

START EPISODE 6

A.

The sound of Constantine V
STRUGGLING TO BREATHE disturbs Leo
and Irene in her room.

LEO
My father
is dying,
suddenly
I am a man
with a son.

IRENE
My father
-in-law
is dying,
suddenly
we are old.

Again the sound of a MAN'S
STRUGGLING BREATH.

CYRA
He's drowning
inside himself.
Each breath
a loss of air.

He wants Leo
to hold him, but
Leo's always
with Irene.

MEGARIS
A forbidden
picture keeps
coming to him.

A picture
of a god in a
man's body with
a human face.

A picture
in his head
of Christ waiting for him.

CLASTS
Cyra, do you have this icon?
Do you know where it is?
Can you bring it out now?

CYRA
No, but I can say
what's killing the Emperor is an icon
right here somewhere
definitely in the palace!

CLASTS

But where is it?
Did you see it more than once?

CYRA

I don't know,
but it could be found!

The sound of Constantine V trying
to speak Leo's name, that becomes
drowned out by a GREGORIAN CHANT.

As the room turns purple.

Constantine V takes his FINAL
BREATHS

CLASTS

Too late, Cyra,
you've lost us our chance for war!

COURT

Now all are quiet
for Leo and Irene.

LEO

Leo looks in Irene's eyes
and remembers
his teacher
from Athens
a sophist
who made him feel
both right
and wrong.

IRENE

She's learnt
to cover the stare of her thoughts,
sideways out her eyes,
but her words
cut through his mind
and he wonders
if her eunuchs
still teach her these ideas
for her to put them
in his head.

LEO

When his father dies,
he leans
into her arms
and wishes she could be Emperor,
and he her wife,
but he knows
a lie is
somewhere

(MORE)

LEO (CONT'D)

in the air.
Does it come
from her?

LIGHTLY IN BACKGROUND, LIGHT
HUMMING NOW, NOW WE DIVIDE.

B.

Cut to the purple room

Leo and Irene stand in turn in
front of each member of the court
and say the same thing.

A CEREMONIAL SOUND

NARRATOR

Constantine V is buried and Staurakios follows
Leo and Irene as they request an oath of
loyalty from each member of the court.

LEO AND IRENE

(multiple times as they advance around the
room)

We are the lawful heirs,
will you honor us
and our son?

Keep us
safe with your loyalty.
Let us take power
from a father
and hand it to a son,
and on and on and on.

NARRATOR

Staurakios can't predict yet what will happen
when they reach the Argyros. He knows they've
moved some of the soldiers under their command
closer to the city. He's told Leo to handle
them with extreme deference, but maddeningly,
Leo's wife seems to have been telling Leo he
can punish any iconoclast he wants!

MOURNING CHANT IN BACKGROUND

CLASTS

Look at them together,

She could make Leo *

CYRA

* completely hers.

CLASTS

Something is turning in him.

CYRA

[Too fast]

CLASTS

What weapons
[do we have?]

His father is dead.

And the court
is turning with him *

CYRA

* towards her.

CLASTS

too fast.

LEO

LET EVERYONE KNOW,
I DESPISE ICONS,
BUT I CHOOSE TO BELIEVE...

NONE OF YOU HERE ARE ICONOPHILES.

STAUAKIOS

(whispering)

Turning a blind eye isn't going to be enough
for the iconoclasts! You have to give them
something they want in return for their
loyalty/

IRENE

/and let the iconoclasts go to war? No.
We will make people pay for any violence
against the iconophiles.

STAUAKIOS

I would *let* the iconoclasts have a few days of
violence/

IRENE

Why. Why. Why?
why should they be indulged?
Why? When they break so much?

STAUAKIOS

EVEN LARGE FLOCKS

YOU'VE GOT TWO FLOCKS OF BIRDS,

EACH WANTING PREY BEFORE THEY LAND.

LEO
PASSIONS FLEW ABOUT THIS YEAR BECAUSE MY FATHER'S
PAIN WAS SO BAD.

IRENE
EVEN LARGE FLOCKS *

LEO
* CAN MERGE PEACEFULLY

IRENE
IN A STORM FILLED SKY

STAUAKIOS
BUT IF THOSE BIRDS DON'T LIKE THE WINDS,
MAYBE THEY'LL TURN SUDDENLY.

FLY BEHIND
A DIFFERENT BIRD.

