

# **HERE COMES THE EXORCIST**

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ROME- EVENING

CRASIUS seems to be the only man walking in the streets of Rome, in the middle of a dangerous neighbourhood. He passes by a Caesar's statue, decapitated and full of paintings...: it's the signal this is a no man's land.

CRASIUS (O.S)

Where once the man who terrorized and dazzled the small and large cities walked, now children who don't even remember his name wander. The clock took care of deleting it forever... well, maybe it wasn't the clock at all, but the clock maker, and he did it only because he received orders from someone who was above him. It's just as the old man says: "You will be judge by the company you keep". And that man claimed to be an Exorcist.

SUDDENLY, CRASIUS stops and turns his head back: someone is following him. The stranger notices he has been discovered and starts to watch a shopwindow which he is clearly not interested in.

CRASIUS

A soldier with no armor or helmet. I must hurry up: there will be no sense in arriving dead to my destiny.

NEXT to the Caesar's statue, a MAN WITH NO EARS starts shouting and yelling. He seems completely crazy, with a distorted facial expression.

MAN WITH NO EARS

What have you done to me?! Where have you put my head! Don't you know I'm the Caesar, king of Rome and emperor of the world?

A MAN WITH A KNIFE starts approaching to the MAN WITH NO EARS, slowly but purposeful. They are now in front of each other.

MAN WITH A KNIFE

Then... Ave Caesar

The MAN WITH NO EARS falls in great pain. The knife has cut his

stomach badly. CRASIUS is now pretty far from him, although he can hear his terrible agony. But he knows he can't stop for any reason, not even for saving a man's life.

CRASIUS doesn't have to turn his head this time: he knows the soldier is following him again.

CRASIUS (TO HIMSELF)

Coward... coward as every nowadays soldier,  
This is why Rome is dying slowly.. when  
killers and robbers are free, you just look  
to another place, but when it comes to a man  
who only tries to know something you don't  
want, you hunt him down as he was the worst  
of criminals.

CRASIUS turns the corner. He has arrived. A big iron door is now in front of him. He knocks three times and waits.

A voice talks from the other side of the door. It's ARAGON.

ARAGON

CRASIUS, right? Have you come all alone?

CRASIUS

Yes. I thought it would be the best.

ARAGON

You must be crazy, then. Get in, but don't  
look back.

CRASIUS gets into the mysterious place. There are hundreds, maybe thousands of books in nearly every corner. It seems that no one has cleaned that place for a while. CRASIUS doesn't know where to look first: so many stories that maybe no one will ever find.

ARAGON (CONT'D)

You know the Exorcist is here with us, right?

CRASIUS

I wish I could believe that, but it is well  
known that the Exorcist died... long time  
ago, and...

ARAGON

That WAS well known, kid. Today, talking  
about the Exorcist is the worst of the

crimes, even worse than spitting the Caesar in his face... Sometimes I wish I could do the second.

Brief silence.

ARAGON (CONT'D)

And he didn't just "died", like people as you and me will. He was different, gifted. A "simple death" wasn't enough for the senators: here in Rome, the suspect is flogged, the criminal, crucified... but they burnt him to ashes.

ARAGÓN opens a hidden urn he had inside a trunk. It is full of "black dust".

CRASIUS

Is that what I think it is?

ARAGON

(Without listening to CRASIUS)

They didn't even dare to pour his ashes in any river: they feared that his rests, dragged by the flow, would reach a town and got under any kind of curse.

ARAGON smiles.

ARAGON

As I was telling you: the fear is driving them mad since decades.

But CRASIUS doesn't listen now. He just watches the floor, his eyes seem dead. Suddenly, a thin voice escapes from his throat.

CRASIUS

You are right, old man: he was gifted...

CRASIUS watches ARAGON, directly to his eyes.

CRASIUS (CONT'D)

But did he gave his gift to other ones... before dying?

ARAGON

You mean, disciples? Don't make me laugh,

kid . As it was a simple science that everyone can learn...

CRASIUS seems bleak now. As if his brief silence was shouting for help. The anger starts to take possession of him, little by little.

CRASIUS

I didn't mean to insult him old man, make no mistake.

ARAGON

Shut up, don't you dare to.

CRASIUS

(Provocative)

As he returned to dust since a long time ago...

ARAGON can't control himself and punches CRASIUS in the face: CRASIUS didn't even took a step backwards.

CRASIUS (CONT'D)

Is there someone else around there that can do what the Exorcist did?

ARAGON

Please tell me you're joking...

CRASIUS (CONT'D)

No, I'm dead serious. As you heard: I'm looking for an Exorcist.

ARAGON breathes deeply. Unexpectedly, he doesn't answer, as if he was searching for the right words, without finding them. He starts browsing a book, but his mind is in a far place, beyond the words printed on the paper.

CRASIUS starts losing his patience.

CRASIUS (CONT'D)

Then? Are you going to keep quite the rest of the day?

ARAGON

Get out of here. Now.

CRASIUS

Listen to me carefully: I've not risked my life in coming here in vain. Answer me.

ARAGON

I already know that, son! That's why I'm telling you to leave: there is no one in here who can help you: the Exorcist never had pupils or disciples; the only time he had a student... something really bad happened.

CRASIUS

How can you possibly know that?

ARAGON

Because that student was me.

Silence.

ARAGON (CONT'D)

Who was it, CRASIUS? Your mother, maybe...

CRASIUS

No.

ARAGON

Then, was it your son the one with this... problem?

CRASIUS

(His voice starts to crumble down)

It wasn't my parents or my son... I mean  
(He takes a breath)

It wasn't ONLY them. All my family has begun to behave strangely, one by one, like an outbreak no one could stop. Even the best roman doctors couldn't save them, and... and I fear..

ARAGON

Please, son: I've already told you...

CRASIUS

And I fear I'm next.

SUDDENLY, someone knocks violently the door. ARAGON and CRASIUS see each other, confused and petrified. It's the ROMAN ARMY.

ROMAN LEGIONARY

Open the door.

ARAGON and CRASIUS hold their breath, trying not to make even the slightest move. But both of them know it is already too late.

ROMAN LEGIONARY

Open the door!! Or we'll open it in Caesar's name!

ARAGON

They won't ask it for a third time.

HISPANIC LAND: SOME DECADES BEFORE. FOREST-NIGHT

An enormous forest appears before ARAGON's eyes. The silence reigns here, only the wild wind blows. There aren't even signs of cities, towns or any human sign: nothing but trees of many feet tall. Complete desolation.

ARAGON

Where am I? Am I lost?

The wind is his only answer.

ARAGON (CONT'D)

I knew it! I knew I must have remained in my home town... how sweet would it have been dying of starvation instead of being here: a hell made of trees!

Steps are heard in the distance. Impossible to know if they are human or not.

ARAGON (CONT'D)

(SHOUTING)

Someone! Help!!

