

ILIUM RIDGE

by

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**INTRODUCTION**

NARRATOR

I sing, oh Goddess, of the wrath  
of invincible Achilles, and the  
treachery of Agamemnon, son of  
Atreus.

I sing of a war, ten long years  
and longer, when Paris, son of  
Priam of Troy, stole away Helen,  
wife of Achaean Menelaus.

I sing of the Gods, of Sky King  
Zeus who supported Troy, and his  
brother Poseidon, Lord of the  
Seas, who favoured Achaea.

I sing of the ultimate battle,  
the Battle of Ilium Ridge.

**1. EXT. THE LAKE DISTRICT - DAY**

The year: 1917 (in human reckoning).

A World War I military vehicle is driving along the road, surrounded by the spectacular scenery of the English Lakes District. In the driver's seat, a MILITARY POLICEMAN, with Messenger of the Gods HERMES, dressed as a WWI lieutenant, sitting beside him. There is another SOLDIER in the back seat.

**2. EXT. THETIS' LAKE - DAY**

The vehicle comes to an idyllic lake. There is no sign of habitation, except for a small rowboat tied up to the edge of the lake. The driver parks beside the boat.

Hermes and the soldiers jump out and march straight into the lake, until they are totally submerged.

**3. EXT. UNDER THE LAKE - DAY**

Hermes and the soldiers continue walking on the lake bed, surrounded by the blue haze of the water. Ahead of them is a quaint old-style stone cottage, walls festooned with seaweed, with marine plants in the garden.

**4. INT. THETIS' COTTAGE - DAY**

THETIS, an attractive middle-aged sea-nymph, is sitting in her armchair in the cottage. She is embroidering a scene of the marine kingdom. There is a shawl-covered rocking chair opposite her, with its back to the CAMERA.

There is a RAPPING on the front door. Thetis looks up, alarmed.

THETIS  
Into the back. Just to be safe.

From the rocking chair a FIGURE IN FEMALE DRESS, seen only from behind, rises silently, runs into the back room and closes the door. Thetis goes to the front door.

**5. EXT. THETIS' COTTAGE - DAY**

Hermes knocks again. Thetis opens the door.

HERMES  
(voice slightly muffled  
by the water)  
Mrs. Thetis?

THETIS  
I think you have the wrong house.

HERMES  
I think not. Would Miss Achilleia be  
at home?

THETIS  
She would not. May I know what  
business the Army has with my  
daughter?

HERMES  
(Turning to the other  
soldiers)  
Daughter.

They laugh. Hermes turns back to Thetis.

HERMES  
That is between, ah, she and I.  
Secrets of war, don't you know.  
Where is she?

THETIS

She has stepped out. And I really have no idea where she may be at present, Mr...

HERMES

Lieutenant. Hermes.

THETIS

Of course, Lieutenant. I will be sure to let her know you called. If that is all...

She starts to close the door. Hermes puts out his hand to stop her.

HERMES

I'm afraid that is not all, Mrs. Thetis. My orders are to await her return. However long that takes.

Hermes gestures to the other soldiers, who move out to either side of the cottage. He starts to push past Thetis into the cottage. She pushes him back.

THETIS

Do you know who I am?

HERMES

Your... connection with my father Zeus is not unknown to me. And if I had to treat every one of his lovers and bastards with kid gloves, my usefulness would be seriously curtailed. But in this case, it matters not. He has chosen the other side.

THETIS

(shocked)

Then who has sent you?

HERMES

His brother. Poseidon. And may I remind you that as a sea-nymph, you are sworn only to him. If you will excuse me.

He stares at Thetis. She stares back, then stands aside wordlessly. He starts to enter, when...

SOLDIER 1  
(O.S.)

Up here!

THETIS

No!

She grabs Hermes' arm.

THETIS  
I have seen his fate. If he goes  
there now...

Hermes gently removes her hand from his sleeve.

HERMES  
We can none of us escape our fate.  
Not even the Gods.  
(tipping his cap)  
Good day, madam.

He launches himself upwards. Thetis bursts into tears.

THETIS  
(sobbing)  
My beautiful baby boy.

#### **6. EXT. THETIS' LAKE - DAY**

Hermes' head emerges from the lake. He looks around. The rowboat is heading away from him across the lake at double speed. It seems to be rowed by a woman, covered in a long cape. Hermes SIGHS.

#### **7. EXT. ROWBOAT - DAY**

ACHILLES, wearing a woman's dress, face still concealed by the cape, rows frantically for the opposite shore.

There is a LOUD WHISTLE. Achilles looks around wildly. Nothing. Another WHISTLE. He looks up to see Hermes flying above him, smiling down at the boat. He redoubles his rowing, but Hermes swoops down and plucks the struggling Achilles up into the air by the cape. Achilles tries to wiggle loose, but in vain.

Hermes pulls back Achilles' hood to reveal a handsome young man snarling at him. He looks like a WWI recruiting poster.

HERMES

Miss Achilleia, I presume. If I did not know better, I should say I have made the acquaintance of a handsome woman indeed!

ACHILLES

(in a Geordie accent)

Laugh if you want. I am not going back to that hell.

HERMES

I am afraid you are. When the Gods give an order, mortals cannot but obey. Look down.

Achilles does, and recoils in shock.

#### **8. EXT. THE CHANNEL - DAY**

Below Achilles is not the peaceful water of the lake, but a storm-tossed sea. White cliffs and green fields dwindle behind him; ahead, equally green fields, but the far horizon is an evil red glow, punctuated with soundless explosions.

They reach the coast. There is a natural harbour below, where several Achaean battleships lie moored, and a triplane parked in an airfield near by.

HERMES

That robe is most becoming, but I believe a change of outfit is in order.

Achilles' dress becomes a World War I captain's uniform.

Hermes swoops down towards the airfield.

#### **9. EXT. ACHAEAN AIRFIELD - DAY**

There is a triplane idling on the runway. A MAN stands facing it.

Hermes alights silently, with Achilles.

HERMES

You'll be needing an aide.  
Corporal Patroclus!

PATROCLUS turns, and his face lights up.

PATROCLUS  
(in an Irish accent)

Sir!

ACHILLES  
(equally delighted)

Pat!

They shake hands.

ACHILLES  
How long has it been?

PATROCLUS  
Too long. The Kaffiroi campaign,  
down in darkest Nubia.

ACHILLES  
Worthy foes.

PATROCLUS  
But we got 'em in the end. You saved  
me there. Twice.

ACHILLES  
Any man would have done the same.

PATROCLUS  
But only you did. My life is yours.  
Always.

He clasps Achilles' shoulder.

HERMES  
Let's fly!

**10. EXT. THE WESTERN FRONT - JUST BEFORE DAWN**

No-man's land, a vast field of mud filled with half-buried  
corpses and the debris of battle, pock-marked by shell  
holes, and crossed by miles of barbed wire barriers.

**11. EXT. THE ACHAEAN TRENCH - CONTINUOUS**

SENTRY 1 is on patrol. His boots make SUCKING SOUNDS as he  
tramps through the muck. Rats scurry away at the sound of  
his approach. He ducks round the remains of a rotting arm  
lodged between sandbags lining the trench walls.

SENTRY 2 comes round a bend in the walls.

SENTRY 1  
Bloody cold, innit?

Sentry 2 pulls out a flask, tosses it to Sentry 1. He unscrews it, drinks greedily.

Sentry 2 looks at the horizon. The sun is slowly rising.

Sentry 1 wipes his lips, hands back the flask.

SENTRY 1  
Thanks, mate.

SENTRY 2  
Hear anything wrong?

SENTRY 1  
Just the wind.

SENTRY 2  
Thought I heard something else.

SENTRY 1  
It ain't the Trouts. They're still  
licking their wounds from that last  
drubbing we gave 'em.

Sentry 2 looks nervously at no-man's land. No sign of life.

SENTRY 2  
They're crafty though... Well, I  
best get a move on.

Sentry 2 moves off, leaving Sentry 1 alone. Sentry 1 moves closer to the wall, undoes his fly and starts to urinate.

Suddenly, a SHOT RINGS OUT. Sentry 1 crumples to the ground.

HECTOR, the Trojan hero, tall, muscle-bound, a commanding presence, leads his platoon over the trench wall.

Hector surveys the scene, sees the entry to the barracks room.

HECTOR  
Are you with me?

SOLDIERS  
In life and in death!

HECTOR  
Then follow me, all.

Hector leads his men in a rush on the barracks.



**12. INT. BARRACKS - CONTINUOUS**

The sleeping Achaeans are beginning to stir.

Hector and his men burst in, guns blazing. In ten seconds it's all over. A bloody massacre. No one left alive.

As the Trojans take stock, Sentry 2 rushes in, brandishing a pistol.

Before he can fire, Hector grabs the Sentry's wrist, wrenches his arm out of whack. The Sentry drops his gun.

Hector scoops him up, lifting him off the ground like a rag doll.

HECTOR

You know my name?

SENTRY 2

Hector, son of the bastard Priam.

HECTOR

Very good. I bring a message for your leader.

Hector hurls him to the ground. He pulls a sheet of paper from his tunic and reads.

HECTOR

"Greetings to the mighty General Agamemnon from Field Marshal Priam. Today marks ten years since you came here to die for Menelaus' conniving whore. Helen still warms my son's bed and you will never bring her back..." It goes on. Would you like to hear more?

SENTRY 2

(spits)

I've heard it. Many times.

Hector places the note on the sentry's chest, and pulls out his dagger.

SENTRY 2

Wait, what are you...?

Hector thrusts his knife through the note, pinning it to the sentry's chest.

HECTOR

Let's go, boys.

The Trojans make a speedy retreat.

Sentry 2 raises the silver trident hanging from the chain around his neck.

SENTRY 2

Poseidon, Lord of the Seas... avenge me...

Coughing up blood, gasping for air, he dies.

His last prayer travels up...

**13. EXT. THE AIR - DAY**

... over the hell of no man's land, up and over the fortress of Ilium Ridge to the fields and mountains beyond, through the snowy peaks, up to...

**14. EXT. THE OLYMPICA HOTEL AND SPA - DAY**

The hotel is grand, in the 19<sup>th</sup> century style. It is at the very top of a mighty, snowy mountain: Mount Olympus. The sentry's prayer travels in the great front door...

**15. INT. THE OLYMPICA HOTEL AND SPA HALLS - DAY**

...through the lobby and hallways, which are thronged with people divine and semi-divine, towards the Gaming Room.

**16. INT. THE OLYMPICA HOTEL AND SPA GAMING ROOM - DAY**

CAMERA PULLS BACK to back to reveal the image and last prayer of the dying sentry on a holographic map embedded in a large circular table. Placed on the map are markers representing the armies of Achaea/Greece (the Allies) and Ilium/Troy (the Central Powers), with men the pieces in the game. Troy occupies a chunk of ground high on a cliff, while Achaea occupies the land below to the sea. Each side controls a vast network of trenches, with a deadly no-man's land between them.

Seated round the table are brother Gods ZEUS, God of the Skies, POSEIDON, God of the Seas and HADES, God of the Land Below. They are identical copies of one completely normal-looking man, though Zeus wears the regalia and facial hair of German Kaiser Wilhelm II, Poseidon of British King George V, Hades of Russian Czar Nicholas II. All bend forward to see the map.

HADES

Achaeans, Trojans, hacking each other to death. May the carnage never end.

POSEIDON

He served me well. He shall have his revenge.

ZEUS

When? It can't go on forever.

POSEIDON

And why not?

ZEUS

You just saw. My Hector is invincible. The Achaeans are no match for him. So brother Poseidon, are you ready to call it quits? This game begins to bore me.

POSEIDON

It is not over quite yet, brother Zeus.

He smiles and points to the screen. It switches to the triplane where Hermes is flying Achilles and Patroclus to the front.

All are shocked.

ZEUS

Achilles! How the hell did you get him in the game?

POSEIDON

(gleefully)

How many Trojans will he bring down? A mighty fighter, and invincible to boot. I think the great Hector has met his match. What do you think, brother?

ZEUS

That depends on... Excuse me. I see someone to whom I must speak urgently.

He departs. Poseidon looks after him curiously.

POSEIDON

What's he up to?

**17. INT. THE OLYMPICA HOTEL AND SPA CHILDREN'S ROOM - DAY**

The Goddess APHRODITE is ageless and timeless in her beauty. She lounges on a chaise-longue, smoking from a long cigarette holder and idly watching a group of child-gods at play. Zeus approaches.

ZEUS

Greetings, Aphrodite. It has been a while.

APHRODITE

Not so long. Just since the last time someone needed a favour only the Lady of Love could grant.

ZEUS

You wrong me. I merely wish to inquire after the well-being of my favourite daughter.

APHRODITE

And...

ZEUS

I believe you are familiar with Poseidon's latest champion.

APHRODITE

Achilles? Not as familiar as I would like. A true warrior, that one. I do not believe he has ever tasted love.

ZEUS

That would be unfortunate indeed. It might even weaken him, detract from his warrior spirit.

APHRODITE

Hmm. Remind me again why I should do you this favour.

ZEUS

Surely you have never needed a reason to bring true lovers together. The joy in their eye, the passion in their touch...

APHRODITE

I will think of something. Meanwhile, get back to your game. The other boys are waiting.

Zeus bows and departs. Aphrodite turns to the group of child-gods.

APHRODITE

Cupid!

CUPID, an angelic-looking godling in a smart sailor suit, detaches himself from the group and toddles over to her.

CUPID

Yes Mummy?

APHRODITE

What are you shooting these days?

Cupid smiles and holds up his child-size air rifle.

**18. EXT. TRIPLANE - DAY**

The triplane piloted by Hermes continues to fly Achilles and Patroclus towards the front. Below them, the green fields gradually give way to scenes of desolation, fleeing refugees, smoking ruins.

Another plane appears out of a cloud. Hermes raises his finger and points at it. It explodes in a fiery ball and tumbles to earth.

ACHILLES

What did you do that for? It looked like one of ours.

HERMES

(shrugging)

They all look the same to me.

They approach the field of battle. The constant artillery causes a murky atmosphere of perpetual smoke, but it clears briefly to reveal a cliff and a vast medieval fortress looming over them.

ACHILLES

What is that?

HERMES

Ilium Ridge. Trojan headquarters.

PATROCLUS

It's what you're here to take down.

