

THERAPIES OF LOVE

By

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Adaptation based on 19th century stories by Emmanuel Roides  
(1835-1904)

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FADE IN

EXT. ANDROCLES'S HOME, VERANDA - DAY

1861, Hermoupolis, Syros island, Greece. ANDROCLES (25) and his friend EMMANUEL (25) are enjoying drinks, sitting on deck chairs, on the veranda of Androcles's home.

In the background Hermoupolis port and the sea front.

ANDROCLES

Great life Emmanuel! I have a good job, I inherited this spacious house, with these lovely views and most important of all, I have the blessing of good friends.

Androcles points to the sea.

EMMANUEL

Are you forgetting something Androcles?

ANDROCLES

What?

Emmanuel adopts a poetic posture.

EMMANUEL

Life is the flower, for which love is its honey!

ANDROCLES

Difficult to find love on this small island Emmanuel.

Androcles's mother Sappho (50), comes out on the veranda, holding a tray with juice and biscuits.

SAPPHO

(To Androcles)

I heard that! There is no truth in what you say. Excuses. This island has plenty of flowers and excellent honey.

ANDROCLES

Mother's favourite subject.

EMMANUEL

No man can have success Mrs. Sappho, unless there is a woman to

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

EMMANUEL (cont'd)  
support him. Androcles has you and  
when he finds the girl of his  
dreams, he will be twice blessed!

SAPPHO  
An unmarried man is like half a  
pair of scissors.

ANDROCLES  
Mother, why don't you get him a big  
spoon to help him stir things up?

Mrs. Sappho adopts an angry posture and points her finger at  
Androcles.

SAPPHO  
Your friend is right!

Mrs. Sappho changes to a calm attitude and smiles at the two  
friends.

SAPPHO  
Come, I brought you lemonade.  
Cleareti is with me in the sitting  
room. She sends you these biscuits  
she made herself, specially for  
you.

Mrs. Sappho places the tray on the table and returns to the  
house.

EMMANUEL  
You see? You have Cleareti, a  
flower interested in you! It's  
clear, through biscuits, she is  
sending you a message.

ANDROCLES  
Don't be daft. Cleareti is a  
forty-year-old spinster. Very often  
she sends me biscuits to test my  
assessment for her baking  
abilities.

EMMANUEL  
You see? Apart from the fact that  
she is virgin, she has other  
virtues like cooking abilities.

ANDROCLES  
I like her, not of course for her  
overripe beauty, but for her  
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

ANDROCLES (cont'd)  
kindness, her geniality and the  
simplicity of her ways and  
dressing.

EMMANUEL  
Are you sure she has no other  
ambitions?

ANDROCLES  
Don't be silly. My relationship  
with her is just platonic. She  
likes to chat with me and to give  
me advice on health and well-being  
matters.

EMMANUEL  
It's not unlikely to learn  
something from a woman who spent a  
large portion of her life believing  
in love tales.

ANDROCLES  
I believe in the wisdom of old  
folk. But I am not sure you can  
learn something from someone who  
had no experience on the subject.

EMMANUEL  
I am not sure about that. Science  
accepts theoreticians.

ANDROCLES  
Experience without theory is blind,  
but theory without experience is  
mere intellectual play.

Emmanuel stands up.

EMMANUEL  
Must go mate. See you at the beach  
later.

ANDROCLES  
See you pal, bye.

Emmanuel leaves.

Androcles places his hands behind his head and stares at the  
ocean.

After a while Mrs. Sappho, with CLEARETI (40), come out on  
the veranda.

(CONTINUED)

Androcles stands up to welcome Cleareti and offers her a seat.

ANDROCLES

Hi Cleareti. Come, take a seat.

Cleareti sits next to Androcles.

SAPPHO

(To Cleareti)

You must excuse me Cleareti. I have to prepare lunch. Androcles will entertain you.

CLEARETI

Thanks Mrs. Sappho, I am in good company.

Mrs. Sappho returns to the house.

ANDROCLES

I am staring at the ocean Cleareti!

Cleareti adopts a poetic posture.

CLEARETI

Dream higher than the sky and deeper than the ocean!

ANDROCLES

Dreams help, or are they futile?

CLEARETI

Dreams are not futile. Dreams are our reality in waiting. In dreams, we plant the seeds of our future.

ANDROCLES

Provided the seeds sprout, grow and flower.

Cleareti looks at Androcles in the eyes, as if in a dream.

CLEARETI

A flower cannot blossom without sunshine and man cannot live without love.

ANDROCLES

You believe, I understand, that there is only one happiness in life, to love and be loved.

(CONTINUED)

CLEARETI

Love, for girl and boy, is what for  
birds and fish is air and water!

ANDROCLES

Diogenes said that love is the  
occupation of idlers.

CLEARETI

Diogenes was crazy!

Cleareti moves closer to Androcles to stress her point.

CLEARETI

What you need Androcles is to find  
a soul mate to share your life  
with. To live a love affair so  
epic, that will never die!

ANDROCLES

An attractive and delightful soul  
mate I hope.

CLEARETI

Not only that! A prudent, quiet,  
modest and good housewife.

ANDROCLES (VO)

(Thinking)

What I like about this woman is her  
love of giving advice to others  
about life and love, with an  
apparent lack of conquest and  
coquetry claims.

EXT. HERMOUPOLIS BEACH - DAY

Androcles and Emmanuel enjoy a drink at the beach, lying on  
chaise longs.

ANDROCLES

Heaven seems a little closer at the  
beach!

EMMANUEL

You are in a poetic mood! The  
result of the morning lesson with  
Cleareti?

ANDROCLES

Cleareti pretends to be an expert  
in love matters. She believes that  
one must be in perpetual love.

(CONTINUED)

EMMANUEL

Is that why she never married?

ANDROCLES

If you believe that marriage is the cure for love, then that may be so.

EMMANUEL

This is a generally accepted theory nowadays. Marriage is the tomb of love.

ANDROCLES

She is not giving up. She is desperately trying to find the right pebble on the beach.

EMMANUEL

Opportunities are like sunrises. If you wait too long you miss them.

ANDROCLES

Surely, looks like she lost the train.

Two GIRLS (25), walk past, along the beach.

Androcles and Emmanuel, look at them with interest.

ANDROCLES

Luck is on our side today!

EMMANUEL

The sure thing about luck is that it changes quickly. Fortune favours the bold!

Emmanuel jumps up and runs towards the girls.

ANDROCLES (VO)

(Thinking)

He is in an attacking mood today!

Emmanuel chats with the girls for a while and then the three of them walk towards Androcles.

Androcles watches them with curiosity.

ANDROCLES (VO)

(Thinking)

What I admire about this guy is his enthusiasm and tenacity in the hunt for girls, despite repeated

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

ANDROCLES (VO) (cont'd)  
failures. Now it seems persistence  
breeds success!

Emmanuel introduces HELEN (25) and CHRISTINA (27) to  
Androcles.

EMMANUEL  
Androcles, let me introduce you to  
Helen and Christina. With Helen, we  
went to the same school. Christina  
is her friend.

Androcles stands up and shakes hands with the girls.

ANDROCLES  
Nice to meet you girls.

Androcles stares at Christina, examining her from head to  
toe.

ANDROCLES (VO)  
(Thinking)  
Brunette, tall, with flame in her  
eyes, broad shoulders, big  
knockers, waist like a ring and  
legs of the Doric order!

ANDROCLES  
Where do you hail from?

CHRISTINA  
Asia Minor, Smyrna.

ANDROCLES  
This alone is enough to make such a  
collection of charismas believable!

CHRISTINA  
I beg your pardon?

EMMANUEL  
Come girls, take a seat.

The girls sit next to the two friends.

ANDROCLES  
There is nothing more beautiful  
than the way the ocean refuses to  
stop kissing the shore line, no  
matter how many times it is sent  
away.



CHRISTINA  
(To Emmanuel)  
In a poetic mood, your friend!

EMMANUEL  
Girls please excuse Androcles. He  
is a dreamer.

Androcles stares at Christina.

ANDROCLES  
I may be a dreamer, but you, are a  
dream!

Christina looks at Androcles and smiles.

CHRISTINA  
Thank you.

Androcles looks captivated.

INT. HERMOUPOLIS CLUB - DAY

In Hermoupolis club, Androcles, ALOISIOS (45), a skilful  
card player, and two other PLAYERS (35), are playing  
preferans. Emmanuel and another MAN (50) watch the game.

ANDROCLES  
What a terrible hand! How can we  
face a player like Aloisios without  
a streak of luck?

ALOISIOS  
Life consists not in holding good  
cards my friend, but in playing  
those you hold well.

EMMANUEL  
Aloisios is not just a great card  
player. He is now turning out to be  
a philosopher!

ANDROCLES  
Are you married Aloisios?

ALOISIOS  
What's this got to do with card  
playing?

ANDROCLES  
You know what our great philosopher  
Socrates said?

(CONTINUED)

ALOISIOS

What?

ANDROCLES

By all means, marry. If you get a good wife, you'll become happy; if you get a bad one, you'll become a philosopher.

Everybody laughs.

ALOISIOS

No need to be a philosopher to understand why I spend more hours in the club, than with my wife!

Aloisios wins the game.

The other players throw their cards on the table.

EMMANUEL

the great Socrates, wouldn't in his wildest dreams believe that he would pass the baton of philosophy to Aloisios!

ALOISIOS

What I can say to you rascals, is that cynicism cannot be mistaken as wisdom.

ANDROCLES

Hermoupolis club! The temple of leisure is now turning out to be a school of philosophy!

EXT. SAILING BOAT, HERMOUPOLIS PORT - DAY

Androcles and Emmanuel are aboard a sailing boat with other PASSENGERS. The boat sails out of the port towards the exit. Androcles stares at the sea, submerged in his thoughts.

EMMANUEL

Hey! You are very pensive. Are you dreaming of Christina?

ANDROCLES

Bulls eye! There's nothing more sweet than the dream of love!

(CONTINUED)

EMMANUEL

Don't forget what Cleareti said.  
Love is the elixir of life!

ANDROCLES

The sweetest of dreams and the  
worst of nightmares!

The boat sails along the coast.

EMMANUEL

Your thoughts are with Romeo and  
Juliet?

Androcles recites Shakespeare.

ANDROCLES

Love is heavy and light, bright and  
dark, hot and cold, sick and  
healthy, asleep and awake - it's  
everything except what it is!

EMMANUEL

Oh my God! Androcles is  
love-struck!

ANDROCLES

You are not helping. Why didn't you  
invite the girls to come sailing  
with us?

EMMANUEL

Let me do a test to see if you are  
truly in love. How do you feel?

ANDROCLES

I have her in my mind all the time.

EMMANUEL

What else?

ANDROCLES

I cannot concentrate at work.

EMMANUEL

Ah, OK, one more symptom and your  
case is confirmed. Do you forget to  
eat?

ANDROCLES

No, but apart from Christina, all  
else I find tasteless, insipid,  
unpalatable and boring.

(CONTINUED)

A waiter (30) offers drinks to the passengers in a tray. Androcles and Emmanuel take a drink each and clink their glasses.

EMMANUEL

Cheers, to your health and your love. Your ailment is now confirmed!

ANDROCLES

Cheers. Thanks doctor!

The friends try the drink.

ANDROCLES

Hey! What kind of drink is this?  
It's bitter!

Androcles empties the glass in the sea.

EMMANUEL

Are you crazy? The drink is sweet.

ANDROCLES

I couldn't drink it. It seemed bitter to me.

EMMANUEL

The symptoms of the dark side of love! Like the dark side of the moon.

INT. HERMOUPOLIS HOTEL - DAY

Androcles, Emmanuel and Mrs. Sappho sit in the lounge of the hotel.

ANDROCLES

Mum, it's good for you to go out sometimes. We brought you to the hotel to get away from the chores of housework.

SAPPHO

I don't need outings my son. The only thing I want at my age is to see my son start a family and to live happily.

EMMANUEL

Don't worry Mrs. Sappho. The ball has started rolling!

(CONTINUED)

SAPPHO

Are you hiding something from me?

