

Vignettes for an  
IDOL BEACHFRONT

Written by  
Daniel Prillaman

2018

1315 S Lake Wilmer Dr. Apt 202  
Sandusky, OH. 44870  
434-981-0043

\*The following play is copyrighted material, the sole owner of which is the author, Daniel Prillaman. If you enjoy it, please feel free to share it with whomever you like or leave a recommendation on NPX.

For performance/royalty rights, please contact me at [danielprillaman@gmail.com](mailto:danielprillaman@gmail.com), through the New Play Exchange, or through [www.danielprillaman.com](http://www.danielprillaman.com).

## CAST OF CHARACTERS

(NOTE: All roles are and may be played by any ethnicity)

KINGFISHER: she/her. Loves the ocean.

ATALANTA: she/they. Not that one.

ANTIGONE: she/her. That one.

CLOWN 1: he/she/they. A little shit.

CLOWN 2: he/she/they. Also a little shit.

DESMOND TYCHO: he/him. An unremarkable fellow.

TIRESIAS: he/she/they. The local oracle.

## SETTING:

A beach.

## TIME:

Back then.

## CONTENT WARNING:

Depiction of suicide (stylized), violence.

*"Our new Constitution is now established,  
and has an appearance that promises permanency;  
But in this world nothing can be said to be certain,  
Except death and taxes."*

-Benjamin Franklin (1789)

*"Shit."*

-Gandhi (Unknown)

### PRODUCTION NOTE

This story takes place on a beach  
You can use an actual beach  
Or bring the beach to you  
Or neither of those  
The water and the sand  
Need not appear in their traditional forms

Myths don't change  
Just the way they are told

### MUSIC NOTES

- 1.) *"Fishing Song"*  
Has lyrics, but no set tune  
It is fluid as the ocean  
And may change with each production
- 2.) *"She Moved Through the Fair"*  
Is a traditional Irish folk song  
Written by Padraic Colum  
First published in 1909 by Boosey & Hawkes in *Irish  
Country Songs* – Herbert Hughes
- 3.) *"Pie Jesu"*  
More of a chant  
From the final couplet of the "Dies irae"  
Latin hymn traditionally credited to Thomas of Celano  
Or Latino Malabranca Orsini  
Viva l'Italia!

Vignettes for an Idol Beachfront, Daniel Prillaman, 1.

*Halcyon beachfront.*

*Deserted.*

*The cast enters and sets the stage, including an easel and placards with scene titles written on them:*

FISHING SONG

*As they do, a song, led by KINGFISHER.*

*Guitar.*

*Or acapella.*

KINGFISHER

*I walk through the valley of the shadow of death  
A hammer strapped to my back and nails in my cross  
(Ooo's underneath)*

*And my feet are barer than the wounds in my breast  
Make me fall on my knees when Kingdom come  
(Drum underneath)*

*Zeus rapes a hundred women, I am one hundred and three  
Across the battlefields and bulwarks I steal their bones  
I swallow them, I chew them, I build my army  
I am become your Kingdom come, now get on your knees*

*Oooooo*

*Oooooo*

*(Ooo's continue underneath)*

*I am your nightmare  
I am your drug*

*I am your best friend with wine  
I am love*

*I am the walrus  
I'm the frozen sea*

*All these monuments I am  
Yet not I am me*

*Yet not I am me*

*The song ends and all exit except  
KINGFISHER.*

*She speaks to us.*

*NOTE: Any bracketed words or phrases may  
be improvised.*

KINGFISHER

Thank you, we are [Ostrich Providence]  
Believe the hype

Every myth  
Every story ever told  
By way of voice  
Or paper and pen  
Begins the same

Once upon a time

This is no exception  
Minus the fact that I've chosen to take a little more of your time to say it

Forgive me for that  
It would seem  
I'm greedy

(A wan smile, a silence, taking the  
environment in)

I've always loved the ocean.

*KINGFISHER steps into the water.*

*Or perhaps she was there already.*

*She walks out, drifting deeper and deeper  
until submerged in its depths.*

*Or dependent on the water level, perhaps  
she just sits down.*

*Then goes her head.*

*Taking a nap underneath the surface.*

*CLOWN 1 and CLOWN 2 enter in frilly  
floaty water gear, frolicking to the shore and  
into the water.*

*Absurd comic laughing.*

*They splash each other.*

*Bits.*

*Then they take off a placard:*

ATALANTA AND ANTIGONE DON'T GO TO  
WHITE CASTLE

*--and wade farther out into depths.*

Vignettes for an Idol Beachfront, Daniel Prillaman, 3.

