



玦  
Slit Ring

# 1.

[Exits the MONK]

In the Throne Room, MICHEL the crown prince in a white mourning clothes sits on the throne with grief on his face.

[Enters FIDEL the eunuch]

FIDEL

My condolences, Your highness.

MICHEL

Fidel...Father's wish is to see the country go well. I can't grieve. How are you doing with the things I entrusted to you?

FIDEL

Yes, your highness. The crown princess agreed to advance the ceremony. It can be as soon as the mourning period ends. The crown princess and her trousseau should arrive tomorrow if everything goes well.

MICHEL

Fortunately I have her. Having the power of her mother nation should support me and my country through this tough period. Arrange four servants and four eunuchs to the west palace to serve her, and a chorus. Also the Kun Opera Dan who came with the Chinese ambassador.

FIDEL

Yes, your highness. Also, according to the tradition of the crown princess' mother nation, her face should not be seen by anyone before the wedding...

MICHEL

I know. I will stay at the east palace until the ceremony. You notify all the servers to serve carefully.

FIDEL

Yes, your highness.

[Exit FIDEL]

### 3.

*[Exits the MONK]*

*MICHEL is sitting in front of a desk inside of the book room of the east palace. On one side of the room there is a mailbox.*

MICHEL

Dear my future wife Giselle,

I have decided to announce my enthronement on the day of the ceremony. I want our wedding day to be the biggest day of the country and as a turning point to the fate of the country. I will be the best ruler, better than my father. And the most important part of this, is to have you by my side when the day comes.

And also,

With this letter, I put in this Jade ring. It was a gift of China. It means unity and completion. Hope the country and our love and life together can be as it symbolizes. On the biggest day we finally meet, I will know it's you when I see the ring. Before that, I will keep seeking it.

Wish all the best,

Michel

*MICHEL placed the Jade ring inside of the letter and sealed it. Walked to the mailbox and delivered it. GISELLE the crown princess' voice comes out from the mailbox.*

GISELLE

Dear my love Michel,

Although our marriage is arranged, although we have never officially met, I believe in our love. I always feel there is a destiny, a higher, holy force pushing us together. If it's fate, I believe in it.

Meet me at the wedding, or the enthronement, or the turning point

The place is immaterial

In gold, or in purple, or sackcloth

I look not upon the raiment

With crown, or with bow, or with knife

the weapons are less than wielder  
In love, or in hatred, or nothing  
A moment is all I need  
With soul, or spirit, or body  
They are all alike to me  
With hose or alone, in sunshine or storm, dreaming or awaken, some how or no how  
I look forward to see you, Michel

On the day we meet  
I will come, with the jade ring.  
Giselle

## 5.

*[Exits the MONK]*

*MICHEL is sitting in the throne room viewing documents.*

*[Enter FIDEL ]*

FIDEL

Your highness! The Lieutenant General of the revolutionary army, Didier, just appears at the front of the palace with a wagon. He said he has a gift for your highness.

MICHEL

Haha! A gift from the Revolutionary army? Send him in! Can't wait what good things they are going to bring me.

FIDEL

But your highness...

MICHEL

Even if you lend them balls they won't dare to do anything. Their power can't compete with my army. And it's only Didier, no worries.

FIDEL

Yes, your highness.

*[Exits FIDEL]*

*[Enters DIDIER]*

*DIDIER enters with with a wagon rolling behind him*

DIDIER

Hey prince! Oh pardon me, The crown prince, since you are going to be the king shortly!

MICHEL

You are not all wrong.

DIDIER

Folk slangs are always correct! "Man is all about marrying a wealthy wife". I appreciate your dedication to our country so much, sacrificing yourself to another country to get some cash, huh? What a pricey prostitute!

*MICHEL slams the table. DIDIER smirks and reveals the cloth on the wagon. A girl in patched cotton dress is presented to MICHEL. The girl is far from MICHEL, he can't see her clearly. He can only see the long scar across her throat.*

DIDIER

Having another country interfering with us, this will be your future! They are going to slit your throat inch by inch, until you can't say anything! A total mute, a mute king! A puppet held by your queen! Have you taken a look outside of your palace? People are mad! There is no more patience for us. Enjoy our gift, the war starts now!

*[Exits DIDIER]*

*[Enters FIDEL]*

FIDEL

Your Highness, please don't be provoked by him. We all know it's not like that. We are building a beneficial relationship with her mother country, there is nothing wrong with that. What do they know! Bunch of peasants!

MICHEL

...They can't foresee all this. And he is not all wrong. There is a risk, I am aware. However I need to take the chance, it's the only way I can make this country better than we ever had been.

*MICHEL looks towards the wagon.*

MICHEL

Poor girl...Those savages. She is forced to be in all this. There is an empty room in the west palace that she can live in for now. After the ceremony I will find her a good place to go.

FIDEL

To live with the crown princess? In the palace meant for the queen?

MICHEL

I believe in Giselle.

FIDEL

Yes, your highness.

## 9.

*[Exits the MONK]*

*Night at the throne room, MICHEL and FIDEL stand around a map, discussing war strategy.*

FIDEL

The revolutionaries had won the battle of City North and camped there.

MICHEL

Increase the number of soldiers in the Northwest. Wait for a rainy night, surround and annihilate.

FIDEL

Yes, your highness.

*[Exit FIDEL]*

*MICHEL sits in front of the map. Talking to himself.*

MICHEL

The revolutionaries... They are taking slow steps, well thought decisions. Not really Didier's style. If I can maintain them in the suburban area, they can't get to the main city before the ceremony.

*[Enter FIDEL]*

FIDEL

Your highness... I just heard from the west palace, the mute is dead.

MICHEL

How?! Is Giselle harmed?

