

THE FATAL SEPTET

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English version by Fernanda Sampaio

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REALIZAÇÃO



FATAL SEPTET

by Alex Cassal

THE PRINCE – An old soldier who looks like a 12-year-old boy.

SYNONYM – A different person in each scene - different bodies, colors, genders, sizes, ages.

PRST – An alien. Fights well. No need to have special features distinguishing him from the others, just his language.

MILENA – We can hear her thoughts (OFF). She hears bodies.

THE JAGUAR – Runs fast.

PENELOPE – Jumps time, forward and back.

ROMULUS - Dies in the first scene.

ROMULA – Romulus's sister, a new member of the Fatal Septet. What are her powers?

01. APOCALYPTIC BATTLE

(APOTHEOTIC MUSIC, SOUNDS OF DESTRUCTION, BLINDING LIGHT. SEVEN STATIC SILHOUETTES POSING FOR AN HEROIC BATTLE, SOME ON THE GROUND, EACH HOLDING THE OTHER UP.)

ROMULUS - They are right ahead. Everyone ready.

PRINCE – We have rehearsed this a dozen times.

JAGUAR - They are fucked.

PENELOPE - This has already happened.

(DARKNESS. SILENCE.)

02. PUBLIC HEARING

(ON STAGE SEVEN CHAIRS. ONE CHAIR IS EMPTY, THE OTHERS ARE TAKEN BY THE SURVIVING MEMBERS OF THE FATAL SEPTET. THE PUBLIC RELATIONS GUY IS STANDING, WRITING ON A CLIPBOARD.)

JAGUAR - ... then it was hell. Five hundred demons running towards us like roaches escaping from pesticide. They drooled and farted. That giant bowling ball...

PENELOPE – It was one of the Kauravas. His name is Duryodhana, “the unconquerable one”.

JAGUAR – The Karauva Bowling Ball started to send off lightning bolts all over the place. He was blind, but still threatened to crush everyone like pancakes. So I saw that crack on the surface of the ball. I sped up, I couldn’t feel the ground or the below the soles of ...

PRST – Uoy ylno tog ot Avuarak esuaceb ew erew gnihctaw ruoy kcab.

JAGUAR – I do not need anyone to watch my back. I'm the Jaguar. I manage alone. I run so fast that I can go to the corner and back in the blink of an eye. I'm serious. Get ready. (PAUSE) See? I didn't even sweat.

MILENA (OFF) – He doesn't always show off like this. He only does it because you are here.

PUBLIC RELATIONS GUY (TO THE PUBLIC) – For you who have just arrived, this is the public hearing to discuss the events concerning the last mission of the Fatal Septet. I take this opportunity to reiterate what is common knowledge: We have won. The ancient gods have been driven back to the negative dimension. We've resurrected all zombie cell phones, communication has been restored. The Eiffel Tower is being repaired and Cuba has been found, floating in the Pacific current.

PRINCE – Let's move forward, brats. It's your turn to speak, Synonym.

SYNONYM – Hum, no. I'm not comfortable with this body. I need to go to the loo.
(HE EXITS.)

JAGUAR – Talk about freak transformer.

PRINCE – Now you've done it. What a mess. You go, Milena.

MILENA – (PAUSE. SHE DOESN'T KNOW WHAT TO DO. OFF) You are all looking at me. You want me to talk about Romulus. I must concentrate. (LIVE) I ... hear the sounds of 250 live bodies. (OFF) Your hearts beating. Hairs growing. The stomachs. Some are hungry. Your hands, nails.

JAGUAR – She can hear ingrown nails.

MILENA (OFF) – Stupid.

JAGUAR – She's nuts about me.

MILENA – Stupid kid. (OFF) I can put you to sleep and make you dream about me.

PENELOPE – He's really stupid. (TO THE PUBLIC) All this has already happened. Or is going to happen. Sometimes it's hard to know the difference. I get mixed up with the parallel realities that I see when I leap through time. I'll show you.

(TIME LEAP, JAGUAR AND PRST ROLL ON THE GROUND AND WRESTLE.)

JAGUAR – What's up with Romulus, hu?

PRST – Ydeeps!

JAGUAR – Don't call me speedy!

PUBLIC RELATIONS GUY – ... what if we tried to redirect all this energy? Hit a pillow, for instance?

PRINCE – This is one lame public hearing.

MILENA (OFF) – One is too fast, the other is too strong. They can't win. (LIVE) They can't control themselves. It's the testosterone.

(ANOTHER SYNONYM RETURNS AND STOPS NEAR THE EXIT FROM THE SCENE.)

SYNONYM – No more toilette paper. ... Fighting, again?

PENELOPE – I'm sorry, Synonym, this time jump was really bad. I'll try again.

(TIME JUMP. THE SITUATION CHANGES. ANOTHER SYNONYM IS ENTERING WHILE THE PRINCE TALKS.)

PRINCE – I was here before. I’ve seen everything. I fought in World War I, Verdun! (THE OTHERS HAVE HEARD THESE STORIES DOZENS OF TIMES.) Young men dying like rats in the trenches! WWII, Okinawa! Japanese planes falling over our heads. Vietnam! Nicaragua! Iraq! How about you? What have you done? How many of you will be here in 2050?

PUBLIC RELATIONS GUY – Perhaps I might suggest a more positive line of conversation...

PRINCE - My rheumatism is killing me. If you don’t shut the fuck up I swear I’ll tear your fucking head out and throw it in the garbage disposer.

PENELOPE – No need to get alarmed. The Prince is always like that. I’ll try again.

(TIME JUMP.)

JAGUAR – The Karauva Bowling Ball started to send off lightning bolts all over the place.

PENELOPE – There we are. Back where we started.

JAGUAR – He was blind, but still threatened to crush everyone like pancakes. So I saw that crack on the surface of the ball. I sped up, I couldn’t feel the ground or below the soles of my Nikes. I started to pierce the big Ball in every direction possible, breaking the shell apart. But he still managed to throw one more lightning bolt.

PRST –Ew erew lla ereht. Ew wonk woh ti saw.

JAGUAR – No one did anything, except me. I went ahead.

PRST – Fi ti t’nsaw rof su, uoy dluow eb daed oot. Ekil Sulumor.

JAGUAR – What’s up with Romulus?

PRST – Sulumor koot eht tlob esuaceb uoy nar touhtiw gninkniht. As lausu, ydeeps.

JAGUAR – Don’t call me speedy!

(THE JAGUAR AND PRST FACE EACH OTHER, READY TO WRESTLE.)

PRINCE – Let’s talk about what happened to Romulus and get it over with.

(PAUSE.)

MILENA (OFF) – Romulus is dead. I could hear him when he was dying.

(PAUSE.)

JAGUAR – I could almost catch him. But that last bolt caught up with him.

PENELOPE – I couldn't jump in time. When I realized what had happened, the moment had passed. And he was there, fallen on the ground.

SYNONYM – He looked like a broken Action Figure.

PRINCE – Life is tough. When I was young, we were all cannon fodder. There were hundreds, the Fatal Hundred, and only eleven survived. Eighty-nine dead. They saved the world and nobody remembers them. Collateral damage. Casualties of war. I was already here. I saw everything. I...

PENELOPE (INTERRUPTS) – Romulus was our friend. I liked him.

PRST – Sulumor saw eht tseb.

SYNONYM – Yes, the best.

