

(Printed with the demonstration version of Fade In)

PENELOPE

Written by
Simon M Woods

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Version III/Draft 2

simonwoods@europeandrama.com
+44 7754888180

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CAST

PENELOPE (F) 40 - 45 Wife of Odysseus, Mother of Telemachus

EURYCLEIA (F) 65 - 75 Maid to Penelope, nurse of Odysseus

ATHENE (F) 30 - 40 Goddess

ARGOS - Odysseus's Hunting dog

TELEMACHUS (M) Baby/5/10/16 - 20 son of Penelope & Odysseus

ODYSSEUS (M) 40 - 50 Husband of Penelope, Prince of Ithaca

ODYSSEUS DISGUISED (M) 50 - 60 Odysseus when disguised

ODYSSEUS DANCER (M) 30 - 40 Odysseus in dance section

LAERTES (M) 60 - 80 Odysseus father, King of Ithaca

ANTICLEA (F) 60- 80 Mother of Odysseus, Wife of Laertes

ANTINOUS (M) 35 - 50 Leading suitor

MELANTHO (F) 20 - 30 Maid to Penelope, Lover of Antinous

EURYMACHUS (M) 40 Suitor

AMPHHINOMUS (M) 40 Kind Suitor

MENDON (M) 30 Herald/Servant

EUMAEUS (M) 70 - 80 Farmer

PHILOETIUS (M) 50 Friend of Odysseus

SUITORS (M) 30 - 50 (a number up to 50)

MAIDS (F) 20 - 40 (a number up to 20)

DANCERS (M) (F)

LOCATION

Odysseus' home complex in Ithaca

CONCEPT/ The story is taken entirely from Penelope's viewpoint, all the audience know is what Penelope knows or sees /

ERA/ Vague and uncertain era - BC

REALITY/ The context is a real world although the gods are referenced, Athene is the only representative but she is not identified as a goddess

TIME SPAN/ 20years starting with Telemachus as a baby

KEY EVENTS/ Odysseus and his comrades depart for the war, at 10 years some of his comrades return but Odysseus and his men are lost and their whereabouts unknown; at 16 years his former comrades and others return to Odysseus' home as suitors to his wife Penelope; at 20 years they plot to kill Odysseus and Penelope's son Telemachus, usurp Odysseus and marry Penelope; Telemachus leaves, without telling Penelope, to search Odysseus, who after Telemachus return appears in disguise. Penelope doesn't recognize him. She sets up a test to choose a new husband but Odysseus reveals himself and kills the suitors. Penelope thinks it is a trap and tests Odysseus. Once revealed and accepted by Penelope he relates his 20 years away, focusing on his 10 years of trying to return home through a dance sequence describing his triumphs, trials and tribulation. Odysseus then leaves to complete the task he promised in Hades leaving Penelope again.

SCENE 1

A LARGE CLOCK TICKS - IT TICKS CONTINUALLY UNTIL SMASHED IN
SCENE 12

INT. / DAY / PENELOPE'S BEDROOM

BEDROOM

Penelope is in front of a mirror eyes closed.
(Mirroring the
opening artwork
credits)

WE ARE UNAWARE THAT IT IS A MIRROR UNTIL SHE MOVES

HORNS SOUND AND A BRASS BANDS STARTS

Penelope opens her eyes stares at herself in the mirror, in the background is a bed where Odysseus sleeps. She she stands turns moves toward the bed. As she approaches Argos the dog stands.

She looks down at a man in bed and then picks up a baby from the crib and exits. As she exits, the man, Odysseus sits up after shew leaves.

SCENE 2

INT. MORNING / STAIRCASE

STAIRCASE LEADING TO COURTYARD

Penelope stands at the top of the staircase and looks down toward to where a group of people, servants, mainly women are gathered conversing expectantly.

Penelope descends the staircase, walks past the group othat includes the servants Melantho, Mendon and Phemius. Only Eurycleia acknowledges her as she passes. Penelope doesn't acknowledge any of them, she stumbles and Eurycleia comes to support her, it is a brief interaction and Penelope moves on.

Laertes and Anticlea sit at huge desk with an equally huge bookcase, full of books and papers behind them. The desk and bookcase are neat and tidy. On the wall is the large ticking clock.

Penelope moves past them to the outside where she stands motionless holding the baby, looking away from the house and toward a large open gate to the outside world.

In the background Odysseus and Argos, his dog, descend the staircase. The group of servants watch and make a fuss as Odysseus passes them. The last is Eurycleia, who is visibly upset and begins to cry. Odysseus stops by her, indicating that she is special to him, he smiles and then moves.

Anticlea, his mother and Laertes, his father stand by the huge desk. Odysseus and Argos approach them. Laertes outwardly attempts to project confidence, but it is a 'front', Anticlea looks intently at Odysseus, but her expression is blank, until Laertes hands a sword to Odysseus, then she breaks down, crying she sinks to the floor. The sword is obviously of some significance to both father and son. Odysseus studies it intently, with muted thanks he looks to his father. Eurycleia rushes to help Anticlea, then Odysseus seeks to comfort his mother by placing a hand on her shoulder and wiping a tear from her cheek. Laertes places a sorrowful hand on his son's back.

Laertes, Anticlea and Eurycleia watch as Odysseus moves on toward Penelope, accompanied by Argos who constantly looks up to his master.

Penelope is standing with her back to Odysseus and the others. Although she knows he is approaching her Penelope doesn't move. Odysseus looks over her shoulder, down at the baby and touches its head. Penelope looks down at the baby too. Odysseus moves to face Penelope and they embrace. Penelope is quiet, sad and reserved, but not crying. She seems almost emotionless as they look into each others eyes and then look at the baby.

Odysseus is called by a group men some way off beyond the open gate, he looks toward them. He turns back to look at Penelope and his son. He is reluctant to go and lingers. The men call again. Eventually, accompanied by Argos, he moves off toward the men, as he reaches the gate he stops and looks back at Penelope. The men call him again and he slowly moves off while Argos waits at the gate.

When he reaches the men Odysseus' focus changes. He is fully engaged with them. He is clearly their leader. They greet as comrades, embrace and slap one another on the back. Their mood is hearty.

The brass band play and the group begins to move off, Odysseus stops and looks back toward Penelope. Reluctantly Odysseus turns and moves on to join his men. Penelope is joined by Eurycleia, but still stands emotionless, holding the baby and watches him go.

Only then does a tear appear in Penelope's eye, which Eurycleia sees but does not acknowledge.

As Odysseus and his men disappear from sight. Penelope, finally breaks, nervous and upset, Eurycleia takes the baby. Penelope runs to the gate where Argos waits, but it is too late, Odysseus has gone. Eurycleia with the baby joins her and they continue to watch the direction Odysseus exited.

In the distance ships sail away from Ithaca. Penelope takes the baby from Eurycleia and together with Argos they stare toward the horizon where the ships are disappearing.

SCENE 3

EXT. / DUSK / COURTYARD / FIVE YEARS ON

Penelope, is standing by the gate with Eurycleia and Argos silently staring toward the horizon where the ships disappeared. Telemachus, now a toddler of 4 or 5 years plays with a toy boat, he runs to Penelope, puzzled Telemachus also looks toward the horizon. Penelope looks down to him and smiles.

SCENE 4

EXT. DUSK / COURTYARD / FIVE YEARS ON

Penelope, Eurycleia and Argos stand by the gate silently looking toward the horizon. Telemachus, now a young boy aged 10 is playing with a toy ship.

Telemachus stops and looks toward the horizon. He is the first to ships that then appear, first as small almost invisible specks, but then larger and clearer. As the ships get larger and closer the toy falls from Telemachus hand.

The number of ships is noticeably smaller than those that left. Although Penelope and Eurycleia are overjoyed to see them, they keep their emotions in check and show little outward expression of joy or happiness. Telemachus is more animated by their appearance.

Penelope, Eurycleia, Telemachus and Argos look toward where the ships have docked, out of sight. Penelope takes Telemachus hand, she is clearly excited but she remains cool.

Eventually a group of men appear in single file walking from the dock, looking weary, beaten and tired.

They pass the gate where Penelope stands and barely acknowledge her. The file of men lessen, eventually she can't take the pressure of waiting and runs toward the gate as the final group of three or four men, including Antinous, Eurymachus and Amphinonmus, walk past her. She moves forward to speak to them.

(Penelope is too far away to be heard)

Hardly stopping, each looks glum and shakes his head, gesturing as if to imply they know nothing of where Odysseus might be. The last to pass is Amphinonmus, he stops and smiles, he seems kinder and points toward the sea where they have come from, suggesting that Odysseus may follow, but he too shrugs his shoulders and moves on. He seems truly sorry not to have good news.

Telemachus comforted by Eurycleia is led away by her. Penelope is alone with Argos, who comes to her side and looks up at her. She stands for a while, then turns and walks back in the house. As she reaches the house she steps on the toy ship and it breaks, but she doesn't notice.

Penelope enters the house and walks past Laertes and Anticlea in the study by the desk. They are waiting for news, she gives them a small shake of her head indicating that Odysseus is not with them. Anticlea breaks down and crying whilst Laertes, looking blank, turns away.

THE DESK AND BOOKCASE ARE NOT SO NEAT AS PREVIOUSLY, PAPERS ARE IN PILES ON THE DESK AND THE BOOKCASE IS FULL OF PAPERS FALLING FROM THE SHELVES

Penelope climbs the stairs leaving the others, including Telemachus and Eurycleia behind.