Hermes points downward. There is a car on the ground below.

HERMES

Last leg.

The plane descends.

**19. INT. TROJAN WAR ROOM - DAY**

The Trojan war room is the main hall of the ancient fort, so old that it seems hewn out of the rock of the ridge itself. The window opens onto a great balcony. Maps cover the walls.

Field Marshall PRIAM, a Junker of the old school with a waxed moustache and monocle, is examining a large map. Hector enters. They speak in German accents.

HECTOR

Father.

No answer.

HECTOR

Lord Priam.

PRIAM

(squinting to see him)

Hector.

HECTOR

I have returned.

PRIAM

So I see. What news?

HECTOR

Your message is delivered. I met no resistance. They are done. One more push should send them back across the sea forever.

PRIAM

I pray Zeus you are right. But we have been saying that for ten years, and here we still are.

HECTOR

I can do it.

PRIAM

Then please do. Enough talk. You start to sound like your brother.

HECTOR  
I sound like the one who started all  
this. Thanks so much, father.

SENTRY rushes in from the balcony. He stops in front of  
Priam and salutes.

SENTRY  
Generalfeldmarschall Priam. You must  
see this.

**20. EXT. ILIUM RIDGE: BALCONY - DAY**

A large open balcony gives a complete view of no-man's  
land, the trenches on both sides and the Achaean camp  
beyond. And the lone car driving across the countryside  
toward that camp.

Priam, Hector and Sentry come out onto the balcony. Sentry  
hands Priam a pair of binoculars.

SENTRY  
That car, there.

Priam squints through the binoculars, though it's obvious  
he has no idea how they work.

PRIAM  
I see nothing.

HECTOR  
(grabbing the  
binoculars)  
Give me those.

He peers through them, adjusting the focus.

**21. EXT. THROUGH THE BINOCULARS - DAY**

Hermes drives Achilles and Patroclus toward the Achaean  
lines.

**22. EXT. ILIUM RIDGE: BALCONY - DAY**

HECTOR  
Himmel!

He lowers the binoculars.

PRIAM  
What is it?

HECTOR  
 It is... it's nothing. Sentry, you  
 have been on guard too long. You see  
 mirages.

SENTRY  
 But...

Hector looks at him hard.

SENTRY  
 Of course, sir. My apologies for,  
 ah, wasting your time.

He withdraws.

PRIAM  
 Nothing. Bah! I should have known.

He wanders back inside to his maps.

HECTOR  
 (raising the binoculars  
 again)  
 Shit!

**23. THE CAMERA MOVES FROM THE BALCONY DOWN OVER THE  
 BATTLEFIELD TO...**

**24. INT. ACHAEAN WAR TENT - DAY**

AGAMEMNON, ODYSSEUS, AJAX, MENELAUS and other officers are  
 standing round a map on the table. SOLDIER is reading  
 Hector's note.

SOLDIER  
 "... and you will never bring her  
 back. Call yourself a general. In  
 Troy, you'd be shoveling shit in our  
 latrines. Go home, and leave the art  
 of war to real..."

As he reads, the officers restrain their smiles.

AGAMEMNON  
 (in a posh English  
 accent.)  
 Enough.

The soldier stops, trembling. Agamemnon grabs the note and  
 throws it in the fire. Odysseus gestures the soldier to get  
 lost. He does.



Agamemnon turns to officers.

AGAMEMNON

For 10 years I have been taking  
advice from cowards and defeatists.  
What have you achieved? Nothing. We  
need to attack, wipe them out,  
destroy them all!

AJAX

With respect, sir, we have neither  
the means nor the manpower.

ODYSSEUS

And morale is weak. We've shot 3  
deserters this week.

AGAMEMNON

Only 3? Shoot a dozen, anyone who  
wavers.

ODYSSEUS

I hardly think, sir, that will  
improve morale.

Agamemnon ignores him, looks at the map.

AGAMEMNON

We're going to attack. There.

ODYSSEUS

There's nothing there.

AGAMEMNON

The enemy is there. Twenty men can  
take it. Easily. Who will lead the  
assault? You, Menelaus? You, Ajax?  
How about you?

As he queries each war leader in turn, they look down or  
away. He comes to Odysseus.

AGAMEMNON

Great Odysseus? Here's your chance  
for glory.

Odysseus takes a deep breath, but before he can respond,  
the tent door opens. Everyone turns as Hermes ushers  
Achilles and Patroclus in.

HERMES

Captain Achilles, reporting for  
duty.

Hermes withdraws. The officers stare at Achilles, then break into applause. Except Agamemnon.

AJAX  
(quietly to Odysseus)  
How did you engineer that?

ODYSSEUS  
(touching the trident  
on his sleeve)  
I can't take all the credit. Thank  
you, Father Poseidon.

He steps forward and offers his hand.

ODYSSEUS  
Welcome, Captain. You're sorely  
needed here.

They shake. All look at Agamemnon, who is not pleased.

AGAMEMNON  
So you think I need some hotshot  
pretty boy to win this thing.  
(To Achilles)  
Let me tell you, sir, this is not  
the Games. You won't be tossing the  
javelin or running the marathon  
here. This is war.

Agamemnon notices Patroclus.

AGAMEMNON  
Who is this?

ACHILLES  
My aide.

AGAMEMNON  
Looks like a Kerkyran.

PAT  
(In Irish accent)  
That I am, sir.

AGAMEMNON  
I don't remember asking you to  
speak. A Spudder serving a Thrak.  
What's the world coming to? Eh?

He looks around at the assembled officers. A couple manage to summon up a weak laugh.

AGAMEMNON

And the Thrak thinks he's a bloody officer.

ACHILLES

I am.

He indicates his captain's insignia.

AGAMEMNON

Oh... I stand corrected. But no gentleman, I think. You want a taste of war?

He points at the map.

AGAMEMNON

There is a piece of high ground, here, between us and the village of Hisarlique, there. That ground is in range of enemy snipers in the village itself. Someone must dislodge them.

Achilles examines the map intently.

ACHILLES

What support will you give me?

AGAMEMNON

I can spare six men.

ODYSSEUS

Sir, you said twenty.

AGAMEMNON

A hero like him should find that more than sufficient. By all accounts, he's worth at least ten all by himself. Right, Captain?

ACHILLES

That leaves four.

AGAMEMNON

Fine. I'll give you eight. In total. Gods, I'm generous.

ACHILLES

I'll do my best, sir.

AGAMEMNON

I expect no more. You know, it's good you came. I'm already feeling better about this war. Dismissed.

**25. INT. ACHILLES' TENT - DAY**

Patroclus is putting things in order.

PATROCLUS

I can't stand that man. He's the worst kind of scum.

ACHILLES

(amused)

Hush, Pat. He is the son of kings.

PATROCLUS

Even worse. Exploiters, all. They expect us to die for them, and what for? So they can keep their privileges and grind us into the mud. He'd never lead his troops into the jaws of death, you can be sure of that.

Achilles has heard all this before. He listens patiently but without replying as he checks his rifle and bayonet. Patroclus pulls out his revolver.

ACHILLES

Put it away. You're not coming.

PATROCLUS

I must.

ACHILLES

What happened to your lofty ideals? Do you want to die for the ruling class?

PATROCLUS

It's not for them.

He grasps Achilles' forearm, looks at him intently. Achilles stares at him, then laughs.

ACHILLES

They can't kill me, you know that.

PATROCLUS

They can capture you. They can torture you. There's worse than death.

ACHILLES

But we needn't both suffer them. You are staying here. That's an order, corporal.

Patroclus looks at him, then reaches under the bed, pulls out a box and opens it to reveal a pair of military boots. The right boot has a curious protective covering from the ankle to the heel.

PATROCLUS

Then you'll be needing these.

**26. EXT. THE TRENCHES - DUSK**

Achilles and his eight men are gathered beside a parked lorry.

ACHILLES

Men! You know our mission. That village is theirs. By dawn it will be ours. They will be dead. You will be alive. Any questions?

No questions.

ACHILLES

Good. Give 'em hell!

The men give a CHEER and pile into the lorry. THE DRIVER jumps in the front and starts the engine, and they are off. Patroclus watches them go, looking worried.

PATROCLUS

Gods, send him back to me.

**27. INT. INSIDE THE LORRY - NIGHT**

The men are tense. One MAN pulls out a flask of rum and passes it around. On his turn, Achilles doesn't drink, but passes it to SERGEANT ERPO. Erpo takes a long swig, smacks his lips.

ACHILLES

What's your name, sergeant?

ERPO

Erpo, sir.

Erpo takes another swig and passes the bottle to the next man.

ERPO  
I hate Trojans.

ACHILLES  
Oh. Why's that?

ERPO  
They're barbarians. Not fit to live.  
Kill 'em all, says I.

ACHILLES  
Funny, that's what they say about  
us.

ERPO  
That sounds like socialism talk to  
me. Sir.

ACHILLES  
Just human. Yes, my job is to kill  
them, as theirs is to kill me. We  
don't have to hate each other too.

Erpo's brow furrows as he vainly tries to comprehend this strange philosophy.

ERPO  
Bah.

He turns away. The other men who have been listening also return to their small talk.

**28. EXT. THE ROAD TO HISARLIQUE - NIGHT**

The lorry slowly approaches the village, lights out.

**29. INT. INSIDE THE LORRY - NIGHT**

Achilles holds up his hand. Conversation ceases. He reaches through the canopy and touches the driver's shoulder. The truck stops.

**30. EXT. THE ROAD TO HISARLIQUE - NIGHT**

Achilles slips out of the truck quietly, followed by his men. They can see the village. There are three buildings grouped on either side of a narrow road.

Wordlessly, Achilles divides the men into three sections, gives each one a target. Erpo is in Achilles' group.

**31. EXT. HISARLIQUE - NIGHT**

The three sections slowly advance. Achilles looks through his binoculars, scans the site.

They advance on the buildings. Some soldiers ready their grenades. Others ready their rifles.

On Achilles' command,

the rifles smash into the windows, the grenades are tossed inside and the soldiers run for cover behind trees. The grenades explode.

TROJAN SOLDIERS start to exit the buildings and are mowed down by machine gun fire, rifle shots.

Then silence. It looks like the battle is over. Achilles and his group move towards the largest building.

Suddenly a TROJAN SNIPER on a rooftop appears, and takes aim at Achilles. He looks up as the rifle fires. The bullet hits him right in the chest, knocking him to the ground. A SOLDIER rushes over to him.

SOLDIER

Sir!

With the soldier's assistance, Achilles struggles to his feet.

ACHILLES

I'm all ri... Look out!

He pushes the soldier to the ground and jumps on top of him as the sniper fires again. The shot hits Achilles in the back, and they lie still.

The sniper leans forward to take aim again. A SHOT. The sniper tumbles off the roof to the ground, dead.

Slowly Achilles raises himself to his feet, apparently unharmed by the two bullets that hit him. The soldier still on the ground looks at him in awe.

SOLDIER

So it's true...

Achilles turns to see Erpo, who is lowering his smoking rifle.

ERPO

That's one for hatred. Sir.

Achilles nods, then CALLS OUT.

ACHILLES  
All right, gather round.

The soldiers form a ring around him.

ACHILLES  
Any casualties?

SOLDIER 2  
None, sir. We are untouched. The  
Gods are surely with you!

SOLDIER 3  
All hail Achilles!

SOLDIER 2  
Hip hip...

ALL SOLDIERS  
(except Erpo)  
Hooray!

SOLDIER 2  
Hip hip...

ALL SOLDIERS  
Hooray!

SOLDIER 2  
Hip hip...

ALL SOLDIERS  
Hooray!

ACHILLES  
Thank you all. I could not ask for a  
braver... what was that?

Everyone freezes. From a large building comes the sound of GROANING. Achilles beckons the soldiers and they cautiously approach the source of the sound, weapons at the ready.

### **32. INT. FIELD HOSPITAL - NIGHT**

The room is in total darkness. The sound of GROANING is much louder. Suddenly the door bursts open and Achilles, followed by his troops, dashes in.



They turn on their flashlights, to see two rows of cots along the walls. It's a hospital for wounded soldiers. There are bandaged Trojans lying on the beds. All raise their hands (as well as they can).

TROJAN 1

(in German accent)

Do not shoot! We are unarmed!

A shot rings out, and he slumps dead. Achilles turns to see a smirking Erpo, again holding a smoking gun. He strides over to Erpo, seizes the rifle and hits him hard in the stomach. Erpo goes down, choking.

ACHILLES

Anyone else want to shoot an unarmed prisoner?

No one. From the floor, Erpo glares at Achilles with undisguised loathing.

ACHILLES

Prepare these men for transport.

The soldiers look at the patients, then at each other.

Achilles squats by a Trojan bed.

ACHILLES

Who tended you?

The Trojan's eyes flash involuntarily to a door at the end of the room. Achilles stands, strides over and pulls it open. It is a broom closet. There is a large tarpaulin on the floor, quivering. Achilles pulls it aside to reveal two women in nurses' garb, BRISEIS (slim and stylish) and CHRYSEIS (full-figured and hearty), cowering beneath.

ACHILLES

All right girls. Out you come.

CHRYSEIS

(in German accent)

No.

ACHILLES

(amused)

You have to. You are my prisoners.

BRISEIS

(in German accent)

You will ravish us, torture us, then kill us. We have heard the tales.

CHRYSEIS

We will remain here. Close the door please.

ACHILLES

I have heard the same tales, but in them it was the Trojans doing the ravishing. By all the Gods, I swear that while I am in command, no harm will befall you. But I repeat, you are my prisoners. Come and help me with your countrymen.

He holds out his hand. The nurses look at each other, then Chryseis holds out hers. Achilles takes it and pulls her to her feet. She looks at him flirtatiously, but he ignores her. He holds out his hand to Briseis, but she ignores him and stands by herself.

A SOLDIER approaches Achilles.

SOLDIER

Sir, what about the patients? Most are immobile, and we've no more room in the lorry.

Achilles looks around the room and notices a pile of stretchers.

ACHILLES

Take those. The ones who can walk will carry those who cannot.

SOLDIER

There aren't enough who can walk.

ACHILLES

Then we must walk for them.

ERPO

(disbelievingly)

You want us to carry Trojans.

ACHILLES

Or be court-martialed for disobedience. It seems an easy choice to me.

