

MIDNIGHT BURGER

Chapter 29: Stella Splendens

By

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FROM A BALCONY WE HEAR THE SOUND OF A BUSTLING MARKETPLACE AND THE MUSLIM CALL TO PRAYER. WE ARE IN JERUSALEM. THE YEAR IS 1399. SOMEONE PLAYS A LUTE FROM THE BALCONY.

SONG: STELLA SPLENDENS.

THE SONG IS INTERRUPTED BY A METEOR STREAKING THROUGH THE SKY. WE HEAR A DISTANT EXPLOSION BEHIND THE NEARBY MOUNTAINS.

THE SONG CONTINUES PLAYING AS WE MOVE TO THE NEXT MORNING. A LARGE IRON KNOCKER HITS A LARGE WOODEN DOOR. AFTER A MOMENT WE HEAR THE KNOCKING AGAIN.

YOSEF

(From behind the door.)  
Terric! Terric, open up, my friend.

THE LARGE DOOR OPENS.

TERRIC

I do not believe we had business today, Yosef.

YOSEF

We do not, we do not. May I come in?

TERRIC

Of course.

YOSEF

How have you been?

TERRIC

Did I not see you yesterday, Yosef?

YOSEF

Yes, of course. My mistake.

TERRIC

To what do I owe this pleasure?

YOSEF

Many an interesting tale here in Yerushalem.

TERRIC

True, it is a very interesting place.

YOSEF

Barquq has died.

TERRIC

I have heard this.

YOSEF

You have heard this?

TERRIC

I heard this in the market just this morning.

YOSEF

I do not like it when you get the news not from me.

TERRIC

I apologize.

YOSEF

Zuzanna is very worried about this.

TERRIC

As I recall your wife is, at all times, worried about all things.

YOSEF

With Barquq dead, his son inherits the kingdom. His son is only aged eleven years. Now I am hearing rumors of the Ottomans coming in from the East.

TERRIC

The Ottomans will stay where they are.

YOSEF

You think?

TERRIC

To take this city you must be up for a climb, and the Mamluks are already here so why bother?

YOSEF

Very well, very well.

TERRIC

Is this why you've come today? To warn me of the Ottomans?

YOSEF

I require your assistance.

TERRIC

Interesting, that's usually the other way round.

YOSEF

Yes... strange things happening outside the city today.

TERRIC

Oh?

YOSEF

I was born in this city. Have lived in this city for all of my life. Somewhere along the way I have become a person that people come to when there are strange goings on.

TERRIC

This I know.

YOSEF

Two shepherds outside the city, they have come upon something strange and ask for my assistance.

TERRIC

And?

YOSEF

I cannot give them my assistance.

TERRIC

Why?

YOSEF

It is a woman.

TERRIC

A woman.

YOSEF

They have found a woman outside the city.

TERRIC

Found? Explain what you mean by found.

YOSEF

She is... I find this hard to explain, perhaps we should depart. See for ourselves.

TERRIC

Is she lost?

YOSEF

She is most definitely lost.

TERRIC

She is most likely a pilgrim. Strayed from her congregation and found herself outside the city. How do you need my assistance?

YOSEF

... She is a woman alone.

TERRIC

As you've said.

YOSEF

I am... a married man. The shepherds are married men. We are pious men. Men of God.

TERRIC

... You must be joking.

YOSEF

I am not.

TERRIC

You have come to me on this day because there is a single woman in the countryside.

YOSEF

Yes.

TERRIC

And you, as a pious, married, man, cannot be alone with a woman.

YOSEF

Yes.

TERRIC

Whereas I, an unmarried man and a Christian, can be alone with a woman without receiving God's displeasure.

YOSEF

I imagine you will still receive his displeasure, but you don't seem to mind too much.

TERRIC

What do you expect me to do about a mysterious single woman in the countryside?

YOSEF

It will take us quite some time to get there, we shall discover a solution along the way.

TERRIC

A solution. Yosef I have yet to see what the problem is. There is a woman outside the city, what is the crisis?

YOSEF

She is... She is unusual.

TERRIC

In what sense?

YOSEF

Her hair is the color of flames.

TERRIC

That's not unusual. At least not in my part of the world.

YOSEF

Yes, but in the countryside around the city, they grow worried of her presence. There is talk of witchcraft.

TERRIC

There is always talk of witchcraft in the countryside, in fact that is all there is talk of in the countryside.

YOSEF

What of the... do not you English have something? What is it? Chivalry?

TERRIC

I'm not a knight, I'm a scholar.

YOSEF

Terric. It is a woman alone. Let us be men.

TERRIC

... Unfortunately my curiosity has been awakened.

YOSEF

As I knew it would be.

TERRIC

Very well, Yosef. Let us go see a strange woman in the countryside.

WE MOVE TO THE COUNTRYSIDE OUTSIDE OF THE CITY. THERE IS NOW A SMALL CROWD OF PEOPLE SPEAKING ARABIC.

TERRIC (CONT'D)

Well. There she is.

YOSEF

She was found in this field by the shepherds. She has been lying there with her face to the ground throughout the day.

TERRIC

That's the reddest hair I've ever seen. You haven't seen her face?

YOSEF

She will not raise her eyes.

TERRIC

So you've all just stood here?

YOSEF

The situation is more complex than you know, but perhaps you should first try and speak with her.

TERRIC

The fact that you think your God would look unfavorably on you for giving assistance to a woman who is obviously in need of it is simply ridiculous.

YOSEF

Yes, but I know I have my friend Terric, so I can remain pious and also help her through you.

TERRIC

Throughout the day she has been here, Yosef.

YOSEF

And her suffering soon shall end because you have arrived.

TERRIC

... Give me that skin of water.

TERRIC SLOWLY APPROACHES, MOVING THROUGH THE GRASS IN THE FIELD.

TERRIC (CONT'D)

My lady.

CLEMENTINE

Who are you?

TERRIC

I am Terric of York. I have water.

CLEMENTINE

I'm not thirsty.

TERRIC

You've been in the sun all day.

CLEMENTINE

I'm not.

TERRIC

... May I see your face?

CLEMENTINE

No.

TERRIC

Have you been injured?

CLEMENTINE

I... I can't look up.

TERRIC

Why can you not?

CLEMENTINE

The... the sky. I can't look at the sky.

TERRIC

You cannot look at the sky.

CLEMENTINE

If I look at the sky I get dizzy and fall down.

TERRIC

Are you ill?

CLEMENTINE

I don't know.

YOSEF APPROACHES.

YOSEF

Well met to you, my lady.

TERRIC

Now you approach?

YOSEF

She is not alone, now I approach.

TERRIC

She won't take water and is unable to rise.

YOSEF

She must though. There is an urgency to what we do.

TERRIC

Why?

YOSEF

I may not have been entirely honest back at your home.

TERRIC

What is it?

YOSEF

They have come from surrounding farms to see this woman. They are very concerned she is a bad omen.



TERRIC

Wonderful.

YOSEF

I may have assured them that you are going to take this woman and return with her to your homeland.

TERRIC

My homeland.

YOSEF

Yes.

TERRIC

Of England.

YOSEF

Yes.

TERRIC

There is one problem with this endeavor, Yosef.

YOSEF

That you are not, in fact, returning to your homeland?

TERRIC

Yes.