THE CLOCK KEEPS TICKING

SCENE 5

EXT. DAY / COURTYARD / SIX YEARS ON

Penelope stands at the gate with Telemachus, now aged 16, with Eurycleia and Argos they stand silently looking into the distance from where the ships might approach. Argos, is now an old dog and is lying on the floor.

Hearing a brass band Penelope and the others turn to see a large group of men approaching the gate from the other direction. Led by Antinous, they include all of the men who returned six years earlier, plus more.

They approach and stop a few feet from Penelope. The Brass Band stop.

Penelope takes a few steps toward them. Antinous kneels on one knee and kisses her hand. Argos stands and growls. Antinous looks up to her, he then stands and proffers her a gift. She is being wooed and feigns embarrassment and shyness.

The Brass Band strikes up again and Eurycleia pulls Telemachus toward her and away from the suitors. Antinous whispers in Penelope's ear, she feigns coyness and blushes. The other suitors then gather around her and each proffer their gifts. They are making their desires clear, but are respectful.

As Antinous gestures and asks if they will be invited in to sit and eat, but the the band too loud to hear his words. Penelope concedes and invites them to sit as if it were her idea and always her intention. She gestures and looks to Eurycleia who immediately understands what needs to be done and begins to organize everything and claps her hands for the servants to bring tables and chairs, the maids bring wine and food.

The brass band stops as suitors take their seats in the dining area. Penelope gestures to her own musicians to play, a more gentle and melodious music. As the maids serve, Penelope takes a bottle of wine from Melantho and serves Antinous and Eurymachus herself.

Penelope stops and looks toward the gate. Eurycleia and Telemachus do the same. A large cloud of dust is arising on the horizon as a convoy of servants and baggage head towards them.

Antinous stands looks toward the open gate and joined by the other suitors begins to clap and laugh. As the servants reach the the gate and begin to make camp just outside its perimeter, the suitors return to feasting and laughing. It dawns on a surprised Penelope that they intend to stay and she must feed and entertain them. Although she is surprised, she doesn't show it. Perplexed she looks toward Eurycleia, who steps forward and takes control, directing everything. Telemachus stands aside and watches, not sure what to do or think. Whilst in the background Laertes and Anticlea watch amazed and aghast.

SCENE 6

INT. / DUSK / COURTYARD / LATER THAT DAY

THE SUITORS DINING AREA

As dusk falls, the suitors feast and are entertained by the musicians. Telemachus continues to stand and watch as his mother passes amongst the suitors smiling. They flirt with her, try to impress her, she serves them wine and as they get drunker they try to make her stop and talk. Penelope evades them whilst keeping everything light and cheerful.

Telemachus continues to stand and watch the suitors, whilst Penelope, out of sight of everyone holds her head in her hands. Eurycleia comes to her, comforts her and leads her off to her room, ensuring no one see her.

SCENE 7

INT. / MORNING / PENELOPE'S ROOM / SOME WEEKS LATER

Penelope looks at herself in the mirror, she prepares herself attended by Eurycleia. She is steeling herself for the difficult day ahead.

SCENE 8

INT. / DAY / STAIRCASE LEADING TO COURTYARD

Penelope looks at the suitors as they sit around, talk and drink.

SCENE 9

EXT. / DAY / COURTYARD

Telemachus, Eurycleia, Laertes, Anticlea watch Penelope as she enters the courtyard.

IN THE MAIN ROOM SEEN FROM THE COURTYARD THE DESK AND BOOKCASE ARE ARE EVEN MORE CHOATIC, LAERTES CAN HARDLY BE SEEN. ONLY A DIP IN THE PILED PAPERS MAKES HIM VISIBLE AND THE BOOKCASE IS LIKE A WATERFALL

As Penelope passes amongst the suitors, smiling and acknowledging their remarks to her. She seems a little coy and flirtatious.

Music is playing and the suitors surround her as she passes amongst them. They try to engage her conversation, flirt with her, pull her toward them, but she evades them. They are becoming increasingly drunk and forward in their actions, but still she is able to avoid them until Antinous stands and blocks her way. She looks at him and smiles, but he comes closer and whispers in her ear. She taken aback by what he has said and concerned by his conversation. As she attempts to quickly move away the suitors surround her even more closely. Trying to entice her to dance they are becoming more insistent, rowdier and more intimidating. As Penelope seeks an exit, her options are limited and it becomes increasing hard for her to escape. The suitors pestering increases and are becoming physical.

Laertes is watching and sinks his head as if unable to look anymore, whilst Anticlea weeps. Telemachus looks on disgusted by his mothers actions, as if he believes it is her choice or fault.

Penelope is trapped by the suitors who surround her, hustling her, wanting to dance with her, pulling at her. She is beginning to panic, but outwardly tries to keep calm and flirtatious, but she is trapped, there is no escape.

Suddenly in front of her the 'disguised' Athene appears looking like a beautiful woman dressed as a man. The suitors give her space, such is her presence. She takes Penelope's hand and they begin to dance. Slowly and sensuously, the suitors move back to create a circle, they are in awe, aroused and silent.

Surrounded by the suitors they dance a tango type dance, as they circle each other. Athene goes down on one knee and Penelope circles her. The dance ends, Athena's puts her hand on the thigh of the standing Penelope and looks up to her. Athena rises and they look at each other, oblivious of the aroused male crowd, and stare into one another eyes. They smile. The suitors close in and suddenly Athene disappears as if by magic. Penelope is at a loss, but moves through the stunned crowd of suitors easily, who are silent and let her through.

SCENE 10

INT. / DAY / MAIN ROOM / THE SAME DAY

Penelope enters and approaches Telemachus, he pulls away and turns his back on her, disgusted. Eurycleia approaches her and comforts her, putting her hand on her shoulder. Penelope puts her hand on hers in acknowledgment of her support and friendship. Penelope looks toward Laertes who turns away. Anticlea who is still weeping, looks up to Penelope and acknowledges that Penelope is doing what she needs to do despite the men, Laertes and Telemachus, not understanding.

Penelope exits up the stairs watched by Argos. Eurycleia looks back at the group saddened that the two men don't recognize the sacrifice Penelope is making for them. Eurycleia exits after Penelope.

SCENE 11

INT. / DUSK/ DINING HALL / SOME WEEKS LATER

The suitors enter and sit. The maids appear and begin serving them. Some of the maids flirt and it is obvious that they are enjoying the attention given to them by the suitors.

Penelope enters and moves amongst the suitors, appearing to engage in fleeting conversation with them. Whilst the suitors might enjoy the company of the maids it is clear Penelope commands a different level of attention, these suitors are smitten. As she moves amongst them, she avoids getting too close or stopped from moving on, she is keeping everything light hearted.

Telemachus watches his mother from the main room and enters the dining area but sits alone.

As Penelope passes Antinous, he stands and blocks her way, smiling she attempts to pass, but he holds her wrist. Argos stands and growls. Antinous kicks the dog away and looks Penelope in the eyes and whispers in her ear, not lovingly but a warning. She pulls herself free as he continues to stare at her intently, smiling, but with intimidation. Antinous looks toward Telemachus and then back to Penelope, making sure she notices. Antinous is making it clear that he has warned her and his threat involves Telemachus.

Free of him she moves on and smiles as if it were nothing has happened.

Antinous moves to stand behind Telemachus and smiles at her, Penelope sees Antinous, who is unseen by Telemachus. Penelope smiles at Telemachus, but he looks away. Antinous places a hand on his shoulder to which Telemachus reacts negatively, stands and exits into the Main Room. Antinous raise an eyebrow to her.

Penelope moves on and out of sight of the suitors. As a result of her conversation with Antinous, unseen by anyone, she leans against the wall begins to shake uncontrollably. Eurycleia who has seen everything, appears and comforts her. As Penelope continues to break down, Eurycleia shakes Penelope hard, impressing on her that she must be strong, she continues shaking her until Penelope stops.

SCENE 12

INT. / DUSK / MAIN ROOM / SAME DAY

THE DESKS IS OVERFLOWING AND ITS CHAOS INCREASING

Telemachus, Laertes and Anticlea are in the study. Penelope, who has recomposed herself enters with Eurycleia. Penelope approaches Telemachus and attempts to embrace him, but he pulls away and does not disguise his disgust and contempt for her. Telemachus exits to rejoin the suitors but sits alone.

Penelope looks toward Laertes who simply turns away. Anticlea looks towards Penelope without contempt but distressed, she acknowledges Penelope and exits followed by a concerned Eurycleia.

Penelope is alone, she stands silently and contemplates her dilemma. She sees Antinous, he smiles at her and then sits next to Telemachus, making sure she notices, he raises a glass of wine to her, the threat to Telemachus is clear.

SCENE 13

INT. / MORNING / MAIN ROOM / SOME WEEKS HAVE PASSED

THE DESK AND BOOKSHELF ARE NOW IN TOTAL CHAOS

Penelope walks to toward the window staring at the horizon. She looks to the pool, her face reacts to a horror, she is frozen and silent but then and she runs to the door shouting and out to the pool.

Eurycleia and Laertes enter and rush to the window. Laertes and Eurycleia stands still in horror transfixed. Telemachus enters. In shock he stops and then runs to join his mother outside, followed by Argos.

SCENE 14

EXT. / MORNING / THE POOL AREA / AT THE SAME TIME

Anticlea's body is floating face down in the pool. Penelope jumps into the pool and wades toward her, Telemachus jumps into the pool and helps to pull Anticlea out. Argos stands at the pool side joined by Eurycleia.

