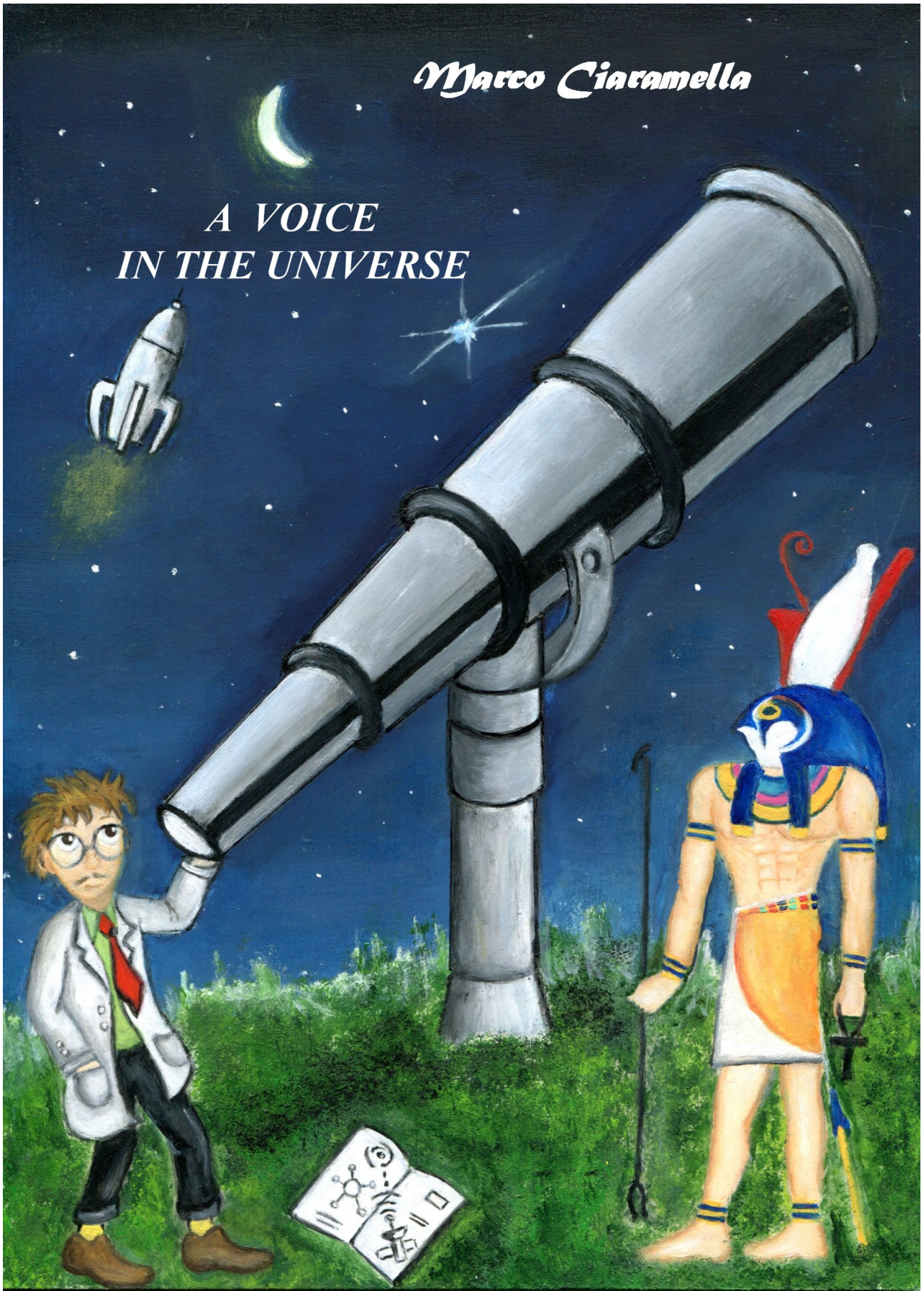


*Marco Ciaramella*

*A VOICE  
IN THE UNIVERSE*



## CAST:

**Susanna:** Gideon's wife

**Gideon:** Susanna's husband

**Jordan:** Son of Susanna and Gideon

**Tessa:** Jordan's girlfriend

**Barbara:** Family friend

**Marvin:** Friend of Gideon

**Nelson:** Foreman

**Virgil:** Worker

**Solomon:** Fake psychologist

**Tatiana:** Geologist

**Tim:** Policeman

**Billy:** Policeman

## FIRST ACT

*The scene takes place in the living room.*

**Susanna:** Everything always happens to me!

**Barbara:** What do you got this time, my friend?

**Susanna:** Those two only do damage!

**Barbara:** You've done nothing but complain ever since I've known you. It's high time to stop, there are worse things.

**Susanna:** You who are a friend should support me, not criticize me!

**Barbara:** You have to stop always taking things too seriously, do it with a little more philosophy, life is short and flies by in a flash.

**Susanna:** Like my salary!

**Barbara:** But what can it be? Everything can be remedied.

**Susanna:** It's easy for you, it's my money what they spend.

**Barbara:** Look at it from another perspective: you have a nice house, a nice garden...

**Susanna:** (*Interrupting her*) And a nice mortgage to pay. Add to that the fact that the men of the house are both unemployed, it does not seem such an idyllic picture.

**Barbara:** I 'm sure they'll find a job sooner or later.

**Susanna:** Not if they're going to continue to spend all their time on those crazy ideas they have in mind. Initially I supported them to encourage them not to let go, but now we have gone over budget and it is no longer possible to go on like this.

**Barbara:** You have to give them one more chance, after all, they worked a long time before they were unemployed.

**Susanna:** Too bad it happened ten years ago!

**Barbara:** Has it been ten years already?

**Susanna:** When others pay we don't notice how time passes!

**Barbara:** But didn't you say they had put something aside?

**Susanna:** All that's left now are the debts. They've spent everything they had put aside.



**Barbara:** I'm sure that once their projects are done they will go back to work.

**Susanna:** So they'll do it when we're already bankrupt. Those two fools think they can make their plans come true. They also forced me into debt to buy this large house, claiming it was built in the right place.

**Barbara:** Moreover, their ideas are quite difficult to put into practice.

**Susanna:** I'd say it's pure utopia to even think about doing that.

**Barbara:** Anyway never say never!

**Susanna:** No, I say enough! Is it possible that with so much land at their disposal, they have to fight over the same piece of garden?!

**Barbara:** But your son is right, he needs a lot of space to build a pyramid.

**Susanna:** Why, that huge telescope that my husband wants to place, do you think it can be placed anywhere?

**Barbara:** What is he going to see with such a great instrument?

**Susanna:** Certainly the way to ruin us, for the rest we must ask him.

**Barbara:** He told me that this idea of his will change your life.

**Susanna:** Don't make me laugh!

**Barbara:** He is convinced that by patenting that spyglass...

**Susanna:** (*Interrupting her*) Telescope, at least call it as it should be, given how much it costs.

**Barbara:** Okay, telescope, how fussy you are!

**Susanna:** You would be too if you were the one paying! I assure you that the price changes a lot between a telescope and a spyglass!

**Barbara:** In any case, regardless of this, Gideon claims he could make a lot of money with it.

**Susanna:** Have seen my husband well? Does he look like Galileo Galilei?

**Barbara:** Albert Einstein also didn't have high marks at school either.

**Susanna:** At least he used to go, Gideon hasn't even finished compulsory school.

**Barbara:** Cultured is not the same as intelligent.

**Susanna:** An intelligent man does not argue with his son about having the same piece of land, he moves a little further. Instead he wants to prevail, arguing that to optimize the images, the point of observation must be just that.

