TROY

by

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HELEN (V.O.)

(conversational, breaking the 4th wall) The last time I was truly happy was my fourteenth summer. Warm weather, light evenings out with the gang. It was the summer of my first blood. Mum had always called me El or Chick-chick, but after she'd shown me how to take care of it, she said "you're a woman now, Helen of Sparta" and I became Helen.

CLYTEMNESTRA is fussing about over a stove with some pans on it. AGAMEMNON comes up behind her and puts his hands on her hips and starts kissing her neck, nuzzling and rubbing himself against her...

> CLYTEMNESTRA (fondly) Stop, it you...

She flicks him ineffectually with a tea towel - he continues... His phone rings. He steps away from her, gets his phone out of his pocket and looks at it.

AGAMEMNON Bloody Menelaus... I better take this...

Answers phone

AGAMEMNON Helas ya bas, Menelaus...

Indistinct reply Fucks sake, cool yer jets, slow down fellah...

Indistinct reply (puts on stammer) M..M..Menelaus, stop talkin, take a deep breath an start again

Turns to Clytemnestra and rolls his eyes

Indistinct reply Helen's gone? Where?

Indistinct reply Troy? the fuck?

Indistinct reply Is she away with him, or did he take her off?

Indistinct reply Where you there?

Indistinct reply Stop, stop, stop. If you didnae see her go, how do you...

Indistinct reply Away an talk to the maids an the kitchen people an the boatmen. (MORE)

AGAMEMNON (CONT'D) Find oot what happened. Tell them to keep schtum. Then phone me back.

Indistinct reply Yeah it matters a fuckin lot if she took off wi him or he dragged her away.

Hangs up. Clytemnestra has stopped cooking and is looking at him.

AGAMEMNON Your fuckin sister, again, fuckin trouble, again, that one and my fuckin idiot brother, a marriage made in heaven, jeez.

Agamemnon paces about. A small girl aged about 4 comes in - it is IPHIGENIA. She comes up to Clytemnestra and hugs her leg. Clytemnestra ruffles her hair, bends down...

CLYTEMNESTRA (whispers) Gie Daddy a hug, sweetie

Iphigenia wanders over to where Agamemnon is pacing and reaches out to him. He pats her on the head and ignores her.

CLYTEMNESTRA (shouting to Orestes off screen) Orestes, come get yer sister and get yer hands washed for lunch.

Orestes comes in, sees his dad pacing and leads Iphigenia off. Clytemnestra lays the table. Agamemnon gets his phone out and punches a number in.

> AGAMEMNON Hellas ya bas, Penelope. Odysseus in?

Indistinct reply He's to ring me pronto, better still get his arse here.

Hangs up abruptly. Glares at Clytemnestra, she looks quizzically at him. Orestes and Iphigenia come back in and sit at the table.

> ORESTES What's for lunch?

AGAMEMNON (snappily) Lunch is for lunch.

Kids sit silently. Clytemnestra starts serving the food.

CLYTEMNESTRA (to the kids) Sush, somethin's come up, Daddy's workin... (to Agamemnon) Eat...

Agamemnon glares at her. The phone rings.

AGAMEMNON

Yes

Long indistinct reply Right, go roond every bastard who was there when she left an tell them if they speak a word of it I will personally gralloch them.

Long indistinct reply All right, I'll tell her.

Hangs up

AGAMEMNON (to Clytemnestra) He's sending Hermione over to stay.

CLYTEMNESTRA What's goin on?

Agamemnon approaches her to speak without the kids hearing.

AGAMEMNON She's fucked off wi that Trojan playboy.

Clytmenestra looks shocked.

CLYTEMNESTRA What happens now?

AGAMEMNON

(sarcastically) When I get the memo, you'll the first to know...

Agamemnon storms out.

IPHIGENIA Is Hermione coming?

CLYTEMNESTRA Yes, darling, she is, sush, eat.

The kids are excited and continue to eat. Clytemnestra looks thoughtful and worried.

AGAMEMNON and MENELAUS are joined by ODYSSEUS.

ODYSSEUS Well hello, Sengamemnon and Woman-elaus, what's the fuckin coco-commotion? what's the big mysterious hurry?