*ATALANTA and ANTIGONE enter with laundry.*

*NOTE: ATALANTA walks with a limp.*

ATALANTA

Remind me again  
Why do they get to fuck around while we do all the work?

ANTIGONE

Because we have names.

ATALANTA

Fair enough.

*They get to work.*

ATALANTA

It would be nice, though  
To go for a swim for once  
Feel the cool on my skin  
The wet on my hair  
So fucking hot out here all the time

I'm thirsty  
Can I see the canteen?

*ANTIGONE hands ATALANTA the canteen.*

ANTIGONE

Do you even know how to swim?

ATALANTA

Yeah, you just  
Move your arms.

ANTIGONE

You do that when you're drowning, too.

ATALANTA

I know how to swim  
Wanna bet?  
I bet I could beat you to those two clowns and back  
Let's go.

ANTIGONE

Can you even swim? With your leg?

ATALANTA

Yeah.

ANTIGONE

It's not a fair race.

Vignettes for an Idol Beachfront, Daniel Prillaman, 4.

ATALANTA

Doesn't mean I still wouldn't beat you  
That sounds like chicken talk to me  
You chicken?  
Huh?

ANTIGONE

Stop.

ATALANTA

Chicken  
Chiiiiicken  
Chiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiicken.

ANTIGONE

Oh my god stop.

*ATALANTA does a masterful chicken  
impression.*

ANTIGONE

Stop.

*Perhaps the CLOWNS join in.*

ANTIGONE

Stop

Stop

OH MY GOD, STOP IT!

ATALANTA

So wanna race?

ANTIGONE

NO! I WANT TO DO THIS SHITTING LAUNDRY AND GO HOME!

*Awkward.*

*ANTIGONE pulls out a risqué article of  
clothing.*

*A thong or dildo or some shit.*

*More awkward.*

*She puts it back and gives up.*

ANTIGONE

All right, fine.

ATALANTA

Yes.

Vignettes for an Idol Beachfront, Daniel Prillaman, 5.

To them and back? ANTIGONE

Yep! ATALANTA

They keep moving though, that's going to affect-- ANTIGONE

No, it's fine, just the general more or less. ATALANTA

But that's going make a difference. ANTIGONE

Okay, fine  
We'll smack 'em. ATALANTA

Okay. ANTIGONE

Great ATALANTA  
1  
2

Wait. On 3? Or after 3? ANTIGONE

Uh, which do you prefer? ATALANTA

I mean, I don't care. ANTIGONE

Okay, how about after? ATALANTA

Great. ANTIGONE

Okay ATALANTA  
1  
2

Wait, are you going to say anything after 3 or do we just go? ANTIGONE

What? ATALANTA

Vignettes for an Idol Beachfront, Daniel Prillaman, 6.

ANTIGONE  
Like, are you going to "1, 2, 3, go" or just "1, 2, 3?"

ATALANTA  
Which do you prefer?

ANTIGONE  
Okay, do the first one.

ATALANTA  
Right  
1  
2  
Which one was the first one?

ANTIGONE  
1, 2, 3, go.

ATALANTA  
Right  
1  
2  
3

*But before they can go, the CLOWNS  
scream in terror and run out of the water.*

*Bits.*

*As they exit, they pull off a placard:*

NAMES

ANTIGONE  
(Perhaps smacking a CLOWN as  
they exit)

I win.

ATALANTA  
What the hell was that?

ANTIGONE  
I don't know. I never know. Maybe something bit them.

ATALANTA  
No  
It looks like  
There's something out there.

ANTIGONE  
Really? What?

ATALANTA

I don't know

Wait here.

*ATALANTA wades out into the water, her eye on something.*

*She doesn't have to swim.*

*She finds it relatively quickly.*

*And stares at it.*

ANTIGONE

What is it?

ATALANTA

Uh  
Uhhhhh  
You better, uh  
You better come out here!

ANTIGONE

What is it?

ATALANTA

It's uh  
It's a dead lady.

ANTIGONE

What?

ATALANTA

It's a dead lady!

