
26 ARROGANTIUS: No, keep that beast away!
27
28 BATTLEAXIA: Which one?
29
30 ARROGANTIUS: Both!
31
32 BATTLEAXIA: Better come with me then. You're been reserved. Just need to
33 pick up and drop off one more of your sort and I'm done for the day.
34
35 EXIT BOTH.
36
37 ENTER ARIADNE AND TIMMIDIUS.
38
39 TIMMIDIUS: And then she started throwing things at me and saying I'm her
40 husband again.
41
42 ARIADNE: And you've honestly no idea who she is?
43
44 TIMMIDIUS: Absolutely none.
45

1 ARIADNE: This town's crazy. There's a lot of nice people though. Our luggage
2 will all be taken care of by hotel slaves the manager says.
3
4 TIMMIDIUS: That's great.
5
6 ARIADNE: I just hope your mother... I mean her ladyship won't object. She does
7 like to work me hard.
8
9 TIMMIDIUS: I can't bear to think of you returning to that life.
10
11 ARIADNE: Well, we can't stay in Tesgoss. Her ladyship would stop your
12 allowance.
13
14 TIMMIDIUS: Maybe there's a way we can go home *and* get you released from
15 slavery.
16
17 ARIADNE: How?
18
19 TIMMIDIUS: If I...
20
21 ARIADNE: What?
22
23 TIMMIDIUS: If I stand up to Mother.
24
25 ARIADNE: But she's terrifying!
26
27 TIMMIDIUS: I know but I got so angry at that woman throwing stuff at me I
28 really gave her a mouthful, really full blast! It felt great.
29
30 ARIADNE: And you think you could be that strong with your mother?
31
32 TIMMIDIUS: Yes, I do. I'm going to look her straight in the eye and say,
33 "Mother, release your handmaiden from slavery right now! She is the woman I
34 love and I expect you to welcome her into our family as an equal." Or...
35
36 ARIADNE: Yes?
37
38 TIMMIDIUS: Or, we could just run away.
39
40 ARIADNE: That's probably a better idea.
41
42 TIMMIDIUS: Just a give me another hour to track down my twin brother and see
43 Mum's taken care of. Whatever happens I'll meet you in The Cock and Bull at
44 eight and we'll take the next boat to Magaluf.
45

1 ARIADNE: Oh Timmidius! The legendary paradise where dreams can come true
2 and romance can blossom?
3
4 TIMMIDIUS: (BEAT) Yeah.
5
6 ARIADNE: Oh Timmy, I can't wait. I'll ask around about ships heading there
7 tonight. But please be careful, you know how easy it is to get into trouble
8 here. Promise me, promise me you won't do anything that puts you in danger.
9
10 TIMMIDIUS: I won't.
11
12 ARIADNE: Do you swear?
13
14 TIMMIDIUS: I swear on the sacred thingumibob of Neptune. Till eight o'clock,
15 my darling.
16
17 ARIADNE: Till eight, don't be late. Oooh, that rhymed.
18
19 TIMMIDIUS: You're so clever.
20
21 ARIADNE: No you are.
22
23 TIMMIDIUS: No you are.
24
25 ARIADNE: No you.
26
27 TIMMIDIUS: You.
28
29 ETC AS SHE LEAVES.
30
31 Right! My twin brother. Let's think about this logically.
32
33 CAPTER-TRAFFICA, CARRYING A COSH, CREEPS UP ON TIMMIDIUS.
34
35 If he was captured and sold on by slave traders, maybe I should ask around
36 amongst them. Oh, but they're likely to be a rough lot. Besides I promised Arry
37 I wouldn't put myself in danger. Not that I've a clue where to find a slave trader
38 -
39
40 CAPTER-TRAFFICA WHACKS HIM ON THE HEAD AND AS HE STAGGERS PUTS A
41 SACK OVER HIS HEAD TO GUIDE HIM OFF.
42
43 CAPTER-TRAFFICA: Ma, ma! I've got a second slave for the landlord. Better
44 deliver them both before they go off. This one's starting to smell already.
45
46 OLD CRONICUS. (VO) Ooh lovely.

1
2 COMPANY SONG
3 (LYRICS TBC)
4
5

6 THE COMPANY SET TWO TABLES FOR TWO AS -
7

8 CAPTER-TRAFFICA MEETS STENCHAPIX.
9

10 STENCHAPIX: There you are! Where are the two slaves you promised me? You
11 could have got me in all sorts of trouble. I thought one had arrived and ended
12 up kidnapping a lady of Waitross!
13

14 CAPTER-TRAFFICA Alright, all right. Keep your hair on! I'm just getting them
15 de-loused. They'll be here in a minute.
16

17 EXITS
18

19 AS FOXIMINX AND ARIADNE ARE SEATED BACK TO BACK AT SEPARATE TABLES -
20

21 STENCHAPIX: Oh no! The guests are arriving (TO FOXIMINX AND ARIADNE)
22 Welcome, welcome, honoured ladies to Tesgoss' very own centre of fine dining
23 and friskiness. Can I get you an aperitif perhaps? A glass of finest Tesgoss grog,
24 infused with the essence of peach blossom freshly gathered by Sicilian artisans
25 at dawn this morning, with a splash of rare Tyrannise grape juice exclusively
26 crushed and siphoned from the thighs of Tartar muscle boys?
27

28 BOTH WOMEN: Just tap water please.
29

30 STENCHAPIX (GOES OFF MUMBLING) I don't know why I bother sometimes.
31

32 ARIADNE: (TO FOXIMINX WITHOUT TURNING ROUND) Excuse me do you have
33 the time?
34

35 FOXIMINX: (WITHOUT TURNING ROUND) The sunset's just touching the
36 bathhouse roof.
37

38 THEY CONTINUE TO TALK WITH THEIR BACKS TO ONE ANOTHER.
39

40 It's not like my boyfriend to be late.
41

42 FOXIMINX: It's just like my husband.
43

44 ARIADNE: Poor you.
45

1 FOXIMINX: Oh you've got all this to come. They're full of consideration till they
2 get you to the altar. Then it's like the very woman they fought for becomes the
3 person for whom they never make an effort.
4
5 ARIADNE: I don't believe that's true. I'm sure there's a very good reason our
6 dates are late.
7
8 FOXIMINX: Or, knowing my husband, a very good opportunity to flirt with other
9 women. I can't believe he hasn't showed up. He begged me to give him a last
10 chance to show me he loved me.
11
12 ARIADNE: Rocky patch?
13
14 FOXIMINX: You could say that. I caught him buying jewels for another woman.
15
16 ARIADNE: At least my boyfriend wouldn't do something like that. He's always so
17 noble. Even when crazy women are throwing themselves at him.
18
19 FOXIMINX: Why do some women try to steal other peoples blokes?
20
21 ARIADNE: I know. It's horrible. Do they have no sense of sisterhood?
22
23 ARIADNE: Exactly, they should be ashamed. It's jealousy I suppose. You should
24 see the evils I get wearing my new necklace.
25
26 ARIADNE: (TURNING AROUND) Gosh. Yes. I had one just like it - just a minute!
27 Who gave that to you?
28
29 FOXIMINX: My husband.
30
31 ARIADNE: You again, you crazy woman! How dare you come here to try and
32 split us up.
33
34 FOXIMINX LOOKS AROUND.
35
36 What is the matter with you. Can't you get a man of your own.
37
38 FOXIMINX: Me? You're the viscous little vixen trying to steal other people's
39 husbands.
40
41 ARIADNE: He's not your husband! How many more times? He's going to be mine!
42
43 FOXIMINX: Over my dead body!
44
45 ARIADNE: That can be arranged.
46

1 THEY THROW BREAD ROLLS AT EACH OTHER. MAYBE WE'VE GIVEN THE
2 AUDIENCE ROLLS TO THROW TOO.
3
4 AT THE CLIMAX STENCHIPIX ENTERS EXCITEDLY.
5
6 STENCHAPIX: Shut up! SILENCE. Get ready for the grand entrance.
7
8 BOTH WOMEN: He's here?
9
10 STENCHAPIX: (CORRECTING THEM) *They're* here.
11
12 CAPTER-TRAFFICA BRINGS IN THE TWO BROTHERS, HOODED.
13
14 CAPTER-TRAFFICA: Two slaves as ordered. Sorry delivery's a bit late. It's
15 chariot to chariot on the Coliseum Ring-Road.
16
17 HE REMOVES THE HOOD FROM ARROGANTIUS.
18
19 BOTH WOMEN SIMILTANIOUSLY -
20
21 FOXIMINX: Aroggantius!
22 ARIADNE: Timmidius!
23
24 CAPTER-TRAFFICA: REMOVES THE HOOD FROM TIMMIDIUS.
25
26 EVERYONE: (GASPS) They're absolutely identical.
27
28 ARROGANTIUS: (TO TIMMIDIUS) Brother!
29
30 TIMMIDIUS: (TO ARROGANTIUS) Brother!
31
32 THEY HUG.
33
34 ARIADNE: (TO FOXIMINX) BFF?
35
36 FOXIMINX: (TO ARIADNE) BFF!
37
38 THEY HUG.
39
40 ARROGANTIUS: Foximinx, my darling wife. Today when I thought I'd lost you I
41 realised you are all the world to me. I cannot live without you. Let us go to the
42 temple and renew our marriage vows before Venus, the goddess of love. I
43 promise to be the husband you deserve, each and every day.
44
45 TIMMIDIUS: Ariadne, my perfect girl. In one short day I found you, lost you and
46 found you again. I will never let anything or anyone keep us apart from this

1 moment on. Let us go to the temple and take our marriage vows before Venus,
2 the goddess of love. I promise to be the husband you deserve, each and every
3 day.
4
5 ARROGANTIOUS AND TIMMIDIUS: Will you do us the honour?
6
7 FOXIMINX AND ARIADNE: We will!
8
9 BATTLEAXIA STORMS IN.
10
11 BATTLEAXIA: Just a minute. What's going on here?!12
13 TIMMIDIUS: Mother, Ariadne is the girl I wish to marry. You can disown me, you
14 can cut off all my money, I'll still love you but I will not be parted from this
15 beautiful woman. My heart's desire.
16
17 BATTLEAXIA: Disown you? Cut off all your money? Nonsense! I want the two of
18 you to go home and rule Waitross in my stead and may you be as happy as your
19 poor departed father and I.
20
21 TIMMIDIUS: But I don't understand. What will you do?
22
23 BATTLEAXIA: (INDICATING STENCHAPIX) I shall stay here with my beloved
24 Stenchy pool! For years I have grown bad tempered dealing with affairs of state
25 alone. I've never been so happy as when this hard working honourable man and
26 I got down on our knees and scrubbed this place clean together; thanks to a
27 regular poking with his happy stick.
28
29 STENCHAPIX: I never dreamt I'd hear a woman say those words. Oh my darling
30 Battleaxia, Let us go to the temple and take our marriage vows before Venus,
31 the goddess of love. Will you marry me?
32
33 BATTLEAXIA: I will.
34
35 STENCHAPIX: Oh mighty goddess Venus, will you descend from Mount Olympus
36 to bless the happy union of your humble servants.
37
38 BATTLEAXIA: From across the mighty shimmering oceans, come to us.
39
40 ARROGANTIUS: Fly over the great forests of oak and ash to anoint us.
41
42 FOXIMINX: Ride on the mighty wind that blows homesick sailors home to their
43 loved ones.
44
45 TIMMIDIUS: Speed across the great plains of Vantrioss on wings of fire.
46

1 ARIADNE: Race across the mighty arid deserts of Khal in your majesty.
2
3 ALL: Come to us, mighty Venus and grant good fortune on our loving union. We
4 stand before you now. Your suppliants!
5
6 OLDCRONIA ENTERS:
7
8 OLDCRONIA: All right, all right don't get your knickers in a twist, I'm a-
9 coming.
10
11 TIMMIDIUS: *You're* the goddess Venus?
12
13 OLDCRONIA: Of course I am! Silly boy. Ooh in't he lovely?
14
15 BATTLEAXIA NOTICES THE TWINS.
16
17 Ooh there's another one. Lovely, lovely. Haven't they got shapely knees. I do
18 love a shapely knee.
19
20 BATTLEAXIA HUGGING THEM. My two beautiful, beautiful boys!
21
22 ENTER TIFFANYNOKOFF AND URCHINIA.
23
24 CAPTER-TRAFFICA: (TO OLDCRONIA) Oi, Ma, where's my happy ending?
25
26 TIFFANYNOKOFF: (TO CAPTER-TRAFFICA) Want to buy me some expensive
27 jewellery?
28
29 URCHINIA: (TO CAPTER-TRAFFICA) Want to buy me a handbag of my own?
30
31 CHEERS.
32
33 OLDCRONIA: Well what are you all standing around for? I thought you all
34 wanted a wedding. Let's party!
35
36 SONG
37 (LYRICS TBC)
38
39 Reprise of SING HALLELUJA
40
41 SING HALLELUJAH I LOVE TODAY
42 LOVE'S BROKEN OUT AND HAD ITS WAY
43 I'VE A STRONG SUSPISH
44 YOU TOO WILL HAVE YOUR WISH
45 ON THIS LOVELY, DOVELY, BUBBLY DAY.
46

1 SING HALLELUJAH I LOVE MY LIFE
2 WHEN TROUBLES FILL MY DAYS WITH STRIFE
3 I'LL JUST REMEMBER HOW
4 I FELT SO HAPPY NOW
5 MY GLORIOUS AND GORGEOUS LIFE.
6
7 SING HALLELUJAH I LOVE THIS TOWN - YEAH!
8 NOTHING WILL EVER GET ME DOWN
9 THIS SMILE ACROSS MY FACE
10 SAYS YOU'RE MY HAPPY PLACE
11 MY REJUVENATED, RATED TOWN.
12
13 BIG FINISH
14
15 MY REJUVENATED, RATED TOWN!
16
17 THE END.
18

1

2 WOMEN OF TROY

3 Adapted by Lisa Kuma from the Trojan War plays of Euripides
4 IPHIGENIA AT AULIS, HECUBA
5 & THE TROJAN WOMEN

6
7 Part 1 THE GREEKS
8 Part 2 THE TROJANS

9
10 CHARACTERS
11 Greeks

12
13 AGAMEMNON, Commander-in-Chief of the Greek army
14 MENELAUS, cousin of Agamemnon, husband of Helen
15 CLYTEMNESTRA, wife of Agamemnon
16 IPHIGENIA, their daughter
17 ACHILLES, a celebrated warrior
18 ODYSSEUS, a general
19 A GREEK SOLDIER
20 CALCHAS, Soothsayer at Aulis
21 PRIESTESS at Aulis

22
23 Trojans

24
25 QUEEN HECUBA

26 CASSANDRA, A priestess and Hecuba's daughter
27 ANDROMACHE, widow of Hecuba's son, Hector
28 PERSIS, a Trojan Prisoner
29 ALEXIA, a Trojan Prisoner
30 HEBE, a Trojan Prisoner
31 EOS, a Trojan Prisoner

32
33 Others

34
35 HELEN, abducted wife of Menelaus, stolen by Hecuba's son Paris
36 POLYMESTOR, a merchant, trading between both enemy forces.

37
38 Non Speaking Roles

39
40 Odysseus' NURSE
41 LUGGAGE ATTENDANTS.