PENELOPE – He knew what he had to do.

MILENA (LIVE) – He was always laughing. What a character.

JAGUAR – Romulus was great.

PRST –Eh saw nmad evarb.

PENELOPE – He never seemed to be bossing us around. Even when he was.

MILENA (OFF) – His skin smelled like freshly-ironed clothes.

SYNONYM – He was really cool.

PENELOPE – Yes, he was.

PRST – Saw.

JAGUAR – He was my friend. (PAUSE) It wasn't my fault.

(ENTERS ROMULA.)

MILENA (OFF) – Who's that?

PUBLIC RELATIONS GUY – She's your new workmate.

ROMULA – I'm the sister. Romulus's sister.

03. MACHIAVELLIAN PLOT

(ANOTHER PLACE, ANOTHER TIME, A GROUP OF SINISTER LOOKING CHARACTERS IS HAVING A MEETING.)

SINISTER 1 – All is planned. The Fatal Septet will fall into our trap. No mercy, no escape, no remorse.

SINISTER 2 - The gears are in motion.

SINISTER 3 - They are done with.

SINISTER 4 – Screw the Septet.

SINISTER 5 - “It was a bright cold day in April, and the clocks were striking thirteen”.

SINISTER 2 - Confusion and terror will buckle the Septet’s knees.

SINISTER 4 - We are the new trend. Type 2.3.

SINISTER 1 - They will be crushed like insects.

SINISTER 3 – We will tap dance on their heads.

SINISTER 5 - The heel of our boots will stomp on human faces, forever.

SINISTER 2 - A new concept creates a new reality.

SINISTER 5 - Love is hate.

SINISTER 4 - They are screwed.

SINISTER 5 - Life is death.

(THE OTHERS LOOK AT EACH OTHER, A LITTLE UNCOMFORTABLE.)

SINISTER 5 - Ignorance is strength.

(ONE OF THE SINISTERS PULLS SINISTER 5 ASIDE AND WHISPERS TO HIM.)

SINISTER 4 – He is in a dystopian wave. 1984 like. But we are businessmen.

SINISTER 2 - We're just starting, but we have good ideas.

SINISTER 3 - It's strictly business.

SINISTER 4 - We are expanding our markets. Savage capitalism like.

SINISTER 1 – Business pirates. Attack and destruction.

SINISTER 2 - Take advantage of the expansion of the bubble.

SINISTER 3 - Structures that do not adapt to change are eliminated.

SINISTER 4 - Let's reengineer the Septet. Carnage like.

SINISTER 5 - Two times two will always equal five, forever.

(THIS TIME THE OTHERS ARE REALLY UPSET WITH SINISTER 5. TEMPERS RISE. THEY ARE INTERRUPTED BY A DOOR OPENING. WE HEAR AN ADULT VOICE CALLING.)

MOM – Junior, your milk shake's ready! Bring your friends over for tea!

(NEW WAVE OF EMBARRASSMENT.)

SINISTER 1 – The Septet is screwed.

SINISTER 4 – Screwed like.

04. THE NEW FATAL SEPTET MEMBER
(RESUMING THE SCENE WHERE IT STOPPED.)

ROMULA – I am the sister. Romulus's sister.

PRST – Uoy emac rof eht larenuf?

ROMULA – What did he say?

PENELOPE – You came for the funeral?

PRINCE – There isn't going to be a funeral. There's nothing left to bury.

ROMULA – They called me here to replace my brother.

JAGUAR – What a stupid idea. Simply because you are family?

MILENA (OFF) – Well, she does look like him.

SYNONYM – What can you do?

ROMULA – The same Romulus did. How about you?

SYNONYM – I'm Synonym. I displace myself through multiple self-images.

PENELOPE – And I leap through time. I can go back and forward too. (TIME JUMP) Back and forward too. (TIME JUMP) Back and forward too. (TIME JUMP) Back and forward too.

PRINCE – Stop that! These déjà-vus give me a headache!

ROMULA – Man, you guys are weird.

MILENA (OFF) – She does look like Romulus. If Romulus was a girl.

ROMULA – What are you doing?

MILENA (OFF) – You can hear me in your head. You're hearing what I think. (LIVE) And I can hear your body.

PRST – Fi ehs si ekil Sulumor, ehs tsum eb emosewa.

ROMULA – Excuse me?

JAGUAR – Awesome! He said awesome! You're a bit slow, aren't you?

PRINCE – Haven't you got any upbringing at all, brat?

PENELOPE – It will be good to have another girl.

SYNONYM – I have nothing against the girl, but if one of us gets screwed, they send a spare part right away?

ROMULA – If you don't want me here, go to hell.

PRINCE – Haven't you got any upbringing at all, brat?

MILENA (OFF) – She is not like Romulus. She's insecure.

ROMULA - Why don't you say what you're thinking to my face?

JAGUAR - You suck, bitch. This is to the face enough for you?

(JAGUAR TAKES A STEP TOWARDS ROMULA, BUT HE IS PUSHED BACK.)

ROMULA – You're not the only fast one.

(PRST HOLDS HER WRIST. THE OTHERS MOVE AROUND HER. TENSION. THE PUBLIC RELATIONS GUY MAKES DESPERATE PHONE CALLS.)

PRINCE – Rambunctious lot. Stupid.

(THE JAGUAR STARTS TO RISE. THE PRINCE STOPS IN FRONT OF HIM.)

JAGUAR – Out of the way, old geezer.

PRINCE – Apologize when you wake up.

JAGUAR – What?

(THE PRINCE TOUCHES THE JAGUAR ON THE SHOULDER, HE FALLS ASLEEP INSTANTLY. MILENA PROTECTS HIM, SUPPORTING HIS BODY TILL IT REACHES THE GROUND. THE JAGUAR'S UNCONSCIOUS BODY ON MILENA'S LAP IS REMINISCENT OF THE "PIETA" IMAGE.)

PENELOPE – This too has already happened. The seven of us together. A mortal threat. The Jaguar will die. The Jaguar will save Romulus's sister, before being hit by the girl with golden locks.

(GERAL AMAZEMENT.)

PRINCE – What?

05. LET'S GET A FEW THINGS STRAIGHT

(THE PUBLIC RELATIONS GUY SOFTLY CLEARS HIS THROAT. EVERYONE LOOKS AT HIM, HE GOES TO THE PRINCE, WHISPERS TO HIM, LEAVES HIM WITH SOME SHEETS OF PAPER AND RETURNS TO HIS PLACE.)

PRINCE – The public relations people, with their unique kind of sensibility, interrupted this moment of tension to bring a few issues to the fore. They say we must clarify these points to increase the public's empathy for our characters. I have a questionnaire here; I'll read it. Anyone can answer, I don't care. "Question 1: Why don't you wear uniforms? What kind of clothes are these for super-powered beings?" These are two questions. Bad start.

ROMULA – Is he always this grumpy?

PRST – Ll'uoy ees; s'ti hcum esrow.

PENELOPE – We don't wear uniforms because we're not soldiers.

PRINCE – I am. Lieutenant-Colonel, First Battalion, Second...

SYNONYM – You already are in the reserve.

PRINCE – Hrm.

JAGUAR – (GETTING UP) I wear cool clothes, which I like for everyday wear, but which are also comfortable to jump, run and hit people.

MILENA – But those who don't jump or run as much may wear the same outfit they'd wear at home, or in school, or at a party, if they are fashion conscious.

