

## AUDITION SIDES

### “THE CAGE”

#### SULTANA

#### SULTANA

I will keep my face to you Lord. I will ask your forgiveness. I beg of you, pity. Do not tear my eyes with claws of fire and melt my flesh. I do all for the love of my son. He will grace your kingdom on earth. As you love all things, so do I love my son. And if God is love, then Mother is love. I know this now. I will have no regrets in the pursuit of my son's happiness. I will present him with honors and sacrifices as your Viziers and Holy Men present them unto you. I will see my son happy. I will see his face filled with love. I swear this by the name of God.

(Turns to face the Harem/AUDIENCE. Stands. She does not smile.)

You women have been in my husband's service since birth. I know why each of you were chosen and what each of your specialties are. As you served my husband you will now serve his living heir. But, you will not serve as before when you would perform only the tasks that were commanded of you. *No-* that small hole that you crawled from is now permanently closed.

(Stares.)

You are now required to have initiative. You will go beyond yourselves. You will peer into your imaginations and your memories. *You will think for yourselves!* The Sultan will not know of your talents, you will show them to him. He will not know of uncommon indulgences, you will present them to him. You will not act like slaves, but as girls in your youth. *Girls in love. Virgin- whores. Chastity and debauchery...* You will also meet his eyes when he looks at you. You will whisper his name in his ear. You will call him Sultan and Master and Ibrahim and.... Darling... Sweetheart... My love... My Lord...

(Pause.)

Fear not God's wrath like those he served on the lands of Sodom, for God agrees with me and all that you indulge tonight will be forgiven. The Grand Vizer himself led me to this conclusion. You will not fear God as you debase yourselves...

(Stares.)

You will fear me.