FIDEL

She was found in the courtyard, with a sharp slit on her neck. In her hand there is a knife, which is in the style of the ruralside. They searched the whole west palace and they couldn't find a trace of any invader. So it seems to be a suicide. Servant checked, the crown princess was not harmed.

MICHEL

*(Sigh)*... Tragic fate won't let her go. I have this feeling of ... its not a suicide. If someone wants

her to die... It might be Giselle's mother country... I should have thought that they can't tolerate the threat for the queen position. It was my mistake... Don't let the revolutionaries know she died. There is a graveyard in the northeast. It's not the royal standard however it's still a good place, with rivers and ash trees. Bury her there, let her rest in peace.

FIDEL

Yes, your highness.

*[Exit FIDEL]*



# 11.

*Later that night, in the bedroom of MICHEL in the east palace, MICHEL is sleeping. A sudden bomb dropped to the outside wall of the palace and created a loud explosion. Michel awakened in shock.*

*[Enter FIDEL]*

FIDEL

Your Highness! The general of the revolutionary army led all of their people to the main city to attack!

MICHEL

Why? This sudden! This is a suicidal act! Arrange all our army to defend!

FIDEL

Yes your highness!

*[Exit FIDEL]*

*Battle sounds keep happening for a long time. Until there are no more sounds, dead silence.*

*[Enters FIDEL with the general of revolutionary army]*

FIDEL

Your highness. The revolutionary army has been annihilated. All of them. The royal army... has less than 200 people left, and mostly harmed.

*FIDEL throws the general to the ground. He is covered in blood of himself and others, weak but has fierce eyes.*

MICHEL

You dissidents are the mishap of the country. Execute everyone in his family.

The General

Haha! Haven't you already done that? People of this country are barely alive! How about executing everybody? You can have the country all to yourself!

MICHEL

Execute him now!

## 12.

*[Exits the MONK]*

*On the day of the ceremony, MICHEL is getting ready.*

*[Enters FIDEL]*

FIDEL

Your highness, the preparation is done. It's time.

MICHEL

Fidel. I am happy, genuinely. I am happy for my army, for the new supplies. I am happy for my country, for the new hope. And I am happy for myself, for the new beginning. All of it is brought here by Giselle.

FIDEL

Yes, your highness. We are all looking forward to the crown princess. People are waiting, your highness. Time to go.

*MICHEL puts on his golden garment and walks towards the center of the throne room. In the middle there is the crown.*

*The crown princess shows on the other side of the room, with a flagon with two cups and wine, and with her face covered in silk.*

*FIDEL stands behind the crown, as the compere. All the courtiers, army and eunuchs are listed by the side of the room.*

FIDEL

Let the ceremony begin, your highnesses!

Soprano & Tenor & Bass

Today is the day

It's the moment we been pray

Everyone now say

What is today?

Soprano

It's the day of the royal wedding

The perfect match made by god

Descent of phoenix and dragon

Tenor  
Brings hope and future to its people

It's the day of the enthronement  
New king new rules and new power  
Our prince full of dreams  
Finally have the throne by his own

Bass  
It's the day of ending the last  
The old does not go, the new does not come  
Ones who are suffering now  
Grief will be no more

*The crown princess passes MICHEL one of the two cups. Fill the cups with wine.*

FIDEL  
Your highnesses, your future majesties! Come, Come, Cheer up!

*MICHEL and the crown princess crossed their cup.*

Soprano & Tenor & Bass  
Drink drink!  
We ask not the same day of birth  
but we seek the same day of death  
We will hold hands  
Walk into the eternal

*Someone broke into the room through the window. She has a crossbow in her arm.  
She shoots the arrow right through the crown princess' head, stabbed on the pedestal below  
the crown.*

*The two cups drop on the floor.*

Soprano & Tenor & Bass  
Ohh...  
(*Fade out*)

MICHEL  
Aahhhhhhhhh! Giselle, Giselle! Giselle!!

*MICHEL looks at the crown princess whose head is pierced by the arrow.*

*Blood oozes through the silk, no more breathing.*

*MICHEL looks at the girl who is held down by guards, he sees the long scar across her throat.*

*She stares at MICHEL.*

MICHEL

No way...that slit...Mute? Are you the Mute? Aren't you dead? Why?! Why did you kill Giselle?

It's not her fault!

FIDEL

Put her in jail! NOW!!!!

*[Exit Guards with the MUTE]*

MICHEL

AHHHHHHHHHHHHH!

# 13.

*[Exits the MONK]*

*Later that night, in the bedroom of MICHEL in the east palace, MICHEL is crying.*

*[Enter FIDEL]*

MICHEL

Fidel... what should I do now? Giselle is dead, how could I face her mother country? All the hopes I thought I had are far gone...

FIDEL

It's not yours to worry about.

MICHEL

...What?

FIDEL

Michel, my stupid prince. How can you not notice? Your power is no more, from the second Giselle dies, you have no use to the country, and no strength to go against me. The revolutionaries are all dead, the royal army has no more left, only my people now. So no need to fight me, no one can help you. Before, I was considering you to be my puppet. However, now there is no need! My highness, would you like me to do it or you can do it yourself?

*FIDEL gives MICHEL a strand of white silk. MICHEL did not take it.*

FIDEL

My highness gives me the honor again. No problem, let me do the last thing for you.

*FIDEL strangles the silk on MICHEL's neck and pulls. MICHEL's hand tries to grab the silk however he can't release it. His eyes are wide open and keep choking.*

FIDEL

Yes, Michel. Open your eyes, in the other world look how am I going to bring the country back to how it is supposed to be...

*MICHEL's sight starts to get blurry. FIDEL's voice fades.*

# Intermission.

*In the backstage, Michel's consciousness comes back while coughing. Actors come in.*

FIDEL's actor

It was fantastic, nice first show guys!