**Barbara:** Maybe it will be true.

**Susanna:** Are you defending him? And then, in your opinion, companies with unlimited economic potential have not already invented the type of telescope he says? Won't you think the world is waiting for Mr. Berrycloth to present this brilliant idea to thank him ?!

**Barbara:** And what if it really is an innovative idea that allowed him to enter the Guinness Book of Records?

**Susanna:** The only reason he might enter the Book of Records is to be the ugliest man in the world, because he looks more like a baboon than a man, but otherwise...

**Barbara:** You are very hard on him, I remind you that you married him, so...

**Susanna:** When I did, it wasn't like that. He took care of his physical appearance. Now he looks like an ascetic, indeed, a Neanderthal man.

**Barbara:** I get it, forget it! Let's talk about your son instead.

**Susanna:** Between him and his father I don't know who is worse. Since a fool in the family wasn't enough... I also had to have a son who believed he was the reincarnation of a pharaoh who, in order to regain the power of the past, needs to build a pyramid.

**Barbara:** If he needs it, let it do it.

**Susanna:** I remind you that he wants to build it in the garden.

**Barbara:** Didn't you buy this house just to please him?

**Susanna:** I didn't realize the pyramid had to be as big as the Cairo ones.

**Barbara:** Really?

**Susanna:** It's no coincidence that there are all those machines out there! With that amount of manpower, you could raise the towers of Kuala Lumpur. But do you know how much it costs me to hire equipment and personnel?

**Barbara:** For a son a person must be willing to do everything.

**Susanna:** You speak well since I'm the one who comes up with the money.

**Barbara:** I would like to help you in some way.

**Susanna:** Can you drive the crawler or the bulldozer?

**Barbara:** Not that, but I could mix the concrete with the cement mixer.

**Susanna:** It might be a good idea, maybe you throw those two stupid ones in it too, so we can solve all the problems.

**Barbara:** I get the message: I can't do anything for you.

**Susanna:** Who said that?

**Barbara:** So do you want my help or not?

**Susanna:** Sure! But not the way you mean it.

**Barbara:** I don't think I understand.

**Susanna:** You might try to dissuade them from carrying out their projects.

**Barbara:** In this way, however, I would kill their dreams.

**Susanna:** Do you prefer to kill their dreams or directly them?

**Barbara:** Would you really want to throw them in the cement mixer?

**Susanna:** How foolish you are! Obviously not! But I could really throw them out of the house. I remind you that this property is in my name. My son is already of age, my husband is an idiot, so I decided: I'm staying here alone.

**Barbara:** I don't think you would go that far.

**Susanna:** It seems to me that they are willing to do anything to make their projects come true, so why shouldn't I do the same? My priority is to save the house and I will do everything in my power to do that.

**Barbara:** Try to talk to them before you get to that point.

**Susanna:** I already did, but they don't take me seriously, maybe if you talked to them...

**Barbara:** Me?

**Susanna:** Didn't you offer to help me?

**Barbara:** In fact I might try.

**Susanna:** That's all I ask. If they stop now and go back to work I can fix things, but if they go further there will be nothing but the abyss of misery.

**Barbara:** You are putting a huge responsibility on me.

**Susanna:** I know, but you're the only one who can save my family. As my best friend, they will believe you when you tell them that I have every intention of kicking them out of the house.

**Barbara:** Okay, before moving on to the threats, though, I have another idea.

**Susanna:** Do as you like! but do it quickly, since my patience and above all my finances are now exhausted.

**Barbara:** Give me at least a few days.

**Susanna:** All right! But keep in mind that if you don't succeed, once out of the house, who do you think they would ask for help?

**Barbara:** I don't know.

**Susanna:** The only historical friend they could turn to is you, and all this would include: food, lodging and laundry.

**Barbara:** Really?

**Susanna:** And they might even have the audacity to ask you to build a pyramid and place a telescope in your garden.

**Barbara:** But mine is small.

**Susanna:** I am sure that, to carry out their projects, they would be satisfied with that too.

**Barbara:** And I couldn't even say no.

**Susanna:** Exactly!

**Barbara:** You convinced me! I'm off now, but call me as soon as they get back so I can get in on the action right away. Anyway, sooner or later you will have to pay me back. Bye-bye. I will wait for your call. *(And she leaves the scene)*

**Susanna:** *(Looking up to the sky)* She is my last hope.

*The doorbell rings.*

**Nelson:** Good morning madam! We wanted to know what we should do with the trees once they have been felled.

**Susanna:** Why? Which trees are you going to cut down?

**Nelson:** *(Showing the plan of the house)* As you can see, at this point, the pyramid and the telescope don't fit, so the only way to make room is to uproot all the fruit trees and tear down the enclosure. It was your husband who gave us these directions.

**Susanna:** And would he give you permission for all fifty?

**Nelson:** Of course because we need more room.

**Susanna:** Did he also tell you that you could demolish the wall enclosure.

**Nelson:** Yes, because we need more room.

**Susanna:** If you only dare to touch a tree or an inch of that fence, I will throw you straight into the stratosphere with one fist, so there you will have no problem finding more room.

**Nelson:** But madam...!

**Susanna:** I give the orders in this house and now get out of here!

**Nelson:** Then we could demolish the garage...

**Susanna:** If you say another word, I'll lock you in the garage and throw away the key. Now get out and don't come back! I said get out!

**Nelson:** I will be back when your husband is here. *(And he leaves the scene)*

**Susanna:** Now I'm going to call a lawyer and ask for advice on how to act. *(And she goes to the kitchen)*

*Gideon and Marvin enter the scene.*

**Gideon:** *(He enters to check that his wife is not in the room and then nods to his friend)* Move! It's the right time, I can't see the vampire.

**Marvin:** *(Aloud)* Okay, I'll turn on the computer and...

**Gideon:** Speak more softly, if she were in the other room, you'd wake the beast!

**Marvin:** Sorry, I wasn't thinking. *(Clumsily tries to plug the laptop into the power outlet)*

**Gideon:** What are you doing? Can't you see that it takes a reduction? And you want to get into the NASA system?

**Marvin:** I remind you that I already did.

**Gideon:** Maybe. Come on, connect and hurry, if the enemy returns...

**Marvin:** Couldn't we do it at my house, calmly?

**Gideon:** You are really dull-witted! You don't have the proxy.

**Marvin:** In my opinion, the VPN remains the best way to guarantee anonymity.

**Gideon:** I trust the Proxy more. A well-known security researcher has published a report in which he explains how there are several VPN services that are permeable to attacks that allow the identification of users' IP addresses.

**Marvin:** Since you are so knowledgeable about it, why don't you do it all yourself?

**Gideon:** I tried, but I couldn't and since you've already done it once...



**Marvin:** Then stop talking and let's concentrate on what to do. *(And he starts typing on the computer keyboard)*

*Gideon sits next to his friend, observing his every move. Every so often he presses a few keys.*

**Marvin:** Stop it! I can do it alone.

**Gideon:** I just wanted to give you a hand.

**Marvin:** You just make me anxious like this. I wonder why I agreed to help you!

**Gideon:** Maybe to get rich and famous like me?

**Marvin:** Of course! Famous, for sure, because I'll go to jail with you as the idiot of the year; on becoming rich, I would have some doubts.

**Gideon:** I remind you that I invented the only telescope in the world that can detect dark matter.

**Marvin:** Not to underestimate you, however, if until today, the best astronomers have said that it is not possible to detect it except indirectly through its gravitational effects, because it does not emit electromagnetic radiation, will it ever be possible that you did?!

**Gideon:** They made use of the instruments available, but I invented a very special one.

**Marvin:** *(Interrupting him)* Which in your opinion would be more advanced than the Chile interferometer or the 13 telescopes of the University of Hawaii observatory, just to mention the two most important astronomical structures. They have the best optical, infrared, submillimeter instruments and the most advanced radio telescopes there. And you think you have invented something better?

