

Under Tainaron

SAMPLE

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a libretto by

Kelvin Corcoran

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30–31 St. James Place, Mangotsfield, Bristol BS16 9JB
(*this address not for correspondence*)

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Lightning Source France
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SAMPLE

SCENE 1

Cape Tainaron. The southernmost point of mainland Europe.

CHORUS OF ORPHANS

They came out to us that night,
ropes appeared and we climbed the cliffs,
in darkness and roaring winds
hauled up on ropes lowered by strangers.

ORPHEUS

The sea brings in the news with morning
and awake I found as if laid out to dry
a torn inflatable, clothes, a rucksack,
the nurse who went to Lesbos to help.

The first decision determines all others
the rest is rhetoric, advantage, ambition;
and those stranded survive or die,
the first decision determines all others.

EURYDICE

She spoke about the camps
about what could be done and not done
the children who never saw the sea
the mothers unable to talk.

It's as simple as song
to explain what happened on Kythera,
the boats crashed on the rocks
the refugees climbed the rocks to escape.

CHORUS OF ORPHANS

The locals came out to us that night
to help in darkness and high winds
lowering ropes from the cliffs,
to pull together in darkness and high winds.

The first decision determines all others
the rest is rhetoric, advantage, ambition;
and those strangers survive or die,
the first decision determines all others.

And your name Orpheus is our name,
as we rise and fall or drown in song
in the darkness of night, our name,
whispered along the migrant routes.

ORPHEUS

Yes, my name is your name
and we rise and fall in song,
though the world turns away,
my name is your name in song.