ANDROCLES

Nothing mum. He is continuously stirring things.

The WAITER (30) brings plates with lagerda and raki.

SAPPHO

You will make me tipsy with this.

ANDROCLES

Mum you will like it. Lagerda with raki was the favourite meze of my late father.

SAPPHO

Yes! He liked it very much.

Androcles fills the glasses with raki.

EMMANUEL

To your health.

The boys and Mrs. Sappho clink their glasses and try the drink.

SAPPHO

Oh! This is fire!

ANDROCLES

It will do you good. Clears the throat!

The three try the lagerda.

Androcles makes a grimace.

EMMANUEL

(To Androcles)

What's wrong now? You didn't like the lagerda?

Androcles calls the waiter.

ANDROCLES

Waiter this lagerda is not salty enough!

The waiter comes to the table.

Emmanuel and Mrs. Sappho laugh.

(CONTINUED)

WAITER

This is the traditional lagerda we always serve sir.

SAPPHO

Lagerda not salty? What are you saying son?

The waiter leaves.

EMMANUEL

Here we go again. The symptoms of the ailment!

SAPPHO

What ailment? You are hiding something from me?

EMMANUEL

He is in love Mrs. Sappho. Madly in love!

SAPPHO

Being in love is not an ailment. Lack of it is! Who is the girl you are in love with son?

Mrs. Sappho makes the sign of the cross.

SAPPHO

Mother of our lord, help my prayers come true. Enlighten him to make the right choice, among the many I suggested to him.

ANDROCLES

Mum, I don't eat well, I don't sleep at night, I don't have the strength to work, or enjoy life.

SAPPHO

Who is this girl that torments you so much?

ANDROCLES

Mum, she is tall, a brunette, with nice stature and stylish shoes!

SAPPHO

Who is she son?

(CONTINUED)

EMMANUEL

She comes from Smyrna Mrs. Sappho.  
Her name is Christina.

Mrs. Sappho casts a sulky look at Androcles.

SAPPHO

This is unthinkable! You are going  
barefooted into a thorn field!

ANDROCLES

What's the matter with you mum?  
Didn't you want me to find a girl?

SAPPHO

This girl is not for you Androcles.  
She has nothing. Even though  
without a dowry, she is an only  
daughter, spoiled, loves finery and  
dances. How are you going to cope  
with just your salary?

ANDROCLES

Marry the woman, not the dowry,  
says tradition.

SAPPHO

Tradition says more. Take a dog  
from a shelter but a woman from  
family!

Mrs. Sappho stands up and walks away disappointed.

EXT. HOUSE OF EVANGELOS HALDOUPIS - DAY

Androcles knocks on the door of the house of EVANGELOS  
HALDOUPIS (40)

Haldoupis opens the door and welcomes Androcles.

HALDOUPIS

Hi Androcles. Please come in.

ANDROCLES

Good morning to you Mr. Haldoupis.

Androcles enters the house.

INT. OFFICE OF HALDOUPIS - DAY

Haldoupis guides Androcles to his office.

HALDOUPIS

Come youngster, take a seat in my office.

They both sit down.

HALDOUPIS

How is your job at the publishers?

ANDROCLES

Very well, the work increases. People read more nowadays.

HALDOUPIS

Soon I'll write my own book.

ANDROCLES

Really? On what subject?

HALDOUPIS

Life and love.

ANDROCLES

Classic subject.

HALDOUPIS

My late wife was very lively. She believed it was better to be unfaithful, than to be faithful without wanting to be. In the five years of our marriage, I suffered many and renowned infidelities.

ANDROCLES

How did you manage to face the scoffs of the public?

HALDOUPIS

I invented a good method. To laugh louder than anyone else!

ANDROCLES

You seem a strong character, since you endured it and you can talk about it. Every cloud has a silver lining. Your experience will now make you a writer!

(CONTINUED)



HALDOUPIS

I am older and more experienced than you. My philosophy is in line with that of Confucius.

ANDROCLES

Meaning?

HALDOUPIS

The best way to deal with the inevitable is to accept it! Besides, I'm neither the first or the last to suffer this.

ANDROCLES

Statistics confirm you!

HALDOUPIS

Don't forget, cheating, is itself another matter of love!

ANDROCLES (VO)

(Thinking)

This fellow surpasses Confucius himself!

Haldoupis points to a group of portraits on the wall of his office.

HALDOUPIS

You see these portraits of great men?

Androcles stands up and examines the portraits close up.

ANDROCLES

Hephaestus, Agamemnon, Menelaus, Belisarius, Henri the 4th and next to them, Haldoupis!

HALDOUPIS

All teammates!

Both laugh.

HALDOUPIS

Tell me about your life.

Androcles sits back in his chair.

ANDROCLES

At this time, I suffer very much from being in love.

(CONTINUED)

HALDOUPIS

You should know better! Who is this girl that makes you suffer?

ANDROCLES

Her name is Christina, coming from Smyrna.

Haldoupis bites his lips and shakes his head.

HALDOUPIS

I know the girl and I must warn you. Christina is not for you. She has a vigorous character and some similarity with my late wife. A lot of blood runs in her veins!

ANDROCLES

But I love her strongly and suffer a lot.

HALDOUPIS

For me love is not a criterion any more. After all I went through, I 'm not willing to spend more brain energy to defend my honour. I have decided my next wife to have three characteristics.

ANDROCLES

What kind of characteristics do you mean?

Haldoupis counts the three characteristics with his fingers.

HALDOUPIS

To be ugly, stupid and very rich! Don't forget what Diogenes said.

ANDROCLES

What did Diogenes say?

HALDOUPIS

When the lamp is out, all women are fair!

Androcles laughs.

ANDROCLES

Understand! You don't believe that a woman's beauty and youth is the biggest force in the world!

(CONTINUED)

HALDOUPIS

Very rarely beauty and chastity exist together. Have in mind that the next day of your marriage, when you wake up, you will see that you married some other woman.

Androcles remains sceptical.

EXT. HERMOUPOLIS CONFECTIONERY-TEA ROOM - DAY

Androcles and Emmanuel sit outside the confectionery.

The WAITER (30) brings sweets and water.

ANDROCLES

Do you know something Emmanuel? I can resist everything, except temptation!

EMMANUEL

Are you talking about the sweet now, or about Christina?

ANDROCLES

Is there any difference? Both made of sugar and honey!

EMMANUEL

The only way to relieve yourself from temptation is to yield to it!

The two friends begin to eat the sweets.

ANDROCLES

Talking of being in love, I don't believe there's any other affliction so tortuous.

EMMANUEL

Behind every beautiful thing, there is some kind of pain.

Christina and Helen arrive at the confectionery.

The two friends stand up to welcome them.

ANDROCLES

Nice to see you girls, join us to have a sweet.

The girls accept the invitation and sit next to the two friends.

(CONTINUED)

EMMANUEL

How are you doing? Tell us your news.

CHRISTINA

Today we made an effort to find a job. To become useful to society!

EMMANUEL

You did well. Nothing can have value if not useful.

ANDROCLES

The best preparation for good work tomorrow is to do good work today.

HELEN

Difficult to find a job nowadays.

EMMANUEL

(To Christina)

What kind of job would you like to do?

CHRISTINA

A job that would give me the opportunity to enjoy myself, to sing, to dance and to travel around the world.

EMMANUEL

If work was such a good thing, then the rich would keep it for themselves!

HELEN

What is important is not the hours of work, but how one spends his free time.

Androcles adopts a poetic posture.

ANDROCLES

(To Christina)

I don't care what kind of job you do. What I want to know is what your soul craves for and if you dare to dream, your hearts desires to become reality.

CHRISTINA

Ah! My heart is greedy. I never managed to train it not to want things that are difficult to get!

(CONTINUED)

Androcles stares Christina in the eyes.

ANDROCLES (VO)

(Thinking)

How much I would like to make you  
happy? To make your dreams come  
true?

Christina and Helen smile and get up.

CHRISTINA

We must leave you now dear friends.  
We have a fitting appointment with  
our seamstress.

HELEN

Good day guys.

The girls leave.

Androcles and Emmanuel stand up. They seem puzzled.

ANDROCLES

The seamstress has priority? We  
come second? Why?

Androcles is disappointed.

EMMANUEL

Girls, come back!

ANDROCLES

I don't understand. They leave, but  
the flame in our hearts rages.

EMMANUEL

Girls are like butterflies. Pretty  
to see, hard to catch.

The two friends sit back on the chairs.

ANDROCLES

These two move like butterflies,  
but sting like bees!

EMMANUEL

Absence diminishes small loves and  
increases great ones, as the wind  
blows out the candle, but blows up  
the bonfire.

(CONTINUED)

ANDROCLES

It's like throwing oil on fire.

EMMANUEL

In any case, think positively. She goes to the seamstress for you. To become more beautiful.

Androcles becomes serious.

ANDROCLES

You don't love somebody for her looks, her clothes, or her wealth. You love her because she sings a song that only you can understand!

EMMANUEL

Your case is out of control. Let's change the subject. What else have you done today?

ANDROCLES

I met Haldoupis.

EMMANUEL

You met Evangelos Haldoupis? The shrewdest but most perverted of all islanders? Blatant as a monkey and more sinister than Diogenes?

ANDROCLES

Exactly. After mourning his wife, he was again proclaimed an aspiring groom, but this time he is looking for ugly, stupid and rich candidates!

EMMANUEL

I also heard this. This much sought-after triad of qualifications, he found integrated in the persona of Miss Panayiota Tourloti!

Emmanuel laughs

ANDROCLES

Who is she?

EMMANUEL

Kind of a young hippopotamus, the volume of which made other dowry hunters take flight!

(CONTINUED)

Androcles tries to laugh.

ANDROCLES

If I wasn't suffering from pain, I would laugh with all my heart.

EMMANUEL

So what advice did you receive from Haldoupis?

ANDROCLES

To stay away from Christina.

EMMANUEL

Why does he say this?

ANDROCLES

She has a vigorous character and similarity to his late wife. A lot of blood runs in her veins, as he says!

EMMANUEL

The blood will reveal!

ANDROCLES

Do you know something Emmanuel? I find all the arguments, of my mother, of Haldoupis, and my other relatives, reasonable. I cannot even say as an excuse that I am blinded by passion, as I don't believe that there's anybody more positive thinking than me.

EMMANUEL

Most men in love consider the enjoyment of their loved one such a great pleasure, so that they aren't afraid to be tricked into getting her at any price.

ANDROCLES

But I 'm not the romantic type Emmanuel. I don't dream of anything special, apart from the return of things to their normal routine which existed before I fell in love.

EMMANUEL

What is this prior normal routine?

(CONTINUED)

ANDROCLES

That blessed state of affairs, I remember with the burning desire with which a patient craves for the days he was in good health.

EMMANUEL

What do you finally want from this girl?

ANDROCLES

The only reason I want Christina is to relish her, to enjoy her, to have enough of her and to begin to eat, sleep, walk and play cards in the club as I did before I met her.

EMMANUEL

I get it! There's only one solution! Marriage! There is no point in continuing to suffer from lack of sleep and appetite, since you have the means to be cured.

ANDROCLES

You mean to marry Christina like one takes quinine to get rid of fever?

EMMANUEL

Exactly! To heal this curable by marriage, insanity.

INT. SYROS CHAPEL - DAY

The marriage ceremony of Androcles with Christina is carried out by BISHOP LYCURGUS (45)

Next to the couple stand Emmanuel, the best man and Helen, the bridesmaid.

A number of RELATIVES and FRIENDS watch the ceremony.

Androcles's mother is also at the church with an expressionless, almost sad face.

Bishop Lycurgus gives the holy communion to Androcles.

Androcles chokes, coughs and makes a grimace.

(CONTINUED)



BISHOP LYCURGUS  
I give you holy communion my child,  
not quinine!

Emmanuel pads Androcles on his back.

EMMANUEL (VO)  
(Thinking)  
Your quinine Androcles!

EXT. WEDDING RECEPTION PLACE - NIGHT

At the wedding feast the ORCHESTRA plays the wedding song  
"How pretty is our bride..".

