

REGICIDE

A Play in Three Acts

By

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Cast of Characters

Zanna: Female Assassin.

Late 20's

Bero: Barman.

Late 50's

Lucien: Male Assassin.

Late 20's

Golda: Blacksmith. Late

20's

Valter King.

Late 40's

Jacob: Assassin

Commander. Late 40's

Aliss: Assassin

Recruit. Late 20's

Mari: Wet Nurse.

Late 20's

Scene

Various locations inside a kingdom.

Time

Medieval times.

Act I

Scene 1

SETTING: A seedy tavern named "The Snake's Head" in the underside of the kingdom. The tavern is a popular drinking hole for shady and unscrupulous people. It is cesspool of sin and evil thinking.

AT RISE: The tavern is packed with people. BERO is serving ale and conversing with the patrons at the bar. In the corner, a violinist plays while the occupants talk and drink. ZANNA enters. She scans the sea of roaring laughter and hushed whispers. She walks across the tavern.

ZANNA

Bero, have you seen Lucien?

BERO

I have not seen Master Lucien. Congratulations.
(Fills a mug of ale and passes it to ZANNA)

ZANNA

For what?

BERO

You carry the stench of death.
(Chuckling)

ZANNA

Among other stenches unfortunately. However,
thank you.
(Toasting BERO and drinks)

BERO

Who was the unfortunate soul to fall under your blade?

ZANNA

A bag of gold. That is what he was. That is what they always are. I am just here to collect them. Is Jacob here?

BERO

Master Jacob is in the middle of a meeting. Hasn't even come downstairs for a drink all day.

ZANNA

He's been busier than usual lately. I'm not complaining. People have to die.

BERO

And people have to drink. Oh! I almost forgot. Golda wanted me to give you this.

(Reaching under the bar and pulling out something covered in rags)

ZANNA

(Unfolding the rags and reveals a sheathed, jagged dagger with a black hilt. ZANNA removes the sheath and admires the blade while BERO whistles)

It's for Lucien. It is his name day. It is perfect. Did she stay awhile?

BERO

No. She still seemed sad. Poor woman.

ZANNA

I am thankful she made this after what happened. I definitely owe her more than just gold.

BERO

Maybe you and Lucien could-well look who it is.

(LUCIEN enters the bar, hood covering his face, looking for ZANNA. She hides the dagger in her robe and BERO uses the rag to wipe down the bar as Lucien walks toward the bar.)

LUCIEN

The whole kingdom is in an uproar.

ZANNA

What is it this time?

BERO

(Serving LUCIEN a mug of ale)

I hear the queen is ill.

ZANNA

Good. I hope she drowns in her wealth.

BERO

Better dying warm, fed than cold, and starving.

LUCIEN

Aye.

(A small child enters and whispers into BERO'S ear)

BERO

Master Jacob is ready for both of you.

(LUCIEN chugs his ale and he and ZANNA get up and leave)

(BLACKOUT)

(END OF SCENE)

ACT I

Scene 2

SETTING: Jacob's office, second floor of Snake's Head. A large desk and a window.

AT RISE: JACOB sitting at his desk looking through documents.
LUCIEN and ZANNA enter the room.

JACOB

(to ZANNA)

The guards saw you.

Z

ANNA

(Hesitantly)

I was silent and hidden.

JACOB

Are you positive?

ZANNA

Are you questioning my abilities or my doubts?

JACOB

Both.

ZANNA

I do not know how the guards saw me.

LUCIEN

Jacob, what is going on?

JACOB

(now standing)

I think there is a traitor in the clan.

LUCIEN

How do you know?

JACOB

I do not know for sure.

ZANNA

Have there been others?

JACOB

No just you. I handpicked a few members to investigate the leak. In the meantime, stay with Lucien.

ZANNA

You don't have to worry about-

JACOB

I did not ask Zanna. It was an order.

LUCIEN

Have you found out anything else Commander?

JACOB

Nothing yet. But I will keep you both posted. I have been in regular contact with the other commanders. I'm also due for a promotion.

