

The Medea

Act One

Enter Tutor, talking to the Audience

Tutor

Ah! What pain it gives me to deliver to you the tale of my mistress, Medea, and the treachery of her husband, Jason. She left her homeland of Colchion on Jason's ship the Argo, left her family, killed her brother, all to help her husband Jason. And what does she get? Left here in Corinth, a foreign city. Forced to raise their two children alone. And the worst is still yet to come. Jason has left Medea to marry the daughter of King Creon of Corinth, Princess Glauce. Medea is sad and upset by this news. Alone in a strange land. I am her only friend.

Enter Servant with the Children

Servant

Why do you tell the audience of this tragedy, can you not see the children are upset?

Tutor

I am only telling them the truth. Worse is still to come.

Servant

You scare the children you crazy Tutor.

Medea crying and screaming can be heard from back stage

Tutor

Be silent you wretch, the mistress is coming. Get out of here!

Medea heard off stage crying

Medea

What has happened to me! I am ruined, I am alone. I am trapped here, in this awful place.

Tutor

Do not worry children; I am sure your mother is fine.

Medea screaming and growling off stage

Medea

I want to die, woe is me!

Tutor

She will be fine children . . . just been a long day.

You, Servant, take the children outside.

Exit Servant and Children

Chorus (*Chanting Women of Corinth*)

We could hear her shout. We could hear her scream. This Colchion lady for her home she would gleam.

Tutor

I fear for her, I fear for the children. Why has Jason done this?

Chorus Leader

Zeus will judge Jason, we beg you Medea, do not do anything stupid! Only the gods may decide punishments!

Medea

Either I will die or Jason will suffer. I will decide. Zeus, look at the suffering my husband has done to me!

Tutor

You see ladies, she is not herself. She is really upset.

Chorus

You sound upset Medea, because your marriage is ruined. We could hear her shout, we could hear her scream. This Colchion lady for her home she would gleam.

Enter Medea, Screaming and Crawling as she enters Crying. Talking to the Chorus

Medea

Women of Corinth, I understand you believe women should be respectful. But when I have been so betrayed by this awful man revenge is the answer. I will ruin his life forever! We women have to give everything up to marry a man. We cannot even go to the shops without permission, we are not children. We are free! I will have my revenge on Jason, or I will have to die. Because I have the worst of all your husbands.

End of Act One

Act Two

Enter King Creon

Creon

Hello Medea. Erm, well this is awkward. But as Jason is going to marry my daughter, I can't have you here to ruin it. Could you leave? Please? And also take those kids away too, they can keep you company.

Medea wipes her tears and smiles

Medea

Oh Creon, I know everyone thinks I'm a bit weird and scary because I killed my brother and the whole city heard me screaming from my house. But please, let me stay. I am not as bad as people think I am!

Creon

No Medea. I am scared you will do something . . . like ruin the wedding day or stab someone. You really are out of control!

Medea

Well if that is how you feel, you could at least give me just one more day to sort my life out. I have my things to pack. And the children have to say bye to all their friends.

Creon

No Medea. I love my family more than you. Go away.

Medea begs on her knees

Medea

PLEASE! Let me stay. Just one more day!

Creon

Well what harm can one day do? Very well, you may stay one more day. And then you must go.

Medea

Oh kind King, thank you!

Exit King Creon

Chorus Leader

What a kind King, but what can you do Medea?

Chorus

You left your home, you came here.

We feel sorry for you Medea.

You have no place to live.

Where will you go?

Set sail and see where the wind will blow.

End of Act Two

Act Three

Enter Jason

Jason

What is all this fuss about? Medea I have heard screams across the city. You are ridiculous. Calm down. I will not have you say anything else horrible about men. I am only helping you and the children. If anything, I am the hero. Yet again, the poor little woman needs me, a man, to help her. I feel sorry for you to be honest.

Medea

You vile, evil man. How dare you say this to me. You have left me and the children. We were a happy family and you say that you have done this to help us? How, come on! Let's all hear how the "hero" Jason is going to help us? I mean it's not like I left my mother and father, killed my brother all to help you get a golden fleece. Oh wait, I did!

Jason

Well there is only so much money you can get from being a hero, and we haven't got much money left! I mean sailing around the world, looking this handsome costs a lot you know! Who do you think pays for this house and your servants? By marrying Princess Glauce I am going to have all the money I could ever want. And I will give you some to help look after the children. We all win!

Medea

So you marry the beautiful princess, give me pocket money and I look after your children?

Jason

I know, I am amazing! What a clever plan.

Medea

You are a fool Jason. I will have my revenge upon you!

Jason

What harm could you do? Enough, I am done with this chat. See you all later.

Exit Jason

Medea falls to the floor and screams

Chorus Leader

Medea, I see why you are upset. He isn't very nice at all.

Chorus

Jason may be amazing,

He's such a hero.

But who wants to be treated like that?

End of Act Three

Act Four

Enter Medea's friend Ageus, from Athens

Ageus

Hi Medea, long time no see!

Medea

Ageus, how nice to see you! It is so good to see a friendly face around here!

Ageus

What do you mean? Is everything ok?

Medea

Jason is marrying Princess Glauce, and I have to leave Corinth tomorrow. What ever shall I do?

