

Journey of the Seeds Episode 25 The Masterpiece

by

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INT. BUDAPEST 1888 - VERONIQUE'S MANSION - UPPER FLOOR -  
MOERNING

Veronique is in beautiful blue dress standing still near the window. There is a small veil on the right side of her face, it hides the scars. Camera moves back and we see that a young man is making a portrait of Veronique, full size. It's Kristian (barely 20 years old, lover of Veronique at the current moment). The portrait is unfinished, the face is unclear, but it's definite, that the author wants to make it without veil and scars. Veronique looks at him from time to time.

VERONIQUE

Kristian, my love, how much time  
will it take you to complete it?  
I'm getting tired.

KRISTIAN

I beg your pardon, but...

VERONIQUE

(interrupting)

No-no-no, don't even start it  
again. Not this time.

She stops posing and moves to him.

KRISTIAN

Veronique! What are you...

Veronique comes to him, embraces and kisses with passion. Then she looks right in his eyes, turning her normal half of her face to him.

VERONIQUE

(whispering)

What do you think i'm doing?

Kristian doesn't reply, but his face reflects some internal struggle.

VERONIQUE

(whispering, with passion)

What do you think i'm going to  
do...

She wants to kiss him again, but he gently pushes her away.

KRISTIAN

No... no, i can't do that anymore.  
I can't be with you. Forgive me...

(CONTINUED)

He turns around and runs away, leaving his paints, brushes and unfinished portrait.

VERONIQUE  
(with surprise)  
Kristian? Kristian!

She wants to go after him, but stops. Her face changes, she looks angry and insulted right now.

INT. BUDAPEST 1888 - VERONIQUE'S CABINET HALL - 1 WEEK LATER

Veronique is sitting at her table, in front of her a list of paper, something is written all over it. now she does not have veil on her face and the ugly scars are clearly visible on her face. She holds a letter in her hands and reads it.

VERONIQUE  
My beloved Veronique, I can't find right words of gratitude for all you have done for. But now I met another woman and now i belong only to her. I'm leaving the country and i will ask Eva to join me. We will find our place far away from here. I know you have enough kindness in your heart to forgive me. I shall be always remember you. With love, Kristian. P.S. Your portrait will be delivered in several days.

Veronique puts the letter on the table with neglect. Laughs, closing her face with hands. After several moments she stops. She moves closer to the talbe, taking the second sheet of paper. It's the letter too - looks exactly like the one from Kristian, but written by Veronique herself. It is adressed to the girl named Eva. Veronique is admiring with her work. She smiles, puts the it in the envelope, but before that she pours a couple of drops of some liquid from the small vial. She doing it very carefully, trying not to breath at this moment. She seals the envelope and looks at it with some sorrow.

VERONIQUE  
He is mine. Not yours.

She rings in a small bell on the table. An old servant (Jean, about 65 years old) enters the room.

VERONIQUE  
Send it to our dear girl. And get her a nice bouquet of lilies for her.

Jean nods, without any words he takes the envelope, leaves the room. Veronique takes initial Kristian's letter and reads it again with sad smile. Then she stands up and goes to the fireplace. Throws the letter inside. Watches it burning.

INT. BUDAPEST 1888 - BALL HALL - NEXT EVENING

Dancing pairs are waltzing across the hall. Nice dresses, lots of colors and beautiful classic melodies, performed by an orchestra. Veronique is not dancing, slowly walking around the hall, greeting everyone who greets her. Suddenly, she notices Kristian standing near the entrance. He's wearing a travelling suit, looks a little confused. With smile, Veronique comes to him, smiles.

VERONIQUE

Kristian, my dear boy! You've finally come!

She comes closer, kisses him in cheek, he tries to get back, but he doesn't.

KRISTIAN

Veronique, please, don't. I came to say goodbye.

Veronique comes closer to him, to his ear. She looks at someone behind Kristian but we don't see who it is. She smiles.

