Ariadne - A New Musical
Music, Book, and Lyrics by Michael Oosterhout
Libretto (Updated 4/5/2018)
ACT I

PROLOGUE - empty stage (Ari, Chorus: Minos, Aegea, Dion, Theo, Phoebe)

*Chorus number, where tone is set
Chorus walks out and speaks individually to start, before music enters*

Chorus member 1/Theo:
Imagine an ancient author
Sitting at his writing desk
His wooden stylus carving into a wax tablet
Literally creating from scratch
A poem about a lonely, lost young girl

Chorus member 2/Phoebe (dialogue):
Imagine the words, the images
That flow from his mind
As he recalls a story
That everyone knows
That everyone has heard a thousand times before
A legend, a fairytale, a myth

Chorus member 3/Dion (dialogue):
This story, this myth is adapted over time
It’s played out onstage, it’s set to music, it’s novelized
It shows up as a plotline in 1950s B-movies and direct-to-video Disney sequels
It evolves, it alters, it reverts back again

Chorus member 4/Minos (dialogue):
It’s plastic, moldable
Like a deck of cards
That you can shuffle, reshuffle, deal out, and then shuffle again

Chorus member 5/Aegea:
But still, the roles remain the same
Boy meets girl
Girl gives up everything, everything for the boy
And girl ends up left alone

Chorus/Theo (dialogue):
What is this story, this myth?
Why do people keep telling it?
What is so appealing about some guy who can wield a sword
Throw it at some mythical monster
And then sweep the girl off her feet
Whisking her away to happily ever after?
(Pause) Or…not so happily ever after?

Chorus/Phoebe (dialogue):
We should ask ourselves:
Do these characters even have a choice?
Do they just behave with no will of their own
Existing only for our own feeble moral instruction?

Chorus/Dion (dialogue):
Some sort of Aesop’s fable
Where the tortoise beats the hare
And we learn the lifelong lesson
To never run too fast, never jump too high
Never reach out for what we really want,
Because if we do, we’ll fail?

Chorus/Minos (dialogue):
And who gets to tell this story?
Who gets to shuffle the cards
Change the text with the stroke of a pen
Or even etch the tale into stone?

Chorus/Aegea:
Is it the ancients?
People who died long ago?
People who there’s hardly a trace of
Left in the world?

Chorus/Theo (dialogue):
Is it stuffy Latin professors?
Or that kid in your philosophy class
Who’s read Plato in the original Greek
And won’t shut up about it?

Chorus/Phoebe (dialogue):
Or those Drama majors
That put on ancient tragedies
That no one really wants to go to
But it’s your freshman roommate’s first acting role in college
And you feel like you have to go
And you sit through it and it’s like, just okay
But you have to pretend for your roommate that it was the best show you’ve ever seen?

Chorus/Dion (dialogue, as Ari enters and places herself on the floor of the room, with her guitar case, taking out her guitar and staring at it):
Or is it us? The people here, now?
Are we bound to the past?
Is there something out there that traps us
Like an unseen force
To the things that came before us
To the things that come after us
Chorus/Minos (dialogue):
Things we had no control over then
Things we have no control over now
Things we never, ever will be able to control

Chorus/Aegea (dialogue):
Do we
Get to choose our story?

*Music enters
Mystical, atmospheric kind of feel (open 5ths, creepy, choral-esque, ancient)
Underscoring, building up
The moment where Ari realizes she's been ghosted unfolds
We see everything building up*

Song: Sing in Me, Muse

Chorus/Phoebe (dialogue, music begins underscoring, crescendo volume):
Sing in me, Muse
And tell the story of that girl
Abandoned on a beach long ago
By her forgetful lover
So tied up in his own ambition
That he threw away the only thing he ever loved

Chorus/Minos (dialogue):
Say how she aided him
Gave him the key to his success
Winding him like a ball of string
Through a maze of troubles
Describe how she exalted him to new heights
Paved the way for his rule over others
All while giving up her family
Her legacy of power

Chorus/Aegea (sung, in the background, the other two chorus members overlap, singing softly and then building “Ariadne”, along with the other characters, who have entered and joined in):
Tell us how even so, one betrayal was exchanged for another
How she, enraged at his faithlessness
Cursed him to the heavens above
That he should feel the same pain which she felt
That he might taste defeat
(dialogue) That one day, she might not be equal to him
But that he might be equal to her

Chorus/Dion (sung):
Share with us how she, when she was at her lowest point
Was spotted by a wandering god
And was swept up, rescued in his arms
Taken away to everlasting life in the heavens
Away from the earth
From her family
From her love, Theseus

Chorus/Theo (sung):
Tell us, Muse
Say again the name of the one who was pushed aside
Let us be part of the tale
One with the story
Join us here
And tell us her name

Chorus/Phoebe (dialogue):
Tell us her name!

Chorus/Minos (dialogue):
Tell us her name!

Chorus/Aegea (dialogue):
Tell us her name!

Chorus/Dion (dialogue):
Tell us her name!

Ensemble: (singing and overlapping at its greatest height)
Ariadne…Ariadne…
Ariadne…Ariadne…
Ariadne…Ariadne…
Ariadne…Ariadne…

**SCENE 1 - Ari’s room at home (Ari, Minos)**

*The whole number builds to an alarm clock*
Sudden string tremolo as the clock goes off, moves to silence
Chorus exits
Ari wakes up in her room, at the beginning of the story, as if from a nightmare or a daydream
Slowly starts to get ready for the day*

**Break Me Free**

Ari: (sung)
The morning sun creeps in my bedroom
Every day at 6 AM
Dawn awakens me with her gentle touch
And the swift North wind blows past my door
As a shiver crawls up my skin
Day by day it never changes all that much
And as the harvest season rounds the fields
All the cities rush through time
Life’s routines carry on, and so do mine

Boxes packed, the car is full
As my room stands clean and bare
Just dust off the shelves and move along
My time has come, I’m nearly off
And I take one final stare
My boring daily life is nearly gone

‘Cause there’s sights to see, I’m built for more
Let my life spring open wide
It’s time to burst the gates and turn the tide

‘Cause I long for adventure, a place to be free
A place to exist on the open sea
And be me, I live to explore
Home when I’m homeless, I long to be
There in that place, where I truly can see
All the things that were meant to be
That I was built to achieve
I feel it touch deep in my soul
Fate spins my life all beyond my control
It’s coming to rescue me
From this hole, from this hell, from my home
Come, break me free

(Dialogue, talking to self)
Okay, Ari. This is great. You’re off to college, you get to be on your own in New York City, you’re going to learn cool things, play music, make friends…hopefully make friends… Well, at the very least, you never have to talk to anybody from the last four years ever again. Except when you have to see all of them posting on Instagram about their parties and sororities and spring break trips and all their life-changing experiences that are better than yours… God, high school sucked.

(Sung)
But there’s life out there I haven’t seen
I’ll leave this all behind
I’m stepping forward, taking what is mine

‘Cause I long for adventure, a place to be free
A place to exist on the open sea
And be me, I live to explore
Home when I’m homeless, I long to be
There in that place, where I truly can see
All the things that were meant to be
That I was built to achieve
I feel it touch deep in my soul
Fate spins my life all beyond my control
It’s coming to rescue me
From this hole, from this hell, from my home
Come, break me free

I’m done with the past
And I know that the future’s my own
Goodbye to my family
Goodbye to the life that I’ve known
I’ve shown my strength, all my efforts, they topple the walls
And I know with each moment I’ll prove to them all
There’s more to my life than the things that they say
And I won’t let anyone stand in my way

*Minos enters room*

Ari (surprised, dialogue):
…Dad.

Minos (dialogue):
Ari.

Recit (Ari/Minos)

Minos (sung):
I see you’ve cleaned out your room

Ari (sung, hurrying to put away guitar in its case):
Yes, everything’s packed, I’m ready to go
Aunt Carol is here
She’s driving me into the city
So you don’t have to do a thing…

Minos (interrupting):
I see you’re bringing that guitar
I hope you haven’t signed up for any of those frivolous music classes

Ari (sung):
No, Dad…Father
I haven’t

Minos:
(Spoken) Good
They’re no place for you
Your position in this world is elsewhere

Ari (sung):
I know, Father…
But, listen, I should get…
Minos (interrupting):
There’s something I want to talk to you about

Ari: (spoken)
Oh
(sung) But, can it wait?
See, I really have to…

Minos (interrupting):
Something I’ve been meaning to tell you

Ari: (spoken)
To tell me?

Minos:
(Pause, Ari thinks it’s going to be a big emotional moment)
I’ve decided to run for Congress

Ari: (spoken)
Oh, I see
(sung) Well, that’s exciting, but…

Minos (interrupting):
I’ve decided to run for Congress
For the 17th district of New York
I’m going past the bounds of City Hall
Beyond this city, to the nation’s center
I’m announcing in February
And now that you’re at school
I won’t be watching you all the time
You’ll be on your own

Ari: (sung)
On my own

Minos:
So, there’s something important you must remember
Yes, you must remember

Ari (dialogue):
What do you mean?

Play Your Cards Right

Minos (sung):
You’re going to school, you’re off there on your first try
Your mother would be proud of you, and, I suppose, so am I
But I know you, Ari, I see in your heart and your mind
You’d better not leave this chance I grant you behind
You shoulder our legacy with every movement you make
Remember that all eyes are on you, each step that you take
Our history, all I have taught you, hold it in tight
Your future is golden, if you play your cards right

I expect you to check in with us every day with a call

Ari (dialogue):
What? Every day? Father, that’s ridiculous

Minos (ignoring):
Stop by my office, keep me informed of it all

Ari (dialogue):
I will, Father, I promise, just give me a little space

Minos (ignoring):
If I hear you've left off your studies, I will be displeased

Ari (dialogue):
Dad, I’m a straight A student, I always have been, that’s not going to change

Minos (ignoring):
Stay on your toes, I expect that we’ll see you succeed

Ari (sung):
Yes, Dad, I will, Father, listen, just please let me breathe

Minos:
You shoulder our legacy with every movement you make

Ari:
Yes, I know that, but Dad, can you listen, just wait

Minos:
Remember that all eyes are on you, each step that you take

Ari:
I’m taking my own steps for once, can’t you give me a break?

Minos:
Our history, all I have taught you, hold it in tight

Ari:
I’ve always held tight

Minos:
Your future is golden, if you play your cards right
Ari:
I'm trying, all right?

Minos:
And in my mind’s eye, our legacy starts to unfold
Our family is born to make history, such is foretold
Plant the seeds in your learning and water their flowers to show
That together we’ll rule over this garden, we’ll watch it grow

But beware, daughter, those who’d distract you, lead you astray
Let trust be your anchor, let Father show you the way
Stick close to us, check yourself, don’t ask for more
Play your cards right, and all of this world can be yours

You shoulder our legacy with every movement you make

Ari (losing herself, going along with it, simultaneously):
Shoulder with the moves I make

Minos:
Remember that all eyes are on you, each step that you take

Ari (simultaneously):
I watch their eyes, I step, I take

Minos:
Our history, all I have taught you, hold it in tight

Ari (simultaneously):
I build your history with me

Minos:
Your future is golden, if…

Ari:
If…

Minos:
You play your cards right

*Minos leaves, leaving Ari deflated, down, and depressed*

Break Me Free (Reprise)

Ari:
I long for adventure, a place to be free
A place to exist on the open sea
That’s not me, keep it inside of me
Homeless at home where I’m trapped under siege
I longed for escape, but now I can see
That nothing is meant to be
I’m just not built to achieve
I feel it touch deep in my soul
Fate spins my life all beyond my control
Someone please rescue me
From this hole, from this hell, from my home
Come, break me free

*Scene transitions to school*

**SCENE 2 - Theo’s dorm room (Theo, Aegea)**

*Transition to song, upbeat
Song has transitions between slow moments with Aegea to upbeat moments with Theo’s excitement
Theo enters, moving into her room*

Song: Back Here Where I Belong/I’ll Miss You, Hon’

Theo:
Back at school, back one more time
Back at it full and strong
Back to write, back here from home
I’ve missed it all along

Back to life as it should be
Back like I’d never gone
Summer’s over, back to work
Back here where I belong

*Aegea enters, helping move*

Aegea (dialogue):
Are you sure I can’t help you set all this up?

Theo (dialogue):
No Mom, it’s okay. You’ve been more than enough help, really. (pause) Hey, I’m glad you came with me today.