The steps get closer. And they keep getting faster and faster.

ARAGON (CONT'D)

I'm not going to die here, you listen to me?!  
You'll never get me!

He takes a small knife out of his pocket. He starts to make an horizontal line in a tree's surface, as a signal of already being

there.

ARAGON (CONT'D)  
You'll never get me...

He hears the steps again. He tries to run, but then notices that the steps have completely stopped. The silence gets back to it's throne...

ARAGON (CONT'D)  
For God's sake... I think it's over.

BUT it's when a WOMAN starts yelling, all of a sudden. ARAGON starts looking around, but he can't tell where the desperate screams come from.

ARAGON (CONT'D)  
(Trying not to get overwhelmed)  
Where are you? Where?...

The WOMAN's screams continue. ARAGON starts looking around, but he doesn't even know where to start searching. It's like the WOMAN'S voice comes from everywhere at the same time.

WOMAN  
(Total panic)  
HELP!! HE'S HERE! MURDERER!!

ARAGON stops. The fright has petrified his legs. It's when he turns his head slowly: the mark he left on the tree (the horizontal line) is now a cross.

ARAGON  
Oh, God..Oh, no.. NO!!

ARAGON falls on to the ground. His face is in complete terror. It's not only the mark he left, but all the trees surrounding him have crosses.

WOMAN  
MURDERER!!

ARAGON  
(Covering his face with both hands)  
What is happening here?!!



The steps can be heard again. But the wild wind keeps blowing.

The scene changes: It's now MORNING in the forest.

ARAGON wakes up: APPARENTLY he is not in the same place as he was the previous night: no marks can be found.

ARAGON (CONT'D)

A dream... well, more like a nightmare, though.

He starts walking again.

ARAGON (CONT'D)

It appears that I will never arrive to Cartaeia. It's funny: in my home town there was no food due to the terrible famine. But now... I'm exactly in the same situation

He searches for food in all his pockets: nothing, except of the small knife.

ARAGON (CONT'D)

It appears that I will not longer need you, buddy.

ARAGON throws the knife as far as he can. He didn't walk many metres when he looks at the trees again. The crosses are still there.

ARAGON (CONT'D)

It wasn't a dream... it happened in real life. So, that woman: I must find her! I only hope it's not too late!

It's when a tall man behind ARAGON appears. He is wearing black, long clothes. He takes a big hat out of his head. His name is EVANO D'ASMODEO.

EVANO

Who you must find?

ARAGON turns his head and sees EVANO. ARAGON feels something is going wrong.

ARAGON  
(Dubitative)

It's... nothing.

EVANO  
Sorry for my bad manners, gentleman: my name is EVANO D'ASMODEO: I'm an Italian doctor who is passing through this country. By the way, do you know how can I reach north?

ARAGON  
Excuse me?

EVANO  
I'm heading north: a strange case is waiting for me there. As you can see I'm lost... just like you.

ARAGON  
I'm NOT lost.

EVANO  
(Smiling)  
Then, can you tell me how can I reach north?

ARAGON  
Well, that's... right there, where I'm pointing.

EVANO  
Nice try on getting a foreigner lost.

EVANO passes next to ARAGON, he now can see that EVANO'S face is full of scars with strange shapes. ARAGON also falls into account that EVANO'S hands have been always inside his pockets. ARAGON has a FLASHBACK of the WOMAN screaming MURDERER!! ARAGÓN watches EVANO again.

ARAGON  
(Talking to himself)  
He never took his hands off his pockets. It's like he's trying to hide something from me.

EVANO  
Sorry, you were saying?

ARAGON

Oh, yes; you see, I'm lost too, just like you, so since I don't know where north is...can you point it for me, with your finger?

EVANO

Pointing? There's no need on pointing. Just follow the crows.

Crow sounds. ARAGÓN starts following EVANO.

ARAGON

So, what brings an Italian doctor here in Hispania?

EVANO

There's a strange case here, the type of case in which I'm an expert.

ARAGON

Is the type of case only an Italian doctor can solve?

EVANO

Well, let's say that I haven't met any other ... "doctors" like me. I've only read about them in books.

ARAGON

I'm a librarian, and I'm afraid I've never read such a thing.

EVANO

I supposed that.

ARAGON

So, "cavaliere" (gentleman in Italian)  
Can you give me a proof that you are a real doctor?

EVANO

Proofs? Why should I? You say that as you don't trust on me.

ARAGON  
(Smiling)

Trust? Why should I?

EVANO

OK, let's put it this way: you say that you are a librarian. Let's start with the obvious facts, you are not carrying any books with you: a librarian with no books, now we're talking. So if you tell me you are delivering something, it's obvious you're lying. But there's more: I know you've been lost here since last night.

ARAGON

I'm pretty sure I haven't told you when I got lost...

EVANO

You're right, but take a closer look at you. I know you've spend yesterday's night here in the forest because of the mud covering your clothes: it's fresh yet, pretty fresh. Yes, last night seems a good estimation.

ARAGON starts taking the mud off his clothes.

EVANO (CONT'D)

And, finally: you've been carrying a knife with you.

ARAGON

How the hell can you possibly know that?! Are you some kind of wizard or something?

EVANO

A Wizard? Please, don't insult me. It's science: I've recently created a new scientific method that everyone can use: first goes Observation...

EVANO gets closer to ARAGON.

EVANO (CONT'D)

You have a hole in your pocket: it's not very

big, suitable for a small, sharp knife...

EVANO holds ARAGON'S neck, strongly enough to scare him.

ARAGON

What the heck do you think you're doing?!  
Take your foreigner hands off me!!

EVANO leaves him.

EVANO

As I supposed: you don't carry the knife with you anymore; otherwise you've used it against me. That was Experimentation. So, "caballero" (gentleman in Spanish) you said you didn't trust me, now I ask you: Why should I trust a librarian with no books, that sleeps in forests at night and carry dangerous weapons with him?

Silence.

ARAGON

I guess you have a point. But, but I don't have a reason to trust on you, either...

EVANO

That's right, and that leads us to the next part of my Scientific Method: once you've observed and experimented, you've got the proofs. Look behind you.

ARAGON turns his head back and sees a wooden hut, alone in the forest.

EVANO (CONT'D)

A doctor without patients can't be called a doctor, right?

They start approaching to the hut, but it's not the hut what calls EVANO'S attention first. EVANO stops next to a tree, completely burnt from roots to the top. EVANO starts examining the tree.

EVANO (CONT'D)

Do you know if it rained recently?

ARAGON

No idea: my home town is pretty far away.

EVANO

(To himself, looking at the tree)

... "And I saw the devil fall like lightning from heaven".

ARAGON (CONT'D)

What?

EVANO

Never mind, forget it.

Brief silence.

EVANO (CONT'D)

So tell me, have you heard the crows?

