

HUIZZ... SHAQQ... BATAR...

Prologue - HUIZZ

FAUSTO: Forgive me my silence, longer than your last letter, in which you promised us another eternity. I read it with the same agonizing longing as its predecessors. Why does your eternal friend take so long to respond? Perhaps a vengeful being hides behind his kindness.

Out here, wings battle the elements amidst dense clouds. Its lights wink red in the face of night. Danger, blood, love - reasons for my taking flight, to you, the first one who set my heart alight and turned me into a boiling being.

My distress is dire. I am on the edge and do not think I will survive the fall from this height. Unlike you, she offers no healing. She has withdrawn herself from me and calls it mercy. Now despair has moved in with me. You know I make radical decisions in her company.

Scene 1 - I HAVE PEAKED (ARIA FAUSTO)

FAUSTO:

The vehicle sways and cracks.

The people are afraid they cry out and pray,
pray,

pray.

pray.

It must mean love has become my life's plan.

Love's become my life's plan so it has peaked.

There is nothing more to gain,

So I have peaked.

And therefore I can fall.

Scene 2 - ANOTHER LOVE LOST TO FRIENDSHIP

FAUSTO:

Eletta, it happened again. Another love lost to friendship.

ELETTA:

Fausto, my dear. I am grieving with you.

FAUSTO:

When we talked, time disappeared. And the silences—

ELETTA:

Spoke for themselves.

FAUSTO:

As with you.

ELETTA:

Does the unlucky one have a name?

Fiamma appears

FAUSTO:

Fiamma.

ELETTA:

A soft name.

FAUSTO:

That's her.

ELETTA:

You sleep better on a hard mattress.

FAUSTO:

I don't sleep anymore. I dream.

ELETTA:

And you're sure she doesn't share the dream?

FAUSTO:

That's the only thing I am sure of.

ELETTA:

Oh, my dear, I grieve with you.

Scene 3 - CALL THIS MERCY

ELETTA:
Fausto and I survived the years because we kept talking.
FIAMMA
Talking harms us.
ELETTA
Less than silence.
FIAMMA
We must wait. Time is a blanket.
ELETTA
Your blanket suffocates.
FIAMMA
We need distance.
ELETTA
Distance can be sheath, or dagger.
FIAMMA
Time will heal.
ELETTA
You don't know him like I do.
FIAMMA
It's good to be selfish sometimes.
ELETTA
Not this time. This is not the time.
FIAMMA
It is not your place to decide!

ARIA ELETTA

Will you make time into a cruel thing?
Avert your eyes and call it waiting?
Let it smother the past before you allow a present again?
And call this mercy?
What are you willing to sacrifice?

ELETTA

With you, as with me: The first wound, he owes to himself.

Scene 4 - I LICK MY WOUND

ARIA FAUSTO

I lick my wound
I was told saliva heals
Now it's run out
And in my mouth
A slab of meat-shaped sandpaper
Still, I lick on

BOB

A wound... in a wound... in a wound...
You lick, you mull, you muse. Enough.

Scene 5 - BATAR version 2

FAUSTO	Huzz... shaqq... batar... (whispered)
ELETTA	What was that?
FAUSTO	A prayer.
ELETTA	To what end?
BOB	Freedom! (Intrusive thought)
FAUSTO	Amputation.
ELETTA	For God's sake, why?!
FAUSTO	Healing is cruel.
ELETTA	Dropping the cross?
FAUSTO	Not mine to carry.
ELETTA	What of your love?
BOB	(Intrusive thought) Wormy wasted love!
FAUSTO	You would have me wriggle and squirm!
ELETTA	You're a man, not a battlefield!
BOB	Nur eine Waffe taugt...

Fausto considers the dagger but then realizes it's the pen—the word, the language—that caused the wound. He stabs himself. Fiamma disappears.

BOB	There goes the second! And now the one.
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Fausto turns to Eletta. Curtain closes.