

PLAY #8- 2015-DIVINE WARRIORS

by

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CHARACTERS

VANESSA	Director of a Homeland Security satellite office.
JAMES	A journalist and concerned citizen
SASSY	Almost beehive hair, glasses, a pink tutu.
GENERAL TREK	18 years old. Small frame. In full general uniform, perhaps slightly too big for him.

2015: DIVINE WARRIORS

(At Rise: The year is 2015. JAMES sits facing VANESSA, who is behind a big desk with an intercom on it. Behind her are numerous file cabinets.)

VANESSA

So... Tell me again.

JAMES

I told you. I keep telling you. It never happened.

VANESSA

What never happened?

JAMES

The event. The one that we keep seeing over and over.

VANESSA

How did it never happen?

JAMES

I was there.

VANESSA

You were at the disaster site?

JAMES

Yes.

VANESSA

How are you here now?

JAMES

Very carefully.

VANESSA

The media reports show --

JAMES

They're staged. They've got to be.

VANESSA

You're saying this is a manufactured event.

JAMES

From the front page story. "At 12:03, a bomb went off

in a public bus approaching the building." I was at the building at noon. And was there until 12:20. A bus approached the building at around 12:03, but there was no explosion.

VANESSA

What about the video?

JAMES

Created in a studio. Had to be.

VANESSA

You realize the gravity of what you're saying. The insanity.

JAMES

I am not insane.

(SASSY enters and goes to the file drawer. VANESSA shares glances with SASSY.)

VANESSA

Sassy? Can you please pull Mr. Lane's file?

SASSY

Yes, Ms. Burns.

JAMES

Who is she?

VANESSA

My secretary.

JAMES

Is it Halloween?

SASSY

I beg your pardon.

(SASSY drops the file on the desk.)

VANESSA

Thank you, Sassy.

(SASSY looks deeply into JAMES's eyes. She exits.)

JAMES

You have a file on me?

VANESSA

We have a file on everyone.

JAMES

I'm not here to create trouble. I'm just a journalist.
Doing my job.

VANESSA

Yes. A journalist. Mr. Lane, we are a Homeland
Security satellite office.

JAMES

A satellite office?

VANESSA

I understand that your... Experience of events...
Varies widely from the official line. Correct?

JAMES

Yes. So how can we get word beyond this office?

VANESSA

We have a liaison to the next level here. A General
Trek.

JAMES

Can I please speak with General Trek, then?

VANESSA

Are you sure you want to do that?

JAMES

What are the other options?

VANESSA

You can let us handle it from here.

JAMES

I'm not convinced that would be sufficient.

VANESSA

(Into the intercom.)

Sassy? Send in the General.

SASSY

(From the intercom.)

Yes, Ms. Burns.

VANESSA

You can tell him it's urgent.

JAMES

What is your role here?

VANESSA

It is my job, Mr. Lane, to liaise with the concerned public about issues related to the security of the homeland.

JAMES

I see.

VANESSA

We're kind of like the atmosphere on the planet homeland here. If something comes to my attention, something that pertains to our security, it's my job to make sure it falls to the right place. If it has no bearing, I reflect it back into deep space. If it is deemed a security breach, I make sure it incinerates into nothingness on entry.

(TREK enters. He is staring at a smart phone, which he tucks away into his pocket. VANESSA stands.)

General.

TREK

Vanessa. Mr... Ah...

VANESSA

Lane. This is Mr. Lane.

TREK

Good to meet you. What do we have here?

(TREK's phone bleeps.)

Excuse me a second.

(He looks at it.)

Oh shit. Why did she have to do that?! She did it again, Vanessa!

(Puts it away.)

VANESSA

Not again.

TREK

Sorry. James. Can I call you James?

JAMES

If you need to take an important call.

TREK

No. It's my play.

JAMES

Your play?

TREK

Divine Warriors. It's my turn. If you've never played, I highly recommend it. Remind me and I'll give you my handle before you leave. You won't be disappointed.

VANESSA

General... I was just about to explain to Mr. Lane the importance of certain events in terms of the national security.

(TREK picks up JAMES's file.)

TREK

Yes. The bomb on the bus. It says here you went to the police and they sent you to us. Haven't you watched enough movies, James. You never go to the police. It never helps.

(SASSY enters with milk and cookies.)

SASSY

Your milk and cookies, General.

