

IPHIGENEIA AT AULIS

By Gaia Brusasco

Cast of Characters:

Iphigenia – just wants to get away from her crazy and over-controlling mother and family who just don't understand anything	Marianne Wald
Agamemnon – forever dithering and indecisive, can't make up his mind about anything.	Vanessa Felso
Menelaos – Makes Plans with a capital P. Needs to follow the Plan. The Plan is everything.	Tabatha Barton
Clytemnestra – Over-controlling and alternates between sweetly addressing one character and shouting at another in her next breath. Micro-manages.	Emily Strong
Kalchas – Easily excitable and obsessed with espionage and detectives. Life goal is to become a ninja.	Zoe Fox
Achilles – Flirts with anything that moves.	Erin Washburn
Chorus of citizens of Aulis:	Niki Barker, Gaia Brusasco, Anna Humphrey, Brittani Ivan, Anna Lichtenstein, Megan McClure, Matanda Mondo, Jordan Schwarz

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[[INTRO POEM HERE]]

Scene I

[[*Kalchas ninjas his way onto stage from the RIGHT to the Pink Panther tune. He hides behind a pillar as Menelaos enters from LEFT, carrying a clipboard he is examining with intense concentration. Iphigenia enters last from CENTER and sees Menelaos.*]]

IPHIGENIA: Uncle Menelaos! I came as soon as I could.

MENELAOS: Excellent. I feel we just need to go over the Plan one final time before tomorrow. Where's Kalchas?

[[*Kalchas jumps out of hiding and startles them*]]

KALCHAS: Halt!! What is the secret plan meeting password!?

MENELAOS: Kalchas, we don't have time for this now – come over here.

KALCHAS: Not before I hear the password! How do I know you're not exceptionally cleverly disguised identity thieves?

IPHIGENIA: Identity thieves who just happened to know that this was the time and place for our secret meeting? I don't think so.

KALCHAS: It could happen. Tell me the password.

MENELAOS: By Zeus' thunderbolts, just get over here.

KALCHAS: Not until you prove you're *actually* Menelaos and Iphigenia!

IPHIGENIA: Fine, "hysteron proteron", now hurry up.

KALCHAS: That was yesterday's password-

M&IPHIGENIA: Kalchas!

KALCHAS: All right, all right, I'm coming – no need to get your chiton in a twist. [*joins them at the top of the stairs*]

MENELAOS: Right. All participants present and accounted for (finally). The agenda: review the plan, to be enacted tomorrow, to simulate the death by ritual sacrifice of Iphigenia, daughter of Agamemnon, son of Atreus, for the purpose of allowing her greater mobility such that she may, as she so chooses, travel to

Tauris wherein she may undertake the position of “head priestess of Artemis”. Iphigenia, hereafter “the sacrifice” will –

IPHIGENIA: Jeeze, Uncle, can’t you just say “I’m going to fake my death so I can get away from my over-controlling mother and do what I want to for once”?

MENELAOS: ...Yes, I suppose that would be a short though by no means specific summary.

IPHIGENIA: Okay. Let’s just skip straight to going over the plan; I need to get back before my mother notices I’m gone.

MENELAOS: Very well. The Plan. Step 3, point A, subsection one.

KALCHAS: Wait, what happened to steps 1 and 2?

MENELAOS: Irrelevant. Tomorrow, Kalchas, you will...

KALCHAS: Impart to Agamemnon the terrible prophecy that he must sacrifice his eldest daughter to Artemis before he and the fleet can set sail. Ooh, this is so exciting; I’ve never helped anybody fake their own death before!

MENELAOS: Correct. Then-

KALCHAS: I will secretly infiltrate the base and-

MENELAOS: NO. Then, step 4 subsection C, I will convince Agamemnon that this is the only course of action available to him and ensure his cooperation. Step 5, Agamemnon will agree to this course of action. Steps 6 through 12, we will thus proceed with the false sacrifice as outlined and agreed upon at our previous meeting.

IPHIGENIA: Sounds great; I can’t wait. I’ve really got to go now before my mom suspects anything.

KALCHAS: But wait, when will we go undercover? Someone always has to go undercover to keep an eye out and make sure nothing goes wrong! What if the polis starts to suspect something??

MENELAOS: Kalchas, we’ve been over this before. No one needs to go undercover-

KALCHAS: But I have the perfect disguise all picked out. It’s really good; no one will suspect a thing! Pleeeeease??

IPHIGENIA: Oh just let him do it.

MENELAOS: Very well... you may disguise yourself for informational purposes – but remember your part of the plan!

KALCHAS: Yes!!! Don’t worry, I won’t forget. This is so exciting!!

IPHIGENIA: I’ll see you tomorrow then.

MENELAOS: Until then.

KALCHAS: See you!

