

Annie Tis Gone  
Zachary "Zoe" Wright

Cast:

Annie - Short for Annabeth. A young girl, barely out of middle school. Cynics would say she is naive, but she'd say she has a strong sense of right and wrong. Our protagonist.

Creon - An old judge who has been hardened through years of making tough decisions on what the law says is right. Annie's uncle. Our antagonist.

Haerry - Short for Harrison. A young boy about Annie's age. Creon's son and thus, Annie's cousin. Annie's closest friend, aside from her sister.

Izzy - Short for Ismene. Annie's sister about twice her age. She's had to take up the role of adult of the house after their mother and father died, and especially after their brother's fight.

Euridice - Creon's wife. She misses the honest man she married who wishes only for justice, in the face of the bitter cynic she lives with.

Joe - A police officer serving the same court system as Creon. Mostly comedic relief.

The Chorus - Associated bystanders, citizens, students, and strangers, bearing different masks to match their role in a given scene

Tiresias - The only member of the chorus to speak with the characters and the audience. Seemingly walked from the original play.

### **Scene 1 - The Chorus I: Prologue**

[INT - Unknown Time, Unknown Place]

[The screen fades in on an analogue TV screen in the middle of the void. On it, TIRESIAS, dressed as a News Anchor, is speaking directly to the audience. With each new line, a new screen lights up (indicated by [\*\*]) with a new member of the chorus, all dressed as news anchors, until the screen is full of TV's.]

Tiresias

There is a story you may be familiar with, of a king and a prophecy.

Chorus

[\*\*] The father of this king was told by a soothsayer his son would commit a great sin against himself and his kin, [\*\*] and for that, the king's father banished his son, and in doing so only sealed his fate. [\*\*] This insubordination in the face of the gods and the fates not only damned the king to death, but damned his son and his family line to far, far worse. [\*\*] A simple tale, one warning of ambition and the will of the gods, now remembered by a punchline and the name of the king: Oedipus. [\*\*] This is not that story. [\*\*] Nor is it the sequel, where the sons of the damned king Oedipus slayed each other on the battlefield. [\*\*] This is the story of the aftermath [\*\*] Of the damned family, [\*\*] their fate, [\*\*] and their responsibilities.

**Scene 2: The News**

[INT - Evening, Annie's house]

[All the TV's fade away aside from the starting one. Tiresias stops speaking to the audience and begins speaking to two figures sitting on a couch. The older one embraces the other in comfort. CREON is on the screen, speaking with the journalists. He's an older man, salt and pepper hair but a fine suit, well pressed, and carrying the same level of authority as the man wearing it. ANNIE, a high school girl with fire in her eyes, shivers with rage and IZZY, a woman in her 20's with eyes full of ancient wisdom, tries to console her.]

TIRESIAS (V.O. - NEWS NARRATOR)

We go now to Judge Creon on the case of the State V. Eteocles. The courthouse has not yet released the verdict publicly, and Creon will be revealing it live.

CREON (On the TV)

Thank you, citizens of Thebes. Our fair town has had to deal with a lot these past few months, with the loss of my brother and now the death of my young nephew. The fight between Polyneias and Eteocles has cost this town much. The jury has, perhaps unsurprisingly, sentenced Eteocles guilty of murder. For this crime, he will be extricated to the state penitentiary as soon as possible. As for the body of Polyneias, it will be burned and disposed of as soon as possible. These events, while tragic, are not to be mourned. There shall be no burial for Polyneias. Thank you for your time.

[The Chorus descends upon Creon with a torrent of questions before the TV is shut off. Annie turns to Izzy.]

Annie

D-did he say what I think he said!?

[Annie stands up from the couch, furious.]

Annie

We aren't allowed to bury Poly???

Izzy

Annie, settle down. Our uncle was in a tough spot. If he didn't treat the case like any other-

Annie

How is refusing to allow anyone to dignify him with a funeral treating the case "like any other." When has that ever happened before!?

Izzy

Annie, please! We don't have a say in what Creon decides, and it's important for him to maintain an image of impartiality. It's his job to be impartial.

Annie

Who cares about his stupid job!! He can't just say we can't bury Poly! There's just no way he can!!

Izzy

I know it seems bad but maybe he just said that for the cameras? We can talk with him about it tomorrow.

Annie

But they might burn Poly's body *tonight!*

[Annie starts walking towards the door]

Izzy (growing frustrated)

And what if they do? You can't just try to steal his body from the county morgue, can you? [Annie doesn't respond. She's putting on her shoes. Izzy is shocked] Annie, what are you doing?

Annie

What I can.

Izzy

Annie, stop.

[Annie looks back, and sees there's tears streaming down Izzy's face.]

Izzy

Annie, please don't do something stupid I... I can't lose you too. Just stay here, at least for tonight.

[Annie doesn't respond. She finishes putting on her shoes before grabbing a grey hoodie from the coat rack. She briefly looks back at her sister.]

Annie

I'm sorry. But I can't let Creon do this to our family again.

[She runs through the door frame, past Tiresias, who looks to camera while wearing the same news anchor outfit.]

Tiresias

This is not how it began, but this moment was the beginning of how it would all come to a disastrous end.

[Title: Annie Tis Gone: ACT ONE]

[Title: Earlier that day]

### **Scene 3 - Haerry's Promise**

[INT, DAY - Thebes High School hallways.]

[Annie closes her locker, and turns to see Haerry, her cousin. She is not happy with him.]

Annie  
Haerry.

[She turns and tries to walk away.]

HAERRY  
Come on Annie you can't *still* be mad

Annie  
I disagree.

[She continues walking. Haerry scrambles to catch up]

Haerry

You know Creon, if an angel descended from the heavens and told him  
to turn left, he'd turn right just to spite it!

[Annie stops suddenly. Haerry doesn't realize in time and runs  
straight into an open locker door. She looks down on him.]

Annie

So you won't even *try* to convince him?

[She helps him up with a sigh as he shakes off his daze. Something  
slips out of her arms as she does so, and she bends down to pick it  
up.]

Haerry

And what could I say? 'Hey dad, I know you're going through a lot  
right now but please go easy on Teo, he's family after all' [putting  
on a deep voice and puffing out his chest to mock Creon] 'No. In  
fact, i'm giving you three months jail time for trying to influence a  
state official'

Annie (stifling a laugh)

He wouldn't say that.

Haerry

You don't know that!! [Haerry notices Annie is quiet and is looking  
down at something. He follows her eyes and sees she's looking at the  
object she dropped earlier: a polaroid photo of herself, Poly, Eteo,  
and Izzy, taken 10 years ago. They're all smiling.] Look, say what  
you will about my dad, but he's at least reasonable. You'll have your  
chance to say goodbye.

Annie

And what if I don't?

#### **Scene 4 - Haerry's Broken Promise**

[Ext. Night - The roads of Thebes]

Haerry (V.O.)

Then you can call me.

[Back in the present. Annie is walking through the streets on her way  
to the courthouse. She pulls out a flip phone and dials Haerry.]

Annie  
Pick up, pick up, pick up...

[Int. Night - Haerry's room]

[Haerry paces back and forth in his room, looking at his phone with a glint of fear as it rings. He was anticipating this call. He takes a deep breath before picking up the phone.]

