

ISMENE: piecing together a woman

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There are three Ismenes

One Antigone

Italicized lines are Antigone

Underlined lines are the three Ismene's in unison

Fantasy*Help me lift Polynices*

Bury him?

*It is my choice, not Creon's
Will you help me?*

No

Do not attempt to call on me
I am not your sister

Reset

Help me lift Polynices

Bury him?

It is my choice, not Creon's

It is forbidden

He is our brother

It is wrong

I don't want to hate you

I'd rather you hate me than die

Will you help me?

No

Reset

Help me lift Polynices

Bury him?

It is my choice, not Creon's

It is dangerous

The dead will welcome me

Perhaps if I help you

Yes

We can escape before Creon finds us

*He will brush off the dirt
He will invalidate the burial*

Then let's take the body

And let Creon win?

Must there be a winner?

*The gods will smile upon us
They'll grant us reward in death*

Must we die?

Will you help me?

No

Reset

Help me lift Polynices

Bury him?

It is my choice, not Creon's

What is this

A golden apple

Are we to fight over who is fairest

Sister must you distract yourself

Oh let us live Antigone
 Must we die again
 I don't know how much life I have left
 I lose a heartbeat
 Everytime our blood is shed
 I don't think I can take it

*Then bite your golden apple
 Spit the seeds into the ground
 Sit upon your throne among the branches
 Look down upon me
 Watch me bury our brother
 Alone*

Life is not all about death

*Life is not all about petals
 There are thorns*

Then be the thorn in my side

*I will be
 When I am honored
 And you are left for dust
 The gods will smile upon me
 They will mock you*

You stab me with words

*It makes goodbyes easier
 Will you help me?*

No

Reset

Help me lift Polynices

Bury him?

It is my choice, not Creon's

Where's the body

In the square

We must hurry

You're not scared

I'm scared of losing you

Oh Ismene

Must we die

Let us live our last moments together

What did I do

To deserve such a sister

You smiled upon me when no one else did

You welcomed me

After I left you and father

You loved me

You love me

I love you

Let us not waste another moment

So you will help me

No

Grief

“the Greatness of a man’s power is the measure of his surrender”

did I yield
to the god of our people
the man who killed my sister?

where is the greatness in that

You were hot with anger
What was I?

Terrified

Terrified of being alone
What could I have done?

Reckless are those who fight
I told you and told you and told you and–

I DID EVERYTHING I COULD

I did everything
I did

If I were a man don’t you think I would’ve gotten more respect?
Recognition?

I yielded
I surrendered

I did what man was supposed to do
I did what men did

They followed law
They kept the dirt near the roots of trees
They kept the water at bay

They didn't displace the rocks or weeds

I left my brother for the dogs
For the vultures

He didn't yield
And neither did you

Survival of the fittest, eh?

I'm evidence that the "weak" survive

Confrontation

Why did you leave me?

I wasn't thinking about you

I should have buried him with you

You weren't meant to

Why did you stay? With father? After everything he did

It was my duty

Why did you bury our brother?

It was my duty

Was it not your duty to obey the law?

It was my duty to obey the gods

I miss you

No you don't

You miss life before regret

You miss life when you weren't alone

But I was alone

I was second to you

In father's eyes

In everyone's eyes

You will always be the hero

I will always be the one that didn't do anything

Inactive

*There is action in silence
Don't forget that*

You always have an answer

*You always have a question
You need to start answering your own questions
Don't wait for someone else to answer for you*

I knew what I was doing at the time

*But you doubted it
You questioned it
In order to trust yourself
There needs to come a point
where you stop questioning yourself*

Is that always true?

You're questioning again

You can't answer a question unless you ask it

There's always more than one way to get things done

We would not be human

Without questions

Without doubt

That is how we know what is right

For us

We can't always rush into the fire

You were hot sister

Many saw me as cold

*But there was a fire burning inside of me

*You never knew

*Look at me now

I'm still here

Yes you are

Lullaby

*Soft is the night
Harsh is the wind
Open your eyes
For you are destined*

*The gods will provide
Good comes if you wait
Open your eyes
Trust in your fate*

*Feel your heart beat
With all this said
Time stops for no one
Not even the dead*

Longevity

I came back and buried you
If you'd like to know

I cried
When I heard
How you robbed yourself of breath

I had to deal with it
Alone

Loneliness was what I feared
Fear

I was angry with you
With Creon
With myself

I thought you would change your mind
Perhaps you thought I'd change mine
Hoped
Not thought
We both hoped
That the other would come to their senses

Did you think of me
Before the eternal night overtook you
Was I a fleeting thought
Or did I possess you
Strangling your ego
Did you regret your actions then

I regret not saving you
Somehow

Years have passed
And you still infiltrate my skull
Ringing the bells of regret
Reminding me

That I could have done more

You rip down the wall paper
and draw on the walls

That I put up
To shut you out

Thick charcoal
Making lists
Of all I could have done
Every day a new combination of action

You draw your body in that tomb
I see it over
And over
And over again

There's no going back
To how it was

But know that I buried you

Generations

Daughter of her half brother
 Daughter of her grandmother

Daughter of uncontrollable fate

I am the daughter of death

Destruction

Curses

Incest

Fate

My life mapped out before me
 I act as though I have a choice

My father-brother killed that chance
 Murdered it with his bare hands

Or was it his parents

Jocasta

My mother-grandmother
 The Queen and the slain king
 Ignoring fate

Dumping their child
 Saved by a shepherd
 Raised by childless monarchs

Abandonment

The seed
 The root
 The spark that started it all

Leaving us all in flames

And I alone in the dust
Rubble
Smoke

You had to die
Didn't you
By your own hand

I was
Always drowning in shadows
The source of light
My father
The shadow of a sister
Too great
There was no room for me

Father
I warned you
I informed you of my brothers plight
I came back
I

I wasn't Antigone

You wanted to control fate father
Antigone welcomed it
Swallowed it whole
Rather than her pride

I kneeled
I accepted that I was powerless
My best line of defense was distance

Perhaps I have power from that
From my will to follow through

Perhaps fate will reward me

Will my children be cursed too?

Does it end with me?

It can end with me

I can propel change

A new generation

A blessed lineage

I can rebuild the rubble

My sister

I haven't forgotten you

I was running from you

I was running from our blood

there is power in working on what is broken

there is power in staying

many flee conflict

I work to mend it

Watering my own roots

Preparing the soil

For new flowers

Thorns and all

Reverence

I wish you stayed

I wish you came with me

I loved you

I know

I loved you

I know

We are different people

I still love you

I forgive you

That's all I wanted to hear

Goodbye Antigone

Antigone leaves

Ismene leaves