ARAGON

(Dismayed)

Yes, I've heard them, but...

Crow sounds.

EVANO

It's strange: sometimes I feel that the crows can barely talk, just like humans. When I hear those birds, I think I'm listening to a baby crying or... a WOMAN yelling.

ARAGON'S eyes open as big as plates. He tries to say something, but he fails. EVANO knocks the door. The door barely opens, letting in a glimpse of a small blond hair and two blue eyes. She is around fifteen years old. It's DONNA.

DONNA

Hello?...

EVANO

Hello, I'm the doctor you called. Your father must have told you, right?

DONNA opens the door wide.

DONNA

Oh sure, doctor, how needed you are here!

EVANO and ARAGÓN get into the hut. From the inside, the hut seems pretty empty: there's only a small table, the kitchen and an old cupboard at the bottom of the first floor.

EVANO

So, what's your name "bambina" (girl in Italian)?

DONNA

DONNA.

EVANO

DONNA, a precious Italian name.

DONNA

Of course: we come from there. Follow me, please.

The three of them begin to walk up the stairs, to the second floor. DONNA goes first. As they go upstairs, the stairs begin to grind. DONNA stops in front of a closed door, something can be heard from inside, like a very deep and heavy breathing. DONNA'S face expression is now of complete desolation.

DONNA (CONT'D)

This has been happening since some days. I know something can be done, there must be something...

EVANO

Calm down, girl. Leave it all in my hands and my art. You can leave if you can't stand it.

DONNA

No.

DONNA opens the door. It is a cramped, nearly claustrophobic room. All the windows are closed with heavy pieces of timbers. There is a bed with someone in there, but all his body is covered by a white blanket. There's nearly no space for walking. Everything is dark, except for a little candle that's strangely under the bed. ARAGON tries to pick it up, but EVANO stops him.

EVANO

Don't touch anything.

ARAGON obeys. It's when the body's breathing starts to sound heavier and deeper. For the first time, EVANO takes his hands out of his pockets, which are covered by gloves. EVANO lifts the candle and passes it in front of the stranger's face, slowly. The body starts to move and snarl, trying to get far from the candle.

EVANO (CONT'D)

Who is he, or she?

DONNA

It's my little sister: JULIANA.

JULIANA

(With a thin, but creepy voice)

Get that thing off me...now.

EVANO takes the candle away from JULIANA'S face. He starts to run the blanket off her: JULIANA'S face is red, sweating a lot. Her eyes are half open. She must be eleven years old.

EVANO

This can't be...

Someone is walking up the stairs pretty fast. EVANO and ARAGON see each other. A man appears at the entrance of the room. It's JULIANA'S FATHER: FRESNO.

FRESNO

(Worried)

Doctor, glad you came here.

FRESNO looks at JULIANA'S face. The image of his daughter disturbs him.

FRESNO (CONT'D)

She'll get better, right?

EVANO

Let's leave the formalities, please. Let's go downstairs.

FRESNO doesn't fully understand, but he obeys. DONNA wants to follow them, but EVANO stops her.



EVANO (CONT'D)

You stay here. Just put a wet towel on your sister's forehead.

ARAGON, FRESNO and EVANO sit down around the first floor's table. In the centre there's only a dead flower in a pot.

EVANO

Let's see, good man: you know that I'm a doctor, right? If I'm here, risking my own life, is because you knew the type of doctor I am.

EVANO gets closer to FRESNO'S face.

EVANO (CONT'D)

Then can you explain why you have brought me here for such a ridiculous case?!

FRESNO

(Confused)

What are you talking about? If my daughter is...

EVANO

There's nothing supernatural here: JULIANA has only a very bad- treated fever. If I had arrived tomorrow, things would have been very different for her.

FRESNO

But the doctor that came before you said the opposite! He told me that there was only one drastic solution to save her! My daughter started to have strange visions, raving during hours!

EVANO

Easy to explain: it was the high temperatures during a long time the one that caused her those delusions

FRESNO

And what about the prayers, doctor? When I was praying while taking care of her she started to rip her clothes and convulse!

EVANO

(Calmed down)

When the weather is hot, one simply takes his hat or jacket off. I don't want to imagine what would one do during a fever of those proportions, maybe one of the worse that I've seen.

FRESNO doesn't say anything: he only looks to the dead flower. His eyes are lifeless, he covers his head under his arms. EVANO seems disappointed.

EVANO (CONT'D)

Nothing supernatural...no demons..

ARAGON (O.S)

Something doesn't fit here: how the first doctor that visited JULIANA wasn't able to see the obvious? Hellish superstitions? Did he wanted to see strange phenomena because of an excessive boring life? Did he listen too much to the girl's father? Or maybe...

ARAGON holds FRESNO'S arm.

ARAGON

Mister, the first doctor that visited Juliana, didn't do anything that could be considered as strange? Did he examined someone else of your family?

FRESNO

Now that you say it... there was something, yes. I mean, ALL about that doctor was strange. Maybe the amount of work had started to fry his brain. We were all in home, but I had to go out for a while. It wasn't too long. When I was coming back, I saw that doctor running towards me. He seemed out of his mind. He started to talk about a girl I didn't know...

At this point, EVANO starts listening with attention.

FRESNO (CONT'D)

I can't remember her name right now. He told me that... that girl could sing in different

languages, French, Portuguese... even  
Suajili:he told me that he couldn't speak  
the first two, but he imagined it was French  
by how it sounded. In the case of Suajili,  
it was different: he claimed to know that  
language very well. He also told me that he  
surprised her "playing with her invisible  
mother that could hide inside trees" or  
something like that. Reached to that point,  
I told him to go away and never return.

SUDDENLY, FRESNO stops. He remembered.

FRESNO

DONNA... he told me her name was DONNA.

EVANO

What a coincidence, just as your girl.

FRESNO looks EVANO as if he was crazy.

FRESNO

I don't have a third daughter. I only have  
two girls that you've already met, JULIANA..

SOMETHING breakes on the second floor.

FRESNO (CONT'D)

.. And FRANCESCA.

SOMEONE starts screaming on the second floor. EVANO stands up as  
quickly as he can and takes ARAGON out of the hut. EVANO locks  
the door from outside with a trunk.

EVANO

Don't look back, we're leaving.

ARAGON

What the hell was that??!

EVANO

Listen to me! Whatever you do, never look  
back.

ARAGON

But, what are we going to do now? Just escape  
and pretend nothing happened?

EVANO

Who's talking about escaping?

HISPANIC FOREST- EVENING

ARAGON

Who are you?

EVANO

I already told you.

ARAGON

NO, No, I am talking dead seriously. What the hell you do?

EVANO

Why don't you tell me, ARAGON?

ARAGON

(Taking some steps back)

My name.. I haven't told you my name..

EVANO

Yes, maybe: but I know you very well. What's more, this isn't even our first encounter.