[they exit in opposite directions]

Scene Two

Once they’ve gone, the Chorus enters – odd #s from LEFT, even #s from RIGHT, greeting each other]

Chorus: Hey – Hi – How are you doing? Etc.

Ch2: Did you hear about Agamemnon and the oracle!?

Ch3: That he has to sacrifice his daughter before the fleet can sail?? It’s crazy right!

Ch4: The most gossip-worthy thing that’s happened around here in months, that’s for certain.

Ch1: What do you mean? It’s positively tragic!

Ch4: Tragically interesting for sure.

Ch5: I certainly won’t be sorry to see the Greek army sail away. All I hear all day long is “Helen, Helen, Helen” and “my helmet is shinier than your helmet” and “do you think this armor makes me look fat?”.

Ch6: Except Achilles. It would be totally fine if Achilles stayed here forever.

Ch3: Very true, very true.

Ch2: Then you all haven’t even heard the most recent development!

All Chorus: What is it? Tell us??

[[as Chorus excitedly gathers around C2 for information, Kalchas in his disguise – a crazy wig and glasses – sneaks on stage and lurks with them]]

Ch2: Agamemnon sent for his daughter, but in his letter to Clytemnestra telling her to send Iphigenia he didn't say that she's going to be sacrificed, he *lied* and said she was coming to marry Achilles!

Ch6: NEVER! Achilles is mine!!

Other Chorus members: Woah there, calm down.

[[Chorus notice Kalchas in their midst]]

Ch1: Who are *you*?

Ch4: Your hair is so – stunning.

KALCHAS: Oh I just arrived – visiting my cousin in the army – one of Protesilaus' men you know.

Ch6: Does he know Achilles?!??

Ch3: Can he introduce us?!?

Ch5: ANYway...

Ch1: Don't you feel sorry for Iphigenia? She's getting *sacrificed*.

[awkward pause as Chorus considers this]

Ch2: Yeah...

Ch3: Wow, when you put it like that...

Ch4: Eh, these things happen. [elbowed and glared at by others] I mean, a real tragedy.

Ch1: We've got to stop it!

Ch5: But what can we do? We're just the chorus, no one ever listens to us unless we're providing interesting backstory, and even then we're lucky to get half their attention.

Ch6: Let's ask Achilles to help!

Ch3: YES! He'll definitely help us; let's go ask him now!

Ch4: Well I suppose it would be more interesting than just standing around here.

[[chorus starts to head off to the RIGHT]]

KALCHAS: NOOOOO! I have a confession to make... I should have told you at the beginning of all this, but I couldn't bear the look of betrayal in your eyes. I'm not here to visit my cousin in the army, that's just my cover. I don't even HAVE a cousin. I can't reveal my true identity, but I've been sent undercover by Iphigenia *herself* to make sure everything goes according to plan. You can't stop the sacrifice; the show must go on!!

Ch4: I *thought* the whole cousin thing was a bit fishy.

Ch6: Wait, so that means you can't introduce us to Achilles??

Ch1: But if Iphigenia sent you here, why can't we stop the sacrifice? Doesn't she know what's going to happen?

KALCHAS: I know I've kept secrets from you in the past... but it was only ever to keep you safe! I recognize that now the time has come for me to reveal the truth fully and completely, and I will understand if you can never forgive me. The prophesy that Iphigenia must be sacrificed... is *false*.

Chorus: GASP

KALCHAS: Iphigenia planned the entire thing herself so that she can fake her own death; that's why you can't stop it. But don't worry – we've got everything under control.

Ch1: That's – that's – so cool!

Ch6: We can help too, right!?

Ch5: Just leave it up to us! We'll make sure no one stops the sacrifice!

KALCHAS: Wow you guys are the best! But remember – you can't tell anyone!

Ch3: Have no fear, our lips are sealed!

Ch2: We'll make sure everyone knows what a tragedy it is that Iphigenia is going to be sacrificed!

Ch4: Well this is a recipe for disaster.

SONG – “DIE YOUNG”

Ch solo(Anna H): I see her arms raised to the pitiless sky
Ch solo(Nikki): Oh, what a shame that she came here just to die

All: So while we're here on the shore-
Let's make the most of today cause she's gonna die young

Ch A: Iph-i-gen-i~a
Ch B: She's gonna die young
Ch A: Iph-i-gen-i~a
Ch B: She's gonna die young
Ch A: Iph-i-gen-i~a

All: Let's make the most of today cause she's gonna die young

Ch A: Kill her, then set sail
Foolproof plan – no way to fail.

Ch B: Filicide is lookin' good
Oracle is understood.