MENELAUS

It's Helen...

AGAMEMNON (interrupting) Helen's fucked off with Paris the Trojan. We need to figure oot oor response.

ODYSSEUS (looking pointedly at Menelaus) Oor?

Menelaus looks uncomfortable, like a spare prick at a wedding, it is obvious that there will now be a conversation between Agamemnon and Odysseus and he is just an onlooker.

ODYSSEUS

Is it a threat, tae us? What is it that we are reactin against here? Menelaus has got the hump? you're gonnae ride in fur the kid?

AGAMEMNON Makes us look stupit...

ODYSSEUS Makes him look stupit...

AGAMEMNON Mostly, but an me too..

ODYSSEUS If its no a threat, is it an opportunity?

AGAMEMNON What sort of opportunity?

ODYSSEUS Fucked if I know, I am but 15 seconds intae this... Troy has done somethin to us, what can we do to Troy? Is there an angle?

MENELAUS

(incredulous) Troy is the city of a thousand horses, we're 10-boat island men. What can we do to them?

ODYSSEUS

(patronisingly to Meneleus)

If we cannae dae Troy, whose wi them? Who can we do wit tae? If some cunt's come the cunt, then often some other cunt pays, eh? Life's no fair, not when Odysseus is here.

AGAMEMNON

The Troad is wi them, anycunt on the Hittite roads, the plainsmen, traders, aw the wee coastal towns.

ODYSSEUS

Finally, cookin wi gas. Anyone gonnae congratulate me then?

AGAMENMON

Fur wit?

ODYSSEUS

Congratulations, Odysseus, gettin everycunt AFORE the weddin games drunk to swear to defend the marriage no matter who won, and gettin everycunt AIFTER the weddin games drunk to swear to defend the marriage of Meneleus, now of Troy, and the lovely Helen was a fuckin masterstroke.

MENELEUS

How the fuck is that a masterstroke when my wife has run away wi one of them?

AGAMEMNON

Your wife husnae run aff, she was abducted, and if you did what I telt ya, you've already telt everyone who knows different what act-u-ally fuckin happened on pain my fuckin killin the absolute fuck oot of them. Ya did tell them? An yer gonnae tell them again when you get back, eh?

Meneleus nods.

ODYSSEUS Tell them Odysseus licked his knife.

Mimes licking a knife.

AGAMEMNON Alright, its a start, what next? Wit will that turn oot?

ODYSSEUS I've no been to Troy, only heard tell, an youse huvnae neither, pit a call intae the auld yin, Nestor.

Agamemnon nods

ODYSSEUS

(totting up in his head) 35-37 ships this spring, at a pinch, more if the Myrmidons come. Still but a mosquito to Troy. But if the Troad goes well, gold, burds, some cheery killin, mebbies 70-90 next spring?

AGAMEMNON

(nodding) Mormaers will go for that, but the Tyrant of Athens and...

ODYSSEUS

Fuck all the Tyrants, fuck the Mormaers, fuckin Young Teams you want. Attic Young Teams will give 30-35 alone.

AGAMEMNON (laughing) Tattoo of rape on ma right hand and pillage on ma left

MENELAUS That would be 7 fingers...

Agamemnon and Odysseus look at him like there's a village missing its idiot.

ODYSSEUS Provisional muster, what, 4 weeks, 6 weeks Saturday? Where?

AGAMEMNON

6 weeks, Aulis.

ODYSSEUS AND MENELAUS

Aulis

ODYSSEUS

Provisionally on yer call to Nestor and us workin it over for mair nor a wee mintie.

AGAMEMNON Pro-viz-eey-oh-an-ally.

They leave.

INT. THE ROYAL PALACE AT TROY - DAY

PRIAM and HECUBA are standing with ANDROMACHE on a staircase.

ANDROMACHE Hector is awa doon tae speak tae Alexander. He'll no be long.

HECUBA Must be a misunderstandin, Alexander wouldnae nivir dae nothin like that...

Andromache looks askance at Hecuba.

PRIAM Wheest you both, we'll ken soon enough, here he is...

Hector comes up the stairs.

PRIAM

Well?