ARAGON remembers.

EVANO (CONT'D)

I was the foreigner who visited Terragonia, fifteen years ago. The one you encountered in the city square when you were just a kid.

CITY OF TERRAGONIA- FIFTEEN YEARS AGO, CITY'S DOORS- DAWN

There is a great scandal. Roman soldiers are coming and going until GENERAL SPURIUS appears.

GENERAL SPURIUS

(Furious)

Who was in charge of the City's doors? Who?!  
Who let that man in?!

GENERAL SPURIUS points to a LEGIONARY.

GENERAL SPURIUS (CONT'D)

Tell me it wasn't you this time, because now the flogging punishment you received a week ago will be a child's play compared to what awaits for you. TELL ME! WAS IT YOU WHO LET THAT MAN IN?!

LEGIONARY

Sir, I swear... I swear I didn't do anything this time... please...

A man appears behind GENERAL SPURIUS. He is DECURION CANO

DECURION CANO

General, don't search more. It was all my fault and I accept it.

GENERAL SPURIUS

You? CANO, one of my best men. Why did you do this? Must I consider you as a traitor, then?

DECURION CANO

There was no treason, Sir.. just negligence. But I know I deserve punishment as well.

DECURION CANO kneels down, but GENERAL SPURIUS stops him.

GENERAL SPURIUS

Get up, CANO! If you are punished or not, that's my decision. Compared to mine, your words are only dust. And dust can only come from more dust. That's what you are, no more, no less.

DECURION CANO watches the ground.

GENERAL SPURIUS (CONT'D)

Assemble your ten best men, DECURION. We're going to hunt the Exorcist.

GENERAL SPURIUS

(To their legionnaires)

Brace yourselves, men! The Number One Public Enemy of the Roman Empire is in this town. I don't want him alive... I want his

head!

TERRAGONIA- TOWN SQUARE:

A much younger ARAGON is sitting next to SIERRO, a beggar.

ARAGON

I don't know why we have Romans guarding our own doors. We can take care of ourselves.

SIERRO

Don't you understand, kid? They don't trust us because they know how powerful we are! We are warriors dressed as civilians!

ARAGON

Yes, yes, as you say. If we are so powerful, why don't we fight them back?

SIERRO

Will you stop making so many silly questions one day? It's obvious, we are waiting for our moment, our day: a good commander always have a good strategy.

ARAGON

The day that never comes.

A WEALTHY MAN passes next to SIERRO and ARAGON.

SIERRO

Sir, please... I'm a homeless man, I would work if I just could move my legs, please...

The WEALTHY MAN throws SIERRO a coin.

SIERRO (CONT'D)

All the gods bless you.

The WEALTHY MAN gives ARAGON another coin, but he refuses it.

ARAGON

(Outraged)

I haven't requested anything from you.

WEALTHY MAN

Get yourself lost, kid. You and this beggar.

The WEALTHY MAN continues his path.

SIERRO

You just ruined the chance of a new potential customer! If you continue this way you aren't going to be someone in life!

SUDDENLY, some Romans legionaries pass next to them. SIERRO jumps and starts running with all his forces. The WEALTHY MAN watches the man who just some seconds ago told him that he couldn't walk. THE WEALTHY MAN runs after him. ARAGON doesn't move.

THE WEALTHY MAN

Hey! You, liar! Give my money back to me!!  
Someone, stop him!

But SIERRO is now pretty far away. It's when EVANO appears sitting next to ARAGON.

EVANO

So, kid, do you really want the Romans to leave?

ARAGON

(He isn't really surprised)

Of course, we are much better without them. The only thing the Romans know how to do well is to say: "Give me my tribute!" They are like SIERRO; beggars covered in armours.

EVANO

(Smiles)

How true your jokes are. What's your name, by the way?

ARAGON

ARAGON, and yours?

EVANO

I'm afraid I can't tell you.

ARAGON

Why?

EVANO

Because you are talking with Number One

Rome's public enemy.

It's when GENERAL SPURIUS appears running right next to them, followed by many men. GENERAL SPIRUS doesn't recognise EVANO as the Exorcist. EVANO stops him, holding his cape.

GENERAL SPURIUS

Who the hell do you think you are touching?!

EVANO

Please.. just a coin..

GENERAL SPURIUS kicks EVANO several times. ARAGON wants to stand up, but the eyes of the GENERAL are enough to petrify him.

GENERAL SPIRUS

You.. you would be more useful to the Empire being dead!

GENERAL SPIRUS goes away. EVANO incorporates.

EVANO

What happened, ARAGON? Where was your courage? You told me you didn't want the Romans to stay here... but you didn't do anything.

ARAGON doesn't say a word. He can only look at the ground.

EVANO (CONT'D)

It's your decision, kid. You can let them kicking you, or you can take them out of your home. But don't worry, if you fail, there will always be an empty space for you...next to a loser.

EVANO goes away. SIERRO returns and sits next to ARAGON.

SIERRO

That was pretty close, uh?

ARAGON looks at him, then stands up. Without saying a word.

SIERRO (CONT'D)

Hey, where do you think you are going? Are you sure you want to leave me, kid? Hey!! I'm talking to you!



EVANO is now at the doors of TERRAGONIA. He is about to leave the town when DECURION CANO appears before him.

EVANO

Good afternoon, DECURION.  
Such a beautiful day to die, isn't it?

DECURION CANO

Only if they see me.

EVANO

Excuse me?

DECURION CANO doesn't answer. He opens the city's doors by himself.

DECURION CANO

You helped me twice, Exorcist.  
You saved the life's of my son  
and daughter, and I've already helped  
you once by letting you in.  
I'm a ROMAN SOLDIER, so ungratefulness is not  
part of my moral codes.

EVANO lifts his hat in a signal of gratitude.

EVANO

I must assume that you'll still be my enemy  
once I leave this town, right?

DECURION CANO

Yes. The good you've done to me has  
just been paid.

EVANO

You're a good man after all, DECURION.  
But it seems that you're  
serving the wrong king.

Far away, GENERAL SPIRUS continues searching for EVANO.

GENERAL SPIRUS

Exorcist!! Where are you??! Show yourself,  
coward! Oh, if I had you in front of me, even  
your demons couldn't save you!

EVANO  
See you another time, DECURION.  
Have a good life.

EVANO finally gets out of TERRAGONIA.

GENERAL SPIRUS (V.O)  
Oh, if I had you in front of me !!

HISPANIA'S FORREST- EVENING

ARAGON and EVANO have been walking for a while in the forest.  
ARAGON keeps immersed in his thoughts.

EVANO  
You haven't said much for a while.

ARAGON  
Yes, I was... thinking.

EVANO  
I guess you can't stop thinking about the girl.

ARAGON  
What will we do about her? I mean, I don't even want to imagine what is happening inside that hut right now.

EVANO  
I understand, but it wasn't the moment.