Androcles dances with Christina.

WEDDING ORCHESTRA  
How pretty is our bride, how pretty  
is her dress, how pretty is the  
party which makes her happy...

The GUESTS eat, drink and are merry.

INT. ON A BOAT TO THE ISLAND OF KEA - DAY

Androcles and Christina travel by BOAT to the island of Kea  
for their honeymoon.

The couple stand leaning on the boat railing, gazing at the  
sea.

CHRISTINA  
I adore traveling Androcles!

ANDROCLES  
Love is the objective. Life is the  
journey!

CHRISTINA  
I love life!

ANDROCLES  
All journeys have secret  
destinations, of which the  
traveller is unaware!

CHRISTINA  
What secret destinations do you  
think our journey has in store for  
us?

(CONTINUED)

ANDROCLES

It's always through chance that one  
meets his destiny!

The boat sails near the port of Kea.

CHRISTINA

Love is sweeter on an island like  
Kea.

ANDROCLES

We have all summer to enjoy our  
love. Enough time to enjoy and  
relish you.

Androcles kisses Christina.

CHRISTINA

Next week Helen and Emmanuel will  
join us. They'll take a short  
holiday on the island

ANDROCLES

You organised things well!

EXT. HOLIDAY HOUSE IN KEA - DAY

Androcles and Christina, holding their luggage, arrive at  
the holiday house in which they will spend their honeymoon.  
They stand in the road in front of the house.

ANDROCLES

This my love, is our honeymoon  
holiday home.

CHRISTINA

Androcles, it's a dream! Look at  
this garden! It's green and full of  
flowers!

ANDROCLES

The earth smiles in flowers!

Androcles takes out the keys from his pocket and unlocks the  
front door.

The couple enter the house.

INT. HOLIDAY HOUSE, HALL - DAY

In the hall, a staircase leads to the upper floor.

Androcles, hand in hand with Christina, climb the stairs.

ANDROCLES

Come, let's go up to see the view.

The staircase leads to a corridor and to a big bedroom.

The couple enter the bedroom.

INT. HOLIDAY HOUSE, BEDROOM - DAY

The couple leave their luggage on the floor and jump on the double bed.

Androcles embraces and kisses Christina.

ANDROCLES

There is only one happiness in this life, to love and be loved.

CHRISTINA

I love you my crazy hubby!

ANDROCLES

What makes our love magical is our trust that it will never end!

Androcles tries to open Christina's blouse.

CHRISTINA

The sightseeing tour has finished?

ANDROCLES

We've seen the immovable! Now will study the movable!

CHRISTINA

No Androcles, our holiday house has a terrace. Let's go and enjoy the view.

Christina gets up and pulls Androcles by the hand.

They go out to the terrace.

EXT. HOLIDAY HOUSE TERRACE - DAY

The holiday house is at the centre of a large garden with trees and is surrounded by other green neighbouring fields.

In the background the port of Kea.

The couple savour the view.

ANDROCLES

Smell the sea and feel the sky. Let your soul and spirit fly!

CHRISTINA

Androcles, it's thrilling to view nature from above!

ANDROCLES

Don't stay down on the earth and don't climb too high! The world looks at its best from a height half way.

CHRISTINA

Our terrace is at the ideal height.

ANDROCLES

I feel my lungs inflate with the air from the mountains, the trees, the sea. This is what it is to be contended.

Androcles and Christina kiss passionately.

Holding each other, they return to the bedroom.

INT. BEDROOM OF HOLIDAY HOUSE - DAY

The couple make love.

EXT. BEACH RESTAURANT - DAY

Androcles and Christina sit outside at a beach restaurant for lunch.

ANDROCLES

Swimming in the sea whets the appetite.

(CONTINUED)

CHRISTINA

Don't overdo it though, to have  
some appetite for later!

Androcles looks at Christina with lust.

ANDROCLES (VO)

The island in the green, our  
holiday home comfortable, the food  
excellent, the weather nice, and my  
love infinitely nicer!

Christina smiles and gives a kiss to Androcles.

ANDROCLES (VO)

(Thinking)

Blessed are the possessors! I've  
beaten you Bismarck!

Emmanuel and Helen arrive at the restaurant.

Androcles and Christina get up to welcome them.

ANDROCLES

Welcome guys! Thanks for joining us  
on Kea. We are ready for lunch.

Androcles kisses Helen and Emmanuel kisses Christina.

EMMANUEL

Girls, why don't you go inside to  
choose the fish?

ANDROCLES

Good idea girls, we trust your  
choice.

CHRISTINA

Come girl, let's go.

Christina takes Helen by the arm and both go inside the  
restaurant.

Androcles watches the girls as they enter the restaurant.

EMMANUEL

You can't turn your eyes away from  
Christina!

ANDROCLES

You know something Emmanuel? What  
made me choose Christina of all the  
others, is the fact that she

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

ANDROCLES (cont'd)  
doesn't have the virgin  
shortcomings which make me loath  
nymphets.

EMMANUEL  
What are these shortcomings?

ANDROCLES  
Neither thin, nor anaemic, not shy  
and not very young. In fact, I  
believe that she is a bit older  
than me. Twenty six, to twenty  
eight years old.

EMMANUEL  
How do you feel now that you made  
her yours? Have you buried the love  
that tortured you?

ANDROCLES  
I can say that my therapy  
progresses well. In the morning, we  
go swimming and in the afternoon,  
we go for a long walk or boat trip.  
I return tired, eat like a wolf,  
and after doing with Christina what  
I have to do, I sleep nonstop till  
the morning!

EMMANUEL  
The honeymoon is not actually over  
until you cease to stifle your  
sighs and begin to stifle our  
yawns.

ANDROCLES  
No, we haven't reached such a point  
yet, but there is progress. Every  
day I manage to become more  
tranquil.

Christina and Helen return to the table in a happy mood.

EMMANUEL  
Happy girls are the most beautiful!

HELEN  
How can we not be happy on holiday?

CHRISTINA  
To be on holiday is to have nothing  
to do and to have all day to do it!

(CONTINUED)

ANDROCLES

Have you chosen the fish girls?

CHRISTINA

Fish is loved by monks and cats,  
kisses are loved by married girls  
and single girls love lots of hugs.

EMMANUEL

(To Androcles)

That was a hint directed at us!

The girls laugh.

EXT. HOLIDAY HOUSE TERRACE - NIGHT

Christina wears a loose negligee white dress. Her long black hair hangs down to her waist. She is standing at the edge of the balcony staring at the sea.

Androcles stands next to Christina, enjoying the beauty of the scenery.

ANDROCLES

I don't recall a brighter full  
moon, a more sparkling sea, or a  
more aromatic forest and garden  
fragrance!

Christina whispers the trendy cavatina "Hernan Hernan abduct me".

CHRISTINA

(Whispers)

Hernan Hernan abduct me...

Suddenly Christina stops and stretches her ears to the song of a NIGHTINGALE, echoing from the garden next door.

Androcles seems tired.

ANDROCLES

My darling, all of this is most  
poetic! But you must excuse me. I'm  
being overcome by sleep. Too much  
bonito for dinner, accompanied by  
the bottled poetry of sweet Kea  
wine, sends me in the arms of  
Morpheus.

(CONTINUED)

CHRISTINA

Darling let me take you to bed to  
get some rest.

Christina takes Androcles by the arm and leads him to the  
bedroom.

INT. BEDROOM OF HOLIDAY HOUSE - NIGHT

Christina helps Androcles lie on the bed and takes his shoes  
off.

Androcles sleeps immediately. After a while, he seems to be  
dreaming.

BEGINNING OF DREAM SEQUENCE

INT. HERMOUPOLIS CLUB - DAY - DREAM

At the club, Androcles and Aloisios play piquet.

Emmanuel and another MAN watch the game.

Androcles wins the game and puts the cards on the table.

ANDROCLES

Take another lesson!

Aloisios is very annoyed.

ALOISIOS

Three games in a row? Hey, this  
guy's roosters are laying eggs!

Emmanuel and the other man laugh.

ANDROCLES

Fortune is a woman and favours the  
young man who approaches her with  
boldness and determination.

ALOISIOS

Never confuse a single win, with a  
final dominance.

EMMANUEL

Before you used to tell us  
Aloisios, that luck favours the  
prepared brains.

Aloisios remains frowned.



## END OF DREAM SEQUENCE

EXT. KEA CONFECTIONERY - DAY

Androcles and Emmanuel sit outdoors at the confectionery.

Christina, holding Helen by the arm, take a walk at the other side of the road, chatting.

ANDROCLES

I have no doubt now, that I am completely healed!

EMMANUEL

How can you tell?

ANDROCLES

Yesterday I had a dream!

EMMANUEL

You dreamt I suppose about Christina.

ANDROCLES

Wrong! Neither Christina, nor nightingale songs, or black girly pigtailed, or moon glades!

EMMANUEL

What did you dream about then?

ANDROCLES

That we were on Syros at the club and that I was beating the piquet card master Aloisios Katzaitis, winning three card games in a row!

Emmanuel bursts out laughing.

EMMANUEL

To dream is one thing, to live a miracle quite another!

INT. HERMOUPOLIS PORT, CUSTOMS - DAY

Androcles and Christina return to Syros and pass through the customs of the port of Hermoupolis.

CHRISTINA

Androcles come here. Stand on the scales to check your weight.

(CONTINUED)

Christina shows the customs scales.

Androcles climbs on the scales.

ANDROCLES

Four months stay on Kea, I  
recovered my peace of mind,  
regained my prosaic temperament and  
gained three okes of body weight,  
as confirmed here by the customs  
scales!

CHRISTINA

The holiday and the clean air in  
the country, did you good.

ANDROCLES

Cities should be built in the  
country where the air is cleaner!

CHRISTINA

You are so crazy!

INT. ANDROCLES'S HOME, SITTING ROOM - DAY

Androcles and Christina sit in the sitting room of their  
house.

Androcles looks at letters that collected, while the couple  
were away from home.

ANDROCLES

Darling, I have something to  
suggest to you for changes in our  
house arrangement.

CHRISTINA

For what dear?

ANDROCLES

I am thinking of having separate  
bedrooms.

CHRISTINA

For what reason Androcles? You  
don't love me?

ANDROCLES

On the contrary! It has nothing to  
do with our love. Separate bedrooms  
are considered an aristocratic  
habit.

(CONTINUED)

CHRISTINA  
Is this customary for couples of  
the royalty?

ANDROCLES  
Exactly!

CHRISTINA  
Then let's do it.

ANDROCLES  
Good, I'll give instructions to  
Maria to arrange it.

CHRISTINA  
What letters are those you hold?

ANDROCLES  
Nothing important. Municipal taxes,  
cultural activities and an  
invitation from the mayor!

CHRISTINA  
For what?

Androcles looks at the invitation.

ANDROCLES  
For a dance, in honour of the  
visiting minister of naval affairs.

CHRISTINA  
When is that?

Christina gets up and grabs the invitation from the hands of  
Androcles.

CHRISTINA  
In ten days? Androcles I want us to  
go to this dance. We don't have  
enough time to prepare. I am  
rushing to see Helen. We have lots  
to do.

Christina gives a quick kiss to Androcles and leaves in a  
hurry.

ANDROCLES  
For dancing and outings, she is  
first!

EXT. WINDMILL WINE SHOP - DAY

Androcles sits with Emmanuel at the windmill wine shop.

ANDROCLES

Gone are the holidays Emmanuel.  
Back to the grind.

EMMANUEL

Hope Christina was careful not to  
wear you out on your honeymoon, and  
make it difficult for you to work  
now!

ANDROCLES

This is the least. What is  
important is that the suffering of  
love is now gone. Christina is now  
mine and I returned to  
tranquillity.

EMMANUEL

And now you had enough of her, what  
are you going to do?

ANDROCLES

Already we took some decisions. I  
suggested separate bedrooms and she  
agreed, when I explained the  
aristocratic aspect of the idea.

EMMANUEL

It seems Kea made you over  
satiated. Couples in love have this  
odd characteristic: they cannot  
foresee that they can go hungry  
when satiated, or that they can  
become satiated when they are  
hungry.

