

αtreides, end

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Characters

Orestes

Iphigenia

Electra

Chrysothemis

Pylades

Pholus

&

Cassandra

A fisherman and his two sons

Four guards

A few of Argos' citizens

Settings

Palace of Argos

A pathway

Underworld

1.

Electra and Iphigenia.

Electra

Has he fucked you?

Iphigenia

Who?

Electra

Orestes. Do you love him?

Iphigenia

Electra, he is our brother, of course, I love him. Without him I would still be far away from home, far away from you.

Electra

Yes, whatever, but are you in love with him? I don't mind; I'm just curious, Iphigenia. Is he the first-class lover they say? Does his penis have an inclination? Does he make you come right away?

Iphigenia

Honey, I don't want you to feel this way either about your brother or about me. I love Orestes with all my heart and I love you just as much. I was away for so many years; I was about to lose myself. I hardly remembered Orestes, and you... you've changed so much, I left you a child and look, I've found a woman.

Electra

Okay, okay...

Iphigenia

Three months have passed since my arrival and I still feel like a stranger in my own land. I was a misfit there; I don't want to feel the same here.

Electra

Everybody in town whispers that you are a witch.

Iphigenia

People can be very cruel.

Electra

But are you really? Are you a witch?

Iphigenia

There are no witches. Not there, not anywhere. I must admit, however, that I have learned some things that are rather hard to explain in Argos.

Electra

Like what?

Iphigenia

I know how to fly, for instance.

Electra

Do you?

Iphigenia

I don't. Sometimes I do manage to come into contact with the dead, and this is the only strange thing I know.

Electra

You are a witch! I thought so. I don't mind, as long as you're not in love with him.

Iphigenia

With whom?

2.

Orestes and Electra.

Orestes

Why did you do that?

Electra

I felt like it.

Orestes

And why the hell did you feel like such a thing?

Electra

It's not such a big issue. I feel like it, that's all. Didn't you have a good time?

Orestes

No.

Electra

Come on, Orestes. You did come.

Orestes

So what? I was asleep.

Electra

Don't feel guilty.

Orestes

I was dreaming...

Electra

Of whom? Let me guess--Iphigenia. Wasn't it her? She is not bad for her age. Not bad at all. Tell me, is she better than me? I bet she is different, exotic! I've got a hell of an idea. Why don't we murder her? I will help you do it; we make a good team, don't we? I always keep in mind the slaughter of our mother and her lover. I bet you are about to forget it. Well, I'm here as living proof.

Orestes

Shut your mouth! You're driving me crazy.

Electra

You are crazy, Orestes, but it doesn't matter. I still love you. Every single one in this family is a bit of a fruitcake anyway. It must be in the genes.

Orestes

Will you shut up?

Electra

Don't look so weak, bro. You make it very easy for me.

Orestes

It is not a game.

Electra

I bet it is. The whole thing is a fucking power game; you should know that. By the way, have you tasted your semen lately? It's damn salty. Saltier than ever.

3.

Pylades and Pholus.

Pylades

A gardener is always a gardener, even if he is the husband of Electra. For a gardener to have the golden scepter and administer the territory is far beyond ridiculous.

Pholus

Someone had to do it, Pylades. While you and Orestes were out of Argos and found Iphigenia alive, someone had to administer this land. Electra and Chrysothemis were not interested. So, I had to do it. I had no options.

Pylades

I'm almost convinced it was the last thing you wanted, Pholus.

Pholus

I'd rather have my plants instead of a mountain of things I didn't quite understand at the time. You know, being in charge of a town is not that different from taking care of a full-sized garden. This thought made it easier for me and I really tried to be as just as I could.

Pylades

Who's talking about justice?

Pholus

I am.

Pylades

Thank god, Orestes will take control now. You're lucky that no one in this town understood your ridiculous fraud. Everyone believed that the two sisters, the daughters of Agamemnon, owned the scepter. Otherwise my friend, you'd be dead meat by now. Give it to me to hand it over to Orestes.

Pholus

I'll deliver it personally.

Pylades

Don't you trust me?

Pholus

I do and I don't.

Pylades

Give me the scepter, Pholus, before I kill you with my own hands.

Pholus

Even then, you will remain the best friend of the king. You won't be the king himself.

Pylades

Don't piss me off. Give it to me right now and I might be generous and allow you to keep living in the palace with your wife, a woman you don't deserve.

Pholus

I'm not going to give it to you.

Pylades

As you wish Pholus.

Pylades leaves.

4.

Orestes and Iphigenia.

Orestes

I can't live in the same house with Electra anymore.

Iphigenia

This is your place; it's difficult to build another palace, honey.

Orestes

She has to go and live in her husband's residence outside the
fortress.

Iphigenia

How come our sister married a gardener?

Orestes

It wasn't love, of course. Chrysothemis told me everything. It was her stepfather's idea. He and our mother tried as hard as they could to move her out of here. Therefore, they forced her to marry Pholus, the royal gardener, whose cottage is far away from the palace. Electra resisted this marriage, but in the end there was nothing she could do to avoid it. Now I do understand why they desperately tried to pack her off.

Iphigenia

Why?

Orestes

“Why?” She made passes at everyone. She was literally throwing herself at anyone, especially at her stepfather. And when she opened her mouth she was unbelievable, she still is.

Iphigenia

She needs some affection, Orestes, that’s all.

Orestes

Affection is what every single one of us needs.

Iphigenia

We cannot force her out, it is her house too, honey.

Orestes

Don’t call me honey.

Iphigenia

You just have to lock your door when you go to bed. Or put a guard outside your room, honey.

Orestes grabs her and finally kisses her.

Orestes

I love you.

Iphigenia

I love you too, honey.

Orestes pushes her away.

Iphigenia

Can I go now?

Orestes

Sorry. I am sorry. For the first time in years I feel that I am finally healed. After bringing you into our house, I stopped hearing voices inside my head. Can you believe it? I'm just like before. And look, because of her my nerves are absolutely broken. I'm reaching the end of my tether. This house is a nightmare. Electra is a nightmare. Chrysothemis is a nightmare.

Iphigenia

Chrysothemis, why?

Orestes

She's so pathetic.

Iphigenia

I actually like her, honey.

Orestes

Please don't call me honey, I beg you.

Iphigenia

Of course, if it annoys you.

Orestes

It's a silly word.

Iphigenia

It's just a word. How come Electra knows about us?

Orestes

I don't know. The only person who knows is Pylades whom I trust completely. I never said a word to anyone else. Let's leave Argos; let's go to a place where we will be strangers to everyone.

Iphigenia

Haven't you heard? I was away for years. You were the one who insisted on bringing me here.

Orestes

Have you regretted it?

Iphigenia

No.

Orestes

We should have stayed there. I might have been wrong.

Iphigenia

Sorry honey, I'm so sorry.

5.

Electra and Chrysothemis.

Electra

Come on, Chrysothemis; tell me about your lover.

