

(You Weren't Supposed to) Shoot the Dictator

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A play

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#### CAST

KRADO ESTRO: 20s-30s. Female. Any ethnicity. The organizer of the revolution. Has a strong moral compass, but is constantly plagued by doubts. Parents were researchers who got on the wrong side of Visionary Mojosa. Has been biding her time as the Visionary's secretary. Timothy is her boyfriend. Wears a smart suit and glasses.

ELEKTITA TERPOMO: Late teens/early 20s. Female. Any ethnicity. The charismatic face of the revolution. Charmer to the public. Naive. Has a simplistic view of good and evil. Daughter of General Terpomo. Grew up very privileged. She wears a ridiculous outfit that's more suited to a high school production of Frozen than that of a revolutionary or holiday attendee.

GENERAL SHULTRO TERPOMO: 40s-50s. Female. Any ethnicity. The general of Visionary Mojosa's army, but has brought the army to the side of the revolution. Often comes to snap judgments. Traditional, loyal. Has a strong sense of order. Family managed farm workers before she joined the army. Wearing a decorated military uniform for Vision Day.

TIMOTHY JONES (TAMIGI GRANULOJ): 20s-30s. Male. Any ethnicity. The money of the revolution. Incredibly wealthy. Acts like a hotshot, but is a pawn in others' games. Father was an overseer of the Sands. Recently returned to Rimedoj when the Visionary invited him to become Financial Baron. Boyfriend of Krado. Wearing a traditional blue sarong for Vision Day.

VISIONARY MOJOSA: 40s-50s. Male. Any ethnicity. The dictator of Rimedoj. Ruthless, nationalist, isolationist.

#### SETTING

The fictional country of Rimedoj. Modern day. The Visionary's planning room in the capital building.

The day is Vision Day - a national holiday.

#### RIMEDOJAN EXPRESSIONS

"Poison in the river" = An exclamation equivalent to "oh my God". Sometimes shortened to "poisoned river", in which case it's closer to "my God".

"Break my throat" = As in, the manner of which a shovel breaks the earth. An exclamation equivalent to "fuck me".

"Shovel-headed" = An insult accusing someone of being cocky or full of oneself.

References to digging, visions, or rivers is frequently figurative rather than literal.

It is critical that actors use these phrases as if they were a completely normal part of every day speech and not draw any attention to them.

#### ON DESIGN

There is some challenge to be faced in the design of Rimedoĵ. It is a fictional nation and the design of clothing, set, art elements, etc. can draw from real life nations, but I caution against making the designs of Rimedoĵ hew too closely to anything in the real world. This is because the region of Rimedoĵ has been left purposely unspecified -- it could be South American, Middle Eastern, Eastern European, African, Asian, almost anywhere. My reasoning for this is fairly simple: I don't want to disrespect the very complicated histories and geopolitics of the nations, cultures, and regions I drew inspiration from by disregarding anything that isn't convenient to the story I wanted to tell, accidentally causing a form of historical erasure in order to make way for my purely fictional (if reality-inspired) creation.

The real design challenge is going to come from making Rimedoĵ feel specific and real while not being too indicative of any particular real world culture.

#### MISC. NOTES

A "/" is used to indicate where the next line of dialogue interrupts, creating overlapping speech.

Diverse casting is highly encouraged.

#### PRONUNCIATION GUIDE

Krado Estro = Krah-doh Eh-stroh  
Elektita Terpomo = Eh-lek-tee-tah Tehr-poh-moh  
Tamigi Granuloĵ = Tah-mee-gee Gran-yoo-loi  
Mojosa = Moh-yoh-sah  
Rimedoĵ = Rim-eh-doi  
Rimedoĵan = Rim-eh-doi-yan  
Perforta = Pehr-fore-tah  
Shlosilo = Shloe-see-loe

## PROLOGUE

Black.

### VISIONARY MOJOSA

You put that gun down now, General. I command you. General. This is the ultimate betrayal of your nation... did the US buy you? Or the UN? Or some other foreign kleptocracy? Poisoned river, I thought you had more pride than that, General, but now I see that you -- all of you -- would carve up all I've done for Rimedoj for an handful of empty promises! Can't you all see you're being used by the United Nations? No please -- I'll give you the Sands, I'll give you -  
-!

A gunshot.

### AND BEGIN

A planning room. The centerpiece is a fine wooden table with matching wood chairs around it.

There is a black board with papers and photos fastened to it. An empty tumbler and a half-full bottle of Vision of Pearl brand bourbon sit on the chalk tray. There was clearly a lot of writing on the black board, but it has recently been erased. Only one word remains, written in chalk: "Betrayed."

Opposite the black board is a window.

It is a beautiful sunny day. It's getting close to evening and the light, while still a bright white, has hints of that lovely orange evening glow.

Hanging on the wall beside the window is a shovel which has been painted blue. It is a traditional Rimedojan symbol.

There is a large propaganda poster of Visionary Mojosa with the caption: "A VISION OF PROSPERITY FOR RIMEDOJ"

Against the back wall are large double doors, which are open.

The room reeks of class, but the gaudy sort that seems to be dictator default. Lots of gold trim.

Also:

The dead body of Visionary Mojosa lays sprawled on the meeting table. There is a bullet hole in the center of his forehead. He lays on the table so his head dangles, face out towards the audience, arms splayed. Beside him is a messy legal pad and pen - pages have been ripped out. He's been scribbling furiously. The clothes he wears are a caricature of royalty. A crown lays on its side on the table.

As the lights come up, four people come charging through the open double doors. Krado and General Terpomo (who has her pistol drawn) come through first, followed by Elektita, followed by Timothy, who meanders towards the window, dazed.

KRADO

Goddammit, General Terpomo! You fucking shovel-headed, menopausal, guns-for-nipples psycho!

ELEKTITA

Mom! / That was awesome!

GENERAL TERPOMO

We were compromised. I dealt with the problem.

TIMOTHY

(looking out the window)

I was actually offered a real sweet job based in Norway, /  
you know.

KRADO

The one fucking thing we all agreed not to fucking do --  
(lifts Visionary Mojosa by  
the lapels and shakes his  
flopping head in General  
Terpomo's face)

-- WAS FUCKING SHOOT THE FUCKING VISIONARY IN THE FUCKING  
FACE.

ELEKTITA

Evil's vanquished! Good wins! / We won -- we won!

GENERAL TERPOMO

Plans change.

TIMOTHY

Would have been real cushy. No worrying about getting  
flayed...

KRADO

(dumping the corpse onto the  
table)

What could have been so bad that you did the one fucking  
thing --

GENERAL TERPOMO

He knew.

(beat)

KRADO

He knew.

General Terpomo nods.

TIMOTHY

Norway. I could have gotten used to cold and lutefisk. /  
Can't get used to being flayed.

KRADO

Poison in the river... I fucked up... I thought I'd considered every angle, but... I must have missed something... I knew I missed something, I knew it, I knew it, I --

GENERAL TERPOMO

(snapping her fingers in front of Krado's face)

Krado. Krado! Get out of your head. You can't stop moving.

Elektita picks up the Visionary's crown. She slowly lowers it over her head.

KRADO

The whole plan has been blown to smithereens, then the smithereens of the plan were eaten by a goat and shat out into my fucking mouth! Unity and all that bullshit, remember? You should have consulted with us, we could have / found the perfect solution --

GENERAL TERPOMO

"Consulted?" Please. Waiting for a "perfect solution" will get us flayed. We needed decisive action. I made / the call.

KRADO

"Decisive action?" Please. You just want to see bloodstains on the capital building walls!

GENERAL TERPOMO

I'm the only one here who has the spades to dig what needs digging, and if you don't stop playacting revolutionary like a child, then it's our bloodstains that --

(to Elektita)

Hey!

ELEKTITA

What?

GENERAL TERPOMO

Have some respect.

ELEKTITA

Mom! He was evil!

KRADO

Please take that stupid fucking thing off your head.

Timothy takes the crown off  
Elektita's head and spits on it.

ELEKTITA

Hey!

KRADO

Thanks babe.

GENERAL TERPOMO

Have some respect for your heritage!

Silence.

General Terpomo takes the crown.

She polishes it with her  
handkerchief.

GENERAL TERPOMO

A nation is its traditions and tradition must still be  
respected, even in revolution. Visionary Mojosa will have a  
traditional Rimedojan funeral.

ELEKTITA

The open casket will be kind of weird with the bullet hole,  
won't it?

KRADO

Yes, let's do what the tyrant wanted. Let's bow to his warped-  
ass view of "tradition" even though one day he said to  
himself -- "Wowee, I've been elected President three times,  
but people just don't worship me enough. Oh, I know! I'll  
give myself the title of Visionary! You know, like the  
demigod kings from Rimedojs' ancient fucking history!" Yes.  
Good. Very good.

GENERAL TERPOMO

Tradition gives a nation its soul. The traditions of  
Rimedojs... they're beautiful.



KRADO

(taking the crown)

That doesn't... so just because it's "beautiful" we should honor a tyrant with a grand funeral procession, yeah?

Elektita wanders over to the window, standing beside Timothy.

GENERAL TERPOMO

It doesn't matter whether or not we should honor him or even if it is beautiful or not -- it is what we do as Rimedojans. We are our traditions, our traditions are us. If we drown ourselves, we are nothing.

KRADO

So just because it's "traditional" we should do it? Well, flaying people is pretty damn traditional. If that's the soul of our nation, then fucking break my throat, I guess. And how can you want to honor this man? This man who did so many atrocities in the guise of tradition. Like he had you -

(looks at Elektita)

-- what I mean is, during the Farmer Rebellion Mojosa instituted / the Terrorflesh --

GENERAL TERPOMO

(taking back the crown)

Riots.

KRADO

What was that?

ELEKTITA

(looking out the window)  
Whoa, dude.

GENERAL TERPOMO

They were violent, vandalistic rioters. Not rebels.

TIMOTHY

(looking out the window)  
Yeah, I know.

KRADO

(nodding, a little horrified)

Uh-huh. What I'm saying is, the Terrorflesh Protocol --

KRADO

-- poisoned river, it was called the Terrorflesh Protocol --

ELEKTITA

This is so cool.