DIDIER's actor

The last scene! Oof! She was crying out loud at the back.

*DIDIER's actor points at MUTE's actor, she nods.*

FIDEL's actor

Haha I know right. The theatrical turn!

*FIDEL's actor sees MICHEL at the corner.*

FIDEL's actor

Hey! Are you good? Did I strangle you too hard?

*An actor in servant costume passes MICHEL a cup of water.*

FIDEL's actor

My apologies! I only wanted to show the best effect on stage.

Tenor

*(look at the clock)* Need to go. See you guys on next show

*Actors went out of the door while saying goodbyes.*

MICHEL

*(Coughing)* Where am I? I'm I dead? Who just talks to me? Fidel? Didier and Mute? I'm I alive?  
Is this a dream? What should I do? What should I do?

## 4.

*At the garrison of the Revolutionary Army. DIDIER is giving a speech to the army.*

DIDIER

My brave soldiers! Our country is waiting for us to change it! That fatuous ruler is destroying everything the previous hero's have built! What should we do?!

MALLORY

*(Coughing)* What should I do?

ARMY

Overthrow!

DIDIER

That's correct! Overthrow everything! Even though we are no king, no prince, no royal power, we can overthrow them! Out of control!

ARMY

Out of control!

DIDIER

Overthrow everything that's in front of us. Use anything that can help! Change our fate!

ARMY

Change our fate!

DIDIER

*(Point at Mallory)* Mallory! My colonel! You say something. What are we?

MALLORY

We.... We are?

DIDIER

We are men! We are men with backbone! How can Michel just take our country as his trousseau and marry to another country?

MALLORY

That's not true. The crown princess brought supplies into the country, not taking it. It can only be beneficial for us.

DIDIER

*(Sneer)* Fine. Resource exchange, I get it. The princess uses money to exchange Michel's... what?

ARMY

Bootyyyyy!

*Everyone starts laughing.*

DIDIER

Hahaha okay quiet down guys. Tomorrow I will go to see Michel, with that mute girl. I will tell him exactly what we think. I will let him know that the war has started and there is no stopping until we see an end to this absurdity. And then we go recruit more men. The victory is ours, understand?

ARMY

Yes sir!

DIDIER

Let's go to your own tents and sleep!

ARMY

Yes sir!

*Everyone left, MALLORY walked towards DIDIER.*

MALLORY

I don't think presenting the mute girl is a good move. She did nothing wrong.

DIDIER

Really Mallory? What is the deal with you today, did the royal brainwash you? Or she charmed you with her pretty face? She is a noble! Are you really emphasizing with those nobles? How many crimes have they committed against our people? If you let her go she will harm more of us! It's a war we want! Sacrifice and people dying is inevitable. So stop showing your kindness!

*[Exit DIDIER]*

MALLORY

I am sorry... I couldn't help. I tried. I need to sort myself out first. Tomorrow Didier is going to declare war. The future of the revolutionaries is going to be... I shouldn't stay here. Didier's decision is going to drag all of us down. I need to leave, find a place where I could reclaim my power. Then I could still... achieve my goal.



## 6.

*[Exits the MONK]*

*The Revolutionary army are at the rural area of the country, recruiting for soldiers*

DIDIER

It's only been half a day and we had recruited more than we estimated. That's so great.

MALLORY

Means people are more mad at the royal than we thought.

*A young man walks towards DIDIER and MALLORY. He has redness around his eyes.*

Young Man

I want to join.

DIDIER

Sure, what's your name?

Young Man

Harve.

MALLORY

I feel your face looks familiar. Have we met before?

DIDIER

Okay Harve. Why are you crying? You look like a strong man, why do you have a woman's heart?

HARVE

How can I not cry living in this country? The royal army broke into our house, hurt my sister and took her away. There is no purpose to my life other than revenge now. Let me join your army. I will dedicate everything I have!

DIDIER

Yes Harve! That's the spirit! I can see you are good at fighting. I will value you! Here follow me, let me bring you to our garrison and show you around!

# 10.

*[Exits the MONK]*

*MALLORY is taking a walk towards the east alongside an abandoned field*

MALLORY

Harve... He was born to be the leader of the army. Only after this short period of time, he surpassed Didier and became the General of the revolutionaries. We won many battles recently. However, I still feel...

*He walks past a mass grave.*

MALLORY

This grave, it was not like this. It was a good place, with rivers and ash trees! And now...I couldn't call it a graveyard anymore, it's just piles of bodies.

*MALLORY walks closer to the bodies.*

MALLORY

My country...I could not imagine it to be like this, until I am looking at it. I wish I could help a little bit more, if I had the power. But now, what I can do is limited. I need to find a way to gain more power, find someone who can help me.

*MALLORY hears a small moving sound inside of the pile of bodies, he climbs in and pulls a person out. He dusted off the dirt on her face and neck.*

MALLORY

Ah! The slit... Mute!

*The "MUTE" opens her eyes slightly. MALLORY wrapped her in his purple cloak and brought her back to his tent. MALLORY places her on his bed and he finds medicine for her.*

MALLORY

The slit hurts only your vocal cords and avoids your artery. After putting on this medicine and having some rest, you will be better.

*MALLORY starts to put medicine on her wounds and wrap it up with bandages.*

MALLORY

*(Sigh)* It feels too much like fate. It goes all the way round and back. It's... not Michel's intention to hurt you in anyways. And also Giselle is not related to all this. Don't go back to the palace, especially on the day of the ceremony. After you recover, I will give you some money and you can find a good place to stay... Leave this country.