Chrysothemis

Please let me go.

Electra

Not before you tell me, don't be afraid of me. I'm your sister. We shouldn't have secrets between us.

Chrysothemis

I don't have a lover.

Electra

Why is that?

Chrysothemis

We are the daughters of a king.

Electra

So what? That makes it easier to sleep with anyone you like.

Chrysothemis

And next day everyone in Argos will know about it.

Electra

And you can always ask for the heads of those snoops on a silver plate.

Chrysothemis

It's not that simple.

Electra

When was the last time you fucked? You are not a virgin. Are you?

Chrysothemis

Let me go.

Electra

Are you a virgin?

Chrysothemis

Not that it is any of your concern, but I'm not.

Electra

So why haven't you got a lover?

Chrysothemis

I just haven't.

Electra

How do you please yourself? You do masturbate, don't you? Of course you do.

Chrysothemis

Let me go.

Electra

Come on, show me.

Chrysothemis

Show you what?

Electra

If you don't show me, I'll tell everyone that you are in love with someone of your own blood.

Chrysothemis

How do you know that?

Electra

No surprise, baby.

Chrysothemis

How do you know?

Electra

It seems that everybody in this palace has the same desires. Now, show me what you can do. It will be stimulating, I promise you. Let me help you.

Chrysothemis

Leave me alone.

Electra caresses Chrysothemis' breast.

Electra

I'm good, I know. Years of practice. I have made loads of nannies happy in this palace, they practically roared with pleasure. Unfortunately, I'm not Orestes. I'm sure you would prefer him. Wouldn't you? The thing is that Orestes' penis penetrates only Iphigenia's vagina.

Chrysothemis

What?

Electra

Didn't you know darling? Oh, it's a fact. But don't lose your concentration. Think of him. I'll think of him, too. Think of our Orestes.

Chrysothemis

Not Orestes... Iphigenia... Only her... Don't stop.

6.

Orestes and Pylades.

Pylades

We are in danger and you're just lying there taking a nap.

Orestes

What danger? Leave me alone.

Pylades

I've always protected you, can't stop now.

Orestes

What's up Pylades?

Pylades

I want you to take full responsibility. You are Agamemnon's only son, you own the scepter. If the people of Argos realize that a gardener acts like a king, they will kill us all.

Orestes

No one in this palace will dare to reveal a secret like that. Besides, Pholus does a first-rate job.

Pylades

So what?

Orestes

I sympathize with you in your anxiety, my friend, but there's nothing I can do about it right now. You know better than anyone that I wasn't feeling quite well right after the... You know the way things turned out.

Pylades

I've told you a thousand times; you shouldn't let yourself be carried away by Electra's anger and kill your mother. This girl is a devil in disguise.

Orestes

But now I'm healed, I don't hear voices, I only hear the ticking of the clock, the whisper of the forest, the song of the wind, the softest wave in the sea...

Pylades

Now you should hear the sound of reason. You do own the scepter.

Orestes

I'm not ready yet.

Pylades

Let me help you. You give it to me and I'll keep it for you until you are ready.

Orestes

I would have given it to you with all my heart, but I can't.

Pylades

Why's that?

Orestes

I'm not looking for any more troubles with Electra. You said it yourself, Electra is a devil, well, Pholus is her husband. We should wait.

Pylades

For how long?

Orestes

I'm in love.

Pylades

Please, get serious.

Orestes

For the first time in my life I am blissful. I can sense all this
quietness embracing me.

Pylades

What are you going to do, Orestes?

Orestes

I'm going to sleep, that's what I'm going to do. And dream, of her.

7.

Chrysothemis and Iphigenia.

Chrysothemis

Is it true?

Iphigenia

What?

Chrysothemis

Can you bring the dead back to life?

Iphigenia

I can also heal the paralytics and I sometimes turn water into wine.

Who told you these stupidities? Electra?

Chrysothemis

I'm sorry.

Iphigenia

Look honey, I'm just a human being, the only extra thing I learned overseas is to be in touch with the souls.

Chrysothemis

A free entrance to the underworld.

Iphigenia

Something like that.

Chrysothemis

We have to take advantage of it.

Iphigenia

So we could make a fortune.

Chrysothemis

Don't tease me; we have money and power. The only thing that we cannot do is predict the future.

Iphigenia

I hate to disappoint you, but no one can predict the future.

Chrysothemis

No one but Cassandra. When she was alive nobody believed her oracles, but now we know she really can see the future.

Iphigenia

Cassandra is dead.

Chrysothemis

That's what I'm telling you.

Iphigenia

You suggest...

Chrysothemis caresses Iphigenia lovingly.

Chrysothemis

Let's find out what will happen to us. We have suffered enough, haven't we? Especially Orestes, our only brother. Don't you want to know what Orestes' fate will be? If something wrong is going to happen to him maybe we could be able to protect him.

Iphigenia (Pushes her)

Whose idea was that? Electra's? Why hasn't she got the guts to tell me herself?

Chrysothemis

It was my idea.

Iphigenia

It doesn't matter. Tomorrow night we'll find out what Cassandra has to say.

8.

Pholus and Electra.

Pholus

What do you think about Pylades?

Electra

We are not cheek by jowl, but he's okay.

Pholus

He asked me for the scepter.

Electra

It doesn't surprise me.

Pholus

I never trust him; he is an opportunist. He almost threatened me. He clearly threatened me.

Electra

Are you afraid of him?

Pholus

...Yes.

Electra

You should be, he is capable of many things, but you are my hubby.

Pholus

What kind of marriage is this?

Electra

This is our marriage.

Pholus

Why don't you want to be my wife?

Electra

I am your wife.

Pholus

What kind of wife are you? You don't even let me touch you.

Electra

When it comes to contact I'm a rather difficult person.

Pholus

Let me...

Electra

Fuck me?

Pholus

Love you.

Electra

Why, all those palace whores are not enough for you? Don't they blow you well? Don't they lick your balls properly? Don't they take your prick into their throats as deep as they can? Don't they eat all of your juicy cum? Of course they do. Don't you occasionally like beating them? I'll bet you make them bleed. Don't you call them bitches? I guess you give a really hard fuck to their heart-shaped bums. The tighter the better. Have you taught them how to swallow your hot piss? I bet you did. Don't they favor all of the cheese from your glands?

Pholus

Electra!

Electra

Semi-white pieces of man's cheese stuck on their tongues. Man's cheese and man's milk right from the source, I almost envy them. Do you think that I haven't noticed how they look at me? They almost laugh behind my back. I don't care at all. Do you hear me? I don't give a shit. Don't I know why you struggle not to lose the scepter? If you give it back then you'll start fucking your flowers again, into your sweet garden sweetheart, your daisies, your carnations, your rosebuds, your lovely lilies...

Electra bursts into tears; Pholus caresses her.

Electra

Don't I know?

9.

In the underworld. One older fisherman with two younger ones.