Aegea (dialogue):
Me too, Theo, me too.

*Transition to slow*

Aegea (sung):
I’ll miss you while you’re gone, hon’

Theo (sung):

I'll miss you too, Mom
You're not the only one
You're not the only one

Will you be fine without me?

Aegea:
Maybe, more or less

Theo:
I could go back

Aegea:
I'll be just fine, Theo, you'll see
But still, I'll miss you hon'

Theo: (spoken)
Are you sure?
(sung) It hasn't been that long since…

Aegea:
Yes, I'm sure, hon'
It's time for you to go
It's time for you to go

I'm on the path, the light's ahead
And it's all thanks to you
So time for your turn, Theo, you're the one (takes out a gift from her bag)
But still, I'll miss you, hon'

Aegea (dialogue):
I got something for you

Theo (dialogue):
Oh, Mom, you didn’t have to…

Aegea (dialogue):
It's just a reminder for you
To always follow your dreams

Theo (opens gift, sees it's a pen, reads inscription, dialogue):
The pen is mightier than the sword…
I love it

Aegea (dialogue):
Listen, Theo, ever since your father left…

Theo:
Mom, no, don't…
Aegea (interrupting):
Since your father left, you’ve been my rock. Just…know how happy it makes me to see you getting
to do what you love. Just know that you can make a difference in this world…

Aegea and Theo (simultaneously):
One article at a time

Theo:
Thanks, Mom

*They embrace*

Aegea:
Now go, get unpacked. I’ll double check the car.

Theo:
Okay, I will.

(Sung while Aegea exits, building back up to uptempo)
I’m here, I’m starting back again
My senior year has come
I’ll find my way, I’ll get a job
Go beyond where I am from

And I’ll show my mom, I’ll prove to her
She can rely on me
I’ll make my mark, I’ll light a spark
I’ll fight my way out from the dark
I’ll take my chance, I will advance
To where I’m supposed to be

Back at school, back one more time
Back at it full and strong
Back to write, back here from home
I’ve missed it all along

Back to life as it should be
Back like I’d never gone
Summer’s over, back to work
Back here where I belong

*Slow transition again*

Aegea (re-entering, aside):
She doesn’t know the truth
I’ve lied about my cries
I’ve done the things I must to hide
The way I feel inside
Sometimes it’s all too much
The overwhelming tide
There’s mornings I wake up from sleep
Just wishing I had died

But there’s no way I’m keeping her
From where she’s meant to be
I’ll hide my needs and stay
So, Theo, go, and live for me

Back at school, back one more time
Back at it, I’ll be strong
Back to write, away from me
I’ll miss her, but I’m wrong

Back to life as it should be
Back like he'd never gone
Summer’s over, back to work
Back here where she belongs

Theo (dialogue):
Hey, I promise I’ll call every day to check in, all right?

Aegea (dialogue):
Oh, Theo, you don’t have to do that for me…

Theo (spoken):
Yes, I do… I mean, I want to. I want to make sure you’re all right.

Aegea (spoken):
Okay. I really appreciate that, hon’. It’ll mean a lot to hear your voice.

Theo (spoken):
Same, Mom. I’ll talk to you soon.

Aegea (spoken):
Bye, Theo
(while walking off, sung) But still, I’ll miss you, hon’

*Aegea and Theo walk off separately, song ends*

**SCENE 3 - Ari/Phoebe’s dorm room (Ari, Phoebe)**

*Scene transitions to Ari’s new dorm room
Phoebe is unpacking, Ari enters with stuff*

**Recit**
Ari (shyly, spoken):
Knock, knock
(Sung) Hi there

Phoebe (sung):
Hi

Ari:
I’m Ari

Phoebe:
I’m Phoebe
(spoken) We talked on Facebook

Ari:
(spoken) I remember
(sung) It’s good to meet you in person

Phoebe:
(sung) Same

Ari:
(pause, searching for something to say)
I…like what you’ve done with the room

Phoebe:
Oh, thanks
My inspiration was the cover of the “Bed, Bath, and Beyond” catalog
(both laugh, awkward pause)
So…what are you planning to study?

Ari:
Oh God, not you too
Sorry, it’s just, like, everyone asks me that
My teachers, my family, my dad…

Phoebe:
I know, I know
But what else are you supposed to say? (pause)
Look, I’m thinking about Psychology
Do you have any thoughts at all?

Ari:
Not really…

Phoebe: (noticing guitar)
What about music?
(spoken) You play guitar?
Ari:
(spoken) Oh, this?
(sung) Oh, that’s just for fun
(spoken) I’m not very good…

Phoebe:
(sung) No way, I bet you’re great
Come on, play me something

Ari: (quickly)
(sung) No!
I mean, no thanks…
I, um…haven’t played in a while
I just kinda brought it…just in case, you know?

Phoebe: (a little weirded out)
Just in case, yeah…

Ari:
I’m sorry, uh…I feel weird
I just like…have never really been on my own before like this and…
I’m just kinda worried about this whole college thing
I’ve been really excited all summer
(spoken) But now that I’m here…

Phoebe:
(sung) Hey, I get it, really
I’ve been feeling the same way

You know what I think?
I think we need to dive into this place
With both feet first
I heard some seniors talking about this party off-campus tonight
And you and I are gonna go

Ari:
What? On our first night here?

Phoebe:
(spoken) Yep!

Ari:
(spoken) Oh, I don’t know…

Phoebe:
(sung) Come on, Ari, it’ll be fun, I promise
We’ll pick out some great outfits
Meet some cute guys (pause)
Or girls, if that’s what you’re into, which is totally cool, by the way…
Ari: (interrupting, dialogue)
Oh no, I...
I’m straight…I mean, uh, yes
Straight
Very much into guys
Yes…guys…yes

Phoebe (dialogue):
OK…
(sung) Well, let’s get you settled
And we’ll get ready for this party…

Ari (interrupting):
Wait, but my dad…

Phoebe:
What about him?

Ari:
What if he finds out?
He’d be super mad…

Phoebe: (interrupting)
Look, Ari, you’ve gotta loosen up
Everyone’s gotta grow up sometime
Be your own woman
Stand up for yourself
Screw the patriarchy!
Do something crazy
You’re in college now, that’s what it’s for

Ari (gaining enthusiasm):
Yeah…yeah
You’re right
I’ll go

*Phoebe helps Ari begin to unpack*

SCENE 4 - Dion’s apartment (Ari, Phoebe, Theo, Dion, Chorus: Minos/Aegea)

*Scene transition to party
Heavy rock music/synthesizer club beat-type music, played over the speakers
Chorus returns as students at the party*

Song: Maze of Pain

Vocalist (in the background, repeating):
There’s a maze of hurt and feeling here
And I’m lost, nowhere to go
And I hear your voice, I hear you cry
That there’s something I don’t know

My heart is blind, my eyes can’t see
The monsters creep behind
The darkness holds me
I cry for you, and still I wonder why

Yes, I’m lost inside a maze
A labyrinth insane
You throw me in the dark
Yes, I’m in a maze of pain when I’m with you

Ari (shouting over noise):
There’s a lot of people here

Phoebe (shouting):
Yeah, I can’t believe we got in
This party is lit!

Ari (shouting):
Yeah, it’s great, I guess
It’s just weird because we don’t know anybody

Phoebe (shouting):
Well, what else are parties for?
(To a passing person, flirtatiously) Hey
See, it’s that easy

Ari (shouting):
Well, I don’t know…

Phoebe (shouting, interrupting):
Hey, it takes practice
Look, I’ll show you

*Phoebe taps Theo, standing nearby, on the shoulder
Theo turns around, Phoebe shoves Ari towards her and runs away
Music suddenly changes to string soft tremolos, world stops for a moment*

Theo/Ari (together):
Hi

*Band suddenly comes back in, crashing back to reality*

Ari (shouting):
Yeah, so, um, hi
Sorry, my roommate…she…ah, never mind
Theo (shouting):
That’s all right
I’m Theo (seeing Ari’s quizzical look)
It’s short for Theodora
I used to go by Dora
But you get called “Dora the Explorer” enough times… (both laugh)
What’s your name?

Ari (shouting):
Ari

Theo (shouting):
Nice
So, are you a first year?

Ari (shouting):
Yeah
You too?

Theo (shouting):
(Laugh) Nope, I’m a senior
Journalism major

Ari (shouting):
Oh, that’s cool
I’m taking Intro to 21st Century Journalism this semester

Theo (shouting):
Oh, that’s awesome
With Professor Bernstein?

Ari (shouting):
Yeah
Is she any good?

Theo (shouting):
Oh yeah, she’s great
It’s funny you mention it
I’m actually TAing for that class

Ari (shouting):
Really?

Theo (shouting):
Yeah
I think you’ll really enjoy it

Ari (shouting):
I mean, with you there I definitely will
I mean…yeah, um, yeah

*Ari, embarrassed again
She takes a moment to breathe
Remembering what she and Phoebe talked about
That she’s trying to break free and find herself*

Ari (to self, singing along with song):
Come on, Ari, come on
Live for a minute, come on

Ari (shouting to Theo):
Hey, um, so look
I know we just met and all
But, um, is there any chance you might want to…
You know…

*Dion suddenly rides in on a scooter between the couple, carrying a glass of red wine
They trip and fall off, drunk*

Dion: (shouting)
Whoa, sorry…didn’t see you there
(Seeing Theo) Theo, my gal, what’s up?

Theo: (shouting)
(exasperated) Hey, Dion, not much
(looking for conversation topic) This is Ari
She’s a first year

Dion: (shouting)
Hey, that’s great
I’m Dion, pronouns they, them, theirs

Ari: (shouting)
Oh…um…that’s cool

Dion: (shouting)
What about you?

Ari: (shouting)
Oh, um…she…I guess?

Dion: (shouting)
Lit, lit…
Hey, so I’m president of our LGBTQ affinity group
You should totally come check us out

Ari: (interrupting, shouting)
Oh, no, no…I mean, um
I'm not…I mean
Of course I support…but I'm…

Dion: (shouting, a little disappointed)
Well, that's okay
You can totally come as an ally, or whatever
Or you could check out our animal rights activist club
Or come to our sex positivity club
Or vegan/vegetarian awareness coalition

Ari: (shouting while Dion continues):
Well, I mean, I don't know
I just got here
I'm not really sure what…

Dion: (shouting)
Or ultimate frisbee team
Or dungeons and dragons guild
Or…or…or…

Friend/Aegea: (shouting, poking head in)
Or chess club…

Dion: (shouting)
Or chess club!

*Dion suddenly stumbles and spills red wine onto Ari inadvertently*

Dion: (drunkenly, shouted)
Oh my god, I'm so sorry (sees someone else carrying white wine glass)
Wait, I hear white wine gets out stains…

*Dion grabs the glass and pours it on Ari
The music stops suddenly*

Ari: (shouting)
Hey!

Dion: (spoken)
Whoops, never mind
Here, let me get that for you…

*Dion starts to try to clean her up
But Ari throws them off her*

Ari (disgusted, spoken):
Get off me, asshole
*Theo catches Dion*

Theo (annoyed, spoken):
Hey, hey, Dion, get out of here
Go find some bathtub to throw up in

*Theo shoves Dion away*

Dion (spoken):
Hey, hey…I’m sorry, I’m sorry
Yeesh, I’m sorry about the shirt…
Sorry…

*Dion stumbles off
Ari is completely embarrassed
Everyone begins to go back to their conversations
The band underscores softly a bit*

Theo (sung, to Ari):
Hey, are you okay?

Ari:
(sung) Yeah, I’m fine
(spooken) Just a regular Saturday night at college, right?
(sung) Um, I’m just gonna go and clean this up
Sorry about all that

Theo:
Hey, not your fault
I guess I’ll see you in Intro, then?

