

**ELECTRA: A
TRAGEDY IN ONE
ACT, PP. 7-82**

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Electra: A Tragedy in One Act, pp. 7-82 by Hugo von Hofmannsthal

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HUGO VON HOFMANNSTHAL

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TRAGEDY IN ONE
ACT, PP. 7-82**

ELECTRA

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A TRAGEDY IN ONE ACT

Hofmann BY
HUGO VON HOFMANNSTHAL

TRANSLATED BY *th*
ARTHUR SYMONS



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BRENTANO'S
1912

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DRAMATIS PERSONAE

- CLYTEMNESTRA
- ELECTRA
- CHRYSOthemis } *Her daughters*
- AEGISTHUS
- ORESTES
- THE FOSTER FATHER OF ORESTES
- THE WAITING WOMAN
- THE TRAIN BEARER
- A YOUNG SERVING MAN
- AN OLD SERVING MAN
- THE COOK
- THE OVERSEER OF THE SERVING WOMEN
- THE SERVING WOMEN

ELECTRA

The scene represents the inner court, bounded by the back of the Palace and by low buildings in which the Servants live.

SERVING WOMEN at the draw-well, in front on the left. OVERSEERS among them.

FIRST SERVING WOMAN, raising her pitcher

WHERE does Electra hide?

SECOND SERVING WOMAN

It is her hour,
The hour when she cries out upon her father,
Till all the walls ring with it.

[ELECTRA comes running out of the door of the inner hall, which is already dark. ALL turn towards her. She springs back like a wild beast into its lair, one arm before her face.]

FIRST SERVING WOMAN

Did you see how she stared upon us?

SECOND SERVING WOMAN

She is, as a wild cat. Spiteful

ELECTRA

THIRD SERVING WOMAN

Just now she lay
And groaned —

FIRST SERVING WOMAN

She always lies and groans like that
When the sun 's low.

THIRD SERVING WOMAN

And then we went too far
And came too close to her.

FIRST SERVING WOMAN

She cannot stand it
If one but merely looks at her.

THIRD SERVING WOMAN

We came
Too close to her. Then she screeched out like a cat
Upon us: "Off, you flies, begone!" she cried.

FOURTH SERVING WOMAN

"Muck-flies, begone!"

THIRD SERVING WOMAN

"Settle not on my wounds!"
And struck out at us with a wisp of straw.