10.

Pylades and Iphigenia. Pylades clothes are full of blood.

Iphigenia

I heard them scream all night; I couldn't sleep at all.

Pylades

I have to apologize. We should put the prisoners somewhere outside the palace.

Iphigenia

What's the problem with them?

Pylades

We found them yesterday at the coast.

Iphigenia

How many?

Pylades

Three. A fisherman and his sons. They said that the waves washed their boat away to our coast. You can never tell the difference whether they're spies or not. It is always a riddle. Are they telling the truth or not?

Iphigenia

Maybe it is the truth.

Pylades

Yes. May be.

Iphigenia

And how can anyone detect who's telling the truth?

Pylades

From the sound of their screams. What are you smiling at? This is the only acceptable way. You ask them friendly, they're telling lies. You shout at them, they're still telling lies. You start beating them, they shout, they're telling untruths. You torture them, they scream, some of them start telling the truth, others keep telling untruths. You tear their body limb from limb, they scream louder and most of them definitely tell the truth and the truth only. Yet, there is a minority

who has the courage to lie again. Can you believe it? In the end you begin to separate the left part of their head from the right and they scream with all their strength until they die. This final scream is undoubtedly the enlightening one.

Iphigenia

You called them “barbarians”, but they only kill their enemies. They don’t torture them to death.

Pylades

We torture no one; these are the basic parts of the interrogation. A widely established procedure. It’s all about safety.

Iphigenia

Does the end justify the means?

Pylades

We cannot have it all.

Iphigenia

What about the fisherman and his sons?

Pylades

What about them?

Iphigenia

Were they telling the truth?

Pylades

I couldn’t say.

11.

Pholus and Orestes.

Pholus (Offers Orestes the scepter)

Take it. I don't want it anymore. It belongs to you... Why don't you
take it?

Orestes

It looks longer than I remember it.

Pholus

It's the same.

Orestes

So bright.

Pholus

It's yours.

Orestes

I know.

Pholus

Take it.

Orestes

No.

Pholus

Please, take it.

Orestes

I said no... Are you happy with my sister?

Pholus

Why do you ask?

Orestes

I don't know. Myself I'm happier than ever. For the first time in my adult life I feel so ...unburdened. I'm in love. I enjoy life. I slumber away every night. What more could this scepter offer me? Only troubles and misery. I am not going to take it. Not now, not ever.

End of discussion.

Pholus

Are you denying the succession to the throne?

Orestes

If it is necessary, I will.

Pholus

What shall I do with this?

Orestes

It's not my problem anymore. If it is a trouble for you, give it to Pylades.

Pholus

To your obsessed cousin.

Orestes

He is my best friend.

Pholus

The people of Argos will suffer once he owns the scepter. The man is a maniac. Everybody knows that. "Pylades the bloodsucker."

Orestes

Oh, my god. Look!

Pholus

What?

Orestes

Look, Pholus.

Pholus

Who's there?

Orestes

The sunset. Have you ever seen a more radiant sunset?

The Sunset enters the room.

12.

Iphigenia, Electra and Chrysothemis in front of a lit candle.

Iphigenia undresses herself; her body is full of wounds.

Chrysothemis

Oh, my god, who did this to you?

Iphigenia

No one, honey. Give me your hand. Yours too, Electra. Now I want all of us to concentrate on the figure of Cassandra. Do you remember Cassie?

Electra

Crystal clear.

Iphigenia

Chrysothemis?

Chrysothemis

How can I forget?

**Iphigenia gradually falls into a trance. Then, she grasps the knife
and makes two cuts on her leg.**

Chrysothemis

Stop her. She is hurting herself.

Electra

She knows what she's doing.

Chrysothemis

I can't bear it.

Iphigenia

You need blood, I give you blood.

Chrysothemis

Is that why you're so pale, my love?

Electra

Shh... Think of Cassandra.

Chrysothemis

Iphigenia, wake up!

Electra

Shut up, you twat.

Chrysothemis

I can't stand all this blood. Her blood. Iphigenia. Iphigenia, come back. Please. Wake up, angel.

Iphigenia wakes up. Chrysothemis immediately takes care of her cuts.

Iphigenia

What happened?

Electra

This idiot.

Iphigenia

Where is Cassandra?

Electra

With her pals, in the gangland.

Iphigenia

I gave her blood, she should have come.

Electra

What a waste of time. Your magic didn't work well. Did it? These tricks do not fit Argos.

Chrysothemis

Come on, darling. Let me take care of you.

Electra

Get dressed before someone else has the chance to admire your
spectacular body. You look quite a sight.

Chrysothemis

I'm gonna make you some fresh orange-juice right away.

Iphigenia

I'm thirsty.

13.

Electra and Pylades.

Electra

I heard that you threatened my husband

Pylades

Hello, Electra. You look great today.

Electra

You don't look bad yourself. You're all shining. My brother must
have treated you really nice last night.

Pylades

What do you mean by that?

Electra

Come on, you know. Two boys, two dearest friends, so close to each
other, far away from home for so long. He must be quite a catch.

Pylades

Mind your words.

Electra

Are you threatening me, too? This is preposterous. Don't be so oversensitive, sweetie. It was a necessity out there. So many months at sea, in a small boat. We all have certain physical needs. It doesn't mean that you absolutely enjoyed it. Did you?

Pylades

Did what?

Electra

Enjoy it. Have you fucked him back? Foolish me, what am I saying? Orestes is a hundred per cent male. Isn't he?

Pylades

He is.

Electra

So I thought.

Pylades

You do have a great imagination.

Electra

I do. So, how did it start? Let me guess. At first, you exchanged some stealthy looks of each other's penis when you pissed. You probably saw each other's erections sometimes, have you masturbated looking at each other? Of course you have. I'm sure you tried mutual masturbation; all the boys enjoy it. Did you use to lick him? He tastes quite salty, but you already know that.

Pylades

You are out of line once again.

Electra

Come on; don't be scared. I'm your friend. Consider me as a sister. Tell me, love, did it hurt as much as it should the first time he fucked your tight ass? Were you a virgin? Was Orestes your first? Do all these memories give you a hard on? I bet half of my kingdom they do.

Pylades grabs her and kisses her. Electra slaps him on the face.

Electra

Don't ever forget that I'm a married woman.

Pylades

With whom? With a gardener? Does he gives you pleasure at least?

Electra

Always.

Pylades

With what? With a pruning hook or with a mattock?

Electra

Actually, with a golden scepter.

14.

Orestes and Iphigenia.

Iphigenia

Are you in love with me?

Orestes

Do you have any doubts about it?

Iphigenia

There are times I'm thinking that you confuse your gratitude towards me with love. Without my help it wouldn't be so easy to run away from Tauris or to steal the goddess' statue from the temple.

Orestes

You helped me soothe my soul.

Iphigenia

Would you love me the same way otherwise?

Orestes

Yes, baby, with all of my heart.

