

NEGATE THE GODS

PROMETHEUS

Sorry, forgot. Hey Io, what did we do to deserve this?

IO

Good question. You know... I don't mean to *complain*...

PROMETHEUS

But.

IO

But what's the point?

PROMETHEUS

Of what?

IO

Of anything. When I was a priestess of Hera, my life had meaning. Now I'm apparently beyond redemption, and I exist only for her to scorn.

PROMETHEUS

How do you think *I* feel? I brought the light of civilization to all humankind, and *now* look at me.

IO

(A LITTLE ANNOYED.) Yeah. You're doing it again.

PROMETHEUS

What?

IO

That self-indulgent thing where nobody's allowed to suffer more than you.

PROMETHEUS

No, I'm not.

IO

(STILL SHOOING THE GADFLY.) Yeah, you are, Captain Cliffhanger. It's that one-upsmanship thing where you can't just sympathize with my pain. It's not a competition, you know.

PROMETHEUS

Sorry. Didn't mean to ruin your pity party. I'm sunburned on my entire body, you know. Right down to the tips of my... everything.

IO

I'm growing horns, Prometheus. Moo, moo, moo, moo, moo.

(SISYPHUS enters,
hopelessly happy-go-lucky,
rolling his rock along with
a big smile on his face.)

SISYPHUS

Hey, you two! How the heck are ya?

IO

Uh, hi. Who are you?

SISYPHUS

(TO HIS ROCK.) Did you hear that, buddy? They want to say hi! They sure sound nice. (TO IO AND PROMETHEUS.) My name's Sisyphus, and this here's my rock. Nice to meet ya!

PROMETHEUS

Sisyphus? Sisyphus who was condemned to roll a rock up a hill, only to watch it roll back down again, and have to repeat the task for all eternity?

SISYPHUS

Yep! Gosh, you make it sound like a *bad* thing.

IO

Aren't you supposed to be in the Underworld?

SISYPHUS

Got the day off for good behavior. That sunshine sure is nice, isn't it?

IO

You have the day off... but you brought your rock.

SISYPHUS

Oh, absolutely.

(IO and PROMETHEUS stare at
SISYPHUS, confounded.)

SISYPHUS stares back with a
happy, dopey smile.)

SISYPHUS (cont.)

Well, I better keep on rollin'.

IO

See ya.

SISYPHUS

Hey, nice gadfly, by the way. What's its name?

IO

Why would I *name* my gadfly?

SISYPHUS

She kinda looks like a Matilda. Bye now!

(SISYPHUS rolls off to the
right and exits. IO and
PROMETHEUS wait a moment,
then burst out laughing.)