ARAGÃ"N  
Then when?! They could be killing each other while we are talking.

EVANO  
Don't worry. It will be all over by this night.

The forest ends. They have arrived to the city of CARTAEIA.

EVANO (CONT'D)  
Just a few hours more, and we will be dancing with the devil.

CITY OF CARTAEIA. AT THE DOORS OF THE BAR

EVANO and ARAGON are now in front of a bar.

ARAGON

What are we doing here? This is what you call  
fight the devil back? By going for a drink?

EVANO

Enter and you'll see.

EVANO puts his enormous black hat on. They both enter the bar.  
Everyone there starts to look strangely at them. EVANO and ARAGON  
take a sit in front of the barman.

ARAGON

Can you tell me what are we doing here?

EVANO

Waiting for someone that soon or late will  
come.

EVANO (O.S)

The devil is a very good actor. Just give him  
a role, and you'll see what he is capable of.  
He can hide under a long hair... or the  
sweetest of the smiles.

A woman is sitting next to EVANO. She wears a red dress that makes  
a great contrast compared to the other women in the bar. She is  
ERIKA DE SALAMANDRA.

SALAMANDRA

Hey, you aren't from here, am I right?

EVANO is obviously uncomfortable

SALAMANDRA (CONT'D)

Mmm let me guess, I know how to read people  
very well. Ah, I got it. You are Italian!

EVANO'S silence says it all.

SALAMANDRA (CONT'D)

See? And you didn't even need to say a word.

SALAMANDRA begins to drink, but she keeps looking at EVANO.  
SALAMANDRA starts approaching to EVANO.

SALAMANDRA (CONT'D)

Look, I don't know if it's a compliment or not, but you are the most quiet man I've ever met. I don't know if you are trying to look yourself interesting or, who knows? Maybe you are trying to hide something.

EVANO

Barman, please, give me something to drink.

EVANO starts looking at all the people in the bar, analysing them.

EVANO (O.S)

You can change your name, change the way you used to look, but you never couldn't fight against your demons. You've lost those battles, and you'll lose this one, too.

SALAMANDRA

It's good to know that you could speak. It would be a pity that... wait a second..

SALAMANDRA tries to get EVANO'S hat off.

SALAMANDRA (CONT'D)

Do I know you?

A black crow flies into the BAR, making a great scandal.

EVANO (O.S)

It's the signal.

EVANO stands up.

EVANO

Did the crow answer your question,  
young lady?

EVANO leaves the BAR, ARAGON tries to follow EVANO, but the EXORCIST stops him.

EVANO

I must go alone where that  
person is awaiting.

Feel free to go away  
or just wait for me, if you want.

A BAR is not such a bad place  
to kill some time, after all, right?

ARAGON

I think you've got a point.

EVANO

See you next time, ARAGON.  
Such a pleasure to meet you.

EVANO goes away. Everyone in the BAR seems consternated, talking to each other about what just happened or just having an anxious drink. SALAMANDRA keeps watching EVANO, but soon she returns to her drinking, like waking up from a trance.

SALAMANDRA (CONT'D)

Well, BARMAN, maybe I won't be able to pay you with coins, but, would you accept a bit of my talent as a formal payment. I was the most famous singer in all Hispania in my golden years after all.

BARMAN

What are you suggesting?

SALAMANDRA

I can do a small concert in here if you want.  
Hahaha, wouldn't it be great...?

ARAGON stands up and begins to walk to the door.

SALAMANDRA (CONT'D)

Many Spanish and Italian songs, and who knows? Maybe a couple of SUAJILI songs.

ARAGON stops.

ARAGON

Sorry mistress, what did you just said?

AT THE CEMENTERY GATES, CARTAEIA:

EVANO has arrived to CARTAEIA'S CEMENTERY, guided by the crow. The animal lands at the feet of a man with a long beard. His appearance gives chills. His name is DRIUGO.

DRIUGO

Hello, Exorcist. You've changed a lot. I suppose that time runs for everyone.

EVANO

Before you say something else, DRIUGO: do you remember the last time it rained?

DRIUGO

Well... it was like two years ago. A pretty bad drought.

EVANO

Just like I have imagined...

DRIUGO

Why the silly questions in a moment like this?

EVANO

Don't miss the point, DRIUGO. We're not friends: I'm here because you called me... and because you owe me a favour. Or don't you remember what happened to your son: AJAX?

DRIUGO

Yes, yes... as usual, you don't help people, you just do business. I know you don't have much time, but I must warn you: the Romans don't play as they did in the past. Not anymore.

EVANO

What do you mean?

DRIUGO

No more legionaries remaining in custody of the doors of the city. Now they are mixed

with us, dressed as simple citizens. Call them soldiers with no helmets.. or traitors. Maybe someone has already seen you, so there's no much time left.

EVANO

Well, finally something new. But it doesn't really surprise me.

DRIUGO

I imagined that, Well, I suppose you've already seen the girl.

EVANO

Yes.

DRIUGO

I assume that you already know that the three of them used to live here in CARTAEIA, well, the four of them.

EVANO

Four?(EVANO thinks a couple of seconds)  
Of course... JULIANA'S mother.

DRIUGO

That's right: they were the perfect family. The perfect couple and the perfect daughters. At least that was what everyone saw... until the girl's mother died about one year ago, very mysteriously if you ask me.

EVANO

Well, how did she died?

DRIUGO

It's more difficult than that.

EVANO

You must be kidding me...

DRIUGO

Nobody saw anything. Not even the slightest trace. One day she was fine and smiling, but the other one... she was dead. Her husband took her out of the house inside a black

trunk. And then he buried her, a few steps away from here. After that, the girl, FRANCESCA, started to behave really strange. I guess that's why they moved to the forest. Maybe it was too much for her...

EVANO

Yes, maybe... But tell me something: weren't you the undertaker of this town? You've buried nearly every person that lived here.

DRIUGO

That's right. But that was an exception.

EVANO

And why ?

DRIUGO

Because my life would have been in great danger if I did so.

FOREST: JULIANA'S HOUSE-CONTINUOUS:

The house in the middle of the forest appears again. It can be heard that someone is knocking from the inside. The door is still locked with the trunk (from outside). It's FRESNO'S voice.

FRESNO

Hey! Someone get me out of here!!

A growl can be now heard. It gets louder and louder.

FRESNO (CONT'D)

Oh, no... not again. It's happening again!

CARTAEIA'S BAR- CONTINUOUS:

SALAMANDRA looks directly at ARAGÓN. The BARMAN returns to his job.

SALAMANDRA

(Evidently drunk)

Who the hell are you? Why don't you get yourself lost?



ARAGON

You've just said you can speak in SUAJILI. As far as I'm concerned, it's a very rare language in these lands. I suppose you are the only one in CARTAIEA who knows how to speak in that language.

