

MEETING THE WIZARD

A PLAY

by Irina Vysotskaya

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A Three-Act Play
by
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FRED: Managing director of Westland Media Corporation

DAVID: FRED's business partner

EIRIN: Journalist in "The Free Westland" news division

SLIPTON: President of Westland

FLIPTON: President of Eastland

KINGU KING: Reptilian king and religious leader

VLAAL: Draconian leader

ALCATRAN: Representative of the Galactic Federation council

ACT I

SCENE ONE

Inside FRED's office, the Capital of Westland. Day.

FRED is working at his desk.

DAVID enters without knocking.

FRED

What's up?

DAVID

An urgent order. From Slipton's palace.

FRED

How urgent?

DAVID

They want it broadcasted in tomorrow's breaking news. So, we'll have to shoot it today.

FRED

What's the order?

DAVID

A field report from Eastland showing the despair of Eastland citizens bombed by their leader. The immigrants with kids fleeing

towards Westland. Their soldiers killing civilians, children and women. The usual stuff.

FRED

How can we possibly get someone over to Eastland to film all that today?

DAVID

There's no need. We'll stage it. Like the last time.

FRED

Do you mean we'll hire actors again? The last time we had two weeks to do it.

DAVID

It's still doable. I can easily arrange for two hundred extras to get to the set in a couple of hours.

FRED

And the victims? We'll have to interview them.

DAVID

I'll find someone. Trust me.

FRED

In all honesty, I don't feel like doing this anymore.

DAVID

We need to form public opinion on Eastland's dictatorship. They say we can't delay. The country is in an uproar, and we have to make sure people support our bombing of Eastland, out of compassion for its people.

FRED

Makes perfect sense. Do you support it?

DAVID

Honestly, I don't care. Anyways, I can't really do anything about it, can I?

FRED

If no one can do anything about it, why would they care about public opinion so much?

DAVID

Look, on the other side people get influenced by propaganda films. They are sold the idea that Westland has "invaded" Eastland in order to take their resources and freedom.

FRED

Sure. I guess their emotional need for a narrative should also be fulfilled.

DAVID

Look, they are different.

Sound of thunder outside the window.

FRED

(looking out of the window)

We hadn't had a storm for a long time.

Pause.

So, our narrative is the usual: "They are savages with a peculiar belief system." Their narrative, on the other hand, is twisted. We must defend our country by neutralizing their possibly inevitable aggression, and in any case, we must save them from their tyrannical ruler, this Flipton guy, so that they get a nice one like ours, right?

DAVID

Look, if we're serious about buying the Westlogos corporation, this order is our chance. It's the deal of the century. And guess what, if we don't take it - Westlogos wouldn't hesitate for a second. Shall I call off the deal?

Pause.

FRED

You're right. Let's take the deal. That way we won't have to do this anymore.

DAVID

What do you mean?

FRED

After we buy Westlogos we'll be free to say no to these projects.

DAVID

Ah. Speaking of which, I suggest you talk to Eirin.

FRED

The girl from "The Free Westland" news department?

DAVID

Yes. The other day you told me you liked her.

FRED

What about her?

DAVID

She's getting difficult to work with. She wants to roll out both Westland's and Eastland's perspectives, so that people can decide for themselves. We can't afford to have conflicting messages for the public here. She must understand that she can't make these kinds of decisions. I could fire her myself. But I thought you might want to talk to her.

Pause.

FRED

Sure, I'll talk to her.

DAVID leaves.

SCENE TWO

Inside FRED's office, the Capital of Westland. Day.

EIRIN knocks on the door.

FRED

Please come in. Take a seat.

EIRIN sits on the chair in front of FRED's table.

EIRIN

I guess it's about my suggestion for the interviews.

FRED

You like to cut to the chase.

EIRIN

I'm glad you noticed.

FRED

Look, you have to understand... Your suggestion is politically incorrect. It can't be done.

EIRIN

Did you read the pitch?

FRED

I don't have to. David talked to you already, right? That's enough. I just wanted to see you to make sure we are on the same page and can continue to work together.

EIRIN

What do you mean by "together"? Are you going to listen to what I have to say?

FRED

Sure, I'll listen to what you have to say. I just wanted to make sure you understand who's in charge here.

EIRIN

So, you want to make sure I understand that I have no decision-making power here. You can rest assured, I'm aware of that. Well, I hope you won't deny I still have the power to quit.

FRED

Sure, you do. What I meant was that you can make your own decisions, but only within the reality of our consensus. And of course, anyone can leave anytime.

EIRIN

Great. Then I guess we are on the same page.

FRED

So, what about these expanded interviews on both Westland's and Eastland's perspectives?

EIRIN

I just wanted to expose both sides of the conflict and let people figure out the truth for themselves. That's what independent media is supposed to do, unless I'm mistaken again.

FRED

Eirin, please. There's no such thing as "independent". We can't afford to be naive. Media is a weapon used to control mass consciousness. Even if you don't see it as such, others do. That alone makes it dangerous enough.

EIRIN

Right. So, we're part of the supply chain. Look, I guess I meant I felt independent. At least free to say what I wanted. Especially when my opinion leaves room for others to make their choices. I thought that was what journalism was for.