42
43 Doubling:
44

- 1 1. HECUBA F 50+
- 2 2. IPHIGENIA / HEBE / CASSANDRA F 16
- 3 3. Odysseus' NURSE / 2nd PRIESTESS/ ANDROMACHE F 20s
- 4 4. AGAMEMNON M 40s
- 5 5. MENELAUS M 30s
- 6 6. CLYTEMNESTRA / PERSIS F 30s
- 7 7. ACHILLES / ODYSSEUS M 30s
- 8 8. HELEN / EOS F 30s
- 9 9. POLYMESTOR M 30/40s
- 10 10. CALCHAS / ALEXIA F20s
- 11 11. A GREEK SOLDIER M 20s

PART 1: The Greeks

TROY

HELEN:

18 When I was 14 my father declared me
 19 The most beautiful woman on earth
 20 And offered me as a prize in a tournament.
 21 The gods confirmed my loveliness
 22 Prompting scores of princes to
 23 Compete for my hand in marriage.
 24 I was won by Menelaus, the Greek
 25 And we left to live amongst his family:
 26 The fretful Agamemnon,
 27 His ambitious wife Clytemnestra
 28 Their cosseted daughter, Iphigenia.
 29 But the gods had other ideas.
 30 My beauty was not fit for such peasantry
 31 And they sent the beautiful Trojan Prince, Paris
 32 To tempt me away in the dead of night
 33 Aboard a ship bound for the magnificence of Troy.
 34 It was then that I became known to all
 35 As Helen of Troy in reference to my new home.
 36 But that name burnt away at the honour
 37 Of the Greeks I left behind.
 38 Now a thousand Greek war ships
 39 Under the command of Agamemnon
 40 (His foolish humiliated cousin
 41 Yapping like an angry dog at his heels)
 42 Are gathered at the port of Aulis.
 43 They have vowed to destroy
 44 Troy and the Trojans
 45 And carry me away from culture,
 46 Refinement and luxury to live once more

1 With that hot tempered, charmless
2 Greek husband of mine.
3 But the gods still laugh at them
4 And send no wind to fill their sails.
5 The mighty Greek army
6 Wait idle, bored, humiliated
7 In that hot, dusty, inhospitable harbour
8 Day after day, week after week, month after month.
9 Rebellion is in the air. Many question
10 Agamemnon's fitness to lead.
11 So he offers a distraction. A royal marriage.
12 Clytemnestra and the eligible Iphigenia are sent for.
13 But, as my parents could have told him,
14 It is gods not fathers who
15 Decide the fate of Royal brides.
16
17 HECUBA and POLYMESTOR are there.
18
19 HECUBA (To HELEN)
20 Foolish child, to rely on the protection
21 Of the fickle gods.
22 We may be safe here in Troy, for the moment
23 But your babble is proof, if proof were needed,
24 That my son did not steal you away
25 For your brains.
26 (To POLYMESTOR)
27 Merchant of Thrace
28 You trade entrusted by Greek and Trojan,
29 Moving freely between us both.
30 Have you seen the Grecian fleet
31 Beached, impotent at Aulis?
32 Are our enemy's forces as mighty
33 And frustrated as rumour reports?
34
35 POLYMESTOR
36 Yes majesty, like a city rising from the sea,
37 I watched the Greek fleet assembling in the bay.
38 Rumour may speak of it, but my eyes have seen it;
39 Magnificent, awesome beyond measure.
40 One hundred ships from Sparta wait at anchor
41 Beside them sixty ships from Attica strain at their mooring.
42 Boeotia's naval power? Another fifty ships.
43 All primed, eager, hungry to dispatch and disgorge
44 A mighty invasion force.
45 If the wind would only power the fleet here to Troy.
46

1 HECUBA
2 Return to the Greeks.
3 Here's gold to be my eyes and ears.
4 Report back with every detail.
5 Agamemnon would not distract himself
6 From dreams of invading our city,
7 With a royal marriage unless some strategy
8 Were brewing. I fear it, Polymestor.
9 Ingratiate yourself with my enemies
10 And be diligent in your espionage.
11
12 SHE HANDS HIM A PURSE OF GOLD.
13
14 POLYMESTOR.
15 Great Queen of Troy,
16 Such generous payment is worthy
17 Of the task. I shall not fail you.
18 Agamemnon's Queen knows me of old.
19 It will not be difficult to join
20 Clytemnestra's entourage as
21 She escorts their daughter
22 To her happy fate.
23
24 Exit HECUBA and HELEN.
25
26 AULIS
27
28 POLYMESTOR greets AGAMEMNON.
29
30 POLYMESTOR.
31 King Agamemnon! Leader of the Greek forces!
32 I am one of the escort travelling
33 With your daughter to Aulis and
34 Entrusted with advance news of her arrival.
35 Her mother is with her, safe and well
36 With your baby boy, Orestes, a hardy and comical
37 Little chap who'll make you proud.
38 We had a tough journey, so I left the women
39 Relaxing by a spring and readying themselves
40 To greet you as befits a beloved father, husband and King.
41 Best to get the matter of expenses sorted in advance
42 I'll report to the treasury officer shall I?
43 No need to bother you boss,
44 On the day of your daughter's wedding.
45 I took the liberty of spreading the glad tidings.
46 Quite a crowd's already gathering for

1 A glimpse of Iphigenia! Everyone likes to
2 Gawp at a beautiful celebrity bride.
3 But who's the lucky bridegroom, boss?
4 That's what everyone's wondering as they buy
5 Up my royal wedding memorabilia.
6 I've been taking bets all day.
7 Achilles is this bookie's favourite. Am I right?
8
9 AGAMEMNON.
10 Thank you for your news. Now leave me please.
11
12 POLYMESTOR
13 Right you are, Boss. I'll get the tiresome matter
14 Of my expenses out of everyone's hair now.
15 Just sign here and here and I'll be off.
16 Efficient, prudent, and cost effective, that's me.
17
18 AGAMEMNON (DISTRACTED)
19 Of course, of course,
20 Ask for anything you need.
21
22 POLYMESTOR
23 Most kind, boss. Bless you your majesty.
24 And your royal purse.
25
26 Exit POLYMESTOR
27
28 AGAMEMNON.
29 What is there to say or do
30 In a situation like this?
31 I'm like an animal under the yoke,
32 Chained and shackled!
33 Nothing could be worse
34 Than being caught in a trap with a grip like this.
35 And what in heaven, shall I say to my wife?
36 As if things weren't bad enough, she's made things
37 Far worse by coming here uninvited.
38 But then why wouldn't she?
39 Everyone's expecting a wedding.
40 What mother would not want to see
41 Her daughter dutifully through the ceremonies,
42 To meet her son-in-law, kiss the bride
43 And wish the couple well.
44
45 Enter CLYTEMNESTRA, IPHIGENIA, a NURSE carrying baby Orestes and LUGGAGE
46 ATTENDANTS.

1
2 CLYTEMNESTRA
3 My goodness, what a barren and desolate place;
4 Like a no-man's-land between this world and the next.
5 Just leave the luggage here will you.
6
7 THE ATTENDANTS LEAVE TRUNKS OF CLOTHES ETC AND LEAVE.
8
9 Keep up, Iphigenia! Don't dawdle!
10 Let our troops see their queen
11 And her daughter, side by side,
12 Starved as they are of here of grace and beauty.
13 We govern only with their favour.
14 Smile, wave, glamour must always be royalty's
15 Stock in trade. But look, here is Agamemnon.
16 (TO NURSE) Nurse, take baby out of the sun.
17
18 Exit NURSE.
19
20 IPHIGENIA.
21 I'll race you to be the first
22 To hug him.
23
24 CLYTEMNESTRA.
25 Not yet child! Ceremony first.
26 Curtsy before your royal father.
27 My Lord and Master, godlike Agamemnon,
28 We are here, as you commanded.
29
30 IPHIGENIA.
31 I'm sorry daddy but I must fling
32 My arms around you. I've missed you so much!
33 Mother, don't be angry!
34
35 CLYTEMNESTRA.
36 How could I fail to understand?
37 Of all my children, you've always
38 Loved your father most.
39
40 IPHIGENIA.
41 I'm so happy to see you, daddy. After all this time.
42 But so grim and serious? Aren't you pleased to see me?
43
44 AGAMEMNON.
45 A King ... a General... has many things on his mind.
46

1 IPHIGENIA.
2 Forget it all now. This moment is ours alone.
3
4 AGAMEMNON.
5 Yes, yes. If only that were true.
6 We shall simply be father and daughter then
7 No greater responsibility, for a moment at least.
8
9 IPHIGENIA.
10 Let me smooth away your frowns,
11 Fill your eyes with love!
12
13 AGAMEMNON.
14 They are filled to overflowing.
15
16 IPHIGENIA.
17 But with tears. Silly daddy, there's no cause
18 To cry now. I will look after you.
19
20 AGAMEMNON.
21 We'll be parted all too soon. For a long time.
22
23 IPHIGENIA.
24 What do you mean? Beneath the fine gowns
25 And jewels I'll always be your little sparrow.
26
27 AGAMEMNON.
28 Look away. Unless you'd see your mighty
29 Father weep.
30
31 IPHIGENIA.
32 You have not been taking care of yourself.
33 But that all changes now. Mother and I are here.
34 Don't go to war daddy, the journey to Troy
35 Is long and dangerous. Stay at here at Aulis.
36
37 AGAMEMNON.
38 How I could wish for that!
39
40 IPHIGENIA.
41 Aren't a king's wishes all that matter?
42 Forget cousin Menelaus and his troubles.
43
44 AGAMEMNON.
45 What wouldn't I give to be, once more,
46 As innocent as you? But you must go inside

1 Now, child. It isn't right to be seen in public,
2 Before the ceremony. Oh but kiss me first,
3 Hold me. Soon you'll be gone, far, far away
4 And I cannot bare it.
5 But I must stop dwelling on that...
6 Yet even to touch you
7 Suddenly makes me cry, in spite of myself...
8 Go inside, now.
9
10 CLYTEMNESTRA
11 Do as your father says. Find the servants
12 And settle into the barracks but see
13 You keep to our quarters.
14
15 Exit IPHIGENIA.
16
17 AGAMEMNON
18 I'm sorry for the excess of emotion, my love.
19 The thought of losing our daughter
20 In marriage to Achilles breaks my heart.
21 Such a marriage is a happy prospect, of course
22 But for the parents, and the father particularly,
23 To give his daughter to another man
24 After bringing her up with so much love
25 And care for so long, is painful.
26
27 CLYTEMNESTRA.
28 My darling, I understand. You may be sure
29 I shall feel quite as heartbroken
30 When I hear the wedding hymns and
31 See the royal couple side by side at the altar,
32 On the threshold of their new life.
33 But he is a fine match and there's much to do.
34 Many rituals to perform.
35 Have you made the blood sacrifice to Artemis?
36 To bless this union?
37
38 AGAMEMNON.
39 All is in hand, fear not.
40
41 CLYTEMNESTRA.
42 This is hardly the spot for a wedding celebration.
43 Still we will make the best of it, flowers, incense
44 A sea of smiling well wishers. We can build a pavilion
45 With a view of the ocean. Shelter from the beating sun.
46

1 AGAMEMNON.
2 The sacrifice to the gods must come first.
3 Then, we ... the men ... will honour
4 The bridegroom. Introduce the bride
5 Whilst you... This business need trouble
6 You no further.
7
8 CLYTEMNESTRA.
9 What trouble? This is a mother's business.
10 Such tasks are a long looked for pleasure.
11 And I have another surprise, I brought the baby,
12 Little Orestes.
13
14 AGAMEMNON.
15 To this wilderness? Are you mad?
16 Take him home at once.
17 It will be a military wedding.
18 I shall give away my daughter
19 Before the Greek army. Officers only
20 No place for a woman.
21
22 CLYTEMNESTRA.
23 And where do you imagine I shall I be,
24 Whilst this is going on?
25
26 AGAMEMNON.
27 Back in Greece. Looking after your other children.
28 They need a mother's care. I will not see
29 Their well being neglected. This is a time of war.
30
31 CLYTEMNESTRA.
32 What are you saying? What will people think?
33 How can you imagine I'll miss the ceremony
34 She and I have long dreamt of and planned for?
35 At such a time a bride needs her mother.
36
37 AGAMEMNON.
38 And I tell you your presence is required
39 Back in Greece. For once can you respect
40 My wishes? If a father's will in this business
41 Holds no sway then obey me as your king.
42
43 CLYTEMNESTRA.
44 That is an outrage. Have you lost all
45 Sense of decency and decorum?
46 A wedding without women is unheard of.

1
2 AGAMEMNON.
3 It's an outrage for noble women
4 To be in an army encampment.
5
6 CLYTEMNESTRA.
7 It's a mother's duty to see her daughter married!
8
9 AGAMEMNON.
10 It's her duty to look after her children at home.
11
12 CLYTEMNESTRA.
13 Electra's quite safe, well guarded, amongst friends.
14 And baby takes after his father, hardy little chap -
15
16 AGAMEMNON.
17 By the great god, woman, won't you listen?!
18
19 CLYTEMNESTRA.
20 By the great goddess I will not!
21 And when you are thinking straight
22 You will thank me.
23 A bride needs her mother.
24 You may be high commander out here,
25 But your daughters are my business!
26 Leave our gentle Iphigenia in the sole care of
27 Brutish men of war? What an absurd idea!
28
29 Exit CLYTEMNESTRA and her entourage.
30
31 Enter POLYMESTOR watching Agamemnon.
32
33 AGAMEMNON. (ASIDE)
34 Well, God help me, that little plan
35 Blew up in my face! This terrible business
36 Cannot proceed with my wife here.
37 To command an army is easy
38 Compared to mastering a loving wife.
39 And the more attractive they make themselves
40 The more powerless a husband.
41 She could always twist me around her
42 Little finger, that one.
43 Pleasing her an aphrodisiac.
44 How many men have abandoned
45 Good sense and reason
46 In the clutches of a beautiful woman.

1
2 Exit AGAMEMNON.
3
4 POLYMESTOR
5 I thank the heavens for my mistress.
6 Compliant and powerful. Once captured
7 She bends unquestioningly to satisfy my will.
8 You see, not for me the guiles and gushing
9 Of a woman. Gold is my only passion.
10 A cold bedfellow but a faithful one.
11 Twenty four hours at home with the wife and kids
12 And I'm itching to be off in pursuit again.
13 Do you know, I pity fools who live at the mercy
14 Of Aphrodite, the goddess of love.
15 Sex, like a mosquito bite on the arse,
16 Maddens men with the desire to scratch.
17 I am wise to the ways of Eros her archer.
18 There's two deadly arrows in his quiver
19 Beneath the perfumed golden hair.
20 The first may promise a life of bliss in a woman's arms
21 But the second wound breeds deadly infection,
22 Oozing the pus of heartbreak and despair,
23 Softening the brain as it hardens the cock.
24 You don't believe me? Are you crazy?
25 We're surrounded by an army
26 Galvanised by the theft of one Greek's wife
27 By a sex crazed Trojan dog. With a bone.
28
29 Enter ACHILLES
30
31 ACHILLES.
32 Where is Agamemnon? I demand to see
33 The Supreme Commander of the Greek forces.
34 Who are you?
35
36 POLYMESTOR.
37 I live to serve any with a purse to persuade.
38
39 ACHILLES. (HANDING OVER GOLD)
40 Then take this and with it my message
41 To our esteemed and command-shy leader.
42 Tell him Achilles, issue of Peleus
43 And son of a sea nymph,
44 Desires an immediate audience.
45
46 POLYMESTOR (INDICATING THE AUDIENCE)

1 Would this one do?
2
3 ACHILLES. (NOT AMUSED)
4 Funny! Do you think the current Greek
5 Predicament is amusing? Hanging around
6 Waiting for a wind that never comes to fill our sails
7 And carry us to Troy, with nothing to do but
8 Sunbathe and polish our weapons till they're worn away?
9 It's all right for some with no clear destiny
10 But some of us have glory to pursue.
11
12 POLYMESTOR
13 If I may, boss. Wars seldom run to schedule.
14 Perhaps you might have foreseen this
15 In your rush to reclaim the royal whore.
16
17 ACHILLES
18 Is it so strange the desire for adventure?
19 New lands, new spoils, the glory of battle -
20
21 POLYMESTOR
22 - The exclusive company of sweaty, hairy men.
23 Whose weapon have you been polishing, Prince Achilles?
24
25 ACHILLES.
26 Enough of your impudence! Be thankful
27 My business with the General prevents
28 Me giving you a good whipping. You've been paid
29 Now convey my frustrations with his lack of action.
30
31 POLYMESTOR
32 Got it, Boss. You insist the King
33 Changes the weather.
34
35 ACHILLES
36 You are very annoying!
37
38 POLYMESTOR
39 It's been said before.
40
41 ACHILLES.
42 It is Achilles who commands you. Achilles!
43 Does my lineage mean nothing to you?
44
45 POLYMESTOR.
46 We Thracians are more impressed

1 By a man's purse than his curriculum vitae.
2
3 ACHILLES.
4 Isn't that a Latin term?
5
6 POLYMESTOR
7 It's all Greek to me.
8
9 ACHILLES.
10 But I catch your drift. If that coin I gave you
11 Craves company you'll convey my displeasure
12 To his majesty with the ferocity I've expressed it.
13
14 POLYMESTOR.
15 What's the protocol around here?
16 Do they shoot the messengers?
17
18 ACHILLES
19 Go!
20
21 Exit POLYMESTOR
22
23 Enter CLYTEMNESTRA.
24
25 CLYTEMNESTRA.
26 Forgive me, my Lord but I heard you
27 Call your name. I could not resist coming
28 To say hello.
29
30 ACHILLES.
31 I.... I.... forgive me, Madam. I have grown
32 Used to the company of men. A beautiful woman,
33 Particularly a stranger. Disquiets me.
34 I will respectfully leave you to your business.
35
36 CLYTEMNESTRA.
37 Thank you for such blushing deference.
38 My daughter I know will be quite charmed.
39 You obviously don't know who I am.
40 How could you? We've never met.
41
42 ACHILLES.
43 No tricks. I know your type.
44
45 CLYTEMNESTRA
46 And what type is that?

1
2 ACHILLES
3 A woman with business
4 In an army camp.
5
6 CLYTEMNESTRA.
7 I am Leda's daughter. Clytemnestra is my name.
8 King Agamemnon is my husband.
9
10 ACHILLES.
11 I... I... forgive me highness. I had no idea...
12 I... My shame stings like an adder bite.
13 Please excuse me. I have business I must -
14
15 CLYTEMNESTRA.
16 Wait! Don't run away. What more pressing
17 Business can you have then your marriage to
18 My daughter?
19
20 ACHILLES.
21 Marriage to your... What are you talking about?
22 Is this a riddle, some sort of test?
23 You mock me, my lady.
24
25 CLYTEMNESTRA.
26 You're embarrassed. It's understandable
27 Who does not quail when they first meet
28 Their in-laws? But I hope we can be friends.
29
30 ACHILLES.
31 Madam, I don't know what you've been told.
32 I've never even met your daughter.
33 Perhaps you're exhausted after your journey?
34
35 CLYTEMNESTRA.
36 You know nothing of marriage to my daughter?
37
38 ACHILLES.
39 I swear to you.
40
41 CLYTEMNESTRA
42 I don't understand. My husband summoned us.
43 The message was you would marry her.
44
45 ACHILLES.
46 A fact no one has seen fit to share with me.