[Ext. Night - the roads of thebes]

Annie  
Finally! Haerry you said-

Haerry (V.O.)  
Annie, are you running somewhere?

Annie  
Yes, I'm going to the courthouse, and you're coming with me.

[Int. Night - Haerry's room]

Haerry  
I'm *what*

Annie (V.O.)  
You promised!

[Ext. Night - The roads of Thebes]

Haerry (V.O.)  
I said you can call me, I never said anything about going to the courthouse at midnight!! (beat) Wait, why are you going to the courthouse at midnight?

Annie  
We're burying Poly's body

Haerry (V.O.)  
Have you lost your mind!?

Annie  
No, but your dad's a different story.

[Int. Night - Haerry's room]

Annie (V.O.)

If he thinks I'll stand by while he does this to Poly? Won't even let us bury him? He talks all this yap about crime and punishment that he's forgotten about basic human decency.

Haerry

And your solution is to go cadavernaping?

Annie (V.O.)

It's the right thing to do.

[Ext. Night - the roads of thebes]

Annie

Plus, you owe me one.

Haerry (V.O.)

For what?

Annie

Third period math. Don't think I didn't see you peeping at my answer.

[Int. Night - Haerry's Room]

[Haerry groans. He really should have studied.]

Haerry

Ok, but peeking your answers to some stupid quiz is way smaller than trying to steal a body from a morgue, you realize that right?

[Ext. Night - the roads of thebes]

Annie

Then the first thing! Come on, you talk all the time about wanting to get one over on Creon.

Haerry (V.O.)

I'm sorry Annie, I just... I can't go against my dad. You don't know what he's like.

[Annie looks dejected, slowing her pace and lowering the phone from her ear. She looks at the screen for a moment.]

Haerry (V.O.)

...Annie? Are you still there?

[Int. Night - Haerry's Room]

Annie (V.O.)

Lose this number.

[There's a dial tone as Annie hangs up. Haerry looks at his phone a second before looking out of his window.]

## **Scene 5 - A break-in**

[Int, Night - The Courthouse]

[The night is dark and still, the lights of the courthouse have all been extinguished for the night. An owl hoots and a cicada sings into the darkness. There's an odd serenity to such a grim place.]

[Suddenly, the stillness is broken, a red light flashes! It's a light of alarm! The quiet of night is broken by the wailing, awakening JOE, stationed at a security post. He is a portly man of middle age, who has grown complacent in working a boring position at a boring town. This is the first time he's had to deal with something. He focuses on the monitors in front of him, scanning for the cause of the alarm, before seeing a figure wearing a hoodie running for the morgue. He stands up, dusting off his uniform before grabbing a flashlight and stun gun and bolting in that direction.]

[Given the first and potentially last opportunity to do so, Joe kicks down the door to the morgue, pointing his stun gun like all the cool cops do with their guns in the movies.]

Joe

FREEZE!

[But Joe's enthusiasm is cut short as he points his flashlight around the room. He was just a bit too late; one of the morgue's storage compartments is open and empty, and a window is open to his left. They're dragging the body outside, there might still be time!]

[Ext. Night - Thebian Street]

[Joe rounds the corner of the courthouse, pointing his flashlight into the shrubbery outside the window. A trail of dirt gives him a

start, and he charges off, following the trail behind the courthouse to the local cathedral, and its graveyard. Finally eyes on the culprit, a shorter figure than he expected. Again, he points his stun gun.]

Joe  
Stand down!

[The figure pauses, standing up and raising their hands, but still keeping their back to the officer. The body they stole lies still on the ground at the figure's feet.]

Joe  
Turn around and keep your hands where I can see them!

[There's a beat where the figure remains still, seemingly making a decision, before running off into the woods. Joe tries to keep up, but quickly loses them in the foliage.]

[Joe turns his attention back around to the body, seeing the corpse of Polynesian covered by a thin layer of dirt, enough to make the culprit's aims apparent, but still keep the body well above ground. Joe reaches for his walkie talkie and presses a button.]

Joe  
This is security officer Joe Nash, come in.

CHORUS - 911  
This is the Creon Police Station, you're clear.

Joe  
Call Judge Creon, I think someone disagrees with his ruling.

## **Scene 6 - Enter Creon**

[Int, Day - the Courthouse]

[A song is playing, A Man Without Love or similar, as Creon pushes open the doors. His pace is steady, dignified, but his footfalls are strong, decisive, commanding. His fists are white balls of rage as he marches through the halls. Members of the CHORUS, dressed as office workers and clerks greet him quickly, politely, and avoiding his icy gaze. Eventually, Creon comes to the door he was looking for, swinging it open loudly, seeing Joe, sitting in the security guard's chair with earbuds in. His eyes are closed, and he's mouthing along

to the lyrics of the song, his fingers moving along, conducting an invisible orchestra. Creon storms up to him, yanking the earbuds off the guard angrily. Joe reacts with surprise and immense fear.]

Joe

OH! Mister judge Creon, sir, um, I didn't see you walk in.

Creon

Clearly.

Joe

Um... to what do I owe the pleasure?

Creon

Don't patronize me Jonas. A body was stolen under your watch.

Joe

Yes, sir, but in my defense, it was also recovered thanks to my efforts?

[Creon furrows his brow and Joe gulps. Joe needs to get on Creon's good side fast if he doesn't want to get fired.]

Joe

I, um, right! I've got here a, uh, [Joe produces, from his desk, a clipboard and CD] the security cam footage and possible suspects! I swear I'm on the case sir, just please don't -

[He's cut off as Creon gestures for the man to stop talking.]

Creon

That won't be necessary. I've spoken with the sheriff and we've devised a plan for catching our culprit. If you don't want to spend the night in one of our cells, I suggest you follow it to the letter.

No distractions.

[Creon hands Joe his own clipboard. Joe takes it tenderly and nods rapidly.]

Creon

Good. I'll arrange for these [Creon holds up the earbuds] to be returned to you when the culprit is behind bars.

## **Scene 7 - The Chorus II - Tiresias and Creon**

[Joe sighs as Creon slams the door to the security office, and makes his way to his own office. Just as he sits down and prepares to go through some paperwork, there's a knock at the door.]

Creon  
Come in.

[TIRESIAS, dressed in a clerk's outfit, enters. He places a few papers on Creon's desk. Tiresias begins to leave, but pauses at the door frame.]

Tiresias  
...sir?

[Creon looks up from his paperwork indignantly. He doesn't like to have his time wasted.]

Tiresias  
This won't be long, I just wanted to ask you...

Creon (repeating this for the thousandth time)  
It's unbecoming of a judge to speak on his reasoning for cases which are closed and unbecoming of a clerk to ask about them unless for matters of the record.

Tiresias  
...of course sir, it's just. The press have been hounding us for days about it. All our social media is flooded with questions, if we don't say anything people are going to-

Creon  
People are going to *get bored and drop it*. Don't mind the public, Tiresias, it's bad for your health.

Tiresias  
Right. Sorry for the trouble.

[Creon murmurs a response as Tiresias exits, and we follow him. He walks through the halls, accompanied by several members of the CHORUS, changing outfits, switching from office workers to police uniforms.]