FRED

Eirin, look... I like you.

EIRIN

Oh, and what is that supposed to mean?

FRED

I would like you to stay. But I can only help you if you play along.
I'm confident we can work this out.

EIRIN

How?

Pause.

FRED

Do you have a dream?

EIRIN

Yes, I'm alive.

FRED

Well, tell me about it.

EIRIN

I even have more than one. For starters, I'd like to stop being a
slave and visit Rome.

FRED

You're not a slave. You're free. We could go to Rome together for
a week. I actually have a place there. Would you like to do that?

EIRIN

No, that's not what I meant by freedom.

FRED

Don't be ridiculous. You're free to say no.

EIRIN

Well, then, I guess it's a no.

FRED

You do understand I'll have to fire you if you can't work within our guidelines, right?

EIRIN

And I'll be happy to leave you in the reality of your consensus with someone else. Thank you for your time.

EIRIN leaves.

SCENE THREE

Inside FRED's office, the Capital of Westland. Day.

FRED is nervously walking around the office.

DAVID walks in.

DAVID

I guess it didn't go well.

FRED

I don't know.

DAVID

Did you fire her or is she staying?

FRED

Neither.

DAVID

Ok, is she going to do those interviews?

FRED

Not with us.

DAVID

Good. She'll be back. You'll see.

FRED

(cutting in)

What do you have there?

DAVID

I wanted you to have a look at the cast for the victim interview.

DAVID shows FRED the photo album.

FRED

Isn't that the same boy we filmed the last time?

DAVID

No one else was available right now. Anyway, the boy could have survived more than one disaster, right? And now he has more to tell about what he saw.

FRED

Well, just make sure the director remembers that after the last disaster we mentioned that the boy went blind.

DAVID

Right... That was the Eastland government gas attack. I forgot about that.

Sorry. I'll try to find someone else.

Sound of a bombing and a building collapsing.

FRED

What's that?

DAVID

Slipton's palace is in ruins. I can't believe it. We have to get out of here and find shelter!

DAVID runs out of the office.

FRED stays, looking out of the window.

Sound of bombs continuing to drop.

Blackout.

ACT II

SCENE ONE

Inside EIRIN's basement apartment, the Capital of Westland.

Evening.

EIRIN is lying on the sofa, staring at the ceiling.

Sound of bombs continuing to fall.

A knock at the door.

Pause.

Another knock at the door.

Pause.

A desperately loud and long knock at the door.

EIRIN

(without opening the door)

What do you want?

VOICE

(behind the door)

Shelter. Please help me.

EIRIN

No. Because no one would help me.

VOICE

I need your help. Please have mercy. I can't survive outside without shelter. Buildings are being razed to the ground. I just lost my job and everything I worked for.

EIRIN

Well, that makes two of us.

VOICE

I have some money. Enough to last for a month or two. I can help you. Let me in.

EIRIN thinks for a bit, then carefully opens the door. The moment she does, FRED instantly gets in and quickly closes the door behind him.

EIRIN

You?

FRED

Gosh, I didn't mean to...

EIRIN

Are you crazy? Leave me alone!

FRED

I can't. I'm sorry. I didn't come here on purpose. I didn't know you lived here. I didn't even know you lived in a basement!

EIRIN

Well, I live wherever I want. It's not any of your business, is it?

FRED

No. It's just that you behave as if you were born in SLIPTON's palace.

EIRIN

Just because I'm speaking my truth? Well, now the truth is that SLIPTON's palace is in ruins. They say all of Eastland's armed forces are here.

FRED

Is Slipton dead?

EIRIN

I'm not his wife nor an intelligence agent.

FRED

I guess he's alive. Otherwise his office would have called me.

EIRIN

Right. Good to know. Makes me feel safe. My best guess would be that his office is currently having some communication problems. Now get out of here!

FRED

I can't.

EIRIN

Trust me, you can. What happened to your extraordinary positive belief that "Anyone can leave anytime"?! Pick up the phone, call someone for help and get out!

Fred dials a number on his phone, but there's no signal.

FRED

The phone doesn't work. Looks like the air strikes destroyed the communication towers.

Pause.

EIRIN

Good point. They did it, not me.

FRED

Look... I didn't mean to fire you. I just had to. Given the situation.

EIRIN

What a brilliant decision-making case study. Just perfect for my dilemma of the day. Get out!

FRED

Dear, you talk like I could just go out there and fix it. I'm sorry but it's not my fault that everything I owned is now destroyed and I have nowhere to go.

EIRIN

I hope you're not implying that it's my fault.

FRED

Ok, what do you want me to say? That I'm sorry? Well, ok, I am sorry.

EIRIN

No, you are not. It's just a manipulation trick you're using to convince me to let you stay. Then you'll try to destroy me. That's your nature. You have no consideration for anyone else's feelings.

FRED

Come on. That's not who I am. Is it because I look too confident?

EIRIN

Way too confident.

FRED

I'm truly sorry that I hurt you.

FRED takes EIRINs hand and caresses it.

And I wanted to thank you. You had the courage to do what I could not. As a child, I dreamt of being creative, serving others, carrying the light of awareness. At one point, I couldn't remember how I got where I was. You already saved me by reminding me of who I am.

