

The King, the Prince and the Darkness

written by

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EXTERIOR - DAY

Aerial shot of large hill surrounded by seven towns, Purple Violet, Blue, Green, Yellow, Orange and Red. Close in on the hilltop. Children dressed in the bright colors of their town. They laugh while they run and play together. It's a bright sunny day, but the atmosphere grows dark as the children's faces become bitter and angry. They separate into little cliques of their own colors as their clothes turn to shades of gray.

NARRATOR

Long ago, in a land not too different from our own, there stood a hill at the edge of a vast Kingdom. The hill was in the middle of a valley and circling the hill were seven towns; a purple town, a violette town, a blue town, a green town, a yellow town, an orange town and a red town. The land had been full of color, beauty and light. Years before, the people of the towns loved and cared for each other and they would spend their days all working for their common good.

MONTAGE OF HAPPY PEOPLE DRESSED IN THE COLORFUL CLOTHING OF THEIR TOWNS FARMING TOGETHER AND making MERRY AFTERWARDS. CHILDREN PLAY IN THE FOREGROUND.

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

But things were different now. Prophets rose up; each among their own town. They all spoke the same message; that the King was going to send His Son, the Prince to pronounce a blessing upon them that would change their lives.

EXTERIOR - DAY

Prophet in Redtown square is clutching a large rolled up scroll.

RED PROPHET
(excited)

The prince is coming! The prince is coming!

GOVERNOR RED
What? How do you know?

RED PROPHET
The King came to me in a dream! It was so vivid, like nothing I've ever seen before!

GOVERNOR RED
What did he say?

RED PROPHET
He said the prince was coming to pronounce a blessing upon us that would change our lives. He gave me plans for us to build instruments and a song with which to honor him.

GOVERNOR RED
(excited)
That's wonderful! When is he coming?

RED PROPHET
(PUZZLED)
I don't know. that's the only thing he didn't tell me.

GOVERNOR RED
We'd better get busy then. Show me the plans so we can get materials together and get started.
(addresses bystanders)
Gather 'round everyone!

RED PROPHET
Should we alert the other towns?

GOVERNOR RED
I think that would be a good idea. I'm sure that they'd want to participate.

EXTERIOR - DAY - PURPLE TOWN

A prophet has just returned from a vision walk. He heads to the office of the president. dusty and dirty, he bursts through the door.

INTERIOR - DAY - OFFICE OF PRESIDENT PURPLE

PURPLE PROPHET

Mr. President, I just had a vision!

PRESIDENT PURPLE

(astonished)

A vision? Tell me what it was.

PURPLE PROPHET

It was of the King. He told me he was sending his son the prince to pronounce a blessing upon us that would change our lives.

PRESIDENT PURPLE

When is this happening?

PURPLE PROPHET

I don't know, but he gave me plans to build instruments and a song with which to honor him.

PRESIDENT PURPLE

What's this song?

PURPLE PROPHET

I'm not a musician, but I could hum it for one. Perhaps they could write it down the music so we can learn to play it.

PRESIDENT PURPLE

How about the instruments?

PURPLE PROPHET

I'll have to draw the plans out for them, but I'm not an artist so they'll be pretty rough.

PRESIDENT PURPLE

No worries! I know a man here in the town that can build anything with almost no plans at all.

PURPLE PROPHET

(Joyous)

I'm so happy! This is going to be wonderful.

PRESIDENT PURPLE

Let's send a messenger to the other towns to let them know what's happening.

The men smile and clap each other on the back.

INTERIOR - CONTINUOUS

The Green Prophet and Green Bishop show up at the house of the Chancellor.

GREEN PROPHET

I have a message. I feel it in my heart.

CHANCELLOR GREEN

(puzzled)

What do you mean you feel it in your heart?

GREEN PROPHET

Sometimes it's that way... I just know something and it always happens!

The Chancellor looks over at the Green Bishop. He nods his head.

GREEN BISHOP

It's happened many times before. He's never been wrong.

CHANCELLOR GREEN

Then what's the message?

GREEN PROPHET

The King is going to send his son to pronounce a blessing on us that will change our lives. He's giving us a song and plans to build instruments to play it on. I can see them in my head just like I'm looking at them.

CHANCELLOR GREEN

What about the song?

GREEN PROPHET

It's like an earworm in my mind. It won't go away!

CHANCELLOR GREEN

When is this going to happen?

GREEN PROPHET

I don't know, but I don't believe it's very far off.

CHANCELLOR GREEN

Then we'd better get at it. Let's get those plans and music out of your head and onto some paper!

GREEN BISHOP

Shouldn't we send a someone to the other towns? Maybe they don't know about it.

CHANCELLOR GREEN

Excellent idea! I'll send a messenger right away.