*The "MUTE" opens her mouth and tries to say something, however she can't. MALLORY sees a slit ring on one of her ears.*

MALLORY

Wow, you have a slit ring. I once met a Chinese ambassador before, he told me that different jades in their culture have different meanings. A jade ring is called "Huan", it means unity. It was my pledge of love. A slit ring is called "Jue", the meaning of it is separation. It usually acts as a sign of ending something. I believe it might be the reason why you are having bad luck ... since it's not a positive symbol.

*A sudden assembly horn sound stopped MALLORY's talk.*

MALLORY

Damn it. I didn't know we had a plan for tonight? You keep resting here, let me go check.

*MALLORY grabs one of the crossbows on the wall and left the tent*

# 11.

*[Exits the MONK]*

*Outside of the garrison, HARVE and DIDIER are standing next to all the soldiers of the revolutionary army.*

HARVE

Lieutenant General! Count the number of soldiers we have.

DIDIER

Yes, General. Everyone is here.

HARVE

Everyone listen! Tonight is the night. The royals' actions are beyond tolerable! Go grab all cannons and weapons. And march!

*The army starts to march towards the south.*

MALLORY

*(Secretly)* I need to leave. This is a reckless battle, everyone will die!

*The army reached the outside wall of the palace.*

*MALLORY quietly left the army, found the back door of the palace and went to FIDEL's room. MALLORY knocks on the door.*

FIDEL

Who's there?

*FIDEL opened the door.*

FIDEL

Oh! Long time no see my friend!

MALLORY

You remember me?

FIDEL

Of course! The Colonel of the revolutionaries. You forgot? You, me and Didier, we had that little trade. The mute girl? Nevermind, not important. Do you need me for anything?

MALLORY

All of the revolutionary army are outside of the wall ready to attack the palace. They have cannons and crossbows, around 3000 people, led by Harve and Didier.

FIDEL

What! Okay, I will go inform the crown prince. Why are you telling this? I thought you were with them?

MALLORY

I want to join you instead. I don't think they could win this battle. I want to do more for the country, instead of just die now. I have my goal to accomplish, we can accomplish it together!

*The first bomb dropped. FIDEL starts walking toward MICHEL's bedroom*

FIDEL

Clever. I like clever people, and people with goals. We welcome you!

*[Exits FIDEL]*

## 12.

*[Exits the MONK]*

*On the day of the ceremony, MICHEL puts on his golden garment and walks towards the center of the throne room. In the middle there is the crown.*

*The crown princess shows on the other side of the room, with a flagon with two cups and wine, and with her face covered in silk.*

*FIDEL stands behind the crown, as the compere. All the courtiers, army and eunuchs are listed by the side of the room. MALLORY is standing in the middle of the eunuchs.*

FIDEL

Let the ceremony begin, your highnesses!

Soprano & Tenor & Bass

Today is the day

It's the moment we been pray

Everyone now say

What is today?

Soprano

It's the day of the royal wedding

The perfect match made by god

Descent of phoenix and dragon

Brings hope and future to its people

Tenor

It's the day of the enthronement

New king new rules and new power

Our prince full of dreams

Finally have the throne by his own

Bass

It's the day of ending the last

The old does not go, the new does not come

Ones who are suffering now

Grief will be no more

*The crown princess passes MICHEL one of the two cups. Fill the cups with wine.*

Soprano & Tenor & Bass

Drink drink!

We ask not the same day of birth  
but we seek the same day of death

We will hold hands

Walk into the eternal

*The MUTE broke into the room through the window. She has a crossbow in her arm.*

*The MUTE looks at the side of the room, and has eye contact with MALLORY.*

*The MUTE shoots two arrows right through MICHEL and the crown princess' head, stabbed on the pedestal below the crown.*

*The two cups drop on the floor.*

Soprano & Tenor & Bass

Ohh...

*(Fade out)*

*MALLORY looks at MICHEL and the crown princess whose heads are pierced by the arrow.*

*Blood oozes through the silk, and on the golden garments, no more breathing.*

*MALLORY looks at the MUTE who is held down by guards, She stares at MALLORY.*

FIDEL

Put her in jail! NOW!!!!

*[Exit Guards with the MUTE]*

# 13.

*Later that night, in the throne room. MALLORY and the eunuchs are waiting for FIDEL*

*[Enters FIDEL]*

FIDEL

Michel is dead!

*Eunuchs start to celebrate.*

FIDEL

From now on, the country for us to rule. We are going to bring the country back to track, without the interference of Michel and the revolutionaries. We will first start with providing food relief to people, along with seeds. After next year's harvest, we will have sufficient money and soldiers. We will continue diplomacy with surrounding countries and build a strong union. The future of our country is bright!

*FIDEL brings MALLORY to the front.*

FIDEL

Haven't officially introduced him to you all. This is MALLORY. Even though he was the colonel of the revolutionary army, he helped us a lot. And now he is one of us! (To MALLORY) Sorry that I once lied to you guys, about the mute girl that she is a nobel. However I know you will forgive me right? Didier won't do it if he knows she is only an ordinary. However that all ended, everything led to today, our success! Let the celebration begin!

*FIDEL hugs MALLORY, everyone starts to cheer and celebrate.*

*Sound of the battle horn started inaudible, and gradually became louder and louder, until it was deafening.*

*MALLORY runs towards a side of the room and hides inside of the garment closet.*

*Right after he closes the door, an foreign army marches in.*

Voice of Foreigner

Your country has done the most unforgivable. You killed our princess on the day of her wedding. We have supported you in all ways and this is what you returned? The king of us has sent orders,



kill every being within the palace, to be buried with her.

Voice of FIDEL

Let me explain! It is not like how it seemed, let me ex... Ahhhhh...

*The sound of a head drops on the floor, followed by more screams.*

*It lasts for a while, until there are no more sounds. MALLORY peek through the closet door, only redness.*

# 15.

*[Exits the MONK]*

*MALLORY walks on to a broken wall of the castle, looking at the rest of the palace and at the country.*

MALLORY

No...

