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The SeussOdyssey

By Don Zolidis

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Full-Length Comedy
10+ actors any gender

Not in the mood for homework? Let Narrator 1 and 2 take you on a literary journey, and watch as Homer's Odyssey is transformed into the style of Dr. Seuss. Complete with a singing Cyclops ("Oh the sights you can spy with only one eye!"), the slaughter of the suitors acted out with teddy bears, and the sorceress Circe serving up crew members with a side of green eggs, The SeussOdyssey is a hilarious and speedy reimagining of the classic epic. (A one-act version of this play is also available.)

The SeussOdyssey is not affiliated, endorsed, or sponsored by Dr. Seuss Enterprises.

Cast of Characters

NARRATOR 1
NARRATOR 2
TEACHER
STUDENT
HOMER
VILLAGER 1
VILLAGER 2
VILLAGER 3
VILLAGER 4
PENELOPE
SUITOR 1
SUITOR 2
SUITOR 3
TELLY
ATHENA
ODYSSEUS
AJAX
CREW MEMBER 1
CREW MEMBER 2
POSIEDON
LOTUS HEAD LARRY
CYCLOPS
CREW MEMBER 3
CREW MEMBER 4
CREW MEMBER 5
AEOLUS
WIND 1
WIND 2
CIRCE
CREW MEMBER 6
GHOSTS
CREW MEMBER 7
SIRENS
TIRESIUS
SCYLLA
CHARYBDIS
CREW MEMBER 8
CREW MEMBER 9
CREW MEMBER 10
CREW MEMBER 11
CREW MEMBER 12
SUITOR 4
SUITOR 5
SUITOR 6

The Seussodyssey is meant to be performed with two narrators and several additional actors playing multiple roles. Please be very creative with this play. There should be no stoppage of action in between scenes, costume changes out to appear mostly in full view of the audience, and gender-switching is a must.

If you wish, you may have different actors play different roles in this play, yielding a much, much larger cast.

A Note on pronunciation: I have included a guide in the back of this play for the pronunciation of all of the Greek names (and there are a lot.) All of the names have to be pronounced correctly in order to maintain the rhythm and meter of the line. That's a fancy way of saying if you don't say the name right, the line won't sound right. I'm not a Greek expert, and I might even be wrong with a few of these (it's happened before), but if I'm wrong, then I've set up the line to be pronounced with the wrong pronunciation, and everyone needs to pronounce it wrong.

By the way, it's don ZO-lie-dis. Rhymes with tonsillitis.

Before this play begins I would like to apologize to both Dr. Seuss and Homer.

The SeussOdyssey was originally performed November 20th, 2008 at Watauga Middle School in Watauga, TX. It was directed by Don Zolidis. The original cast was as follows:

NARRATOR 1	Erin Heidrich
NARRATOR 2	Raven Spooner
STUDENT	Andrew Sukhewatna
TEACHER	Candace Dickson
HOMER	Minh Nguyen
VILLAGER 1	Emalyn Boyd
VILLAGER 2	Megan Autrey
VILLAGER 3	Destiny Jones-Stewart
VILLAGER 4	Tyler Prestwood
PENELOPE	Mackenzi Gandy
TELLY	Don Zolidis
SUITOR 1	Andrew Sukhewatna
SUITOR 2	Megan Autrey
SUITOR 3	Tyler Prestwood
OTHER SUITORS	Destiny Jones-Stewart
	Madison Swink
	Ashlyn Imthurn
	Hailey Bell
	Brittnee Schoville
ATHENA	Brittnee Schoville

ODYSSEUS	Adam Morales
AJAX	James McMaster
CREW MEMBER 1	Cory White
CREW MEMBER 2	Rebekah Westbrook
POSEIDON	Vicnent Mondragon
LOTUS HEAD LARRY	Cortland McCarroll
SHEEP	Diamond Jones
	Ashley Bleibtrey
THE CYCLOPS	Chris Habina
CREW MEMBER 3	Cory White
CREW MEMBER 4	Vincent Mondragon
CREW MEMBER 5	Cortland McCarroll
AEOLUS	Jennifer Johnson
WIND 1	Caitlin Wilson
WIND 2	Emalyn Boyd
CIRCE	Diamond Jones
CREW MEMBER 6	Cory White
TIRESIUS	Caitlin Wilson
CREW MEMBER 7	Vincent Mondragon
SIRENS	Jennifer Johnson
	Ashlyn Imthurn
	Destiny Jones-Stewart
	Candace Dickson
	Rebekah Westbrook
	Shayla Martin
	Ciera Fiedler
SKYLLA	Madison Swink
	Brittnee Schoville
	Hailey Bell
	Caitlin Wilson
	Diamond Jones
CREW MEMBER 8	Chris Habina
CREW MEMBER 9	Cortland McCarroll
CREW MEMBER 10`	Ashley Bleibtrey
CREW MEMBER 11	Vicnent Mondragon
CREW MEMBER 12	Ashley Bleibtrey
CHARYBDIS	Emalyn Boyd
WHALE	Andrew Sukhewatna
CALYPSO	Jessie Jones
REGINALD	Brittnee Schoville

(The set. The set can truly be anything. Brightly-colored, with islands here and there, perhaps a space for Odysseus' house. Everything should double as something else, and it ought to look like it came from an illustrated Dr. Seuss book. Swirly lines, bright colors. Be imaginative. The TWO NARRATORS enter. One holds an intimidating, thickly bound book, The Odyssey.)

NARRATOR 1
Welcome my friends to the show of all shows

NARRATOR 2
A story that mostly everyone knows—

NARRATOR 1
It's forced on us at a bright early age

NARRATOR 2
Children condemned to read page after page

NARRATOR 1
I'm speaking of course of the great Od-is-see

NARRATOR 2
The tale of Odysseus, master of sea—

NARRATOR 1
His travels, his struggles,
his fantastical snuggles

NARRATOR 2
With nymphs and goddesses and non-magical muggles

NARRATOR 1
Stop it you dunce that's not the right story
This one is seventy-six times more gory

NARRATOR 2
Oh you're right, my bad—
It comes from all that bad schooling I've had

NARRATOR 1
You're not alone my friend and that's why we're here
To make this Odyssey story more clear
Because if you're like me you had a terrible time
Sludging through this in grade eight or grade nine

NARRATOR 2

I didn't read the whole thing, I have to confess
We had a teacher who was wasn't the best
We read two books I think, the ones in the middle
The rest of the time our thumbs we did twiddle
There was a movie in there with Armand Assante
I fell asleep, I drooled, I dreamed of a latte

NARRATOR 1

No worries my bud, imagine this scene
You are a student with a teacher who's mean
(STUDENT and TEACHER enter)
And up on the board is a horribulus test
Of themes and concepts from this whole heaping mess

TEACHER

Your notes go away and so do your phones
You're taking this ginormous test on your own
I'll test you and test you and test you some more
By the end your tiny old brains will be sore
And then just when you think that your testing is done
I'll test you again, this time for fun.

STUDENT *(raising her hand)*

But teacher?

TEACHER

What?

STUDENT

I simply don't get it

TEACHER

Get what?

STUDENT

This whole book

TEACHER

That's really pathetic.
Too bad you ridiculous mungulous girl
I'm going to give your brain a whirl and a swirl
You're going to take this test on the whole Od-is-see.
And if you're lucky, I might give you a D.

STUDENT

A D?

TEACHER

Did I stutter?

(he turns away from her and leaves.)

STUDENT

My brain is a flutter—
I'm doomed, I'll be grounded by three
No myspace, no phone, no Nintendo Wii
What will I do? I didn't read this whole book
I can't take this test, I'm sure on the hook.

(NARRATOR 1 bursts in.)

NARRATOR 1

No fear my dear girl we're here to explain

NARRATOR 2

This crazy old book without any more pain

NARRATOR 1

You'll ace this test and you'll do it was ease

STUDENT

Oh please do, Oh please please please please

NARRATOR 1

First off, think back to the books that you like—

STUDENT

I don't read, I'd rather watch movies or bike

NARRATOR 2

But there has to be something when you were a kid

STUDENT

I don't think so; mostly I hid
I do not like them, I hate these books
I hate their words and I hate their looks
I do not like them, oh wait, man
There's one I liked, Green Eggs and Ham.

NARRATOR 1

That's a great book, perfect for you

STUDENT

My reading stopped improving in grade number two

NARRATOR 2

Exactly, but here's what we'll do
We'll tell this whole story in a style right for you

NARRATOR 1

This is poetry right, it's just like Dr. Seuss—

STUDENT

But it just doesn't rhyme, so what is the use?

NARRATOR 2

We'll make it all rhyme and we'll tell it all right

NARRATOR 1

And we'll do it all here on this very night.

NARRATOR 2

So without further ado or further delay
Or further testing and retesting of concepts today
I'd like to invite you to our Grand Seuss-Od-I-see

NARRATOR 1

And then when we're done you can go back to T.V.