FRED opens the door and leaves, closing the door behind him.

EIRIN reopens the door:

EIRIN

Wait.

Blackout.

SCENE TWO

*Inside EIRIN's basement apartment, the Capital of Westland.
Evening.*

EIRIN is making dinner.

FRED

Thank you for cooking for me.

EIRIN

Shut up.

FRED

That's the upside of this downfall. It wouldn't be possible otherwise.

EIRIN

Anything is possible.

FRED

What about our relationship?

EIRIN

Our relationship? You mean, a relationship in which we're friends and you hope to have sex with me, or one in which we have sex and I hope you could also treat me as a friend? I'm interested in neither. So, no relationship. And don't try to manipulate me into one.

FRED

Are you saying that we can't love each other or even just be friends?

EIRIN

I said don't do that.

SCENE THREE

Inside EIRIN's basement apartment, the Capital of Westland.

Evening.

A knock at the door.

Pause.

Another knock at the door.

Pause.

A desperately loud and long knock at the door.

VOICE

(from behind the door)

Please open. Please help me.

FRED

We should not open the door.

EIRIN

Why not? I let you in.

FRED

We need to ration the food if we want it to last for a long time. I don't want to fight.

EIRIN

If I hadn't let you in, you wouldn't have that problem to solve.

EIRIN opens the door, defiantly.

SLIPTON gets in.

Both EIRIN and FRED look stunned.

SLIPTON closes the door behind him.

SLIPTON

Thank you for your help. It will be rewarded.

FRED

Mr. Slipton... How on Earth did you get here?

SLIPTON

The palace is in ruins.

FRED

What about your security?

SLIPTON

The bomb hit the whole department. I was in the bathroom, that's in the right wing, it didn't get hit. There are Eastlands soldiers everywhere. I tried to hide, but I can't be discovered like this. Do you have a phone?

FRED

The communication towers have been hit. Here's a phone, but you won't be able to make any calls. Aren't you supposed to have a satellite phone?

SLIPTON

Of course, I have one. It's just that I don't usually take it to the bathroom.

FRED

Right...

SLIPTON

Who are you?

FRED

I used to manage the Westland Media Corporation. You know, the office just in front of your palace. I mean, your former palace.

SLIPTON

I see...

FRED

(pointing at EIRIN)

And she used to work for "The Free Westland" news department.

EIRIN

(giving FRED a mocking look)

That's right. I used to.

SLIPTON

We will strike hard. We must be strong now. I'm sorry, can I join you for dinner? I didn't eat anything for the whole day.

EIRIN

And what if I say no?

SLIPTON

I'm not sure where you're heading with that question.

EIRIN

I'm saying we have limited food supply and we must be careful. You were not supposed to be here.

SLIPTON

But I can get you out of here. I'll pay you.

EIRIN

Really? Did you take your wallet to the bathroom?

SLIPTON

You're right. But when it's all over...

EIRIN

First we'll have to survive till then. You should go.

SLIPTON

You can't talk to me like that. The whole country depends on me.

EIRIN

No kidding.

SCENE FOUR

*Inside EIRIN's basement apartment, the Capital of Westland.
Evening.*

A knock at the door.

Pause.

Another knock at the door.

Pause.

A desperately loud and long knock at the door.

VOICE

(from behind the door)

Please open. Please help me.

SLIPTON

We should not open the door.

EIRIN

Why not? I let you in.

SLIPTON

We don't have enough food. I don't want to fight.

EIRIN

Can you two diversify your lines a bit, please? You sound like you went to the same school.

EIRIN opens the door, defiantly.

FLIPTON gets in.

Both EIRIN, FRED and SLIPTON look stunned.

FLIPTON closes the door behind him. SLIPTON takes a sit and faces the wall so that FLIPTON can't see his face.

FLIPTON

Thank you for your help. It will be rewarded.

EIRIN

It just keeps getting better. Mr. Flipton, how did you get here?

FLIPTON

My plane broke down. I was heading here for a meeting.

EIRIN

You've got to be kidding me.

FLIPTON

It's our regular location.

EIRIN

Aren't your soldiers surrounding the building? Why don't you go and ask them to keep you safe?

FLIPTON

I'm not supposed to...

FRED

(cutting in)

We should let him stay here. It's our chance to end all this. Give me your phone.

FLIPTON gives his phone to FRED.

Satellite connection. Very well. We should inform the government.

SLIPTON

(turning around)

May I remind you that I'm here.

FLIPTON

(to SLIPTON)

Oh, are we still on for the meeting?

SLIPTON

No. It's a coincidence.

FRED

What do you mean "a coincidence"? Were you two planning to meet here, at your regular location?

Pause.

No one is getting out of here until I get to the bottom of this.

Blackout.

SCENE FIVE

*Inside EIRIN's basement apartment, the Capital of Westland.
Evening.*

*EIRIN and the three men are sitting at the table, having
dinner.*

FRED is reading messages on FLIPTON's phone.

FRED

Wow, you were all set for your party tonight. It's good to know you guys are making plans together. Sorry to hear something went wrong.

