

Acapulco

by ALTERAZIONI VIDEO

IN FAR-OFF TIMES A **TERRIFYING CASTLE** STOOD ON THE BANK OF A RIVER. IN THE MOONLIGHT IT VIBRATED IN ITS SPECTRAL MAJESTY BEFORE THE EYES OF THE FEW AND FRIGHTENED PASSERS-BY. ON STILL, WINDLESS NIGHTS YOU COULD HEAR SHRIEKING AND WAILING - IT SOUNDED LIKE **GHOSTS** - ACROSS THE FIELDS AS FAR AS THE VILLAGE... CHILDREN GAVE IT A WIDE BERTH AND PEOPLE WERE **AFRAID** TO APPROACH IT...



VERY OCCASIONALLY YOU'D SEE SINISTER ARISTOCRATIC CARRIAGES COMING TO AND LEAVING THE CASTLE IN LONG **PROCESSION**.

YOU'VE TORN THE
PAGES OF MY
ALCHEMY BOOK.
WRETCHES!



THE **VISCOUNT**, OWNER OF THE CASTLE, WAS A **NASTY** OLD MAN INCAPABLE OF FEELING. DISILLUSIONED BY LIFE HE LIVED SECLUDED IN HIS TOWER, CARRYING OUT **PSYCHO-SCIENCE** EXPERIMENTS ON ORPHANS PICKED UP IN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD.

A painting of a woman in a long, flowing orange dress, seen from behind, standing in a dark, ornate room. She is surrounded by several children. Two children are perched on her shoulders, one on each side. In the foreground, two children are huddled together, looking up at her. To the right, another child is visible near a table. The room is filled with various objects, including a large, ornate chandelier and a table with a white cloth. The overall atmosphere is one of a dark, possibly sinister, domestic scene.

MY LADY, DO
YOU NEED A
HAND?

YES, TAKE
CARE OF
THESE TWO.

THE **MATRON**, WHO HAD GROWN UP WITH THE VISCOUNT, WAS A WOMAN OBSESSED WITH BUSINESS AND **MONEY**.

SHE HERSELF WAS THE RESULT OF ONE OF THE OLD MAN'S EXPERIMENTS GONE WRONG.

WITH AN IRON HAND SHE RAN THE **CRUEL** AND SADLY NOTORIOUS **ORPHANAGE**.

SHE LIVED SURROUNDED BY THE CHILDREN SHE TOOK CARE OF TOGETHER WITH THE MASTER'S DOGS.

AUCTIONS WERE HELD ONCE A MONTH.
ARISTOCRATS WHO CAME FROM FAR AWAY WERE
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DESCRIBING THE **CHILDREN** AVAILABLE.



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THE REGULAR
CUSTOMERS AT THE
CASTLE, THOUGH OF
NOBLE LINEAGE, WERE
CERTAINLY NOT
BENEFACTORS
CRUEL AND NASTY
WITH THEIR SERVANTS,
THEY WERE FEARED
THROUGHOUT THE
VILLAGE.



A GREAT
BARGAIN,
WELL DONE!

THANK YOU, I'D BEEN
AFTER ONE LIKE
THIS FOR AGES.



LOOK, HE'S
GOT A **BIRD**
IN HIS HAND!

IT'S A
LUCKY
CHARM.

ONCE SOLD TO THE BEST BIDDER THE **CHILD**
WAS HANDED OVER **STARK NAKED** TO HIS NEW
MASTER.

THE **GREEDIEST** CUSTOMERS ACTUALLY
BOUGHT UP TWO OR THREE AT A TIME,
COPIOUSLY FILLING THE VISCOUNT'S COFFERS.



AMONG THESE ORPHANS THERE WAS ONE THAT NOBODY WANTED TO BUY. ALREADY QUITE GROWN UP, HE HAD THE BAD HABIT OF **LEAPING** FROM TABLES AND WINDOW SILLS. SOME THOUGHT HE WAS POSSESSED BY A **DEMON**, OTHERS THAT HE WAS AUTISTIC, AND SINCE HIS **BIZARRE** BEHAVIOUR WAS WELL KNOWN, NOBODY WANTED HIM.

