

Morning

THESEUS

You know I used to tell my friends you drowned.

NEPTUNE

Shut up, I have a headache.

THESEUS

You don't think that's a little funny, Neptune?
You, drowned.

NEPTUNE

I'm splitting my sides,
really, I am.

You killed my bull.

THESEUS

The Minotaur?

NEPTUNE

Fuck the minotaur.
My bull. The big fucking white one.

THESEUS

The Marathonian Bull.

NEPTUNE

My bull.
That bull was fucking beautiful.
They were supposed to sacrifice it to me.

THESEUS

I wish I had known.
I would have sacrificed it to you.
To my absent father,
Here's your bull back.
Fond regards, Theseus.

Why even come?
Why even bother to show up to the funeral?

NEPTUNE

I wanted to pay my respects.

THESEUS

You were six hours late and passed out drunk in your chariot, you call that respect?

NEPTUNE

When I got drunk I didn't know I'd be coming to a funeral.

I wanted to see Aegeus one last time.

THESEUS

Haven't you heard?
He's not here.
He's dead.

NEPTUNE

You know what I mean
I wanted to see
you know
is he
is the body I mean
already

THESEUS

There was no body
he drowned.
Like I told you, he's not here.
So, if that's all you came for you can go

NEPTUNE

Aethra is here, isn't she?
Did you invite her or did she just sniff carrion with that vulture beak of hers?

THESEUS

Why do you hate my mother so much?

NEPTUNE

You don't have a mother.
You never did.
I don't care what that woman told you.

THESEUS

Then why do you hate her?

NEPTUNE

Aethra? I don't hate her.
That bitch and I go way back.
But she's not your fucking mother.

ARIADNE enters.

ARIADNE

We should get going.
I have to be back by 6 to open the bar.

NEPTUNE

Can we stop for breakfast?
Hangovers make me hungry.

THESEUS

I'll poach you an egg.

ARIADNE

We have to go.

THESEUS

Stay.
It won't take long and where are you going to get a
poached egg on the Mediteranean?

NEPTUNE

I've got to go.
My ride is leaving.

It was, uh

good to see you.

THESEUS

See me?
When did you see me?
You were passed out last night when you got here.
I only saw you just now.

NEPTUNE

I've, uh-

gestures

ARIADNE
Neptune, let's go.

Exits. Neptune starts to follow.

THESEUS
Dad.

NEPTUNE
Don't call me that.
You know it makes me uncomfortable.

It was good seeing you, kid.

Exits.

AETHRA enters, yawning.

AETHRA
Did I miss Neptune?
Oh, what a shame.

THESEUS
I thought you'd gone back to Troezen.

AETHRA
You won't be rid of me that easily.
If you won't come home with me, I'll just have to stay here.

I've forgiven you
for all those nasty things you said to me last night.
I know you didn't mean it.

THESEUS
I meant it.

AETHRA
You're under a lot of stress.
Here, sit down. Have you had breakfast?
I'll poach you an egg.

THESEUS
I'm not hungry.

AETHRA

Then I'll just help myself.

There is a crash outside.

NEPTUNE

Call the vet.

I think one of my seahorses fractured a tailfin.

ARIADNE

I told you I'd drive.

NEPTUNE

No one drives my chariot but me.

ARIADNE

You're still drunk.

NEPTUNE

It has nothing to do with that.

The sun was in my eyes.

It's Sol Invictus.

That pointy headed Santa Claus always knows when I'm hungover and he makes the sun brighter just to spite me.

To THESEUS

Don't just stand there looking dumb.

Aren't you going to offer us some breakfast?

ARIADNE

Get the vet first.

I still have hopes of getting out of here this morning.

AETHRA

There's no more bacon.

Oh, our guests are back.

Hello.

NEPTUNE

I was promised a poached egg.

THESEUS
I'll make it.

Exits.

NEPTUNE
Aethra, so good to see you again.
I don't think I saw you when I got in yester-eve.