STUDENT

Great, cause The Office comes on at eight
I don't want to miss it

NARRATOR 2

And I've got a date

NARRATOR 1

You do? With who?

NARRATOR 2

No one you know. He's from Canada—

NARRATOR 1

You're a liar.

NARRATOR 2

Shut up.

STUDENT

Can we get on with it now?

NARRATOR 1

Right.

(she gathers herself as the lights change to ancient Greece.)

There once was a man in the oldest of days
Before novels, or poems or even old plays

NARRATOR 2

In fact if we date it I'd say that it's true
That this action occurred in the year eight twenty two

(HOMER enters, wearing a toga.)

NARRATOR 1

B.C. See?

NARRATOR 2

I see. I see.
But his name was Homer and he couldn't quite see

NARRATOR 1

He was blind as a bat, not like you or like me.

(HOMER bumps into something. He takes out dark sunglasses and a cane.)

NARRATOR 2

But he talked and he talked, boy could he talk

NARRATOR 1

And this day he walked till he sat on a rock

HOMER

Everyone here and everyone there,
I've got a story to tell that is really quite rare
Come on, come on, both female and male
And hear the impressive, fantabulous tale
Of Odysseus and friends lost on the sea
Sit down right here and you'll hear it from me.

(VILLAGERS come out. NARRATORS become VILLAGERS as well.)

VILLAGER

I've got nothing to do for an hour or so

VILLAGER #2

Let's listen to Homer, well what do you know?

(The villagers gather round)

HOMER

Way back in the year nine ninety three
And for kicks let's just call it B.C.

NARRATOR 1

So began Homer his story to tell

NARRATOR 2

And he told it and told it and told it quite well
You see because Homer had incredible powers
He kept tolding and tolding and tolding for hours

VILLAGER 1

I'm getting tired

VILLAGER 2

I'd like to go home

VILLAGER 3

My butt hurts

VILLAGER 4

And I've got a pain in my bones

VILLAGER 1

Hey there Homer perhaps you can't see

VILLAGER 2

But some of us here have places to be

VILLAGER 3

And to think of it now the sun there has set

VILLAGER 4

Please, oh please Homer, are you finished yet?
(HOMER stops and looks at the air.)

HOMER

Well now you've done it, it's done and it's done
I'll have to start over on page number one
Way back in the year nine ninety three
And for kicks let's just call it B.C.
(The VILLAGERS groan.)

NARRATOR 1

So on Homer went just telling his tell
He told it all day and all night as well

He told it all morning he told it past noon
He told it and told it and told it all June
He told it in rain he told it in snow
He told it until they all had to go

VILLAGER 1
If he keeps on tolding and tolding I just cannot hold

VILLAGER 2
My bladder is seriously about to explode!

VILLAGER 3
Remember he's blind within and without
We'll sneak away! He'll never figure it out

VILLAGER 4
Let's move away slowly and not make a peep
And home to our friends we surely will creep
(They slowly move away. HOMER continues to tell his story.)

NARRATOR 1
So they made it home but they felt awful bad

VILLAGER 1
That was a nasty mean trick on Granddad.

VILLAGER 2
You bleeding heart I'm not going back

VILLAGER 3
I won't listen one minute to that crazy old hack.

NARRATOR 1
But back he did go and he listened some more

HOMER
Here is the good part, I call it book four

VILLAGER 1
One question, Oh Homer, just how many more?

HOMER
Twenty I think, to make twenty-four.
(VILLAGER 1 slumps over.)

NARRATOR 1

So the story begins in a most unruly place

NARRATOR 2
Odysseus's estate in the mountains of Thrace

NARRATOR 1
Hey that's a lie it takes place in Ithaca

NARRATOR 2 *(breaking the rhythm)*
Why don't you try and find a rhyme for Ithaca you big jerk.

NARRATOR 1
Anyway. There at his home lived his marvelous wife
Whom Odysseus loved with all of his life.
(PENELOPE enters)

NARRATOR 2
Penelope Ann MacBuffy MacBay

PENELOPE
I am the queen of all I survey.

NARRATOR 1
But things were not good, they were awfully poor
Cause her husband had not come home from the war

NARRATOR 2
And she had a son, we'll call him young Telly
(TELLY enters, looking like a nerd)
Without a Dad he'd grown up all skinny and smelly
(TELLY sniffs his armpits.)

NARRATOR 1
And her husband's long absence was causing her fears
He'd been gone, after all, for twenty long years.

NARRATOR 2
And up to the house came a number of guys
Who weren't very smart and they weren't very wise
(THE SUITORS enter.)

SUITOR 1
Penelope Ann MacBuffy MacBay
Come out, come out, come wed me today

PENELOPE

I'm not coming out you ugly old toad
I'm still married you jerk, so hit the road

SUITOR 2

Peneople Ann MacBuffy MacBay
Marry me instead and with you'll I'll stay

PENELOPE

Are you deaf, are you dumb, perhaps you don't hear
I'm still married to my man, he's awfully dear

SUITOR 3

Penelope Ann MacBuffy MacBay
I love you so much I can't really say

PENELOPE

When my husband comes home he'll smash in your head
Get out of here fast if you don't you'll be dead

SUITOR1

Oh come on you're kidding, your husband's long gone

SUITOR 2

If he isn't dead then he's surely moved on

TELLY

Shut up you guys, you can't win her heart
My name is Telly, I know mixed martial arts
(TELLY attacks. They laugh, surround him, and give him a wedgie.)

SUITOR 1

What's this, a young pup defending the place?

SUITOR 2

Get out of here boy or we'll mess up your face

SUITOR 3

On second thought, I have an idea so fine
Go down to the cellar and bring us some wine
We're staying my lady until you make a choice
To make a husband of one of us here with your voice

NARRATOR 2

So they drank and they drank and they partied till dawn
They made a mess of the house with their partying on.
And the word went out far and farther than that.

That Odysseus' party was where it was at.

(Music plays. The SUITORS party. During the following speech, in SUITORS can appear, or they can remain off-stage. A director might choose to give some of the following lines to other actors.)

SUITOR 1

We welcome to the place a whole awesome host
A group of guys that you'll love the most
There's Billy the Bully of Billigan Bay
And Mortimer Andrew O'Gilligan Shea
There's Chippy the Snip, a wonderful dude
If you love burping and slurping and anything crude
(a horrific belch)
Here comes Jerry the Snail with his lazy blue eye
He can't see a whole lot but he's a truly great guy
And Stubby and Grubby the stupendous twin clowns
With their big bigger biggest incredulous frowns
There's Sneevil the weevil the weasliest man
I'd lock up your jewelry as fast as you can
And Oogrek that mountainous son of a gun
He's eaten two cows and weighs nearly a ton
As you can see the greatest men in the land
Have all gathered here to ask for your hand
So I ask you again and we're all waiting to hear
Which of these men will become your sweet dear?

ALL SUITORS

Penelope Ann MacBuffy MacBay
Pick one of us here to marry today!

PENELOPE

All right, all right, I can see that you've won

TELLY *(underneath)*

Mom, no!

PENELOPE

But I'm weaving a shroud and I'll choose when I'm done

SUITOR 2

That's fine with us, we'll sit and we'll wait

SUITOR 3

And while we're waiting we'll throw a party so great

NARRATOR 2

Skipping Forward

NARRATOR 2

For those of you sitting in school taking a rest
That is called hubris, it'll be on the test

NARRATOR 1

It means that you're proud, prouder than most
And if you're going to have hubris, you're going to be toast
So up from the water came a mighty loud roar
And there appeared in the ocean quite far from the shore
A guy, a little quizzical guy with a trident in hand
And he spoke with a voice both majestic and grand
(POSEIDON enters with a trident.)

POSEIDON

I am Poseidon, I speak for the seas
And believe me you've never seen seas such as these

AJAX

Hey buddy get out of the water cause we're sailing through
We just won a war and we're tougher than you

POSEIDON

I am Poseidon, I speak for the seas
And your disrespect will land you on your knees

AJAX

I don't care what you say you weird little man
I'm the baddest big slasher on sea or on land

ODYSSEUS

Hey Ajax, maybe you ought to just shut it
Cause I don't think—

POSEIDON

SILENCE!

ODYSSEUS

Oh now you've done it.

POSEIDON

I was about to let you and your friends on your way
But not now, now you're going to pay today
And tomorrow and the next day and for a mighty long time
Cause you have insulted the god of the brine

CREW MEMBER 1

Can I make a quick point? It was Ajax that spoke

CREW MEMBER 2

How bout punish him and let the rest of us go?