Ch solo(Megan): Her helpless sacrifice is too inhumane
All: (You Know)
Ch solo(Anna L): That Agamemnon's really going insane
All: (For sure)

Looking for some bloodshed tonight (yeah)
Listen up, we'll show you the tragic side.
Like it's the last night of her life (uh huh)
We'll keep dancing 'til she dies

We see her arms raised to the pitiless sky
Oh, what a shame that she came here just to die
So while we're here on the shore,
Let's make the most of today like she's gonna die young

Ch A: Iph-i-gen-i~a
Ch B: She's gonna die young
Ch A: Iph-i-gen-i~a
Ch B: She's gonna die young
Ch A: Iph-i-gen-i~a

All: Let's make the most of the night cause she's gonna die young!

Scene Three

[[Agamemnon enters from LEFT with a letter that he keeps opening, folding, scribbling on, closing back up, waffling over, etc.]

KALCHAS: Careful, it's Agamemnon! Quick, look inconspicuous!
[[Chorus scatters to sit on the stairs]]

[[Agamemnon's angsty and dithering about what to do when Menelaos enters from CENTER and snatches the letter away, discovering from it that Agamemnon was going to write to Clytemnestra again and tell her not to send Iphigenia.]]

MENELAOS: What do you have there, brother?

AGAMEMNON: Nothing, nothing, it's – *[[Menelaos snatches letter and looks at it]]*

MENELAOS: “Dear Clytemnestra, please disregard my previous letter and under no circumstances send Iphigenia here because she's not going to get married; the oracle said –” Agamemnon, what is this!? You can't tell Clytemnestra this; do you not

remember The Plan?? Also you should have used a semicolon here, and you misspelled –

AGAMEMNON: I don't care about that! I just can't do it, Menelaos, I can't sacrifice Iphigenia! I don't know what I was thinking, there's no way I can sacrifice my daughter no matter *what* Kalchas tells me. He must have made a mistake somehow – we should go back and consult him again, you know, get a second opinion. Maybe he was just having an off day or something.

MENELAOS: Agamemnon, I know it's hard to accept, but you need to listen to me.

AGAMEMNON: But ethically, I can't just-

MENELAOS: Kalchas didn't make a mistake.

AGAMEMNON: But *morally* –

MENELAOS: Agamemnon, this is not all about *you*; one must consider the larger picture. Now that the oracle has spoken, what do you think will happen if Iphigenia is not sacrificed? If *we* do not act, and act swiftly and *decisively*, then others will and the outcome is sure to be far less pleasant.

AGAMEMNON: Maybe – maybe there's still time. We can hush this all up, no one will know –

Ch2: Hey, did you hear about how Iphigenia is going to be sacrificed?

Ch6: Please, that news is so 20 minutes ago. I hear she's already on her way here.

chorus mutters amongst themselves

MENELAOS: You may have slightly underestimated the chorus's proclivity for gossip, brother. Now that everyone knows (let us be realistic here – if the chorus knows then there is a 97.9% chance that *everyone* knows) if *we* don't sacrifice Iphigenia the army is likely to kill us all for betraying our cause to keep her

safe! You know how antsy everyone's been getting since we've been stuck here.

AGAMEMNON: Kill... kill us??

MENELAOS: It is statistically likely.

AGAMEMNON: Oh no, what should I do? Help me brother, what should I do?? I don't want to die! How can I go against the oracle? But she's my daughter! I don't know what to do! Can't I just decide tomorrow?

MENELAOS: Just let me handle it! This is the problem with you, Agamemnon, you can never make up your mind about anything!

SONG MENELAOS: You change your mind

just like Zeus changes form

[[Yeah you flip and flop

Like a shoe]]

I would know

And you over-think

yes or no? can't decide

Listen, bro -

you've gotta choose a side.

Cause you're hot then you're cold

You're yes then you're no

You're in then you're out

You're up then you're down

You're wrong when it's right

We don't have all night

You say "I need time"

Just make up your mind!

(you) You don't really wanna kill her, no
(but you) But you've gotta learn to let go

Menelaos and Chorus: You're hot then you're cold
You're yes then you're no
You're in then you're out
You're up then you're down

MENELAOS: You always were
hesitant,
never sure.
....
Now your wife
calls the shots,
Forms the plans,
makes the plots.

I should know
your mind's always gonna change

Menelaos and Chorus: Cause you're hot then you're cold
You're yes then you're no
You're in then you're out
You're up then you're down
You're wrong when it's right
We don't have all night
You say "I need time"
Just make up your mind!

(you) You don't really wanna kill her, no
(but you) But you've gotta learn to let go

You're hot then you're cold
You're yes then you're no
You're in then you're out
You're up then you're down

Scene Four

MENELAOS: Regrettably, brother, it seems you have dithered for too long and the fates have made up your mind for you: I see a party arriving.

[Clytemnestra and Iphigenia arrive, and Clytemnestra calls out a greeting.]

CLYTEMNESTRA: Hello my darling!

AGAMEMNON: Oh no.

Ch5: What's Clytemnestra doing here?

Ch1: I thought only Iphigenia was coming.

AGAMEMNON *(bisses to M)*: This wasn't in the plan!