*Beat.*

ANTIGONE

Goddamn it, not again.

*ANTIGONE wades out into the water.*

*She helps ATALANTA drag a dead KINGFISHER back to the shore.*

*Bits?*

*ATALANTA and ANTIGONE stare at the body.*

ANTIGONE

Okay  
Well

We'll tell somebody or  
Find a shovel or  
Something

I can't believe this  
This is

You okay?

ATALANTA

Huh?

ANTIGONE

Are you all right?

ATALANTA

Yeah  
Yes  
Yeah  
I  
I just

ANTIGONE

You've never seen one before?

ATALANTA

No

So that's what it looks like

I mean, you can imagine  
In your head  
But

ANTIGONE

It's not the same.

ATALANTA

No.

*A silence.*

ANTIGONE

Okay. You wait here. I'll go find someone.

ATALANTA

No, I'll go.

ANTIGONE

You sure?

ATALANTA

Yeah  
Yeah.

Vignettes for an Idol Beachfront, Daniel Prillaman, 9.

*But before she can go, the CLOWNS enter screaming and shouting once more, leading DESMOND TYCHO in tow.*

TYCHO

All right  
All right  
Friends, calm yourselves!

(Seeing KINGFISHER)

O shit.

ANTIGONE

They win.

TYCHO

That's a dead lady.

ANTIGONE

How astute of you, sir.

TYCHO

Uh  
Yes

(To the clowns)

WILL YOU SHUT UP?!  
Go play or something  
Let us handle this.

*THEY do.*

ANTIGONE

Our savior.

TYCHO

Ladies  
How did this, uh--

ANTIGONE

We found her in the water.

TYCHO

Right  
I see

Shit.

ANTIGONE

Yes.

ATALANTA

We should bury her  
Right?

ANTIGONE

Yes.

TYCHO

Yes  
Of course  
It would be inhumane to not

(Pause, then extending his hand  
to ANTIGONE)

Desmond Tycho.

ANTIGONE

(Taking it, to ATALANTA)

A last name. Well.

ATALANTA

(Shaking hands, to TYCHO)

Atalanta.

TYCHO

Hello.

ATALANTA

Not that one  
Daughter of--  
Doesn't matter, she's a bitch  
Besides, you'd never catch me running in a fucking foot race

ANTIGONE

Well, that's because you're a cripple  
Antigone  
That one  
Daughter of--  
I don't want to talk about it.

TYCHO

Antigone Antigone?

ANTIGONE

Just one, but yes.

TYCHO

But I thought--

ANTIGONE

Did you hear me just say the part where I don't want to talk about it?

TYCHO

Yes  
My apologies  
I just thought that--

ANTIGONE

Okay, fine.

TYCHO

I'm sor--

ANTIGONE

No  
You're right  
Let's just  
Get this out of the way now  
So everybody isn't spending the rest of the time wondering.

*ANTIGONE crosses and removes a placard:*

PREVIOUSLY ON ANTIGONE

*She clears her throat and begins:*

ANTIGONE

I am everything you've ever heard about me  
But you haven't heard everything

The obvious  
Yes  
Jocasta was my mother  
Oedipus was my father  
And my brother

*The CLOWNS become OEDIPUS and  
JOCASTA.*

*They have sex.*

CLOWN 1

Unh!  
Unh!  
Unh!  
Unh!  
Unh!  
Mom?!

CLOWN 2

Ewwwwwwwwwwwwww.

*CLOWN 1 screams and gouges out their  
eyes.*

*CLOWN 2 hangs himself.*

ANTIGONE

And in the aftermath of that bullshit  
My brothers  
The ones that weren't my father  
Fought over the vacant throne

Accounts vary  
But  
Eteocles controlled the city  
Polyneices attacked it

*The CLOWNS become ETEOCLES and  
POLYNEICES.*

*They battle.*

Unh!

CLOWN 1

Unh!

CLOWN 2

Unh!

CLOWN 1

Unh!

CLOWN 2

Unh!

CLOWN 1

Unh!

CLOWN 2

*They kill each other.*

Ewwwwwwwwwwwwwwww.