1
2 CLYTEMNESTRA.
3 But why would he - ?
4
5 ACHILLES.
6 Wait, wait. Let us think this through.
7 This is politics. Not my area I'll admit.
8 In my experience such skulduggery
9 Ends with important throats cut.
10
11 Enter POLYMESTOR
12
13 CLYTEMNESTRA.
14 It seems I have been made a fool of. Travelling
15 For days to celebrate a non-existent marriage.
16 How could my husband treat me like this?
17 Why would he -
18
19 ACHILLES.
20 He's not one for practical jokes
21 We know that.
22
23 CLYTEMNESTRA.
24 This is to humiliating. I have been made to
25 Look a fool. Please excuse me. I find it hard
26 To face you after my gullibility.
27
28 ACHILLES.
29 Madam. Fear not. There will be some
30 Simple explanation. A misunderstanding.
31 But you are right. Let us not prolong
32 This embarrassing encounter.
33 I wish you better fortunes.
34
35 POLYMESTOR
36 Sir ... Madam, a moment please.
37
38 ACHILLES.
39 Not you again. Go away. This is not the time
40 For your extortions.
41
42 POLYMESTOR.
43 (TO CLYTEMNESTRA)
44 Your Majesty, I am but a humble trader from Thrace
45 But you know my loyalty to you and your daughter,
46 My service on your long journey here to Aulis.

1
2 CLYTEMNESTRA
3 I have never had cause to question it. Speak freely.
4
5 ACHILLES.
6 We're waiting. If you've anything to say, say it.
7
8 POLYMESTOR
9 And my loyalty's to you, Ma'am, more than your husband.
10
11 ACHILLES.
12 This merchant knows something. Something important.
13
14 CLYTEMNESTRA.
15 Speak out then. If you've some secret information . . .
16
17 POLYMESTOR
18 A loose tongue is expensive. And believe me
19 You'll want to hear what I have to tell.
20
21 CLYTEMNESTRA pays him. ACHILLES reluctantly.
22
23 I approached the king with your message,
24 Prince Achilles, as you instructed
25 But he paid me no heed.
26 He and his cousin Menelauous
27 Sought audience with Calchas
28 The soothsayer.
29 I could not help but overhear -
30
31 ACHILLES.
32 Of course you couldn't.
33 Your kind never can.
34 Out with it, peasant or must I
35 Rip your secrets from you.
36
37 POLYMESTOR.
38 My Queen, your daughter...
39 Her own father...
40 He plans to kill her!
41
42 CLYTEMNESTRA.
43 What! May you choke on such lies, are you mad?
44
45 POLYMESTOR
46 He'll cut her poor white throat

1 With a sacrificial knife.
2
3 CLYTEMNESTRA.
4 God help me! My husband!
5 Is the man insane?
6
7 POLYMESTOR.
8 He's sane enough, except when it comes to your daughter.
9
10 CLYTEMNESTRA.
11 Why would he possibly do such a thing?
12
13 POLYMESTOR.
14 The gods demand it, the soothsayer insists.
15 Their price for a wind to fill Grecian sails.
16
17 CLYTEMNESTRA.
18 So that...? I'm his wife! How could he even - ?
19 She's his daughter!
20
21 POLYMESTOR.
22 Not a great consideration it would seem
23 When a victory over Troy is at stake.
24
25 CLYTEMNESTRA.
26 So must my Iphigenia die to recover Helen?
27
28 POLYMESTOR.
29 That appears to be the plan.
30 Her father will sacrifice your child to Artemis.
31
32 CLYTEMNESTRA.
33 This whole marriage was a lie?
34 A trick to lure us here. A trap?
35
36 POLYMESTOR.
37 Honestly though... would you have come otherwise?
38
39 ACHILLES.
40 Hold your tongue!
41
42 CLYTEMNESTRA.
43 My daughter! What have I done?
44 I've brought you to your doom.
45 Served you up to these cannibals like -
46 I cannot bear to think on it.

1
2 POLYMESTOR.
3 It is horrible. My condolences.
4 She was... is such a sweet little thing.
5 (TO ACHILLES) You'd have liked her, boss
6 Everybody did... does.
7
8 CLYTEMNESTRA.
9 Shut up, shut up! This is agony...
10 I can't stay here... I must...
11
12 POLYMESTOR.
13 It's alright, have a good cry. No one would blame you.
14
15 CLYTEMNESTRA. (TO ACHILLES)
16 Do you hear, son of Peleus, born of Thetis?
17 Do you hear this infamy? This disgrace to both our houses?
18 They have played me for a fool and used you
19 As bait to ensnare an innocent child.
20 I'm not ashamed to fall on my knees,
21 To beg if I have to. At this moment
22 I am a mother not a queen.
23 Fight for us, Prince Achilles, we have no one else.
24 Defend the honour of your bride,
25 For your bride she would have been.
26
27 ACHILLES.
28 A true born son of my father's house, with the
29 Blood of the immortals. I could take my pick,
30 In heaven or on earth. Male or female.
31
32 CLYTEMNESTRA
33 Of course. But -
34
35 ACHILLES
36 It is you who must dissuade your husband
37 From this barbaric act.
38
39 CLYTEMNESTRA.
40 But what if I don't succeed?
41 The most likely outcome will be my banishment.
42 Who will protect my little girl, then?
43 Or correct those who say
44 You turned your back on us?
45
46 ACHILLES.

1 A good point. I am persuaded.
2 The father shall not kill the daughter.
3 I swear it. For who would Achilles be then?
4 A worm who could not defend his wife?
5 The world would regard me as lower
6 Then Menelaus, he'd be a hero compared to me.
7
8 CLYTEMNESTRA.
9 How can I find the words to thank you?
10 Praise enough for your wisdom and courage?
11
12 ACHILLES
13 It is the insult, your husband's
14 Grave insult, that truly irks me.
15 I've never been part of the inner circle,
16 The Atreus pack. That rats' nest of sycophants,
17 Cuckolds and child killers who rule us.
18 No offence.
19
20 CLYTEMNESTRA WAVES THIS AWAY.
21
22 I'll teach them to take my loyalty for granted.
23 Madam, I serve at your command.
24 You and your daughter.
25
26 CLYTEMNESTRA
27 Say the word and I will summon
28 Her to grovel in gratitude
29 At your feet. Although of course that would
30 Not be seemly and expose us to more
31 Negative attention.
32
33 ACHILLES.
34 No, I... that won't be necessary.
35 The lads will laugh at us as it is
36 Once this Thracian starts to sell his tale.
37
38 POLYMESTOR.
39 What can I say? People pay, I sing!
40
41 ACHILLES.
42 And there'll be plenty of takers.
43 A thousand men with nothing to do
44 But bitch, cackle and gossip like fishwives.
45 Time enough for better balladeers
46 To sing of my glories. You need trouble

1 Yourself no further with elaborate praise.
2 I know my own worth.
3
4 CLYTEMNESTRA.
5 Then accept a simple thank you.
6 When we are sure of our ground
7 I will send this Thracian with word.
8 Now I must find a way to convince
9 My daughter of her father's true colours.
10
11 ACHILLES.
12 May the gods honey that bitter news.
13
14 Exit ACHILLES and CLYTEMNESTRA separately.
15
16 POLYMESTOR.
17 Well, I'm not missing this.
18 There'll be much demand
19 For the juicy detail.
20
21 POLYMESTOR exits after CLYTEMNESTRA.
22
23 Enter MENELAUS and AGAMEMNON
24
25 MENELAUS
26 Cousin, for once be the leader we elected
27 And do not waiver at the god's cruel command.
28
29 AGAMEMNON
30 But Apollo help me, is there no way out of this?
31 I am the most powerful yet powerless of Greeks.
32 I cannot even weep for fear men will think me weak.
33 Yet what kind of man am I that doesn't howl to the heavens
34 At the thought of what I'm asked to do?
35 The gods have shackled me tighter than any slave,
36 Would I had never been born into nobility.
37 What shepherd's son ever wrestled with his conscience
38 As I'm asked to do? How I envy you and others
39 The simple freedom to love and nurture
40 Wife and children.
41
42 MENELAUS
43 You disgust me, do you know that?
44 I didn't ask you take this command.
45 I was ready to step up and take responsibility
46 For my own wayward wife. The alliance

1 Would have followed me in time
2 But you began your campaign of arse licking
3 And palm greasing the generals.
4 And because I could not keep
5 A woman they thought me a joke
6 And elected you.
7
8 AGAMEMNON.
9 That's not the way it was.
10
11 MENELAUS
12 Yet, just when we need strong leadership
13 You become vapour before our eyes.
14 "There's nothing I can do" you wail.
15 "Nothing I can tell them".
16
17 AGAMEMNON.
18 I cannot control the weather!
19 It is not in my power.
20 The wind does not blow if I tell it to.
21 Full sails are not at my behest.
22
23 MENELAUS.
24 They are if you make the sacrifice.
25
26 AGAMEMNON.
27 You mean kill my own daughter,
28 My beloved child? Pull her head back
29 By the hair and slice open her throat
30 So she bleeds over some filthy alter stone.
31 Is that what you ask of me?
32
33 MENELAUS
34 Your revulsion is understandable
35 But let reason conquer sentiment.
36 This is not about one father and daughter.
37 There is a bigger picture, this is because
38 We must triumph or the world will laugh at us.
39
40 AGAMEMNON
41 As they laugh at you, you mean?
42 This war isn't for some great cause.
43 This war is because you could not keep a wife!
44 And I will not sacrifice my flesh and blood
45 To make it happen.
46

1 MENELAUS
2 There we have it.
3 Why don't you shout for all to hear?
4 Then we'll both be a laughing stock.
5 Who will they say has the limpest manhood?
6 Me, who could not satisfy a Spartan slut
7 Or you, who hasn't the stomach to finish what he started.
8 It's Greece I feel sorry for.
9 She heeded your call to fight for decency and honour
10 And you leave her flat on her back
11 In this god forsaken harbour with her skirts in the air
12 Because the going got rough.
13 Do you know what the men are saying?
14 The deadliest of rumours.
15 They say you're an unlucky leader. Cursed.
16 That it's the gods' lack of faith in you
17 That's led them to maroon us here.
18 Lately I've lost the will to defend you.
19 My own flesh and blood.
20 That is if you truly are of our house.
21 Can we even be sure of that when
22 You stand there with your heart in your hands,
23 Too lily livered to seize this reprieve from the gods.

24
25 AGAMEMNON.
26 The day she was born
27 My father stormed
28 He'd been denied a grandson
29 But I could not share the disappointment.
30 I walked on air for weeks, grinning like a fool
31 Because she was so beautiful.
32 When I returned home a lion,
33 Bloody and battle weary
34 I'd turn to a lamb as she'd toddle
35 On uncertain feet to welcome me home,
36 Uncompromising brutality
37 Banished at the sight of some
38 Childish drawing she'd made
39 Or news of ducklings and gingerbread.
40 Even the rebellion of adolescence
41 Never curbed our friendship and
42 Her compassion and simplicity
43 Were my haven from the world's hypocrisy
44 And double dealing.
45 And you offer me the chance
46 To greet her on her wedding morning

1 With a knife beneath my cloak.
2 Pull away from her embrace
3 And freeze her joy with an iron glare,
4 Watch her face turn from confusion
5 To fear. The very man that was blessed
6 With her protection transformed from
7 Father to fiend. Her greatest love
8 Changed to her darkest nightmare.
9 Do you imagine me capable of stepping aside
10 To have her dragged by rough hands
11 To the sacrificial stone, watching passively
12 As her throat is slit open or worse
13 Wielding the knife myself, elbow deep
14 In the blood of my own child.
15 Is that the chance offered to me?
16 Infanticide, infamy, and eternal hatred
17 Of the mother of my children?
18 You consider the recovery of your slut
19 Worth all that? In the shock of the prophet's
20 Revelation I agreed. Iphigenia was sent for
21 But I see no dishonour in now saying
22 I will not sanction her murder.

23
24 MENELAUS.
25 Forgive me. You must not do it,
26 You're right, What honour could there be
27 In a victory won at such cost?
28 Disband the army, Send them home,
29 From this god forsaken place.
30 Men will see this change of heart and mind
31 Is not cowardice or weakness but
32 A bid to regain the compassion
33 And humanity that bitch of a wife
34 Stole from me. But why do your brows knit
35 Your hands tremble? Can't you find it
36 In your heart to forgive me?

37
38 AGAMEMNON.
39 The trouble is...
40 We have come too far.
41 I have no alternative left.
42 I must kill her.

43
44 MENELAUS.
45 No! What? Why? Pretend this awful
46 Burden was never placed on our family.

1 Forget the words were ever spoken.
2
3 AGAMEMNON.
4 But Calchas will not stay silent
5 She will cry weakness at my rejection of her council.
6
7 MENELAUS.
8 Soothsayers! Charlatans. No use to man or beast.
9 Say the word and she's snuffed out.
10
11 AGAMEMNON.
12 Odysseus, of Sisyphus' clan,
13 He knows of the prophesy too.
14
15 MENELAUS.
16 So what? He can be made to see reason.
17 He'd never side against our house.
18
19 AGAMEMNON.
20 Can you be sure of that?
21 He's crafty, ambitious and popular.
22 He'll stand up in front
23 Of the whole army, and explain every detail
24 Of the prophecy, and how I agreed
25 To make the sacrifice then changed my mind.
26 Imagine the passion, flare and relish with
27 Which he'll make the historic speech.
28 Inciting a coup, the whole army against
29 The Atreus clan. And don't pretend
30 There aren't plenty who'll love to stick the knife in.
31 No, cousin, I have no choice but
32 To grit my teeth and see this through.
33 There is no alternative.
34 I must murder my sweet girl.
35
36 Enter CLYTEMNESTRA and NURSE.
37
38 Ah, my love, I was about to send for you.
39 There is something you need know.
40 I hoped to spare you until time had put
41 Some distance between us and events
42 But as you have thrown yourself into the eye
43 Of the storm I have no option but
44 To be completely honest with you.
45
46 CLYTEMNESTRA.

1 Oh, do not think it will be that easy.
2 You will stand before your daughter,
3 Look her in the eye, not me
4 When you unburden your heart.
5
6 AGAMEMNON.
7 My words are not for her ears. Not yet.
8
9 CLYTEMNESTRA
10 (To NURSE)
11 Send the girl out here. Tell her, her father
12 Is waiting and everything is prepared
13 For his offering to the gods.
14 And her bring her baby brother too,
15 Let's make it a family occasion.
16 After all she'll want to hold him for
17 The last time.
18
19 Exit NURSE
20
21 AGAMEMNON.
22 What is this?
23
24 IPHIGENIA enters, with the NURSE carrying the baby ORESTES.
25
26 AGAMEMNON.
27 You are pale, my little princess.
28 What's this? No blood in your cheeks
29 For your father? No smile for me?
30 Why don't you wait in my tent
31 While I talk to your mother?
32 Then we'll see if those cinnamon cakes -
33
34 CLYTEMNESTRA.
35 Dear gods! Must we play out this farce?
36 One question, husband.
37 Answer it like a man, if you dare.
38
39 AGAMEMNON.
40 Don't give me orders!
41 What will the men think?
42
43 CLYTEMNESTRA.
44 Your daughter. My daughter. Are you going to kill her?
45
46 AGAMEMNON.

1 Am I what? What an appalling question,
2 What on earth put such a thought in your head?
3 Run along now Iphigenia, your mother's
4 Had a little too much sun.
5
6 CLYTEMNESTRA.
7 Just answer me, you old goat;
8 I can't put it more simply.
9
10 AGAMEMNON.
11 Well, ask a sensible question,
12 You'll get an honest answer...
13
14 CLYTEMNESTRA.
15 What other question is there? I ask you again.
16 Do you intend to kill your daughter?
17 A simple yes or no will suffice.
18
19 AGAMEMNON.
20 Don't do this. Not in front of the her.
21
22 CLYTEMNESTRA
23 Yes or no?
24 And don't look at your wretched cousin!
25 Look at me, answer me.
26 The mother of your children.
27 I'll ask you a third time. Did you
28 Lure us to a trap, lie to us
29 So you could kill your own child
30 In cold blood?
31
32 AGAMEMNON.
33 What on earth has prompted this outburst?
34
35 CLYTEMNESTRA.
36 Incredible, my homicidal husband
37 Is also a halfwit? We know, you fool!
38 We know everything!
39
40 AGAMEMNON.
41 How did you - ?
42
43 CLYTEMNESTRA
44 As if that matters! Is that really the
45 Conversation you'd like to have now?
46 "How did we find out?! I'm your wife!