**33. EXT. THE ROAD - DAWN**

The lorry proceeds slowly down the road, followed by wounded Trojans and soldiers in single file, bearing patients on stretchers. The final stretchers are carried by a SOLDIER & Chryseis, and Achilles & Briseis. The unconscious patient on the last stretcher has a glint of gold at his neck.

ACHILLES  
(to Briseis)

So you are Miss Chryseis, and you are Miss Briseis.

BRISEIS  
Idiot. It's the reverse.

CHRYSEIS  
He is joking with us. Who are you, joker?

SOLDIER  
You've never heard of great Achilles?

BRISEIS  
Boah! But he is so... I had pictured someone more... how do you say it?

CHRYSEIS  
Männlich.

BRISEIS  
Ja, manly. He seems too pretty to be such a feared warrior.

The soldier laughs. Achilles is not used to teasing. He becomes red and turns away.

They pass under an old tree. Seated on a bough high above them is Cupid, brandishing his air rifle. As they reach the other side, he hops down on the road behind Briseis.

He raises his gun, takes careful aim, and FIRES. The bullet passes through both Briseis and Achilles' hearts. Achilles and Briseis stop walking.

Cupid hops up to the bough again and disappears, the sound of his CHILDISH LAUGHTER echoing through the woods.

SOLDIER  
Sir? Are you all right?

ACHILLES  
 Carry on. I'll be with you in a  
 moment.

Soldier and Chryseis continue walking. Chryseis looks back quizzically, but Briseis is looking at Achilles. Achilles looks back at her.

BRISEIS  
 Did you...?

ACHILLES  
 Feel something? Yes. You?

BRISEIS  
 Yes, me too.

They stare at each other.

ACHILLES  
 We should...

BRISEIS  
 Yes. We should.

ACHILLES  
 Move on, I mean.

BRISEIS  
 Move on. Yes. We should.

But they don't move, just keep staring.

SOLDIER  
 (O.S.)  
 Sir! Time to go!

Achilles and Briseis start walking down the road with their stretcher. It's like they are in a daze. Every few seconds Achilles looks back, to find Briseis' gaze fixed on him.

#### **34. EXT. CAMP - DAY**

All the camp, including Patroclus, is waiting at the Hisarlique road. The lorry comes slowly around the bend.

SOLDIER  
 Here they come.

Patroclus runs towards the lorry.

**35. INT. INSIDE THE LORRY - DAY**

An armed soldier watches over a full load of wounded Trojans. Patroclus clambers in the back and is taken aback by the sight of them.

PATROCLUS  
Where's Achilles?

SOLDIER  
(pointing with his thumb)  
Bringing up the rear.

**36. EXT. ROAD - DAY**

Patroclus runs down the line of Trojans, stretchers and soldiers. He catches sight of Achilles' stretcher and hurries to it. Achilles is still looking back at Briseis.

PATROCLUS  
Sir! It's so good to see you.

Achilles stops and turns towards him slowly.

ACHILLES  
Corporal Patroclus.

He turns away and starts walking again, past Patroclus. Patroclus frowns as he passes.

**37. INT. AGAMEMNON'S TENT - DAY**

Agamemnon is relaxing with a stiff drink, lying back in his comfortable armchair. His SERVANT is lighting his cigar when there is a rap on the door.

MESSENGER  
(O.S.)  
Sir, Achilles' group has returned.

AGAMEMNON  
So soon? What casualties?

MESSENGER  
(O.S.)  
Nary a one, sir. The raid was a roaring success.

AGAMEMNON  
A roaring...

Agamemnon stands and storms out of the tent.

**38. INT. STAGING AREA - DAY**

Soldiers, prisoners, and nurses are there, with Achilles and Patroclus.

Agamemnon comes bustling up.

AGAMEMNON

Captain Achilles! I hear you have secured me a famous victory.

ACHILLES

(ironically)

Yes sir. 2 acres of land, no casualties, 23 prisoners, and it all belongs to you.

Agamemnon looks at the prisoners.

AGAMEMNON

Hmm. Well, I don't know what I am supposed to do with these. We barely have rations enough for our own.

ERPO

So said I, sir, until Captain Achilles here overruled me. But I think I can find them...

(smiling nastily)

...suitable accommodations.

AGAMEMNON

Make it happen.

He looks around and notices Briseis and Chryseis.

AGAMEMNON

And who are these charming young ladies?

Chryseis steps forward.

CHRYSEIS

Chryseis and Briseis. Nurses. We throw ourselves on the mercy of the great General Agamemnon.

AGAMEMNON

Mercy. For Trojan sluts? Oh no, my dear, you are not nurses here. You are the spoils of war, for me to do with as I please. Do you want to know what that is?

ACHILLES

It does not matter. I have offered these women my protection. You will not harm them.

AGAMEMNON

So, the worm turns. Erpo?

ERPO

It's true, sir. He said he'd protect them. As long as he was in command.

AGAMEMNON

Well, there you go. You are no longer in command, so your promise no longer stands. Would that all our problems were as easily solved.

ACHILLES

Sir...

AGAMEMNON

For example, I myself now face a conundrum. Which of these women shall be mine this night, and which shall be yours.

ACHILLES

Mine?

AGAMEMNON

Of course. The victory belongs to me, as you said, but my generosity forces me to acknowledge that you did play some small part in it. In fact, I will let you choose your reward.

Achilles looks back and forth between the two women. Briseis looks at him pleadingly, Chryseis with unbridled hatred.

ACHILLES

(Pointing at Chryseis)

She.

Briseis is shocked.

AGAMEMNON

Fascinating. The plump one. She does look like she would provide more... amusement. On second thought...

(turning to Erpo and  
pointing at Chryseis)  
Take her to my tent.

Erpo grabs Chryseis by the wrist.

CHRYSEIS  
Lass mich los, Schweinhund!

She lashes out and gives Erpo a nasty gash to the face with her nails. He hits her hard and she goes down. Erpo drags her up and pulls her squirming toward Agamemnon's tent.

AGAMEMNON  
(to Achilles)  
It seems you must content yourself  
with the scrawny one. Perhaps on my  
next victory...

He laughs nastily and departs after Erpo.

BRISEIS  
(unbelievingly)  
You chose her!

ACHILLES  
I chose his vanity and his  
perversity. An easy bet. But let's  
away before he knows it.

Her hand slips naturally into his, and they head for his tent, followed by a thoroughly bemused Patroclus.

### **39. EXT. THE ROAD TO TROY - DAY**

A luxury car drives fast, but unsteadily, on a narrow road though the beautiful Trojan countryside. Far ahead is the fortress of Ilium Ridge. Every so often an explosion goes off over the fort. As the car approaches, the explosions become louder and more frequent.

### **40. EXT. CAR - DAY**

Driving the car is PARIS, eldest son of Priam. He is thin, blond and pale in his disheveled tuxedo, with a perpetual cigarette between his lips. He takes a swig from the bottle of champagne he holds in one hand, and passes it to his companion HELEN, beautiful, slim and wasted, wearing last evening's gown. She drinks deeply.



PARIS

I really don't know (cough) why you want to go there, Helen. I stay away from that place as much as I can.

HELEN

(rumpling his hair)

Oh, he so sweet. Doesn't want to mess up his perfect coif, does he?

Paris slaps her hand away.

PARIS

You know I hate it when you do that.

HELEN

Oh my Gods, he hates me now.

PARIS

Never.

He closes his eyes and leans over for a kiss. She starts to respond...

HELEN

Look out!

He opens his eyes. There is a cow in the road directly ahead. He frantically turns the wheel, but after a harrowing moment, the car ends up stuck in a muddy field.

PARIS

(turning to Helen)

Oops.

They burst out laughing.

#### **41. INT. ACHILLES TENT - DAY**

The tent flap opens. Achilles and Briseis enter. Patroclus follows them in.

ACHILLES

Please, sit down.

She sits in a field chair. Achilles flops down on the bed. Patroclus remains standing.

BRISEIS

What will he do to her?

ACHILLES

He is a man.

BRISEIS

So are you.

PATROCLUS

There are men, and there are true men.

BRISEIS

There must be something you can do.

ACHILLES

Agamemnon is master here.

(to Patroclus)

Pat, fetch us some tea.

Patroclus does not move. He is looking at Briseis.

ACHILLES

Pat.

Patroclus exits, reluctantly.

BRISEIS

Gods, I thought he'd never leave. I just want to hold you tight and never let go.

ACHILLES

Come here.

Briseis jumps up and goes over to the bed. He pulls her to him and they embrace. They kiss each other's hair, neck, face...

The sound of the TENT FLAP OPENING. They quickly stand up and move apart guiltily.

Patroclus enters with three steaming cups. He looks at them suspiciously as he passes them around.

ACHILLES

(to Briseis)

As I was saying, you may take the bed. The floor is the only place for a soldier anyway. Pat, can you arrange some type of a screen between us?

PATROCLUS

If you insist. Sir. Will there be anything else?

ACHILLES  
That is all. You may go.

PATROCLUS  
May I have a word first? Alone?

**42. EXT. OUTSIDE ACHILLES' TENT - DAY**

Patroclus and Achilles exit the tent.

ACHILLES  
What do you...?

PATROCLUS  
Who is she?

ACHILLES  
Briseis. A nurse. And, regrettably,  
a Trojan. But you know that.

PATROCLUS  
Yes, and I also know she has  
bewitched you.

Achilles laughs.

ACHILLES  
Do you imagine she is some kind of  
sorceress? Really, Pat, you go too  
far.

PATROCLUS  
When you are with her, you are a  
different man.

ACHILLES  
Nonsense. Of course I admire her.  
Not many of her sex would give up  
her life to tend to the wounded so  
far from home. But as for the  
rest...

PATROCLUS  
You are a warrior, not a lover.  
Remember that.

ACHILLES  
How could I forget? Thank you, Pat.

He goes back into the tent.

**43. INT. AGAMEMNON'S TENT - DAY**

CHRYSEIS

(O.S.)

No. I never go with you, bastard.

Erpo bursts in, dragging a struggling Chryseis. He throws her down on Agamemnon's luxurious bed. She spits in his face. Agamemnon enters as Erpo slaps her across the mouth.

AGAMEMNON

Now Erpo, you don't have to be so forceful. The lady is our guest.

ERPO

She spat at me, sir.

AGAMEMNON

Did she indeed? That wasn't very nice.

(to Chryseis)

I think an apology is in order.

CHRYSEIS

(contemptuously)

Verpiss dich.

AGAMEMNON

My Trojan is somewhat rusty, but that didn't sound like an apology to me. Erpo?

Erpo rolls Chryseis over onto her belly, seizes her hands and lashes them to the headboard.

CHRYSEIS

Leave me alone, you pig!

AGAMEMNON

And perhaps a little privacy while I teach our guest some proper Achaean manners.

ERPO

Yes sir.

AGAMEMNON

Don't worry, you can have what's left.

Erpo leers at Chryseis, bows and leaves.

AGAMEMNON

Just what are we going to do with  
you?

He goes over to a cupboard and pulls out a long thin wooden  
cane, then to the bed.

AGAMEMNON

More to the point, what would my old  
schoolmaster advise?

He suddenly pulls up Chryseis' skirt and downs her  
knickers, exposing her buttocks.

CHRYSEIS

I am the daughter of Apollo, you  
fucker. He will avenge me.

AGAMEMNON

Right. Well, I'm the son of Atreus,  
and I do what I want.

Agamemnon raises the cane...

#### **44. INT. ACHILLES' TENT DAY**

Briseis looks up as Achilles enters the tent. He rushes to  
her, but before they can embrace, they hear Chryseis'  
ANGUISHED SCREAM in the distance. The spell is broken.

BRISEIS

So. The tales were true.

ACHILLES

No... I mean... an Achaean would  
never...

BRISEIS

It's all right. I know we have some  
bad ones too.

ACHILLES

But your friend...

BRISEIS

She has experience in these things.  
Believe me, she is not in as much  
pain as she sounds.

ACHILLES

And... you?

BRISEIS  
I'm sure my experience does not  
match yours.

Achilles looks away, turning red.

BRISEIS  
(incredulously)  
No.

Achilles does not look at her.

BRISEIS  
Never?

ACHILLES  
Everyone says I am a warrior, not a  
lover, and I have always believed  
it. Until now.

Briseis laughs.

BRISEIS  
Then we are evenly matched. Come to  
me, my virgin man.

She puts her arms around him, and their lips meet in a  
passionate kiss.

**45. EXT. ILIUM RIDGE ENTRANCE - DAY**

The main entrance to Ilium Ridge is a massive gateway  
behind a large drawbridge over a deep moat, guarded by  
armed sentries.

Paris' car drives up to the bridge and stops. He leans out  
and shouts to the sentries.

PARIS  
(drunkenly)  
Ho there, my good men. 'Tis I, your  
very own Crown Prince Paris. (cough)  
Let down the doors and open this  
bridge. I mean...

HELEN  
Stop it. They know what you mean.

The drawbridge creaks down and Paris drives in.

**46. INT. TROJAN WAR ROOM - DAY**

Priam and Hector and a GUARD are looking at a map on the wall. Paris and Helen enter.

PARIS

Daddy!

Priam and Hector turn.

PRIAM

Is it you? Oh my son, it's so good to see you. And your beautiful Helen too. What a treat.

Priam embraces them both.

PRIAM

This calls for a drink.

(To Guard)

The best brandy for our guests.

GUARD

Sir.

HECTOR

Hello, Paris.

PARIS

Hey, look who's here. My baby brother Hector the Hero. How many Achaeans have you slaughtered this week... oops...

(drunkenly to Helen)

You're Achaean, aren't you?

HELEN

Not any more. Not since I ran off with the sweetest man in the whole world. Love me?

PARIS

More than anything, my pet.

They kiss sloppily. Hector rolls his eyes in disgust.

The Guard brings the drinks and passes them around. Priam, Paris and Helen clink glasses and down their brandy in one gulp. Hector puts his down, untasted.

Helen notices the balcony.

HELEN  
Hey. What's that?

PRIAM  
Don't go out there. It's too dangerous.

HELEN  
Come on, Daddy.

She tickles him under his chin, which pleases him immensely.

HELEN  
I'm very light, and I promise I'll be very, very careful.

PRIAM  
That's not what I mean...

HECTOR  
But since you ask so nicely, be our guest.