POSEIDON

Nope, for the sins of the one I'll punish you all
He wrecked it for everyone and now all will fall
Because once one person's done wrong and broken the rule
I'll make everyone suffer just like middle school.
Once again, I will tell you my name
I am Poseidon, and I run this game
I'm god of the sea, the ocean, and quakes
I'll give you the willies and I'll give you the shakes
Because where you are going is far, far away
And you won't make it home for a mighty long day
Oh the places you'll go and the places I'll send you
To islands with monsters where you're on the menu
And on your small boat you'll sail high you'll sail low
To the strangerest and dangerest places you'll go
And sometimes it may look like you're going to win
You'll find beautiful ladies with beautiful grins
They'll smile and dance and run up to greet you—

CREW MEMBER 1

That's doesn't sound bad—

POSEIDON

Then they will eat you.

CREW MEMBER 2 *(underneath)*

Dang it!

POSIEDON

Oh the places you'll go you ridiculous fools
You've ticked off a god and that is not cool
So off now you go to wander the sea
And I promise you haven't heard the last of me

NARRATOR 1

And he huffed and he huffed a garuffulous huff
And he puffed and he puffed a ginormulous puff
And all of the men heard a thunderous thoom
As into the sea their ship zoomy zoomed
(The men shake and fall down as POSIEDON disappears.)

AJAX

My bad.

(The men sit on the edge of the boat and look around.)

NARRATOR 1

Their mast had been snapped, they had nothing to do

NARRATOR 2

So they sat around sadly and gazed into the blue

NARRATOR 1

And every so often a guy got a thought

(CREW MEMBER 1 gets up slowly, walks over to AJAX, kicks him, then sits back down.)

So their chances of going home were sadly all shot

NARRATOR 2

But at last they drifted to a land with a shore

AJAX

Hey look an island! Guys an island! Maybe there's more!

CREW MEMBER 1

We hate you.

(The ship lands and the men get out.)

ODYSSEUS

Well this looks pretty nice we'll repair our fine ship
And sail out tomorrow after a short skinny dip

(The men stop and look at him.)

Okay we'll skip the dip and rest here instead
Hey look here comes a guy with a strange-looking head

(LOTUS-HEAD LARRY emerges. He looks like a hippie with flowers sticking out of his hair.)

LOTUS-HEAD LARRY

Greetings my friends welcome to my cool land
I am Lotus-Head Larry and I am the man
Believe me you dudes there is nothing so sweet
As the flower right here, right here that I eat
Take just one bite and you never will know
Just where you think you were supposing to go
Take one of these flowers and have a good snack
Man, it's awesome to eat them; I'll be right back.

(He heads off.)

NARRATOR 1
So they took the flowers and ate them for food.
(Psychadelic music plays. Colorful lights.)

AJAX
Dude.

CREW MEMBER 1
Dude.

CREW MEMBER 2
Dude.

ODYSSEUS
Dude.

AJAX
This is some mighty sweet food.

CREW MEMBER 1
So here's what I'm thinking man let's just sit here
I can sit and eat this sweet stuff for a month or a year

CREW MEMBER 2
So I'm sitting here thinking in this sweet awesome time
About this far out crazy cool thing that just blew my mind
What if the universe was a flower on which we all lie
And down on us looks this giant elephant guy?

AJAX
Whoah.
(ODYSSEUS snaps out of it.)

ODYSSEUS
Wake up you fools don't you remember our quest?
We need to get going and stop all this rest.
(LOTUS-HEAD LARRY returns)

LOTUS-HEAD LARRY
It sounds like someone needs more lotus to eat
And lookee I've got more and it cannot be beat

ODYSSEUS
Get out here fast you old pusher man you
Before I take my big sword and I run you right through

LOTUS-HEAD LARRY

Okay, no problem, I'll leave right away
But before I go I have one thing to say
You've changed man since you started to rule
I knew you back when, back when you were cool.
(LOTUS-HEAD LARRY leaves.)

NARRATOR 2

And with a big grab he grabbed all of his friends
He lifted them up by their little back ends
(ODYSSEUS grabs all of his crew and forces them back onto the boat.)
He carried them over to their newly fixed boat
And tied them all up like a sheep or a goat

AJAX

Ah man I miss Lotus

CREW MEMBER 1

And I want some more

AJAX

Let's go back please

CREW MEMBER 2

I can still see the shore.

NARRATOR 1

So Odysseus thought once and he thought again
And he came up with a plan to detoxify them
(ODYSSEUS slaps each of his men once.)

AJAX

Okay I'm better.

CREW MEMBER 1

Me too.

CREW MEMBER 2

I still want Lotus.
(ODYSSEUS slaps him again.)
No I don't.

NARRATOR 1

So off they sailed and made mighty good time
Before long they reached the next island in line
(A SHEEP enters.)

CREW MEMBER 1
Hey look a sheep! Sheep are awfully neat!

CREW MEMBER 2
And they're awfully good to cook and to eat!
(CREW MEMBERS 1 and 2 get out of the boat. Ominous music plays.)

ODYSSEUS
Hold on you guys I just heard an evilish sound
As if something quite evil lived here on this ground

CREW MEMBER 1
Oh come on we're warriors we are not afraid

CREW MEMBER 2
Let's follow that sheep down into the shade
(The SHEEP enters a cave. Everyone follows.)

NARRATOR 1
So they all followed the sheep into a deep darky cave
And they thanked all the gods for the blessings they gave
(More ominous music plays. Louder this time.)

ODYSSEUS
That's it, I heard music, I don't like this one bit.
I'll see you guys later, I'm going out to sit.
(The CYCLOPS rolls a boulder in front of the cave entrance.)

NARRATOR 1
But it was far too late to get out of that place
cause in a moment they came face to face
Or rather face to knee because the monster was awfully tall
He roared awfully loud and they felt awfully small
They couldn't run away or call the Greek cops
For they faced the monstrous, one-eyed, bigtastic Cyclops

CYCLOPS
You're doomed you little grubulous men
And I have an appetite to eat three or ten

NARRATOR 1
For you see though the Cyclops was awfully tall
His heart was twenty two sizes too small
(CREW MEMBER 1 and CREW MEMBER 2 run for it.)
And with that the brave men broke into a run

But the Cyclops was quick, he was having great fun
(The CYCLOPS laughs)
And with one snatch he snatched them

CREW MEMBER 1

I think we're done!

NARRATOR 1

And with one gulp he ate Crew Member Two and Crew Member One
(The CYCLOPS eats CREW MEMBER 1 and CREW MEMBER 2. They run off-stage, switch hats and return moments later as CREW MEMBER 3 and CREW MEMBER 4. (they may be played by different actors.)

AJAX

All right you big monster you've picked on the weak
But I am called Ajax and I am not meek
I am the greatest warrior on sea or on land
There's no one as awesome a man as I am!

NARRATOR 1

But lucky for Ajax the Cyclops was stuffed
Or he would have been grilled or basted or puffed

ODYSSEUS

Quiet you dunce or you'll end up as brunch
For this gigantic one-eyed mean monster to munch
But I've got a plan for this titan in store

NARRATOR 1

And in popped Crew Member Three and Crew Member Four
(CREW MEMBER 3 and CREW MEMBER 4 enter.)

AJAX

Hey where were you guys when all of us were attacked?

CREW MEMBER 3

We don't say a whole lot

CREW MEMBER 4

We sit in the back.

ODYSSEUS

Excuse me dear Cyclops, I don't mean to be rude
But I can't help but notice you think we are food
We are not, I assure you, biscuits or cheese
We are men who are begging you, begging you please

Please let us leave and spare the lives of these men
And we will never, I mean never, bug you again.
And if I may, can I ask you one question?
How do you see without depth perception?

CYCLOPS

Oh the sights I can spy with only one eye
If I try I can spy a small fly flying by
And there's so so much more that my eye can perceive
I'd spot you and gut you for trying to leave
I can spy with my eye the zoom-a-boom bats
Who are flipping and flapping in zoom-a-boom hats
Oh the sights I can spy with only one eye
If I try I can spot that invisible guy

ODYSSEUS

Which guy?

CYCLOPS

That one over there by the horse
You can't see him but I can of course.
Oh you really don't know what its like to be me
To see these amazing spectaculous sights that I see.
So your request to leave is hereby denied
And don't try to leave, cause I've got you all spied.

ODYSSEUS

You're right, mighty creature, how could I possibly think
That a poor man like me could outthink your great think?
As a gesture of peace take this jug of red wine
Drink all that you want, have a fabulous time.

CYCLOPS

Thanks. I gotta say you Greeks sure are nice
I think I'll eat that one on a bed of fried rice.
(CREW MEMBER 3 cringes.)

NARRATOR 1

So the Cyclops he drank, and he wasn't quite done
He had to wash down crew member two and crew member one
Luckily for him Odysseus had a lot more
So he drank and he drank and he drank till he swore
But then the whole cave seemed like a spin-spinner spun
He passed out on the floor, Odysseus had won.
(The CYCLOPS burps, then passes out.)