1 This is the daughter who's besotted you
2 For 16 years!
3
4 AGAMEMNON.
5 What use are words? Why add to the
6 Awfulness of this moment? I can't -
7 I won't pile more ignominy on
8 The horror of this situation.
9
10 CLYTEMNESTRA.
11 You coward, you worm, you scum of the earth.
12 Nothing to say? You'll leave the ranting to me will you?
13 Pretend you've nothing to answer for
14 So I'm the nagging wife. The harridan. The harpy.
15 You're the iron willed man of stoic reason.
16 Do you think you'll find a few words
17 When you cut our daughter's throat
18 Before the baying Greek army?
19 Will you hold her lifeless corpse
20 In your blood splattered arms
21 As you urge the lads on to glory?
22 Or will you let her drop to the floor
23 And just step over her where she lies
24 Bleeding into the dust?
25 Do let me know, when you return home victorious.
26 That's if the gods ever permit such an abomination.
27 Perhaps you'll prepare a little victory speech
28 On the voyage back. An uplifting
29 History of your daring. You'll picture
30 Delivering it to your adoring subjects
31 Before your loving wife and children run
32 To your arms, quite forgetting your
33 Cold, carefully planned murder of their sister.
34 Anything to say yet? No? Shall I go on?
35 Is it for me, the gullible, trusting wife
36 To point out the realities her brilliant husband
37 Has failed to see in his rush to drag his child
38 To the sacrificial block?
39 You disgrace to Greece and the office you hold.
40 Call yourself a man? A real man
41 Would have dismissed the very idea of this atrocity.
42 Stood proud and wise and strong and insisted
43 That if such madness were to prevail lots be drawn
44 To determine whose daughter would die.
45 At least then you would have displayed a sliver
46 Of leadership, you gutless, miserable fraud.

1 "Let Menelaus kill his own daughter"
2 You could have said. "After all this whole stinking business
3 Is his fault not my innocent, adoring Iphigenia."
4 But you didn't say that did you? Why not?
5 Why didn't you say that, husband?
6 Worried it might have put a dampener
7 On the lovers' reunion? Sullied Helen's return
8 To your cousin's bed? Or did you simply fear
9 You'd look weak? This atrocity you propose
10 Isn't strength, it's the grossest betrayal of -
11 I could... I...
12 You have done this. You have done something
13 I would never have thought possible.
14 With this one act you have made me
15 Hate you with every fibre of my being.
16 You have shamed and betrayed my trust,
17 Our marriage and our children. Speak up!
18 Tell me if anything I've said is untrue.
19 I have no words left. What else is there to say?
20 Except to beg you. Let her slip away, unharmed
21 And perhaps one day we can dismiss
22 Your unspeakable plan as the insanity of war.

23
24 IPHIGENIA.
25 They say Orpheus sang so beautifully
26 That even the rocks and stones danced.
27 Oh how I wish that were me;
28 I know such sweet music could charm you
29 Father and persuade you of my love.
30 But all I have are tears, no poetry
31 But the simple words and foolishness
32 Of one who's known so little of the world.
33 Great ones honour you with garlands
34 But all I have to throw around your neck
35 Are my arms. It is not enough
36 I know it is not enough, I shame you.
37 I shame my mother, I shame myself
38 When I question your plans for me.
39 But I am so frightened, Father
40 Please help to stem my fears
41 As you once did, long ago
42 When you'd bring a lamp to my bedside
43 And hold me until the monsters melted away.
44 Must I be lost to that same darkness now?
45 Swallowed up by the very shadows you
46 Once drove from the corners of my room.

1 Why are you banishing me from the sunlight
2 To live like a shade, friendless and alone
3 In the desolate wastelands of the dead?
4 Did I disappoint you father, your first child
5 The first to sit on your knee and pull at your beard.
6 “How I’ll weep” you once told me “how I’ll weep
7 On the day I hand you over to a fine strong husband
8 And no longer hear the sound of your laughter
9 Around these great halls.” I made you a promise,
10 Don’t you remember? “We shall never be parted,
11 Father” I’d say. “You shall come and live with me
12 And I will take care of you as you’ve always
13 Loved and protected me.” Didn’t you believe me?
14 Is that why you deliver me, not to a husband
15 But to a cold and lonely grave?
16 You are more than my father, you are my god,
17 My end and my beginning, my everything.
18 Don’t let me pass from the sunlight
19 Into the frozen tundra of death
20 Not knowing how I failed you, if I can make amends
21 Give me a chance to win back your love.
22 Or if I cannot persuade you,
23 Soften that heart I’ve hardened
24 And open your arms to me, one last time.
25 But I see my foolishness embarrasses you.

26
27 TO THE BABY ORESTES.

28
29 Baby brother, do not fail our father
30 As I have done. Make it your business to understand
31 My short comings as I do not,
32 So you need never forfeit all I’ve lost.
33 Won’t you cry for me? I’m so wretched,
34 So frightened, why do you look
35 Up at me with such defiant eyes?
36 Do you sense there’s evil here, too?
37 Don’t give into it father! Please, please
38 I beg you, do not slaughter me
39 Like just another sacrificial beast.
40 I am too young, too young
41 For death’s bleak journey.

42
43 CLYTEMNESTRA
44 By all the gods, come to your senses, Husband,
45 I have seen you pardon runaways and thieves
46 When their words have touched you.

1 Your own child, your first born, begs for pity now.
2 Have you no compassion, no shame?
3 How can you stand there, flint for a heart?
4
5 AGAMEMNON.
6 Flint? Is that what you think?
7 I am all compassion, all pity.
8 Shame and heartbreak rack me,
9 Misery gnaws me to the core.
10 I have loved you all 'til love is all I am.
11
12 CLYTEMNESTRA
13 Then why!? Stop this! Now.
14 No one forces you to this crime
15 Against humanity.
16
17 AGAMEMNON
18 No one force... Have you no understanding
19 Of where we are? Why I must do this?
20 Oh, the naivety of women.
21
22 CLYTEMNESTRA
23 Don't you think women understand
24 Sacrifice, patriotism, lust for conquest?
25 We feel them too.
26
27 AGAMEMNON
28 Do you?
29
30 CLYTEMNESTRA
31 Of course! But the difference is
32 A moment later we realise it's idiocy.
33
34 AGAMEMNON
35 By the gods! Look woman! A mighty army,
36 An ocean of tents as far as the eye can see,
37 Thousands upon thousands of men
38 Who were lured here with promise of glory,
39 Whose frustration with me
40 Calluses over with deeper and darker rage
41 As everyday passes, like a ravenous lion
42 That will be satisfied.
43
44 CLYTEMNESTRA
45 Why are you talking to me?
46 Look your daughter in the eye

1 And tell her why you value
2 Popularity more than her life.
3
4 AGAMEMNON
5 It is not a question of popularity...
6 (TO IPHIGENIA)
7 My angel, little sparrow,
8 Look at me... look at me now.
9 (SHE CAN'T)
10 I am your father, I say look at me!
11 (SHE DOES)
12 What I must ask of you today...
13 Ye Gods! Has any father had to find such words?
14 Daddy has gathered a huge army here,
15 Our business is vital to the future of Greece.
16 We must avenge a great injustice.
17 If we do not our name will be ridiculed for eternity.
18 Every man here is sworn to fight to the death
19 To ensure that never happens
20 And I must ask you to play your part.
21 You must trust me when I say that
22 Your future is not one of punishment,
23 Loneliness, cold and the darkness.
24 I offer you glory at the table of the gods.
25 Wouldn't you like that, to sit with the gods?
26
27 IPHIGENIA
28 No thank you, Father.
29 Please can I just go home
30 And play with the baby?
31
32 AGAMEMNON
33 You are not a child any more
34 You are old enough to understand
35 You are a princess and many people
36 Are affected by your actions.
37 A great many people.
38
39 IPHIGENIA
40 And they all want me to die?
41 Why? What did I do to them?
42
43 AGAMEMNON
44 No one wants you to die!
45 What is asked of you is that
46 You make a great sacrifice.

1 I want you to leave us today
2 And wait for mother, Electra, baby and I
3 To join you in heaven. You will
4 Not have to wait long. It will pass
5 In a heartbeat and we shall
6 All be together again.
7 I shall stand with you as you pass
8 Between the two worlds;
9 There will be no pain, I'll see to that.
10 It will be as if you've fallen
11 Asleep in my arms as you've done
12 So many times before.
13
14 IPHIGENIA
15 And everyone wants me to do this?
16
17 AGAMEMNON
18 You would be fighting for your country.
19 No hero, mortal or immortal braver,
20 Your name would be praised for centuries to come.
21
22 IPHIGENIA
23 I should not like that,
24 I'm shy, father.
25
26 AGAMEMNON.
27 Do you see daddy's waiting army?
28 Do you see all the ships ready for invasion?
29 Think of all the great commanders,
30 All the mountains of polished weaponry,
31 All the men trained to the peak of fitness.
32 They cannot remain this battle-ready for ever.
33 They hunger to bring the arrogant city
34 Of Troy, crashing to the ground.
35 Put its liars, thieves, and decadents to the sword.
36 Ours are not easy troops to keep in order,
37 There is a terrible energy simmering
38 As they wait month after month
39 For wind to carry them to the glory
40 I've promised and cannot deliver.
41 I fear even a few more days frustration
42 Will bring mutiny, too many of our
43 Enemies know the gods promise swift
44 And safe passage to battle if I,
45 We, you, make this sacrifice.
46 Without it they will turn on our family

1 And pursue our flight. No one will be safe.
2 Your mother, your father, your little brother
3 And sister, our whole household,
4 Everyone you've ever known or cared for
5 Will be hacked to pieces. There is no way
6 Back to the carefree sunlight.
7 Your options are all too clear
8 Lone sacrifice and glory, or a terrible death
9 Amidst the screams and pleading
10 Of everyone you love. In honour of all
11 We've been to each other, I ask you to
12 Consider how desperate the situation
13 Must be for me to ask this of you.

14
15 Exit AGAMEMNON.

16
17 CLYTEMNESTRA. (CALLING AFTER HIM)
18 How dare you! How dare you
19 Manipulate your own child
20 With this poison? You are an abomination
21 Of the very word "father".

22
23 IPHIGENIA.
24 Why, why was Helen stolen?
25 Why must it matter so?
26 What are all these men doing here?
27 Why do they long for killing?
28 Why won't the gods
29 Fill the sails unless I die?
30 Why this curse on poor father's head?
31 What did I ever do to deserve this?

32
33 CLYTEMNESTRA
34 Nothing, nothing, my love.
35 You are barely 16, there
36 Has been nothing in your short
37 And quiet life to justify this.

38
39 FX: MOB
40
41 What's that noise?

42
43 IPHIGENIA.
44 Mummy, there's someone running this way!

45
46 CLYTEMNESTRA.

1 It's Achilles, the man we thought your husband.
2
3 IPHIGENIA.
4 No! Let me hide my red and tearful face.
5
6 CLYTEMNESTRA.
7 You will not hide, you will bear the
8 Misery of your father's treachery for
9 All to see.
10
11 IPHIGENIA.
12 I'm so embarrassed,
13 The mighty Achilles, just bait
14 To draw me here. Does he know?
15 I can't face him.
16
17 CLYTEMNESTRA.
18 You must, you must swallow your fears.
19 He's our only hope.
20
21 Enter ACHILLES.
22
23 ACHILLES.
24 Where is the king? The troops are rioting.
25
26 CLYTEMNESTRA.
27 Oh I'm sure it's just sudden high spirits.
28
29 ACHILLES.
30 It's your daughter, they say...
31
32 CLYTEMNESTRA.
33 God help us, what?
34
35 ACHILLES.
36 That she must be killed.
37
38 CLYTEMNESTRA.
39 But we have friends. Does no one speak up for her?
40
41 ACHILLES.
42 I tried. My words were met with jeers
43 And stones.
44
45 CLYTEMNESTRA.
46 Because you tried to talk them round?

1
2 ACHILLES.
3 Yes.
4
5 CLYTEMNESTRA.
6 They wouldn't dare to lay hands on you.
7
8 ACHILLES.
9 They would and they have.
10 It's like the whole restless army
11 Bays for blood sacrifice.
12
13 CLYTEMNESTRA.
14 Weren't the Myrmidons there?
15 Our cousins.
16
17 ACHILLES.
18 Madam, they are the worst.
19
20 CLYTEMNESTRA.
21 (TO IPHIGENIA)
22 My darling, I fear there's no way back.
23
24 ACHILLES.
25 They accused me of betrayal. Bribed with
26 A royal wedding.
27
28 CLYTEMNESTRA.
29 How did you answer?
30
31 ACHILLES.
32 I told them I would kill any man
33 Who laid a finger on my wife!
34
35 CLYTEMNESTRA.
36 Oh thank you, thank you!
37
38 ACHILLES.
39 I will have the bride that was promised me.
40
41 CLYTEMNESTRA.
42 Of course, it would be
43 An insult to you if -
44
45 ACHILLES.
46 They will not hear reason.

1 They shouted me down.
2 But don't worry.
3 I pledged you my allegiance
4 And I am not afraid.
5
6 CLYTEMNESTRA.
7 You bravely stand, one man against an army.
8 The gods will shower you in glory for this.
9
10 ACHILLES.
11 The whole world will learn
12 I am not to be disregarded.
13
14 CLYTEMNESTRA.
15 They will. No one will dare sacrifice her.
16
17 ACHILLES.
18 Not while I've strength and breath
19 To defend her.
20
21 CLYTEMNESTRA.
22 Their impudence will wither.
23
24 ACHILLES.
25 There are thousands of them,
26 Their passion stirred by Odysseus
27 No friend to your family.
28
29 CLYTEMNESTRA
30 The child murderer!
31
32 ACHILLES.
33 He'll get what he deserves.
34
35 CLYTEMNESTRA.
36 If they try to drag her away
37 What shall I do?
38
39 ACHILLES.
40 Hang on to her tightly!
41
42 CLYTEMNESTRA.
43 My arms will never let her go.
44
45 ACHILLES.
46 Who knows, that may be our best hope.

1
2 CLYTEMNESTRA
3 If her father would only -
4
5 IPHIGENIA.
6 Mother, do not rail at father,
7 He is in an impossible position.
8 His burden is unbearable.
9 I made a promise once to protect him
10 And I will not go back on it
11 And see him stripped of command,
12 Even lose his life, because I
13 Proved unworthy of our name.
14 Neither must this kind prince
15 Risk his reputation by defending
16 A cowardly girl.
17 I must take up the challenge the gods
18 Have thrown me. My surrender
19 With dignity and courage buys glory
20 For our whole nation. I am so inconsequential,
21 A small sacrifice for our dynasty to make.
22 I do it willingly. Please let us not
23 Sully the one thing I can offer to save
24 My country from disgrace and my family
25 From destruction.
26 If I bare my throat before the sacrificial knife
27 Our brave troops will ensure no Greek woman
28 Need fear abduction and rape again.
29 We are surrounded by legions prepared
30 To lay down their lives for this cause.
31 What kind of woman would I be
32 If I refused to do the same?
33 The goddess Artemis would have us women
34 Play our part? I will not refuse her.
35 I gladly dedicate my feeble body
36 For the glory of Greece.
37 Let us show Troy that Grecian women
38 Are no one's slaves.
39
40 ACHILLES.
41 Princess, how I wish I could have been your husband.
42 What honour I would have known.
43 Death is a terrible dowry, I would cheat it
44 With all my heart but to do so would dishonour
45 Your greater calling. But let me help you.
46 Anything, anything you need. Just say the word.

1 I will not let them manhandle or mistreat you.
2 I will wait by the alter stone to stop
3 The ceremony if your slightest glance
4 My way signals you cannot continue.
5 No one would blame you if your courage faltered
6 It is a fearful thing to die.
7
8 IPHIGENIA.
9 Not to me, I am beyond fear now,
10 You mustn't die, my friend, nor kill anyone
11 On my account. Leave me now.
12 Let me honour Artemis, as she honours me
13 With a chance to save all Greece.
14
15 ACHILLES.
16 Nevertheless, you may change your mind
17 With cold steel at your throat.
18 I will be ready, sword in hand
19 To defend your right to change your mind.
20
21 PRIESTESSES enter to prepare IPHIGENIA for sacrifice.
22
23 The holy women come from the temple
24 To prepare you. I will leave you now
25 To your deliberation. But I promise,
26 If you proceed, I will be right there
27 When the time comes. Take strength in it.
28
29 Exit ACHILLES
30
31 CLYTEMNESTRA.
32 Who could endure this?
33
34 IPHIGENIA.
35 We must be strong, mother.
36
37 CLYTEMNESTRA.
38 I think my heart will break.
39
40 TO THE PRIESTESSES
41
42 Get your hands off my daughter.
43 I will attend on her myself.
44 Cling to her, never let her go.
45
46 IPHIGENIA.

1 No Mother, that is not the way the people
2 Should see their queen. Beside your fear
3 Will make me tremble at the knife.
4 What chance for a clean cut, a swift death then?
5 See my father waits like a shadow.
6 How I want to greet him with a smile
7 On my face but I lied to the prince.
8 I'm so afraid. So very afraid.
9 Women prepare me for the ceremony.
10 My mother will not join us.
11
12 CLYTEMNESTRA.
13 Don't do this, wait!
14
15 IPHIGENIA.
16 Not tears Mother. Not one!
17
18 CLYTEMNESTRA
19 Impossible.
20
21 IPHIGENIA.
22 Please don't say that.
23 I don't want to cry.
24 I need you to...
25 I want you to promise...
26
27 CLYTEMNESTRA.
28 What is it? Say it. Anything.
29
30 IPHIGENIA.
31 Promise me you won't wear black for me,
32 Or shear your hair in mourning.
33
34 CLYTEMNESTRA.
35 Pretend I never lost a daughter?
36
37 IPHIGENIA.
38 Don't say "lost", not that word.
39 It terrifies me. Promise I won't be
40 Lost in the darkness but remembered,
41 Every day.
42
43 CLYTEMNESTRA.
44 Not an hour will pass when I won't grieve for you.
45
46 IPHIGENIA.

