

PLAGUE FLOWERS

THE KALEIDOSCOPE

by Utku Mert Top

Setting:

In 2036, when everything means money. The poor work hard to earn money, the rich just amuse themselves uselessly. In a crowded city, no one respects each other. Crime rate is high because of poverty.

Characters:

MATTHEW: 19, 185cm tall, weak, wavy long brown hairs, easily be obsessed, unemployed for 1 year, known as weird, usually wears black, listens to too much music especially Ne Obliviscaris.

BRIAN: 48, 183cm tall, short brown hair, obsessed with earning money, worked in several jobs, Matthew's father, divorced 10 years ago, always stressful, fussy.

CHARLES: 24, 187cm tall, buzz cut, wears leather jacket, has a mansion and sports car, spoiled, lost his father 2 years ago, loves to party.

ELWIN: 25, 172cm tall, slim, goatee bearded, wears pink shirt and blue jeans, sneaky.

SCENE 1

(At 9 O'clock, the only sound heard on the streets was the barking of dogs. A small and cluttered all rooms flat, dark green color is dominant, some spooky vibes. MATTHEW is laying on an old dark green sofa and listening to "Forget Not" from Ne Obliviscaris. He hears that his father has come home. BRIAN shuts the door and steps in hurry, again. He comes inside.)

BRIAN: *(while taking off his jacket)* You didn't do anything again, right?

(MATTHEW lifts one side of the headphone, knowing what he will say. He doesn't answer BRIAN.)

BRIAN: I am working all day. You are just laying and listening to music. When will you be useful, if you don't go to university go and work on something. Learn to earn money.

(MATTHEW is fed up with these speeches and he has had enough of this.)

MATTHEW: *(furiously)* I explained myself to you one time and you didn't listen to me. Now I am repeating; I want to work on what I like, I don't want to do something just for its money, like you.

BRIAN: *(mockingly)* Hah, you can earn money and you don't want to earn money now, waiting for what you like, right? So if you want you can?

MATTHEW: Why not, I just want to spend my life doing what I like.

BRIAN: *(Comes closer stands him up and holds his neck furiously)* So you want to watch how our lives are spent in poverty? I am working in these nonsense jobs because of caring for you then you say these words. Should I have left you like your mother did?

MATTHEW: She left us because of your ridiculous addictions. I am here because of the court's decision. I just want to find my happiness like being a guitarist. Can't you just wait until I start playing guitar in a group?

BRIAN: *(torn between sadness and anger)* So you didn't want to be with me...
(waits for a few seconds)

MATTHEW: I didn't wa-

BRIAN: *(shouting furiously)* Go away wherever you want, you little dreamer!! You can't live 2 days without me. You and earning money... Hah. Go away now, try to find money, maybe you will understand what money means.

MATTHEW: *(Believing himself)* Okay, okay, I'll show you that I can earn money and doing what I like is not impossible. You are scared to do what you like because you don't believe yourself about doing what you like. You are scared that you can't succeed and couldn't earn money. I believe in myself and I will achieve it, you'll see...

(MATTHEW takes his phone, earphone and wallet then he leaves his old home. Now his only decision is earning money and showing his father that he can earn more money than his father.)

SCENE 2

(MATTHEW walks thoughtfully on silent, lightless streets. It's 4 am. Outside is cold but MATTHEW doesn't feel because of his anger, his thoughts stay hot. He plans what he will do. He is not scared because of loneliness. In contrast, he is feeling more alive than ever. MATTHEW sees a stranger in a narrow street. Laying on trash cans in an expensive suit. MATTHEW approaches him.)

MATTHEW: Hey, hey... Can you hear me?

CHARLES: *(Wakes up)* Who... who are you?

MATTHEW: A random "useless" teenager. You are looking drunk, what happened to you?

(MATTHEW extends his hand to CHARLES.)

CHARLES: *(Mumbling)* What happened to me? How did I come here? I don't know. Last we were at a party as far as I can remember. Oh... It was ELWIN, we argued because of gambling. I'll show him doing this to me.

MATTHEW: Stop thinking about him, you will do what you do later. I can help you to go home, if you want?

CHARLES: That would be nice. Take my car key, the car must be near.

MATTHEW: Wait, I don't have a driver's license.

CHARLES: Ah, don't worry. All the police know me, they won't do anything to us.