ROMULA – I didn't pick mine. I inherited everything from my brother.

PENELOPE – And Prst wears weirder stuff because he comes from outer space.

PRST – Sey.

PRINCE – Next question. "Two. Where are the adults?" I was born in 1899. I might just about be the oldest person in the world today.

MILENA – You are impatient and you play hard to get. (OFF) They want to know where are our parents, teachers and other adults.

PENELOPE – They're home. They get up early to go to work tomorrow.

PRST – Semitemos I klat ot ym sklof enilno. Dna I nruter ot ym tenalp yreve raey rof eht yadiloh nosaes.

ROMULA – You spend the holiday season on your planet every year. I'm beginning to get you.

PRST – Sey.

SYNONYM – What are we going to tell the elders? That we are facing cannibal gods and media conspiracy that will turn your brains into pudding. Oh, and before I forget, the world is coming to an end and we're all going to die.

PENELOPE – Grown-ups are afraid. And they're right, too. We are like those multi-legged insects with strange looks and behavior.

ROMULA – After Romulus became a teenager with super-powers, my parents and teachers looked at me as though I was a time-bomb.

PRST – A gnikcuf emit bmob.

JAGUAR – It's because we eat like animals, we have sex like animals, and, what's more, we post the photos on the internet.

PRINCE – But you will be adults too. The lucky ones. And then other animals will take your place. Boisterous. Fetid. Arrogant. And you'll have to face reality.

MILENA - (OFF) I don't know if I believe in reality.

PRINCE – Reality will grab you and rub your face on the asphalt until it bleeds. And, when that happens, I will watch and laugh. Ha! "Question Three. Can Milena read minds too?"

MILENA – (OFF) No.

PRINCE – "Four. Does Prst have a girlfriend on his planet?"

PRST – On.

PRINCE – “Five. Does the Jaguar do everything fast?”

JAGUAR – Yes. I mean, no.

PRINCE – “Six. Penelope...”

PENELOPE – Yes, since I was a child.

PRINCE – “Seven, eight, nine: Why doesn’t Synonym eat meat? Is it a diet? Or a promise?”

ROMULA – You don’t eat meat?

JAGUAR – Don’t ask.

ROMULA – Why don’t you eat meat?

JAGUAR – She asked...

ROMULA – (TO THE JAGUAR) I’m also stronger than you. Stop bothering me. (TO SYNONYM) Why?

SYNONYM – Have you ever had a dog or a cat?

ROMULA – I had a dog when I was little. She was mine, but she liked Romulus better. She slept on his bed.

SYNONYM – If you eat cows, why not eat your dog?

JAGUAR - I told you not to ask.

ROMULA - Dogs have feelings and feel pain.

SYNONYM - Cows too. And chickens. Even fish.

ROMULA – It’s not the same things. You can’t compare a chicken to a dog. Chickens are dumb.

SYNONYM – They’re alive, they feel pain, they can learn things. Does intelligence make a difference to you?

ROMULA – Not to you?

SYNONYM – Then, you can make a burger out of a brainless baby.

JAGUAR – We can also make burgers out of kids with polio.

MILENA (OFF) – And to think that it isn't even an effort to you.

JAGUAR – What isn't?

PENELOPE – (WHO, WITHOUT INTEREST IN THE ARGUMENT, WAS WRITING ON THE QUESTIONNAIRE BROUGHT BY THE PUBLIC RELATIONS GUY.) “To say anything that comes into your mind. To be unpleasant”, she says. “I can also be really unpleasant”, he says. “I'm not interested”, she says. And he makes noise with his mouth. Right now, everyone has forgotten that I predicted the Jaguar's death. And they are talking of going to the movies later. But Milena and the Jaguar will still meet later, alone.

MILENA – (OFF) Not if it depends on me.

JAGUAR – She is crazy about me.

PRINCE – Enough nonsense. Enough already with the clothes and the cows. Romulus is dead. Let's welcome Romula. She is one of us now. We are the Fatal Septet. We look into the abyss and the abyss looks back at us. And we always win. (THE OTHERS LOSE INTEREST AND START TO LEAVE.) End of the public hearing.

PRST – Re'uoy dnk fo gnorts. I tlef ti gnidloh ruoy mra.

ROMULA – You're no weakling yourself. You work out?

PRINCE (GETTING ANOTHER SHEET OF PAPER FROM THE PUBLIC RELATIONS GUY) – We receive a call for help from Alaska.

MILENA – (OFF) I think I'm getting my period.

SYNONYM – I know the feeling.

PRINCE – A mysterious illness is turning penguins into contagious bloodthirsty predators. It seems that the flocks are near the Canadian border. Prepare the snow equipment.

PRST –Ti t'nsi ruoy tluaf, ydeeps.

JAGUAR (NO LONGER ANGRY) – Don't call me speedy, you imitation Bruce Lee.

(ALL SEPTET MEMBERS LEAVE.)

PUBLIC RELATIONS GUY (TO THE PUBLIC) – Well, let's close this public hearing. On behalf of the Fatal Septet I want to thank you for your presence and interest. As everyone could see, the team remains a reliable guardian of our way of life and bodily integrity. We're sure that the new member will have as brilliant a career as her brother. But a longer one, of course. The following scenes are confidential because they involve strategic procedures and training methods. Thank you, ladies

and gentlemen. Good evening. Don't forget to take the program on your way out.
Good evening.

(PUBLIC RELATIONS GUY WAITS A MOMENT, SO EVERYONE CAN LEAVE. HE PICKS UP THE ABANDONED SHEETS OF QUESTIONNAIRE AND READS WHAT PENELOPE HAS WRITTEN.)

PUBLIC RELATIONS GUY – "His face looks to the past. While we see ahead of us a chain of events, he sees but one single catastrophe, which unceasingly accumulates piles of debris, throwing them at his feet. He would very much like to be able to stop, wake up the dead and rebuild the ruins. But a storm is blowing from heaven, snuggling up on his wings. The storm is so strong that he can't close them anymore." Idiots. Teenagers should not have super powers.

06. LATER, SOMEWHERE ELSE.

(THE JAGUAR AND MILENA.)

JAGUAR – Are you following me? What do you want?

MILENA – I want nothing from you, you Neanthertal. What are you thinking? You don't own the...

(HE DISPLACES HIMSELF AT HIGH SPEED AND STOPS IN FRONT OF HER.)

MILENA – ...place.

JAGUAR – Have you done anything to your hair?

MILENA – No, it's the same.

JAGUAR – Cool.

MILENA – Cool?

JAGUAR – I think so. Wanna catch a movie?

MILENA – To see what?

JAGUAR – The new Tom Cruise.

MILENA – Have a stick of gum?

(HE OPENS A PACK OF GUM, BITES OFF A PIECE AND GIVES HER THE OTHER PIECE.)

JAGUAR – Are you on time with your report?

MILENA – Almost. I copied Penelope's.

JAGUAR – Can I borrow it when you're done?

MILENA (FINDS IT FUNNY) – Lazybones.

JAGUAR – You want to rest your bones up in my room?

MILENA – You wish, Boy Wonder.

JAGUAR – I have post traumatic stress disorder. Let's stay cool and relax.

MILENA – I have no idea what you're talking about.

JAGUAR – I'm cool.

MILENA – You're speedy all right.

JAGUAR – I was talking about the movie.

