

TEASER/OPENING

EXT. ANCIENT GREECE - CITY-STATE OF TYCHIA - NIGHT

We see the entirety of Tychia, located on the modern island of Kithira, right off the mainland of Greece. Mountains and hills are covered with ancient homes, temples, and government buildings.

A storm ravages the island as if the sea and sky are fighting. THUNDER crashes, LIGHTNING strikes, RAIN pours.

EXT. CITY-STATE OF TYCHIA - STREET - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

A HOODED FIGURE scurries up the cobble street. It weaves through streets and alleys in a hurry. LIGHTNING FLASHES revealing...

A WOMAN'S FACE UNDER THE VEIL.

She holds a small basket with a blanket.

The MYSTERY WOMAN looks both ways hoping to not be seen as she approaches a MEDIUM STONE HOUSE built into a small hill.

The mystery woman sets the basket in front of the door.

She leans down and whispers.

MYSTERY WOMAN
You will do great things, paidí mou.

THE WOMAN MORPHS INTO AN OWL.

The SILVER OWL flies up to a nearby tree. She watches the home.

Lightning strikes again illuminating the basket...

INSIDE SLEEPS A NEWBORN BABY.

Thunder rumbles and the baby begins to wail.

INT. HOUSE OF THEMIS - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

The room is dark, we can hardly see anything. The CRY of the baby is faint.

MAIA, 26, wakes to the sound. She lights the candle next to her bed. It illuminates, THEMIS, 30, her husband. She shakes him.

MAIA
Themis, Themis, wake up. I hear a baby.

Themis rolls away from her.

THEMIS
(grumbles)
Just rain. Dream. Go to sleep.

Maia shakes her head.

A SMALL CHILD BURSTS INTO THE ROOM.

CALISTO, 8, pounces onto the bed.

CALISTO
Mama, there is a baby outside.

Maia's eyes go wide. Themis bolts upward.

THEMIS
What are you two -

CALISTO
Sh, páppa, listen.

They all go silent. We hear the BABY CRY.

Both Maia and Themis scramble from the bed. Calisto skips behind them as they exit the room.

INT. HOUSE OF THEMIS - MAIN ROOM - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

The large room is pitch black other than the shimmering embers and small flame of the HEARTH. The three of them clatter to the door.

A SMALL BOY WADDLES OUT BEHIND CALISTO TUGGING ON HER.

This is ALEC, 4. He rubs his eyes. Calisto scoops him up.

CALISTO
There is a baby, Alec.

ALEC
Baby?

CALISTO NODS.

Calisto catches up with her parents. The BABY'S CRY grows louder as they reach the door. She hands Alec to Themis.

Maia creaks open the door...

THERE SITS THE BABY, AN OWL PENDANT AROUND HER NECK.

Maia GASPS.

EXT. HOUSE OF THEMIS - FRONT DOOR - CONTINUOUS

The family unit stands in the doorway looking down at the BABY.

Calisto and Maia wear huge smiles. Alec is falling asleep. Themis pinches the bridge of his nose, feeling a headache.

MAIA BENDS DOWN AND SCOOPS THE BABY INTO HER ARMS.

The crying stops. The BABY has strong GRAY EYES.

MAIA

We must keep her Themis.

Themis SIGHS.

THEMIS

Maia, do we really need another -

She gives him a stern look cutting him off.

CALISTO

A sister! I'll have a sister!

Calisto begins to bounce with excitement.

CALISTO (cont'd)

Please, páppa, please.

MAIA

The gods have heard my prayers,
Themis. You made a promise to me,
remember.

ALEC IS NOW FAST ASLEEP ON HIS FATHER'S SHOULDER.

Drool falls from his mouth along with a light snore. Maia and Calisto look at Themis with begging eyes.

THEMIS
I suppose a new edition wouldn't kill
us.

Maia cracks a large smile. She grabs Themis' neck pulling him down into a kiss.

The family stand all together staring down at the BABY.

The Baby gurgles. Her arms flail...

TAPPING ON THE SILVER OWL NECKLACE.

MATCH CUT TO:

EXT. TYCHIA CITY SQUARE - DAY

The same silver owl necklace bounces back and forth. It then zooms out revealing...

A young girl twists and turns down the dirt streets of Tychia. This is EFIMIA, 10, or known to most as EFFY. Effy is a stubborn loud-mouth that follows no *man's* rules, this often leads to trouble.

Effy's long light brown hair whips around her as she rounds a corner.

She stops. Standing at the outskirts of the city square. We watch from her POV the hustle and bustle of the city. Chariots and horses pass while the market is in full swing.