BOTH

Creon  
New ruler of Thebes  
Ass on the throne  
My uncle  
Intended father-in-law  
I think  
This shit gets really blurry at this point  
Decreed Eteocles' body be honored  
Polyneices' the opposite

ANTIGONE

I disagreed with that

So I buried my brother  
Twice  
And this is where the tales diverge

To you  
Creon punished me and immured me in a cave  
Sepulchre  
What you will

I accepted

And there I hung myself  
Swung from the chandelier  
And my love  
Haemon  
Found me thus  
And decided to come, too

But instead

I just  
Didn't

I told Haemon I was leaving Thebes  
He decided to come, too

He passed away two weeks later

Some kind of allergic reaction  
To shellfish

Suffice it to say, I'm getting tired of the dead finding their way into my life.  
(Pause, to ATALANTA and  
TYCHO)

Good enough?

TYCHO

Certainly.

ATALANTA

Gets me every time.

*ANTIGONE semi-vehemently removes a  
placard:*

IF I DIE YOUNG, JUST AT LEAST BURY ME

TYCHO

Well, I should have one or two shovels at my home.

ATALANTA

I'll come with you.

ANTIGONE

No  
I'll go.

ATALANTA

You sure?

ANTIGONE

Yes  
Just make sure she doesn't go anywhere.

ATALANTA

Right.

*ANTIGONE and TYCHO exit.*

*ATALANTA is left alone.*

*Well.*

*The CLOWNS are there.*

*Bits?*

ATALANTA

Do you two wanna help?

CLOWNS

[Noooooooooooo!]

*The CLOWNS run away into the water or  
wherever.*

ATALANTA

Right. Great. Fucking useless.

*A silence.*

*The ocean.*

*ATALANTA is uncomfortable.*

*KINGFISHER is dead.*

ATALANTA

I'm sorry.

*A silence.*

*ATALANTA sings "She Moved Through the  
Fair."*

*As she sings, The CLOWNS may wander  
back over and add harmonies.*

*Eventually, ANTIGONE and TYCHO re-  
enter with shovels and dig a grave.*

*Once ready, they all pick up KINGFISHER  
and lower her in.*

ATALANTA

*My young love said to me  
My Mother won't mind  
And me Father won't slight you  
For your lack of kind  
And she stepped away from me  
And this she did say  
It will not be long love  
'Till our wedding day*

*She stepped away from me  
And she moved through the Fair  
And fondly I watched her  
Move here and move there  
And she turned her way homeward  
With one star awake  
As the swan in the evening  
Moves over the lake*

*[Additional verses as desired]*

*But as the group lowers the body into the  
grave, KINGFISHER wakes up, sputtering  
water and coughing.*

*Not dead.*

*Everyone is surprised.*

*The CLOWNS, in particular, scream in  
terror and run away into the water or  
wherever, taking off a placard as they do so:*

AS NAIL IN DOOR

*KINGFISHER feebly gathers herself.*

*Takes in her surroundings.*

KINGFISHER

Goddamn it, not again.

TYCHO

Again?

ATALANTA AND ANTIGONE

Again?

*A punctuation noise from the CLOWNS,  
wherever they fucking are.*

ANTIGONE

To clarify, by "again," you mean...

KINGFISHER

Again  
Yes

It seems  
The gods wish that I am alive  
For reasons unbeknownst to me

*Beat.*

ATALANTA

Well, I'm going to say that this is not how I expected my day to go.

KINGFISHER

I'll second that.

TYCHO

Well, uh  
I suppose that's it, then.

ATALANTA

Yeah?

TYCHO

If there is no one to bury I do not think we need a grave.

ANTIGONE

A grave, no

(To KINGFISHER)

But a name?

KINGFISHER

Well, my mother often called me disappointment  
But  
It doesn't matter  
Give me a moment to collect myself  
I shan't trouble you any longer

ANTIGONE

Stay that moment  
Please  
If the gods have gone so far to intervene in your affairs  
Perhaps we might somehow be of assistance

KINGFISHER

What's your name?

ANTIGONE

Antigone.

Antigone Antigone?	KINGFISHER
Just one, but yes.	TYCHO
I am right here.	ANTIGONE
Sorry.	TYCHO
I mean, goddamn.	ANTIGONE
I'm sorry.	TYCHO
My name is Kingfisher.	KINGFISHER
Like the bird?	ATALANTA
Like the bird My mother was a bitch Perhaps some vain attempt at symbolism for her I don't know Antigone I Thank you for your concern, but You wouldn't be the first to attempt to determine my Whatever This is At this rate, nor will you be the last So	KINGFISHER
If you'll pardon my boldness	ANTIGONE
How many times? Have you tried?	
...	KINGFISHER
47.	
47?!	TYCHO
Fuck me running.	ATALANTA

47? ANTIGONE

Yes KINGFISHER

You don't have to say anything

There aren't particularly good words for it.