MENELAOS: No, indeed it was not...

AGAMEMNON *(to CL)*: Clytemnestra, honey, what are you doing here?

CLYTEMNESTRA: Well I couldn't just send off my dear Iphigenia to get married to some strange man I've never even met, could I? *[to Chorus members]* You! Don't just sit there, attend us! We are all quite weary from the journey.

IPHIGENIA: I don't need any help, geeze mom.

AGAMEMNON **flails**: Well this is just so – unexpected – I mean – I'm not sure what – weary! You're weary, right! There are – I have things! I mean, refreshments! My tent is this way, please follow me, my darling...

[[everyone exits RIGHT except for Iphigenia, Menelaos, and Kalchas, who stay behind to discuss this new development.]]

Scene Five

MENELAOS: Why is your mother here!?

IPHIGENIA: I tried to stop her, but you know how she never listens. I should have expected this; now what are we going to do?

MENELAOS: There's only one option: since we have no contingency plan we must simply accelerate the timeline of our original arrangement. We shall proceed with the staged sacrifice tonight, before anything else can deviate from the Plan.

Kalchas raises hand

KALCHAS: I, er, point of information, but I may have possibly told the Chorus about the plan.

MENELAOS: *What.*

KALCHAS: I might have possibly told the Chorus –

MENELAOS: I heard what you said! What in all of the Peloponnesus were you thinking? The Chorus loves gossip even more than Baucis loved Philemon! Now that you've told them we'll be lucky if we have fifteen minutes before the news is being sung from rooftops.

IPHIGENIA: Kalchas, how could you?? Don't you understand how much work I've put into this whole thing? I think I'll implode if I have to stay under the same roof as my over-controlling, micro-managing mother for one more day.

KALCHAS: Relax; it's fine; I swore them to secrecy, and they're going to help us pull this off!

IPHIGENIA: We swore *you* to secrecy too, and look what happened.

KALCHAS: Er...

MENELAOS: This merely provides even greater incentive for us to continue with the plan as quickly as possible, before any other unforeseen events can occur. Our only change will be to keep Clytemnestra away from the scene long enough for the "sacrifice" to be enacted.

IPHIGENIA: Sounds good. I'll be lucky if my mother even notices I'm gone – she probably won't until she's looking for someone's choices to criticize and wonders "hey, I used to have that daughter who couldn't do anything right; wonder where she went?".

KALCHAS: Will you *ever* tell your parents you're alive? I can't imagine letting my mother think I was dead, if I had to do something like fake my own death to go undercover – like if my friends would be in danger if they knew I was alive, but I was the only one who could set things to rights and I'd have to leave my entire life behind and travel the world and –

MENELAOS: Kalchas.

KALCHAS: Sorry.

IPHIGENIA: Well I'll tell them eventually – maybe in five years or so, after I've settled down. I wouldn't want to risk telling them too soon and end up being dragged back. It has to be clear even to my mother that I am quite capable of taking care of myself.

KALCHAS: I hear someone coming!

MENELAOS: Alright, let's wrap this up. Remember your parts in The Plan – and Kalchas! – do *not* tell anyone even a single smidge of information about The Plan. We cannot risk even one more person finding out *anything*.

Scene Six

[Clytemnestra and Agamemnon enter from LEFT(?)]

CLYTEMNESTRA: So tell me about this Achilles – How many monsters has he slain? He's not one of those all-brawn-no-brain type heroes is he? But then again, that might be preferable to someone like Odysseus... What's his lineage like? Is he good enough for my Iphigenia?

AGAMEMNON: Well his mother is a Nereid...

CLYTEMNESTRA: And how are the wedding plans going? Have you started a guest-list? Never mind, it doesn't matter if you have, I know you will have invited all the wrong people.

AGAMEMNON: I didn't –

CLYTEMNESTRA: Kalchas will do the sacrifice, obviously, but where would be the most suitable venue?

AGAMEMNON: I'm not sure – I hadn't really thought

CLYTEMNESTRA: I'll have to send for things from home, certainly. I'll need the gold kylix for sure, as well as that one peplos with the garnets... How many guests will Achilles be inviting to the ceremony?

AGAMEMNON: I don't know...

CLYTEMNESTRA: By the gods, Agamemnon, you haven't planned *anything*! It's true that even if you *had* it would all be wrong and I would have to re-do it, but still! This is your daughter's wedding! At least a pretense of effort would be nice! I need to make sure everything is perfect.

AGAMEMNON: I'm sure it will all work out. Why don't you just go home, dear; I know how stressful you find things like this. We can handle it...

CLYTEMNESTRA: Agamemnon, what is wrong with you? Why are you acting like this? I'm starting to think you didn't want me here at all! What are you keeping from me?

AGAMEMNON: Nothing, my dear, nothing! Of course not!

