

**AUDITION SIDES**

**“THE CAGE”**

***SULTANA and ARZU***

ARZU

(Whispers.)

Madam.

(They kiss. SULTANA’S eyes remain open. Slowly, she takes ARZU by the throat. ARZU, still drunk rolls onto her back as if this is a new game. SULTANA begins to squeeze. ARZU’S eyes shoot open, fully awake now. She struggles in SULTANA’S grasp. After a while SULTANA releases her. ARZU rolls over, coughing and choking.)

SULTANA

(Emotionless. Whispers.)

I cannot kill you... I’m too tired... Plus I enjoyed you.

(Touches ARZU tenderly.)

You will say nothing of this... Or next time, I will find the strength. Do you understand?

ARZU

Yes.

SULTANA

Man may touch man, but woman may not touch woman. Mother may not lay down with her children... Do you know what this means?

ARZU

No.

SULTANA

It means that we are going to hell. That is also why I cannot kill you. You have only hell to look forward too.

(Kisses her.)

ARZU

But I only obeyed... I did all that was told of me to do.

SULTANA

Yes.

(Stands. Arranges her clothes.)

God would not have expected you to obey. God would have expected you to die first.

ARZU

(Stares.)

Can the Sultan not save us Madam? Does he not speak with God?

SULTANA

The Sultan is not here...

ARZU

(Lost.)

*Where did he go?*

(SULTANA slowly exits.)

ARZU (Continues)

*Madam? I did nothing wrong, Madam. Madam, please! Will you then speak with God, Sultana? Explain my actions to God! Please!*

(Darkness.)