The Oracle. ANTIGONE

I've tried oracles. KINGFISHER

Well ANTIGONE  
Not ours.

Really, it's not worth the trouble. KINGFISHER

What could we possibly be keeping you from? ANTIGONE

Why are you so interested? KINGFISHER

... ANTIGONE

May we try?

It's your life KINGFISHER

You do you.

Thank you ANTIGONE

(To TYCHO)  
Tycho, was it?

At your service. TYCHO

I am not familiar with you, yet you have a home nearby. ANTIGONE

That is understandable  
Finished building it yesterday  
I just moved here from Corinth. TYCHO

ANTIGONE

Congratulations

I can take that to mean, then, you are not yet aware of the whereabouts of our local temple?

TYCHO

Only vaguely  
Unfortunately.

ANTIGONE

I'll come with you.

ATALANTA

No, I'll go.

ANTIGONE

You sure?

ATALANTA

Yes  
You stay here  
Just make sure she doesn't go anywhere.

ANTIGONE

Good luck.

ATALANTA

Yeah

(To TYCHO)

Follow me.

TYCHO

Of course.

*ATALANTA and TYCHO cross and remove  
a placard:*

LONG WALKS ON THE BEACH

*Beat.*

ATALANTA

We're gonna need this space, would you guys, like...[fuck off?]

*ANTIGONE and KINGFISHER exit.*

ATALANTA

It's all the way across town, we should get a move on.

*They walk.*

*A silence.*

TYCHO

Forgive me for asking  
If this is uncouth of me  
Or out of place  
But  
Are you going to be okay on your leg?

ATALANTA

Oh  
Yeah  
I'll be fine  
I'm used to it  
It's  
Been like this for a while  
Doesn't trouble me.

TYCHO

How did it happen?

ATALANTA

Is everyone from Corinth so inquisitive?

TYCHO

I'm sorry  
You're right.

ATALANTA

It was a birth defect  
Just a little shorter than my other leg

Or maybe  
I fell out of a tree  
As a child  
And it just never healed properly

Or  
Maybe  
I do it on purpose  
And I can actually walk fine  
I just like the attention

Which one do you think is true?

TYCHO

None of them.

ATALANTA

Why'd you leave? What do you do?

TYCHO

Nothing, anymore  
I'm retired.

What did you do? ATALANTA

I made benches. TYCHO

Did you like it? ATALANTA

Well enough  
I didn't hate it  
One could do a lot worse. TYCHO

You don't strike me as a tradesman. ATALANTA

You don't strike me as a woman who would ever fall out of a tree  
Or fake an impairment just to get others to look at you  
I'm already looking at you. TYCHO

I can see that. ATALANTA

Would you like to know what I see? TYCHO

Enlighten me. ATALANTA

I see no defects. TYCHO

Fuck off. ATALANTA

I see the most beautiful creature upon which my eyes have ever laid. TYCHO

Okay, keep talking. ATALANTA

You asked me why I left Corinth  
I know now. TYCHO

And now we're back to fuck off. ATALANTA

Really? TYCHO

ATALANTA

Really  
Really?  
Nice try, though

I'll tell you what

We've still got a ways to go  
Keep thinking

Bench boy.

*ATALANTA and TYCHO exit.*

*The CLOWNS enter or return from the water or wherever.*

*They make fun of the potential we just witnessed.*

*Perhaps they start making out.*

*Bits.*

*ANTIGONE and KINGFISHER re-enter.*

*And watch.*

*ANTIGONE clears her throat.*

*The CLOWNS, startled, run away to the water or wherever.*

*ANTIGONE takes off a placard:*

THE MORE YOU KNOW

KINGFISHER

That was kind of hot.

ANTIGONE

Uh huh.

KINGFISHER

Who are those two?

ANTIGONE

Trust me, it's better to not ask those questions.

KINGFISHER

It seems relevant.

ANTIGONE

It's just some vain attempt at symbolism.

KINGFISHER

Hmm.

*A silence.*

KINGFISHER

Like a chorus or something?  
In the plays?