CLYTEMNESTRA: You've done something, haven't you! Don't think you can fool me – I recognize that look! You've made a decision and now you're worrying about whether it was the right one; I see that look every morning when you're trying to decide whether to have your bread with honey or not!

AGAMEMNON: Hey, that's an important decision that can shape my entire day.

CLYTEMNESTRA: What are you hiding from me? Why was this wedding planned so suddenly and why are you trying to get rid of me??

***"IN THE END" – AGAMEMNON AND CLYTEMNESTRA**

[[song "out of time" and taking place in Agamemnon's imagination – Clytemnestra freezes and only moves when prompted by Agamemnon who leads her over to sit on one of the staircase pillars]]

Agamemnon:

One thing I don't know why
It doesn't even matter how hard I try
Keep that in mind, I designed this rhyme
To explain in due time

(Clytemnestra: All I know)

Agamemnon:

Time is a valuable thing
Watch it fly by as the pendulum swings
Watch it count down to the end of the day
The clock ticks her life away

(Clytemnestra: It's so unreal)

Didn't look out below
Watch the time go right out the window
Trying to hold on but didn't even know
Wasted it all just to
Watch her go

I kept everything inside and even though I tried, it all fell apart
What it meant to me will eventually be a memory of a time when

I tried so hard

And got so far
But in the end
It doesn't even matter
I made the call
and lost it all
and in the end
It doesn't even matter

One thing, I don't know why
It doesn't even matter how hard I try
Keep that in mind, I designed this rhyme
To remind myself how
I tried so hard
In spite of the way you were mocking me
Acting like I was part of your property
Remembering all the times you fought with me
I'm surprised it got so far.

Clytemnestra:
Things aren't the way they were before
I don't even recognize you anymore
Not that I knew you back then
But it all comes back to me
In the end

Agamemnon:
I kept everything inside and even though I tried, it all fell apart
What it meant to me will eventually be a memory of a time when

I tried so hard
And got so far
But in the end
It doesn't even matter
I made the call
and lost it all
But in the end

It doesn't even matter

Clytemnestra:
I've put my trust in you
Pushed as far as you can go
For all this
There's only one thing I should know

Agamemnon:
You've put your trust in me
Pushed as far as I can go
For all this
There's only one thing you should know

I tried so hard
And got so far
But in the end
It doesn't even matter
I made the call
and lost it all
and in the end
It doesn't even matter...

[[Agamemnon ends on his knees before Clytemnestra, about to tell her everything when Menelaos bursts in from CENTER with Iphigenia following]]

AGAMEMNON: The truth is – the truth is –

MENELAOS: *AGAMEMNON!* THERE you are, brother.

Please excuse us, Clytemnestra, we must discuss a matter with some urgency. Time sensitive, etc.

[[drags Agamemnon off stage as Clytemnestra spots Iphigenia]]

CLYTEMNESTRA: Ah, there you are. Rub my shoulders, my darling. Your father has been making me so weary; he hadn't planned anything for your wedding at all! Thank goodness I came otherwise this would have been a tragedy instead of a wedding.

IPHIGENIA: That was kind of the point...

CLYTEMNESTRA: What was that my dear? Nevermind. I've decided on your outfit for the wedding; you'll need to wear the chiton with the purple embroidery and my mother's silver necklace; I've had it sent for.

IPHIGENIA: Come on, mom, you really don't need to do anything. Why don't you just relax and leave it all to me? I've got it all covered, don't worry.

CLYTEMNESTRA: Let YOU handle things? Come now, my dear, we all know you couldn't plan a one-person poetry recitation, much less a wedding. I'll take care of everything so that it all turns out well and not some disorganized mess.

IPHIGENIA: But – !

CLYTEMNESTRA: Don't argue with me, darling, you know your mother is right.

IPHIGENIA: *Mom*, when are you going to realize that I'm not a baby anymore and I'm more than capable of making my own life choices??

CLYTEMNESTRA: Oh no, is this about that ridiculous request of yours to be a Priestess at Tauris? We've already had this discussion, and the answer hasn't changed.

IPHIGENIA: It's not ridiculous, and –

CLYTEMNESTRA: NO, Iphigenia! Now be a dear and stop shouting at me, you've given me a headache.

SONG - MOTHER KNOWS BEST (*starting at ~ :35 in youtube link : <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eftKKjVo6Y8>)*

CLYTEMNESTRA: Mother knows best
Listen to your mother
It's a scary world out there
Mother knows best
One way or another

Something will go wrong, I swear
Ruffians, thugs
Phrygians and hemlock
minotaurs and snakes
The plague

IPHIGENIA: No!

CLYTEMNESTRA: Yes!

