



OEDIPUS Who's this?

TEIRESIAS Oedipus – I know your voice.

TEIRESIAS, blind, appears, somehow already in the room.

OEDIPUS (to CREON) Did you get me a stripper?

CREON I'm sorry, I think you've come to the wrong place

TEIRESIAS Oedipus, you can hear me – you are *here*

CREON How did you get in here?

TEIRESIAS The child brought me.

OEDIPUS Everyone welcome.

CREON I do apologise: this is supposed to be a secure location, and you don't have permission to be / here

TEIRESIAS *Oedipus –*

LICHAS I'll get security

OEDIPUS Oh come on, look at him – if he manages to assassinate me against those odds, fair play to him.

OEDIPUS, kind, leads him, sits him down.

 Come. Can I have them get you a drink of / any sort?

TEIRESIAS No. I don't want to make you angry –

OEDIPUS I'm not angry – why would I be angry? But I'm afraid, my friend, I only have a few minutes, you've turned up on a pretty / busy night.

CREON I *know* him. He's one of the... people. The future-telling people.

OEDIPUS Is he? The ones who thought I'd lose.

TEIRESIAS You will lose.

 ,

OEDIPUS Happy to have you here. Well, you wanted us to meet them and now here we are meeting them. My gift to you.

CREON People *listen* to them

OEDIPUS *Some* people listen to them

CREON *Hundreds of thousands of people worldwide* listen to them

TEIRESIAS Oedipus –

OEDIPUS (to CREON) Well I'm not seeking voters *worldwide* – and this is *late*: I mean, I'm up for going back through the fights you lost, but we're really facing the wrong way if we're doing this *once the polls have closed* –

CREON if we'd brought them on side, they have an *audience*

OEDIPUS Having an audience is easy. Hard part's having something to say.

 (to TEIRESIAS) Bad night for you if the polls tell the truth.

TEIRESIAS The polls mean nothing. It will be Creon.

 ,

Oedipus. Robert Icke

OEDIPUS This is Oedipus. Creon's here too. But Creon isn't actually on the *ballot* for tonight's election

TEIRESIAS I made no prediction about tonight's / election

OEDIPUS You said it would / be Creon

TEIRESIAS but not tonight.

 OEDIPUS *looks up*.

OEDIPUS I didn't catch your name

TEIRESIAS Oedipus –

 TEIRESIAS *is reaching for OEDIPUS' hand*.

 We are human, you and I

 nothing more. Nothing.

OEDIPUS Yes –

 ,

TEIRESIAS but a whole world lies under your feet. A whole universe, somewhere: *here*, unseen and tonight it slips free –

OEDIPUS Yes (?)

TEIRESIAS I came to warn you. Not to help you. Powerless to help you: to see the disease in the cell is not to know the cure.

OEDIPUS [Enough.] If this is a joke, it's both funny and well-executed, but what we're going to do is this...

TEIRESIAS There is nothing to be done – it is *over*. Over all of it, some other, some *other* truth is coming, was always coming, it is all over

OEDIPUS What is all over? What disease?

TEIRESIAS It starts with Laius – you are right to look a second time –

OEDIPUS Laius' death, you mean?

TEIRESIAS It was not as we were told –

CREON Oedipus, could we speak for a / moment

OEDIPUS Let him speak. Please – go on.

TEIRESIAS I'm frightened.

 TEIRESIAS *seems emotional*.

I don't want to make you angry

OEDIPUS I'm not going to be angry – please. I'm listening. Go on. Continue.

TEIRESIAS The sky is so huge, so frighteningly huge, so pitilessly blank, indifferent, and the wide flights of the birds – the life of the human being is a tiny track mark on the earth, a helpless scratch – and what there is in store for you is *cruel*. Blood on the glass.

Time turns, sets a backward course, starts for the start with *speed*: the fragile moments drop, unravelling, reversing, unwound, back to the beginning. My speech is out of time.

OEDIPUS Sit down – sit *down*

TEIRESIAS you don't understand – but I can't help you. I cannot help you. It's over.

CREON Is something coming to us?

TEIRESIAS The answer to that question is always yes.

CREON Tonight?

TEIRESIAS To speak further will only make him angry.

OEDIPUS I'm not going to / be angry

TEIRESIAS He finds the answers. He hunts them to the end. To understand the details will not change a thing. Get me *out* – *get me out* – *get me out* –

OEDIPUS What happened to Laius? / What do you know?

CREON Oedipus, please –

TEIRESIAS To understand is to see it yourself

OEDIPUS my God, the enigmas –

TEIRESIAS These are not enigmas. That you fail to understand it does not make it an enigma. You will be forced to see who you are

OEDIPUS I know / who I am!

TEIRESIAS you do not know what you have done, you do not know who you *are*, and here now there is nothing to be done.

I've said too much. I want to *leave* –

Oedipus. Robert Icke

OEDIPUS You realise that, once tonight is over, there will be other ways
for me to persuade you to speak.

TEIRESIAS It will be Creon.

 OEDIPUS *starts to get angry now.*

OEDIPUS My wife's brother *does not have his name on the ballot*. He literally *cannot* be *elected*. So whose idea was this? Surprise guest.
Little confidence boost at the last moment, try and get inside
my head. Was that it?

 I am trying to change things. I am trying to move us forwards.

TEIRESIAS to break every boundary is to break *every* boundary. The one that
holds havoc from control. The one holding human from animal.

OEDIPUS It must be hard, I understand that, to accept that there's no
money in new-age fear-mongering or fortune-teller cryptic
crossword clues

 Why did you come? Why come at all?

TEIRESIAS I came to / warn you

OEDIPUS You came because you want to psych me out. Fear beats hope
every time: blind in your soul as well as your eyes / it must be
deeply humiliating, these days, to have to claim you can see the
future

TEIRESIAS Oedipus – I

TEIRESIAS I came to warn you, Oedipus.

OEDIPUS Then WARN ME. Come on. Let's go. Pre-dict. Three things you've
seen that *actually* come true –

TEIRESIAS Three [predictions]?

 Yes.

 One. You find the truth of Laius' death – that you yourself are the killer
you seek.

OEDIPUS Hilarious. And was I *sleeping* when I murdered Laius?

TEIRESIAS you're sleeping now.

 Two. You bring the darkest shame on your parents – your father's killer
– and your mother's lover.

OEDIPUS Say that again

Oedipus. Robert Icke