

HAMSAH BILAL

Interesting. The new girl, what's her name?

BETTENCOURT

Sonya Townsend.

HAMSAH BILAL

Hmm. She's in the booth now. I smell her perfume on you... and not her pussy.

BETTENCOURT

I am getting old.

HAMSAH BILAL

You're getting emotionally attached. We had a deal you wouldn't do that. You said it was dangerous.

BETTENCOURT

Our deal is intact.

HAMSAH BILAL

Intact with danger? To Me? To you? To all of us?

BETTENCOURT

Graveyards are always dangerous.

She pats Bettencourt on his cheeks.

HAMSAH BILAL

The world is a graveyard. Most people just don't realize when it becomes one. I'll see to Sulaiman. Now out with you. A ballerina must prepare.

INT. THEATRE GRID - SAME

High in the grid above the stage, a small section of the wall begins to shift, revealing an opening.

Mr. Norrington sneaks into the grid. He can see dancers warming up on the stage as the main curtain is closed.

He finds a hiding spot to watch the fly house in action.

INT. OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER

Sulaiman sits in a dark office, eyes closed.

The door opens, and Hamsah enters. She is in full costume, dressed as the Sylph.

HAMSAH BILAL

Maestro?

SULAIMAN

Forget it, Hamsah. Dismissive cunt!

HAMSAH BILAL

(pleading)But maestro?

SULAIMAN

You and your arrogance. Too good to meet with me last night? I am the one who suffers most. I am the one who sacrifices most. You! Nur! Ghulam! Your beauty on display. I have to listen to these putrid musicians ruining my music. Imagine if someone came on stage during one of your most beloved solos and had sexual congress with a chicken. You and Nur know.....

Hamsah, with frightening speed and power, takes Sulaiman out of the chair and flings him against the wall.

She presses her forearm against his throat to hold him in place.

Sulaiman is a full head taller than Hamsah. He stares down at her with fear in his eyes.

She is menace!

HAMSAH BILAL

Victoria said there was a boy at the audition that you desired. (pause to soften) Conduct these shows here in Chicago, and he will be with the company next week.

SULAIMAN

Bettencourt will never allow it.

HAMSAH BILAL

Bettencourt isn't the man-god he thinks himself to be.