IPHIGENIA: But --

CLYTEMNESTRA: Also centaurs
Men with pointy teeth, and
Stop, no more, you'll just upset me
Mother's right here
Mother will protect you
Darling, here's what I suggest
Skip the drama
Stay with mama
Mother knows best
Go ahead, get carried off by Trojans
Go ahead, get eaten up by monsters
Me, I'm just your mother, what do I know?
I only bathed and changed and nursed you
Go ahead and leave me, I deserve it
Let me die alone here, be my guest
When it's too late
You'll see, just wait
Mother knows best

(skip from 1:52 to 2:19)

Mother understands
Mother's here to help you
All I have is one request
Iphigenia?

IPHIGENIA: Yeah?

CLYTEMNESTRA: Don't ever wear this terrible shade of
yellow again.

IPHIGENIA: Whatever you say, mom.

[[*exits center*]]

CLYTEMNESTRA: You know I only want the best for you
my dear.

...

Don't forget it
You'll regret it
Mother knows best.

Scene Seven

[[*Achilles enters from RIGHT with the Chorus fangirling about him, and
spots Clytemnestra*]]

ACHILLES: Why hello there, what is a beauty like yourself doing
wandering around unaccompanied while there are so many
eligible bachelors in the area? Only fate could bring us
together in this way.

CLYTEMNESTRA: UM.

ACHILLES: Are you perhaps a goddess? Pray, tell me with
whom I am speaking? Whose beauty blinds my eyes?

CLYTEMNESTRA: Excuse you, I am Clytemnestra, wife of
Agamemnon – who are you to address me in such a way?

Ch6: You don't know who Achilles is?

Ch3: But he's ... he's Achilles!

Ch4: Achilles is ... how does one even begin to describe Achilles?

Ch6: Achilles is flawless!

Ch3: I hear his armor is insured for 10,000 drachmae.

Ch5: I hear he was a peplos model ... in Skyros.

Ch2: One time he met Helen,

Ch1: and she told him he was pretty.

Ch6: This one time he got angry ... it was *awesome*.

CLYTEMNESTRA: THIS is the man my Iphigenia is supposed to
marry?? This shameless flirt? Never! I will never permit it,
you hear me??

ACHILLES: Marry? Nay, gentle lady, you mistake me. I am not
promised to anyone. My heart is as free as a cloud drifting in
the sky, a rose petal fluttering in the wind, a butterfly –

CLYTEMNESTRA: Of course you're promise to someone; my
husband sent for my daughter Iphigenia to come to Aulis to
marry you. And yet you persist with this vile behavior? For
shame!

ACHILLES: No, I'm really not marrying anyone, what are you
talking about?

CLYTEMNESTRA: What?

ACHILLES: What?

Ch5: What!

Ch1: What?

Ch2: What??

Ch4: Stop it.

CLYTEMNESTRA: Then what's going on? Why would
Agamemnon send for Iphigenia?

ACHILLES: Fear not, gentle lady! I shall focus my keen intellect
on this mystery until all is resolved!

[[*Chorus applauds*]]

ACHILLES: Noble citizens! You often have – hm – inside
knowledge of current events. Do any of you know the reason
behind this mysterious happening?

[[Chorus members scramble to the front of the group]]

Ch6: I do!

Ch3: No, I know what's going on!

Ch2: Pick me!

Ch5: The truth is Agamemnon invented the entire “marriage” just
to get Iphigenia to come to Aulis, because Kalchas said she
must be sacrificed before the fleet can set sail!

CLYTEMNESTRA: *What?*

ACHILLES: What a terrible betrayal! You may of course cry on
my shoulder –

CLYTEMNESTRA: Ew, get away from me. How could
Agamemnon do something like this? I know he's not that
great, but agreeing to sacrifice his own daughter!?

ACHILLES: Do not worry! I pledge to do all in my power to stop
this tragedy! No innocent shall be sacrificed while it is within
my power to prevent it! I will protect you both with my very
life!

Sings heroically.

ACHILLES: SONG - CALL ME MAYBE

I sense a soul that's in need!
I swear they will not succeed
With this terrible deed-
Just put your trust in me!

I will save her, I swear.
Fear not, Achilles is there!
I'll make sure they wouldn't dare;

Just put your faith in me!

Your fear was growing
Distressed, panic showing
So what that wind ain't blowing?
[talking] They think killing her will solve their problems?

Hey, I just met you, and this is crazy
But you need a hero, so call me maybe
I'll set it all to rights, trust me, baby
If you need a hero, just call me maybe

Hey, I just met you, and this is crazy
But you need a hero, so call me maybe
Though all the other boys, might try to kill her
But if you need Achilles, just call me maybe.

I don't know what to say –
How could your husband betray
you in this terrible way? But I'll be here for you!
Iphigenia won't die
Not while I am alive
Hey, baby, I'm on your side and I'll be here for you.

Your fear was growing
Distressed, panic showing.
So what that wind ain't blowing?
Where you think you're going, baby?