AJAX

Great let's go and get back to the shore

ODYSSEUS

You forget that big boulder is blocking the door

AJAX

Good thing I'm the strongest man you ever will see
Stand back my dear man and leave it to me.
(AJAX tries to move the boulder, but can't.)

NARRATOR 1

So Ajax he huffed and he puffed and he swore
But he couldn't quite remove the rock from the door

AJAX

This rockiest lock seems beyond mortal men
I guess we'll all starve to death in here then

ODYSSEUS

We're not going to starve, you rock-headed man
Because I am a planner and I have a plan
First we grind down the giant's onliest eye
Then beneath those fat sheep ourselves we will tie

AJAX

What?

ODYSSEUS

Trust me.
(ODYSSEUS takes a spear and approaches the passed out Cyclops.)

NARRATOR 1

So he took a big spear which was a mighty nice find
And he gave that eye socket a mighty fierce grind
(The Cyclops screams in pain. The crew members each find sheep and hold them on top of themselves.)

CYCLOPS

Oh my eye! My eye! My only I-spying eye!
You mean horrible Greeks you're going to die!

NARRATOR 1

But he found that without his eye he was really quite blind
And he groped and he groped but he couldn't quite find
Still he felt with his hands and he only felt sheep

And the crew members made not one lonely eep peep

CYCLOPS
Somehow they got out, they got past my big rock
How did they do it? Did they whistle or knock?
(He rolls away the boulder.)
I will find them these men from the nation of Greece
I will grab them and eat them one piece by one piece

NARRATOR 1
And as he opened the door under sheep they did creep
And escaped into the day without saying one peep
(The crew creep out the door with the sheep above their heads.)
But one of the men was allergic to wool—

CREW MEMBER 3
Ah Snee!

NARRATOR 1
So the giant reached down and ate crew member three
(The CYCLOPS eats CREW MEMBER 3. CREW MEMBER 3 scurries off-stage and switches hats, returning momentarily as CREW MEMBER 5.)
Odysseus got all of his men right back to his ship
And they were already ready to get on with this trip
When who should appear much to their surprise
Was a man who'd been waiting, crew member five.
(CREW MEMBER 5 enters.)

AJAX
Wait how did you make it? How are you still alive?

CREW MEMBER 5
There's no one as crafty or cool as crew member five.

AJAX *(to ODYSSEUS)*
For a guy named for a number he's got a mighty big head

ODYSSEUS
Don't worry about him, let's sail forth instead.

NARRATOR 2
So on they did sail and met a new god
(AELOUS enters, dressed as a large bag of wind.)
Who we're skipping because he's not important or odd
(AELOUS leaves, angry and depressed.)
But he did give one thing to Odysseus and crew

Skipping Forward

Well, no use in sitting here right on the beach
Let's go and see if there's some food within reach

ODYSSEUS

You guy are bad luck I'm not going this time
I'm going to sit here and cry over spilt wine.
(CREW MEMBER 5 and AJAX wander off.)

CREW MEMBER 4

Hey there's one thing my chief I just wanted to add
It was Crew Member Five who opened that bag.
(CREW MEMBER 4 goes after the men.)

NARRATOR 1

So Odysseus sat and he sat and he sat on his duff
And he tried to find ways to repair all his stuff.
(ODYSSEUS puts things back in the boat.)
But after a while it became increasingly clear

ODYSSEUS

Why haven't my men made it back here?
(ODYSSEUS gets up. High energy pop music plays.)
That's an awful strange sound to hear on this land
(CIRCE enters, dressed for a party. Odysseus' men are nearby, transformed into PIGS. They can only make oinking and snorting noises.)
Who's there, what gives, announce yourself, man!

CIRCE

Don't call me like that, I'm no holla-back girl
They call me all Circe, and I rule this world
So hey I was walking round in the forest back there
And I heard this noise and I was like, what's going on, where?
So then I come out in these shoes that I bought
And I see you, and I'm like, wow, you're pretty hot.

ODYSSEUS

Thanks for the compliment but I really don't see
What my hotness has to do with you or with me
I'm looking for friends who are lost somewhere out there
And to be perfectly honest and perfectly fair
They aren't all that bright, if you know what I mean
They're actually more dim than a dum-dum machine.

CIRCE

Who cares about friends? I've got a party that rocks
Come back with me now and I'll knock off your socks

ODYSSEUS
I must add my dear lady that I have a great wife
She's the truliest oneliest love of my life

CIRCE
Whatever, that's cool, that's sweeter than sweet
But I only invited you for drink and for meat
Cause I've got this like pit and it's really way big
And I'm going to roast us the juiciest pig.
(The PIGS freak out and squeal and run about.)
CUT IT OUT!
(They stop.)

ODYSSEUS
About these here swine there's something not right
When you mentioned their death they were filled with the fright

CIRCE
Okay, fine, you got me, these pigs are your men

ODYSSEUS
How is it possible? You have magic, then?

CIRCE
I've got magic and magic and magic to spare
And these guys were all gross and all covered with hair
And they were like hey baby, hey baby, hitting on me
And I'm like, eww, no, so I changed them, you see
So now they are pigs both within and without
It suits them to bristle and root with their snout

ODYSSEUS
Circe, it's hard but you must understand
That these sailors had all been far from the land
They'd seen nothing at sea except men and more men
You were a dream, it's understandable then
That they'd behave as they did, quite boorish and rude
But please change them back, they really aren't food.

CIRCE
Oh they are, they are, they're the most exquisite dish
They're better than squirrels, they're better than fish
And I'm planning on dining right here and right now
And you're going to help me eat them somehow.
Will you eat your men as ham?

ODYSSEUS

I will not eat my men as ham.

CIRCE

Will you eat them in a pot? Will you eat them on a cot?
Will you eat your men as ham?

(One PIG produces a pot. A second PIG sits on a cot.)

ODYSSEUS

I will not eat them in a pot. I will not eat them on a cot.
I will not eat them not a shot.
I cannot, could not, do not want to eat my men as ham.
I will not eat them, no way, ma'am.

(The PIGS continue to bring out various objects as CIRCE describes them.)

CIRCE

Will you eat them with a cat? Will you eat them wearing hats?
Will you, would you, could you please, eat this ham in leafy trees?

ODYSSEUS

I will not eat them with a cat. I will not eat them wearing hats.
I will not, cannot, do not plan to eat my men as ham.
I will not eat them in the trees, I will not eat them with a sneeze
There is no hope for you here ma'am, I will not eat my men as ham.

CIRCE

Fine. Be that way.

ODYSSEUS

Now please if you are goddess or woman or witch
Turn my men back, make them all switch

CIRCE

I prefer them as swine, I really must say
And I've had this huge craving for bacon today

(The PIGS freak out.)

But I'll do what you say with one small request
I'll turn them all back if you stay on as my guest.

NARRATOR 1

So it worked out as she said and they all came right back

AJAX

I feel dirty.

CREW MEMBER 4

I feel burned.

CREW MEMBER 5

I've got glaze on my back.

CIRCE

Okay, so like that was pretty seriously mean.
But you can stay as long as you like since I am the queen

CREW MEMBER 5

Hey baby hey baby hey baby girl

CIRCE

Don't.

CREW MEMBER 5

Okay.

NARRATOR 1

So they stayed and they partied for over a year
Just what they were doing's not entirely clear

AJAX

Odysseus, I was wondering just when we will go.
It seems like we've been here too long, don't you know.

NARRATOR 1

And just then came a whoop from crew member four
Who was sleeping up on the roof, up over the door
He slipped and he slopped and he fell down instead
He cracked open his head and he ended up dead.
(CREW MEMBER 4 dies.)

(CREW MEMBER 5 rushes to his side.)

CREW MEMBER 5 *(on his knees)*

Noooooooooooooooo! Why Gods why?
Why have you taken this amazing cool guy?
There was no one earth like crew member four
And he's gone, all gone, right here on the shore!
(CREW MEMBER 5 weeps piteously.)

AJAX

Did you see that, we're dying, this is a bad sign
I think we need to get moving and this is the time

ODYSSEUS
You're right, of course, you think out of the box
But did I mention that Circe is quite a hot fox?

AJAX
Your wife, sir, your wife, you remember her, yes?

ODYSSEUS
Oh my wife yes of course she is really the best

NARRATOR 1
So they charted a course on the beach with some sticks
And who was there to help them? Crew member six!
(CREW MEMBER 6 enters.)

CIRCE
Before you all leave, there's something you know
You're going to go places, oh the places you'll go
From here you sail down, down down down below
To Hades, that's the underworld, for those in the know

ODYSSEUS
That's not on my map, but I'll take your word

AJAX
We're going to Hades, I think that's absurd

CIRCE
Crazy or not, it's the place where you're going
So get out of here fast and better start rowing
Because down there in Hades is the see-er of Stee,
You'll need him to survive the scariest sea.
You'll have to ask him just what you've done wrong
Which God you've offended and how to respond.

