

TROY

by

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Episode 1 - Aulis

First complete draft

BLACK SCREEN

1

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.

INT. AN OPEN PLAN KITCHEN LIVING ROOM - DAY

2

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..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 out 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.

EXT. MYCANAE CASTLE - LATER THAT DAY

3

AGAMEMNON and MENELAUS are joined by ODYSSEUS.

ODYSSEUS

Well hello, Sengamemnon and Wo-
man-elaus, what's the fuckin co-
co-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?

AGAMEMNON

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-eeey-oh-an-ally.

They leave.

INT. THE ROYAL PALACE AT TROY - DAY

4

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
embellishments.

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.

PRIAM

Start at the start - and tell us
howcome I am staunin here wi a
runawa bride, facin war with 3.

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 butts 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.

INT. - A TEMPLE - DAY

5

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

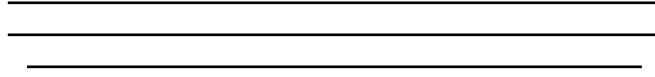
Me? Ah'm the best of the both, but
 Ah'm stuck in here.

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

6

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 about 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.

EXT. VARIOUS SETTINGS (SEE LOCATIONS) - DAY

7

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

8

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

9

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

INT. THE PALACE AT MYCENAE - DAY

10

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?

AGAMEMNON
 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-de-
blah-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.

INT. AN OPEN PLAN KITCHEN LIVING ROOM

11

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

Agamemnon comes in.

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-and-
 pairts, and singin...
 (to Orestes and
 Iphigenia)
 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.

EXT. THE TEMPLE AT AULIS - DAY

12

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)

INT. AN OPEN PLAN KITCHEN LIVING ROOM - DAY

13

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 WAIST 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?...

EXT. THE TEMPLE AT AULIS - DAY

14

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.

Ends

Episode 2 - death of Paris

Work in progress

EXT. - SCOTTISH NON-COSTAL COUNTRYSIDE DRONE VIEW - DAY 15

Helen reminisces about Troy and its hinterland, days spent with Paris in the mountains when the war was quiet.

HELEN (V.O.)

(conversational, breaking the 4th wall)

They never really had enough sodgers in the early years, the later years even. So even in the summer, people would come and go, traders, donkeymen, allies, and sometimes they'd get nobbled. The rhythm of the year was there was always a camp with the highheid yins down on the shore at the plain of Scamander and in the spring the ships would come in for the summer fightin and robbin up and down the coast, and as the autumn broke, they would slip away leavin the hard core to keep watch like jaikies in the corner of the park - no even 'like jaikies', jaikies by the sound of it. And Sandy and I would slip out, Paris you'd know him as, Alexander to his mum and big brother, but aye Sandy to me an Cassie the big sister... Cassandra. We'd away up the mountains, Ida or another, take some horses, they aye gave good horse thae Trojans. Not Alexander and Helen but Sandy and his wee Egg. Shitey wee hunters huts up the hill. No that shitey, that's the thing of being a Prince and Princess. Someone else had spent the summer stacking wood for us, someone else had put the sheepskins in, someone else had dried the hams in the cave and humped the wine up. He wasn't like you think he was, when we were thegither. He loved me, and he let me have my anxieties and my fears and didn't push and judge - we lived and loved at MY speed. He didn't have to perform, to be the wee brother and the big man. Didn't stop him being as smart, and as handsome as ever he was, just mair relaxed and goofy and god was he easy on the eyes.

(MORE)

HELEN (V.O.) (CONT'D)
Fire ragin, under the sheepskins,
rolling naked in the snow to wake
up in the morning. Good times, the
best of them.

INT. - A TEMPLE - DAY

16

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

Oh, so Ah was wrong was Ah? Troy
hasnae fallen, 9 year efter.
Sandy's alive, Hector's alive, the
Greeks are still doon on yon
beach.

Leans into camera

Pish, pish, fuckin pish.

Leans back

Think, fucks sake, think. War
isnae fannyin about, sweat oan
manly brows, the clash uv arms -
that's tactics at best. Its
logistics, supplies, the strategic
picture.

Hector bangin oan about meetin
them in the field, fucks sake.

(pompous voice)

We are the men uv a thousand
horses, they are the men uv only a
hundred ships.