(MATTHEW sits in the driver seat, CHARLES sits near. MATTHEW tries to start the car, but he doesn't know how to. CHARLES shows him then starts to drive erratically. CHARLES says where to go, MATTHEW drives. While focusing on driving he thinks about how he will get money by using CHARLES.)

SCENE 3

(It's the next morning, they wake up in CHARLES's mansion. It's huge and magnificent. Everywhere is made of gold or silver plated. CHARLES and MATTHEW sit at the dining table where the waiter has prepared breakfast. They sit face-to-face and start speaking while eating.)

MATTHEW: So, who is ELWIN that you said yesterday?

CHARLES: Who, ELWIN? Did I speak about him yesterday?

MATTHEW: No, you just said It was because of ELWIN, but you didn't say more.

CHARLES: Yeah, I hate him. He always cheats on gambling. At the last play I got very angry then they beat me. I was alone there, It didn't finish there.

MATTHEW: I can help you with this. What he does usually, maybe we can find some weakness then catch him.

CHARLES: *(sarcastically)* What can you do for me?

MATTHEW: *(self confidently)* You underestimate that someone doesn't have to lose anything. I can do whatever you want if it's beneficial for me too.

(They discussed the plan all day and found a brilliant solution, CHARLES wants to be richer, more powerful than ELWIN. They decided to implement their plan for next saturday night at approximately 9 o'clock.)

SCENE 4

(In a casino where it is very luxurious, tables made of gold plated and cards made of diamond. ELWIN and others gambling and MATTHEW watches them from far away. ELWIN wins the tour and one of them loses all his money. He starts shouting furiously because of ELWIN. Then they kick him out. MATTHEW comes to play.)

ELWIN: New player came to lose, nice. I'll take all your money too.

MATTHEW: We'll see who's gonna take all money

(They play many games, other players eliminated but ELWIN and MATTHEW are still playing to be the winner, Game evolves to not just for money, it's an honor problem for ELWIN now. He is new here and ELWIN can't lose to him. One last play, they both put all their money. With minimal difference, MATTHEW wins all the money.)

MATTHEW: *(sarcastically)* Hah, you can cry at your home tonight, if you can go.

ELWIN: How... How can it be possible... You cheated, you little stupid did you decide to deceive me? GUYS! Come here he is a cheater. Show him what cheating means. Wait, I am coming too, I wanna kick him too!

(ELWIN'S men forcing him to move outside.)

SCENE 5

(At the back of the casino, in an autopark. Where it is dimly lit, a few cars are parked. Somewhere that casino's dirty jobs have been done there. They forcefully dragged MATTHEW there. Suddenly CHARLES and his men appear behind cars)

CHARLES: *(Shouting furiously)* Could you recognise me, you dishonored stupid?

ELWIN: *(Shouting)* I was waiting for you, loser!

(A huge strike occurs, MATTHEW escapes inside to the casino. many people have died, both ELWIN and CHARLES are hiding to avoid getting injured.)

SCENE 6

(After 30 minutes, the strike has calmed enough. There are a few men alive. Suddenly MATTHEW and some guys who have guns move to the strike field. They

kill other men and capture ELWIN and CHARLES alive. MATTHEW's plan works better than he thought. MATTHEW takes one of the guns and shoots their feet)

MATTHEW: Take them inside the casino, I'll speak with them.

CHARLES: You sneaky dog, I took you to my home.

MATTHEW: For your dirty jobs... Anyway, thanks for helping.

(Both are injured in their feet and ELWIN faints. MATTHEW's men drags them to the car forcefully.)

SCENE 7

(They both come to the next morning. In an abandoned house, one sits in a corner, another one sits in another corner, they are quarreling. MATTHEW comes inside slowly)

MATTHEW: Good morning guys. Don't be scared, I won't do anything, if you give me what I want. Actually I don't want too many things. Just some money to appreciate myself to someone.

ELWIN: *(furiously)* You took all my money at gambling, now you want more money? I don't have anything to give.

MATTHEW: Don't worry, I just want to appreciate myself to someone, so you give me all your houses and cars then when I show him I'll give back to you. However, of course I will get a little money too.

ELWIN: *(Shouting more furiously)* Do you think I am a stupid? I would never accept that, but I don't know CHARLES, he may seem stupid.