Ari:
Um, yeah, see you then

Theo (as Ari runs quickly away):
Nice meeting you…(spoken) Ari

*Another moment of string tremolos as Ari looks back for a moment and everything stops
Then she runs off quickly again*

**SCENE 5 - Ari’s dorm room/Theo’s dorm room (Ari, Theo)**

*Music transitions as scene retransitions to her dorm room
Ari cleans herself up while singing to herself*

Song: “Something”

Ari:
When you find yourself after your first night out
Or more probably, the last
And you’re covered in shit, and you’re not even drunk
And your heart’s still beating fast

What are you supposed to think, to feel
When you miss your chance
And you try to steel
Your mind and heart from what you saw
And decide if it was real

I felt something…
Something…

(spooken) Oh God, I am never going to live this down…

*Theo enters on the other side of the stage, walking home from the party*

Theo:
When you find yourself after your first night out
When your senior year begins
And you had a plan, a final course
That you thought would help you win

What are you supposed to think today
When you meet someone
Who looks at you that way
And you know the time to focus is now
But there’s something calling, “stay”

I felt something…
Something…

Ari/Theo:
And I can’t say what it means or where it’ll go
But if I try to just forget it, I’ll never know
Maybe what I’m meant to think
Maybe what I’m meant to feel
Is something…something…
It’s not real

*Theo exits*

Ari:
When you find yourself after your first night out
Or more probably, the last
And you think you might have figured something out
But you can’t forget the past

What are you supposed to think, to feel
When you pretend like your thoughts
Just aren’t real
And the biggest thing that holds you back
Is what you guess will never heal

I felt something…
Something…
(spooken) Something…

SCENE 6 - Journalism lounge (Aegea, Theo, Ari, Minos, Dion; Chorus: Aegea/Dion/Minos/Phoebe)

*Ari exits, Theo enters, music transitions
Theo is in the journalism lounge for her office hours
She’s talking to her mom on the phone
Aegea enters on the other side, also on the phone
It’s taking a lot of effort to get through this conversation*

Song: Still, I’ll Miss You, Hon’ (Reprise)

Aegea:
I’ve missed you while you’re gone, hon’

Theo:
I miss you too, Mom
I’m glad that you’re okay
I’m glad that you’re okay

Aegea:
I’m taking things one day at a time

Theo:
Are your appointments okay?

Aegea:
Oh sure, they help a bit, you know
But still, I miss you, hon’

(spooken) I’ve been going to a few things around town
An art show, a slam poetry reading…
I’ve…been trying to have some fun

Theo: (sung)
But you know that if you’re feeling down
You can give me a call?

Aegea: (sung)
It makes me better just to hear your voice
(to self) I’ll keep making my choice
You go, I love you, hon’

*Ari enters, carrying her bag and guitar
Dion is following her*

Theo:
(spooken) Okay, bye, Mom

*Theo hangs up
Aegea sighs, tears up, and then exits
Ari and Dion are continuing a conversation as Theo finishes talking*

Ari: (spoken, irritated)
It’s fine, Dion, really, it’s fine

Dion: (spoken)
Are you sure? Because I could come help…

Ari: (sung, irritated)
Yes, I’m sure
Just go off to your volleyball practice or whatever

Dion: (sung)
Actually, it’s my improv sketch comedy group right now…

Ari: (interrupting)
Whatever, just let me handle this
(aside) Like I’ve been handling everything else with this project…

Dion:
Well, thanks Ari, you’re the greatest
(As she is about to leave, spoken) Hey…
(sung) I meant to tell you…you look…nice today

Ari:
Um…thank you?

Dion: (spoken)
Oh, and also you should totally come to this cool lecture I’m organizing next week…

Ari: (interrupting, spoken, pushing Dion towards the door)
Okay, bye, Dion

Dion: (spoken)
It’s going to be really great…

Ari: (spoken)
Bye!
*Dion, forced out door, exits
Ari slams door on them, sighs, then composes herself
She sees Theo, who hasn’t noticed her yet
She is still in thought after talking with her mom
'Ari smooths herself down real quick, then tries to be casual*

Ari (sung):
Hey, Theo, how’s it going?

Theo (sung):
I’m…
(suddenly coming to herself) I’m doing great, Ari
(spoken) What can I help you with today?

Ari:
I, um, just have a question about my journalism project
We’re doing our midterm presentation next Thursday
And I was hoping you could look at it

Theo:
Are you sure?
I mean, we’ve already looked at your research four times together
It looks great

Ari:
(Embarrassed, spoken) Oh, um, thanks
(sung) It’s, uh…just that
My partner is being no help
I got stuck with Dion
And she…they…
Are so busy with all of their clubs and jobs and parties and protests and…

Theo (interrupting):
Say no more, I get it
We can review your points again
But only because you’re my favorite customer

Ari: (spoken)
Thanks (grinning a little too much)
Here, let me find it…

*Takes out her computer, searches for the file
In the meantime, Theo sees her guitar*

Theo:
Hey, I didn’t know you played guitar

Ari:
Oh, um, yeah…I do
Theo:
That’s great!
I used to be able to play ages ago, but I gave it up
(sung) What kind of music do you do?

Ari:
(sung) Oh you know…
(sung) Like…indie, singer-songwriter type stuff…
I, um…actually write some of my own songs sometimes

Theo:
(sung) Really, that’s so cool!
(sung) I’ve always wanted to be able to do that

Ari:
(sung) Not really
(sung) I mean, I can only play like four chords…

Theo:
Well, that’s four more than I can remember
Hey, would you play something for me?

Ari:
(sung) Oh no, you don’t wanna hear…

Theo (interrupting):
Sure I do

Ari (interrupting):
No, no…
I mean, I haven’t practiced in months…

Theo (interrupting):
That’s okay
I’d love to just hear you (pause)
I bet you’re great

Ari:
…Really?

Theo:
Yeah, really
Come on, play one of your songs

Ari:
I…okay
(sung) Okay, sure
*Ari gets out guitar
Strums a couple chords*

**Song: I’ve Been Thinking (short)**

Ari:
I’ve been thinking about the place I am
And who I’m meant to be
I’ve been thinking about the time I’ve spent so far

I’ve been thinking about the role I play
And the way life’s set the scene
And the one who makes me feel it doesn’t matter at all

And I’ve been thinking about what might be next…

*Suddenly Ari’s phone rings; Ari looks, it’s her dad calling*

**Recit**

Theo:
Who is it?

Ari:
Oh, it’s my Dad…(hesitates) I’ll just call him back

*Ari hangs up, starts to play again, but suddenly
Phone rings again, Ari looks and hesitates*

Theo:
Do you wanna take it? It might be important

Ari:
Oh, it’s probably not
He just wants to…check in on me
(Hangs up) But I’m my own person now
I’ll call him after we’re done…

*Phone rings again, Ari hesitates again*

Theo:
Look, it’s okay if you answer it, I’ll just…

Ari (interrupting and picking up phone, trying to be casual, spoken):
Hi Dad, what’s up?

Minos (entering other side of the stage, taking on phone himself, sung):
Why didn’t you answer my first two calls, Ari?
Ari:
Um, I was in class, I had to step out…

Minos:
No you weren’t
Your last class finished at 4:30
Stop lying to me
(sung) Where are you?
Are you at school?

Ari:
(sung) Yes, I am, Dad…Father…of course I am
(sung) But wait, how did you know that…?

Minos: (interrupting)
What are you doing?

Ari:
I’m with Theo…I mean, I’m with an instructor…

Minos: (Interrupting)
Theo? Who’s Theo?

Ari:
Nobody, um…no, I mean, the TA for my Intro to Journalism course
(sung) I’m at office hours

Minos:
(sung) Really? I thought you were in class

Ari:
(sung) I…I don’t know why I said that, Father, I’m sorry…

*Ari gets up and accidentally strums the guitar*

Minos:
What was that?

Ari:
Nothing, Father, I swear…

Minos:
Was that a guitar?

Ari:
No, Dad, I mean, Father, it was just…

Minos:
Stop lying to me, Ari
Are you getting sucked into some band?

Ari:
(spooken) No, no, Dad, it’s nothing like that….

Minos: (interrupting, sung)
Because a band is not how my daughter should be spending her time
My daughter should be focusing on her academics
Getting the 4.0 GPA that she promised she could maintain
Which proves to the world that she is worth something

Ari:
(spooken) No, Dad…
(sung) I haven’t joined a band, I promise…

Minos:
Then what is it?
Are you dating this boy, Theo?

Ari:
(spooken) What? No, no, Theo’s a girl…

Minos:
A girl? You’re dating a girl?

Ari:
No! No, I mean…
No… (spokeen) not really, um, I mean…I’m not…

Minos (interrupting):
Ari, I’ve told you countless times
You are not to be dating
You are not to be going to parties
You are not to associate with these people who throw their lives away
(spooken) Squandering their educations
Getting drunk on a bottle of vodka every Saturday…

Ari: (interrupting, spoken)
Dad, Theo’s not…

Minos (interrupting, sung)
You are at college to study
You are there to get good grades
And to graduate with a useful degree…

Ari: (interrupting, spoken)
Dad, I…

Minos: (interrupting)
So that you may keep up the legacy of your family name
(spoken) Do I make myself clear?

Ari (sung):
Dad…

Minos (interrupting, shouting):
Do I make myself clear?

Ari (after a pause, speaking):
…Yes, Father

Minos (speaking):
Thank you.
(Sung) Now leave this…girl
And go back to your room and study
Do you understand?

Ari (sung):
Yes, I do

Minos:
Excellent
Good night, Ari

*Ari hangs up, Minos leaves
Theo is embarrassed to have overheard the conversation
Ari is almost comatose, she doesn’t answer any of Theo’s questions
She goes to sit in the corner by herself*

Theo (sung):
Are you okay, Ari?
That sounded like it was a big fight
(spoken) Did I have…I mean…
(sung) I heard my name…
Is everything okay?
Ari? Ari?

*Theo goes over to Ari, starts singing a song*

Song: Something (Reprise)

Theo:
When I’ve found myself after that first night out
Asking why and and how we met
There was something that you made me feel
Though I can’t say what just yet

But what I feel is something strong
And it’s deep and strange and might be wrong
But I’m here for you, I’m trying to say
It’s more than just a song

You are something…something…

And I’m here now, Ari, hear me, please let me see
I just want to stay here by you, help you to be…

Ari: (interrupting)
Maybe what we’re meant to think
Maybe what we’re meant to feel

Ari and Theo:
Is something…something…
Something…
Here for real

*Ari, comforted by Theo’s song, kisses her passionately as the song ends
They laugh, then cuddle together for a moment in the corner where Ari has sat
They sing in recit form*

Ari:
God, I can’t believe this is happening right now
I…I’ve never felt this way before
(speaking) I mean, we hardly know each other…

Theo:
(sung) Well, let’s solve that problem
(speaking) Hmmm…
(sung) What’s a secret you’ve never told anyone before?

Ari (pausing, then deciding):
My name

Theo:
(speaking) Wait, what do you mean?

Ari:
(speaking) I mean, my full name
(sung) It’s not Ari

Theo:
(speaking) Oh, I figured that
(sung) I always assumed it was short for Arianna or something

Ari:
No, that would’ve been a lot better
It’s short for…
Ariadne

Theo: (speaking) That’s beautiful

Ari: (spoken) No it’s not

Theo: (sung) No seriously, it is (spoken) It’s mystical, otherworldly-sounding Much better than Theodora

Ari (interrupting): No, I hate it It sounds like I’m some character in a fairytale Like I have some destiny I have to fulfill… I hate that (Pause) But enough about me What’s something you’ve never told anyone?

*Theo is silent for longer than she should be*

Ari: Look, if you don’t want to tell me, that’s okay…

Theo: No, no, I want to tell you this …I resent my mom

Ari: Oh, well I get that…

Theo: No, no…I mean, I love her, but… See…my mom has been in a rough place for a while My dad left us a few years ago, and… (spoken) Mom took it really badly (sung) He doesn’t talk to us anymore

Ari: (spoken) I’m really sorry

Theo: (sung) It’s okay, he was an asshole We’re better off without him But Mom…she doesn’t see that all the time She really struggles with it all I’ve had to take care of her for a while
Especially this summer…she had an…episode
She had to be in the hospital for a while
And I had to stay to make sure she was okay

Ari:
That was really good of you

Theo:
There are just so many things I wish I could be doing
Internships, summer jobs at newspapers
But because of Mom…I can’t
I know it’s not her fault…
And she can’t help it…
And I love her…
But sometimes…I…

*Chorus enters, begins to sing soft harmonies in the background
They slowly build*

Theo:
(pause, spoken) I just wish I could get some sort of big break
Like write a really important article
Get a lead, do some investigative journalism
Write something important, that people will notice

Ari:
(sung) Something important…
That people will notice…

Theo:
(spoken) But there’s no way that’ll happen
I’ll probably get a job at the local convenience store after graduation
It’s all I qualify for…

Ari:
(Ari builds up to make a momentous decision, interrupts, the chorus suddenly stops, spoken)
Theo, I think I can help you

Theo: (spoken)
Help me?