*The palace is destroyed. All gold and silver are buried under ashes.  
The whole country is quiet. It becomes a plain field.*

MALLORY

*(Cries)* No...no... I never thought... this will be the end. All these efforts of me, and of everyone, became nothingness.

*MALLORY collapsed on the remains.  
Curtain slowly falls down.*

Instruments fade in

KUN OPERA DAN

*/Drum Drum*

*Flute/*

幼圣子灾时遇贵缘  
奸内臣中外伏长线

*/Clapper/*

骁勇将，好了汉，皆化河边白蜡灰  
无辜雪复霜，恨上恨，杀意涌心间

*/Drum Drum/*

人流离只为求安全  
盛宴里谁知你我为

*/Drum Clapper*

*Clapper/*

半夜君逃相走，望烟波，谁吊真魂？  
玉断环，文间台外，不在命中流连

*/Flute/*

# Intermission.

*In the backstage, MALLORY is sitting at the side while other actors are having conversations.*

DIDIER's actor

(To MALLORY) I feel this time you improved a little bit too much. I was worrying if I couldn't catch your words.

FIDEL's actor

I think the audience didn't notice. However, be careful next time!

HARVE's actor

They didn't notice because he remained in his character. It's not unreasonable for Mallory to say those things.

Bass

What do you think Mallory will do after the last scene? Where will he go?

DIDIER's actor

Dude. He is just a character. After that scene, there is no more Mallory.

Bass

I know, just use some imagination. What if he kept the Mute from going to the ceremony? Then if we put it this way, he is partially responsible for the tragic ending.

FIDEL's actor

So it is important that he is only a character, so he escapes the responsibility for it.

HARVE's actor

I am kind of jealous. There are so many responsibilities for a real human.

DIDIER's actor

I don't get the point of this what if. Do you?

*The actor in servant costume shake her head*

DIDIER's actor

See? Okay that's the end of the conversation. I need to fulfill my human responsibilities now, my boys are waiting for me at home.

*DIDIER's actor left, and followed by others.*

## 2.

*[Exits the MONK]*

*In a house in the rural area of the country. A girl is singing and shaving the skin of an apple with a knife.*

Girl

With a smile and a song  
Life is just a looping day  
Hope and purpose fade away  
People around you die young  
With a smile and a song  
All that I want is to be gone  
A way will be found  
As the song is sung  
I am not royal, eunuch, or a member of the revolutionary  
I am only an ordinary  
I am not princess and I am healthy  
Responsibilities can be left to the main  
Since the country is unsaveable  
Escaping is understandable  
When you smile and you sing  
Everything is in tune and it's spring  
And I will leave for long  
With a smile and a song

*[Enter HARVE]*

HARVE

Sister! Sister!

Girl

My brother... Harve?

HARVE

The royals! They are looking for you! Quick, leave!

*The door is slammed open. FIDEL and a group of eunuchs come in.*

FIDEL

Go.

*They controlled the girl and HARVE. FIDEL pulls a digger out and takes it close to the girl's throat.*

FIDEL

Sorry for doing this. We will remember your family's contribution to the country.

HARVE

Don't you dare!

*HARVE starts to fight, however gets beaten down.*

HARVE

Ahh! You fucking dogs of the prince! You will have your paybacks!

*FIDEL smirked. Slits the girl's throat.*

HARVE

NO!!!!!!!

MUTE

*(Squeak noises from her throat)...*

*She can't talk anymore.*

Tenor

Pain

It's so painful

Mute

You are now mute

Soprano

Why!

Why does it have to be you?

Bass

You thought you could have peace  
Just be an ordinary  
I guess you were delusional  
Just for thinking it can vary

FIDEL

Take her, let's leave.

*The eunuchs left the house, leaving HARVE on the ground.*

## 5.

*[Exits the MONK]*

*The MUTE is chained inside of a wagon, enters the throne room with DIDIER*

DIDIER

Hey prince! Oh pardon me, The crown prince, since you are going to be the king shortly!

MICHEL

You are not wrong.

DIDIER

Folk slang is always correct! “Man is all about marrying a wealthy wife”. I appreciate your dedication to our country so much, sacrificing yourself to another country to get some cash, huh? What a pricey prostitute!

*MICHEL slammed the table. DIDIER smirks and reveals the cloth on the wagon. The MUTE is presented to MICHEL. She bitter laughs without a sound.*

DIDIER

Having another country interfering with us, this will be your future! They are going to slit your throat inch by inch, until you can't say anything! A total mute, a mute king! A puppet held by your queen! Have you taken a look outside of your palace? People are mad! There is no more patience for us. Enjoy our gift, the war starts now!

*[Exits DIDIER]*

*[Enters FIDEL]*

FIDEL

Your Highness, please don't be provoked by him. We all know it's not like that. We are building a beneficial relationship with her mother country, there is nothing wrong with that. What do they know! Bunch of peasants!

MICHEL

...They can't foresee all this. And he is not all wrong. There is a risk, I am aware. However I need to take the chance, it's the only way I can make this country better than we ever had been.



*MICHEL looks towards the wagon.*

MICHEL

Poor girl...Those savages. She is forced to be in all this. There is an empty room in the west palace that she can live in for now. After the ceremony I will find her a good place to go.

FIDEL

To live with the crown princess? In the palace meant for the queen?

MICHEL

I believe in Giselle.

FIDEL

Yes, your highness.

# 7.

*[Exits the MONK]*

*In the garden of the west castle. The MUTE went on a walk for some fresh air. As she walks past a field of hemlocks, she hears someone singing,*

GISELLE

Though the world keeps changing its form  
as fast as a cloud, still  
what is accomplished falls home  
to the Primeval

Over the change and the passing,  
your eyes remain,  
soars my eternal song,  
I will be the beam.

