

HOUSE OF ORFEUS

Music, Lyrics, and Libretto by  
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CHARACTER NAME	DESCRIPTION
ORFEUS	musician and former military assassin
EURIDICE	a traveling poet and citizen of Overness
PLUTO	adoptive father of ORFEUS and ruler of Undersphere
MEGARA, the Jealous	one of THE FURIES, sister spirits and servants of PLUTO
ALECTA, the Fierce	one of THE FURIES, sister spirits and servants of PLUTO
DEMETER, the Avenger	one of THE FURIES, sister spirits and servants of PLUTO
ATLAS	ORFEUS' friend and fellow warrior
ARCAS	political prisoner in Undersphere
AURORA	citizen of OVERNESS
THE MAYOR OF OVERNESS	
CITIZENS OF OVERNESS	
CITIZENS OF UNDERSPHERE	

### SYNOPSIS

As an orphaned child, Orfeus was adopted by Pluto, the fascist ruler of Undersphere who governs his citizens through fear of the outside world. Reared as a military assassin, Orfeus ultimately renounces violence when Pluto orders him to assassinate his friend and fellow soldier, Atlas. He flees Undersphere and meets the poet Euridice on the road to Overness, a land of freedom and passion. Some time later, when Pluto's military guards—The Furies—inform him that Orfeus has fallen in love with (and married) Euridice and abandoned the life he was raised to live, the jealous dictator orders The Furies to kidnap Euridice, knowing that Orfeus will return to Undersphere to reclaim her. Once Orfeus realizes Euridice is gone, he does indeed determine that Pluto is to blame; swearing that he will stop at nothing to rescue his love, including returning to the violence he rejected, he races back to Undersphere.

Tormented by an apocalyptic nightmare, Euridice abruptly awakens to find Pluto standing over her. After failing to turn her against Orfeus, Pluto tortures her mind and imprisons her moments before ordering The Furies to find Orfeus, torment him into renouncing his love of Euridice, and—if all else fails—curse Euridice with death at the moment she and Orfeus see each other's eyes. After resisting two Furies (Megara and Alecta) on his way back to Undersphere, Orfeus is brought before Pluto once he arrives in the city. They bitterly confront each other; Pluto reveals his pain at being abandoned and unappreciated by his son, and Orfeus lashes out at Pluto for stealing him from his home and raising him to be a soulless murderer. Regaining his composure, Pluto asks Orfeus one last time to reconcile; Orfeus refuses. Pluto summons Demeter to guide Orfeus to Euridice, knowing that the curse will take effect when they meet. Outside Euridice's cell, Demeter taunts the increasingly desperate Orfeus with the news of Pluto's curse, then mockingly tells him to open the cell door to greet his bride. In despair, Orfeus sings a song he composed with Euridice on their wedding night. Demeter is so moved by the sentiment that they allow Orfeus to leave with Euridice, but they warn him not to look her in the eyes until reaching the gates of Overness, or else he will activate the secret, lethal trauma that Pluto planted in Euridice's psyche when he tortured her.

Orfeus escapes from Undersphere with Euridice, but she begins to wonder why he refuses to look her in the eyes. All the while Orfeus is afflicted by memories of his violent past—memories revived during his confrontation with Pluto—that cause him to doubt his worthiness to live a new life. Becoming agitated and eventually enraged, Euridice grabs him and turns him to face her, mere steps from the safety of Overness. Upon seeing the love in his eyes, she smiles and collapses into darkness, destroyed by Pluto's evil enchantment, as Orfeus sinks to his knees alone in silence.

# HOUSE OF ORFEUS

## SCENE ONE: UNDERSPHERE

### 1) SCENA: IN THE ARENA (TUTTI EXCEPT AURORA)

UNDERSPHERE--In the Undersphere Arena, the CITIZENS OF UNDERSPHERE gather to witness a trial by combat. THE FURIES enter on a raised platform, preparing the arena and the CITIZENS OF UNDERSPHERE for PLUTO's arrival by making gestures that magically cause the lights to change throughout the space.

PLUTO enters the arena and takes his place on his platform. He addresses the crowd.

PLUTO

We are gathered here,  
Citizens of Undersphere,  
To bear witness to the sickness  
That has now appeared.  
Justice in action against all harms,  
Injurious factions and false alarms:  
One chance, one try  
To live or die.  
A code enforced:

(shouting)

*Bring the challenger forth!*

ARCAS boldly enters the arena with a body language that immediately projects his defiance. He stops directly in front of PLUTO, who announces the charges against him.

PLUTO

You stand today, dishonored and rebuked,  
In this place to answer for your pursuits.  
Your failed rebellions, riots and revolts

Brought you nothing but a trial to evoke.  
 Face our champion, and meet your fate.  
 Before you fight this battle, have you anything to say?

With barely contained aggression and disdain, ARCAS  
 steps forward.

ARCAS

*I do not fear death, nor the foe I must resist. I will strive 'til my last breath. Bring him  
 on...let's finish this!*

PLUTO

The moment now has found you;  
 Let justice now surround you.  
 Our champion now we call:  
 Attend within these walls.  
 Orfeus, my son, 'tis time!

THE FURIES, CITIZENS OF  
 UNDERSPHERE

Orfeus! Orfeus! Orfeus!  
 Orfeus! Orfeus! Orfeus!

ORFEUS, wearing a ceremonial mask, enters to the  
 acclaim of the crowd. His demeanor is solemn and  
 dispassionate, clearly not reflecting the celebratory  
 atmosphere around him. ARCAS' bravado is momentarily  
 shaken by the arrival of the undefeated warrior, and he  
 retreats to the other side of the arena. ORFEUS pauses  
 before PLUTO and removes his mask to address him  
 before the people.

ORFEUS

Lord and father, lord and father,  
 Today as champion I stand.  
 Law and honor, law and honor,  
 Are my purpose to defend.

PLUTO

We welcome you, my son,  
 For the task that's to be done.

Receive our highest praise  
As this challenger you face.

ORFEUS turns to face ARCAS, who is clearly rattled but resolute. PLUTO gives a signal for the fight to begin; in no time ORFEUS overcomes ARCAS and forces him into submission. Before striking the death blow, ORFEUS raises his face to look at PLUTO, who gestures his affirmation that ORFEUS should die. ORFEUS kills ARCAS, who is then dragged from the arena.

#### CITIZENS OF UNDERSPHERE

Warrior and champion,  
Defend our everlasting home.  
Destroy the foe, uphold the blessed,  
Guardian of our providence!

PLUTO

(shouted)

*Next challenger!*

ORFEUS moves to one side of the arena to await the arrival of the next challenger. ATLAS enters wearing a ceremonial mask, quaking with terror. He stops in front of PLUTO, who announces the charges against him.

You were a trusted warrior  
Til your people you betrayed;  
You undermined your orders  
When corruption you displayed.  
Your duties were explicit:  
To fortify our gates.  
But you allowed foreigners in  
Under the guise of friendly aid.  
And left us greatly exposed  
To those who lurk outside,  
Nefarious forces and foes  
That threaten all our lives.  
They envy our good fortune;  
Our customs they reject.  
Purveyors of extortion,

They hate us for our strength.  
 You favored scheming, vile outlanders,  
 Abusing your prestige.  
 Your people you abandoned  
 For alien savagery.  
 So now you fight our champion  
 To ascertain your fate.  
 Before you face your judgment,  
 Have you anything to say?

ATLAS steps forward, shaken but determined, and  
 addresses PLUTO and the CITIZENS of  
 UNDERSPHERE.

ATLAS

Lord Pluto...Lord Pluto,  
 I don't know why I'm here.  
 I've only ever lived to serve  
 The realm of Undersphere.  
 The people's court I'd never scorn,  
 No guilt my conscience bears.  
 I've done no wrong, I've caused no harm,  
 I'm innocent, I swear!

Hearing ATLAS' voice, ORFEUS removes his mask and  
 runs to ATLAS, who also unmask. THE FURIES  
 immediately rush forward to taunt ATLAS.

THE FURIES

You're not one of us!  
 No, no, you're not one of us, no, no!  
 You're not one of us!  
 No, no, no, no, no, no, no!  
 (repeat)

ATLAS

My friend, my friend,  
I don't know why I'm here.  
I've only ever lived to serve  
The realm of Undersphere.  
The people's court I'd never scorn;  
No guilt my conscience bears.  
I've done no wrong, I've caused no harm,  
I'm innocent, I swear!

THE FURIES, CIT OF OVERNESS

No, no, no!  
You're not one of us.  
No, no, no, no!  
No, you're not one of us!  
No, no, no!  
You're not one of us.  
No!  
No, no!

ORFEUS

(to ATLAS)

I'll tell my father his mistake.  
I'll show the error he has made,  
And surely he will disengage.

