

START EPISODE SEVEN

A CEREMONIAL SOUND

A.

Leo and Irene enter together.
Irene sings. Leo speaks.

PAINT US

IRENE
HE'S COMING
TO PAINT US.

LEO
Leo and Irene

IRENE
[SHOW US WITH
OUR CROWNS.]

LEO
[Show us with our crowns]

IRENE
LEO AND IRENE
TAKING POWER.

LEO
Paint our sweet
young faces.

IRENE
LEO AND HIS WIFE.

LEO
Irene and her love.

Look at the
poor painter
trembling.

IRENE
DOESN'T KNOW
IF OUR RULE
IS KIND.

LEO
Doesn't know
if our rule
is kind.

IRENE
PAINT LEO
AS A BUILDER,
GENTLE SAVIOR

OF OUR
CHURCHES.

LEO
(firmly.)

But not
an iconophile.

IRENE
(whispering, disappointed.)
Not an iconophile.

LEO
Paint Irene
clever and quiet,
body warm
with hidden fire.

IRENE shakes her head.

IRENE
PAINT ME STRONG
AT THE SIDE
OF POWER.

LEO
Paint
the promise
in our eyes.

IRENE
BEAUTIFUL
LEO AND IRENE*

LEO
* leading with their love.

IRENE
WEARING A NEW CROWN.

LEO
An old crown.

IRENE
A KINDER CROWN.

LEO
My father's crown.

IRENE
[A NEW CROWN.]

LEO
[An old crown.]

IRENE
[A KINDER CROWN.]

LEO
[My father's crown.]

And again. Faster.

IRENE
A new crown.

LEO
An old crown.

IRENE
A kinder crown.

LEO
My father's crown.

Even faster.

IRENE
[A new crown.]

LEO
[An old crown.]

IRENE
[A kinder crown.]

LEO
[My father's crown.]

IRENE
THE PAINTER
PAINTS
THE CHOICE
YOU MAKE.

LEO
We don't know
the crown
I put upon
my head.

IRENE
PAINT US
WITH OUR SON.

LEO
A golden halo
over our boy.

IRENE

A WARNING
TO YOUR BROTHERS*

LEO

* that power
passes from
father to
eldest son.

LEO AND IRENE

PAINT IRENE, LEO
AND BABY
CONSTANTINE.

LEO

Anointed!

Leo COUGHS and noticing it Irene's
voice gets discordant.

IRENE

PUT IT IN YOUR
EYES,

-- even if you're sick --

YOU'D KILL ALL YOUR BROTHERS
FOR YOUR SON.
EVERY SINGLE ONE.
LET THEM
KNOW. THEY
COULD BE.
MUTILATED!

LEO

A stranger
speaks out of you.
I won't ever
harm my father's
other sons.

IRENE

I speak your
fears to keep you
clean. Haven't
you learnt to listen
to me?

LEO

No Emperor
knows how
he'll rule.

IRENE
YOU RULE
WITH ME.

LEO
Quietly.

Irene CLAPS her hands.

IRENE
PAINT US
FULL OF PROMISE.

LEO
Leo and Irene

IRENE
PAINT HIM
EYES OPEN.

LEO
But not
an iconophile.

IRENE
PAINT OUR
GOLDEN FACES*

LEO AND IRENE
* WE'RE BEAUTIFUL.

IRENE
LEO*

LEO
* and my love
Irene.

LEO AND IRENE
SHOW US
WITH OUR CROWNS,
TAKING POWER.

B.

MUSIC starts for their
entertainment.

A song by the Byzantine female
composer Kassia.

Constantine VI wanders into view,
holding something,

IRENE

Oh, there's Constantine... But I said this was too late for him.

LEO

He wanted to hear the music!... Yes come here, come here... Come and tell Papa what you've got in your hand.

THE SOUND OF CONSTANTINE
WHISPERING IN LEO'S EAR.

Leo's face changes from happy to destroyed.

LEO (CONT'D)

No! Bad boy!

The Court GASP uncertain what is happening.

LEO (CONT'D)

(to the CLASTS)

CLOSE YOUR EYES!

IRENE

What has made you so angry?

LEO

You!

IRENE

...

LEO

You are not faithful.

IRENE

How can that be said of me? No-one knows my body except you. [IRENE moves to embrace LEO] And I want to know you more! I would have you come to my chamber tonight and tomorrow and every night/

Leo pushes Irene away.

LEO

/No! A thing in your pillows! A painted Lady. You kiss her as you say your prayers.

WORRIED WHISPERING FROM THE COURT

LEO (CONT'D)

THIS IS PRIVATE!

THE WHISPERING DIES DOWN

IRENE

What Constantine has is a thing of my
Mother's... to comfort me. A doll.

A whisper goes up and down the
Court.

PHILES

A doll.

CLASTS

A doll?

Leo points at Constantine VI

LEO

Constantine, bring this "doll" to me!