ANTIGONE

Gods help us if they're the Chorus.

KINGFISHER

It wouldn't be the first time the gods have shit down our throats.

ANTIGONE

No

Oddly graphic and specific phrasing  
But no.

*A silence.*

KINGFISHER

Thank you.

ANTIGONE

For what?

KINGFISHER

For making me the one who keeps breaking the silence

You seem perfectly content to truly just rest  
And wait

You've gleaned what you've wanted and you aren't  
Prying  
Anymore  
That's not usual for me  
So  
Thank you.

ANTIGONE

This isn't the first time the gods have shit down my throat

Or the 47th.

KINGFISHER

I don't know which would be better at this point  
Knowing why  
Or never knowing

You can imagine in your head  
But  
You have to wonder if you ever found out would the answer really be good enough?  
You've built it up too much  
Maybe they just like fucking with you  
Or maybe there is some grand design in their madness

Either way  
It's tiring  
Trying to supply the reasons yourself.

It is. ANTIGONE

*A silence.*

I've always loved the ocean. KINGFISHER

*A silence.*

*THE CLOWNS enter or return from the water or wherever.*

*They remove a placard:*

WE DO A SCENE NOW!

*Bits?*

*Bring dat dildo back.*

Butts. CLOWN 1

Doo-doo. CLOWN 2

Penis! CLOWN 1

Vagina hat! CLOWN 2

Vagina penis butt hat! CLOWN 1

Ewwwwwwwwwwwwww. CLOWN 2

Vagina penis...doo-doo hat? CLOWN 1

CLOWN 2

Ooooooooooooooh!

BOTH

VAGINA PENIS DOO-DOO HAT!  
VAGINA PENIS DOO-DOO HAT!  
VAGINA PENIS DOO-DOO HAT!

*The chant continues and morphs into a dramatic and intense "Pie Jesu."*

*ANTIGONE and KINGFISHER join in and remove a placard:*

WEEKEND AT ORACLE'S

*The chant continues as ATALANTA and TYCHO enter the imposing grandeur of the Temple of the Oracle.*

CAST

(Over below ad infinitum until unnecessary)

*Pie Jesu Domine  
Dona eis requiem*

*Pie Jesu Domine  
Dona eis requiem sempiternam.*

TYCHO

This architecture!

ATALANTA

Yea  
Our guy lives it up.

TYCHO

The detail is  
Astounding.

ATALANTA

Where the shit are they?

TYCHO

Only one man lives here?

ATALANTA

Well, they're blind  
Like most oracles  
So they have servants, too  
I don't fucking see any of them either.

Well, that's promising  
A good prophet is usually blind.

TYCHO

What's that supposed to mean?

ATALANTA

Well  
I mean, that--

TYCHO

Are you springing some ableist shit?

ATALANTA

No.

TYCHO

Like you don't have true wisdom unless you can see without eyes shit?

ATALANTA

No, that's not  
What I mean.

TYCHO

You put your foot in your mouth a lot.

ATALANTA

I like the taste.

TYCHO

...

ATALANTA

Uh, yes, it  
It would seem that I do, yes.

TYCHO

Just help me look.

ATALANTA

Right  
Yes

TYCHO

What does he look like?

ATALANTA

They're blind.

ATALANTA

Right  
Yes.

TYCHO

*They look.*

Vignettes for an Idol Beachfront, Daniel Prillaman, 27.

TIRESIAS! ATALANTA

TIRESIAS!

TYCHO

TIRESIAS!

ATALANTA

TIRESIAS!

*TIRESIAS appears in the background in the water.*

TYCHO

TIRESIAS!

TIRESIAS

Marco!

ATALANTA

TIRESIAS!

TIRESIAS

Marco!

ATALANTA  
(Seeing TIRESIAS)

Tiresias!

TIRESIAS

Fish out of water?

ATALANTA

Tiresias, it's me!

TIRESIAS

Persephone!

ATALANTA

No.

TIRESIAS

Eurydice?

ATALANTA

Still no.

TIRESIAS

Debbie?

ATALANTA

It's Atalanta, Tiresias!

Oh, Atalanta!  
What brings you by?

TIRESIAS

Come over here!

ATALANTA

What?

TIRESIAS

COME OVER HERE!

ATALANTA

What?