YOSEF

All the same, I think we should make a show of it. We shall pretend you are taking her away, but we shall go around the mountain the long way and then take her into the city.

TERRIC

I see that lies are completely accepted by your God.

YOSEF

I shall work such things out with Hashem. I have a covered wagon for us, we should leave. They are becoming very upset.

TERRIC

... Bring the wagon round.

YOSEF

You are a good man, Terric.

YOSEF RUNS OFF.

TERRIC

My I ask your name?

CLEMENTINE

Go ahead.

TERRIC

... What is your name?

CLEMENTINE

I don't know.

TERRIC

You don't know your name?

CLEMENTINE

I can't remember anything.

TERRIC

Oh my. My lady, we must depart.

CLEMENTINE

Where?

TERRIC

I will... take you back to my home in the city.

CLEMENTINE

I can't even take two steps without falling.

TERRIC

Then I shall carry you.

LATER. TERRIC AND CLEMENTINE SIT IN THE BACK OF THE COVERED WAGON AS IT TRAVELS THE LONG WAY HOME.

TERRIC (CONT'D)

Does the covered wagon help?

CLEMENTINE

Yes, thank you.

TERRIC

You said you cannot look at the sky.

CLEMENTINE

Yes.

TERRIC

Why is this?

CLEMENTINE

I have no idea.

TERRIC

You have no memory of how you came to be lying in that field?

CLEMENTINE

I tried walking for a long time, but every time I took a few steps I would fall.

TERRIC

That is... strange.

CLEMENTINE

... Yes.

TERRIC

Do you remember where you're from? We speak the same tongue but your way of speaking is quite different from mine.

CLEMENTINE

I don't remember... Where am I?

TERRIC

Jerusalem.

CLEMENTINE

What is that?

TERRIC

What is it?

CLEMENTINE

Yes, what's Jerusalem?

TERRIC

Jerusalem is... a city.

CLEMENTINE

Oh.

TERRIC

... You shouldn't worry. I've seen something like this before. My brother, Tybalt, has been in many battles, mostly skirmishes with Scotland. In the aftermath of one of these battles, he was horribly injured. He had a very difficult time remembering peoples names for days afterwards. You may have sustained an injury that has caused your memories to leave you, but they will return.

CLEMENTINE

... Okay.

TERRIC

Can you tell me anything at all? Your last memory? Anything you can grasp in your mind?

CLEMENTINE

... It can't be a memory, it has to be a dream.

TERRIC

Tell me.

CLEMENTINE

... I was surrounded by trees. They were so tall they seemed to reach for the sky. There were two people there looking down at me... I heard sirens approaching... Then I was lying down but going very fast. I could still hear the sirens... Then I was somewhere else, everyone was wearing blue... "We can't"... what was it... "We can't get the IV in her" they said that... Then they were gone... the room was empty and I ran... I flung the door open... I flung the door open and I was... I was suddenly floating above the Earth... I could see all of it... I could see the sunrise from above the Earth... then I started falling... my body was glowing red... then I woke up here...

TERRIC

... Yes, I would call that a dream.

CLEMENTINE

(Laughing)

Yeah... Can you tell me the date? Maybe that will help.

TERRIC

Of course. It is the 5th of June, in the year of our lord 1399.

YOSEF

(From the front of the wagon.)

The year of his lord 1399. The year is 5159.

TERRIC

Oh, shut it.

CLEMENTINE

And who is that?

TERRIC

That is Yosef. He is a friend.

CLEMENTINE

And you two don't agree on what year it is?

TERRIC

We agree that we are in the same year, we disagree on how to count the years.

CLEMENTINE

Why?

TERRIC

... Because I am a Christian and he is a Jew.

CLEMENTINE

What does that mean?

TERRIC

... I fear your memories may be worse off than we thought.

CLEMENTINE

Great.

WE HEAR THE SOUND OF A CELEBRATION IN THE STREETS.

CLEMENTINE (CONT'D)

What is that?

TERRIC

Celebration of some sort. Yosef, who is that celebrating?

YOSEF

I believe the Armenians.

TERRIC

Ah.

CLEMENTINE

What are they celebrating?

TERRIC

In the city of Jerusalem, it is always someone's religious holiday. You begin to ignore it.

THE WAGON PASSES BY THE CELEBRATION.

CLEMENTINE

Your name is Terric?

TERRIC

Terric.

CLEMENTINE

Thank you for getting me out of that field, Terric.

TERRIC

Of course.

CLEMENTINE

Thank you too, Yosef.

YOSEF

The pleasure is mine, My Lady.

CLEMENTINE

...I don't know what to do now.

YOSEF

No need to do anything. You will stay at my home until your mind returns to you. You will have everything you need.

CLEMENTINE

What if that takes a long time?

YOSEF

Then take a long time, it shall.

THE WAGON ROLLS OFF INTO THE CITY AND WE FADE INTO SILENCE. THE SILENCE IS THEN BROKEN BY CLEMENTINE SUDDENLY WAKING UP. AS SOON AS SHE WAKES WE CAN HEAR TERRIC PLAYING "STELLA SPLENDENS" IN THE NEXT ROOM. SHE GETS OUT OF BED AND MOVES INTO THE MAIN ROOM. WHEN THE SONG ENDS SHE APPLAUDS.

TERRIC

She finally awakens.

CLEMENTINE

How long was I out?

TERRIC

Nearly an entire day.

CLEMENTINE

Really?

TERRIC

Yes. I began to worry, but then I remembered that you survived an entire day in the Jerusalem sun without water. You're made of sterner stuff.

CLEMENTINE

Do you think they're telling stories of a crazy red-headed woman to scare their children now?

TERRIC

(Laughs.)

The way you speak is so strange.

CLEMENTINE

The way you speak sounds pretty strange to me.

TERRIC

I imagine so.

CLEMENTINE

So... Now what do I do?

TERRIC

I've had quite some time to think on it. I cannot seem to find a path forward.

CLEMENTINE

Is that the city out there?

TERRIC

Yes. Would you like to see?

CLEMENTINE

... I don't know. There's a lot of sky out there.

TERRIC

The city has been here for three thousand years, you have time to see it. Why do you believe looking at the sky makes you feel so ill at ease?

CLEMENTINE

I don't know. It's like... It's like it's something I'm not used to.

TERRIC

Not used to? The sky is everywhere, you should probably begin to acquaint yourself.

CLEMENTINE

Okay... Okay I'm going to walk up to the balcony, if I start to get weird don't let me fall off.

TERRIC

I shall not.

CLEMENTINE MOVES CLOSER TO THE BALCONY.

CLEMENTINE

Okay... This is okay... it's beautiful.

TERRIC

This time of day in particular, yes. We are in what's becoming the "new city". Over there, you can see the great walls. Behind those walls is the old city, the city that has been here since practically the dawn of man.

WE HEAR THE MUSLIM CALL TO PRAYER ECHOING OUT OVER THE NEW CITY.

CLEMENTINE

What is that?

TERRIC

The Muslim call to prayer. A man sings that at various times of day to let all those of Muslim faith know it is time to pray.

CLEMENTINE

... There's so much I don't understand.

TERRIC

It will come.

CLEMENTINE

What were you playing just now?

TERRIC

Stella Splendens. It means Bright Star. I was actually conducting an experiment.

CLEMENTINE

What's the experiment?

