

Divorce on Mount Olympus

by  
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LIGHTS UP:

The music of "Divorce Court" or "Judge Judy" or any one of those insipid courtroom dramas is heard.

Enter PENELOPE. She wears a Greek robe, has dark hair, bushy eyebrows and a slight, thin, woman moustache. An ANNOUNCER is heard.

ANNOUNCER

The plaintiff is a part time  
restaurant hostess, mother and  
Queen of Greece. Please welcome  
Queen Penelope Paranhopoudopolous.

Enter ODYSSEUS. He has jet black hair, a single, thick eyebrow and has a host of gold chains around his neck. He sports a thick moustache. He, too, wears the robe.

ANNOUNCER

The defendant is a soldier,  
wanderer, displaced King of Greece  
and owner of "The Acropolis All  
Night All You Can Eat Family Style  
Restaurant and Custard House."  
Please welcome Odysseus  
Paranhopoudopolous.

Enter JUDGE ATHENA. She has a Judge Judy air about her as she takes her chair above and between the Greek couple.

ANNOUNCER

Today these two will square off and  
plead their case to the one and  
only goddess who matters, the no  
nonsense mistress of Olympus,  
Judge Athena! Time now for Divorce  
Court!

Fake applause.

JUDGE ATHENA

All right, all right, let's settle  
it down people.

(She checks some notes.)

Okay, we've got Paranhopoudopolous  
versus Paranhopoudopolous? Are both  
parties present?

ODDYSEUS AND PENELOPE

We are your honor.

JUDGE ATHENA

Well, let's get this shin-dig  
underway. Mrs. Paranhopoudopolous,  
you can begin your case.

Penelope walks up next to the Judge's stand.

PENELOPE

(In a Greek accent.)  
Well your honor, I want to divorce  
my husband.

JUDGE ATHENA

Uh-huh.

PENELOPE

I want full custody of our son...

JUDGE ATHENA

Uh-Huh.

PENELOPE

Half of the castle...

JUDGE ATHENA

Uh-Huh.

PENELOPE

And half of the profits from the  
family restaurant, in perpetuity.

ODYSSEUS

(Also in a Greek accent.)  
You suck my blood! You suck my  
blood!

The Judge bangs her gavel.

JUDGE ATHENA

Hey, hey, hey, hey! Zip it up,  
Zorba, okay? You'll get your chance.

PENELOPE

Almost twenty years ago he tells me  
he *has* to go to Troy, you know, to  
fight some war or something...  
that's what he told me, anyway.

ODYSSEUS

It's true...

PENELOPE

But he doesn't come back! Twenty  
years he is gone.

(MORE)

PENELOPE (cont'd)

No calls, no messages, I have to make gyros at the restaurant by myself. He could be dead on the side of the road for all I know.

JUDGE ATHENA

Okay, so you're ticked off because he's gone for twenty years?

PENELOPE

(Confused.)

Yes?

JUDGE ATHENA

You're not concerned, you know, he's in the Greek Army and everything, he might be a little...

She give the "he might be gay" hand motion.

JUDGE ATHENA

Because I deal with a lot of Greek soldiers, sweetie. And the motto of their Army is "Never leave your buddy's behind." If you get my drift.

PENELOPE

For twenty years I can't date. I can't even look at another man. I work like a slave. Then, out of the blue, he crashes a party dressed like a stinking beggar, strings the royal bow, shoots an arrow through the axe heads, now all of a sudden I'm supposed to fall into his greasy arms and everything's okay.

ODYSSEUS

Your honor, can I say something?

JUDGE ATHENA

Keep it short, Onassis.

ODYSSEUS

First of all, I didn't like fighting this stupid war, you know. The Trojans fight dirty; they kick you in the back when you're not looking and grab your balls. It's no wonder they named condoms after these bastards. They're slick, they're tight and they don't feel anything.

(MORE)

ODYSSEUS (cont'd)  
 Finally we have to slide like turds  
 out of a wooden horse's ass just to  
 get the jump them.

JUDGE ATHENA  
 So why not get home right away,  
 sweetie?

ODYSSEUS  
 I got lost.

PENELOPE  
 Yeah, right...

ODYSSEUS  
 Your honor, can I call a witness?

JUDGE ATHENA  
 You got the floor, Anthony Quinn.

ODYSSEUS  
 I'd like to call Zeus, King of the  
 Gods.

ANNOUNCER  
 Zeus...Will Almighty Zeus please  
 take the stand.

ZEUS enters. He wears a robe, has a beard and long hair and  
 smokes a cigarette. He is more David Crosby than an all  
 powerful deity. He nods at Odysseus.

ZEUS  
 Ody, what's up?

Zeus goes to kiss Judge Athena on the cheek.

JUDGE ATHENA  
 Tuck it back in your robe, sweetie,  
 I'm working.

Zeus shrugs and sits in the witness chair next to the judge.

ODYSSEUS  
 Oh great and mighty Zeus...

ZEUS  
 (Humbly.)  
 Dude, please...

