

AER
Libretto

SONUS STANDS IN THE CENTER OF THE MAZE.
HALL LIGHT OFF.
STAGE LIGHTS ON: SPOTS ON MAZE, THROBBING/ALIVE, FLUID.

Introduction (0'' - 1' 20'')

LIGHTS MOVING.
AT THE END OF INTRO: SONUS' ILHOUETTE BECOMES MORE VISIBLE.

ACT 1, Scene 1 (1' 21'' - 7'46'')

LIGHT ON THE MAZE STILL MOVING BUT MORE CALMLY.
DURING ACT 1: SONUS MOVES THROUGH THE MAZE ALONG ALL FOUR SIDES,
TOUCHING AND HUGGING DIFFERENT CURTAINS, MOVEMENT CHANGES
BETWEEN SENSUAL, TEASING AND DANCING, VERY INTIMATE.

Sonus: Avir?

Avir: Yes?

Sonus: Do you remember?

Avir: Remember what?

Sonus: That time we went swimming in the lake?

Avir: Of course I do, you almost drowned.

Sonus: I didn't almost drown! I was just testing if you would come to save me.

Avir: No you weren't!

Sonus: I was! I had to see if you would rescue me!

Avir: And I did.

Sonus: You did.

Avir: You knew I would.

Sonus: I know you always will.

SHORT TEXTUAL SILENCE

Avir: Your parents were so mad.

Sonus: You should have heard my mother: “Sonus, swimming in a lake in the middle of the woods? Have you lost your mind?”

Avir: I’ve always liked your mom.

Sonus: She liked you too. You were always like a son to her.

Avir: I know.

Sonus: You know, she still bakes an apple pie on your birthday every year.

Avir: Really?

Sonus: And no one eats the last piece...

SHORT TEXTUAL SILENCE

Sonus: Do you know why I remember that time by the lake?

Avir: Because you almost died?

Sonus: No.

Avir: Not that?

Sonus: You know what I mean.

Avir: I have absolutely no idea what you mean (clearly teasing)

Sonus: Avir...

Avir: Hmm?

Sonus: Don’t tease like that.

Avir: Teasing? Me? I would never!

Sonus: Stop it!

AVIR IS SILENT.

Sonus: Avir?

AVIR IS SILENT.

Sonus: Avir? Are you – are you still here?

AVIR IS SILENT.

Sonus: Why are you not saying anything?

Avir: [short silence] Just kidding. I’m still here, of course.

Sonus: That is not funny.

Avir: It is a bit funny.

Sonus: No, it's not.

Avir: I'm sorry, okay? Sorry! And of course I know why you remember the lake.

Sonus: So say it.

Avir: You remember it because it was the first time we kissed.

Sonus: It was.

Avir: It was mouth to mouth resuscitation. (joking)

Sonus: It was not! You kissed me.

Avir: And you kissed back.

Sonus: And I kissed back.

Avir: I remember.

TEXTUAL SILENCE

Sonus: Counting nights is supposed to heal from grieving.

Avir: It doesn't, does it?

Sonus: As time passes, so should the pain. But the nights don't take away my grieving.

Because I do not grieve. We speak, you are everywhere around me, you are with me. You will never leave me, right?

Avir: I will not.

Sonus: But not looking into your eyes is the worst.

Avir: Look everywhere, my eyes are everywhere.

Sonus: I miss touching you.

Avir: I miss you touching me.

Sonus: I miss touching your hips and smelling your hair and laying my head on your chest and carrying you around on my back.

Avir: You still carry me with you.

Sonus: I can't carry things that aren't there anymore, only bear them. I can only bear you.

Sonus: The one thing I love most. I love more than any...

ACT 1, Scene 2 (7'47'' - 9'03'')

SONUS COMES OUT OF MAZE, SEES THE AUDIENCE, CIRCLES THE MAZE (IN SHOCK).

ACT 2, Scene 1 (9'04'' - 13'13'')

Avir: Sonus?

SONUS GAZES TOWARDS AUDIENCE, STILL CIRCLING THE MAZE, NOW MORE SLOWLY.

Sonus: Give me a minute.

Avir: Why?

Sonus: I can't. Not now.

Avir: Why not? Is something wrong?

Sonus: Nothing. There is nothing wrong.

Avir: Okay. Is everything okay? Hey... Are you okay?

SONUS STANDS STILL.