AETHRA
You may not have seen me, but I saw you.
That's a disgraceful way to arrive at a funeral.

NEPTUNE
I know, I know.
I seldom let a woman drive me anywhere,
but it cases like last night it's sometimes the wisest
course of action.

AETHRA
I see you haven't changed.

NEPTUNE
You have.
You used to be younger.

AETHRA
Ah, same old charmer,
just more grey hair, fatter, and less funny.

NEPTUNE
You never told me you thought I was funny.

AETHRA
I never had cause to.

ARIADNE
Don't you two love birds mind me.
I'm just going to try to find some cereal.

Exits.

NEPTUNE

Where is Theseus?
I want my eggs.

AETHRA

I'll make you eggs if it'll slow down that sewage
factory you call a mouth.

I mean leave some stupid things for other people to
say, will you.

NEPTUNE

You, make me eggs?
Never. If you didn't poison me on purpose you'd do it
out of sheer incompetence.

No, only Theseus can poach an egg the way I like it.

AETHRA

Who do you think he learned from?

NEPTUNE

Why, from the expert.

AETHRA

You?

NEPTUNE

Who else?

AETRHA

Old age and vanity cloud your memory.
Theseus learned to poach an egg in Troezen
long before he knew he had a father
let alone an extra.

NEPTUNE

Well it's a good thing he had me to straighten him out
then.
It's a miracle he turned out all right.

AETHRA

You've really been a positive guiding influence for
him, haven't you?

NEPTUNE

Well, I suppose I only did what any father would have done.

AETHRA

How old was he when you left?
14? 15?

NEPTUNE

Is that what he told you?

AETHRA

Some right you have to waltz back in here after all these years and act like you raised a king.

NEPTUNE

Me?
I
As if
As if I had any intention of that.
If it weren't for the damn sun I'd be long gone by now.

Damnit. I didn't mean to be here at all.
But Ariadne got me talking and
I guess I got in my head
I'd like to see the body, you know,
close the door on one strange, sad chapter of my
infinite loop of a life.

But the body isn't here, is it?
And I'm here now,
and I just
Fuck I wish I knew how I got here.

I never wanted a fucking son
a son?
No, that was Aegeus' scheme, but I went along with it
for the weird ride and the free lay,
and for love, I guess
love of that crazy dreamer.

But Aegeus kept talking about a family.
A FAMILY?
Sorry, but I just wasn't raised that way.

Where I come from you planted the seed and you hit the road and you prayed the kid wouldn't come gunning for you some day.

But I got into something with Aegeus and Theseus and I didn't have any idea what it was or what to do with it.

But, hey, lately maybe I'm getting an idea,

Where is the goddamn boy-king?

I'm gonna have to make my own damn eggs.

He exits.

THESEUS and ARIADNE.

THESEUS

Say something
anything
You stand in my kitchen
you eat my grape nuts
can you not at least do me the decency of a
conversation?

ARIADNE

What's there to say that hasn't already been said?
I gave you an earful last night and it didn't seem to
please you any.

THESEUS

Well then how about small talk?

ARIADNE

How can there be small talk between us, after what you
did to me?

THESEUS

I have apologized some thousand times.
If you will not forgive me, at least let the matter
rest and talk to me about the weather.

ARIADNE

Do you think it will rain?

THESEUS
I don't know, I suppose-

ARIADNE
Shut up.
I don't care what you think.

THESEUS
What's done is done, Ariadne.
If you cannot bear to speak with me,
get the fuck out of my house.
Just go,

I can't take this any longer.

ARIADNE
Ok, if you want to talk, here's an icebreaker.

What did you expect?
Did you really think that after you left me on that
island you'd never have to see me again?
That your crime would just go unnoticed and
unpunished? You're too big a fish and the
Mediterranean's too small a pond for you to expect not
to make waves.

THESEUS
Punished? I'm being punished?
Is that why you're here?
My father is dead. Isn't that punishment enough?

ARIADNE
Maybe it is, but you're a fool if you thought our
paths would never cross again.