Helen grabs Paris by the hand.

HELEN  
Come on, darling. Let's give them a show.

PARIS  
I don't think...

But she has already pulled him outside.

Hector turns to Priam angrily.

HECTOR  
I serve you so much better than he does. Why do you diminish everything I do, and he gets the best brandy?

Priam ponders this.

PRIAM  
Because... I don't expect anything of him.



**47. EXT. ILIUM RIDGE BALCONY - DAY**

The view from the balcony is breathtaking, from the Trojan trenches at the base of the Ridge, to the mud and gore of no man's land, to the Achaean trenches and tents. Beyond, rolling green fields all the way to the sparkling sea and the Achaean fleet.

HELEN

(Leaning over the edge)

Is that the Achaean camp?

PARIS

I think so.

HELEN

It's so close. I can see little men walking around.

She calls out loudly.

HELEN

Hey! Woo hoo! I'm here! The one you're fighting for!

PARIS

Don't, they'll hear you.

HELEN

Good.

**48. EXT. ACHAEAN CAMP - DAY**

A GUNNER is showing Odysseus and Menelaus the big cannons aimed at the Trojan lines.

GUNNER

...and this is the latest model, Colonel Menelaus. Just in yesterday. They say it can hit the Ridge itself.

Odysseus glances up at Ilium Ridge. There are tiny forms on the balcony.

ODYSSEUS

Something's happening up there.

Menelaus raises his binoculars to take a look, and sees Helen and Paris, still tiny but recognizable. He pulls out his revolver.

MENELAUS

It's that damned adulterer with my wife!

He starts vainly shooting up at the balcony.

**49. EXT. ILIUM RIDGE BALCONY - DAY**

Helen and Paris see the flash of the shots far below.

PARIS

They see us. We have to go back inside.

HELEN

Their bullets can't reach us here. Don't you know we're immortal?

**50. EXT. ACHAEAN CAMP - DAY**

Menelaus' gun is empty. He throws it to the ground and looks around wildly. He sees the new cannon.

MENELAUS

Is that loaded?

GUNNER

Yes sir, but we've yet to test it.

Menelaus runs over to the cannon.

GUNNER

Wait, you can't...

Menelaus swings the cannon around and up to aim at the balcony, and pulls the trigger.

**51. EXT. ILIUM RIDGE BALCONY - DAY**

Paris and Helen see the flash of the cannon below, followed a second later by the boom. There is a great EXPLOSION and half of the balcony is blown away. Paris and Helen are flung to the opposite side.

Priam and Hector come rushing to the balcony.

PRIAM

Paris!

Paris struggles to his feet and staggers over to Helen. She is bloodied and appears to be knocked out.

PARIS  
Helen! Speak to me!

Helen MURMURS something incomprehensible. He lifts her head and leans close.

PARIS  
What's that?

HELEN  
I used to be a queen.

PARIS  
I know. (cough) And you gave it all up for me, my...

HELEN  
Now I'm just a whore.

Paris doesn't know what to say.

HELEN  
That's what they all say.

Helen's eyes snap open and she sits up.

HELEN  
I'm why they are fighting.

PARIS  
Not for long, my darling. My father and my brother will soon send them packing.

HELEN  
I don't care. I want to see them fighting. All those men, fighting and killing and dying. For me. They're not going to die for a whore, are they?

PARIS  
No, my love.

He gently kisses her forehead.

PARIS  
Only for a queen.

**52. INT. AGAMEMNON'S TENT**

Agamemnon is standing over Chryseis, cane in hand, panting. Cane and buttocks are covered with blood. Her face is down and she is quietly sobbing.

AGAMEMNON

Did you like that, Trojan harlot?

She does not answer. But unnoticed, her fingers are silently working at her bonds.

Agamemnon undoes his trousers.

AGAMEMNON

You've had your fun, and very stimulating it was too. But now it's time for mine.

He forces her legs apart and starts climbing onto her back.

She rips open her bonds and spins around. Reaching into her dress, she pulls out a dagger. She aims for Agamemnon's heart, but in the struggle only manages to plunge it into his arm.

AGAMEMNON

Bitch!

He pulls his revolver from its holster and shoots Chryseis in the chest. She SCREAMS. The scene FREEZES.

**53. EXT. ELYSIAN FIELDS - DAY**

The God APOLLO, handsome and impeccably dressed, sits in a garden swing, perusing a book of philosophy.

Suddenly CHRYSEIS' FINAL SCREAM echoes through the air around him. He looks around wildly, then makes a gesture. The scene in the tent materializes before him.

APOLLO

Chryseis! My daughter!

He gestures again and fast-forwards through the whole sad story.

APOLLO

(enraged)

I've not participated in their silly game before now. But someone shall pay for this.

**54. INT. AGAMEMNON'S TENT - DAY**

The scene UNFREEZES. Chryseis falls back on the bed and lies still, eyes open and staring right at Agamemnon.

Erpo runs in. Agamemnon looks down at the dagger in his arm, then at the dead Chryseis.

AGAMEMNON

Do something with that shit.

**55. INT. ACHILLES' TENT**

The lovers disengage from their kiss.

ACHILLES

Marry me.

BRISEIS

(in mock outrage)

Sir! We barely know each other!

ACHILLES

We know enough. Why hesitate?

BRISEIS

I cannot, as long as this...

She makes an expansive gesture.

BRISEIS

...continues. We are sworn enemies. Until there is agreement between Troy and Achaea...

ACHILLES

Then we shall leave this place. To where none can find us.

BRISEIS

The Gods have eyes everywhere. You would always find yourself back here.

Before Achilles can answer, Patroclus opens the tent flap.

PATROCLUS

Sir, Sergeant Erpo requests an interview.

ACHILLES

Send him in.

Erpo enters.

ERPO  
 Sir. Actually, it's Miss Briseis  
 I've come to see. Your friend's  
 suffered an accident.

BRISEIS  
 Gods! What happened? Where is she?

ERPO  
 Come and find out.

Achilles and Briseis stand.

ERPO  
 (to Achilles)  
 Sorry, women only. Miss.

Briseis hurries out with Erpo.

**56. EXT. AGAMEMNON'S TENT - DAY**

Erpo and Briseis run up to the tent.

ERPO  
 In there.

She enters the tent.

**57. INT. AGAMEMNON'S TENT - DAY**

Briseis enters, followed by Erpo. She freezes.

Propped up in the armchair is her dead friend, blood from her fatal wound covering the front of her blouse. Blood also covers the bed. Agamemnon stands apart, facing away from her.

BRISEIS  
 What...

Her cry is stifled as Erpo's hand covers her mouth from behind, while with his other hand he quickly ties her hands behind her back. Finally he shoves a gag in her mouth and ties the strap tight.

Agamemnon slowly turns to face her.

AGAMEMNON  
 As you can see, your countrywoman  
 came between me and my... desires.  
 You shall take her place.

He gestures. Erpo throws her on her back into the pool of blood on the bed, then pulls her legs open. Agamemnon pulls down his pants and roughly rapes her, as her eyes open wide and she tries to scream.

Agamemnon comes with a grunt, and collapses on top of her. She vainly tries to rip his face off with her teeth, but the gag is too tight.

Agamemnon pulls himself slowly off Briseis.

AGAMEMNON

Now that is a hell of a woman!

ERPO

I look forward to her.

AGAMEMNON

Sorry, sergeant. This one is too good. I think I will keep her to myself, for a while at least.

ERPO

And Achilles?

AGAMEMNON

A tart's a tart. Find him something else.

#### **58. INT. ACHILLES' TENT**

Patroclus watches as Achilles waits for Briseis, pacing back and forth. Erpo sticks his head in.

ERPO

Got a minute, sir?

ACHILLES

Is she all right?

Erpo pulls open the flap to reveal his companion: big-city hooker FIFEIA, in slutty clothes and too much makeup. She smiles when she sees Achilles.

FIFEIA

Ooh. He's fit, ain't he?

She comes forward and starts playing with Achilles' collar and tie.

ACHILLES  
 (pushing her away)  
 What the hell's this? Where is  
 Briseis?

ERPO  
 Ah. About that. Your nurse has  
 decided that she would rather, ah,  
 be with our esteemed commander...

ACHILLES  
 Impossible.

ERPO  
 ...but Fifeia here is the pick of  
 the pack. He says she's yours as  
 long as you like.

FIFEIA  
 All of me's all for you, Achi baby.

ERPO  
 (looking speculatively  
 at Patroclus)  
 Of course, if you have other  
 tastes...

Achilles stares at them for a moment, then hurries out.

**59. INT. AGAMEMNON'S TENT - DAY**

Briseis is kneeling in the corner, clothes torn, as  
 Agamemnon enjoys a drink and a cigar. His revolver is on  
 the table beside him.

There is a POUNDING on the door.

AGAMEMNON  
 Enter.

Achilles storms in. He looks around the room furiously and  
 sees Briseis. She looks away ashamedly.

AGAMEMNON  
 I thought you would be enjoying my  
 gift by now. I trust it arrived  
 intact?

ACHILLES  
 You know what I want.



AGAMEMNON

(looking at Briseis)

That? Well, I can see why, but to the victor go the spoils, don't you know? I'll let you know when I'm done with her.

ACHILLES

I want her now.

AGAMEMNON

Suppose we let her choose. Come here, dear.

Briseis rises slowly and comes over to Agamemnon, eyes still averted. He puts his arm around her and pinches her ass. She flinches.

AGAMEMNON

Well?

BRISEIS

(mechanically)

I belong to Agamemnon now. Please go.

Achilles is shocked.

AGAMEMNON

She has chosen.

He picks up his revolver and points it at her head.

AGAMEMNON

And if I can't have her...

Achilles stares at them, then leaves, fuming.

**60. INT. THETIS' COTTAGE - DAY**

Thetis is embroidering a picture of Achilles. There is a KNOCK on the door. She hurries to open it. It is the God Apollo.

APOLLO

Good day, madam. I bring word of your son Achilles.

THETIS

(fearfully)

What word?

APOLLO  
He is alive and well...

THETIS  
Praise Poseidon.

APOLLO  
...but he is sorely betrayed. And my  
only daughter is dead, by the same  
hand.

THETIS  
Gods!

APOLLO  
Precisely. They must bend their  
rules.

THETIS  
They will never do that.

APOLLO  
Not for me they won't.

**61. EXT. MOUNTAINS - NIGHT**

Thetis struggles through the snow and wind of a mountain  
pass.

She rounds a bend. The Olympia Hotel & Spa is ahead.

**62. INT. THE OLYMPIA HOTEL & SPA: GAMING ROOM - NIGHT**

The three Gods are taking a break from the game, sleeping  
in their thrones around the table.

Thetis enters quietly, all dolled up. She goes up to Zeus  
and shakes him gently. Only a SNORE. She shakes him harder.  
He awakes with a start.

ZEUS  
Who dares disturb the Kaiser of...  
Oh, hello. How are you, my dear?

THETIS  
Missing you. Remembering that  
marvelous night when you appeared to  
me, can it really be 63 years ago?

ZEUS  
Yes. It was unforgettable, wasn't  
it, Miss, ah...

THETIS

Thetis.

ZEUS

What brings you here, Miss Thetis?

THETIS

Well, I was going to try my hand at the roulette tables. But then I saw your divine self, and thought to, ah...

ZEUS

Renew our acquaintance.

THETIS

If that is acceptable.

Zeus looks around at his sleeping brothers.

ZEUS

(standing)

I seem to have a few minutes. If you will accompany me to my lodgings...

She puts her arm into his. They leave together.

**63. INT. THE OLYMPIA HOTEL & SPA: ZEUS' APARTMENT - DAY**

The lodgings are spectacular, with vast windows providing a panoramic view of the cold winds blowing over the snowy peaks. There is a large bed in the middle of the room.

The door opens. Zeus holds it open for Thetis, then comes inside himself. She looks around the room.

THETIS

Wonderful. Fit for a King...

ZEUS

Regrets, madam, but I am somewhat pressed for time. If you wouldn't mind...

THETIS

Of course.

She lies down on the bed, raises her skirts and opens her legs. Zeus looks at her with undisguised lust and starts to fumble with his trousers.

Suddenly she closes her legs and sits up.

THETIS  
Something has occurred to me.

ZEUS  
Surely it can wait.

THETIS  
I think not. It involves my son  
Achilles.

ZEUS  
He is on Poseidon's team. I cannot  
help you there.

THETIS  
You can give Troy the advantage.  
Just enough to destroy that bastard  
Agamemnon.

ZEUS  
Cheat, you mean. Of course. I could  
win that game tomorrow. But some  
rules even I cannot break.

Thetis reaches out and begins fondling him. He moans in  
pleasure.

THETIS  
Not even for me?

ZEUS  
No... yes... I'll do it. Lie down,  
damn you!

She lies back on the bed. Zeus leaps atop her and commences  
thrusting, while Thetis contemplates the weather outside  
the great windows.

All is over in a few seconds. Zeus comes hard, rolls over  
and lies panting beside her.

ZEUS  
Marvelous. My compliments, ma'am.

THETIS  
What..? Oh, are you done?

ZEUS  
I believe I do remember you now.

He suddenly frowns.

ZEUS

About what we discussed earlier...

THETIS

Lord Apollo will handle the details. You just need to... stand back a little. Your name will never enter into it.

ZEUS

It had better not.

THETIS

Thank you.

She kisses his head, then hops out of bed and adjusts her clothing. He sits up.

ZEUS

Be honest. Just then... did you not find me a little... abrupt?

THETIS

With the King of Heaven, a minute is like forever.

She blows him a kiss and leaves. Zeus lies back, a worried look on his face.

#### **64. INT. TROJAN WAR ROOM - DAY**

Hector addresses Priam and high-ranking Trojan officers.

HECTOR

This is too much. First Hisarlique, 15 men dead, 23 men and two nurses captured, and now they strike at the very heart of Trojan power. We must hit back. Hard. Now.

PRIAM

I fear they have the advantage of us.

HECTOR

I don't know what you mean. We...

PRIAM

(angrily)

They have Achilles. The man who can't be killed. Did you think you could keep me in the dark forever?

HECTOR  
Who told you?

APOLLO  
(O.S.)  
I did.

They turn. From a few inches off the ground, the God Apollo regards the Trojans serenely. They fall on their knees before him, except Hector.

