

He - Where were you all that time?

(silence)

She - I packed my suitcase in the street.

(long silence)

I fell asleep. I was sunk into this November ballad.

I was picking up two bird wings and the phone was ringing.

I heard the noises of the helicopters that were coming to take us away.

He - Tell me about this place.

She - No, I won't.

He - Why?

She - Danger, staring into the abyss. I've never been able to explain it to you, it's too hard to see trees fall down.

He - What about me?

She - You, I had invited you to follow me, you had a right to stay in those landscapes.

On the first night, we were walking down the marble stairs from the top of the cliffs towards the sea.

Behind the waterfall, I was living in the cave with that famous cauldron that we had seen together in the Arab World Institute. Before, you were in the kingdom of the shouting men, one thousand black stallions, one thousand black-eyed men.

He - Tell me about my past.

She - You had ended up in front of the glory that was waiting for you over there. On a Charles Mingus tune, you had never felt so much alone, you were only speaking about your Icarus testament. You were running along a desert, you were staying in your ruins like a lonely owl in a Persian miniature. I was patient. Wind.

He - ...You make me feel as if I had never been born...

She - Over there, you made your choice, you were about to discover new valleys, the ones people get into riding a butterfly.

(long silence)

I had the weapons to fight your arrival. I was the leaves you were walking on, the tree branch leaning to let you build your hammock, the orchids you were going to gather pollen from, all the perfume that would welcome your coming. I was running in that forest as if I had always known it. You would follow me to look for the great Simorgh. *(long silence)*

He - When I was a child, one evening I happened to see a golden eagle.... *(silence)*

I don't know why, but when I am with you, I speak about my childhood.

She - When I am with you, I think of the sea, I think of the forest, I think of chalk cliffs, of volcanic stones. I think of this state of emergency that you make me feel. We would have to forget all the walking between the house and the nocturnal sea, between the maternal garden and the child's room.

(long silence)

You were already crossing my landscapes before I met you. At that time I was dreaming of the midnight sun in Finnish Lapland, dreaming to be alone in Isola Bella, on the Lake Maggiore. The amphibians, the amphibians, the amphibians... The beautiful flowers of Alaska. In the distance, huge icebergs where I could get my bed back, in an igloo.

He - Did I come in?

She - I don't know. You were only allowed to three attempts to get down from the mountains. You were tracking me down when I was a huntress. Then, rows of peacocks were spreading their tails on the edge of the cliffs, with the Doors playing *Light My Fire*. The kingdom was on fire. All the trees were burning. I was forbidden to document the fire. Chimeras, Chimeras

He -Would you like to go on ?

(ten minutes of silence)

She - I don't know anything anymore.

(ten days of silence)

The black tide, I was under water. The phoenix doesn't exist any more. I am turning round and round with the chimeras in the drowning. You are not there. I don't want to see anybody. I am guarded by the beauty of our weapons. The kingdom has collapsed. I am asked to leave our world, that's all.

Dialogue between «she» and «he»
Book and audio.