Attracted by the screams, a number of suitors run toward the pool and stop as the body of Anticlea is pulled from it. In the background other suitors oblivious of the unfolding tragedy continue to party.

Penelope turns Anticlea's body over, she is dead. Penelope weeps over the body and closes Anticlea eyes whilst Telemachus looks at the scene blankly. Amphhinomus steps forward, he picks the body up and carries it accompanied by Penelope and Eurycleia, they enter the main room.

SCENE 15

INT. /MORNING / MAIN ROOM / SAME DAY

Penelope clears the desk by pushing the piles of papers to the floor. Eurycleia lays a throw on the desk and Amphhinomus lays the body down.

Laertes, is ashen, he moves toward the ticking clock and smashes it, the glass cracks and it stops. He walks out of the house and watched by Penelope and Eurycleia out of the gate.

SCENE 16

EXT. / MORNING / REAR COURTYARD / CONTINUOUS

AN AREA BEYOND THE COURTYARD

Penelope and Eurycleia watch as he walks out of the compound past the suitors encampment. He reaches a small outbuilding, enters and shuts the door.

SCENE 17

EXT. / DAY / COURTYARD / ANOTHER DAY

Penelope, Telemachus, Eurycleia and the maids enter through the gate, returning somberly from the funeral. The suitors follow in a less somber, but still respectful mood. Argos is waiting for them.

Telemachus and Eurycleia enter the main room, the suitors sit in their dining area as the maids begin to serve them.

SCENE 18

INT. / DAY / LAERTES HUT / SAME DAY

Penelope still in her morning clothes moves on until she stands at the outbuilding where Laertes is living, accompanied only by Argos. There is a plate of food untouched outside the door. She knocks lightly and listens. Argos lies down outside the door.

SCENE 19

INT. / DAY / LAERTES HUT / ANOTHER DAY

Penelope carries a plate to Laertes door. She knocks lightly and listens. There is an empty plate outside the door, she puts the new plate of food outside the door and takes the empty one. She stands for a moment and then begins to walk back to the house.

SCENE 20

EXT. / DAY / COURTYARD / SAME DAY

Telemachus and Eurycleia watch as Penelope approaches, returning from Laertes door.

As Penelope nears the house Antinous and Eurymachus are waiting for her. She smiles and attempts, halfheartedly, to flirt, but her intention is to pass them as quickly as possible.

Telemachus turns away, Eurycleia continues to watch, but too far away to hear the encounter. Antinous grabs Penelope's arm, he is forceful and intimidating. Together with Eurymachus, Antinous lectures and threatens Penelope. He is angry and direct. She attempts to pull away. Eurymachus stands close to Antinous and reinforces his statements and then points to Telemachus, who hasn't seen them. It is clear they are making some sort of threat toward Telemachus.

Seeing them Amphinomus approaches and attempts to calm the situation. This enables Penelope to break free and as the three men talk she walks away. Antinous and Eurymachus point toward her, they are angry and directing their anger toward Penelope.

As Penelope exits and we see on her face the terror this conversation has aroused in her. She moves toward the stairs and out of sight she holds her breath. An old and lame Argos approaches her as if to offer support. Eurycleia who witnessed the encounter goes to Penelope and attempts to calm.

Now calm Penelope walks toward Telemachus, who has his back to her. As she reaches him he briefly turns, she attempts to smile, but he turns and walks off, not attempting to disguise his contempt for her.

Telemachus moves outside and sits among the suitors, but alone. Antinous and Eurymachus join him although he ignores them. Seeing this Penelope begins to shake uncontrollably and Eurycleia appears and leads her away up the stairs.

SCENE 22

INT. / EVENING / PENELOPE'S ROOM / SAME DAY

Penelope sits alone staring in the mirror contemplating her situation, she looks to pictures of her husband and her son Telemachus. She studies them intently. She walks to the window.

THE WINDOW OVERLOOKING THE COURTYARD

Penelope looks out of the window and stares out at the horizon. She looks down to where the suitors are sitting. Antinous sees her and raises his glass, then he and Eurymachus move to be either side of Telemachus.

They sit and engage him in conversation, they act matey with him and slap his back. Telemachus attempts to pull away but Eurymachus is being chummy and gracious. Antinous looks up toward Penelope again, raises his glass and then drops it so smashes on the floor. He smiles at Penelope and makes a gesture as if accidents happen. The link with his threat and Telemachus is made.

Penelope pulls back from the window. Her expression is one of fear and terror.

SCENE 24

INT. / EVENING / PENELOPE'S ROOM / SAME DAY

A frightened Penelope sits and stares into the mirror and studies herself intently.

Eurycleia enters, in the mirror Penelope sees her approach. Eurycleia holds her shoulders and looks at Penelope intently, without words telling her to be strong and take control. Penelope relaxes a little and then leans back into Eurycleia who strokes hers head.

SCENE 25

INT. / MORNING / PENELOPE'S ROOM / NEXT DAY

Penelope wearing a bathrobe and begins preparing herself, looking into the mirror. Eurycleia appears and comes towards Penelope who nods that she is ready and Eurycleia acknowledges it. Penelope stands, she is strong, focused and confident, she exits.

SCENE 26

EXT. /DAY / THE POOL

The suitors are by the pool area and partying as usual. Penelope's maids are serving them and flirting. Melanthe is serving Antinous and it is clear she enjoys her position as the lover of the first suitor.

A magnificent Penelope enters, as she walks towards the pool every man stops and looks toward her. Melanthe continues to flirt with Antinous but having seen Penelope he pushes her away, then she sees Penelope.

All the suitors and the maids are transfixed. Now the maids are invisible to the men. Penelope has a magnetism that no one can escape, even Telemachus. Argos, old and lame rises from his sleep to stand and watch her. Whilst Athene watches from the back.

Penelope stands at the edge of the pool, her dressing gown falls to the floor revealing her bathing costume. A murmur rises from the suitors, she raises her arms and dives into the pool. She gracefully swims to the opposite end, pulls herself up, with her back to the suitors. Slowly she turns to sit on the pool edge. raises her legs onto the pool side and stands. In profile and seemingly oblivious to all she throws her head back and the water from her hair splashes on to the pool side. Eurycleia appears and helps her into her robe.

Penelope exits. She walks past the suitors, who are awe struck and speechless, everyone including the maids simply watch her pass as she heads to the stairs.

The suitors are aroused by the vision that she is, they begin to stand and come closer together, internally questioning what has just occurred and how to respond.

Telemachus has watched this scene and is disgusted by her.

SCENE 27.

EXT. / DAY / DOOR PENELOPE'S ROOM / SAME DAY

The suitors can no longer contain themselves, led by Antinous the bustling hoard gather outside her door. He knocks loudly.

ANTINOUS
(firm not aggressive)
Penelope are you decent?

(beat)

The door swings open and Penelope stands before them, magnificent, confident and unafraid, in her robe.

PENELOPE
(almost laughing)
Who? Me?

The suitors move closer to the door entrance, their mood is tense and not amused. It is a short stand off that seems like an eternity. Antinous moves closer as if he will pull her to him, but she stops him by raising her hand and then speaks.

PENELOPE (cont'd)

My lords, my suitors, now that my husband, noble Odysseus is dead, restrain your ardor, do not urge marriage on me too quickly.

Amphhinomus steps forward in an attempt to calm the suitors to listen to what she says.

PENELOPE (cont'd)

Wait on me till I have done this work.

Eurycleia appears with a cloth, Penelope holds up her arms and Eurycleia lays the cloth across them.

PENELOPE (cont'd)

It is a shroud for Laertes my husband's father. When he succumbs to the dread hand of death, I must not risk the scandal among my countrywomen. If one who amassed such power, love and wealth were to be laid to rest without a shroud.

Antinous turns to the other suitor, led by Amphinonmus they nod their agreement but, then Antinous speaks for the all, but mainly himself.

ANTINOUS

Beware of counting too much on your countless gifts and that genius for getting your own way.

The suitor's turn and leave. Telemachus remains, alone except for Athene. Penelope smiles to him, but not disguising his contempt for her, he turns and walks away.

SCENE 28

INT. /DAY /PENELOPE'S ROOM / SAME DAY

Penelope shuts the door. The previously confident Penelope is at once exhausted and despondent. She lowers her head and silently cries, comforted by Eurycleia.

SCENE 29

INT. / DAY / PENELOPE'S WORK ROOM / ANOTHER DAY

(THE ROOM CAN BE SEEN
FROM THE COURTYARD)

Penelope works on the shroud as the suitors party. Antinous and Eurymachus look to her and she acknowledges them.

Melantho approaches Antinous and flirts, the other maids do the same with the other suitors. It is obvious they are lovers.

SCENE 30

INT. / NIGHT / MAIN ROOM / SAME DAY

Penelope works at the desk which is now neat and tidy.

SCENE 31

INT. / DAY / PENELOPE'S WORK ROOM / TIME HAS PASSED

Another day Penelope continues to work, we understand the progression of time.

SCENCE 32

INT. / NIGHT / MAIN ROOM / SAME DAY

Penelope works at the desk which is now neat and tidy.

SCENE 33

INT. / DAY / PENELOPE'S WORK ROOM / TIME HAS PASSED

Another day, Penelope continues to work as the sun sets she completes her work, which doesn't seem to progress, she turns out the light and exits. She sees the scene in the courtyard.

SCENE 34

INT. / NIGHT / MAIN ROOM / SAME DAY

Penelope works at the desk which is now neat and tidy.