ODYSSEUS  
 Can you verify my whereabouts over  
 the past twenty years?

ZEUS

Oh, I was watching from up on high,  
and this dude was like, so totally  
lost, man. After the wooden horse  
thing, he and some of his cronies  
got a hold of some bad "magic  
lotus", and the next thing you know  
they're all washed up on a deserted  
island, Gilligan-style.

ODYSSEUS

Then what happened?

ZEUS

They had to, like, go on quests and  
fight many headed hydras and  
compete in the Phoenician games and  
get it on with the nymph of  
Calypso, right dude?!

Zeus laughs and tries to high five Odysseus, who begs off.

PENELOPE

Is it true you sent down giant  
eagles to tear out the throats of  
any man who tried to woo my  
affections?

ZEUS

Just trying to help out.

PENELOPE

And what about the muses?

ZEUS

The what?

PENELOPE

I heard from Hermes the Messenger  
that my husband was getting  
friendly with some Muses. I heard  
it went something like this...

There is a transition sound effect and music with a light  
change. Judge Athena, Penelope and Zeus become muses, wearing  
sunglasses and other glamorous accessories. They taunt  
Odysseus with chants of "Yoo-hoo!" And "Hey big fellah!" And  
"Lookin' fine, Greek Boy!" Odysseus strolls up to them.

ZEUS

(Seductively.)

Hello girls, how're you doing?

They giggle.

ZEUS

You want, maybe, to come back to my ship, huh? I have Celine Dion cd's and pictures of male genitals on my walls. Many pictures of penises and male genitalia. Come on, I smell like a man, I have hair like a man. Not like those Trojan faggots. We listen to Celine, eat some grape leaves, look at penis pictures... see what happens. What do you think?

The sound effects and lights change again. Zeus, the judge and Penelope all return to their places.

PENELOPE

Do you deny this happened?

Zeus shrugs at Odysseus.

ZEUS

(To Odysseus.)  
Sorry, dude.

ODYSSEUS

No more questions.

JUDGE ATHENA

(To Zeus.)  
You can step down.

Zeus goes to Judge Athena. They pause a moment, then start kissing passionately.

JUDGE ATHENA

I love you!

ZEUS

I hate you!

JUDGE ATHENA

I hate you!

ZEUS

I love you!

They slap each other, then kiss again. Zeus gives the Hawaiian "hang loose" sign and exits.

ODYSSEUS

I'm not giving you half of my restaurant, you leech!

PENELOPE  
You lying worm!

ODYSSEUS  
Slut!

PENELOPE  
Pig!

That shout at one another in an incoherent Greek-babble.

JUDGE ATHENA  
All right, all right, all right,  
whoa, whoa, whooooooa! Let's cool  
it down here, huh, Jackie and  
Aristotle?

Odysseus and Penelope calm down and back away from each other.

JUDGE ATHENA  
Now you two learn to behave or I'll  
clear this court and slap you both  
with a Deus Ex Machina so fast  
it'll make your eyebrows spin! So,  
any other witnesses?

PENELOPE  
Yes, your honor. I'd like to call  
Polyphemus the Cyclops.

ANNOUNCER  
Now calling Polyphemus...Polyphemus  
the Cyclops please take the stand.

Enter the CYCLOPS. He has the one eye and a very nebbish,  
very Jewish demeanor. (Avoid doing "Woody Allen".)

PENELOPE  
Could you tell me sir, what  
happened on your island about  
fifteen years ago?

CYCLOPS  
Yes...well...you see, I'm just  
walking around the island, you  
know. I'm picking up sticks, moving  
a few boulders, tidying up the  
joint. I'm an independent business  
man, you know. Not much money, but  
I get by.

PENELOPE  
Then what happened?

CYCLOPS

So I stroll back to my cave,  
minding my own business, and I see  
this guy and a few of his friends  
pilfering my home.

PENELOPE

Are you sure they weren't just  
paying a visit?

CYCLOPS

Well I don't call eating all my  
cheese and having sex with my sheep  
"paying a visit", do you? I don't  
have much. I'm an independent  
businessman.

PENELOPE

So then what happened?

CYCLOPS

Well naturally I was upset, and I  
ended up eating a few of them.

PENELOPE

I see...

CYCLOPS

I have a temper sometimes. So while  
I'm asleep, this guy takes a burnt  
log from the fire and jabs it right  
into my eye. It was very painful.

PENELOPE

I can imagine...

CYCLOPS

I mean, right in my eye! My weak  
spot. Do you know what it's like to  
go through life as a myopic? All  
the teasing and taunting. In high  
school I had to get glasses...all  
the kids shouting, "Hey two eyes!  
Hey two eyes!" It was very  
traumatic. Then he just sailed away  
shouting, "I'm Odysseus, you mono-  
optic dick smoker!"

PENELOPE

So what did you do?

CYCLOPS

Well I called up my father,  
Poseidon, you know, King of the  
Ocean? He's very successful. Not  
like me. I'm an independent  
business man. I get by.

PENELOPE

And what did your father do?