MILENA – Is that the one he plays a spy?

JAGUAR – Yes. Have you seen *Synonym* do Tom Cruise? Amazing.

MILENA – He was too tall.

JAGUAR – No, he was perfect.

MILENA – It was dumb what you did to *Synonym*. What you said about him being a freak transformer.

JAGUAR – He's my buddy.

MILENA – Is he now?

JAGUAR – It's a man's game. We dig each other.

MILENA – I see.

(PRST, PENELOPE AND ROMULA ENTER LAUGHING AND SOUNDING VERY CHEERY.)

PRST – Kool, tahw era eht evol sdrib gniod?

JAGUAR – Just chatting.

ROMULA – We're going to the new Tom Cruise.

JAGUAR – The one he plays a spy?

PENELOPE – And the bad guy at the end is...

MILENA – You’ve got to stop telling how pictures end. How about the Prince?

PENELOPE – He’s training murder techniques.

PRST – S’tel og?

ROMULA – Let’s go for sandwiches after.

JAGUAR – No. We’re cool.

PRST – Teg a moor!

PENELOPE – (TO MILENA) You look funny in that body.

(THE THREE EXIT.)

JAGUAR – What were you up to?

MILENA – What?

JAGUAR – Tom Cruise. Sandwiches. What’s with Romula?

MILENA – She’s Romulus’s sister.

JAGUAR – Did you know he had a sister?

MILENA – He mentioned it once.

JAGUAR – Did you and Romulus ever?...

MILENA – You’re so wrong.

JAGUAR – That’s true. He would have told me. You’re not thinking a lot, are you?

MILENA – It’s the chamomile.

JAGUAR – The gum? It’s watermelon.

MILENA – The shampoo. I use it in my hair. Does it look different?

JAGUAR – Cool.

MILENA – Cool?

JAGUAR – I think so.

(THEY KISS.)

MILENA – Why do you always play hard to get?

JAGUAR – Nobody values easy things.

07. CONSPIRACY THEORIES

(THE SINISTERS TOGETHER AGAIN. THEY DRINK MUGS OF CHOCOLATE MILK.)

SINISTER 1 – An update on our conspiracy theories. Our mate here will read the last statement from we all know who.

SINISTER 2 - "Greetings! Brothers, listen to me. A Latin American capital will be attacked soon. I've often talked about it, and the facts have always corroborated my predictions." It's true that he always gets it right. There's always some tragedy.

SINISTER 3 - How much time do we have? Should we buy more groceries and ammunition?

SINISTER 2 – Big brother is not very accurate in case his message is intercepted. Next week, perhaps. Or next year or the next.

SINISTER 4 - Terrorist attacks? Bomb like?

SINISTER 1 – Probably tsunamis and nuclear power plants accidents.

SINISTER 3 – We can calculate the exact locations and dates if we listen to the correct radio programs and collect the encoded information.

SINISTER 5 – Or if we pass the 15 levels of the Templar Knights videogame. They say a secret level appears if you kill all the big bosses.

SINISTER 1 – We'll talk about this later. Keep reading.

SINISTER 2 – "The farce of the man dying is a clear sign that they have begun turning their wheels. The images broadcast were created by the same TV crew that forged the American landing on the moon. But the man is hiding in a mansion near the border"...

SINISTER 5 - Ricardo told me on the chat that he saw the man when he was on vacation in Paraguay. He was beardless, blond and had a different nose.

SINISTER 4 – It was so obvious. We could see the Chroma Key in the background of those images.

SINISTER 2 – But they've only just begun. "The worst part is saved for the next year. The dollar is out and people are buying gold and the elite has shot a killer virus into millions of people after the swine flu craze". Did you know there was testicular cancer in those vaccines? To make everyone gay?

SINISTER 3 – Yep. You take one shot of the anti-flu shot and you’re screwed.

SINISTER 4 – The man gave some amazing interviews before he was “killed”. Really cool interviews. He talked about human cloning, mental control, the next Olympic Games and a whole bunch of info on what is, in fact, the Star Wars program.

SINISTER 1 – We have all heard that these aliens are infiltrating our society, haven’t we?

SINISTER 5 – Some of them have moved to the house next to mine. They placed antennas on the roof that same evening!

SINISTER 2 – Oh crap! They are going to take over your mind and turn you into a cauliflower.

SINISTER 4 – Those antennas are tricky. They look like normal cable television.

SINISTER 3 – Maybe you are already in their power. Transmitting in real time all we're saying to the aliens!

SINISTER 5 – Don’t freak out!

(EVERYBODY GETS UP AND SURROUND SINISTER 5.)

SINISTER 4 – What a fucking jam!

SINISTER 2 - Traitor! Turncoat!

SINISTER 3 - Let's put him in the refrigerator!

SINISTER 1 - No! Aluminum foil to interfere with the waves!

(SINISTER 5 RESISTS, BUT IS IMMOBILIZED AND ROLLED IN FOIL. A DOOR OPENS STARTLING EVERYBODY.)

MOM – Junior! What’s this noise? Sounds like a herd of bison! If you don’t behave, everyone will have to go home!

(THE DOOR CLOSES. THE FIGHT GOES ON, BUT EVERYONE, INCLUDING SINISTER 5, MAKE AN EFFORT TO BE SILENT. FINALLY, THEY LEAVE THEIR MATE ROLLED UP, WRITHING IN A CORNER.)

SINISTER 2 – What a jam!

SINISTER 3 – They are everywhere. You can’t even ride the subway, and they have also taken over youtube.

SINISTER 1 – Obama’s working for the IMF and for the Jews.

SINISTER 4 - Jewish aliens.

SINISTER 1 - Jewish aliens.

SINISTER 3 – And queer.

SINISTER 1 – Jewish queer aliens. Obama uses techniques of mass hypnotism. Speaking slowly ... repeating positive words ... to quiet our mind ... and leave subliminal messages stored in the brain, ready to be activated by a keyword.

SINISTER 2 – Look what else does Big Brother say: "No one is safe, no country will be spared. Get together in large groups, as large as you can manage, buy automatic weapons and go fight. They will steal all your money and kill your family and let your girlfriend be gang raped by AIDS-ridden orangutans. This is my last warning and I hope you're doing what you have to do".

(PAUSE. DOOR OPENS.)

MOM – Junior! Supper's ready!

08.GET READY FOR WAR

(THE PRINCE TRAINS MURDER TECHNIQUES WITH A STUFFED DOG: A DOZEN DIFFERENT WAYS TO STAB IT, STRANGLE IT, IMMOBILIZE IT, ETC. WHEN HE BELIEVES HE'S HAD ENOUGH TRAINING, HE LOOKS TO THE SIDES TO SEE IF THERE ARE NO WITNESSES. HE ALLOWS HIMSELF A BIG TIGHT HUG ON THE STUFFED DOG.)

09. SYNONYM IS MANY

(ON STAGE ALL THE SYNONYMS WE HAVE SEEN, AND A FEW MORE WE HAVEN'T SEEN YET.)

SYNONYM – Should I eat a sandwich?

SYNONYM – I have to redo the report.

SYNONYM – Sometimes it's like something is going to happen and then it doesn't happen.

SYNONYM – Sometimes it's very dull to sleep alone.

SYNONYM – I just remembered that song.

SYNONYM – Romulus is dead.

SYNONYM – We are the Fatal Septet. We always win.