(normal voice)

That might have been it 9 years
ago, but each winter they're away
an when they're back in the summer
there's more uv them ships, kid.
See, Troy gets it's wealth frae
the trade routes - what the
Hitties and rest send up - and
those wee shites have feasted on
the Troad, all the ports and towns
and stoppin points.

(MORE)

CASSANDRA (CONT'D)

That money is no comin here. 9
 summers uv robbin the arse oot uv
 them aw, and back hame wi slaves
 and loot, and the next year
 another wee island or half-village
 puts a ship and some village
 idiots up an here we are again oan
 the merry-go-round.

(shouting)

Think strategically!

When they're here in the summer -
 we need to be there - not us, but
 turn somebody, the Etruscans, the
 Phonecians, the bloody Egyptians,
 Hitties, Athens, someone, anyone,
 find a bloody ally, land behind
 them in the summer, march over the
 top to Greece in the winter, cut
 their throats at hame or they will
 cut our throats here, fucks sake.

(pompous)

Calm down sister, we will fight
 them proper, wi honour, here on
 the plain of Scamander.

(normal voice)

Fuckin Hector, sheesh. Sandy
 agrees wi me oan the dynamics and
 strategic picture and blah-blah-
 blah, but...

(puts on man's voice)

"they've peaked, we've bluffed
 them oot. Calm doon, it's aw
 guid."

(despairing)

Much as I luv my brother, he'd eat
 his ain cock if it wis chocolate,
 he's a right fannie sometimes.

(leaning into camera)

Shit is the new shite, and
 rebranding a shitshow as a
 shiteshow is jist shite.

INT. - A TEMPLE - DAY

17

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

(sadly)

He deserves a better end nor this
that's comin, ma sweet Hector. He
is the best of men, husband of
Andromache the best, faither of
Scamandrius, the best, brother to
me the best of all. My biggest
regret is I cannae convince him
niver to change this stupid,
stupid way of wagin war.

INT. - A TEMPLE - DAY

18

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

(sadly)

Its no goin well for us, but its
no goin well for them an aw.
Neoptolemus is but a kid, a wee
shite by all accounts, but jist a
kid, now he's cutting about with
the Myrmidon Young Team at hame,
playin at bein his dad. And when
his Dad dies, well... I mean ya
cannae be sendin kids oot, c'mon,
c'mon, for fucks sake. He's too
young to know what lies the other
side of his sword thrust, what
pain the javelin brings to the
livin, it'd jist be pullin the
wings of flies to him.

INT. - A TEMPLE - DAY

19

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

(anxious)

I'm feart for them baith. The
young lovers. The war comes up to
the walls mair an mair, an wi
Hector deid, it's the bold
Alexander to the front mair an
mair.
Ah'm no sure she'll can handle it,
his death, she'll be bruk but
worse than afore.

EXT. - SCOTTISH SEA DRONE VIEW - DAY

20

Helen reminisces about the flight to Troy. The camera skims along the water, suddenly zooming up into the sky at the end.

HELEN (V.O.)

(conversational, breaking
the 4th wall)

(mournfully)

I didn't know what I wanted, I knew what I didn't want - I didn't want to be Helen of Sparta - wife of a man chosen for me. If one child was taken for the best, why would another do worse. Hermione couldn't have had a worse mother nor me. There were 3 in that nursery when you count the black dog.

(reminiscing fondly)

And then "Hail, Paris prince of Troy" and my lovely Sandy turned up. And he loved me, and he courted me, and he wanted me even tho he could never be Mormaer of Sparta, we'd be just 2nd son and wife, at home.

(pause)

So we took to the sea and I shed the old. Helen, no longer of Sparta, not yet of Troy, just Helen, El, his wee Egg, ma Sandy, ma wee unlicked bearcub, with his unruly hair, his soft hands and sweet kisses.

(crying)

And now he's dead.

Ends

Episode 3 - the truth about Helen

Work in progress

INT. - A TEMPLE - DAY

21

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

Look, Ah'm as sappy as the next girl, they're awfy sweet thegither. She's a nice kid that Helen, but fragile, damaged, eh? And Sandy loves her, he's guid for her.

(puts on girly voice)

How come they cannae leave us alone in peace? How come Menelaus cannae jist let it be? When am Ah gonnae see ma wee Hermione agin?

(back to normal)

Fucks sake, its the Agamemnon show, and year on year he gets mair, from Mormaer to High Steward, step by step.

