

OEDIPUS THE **BEST**

Setting: Ancient Greece. Or Washington DC. Or, you know, wherever.

OEDIPUS enters out of his giant golden mansion. The CHORUS is sitting out on the stoop, bitching up a storm. They have been bitching for days, weeks even.

OEDIPUS

My dear sweet people
My heart aches for you
I see your pains, your burdens, your heavy loads
I lie awake from sundown to sunup, mourning, pleading, grieving for you
Your pain is my pain
I yearn to know you

But... umm.
Like
Why are you this way

I understand you are upset
but the constant bitching
Is not very nice

CHORUS

Shit
Shit
All is shit!
As holy a shit has ever been given
Is the holiest shit we have inherited.
The holiest of holies is the shit of our shits.
The shithole we live in
Is the shittiest of holes
Shit shit all is shit

OEDIPUS

Right right all is shit for you people I get it
But tell me, my beautiful deplorables
Why you shed such tears

CHORUS

A great plague has fallen upon our land
Pestilence, famine, rumor of war

Our crops are waning, our pantries are bare
Our children locked indoors with no games to spare
Our wallets are empty, our asses are chapped
We long for death's kiss to make life less crap.

OEDIPUS

Right
That
That's not my fault
Don't blame me for that
I did the right thing always
It was China probably

CHORUS

Great king Oedipus
Tell us what you have done to protect your great people
To bring an end to this great parade of shitholiness
Though we did not vote for you
We would have if we could
In great faith we plead your power!

OEDIPUS

Of course
I requested the service of the mighty Creon
Creon, as you know, a good guy
A nice guy
Very nice to me
Not very nice to other people but nice to me
I told him to go ask the great oracle
What the proverbial "deal" is
But like
I asked him to do this and I don't know where he is

CREON enters.

OEDIPUS

Oh there he is

CREON

King Oedipus, I come bearing news

OEDIPUS

Oh great Creon, tell us this news
That these piss-poor peons

Be drained of their grief

CREON

I know why this land has been plagued.

OEDIPUS

Tell us, good friend

CREON

It is not good news.

OEDIPUS

Whatever, just tell us.

CREON

Someone has murdered King Laios

a collective gasp

OEDIPUS

You mean the former deceased king is... dead—

CREON

—Dead, yes.

OEDIPUS

Cursed be the asshat who shat upon
This poor peasant kingdom and their noble king
May they be cursed from the day they were born
May his fingernails be shucked
And his penis be plucked
And thrown in a stew to be eaten by children
Like they do in those markets in China
It was the Chinese wasn't it

CREON

It was not China

OEDIPUS

Then who did it

CREON

I don't know, but you should probably find out
This murderer may come for you too

OEDIPUS

I'm not scared
If he comes for me, I run
I'm in great health, I can take him
I'm in the best health
I'm the healthiest king that's ever lived
Just ask my doctors
They all say
We've never seen a king this healthy before
It's simply unbelievable

CREON

What if he comes in your sleep?

OEDIPUS

Then we should find this man and hang him for treason
But who could this man be?

CREON

That I do not know. But let me ask the prophet Tiresias. He would know

CHORUS

PROPHET! PROPHET! PROPHET!
speaks in tongues

TIRESIAS enters.

TIRESIAS

Greetings, great king.

OEDIPUS

Let's not waste time
Tell me who killed beautiful king Laios
That I may cut off his balls

OEDIPUS

You don't want to know

OEDIPUS

Tell me, wise one

TIRESIAS

You're gonna hate me

OEDIPUS

Nonsense. Tell me, brother

TIRESIAS

You sure?

OEDIPUS

Out out!

TIRESIAS

If you insist.

sigh

You did it

It was you who killed the king

OEDIPUS

Fake

TIRESIAS

...I'm sorry?

OEDIPUS

You're a fake and I knew it when I met you

TIRESIAS

I'm not lying

OEDIPUS

You say this because you hate me

You and all those people who hate me

TIRESIAS

I literally got this word from God

OEDIPUS

Yeah well who gives a shit about what God says

CHORUS

WE DO!!! :D :D :D

OEDIPUS

How dare you accuse me

Me

The King of this... land
That's a very nasty thing you say to me
That's a very nasty thing

TIRESIAS

I only tell you what is true
Lest I tell a lie and die a thousand deaths

OEDIPUS

You are a traitor to this nation
You are not a true patriot
You are a power-hungry leech
Meant to suckle in a swamp
I drain swamps of people like you
I drain you
I pull the plug
And you go down the drain
That's how drains work
And I can do that
You know why? Because I'm king
And I can do whatever I want
Do you see this palace?
This gorgeous temple furnished with solid gold plating?
Gold walls and gold floors and gold tables and gold servants
Golden food even
I eat gold, literally I do
It tastes like shit but I don't care
because I am rich
I am king
And you are being very mean

IOCASTE enters.

IOCASTE

My husband, what troubles you?