TIRESIAS

I can't hear you!  
Let me come over there!

*TIRESIAS walks in the opposite direction.*

O my god.

ATALANTA

OTHER WAY, SIR!

TYCHO

AH!

TIRESIAS  
(Turning around)

Yes!  
Of course!  
Yes!

Your voice  
Your voice is unfamiliar to me.

Yes, your  
Oracleness  
Sir  
I just arrived from Corinth.

TYCHO

Oh, please  
Please  
Tiresias is fine  
And don't call me, sir  
Gender is a construct, we're not in Thebes  
I'm not one of those cunt oracles

TIRESIAS

Ah!

(Arriving, placing their hands all  
over TYCHO'S hands, then face)

Hmmmm  
Interesting

ATALANTA

He's not why we're here.

TIRESIAS

No?  
Hmm.

ATALANTA

Where are your servants, you old bastard?

TIRESIAS

Oh  
Well  
You know  
I sent them  
To the store  
Not a few days ago

If they haven't come back  
The fuckers are probably down at the beach again.

ATALANTA

Right, well, we were there, too.

TIRESIAS

And you saw them?

ATALANTA

Not really  
We did meet a lady.

TIRESIAS

Was she hot?

ATALANTA

What?

TIRESIAS

You heard me.

ATALANTA

I mean, I'd do her, look  
She's having a unique issue  
We're hoping you might be able to shed some light on it.

TIRESIAS

Aha  
Well  
No time like the present  
Lead me then  
Not the other one

I don't like his hands.

ATALANTA

Whatever  
Just come on, ya doof.

TIRESIAS

Now  
Tell me about this issue  
What ails this young lady?

*ATALANTA, TYCHO, and TIRESIAS exit,  
beginning an explanation.*

*KINGFISHER removes a placard:*

KINGFISHER'S STORY

KINGFISHER

I always wanted to be an actor

There are layers of irony in that, but let's move past it for now

I had to settle for telling stories to my children  
Which I did  
Very well  
If I may disregard humility for a moment  
They looked forward to bedtime with a ferocity known to few

I will not go into the specifics of how they were taken from me  
I realize that ruins the flow of the story somewhat, but  
Forgive me  
I'm greedy  
And those details are something I'd rather keep to myself  
Nor do I know if knowing them would make it better

I hung myself a week later  
And woke up as a chorus of men were lowering me to my grave

I have to say  
That's the most confounding thing about it all

I stay dead  
Until I'm literally being put into the ground  
As if the earth itself refuses to accept me  
I'm too dirty or  
A hundred and three other synonyms

I've been to every prophet  
Every oracle  
A witch or two  
No one has ever been able to figure it out

So I remain

I've done it all  
Whatever you can imagine in your head

Stabbing  
Drowning  
Electrocution  
Which was really fucking hard [pre-Edison]  
Poison  
Dismemberment  
Allergic reaction to shellfish

Here I am

What am I  
Who walks the earth with no more presence in it?

Maybe I am God

That would explain something at least  
Although I couldn't gather the why any more than you

I would steel yourselves now

Life is less pleasant than my stories.

*KINGFISHER crosses and removes a  
placard:*

POLO

*ATALANTA, TYCHO, and TIRESIAS enter,  
their explanation reaching its conclusion.*

*It is interrupted by the CLOWNS returning  
from the water or wherever barging straight  
into TIRESIAS.*

*Bits?*

TIRESIAS

Fuckers!  
You two lazy, little shitbirds need to get back to work!

*The CLOWNS don't move.*

TIRESIAS

Are they gone?

TYCHO

No.

GO!

TIRESIAS

*The CLOWNS run off and legitimately exit.*

Right  
Well  
Debbie

TIRESIAS

Atalanta.

ATALANTA

Atalanta here  
And  
The other one  
Have informed me of the general situation  
Let us see  
What we can dredge up.

TIRESIAS

Thank you for coming, Tiresias.

ANTIGONE

Antigone  
My dear.

TIRESIAS

Come this way.

ANTIGONE

*ANTIGONE leads TIRESIAS to  
KINGFISHER.*

*KINGFISHER extends her hand and  
ANTIGONE helps TIRESIAS to take it.*

This is Kingfisher.

ANTIGONE

Hello.

TIRESIAS

Hi.