When Sandy swanned in with her that time, beamin in the light of the honeyed moon, ma hairt sank. Aye, me, party pooper, so oot uv character that, eh? Young luv, what's no tae like? But it wisnae gonnae end well. Course I wud want it tae end well, but life's no like that. He luvs her, but he also luvs the idea uv being the wan that stole her, the wan that got awa wi it. Faimly, cannae live wi-oot them, cannae kill them.

EXT. - DRONE VIEW OF TROY - DAY

22

Helen talks about Troy

HELEN (V.O.)

(conversational, breaking
the 4th wall)

I mean I knew Troy was big, but you can't imagine what 10,000 people in one city looks like til you see it - the walls, the Palladium - a gift from Athena herself, cutting the sky. Andromache, Hector's wife you know, she looked out for me, and Cassie, when she could get out. The day and most of the evenings, it was a parade, the Paris and Helen show. At first they loved me, but as the war dragged, they grudged me and by the end, at the end they hated me for bringin it all down. But in the nights I was loved, and outside the walls alone with Sandy, when we could, I was loved.

EXT. - DRONE VIEW OF SPARTA - DAY

23

Helen talks about her wedding - the camera comes in over the sea.

HELEN (V.O.)

(conversational, breaking
the 4th wall)

I was just Helen (pause) from Sparta. Sparta was, well Sparta. The beach, the seagulls, school, pals, icecream - the world when you're a kid. An yeah, Dad's the Mormaer and we're Sparta fowk.

(pause)

I loved best when cousin Penelope came over in the summer. Clytemnestra as a big sister was, you know, grown up, but Penelope, she was something else, the last firework - clothes, boys, ciggies, shoes, cheek, lippie, she filled my whole horizon. That thing where now is no longer enough and you want, you need, to get to the future, to stop being just a kid, do this, wear that, be her. And suddenly Cly's got a beau, a man, there's first talk of a marriage, an him Mormaer in Mycenae, and then, whoosh, her away marriet. With no brothers it wis eyes on me, who I married would make or break Sparta - and suddenly the future was too much, too much, especially after, you know, I wanted to go back, back. I didn't want to be of Sparta. Could I no be Helen from Sparta a wee bittie longer?

A weddin games, men old enough to be my dad, ancient, one was 27!...

(laughs ruefully)

Listen to me at my big age now, 27...

In public I'm told I can marry any of them, look them over, study the form, pick the best for Sparta and me and in private I'm told I can marry any of them provided it's Menelaus.

Don't even ask, you know who I would have chosen, the boy from afar, the boy with the unruly hair and the cheeky smile, Paris the prince of Troy.

BLACK SCREEN

24

Helen talks about Hermione and her post-natal depression - and hints at Iphigenia.

HELEN (V.O.)
(conversational, breaking
the 4th wall)
Its the age old story, girl meets
boy, meets man, yada-yada,
preggers...
(sigh)
I loved that bairn, ma Hermione,
but the black dog on me was
horrified by her. And repulsed.
And scared of her. And I was
terrified of the black dog on me
too.
I mean I didn't deserve to be a
mum, I hadn't been before. Her dad
repulsed me. I wasn't a good mum,
I was never goin to be a good mum.
it was better she got over me, it
was better she had a proper
family. It was for the best I
left.
(pause)
(sobbing)
And after I had been in Troy a
goodly while, that black dog on me
stopped whining so much, and one
day just slunk off. But in its
place came two brown dogs. One for
the daughter I fled and another
for the daughter I could never see
again. They didn't whine much, but
they never, never left.

Helen cries

INT. - A TEMPLE - DAY

25

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

He's no fuckin daft that wan.

Ends

Episode 4 - the horse

Work in progress

INT. - A TEMPLE - NIGHT

26

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

It's
A
Fuckin
Trap
Ya
Stupit
Bastards

Ends

Episode 5 - the fall of Troy

Work in progress

INT. - A TEMPLE - NIGHT

27

The Greeks congregate with their prisoners after the fall of Troy.

****Fill in rest of scene****

CASSANDRA

(breaks 4th wall to say)

That's me an Agamemnon awa the
crow road then, in a wee wo.

Ends

Episode 6 - death of Agamemnon

Work in progress

EXT. - DRONE VIEW OF TROY - DAY

28

Helen talks about leaving Troy - camera comes in over the sea to Sparta.

HELEN (V.O.)

(conversational, breaking
the 4th wall)

I was heartsick. We had buried
Sandy and his brother. Then they
left, they just upped and left and
everyone was soooo happy, well not
everyone, excepting Cassie as
usual.

