

ACT 1PROLOGUE

In the sea the SIRENS follow LEUCOSIA, their leader, toward their unseen prey, bounding through the water while the drums play. They're dressed in magnificent flowing blue and white costumes. Their heads are feathered.

SCENE 1

It is a beautiful star-filled night aboard the Argo. POLLUX and CASTOR, the brothers, sit across from each other and are deep into a drinking game. A cup sits between them. The rest of the ARGONAUTS look on and drink heartily with them. Spears rest here and there. POLLUX pours from his bottle into the cup. MEDEA stands next to JASON, ever his protector, always touching him if she can. The ARGONAUTS wear base white tunics. The tunics are decorated with symbols and jewelry from their journey to the edge of the world. Some wear necklaces of animal teeth or feathers. Some wear exotic headbands to keep their hair out of their faces. MEDEA is dressed in a blood red exotic dress. She should look very different than everyone else. On her back she wears the Golden Fleece. It's Castor's turn...

POLLUX

Orpheus!

ARGONAUTS

Orpheus!

POLLUX

(terribly drunk but trying to stay conscious)
To Orpheus... Where is our song maker?

MEDEA

In the bough, sleeping.

CASTOR

Sleeping? Get him up here!

PELEUS

Perhaps we should let him rest. After a day like today...

ARGUS

After a year like this one...

ATALANTA

'S' - years. Plural. Perhaps we all should be sleeping.

Laughter. MEDEA often speaks under her breath after she says something. For MEDEA throughout the action anything in italics should be spoken under her breath.

TELEMON

Without Orpheus we'd be at the bottom of the sea courtesy of King Aeetes.

MEDEA

My father got what he deserved and we got what we deserved. *No matter what anyone says.*

IPHITOS

You wear it well, Medea.

All laugh. She pets the fleece she wears and kisses JASON on the cheek.

POLLUX

Well, I'm glad he sings for us!

ARGONAUTS

Ay, ay!

POLLUX

Let's go. Let's go, little brother. I'm winning.

CASTOR

Sit down, you big oaf, before you fall down.

POLLUX

TO ORPHEUS, A MAN OF SONG

CASTOR

PRAY LEARN HIS WORDS AND SING ALONG
TO STALLIONS, WHO BREAK THE WIND

POLLUX

WE RIDE THEM HIGH AND TAKE THEIR FF--INNED

CASTOR

Finned? What the hell is finned?

POLLUX

It's a word.

CASTOR

Not on this boat. Jason, what say you?

JASON

Sorry, Pollux.

POLLUX

It's not fair. He threw me off with his fart joke.

CASTOR

Drink, brother.

Pollux drinks.

POLLUX

I'll get you.

CASTOR

Just sing for the gods sake.

POLLUX

TO WOMEN, WHO MAKE ME WHOLE

CASTOR

HAVE MERCY PLEASE UPON MY SOUL
TO MONSTERS BOTH GREAT AND SMALL

POLLUX

WE SLAY THEM ONCE WE SLAY THEM ALL
TO ARGO, A SHIP OF DREAMS

CASTOR

WHOSE FIST IS MADE OF A THOUSAND BEAMS
TO LOVE, THAT YOU...

Damn.

POLLUX

What? You had the easy part. Drink up.

CASTOR

To Greece!

CASTOR drinks. They all drink.

POLLUX

TO LOVE THAT BEATS MY HEART
THAT RINGS MY EARS AND EVERY PART

The ARGONAUTS holler. All laugh.

ARGONAUTS
FOR COURAGE NOW AND COURAGE THERE
FOR HEROES HERE AND EVERYWHERE
WE RAISE OUR CUP SO FILLED WITH ALE
AND TRUST THEIR COURAGE WILL NOT FAIL

GROUP 1
FROM HERE TO THERE

GROUP 2
FROM THERE TO HERE

GROUP 1
FROM HERE TO THERE

GROUP 2
FROM THERE TO HERE

GROUP 1
HERE

GROUP 2
THERE. THERE

GROUP 1
HERE

ARGONAUTS
FOR GREECE ALONE WE RAISE A SPEAR

PELEUS
WE'RE ONE...