THE SOUND OF A SCARED CHILD
APPROACHING. WHISPERS/SMALL
FOOTSTEPS/WHIMPER

A scared Constantine VI brings the
icon to his father.

CLASTS

A doll?

PHILES

Those in the know,
know to know,
things aren't ever
what they seem.

CLASTS

But if it's not a doll,
what is it then?

PHILES

A thing
like a doll.

CLASTS

An icon
is a thing
very like a doll.
A woman's
private icon is
very, very, very
like a doll.
Is Irene
praying
to an icon
under
the Emperor's
very nose?

PHILES

It's a doll,
not a doll
to be played with,
but a doll.

CLASTS

A doll,
but not a "doll"?
What do
you do
with a doll
that's not
a doll?

PHILES

It carries memories
of her mother.

CLASTS

But she kisses it.
And her lips
form prayers.

PHILES

Maybe she talks
to her mother?

CLASTS

Her mother
who is dead?

PHILES

...

CLASTS

Hear this!
The Empress has a doll
that's not a "doll".
The Empress lies in her bed
talking
to the dead.

Leo doesn't want to touch the
icon, but he makes himself take it
in his hand.

He inspects the ICON closely.

Constantine VI watches him
nervously.

CONSTANTINE VI

I haven't broken it,
I didn't play games with it, I promise!
She is for my prayers!

Constantine VI KISSES the ICON to show how carefully he prays with it.

CLASTS

The child is kissing it!

Leo STAMPS his foot. Horrified.

LEO

I see it now!
You've taught our son pagan ways!

DEVISED SOUNDSCAPE UNDERSCORING.

LEO (CONT'D)

I can't touch you again.

IRENE

But...
You have to touch me
We have but one son, don't you understand?
We are so vulnerable.
Send me to the springs again,
I am so close to healing inside,
the bleeding is so nearly done.
I could have another child
for you by next year.

LEO

What is
my son if he
comes from
you?

He needs
another
mother.

The Philes set up an intense GRIEF
LAMENTATION.

PHILES

OI-OI-OI-OI-OI

LEO

He can't
stay in
your rooms.

PHILES

AI! AI! AI!

Irene drops to her knees and
clings to Leo's feet.

Leo looks intently at the ICON in
his hand.

LEO
(speaking)
I feared your picture
from the start.
I couldn't see
inside your heart.

IRENE
INSIDE WAS PAIN
WARMED AWAY
BY LOVE FOR YOU.

LEO
(speaking, looking at Staurakios)
I hear a stupid
eunuch laugh
like a shadow
on my tail.

IRENE
(whispering.)
My bed
is so cold
without you.
I'm dressing
in grey,
the weeds of the dead.
I've fallen so quickly.
I've fallen so far.
Let me back
into the chambers
of your heart.

A PERFECT SERVANT

A PERFECT SERVANT
WOULD TELL YOU THIS.

THERE ARE ICONS
EVERYWHERE.

ALL ACROSS
THE EMPIRE.

KEPT IN FEAR.
KEPT IN NEED.

BLEACHED OUT CHURCHES
AND STERN PATRIARCHS,
STEAL THE MAGIC
FROM DAILY DEVOTIONS.

YOU MAKE
CRIMES OUT OF
PEOPLE'S PRAYERS.

YOU HATE PEOPLE
WHO ARE JUST
LIKE ME.

TAKE MY WORDS
INTO YOUR HEART/

Bii.

LEO

/My heart
burns.

I feared your picture
from the start,
but I chose you.

I chose
devilry.

Hot pain.
Making me weak.
Making me strong.

My father's
voice
sings in me,
desperate
to smash
you in.

Irene braces herself.

I smash
your sin
instead.

Leo STAMPS on the ICON destroying
it.

SOUND OF THE ICON BEING CRUSHED

Irene SCREAMS. Then stops herself.

Irene and Leo look at each other.
Now both speak instead of singing.

LEO (CONT'D)

[I crushed it]*

IRENE

[he crushed it]

LEO

* like a heart
with a heartbeat
[beating too loud.]

IRENE

[beating with fear.]

LEO

I feel
strong.

I feel
cold again.

THE SOUND OF IRENE FALLING TO HER
KNEES AND CRYING.

Irene scrambles to pick up the
pieces of her broken ICON. She
tries to kiss it but it's too
damaged.

A stunned Staurakios looks at her
on the ground.

He looks at Leo.

STAURAKIOS

Say goodbye to peace.

He looks at Cyra.

That was a cold move, Cyra... A cold kiss.

PHILES

(whispering on repeat.)

Judas.

A COLD KISS (REPRISE)

IRENE

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

A COLD KISS,
WITH A COLD PAIN,
SAVAGE
IN MY HEART.

PHILES

A COLD KISS,
WITH A COLD PAIN

IN A HEART
THAT HURTS.

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

IRENE

A COLD KISS
WITH A COLD PAIN.

[A COLD KISS
GOODBYE.]

MEGARIS

[A COLD KISS
GOODBYE.]

END OF AUDIO EPISODE SEVEN