1 No, for then this will be an act of sadness and despair.
2 You must remember how grateful I was
3 For this chance to give all I have for Greece.

4
5 CLYTEMNESTRA.
6 Is that what you'd have me tell
7 Your brothers and sisters?

8
9 IPHIGENIA.
10 Yes, yes. They must never wear black for me.
11 Send them out to play in the sun
12 And shout my name into the wind with joy.
13 That's how I want to be remembered.

14
15 OF THE BABY -
16
17 And this little one. Let me cuddle him one last time.
18 He's too young to remember my face
19 But maybe something of me, a scent,
20 A feeling will find a home in his heart,
21 That he might know a little of me
22 And how much I loved him on the day
23 I had to say goodbye.

24
25 TO THE BABY -
26
27 Little rabbit...
28 You did what you could for your big sister.
29 Look after our mother now. I'm relying on you.
30 Remind her every day of the sweetness
31 That once came from her marriage.
32 Help her forgive our father and come to see
33 It was a noble sacrifice father and daughter
34 Made that far off day on that distant
35 Beach at Aulis.

36
37 CLYTEMNESTRA.
38 Your father, that disgusting, fraud of a coward.
39 My ancestors would spit on him.

40
41 IPHIGENIA
42 Please don't.

43
44 CLYTEMNESTRA.
45 This is it? Goodbye?
46 You can't do this.

1 You can't leave me.
2 I'm your mother!
3
4 IPHIGENIA.
5 Neither of us deserve this.
6
7 SHE LOOKS UP
8
9 The sky is darkening, a gentle longed
10 For breeze begins to lift the smothering
11 Blanket of dust and heat.
12 Powerful winds are gathering.
13 All it takes is a signal.
14 The death of a single girl
15 And a Greek hell on earth will be swept to Troy.
16 I am ready, Father, as you commanded.
17 Ready to sacrifice my life
18 For the good of my family, my country,
19 And women everywhere.
20 Please don't let strangers touch me now.
21 I won't make a fuss, I'll bare my throat
22 Without any fear.
23
24 AGAMEMNON.
25 Warriors of Greece, see how the gods
26 Have blessed my marriage to this woman.
27 See my daughter in all her glory,
28 I could not be prouder of any son.
29 Immaculate in virgin purity she comes
30 Before the gods. No bride for mortal man
31 But a bride to all Greece. See, see how
32 The daughters of The House of Atreus
33 Strengthen and enrich our rule.
34 You are all bridegrooms today
35 And soon the women of Troy
36 Will feel the fervour of a Grecian
37 Wedding night. Brutal our progress
38 Merciless our plunder, the utter
39 Annihilation of Troy, our legacy.
40
41 IPHIGENIA?
42 Mother?
43
44 IPHIGENIA IS LED TO AGAMEMNON AND THEY EXIT.
45
46 CALCHAS THE SOOTHSAYER REMAINS.

1
2 CALCHAS
3 Mighty Queen, we were daughters once,
4 Revered our mothers, our eyes sting
5 To flow like fountains for you here.
6 But all eyes must be dry at the altar.
7 Sing, women from the temple.
8 A hymn for her, chant of her fate
9 In honour of Artemis, the daughter of Zeus.
10 Set more blossoms like jewels in her hair;
11 Cleanse her in the bowls of holy water
12 And dance to honour the goddess.
13 Link hands in circles around the shrine
14 And sacred altar stone in praise.
15 Let all the sons of Greece throughout the camp
16 Be silent. This moment is holy. Let the priest
17 Draw the sacrificial knife.
18 Let barley be sprinkled to purify the flames,
19 As you sing, encircle the altar,
20 Always toward the dawn, according to the ritual.
21 This girl's sacrifice brings salvation
22 To the Greeks, and victory!
23 Take courage now, Agamemnon.
24 Troy's destroyer, lead your army from despair,
25 The blood of this girl will renew the gods' favour
26 And the ships will put to sea at last.
27
28 THE SECOND PRIESTESS RETURNS, POLYMESTOR FOLLOWS.
29
30 SECOND PRIESTESS
31 Clytemnestra, great queen.
32 Do not be afraid for your daughter.
33
34 CLYTEMNESTRA.
35 (INDICATING POLYMESTOR)
36 This man make me shudder with fresh terror.
37 Can there be greater disasters than I already endure?
38 There can be nothing worse.
39
40 SECOND PRIESTESS
41 You don't understand. Something happened.
42
43 POLYMESTOR
44 A miracle! Wonderful! Wonderful!
45
46 CLYTEMNESTRA.

1 Tell me, quickly, girl.
2
3 SECOND PRIESTESS
4 With every ceremony the master of swords
5 Drew the moon dagger from its sheath -
6 A blade flashing so sharp even its gleam
7 Might cut you as it sang through the air.
8 The two warlords Agamemnon and Menelaus
9 Could not bear to watch and stared at the ground,
10 Until every last man followed their lead,
11 As the priest lifted the knife
12 High in the air to be blessed by the twilight.
13 The very air seemed to knot with tension
14 Around us as he took level aim
15 At the girl's, naked, milk white throat.
16 Then, suddenly, something extraordinary
17 Came to pass. A miracle! That is the only word.
18 The blood was spilt but it was not a child's
19 Throat that opened but a young deer.
20 Rejoice, for the goddess spared your child
21 Any suffering, spiriting her to heaven
22 Whole and unharmed, leaving
23 A trembling fawn beneath the knife.
24 So your husband bid me tell you.
25
26 POLYMESTOR
27 He sends word your duty now is to return home
28 And take good care of your son.
29
30 CALCHAS
31 Divine intervention to prevent mortal suffering
32 Is rare. An action the gods reserve
33 Only for those they love beyond all others.
34 Your daughter is honoured indeed.
35 Blessed has been your time with us.
36 You have seen the agony of your daughter's
37 Sacrifice turn to rebirth and light triumph
38 Over darkness.
39
40 POLYMESTOR
41 The army will be ready to embark now.
42 My lord fears it may be some considerable time
43 Before he returns to pay his respects in person.
44 He hopes things go well with you, Majesty.
45
46 CLYTEMNESTRA

1 Lies, all lies to keep me quiet.
2 Religious propaganda and a scheming husband
3 Will never tame the anger of my grief.
4
5 ENTER ACHILLES WITH IPHIGENIA'S BODY
6
7 ACHILLES.
8 Let the whole world bear witness
9 To a wife's duty and a husband's sacrifice.
10 My bride and I are as Titans,
11 Let no one forget
12 The sacrifice that was made here.
13 It was I, Achilles, who allowed it.
14 I made this possible, let no one deny it.
15 Mark with bells and festivals
16 The sacred day when Achilles gave his wife
17 To win a glorious Greek victory.
18
19 END OF SCENE
20
21 In Troy
22
23 Enter POLYMESTOR, HECUBA and HELEN
24
25 POLYMESTOR
26 Hecuba, nimble has been my little craft,
27 Speeding me without rest to warn you.
28 The Greeks are coming, with a massive fleet,
29 To land cavalry divisions and uncounted ranks
30 Of heavy infantry, and assemble
31 A terrible war machine on the plains of Troy,
32 The city sacred to Apollo.
33 On the battle towers of Troy, a whole nation
34 Of Trojans will stand watching,
35 Awestruck, as the war god himself leads the invasion
36 Of bronze shields like mirrored fire from the sea,
37 The rhythmic falls of rank upon rank of disciplined oars,
38 Powering the high prowed troopships
39 With one burning desire driving the machinery of war:
40 That you, Lady Helen, should be dragged,
41 By force, to a grim homecoming.
42 As the columns totter, and the rafters crash
43 And this whole great city is flattened,
44 In the ash of your burned out dreams,
45 You are to understand that rash
46 Actions have fearful consequences,

1 And the fatal price
2 To be paid for leaving a husband.
3
4 HELEN
5 Impudent peasant, do you imagine
6 My noble Lord Paris, his father,
7 The mighty King Priam and mother
8 Here, this great queen Hecuba
9 Are as helpless playthings
10 Powerless against Greek thuggery?
11 Let them come, they'll find defences
12 Sharp and well prepared.
13 Take this message to the dull witted
14 Agamemnon and my boorish husband,
15 The forces of Greece will be sent
16 Packing back to their hovels,
17 Tales between their legs like whipped dogs
18 To drown or swim home through
19 An ocean of Grecian blood.
20
21 Exit HELEN.
22
23 HECUBA
24 (PAYING POLYMESTOR)
25 You have served us well, Merchant of Thrace
26 I imagine you're anxious
27 For the safety of your homeland
28 Before the clamour of war rings through
29 These halls with the stench of blood and sulphur.
30 But I have one more thing to ask of you.
31 My youngest child, the boy, Polydorus.
32 He is but ten years old. Carry him with you
33 To sanctuary. You shall be rewarded well.
34 Take all the gold you need for his protection.
35 Go swiftly by secret channels and cover of darkness.
36 Guard him closely till he can return
37 Safely in triumph or vengeance.
38 Swear by the gods to do this.
39
40 POLYMESTOR
41 By the honour of a Thracian
42 All shall be as you instruct.
43 I swear it.
44
45 HECUBA
46 Then let us prepare for war!

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INTERVAL

Ladies and gentlemen thank you for being such an amazing audience. Join us to find out what happens next in 15 minutes, or if you can't stay, you're welcome to come back another evening for part two. If you are leaving us now, we really need your help to keep this project alive. Please buy a programme or donate £2.50 or more on your way out to ensure we can be back next year.

PART TWO

THE RUINS OF TROY.

CALCHAS:
(WITH COMPANY INTERJECTIONS TBC)

Across the sea it comes like a dark shadow
On the water. The Grecian War Machine.

Troy hears the drums before they see it.
From way out beyond the bay comes the
Relentless hammer of their brutal chorus.

Onwards, Onwards, Death or Glory.

Then as dawn rises the first black smudge
Appears on the horizon, the pilot ship
Announcing the invading force that follows.

Not one after the other but wave after wave
Of ships, disgorge rank upon rank
Of faceless Greek spears and helmets
On to the beaches.

More drums. The blast of horns now,
Long, low bellows of animal fury,
The bass notes to the percussive
Sound of an invading army.

Crunch, crunch, crunch
Marching in perfect, unquestioning precision.

Burning and trampling everything in its path
The Greeks surround the walled city of Troy.

But that masterpiece of military planning

1 Will not yield. Nor does it need to.
2
3 The keenest strategists have ensured
4 Troy can withstand a lifetime of siege.
5
6 There are raids and counter raids,
7 Of course.
8 Skirmishes and champions in combat.
9
10 Although nothing to temp Achilles
11 From his tent where he sulks at the continuing
12 Disrespect of his commanding officers.
13
14 Until the man he loves is killed.
15
16 So he rampages forth in fury.
17
18 But with insufficient strategy.
19 So Trojan bowmen fell him quickly
20 And easily in his unguarded flailing,
21 With a precise and deadly arrow
22 To the heal.
23
24 His death proves as deadly to morale,
25 As the invasion force concede
26 No Greeks has yet to breach the
27 Walls of Troy.
28
29 In the shadow of these towering ramparts,
30 Mighty, impenetrable and magnificent,
31 The Greeks grow weak and sickly.
32
33 Plagued, by mosquitoes and swamp fever
34 The invaders, droop and wither,
35 Starved of food, hope and strategy.
36
37 Finally they limp back to the sea.
38
39 ACHILLES:
40 (WITH COMPANY INTERJECTIONS TBC)
41
42 But they leave a tribute -
43
44 - a towering, rough hewn wooden horse -
45
46 - to honour a city that would not fall.

1
2 What a spectacle. The great gates of Troy
3 Grind open on huge rusted hinges,
4 Reluctant timber coaxed to creaking life
5 As the portal is dragged open by hoards
6 Of laughing children, and the cumbersome
7 Beast is drawn by twelve straining horses
8 Into the city square.
9
10 How ugly the crude carving looks
11 Amidst the delicate filigree of Trojan
12 Archways and turrets. How fitting a symbol
13 Of the barbarism Trojan grace and sophistication
14 Has defeated.
15
16 The city's intoxicated
17 Self-congratulation grows high spirited -
18
19 Then unfocussed -
20
21 Then ugly -
22
23 - Before finally succumbing to belching,
24 Snoring, dreamless, drunken sleep.
25
26 Then the terror begins!
27
28 And it is carnage! Screaming, bleeding,
29 Burning, gut wrenching, carnage
30 As the Greeks' most psychopathic thugs
31 Burst from the belly of the treacherous
32 Wooden stallion.
33
34 Fearless is the ambition of the
35 Greek terrorists as they hack their
36 Way to throw open every city entrance.
37
38 And Agamemnon's crouching army
39 Surges through, smothering
40 A bleary Troy in a suffocating cloud
41 Of death, destruction, fire, mayhem and looting.
42
43 Now the city echoes
44 With the screams of captured women,
45 And the Greek high command bicker about
46 Who deserves to enslave which noble lady,

1 Their eyes still raw from the sight of heroic husbands
2 Butchered like so many squealing swine.
3
4 Lower class girls are tossed to the infantry
5 Who fall on them like ravenous wolves -
6
7 Leaving few pickings for the foot soldiers
8 Who follow, hungry for their own particular
9 Brutish brand of rape, desecration and thuggery.
10
11 Passions are enflamed still further, the news
12 Spreads, that Helen -
13
14 - that treacherous witch, Helen,
15 Whose abandonment of a fine Greek husband
16 For a preening Trojan prince started it all -
17
18 Helen herself has been captured.
19
20 Now she awaits her fate with Troy's remaining royalty,
21 The highborn wives and daughter of
22 A lost generation of noble husbands and fathers.
23
24 They are corralled here before the temple
25 In shivering terror
26
27 - as the old Trojan queen,
28 Hecuba surveys the smouldering, remains of
29 Her city -
30
31 - Once, but no longer
32 The envy of the world.
33
34 HECUBA
35 Do not call this ruin of rubble and despair, Troy.
36 Troy is nothing but a memory now.
37 The wide streets, elegant dwellings,
38 Sun bleached squares, shaded gardens
39 Orchards, libraries and universities
40 Over which my husband ruled are gone.
41 The king and his dream of a beautiful city
42 Have left me, a queen of nothing but rubble,
43 Dust, devastation and despair.
44 It's useless to think of the old life now.
45 Home, family, security and status
46 Servants and subjects, all have been

1 Ripped from the face of the earth
2 Amidst scenes of brutality and sacrilege
3 One would scarce have thought possible.
4 Women of this once proud place
5 Why do you dog my heels, anxious shadows,
6 Do you think your queen can save you now?
7 Any power I had has toppled like the
8 Once proud towers of Priam's vision.
9 Well, let us take comfort in each other while we may.
10 Soon we'll all be shipped off like plunder
11 To every corner of the Greek empire.
12 The cherished wives and daughters
13 Of the great Trojan houses will skivvy and whore
14 For our detested enemies.

15
16 ANDROMACHE
17 No, no! Will they really drag us away?

18
19 HECUBA.
20 I know nothing for certain, Andromache
21 But what can we hope for but the worst?
22 We'll be doled out to whoever
23 Agamemnon sees fit. Or awarded by lottery to
24 Slaving, jeering, brutes who will march us
25 In chains to the bowels of ships,
26 Bound who knows where.

27
28 ALEXIA
29 Oh Troy, you are lost. We all leave you now.
30 And whose misery is greater, the dead,
31 Whose day is passed? Or the living, who must live in slavery?

32
33 ANDROMACHE
34 Alexia, I'm so frightened, look, I'm shaking with terror!
35 What new horror must I suffer?

36
37 PERSIS
38 Is there any decision? No message from the Greeks
39 About the slave allocation? Who'll be master of my grief?

40
41 HECUBA.
42 Treasure these last moments of freedom, Persis.
43 There'll be plenty of time to fret
44 About the future when the worst is revealed.

45
46 HEBE

1 I can't bear it. Who will it be, which lord
2 Of the Greeks will carry me over the sea
3 To Argos, or Pithia, or some bleak island
4 Far, far from Troy.

5

6 HECUBA

7 My sweet Hebe, I have no comfort to offer.
8 And what can I expect? A queen,
9 Half mortal, part divine whose womb
10 Was so blessed with fruitfulness
11 That I bore the first of my beautiful sons
12 When scarcely more than a child myself
13 And the last long into middle age;
14 I shall be made to pick up after Greek brats
15 And carry their piss pots up and down
16 From the nursery until my back breaks
17 And they make me the toothless guard dog
18 Of the privy.