HECTOR  
You have no part in this conflict.

APOLLO  
Not officially. But still I offer my assistance, if you will have it.

HECTOR  
At what price?

APOLLO  
None whatever. Let us just say I too have been wronged.

**65. EXT. ILIUM RIDGE COURTYARD - DAY**

The courtyard is just inside the front gates, surrounded by the castle walls. Several transport trucks are parked there. The lead truck is driven by Hermes, in a Trojan uniform.

Apollo, Hector, Priam and the other Trojan officers come out of the fortress.

Apollo signals Hermes, who hops out of the truck with a handful of gas masks. He passes them out to the assembled officers, who look at them in confusion.

HERMES  
Like this.

He puts one on Priam's head and straps it tight. The officers look at each other, then do the same.

Apollo makes a gesture. The front gate opens and a herd of cattle streams over the drawbridge and into the courtyard.

Hermes pulls the canvas off the back of his truck, to reveal several strange-looking cylinders, shaped like artillery shells, each with a tap at the front end. He turns one tap, and a smoky yellow gas comes out of the nozzle and starts to fill the courtyard.

As the gas reaches the cattle, they start to move around uneasily, agitatedly. Suddenly one cow starts choking and spitting out blood. She falls to the ground, shudders violently for several seconds, and dies. Another suffers the same fate, then another, until all lie dead in the evil yellow air.

The Trojans, gas masks still on, look around disbelievingly at the gruesome sight.

APOLLO

My gift to you. Use it wisely.

He and Hermes fade away.

PRIAM

We are saved! Praise be to Lord Apollo!

HECTOR

You're not going to use it.

PRIAM

Of course I am. This damned war will finally be over. I can retire to my country home with my wife, and my grandchildren around me. How often have I - have all of us - dreamt of this day!

HECTOR.

But it's... unmanly. There's no glory there. No warrior could wish such a death on his lowest foe.

PRIAM

Then we are fortunate that most of my men are not warriors. They are just men. They care not how the other fellow dies, as long as he does, and they can live out their lives. In peace, my son, in peace!

HECTOR

But Father...

PRIAM

In any case, it is a gift from the Gods. We cannot refuse.

He turns and stalks back inside the fortress.

**66. EXT. BEHIND THE TROJAN LINES - DAY**

PADRE DAREIS inspires the assembled TROJAN SOLDIERS.

PADRE DAREIS  
 (holding the sacred  
 lightning bolt high)  
 Father Zeus,  
 Great Kaiser in the Sky,  
 We ever praise Your name.  
 Give us victory this day  
 And destroy our enemy  
 Even as he seeks to destroy us.  
 May we avoid his traps  
 And all his wicked ways.  
 Our honour is Your glory  
 Now and always!

SOLDIERS  
 So let it be!

They CHEER and break off into their respective duties.

**67. INT. TROJAN WEATHER STATION - DAY**

Priam and Hector watch as a METEOROLOGICAL OFFICER measures the wind and plots his observations on a map of the area. He turns to them.

OFFICER  
 The wind has changed at last, Zeus  
 be praised. It blows now directly  
 towards the enemy.

HECTOR  
 For how long?

OFFICER  
 It is a goodly blast, sir. Judging  
 by the air and the clouds, an hour  
 at least.

PRIAM  
 Excellent. We shall start with a  
 conventional attack to draw them  
 out, and then...

HECTOR  
 Father, it's too risky. If the wind  
 should change direction...



PRIAM  
 ...this fine officer would lose his  
 head.

OFFICER  
 (wincing)  
 Sir, you shall have your wind.

**68. INT. OLYMPICA HOTEL AND SPA GAMING ROOM - DAY**

The Gods are gathered round the gaming table. Onscreen, the Trojans prepare for battle. They start putting on their gas masks.

POSEIDON  
 What is that?

ZEUS  
 What? Oh, that. A new tactic, I  
 suppose, to strike terror into your  
 soldiers.

POSEIDON.  
 Bah. They look ridiculous. Those big  
 eyes and long noses. My men will  
 laugh at them.

ZEUS  
 We shall see. Well, it looks like my  
 side are planning an attack. Let's  
 see how it plays out.

They lean forward to view the screen.

**69. EXT. TROJAN TRENCHES - DAY**

Priam and Hector come out of the weather station. Priam looks to the trenches where the Trojan soldiers and their COMMANDING OFFICER wait, and gives a signal.

OFFICER  
 Go!

A wave of gas-masked men go over the top of the trench. They run towards no man's land.

**70. INT. ACHAEAN TRENCHES - DAY**

Agamemnon is in his chair with a cigar, while Odysseus reads Sun Tzu's Art of War. A MESSENGER rushes up.

MESSENGER

Sir, they are attacking in full force! Already their men are in no-man's land and moving this way fast.

AGAMEMNON

(jumping up)

Relay my orders to every officer. Every man to the front-line trenches, ready for battle.

Messenger bows and leaves.

ODYSSEUS

They can't be that stupid. Why throw all their men into a senseless assault? We'll just shoot them down.

AGAMEMNON

They're desperate, that's why. They know I have Achilles, and they want to find an honourable way to surrender. By all the Gods, we've got them this time!

ODYSSEUS

Perhaps... excuse me.

He leaves.

**71. INT. ACHILLES' TENT - DAY**

Achilles and Patroclus are relaxing in their tent. A SOLDIER sticks his head in the front flap.

SOLDIER

Everyone to the front, quick as you can!

Patroclus starts to rise. Achilles reaches up and pulls him back.

ACHILLES

We're not going.

SOLDIER

But... General Agamemnon has ordered it.

ACHILLES

All the more reason. You can tell him I'm staying right here.

SOLDIER  
 (shrugging)  
 Your funeral.

Soldier leaves. Patroclus looks at Achilles quizzically.

ACHILLES  
 If he wants me, he knows where to  
 find me. And whom to bring with him.

**72. EXT. ACHAEAN FRONT-LINE TRENCHES - DAY**

The soldiers are pouring into the trench and preparing their weapons. An OFFICER looks over the top of the trench with a periscope. Odysseus enters.

OFFICER  
 Sir, you have got to see this.

Odysseus squints through the periscope.

**73. EXT. NO MAN'S LAND THROUGH THE PERISCOPE - DAY**

Then Trojan troops look like ancient warriors in their weird gas masks. They are running towards the Achaean lines, guns blazing.

From behind their defences, the Achaeans start firing their machine guns. As Odysseus watches, the Trojans fall one by one, and are trampled into the mud by the ones behind them. But they keep coming.

**74. EXT. ACHAEAN TRENCHES - DAY**

Odysseus removes his eye from the periscope.

OFFICER  
 Did they really think covering their  
 faces would stop our bullets?

ODYSSEUS  
 (thoughtfully)  
 No, not our bullets... Gods!

He turns and runs.

**75. EXT. TROJAN WAR ROOM BALCONY - DAY**

Priam & Hector, a bandaged Paris & Helen, and other Trojan officers watch the action from what is left of the balcony. An OPERATOR with radio equipment stands by.

HELEN

At last, a real battle! Yes! Kill them all!

PARIS

It's (cough) our side that's getting slaughtered, love.

HELEN

Whatever.

(to Priam)

We'll pay them back though, right?

PRIAM

Oh yes, my dear. Just about...

HECTOR

I am not watching this.

He turns and stalks back inside.

PRIAM

(to Radio Operator)

...now.

Radio Operator raises his microphone.

RADIO OPERATOR

Now.

**76. EXT. AGAMEMNON'S TRENCH - DAY**

Agamemnon watches his men machine-gunning the masked Trojans.

AGAMEMNON

Wonderful. I love it.

Odysseus runs up.

ODYSSEUS

Sir, you have to call it off. Get everyone back in their tents. Tell them to seal off every...

A great siren BLOWS from the Ridge. The surviving Trojans suddenly turn around and start running back to their own trenches. The big Trojan guns start to fire...

ODYSSEUS

Damn it. Too late.

...but their shells land in no-man's land, well short of the Achaean trenches.

AGAMEMNON

You're crazy. Look, even their best cannons cannot... What is it?

Odysseus is pointing at the shells, which are beginning to emit noxious yellow gas.

ODYSSEUS

Tell them to retreat! Now!

But Agamemnon is frozen in fear, watching as the wind carries the cloud of gas in his direction. Odysseus seizes his arm and pushes him into an adjoining trench, slams the door shut tight. He takes off running.

**77. EXT. ACHAEAN FRONT LINE - DAY**

The gas cloud reaches the front line and envelops it in deadly yellow smoke. Achaean soldiers start choking, bleeding, dying. Odysseus runs up.

ODYSSEUS

Fall back! Don't let it touch you!

The panicked soldiers drop their guns, turn and run.

From the dense cloud, Hector and a battalion of Trojan soldiers in gas masks burst forth. They open fire on the fleeing Achaeans, who drop to the ground in scores.

In the chaos Odysseus, holding his breath, shoots one of the Trojan invaders. He drags him aside, rips off his mask, and straps it on, then staggers back whence he came.

**78. EXT. TROJAN WAR ROOM BALCONY - DAY**

Priam, Paris, Helen and officers watch the gas obscuring the Achaean lines, and the attacking Trojans.

HELEN

(transfixed)

Cool!

**79. INT. ACHILLES' TENT - DAY**

Achilles and Patroclus enjoy a glass of beer as they listen to the NOISE outside.

PATROCLUS

Sounds like quite a battle.

ACHILLES  
 (clinking Patroclus'  
 glass)

Not my problem... say, look at that.

He points. A yellow haze is coming up from under the sides of the tent. Patroclus goes up to it and sniffs.

PATROCLUS  
 Gods, it smells awful. It makes me  
 feel...

He staggers backwards.

ACHILLES  
 Pat!

He pulls Patroclus back and away from the fumes.

ACHILLES  
 What the hell's going on out there?

**80. INT. OLYMPIC HOTEL AND SPA GAMES ROOM - DAY**

Onscreen, the Gods watch the poison cloud engulf the Achaean camp.

POSEIDON  
 The Kernean vapours? Really?

ZEUS  
 Could be. I have no idea.

POSEIDON  
 No idea. Just when your side are  
 about to lose, they get hold of  
 something only the Gods know about.

ZEUS  
 I swear, brother, I have no  
 knowledge of this.

POSEIDON  
 Someone does. And if they think only  
 Troy can cheat at this game, they  
 are sorely mistaken.  
 (to a passing WAITER)  
 Bring me water. A big bowl.

The WAITER bows and hurries off.

HADES  
 Things become interesting again.

**81. EXT. ACHILLES' TENT - DAY**

The Achaean camp is in utter confusion. The thick yellow smoke is clearing, but the masked Trojans still mow down the defenseless Achaeans who have survived its effects.

Achilles sticks his head out of his tent and surveys the gruesome scene.

ACHILLES

Gods!

A passing Trojan notices him and fires point-blank at his chest. It hits him, but he ignores it and grabs the Trojan, snaps his neck and ducks back into the tent.

**82. INT. OLYMPIC HOTEL AND SPA GAMES ROOM - DAY**

The waiter puts a large silver bowl of water on the table in front of Poseidon. Poseidon sticks the tip of his finger into the water.

ZEUS

You can't do that. The rules say no direct involvement.

POSEIDON

Oh, we're playing by the rules now, are we?

He starts twirling his finger in the water gently.

**83. EXT. THE SEA - DAY**

The Achaean battleships, manned by uniformed SAILORS, float on a still azure sea. Ilium Ridge is visible in the far distance inland.

SAILOR 1

Hey, look at that.

The water has begun to rotate slowly around the ship.

SAILOR 2

It's an omen.

SAILOR 1

Of what?

**84. EXT. AGAMEMNON'S TRENCH - DAY**

Agamemnon is curled up inside his trench, shaking. The door flies open, revealing a masked Odysseus.

ODYSSEUS

Sir.

Agamemnon looks up and shrinks back.

AGAMEMNON

No! That face! Go away!

Odysseus closes the door and pulls off his mask.

ODYSSEUS

It is I, sir. Please be calm. The men need you.

Agamemnon takes a deep breath and stands up straight.

AGAMEMNON

Yes, of course. The men. Please give your report on the situation.

ODYSSEUS

Dire indeed. The Trojan plague is everywhere. Those who could, have fled. The rest are dead.

Agamemnon sinks back, head in hands.

AGAMEMNON

We are lost.

ODYSSEUS

So it would seem. It is in the hands of the Gods now.

**85. INT. OLYMPIC HOTEL AND SPA GAMES ROOM - DAY**

Poseidon sticks two fingers into the bowl, then three, and starts moving them round, faster, faster...

**86. EXT. THE SEA - DAY**

The swirling waves grow higher until the great battleships are tossed like toys.

**87. INT. OLYMPIC HOTEL AND SPA GAMES ROOM - DAY**

Suddenly Poseidon picks the bowl up in both hands and blows into it, hard. The water flies up and across the room in very slow motion.



**88. EXT. THE SEA - DAY**

A mighty tsunami rises from the sea. The battleships settle back down as the wave roars onto the land, accompanied by a mighty wind, sweeping all before it, heading straight for Ilium Ridge.

**89. EXT. ACHAEAN CAMP - DAY**

The air has cleared in the deserted Achaean camp. The Trojans start to remove their gas masks.

TROJAN SOLDIER

Boah. I never thought I'd be standing here.

Hector takes off his mask and looks around at the ruined camp.

HECTOR

We have done good work this day.

TROJAN SOLDIER

Yes sir... with respect, sir, I heard you didn't like that weapon. Not manly enough, said you.

HECTOR

That I did. But I never could resist a good scrap.

They laugh. The Trojans CHEER and embrace.

Suddenly one turns pale. He points. The Trojans turn to see a massive wall of water coming straight at them.

They try to run. As it reaches the Achaean camp, the wave rises above the ground to avoid the tents. Tentacles of water reach down to seize and pick up only the Trojan soldiers, and carry them high in the air.

Once it has reached no man's land, the wave crashes down to earth again. Many Trojans are killed outright, and the rest find themselves stuck in the mud. Slowly they rise and limp back towards their own trenches.

**90. EXT. ILIUM RIDGE BALCONY - DAY**

Priam, Helen, Paris and the Trojan officers are aghast as they watch the events below.

PRIAM

Hector!

PARIS  
He'll come through. (cough) He  
always does.