HECTOR

It is her, she wanted tae come, he didnae jist grab her. She's aye fancied him, since the marriage games.

PRIAM Did he tell ya that? or...

HECTOR I spoke to them baith, an ma man went an talked to them as were on the boat.

HECUBA Telt ya it was a fuss over nothin, fishwives all of ye. And why checkin up on Alexander behind his back, Hector?

ANDROMACHE Ya ken fine why, Hecuba. Wi Alexander it's aye the embellishements.

Hecuba glares at her. Paris (known in Troy as Alexander) comes up the steps.

PARIS OF TROY (ALEXANDER, SOMETIMES SANDY) I'm baaaack. (pause, cheerily) Who's deid? the long faces on youse.

PRIAM Where do we staun Alexander?

PARIS OF TROY Staun? Staun wi respect to wit?

ANDROMACHE Is it war with Sparta?

HECUBA Sparta? Its Mycenae, ya dozy bissum.

ANDROMACHE (wearily) Helen of Sparta, the sister is Clytemnestra of Mycanae.

HECTOR The cousin is of Ithica, Penelope, marriet to that Odysseus

HECUBA No, that's not right.

PARIS OF TROY Two sisters, Helen and Clytemnestra, out of Sparta - the elder marriet out to Mycanae, Agamemnon the Mormaer there. His kid brother Meneleus marriet into Helen and took the Mormear of Sparta - on account of no brother.

PRIAM (interrupting) So? War? With Sparta and Mycanae and maybe Ithica?

PARIS OF TROY (shakes head dismissively) They're sheepshaggers dad, you seen Sparta recently. We're Troy for fucks sake. (looks around and indicates at the glamour and glitz)

HECUBA Alexander, language.

PARIS OF TROY (mock contrite) Sorry mum.

PARIS OF TROY

Well, I was at the marriage games what, two, three year ago, I thought I had a good shot, but she <airquotes> picked </airquotes> the drippy kid brother. I said to ya at the time, the fix was in.

Pauses expectantly, nobody buts in, continues So I am cutting about on the boat, doin the biz, settin up the connections to shift the shit, and we end up at Sparta, the drip is awa, get on fine, coupla drinks, get chattin, blah-blah. She's no happy, want's a do-over, can she come to Troy wi me. Ching-ching.

ANDROMACHE

(sarcastically) That's it, a burd oot a nightclub, comes wi her own haircurlers an a war party?

Hector puts his hand gently on Andromache's arm to restrain her.

HECTOR (silent mouthing) Shush

PARIS OF TROY That's the short version. Long version, Ah'm in luv, she's in luv, she's no happy, she wants awa, she's awa. We're Troy, the men of a thoosan horses, they're sheepshagger wi a handfu uv crab boats.

Paris shrugs.

ANDROMACHE

She has a bairn on him, where's the bairn, is it a laddie, brought the heir of Sparta wi ya?

PARIS OF TROY Lassie. And no, she's back in Sparta.

ANDROMACHE (sarcastically) A wumman left a lassie o wit? two, and run awa an youse are aw "oh, aye, sounds aboot right". C'mon I'll feel yer lumps.

PARIS OF TROY (making calm down gestures with his hands) There's mair, there's mair, an Ah'm sure Helen'll tell you, its her tale to tell, no mine. My tale is Ah luv her and she's here wi me. End of.

Pause

Right, dad, Hector, us three will talk over this war wi 3 stuff, fluff mair like. Mum, Andromache, once Helen's got hersel settled and had a kip, I'll bring her up and youse can get to know her and no be snipin at me. Jist cool yer jets, the lot of you.

Paris leaves. Priam and Hecuba go one way, Andromache and Hector another.

Cassandra is in a temple, looking to camera. She is dressed very flash. She talks with her whole body, hands, moving her head, leaning in and out (a bit like some sort of rap star but no so stylised).

CASSANDRA

Eldest kid see. A girl, in case ya hadnae noticed. So at any moment some ploughboy could up the shieling, walk awa frae the cattle beasts and be ringin ding-dong-ding-a-ling on ma devil's doorbell...

Points to groin with both hands. (emphasis "eldest son") And where would the eldest son be then, eh? Well, ya cannae heal-up a fanny, so make her a priestess. Naebody wants tae fuck wi the God Hymenaeus.