KRADO

Yeah, it kind of is, especially when you classify "being Sablo" as a genetic disease.

TIMOTHY

(looking out the window)

Speaking of traditions: how about that Vision Day, huh? Fun holiday -- Mojosa must've started it after I left. Really feeling the spirit of it with this huge crowd of people outside.

KRADO

Oh poisoned river I didn't want to think / about that.

GENERAL TERPOMO

(polishing the crown)

It's not "fun", it's based upon sacred Rimedojan traditions which have gone woefully unobserved for generations --

TIMOTHY

Yeah yeah, the First Visionary had a Vision that saved Rimedoj or whatever. Love having another excuse to drink and... have fun... and... drink...

(long silence)

Boy, there's an awful lot of people out there.

KRADO

I fucking know.

TIMOTHY

They look really jazzed for the Visionary's speech, actually.

KRADO

I fucking know.

TIMOTHY

I'm just saying.

ELEKTITA

What's wrong with you guys? We won!

The others all glare at her.

ELEKTITA

What?

No one responds.

Elektita slumps at the head of the table, sulking.

The General places the crown beside the body of Visionary Mojosa. She continues to polish it.

KRADO

How did he find out?

No one says anything.

KRADO

Guys?

(beat)

This really fucking sucks.

Long silence.

The others all want to say something to Krado, but can't bring themselves to just yet.

Krado notices the legal pad. She listlessly picks at the pages.

KRADO

What's this?

GENERAL TERPOMO

His Vision Day speech, probably.

KRADO

(flipping through pages)

The Visionary's Vision Day speech was prepped weeks ago. What could...?

(sees something)

(alarmed)

Oh.

GENERAL TERPOMO

But it's his Vision Day speech.

KRADO  
(reading)

Shut the fuck up. And yes.

TIMOTHY

Is it about us?

Krado reads.

TIMOTHY

Well?

KRADO  
(reading aloud)

"I've had a dark Vision, my flock, of a vile conspiracy which seeks to destroy all I've done for Rimedoj. This conspiracy, cyst-like, must be cut from the body of our beautiful nation and incinerated. Also cyst-like, the cancers contained destroy from without and from within. From without: the United Nations and the United States, which have long sought to cripple us, now has the means to do so in the form of our Financial Baron, Timothy Jones, who has forsaken his father's unparalleled service to this nation in order to curry favor with the international Jewry --" oh, that's fun.

TIMOTHY

Visionary Mojosa... you flatter me.

KRADO

"He swindled the funds our nation has trusted him with --"

TIMOTHY

Wasn't a whole lot to swindle with Mojosa insisting on routing funds to all of his dumb fucking glass sculptures.

KRADO

"-- and utilized his own massive hoard of foreign-gained wealth, funneling money into this cyst --"

TIMOTHY

That hideous fucking glass monstrosity clogging up Market Street? The one that's a shovel with a busty mermaid growing out of the blade? Two million US dollars.

KRADO

"-- no better than the filthy Sablos his own dear father was tormented by until, exhausted, a stroke took him."

TIMOTHY  
(still on the sculptures)

Irresponsible.

KRADO

"Timothy would desecrate his father's memory and allow the Sablos to rape all upstanding citizens of Rimedoj, in every meaning of that word." Visionary Mojosa, everybody.

TIMOTHY

Part of me wishes he found out I was half Sablo. He'd have gone apoplectic. It'd have been hilarious.

ELEKTITA

Really? You're Sablo?

GENERAL TERPOMO

Mm.

TIMOTHY

These cheekbones don't lie.

KRADO

It wouldn't have been hilarious. He'd have thrown you in one of the camps.

TIMOTHY

...kicking off in international incident. The Rimedoj army would have gotten absolutely bulldozed.

GENERAL TERPOMO

You're shovel-headed if you think the US would invade over you.

TIMOTHY

I didn't mean any offense, General, but like, Rimedoj compared with the might of the US? It's not even a contest.

ELEKTITA

I didn't see it before, but now... you're so Sablo! Wow... Timothy, I just want to say what's been done to your people is just awful. The relocations, the imprisonments, / the murders, the -

TIMOTHY

They're not my people. I'm just... I'm half Sablo.

ELEKTITA

I just want you to know that I stand with you. I weep for your people.

TIMOTHY

That's... sweet of you.

KRADO

Anyway. "The cyst kills from within: my own dear secretary, Krado Estro, has been persuaded --"

TIMOTHY

Aw, babe, he mentioned you too. How sweet.

Krado gives Timothy a flat look.

KRADO

"-- has been persuaded against me. The greatest violation, however, is when an esteemed family like the Terpomos / are involved --"

TIMOTHY

Wait, that's all he has to say about you?

KRADO

Who cares? He still knew.

TIMOTHY

You deserve a much bigger mention than that.

KRADO

Stop it.

ELEKTITA

Please make out somewhere else in the capital building.

KRADO

Anyway: "-- an esteemed family like the Terpomos are involved in shovel-headed heresy. General Shultra Terpomo is so puffed full of her accomplishments that she thinks she could rule Rimedoj, peeling it away from your god-chosen Visionary with flesh-hungry teeth."

General Terpomo shakes her head.

KRADO

"This is to say nothing of General Terpomo's simp of a daughter, Elektita, who is so pampered and flattered by Sablo snakes that she fancies herself a revolutionary and would gladly lead all of your children into the laps of rapists if it meant earning a photograph in one of those filthy foreign American magazines for whores."

Yada yada, he goes on...

(flipping pages)

Here he mentions the nighttime parade and our plans... he knows -- knew -- everything! Top to bottom. He could have told someone. We could be way more compromised than initially thought. Shitshitshitshitshit...

TIMOTHY

Hey, look on the bright side: it's a good thing the Visionary can't give that new speech. To all of these people. Who are right out outside. Have I mentioned there's an awful lot of his supporters right outside? Including one shooting crossbow bolts into Sablo mannequins...

GENERAL TERPOMO

You're welcome.

KRADO

I am not about to thank you for your excellent foresight, General. He was due to give his Vision Day speech in...

(checks watch)

...forty-five minutes. Fuck.

TIMOTHY

I see someone making out with a cardboard cutout of the Visionary.

KRADO

(pacing)

Forty-five minutes. Oh break my throat. Oh fuck. Oh fuck / oh fuck oh fuck forty-five --

TIMOTHY

(patting her back)

Honey... sweetie...

GENERAL TERPOMO

(clapping in Krado's face)

Come on, snap out of it, Krado.



ELEKTITA

Yeah, whoa, what the hell?

KRADO

You all are so fucking calm! Why are you all so fucking calm?

(beat)

We are so fucked that semen will be dribbling out of our assholes until the day we die. Which could very well be in forty-five minutes. General, what the fuck do you think is going to happen when, in forty-five minutes, the Visionary doesn't show for his highly anticipated Vision Day speech?

GENERAL TERPOMO

It's likely the civilians in the courtyard will riot.

KRADO

Yeah!

GENERAL TERPOMO

That's what my men are for.

Silence.

ELEKTITA

Cool.

KRADO

I'm fucking sorry, General Terpomo, but you did not just fucking say what I think / you fucking said.

TIMOTHY

Oh boy, / that won't do.

GENERAL TERPOMO

Some of his most fervent supporters are out there. A purge is in order.

KRADO

No, no, no -- fucking no!

GENERAL TERPOMO

Pretty standard revolutionary procedure.

TIMOTHY

Hey hey hey, whoa whoa whoa -- I invited like three dozen foreign journalists to witness this shindig. A massacre's no way to introduce the world to the new regime, General. Other nations would use that as a pretext for sanctions. Or invasion. Or worse. International cooperation / is the backbone of --

KRADO

Fuck the foreign press -- we'd lose faith with our own people. They'd think we were no better than the Visionary.

(beat)

GENERAL TERPOMO

I'm just trying give practical solutions.

KRADO

There is nothing fucking practical about a massacre!

GENERAL TERPOMO

We'll see how you feel in forty-five.

KRADO

Why the fuck are you even here if you don't believe in fucking changing anything?

GENERAL TERPOMO

I'm here for exactly one reason and let's get that reason straight: I am here to make sure you don't get my daughter flayed like your parents were, Krado.

Silence.

KRADO

I'm very aware of what the Visionary did to my parents, General Terpomo.

GENERAL TERPOMO

And I'm very aware you dragged my daughter into this mess.

TIMOTHY

(going to the bottle of  
Vision of Pearl bourbon)

What's the big deal? Can't you guys still do the plan?

Timothy pours himself a tumbler  
of Vision of Pearl bourbon.  
Everyone stares at him. He  
finally notices.

TIMOTHY

What?

GENERAL TERPOMO

We can't do the plan.

KRADO

Babe... are you dumb?

ELEKTITA

(to Krado)

Didn't you tell him anything?

TIMOTHY

Hey, at least I knew the most important rule: don't cap the  
Visionary. Look, as far as I'm concerned, the sum of my job  
was to dump an actual shitload of money on you guys and use  
my sweet sweet connections to invite all those journalists.  
You do the hard work, I get the warm fuzzy feeling of having  
helped Rimedoj -- we all win! And hey --

(raises a toast)

-- it's a holiday! A toast to Vision Day and the bygone  
Visionary. And to a successful revolution.

GENERAL TERPOMO

Keep a clear head, soldier.

Timothy takes a loud, slurping  
sip, looking at General Terpomo.

General Terpomo splashes Timothy  
in the face with the bourbon in  
his tumbler.

TIMOTHY

Hey!

KRADO

General! Leave him be.

GENERAL TERPOMO

Leave him be so he can get us all killed?

TIMOTHY

You know, I think I'm going to call my buddy Dave and get a chopper outta here.

GENERAL TERPOMO

No.

KRADO

General --

GENERAL TERPOMO

You want him to leave?

KRADO

I mean... he should stay... but does it actually matter... if...?

General Terpomo slams her fist  
against the wall.

GENERAL TERPOMO

Decide! You're wasting time, Madam Mastermind!

KRADO

He can't leave! You can't leave, babe. You can't leave.

TIMOTHY

What? Come on, why not? Don't let the General bully you.

GENERAL TERPOMO

(to Timothy)

You've been shirking responsibility too long.