19

20 HEBE

21 Oh the pity of it, the shame!

22

23 ANDROMACHE

24 But look: I can see men hurrying
25 At a brisk march in our direction

26

27 PERSIS

28 What will they tell us? What more horror is to come
29 Now they have butchered our fathers, brothers,
30 Husbands, sons.

31

32 Enter MENELAUS with the SOLDIER

33

34 MENELAUS

35 Hail to this most glorious of days when I shall finally
36 Get my hands on Helen, that sometime wife of mine.
37 Yes, I am the spurned husband, Menelaus,
38 And now I have come to reclaim the Spartan woman -
39 It gives me no pleasure to speak her name -
40 The woman who was my wife. She's been counted
41 Into your temporary prison with the rest
42 Of you Trojan captives. The Greek soldiers,
43 Whose blood and guts have been tested and spent
44 To get her back have voted I might kill her
45 Here on the spot - unless I decide
46 To take her back to our homeland,

1 To Greece, where she can be handed over
2 To the relatives of Greeks who died in battle,
3 To be executed in payment for their sacrifice.
4 Where is she? Bring her out here, drag her
5 By the hair, sticky with dead men's blood,
6 The murderess! And as soon as the wind's
7 In the right quarter, I'll ship her to Greece.

8

9 HECUBA

10 You don't have the strength, you impotent
11 Embarrassment of a man.

12

13 PERSIS

14 Majesty perhaps restraint. In the circumstances.

15

16 HECUBA.

17 (TO MENELAUS) She'll eat
18 You alive as she always did. Those
19 Smouldering looks of hers, perfect breasts,
20 The deadly toss of her hair, that lethal
21 Play of tongue on lips. It took a son
22 Of mine to tame her. You've never been
23 Man enough and you never will be.

24

25 Enter HELEN

26

27 HELEN

28 Menelaus... husband...
29 It is so good to see you after all this time.
30 I have ached for this moment
31 To throw myself, desperate with remorse
32 Upon your celebrated wisdom and compassion.
33 Handsome, brilliant husband.
34 The only man I have ever loved,
35 The gods have been cruel to part us.
36 How we have both suffered.
37 Praise them for their mercy
38 In bringing us together again.
39 Dare I hope all can be as it once was?
40 What have you decided to do with me?
41 Am I to die or can I serve you
42 Some other way, ease your knotted muscles,
43 Take up once more my wifely duties.
44 Sooth away the pain at the gods' betrayal
45 Of our marriage.

46

1 HECUBA
2 Incredible!
3
4 MENELAUS
5 Nothing definite was decided.
6 But the army unanimously
7 Gave your fate to me, your wronged husband.
8
9 HELEN
10 Wronged? Who has been more wronged than I?
11 Even as a child. I was exported, like a commodity,
12 The transaction glorified all Greece.
13
14 MENEALOUS
15 You cuckolded me, humiliated me,
16 You ungrateful Spartan bitch.
17
18 HELLEN
19 So it begins again. All I get is vulgar abuse
20 Instead of the compassion I deserve!
21 When her son, Paris, came to seduce me away from you,
22 That genius of destruction Hecuba gave birth to,
23 You, you spineless idiot,
24 You chose that moment of all moments
25 To leave me and take ship for Crete!
26 Has any wife been left so vulnerable
27 To the mischief of the gods? Consider
28 How I always honoured you yet how quickly I fell
29 For a handsome foreigner, whom I hardly knew.
30 Blame the goddess Aphrodite, not me,
31 The goddess Aphrodite herself was with Paris.
32 Punish her, punish the destructive power
33 Of her spell, the only thing that
34 Tempted me to betrayal.
35 And if you find her guilty,
36 What can you honestly do but forgive me?
37
38 MENELAUS.
39 You were bewitched? Abducted against your will?
40
41 HELEN
42 Yes. Ask the sentries on the walls of Troy,
43 Ask them how many times
44 They caught me lowering my frail body
45 In secret from the battlements here,
46 Or climbing down ropes to reach the ground

1 And fly home to you. But my new lover
2 Kept me by force, made me be his wife!
3 I had no choice. I was raped, not married.
4 My life in Troy was the most abject slavery,
5 Nothing glorious about it. The gods have acted
6 To reunite us. Will you oppose them?
7 Only a fool would dare to do that

8
9 PERSIS
10 Speak up for us now, Hecuba
11 See justice done!

12
13 ALEXIA
14 Show her muddled arguments for what they are,
15 Fluent, but wicked.

16
17 HEBA:
18 She's a despicable woman!

19
20 HELEN
21 Stay out of this!

22
23 HECUBA
24 (TO HELEN) If you had any decency at all
25 You would have come here on your knees
26 Sobbing, and shivering with fear,
27 Prepared to humiliate yourself
28 With every kind of self abasement
29 For the wicked things you have done.
30 Aphrodite made you do it! Pathetic.
31 Admit it. You didn't take much seducing.
32 My son had the sort of looks women run mad for,
33 You were wet with lust the moment you saw him
34 In his exotic Trojan fashions, dripping with gold.
35 Your bleak and bloodless marriage to this whelp
36 Was forgotten in a heartbeat,
37 In your scrabble to follow my beautiful boy
38 To a new life of refinement and luxury in Troy.
39 You couldn't wait to wallow in the perfumed days
40 Of endless wealth, decadence and expense
41 With which you swamped our palaces.
42 You say you were stolen from Greece
43 With spells? What nonsense. Not a watchman
44 Saw a light, not a guard dog barked, so artful
45 Was the stealth with which you slipped away.
46 And then we're to believe in your

1 Desperate attempts to escape
2 From your charmed life in Troy
3 Back to your desolate, worm eaten former home.
4 No one here would have stopped you.
5 Everyone resented you - everyone but my son.
6 I would have rowed you to a departing ship
7 Myself if it would mean we'd see the back of you.
8 You knew full well what trouble
9 Your elopement caused.
10 If you'd felt any guilt why didn't you
11 Stick your head in a noose? A simple action
12 That would have saved countless lives.
13 Why not do so now as an act of contrition.
14 Pass me a rope. I'll knot it for you!

15
16 ALEXIA
17 Menelaus, punish your unfaithful wife
18 With a savagery worthy of Greek tradition.

19
20 PERSIS
21 She shames all womanhood.
22 Show no mercy.

23
24 MENELAUS
25 Your conclusions, Hecuba are exactly my own,
26 This woman left my house of her own free will
27 To go to bed with a foreigner.
28 To drag in Aphrodite is a pathetic smokescreen
29 Of pretentious self-importance! Take her away.
30 Let her face death in the stoning pit
31 You can atone for the years of suffering
32 With an hour of dying: or however long it takes.
33 That'll teach you what it costs to humiliate me

34
35 HELEN
36 I beg you on my knees, I implore you,
37 Don't kill me because the gods have tricked us.

38
39 HECUBA
40 Remember all your friends who are dead
41 Because of this woman! Remember!

42
43 MENELAUS
44 All right old woman, that'll do!
45 Soldier, take my wife to the ships.
46 We're dragging her back home

1
2 HECUBA.
3 Are you a complete Idiot! For the God's sake
4 Don't travel in the same ship with her!
5
6 MENELAUS
7 Why? Has she put on weight? Will she sink it?
8
9 UNSEEN ODYSSEUS ARRIVES.
10
11 HECUBA.
12 Thrown together on a voyage?
13 Her well-honed tricks and seductions
14 Will have you under her spell before
15 You've even left harbour.
16
17 ODYSSEUS
18 There is sense in her counsel.
19
20 MENELAUS
21 General Odysseus, of course.
22 My former wife and I shall not
23 Travel aboard the same, ship.
24
25 ODYSSEUS
26 Trust me, Hecuba. The manner
27 Of Helen's death will act as deterrent
28 To the most free thinking of women.
29
30
31 MENELAUS
32 Or any other slut who might be tempted
33 To humiliate their husbands.
34
35 HECUBA
36 Very wise. You are my enemy
37 But I salute your good judgement.
38 My Lord Odysseus. What of my youngest child?
39
40 MENELAUS
41 Your youngest runt of a son?
42 There's a bounty on his head.
43 We will track him down, make no mistake.
44
45 HECUBA.
46 Thank the gods he is safely guarded

1 By a friend in a distant land and
2 Safe from your clutches.
3 No, Odysseus, I meant my daughter, Polyxena
4 The innocent your men dragged screaming
5 From my arms at dawn this morning.
6
7 ODYSSEUS.
8 Would you leave us, Menelaus?
9
10 EXIT MENELAUS.
11
12 HECUBA,
13 Odysseus, why do you not speak?
14
15 ODYSSEUS
16 Words at such a time are treacherous
17 Emissaries. At such a time a man must
18 Weigh each word carefully for fear
19 Their meaning may twist in unexpected ways.
20
21 HECUBA
22 Please, I beg of you, tell me what has become
23 of my daughter Polyxena.
24 Still you do not speak.
25 Is she safe?
26 Do you remember when you came to Troy
27 To spy on us? And she recognised you,
28 And told me?
29
30 ODYSSEUS.
31 Of course. That day is carved into my heart.
32
33 HECUBA.
34 You fell before me and begged me to say
35 Nothing and to persuade her to silence.
36
37 ODYSSEUS.
38 My fingers clawed at your robe.
39
40 HECUBA.
41 You were my slave then. As I am yours now.
42 I showed you mercy and I came to your aid.
43
44 ODYSSEUS.
45 I would not be alive if you had not.
46

1 HECUBA.
2 Then are you not ashamed of your contrivance?
3 Oh, how I hate all you politicians,
4 Always weighing up the odds. All you care about
5 Is saying something that will please the mob.
6
7 ODYSSEUS
8 Your daughter is to serve the Lord Achilles.
9
10 HECUBA
11 But he is dead. Achilles is dead.
12 Dear heavens, must a child I bore
13 Live chained in the dank darkness of a tomb?
14
15 ODYSSEUS
16 Consider her fortunate. Her suffering is over.
17
18 HECUBA.
19 What does that mean? She is alive? Isn't she?
20
21 ODYSSEUS
22 It has been decreed that Polyxena
23 Your daughter should be sacrificed
24 To avenge Achilles and all the Grecian dead.
25 You think you have the monopoly on suffering?
26 Let me tell you, Greeks have mothers too, no less old
27 And grey and worn out by the world than you are,
28 And Greeks have wives whose good men have been lost,
29 Their bodies buried in the dust of Troy.
30 It is for them we honour the dead,
31 Achilles would demand nothing less.
32
33 HECUBA.
34 What mother could bare this!
35 Don't kill my daughter I beg of you.
36 Take me, in her stead to the altar stone.
37 Strike, have no mercy; Paris was my son,
38 Paris abducted Helen and began all this.
39 Punish me for crimes against your Grecian dead.
40 Not an innocent girl.
41
42 ODYSSEUS.
43 It was not your death that was decreed
44 Old queen, but hers. Don't complicate things.
45 She must die or the troops will riot
46 At such disrespect for our fallen heroes.

1
2 HECUBA.
3 Are none of them doting fathers,
4 Loving brothers of young girls?
5 I cannot believe that even barbarian
6 Bloodlust demands -
7
8 ODYSSEUS.
9 Enough. It has been decided.
10
11 MENELAUS RETURNS.
12
13 HECUBA
14 Then sacrifice me by my child's side,
15 And twice the blood will flow in offering
16 To the dead you say you'd honour.
17
18 MENELAUS.
19 We don't have time for this -
20
21 HECUBA.
22 I must die beside my child! I must!
23
24 MENELAUS
25 Must? Still giving orders? Remember how low
26 You've fallen, you cantankerous old harpy.
27
28 HECUBA.
29 My daughter, all my pleading for your life
30 Has gone for nothing, words upon the wind.
31 Oh, I am faint, I cannot -
32
33 ODYSSEUS
34 Where are your women?
35
36 MENELAUS
37 Prop the old bitch up can't you
38 Before she embarrasses herself further.
39 Let's get out of here, it stinks
40 Of rotten fish.
41
42 Exit MENELAUS and ODYSSEUS
43
44 HECUBA
45 (TO THE WOMEN)
46 No, leave me be. Your kindness, friends,

1 Is no comfort to me. What comfort can there be?
2 My poor child. Ritually murdered.
3 And that snake Odysseus sanctioned it.
4 The filthy sacrilege!
5 Butchered like an animal to honour those
6 Who slew my beautiful sons.
7 And their Father, my husband, Priam.
8 I saw him hacked down on the altar steps
9 Of our holiest temple, with my own eyes.
10 And now you, the women of my court
11 And kingdom, groomed to be a worthy
12 Match for any prince are to be harvested,
13 Mocked and degraded. Entertainment
14 No doubt for the long sea voyage ahead.

15
16 ANDROMACHE
17 My husband! Where are you?
18 I need you now. Save me!

19
20 HECUBA
21 You're calling for a dead man.

22
23 ANDROMACHE
24 My beautiful, golden haired Hector;
25 Noble and brave in battle,
26 Gentle in marriage and fatherhood.
27 Why did the gods grant me such a prize
28 Only to snatch it away again?
29 They may think they have wiped
30 Him from the face of the earth
31 But they'll never rip him from my heart.
32 We will talk of him everyday
33 Your grandson and I.
34 My son's mantra will be his father's glory.
35 The story of our courtship.
36 How my first glimpse of him
37 Took my breath away, how I trembled
38 With fear and excitement to know
39 He was mine. I knew nothing of men
40 When they married us beneath a canopy of
41 Orange blossom. When I went to his bed
42 That first night, timid, shy, unworldly
43 His caress, his kiss, his passion,
44 His arms around me brought a paradise
45 And protection undreamt of.
46 Oh the joy of keeping his house,

1 Raising his child. Other wives
2 Cackled and boasted of affairs
3 And snatched infidelities,
4 But I smiled and kept silent.
5 What need had I for anything but Hector?
6 Hector, Hector, my sweetest life, my endless joy!
7 And so the gods would not
8 Think me unworthy of his great blessing
9 I made myself the perfect wife,
10 Faithful and dutiful in mind and body.
11 All for what? To be denied him?
12 To be spat on and reviled by lesser men.

13
14 OF THE BABY -

15
16 The beautiful father's beautiful son
17 Nothing more now than some brutish
18 New master's possession.

19
20 PERSIS
21 Your suffering is as mine.

22
23 ALEXIA
24 Your anguished words
25 Give voice to my deepest agonies and fears.

26
27 HECUBA
28 The living at least have hope.
29 To be dead is to be nothing.
30 You must take care of my grandson.
31 Live for his sake - If nothing else.

32
33 Enter a SOLDIER

34
35 SOLDIER.
36 You women, where is Hecuba, the queen of sorrows?
37 They say the number of her grief surpasses
38 All man and womankind, and yields to none.
39 Your majesty, although I am a Greek
40 I afford you the due reverence of one who
41 Visited the city in happier times. As a child I -

42
43 HECUBA.
44 What do you want, boy?
45 I know the worst already.
46 Have you brought Polyxena's body?

1 Is it over now, your mockery of a ceremony?
2 An innocent girl's blood sacrifice?
3 But then how could you understand
4 My repugnance, I hear you Greeks
5 Will even barter your own children
6 To the gods for a fair wind.
7 Your race is an affront to heaven and earth.

8
9 SOLDIER
10 Poor queen, then I must surmise
11 You know nothing of the latest
12 Tragedy to strike your house.
13 Death has claimed another of your kin.

14
15 HECUBA
16 You young fool. They're all here
17 All my battered little sparrows
18 You've yet to maim, rape or slaughter.
19 There is no one beyond this place
20 I need give a fig for. Unless...
21 My daughter Cassandra!
22 The one they call the prophetess
23 Poor half crazed thing... No! Do not
24 Tell me they plan to sacrifice her too.
25 I should have known her beauty
26 Would draw you hyenas before long,
27 Too much to expect you'd respect
28 The sanctity of Athene's temple.
29 Have they dragged her out,
30 Troy's virgin priestess
31 To satisfy fresh Grecian lust?
32 She is not sound in mind,
33 She will not understand.
34 Take me to her, let me calm her terror
35 And prepare her for death.

36
37 SOLDIER
38 The strange girl still attends the sacred flame
39 As far as I know. No, it is not that.
40 My unit were on guard duty this morning.
41 At the jetty. A boy was pulled from the water.
42 There was pendant about his neck.
43 In honour of who you are, what you were,
44 I thought it proper to return it to you.

45
46 HE HANDS IT OVER.