Shrugs quizzically

But enough aboot me. You've met the rest. Hector's a good kid, proper solid, loves his burd, does the right thing, a' ya want, but cannae run the angles. Sandy, Paris ya will know him as, fuck knows why now, cannae mind, some stunt.

Looses place momentarily Oh, yeah, Alexander, prince of Troy...

Bows

...known to the world and Greeks as Paris and those who love him, Sandy... cheeky chappie, handsome laddie, right wee trickster, charmin, smart and trouble on a fuckin stick. He can see the angles, but he thinks he's sooo clever he can outrun them.

- Points to self, puts on modesty Me? Ah'm the best of the both, but Ah'm stuck in here.
- Long silence, holding eyes on camera. ..and if Ah wisnae, maybe this wudnae be shapin up such a shit show, ken? Ah mean, Ah'm no trapped-trapped, Ah get aboot - an Ah telt them, Ah telt them good.
- Pats herself on head, makes a girly-girl face (mouths silently) Twats, fuckin twats the pair uv them.

EXT. BEACH WITH ITHICA IN THE BACKGROUND - DAY

The two cousins PENELOPE and CLYTEMNESTRA walk on the beach arm in arm.

PENELOPE

Puir wee Helen, always in the wars. This time literally, sheesh.

CLYTEMNESTRA

Ya think it will come tae it? How? (gestures back at Ithica) Nivir been to Troy, but Ah've seen the postcards. We'd get humped.

PENELOPE Odysseus has it aw worked oot. Summer raidin, year oan year, roll the snowball. Bring the Young Teams oan wi loot.

CLYTEMNESTRA <Indicates quote>Loot</indicates quote> is the least of it, wi them mentalists.

They exchange anguished glances.

CLYTEMNESTRA

Cannae believe she's awa. No like, no like. When d'ya'reck we'll see her again?

PENELOPE

That's wit I said to him. "I can see how it builds up, but how does it end?" Nada, zip, nilch. What does Agamemnon say?

CLYTEMNESTRA

The usual. (puffs out chest, puts on voice) Bold men o Greece. Best fightin sort. Soft-handed city boys in silk underwear cowerin behind big walls.

They continue walking in silence for a bit. Penelope turns to Clytemnestra.

PENELOPE Cly, how did we end up here?

CLYTEMNESTRA Well, if I mind it right, in your case it was we were in a bus shelter at 4:30 of a summer morning, sharin the last king-size and, I quote:

(mimes drawing on a cigarette)

"Either I marry the mad wee fuck, or I end up stuck here with one of the in-breds and the highlight of ma life is gonnae been goin up the layby of a summer evenin wi a bag o tins to watch 2 dogs fuckin."

PENELOPE

(laughing) That's such a misrepresentation by ommission. I did also add "he makes me laugh, an a touch of cray makes of him a more thrillin ride". It's not all bad, Mormaer of Ithica's wife, big hoose, good kid, pumped every Saturday morning and twice on high holidays, meat of a Sunday, come rain, come shine.

They walk a bit more.

PENELOPE

And how goes it up the Haus, Hausfrau?

CLYTEMNESTRA

Hermione's settlin in, her and Iffy, I could watch them all day, like me an Helen in a mirror.

PENELOPE

Doin the big sis/wee sis thing? Aww. See you broody again, there'll be 4 and then 5 at the table.

CLYTEMNESTRA

Not if Odysseus plan goes on, the heid-bummers'll no be back winter on winter for how long?

PENELOPE Enough of the kids, wit aboot you?

CASSANDRA

Ah'm doin fine. No as cynical as you. Got ma man, ma hoose, ma kids.

PENELOPE

an Helen's.

CLYTEMNESTRA

Blood is blood. (pause)

He's a good man, Penny. Ambitious, which is no a bad thing. Wants to make a bigger and better of Mycanae. Nobody would make a better High Steward nor my Agamemnon, maybe your Odysseus.

PENELOPE

Nah, never happen, and he knows it. The other side uv bein so sparky is bein a wee touch flaky, as well you know. They make a good team. Odysseus will aye be the consigliere and niver the capo di tutti... Agamemnon knows when to listen an when to reign him in.