ACHILLES AND CHORUS:

Hey, I just met you, and this is crazy
But you need a hero, so call me maybe

I'll set it all to rights, trust me, baby
If you need a hero, just call me maybe

Hey, I just met you, and this is crazy
But you need a hero, so call me maybe
Though all the other boys, might try to kill her
But if you need Achilles -

ACHILLES: Just call me maybe.

[[Clytemnestra and Achilles march off-stage to the RIGHT, determined to stop this tragedy, while the Chorus isn't sure what to do about this new development and follows them.]]

Scene Eight

[[Kalchas runs to get Iphigenia from out of Center or Left]]

KALCHAS: Iphigenia! Iphigenia, red alert!

IPHIGENIA: What is it; what's happened?

KALCHAS: Achilles ran into Clytemnestra and now she knows
about the plan to "sacrifice" you! She's on her way!

IPHIGENIA: Quick, hide; I can't let her see me now that she's
gone into over-protective mode!

[they hide at the base of the stairs as Clytemnestra drags out Agamemnon from RIGHT with everyone else following]

CLYTEMNESTRA: I should have known better than to marry
into the house of Tantalus – this is like Pelops all over again;
like grandfather like grandson. How could you agree to
something like this, Agamemnon? And Menelaos – you're the
intelligent one in this family; how could you let him do this?

AGAMEMNON: But he was the one who told me –

CLYTEMNESTRA: Don't change the subject! I just can't believe
our family would mean so little to you! You won't get away
with this; just you wait and see!

[[slaps him and storms off to the LEFT. As soon as she's gone Iphigenia and Kalchas stand up from their hiding place.]]

AGAMEMNON: I'm sorry, Iphigenia, I'm so sorry! I don't know
what I was thinking; I would never sacrifice you!

IPHIGENIA: No, that's not –

ACHILLES: And fear not, noble maid – I will defend you from
any who attempt your death!

IPHIGENIA: No! I can't accept your offer – I will –

AGAMEMNON: Please forgive me my dear; I wasn't in my right
mind; I would never!

IPHIGENIA: It's fine – I'll be sacrificed!

ACHILLES: No one of your beauty should ever suffer so cruel a
fate!

MENELAOS: Listen to her!!!

IPHIGENIA: I volunteer as tribute!!!

ALL: What?

IPH *[[making up on the spot]]*: If being sacrificed is the only way to
let the fleet set sail – I agree to be sacrificed! Because my death
will ensure that no one is ever kidnapped like Helen again! So
I'll actually be saving all the future generations of Greek
women!

AGAMEMNON: What?

Ch4: . . . because that argument totally makes sense?

Ch5: No, wait, I can kind of see what she's getting at... maybe...?

MENELAOS: I can see your logic, but you are betting against
future stupidity, and if there's one thing I know, it's that people
will always –

IPHIGENIA: You're supposed to be on my side! *[[to Chorus]]* A
little help here!?

Ch1: That's right – Iphigenia will save us all!

SONG – “BRING HONOR TO US ALL”

Chorus (to Iphigenia):

This is what you give us to work with?
Well, honey, wait and see.
We'll help you make this day end
with a tragedy.

Iphigenia:

You'll have me sacrificed
with you on my side I won't ask twice
my plan will succeed and in a trice
I'll bring honor to us all...

Chorus (to Iphigenia):

Wait and see, when we're through
the fleet will gladly go to war for you
bring our honor back (and Helen too)
You'll bring honor to us all.

Chorus (to everyone):

She can bring the Hellenes “Ελληνες [[is this three syllables?]]
great honor in this way.
She'll save us all, you'll see!
And this will be the day.

Iphigenia:

Choristers, hear my plea,
help me make sure my plan will succeed.
Even though I hate my family,

keep our people standing tall...

Chorus:

She's so strong and she's so daring -
noble, selfless, brave and caring!

Chorus A:

She'll bring honor to us-

Chorus B:

She'll bring honor to us-

Chorus and Menelaos:

She'll bring honor to us-

Chorus and Menelaos and Achilles:

She'll bring honor to us-

All:

She'll bring honor to us all~!

ACHILLES: I'm ... I'm so moved ... your courage is so touching!
'Truly and inspiration to us all!! If this is truly your wish; I shall
not interfere.

IPHIGENIA: Quick, prepare the altar right now!

AGAMEMNON: No, Iphigenia! This is madness – there has to
be another way; I'm sure Kalchas was mistaken!

KALCHAS (now back out of his disguise): The altar is ready.

Ch2: Hey, where did you come from??

KALCHAS: Been here all along, what are you talking about?

[[Iphigenia moves to kneel at the staircase pillar next to Kalchas, while
Agamemnon is still shouting no. At the very last second the Chorus
surrounds Achilles pretending to swoon and cutting off his view.]]

Ch6: Oh no!

Ch3: I can't watch!

Ch5: It's too terrible!