Ari: (sung)
You know how my dad is a city councilman?
He’s running for Congress

*Chorus exits*

Theo:
(spoken) Really?
(sung) They’ve been speculating that for months
I could write an article
Say I have insider confirmation…

Ari: (interrupting)
Wait, wait, there’s more
…There’s more

My dad claims to be pro-life
But…I know that’s not true
Because…
When I was 6…
(Speaking) My dad made my mom get an abortion

Theo: (speaking)
What?

Ari:
I was going to have a little brother
Apparently he was going to have a birth defect
My dad thought he was going to be…a monster

So he made Mom get the abortion
And…something went wrong
She got a serious infection and…
She died 6 months later

Theo: (speaking)
Ari, I…

Ari: (interrupting)
Dad hushed it all up
He paid off the attending nurse
Told everyone else that she died from her other health problems
(spooken) And that’s what I always believed…

Until three years ago
When I found the paperwork from the clinic in our house…
He has no idea I know

Theo:
(spooken) Ari…I…I can’t write a story about this
It’d ruin your dad’s career

Ari:
(sung) He deserves it!
He’s a hypocrite!
My mother is dead because of him
Theo:
I know…I just…

Ari: (interrupting)
And this is it! This is the big break you were talking about
Imagine what people would say
If you published a story like this
(sung) You’d be hired in an instant

Theo:
(sung) Ari, we don’t even have proof…

Ari: (interrupting)
I can get proof
He still has all the paperwork
He keeps it in his office at home
(spoken) I’ll make copies for you

Theo:
(spoken) Ari…I…

Ari:
(sung) Theo, please…please…please
(Slowing down, speaking) Please
I want to do this for you
I…I really care about you
I want you to succeed

(Sung) There’s so much more to you
Than what meets the eye
The rest of the world deserves to see it
(spoken) Please, let me help

Theo:
(After a long pause, speaking) All right

*They kiss*

Ari:
(Looks at watch, sung) Oh shit
It’s almost 2:00
I can’t believe we’ve been here this long

Theo:
Same
(spoken) I should get some sleep
(sung) I’ve got a 9:00 am tomorrow

*Theo packs up, then pauses and remembers Ari—but it’s a second thought*
Theo:
Can I walk you back to your dorm?

Ari: (spoken)
I'd like that

Theo: (sung)
Okay, let's go

*Ari and Theo kiss again, get up, and walk hand-in-hand offstage
As they exit, Dion runs on excitedly*

Dion: (Shouting)
Hey Ari, so I didn’t think you should work on our presentation all by yourself
So I wrote some stuff, I thought we could look at it…

*Dion sees Ari and Theo leaving together*

Dion: (sung)
Together…

*Dion stands alone onstage
Sings about what they’ve been feeling but haven’t been able to admit before
As if they’re talking to Ari*

Dion: (sung)
Okay, so that wasn’t completely true
I wrote you something else
I’m not…super great with words
But it helps when I write them down
So…I wrote you a poem
I hope you… (spoken) like it

**Song: Unwritten**

Dion:
I’m waiting here, I’m feeling things I’ve never felt before
Things I can’t pretend, I can’t ignore
Still I can’t help but watch you there and feel myself pulled through
Do you see in me the things I see in you?

I wish I had the strength to tell you how I feel
I wish I knew if the things I felt were even real
‘Cause in all my thoughts, I see you smile
You’re lying next to me
You whisper ancient words to help me sleep

There’s something about you that always makes me smile
Your presence keeps me warm for a little while
But I wonder if the me you see is even me at all
Would you take me as I am, if I could fall…

But it’s only in my dreams that you are there
A vision I can’t reach from anywhere
And all my life, a thousand love poems
Will stay unwritten
As I wonder if I’ll ever let you in

There have been times I’ve seen the way you look at me
When a yearning breaks my walls and starts to grow
And I notice that my lungs forget to even stop and breathe
But when it ends, I still can’t let it show

I wish I had the strength to tell you how I feel
I wish I knew if the things I felt were even real
‘Cause in all my thoughts, I see you smile
You’re lying next to me
You whisper ancient words to help me sleep
But it’s only in my dreams that you are there
A vision I can’t reach from anywhere
And all my life, a thousand love poems
Will stay unwritten
As I wonder if I’ll ever let
I wonder if, I wonder
Ooh, I wonder
If you’ll ever…

*Song ends, Dion exits*

**SCENE 7 - Ari/Phoebe’s dorm room (Theo, Ari, Phoebe)**

*Phoebe enters, she is in her and Ari’s room
Ari and Theo walk in*

Theo: (speaking)
Well, I guess this is it

Ari: (speaking)
I guess so
I’ll see you tomorrow in class?

Theo: (speaking)
And for lunch after?

Ari: (speaking)
I’d like that
See you then
*She and Theo kiss
Theo leaves
Ari squeals as she closes the door
Phoebe is intrigued*

Phoebe: (spoken)
Well, well, well, Miss “I’m Definitely Straight”
(sung) Looks like someone’s been doing something
Other than all this so-called “studying”
So spill, who was that?

Ari:
Theo…

Phoebe:
And who, pray tell, is Theo?
(spoken) You have class together?

Ari:
(spoken) Well, sort of
(sung) She’s my TA for Intro to Journalism

Phoebe: (surprised, sung)
What? You’re sleeping with your TA?
(spoken) First of all, that’s incredibly cliché…

Ari:
(sung) What? No no no, we haven’t slept together
At least, not yet…

Phoebe: (interrupting, sung)
Ari, that’s great and all
Really, I’m happy for you
But what if your professor finds out?
You both could be in trouble
They’d say it was cheating, or favoritism

Ari:
(spoken) What? No way

Phoebe:
(sung) Yeah, they can be really upright about this kind of shit
(spoken) You have to be careful

Ari:
That’s ridiculous
I mean, Theo doesn’t even grade our papers
Phoebe:
I’m just saying…

Ari: (interrupting)
I appreciate the concern, Phoebe
Really, I do
But it’s all fine, I promise

Phoebe:
Okay, if you’re sure…
(sung) Well hey, I need to take a break
Softball practice really wore me out today
(sung) Want to come down to the common room with me?

Ari:
(sung) I would, but I kinda need to get back to studying
(spoken) I have a big homework assignment due tomorrow

Phoebe:
(sung) Okay, I understand
I guess I’ll see you later, then…

*Phoebe leaves, a little sad, but Ari doesn’t notice*

Ari:
(Contently to herself)
Something…

SCENE 8 - Minos’ home office (Ari, Minos, Chorus: Aegea/Dion/Theo/Phoebe)

*Ari walks offstage, there is a transition moment
She returns, now in her home
She sneaks into her dad’s dark office in her house*

Ari: (singing to calm herself)
Okay, it’s fine
It’s no big deal
I just stole my dad’s keys
And I’m breaking into his office
In our house
But it’s no big deal…
I won’t be arrested…
Probably…
I hope…
It’s no big deal…
It’s no big deal…
It’s a big deal
But it’s no big deal…
*The chorus returns and sings a new version of the song the band was playing at the party earlier
A much creepier, ancient-sounding, ominous version
Ari searches through the maze of Minos’ files, trying to find the right paperwork*

**Song: Maze of Pain (Reprise)**

Chorus/Aegea:
There’s a maze of hurt and feeling here
And I’m lost, nowhere to go

Chorus/Phoebe:
And I hear your voice, I hear you cry
That there’s something I don’t know

Chorus/Theo:
My heart is blind, my eyes can’t see
The monsters creep behind

Chorus/Dion:
The darkness holds me
I cry for you, and still I wonder why

Chorus:
Yes, I’m lost inside a maze
A labyrinth insane
You throw me in the dark
Yes, I’m in a maze of pain when I’m with you

Chorus (trading off):
Ariadne…Ariadne…
Ariadne…Ariadne…

*As the music crescendoes to a height, Ari finally finds the files*

Ari: (shouting)
Yes, I found it!

Minos (speaking, from the darkness):
Found what?

*The lights from the corner turn on, we realize Minos has just arrived
Chorus music stops suddenly, chorus exits
Ari immediately hides the file, Minos doesn’t see it*

Ari: (speaking)
Dad…I…

Minos (sung):
Found what, Ari?

Ari (wildly searching, sung):
I…I found…I found…your…
Schedule!

*Minos is surprised*

Ari:
Yes, your schedule! I was looking over here and I found it
(Picking another piece of paper off the desk and showing it to him)

Minos:
What did you need my schedule for?
(spooken) And why are you here?

Ari:
(sung) I was…um…I was…waiting for you
And your office door was open…
And I had to find your schedule
Because…um, because…
I…was…
Trying to surprise you!
By finding out when your campaign announcement was!

Minos:
(spooken) My campaign announcement?
Why?

Ari:
(sung) Because I wanted to…be there
I wanted to, you know…
Be a supportive daughter…
(spooken) You know…help with your legacy

Minos (surprised, spoken):
Really?

Song: Play Your Cards Right (Reprise)

Ari: (sung)
I shoulder your legacy with every movement I make

Minos:
Yes you do, Ari, you’ve heard me now, for goodness’ sake

Ari:
I know now that all eyes are on me, each step that I take
Minos:
You’ll take each step with me and aid me, and make no mistake

Ari:
Our history, all you have taught me, I hold it in tight

Minos: (simultaneously)
You’re our future, yes, I need you here in my sight

Ari:
My future is golden

Ari and Minos:
If I/you play my/your cards right

Minos: (spoken)
Ari, I am so proud of you
You are important to this family
This will make all the difference
And together…

(sung)
Our future is golden if you play your cards right…

*Minos leaves, still daydreaming to himself*

Ari: (guiltily looking after him, speaking)
I’ll play them, Father

*Ari exits*

**SCENE 9 - Journalism Lounge (Ari, Theo, Dion, Chorus: Aegea/Minos/Dion/Phoebe)**

*Theo enters, the scene changes to he journalism lounge
Theo is working, until Ari bursts in*

Ari: (shouting)
Theo, Theo!
(Sung)
I have everything, it’s all here

*Ari hands Theo the paperwork
She searches through it all, getting more and more excited*

Theo:
Yes, yes, it’s all here…it’s all here…
(spooken) Yes, this is perfect! (Laughs)
(Turning back to Ari)
This is perfect, you’re perfect…
Thank you, thank you, thank you, Ari…
(Theo kisses Ari quickly)
(sung) I’ll start writing now…
I’ll finish a draft by Friday, start doing some auxiliary research…

*As Theo has been getting so excited, in the inverse Ari has been getting more nervous
Theo is about to run off
Suddenly, she stops her*

Ari:
(spoken) Wait!
(sung) Wait…Theo…wait…
I…I…just suddenly thought…
What if he finds out…
That I got you the information…

Theo:
(spoken) Oh he won’t, I would never give away a source…

Ari: (interrupting)
(sung) I know, I know, I know…I just…
I had to…I had to tell him…
I just…I can’t…I just…can’t…

*Ari starts to panic again*

Theo:
(sung) Hey, hey, hey, Ari, are you okay?

Ari:
No…I mean yes…I mean…

*Ari’s panic attack gets worse*

Ari:
What if he…what if he…finds out…what if…
Theo…Theo…

Theo:
Ari, Ari, please calm down, Ari…

*Theo sits Ari down and calms her*

Theo:
It’s okay, it’s okay…it’s fine
I…I…I won’t…
(spoken) I won’t write the article…I won’t write it

Ari: (spoken)
No…No Theo…Your big break…

Theo: (spoken)
No, it’s okay…It’s fine…
It’s…it’s fine
(Gives back paperwork, sung)
You should take this back…

Ari:
(Breathing easier under her calm influence)
Are…are you sure…?

Theo: (though she is less sure than she’s admitting)
Yes…
If you don’t…
I have to…
You’re….more important than any article

Ari:
(Sung) You…you really mean that?

Theo: (not sure)
Yes…

Ari:
I…Theo, I…
You’re the only one who’s ever…
Understood…cared about me…
I’ve never felt…I…
(speaking) I love you

Theo: (speaking)
I…I… (hesitating far too long)
I love you too

*Ari (not noticing that Theo may not have meant it fully) kisses her
She kisses her back, it gets more and more passionate
They end up on a couch in the office
Ari begins to try to take off her shirt
Theo stops her*

Theo (speaking):
Ari, wait…
(Sung) Are you sure you want to do this?