CREW MEMBER 6
Well, I'm sold, oh I'm sold, let's get it on with it then!

ODYSSEUS
Excuse me, one moment, who are you again?

CREW MEMBER 6
You haven't heard of me I suppose out in the sticks,
But I am the mighty, immortal, stupenderous Crew Member Six!

AJAX

Right.

NARRATOR 2

So off they did sail after saying goodbye
(The MEN get back in the boat and set sail.)

CREW MEMBER 5

Are you kidding me? We're all gonna die!

CREW MEMBER 6

Calm down, five, there's nothing to fear at this time

CREW MEMBER 5

That's easy for you to say, I'm next in line!
With four gone it's clear who's the next here to go
Well I'm not dying easy, I'm putting on a sweet show!
(Ominous music plays. The lighting changes. They have entered a Seussian nightmare world.)

NARRATOR 2

But he stopped talking big the moment he saw
The entrance to Hades, which opened like a huge maw
And down there they sailed—

CREW MEMBER 5 *(freaking out, underneath)*

This is not a good idea! This is not a good idea!

NARRATOR 2 *(continuous)*

To the land of the dead
Where they met those who died or been hit in the head
(The GHOST of CREW MEMBER 4 appears.)

GHOST OF CREW MEMBER 4

Fear me oh people from the land up above
For I am the ghost of the man you did love
I fell down in battle and my skin was all torn
Witness here now the ghost of Crew Member Four

ODYSSEUS

You didn't fall in battle you ridiculous twit
You fell off the roof, you're so full of it

GHOST OF CREW MEMBER 4

Shh! You're wrecking my image down here!

ODYSSEUS
Listen my old friend, we've come for the seer!

GHOST OF CREW MEMBER 4
Turn right at the light and left at the weft
And spin around twice where the barn meets the beft
And also wouldn't hurt to sacrifice a small goat
That's the best way, you know, not to unfloat your boat

ODYSSEUS
Darn it, Man Four, we forgot to bring one aboard
As much as I hate it, there's no goat in our hoard

CREW MEMBER 5
Oh shoot we won't make it, it's time to turn round
Let's go back to that island back there that we found

ODYSSEUS
Quiet you coward you fill me with shame

CREW MEMBER 5
That's easy for you, you've got a real name.
I'm known round here and round there as crew member five
There's no way and no how I'll get home still alive!

NARRATOR 2
So all round them stretched the land of the night
It was quite a showstopper and seemed quite a sight

ODYSSEUS
Oh what a wonder this underworld is!
Look there an ocean of fizzling fizz!
And there is the river, the river of doom
Which splashes and flashes and makes a cool thoom!

AJAX
And look over there it's the mountain of Meds!
And see there's the owner, the master, K-Fed!

CREW MEMBER 6
Here comes the oobler, the oobler-man see!
He's driving cross country in a huge SUV!
It's a torment and torture with fuzziless dice!
For he's paying for gas an outrageous high price!

CREW MEMBER 5

And there in the corner's that Sisyphus guy!
Condemned to roll that big rock up a hill oh so high!
He never quite makes it, he'll never quite win
The rock just rolls down and he starts up again!

ODYSSEUS

And here's paparazzi with their photo fly biz!
Oh what a wonder this underworld is!
There's Britney, and Brad, and Angelina Jolie!
I don't know them of course but I hope they know me!

NARRATOR 2

And down downer they sailed down into the deep
Past the grum-grumbler statues that cheep and go peep
Past the gelatinous, slimy, snakes of the slick
It was really unpleasant, it was really quite sick.
Down into the dark near the Huggle-ma-zoo!
Who huggled and buggled with huggle-ma-goo!
And out from the deep came the grimulous ghosts!
Who taunted the crew with their bibulous boasts!

(A group of GHOSTS enter, awfully chipper.)

GHOSTS

Hey look it's the living, they think they're the shizz
But you don't know what a wonder this underworld is!
Come join us you fools from that land up above
And sample the sweets of our undying love

AJAX

That's weird you freaks I'm not into that stuff!
I've got a girlfriend at home and she's quite enough!

GHOSTS

Oh really I've heard that she's cheating on you!

AJAX

No! Oh no you darn ghosts it cannot be true!

ODYSSEUS

Get out of here spirits and leave us all be!
We're looking for the blind see-er man, see!

GHOSTS

We'll leave you alone to continue to strive
But we're taking a toll—crew member five.

(The GHOSTS seize CREW MEMBER 5 and pull him out of the boat.)

CREW MEMBER 5

An dang it I knew I was marked for a death!
I'm sighed my last sigh, breathed my last breath!

NARRATOR 2

And they grabbed crew member five and stole him from heaven
So the men waited a moment for crew member seven.
(CREW MEMBER 7 appears.)

CREW MEMBER 7

Hey everybody, sorry I'm really so late
I was down in the galley looking for bait
But now that I'm here I was never all gone.
What did I miss? What is going on?

ODYSSEUS

Seven, this is going to blow your mind and your head
We've sailed into Hades, to the land of the dead.

CREW MEMBER 7

Whoah. Dude. Is there enough water to float us?
I'm going into the hold to eat some more lotus.
(CREW MEMBER 7 starts to leave.)

ODYSSEUS

Hold it right there, no one's escaping this fate!
We need to see the seer-er man and we can't possibly wait!

NARRATOR 2

And just then they spotted the see-er of Stee!
The marvelous Tiresius, though blindfolded be.
(TIRESISUS, blindfolded, enters, and bumps into something.)

TIRESIUS

Oh I'm the see-er, the see-er, the see-er of sees
I've seen all there's to see on land or in trees
And I know what I know and I know why you've come
You're the men from the Odyssey and you're really quite dumb.

ODYSSEUS

Yes, you see, we need to get home to our wives
We need to get back to start living our lives

TIRESIUS

I see, I see, I see better than most

You've done a bad thing and now you are toast
You've ticked off Posiedon, he's royally ticked
And he's making sure you keep sailing until you are licked
(They all look at AJAX.)

AJAX

Oh. My bad. Again.

ODYSSEUS

Oh great see-er of sees, just what can we do?
How can we please the great god of the blue?

TIRESIUS

Here's what you do, you're almost all home
Just keep to your wits and leave gods alone
You're going to sail through the most treacherous spot
And if you do it just right, you'll get home in a shot.
But if you don't do it right you really will fry
You're going to die, yes, you're all going to die.
(TIRESIUS leaves.)

NARRATOR 2

Can we wait for a moment and simply stop here?

NARRATOR 1

What's the matter, have you succumbed to the fear?

NARRATOR 2

No but backstage I've been drinking a whole lot of tea
And now I need to go find a bathroom and go—

NARRATOR 1

We get it.
Fine we'll give you a moment to stretch out your backs

NARRATOR 2

And head into the lobby to purchase some snacks.
I've got my eyes on the pieces of Reeses
Oh those pieces of Reeses, they really do please us.
I've could sing all their praises for ten days and ten nights
And then challenge anyone who thinks differently to a series of fights.

NARRATOR 1

Stop it.
Okay, let's turn on the lights and take a short break

NARRATOR 2
But quickly return and we'll give all of you cake.

NARRATOR 1
Quit lying to them.

NARRATOR 2
Sorry.

NARRATOR 1
Again let me add it's time for the break

NARRATOR 2
So sit back, relax, and take your minds off the cake.
(Lights down.)

Act Two

(The Underworld is gone. The Narrators enter.)

NARRATOR 1
Please take your seats and sit back and relax
Turn off your cell phones, finish your snacks
Turn to your neighbor and say how-do-you-do

NARRATOR 2
Then hold on to your hats cause here comes act two!

NARRATOR 1
Let's start with that student we met near the start

NARRATOR 2
That girl who had trouble learning the simplest part
(STUDENT enters with a notebook)

STUDENT
I'm feeling a little bit better but I'm still pretty sad
I can't read my notes, my handwriting's terribly bad

NARRATOR 1
Of course they don't teach that in school any more

STUDENT
And they stopped teaching spelling in grade number four

NARRATOR 2
Don't worry, just open your ears and open your eyes

NARRATOR 1
And we'll finish this Odyssey and give you a prize
So where were we? Yes, we were leaving horrible Hades

NARRATOR 2
And just about at the part where the meet the hot ladies.
(ODYSSEUS and his crew return with their boat as the student steps aside.)

NARRATOR 1
So armed with the knowledge the great se-er man spun
The men sailed back up to the world of the light and the sun.
But no sooner had they crested the very next wave
Before washing or rinsing or even a shave
They entered the most dangerous part of the sea

The part that would easily kill you or even kill me.

ODYSSEUS
First up my friends are a pack of gorgeous sweet girls

AJAX
Yay!

ODYSSEUS
Who are trying to kill us with their watery whirls!