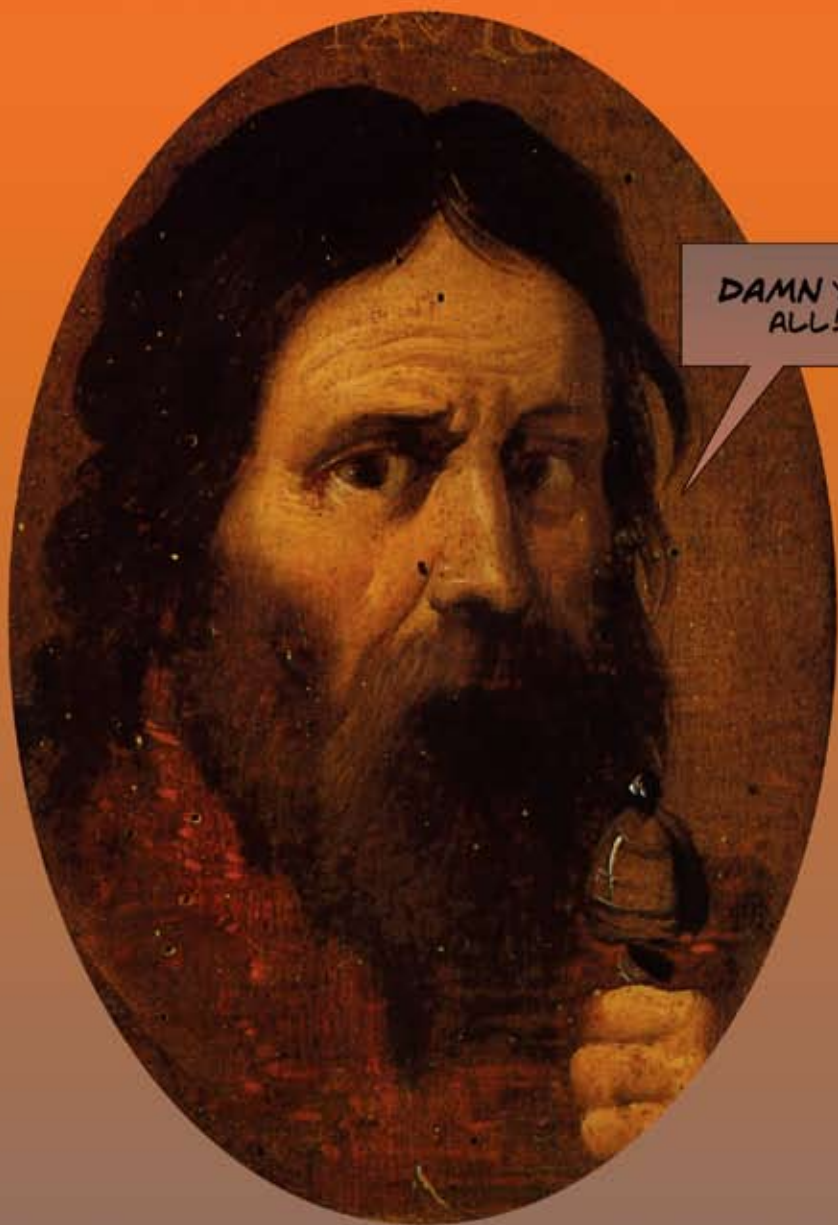
OUT OF SPITE HIS STEPMOTHER HAD CALLED HIM **KATIUSHA** BUT HE DIDN'T SEEM TO CARE.



LOOKING HIM RIGHT IN THE FACE YOU COULD SEE THAT **KATIUSHA WAS A BIT STRANGE**, BUT MEANWHILE HE GREW. SEVERAL YEARS HAD PASSED SINCE HE'D BEEN BROUGHT TO THE CASTLE.

HE WAS VERY SILENT AND LITTLE INCLINED TO COMMUNICATE WITH OTHERS.

INSIDE HE HAD A **SECRET** DREAM. FROM AN EARLY AGE, NOTWITHSTANDING THE **ADVERSITIES** OF FATE, HE KNEW WHAT HIS **DESTINY** WOULD BE...

