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Blueprints for Medea

Setting:

Continent, country, city: Greece, Corinth

Physical area(s): Outside of Medea's and Jason's house in the ancient streets of Corinth.

Environment: A sense of dread and tension as Medea lays out her woes and what she will do.

Climate and light: It's out in an open area which should be well lit except for maybe the interior of the house itself.

Time:

Year, season, time of day: Premiered in 431 BC, during the day.

Length of time covered: Over the course of a day.

Logic of time movement: Moves in a chronological order of telling a story until the next event comes along, like when people enter and exit the stage.

Class structure:

Classes: There are kings, princesses, warriors, sorceresses, civilians, servants, and attendants.

Economic health: Before Creon dies, the economic health should be pretty good.

Characters in each class: Jason (warrior) Nurse, Tutor, (servants) Creon (king) Medea (sorceress)

Children (civilians), Aegeus (king), Chorus (civilians), Glauce (princess)

Government and laws:

System: There is a monarchy where Creon is the king.

Relevant laws: Murder is not allowed, and Medea can no longer stay in the city and she is banished.

Restrictions/freedoms: Medea has at least 24 hours to stay in the city to get her things together and leave.

Participation/environment: Creon, allows Medea to stay for a day as he goes back on his strict ruling of banishing her.

Social circles:

Family and friends: Medea and Jason are husband and wife with children, Jason is marrying Creon's daughter, Glauce, Nurse aids Medea, Tutor helps with children, Aegeus respects Medea enough to offer her salvation in Athens.

Community: Large, famous city, in a wealthy area, where kings and men are seemingly dominant over the women in the city.

Media: The Chorus, Nurse, and Messenger seem to relay the information of what goes on in the

play to everyone else, including the audience.

Restrictions/privileges: Men make the rules and do whatever they want. This includes abandoning their wife and children and then they get kicked out so they won't bother them.

Religion:

Institutions: Hellenism

Beliefs: They worship the Greek gods and often ask for blessings to help them through tragedies.

Restrictions/privileges: Medea uses Apollo's chariot to escape to Athens.

Previous Actions

Previous Action: Medea laments and curses her husband, Jason, after he leaves her to marry someone else.	This is a world in which... People get left behind in pursuit of higher social status.
Previous Action: Creon banished Medea and gives her a day to get everything together to leave after she pleads with him.	This is a world in which... Men rule and make up the rules to suit their own needs.
Previous Action: Aegeus offers Medea a place in Athens if she helps him become fertile.	This is a world in which... Everyone is out for their own gain, but, that could be a gain for someone else as well.
Previous Action: Medea makes a poison outfit for Glauce and ends up killing both her and Creon in the process to get revenge on Jason.	This is a world in which... Showing mercy, ends up getting you or your loved ones killed.
Previous Action: Medea ends up killing her children out of spite of Jason and ends his bloodline.	This is a world in which... The innocents suffer because of the actions of the ones they are affiliated with.
Previous Action: Medea escapes on Apollo's chariot while cursing Jason so she can go to Athens where Aegeus promised she would be safe.	This is a world in which... Heinous acts go unpunished and revenge is the only way to get satisfaction.

Character Blueprint

Physical: There is no physical description the author gives but she probably had long dark hair.

Psychological: Medea is psychotic and unbalanced because she is even willing to kill her own children to get back at Jason. She claims she loves the children but, she'd rather get revenge instead. She's down to her last line of defense she can take.

Intellectual: Medea is very smart and clever as she carefully plans out her revenge against Jason. She managed to craft a successful murder spree and escape without suffering any consequences.

Social class and job: Medea was the daughter of a king so she had high social status. That is, until she got involved with Jason and now she is apparently tossed aside. She is a sorceress who specializes in healing.

Family and friends: She was born in Colchis to king Aeetes. She ended up falling in love with Jason and betrayed her family for him. Her family did not leave that big of an impact on her. Not nearly as much as Jason did. She ended up having children with him and when he abandoned her, she lost it. She only had her nurse and children and she ended up killing them, only looking out for her own interests and needs.

Relationship Blueprint

General Relationship

Medea is married to Jason but, recently he ended up marrying someone new. Jason is a respected warrior and is going to end up being noble when marrying Glauce instead of staying with Medea. She used to be royalty but, she ended up abandoning her family. She isn't as high on the social ladder but, she is a sorceress, which is useful. The location of the scene emphasizes how their house or family is not a home, considering it always takes place outside of the home.

Specific Relationship

In the first scene they are together, they begin arguing over Jason's new bride. Jason tries to explain that Medea could have stayed in the city if she didn't constantly complain about the marriage. She explains everything she did for him and he explains that it was important for him, an exile, to marry a king's daughter. He doesn't see the sacrifices she made and causes the relationship to go over the edge, ruining the family they had created. They despise each other and Medea wants to make him pay.

In the second scene when Jason comes at Medea's request, she lies, explaining he was right and saw reason. He is happy she agrees and tries to help the children in return. Their relationship is still a failed one as what little affection they have for each other is built on lies or is a lie.

In the end, Medea kills the children and Jason confronts her about it as she is escaping. He blames her for the death of the children and she blames him for the same thing, saying if he didn't abandon her, she wouldn't have had to kill him. Their relationship has become so twisted that Medea thinks she is still the victim and Jason drove her to this low state. Their relationship is as unhealthy as it gets.

Structure Blueprint

Unit	Unit title	Medea	Jason	Creon	Aegeus	Nurse	Tutor	Children	Messenger	Chorus
I, 1	I know this anger of hers will not end.					X	X	x		
I, 2	There's no justice in the eyes of mortal men.	X				X				X
I, 3	In that time, you can't do the harm I fear.	X		X						
I, 4	As for you, well, you've a subtle mind.	X	X							x
I, 5	Lady, I'd like to grant this favour to you, for many reasons.	X			X					x
I, 6	But why be so tearful with the boys?	X	X			x	x	x		x
I, 7	Give me your right hands, children.	X					X	x		X
I, 8	You've done an awful deed, broken every law.	X							X	x
I, 9	I've made up my mind, my friends.	X						x		X
I, 10	Their mother loved them. You did not.	X	X					x		x

Environment Blueprint

Whose space is it?

It is the outside of Medea and Jason's home, in the public street.

How does the environment affect relationships?

Since it is in a public area, it's where a lot of people are coming and going. It could mean that people are in a rush out of there like Medea. She initially hid her crimes and eventually the boiling point becomes public and the argument between them with their true intentions becomes public as well.

How does the environment define the pattern created by the structure of scenes?

It gives space for the interception of characters when they are trying to leave. Characters enter when they find out about something either Medea did or requested and it all orbits around her and Jason's home where she initially hid her deeds. It allowed people to meet up with Medea to initiate the next scene, since she stayed in that area.

How does the environment raise the stakes of the action?

It raises the stakes because it perfectly hides what Medea is doing inside the house. There is the tension of her going in the house with the children and the act is just out of sight. We hear the children screaming for help and the chorus debates on whether or not they should help them. They are right there and have the opportunity to help them but it's also out of reach considering it's also just out of our eyesight.