AJAX *(underneath)*
Dang it!

ODYSSEUS
Sirens they're called, they'll kill you Ajax
So stick in your ears a ball of hot wax.
That way you won't hear their mellifluous song
I'll keep my ears open, I'm stupendously strong
(The men stick wax into their ears as the SIRENS appear.)

NARRATOR 1
So they did as he said without saying a word
And then what a song, what a song the man heard
(The SIRENS enter. (The SIRENS may be played by one actor, or many, if there are multiple actors, you may assign their lines to different people or have them said as a chorus. Note: the SIRENS may be played by male actors. It might be funnier that way.))

SIRENS
Oh we are the sirens, we're the best of the best
We're incredibly gorgeous and scantily dressed
(ODYSSEUS perks up but doesn't jump out of the boat.)
It's so lonely here in the sea so deep and so blue
And we've been waiting for a guy, a guy just like you

ODYSSEUS
I've been waiting so long, I've been waiting here too
To be that cool guy, that guy just for you!
(The CREW MEMBERS hold onto him.)

AJAX
Fight it, Odysseus, They're not who they say
They're evil, remember, they'll kill you today!

SIRENS

We're the most beautiful girls you ever did see,
And what's more, we're endowed with personali-tee
We like to have fun, we enjoy watching sports
Football's our favorite, although we'll take any sort
Have you ever seen a commercial advertising for beer?
Well that's based on real life, our real life right down here!
And we'll bake cookies and muffins from here and from there
So you can eat them while seated on a reclining chair

ODYSSEUS
They sound great, they sound awesome I love you I do!

CREW MEMBER 6
Stay strong my good man they're too good to be true!

SIRENS
We've got a golf course, tennis courts, and a merry caboose
We've got steaks and hamburgers bursting with juice
We're better than Tuesdays, we're better than Mondays
We're better than super fantastic ice creamery sundaes!
We've got what you want, we've got all you need
Just swim on right over and on you we'll feed!
(short pause)
Wait. Ignore that last part.

ODYSSEUS
Oh my cool sirens I'll hop in with a start!
Odysseus is coming to be your sweetheart!
(AJAX slaps him.)
No good I still love
(CREW MEMBER 6 slaps him)
them they're really the best
(CREW MEMBER 7 slaps him)
Okay, all right, enough, give it a rest!
(The SIRENS exit.)

NARRATOR 1
So they sailed past the sirens and now faced their doom
Because out in the distance they heard a horrenderous thoom!

ODYSSEUS
Okay hold tight this is going to be incredibly tough.

AJAX
What?

CREW MEMBER 6

What did you say?

CREW MEMBER 7

Something about buttery stuff?

ODYSSEUS

Enough with your questions, control your dark fears
It would help if you took the wax out of your ears
(The MEN take the wax out of their ears)
We're sailing up toward the narrowest strait
The narrowest place with the narrowest fate
On the left is a monster that fills me with dread
Her true name is Scylla, and she has six ugly heads
With six ugly stomachs and six ugly spleens
She's a gigantic murderous killing machine.

AJAX

Six heads she may have but I'll kick her six butts
I'll slash open those stomachs with my super cool cuts

ODYSSEUS

On the right is the danger far scarier than that

AJAX

Well I'll stomp that thing too like skinning a cat!

ODYSSEUS

It's Charybdis, who lives under the water instead
The body of a vulture, with a hippopotamus head
With huge snakes for fingers and chipmunks for feet
It's so dangerous that we might be forced to retreat
For deep in the water in its guzzling guzz
It sucks in the ocean in a whirlypool fuzz
And shoots it all out like a thooming cascade
That could send our poor ship to a watery grave.
(Enter SCYLLA on one side and CHARYBDIS on the other.)

NARRATOR 1

So they sailed their small ship into the dangerous place
They put on a brave front and put on a brave face
They were men to the core, men with pride held high

CREW MEMBER 6

We're all gonna die!

Skipping Forward

(SCYLLA emerges. EVERYONE screams. CREW MEMBERS 11 and 12 get into the boat cautiously.)

She came with her sharp claws, she came with her sharp teeth
She came with six heads, six stomachs and six spleens beneath

(The men scatter.)

AJAX

I've had enough of this thing, I've had enough of this beast!
It's time for Ajax to save us from getting deceased!

NARRATOR 1

So he leapt to his feet with a great battle cry

AJAX

You horrible mean creature you're going to die!

NARRATOR 1

And he drew his sharp sword and swung for its eyes
And he was eaten up quick by head number five.

(SCYLLA eats AJAX. CREW MEMBERS 11 and 12 look on in horror.)

CREW MEMBER 12

I'm outta here man, that guy had a name
I'm crew member twelve, though it fills me with shame
I'm doomed oh so doomed to fly up to heaven

NARRATOR 1

And then just for fun, Scylla ate Crew Member Eleven.

CREW MEMBER 11 *(as he is dying)*

I wasn't even doing anything!

(SCYLLA eats CREW MEMBER 11 and leaves. CREW MEMBER 12 is terrified.)

ODYSSEUS

Let's get out of here, back the way that we came!

CREW MEMBER 12

Are you kidding me, man, we're going on with this game?

NARRATOR 1

And just then their boat turned around one more time
In time to face Kharybdis and its boom so sublime.

KHARYBDIS *(underneath)*

Boom Shakka Lakka Lakka Boom Shakka Boom
Boom Shakka Boom Shakka Lakka Boom Boom

Bugga Boom Bugga Boom in my Boom Boom Room
Booga Dooga Boom Dooga Boom Boom Shakka Boom

CREW MEMBER 12
Wait just one minute, wait just here and see
Where is the next guy, it's just you and me!

ODYSSEUS
Crew Member Thirteen is not getting aboard
He's unlucky I tell you he fell on his sword
Hold on tight man twelve we're going on by
Just stay with me close and you never will die

KHARBYDIS
Sluurrrrrrrrrrrpy slurrpy slurpy slurp!

CREW MEMBER 12
Uh-oh, what happened to the boom and the thoom?
That monster in there has changed his whole tune!

NARRATOR 1
Old Twelve was right and it was worse than he knew
For Kharybdis was in-sucking all the water so blue
Kharybdis it sucked, and then it sucked more
It swallowed the ocean, it swallowed the shore
And just when it seemed not to have any room

KHARYBDIS
BOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOM!
(The ship is destroyed. ODYSSEUS and CREW MEMBER 12 fall to the ground. Maybe a little splash of water from the wings.)

NARRATOR 2
Well then my friends that could be the end of our tale

NARRATOR 1
But it's not, cause Odysseus was saved by a whale
(A friendly-looking WHALE appears.)
A whale with terrible breath and razor-sharp teeth
Who clawed him and bit him and tore him beneath
(The WHALE savagely attacks ODYSSEUS.)

NARRATOR 2
So then he drifted apart, and drifted alone
He drifted quite nearly as far as Ma-mone
And as he lay on the sea and wished he was dead

There came a weird image to his wiggeldy head
(ATHENA enters)

ATHENA
Odysseus, it is I, your friend from above
I'm the goddess Athena, and you I do love
You've had a bad spell, but count yourself lucky
It could have been worse, it's not all that sucky

ODYSSEUS
What are you talking about, I'm alone and near death
I've just about breathed my lastest small breath

ATHENA
Oh but surely come on, that's really not bad
There are people worse off than this trip that you've had
Imagine Terry the toweler of Turrigan Ty
He's in charge of toweling off that Hercules guy
And believe me that god sweats like a pig
You've never seen pit stains nearly that big
Consider the case of Carney the captain of bolts
He takes out Zeus' lightning and checks all the volts
Or think of the girl who styles Medusa's fine hair
Trust me, my friend, you don't want to go there
So don't sit here and moan cause you're feeling blue
There are plenty of people more worse off than you
But I'm feeling pity, It's funny I know
Because I know that you've had a really rough go
So there in the distance is one last strange land
A place where you might find a helping nice hand
(ATHENA leaves. ODYSSEUS washes up on shore.)

NARRATOR 2
And in one small moment he emerged from the sea
He emerged from the sea to see what could be
(CALYPSO enters.)
And there just right there was the prettiest girl
Prettier than double-scoop ice cream with a caramel swirl

CALYPSO
Hey there sailor, thanks for stopping on by
My name is Calypso, and please, please don't be shy.

NARRATOR 1
Okay, wait a minute, let's stop for a might
How is it every girl loves him at the very first sight?

What does he have that other guys surely do not?

ODYSSEUS
What can I say? I guess I'm really that hot.

NARRATOR 2
Can we get on with our epic you mangy old moose?

NARRATOR 1
Fine, I'm sure there's seven more girls he needs to seduce.

CALYPSO
Like I was saying, if you want you can stay
Also, I'm an immortal nymph, oh by the way.