CLYTEMNESTRA

Well I wish he'd listen to me an the bairns a wee bittie mair sometimes.

PENELOPE

One day hen the docs'll find a cure for Selective Male Deafness, but me an you will be long in our boxes by then.

CLYTEMNESTRA (glumly) Preach, cuz, preach.

They walk silently for a while.

PENELOPE It'll become clearer aifter Aulis.

They continue walking in silence away from Ithica.

Troops, young men wearing football tops, jeans and motorcycle jackets, carrying samuria swords and cut-throat razors assemble at various points - and on various boats. There are basically two scenes shot in different locations - and no dialogue, no close ups, just singing and music

EXT. SCENE 1 - CLOSES - DAY

A LARGE GROUP OF YOUNG MEN WALKING DOWN THE STAIRS OF A CLOSE, SHOT FROM THE BACK, THEY ARE SINGING

Hello, hello We are Athena's boys We're up to our knees in Trojan blood Surrender or you'll die (They throw their arms up when they sing Hello Hello)

EXT. SCENE 2 - FERRIES/HARBOUR SIDES - DAY

A LARGE GROUP OF YOUNG MEN GETTING ON SMALL FERRIES, THEY ARE SINGING AS BEFORE.

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Agamemnon sits at a desk. Odysseus enters.

ODYSSEUS Helas, ya bas. All sorted for Aulis?

AGAMEMNON Seems to be, nae problemo.

ODYSSEUS What's the final muster?

AGAMEMNON

36 ships

Odysseus does finger guns, shooting, blowing away the gun smoke and holstering.

ODYSSEUS He shoots, he scores - Odysseus on the fuckin money (pause) Again. (pause) Got your speech?

AGAMENMON Workin on it, well about tae.

ODYSSEUS What's the offer?

AGAMEMNON

(looks up) Spondoolicks, burds, scrappin, the usual...

ODYSSEUS Nah, pal, them's the reasons to come, but you need to gie them mair. (emphatically) What's the excuse to come? (pause) The Young Teams'll be up for aw that loot an shite, but what's their patter back hame? Reasons AND excuses. Reasons and excuses. Glory, at a pinch... (thinks) Gottae be honour. We pulled them in wi honour, the wedding games, the vows, gottae work that. (MORE)

ODYSSEUS (CONT'D) Let the Trojans take the absolute piss wi this, and they'll be back. Cannae be lettin some fuckin jockeys abduct oor lovely women. Fragrant Helen of Sparta, could be your burd, Menelaus's honour is my honour, is your honour. Blah-deblah-de-blah. Aw that shite, lay it on wi a trowel. (pause) Anyway, fuckin crack on, I'm away to see my lovely wife's lovely cousin to get some of her lovely grub down ma neck. Later, gator.

Agememnon is writing, he doesn't look up.

AGAMEMNON (absently) While, 'dile.

Odysseus leaves.

ORESTES, IPHIGENIA and HERMIONE are sitting the floor playing, CLYTEMNESTRA is watching.

Agamemnon comes it.

AGAMEMNON

(to Clytemnestra) Headin aff to Aulis in a wee mo. Gonnae take Orestes and Iffie wi me. See their daddy at work, you just stay with Hermione, eh?

CLYTEMNESTRA (quizzically) Is that a good idea?

AGAMEMNON

Ah dinnae spend enough time wi the kids, and it'll be even less aifter Aulis. It'll be a grand day out, aw the lads from airts-andpairts, and singin... (to Orestes and Iphingenia) Come see daddy makin a big speech to aw the sodjers?

Orestes and Iphigenia nod enthusiastically.

AGAMEMNON Awa and get yer shoes oan.

The 2 children scamper away.

CLYTEMNESTRA Ah'm no sure, if...

AGAMEMNON

(interrupting) Dinnae fash hen. Its important for Orestes, make a man uv him.

Agamemnon kisses her forehead. The children return. Agamemnon takes them by the hand.

AGAMEMNON

Come oan Iffie. You gonnae be a sodjer like yer dad when you grown up Orestes, eh?

Agamemnon and the 2 older children leave. Clytemnestra, now holding Hermione, watches them go.