Iphigenia

I'm not a baby; I'm much older than you.

Orestes

Does it really matter? You are still very beautiful, outside and inside. You have this serene strength. Have you regretted coming with me?

Iphigenia

You asked me before, telling me that you have regretted it.

Orestes

I haven't.

Iphigenia

Don't you see? They won't let us be happy.

Orestes

I am happy.

Iphigenia

For how long?

Orestes

For now.

Iphigenia

Now means nothing.

Orestes

This nothing is something that can make me happy for a lifetime. I feel sad only when you are away. Come here. **(Holding her)** I will heal all these wounds. Each and every one of them.

Iphigenia

Promise?

Orestes

I promise.

A sudden noise is heard.

Iphigenia

What's that?

Orestes

Don't know. Could be anything. A squirrel probably.

Iphigenia

It wasn't a squirrel. Hurry up, they must not find you in my room.

Orestes leaves by the window. Iphigenia is searching the room.

Iphigenia

Is anybody there?

Iphigenia opens the wardrobe. Inside there is a scary-looking girl.

Cassandra

Your lover is going to die. We have a home, but we live in a different one. Your sisters, too. We are riding for the fall. Where there is a will there is a way. You won't be an exception. You know you're cursed. Heads will roll! **(Singsong)** *You will take the bull by the horns – and you're all wearing your mother's clothes.*

Iphigenia

Guards! Guards!

The girl touches Iphigenia on her shoulder. Iphigenia looks at her.

Iphigenia

Cassandra?

15.

Pholus and Chrysothemis.

Pholus

What's up, beauty?

Chrysothemis

Leave the scepter now, Pholus, it's never too late, and go. Run as fast as you can.

Pholus

What's the problem, Chrysothemis?

Chrysothemis

I was visiting my nanny, who is too old to walk, when I heard the news.

Pholus

What news?

Chrysothemis

Everyone in town knows, Pholus.

Pholus

What? Speak!

Chrysothemis

They know, Pholus.

Pholus

How can they possibly know?

Chrysothemis

At first it sounded like a tacky joke. A gardener to steer Argos.

Pholus

I'm your sister's husband.

Chrysothemis

For them you're always a gardener, there is no royal blood running in your veins, you are one of them. What made them laugh at first, made them angry next. They were enraged. A herd of them is approaching the palace asking for your punishment.

Pholus

I tried to be sensible and honest.

Chrysothemis

Doesn't matter.

Pholus

Such an ungrateful people.

Chrysothemis

What did you expect? When will you learn?

Pholus

It's too late now.

Chrysothemis

Maybe it's not. Go Pholus! There is going to be an uproar here.

Pholus

I must speak to my wife.

Chrysothemis

Electra isn't concerned about you.

Pholus

How can you say that?

Chrysothemis

I'm so worried about Iphigenia; she is so vulnerable right now.

Pholus

I must say goodbye to Electra.

Chrysothemis

No time for goodbyes. Take wings and run. Run. Run like the wind.

Pholus leaves the scepter and exits quickly.

16.

Iphigenia holds Cassandra in her arms.

Cassandra

I'm so tired. I was tired before, I'll be tired afterwards. I'm not depressed. Your blood made me remember things I want to forget. I wasn't planning this trip. Why did you call me? The sun still hangs bright over these clusters of sand. I'm glad I see you again. You changed; I changed too. Look at me. I was the most beautiful girl of Troy, they said. Two drunken dead are passing out of the fortress. Can you hear them? Your mother hated me; your mother was feeling pity for me. She finally killed me, and your father as well, with the help of her lover and so on. We run toward a holocaust. You want to forget, I want to forget, too. Pholus needs your help, you can't help him; he is far away now. I was naive like him. Besides, I was a stranger. You are also an alien here. Everyone is an alien nowadays.

Tonight thousands of stars will look down on us from the sky. Not all of us will meet our maker someday, you know. I'm glad I'm here. I'm sad I'm here. Please let me hang about for a while. **(Singsong)**
You're in love – I'm in pain – Take me back – Make me stay.

Iphigenia

What do you want?

Cassandra

...To wait.

17.

Orestes, Electra and Pylades.

Orestes

I'm not going to take it. Leave me alone.

Pylades

People are furious. A huge group is outside the fortress.

Orestes

Why? What are they going to do?

Pylades

They feel cheated. They're uncontrollable.

Orestes (To Pylades)

You take the scepter.

Electra

No way. I won't give the scepter to him.

Orestes

It doesn't belong to you.

Electra

It doesn't belong to him either.

Orestes

He comes from a royal family, too.

Electra

He's a traitor. Pholus is somewhere out there, living like an animal, because of him. Because of your lover.

Orestes

Not now, Electra.

Electra

Where do you think they learned about Pholus? Ask your fuck-buddy. Go on. Ask him.

Pylades

The whole situation was ludicrous, a gardener to be in charge of Argos. He was an impostor. But a traitor, I am not. I've never been a coward. I would never have done anything against our common interest, jeopardize our safety, hurting you, Orestes, and your family, which is my family.

Electra

Bullshit, you devious cunt.

Orestes

That's enough.

Pylades

I swear on my parents' grave and there is no greater vow I can give. I'll find out who the traitor is, I promise. Eventually, I'll cut him into pieces with my own hands. Whoever he or she is.

Orestes

Thank you, Pylades.

Electra

Go on. You can kiss now.

Orestes (To Pylades)

Please help me once more and accept the scepter.

Electra

This is not going to happen. This time I will be the one who will shout out aloud everything about that weakness of yours. Do you get it, darling?

Orestes

Listen to me, you bitch. I'm not going to take this fucking wand.

Pylades

Someone has to.

Electra

Go out with the scepter to let them see you. It is the only way to calm them down. Come back and I'll take it.

Orestes

It's all yours.

Chrysothemis enters.

Chrysothemis

Electra, my love, they found him.

Electra

Who?

Chrysothemis

They found Pholus in the field. He was sitting in the shadow of a pine-tree and he was gazing at the plants. When he saw all those people coming toward him in fury, he didn't run, he stayed in the shadow of the tree and welcomed them. They stripped off his clothes and beat him to death. He died in pain. They pushed flowers, greenery, soil and vegetables into every conceivable hole of his body. And they laughed, they laughed with all their heart. They're still laughing; you can hear them everywhere. They carried him all the way through the city and eventually they brought him outside the palace.

Electra (Collapses in Chrysothemis' arms)

He was a real man, do you hear me, faggots? The most real man I've ever met.

18.

Pholus, Iphigenia, and Cassandra. Iphigenia takes out some greenery from Pholus' mouth.

Iphigenia

Every single person who came close to this family ended in a similar way. The fault is ours, Pholus.

Cassandra

You didn't like him. Did you?

Iphigenia

How can you say such a thing?

Cassandra

The dead can understand more than you could imagine.

Iphigenia

It's just that he was so different from us, mainly from my sister.