NARRATOR 1
Oh she's an immortal nymph is that what she said?
Why couldn't she just be a goddess instead?

CALYPSO
I'm kind of like a goddess except not all that mean

NARRATOR 1
This is ridiculous, silly, and even somewhat obscene!
(He leaves.)

ODYSSEUS
Lady, you're cute, and you offer a really nice life
But I've got to get home to my wonderful wife

CALYPSO
I won't stop you from leaving but that's really too bad
Together there were some really great times to be had
But there's one thing, unless you're planning to float
You're not going anywhere, you don't have a boat.

NARRATOR 2
Odysseus turned grim for the nymph was really quite right
So he made a small shelter and stayed for the night
And he stayed on the shore and looked far and looked near
He was hoping against hope that a ship would appear
But as long as he hoped and he looked a ship never did came
So for seven long years on that shore he remained.

CALYPSO
Hey there honey, why don't you come on up to the house?

I've got cable, a sofa, and there's nary a mouse
We can sit by the fire and eat vine-ripened fruit
Or we can kick back, relax, and play trivial pursuit.

ODYSSEUS

No thanks, Calypso, though your offer sounds fun
I'm going to stay here and cry and cry till I'm done.

CALYPSO

Bummer. Well let me know if your mind you do change
We could also try spelunking

ODYSSEUS

That sounds pretty strange

CALYPSO

Trust me, it's so awesome, you go down in a cave
You look around at some stuff and act really brave

ODYSSEUS

No thanks, I've had enough of caves on this trip
I'd rather stay here and wait and wait for a ship.

CALYPSO

Oh there's one thing more, if you're really alone

ODYSSEUS

Please let me be, I really just want to go home

CALYPSO

Okay, but can I say I've got a bunny-ma farm?
It's got two thousand bunnies as big as your arm

ODYSSEUS

A bunny-ma farm? Filled with bunnies you say?
I love bunnies, I do, I love bunnies all day.
Blue bunnies, red bunnies, even ones with cute noses?

CALYPSO

All the bunnies you want, even those with twelve toeses.

ODYSSEUS

No! I'm staying strong, I'm ignoring your farm
With all of those bunnies as big as my arm.

NARRATOR 2

Well Calypso she tried, she tried day and tried night
But she couldn't get Odysseus to give up his fight
So she stayed with her bunnies and caves and cable T.V.
As Odysseus stared and stared and stared at the sea.
(ATHENA enters and approaches CALYPSO.)

ATHENA
Okay lady, you've had him seven long years
He's sitting out there and just shedding tears

CALYPSO
Excuse me, I'm immortal, I do what I want
No one comes to my home and tells me to do squat.

ATHENA
Release him right now or I'll split you in two

CALYPSO
Bring it on, let's see what you think you can do.
Cause I'm called Calypso, and I'm badder than bad
I've got super-cool moves that you're dreaming you had

ATHENA
Chick, you're getting on my nerves, you stupid upstart
For I'm the goddess of war, and I will take you apart

NARRATOR 1
And just as Athena reared back with her considerable might
Along came Odysseus and—

ODYSSEUS
Whoah! Chick fight!

CALYPSO
All right, all right, fine, have it your way
I've got a ship he can take, he can have it today
But Odysseus, I'm serious, just say the word
You can stay with me here and forget what you heard

ODYSSEUS
No thank you—

CALYPSO
Bunnies? Should I mention the bunnies again?

ODYSSEUS

I'm going home, okay? I've got no time to spend.

CALYPSO

Fine.

(CALYPSO brings out a boat.)

NARRATOR 1

So in a matter of minutes he was sailing alone
And after ten years of his journey Odysseus was home

NARRATOR 2

But our story's not over, not on your sweet life
There was the matter of those guys who were after his wife

(The scene switches to the house.)

SUITOR 1

Penelope Ann MacBuffy MacBay
It's finally time for your choice today
We've been patient for now, we've been patient somehow
We're patiently drinking your wine and eating your cow
But we've seen through this business with sewing that shroud
Choose one of us now, no delay is allowed.

(PENELOPE emerges.)

PENELOPE

Okay, fine, I admit, you're the finest men left
The rest all died in the war and I am bereft.
So here's what I'm going to do with you all
We'll have a contest tomorrow, and I'll make the call
One of you here will win and I'll choose what I chose
I'll anoint you my husband with the gift of a rose
We'll film it of course with a producer I know
And sell rights to the Fox for a reality show.

TELLY

Mom! No! You can't do it, Dad's coming back!

PENELOPE

Telly, I'm afraid your father has brains that you lack
Now go on and play, do something outside
I've tried to stay single, Lord, how I've tried.
But there comes a time when you've got to give up
And marry some stranger, without a pre-nup.

NARRATOR 2

So young Telly ran from that nefarious report

And he cried as he stumbled up to his tree fort
And who should be there, just making a plan?
It was his father, in disguise as an old scary man.
(ODYSSEUS enters with a fake beard.)

TELLY
Ah! What are you doing here you homeless old fool
Get out of here fast or I'll take you to school.

ODYSSEUS
You must be young Telly, the boy of the place
I'm not going anywhere, wipe that look off your face

TELLY
Okay, you asked for it, you scumulous dude
I'm going to beat you up good and give you no food.
(TELLY takes a swing at ODYSSEUS, who easily dodges the blow and twists TELLY's arm.)

ODYSSEUS
You're the warrior's son and that's the best you can do?
You ridiculous, silly, pathetic boy you.

TELLY
Stop it, oh stop it, you're hurting my arm
I'm not very strong, you'll cause permanent harm

ODYSSEUS
Hold still you small wimp, I'm not what I seem
I'm the man from the past, the man from your dream.

TELLY
The man from my dream I'm sure you are not
He was a hero, a king, not some creep with skin rot

ODYSSEUS
Listen you dolt, I'm up here in disguise
I've disguised my face and I've disguised my eyes
Oh what a disguise I surely do prize
For those unruly guys have spoken some lies.
To sum it up clear, I'm the best that's ever been had
I'm your father, your old man, your papa, your Dad.

TELLY
Nooooo! That's impossible!!!!
(TELLY sinks to his knees and wails.)

ODYSSEUS

Stop it, come on, what is wrong with you now?
I said I'm your Dad there's no need to howl

TELLY

Oh sorry I just figured you'd be bigger than big
Bigger than elephants, whales or a mighty big pig
So big and so strong the suitors would cower
Before your mighty big muscles and biggerest power.

ODYSSEUS

I've said it before and I guess I'll say it once more
This is a disguise, did you check your brains at the door?
Believe me I'm stronger than the strongest man there
I've got muscles on muscles with muscles to spare
I've slain mighty beasts, and not just for show
I've got toughness bursting from my hairy big toe
I've fought in the wars and slain many a man
And believe me there's no one as tough as I am.
(Thunder.)
Except for the gods, who are really really cool
I don't have hubris, I'm not that big of a fool.
But I've got one more thing not seen in these parts
And that is my brain, my smarty smart smarts

NARRATOR 2

So Odysseus and son conceived of a plan
To seek revenge on those suitors to the very last man
And while they were scheming that miraculous scheme
They started father-son bonding to make a great team.

ODYSSEUS

So tell me my boy, how are the girls in this place?
Have they responded to your voice and beautiful face?

TELLY

Um, to tell you the truth, girls don't like me too much
They laugh in small groups or recoil at my touch
I've taken to collecting small action figurines
They don't laugh at me much and aren't quite so mean
The girls make fun of me often and call me a stork

ODYSSEUS

By Hera and by Zeus, my only son is a dork.

NARRATOR 1

The next day was the contest for Penelope's hand
A contest of miracles, a contest so grand
(The suitors gather near PENELOPE.)

PENELOPE

Hey we're doing this contest on all of my terms
So first you'll eat this big bowl of wiggly worms.
(The SUITORS start eating worms and getting sick.)

SUITOR 2

I cannot, could not, will not eat
This bowl of worms right at my feet.
I cannot eat them with this sauce
I cannot eat worms, I will toss.

PENELOPE

I'll consider that choice, although it darkens my view
Still you won't have immunity in round number two

SUITOR 1

I have eaten the worms, I have done it all right
I'm the manliest here, choose me this very night

PENELOPE

Hold all your horses, there's another round here
In this one we'll see how you handle your fear
You'll swim in a tank stuffed with man-eating sharks
And paint a portrait of me to capture my heart

SUITOR 3

Um, excuse me a sec, did I hear what you said?
We're swimming with sharks and painting your head?

PENELOPE

Of course, do you have some kind of problem with that?

SUITOR 1

I don't, I'll do it quickly, I'm no fraidy cat!
(SUTIOR 1 leaps off-stage with a splash of water.)