ORFEUS

My friend, my friend,  
You will not die today!

ATLAS

My friend, my friend,  
Your father will not bend.

ORFEUS

I swear you will not die today.

(to PLUTO, who stands motionless as THE  
FURIES lean forward suspiciously)

ORFEUS

My father, I've never bowed before another man,  
But here I kneel in front of you with beating heart in hand.  
Take my life instead of his, and my body left for dead,  
But I beg you, lord and father, do not make me kill my friend.  
If ever you have loved me as the son that you embrace,  
Lord Pluto, dear Pluto, show your mercy and your grace!

ORFEUS

Take my life instead of his, and my body  
left for dead,  
But I beg you, lord and father, do not  
make me kill my friend.  
If ever you have loved me as the son that  
you embrace,  
Lord Pluto, dear Pluto, show your mercy  
and your grace!

ATLAS

My friend, my friend, there's no need to  
pretend.  
Your father will not yield,  
Despite your brave appeal.  
Your father will not yield.  
Your father will not yield.

THE FURIES, CIT OF OVERNESS

No, no, you're not one of us!  
No, no, no, no!  
No, you're not one of us!  
You're not one of us, no, no, no, no!

PLUTO moves to the edge of his platform and strikes the  
floor with his scepter.

(bellowing in a terrifying voice)

PLUTO

*Abandon this disgrace!*  
*Do your duty, take your place!*

Nearly catatonic, ORFEUS puts his mask back on and  
slowly walks back to the center of the arena. He turns to  
face ATLAS, who puts his hand over his heart and nods  
to his friend in a silent understanding of what is about to  
happen.

CIT OF UNDERSPHERE

Villain! Traitor!  
Guilty of all crimes!  
Evil! Monster!  
Unholy and vile!

PLUTO

For wrongs against our people, our doctrine and our laws...

CIT OF UNDERSPHERE

Justice!



PLUTO

Disloyalty and reason, betrayal without cause...

CIT OF UNDERSPHERE

You're not one of us!

PLUTO

For most egregious treachery, rebellion and offense...

CIT OF UNDERSPHERE

Justice!

PLUTO

You stand now in this sacred place, convicted and condemned.

CIT OF UNDERSPHERE

Justice!

PLUTO

Our righteousness demands  
You pay the price for what you've done:  
To be judged by the hand  
Of our most beloved son.

CIT OF UNDERSPHERE

Ah...!  
Ah...!  
Orfeus! Orfeus!  
Orfeus! Orfeus!

PLUTO raises his scepter to signal the beginning of the match. The crowd chants as the combatants square off.

CIT OF UNDERSPHERE

Orfeus...fight for us!  
Orfeus...fight for us!  
(repeats)

After a brief but intense struggle, ORFEUS subdues ATLAS and forces him to the ground. ORFEUS grabs ATLAS by the throat, choking him as ATLAS pulls at his hands.

CIT OF UNDERSPHERE

(triumphantly)

Orfeus! Orfeus!

ATLAS

(weak, broken, nearly unconscious)

*Don't let Pluto...destroy your soul...*

ORFEUS looks to PLUTO, who gestures his affirmation that ATLAS should die. ORFEUS stands frozen with ATLAS still in his grasp. THE FURIES turn to PLUTO as he steps to the edge of his platform. ORFEUS lifts ATLAS to his knees as if to choke the life from him, then whispers directly into his ear.

ORFEUS

(whispered)

*Come with me...now!*

ORFEUS throws his mask aside and bolts from the arena. ATLAS attempts to run but is immobilized by a swift, supernatural gesture from DEMETER, who has descended to the floor of the arena with ALECTA AND MEGARA. DEMETER picks up ORFEUS' mask as ALECTA walks over to ATLAS, who has fallen and lies still, gasping for air. Kneeling beside him, she snaps his neck with a single movement. They drag ATLAS' lifeless body from the arena.

Outside the arena, ORFEUS speeds through Undersphere toward the city gates. When he arrives at the edge of the city, he goes to a secret passage that leads to a breach in the gates, which he pries open with his bare hands, then quickly slips through the opening.

(pausing briefly to turn and look back at the gates)

ORFEUS

*Atlas...forgive me.*

**SCENE TWO: OVERNESS**

## 2) GOD FORGIVE ME (ORFEUS)

ORFEUS tears into the night with all his strength, disappearing into the darkness. Days pass as he heads further away from Undersphere. Arriving at a crossroads, he stops to pray.

ORFEUS

God forgive me, God forgive me  
 For abandoning my friend!  
 Now redeem me, onward lead me  
 Toward whatever lies ahead.  
 Even death!

Reaching a crossroads, ORFEUS takes a few more steps and collapses from exhaustion. EURIDICE approaches; having heard ORFEUS' prayer, she searches for the source of the singing. She runs over to him, hurriedly takes a flask of water from her rucksack and kneels by him, gently lifting his head and dripping some water onto his lips. After a few seconds, he awakens and looks into her eyes. Instantly his military instincts take over and he leaps backward, primed for a fight. Initially startled, EURIDICE tries to calm him.

## 3) DUET: DON'T BE AFRAID (ORFEUS, EURIDICE)

EURIDICE

Don't be afraid;  
 I'm only trying to ease your pain.  
 I heard you from afar,  
 While on my way to the city--

ORFEUS

What city? Where?

EURIDICE

The city of Overness.  
 But I saw you here and then  
 I thought yours might have been  
 The voice that brought me here.

ORFEUS

Who are you?

EURIDICE

A poetess, a traveler, but this is my home.  
My name is Euridice.  
And you are...?

ORFEUS

You should leave me alone.  
I don't deserve your kindness or your help.

EURIDICE

How could I leave you here  
And go on by myself?  
When just a drop of water  
Could make you well.

ORFEUS tries to stand but stumbles; EURIDICE helps him regain his balance. After a few intense seconds during which he composes himself and stands straight, he steps away, as he and EURIDICE keep an eye on each other.

EURIDICE

Tell me your name, and where are you from?

ORFEUS

They call me Orfeus.

EURIDICE

How have you come to be here, so weary and worn?

ORFEUS

Many days and nights I've run.  
But this place you come from, is shelter there?

EURIDICE

Come on along and breathe the welcome air.

ORFEUS

(to himself)

How could I believe that I would ever find my freedom?  
But now a door is open wide to enter the unknown.

EURIDICE

Food and water you'll be fed.  
Rest, and a place to lay your head.  
True refuge is what you'll find.

ORFEUS

At last, I can rest inside.

ORFEUS and EURIDICE arrive at the gates of Overness, where music is heard coming from inside the city. Entering the gates, they find themselves in the middle of a town party in the main square.

4) ARIA W/ CHORUS: OVERNESS (MAYOR OF OVERNESS, SOPRANO SOLO, CITIZENS OF OVERNESS)

In the main square of Overness, THE MAYOR of Overness leads the party. As ORFEUS and EURIDICE enter, the GATEKEEPER OF OVERNESS greets EURIDICE. The CITIZENS of OVERNESS try to embrace ORFEUS; unfamiliar with such effusiveness, he responds stiffly. EURIDICE leads him into the square where he recovers his strength and takes in the unfamiliar energy and surroundings.

THE MAYOR

Overness...  
Overness...

SOPRANO SOLO

(saluting THE MAYOR and CITIZENS)

Ah!

THE MAYOR

There's something that I got to say;  
I feel it in a special way.  
The one thing I'm thinking of  
Is a singular kind of love.  
It's with me wherever I go,  
And it's everything I know.

## THE MAYOR

It's Overness,  
 It's Overness to me.  
 It's Overness, It's Overness,  
 It's Overness!  
 (repeat)

## CITIZENS OF OVERNESS

Over...  
 Overness!  
 Over...  
 Overness!  
 (repeat)

## THE MAYOR

No matter where you are,  
 You're never gonna be too far  
 For this feeling to get to you.  
 It's something that'll pull you through.  
 The gift that you receive  
 Is a treasure that'll make you believe:

## THE MAYOR

In Overness,  
 It's Overness to me.  
 It's Overness, it's Overness,  
 It's Overness!  
 (repeat)

## CITIZENS OF OVERNESS

Over...  
 Overness!  
 Over...  
 Overness!  
 (repeat)

## SOPRANO SOLO

Overness!  
 Overness!  
 Over...  
 Overness...  
 A magic land!

## THE MAYOR

Nothing you could ever buy,  
 And nothing you can try  
 Can take the place of love.  
 Lift your eyes above...

## THE MAYOR

To Overness...  
 Cause it's Overness to me.  
 It's Overness, it's Overness,  
 It's Overness  
 (repeat)

## CITIZENS OF OVERNESS

Overness! Over...  
 Overness! Over...  
 Everything is Overness!  
 Welcome to this magic land!  
 (repeat)

## SOPRANO SOLO

Overness! Overness! Overness!  
 It's Over...