SCENE 35

INT. / EVENING / OUTSIDE PENELOPE'S WORK ROOM / SAME DAY

Everyone has gone to bed. It is dark, a shadowy figure, Penelope, is unlocking the door quietly and secretively and enters the room.

SCENE 36

INT. / EVENING / PENELOPE'S WORK ROOM / TIME HAS PASSED

Another day Penelope continues to work, we understand the progression of time. A lethargy seems to invade the whole complex. She completes her work turns out the light and exits.

SCENE 37

INT. / NIGHT / MAIN ROOM / SAME DAY

Penelope stops and listens to the singer. She looks out of window and sees Telemachus alone.

Spotting her Antinous pushes Melanthe away and moves toward Telemachus. Making sure Penelope has seen him, he sits with Telemachus and looks toward her. The threat is clear, meanwhile Melanthe looks at Penelope and is visibly annoyed by Antinous desire for her.

SCENE 38

INT. / EVENING / OUTSIDE PENELOPE'S WORK ROOM / ANOTHER DAY

It is dark, a shadowy figure, Penelope, is unlocking the door quietly and secretively. In the darkness, unseen by Penelope, Melantho watches her.

SCENE 39

INT. / MORNING / PENELOPE'S WORK ROOM / ANOTHER DAY

Penelope is working on the shroud, below she can see Antinous and the other suitors in a heated discussion. Looking toward Penelope she is clearly the focus of their conversation.

Penelope looks way from them and continues with her work.

Breaking away from the group Antinous is clearly frustrated. Melantho comes to him but he pushes her away and speaks harshly to her. She persists and speaks to him, gesturing toward Penelope. He pulls Melantho to him roughly and questions her intently. She answers and smiles, pushes her body against him seductively and then leaves. She looks toward Penelope and smiles.

SCENE 40

INT. / NIGHT / PENELOPE'S WORK ROOM / SAME DAY

A figure, Penelope, with a small candle light is illuminating little more than a spot.

The door burst open and there stands Antinous and the other suitors. Beside Antinous is Melantho looking pleased with herself. There is uproar.

Penelope is both astonished and afraid, she has been caught, undoing the work that she has been completed during the day. She sits as if frozen.

There is a great disruption which wakes the house. More people enter the room, many of the maids who seem to have just come from the beds of suitors.

Eurycleia enters and then Telemachus, who is uncertain of what is happening. Athene stands among them.

Eurycleia moves to Penelope's side.

Antinous is furious, he takes what there is of the shroud and then speaks to Telemachus as if on behalf of the other suitors.

ANTINOUS

This is your mother, that
incomparable schemer, she is the
culprit.

(beat)

And here is another example of her
duplicity.

Listen.

(beat)

For three years, in fact close to
four, she has been leading us on.
Giving us some grounds for hope and
in her private messages to each, that
she has no intention of keeping.

By day she weaves but by night she
undid the work.

She is trying our young men's
patience and so long as she maintains
this attitude we will continue to eat
you out of house and home.

So we will not return to our own
estates until she makes her choice
and marries one of us.

Penelope looks to Telemachus for support but he turns and leaves disgusted by her actions.

Antinous takes the key, which is on a string, from Penelope. Penelope is crest fallen and Eurycleia at her side.

Antinous ushers everyone from the room.

SCENE 41

INT. / NIGHT / OUTSIDE PENELOPE'S WORK ROOM / SAME DAY

The room is emptied and the suitors stand watching. Antinous ensures Penelope watches as he locks the door. He then hangs it around Melantho neck who then exits past Penelope, haughty and proud, fully aware of her elevated position and wanting Penelope to fully acknowledge it.

Penelope and Eurycleia are alone. Argos, old and limping approaches and stand looking up at them.

SCENE 42

INT. / MORNING / OUTSIDE PENELOPE'S WORK ROOM / NEXT DAY

Penelope walks behind Melantho who unlocks the door and opens it, she stands back to allow Penelope to enter. Melantho is triumphant.

A blank Penelope sits down to work.

SCENE 43

INT. / EVENING / MAIN ROOM / ANOTHER DAY

Penelope is sitting at the desk working, outside the suitors are partying as usual. Penelope sees Telemachus sitting alone despondent, she sees him notice a compelling stranger, Athene, standing at the entrance. Telemachus stands and moves to greet the stranger, unseen by everyone except Penelope.

Telemachus engages the stranger in conversation, who appears to be asking what is happening, as the suitors party. Telemachus invites the stranger into the dining area and calls a maid to seat him.

Penelope stops her work and leaves the room.

SCENE 44

EXT. / EVENING / THE SUITORS DINING AREA / SAME DAY

Telemachus is sitting with Athene talking whilst listening to a singer, singing a sad song about loss. The old and lame Argos comes to the stranger and sits beside her/him.

Penelope enters and stands close behind them, unseen, at least by Telemachus. When the singing stops Penelope hears their conversation.

ATHENE

...but are you really Odysseus son?
How you have grown. You certainly
have his head and fine eyes.

TELEMACHUS

My mother certainly says I am
Odysseus son, but for myself, no man
can be certain of his parentage.

At this Penelope recoils, saddened and hurt.

TELEMACHUS (cont'd)

(gesturing to the
suitors)

If I am Odysseus son? I am the most
unfortunate man that ever lived.

Looking to the suitors Athene answers.

ATHENE

Singing comes cheap to those who
don't pay for it.

Yet with Penelope as your mother I
cannot think that your house is
doomed to an inglorious future.

(gesturing to the
suitors again)

ATHENE (cont'd)

They are living free off another man,
whose white bones are rotting upon a
distant land, but one glimpse of him
and they'd pray for a faster pair of
legs than a longer purse.

They sit quietly and then Athene speaks

ATHENE (cont'd)

May I give you some advice...

The singer begins again and Penelope can no longer hear
their conversation.

It is another sad song. The song makes Penelope sad and
eventually she speaks up, talking directly to the singer.

PENELOPE

Give us no more of this. It is too
sad and never fails to wring my
heart.

Some suitor voice their discontent at her intervention. Then
Telemachus stands and turns toward her.

TELEMACHUS

Mother, Odysseus is not the only one
who never returned from Troy...

Gesturing to the suitors who were listening to the singer.

TELEMACHUS (cont'd)

...it was the end of many another
man.

Attend to your own work. Making
decisions must be men's concern and
mine in particular for I am master in
this house.

Penelope is taken aback and shocked. As are the suitors who
mock Telemachus. Penelope exits, on her way out she stops
briefly as Telemachus, annoyed by the suitors ridicule,
calls them to order.

TELEMACHUS (cont'd)

Gentlemen, from you who court my
mother this is sheer insolence.

I demand you quit this house...

The suitors are shocked, irked and erupt with noisy shouting at Telemachus suggestion. Penelope exits and can hear no more above the uproar.

SCENE 45

INT. / EVENING / PENELOPE'S ROOM / SAME DAY

OVERLOOKING THE COURTYARD

Penelope watches as Telemachus marches out of the dining area and continues to berate the suitors who follow him out. The confrontation between them is tense. Antinous approaches Telemachus and attempts to diffuse the situation, but he is rebuffed and Telemachus storms off.

Antinous and Eurymachus look to one another, smirk and laugh. The other suitors gather around them, keen to discuss what has happened. The suitors break into groups in animated discussion.

Argos who had limped to Telemachus side remains and as Antinous departs he kicks Argos out of the way.

Penelope who has been watching is concerned by the suitors mood. Eurycleia, who was at her side exits unseen by Penelope.

SCENE 46

INT./ DAY / PENELOPE'S WORK ROOM / TIME HAS PASSED

Penelope is working, the maids are sitting talking gathered around Melantho. Eurycleia sits with Penelope watching them and amusing Penelope, trying to lighten her mood. In a happier mood Penelope laughing at something one of the maids is saying.

In rushes Mendon, a servant, he approaches Penelope. Falling on one knee who addresses her.

PENELOPE

What errand have my suitors sent you?
(Bored and 'playing
to the gallery')

(MORE)

PENELOPE (cont'd)
How I hate their pursuit of me.
(laughs)

MENDON
I only wish that were the worst of
your troubles.

Your suitors are planning a far more
shocking crime.

They are set on assassinating
Telemachus as he returns home

Penelope looks confused

MENDON (cont'd)
He has left?

Penelope is shocked, and Mendon's words trail off

MENDON (cont'd)
Gone to seek news of his father...

Penelope's mood instantly changes, her knees tremble and she is overwhelmed by fear and anguish. Shocked she doesn't know whether to sit or stand, go or stay. Eventually sitting she looks to Eurycleia and the maids.

PENELOPE
Is there a woman of my time who the
gods have treated worse than me?

I had a husband years ago, that
husband I have lost and now...

the whirlwinds have snatched my
darling son from the house without a
word.

I was not told,

Looking to Eurycleia

PENELOPE (cont'd)
even by you, who must have known it.

Eurycleia is remorseful and quite, she speaks without
looking Penelope in the eye.

EURYCLEIA

Whether you kill me with the cruel
knife or let me live on here, I
cannot hold my tongue.

I knew the whole thing.

It was I who helped him, but he made
me solemnly promise not to tell you
until he was missed.

Penelope is betrayed, numb and trembles. She sits and
Eurycleia comes to her.

EURYCLEIA (cont'd)

He didn't want tears to spoil your
lovely cheeks or your suitors to
know his plan.

Crying Penelope wraps her arms around Eurycleia's waist, who
touches Penelope's hair gently. Penelope stand and exits
into her bedroom. Outside the suitors are in uproar.