FLIPTON

That is classified information. You can go to jail for reading that.

FRED

I wonder on which grounds. I am in the Capital of Westland. There's no law that forbids me to read messages on the enemy's phone. It's in the interest of our national security.

SLIPTON

Put that phone away. You must understand we are above the law now.

FRED

Good to know that too. So, what is it all about? Why have this war going on if you guys get along so well?

SLIPTON

We surely don't. Look at their propaganda: "The heterosexual man is always right." etc. We are defending equal rights for men and women.

EIRIN

No kidding.

FLIPTON

Quite poorly so, according to your news. We just state that there are differences between the two sexes. That does not imply a male privilege, that's only your twisted interpretation. On the other hand, your propaganda of homosexuality is something to question. Men getting pregnant. Come on, how far will you go with that?

EIRIN

I'm curious, how short of arguments for separation are you to come up with such an original idea that people's geopolitical location determines their gender preference?

FLIPTON

It determines their thinking preference, my dear.

EIRIN

The beliefs you purposefully feed them are not a preference, my dear.

FLIPTON

In Eastland, people don't accept homosexuality. Just get over it. We defend our family values.

EIRIN

Another original idea. Geopolitical value preference, I suppose. Don't forget the copyright. Honestly, what do you mean by "family values" anyway? Are you assuming that homosexual relationships are defective? Any ideas on how to go about all those dysfunctional families that happen to be heterosexual? Let's go ahead and just ban those marriages, shall we? Because unless we do, that's called privilege. I think I might just follow your example and start having a low acceptance rate for your personal choices.

FLIPTON

Please calm down. I didn't say you could not defend your values.

EIRIN

Values? They're called awareness and common sense. Why can't you just let people decide what they want to do with their lives?

FLIPTON

It's not that simple. People need to be controlled. I didn't mean to insult you. Are you a lesbian?

EIRIN

First of all, that's none of your business. Secondly, some people actually have a heart and can relate to such things as respect and non-intrusion in other people's privacy and personal choices, you know.

FLIPTON

Well, that's exactly what I am saying. We don't want the privacy and choices of our households to be affected.

EIRIN

Oh, sure. You can't force anyone to be homosexual, you know. But you can surely force people to get into programmed set-ups they don't really want, just because it's the only socially accepted norm. But, you're right, why risk to ruin people's households by letting them be with their loved ones? Makes perfect sense. Inspiring, I should say. I'll start protecting the privacy of my household right now with clear consciousness. Get out of here.

FRED

Dear, please... He can get killed.

EIRIN

Welcome to my world. Guess what, just like him, I don't care.

FLIPTON

OK, Eirin, I am sorry. We were just talking about the differences between our cultures. You sure understand that we must respect each other. And accept it.

EIRIN

Sure. I must respect the disrespect. Accept the non-acceptance. That makes perfect sense. I have news for you. I don't care what country or culture you come from, because neither Westland nor Eastland make sense to me. Let's just say that right now you are in Wonderland. And I'm making the laws here. Law number one: everyone will be treated equally by everyone else. No privilege. Is that understood?

Silence.

SLIPTON

Yes, it's understood.

FLIPTON and FRED nod.

Blackout.

SCENE SIX

*Inside EIRIN's basement apartment, the Capital of Westland.
Evening.*

FRED and FLIPTON are still sitting at the dining table.

FRED

It's incredible that Slipton got to sleep in her room. She barely knows him.

FLIPTON

I think she trusts him over us. Considering there are only two beds in the house, the math is simple.

FRED

You're right.

FLIPTON

By the way, thank you for protecting me.

FRED

I felt that was the right thing to do.

FLIPTON

(getting close to FRED, putting his hand inside FRED's pants)

Would you like to do it with me?

FRED

(backing out)

Sorry, I'm not gay.

An awkward silence.

FLIPTON

I thought you were.

FRED

I don't judge gay people, but it doesn't mean I am one.

Pause.

You really don't bother actually meaning what you say to people, do you? How do you manage to...

FLIPTON

(abruptly)

You won't understand. I wasn't so different from you when I got into politics. I can't afford it anymore. Just change the subject.

FRED

OK... Poor you.

Pause.

Can I ask you something?

FLIPTON

Go ahead.

FRED

Who is managing this war that's going on, if neither you nor Slipton are the decision makers? Do you receive orders from anyone?

FLIPTON

Not really. We just follow the guidelines of our organization.

FRED

What organization?

FLIPTON

I can't talk about it. I can just tell you that if we did not abide by it, we wouldn't be here. There wouldn't be any kind of order in this world and everything would turn into chaos.

FRED

Order? You say that there's an order to what's going on?

FLIPTON

Yes, kind of an order. You don't seriously believe that this scale of events would be left to chance, do you?

FRED

No, I don't. But I'm trying to figure out who's really in charge.

FLIPTON

It's a Reptilian order. The Kingu. Their leader is the king of everything. But again, I can't talk about it. The power has to be respected.

FLIPTON goes to sleep on the couch.

FRED

The power?

FLIPTON

(half asleep)

The firefly.

FRED

The firefly?

FRED remains seated. FLIPTON's phone rings. FRED takes it.

