

SEGISMUNDO

SEGISMUNDO. --that I'm capable of hurling anyone who disobeys me into the box crusher.

MARY. I say, sir. This is not how a king acts.

SEGISMUNDO. Oh, is that so? Well then, let's see how this king acts.

Segismundo grabs Mary by the scruff of the neck and hurls her into the box crusher. He hits the button, red lights flash. Vicious crushing sounds are heard. Cries.

ASTOLFO. Security!

ESTRELLA. Jesus, Mary, and Joseph!

JESUS. Joseph!

All look around and shrug.

SEGISMUNDO. Well, would you look at how a king acts. Unreal.

ASTOLFO. Are you mad!?

SEGISMUNDO. Perhaps. Or dreaming. Perhaps. Or not.

ASTOLFO. Please, king, I'm speaking from my heart. People's lives are now in your hands. Reflect on your actions more calmly.

SEGISMUNDO. If you persist so eagerly in speaking from your heart, maybe I should rip it out of your chest cavity y te lo voy hacer en jugo.

He goes after Astolfo, growling. Astolfo runs away screaming. Basilio enters.

BASILIO. What's all this?

SEGISMUNDO. Nothing. I threw somebody into the box crusher.

Start

BASILIO. The devil! Why?

SEGISMUNDO. It annoyed me. Who are you?

BASILIO. How dare you--

SEGISMUNDO. You wanna join her in there, old man?

CLARIN. My liege. It's your father.

Beat.

SEGISMUNDO. My father?

BASILIO. Less than an hour and you've already cost the life of an innocent security guard.

SEGISMUNDO. You're my father?

BASILIO. Is this really how you wanted to introduce yourself to me?

SEGISMUNDO. What were you expecting?

BASILIO. At the very least, a man. But what I see before me is a base, inhumane murderer. No more fit to wear the crown than a savage beast. I had hoped you would triumph over your fate. How can I now lovingly embrace you, when you've used your arms so destructively?

SEGISMUNDO. I've gotten along fine without your love.

BASILIO. I hoped you would want the love a father--

SEGISMUNDO. Father? A man who is capable of imprisoning his son? Raising me as an animal, treating me as a monster? You made me this way--

BASILIO. It's in your nature--

SEGISMUNDO. You don't know my nature. You hid me from your sight and left me to rot! No one needs your embrace, or your magically conjured love.

BASILIO. Would you were never born--

SEGISMUNDO. Would I were never born, I would never have suffered your tyranny. You bred the monster you see.

BASILIO. A fine way of thanking me for finding yourself changed so.

SEGISMUNDO. Thank you? You took away my free will. Should I thank you for finally giving what I had coming to me? As the new king, I could ask for a reckoning of all my years wasted, deprived of the base human allowances: freedom, life, and honor. So it is really you who should be thanking me, for not collecting on your debt.

BASILIO. Insolent barbarian. Heaven has kept its word. Pay close attention to me, boy. Take your time to ponder your actions. All your actions will haunt you the remainder of your days. You may be dreaming, though you think you're awake.

Basilio exits.

SEGISMUNDO. Dreaming. Again, dreaming. I know what I feel. I know what I was, and I know what I am now. I always felt it, but I never knew what it was. Even if you sigh and grieve, you can never undo the fact that I was born heir to this crown! You created this, king! This hybrid of man and beast!

CLARIN. Well said, sire.

SEGISMUNDO. Silence.

CLARIN. Noted.

SEGISMUNDO. Anyone else care to chime in?

No one else is there.