Welcome to, welcome to this land.  
 It's Over...  
 Overness is everything! Overness!

As the party winds down, THE MAYOR leads out the crowd, leaving behind ORFEUS and EURIDICE, who walk along the streets of the city. While they talk, the music and lights alter to show the passage of time over some days.

5) RECITATIVO ACCOMPAGNATO: THEIR KINDNESS, THEIR JOY (ORFEUS, EURIDICE, ARCAS, AURORA)

ORFEUS

Their kindness, their joy,  
 Their rhyming fills the void that's here  
 Inside of me.  
 Surprising and wild,  
 Their dancing reconciled me with  
 The child in me.  
 This new and different world...  
 It's strange, yet it entices me.  
 Such change, and yet the fight in me  
 Is turning into something else.  
 What is this thing I've felt?

EURIDICE

That's all we've ever known:  
 Freedom,  
 The freedom to hold on to love and joy,  
 Floating, flowing around us.  
 And what it was  
 That made you run,  
 Led you to us.

ORFEUS

What made me run?  
 It was the choice I made  
 Before I came undone,  
 To leave without a trace.

EURIDICE

What desperate choice  
Could make you leave your home?

ORFEUS

A place where hope gave way to scorn.  
Where force coerced, where justice lied—  
I fled before I died inside.

ARCAS

No fears and no chains.  
Any trouble, any pain  
Is a million miles away  
As we step into the day  
In Overness, Overness, Overness!

(dawn breaks over the city)

ORFEUS

I served my father,  
Ruler of our land.  
I never faltered,  
Based at his right hand.  
He found me as an orphan,  
Wounded, nearly dead,  
A terrified young boy  
Crawling over piles of flesh,  
In the ruins of the village  
That used to be my home.  
In the rising smoke of battle fires  
That cruel winds had blown.  
He adopted me and raised me  
And held me to his chest,  
Trained me to be a warrior  
More deadly than the rest.  
Until that fateful moment  
He ordered me to kill my friend:  
I dropped my mask and ran.  
'Til I fell near the gates of Overness.

AURORA

Nothing you could ever buy,  
And nothing you can try  
Can silence our delight  
As we celebrate the night



In Overness, Overness, Overness!

(the sun begins to set)

ORFEUS

Ruling through fear  
 For he was himself afraid;  
 Human tears  
 That pleaded and begged for grace.  
 For all the desires  
 And the power he fulfilled in me,  
 I couldn't go on  
 With the life he had built in me.

EURIDICE

But this friend whom you defended,  
 Has your leaving now condemned him?  
 You left him to his fate--

ORFEUS

Even though I've now escaped.  
 I couldn't forget him if I tried.

As twilight falls over the city, ORFEUS and EURIDICE arrive at a riverbank, sitting near the water. Troubled by his memories, ORFEUS falteringly begins to reveal his deepest emotions for the first time, ever.

6) DUET: I'VE ALWAYS BEEN ALONE (ORFEUS, EURIDICE)

ORFEUS

I've always been alone  
 Within my home;  
 I've never known  
 How to be with another.  
 How to show love,  
 I've always been apart  
 Within my heart.  
 How can I be with another?

EURIDICE

All love is to me,  
 For everything that life can be.  
 All love is to me,  
 For everything your life can be.

ORFEUS

I can feel new feelings,  
 But how can I find the words:  
 The words that the feelings travel on.  
 I feel new emotions,  
 But how can I find the words,  
 The words that rest in the soul.

EURIDICE

All love is to you,  
 For everything you say and do.  
 All love is to you:  
 Love is real and love is true.

ORFEUS, EURIDICE

All love is to you,  
 For everything you say and do.  
 All love is to you:  
 Love is real and love is true.

(As his heart opens to Euridice, ORFEUS  
 takes her words and spins them into a  
 gorgeous musical improvisation. EURIDICE  
 is transfixed.)

ORFEUS

All love is to you  
 For everything that you say and do.  
 All love is to you:  
 Love is real and love is true.

### **SCENE THREE: UNDERSPHERE**

7) RECITATIVO ACCOMPAGNATO: DAMN YOU (PLUTO, MALE CHOIR)

(Undersphere, three months later)

PLUTO stands alone in his throne room, looking out the  
 window. He suddenly whirls around to face a portrait of  
 ORFEUS in military garb.

PLUTO

*Damn you! How dare you??  
 After everything I've done for you,  
 Was father to a son for you,*

*I saved you from the dragon's lair,  
 I took you deep into my care,  
 I made you a leader of men,  
 I gave you an inheritance,  
 To leave without a word to say,  
 Humiliating me this way!  
 How dare you? Damn you!  
 No loyalty, no gratitude,  
 No reverence, now that's just rude.  
 I gave you strength, I taught you grit,  
 And then you go and pull this shit??  
 Oh hell, no! How dare you?  
 Damn you!  
 Come back to me and never leave.  
 Come back to me and be redeemed.  
 Come back to me, fulfill my need  
 To love you.*

PLUTO

What love I have for you, it's wond'rous.  
 Wond'rous, wond'rous...what wond'rous  
 love!

MALE CHOIR

Wond'rous love!  
 Wond'rous love! Ah! Ah!

8) TRIO: SISTERS (THE FURIES)

THE FURIES assemble. Having spied on the people of  
 the city, they are now aware of dangerous rumors  
 circulating among the citizens. They resolve to face  
 PLUTO regarding the unrest that has arisen while he  
 continues to grieve over ORFEUS' departure.

MEGARA

*Sisters, come forth  
 From the south, east, west and north.  
 Our master is tormented,  
 And him we must assist,  
 To fortify and glorify  
 His sovereign iron fist.  
 His longing is weakness, as he yearns for his son.  
 No frailty must impede him,  
 Or else his pow'r is done.*

ALECTA

*Sisters...*

THE FURIES

*Come hence!*

ALECTA

*From the north, south, east--*

THE FURIES

*And west!*

ALECTA

*The people are restless,  
Since Orfeus fled.  
Some believe he's running free,  
Some believe he's dead.  
Some begin to riot, some denounce the throne,  
Lord Pluto must address them,  
Or else his pow'r is done.*

DEMETER

*Sisters...*

THE FURIES

*Come now!*

DEMETER

*From the north, east, west--*

THE FURIES

*And south!*

DEMETER

*Our master must hear us;  
Leave nothing to chance.  
For all shall be revealed to him...*

THE FURIES

*Advance, advance, advance!*

DEMETER

*The truth we must show Pluto,  
We go now to his throne.  
And--*

*Nothing...* THE FURIES

*Will--* DEMETER

*Stop us...* THE FURIES

*Or else--* DEMETER

*His pow'r is done!* THE FURIES

9) SCENA: LORD PLUTO (PLUTO, THE FURIES)

THE FURIES enter the throne room agitatedly.

(rushing forward to surround PLUTO)

Lord Pluto! Lord Pluto!  
Lord Pluto! Lord Pluto!

Rumors! ALECTA

Rumors! MEGARA

Among the people... ALECTA

Among the people! MEGARA

Rumors, Lord Pluto, that cannot be ignored. DEMETER

PLUTO  
(still in his own world)  
*What rumors?*

## THE FURIES

So quickly they have grown, of Orfeus and where he's gone--

## PLUTO

(snaps at hearing ORFEUS' name)

*Orfeus?*

## THE FURIES

And his whereabouts unknown.

## MEGARA

In the first month, the people thought he'd left to spite your judgment of his friend.

## ALECTA

Then in the second month, more vexing tales began: that he'd been seized by bandits—

## MEGARA

Kept in chains outside our gates, and now that they have our champion—

## MEGARA, ALECTA

Our defenses aren't so great.

## DEMETER

In the third month, speculation about the friend he spared:

Where is Atlas now?

Suppose he should not have been there in the arena?

## ALECTA

All could see that Orfeus refused to kill.

## MEGARA

Was the trial really fair, or was it simply Pluto's will?

## ALECTA

Rumors!

## DEMETER

And all this time, the stories grew, til finally here we are:

Now many think Orfeus is dead,

And you, Lord Pluto...

## MEGARA, ALECTA

Lord Pluto...

THE FURIES

Lord Pluto, have lost your strong right arm—

ALECTA

Unfairly judged your law—

MEGARA

Unsettled in your heart—

DEMETER

Unsettled in—

MEGARA, ALECTA

Your heart—

THE FURIES

Your heart.

You must set the minds of the people at ease,  
Lord Pluto!

DEMETER

Hold on to your power.

ALECTA

Hold on to your power, your power, your  
power, hold on!

My lord, my lord, Lord Pluto, hold on!

MEGARA

Hold on to your power, your power, your  
power, hold on!

My lord, my lord, Lord Pluto, hold on!