FRED

(reading the name on FLIPTON's phone)

The Kingu King.

VOICE ON THE PHONE

Meeting in 30 minutes. Sending you the location. Can you be there?

FRED

Yes.

Blackout.

ACT III

SCENE ONE

Inside a temple like building. Evening.

FRED comes in, carefully looking around.

The KINGU KING is on the throne, in a ritual costume.

KINGU KING

Who let you in?

FRED

Flipton could not come. I represent him.

KINGU KING

I see. Any news from Slipton?

FRED

He could not come either. I represent both of them.

KINGU KING

Password?

FRED

(after a slight hesitation)

Firefly.

KINGU KING

Good. But you can't represent both of them out there. You'll have to choose one official country.

FRED

Which one?

KINGU KING

Doesn't matter.

FRED

Westland?

KINGU KING

So be it.

FRED

I would like to understand more of what I should do.

KINGU KING

Didn't Slipton explain it to you?

FRED

Yes, he did. But I would like to know more about why we are doing this to humans.

KINGU KING

We?..

FRED

Who else?

KINGU KING

They do it themselves. They choose us.

FRED

But how do they choose us if we don't really expose ourselves?

KINGU KING

Of course, we do. That's part of the deal. We have to. By the law of free will, we are here to help them.

FRED

Is pushing them to war helping them?

KINGU KING

Of course. We are of their creation. They are so obsessed with having a positive mirror image of themselves that they create their artificial narrow-minded “goodness” and, consequently, create us. Everything in this Universe is mirrored and every mirror has its inverse symmetry. We are doing them a favour by incarnating the part of themselves they refuse to see. Through us, they get the whole picture. Their soul demands this lesson.

FRED

Are you saying they actually ask us to do that?

KINGU KING

We can slaughter, abuse, poison humans or tell them to kill their offspring, they will still go down on their knees and beg us to rule them. That's how badly they need us.

We do as we please, and we can ask them to do anything we want. For their survival, they will lie, manipulate, kill, die, send their children to war, destroy their lives and their homes. They'll do all of that just to stay safe. Or more precisely, to keep their ego safe.

FRED

Let me get this straight. If they created us, we are their vicious circle. How can they ever get out?

KINGU KING

They created us with their lack of honesty and discernment. That's what their vicious circle is. If they break it, they won't need us anymore.

FRED

But we feed them beliefs that are absurd. That's why they lack discernment, that's why they think they need us.

KINGU KING

The beliefs we offer them are always just an option. And, yes, they tend to choose the most absurd ones, indeed. One of the funniest ones is that they think we are motivated by money. The money we created for fun, just to keep them in the juicer! They don't even get

the difference between the programmer and the user in a video game.

(laughing)

The absurdity is supposed to make it obvious to them that something is out of place. But humans are stubborn. For example, they know for sure that all of their elections are set up. Just for fun, we made their options ridiculously limited, making sure they understand that none of the candidates would serve their interests, but they still keep begging for a ruler. They prefer to stick to their absurd belief that this is the only way their society can work, rather than change their mindset and come up with a system that would work to their advantage.

FRED

You are the king. You can change all that.

KINGU KING

Why should I? They are slaves because they are inferior to us. They prove it over and over again. It is their path. Why should anyone do their homework for them? Our order serves a much greater purpose.

FRED

You mean even greater than dominating this planet?

KINGU KING

Our God gives us the power to dominate all creation.

FRED

God? Of what religion?

KINGU KING

We invented all of Earth's religions. It's a handy separation tool to make the juicer run. People even believe we worship the Gods we created for them!

(laughing)

FRED

Then, what God are you talking about?

KINGU KING

Vlaal. The Alpha Draconian. We worship him. The ceremony will soon begin. You're right on time.

FRED

What is it about?

KINGU KING

Sacrifice.

FRED

What do you sacrifice?

KINGU KING

Human offspring, usually.

FRED

You sacrifice children?

KINGU KING

Are you vegetarian?

FRED

You've got to be kidding me. That's not the same.

KINGU KING

(ironically)

Of course not. You are such a good person.

Pause.

Vlaal likes pure energy. But today we'll make an exception.

Blackout.

SCENE TWO

Inside a temple like building. Evening.

FRED is in the middle of a ritual light circle.

There is drumming, FRED comes down on his knees.

A beam of light narrows down on FRED.

Suddenly all sound stops.

Blackout.

A long silence.

The light comes back.

FRED is on his knees. VLAAL, the draconian leader, is standing beside him.

VLAAL

Get up.

FRED

Who are you?

VLAAL

Any guesses?

FRED

Vlaal?..

VLAAL

What are you doing here?

FRED

I guess, I am part of the ritual sacrifice.

VLAAL

You can't fool me. Everything has a purpose, but this isn't yours.
Why did you want to see me?

FRED

I want to find out who is in charge.

VLAAL

In charge of what?

FRED

The human suffering.

VLAAL

Human? Do you mean humans on Planet Earth?

Pause.

FRED

Yes.

VLAAL

We don't use such terms when discussing this particular planet. What you call suffering on a 3D level is those humans' soul's highest excitement on the 5D level and beyond.

FRED

I don't understand.