SALAMANDRA

Well, you're right. You know what? You remind me of someone. Yes, that woman told me the same as you. She was impressed that I knew that language. What's more, her favourite song was one in SUAJILI. Yes, what a lovely remembering...

ARAGON

A woman? Isn't she the woman that lives in the middle of the forest outside the city and...?

SALAMANDRA

Wait, wait, wait. What are you talking about? There's no woman living in the forest. She is dead.

Someone enters to the bar in great euphoria. It's a CITIZEN.

CITIZEN

Hey BARMAN, where has he gone?

BARMAN

He? Who is "he"?

CITIZEN

The EXORCIST, of course! Didn't you recognise him? He has returned to CARTAIEA!

Everyone stands up and starts getting out of the bar, talking about the unexpected visit of the EXORCIST. Only SALAMANDRA and ARAGON remain sitting.

SALAMANDRA

I knew it. I knew I knew him!

SALAMANDRA looks at her empty glass. She puts it away.

SALAMANDRA (CONT'D)

It's your fault again. You made me blind today, maybe you'll kill me tomorrow.

SALAMANDRA looks to ARAGON.

SALAMANDRA (CONT'D)

What are you waiting to? You came with the EXORCIST, now go with him. Some love him, but also some hate him. Even the EXORCIST needs someone at his side. He may be needing you.

ARAGON

Yes, I guess you're right.

SALAMANDRA

Yes, leave the dead to the dead ones. I will join them, soon.

SALAMANDRA throws her glass violently to the floor. ARAGON doesn't know what to say. He leaves the bar. SALAMANDRA begins to sing in low voice. Or maybe she is crying.

CEMENTERY- CONTINUOUS

EVANO and DRIUGO have entered the CEMENTERY. They are both looking to a tomb with no name.

DRIUGO

Here is where she lies. Right under our feet.

EVANO

Answer me, DRIUGO. Why haven't you buried her?

DRIUGO

I know I was a coward, but I was afraid. Afraid of dying. He said that if I just touched the trunk, I would be dead. And I never take that kind of risks.

EVANO

Who told you that? Oh, let me guess...

DRIUGO

Yes: it was FRESNO, her husband. He is the only person that saw her dead. I must admit

that he is a pretty smart guy: he managed to avoid anyone to see him burying his wife... he found the perfect excuse for an imperfect case.

EVANO

Tell me more.

DRIUGO

The "UNKNOWN PEST". The worst outbreak that CARTAEIA has ever faced: this happened a long time ago, before the first time you came to this town. He claimed that his wife has been mysteriously infected with this PEST, and you know what? Everyone ran away from the trunk... me included. No one even dared to see the burying. You don't know how this pest was in past: you could get infected only by walking next to the sick, only by breathing the same air as them! But the greatest source of infection were...

EVANO

(Smiling)

...Corpses.

DRIUGO

Yes. Corpses. Now you see it all. We thought that we've beaten the "UNKNOWN PEST"...

CARTAEIA'S BAR- CONTINUOUSLY

SALAMANDRA appears again, coughing. Her face turns pale. She tries to help herself with a bit of beer, when SUDDENLY she coughs blood into her empty glass.

DRIUGO (V.O)

But FRESNO convinced us with fear that the PEST was still between us, in the form of his dead wife.

SALAMANDRA

(Looking at the glass, trembling)

Like I told you, leave the dead with the dead ones.

SALAMANDRA looks at the door.

SALAMANDRA (CONT'D)

Forgive me, Exorcist. If I had known it was you... if I.. if I hadn't been so drunk!!

SALAMANDRA falls from her sit, she still moves on the floor, but she's too weak to stand up.

SALAMANDRA (CONT'D)

It seems that you got too close to the devil.

SALAMANDRA breathes for the last time.

CEMENTERY- CONTINUOUS:

EVANO

Let's end this, DRIUGO. Here and now. Give me your shovel.

DRIUGO

No, no, no, you can't be serious, Exorcist. There must be another way...

EVANO

No. We'll open this tomb

DRIUGO

But what if it's true? What if it's true what FRESNO told us? We'll die, the PEST has no mercy!

EVANO

And you neither. Let me remember you that you should be dead now, like the criminal you were.

DRIUGO

That was before my son was born.

EVANO

I don't care. DRIUGO, you're the kind of person that I wouldn't help twice, and I've helped you before. The shovel.

DRIUGO gives EVANO the shovel. He starts to unearth the trunk.

DRIUGO

It's like they all say!! You just give disgraces to the ones you help, to the towns you arrive to! That's why you want to return to Rome! Your cure is worse than our diseases!

EVANO

Go away if you want. If the trunk's pest doesn't kill you, then they will do it. See behind you, in the distance. They've already seen you with me, with the Rome's most feared enemy. I've barely finished this.

DRIUGO

Who? Oh, no... Oh, for all god's sake.

In the near distance , a big crowd can be seen. They approach with small swords, knives and sharp pieces of wood. Some of them want the head of the Exorcist, but some of them want to avoid his death, too.

DRIUGO (CONT'D)

They will kill you, too, Exorcist! I damn the moment you helped me! I damn the moment you helped my son!!

EVANO

Here it is!

Finally, the black trunk is outside the tomb.

DRIUGO

Don't..

EVANO

At least, you'll die knowing the truth,  
DRIUGO.

EVANO opens the trunk. DRIUGO looks away, terrified

EVANO (CONT'D)

Just as I imagined.

DRIUGO

What? What is it?

EVANO

It's EMPTY.

DRIUGO

It... it can't be..

EVANO

Well, DRIUGO, it was nice to meet you. Not a pleasure, but at least it was interesting.

DRIUGO

No... no, no, no. You're coming with me. I won't die alone here!

EVANO

It's not too late.

EVANO closes the trunk.

EVANO (CONT'D)

Your salvation is just in front of you.

EVANO walks away. DRIUGO just waits to the CROWD.

CROWD

Look! It's DRIUGO! He let the EXORCIST escape!

DRIUGO

Stop!! Stop right there all of you! Look what I have in front of me: see this black trunk? I'm sure you'll remember it. Many years have passed, but it's as deadly as the first time!

CROWD

Don't ,move!! It's FRESNO'S wife trunk. The last source of the "UNKNOWN PEST"! Go back, go back, don't let your children approach!

SUDDENLY, a blond young man appears. He has a lot of presence, as if he is destined to great things. He is AJAX.

AJAX

We're not going back.

AJAX walks in DRIUGO'S direction.

DRIUGO

AJAX... my son.

DRIUGO hugs AJAX.

AJAX

Father, why?

DRIUGO

I know, son, I know being alone with the Exorcist was a bad idea.

AJAX

No, why if the trunk has the PEST, you hadn't told me to stop?

DRIUGO'S face turns pale.

AJAX (CONT'D)

Or is it because...

AJAX kicks the trunk, opening it.