TIMOTHY

Actually, I'd argue that passing along millions of dollars is quite a lot of responsibility.



TIMOTHY

No offense, but it sounds like your plan was doomed from the start. So.

(beat)

KRADO

I came up with the plan.

TIMOTHY

Oh.

(beat)

I mean. No. It's a great plan. Super solid.

KRADO

What's bad about it, Tamigi? I missed something obvious, didn't I? I knew we should have spent more time planning, but the Visionary was going to roll out the sterilization initiative tomorrow and we had to go now and --

TIMOTHY

Honey. Sweetie. Chill. I swear, one little comment sometimes just...

(takes a deep breath)

The Visionary would never abdicate. Boom. Logic'd.

KRADO

Ah! Ah! I thought of that! I thought the fuck out of that! The linchpin of the plan was the prepared speech we'd have him read. When Mojosa abolished the presidency and became the Visionary, he made himself a religious entity -- his right to rule came not just from the people, but from God. How effective would it be if Mojosa said that God no longer wanted him to be his scion? Sure, you'd have people who'd know it was coerced, but since what comes out of his mouth is law -- was law -- it would have placated a substantial portion of his base and made peaceful transition of power easier.

TIMOTHY

Did you and I know the same guy? He wouldn't have read it.

GENERAL TERPOMO

If he didn't cooperate, his family was going to perish in a tragic helicopter accident.

ELEKTITA

Oh wow.

(beat)

How do you know that?

They all look at her.

ELEKTITA

What?

KRADO

I always hated that part of the plan.

GENERAL TERPOMO

Practical solutions. I'd like to see you come up with something more effective.

TIMOTHY

So... the plan is fucked.

GENERAL TERPOMO

That's what I've been saying.

KRADO

Thank you for being quick on the uptake, hon.

ELEKTITA

But the Visionary's dead. Clearly God, like, hates him and intends for someone else to rule Rimedoj. The people will understand.

(beat)

KRADO

I swear to fuck...

TIMOTHY

Don't bother, hon.

ELEKTITA

Stop shouting at me! What's that supposed to mean?

TIMOTHY

It means you don't get it. People will want revenge for the Visionary's death.

ELEKTITA

But he was evil.

TIMOTHY

So?

ELEKTITA

So how many people would want revenge for an evil person's death?

(beat)

TIMOTHY

I swear to fuck.

ELEKTITA

Light your roman candle, Krado! Get the revolution going!

KRADO

Our people won't be in position until the parade, which isn't until after the Visionary gives his speech, oh wait, that can't happen because someone got trigger-happy.

ELEKTITA

(takes out her phone)

So? I'll text some people.

GENERAL TERPOMO

Seems like I solved a pressing issue efficiently / if you ask me.

KRADO

Elektita, everyone else in the revolution turned their filthy fucking devices off. Can't risk communication intercept or tracking.

ELEKTITA

That's dumb.

KRADO

I swear to fuck.

TIMOTHY

Krado, leave it be.

GENERAL TERPOMO

(tapping her radio)

I have a secure channel with my men.



KRADO

Okay. Yes. We can use that. Let me think about what we say to them...

(beat)

I don't know. Fuck, this is bad.

GENERAL TERPOMO

So, while Krado's braincells threaten to rip her skull apart, I'm going to do something actually useful with our remaining half hour and mock up a battle plan.

General Terpomo goes to the black board. And sees the word "Betrayed."

She loses all momentum. Lingers at it.

KRADO

(not noticing, going to the black board)

Okay, yes. Yes. We can think our way out of this. Unity and all that bullshit.

Krado erases the word "Betrayed."

This breaks the spell on General Terpomo. She goes over to the window, looks out on the crowd.

Krado writes in chalk.

KRADO

Okay. So. So. There are two big things to deal with. The Visionary's speech and the broadcast. If we can get through the speech somehow, then the parade plans can continue. The most pressing matter is the speech. Let's line up our shovels, folks. There's a perfect solution here -- we just need to find it.

GENERAL TERPOMO

(talking into her shoulder radio)

General Terpomo to Major Perforta. Over.

(listens through her  
earpiece)

TIMOTHY

We're making this more complicated than it needs to be. Visionary Mojosa killed himself. The parade is now a parade of mourning. We happen to find a will wherein he happens to express a final command to abolish the position of Visionary and reinstate the presidency. Boom. Done.

Elektita snaps pictures of the  
Visionary's corpse with her phone.

KRADO

Don't like having to start off the new government with lies,  
but --

KRADO

-- it'll be better than  
mowing down civilians.

TIMOTHY

...but murdering lots of  
people is bad.

GENERAL TERPOMO

(to radio)

Have you carried out your orders? Over.

Elektita types on her phone.

KRADO

Okay. I'm not outright against it. It's not perfect, but...  
other ideas. Come on, come on.

ELEKTITA

(still typing)

We could throw his body out the window.

KRADO

That's... bold. But maybe we -- what are you doing?

ELEKTITA

Nothing.

KRADO

Give me that filthy fucking thing.

Major Perforta's response to  
General Terpomo hits her like a  
hammer to the diaphragm.

Hell no! It's mine!

ELEKTITA

Give it.

KRADO

Krado --!

ELEKTITA

Elektita.

KRADO

Stop shouting at me!

ELEKTITA

Give it.

KRADO

Mom! Krado's trying to take my phone away!

ELEKTITA

The woman's busy, don't drag her into this.

KRADO

Mom!

ELEKTITA

Let the little princess keep it.

TIMOTHY

Yeah... yeah! Listen to your boyfriend!

ELEKTITA

No phones! It's a security risk.

KRADO

Oh come on.

ELEKTITA

TIMOTHY

Have some faith in her, Krado. She's not about to leak secrets. She's probably just taking a break to like sexy photos posted on Instagram by --

(doing a really exaggerated  
and stereotypical "drunk  
girl voice")

-- "her bitches" -- from a party last night.

KRADO

That means nothing to me.

What you said means literally nothing.

ELEKTITA

(stung)

Hey...

TIMOTHY

Let her hang onto it. Kids and technology.

Elektita glares at Timothy.

Timothy winks at her.

KRADO

(sighs)

At least... put it away for now.

Elektita makes a show out of putting the phone in between her cleavage.

GENERAL TERPOMO

(to radio)

Copy. Over.

General Terpomo stares out the window.

TIMOTHY

You know.. body... window... what if -- this sounds a little crazy, but hear me out --

(takes a sip of bourbon --  
he gags)

Jesus fuck, is Vision of Pearl really what passes for luxury in this shitass country?

ELEKTITA

I want to hear the crazy idea.

KRADO

It's your shitass country too, Tamigi.

TIMOTHY

I prefer to think of myself as a "citizen of the world."

(he drinks -- gags a little  
less this time)

And it's Timothy. To the world, I'm Timothy.

KRADO

To me, you're Tamigi.

TIMOTHY

Yes, but to the world. To the reporters. I'm Timothy. Timothy Jones. If you mention me.

ELEKTITA

Just get married already.

KRADO

Ha ha no.

TIMOTHY

Yeah, not happening.

ELEKTITA

Okay, stop shouting at me. Whoa.

TIMOTHY

Actually, I'd rather you not mention me. Anyway, my crazy idea...

KRADO

You funded this whole thing. You deserve / a mention.

ELEKTITA

What's the crazy idea? / I'm dying to know.

TIMOTHY

Aaaaaaaaah I'd rather not be mentioned when this is all done thank you. So, what if we put the Visionary in the window and play a recording of one of his old Vision Day speeches?

KRADO

And move his body around like it's a puppet?

TIMOTHY

Yeah!



(beat)  
Yeah. Be quiet.

KRADO  
(under breath)  
And this is the person who was all shovel-headed about murdering hundreds of people.

GENERAL TERPOMO  
What was that?

KRADO  
Nothing.

Elektita walks to the double doors.

GENERAL TERPOMO  
I do what needs to be done. I don't stop moving. I don't take any joy in it.

TIMOTHY  
We have like, twenty-five minutes, please chill / out you two.

KRADO  
Someone who didn't take joy in the bloodsoaked option wouldn't recommend it so fucking much.

GENERAL TERPOMO  
Elektita!

ELEKTITA  
(at door)  
Hm?

GENERAL TERPOMO  
Where are you going?

ELEKTITA  
To talk to the people.

KRADO  
Oh my god, / no no no.

TIMOTHY

Not / a great idea.

GENERAL TERPOMO

Honey, / sweetie.

KRADO

Motherfucker you can be so fucking thick sometimes.

ELEKTITA

Stop shouting at me! The bad guy is dead, the spell is broken, I can tell the people and they'll be happy about it.

KRADO

(making a throttling gesture  
with her hands)

Not... how it... fucking...

ELEKTITA

It's the perfect solution.

KRADO

(throttling gesture gets  
more intense)

Not... how it... fucking...!

GENERAL TERPOMO

It's best if you stay here.

ELEKTITA

Why are you guys shouting at me? This is what / we want!

GENERAL TERPOMO

Elektita.

ELEKTITA

But I can --

GENERAL TERPOMO

Elektita.

KRADO

Stay inside. Keep your / mouth shut.

ELEKTITA

Okay! You don't have to shout / at me.



KRADO

(closing the doors)

In fact, don't leave this room -- no one can know a thing until we have shit figured out.

ELEKTITA

(suddenly stiff)

...no one?

KRADO

(going to the blackboard)

Yeah. No one. Not even the janitor.

Elektita catches the eye of her mother. General Terpomo cocks her head, questioning.

A ringtone -- it's "Power" by Kanye West.

Everyone looks at each other awkwardly.

Timothy reaches into his sarong.

KRADO

Babe.

TIMOTHY

I know I know.

(answering his cell)

Dave, my dawg! What's up?

Krado ponders at the blackboard.

General Terpomo stares intently at Elektita, pulls her aside.

Elektita shrugs.

TIMOTHY

(suddenly meek)

You, uh, you kinda caught me at a bad time, how's about you call back later?

Krado writes "Family?" and underlines it.

TIMOTHY  
I know what I said. Just...  
just stay on standby,  
alright? I may have spoke too  
--

GENERAL TERPOMO  
(whispering)  
What did you do?