(imitates Cassandra)

"Its a trick"

(fondly)

We had that one happy night,
singin, dancin, laughin...

(pause)

I didn't think I'd survive til the
dawn. If Menelaus didn't kill me,
Agamemnon would, I was sure, I was
sure.

(pause)

(bright happy strained
voice)

But no, its lets play happy
families, Helen of Sparta once
again, ...her lovin
husband, ...her lovin daughter.

(pause)

Back to Sparta.

INT. - THE PALACE AT MYCENAE - DAY

29

Agamemnon returns to Mycenae with his concubines, High Steward, at the peak of his powers and pomp to be met by his wife and son - the conquering hero.

****Fill in rest of scene****

CASSANDRA

(breaks 4th wall to say)

The time uv his death and the
place uv mine

INT. - THE PALACE AT MYCANAE - DAY

30

****Fill in rest of scene****

CASSANDRA
(breaks 4th wall to say)
Wee white lies oan snow white
wings

INT. - THE PALACE AT MYCANAE - DAY

31

****Fill in rest of scene****

CASSANDRA
(breaks 4th wall)

Mugs to camera

Ends

Episode 7 - the Odyssey

Work in progress

INT. - THE PALACE AT MYCANAE - DAY

32

CASSANDRA

(breaks 4th wall)

He's crazy, but crazy smart tho.

INT. - THE PALACE AT MYCANAE - DAY

33

CASSANDRA

(breaks 4th wall)

That's not going to end well.

Ends

Episode 8 - Helen and Hermione fight

First complete draft

INT. - THE PALACE AT MYCANAE - DAY

34

CASSANDRA

(breaks 4th wall)

No sure what's worse, the
mahoosive war abroad or the wee
lies at hame. Secrets kill ya from
the inside oot.

INT. - INSIDE THE PALACE AT SPARTA - DAY

35

A large mostly empty room with a couple of chairs, a sidetable and a closed door.

The door is thrown open.

MENELAUS (O.S.)

I don't care. Get in there, sort this fuckin shit out. Do what you need to do to end this. We are a family reunited now. We are Sparta.

Helen comes into the room, followed by Hermione walking backwards shouting.

HERMIONE

(sarcastically)

Fuckin off again Dad? Like ya did to Troy, Dad? See ya in a decade Pops. Luv ya, kiss-kiss.

Meneleus comes far enough into the room to slam the door shut - glaring. Hermione is wired to the moon stalking around the room, Helen turning to face her imploringly.

HERMIONE

(sarcastically)

Well isn't this nice, Mummy time.

HELEN

(pleading)

Hermione, Hermione...

Hermione sits down and crosses her legs, leans forward with her hands on her knees, big cheesy grin, and blinks several times rapidly...

HERMIONE

(sarcastically)

Yes, Mummy darling, what IS it you want to talk to me, your lovely daughter, fruit of your womb, about.

HELEN

(apologetically, crying)

I am so sorry. I don't expect you to forgive me, but I do want you to understand...

HERMIONE

(sarcastically)

Understand what Mummy? That'd you rather fuck your pretty boy and live the life of luxury than look after your precious first-born daughter?

Hermione pauses, puts a finger to her lip, looks around as if thinking deeply.

HERMIONE

Oh, I forgot, your precious second-born daughter.

Helen is lost for words and Hermione flutters her eyelids at her.

HERMIONE

(sarcastically)

Riddle me this, Mother, was it flashing your tits at Theseus, the tyrant of Athens, that first gave you the taste for the highlife? Or was it some other life event that made you too fuckin good for Sparta and liddle ole me?

HELEN

(despairingly)

It wasn't like that, I didn't "flash my tits" at anyone.

HERMIONE

(sarcastically)

Oh, what was it like, do tell? Do tell? A handsome older man took you out for a romantic dinner and suggested a wild marriage under the stars and you made sweet, sweet love all night? Did he make of the girl a woman?

Hermione loses control, stands up and starts raging.

HERMIONE

(angrily)

Do tell why you abandoned me, why you abandoned my sister, who nobody even told me was my fuckin sister...

HELEN

(sadly)

Yes, I left you, but I didn't abandon you.

(MORE)

HELEN (CONT'D)

I left you because I thought you would have a better life without me. I didn't think I was a good Mum, I didn't think I could ever be a good Mum, but that was then. Give me a second chance, please Hermione, darling...

