

GREEK PLAY 20! 7: THE BACCHAE

By! Claire! Romaine! and! Alison! Robins!

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CAST:!

Chorus!1!

Chorus!2!

Chorus!3!

Chorus!4!

Chorus!5!

Chorus!6!

Dionysus!–!Kiran!Rajamani!

Pentheus!–!Rachel!Ellerson!

Cadmus!–!Mary!Sweeney

!

Chorus5:!(What!are!we!thanking!him!for!again?)!

Chorus3:!(Wine,!I!guess?!I!mean,!I!m!personally!not!gonna!
complain.)!

DIONYSUS:!Alright,!woo!!Feels!good!to!be!back!and!adored.!

I!m!gonna!go!head!to!the!forum!and!check!up!on!the!fam,!I!ll!
see!y'all!later!for!the!revelling?!

Chorus1:!:Of!course!!

Chorus2:!(to!Chorus!1)!Don't!you!have!weaving!to!do?!

Chorus1:!:Eh,!what's!another!day?!

Chorus4:!:Besides,!you!remember!Arache,!the!last!tme!comeone!

TIRESIAS: *Your womenfolk?! I feel like they'd have something distinctly unfriendly to say if they heard you talking about them! I like they belong to you!*

PENTHEUS: *Gods, it's just so hard to be me. I have to sit on my throne all day, and what are they doing! Weaving? Cooking? Cleaning? Taking on the emotional burdens of men! Incapable of emotional intimacy with other men? Pft, that's nothing compared to what I have to deal with. Being a manly king is just so difficult, I don't get enough credit!*

!
ALL THE SMALL THINGS BY BLINK-182!

!
[PENTHEUS]!
*All the king's things!
True! Thebes' truth brings!
I don't trust him!
Nor do I like him!
Always I know!
You'll be in my court!
Watching, waiting, judging what I do!*

!
*Say it ain't so, I will not change!
My life is so hard, I carry me home!
Na, na, na, na!
Na, na, na, na, na, na, na, na, na, na!*

!
*Late night, come home!
Work sucks, I know!
Dionysus is the worst!
Why does everyone believe in him!*

!
*Say it ain't so, I will not change!
Women come back, I carry me home!
Na, na, na, na!
Na, na, na, na, na, na, na, na, na, na!*

!
*Say it ain't so, I will not go!
Women come back, I carry me home!
I am your king, listen to me!
Don't be so rude, I am trying!*

!
*Say it ain't so, I will not go!
I am your king, listen to me!
Please stop drinking, I'll be so nice!
My life is so hard!
My life is so hard!
I am your king!*

!
Scene 3:!
Enter DIONYSUS, in disguise.

DIONYSUS: *HEY! Why are you hating on Dionysus? Is he TOO good-looking? Is his hair TOO silky-smooth? Does he let people celebrate TOO!*

PENTHEUS: !... Uh, !okay. !But !again, !maybe?! Listen, !! don't !know!
who !you !are, !but !I 'm !just !a !guy !trying !to !run !a !polis, !which !is !
pretty !difficult !considering !how !hard !it !is !out !there !for !men !in !
positions !of !power. !!! *struggle. *!!

DIONYSUS: !You !absolutely !do !NOT !struggle!! Let's !unpack !that !
low-key !misogyny !later, !but !how !could !you!

Scene 4:

PENTHEUS: !WAIT! DON'T! HURT! ME!!

Chorus 3: !Why! not?!

PENTHEUS: !Because...uh... (*puts on the horrible disguise*)! I'm! not!

Pentheus!! Ha, I see, I'm! just! another! Bacchant,!

TIRESIAS: Because I said so? More exactly, I've foreseen some bad stuff for this polis. Like, pollution bad. And it all stems from a timeline in which y'all go nuts and do something wild like beheading Pentheus like a lion killed for hunt.

Chorus 5: See, time is a social construct!

CADMUS: Also, he's my grandson, so harming him would be, you know, less than ideal. Speaking of, where's my daughter-in-law Agave anyway? I'm sure she's not here, given that she is a level-headed person who wouldn't just jump to the latest fad, but where is she?

AGAVE appears from the Chorus. She's been with them the whole time!

AGAVE: Surprise! I've been with the Bacchants the whole time!

ALL: WHAT?!

DIONYSUS: Called it!

TIRESIAS: No! you didn't!

DIONYSUS: sad No!! didn't!

PENTHEUS: Agave!! My! Kalos!! What--how--why--what are you WEARING?!

AGAVE: (ignoring his questions, for the most part)... Hey!!

CADMUS: Agave, what are you doing here?!

AGAVE: I'm sorry, I--wait, no. I'm not sorry!! Pentheus, you have never listened to a word I've said, and I have good ideas! Like, what if we had indoor plumbing, huh? Or some way to carry water from places with it to places without? You know, some sort of duct... for aqua... and I'm just spitballing here!

TIRESIAS: Soon...!

AGAVE: And, I like Dionysus. Sure, he's obnoxious and, honestly, probably would've done something rash like behead you if he said so, but it's ridiculous that you can't

appreciate his godliness or recognize the importance of what he gives us. You, the most dramatic person I know!

PENTHEUS: whAT?! I have NEVER been DRAMATIC! a DAY! in my Life, hOW! DARE! You--!

Chorus 4: Besides, no one is as dramatic as Dionysus!

DIONYSUS: By definition!

CADMUS: Dionysus, isn't there something you wanted to say?!

DIONYSUS: (sighs/huffs) Yeah... Listen, babes, you're wonderful, truly, but it's been brought to my attention (he looks back at CADMUS and TIRESIAS who glare at him) that my way of dealing with problems isn't super sustainable for the deity of Thebes!

Chorus 6: By! "your way," do you mean the fact that you stirred us all into an ecstatic frenzy and almost had us commit regicide?!

DIONYSUS: Duh, obviously! Look, I feel touched that you all look up to me as a role model