Tiresias  
The public decree made the public restless.

Chorus (various different individuals giving their line as they walk  
past Tiresias)

The audacity! The man's a fool! A crook! He's inherited the madness  
of his brother!

Tiresias

But this did not deter Cold-hearted Creon, a man as unshakable as the  
earth and as unbreakable as steel. While we, dear viewer, know the  
events of his life as a parable on responsibility and pride, Creon  
knew no such thing.

Chorus

Bound as he is to the written word and the screen, he cannot see the  
full picture of his life, cannot see the mistakes of his father he  
was doomed to repeat.

Tiresias

That, as before and as always, in trying to avoid his fate, he would  
only ensure that he will succumb to it, and in the process damn that  
family which he claims to do all of this for.

[TITLE: ACT II]

### **Scene 8: Annie and Tiresias**

EXT, Evening - The Woods

[Annie sits, shivering and nervous, in some foliage of the woods. She  
holds the grey hoodie close for a moment before picking up two sticks  
and trying to start a fire. Beads of sweat form on her brow. Her eyes  
frown. Her hands move like lightning, but the sticks don't ignite.  
After a while, she puts them down, frustrated and panting.]

[After a beat, she hears the sound of leaves crunching underfoot  
somewhere behind her. She whips around a moment before scrambling for  
cover in a bush. From her concealment, she looks around for the  
source of the noise, before Tiresias (wearing a park ranger's  
uniform) approaches her behind, coughing to get her attention. She  
yelps in surprise, before Tiresias attempts to put her at ease,  
crouching down and putting a reassuring hand on her shoulder.]

Tiresias

At ease, soldier. I heard someone trying to start a fire and wanted  
to remind them about Smokey's Rules but, well... [he looks at the  
twigs, angrily discarded] I see that's no longer necessary.

[Annie doesn't say anything, turning away, hoping the man wouldn't recognize her face.]

Tiresias

If you don't mind me asking, miss, it's a school day, innit?

Annie

Dunno. Maybe.

Tiresias

Mmm... I see. Well, if you spot any lost kids around, do me a favor and let them know there's interior heating and a good meal waiting for them at the ranger's lodge if they need it.

[Annie considers the offer for a moment as Tiresias rises to his feet and begins walking away]

Annie

Wait! Um. Theoretically if any lost kids I saw didn't want to be found. What should I say to them?

Tiresias

(Beat) Depends, I suppose. Why would these hypothetical kids not want to be found?

Annie

Well, suppose they broke the rules doing something right. And they wanna do it again. But if they get caught, they won't be able to do it again because they'll be in jail, and nobody else wants to do this good thing because they're all too scared of getting caught themselves.

Tiresias

Quite the conundrum. (a beat) I'll tell you this. I would not let that kid know that I'm the only ranger on duty at the moment, and I would certainly not say that I sometimes forget to lock the back windows to the ranger outpost, which is about half a mile thataways by the by, and I'd be sure not to mention that I'll be making my rounds for another couple hours. Because then this hypothetical ne'er-do-well could sneak in and find some comfort and safety for a while whilst hiding out from the law. Hypothetically, of course

Annie (with a wide grin)

Of course.

Tiresias

Well, if there's nothing else, I'll be seeing you, Stranger. Or I won't! Hard to say.

Annie (with a stifled giggle and the glimmer of tears in here eyes)  
Same to you, mister.

## **Scene 9 - Preparations for burial rites**

[Int - Evening, the ranger's outpost]

[There's a beat before we see Annie opening the back window and crawling into the space, falling ungracefully. The area is small, but fairly cozy, decorated with a number of personal affects. Annie looks around a moment before heading to the "kitchen," which consists of a microwave, a minifridge, and an Ikea cupboard installed while half-drunk. She opens the fridge, pulls out some ham and cheese, and pulls a loaf of bread down from the cupboard, and makes a sandwich, which she rapidly devours.]

[A few scenes flash by of Annie enjoying the brief respite, trying on a ranger's cap, sitting upside-down, looking from the outpost into the woods, etc, all while the sunlight gets dimmer and dimmer. Eventually, she stops, becoming focused. She grabs a few sporadic items around the office (a dollar store crucifix, a whittling knife, a trowel, an extra plank from the cupboard project, and a hunk of charcoal recovered from an extinguished campfire), throwing them all in a spare bag she found in the office]

[As she approaches the back door, she looks at her phone. There's a string of missed calls from Harry, along with a smattering of missed text messages. She taps the icon and sits on the messaging screen. She considers what to write for a while before giving up, closing her phone, and finally heading out.]

[EXT - Twilight, outside the ranger's outpost]

[From a distance, Tiresias watches as Annie slips out the back window she entered from, stumbling slightly and carefully closing the window as she went. His eyes tear up, slightly]

Tiresias

I'm so, so sorry Antigone.

## Scene 10 - Annie Captured

[Annie pushes apart some bushes, looking out and seeing the graveyard. Her eyes move to the partially buried body of polynesias. Decay has settled in and flies swarm, but the body remains.]

Annie (whispering)  
He's still there.

[Annie pulls out the trowel, looking left and right. All clear. She makes a mad dash for the body, under cover of night and hood raised. Desperately, she digs up the dirt under her late brother, getting a few inches deeper. As she works at it with one hand, the other reaches into the bag and pulls out a makeshift tombstone she crafted off-screen, carving a niche, getting the crucifix locked in, and writing "here lies Polynesias" with the charcoal. She begins murmuring burial rites as she works between grunts of effort]

Annie  
Dearly beloved, we are gathered here today to remember the life and times of Polynesias, brother to some and friend to all.

[While she works, she doesn't notice movement at the treeline, as members of the CHORUS, dressed as police officers, along with Joe, emerge with stun guns drawn.]

Chorus 1  
I don't want to hurt a kid

Chorus 2  
She broke the rules

Chorus 3  
It is Creon's will she be dealt with

Chorus 4  
But why is it necessary

Chorus 5  
She wishes only to bury her brother...

Chorus 6  
Quiet.

Chorus 7

I'm so sorry...

Chorus 6  
It must be done.

[They are close enough now that Annie can tell they are here. They've surrounded Annie. There's nowhere for her to run. She gives them no mind, singularly focused on her task.]

Annie  
May Saint Peter see the good of your life, and welcome you through  
the pearly gates.

Chorus 1  
She's... praying?

Chorus 2  
It doesn't matter

Chorus 3  
It's a trick. She's trying to play on your emotions

Chorus 4  
We should let her finish

Chorus 5  
It's the least we can do...

Chorus 6  
Creon's edict is no burial. That means no prayer, either.

Chorus 7  
So it shall be...

[A foot from the crowd kicks Annie away from the body, knocking the wind from her. She still tries to sputter out a prayer.]

All Chorus (in unison)  
You have the right to remain silent. Stop this now.

Annie  
D-deliver me from evil... Save him from his enemies, O Lord...

[Joe fires the stun gun at Annie. The electricity courses through her body, and she goes limp.]

Annie (with the last of her consciousness)  
Amen.

[Fade to black. Sounds of wailing police and ambulance sirens.]