The WAITER (30) brings drinks and sweets.

ANDROCLES

Some things are learned better in  
tranquil and serene conditions and  
some others in stormy ones!

EMMANUEL

Anyone can hold the helm steady in  
calm conditions. A good skipper is  
tested in storms.

(CONTINUED)

ANDROCLES

OK, marriage will have its storms. Love without stubbornness is food without spice.

EMMANUEL

Some say that a woman is like a rose. The pedals drop but the thorns remain.

ANDROCLES

And some others say that love is like a flower garden, while marriage a field of nettles.

INT. ANDROCLES'S HOME, SITTING ROOM - DAY

Androcles comes home after work. He finds the house upside down, like a sewing workshop. Everywhere fabric cuttings, linings, patterns, bras and shoes for testing.

The SEAMSTRESS (40) sews on the sewing machine.

ANDROCLES

What happened? I came in a sewing shop?

CHRISTINA

My hubby, be patient for a few more days, till the dance.

ANDROCLES

Where are we going to sit? Or eat?

SEAMSTRESS

Don't worry Mr. Androcles. We'll clear a table for you to eat.

MARIA (30), the housemaid, helps in the dressmaking.

CHRISTINA

Lovy, Maria hasn't had time to cook. She is helping with the dressmaking. Sit on the veranda till she cooks something quick, a salad or small fry.

ANDROCLES

Oh! Our housmaid has been ordained a seamstress!

(CONTINUED)

## SEAMSTRESS

The problem these days Mr. Androcles is general on the island. Go to any house, you will find the same.

## ANDROCLES

Ah, I get it, apart from Christmas and Easter, the custom on Syros is to fast, prior to dances!

## INT. CHRISTINA'S BEDROOM -NIGHT

Christina's bedroom is also full of clothes.

Androcles wears his pyjamas and lies on the bed.

Christina enters the bedroom with paper curls on her hair.

## ANDROCLES

What took you so long.

## CHRISTINA

I had to prepare my hair darling. It's a long process.

Christina lies on the bed next to Androcles.

Androcles turns towards Christina to give her a hug.

## CHRISTINA

No, No my love. It will spoil my hair!

Androcles turns back to the other side of the bed, staring at the ceiling.

## ANDROCLES (VO)

(Thinking)

Since the day we received that damned invitation, it's as if I have no wife.

Androcles gets up and leaves Christina's bedroom, disappointed.

INT. SHOE SHOP -DAY

Christina and Helen are in a shoe shop.

The SALESGIRL (30) helps Christina to choose shoes.

SALESGIRL

Wearing the right shoes, you can  
conquer the world!

HELEN

She has already conquered it. She  
got married!

SALESGIRL

A good husband makes a good wife.

Christina examines some pairs of shoes.

CHRISTINA

Let's conquer tomorrows dance to  
start with.

SALESGIRL

Many came in the shop in the last  
few days, to get shoes for the  
dance. It will be a popular dance.

HELEN

Yeah, I heard my father say that  
the mayor's worry was not to forget  
to invite, even the last party  
follower.

The girls laugh. Christina tries a pair of gold trimmed  
boots.

CHRISTINA

I like these very much. What do you  
think?

HELEN

Yes, they are perfect!

CHRISTINA

I'll take them.

The salesgirl puts the shoes in a box and takes the money  
from Christina.

INT. ANDROCLES'S HOME, SITTING ROOM - DAY

Androcles sits on the sofa looking at Christina making the final dress fitting with the help of the seamstress and Maria.

SEAMSTRESS

How does it look to you Mr. Androcles?

Christina looks in the mirror.

The dress is made of heavy cherry coloured silk and has a long tail.

On the head she wears a kind of an archaic diadem made of rubies.

ANDROCLES

I must admit that Christina's beautification is absolutely successful! The cherry coloured dress is a perfect match with the gold trimmed shoes.

MARIA

I like the tiara very much!

ANDROCLES

Yes, the red sparkle of the rubies is in harmony with the jet black of the hair.

Androcles looks at Christina with lust.

ANDROCLES (VO)

(Thinking)

Dressed like this she reminds me of Semiramis, Phaedra, Cleopatra, Theodora and the other heroines who disturbed my sleep during my school years.

EXT. HERMOUPOLIS TOWN HALL - NIGHT

PEOPLE gather outside the town hall where the dance will take place, dressed for the occasion.

Androcles and Christina climb the stairs of the town hall.

(CONTINUED)



CHRISTINA

How exciting Androcles, to see the people dressed so nicely!

ANDROCLES

A well-dressed man is one you don't notice what he is wearing.

CHRISTINA

I like to be observant.

ANDROCLES

Tell me to what you pay attention to and I'll tell you who you are.

CHRISTINA

Curiosity is one of the forms of feminine bravery!

ANDROCLES

Men dancers are three times more than women dancers, to become observant myself.

CHRISTINA

It's always like that in island dances.

Outside the entrance of the town hall, there is a notice on a stand. "Dance in honour of the visiting minister of naval affairs".

Androcles and Christina enter the town hall.

INT. TOWN HALL LOBBY - NIGHT

Androcles and Christina leave their coats at the cloakroom and receive the orchestra program.

At least fifteen DANCERS, with notebooks in hand, besiege Christina demanding a dance.

DANCER A

Madam! could you please grand me the third dance?

Christina looks the dancer in the eyes and smiles at him.

Dancer A notes his name on Christina's list of dances and makes a note in his notebook.

(CONTINUED)

DANCER B  
Madam, madam, please give me dance  
six.

Christina enjoys the interest shown for her by the dancers  
and accepts their offers.

ANDROCLES (VO)  
(Thinking)  
What cheek and willingness she has,  
to offer each claimant a smile, as  
a gift in return!

INT. DANCE HALL - NIGHT

Androcles and Christina enter the dance hall.

There are many COUPLES in the hall.

Christina looks at the list of dances which is almost  
complete.

CHRISTINA  
My love, I reserved the first dance  
for you.

ANDROCLES  
Dear I' m not feeling well. I don't  
feel like dancing.

CHRISTINA  
OK my love. Don't worry.

Androcles walks towards the chairs at the perimeter of the  
dance floor.

Christina is approached by a blonde guy, CHARLES (25).

CHARLES  
Is there a dance left over for me  
by any chance?

CHRISTINA  
For you I can offer the first and  
two more if you desire!

CHARLES  
My desire is fuelling my heart and  
you have ignited it!

The members of the ORCHESTRA take their positions on the  
stage of the hall.

(CONTINUED)

The dancers take position on the floor.

The music and the dancing begin.

Christina dances the first dance with Charles.

The next dances follow and Christina changes partners.

Androcles spies on Christina. He notices that as she dances with somebody, she exchanges looks and smiles with others dancing nearby.

Some dancing adventures bring Christina and her PARTNER near Androcles. Christina avoids looking at Androcles.

ANDROCLES (VO)

(Thinking)

She distributes glances and smiles  
to everybody but me.

While Androcles walks, looking bored, along the perimeter of the dance floor, he notices Cleareti standing near the wall.

ANDROCLES (VO)

(Thinking)

This glued on the wall woman, like  
paper tapestry, appears to be  
Cleareti. Let me go and see how she  
is doing.

Androcles walks towards Cleareti.

ANDROCLES

Good evening Cleareti.

Instead of answering, Cleareti gives a cold almost hostile look at Androcles.

ANDROCLES

Don't you dance tonight?

CLEARETI

No sir!

ANDROCLES

Why? You are one of our best  
dancers. This is odd!

ANDROCLES (VO)

(Thinking)

How inconsiderate of me. Forgot  
that this doesn't depend solely on  
her!

(CONTINUED)

CLEARETI

There are things much more odd!

ANDROCLES

Won't you tell me?

CLEARETI

There are certain gentlemen, who after reassuring a young lady for years, that they could not fall in love with any other woman but a good, quiet, demure and hardworking one, then go and marry a dissolute, a coquette, an infatuated woman who dated all in the past and continues to do the same after her marriage.

Androcles becomes very angry with Cleareti.

ANDROCLES (VO)

(Thinking)

This proves that you are not as good as you appeared to be, miss, nor as impartial in your show of caring for me, in offering me advice and sending me cookies. The unexpected apocalypse of your marital aspirations towards me by a spinster who could have been my mother had she married young, is ridiculous.

ANDROCLES

I don't remember making such reassurances to any young lady!

Cleareti bites her lips, turns her back towards Androcles and walks away.

What Cleareti said about Christina dating all in the past and continues to do the same after her marriage, echoes in the ears of Androcles like a viper's hiss.

ANDROCLES (VO)

(Thinking)

She dated all in the past and continues the same after marriage!

Androcles continues to spy on Christina.

While dancing with another partner, she gives glances and smiles to Charles who seems to seek to dance near her.

(CONTINUED)

ANDROCLES (VO)  
(Thinking)  
Truth is, she is overdoing it!

Christina dances again with Charles.

ANDROCLES (VO)  
(Thinking)  
The lion's share of glances and  
smiles are directed to the blonde  
guy! It's the second dance she had  
with him.

During the break of the quadrille, Christina has endless  
conversation with Charles.

ANDROCLES (VO)  
(Thinking)  
Weird, this man is completely  
unknown to me, while residents of  
tiny Hermoupolis know each other  
like monks of the same monastery.

Androcles walks bewildered along the perimeter of the hall.

He finds an empty chair and sits down, when he notices  
Evangelos Haldoupis approaching.

Haldoupis sits next to Androcles and looks at him  
persistently.

HALDOUPIS  
What's wrong with you? Your eyes  
are tearful like the misty  
mountains of Gura!

ANDROCLES  
Nothing. I have a little headache.

HALDOUPIS  
Not little, you have a big  
headache, because you didn't listen  
to me when I told you that  
Christina is not for you. I see  
next to her, her old friend Charles  
Vitouris. They seem to have a lot  
to say!

Haldoupis points at Charles who continues to chat with  
Christina.

ANDROCLES

Her old friend? How is it that I don't know him? First time I see him!

HALDOUPIS

He just returned from Europe. Five years ago, before you settled on Syros he was madly in love with her.

Androcles stares at Charles.

ANDROCLES

And what happened?

HALDOUPIS

He was not allowed to have her, because he wasn't able to support her. He was so desperate, he wanted to commit suicide.

ANDROCLES

And he didn't do it?

HALDOUPIS

He would have done it, had my wife not undertaken to console him! He was her first lover. I caught them red handed in the garden of Koimos. My wife got tired of him quickly because he was too sentimental.

ANDROCLES

And then?

HALDOUPIS

Then he continued to remember yours. He was sent to France to forget both and to study pharmaceutical science to succeed his father in the pharmacy. But it seems he was not able to find rosemary.

Haldoupis directs a glance at Charles who continues to chat with Christina.

HALDOUPIS

Look how he gazes at Christina, as if he can't get enough of her. I advise you not to bring her often to dances.

(CONTINUED)

ANDROCLES

I'll follow your advice.

HALDOUPIS

Don't forget, if you show jealousy,  
or if you push her into a corner  
and try to restrict her, you will  
most certainly be trapped!

ANDROCLES

What do you want me to do then?

HALDOUPIS

Even I don't know. Since you didn't  
take my advice, the best that I  
have now to recommend to you is to  
follow my example and whatever  
happens don't let it heartbreak  
you. Think that the matter is  
nothing serious and hang on your  
wall the portraits of Agamemnon,  
Hephaestus Menelaus...

Androcles is furious. He gets up suddenly and interrupts  
Haldoupis, giving him a dirty look.

ANDROCLES (VO)

(Thinking)

I find it difficult to resist  
spitting on your face, skunk!

Haldoupis, with a wry smile on his face, gets up and leaves.

The orchestra plays the COTILLION.

Couples dance in groups of four, forming squares.

Androcles seems impatient. Walks nervously up and down till  
the end of the dance.

When the dance ends Androcles walks towards the exit.

ANDROCLES (VO)

(Thinking)

Thank God! It seemed endless!

Christina is also going towards the exit looking for  
Androcles.

