

Gregory Wallace

Orpheus 23

While walking through the park one day, Orpheus encountered Hermes. He needed Orpheus to help him attach a device with a rubber glove on the end to an artificial respirator. The thing he was attaching the hose to was like a manikin's head. Finally, Orpheus got it in and Hermes told him he only wanted one finger in the mouth. They were in a house and Hermes was a girl now. She asked Orpheus if he would come to look and he said "maybe." Orpheus crawled through a long tunnel in the dirt with a small door at the end. Very small, like a cat door. Only he couldn't open it until he forced it. Orpheus was a boy allergic to redwood and the girl had put redwood there so he would die. But I didn't like that ending so Orpheus didn't die. He didn't think she wanted to kill him. He found a spacesuit in his closet. The suit had been given to him when he was a boy by a friend of his father who was an astronaut. Orpheus put it on but it made him stoop over. He put the helmet on. It had things written on the inside that he had written there as a boy. Orpheus walked around with the spacesuit on. By the sea he met one of his teachers. She opened up a shelf in the rock and discovered an ancient lobster.

Orpheus looked at a picture in a newspaper of three women on horseback. He asked Dionysus if they were all the same woman, Rhiannon, and Dionysus said "no." Orpheus saw the three women on horseback in the desert and one poured oil on the other's horses' heads and necks. Rhiannon accidentally got some on her horse. Orpheus was the woman walking behind Pegasus trying to wipe off the oil. They came to a big building where people rode horses but he had to wait for a saddle. He was in front and Eurydice tried to get out but there was a crowd near the door. The storefront window was flexible and Orpheus bent it open and took out a plastic coke machine and showed it to Eurydice, but she didn't want it. Then he pulled out a plastic bat with the Batman logo on it. They ran into the pet store next door. Hecate had two dogs. In a field behind the building, Orpheus could see a biker standing on the other side of the street. He had a big black dog. The biker came around and lit a fuse. Hecate said that it would cause a gusher and water poured from the top. Hecate and the dogs rushed to the bottom and Orpheus could hear her calling to him but he couldn't see her. Orpheus saw her running up the hill with the dogs. The black one was in flames and he tried to put it out with his hands.

Orpheus picked up some balls filled with heroin and climbed into a car. Orpheus' car was hard to start, and another car pulled up right behind his. Finally, his car started and he backed into the car behind him and sideswiped another to get away. Orpheus drove to a motel to hide the heroin. Three undercover policemen were killed while guarding it, but the criminals couldn't get through. Orpheus dragged a big rock, which he had tied up with a rope, through rough muddy terrain. A Mexican with bloody clothes crept through the darkness. Two women caught turtles in a pond. The Mexican caught one and fell down a hill. Eurydice and Orpheus drove through the night but they had left Dionysus behind. Orpheus told Eurydice to turn the car around and go back for him. She stopped, climbed on top of a house and he heard her cry "oh no!" Orpheus pulled himself up and saw her clinging to a plastic sunflower. He climbed up on the roof and carried her down.

A black woman had been elected president and she walked among soldiers and Orpheus worried about her safety. Some white men took her onto a helicopter. Orpheus thought they were her bodyguards. They stood on a high peak, the woman and her baby and two men, looking up at the helicopter straight above them. The men jostled her pretending to help her and she lost her balance and she and the baby fell. The baby landed on a ledge but one of the men, pretending to try to save it, pushed it off. Then Orpheus saw the men raping the woman. He ran away, afraid that they would come after him.

Eurydice murdered someone by striking him on the head from behind. She went to prison for 5 to 10 years. A man also murdered someone but he escaped and attacked a policeman with a weird contraption like an electric razor which he could operate by remote control. Eurydice had escaped. John Wesley Harding hid a gun behind his back. He tried to shoot Eurydice but the gun didn't fire. He pointed it at Orpheus and pulled the trigger. Orpheus told him to cut it out. He wanted to call the police but Eurydice had dismantled the phone so he sneaked out. Orpheus walked down the street past several houses. There were people but he didn't feel like asking them if he could use their phones. Orpheus walked into a bar and saw a payphone. Eurydice worked there and she said he could use the phone. He called the police and got a recording. Orpheus kept waiting, finally, he said "hello, hello." A dispatcher came on the line. Orpheus tried to tell him about the escaped killer but got it all mixed up. The dispatcher thought he said "monster." Orpheus said, "no, not a monster." He tried to tell the dispatcher where the house was, right across the street from where the killing had taken place the day before. Then the dispatcher put Orpheus on hold. A woman came on the line and asked him what he wanted. It was like K calling the castle.