ARGONAUTS
SEE, WHO, RAH

TELEMON
WE ROAM...

ARGONAUTS
SEE, WHO, RAH

POLLUX
WE'RE BOUND...

ARGONAUTS
SEE, WHO, RAH

POLLUX AND CASTOR
FOR HOME...

ARGONAUTS
FOR WE ARE BOUND FOR HOME

Military dance of fighting
positions.

They're drunk so it doesn't go completely as planned. They end up laughing at each other. JASON hears something.

JASON
Medea?

They stop laughing.

MEDEA
What is it?

JASON
Do you hear that?

TELEMON
I don't hear anything.

JASON
Listen.

MEDEA
Something's coming.

JASON
Something's here. Spears!

The ARGONAUTS grab their spears and stand defensively not knowing where to look. The Siren song begins. Over the edge of the ship creep the SIRENS. As the Sirens become visible the ARGONAUTS face upstage. They are hypnotized by the SIRENS. The SIRENS whisper into the ears of the ARGONAUTS. They are hearing their hearts desires. The ARGONAUTS move as the SIRENS command. They are helpless to their power.

SIRENS
I AM A SEA, I AM A FIRE
I AM THE SOURCE OF YOUR DESIRE
FOLLOW ME DOWN TO MY SOFT ISLAND SHORE
COME WITH ME NOW
COME THROUGH MY DOOR
AND BE AT PEACE FOREVERMORE

Last to enter are LEUCOSIA, the lead SIREN, with black feathers in her hair, LIGEIA, with silver feathers in her hair and PEISINOE, with red feathers in her hair.

LEUCOSIA has dark scars on her wrists. They surround JASON. The SIRENS whisper in the ears of the ARGONAUTS and MEDEA. SIRENS sing ahhs and echo on the verse in whisper.

LEUCOSIA, LIGEIA AND PEISINOE
I AM THE SONG
I AM THE SONG
I AM THE SONG OF VICTORY

LEUCOSIA
THERE CLOSE YOUR EYES

LIGEIA
DRIFT OFF IN DREAM

PEISINOE
SEE GRASS AND TREES

LEUCOSIA, LIGEIA AND PEISINOE
FLOW ON LIKE A STREAM

LEUCOSIA
DOWN TO THE ROCKS NEAR THE OCEAN SO BLUE

PEISINOE
COME WITH ME NOW

LIGEIA
AND BRING THE CREW

LEUCOSIA, LIGEIA AND PEISINOE
YOU CAME FOR ME. I COME FOR YOU.

I AM THE SONG
I AM THE SONG
I AM THE SONG OF VICTORY

Now at the bough of the ship stands Orpheus. He is dressed in baggy brown pants, a flowing white shirt and a blue sash with stars on it, over his right shoulder. He challenges them. They resist as hard as they can but he is stronger.

ORPHEUS
SPARE THEM AND SPARE ME
WE WILL STAY OUR COURSE
FREE THEM AND FREE ME
OR I'LL TAKE YOU BY FORCE
YOU WILL AGREE

LEUCOSIA
(over Orpheus)
I AM THE SONG, I AM THE SONG OF VICTORY

ORPHEUS gestures at the SIRENS and they move by invisible force and begin to sing his melody. Their demeanor changes and their anger melts away. They join hands.

SIRENS
OH...

ORPHEUS
I AM THE SONG HEAR THE VOICE, HEAR THE PLEA

LEUCOSIA
I AM THE SONG NOW YOU'LL COME WITH ME

ORPHEUS
I AM THE SONG OVER LAND, OVER SEA

LEUCOSIA
I AM THE SONG, I AM THE SONG...

ORPHEUS
I AM THE SONG OF VICTORY

ORPHEUS wins and LEUCOSIA is forced to kneel on the button of the song. She grabs her heart and takes a breath like it's her first free breath. The ARGONAUTS are released and fall to the deck, unconscious.