DEMETER

Hold on, hold on, hold on

My lord, my lord, Lord Pluto, hold on!

THE FURIES

Hold on, Lord Pluto, Lord Pluto!

Ho-ho-ho-ho-hold on, Lord Pluto, Lord Pluto!

PLUTO paces furiously, his thoughts increasingly focused by THE FURIES' report. He stops in mid stride, turning to give them orders, bouncing into full authoritarian mode.

PLUTO

Alecta--

ALECTA

My Lord!

PLUTO

*Go and inform the people that today their leader will address them.*

ALECTA

*Yes, my Lord.*

ALECTA exits quickly.

PLUTO

Megara--

MEGARA

My Lord!

PLUTO

*Go to the town square and prepare the official podium where I shall make my statement.*

MEGARA

*Yes, My Lord.*

MEGARA exits quickly.

PLUTO

Demeter—

DEMETER

Lord Pluto!

PLUTO

You must now employ your spirit power  
To travel far and wide,  
Over land and over water,  
Valley deep and mountainside.  
With your skill and with your cunning,  
You will find my wayward son.  
Do not speak to him; simply observe,  
Then silently return.

DEMETER

Yes, My Lord.

I shall find Orfeus and return to you.



PLUTO

Go.

DEMETER makes a gesture that causes the lights to change in the throne room, during which they vanish from the space. PLUTO gathers himself, squaring his shoulders, straightening his clothes, and smoothing his hair. Once he has fully adopted “Lord PLUTO” mode, he heads out to speak to the people.

10) SCENA: HE’S GONE AWAY (PLUTO, THE FURIES, CITIZENS OF OVERNESS)

In the town square, MEGARA and ALECTA prepare the assembly for PLUTO’s arrival.

MEGARA

We gather here in our central square...

ALECTA

Where our Lord Pluto has prepared...

MEGARA

To address his people...

ALECTA

Under his care...

MEGARA, ALECTA

With urgent news and comfort to share.

PLUTO ascends to his official podium, then gestures his welcome to the crowd.

PLUTO

(solemnly)

My son...your brother:  
I know you haven’t seen him around.  
He’s gone away,  
Since many days.  
To find himself,  
To put his mind on solid ground;  
He’s gone away,  
He couldn’t stay.

You know I value freedom more than anything in life.  
 And sensing what he's needing,  
 In spite of all my grieving,  
 And even though believing he'd come back to us some day,  
 I said goodbye  
 And sent him on his way.

MEGARA, ALECTA, CIT OF  
 UNDERSPHERE

Oh, what wondrous love is this,  
 To set him free to find his bliss.

CIT OF UNDERSPHERE

(separate group)  
 Well, what story now is this?  
 So many months, and not one glimpse?

PLUTO

You know I value freedom more than  
 anything I know.  
 So when he stepped outside our gates,  
 In spite of feeling my heart break  
 And wanting to beg him to take it slow.  
 I let him go.

MEGARA, ALECTA, CIT OF  
 UNDERSPHERE

What love, what love!  
 Wondrous..wondrous...  
 What wondrous love!

MEGARA, ALECTA, CIT OF  
 UNDERSPHERE

What wondrous love!  
 What love!

CIT OF UNDERSPHERE

(separate group)  
 How can we trust?

PLUTO

He's gone away.

MEGARA, ALECTA, CIT OF  
 UNDERSPHERE

Oh what wondrous love!  
 What love!

CIT OF UNDERSPHERE

(separate group)  
 How can we trust?

PLUTO

He's gone away, my boy, my son,  
 But one day he'll come back to me  
 And on that day the sun will shine again.  
 He's gone away, my child.  
 But one day he'll return to us.  
 And on that day I'll learn to smile again.

MEGARA and ALECTA scan the crowd for agitators as some of the CITIZENS of UNDERSPHERE murmur among themselves, unsure as to what to believe about what they've heard.

CIT OF UNDERSPHERE

What to believe? How can we trust  
How could he leave? How can we judge?

MEGARA

(observing the crowd's unrest, whispers to  
PLUTO)

The people don't know what to believe;  
They say it's hard to know  
What is the truth.  
The people fear they have been deceived,  
So now they must be shown  
That your words are pure.

MEGARA

My Lord, this is the hour:  
Make them believe your pow'r!

CIT OF UNDERSPHERE

Orfeus is gone;  
Pluto's lost his son.

PLUTO waves MEGARA away.

(with utmost intensity)

PLUTO

There is no hurt  
But that which is common to mankind.  
It's not just my son  
Who has left us for a time.  
He is your friend, your brother,  
A child to every mother,  
A son to every father,  
Defender of our honor.  
He will return to our land

A stronger man,  
 And once again  
 Be my valiant right hand.  
 But til that day,  
 Til that day comes,  
 We will stand together,  
 We will be strong!

CIT OF UNDERSPHERE

(falling under PLUTO'S spell once again)

Come and take us by the hand.

PLUTO

And no matter how dark the day,  
 Or the night is long,  
 I swear upon my life  
 To right our wrongs.

CIT OF UNDERSPHERE

Dark the night!  
 We know that you  
 Will make us strong!  
 And we will sing your song:

PLUTO

I am no sultan;  
 I am no king.  
 The only pow'r I have  
 Is the power you gave to me.  
 I am no monarch;  
 I am no god.  
 The only role I play  
 Is to uphold the rule of law and save  
 Our destiny! It's me and you.  
 Our destiny, it is the truth.  
 Our destiny is ever clear.  
 Our destiny lies within the gates of Undersphere.

PLUTO

Our destiny! Our destiny!  
 Yeah! Yeah! Yeah! Yeah!  
 Destiny! Living our destiny! Hey!  
 You know what I mean, I'm talking  
 'bout...

MEGARA, ALECTA, CIT OF  
 UNDERSPHERE

Our destiny! Our destiny! Our destiny!  
 We know it! We know it! We know it!  
 Our destiny! Our destiny! Our destiny!  
 We know it! We know it!

PLUTO

Unquestioned loyalty--

CIT OF UNDERSPHERE  
 Making us royalty--

PLUTO  
 In the majority--

CIT OF UNDERSPHERE  
 (whipping themselves into a self-righteous  
 frenzy)  
 Superiority! Superiority!  
 Superiority! Superiority!  
 Destiny! Destiny! Destiny!

MEGARA  
 We stand for it.

ALECTA  
 We live for it.

MEGARA  
 We plan for it.

ALECTA  
 We kill for it.

MEGARA  
 We laugh for it.

ALECTA  
 We cry for it.

MEGARA  
 We fight for it.

ALECTA  
 We die for it.

CIT OF UNDERSPHERE  
 It is what he named us.

MEGARA  
 It is where we start.

CIT OF UNDERSPHERE

It is what he made us.

MEGARA

It is where we are now.

CIT OF UNDERSPHERE

Destiny! Destiny!

Destiny! Destiny!

PLUTO

Unquestioned loyalty--

CIT OF UNDERSPHERE

Making us royalty--

PLUTO

In the majority--

CIT OF UNDERSPHERE

Superiority!

PLUTO

CIT OF UNDERSPHERE

*Didn't I calm your troubled land?*

*Yes!*

*Didn't I pray for you with these two hands?*

*Yes!*

*Didn't I gain you riches of gold?*

*Yes!*

*Didn't I raise an army so bold?*

*Yes!*

Didn't I know you?

Yes!

Didn't I show you?

Yes!

Didn't I lead you?

Yes!

Didn't I feed you?

Yes!

Didn't I hold you?

Yes!

Didn't I mold you?

Yes!

Didn't I crave you?

Yes!

Didn't I save you?

Yes!

PLUTO

I am your beating heart!

I am the air you breathe!

I am your divinity!

I am your ecstasy, your--

PLUTO

We stand for,  
 Fight for  
 Our right for  
 To die for  
 Say it again, my people!  
 Say it again!  
 Say it now!  
 Say it now!  
 Say it now!  
 Say it now!

CIT OF UNDERSPHERE

Destiny!  
 Destiny!  
 Destiny!  
 Righteousness and our divinity!  
 Destiny!  
 Destiny!  
 Our righteousness and our divinity!  
 Righteous divinity, destiny!  
 Righteous divinity, destiny!  
 Destiny! Destiny! Destiny! Destiny!

As the crowd shouts its approval, DEMETER reappears off to the side of the podium. As MEGARA and ALECTA whip the crowd further into a furor, PLUTO steps aside to listen to DEMETER, who whispers into his year. PLUTO fumes silently for a second, then turns furiously back to DEMETER.

PLUTO

*Bring her to me!*

MEGARA, ALECTA

Lord Pluto!

CIT OF UNDERSPHERE

Destiny!

PLUTO

*Bring her to me!*

MEGARA, ALECTA

Lord Pluto!

