

## PERSONA

“You’re not really writing a book.”

“No, I am not.”

“What are you doing?”

“I have tried to write. Tell people what I am doing. But it is all nonsense.”

“You’ve got people to give you money. What is any of that about?”

“Some people say shit.”

“What really make this a go?”

“Some people put on faces, and others put on personalities. You are either in your visagenic circle, or you are in your persona circle.”

“You have been called.”

“I am about to check out.”

“Check it out.”

“How much are you paying?”

“He seems to know.”

“That could be a major part of the problem.”

“Where you are staying.”

“I am not working.”

“I am living off the street.”

“What is your connection to the law?”

“I obey it.”

“What do you have there?”

“What do you need?”

“You were all asked to leave.”

“This is the weakest moment.”

“Call it for what it is.”

“Pure genius.”

I realized what you were doing in your spare time.

“This guy saw shit.”

“Who is she?”

“What happened at the end?”

“He stole the statue.”

“And who paid?”

“He is winning on this.”

“You only have to hang for a little while.”

“That was my life.”

“Do you want another card?”

“I am close enough.”

“You have to beat the gambler.”

“I have got him.”

“I am betting on this guy.”

“For a little while, make it her story.”

“Who? Astrid.”  
“If that is what you call her.”  
“You could call her Quate.”  
“Quadra.”  
“What is that about?”  
“That is the last of the last.”  
“The last of your life.”  
“Astrid, did you take dance lessons.”  
“Aned there is nothing more to say.”  
“Make a list.”  
“This is a list of compliments and the appropriate reaction to those compliments.”  
“Did you work today?”  
“That is something else.”  
“I gave my life away.”  
“I gave myself away to this life.”  
“Do you have anything on this list?”  
“I know how to chill out.”  
“It also makes me bitter.”  
“How does that work?”  
“I can’t fix it now”  
“You do not even know what the words refer to.”  
“You are a version of me.”  
“Two choices.”  
“Practical and fashionable.”  
“Form and function.”  
“Fuck that.”  
“Is that all that you can say?”  
“I am everywhere at once.”  
“Have one of these.”  
“We are going to fix it up.”  
“That is where love is.”  
”And you are away to the races.”  
“Why am I suddenly part of the program?”  
“He still cannot understand.”  
“You cannot.”  
“How do you discover osme kind of balance?”  
“I need to leave now.”  
“You do not.”  
“What did he say to you?”  
“He didn’t.”  
“I want to understand, and I cannot.”  
“I can see shadows.”  
“Everything makes sense when I am asleep.”

“The comes the equalization.”  
“All these states without a resolution.”  
“And Rels brings a miracle.”  
“This is where it seem really bad.”  
“That noise.”  
“What is it?”  
“You tell me.”  
“What is going on in the basement?”  
“Something spiritual.”  
“Ghosts.”  
“No. Religious creatures.”  
“What is that?”  
“I want to be part of this.”  
“Do you know about Lincoln.”  
“What does he have to say to Nola?”  
“He wants to talk about a book.”  
“Does he even read.”  
“That is everything.”  
“Next week.”  
“What is making you cough?”  
“What is in that food?”  
“Do you want to do the accounts?”  
“And that is what we need.”  
“We could bring our tools.”  
“What will you need?”  
“Bring the heat.”  
“This is fatigue.”  
“Save me.”  
“That is not even possible for me.”  
“You are going to need to give a little more magic.”  
“What are you back for?”  
“We never left.”  
“This is a different world. A different place.”  
“How did you get in to that party?”  
“All these magnificent house.”  
“I love that pool.”  
“Does anyone reall use it.”  
“This is going to turn into some weird shit.”  
“And you get the work done.”  
“What do you get done?”  
“This is another side of the same thing..”  
“That was all that I was going to give you.”  
“Do you remember me?”

“How much do you want to remember?”  
 “You can leave when they call you.”  
 “And you win the sweepstakes.”  
 “I only want more.”  
 “I want it all.”  
 “I am not going to kid you.”  
 “Kid me.”  
 “Astrid, what is this about.”  
 “That voice seems that it is everything.”  
 “We are going to need to find someone to finish this.”  
 “You ate all the food.”  
 “Am I supposed to replace it.”  
 “That is how it is works.”  
 “How did I get in here?”  
 “You tell me.”  
 “I know what I want.”  
 “That is all that I am supposed to want.”  
 “It doesn’t take much to create a caucus.”  
 “What are you talking about?”  
 “They took over the show.”  
 “Tell me, lover, what is this about?”  
 “You cleared that up.”  
 “Who are you sitting with?”  
 “Who are you working with?”  
 “I watched you one night. Who wound you up? Now, you have it. Has it ever made an ounce sense to you.”  
 “Get the job done.”  
 “I have done a lot of shit on my own.”  
 “I am looking for something else.”  
 “I have one question. Can you film us?”  
 “What are you asking me? Do you want me to take your picture?”  
 “More than that.”  
 “Where is this going?”  
 “Do you see that he does not understand? And it cannot be explained.”  
 “I was watching you, and I knew that I would have my chance.”  
 “I want tonight to be magic for me.”  
 “Who’s the artist?”  
 “What is that about?”  
 “There is money to be made.”  
 “You ruined it for me.”  
 “You did take dance lessons.”  
 “What does this mean to you?”  
 “What if I quit once and for all?”