LEUCOSIA
How do you do this? It's like you put light around my heart and breathed new life into me.

ORPHEUS
As my mother used to say, "Music can change people."

Orpheus lends his hand to help her up. She accepts. She staggers for a moment and Orpheus catches her.

ORPHEUS

Easy there. You all right.

LEUCOSIA

Yes. You are - different. Who are you?

ORPHEUS

A song.

LEUCOSIA

Yes, you are.

ORPHEUS

My name is Orpheus.

SIRENS

We are Breakers of Men.

ORPHEUS

I see that.

LEUCOSIA

Normally, we would drown you and take you to our island to feast upon your remains.

ORPHEUS

Well...

LEUCOSIA

Now that is the furthest thing in my mind. I feel love like a child. I just want to laugh.

She begins to laugh and the other SIRENS join in. LEUCOSIA takes ORPHEUS' hands and she dances around him. He sees the scars on her wrists.

ORPHEUS

I know your scars. (holding up his hands) I have similar marks. See here. The body won't erase them. That is a story we aren't meant to forget. My father. He didn't want me to play the lyre so he burned my hands. You? (beat)

LEUCOSIA

I see a man's future. Many would say that I'm cursed. Many have told me that they did not like my words. Many have hurt me. But not anymore.

ORPHEUS

No. Not anymore.

LEUCOSIA

Thank you for this gift.

ORPHEUS

Beware, it's only temporary. You have to keep holding the light.

LEUCOSIA

Then thank you for this *temporary* gift. Would you like one in return?

ORPHEUS

My future?

LEUCOSIA

Yes.

ORPHEUS

(cautious) That would be too much. (beat) Maybe just one thing. Perhaps some advice. A tip, maybe.

LEUCOSIA

Yes?

ORPHEUS

Yes.

LEUCOSIA

(beat) Don't fall in love.

ORPHEUS

How does one not fall in love?

LEUCOSIA

Do you want to know more?

ORPHEUS

No. That was more than I bargained for.

LEUCOSIA

We will leave you now, Orpheus, singer of songs. We will meet again.

ORPHEUS

Perhaps we'll sing another song.

She smiles warmly but doesn't say what's on her mind. She kisses his scars.

LEUCOSIA

Come, Sirens. I want to laugh again.

They begin to holler in joy. The stage goes dark. Drums beat wildly. SIRENS exit.

Suddenly, the light returns, the drums cease and the ARGONAUTS regain their drunken wits.

JASON

Orpheus, what happened? How did we get here? I don't remember...

ORPHEUS

We were visited by gods. All is well. Fortune has favored us again.

JASON

Did you...?

ORPHEUS

Well...

JASON hugs ORPHEUS. Then, awkwardly, MEDEA hugs them.

ARGONAUTS

TO THE SHIP.

JASON

Their banners will snap in the wind when we arrive.

ARGONAUTS

TO THE GODS.

JASON

Wine will flow like springs.

ARGONAUTS

TO THE FLEECE.

JASON

Cheers will fly up like flames.

ARGONAUTS

TO THE FATES.

JASON

Nothing is impossible with the help of the gods.

ARGONAUTS

TO THE WIND.

JASON

That brings us to friendly shores.

ARGONAUTS

TO OUR HOME.

JASON

May we lie in freshly feathered beds, make
little heroes and *claim what's ours*.

MEDEA

TO WHAT'S OURS.

During this last section the
ARGONAUTS leave the ship. They
walk in a circle, then they move
as a group moving forward. At the
finish they spread out and MEDEA
kneels and puts her hands on the
ground, feeling it on the button
of the song.

ARGONAUTS

Home! Home! Home! Home!
FOR COURAGE NOW AND COURAGE THERE
FOR HEROES HERE AND EVERYWHERE
WE RAISE OUR CUP SO FILLED WITH ALE
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THERE. THERE

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HERE

ARGONAUTS

FOR GREECE ALONE WE RAISE A SPEAR
SEE, WHO, RAH