

**ELEKTRA: TRAGEDY IN  
ONE ACT.  
ENGLISH VERSION  
BY ALFRED KALISCH**

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**HUGO VON HOFMANNSTHAL & RICHARD STRAUSS**

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ENGLISH VERSION  
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# ELEKTRA

TRAGEDY IN ONE ACT BY  
HUGO VON HOFMANNSTHAL

(ENGLISH VERSION BY ALFRED KALISCH)

MUSIC BY  
RICHARD STRAUSS

OP. LVIII



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*DR. RICHARD STRAUSS.*

## DRAMATIS PERSONAE

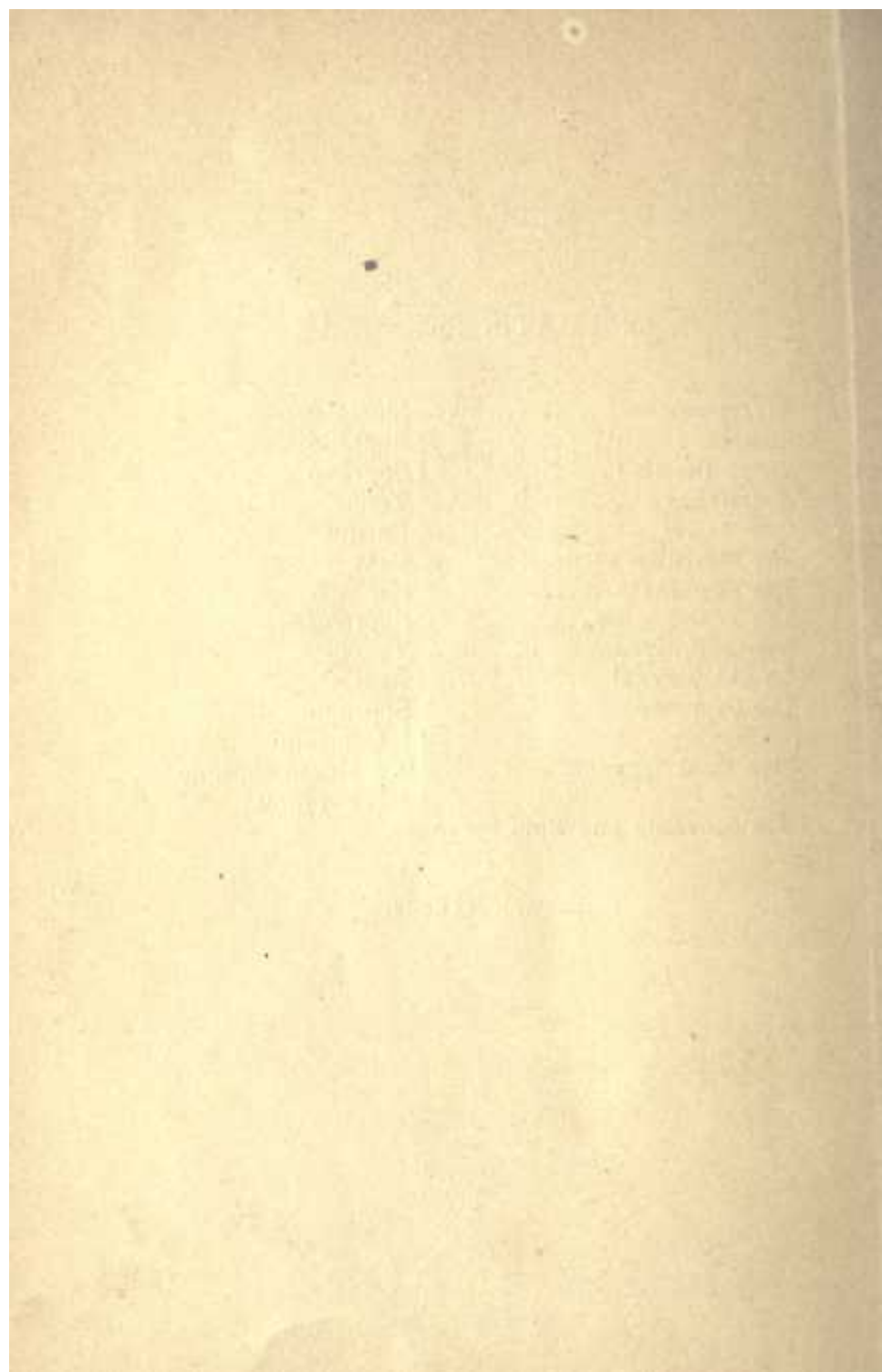
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Klytemnestra .....	Mezzo soprano	
Elektra	} Her Daughters {	Soprano
Chrysothemis		Soprano
Aegistheus .....	Tenor	
Orestes .....	Baritone	
The Guardian of Orestes .....	Bass	
The Confidante .....	Soprano	
The Trainbearer .....	Soprano	
A young Servant .....	Tenor	
An old Servant .....	Bass	
The Overseer .....	Soprano	
Five Maid Servants .....	} 1. Contralto 2. 3. Mezzo soprano 4. 5. Soprano	
Men Servants and Maid Servants.		

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Scene: Mykene.









*The inner courtyard, bounded by the back of the palace, and low buildings in which the servants live. Maid servants at the draw-well at the front of the stage to the left. The Overseer is among them.*

---

**First Maid Servant**

*(lifting her pitcher).*

Where stays Elektra?

**Second Maid Servant.**

Is it not the season,  
The season when she for her father howls,  
That all the walls re-echo?

*(Elektra runs out of the house which is already growing dark. All turn to look at her. Elektra darts back like an animal to its lair, one arm held before her face.)*

**First Maid Servant.**

Did you not see what looks she gave us?

**Second Maid Servant.**

Surely poisonous,  
Like a wild cat's.

**Third Maid Servant.**

Yesterday she lay there  
Groaning.

**First Maid Servant.**

Always when the sun is sinking,  
She lies and groans.

**Third Maid Servant.**

And then we went, we two,  
Approaching her too near.

**First Maid Servant.**

It maddens her  
To know we watch her.

**Third Maid Servant.**

Yes, too closely we  
Approached: she spat at us just like a cat  
At a dog. "Hence, foul flies," cried she, "hence!"

**Fourth Maid Servant.**

"Foul horse-flies, hence!"

**Third Maid Servant.**

"Feed not on my sore places!"  
And with wisps of straw she tried to smite us.

**Fourth Maid Servant.**

"Foul flies, away!"

**Third Maid Servant.**

"Buzz not about me,  
Sucking sweetness from my pain. Nor shall my  
writhings  
Make you to smack your lips."

**Fourth Maid Servant.**

"Away", she cried,  
"Back to whence ye came. Eat carrion and eat  
sweetmeats!  
Away to bed; your men await you" cried she,  
And she —

**Third Maid Servant.**

I was not slow —

**Fourth Maid Servant.**

She gave her answer!

**Third Maid Servant.**

"Surely when hunger calls", thus I made answer  
"You too will eat." Then up she leaped, her eyes  
Flaming with passion, stretching out her fingers,  
Like crooked claws at us, and cried: "A vulture  
Battens on my flesh."

**Second Maid Servant.**

And what said you?

**Third Maid Servant.**

"Therefore you ever crawl", I answered back,  
Where carrion stench is worst, and dig, and seek  
An ancient carcase!"

**Second Maid Servant.**

And what said she then?

**Third Maid Servant.**

She did but howl again and flung herself  
Into her corner.