VLAAL

Even if we rescued a young soldier from extreme suffering out of compassion, his soul would blame us for ruining his experience as an actor in his favourite movie. Because on the 5D level, they know they are eternal and don't really "die". It's just another movie.

FRED

Oh! I get the metaphor.

VLAAL

That's no metaphor. That's how things work here.

FRED

Do you rescue humans out of compassion?

VLAAL

At one point, we thought that's what they needed. But we clearly were mistaken. They want their experiences. Their emotional juice. Otherwise, they find it boring. So, they set up their juicer.

FRED

But are you aware that these Kingu creatures and their king worship you? They have orchestrated all the wars on planet Earth.

VLAAL

Of course, we know. But you must understand. We did not ask to be worshiped. The Kingu are of human creation and will serve their purpose. Anything within the 3D matrix is of human creation. It's the rule of the game.

FRED

Are you saying that humans were artificially put into a matrix?

VLAAL

Most of them intuitively know that. And they play along. They find it easier to function that way.

FRED

And who set up this matrix?

VLAAL

The Federation, of course.

FRED

What Federation?

VLAAL

The Galactic Federation.

FRED

Is there a way to meet them?

VLAAL

You are brave. Our civilisation is part of the Federation. I will ask the council whether they would like to meet you.

FRED

I'm grateful for your help. Thank you. I understand why the Kingu worship you.

VLAAL

We are happy to serve that understanding. You can wait here.

VLAAL leaves.

Blackout.

SCENE THREE

Inside a temple like building. Evening.

FRED is waiting.

ALCATRAN enters.

ALCATRAN

You asked for a meeting. How can I help you?

FRED

I wanted to meet someone from the Galactic Federation council.

ALCATRAN

I can answer your questions on behalf of the Federation. Please proceed.

FRED

How did you install a 3D matrix on planet Earth?

ALCATRAN

It's projected from your Moon.

FRED

Why did you do that?

ALCATRAN

We are not doing anything. That's the point. We just create a safe space.

FRED

Safe for whom?

ALCATRAN

For everyone. You would automatically invade the rest of your Solar system were you allowed to. Our readings of your energy show that that's your nature. We must protect the other evolving or peaceful civilisations from your invasion.

FRED

Why does that sound so familiar...

ALCATRAN

I understand that you have the same reasoning for your wars down on Earth. But if humans were not restricted to 3D, they could cause a lot of damage in 5D and beyond. Their souls are not ready. Your civilisation is still going through its early stages, and you have a lot to learn. You'll have to break out of the current self-destructive patterns in order to become sustainable and trustworthy. No worries, you'll get there. Everyone does. It's the natural course of evolution. And we rejoice in seeing you grow.

FRED

Evolution? Are other civilisations following the same natural course?

ALCATRAN

Your planet is a unique experiment. And you are free to choose your incarnation.

FRED

Kind of a strange way to teach humanity a lesson for your entertainment. Don't you think we would learn faster without manipulation?

ALCATRAN

Faster? No. Please understand that the matrix allows anyone to bypass it, by design. It's a prison with an open door. Still, many humans find it convenient not to walk through that door. They prefer to stay inside. If they go out, they'll have to take responsibility for their choices. They find it scarier than the prison itself. Any matrix needs a signal emitter and a signal receiver in order to work. The moment you stop copying, the matrix disappears. In that sense, you are making it work as a human. And that's on you. We just let you do so.

FRED

So, you expect people to exercise their free will in the middle of manipulation and deceit. Nice. Why not cut off the legs of a soccer

player and expect him to score? You know, to some people, the only open door they see in your matrix strangely resembles a suicide.

ALCATRAN

We understand that. But that door is only a loop that leads to reincarnation with the same unlearned lessons. Life is a school you cannot quit, you see. And there are always several doors. It's an adventure to figure out where you want to go, and where the hallway behind every door you choose to open leads. It's not always written on the door sign.

FRED

I can assure you, there are children on this planet who are put in situations where they can't open any doors. Your matrix is cruel. Don't you have any empathy? Do you even care about how we feel down there?

ALCATRAN

We don't care how you feel, because your feelings are a direct product of your beliefs. We cannot stop you from choosing one belief or another. You choose what you prefer, and you are responsible for that, whether you want to admit it or not. Your feelings of despair and suffering are based on the negative beliefs you chose for yourself. If you wish to change anything, start with your belief system. If you want empathy, create empathy. What do you want from us?

FRED

If I understand correctly, you don't want to interfere or influence us in our choice of beliefs. But excuse me, that's exactly what you are doing. Your matrix feeds us those beliefs. Would you expect a healthy plant to grow if you water it with poison? I want you to stop poisoning us.

ALCATRAN

Please understand that the matrix is not cruel. It allows cruelty, indifference and lack of empathy for those who want to explore those concepts. Again, as you can see for yourself, for now, humans are looking to blame someone else. Just as they look for someone else to fix their issues rather than act on their own choices. This mindset has to evolve in order for the matrix to stop working, you see.

FRED

There are many good-hearted humans. I am here to stop the manipulation. Wanting to trust someone and being naive shouldn't be a universal crime that keeps one imprisoned forever. Give people the technology to clean up the planet, free energy and food supply, and you will see how that will change the face of Earth.

