## START EPISODE TEN

Α.

Irene sits playing with her visitor, Constantine VI.

IRENE

What do they tell you about Mama?

CONSTANTINE VI

. . .

IRENE

You must hear whispers.

CONSTANTINE shakes his head.

IRENE (CONT'D)

Do they say I'm bad?

You don't hear anything or you don't listen?

It's good for Mama to hear what is being said.

There's nothing you want to say to Mama?

Nothing?

Nothing at all?

CONSTANTINE VI

(whispering)

Mitera mou I love you.

IRENE (CONT'D)

Do they say I'm bad?

CONSTANTINE nods his head.

IRENE (CONT'D)

What do they say I do?

CONSTANTINE VI doesn't want to say.

IRENE (CONT'D)

But that doesn't matter to me. Tell Mama if you think I'm bad, Do you think Mama's bad?

CONSTANTINE VI

. . .

IRENE

Are you careful? Around those bad people saying bad things?

CONSTANTINE VI

. . .

**IRENE** 

Who touches you each day?

CONSTANTINE VI

A few people.

For my bath.... The physicians...
I do exercises in the yard... wrestling...
but I haven't done that during the cold...
My nurse/

**IRENE** 

/She doesn't need to touch you!
Make sure you let only people you trust touch you. Hmmm, promise me?

I don't want to scare you. But do they scare you?

CONSTANTINE VI

No-one scares me.

IRENE

No-one?

CONSTANTINE leans forward to IRENE's cheek.

CONSTANTINE VI

(whispering.)

Mama, you see the holes

in the lattice?

They're watching

waiting for you

to make me tell you how I pray,

try to make me

pray with you, with the wrong words,

or for the wrong thing,

so please,

think how to please

my Father/

Irene puts a hand over Constantine
VI's mouth.

Then she CLAPS her hands.

The Philes come in.

IRENE

/Sing and dance around us!

MUSIC PLAYS.

The Philes form a dancing circle around Irene and Constantine, partially hiding them from view.

NARRATOR

And through dancing arms and legs, You can see Irene trying to give her new icon to her son. You can see her forcing it into his pocket.

Irene forces the ICON into Constantine VI's pocket.

The Philes finish and pull away.

Revealing Irene who is holding out an apologetic hand to Constantine VI, who has his back to her and is crying.

IRENE

There's no need to cry. Why are you crying?

CONSTANTINE VI

Why did you do that, Mama? Why?

IRENE

(puzzled.)

Because Mama knows you're safe if you have her with you,

and you need her more than me, so keep her/

He thrusts the unwanted ICON back at her. She stares at it in surprise.

IRENE (CONT'D)

(whispering)

No, keep her hidden!

CONSTANTINE VI

(whispering)

I don't want

(MORE)

CONSTANTINE VI (CONT'D)

to kiss your icon,

Bad Mama!

Bad!

IRENE

What?

Constantine VI backs away from his mother.

IRENE

(whispering.)

You loved to kiss my old icon!

What are you doing? Let Mama hold your hand!

She watches him cringing away from

her.

She holds out her hand and smiles.

I know you're still Mama's friend.

Constantine VI stands tall and puts on a man's voice.

CONSTANTINE VI

I love my father more than you!

THE SOUND OF CONSTANTINE VI

RUNNING AWAY

IRENE

Megaris!

**MEGARIS** 

I've got him!

Megaris chases after Constantine VI.

CONSTANTINE VI

SHE GAVE ME A COLD PAIN

SHE GAVE ME A COLD PAIN, A SICK PAIN SHAME AND FEAR INSIDE. MEGARIS

PAIN LAID DOWN FOR TRAGEDY. SAD WHISPERS FROM THE BYZANTINES.

CONSTANTINE VI

A COLD PAIN FROM SEEING THE TRUTH.

A COLD PAIN
[THAT TELLS ME
TO TELL ON HER.]

MEGARIS

[DON'T EVER TELL ON HER!]

CONSTANTINE VI

SHE GAVE ME HER ICON TO KISS.

MEGARIS

SHE SHOWED YOU HOW HER MOTHER SHOWED HER \*

CONSTANTINE VI

\* TO KISS IT LIKE A DOLL.

SHE WORSHIPS IDOLS IN MY FATHER'S HOUSE.

IRENE AND PHILES

YOUR WIFE WILL LOVE ICONS.

YOUR MOTHER, YOUR LOVER, YOUR DAUGHTERS ALL THE WOMEN IN YOUR LINE.

CONSTANTINE VI

THE DEVIL TEMPTS ME THROUGH MY MOTHER.

I KISS HER

GOODBYE.

AND RUN
AWAY TO TELL
HER SINS!

Megaris pushes Constantine VI away from her sharply.

MEGARIS

A COLD KISS FROM A SMALL HEART.

DON'T LOOK TO ME FOR LOVE AGAIN.

IF YOU TELL.

CONSTANTINE VI

A COLD KISS, WITH A COLD PAIN HIDDEN BEHIND MY FACE.

MEGARIS AND CONSTANTINE

A COLD KISS, WITH A COLD PAIN, A COLD KISS GOODBYE.

END OF AUDIO EPISODE TEN