Ari:
(speaking) Yes, yes
(sung) I’m more sure than I’ve ever been about anything
I love you, I want to do this
*Ari starts kissing her again, but Theo stops her*

Theo:
Wait, wait…I don’t know about this…
I mean, have you ever...you know…
Been with a girl before?

Ari:
Well, no…but so what?

Theo:
Well, maybe if this is going to be a long-term thing we should wait…

Ari:
No, no…I’m ready now…
I want you now…
I love you, Theo…

Theo:
I…don’t know

*Suddenly Theo’s phone rings, she looks at it quickly*

Theo: (Speaking)
It’s my mom…
I should…

Ari: (speaking)
Theo…

*She puts her hand on the phone before she can answer it, it’s still ringing*

Ari: (sung)
If you don’t want to, then we don’t…

Theo: (interrupting, sung)
No
If you want this then…
(Shuts off phone, spoken) So do I

*Theo goes in and kisses Ari again passionately
She’s officially decided to sleep with her
They disappear behind the couch
Aegea enters sadly, doesn’t see the scene, music transitions
The voicemails Aegea’s left for Theo start to play*

Song: Still I’ll Miss You Hon’ (Reprise #2)
Aegea:
(Spoken) Hey, hon'

(sung, “Still I'll Miss You” theme)
I’m sorry to bother you, hon’
I know you’re busy, I wanted to hear your voice
I want to hear your voice

I had a hard time waking up today
Sometimes it’s tough
When I am on my own out here
I guess I’ll talk to you later, hon’

*Music underscores
While Aegea was singing, Theo wakes up, gets dressed, looks at phone
She plays the next voicemail *

Aegea:
(spooken) Hey, hon’, it’s me again

(sung)
You never called me back last night
And I just want to know you’re fine
So call your mom before she gets undone
I really need you, hon’

*Theo cuts off the voicemail, and plays another one *

Aegea:
I’m sorry to keep on calling
I think I just need to talk…(realizing) you’re having fun
I’m sorry to interrupt

That Ari girl you mentioned
She seems really nice, I hope she’s nice…

*Theo cuts off the voicemail again, plays another*

Aegea:
Theo, it’s your mother here
I hope I’m coming through…

*Theo continues to do this, replaying voicemail after voicemail
Music grows darker underneath*

Aegea:
I really miss you, Theo…

Aegea:
I hope you get this, Theo…

Aegea:
I miss you…

Aegea:
I miss you…

Aegea:
I miss you…

Aegea:
Please call me…

Aegea:
Please call me…

Aegea:
I’m sorry…

*At the height of the voicemails, Theo throws down the phone angrily
Aegea leaves out the other side of the stage
Theo takes a moment to compose herself, then sings*

**Song: “I Lose it All”**

Theo:
There are times I sit down at my desk
And the page stands clean and bare
And no matter how I try my mind goes white

Because all my thoughts and memories cloud
My mind, there’s nothing there
But the things I’ve lost to time, try as I might

And at night I see that memory
Of the day my father walked out
His bags packed up, his car it drives away
And I see my mother fall and cry
Break down like there’s nothing left
And my life, it changed forever from that day

Every time I think I know my path
Every time I think it’s clear
Every time I start to run, I lose it all

Every time I think I can prove my worth
Every time I’ve got it made
Every time I see my chance, I lose it all
And when I met her, my mind was clear
But the time for choices is drawing near
The things she needs are what I can’t provide

When the cards are played, when the clock has struck
Will my life’s success be even close to enough?
I tried a path, but it just doesn’t feel right

Every time I live on my own terms
Every time I try things out
Every time I bare my heart, I lose it all

Every time I think I’ve found my course
Every time it feels sincere
Every time I do my best, I lose it all

And each stroke of my pen
Weaves a story that’s only for one
And I’m tired of crumpling pages
Until I’ve got none

So what do you do when that girl sleeping there’s
Held you back before you’ve begun?
I promised myself, I’m for nobody else
I’ll do whatever I must to be someone

Every time I think the weights are gone
Every time I make my choice
Every time I push ahead, I lose it all

Every time I leave the past behind
Every time I make the grade
Every time I find myself, I lose it all

I lose it all, I lose it all
I lose it all, I lose it all
I lose it all
But this time
I’m gonna win

*Theo grabs the paperwork about Ari’s dad
And leaves
The song ends, underscoring continues, string tremolos
After a few moments
Ari wakes up alone, half-dressed, silently at first*

Ari: (speaking)
Theo?
Theo?
…Theo?

*She tries texting her, waits for a little bit, no answer
Slowly, the background noise starts to increase
Overtime it gets louder and louder*

*Ari tries calling Theo
Still no answer
Ari looks around for the paperwork, and suddenly realizes it’s not there*

*Ari searches around as the sound gets louder
Her pace gets more and more frantic
She calls Theo again, texts again
There’s still no answer
The truth of what’s going on begins to dawn on her
Theo’s ghosted her, abandoned her, betrayed her*

*The chorus returns, and echoes the beginning
Giving us a full sense of “in medias res”
Returning back to where we were
Everything full begins to build
When not speaking, the other chorus members sing “Ariadne”*

**Song: Sing in Me Muse (Reprise)**

Chorus/Phoebe (dialogue):
Sing in me, Muse
And tell the story of that girl
Abandoned on a beach long ago
By her forgetful lover
So tied up in her own ambition
That she threw away the only thing she ever loved

Chorus/Minos (spoken):
Say how at the moment
That lover could see her success ahead
Could feel it burning, almost taste it
She made a promise
To give it all up
For love

Chorus/Aegea (sung):
Tell us how even so, one betrayal was exchanged for another
A promise broken long ago
By a thoughtless, faithless man
Now a promise broken by a young woman
Ripping into the heart of yet another
Solitary, lonely little girl
Chorus/Dion (sung):
And so, past becomes present
Man becomes woman
And time after time
The same old story
Echoes on into the future
Unchanging, unflinching
Unbearable to hear

Chorus: (sung, trading off)
Ariadne…Ariadne…
Ariadne…Ariadne…
Ariadne…Ariadne…
Ariadne…Ariadne…
Ariadne…Ariadne…

*Sudden moment of silence*

Ari: (screams at the top of her lungs into a pillow, completely losing it)

*The music stops for several moments
Ari stands still, in tears, until she too is silent
Eventually, the piano picks up, playing Ariadne’s Theme
Transition into Act I Finale
Ari stands still, unbelieving*

Song: An Endless War

Ari: (sung)
There’s an island out across the sea
With a bare deserted shore
A land untouched by mortal life
No one dared go there before
And the waves, they crash upon the sand
With an unrelenting roar
The horizon sets the empty scene
The shrouding on the tapestry
A ship is calmly woven there
Against Dawn’s gentle gleam
And a girl stands upon that shore
With her clothes and hair gone wild
Her bare feet buried in the sand
Her ecstasy exiled
And the girl stares across the sea
As the ship sails out the isle
Her eyes must lie at what they see
Her heart’s desire, what she needs
It drifts away, her destiny
It’s taken back the key

It’s happened a thousand times before
The woman left alone on a distant shore
You’d think she would learn to shut the door
On everyone who wins her trust
And satisfy her own heart first
To wait until she was sure
She’s another casualty of an endless war

And the girl thinks of what she’s left
The family left behind
The flame that burns within her breast
In her soul and in her mind

And she thinks of what she promised her
When she spoke to her so kind
A shimmering kind of fantasy
A mythic, twisted memory
It shatters with reality
When she sails across the sea

It’s happened a thousand times before
The woman left alone on a distant shore
You’d think she would learn to shut the door
On everyone who wins her trust
And satisfy her own heart first
To wait until she was sure
She’s another casualty of an endless war

*During the last chorus, Dion enters
They see her moment of pain, feel for her
They begin to express their feelings, but Ari doesn’t notice them*

Dion:
I hear the drums sound through the night

Ari:
She stands there in the morning light

Dion:
I hear the shouts, the song takes flight

Ari:
Her heart races, tears leave their traces, and nothing is right

Dion:
Her face, her body take their toll

Ari:
She’s left alone with no control

Dion:
She overwhelms my total soul

Ari:
Her gaping chest, an empty hole

Dion:
She’s unlike anyone I’ve met

Ari:
She gave her a night that they’d never forget

Dion:
She might be the best thing that I’ll ever get

Ari:
The only promise that she kept

Dion:
The time has come to pass the test

Ari:
And she cries here for her, who broke the rest

Dion:
I’ll leave behind any regret

Ari:
For the girl who said, “I love you,” and then, left

And the girl there upon that shore
With no help or hope in sight
Though she’s weak and worn and out of breath
She won’t give up the fight

And she sends a prayer up to the sky
That rings across the sea:
That the same things here which she can flee
Every pain and promise equally
May curse her, strike her endlessly
As she sails away from me

*As the final chorus plays out
Ari finally begins to notice Dion*
It’s happened a thousand times before

Dion: (simultaneously)
I long for adventure, a place to be free
A place to exist on the open sea and be me

Ari:
I’ve been here alone on a distant shore

Dion: (simultaneously)
It’s here standing next to me
Open the gates to my heart, and then I will see

Ari:
I’ve finally learned to shut the door

Dion: (simultaneously)
No next escape, I’m finally free
I feel it whenever I look in her eyes, I can breathe

Ari:
No one will ever win my trust
I’ll satisfy my own heart first
I feel it here deep in my core

Dion:
I am finally sure

Ari:
I’m finally getting out

Dion:
This is what it’s about

Ari:
I’m finally getting out of this endless war

Dion: (simultaneously)
I’ll take her far away from this endless war

*In the last line, Ari finally approaches Dion
They look at each other, and there is a moment of possibility
The song ends, lights out
End Act I*

ACT II

SCENE 1 - Ari’s dorm room (Ari, Chorus: Aegea/Minos/Dion/Theo/Phoebe)
*Chorus enters*

Chorus/Theo:
What do you say
When all the words have already been said?
When the text leaves off
And all that’s left is a blank page
As empty as the open sea?

Chorus/Phoebe:
Do you have a chance at freedom?
To write your own words there
Just as you want them?
Or do you slip back into old patterns
Let someone else take the pen
And lose yourself
In the bounds of the narrative
They have written?

Chorus/Dion:
And what do you feel
When the story plays out
Just as it always has?
All your life
Your role cinched in place
You speak your lines
Even though they were written by someone else
For someone else
And never for you

Chorus/Minos:
And what do you do
When even so, you’re forced to carry out
This duty?
This commitment to something, someone
That you never even asked for?
Just because the story said it should be so?

Chorus/Aegea:
And when it all comes down to it
I suppose there’s only one question left to ask:
What comes next?

*There is a moment of silence as Ari enters
She carries and places her computer in front of her
She sings into a recording of herself, which sings back to her in harmonies
She loops and echoes over herself*
Ari:
Lonely, lonely

Recording:
Lonely, lonely
Lonely, lonely
Lonely, lonely…

Ari: (simultaneously)
Who am I?
I am that girl who’s left behind
Who am I?
Who has been trapped here in her mind
Who am I?
I am a spring you can’t unwind

I…I…I am

Recording:
Lonely, lonely

Ari: (simultaneously, as the band comes in in the recording)
Where am I?
I cannot recognize this place
Where am I?
I’ve lost myself inside this space
Where am I?
I’ve disappeared without a trace

I…I…I am

Ari (in harmony):
Sometimes there are moments I forget
When I move on from the things that I regret
But those times last only for the blink of an eye
Because I see your face inside my mind
And I remember why I am…

Recording
Lonely, lonely
(Add Ari) Lonely, lonely
Lonely, lonely

Ari: (alone, cutting out recording, band stops)
Lonely, lonely

SCENE 2 - College hallway (Dion, Ari, Friend: Aegea)

*Chorus exits, Ari exits with her computer, scene transitions
Dion enters, sees their friend across the way, they approach each other and embrace*

Dion: (speaking)
Hey! How it’s going?

Friend/Aegea: (speaking)
Hey, hey! I haven’t seen you since last semester.
(sung) So, how’s the new year going so far?

Dion:
Not bad, not bad
I’ve got a bunch of club meetings this week
A couple of activism conferences to prep for
A few essays I’m procrastinating on, stuff like that
Oh, and I’ve got the second half of this Gen Ed journalism class too

Friend/Aegea:
Oh yeah, that’s right
How’s it going?