AJAX (CONT'D)

... it has been empty all this time?

AJAX kisses DRIUGO'S cheek.

AJAX (CONT'D)

It's him. You've got the signal.

A tall man emerges from the crowd. It's GENERAL SPURIUS.

GENERAL SPURIS

Good job, AJAX, but I'm afraid you aren't a true roman soldier... yet.

AJAX nails a knife on DRIUGO'S chest.

AJAX

(Barely crying)

Ave... Caesar.

DRIUGO touches his chest, trying to get the knife out of his body. But it's too late. He takes some steps back, and fall down to the ground. DRIUGO is dead. AJAX looks away.

AJAX (CONT'D)

He was my father, GENERAL. He gave me my life. Was it really necessary?

GENERAL SPURIUS

Are you doubting, AJAX? Now you've finally got this far, you doubt?

AJAX

No, sir. No doubts at all.

AJAX tries to give the bloody knife to GENERAL SPURIUS, but he refuses it.

GENERAL SPURIUS

No, keep it as a souvenir. And remember, AJAX: your father hadn't given your life, it was God. And the only God you need to believe in, is the Caesar. Now come with me, it's time for you to leave CARTAEIA.

AJAX

And what about the Exorcist, sir? Aren't we going to chase him?

GENERAL SPURIUS

Time to time, AJAX. We haven't got enough resources now, not many soldiers and you not much experience. I have encountered the Exorcist two times: we're going for the third one.

They both leave the CEMENTERY.

GENERAL SPURIUS (CONT'D)

Nothing to see here, everyone. Go home. Rome has talked.

One by one, the CROWD starts leaving the CEMENTERY, too.

EVANO leaves CARTAEIA.

EVANO (O.S)

As I was telling you, the devil is a very good actor: he can hide under the sweetest of smiles



(images of SALAMANDRA dead, smiling in the  
BAR)  
or under the largest of beards  
(images of DRIUGO'S body)  
Yes, the devil is definitely a good actor,  
but not a perfect one. It's all about  
following his tail.

ARAGON

EVANO!

EVANO

Where have you been all this time, ARAGON?

ARAGON

It doesn't matter now.

EVANO

You're right. We must hurry. The forest  
awaits.

EVANO (O,S)

Now, what would it feel to defeat the devil  
in his own theatre?

EVANO and ARAGON get into the forest.

FINAL SCENE: HISPANIA'S FOREST- NIGHT

Night has arrived and silence starts his reign again. Only wild  
wind blows, but it blows stronger this time. ARAGON begins to  
cough.

EVANO

Everything's right?

ARAGON coughs louder. He holds his chest in pain.

ARAGON

Not sure. My chest hurts, like I got nailed  
with a knife.

EVANO

Maybe it's ...

EVANO (CONT'D)

Maybe you're afraid.

ARAGON

Afraid? Should I be afraid?

EVANO

Don't know, you tell me

SUDDENLY, EVANO stops.

EVANO (CONT'D)

Look.

The wooden hut in the middle of the forest appears again, but this time, it seems alive. Someone keeps knocking from the inside.

ARAGON

Oh. no, has it started again?

EVANO

No, it's going to finish.

SUDDENLY, FRESNO aims to open the door. He runs towards EVANO.

FRESNO

It was true! It was all true, I swear! What that doctor said about the girl named DONNA, he wasn't lying! Please, I beg you, that DONNA has taken my FRANCESCA'S body, she even spoke to me in SUAJILI and JULIANA, oh my JULIANA, she needs an Exorcist and..

ARAGON

FRANCESCA must now SALAMANDRA'S songs pretty good, ah? I say that for the SUAJILI thing...

FRESNO

What? Look, I have no idea what you...

EVANO

Sure, sure good man. Let's get in. But let's close the door first

FRESNO

But, why that?

EVANO

To prevent the demons from escaping,  
obviously. And, I've got a question for you,  
do you remember the last time it rained here?

FRESNO

But why that type of questions in a moment  
like this? Do you really thinks it's...?

FRESNO is petrified.

EVANO

Tell me, good man, can you hear the crows?

FRESNO

No, I can't hear any...

A crow sounds at the distance.

EVANO

Bring all the candles you have: the exorcism  
is about to start.

A circle is drawn on the floor with red ink. Candles go around  
it. EVANO, ARAGON and FRESNO enter the circle.

EVANO (CONT'D)

Now, I want us to hold our hands, and close  
your eyes.

Everything is in silence. The fire of the candles are dancing  
nervously.

EVANO (CONT'D)

In order to defeat a demon, no matter how  
powerful he is, the only thing we need is his  
name. Just his name and everything will be  
over, the demons will go and your normal  
lives will continue as always.

EVANO concentrates.

EVANO (CONT'D)

In the name of the Almighty, in the name of  
cross and rose, tell me, demon, where do you

hide?

Something moves upstairs.

FRESNO (CONT'D)

Francesca?...

EVANO

Shut up. Demon! In the name of the Almighty,  
tell me your name!

FRANCESCA

(From upstairs)

Dad? Is that you?

EVANO

Don't make me repeat myself, demon! My words  
aren't spoken in vain. In the name of the  
Almighty, tell me your...!!

Silence.

EVANO (CONT'D)

Did you hear it?

FRESNO

What is it?...

EVANO

I know his name. He has spoken.

ARAGON breathes faster.

EVANO (CONT'D)

In the name of the Almighty, FRESNO: you've  
been defeated.

EVANO has now a silver chain imprisoning FRESNO'S hand. FRESNO  
tries to get out of the house.

EVANO (CONT'D)

ARAGON!! DON'T LET THAT MOTHERFUCKER  
ESCAPE!

ARAGON takes FRESNO down to the ground.

EVANO (CONT'D)

It wasn't that difficult after all. You've let so many traces behind you that I can't count them!

FRESNO

Let me go!! Don't you dare touching me!

ARAGON holds FRESNO who is still on the floor.

EVANO

You know what, FRESNO? Even if I'm Italian, as you, I must admit that I love Greek culture. Take for example... oh I have the perfect word for this moment: "devil" Do you know what the word "devil" originally meant in Greek?

FRESNO

No.. No!

EVANO

What a pity, you should know. It meant "divide", "cut". You, FRESNO: you've "divided" your family, you've divided your wife's body, "cutting" her into pieces! And finally, if all what I've said wasn't enough, you've burnt her body under that tree, "falling like lightning from heaven".

FRESNO

What? You say that because the tree is burnt? Haven't you thought about a storm, a lightning or something?

EVANO

"Do you remember the last time it rained?"

Silence

EVANO (CONT'D)

Exactly, it's been quite a long time ago. A drought of two years, and your wife died one year ago. Or should I say: you killed your wife one year ago.

FRESNO

(In complete desperation)

My daughters!! Help them, Exorcist! They are possessed!! Help them and then go away!! You haven't finished your work!