SYNONYM – How old is the Prince?

SYNONYM – The Jaguar’s an asshole.

SYNONYM – But he’s cool.

SYNONYM – What would it take to solve famine in Africa?

SYNONYM – We are growing up to be adults before our time.

SYNONYM – Hmm, I need to take a shower.

SYNONYM (TO STUFFED DOG) – What do you think of all this?

SYNONYM – That thing can copycat anything.

SYNONYM – I’m no circus attraction.

SYNONYM – I liked that little red car I had when I was a boy.

SYNONYM – Where is it now?

SYNONYM – I’ll ask mom next time I see her.

SYNONYM – Yesterday I dreamt I was somebody else.

SYNONYM – That I was an ordinary person.

SYNONYM – I’ll buy that Joker T-shirt.

SYNONYM – I’ll take a trip.

SYNONYM – I’ll fall in love with you.

SYNONYM – I could definitely eat a sandwich.

(ENTERS JAGUAR.)

JAGUAR – What are you doing there all by yourself?

SYNONYM – Just thinking.

10. POLITICAL AWARENESS

(PRST, ROMULA AND PENELOPE COME BACK, THEY’RE A LITTLE DISHEVELED, AND FIND SYNONYM AND JAGUAR.)

SYNONYM – What film was that?

PENELOPE – We didn't get to the cinema. We stopped before.

PRST –A gnikcuf ssem.

ROMULA – Exactly.

JAGUAR – How could I miss that?

PENELOPE – It was some sort of demonstration. Against government corruption, unemployment and conformism. With special guests Bono Vox, Marina Silva, Oscar Niemeyer.

PRST – Anilegna Eiloj...

JAGUAR – Was Angelina Jolie there?

PENELOPE – And that African top model, Che Guevara's granddaughter, and Zé Celso.

SYNONYM – Who?

PENELOPE – The theatre guy. He was dressed in nothing but a flag.

PRST –Elpoep erew gniworht senots. Epolenep werht emos oot.

PENELOPE – I was thrilled. Everybody was screaming and jumping. It looked like a football game or a rock concert. I saw this couple kissing. The police was pushing everyone with their shields and batons, protesters threw stones and carried sticks, and the smell of tear gas...

PRST – Sey. A gnillik hcnetns.

PENELOPE – And those two, somehow, they escaped the isolation line and were briefly alone on the stretch of street that was already empty. And they kissed. Everyone was screaming, hitting, getting hit, tearing, shoving. And they kissed as if the rest of the world wasn't there. I thought it was beautiful. Then I started to throw stones too.

JAGUAR – You're a real soap opera romantic.

MILENA (ARRIVING NOW) (OFF) – Who's romantic?

PENELOPE – I am a soap opera romantic.

JAGUAR – (TRYING TO GET CLOSE TO MILENA) Sometimes I'm a romantic too.

MILENA – (PUSHES HIM AWAY) Are you nuts?

JAGUAR – Girls...

PRST – Emos slrig koot ffo rieht strihs.

JAGUAR – Really? They took their shirts off?

MILENA (OFF) – Boys...

PENELOPE – At this point, someone threw a Molotov cocktail and it all went to hell.

JAGUAR – (TO PRST) Did you go into Steven Segal mode and kicked some butt?

PRST – Sey. I tog a yug ohw saw gniggard a lrig yb eht riah dna... .. dna neht owt srehto (STARTS TO SHOW THE MOVES HE USED). Dna owt srehto... neht a knat dna I...

JAGUAR – Awesome. (TO ROMULA) And what did you do?

PRST –Ehs saw lla nez.

SYNONYM – Romula was all zen?

PENELOPE – She didn't get in.

MILENA – No?

ROMULA – No.

JAGUAR – We want no cowards here.

PRINCE – (ARRIVING NOW) Who's a coward?

ROMULA – I'm not a coward.

MILENA (OFF) – She's no coward.

PRST – I t'ndid dnatsrednu. Ehs t'nsaw diarfa. Tub ehs t'ndid od gnihtyna.

PENELOPE – She says she didn't know why those people were fighting.

PRINCE – Absurd.

JAGUAR – Comical.

ROMULA – You guys weren't even there.

PRINCE – We don't ask why we fight. Never.

JAGUAR – You pick a side and fight. That's all.

ROMULA – You have too many certainties. I don't.

PRST –Enon fo su si erus.

MILENA – I'm never sure.

JAGUAR – You sure gave a good impression of it, when we...

SYNONYM – I am sure, then I stop being sure.

MILENA – (TO THE JAGUAR) What are you talking about?

PENELOPE – We're changing the world.

JAGUAR – (TO MILENA) The two of us.

ROMULA – Why do I have to change the world? I am only 15 years old. The elders didn't change the world, all characters from history books didn't prevent global warming, or pedophile bishops, or terrorist attacks. And now I'm the one who has to solve everything? Tough fucking luck.

JAGUAR – Romulus didn't use to have these tantrums.

PRST –Eh t'ndid.

ROMULA – Romulus is dead.

MILENA – (OFF) Why have you come here then?

ROMULA – It was expected of me. What could I do?

PENELOPE – We can do anything we want. We have super powers.

ROMULA – I do not feel I have super-powers. I can knead a pole with my hands or jump over a bus. But every time I open the newspaper I get depressed. I'm just a girl. I don't even have a boyfriend.

PRINCE – We don't get depressed.

PENELOPE – I do sometimes. It's tough to know everything that has happened and is about to happen. I feel powerless.

JAGUAR – I never feel powerless.

MILENA – I feel frustrated.

JAGUAR – I feel frustrated too.

SYNONYM – I'm kind of divided.

PRINCE – Ok. Now everyone is having a crisis. I'm too old for this.

ROMULA – I miss my brother. I feel alone.

PRST –I ssim ym emoh. Semitemos I t'nod teg yna fo uoy.

11. FAR AWAY FROM HOME

(PRST AND A GIRL. THEY BOTH COME FROM THE SAME PLANET.)

TINY – Era uoy yllaer Prst?

PRST – Ma I.

TINY – Od uoy yllaer wonk gnihtyreve tuoba gnithgif?

PRST – I wonk woh ot thgif. S'taht tahw I od. (WHILE HE SPEAKS HE GOES OVER SOME FIGHTING MOVES.) Ustijuij. EtaraK. Ufgnuk, Niloahs ro Llabnogard elyts. Arieopac. Agamvark. Gnixob. Iaht Gnixob. Oduj. Opmek. Odnewkiat. Teerts thgif. Odenukteej, Eel Ecurb elyts. Stub I osla etirw yrteop.

TINY – I ma dalg ot wonk uoy.

PRST –I ma yppah wonk uoy oot. Ew t'nera ynam ereh. S'tahw ruoy nwot?

TINY – Cndjé.

PRST – Ev'I reven neeb ereht. Si ti ytterp?

TINY – I t'nod wonk. I sseug. S'ereht a niatnuom.

PRST – (TO THE PUBLIC) Look, they do not understand. We are talking in our own language. This girl is from my planet. She's here to visit me. She doesn't know many people here. And I felt like talking to someone close to me again. We will continue this conversation in your language so you don't get bored.

TINY – On our planet, my girlfriends from school will be green with envy.

PRST – Tell them I am simple and nice.

TINY – I'll tell them. And you are.

PRST – What's your name?

TINY – Xbtellul.