TERRIC

The other evening I played this song and a star fell from the sky as I played, I thought I would try it again but alas.

CLEMENTINE

You thought playing a song would make a star fall from the sky?

TERRIC

Perhaps it wasn't the most scientific of experiments.

CLEMENTINE

What is that thing?

TERRIC

I should be playing a lute but my lute was lost when I made the journey to Jerusalem. Then I was in an area of the new city where all of the Greeks congregate and there was a luthier. He had this for sale and I procured it. It is called a Bouzouki.

CLEMENTINE

That's a funny name.

TERRIC

It is.

CLEMENTINE

... I should probably have a name.



TERRIC

I'm sure you have a name.

CLEMENTINE

Me too. But you have to call me something until I remember so... Call me something.

TERRIC

You want me to choose your name?

CLEMENTINE

That would help, yes, if you would just... do it.

TERRIC

... Clementine.

CLEMENTINE

Clementine?

TERRIC

Yes.

CLEMENTINE

Where did that come from?

TERRIC

It means merciful.

CLEMENTINE

Merciful?

TERRIC

Merciful.

CLEMENTINE

Fine. You like it?

TERRIC

I do.

CLEMENTINE

Okay. Then that's me. Until I remember something, I'm Clementine.

TERRIC

Well met, Clementine.

CLEMENTINE

I'm going to figure this out.

TERRIC

I believe you.

CLEMENTINE

... Can you play the song again?

TERRIC

Yes.

TERRIC PLAYS THE SONG AGAIN AS WE MOVE TO THE MARKETPLACE OF THE NEW CITY.

YOSEF

So, how is our new friend enjoying the city?

TERRIC

It's been several days now and she has yet to venture out into the city, but she appears to be doing well.

YOSEF

Has she remembered anything?

TERRIC

No, it's very strange.

YOSEF

Nothing?

TERRIC

No, not even her name. She asked me to give her a name.

YOSEF

Give one to her?

TERRIC

Yes, I call her Clementine.

YOSEF

Clementine?

TERRIC

Yes. After St. Clement. It means merciful.

YOSEF

It does not sound right coming out of my mouth, this is not a Jewish name.

TERRIC

Of course it's not a Jewish name, Yosef. Did you expect me to give her a Jewish name?

YOSEF

If she had a Jewish name she may remember things.

TERRIC

How in the world would a Jewish name help her remember who she was?

YOSEF

Jews remember everything.

TERRIC

Ridiculous.

YOSEF

What do we look for today?

TERRIC

Beets.

YOSEF

What?

TERRIC

Beets.

YOSEF

What is beets?

TERRIC

It's... She asked for them, I thought I would try the marketplace.

YOSEF

I've never heard of them.

TERRIC

Have you never had a beet before?

YOSEF

You say this like it is impossible that I have not had a beet.

TERRIC

It's a root. It's purple. They're around every corner back home.

YOSEF

Why has she asked for this?

TERRIC

I am unsure.

YOSEF

Perhaps this is progress?

TERRIC

How is asking for beets progress?

YOSEF  
She remembers that she wants something.

TERRIC  
... Suppose you're right.

YOSEF  
Perhaps I should meet with her again.

TERRIC  
Why?

YOSEF  
To be a friend, to be a neighbor, things such as this.

TERRIC  
... What are you up to?

YOSEF  
I am up to nothing.

TERRIC  
I can smell it on you when you have a scheme afoot, Yosef.

YOSEF  
There are no schemes on my feet, my friend.

TERRIC  
Yosef.

YOSEF  
... There is only one thing in Jerusalem that outnumbers the holy men. What is this?

TERRIC  
Thieves.

YOSEF  
Thieves. Liars. What is that other word, the one I like?

TERRIC  
Charlatans.

YOSEF  
Charlatans. For some strange reason, houses of God attract both the pious and the profane. Who was our favorite, do you remember?

TERRIC  
...Salazar the Dough Mage.

YOSEF

That is the one! He claimed his flatbread recipe was from the Virgin Mary. That it had been passed to him over the ages and that it offered absolution and healing to all who ate it. There are many like him all over this city.

TERRIC

You are implying that she is one of these Charlatans.

YOSEF

I imply nothing. I simply say to you this: when you are around this woman do you feel that your head is clear?

TERRIC

Yes.

YOSEF

Are you now in the marketplace trying to find her a root that does not exist?

TERRIC

... What do you suggest?

YOSEF

The wine you have been asking for has finally arrived. I shall bring it by later this day. I shall stay, we shall talk, I shall make sure she is not selling magical flatbreads.

TERRIC

What will you be able to see that I could not?

YOSEF

Many, many things, my friend.

WE SHIFT BACK TO TERRIC'S HOUSE. TERRIC IS POURING WINE FOR EVERYONE.

CLEMENTINE

Wait, I'm sorry, you speak how many languages?

YOSEF

That may depend.

CLEMENTINE

Depend on what?

YOSEF

On what you need for me to say.

CLEMENTINE

What do you mean?

YOSEF

The language of the French, the Spanish, the language of Rome, I speak them very well. English, Arabic, very well. Greek, eh, I can give you directions.

CLEMENTINE

How did you learn all these languages?

YOSEF

Around one hundred years ago, the Turks came. They swept through the city, leaving very few alive. Not just the Jews, Christians and Muslims as well. Any man or woman who lived in the New City or Old was marked for death. The hordes rode through the streets, killing everything in their path. For the longest time it was a city of ghosts. But then, far to the north in a city called Heidelberg a man, Isaac of Beilstein, decided it was time for the Jews to return to Yerushalem. My parents came with him. I was a young boy in Yerushalem trying to make my way. I was an errand boy for pilgrims from a place called Normandy. I learn French. You learn French, Spanish is not so difficult, you learn Spanish, the language of Rome is even easier. I even learned this bastard of a language, English.

TERRIC

English is a beautiful language, one day the whole world will speak it.

YOSEF

Impossible.

TERRIC

A man like Yosef is essential for life in Jerusalem. He speaks all of the languages, has relationships with all the right people, it would have been a very confusing city without him.

CLEMENTINE

Well, why did you come here, Terric?

YOSEF LAUGHS TO HIMSELF.

TERRIC

Cease your laughter.

YOSEF

I cannot help myself. I am so elated we have found ourselves here.

CLEMENTINE

What's so funny?

TERRIC

Yosef thinks the focus of my scholarly activities is to be laughed at.

CLEMENTINE

What is it?

TERRIC

Would you like some wine?

CLEMENTINE

Um. Sure. What is it?

TERRIC

Try it.

CLEMENTINE TRIES THE WINE.

CLEMENTINE

Kind of tastes like rotten fruit and wood.

TERRIC

That is...

YOSEF

That is not far off from what it is supposed to taste like, yes.

CLEMENTINE

Why do you drink this?

TERRIC

It is a thing to be shared among friends.

CLEMENTINE

Okay.

TERRIC

It's more widespread in my homeland. Mainly because the drinking water is quite often putrid.

YOSEF

What a paradise you describe.

CLEMENTINE

Okay, so, this is where Yosef was born. What about you, Terric? What is your home like, what is it called?

TERRIC

York. It is a lovely place. Jewel of the Great North Road.

CLEMENTINE

Why did you leave?

TERRIC

I left because it was home. And home can have its difficulties.

CLEMENTINE

And you came here?