ALCATRAN

I'm sorry, but your civilisation can't be trusted with such technology. Sure, it would benefit you, but according to our reading of your current collective energy, you tend to prefer self-

destruction. That's what we call evil. Evil can't sustain itself and it ultimately destroys itself. Everything is made of love and understanding that is the only way to thrive. Your souls have to learn this, and if it means going through self-destruction, we won't stop you. We respect your choice.

FRED

I don't believe you. If your kids were to self-destruct because of their lack of discernment, I don't think you'd simply respect their choices and rejoice. People on Earth don't know better. It's all nonsense. I want to meet with the one who is directing all this. Who is really in charge?

ALCATRAN

(laughing)

You were not listening, were you?

FRED

Who is the ultimate creator of reality? Can I see him?

ALCATRAN

Well, then you'll have to go beyond the Federation. Are you sure you're ready for it?

FRED

Yes.

ALCATRAN

If you insist.

FRED

What's his name?

ALCATRAN

(laughing)

The Wizard of Wonderland.

FRED

Oh, Wonderland again...

ALCATRAN

In Wonderland, what you call miracles or synchronicities, are the natural flow of energy and life. Welcome to Wonderland.

Blackout.

SCENE FOUR

Inside a temple like building. Evening.

FRED is in the middle of a ritual light circle.

FRED

Are you here?

THE ECHO

Are you here?

FRED

Where is the great Wizard?

THE ECHO

Where is the great Wizard?

FRED

I am here.

THE ECHO

I am here.

FRED

Are you?

EIRIN appears.

EIRIN

Yes, I am.

FRED

You?

EIRIN

What? Did you expect to see a man?

FRED

No... No. It's just... I was going to fire you. How can you be the ultimate creator of reality?

EIRIN

You did fire me.

FRED

Are you the Wizard?

EIRIN disappears.

THE ECHO

Are you the Wizard?

FRED

Who is talking to me? Show yourself.

SLIPTON appears.

FRED

I knew it. I knew it was you. You created the war. You took Eirin from me. You led me to Flipton, and that's how I ended up here.

SLIPTON

You let me in.

FRED

What do you mean?

SLIPTON

You let me into your life. You let me in your business. You made Eirin let me into her apartment.

FRED

I did not... Are you sure?

SLIPTON disappears.

THE ECHO

Are you sure?

FRED

I am not. I just want to know. Let me see you!

FLIPTON appears.

FLIPTON

Let me see you!

FRED

You... You've got to be kidding me.

FLIPTON

You've got to be kidding me.

FLIPTON disappears.

FRED

Show yourself!

THE ECHO

Show yourself!

KINGU KING appears.

FRED

I can't relate anymore.

KINGU KING

You created us. Remember?

FRED

I did not create your blood sacrifices.

KINGU KING

Of course not. Not you. You are such a good person. The butcher you buy your meat from did.

(laughing)

Now, go and kill him.

FRED

You lied to me. You don't worship VLAAL, you worship Lucifer, don't you?

KINGU KING

The Light-Bearer has many names.

FRED

The firefly...

Pause.

You are mocking me.

KINGU KING disappears.

THE ECHO

You are mocking me.

FRED

I want to see you.

VLAAL appears.

VLAAL

I want to see you.

FRED

Stop it. I know you're not the Lord of reality. I want to see him.

VLAAL

As you wish. Are you ready?

FRED

I am ready.

VLAAL disappears.

THE ECHO

I am ready.

FRED

Show yourself!

ALCATRAN appears.

ALCATRAN

Show yourself!

FRED

It is you!

ALCATRAN

It is you!

FRED

I see where you're heading. I did not create this hell. I refuse to take responsibility for it.

ALCATRAN disappears.

THE ECHO

I refuse to take responsibility for it.

Pause. FRED is kicking things around in frustration, then he sits down, thinking for a while.

FRED

Alright. I take responsibility.

Blackout.

SCENE FIVE

Inside FRED's office, the Capital of Westland. Day.

FRED and DAVID discussing as in ACT I, Scene 1.

DAVID

They are different.

The sound of thunder outside the window.

FRED

(looking out of the window)

We hadn't had a storm for a long time.

Pause.

So, our narrative is the usual "They are savages with a peculiar belief system." Their narrative, on the other hand, is twisted. We must defend our country by neutralizing their possibly inevitable aggression, and in any case, we must save them from their tyrannical ruler, this Flipton guy, so that they get a nice one like ours, right?

DAVID

Look, if we're serious about buying the Westlogos corporation, this order is our chance. It's the deal of the century. And guess what, if we don't take it - Westlogos wouldn't hesitate for a second. Shall I call off the deal?

Pause.

FRED

You should.

DAVID

Are you kidding? Are you ready to flush everything down the toilet just to defend some beliefs?

FRED

I am. That's pretty much what everyone else is doing, isn't it? At least they are my beliefs and they make sense to me.

DAVID

Just wondering: are you making a political statement here? Do you plan to run for president?

FRED

There's nowhere to run. The system is not designed to reflect what people want or need if they were to decide for themselves. Everyone knows that. My soul mission is to bring awareness to this so that everyone can make up their mind. That's why I got into media in the first place. Hopefully, people will come up with new systems to manage their society.

