

Oedipus Tyrannus by Sophocles

COURTIER:

She brought death on herself. The worst of
what was done
is absent from my words. No eyewitness was there.

But you will learn as much as my memory recalls
about what sufferings that poor woman
then endured:

how, distraught with anger, she passed through the hall
and threw herself instantly upon her bridal bed,
ripping her hair out with the fingers of both hands;

and how she'd slammed the doors shut when
she went inside,
calling on the late Laius, already long since dead.
(For she remembered the late man's sowing, long ago,
of seed that he would die by, leaving her to bear
by that same seed the pains of birth for children cursed).
And she bemoaned the nuptial bed (where she, accursed,
bore double offspring, husband from husband,
child from child).