TREK

Thank you, Sassy.

(SASSY exits.)

Do you like her outfit? We don't have a dress code in this office like they do further in. But I encourage her to wear pinks and fluff. It really makes me happy. Playfulness is important today, don't you think? I learned that from this game, too. So where were we?

(He eats cookies and drinks milk.)

VANESSA

The bomb on the bus, Sir.

JAMES

There was no bomb on the bus.

TREK

You say... You were there?

JAMES

Yes.

TREK

Congratulations! I want to shake your hand.

JAMES

For what?

TREK

For being there. On the ground. I've never been on the ground.

JAMES

You've never been in battle?

TREK

Always on the inside. Never out of the country. Holding down the fort is my job. It's much more dangerous than you think. But home. Land. Security. I hate to fly.

JAMES

You're a general.

TREK

I know what you're thinking. But not since the Civil War... Aside from that little mishap Pearl Harbor... have we ever seen battle on US soil. And the inside fact? It's partly due to the work that I do. That our office does. And has been doing for a lot longer than you think.

JAMES

General. With all due respect.

TREK

Thank you.

JAMES

My concern is that the public is being misled.

TREK

On the contrary. They are being *led*. Albeit with a strong hand. We are leading into strength. And you'll

see this when you play the game. It will all be clear.
Am I right, ladies?

(They nod in unison.)

JAMES

But you're talking about a national conspiracy here!

TREK

Possibly. But what is a conspiracy? What does it mean to conspire? This is a fascinating word that has been thrown into a process of evolution. We can conspire for good. Or we can conspire for bad. Take this explosion. If it didn't happen, that's a good thing right? This is benign. No innocent lives lost. When that happens I really feel we are right on track.

JAMES

It's a lie.

TREK

A lie in support of the truth. Truth with a capital T. Now, I'd be willing to let this all go, if you'll do the same and leave this office and continue your work in support of the truth.

JAMES

Or...?

TREK

Well, I'd be willing to offer you my legal services.

JAMES

What do you mean?

TREK

I'm also a highly qualified lawyer, and I'd be willing to take your case. I can show you my diploma from Harvard.

(He pulls out his phone and pulls up his diploma and shows JAMES)

JAMES

I already have a lawyer.

TREK

I'm afraid in cases involving homeland security you don't have the choice to choose your own counsel. And

as liaison to the inside, I would assign you the best lawyer I know. Which would be myself.

JAMES

What if I refuse?

TREK

You may refuse counsel. However, you've already had us open this case. My job is to close it. Pandora's box kind of thing, you understand. The other option is we could offer you a doctor.

JAMES

I have a doctor.

TREK

You've lost the right to choose your own medical services. Vanessa?

VANESSA

Yes, General.

TREK

Please ask Sassy to come in.

VANESSA

Right away. {Intercom} Sassy? The General would like to see you.

TREK

You'll see shortly that my staff is highly qualified and here to assist you.

(SASSY enters.)

Sassy...

SASSY

Yes, General.

TREK

Do you have any openings for Mr. Lane in the next few days?

JAMES

Openings for what?

SASSY

I can check my schedule.

(She gets out her phone.)

TREK

Very nasty move before on your part by the way. Divine warrior my ass!

SASSY

It's your turn, Sir.

TREK

As soon as we get through this...

SASSY

I have an opening this afternoon, Mr. Lane. I'm especially good at uncovering deep mother issues relating to trauma in the womb. Through hypnosis I can help you to relive that trauma and get off to a fresh start. Would 3 o'clock work for you?

JAMES

What's going on here?

SASSY

Or whatever! We could just play the game.

TREK

Sassy is a licensed doctor. P.H.D. in psychology, and a qualified expert in brain stem surgery. She can pull up her documents as well.

JAMES

That won't be necessary.

TREK

The only other option is to return to the outside legal system. As of yesterday, Vanessa was elected State Attorney General. She'll be happy to assist you.

(TREK goes to the desk and grabs a bottle of whiskey.)

Congratulations, Vanessa!

(He pours four shots.)

VANESSA

Thank you, Sir.

(Everyone drinks, except James.)

TREK

James? Are you with us? Or against us?

(JAMES pauses. Then downs the shot.)

Good choice. Vanessa? Please get Mr. Lane a handle for Warriors. Welcome to the game.

BLACKOUT

END OF PLAY