Eurydice Monologue #1

I hate parties.

And a wedding party is the biggest party of all. All the guests arrived and Orpheus is taking a shower.,” He’s always taking a shower when the guests arrive so he doesn’t have to greet them.

Then I have to greet them.

A wedding is for daughters and fathers. The mothers all dress up, trying to look like young women. But a wedding is for a father and a daughter. They stop being married to each other on that day. I always thought there would be more interesting people at my wedding.
Eurydice Monologue #2

There was a roar, and a coldness —
I think my husband was with me.
What was my husband’s name?
My husband's name? Do you know it?
How strange. I don’t remember.
It was horrible to see his face
when I died. His eyes were
two black birds
and they flew to me.
I said no — stay where you are —
he needs you in order to see!
When I got through the cold
they made me swim in a river
and I forgot his name.
I forgot all the names.
I know his name starts with my mouth
shaped like a ball of twine —
Oar — oar.
I forget.
They took me to a tiny boat.
I only just fit inside.
I looked at the oars
and I wanted to cry.
I tried to cry but I just drooled a little.
I’ll try now
[She tries to cry and finds that she can’t]
What happiness it would be to cry.
I was not lonely
only alone with myself
begging myself not to leave my own body
but I was leaving.
Good-bye, head — I said -
it inclined itself a little, as though to nod to me
in a solemn kind of way.
How do you say goodbye to yourself?
Eurydice Monologue #3

At last, a porter to meet me!

(to the father)

Do you happen to know where the bank is? I need money. I've just arrived. I need to exchange my money at the Bureau de Change. I didn’t bring traveler’s checks because I left in such a hurry. They didn’t even let me pack my suitcase. There’s nothing in it! That’s funny, right? Funny — ha ha! I suppose I can buy new clothes here. I would really love a bath. I feel suddenly hungry! I would like a continental breakfast, please. Maybe some rolls and butter. Oh — and jam. Please take my suitcase to my room, if you would. I have to say I’m very disappointed. It’s been such a tiring day. I've been traveling all day — first on a river, then on an elevator that rained, then on a train. I thought someone would meet me at the station... I don’t know where I am and there are all these stones and I hate them! They're horrible! I want a bath! I thought someone would meet me at the station!
Eurydice Monologue #4

Orpheus never liked words. He had his music. He would get a funny look on his face and I would say what are you thinking about and he would always be thinking about music.

If we were in a restaurant sometimes Orpheus would look sullen and wouldn’t talk to me and I thought people felt sorry for me. I should have realized that women envied me. Their husbands talked too much. But I wanted to talk to him about my notions. I was working on a new philosophical system. It involved hats.

This is what it is to love an artist: The moon is always rising above your house. The houses of your neighbors look dull and lacking in moonlight. But he is always going away from you. Inside his head there is always something more beautiful.

Orpheus said the mind is a slide ruler. It can fit around anything. Words can mean anything. Show me your body, he said. It only means one thing.
Eurydice Monologue #5

Dear Orpheus,

I'm sorry. I don’t know what came over me. I was afraid. I’m not worthy of you. But I still love you, I think. Don't try to find me again. You would be lonely for music. I want you to be happy. I want you to marry again. I am going to write out instructions for your next wife.

To my Husband’s Next Wife:

Be gentle.
Be sure to comb his hair when it’s wet.
Do not fail to notice
that his face flushes pink
like a bride's
when you kiss him.
Give him lots to eat.
He forgets to eat and he gets cranky.
When he's sad,
Kiss his forehead and I will thank you.
Because he is a young prince
and his robes are too heavy on him.
His crown falls down around his ears.
I'll give this letter to a worm. I hope he finds you.

Love,
Eurydice.