Cassandra

I know.

Iphigenia

Not that he was a bad man or anything like that, but...

Cassandra

I know.

Iphigenia

You know.

Cassandra

Please stay with us. No. Better, leave us alone.

Iphigenia

You're confusing me all over again.

Cassandra

Go. Go.

Iphigenia leaves.

Cassandra (about Iphigenia)

You charming hypocrite. You are an Atreidis, too, after all. No living being will really stand for you when pain will come.

Pholus

Don't be mean.

Cassandra

Sorry, Pholus.

Pholus

I didn't say goodbye to Electra.

Cassandra

The night surrounds us. You can still feel the trees. You will wake up in the morning. A garden is waiting for you. The light is less in the underworld, but there is always life inside the plants. White plants, new species, without the endless need of light. The energy you put often comes back to you. The underground connection. Fall in love if you have to. Leave the scepters to the fools. A ship of them is crossing the sea throughout the night. Stains beneath its way. Storm of their undergarments. You will pass from first to last. Kiss my friends; kiss them from me. **(Singsong)** *Let them know – that I'll be late – or I'll come back – in a little while.*

19.

Orestes and Electra.

Electra

My brother...

Orestes

I'm not your brother. Don't touch me. Go away from me; go to your room.

Electra

There is no one there.

Orestes

And what am I supposed to be? Your puppy-dog?

Electra

You are my brother. Pholus died. In Argos instead of mourning they are laughing. He was my husband.

Orestes

When you sneaked into my room asking me to... You didn't seem like you had a husband.

Electra

What an ugly thing to say.

Orestes

You speak about ugliness? Just listen to yourself all those months.
Go, you disturb my privacy. Wait. (**About the scepter**) This belongs
to me; you are not worthy of it.

Electra

Your heart is made of shit.

Orestes

Is that so? Go now. I've had enough of you.

Electra

I have no husband, no brother, no authority. I have nothing.

Orestes

I'm so touched.

Electra

I can't find fucking love anywhere.

Orestes

You? What do you know about love? Only Iphigenia knows about
love.

Electra

Don't say that.

Orestes

About a great love.

Electra

I don't want to hear that.

Orestes

Why?

Electra

Stop it.

Orestes

Even if you had the dignity to kill yourself, I promise you I wouldn't shed a single tear. You're worthless.

Electra

You asked for it.

20.

In the underworld. The fisherman, his two sons and Pholus start to undress themselves. Three guards are arriving.

21.

Pylades, Iphigenia and Cassandra. Pylades' clothes are full of blood.

Iphigenia

Once more it was impossible to sleep.

Pylades

I promise, during the day I'll transfer the detainees and the equipment to another place outside the palace.

Iphigenia

You should have done it ages ago.

Pylades

I had no time. I promised to find the traitors, Pholus' instigator,
remember?

Iphigenia

With the "final scream" method?

Pylades

No matter what you say, this final scream is the enlightening one.

Iphigenia

Undoubtedly. I have a terrible headache.

Pylades

I believe that it's one of our guards. Guards always have big mouths.

Iphigenia

Did you reach a conclusion?

Pylades

I'm close to it. I can smell it. Three of them are already dead. People
die easily these days.

Iphigenia

You'll probably be surprised, but they are made of flesh and blood.

Pylades

Don't I know? Don't worry; these are not like us.

Iphigenia

What's the difference?

Pylades

We are the selected ones.

Iphigenia

Who gives us that right?

Pylades

Our origin.

Iphigenia

Yes, probably.

Cassandra

You murderer!

Pylades

What did you say?

Iphigenia

I said that you're probably right although if I were in their place, with one per cent of your usual torture, I would have confessed whatever you wanted to hear. I can't stand the pain. I mean the physical kind. The psychological kind of pain is deeper and more tormenting. That, I can bear.

Pylades

You see, once more they have luck on their side. Physical pain is the only pain they recognize.

Cassandra

You murderer!

Pylades

What did you say?

Iphigenia

Nothing.

Pylades

Get an aspirin, and there will be no hullabaloo tonight. I promise.

22.

Electra masturbates Chrysothemis.

Chrysothemis

Her heart is a cherry-blossom. She is so pure. She never grew old;
she remains an adolescent.

Electra

She needs our help.

Chrysothemis

I could give my life for Iphigenia.

Electra

No one can waste his life in anyone's name. That's all crap.

Chrysothemis

Yet, I really can.

Electra

When the time of sacrifice comes you'll take back every single word
you said, trust me.

Chrysothemis

You simply don't know how I feel.

Electra

And what have you done all this time while Orestes treats our sister
like an asshole?

Chrysothemis

Orestes is a man.

Electra

He tries to make her break.

Chrysothemis

Is he?

Electra

He is a fucking problem. We must dispatch him.

Chrysothemis

What?

Electra

We must put him to death as soon as possible.

Chrysothemis

How can you say that? He is our brother.

Electra

I know.

Chrysothemis

He has suffered enough already.

Electra

We have to choose between a sister and a brother.

Chrysothemis

Why?

Electra

If we don't get rid of him he will soon do her in.

Chrysothemis

Are you certain?

Electra

I'm afraid this is our only way.

Chrysothemis

Honest?

Electra

It's either him or her. We have to choose.

Chrysothemis

Then, her. Iphigenia. Yes, only Iphigenia knows about love, no one else.

Electra

Not again.

Chrysothemis

About a great love. You are hurting me. A little softer please. Yes,
there. Yes!

23.

*In the underworld. The fisherman, his two sons, Pholus and three
guards, all naked, sniggering with the arrival of another guard.*

24.

Iphigenia and Pylades.

Iphigenia

You look funny wearing all those medals.

Pylades

Your brother made me the second most powerful man in Argos.

Iphigenia

You deserve it, Pylades. You found the traitor.

Pylades

Yes, I did find him.

Iphigenia

No more sleepless nights.

Pylades

I'd told you it was one of the guards.

Iphigenia

Doesn't matter; you found the traitor no matter who he is.

Pylades

You look down in the dumps.

Iphigenia

All this week as soon as I wake up I have this bitter taste in my mouth, on my tongue. Like I've been swallowing antibiotics all night.

Pylades

Have you got any nightmares?

Iphigenia

All the time.

Pylades

I know what you need.

Iphigenia

Do you?

Pylades

You need a man, woman. Orestes is my king and my best friend. He is like a younger brother for me.

Iphigenia

He is your age.

Pylades

He tries to avoid responsibilities, though. That makes him a child.

Iphigenia

I don't think so.

Pylades

You have to find a man who will give you children.

Iphigenia

Why?

Pylades

This is the law of nature.

Iphigenia

I've had enough pain already. I don't need to see my kids suffer. No children, Pylades, do you hear me? No children, not even a husband.

I am a mere nothing in time and I shall be nothing still, because nothing will come out of me. This is a relief.

Pylades approaches her.