“Do you have the license.”

“Where is she?”

“She is sitting across from me and telling me what I need to hear.”

“Can I talk to you?”

“What is this about?”

“Do you realize that I do not care?”

“What is this place?”

“We have become distracted.”

“What is she?”

“She is the transitional being.”

“I need a name.”

“Nikki.”

“That is not it.”

“This is history in the making.”

“What have you been thinking about?”

“I need oxygen.”

“How does that work?”

“What is happening outside the door?”

“You tell me.”

“What is at the core?”

“This is a confession.”

“How did I get here?”

“I have no idea where this is going.”

“I do not want to give him money for his drugs.”

“What is that really about?”

“What do you expect?”

“Why aren’t my desires worth more than this?”

“There are other places that you could take this.”

“This is perfect for now.”

“I am dreaming and thinking.”

“The doctor will cut it out of me.”

“That is all that matters.”

“What was the tip?”

“And you think that you know it all.”

“Let think about this.”

“I am doing work, but I am looking at you. What do you think that I see?”

“There is not another avenue.”

“This needs to be worth so much scratch that it is going to last a fucking lifetime.”

“I know things.”

“I do not really care.”

“Do you want to know what you are paying? I earn more from munching on this lettuce than you will ever earn in your life.”

“What is your objection?”  
“What do you want from the world?”  
“I want some kind of winner.”  
“I want someone to understand.”  
“The horn was broken off.”  
“This is a big deal. But it is not.”  
“There is a genius here.”  
“You get me talking about my shit.”  
“Who understands you?”  
“He understands.”  
“Is there always a cult leader?”  
“Different tributaries.”  
“Different fascinations for the moment.”  
“Ask me now!”  
“This will make a difference.”  
“I am in tap.”  
“I have seen that car before.”  
“Where does that get you?”  
“When do you realize that you are locked in this shit for life?”  
“I am so wrong.”  
“Do you want an explanation?”  
“I wish that someone knew.”  
“Is this the most important thing in the world?”  
“I am stuck in there with a killer.”  
“Is that your nightmare?”  
“Breathing is my nightmare.”  
“Being is my nightmare.”  
“Honestly, could Astrid understand any of this?”  
“Why did you never notice me before?”  
“You are not a great dancer.”  
“Some of this comes from training.”  
“We could do it now.”  
“That amounts to a whole lot of nothing.”  
“What is the real thing?”  
“Something that is poisonous.”  
“I am glad that someone appreciates me.”:  
“Let us think about this.”  
“What would he be doing?”  
“How does all that work?”  
“Study what I am doing.”  
“What am I supposed to see?”  
“What do you want to see?”  
“I give a little bit everyday.”

“I do not give of myself.”

“This is martyrdom and personal sacrifice.”

“Anyone can see what is happening with these governmental organizations. They have made constant attempts to control the finances of other countries. They are destroying the integrity.”

“And you are telling me that this does not make a difference.”

“Accept it for what it is.”

“These are two different ways of seeing the world.”

“Study it.”

“Read it, and weep.”

“I am weeping all the time.”

“This means something important for me.”

“We will make a deal.”

“Make a deal.”

“Give your soul.”

“Contract it.”

“I can make this better.”

“I have followed your suggestions.”

“What comes next?”

“Do you have the cash?”

“You raised me from the dead.”

“And you love this.”

“This could be something else.”

“Look what is happening with the NGOs.”

“What are you telling me?”

“This is a constant disinformation campaign.”

“The real issue is the high.”

“The real issue is the low.”

“What makes you any different?”

“I crumbed the play.”

“Contamination.”

“You like the mix.”

“I like it clean.”

“I need a better guide.”

“I love this.”

“This is perfect.”

“What else is in the soup.”

“That destroys us every time.”

“We go to the root of the problem.”

“Walk away.”

“How are they able to influence the political decisions in these other countries?”

“The leadership does not provide a guide.”

“Cult leaders.”