TERRIC

Yes. My studies brought me here.

CLEMENTINE

Your studies that Yosef likes to make fun of?

TERRIC

Yes.

CLEMENTINE

What is so funny about what you're studying?

TERRIC

It is...

YOSEF

Go on, do not be ashamed.

TERRIC

I study a much maligned science that concerns itself with many things. One of those things being the transmutation of lead into gold.

CLEMENTINE

Okay. Why is that funny?

YOSEF

It is ridiculous.

TERRIC

Alchemy is a science that has been practiced for hundreds of years.

YOSEF

Has it? And where is all this gold that has been made?

TERRIC

... No one has yet achieved the transmutation of lead into gold.



CLEMENTINE

Okay, someone explain lead to me and someone explain gold to me.

YOSEF

Clementine, you truly have forgotten many things, haven't you?

TERRIC

Here...

WE HEAR A SMALL CHEST BEING OPENED AND LUMPS OF METAL BEING MOVED AROUND.

TERRIC (CONT'D)

Here is lead. Not without value. It has its uses. But it is drab. Gray. It is the color of an unending sadness.

CLEMENTINE

I agree.

TERRIC

And this... is gold.

CLEMENTINE

Ooh.

TERRIC

It is an extraordinary metal. The rarest thing on this Earth. And I have dedicated my life to turning this lead... into this gold.

CLEMENTINE

Seems like that would be really hard to do.

TERRIC

As I said, not one alchemist in all our history has found way to achieve this.

CLEMENTINE

But you keep at it.

TERRIC

Yes we... keep at it.

CLEMENTINE

Well... good luck.

YOSEF

We hope the answers will be revealed before your Messiah returns.

CLEMENTINE

Yosef, I think you're being a little mean to Terric, this is obviously his life's work.

YOSEF

I have tried to tell him that I have already perfected the means to create gold.

CLEMENTINE

Really? How do you do it?

YOSEF

It is an ancient process, and shrouded in mystery. In the morning I rise. I move into the city and work all day long. By the end of the day I have magically created gold.

TERRIC

He's merciless about this, he's always been.

YOSEF

I am fascinated by you Terric. You would spend ten years learning to make one lump of gold rather than working for ten years to make a pile of it.

TERRIC

I am not trying to become a rich man.

YOSEF

You would learn how to create gold and *not* make yourself a wealthy man? This makes you an even greater fool.

TERRIC

I've tried to explain this to you and it's always fallen on deaf ears.

YOSEF

You are right. I shall cease. I must take my leave of you anyway. The Sisters of the Austrian Holy Cross need a guide into the old city. I must go and meet them. They pay very well, The Holy Sisters. Clementine. You may have lost all your memories but you have not lost your charisma.

CLEMENTINE

Thanks, Yosef.

YOSEF

You know how to get word to me, should you need me?

CLEMENTINE

I actually don't have any idea how to do anything, Yosef, but I'm sure I can figure it out.

YOSEF

Very good. Until the morrow, Terric!

TERRIC

Until the morrow.

WE HEAR THE DOOR CLOSE.

CLEMENTINE

Ok. First of all. Wine is great. I don't know whose idea it was but they did a great job, I'm a big fan.

TERRIC

I'm pleased that it pleases you.

CLEMENTINE

I feel like you got your feelings hurt a little bit by Yosef just now.

TERRIC

Yosef is a man one must grow accustomed to. He has lived a very different life from mine, so I must forgive his brutal frankness. I will say, in a city of so many different factions, and so much suspicion, he has proven himself a true friend.

CLEMENTINE

So... how do you do it?

TERRIC

Do what?

CLEMENTINE

I mean, you say that no one's ever turned lead into gold but, how do you try to do it?

TERRIC

Through experimentation in my laboratory.

CLEMENTINE

Your laboratory?

TERRIC

Yes. Through experimentation and notation in my laboratory.

CLEMENTINE

Can I see it?

TERRIC

My laboratory?

CLEMENTINE

Yes.

TERRIC

I don't see why not. This way.

TERRIC OPENS A DOOR AND WE MOVE INTO THE LABORATORY. WE CAN HEAR THE BOILING OF A DISTILLER.

CLEMENTINE

Whoa.

TERRIC

It seems quite chaotic but everything has it's purpose. You can see boiling away here is the alembic. Here I have a mortar and pestle for pulverizing substances. The crucible here is to create an environment so hot that it can melt various metals. And built into the wall here is the athanor.

A SMALL IRON DOOR SWINGS OPEN FROM THE WALL.

TERRIC (CONT'D)

Essentially an oven, meant to heat substances consistently over a long period of time.

CLEMENTINE

...

TERRIC

You seem confused.

CLEMENTINE

Well... You seem to have gone to a lot of trouble.

TERRIC

I suppose I have.

CLEMENTINE

And it just seems like a lot to try and turn the first thing...

TERRIC

Lead.

CLEMENTINE

Into gold. Why is this so important to you?

TERRIC

... Clementine may I tell you something?

CLEMENTINE

Yes.

TERRIC

I have... I have very much enjoyed our conversations these past few days.

CLEMENTINE

You have?

TERRIC

Yes I have enjoyed your company.

CLEMENTINE

Well, how could you not enjoy a crazy person who doesn't remember who she is living in your house?

TERRIC

When I speak with you I find myself having to reconsider that which I had taken for granted.

CLEMENTINE

Because I never know what anyone's talking about?

TERRIC

Precisely.

CLEMENTINE

You're welcome.

TERRIC

I find myself now having to explain the importance of gold to you.

CLEMENTINE

You don't have to explain the importance of gold. I get it. It's pretty, it's rare, everyone wants it. I want to know why you do it. Why is it important to you? Why do all this? I know you're not just trying to get rich.

TERRIC

I am a nobleman. I am the second son of Tybalt the First, and back in my homeland we have a very nice castle and land as far as the eye can see.

CLEMENTINE

And you're here?

TERRIC

Yes. Because even as a young boy I knew I was going to leave.

CLEMENTINE

Why?

TERRIC

When I was a boy there was an uprising. The peasants of the land rose up in rebellion. They had been overtaxed and put upon for too many years, they made the brave choice to rise up against those who were oppressing them. My father was one of those oppressors and he, as well as other noblemen like him put down this rebellion. Violently. As a boy I watched from a window of the castle while the peasants were made an example of in the town square. Put into stocks. Sometimes executed.

CLEMENTINE

Oh my God.

TERRIC

I tried to see the difference between myself and these peasants. What is it that places them in the town square and I high above in a castle? I could only find one thing... I cannot describe to you how much this world revolves around that small lump of gold. It is the new axis on which the world turns. Men kill for it, die for it, go to war for it. And that boy high in that castle in York... he wanted it all to stop.

CLEMENTINE

How would you do that?

TERRIC

By flooding the world with it. What if I could make so much gold that no one ever wanted for anything? What if I could make the lords of the land irrelevant? What if the peasant had just as much gold as the king? What if we could be free of it all?

CLEMENTINE

... Are you trying to save the world, Terric?

TERRIC

It's foolish, I know-

CLEMENTINE

It's not foolish. It's beautiful... So why come here? Why not do all this at home?

TERRIC

Jerusalem is one of the oldest cities in the world, as are its libraries. I sought ancient knowledge. There are few places more ancient than this place.