INT. TOWN HALL LOBBY - NIGHT

Androcles meets Christina in the lobby holding her fur and his coat. Together they walk towards the exit.

Three DANCERS, including Charles, block their way.

CHARLES

Where are you going? The galop finale is still to be danced! You promised me Christina.

DANCER C

I also have your promise!

Christina smiles and enjoys the attention.

DANCER D

I also have it marked in my list!

CHRISTINA

I really don't remember who I promised it to.

ANDROCLES

(To Christina)

We are tired Christina, let's get out of here.

CHRISTINA

One moment. There is a solution. I suggest we draw strings!

Christina gets three strings out of her bag. One of them has a knot at one end.

She holds the strings in her hand so that the knot is hidden, but the other ends hang out.

She asks the dancers to draw a string each.

CHRISTINA

Come here. Choose a string.

The three dancers pull a string each. Charles pulls the string with the knot.

CHARLES

Fortune favours the bold!

ANDROCLES (VO)

(Thinking)

Some poaching must have worked here!

(CONTINUED)



Charles grabs Christina by the arm and leads her back to the dance hall.

Androcles, disappointed, returns to the dance hall.

INT. DANCE HALL - NIGHT

Hot wine is served in the hall.

The orchestra begins to play the GALOPO FINALE.

The rhythm of the music becomes so lively, so that the MAYOR (50) and other venerable SYRIANS join in the dance floor.

Androcles sulks in a corner, seeing Christina swirl in the arms of Charles.

Haldoupis, with a wry smile tries again to approach Androcles.

Androcles directs a ferocious look at him, making him turn his back and leave.

ANDROCLES (VO)

(Thinking)

Rascal! you come back to pour more  
poison into my wound!

INT. ANDROCLES'S HOME - NIGHT

Androcles and Christina enter their house. The clock shows five in the morning.

They walk towards Christina's bedroom.

INT. CHRISTINA'S BEDROOM -NIGHT

Androcles sits on the bed while she takes off her clothes and remains in her underweare.

Androcles looks at her with lust.

ANDROCLES (VO)

(Thinking)

It's a paradox. Although I suffered  
so much during that damn dance, by  
the malign talk of Chaldoupis and  
the behaviour of Christina, instead  
of giving me cold feet, it makes me  
love her or at least desire her

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

ANDROCLES (VO) (cont'd)  
much more than even the day I  
decided to marry her for the sole  
purpose of putting an end to my  
desire for her.

CHRISTINA  
Darling help me take off my  
necklace.

Androcles approaches Christina from behind, takes off her  
necklace and kisses her on the neck.

ANDROCLES (VO)  
(Thinking)  
How seductive are her underwear,  
the silk bra, the laced petticoat,  
her satin shoes and her stimulating  
iris and ylang ylang aroma!

Androcles turns Christina towards himself and looks at her  
in the eyes.

He tries to say something to her when Christina interrupts  
him.

CHRISTINA  
I am tired and exhausted my poor  
hubby, please let me rest tonight.

Androcles releases her with despondency and walks away out  
of the bedroom.

ANDROCLES  
Good night

Androcles leaves the bedroom.

INT. ANDROCLES'S HOME, SITTING ROOM - DAY

The time is 11am. Androcles walks towards Christina's  
bedroom door. He looks at his watch.

ANDROCLES (VO)  
(Thinking)  
It's eleven o'clock. I'm late for  
work.

Androcles opens the bedroom door and looks inside.

INT. CHRISTINA'S BEDROOM -DAY

Androcles goes near the bed.

Christina is asleep.

He touches Christina softly.

Christina turns the other way.

ANDROCLES  
(Whispering)  
She is asleep.

Androcles tidies the covers and leaves.

INT. ANDROCLES'S HOME, SITTING ROOM - DAY

The time is 4pm. Christina sits on the piano and tries to play the gallop which was played by the dance orchestra the previous night.

The door opens and Androcles enters.

Christina welcomes him in a happy mood.

CHRISTINA  
My hubby, my love! Listen to this nice gallop. Normally I cannot play the piano without a music book but this I can play from start to end!

Christina begins to play.

Androcles seems depressed and interrupts Christina.

ANDROCLES  
I'm not feeling well and music gives me a headache. Leave it, please, for another time.

Christina stops, closes the piano and glances at Androcles with a puzzled look.

Androcles picks up a book from the bookcase and sits on the sofa to read.

Christina goes to the window, leans on it and looks out to the street.

Christina Greets someone with grace and courtesy.

(CONTINUED)

CHRISTINA  
Hello there!

Androcles stretches to listen to Christina's conversation.  
Then adopts a casual attitude.

ANDROCLES  
Who did you greet?

CHRISTINA  
The dancing teacher, old Kuertzi.

Androcles gets up and enters his bedroom.

INT. ANDROCLES BEDROOM - DAY

Androcles's bedroom has a window opening out to the street.  
He runs to the window and looks out.

He notices old KUERTZI (65), held by the arm, by Charles Vitouri.

ANDROCLES (VO)  
(Thinking)  
She only mentioned Kuertzi, but  
most probably the lion's share of  
the greeting, was addressed to his  
friend Charles!

Androcles's mind is filled with suspicions.

EXT. HERMOUPOLIS CONFECTIONERY-TEA ROOM - DAY

Androcles is with Emmanuel at the confectionery.

EMMANUEL  
You seem somewhat distressed? Or  
I'm I wrong?

ANDROCLES  
Also angry. We do nothing else but  
going to dances. Syrians have  
contacted dance mania. In a period  
of one month we had eleven big and  
small dances!

EMMANUEL  
This is what usually happens  
following the end of the economic  
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

EMMANUEL (cont'd)  
season. Why do you worry about  
dances?

ANDROCLES  
Christina does nothing but get  
ready for the dance during the day,  
get tired all night and rest the  
next day.

EMMANUEL  
What do you do?

ANDROCLES  
I do nothing but to accompany her,  
to lose sleep, to worry, to be  
jealous, to spy on her and to see  
in my dreams Hephaestus, Menelaus  
and Vitouri!

EMMANUEL  
Your fixation that she is doing  
something bad, doesn't do you any  
good.

ANDROCLES  
Apart from dances, we also have the  
daily meetings at Vaporia and in  
the square.

EMMANUEL  
Does he still hover around your  
windows?

ANDROCLES  
Yes, very often.

EMMANUEL  
You should be thankful that the  
custom of the island will not  
forgive house visits, except on the  
first of the year and on the name  
day of the landlord. A man visiting  
a woman during the day, at working  
hours, would be considered a  
scandal, bigger than trespassing in  
a harem!

ANDROCLES  
Now my jealousy, deprivation and  
the concentration of my mind on one  
thing, has converted me, the calm  
Syrian, into some kind of a

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

ANDROCLES (cont'd)  
wayfarer, or Erotocritos, reciting  
wailing monologues!

EXT. CHARLES VITOURI PHARMACY - DAY

Androcles hovers from some distance outside the pharmacy of Charles, spying on Christina.

He notices Christina coming out of the pharmacy. He looks at his watch.

ANDROCLES (VO)  
(Thinking)  
She was in the pharmacy for more than half hour. Three times in the last week. On the other hand, all the high society ladies, buy their smearings and aromas from there. Yet the mere thought of her with Vitouris, makes me worried and tormented.

Androcles waits till Christina walks away.

INT. ANDROCLES'S HOME, SITTING ROOM - DAY

Androcles sits in the living room reading a book. Christina enters, carrying a lot of shopping.

CHRISTINA  
Hello my love. I'm rushing all the time. Tomorrow we have the dance in honour of the British consul.

ANDROCLES  
Christina, the fact that I can rarely manage to see you alone and calm, hurts me.

CHRISTINA  
How can I, my dear? We can just about make it. I am waiting for Helen to give me her opinion about my outfit.

ANDROCLES  
A General on the eve of a crucial battle, wouldn't be as busy as you!

There's a knock on the front door.

(CONTINUED)

CHRISTINA

That must be Helen. Going to open the door.

Christina opens the door and welcomes Helen.

CHRISTINA

Hi Helen, come in.

HELEN

What's up girlfriend? You finished with the seamstress?

ANDROCLES

Hello Helen. You didn't notice I'm here, because I'm so small?

HELEN

Sorry Androcles. We have a lot on our minds, a day before the dance.

CHRISTINA

This seamstress can't keep her word. Everything is done in a hurry, the last moment!

HELEN

Pressure my girl! You need to apply pressure!

CHRISTINA

The hairdresser! The treasured Anastasi! He dared to suggest to do my hair in the morning, because he didn't have time to spare in the afternoon! What a cheek?

Androcles puts down his book and lies on the couch.

ANDROCLES (VO)

(Thinking)

These two are dealing with hairdressers and seamstresses, while I, not only remain sleepless, but cannot even get some rest on the bed. As the desert traveller is tormented by the illusion of fountains, rivers and green valleys, so am I, by the memories of the good days at Kea.

Androcles sleeps on the couch and dreams.

BEGINNING OF DREAM SEQUENCE

EXT. HOLIDAY HOUSE TERRACE - DAY - DREAM

Androcles rests on a chaise longue on the terrace of the holiday house on Kea, while Christina lies on another chaise longue reading a book.

ANDROCLES

I like you my dear, when you are reading.

CHRISTINA

I enjoy this book. It's long, but cannot stop reading. The love story attracts my attention.

ANDROCLES

No other enjoyment is so inexpensive as reading, and so long-lasting.

CHRISTINA

Reading takes us to places, when we have to stay where we are.

ANDROCLES

Reading is like food and drink. The mind that doesn't read, loses weight like a body that doesn't eat.

END OF DREAM SEQUENCE

INT. ANDROCLES'S HOME, SITTING ROOM - NIGHT

Androcles and Christina return from a dance.

The clock shows 4 in the morning.

Androcles gives a cold kiss to Christina.

ANDROCLES

Good night.

CHRISTINA

Good night.

They go to their separate bedrooms.



INT. ANDROCLE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Androcles tries to sleep. Turns in his bed.

ANDROCLE'S (VO)  
 (Thinking)  
 I lose my sleep after the damn  
 dances.

He gets up and walks towards the door that separates the two bedrooms.

He opens the door and enters Christina's bedroom.

INT. CHRISTINA'S BEDROOM -NIGHT

In Christina's bedroom, a blue oil lamp burns in front of byzantine icons.

ANDROCLE'S (VO)  
 (Thinking)  
 The blue light, imparts a dreamy  
 aspect to reality, Another one of  
 my inventions of the good days on  
 Kea.

Everything in the bedroom is in a state of a mess. Her dress on one side of the sofa, the pads on the floor, the brassiere in the corner of the bed, the garland on the bust of Korae and scattered on all the seats, her fan, the flowers, her gloves and the Cotillion medals.

ANDROCLE'S (VO)  
 (Thinking)  
 The room is like the shrine of  
 goddess Disorder!

Christina's favourite cat is asleep on her white dressing gown.

On the fire mantle lie the sparkling stones of her bracelets and necklace.

ANDROCLE'S (VO)  
 (Thinking)  
 Still, there is no inelegance in  
 all the chaos. It seems to me  
 beautiful, angelic. Its  
 constituents are so gorgeous!

Christina sleeps with one knee bend forward and her hand behind her head.

(CONTINUED)

ANDROCLES (VO)  
(Thinking)  
She sleeps like the ancient statue  
of the Hermaphrodite!

Christina seems to dream and she is smiling.

ANDROCLES (VO)  
(Thinking)  
She is probably dreaming of her  
triumphs in the dances. Her smile,  
in all aspects, resembles the  
smiles she distributes to the  
dancers.

Androcles moves one step forward but suddenly his feet are  
nailed to the floor.

ANDROCLES (VO)  
(Thinking)  
If I wake her up, that sweet smile  
will be replaced with a grimace of  
disapproval, a yawn, a grudge and a  
turn to the other side.

Androcles notices that through the cracks in the windows the  
dim light rays of the winter morning are beginning to  
appear.

ANDROCLES (VO)  
(Thinking)  
I shouldn't wake her up. She went  
to sleep just an hour ago.