Priam turns on him, furious.

PRIAM  
He's a hero, you worm! You're the  
cause of all this.

HELEN  
Daddy...

PRIAM  
Don't you "Daddy" me. Get out of  
here, both of you!

He turns back to the conflict. They look at each other and  
start to slink off. They pass Hector, covered in mud,  
coming out onto the balcony.

PRIAM  
My son!

They embrace.

**91. EXT. ACHAEAN FRONT LINE - DAY**

Agamemnon and Odysseus watch as the surviving Trojans  
stagger back to their trenches.

AGAMEMNON  
That's it! Run, cowards! Achaea will  
destroy you...

A Trojan turns and fires at him. He ducks and hides behind  
a barricade. Odysseus remains standing.

ODYSSEUS  
You can come out, sir. He can't hit  
you at that range.

Agamemnon stands.

AGAMEMNON  
I knew that. I was simply pondering  
our next move.

ODYSSEUS  
Of course. We must strike quickly,  
while they are still weakened. But  
it will take a true leader.

AGAMEMNON

I dread your answer to my next question.

ODYSSEUS

(bowing)

I shall speak to him.

**92. INT. ACHILLES' TENT - DAY**

Patroclus is lying on the bed unconscious, pale and panting, as Achilles watches him anxiously. Suddenly he coughs, and his eyes open. Achilles rushes for a glass of water and holds it to Patroclus' lips. Patroclus takes a sip and starts to choke violently. Achilles holds him tight until his coughing passes.

ACHILLES

How are you feeling now?

PATROCLUS

Better, I think. By Mother Brigid, what was that stuff?

The tent flap opens. Odysseus enters.

ODYSSEUS

The vapours of Hell. The Gods alone know how they got them.

ACHILLES

So Troy has won.

ODYSSEUS

On the contrary. Lord Poseidon heard our prayers and sent them packing. We may still have a chance at victory, if we act quickly.

ACHILLES

I fail to see why you tell me this.

ODYSSEUS

General Agamemnon says if brave Achilles were to take leadership, rally our scattered forces...

ACHILLES

He has stolen what I value most. I will never fight for that man.

ODYSSEUS

He is still your sworn commander.

ACHILLES.  
 (laughing bitterly)  
 What's he going to do? Shoot me?

ODYSSEUS  
 (eying Patroclus)  
 Every problem has a solution. I'm  
 sure this is no exception. Good day.

He leaves.

**93. EXT. AGAMEMNON'S TENT - DAY**

Agamemnon sits outside as Briseis, head bowed, stands behind him.

Odysseus hurries by.

AGAMEMNON  
 Wait. What word?

ODYSSEUS  
 He will fight. I go now to make  
 final arrangements.

He disappears. Agamemnon turns to Briseis.

AGAMEMNON  
 There, you see. He knows that his  
 duty comes before any Trojan bitch.  
 As it should.

She gives him a look of pure hatred.

**94. INT. ACHILLES'S TENT - DAY**

Patroclus is sitting up in bed. He appears much improved. Achilles sits in a chair beside him.

Odysseus enters.

ODYSSEUS  
 My excuses again, captain. May I  
 borrow your aide for a bit?

ACHILLES  
 I don't think he's in any  
 condition...

PATROCLUS  
 I'm much better now, sir. And I need  
 to stretch my legs anyway. What's  
 this about?

ODYSSEUS

We are, ah, studying the effects of the vapours. As a survivor, your experiences would be invaluable.

PATROCLUS

Glad to help.

He struggles to his feet and leaves with Odysseus. Achilles watches him go, anxiously.

**95. INT. ODYSSEUS' TENT - DAY**

PADRE CALCHAS sits at the table, fingering his silver trident.

Odysseus opens the flap, and he and Patroclus enter. Calchas stands.

ODYSSEUS

Father Calchas, this is Patroclus.

PATROCLUS

Father.

He bows and makes the sign of the trident.

PATROCLUS

What did you want to know?

CALCHAS

Do you love him?

PATROCLUS

What... who?

ODYSSEUS

You know who.

PATROCLUS

I would die for him.

CALCHAS

Would you be him?

He gestures to Odysseus, who takes a captain's uniform out of his closet. The name tag on the front says "Achilles".

ODYSSEUS

I believe this is your size.

PATROCLUS  
(scoffing)

No one will believe that I am he.

Calchas reaches out and touches Patroclus' forehead with his trident. Patroclus staggers backward, his hands to his face.

Odysseus holds up his shaving mirror.

ODYSSEUS

Look.

Patroclus stares into the mirror.

Achilles' face stares back.

**96. INT. AGAMEMNON'S TENT - DAY**

Agamemnon sits drinking in full battle gear, watching as Briseis cleans his tent. She will not look at him.

AGAMEMNON

Come to me.

She comes over and stands before him.

AGAMEMNON

Strip off.

She drops her frock and stands before him naked, but she keeps her head down.

AGAMEMNON

Look at me, damn it.

BRISEIS

You may do what you like to me, but  
I don't have to see you do it.

Agamemnon pulls a small box from under his chair.

AGAMEMNON

(trying to look  
solicitous)

Come now, don't be like that. Look,  
I have something for you.

He opens the box and pulls out a gold necklace. It bears the sign of Zeus' thunderbolt.

AGAMEMNON

Isn't it nice? I have other treasures if you don't like this one.

BRISEIS

Where did you get it?

AGAMEMNON

I bought it. At Troy, as a matter of fact. In happier days, when there was peace between our two nations. Here, put it on.

BRISEIS

You're a liar. Three days ago it was about the neck of a wounded soldier. I helped carry him here myself. Shall I ask your Sergeant Erpo where he is now?

Agamemnon puts his head down, then looks up at her angrily.

AGAMEMNON

(shouting)

Do you know how hard it is to be me? To be responsible for all these men, to lead them into battle and hope they don't get killed, or at least die a worthy death?

Briseis pulls her frock back up and starts cleaning again.

AGAMEMNON

When I was young, war was a gentleman's game. People like us gave the orders, and the rest obeyed. Now it seems any greengrocer or miner's son can become an officer. It's just not right. Isn't that right?

She ignores him. He grabs her wrist.

AGAMEMNON

I said, "Isn't that right?"

BRISEIS

Whatever you say.

AGAMEMNON

(releasing her)

Bah! Pour me a drink.

BRISEIS

Yes. Master.

She picks up the bottle and pours him a drink.

AGAMEMNON

And one for yourself. Let's drink...  
to Achilles, the man who brought you  
to me.

She pours herself a drink, then looks him in the eye.

BRISEIS

To Achilles. To a true man.

She throws the wine in his face. Agamemnon pulls out his  
revolver and jams it in her belly.

BRISEIS

Do it.

AGAMEMNON

I swear I will.

BRISEIS

Go ahead then. It would be better  
than living with you.

Agamemnon CRIES OUT IN ANGUISH...

**97. INT. OLYMPIC HOTEL AND SPA GAMES ROOM - DAY**

Zeus and Poseidon are watching the screen, which shows the  
highlights of the recent conflict between Achaea and Troy,  
from fumes to flood. The Gods have large goblets of mead  
before them, and have obviously had a few already.

Zeus turns off the screen.

ZEUS

Well, that was exciting. Something  
new after 10 years.

POSEIDON

True. It was fun, wasn't it? But we  
dare not do it again.

ZEUS

Right. The rules.

They both take another drink.



ZEUS

I miss the old days. Before all this technology nonsense.

POSEIDON

Guns, aeroplanes, cars, radios... you're right. They can kill a man nowadays without even seeing the colour of his eyes. As your guy said, where's the glory in that?

ZEUS

Man to man, wood to bronze, sword to spear. 3000 years ago, now that was real war.

POSEIDON

Hmm. You know, it occurs to me...

ZEUS

I had the same thought. But... the rules?

POSEIDON

I think we are good, as long as it applies equally to both sides. Brother?

He reaches out his hands, and Zeus takes them. They close their eyes...

**98. INT. AGAMEMNON'S TENT - DAY**

Agamemnon pulls the trigger. There is only a CLICK. Agamemnon and Briseis look down, astonished. He pulls the trigger again, and again. Same result.

Briseis laughs.

BRISEIS

Can't even do that right.

He stares at her. She stares back defiantly. There is a knock at the tent door.

ODYSSEUS

(O.S.)

Sir. It's time.

She stands and bows ironically. He hurries outside.

**99. EXT. AGAMEMNON'S TENT - DUSK**

Hermes waits in the driver's seat of a staff car. Achilles (though it is in fact Patroclus with Achilles' face) is in the back seat. Odysseus stands at the tent door.

Agamemnon comes out and looks at Achilles/Patroclus.

AGAMEMNON

I see someone has realized where his  
true duty lies.

**100. EXT. TROJAN TRENCHES - EVENING**

The Achaean soldiers are assembled, armed, and thirsty for blood and revenge. The platform before them holds a podium, with Ajax, Menelaus and other dignitaries in the rear. Torches burn behind them.

The crowds parts as Hermes drives up to the platform. In the passenger seat is Agamemnon, in the back Odysseus and apparently Achilles (actually Patroclus).

The car stops. The three get out and walk up onto the platform. The soldiers APPLAUD.

Agamemnon takes the podium.

AGAMEMNON

Men! We are gathered here today to  
celebrate a great and glorious  
battle, whose fame will echo forever  
through the ages, the day I, nay, we  
all, showed those Trojan scum what  
real soldiers can do...

CHEERS.

ODYSSEUS

(quietly to Agamemnon)

They're not cheering for you. Get on  
to the main attraction.

Agamemnon glares at him.

AGAMEMNON

...so without further ado, the man  
who will lead Achaea to final  
victory. My soldiers, Achilles!

The soldiers break into loud CHEERING AND APPLAUSE.  
Patroclus/Achilles smiles shyly and waves to the crowd.

ODYSSEUS  
 (quietly)  
 Say something.

PATROCLUS/ACHILLES  
 Like what?

ODYSSEUS  
 It doesn't matter. Something  
 inspiring.

Patroclus ponders this for a moment, then steps up to the podium. He says nothing, just looks around at the crowd. The noise slowly dies down, until there is total silence. Then...

PATROCLUS/ACHILLES  
 Let's get them!

The crowd goes wild. Someone starts CHANTING and they all join in.

CROWD  
 Achilles! Achilles! Achilles...

Patroclus grins and looks back at Odysseus, who nods approvingly.

ODYSSEUS  
 You're a natural.

Patroclus/Achilles holds up his hand. The crowd falls silent again.

PATROCLUS/ACHILLES  
 Men. We were severely weakened by that last bout, but so were they. To finally take that fortress will require both guile and...

SOLDIER 1 jumps up, raises his gun and aims right at Patroclus/Achilles. Several soldiers pull out their guns and aim at him. All pull their triggers at the same time. There are a lot of CLICKS, but nobody's gun fires. They stand, shocked.

SOLDIER 1  
 (dropping his gun and  
 raising his hands)  
 For Pan's sake, I was just testing him. They say he can't be killed. I had to know.

Odysseus pulls his pistol from its holster and tries to shoot into the ground. Just a CLICK.

ODYSSEUS  
Interesting. The Gods are playing  
with us again.

He looks up at Ilium Ridge.

ODYSSEUS  
I wonder if they are affected too.

**101. INT. TROJAN WAR ROOM - NIGHT**

A MESSENGER is addressing Priam, Hector and the Trojan generals.

MESSENGER  
Apparently so, sir. Our rifles,  
grenades, cannons, all useless.

Priam points out the window at the Achaean camp.

PRIAM  
What about them?

MESSENGER  
Hard to say, but I believe so, sir.  
There have been no signs of gunfire  
on that side since it happened here.

HECTOR  
Excellent!

PRIAM  
You are joking. It is a disaster.  
Our defences are gone.

HECTOR  
We have these stone walls. And most  
of all, we have ourselves. Finally  
we can know who the real men are!

He hurries out of the room, SHOUTING.

HECTOR  
Soldiers of Troy! To arms! Sharpen  
your knives and mount your bayonets!  
At last, a proper battle!

**102. INT. AGAMEMNON'S TENT - NIGHT**

Agamemnon is snoring in bed. Briseis is lying by his side, eyes wide open.

There is a sudden SOUND. Briseis looks down, to see Aphrodite at the foot of the bed. Aphrodite puts her finger to her lips and beckons. Briseis stands. Aphrodite puts her cloak around Briseis and leads her through the wall of the tent.

**103. EXT. ACHAEAN CAMP - NIGHT**

Aphrodite leads Briseis through the camp.

Erpo is lounging by a tent. His eyes go wide as they pass. He follows them silently.

Briseis sees Achilles' tent ahead. She stops.

BRISEIS

Not there.

APHRODITE

It's the tent of your love.

BRISEIS

That's why. He knows I am dishonoured. I'm not worthy of him.

APHRODITE

Pah! He doesn't care.

BRISEIS

Of course he does.

APHRODITE

You know, I have never understood your silly human morals. Love is love.

She gives Briseis a gentle push, sending her flying through the wall of Achilles' tent.

**104. INT. ACHILLES' TENT - NIGHT**

Achilles is sitting on his bed, looking at his "special" boots. Suddenly Briseis tumbles through the wall. She stops herself and catches her balance.

ACHILLES

Briseis!

He puts down the boots and rushes to her. She draws back.

BRISEIS

You can't want me. I'm nothing but a  
...

Achilles seizes her and silences her with a kiss. After a second, she responds.

They kiss passionately, then draw apart and gaze into each other's eyes.

ACHILLES

My darling. How long have I dreamed  
of this day.

BRISEIS

But... Agamemnon...

ACHILLES

Were he not my sworn lord, he would  
be long dead. But now he has set you  
free...

BRISEIS

He has not. It was the Lady of Love  
brought me here, I know not for how  
long.

ACHILLES

So you must return to him soon.

BRISEIS

So we must use our time together  
wisely.

She give him a wicked smile, and pulls him to the bed, but she sits on the boots instead. She pulls them out from under her.

ACHILLES

(sharply)

Don't touch those!

She examines them, and notices the odd protection on the heel.

BRISEIS

What is that?

ACHILLES  
(snatching the boot  
away)

Nothing.

BRISEIS  
Barely reunited, and already we have  
secrets? This does not bode well for  
our future together.