PRST – She can't translate her name. Or the city name, Cndjé. She says it's pretty. There's a mountain nearby. Do you enjoy being here?

TINY – It’s colorful. More colorful than over there. I like the water. It’s funny to be able to drink it and to bathe in it. I like the dogs, when they are little. Food is good sometimes.

PRST – Did you like the chocolate?

TINY – It made me dizzy.

PRST – And movies?

TINY – I don’t yet quite understand what they say. And they don’t understand what I say. It feels like I’m a child again and I need to point to things when I want something. Also, when I talk, people’s eyes change slightly. They look the other way. Have you noticed?

PRST – I have.

TINY – Do you like living here?

PRST – I do. I want to. I want to live here. I want to walk the streets knowing they are my streets. I want to know the stories they have here and also have my own stories here.

TINY – But don’t you get...? What’s the word. Kcisemoh?

PRST – I do. But I have my friends. They understand what I say. With them I don’t feel like a child.

TINY – Do you like them? The Jaguar. The Witch? The one who’s always changing. The one who’s always smiling.

PRST – That one’s dead.

TINY – Were you afraid?

PRST – No. Only later.

TINY – Were you? You?

PRST – And I was very sad.

TINY – I was sad too, and I didn’t even know him. What did you do then?

PRST – I sang, a song from up there. From our home. (HE SINGS A LITTLE.) You know it?

(PRST AND TINY SING TOGETHER, WHISPERING.)

12. SYNONYM IS A GOOD LISTENER.

(PENELOPE TALKS TO THE STUFFED DOG.)

PENELOPE – I can't quite understand the passing of time. I mean, no matter how you look at it, time is not very stable, is it? I remember things from when I was in my mother's womb. I remember the sound she made when she was chewing. I also remember being in the sun, in a blanket, and everything was bright. Time never seemed to end then. But the time when you are with someone you want to be with, it ends when it has barely begun. And then I come back to experiencing that feeling again. And again. And again. (SMALL TIME LEAP.) And again. And when I realize it, the person I wanted to be with is already somewhere else, with the person they want to be with. I was so back there that I didn't notice. Then, I begin to wonder if I'll meet that person again and take a leap to see if I find them. (SMALL TIME LEAP.) And someone else has already sat in my chair and the film has already begun, and I don't understand the story at all. That's why I enjoy soap operas; it seems that the same thing happens all the time. Do you understand what I'm saying? You are a good listener. (TO ROMULA) Hi.

ROMULA – Hi.

PENELOPE – Did you like the room they gave you? It was Romulus'. It may not be the best room for a girl.

ROMULA – It's so him.

PENELOPE – Do you like it here? Despite the Jaguar, the Prince's bitching, and the non-conformist demonstration...

ROMULA – I'm getting used to it. I may like it. What were you doing?

PENELOPE – Talking.

ROMULA – Talking to that? (SHOWS THE STUFFED DOG.)

PENELOPE – It's Synonym. You guys met at the public hearing.

ROMULA – Synonym. Can that thing copycat anything?

PENELOPE - Yes, today he has taken the form of a dog.

ROMULA – But that's not even a dog.

PENELOPE – Of course it is. A Doberman. Can't you recognize a dog?

ROMULA – It's a stuffed dog!

PENELOPE - (IN DOUBT) Noooooo...

ROMULA – Of course it is. Look. (DROPS THE DOG).

PENELOPE – Why did you do that to Synonym?

ROMULA – It's a stuffed dog!

PENELOPE – He has taken the shape of a stuffed dog. And now you've dropped him.

ROMULA (DOESN'T KNOW WHAT TO THINK) – I'm sorry.

13. CHANGES

(MILENA AND SYNONYM.)

MILENA (OFF) – It's difficult to understand you sometimes.

SYNONYM – It's not difficult. I'm many. I can be the main character in a suspense story, a comedy, a romance, or a cyber-punk science fiction. Personality disorder as a way of life.

MILENA – (OFF) How is it when you change?

SYNONYM – It's normal. I am me, then I feel a little dizzy, and I go on being me, but different. That moment of change is what scares me sometimes. What if I lose myself between two bodies? What if I lose my way and end up somewhere else?

MILENA – Where?

SYNONYM – What if I become someone I wouldn't like to be? Someone lazy, cowardly, cheap, mediocre?

MILENA – (OFF) You'd never be like that.

SYNONYM – I don't know. Do you think mediocre people decide they are going to be mediocre? Everybody says one day I'll have to stop changing.

MILENA – Don't believe what everybody says. Believe what you know. The body knows; it organizes itself without you realizing it. What makes you trust someone you've just met? What makes you fall in love? What makes you like prawns, planes, English movies, brown-haired girls (MILENA SAYS THE COLOR OF HER OWN HAIR), rain on a warm day, sleeping with no socks on? The body knows. You are you before you know it.

SYNONYM – Do you know who I am?

MILENA (COMES CLOSER. SMELLS HIS HAIR.) – Chamomile shampoo. You are Synonym. (OFF) You are my friend, ever since we ate up a pot of ice cream together and rolled on the ground laughing.

SYNONYM – Yes, I remember.

(PAUSE.)

MILENA – (OFF) Was it good, to be me?

SYNONYM – Yes. You have a friendly body.

MILENA (OFF) – Really? (LIVE) How about the Jaguar?

SYNONYM – He’s still trying to figure it out.

MILENA – He didn’t realize you were doing me? Didn’t he suspect it?

SYNONYM – Speedy, you know. He didn’t see it coming.

(THEY LAUGH BRIEFLY.)

MILENA (OFF) – Tell me how it was. What did you do?

SYNONYM – Ah, it was normal.

MILENA (OFF) – Explain normal.

SYNONYM – You don’t know?

MILENA (OFF) – Not really.

SYNONYM – Now, that’s surprising.

MILENA – Why? What does it feels like?

SYNONYM – You are the person who can listen to bodies. I thought you were all free love, feminist, uninhibited.

MILENA (OFF) – I am, aren’t I? It just hasn’t happened. That’s all.

SYNONYM – It feels good. We were together, we got to know each other a little, we tried a little. The feeling is... I don’t know. You should try it, a little intimacy, you know. Before the Prince sends us off to face anti-matter monsters and we all die.

MILENA (OFF) – It could be now, then.

SYNONYM – Now? Here?

MILENA – If you want to be with me. (OFF) I can’t hear your body too well. Too much information.

SYNONYM – But the Jaguar likes you. And I think you like the Jaguar too.

MILENA – Personality disorder as a way of life. Don't you want me? (OFF) Ah, ok then. Your body is saying yes.

14. DAY OFF

(THE SEPTET IS HAVING FUN. THEY SING KARAOKE, THEY DANCE, THE BOYS FIGHT, THE GIRLS TRY NEW CHOREOGRAPHIES AND VICE-VERSA. THEY IMPERSONATE FILM CHARACTERS, SUPER-HEROES, POP STARS. PRINCE TALKS ENDLESSLY, WHISPERING AT ROMULA'S EAR. SHE GETS BORED AND LEAVES HIM THERE. THE JAGUAR IS EVERYWHERE AT THE SAME TIME.)

JAGUAR – Have you ever been defeated, Prince?

