

The Council

Drama · Scene for 4 · 3 min · Female role · Young adult · Advanced

(The council chamber. Far off, the murmur of a crowd.)

LE ROI

The gates will hold. The city held for ten years; it will hold one more day.

CASSANDRE

It will not last the night. I saw it burn, Father. While you were speaking.

ÉTÉOCLE

You always see something burning, sister. It's your only prophecy.

CASSANDRE

And it has come true every time. That is exactly what you cannot forgive me.

LA REINE

Enough. You don't bury a city with words. What do you propose, you who see everything?

CASSANDRE

To open the gates ourselves. What is offered is not plundered. What is torn away is burned.

LE ROI

Open the gates! You ask a king to surrender to his own fear.

CASSANDRE

I ask a father to save what can still be saved. The city is not what remains. You remain. They remain.

(A long silence. The king does not answer.)

CASSANDRE

Your silence, I know it too. It's the one that comes before every ash.

What you can do with it

Original text written for Acto. Read it, print it, work on it in class, perform it at an audition or on a self-tape: that is what it is for, and you need no permission. For a public performance or any commercial use, write to us at contact@acto.re.