TIMOTHY  
(glances at Krado)  
...may have spoke too soon.  
'K bud? Okay.

ELEKTITA  
(whispering)  
Nothing. Stop shouting at me.

TIMOTHY  
Stop it, man. I'm hanging up.  
I'm hanging up. I'm hanging --

GENERAL TERPOMO  
(whispering)  
Don't lie to me, Elektita.

TIMOTHY  
Dave! I... Mister Sorenson...  
cut it out!

ELEKTITA  
(whispering)  
Oh my god, stop shouting at  
me!

Timothy hangs up. He chucks his  
phone on the table.

TIMOTHY  
Asswipe.

GENERAL TERPOMO  
Elektita, what did --

KRADO  
(turning dramatically)  
Folks, I've had a brainwave. This is... the perfect solution!  
(beat)  
Well... maybe... there's probably an angle I haven't  
considered -- yeah, hold on, nevermind forget that I said  
anything.

TIMOTHY  
Krado. Darling.

KRADO  
Break my throat, I'm wrong... I'm probably wrong...

TIMOTHY  
(putting hands on her  
shoulders)

Krado Krado Krado Krado. So what? The wrong solution is better than no solution.

KRADO

But what if --

TIMOTHY

Babe. Stop it. You have the sturdiest moral compass of everyone I know. You've studied the ins and outs of Rimedojan politics. Trust yourself.

ELEKTITA

Yeah, just do what you feel! That always works for me.

TIMOTHY

General, do you have anything you want to add? Unity and all that bullshit?

(beat)

GENERAL TERPOMO

I don't console children.

(beat)

TIMOTHY

(to Elektita)

Your childhood must have been full of warm fuzzy moments.

ELEKTITA

(scoffs)

Childhood?

GENERAL TERPOMO

(bringing a hand to her  
radio)

Keep moving or I'll --

KRADO

Okay! Okay okay okay. I got this. Thank you. Unity and all that bullshit. Thank you. So I got to thinking -- remember how a couple years back the Visionary's liver transplant had him out of commission for Vision Day, right? / So instead his

--

GENERAL TERPOMO

It won't work.

KRADO

-- wife gave a speech with his kids doing a goofy little skit reenacting the First Visionary's rebirth in the Fluo River and / I was thinking --

GENERAL TERPOMO

It will not work.

TIMOTHY

Okay, yeah! This is good, hon.

KRADO

-- since your men are already with them, you could fly the Visionary's family here, right?

Elektita takes out her phone and texts.

GENERAL TERPOMO

It would take too long.

KRADO

Okay, so the speech is delayed, but keeping the crowd calm while waiting will be / so much easier than --

GENERAL TERPOMO

Milda will never go along with it.

KRADO

Are you kidding? That woman is such a pushover. She doesn't even have to know... yeah, I'm liking this -- oh man, the crowd is going to be so thrilled.

GENERAL TERPOMO

They love the Visionary.

KRADO

And his family. They go absolutely bananas for Junior. He's so fucking cute... he'll do that little spinny dance thing he does in his wheelchair... the crowd will eat it up.

Elektita stops texting.

GENERAL TERPOMO

Coercion will make the family panic.

Timothy's phone dings. He frowns at it.

KRADO

There's no need for them to know. They trust us... assuming that the Visionary hasn't told them anything of course... hm... fuck....

Timothy reads the message he's received. His eyes bulge. He looks at Elektita.

Elektita winks at him.

GENERAL TERPOMO

We have to assume it's compromised.

Timothy texts furiously.

KRADO

Yeah... wait, what? No we don't. Come on, we've got to try.

GENERAL TERPOMO

We should come up with more options.

KRADO

I thought you were Ms. Direct Action over here. What do you mean discuss? We've got --

(checks watch)

-- twenty minutes.

Timothy stops texting.

GENERAL TERPOMO

Hand over the chalk.

Elektita's phone dings. She reads it.

KRADO

Why are you being so shovel-headed about this? We can radio your men and if it's compromised, we'll think of something else.

Elektita smirks. She texts.

GENERAL TERPOMO

What are we going to say to Milda? That her husband is sick? She'll want to see him. Or maybe we tell her there's a Sablo incursion near the Sands -- she'll freak out, we can't control someone who goes hysterical.

KRADO

Okay, okay, plausible lie isn't my forte, but that's what Elektita's for.

ELEKTITA

Mm?

KRADO

Besides, the Visionary's kids love her.

ELEKTITA

(still texting)

Mm-hm.

KRADO

I like this. I like this a lot. Okay, General. Radio your men.

Elektita stops texting.

GENERAL TERPOMO

What about later? For the abdication part of the plan, right? They can't abdicate on his behalf.

Timothy's phone dings. He reads.

KRADO

He wrote privileges for his wife into the constitution, she can -- General, what is wrong with you? Do you want bloodshed? It seems like you want bloodshed.

Timothy puts his forehead in his hand.

Elektita grins at him.

GENERAL TERPOMO

I want to consider it from all possible angles. We only get one chance at this and have very little time. I don't want us to get killed.

KRADO

It sounds like you want a massacre.

GENERAL TERPOMO

Milda can be feisty. She always keeps a knife on her, when she's cornered / we don't know --

KRADO

So we take the fucking knife from her! Poisoned river, it sounds like you want your men to stain the streets with civilian blood!

A ringtone. A bombastic piece of symphonic music.

TIMOTHY

It's not me.

KRADO

Fuck. Fuck. It's the Visionary's phone. Fuck... fuck!

Krado searches the Visionary's corpse. She can't find it. She flings his jacket open, pats his chest down, then proceeds to throw his body around.

She finds the cellphone in his back pocket.

KRADO

...who the fuck...?

(she answers the call)

(mouthing to the General)

Get the family over here!

(to the phone)

Hello! The esteemed and benevolent Visionary Mojosa is unable to come to the phone right now, this is his secretary speaking.

Timothy signals for Elektita to come to him. She does.

General Terpomo ponders the blackboard. She taps on it with her finger throughout the following.

TIMOTHY

Hey. What the hell were you thinking?

KRADO

I'm sorry who is this again?

ELEKTITA

Yeah! Wasn't that badass and heroic of me?

TIMOTHY

If Krado finds out she will actually kill you.

ELEKTITA

No she won't. Don't you see? It's all going to turn out amazing. Evil will be gone from Rimedoj.

KRADO

He's very busy. Just about to give his magnificent speech, of course.

TIMOTHY

That's not -- Elektita. What you did was not just reckless, it was suicidal.

ELEKTITA

The Visionary's dead. Evil's vanquished.

TIMOTHY

(about to snap)

What could have possibly...?

(collects himself)

KRADO

He hasn't consulted me, you'll have to be more specific so I can relay the proper information to him.



TIMOTHY

What could have possibly made you think it was a good idea to tell the Visionary Krado's plan?

Silence.

Krado listens to the person on the other end of the phone call with mounting horror.

ELEKTITA

We were having like... a showdown. He pulled me aside after the Vision Day luncheon and was all like, "You need to stop being such a foreign-loving whore" and yada yada, something about shutting me up if I kept making so many anti-Visionary posts on social media, it was making him look bad, and then I was like, bitch, you already look so bad and here's why you look bad and I let. him. have it.

TIMOTHY

Oh my god.

ELEKTITA

You should have seen the look on his face. Is there a more satisfying... anything than seeing an evil person realize they're doomed? No. No there is not.

KRADO

Uh-huh.

ELEKTITA

Like, I swear his wrinkles got deeper and his moustache started shedding hair. He was just --

(makes an exaggerated  
horrified face)

-- and oh man, when I whispered in his ear "time's up, motherfucker" and he just scampered away... oh man, I felt such a surge. Right then and there, we'd won! We'd won!

TIMOTHY

Does you mother / know about this?

ELEKTITA

And we won -- not with Krado's dumb plan. It was me. I did it. I stood up to evil, stared him in the eyes and let him / fucking have it.

TIMOTHY

Does your mother know?

ELEKTITA

Well duh.

KRADO

Uh-huh.

ELEKTITA

I mean, I didn't think that she'd come in here and just -- kablammo! -- like... right after I told her, but yeah, just go ahead and vanquish the bad guy. That makes sense to me.

TIMOTHY

Oh my god. You shouldn't have done that, you shouldn't... you should have told Krado what / you did.

ELEKTITA

Are you kidding? She would've shouted at me.

TIMOTHY

Well, we can't tell her now.  
She will actually kill you.

KRADO

Really? All of them?

ELEKTITA

She won't. Because... well, she's a total wimp when it comes to violence, but also...

(she glances around  
furtively)

Okay, because... okay. Okay. I haven't told anyone this. Like anyone. Not even mom. But...

TIMOTHY

Are you and Krado lovers? Because that's hot. I can deal with that. I mean, like, so long as I can watch and --

ELEKTITA

What? Ew no, gross, that's gross. You're gross. This is a big secret Timmy, I need / you to --

TIMOTHY

Timothy, please.

ELEKTITA

Whatever, Tim. I need you to take this seriously, okay? Okay?

(beat)

Closer.

(beat)

I'm the Chosen One.

Silence.

TIMOTHY

I swear to fuck.

ELEKTITA

Krado won't kill me. The Chosen One can't die.

TIMOTHY

Actually, I read a bunch of Greek mythology when I attended Harvard Business School and their chosen ones die often and horribly.

ELEKTITA

Myths are fake. This is real, Timmy.

TIMOTHY

It's Timoth -- oh my God...

KRADO

Did he tell you why?

ELEKTITA

My mom dragged me to this incredibly boring service at Vision Temple and one of the priestesses pulled me aside and told me about this prophecy that came to her in a Vision and --

TIMOTHY

Prophecy. You're the "chosen one" in a -- does that mean you think you're going to be the next Visionary?

ELEKTITA

Well, yeah.

TIMOTHY

How...? Okay... okay. I know I've not been privy to all your little meetings, but I'm pretty certain a big chunk of the revolution is free elections.

ELEKTITA

Yeah. I'll be elected Visionary.  
(beat)

TIMOTHY

I swear to fuck.

ELEKTITA

Besides, I don't get why Krado keeps making such a big deal about elections. Rimedojo already has elections.