PRINCE – I was 12. There was a girl at school. She always had a swirling dress on and golden curls on her head. I really liked her. My friends made fun of me. They bet I wouldn't get to kiss the girl. I accepted the bet. I went to her at the break and tried to kiss her. She kicked my shin, twisted my arm, pulled my hair back and rubbed my face on the asphalt. She called me poop, piece of shit, sissy, ass face, abortion, chicken, and potty. I came home crying.

JAGUAR – Did you try to kiss her on the mouth?

PRINCE – (AFTER A PAUSE) On the cheek.

JAGUAR – Man! What a mean girl.

(ROMULA GOES TO SYNONYM AND PENELOPE.)

ROMULA – I was thinking. Can you turn yourself into very large or very small animals? Like a mosquito or an elephant?

SYNONYM – I can't turn myself into animals, dim-wit. Only people.

(ROMULA STARES AT PENELOPE IN SILENCE.)

PENELOPE – What?

JAGUAR (COMES CLOSER TO MILENA) – Listen, will you avoid me all night long?

MILENA (LIVE) – I'm not avoiding you. I'm the same as usual.

JAGUAR – How about when we were together, the two of us?

MILENA (LIVE) – It wasn't me. (OFF) And you didn't even notice.

JAGUAR – Come on! I didn't put any aphrodisiac in your beverage, if that's what you're thinking.

MILENA – (LIVE) If you want to have anything with me, you'll have to start over.

JAGUAR – And they say I'm the one who plays hard to get!

PRST –Ew era emos gnikcuf seoreh!!!

15. THE CIRCLE CLOSES

(THE NEXT DAY, THE SEPTET LISTENS TO THE PRINCE'S INSTRUCTIONS.)

PRINCE – Don't make me say it again. I have a killing hangover.

ROMULA – We had soft drinks all night.

PRINCE – Don't argue with me, newbie, or your career will be even shorter than your brother's. Today's agenda. Nine o'clock: extra-dimensional survival training. Noon: lunch. Eat your damn vegetables. Two o'clock: philosophy and dead languages class. Six o'clock: field mission. Hannah Augustine from Oklahoma says she is being tormented by a spirit who wants to destroy the world. Let's go. We solve this and come back in time for dinner.

JAGUAR (YAWNING) – Cool.

PRINCE – Also, the PR people are making some guided tours with civilians. Therefore, no walking around with no clothes on, no peeing with the door open and no drinking water from the bottle.

JAGUAR – Cool.

(THE PUBLIC RELATIONS GUY ENTERS LEADING THE GROUP OF HOODED SINISTERS.)

SYNONYM – Guided tour. Too bad I don't have my best body on today.

PUBLIC RELATIONS GUY – Excuse me, gentlemen from the Septet, we are welcoming today this excellent group of guests to see our facilities. They are nuns from a monastery in Cappadocia.

PRINCE - Nuns?

JAGUAR – A few aren't too bad, but the others look a little strange.

(ONE OF THE SINISTERS POINTS A SMALL GADGET TO THE PUBLIC RELATIONS GUY, WHO FALLS STILL TO THE GROUND.)

PRINCE – Stupid. Complacent. They are...

(THE SEPTET ARE IMMOBILIZED. ALL SINISTERS REMOVE THEIR HOODS. THEY ARE CHILDREN, OF COURSE. SINISTER 5 HAS ALUMINUM FOIL AROUND HIS HEAD.)

SINISTER 1 – Portable generator for ecstasy field. I downloaded the instructions from the internet.

SINISTER 4 – Open code like.

SINISTER 1 – We are the future. And you are the doormat upon which we will clean our feet.

SINISTER 2 – You are our meal.

SINISTER 3 - You are our toys.

SINISTER 4 – You are the hangers we’ll hang our clothes on.

SINISTER 5 – (TO MILENA) I’ll keep this one.

SINISTER 3 – They didn’t see what hit them.

SINISTER 1 - Reverse engineering. Nanobiology. Quantum terrorism. We are the new trend.

SINISTER 2 - Let's get into their computers and check out all the files.

SINISTER 4 - They will see what bullying is. Horrorshow like.

SINISTER 5 - Or the smallest ...

SINISTER 1 – (FACE TO FACE WITH THE PRINCE, FINGER UP HIS NOSE.) You are the past.

PRINCE – We are the future.

(SINISTERS JUMP BACK FRIGHTENED. THE SEPTET ARE MOVING AGAIN.)

JAGUAR – Comical.

SINISTER 2 – But...

PRINCE – We are older, meaner and tougher than you punks. We are the apocalypse style. Do you really think we wouldn’t be prepared to face anything you might bring on?

SYNONYM – The end of the world is a ride in the park for us. And you...

ROMULA – You are screwed, punks.

SINISTER 3 – This isn’t happening.

PENELOPE – You were already screwed before the show started.

MILENA – (OFF) Dumbasses.

SINISTER 1 – But we are the new trend. We are surfing the bubble.

JAGUAR – The bubble has just burst.

PRST – Eht maerd si revo.

PRINCE – Welcome to the desert of the real. Goodbye.

(THE SEPTET MOVE FORWARD OVER THE SINISTERS. THERE'S AN INCREDIBLE BATTLE, WHICH OBVIOUSLY ENDS WITH THE SEPTET'S VICTORY.)

PRINCE – Good job. That went well. By the book. Now you guys tell us who planned this fiasco.

MILENA – You'll feel better after you talk.

SINISTER 1 – Antonym did.

ROMULA – Who?

PRINCE – Antonym. I've heard that name.

SYNONYM – I know who she is. We're in trouble.

PENELOPE – I already know what you're going to say.

SYNONYM – She's like me, but worse. Antonym can change into anything she wants. She can be a red 8-foot high monster with wings, spitting sulfur. Or a chainsaw psychopath. Or a girl with golden locks with a teddy bear in her hand...

(ENTERS A GIRL WITH GOLDEN LOCKS WITH A TEDDY BEAR IN HER HAND.)

JAGUAR – You're fucking with me...

GIRL – This is the end of you all.

(PAUSE BEFORE THE BATTLE.)

JAGUAR – Is this where I die?

PENELOPE – It is. I'm sorry.

(THE GIRL TURNS TO ROMULA, RAISES THE TEDDY BEAR. JAGUAR RUNS AT HIGH SPEED TO THE GIRLS AND DROPS THE BEAR FROM HER HAND. HE LOWERS HIMSELF TO GRAB THE BEAR, BUT AS HE TOUCHES IT HIS BODY TWITCHES AS IF

PASSED THROUGH BY AN ELECTRIC CURRENT. MILENA HOLDS HIM AS HE FALLS TO THE GROUND. JAGUAR'S BODY ON MILENA'S LAP RESEMBLES THE "PIETÁ".)

PRINCE – We're screwed.

16. DEATH

(ALL AROUND THE JAGUAR, WHO'S LYING ON MILENA'S LAP.)

JAGUAR – This time I was quick enough.

ROMULA – Yes. You saved me.

JAGUAR – Don't get too conceited. I really like Milena.

MILENA (OFF) – I like you too, stupid. (LIVE) I like you.

PRST –Doog boj, ydeeps.

JAGUAR – Don't call me speedy.

SYNONYM – It wasn't supposed to be like this.

JAGUAR – I didn't think it would end like this. I'm only 16. I'm the Jaguar.