SHE ANALYZES HER PATH, IT GLOWS.

Challenge accepted, she grins. She hikes up her dress and BOLTS.

She weaves through the city square with ease until...

HER TOE HITS A LOOSE PIECE OF ROAD.

She stumbles then loses her balance. Effy tumbles falling right in front of a chariot. The driver swerves, confusing the horse.

CUT TO:

EXT. TYCHIA WELL - DAY

We see a large fresh water well on a stone slab. Four pillars connect the four corners, the "roof" flows with greenery. Vines and flowers wrap around the stone.

A GROUP OF YOUNG WOMEN gather around the well. They are each in their own conversations. We enter the conversation of two young women, their voices low:

WOMAN ONE

I heard that she woke up and he was gone.

WOMAN TWO

Like vanished?

WOMAN ONE

Rumor has it that he had another woman..but..here's the catch she was from Sparta.

WOMAN TWO, 24, SCOFFS.

WOMAN TWO

Must be *some* woman.

The two women snicker. Another young woman, jumps in.

WOMAN THREE

I heard it was a man.

WOMAN ONE

Spartan man or woman, what's the difference?

The word "spartan" is said with distaste.

The three women erupt into laughter.

Their laughter fades as we turn our attention to CALISTO, 18. She sits alone, she dips her vase into the water.

Calisto looks as if she had descended from the heavens. Calisto is beautiful and extremely intelligent. Yet, her mind doesn't belong to studies but to love and art.

Calisto pulls out her first vase and dips in her second vase. Once she fills both her vases Calisto balances both of them on her hips and makes her way back up to the city.

As we watch her, we notice that the well has become quiet, the other women are watching her.

BACK TO:

EXT. TYCHIA CITY SQUARE - DAY - CONTINUOUS

CHAOS. Effy's cheek is on the ground. Her dress now dirty. The horse jolts to avoid her, per driver instruction. The chariot wheel tilts and the chariot flips.

FRUIT FLIES EVERYWHERE.

The market goes silent. The people watch the scene.

The chariot driver, a fruit vendor, HEBE, 30s, crawls out from under the chariot his toga is splattered with fruit.

The market goes back to it's mayhem, not caring.

Effy stands and looks down at her dress.

EFFY
Skata! My clothes! Ma is gonna kill me!

Hebe scrambles toward Effy.

HEBE
Your dress?! You...you...destroyed my fruit!

He grabs Effy by her dress.

HEBE (cont'd)
You're gonna pay for this, Effy. I know your father is good for it.

Effy drops to her knees, her nose touching the ground. She fake wails.

EFFY
Please, sir. It truly was an accident don't tell my páppa.

Effy continues to fake cry. We see her smirk.

EFFY (cont'd)
I'll pay you! I will.

She stops crying, her voice deadpan.

EFFY (cont'd)
If you can catch me.

She looks up and before Hebe can register what she said she grabs his leg and pulls.

HEBE COLLAPSES WITH A GRUNT.

Effy leaps up and SPRINTS. She navigates through the crowd once again. She LAUGHS like a madwoman.

HEBE (O.S.)
Someone grab that girl!

BACK TO:

EXT. TYCHIA - STREET - DAY - CONTINUOUS

Calisto holds the vases on her hips. She glides down the street. There is sweat upon her brow. She approaches a large stair case leading to some houses embed into the hill.

She looks up, it's daunting.

She squats to set down the vases. She lets out a SIGH of relief. She sits on the lowest step.

She cups some of the vase water into her hands and gulps from it. She then splashes some onto her face.

She flops backward, her face to the sky, her eyes close.

After a moment, THREE YOUNG MEN saunter past. The Leader, HAEMON, 21, brash and aggressive soldier. Stops. He grins at Calisto.

His henchmen behind him, LETO, 19 and THERON, 20, caught off guard by his abrupt halt, run into him. They all fumble trying to regain their composure.

Haemon gestures to Calisto, grinning. He strides toward her.

HAEMON
Your prayers have been answered.

Calisto calm, eyes closed.

CALISTO
How can prayers be answered if they
were never prayed?

Haemon furrows his brow in confusion.

LETO SNICKERS, THERON ELBOWS HIM.

Leto covers his laugh as a cough. Haemon scowls at him.

HAEMON

A female such as yourself would be
lucky to wed a man as handsome as me.

Haemon stands up straighter with confidence.

Calisto's eyes flutter open. She observes the "men" before her. Her mouth smiles but her eyes do not.