TIMOTHY

Yeah, but they're rigged. When Mojosa named himself Visionary he kept them around as a way to flex "how much the people adore him" and keep the UN off his back.

ELEKTITA

Oh.

(beat)

Why wouldn't Krado just tell me that?

TIMOTHY

Because... Jesus Christ, nevermind.

ELEKTITA

You can still keep your gig as Financial Baron. I'll appoint you -- wait, did Krado say Financial Baron was going to be elected now? I can't remember...

TIMOTHY

Look, I've been having fun here, but being in charge of the finances for a shitass country's fledgling democracy is not the best use of my time. No offense.

ELEKTITA

Oh...

TIMOTHY

Once I get my boys into the Sands, I'm out of here.

General Terpomo stops tapping her finger.

Timothy just said something that caught her attention.

ELEKTITA

Oh, how beautiful. You want to reclaim the Sands for your people.

TIMOTHY

(snorts)

"My people?" The Sablos are not my people. No no, there's a big moneymaking opportunity to be had by privatizing the Sands to international corporations.

ELEKTITA

Privating... what? Hold on...

TIMOTHY

Anyway, I'm not sticking around Rimedoj.

ELEKTITA

Oh come on, how beautiful would that be? It's a perfect story.

(getting closer to him)

Tamigi, born part Sablo... he leaves the Sands for a scary foreign land... only to return and reclaim it for his people.

General Terpomo tenses. Krado is too wrapped up in the phone call to notice anything.

TIMOTHY

That's... not quite... did you get at all what I just -- ?

ELEKTITA

Part of the prophecy was that I'd be a savior to the Sablos.

TIMOTHY

Is that right.

ELEKTITA

It just makes sense! My heart has always gone out to them for what the Visionary did to them, always --

TIMOTHY  
Your mother helped him out.

ELEKTITA  
Hm?

TIMOTHY  
She worked for him. Her hands are dirty.

ELEKTITA  
Okay, whatever. Strange thing to bring up.

TIMOTHY  
That's -- nevermind.

ELEKTITA  
And you know, I always found Sablo men to be very... rugged.  
And exotic.

TIMOTHY  
Uh-huh.

Elektita kisses Timothy.

KRADO	GENERAL TERPOMO
I'll pass that along to the	(drawing her pistol)
Visionary. Bye.	Hands off my daughter!
(hangs up)	

TIMOTHY  
(pushing Elektita away)  
Oh man.

GENERAL TERPOMO  
I ought to knock your teeth out!

ELEKTITA	TIMOTHY
Back off, mom.	I didn't do anything!

KRADO  
Everyone shut the fuck up!

GENERAL TERPOMO  
You want to know what / your boyfriend did? He --

TIMOTHY

It was Elektita, / I had nothing to do with it.

ELEKTITA

Stop shouting at me!

KRADO

Fuck whatever the fuck you all are talking about! Thousands of people are dead.

Silence.

GENERAL TERPOMO

I didn't order my men to do anything.

KRADO

That's not -- fucking shut up. Everybody shut up. Poison in the river.

(beat)

General, what's the status of the Visionary's family? We need them here fucking an hour ago.

GENERAL TERPOMO

They're resisting. They know something's up. My men are working on it.

KRADO

I can't...

(beat)

This is terrible. I'm going to jump out the window and let the masses trample me to death. I don't care anymore.

TIMOTHY

Hon, what's gotten to you? What do you mean thousands dead? Okay, we can work this out -- Elekita, we're going to need you to delay the crowd, what with / the speech --

KRADO

The Visionary ordered the execution of every known revolution sympathizer in his prisons.

(beat)

And the...

(beat)

...the...

(beat)

...cleansing of every Sablo in camps.

Heavy silence.

ELEKTITA

No he didn't.

TIMOTHY

How? I thought the army was on our side.

GENERAL TERPOMO

A pro-Visionary civilian militia started doing a lot of his dirty work around... a year ago? Well, the militia's been around for a decade, but then they got a direct line to the Visionary.

(beat)

Really undermined my authority.

GENERAL TERPOMO

Didn't really care for that.

ELEKTITA

He didn't do that.

TIMOTHY

How many...?

KRADO

About forty-five hundred.

GENERAL TERPOMO

Just over four thousand.

KRADO

The Visionary ordered it in direct retaliation from what he learned about our plans.

TIMOTHY

(staring at Elektita)

Whoever told him is responsible for the deaths of thousands.

ELEKTITA

He didn't do that.

GENERAL TERPOMO

How do you know it was retaliation? It could have been planned and we didn't know about it.

KRADO

From what the bastard on the phone said... no. It was a rushed order. Given a few hours ago. Said the Visionary didn't tell him why, just to do it and that it was his greatest honor to finally sweep away the filth of Rimedoj.

TIMOTHY

We're real saviors to the Sablos, huh?



ELEKTITA

He didn't order that. They're evil liars, all of the militia.  
They're liars.

KRADO

(slumping in a chair)

It's over. It's all over. I should jump out the window.

TIMOTHY

(going to massage her)

Hey hey hey. No one knows you caused it. You can still get  
out of this.

KRADO

(swatting him away)

What the fuck, Tamigi?

GENERAL TERPOMO

He's right you know.

TIMOTHY

What?

GENERAL TERPOMO

No one knows. In fact, if my men open on the crowd outside,  
we could spin it as retaliation for an unprovoked slaughter.  
I always recommend a good preemptive strike.

KRADO

I cannot believe what I'm hearing.

GENERAL TERPOMO

I'm willing to do what needs to be done. Don't stop moving.

KRADO

Then... then get the Visionary's family over here. Please.

GENERAL TERPOMO

They're...

(beat)

Chopper's having mechanical issues. It's this sort of  
leadership that led to this mess in the first place.

KRADO

How fucking dare you?

TIMOTHY

Yeah, funny thing about that, General. It turns out that  
Elektita --

GENERAL TERPOMO

Hey!

(beat)

You. Over here. We need to talk.

(beat)

TIMOTHY

(patting Krado's back)

You did nothing wrong, hon.

She shrugs him off.

ELEKTITA

Hey, mom, could we --

GENERAL TERPOMO

Not now.

ELEKTITA

(whispering)

When you said you were going to make me Visionary, this /  
isn't what I --

GENERAL TERPOMO

I said not now.

ELEKTITA

But so many Sablos --

GENERAL TERPOMO

Don't stop moving.

Timothy goes to General Terpomo.  
Elektita takes a seat beside  
Krado.

GENERAL TERPOMO

If you lay a finger on my daughter again...

TIMOTHY

She was the one who -- that's not the point. Point is, Elektita told the Visionary and you knew about it.

ELEKTITA

The Visionary didn't really give the order, did he?

KRADO

He did. He really did.

ELEKTITA

How do you know?

GENERAL TERPOMO

How do you know?

TIMOTHY

Who here can't keep a damn secret? The princess herself, obviously. So I suggest you watch your fucking tone or else I'm going to get really bad at keeping secrets too.

GENERAL TERPOMO

Does Krado know you're going to let foreign corporations run the Sands?

ELEKTITA

Whoever... whoever told the Visionary our plan really uh, really made a mess of it?

Krado nods.

TIMOTHY

I may have mentioned it once or twice...

GENERAL TERPOMO

Uh-huh. Yeah. I'm sure she's really enthusiastic about it, soldier. I'm sure she'd also be really enthusiastic to learn how her parents were caught.

(beat)

TIMOTHY

General...

ELEKTITA

(tugging on Krado's sleeve)

Um... Krado?

KRADO

Mm?

GENERAL TERPOMO

Mutually assured destruction. Heard of it? Get the idea?

TIMOTHY

I've got the idea.

GENERAL TERPOMO

Who told the Visionary the plan?

ELEKTITA

Am I...?

TIMOTHY

I haven't the faintest idea.

GENERAL TERPOMO

(claps Timothy on the  
shoulder)

Shame about that. Would really help things out.

TIMOTHY

Hey, what's taking so long to get the family over -- ?

Timothy's phone rings.

TIMOTHY

Put a fist in my asshole...

(he answers)

Hey Dave, what's up?

ELEKTITA

(breaking down)

Am I a bad person?

KRADO

What? No!

GENERAL TERPOMO

Krado, I'm going to need you to buck up.  
(upon seeing Elektita, she  
stiffens)

TIMOTHY

No, um, sorry Mister Sorenson, it's not the best time...  
What's so important that...?

KRADO

Of course you're not a bad person, why did you even ask that?

GENERAL TERPOMO

(stiffly patting Elektita's  
head)

It's okay, dearie. No need to be scared. I won't let him near  
you.

KRADO

The fuck are you on about? Huh?

ELEKTITA

TIMOTHY

You have got to be fucking kidding me.

GENERAL TERPOMO

Oh Krado. I'm going to need you to buck up. And you, hon,  
you...

(sighs)

See, Timothy... ah, nevermind.

KRADO

What about Timothy?

ELEKTITA

...mom...

GENERAL TERPOMO

Well... earlier when you were on the phone... I heard him  
bragging to my daughter about how much money he and his  
foreign friends were going to make from the Sands and --

KRADO

I'm sorry, what?

GENERAL TERPOMO

Didn't you know?

TIMOTHY

Am I mentioned? Dave, did she say anything about me?

KRADO

What do you mean, foreign friends in the Sands? What money?

GENERAL TERPOMO

International privatization. I figured you knew that's what he wanted since the two of you are... well.

KRADO

Are you kidding me? I've been in talks with some of the Sablo community leaders about giving them the Sands back. It's been exploited by us long enough... poisoned river, international corporations? It'll be even worse.

GENERAL TERPOMO

Really?

KRADO

What?

GENERAL TERPOMO

You trust them to use the land properly? Their beliefs would let the mines go fallow.

KRADO

So we produce less, but being a one resource economy is hugely unstable anyway. It'll be worth it if it means the Sablos don't live in squalor and don't have their religion stamped on --

GENERAL TERPOMO

(pressing on Elektita)

That's some classic bleeding heart bullshit.

ELEKTITA

...mom.

TIMOTHY

Oh thank God.

GENERAL TERPOMO

You'll ruin Rimedoj by giving handouts to thugs / because you --

KRADO

Dire circumstances / have led Sablos to desperate actions.