“How do you dance?”  
 “Astrid, did you take dance lessons?”  
 “This was important.”  
 “I want to get into that craziness.”  
 “Now, it is all you and I.”  
 “Now, I get it.”  
 “We go back where it started.”  
 “It starts out as an idea, then it becomes a costume.”  
 “IT STARTS OUT AS AN IDEA, THEN IT BECOMES A COSTUME.”  
 “Why does anyone care?”  
 “Caring will take me to another place.”  
 “I want to be perfect.”  
 “This is the hurt at the core of my being.”  
 “How will this end up?”  
 “I can color it up and make it mean something more.”  
 “No one really care about that?”  
 “This is Lancer’s shit.”  
 “She only implements shit. Who really knows?”  
 “There is an assassination program.”  
 “I did this for just a minute.”  
 “What is really behind that?”  
 “I get it now.”  
 “You forgot.”  
 “You claim that you know something.”  
 “You take away that something. What else is there? You are Astrid. And there is not  
 much of a story.”  
 “That is a good dance.”  
 “I will feel a lot better about this.”:  
 ‘We still have a chancxe.”  
 “That is all over.”  
 “What else is going on besides the NGOs.”  
 “There is some crazy shit.”  
 “Are you behind it.”  
 “Something like that.”  
 “What can I do for you?”  
 “Someting marvelous.”  
 “And it does hurt.”  
 “Should I care about this?”  
 “This is what caring means. This is how it all matches.”  
 “Is there an easier way to do this?”  
 “You have a chance for something else.”  
 “I need to explain.”  
 “We are going to need someone to help.”



“I have lost the big picture.”  
 “You are a victim your own shit.”  
 “Astrid could have a moment.”  
 “She does not have one.”  
 “Is that what turns you on?”  
 “I imagine something else.”  
 “What does it come down to?”  
 “I could figure that out.”  
 “The answer to a million questions.”  
 “We have a trillion more.”  
 “Then we get in on the real stuff.”  
 “No one cares.”  
 “What kind of game is this?”  
 “Multiply the amount by three.”  
 “What did Astrid get?”  
 “More forgetfulness.”  
 “Where did Lancer take it?”  
 “Why do we forget what happened to us?”  
 “People are looking for easy answers.”  
 “Or difficult ones.”  
 “How did you get this way?”

We were not sure who you were talking to. That might have been the observer. But who was watching, and what difference did it make.

“What are your ambitions?”  
 “No one really cares about this.”  
 “This tells us a great deal.”  
 “The giant killer.”  
 “This does not make sense.”  
 “And you really thinking that this amounts to much of anything.”  
 “That once amounted to something.”  
 “And where were you when the trouble went down?”  
 “I am the trouble.”  
 “I do not want to depend on anyone.”  
 “It is not that kind of game.”  
 “I am the actor.”  
 “What is the act?”  
 “Say what you are really about.”  
 “All these people who want to get in on the shit.”  
 “And you let him go off on his own.”  
 “Off.”  
 “Really off.”  
 “Why did you think that you spoke for anyone?”  
 “Do not leave me this way?”

“They will not be able to find you.”  
“I like helping people who are in trouble.”  
“You do not understand the abstraction.”  
“If you are ever in trouble, call me.”  
“What qualifies for trouble?”  
“More people should think before they leap.”  
“Or take diving lessons.”  
“Driving lessons?”  
“You do not want to know.”  
“That doesn’t just happen.”  
“Complete the circle.”  
“It can be more than that.”  
“Ask me.”  
“I will tell you everything.”  
“I want it to be more than that.”  
“You have a head start.”  
“What more is it going to be?”  
“This is the winter.”  
“I am going to sweat it out.”  
“Does she realize that she is being watched?”  
“It is part of the surveillance state.”  
“What are they looking for?”  
“You think that you are on to something.”  
“That is in another book.”  
“You will really like this.”  
“What do I do next?”  
“What will they say?”  
“This is so far beyond what anyone knows.”  
“She will come back.”  
“She will not.”  
“Turn me on.”  
“Astrid will come back.”  
“Where did Murana go?”  
“She went down the wrong street.”  
“One way with a vengeance.”  
“I realized that this was something to care about.”  
“You may not realize that.”  
“This will be bigger than anything.”  
“I know that guy.”  
“What is he known for?”  
“Someone gets it.”  
“He will take us to the promised land.”  
“A stand in.”

“And we break it down. I am nothing but a haircut and a new jacket.”  
“And the bones shake.”  
“I am terminal.”  
“They are coming for me.”  
“I want to complete the drill.”  
“This is a movement.”  
“This is beyond that.”  
“Go home, and pretend.”  
“He is going to let go of everything.”  
“Who is going to tell us?”  
“I want you to understand.”  
“One day at a time.”  
“You need to be there.”  
“I need it all at my fingertips.”  
“What would help here?”  
“Can you help me to be better?”  
“Slam dunk.”  
“And we can somersault our live in there.”  
“And we work.”  
“Should I even care?”  
“Astrid thought about a risk.”  
“We need to figure all the parts.”  
“That is the only one.”  
“You listen to my shit, and I give you what you need.”  
“Will you wait until the next stage?”