SCENE 47

INT. / EVENING / PENELOPE'S BEDROOM

Penelope sits on her bed, on a table beside her food and
drink are untouched. Eurycleia, enters, looks at the food,
eventually she helps Penelope lie back on the bed and sleep.
A sad Eurycleia looks down at her and exits, turning out the
light and closing the door.

Athene as Iphthime, Penelope's sister, enters and looking
down at her speaks.

IPHTHIME

Are you asleep?

Penelope opens her eyes and looks up

IPHTHIME (cont'd)

Do not be so distressed, for it is settled that your son shall come home safe.

Penelope sits up sleepily.

PENELOPE

Sister? What brings you here?

(pause)

You tell me to forget my sorrows as though I had not married and lost the best and bravest of men

(pause)

and now my beloved son, for whom I grieve more than my husband, is gone.

He has so many enemies plotting against him and thirsting for his blood before he gets home.

IPHTHIME

Sister, be brave and conquer these fears. He has gone with Pallas Athene beside him and she has sent me with this message.

There is a long pause as Penelope takes in this information, then as if it has just come to her, asks.

PENELOPE

If you really are divine then tell me about his father too?

IPHTHIME

Of Odysseus, whether dead or alive, I will not give you news. It does no good to utter empty words.

Iphthime smiles and exits. Penelope lies back down and closes her eyes. Suddenly she sits bolt upright, fully awake, she looks around and seeing no one lies back down. She drifts off to sleep.

INT / NIGHT / PENELOPE'S BEDROOM

Penelope wakes, sees it is dark, rises and walks to the window. She stares out blankly, accompanied by Argos.

SCENE 49

INT / MORNING / PENELOPE'S BEDROOM

Penelope is still at the window as if in a trance, blank and dead. She may have been standing there all night. Eurycleia brings her food but she doesn't eat, she pushes it away. Eurycleia offers it to her again but she turns and stares out of the window, while Argos lies beside her.

(knock at the door)

Eurycleia opens the door, Melantho stands aware of her position and power. Penelope sees her and acknowledges her. Melantho turns to leave Penelope follows quietly, defeated.

SCENE 50

INT / EVENING / OUTSIDE PENELOPE'S WORK ROOM

Melantho opens the door from the inside. Penelope can be seen finishing her work and exits. Melantho follows and locks the door and walks off with a spring in her step in contrast to Penelope's listlessness.

SCENE 51

INT / MORNING / PENELOPE'S WORK ROOM

THE ROOM CAN BE SEEN FROM THE COURTYARD

Penelope is working listlessly with Eurycleia close by. She stops work and walks to the window. Suddenly below, outside, there is uproar among the suitors as they listen to a herald who has just arrived and brings news. They gather around the herald. Some of the suitors seem angry, whilst others are at a loss as if they can't believe the news.

The maids who had been chatting among themselves and quite happy, notice the uproar and most exit to find out what is happening, including Melantho.

Eumaeus enters and is careful not to be seen by the maids, he approaches Penelope and draws her aside, in order that he can speak to her privately.

EUMAEUS

Telemachus has returned safely to you. He instructed me that this news is for your ears only. He does not want his enemies to know.

Eumaeus and Penelope look out the window at the suitors with the herald.

EUMAEUS (cont'd)

But I fear that it is too late.

As he leaves Penelope sees the suitors begin to arm themselves, they gather around Antinous who is instructing them and they prepare to leave.

SCENE 52

INT / DAY / COURTYARD

The suitors are about to leave, but the crew of Telemachus appear, without him and they enter the house. The suitors are angry and frustrated, they gather around Antinous questioning what to do next.

Penelope enters stands before them with Argos at her side. The suitors part to allow her to walk up to Antinous. She is confident, stands in front of him and slaps his face.

PENELOPE

You are an arrogant and evil schemer.

Gesturing to the suitors.

PENELOPE (cont'd)

And they say that in judgment and eloquence you're the best man among you.

Now I know you are not. You are a covetous fool, how dare you plot against my son's life.

It is sacrilege for you who has received mercy here, to plot against one in need of it.

(MORE)

PENELOPE (cont'd)

Or do you not know that your father
once sought refuge from Odysseus? And
had he not come to his rescue your
father would have been killed and
your fortune gone.

That same Odysseus, at whose expense
you are now living free, whose wife
you are courting and whose son you
propose to kill.

Antinous is angry, but restrained. He is shocked and a
little embarrassed in front of the others, but keeping his
temper in check, he speaks and with charm and false grace.

ANTINOUS

Penelope, have no fear, dismiss
terrors from your mind.

Didn't Odysseus befriend me too, that
makes Telemachus my dearest friend on
earth and I assure him he need have
no fear of death at the suitors
hands.

Penelope smiles falsely, fully aware these words are a lie,
she exits followed by Eurycleia. Antinous kicks Argos away,
turns toward the suitors.

SCENE 53

INT / DAY / PENELOPE'S ROOM

Penelope is in her room, Telemachus enters, seen first by
Eurycleia who rushes to him and weeps tears of joy. He
approaches Penelope and they embrace.

Penelope breaks off and holds him away from her and observes
him and smiles both overjoyed and proud at the man he has
become.

Argos Limpes in and stands beside them.

PENELOPE

Light of my eyes. I thought I would
never see you again

TELEMACHUS

Mother don't bring tears to my eyes
when I have just escaped from violent
death.

Penelope hugs him close to her. She looks to Eurycleia smiling. There is a pause and then more seriously she asks.

PENELOPE

Have you heard anything of your
father?

TELEMACHUS

I will tell you the truth.

We visited Nestor but he had not
heard a word, so his sons accompanied
me to see Menelaus and Helen of
Argos, for whose sake we and the
Trojans suffered so much.

With Menelaus help, I heard myself,
from the Old Man of Sea that he had
seen my father in great distress on
Calypso's island, where she keeps him
captive.

Penelope looks at her son and then moves away toward the window, looking out, she calls for food, drink and a bath for her son, and continues to look out of the window staring blankly.

SCENE 54

INT / DAY / SUITORS DINING AREA

Penelope enters with Telemachus. She stands watching the crowd of suitors, she is looking radiant. Telemachus is washed and cleanly dressed, he looks magnificent.

Telemachus steps forward, the suitors are surprised to see him. They gather round him, but with the help of Athene he manages to evade their crowding and joins the safety of his crew who have also bathed and are now feasting.

Penelope continues to stand and watch, she is joined by Eurycleia who too is happy, they stand arm in arm. They notice Eumaeus enter and join Telemachus.

Penelope then sees a ragged stranger, Odysseus Disguised, approach the entrance. Argos stirs and then stands, old and lame, he attempts to run toward Odysseus Disguised, as he runs to him the suitors point, laugh and jeer at the old dog. A suitor seated kicks Argos as he passes and the dog falls into the pool. Frantically he continues to swim toward Odysseus Disguised but he doesn't have the strength and he collapses and dies, lying motionless in the water. Odysseus Disguised hurries to pool jumps in and wades toward Argos. He lifts him up, but he is dead. He holds the dog close to him and carries him up the pool steps.

The suitors see Odysseus Disguised carrying Argos and jeer, a few throw food and the bones of the meat they are eating at him.

Ignoring their abuse Odysseus Disguised carries Argos to Penelope, who is watching. He stands before Penelope, Eurycleia takes off Penelope's shawl and covers Argos as Penelope gently weeps and she strokes the dog's head. Amphinomus steps forward takes the dog from Odysseus Disguised and exits with him. Eurycleia and Penelope weep and comfort one another. A sad and downhearted Odysseus Disguised walks off, a tear in his eye, which Penelope notices. As he leaves them Penelope looks toward the stranger, intrigued.

Odysseus Disguised approaches the suitors and begs for food, they turn away or berate him. One of them pushes another ragged old man into Odysseus Disguised and orchestrates a fight between them. Despite the Suitors attempting to trip, push or hold Odysseus Disguised, he beats his opponent to the floor, who is no mood to try again, although the Suitors urge him on.

Telemachus approaches Odysseus Disguised, leads him away and offers him a seat and calls for food.

Penelope notices everything, particularly how the suitors observe Telemachus. They look darkly toward him as if conspiring in his downfall. She exits concerned as to what needs to be done to protect him.

SCENE 55

INT. / DUSK / PENELOPE'S ROOM

Penelope sits contemplating herself in the mirror, she stands and walks toward the window looking out to the distance. Eurycleia enters and puts her hand on Penelope's shoulder, without looking Penelope touches Eurycleia's hand. Athene stands in the background.

Penelope walks to her wardrobe and pulls out a dress, she looks to Eurycleia who nods her agreement at the choice. Penelope holds the dress against herself, she dresses and as she fixes her hair she looks in the mirror.

EURYCLEIA

If all men could set eyes on you tonight, even more suitors would be feasting in your halls tomorrow. For in loveliness of face, form and wisdom, you are supreme.

Penelope shakes her head.

PENELOPE

The Gods destroyed my loveliness when the men left for Troy and my husband went with them.

When he left he said I do not think all of us will return unhurt. I leave everything in your charge.

If I should not return, when you see a beard upon our boys chin, marry, who you want and leave this house.

She looks out toward the distance and speaks as if talking to herself.

PENELOPE (cont'd)

I see approaching the night when I must accept a detestable union, it will be the end of me and take me from this house I love.

SCENE 56

INT. / EVENING /THE SUITORS DINING AREA

Penelope enters looking radiant. The suitors see her and Antinous approaches and greets her, he is charm itself. Offering her a seat, wine and calls for food for her. Penelope stops and looks at him.

