

## AUDITION SIDES

### “THE CAGE”

#### *ABD-AL-AZIZ and ELMAS*

ABD-AL-AZIZ

What is it daughter? Why do you look so pale?

ELMAS

I was only start-

ABD-AL-AZIZ

You only thought that I was not here. Thought me somewhere else yes? You won't lie to me Elmas, you know that's pointless.

(Enters.)

So... Your talents are growing. Yes, I know of them- there's no need for that look. Was it not I who gave them to you?

(Pause.)

Or did you not realize that? Oh my...

(Smiles.)

That's true. You didn't know where your talents came from. My dear Elmas, they were given to you before you were even born. They were not meant for you of course, they were meant for a son- but instead... I got you. Yes, God and Iblis will have their jokes, won't they? And since I could not ever allow myself to go through that filthy uncleanliness of your conception ever again, I had to change my plans.

ELMAS

You hoped to somehow put a son into power?

ABD-AL-AZIZ

Yes.

(Brushes at his forehead.)

Do not try and read my thoughts Elmas, you will only upset me further. Ask if you have a question. Use your mouth.

ELMAS

But- but as an Arab you would never be able to put your son on the throne.

ABD-AL-AZIZ

Of course. But our dead Sultan gave me such a wonderful opportunity to try. I had to gain the Sultana's favor, I had to appeal to her femininity, and her mother's love. We would fake her unborn child's death and hide it until after its father's passing. I even made sure that all my plans seemed to come from her own mind.

ELMAS

You can enter dreams?

ABD-AL-AZIZ

Of course. Can you?

ELMAS

Only once. I don't know how...

ABD-AL-AZIZ

Perhaps I'll teach you. Some day.

ELMAS

And if you had had a son you would have killed the Sultana's and passed him off as her own... But I was born.

ABD-AL-AZIZ

Yes. So I had to make do. Since Ibrahim could not be the living Sultan filled with the powers and talents that were granted instead upon you, he would at least be my pupil. Do only as I advised... And now a question for you, daughter.

(Rushes to her.)

*What in the name of God are you up to? Why are you speaking to the Sultan? Why are you tempting his mind and reading his thoughts? Who in the hell do you think you're dealing with?*

(Slowly makes a fist.)

ELMAS

(Falls to the floor.)

Father.

ABD-AL-AZIZ

You entered the Sultan's mind at the coronation! You spoke with him outside the palace! Why? Answer me! What did you tell him?

(Pause.)

You refuse. Without proper guidance, your talents are nothing more than magic tricks, daughter. I will enter your body and your mind and take all that I wish to know! I will leave your body an empty husk and let your soul blow into the ten thousand winds.