Large group of young men in football tops and biking jackets carrying samurai swords and cut-throat razors waiting on the steps at Aulis. Odysseus is at the top when Agamemnon accompanied by Orestes and Iphigena arrive.

> AGAMEMNON (to Orestes) You stay here Orestes, Ah'm gonnae take Iffie up wi me.

ORESTES I want to come wi you...

AGAMEMNON

Naw, you stay...

ORESTES

(insistently, interrupting) Why can I no come?

AGAMEMNON

Daddy needs his we sodjer Orestes to stay with the rest of the sodjers, like a big man? Can you do that? You a big man? A guid sodjer?

Orestes nods his head (a bit reluctantly). Agamemnon threads his way up the steps to the top with Iphigenia.

VIEW OF AGAMEMNON FROM BEHIND WITH THE CROWD FACING HIM DOWN THE STEPS LOOKING UP. ODYSSEUS AND MENELAUS FLANK HIM. IPHIGENIA IS TOO SMALL TO BE SEE, BUT WE CAN SEE BY HIS ARMS THAT HE IS HOLDING HER HAND WITH HIS LEFT HAND.

> AGAMEMNON When last we aw met it was a happy time - the marriage games at Sparta. The same games that led to ma brother Menelaus bringin (turns to Menelaus) the lovely and now abducted Helen intae oor faimly. In them days we all swore twice an oath. (MORE)

AGAMEMNON (CONT'D) Wan tae respect Helen's choice afore an wan tae defend yon sacred marriage aifter. Ah niver thought Ah wud huv tae call youse oan it ever. But these bloody Trojans, in their fancy hooses, wi their fancy clothes an aw the money uv the Troad, wi everythin goin for them, in their arrogance and pride, it wasnae enough. They wanted mair nor gold and horses. They wanted Helen, they wanted oor honour, they wanted oor humiliation. No just Menelaus's, no just ma faimly, but aw of youse, aw of youse. They'll learn no to mess wi us, the men o Greece, and we'll huv oor compensation frae their fancy hooses an fancy lives. They might be the men of 1,000 horses but we are the men of 1,000 ships. Ah ken Ah'm askin a lot, yer time, yer lives even, yer sacrifices - but this is not for me and mine but youse and yours. A leader niver asks of the troops of wit he'll no dae himsel. Ah'll be the first to sacrifice of mine an wit Ah luv for the honour o us aw.

With a sudden movement, Agamemnon raises a bloody sword with his right arm - he lets go with his left hand. There is a massive groan of shock from the assembled crowd.

CLOSE UP OF ODYSSEUS'S FACE - HE IS SHOCKED

SHOT FROM THE BACK OF THE LEGS OF THE MEN FACING AGAMEMNON UP THE STEPS OF THE TEMPLE AT AULIS. WE SEE BLOOD RUNNING AND POOLING DOWN THE STEPS BETWEEN THEIR FEET. WE HEAR THE CROWD OF MEN CHANTING AND SINGING...

> Hello, hello We are Athena's boys We're up to our knees in Trojan blood Surrender or you'll die (They throw their arms up when they sing Hello Hello)

CASSANDRA is playing with Hermione. The door opens and Orestes is ushered in by a young man in a football top, leather bikers jacket and jeans.

ORESTES IS ONLY SHOWN FROM THE WASTE UP (WE WILL LEARN LATER IN FLASHBACK THAT HE HAS PISSED HIMSELF).

Orestes looks pale and shocked, Clytemnestra stands and rushes over to him.

CLYTEMNESTRA (anxious) Orestes, luv, wit is it?...

The steps are empty - there is no body of Iphigenia but only a large trail of blood and bloody footprints down the steps.

SHOT FROM BEHIND

CLYTEMNESTRA approaches the steps. She lies down and kisses a pool of blood and lies there for what seems like an eternity.

CLOSE UP FROM THE FRONT

Clytemnestra slowly pulls herself up. Her front and face are covered in blood.

CLYTEMNESTRA (screaming angrily, crying, shaking) Ah'll fuckin ya, ya fuckin bastard - Ah'll fuckin kill ya, ya fuckin fuck.