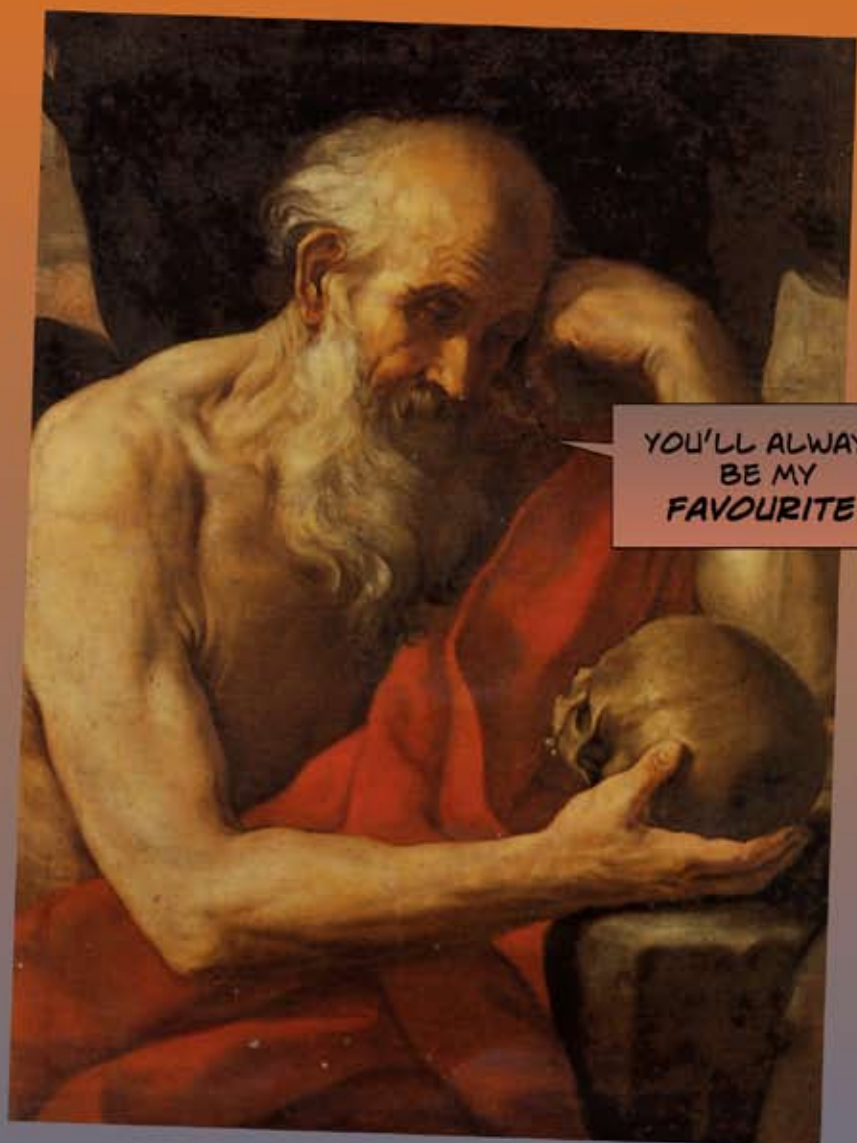


BY CHANCE AN OLD MARQUIS, **SADISTIC** AND **DEAF** AS A DOORPOST, GOT THINGS WRONG AT THE AUCTION AND ENDED UP WITH **KATIUSHA** INSTEAD OF TWO **LABRADOR** PUPS AND A **VASE**.

THE YEARS WENT BY. ONE DAY THE DEAF OLD MAN'S WIFE GOT DROWNED IN THE MUD, TRAMPLED BY THE HORSES AND CRUSHED BY THE CARRIAGE. IT WAS A TRAGEDY.

THE POOR OLD MAN WENT MAD AND NEVER RECOVERED FROM THE TRAUMA. HE WANDERED AROUND HIS ESTATE HALF NAKED, TALKING AND REPEATEDLY KISSING THE SKULL OF HIS NOW DEFUNCT WIFE.

IT WAS A PITIFUL SCENE AND KATIUSHA KNEW THAT IT WAS NOW TIME TO STRIKE CAMP. UNDER COVER OF NIGHT HE ESCAPED.



YOU'LL ALWAYS
BE MY
FAVOURITE!

KATIUSHA RAN THROUGH THE COUNTRYSIDE ALL NIGHT, CROSSING **RIVERS** AND WOODS UNTIL HE COLLAPSED EXHAUSTED ON A ROCK BENEATH THE STARS.



HE WAS WAKENED IN THE MORNING BY A STRONG SMELL, SURROUNDED BY GOATS, GOAT KIDS, TWO RAMS AND A DOG, AND DECIDED TO BECOME A **GOATHERD**.



ONE DAY **KATIUSHA**, TIRED OF HIS JOB, CONFESSED TO TWO FRIENDS THAT HIS DREAM WAS TO BECOME A PROFESSIONAL DIVER AND DEFY FATE AT LA **QUEBRADA** IN **ACAPULCO**. THEY CRACKED UP WITH LAUGHTER, SURE THAT THEIR FRIEND WAS COMPLETELY **CRAZY**.