**Gideon:** Why not? If Einstein had not believed in his ideas, he would not have formulated the theory of relativity.

**Marvin:** It seems to me a little exaggerated to compare to a revolutionary genius like him!

**Gideon:** I certainly don't intend to, but, like him, I want to challenge what others take for granted.

**Marvin:** However, regardless of this, if they find that we have breached NASA's security system, do you know where we will end and how long will we be there?

**Gideon:** I certainly would not have offered you a percentage of the income from the exploitation of the invention of the telescope, if what you are doing for me wasn't risky.

**Marvin:** Wasn't it enough for you to have made the discovery of the millennium *(Sarcastically)*? Do you also have to risk jail to send a recording into space?

**Gideon:** The probe that's going to be launched in a few days will be wandering in interstellar space even after the end of life on earth. And think a bit: if someone finds it, will be able to hear my voice. I will be the one to represent the entire humanity present on our planet.

**Marvin:** Why should life on earth end?

**Gideon:** Due to global warming. If we continue at this rate of pollution we will have no chance. An Australian says that all this will happen in 2050. But even if that doesn't happen, life on earth will end when the sun dies. I remind you that the Sun is already halfway through its life cycle. Astronomers estimate that it has about 5 billion years left. It will die when it runs out of hydrogen. After that, the core will overheat, radiating X-rays and ultraviolet radiation that will reach the outer layers and melt them. The core will remain hot for another 5,000 to 10,000 years. At that point life on Earth, as an orbiting planet, will be incinerated. The Sun will burn with such intensity that the oceans will boil. So even before the Sun dies, the Earth will no longer be a livable place.

**Marvin:** But why replace the message from the President of the United States with yours? Do you want the aliens to think you were important?!

**Gideon:** Why am I not? Didn't I invent the telescope that can detect dark matter?

**Marvin:** I remind you that we still need to verify that it works.

**Gideon:** I have not the slightest doubt.

**Marvin:** I, on the other hand, have a bad feeling.

**Gideon:** Stop complaining and get moving! I wouldn't want the harpy to appear at any moment.

**Marvin:** Okay, then let me concentrate. Let's take this file off and put ours on... and go, download completed. Now we're in history.

**Gideon:** Since the loaded voice is mine, I am what I am in the story.

**Marvin:** Thank you for making me feel part of this project, you are a true friend! But I remind you that it was me who entered the system. And it was me who told you that my cousin was in charge of recording the audio track on the disk that will be placed on the probe.

**Gideon:** It seems to me that he does not help us for free, I had to promise him ten percent of the income I will receive by patenting the telescope. However, I still don't understand why he made us take all these risks and we couldn't send the file directly to him.

**Marvin:** It's very simple: if they find that we've replaced the message, he won't be suspected of complicity. *(Then, annoyed, he stand up and goes to the door)*

**Gideon:** Wait up! Where are you going? Sit down, you know that your help was very important. Don't get angry and think that once the telescope is patented, you too will get ten percent of the proceeds.

**Marvin:** All right! I sit back, however I am not very convinced that this invention of yours will catch on as you say.

**Gideon:** I assure you that you are in a sensational project.

**Marvin:** How can you be sure that telescope works if you haven't placed it yet?

**Gideon:** Until the workers have done the concrete casting, how can I place it? Haven't you seen how big it is? It needs a stable base to stand on.

**Marvin:** However, I won't deny that I am a little worried about hacking into NASA's security systems. Let's hope we don't have to regret the VPN.

**Gideon:** Just worry about how to invest the avalanche of money that we will earn!

**Marvin:** Have you already filed the patent?

**Gideon:** I just need to test the telescope after applying one last small change.

**Marvin:** How small?

**Gideon:** Very small. I would like to add a large parabolic antenna, in order to also pick up the radio waves emitted by the various sources scattered throughout the Universe.

**Marvin:** Do you think E.T. might be sending you some radio signals?

**Gideon:** Why not?! And if there is even one possibility of it happening, I want to take it.

**Marvin:** *(Laughing)* Why do you want to invite him for a coffee?

**Gideon:** I like to dream.

**Marvin:** I, on the other hand, like count the money, so get a move on!

**Gideon:** How venal you are!

**Marvin:** I hope not to repent and become "criminal", I don't know if I have explained myself.

**Gideon:** *(Dismissing him hastily)* Now go, we have already tempted fate beyond measure, Cerberus may soon arrive and it would be a big problem.

**Marvin:** Who are you referring to?

**Gideon:** Forget it! I'll call you as soon as I have fresh news. I'll accompany you, you'd better go out the back.

**Marvin:** When will you make the changes to the telescope?

**Gideon:** After asking my wife ...

**Marvin:** Didn't we agree not to say anything to our wives?

**Gideon:** Yes, but some changes aren't free.

*Gideon and Marvin leave the scene. After a few moment Jordan (dressed as Pharaoh) and Tessa enter.*

**Tessa:** Was it really necessary to buy the dress too?

**Jordan:** I didn't buy it, I just took it back.

**Tessa:** The shopkeeper who wanted a hundred pounds seemed to me to think differently.

**Jordan:** That man didn't know that I was the greatest Pharaoh in history.

**Tessa:** Otherwise would he have given it to you for free?

**Jordan:** Not only that, he would also have prostrated himself.

**Tessa:** *(Making fun of her boyfriend)* After three thousand years you are more likely to have prostatitis than him! For the rest, I really don't know what to tell you.

**Jordan:** You don't have to tell me anything, you just have to humor me.

**Tessa:** Honestly, I find it a bit difficult! We have been engaged for ten years and one morning you get up and tell me you are sure you are the reincarnation of Ramses II, excuse me if I'm a little skeptical.

**Jordan:** That night everything became clear to me.

**Tessa:** It was just a dream.

**Jordan:** If it were as you say, how would I know so much about Egypt?

**Tessa:** They must be old reminiscences of the many documentaries you've seen, that's all.

**Jordan:** I have been told that if I follow the directions given to me in this dream, as you call it, I will have a great reward.

**Tessa:** You already told me: you will be enlightened and you will regain the power of the past and then...

**Jordan:** *(Interrupting her)* Everything will be revealed to me. I'll just have to do what I've been asked to me.

**Tessa:** So do you mean digging in the right spot with the coordinates they gave you and then build the pyramid?

**Jordan:** Exactly! You will see that everything will be fine!

**Tessa:** You are wrong! I remind you that your mother is no longer going to finance you.

**Jordan:** My father will convince her, he's on my side.

**Tessa:** Your father is on his side, in fact he doesn't even want to give you the space you asked for, because he wants it for himself.

**Jordan:** He is certain to yield to my will.

**Tessa:** Your will is exactly where he wants to place the telescope, so he will never give you permission to do it there.

**Jordan:** Ramses does not ask, he orders and he too will have to realize it.

**Tessa:** I do not think so! Anyway, what does your friend in the dream say about me?

**Jordan:** I'll be honest, he didn't tell me anything.

**Tessa:** Then I can leave.

**Jordan:** No, Ramses does not want it.

**Tessa:** And should I also thank him?

**Jordan:** After my official investiture I will know more, for the moment I would say yes.

**Tessa:** Look, I was joking, but you really seem to think so.

**Jordan:** I've never been more sure of anything in my life!

**Tessa:** Okay, but let's make a deal...

**Jordan:** (*Interrupting her*) The Pharaoh does not make deals.

**Tessa:** Stop it all! Until the official proclamation you cannot be treated as such.

**Jordan:** What do you mean?

**Tessa:** I mean that you will be treated as Pharaoh only after the investiture ceremony. Until then, you will remain Jordan.