Dion:
(spoken) It’s going well, actually
(sung) I passed last semester
Thanks to Ari, anyway

Friend/Aegea:
(Spoken) Hey, yeah
(Sung) That’s the freshman you’ve been seeing, right?
The one who was your project partner?

Dion:
Yeah, that’s her

Friend/Aegea:
Awesome, how’s that been going?

Dion:
(spoken) Great, great
(sung) She’s really awesome
She’s super nice, super sweet
I’ve never really dated anyone like her before
But I really like her
She just got out of this relationship though, apparently
She won’t tell me a lot about it

Friend/Aegea:
Oh, that’s not great
No one wants to be the rebound
Dion:
Ah, it’s fine
I can handle it
Besides, she’s super into me, I can tell

*Ari enters on the other side of the room
She’s talking on the phone with her dad*

Ari: (Faking excitement)
Yeah, Dad, I’m really excited about the event
I know, this is the biggest event of your career
It’s really important to you
Yes, Father, I know
I know
Yes, I’m going to study now
Bye…Father

*Ari hangs up, sees Dion and Friend*

Dion:
Hey, Ari
You still on to come to my apartment for that party this weekend?

Ari: (unenthused)
Um, actually, I don’t think I can come
(speaking) I have a big test to study for

Dion:
(speaking) Aw, I’m sorry
(sung) For what class?

Ari: (trying to get away, sung)
For, um, Physics…

Dion:
(Interrupting) Oh, well, what about Valentine’s Day next week?
I was thinking we could go to this protest down by the campus library
Then stop for some pizza at this place down the street
Maybe go on a walk through Central…

Ari: (interrupting)
Yeah, um, maybe
Depends on if I have class the next morning
Look, I’ve got to go
(speaking) But, um, I’ll see you at your room tomorrow night, OK?

Dion:
OK, see you then
Can’t wait
Have a great…day

*Ari hurries away before Dion can finish, friend is confused*

Friend:
Hey, uh, are you sure she likes you?

Dion:
(spoken) Oh yeah, completely, completely
(sung) Completely…

*Although they’re not really that sure, they try to hide it
Friend and Dion walk off together*

SCENE 3 - Ari/Phoebe’s dorm room (Ari, Phoebe)

Scene transitions to Phoebe and Ari’s room
Phoebe enters, pacing around, waiting for Ari to return
Eventually Ari comes in
Phoebe launches into conversation
Music throughout the scene builds up faster and faster as they argue*

Phoebe:
Ari, where have you been?
I’ve been trying to get a hold of you

Ari: (putting things away, not paying attention, spoken)
Sorry, I’ve been busy

Phoebe: (sung)
Look, I heard you’ve been dating this senior
Dion, that girl who throws all those off-campus parties?

Ari: (not paying attention still, sung)
They use they, them, theirs pronouns, actually

Phoebe:
Fine, they
But is it true?

Ari:
Yes, okay, I am
(spoken) What’s the big deal?

Phoebe:
(sung) Well, what happened to that other girl you were into?
The one who was your TA?

Ari:
Well, she quit being the TA
And she’s probably busy writing her big break article for the school newspaper
And I haven’t seen her in a month, so…

Phoebe: (pause)
(spoken) I’m sorry, that’s really shitty…
(sung) I thought you really liked her

Ari:
(spoken) Hey, you were the one who told me
I shouldn’t be dating her if she was my TA, right?
(sung) So I stopped, okay?
Happy now?

Phoebe:
Well, do you think that dating some party-crazy loudmouth
That’s graduating in a month is a better idea?

Ari:
They’re not a… I mean, I…
Who said you had the right to tell me who I should date anyway?
Why do you care so much?

Phoebe: (interrupting, spoken)
Hey, I’m just trying to be a friend
(sung) I mean, you’re jumping into dating this random person after a big breakup…

Ari: (interrupting)
They’re not some random person
And it wasn’t a big breakup
I didn’t really care about her, okay?

Phoebe:
Really, because that’s not what you told me last semester…

Ari: (interrupting)
Well, maybe I lied, okay?

Phoebe:
Why would you lie about that?
Ari, are you sure you’re okay?

Ari:
(spoken) Yes, I’m fine…

Phoebe: (interrupting, sung)
Are you sure, because…

Ari: (interrupting)
Yes, I’m fine, would you…?

Phoebe: (interrupting)
Because I’m trying to help you as a friend…

Ari: (interrupting, loudest, shouting)
Stop! Stop saying you’re trying to be my friend! You’re not my friend!
(music holds, after a moment of pause, spoken) Fuck you, Phoebe!
(sung) You don’t know anything about me
Just…fuck you

Phoebe: (shocked, music back after a moment, theme “I Lose It All,” sung)
Every time I think we’re getting close
Every time I reach on out
Every time I try to help, you run away

Every time I think I’ve made a friend
Every time I start to hope
Every time I start to care, you run away
And I’m done today

*Phoebe walks around, starts packing up stuff*

Ari: (spoken)
What are you doing?

Phoebe: (spoken)
I’m leaving

Ari: (spoken)
What?

Phoebe: (spoken)
I’m going to the RA
Asking for a roommate transfer

Ari: (sung)
Wait, Phoebe, I…

Phoebe: (continuing packing, sung)
No, fuck you, Ari
Fuck you
All I’ve ever tried to do is…
All I’ve ever wanted is…
(speaken) Fuck you

Ari: (sung)
Phoebe…
Phoebe: (shouting)
Fuck you!

*Phoebe slams the door and leaves
There is a moment of silence*

Ari:
Lonely, lonely…

*Ari bursts into tears and leaves*

SCENE 4 - City Hall press room (Ari, Minos, Staffer: Phoebe, Reporter: Theo)

*Minos enters, getting ready for his campaign announcement event
He is giving directions to a staffer, played by Phoebe, as Ari slinks in sadly*

Minos:
(Spoken) Make sure the cameras are positioned
So they can get both wide shots and close-ups
And make sure the lights cover either side of the podium
(Sung) I want this moment to be perfect

(Noticing Ari, spoken) Ah, Ari
(Sung) I’m so glad you’re here

Ari: (trying to get out of it)
Dad, look, I…

Minos (not noticing, directing her):
You will stand
Behind me, at the podium
You’ll be right there on camera
Proving I have the support of my family
That we’re creating our legacy together…

Ari: (interrupting)
Dad, I don’t know if I can do this after all…

Minos: (interrupting)
Of course you can
Just stand there and look pretty
That’s all you have to do

Ari:
Dad, I…Father…

Staffer:
You’re on in fifteen seconds, sir
Minos:
(Spoken) Thank you
Are you ready, Ari?

Ari:
No…

Minos: (interrupting)
Fantastic
Let’s show the world who we are

*Minos shoves Ari out in front of him and they walk to the podium
The hall is filled with excited applause
Excited campaign music plays
It continues as a theme underneath Minos’ recit speech
Minos takes the podium and stations Ari behind him*

Minos: (shouting)
Thank you
Thank you all

(Applause dying down, sung) You know
It’s moments like this that make me proud to be a New Yorker
I look out into this crowd
I see so many dedicated Americans
Striving to be their best selves
Not taking what is handed them
But lifting themselves up by their bootstraps
Living the epitome of the American dream
New York is a symbol of that dream
And I have been proud to represent that dream
On City Council for the past 11 years

But it’s time to take our dreams further
Therefore, I am thrilled today
To announce my candidacy
For Congressional Representative of the 17th District of New York

I believe that as your voice in Congress
I can make a real difference in the lives of everyday New Yorkers like…

Journalist in crowd: (interrupting)
Sir, sir, sir
An important question, sir

Minos: (irritated but trying to calm himself)
Yes, I’ll take your question when the time comes…

Journalist: (waving phone, interrupting)
Sir, but would you be willing to respond to a breaking story
About your commitment to family values?

Staffer (rushing over, trying to stop him, waving phone):
Sir, don’t answer that

Minos: (interrupting)
Well, absolutely
I am the most committed candidate of anyone in this race
To restoring the important values of traditional families into our society…

Staffer: (simultaneously)
Sir, sir, we need to take a break and go over…

Minos: (ignoring and continuing)
I believe firmly in limiting those who would
Stand against the rights of unborn children…

Journalist: (interrupting)
Well, sir
Then how would you respond to allegations
That 12 years ago
You forced your late wife to have an abortion
Would you consider that an example of your commitment to family values?

Staffer: (interrupting)
The councilman is no longer taking questions…

Minos: (interrupting, confused, shocked as the noise of the crowd builds)
What…what…that’s preposterous, I…
Who would dare make such an accusation…?

Journalist: (interrupting)
There is a breaking story in a local university paper
Which cites a paper trail of evidence from your own files
That proves your wife
Terminated the pregnancy of a fetus that displayed birth defects
Haven’t you always spoken out against pro-choice advocates, sir?

Staffer: (underneath)
Sir, please…
Everyone, please calm down…
The councilman will release a statement at a rescheduled rally…

Minos: (as the voices grow louder in the crowd)
I, I…how is that possible, I…
It’s not true, I…
How could anyone know…
That was all kept in my…home office…
Minos:
Ari, that night when I caught you in my office
What were you doing there?

Ari: (Panicking)
(spoken) Father, I told you
I was looking at your calendar…

Minos:
(spooken) Lies!
(sung) You stole from me…
You gave it to the university
So they could publish it!

Ari:
No! No, I swear…
Maybe it was the nurse, or the clinic, or…

Minos: (interrupting)
No, I silenced them!
You did this to me!

Ari: (interrupting)
Dad, no, no…

Minos: (interrupting)
You’ve ruined my career

Song: Play Your Cards Right (Reprise 2)

Minos: (interrupting)
You’ve stolen my legacy
With every choice that you’ve made

Ari:
(spoken) Dad, I didn’t, I swear, I didn’t I…

Minos (interrupting, sung):
You’ve shattered the things that I’ve built
All to take your own gain

Ari:
(spoken) No, no, no, it wasn’t that, I promise…
Minos: (interrupting, sung)
My history’s nothing, this dynasty’s
Been made worthless in yourself

Ari:
(spooken) No, I told her not to, but…

Minos: (interrupting, hearing the “her,” sung)
Get out of my sight!
I don’t know you!
Get away from me!
(Shouting as the music stops, the crowd hushes) You are not my daughter!

Ari: (speaking, backed into a corner, in tears)
Dad, I…I’m sorry, I…

Minos: (shouting)
GET OUT!

*Ari bursts into tears and runs away
Minos looks out at the crowd
Has a short moment of realization about what he’s done*

Minos: (speaking)
I…I…

*Minos doesn’t finish speaking and hurries off, his staffer follows
The reporter tries to follow after him*

Journalist (spoken):
Sir, sir, a few more questions, sir…

*All exit
The music transitions and dies down as Ari comes back onstage alone*

**SCENE 5 - Dion’s apartment (Dion, Ari, Phoebe)**

Ari: (trembling, sung)
Lonely, lonely…

*Ari finds herself at Dion’s door and knocks
They open it, surprised*

Dion:
Ari? What are you doing here?
I thought you said you were busy until Tuesday…

Ari:
I…I don’t even know why I’m here
(spoken) I’m sorry…I’ll go…

Dion:
No, hey, wait
It’s okay, come in

*Dion ushers her inside*

Dion:
What’s going on?

Ari:
I…I…

*Ari can’t even finish and bursts into tears
Dion rushes to cuddle and comfort her*

Dion:
Hey, hey, it’s okay

Ari:
No, it’s not
I…I…ruined everything…

Dion:
(speaking) No you haven’t…

Ari (waking up a bit, sung):
Yes I have!
I’ve ruined my dad’s career
He’s disowned me
He’ll never talk to me again… (pause)
I got everything I wanted
I showed up my dad
I’ve gotten him out of my life…
And I feel terrible…
I…don’t deserve anything

Dion:
Shh, shh, yes you do
Of course you do…

*Ari cries for a little while
Dion continues to comfort her*

Ari:
Why are you being so nice to me?

Dion:
(spoken) What do you mean?

Ari:
All I...all I’ve done is...used you...

Dion:
No you haven’t...

Ari:
Yes I have...
(s spoken) I’m awful...

Dion:
No you’re not, Ari
You’re something special

Ari:
(s spoken) How?

Dion:
You’re the first person
To make me look at myself differently
Make me question who I am
Why I fill my life with things
That aren’t even important to me
Why I behave like this person that I’m not

Ari:
(s spoken) Really?