CIT OF UNDERSPHERE

Destiny!

PLUTO

*BRING ME EURIDICE!*MEGARA, ALECTA, CIT OF  
UNDERSPHERE

Destiny!

**SCENE FOUR: OVERNESS**

## 11) ARIA: WHERE IS LOVE (ORFEUS, EURIDICE)

Overness, nighttime. The night before their wedding, ORFEUS and EURIDICE are writing their wedding vows. ORFEUS speaks the words and plays the harmonies, then EURIDICE sings the words with a new melody.

EURIDICE	ORFEUS
Non chiedo più	<i>I don't ask anymore</i>
Perché il sole è più lucida	<i>Why the sun gleams</i>
E la luna non è più bella	<i>And the moon has a softer glow</i>
Non chiedo più	<i>I don't ask anymore</i>
Perché l'erba è più verde	<i>Why the grass is greener</i>
E le stagioni sono più chiare	<i>And the seasons are now even brighter</i>
Conosco già perché	<i>I already know why</i>
Tu sei alfin con me	<i>You are now here with me</i>
Ed ora pieno è mio cuore	<i>And now my heart is no longer empty</i>
Se' il cielo non risponde ad altra domanda	<i>If heaven answers no other question</i>
M'ha detto questo	<i>It has revealed to me</i>
Quest'è l'amore	<i>This is love</i>

The lovers embrace as the scene opens up into the wedding ceremony in the town square of OVERNESS, with THE MAYOR of Overness as officiant and the citizens in attendance. Everything is happiness and color.

## 12) DUET: I SURRENDER (ORFEUS, EURIDICE)

EURIDICE	ORFEUS
I was alone for so long, Till you came into my life.	
	I was weak, but now I'm strong, From darkness into light. You took my hand and led me To a better day begun.
	EURIDICE
Came along the way and joined with me To walk into the sun...	



ORFEUS, EURIDICE  
Into the sun.

EURIDICE  
So I...  
I surrender;  
Now love will take control.  
I surrender  
My life, my heart, and my soul.

ORFEUS  
Now you're in my heart...

EURIDICE  
My heart...

ORFEUS  
And suddenly I find,  
Whether with me or far apart...

EURIDICE  
Far apart...

ORFEUS  
I need you all the time.  
And I can never get enough...

EURIDICE  
Get enough...

ORFEUS  
Of this feeling burning  
Here deep inside of me,  
Forever, endlessly,  
Turning into love,  
Into love!

EURIDICE  
Love!

ORFEUS  
So I...

ORFEUS, EURIDICE

I surrender;  
Our love, it feels like home.

ORFEUS

I surrender...

EURIDICE

My life, my heart...

ORFEUS

And my soul.  
The world can't take it away from me.  
I surrender,  
I surrender...

EURIDICE

My life, my heart and my soul!

ORFEUS

I surrender!

EURIDICE

I surrender!

ORFEUS

I surrender!

ORFEUS, EURIDICE

My love! My love!  
Oh, nothing in the world  
Can take it away from me,  
Can take it away from me!  
No!

During the celebration, DEMETER has infiltrated the scene. Unnoticed by ORFEUS and the crowd, they drag EURIDICE away into the darkness, leaving behind the mask ORFEUS tossed aside the day he left Undersphere.

## 13) ARIOSO: EURIDICE DISAPPEARS (ORFEUS)

ORFEUS

(searching happily)

Euridice! Euridice!  
 My everything, my all!  
 The only name I call.  
 Euridice? Euridice?

(calling out)

*Euridice!*

(to various citizens)

Have you seen Euridice?  
 She was dancing over there,  
 But when I turned around  
 She had disappeared into the air.  
 Euridice?  
 Euridice?  
 Euridice!

ORFEUS turns around to find that EURIDICE has vanished; in her place, he discovers his fighting mask from the Arena. As he recognizes it—first in wonder, then in anger—he realizes that only one person could have been responsible for both kidnapping EURIDICE and leaving behind the mask: his vengeful father, PLUTO.

## 14) ARIA: NO WAY (ORFEUS)

ORFEUS

His ego, his pride,  
 The twisted love inside of him  
 Would never let him see me go  
 Without a power play to show  
 That he has won...  
 Against his son...  
 Now she's undone...  
 It has begun.  
 If it had been just me,  
 I could have left it all behind.  
 But taking her away from me  
 You've gone too far this time.  
 You nearly broke my spirit,

But you also taught me well  
 So I am not afraid to start  
 My journey back to hell.  
 And there's no way,  
 No way,  
 No way,  
 No, no way,  
 No, there's no way,  
 No way,  
 I'm living without her love.  
 Our life has just begun.  
 Now you say it's over?  
 No, I won't allow, won't allow,  
 Won't allow, won't allow it.  
 There's no life that I can live without her love.  
 There's no kindness I can give without her love.  
 There is no desire not to sin without her love.  
 And now you'll see the fire that begins without her love.  
 Cause there's no way,  
 No way,  
 No way,  
 No, no, no there's no way,  
 No way,  
 I'm living without her love.  
 I know where she is because I know what you've done.  
 I know what you've done because I know what you are.  
 You will never keep her away from me.  
 Beware my return!  
 I swear this is true:  
 I'm coming to her,  
 And I'm coming for you!

Building up to a terrifying rage that's strong enough to  
 return him to violence, he tears out through the gates of  
 Overness to confront PLUTO and save EURIDICE.

### **SCENE 5: UNDERSPHERE**

#### 15) ARIOSO: EURIDICE'S NIGHTMARE (EURIDICE)

Undersphere: later that night in a dark prison cell,  
 EURIDICE—chained to the floor of a dungeon cell—is  
 suffering from a nightmarish vision.

## EURIDICE

Why do I feel so strange,  
 When everything around me is so right?  
 Why does the sound of dancing  
 Seem so far away in the night?  
 In this wilderness of mirrors  
 Where I can't find my way,  
 I want to reach out to Orfeus,  
 But my mind is in disarray.  
 My love...  
 My love...  
 I see a great hallway  
 Within a castle of stone.  
 I see a red iron door,  
 Beyond it, a great iron throne.  
 Around it stand many warriors,  
 Mighty and armed with swords,  
 Ready to march, ready to strike  
 As commanded by their lord  
 Who sits on his throne of iron  
 With a face too dark to see.  
 Dressed in black, with blood-red hands,  
 He beckons forth to me.  
 I fear he wishes to take me from you,  
 To steal me, to curse me, to break me from you,  
 To force me to leave you before my time.  
 My love—my God—*I'm not ready to die!*  
 Orfeus!  
 Orfeus!  
 Orfeus!

(As the vision ends, she awakens with a start  
 as she calls out for ORFEUS, only to find  
 PLUTO standing at the door to her cell,  
 staring at her.)

## 16) DUET: I AM PLUTO (EURIDICE, PLUTO)

## EURIDICE

Who are you? Where am I?

PLUTO circles EURIDICE, observing her.

EURIDICE

(more angry)

Who are you? What is this place?  
Why am I here?

Again PLUTO is silent; he stops moving and takes a step closer to her, studying her intently.

EURIDICE

(enraged)

Who are you?  
Answer me!

Furious, EURIDICE lunges at PLUTO, but her chains stop her just before she can reach him. He smiles at her boldness.

PLUTO

I'm sorry, please excuse me,  
Forgive my thoughtless gaze.  
I did not expect your beauty  
To startle and amaze.

EURIDICE

(expecting the worst)

Whatever you want from me,  
You'll die for your desire.

PLUTO

The only thing I want from you  
I have a right to acquire.  
I am Pluto, Orfeus' father.  
Despite what he may have said,  
My only urgent hunger  
Is to see him once again.  
If there were some other way to bring him home,  
I'd set you free without delay and just leave you alone.  
You didn't know you'd pay the price for my wandering son's love;  
But as the soul of his new life, I had to trap you thus.

EURIDICE

He told me who you are,  
How your love pierced his heart.

No matter what you do,  
He will never return to you.

PLUTO

Did he tell you what I did for him  
That no one did for me,  
When war destroyed my childhood home  
And crushed my family?  
I protected him and gave him strength  
To fight and not to run.  
Now he hates me for everything  
I gave him out of love.

EURIDICE

Your pow'r, your deception,  
Your threats are all in vain.  
Orfeus may be your son,  
But nothing stays the same.

PLUTO

Believe or not, I'm grateful  
That you gave him dreams of joy.  
But now it's time to waken,  
And I must reclaim my boy.

EURIDICE

Whatever hell you bring,  
I'll resist with all my might.

PLUTO

And sadly, that's the thing  
That will make your suffering thrive.

EURIDICE

He'll come for me...

PLUTO

I know.

EURIDICE

A new man he's become.  
And after all is said and done,  
You'll still have lost your son.