Nothing and nobody ever mattered,  
the fate of this world is settled  
and what removes us in death

is not revealed.  
Only us through the field.  
hallows and heals.

*GISELLE is wearing a red silk dress, with a veil on her face.  
The MUTE walks towards GISELLE's back. GISELLE didn't see her.*

Soprano

Nothing mattered?  
Did she just say nobody mattered?

Tenor

She means only love matters  
Their love is eternal long  
And others are as light as cloud

Bass

Because they are the distinguished  
They could be removed from death  
And for the rest of us  
Fate settles us in this living hell

*The MUTE reaches her hand out towards GISELLE.*

Tenor

What's in your pocket?  
Something that you have been carrying with you the whole time

*The MUTE puts her hand in her dress' pocket, grabbing the object in her hand*

Tenor

It's smooth and flat  
Feels good in your hand  
Bass  
It is part of your identity  
If you show it to her  
She will know who you are

*The MUTE reach the object closer and closer to GISELLE*

Tenor

The shine of it is so bright  
The curve of it is so elegant  
Exceeds all the jewels

Bass

Please, open your eyes  
Take a look  
See who are you really  
Closely

*The object reached to the back of GISELLE's neck*

Soprano

Knife!  
It's your knife!  
The knife you once shave apple peel with  
The knife that only your village has  
Once she sees it  
She knows who you are!

*GISELLE turns her head.*  
*The MUTE tries to force her hand back.*  
*However it still slits the side of GISELLE's neck.*

Soprano

HAHA!  
She deserved it  
She caused your pathetic fate  
She can't escape  
Bass  
None of us can escape

*The MUTE shakes her head, the knife drops on the floor.*  
*Giselle fainted a few steps while coughing blood.*  
*The MUTE sees someone's shadow, coming this way.*

Soprano

You are killing the crown princess!  
What did you do!  
If anyone find it out  
You will die in hundreds of pieces!

*GISELLE collapses on the ground, lost consciousness.*

Tenor

No one has seen her face before  
What if you take her veil  
And put it on your face?

How about you put on her dress  
And she puts on yours?  
Can anyone tell the difference?

*The MUTE swap dresses with GISELLE, and puts on her veil.*

Bass

Looking at her face  
What is the difference  
Between two of you  
Young girl  
With their throats cut open

*The MUTE cries in tears.*

*The shadow comes closer and closer*

*She run towards the bedroom of GISELLE*

*As she run, she turns her head to see who is the shadow*

*It's the KUN OPERA DAN*

## 8.

*[Exits the MONK]*

*Inside GISELLE's bedroom, the MUTE cleaned up all the blood on the veil and the red silk dress.*

Bass

Murderer

Murderer

Murderer

*Someone knocks on the door.*

SERVANT

Your highness, sorry to disturb. The mute girl was just found dead in the garden. I am informed to check on the safety of you.

*The MUTE puts the veil on and opens the door.*

*Singing in foreign language comes from the hallway.*

KUN OPERA DAN

一刀断曲血玉碎

几点桃花乱染砌

怎想风吹草惊

狸猫慌慌逃去

SERVANT

Sorry your highness. She has been singing for hours. No one knows what is wrong with her nor the meaning of her singing. Good to see that you are fine, your highness.

*[Exits the SERVANT]*

*KUN OPERA DAN kept singing after the MUTE closed the door.*

*KUN OPERA DAN never stopped singing.*

KUN OPERA DAN

睡不稳纱窗风雨黄昏后  
忘不了新愁与旧愁  
咽不下玉粒金莼噎满喉  
照不见菱花镜里形容瘦  
展不开的眉头  
捱不明的更漏  
呀！

恰便似遮不住的青山隐隐  
流不断的绿水悠悠

Soprano

Ahhhhh!

Bass

You killed someone  
However it was not your fault  
You never had a choice  
You are in this chaos  
Who's the cause?

Tenor

You killed because you were angry  
You are angry because you are mute  
You are mute because the revolutionaries need you to be mute  
And that's why the eunuchs harmed you

Bass

Why do you need to be mute?

Soprano

Because they want to insult Michel!  
That's all the reason why you are here  
To insult Michel!

Bass

He is the cause  
Of everything

Soprano

What should you do next?

*MUTE bites on her finger and writes on the wall with her blood: "Suicide".*

Tenor

It's going to be the end of Michel

Soprano

Let's go to hell together

Bass

On the road

There will be hemlock

Growing on both sides

*MUTE places her hand on the flagon on the table, and look at the garden through the window,*

KUN OPERA DAN

后花园巷草青青  
刀弩声高众乐停  
两身一魂自不续  
望肠寸断万事宁  
千愁万恨过花时  
人去人来酒一卮  
唱尽曲词无人识  
静待僧鸟离枯枝



## 12.

*[Exits the MONK]*

*On the day of the ceremony, the MUTE is getting ready.*

SERVANT

Your highness, the preparation is done. It's time.

Soprano & Tenor & Bass

It's time

*The MUTE tidys the veil on her face. Hold the flagon and two cups in her hand and walked out.*

*MICHEL with his golden garment is walking towards the center of the throne room. In the middle there is the crown.*

*FIDEL stands behind the crown, as the compere. All the courtiers, army and eunuchs are listed by the side of the room.*

FIDEL

Let the ceremony begin, your highnesses!

Soprano & Tenor & Bass

Today is the day

It's the moment we been pray

Everyone now say

What is today?