**Jordan:** (*After thinking about it*) I can't accept.

**Tessa:** Then give me back my one hundred pounds.

**Jordan:** (*After rummaging in his pocket*) I don't have them.



**Tessa:** *(Sarcastically)* You can't call someone a king if he can't pay his subjects.

**Jordan:** I can't at the moment.

**Tessa:** So let's make this agreement: until the investiture you will pretend to be Jordan. Later, if the prophecy comes true, I will humor you. But if it doesn't, you'll be seen by a good person whom I'll indicate.

**Jordan:** Who would you have in mind?

**Tessa:** To stay on topic, I would say the great priest.

**Jordan:** *(After reflection)* It can be done. But in the meantime, you will have to help me build the pyramid.

**Tessa:** *(Sarcastically)* Of course! I'm going to get a shovel and start digging the hole for the foundation.

**Jordan:** This would take too long.

**Tessa:** Slow and steady wins the race. *(And she drags him offstage)*

## SECOND ACT

*Same scenography as the first act.*

**Susanna:** *(Trying to turn on the light)* What is going on? Why did the light go out?

*Someone knocks on the door which is half open.*

**Nelson:** May I?

**Susanna:** You again? I can recognize your "ugly voice" even in the dark!

**Nelson:** Don't get angry! I came to warn you that we will resolve shortly...

**Susanna:** *(Furious, interrupting him)* So it was you...?

**Nelson:** No, it wasn't our fault.

**Susanna:** *(Throwing a slipper in Nelson's direction)* Now I I'm going to come over there and finish the job.

**Nelson:** *(In an attempt to escape, he stumbles and falls)* Please don't hurt me.

**Susanna:** *(After reaching him she hits him with slippers)* I warned you to leave, but you didn't want to listen to me so you get this and this...

**Nelson:** I couldn't, I had to respect the contract.

*The light returns and another worker enters the scene.*

**Virgil:** Boss, where are you? I don't see you.

**Susanna:** Here's another one to send straight to the hospital. *(Throwing the other slipper)*

**Virgil:** Madam, what are you doing? I'm going to bring back the light and you...

**Susanna:** If you hadn't caused the blackout, there would be no need.

**Virgil:** It was the electric company who interrupted the power, it's not our fault. In fact, to get around the problem, we've arranged for you to use the one on the building site.

**Susanna:** Since when do we have two?

**Nelson:** *(Still on the ground with one of the woman's feet on top of him)* Since the works started. We do not use your light for the needs of the construction site, we have requested a temporary connection contract and therefore a separate supply.

**Susanna:** So why would the electric company interrupted the power?

**Virgil:** Usually it does this at the first unpaid bill.

**Susanna:** Are we already so bad?

**Nelson:** *(Desperate)* I'm not so well off either, if you'd stop crushing me...

**Susanna:** If that's the case, please excuse me and stand up.

**Nelson:** For now you can use the light from the building site.

**Susanna:** Also because the “music” is over.

**Virgil:** It doesn't matter, I never listen to the radio when I work.

**Susanna:** I meant that I am short on cash. There are no more bucks here, is that clear?

**Virgil:** Very clear, madam!

**Susanna:** So it's time for you to leave a place!

**Nelson:** We have to finish the day. However, we can wait for the temporary connection contract to expire before taking everything away. In the meantime, if more money comes in, we could resume work.

**Susanna:** Barring miracles, it really seems impossible to me.

**Virgil:** Don't despair, never say never madam. Meanwhile, we're going back to work. Goodbye!

**Nelson:** *(Frightened)* I also greet you. *(And they both leave the scene)*

**Susanna:** See you later!

*Gideon enters the scene.*

**Gideon:** *(Scratching his head and pretending to cough to dull the embarrassment)* Hello! What happened earlier? Did the lights go out?

**Susanna:** It certainly did not go away by itself.

**Gideon:** *(Trying to play down)* No?! And who would take her away?

**Susanna:** The electric company.

**Gideon:** *(Continuing to joke)* But they gave it back immediately, maybe they must have seen who the owner of the electric use was.

**Susanna:** If I were you, I wouldn't be so funny!

**Gideon:** Why are you so angry, what did I do this time?

**Susanna:** As soon as I get my hands on you I'll explain. *(She approaches threateningly to her husband who immediately runs away, as she starts to chase him, the doorbell rings)* Now I have to go and open the door, we'll talk later.

**Barbara:** *(After entering)* What long faces!

**Susanna:** You have to see his neck after I pull it.

**Barbara:** Stop talking nonsense and tell me what happened.

**Susanna:** I thought I'd be in time to save the day, but we're already at the point where they cut the power.

**Barbara:** You don't seem to be in the dark.

**Susanna:** We are using the building site light. What a shame! but I... *(She catches her husband and grabs him by the neck)*

**Barbara:** Get it over! Didn't you ask me to do something? You go there and calm down.

**Susanna:** All right! I'm going to get some camomile-tea, otherwise I might get angry. *(And she leaves the scene)*

**Gideon:** She's mad.

**Barbara:** Just her?

**Gideon:** Why do you say that? I am one step away from realizing the project, I cannot stop at this moment.

**Barbara:** You've been repeating the same refrain for a long time.

**Gideon:** This time we are really close. As I was saying, we are just one step away...

**Barbara:** And how much would this step cost?

**Gideon:** Ten thousand pounds.

**Barbara:** That's a lot of money, how are you going to get it?

**Gideon:** Until a moment ago, I was thinking of asking Susanna, but now I'm sure that if I just tried, she would kill me instantly.

**Barbara:** In my opinion you have only one way: go back to work to earn that money.

**Gideon:** I have a better idea... Why don't you lend them to me? In return, I'd give you ten percent of all the proceeds.

**Barbara:** Thank you, but I don't have all that money. Tessa is quite wealthy, why don't you try asking her?

**Gideon:** She has to finance Jordan's pyramid, so she would never invest in my project.

**Barbara:** We have to get her to abandon the Jordan's project and move on to yours. I already have someone in mind who could help us challenge your son's theories.

**Gideon:** I have some doubts about that. Even not giving much credence to his outlandish ideas, she still go along with him.

**Barbara:** But if it was an irrefutable opinion confirming that Jordan is slightly out of his mind, she would stop and then, do you see other alternatives?

**Gideon:** Unfortunately not.

**Barbara:** Then leave it to me and let's see what happens.

**Gideon:** But how much does this person want to help us?

**Barbara:** He will take his fee only if successful and the five hundred pounds you will have to pay him you can ask Tessa. You will tell her that you need ten thousand five hundred pounds instead of ten thousand. Basically with the money of your daughter-in-law you will also pay for our luminary.

**Gideon:** You convinced me, let's try!

**Barbara:** *(After sending an SMS from her mobile)* That's it! Let's hope he can come right away.

*The doorbell rings. Tessa enters.*

**Tessa:** Good morning Gideon! How are you? I wanted to tell you something.

**Gideon:** Honestly me too...

**Barbara:** *(Interrupting him)* Gideon what are you doing?

**Gideon:** I just wanted to mention to...

**Barbara:** The times are not yet ripe...

**Tessa:** For what?

**Barbara:** For the peaches, he wanted to pick them up and give them to you.

**Tessa:** How kind of you! Anyway, it seems too early for peaches. I, on the other hand, wanted to...

**Gideon:** *(Interrupting her)* Talk to her, you know she's family, she will tell me everything later, now I have to go on an urgent errand. *(And he leaves the scene)*

**Tessa:** Okay!

**Barbara:** Tell me, Tessa. What's wrong?

**Tessa:** It's about Jordan and his project... I would have had an idea about it.

**Barbara:** You're not going to indulge him, are you?

**Tessa:** On the contrary: my intention would be to psychoanalyze him to understand whether he's crazy or not.

**Barbara:** This is a great idea!

**Tessa:** But I don't know if I'm doing the right thing, because I'm almost starting to believe that he...

**Barbara:** *(Interrupting her)* Don't you start too! A fool among you is more than enough.

**Tessa:** It is just that he says and does inexplicable things. Suddenly he started reading hieroglyphics as naturally as if he was reading the newspaper. He who has never even been to Egypt, doesn't that seem a bit strange to you?