Dion:
Really
You’re special, Ari
You’re...you

Song: I’ve Been Thinking (full)

Dion: (band cuts out, Dion starts a cappella)
I’ve been thinking about the place I am
And who I’m meant to be
I’ve been thinking about the time I’ve spent so far

I’ve been thinking about the role I play
And the way life’s set the scene
And the one who makes me feel it doesn’t matter at all

*Dion continues as the band enters slowly*

And I’ve been thinking about what might be next
In this circle here of life and death
And of all the things I know that still ring true
I've been thinking I might spend it all with you
I've been thinking I might spend it all with you

I've been thinking about how far we've come
From the place we started out
I've been thinking how you've stayed here by my side

I've been thinking how you gave me a chance
And the times you've let things slide
And you're the one who makes me feel that I matter most of all

And in this endless, churning whirl of time
Your face is all that comes to mind
And even through the dark, it still rings true
I've been thinking I might spend it all with you
And no matter what, I'll always see you through
I hope you'll let me spend it all with you

*As Dion finishes, Ari embraces them, moved*

Ari: (sung)
You learned my song
But…how?

Dion:
I may have gone through your phone
And sent myself some recordings
So I could learn it
(spooken) …But I didn't look at anything else, I swear!

Ari:
(sung) It's okay
I'm…I'm glad you liked it

Dion:
Of course I liked it
You're an amazing singer
(spooken) You should sing your songs more often
(sung) For other people besides me

Ari:
I don't know…

Dion:
I promise
People would love you
And I think you'd have a lot of fun
Ari:
(meaning it) Okay, I'll think about it

*Suddenly, there's a knock on the door
And Phoebe peeks her head in*

Phoebe: (speaking)
Knock knock…
(sung) Hey, can I come in?

Ari: (sung, drying tears)
Phoebe? What are you doing here?

Phoebe: (sung)
Dion messaged me
They said you were upset
And needed a friend

Ari:
And you came?
Even after…I mean, after…

Phoebe:
Yes, of course I came
(Pause) What else are friends for?

*After a moment, Ari bursts into tears again
Phoebe comforts her along with Dion*

Ari:
I’m so sorry for all the things I said, Phoebe
I’ve completely ignored you all this time
I’ve been a horrible friend

Phoebe:
It’s okay, Ari, it’s okay
I’m sorry too…
I think I misjudged Dion here…
They’re not so bad
They really care about you
That’s all I was worried about

Ari (to Dion):
You do?

Dion:
I do
*In response, Ari cries a little more and hugs them both closer
After slowing down a little, they continue*

Ari:
I don’t know what to do about the article, guys
I gave Theo everything she needed to write it
I asked her not to…and she wrote it anyway
(spooken) And now I don’t know what to do

Dion:
Well, can I give you a piece of advice?

Ari:
Okay

Dion:
I think you should try everything you can
To get some closure with Theo

Ari:
(spooken) But how?

Phoebe:
You should talk to her
See if you can get her to retract it, take it down

Ari:
She hasn’t talked to me for over a month…
What would she even say?

Phoebe:
Who cares what she’ll say?
She supposedly cared about you
And then completely ghosted you out of the blue
She doesn’t deserve your consideration
What you deserve is answers
A bit of respect

Ari:
I don’t know…
What if it’s too late?

Dion:
Well, maybe it is too late
But it can’t hurt to try

Ari:
…You’re right, I…
I’ll try
*Ari gets up, and is about to leave
She comes back and kisses Dion suddenly*

Ari: (speaking)  
Thank you…Dion

Dion: (speaking)  
Anytime

Ari: (to Phoebe, sung)  
Phoebe…is there any chance the RA will let you switch back roommates?

Phoebe:  
Definitely
You go, I’ll see you when you get back tonight

Ari:  
Thanks…thank you both

**SCENE 6 - College hallway (Ari, Aegea, Friend: Minos)**

*Ari run out, Aegea enters, standing on her own to the side
Music raises slowly in tension
Dion and Phoebe exit*

Aegea:  
I’ve missed you while you’re gone, hon’
Things here are not the same
Things here just aren’t the same

*Ari searches around for Theo
She’s calling her, texting her, to no avail*

Ari: (simultaneously, on phone, spoken)  
Theo…Theo…pick up the phone…

Aegea:  
I promise I still love you
It’s just I’m feeling…it’s all too much
I need to set me free
I’m going to miss you, hon’

*Ari notices one of Theo’s friends, played by Minos
She runs up to them
Music continues underneath*

Ari: (spoken)  
Hey, hey
You’re friends with Theo, right?
Do you know where I can find her?

Friend/Minos: (spoken)
You mean, you don’t know?

Aegea (sung):
You’re on the path, the light’s ahead
So don’t worry for me

Ari: (irritated, spoken, simultaneously)
No, I don’t know, that’s why I’m asking you
Look, this is really important
I have to talk to her as soon as possible

Friend/Minos: (simultaneously, spoken)
Well, that might be a little hard…

Ari: (irritated even more, interrupting, simultaneous with Aegea)
Why? What could possibly be so important
That after she ghosts me out of the blue
And ignores me for a month and a half
She can’t even pick up the goddamn phone
When I have to talk to her about…

Aegea: (simultaneously)
I’m headed to someplace where I can run
You’ll outshine everyone…

Friend/Minos (interrupting):
Her mom died last week, okay?

*Aegea stops singing
The music stops*

Ari: (spoken, after a shocked pause)
What?

Friend/Minos:
(After Ari pauses, shocked, speaking) Her mom died

Aegea: (a cappella)
But still, I’ll miss you, hon’

*Aegea slowly exits
Ari pauses for a minute, suddenly runs off, trying to get there*

SCENE 7 - Graveyard (Chorus: Minos/Phoebe/Dion; Ari, Theo)
*Ari and friend exit while talking
Chorus enters, underscoring happens beneath*

Song: Sing in Me, Muse (Reprise 2)

Chorus/Phoebe (speaking):
Sing in me, Muse
Of that ancient hero
Who, after betraying his lover
Had one betrayal exchanged for another
And lost again the only thing he ever loved

Chorus/Minos (sung):
Say how he, in his mindlessness
Moved by the will of the gods
Forgot to raise the white sails
As he entered his harbor at home
And his parent, thinking that all was lost
Jumped into the sea
And was gone

Chorus/Dion (sung):
Tell us, explain to us mere mortals
What to do when we lose someone
When a character is lost to time
Struck from the story
Where does it end?
Tell us when it stops mattering
When do you get to give up?

Chorus/Phoebe:
Sing in me, Muse, again

*Chorus disappears
Theo is standing alone at her mother's grave
Ari runs on, Theo doesn't turn around
This whole next section is SILENT AND SPOKEN*

Theo:
I saw your missed calls
I'm sorry I didn’t answer

Ari:
No, no, it's okay
I didn’t realize that...that you were here

Theo:
How did you find me?
Ari:
I…I asked one of your friends
I borrowed their car
And drove three hours to get here
(Pause) What…what happened?

Theo:
(Pause) Mom killed herself last week

Ari:
(Pause) Theo…I’m so sorry…

Theo: (interrupting)
That night
The night you and I slept together
I kept ignoring all of her phone calls
And afterwards
I was so wrapped up in myself
Writing the article
It was all I could focus on
I kept writing and writing and writing
And she kept calling
And I wouldn’t answer
I barely talked to her for a month

Because I knew
I knew she would be so disappointed in me
That I stole those papers from you
That I wasn’t everything she thought I was
The ethical journalist, who would never steal, or lie, or abandon anyone
Who she could always rely on
Who was trying to be just like her
I knew…she would hate me
And so I kept not answering the phone
I just kept writing and writing and writing
And I never thought
About how she would feel
When her husband left her
And now her daughter
Wouldn’t even talk to her anymore
And she didn’t know why

So last week, she took some pills…and she never woke up

Ari:
Theo…I’m so sorry…
Why didn’t you tell me?
I could’ve helped
Or talked you through it
Done something…

Theo: (whirling around, interrupting, shouting)
Don’t you think you’ve done enough?

Sorry…I…I didn’t mean that
This…this isn’t your fault
It’s mine

Ari:
No, Theo, no
Of course it’s not your fault
You did everything you could for your mom
You always took such good care of her…

Theo: (interrupting)
I got a job offer at the New York Times

Ari:
What?

Theo:
They read the article
They said it was a caliber of investigative journalism
That they had never seen outside a professional news organization

Ari:
Theo, that’s…that’s incredible…

Theo: (interrupting)
I’m going to turn them down

Ari:
What? No, Theo…

Theo: (interrupting)
There’s too much…too much associated with it
I don’t want it anymore

Ari:
No, Theo, this is huge
You have to take it
Offers like this only come around once in a lifetime…

Theo: (interrupting, shouting)
Didn’t you hear me? I don’t want it anymore!
(Pause) I’m sorry…I…I don’t want it anymore
Ari:
(Pause) Theo…think of what you’re giving up
It’s what you’ve always wanted

Theo (pause):
No more…
No more guilt, no more ruining lives
No more hurting anyone…
No more…I don’t want it anymore

Ari:
Theo, you were just trying to follow your dream…

Theo (interrupting):
And look what good it’s done me
My mom’s dead
My dad’s got another family
My ex-girlfriend hates me…

Ari: (interrupting)
I don’t hate you…

Theo: (interrupting)
Yes you do
…I don’t have anyone anymore

Ari:
Theo, there are so many people who care about you…
Who want you help you…Who love you…
Who…still love you…no matter what you’ve done

(After a long pause) Theo, why…
Why did you leave that night?
Why did you ignore me all this time?

Theo:
Would you believe me if I said I don’t know?
(Pause) …Yeah, I wouldn’t believe me either

I guess I…I was just so afraid
Confused…
Lost in my own problems…
I think I slept with you because…

You were this symbol of…freedom
Or someplace new and unexplored
Or just something that I could finally choose for myself for once
And I didn’t have to explain it, or justify it, or feel guilty
For doing something I wanted for once
And...I forgot that you wanted things too
Things I...couldn't give you

There was something between us
But...I don't think it was...love
I think it was...we wanted the same thing
To...break free

(Pause) But I made a fool of myself
And I broke free the wrong way
And after all this time, everything I tried
I fucking lost it all...again

Ari:
Theo...

Theo:
(starts to walk away, pause, turns back) One thing, Ari

Ari:
What, Theo?

Theo:
Do me a favor and fix things with your dad

Ari:
Theo, I...

Theo: (interrupting)
Just do it
Family...family is all anyone has
(Pause) And you never know when you're going to lose it

*Theo leaves
Ari stands a moment alone in silence, then exits herself*

SCENE 8 - Minos' office in City Hall (Ari, Minos, Chorus: Aegea, Theo, Phoebe, Dion)

*Scene transitions to City Hall
Minos enters, he is packing up his office
Ari enters cautiously*

Ari: (spoken)
Hi, Dad

*Minos pauses to look at her, before going back to packing up boxes*

Minos: (spoken)
Hello, Ari (pause, sung)
Well, you'll be happy to know
I've just sent in my letter of resignation to the committee, effective immediately

Ari:
(speaking) You resigned?

Minos:
(speaking) Yes
(Pausing, sung) It's...it's time I was done here
I've failed as a politician
(Not looking at Ari, speaking) I've...failed as a father

Ari: (spoken)
Dad, I...

Minos: (sung, interrupting)
I've failed
(speaking) I...I owe you the truth, Ari

Ari: (sung)
Dad, you don't have to...