Soprano

It's the day of the royal wedding

The perfect match made by god

Descent of phoenix and dragon

Brings hope and future to its people

Tenor

It's the day of the enthronement

New king new rules and new power

Our prince full of dreams

Finally have the throne in his own hand

Bass

It's the day of ending the last  
The old does not go, the new does not come  
Ones who are suffering now  
Grief will be no more

*The MUTE passes MICHEL one of the two cups. Fill the cups with wine.*

FIDEL

Your highnesses, your future majesties! Come, Come, Cheer up!

*MICHEL and MUTE crossed their cup.*

Soprano & Tenor & Bass

Drink drink!  
We ask not the same day of birth  
but we seek the same day of death  
We will hold hands  
Walk into the eternal

*GISELLE broke into the room through the window. She has a crossbow in her arm.  
She shoots the arrow towards the MUTE. She dodges behind MICHEL.  
The arrow went through MICHEL' head, stabbed on the pedestal below the crown.  
The two cups drop on the floor.*

Soprano & Tenor & Bass

Ohh...  
(*Fade out*)

*The MUTE closed her eyes waiting for the second arrow. However GISELLE stopped her motion.  
Everyone's attention is on GISELLE. No one notices MUTE.  
MUTE looks at GISELLE who is held down by guards, She stares back at her.*

FIDEL

Put her in jail! NOW!!!!

*[Exits Guards with the GISELLE]*

*MUTE is standing in the middle of the room.*

*No one notices her, people go past her and leave, until the room is empty.*

*Light of the stage fades into darkness, MUTE is still standing in the middle of the room.*

# 14?

*When the lights turn back on, it's a scene of forest. The MUTE starts to run and tries to find a way to go.*

*She bumped into a tree. The tree fell flat, revealing the color of cardboard on its back.*

*The MUTE panics, she keeps running. She sees a MONK walking away. She ran past a back-board of a tall building. On the building there are steel bars. A quiet singing approaches.*

GISELLE

Over here

Over here

Michel

Michel

*The MUTE stopped. A small object got thrown out of the bars. She catches it in her hand. It's the slit ring.*

MUTE

...

*The MUTE opened her mouth trying to let GISELLE know, however she couldn't. Tears slid down the MUTE's face. She raises her hand towards the bars.*

*A sound of an object hitting the wall of the jail*

SERVANT

Someone come! The mute just killed herself!

*Lights fade away.*

# 15?

*Lights fade back on.*

*The MUTE holds the slit ring and falls down to the ground. She sees a MONK enter and exits. She sees MALLORY walk on to a broken wall of the castle far away, and then collapse on the remains.*

*Curtain slowly falls down.*

*Instruments fade in*

*KUN OPERA DAN*

*/Drum Drum*

*Flute/*

幼圣子灾时遇贵缘  
奸内臣中外伏长线

*/Clapper/*

骁勇将，好了汉，皆化河边白蜡灰  
无辜雪复霜，恨上恨，杀意涌心间

*/Drum Drum/*

人流离只为求安全  
盛宴里谁知你我为

*/Drum Clapper*

*Clapper/*

半夜君逃相走，望烟波，谁吊真魂？  
玉断环，文间台外，不在命中流连

*/Flute/*

Audience 1

Wait... I don't understand why the ending is arranged like this. Why is the mute here?

Audience 2

Me too, and she knocked down parts of the set. That was for sure a stage accident.

*The Audience murmurs with disappointment. The MUTE ran towards the backstage.*

*The MUTE ran past FIDEL*

FIDEL's actor

Hey! What is wrong with you today? I am talking to you! Where are you going?

*The MUTE ignored FIDEL's actor. She kept running and opened every door she ran past. Until in one door, someone she's been looking for is sitting inside. They looked into each other's eyes.*

GISELLE

... Michel?

MUTE

Giselle!

*MUTE jumps into GISELLE's arm, they hug for a long time.*

MUTE

We are unlike others, we are characters.

GISELLE

Let's leave.

MUTE

Let's leave, together.

*The slit ring shines in their hands.*

# 1.

*[Enters the MONK]*

*The MONK traveled for a long time. He walked past the north, south, west, east, abandoned, rural, suburban, main city, and the palace. Now he is walking towards the stage. He walks onto the stage and sits on the left corner. He looks at the throne room.*

MONK

The bird fights its way out of the egg  
The egg is the world  
Who would be born must first destroy a world  
Are we standing on where the crack starts  
Let us travel around this shell

Michel oh Michel  
If you ever had a choice  
Will you not be a bird  
To be not placed in this hell

*[Enters MICHEL]*

*[Exits the MONK]*

## 2.

*[Enters the MONK]*

*The MONK looks at the house in the rural area.*

MONK

Does the wrath of man still tremble the wheat?

Are earthquakes still killing the flea?

Every motion of you

brings uncountable hair to tremor

Can you count how many have come off?

Do they have names?

*[Enters the MUTE]*

*[Exits the MONK]*



### 3.

*[Enters the MONK]*

*The MONK looks at the book room of the east palace.*

MONK

Where does my life go?  
Where does the night begin?  
I had everything surrounds me  
Transparent as a crystal abyss  
Dark, isolated  
A star inlaid in me  
So huge, it's my heart  
how happy it is released  
Who I may love  
Out of practice without description  
My fate is staring at me  
This time it's not unbearable  
why am I lying on this infinite field  
Cycling back and forth  
At the same time calling and trembling  
Afraid anyone be doomed  
In the other person  
Because they heard the call

*[Enters MICHEL]*

*[Exits the MONK]*

## 4.

*[Enters the MONK]*

*The MONK looks at the garrison of the Revolutionary Army.*

MONK

In the mire of disappointment  
Tadpoles spawns  
Rush fearlessly towards the dam of injustice  
They died batch after batch  
Until the bodies rise above water surface  
Become a spear  
Stabs right in the dam  
At least it'll give it a sting