**Barbara:** There is an explanation for everything. Besides, who says that his reading is right? So, don't help him, please.

**Tessa:** I do nothing, he does everything by himself.

**Barbara:** He's certainly not in a position to bear the cost of building the pyramid, so don't give him the money he needs.



**Tessa:** Since I'm in a good financial position, even though I don't like to throw money away, if I was sure it wasn't a fixation of his, I would satisfy him.

**Barbara:** Don't joke! There are more important things.

**Tessa:** Which ones?

**Barbara:** (*Embarrassed*) ...Let's just say other people may need to be funded, why invest so much money just for him?

**Tessa:** And who else should I do it for? I'm only interested in my boyfriend's happiness. Let the others make do, I can't solve the problems of all humanity!

**Barbara:** I fully agree with you, however, if he doesn't need them, maybe you could give a little hand to someone close to him.

**Tessa:** Who are you alluding to?

**Barbara:** I'm alluding to some other member of the family.

**Tessa:** For the moment, my only thought is to find a good psychoanalyst for Jordan.

**Barbara:** I know a very good one, a real luminary.

**Tessa:** Really?

**Barbara:** He's become famous all over the world for having developed a new psychoanalysis technique, thanks to which he is able to understand if the patient's behavior is the result of mere phobia, or some kind of trauma, from which he tries to defend himself with the help of imagination.

**Tessa:** That would be just what is needed. How can I contact him?

**Barbara:** If you want I can take care of it. And you will see how fast he comes! It is no coincidence that they call it lightning.

**Tessa:** A bizarre nickname for a doctor.

**Barbara:** He earned it for his speed in intervening and making diagnoses.

**Tessa:** So we will know right away whether Jordan's behavior stems from a mental disorder or...

**Barbara:** Yes, and the result is guaranteed.

**Tessa:** How much would a visit cost?

**Barbara:** Being a luminary he is not very cheap...

**Tessa:** What translated in a nutshell would amount to...?

**Barbara:** It would amount to an electrical connection.

**Tessa:** What a strange term of comparison!

**Barbara:** It came to me like this. You know, for someone they call lightning, it seemed appropriate.

**Tessa:** So, to stay on topic, how much would this electrical connection cost me?

**Barbara:** Five hundred pounds.

**Tessa:** It is not an exaggerated fee. Call him now to book a visit.

**Barbara:** *(She picks up the mobile phone and sends another message)* Done! *(Hearing an incoming message)* He says he's in the area, so he'll be here soon.

**Tessa:** So I call Jordan to warn him to come home immediately.

**Barbara:** I'm going to wait for my friend at the gate.

**Tessa:** I'm going with you. *(And they both leave the scene)*

*Susanna enters the scene.*

**Susanna:** *(Looking out of the window at what the workers are doing)* Why don't they leave? *(Seeing Nelson talking to a woman)* Who is she? At least for today you are paid to work, not to babble... what did you say? Can't you hear me well ?! Then come inside... Don't worry! I don't hit you.

*Nelson and Tatiana enter the scene.*

**Susanna:** Who are you?

**Tatiana:** Good morning! I'm a geologist. I was talking about the situation with mister Nelson.

**Susanna:** What situation?

**Nelson:** *(Scared)* It seems that the sliding of a piece of land on this hill has damaged several houses in the village, so the geologists intervened to evaluate...

**Tatiana:** If it was your excavations that caused the landslide.

**Susanna:** If so, what would happen?

**Tatiana:** It seems logical to me, you will have to compensate for all the damages caused.

**Susanna:** *(Takes a chair and turns to Nelson)* Son of a cursed dog! You made this mess, now I'll show you...

**Nelson:** It was not foreseeable that all this would happen.

**Tatiana:** *(Interjecting herself between the two grabs the chair)* Wait up! We still have to verify that the cause of the phenomenon is precisely that.

**Susanna:** It is not needed. With my bad luck, if I dug a small hole in the lawn of Square of Miracles the tower of Pisa would surely fall.

**Nelson:** Please put it down.

**Susanna:** Yes, on your skull, that's the right place.

**Tatiana:** *(Turning to Nelson)* I think the lady should know the rest as well.

**Nelson:** You tell her!

**Tatiana:** Madam... the fact is that...

**Susanna:** Come on, talk , I'm starting to get nervous!

**Nelson:** Unfortunately, troubles never come alone.

**Tatiana:** Without beating around the bush, you should know that the foundations have flooded. Liquid that smells of rotten eggs leaked out of the cracks in the ground.

**Nelson:** The worst is that we don't know how to stop it. It looks like a flooding river out of control.

**Susanna:** The only satisfaction will be, that at least I can drown you in it.

**Tatiana:** We must do something immediately, because, at this rate, soon the whole area will be flooded.

**Nelson:** I can lend you my dinghy to save your most precious objects.

**Susanna:** The only thing you have to save is your hide, because if I catch you I'll skin you like a cow. *(Nelson runs away instantly and Susanna runs after him. They both leave the scene)*