**Scene 11 - Eurydice's Plea**

[Int, Night - the master bedroom of Creon's house]

[FADE IN - Creon and EURYDICE, Creon's waifish but strong-willed wife, are laying in bed together wearing nightgowns. Their bed is large, ornate, and expensive, and they rest under an expensive-looking quilt, with individual fabric squares telling part of a Greek story (the twelve trials of Heracles or similar). Eurydice has reading glasses and holds a cheap romance novel in her hands. The sounds of sirens and police vehicles continue to emanate from the TV screen the two are watching. Creon is looking up at the ceiling, wide awake. There's a beat before Eurydice puts down her book and breaks the silence.]

Eurydice  
Do you want to talk about it?

Creon  
There's nothing to discuss.

Eurydice  
Mmm. And you're sure of that.

Creon  
I never say anything that-

Eurydice  
That you're not sure of, yes, Creon, I know that. But it's clearly weighing on your mind.

Creon  
I do not trouble my mind with the inconsequential.

Eurydice (rolling her eyes)  
Really?

[Creon sits up]

Creon

What do you mean "Really".

Eurydice

I mean I don't believe you *really* don't see the significance of this.

Creon (groaning)

I *really* don't, Euridice. It was a standard murder trial with a clear culprit and whose murder victim was likewise at fault. I've dealt with something similar a dozen times already.

[Eurydice picks up her book and smacks Creon on the back of the head with it]

Creon

Ow! What was that for!

Eurydice

Lying

Creon

Lying!?

Eurydice (nodding)

To me and to yourself. Much as you try, Creon, you are not an emotionless machine. You'll need to reckon with what you've done to your niece and your nephews.

Creon

The matter of their birth has no bearing on my ruling.

Eurydice

Really?

Creon

Really. Had anyone approached the stand, having done what Eteocles did, I would have given them the same sentencing.

Eurydice

And issued the same mandate regarding Poly's body.

Creon

Just the same.

[Eurydice goes back to reading her book with a huff.]

Eurydice  
You're lucky I pity you, Creon.

[Creon turns to his wife, trying to think of a response, before lying back down.]

Creon  
Change the channel, Eurydice. I don't want to think about work right now.

[Eurydice presses a button on the remote. An early rock song (Wonder of You or similar) comes on, and the camera moves out of their house, before cutting to the next morning]

## **Scene 12 - Haerry's Plea**

[Int, Morning - the kitchen of Creon's house]

[As the morning sun's rays shine through the windows, Haerry prepares a morning bowl of cereal and Eurydice prepares a plate of eggs and bacon while also getting Creon's typical breakfast (a protein shake), ready. He descends the stairs, dressed for work but still packing his suitcase. As the scene goes on, the sound of shuffling paper, a blender, and bacon sizzling grow louder.]

Haerry  
Mornin', Dad.

Creon  
Good morning, Harrison. Dear, is my breakfast ready.

Eurydice  
Nearly.

Creon (nodding)  
Good, thank you.

[Creon sits down at the table, and opens his suitcase, checking that he has everything packed]

Haerry  
Uh, hey dad-

Creon  
...have either of you seen a form labeled Evidence 5 - Michaels v Summers?

Eurydice  
I haven't

Haerry  
Um, listen, dad I-

Creon  
Oh, how did Haerry score on that quiz.

Eurydice  
Quite well! The professor suspects he had some help from-

Creon  
Interesting. What's the weather looking for today

Haerry  
Hey! Can you hang on a second I need to-

[Creon turns on the TV. Tiresias, now a meteorologist, begins loudly relaying the rain chance and temperatures, cutting off Haerry. Rapid cuts between the sources of noise, creon and eurydice's lips as they talk over Haerry, and Haerry's increasingly frustrated face before finally]

Haerry (shouting)  
HEY!

[Creon and Eurydice stop talking and look to their son. The blender finishes preparing the protein shake. Creon mutes the TV. Haerry sighs]

Haerry  
Dad, there's something I need to say.

Creon  
...yes?

Haerry  
Well... I just... You... Don't kill Annie, ok!

Eurydice  
Haerry! You shouldn't insinuate that-

Creon

The matter is undecided.

[Eurydice looks aghast, but doesn't say anything]

Haerry

Just hear me out, ok? I know you gotta be like, impartial and stuff, but isn't it possible for you to overcorrect? Like, in trying to be impartial you actually decide to be way harsher than you normally would.

Eurydice (Warningly)

Haerry...

Haerry

And like, I know she broke the law, but she was only trying to do what she thought was right, wasn't she? She didn't hurt anybody, or steal anything valuable, or anything! Isn't it easier to just, like, let her off the hook for this one?

[There's a beat. Creon stares at his son, with an indeterminate expression and unblinking eyes, before turning to Eurydice]

Creon

I'll drink my shake in the car, I've got a busy day ahead of me.

[Creon stands up, pouring the contents of the blender into a cup. Haerry stares in shock and rage.]

Haerry

If you think this will ensure you keep your job, you're nuts! Everyone is already saying you're a tyrant for this. All night it's been Creon the King and Creon the Killer. Everyone, the whole city, is crying for Annie when there isn't a cop in earshot.

Creon

That is precisely why it is the responsibility of the justice system to render judgment, and not that of the common citizen.

Haerry

But-

Creon

Have a good day at school, Haerry.

[Creon exits, slamming the door behind him.]

Eurydice  
It was a good effort.

**Scene 13 - Annie the Defendant**

[EXT, Day - The Thebes courthouse, establishing shot]

Eurydice (V.O.)  
Hopefully, it will be enough.

[The sound of a baton rattling on bars]

[Int, Day - The Thebes Courthouse holding cells]

[We see the source of the noise, as Joe wakes up a dazed Annie in a holding cell.]

Joe  
Hey, your attorney is here.

Annie  
My wha-

[Int, Day - The Thebes Courthouse private office space]

[Annie sits before the desk of Tiresias, the Defense Attorney, provided to her by the state under the reasonable assumption she would have no attorney of her own. He's extending a hand to Annie]

Tiresias  
Annie, right? I'm Tiresias. I'm your court-mandated defense attorney.

[Annie cautiously takes the man's hand.]

Annie  
Um... Good to meet you?

Tiresias  
Likewise! Now, on to business. Your case is not looking good, Miss Annie. It's my professional opinion you should-

Annie  
Wait, sorry I just woke up after being knocked unconscious, what's happening?

Tiresias

Hm? Oh, you're going on trial for breaking a court mandate.

Annie

Oh. I guess that makes sense. Well I'm not guilty.

Tiresias

...did you do it?

Annie

Did I give my brother a proper burial? Yes. But I'm not guilty about it.

Tiresias

And under oath you'd say you did it if asked, right?

Annie

...I guess?

Tiresias

Then I'm afraid that means you're guilty.

Annie

But I didn't do anything wrong! Creon's mandate was-

Tiresias

Was concluded as part of the resolution of a previous case and is unlikely to be litigated as part of this one.

Annie

Don't I have a right to protest that decision? Freedom of speech or something?

Tiresias

I suppose, but you didn't *just* protest the decision. You directly and knowingly - I assume, knowingly? - [Annie nods] Knowingly went directly against the order. I'm sorry Annie, as much as I and many others are on your side, the law says-

Annie

The law says power is derived from the will of the people, doesn't it?

