

INT. CJ'S ROOM-DAY

CJ

(whispers)

Dusk fell as the judicial guard detachment reached our village. We could hear their marching footsteps echoing off the mountainsides. Their torches stretched down from the far ridgeline, like a serpent approaching for the kill.--

Zizek enters through the door.

ZIZEK

Constance dear, I've got fresh linens.

CJ

Zizek, hey! Knock first!

ZIZEK

Deary me! Have you been reading in the dark this whole morning? It's almost noon sweetheart!

CJ

Zizek wait!

Zizek throws open the curtains.

CJ

Ah! My eyes!

ZIZEK

Young women like yourself shouldn't be depriving yourself of the sun like that.

CJ

Yeah sure. Just please give me a warning next time.

ZIZEK

Oh deary, you know I worry about you sometimes.

CJ sighs.

CJ

Thanks for the linens, Zizek.

ZIZEK

Of course, dear. Oh, and I have something else for you! A letter!

CJ

For me?

ZIZEK

Yes deary, it's got your name on the envelope and everything. Here you are, see?

CJ takes the letter.

ZIZEK

Isn't it lovely? Quite the fancy letterhead, gold leaf and the--

CJ

This was addressed to me?

ZIZEK

Yes deary.

CJ

Me? Not dad?

ZIZEK

Yes deary.

CJ

You're sure?

ZIZEK

Yes deary, now go on, open it up.

CJ opens the letter.

CJ

From the office of his Holy Martial Majesty, Chief of the Council of Doges, ruler of the...Addressed to her highness the Princess Constance Julius Oberhaus-Castro! Damn, this is legit.

ZIZEK

Well go on dear, what does his Majesty want?

CJ

We would like to invite you to the Continental Gala Principal. A gathering of those Princes, Princess, Archdukes and

Archduchess, Precepts and...Holy
smokes!

ZIZEK
Language dear.

CJ
Sorry, but like, this is huge. I'm
invited to this?

ZIZEK
It looks like it deary! Oh it's so
exciting!

CJ
Yeah I guess that's a word for it.

ZIZEK
I mean think of it dear! Young
strapping gentlemen from all over
the continent. A lot of them your
age.

CJ
Zizek.

ZIZEK
Lots of handsome young men in
those tight little cavalry
uniforms.

CJ
Zizek! Okay that's enough, get
outta here. Go.

Zizek giggles.

ZIZEK
But the linens darling.

CJ
I'll put the linens away, don't
worry about it.

ZIZEK
Oh don't forget to separate the
hand towels from the blouses
deary.

CJ
Yep, okay. Go on.

Zizek exits, the door shuts. CJ flops down on her bed. She
opens her book and rifles through the pages.

CJ

(whispers)

We huddled there, in the cobbler's attic. Thick dust hung in the moonbeams that shone through the window boards. I cradled him in my arms. The arrest warrant had said nothing of a death penalty, but he wept as though his mother was already gone. I held him close and stroked his auburn hair. At least he had me, I thought to myself, and that would be enough. Damn, gets me everytime.

INT. THRONE HALL-LATER

A trumpet fanfare echoes in the thorne room. KING EWEN sits on his throne. JEFF enters. CJ follows.

JEFF

Your royal majesty, king of Apulum, protector of Montem Pascuum, conqueror of Iuxta Flumen. I present her royal majesty Princess Constance Julius Oberhaus-Castro inheritor of--

CJ

Jeff it's just us, you can drop the dog-and-pony show.

JEFF

Well I never! I--

CJ

Hey dad.

EWEN

CJ! Hey kid, bring it in, give your old man a squeeze.

CJ and Ewen hug

EWEN

CJ, you just missed the guys. Boy did we have a hunt. Let me tell ya' it was something else!

CJ
I'm sure dad.

EWEN
We're stalking this boar, right?
It must have been three hours. At
one point we get to a clearing and
it just stops.

CJ
Uh huh.

EWEN
And then outta nowhere, it charges
right at us. Full tilt. Must've
smelled us or something. Chapo and
Squee both fire, so do I.
(Mimics sound of musket fire)
Everything's smoke, no one can see
anything, no one can see the boar.
Then zoom! It comes out of the
smoke, like a bat outta hell,
blood's pouring down its face.