OEDIPUS

My gorgeous busty wife
You do not need to trouble yourself with these worthless cretins

IOCASTE

I have literally nothing else to do

OEDIPUS

This man is being very mean

TIRESIAS

Sir, if I may

OEDIPUS

No

TIRESIAS

Okay, well I think you should know
The Oracle, the great voice of our god, told me this.
From birth you were cursed—

OEDIPUS

—Umm I'm king.
So I think you're wrong.

TIRESIAS

Cursed to murder your own father
And to screw your own mother

OEDIPUS

That's a very complex riddle

TIRESIAS

It literally isn't

IOCASTE

Love, be not troubled
Let me give you sweet rest
As I did in your youth
When you nursed from my—

OEDIPUS

This man is a liar,
And this man too (pointing to CREON)

CREON

Me, sir?
But what did I do?

OEDIPUS

Throw them away, like filth meant for fire
Out of this land

Never to return
You shame the very ground you stand upon
The ground where blood was wrought
Where soil was ground
And blood was soiled
From your filthy disgusting mouths you utter
fake news

CHORUS

(In a beautifully synchronous yet unrehearsed harmony)

FAKE NEWS!

FAKE NEWS!

FAKE NEWS!

FAKE NEWS!

FAKE NEWS!

FAKE NEWS!

FAKE NEWS!

FAKE NEWS!

FAKE NEWS!

FAKE NEWS!

FAKE NEWS!

FAKE NEWS!

FAKE N

IOCASTE

Look there - a shepherd!
Perhaps he knows things

SHEPHERD

Mighty king
If I may approach your presence

OEDIPUS

By your ruddy appearance and your shoddy complexion
I see you are a loser
But come hither
That my presence may inspire

SHEPHERD

I saw King Laios come up the road
Long ago, when I was tending my flock
I saw the King's mighty carriage coming down the path
Beautiful and radiant like a sparkling gem
But Hark - like an angel of the Lord
I saw a brilliant light

Of a Golden chariot
Come down the road
Going far too fast for my poor peasant taste

OEDIPUS

A golden chariot?
Sounds like a winner
Continue, continue

SHEPHERD

The King swerved to the right, just missing the golden chariot
The golden chariot, insulted
lunged forward in rage.
The sound of impact, I heard.
Metal clashed
Sparks flew
And the king sailed,
I saw with mine eyes,
Like a raven in the night
Falling to his demise.

OEDIPUS

So he died

SHEPHERD

Yes, good sir.

OEDIPUS

I already knew that.

TIRESIAS

But did you hear the part about the chariot.

OEDIPUS

That great golden chariot?
This man inspires me.
Iocaste, may you remember
To get me one for my birthday?

IOCASTE

Dear one, must I remind you
That you already have four

OEDIPUS

Oh

CHORUS

suspicious murmurings

CREON

Might I, sir, help you connect the dots?

OEDIPUS

mocking voice "might I sir help you connect the dots?"

No, loser, no

I know how to connect my own dots

I do it all the time

A golden chariot

Only the best says I

A firey rage

Only the best is mine

But soft,

Could it be?

The very man who killed Laios

...is me?

CREON / TIRESIAS

girl

what have we been *saying*

CHORUS

Look! A messenger!

OEDIPUS

Who keeps letting these people in here

MESSENGER

out of breath

Sir, sir, I must tell you now

My truth may quickly cause you to kowtow

The very man you believe to be

is no longer the man who you will see

The truth I bring, the truth I hold

All that once was long foretold

Now what I will tell you

Will make you quite sad.

...

You slept with your mother

You murdered your dad

OEDIPUS

Yeah, I know.

everyone waits for this to sink in

IOCASTE

Oh god.

IOCASTE exits to die.

OEDIPUS

Oh GOD

OH NO

OH NO NO NO

HOW COULD THIS BE

I AM BUT A CURSED MAN

DESTINED FOR RUIN

FROM THE DAY I WAS BIRTHED

AND NURSED AT MY MOTHER'S BREAST

—OH GOD I RAW DOGGED MY MOM

CHORUS

THAT'S OKAY WE FORGIVE YOU!!! <3 <3 <3

OEDIPUS

What is left for me but darkness and misery?

CREON

You could leave and let me be king?

OEDIPUS

I know what I must do

I shall pluck out my eyes!

CREON

Mighty king, please—no.

OEDIPUS

You're right you're right

Bring my daughters to me

Let them watch

ANTIGONE and ISMENE enter.

OEDIPUS

My sweet daughters,
I bid you
Goodbye
As I embrace the bitter fondling of griefs greatest grope

OEDIPUS cuts out his eyeballs. It is a slow, gruesome, loud experience with lots of crying and wailing. Everyone is unsure why they are still there.

OEDIPUS

And so, my trash dumplings, I must depart
With sadness in my soul but hope for tomorrow
Til we meet in the next life
At the Great Golden Casino
somewhere on a beach
in Florida, probably

OEDIPUS blindly stumbles away.

CHORUS

May we learn from this tale
This sorry story of woe
That of great men who boast
It's hot air they blow
But might we all see now
The truth can be lurking
When darkness is brewing
It's justice that's working
Many a man may fall from grace
But still will we trust him
(if he is of the right race!)