**Tatiana:** *(Following them)* Don't kill him, please!

*Tessa, Jordan and Solomon enter the scene.*

**Tessa:** There is no one at home. In this way we won't be disturbed.

**Jordan:** Do we really have to do this?

**Solomon:** It will be a simple verification, nothing special.

**Tessa:** Don't make a big deal out of it, just do what he says!

**Solomon:** First of all you have to lie down on the ground.

**Tessa:** On the ground?

**Solomon:** That's where we feel our roots.

**Jordan:** I'm not a tree, couldn't I do it on the sofa?

**Solomon:** Absolutely not, I said on the ground.

**Tessa:** If he said on the ground, you obey!

**Jordan:** *(After obeying)* I'm uncomfortable and the floor is cold.

**Solomon:** But that's exactly what's needed.

**Jordan:** *(Resigned turning to Tessa)* Let's be glad he didn't ask me to go into the fridge.

**Solomon:** Please, silence! You can speak when I ask you some questions, not before.

**Tessa:** Shut up! Can't you see you're disturbing him?

**Jordan:** I'm the one lying like a cod, so the more disturbed of the two would be me and not him.

**Solomon:** Come on, let's get started! Raise your hands and close your eyes, then tell me what you see.

**Jordan:** Nothing.

**Solomon:** *(Writing something on a notebook)* Very well! He can't see anything, even with the light on.

**Tessa:** Isn't it normal to see nothing with your eyes closed?

**Solomon:** No. The light of the soul is very bright and therefore you should see it.

**Tessa:** So what's the diagnosis?

**Solomon:** Do not rush, we need to understand other things before arriving at a diagnosis.

**Tessa:** Excuse me. Go ahead, you are the expert.

**Solomon:** *(Showing Jordan the picture of an artichoke)* What does this remind you of?

**Jordan:** I tell you it if you make me stand up, my back hurts, I can no longer resist in this position.

**Solomon:** *(Continuing to write)* The subject refuses to answer.

**Tessa:** Answer and stop complaining! If you stay like that for a while, you won't die!

**Jordan:** Ugh! But what can an artichoke conjure me?

**Solomon:** *(Taking further notes)* The subject recognizes the object.

**Jordan:** My back hurts, I'm not stoned!

**Solomon:** *(Continuing to write)* The subject feels pain and emotions.

**Tessa:** But to understand if...

**Solomon:** *(Interrupting her)* Wait up! Now comes the fun part.

**Jordan:** Won't you ask me to jump out the window now?

**Solomon:** *(Screaming)* Who were you over three thousand years ago?

**Jordan:** Ramses II.

**Solomon:** And why should you receive an investiture from any of your ancestors?

**Jordan:** To continue the mission.

**Solomon:** *(More and more excited and raising the tone of his voice)* Which mission?

**Jordan:** I have yet to find out, everything will be revealed during the solemn ceremony.

**Solomon:** So to find out you will have to get in touch with the afterlife?

**Jordan:** Only with myself of many years ago...

**Solomon:** *(Interrupting him)* That's enough for me.

**Tessa:** Doctor, what is your opinion?

**Solomon:** It is obvious that the subject is affected by crossed, underestimated, overt and procured bipolarism.

**Tessa:** Procured by whom?

**Solomon:** By himself and for his own good it should not be indulged.

**Jordan:** I am the chosen one, you don't understand!

**Tessa:** I'm sorry Jordan, you have to resign yourself! This gentleman is a luminary, and if he says I don't have to indulge you, I won't.

**Jordan:** He may be a luminary, but in my opinion he can't see from here to there.

**Solomon:** How dare you? It is you who must realize that you needs care.

**Tessa:** Honey, I'm sorry, but I'm not financing the pyramid.

**Jordan:** I feel you are making a big mistake.

**Solomon:** But I think the young lady is making the right decision. Now, I should go, so if we want to go through the final formalities.

**Tessa:** Quite right! How much do I owe you?

**Solomon:** Five hundred pounds.

**Tessa:** *(Handing over the money)* Doctor, we thank you for your advice and above all for coming to visit him at home.



**Jordan:** Speak for yourself. I would have bought at least two canopic jars with that money.

*Someone knocks on the door and Tessa goes to open it.*

**Virgil:** Have you gathered your things?

**Tessa:** Why would we do that?

**Virgil:** Have you not yet been informed of what is happening?

**Tessa:** No, we just arrived and we don't know anything.

**Virgil:** This means that the lady is always chasing after my boss...

**Jordan:** Let's get on with it! What is happening?

**Virgil:** For the moment we have to evacuate the house, soon everything will be flooded here, there is a huge leak of liquid from underground.

**Jordan:** And then you say I'm not Ramses II.

**Tessa:** Now why do you say that?

**Jordan:** Don't you understand? The Nile is already coming to me.

### **THIRD ACT**

*Same scenography as the previous two acts.*

*Marvin and Gideon are intent on looking at the computer.*

**Gideon:** The probe was launched. What a wonderful thing: my voice in the universe perhaps for eternity!

**Marvin:** Honestly, I'm more interested in the present, so I'll ask you the question of the century: have you finished the telescope?

**Gideon:** Almost.

**Marvin:** Almost, what does that mean?

**Gideon:** I am waiting for the money to finish it.

**Marvin:** That was not the deal.

**Gideon:** Leave it to me, trust me!

**Marvin:** I'm sorry, but I'm like St. Thomas, so I want to know exactly how things stand.

**Gideon:** I need ten thousand pounds but my wife can't give it to me because she doesn't have any more and soon they'll cut the electricity.

**Marvin:** What a beautiful scenery!

**Gideon:** Wait to judge! Given the situation, I decided to change tactics and I played the ace up my sleeve to make poker.

**Marvin:** Are you out of money and have you're even gambling?

**Gideon:** Absolutely not! I meant that I managed, through a friend, to boycott Jordan's plan; in this way my future daughter-in-law, instead of giving him the money, will invest it in my project.

**Marvin:** Even if she will no longer fund the pyramid, why should she invest in your telescope?

**Gideon:** Offering her ten percent of future proceeds, she will readily accept.

**Marvin:** Not being an expert in the sector, perhaps, she will not be so inclined to risk her money on such an experimental project.

**Gideon:** And this is where you will come into play, filling in all its gaps. I may not seem objective. But if you were to show her all the advantages and potential of the project ... She would never doubt the judgment of an affable and capable person like you.

**Marvin:** But if she doesn't even know me!

**Gideon:** Don't worry for that. As soon as she arrives, I'll introduce her to you and then I'll leave you alone with her. So you will "cook" her to perfection.

**Marvin:** I am not at all familiar with cooking.

**Gideon:** I'll give you a crash course.

**Marvin:** That will not work.

**Gideon:** I say yes.

**Marvin:** I don't know why I always let myself be convinced.

**Gideon:** Maybe because you know I'm a brain.

**Marvin:** Yes, fried in a pan. Come on, tell me how much I have to ask her.

**Gideon:** At least twenty thousand euros, so I finish the telescope, I pay the amount necessary to reconnect the light and some damage to the neighboring houses. I am sure that once the project has been filed with the patent office, the companies will fight for it.

**Marvin:** If it has to be done, then let's act as soon as possible.

**Gideon:** She should arrive any minute, I'll leave you two alone on the pretext of going to check the leak.

**Marvin:** What leak are you referring to?

**Gideon:** That caused by the excavations of the masons. We were ready to leave the house, then luckily they found a way to plug it, but I have to check that the cover holds, so if I use that excuse she won't be suspicious.

*Susanna enters the scene.*

**Susanna:** Here is the merry brigade always doing nothing!

**Gideon:** Even if it doesn't look like it, we are working.

**Susanna:** When you are under the bridge, you will regret not having listened to me.

**Gideon:** And you, when I am rich, will withdraw these words.

**Marvin:** Madam, I assure you that we have a good chance of success.

**Susanna:** Your opinion doesn't interest me. I don't think you're very objective, so save your breath.

**Marvin:** I would like to explain...

**Susanna:** Instead of explaining to me, convince him to find a serious and lasting job that brings in safe money.

**Gideon:** *(Turning to Marvin)* It's all wasted effort, you can't convince her.

**Susanna:** Listen, inventor my foot! Since you are so good, also invent dinner for tonight, because there is nothing in the fridge. I'm going out. *(And she leaves the scene)*

**Gideon:** If you can't convince Tessa to finance me, she kicks me out of the house for real. Please, I'm in your hands!

*The doorbell rings. Gideon looks through the peephole.*

**Gideon:** It's Tessa, you go open the door. I disappear.

**Marvin:** Didn't you have to introduce her to me?

**Gideon:** Change of plan. Introduce yourself directly and do what you have to do. *(And he leaves the scene)*

**Marvin:** Good morning! I presume you are Miss Tessa Beaufort?

**Tessa:** Yes, it's me and you are...?

**Marvin:** Marvin, a friend of Gideon.

**Tessa:** Is Jordan at home?

**Marvin:** Not at the moment, but he should be here any minute. Have a seat.

**Tessa:** Thanks. *(And she sits down)*

**Marvin:** Meanwhile, while I'm waiting for Gideon, I finish a job on the computer.

**Tessa:** I'll take a look at this fashion magazine.

**Marvin:** *(Speaking loudly)* Finished. This will also work perfectly. Great Marvin, I congratulate you!

**Tessa:** Are you a computer expert?

**Marvin:** There is no program that I do not know or system in the world that I can't get into.

**Tessa:** I am not very technological. My phone has jammed and I don't know how to restart it.

**Marvin:** Give it to me, I'll try to take a look at it.

**Tessa:** *(After giving him the mobile phone)* Didn't you make that program with your friend Gideon?

**Marvin:** No, this is all my own work. And I don't deny that I'm really proud of it; any company, for good resource management, would need a computer program like the one I have just developed. Done! Now it works again. *(Returning her the mobile phone)*

**Tessa:** Thanks! You are a true genius, not like my father-in-law. Between us, I don't have much faith in what he does.