Tiresias

...I suppose, but the foundational philosophy of democracy rarely comes up in a courtroom. The law says what it says, Annie. Your best move is to take a plea bargain.

Annie  
...bargain?

Tiresias  
Yes, essentially you'll be admitting guilt to get a lighter-

Annie  
But it's a deal, right? Can it be negotiated?

Tiresias  
Theoretically? Where are you going with this?

Annie  
Who is it negotiated with?

Tiresias  
In this case? The prosecution and the judge.

Annie  
Creon, you mean?

Tiresias (Beginning to catch on)  
Annie, are you proposing to use your guilty plea to argue for-

Annie  
For justice to be done? Yes, I am Tiresias.

Tiresias  
As your legal council, I really cannot advise such an action, miss Annie, such terms are unlikely to go through.

Annie  
But you didn't say impossible.

Tiresias  
I-

Annie  
I can represent myself if you won't.

[The two lock eyes for a beat. Annie's caught Tiresias in a pickle.]

Tiresias  
I suppose we can try.

**Scene 14 - Annie and Creon**

[Int, Day - Thebes Courthouse, conference room]

[Annie and Tiresias, the Defense Attorney have sat down across from Creon and 4-5 members of The Chorus (prosecutors). There's a still silence in the moment, holding on to the tension of Annie and Creon coming face to face.]

Creon  
Annabeth.

Annie  
Uncle.

Tiresias  
...Good, um, to business. My client would like to plead guilty on the following conditions: 1) That the body of Polynesian be allowed to be laid to rest, and 2) tha-

Creon and Chorus  
Denied.

Annie  
What!?

Creon  
Your brother's body is a matter of a previously closed case.

Chorus  
The ruling is of no bearing on this case.

Tiresias  
That's absurd, of course it has to do with this case!

Creon and the Chorus  
But the ruling does not.

Creon  
It was already mandated into law.

Chorus

What is done will not be undone.

Creon

Your brother's body will remain unburied and without burial rites.

Creon and the Chorus

It is not a matter for debate.

Creon

Now, your second point, please.

Annie

No, I won't let you just skip right past that!! Why are you so set on having Poly's body not have a funeral??

Creon

You seem to believe I was motivated maliciously, somehow.

Annie

How else could you explain it!?

Creon

A reasonable interpretation of the law and nothing more. Now then, Tiresias, your second point, please.

Annie

REASONABLE!? REASONABLE!? Point to me the part of the law that says a grieving family should be barred from burying their dead!!

Creon

He had done wrong. He was an embarrassment to your family. Frankly, I did you a favor.

Annie

He was my *brother*.

Creon

He was a vandal and attempted murderer.

Annie

And that means we can't grieve his loss!?

Creon

Please, try to be logical.

Annie  
This defies all logic, are you insane!?

Creon  
He was a *blemish*

Annie  
He was family! *Our* family!

Creon  
Family members of the court do not get to enjoy special benefits from  
the court.

Annie  
But they do get posthumously shamed!?

Creon  
That is subjective.

Annie  
And you feel nothing having done it?

Creon  
It was a day at work, same as today, same as yesterday, and same as  
the days after.

Annie  
Don't you have a soul somewhere in there, judge?

[There's a brief quiet. Creon turns to Tiresias]

Creon  
Council, we're prepared to continue, please keep the defendant in  
control.

Annie  
Nothing!? No response!

Tiresias  
Annie, he is kinda right, this doesn't look good.

Annie  
Neither does admitting to being soulless! He doesn't fucking care!

Creon  
It was not easy.

[There's a beat. Everyone turns to Creon.]

Creon  
The mandate. It wasn't easy to make the decision, but it was  
necessary.

Annie  
How! All this talk, and I still haven't heard a good reason why it  
was necessary!

Creon  
You're a child. Naive. Hopeful. You have a child's understanding of  
law and order, and of the adult world of political squabbling and  
fights for power. You can't, you won't understand why. But one day,  
you will wake up, and you will understand.

Annie  
I don't believe you.

Creon  
Council.

Tiresias  
Uh, right, um... Annie, I don't think he's going to budge on point one.  
Do you want to, like, wait outside while we debate point 2?

Annie  
No. We're not taking a guilty plea without point one.

All but Annie  
What?

Annie  
If you really want to say the decision stands, and that you can  
defend and explain it to adults, then we're doing that. If you can't  
tell me, maybe you can tell a jury.

Creon  
Council...

Tiresias

Annie...

Annie

If he isn't budging on his nonsense, then I'm not budging on mine.  
We're taking this to court.

Creon

You are making this so much harder for yourself, Annabeth.

Annie

You made things hard for yourself when you said I couldn't bury my  
brother. If you won't tell me why, I'll force it out of you. Come on,  
Tie.

[Annie exits the doors to the conference room. A confused and hurried  
Tiresias follows]

#### **Scene 15 - Chorus III: Foregone conclusions**

[While being dragged through the courthouse, Tiresias turns to  
camera. Members of the chorus enter through doors along the walls.]

Tiresias

Now, you may be inclined to say what Annie just did was foolish. The  
matter was, after all,

Chorus (all)

A foregone conclusion

Tiresias

But it was, to some extent, already

Chorus

A foregone conclusion

Tiresias

When Annie first tried to bury the body. There was no way for things  
to go any other way.

Chorus

It was foreseen

Tiresias

As it had been with her brothers

Chorus

As it had been with her father

Tiresias

And as it shall be with her uncle. And, if I could speculate, I am  
almost certain knew that what she was doing was

Chorus

A foregone conclusion

Tiresias

But that does not make it pointless.

Chorus

When Pandora opened the box entrusted to her by her husband, she  
unleashed pain, suffering, and injustice on the world

Tiresias

But she also released a force which could overcome them all

Tiresias and Chorus

Hope.

Tiresias

Regardless of her circumstances, regardless of the fact that her case  
was

Chorus

A foregone conclusion

Tiresias

She would pursue it anyway, see it through to the end, because she  
believed in Pandora's blessing.

Chorus

Because hope foregoes conclusions.

[Titlecard: ACT III]

Annie

Sorry, did you say something?

Tiresias

No, just... thinking about a story I read.

Annie  
...ok?

[Fade out]

### **Scene 16 - Home again**

[Fade in]

[Int, Night - Annie's house]

[Annie opens the door, sleepily stepping inside and moving up the stairs. Izzy is typing away on her laptop, doing some work. She's a bit too distracted to realize the gravity of the situation.]

Izzy  
Heya, Annie

Annie  
Heya

[Annie walks into her room, closing the door behind her and flopping, face-first on her bed. Downstairs, the gears click in Izzy's head and she suddenly looks up from her laptop.]

Izzy  
Wait a minute.

[Annie hears rapid footfalls, before Izzy swings open the door to her room]

Izzy  
Annie!?

Annie  
Yeah?

Izzy  
Yeah!? That's all you have to say!?

Annie  
Technically, I also said "Heya"

Izzy

Not the point! You think you can come back home without explaining  
yourself? I was worried sick!

Annie

And I am tired. I just need some rest, and I'll be out of your hair  
again.

Izzy

That is *not* what I want!!