PENELOPE

Here is something that that causes me distress. Yours is no means the right way to conduct your suit for a lady of a good family.

Such suitors give presents, they do not enjoy free meals at her expense.

ANTINOUS

Wise Penelope, by all means accept every gift that any of us might bring you, it would not be ungracious to give, but we will not return to our own estates until you marry one of us.

Penelope stares at him, nods and bows her head, speaking quietly and resigned.

PENELOPE

Tomorrow.

Antinous turns to the other suitors and they show their support and agreement for what he has said. They return to feasting and everyone else goes about their business.

Penelope calls Eumaeus to her. She asks Eumaeus about Odysseus Disguised who, seeing her talking about him, acknowledges her, as she does him.

SCENE 57

INT. / EVENING /THE SUITORS DINING AREA

Nearly everyone except Penelope has gone to bed, a few Suitors who are the worse the wear from drink are being helped to bed by other suitors and maids. Antinous is one of them, he is attended by Melantho, who acts as if she is in charge of the house.

Sitting by the fire Penelope is alone with Eurycleia.

Odysseus Disguised approaches Penelope. As Melantho passes she speaks loudly to Odysseus Disguised.

MELANTHO

Still here to plague us all night.

Prowling around the house.

Ogling the women.

Melantho scornfully laughs. Penelope stands up, she is outraged by the boldness of the maid.

PENELOPE

You shameless bitch. I am aware of your disgraceful behavior and you shall pay dearly for it.

Melantho acts as if she is in charge, laughs and marches off to catch up with Antinous

Penelope sits, regains her composure and gestures to Odysseus Disguised to sit, sends Eurycleia to get food and drink for him and studies Odysseus Disguised face.

PENELOPE (cont'd)

Stranger, who are you? Where are you from?

ODYSSEUS DISGUISED

My lady, there is not a man in the wide world who could find fault with you. Your fame has reached the broad heavens itself. Ask me any question, but inquire not about my ancestry,

He looks to the floor.

ODYSSEUS DISGUISED (cont'd)

for I am a man of sorrows.

Penelope looks away.

PENELOPE

My pre-eminence was destroyed when my husband embarked for Ilium.

she looks back toward him.

PENELOPE (cont'd)

I am left to my misery. I eat my heart out in longing, meanwhile my suitors are pressing me to name my wedding day.

I devised tricks to deceive them, but through the connivance of my maids I was caught.

Now I can neither evade marriage nor think of any means of escape.

(MORE)

PENELOPE (cont'd)

My son is exasperated at the drain of our estates. He is now a man and able to look after the house

She looks away

PENELOPE (cont'd)

He wants me to go.

She stares out into the distance.

PENELOPE (cont'd)

I am told you knew Odysseus.

ODYSSEUS DISGUISED

It was long ago and twenty years since he left my country, but he gave me this ring in thanks for the help I gave him.

Penelope turns, she gasps at the sight of the ring and a tear comes to her eye. Odysseus Disguised removes it from his finger and offers it to her. As if about to touch a mystical relic she takes it and clasps her hand tight and closes her eyes.

Still with her eyes closed she offers it back, insistently and Odysseus Disguised takes it.

PENELOPE

Friend, I pitted you before, but now you shall be a dear and honored guest in my house.

Tears roll down Penelope's cheeks.

ODYSSEUS DISGUISED

Do not ravage those fair cheeks anymore, nor wring your heart by weeping for your husband.

Hear what I have to say. I am speaking the truth, I have news of Odysseus return, he is alive and near.

I had it from Pheidon that Odysseus had gone to find out how he should approach his homeland after so long? Openly or disguised?

(MORE)

ODYSSEUS DISGUISED (cont'd)
His exile will be ended soon.

Penelope is quite and looking away, eventually she speaks.

PENELOPE
Friend, may what you you say prove
true, but my heart forebodes this,
Odysseus will not come home.

Penelope beckons Eurycleia.

PENELOPE (cont'd)
Come my dear kind Eurycleia, bathe
the feet of someone who knew
Odysseus.

Eurycleia who has been studying Odysseus Disguised comes
closer to him and looks at his face intently.

EURYCLEIA
I will bath your feet, both for
Penelope's sake and for your own. We
have had plenty of travel weary
strangers here since Odysseus has
been gone, but none have reminded me
so strongly of him as you.

As Eurycleia washes his feet, Penelope now standing and
looking into the distance speaks.

PENELOPE
Listen to this dream of mine last
night.

I have a flock of twenty geese that I
delight in watching. In my dream a
great eagle swoops down kills them
all.

I sit and cry, but the bird comes
back and breaking into human speech
says, 'take heart, this is not a
dream but a happy reality. The geese
were your suitors and I that was the
eagle am now your husband, home again
ready to inflict a gruesome fate on
every man among them.

Then I awoke.

ODYSSEUS DISGUISED

This dream can only be interpreted in one way. Odysseus Will return.

PENELOPE

But dreams my friend are awkward and confusing, not all that people see in them comes true.

Eurycleia having completed washing Odysseus Disguised feet, suddenly stands, looks at him shocked and hurriedly exits, averting her eyes from Penelope's gaze as she leaves. Penelope stands and watches her exit perplexed by her actions.

Penelope is quiet looking to where she went, then looks to Odysseus Disguised. She moves away a little and looks out into the distance. After a pause she continues as if alone.

(Scene change - Penelope continues to speak)

SCENE 58

INT. / MORNING / SUITORS DINING AREA

(Voice over)

PENELOPE

The hateful day is drawing near which is to tear me from Odysseus's house.

Penelope enters holding a bow with Eurycleia and Athene close behind followed by Mendon and servants carrying axes and a target.

The Suitors stand before Penelope. Mendon and the servants begin to set up the axes, with the handles upward, the rings on the base of the handle which are used to hang them are lined up and spaced apart, with a target at the end.

PENELOPE (cont'd)
(Voice over)

PENELOPE (cont'd)
For tomorrow I intend to set a test
using the bow and the axes he used
himself and I will make the suitors
take that same test,

Penelope holds the bow close to her body, as if caressing
it.

(Voice over)

PENELOPE (cont'd)
whoever completes it first, I will
marry, bidding farewell to this house
that welcomed me as a bride and which
in my dreams I will never forget.

Holding the bow above her head. Penelope places the bow on a
table.

THE SPEECH BECOME CONTEMPORARY WITH THE ACTION

Penelope speaks to the gathered suitors.
(Penelope speaks)

PENELOPE (cont'd)
Come forward now, my gallant lords,
the prize stands before you.

The suitors look to one another knowing that this is their
opportunity and Penelope is the prize.

From among them Telemachus steps forward, he looks at the
bow and then the hoops and target. Mendon places a blindfold
over his eyes and he starts to string the bow. The Suitors
begin to look at one another beginning to wonder if he will
succeed. Nearly stringing it, Odysseus Disguised coughs
loudly, Telemachus fumbles and stops, pulls the blindfold
off and admits defeat. He slowly walks away from the table
watched by the suitors, Penelope, Eurycleia, Athene and
Odysseus Disguised who Penelope notices, nods toward
Telemachus with a slight smile at him, the smile is
returned.

A suitor steps forward and starts and quickly fails, other
multiple suitors attempt the feat.

Eventually a cocky and confident Antinous steps forward. He
looks to the assembled suitors, picks up one of the arrows
and looking toward Penelope he kisses it and smiles. He turn
back and standing before the table is blindfolded and
begins.

He quickly and confidently starts, the gathered suitors appear to believe he will be successful, however nearing completion his fingers stumble and repeatedly he fails to complete it. Frustrated he throws it down and tears off the blindfold.

An impasse has been reached, as Eurymachus talks to Antinous about the situation and the suitors gather round them. Odysseus Disguised steps forward to attempt it. A suitor sees him, shouts and gestures him away, the other suitors join in the abuse, but Penelope raises her hand to stop them, they all stop and look at her. She gestures Odysseus Disguised to continue.

Odysseus Disguised nods his appreciation to Penelope and then turns his back to her to begin. He is blindfolded. As he starts many of the suitors are not really paying attention, but as he continues more and more watch in silence. Eventually everyone is watching. Odysseus Disguised strings the bow, falls to one knee, pulls the blindfold off and fires an arrow through the rings of the axe handles and hits the target dead centre.

Silence descends on the room. The suitors slowly back away from Odysseus Disguised, only Telemachus, Eumaeus and Philoetius stand their ground with him.

Penelope with Eurycleia behind her stands watching, amazed. Odysseus Disguised turns to face her. His face has become Odysseus.

THE FACE OF ODYSSEUS DISGUISED AND ODYSSEUS ALTERNATE

Penelope cannot comprehend what is happening and eventually seeing Odysseus before her appears almost scared. She steps backward, away from him, slowly. He begins to move toward her, she looks toward Telemachus as if trying to make sense of it. In the background the suitors are getting ready to fight, frantically looking for their weapons. She continues to walk backward slowly and is outside the door, she sees Telemachus preparing to fight and she rushes forward toward him but Odysseus slams the door shut, leaving her and Eurycleia outside.

SCENE 59

INT. / DAY / OUTSIDE THE DINING HALL

Penelope moves backward away from the door, fearful and confused. She is still in shock and afraid for Telemachus.

The sound of battle is heard.