CJ
Yeah?

EWEN
Then Ziggy, the mad man, caps it
in the face at point blank!
(Mimics sound of musket)
Blood and skull bits everywhere! I
swear the brain bits must've flown
up 30 feet! Great smokes CJ you
should have been there.
(Mimics sound of musket)

Ewen laughs.

EWEN
Anyway kid, what can your old man
do for you?

CJ
Well I uhm I wanted to ask your
advice on something.

EWEN
Sure kid. Of course!

CJ
There's a gala the--

EWEN
Continental Principal.

CJ
Yeah.

EWEN
Oh you, come'ere!

Ewen hugs CJ.

CJ
Okay with the hugging and the--

Ewen lifts CJ in the air and squeezes her. He grunts with excretion.

CJ
Lifting yeah okay I'm ready to get down now.

Ewen drops CJ.

EWEN
I was just about your age the first time I went to that shindig. Man, what a riot. I think I still have the scar.

CJ
Oh, good, I think. I'm just looking for some guidance, maybe a little advice, because I'm not sure--

EWEN
Hey, kid, say no more. Look, it's about time your old man passed down something very special. You're grown up now. It's about time you started learning the ropes of the family business.

CJ
I wouldn't--

EWEN
CJ, it's about time you meet your fairy godfather.

Beat.

EWEN

Cat got your tongue kid?

CJ

Okay Dad, I'm not playing this game.

EWEN

Kid it's not--

CJ

I've been telling you since I was 15 that I don't believe in that stuff.

EWEN

Hey, don't bad mouth fairies kid. Come'on that stuffs your heritage.

CJ

I'm not going to humor a belief system based on superstition just because it's my heritage.

EWEN

Oh what and sun worship is better?

CJ

You can look at the window and see the sun dad. Wait, no. I'm not having this conversation with you again.

EWEN

Hey CJ I'm sorry, your old man's just having some fun with you.

CJ

Yeah, fine, whatever. I'll come back when you're ready to take this conversation seriously.

EWEN

Wait kid wait. I'm sorry, just, look, the fairy godfather stuff, that's legit.

CJ

No, I'm not--

EWEN

I'm talking about somebody that's done a lot of good things for us over the years.

CJ

Dad--

EWEN

Tonight right when the moon crests
the ridgeline, sit in the south
garden by the old weeping willow.
I'll send him to meet you.

Beat.

CJ

Listen, dad, I really need you to
start treating me like an adult.

EWEN

I am, kid. Believe me.

CJ walks away.

CJ

(Whispers)
Some way of showing it.

JEFF

Are you turning your back on your
King!? Constance Julius you will
show your father--

CJ

Go sit on an egg Jeff!

EXT. GARDEN-NIGHT

Crickets chirp.

CJ

(whispers)
Well there's the moon. Here I am.
Damn what the hell am I even doing
here. I'm freezing.

The ASSASSIN walks over.

ASSASSIN

Good evening, your highness.

CJ

Uh, hi.

ASSASSIN

And what finds you out in the
gardens at this late hour.

CJ
Oh nothing just...chilling.

ASSASSIN
Chill being the operative of
course.

CJ
Yeah. So what are you like, the
gardener?

ASSASSIN
I dabble on occasion.

CJ
You dabble in gardening?

ASSASSIN
Yes. I find it quite therapeutic,
but I'm afraid my duties don't
allow the time for the activity on
many occasions.

CJ
What are your duties?

ASSASSIN
Well, I like to consider myself
more of a generalist. I do what's
required of me. I might pass a
message. I might take out the
trash. Occasionally, I'll paint a
wall. When it's required of
course.

CJ
Ah...I see.

Beat.

CJ
Hey, can I like, ask you something?

ASSASSIN
Of course.

CJ
You know my dad right.

ASSASSIN
Since he was young.

CJ
Wait, really?

ASSASSIN
Really.

CJ
How come I haven't seen you around.

ASSASSIN
Oh, trust me, I've kept very busy.

CJ
Well I guess you're a good person
to ask this then.

ASSASSIN
Of course.

CJ
Do you think he takes me
seriously?