*[Enters MALLORY and DIDIER]*

*[Exits the MONK]*

## 5.

*[Enters the MONK]*

*The MONK looks at the throne room.*

MONK

The mute horn is about to be blown  
Blown away the veil  
The micro evil of all  
A secretly inflamed abscess  
Spurt out of one single pore  
You've changed  
Covered in grease  
Becoming the embodiment of sin

*[Enters MICHEL]*

*[Exits the MONK]*

## 6.

*[Enters the MONK]*

*The MONK looks at the rural area of the country.*

MONK

The one who used to be opposite  
Stand before your eyes  
Stand shoulder by shoulder with his enemy  
With the separated flesh tighten as bow string  
Shoots backwards  
Shoots his long resting bed

*[Enters MALLORY and DIDIER]*

*[Exits the MONK]*

# 7.

*[Enters the MONK]*

*The MONK looks at the garden of the west castle.*

MONK

There was the sound of blades far away  
There is the sound of the blade again  
Something as moody as clam  
Something as rational as seaweed  
Something as sad as water fleas  
Creatures have bodies buried deep inside  
Out of nowhere  
Grows a thousand hands like ribbons  
Tied the most innocent two  
Hatred and blood, splash, splash, splash  
Flowing,  
Like tears flowing silently

*[Enters the MUTE]*

*[Exits the MONK]*

## 8.

*[Enters the MONK]*

*The MONK looks at GISELLE's bedroom.*

MONK

Sing the song  
Until coughs blood  
Only the moon understands  
Blood appeared above the moonlight  
In the room  
Sparks through the night  
Illuminating evidences of the crimes committed  
Shadows on all four walls  
  
Indefensible ones  
Hangs on the hemlock they once stepped on

*[Enters the MUTE]*

*[Exits the MONK]*

# 9.

*[Enters the MONK]*

*The MONK looks at the throne room.*

MONK

A lie full of flaws can actually trick  
Men's unique stupidity  
Leave for future to confess  
The fingers of those egomaniacs  
Tampings their only chance into the wall,  
Crush her over carelessly

*[Enters MICHEL and FIDEL]*

*[Exits the MONK]*

# 10.

*[Enters the MONK]*

*The MONK looks at the abandoned field.*

MONK

This stranger  
We've never met  
I'm wearing a purple cloak you've never seen before  
You're wearing a earring I've never seen before  
I beg you  
Don't revenge  
I beg you to forgive you  
Again  
Men's unique stupidity

*[Enters MALLORY]*

*[Exits the MONK]*



# 11.

*[Enters the MONK]*

*The MONK looks at the outside of the garrison*

MONK

I was Apollo's sunbird  
This time I become catkins  
I asks the wind bring me above clouds  
Let me get closer to the burning brightness  
Just a millisecond  
Catkin  
Feather  
Ash  
Transformation is completed

*[Enters HARVE and DIDIER]*

*[Exits the MONK]*

# 12.

*[Enters the MONK]*

*The MONK looks at the throne room*

MONK

Stars don't move,  
High up in the sky,  
Future is set in orbit  
What does the darkness have to do with you?  
The moment bury in bright  
Knocked down by which falling star?  
All expectations knocked down by you  
But they're the ones who let go?

*[Enters EVERYONE]*

*[Exits the MONK]*

# 13.

*[Enters the MONK]*

*The MONK looks at the bedroom of MICHEL*

MONK

At what time of night  
God next door woke you up with a loud shout  
He need you again  
And you know  
He is in the next room by himself.  
If he needs some water  
No one will bring it to him but you.  
You are groping in the dark  
You've been listening  
That sigh  
The palace wall  
It was built in his image, in your honor  
And when the redness is bright  
It's all in your arms

*[Enters MICHEL]*

*[Exits the MONK]*

# 14.

*[Enters the MONK]*

*The MONK looks at the jail.*

MONK

It's all around your eyes  
Splitting headache  
From afar to the plain  
Let it all leak through the breach  
No longer flawless jade  
No longer unity  
Doesn't matter  
It truly split my eyes

*[Enters GISELLE]*

*[Exits the MONK]*

# 15.

*The MONK and KUN OPEAR DAN walks towards the center of the stage.*

MONK

People goes around comes around, death is the opening  
Characters loop forever, look where words ends

MONK

You have completed a world  
A script that grows in silence  
Most profound your heart  
Are grasping its meaning,  
Most gentle your eyes  
Are letting it go...  
I think she is  
done with these  
Broken poems  
At the slit  
We are blowing away  
To the boundless end

We're leaving

The bird flies to God

That God's name is...

Ever goodbye

KUN OPERA DAN

你完成了一个世界  
一个在寂静中渐熟的剧本  
然而当你的深心  
掌握它的意义  
你双眼轻柔地  
将其释去...  
我想她  
已讲完这  
破碎的诗篇  
在这断裂处  
我们被吹起  
飘向无垠的尽头

我们要离开了

鸟飞向神

神的名字叫...

*Instruments fade in*

*/Drum Drum*

*Flute/*

*/Clapper/*

*/Drum Drum/*

*/Drum Clapper Clapper/*

*/Flute/*

*Novectacle "The House of Fata Morgana"*

*Emily Dickinson "letters from Dickinson to george h. gould"*

*Adriana Caselotti "With a Smile and a Song"*

*Rainer Maria Rilke "The Sonnets To Orpheus: XIX"*

*Rainer Maria Rilke "New Poems"*

*Hermann Hesse "Demian"*

*Sakutarō Hagiwara "Tsuki ni Hoeru"*

曹雪芹「红豆曲」

汤显祖「牡丹亭」

孔尚任「桃花扇」

Michel  
Giselle  
Mute  
Harve  
Didier  
Mallory  
Fidel  
Servant  
Bass  
Tenor  
Soprano  
Monk  
Kun Opera Dan