LUCIEN

Many congratulations.

ZANNA

I thought your nose was browner than usual.

JACOB

Thank you Lucien. Cute Zanna. Anyway, this will be our last mission together and I have an important mission for the both-

(A loud roaring of cheers booms offstage. The sounds of people are running to the streets cheering and yelling. JACOB walks over to the window and watches)

LUCIEN

What is that all about?

JACOB

The Queen. She is giving birth.

(The crowd of people outside gets even louder. JACOB turns to LUCIEN and ZANNA)

JACOB

Your new mission is to kill the royal baby and the Queen.

LUCIEN

What?

ZANNA

Are you serious?

LUCIEN

Very. There was a very big bounty on the Queen. Now with the new child, it will be doubled. You will have to infiltrate the castle. This is will require a lot of concealed planning.

LUCIEN

Who placed the bounty?

JACOB

A member of the Vanic Royal Court.

(Pulling out a letter and places it on his desk)

LUCIEN

That's the Vanic King's seal...

ZANNA

We'll do it.

JACOB

(To ZANNA)

Good. You need to be out of the open for a couple days anyway. Bero has some papers for you downstairs. Bring them up here.

(ZANNA Exits)

JACOB

(To LUCIEN)

What is the matter?

LUCIEN

It's only a child.

JACOB

Do you know who the baby's father is?

LUCIEN

Of course. King Valter.

JACOB

Do you know what they call Valter?

LUCIEN

Yes.

JACOB

Valter the Defiler. Valter the Bloodhammer. Valter the Butcher. Imagine when that boy is at fighting age. He will be worse than the Butcher was at his age. You would be doing the kingdom a favor for once by slitting the little shit and the royal bitch's throats. How many men and women have fallen under your blade? You are a sword for hire.

(ZANNA enters with some papers)

ZANNA

How many days do we have to kill them both?

JACOB

Three.

ZANNA & LUCIEN

Three?!

ZANNA

Jacob. This amount of planning takes a month at the least.

JACOB

Then work fast. The Butcher is leading a siege on the Vanics. He will receive word that his child has been born in the morning. There will be even more guards and it will be even harder to reach the child once the King and his guard are here.

(Slamming a key on the table)

You are both welcome to begin planning here. I have to report to my superiors. Plan at a safe house. Remember your training and be invisible. You are positioned there until your task is complete. Do not spill any ale on my table.

(JACOB exits)

(LUCIEN sits still while ZANNA places the papers on the desk.)

ZANNA

(To LUCIEN)

Oh! I almost forgot.

Pulls out the rags from her cloak and presents it to LUCIEN)

For your name day. Golda sends her love.

LUCIEN

(LUCIEN admires the blade)

Thank you Zanna.

ZANNA

Seems appropriate isn't it? New blade will taste Royal blood.

(LUCIEN slowly shakes his head. The cheers get louder and louder. Screams of "Boy" and "Prince" roars from the crowds.)

(BLACKOUT)

(END OF SCENE)

ACT I

Scene 3

SETTING: Nighttime. A small cabin in the slums of the kingdom.

AT RISE: LUCIEN sits at a table in a small wooden room. Several lit candles are on the table and around the room. A knock pounds on the door. Three days until King Valter comes back home.

LUCIEN

(Walking towards the door and gripping his new dagger)

What is society's ultimate lie?

FEMALE VOICE (ZANNA)

Peace, comrade.

LUCIEN

Enter.

(ZANNA enters carrying some papers.
LUCIEN sits back down)

ZANNA

Any word from Jacob?

LUCIEN

Nope. He is probably mad that you spilled ale on his desk.

ZANNA

(Sitting in front of

LUCIEN)

He does not know it was me. We left long before he came back.

LUCIEN

If you say so.

ZANNA

Besides, I can buy him a new one after we kill the queen and the royal imp.

LUCIEN

True. I heard almost one hundred people witnessing the birth of the prince.

ZANNA

Really?