Androcles walks on tip toes, towards the door.

INT. ANDROCLES BEDROOM - NIGHT

Androcles returns to his bedroom and continues his  
monologue.

He sits in the armchair.

ANDROCLES (VO)  
(Thinking)  
When I ponder how easy it would be  
for her to make me the happiest man  
on earth, if her love of  
entertainment and social behaviour  
was a little more restrained, I  
feel like strangling her.

Androcles walks nervously up and down.

(CONTINUED)

ANDROCLES (VO)

(Thinking)

Ha, the danger of putting into practice my feelings is not great. I don't believe that there is in the world a softer heart than my own. If I had to slaughter with my own hands the chickens I eat, then I would prefer to feed on the bran on which they are themselves fed.

Androcles lies on the bed.

He pretends he is addressing others.

ANDROCLES (VO)

(Thinking)

I know, you now consider me an idiot. But think how difficult my position is, neither able to ask for tenderness as a lover, without making a mockery of myself, nor demand it as a husband, without becoming hated.

INT. ANDROCLES'S HOME, DINING ROOM - DAY

Androcles and Christina sit at the table.

Maria serves the food.

Christina begins to eat, but Androcles doesn't feel like eating.

CHRISTINA

Darling you are not eating properly recently. What's the problem?

ANDROCLES

My stomach dear. I have a problem!

CHRISTINA

Sometimes your stomach, other times your headache, your teeth and sometimes your nerves. What are we going to do with you Androcles?

ANDROCLES

I'll see a doctor someday.

(CONTINUED)

CHRISTINA

You always say that, but you don't do it.

EXT. HERMOUPOLIS CONFECTIONERY-TEA ROOM - DAY

Androcles and Emmanuel sit at the confectionery.

ANDROCLES

I hide my real pains Emmanuel! I pretend I have pain in my stomach, my teeth, my head.

EMMANUEL

Pain makes the strong stronger and the weak weaker.

ANDROCLES

A chain is as strong as its weakest link.

The WAITER brings sweets and water.

EMMANUEL

It's not the easiest of things to handle women.

ANDROCLES

I know very well, that a woman can forgive everything. Infidelity, insults, abuse, anything. Except one thing!

EMMANUEL

Which is the exception?

ANDROCLES

To be loved by somebody more than she deserves!

EMMANUEL

Ah, sure! A man that commits the foolishness of confessing to a woman how much he suffers because of her, nothing else remains for him to do than flee or else go jump in the sea with a stone tied to his neck.

INT. ANDROCLES'S HOME, SITTING ROOM - DAY

Androcles returns from work earlier than usual.

Entering the sitting room, he notices that Christina is startled to see him and hides an envelope quickly behind the mirror.

CHRISTINA

Hi my love. You came early!

ANDROCLES

Yes, I didn't feel well.

ANDROCLES (VO)

(Thinking)

Surely she hid something incriminating. Love letter from Vitouris probably.

Christina is at a loss.

CHRISTINA

Shall I prepare something to eat?

ANDROCLES (VO)

(Thinking)

It isn't any more possible to continue my habit of tolerating everything in silence fearing the worst, since most probably in that envelope is the proof that nothing worse remains for me to fear.

Androcles is ready to go to the mirror.

The imminent eruption of war is interrupted by the entrance of the wife of the Mayor NEPHELI (50), through the open front door, holding a coat.

CHRISTINA

Mrs Nepheli! Please come in.

NEPHELI

My darling girl, let me show you my new coat with braids made of a plume of bird feathers.

ANDROCLES

Hello Mrs Nepheli. I'll leave you to it. Please excuse me.

While leaving, Androcles overtly grabs the envelope from behind the mirror and goes to his bedroom.

Christina sees him take the envelope.

INT. ANDROCLES BEDROOM - DAY

Androcles looks at the envelope with trembling hands.

He opens it and finds inside some invoices.

ANDROCLES (VO)

(Thinking)

Two thousand seven hundred drachmas  
for silk items, hats, ribbons and  
other things! Not a love letter  
from Vitouris?

Androcles feels great relief.

ANDROCLES (VO)

(Thinking)

Phew! I was wrong to think that I  
joined Haldoupis hand in hand in  
his misfortunes! I feel relieved,  
like a convict whose death sentence  
is unexpectedly converted to a  
fine.

Christina, with a frightened and apologetic look on her  
face, enters Androcles's bedroom.

Androcles runs, embraces and kisses her.

ANDROCLES

Don't worry honey!

Christina looks surprised.

CHRISTINA

Honey, thanks, I apologise. I must  
go to get ready for our evening  
walk.

Christina leaves for her bedroom.

ANDROCLES (VO)

(Thinking)

She must find it difficult to  
believe how I could consider her  
feat to spend our six-month income  
in the space of a few days, worthy  
of my praise and kisses.

Suddenly it begins to rain. Lightning and thunder accompany  
heavy rain.

(CONTINUED)

Androcles sits next to the window and watches the rain and the muddy torrent that descends from the height of Upper Syros, dragging broken bottles, old shoes, hen corpses and mice.

Christina returns, approaches Androcles from behind on tiptoe and covers his eyes with her hands.

ANDROCLES (VO)

(Thinking)

Like good old days! Thanks to the storm, we are at last together for the first time after our return from Kea.

Christina removes her hands from the eyes of Androcles.

Androcles stands up, turns, looks at her with lust and tries to kiss her.

Christina smiles, puts her finger on his lips, goes and lies on the sofa and makes a signal with her finger to Androcles to follow her.

At that moment, the rain becomes very heavy.

Androcles walks towards Christina.

ANDROCLES (VO)

(Thinking)

Whether I want it or not, fate forces me to be romantic. My resistance to destiny and my aversion to romanticism seems now in vain!

The rain converts to a cataclysm.

Christina smiles and signals Androcles to go near her.

ANDROCLES (VO)

(Thinking)

I end up concluding that the level of ecstasy that a man can feel next to a woman is exactly analogous to the anxiety, the jealousy, the deprivation and the other torments that precede it. Only one, that goes through such catharsis can then receive the gift of entering the sanctuary of the ultimate ecstasy. The gates of this, cannot be opened by a reserved virgin or

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

ANDROCLES (VO) (cont'd)  
by a loving wife, or an  
affectionate lover, but only by a  
coquettish, capricious and not  
every day virtuous woman.

Androcles and Christina make love.

EXT. HERMOUPOLIS TOWN HALL - NIGHT

Androcles and Christina climb the stairs of the town hall.

The notice board outside the entrance shows: "Christmas  
dance"

INT. DANCE HALL - NIGHT

The hall is decorated for Christmas.

The dance floor is full of dancing COUPLES.

Androcles sits on a chair on the side and watches Christina  
dancing with the burly COMMANDER (45) who has a big  
moustache.

ANDROCLES (VO)  
(Thinking)  
That's odd. Vitouris has gone! He  
is not dancing with Christina.

Christina's dance with the commander, bring them near the  
place where Androcles is sitting.

ANDROCLES (VO)  
(Thinking)  
It's the second dance she is having  
with the commander.

During the break Christina sits with the commander having a  
chat.

At times, she uses her fan as if to hide the movement of her  
lips, as she talks.

ANDROCLES (VO)  
(Thinking)  
It seems the black moustache and  
the wide shoulders of our gallant  
commander, prevailed over the sighs  
and blond tentacles of the sensuous  
Vitouris!



INT. ANDROCLES'S HOME, SITTING ROOM - DAY

Androcles is sitting in the living room reading a book.

Christina tidies the things on the shelves.

ANDROCLES

What news from the commander?

Christina turns to Androcles with a puzzled look.

CHRISTINA

I haven't seen him recently.

ANDROCLES

How is it? I understood that he is now your favourite, in succession to Vitouris.

CHRISTINA

Androcles, the commander is a crude man!

ANDROCLES

You are comparing the rugged Greek ways of the commander with the delicate ways of Vitouris?

CHRISTINA

Which Vitouris. He is history.

ANDROCLES

It seems I'm far behind matters!

Christina speaks with admiration.

CHRISTINA

Androcles! You cannot imagine the courteous manners, the grace and the resourcefulness of the newly appointed French consul!

ANDROCLES

Is he a new fruit?

CHRISTINA

His name is Pier De Bergerac! He must have descended from noble families!

ANDROCLES (VO)

(Thinking)

We tread from east to west! Crash from one ditch to the next!

(CONTINUED)

ANDROCLES

Politeness is only one half good  
manners and the other half good  
lying.

EXT. HERMOUPOLIS SQUARE - DAY

Androcles watches Christina from some distance in  
Hermoupolis square.

Christina meets the LEADER OF THE ENGLISH SQUADRON (45).  
They sit on a bench and have a long chat.

ANDROCLES (VO)

(Thinking)

The reign of the French consul  
didn't last for long. The elegance  
of the French costume is now  
overshadowed by the glitter of the  
suit and the medallions of the  
leader of the English squadron.

The leader of the English squadron gets up and leaves.

Christina walks to a point in the square where a CROWD  
gather around a street improviser.

An Italian improviser REGALDI (50), is ready to start the  
show in the square.

REGALDI

Ladies and gentlemen. Thanks for  
being here with me. We'll have a  
good time today, I hope.

Regaldi addresses a young GIRL(20), who is standing in the  
front of the crowd.

REGALDI

You, young girl. Give me a subject  
you would like me to discuss.

GIRL

Marriage!

REGALDI

Natural. What else would a young  
girl be interested in? We are  
talking about a lottery. Do we have  
any lottery tickets here?

Regaldi looks around among the spectators.

(CONTINUED)

One SPECTATOR (40) shouts.

SPECTATOR  
I am here!

REGALDI  
Marriage. What is marriage? It's  
like in a restaurant. As soon as  
you are served, you are looking  
around to see what's in  
neighbouring plates.

The spectators applaud.

REGALDI  
(To the girl)  
Are you married my dear girl?

GIRL  
No.

Regaldi rubs his hands together.

REGALDI  
Oh! In that case, I'll see you  
after the show!

Regaldi winks at the girl.

The spectators jeer and laugh.

Christina moves to the front of the spectators.

REGALDI  
(To Christina)  
You, my beautiful girl, are you  
married?

CHRISTINA  
No, but I'll see you after the  
show!

The spectators laugh loudly.

REGALDI  
(angrily)  
I, make the jokes in this show  
mademoizelle.

The spectators applaude.

REGALDI

(To Christina)

OK, come on now. Ask me any question you like. No matter how difficult, I'll answer it!

Christina thinks for a while.

CHRISTINA

Is there love after death?

Regaldi is taken aback.

The spectators laugh.

REGALDI

This, I admit, is one of the most difficult questions I've ever been asked.

SPECTATOR

The young lady is giving you a hard time Regaldi!

REGALDI

If I were in your place my girl, I wouldn't wait for the next life!

The spectators laugh and jeer.

REGALDI

This is love, with the biggest value, but it wasn't born in the mind, but in fantasy!

At the end of the show the crowd scatters, and Regaldi approaches Christina.

REGALDI

Would the beautiful girl like to join me for a snack and a drink?

CHRISTINA

Yes, but I am married!

REGALDI

Then I'll be the food in the neighbouring plates in the restaurant!

CHRISTINA

You are such a glibber!

Regaldi and Christina walk towards the confectionery.

(CONTINUED)

Some passers-by watch them with curiosity.  
They reach the confectionery and sit at a table outside.  
Androcles watches them from a distance.

EXT. ANDROCLES'S HOME, VERANDA - DAY

Androcles sits with Emmanuel on the veranda of his house.

EMMANUEL

How are you? How do you feel now?

ANDROCLES

I am ashamed to admit it Emmanuel.  
Eight months have gone by since I  
got married, but I am still in love  
with my wife!

EMMANUEL

While the main reason you married  
her, was to rid yourself of the  
condition of being in love.

ANDROCLES

I am having a difficult time with  
Christina's behaviour.

EMMANUEL

Man needs difficulties, to develop  
resistances and to gain spiritual  
strength.

Androcles gets up and walks nervously up and down on the  
veranda.