ACHILLES  
(after a pause)  
It's... my salvation.

BRISEIS  
But you're the man no one can kill.

ACHILLES  
So my mother thought. I was only a  
babe when she dipped me naked in the  
holy river, thinking to make me like  
the Gods. But of course nobody can  
be like the Gods. She held me by the  
heel, you see.

He indicates the heel of the boot.

ACHILLES  
Right there. So it was untouched by  
the waters.

BRISEIS  
And you need that to protect the  
last part of you that's mortal.

ACHILLES  
It doesn't matter. I'm not fighting  
for him anyway.

Aphrodite sticks her head through the tent wall.

APHRODITE  
He's stirring. Time to go.

Briseis takes Achilles' head in her hands and kisses him  
hard. Then she jumps up and takes Aphrodite's hand.

BRISEIS  
(to Achilles)  
Soon, my love.

Briseis and Aphrodite are gone.

**105. EXT. TROJAN TRENCHES - DAWN**

Priam stands before the assembled Trojan forces. They are armed with rifles with bayonets mounted, daggers, kitchen knives and whatever else they can find that is sharp. Many carry makeshift shields. Hector is at their head. He carries no rifle, just a long bayonet in each hand.

PRIAM

I know this is not what you have trained for. This battle will be unlike any you have ever known. You have all had training in using your bayonets...

**106. EXT. ACHAEAN TRENCHES - DAWN**

Agamemnon addresses the very similar Achaean troops. Achilles/Patroclus stands by. He has a long rifle with a bayonet at the end in one hand, and a metal shield in the other.

AGAMEMNON

... but since you arrived here, you never really thought you would use them. You thought you'd be far from your foes, shooting at some abstract shape in a trench far away...

**107. EXT. TROJAN TRENCHES - DAWN**

PRIAM

... or some faceless figure running at you in your trench. Today you will see your foe, not far away...

**108. EXT. ACHAEAN TRENCHES - DAWN**

AGAMEMNON

... but face to face. You will have to kill the man who is standing in front of you. He may look like you...

**109. EXT. TROJAN TRENCHES - DAWN**

PRIAM

...or like someone you know, but you must still kill him, for your kaiser...



**110. EXT. ACHAEAN TRENCHES - DAWN**

AGAMEMNON  
...for your king...

**111. EXT. TROJAN TRENCHES - DAWN**

PRIAM  
...and for your country.

**112. EXT. ACHAEAN TRENCHES - DAWN**

AGAMEMNON  
And always remember. Our cause is  
just...

**113. EXT. TROJAN TRENCHES - DAWN**

PRIAM  
...and the Gods are with us!

He stops. CHEERS, considerably less enthusiastic than before.

Hector steps up.

HECTOR  
All right men. This is it! Go!

He leaps over the trench wall. The Trojans follow, running for the Achaean trenches.

HECTOR  
Yeah!

TROJANS  
Yeah!

**114. EXT. ACHAEAN TRENCHES - DAWN**

Achilles/Patroclus sees the Trojans coming. He steps up to the front of the troops.

ACHILLES/PATROCLUS  
It's time. Go!

The Achaeans swarm over the top of their trenches and start running towards the advancing Trojans.

**115. EXT. NO MAN'S LAND - DAY**

Achaeans and Trojans clash in savage battle with bayonets and knives. They hack and slash at each other, to gruesome effect.

Both Hector and Achilles/Patroclus fight bravely, wounding and killing several of the opposing side.

From a distance, Hector notices Achilles/Patroclus.

HECTOR  
There's the one I want.

TROJAN SOLDIER  
That's Achilles. You can't kill him.

HECTOR  
I'll be the judge of that.

He storms towards Achilles/Patroclus, killing several Achaeans on the way.

HECTOR  
Achilles! I'm coming for you!

Achilles/Patroclus looks up and sees him coming. He desperately puts up his shield, but with a mighty slash, Hector cleaves it in two.

ACHILLES/PATROCLUS  
Wait! I'm not...

HECTOR  
Invincible? I know.

He swings his bayonets simultaneously, severing Achilles/Patroclus' head, which flies upwards in a shower of blood.

The battle stops, as both Trojans and Achaeans stare at the unthinkable sight of Achilles' headless body slumping to the ground.

Hector catches the head as it comes down. He takes it by the hair and flings it high in the air towards the Achaean camp.

**116. EXT. MID-AIR - DAY**

The bloody head flies towards the Achaean tents. In mid-air, its likeness changes from Achilles to Patroclus.

**117. INT. ACHILLES' TENT - DAY**

Achilles is sleeping in his tent. A THUD from outside awakens him. He stands and opens the flap.

**118. EXT. NO MAN'S LAND - DAY**

Hector draws himself up triumphantly.

HECTOR

Arrrrgggh!

The Trojans charge the Achaeans, who flee in terror.

**119. EXT. ACHILLES' TENT - DAY**

Achilles looks down in horror at Patroclus' head in the dust outside the tent, then up at the battle in no man's land.

He picks up the head. There is a car nearby. He jumps in and starts the motor.

**120. EXT. NO MAN'S LAND - DAY**

Achilles drives grimly towards the battle. He meets the Achaean soldiers running from the Trojans. They stop short and stare at the sight of him.

SOLDIER 1

You're... dead. I saw you die.

ACHILLES

(holding up Patroclus'  
head)

Who did this?

SOLDIER 2

I don't know. Who was it?

Achilles looks at the head, thinks a moment, then has an idea what has happened.

ACHILLES

Pat, you idiot.

(to Soldier 1)

Who killed me?

SOLDIER 1

Hector, who else?

Achilles sets off for the battlefield. The newly-inspired Achaeans turn to face their Trojan pursuers, and the battle resumes with renewed ferocity. When their weapons fail or are lost, the combatants resort to fighting with nails and teeth.

Achilles sees Hector doing battle in the distance. He stops his car and jumps out. As he runs towards Hector, he kills every Trojan in his path savagely with his bare hands.

ACHILLES

Hector! Face me!

Hector looks up. His eyes go wide and he turns pale. Then he laughs bitterly.

HECTOR.

So he's back from the grave. I guess that means today's my doomsday too. I'll not go down easy, though.

He leaps at Achilles.

HECTOR

Take that, dead man!

He gives Achilles a mighty slash with his bayonets, but they have no effect on the invulnerable warrior. Achilles reaches out and seizes Hector by the throat, picks him up and shakes him like a dog. Hector's face turns purple as he struggles for breath.

Achilles looks around wildly. He sees his car idling nearby. He pulls Hector over to it, grabs a rope out of the back, and ties Hector's feet to the back bumper. Then he jumps in the driver's seat and takes off. Hector's feet are pulled from under him. He tumbles into the bloody mud and is dragged behind the car.

HECTOR

Untie me, you swine! This is no death for...

There is a CRACK as his head hits a half-buried helmet, killing him.

**121. EXT. ILIUM RIDGE BALCONY - DAY**

Priam has been watching the battle through binoculars. On Hector's death, he drops the binoculars and staggers backwards. An aide hurries up and guides him to a chair, where he sits, speechless with grief.

**122. EXT. NO MAN'S LAND - DAY**

Achilles drags Hector's body back and forth across the battlefield, blindly mowing down anyone from any side who dares stand in his path. His face is a grimace of hatred.

**123. INT. OLYMPIA HOTEL AND SPA GAMING ROOM - DAY**

Zeus and Poseidon watch Achilles driving on their screen.

POSEIDON

You've lost your hero, and mine yet lives. I suggest you give up now.

ZEUS

He lives? Look at him. He is insane. He only ever fought for his friend anyway. Even if he recovers, he will be of no use to anyone.

The door opens. In walk three women: CLOTHO, a young girl; LACHESIS, a mature wife, and ATROPOS, an ancient crone. They are the FATES, to whom even the Gods must submit. Zeus, Poseidon and Hades jump to their feet and bow as they pass. As one, they turn.

FATES

(all together)

How goes the game?

ZEUS

(inching in front of the screen to hide it)

Fine.

CLOTHO

We hear no guns.

LACHESIS

It is the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

ATROPOS

We should hear guns.

POSEIDON

Well, about that, we agreed...

ATROPOS

It is the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

LACHESIS

Your agreement cannot change that.

CLOTHO  
Bring back the guns.

FATES  
(all together)  
Now.

They leave. Zeus looks at Poseidon.

ZEUS  
You heard the ladies.

They join hands...

**124. EXT. NO MAN'S LAND - DAY**

Trojans and Achaeans are still fighting hand-to-hand.

All of a sudden from both sides, Ilium Ridge and the Achaean camp, the big guns FIRE a salvo over their heads.

Everyone stops fighting and looks around in confusion, then at the suddenly-functional guns in their hands.

A TROJAN SOLDIER raises his rifle and shoots into the air. BANG! An ACHAEAN SOLDIER does the same. BANG! Yes, the guns work.

Suddenly everyone is frozen, with his weapon - rifle, revolver, bayonet, dagger - pointed at whoever he was fighting, or whoever is closest on the opposing side. Things are tense.

ACHAEAN SOLDIER 1  
(rifle pointed at  
TROJAN SOLDIER 1)  
Now what?

TROJAN SOLDIER 1  
(revolver pointed at  
ACHAEAN SOLDIER 1)  
Our commanding officers didn't  
mention this situation. They're  
supposed to tell us what to do next.

ACHAEAN SOLDIER 1  
They're all dead. Well, except for  
him...

He jerks his thumb at Achilles, still driving around no man's land like a maniac, dragging Hector's corpse behind him.

ACHAEAN SOLDIER 1  
 ...and I ain't asking him.

TROJAN SOLDIER 1 lowers his revolver.

TROJAN SOLDIER 1  
 Then we should return to base and  
 await further instructions.

ACHAEAN SOLDIER 1 lowers his rifle.

ACHAEAN SOLDIER 1  
 Good idea.

They turn away from each other and start marching back towards their respective camps. The other soldiers lower their weapons and follow suit.

**125. EXT. ACHAEAN TRENCHES - DAY**

Agamemnon watches in disbelief as his soldiers return to the trenches. He accosts the first ones coming into the camp.

AGAMEMNON  
 What are you doing? Get back out there! Kill the bastards! Look, they're an easy target. Shoot them in the back!

The soldiers stream past, ignoring him.

AGAMEMNON  
 This is mutiny! I'll have you all shot!

ODYSSEUS  
 (O.S., amused)  
 By whom?

Agamemnon turns furiously to see Odysseus behind him. Odysseus holds up his hand.

ODYSSEUS  
 This has been an unusual day. Let them go back to murdering each other tomorrow.

**126. EXT. TROJAN TRENCHES - DAY**

Priam stands at the front line, looking out over no-man's land. He does not bark orders. He does not even see the returning soldiers all around him, only the car in the distance, driven by a madman and dragging his son through the muck.

As the soldiers pass him, he starts walking in the opposite direction, out into no-man's land.

**127. EXT. NO MAN'S LAND - DAY**

Priam trudges through the deserted wasteland.

Suddenly Achilles' car is directly ahead, heading straight for him. He keeps walking.

The car screeches to a stop in front of Priam, with inches to spare.

ACHILLES

What do you want, old man?

PRIAM

I have come for my son.

ACHILLES

Do you know what he did?

PRIAM

Killed someone, I suppose. It's what he did best.

ACHILLES

He killed the most important man in my life.

PRIAM

And you have killed the most important man in mine. Are we even yet? Or shall we go on killing until everyone is dead?

They stare at each other.

Achilles jumps out of the car and walks around to the back with Priam.

Hector's body is unrecognizable, ripped to pieces and covered in mud and blood. Priam is overcome at the sight.



Achilles unties Hector's ankles and takes a canvas from the car, wraps what's left of the body and stows it carefully in the back. He guides the grieving Priam to sit with it, then drives slowly back towards the Trojan trenches.

**128. EXT. ACHAEAN TRENCHES - DAY**

Agamemnon is looking out over no-man's land. He sees Achilles' car returning from Trojan territory. As it comes close, he waves.

AGAMEMNON

Captain!

Achilles stops the car.

ACHILLES

I have nothing to say to you.

AGAMEMNON

You will want to hear this.

He turns and walks back to the camp. Curious, Achilles jumps down from the car and walks after him.

**129. EXT. ACHAEAN CAMP - DAY**

Agamemnon goes into a darkened tent. Achilles follows.

**130. INT. PRISON TENT - DAY**

The tent is pitch black, except for a sliver of light when Achilles enters. There is a sudden THUMP.

ACHILLES

What the...?

The lights go on. Achilles has fallen into a deep pit in the middle of the floor. Agamemnon gazes down at him, while Erpo slides a heavy metal grill over the top. Padre Calchas steps forward and applies the seal of the trident to the grill.

CALCHAS

That should hold even him.

He leaves.

AGAMEMNON

(reading from a  
document)

"Captain Achilles, I arrest you..."

ACHILLES

What?

AGAMEMNON

"...for treason against Achaea and all her allies..."

ACHILLES

This is outrageous!

AGAMEMNON

"...in that you did, on this and previous days, knowingly and with malice aforethought, neglect your duty to your sworn monarch, refuse multiple direct orders from your commander, and put your own personal feud ahead of the well-being of the men under your command."

ERPO

Don't forget openly consorting with the commander of the other side.

AGAMEMNON

Right. Well captain, what have you to say for yourself. Do you deny these charges?

Unfortunately, it's all true. Achilles is silent.

AGAMEMNON

I thought not. You can stay there until we figure out what to do with you. I would suggest the punishment of Prometheus myself, but the other judges may have different ideas. Good day, sir.

He and Erpo leave. Achilles jumps up and tries to knock away the grill, but the seal gives him a nasty shock and he falls back to the floor of the pit, CURSING.

### **131. INT. AGAMEMNON'S TENT - DAY**

Briseis sits on the bed, polishing Agamemnon's boots. She hums a happy tune.

The tent door opens. Briseis quickly puts on a morose expression and does not look up as Agamemnon enters.

AGAMEMNON

(looking at her slyly)

Well, that's one less thing to worry about. He's gone, for now at least.

Briseis keeps polishing.

AGAMEMNON

After he lost his aide like that, I was glad to grant him two weeks leave.

Briseis is suddenly interested, but does not speak.

AGAMEMNON

I suggested a beach resort, but he didn't seem too enthusiastic. Anyway, I hope they're happy, wherever they go.