LUCIEN

The servants heard the news first. Word spread fast. The Queen's bedchamber was filled with people watching. She fainted three times due to the heat.

ZANNA

Only fainted? Pity. So why are you upset over this job?

LUCIEN

Excuse me?

ZANNA

I'm not stupid. I was in the room yesterday and you are frowning more than usual.

LUCIEN

I'm fine.

(A slight tapping on the window. LUCIEN opens it and finds a message attached to the bird messenger's leg.)

It's from Jacob.

ZANNA

What does it say?

LUCIEN

He will send a shipment of food and the Queen is dead.

ZANNA

Really?! Who killed her?

LUCIEN

She never woke up after giving birth.

ZANNA

And all that's left is the child.

LUCIEN

Yes.

ZANNA

Look, I'll kill the child. It will be better if I do it anyway. I'll be disguised as the hand servant and you'll be the guard.

LUCIEN

No it's fine.

ZANNA

Are you sure?

LUCIEN

Yes. There will be more guards patrolling the castle than servants at night. You still need to be out of sight. I will get it done.

ZANNA

All right then. I'm going to retrieve our garments. You going to Snake's Head later?

LUCIEN

No. I have to look these over. Be careful.

ZANNA

You as well. Remember our pact?

LUCIEN

Keep each other safe, get enough money to buy a nice Ballinger, and get a ruthless crew.

ZANNA

To sail and conquer the seas. Only thing stopping us is a baby.

(ZANNA exits)

LUCIEN

Yeah. A baby.

(LUCIEN sits back at his desk.
Looking very frustrated and in turmoil. LUCIEN gets
up and leaves)

(BLACKOUT)

(END OF SCENE)

ACT I

Scene 4

SETTING: Snake's Head.

AT RISE: Patrons are drinking and laughing. Others are whispering and planning. GOLDA sits alone at table drinking somberly. LUCIEN enters and walks towards her. Two days until King Valter comes home.

LUCIEN

Glad you are out of your home.

GOLDA

I almost could not. This is, was where he first saw me.

LUCIEN

(Sitting down)

I remember. That was the last time I saw him drink ale.

GOLDA

He changed so much for me.

LUCIEN

He knew you were worth it.

GOLDA

What do you need Lucien? You are not the type who talks and consoles grieving widows.

LUCIEN

I stopped by to thank you for the dagger. It is beautiful. Zanna and I were given this task.

GOLDA

What is it?

(LUCIEN talks to GOLDA in hushed
whispers.)

(BLACKOUT)

(END OF SCENE)

ACT II

Scene 1

SETTING:

AT RISE: Several lit candles are on the table and around the room. Loose papers are covering the table and ZANNA looks exhausted. A knock pounds on the door. One day until King Valter comes home.

ZANNA

Walking towards the door and gripping her sword)

Who is the brother of sleep?

MALE VOICE (LUCIEN)

Death, comrade.

ZANNA

Enter.

(LUCIEN enters wearing the Royal guards' colors and crest of the kingdom)

(Raising her arms and laughs)

Hahaha! I surrender! Please sir knight don't kill me!

LUCIEN

(Sighs)

I hate this cape and the armor is too heavy.

ZANNA

Just remember that big reward at the end.

LUCIEN

(Sits down)

I'm burning this armor after we're done.

ZANNA

Might be better to sell it. Or give it to Golda to melt. Have you talked to her?

LUCIEN

No I haven't.

ZANNA

We should visit after this mission.

LUCIEN

Sure. Did Jacob send anything?

ZANNA

Just wanted updates. We received the food and ale he sent. A man of his word.

LUCIEN

He always is. Did he say anything about the spilt ale?

ZANNA

Oh shut up. Are you ready for tonight?

LUCIEN

Yes. You?

ZANNA

Yes.

LUCIEN

(Standing up and walking)

Great. I am going to go ahead and eat.

ZANNA

Do not make a mess on your new armor!

LUCIEN

Oh, shut up!

(BLACKOUT)

(END SCENE)