Annie

So you want me to stay, great, wow, look at the time, goodnight see  
you tomorrow

Izzy

Annie!

Annie

Izzy!

Izzy

Gah! You're impossible!

Annie

Sorry, I get it from my inbred bastard father

Izzy

Jesus Christ can you be serious for a second

Annie

Izzy, I've been serious all day. I'm all serious'd out.

Izzy

I just... Are you ok?

Annie

I'm healthy, safe, and up to date on shots

Izzy

Are you in trouble?

Annie

I am not currently on the lamb

Izzy (not mad, just frustrated)

Annie...

Annie

No, Izzy, I'm not in trouble. But I will be appearing before the court in two days.

Izzy

What!?

Annie

I did what I said I was going to do, and got caught. They tried to get me to plead guilty, but I wasn't guilty of anything, so I'm going on trial.

[Izzy is about to say something, but she stops herself, closing her eyes, and taking a deep breath.]

Izzy

Did someone pay your bail?

Annie

Called in a favor with Haerry.

Izzy

He convinced his dad to skip bail?

Annie

No, he just paid it. Kid's stacked.

Izzy

...Ok. Ok. Do... Do you need help?

[Annie grins]

Annie

A lot, yeah. But tomorrow.

[Izzy nods]

Izzy

Tomorrow. Good night, Annie

Annie

Night, sis.

[Izzy closes the door, before making her way downstairs and back to her laptop. For a moment, she tries to continue her work, before opening a new tab and searching "right to burial" and "corpse law" and "cruel and unusual punishment legal definition" and related terms. As she does so, the night grows darker, and eventually the sun begins to rise.]

[Int, Day - Annie's house]

[There's a sound of a phone alarm. Annie lazily reaches out, turning it off, and returning to sleep. There's a beat before Izzy throws open the door, laptop in hand.]

Izzy  
Morning, soldier!

Annie  
Bwuh?

Izzy  
Spent last night looking into some things. Come on, we've got a busy day ahead of us.

### **Scene 17 - Legal Council**

[A montage - Annie, Izzy, and Tiresias sort out the details of how they will approach the trial]

### **Scene 18 - A Court Apperance**

[INT, DAY - The Thebes Courthouse]

[Annie, Tiresias, and Izzy are in a waiting area. Annie looks through a window and see a moderately sized group of onlookers are preparing to file into the courtroom the observe proceedings. Izzy puts a reassuring arm on her sister's shoulder.]

Izzy  
Hey, don't mind them.

Tiresias  
Now, Annie, this is our absolute last chance to back down and take a guilty plea. If you are certain you are willing to go through with this-

Annie

Tie, don't finish that sentence, you know I am beyond certain.

Tiresias

Thought so. Well, Miss Ismene, as Annie's legal guardian you also have a say in this matter.

[Izzy hesitates briefly. Annie gives her a look.]

Izzy

Well, it's just... We did a lot of research and went through everything and even then I'm still not sure about this, Annie. This isn't a sure victory.

Annie

This is so far beyond winning a trial or not! I still don't get why he was so certain to not let us bury poly, and this is the only way we have a chance at getting an answer out of him. Even if we lose, this is the right thing to do.

Izzy

You really are our mom's kid. Alright. Mister Attorney, I fully support my sister's right to a fair trial on her terms.

[Somewhere, a bell chimes 12 times]

Tiresias

Glad we got that settled then, because that's our cue. Miss Ismene, we'll see you after the trial.

[The pair walk through a side door, entering a courtroom. Annie and Tiresias take their seat at the defendants chair, while 3 members of the Chorus sit at the prosecutor's desk. The judge's podium remains empty. There's a period of idle waiting, sped up slightly. A clerk lets in the rest of the Chorus to sit on the stand. The doors open, and interested parties take their seats in the public's portion of the court room. Eventually, Joe enters.]

Joe

All rise for the honorable Judge Creon of Thebes.

[Everyone but Annie stands up. Tiresias tugs on Annie's shirt, and she rises as Creon enters, taking his seat.]

Creon

Thank you. You may now take your seat.

[Everyone sits down]

Creon

We will now hear opening statements. Prosecution.

[Chorus members stand]

Chorus 1

Thank you, your honor

Chorus 2

Ladies and gentlemen of the jury, I am afraid you have been brought  
before the court for a pointless trial.

Chorus 3

The defendant has knowingly committed a crime, and will admit as  
such.

Chorus 1

With any luck, this will be swift, and you will be allowed to return  
to your lives.

All Chorus

Thank you. That concludes our opening remarks.

Creon

Thank you prosecution. You may now be seated. Defense, your opening  
remarks.

[The chorus members return to their spot and sit down. Tiresias  
stands up.]

Tiresias

Thank you, your honor. Ladies and gentlemen of the jury, the matter  
on trial here is anything but simple. We are here today to debate the  
matters of tyrants and truth, of right and wrong, of the fundamental  
nature of our political system and our liberties.

[Creon strikes his gavel. Tiresias stops talking and everyone turns  
to Creon]

Creon

Defense will acknowledge that this case will not revisit any prior decisions made by the court.

Tiresias

Of course, your honor. What gave you any impression that I would?

[Tiresias gives an innocent smile to Creon. Members of the audience laugh. Creon strikes his gavel again.]

Creon

Do not test me, Tiresias. I will have you arrested for contempt of court if you give me a reason.

Tiresias

Yes, Your Honor. That, um, concludes my opening statement.

Creon

Thank you, defense, you may be seated. Does the prosecution want to call a witness to the stand?

All Chorus

Yes, your honor. Prosecution calls Annie of Thebes to the stand.

[Tiresias nudges Annie.]

Tiresias (whispering)

Knock em dead, kid.

[Annie stands from the defendant's table and is guided to her podium by Joe. Joe produces a bible, and raises his right hand. Annie places her hand on the bible, and raises hers.]

Joe

Annie, do you swear to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth so help you God?

Annie

I do.

[Joe takes the bible and returns to a standing position by Creon's podium. The three chorus members approach Annie.]

Chorus 1

Annie, yes?

Annie  
Yes.

Chorus 2  
We'll be straightforward. Three nights ago, did you steal the body of  
your brother, Polynesias, from the city's morgue?

Annie  
Yes.

[Murmurs from the audience]

Chorus 3  
And then, on that same night, did you attempt to bury his body behind  
the old church?

Annie  
Yes.

[More murmurs.]

Chorus 1  
And then, two nights ago, did you attempt to finish burying the body  
of your brother?

Annie  
That is correct, and I'd do it again.

[Gasps and loud chattering. Creon strikes his gavel.]

Creon  
Order in the court! Prosecution, you may proceed

All Chorus (Smug, having won a sure case)  
Thank you judge, but that's all our questions, thank you.

Creon  
Understood. Defense, would you care to cross-examine the witness?

Tiresias  
Yes, your honor.

[The Chorus returns to their seat, as Tiresias approaches his client,  
fixing a button on his dress shirt.]

Tiresias

Now, miss Annie, when you unburied your brother's body for a second time, did you need to swipe it from the morgue again?

Annie

No, sir

Tiresias

And why would that be, do you think?

Chorus 1

Objection!

Chorus 2

Relevance!

Creon

Sustai-

Tiresias

Judge, if you'll allow me I promise I am going somewhere with this.