[[Menelaos covers Agamemnon's eyes. Then Iphigenia and Kalchas quickly take her cloak and arrange it out where she was kneeling. Iphigenia runs and hides behind a pillar by the stairs, gives a thumbs-up, and Kalchas pretends to stab her cloak. He shouts in surprise and everyone looks back. They are all shocked to discover that Iphigenia has vanished completely.]]

Chorus: WHAAAAAAT? *chaos and pandemonium*

AGAMEMNON: Iphigenia??

MENELAOS: Something FINALLY goes according to the Plan for ONCE.

[[All the noise brings Clytemnestra back out from LEFT]]

CLYTEMNESTRA: Would you *please* keep it down out here; some of us have headaches and are trying to nap – *[[sees Iphigenia's cloak and Kalchas]]* What – what is going on here? It ... it can't be ... that's not... *[[rushes to kneel next to the cloak]]* Iphigenia?? Iphigenia, where are you? Noooooo! My daughter is dead!!

MENELAOS *[[comforting Clytemnestra]]*: No. Something truly amazing happened – at the very last second, before she was sacrificed, she vanished! The goddess took her away and saved her!

CLYTEMNESTRA: She's gone... my darling is gone... you killed my daughter!

[[lunges for Kalchas, and chaos erupts as Menelaos tries to hold her back while Agamemnon bugs the cloak. When Iphigenia sees all this she can't bear to just sneak away and let them believe her dead, so she reveals herself.]]

IPHIGENIA: Wait! Wait, stop fighting!

MENELAOS: What are you doing? You idiot – we finally pulled it off and you're *ruining* the PLAN!!

Ch5: It's – It's Iphigenia's ghost?

Ch1: She must have a message from the goddess!

Ch2: A ghost!!!

IPHIGENIA: Stop it, I'm not a ghost!

MENELAOS *[to Iphigenia]*: Stop talking! Of course she's a ghost!

Oh shade of one so swiftly snatched away from us, why have you returned?

IPHIGENIA: Menelaos, I'm calling the Plan off.

MENELAOS: AAAAAAARG!

IPHIGENIA: This was all my plan to begin with. I told Kalchas to spread the story that I needed to be sacrificed. I just wanted to get away from everything and live my own life, is that too much to ask for? But of course this family is crazy, and the only way I'd be able to get out was if I faked my own death.

ACHILLES: But then ... why have you returned? We thought you dead – why reveal your designs and destroy all you worked so hard to create?

IPHIGENIA: I realized ... we may not really get along, and my parents constantly drive me crazy... but seeing them just now – I realized they really do care about me, even though they're not too great at showing it.

CHORUS: *Awwwwwwwwwwww!*

KALCHAS: It's so touching!

ACHILLES: I've never heard such a noble and moving tale!

Ch4: A bit extreme for teenage rebellion though.

Ch5: Well, you know how it is, drama runs in the family.

IPHIGENIA: Even though I changed my mind about this plan, I'm still not going home. I'm going to be a priestess in Tauris

[[Thus a happy ending, all are joyous, final song]]

SONG – “DO YOU HEAR THE PEOPLE SING”

CHORUS:

Do you hear the Chorus sing

Singing a song of happy ends.

It is a chorus who's relieved to say
That no one wound up dead.
The Achaean fleet sets sail
and we conclude our song
A new epic is unveiled
As tomorrow dawns!

KALCHAS and MENELAOS:
We all rallied to her cause
To be who she wants to be.

IPHIGENIA:
Beyond Boeotia
There lies a world I long to see.

CHORUS:
We joined in the fight
And gave her the right to be free!

ALL
Do you hear the Chorus sing
Singing a song of happy ends.
It is a chorus who's relieved to say
That no one wound up dead.
The Achaean fleet sets sail
and we conclude our song
A new epic is unveiled
As tomorrow dawns!

CLYTEMNESTRA & AGAMEMNON:
That our daughter planned this all
was quite a shock, I must confess.

Me:
No one fell and no one died
And I'd call that a true success.

ACHILLES:
And I was here for you
With courage and battle prowess!

ALL
Do you hear the Chorus sing
Singing a song of happy ends.
It is a chorus who's relieved to say
That no one wound up dead.
The Achaean fleet sets sail
and we conclude our song
A new epic is unveiled
As tomorrow dawns!

[[after the song All exit, except for Clytemnestra who calls to Agamemnon]]

CLYTEMNESTRA: Agamemnon dear, don't think I've forgotten
about *your* part in all this! We will be having a *serious discussion*
about this when you get back from Troy! *[[exits]]*

AGAMEMNON: Oh no. *[to Menelaos]* Is there any chance we can
make this war take a really, really long time?

MENELAOS: I'll see what I can do.

[[exit]]

*[[all return to bow and bask in no-doubt thunderous applause and endless
praise. \^ ^/]]*