GENERAL TERPOMO

-- you're naive enough to believe / people don't need to be kept in line --

KRADO

Keep talking the party line, you goose-stepping robot --

ELEKTITA

Mom! You're hurting me!

GENERAL TERPOMO

Sweetie, I...

(beat)

I shouldn't have gotten so riled up. It's just... well, my poor Elektita... my poor sensitive Elektita...

KRADO

Get to the point, General.

GENERAL TERPOMO

Timothy's been keeping secrets from you. Not just the privatization plans, but also... he was bragging about the Sands -- classic male peacocking -- and he has a bit of a wandering eye, you see, and it's landed / on Elektita...

ELEKTITA

Mom, please...

KRADO

General, what are you doing?

GENERAL TERPOMO

Mm?

KRADO

You expect me to believe that bullshit? What are you doing? Why are you trying to sow dissent?

GENERAL TERPOMO

How dare you? Look at my daughter! Look at how shaken she is. She was in tears just now -- why do you think?

Silence.

GENERAL TERPOMO

I wish it weren't true.

KRADO

I'll break his fucking throat. I should have dumped his ass after I caught him...

GENERAL TERPOMO

(squeezing Elektita's  
shoulders)

Caught him what? You mean to tell me you let a sleaze near my daughter?

KRADO

He brought home dominatrix prostitute one time and I / walked in.

GENERAL TERPOMO

As far as you know it was one time.

KRADO

General, if I want relationship advice from a collection of bullets that happen to be in the shape of a woman, I'll let you know.

GENERAL TERPOMO

You should be ashamed of yourself. You're too lenient and he -  
-

ELEKTITA

Mom! You're hurting me!

TIMOTHY

Wait, if she made the post, then that means...

GENERAL TERPOMO

(loosening her grip)

Dearie...

(beat)

We can't stop moving. I shouldn't have brought you this.

KRADO

No, it's... you're worried about your daughter. It's natural. Thank you. I'm sorry for... for jumping down your throat earlier.



GENERAL TERPOMO

Forget I said anything.

KRADO

Can't. But it's more important we get out of this alive.  
Unity... and all that bullshit.

Krado smacks her cheeks, takes a  
few deep breaths and pumps her  
arms.

KRADO

Okay. Let's do this.

GENERAL TERPOMO  
(clapping her on the  
shoulder)

Atta girl.

(clapping Elektita on the  
shoulder -- Elektita nearly  
falls over)

You too, sweetheart.

TIMOTHY

Dave. Get the chopper here now. I mean... please. Mister  
Sorenson. Please send a chopper.

Krado offers her hand.

KRADO

Unity and all that bullshit?

GENERAL TERPOMO  
(taking her hand)

And all that bullshit.

They pump a firm handshake.

KRADO

You were right, General: no one knows that we --

What about me? ELEKTITA

What? KRADO

Unity! ELEKTITA  
(holding out a hand,  
bellowing)

Whoa. KRADO GENERAL TERPOMO  
...honey.

...and all that --! ELEKTITA

Krado embraces Elektita. Elektita  
is startled for a second, but  
then embraces back.

Unity. KRADO

Krado... ELEKTITA

Don't stop moving. GENERAL TERPOMO  
(breaking them up)

<p>KRADO (rotely saluting) Yes, ma'am.</p>	<p>ELEKTITA (enthusiastically saluting) Yes, mom!</p>
--	---

TIMOTHY  
I'll tell you the rest later, but I cannot be seen here.

KRADO  
Right, no one knows we were the impetus for the genocide. I  
can't believe I just said that out loud.

TIMOTHY  
I know what I said, I know what I promised, but I know I  
mentioned risks and... well, risks. You can yell at me later.

KRADO

Elektita, you think you can keep the crowd occupied while we wait for the Visionary's family to get here?

ELEKTITA

(enthusiastically saluting)

Yes ma'am!

GENERAL TERPOMO

Hold on, now --

TIMOTHY

You're a real pal. Thanks  
Dave.

Timothy hangs up.

KRADO

General, what's the ETA on the Visionary's family?

TIMOTHY

(downs the rest of his  
bourbon)

Babe, I've got some guys who can fly us to Norway. Come on.

KRADO

Tamigi, shut it. General, I -- hold on, what?

TIMOTHY

The revolution's over. Come on, let's bounce.

KRADO

Oh.

(shares a glance with the  
General)

You want to leave.

TIMOTHY

Uh. Yeah. Basically.

KRADO

No one can link us to what happened. Said so yourself.

TIMOTHY

That's what I thought. But.

(fiddling with his phone)

Just you take a look at what that fucking doofus over there did.

Timothy passes Krado his phone.

KRADO

What the fuck am I looking at?

TIMOTHY

Little princess over here posted this picture on Instagram and she has over fifty thousand followers --

KRADO

What does that even mean?

ELEKTITA

What's so bad about that, Timmy?

GENERAL TERPOMO

Honey, sweetie...

TIMOTHY

Let me break this down for you. That picture you hold on my beautiful, glowing, silicon slate can now be seen by anyone in the world with an internet connection. Anyone who's been paying any amount of attention to Rimedoj knows Elektita is part of the revolution. Princess won't stop tweeting about it. It won't be long before news of the Visionary's purge comes out. People will read about that. They'll see this photo. They'll start to link things together. They'll think... well, they could think any number of things. They'll think your revolution was violent. That you had a spat with the Visionary and he preemptively slaughtered the Sablos. Or that you bargained with Sablo lives. Or that --

Krado goes to Elektita and breaks Timothy's phone over her head.

ELEKTITA

Stop that! I didn't do anything wrong!

TIMOTHY

Krado! I fucking need that!

General Terpomo pistol whips Krado.

She puts a foot on her chest and  
aims the pistol at her head.

GENERAL TERPOMO

Don't you dare hurt my daughter.

Silence.

TIMOTHY

Are you okay?

ELEKTITA

Not great, thanks... but --

TIMOTHY

I wasn't talking to you.

(picks up his broken phone)

Darling? Are you alright? Will you turn on for me?

(he fiddles with it)

Yeah. Fuck. Actually dead. Thank you babe, thank you so much.

And you know what else Elektita did? Elektita --?

ELEKTITA

Tim!

TIMOTHY

Timothy. She told me she --

ELEKTITA

Please.

Timothy looks at Elektita. She  
makes a pleading face.

KRADO

What is it?

GENERAL TERPOMO

Quiet.

Beat.

TIMOTHY

She told me she thinks she's the fucking Chosen One. In some  
sort of prophecy. What a dumbass.

ELEKTITA

(mouthing)

Thank you.

Timothy flips her off.

TIMOTHY

(passing by the window)

Oh hey, that person is still making out with a cardboard cutout of the Visionary. And that guy with the crossbow is still at it. Yeah, get those dirty Sablo mannequins. Not that Sablo population is exactly thriving at the moment.

(going to the doors)

Anyway, I've got a chopper landing in ten. Gonna hightail it / to the airstrip and --

GENERAL TERPOMO

You're not going anywhere.

TIMOTHY

We're done. We should all bail while we --

General Terpomo fires a warning shot in Timothy's direction.

TIMOTHY

Jesus fuck!

KRADO

General --!

Krado yanks the General by the ankle, taking her off her feet.

She gets on top of the General and they struggle against each other. Krado has control of the General's pistol arm and is keeping it aimed out towards the audience.

KRADO

Bloodthirsty... psycho...!

GENERAL TERPOMO

Naive... bimbo...!

TIMOTHY

Krado, come on, take the gun and run -- I'm not going to leave you here.

KRADO

I'M STAYING.

GENERAL TERPOMO

SHE'S STAYING.

TIMOTHY

Give it up. It's done, come on.

Krado wrests the gun from General  
Terpomo.

General Terpomo grabs onto  
Krado's suit jacket, yanks out  
the roman candle. She breaks free  
of the grapple and holds up the  
roman candle. In her other hand,  
she holds a lighter.

Krado aims the gun at the General.

KRADO

Don't you dare light that.

GENERAL TERPOMO

The revolution's done, Krado.

ELEKTITA

It can't be...

TIMOTHY

Hon, I'm sorry, but she's right. There's no hope left. The  
Visionary is supposed to give his speech in like two minutes.  
We need / to meet Dave's --

KRADO

General. Please. I'm begging you -- get the Visionary's  
family over here. The... we can salvage this. The months of  
planning. It's not all for... There's a perfect solution  
here. We need to think. We can't... can't jump to conclusions.

GENERAL TERPOMO

Krado...

(beat)

My men are really struggling to get them over here.

TIMOTHY

Krado, give up on the family idea. They won't be able to cool  
this down. Last chance -- come with me.

KRADO

I don't care if the Visionary's family is so black and blue from beatings they look like rotten human blueberries -- get them over here.

Timothy leaves.

KRADO

What the --? Break my throat, he actually left.

GENERAL TERPOMO

I'd be in a hurry to get out too if I'd been the one who told the Visionary your plan.

(beat)

KRADO

You are absolutely bullshitting me now.

ELEKTITA

(confused)

Mom?

GENERAL TERPOMO

Wish I was. But when I pulled him aside he confessed and pleaded with me not to tell you.

KRADO

General, he knew next to nothing about our plan before you shot the Visionary, there's no way he could have told.

GENERAL TERPOMO

Are you sure he knew nothing?

KRADO

Yes.

GENERAL TERPOMO

A hundred percent sure?

KRADO

Not a hundred percent, but...



ELEKTITA

Oh yeah! Yeah! I bet he told! Yeah, what an asshole. I mean, all he cares about is privatizing stuff and like, I guess selling us out was going to private a lot of things.

GENERAL TERPOMO

Think about it. Didn't his return to Rimedoj seem awfully convenient?

ELEKTITA

Yeah! Yeah it was!

GENERAL TERPOMO

And... look. I hate to say it, but I think he was using you, Krado. I mean, the man's a globetrotter. In bed with the UN, the EU, the US... he's a stooge to power, just like his father. He doesn't even go by Tamigi Granuloj anymore. He's left us behind, embarrassed by us. Except. To pillage us.

KRADO

You're parroting what the Visionary wrote.

GENERAL TERPOMO

Only because it's true.

Krado paces. She picks up the bottle of Vision of Pearl bourbon.