CALISTO

Oh, Haemon, if *that* was your
proposal, I will have to respectfully
decline.

Haemon is not listening, he is scanning her body with his eyes.

Leto looses his internal battle and BURST OUT LAUGHING.
Haemon whips around. He grabs Leto by the shirt collar.

Leto goes silent.

Calisto rises. She rests her hand on Haemon's shoulder. He DROPS Leto, who sprawls out on the ground.

Haemon turns back to Calisto grabbing her wrist.

HAEMON

(growls)

Decline?!

His grip tightens, Calisto doesn't react but her eyes show concern. A smile creeps back onto her face.

CALISTO

Leto? Why don't you go on home?

Her eyes never leave Haemon's.

LETO SCRAMBLES TO HIS FEET MUMBLING...

LETO

Thank you, thank you.

Leto bolts home holding his arm.

CALISTO GLANCES AT HER VASES, THAN BACK TO THE MEN.

Calisto's words are thick like honey, her eyes flirting.

CALISTO
Now that just the men are here...I
could really use some help taking
these vases to the top of the steps.
Unless...

Calisto smirks.

CALISTO (cont'd)
You're not strong enough?

Haemon lets go of Calisto's wrist.

The two men trip over themselves, shoving each other.

THEY GRUMBLE OVER WHO IS STRONGER.

Once they both have a vase, Calisto gestures the stairs to them.

CALISTO (cont'd)
(mocking)
Oh, you two are so very strong, the
strongest men in Tychia.

She struggles to hold in her laugh as the men begin to trudge up the stairs.

BACK TO:

EXT. A DIFFERENT STREET - DAY - CONTINUOUS

Effy sprints, a wild grin on her face. She glances behind her. We see from her POV...

HEBE, WHEEZING, STAGGERS AFTER HER.

Effy takes a hard right down some steps built into the hill.

CUT TO:

EXT. MID-LEVEL TYCHIA - DAY - CONTINUOUS

Calisto is alone once again. The vases on her hips, she glides up the road. She hums to herself.

CUT TO:

EXT. MID-LEVEL TYCHIA - DAY - CONTINUOUS

Effy runs down the opposite side of the street from Calisto. We hear her BREATHING and her HEARTBEAT. She sees the stone house from the beginning and glances behind her just as...

We see Calisto make her way toward the front of the home.

EXT. MID-LEVEL TYCHIA - HOME OF THEMIS - DAY - CONTINUOUS

CALISTO AND EFFY COLLIDE, THE VASES DROP, WATER EVERYWHERE.

Calisto falls to her knees. Effy's head hits the side of one of the vases and falls to the ground.

Both Calisto and Effy are dripping, sitting on the stone road. Effy rubs her head, Calisto observes her legs which have some bruises and scrapes.

CALISTO'S HEAD SNAPS UP TO LOOK AT EFFY.

CALISTO

You! You! Complete imbecile! Why must you ruin everything!?

EFFY

Oh, shut up, Calisto! It was an accident.

CALISTO

The water for the day is gone and I have a scrape on my leg!

EFFY

Oh no! Your precious leg, what ever will you do!?

Effy topples over giggling. Then pauses rubbing her head.

Calisto lunges as Effy, shaking her by the shoulders.

CALISTO

Why are you so incredibly irritating!? UGH!

EFFY

(whining)

Calisto, stop, my head.

Calisto stops shaking Effy. Calisto grabs Effy's face and begins to examine her head.

A LARGE PURPLE BUMP IS FORMING ON HER TEMPLE.

CALISTO

You've got a bump that's for sure. I think you'll be okay.

Calisto leans back, filled with exhaustion.

EFFY

Are you okay?

CALISTO

Yea, fine.

We hear the FRONT DOOR OPEN.

MAIA (O.S.)

What are you two doing out here?

Both of the girls look up. MAIA, now 36, stands in the doorway looking down at them with a frown.

Maia, their mother, a worn down but beautiful woman with dark skin and darker eyes. She embodies the "perfect" mother but she wants more than taking care of others. She wants someone to take care of her.

Maia raises her eyebrows.

MAIA

Either of you care to explain?

Calisto and Effy look at each other. Maia sighs.

MAIA (cont'd)

Just get inside and we'll get you cleaned up.

She gestures them inside. They push past their mother into the house. Maia grabs the vases and slams the door in our face.

ACT ONE

INT. HOUSE OF IASON - DAY

The slam of the door merges into the sound of A VASE CRASHING on the floor.

The vase lays broken on the floor. We pan up and see...