KINGFISHER

I feel a great sorrow in you

TIRESIAS

Hah!  
I'm just kidding  
We say that to everyone  
Just a little Oracle humor.

KINGFISHER

I see.

*TIRESIAS feels KINGFISHER.*

*Reads her.*

*Absorbs her.*

*Irrevocably takes her in.*

TIRESIAS

O

O my

Chin up, my brave bird

(Pause, to EVERYONE)

I got nothing.

MOSTLY EVERYONE

What?

TIRESIAS

Yep

Got nothing.

KINGFISHER

Told you.

ANTIGONE

Nothing at all?

TIRESIAS

Nothing clear

Just

For some reason...s, it seems

The gods wish that you stay alive

KINGFISHER

Yes.

ATALANTA

There's really nothing at all you can see?

TIRESIAS

Well

The thing is

Oracles

We're much better at seeing the what is happening or has happened or will happen

The why

Of it all

It's a little bit trickier

Yep!  
Bye-bye then!

MOSTLY EVERYONE

What?

TIRESIAS

Got me a fucking nap to take  
Yes, I do  
Yes, I do  
Haha.

*TIRESIAS exits.*

*A silence.*

*Perhaps the sun has now begun to set.*

All right, then.

ANTIGONE

I thank you for your concern  
Truly  
I do.

KINGFISHER

Your kindness is a rare thing.

ANTIGONE

...

Wherever you're going  
I hope you find satisfaction.

KINGFISHER

As do I

And I you

Farewell.

*KINGFISHER exits.*

*A silence.*

Goddamn it, we didn't do any of this laundry.

ATALANTA

We'll take care of it tomorrow.

ANTIGONE

Yeah

ATALANTA

Okay  
Sounds good

You want me to help you clean up?

ANTIGONE

No, no  
You go  
I'll stay.

ATALANTA

Okay.

ANTIGONE

Mr. Tycho.

TYCHO

Miss.

ANTIGONE

Thank you for your assistance this day.

TYCHO

Anytime.

ANTIGONE

I suppose I shall see you around.

TYCHO

You shall.

ATALANTA

See you tomorrow.

ANTIGONE

Goodbye.

*ANTIGONE and ATALANTA bid farewell.*

*ATALANTA and TYCHO exit.*

*ANTIGONE, left alone with the ocean,  
gathers the laundry and cleans up.*

*She listens to the water.*

*The silence.*

*She crosses with the laundry and takes away  
a placard.*

*There are no more under it.*

*Perhaps she takes the easel, too, as she exits.*

---

*ATALANTA and TYCHO enter.*

TYCHO

I will echo you

This is not at all how I expected my day to go.

ATALANTA

You can say that again

TYCHO

I will echo--

ATALANTA  
(Overlapping)

I still can't believe

I still can't believe it

Never mind the why  
Never mind the how  
It just doesn't make sense.

TYCHO

I've been thinking.

ATALANTA

Yeah?

TYCHO

I would very much like to kiss you.

ATALANTA

That's  
Not original  
At all.

TYCHO

No?

ATALANTA

No.

TYCHO

I suppose I'm just  
Not very original.

ATALANTA

You put your foot in your mouth a lot.

TYCHO

I'd prefer to taste you.

ATALANTA

Terrible.

*They kiss.*

*It is passionate.*

*Charged.*

*Gentle.*

*A life-changing kiss.*

*It pauses and ATALANTA steps out of it.*

ATALANTA

I know it's not terribly original

But

Wow

It was indescribable

Like

Haha

I'm terrible

I'm sorry

It was the singular most beautiful moment I ever experienced

The warm on my skin

The salt in my hair

My heart fluttered

It sang

Jumped

Danced

Stopped

*TYCHO stabs ATALANTA in the back with a knife.*

*Blood.*

*She falls to the ground and dies.*

*A silence.*

*TYCHO collects himself, removes the knife, and proceeds to rob ATALANTA of her valuables.*

*Her jewelry.*

*Clothes.*

*Whatever the fuck.*

*The CLOWNS have entered.*

*They are watching.*

*TYCHO stands and makes to leave when he sees them.*

*A silence.*

*TYCHO exits.*

*The CLOWNS run away in the opposite direction.*

*A silence.*

*The CLOWNS return, ANTIGONE in tow.*

*She sees ATALANTA.*

*A silence.*

ANTIGONE

Goddamn it.

END OF PLAY.