PRINCE – At this moment, a 16-year-old boy is about to die from AIDS in the Sudan. He never had sex in his life. He never had a pair of sneakers. He is focused on the feeling of the fly's feet walking on the corner of his lips. A 16-year-old is about to die in Finland. Overdose. He is relieved; life is too heavy for him. Another one in Libya, from leukemia. In Japan, of a degenerative disease. In Palestine, shot. A 16-year-old boy is dying in Brazil, in a traffic accident. He has not yet realized that he is dying; he is worried because he took his father's car without permission. He thinks he will be grounded. A 16-year-old girl is dying in New York. Beaten. Raped. Hanged. She is afraid. She wants her parents. But even so, she'll die.

JAGUAR – This is the worst speech anyone has ever made for a friend who's about to die.

(JAGUAR DIES.)

PENELOPE – This has already happened. The Jaguar died and, before anything else, the girl with golden locks simply looked at Romula and Romula died.

ROMULA – You serious? I just got here.

PENELOPE – It happens sometimes. You fell right over there, next to the Jaguar.

(ROMULA DIES.)

PRINCE – I've been getting ready for this for almost 100 years. I have to think of something.

SYNONYM – She must have a weak spot. I could change into someone different and...

PENELOPE – The girl looked at Synonym and he stopped moving. He didn't realize she had torn his heart out.

(SYNONYM DIES.)

MILENA – How about me? (OFF) Did I die too?

PENELOPE – Your body started rolling around itself, like a shell, getting smaller and smaller till it became a small amino acid and DNA ball in your mother's womb.

MILENA – Lovely. Thank you, my friend. It was nice to have known you.

(MILENA DIES.)

PRINCE – We are dying like flies. I have trained for this.

PENELOPE – Prst walked toward the girl and confronted her. Prst was never afraid and faced everything that appeared before him. One day he wrote me a poem. It was so beautiful, but I did not get it. Only much later, when I learned his language, could I read it. But then he had already died. (PRST DIES) He was the last one. I don't like this part. I'll jump forward. I'll die with Prst and only the Prince will be left. That's it. The Prince will solve this. He always knows what to do.

(PENELOPE DIES. THE PRINCE AND THE GIRL WITH GOLDEN LOCKS FACE EACH OTHER OFF.)

17. THE GIRL WITH GOLDEN LOCKS

(PRINCE AND THE GIRL WITH GOLDEN LOCKS FACE EACH OTHER IN SILENCE WITH SAMURAI CONCENTRATION IN A LIFE OR DEATH DUEL. THEY ARE STILL, BUT WE CAN HEAR AN ORCHESTRA OF DISCORDANT SOUNDS, FILM DIALOGUE EXCERPTS, BOOMING SOUND EFFECTS, SHOUTING, THUNDERS, CRASHING DISHES, GUITAR CHORDS, A BATTLE OF SOUNDS FRAMING THE CONFRONTATION. THE PRINCE'S ARM RISES SLOWLY TOWARDS HIS OPPONENT'S GOLDEN HAIR, TREMBLING, AS THOUGH HE WAS MAKING A SUPERHUMAN EFFORT. FINALLY, HE REACHES THE GIRL'S HAIR AND PULLS ONE OF HER CURLS. THE GIRL'S EXPRESSION CRUMBLES, HER BODY CONTRACTS AND SHE CRIES OUT WITH A WHINY VOICE.)

GIRL – Bad boy. I'll tell my mom on you.

(THE GIRL LETS GO OF THE TEDDY BEAR AND RUNS AWAY. THE PRINCE SUSTAINS HIS UNSHAKABLE POSE UNTIL SHE DISAPPEARS. THEN HE FALLS ON

HIS KNEES, PANTING AS THOUGH HE HAD RUN THE 100 KM MARATHON. SLOWLY HIS BREATHING QUIETS DOWN AND HE GETS UP. HE LOOKS AT ALL HIS FRIENDS ON THE GROUND.)

PRINCE – Penelope, Prst, Jaguar, Milena, Synonym. Romula. I liked them all, but forgot to tell them that. They were my best friends. Now they are gone. I'm alone again. It's not the first time. I'll meet other people, we'll spend some time together, face cosmic challenges and then move away from each other. And we'll get used to being away. I'm a survivor. I'm the oldest one here.

18. THE END

(THE FATAL SEPTET ALIVE AGAIN.)

PENELOPE – Ok. Let's picture this a different way. Let's imagine we don't have all these powers. Just one: to stay alive. More and more alive each day. We'll live a long series of days and nights. And we won't have to face evil geniuses, Machiavellian conspiracies, radioactive monsters.

JAGUAR – Or Bowling ball gods.

PRST – Threatening aliens.

PRINCE – Mean girls with golden locks.

PENELOPE – We'll only have to face what everyone here faces. One day at a time. But there are compensations. Milena and I will be friends all our lives. We met the first day of school.

MILENA – And we decided to be friends forever when we found out our birthday is on the same day.

ROMULA – I met them later and we never left each other.

PENELOPE – We exchanged books, CDs, homework, boyfriends.

JAGUAR – Girls will be girls...

ROMULA – Sometimes we talk about my brother. I'll go to Architecture School as he wanted to go. But it's just a coincidence.

MILENA – I'll go to Medical School.

JAGUAR – I'm a coach.

PRST – Track?

JAGUAR – Swimming.

MILENA – I was the first to marry. To the Jaguar.

JAGUAR – To me?

PENELOPE and ROMULA – To him?

JAGUAR – We went on a beautiful honeymoon in Bahia.

SYNONYM – We saw the pictures when they came back. The Jaguar showed even their photos on a nudist beach.

MILENA – (SLAPS THE JAGUAR) I don't believe it!

JAGUAR – Pretty things are meant to be shown.

ROMULA – I'm marrying a cosmonaut.

SYNONYM – I work with computers, installing operational systems in companies.

PRST – Nerd.

SYNONYM – I travel a lot. It's a strange feeling to sleep in hotel rooms. I wake up in the middle of the night and I don't know where I am, what day it is, who I am.

PRST – When he's back in town, we meet up for a round of beer or to watch a soccer match.

JAGUAR – Their team is still a joke.

PRST – That's what you think.

ROMULA – And they make an awful racket in the room shouting and discussing the game.

MILENA – And I tell them to lower their voices because I've just nursed the twins and they are sleeping.

PENELOPE – I'm the godmother.

PRINCE – How about me? What happens to me?

PENELOPE – You're a teacher. History.

SYNONYM – One of those grumpy teachers who scare all the students.

PRINCE – No, one of those teachers everyone thinks is cool and whom they like to talk to after class.

PRST – I am an actor. I do a play about us, of when we were kids and played superheroes. And everyone came to see. I’m happy when I see you in the audience.

PENELOPE – We all cry a little watching the play.

SYNONYM – And we laugh too.

PRST – And talk for a while after, and then we go home.

JAGUAR – Because we left the twins alone with their grandparents for the first time.

SYNONYM – I’m off on a business trip early tomorrow.

PRINCE – We make a date to have a drink next week.

MILENA – And we think it’s funny that Romula is going with the Prince.

(ROMULA AND THE PRINCE LOOK AT EACH OTHER AWKWARDLY, BUT THEN THEY HOLD HANDS. EVERYONE SAYS GOODBYE. THEY LEAVE SLOWLY, PENELOPE LINGERS ON A WHILE LONGER.)

PENELOPE – Nothing ends without something else starting. Now it’s your turn. This hasn’t happened yet.

(THE END)