Creon

The opinions of the defendant are not substantial enough to build a case upon. Overruled.

[Creon strikes his gavel. Tiresias looks to Annie gravely, who shrugs in turn.]

Tiresias

Now, Annie, you have admitted to doing the deed, correct?

Annie

That's correct.

Tiresias

So then, why are we here today?

Annie

Because I do not believe I have broken any laws.

[A few gasps from the audience, followed by murmuring. Creon strikes his gavel, and the noise settles down]

Annie

Well, sir, I disagreed with the mandate the honorable judge Creon set  
in regards to my brothers' case.

Tiresias

And you felt this personal disagreement was legally binding?

Annie

No, sir, but I don't think it is legal for you to say someone cannot  
give someone a proper burial. That doesn't seem right to me.

Chorus 2

Objection!

Chorus 3

Relevance, once again!

[Creon strikes his gavel]

Creon

Sustained. [heavy sigh] As I have informed you multiple times during  
pre-trial, Tiresias, previous rulings made in tangentially related  
cases are not subject to revision or discussion on this matter. If  
you or your client continue to make this an issue for this case, I  
will hold both of you in contempt of court. Am I understood?

[Audience murmuring as Creon strikes his gavel again]

Tiresias

Yes, sir.

Creon

Good. Do you need to continue the cross examination?

Tiresias

No, sir.

Creon

You may return to your seat then, both of you.

Joe (mumbling to himself)

I thought saying that was my job...

[Annie and Tiresias return to their spot.]

Creon

Does the prosecution wish to call any further witnesses

Chorus (all)  
No, your honor.

**Scene 19 - The Defense's Witness**

Creon  
Would the defense wish to call any further witnesses

Tiresias  
Yes, your honor. Defense calls Security Officer Jonas Nash to the stand.

[Joe looks surprised, and spits out the cup of coffee he was drinking]

Joe  
Me!?

[Creon pinches his brow]

Creon  
Yes, Joe. You were informed you would be appearing on trial earlier.

Joe  
I thought that meant-

Creon  
Get on the stand, Jonas.

Joe  
Right, uh, yes sir!

[Joe takes the stand, and awkwardly tries swearing himself in before Tiresias gingerly takes the book and performs Joe's half of the ceremony.]

Tiresias  
Your name, for the record?

Joe  
Jonas Nash, sir.

Tiresias

Good to meet you Jonas. Now, you were involved in the arrest of my client, yes?

Joe

That's correct, sir. In fact, I was the one to use the stun gun on her.

Tiresias

Now then, during that event, how did you know my client was going to be there?

Joe

Well, sir, the body of her brother was only partly buried from the night before, y'see.

Tiresias

Interesting! So you hadn't unburied it and returned it to the morgue?

Joe

No, sir.

Tiresias

And why would you do that?

Joe

Oh, um, I don't know if I can say, sir.

[Joe casts a nervous glance up at Creon, who is glowering at the security officer.]

Tiresias

Joe, I would like to remind you that you are under oath to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth.

Joe

Uh... can I plead the fifth here?

Tiresias

That would be implying you had done something criminally wrong, son.

Joe

I hadn't! It's just that it was, um, security business, and-

Tiresias

Would this help get an answer from you?

[Tiresias produces a sheet of paper from his jacket pocket and places it in front of Joe. Joe looks surprised.]

Tiresias

Ladies and gentlemen of the jury, evidence #1, the orders which law officers received regarding the arrest of my client. Joe, you seem to recognize this, is that correct.

Joe

Y-yessir!

Tiresias

And, now, for the courtroom, could you elucidate the contents of these instructions?

Joe

Well, we were not to unbury and return the body to the morgue or cremate it like we were planning to, but just, leave it there and wait for Annie to try and bury it again.

[Gasps and murmurs from the audience]

Chorus 3

Objection!

Chorus 1

Relevance!

Tiresias

Your honor, this document suggests that my client was entrapped by the law officers regarding her second offense. She cannot be held legally accountable if some individuals are intent on stacking the deck against the weak, as is the case hear.

Creon

Tiresias...

Tiresias

Now, who could be such an individual to wish to impose that sort of tyranny on innocent Annie? Well, Joe, who gave you those orders?

Joe

It was Creon! Uh, sir.

[loud discussion and gasps from the audience. Creon bangs his gavel repeatedly.]

Creon  
Order! There will be order in my courtroom! Prosecution, your  
objection is sustained.

Tiresias  
What!?

Annie  
What!?

Creon  
The defense has made it clear previously in this court case she would  
do it all over again if she could. Whether or not this is a case of  
entrapment is of no relevance to this case. Now sit down before I  
have you thrown out of my courtroom!

Joe  
Creon...

Tiresias  
But I have-

Creon  
Tiresias, I will hold you in contempt of court!

Tiresias  
Yes, Judge.

[Tiresias returns to his seat. Annie is aghast.]

Tiresias  
I'm sorry, kid. We did everything we could.

[Annie balls up her fists in rage.]

Creon  
Now then, would the prosecution like to cross examine the witness.

Chorus (all)  
No, your honor.

Creon

Would the defense wish to call any more witnesses?

Tiresias  
No, your honor.

Creon  
Then the Jury may move to deli-

Annie  
WHY!?

[All eyes turn to Annie, who has stood from her seat and is jabbing a finger at the judge.]

Annie  
Why did you say we couldn't bury Poly!? All this could have been avoided if you didn't have this inexplicable obsession with not letting us bury Poly. All I want to know is why!

[Creon stares at Annie with deep set, raging eyes.]

Creon  
Baliff Jonas, escort the defendant out of my courtroom, please.

[Joe approaches, with an apologetic look in his eyes.]

Joe  
I'm sorry, kid.

[Annie stands up, and Joe holds her two wrists together behind her back. She yells at Creon as she is escorted out.]

Annie  
You'll have to answer for this at some, Creon! Throw me in a cell, throw me down the river with a cement brick, throw me in a cavern and seal it, and you'll still hear my voice echoing. Why? Why? Why!?

[The doors swing closed behind her. The jury stands up, and are escorted to the deliberation room. The prosecution, Creon, and Tiresias exit for the duration of deliberation. The audience of the case exit as well. Tiresias marches down the hall for a moment, glancing to the screen, seemingly preparing to deliver another monologue to the audience, but stops himself.]

Tiresias

Excuse me one moment, there's something I need to do.

**Scene 20 - the Chorus v. Creon**

[Int, Day - The judge's waiting room]

[Creon sits alone at a desk with some papers in front of him, and a styrofoam cup of water by his side. He stares at some paper and writes something down before Tiresias and all members of the chorus, now wearing traditional greek-style togas, enter.]

Creon  
What the fu-

Tiresias (with a voice like thunder)  
Creon the king, you are naught but a fool.

Chorus (chanting)  
The madness of his brother! The curse of his father! The destiny of  
the previous king!

Creon  
King? What the hell are you talking about!?