CLEMENTINE

Is there writing on the wall?

TERRIC

Yes. The writing was here when I arrived, at first I thought to have it removed but I've grown to appreciate its presence.

CLEMENTINE

I can't read it.

TERRIC

It's latin.

CLEMENTINE

Audaces fortuna juvat. What does that mean?

TERRIC

Fortune favors the bold.

CLEMENTINE

Beati pauperes spiritu, what does that mean?

TERRIC

Blessed in spirit are the poor.

CLEMENTINE

Ad vitam aeternam, what does that mean?

TERRIC

To eternal life.

CLEMENTINE

...

TERRIC

...

CLEMENTINE

... You're holding my hand.

TERRIC

Yes.

CLEMENTINE

... What does that mean?

TERRIC

... I don't know.

WE HEAR THE SOUNDS OF BERBER MUSICIANS. WE ARE AT THE TOWER OF DAVID.

YOSEF

Tarric!

TERRIC

Hello.

YOSEF

Good to see you, good to see you.

TERRIC

One of your little messengers came by my home. Said to meet you at the Tower of David with dates.

YOSEF

And here we are at the tower of David and you have brought dates.

TERRIC

What's this about, Yosef?

YOSEF

About? It must be about something?

TERRIC

This is the first time you've summoned me, I've not been summoned before.

YOSEF

Why must you say "summon"? I did not summon you. I wished to see my friend Terric, also I wished to have dates.

TERRIC

What are we doing here?

YOSEF

The Holy Austrian Sisters again. They are touring the tower and praying, they will be a while. Look: Berbers. Very rare for Berbers to come to Yerushalem.

TERRIC

How do you know they're Berbers?

YOSEF

I know they are Berbers because I cannot understand what they are saying. Many languages among them, the Berbers.

TERRIC

Fascinating...

YOSEF

How have you been?

TERRIC

Well.



YOSEF

Well. Good. I am glad you are well...

TERRIC

... Yosef.

YOSEF

Two reasons a friend disappears. One: he is dead.  
Two: he is in love... You stand before me, not  
dead.

TERRIC

Is there such a thing as privacy with you in my  
life?

YOSEF

Of course not.

TERRIC

Over these last few weeks, Clementine and I have  
become very close.

YOSEF

No, you have not.

TERRIC

What do you mean?

YOSEF

Her name is not Clementine.

TERRIC

Yosef-

YOSEF

Her name is not Clementine, neither of you know her  
name.

TERRIC

That doesn't matter.

YOSEF

She could be named Salome.

TERRIC

She is not named Salome.

YOSEF

How do you know?

TERRIC

We are not children, Yosef.

YOSEF

Of course you are not. You are both grown. But there is only one of you who may or may not be married to a Duke.

TERRIC

Yosef.

YOSEF

From Bavaria. A Duke from Bavaria. A jealous man. A man who will have you hung outside his dour castle by your ankles. Duke Osvaldo Simeoni will be his name.

TERRIC

What are you talking about?

YOSEF

Terric. Men from your land have come to this place for hundreds of years and they have made a great mess of it. Do you wish to follow in that tradition?

TERRIC

I am not making a mess of anything.

YOSEF

How do you think this will end?

TERRIC

How do I know it will? Why must you say it will end? If her memories never return? If she stays this woman that I love? What then? Why must your view of the world always be so dark?

YOSEF

Habit.

TERRIC

... What would you have me do?

YOSEF

...Eh... What would I have you do. It is a good question... Nothing, my friend. No amount of good sense will stand in the way of what happens now. Come. Sit. Let us have the dates.

TERRIC

I did not seek this out, Yosef. She fell into my life. Like a gift.

YOSEF

I know, my friend. Many things fall into our lives. They are not all gifts.

TERRIC

... Please allow me to believe in this one.

YOSEF

... I shall. Come, I am hungry.

BACK AT TERRIC'S HOUSE. CLEMENTINE IS ASLEEP AND HAVING A NIGHTMARE.

CLEMENTINE

... I can't see... Where are they, I can't see...  
that's... it's black I can't.... Where are they...  
Where are the stars?!

WE HEAR AN EXPLOSION AS WE MOVE BACK TO THE TOWER OF DAVID.

YOSEF

These dates are not the good dates, why did you not  
get the good dates.

TERRIC

They're from Záhonyi Vera.

YOSEF

The Hungarian?

TERRIC

Yes.

YOSEF

I must speak with them, these dates are  
embarrassing.

FAR OFF IN THE NEW CITY, WE HEAR AN EXPLOSION.

TERRIC

What was that?

YOSEF

I do not know.

TERRIC

Thunder?

YOSEF

Not a cloud in the sky... there in the new city, do  
you see it?

TERRIC

Is it a fire?

YOSEF

Smoke at least.

TERRIC

That's near my home.

YOSEF

We must go.

THE DOOR OF TERRIC'S HOME BURSTS OPEN.

TERRIC

Clementine?!

YOSEF

Clementine?

CLEMENTINE

Everything's fine! Everything's fine, I'm sorry.

TERRIC

What happened?

CLEMENTINE

I don't know. I was asleep in the bedroom and I heard a very loud noise.

TERRIC

We saw the smoke from across the city.

CLEMENTINE

Really? Wow.

YOSEF

Terric, what under the heavens are you keeping in that special room of yours?

TERRIC

I suppose it could've been something in my laboratory. Are you sure you're unharmed?

CLEMENTINE

I'm fine, really. It scared me is all.

YOSEF

This will be an interesting story to tell your neighbors, Terric.

TERRIC

It doesn't seem as though anything's been ruined, I'm unsure as to how.

CLEMENTINE

Just lucky, I guess.

YOSEF

Yes, I feel the good fortune wash over me.

CLEMENTINE

I think everything's fine. I'm okay, nothing's on fire. That's the definition of fine, right? Nobody's hurt, nothing's on fire.

TERRIC

...

CLEMENTINE

Terric, really. I was just scared, nothing bad is happening.

YOSEF

I suppose since the danger has passed I shall take my leave. Terric, can you not simply study the teachings of Christ as everyone else from your land does? Illuminated manuscripts do not send smoke into the sky.

TERRIC

I'll consider it, Yosef.

YOSEF

Good day to you, Clementine.

CLEMENTINE

Bye, Yosef. Sorry for the scare.

YOSEF

As we say in Yerushalem, at least it is not another crusade. Farewell.

THE DOOR CLOSSES BEHIND YOSEF.

TERRIC

Clementine, I'm so sorry. I've obviously been storing my materials improperly, I'll need to wipe the slate clean, start over again and be much more careful.

CLEMENTINE

Terric.

TERRIC

Yes, what is it?

CLEMENTINE

... I was in bed, there was a very loud noise, when I woke up... I had this in my hand.

TERRIC

...

CLEMENTINE

I don't know how.

TERRIC

Laying in your hands?

CLEMENTINE

Yes.

TERRIC

Clementine, that is an incredibly large fragment of gold.

CLEMENTINE

I know... I know it is.

TERRIC

It was in your hands when you awoke?

CLEMENTINE

I don't know why.

TERRIC

...

CLEMENTINE

Can you take this, I'm scared of it.

TERRIC

Yes.

CLEMENTINE

...

TERRIC

...

CLEMENTINE

What's happening?

TERRIC

You did nothing? You did nothing in the laboratory?