HERMIONE

(trying to be sarcastic
but still raging)

So after your sugar daddy rubbered you, and your pretty boy got killed, and your fancy life was burnt down, YOUR DARLING gets to be 3rd choice and you want YOUR DARLING to be grateful. Lets all play happy families. Menelaus loves Helen and Helen loves Menelaus and they both love sweet, darling Hermione THAT THEY BOTH FUCKIN ABANDONED AS A CHILD.

HELEN

(placatingly)

Hermione, he wasn't my sugar daddy, we didn't make a wild marriage - he forced a marriage on me. That's why Clytemnestra took Iphigenia...

HERMIONE

(angrily)

Oh, yeah, you made a liar of Auntie Cly, MY REAL MOTHER, the woman who tucked me up in bed and read me stories, tangled her up in your web of lies... You made a lie of my whole life...

Helen loses control, grabs both of Hermione's wrists and holds them above her head with her left hand...

HELEN

(deranged)

And with this hand...

Waves right hand in a claw in front of Hermione's face

HELEN

(Deranged)

He pulled my knickers off - and
when he'd finished he held me
there and said...

(puts on mock polite but
threatening voice)

"Tell that sheepshagger Agamemnon,
Mormaer of Mycenae, that Theseus,
tyrant of Athens, says hello. And
if he continues to act above his
station, I will come and add his
lovely wife Clytemnestra to my
collection."

(sobbing)

And then he pulled himself out and
off me and spat in my face.

Hermione pulls herself away

HELEN

(shouting)

And then I was pregnant and it was
a choice between war and my
daughter, Iphigenia being exposed
on a hillside or Clytemnestra
saving her...

HERMIONE

(shouting)

Well that didn't fucking work...

There is a moment of silence

HELEN

(crying)

I was 15, not much older than you,
my sister had my baby and I was on
auction block at a marriage games.
I, lovely Helen of Sparta, could
have the pick of men, even Paris
of Troy, as long as I chose
Menelaus - Spartans don't put
spoiled goods to the mart after
all - and then I was pregnant
again...

(whispering)

And then my Sandy, Paris, came,
and I thought you'd be happier
without me, I thought I could be
happy, I was happy, with Sandy, I
didn't know it would end like
this..

HERMIONE

(angry again)

Well I'm not happier, do I look fuckin happy? My Mum and Dad, LIARS who ABANDONED me, my Aunties, LIARS, my sister, DEAD. The only person who understands me is Orestes, and he only understands me because he watched his Dad kill my sister and his Mum kill his Dad and he's as fucked up as me...

(crying)

...and we've made a wild marriage, and when he holds me, when we fuck, I FEEL WANTED, WANTED...

(sarcastic again and angry)

So, Mummy, while you and Daddy are playing unhappy families here, Orestes and me will take our spoilt goods to the mart and play unhappy families there.

I will let you bring the good news to Menelaus, Mormaer of Sparta, becuz you are so much, so much better at explaining than me.

Hermione storms out slamming the door behind her. Helen cries.

Ends

Episode 9 - Odysseus escapes

Work in progress

Ends

Episode 10 - the death of Clytemnestra

Work in progress

INT. - THE PALACE AT MYCANAE - DAY

36

CASSANDRA

(breaks 4th wall)
Your suprised? Really? Cum the
fuck oan.

INT. - THE PALACE AT MYCANAE - DAY

37

CASSANDRA

(breaks 4th wall)

Looks to camera, says nothing.

INT. - THE PALACE AT MYCANAE - DAY

38

CASSANDRA

(breaks 4th wall)

Looks to camera, says nothing, hands shaking.

Ends

Episode 11 - Ithaca

Work in progress

BLACK SCREEN

39

HELEN (V.O.)

I am Helen now of Sparta again,
once of Troy. I am the once and
future Helen. Lover of a dead
lover, mother of a dead daughter.
But I am alive, the sun is on me,
and I have a daughter estranged...
a daughter HALF-estranged, my
daughter, my Hermione.

EXT. - THE PALACE AT MYCANAE - DAY

40

CASSANDRA
(breaks 4th wall)

Cassandra (keeping eyes fixed on the camera) comes out of the castle, puts on a motorbike helmet, starts the motorbike, pulls the goggles down and drives off.

CAMERA/DRONE FOLLOWERS HER

Ends