ANDROCLES

Her admirers succeed each other  
like the phantoms of the mythical  
lamp.

EMMANUEL

Why don't you have a calm  
discussion about the matter with  
her.

ANDROCLES

She enchanted Regaldi and managed  
to stupefy him to such a degree,  
that not contented with the  
acrostics he wrote in her autograph  
album, he even recited on stage,

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

ANDROCLES (cont'd)  
anthems to the "siren of the  
Aegean".

EMMANUEL  
Yes, this circulated and  
scandalised many islanders.

Androcles sits back on the chair.

ANDROCLES  
In spite of all this, I'm beginning  
to become calmer. It's difficult  
for her to find the time to fall in  
love with anyone, since she  
attempts to conquer the whole  
world!

EMMANUEL  
Your thinking is logical.

ANDROCLES  
I'm beginning to gradually get used  
to the unlimited coquetry of my  
wife, and to consider it as an  
insurance against the great  
calamity, a kind of a lightning  
rod.

EMMANUEL  
Or as Chaldoupis would say a  
lightning horn!

Androcles smiles with a dose of pain.

ANDROCLES  
I seem to follow in the footsteps  
of Haldoupis!

EMMANUEL  
If you are looking to find a role  
model, you have to search among  
ordinary, humble people. Real  
greatness is the characteristic of  
those who don't boast about  
themselves and don't consider  
themselves great.

ANDROCLES  
What continues to distress me, is  
that little of her time remains for  
me.

(CONTINUED)

EMMANUEL

Don't wonder why. In love affairs,  
"why" has no logic or explanation,  
or solution.

INT. ANDROCLES'S HOME, SITTING ROOM - DAY

Androcles sits in an armchair with a book in hand.

Christina enters looking sad.

CHRISTINA

Androcles, bad news!

ANDROCLES

What happened dear?

CHRISTINA

Old Miche Lioni Legamenos is dead.

ANDROCLES

May he rest in peace. He died like  
Methuselah!

CHRISTINA

The problem is that he was related  
to all the dance officials on the  
island!

ANDROCLES

And what is the problem?

CHRISTINA

The dances will stop Androcles, due  
to the mourning!

ANDROCLES

Oh! How are we going to live  
without dances?

EXT. SYROS CEMETERY - DAY

The funeral of MICHE LIONI LEGAMENOS takes place. The coffin  
is carried at the front.

Relatives follow.

Behind the relatives many PEOPLE, including Androcles with  
Emmanuel and Christina with Helen follow.

(CONTINUED)

EMMANUEL

(To Androcles)

I heard that the nephews of the deceased will inherit more than a million!

ANDROCLES

I believe my gratitude towards the deceased, is greater than that of his nephews who inherited the million.

Emmanuel tries to hide his smile.

EMMANUEL

You will be without the nightmare of the dances for a while!

INT. ANDROCLES BEDROOM - DAY

Androcles sits on the bed holding some bonds and a newspaper.

ANDROCLES (VO)

(Thinking)

Let me check these five Hamburg lottery bonds I inherited from my deceased uncle.

Androcles stops at the third winning number. He checks again one of his bonds.

ANDROCLES (VO)

(Thinking)

The number 14517 wins five thousand florines. More than three hundred thousand Syrian drachmas.

Androcles is very happy. Runs to the kitchen.

ANDROCLES (VO)

(Thinking)

Like the misfortunes, so the good fortunes rarely hit once. I was freed from the nightmare of the dances and now I win the lottery!

Androcles calls Christina to announce the good news.

ANDROCLES

Christina, Christina, where are you my love?



INT. ANDROCLES'S HOME, KITCHEN - DAY

Androcles enters in the kitchen but Christina is not there.

ANDROCLES (VO)  
 (Thinking)  
 She must have gone out for shopping.

Androcles thinks.

ANDROCLES (VO)  
 (Thinking)  
 On second thoughts, it's lucky she is not here. She would be much more grateful to me and would better reward me, if instead of knowing that I'm now rich, she considered that I was beyond my means prepared to please her.

INT. ANDROCLES'S HOME, SITTING ROOM - DAY

Androcles and Christina are sitting in the living room talking.

Androcles is reading a newspaper.

ANDROCLES (VO)  
 (Thinking)  
 I must find a way to go to Austria to cash the winning bond without anybody knowing.

CHRISTINA  
 You are becoming more and more thoughtful my dear.

ANDROCLES  
 Dear, I must make a trip to Europe.

CHRISTINA  
 For what reason, dear?

ANDROCLES  
 I must see specialist doctors about the stomach problems I have. I was given the best names in Vienna and Hamburg.

(CONTINUED)

CHRISTINA

Androcles I want to go with you, to help you.

ANDROCLES

No my love. I am not sick. I am going for a general check up. Better stay here to look after the house.

CHRISTINA

OK my love. I'll miss you. How long will you be away?

ANDROCLES

Two to three weeks. What would you like me to bring you from Europe?

CHRISTINA

My love get me things I cannot find here. I can't wait to dazzle my friends!

Androcles gives Christina a kiss.

EXT. HERMOUPOLIS CONFECTIONERY-TEA ROOM - DAY

Christina and Helen sit at an outside table.

HELEN

How long will Androcles be away?

CHRISTINA

About three weeks.

HELEN

I hope you will not feel lonely at night!

CHRISTINA

To be able to bear loneliness and on top of that to enjoy it, is a big advantage!

HELEN

I envy you how you can deal with your marriage.

CHRISTINA

How do you get on with Emmanuel? Are we going to see you married some day?

(CONTINUED)

HELEN

Books and marriage are not compatible. Emmanuel is focused on his book writing.

CHRISTINA

Marriage is a book, the first chapter of which is written in poetry while the rest in prose!

HELEN

Said the poet!

EXT. HERMOUPOLIS PORT - DAY

Androcles returns from his trip. He gets out of the ship and walks with other PASSENGERS towards the exit.

Christina runs to embrace and kiss him.

CHRISTINA

Welcome my love. I missed you.

ANDROCLES

Dear I am glad to be with you again.

CHRISTINA

Tell me about your health.

ANDROCLES

All well. I had nothing serious. Everything was in my mind.

CHRISTINA

I'm glad darling.

INT. CHRISTINA'S BEDROOM -DAY

Christina opens the box with the presents from Androcles.

Androcles watches her and smiles.

CHRISTINA

Androcles the box is big!

Christina takes out of the box two pieces of expensive, formal fabric.

(CONTINUED)

ANDROCLES

These fabrics will be perfect for  
your new dresses!

Christina puts the fabric on her and looks in the mirror.

She then puts the fabric on the bed and takes various  
underwear out of the box.

CHRISTINA

Androcles, these things cannot be  
found here on the island!

In the bottom of the box Christina finds a smaller box with  
a necklace, bracelets and various pins.

CHRISTINA

My honey, you brought much more  
than I expected! How much did you  
spend?

ANDROCLES

I only have one love! And she is  
precious!

Androcles lies on Christina's bed and stares at the ceiling.

Christina begins to put away her presents.

ANDROCLES (VO)

(Thinking)

How smart of me to play it like  
this! My presents to her would have  
made an inferior impression on her  
had she known of my unexpected good  
fortune in the lottery!

CHRISTINA

My hubby, when I finish tidying up,  
we'll open the wine you brought to  
celebrate your arrival!

Christina gives a kiss to Androcles.

ANDROCLES (VO)

(Thinking)

I have now decoded it! An absolute  
condition for the harmonic  
cohabitation with a coquettish  
woman, is for a man to keep two  
secrets from her: Nine tenths of  
his love for her and at least half  
of his wealth.

EXT. ANDROCLES'S HOME, VERANDA - DAY

Androcles sits on the veranda of his house.

Christina brings wine and nuts and places them on a table.

ANDROCLES

The chestnut loves honey, and the  
walnut wine and the girl wants a  
kiss, rain or shine!

Christina gives a kiss to Androcles.

Androcles and Christina clink their glasses.

CHRISTINA

To your health my love!

ANDROCLES

Cheers honey. Christina, I have  
some ideas to make our life more  
exciting.

CHRISTINA

Like what dear?

ANDROCLES

I noticed that some of our ceilings  
are leaking. We must make a general  
renovation of our house.

CHRISTINA

It's a good idea, but it will cost  
a lot.

ANDROCLES

Don't worry about that. I was given  
the name of an Italian decorator  
who can advise us.

CHRISTINA

Go ahead love, I can't wait to see  
the result!

ANDROCLES (VO)

(Thinking)

The beautification of her nest,  
will surely restrain somewhat her  
fluttering outside of it.

INT. ANDROCLES'S HOME, SITTING ROOM - DAY

Christina is reading a magazine on the couch.

Androcles enters the house with the Italian decorator ORSATTI (45).

ANDROCLES

Darling let me introduce you to  
decorator Orsatti.

Christina gets up and shakes hands with Orsatti.

Orsatti bows.

ORSATTI

Nice to meet you madam.

CHRISTINA

You Italians, are renowned for your  
good taste.

ORSATTI

Madam, I have great experience in  
the subject. I worked as a stage  
designer at the theatre La Scala!

CHRISTINA

Really? We couldn't have found a  
better decorator. How do you plan  
to work?

ORSATTI

I use the five rules of art: order,  
balance, unity, contrast and  
harmony!

Christina is a bit puzzled.

CHRISTINA

You know better!

ANDROCLES

I'd like to start with my wife's  
bedroom.

ORSATTI

the most important room in the  
house!

Orsatti laughs.

The three proceed to Christina's bedroom.

INT. CHRISTINA'S BEDROOM -DAY

Orsatti examines the room and thinks.

ORSATTI

Have you any special preferences?

CHRISTINA

We would like to hear your suggestions first.

ANDROCLES

I would like to feel Christina as an idol in a temple, when I enter the bedroom.

ORSATTI

My suggestion then is to turn the bedroom into a kind of eastern harem, in imitation of Zaira, in the homonymous melodrama of Bellini.

Christina's face shines.

CHRISTINA

I find it a great idea! I read many and interesting things about the harems of the east. I wouldn't want to leave my bedroom!

ANDROCLES

This is the intention!

ORSATTI

Then if you agree, give me one week to find the materials before we start.

ANDROCLES

Go ahead my fine artist!

Androcles, Orsatti, and Christina shake hands.

EXT. HERMOUPOLIS BEACH RESTAURANT - DAY

Androcles sits with Emmanuel at a beach restaurant, having a drink.

EMMANUEL

I heard that you started the renovation of your house.

(CONTINUED)

ANDROCLES

Yes, I'm trying to offer Christina all that I think will make her happy and keep her at home.

EMMANUEL

Man, naturally loves everything new.

ANDROCLES

We'll move for two weeks to the house of my aunt who are abroad on holiday, until the decoration of our home is completed.

EMMANUEL

I wish you every success.

ANDROCLES

Thanks. Apart from the renovation, I decided to stop my work.

EMMANUEL

What are you doing? Have you thought about it?

ANDROCLES

I believe I can earn more working for myself.

EMMANUEL

Never leave your work on bad terms. Better cling on two lines. You don't know what will come up in the future.

INT. HOME OF ANDROCLES'S AUNT, SITTING ROOM - DAY

Christina and Androcles sit in the sitting room of his aunt's house.

ANDROCLES

I have good news for you.

CHRISTINA

You spoiled me, lately, with news and presents.

ANDROCLES

Orsatti informed me that the renovation is complete and today we can move into our house.

(CONTINUED)



CHRISTINA

I can't wait to see the final  
result!

Christina kisses Androcles.

EXT. ANDROCLES'S HOME, OUTSIDE MAIN ENTRANCE - DAY

Androcles and Christina reach the front of their house. On the left and right of the main entrance there are two camellia plants in big pots.

Androcles shows the plants.

CHRISTINA

Androcles, camellia is my favourite  
plant!

ANDROCLES

I know, that's why I bought them  
for you.

Androcles opens the door.

INT. ANDROCLES'S HOME, SITTING ROOM - DAY

Androcles and Christina enter the sitting room.

Androcles walks to the bookcase.

ANDROCLES

Come have a look at this!