Tiresias  
I have seen this tale a thousand times, Creon the King, Creon the  
Judge, Creon the Officer, Creon the Principal, Creon the President,  
Creon the Man of Power, and in all the times I,

Chorus  
Tiresias, the Prophet

Tiresias  
Have been made to sit by and *watch* as you ruin the lives of yourself  
and your kin knowing,

Chorus  
KNOWING

Tiresias  
That all this would do is stroke your ego

Chorus  
Annie knew her destiny was a cell

Tiresias

All she wanted was the dignity of an answer to her simple question

Chorus

But you would deny her even that small dignity

Tiresias

You answer today, Creon, Highest of all the Fools

[The chorus begins to chant "why" as they approach and surround Creon, who closes his eyes, and his face knots into a portrait of frustration and rage.]

Creon

I DO NOT NEED TO ANSWER TO THE LIKES OF YOU!

[Ext, Night - a greek-style circular theater]

[Creon opens his eyes to see he is no longer in his office, but another place and another time, stood in line with a dozen other Creons who all answered Tiresias' question the same way. The Chorus fill the seats of the theater, while Tiresias stands before the men.]

Tiresias

Always the fool, always the bone-headed and stubborn, always the  
portrait of tyranny

Creon (all)

I am no tyrant! All I do, I do for my people!

Tiresias

But only the living! Never an ounce of respect for the long-dead  
Polynesians

Creon (all)

He was the son of a bastard, a killer, and a traitor! He deserved no  
respect!

Tiresias

That is the word of a man

Chorus (all)

But not the will of your Gods!

[The sky flashes with lightning. Briefly, we can glimpse outlines of the 12 Olympian Gods]

Tiresias  
Unless you believe yourself above even the gods?

Creon (all)  
The gods have no place in politics!

Tiresias  
Then what of the men who dreamed them as images of their ideal self?

Chorus  
Does not the common man see the simple cruelty of your act? Can you not answer to them?

Creon (all)  
They cannot see what I can see! I am in power because I can see what needs be done!

Tiresias  
Then it is the way of all rulers to turn to sacrilege?

Chorus  
To barbarism?

Tiresias  
To have your enemies body not given the decency of a farewell from this life?

Creon (all)  
You can't see what I see from on high!

Tiresias (voice burning with the sun's rage)  
You do not know how much I can see, great fool of Thebes, Creon.

Chorus (chanting)  
Creon... Creon... Creon... Creon... Creon...

[Int, Day - The judge's waiting room]

Joe  
Creon?

[Creon looks up, hazily, from his desk. It seems he fell asleep during deliberation.]

Joe

The jury's ready to give their statement, sir.

Creon

Ah, yes. Good.

## **Scene 21 - The sentencing of Annie of Thebes**

[Creon is the last to return to his courtroom, escorted by Joe. As he takes the stand, he plays out a known conclusion. Annie, sitting in the defendants chair in handcuffs, knows what is coming, and has a look of terrible fear on her face. Twelve members of the chorus are standing in the jury booth. One of them quickly hides a toga from view.]

Creon

Has the jury reached a verdict.

Chorus 4

We have your honor. We the jury find Annie of thebes guilty of all charges.

[mournful sounds from the audience. Annie slumps into her chair. Tiresias tries to reassure her, wordlessly]

Chorus 4

But, if I could speak candidly sir?

[Creon arches an eyebrow and slowly nods]

Chorus 4

None of us believe she should be punished.

[Creon closes his eyes and raises his gavel. There's sweat and worry on everyone's faces. Will Annie escape her fate this time? The gavel strikes. Creon speaks.]

Creon

I hereby sentence Annie of Thebes to 5 years of jailtime. Court is adjourned.

[Creon rises from his seat and exits as the public audience yell and scream, clamoring for any sense of justice in all this. Annie's face is slate as she is lead from the courtroom by Joe. The two walk past crowds and eager reporters to Joe's police vehicle, the last ride before Annie is taken to a cell.]

Joe

...listen I'm sorry kid. I really was rooting for you there.

Annie

No you weren't.

Joe

Really, I was! I know it can be hard to believe but-

Annie

Stop talking. If you really did mean it, you wouldn't have arrested me in the first place. You would have quit on the spot as soon as you realized all this is bullshit and your boss is corrupt. But you didn't do that.

[A beat. Joe tries to focus on driving.]

Joe

Y'know, I got a daughter at home. Loudspoken young lady just like you. I think you'd be great friends if the two of you met. Because the whole time this case has been going on, she's been saying just that to me. So I turned in my two-week's notice.

[A beat. Annie's turn to be surprised.]

Joe

Pretty good, huh? Like I was saying, it can be hard to believe, but I'm not a total dummy.

[Annie snickers.]

Joe

I think your 5 years are gonna go by lickity-split. Your a tough girl, if you lived with Mister Creon so long. And I think the world you'll find on the other side is gonna be a lot different.

Annie

And why's that?

Joe

Because my daughter's not the only person who got inspired to speak up because of you.

[Annie's quiet for a second. She seems to be looking down all over again]

Joe

Really, is there something I can do with you? Anything?

Annie

Well I just... I realized I never said goodbye to Izzy. And now I won't get the chance to.

Joe

Hang on, I think I can help you with that...

[Joe digs around in the passenger seat, eventually producing a pen and a notebook. He hands it back, somewhat awkwardly.]

Joe

Here. Write a goodbye note to your sister, and I'll hand it off to her.

## **Scene 22 - The death of Annie of Thebes**

[Annie looks down at the paper, eventually picking up the pen and beginning to write.]

FADE TO -

[Ext, Day - Thebes Prison]

[Annie's note is relayed in voice over as the audience watches footage of Annie entering the prison, walking to a cell, getting a visitor, which turns out to be Haerry, and at the same time as that visit takes place, a prison riot is staged. In the chaos, Annie and Haerry are trampled to death, before the screen fades to black]

Annie (V.O.)

Hey sis. Sorry about this. We put up a good fight, but you know how Creon is. If Thebes got hit with an earthquake, Creon would manage to stand perfectly still the whole time. I'm proud of what we did all the same. I reckon a lot of people saw what we did, and hopefully, they'll understand why we did it. Maybe next time there won't need to be a tragic end to all this, because people will remember this and

know to never, ever let it happen again. But that's probably wishful thinking. I'll see you in five years to find out one way or the other, I guess. Thanks for everything. Yours, Annie.

### **Scene 23 - Epilogue**

[Titlecard - Epilogue, 1 week later]

[Int, Night - the Thebes courthouse, Creon's office]

[Through the window we see the moon as creon types away at his computer, the only source of light in his office. There's a knock on the door. Creon doesn't acknowledge it, but the door creeks open anyway. It's the sheepish form of Joe, now no longer wearing the security guard uniform.]

Joe  
...Creon?

Creon (not looking up)  
Hm?

Joe  
...it's my last day...

Creon  
Oh. Goodbye, then.

Joe  
...and I'm here late for a goodbye party that ended an hour ago.  
Everyone stopped working like, six hours ago

Creon  
Oh. [he glances out his window] Huh.

Joe  
Judge, are you doing ok? After the divorce and...

Creon  
I'm fine, Joe. Goodbye.

Joe  
I'm just saying, sir. As one guy to another, you really need some sleep.

[Creon suddenly closes his laptop, and looks outside to the moon.]

Creon

Maybe you're right, Joe. I could use some sleep. God, I could do with sleeping for a long, long time.

THE END