CHARLES: *(scoffed)* I won't accept for sure too.

MATTHEW: Sooo... it seems like you can't help me.

(MATTHEW turns around and walks out slowly, suddenly takes the gun from his belt, and shoots ELWIN'S other foot. ELWIN is writhing in pain.)

MATTHEW: I am sad that you can't help me. You CHARLES are you thinking the same as ELWIN?

CHARLES: *(fearfully)* Wait, wait... Take what you want okay? Don't do something to me please.

MATTHEW: What a kind gesture. You ELWIN, what do you think?

ELWIN: *(Quietly)* Take what you want...

(MATTHEW leaves the room, some minutes later he comes with a lot of papers and a pen.)

MATTHEW: *(severely)* Now sign these papers otherwise I'll have a surprise for you.

SCENE 8

(ELWIN flashbacks)

MATTHEW: Hey, who is ELWIN? I have to find him, it's very necessary.

SOMEONE at casino: Look, this is ELWIN, but be careful he is known as sneaky.

(MATTHEW approaches ELWIN.)

MATTHEW: Hey, ELWIN! CHARLES is trying to kill you, I can help you to finish him, I have a plan if you want.

(Suddenly ELWIN realizes he said the same to CHARLES too. MATTHEW's all plans were excellent. He wins at gambling, with this money rents men to dominate them, but it is too risky. Why does he want all these things, just for show to someone, he sacrifices his life to show someone that he succeeded?)

SCENE 9

(After 30 minutes, they sign all papers, MATTHEW takes them and gives them to his men.)

ELWIN: *(Shouting behind them)* Showing to that guy you succeed is important as hell, yea?

(MATTHEW comes back when he hears it)

MATTHEW: I dedicated my life to show him that I can get money more than thousands times instead of him.

CHARLES: You become more monster than us. At least we were enjoying our lives, you are just suffering for a meaningless cause.

MATTHEW: Thanks for reminding me.

(MATTHEW shoots both of their heads and kills them. Now he is very rich, he can show to his father that he can earn money.)

SCENE 10

(MATTHEW has been searching for his father for 29 years but he couldn't find any hints where he could be. His hopes are lessening day by day. MATTHEW

listens to music all day after looking for his father. He buys many guitars, however he doesn't know how to play. He doesn't have any friends. Sometimes he calls musicians to his mansion and listens to them live. He has waiters to do jobs for him such as buying things and cooking. He has had enough of this life and decides to go out by himself. He goes to their old home, old market, he buys some apples and wanders around while eating. While looking at his old home a stranger approaches.)

STRANGER: Hey, why are you looking there, do you know BRIAN?

MATTHEW: *(Shocked and excited)* Y...yes... Do you know him, where is he?

STRANGER: He didn't pay my rent and burned the house. Then they found his bones in ruins, and he killed himself. Such a stupid man...

(MATTHEW flashbacks all his life. His old home, his father's grumbles and especially that night when he had a challenge for himself: show to his father that he can earn money if he wants. Now all his efforts are gone for nothing, there is not a winner. As ELWIN said, he didn't enjoy it either. He has dreams like being a guitarist. He could neither show his father that he can earn money nor be a guitarist.)

SCENE 11

(MATTHEW goes home and takes his favorite guitar that was signed by Ne Obliviscaris's guitarist. Then he goes to his old abandoned and burned home. Sits his old dark green sofa ,which is burned now, and plays guitar without knowing how to play all day. He sleeps there, with his money which is in his pocket he buys food enough for living. While he is playing guitar all day, new MATTHEWs ruined his all richness. Now MATTHEW has become the person he struggled the most, BRIAN. Only difference is their hobby and MATTHEW doesn't need to work to earn money, for now. Both didn't enjoy their lives, worked for temporary jobs then when they got older, loneliness became hard. MATTHEW is

now 48 and still doesn't know how to play guitar. That was his biggest dream. At this age he isn't willing now, he is playing his guitar with his possible potentials' burden. One day he sees a child approximately 8 years old who is playing guitar on the street with his all willing. He is really enjoying it and his dad is proud of his ability to play. Suddenly MATTHEW can't stop himself and runs to him then he hugs the child strongly.)

MATTHEW: *(looks like he got crazy)* I understand you, I understand you...