Androcles opens an album of postage stamps to show  
Christina.

CHRISTINA

Stamp collection! It's so large! It  
will take me ages to examine it.

ANDROCLES

Here you will find rare postage  
stamps.

Androcles leaves the album and picks two magazines.

ANDROCLES

I bought you a subscription to the  
fashion magazines, Chronique  
Elegante and Vie Parisienne!

(CONTINUED)

CHRISTINA

Androcles, these are the best fashion magazines of Europe! My next dresses will be made from these designs.

Androcles moves further and shows an instrument.

ANDROCLES

Now, come and have a look at this instrument I bought for you. Do you know what this is?

CHRISTINA

Looks like a telescope to me. Are we going to study the stars?

ANDROCLES

Keep your eyes on the stars and your feet on the ground.

Christina kisses Androcles.

CHRISTINA

I tie my chariot to you. My star!

ANDROCLES

It's not a telescope. It's a stereoscope. Come look through this eyepiece.

Christina looks through the stereoscope.

CHRISTINA

Androcles, the depth is fantastic!

ANDROCLES

I got you many pictures so you can watch and enjoy.

CHRISTINA

Thanks, my dear.

Androcles walks to the corner of the room.

ANDROCLES

Look what we have here!

In the corner of the room there is a kitten sleeping on a rug.

(CONTINUED)

CHRISTINA

Oh, it's so sweet my darling!

ANDROCLES

A kitten is, for the animal kingdom  
what a bud is for the garden.

CHRISTINA

Now we have a pair.

Androcles proceeds to the other side of the room.

ANDROCLES

Come, look at this!

Androcles shows Christina a new piano.

ANDROCLES

You have a piano with a tail. Now I  
got you one without tail so you can  
practice more.

CHRISTINA

Androcles, darling thank you. I'll  
need a learning book to practice.

ANDROCLES

I got you something better. I  
arranged for you to have private  
piano lessons with the best piano  
teacher on the island.

Christina is excited. She kisses Androcles.

Somebody knocks on the door.

ANDROCLES

Ah, this must be Orsatti. I asked  
him to come himself to explain his  
work.

Androcles opens the door and welcomes Orsatti.

ANDROCLES

Welcome my artist. Please come in.

Orsatti enters.

ORSATTI

(To Christina)

My respects madam.

Orsatti bows.

CHRISTINA

Thank you. We would like you to explain to us your thinking behind the decoration. I want to be able to explain to my girl friends.

ORSATTI

With pleasure madam!

Androcles, Christina and Orsatti walk to the bedroom.

INT. CHRISTINA'S BEDROOM -DAY

The three enter the bedroom.

Androcles and Christina examine the decor with admiration.

ORSATTI

Zaira, on which the decor is based, is a romantic melodrama which takes place in the sultan's harem. The sultan falls in love with a Christian girl.

Christina embraces Androcles.

CHRISTINA

Our marriage is a romantic melody!

Orsatti points to the wall paintings

ORSATTI

Look at these wall paintings. The scene is placed in an idyllic setting, near a lake and a forest.

ANDROCLES

The trees, the water and the birds make the setting beautiful.

ORSATTI

The heavy curtains from Bursa, direct us to an eastern harem setting!

Orsatti points to the curtains.

ORSATTI

The divan is covered with a golden laced fabric, which I managed to obtain from an old pontifical costume.

(CONTINUED)

Christina feels the fabric of the curtains and of the divan.

ORSATTI

Here we have a Persian brazier,  
stools with mother of pearl  
stickers and a silver-plated  
byzantine font, converted to a  
grand vase!

Androcles looks at the golden censer at the corner of the  
room.

ANDROCLES

The aloe incense, burning in the  
golden censer, completes the  
solemnity of the temple!

Orsatti points to the blue candle light at the other end.

ORSATTI

In combination with the shining of  
the sapphire candle light.

Androcles goes to the candle light and changes the glass  
with others of different colours.

ANDROCLES

Like Darwin did research on the  
growth of vegetation, I want to try  
the effect on the senses and the  
fantasy of every colour variation.

Androcles changes the glass of the candle light while  
Christina and Orsatti watch.

ORSATTI

Red is sweet and the greenish blue  
poetic.

ANDROCLES

but by far more stimulating is I  
think the golden yellow, shining  
through the candle light!

CHRISTINA

Darling, it's a dream. I admire the  
way he managed to arrange  
everything with such a tasteful  
manner!

ANDROCLES

We must congratulate him for the  
exact application of the rules of

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

ANDROCLES (cont'd)  
antithesis, of the colours and the  
distribution of light, so that the  
eye is charmed rather than dazzled.

Androcles and Christina congratulate Orsatti.

ORSATTI  
Thank you very much. There's  
something else that can supplement  
the mystagogy of entering the  
temple, with the indulgence of the  
sense of taste, if you are  
interested.

ANDROCLES  
Of course, we are interested.  
Please explain.

ORSATTI  
There is a cook on the island, who  
specialises in the excitement of  
the sense of taste. She is the  
Milanese cook of the bishop of  
Upper Syros.

ANDROCLES  
Please get her to come to see us.

ORSATTI  
She is famous throughout Cyclades  
for her ravioli, prawn soup and  
Lenten capon.

ANDROCLES  
Thank you. We can't wait to meet  
her.

Orsatti leaves.

INT. ANDROCLES'S HOME, KITCHEN - DAY

MILANESE (45), the plump cook, is in the kitchen with  
Christina and Androcles. She is preparing breakfast for the  
couple.

Milanese places the eggs in boiling water and begins to sing  
Ave Maria.

MILANESE  
Ave Maria, gratia plena,  
Dominus tecum.  
Benedicta tu in mulieribus...

(CONTINUED)

Androcles and Christina watch with interest.

Milanese finishes the singing and takes the eggs out of the pan.

ANDROCLES

Apart from being a cook you are also a good soprano!

MILANESE

Eggs cook just right after reciting two Ave Marias.

CHRISTINA

Fist time we hear this. What other tricks do you know?

Milanese begins to serve breakfast.

MILANESE

I trained the fishermen to kill the mullet fish with a needle, as soon as they come out of the net.

ANDROCLES

Why is that?

MILANESE

To avoid the spasms of a long agony, give their flesh a bitter taste.

CHRISTINA

Now that you mention it, it sounds reasonable.

MILANESE

The red snapper I boil in all sorts of aromatic herbs, in the broth of unripe oranges.

ANDROCLES

We'd like to try all of these.

MILANESE

The turkeys, or kourkous as the Syrians call them, I feed for three days with cloves before they are slaughtered.

ANDROCLES

Which is your best dish?

(CONTINUED)

MILANESE

Ah, my masterpiece is capon magro  
or lent capon, invented by pope  
Clement Gaganelli.

CHRISTINA

Lent capon? What is this?

MILANESE

It's a fish served with oysters,  
prawns and various other sea  
shells.

Androcles sighs.

ANDROCLES

Even though I come from Syros I am  
neither greedy nor a heavy eater. I  
appreciate a good meal above all,  
for the merry condition of the soul  
that follows, which makes us forget  
our troubles and see all the life's  
joys through a magnifying glass.

MILANESE

I heard Mr. Androcles, that the  
unhappiness and indignation of the  
bishop of Upper Syros is such that  
he is considering to indict you to  
the consul, for proselytism.

ANDROCLES

Don't worry about the bishop, I'll  
deal with him!

Milanese serves tea in silver utensils.

CHRISTINA

Dear how much did you spent for  
these silver utensils?

ANDROCLES

six hundred drachmas.

CHRISTINA

Pity you spent so much money. For  
that amount I could have made a  
velvet dress.

ANDROCLES

Make the dress.

Christina jumps with joy. Gives Androcles a kiss.



EXT. ANDROCLES'S HOME, VERANDA - DAY

It's late afternoon just before sunset. Androcles and Emmanuel sit on the veranda having a drink.

EMMANUEL

Have you discovered the meaning of life, eventually?

ANDROCLES

I'm thinking if we should take life seriously. In anyway, nobody comes out of life alive!

EMMANUEL

Pleased with life are those who haven't lived it. You seem to live yours intensely.

ANDROCLES

I did everything for Christina. I satisfy all her wishes. I converted her nest into a temple of pleasure.

EMMANUEL

The things you do with pleasure, mark your life. Be happy, eat, drink, consider today, your day and leave all else to fate.

ANDROCLES

Milanese creates the appropriate mystagogy, prior to the entrance in that temple of pleasure, with the Lucullan meals which she prepares for us.

EMMANUEL

For his happiness, apart from the need of the enjoyment of some things, man needs hope, effort and change.

ANDROCLES

Around a luxurious dinner table, I enjoy the blessed condition which emerges when all my senses are stimulated. Feeling the warmth of the fire, seeing the reflection of the light on the silver and crystal utensils, smelling the scent from the vases and the ocean aroma of the shells, enjoying two or three

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

ANDROCLES (cont'd)  
glasses of mature wine, in the presence of a young lady whose face gradually lights up and whose looks sparkle.

EMMANUEL  
To characterise something as beautiful, it must stimulate your admiration and trigger your pleasure centres.

ANDROCLES  
Christina does not of course belong to the genus of the doves or pigeons, but rather to that of the peacocks. Her ambition seems to be focused to the dazzling of the island women, with the luxury of her gowns and to sawing around its edges a crowded line up of admirers.

EMMANUEL  
Lucky for you, of these admirers, the foreign celebrities are fortunately migrating and unfeathered by old age birds, whereas the local young community's sensuous conversations have a close resemblance to the erotic couplets found in candied sweets.

ANDROCLES  
No matter how moderate I am Emmanuel, I cannot underestimate my conviction and trust, on my own superior marital qualities: the acquiescence, the pretentiousness, the patience, the lack of any demand, and the willingness to pay all bills.

Emmanuel watches Androcles fall into a kind of trance.

Androcles day dreams about Christina's feats in the dances.

ANDROCLES (VO)  
(Talking in his trance)  
It is true that I suffer a lot, when I see her, rub her naked shoulders against the golden epaulets of a marine officer.

(CONTINUED)

Brings in his mind the meetings with her admirers.

ANDROCLES (VO)  
(Talking in his trance)  
To withdraw in a corner and whisper  
for long periods behind her fan,  
with foreign charges d'affaires.

He recalls the return to their house in the early morning hours, after the dances.

ANDROCLES (VO)  
(Talking in his trance)  
To say good night to me, soon after  
our return home from the dances.

But he imagines himself holding the reins steadily.

ANDROCLES (VO)  
(Talking in his trance)  
Experience has taught me to examine  
matters from both angles. The other  
angle being that if her behaviour  
towards me was different, my love  
for her would of course be much  
less, since love can only be kept  
flourishing through distrust,  
jealousy and worry.

He imagines himself to flirt with Christina.

ANDROCLES (VO)  
(Talking in his trance)  
My former humble opinion that  
happiness can be achieved by the  
discarding of such worries, was  
overturned completely when I came  
to realise the importance of these,  
in the acme of satisfaction.

He imagines making love with Christina.

ANDROCLES (VO)  
(Talking in his trance)  
Unfair and somewhat ungrateful  
would be to complain about my  
wife's behaviour, because she does  
exactly what she has to do, to make  
her kisses sweeter. If I had an  
everyday wife, I would not have a  
part time superior quality lover.

The sun sets.

(CONTINUED)

ANDROCLES (VO)

(Talking in his trance)

I find fault in those grumbling  
men, who declare the world badly  
designed, because roses have  
thorns. Instead of grudging, I  
think it would be black  
ungratefulness not to glorify God,  
considering that I am still under  
thirty years old, I have an income  
of thirty thousand drachmas, thirty  
firm teeth in my mouth, an ostrich  
stomach, a wife capable of  
incarnating the dreams of a  
Sybarite, and a cook, for whom  
Talleyrand would be envious.

The sky turns red in the west. A full moon rises from the  
sea.

ANDROCLES (VO)

(Talking in his trance)

I see my life move forward, as a  
parade of good dinners, see-through  
clouds of veil, sparkling black  
eyes and multi-coloured  
candlelight.

END

FADE OUT