TEASING HIM THEY SAID THAT TO PROVE HIS COURAGE HE HAD TO DIVE FROM THE **HIGHEST TOWER** IN THE COUNTY.

THAT WAS THE ONLY WAY TO CONVINCE THEM.

THE IMPOSING TOWER STOOD AT A HEIGHT OF
ABOUT ONE HUNDRED FEET ABOVE THE RIVER.
SUICIDAL.
NOBODY HAD EVER DARED SO MUCH.



KATIUSHA, CHARGED WITH ADRENALIN, TOOK
UP THE CHALLENGE AND SET OUT FEARFULLY
TOWARDS THE RIVER.

A WAYFARER SHOULDERING A **SACK OF POTATOES** TRIED REPEATEDLY TO CONVINCE HIM TO COME DOWN FROM THE TOWER AND GIVE UP HIS FUTILE EXPLOIT, BUT TO NO AVAIL.



DISDAINFUL OF THE DANGER AND DEAF TO THE CALLS, **KATIUSHA** SPREAD HIS ARMS LIKE AN **ANGEL** AND WITHOUT HESITATION DROPPED INTO THE **VOID...**



HIS **BODY** SOARED THROUGH THE AIR WITH **CELESTIAL** LIGHTNESS. THE WIND WHISTLED IN HIS EARS. THE **REVERSE DIVE** IN THE TUCK POSITION FOLLOWED BY A SERIES OF TWISTS SEEMED INTERMINABLE TO MOST. HIS TAUT MUSCLES WHIRLED DIZZILY. **KATIUSHA** SCARCELY HAD TIME TO STRETCH OUT BEFORE HITTING THE WATER, **ALAS**, IN A PRACTICALLY HORIZONTAL POSITION. IT WAS A **BELLY-FLOP**.

TWO WAYFARERS, A SHOEMAKER AND HIS APPRENTICE, MOVED TO PITY BY THE **SORRY SPECTACLE**, HASTENED TO THE RIVERSIDE AND WITH DIFFICULTY RECOVERED THE BODY OF POOR **KATIUSHA** THAT WAS FLOATING LIFELESSLY, FACE DOWNWARDS.



THERE WAS SOME FEAR BECAUSE HE APPEARED TO BE **DEAD**, BUT WHEN THEY TURNED HIM OVER ON THE ROCKS THEY SAW HIM **SMILING**. **KATIUSHA WAS ALIVE**.



I SWEAR
THAT THE
NEXT TIME I
WON'T GET
IT WRONG!

BUT NOW I
NEED
SOMETHING
STRONG!

HEEDLESS OF HIS CONSIDERABLE WOUNDS, MAYBE
DUE TO THE EXCESS OF ADRENALIN RUNNING IN HIS
VEINS, STILL STAGGERING AND HALF NAKED, HE
HEADED TOWARDS THE NEAREST INN.

LUCKY THAT
YOU'RE STILL
HERE...!

YOU LOOKED
LIKE AN
ANGEL...

YOU HAVEN'T SEEN
ANYTHING YET.

THE NEWS SPREAD QUICKLY AND WHEN HE GOT TO
THE INN **KATIUSHA** WAS ALREADY A GENERAL
LAUGHING STOCK. THE PEOPLE LISTENED TO
HIM TALKING ABOUT HIS DIVE, AND THE DRUNKEST
EVEN STUCK THEIR FINGERS IN HIS WOUNDS.

IT'S REALLY
DEEP!

WHAT A CUT!

YOU CAN SLIP
YOUR WHOLE
FINGER IN!

IN THOSE DAYS INNS WERE **DANGEROUS** PLACES, FREQUENTED BY THE **WORST SORT**. THE PARTY SOON TURNED INTO A **BRAWL** WITH **MACABRE** AND **BARBAROUS** CONSEQUENCES.



AND THIS IS FOR
SAYING I'M
ASEXUAL!

TAKE THAT!!!

**NO! YOU'RE
WRONG, IT
WASN'T ME!**

AND THIS IS FOR
MISTAKING MY
GLASS FOR
YOURS!



ARGH! IT
HUUURTS!

THAT'S JUST
FOR
STARTERS!

MEN WERE **FLAYED** ALIVE FOR FUTILE **REASONS**.
THE WOMEN ABANDONED THEMSELVES TO THEIR
FATE.