CYCLOPS

Well he caused all kinds of trouble  
for him; tidal waves, typhoons,  
whirlpools. You don't want to anger  
my father, he's very powerful. Very  
successful. Not like me.

PENELOPE

And how long did your father  
torment my husband.

CYCLOPS

Uhhh, about fifteen years.

PENELOPE

No more questions.

JUDGE ATHENA

You can step down.

CYCLOPS

I hope I didn't cause any trouble.

JUDGE ATHENA

Thank you...

CYCLOPS

I was just minding my own business,  
you know. I'm an independent  
businessman.

The Cyclops exits.

ODYSSEUS

I will never divorce you, you queen  
of the harpies!

PENELOPE

Sheep rapist!

They shout in Greek babble again.

JUDGE ATHENA

Hey, hey, hey, hey, heeeeeeeey! One more outburst like that and I'm getting out a few lightning bolts. Are we calm?...Okay, any more witnesses?

ODYSSEUS

Yes. I would like to call Medusa to the stand.

ANNOUNCER

Now calling Medusa...Will Medusa please take the stand.

MEDUSA enters. She wears a wig of snakes and has a hag face. She acts a bit like a South side, white trash woman.

ODYSSEUS

Could you please tell me where we met?

MEDUSA

Well, about eight years ago I'm out on my rock in the sea, right. Havin' a smoke. Gettin' some sun. And then 'dis guy comes sailing up, like, right at me.

ODYSSEUS

And I was headed for Greece, correct?

MEDUSA

Yah, right, Greece. Anyway, I figures I'll just, you know, stare into his eyes and turn him into stone.

JUDGE ATHENA

Why, for heaven's sake?

MEDUSA

I don't know...That's what I do.

ODYSSEUS

Go on...

MEDUSA

So anyways, I rear back on my voluptuous, snakelike body.

(MORE)

MEDUSA (cont'd)

I'm ready to give this guy the old "Stone Cold Stare." And all of a sudden Jason holds up his shield and reflects my evil gaze right back at me. So I--

JUDGE ATHENA

Hold it. Hold it... Jason?

MEDUSA

What?

JUDGE ATHENA

You said "Jason?"

MEDUSA

Yah?...Or, no? Or...yah?

JUDGE ATHENA

Which is it?

MEDUSA

Jason? Yah, Jason...Jason and his Argonauts came sailing right at me--

JUDGE ATHENA

The defendant's name is not "Jason", it's "Odysseus."

MEDUSA

No...

JUDGE ATHENA

Yes.

MEDUSA

No...

JUDGE ATHENA

Yes it is.

MEDUSA

Well...Geeze, when does Jason get here?

PENELOPE

Your honor, I object. This witness is obviously a plant.

JUDGE ATHENA

I agree. Ms. Medusa, you can step down.

Medusa holds up a parking ticket.

MEDUSA

Who validates my parking?

Medusa exits, confused.

ODYSSEUS

You will never take half of my  
life, you adulterous hag!

PENELOPE

You festering boil on the ass of  
eternity!

The two break into another Greek-babble shouting match.

JUDGE ATHENA

All right, all right, alllllll  
riiiiiight! Now look...it seems you  
two are never gonna come to an  
agreement, so I'm gonna do it for  
you! I won't grant you a divorce,  
since no one else could stand  
either one of you! So here's the  
deal. Mrs. Paranhopoudopolous, you  
get to be a full partner in the  
restaurant. You're allowed three  
highly charged sexual affairs with  
the girded loined centurion of your  
choice. And, you'll get the use of  
your husbands chariot on  
alternating weekends. Mr.  
Paranhopoudopolous, you get to  
reclaim your throne. You can draw  
and quarter anyone causing deceit  
or treachery in your court. And  
you'll get use of The Golden Fleece  
every other month. You both must  
also agree to be tied to ashen  
stumps on Mount Helios and have  
your intestines eaten out by  
ravenous turtles every day for a  
year.

Penelope and Odysseus moan.

JUDGE ATHENA

I mean it.

Penelope and Odysseus nod. Judge Athena bangs her gavel.

JUDGE ATHENA

Court adjourned.

The ANNOUNCER steps out with a microphone to interview Penelope and Odysseus.

ANNOUNCER

(To Penelope.)

Mrs. Paranhopoudopolous, what did you think of the verdict?

PENELOPE

Well...except for the turtles eating my intestines for a year, I think it was pretty fair.

ANNOUNCER

(To Odysseus.)

And Mr. Paranhopoudopolous?

ODYSSEUS

Hi folks. Come and eat at "The Acropolis All Night All You Can Eat Family Style Restaurant and Custard House." Remember, with every Sunday brunch you get a whole pineapple.

Penelope and Odysseus exit.

ANNOUNCER

Well folks, that's Divorce Court for today. The producers would like to apologize to any Greek Americans, Greek Canadians, Greek Historians, Greek Soldiers, Greek Restaurant Owners and the One-Eyed Independent Business Owners Association. Good Night.

THE END.