1
2 HECUBA
3 Our house. This is the symbol of our royal house.
4 This is the necklace my poor son wore when
5 We spirited him away... How? How did he die?
6 Were there signs of violence?
7
8 SOLDIER
9 His throat was cut. Thieves no doubt
10 Although I'm surprised they left the talisman.
11
12 HECUBA
13 No, no. Why, why would such a thief
14 Trouble with trinkets when he already
15 Sits on the piles of Trojan gold I gave him?
16 And why waste it housing a Trojan prince
17 Now it's clear which way the tide is turning.
18 There is a merchant. A Thracian...
19
20 SOLDIER
21 Polymestor? All know him. He and his sons
22 Are the guests of King Agamemnon.
23
24 HECUBA
25 Boy, if you've an ounce of the respect you claim
26 Get word to him. Hurry. I don't care how you do it
27 But I want him here. Offer him treasure untold
28 If you have to.
29
30 SOLDIER
31 I will be in trouble as it is.
32 I should not have brought you the pendant.
33 I can do no more. I -
34
35 HECUBA
36 Are you a man or a mouse?
37 Go - do as I say!
38
39 Exit SOLDIER.
40
41 The Thracian was to keep my boy safe
42 My life has ended here. There is no Hecuba.
43 My boy, my son! In the madness of my grief
44 I cry for you; Blow upon blow, one follows the other
45 And now, oh now, my nightmares have a meaning;
46 The vision that's haunted me every fractured night,

1 Since Troy fell. A forgotten child of mine
2 Who can no longer see the sun.
3
4 ALEXIA
5 Who killed him?
6
7 HEBE
8 Does your dream tell you?
9
10 HECUBA.
11 It was him, my friend, my friend the Thracian.
12 He rescued him as the Greeks sailed for Troy.
13 I furnished him with enough to see my boy
14 Would want for nothing.
15
16 PERSIS
17 What do you mean? He killed him for his gold?
18
19 ALEXIA
20 A deed, gross and blasphemous
21 Was there no humanity in him?
22
23 HEBE
24 No conscience, not a shred of pity?
25
26 HECUBA
27 He's dead, Polydorus, my little miracle is dead.
28
29 ANDROMACHE
30 Dear Mother, listen. And you are my mother,
31 Even if only by marriage; take comfort.
32 We all share your fury at the Thracian's treachery,
33 All grieve for little Pol, he was a scamp
34 Full of mischief and fun, stories and questions.
35 You hoped he might grow, in safety,
36 To avenge us but safety was yesterday,
37 Hope spluttered and died at dawn this morning.
38 The darkness that closes around us
39 Is forever now.
40
41 ALEXIA
42 You heard the Grecian pig.
43 Word was out, a bounty
44 On his head, the search was on, they
45 Would have found him and then...
46 Isn't it better he never knows

1 Troy's endless winter of despair.
2
3 PERSIS
4 The world today is no place
5 For a happy, inquisitive boy.
6 How could he run carefree through this
7 Nightmare we live? What answers
8 Could we give when he questioned
9 The horror around him? Our replies
10 Would bludgeon his curiosity into
11 Fear, despair and a hopeless trudge
12 Through a miserable life of slavery.
13 Would you have him wait on some
14 Grecian master, who'd point
15 Him out to supper guests?
16 "See that cowering, whipping boy?
17 He is Hecuba's only surviving child
18 And now he runs my bath."
19
20 ANDROMACHE:
21 It's true. The dead are the lucky ones.
22 Luckier still to have never been born.
23
24 HECUBA
25 I can offer no comfort but this.
26 Though I've never been aboard a ship in a storm
27 I've heard men say that if the waves
28 Overwhelm them, they accept the inevitable
29 And give themselves to the sea.
30 But if there's any hope of survival,
31 The sailors will do everything they can,
32 Strain every muscle, to come through it.
33 The gods have seen fit to drown us
34 In an ocean of misery. My advice to you,
35 Your only hope for survival
36 Is to try to please your new master.
37 That way perhaps your captivity will be
38 Made more tolerable. Easier to bear.
39 Do this and with luck, you may survive
40 To bring up this grandson of mine
41 To be the saviour of Troy. That son of yours
42 May return to these ruins one day
43 And build a new city from the ashes.
44
45 ANDROMACHE
46 Is that the comfort you offer?

1 To find compliance in rape?
2 The ravishing of mighty Hector's widow
3 A drunken thrill for our brutal enemies?
4 Or worse. To be taken by some
5 Honest man who'll tempt me to forget.
6 They say a skilful new lover
7 Can sooth away heartbreak's past.
8 No! They will not take Hector's memory from me.
9 The shape of his back, the touch of his hand
10 The smell of his perfumed hair.
11 I would spit on any woman
12 Who'd forget such a man in the bed
13 Of an enemy.
14
15 Enter SOLDIER
16
17 SOLDIER
18 (TO HECUBA)
19 Madame, I have spoken to the Thracian
20 In the manner you requested. I think he will come.
21 Which of you is Hector's wife?
22 Widow of the greatest of the Trojans?
23
24 ANDROMACHE
25 That's me.
26
27 SOLDIER
28 Then with the greatest reluctance
29 I have to tell you the joint decision
30 Of the Council of the Greeks
31
32 ANDROMACHE
33 What can they want of me?
34 I'm a nobody now. A powerless widow
35 With a hungry child.
36
37 SOLDIER
38 The child. They have decided...
39 I don't know how to say it...
40
41 ANDROMACHE.
42 Are we to be allocated different masters?
43 No, don't take him away! Please!
44
45 SOLDIER.
46 No Greek will ever be his master.

1
2 ANDROMACHE.
3 I don't understand.
4
5 SOLDIER.
6 There is no decent way to say an indecent thing.
7
8 ANDROMACHE.
9 Tell me. Tell me the worst.
10
11 SOLDIER.
12 They mean to kill him.
13 Odysseus' speech swayed the whole Council.
14 Declaring that the son of such a father
15 Cannot be allowed to grow up
16 And take revenge on Greece
17 Or be a figurehead for future uprising.
18 He is to be thrown from the battlements of Troy.
19 I must warn you if you say anything to anger
20 The high command your baby's body will be
21 Left out for the dogs. But if
22 You keep quiet, and resign yourself
23 To what must happen, they might,
24 Might take pity and allow you
25 To bury your child decently.
26
27 ANDROMACHE
28 My darling, my precious,
29 So innocent yet too dangerous to live.
30 I thought I bore a son to rule
31 Over the whole of Asia.
32 Is your birthright, that should
33 Have been your shield and glory,
34 Now your death sentence?
35 My sweet baby, the softness of your breath,
36 The baby smell of your skin.
37 With your father's smile and grandmother's spirit
38 You are dearer than all the world to me.
39
40 ALEXIA
41 You Greeks! You dream up such cruelties
42 Even a Spartan slaver would flinch.
43 Her child has done nothing!
44 Oh, that bitch, Helen who brought us to this!
45 Let her name forever mean
46 Destruction, Envy, Murder

1 And every evil thing that crawls
2 On the face of the earth!
3
4 HEBE
5 May she die in agony,
6 And be damned forever.
7
8 ANDROMACHE
9 (TO THE SOLDIER)
10 What are you waiting for?
11 Drag him from my arms and
12 Throw him from the walls
13 If that's what your generals have decided,
14 And then parcel up my empty body,
15 And throw it aboard some Grecian ship.
16 I won't care where they send me.
17 I will be dead inside.
18
19 SOLDIER
20 They need someone hard and unthinking for this job,
21 Without pity or conscience. I'm not tough enough.
22
23 HECUBA
24 Poor child, son of my dead child,
25 Your Grandfather and Father are waiting for you.
26 They will fold you in their arms
27 Until the gods see fit to reunite us all.
28
29 ADROMACHE.
30 No, no, enough of your fairy stories, Old Woman!
31 There will be no reunion in heaven.
32 There is no Hector rising from the grave
33 With his spear in his hand, coming to save me,
34 Nor any of your sons, no Trojan rescue party.
35 (TO THE BABY)
36 Little one you are to be thrown
37 From a terrifying height,
38 They will break your neck, and smash
39 The breath from your mouth. There is no hope
40 There is no salvation.
41
42 SOLDIER takes away ANDROMACHE and her child.
43
44 HECUBA
45 Is there no agony we don't already feel?
46 No abyss of pain we've yet to discover?

1
2 Enter POLYMESTOR
3
4 POLYMESTOR.
5 Queen Hecuba, you sent for me?
6 What was it that you wanted? Anything for you.
7 Thank the gods I had business in Troy
8 And got your urgent message.
9 My young sons love to see
10 The Grecian fleet too, of course,
11 Quite a treat for any little boy,
12 I'm sure you'll agree.
13 Well here's a rum to do!
14 You know me, friend to all
15 But I'm sorry to see my Greek clientele
16 Bring such desolation to my Trojan customers.
17 The kids are very excited the Trojan Witch,
18 That's what the Greeks are calling you now,
19 Has asked to meet them.
20 The little scamps will be the death of me.
21 But then no one knows more than you
22 The trial of sons at their age.
23
24 HECUBA.
25 I am ashamed to look you in the face,
26 Polymestor, in the midst of my misfortunes.
27 I feel such shame that anyone who saw me
28 In happier days should see me now, distressed.
29
30 POLYMESTOR
31 Please, please. Do not give it a thought.
32
33 HECUBA
34 Won't you tell me of my youngest son?
35 You took him from my hands into your protection.
36 Praise the gods.
37
38 POLYMESTOR.
39 Of course. And fortune smiles on you
40 Where he's concerned. He's perfectly safe.
41 And well. So well and so safe.
42 You need have no fear on that account.
43 Why only this morning as we set out -
44
45 HECUBA.
46 Remarkable news indeed

1 The more so to hear it from your own lips
2 Even as you stand before me.
3 I hope he remembers his mother.
4
5 POLYMESTOR
6 So well that it broke his heart
7 When I locked him safely at home.
8 Safety first. That's my motto.
9
10 HECUBA.
11 And the gold I gave you for his well-being?
12 Is it safe and sufficient?
13
14 POLYMESTOR.
15 Safe, under lock and key.
16 As to its sufficiency there will
17 Always be unlooked for expenses
18 But I trust you will -
19
20 HECUBA.
21 That is so good to hear. My heart races
22 When I hear your words. Friends such as you
23 Are rare in this time of uncertain alliances.
24 I have a secret that I burn to tell you -
25 Something to benefit all our children.
26 Yours and mine. Where are your boys by the way?
27 They must be told of their good fortune.
28
29 POLYMESTOR.
30 How intriguing, please let me know
31 How a family who have enjoyed better luck
32 Can help an old friend like you in distress.
33 My boys and I are at your service.
34
35 HECUBA.
36 My friend, my dearest honourable friend,
37 To whom I entrusted my most precious possession.
38 To take such care as you have done, of one so treasured
39 Should be rewarded, like for like, in return.
40 It is this I wished to discuss with you.
41 There are Trojan riches,
42 Undreamt of by the Greeks,
43 The safety of which is precarious.
44 Could I presume upon your kindness
45 One more time and ask you to recover
46 And store it. There's plenty, spend it freely,

1 Until it can benefit my family again.
2
3 POLYMESTOR.
4 Your Majesty, I am speechless with gratitude
5 That you should entrust such a task to me.
6
7 HECUBA.
8 Your boys. Let's not forget your little boys.
9 Have them follow us.
10
11 POLYMESTOR.
12 But why do my children have to come along?
13
14 HECUBA.
15 You might be killed. It's better they should know
16 Of your new hiding place. Besides you'll need
17 Help to carry it all.
18
19 POLYMESTOR.
20 Where is this treasure now? Hidden well I hope.
21
22 HECUBA.
23 You know Athene's temple?
24 Where the goddess speaks
25 Through my daughter, Cassandra.
26
27 POLYMESTOR.
28 It's in there is it? Shrewd move!
29 Gold needs a place of sanctuary
30 As much as people.
31
32 HECUBA.
33 You'll find it beneath a black stone
34 Sticking from the ground.
35
36 POLYMESTOR.
37 Is it all there? All the wealth of the Trojans?
38
39 HECUBA.
40 All but the most precious gems
41 But they shall be yours too.
42 For safekeeping I mean.
43 I have smuggled away my jewellery
44 Will you hide it away for me?
45 Why should it fall into enemy hands
46 When I have friends like you?

1
2 POLYMESTOR.
3 Why indeed. Is it hidden on your person?
4
5 HECUBA.
6 More cleverly than that. Come I'll show you.
7 Follow me. We'll make a game of it for the boys.
8
9 POLYMESTOR.
10 Is it safe?
11
12 HECUBA.
13 There are no Greeks around. No one but women.
14 Come with me and we shall summon
15 Your little ones. Don't worry the Greeks are anxious
16 To sail for home. Enough distractions for us
17 To carry out our secret business. This way.
18 (TO HEBE)
19 Although we cannot offer our guest
20 And his sons the hospitality they deserve
21 Find women to attend on us!
22 Those who still take pride in serving their queen.
23
24 Exit HECUBA and POLYMESTOR and HEBE.
25
26 PERSIS
27 He little suspects the judgement that awaits:
28 He will lose his bearings like a drowning man
29 Who thrashes in confusion beyond the sight of land.
30 The gods do not exact justice in half measures,
31 When they strike it is terrible, like the vengeance
32 Of a queen who has lost everything.
33 We must strive always to do good;
34 Though our fate looks bleak, there is always worse.
35
36 ALEXIA
37 Do you suppose Paris ever feared
38 The gods' judgement when he stood,
39 Entranced by the beauty of Helen's eyes,
40 And felt the uncontrollable fire of lust
41 Consume him? Could he have foreseen
42 The trample of a thousand foreign boots
43 Through the rubble of his city
44 When he broke the etiquette of god and man
45 And stole another's wife?
46 As their lips touched did either foresee

1 Armies on the march, warships deployed,
2 A city smashed, a population mercilessly
3 Put to the sword. There is nothing left now.
4 No forbidden love, no bristling relatives,
5 Just dark and bitter memories.
6 Can't it end now?
7
8 POLYMESTOR (within).
9 My sons! My slaughtered sons!
10 The bitch has blinded me! I cannot see!
11
12 ALEXIA
13 Listen, Do you hear?
14
15 PERSIS
16 The queen has been quick about her business.
17
18 HECUBA re-enters with EOS.
19
20 HECUBA.
21 Howl at the moon and deafen the stars.
22 Your eyes will never know their light again
23 Or the joyful sight of boisterous sons.
24 I have killed them as you butchered the prince
25 I entrusted to your protection.
26
27 PERSIS
28 Is it true, my lady? Have you punished him?
29 Is he your victim now, this old friend from Thrace?
30
31 HECUBA.
32 Hear it from his own mouth, here he comes.
33 Lurching, stumbling, blind in eyes, unsure of step.
34 His brats? I ordered my brave Trojan women
35 To kill them both! Now I consider the debt he owed me
36 Paid with interest. Be careful, the Thracian Jackal
37 Is crazed and dangerous now, wildly lashing out,
38 Biting and spitting at any noise in his darkness.
39
40 Enter POLYMESTOR, blind.
41
42 POLYMESTOR.
43 Where am I? Help me, anyone, please!
44 Where is safety, where is relief from the pain?
45 I grope into blackness, terror, the unknown.
46 Where can I crawl on all fours,

1 A crazed animal maimed from a trap,
2 To sanctuary and shelter?
3 And how do I claw at their faces,
4 Those Trojan bitches?
5 Do I lash out right or left
6 To rip out their hearts
7 And string up their entrails?
8 Curse you, you vile, inhuman hags.
9 Do you hide from me now?
10 Gods of the sun spill light into
11 My eyes that run with blood;
12 Dry out the saturated pulp
13 So I might see my enemies again.
14 Quiet, I hear footsteps. Is it the deadly
15 Pad of the she wolf? I will not rest
16 Until I have sniffed out each and every one.
17 But wait. No. My children, my boys,
18 My fine sons. Do I leave their bodies
19 For those fiends to cast out on
20 The mountainside, rotting flesh
21 For carrion? This is too much.
22 Too much for one man to bear.
23 (CALLS)
24 Greeks, conquerors of Troy
25 Hear your loyal friend,
26 Humble servant, trusted ally.
27 Help me in my hour of darkness.
28 Your savage treatment of the enemy
29 Justified by this one foul act of
30 Trojan barbarism.
31 I would have vengeance!
32
33 EOS
34 When troubles grow beyond endurance
35 It is no crime to kill yourself.
36 Follow your nose to the cliff
37 And throw yourself on to the rocks.
38
39 Enter AGAMEMNON with MENELAUS and ODYSSEUS.
40
41 AGAMEMNON.
42 What, in the name of Apollo is going on here?
43 Can't we leave this decimated city to the peaceful
44 Sound of weeping, flies and carrion. There has been too
45 Much rage here, what is there left to rant about?
46

1 POLYMESTOR.
2 Agamemnon, my friend! My king?
3 Have the gods answered my prayers?
4 Justice my lord, see what they have done to me.
5
6 AGAMEMNON.
7 Polymestor! Who did this!?
8 Who hates you this much?
9
10 POLYMESTOR.
11 It was that mad old bitch, Hecuba.
12 She and her inhuman fiends have
13 Ripped my family to shreds
14 And left me weeping fountains of blood.
15
16 AGAMEMNON.
17 Hecuba, is this the truth?
18 Are you responsible for this monstrous act?
19
20 POLYMESTOR.
21 Ah ha, then she is close by!
22 Lead me to her, hold her down
23 While I flay the scalp from her head
24 With my nails!
25
26 MENELAUS.
27 Easy there, Thracian.
28
29 AGAMEMNON.
30 Enough, Polymestor, you will control yourself.
31 Tell me why you think Hecuba has harmed you.
32
33 POLYMESTOR.
34 Because I slit her sickly, son's throat
35 And dumped him in the harbour.
36 She plied me with gold to keep him safely hidden.
37 But you know my loyalty is to you my lord.
38 How could I let him grow to be your enemy?
39 So I butchered the Trojan runt to ensure
40 Your safety. And gladly too.
41
42 HECUBA
43 The Greeks and their fear of children!
44
45 POLYMESTOR
46 When that old bitch knew her son was dead

1 She lured me with a tale of buried treasure,
2 And jewels smuggled away amidst the battle.
3 She led me to a place, with my children
4 Where no one could intervene and save us.
5 At her command a fury of women
6 Took up rocks from the rubble
7 And smashed in my sons' heads
8 Whilst others held me back, pinning my arms.
9 What hope had I against a mob of furies?
10 Then came the end, the crowning horror,
11 A hideous thing: Hecuba herself took broach pins
12 And stabbed my eyes till they were bloody jelly.
13 This was the terrible price I paid, for my loyalty to you.