## PLUTO

He'll come for you, he'll stay with me,  
 Passion won't save the day.  
 The ending of this story  
 Is your love fading away.

PLUTO turns and exits the cell, closing the door behind him and leaving EURIDICE in the dark.

EURIDICE fights back tears of anger and fear, eventually calming herself enough to think about ORFEUS, whom she imagines in her mind traveling over the mountains to Undersphere to come for her, singing as he did when she first saw him.

## 17) ARIA: KYRIE (ORFEUS, MALE CHORUS)

## ORFEUS

(Male Chorus sings "ah" throughout)

God, God, God Who made her.  
 Now, now, help me save her.  
 Help me, Lord.  
 Help me, Lord.  
 Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy,  
 Hear me from Your throne above.  
 Move me near her to redeem her.  
 Grant me power to save my love...  
 Save my love!

## 18) ARIA: LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS (EURIDICE)

## EURIDICE

I see you here inside my mind.  
 You are my light in the darkness.  
 Coming to me, braving the night.  
 You are my light in the darkness.  
 Can a love so young,  
 So quickly grow into a flame?  
 Can there be such power in a name?  
 Your strength is like a sword,  
 You are my light in the darkness.  
 Your courage makes me bold.  
 Your love in this hour fills me with hope.



My purpose is the candle,  
 My love is the spark.  
 The fire that burns inside me  
 Is my light in the dark.  
 In the dark.  
 In the dark.  
 You are my light in the dark.

19) ARIA: COME TOGETHER (PLUTO)

(In his throne room, PLUTO summons THE  
 FURIES to do his bidding by striking the  
 ground three times with his scepter.)

PLUTO

Ah yes, then, Euridice, I know now who she is:  
 Priceless symbol of his freedom, newfound life and sanguine bliss.  
 Now I see how much he craves her; her devotion is the same.  
 So she can't survive unscathed if his obedience I'll reclaim.  
 I call upon you these three trials to execute;  
 Use your beauty, strength and power to ensure that he will lose.  
 One will stir the flames of lust, one his conscience will compel,  
 One destroys him with a curse that strikes like burning flames of hell!  
 Come together! Come together!  
 Should his virtue prove unshaken and his faith has persevered,  
 In the moment that her eyes meet his, she'll die in pain and fear,  
 When her soul is torn from his, he will drown in bitter tears,  
 And return to find his ever-loving father waiting here.  
 Come together,  
 I adjure you:  
 Destroy this Orfeus and take him away.  
 Come together;  
 I adore you,  
 For you'll never ever let him see the light of day!

THE FURIES disappear. In a flash, MEGARA reappears  
 on the road to Undersphere, in the guise of an  
 exceedingly beautiful woman; she hides as ORFEUS  
 comes into view. He stops to rest along the side of the  
 road. As he drifts off to sleep, MEGARA approaches him,  
 caressing his forehead and gently awakening him.

## 20) DUET: AM I ASLEEP...COME AND TELL ME (MEGARA, ORFEUS)

ORFEUS

Am I asleep,  
Or is this vision real?

MEGARA

If this is a dream,  
Then give in to how it feels.

ORFEUS

I feel as if I know you—

MEGARA

All I want is to inspire.  
Surrender to my touch,  
And cherish your desire.

MEGARA

Come and tell me who you are.  
Come and let me in your heart.  
I am everything you need;  
Let me set you free.  
Hold me in your arms,  
And I will show you what love can be.  
Just stay...  
Stay with me.  
Won't you stay?  
Just stay with me, with me, with me...

ORFEUS

I...  
I know who you are...  
I must always guard my heart.

MEGARA

Come and be mine...

ORFEUS

I belong to one alone—

MEGARA

Mine...

## ORFEUS

Promised for all time.  
I would rather face the great unknown--

## ORFEUS

Than make another mine.  
I'll go away,  
Away from here.  
I'll go away,  
Away from here...  
No!

## MEGARA

Come and be mine!  
Stay with me!  
Stay with me!  
Stay...  
Don't go away, stay!  
Stay!

ORFEUS casts MEGARA aside and leaps off to one side.  
Enraged at having failed to seduce him, MEGARA tears  
off furiously into the darkness.

## 21) ARIA: SLOW BURN (ORFEUS)

(Fully awake, ORFEUS begins to understand  
how deeply he will be tested on this quest.  
He resolves to stay true to his new self and  
save Euridice.)

## ORFEUS

All I can do, I have done.  
The choice I make, I must make alone:  
Go on into the unknown,  
Or nevermore will I see my home.  
No matter what it takes, I gotta play your game.  
Like an arrow in my heart, I can't escape this pain.  
I think I'm going insane!  
All I can do is to speak her name.  
Holding her fate here in my hands,  
Finally now I understand:  
I am.  
Yeah!  
No one can tell me it's wrong.  
I'll never ever leave you, no matter how long.  
You are the muse for my song,  
You are the muse for my song.

22) SCENA: HIS FACE, THIS MAN (ORFEUS, GHOST OF ATLAS, ALECTA, MALE CHOIR)

Suddenly, as ORFEUS returns to the main road, he is attacked by a skilled fighter in a mask; he defends himself without striking back. Finally overcoming the man, ORFEUS forces him to the ground, but the man still struggles, vigorously trying to engage ORFEUS. ORFEUS tries to hold the man down, but the man pushes him off and darts to one side as ORFEUS jumps to another side. As the man leaps to his feet, his mask falls to the ground: it's the GHOST of ATLAS.

ORFEUS

His face...this man...  
But I don't understand...  
How can this be?  
This warrior...

GHOST OF ATLAS

It's me.

ORFEUS

But I left you alive—

GHOST OF ATLAS

Pluto could not let me survive.  
He condemned me to fight,  
And then you let me go free.  
But that very night,  
Alecta took my life from me.

ORFEUS

No, my friend...

GHOST OF ATLAS

Now my spirit is torn.  
Unless you save me,  
Then forever I'll roam.

ORFEUS

Please tell me how to free your soul!

GHOST OF ATLAS

The one who should have killed me  
Must strike the fatal blow.

ORFEUS

No!

GHOST OF ATLAS

You must do it!

ORFEUS

No!

GHOST OF ATLAS

I need you to—

ORFEUS

No...no!

GHOST OF ATLAS

You must do what no one else can do.

Suddenly, ALECTA appears between them, in full warrior mode.

ALECTA

Orfeus, this moment is yours;  
A chance you never had before.  
The memory that you despise  
Is mirrored in this warrior's eyes.  
He's undone by all that you've done.  
He is everything about you that makes you Pluto's son.  
The time is today,  
Only this duty stands in your way.  
Strike him!  
In an instant, he will be dead,  
And you will then have saved your dearest friend.

ORFEUS

I can't...I can't.  
That's not who I am.  
How can I start a new life with Euridice  
By going back to who I used to be?

ALECTA

Can you live another life and not the one that you had?  
 Or could you ever wash away the blood on your hands?  
 You thought your world was new,  
 You thought you'd start again.  
 But is it really true?  
 Can you really pretend  
 That after all you've done, you can be a new man?  
 Why don't you—

MALE CHOIR

(offstage)

Come back...

ALECTA

To who you really are?  
 Why don't you—

MALE CHOIR

Come back!

ALECTA

The road is not too far.  
 You see this man is not so very different from the way that you are.  
 His soul is tortured, and his weapons have caused many scars.

ORFEUS

How can I kill my friend,  
 This man I left alone?  
 How can I take his life?

ALECTA

His life is only one,  
 But think of all the endless pain he will be spared when he's gone.  
 Why don't you—

MALE CHOIR

(offstage)

Come back...

GHOST OF ATLAS

Orfeus!

ALECTA

To who you really are?  
Why don't you—

MALE CHOIR

(offstage)

Come back!

GHOST OF ATLAS

Orfeus!

ALECTA

The road is not too far!

MALE CHOIR

Come back! Come back!  
Come back! Come back!  
Come back! Come back!  
Come back! Come back!

GHOST OF ATLAS

Don't leave me here alone!  
Don't leave me here alone!  
Orfeus! Orfeus!  
Orfeus!

ORFEUS

I will never kill again!  
I will never kill again!  
I will never kill again!

Defeated, ALECTA whirls around and disappears into the night, taking ATLAS with her.

### 23) RECITATIVE: MY LORD (DEMETER, PLUTO)

PLUTO's throne room: DEMETER enters.

DEMETER

My Lord,  
Orfeus has been seen approaching the gates of the city.

(with a mixture of anticipation and anxiety,  
PLUTO replies)

PLUTO

Bring my son to me.

DEMETER exits.

24) DUET: DEEP INSIDE (ORFEUS, PLUTO)

ORFEUS reaches the outskirts of Undersphere. As he sees the colorless gates rising in the distance, he fights the burning fire inside himself: the memories of his former life, and the pull toward violence and cruelty that was nurtured in him by PLUTO, the only father he's ever known.

