

PEACE/WAR

Kristoffer Diaz

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PEACE/WAR

PEACE, alone.

Silence.

WAR enters. With beers.

WAR

You want a beer?

Silence.

It's good beer.

Silence.

You should drink.

Ah. Okay.

When you're ready.

PEACE

We're not friends.

WAR

You have to be friends with someone to have a drink with her?

PEACE

...

WAR

Come on, have a drink. It's almost over.

PEACE

A beat.

What does that mean, it's almost over?

WAR

We're almost at the end of all this.

PEACE

A beat.

How is there an end of all this?

WAR

There's an end when we win. That's right. I said "win." And I said "we." Drink.

PEACE does not drink.

Your call. It's good beer.

WAR drinks.

Silence.

So look. The mistake you guys made -

PEACE

- I didn't ask.

WAR

- the mistake I'm here to fix is that you think people want their leaders to be nice. And altruistic. You think people want their leaders to have their best interests in order. And people do not. They do not want this. People want leaders who lead, who lead with strength, who can protect them and ensure they keep the things they already have.

PEACE

I didn't ask.

WAR

If people have nothing, absolutely nothing, then maybe it's different. Maybe you can make them think you're a benevolent god. Kind-hearted royalty. Make them think that you're gifted with greater intelligence and sensitivity. Make them think you are looking their way with love. Not that you're going to do a thing to pull them up from their slop-filled living holes. But people with nothing don't care if you do anything, long as you're going to look upon them with love.

PEACE

We always intended to do something.

WAR

If people really have nothing, the look with love? It usually works. It's surprisingly effective. But these people? These people who watch you on big screen televisions while they eat take-out and drink wine that's cheap but not really all that cheap? These people who satiate themselves with more things on average than any peoples anytime in human history? These people don't want leaders who look on them with love. They don't want leaders who listen. They want leaders who can stand up to their complaints -- and they'll complain about every last little thing that goes outside of their plan. They want leaders who make sure no one takes their shit out of their fine furnished living rooms.

PEACE

We don't all have fine furnished living rooms.

WAR

I've seen your living room. It's pretty fine and furnished.

PEACE

I'm not talking about me. I'm talking about people who have nothing.

WAR

There are no people who have nothing. Not here. The people here who have "nothing," they've got plenty. They've got way too much to risk leaving "nice people" in charge. You didn't get where you are by being nice.

PEACE

Sounds like I got here in this chair by being nice.

WAR

You're funny. You're smart. And you know I'm right. And you know what I mean. You got to run this place by being an asshole. A righteous asshole? Sure. Why not? Or maybe that's the story they all tell themselves to avoid admitting that the only thing they want in a leader is a merciless, murderous asshole.

Silence.

PEACE

I didn't murder anybody.

WAR

Debatable. So look. There are only two ways this is going to end. You can be smart and safe and nice, and you can sit in this chair and wait for someone else to decide she wants to run this place. And if you wait, she will grow into a supreme force of destruction and she will be destined to rule as long as she avoids showing weakness. And if you sit in that chair and be nice and do nothing, I assure you, she will *not* do nothing. She will blossom into the most absolute of iron fists. I will be sure to see to that. And in this version of our future, the one where you sit in that chair and wait and be nice, I assure you: you are unlikely to survive, let alone cause me one more second of concern.

A beat.

PEACE

Or.

WAR

Or.

You can get off your ass and find whoever it is that's going to decide she wants to run this place and you can stop her. Maybe you kill her. Maybe metaphorically. What do I know? Maybe you don't. Maybe you're persuasive. Maybe the two of you have some special bond, you hold hands and rule together. But that's the thing — you'll rule. And this will last. Maybe it even lasts longer with the two of you as the monstrosity that binds society with unadulterated terror. And to

be completely honest, that would work fine for me. As long as it lasts. That's why I'm here, really. I'm here to make sure things last.

Silence.

WAR drinks, maybe cracks another beer.

So look. I'm just here to say: this is almost the end. And there will be an end. And you still have a choice. To an extent. But if you want to try to kill me, you should probably try real soon. And if you want to try to kill me, I am unlikely to make that easy.

Silence.

You're not going to drink these. Shame.

WAR takes the beers and exits.

Silence.