EVANO

Oh, that's right: the possession. I've already solved Juliana's case, except for a small detail: you WANTED me to believe that she was possessed when she was only sick to avoid me discovering the truth. Think about it, candles under the bed? Yes, at the moment I arrived there was only one, but when I looked under JULIANA'S bed I saw the floor was covered with wax. What was that: some kind of ritual? Ridiculous. You knew the Exorcist was approaching because the crows were near, but you didn't know exactly WHEN I would arrive. You simulated this "possession" thing. You did nothing to treat her fever. Did I told you that JULIANA would have died if I had delayed only one day more?

ARAGON

You... bastard.

EVANO

No possession here. No demons. Only a desperate killer, trying to get out from hell. And you know what? You didn't wait for the night to come. No, no: you killed her in the morning.

FRESNO

How could you possibly...?

EVANO

You know how I know? You've left the biggest of traces here... and it's still there.

ARAGON

What? A bowl with grapes?

EVANO

Yes, a bowl with grapes. When you lived in CARTAEIA, JULIANA used to come to the forest

to collect grapes. Pretty common hobby of young girls. When you moved here, she continued with her collecting. Now, look at the grapes next to the table: they are all rotten. The bowl is too small for FRANCESCA and I don't know a single man who collect grapes in a bowl. Only JULIANA is left. And obviously: the grapes are rotten because JULIANA was sick for about...

EVANO touches the grapes.

EVANO (CONT'D)

...A week. Yes, seven days exactly.

ARAGON

But that doesn't explain how you know the murder occurred in the morning.

FRESNO

Of course not, fucker: someone told you. A liar knows lies like the palm of his hand. I'LL KILL THE ONE I TOLD YOU! I'LL KILL HIM!

ARAGON

Shut up!

EVANO

Don't bother, ARAGON: he'll be as quiet as this night in a while.

FRESNO stops. EVANO approaches to him.

EVANO (CONT'D)

Don't you see it? JULIANA wasn't at home when you killed your wife. But FRANCESCA, yes.

FRESNO begins to breathe faster.

EVANO (CONT'D)

Which explains the other "possession". FRANCESCA saw it all. FRANCESCA saw how you killed your wife in your house at CARTAEIA. Then you've put her body inside a trunk, come here to the forest and burnt her body. When you returned to CARTAEIA, you've invented all this PEST story to avoid anyone to find

the truth. And then, you moved to the forest to assure that no one ever find your wife ashes. Well, you've failed.

EVANO stands up.

EVANO

FRANCESCA has developed a double personality. The first one is FRANCESCA, she is the one that saw it all, and the one that takes control of her body during the "possession attacks". The other one, is DONNA, a new personality she created that hasn't lived the trauma. A new personality that allows her being happy and smile.

ARAGON

And DONNA knows several languages including SUAJILI because her mother loved SALAMANDRA'S songs.

EVANO

You're learning quickly, ARAGON. FRANCESCA has now a new personality that lives far away from your sickness. A new personality that is standing right now at the stairs. One healthy grape in the middle of a rotten bowl.

DONNA is standing at the stairs, quiet frightened.

EVANO (CONT'D)

Hello, DONNA.

DONNA

Dad? What, what is happening here?

FRESNO

Don't approach, little girl. Please, stay there..

DONNA

Dad, I don't know what's happening to JULIANA. I.. I thought she was sleeping, but...

FRESNO

(With tears on his eyes)



Oh.. Oh no...Lord..

DONNA  
(Barely crying)  
..But she isn't breathing.

Silence

ARAGON  
I'LL KILL YOU, BASTARD!

EVANO  
ARAGON!! STOP!

FRESNO  
You don't have proofs... Very nice story,  
but you've got no proofs!

EVANO  
Proofs? You want proofs? At this far, are you  
talking about proofs?!

EVANO looks at DONNA.

EVANO (CONT'D)  
Very well, then. If you want proofs, I'll  
give you proofs. FRANCESCA, excuse me,  
DONNA...

DONNA  
FRANCESCA?

EVANO  
Where is your mother?

DONNA  
I've got no mother.  
(Starts crying)  
And no sister now..!

EVANO  
FRANCESCA, remember, look at your father.  
Are you telling me you don't know where your  
mother is?

DONNA  
NO! STOP!!

DONNA holds her head with both hands. She starts trembling with great violence.

DONNA (CONT'D)  
HELP!! HE'S HERE!

ARAGON petrifies.

DONNA (CONT'D)  
HELP!! HE'S HERE!! MURDERER! MURDERER!!

ARAGÓN remembers the WOMAN yelling last night, when he was lost in the forest.

ARAGON  
It was you... all this time. You are the  
WOMAN I heard last night...

EVANO  
ARAGON, please, I beg you: make that poor  
creature stop; she doesn't deserve this.

ARAGON tries to calm DONNA down. EVANO ties up FRESNO to the chair with his chain.

EVANO (CONT'D)  
It's all over.

DONNA  
Murderer...murderer...

DONNA begins to calm down, fatigued by the remembering.

EVANO  
Listen up, "bambina". I want you to hold  
this.

EVANO takes a knife from his pocket. A small knife. He gives it to DONNA.

ARAGON  
Wait.. isn't that my knife?

EVANO  
Yes, I found it last night.

DONNA holds the knife. It's still very sharp.

EVANO (CONT'D)

Now that you know that your father killed not only your mother, but your sister as well... I want you to make a choice.

FRESNO

What do you think you are doing?

EVANO

You can avenge your family, finishing the murderer's life here and now. But once you kill someone, you don't know if you are going to stop one day. Or you can take the knife and come with us, you could use the same knife to cut fruits or hunt animals to feed yourself and others. Decide, "bambina"... Avenge or pardon... Hell or heaven. Don't disappoint me.

EVANO and ARAGON go out of the hut. FRESNO is tied up while DONNA is looking at the knife. EVANO looks at them for the last time, and then closes the door. He nails a silver cross to the door.

EVANO (CONT'D)

The Exorcism has finished.

EVANO and ARAGON walk away.

EVANO (CONT'D)

So, ARAGON, are you still lost in the forest?

ARAGON

Well, I was heading CARTAIEIA to start a new life as a librarian. My home town, TERRAGONIA has not enough food for everyone. If I'm out, maybe more mouths will eat properly. But now, after all this, I don't know what to do... what about you?

EVANO

I'm heading Rome. That's my final destination. There is something I must do there.

ARAGON

What is it?

EVANO

I'll tell you another day: not all the book  
can be told in just one chapter, right?

ARAGON

I guess you're right. What about the girl,  
DONNA?

EVANO

It's all up to her now. Everyone's life is  
up to one.

EVANO and ARAGON walk away. They are now very far from the hut.  
The silver cross nailed to the door appears again

EVANO (V.O)

The Exorcism is finished.

THE END-