CLEMENTINE

No, Terric, I was asleep.

TERRIC

...

CLEMENTINE

Why do I feel like I did this?

TERRIC

That's impossible.

CLEMENTINE

... I'm scared.

TERRIC

My love, do not be afraid. All things can be explained. We don't have an explanation presently, but we shall. But you mustn't be afraid.

CLEMENTINE

... All things can be explained?

TERRIC

Yes.

CLEMENTINE

... Call me "my love" again, that was nice.

TERRIC

... My love.

CLEMENTINE

... What do we do now?

TERRIC

... We watch the sunset and contemplate the fact that there was a great explosion that somehow created a handful of riches.

CLEMENTINE

... Okay... Can you play that song for me again?

TERRIC

I can play other songs.

CLEMENTINE

I want that one.

TERRIC

Very well.

TERRIC PICKS UP HIS BAZOUKI AND PLAYS STELLA SPLENDENS AGAIN.  
WE MOVE TO THE NEXT MORNING.

TERRIC (CONT'D)

... Explain to me what we're doing again?

CLEMENTINE

Staying in bed.

TERRIC

But the sun has risen.

CLEMENTINE

Yes. And we have not.

TERRIC

Why are we doing this?

CLEMENTINE

Because it's a nice thing to do sometimes.

TERRIC

As you say.

CLEMENTINE

So... you're a, what was it? Nobleman?

TERRIC

I am.

CLEMENTINE

If you're some sort of important person, Isn't your family wondering where you are?

TERRIC

I don't believe they are.

CLEMENTINE

How? How far away is England?

TERRIC

You don't know how far away England is?

CLEMENTINE

Hi. Have we met? I'm Clementine, the one who doesn't know anything and isn't even named Clementine because she can't remember her name.

TERRIC

When I made the crossing from York to Jerusalem it took me many months.

CLEMENTINE

Months?!

TERRIC

Two voyages over sea. Several horses. I was stranded in Greece for a month waiting for the weather to turn.

CLEMENTINE

That's more of a reason for them to be wondering about you.

TERRIC

Your words are heard but, I am a second son.

CLEMENTINE

What do you mean?



TERRIC

I am the son of Tybalt the First. My elder brother is Tybalt the Second. I am simply Terric. When you're the second son of a lord you have one charge throughout your life: stay alive in the event that your brother dies. There must always be an heir.

CLEMENTINE

That sounds kind of horrible, Terric.

TERRIC

It's for the best. I would make a terrible heir. I spend too much time in libraries. My father kept a massive library and was always puzzled when I would use the damn thing. He said being a scholar was akin to being gracefully impaired.

CLEMENTINE

He sound like a great guy.

TERRIC

He is challenging.

CLEMENTINE

So you just... sit there?

TERRIC

I could have done. But instead I came here. Instead I chose this... rather odd life.

CLEMENTINE

A life of laying in bed with forgetful women?

TERRIC

Yes.

CLEMENTINE

Doesn't sound so bad.

TERRIC

It is, in fact, quite perfect.

CLEMENTINE

... I know you want to talk about the gold. I really don't know what happened.

TERRIC

We need not speak of it. Simply another mystery to unravel, there appears to be a thousand mysteries to unravel, no harm in adding one more. All gold is a mystery, really. It's unlike any substance on Earth. I often wonder if it's origins are different from the other rocks and metals of the Earth.

(MORE)

TERRIC (CONT'D)

Perhaps if I could discern it's origin, the key to transmutation would be revealed to me, but that is a mystery I've no idea how to unravel.

CLEMENTINE

I'll let you know if I have any ideas.

TERRIC

Thank you, my love.

CLEMENTINE

... So that's all an alchemist does, huh? All gold all the time?

TERRIC

There is one other goal of the alchemist, but it is an even more impossible goal than that of transmutation.

CLEMENTINE

What is it?

TERRIC

Eternal life.

CLEMENTINE

Really?

TERRIC

Alchemists seek an elixir. The elixir of life. Something that will dispel all ailments and preserve youth. An alchemist is not simply seeking gold. An alchemist wishes to defeat death.

CLEMENTINE

Get the fuck out of here.

TERRIC

It's true.

CLEMENTINE

Do you really believe that?

TERRIC

I'm unsure. I know that I believe in knowledge. And I believe that, given enough time, all will be revealed. All aspects of life. The question that remains is, when? How long must we wait for the truth to be revealed?

CLEMENTINE

... Hey, speaking of the truth being revealed, I want to tell you something.

TERRIC

What's that?

CLEMENTINE

I don't want to remember who I am. I don't want my memories back. I want to be Clementine. And I want to live in Jerusalem with Terric of York. I want that to be my life... do you want that to be your life?

TERRIC

Yes. I do.

CLEMENTINE

Okay... Okay good. I... love you.

TERRIC

And I you.

CLEMENTINE

Good... good.

TERRIC

Does this mean we can get out of bed now?

CLEMENTINE

Absolutely not.

THE NEXT DAY. THERE IS A KNOCK ON TERRIC'S DOOR AND IT SWINGS OPEN.

YOSEF

Greetings, Clementine.

CLEMENTINE

Hi, Yosef.

YOSEF

I see you have learned how to summon me.

CLEMENTINE

Yes, it was very awkward. I talked to one of your little messengers and he didn't understand anything I was saying, luckily all I needed to say was your name.

YOSEF

Speak and I appear. Where is our young man today?

CLEMENTINE

He's at the library of the greek orthodox... something.

YOSEF  
Patriarchate.

CLEMENTINE  
That's it.

YOSEF  
Yes, the Greeks do make an excellent library do they not?

CLEMENTINE  
Sure.

YOSEF  
So, I have been summoned, please, how can I be of assistance?

CLEMENTINE  
I was hoping you could help me with something.

YOSEF  
Of course.

CLEMENTINE  
I want to surprise Terric.

YOSEF  
He hates surprises so this is, of course, a wonderful idea. What is the surprise?

CLEMENTINE  
I want to surprise him by going outside.

YOSEF  
Hmm. Not what I was expecting.

CLEMENTINE  
I just, I want him to come home and I can say that I've been outside, and I saw some things and I got him something at the market. I... I want to show him that I'm here, that I'm here in Jerusalem with him.

YOSEF  
You are both very strange, yes?

CLEMENTINE  
I'm aware. Please, if you don't mind, show me Jerusalem.

YOSEF  
Very well. First you must cover your head.

CLEMENTINE

Really? Why?

YOSEF

That hair of yours will attract attention. Also to show respect. Also because, in truth, the sun is quite hot.

CLEMENTINE

Okay. Then what?

YOSEF

We will start at the very heart of Jerusalem.

CLEMENTINE

Sounds like fun.

WE HEAR THE SOUNDS OF A STREAM. CLEMENTINE AND YOSEF DESCEND THE STEPS TOWARD THE BYZANTINE POOL OF SILOAM.

YOSEF

I am a pious man. And I believe that if Hashem desires a city to be built, it will be built. But in truth there is one reason why the city of Jerusalem exists. And it is this.

CLEMENTINE

A pool?

YOSEF

The Gihon Spring. It comes up from the mountain like a gift. It flows through the city and brings water to us all. There would be no Yerushalem without it. Come, remove your sandals.

CLEMENTINE

Ok.