DAVID

Their society? Are you separating yourself from it?

FRED

Alright. Our society. The one based on people's common effort and not on greed and manipulation.

DAVID

What kind of new systems do you have in mind?

FRED

Something like direct democracy. Technologically, arranging it would be a piece of cake. Everyone can get online somehow. Everyone could vote directly and transparently.

DAVID

Well, it's far from being a piece of cake. Sometimes people just don't want to have a mind of their own, you see. They want to be led and just go about their lives, without taking responsibility. It's more convenient. Not everyone is born to be a leader. Admit it.

FRED

Well, I'm talking about giving them the possibility to make decisions, not forcing them to. Anyway, for me it boils down to my own choices right now. This war is being carried out with my money and my silent consent. And I will no longer give it.

DAVID

It's not your fault.

FRED

It's no one's "fault", but it's my responsibility to understand what I am doing. And so is everyone else's whether they want to face it or not. One thing is for sure - we are all paying the price.

DAVID

Is it really your responsibility to bear this weight on your shoulders?

FRED

Oh, that's so nice of you. Conveniently selective empathy that legitimises violence. Thank you for your concern. That's how we create privilege. But privilege doesn't really make anyone better, you know. That's fake news.

DAVID

You sound like Eirin, the girl from "The Free Westland" news department. The other day you told me you liked her, remember?

FRED

What about her?

DAVID

Well, she's getting pretty tough to work with. She wants to do a series of interviews to expose both Westland's and Eastland's perspectives, so that people can decide for themselves. We can turn down this breaking news order if you prefer, and justify the

decision with logistical issues. But we can't release her interviews. If we do, we'll shut down. I thought of firing her, but I remembered you liked her. So, I thought you might want to talk to her.

Pause.

FRED

Sure, I'll talk to her.

DAVID leaves.

SCENE SIX

Inside FRED's office, the Capital of Westland. Day.

EIRIN knocks on the door.

FRED

Please come in. Take a seat.

EIRIN sits on the chair in front of FRED's desk.

EIRIN

I guess it's about my interview project.

FRED

Yes, it is. Would you like to tell me about it?

EIRIN

What would you like to know? Did you read the pitch?

FRED

No, I was hoping you'd tell me about it directly.

EIRIN

Right... David told me you didn't want to support my project, but I still thought I was free to say whatever I wanted. Especially when my opinion leaves room for others to make their own choices. I thought that was what journalism was for.

FRED

I agree.

EIRIN

(suspiciously)

Do you?

FRED

May I ask, if you assumed I wouldn't have agreed with you, what made you insist on pushing the project? You wish to leave the company with class, is that it?

EIRIN

No. I was just fighting my own cowardice. Regardless of the consequences, I guess. I am sorry I took that out on you. I guess you don't have a choice regarding this.

FRED

Oh, so you assume I won't be as brave as you?

EIRIN

I assume the stakes are higher for you. It's not easy to let go of something you worked so hard to obtain.

FRED

To obtain?.. Eirin, do you have a dream?

EIRIN

Yes. I always wanted to visit Rome. And stay there for a while.

FRED

What a coincidence. I have an apartment in Rome.

EIRIN

You're lucky. You should take advantage of it.

FRED

You read my mind.

Pause.

I would like it to be yours.

FRED gets some keys from the drawer and puts them on the table next to EIRIN.

EIRIN

What do you mean "mine"?

FRED

You can go there and I'll call the notary to finalise the deal. I would like you to have it. If you accept the offer, of course.

EIRIN

On what terms?

FRED

Unconditionally.

Pause.

EIRIN

I'm afraid I must reject the offer. But it was kind of you. Thank you for your time.

EIRIN leaves.

SCENE SEVEN

Inside FRED's office, the Capital of Westland. Day.

FRED is working at his desk.

DAVID walks in without knocking.

DAVID

So, how did it go?

FRED

Hard to say.

DAVID

I saw her in the hallway. She's into you, isn't she?

FRED

She doesn't even trust me to make her dream come true.

DAVID

What dream?

FRED

I wanted her to have my Rome apartment.

DAVID

What do you mean you wanted her "to have it"?

FRED

I gave it to her. But she refused.

DAVID

Luckily. It would have been a lost investment. She'll never be with you if you do that.

FRED

The joy of someone I love is never a lost investment.

DAVID

You're a fool.

DAVID looks astonished at the message on his phone.

FRED

What's going on?

DAVID

I can't believe it! Slipton's palace called off the order. They stopped the bombing. People don't watch one-sided media anymore, they say. They want interviews from both Eastland's and Westland's perspectives, so it would look more democratic. They suggest we discuss the differences in gender policy and religion between the two countries.

FRED

How about discussing similarities in what people want for themselves?

DAVID

It's not on the order of the day yet. We have to start working on it today. Gosh, I'll have to find Eirin. She'll be excited.

FRED

No kidding.

DAVID runs out of FRED's office.

FRED walks around the office for a while.

EIRIN half-opens the office door, without knocking.

EIRIN

Would you like to join me in Rome?

Blackout.

THE END