

AUDITION SIDES

“THE CAGE”

SULTANA and IBRAHIM

SULTANA

I waited and prayed. I hoped that you would ask to see me.

IBRAHIM

Why didn't-

(Stares at ARZU.)

SULTANA

What is it my son?

IBRAHIM

(Looks away.)

Nothing. Why didn't you come to see me?

SULTANA

That isn't proper.

IBRAHIM

Why not?

SULTANA

You are Sultan.

IBRAHIM

You are my mother.

SULTANA

Thank you.

IBRAHIM

Is it up to me?

SULTANA

Is what up to you my son?

IBRAHIM

As Sultan can I give you permission to go and do whatever you please?

SULTANA

Yes...

IBRAHIM

Then I give it. The Vizer has taught me that I must honor my mother. You will come and see me whenever you wish.

SULTANA

Bless you.

(Hugs him.)

IBRAHIM

(Staring at ARZU.)

Mother?

SULTANA

Yes my son.

IBRAHIM

The Vizer said that I could have sex with that girl... I've never had sex before.

SULTANA

(Stares at him.)

Is... You can do as you please... You are Sultan and she is yours.

IBRAHIM

Are all the slaves mine?

SULTANA

Yes.

IBRAHIM

Are they all women?

SULTANA

No... But there are many women.

IBRAHIM

I'd like to see them. I've only seen monstrous creatures that brought me my food. I've never seen anything pretty. When I first saw you mother, I thought I must have died. Never has anything so beautiful come and visited me. And now her. This world has many beautiful things doesn't it?

SULTANA

Did you not learn of beauty from the Vizer?

IBRAHIM

Yes. He said that there was beauty in heaven.

SULTANA

There is beauty everywhere.

IBRAHIM

(Stares.)

I know how to have sex. The Vizer told me about creation and birth... He also said that it is done for pleasure, but that it is an unclean act and is not ever beautiful. Is that true?

SULTANA

Not always. It can be very beautiful.

IBRAHIM

(Thinks.)

And I can have her?

SULTANA

It is your right as Sultan.

IBRAHIM

(To ARZU.)

Come here slave.

SULTANA

It is not necessary to talk with them, my son. If you want her- take her. There's no need for conversation. There are better people for that.

IBRAHIM

I have spoken to no one but the Vizer, mother. There are so many things that I don't know.

SULTANA

Well sex is simple, Ibrahim. Take her to the floor or in your bed, whatever you wish. It's best to learn that right away so you can use your mind for other things.

IBRAHIM

Like what?

SULTANA

Your Empire, my son.

IBRAHIM

I don't know what that means.

SULTANA

You don't know? You were to be told everything. You were to be brought up to lead all men.

IBRAHIM

Was I? I learned that man is nothing- and I, as a man, am nothing. I am only a slave in the mind of God.

(Caresses the slaves face.)

You are lucky girl. We're both slaves, but at least you are a slave to a creature that you can see.

SULTANA

You are not a slave, my son. You are the ruler of all things!

IBRAHIM

(To Arzu.)

Will you teach me sex?

SULTANA

A Sultan does not ask permission.

ARZU

I will do whatever you wish, my lord.

IBRAHIM

Then teach me... I'm sorry mother; I will have to talk with you later. I do want to talk to you, there are many things that I do not understand. But...

SULTANA

Just don't let her speak to you, Ibrahim. Slaves are never fully obedient. Remember that.
(Kisses his head. Exits.)