

THE RED MARKET

Written by

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Based on the absurd daydreams and
fantastical realities of CMS' mind.

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EXT. A DOOR - DAY

A sign on the door: "M.O.B. GATEWAY". A hand opens the door.

INT. WAITING ROOM - DAY - CONTINUOUS

ZEPHYR walks into a sterile room, dressed in a hospital exam gown. An intake CLERK and a NURSE greet him. He is uncertain who to focus on.

NURSE
Zephyr Sage?

ZEPHYR
Yes.

The Nurse indicates for him to sit by pulling a chair out for him. He complies with her nonverbal command. The Nurse proceeds with an exam with military style precision. Zephyr is complicit. Anxious.

NURSE
Hold still please.

She points a red light into his eye from a device and reads the display on it.

CLERK
Have you been here before?

ZEPHYR
No. Does that affect anything?

CLERK
It adds time to the approval process. You need to complete a screening. Did you fill out our form?

Without permission, the Nurse presses an instrument on his neck. Checks readings. Sucks some blood out with a gizmo. Zephyr is shocked but does not complain.

ZEPHYR
Ow! Yes, and completed the IdentaScan.

The Nurse gives the Clerk an "all clear" look.

CLERK
Your screening is negative. Do you use recreational drugs?

ZEPHYR

I did try psilocyclidine once. That was a long time ago. Not into it.

CLERK

The good stuff, huh?

This excites the Nurse.

NURSE

Expensive.

CLERK

Have you ever been diagnosed with a psychiatric disorder?

ZEPHYR

No.

The Nurse presents a small tray with a cup and pill. Zephyr swallows the pill and drinks.

CLERK

Ever had a nervous prostration?

ZEPHYR

No.

The Clerk and Nurse exchange a look and then, DOCTOR ARIES bursts into the room. He is wearing a patriotic color scheme of red, white and blue. He has a rubber apron and red gloves up to his elbows. He speaks before realizing Zephyr is there.

DOCTOR ARIES

Nurse! We have a code 69 in progress...oh hello there Mister Sage. I see you are engaged. My staff and I have some business to attend to that requires some alacrity. I hope you do not mind if I have a moment of their time.

ZEPHYR

Nice to meet you Doctor.

CLERK

Please take serenity. The Interviewer will be with you shortly.

The Clerk and Nurse leave with the Doctor.

INT. PATIO - DAY - CONTINUOUS

Shirtless MAN SERVANT ALPHA, in shiny shorts and a bowtie, walks over to wealthy, pampered loan shark HYACINTH with a cocktail and sets it down. She imbibes. MAN SERVANT BETA, similarly dressed, is cleaning the pool. MAN SERVANT GAMMA is moving about handling various chores.

MAN SERVANT ALPHA
Would you care for a meal ma'am?

She ponders the decision. Prefers something else.

HYACINTH
Sweets.

MAN SERVANT ALPHA
Of course, at your service ma'am.

He leaves. She waves her hand over a device. A call is made.

INT. HALLWAY - DAY - CONTINUOUS

Zephyr's phone rings. He steps into the hallway to take it. It's Hyacinth.

ZEPHYR
Hyacinth. I'll have everything
sorted out very soon.

INT. PATIO - DAY - CONTINUOUS

HYACINTH
You really do need to get yourself
squared away soon, honeybunny.

ZEPHYR (V.O.)
Please don't call me that. I wish I
never met you.

HYACINTH
Be polite. Under the circumstances,
a bit more respect would be wise. I
receive no satisfaction adopting a
desperate man's gambling fallout,
but it is a lucrative
proposition...just a moment.

The Man Servant Alpha presents a tray of expensive chocolates and she pauses, selects and savors one.

HYACINTH (CONT'D)
 I like you, but I will do what is
 needed when time runs out. I'm a
 businesswoman after all!

INT. HALLWAY - DAY - CONTINUOUS

ZEPHYR
 You're a horrible human being.

INT. PATIO - DAY - CONTINUOUS

Man Servant Alpha places two luxurious pillows by her feet,
 he is joined by Man Servant Beta. The two men oil their
 hands, then slowly massages her feet.

HYACINTH
 Now, now, honeybunny. Manners. At
 least I am a human being. Now,
 behave nicely. I would hate to have
 put out an interdiction order. I
 really like you. It would sadden me
 to do that to an old friend.

INT. HALLWAY - DAY - CONTINUOUS

ZEPHYR
 Please, don't.

INT. PATIO - DAY - CONTINUOUS

HYACINTH
 Zephyr, your two million in debt is
 growing fat like a stuffed holiday
 turkey. You'll see my associates in
 three days. Goodbye, honeybunny.

She hangs up.

HYACINTH (CONT'D)
 Harder.

MAN SERVANT ALPHA
 Yes ma'am. My pleasure to serve.

MAN SERVANT BETA
 It is my pleasure as well, ma'am.

MAN SERVANT GAMMA joins and massages her shoulders as she
 sips from her glass.

MAN SERVANT GAMMA
At your service ma'am.

INT. HALLWAY - DAY - CONTINUOUS

Zephyr leans over as if to vomit but has a panic attack instead. Some time passes. The CUSTODIAN appears out of nowhere.

THE CUSTODIAN
Mister Sage, are you alright?

ZEPHYR
Yeah, I am fine. Thank you.

THE CUSTODIAN
Oh my goodness! You had me worried there for a minute! Your well-being is our number one priority here at Murry Opportunity Bank.

Without further explanation, The Custodian opens the door to the waiting room and smiles. Zephyr understands this to mean he should go back in.

INT. WAITING ROOM - DAY - CONTINUOUS

Zephyr returns to find the INTERVIEWER already seated and waiting on him. The Nurse and Clerk are seated next to her. She is oddly pleasant. A hardcore saleswoman.

INTERVIEWER
Mr. Sage, I'm the Interviewer.

ZEPHYR
Hello.

INTERVIEWER
A pleasure. Once approved as a Murray Opportunity Bank vendor, your product will be part of a confidential agreement; and you have no legal right to inquire as to who the final receiver of your product will be.

ZEPHYR
Thank you for clarifying that.

INTERVIEWER

Great! Now, for the disclosures. Remuneration is based on the spot prices on the GOD Exchange.

ZEPHYR

GOD Exchange?

INTERVIEWER

Global Organ Donor. Sales are final. Once accepted, your product cannot be recalled. I see here that you're selling a liver lobe. The great news is that livers do regenerate!

ZEPHYR

How much will I receive?

INTERVIEWER

As of this very second, it's three million credits. Of course, we deduct our service fees, and cost of the automated surgical opera.

ZEPHYR

How soon can we do this? I have a small gambling debt to handle.

INTERVIEWER

Understood. All registered pecuniary obligations are automatically paid out before we remit to the vendor. The wonders of our connected world!

ZEPHYR

How convenient. I'm ready.

INTERVIEWER

It just so happens that we have a customer who is fully matched. We can get you into Vendor Services this afternoon.

ZEPHYR

What time?