YOSEF

There were once many pools of Siloam like this, but war, strife, they are all gone but this one. Built by the Byzantines. In we go. Beware, it is very cold.

CLEMENTINE

Oh god. It's okay for me to just walk in there?

YOSEF

Oh yes. In we go.

YOSEF AND CLEMENTINE WADE INTO THE WATER.

CLEMENTINE

Holy shit, this is so cold.

YOSEF

It awakens the senses, yes?

CLEMENTINE

It feels like pure ice on my feet.

YOSEF

This is important as a first stop, Clementine. You are in the bloodstream of Yerushalem, you will never be closer to her.

CLEMENTINE

Okay, I'm glad—but how long to I have to stand in the cold water.

YOSEF

We can be done. Let us warm up our feet with a walk along the wall.

LATER. CLEMENTINE AND YOSEF WALK ALONG THE WALL OF THE OLD CITY.

CLEMENTINE

This wall is huge, who built this?

YOSEF

It is a curious thing about Yerushalem. Everything you see belongs just a bit to everyone. The first people here were the Caananites. Then my people. After that the Assyrians, the Babylonians, and on and on. The city has changed hands many times. Everyone who has controlled it has broken down the wall, then built it back up again. Presently it is the Mamluks—they are not bad. They let people worship, they build. In a hundred years who knows who will control it. Whoever it may be, you hope they keep the city free for all peoples.

CLEMENTINE

Why do so many people want to control it?

YOSEF

That is a question for another man. The life of the conqueror to me just seems like troubles. I prefer to talk to people, not to take things from them.

WE ARE IN THE MARKETPLACE AGAIN.

YOSEF (CONT'D)

This marketplace has been here since I was a boy. I grew up in this place, running through the streets with my friends. You said you wished to get something for Terric at the market?

CLEMENTINE

Yes. I don't know what though.

YOSEF

Sadly I cannot recommend the dates. They have gone wrong and I have not yet addressed this problem. Hashem willing, the crop will improve next season.

CLEMENTINE

You keep saying that word.

YOSEF

Which word?

CLEMENTINE

Hashem.

YOSEF

Indeed. Hashem. He is the father of us all.

CLEMENTINE

Is that like when other people say God?

YOSEF

It is. But my word is Hashem.

CLEMENTINE

Can you explain to me what all that means? God, Hashem, whatever. What is it?

YOSEF LAUGHS TO HIMSELF.

CLEMENTINE (CONT'D)

What's so funny?

YOSEF

Clementine, look around you.

CLEMENTINE

What?

YOSEF

You stand in the City of God. For all of us, Christians, Muslims, Jews.

CLEMENTINE

So?

YOSEF

So, you may be the only person to ever walk through the streets of Yerushalem to wonder what God is. Everyone here has already decided.

CLEMENTINE

I'm sure I'll get around to that eventually. In the meantime, can you tell me? What is Hashem? Can you describe it?

YOSEF

... In truth, I cannot.

CLEMENTINE

I thought I was the only one.

YOSEF

I can tell you of Hashem. But I cannot describe him.

CLEMENTINE

Why not?

YOSEF

... I can see what Terric means now, about the way you speak. Look there, do you see those chickens?

CLEMENTINE

Yes.

YOSEF

Do you see the one with the limp?

CLEMENTINE

Yes.

YOSEF

That Chicken was made by Hashem.

CLEMENTINE

Okay.

YOSEF

Also the man who sells the chickens. Also the ground the chickens roost upon, also everything in this marketplace, also the sky above that you fear so much. Hashem has made all of this. How could I possibly describe him?

CLEMENTINE

He literally made everything?

YOSEF

It's true.

CLEMENTINE

Why?



YOSEF

Because he loves us... Certainly from time to time he will become angry, he will lose his temper. He will bring a flood, bring plagues, turn people to salt.

CLEMENTINE

Salt?

YOSEF

Aside from those things, he loves us very much. Isn't that nice?

CLEMENTINE

Yeah, yeah I guess so... Lemons.

YOSEF

Lemons?

CLEMENTINE

I want to bring Terric some lemons.

YOSEF

Why lemons?

CLEMENTINE

I don't know. They're colorful. Also they are clear proof that I went outside.

YOSEF

Very well. Lemons, you shall have.

LATER. YOSEF AND CLEMENTINE WALK DOWN A NARROW STREET.

CLEMENTINE

Why are we taking this street?

YOSEF

You didn't notice but there began to be several people looking at you in the marketplace. You were attracting attention.

CLEMENTINE

I was?

YOSEF

Yes, of course there is nothing wrong with attention but this kind of attention... I think it best we get back to your home before they begin to get more curious than they deserve to be.

CLEMENTINE

Have people really never seen red hair before?

YOSEF

It is not just your hair, Clementine.

CLEMENTINE

What is it?

YOSEF

You have a way about you. You stand out in a crowd.  
It can make people nervous.

YOSEF STOPS WALKING.

CLEMENTINE

... Why are we stopping?

MEN MOVE INTO THE STREET IN FRONT OF AND BEHIND THEM.

CLEMENTINE (CONT'D)

... Who are these men?

YOSEF

Greetings, my friends. Lovely day, is it not?

CLEMENTINE

... Why aren't they answering you?

THE MEN APPROACH

YOSEF

... They are thieves.

CLEMENTINE

Thieves?

YOSEF

We wish no trouble, my friends.

CLEMENTINE

What are they going to do?

YOSEF

We will hope that they only take our money.

CLEMENTINE

What else would they do?

YOSEF

Remember to not look them in the eyes.

CLEMENTINE

Oh God.

THE MEN ARE ALMOST ON TOP OF THEM. CLEMENTINE'S VOICE  
SUDDENLY CHANGES.

CLEMENTINE (CONT'D)  
Don't touch me!

CLEMENTINE'S VOICE ECHOES ACROSS THE ROOFTOPS AS WE RETURN TO  
TERRIC'S HOUSE. THE DOOR SWINGS OPEN.

TERRIC  
I have returned. You may be surprised to learn that  
I have not unraveled the great mysteries. I suppose  
I must return on the morrow.

YOSEF  
Hello, my firend.

TERRIC  
Yosef. What are you doing here?

YOSEF  
We must speak.

TERRIC  
Where is Clementine?

YOSEF  
She is in your special room.

TERRIC  
What is she doing there? Clementine?

YOSEF  
Terric.

TERRIC  
What is it?

YOSEF  
... Clementine asked me to take her into the city  
today.

TERRIC  
What? She's never even left the house.

YOSEF  
She wanted to show you that she could walk the  
streets like any other.

TERRIC  
Why didn't you wait for me?

YOSEF  
Terric, she did quite well. We had a lovely day in  
the city... But on the way back from the market. On  
the way back... there were thieves. We were  
attacked in the street.

TERRIC

What did they do to her?

YOSEF

Terric.

TERRIC

What did they do to her? Clementine?!

YOSEF

Terric... They did nothing to her. But you must speak with her.

TERRIC

... What's happened?

YOSEF

Terric... I do not believe that Moses brought ten plagues to Egypt. I do not believe that Noah put all of the animals of the Earth into a boat. These are good stories. Stories for my children. But today... I do not know what I saw today... Speak with her. Know everything she tells you is true. I saw it happen... I must take my leave of you, my friend. I must go be with my family...