All three men smile and walk out.

INTERIOR - DAY - THE BLUE TEMPLE

BLUE PROPHET TO PASTOR BLUE:

BLUE PROPHET

(raving)

He's in my head! He's in my head!

PASTOR BLUE

Who is? Who's in your head?

BLUE PROPHET

It's the King, I can see him!

PASTOR BLUE

(excited)

It must be a vision! What's he saying?

BLUE PROPHET

(ecstatic)

Yes, yes it is! He's sending his son, the prince to pronounce a blessing on us that will change our lives.

CANTOR BLUE

How wonderful!

BLUE PROPHET

That's not all. He's giving me plans to build instruments and a song he wants us to play for him when he gets here.

PASTOR BLUE

When did he say the Prince would get here?

BLUE PROPHET

I don't know. He's gone, I can't see him anymore.

PASTOR BLUE

Well, then let's get going on those plans and on that song. I know some people who can help with both. We'll start building and learning as soon as possible!

BLUE PROPHET

We must contact the other towns. They should know about this!

PASTOR BLUE

I'll check with the others, but I'm sure that they'd agree. The other towns must told of this.

CONTINUOUS

MONTAGE OF THE THE OTHER THREE TOWNS GETTING SIMILAR MESSAGES WITH SIMILAR PLANS AND SONGS.

CONTINUOUS

MONTAGE OF VARIOUS TOWNSPEOPLE BUILDING INSTRUMENTS AND LEARNING TO PLAY THEM. SOME ARE BRASS AND WOODWIND, SOME ARE VARIOUS TYPES STRINGED AND PERCUSSION INSTRUMENTS.

NARRATOR

That's where the trouble started. You see, each town got a different song and a different set of plans for building different instruments, but none of them knew it until the day came for each town to get together and hear each town play for the first time.

EXTERIOR - DAY - ONE YEAR LATER, ON THE HILLTOP

Crowds of people from all the towns sit on blankets in the sun with picnics and merriment. There are small bands of musicians with all the various instruments that the King instructed them to build. One by one, each band plays their "Love Song to The Prince" to the chagrin of all the other towns.

PREFECT'S ADVISOR

(Puzzled)

What's that caterwauling?

AARON RED

(irritated)

That's not even the right song.

MIRIAM GREEN

(disgusted)

It sounds terrible!

CANTOR BLUE

(annoyed)

Those aren't the right instruments.

ESTHER VIOLET

(questioning)

Why did they build *those*?

RUFUS ORANGE

What in the world is that? It's just noise!

ABRAHAM PURPLE

(Whispering To his wife)

How can they honor the prince with that clap-trap?

The leaders huddle together.

MAYOR ORANGE

(In a huff)

What's the meaning of this?

COMMISSIONER VIOLET

What do you mean "What's the meaning of this"? Those aren't even the right instruments you're playing! You must have made some kind of mistake!

GOVERNOR RED

This is what we got from the King!
It's no mistake, so you must be
wrong.

YELLOW PREFECT

(Annoyed)

That's not even the right song!

PRESIDENT PURPLE

The wrong instruments? The wrong
song? How can this be?

CHANCELLOR GREEN

It has to be a mistake, it must!

The argument gets more heated.

PASTOR BLUE

(angry)

We've spent a year building
instruments and learning how to
play them. How could this be a
mistake?

PRESIDENT PURPLE

(Angrier)

We have made no mistake, it's just
not possible!

YELLOW PREFECT

(Frustrated)

All this arguing is getting us
nowhere. Let's meet back here
tomorrow with our prophets, the
plans for the instruments and the
music that each one of them brought
us. Perhaps if we get together
without all this pressure, we can
make some sense out of all this.

PASTOR BLUE

I think that's a good idea.

The officials all agree. The townspeople are arguing with
people from other towns.

ESTHER VIOLET

That terrible squealing of yours
dishonors The Prince *and* the King!

AARON RED

Our music is bad? What are you
thinking?

(MORE)

AARON RED (CONT'D)

I've never heard such racket as
what your band is playing!

HANNAH ORANGE

Those are the instruments and
that's the song! Our prophet said
that's what the King told us to
make!

ABRAHAM PURPLE

Then your Prophet *must* be wrong.

BARTHOLOMEW RED

Who's to say all your prophet
aren't wrong? Those songs are
nothing like the one we were given!

The arguments get so heated that the authorities have to
separate everyone. They filter down to their own towns
yelling and threatening each other. The atmosphere becomes
somewhat darker and the clothing of the townspeople starts to
become grayer.

EXTERIOR - DAY - THE HILLTOP THE NEXT DAY ON

There's a large table covered with plans and sheet music.
Each town leader and his prophet are there as well as those
who transcribed the music. There are plans for stringed
instruments of various types, as well as for pipes and horns.
Those who built them are also there.

