

NO SECOND TROY by Karen Hartman

Unpublished

Polyxena tries to talk her sister Cassandra out of a delusion that they are in Ancient Troy, facing ruin at the hands of men. But Cassandra might be right.

POLYXENA

Cassandra, I've been seeing a counselor, a woman. She's helped me to move on. My world is bigger than this place. You can't live anymore in this place. Her office is far away, near the ocean. I can see trees through her windows. We can take my car and then a bicycle.

I can bring her here. Would you like that? Or we can stay a while, just us. I'm not going to rush you. I've told her about you: my extraordinary sister.

Cassandra, you look tiny there. The nightmares are over now. We're grown women who drive shiny cars. I have a red convertible. You can go for a ride.

It has seatbelts. We're safe.

It takes a long time to reach her. By car and then by bicycle I go. The journey does me good. I used to stay inside so much, Cass. I understand how scared you are. I used to curl in my home; I too drank tea until I ran out. I ate and drank until I ran out, and then I thought I would waste away inside like you said. I thought I would starve and I wouldn't care, that anything was better than what you said. I knew you were right and I knew it and I knew it until I got so hungry that I didn't know anything anymore. So I bought a red convertible. Now I drive and look at men when I like. I eat mountains of beef and dessert. I see a woman in the woods near the sea at the end of a bicycle path and I've promised to bring her my sister. My sad and brilliant sister, will you please come with?

(Silence)

I have lunchtime reservations. I have tickets for the opera. I have a day planned full of things you love. I have people you can meet. I have a favorite café. There's a movie we could see, about sisters. You might like a movie, Cassandra. We could go afterwards to a bar and drink vodka.

You believe this is Troy. You believe you are Cassandra of ancient Troy.

I'll change the appointment. Can you ride a bicycle?

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You are welcome to perform this monologue for free!

You may CUT but you may not CHANGE the words. Please introduce the monologue with title of play and author's name (this is a monologue from Leah's Train by Karen Hartman).

Feel free to send a video link to yourself performing the monologue through the Contact page, and let me know if I may share! Thanks and be well, KH

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