WE HEAR THE DOOR CLOSE BEHIND YOSEF. TERRIC WALKS INTO THE LABORATORY.

TERRIC

Clementine.

CLEMENTINE

Stay over there!

TERRIC

What's wrong.

CLEMENTINE

Stay over there I don't want something to happen.

TERRIC

What do you mean?

CLEMENTINE

... Something happened.

TERRIC

Yosef told me.

CLEMENTINE

No, he didn't.

TERRIC

... Clementine, whatever has happened-

CLEMENTINE

I turned them into salt.

TERRIC

... You...

CLEMENTINE

One of them tried to grab me and I said "Don't touch me" but... this sound came out of my mouth, It was... I don't know what it was.

TERRIC

... Clementine. When things such as this happen to us, our minds can shape things after they happen and we can see them in a very different way than they actually occurred. I believe you're frightened and your mind is-

CLEMENTINE

The one that grabbed be... after it happened... his hand broke off... I... I held onto it all the way back home, I don't know why... it's sitting on the table...

TERRIC

...

TERRIC PICKS SOMETHING UP OFF THE TABLE.

CLEMENTINE

... Tell me what that is?... Is that my mind?

TERRIC

...

CLEMENTINE

... Yosef was telling me about his God... He mentioned in passing, something about God turning people to salt... Did you talk to Yosef? What did he say?

TERRIC

... He told me to believe you.

CLEMENTINE

... You should.

TERRIC SETS THE HAND OF SALT BACK DOWN ON THE TABLE.

CLEMENTINE (CONT'D)

... I think I may be a monster.

TERRIC

You are not.

CLEMENTINE

Look what I did.

TERRIC

I don't care.

CLEMENTINE

Yes you do.

TERRIC

I do not... In the midst of all these things I do not understand, the one thing I do understand looms above them all and shines like a beacon...

CLEMENTINE

What is it?

TERRIC

My love for you, Clementine.

CLEMENTINE

That can't be true.

TERRIC

It can. It is.

CLEMENTINE

...

TERRIC

May I come sit next to you on the floor?

CLEMENTINE

I'm scared.

TERRIC

I am not.

TERRIC CROSSES THE ROOM AND SITS NEXT TO CLEMENTINE.

CLEMENTINE

... I told you I didn't want to remember who I was... I don't know if I can stop that from happening... I feel like it's knocking on the door.

TERRIC

Let it come in.

CLEMENTINE

What if it's terrible?

TERRIC

... I'm unafraid. Let it come in.

LATER THAT NIGHT. CLEMENTINE IS DREAMING.

CLEMENTINE

... No we'll... we'll have to keep going that's...  
that's what she would want... we have to... there's  
nothing else...

CLEMENTINE GASPS AND WAKES UP. SHE TAKES A MOMENT TO CATCH  
HER BREATH. SHE GETS OUT OF BED AND WALKS INTO THE MAIN ROOM.  
ON THE STREET BELOW WE CAN HEAR ANOTHER CELEBRATION OF YET  
ANOTHER RELIGIOUS HOLIDAY. CLEMENTINE MOVES OUT ONTO THE  
BALCONY. A BIRD, THE EURASIAN HOPOE, LANDS ON THE BALCONY  
WITH HER. IT BEGINS SINGING IT'S STRANGE REPETITIVE SOUND.  
TIME SUDDENLY SHIFTS.

YOSEF

They have found a woman outside the city.

TERRIC

Found? Explain what you mean by found.

YOSEF

She is... I find this hard to explain, perhaps we  
should depart. See for ourselves.

TERRIC

Is she lost?

YOSEF

She is most definitely lost.

TIME SHIFTS AGAIN AND WE ARE IN THE COUNTRYSIDE.

TERRIC

The fact that you think your God would look  
unfavorably on you for giving assistance to a woman  
who is obviously in need of it is simply  
ridiculous.

YOSEF

Yes, but I know I have my friend Terric, so I can  
remain pious and also help her through you.

TERRIC

Throughout the day she has been here, Yosef.

YOSEF

And her suffering soon shall end because you have  
arrived.

TIME SHIFTS AGAIN AND WE ARE IN THE MARKETPLACE.

YOSEF (CONT'D)

I imply nothing. I simply say to you this: when you are around this woman do you feel that your head is clear?

TERRIC

Yes.

YOSEF

Are you now in the marketplace trying to find her a root that does not exist?

TERRIC

... What do you suggest?

TIME SHIFTS AGAIN AND WE ARE AT THE TOWER OF DAVID.

YOSEF

How do you think this will end?

TERRIC

How do I know it will? Why must you say it will end? If her memories never return? If she stays this woman that I love? What then? Why must your view of the world always be so dark?

YOSEF

Habit.

TERRIC

... What would you have me do?

TIME SHIFTS AGAIN AND WE ARE BACK ON THE BALCONY WITH A STRANGE BIRD CALLING INTO THE NIGHT. CLEMENTINE WALKS BACK INTO THE HOUSE. WE HEAR A PIECE OF PARCHMENT BEING TAKEN OUT. WE HEAR A QUILL DIPPED INTO INK AND WE HEAR WRITING. THE SOUND OF THE CELEBRATION OUTSIDE FADE AND WE BEGIN TO HEAR THE SOUNDS OF MORNING. TERRIC WALKS OUT INTO THE MAIN ROOM.

TERRIC (CONT'D)

Clementine?

TERRIC CROSSES THE ROOM AND PICKS UP A PIECE OF PARCHMENT FROM THE TABLE.

CLEMENTINE

(Narrating her letter.)

Dear Terric. Something is happening to me. I can't stop it. Whatever I'm becoming is pulling me away from you. Maybe it should. I think what I'm becoming could be dangerous. And if I hurt you, I would never forgive myself. And I know that no matter how dangerous I became, you would never leave me. You would never save yourself.

(MORE)



CLEMENTINE (CONT'D)

I have to save you by leaving you. I know you won't understand this. I know you may never forgive me. I hope you also know that my heart is broken. I hope you know that I've left with you a piece of myself I may never get back again. Please remember me as that person you found in a field. As that strange woman walking through your laboratory. As that woman whose hand you held. As the woman who curled up against you at night. As the woman who fell in love with you. Because I do love you, Terric of York. I will forever.

TERRIC CRUMPLES THE PARCHMENT AND TOSSES IT ACROSS THE ROOM. AFTER A MOMENT HE PICKS UP HIS BAZOUKI AND PLAYS STELLA SPLENDENS AGAIN. HALF WAY THROUGH, THERE IS A KNOCK ON HIS DOOR. HE SETS DOWN THE BAZOUKI, CROSSES THE ROOM AND OPENS THE DOOR.

TERRIC  
Yes?

THE EX  
Terric of York?

TERRIC  
Yes.

THE EX  
Message for you.

THE EX HANDS HIM A PIECE OF PAPER.

TERRIC  
Who are you?

THE EX  
Bye.

THE EX WALKS AWAY. DOWN THE STREET WE FAINTLY HEAR HER TELEPORT AWAY. TERRIC CLOSES THE DOOR AND OPENS AN ENVELOPE. HE READS.

TERRIC  
Midnight Burger?

HE SCOFFS AND TOSSES THE LETTER AWAY. HE PICKS UP HIS BAZOUKI AGAIN AND RESUMES PLAYING STELLA SPLENDENS.

THE END.