I DON'T KNOW.
I DON'T KNOW.
I DON'T KNOW!

IF YOU'RE EVEN GOING TO BE CROWNED...

IRENE
STAUAKIOS,

WE NEED TO TRAIN THE EAGLES
SO THE SPARROWS CAN FLY.

STAUAKIOS
MUCH AS I'D LIKE "THE SPARROWS" TO SOAR
MUCH AS I'D LIKE EVERYTHING TO CALM

THE CAESARS AND THE ARGYROS,
HAVE SOLDIERS NEAR, LET THEM USE THEM
ON THE ICONOPHILES
INSTEAD OF AGAINST LEO HIMSELF.

LEO
(suddenly doubtful again)
Irene, Staurakios always has his ear to the
ground...

IRENE
Because Staurakios can't fly!
he's weighed down with a thousand years of
rules!

From up here I can tell you,
Those soldiers will need much more
before they ever attack
the rightful heir.

CUT THEIR CLAWS, CLIP THEIR WINGS
AND EVEN THE FIERCEST BIRD
WILL LAND GENTLY IN YOUR HANDS.

STOURAKIOS
(sadly)
FOR MEN LIKE THIS, IRENE,
PEACE COMES ONLY AFTER WAR.

LEO
(reassured)
PASSIONS FLEW ABOUT THIS YEAR BECAUSE MY FATHER'S
PAIN WAS SO BAD.

IRENE
EVEN LARGE FLOCKS *

LEO
* CAN MERGE PEACEFULLY

IRENE
IN A STORM FILLED SKY.

LEO AND IRENE
LARGE FLOCKS, LARGE FLOCKS, LARGE FLOCKS....

LEO
THERE'LL BE NO WAR NOW AGAINST THE ICONOPHILES!

C.

CYRA
(whispering)
This is the first step, get Leo to protect the
iconophiles while she slowly teaches him to be
one!

CLASTS
(whispering)
What weapons do we have against that? Cyra you
gave us no proof she has any icon. Our soldiers
will need tangible proof before they attack.

CEREMONIAL SOUNDS

LEO AND IRENE
will you my brothers
and will you the Argyros
honor us
and our son?

CLASTS
(reluctantly. Publicly)
You are the heir, Leo. We honor you and your
son.

D.

CUT TO CYRA AND CONSTANTINE VI

NARRATOR

Cyra sits with a golden ball on her lap.

Cyra sits mournfully supervising
Constantine VI playing.

CYRA

It makes me so angry,
the child disrespects me,
won't learn.

CLASTS

(whispering)

Well what do you expect?
You've been weak.

Cyra digs her fingers hard into
the ball.

Beat.

Out of the corner of her eye, she
sees Constantine VI is heading
away.

CYRA

Constantine, where are you going?

CONSTANTINE VI

To Mama's room.

CYRA

She's not there. I've told you. They're being
painted. They'll see you later.

CONSTANTINE VI

...

CYRA

Constantine, where are you going? Did you not
hear me?!

CONSTANTINE VI

I want the dolly from her pillow.

CYRA

I don't want you running off to Megaris. I'm
here. And if you're not doing your lessons, you
don't get to play!

Constantine VI lingers by the door.

CYRA (CONT' (CONT'D)
.... were you going to Megaris?

Constantine VI shakes his head.

There's no-one in your Mama's room?

CONSTANTINE VI
If I take it away, I have to put it back.

CYRA
Because it's made of something that could break?

Constantine VI doesn't really know.

CYRA (CONT'D)
What kind of dolly is it? What's it made of?...

(brightly)
Is it a little painted lady?

CONSTANTINE VI
She's golden.

Suddenly Cyra throws a ball fast to a delighted Constantine who tries to catch it, but drops it.

SOUND OF BALL BEING THROWN AND CAUGHT AND THEN DROPPED

CYRA
Baby Constantine!

CLASTS
Baby Constantine!

CYRA
Baby Constantine,
turn to me.

CLASTS
Baby Constantine turn to us!

CYRA
Baby Constantine.
Throw the ball back to me.

THE SOUND OF A CHILD LAUGHING AND THROWING A BALL

CLASTS

Baby Constantine,
please find us that doll!

Sound of CONSTANTINE RUNNING AHEAD

Cyra walks off with Constantine
VI.

END OF AUDIO EPISODE SIX