*As Minos speaks, chorus enters, watching*

Minos: (interrupting, spoken)
When your mother was pregnant with your younger brother
She had so many health problems...
She'd had them for years
We were worried the baby wouldn't be healthy
But your mother, she...she was so brave
She wanted to have him anyway
I loved her so much...I told her I'd do whatever she wanted
I'd love my son...no matter what

But she was afraid to get tests
We waited too long...he...your brother...had defects
But that wasn't the worst of it
We found out that if she were to carry to term...because of her health...
The birth could kill her

I tried to tell her it wasn't worth it
That she had her whole life ahead of her
That we could try to conceive again
She was distraught
I told her that even our son...wasn't worth losing her
She eventually agreed to get the procedure

And then she got that infection
It wasn’t anyone’s fault  
She wouldn’t let me blame the doctors  
She was…so kind…so understanding…  
And it happened, six months later  
(sung) I lost her  

I’m sorry…I hid it from you all these years  
That I never told you the truth  
I…I am so deeply ashamed of myself  

I was arrogant…selfish…I wouldn’t listen…  
It was the height of hubris  
I thought I could change Fate…  
And Fate found me anyway  
(spoken) I was so wrong  
Because of me…I…we…lost her  
We lost them both  

(sung) And I covered it up  
I hid my shame  
And every time I see you, Ari…I…  
I see your mother  
(spoken) I see her strength, her resolve  
(sung) And it’s been a reminder ever since  
Of how wrong I was  

I’ve let my shame…my guilt…hurt you  
Tear us apart all these years  
I…I have failed  
(spoken) And I am so…so…sorry, Ariadne  
(sung) I am so sorry  

*Minos cries and Ari hugs and comforts him  
This whole time, the chorus has come up and approached Ari/Minos slowly  
Doing background ooohs/ahhs*  

Ari:  
(spoken) It’s okay…it’s okay, Father…Dad…  
It’s okay…  
(sung) There’s something you should know…  

*The chorus stops, and slowly, over the course of the song, they exit*  

Song: Taking Back My Story  

Ari:  
Sometimes it feels like the wheels of time  
Have spun out of my control  
Like the threads of Fate weave me out and then back in
My mistakes surround me, tear me apart
There’s times they’ve swallowed me whole
Sometimes it feels like there’s no way I can win

But so what if the wheels of time keep turning?
So what if there’s destiny?
So what if our legacy’s predetermined?
I’m standing here anyway, I’m finding me

No matter what my story says
I’ve decided I’m here now
The legends might speak different words
But I’ll choose my own anyhow
I’ll play my role, I’ll act my part
But it’s time I found my own true art
No matter what has been, or what will be
I’m taking back my story

Minos:
Sometimes it feels like throughout my life
I have failed at every turn
And each time it’s gotten further beneath my skin

When I’ve done my best to shape a new world
I’ve forgotten to stop and learn
I’ve lost the reasons why I even wanted to begin

Ari:
But so what if the past has been imperfect?

Minos:
So what if it’s out to sea?

Ari:
There’s a new chance every minute, take it
Seize the moment here and just break free

Minos:
I’ll live a new life on forward and now I can see

Ari:
And of course there will always be things in life
That are out of our control
The twists we don’t see coming, we can’t contain

Minos:
But we control what we can, we forgive what we can’t
We let go, but don’t fall in
Ari:
And what we know is true, we let remain

Minos:
I'll let go of the pain

Ari and Minos together:
No matter what our story says
I’ve decided I’m here now
The legends might speak different words
But we’ll choose our own anyhow
I’ll play my role, I’ll act my part
But it’s time we found our own true art
No matter what has been, or what will be
No matter what has been, or what will be

Ari:
No matter what has been, I’m going to see

Minos:
It’s up to you to tell what your future will be

Ari and Minos:
Let’s take back our story

*The chorus recedes all the way now
Minos and Ari finally cry together, embrace, and reconcile*

Ari: (spoken)
Dad, there’s something else you should know…
I’m… I’m gay
I think I’ve known…I’ve known for a long time
I just have never known how to say it
But I want to tell you now

Minos: (pause, sung)
Ari, I support you
I will always support you
Thank you for telling me
(pause) I love you, Ari

Ari:
(spoken) I love you too, Dad

*They tear up and embrace again*

Ari: (speaking, both of them standing and beginning to walk to door)
You know, Dad
Now that you’re resigning
You’re going to need a job

Minos: (speaking)
Yes, that’s true

Ari: (speaking)
You know, I hear there’s an open position
In my college’s Political Science Department
Might be worth looking into…

*Minos and Ari laugh together as they walk off stage*

**SCENE 9 - College graduation reception hall (Ari, Theo, Dion, Phoebe, Minos, Friend: Aegea; Chorus: Theo, Dion, Phoebe, Minos, Aegea)**

*The chorus comes back onstage, but becomes university students
Graduation has arrived, celebratory music
Dion and his friends are celebrating together*

Friend/Aegea: (shouting over music)
Hey Dion, we did it!
Congrats on passing all your Gen Eds

Dion: (shouting over music)
Thanks!

Friend (shouting):
Hey, want a beer?

Dion: (shouting, almost grabs it then thinks better of it)
No thanks, trying to stay away from alcohol for a bit
(Ari and Phoebe enter on the other side of the room) I’ll catch up with you later

*Dion goes over to talk with Ari, they kiss*

Ari: (sung)
Hey, graduate, congrats
You looked good up there

Dion: (sung)
Thanks
I couldn’t have done it without you
(spoken) There’s no way I would’ve passed Bernstein’s class
If you hadn’t helped me study for all those hours

Ari:
(sung) Well, you probably would’ve done even better
If we’d done a little more studying during those hours
Dion:
(signed) Ah, live and learn

*They kiss again, but Ari pulls away*

Ari:
(signed) Dion…there’s something I want to talk to you about

Dion:
Oh boy, here it comes…

Ari:
It doesn’t have to be right now…

Dion:
(signed) No, no, it’s okay, I knew it was coming
(signed) You’re breaking up with me

Ari:
(signed) No! No, no, no…
(signed) Well…yes
It’s not that I don’t…

Dion: (interrupting)
Shh, shh…Ari, it’s okay
I get it
(signed) You don’t want to deal with long distance
(signed) It’s all good

Ari:
Well, it’s not just that
It’s just…you’re moving to a new phase in your life
You have that job in California…

Dion: (interrupting, signed)
Which I wouldn’t have without your help, by the way…

Ari: (interrupting)
And I just…I just have so much more to do here at school
I just wouldn’t…want to hold you back

Dion:
(signed) I get it
Really, I do
It’s okay
(signed) I always knew we had an expiration date
It’s not like I was going to be able to write your name in the sky or anything
But at least we had some fun, though, right?
Ari:
(spoken) It was more than that, really
I…I learned a lot from you
(sung) You're a great person, Dion
You're going to make someone really happy someday
Thank you…for everything
Keep in touch, Dion

Dion:
I will, I promise
Thank you…for letting me into your life
(spoken) And hey, if we’re both single in 20 years, h-m-u

*Ari laughs as Dion walks out, Phoebe approaches her*

Phoebe: (spoken)
Hey girl, I'm proud of you
It was hard, but you did the right thing

Ari: (spoken)
I know
Thanks for helping me through it all
I'm…really lucky to have a friend like you, Phoebe

Phoebe: (spoken)
You and me both

*They embrace
Ari sees Theo standing behind Phoebe*

Ari: (pulling back, surprised, spoken)
Theo!…Hi

Theo: (not sure what to say, spoken)
Hi

Phoebe: (after a moment of awkward silence, spoken)
I'll give you guys a moment

Theo: (sung)
Ari…I...
I want to tell you…

Minos (suddenly, having entered from behind, sung):
How sorry you are for ending her father’s political career?

Theo (whirling around, spoken):
Sir! I…I…sir, I…didn’t know…didn’t…sir…I…
Minos cuts her off, and after a moment reaches out to grab her hand and shake it
Theo is confused and amazed*

Minos:
I owe you a debt, Theo
For saving my relationship with my daughter
Which means more to me than any political race in the world
If it hadn’t had been for your article
I would never have gotten the shock I needed
To remember what’s important in life

Plus, you also proved that I would’ve been a terrible congressman
So for that, I am forever thankful

*Minos laughs and shakes Theo’s hand again*

Theo: (spoken)
I…I…thank you, sir

Minos: (spoken)
No, Theo, thank you
(Looking at Ari, sung) Now pardon me for interrupting
I’ll give you a moment alone

*Theo and Ari look at each other awkwardly for a minute, laugh*

Theo:
(After pause) So, I never asked you…
Have you decided what to major in?
Journalism? (spoken) You did great in that class

Ari:
No…
Actually…I’m thinking music
A couple of wise people have told me
I should get out there and sing more
So, I’m taking some lessons…writing some more songs…
I’m giving it a shot

Theo:
I’m really glad to hear that
I’m…glad you’re putting yourself out there
(spared) You’ll be great

Ari:
(spared) Thanks

Theo:
Look, there’s something I wanted to tell you

Ari: Okay

Theo: (After a pause) When you came to see me At my mom’s grave I…I was in a dark place I didn’t think…I didn’t think I’d ever get out

Ari: Theo…

Theo: (interrupting) But you…you stopped me You…reminded me there’s more in life to look forward to There’s…other people out there who care about me There’s something worth living for…something bigger I went straight to the mental health office I’ve been having weekly therapy sessions since then They put me on some medication And…it’s really been helping

Ari: Theo, I… You have no idea How relieved it makes me to hear that

Theo: (After a pause) And…I decided to take the job at the New York Times after all

Ari: You did?

Theo: (spoken) Yeah… (sung) I’ve thought a lot About those moments when my mother was happiest And it was always when I told her (spoken) That I had written an article Or was studying for an exam or something

(sung) She was really happy when she saw me striving When she saw me Trying to make a difference in the world (spoken) One article at a time

Ari:
I'm really happy for you, Theo
You're going to do great

Theo:
(sung) Thanks
(Pause, sung) I also just wanted to...
I don't really know how to say this, but...
I'm really sorry...
For everything I put you through
I should've been honest with you from the start
Told you what I was really feeling...
(sung) or what I wasn't
(sung) I messed up
I...I know I hurt you
(sung) And...I'm so...so sorry

Ari:
(sung) Theo...
(sung) I forgive you

Theo:
(sung) Really?
Ari, that means so much
I can't believe you'd do that for me...

Ari: (interrupting)
(sung) Oh, no
I'm not forgiving you for you
You ghosting me was heartless
(sung) One of the worst things that's ever happened to me
I don't know if I'll ever be able to forget it

Theo:
I...I...

Ari:
But...I've lived with being angry for a long time
(sung) I've been stuck in the past my whole life
(sung) I can't live like that anymore
I need to move on
So, I forgive you
For me

Theo:
(sing) I...I understand
Thank you...for your forgiveness (pause)
(sung) Do...do you ever think we might be friends again? (pause)
More than friends?
Ari:
Maybe…one day

Ari:
There’s so much more to you
Than what meets the eye

There’s…something…something…

*There is a pause, and Ari almost kisses Theo
But then holds back at the last minute*

Theo:
I’m sorry…I…

Ari:
No…I’m sorry

Even after everything
I still care about you, though
I still want the best for you
But…I think we need to take things slow
Maybe wait a while
Before we can be…friends again
Time will tell

Theo:
I understand
You’re right
(spooken) Well, here… (Theo takes out a notebook, jots down a number, gives it to her)
I have a new phone number now…
Just in case you want to…get together sometime
I’m looking at renting this apartment in Brooklyn
So I won’t be too far away

Ari:
(spooken) Thanks
(sung) I should say…I don’t know if I’ll call this number just yet
But one day…
Maybe one day I will
College is another three years after all…

Theo:
Well, I guess I’ll see you around
Ariadne…

*Theo walks off
Chorus gathers together as Ari stands alone
Looks at Theo’s phone number
Puts it in her pocket
Theo reverts to being part of the chorus
Chorus speaks while she thinks
In a new, more thoughtful tone*

Chorus/Theo (dialogue):
Imagine an ancient author
Sitting at his writing desk
His wooden stylus carving into a wax tablet
Literally creating from scratch
A poem about a lonely, lost young girl

Chorus/Phoebe (dialogue):
Or…don’t imagine him
Instead, ask yourself
Whose story is this?
Who gets to speak these words
Decide what they mean?

Chorus/Dion (dialogue):
Is it the authors?
Is it the actors?
Is it me?
Is it…you?

Chorus/Minos (dialogue):
Ask yourself
What happens if we set down the book
Reshuffle the deck
Throw away the scraps of pages
Send the Muse back to her ancient haven

Chorus/Aegea (dialogue):
What happens if we take a chance
And let those characters…
Our characters…
Speak for themselves?

*Chorus slowly exits
To a moment of silence, where Ari stands alone
Then sings a cappella, slowly, with instruments adding in slightly over time*

Ari:
I long for adventure
A place to be free
A place to exist on the open sea
And be me
I live to explore
Home where I’m homeless
I long to be
There in that place
Where I truly can see
All the things that were meant to be
That I was built to achieve

I feel it touch deep in my soul
Fate spins my life, but it’s mine to control
It’s coming to rescue me
Take this love, take my life, I am home
Come, let’s break free

*Final chord
Lights out*

CURTAIN