At the same time, PLUTO paces agitatedly in his throne room, out of his mind with bitterness, insecurity, anger, and a manic sort of love at knowing his son will walk through the door at any minute to confront him. After this, neither of them will ever be the same.

The gates of Undersphere slowly open for ORFEUS; he enters, feeling the searing emotions of having returned to this place. Once he is inside the city, DEMETER approaches to guide him to PLUTO'S throne room.

ORFEUS

Fire burning deep inside.  
 Fire burning deep inside.  
 Though I try to run away,  
 It follows me every day.  
 It's with me every day and night,  
 This fire burning deep, deep inside.

PLUTO

You don't know what I know:  
 You don't know the choice I made, the price I paid.  
 Running away, far from home,  
 The lies you told, the life you sold.  
 You think your salty tears  
 Can wash your past away?  
 No, Orfeus, not this time!  
 Not today!



ORFEUS

Fire burning deep inside.  
 Fire burning deep inside.  
 Though I raise my voice to pray,  
 I can never ease my pain.  
 It's with me every day and night...  
 Deep inside.  
 (ad lib)

PLUTO

You'll be cursed and condemned to  
 wander alone,  
 To regret the day that you left your home.  
 The prayers you tried to pray,  
 The part you tried to play...  
 I swear I'll find a way  
 To make you stay.  
 (ad lib)

## 25) DUET: COME, LET ME LOOK AT YOU (ORFEUS, PLUTO)

PLUTO'S throne room: ORFEUS enters the throne room. Momentarily forgetting all his rancor toward his son, PLUTO rushes to greet him but stops short at seeing the coldness in ORFEUS' eyes. Regaining his dictatorial exterior, he straightens himself and returns to his throne, addressing ORFEUS formally.

PLUTO

Come, let me look at you.  
 It's been a long, long time.  
 You haven't changed a bit,  
 But something in your eyes...

ORFEUS

Where is she?

PLUTO

I know that you have come  
 To ask me to return your love—

ORFEUS

Where is she?

PLUTO

Before we get to her,  
 There's something to consider first:  
 You owe me an explanation.

ORFEUS

Where...is...she??

PLUTO

My son!

PLUTO steps toward ORFEUS, but ORFEUS pulls away sharply. Barely able to maintain his composure under conflicting emotions, PLUTO continues.

PLUTO

You think I am unfeeling,  
 You believe my heart is cold,  
 But know the truth, my son:  
 Your leaving hurt me to my soul.  
 Still, a father's love is changeless.  
 A father's love is strong.  
 Long-suffering, everlasting,  
 It never yields to wrong—

ORFEUS

For all your talk of love, you lit the only fire that burns:  
 You stole my only treasure, knowing soon I would return.  
 But no matter how I suffer, no matter what you try,  
 You'll never change me back into the son that you desire.  
 Release Euridice, give us safe passage on the road.  
 And finally, forever: if you love me, if you love me,  
 If you love me, let me go.

PLUTO

(bitterly)

She loves you? Does she really?  
 Or does she just love her dreams  
 Of a man who sings his songs  
 To serenade colorful freaks?  
 A man who dances prettily,  
 Who sings toward the heav'ns,  
 Drowning out the sounds of souls he's taken,  
 Screaming for revenge?  
 For that, you took my heart  
 And you threw it in the sea.  
 And now you want the one thing back  
 That you love more than me?

## ORFEUS

Lord over many,  
 Idol to some,  
 Friend of assassins...  
 Loyal to none.  
 Your brilliance is legend.  
 It's proven in this:  
 Your victory, like the devil's,  
 Is convincing them your power does not exist.  
 For all the riches and the power that you gave to me,  
 I was still the boy abandoned on that filthy street,  
 Frozen and unable to move my feet.  
 You gave me tears for eyes.  
 You gave me tears for eyes.  
 You know how to rule through fear,  
 For you're afraid yourself.  
 The dread that kept your warriors close,  
 that built your gates, invented foes,  
 And made you hollow like a ghost,  
 I know it all too well.  
 You gave me tears for eyes.  
 Gave me tears for eyes.  
 You took my fear of pain,  
 And you replaced it with a cause.  
 And fed me on it night and day  
 Till it became my psalm.  
 You burned from memory my own home,  
 You branded me to be your own,  
 You made your lies my cornerstone,  
 You taught me joy in war alone.  
 You kept me chained around your throne,  
 You broke all I had ever known.  
 You pierced my spirit to the bone,  
 And turned my heart to fucking stone.  
 You gave me tears for eyes.  
 You gave me tears for eyes.  
 My days of being your vile prophet  
 Are now over and done.  
 You never were my father...  
 And I am not your son.

## PLUTO

*So...you cannot forgive me?*

ORFEUS

(exhaustedly)

*No.*

PLUTO

(near tears, he can barely form the words)

*And you cannot love me?*

ORFEUS

(long beat)

*No.*

For what feels like a minor eternity, PLUTO and ORFEUS look at one another, neither with any words left to say. Finally, with extreme sadness in his eyes, PLUTO silently turns to leave the room. He pauses at the door for a moment, then says, without looking back:

PLUTO

*Your wife is waiting for you.*

He leaves. A few seconds later, DEMETER enters.

DEMETER

*Orfeus...come with me.*

## 26) SCENA: WHO ARE YOU NOW (ORFEUS, DEMETER)

DEMETER leads ORFEUS out of the throne room toward a long corridor, then through a byzantine series of mazes and tunnels that lead under the city.

DEMETER

Who are you now, and where are you from?  
 Where are you going, and where have you gone?  
 Will you show them that you're the man you say you became?  
 Will you do it like you did before and run away?  
 Are you ready to face her glance?  
 Go on ahead, no turning back.  
 Welcome to your heaven or hell.  
 Come into your heaven or hell...  
 Heaven or hell.

Heaven or hell.  
 The choice is yours to tell,  
 To land in heaven or hell.  
 The truth is in yourself,  
 To find your heaven or hell.  
 Your heaven or your hell!

They arrive at EURIDICE's cell door; DEMETER stops.

ORFEUS

Euridice! Hold on!  
 Just wait for me, I'll break you free,  
 We'll fly before the dawn.

(to DEMETER)

Let me see her!

DEMETER

Your heaven!

ORFEUS

(desperate)

Let me see her!

DEMETER

Your hell!

ORFEUS

(calling out)

Euridice!

DEMETER

Hell!

ORFEUS

Euridice!

DEMETER

Hell!

ORFEUS

*Open this door before I kill you!*

ORFEUS lunges at DEMETER, who immobilizes him by grabbing him by the throat with one hand.

DEMETER

(the Avenger, in all their terrible splendor)

*The day you turned your back on him,  
He swore he'd make you pay.  
You thought you won your freedom,  
But that freedom ends today.*

DEMETER throws ORFEUS against the cell door, holding him against it face first.

The love he gave still binds you  
Eternally to him.  
And notwithstanding all the trials  
You thought you could win,  
*Lord Pluto, fearing your success,  
He made me curse your bride:  
That when your gaze meets hers,  
In that moment she will die.*

DEMETER releases their grip on ORFEUS, slowly backing away with elegantly derisive gestures.

So go now, and embrace her then,  
Fulfill your heart's desire.  
For the moment she sees you is when  
Euridice will expire!  
He knew this would break you,  
That your sorrow would bring you to your knees.  
This is then the power he holds over all,  
To know that which makes a man weak.  
For heroes and cowards alike he controls,  
He mirrors their fears while he plunders their souls.  
They bathe in his sins like a fountain of lies.  
They all deserve Him—

ORFEUS

And so do I.  
But she is strong and wise.  
She doesn't deserve to pay my price,  
And I'm not worthy to share a life with her.  
This is wrong...everything is wrong...

In anguish, ORFEUS sinks to the ground next to EURIDICE'S cell door.

DEMETER

Your regret means nothing.  
Euridice is gone.

27) ARIA: DOV'È L'AMORE (ORFEUS)

ORFEUS

Non chiedo più  
Perchè il sole non lucida  
E la luna non è più bella  
Non chiedo più  
Perchè l'erba è meno verde  
E le stagioni ora più non cambiano  
Ma lo so già perchè  
Tu non sei più con me  
Ed ora vuoto è il mio cuore  
Se il cielo non risponde ad altra domanda  
Dicami questo  
Dov'è l'amore  
L'oscurità  
Chi tutto vede e capisce  
È ora il mio amico soltanto  
E tutto sa  
Ogni dolore segreto  
Ogni amara cadente pianto  
Ma lo so già perchè  
Tu non sei più con me  
Ed ora vuoto è il mio cuore  
Se il cielo non risponde ad altra domanda  
Dicami questo  
Dov'è l'amore  
Ed ora vuoto è il mio cuore  
Se il cielo non risponde ad altra domanda  
Dicami questo  
Dov'è l'amore

DEMETER

(harshly)

*For a lifetime, I have known you Orfeus.*

*I know you.  
I have seen you fight with the intensity of a thousand men,  
I have seen you attack like a lion, strike like a cobra...  
But I have never seen you love.*

(DEMETER pauses as if seeing ORFEUS for  
the first time.)