Iphigenia

Don't do that.

Pylades

Why not?

Iphigenia

Just don't do it, honey.

Pylades

Sorry, Iphigenia.

Iphigenia leaves.

25.

Cassandra and Orestes, while Iphigenia lays into Chrysothemis' arms.

Orestes

It was right after I decorated Pylades for the execution of the traitor. I was alone in my bed. Throughout the ceremony I felt like rushing back to my room again. I hate all those formalities. In my personal space, I feel safe and sound; I was gazing out of the window. Cassie, have you ever seen Argos from my window? This time of the year it looks like a canvas. If I hadn't been born to be a king I would have liked to have been the king's painter or a sculptor. Next, I felt this pain in my stomach, in seconds it became so severe that I doubled up. I couldn't even speak, I couldn't call the guards; I couldn't call Iphigenia. It was awful. I knew I was going to die and it wasn't okay. Then you approached. The ash-colour of death is the exact shade of this palace. Tell me, Cassie, is there any special treatment in the underworld for people with royal blood?

Cassandra

We shouldn't say it, but yes. Even there, there are some privileges of birth granted.

Orestes

I thought so.

Cassandra

Come on, Orestes, I'm joking. No royal prerogatives at all.

Orestes

I thought so.

Cassandra and Orestes leave.

Iphigenia

The first time we made love, I called him Achilles. Achilles, the most handsome man in the entire country. The man to whom my father offered me as a bride. I never forgave my father for his embarrassing scam; even though I've come to realize that I would probably have done the same if I were in his shoes. Since then, Achilles has always been my partner, even though I've just seen him once. It was since then that he became my imaginary lover as well. Overseas I was obliged to have brief intercoursés with many men. None could take my virginity. Only someone born in this land could have broken the hymen of my psyche. Orestes turned out to be that man. I called him Achilles the first time we made love. Orestes wore a long face. He was very funny. I explained: I called you Achilles instead of "my lover". He said that he preferred "my lover".

Chrysothemis

I love you.

Iphigenia

I know, honey, but I'm talking about the other kind of love. The love between a man and a woman.

Chrysothemis

This is the love I'm talking about. I love you. For your love I could cross every limit you could possibly pose.

Iphigenia

What kind of limit?

Chrysothemis

You want proof of my love; you'll get proof of it.

Chrysothemis presents a tiny bottle.

Iphigenia

What is it?

Chrysothemis

A scorpion's poison. This took the life out of him.

Iphigenia

Of Orestes? This is no time for nonsense. I'm in pain, Chrysothemis.

Chrysothemis

You shouldn't be. I dispatched him. I put him to death, even though I loved him. I simply had to. There was no other option. He didn't really love you; he didn't respect you like I do. He was a man. What does a man know about love? He was playing with you, like his father did. Didn't you get it, love?

Iphigenia runs out of the room.

Chrysothemis

Iphigenia. Where are you going? Iphigenia. Please, don't betray me.

Iphigenia, I LOVE YOU.

26.

In the underworld. The fisherman, his two sons, Pholus and four guards, all naked, are kneeling in front of Orestes.

27.

Electra and Pylades.

Pylades

We have a problem here. Orestes is dead, leaving three unmarried sisters behind. Iphigenia, even if she wasn't in such grief, is unsuitable. Everyone in Argos considers her a stranger. Chrysothemis, on the other hand, is totally useless.

Electra

I wouldn't bet on it.

Pylades

The only one left is you. You can own the scepter right now, but you are a girl.

Electra

I'm so sorry for it. Tell me, now your lover's gone are you gonna look for a replacement? You don't seem to hurt enough for the loss of Orestes.

Pylades

I feel absolutely shattered with pain. It is so shocking I can hardly believe he is dead. We have been together through thick and thin.

But now, there is no time for grieving; we are standing on the verge of political instability. I'll be mourning for his death, as I should, when all the things are settled. Now you...

Electra

What about me? I'm just a girl. I do not own a big fat cock. Do I? Why are you smiling?

Pylades

I do own what you mentioned.

Electra

Do you? You men, always make a lot of fuss about your masculinity.

Pylades

I never promise things I can't give.

Electra

What else do you offer?

Pylades

Everything Orestes couldn't.

Electra

Orestes couldn't make love to me for the most ridiculous of reasons.

Pylades

He was your brother after all.

Electra

Maybe if you were fucking me while Orestes was fucking you then we could have overcome the issue of blood relationship. Yes, that is making sense.

Pylades

By the way, Orestes died unexpectedly yesterday evening, didn't he?

Electra

I heard it was caused by a bite of a scorpion.

Pylades

That's all hot air. Where were you at the time of his death?

Electra

Are you interrogating me?

Pylades

Should I?

Electra

You should, I was right outside his room. I was giving a blowjob to his cute guard. Don't worry I absolutely didn't let him come.

Pylades

In your mouth?

Electra

In general. Except for my dead stepfather and my recently dead brother, I keep this pleasure for my second husband.

Pylades

Are you going to marry again?

Electra

Of course I will.

Pylades

Are you going to marry me?

Electra

There is no one else left.

Pylades

Will you be faithful to me?

Electra

I'll be yours flesh and blood, in pleasure and in pain, in sickness and in health, till death do us part. You know, I love you.

Pylades

You know, I know.

They kiss.

28.

Iphigenia into Cassandra's arms.

Iphigenia

I'm overcome with sadness. The pain is more than I can handle.

Cassandra

You just don't know yourself.

Iphigenia

How can I unburden myself? Tell me Cassie, what do you see.

Cassandra

I see my country devastated, reduced to rubble. I see my home lying in ashes. I see the name of my city becoming the name of a condom. I see my sister raped and killed. I see myself as a prisoner. I see your daddy demanding my blossom. I see myself as an exile left in this strange land, in this cursed family. These were the days of doom. I see a wide sea between my fingers. I see all of you dead. I see a coyote crossing this night. We are all going to die eventually, many times, each and every one of us. Most likely only one Atreidis will survive.

Iphigenia

Which one?

Cassandra

I can't tell.

Iphigenia

Is it me Cassie?

Cassandra

Do you want it to be you?

Iphigenia

I deserve a second chance. I was far away for half of my life. And now, I just lost a lover and a brother in a single day. I feel lifeless, but still there is so much life in me. Look, my wounds have almost disappeared. It's like a miracle; my body is beautiful again. Please tell me, is it me, Cassie? I want to know.

Cassandra

Yes, it is not you. No, it is probably you.

Iphigenia

Will I survive?

Cassandra

I promise you.

Iphigenia

Are you certain?

Cassandra

Forgive me now. I have to prepare the sister you betrayed.

Iphigenia

Don't be unpleasant, she was...

Cassandra

A girl. In the swirl.

Cassandra leaves.

29.

Pylades and Chrysothemis. Chrysothemis is full of wounds; she resembles a flayed animal.