THESEUS
But don't you have anything better to do than to haunt
me. Forgive me or don't, but move on with your life.

ARIADNE
Do you think I want to be here?
I never wanted to see you again.
But now that I'm here I can't help myself asking,

what were you thinking?
What notion crossed the vacuum beneath your flawless
complexion when you ordered your crew to set sail
without me?
Was it sudden whimsy, or a betrayal planned in
advance?

Did you know as you swore false vows to me that I was
but a tool, a weapon in the murder of my brother?
Was there ever any love in your eyes for me or was I
mistaking beauty for warmth, a fool to see it there?

THESEUS

You must be blind if you cannot see it still.

ARIADNE

Still.

THESEUS

Ariadne, can't you see that my pain at seeing you is
not embarrassment, exasperation, or shame but regret.
Lonely is the lot of the king, for he must be orphan
if he is to sit upon the throne. Lonelier the bachelor
king. Loneliest still am I who lost all I cared for
In a week of hubris that I called self-sacrifice.

ARIADNE

You always were good with words, Theseus.
Good with poetry, good at making promises.

But I know you now. I know what to expect.

THESEUS

I love you, Ariadne.
Can't you see your way to forgiving me?

ARIADNE

You cannot love me.
Just as I cannot love you.
We have used each other, you and I, as tools,
and in the process wounded each other more deeply than
any other could.

I will not allow myself to make the mistake of loving
you again.

THESEUS

Then let it be so.

Go, take my boat.

Neptune will follow in his chariot.

But if you will not love me, leave me and enter my life neither out of coincidence nor spite, but let me live my sad life alone in my palace.

Go. Or I will.

ARIADNE goes.

THESEUS is left alone.

NEPTUNE enters.

NEPTUNE

An egg. One poached egg.

Was it too much to ask?

Too much to remember maybe?

Don't get up. I made it myself.

THESEUS

Ariadne is taking my boat back.

You can probably still catch her.

I'll send your chariot as soon as it's ready.

NEPTUNE

I'll wait.

Yell of self-approval

Now this is how you poach an egg.

Just goes to show you if you want something done right you've got to do it yourself.

THESEUS

No, really, it's no trouble.

I wouldn't want you staying longer than you wanted.

NEPTUNE

I'm not in a hurry.

I'll just finish my eggs.

THESEUS

I'll pack you a doggie bag.
You can finish them at home.

NEPTUNE

You're throwing me out?

THESEUS

Yes.

NEPTUNE

My own son.

THESEUS

Don't call me that.
You know it makes me uncomfortable.

NEPTUNE

I never meant that.
You know what I meant.

THESEUS

I'm sure I don't.

NEPTUNE

I wasn't ready.
It wasn't natural for me
to take that role.

THESEUS

I'd have thought it would have been very natural.
If there was ever a natural role for you it was that
of the ejaculator.

That's where babies come from, you know.

NEPTUNE

Oh, will you cut the vulgar drivell?
I'm trying to say something here.

THESEUS

I'm sure you are.

NEPTUNE

You don't understand.

When you're a father you'll understand.

THESEUS

Oh, so you're an expert on poached eggs AND fatherhood now? Let us brace ourselves, lest we tremble in the presence of such naked, shimmering greatness.

NEPTUNE

Make fun all you want,
I probably deserve it
but I'm trying here

THESEUS

Trying what?

NEPTUNE

I don't know.

Where's Aegeus?
Aegeus should be here.

THESEUS

He's dead.
He's not here anymore.
If you have something to say to me you'll have to say it to me yourself.
It's just us now.

NEPTUNE

Why wasn't the body recovered?

THESEUS

They couldn't find it.
We couldn't wait any longer.

NEPTUNE

It should have been recovered.

THESEUS

We couldn't find it.

NEPTUNE walks away.

Didn't you hear me?

We couldn't find it.

Where are you going?

NEPTUNE

I'm going to go get Aegeus.

He exits.

THESEUS

He's gone, asshole.