**Marvin:** I assure you that he too has good ideas, perhaps if you listened to them you could change your mind.

**Tessa:** I already have his son to support and it is more than enough.

*Susanna enters the scene.*

**Susanna:** Where is that lazybones?

**Tessa:** Do you mean your husband?

**Susanna:** Yes.

**Marvin:** He went to check the leak.

**Susanna:** Better this way, his health is at stake.

**Marvin:** You should be more understanding with him.

**Susanna:** What do you want to know? You are both cast in the same mould.

**Tessa:** I don't think so, this gentleman has skills that should not be underestimated. Indeed, since I am looking for someone with his IT skills to join my company, I would like to make you a proposal.

**Marvin:** Tell me.

**Tessa:** I am willing to offer you a three-month contract of employment. At the end of this trial period, if the results are what I believe, I will hire you on a permanent basis.

**Marvin:** Excuse me, but couldn't you make even a little effort for your future father-in-law's project?

**Tessa:** I was willing to make a big one by building a pyramid for his son, but the doctor said his is just a fixation...

**Susanna:** *(Interrupting her)* So, if the doctor gave a favorable opinion, would you have built it for him?

**Tessa:** If he really was the reincarnation of Ramses II, how could I not help him?

**Marvin:** Now I'm going to check what's going on out there, I see that Gideon isn't coming back. Maybe he needs help. See you later. *(And she leaves the scene)*

**Tessa:** At this point I leave too. Jordan is late, so I'll be back later. *(As she opens the door she sees Barbara and greets her)*

**Barbara:** *(Satisfied)* Susanna, my friend managed to persuade Tessa not to finance Jordan's project.

**Susanna:** Call him back now!

**Barbara:** Why?

**Susanna:** Because I'm an idiot. I didn't understand that Tessa was willing to finance the building of the pyramid, I thought it would be up to me to pay everything. On the other hand, if your friend said he had the wrong diagnosis, she would pay for everything.

**Barbara:** And what would you get out of it?

**Susanna:** I would please my son, without spending a dime. Not to mention that I would fix all the damage caused in the garden at her expense.

**Barbara:** The costs of reconnecting the electricity could also be covered.

**Susanna:** Not only that, if we inflate the budget a bit, we might even get an extra for my husband's project.



**Barbara:** That sounds like a great idea to me. I immediately send a message to my friend explaining everything and telling him to come back immediately.

**Susanna:** We must, however, convince Tessa to have Jordan visit again.

**Barbara:** What's the problem? We tell Solomon to call her back to inform her that he has realized that he has made a somewhat hasty diagnosis and that he would need to make a further examination of the patient.

**Susanna:** So I go to find Jordan and, with an excuse, I'll get him to come home immediately.

**Barbara:** Fingers crossed. *(And they both leave the scene)*

*Gideon and Marvin return to the scene.*

**Gideon:** Why are you being so evasive?

**Marvin:** *(Scratching his head)* I can't tell you exactly...

**Gideon:** Are you kidding me? Is she going to give us the money or not?

**Marvin:** In a sense...

**Gideon:** So how much can I have?

**Marvin:** I would say nothing.

**Gideon:** Didn't you say...?

**Marvin:** She gives money, but only to me, because she hires me in her company.

**Gideon:** What a rascal that you are! You only made your own interest without thinking of me.

**Marvin:** You, fight your battle!

**Gideon:** In this way you just lost your ten percent.

**Marvin:** Never mind! But at least I have a secure job.

**Gideon:** You'll pay for this!

**Marvin:** I did what I could.

**Gideon:** Yes for you. So you know what I tell you? Get out of my house! *(Dragging him towards the door)*

**Marvin:** Don't pull me!

**Gideon:** I was right to put only my voice in the universe, yours really sucks. Goodbye! *(Pushing him out. Then he angrily exits the scene from the opposite side)*

*Susanna and Nelson enter the scene.*

**Susanna:** Come in, don't be afraid.

**Nelson:** *(Frightened)* I'm sorry for your plants, but we couldn't have foreseen that leak from underground.

**Susanna:** I know that very well. And then we had to uproot them at that point to make room for the pyramid, so don't worry about it.

**Nelson:** *(Incredulous)* So, didn't you bring me here to beat me?

**Susanna:** On the contrary, I wanted to offer you something to drink.

**Nelson:** I get it: you want to poison me and make my body disappear.

**Susanna:** Stop talking nonsense and listen to me: do you know what the saying goes? One hand washes the other and both of them wash the face.

**Nelson:** What do you mean?

**Susanna:** Let me explain: instead of taking legal action against you for all the damage you have done, I'm proposing a deal.

**Nelson:** Should I commit suicide?

**Susanna:** Don't be so melodramatic! You will just have to inflate the initial budget a bit.

**Nelson:** Why? Didn't you say you had no more money to continue the work? And then what would be the point?

**Susanna:** You must know that it will probably be my daughter-in-law who will have to pay for the work, so you will have to give her an estimate that is 20% higher than the one you gave me.

**Nelson:** This seems to be a bit of an exaggerated increase.

**Susanna:** Never as much as the damage you've done. So you think you can do it?

**Nelson:** I would say there are no problems. And what about the issue of damage to houses?

**Susanna:** We will think about that later. In the meantime, I'll show you something. *(And they both leave the scene)*

*Tessa, Jordan and Solomon enter the scene.*

**Tessa:** You seemed so sure about the diagnosis!

**Solomon:** Reading my notes, I have some doubts that I would like to dispel.

**Jordan:** I don't want to be visited again, otherwise I'll catch a cold.

**Tessa:** It will pass you into the pyramid, so shut up!

**Solomon:** It is useless for you to look at me like that, by now you know that you have to lie down.

**Jordan:** *(After obeying)* If my subjects could see me, what a humiliation!

**Solomon:** If you spoke less, it would be quicker.

**Jordan:** *(Resigned, muttering)* All right! I'm going to lie down.

**Solomon:** Close your eyes.

**Jordan:** That's exactly what I did last time. I don't want to do it anymore. *(In an attempt to stand up)*

**Tessa:** *(Putting a foot on his chest prevents him from doing so)* Don't even think about it for a moment, I forbid you!

**Jordan:** I should be the one to forbid something to you, you are lower in rank, so you can't do that.

**Tessa:** Stay dumb and resigned!

**Jordan:** The god Anubis will punish you for this affront.

**Tessa:** In the meantime you listen to him.

**Solomon:** Take a deep breath and let yourself go. *(After touching his forehead)* Hold your breath for about a minute.

*Jordan falls into a deep sleep. After a few moments...*

**Tessa:** Doesn't he wake up?

**Solomon:** Sure! But only on my order.

**Tessa:** And what are you waiting for to give it to him?

**Solomon:** The more he is in this state, the better.

**Tessa:** I don't want to contradict you, but it seems to me that he is turning cyanotic.

**Solomon:** *(Looking at him)* Wow! It's true.

**Tessa:** Are you sure you have the situation under control?

**Solomon:** Of course! If he doesn't wake up we'll call an ambulance.

**Tessa:** But you are a luminary, do something, wake him up!

**Solomon:** I'd like to have some water.

**Tessa:** Do you think this is the time to drink?

**Solomon:** Not for me, for him.

**Tessa:** Ah! And how much do you want?

**Solomon:** One glass will be enough.

**Tessa:** I'll go to the kitchen to get it.

**Solomon:** *(As he watches her go into the other room)* Bring some plasters too.

**Tessa:** He didn't cut himself!

**Solomon:** Not for the moment, but do as I tell you.

**Tessa:** Okay, but I have to look for them, I have no idea where they can be.

**Solomon:** Don't worry, there is no hurry.

**Tessa:** But he's in a coma!

**Solomon:** Get moving then, don't stand there like a codfish.

*Tessa leaves the scene.*

**Solomon:** What do I do now? This one doesn't wake up... right... shock therapy. *(And he starts kicking him repeatedly)*

**Tessa (off stage):** How is the situation there?

**Solomon:** Very well! He is recovering. *(Seeing that he doesn't revive, he keeps kicking him)*

**Tessa:** What are those noises?

**Solomon:** *(He tries to pull Jordan up and sits him down, leaning his head against the leg of the table, then starts slapping him)* Wake up! Otherwise it ends badly here.