ASSASSIN
Well, that's a very deep question.
How so?

CJ
I mean like...today I'm dealing
with this thing. There's this gala
I'm going to. Well I want to go to
it, I don't know if I'm going yet.
And anyway, I wanna talk to him
about it, you know? Just go
through some stuff. Of course the
minute I open my mouth he gets all
chummy and sentimental about it.

ASSASSIN
That's certainly in line with his
temperament.

CJ
And then he starts talking about
fairies!

ASSASSIN
Fairies?

CJ
Yeah fairies! And like I know a
lot of people believe in that
stuff, and I don't have a problem

with that. But I don't believe in it, right? And he's known that for years! But still he acts like I'm eight years old and still leaving flowers in every mushroom circle I come across.

ASSASSIN

And what specific fairy lore did he invoke today?

CJ

He...damn this is so embarrassing...He sent me out here, and I don't even know why I came, to meet my fairy godfather.

ASSASSIN

Really? What a happy coincidence.

CJ

What do you mean?

ASSASSIN

That's the closest thing to a job title I have.

Beat.

CJ

What?

ASSASSIN

What?

CJ

Wait, why are you saying what? You're not trying to tell me you're a fairy are you?

ASSASSIN

No--

CJ

Because if you think you're gonna pull a fast one on me with that you've got another thing coming.

ASSASSIN

No. It's a term of art.

CJ

A term of art?

ASSASSIN

Yes.

CJ

For what?

ASSASSIN

It should be self-evident no?
Taking out the garbage? Painting
walls?

CJ

I'm not going to get your meaning
if you speak in riddles dude.

ASSASSIN

They're not riddles. These are
very well established turns of
phrase.

CJ

Sure.

ASSASSIN

Just think about it intuitively
for a minute.

CJ

No! No, I'm not doing that. It's
late, I'm out here, I'm freezing,
I'm not playing games. Just say
it, don't beat around the bush
with--

ASSASSIN

I kill people.

CJ

What?

ASSASSIN

I advise your father on matters of
schemes and machinations. And when
necessary carry out schemes and
machinations of his own. Including
those that bring people to a
permanent end. I've done this for
your father for many years. I
helped him build this country into
what it is today. And now that
you've come of age, he's deemed
that it's time to pass the touch.

CJ

Okay come on man I'm not buying that.

ASSASSIN

Not...not buying it?

CJ

Yeah I'm not gonna go for the line that my dad, *my* dad, has some secret dandy man running around slitting people's throats.

ASSASSIN

Throat slitting is very rarely my modus operandi.

CJ

Oh yeah that's what's wrong with what I said. Look pal, if you don't get serious right now I'm gonna go over your head and get Jeff in on this. So if you wanna keep planting tulips around here you'd better--

ASSASSIN

Do you remember the Duke of Nassius?

CJ

Uncle Nassy?

ASSASSIN

As you called him, yes.

CJ

No, no, Nassy had a heart attack.

ASSASSIN

It looked like a heart attack. What can I say? I'm very good at my job.

CJ

Okay, yeah I'm not...I'm not good with this okay. I can't...

The Assassin takes a step forward.

ASSASSIN

Perhaps we should just take a moment and--

CJ

You don't take one step closer.

ASSASSIN

Now let's not let our tempers get away from us--

CJ

Guards! Guards! I need someone here right now!

A GUARD stumbles in.

GUARD

Your highness.

CJ

Hey, Dale right?

GUARD

Why yes, your highness.

CJ

Hey man, it's this guy, right over here. Lock him down. I'm gonna get Jeff in here and, wait, where'd he go?

GUARD

I don't know, I just got here.

CJ

He was right here just a second ago!

GUARD

Should I do a search, your highness?

CJ

Yeah and...wait. Where's my Dad right now?

GUARD

Oh you mean King Ewen your highness? He's in his antechamber. He's not in danger is he? Are you in danger? Is anyone in danger?

CJ

I don't know. I gotta talk to him.

CJ exits. GUARD 2 stumbles in.

GUARD 2

Got here as fast as I could.
What's the sitch?

GUARD

I think someone's seen a fairy.

GUARD 2

Wait, is that a joke or like for
real?