VERONIQUE

(whispering)

So did i.

She kisses him, everyone is watching their kiss, some pairs even stop. Kristian steps back and someone puts a heavy hand over his shoulder. Kristian turns and see 4 police officers watching at him. Their leader (captain Lakatos, 45, good man) makes a step to Kristian.

CAPTAIN LAKATOS

Kristian Farkas?

KRISTIAN

Yes, and who's asking?

CAPTAIN LAKATOS

Captain Sandor Lakatos. By the laws of the empire, you're under arrest.

(CONTINUED)

Kristian changes in face, Veronique makes a step back, pretending she is shocked by this. The policemen take Kristian, put cuffs on his hands. Kristian doesn't resist, but looks extremely surprised.

KRISTIAN

Captain, i think you're making big mistake. I'm not a criminal. What am i being accused of?

Veronique makes a step to Lakatos.

VERONIQUE

Yes, Captain. Why are you doing it? I know mr. Farkas for a long time and...

CAPTAIN LAKATOS

(interrupting)

I'm sorry, lady Molnar, but it seems you're familiar with wrong man again. We have strong evidence, that this man is a murderer.

KRISTIAN

Insanity!

Lakatos turns to him, he looks quite angry.

CAPTAIN LAKATOS

Eva Orsos was found dead today. You poisoned her.

Kristian changes in face, he's deeply shocked. He wants to say something, but can't. He opens his mouth to say something, but fails. He looks at Veronique, who's standing still. watching him. He breathes to say something, but doesn't. The guests around are gathering to find out what is going on. Kristian, allows the policemen to lead him outside. Veronique watches it. Lakatos comes to Veronique.

CAPTAIN LAKATOS

I'm deeply sorry about this. Unfortunately, we have some assumptions... May i ask you a few questions?

Guests are coming closer. Lakatos see them.

CAPTAIN LAKATOS

Can you come to the police station? Can i count on you in court?

(CONTINUED)

Veronique is still watching at the door, where Kristian passed several moments ago. Lakatos notices that. Veronique looks at him finally.

VERONIQUE

Yes... yes, officer, you can.

Lakatos nods and goes to the exit. Before the door he turns.

CAPTAIN LAKATOS

Then let's make it tomorrow at noon. Does it fit you? You know the way.

Veronique nods. The policeman leaves.

INT. BUDAPEST 1888 - COURT - EVENING - 2 WEEKS LATER

The court is full of people. Kristian is at the dock. He looks much older now, pale and thin. He stares at his feet. Veronique is among the people on the benches, in the middle of the hall. She's alone and in dark cloth, hat and veil, so she is not recognisable. Judge stands up.

JUDGE

Accused, rise.

Kristian stands up, not looking at anything.

JUDGE

The court is ready to make a decision. Do you have something to say before we leave?

Kristian mumbles something, that no one hears.

JUDGE

Silence in the room! Accused, what did you say?

KRISTIAN

(very silently)

I didn't do this. I didn't kill Eva.

The silence in the room becomes absolute.

JUDGE

Do you know who did it?

Kristian doesn't reply he sits down. The judge starts talking something, but Kristian doesn't hear that.

(CONTINUED)

Everything stops for him, he's within himself. He looks at the room and people on the benches. He sees a woman in dark dress and recognises her. He looks at Veronique, Veronique looks at him. There is sorrow and pity in Kristian's eyes. Not hate. He closes his eyes.

JUDGE  
(anrily)  
Accused?

Kristian doesn't react. Judge stands up.

JUDGE  
the court is leaving to make a  
decision.

INT. BUDAPEST 1888 - OUTSIDE COURT 10 MINUTES LATER

Veronique is quickly goes to the coach nearby the bilding. Captain Lakatos goes outside the building, goes after her.

CAPTAIN LAKATOS  
Lady Molnar!

Veonique turns to him.

VERONIQUE  
Captain... what a surprise...