SOME WERE OFFERING THEIR OWN HEAD IN
EXCHANGE FOR A **TANKARD OF BEER...**

A comic-style adaptation of Michelangelo's 'The Fall of Man' painting. The scene is set in a dark, cavernous space. At the top, a cherub (Satan) is shown in mid-air, having just thrown an apple. In the center, Adam is reclining on the ground, his body twisted in pain and exhaustion. Eve is kneeling beside him, holding a long, thin object (a spear or sword) to his mouth. To the right, a Roman soldier in a plumed helmet stands guard, holding a spear. In the background, other figures are visible, including a woman in a red dress. The overall tone is dramatic and somber, with a focus on the physical and emotional suffering of the characters.

THE BEER
BARREL'S
EMPTY!
**RUN AND
FETCH ONE.**

RIGHT AWAY!

BUUURP!!



THE **PARTY** ENDED AT DAWN. THE SMELL OF **CIDER** WAS **NAUSEATING** AND AT THE INN THEY WERE CLEARING UP THE **BREAKAGES** AND THE REMAINS OF SO MUCH BRUTALITY.

KATIUSHA, **BLIND DRUNK** AND IN HIS **UNDERPANTS**, WAS HELPED TO THE DOOR BY THE INNKEEPER. HE'D NEARLY BEEN MISTAKEN FOR DEAD AND **HEAPED UP** ON THE CART WITH THE OTHER **CADAVERS**.

NAKED AND ONCE MORE SURROUNDED BY ANIMALS, **KATIUSHA** STIRRED AWAKE. HE WAS AMAZED BY THE PRESENCE OF A **MONKEY** AND HE STARED AT IT DAZEDLY. HE HAD A SPLITTING HEADACHE.



SUDDENLY HE HAD A HALLUCINATION: THE OLD DEAF MAN WHO'D BOUGHT HIM WAS FLUTTERING BEFORE HIS EYES, **PESTERING** HIM. HE TURNED ON HIS SIDE, **IRRITATED**, AND WENT BACK TO SLEEP.

HE SLEPT LIKE A **LOG** FOR **38** HOURS STRAIGHT. MAYBE DUE TO THE **ALCOHOL**, MAYBE TO HIS TREMENDOUS **BELLY-FLOP**. WHEN HE AWOKE HE STOLE AN **ORANGE** CURTAIN TO COVER HIMSELF AND HEADED FOR THE **RIVER**, DETERMINED TO TRY AGAIN.



STILL **STUNNED** AFTER HIS LIVELY EVENING, HE COULD HARDLY BELIEVE HIS EYES WHEN A LADY OF **RADIANT** BEAUTY APPEARED BEFORE HIM, RIDING A **LAME** CAMEL, WITH A MAIDSERVANT HOLDING AN **UMBRELLA**.