Pylades

I heard that you are a lesbian. Are you really? Answer me! If you don't talk I'm obliged to check. You're tight. I like it. Don't be so quiet. Have you lost your voice? Are you still there? Yes, your heart is still beating. Let's try it otherwise. Shall we?

Pylades penetrates a wound of Chrysothemis' with his penis and eventually he reaches an orgasm.

Pylades

Not bad. Not bad at all. I bet you are not a hundred per cent lesbian. Are you? Now you have to forgive me. I have to take a shower, get dressed and marry your sister. I presume you won't join us. What a pity, it's supposed to be the marriage of the year. If you keep yourself alive I'll show you the photos when I come back. Because I will come back to finish with you. No one can stand all those filthy lies you told me, that Electra helped in your brother's murder etc. These are very harmful lies; can't you see? All right, let's not think about these anymore. Two sisters in one night, wow! Unfortunately, not at the same time. Bad luck. Electra would have loved that.

Pylades leaves. After a while Cassandra enters to untie Chrysothemis and take care of her.

Cassandra

Do you remember your mother's greatness? Your mother was bearing a grudge for almost twenty years. Do you remember your father's strength? Your father was more of a high-ranking official than a father. My baby, I want redemption for both of us.

Cassandra murmurs a Trojan song.

Chrysothemis

When father would return from work I used to run to him with all my strength and grab his leg. He would lift me up into his arms as if I were a feather and fling me towards the ceiling. Mother would protest, she was afraid of accidents. For this brief spell of time I was flying from his arms back to his arms. My daily flight. Next, he would catch me in the air; he would land me on his lap and he would

start having dinner. I don't know when it started, but one day I realized I was sitting on something hard. At that time I wasn't familiar with anything sexual, but I knew it was bad. I've never told anyone about it. I chose to avoid him every way I could. When he would come home I would hide. It was awfully disappointing, you know. My everyday flights were forever called off. It was the price I had to pay. Really, there is nothing I miss more from my childhood.

Cassandra

Let me take you on a flight.

Chrysothemis

Do you know how?

Cassandra

Give me your hand.

Cassandra and Chrysothemis take a flight into space.

30.

Electra and Iphigenia.

Iphigenia

I want to wish you all the happiness in the world. You finally found the perfect man for you.

Electra

Thank you, sis.

Iphigenia

After so many deaths, finally a bright wedding. *A black wedding.*

Electra

What?

Iphigenia

I didn't... *a black wedding!* Those aren't my words. Cassandra is speaking through me.

Electra

Cassandra?

Iphigenia

Yes, she's here.

Electra

Where?

Iphigenia

Your brand new husband was the only one responsible for Pholus' death. Congratulations, you married the murderer of your husband. You need to make the big decisions. To hurl your spear at the tiger. Cassie, what are you saying? Pylades' parents are disappointed. He made a phony vow in the name of their souls.

Electra

How do you know? You weren't there.

Iphigenia

Electra, I know nothing. *Don't let him touch you tonight. Listen to me carefully. Don't let him...*

Electra

Why?

Iphigenia

Cassie, can you shut up. Please, no more words.

Electra leaves.

Iphigenia

Why did you do that? Tonight was a special night for her. Poor honey. Where did you go? Cassandra, is it true?

31.

Pylades and Electra.

Pylades

You are a virgin. Aren't you? How can this be possible?

Electra

You remember my husband, Pholus? Well, he and I had a white wedding.

Pylades

What an incapable man. Better he's dead.

Electra

You know better.

Pylades

Tell me, is this my wedding gift or what?

Electra

You have to wait for your gift.

Pylades

Do you like it?

Electra

Having sex with you?

Pylades

Yeah.

Electra

Don't you feel safe about your skills anymore?

Pylades

It's not that. If this is your first time it probably hurts.

Electra

It does hurt.

Pylades

I know, love. But with some practice you will finally enjoy it.

Electra

Practice makes perfect. Do you think I'll be asking for it all the time? They say that women have a prick in their head instead of a brain.

Pylades

No doubt.

Electra

What a prick!

Pylades

Look at me. I'm the happiest prick you've ever met. I am the scepter-bearer and I have you, what else can I wish for? Some children maybe. Yes, baby, let's have some kids. Do you know how I feel? Like I'm on top of the world.

While Pylades ejaculates, Electra cuts his penis with a knife.

Pylades

Why?

Electra

Time for the gift.

Pylades

Why did you do that, bitch?

Electra cuts his throat.

Electra

You are not a man and you'll never be. I almost loved you.

32.

In the underworld. The fisherman, his two sons, Pholus, four guards and Orestes, all naked, are trying to pull down Chrysothemis from space.

33.

Electra into Iphigenia's arms.

Electra

Twice a widow. Isn't it hilarious?

Iphigenia

What have you done? What on earth have you done?

Electra

Whatever I had to.

Iphigenia

It's all Cassie's fault.

Electra

Is she really here?

Iphigenia

Hmm.

Electra

Sooner or later I would come to realize what an asshole I got married
to.

Iphigenia

Does anyone know about what you've done? What have you done?

Electra

My duty. Then, I came straight here. Where else could I go?

Iphigenia

We must do something to cover it up before they know. It must look like an accident.

Electra

It wasn't an accident.

Iphigenia

You are the only family I've got, honey. I won't let anyone harm you, I promise. I can't afford that. But you should help me. Follow me to his room

Electra

I can't go.

Iphigenia

Don't be scared. I'm with you.

Electra

I'm not scared. I simply can't walk.

Iphigenia

Why is that?

Electra

I have his dead meat inside me. It stings. I cut it while he came. Now he is useless, incapable of harming anyone.

Iphigenia

Open your legs.

Electra

Hell no! I want it to rot away inside me.

Iphigenia

Open your legs now... Oh my god.

Iphigenia removes Pylades' penis and throws it on the floor.

34.

Pylades and Cassandra. Cassandra brings Pylades' penis.

Pylades

Who are you?

Cassandra

I'm Cassandra.

Pylades

You used to be Agamemnon's girlfriend once. I've heard about you.

We haven't met before. How do you do?

Cassandra

How do you do?

Pylades

I'm glad we've finally met.

Cassandra puts Pylades' penis back.

Pylades

What are you doing? You're tickling me. Where did you find my
penis?

Cassandra

On the floor.

Pylades

This is extremely kind of you. There is some dust on it though. We are supposed to be very careful with our personal hygiene, especially when it comes to genitalia. You should have washed it first.

Cassandra

I see water resources diminishing on end till earth turns into a desert. I see this desert bearing oil. I see black oil flowing like blood. I see another Troy falling into pieces. What a relief, new winners will drag me to another continent, to another cursed family. I see a wide sea between my fingers. A soul can get used to anything. Here we are, back in its place.

Pylades

I like you. What's your name?

Cassandra

Cassandra.

Pylades

Of course, you had a reputation for being a depressing, but compassionate female.

Cassandra

Do you have a last wish?