*You love.  
You have found something that none of us even knew we needed,  
That gave you the strength to break Pluto's control—*

(DEMETER catches their breath as a new  
thought emerges.)

*That gives the hope of freedom to all of us who live under his power...  
You found love.  
Take your love...and go.*

ORFEUS

*But what hope do I have?  
I can't see her face.*

DEMETER

*I will help you leave this place.*

## 28) SCENA: PLUTO GAVE THE ORDER

Pluto gave the order  
For me to curse your bride,  
That the moment you behold her  
She will surely die.  
I cannot break the curse,  
But I can alter how it's done:  
To hold back the worst,  
So both of you can leave here and move on.  
You still must not look in her eyes,  
But this is my pledge:  
The curse will neutralize  
At the gates of Overness.  
She must not know of the enchantment,  
Nor how it was unlocked,  
Or Pluto's curse will return Euridice--



DEMETER	ORFEUS
To the dark...	Dark...
Into the dark...	Dark...

DEMETER

To the dark.

ORFEUS

How can I thank you?

DEMETER

The vilest of Lord Pluto's curse  
 You risk for love of her.  
 So now you must leave this scorched earth,  
 And nevermore return.  
*Remember this well:*  
*If she discovers the cause of the curse, or the cure for the curse,*  
*She will die.*  
 Pluto's curse will be broken  
 When you reach your home, the gates of Overness.

With a broad magical gesture, DEMETER opens EURIDICE's cell door; EURIDICE blinks as her eyes adjust to the light. ORFEUS enters and embraces her from behind, careful not to catch her gaze as she holds his arms tightly. DEMETER points toward a secret passage out of the city, then fades into the darkness.

### **SCENE SIX: THE ROAD TO OVERNESS**

29) FINALE (ORFEUS, EURIDICE, PLUTO, SOLO SOPRANO, THE FURIES, CITIZENS OF OVERNESS, CITIZENS OF UNDERSPHERE)

ORFEUS takes EURIDICE's shoulders and helps her up, being careful not to look into her face. They embrace passionately, but ORFEUS quickly turns away to look for an exit. EURIDICE, excited, constantly tries to catch his eye, but he avoids her gaze.

EURIDICE

I knew you'd come.  
 I knew you'd never let me down.

## ORFEUS

My love, we've got to move along.  
It's dangerous here; we can't be found.

As ORFEUS guides EURIDICE through the corridors of the city, he struggles to avoid her attempts to look him in the eyes, while also fighting the memories and voices from his past rushing back to him.

## CIT OF UNDERSPHERE

Villain! Traitor!  
Unholy and vile!  
Villain! Traitor!  
Unholy and vile!

## THE FURIES

You're not one of us!  
No, no, no!  
You're not one of us!  
No, no, no!

## ATLAS

My friend! My friend!  
My friend! My friend!  
I'm innocent, I swear!  
I'm innocent, I swear!

## ORFEUS

God have mercy!  
God help me!  
God have mercy!  
God have mercy!

ORFEUS and EURIDICE exit through a portal and emerge on the road to Overness. As they hurry along, ORFEUS keeps a few steps ahead of EURIDICE.

## MAYOR OF OVERNESS

Overness!  
It's Overness to me!  
It's Overness, it's Overness,  
It's Overness!  
Overness to me! Overness!  
Overness! Overness to me, yeah!

## SOLO SOPRANO

Overness!  
Overness!  
Overness!  
It's Over...  
Overness!  
Welcome to this land!

## CITIZENS OF OVERNESS

Welcome into this magic land!  
Ah!  
Overness!

## ORFEUS

My soul...  
The world can't take it away from me.  
Take it away from me, take it away from me.

## EURIDICE

I surrender!  
Our love will take control.  
I surrender.

MEGARA

Come and be mine, mine!  
Come and be mine, mine!

ALECTA

Come back to who you really are!  
Come back to who you really are!

ORFEUS

I think I'm going insane...  
I think I'm going insane...

EURIDICE

Your courage made me bold...

ORFEUS

All I can do, I have done.

EURIDICE

But now your heart is cold.

ORFEUS

I want so badly to reveal  
What I can never tell.  
And even now, remorse and guilt  
Begin to overwhelm.  
I've aimed and shot and never missed,  
Run into battle, scorned the risk,  
And gutted dragons with my fist,  
But couldn't save my love from this!  
If I had never been forewarned,  
I'd still not have the nerve  
To look you in the eyes and mourn  
A love I don't deserve.

EURIDICE

Why are you, love, so unwilling  
For me to meet your gaze?  
When thinking of one glance from you  
Has kept me to this day?  
I held my own against deceit;  
I never gave in to defeat.  
I fought the devil to break free—  
Now you won't even look at me?  
It was our love that kept my fire,  
But now I wonder why?  
Was all the truth that saved my life  
Built on nothing but lies?

ORFEUS

I gave you tears for eyes.

EURIDICE

It's your love for me,  
I know it now...

ORFEUS

Gave you tears for eyes...

EURIDICE

That's why you won't face me somehow.

ORFEUS

Gave you tears for eyes!

EURIDICE

There's something there that frightens me—

ORFEUS

I gave you tears for eyes!

EURIDICE

What don't you want me to see?

PLUTO

Come together!

ORFEUS

Your mercy and your grace!

PLUTO

Come together!

ORFEUS

Mercy and your grace!

PLUTO

He hates me for everything I gave him out of love...

ORFEUS

Though I try to run away...

PLUTO

But now it's time to waken, and I must reclaim my boy!

ORFEUS

It's with me night and day.

DEMETER

*You wanna live a different life...*

MEGARA

*You wanna keep your love alive...*

ALECTA

*You wanna make that sacrifice...*

## THE FURIES

*But are you really willing to pay the price?*

## MEGARA, ALECTA, THE SHADES

*You wanna live a different life...  
 You wanna keep your love alive...  
 You wanna make that sacrifice,  
 But are you really willing to pay the price?*

## DEMETER

Heaven or hell!  
 Heaven or hell!

## EURIDICE

Orfeus!  
 Orfeus!

## ORFEUS

No way! No way!  
 No, no, no,  
 No way! No way!  
 No, no, no, no way!

## PLUTO

My son! My son!  
 My son! Yes, yes, yes,  
 My son! My son!  
 A father's love is strong!

## PLUTO

I am your beating heart!

## ALECTA, ATLAS

*You wanna live a different life...*

## PLUTO

I am the air you breathe!

## MEGARA, ARCAS

*You wanna keep your love alive...*

## PLUTO

Forever, endlessly...

## DEMETER, AURORA

*You wanna make that sacrifice...*

## PLUTO

I am your destiny!

## THE FURIES, THE SHADES

*But are you really willing...*

THE FURIES, THE SHADES  
*To pay the price!*

CITIZENS OF OVERNESS  
 Ah!

EURIDICE

I will not run this endless race;  
 Turn and let me see your face.

EURIDICE begins to circle ORFEUS, trying to see his face. ORFEUS runs ahead of her toward the gates of Overness, which are coming into view.

ORFEUS

Euridice...

EURIDICE

Show me the truth—

ORFEUS

No!

EURIDICE

Show me your soul—

ORFEUS

No!

EURIDICE

Show me your eyes!

ORFEUS

No, no, no!

ORFEUS reaches the outer gates of OVERNESS, which are closed tight. As he slowly wrenches them open with his bare hands, EURIDICE approaches him from behind.

CITIZENS OF OVERNESS

Oh, a magic land!  
 Oh, a magic land!  
 Oh, a magic land!  
 Oh, a magic land!

ORFEUS

There's the gate—we're almost there.  
Then I'll drown in your gaze, I swear.  
I have got to hold on somehow.  
My God! Please help me now!

EURIDICE

Show me your eyes!  
Show me your eyes!  
Show me your eyes!  
Show me your eyes!

EURIDICE

SHOW ME YOUR EYES!

EURIDICE grabs ORFEUS' shoulder and turns him around. ORFEUS drops his hands and raises his face to look at EURIDICE. Their eyes meet for a moment; seeing the love in his eyes, EURIDICE smiles and reaches out to touch ORFEUS' face...

An unseen force pulls EURIDICE away, gradually engulfing her in darkness. ORFEUS runs as fast as he can to catch her, but just before he can grasp her hand, she disappears.

He falls to his knees in silence.

**THE END.**