Briseis' head snaps up.

BRISEIS

They?

AGAMEMNON

Captain Achilles and his wife, of course.

Briseis is speechless.

AGAMEMNON

I forget her name. Pretty little thing, by all accounts. Loves her to death. And his daughter too, of course.

BRISEIS

That's not true.

AGAMEMNON

Of course it... oh, you didn't really think... that's a good one!

He laughs.

BRISEIS

But... he said... he asked...

AGAMEMNON

Pressures of war, my dear. When the wife's far away, a man's got to take his pleasure where he can, and say what he must to get it. Believe it or not, I've got a wife myself, back in Mycenae. It's never stopped me.

BRISEIS

That bastard. That Gods damned bastard.

AGAMEMNON

Hmm. Still, I suppose that's what makes him such a good soldier. Of course, the fact that he can't be killed helps too.

BRISEIS

(after a pause)

That's... not exactly true.

AGAMEMNON

Is it not?

(leaning forward)

Tell me more.

Briseis takes a deep breath...

**132. INT. PRISON TENT - DAY**

Achilles paces the floor of his pit.

The flap opens and Agamemnon enters.

AGAMEMNON

I trust you are comfortable down there.

ACHILLES

Come down here and find out.

AGAMEMNON

Such anger. Well, Captain Wrathful, I have something that may calm you down. It's no secret that we have our differences, and your treachery is the last straw. But...

Agamemnon pulls a sealed envelope from his jacket.

AGAMEMNON  
 ...if you will just take this to  
 your friend Priam...

ACHILLES  
 What is it?

AGAMEMNON  
 I don't know myself. Somebody wants  
 to negotiate something. Anyway,  
 they're shooting again, so only you  
 can get it across no man's land.  
 When you return, you and your  
 girlfriend are free to go. Wherever  
 you like.

ACHILLES  
 And all I have to do is believe you.

AGAMEMNON  
 Nothing to lose. Everything to gain.  
 Sounds good to me.

Achilles ponders, but can find no fault with the offer.

ACHILLES  
 If you betray me this time, nothing  
 can save you.

AGAMEMNON  
 Tomorrow at dawn.

**133. INT. ACHILLES' TENT - DAWN**

Achilles enters his tent and runs to his bed. He hurriedly  
 retrieves his special boots and pulls them on, not noticing  
 that they are lacking their protective covering. He runs  
 out again.

**134. EXT. ACHAEAN TRENCHES - DAWN**

Agamemnon leads Briseis through the trenches to an open  
 area. Erpo stands beside a table with two chairs, facing  
 no-man's land. On the table are a bottle of wine and two  
 glasses.

ERPO  
 Sir. Miss. Please, have a seat.

They both sit down. Erpo fills both their glasses.

Briseis looks at Agamemnon quizzically.

AGAMEMNON

I thought we'd have a little picnic.  
To celebrate.

BRISEIS

Celebrate what?

AGAMEMNON

(pointing out into no-  
man's land)

That.

She looks, and sees Achilles trudging across the mud  
towards Ilium Ridge. Her eyes open wide.

BRISEIS

You said he was on leave. With his  
wife.

AGAMEMNON

Ah. Well. I may have misspoken a  
little there. All's fair in love and  
war, eh?

She stares at him.

AGAMEMNON

Oh, and I have another present for  
you.

He pulls the protective covering from Achilles' boot out of  
his pocket, and flings it onto the table in front of her.  
She looks down at it in horror.

AGAMEMNON

Sergeant Erpo, will you do the  
honours?

ERPO

With pleasure, sir.

He raises his rifle.

BRISEIS

No!

She springs at Erpo, but he knocks her to the ground with  
his rifle butt and takes aim at Achilles.

**135. EXT. NO MAN'S LAND - DAWN**

Achilles marches grimly across the desolate waste. Bullets from the Trojan camp whistle by him, hit him in head and chest, but he is unharmed.

Suddenly he CRIES OUT IN PAIN and falls headlong into the mud. He looks down. Blood is spurting from his shattered foot.

**136. EXT. ACHAEAN TRENCHES - DAWN**

Briseis looks at Agamemnon in hatred, then at Achilles.

BRISEIS

They will not shoot a woman.

She runs out into no man's land towards Achilles.

**137. EXT. NO MAN'S LAND - DAWN**

Briseis stumbles through the mud. She reaches Achilles. He lies groaning, blood still spurting from his heel.

ACHILLES

(smiling weakly)

What goddess is this, come to carry me away?

BRISEIS

It's only me. Lie still, my love.

She props him up on his backpack, then rips off her skirt and desperately tries to bind the wound. But the blood keeps squirting out, harder than ever.

BRISEIS

Damn it, it won't stop.

Achilles pulls the envelope from his shirt.

ACHILLES

Leave me then. I'm dead anyway. Just deliver this to Priam, and at least you will be free.

She grabs the envelope, rips it open and pulls out the paper inside. It is blank.

BRISEIS

This is all my doing. I have killed you.

ACHILLES  
 (looking back at  
 Agamemnon and Erpo)  
 No. They have killed me. We were  
 simply deceived.

Briseis sits down in the mud beside him, pulls him close.

BRISEIS  
 Come here.

He does. They kiss. Suddenly he goes limp in her arms. She  
 pulls back. He is dead.

**138. EXT. ACHAEAN TRENCHES - DAWN**

Agamemnon points out at the loving couple.

AGAMEMNON  
 Time to finish this.

ERPO  
 But sir, you promised.

AGAMEMNON  
 You don't want her. More trouble  
 than she's worth, that one.

ERPO  
 Yes sir.

He raises his rifle, aims and SHOOTs. The distant Briseis  
 slumps into the mud beside her beloved Achilles.

AGAMEMNON  
 Well, that's that. No one will ever  
 see them again out there. Drink?

ERPO  
 Don't mind if I do, sir.

Erpo sits down in Briseis' chair and picks up her glass.  
 Agamemnon raises his own.

AGAMEMNON  
 War.

ERPO  
 May it last forever.

They CLINK GLASSES and drink.



**139. EXT. NO-MAN'S LAND - DAWN**

The two bodies lie side by side. Already they are sinking into the all-consuming mud.

A feminine set of feet comes into view. It is Aphrodite, looking down at them sadly. She extends her hands. The spirit hands of the two lovers come out of the bodies.

She takes them, pulls them up and out of their bodies, and flies them away into the Light.

**140. INT. OLYMPIA HOTEL AND SPA GAMES ROOM - DAY**

Zeus and Poseidon watch the screen showing Achilles and Briseis' last moments.

ZEUS

That was unexpected. He killed his own champion. They are back to their stalemate.

POSEIDON

True. Damn it, will this never end?

ZEUS

You could just give up.

Poseidon thinks for a moment. Suddenly he brightens up, but manages to hide it from Zeus. He sighs.

POSEIDON

I think you're right. There are other fronts, other wars... Very well, I'll clear them out.

ZEUS

(suspiciously)  
Really? No tricks?

POSEIDON

By this time tomorrow, there will be no Achaeans at Ilium. I give you my word.

ZEUS

Whatever that's worth.

POSEIDON

(clutching his chest in  
mock anguish)  
Brother, you hurt my heart.

Zeus laughs and leaves.

Poseidon rushes over to the screen and gestures. On the screen, Odysseus is in his tent, sleeping.

POSEIDON

Odysseus, I have a dream for you.

**141. EXT. ILIUM RIDGE BALCONY - DAY**

Priam and General Aeneas are looking over to the Achaean camp.

AENEAS

It's a mystery, sir. By this time they should have their cannons going full blaze, but there is nothing from their side at all.

PRIAM

It is as before, but you say ours work perfectly well. There is something uncanny here.

A SOLDIER enters.

SOLDIER

Sir. Our scouts have made it across no-man's land and back, with no resistance at all. Their camp is deserted. It's like they vanished into thin air.

Paris comes out onto the balcony, bleary-eyed.

PARIS

I don't hear the big guns. Are they not working again?

SOLDIER

Your orders, sir?

PRIAM

Stand back until we know...

PARIS

(interrupting)

Get down into that camp and bring anything that's worth anything back here.

Soldier looks back and forth between Priam and Paris.

PRIAM  
 (wearily)  
 Do as he says. I am tired of  
 fighting.

Soldier bows and leaves.

**142. EXT. ACHAEAN CAMP - DAY**

The camp is empty of Achaean soldiers. Trojan soldiers check the Achaean tents for discarded treasure.

One SOLDIER opens the flap of a large storage tent.

SOLDIER  
 Hello my baby!

He beckons over his mates.

SOLDIER  
 We've hit the jackpot!

**143. INT. STORAGE TENT - DAY**

Soldiers enter the tent. Boxes of explosives and ammunition are piled up to the ceiling.

**144. EXT. ACHAEAN CAMP - DAY**

Trojan soldiers remove boxes from the storage tent and load them onto trucks, which they drive up to the Ridge.

**145. INT. ILIUM RIDGE AMMUNITION STORAGE ROOM - DAY**

The storage room is in the oldest part of the castle. Soldiers carry the Achaean ammunition boxes in and pile them high.

The soldiers leave the room. A faint TICKING SOUND is heard.

**146. INT. ILIUM RIDGE WAR ROOM - DAY**

Priam, Paris and Aeneas are gathered around the map table. Hermes is in the shadows, beside a new gramophone.

PARIS  
 What a day! Even if they do come  
 back, we've got everything they left  
 behind. They won't have a chance.

PRIAM  
 I still don't believe it...

His eyes go wide as he realizes what is actually happening.

PRIAM  
(in a panic)  
Paris...!

Helen stumbles in, hung over.

PARIS  
Wait a minute, Daddy. Helen dearest!

He rushes over to her.

HELEN  
Is it true? What everyone's saying?  
It's really over?

PARIS  
Yes, my darling. They're all gone.  
Even your husband. We've won!

HELEN  
Damn it. Who's got a drink?

Paris pulls a hip flask from his pocket and passes it to her. She drinks deeply and passes it back.

PARIS  
(pompously, holding up  
the flask)  
It's time for a new order, a time of  
peace, love and music, (cough) when  
the only watchword is...

PARIS & HELEN  
...fun!

They laugh. Paris takes a drink and looks at Priam.

PARIS  
You were going to say?

PRIAM  
Paris! We've got to...!

Priam pauses and looks around. He suddenly goes very calm.

PRIAM  
No, you're right. It is a new era.  
Time for these old bones to step  
down. Let the younger generation  
take over, say I. My son, I quit.  
All this is yours!

PARIS

(To Helen)

Did you hear that? You're a queen  
again!

HELEN

I'll dance to that. Maestro!

Hermes drops the needle on the gramophone. A JAZZY HIT of  
the day starts playing scratchily.

Helen grabs Paris and they start waltzing drunkenly around  
the war room floor.

PRIAM

General Aeneas, let's take a walk.

AENEAS

Gladly, sir. The fresh air will do  
us both good.

They leave the lovers to their dance.

**147. INT. ILIUM RIDGE AMMUNITION STORAGE ROOM - DAY**

The room is piled high with Trojan and Achaean ammunition  
boxes.

CAMERA ZOOMS IN on one Achaean box of explosives. The  
TICKING SOUND gets louder.

**148. INT. ACHAEAN AMMUNITION BOX - DAY**

Inside the box, an alarm clock attached to the explosives  
TICKS DOWN THE SECONDS to 12:00.

**149. EXT. BEHIND ILIUM RIDGE - DAY**

The ancient doors open and the drawbridge creaks down.  
Priam and Aeneas walk across it into the green fields  
behind the castle.

**150. EXT. ACHAEAN BATTLESHIP - DAY**

Odysseus' wrist is seen, bearing a chronometer which shows  
the same time as the alarm clock.

From an Achaean battleship, Odysseus, Agamemnon and the  
other Achaean generals watch the castle in the distance as  
the watch hand reaches 2 seconds to 12:00.

ODYSSEUS

It's time.

**151. INT. ACHAEAN AMMUNITION BOX - DAY**

The alarm clock reaches 12:00. It CHIMES...

**152. EXT. ILIUM RIDGE - DAY**

...and a vast series of explosions engulfs Ilium Ridge, destroying the ancient castle and everyone within it completely.

From the smoke and fire, Hermes emerges, going straight up to the skies.

HERMES

Yeah!

**153. EXT. ACHAEAN BATTLESHIP - DAY**

ODYSSEUS

Let's go home.

**154. EXT. FIELDS BEHIND ILIUM RIDGE - DAY**

The green field behind the ruined castle has been blasted black by the explosion. Two figures lie in the new wasteland.

One figure rises slowly. It is Aeneas. He staggers over to Priam, but he is dead. Aeneas stumbles away.

**155. EXT. OLYMPIA HOTEL AND SPA GAMING ROOM - DAY**

The three Gods are gathered about the screen, viewing the latest developments.

Zeus looks up.

ZEUS

Well, brother, an evil trick, but you beat me fair and square.

POSEIDON

Note, all within the rules.

ZEUS

True. Well played. Plus it gives me more time to deal with our other brother.

HADES

Ha. You have been neglecting your eastern front. Already my invincible Assyrian army is poised to destroy yours.

ZEUS

Hmm. Well, you could be right. I didn't do too well here. I have to go out now, but give me a day and I promise you my full attention.

HADES

(suspiciously)

Where are you going?

ZEUS

I just need to make sure somebody catches a train. Until tomorrow.

He bows and leaves. Poseidon and Hades turn their attention back to the burning remains of Ilium Ridge.

**156. EXT. ABOVE ILIUM RIDGE - DAY**

The camera is pointed directly down on the smoking ruin of Ilium Ridge. It pans up gradually to reveal that this was only a small event in the war. A seemingly endless line of guns, explosions, military charges, mud, hell stretches to the horizon on either side.

**157. ONSCREEN**

Old-style photos of the surviving participants appear:

NARRATOR

Agamemnon: Returned home in triumph. Unfortunately his wife had herself taken a lover and killed him on arrival.

Odysseus: His wife was faithful, but he got distracted en route and took 10 more years to get home.

Aeneas: Since Troy was destroyed, he left and founded the city of Rome. Died in battle.

And get ready for Part 2...

Photos of Zeus, Poseidon and Hades as Hitler, Churchill and Stalin.

NARRATOR  
The Age of Gangs!

THE END