**OVID PROJECT**

**A MODERN VERSION OF ARACHNE**

**BY LILY TROSSELL**

Cheers and applause filled the spacious room. Elouise was standing up on the stage, surrounded by trophies that might as well all have her name on them. She had beautiful blonde hair that shone like the sun and icy blue eyes. She pranced off the stage and the praise faded into silence. Then a voice spoke “Tea will be served in the front hall,” said the headmistress. A clatter of footsteps echoed around the room. All the parents left and went back to the hall hoping that there would still be the ‘famous’ school biscuits left. The students left to go to their last classes with groans. Elouise walked off outside through the picturesque and quite serene gardens as everyone was inside. It was too cold to be outside in the snow as it covered the ground like a dense white blanket. (The birds were chirping obviously not affected by the cold). She went back inside and turned down the corridor to go up the stairs. She was quite pleased with herself since she won nearly every prize, but then that was not surprising because she almost achieved this every year.

Suddenly a group of girls came down the staircase like a herd of elephants! Elouise stopped them before they trampled right over her.

“Where have you all come from?" asked Elouise.

“Upstairs... Go and see for yourself!” said one of the girls. And they walked away whispering in a very animated way. “How strange” Elouise wondered, “and how rude that girl was to me”. She carried on walking up the stairs, eager to find out what was going on and then, she heard this music. It was so soft and smooth. It was like nothing she had ever heard before. It was like an angel had floated above her head and started play the most amazing piece of music that had ever been written. She stumbled closer to the door wanting to see who was playing such an elegant piece although it was probably one of the teachers. The door was ajar so she could just about see who was sitting there playing the most wonderful music in the world. She peeped through and she saw the worst thing she hoped for. A girl, her own age, seated on top of a piano stool. She swallowed a lump of jealously in her throat.

“How...??" she muttered in anger to herself,” I deserve to be playing music that beautiful! I have been working so hard... so hard, and now she comes along and tries to steal it from me. I must make her stop playing that music. I must...” So, she pushed the door and walked in and suddenly the music stopped playing as the girl turned around. Elouise recognised her at once. Her name was Adalina. She was the new girl, who was known to be kind and friendly with all the people she had met.

“Erm....What are you d-doing here?” stuttered Adalina. She was embarrassed because she believed no one ever had heard her play before (apart from her family and her teacher). Although she was Italian, she was quite fluent in English because her mother's family came from England, and they had visited them a lot while they were growing up.

“I am so sorry. I just hear this most wonderful music and I thought to myself I must find out who is playing it! Then I came in and saw it was you...,” said Elouise. Adalina blushed most sheepishly and said nothing. Elouise was expecting a thank you, however after a long pause she heard a "I must go now. I am very late. Sorry.”

“Wait, hold on. I would like to know you better” replied Elouise.

“Maybe later, I am very late now” said Adalina as she tried to go.

“Do you follow any influencers because I am an influencer and I think we could really help each other so if you like you could always follow me?” questioned Elouise.

“I’m okay thank you. I have loved piano ever since I was young. Now I don’t mean to be rude, but I really must go!” exclaimed Adalina.

“But wait... Please tell me a bit about yourself?” said Elouise.

“Okay well, I taught myself piano with help from my piano teacher. A month ago, after a customer in our restaurant heard me play, he sent some friends over to visit us. I had to make some performances and they decided to give me a scholarship to this school, and said I was one of the best piano players he knows” snapped Adalina. Elouise was taken aback. She was everybody's influencer, and everybody knew that she was the best and everyone loved her.

“But surely-” Elouise started.

“I came here all by myself. You didn’t make me love piano and no one else did!” snapped Adalina.

“How dare you speak to me like that. You think you are so much better than me at piano and I’ve been here much longer than you, you need to respect me!” started Elouise.

“What it didn’t mean to come out like that I was just-

“I’m not done" snapped Elouise. “Since you think you are so good, I challenge you to a contest.” Elouise stormed out of the room in anger and following behind her was Adalina.

“Okay then” said Adalina quietly. Elouise turned around looking shocked but scared because she knew how good Adalina was. She decided to ignore that feeling and she stood up making Adalina look like a mouse.

“What's going on here??” said one of Elouises friends, entering the music room.

“Well, if you would like to know I just challenged Adalina to a competition. We are going to be writing and performing our own piano piece.” replied Elouise. Everyone looked shocked. Elouise tried to not look scared but inside she was, regretting her request greatly.

“Unless you are scared??” said Elouise hoping that she was and would call it off.

“I am not!” exclaimed Adalina. She was a slightly worried about losing and making a fool of herself but not enough to make her scared.

“Okay then we can start now” said one of the girls. Elouise and Adalina both looked at her.

“Go on then!” said another one. Elouise turned on her heel and went back into the music room with Adalina behind her. As the two girls were in the room at the same time they began to write.

An hour passed and finally both girls had agreed they had completed their own pieces. Elouise was pleased with her own piece, convinced it would succeed over Adalina’s. As she played, there was complete silence, and the room was in awe of her flawless and perfect piece. Next up was Adalina, but to Elouise’s sadness, Adalina’s piece completely outshone Elouises. It was so moving and touching that it showed how much passion Adalina had put into her piece. Envy took over Elouise, and in such fury, she stomped over and slammed the piano lid down quickly and with such force Adalina screamed out in pain for many of her fingers where probably broken. Elouise stumbled back in horror realising what she had done, running out of the room, knowing that this event had changed her future entirely.

Weeks later, when Elouise was back from her suspension a rumour had reached her ears that Adalina’s fingers had just about mended and that she would play her piece in front of the school. Elouise felt surprisingly happy for her and felt a huge amount of relief that she was better and able to play again. The performance was breath-taking and nothing like she could ever have imagined. Adalina went on to win a scholarship to London school of Music and won BBCs Young Musician of the Year!