General Terpmo nods at Elektita.

ELEKTITA

(mouthing)

Thank you.

KRADO

But he didn't know anything...

GENERAL TERPOMO

He's duplicitous. He kept his intentions with the Sands from you. His intentions with my daughter.

KRADO

Okay, I get it! I have bad taste in men! General, tell your men to get that cockblister back in here. We'll get this settled now.

GENERAL TERPOMO

Are you sure? It will be better if he goes.

ELEKTITA

Uh... yeah! Yeah it will!

GENERAL TERPOMO

We can pin this whole mess on him. He won't be around to defend himself.

KRADO

If he's as in bed with the rest of the world as you say, then his spin will be more influential. No, get him in here. I need to get to the bottom of this.

GENERAL TERPOMO

You're wasting time we don't have.

KRADO

And while you're at it, tell your fucking imbecilic soldiers to get the fucking family over here! How hard can it be to convince a waif and a cripple to get in a damn helicopter?

ELEKTITA

Whoa, you're getting real worked up. Break-ups are hard, but keep a clear head, girl.

Timothy reenters.

TIMOTHY

Krado, that was a craven thing of me to do. I shouldn't have -  
-

Krado throws the bourbon bottle at Timothy. It shatters on wall nearby.

TIMOTHY

Jesus, babe, what --?

KRADO

(aiming the pistol at him)

Hands in the air.

TIMOTHY

Honey, what are you --?

KRADO

Hands in the air!

Elektita looks to her mother,  
silently panicking.

General Terpomo goes still. She  
unsheathes her combat knife.

TIMOTHY

(hands in the air)

Babe, I said I'm sorry! Holy shit! I chose you over my  
investments! That's like... like a really huge step in our  
relationship!

KRADO

The General told me.

(beat)

TIMOTHY

Well, fuck. Well, since we're lobbing nukes now, General, did  
she also tell you about how Elektita --

KRADO

I don't care what that idiot did. I care about what you did.  
Why did you do it, Tamigi?

TIMOTHY

I... I didn't actually think anything bad would happen.  
Really. Truly. I didn't.

KRADO

How? How? You idiot.

TIMOTHY

I know, I know! But I... look, my father was a total fucking bootlicker for the Visionary, but he was my father, you know? And I still... I still admired him and...

KRADO

What the fuck does your father have to do with any of this?

TIMOTHY

I just... I wanted to be like him, you know? I still hadn't realized he was a soulless pawn and you'd told me your parents were trafficking sand right under my father's nose and I know they were trying to do good, I know that now, but at the time I thought that's... that's the Visionary's sand and so I... I went into my father's office and called the Visionary and told him everything you told me about your parents and... how was I supposed to know he was going to flay them alive, huh?

General Terpomo relaxes. She  
resheathes her blade. Off her  
mother, Elektita also relaxes.

TIMOTHY

I was ten! How was I supposed to know? How was I supposed to tell you? I mean we'd... we'd been friends since we were toddlers, how could I...? And I suppose I should have come clean. I had every intention to tell when the Visionary invited me back to Rimedoj a year ago. I was sure that we'd have grown apart but... but when we met, it was actually like no time had passed since I went away to Harvard. Like no time at all. I couldn't tell you. I... I mean, I don't think you can forgive me. I mean, today's pretty terrible. But will you let me go? I have very powerful friends who took such a huge chance on letting me come back to Rimedoj. They deserve a full explanation of why I -- why we failed.

Elektita goes to the window. She  
places her hand against the glass  
and looks out.

TIMOTHY

Why are you looking at me like that?

KRADO

Just tell me one thing. Tell me honestly.

TIMOTHY

Yes. Of course.

KRADO

After all of... why did you even bother to come back?

TIMOTHY

Because.

(beat)

Because I know the Sands. Our Sands -- Rimedoj's Sands are the most sought after in the world. Make the most high quality silicon chips. The whole world runs on it.

(beat)

There are some companies I represent who... who want more direct access.

KRADO

Cut the politicking and just say it would have made you a lot of money.

TIMOTHY

I... when you put it like that it sounds...

(beat)

Yeah. It would have made me and my associates a lot of money.

Krado pistol whips Timothy.  
Elektita closes her eyes.

KRADO

You were using me! You were using all of us!

TIMOTHY

Please, think of the service to the world --

KRADO

Fuck the world! What about Rimedoj? The world comes in and gets rich while we all suffer.

Elektita turns away from the window and watches.

TIMOTHY

I mean, the companies would employ Rimedoj workers, the wealth would trickle down --

KRADO

(aiming the pistol)

Spare me.

ELEKTITA

Poison in the river...

Silence.

TIMOTHY

You won't shoot me.

Silence.

KRADO

(brings the pistol to her side)

You're right.

Timothy sighs.

KRADO

I'll have the General do it.

Krado holds out the pistol for General Terpomo.

TIMOTHY

What? No --

General Terpomo puts down the roman candle and lighter on the desk. She takes the pistol.

GENERAL TERPOMO

Traitors must be dealt with.

ELEKTITA

Mom, no...

General Terpomo goes to Timothy.

Krado looks away.

TIMOTHY

Krado, honey -- remember as kids the days we spent in my house, playing in the abandoned ditches with all of the rusted equipment from the war? We had good times, we --

General Terpomo puts the pistol to Timothy's temple.

KRADO

Wait, General, hold on.

GENERAL TERPOMO

Krado.

KRADO

Maybe... maybe we can spin this. We get the family over here... and after the speech, after the parade, when we have the family abdicate... Timothy goes up too and confesses that he was manipulating them and the Visionary. The public will more easily swallow that.

TIMOTHY

But I didn't --

KRADO

(venomous)

Tamigi.

GENERAL TERPOMO

It'll be too complicated for the public. I'll take him out now.

TIMOTHY

I think it's a good plan! It's a great plan, Krado.

ELEKTITA

Mom, this is going too far! I never wanted this many people to get hurt!

KRADO

General, it is almost like you want bloodshed.

GENERAL TERPOMO

Am I the only one here with any practical sense?

The crowd chants: "Mojosa!  
Mojosa! Mojosa!"

It continues underneath the  
following.

KRADO

(checks watch)

Break my throat. It's speech time. Shit. Elektita!

ELEKTITA

Huh?

KRADO

Let the crowd know the speech is going to be delayed.

ELEKTITA

Why are you shouting at me? I never did anything wrong!

KRADO

Shut up and do something  
useful!

GENERAL TERPOMO

Hold on --

KRADO

General, I seriously don't care what war crimes your men need to commit to get the Visionary's family over here, but get it done. We're out of time.

General Terpomo and Krado don't notice as Elektita picks up the roman candle and lighter, nor as she begins to drag the Visionary's body towards the window.

GENERAL TERPOMO

Krado... the family can't come over here.

KRADO

Why the fuck not?

TIMOTHY

(noticing Elektita)

Um, guys?



GENERAL TERPOMO  
They're dead.

KRADO  
...what?

GENERAL TERPOMO  
As soon as I learned we were compromised, I ordered the execution of the Visionary's family.  
(beat)

KRADO  
(dizzy)  
Poison in the river. I'm going to vomit.

GENERAL TERPOMO  
Earlier you asked who I was talking to on the radio?

KRADO  
Goddamn you... goddamn you!

GENERAL TERPOMO  
I changed my mind. I was radioing my men who were tasked with the job, was going to tell them to abort, but... don't stop moving... they'd already gone through with it.

KRADO  
You maniac! You absolute maniac!

GENERAL TERPOMO  
Couldn't leave a potential loose end.

KRADO  
Junior was a good kid! Milda was the sweetest... and Alia and... and Dolcha was only a few months... they didn't deserve this, none of them deserved this.

GENERAL TERPOMO  
I did my duty.

TIMOTHY  
Guys, Elektita -

With a yell, Elektita thrusts the Visionary's corpse through the window.

The crowd gasps, then goes silent.

TIMOTHY

...is doing that.

Elektita stands in the window ledge. She lights the roman candle, holding it aloft as it shoots.

ELEKTITA

The Vision Day speech is cancelled! You're free! Rise up, Rimedoj! Long live the revolution!

(turning around, beaming)

How about that, huh?

KRADO

(charging towards her)

Elektita, you colossal lunatic!

GENERAL TERPOMO

(aiming at Krado)

Don't touch my daughter.

Krado stops.

Timothy makes a break for the door.

General Terpomo shoots him in the leg. He falls.

TIMOTHY

Jesus... god!

KRADO

Tamigi!

GENERAL TERPOMO

Elektita, get down from there.

ELEKTITA

I'm not doing this your way anymore, Mom, or your way, Krado, or anyone's way but mine! You guys think you know what's best for me, for Rimedoj, but you're just big dumb idiots. I didn't get those Sablos killed, that wasn't me, I did nothing wrong -- I bet you're lying about the dead people so you can keep shouting at me and telling me what to do. But I have news for you: I am Elektita Terpomo and I am the next Visionary of Rimedoj! So stop fighting -- we won! Pass around the bourbon -- oh, wait, we can't, you broke it.

(turning to face the crowd)

Hey! Any of you got booze to share?

A crossbow bolt strikes  
Elektita's chest.

She wobbles in the window.

GENERAL TERPOMO

(running for her)

No!

KRADO

Elektita!

A second crossbow bolt sinks into  
Elektita's stomach.

She falls backward -- her mother  
catches her.

GENERAL TERPOMO

Oh sweetie, my baby...

ELEKTITA

I'll be... fine... the Chosen One... can't die...

GENERAL TERPOMO

(placing her on the table)

Sh -- sweetie, please, your wounds...

ELEKTITA

Who the hell... uses a stupid... crossbow... anyway...?

GENERAL TERPOMO

(holding her hand)

Don't talk.

ELEKTITA

I didn't do anything wrong.

GENERAL TERPOMO

Honey...

ELEKTITA

The Sablos didn't... didn't die... I didn't do any...  
anything... wrong...

GENERAL TERPOMO

Nothing wrong, nothing.

ELEKTITA

The Chosen One... can't... Chosen One can't... can't...

Elektita closes her eyes.

The crowd is in a frenzy.

General Terpomo feels for the  
pulse in her daughter's wrist.