14

15 MENELAUS

16 May the gods protect us from these she-devils
17 And their talons!

18

19 AGAMEMNON.

20 Hecuba, how do you answer this?

21

22 HECUBA.

23 In Troy a criminal is identified by wicked deeds
24 Not honeyed words. These lies won't fool you
25 Greek king, for though I judge you harshly
26 On many fronts, gullibility is no trait of yours.
27 This creature claims he killed my son
28 To safeguard the Greek victory.
29 Yet when the siege was going our way
30 Did he ever mention the boy?
31 If he truly wanted to help your cause
32 He could have handed him over then to ransom.
33 But he didn't. Troy seemed destined to triumph
34 So he was happy to suck up to us
35 And provide a safe haven for the child.
36 But this man has no loyalty, he licks the boot
37 Of every new master. Now you have taken the city
38 He's all declaration and praise
39 And with no need of our patronage
40 He was free to kill my little one
41 And pocket the expenses.
42 War is a horror, men become ravening beasts,
43 Loyalties are tested and fail but is there
44 Anything more disgusting than a profiteer?
45 This creature can spot the gleam of gold on a corpse
46 Five miles away. Let us see how he fares

1 Now he has to sniff his way amongst the dead.
2
3 AGAMEMNON.
4 I do not need this now. I have an army,
5 A city of slave women and ship-loads of plunder
6 To organise safely home to Greece.
7 But very well, since I am required
8 To pick right from wrong in this grubby dispute
9 I side with Hecuba. Mutilated man your greed
10 For gold has been your only motivation.
11
12 ODYSSEUS
13 I have no doubt that if I lay bleeding to death
14 On some godforsaken battlefield he would pick over
15 My corpse as swiftly as he feigns loyalty now.
16 You see Hecuba, we Greeks are not
17 Entirely without moral compass.
18
19 POLYMESTOR.
20 Shall I be brought down by a slew
21 Of bedraggled slave girls and a spiteful old sow?
22 The shame! The ignominy!
23 Oh, my children; my eyes!
24
25 HECUBA.
26 They hurt. You think my son's death does not hurt me?
27
28 POLYMESTOR.
29 You witch; you take delight in taunting me.
30
31 HECUBA.
32 Why not, you treacherous pig? Revenge is sweet.
33
34 AGAMEMNON.
35 Take him away! And let there be an end to this!
36 Listen carefully you Trojan captives,
37 You must soon go, enslaved, to your
38 New masters' ships.
39
40 ODYSSEUS: I can feel the wind
41 Stirring that will speed us home.
42 May the gods grant us safe passage.
43 May we find all as we left it and leave
44 Our pain behind here, amidst the ruins.
45
46 Exit AGAMEMNON & MENELAUS & ODYSSEUS

1
2 PERSIS
3 I pray to every god who'll listen
4 That Menelaus' ship is struck by lightening
5 In open sea and sunk without trace.
6
7 ALEXIA
8 When I'm reduced
9 To a thing, dehumanised chattel
10 For slave masters and brothel keepers
11 To pick over, how it will sting
12 To think of Helen marvelling again
13 At her reflection in golden mirrors.
14
15 PERSIS
16 Never let that treacherous whore
17 Get safely home to Sparta
18 And sit comfortably at her own fireside.
19
20 EOS
21 Friends, I fear the worst is still to come.
22 They are bringing the grandson's body,
23 Cast like a stone by the Greeks
24 From the walls of Troy.
25 No sign of Andromache.
26
27 ENTER SOLDIER AND WOMEN WITH ASTYANAX' BODY CARRIED ON HECTOR'S
28 BATTLE SHIELD
29
30 SOLDIER
31 Hecuba, General Neoptolemus has set sail,
32 Taking Andromache as his prisoner.
33 Anyone who saw it will long remember her
34 Heartbreak as she was led from Hector's grave
35 To the ship that would carry her from her native land.
36 Taking pity on her, her new master agreed
37 That her child, your grandson, be scooped up
38 From the bottom of the wall where he lay,
39 Crushed and mangled and returned to you
40 For some semblance of a decent burial.
41 As her last act on Trojan soil, Andromache
42 Pleaded that this shield, with which her husband
43 Once struck such fear into his enemies, be also
44 Brought to you so that you might use it
45 As the baby's coffin.
46

1 HECUBA
2 (TO SOLDIER)
3 Tell me, boy. Can you Greek fighting men
4 Really take pride in child murder such as this?
5 Can you harden your heart so completely that
6 The sight of a helpless infant stirs nothing within you?
7 Look at this little body. Look at it!
8 These beautiful curls, his mother so loved
9 To stroke, kiss and bury her face in,
10 Are hanging off in clumps. His precious lips,
11 That once charmed warlords with their little smile,
12 Now hang cold and dead in his lacerated face!
13 Why aren't you looking? You coward! Your mates did this.
14 Look at him.
15
16 SOLDIER
17 What do you want me to say?
18 Your side were as bad as ours.
19 If our children weren't safe at home...?
20
21 HECUBA
22 We built a magnificent city of hope and light.
23 It was our gift to the children who would come after.
24 They were our blessing, not our terror.
25
26 MENELAUS APPEARS IN THE DISTANCE, SHOUTING COMMANDS.
27
28 MENELAUS
29 All company commanders with orders
30 To fire the city, get on with it!
31 What are you waiting for?
32 Do you want the flame to go out in your hands?
33 Torch what's left of this rats' nest.
34 Burn it to the ground. Then let's be off
35 To shipboard celebration, whoring and home.
36
37 Exit MENELAUS.
38
39 HECUBA
40 (TO THE DEAD CHILD)
41 There is so little we can do to honour
42 You, baby prince, in this time of mayhem
43 And disaster. How like your father.
44 Even now. But what we can manage will be done
45 To give you a proper funeral.
46 Women of Troy dig a simple grave.

1 Take up the body, the last son of our house
2 And lay him in that humble resting place.
3 And feel no shame at this squalor,
4 The dead do not care if they are buried
5 Amidst luxury or rubble, it is the living
6 Who must swallow their pride.
7
8 Exit WOMEN with body.
9
10 ODYSSEUS Returns.
11
12 HECUBA:
13 Odysseus, still not drunk your fill
14 Of Trojan suffering?
15 Perhaps you are a ghoul
16 What other reason can there be
17 For your idling here
18 Amongst the turmoil.
19
20 ODYSSEUS
21 I thought I'd bring the latest orders
22 Concerning you captivity myself.
23 When the ships are ready to sail
24 A trumpet will sound. That is the signal
25 For you to be taken aboard in chains.
26 The priestess, Cassandra too.
27
28 HECUBA
29 What's this? No? Say it isn't true.
30 Cassandra, my last, and crazed daughter
31 Has she too been allocated to a Greek?
32
33 ODYSSEUS
34 You should be proud, Agamemnon himself
35 Spotted her, he loves the idea she's sacred.
36 And enflamed with lust he has chosen her
37 As his personal whore. It won't be a bad life,
38 Mistress to a king. As for you. I've seen to it
39 That you'll serve as a trophy for my regiment.
40 You're designated my slave.
41 I hope that pleases you.
42
43 EXIT
44
45 HECUBA
46 So this is how it ends. My perfect storm of pain,

1 Suffering and humiliation, each new loss
2 Worse than the last, climaxes in this.
3 Watching my city burn to the ground
4 From the deck of an enemy ship
5 Carrying me to serve the most treacherous of Greeks.
6 O, you gods...! But I'm wasting my breath.
7 I begged and beseeched them before
8 But they didn't choose to hear us.
9 One more time, then as Troy turns to ashes.

10
11 "Great Zeus, god of Troy,
12 Father of our fatherland, won't you save us?
13 Your children don't deserve your betrayal!"

14
15 Nothing. So much for that.
16 Husband, my darling husband, my king, my friend,
17 My lover. Can't you help me? Don't let them
18 Do this to me. Must all your sacred vows
19 To protect and cherish me, come to this?
20 He cannot hear me in the hall of the dead.
21 The silly old fool. His ears are stuffed with dust now
22 And worms feed on that grizzled handsome face.

23
24 SOLDIER
25 (ASIDE) Poor queen.
26 She's suffered so much it's unhinged her.
27 With such a flood of endless grief
28 How can the mind keep balance?

29
30 HECUBA.
31 A pillar of hot choking smoke fills the sky
32 Like the great wings of the Sphinx,
33 It blots out my old home and with it
34 My memories of life before the fall.
35 Soon no one will remember this city,
36 Not even the name; People will scoff.
37 There was no such place as Troy.
38 It's beautiful shaded walkways,
39 Rich gardens, elegant squares and fountains,
40 Seats of learning, discourse and reasoning,
41 It never existed. Not really. For how could
42 The sun have ever set on something so perfect?
43 And from my skivvy's place, amidst the bones
44 Beneath Odysseus' table, I will ask myself
45 The same question. There are no certainties
46 Any more when even my poor Cassandra,

1 Troy's high priestess and sacred virgin bride
2 Of the gods can be dragged from the sanctuary
3 Of a temple.
4
5 Enter CASSANDRA with WOMEN
6
7 CASSANDRA
8 Hold it up, the torch, take it, let it flame
9 Higher, oh hold it higher!
10 Let it touch everything sacred to Apollo!
11 Hymen, god of marriage, honour
12 The bridegroom and his desire,
13 And bless me, the bride, and my new home,
14 The royal bedroom of Argos!
15
16 HECUBA
17 She thinks this the wedding
18 She begged for when I entrusted
19 Her fragile mind to priest's
20 Cold protection. How beautiful
21 She looks in this fleeting
22 Illusion of happiness.
23
24 CASSANDRA
25 Mother, mother. Have you heard I am to
26 Marry a king? My prince has come for me at last.
27 See how they burn bonfires,
28 Rejoicing in the flame, illuminating
29 My holy wedding feast, a blazing light
30 To celebrate the royal marriage.
31 Dance, Mother, dance with me!
32 Laugh, beat drums and sing.
33 Let your feet fly, keeping time with mine,
34 Whirling in ecstasy, faster and faster,
35 Shout for me, Mother, the old incantations.
36 Sing, sing, women of Troy, in joy.
37 Deck yourself in jewels and shimmering gowns.
38 Destiny has sent me a husband
39 The virgin's joy is everlasting!
40
41 SOLDIER
42 Damn it, your daughter's possessed!
43 Hold on to her, Hecuba or she'll dance her way
44 To the officers' mess, then there'll be trouble.
45
46 HECUBA

1 Oh my dear child, this isn't the marriage
2 You dreamt of. This is slavery and dishonour
3 Driven at spear-point to our enemy's bed.
4 A receptacle for his loveless lust!
5
6 CASSANDRA
7 Dance mother, dance!
8
9 HECUBA
10 Oh my poor angel, still the poor
11 Crazy thing you always were.
12
13 CASSANDRA
14 No. No mother. I see things clearly.
15 When I heard how you took your revenge
16 On the friend who betrayed you
17 I rejoiced in the Thracian's suffering.
18
19 SOLDIER
20 May the gods help General Agamemnon,
21 Driven by lust to chose this mad creature
22 As his prize.
23
24 FX MORUNFUL TRUMPET SOUNDS
25
26 The ships, the ships are ready.
27 Home at last. New orders, I hope.
28
29 Exit SOLDIER.
30
31 HECUBA
32 May the gods of madness
33 Serve me as loyalty, so I might
34 Might face slavery to Odysseus
35 With your joy, daughter.
36
37 CASSANDRA.
38 (STEELIER NOW THEY ARE ALONE)
39 Don't worry mother. No words can describe
40 The suffering Odysseus has to come.
41 What we shall endure and what Troy suffered
42 Will seem a golden age to him compared to his torment.
43 And as for Agamemnon who makes me his creature?
44 The celebrated leader of the Greeks,
45 Will find both wife and lover more furious
46 In their destruction than Helen ever was!

1 I swear to you that he and his family will beg
2 In turn for the relief of death, so great
3 Will be their misery.
4 For I am an avenging fury, forged in the embers of Troy!
5 Goodbye Mother.
6 Goodbye land of my fathers,
7 Dead brothers, resting place of the great king
8 Who sired me; soon, soon we'll all meet,
9 In joy at the hell I have brought on the Greeks.
10 And consider this, mother.
11 If the gods had not decided on our sacrifice,
12 Troy would mean nothing down the centuries.
13 Now every age will shudder at the dark fruit
14 Of my marriage; the total annihilation
15 Of Agamemnon's family and the house of Atreus.

16
17 HECUBA
18 Then you will be make your mother proud.
19 Let us laugh at our fate. What else is left to do?
20 All our tears are spent.

21
22 N.B. SCRIPT FROM THIS POINT TBC

23
24 THE BLIND & CRAZED POLYMESTOR IS SUDDENLY THERE

25
26 POLYMESTOR.
27 You will not laugh so loudly, when the sea -

28
29 HECUBA.
30 Carries me to Greece?

31
32 POLYMESTOR.
33 Swallows you, when you have fallen into the surging water!

34
35 HECUBA.
36 And how will you see to push me overboard?

37
38 POLYMESTOR,
39 You will climb the mast of your own will -

40
41 HECUBA.
42 At my age? Perhaps I shall sprout wings.

43
44 POLYMESTOR.
45 You will turn into a dog with flaming eyes.

46

1 HECUBA.
2 Where have you got such nonsense?
3
4 POLYMESTOR.
5 From the oracle of Dionysus, long ago.
6
7 HECUBA.
8 Didn't he warn you I would avenge my son?
9
10 POLYMESTOR.
11 Obviously not.
12
13 HECUBA.
14 Well, tricky things, oracles. Tell me
15 Shall I drown or swim in canine form?
16
17 CASSANDRA
18 Mother, perhaps the doggy paddle -
19
20 HECUBA
21 My darling, of course.
22
23 POLYMESTOR.
24 You will perish in the freezing, salt water
25 That whirls around the treacherous
26 Rocks beneath. They will erect a statue
27 With a lantern to mark the shipping hazard.
28 It will be a famous landmark.
29 The bitch's monument.
30
31 HECUBA
32 Will it be a flattering likeness?
33 Well, it is of no matter.
34 At least I shall spare some
35 Woman a shipwrecked husband.
36
37 CASSANDRA
38 I have always mistrusted the sea.
39 Strange to think so much ruin and disaster
40 Were born because my brother slipped
41 Across a stretch of ocean into Helen's heart.
42
43 POLYMESTOR
44 Now, by firesides across the world,
45 Wives sit crying, and mothers
46 Claw their faces in mourning.

1
2 HECUBA
3 Whilst the men who survive
4 Beat, rape and plunder
5 Away their manly doubts until
6 The next role of the dice
7 Begins a fresh battle game.
8
9 CASSANDRA
10 But the players are changing.
11
12 HECUBA
13 Do doubt Helen will survive.
14
15 CASSANDRA
16 Helen is irrelevant, Mother.
17 Don't you see? Troy's devastation
18 Is not the result of some marriage
19 Dishonoured or hospitality abused.
20
21 POLYMESTOR
22 The weapons were stockpiled years ago.
23 The desire to conquer simmered
24 In Greek hearts long before Helen
25 Came to them from Sparta.
26
27 CASSANDRA
28 Her husband's humiliation
29 Was just an excuse to plunder
30 An old enemy.
31
32 HECUBA
33 A war, It must be said,
34 Your father and eldest brothers
35 Relished, in their own thirst
36 For honour and glory.
37
38 CASSANDRA
39 Men have so brutalised and
40 Radicalised us with their blood lust
41 That Agamemnon's wife, Clytemnestra,
42 Will take an axe to the husband
43 Who sacrificed their daughter.
44 He'll die, not in a hail of blows
45 From impassioned warriors
46 But at home, by the careful hand

1 Of his own wife.
2
3 HECUBA
4 When men have pumped us this full of
5 Hatred and terror how can they
6 Expect us not to wield the knife?
7
8 CASSANDRA
9 Or wring their hands when dutiful
10 Daughters turn runaways and killers?
11 It was a mother and daughter's
12 Compliance that sped ships to Troy.
13 Now a mother and daughter's
14 Revenge will blight the homecoming.
15
16 HECUBA
17 But do we rejoice or despair?
18
19 WE SEE CLYTEMNESTRA GREET HER HUSBAND AGAMEMNON.
20
21 CLYTEMNESTRA
22 Welcome home, husband. Your bath is waiting.
23
24 HECUBA
25 Is this a glorious victory or our darkest hour?
26
27 THE END.
28
29
30
31
32
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41
42