Medea starts crying

Ageus

There, there, it will be ok. Is there anything I can do to help?

Medea

Well there is one thing (*Sobbing*) could the children and I come live with you and your family in Athens?

Ageus

Errr . . . well my wife has just started singing lessons, and the children are all learning to vote, I mean it is chaos . . .

Medea

Please, I am desperate!

Ageus

Very well, I shall have my servants clear the guest room . . . I mean that was going to be my pool . . . but never mind! You may come and stay!

Medea

Oh thank you! I am so grateful!

Ageus

Very well, I shall see you soon! Farewell my friend!

Medea

Travel safe my friend!

Exit Ageus

Medea

All the parts of plan are coming together. This is how I shall ruin Jason's life. First of all I shall let my children gift to Princess Glauce the most beautiful wedding veil. But I shall lace it with poison. When she is about to kiss Jason, she shall die in the most painful way as the poison burns through her skin and she melts. Secondly I shall take my children by the hand and lead them to their death! Taking away all that Jason cares about, he will live the rest of his life a sad and lost man! By Zeus, I will do this.

Chorus Leader

Medea we love you, but this is an awful plan! Kill the princess and your own children!

Medea

Tutor, go and get Jason for me and bring him here!

Exit Tutor

Chorus

Jason has done wrong,

But kill your children,

By the gods can you do it?

End of Act Four

Act Five

Enter Jason

Jason

What do you want Medea?

Medea

Oh Jason I am so sorry for what I said before. You are right. I am just a woman and you are a man and are very clever because you are a man. You are only thinking about me and the children. I will go from here. But I have one question. Can you let Creon keep the children here?

Jason

I am glad you finally understand. I am always right. However, King Creon hates you. I will need more than just this.

Medea

Well, tell him that I have made the most beautiful wedding veil as a gift for Glauce to wear. The children will give this to her at the wedding. This will be a sign of how lovely they are.

Jason

Very well. Let the children take the present and I shall make sure King Creon lets them stay.

Medea

Oh thank you, you are too kind. I pray to the gods that you and the Princess have a fabulous wedding! Good bye Jason!

Jason

Good bye Medea! Oh Zeus I am so very happy!

Exit Jason

Chorus Leader

You have tricked him Medea. He has no idea how cruel you really are.

Chorus

How can you do this?

How can you be so cruel?

You are evil Medea!

End of Act five

Act Six

Enter Tutor with children

Tutor

I have brought the children, they are ready for the wedding. I must say Medea you seem to be much happier.

Medea gives children the poisoned veil

Medea

Here you go children, please give this to Princess Glauce.

Exit Tutor and children

Medea

My plan is working! Once the act is done I will kill my children!

Chorus Leader

You are a terrible person Medea!

Enter Messenger

Messenger

I have come straight from the wedding, something terrible has happened!

Medea

Please tell us what has happened!

Messenger

Well it was all going really well. Jason looked handsome of course, Princess Glauce looked beautiful. And the children came and gave her the veil. Then it went horribly wrong. Glauce screamed a terrible scream! Smoke rose from her veil and you could smell her skin burn. She began to melt, her eyes popped and her skin peeled off onto the floor. King Creon tried to help her but he too got poisoned by the veil and screamed as he died. It was horrible. The children were taken away and then Jason left, crying. Not the best wedding.

Exit Messenger

Chorus Leader

How awful to lose the King and the Princess!

Medea

Well now I must kill my children. I can do this. I have to, to complete my plan. But they are my children, I would be an awful mother. But Jason needs to be punished. But I can't, they are only children. Yes, I will do it! No they are my children. But Jason is worse, they must die.

Enter Tutor and Children

Medea

My beautiful and amazing children. Please come with me.

Medea and children exit

Screams heard

Chorus

What is she doing!

This is awful.

How can she be this mad?

End of Act Six

Act Seven

Enter Jason and Tutor

Jason

Where is Medea? I must talk to her. She is evil!

Tutor

She has gone with the children. I heard about the wedding. Sorry!

Enter Medea, crawling, screaming and crying

Jason

What have you done?

Medea

You evil man, I have killed all that you love. I have even killed the children! I cannot believe I have done this but you will now be sad forever!

Jason

You are mad, how dare you! I never want to see you again. You should be in prison for this! Give me back the children, I want to bury them!

Medea

Go bury your dead wife you cretin, you will never have the children! I am their mother!

Jason

You killed them, how dare you call yourself a mother! Why did you do this?

Medea

You ruined me so I ruined you. I hate you! And I hate myself! But I am not finished with you yet. Finally I curse you, you will die a coward's death, like the pathetic man you are! Your precious ship will crush you. That's right, your Argo will destroy you. Finally setting me free from this marriage.

Jason

Crying on his knees

Have a heart woman, let me see my children!

Medea

Never, you will never feel the soft touch of their skin ever again. Rot as far as I care.

Medea flies off stage to Athens

Jason

Oh Zeus, hear me now! Look at how much I suffer from this child killing lioness, this evil witch, scum of the earth. What did I ever do to deserve this? All that is left of me is to cry to the gods!

Exit Jason

Tutor

This is an awful thing to happen. I hope that the events we have seen here today never happen again.

Exit all