NARRATOR 2

So quick as can be, suitor one entered the tank
And the shark ate his arms, his legs and his flank
(horrible screams from off-stage.)
And then for good measure it swallowed the rest

Although what was left of him wasn't the best

PENELOPE
Okay, I'm afraid he didn't pass the manliness test
There's a new spot open, who'd like to go next?
(the SUTIORS fall back as SUITOR 4 appears.)

SUITOR 3
Perhaps there's a different task, at least one for me
How bout let's move on to round number three?

PENELOPE
Fine. In this round you'll face a test so extreme
That the bravest among you will cower and scream
And cry for your mommies and grandmas and aunts
You'll probably faint, you might pee your pants
This is the purplish egg of a lick-licker foo
It's corrosive and poisonous and filled with strange goo
What I'm going to ask you to do with this batch
Is to sit on them here until they all hatch

SUITOR 4
Um—excuse me Penelope, haven't you heard
I'm a beefy big man, I'm not really a bird

PENELOPE
And after they hatch, you're not going to be done
Because I want you to raise them from birth until one
Now the lick-licker foo is a mischevious thing
And be careful my friends, watch out for its sting
For its stinger will sting you in uncomfortable places
And inject you with venom to make horrible faces
Also it stinks, like ten toads mixed with ten skunks
And their attitude's terrible, they're actually punks

SUITOR 2
Okay, all right, hold on, I'm not playing this game
You want us to wait for a year before staking our claim?
No way am I doing this thing for you now
(SUITOR 3 sits on an egg.)

SUITOR 3
I'll do it, I'll wait, I'll sit on this—ow!
Something just stung me right in my behind
I'm feeling quite sick, I'm—oh… never mind.
(SUITOR 3 passes out.)

SUITOR 4

That means he just lost, so I'm in the lead
Oh marry me Penelope, I'm just what you need
(SUITOR 4 sits on an egg.)

SUITOR 2

Hey guys, guys, come on, stop doing that there
These challenges of hers are distinctly unfair

PENELOPE

If you don't sit on the egg I think it's perfectly clear
You don't love me as much as these other guys here

SUITOR 4

Wait, something just bit me, uh-oh, not good
I'm feeling not nearly as good as I should
(SUITOR 4 passes out.)

SUITOR 2

Well I guess that means I'm clearly the man
No one can love you as well as I can
The outcome of this game is no longer in doubt
My competitors here have all been knocked out
So my dear lady let's break out the big sticks

SUITOR 3

Not so fast! Here come guy number five and guy number six!
(If there are a limited number of actors, SUITOR 3 and 4 jump up, run off-stage and return moments later as SUITOR 5 and SUITOR 6.)

PENELOPE

Okay, well then I have one last challenge to go
(She produces a bow)
This belonged to my husband, it's his mighty bow
The bow is so tough, this bow I now show
This bow is tougher than you possibly know
The task is simple, one arrow's all you require
Just fit it in here and first aim then fire.

SUITOR 5

I'll take the first shot since I'm stronger than strong
I'm stronger than sumo champion Mong Pong.

SUITOR 6 *(not in rhythm)*

I don't know who that is

SUITOR 5

(not in rhythm) He's very strong. Like a wall of meat.
Hand it on over and I'll string that there bow
Because these mighty big guns are not just for show
(SUITOR 5 strains really hard, but can't string the bow.)
Mama.

SUITOR 6

I'll go next you buffoon, I've got muscles you lack
(SUITOR 6 tries to string the bow but can't. He hurts himself.)
Ow, ow jeez, that hurts, I think I threw out my back.
(SUITOR 2 takes the bow.)

SUITOR 2

All right, I'll try out this bow, I'll take the next shot
Because I am a man, the rest of you clearly are not.
(SUITOR 2 tries to pull back the bow, but can't.)
Dang it.
(ODYSSEUS and TELLY enter.)

PENELOPE

So no one's man enough here to be my new man
I guess I'll stay single and do what I can

SUITOR 2

No way! I don't care if we all failed that test!
You'll marry one of us here or you never will rest!

ODYSSEUS

Excuse me, my lady, I can't help but say this:
Do you mind if I try the bow of Odysseus?

SUITOR 2

Are you kidding me, look at that ugly old grump
He's a geezer, a goozer, a mud-guzzling lump
Get out of here grandpa, go on back to your home
Get out of here fast or we'll smash you with stones.

PENELOPE

I'm sorry the contest is open to all on the stage
I don't judge based on race, gender or even old age

ODYSSEUS

All right then I'll try it, I'll give it a go
But first let me mention that your husband I know

He was brave, intelligent, dashing, and buff
He had the greatest hair ever, incredible stuff
He was kind to his friends, and to his enemies fair
His smile was so dazzling and soulful his stare

SUITOR 2

All right, we got it, he was cooler than cool

ODYSSEUS

More than that, my friend, he seriously ruled.

SUITOR 5

Come on grandfather, just try out the bow
Stop trying to impress us with this guy that you know
If Odysseus was here he'd break and he'd bend
I'd bash him and smash him and kick his rear end

ODYSSEUS

All right then, what's your name, guy number five?
Just making sure I know it for when we go live.

NARRATOR 1

So Odysseus pulled on the string of that bow

ODYSSEUS

Hey look I can do it, well what do you know?

NARRATOR 1

With a ka-zip and shlip the arrow did fly
And it hit number five right through the left eye.
(SUTIOR 5 goes down. NARRATOR 2 emerges.)

NARRATOR 2

Hold on, pause!
(Everyone PAUSES.)

NARRATOR 1

What?

NARRATOR 2

This part's kinda violent.

NARRATOR 1

What do you mean, violent?

NARRATOR 2

Well, I mean, there are kids in the audience.

NARRATOR 1
So it wasn't violent before when they were being eaten by monsters—

NARRATOR 2
Yeah, well, those were monsters and they were funny-looking. Can't we do this without the violence?

SUITOR 5
It's okay, I didn't really get hit in the eye.

NARRATOR 1
Well what do you want him to do then?

NARRATOR 2
Okay, well how about this? Let's take it back to just before the unfortunate arrow through the eye incident.
(back in rhythm)
So the men they had tried, and no one had died
And certainly nobody'd been struck in the eye
So the men gathered round and they gave a great shout
To force that poor widow to choose a new lout
But just then they spotted that crusty granddad
And his teary-eyed look was both touching and sad

ODYSSEUS
Excuse me for a minute, you super tough guys
I can't help but notice you seem to be wise
But you've missed one thing so clear and so true
I don't think Penelope likes any of you.
Please, please, oh please, leave this woman alone.
Leave this old house and go back to your homes.

NARRATOR 2
And his eyes were so clear with his arms like a twig
That the suitor's small hearts grew two sizes too big

SUITOR 2
Oh you're right, you're right, we've really been bad
We've been making this woman terribly sad
Come on my friends, let's go home and reflect
Let's clean up our mess and show some respect.
(They pause.)

NARRATOR 1

LAME! Are you kidding me? They just go home?

NARRATOR 2

I think it has a nice moral.

NARRATOR 1

What? Dress up like an old man and everyone will be ashamed of themselves.

NARRATOR 2

Fine. Here's another way it could happen:
(The actors go back to their old positions.)

SUITOR 2

No way! I don't care if we all failed that test!
You'll marry one of us here or you never will rest!

TELLY

I'll try the bow you horde of gelatinous creeps
My name is Telly, and I'm playing for keeps

NARRATOR 2

So with a magnificent pull and a parificent wheeze
Telly strung that big bow and brought the men to their knees

TELLY

Ah ha! You foul suitors! How you like me right now?
I've won the fair hand of that widow somehow!
(The SUITORS look confused and uncomfortable.)

NARRATOR 1

Penelope is his mother. You know that right?

NARRATOR 2

Oh-um…

TELLY

But I'm not going to marry her because I am her son
I'm handing her over to this unsightly old bum!
(The SUTIORS still look confused and uncomfortable.)

SUITOR 2

If that's how this show is going to work
I don't want you now, not to be a big jerk
But come on, this man never showers or shaves
He stinks like a sewer, flies fly out in waves

PENELOPE
Um… Telly, you know that I love you and all,
But I think that perhaps you have made the wrong call
Because I'm not really liking this homeless old man
No offense, but the elderly don't quite fit with my plan

TELLY
But Mom, this is Dad, returned from the war

PENELOPE
He doesn't look quite how he looked before

ODYSSEUS
What can I say, things were tough there at sea
But wifey, oh wifey, this truly is me
I'm not quite as handsome as I was way back when
But looks aren't everything, at least not in men

PENELOPE
You know, I'm sorry, but this doesn't work right for me
So I'm going to have to go with guy number three
(SUITOR 3 gets up and hugs PENELOPE.)

NARRATOR 2
But Athena was watching, she was covering his back
So suitor number three had a big heart attack
(SUITOR 3 has a heart attack and dies.)
And then the other guys felt sort of ashamed
They'd been eating quite poorly, their diet they blamed

End of Excerpt.
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