“Like Father, Like Daughter(-in-Law)”

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A:

*pone metum, procul usque tua summotus ab aula*

*flebit; ego erectum subigam et servire docebo,*

*coetibus abducam solaque in sede recondam.*

(*Theb.* 11.727-9)

Don’t fear; he will weep far from your court. I will quell him when he rises and teach him to be servile. Intercourse – I’ll lead him away from that and hide him in a lonely dwelling.

B:

*hic pariter lapsae iunctoque per ipsum*

*amplexu miscent avidae lacrimasque comasque,*

*partitaeque artus redeunt alterna gementes*

*ad vultum et cara vicibus cervice fruuntur.*

(*Theb.* 12.385-8)

Here they both collapse and, with combined embrace, eagerly mix their tears and hair over the body; they divide the limbs up and return to his face, one after the other lamenting and enjoying his dear neck in turns.

C:

*haec fratris rapuisse, haec coniugis artus*

*contendunt vicibusque probant: ‘ego corpus,’*

*‘ego ignes,’*

*‘me pietas,’ ‘me duxit amor.’ (Theb.* 12.457-9*)*

This one insists that she stole the body of her brother, this one her husband’s, and they argue in turns: “I took the body;” “I started the fire;” “Duty made me do it;” “Love drove me!”

D:

*ardebis lacrimasque feres quas ferre negatum*

*regibus, aeternumque tuo famulata sepulcro*

*durabit deserta fides, testisque dolorum*

*natus erit, parvoque torum Polynice fovebo.*

(*Theb.* 12.345-8)

You will burn and receive tears denied to kings, and a forsaken faithfulness will forever endure, tending your tomb; the witness of my sorrows will be our son, and with a little Polynices I will warm my bed.

E:

*saltem si qua mihi de te suscepta fuisset*

*ante fugam suboles, si quis mihi parvulus aula*

*luderet Aeneas, qui te tamen ore referret,*

*non equidem omnino capta ac deserta viderer.*

(*Aen.* 4.327-30)

If only you had at least given me a child before you fled, if only a little Aeneas, who would still look like you, were playing in my halls, I would not feel so utterly used and abandoned.

F:

*ille ubi complexu Aeneae colloque pependit*

*et magnum falsi implevit genitoris amorem,*

*reginam petit. haec oculis, haec pectore toto*

*haeret et interdum gremio fovet inscia Dido*

*insidat quantus miserae deus. at memor ille*

*matris Acidaliae paulatim abolere Sychaeum*

*incipit et vivo temptat praevertere amore*

*iam pridem resides animos desuetaque corda.*

(*Aen*. 1.715-22)

After hanging from Aeneas’ neck and his hug and satisfying the fooled father’s great love, [the boy] seeks the queen [Dido]. She clings to him, fixed on him with her eyes and all her heart, and Dido cuddles him on her lap, unaware of how great a god has seized her, poor thing. But he, remembering his Acidalian mother [Venus], bit by bit begins to erase Sychaeus and tries to captivate with a fresh love her long-since jaded soul and rusty heart.

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