

The pier.
AETHRA waits for a boat.
NEPTUNE enters.

AETHRA
Did you find the body?

NEPTUNE
Not yet. I'm going back out.

AETHRA
Why did you come back?

NEPTUNE
I forgot my snorkel.

AETHRA
I mean why come to the funeral.
After all these years

NEPTUNE
I can't explain it,
The call took me by surprise
I don't think I expected Aegeus to die.
I think somehow I had forgotten
that he wasn't
like me.

And to hear Theseus' voice
but a man's voice, not the boy's voice I knew.
And then he hung up.
Just like that.
Aegeus is dead. Click.

It left the gears spinning.
And I got to talking with Ariadne,
and I just had to be here.

It's like I said before.
Like learning a new word
A word you never understood when people used it
for something you never had
but all of a sudden you hear it
one more time
and you realize it's the name

for that hole inside you
that you always thought was hunger
or acid reflux.

And all of a sudden I knew what the word meant.

AETHRA

I wouldn't bet on you to be able to spell family,
let alone define it.

NEPTUNE

Time was I wouldn't have bet on me either.
But it's all true.

But you, why are you here?

AETHRA

Me?

NEPTUNE

I'm trying to make things right with Theseus and you
seem bent of sabotaging me.

The funeral is over. Why are you still here?

AETHRA

I'm here because my son needs me, or at least I
thought he needed me.

NEPTUNE

Your son?

AETHRA

Yes, my son.

All of a sudden you want a family, Neptune.
Great. Good for you.
But get your own. This one's taken.

It's not too late for you.

NEPTUNE

Too late?

AETHRA

This son is mine.
My one and only. Women aren't like men. We can't
just shoot our stuff against the wall and see what
sticks. When we catch a live one, we're in it for the
long haul.
Your night of passion is our nine-month contract.
But even after that, when the thing is born we know
that we only get a certain number of chances.
My biological clock has ticked its last tock.

Not you. You can always start over.

So start over, Neptune.
You want to turn over a new leaf, do it. But Theseus
is an old leaf now. Why not start from scratch?

NEPTUNE

It wouldn't mean the same thing.

AETHRA

Which is what, exactly?

NEPTUNE

Aegeus always wanted

AETHRA

Aegeus is gone.
What do you want, Neptune?
Theseus is yours if you want him.

NEPTUNE

He told me he was going back to Troezen with you.

AETHRA

He won't if you ask him not to.
I showered him in love,
from T-minus nine months to now.
When love didn't work,
I tried mother's guilt.
But he's still waiting,
waiting for you to come home to him.

So tell me, Neptune,
what do you want? Do you want Theseus,

or do you want Aegeus back?

NEPTUNE

Don't tell me you don't.

AETHRA

I want my son.

NEPTUNE

He's not your son.

AETHRA

I want my son,
but my son wants his father.
He's yours for the taking.
Don't fuck up.

Exits.