GENERAL TERPOMO

Dead.

KRADO

General Terpomo... I'm so sorry...

Silence.

GENERAL TERPOMO

(into radio)

Pacify the crowd.

KRADO

General, no!

Gunshots and screams from outside.

General Terpomo plants her foot on Timothy's chest. She aims at his head.

TIMOTHY

Wait, Krado, did you know that Elektita actually --!

General Terpomo fires.

Timothy's head snaps back, dead instantly.

KRADO

No no no no!

General Terpomo aims at Krado.

KRADO

Please! Tell your men to stop! Slaughter won't bring Elektita back.

Scattered gunshots and screams.

The sun has set completely. It is dark outside.

GENERAL TERPOMO

My daughter dead because of you. Because she fit the perfect solution to your perfect plan. She would never have... if it weren't for...

Silence.

General Terpomo sets down her pistol.

GENERAL TERPOMO

You should go.

KRADO

Yes I... I probably should.

Krado listlessly goes to the double doors.

She looks at the body of Timothy, then Elektita.

KRADO

I'm so sorry.

Krado leaves.

General Terpomo sits beside Elektita's body.

She puts on the Visionary's crown.

She rubs her daughter's hand.

GENERAL TERPOMO

(into radio)

General Terpomo to Major Rubo.

(beat)

Find Krado Estro and capture her. She should still be in the capital building. Bring her to the city square. Bring flaying knives. I'll meet you there in twenty. Over.

She places a hand on Elektita's forehead.

GENERAL TERPOMO

And for my first order as Visionary... I order...

(beat)

I order the resurrection of my daughter.

(beat)

(wry laughter)

That's what I thought.

She pets her daughter's forehead.

GENERAL TERPOMO

There there, my little girl. It'll be alright.

Krado opens the double doors,  
looking determined to say  
something. She sees General  
Terpomo and freezes.

The General doesn't appear to  
notice Krado.

GENERAL TERPOMO

Next Friday, when the funeral procession goes through the  
city... mourners will be lined up for miles, greater than the  
Vision Day parade.

Krado sneaks closer to the  
General.

GENERAL TERPOMO

People will catch one look at your face, beaming out at them  
like starlight from the open casket and throw themselves at  
you --

Krado lunges for the gun.

The general takes out her combat  
knife.

Krado aims at the General.

KRADO

Does it... does that crown mean anything in particular?  
(beat)

GENERAL TERPOMO

Perhaps.

(beat)

You should really go.

(beat)

KRADO

Was this -- did you always want... this?

GENERAL TERPOMO

My daughter was supposed to be Visionary.

KRADO

Of course.

GENERAL TERPOMO

You think me inhuman. But when Elektita wanted something, I was going break the Earth in half to help her get it.

(beat)

KRADO

You were right, by the way.

GENERAL TERPOMO

Oh?

KRADO

I should have been more decisive.

GENERAL TERPOMO

Would have saved us some loved ones.

KRADO

I should have followed my instincts.

GENERAL TERPOMO

And stopped being so afraid of bloodshed.

KRADO

No -- I'm not like you. When you were spinning all that shit about Tamigi, I should have listened to that voice in my head that was going, "she's deflecting from something." When you were shaken after radioing your men, I should've followed that gut instinct to press you harder. When you were being so reluctant about the family, I should've barrelled past my doubts and gotten to the truth.

GENERAL TERPOMO

There are no perfect solutions.



KRADO

Exactly. But things could have turned out better than this.

GENERAL TERPOMO

Could have. Should have. Those are the names of those crossbow bolts.

KRADO

I've done the work on the ins and outs of Rimedoj, of revolution. I'm trusting all that work. That I... I know how to lead Rimedoj to a better tomorrow.

GENERAL TERPOMO

You look like a scared little girl.

Long silence.

General Terpomo lunges at Krado.

Krado fires, hitting the General in the shoulder.

She drops the knife and staggers back.

Krado picks up the knife.

KRADO

I'm going to need you to say a few words into your radio.

GENERAL TERPOMO

Do your worst.

General Terpomo rips off a portion of her jacket.

KRADO

You should really think about saying a few words into your radio, General. You've got so much on your conscience today.

GENERAL TERPOMO

What about yours? Thousands of dead Sablos.

General Terpomo uses her jacket strip as a makeshift tourniquet.

KRADO

I'm not responsible.

GENERAL TERPOMO

You've got nothing. You kill me, my men will tear you apart.

Krado nods.

She toys with the knife blade.

KRADO

So. For Elektita. You said you're thinking a traditional Rimedoj funeral. Right?

General Terpomo takes a bandage from her jacket.

KRADO

Of course you are. You're a very traditional person.

(beat)

She'll look gorgeous in the open-casket procession. Look at her. Face of an angel.

Krado runs the flat end of the knife blade against Elektita's cheek.

KRADO

Face of an angel.

Krado tilts Elektita's face towards her.

She brings the blade to Elektita's nose.

GENERAL TERPOMO

(bandaging her wound)

You so much as scrape a skin cell from her face and you're a dead woman.

KRADO

Threats are pointless. I have the weapons.

GENERAL TERPOMO

Not what I meant. You need my cooperation. Desecrate my daughter's face and you won't get it. In fact, I might say a few short words into my radio and the sniper posted across the courtyard will end you.

(beat)

Turn and leave. You'll get to live.

KRADO

You've been fighting your whole life. You don't need to fight anymore.

GENERAL TERPOMO

(hovering her hand over the  
radio)

Step away from my daughter.

Silence.

Krado moves towards the window.

GENERAL TERPOMO

Put down the gun.

Krado throws the gun out the  
window.

Beat.

GENERAL TERPOMO

(advancing)

Give me the knife.

Krado throws that out the window  
too.

General Terpomo sighs,  
exasperated.

GENERAL TERPOMO

Now leave. Go out those double doors and rest.

KRADO

Don't do this. You don't want to be the Visionary.

GENERAL TERPOMO

Neither do you.

KRADO

You don't even have a vision for Rimedoj! What are you going to do? Drag us back to status quo? Miserable, grinding status quo?

GENERAL TERPOMO

Leave.

KRADO

Think of your daughter.

General Terpomo presses the radio button.

KRADO

You're tired. You don't want this.

GENERAL TERPOMO

(releasing the button)

I can't stop moving. I've never stopped moving my whole life.

KRADO

You must be exhausted.

GENERAL TERPOMO

The instant I stop moving, I'm dead. Now leave.

Krado stands before her.

GENERAL TERPOMO

(into her radio)

Sergeant Shlosilo --

Krado takes the shovel off the wall. She charges at General Terpomo.

GENERAL TERPOMO

(over radio)

-- take out Krado!

Krado strikes the General against the back of her head with the flat of the shovel.

A gunshot -- Krado's leg is hit.

The General stumbles forward, totters, then collapses by the window.

Krado stays low, limping towards the General.

GENERAL TERPOMO

(over radio)

Open fire on the meeting room!

Both hunker down as the meeting room is peppered with gunfire from outside.

During the gunfire, maneuvers towards the General.

The gunfire stops.

As the General tries to get up, Krado beats her with the shovel. She strikes General Terpomo repeatedly with the flat of it.

Blood sprays. The shovel is coated.

General Terpomo barely moves. Krado sinks the tip of the shovel blade into the General's throat. Crying out in pain, she stomps on the shovel head with her shot leg.

General Terpomo isn't moving.

Krado steps back. She closes her eyes. Her breathing is ragged. She sways, as though about to pass out.

Krado snaps awake. She removes the radio from General Terpomo's corpse. She hooks the earpiece into her ear.

KRADO

(over radio)

This is Visionary Krado speaking to everyone listening in on this channel. Visionary Mojosa is dead. The Visionary's family is dead. General Terpomo is dead. I, Krado Estro, am Visionary now. I repeat, I am Visionary now. Seconds ago, General Terpomo ordered my execution and yet, I live.

She shuffles to the window and looks out. She hefts the shovel onto her shoulders.

KRADO

This miracle proves that God has chosen me as His new Visionary. Furthermore... I... I have a vision for Rimedoj.

She shuffles to the window and looks out. She hefts the shovel onto her shoulders.

General Terpomo sits up. A great gouge in her throat, face bloody, crown bloody.

She stands. She walks to the center of the stage and faces the audience.

Timothy sits up. A bullet hole in his forehead.

He stands on one side of the General.

Elektita sits up. She goes to the other side of the general.

Elektita and Timothy lift the bloody crown from General Terpomo's head.

The three of them hold the crown.

Together, they walk towards the window.

They place the crown on Krado's head.

Sudden light shift: stark white light blasts from the window. All are black silhouettes.

Moving as though a single creature, Elektita, Timothy, and the General crawl on top of the meeting table.

They become a tree.

Silence.

Sudden light shift: it is morning.

A crowd outside begins to chant:  
"Krado! Krado! Krado!"

Krado turns away from the window. Her breathing is quick and sharp. She slows herself down.

She sees the tree. She goes to it.

KRADO

I'm sorry.

(beat)

I didn't want any of this.

Krado climbs onto the meeting table. She raises the shovel, about to dig.

KRADO

I have a Vision for Rimedoj.

Krado shoves the blade beneath Elektita. As she withdraws the shovel, Elektita wilts, then crumples onto the table.

KRADO

(raising the shovel)

I see myself doing what Mojosa never would. One day, I will abdicate... and the people will be Visionaries now.

Krado shoves the blade beneath Timothy. As she withdraws, he wilts and crumples, the same as Elektita.

KRADO

(raising the shovel)

I see myself reinstating the presidency, abolishing the office of Visionary, and I will not run for President, for -- I see myself declaring -- the people are Visionaries now.

Krado shoves the blade beneath General Terpomo. She goes the way of Elektita and Timothy.

Krado stands over them.

KRADO

And we, Rimedoj, are the gleaming diamond of the world.

Krado places the shovel across their bodies.

KRADO

This is my Vision.

Krado gets down from the table. She goes to the double doors. She pushes them open.

Krado stands before the open doors. She looks out at the audience. Her eyes plead with uncertainty.



She closes her eyes.

When she opens them again, she is  
is solid.

Krado walks through the double  
doors.

They close behind her.

THE END