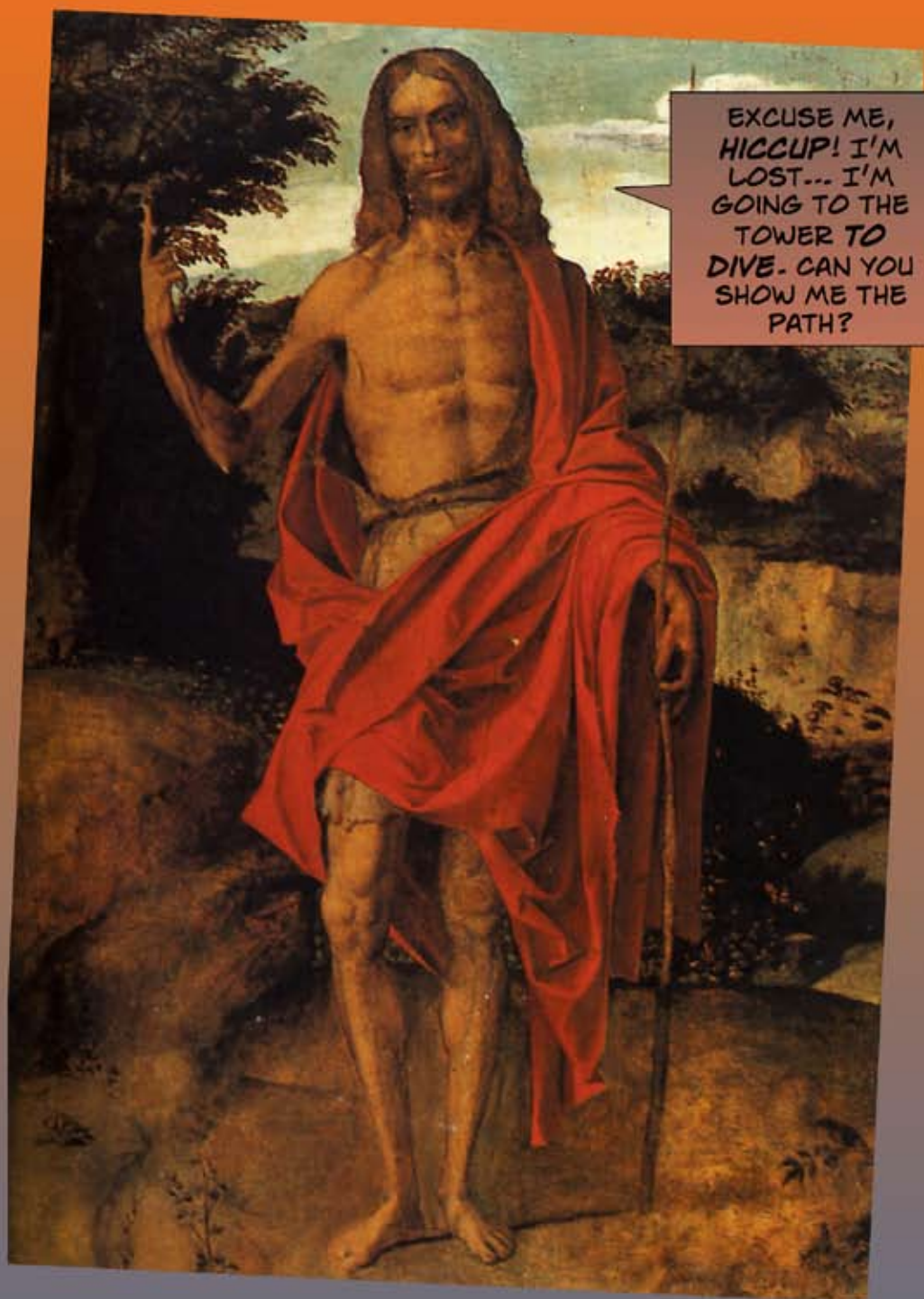
SHE WAS NONE OTHER THAN PRINCESS
CATERINA.

A VERY WEALTHY WOMAN, KNOWN IN THE DISTRICT
FOR HER EMBARRASSING **STAMMER.**



SHE WAS SEARCHING THE PATHWAYS OF THE
WOOD FOR THE **DARING** MAN WHO'D **PLUNGED**
FROM THE HIGHEST **TOWER** OF HER CASTLE...

ON SEEING HIM ARRIVE, **CROOKED** AS A **KERBSTONE** AND **NICE** AND **CRUSTY** IN THE **FACE**, **STINKING** OF **VOMIT** AND WEARING HIS **CURTAIN**, THE **PRINCESS** WAS **FRIGHTENED** AT **FIRST**.



EXCUSE ME,
HICCUP! I'M
LOST... I'M
GOING TO THE
TOWER TO
DIVE. CAN YOU
SHOW ME THE
PATH?

BUT WHEN SHE REALISED IT WAS HER **HERO**, SHE GOT DOWN FROM THE **CAMEL** AND OFFERED HERSELF TO HIM AS A ROSE WITHOUT **THORNS**.





BEFORE THE **INCREDULOUS** EYES OF THE PAGAN **GODS**, THE **COUPLE** WERE **SEIZED** BY AN IRREPRESSIBLE **PASSION** AND ABANDONED THEMSELVES TO **PRIMITIVE** INSTINCTS, CLINGING TOGETHER IN THE **MUD** AND AMONG THE **BRAMBLE**.

MEANWHILE A GROUP OF PEOPLE HAD GATHERED NEAR THE **CASTLE**, WAITING TO SEE ANOTHER **DIVE**. THERE WAS A MURMUR OF VOICES AND **GROWING** TREPIDATION. SUDDENLY **KATIUSHA** APPEARED, INTENT ON SCALING THE **TOWER**.



THERE WAS A SPONTANEOUS BURST OF APPLAUSE. SOMEONE SHOUTED "JUMP, NINCOMPOOP". SOME PEOPLE BOOED. OTHERS PLACED BETS ON THE **OUTCOME**. **DARKNESS** WAS ENVELOPING THE VALLEY, MAKING THE SITUATION EVEN MORE SURREAL...



ILLUMINATED BY THE CASTLE TORCHES
KATIUSHA CLOSED HIS EYES AND, DISDAINFUL OF
THE DANGER, THREW HIMSELF INTO THE VOID.

THAT'S THE
END OF THE
STORY.



The End