CAPTAIN LAKATOS  
It was my first surprise to find  
you there and second one when you  
left, before the verdict of the  
court.

Veronique looks at him.

VERONIQUE  
Sorry, it is hard to witness this  
poor boy being condemned to death.

CAPTAIN LAKATOS  
(interrupting)  
So, you know.

Veronique turns and sees the coach is waiting for her.

VERONIQUE  
I beg your pardon, captain, but do  
you have more questions?

Pause.

(CONTINUED)

CAPTAIN LAKATOS

No. Just... you see, this case is one of the strangest in my career. The murderer rejects the lawyer, denies to confess, he simply... gave up. Like... he took the commitment of the crime to...

Pause. Veronique is watching him carefully.

CAPTAIN LAKATOS

Well, i don't know. He's like punishig himself for the death of Eva. That's a little mad, from my point of view.

VERONIQUE

We're talking about murderers, Captain. These people are mad by definition.

She turns and goes to the coach. Lakatos makes a step after her.

CAPTAIN LAKATOS

Lady Molnar...

She turns, now she's angry.

VERONIQUE

What now?

CAPTAIN LAKATOS

Can i be honest with you? I don't think he's guilty.

VERONIQUE

Really?

CAPTAIN LAKATOS

I made some research, asked some people, ordinary police stuff, you know...

He makes a step to her. Veronique steps to him too.

CAPTAIN LAKATOS

I think i know who did it.

VERONIQUE

I'm listening.

Captain Lakatos looks around, seeing no one is close enough.

(CONTINUED)



CAPTAIN LAKATOS  
I believe you did it. And blamed  
kristian for rejecting you.

Veronique is watching him with curiosity, she laughs. Comes closer, very close.

VERONIQUE  
(whispers to his ear)  
Do you have any proofs, my dear  
Captain? No? Then have a good day.

She quickly turns and goes to the coach. Lakatos watches her leaving.

CAPTAIN LAKATOS  
By the way, Kristian said he has  
something yours! May I arrange the  
delivery to your house?

The coach with Veronique has already started movement.  
Lakatos stands there. The rain starts.

INT. BUDAPEST 1888 - VERONIQUE'S MANSION - 1 WEEK LATER

There is a big dinner at Veronique's house. She goes up the stairs to the big hall. She's in veil and beautiful red dress. She sees people who come down the stairs, look at her strangely. One, then another, a couple. Some laughs behind her back. She turns around. Some guests are leaving the party before the start. Veronique can't understand what's going on. She goes to the hall and sees a crowd of her guests in the corridor, they all are watching something. Veronique comes closer and sees Lakatos. In civil form now.

VERONIQUE  
What's going on here, captain? Want  
to make a scandal with your  
ridiculous theories?

Lakatos looks around, he's in good mood.

CAPTAIN LAKATOS  
No, of course not. Just fulfilling  
the final wish of the dead man.

Veronique is looking at him with misunderstanding.

CAPTAIN LAKATOS  
Oh, you were not informed? Kristian  
had been hanged a few days ago.  
Damn a loss for art. So...

(CONTINUED)

Veronique is staring at the crowd, that looks at something at the wall.

VERONIQUE

What's they are all looking at?

Lakatos watches her gaze with slight smile.

CAPTAIN LAKATOS

Didn't i mention? they are looking at the portrait of lady Veronique Molnar.

Hearing this name, all the guests turn and look at her. Some with fear, some with disgust, some with scorn. And all start going away. Veronique, shocked comes to the wall. She sees the picture, but we don't. Now there' only Lakatos and Veronique before the potrait.

CAPTAIN LAKATOS

You know, one wise man once told me, that every great artist makes his masterpiece right before his end. Something tells me he was right.

He turns around and leaves Veronique in front of her portrait. She looks exactly like she was on that day, but her face is completely opened this time and allthe scars are clearly visible. This makes very repulsive impression and gives her face ugly look. Veronique is watching the portrait, not breathing. Tear comes down her cheek. Fade out.