Sonus: Yes. I'm okay.

SONUS LOOKS AT MAZE FOR THE FIRST TIME AFTER THE SHOCK.

Avir: Then why are you acting all crazy?

Sonus: I am not crazy!

I am not

Crazy

SONUS SEEKS FOR COMFORT PHYSICALLY, HUGS AVIR/THE MAZE.

Avir: Sonus? Sonus? Tell me what is wrong.

SONUS FREES HIMSELF FROM THE EMBRACE, WALKS AWAY FROM THE MAZE.

Avir: Hey! I'm talking to you.

SONUS LOOKS BACK AT THE MAZE BRIEFLY

Avir: Why are you ignoring me?

Sonus: I am not ignoring you.

Avir: Ah so you didn't lose your tongue. Is something wrong?

SONUS STANDS STILL

Sonus: Nothing.

Avir: That's all you say? Nothing. You can talk to me. You know that. Hey.

SONUS LOOKS UP, IN THE SPACE (NOT AT THE MAZE)

Sonus: I can't.

Avir: Why can't you? Hey! Stop pretending I'm not there.

Sonus: I can't.

Avir: Am I suddenly air to you?

Sonus: Stop it!

SONUS LOOKS & SPEAKS TOWARDS THE SPACE (NOT THE MAZE). SONUS' GAZE AND MOVEMENTS MORE TENSE & RESTLESS NOW.

SONUS MOVES CLOSER TO AUDIENCE, BACK AND FORTH, DIFFERENT PLACES, SEEKS RECOGNITION FROM AUDIENCE MEMBERS.

Sonus: You aren't air to me.

Avir: I used to be your air.

Sonus: Quit it, there are actual people watching.

Avir: Actual people? I'm not an actual person to you anymore?

Sonus: Of course you are an actual person.

Avir: What are you afraid of? Afraid of them? What they think?

Sonus: They will notice.

Avir: Let them notice. They will always notice, always judge. Whatever you think or even consider thinking about.

Sonus: Just shut up!

Avir: Sonus? Sonus? Don't do this, hey?!

Sonus: I'm serious! Go away!

SONUS' VOICE ALREADY SLIGHTLY FADING.

Avir: Son...

Sonus: GO!

Avir: You don't mean this, do you?

Sonus: I do. I'm tired of this. People look at me like I'm a madman. Mad. Insane. Can you even imagine what that feels like?

SONUS STRUGGLING WITH HIS VOICE, SWITCHING BETWEEN SINGING AND SPEAKING.

AVIR IS SILENT.

Sonus: You have no idea. I can't do this anymore. You ruin me.

Avir: I ruin you? I?

Sonus: Yes, you do.

Avir: My love is not enough?

SONUS IS PHYSICALLY STRUGGLING, VERY CONFUSED

Sonus: What do you mean your love is not enough - Of course, it... I... I don't know...

Avir: If you don't even know that -

AVIR DECIDES TO WITHDRAW.

LIGHTS ON MAZE SWITCH OFF GRADUALLY.

SONUS HOLDS ON TO MAZE, DESPERATELY.

ACT 2 - Scene 2 (13'14'' - 15'12'')

Sonus: Avir. It's too much. I can't bear it anymore. You make me look crazy. You ...

SONUS' VOICE NOW SERIOUSLY FADING.

Sonus: Avir?

AVIR IS SILENT.

Sonus: Avir?

AVIR IS SILENT.

Sonus: Are you – are you... here?

LIGHT IN THE MAZE IS OFF. SONUS MOVES AROUND THE MAZE, HOLDS IT, PULLING THE CURTAINS, TRYING TO REVIVE THE MAZE, TURNING FOR HELP TOWARDS THE AUDIENCE, CHOKING AT THE SAME TIME, FINALLY MOVING INTO THE MAZE AGAIN, TO THE CENTRE LIKE IN THE BEGINNING.

AVIR IS SILENT.

Sonus: Avir? Don't. Don't do this to me.

AVIR IS SILENT.

SONUS BACK IN THE CENTRE, CROUCHING, SHIVERING, DEVASTATED BY HIS FATE, CLOSING HIS EYES.

Sonus: Come back.

Avir, you said you would never -

Avir, don't do this -

Avir, you [air sound]

Avir

BLACKOUT. SONUS WALKS OFF STAGE IN THE BLACK.