THE HIGH UP GLASS WINDOWS SPLATTER WITH BLOOD

Athene walks past Penelope, opens the door and enters, Penelope sees Telemachus fighting, she rushes forward but before she can enter Athene shuts the door behind her. Penelope tries the door frantically, but it is locked, as the sounds of fighting and cries increases, she falls to the floor at the foot of the door.

THE WINDOWS SPLATTER WITH MORE BLOOD.

SCENE 60

INT. / DAY / OUTSIDE THE DINING HALL

Melantho and the other maids appear, confused and distressed. Eurycleia steps forward and moves them away, she pushes them in to another room that she shuts and locks.

SCENE 61

INT. / DAY / OUTSIDE THE DINING HALL

Penelope is still frozen, still on the floor. Blood begins to flow from under the door. Her dress, her hair and her hands are covered in blood.

THE BLOOD ON THE WINDOWS INTER-CUT WITH THE INCREASINGLY BLOOD SOAKED PENELOPE BECOMES AN ABSTRACT MONTAGE.

Eurycleia stands behind her and is also fearful.

Eventually the sound of battle stops. Penelope is on the floor and still. A fearful Eurycleia stands behind her. The door is opened, by Athene, who walks out and away. Penelope looks up and she sees before her a bloodied Odysseus, flanked by Telemachus.

Eurycleia helps the blood soaked Penelope to her feet and seeing Telemachus she runs to him, avoiding Odysseus gaze, she embraces the bloodied Telemachus. Penelope holds Telemachus away from her to study him joyously. Then Penelope looks toward Odysseus confused, she studies him intently even though he is only a few feet away.

Penelope stands with Telemachus amid the room that is covered in blood and the dead bodies of the suitors.

Eumaeus and Philoetius stand amongst the bodies. Penelope looks around the room at the carnage and surveys the situation.

Unnoticed by Penelope, Odysseus grabs Eurycleia arm and makes his exit with her. Seeing them Telemachus exits with them.

From behind an upturned table, the sound of people moving is heard. Penelope, Eumaeus and Philoetius freeze imagining that it might be surviving suitors ready to continue the fight. Over the top of the table one by one a head appears, it is the musicians. Unsure of what fate awaits them they all look left and then right, then stand, thankful to be alive.

Without emotion Penelope walks around the room studying the bodies of the slain suitors. She studies Eurymachus and then Antinous and shakes her head at their folly.

Penelope stops at the body of Amphhinomus. Penelope kneels beside him, brushes the hair from his eyes and closes his eyes. She stands, nods her head sadly and mournfully.

The musicians are gathering their instruments, when outside in the street a commotion is heard. Penelope, Eumaeus, Philoetius and the musicians stop and listen. Penelope rights a table close to the wall and looks out.

IN THE STREET ARE MEN AND WOMEN CONCERNED ABOUT THE SOUND OF FIGTHING AND COMMOTION.

Penelope turns to the musicians and mimes that they play, they look blank but emphatically she mimes 'now'. They begin to play mournfully.

Penelope looks back to the musicians incredulous and emphatically mimes 'happy'. They begin a more upbeat version of the same tune.

Exasperated she mimes happy dance music, they look confused then start to play a Bosa Nova tune. Looking back to the street she sees the crowd's mood lighten slightly, she then mimes to Eumaeus and Philoetius to dance, confused they begin to dance and their silhouettes are seen on the walls and curtains covering the windows. She then mimes that each dance with a dead body. Reluctantly they start, the crowd is more relaxed and begins to disperse.

As the band and Eumaeus and Philoetius have got into the mood and Eumaeus begins to dip his dead partner.

As Penelope steps off the table she looks to Eumaeus and Philoetius in amazement shaking her in slight disbelief.

SCENE 62

INT. / DAY / COURTYARD

As Penelope walks toward the doorway, in the courtyard she sees Eurycleia and beyond two benches with the feet of the maids standing on them.

PENELOPE CAN ONLY SEE THE MAIDS FROM THE WAIST DOWN AS THE TOP OF THE DOORWAY OBSCURES HER VIEW.

THE BOSA NOVA MUSIC CAN BE HEARD IN THE BACKGROUND

The maids are crying and pleading.

As Penelope enters, Odysseus kicks away a bench and a group of maids fall hanging with ropes around their necks. Telemachus then does the same with the other bench. The maids have been hung, their bodies dangle, twist and kick. Penelope is shocked, she stands silent and blank. Eurycleia, Odysseus and Telemachus see her but offer no remorse or explanation.

THE MUSIC CONTINUES TO PLAY

The bodies stop twisting. Penelope approaches the hanging body of Melanthe and shakes her head. Penelope takes a knife that Telemachus is holding, then turns a bench upright again, stands on the bench and cuts Melanthe down. Penelope tries to hold the body but it is too heavy for her and they both fall to the floor. She knells by the body, straightens it out from its crumpled position and she closes Melanthe's eyes.

Eventually Penelope stands, blankly looks at Odysseus, Telemachus and Eurycleia, then turns to leave. Eurycleia moves toward her.

EURYCLEIA

Odysseus has come and is home after
all these years.

Odysseus and Telemachus look at Penelope for a reaction. She turns toward Odysseus, she stands silently and completely still, they stare into each others eyes. Confronting the other more like boxers than wife and husband.

Penelope walks toward Telemachus, she kisses Telemachus on the head. He seems uncertain about how to react to her.

TELEMACHUS

Mother.

Telemachus, his voice shocked and accusing.

TELEMACHUS (cont'd)
My hard-hearted, un-motherly mother,
why do you keep your distance from my
father, like this?

Penelope turns to look at Odysseus but doesn't show any recognition or joy. When she doesn't move toward Odysseus Telemachus voice becomes even more accusatory

TELEMACHUS (cont'd)
But then your heart was always harder
than flint.

(Pause)

PENELOPE
My child, the shock has numbed it. I
cannot find a word to say to him;

Penelope turns to face Telemachus.

PENELOPE (cont'd)
I cannot even look him in the face.

But if it really is Odysseus home
again, we two shall soon know each
other more certainly; for there are
signs hidden from others which only
we two know.

As Penelope turns to leave. Odysseus Speaks softly to Telemachus. Penelope stops to hear Odysseus's words, whilst not looking at him or acknowledging him.

ODYSSEUS
Telemachus, leave your mother to put
me to the proof.

Because I'm dirty and in rags she
undervalues me and won't admit I'm
Odysseus, but she will soon come to
look at me in a different light.

Penelope exits upstairs toward her room.

SCENE 63

INT. /DAY /PENELOPE'S SHOWER

Penelope showers and washes the blood from her hands and body.

SCENE 64

INT. /DAY /PENELOPE'S ROOM

Dressed and clean Penelope studies herself in the mirror. She looks at Eurycleia in the reflection.

EURYCLEIA

Odysseus really has come and is home,
just as I told you.

He's the stranger whom they all
insulted.

Telemachus has known for some time
that he was back, but had the sense
to keep's his father's plan a secret
till he'd made those upstarts pay for
their crimes.

Eurycleia is imploring and almost insistent. Penelope stands, her heart quickening with excitement that she must keep in check.

PENELOPE

My dearest Eurycleia. Do not be
angry.

I have always had the cold fear in my
heart that somebody might come here
and deceive me with his talk.

Helen of Argos would never of slept
in a foreign lovers arms had she
known... it was a spell that drove
her to do this shameful deed, a fatal
madness, the madness which was the
cause of her woes and mine.

All my unhappiness is due to those,
who couldn't bear to see me and my
husband share the joys of youth and
reach the threshold of old age
together.

(MORE)

PENELOPE (cont'd)

(knock at door)

Odysseus enters, clean and magnificent. He sits behind Penelope looking at her face in the mirror. After studying her he speaks.

ODYSSEUS

What a strange woman you are. No other wife could keep so long out of the arms of a husband who has just returned after twenty wearisome years.

Odysseus looks to Eurycleia

ODYSSEUS (cont'd)

Eurycleia make a bed for me to sleep alone, for my wife's heart is as hard as iron.

Penelope continues to look in the mirror.

PENELOPE

What a strange man you are. I am not being haughty or contemptuous of you, but I am not surprised you think I am. But I have a clear picture of you when you flew from Ithaca, long ago.

Penelope stands and moves to face the closed door to her bedroom with her back to Odysseus.

PENELOPE (cont'd)

Come, Eurycleia, move the great bed that he himself built and make it up for him to sleep in another room.

A shocked Odysseus leaps to his feet. He looks to Eurycleia and then to the back of Penelope.

ODYSSEUS

Lady, this is a knife to my heart.

I built this bed for our wedding, it has a secret. It could not be moved without its destruction.

Odysseus approaches her and stands next to her facing the door. Speaking to her whilst she remains still and focused on the door.

ODYSSEUS (cont'd)
I built it around the trunk of the
old tree that grew here, you knew
this secret.

Increasingly agitated he speaks.

ODYSSEUS (cont'd)
What have you done?

THEY ARE SEEN FROM BEHIND

Penelope pushes the door open and there is the bed. Odysseus looks at it and gives a small laugh, he has been tricked.

Penelope takes his hand and leads him forward. Together they walk toward the bed. Odysseus stops whilst Penelope turns and closes the door on the others outside.

(Penelope is in control)

SCENE 65

INT. / NIGHT / PENELOPE'S BEDROOM

The room is completely black except for the bed which is lit.

Penelope and Odysseus are in bed. The inference is that they have just made love.

Penelope holds Odysseus face and looks into it, she is happy, she rises from the bed.

