GABBY AND ADONIS

Book by Kendall Grady
Lyrics by Artemis Truax
Music by Solomon Duane

(GABBY sits at the back of the Hop On/Hop Off Bus's first level. Alone in a row, she stares out the window, tuned into ADONIS's audio tour guide. ADONIS speaks into his headset as the bus slows down by a structure…)

ADONIS

Now to your left…behold, my friends, the remnants of Aphrodite's Temple, constructed in the 5th century. A vibrant center for communal life, this 33 x 52 temple is where the Corinthians once worshiped the goddess of love and beauty with fervent devotion.

(GABBY lets out a chuckle)

ADONIS

Amidst these time-worn stones and doric columns, complete with floating, the air still whispers tales of passion, art, and the complex tapestry of human emotions, binding us to our ancestors with invisible threads of shared humanity.

(GABBY laughs and lets out a snort.)

ADONIS

Feel free to continue your audio lessons in Greek while we venture to our next destination.

(He presses a button on his headset, now only GABBY can hear him.)

ADONIS

So the Ancient Greek marvels and the pains of our history entertain you, now do they?

GABBY

(refusing to make eye contact with ADONIS.)

After hearing "invisible threads of shared humanity" for a fifth time, I can't help but giggle! It's cheesy, come on, how can you read this absolute corn?

ADONIS

By getting paid to do it. You're the one paying to be here a third day…

GABBY

MY BAD! The cute/

(looking at him)

/how do I say cute in greek?

ADONIS

Χαριτωμένος [Charitoménos]

GABBY

(looking back out the window)

The charitoménos tour guide made me, said he wouldn't talk to me unless it was within the confines of this bus.

ADONIS

What a stickler… is any of this actually entertaining though? Or do you have a favorite part? I'm sure you've got my whole tour memorized by now.

GABBY

I like the way the architects played with the Doric and Ionic structures.

ADONIS

Say more on that…

GABBY

Well, not only does the evolution from doric to ionic demonstrate an emphasis on ornament but ionic columns are considered "feminine". So it's incredibly fascinating that the goddess of femininity has a temple devoted to her with such a use of the more masculine column. It's all kind of silly now that I say this outloud…

ADONIS

I don't think it's silly.

GABBY

It's just it's like they were speaking a language of design that's both timeless and breathlessly innovative. All of Corinth is the same way with its history of being destroyed and rebuilt over and over again, the blend of the different elements and influences! You can see elements of classical Greek, Roman, Byzantine, and even Ottoman in everything. There's something new to explore behind every corner.

ADONIS

Wow.

GABBY

Sorry, buildings are just cool/

ADONIS

(interrupting)

/I think I love you.

(Beat.)

IT'S IN MY NATURE TO BE FORWARD
I WEAR MY HEART OUT ON MY SLEEVE
YOU ARE THE SPAWN OF APHRODITE
YOU ARE A GODDESS, I BELIEVE
I THINK I LOVE YOU
I THINK I LOVE YOU
I –

GABBY

[to audience]
I AM STUCK ON A BUS
IN A CITY IN GREECE
THAT I'VE RIDDEN FIVE TIMES
IN THE LAST TWO DAYS
OUT OF YEARNING AND AWE
FOR THE PRETTY GREEK GUY
WHO HAD GUIDED MY SIGHT
IN SO MANY WAYS

LOOK AT HIM SMILING
AND SAYING HE LOVES ME
OH GOD THIS IS HOT
OH GOD THIS IS BAD
GODDESS ATHENA
GRANT ME YOUR WISDOM
IS HE MADLY IN LOVE
OR LOVELY AND MAD?

ADONIS

I SEE IN YOU THE SWEETEST FUTURE
YOUR WISDOM ORACLES MY SOUL

WHEN ZEUS DIVIDED US, HIS WEAKNESS
COULD NEVER STOP US BEING WHOLE

I KNOW I LOVE YOU
I KNOW I LOVE YOU
I –

GABBY

I KNOW I'M SUPPOSED
TO HAVE SOME KIND OF FLING
WITH A CUTE LOCAL MAN
WHILE I STUDY ABROAD
CONFESSING HIS LOVE
MIGHT BE CROSSING A LINE
IS IT ODDLY ENTICING
OR ENTIRELY ODD?

ADONIS

I KNOW I LOVE YOU

SE AGAPO

I KNOW I LOVE YOU

WHAT LESS COULD I KNOW

TELL ME YOU LOVE ME
TELL ME I'M TRUE
MY THREE DAY WONDER

GABBY

RIGHT NOW I WONDER
IF CUPID IS REAL
I CAN FEEL MY HEART BEATING
MY FACE TURNING RED
HE MAY COMPEL ME
TO SAY IT RIGHT BACK
AM I HEAD OVER HEELS
OR JUST OUT OF MY HEAD

WHAT A ROMANTIC
AFFAIR TO BE TOLD
I COULD GIVE MAMMA MIA
A RUN FOR ITS CASH
MAYBE HE DOES THIS
TO GIRLS EVERY WEEK
BUT GREECE IS THE PLACE
TO BE RECKLESS AND RASH

I –

Bus stops. Door opens. GABBY runs out.

ADONIS

γαμώ! [Gamo!]

End scene.