Pylades

To be honest... I would love a slice of bread with sun-dried tomato on top and a drop of olive oil perhaps. I just love Mediterranean cuisine. After all olive oil is the staple of a macrobiotic diet. Where

are you going? Take me with you. Don't leave me alone. Please. It's cold in here.

Cassandra

Shhh. I'll get you the sun-dried tomato, you brat.

35.

In the underworld. The fisherman, his two sons, Pholus, four guards and Chrysothemis, all naked, are kneeling in front of the naked Orestes who embraces Pylades.

36.

Iphigenia and Electra enter the room. Iphigenia holds a torch.

Iphigenia

His bed is on fire. No one will find out he was already dead. We will wait for a while and then we'll call the guards before the fire breaks out all over the palace.

Electra

Give it to me.

Iphigenia

What are you doing?

Electra with the torch sets the curtains afire. Iphigenia tries to put out the fire.

Electra

Better this way.

Iphigenia

Are you insane? We'll get burned.

Electra

So what? We will sweep two viruses out of this world.

Iphigenia

I haven't done anything wrong.

Electra

You are an Atrideis. Have you forgotten it?

Iphigenia

What is so terrible about that?

Electra

Terrible? There is nothing terrible about the fact that our great-great-grandfather cut into pieces his fucking son and offered him as a dinner to the gods. There is nothing terrible about the fact that the gods finally resurrected him, and this new asshole, by cheating and by killing, became a king. Is it terrible that his son raped the wife of his brother?

Iphigenia

Help me put the fire out, you fool.

Electra

Is it terrible that this idiot took revenge by killing the children of his rapist brother? And what a surprise, right after that he offered them as a dinner to the gods.

Iphigenia

I don't want to die.

Electra

Now, that's terrible.

Iphigenia

Help me.

Electra

Speaking about terrible do you know why I pushed Orestes to murder our mother? It wasn't all about revenge. It was because they made me marry a gardener, a gardener of all people. They just wanted to throw me out of the palace, leaving them alone. I couldn't let them evict me from my own house, could I? So...

Electra's clothes flare up. Iphigenia tries to save her. The room is on fire.

37.

In the underworld. The fisherman, his two sons, Pholus, four guards, Orestes, Chrysothemis and Pylades, all naked, are staring at dozens of Argos' citizens, of both sexes, of all ages, who undress themselves.

38.

Iphigenia and Cassandra in the gutted palace.

Cassandra

How is she?

Iphigenia

She is sleeping. She is going to be all right.

Cassandra

You should have let her die.

Iphigenia

Sometimes you are so mean.

Cassandra

Because of Electra your palace is burned, you have nothing. All of the personnel died. The blaze spread all over the buildings and all of Argos eventually flamed up.

Iphigenia

Oh, god.

Cassandra

Dozens of people died in horrible pain. I didn't have enough time to prepare them properly. Children, grandmothers, animals... I am dead; I was working all night. Almost all of your citizens have departed by now. Don't say that I am mean. You should have let her die; it was all her fault. Now it is your fault too.

Iphigenia

I have no one but her.

Cassandra

Lucky you. She is pregnant by Pylades.

Iphigenia

How do you know?

Cassandra

How do I know? She doesn't know it herself yet but she is carrying two embryos. Two more Atreides in the world. Lucky us.

Iphigenia

Listen to me and listen to me carefully. I wouldn't sacrifice my sister for all of Argos, for the whole world.

Cassandra

Not even for a lover?

Iphigenia

Orestes is already dead.

Cassandra

Beyond a shadow of a doubt, she killed him.

Iphigenia

How dare you? Chrysothemis confessed her crime to me, herself.

Cassandra

Chrysothemis was a victim. So was Orestes when he killed your mother. It was all Electra's plan.

Iphigenia

You're lying.

Cassandra

I am. Be sure that I'm not. Ask her.

Iphigenia

Go away from me.

Cassandra (Singsong)

Now you know – you stupid cow – now you know –I do know how.

Cassandra leaves.

Iphigenia

Don't you ever come back.

39.

Electra and Iphigenia.

Iphigenia

Are you all right? You are full of burns.

Electra

Do you think I'll have scars afterwards?

Iphigenia

I don't know.

Electra

Don't you find me attractive anymore?

Iphigenia

Cassandra claims that you killed Orestes. This girl is crazy.

Electra

It's true.

Iphigenia

What is? That you killed Orestes; this cannot be true.

Electra

He didn't want me; you cannot even imagine how I felt. He truly loved you. I don't blame him but I was disturbed.

Iphigenia

You are disturbed. Cassie was right; it is entirely my fault.

Electra

Are you going to kill me?

Iphigenia

Kill you? I can't do that but even if you have the dignity to kill yourself, I promise you I wouldn't shed a single tear. You're worthless.

Electra

His words exactly.

Iphigenia

Orestes'?

Electra

Give me a knife.

Iphigenia

What to you want a knife for?

Electra

I just do. Don't pester me with more questions.

Iphigenia gives her a knife.

Electra

Don't go yet.

Iphigenia

I know what are you going to do and I don't want to see it.

Electra

Aren't you going to stop me?

Iphigenia

No.

Electra

You should.

Electra stabs Iphigenia.

Iphigenia

How did you do that?

Electra

Like this.

Electra stabs her again.

Iphigenia

Why?

Electra

Because.

Iphigenia dies. Electra is desperately searching for something.

Electra

Where the fuck is it?

Electra finally finds the scepter.

40.

In the pathway. Iphigenia and Cassandra.

Iphigenia

Where are we going?

Cassandra

Under.

Iphigenia

Let's stay here for a while.

Cassandra

Why? Aren't you happy we're leaving?

Iphigenia

I don't know. I was so relieved you came to take me.

Cassandra

No hard feelings.

Iphigenia

Look.

Cassandra

What?

Iphigenia

The world.

Cassandra

I know. Shall we go now?

Iphigenia

In a second. That far away you can see an island. And far beyond the sea there is a farm, and a house, many houses, and animals, trees, humans, mountains, rain, a softhearted rain, a spark, a drowned dog, the sea of Japan, a mission, an overprotected child, a paper tiger, a silence, a grandpa's prayer, a space zebra, Venus de Milo, a crystal ship, an eye, a better man, a day like this, you and me.

Cassandra

Let's go. You could do without clothes.

Iphigenia

No problem.

41.

In the underworld. The naked citizens of Argos, the fisherman, his two sons, Pholus, the four guards, Orestes, Chrysothemis and Pylades are entertaining themselves without restraint. Cassandra and Iphigenia can be seen in the centre.

42.

In the wasted palace, Electra is sitting in the burned up throne holding the scepter. For a while, she is staring at the audience. A part of the wall falls down and kills her.

43.

**In the pathway. Electra is in a hurry while stripping herself of
her clothes.**

Electra

Stop! Wait for me you assholes. Wait, I'm coming.

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