SCENE 66

INT. / DANCE SEQUENCE SET I

A CHOREOGRAPHED DANCE SEQUENCES OF 2 - 5 MINUTES.

AN ABSTRACT, EXPRESSIONISTIC SEQUENCE PERFORMED IN A BLACK ROOM WITH BACK/FRONT AND FILM/LIGHT PROJECTIONS. THE ONLY OTHER PHYSICAL CHARACTER IS EURYCLEIA WHO APPEARS AS OTHER WORDLY AND NOT IN THE ACTION.

Penelope is seen in a labyrinth, her dance describes how she waited for Odysseus, the arrival of the suitors, Anticlea death, how she avoided the suitor's advances by using the trick of the shroud and how she defended Telemachus. Throughout Eurycleia acts a rock, providing stability, safety and friendship.

The dance ends with Penelope alone. She returns to the bed, she looks into Odysseus's eyes. He is amazed, proud but then suddenly he is sorrowful.

SCENE 67

INT. / DANCE SEQUENCE SET II

THIS SECTION IS OF 15 - 20 MINUTES. AN ABSTRACT AND EXPRESSIONISTIC TELLING OF ODYSSEUS 20 YEAR JOURNEY THROUGH DANCE.

ALL CHARACTERS ARE MASKED, EXCEPT ATHENE WHO IS PLAYED BY THE SAME ACTOR/DANCER.

Odysseus Dancer walks away from the bed and stands in front of a back projection of his leaving.

BACK PROJECTION SCENE 1 - without Odysseus in shot.

Interacting with the back projection Odysseus Dancer walks away from Penelope looking back toward her, as in the original opening scene of the film.

(DANCE SEQUENCE - IN
PART WITH VOICE OVER
FOR CLARITY BUT KEPT
TO A MINIMUM)

Odysseus Dancer is joined by his crew as they sail away in multiple ships. A depiction of the war and battles follow, and the stalemate of many years.

THE KEY FOCUS IS THE TRICK OF THE TROJAN HORSE, CYCLOPS, SIRENS, CIRCE, HALL OF HADES AND CALYPSOS

Odysseus Dancer stands with his crew. After a period of inaction and of years passing. Odysseus has an idea.

A wooden horse stands outside the Trojan gate. From inside a group of men emerge, approach and admire the wooden horse. The leader and his men discuss the horse and then push the horse inside the gate.

(DANCE SEQUENCE)

At night Odysseus and several of his men appear from the horse, they open the gate and in come hordes of soliders. A scene of carnage follows as they slaughter men, women and children.

When the carnage subsides Odysseus Dancer is congratulated by his crew and lifted on to their shoulders. Others are shocked by the slaughter and offer thanks to a deity, but Odysseus Dancer's hubris is great and he and his crew ignore this and take off in their ships.

A storm erupts and batters Odysseus Dancer's ships which eventually take shelter in the bay of a strange land.

(MONTAGE DANCE AND
VISUAL SECTION)

CICONES - Odysseus Dancer's men find a city and sack it, despite Odysseus Dancer pleas they will not leave. Other Cicones arrive to defend the City. A number of Odysseus Dancer's crew are killed as they hurriedly escape. Odysseus Dancer is shocked by the loss of life.

LOTUS EATERS - Odysseus Dancer and his crew land on another island and meet the Lotus eaters who are happy and friendly. Some of Odysseus Dancer's crew begin eating the lotus flowers and in a drugged state want to remain. Odysseus Dancer eventually forces them to escape.

CYCLOPS - Landing on a new island Odysseus Dancer decides to explore and with some of his crew he is overwhelmed by the bounty stored in the giant Cyclops home. When the Cyclops returns they become trapped and the Cyclops kills and eats some of the crew. Odysseus Dancer tricks the Cyclops and blinds him by twisting a burning pole into his one eye. They escape but only after the Cyclops destroys a few of their ships.

AEOLUS - At last Odysseus Dancer land on Aeolus and a friendly King helps Odysseus Dancer, he gives him a leather bag with the wind that will help them reach home. When they are in sight of home, Odysseus Dancer falls asleep and a jealous crew member believing the bag is treasure that Odysseus Dancer plans to keep for himself, opens the bag and they are blown back to the island.

Bewildered Odysseus Dancer asks the King for help again, but believing Odysseus Dancer and his men are cursed he throws them out.

TELEPLAYS/LAESTRYGRONIANS - Odysseus Dancer and his crews sail away but are soon forced to land again. They have come upon a place full of giants, they seek help but the Laestrygonians plan to eat them, Odysseus Dancer and his men run but the giants destroy all of the ships except Odysseus Dancer's which escapes, but is damaged.

(THE DANCE BECOMES
MORE DIRECT)

CIRCE - Now reduced to one small crew, his ship lands on an island, the down hearted Odysseus Dancer and his men sit and wonder. Some of the crew explore, all but one meet Circe who tricks them and turns hem in to pigs. The escaping crew member tells Odysseus Dancer what has happen. Odysseus Dancer goes searching for Circe's palace and meets Hermes who gives him the antidote to Circe's potion and explains how to out-trick her. Circe then tells Odysseus Dancer how to get Hades where he can find directions home. He and his crew use a boat she gives them to sail to Hades.

HALLS OF HADES - Odysseus Dancer reaches Hades and meets his mother and his dead comrades. Theban Teiresias tells him of the Sirens, Charybdis, Scylla and the cattle of the sun king.

CIRCE - They return to Circe to bury their colleague and end up staying for a year, Odysseus Dancer making love to Circe.

SIRENS - On their journey home by boat, Odysseus Dancer wants to hear the song of the Sirens and is tied up on deck whilst his crew cover heir ears.

CHARYBDIS, SCYLLA - they avoid the monster and the whirlpool

CATTLE OF THE SUN - Eventually Odysseus Dancer and his men arrive on an island. He tells his men to leave the cattle, but being hungry they won't listen and eat one. When they resume their journey Zeus' sends a thunder bolt that sinks the boat that kills the crew. Leaving Odysseus Dancer on his own and struggling for survival in a storm.

CALYPSO - Odysseus Dancer is washed up on Calypso's island. She is beautiful and wants to marry him and make him immortal, but doesn't want to stay. Each day he longs for home and Penelope and each night sleeps with Calypso. After seven years Mercury, sent by Athene and the Gods, arrives and convinces Calypso to let him go.

NAUSICAA/KING ALCINOUS/QUEEN ARETE of PHAEACIA - having built a small boat, sails away, but during a storm Odysseus Dancer is washed up upon a strange shore and is found by King Alcinous's daughter, Nausicaa, she is smitten by Odysseus Dancer and helps him. She takes him to her mother who offers him shelter, then her father helps him return to Ithaca by providing a boat and crew.

ITHACA - Arriving on Ithaca Odysseus Dancer disguised as Odysseus Disguised is reconciled with Telemachus, slays the suitors and is reconciled with Laertes and Penelope.

Odysseus Dancer returns to the bed and Penelope

(DANCE SEQUENCE ENDS)

SCENE 68

INT. / NIGHT / PENELOPE'S BEDROOM

Odysseus sits on the edge of the bed, his head lowered. Penelope throws her arms around his neck and kisses him. He glances at her and weeps with joy.

As if remembering something, his joy is suddenly ended. Looking ahead and not directly at Penelope.

ODYSSEUS

Dear wife, we have not come to the end of our trials.

There lies before me still a great and hazardous adventure. In Hades Teiresias told me I must see it through to the very end. Then I can return home and my death will be peaceful in old age surrounded by a prosperous people.

PENELOPE

If this will help the gods make your old age a happier time, there is hope of an end to your troubles.

Penelope Lies back on the bed and smiles. Odysseus looks at her in admiration.

PENELOPE

Your bed shall be ready, now that you
have returned home.

Odysseus lies on his back beside her, happy.

SCENE 69

INT./EXT. DUSK / MAIN ROOM

Penelope sit at the desk. It and the bookshelf are now neat and orderly. the large clock that was stopped now ticks again.

Just outside of the room a group of people stand, each seeking justice or a favor or an administrative detail. Eurycleia is the intermediary, she calls the next person in and whispers to Penelope who they are. Smiling Penelope speaks to them, as they exit she speaks an attendant explaining the action to be taken.

As the line ends Penelope stands and exits.

SCENE 70

INT./EXT. DUSK / MAIN ROOM / SAME DAY

Mirroring Scene 1; Telemachus, Laertes, Mendon and Eumaeus stand in the main room as Odysseus enters and then says good bye. He exits watched by Athene.

SCENE 71

INT./EXT. DUSK / POOL AREA / SAME DAY

Penelope stands by the pool in a bathrobe. The bathrobe falls from Penelope, who stands in her swimming costume.

Odysseus looks toward her, picks up an oar and puts it to his shoulder.

He smiles and nods, almost like a bow, to Penelope acknowledging her position as the head of the house. She looks to him, smiles and returns the nod as Odysseus walk off into the distance, alone.

Penelope dives and swims to the end of the pool, gracefully hauls herself out. Stands and shakes the water from her hair. Like a statue she is magnificent.

Eurycleia approaches and puts the robe around Penelope's shoulders and without looking at her Penelope touch her hand. Penelope, proud, powerful and majestic, she stands beside Eurycleia looking into the distance, as they did she when waiting for Odysseus return.

Athene looks on.

ATHENE

How fortunate a man to have won a
wife of such strength, intelligence
and virtue.

Her fame will never die and her glory
will not not fade with the years

and the deathless gods shall compose
a beautiful song for mortal ears to
honour the constant;

Penelope.

(END)