**Tessa:** *(After entering the scene and looking at Jordan)* I found everything. He looks better to me, his face has nice colour now.

**Solomon:** Of course, he's in the two-slap phase.

**Tessa:** Where is he?

**Solomon:** That's what it's called this phase, because when you wake up, you have the feeling that you've been hit.

**Jordan:** *(Who just opened his eyes)* Where am I? I have pain all over.

**Solomon:** It's all right, it's just the after-effects of the visit.

**Jordan:** *(Turning to Tessa)* I have the impression that someone ran over me. However a few seconds ago the gods spoke to me.

**Solomon:** And what would they have told you?

**Jordan:** They told me that I will become rich and I'll have many subjects.

**Tessa:** Maybe they meant employees.

**Jordan:** Call them what you will, but all of this will come true.

**Tessa:** So the investiture took place. Then is the pyramid no longer needed?

**Jordan:** It also serves to make the prophecy come true.

**Solomon:** In the light of the latest events, I can confirm, without a shadow of a doubt, that the subject is not suffering from any mental disorder and that he is indeed the reincarnation of a Pharaoh.

**Tessa:** Are you sure?

**Solomon:** Yes, I am. I had understood this even before he went into a trance, then I had further confirmation of it.

**Tessa:** So what should I do?

**Solomon:** You have to help him build the pyramid exactly where he says.

**Tessa:** It's going to cost me a fortune.

**Solomon:** As soon as the prophecy comes true, he will be able to repay you for your financial efforts.

**Tessa:** I don't know whether to be happy or...

**Jordan:** You have to be happy, I finally regained my identity.

**Tessa:** I warn you, though, that if I kick out money I demand to have a say like you.

**Jordan:** I will make an exception to the rule.

**Tessa:** Otherwise, nothing is done.

**Solomon:** Now that the matter is finally resolved, I leave you to your fate, but first let's go back to mine.

**Tessa:** And what would it be?

**Solomon:** *(Extending his hand)* Collect my fee.

**Tessa:** *(Turning to Jordan)* You cost me a fortune. When you're rich, you'll have to pay me back for these.

**Jordan:** So be it.

**Solomon:** Goodbye and best wishes for everything!

*While Jordan is intent on drinking the water Nelson, Virgil, Susanna and Tatiana enter the scene and are talking among themselves.*

**Susanna:** It's incredible.

**Nelson:** Right there.

**Virgil:** Maybe if a thorough soil analysis had been carried out, it would have come out sooner.

**Tatiana:** I immediately had a suspicion during the first inspection. That dark-colored oily liquid with its unmistakable smell didn't leave much doubt, but I preferred to have the appropriate tests carried out before I spoke. The results then proved me right.

**Nelson:** Now what will be the next step?

**Virgil:** I think there is only one thing to do.

**Tessa:** Do you want to tell us what's going on too? And the lady here present (*Alluding to Tatiana*) who is she?

**Tatiana:** There is no time for introductions, just know that I am a geologist and now excuse me, but we have an urgent matter to resolve.

**Tessa:** Susanna at least you, listen to me!

**Susanna:** (*Who is confabulating with others*) Tessa, then I'll explain everything.

**Tessa:** So who should I tell that I'm going to build the pyramid?

**Nelson:** The pyramid? And where?

**Tessa:** At the point indicated by Jordan from the beginning.

**Virgil:** It is not possible there. (*Then he starts confabulating with the others again*)

**Tessa:** (*Impatient, raises tone of voice*) I pay and I decide!

*Tessa manages to attract the attention of the four of them who turn their heads for a moment simultaneously, but then immediately turn their heads again and continue their conversation.*

**Susanna:** (*Approaching Tessa*) If you want to do it, no problem, but I think with that... we're good.

**Tessa:** I don't understand what you mean.

**Tatiana:** After careful analysis of the liquid that leaked out exactly where the excavations for the construction of the pyramid were carried out, we came to the conclusion that there is an oil field below.

**Susanna:** So with the proceeds we will not only be able to pay all the damages caused to the damaged houses, but we will also become rich.

**Jordan:** (*Turning to Tessa*) Did you see my informants weren't lying?

**Tatiana:** So somebody already knew about this? Had the soil tests already been carried out? Why didn't you inform me right away? I would have saved time and effort.

**Jordan:** They didn't exactly talk about oil, but they told me to dig there and that after the investiture I would be rich and powerful again.

**Tatiana:** *(Puzzled)* The investiture? It would be worth talking to these people to understand how they came into possession of this information.

**Jordan:** They don't respond on command.

**Tessa:** *(Seeing Tatiana's confused face)* Jordan meant that it's difficult to contact them, however, if they show up again, let's ask for an address and then we'll contact you.

**Tatiana:** Okay, then I'll go. See you soon.

**Nelson:** We will now proceed as planned.

**Virgil:** Shall we start drilling?

**Jordan:** Where will the pyramid be built?

**Susanna:** Directly in Cairo, are you happy?

**Jordan:** I couldn't have wished for anything better!

*Gideon opens the door and enters the scene followed by two policemen.*

**Gideon:** I can explain everything.

**Tim:** To do so, however, you will have to follow us to the police station.

**Billy:** You have committed a cybercrime and for this you will have to pay the consequences. In fact, you will likely be extradited to the United States and sentenced under American law.

**Gideon:** I just wanted...

**Tim:** Hacking into NASA's computer system is very serious!

**Gideon:** If you check the history of my computer, you will find that it was not me. It was another person who used my network to do what you say.

**Billy:** The IP address to which we traced is that of your router. However, even if things are as you say, you have allowed a crime to be committed, so you will have to pay the consequences.

**Tim:** As for your accomplice, we will arrest him as well.

**Tessa:** Didn't you have to build a telescope?

**Gideon:** Yes, that's what I did.



**Susanna:** So why did you enter the NASA system?

**Gideon:** I wanted carry out another exceptional project, not his absurdity. *(Pointing to Jordan)*

**Tessa:** His absurdity will make us rich.

**Susanna:** Calm down! I get rich first, we'll see the others.

**Jordan:** Listen, the merit is mine.

**Susanna:** You're right honey! I didn't mean you. And you *(Turning to her husband)* what other project were you alluding to?

**Tim:** This does not matter, in the meantime you have to come with us.

**Billy:** First, however, you must tell us the name of your accomplice, so that we can verify your story.

**Gideon:** Marvin Fisher.

**Tessa:** So goodbye employee!

**Billy:** Why, do you know him? Are you involved too?

**Tessa:** Absolutely not! All I had to do was employ him.

**Billy:** This looks like a mafia-style criminal association.

**Tessa:** How dare you?

**Gideon:** My only intention was to send my voice into the universe!

**Tim:** And you succeeded, so you can be happy. But I don't know if the game was worth the candle: because your voice may be in the universe, but your body will be blown straight to jail.

*The policemen handcuff Gideon and take him away.*

**THE END**