PASTOR BLUE

If the King gave us these plans and
the music, how is it they're all
different?

YELLOW PREFECT

(haughtily)

All I know is that our is the most
melodic of all the music, so it
must be the right one.

CHANCELLOR GREEN

(scoffingly)

Either you're crazy or you have a
tin ear.

YELLOW PREFECT

(shocked)

I sir, am the Prefect of my town!
How dare you speak to me in such an
insulting manner?

PRESIDENT PURPLE
(To Yellowtown Prefect)

I take it then sir, that you are the only one allowed to be offensive? Your remark not only insulted the Greentown Chancellor, but all of us!

YELLOW PREFECT
(snobbishly)
How is it my fault that you're insulted by the truth?

PRESIDENT PURPLE
(boiling mad)

He throws his coat off and moves toward the Yellowtown Prefect with clenched fists.

PRESIDENT PURPLE (CONT'D)
That's it, I've had enough of you!

Some officials from the other towns move between the men.

MAYOR ORANGE
(frustrated)
Let's all calm down here!

GOVERNOR RED
But we've been here hours and all we've done is argue. We must come to some sort of solution.

COMMISSIONER VIOLET
(discouraged)
There is no solution. All that is to be done is to play the music we have on the instruments we've built. When the prince gets here, he can decide who's right and who's wrong.

He throws up his hands, turns around and leaves with His prophets and entourage following him.

COMMISSIONER VIOLET (CONT'D)
I'm tired and I'm going home.

PASTOR BLUE
(Urgently)

Calling after him,
But how do we know that's right?

MAYOR ORANGE

I'm sorry, but there's nothing left to do. Let's hope the prince will be merciful to those who are wrong.

(Sarcastically)

At least it won't be us!

The Pastor Blue shakes his head as everyone left packs up and leaves not looking at or speaking to the others. The physical atmosphere grows darker and their clothes lose more of their color, but no one notices.

NARRATOR

Over the years, while waiting for the Prince to come, the arguing and fighting became so bad that all the people in all the towns in the valley now hated each other. Their bitterness became so great that darkness started to cover the land until all the color became no more than shades of gray that you could hardly tell apart.

EXTERIOR - CONTINUOUS

Montage of women, men and children in drab clothing. The women argue and bicker with each other. The men yell and fist fight. Children chide and scuffle with each other.

NARRATOR

All the beauty was now gone and nothing but ugliness remained. The worst thing though, was that the darkness became so insidious, that it started to creep into the people themselves until they no longer saw goodness or light in anything! As parents taught their children to hate those of the other villages, the children started a dangerous game of fighting for control of "their side" of the hill. The "Reds" would hunt for the "Blues" and the "Greens" for the "Purples" and so on.

EXTERIOR - DAY

Montage: Children in drab clothing lurk through the bushes looking for those from other towns to hurt.

A boy points at a girl in a clearing and motions for his companions to rush her. As they near her in the clearing, others come out of the brush to attack them. A huge fight ensues.

NARRATOR

As they got older they would use
homemade knives to cut and
sometimes kill each other.

Cut to: Two teenage boys fighting with homemade knives. Cut to: A teenage girl coming up behind another one and hitting her over the head with a piece of tree branch.

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

The way they lived was horribly
brutal yet, every night all the
families from all the towns would
come together with each other, take
out their instruments and practice
their "Love Song to the Prince."

EXTERIOR - DAY

NARRATOR

ONE DAY, WHILE THE CHILDREN WERE INVOLVED IN THEIR HUNT, A
LITTLE "VIOLET" GIRL GOT HIT IN THE HEAD BY A ROCK THROWN BY
A "BLUE" GIRL. BLOOD RUNS DOWN HER FACE.

RACHEL VIOLET

(CRIES OUT IN PAIN)

Painful wail!

A CROWD OF "BLUE" CHILDREN GATHER AROUND HER LAUGHING AND
CALLING HER NAMES.

SILAS BLUE

(pointing)

Ha ha ah ha ha!

NAOMI BLUE

(spitefully)

We'll show you to stay off our part
of the hill!

AN OLDER "BLUE" BOY STEPS UP WITH A CLUB IN HIS HAND. AS HE
RAISES IT UP TO BRING IT DOWN ON THE HEAD OF THE LITTLE
"VIOLET" GIRL, A HAND REACHES OUT FROM THE EDGE OF THE CROWD
AND GRABS IT FROM HIM.

EVERYONE LOOKS TO SEE WHO HAD GRABBED IT AWAY. A STRANGER STANDS THERE DRESSED IN A BRIGHT ROBE WITH PATCHES OF PURPLE, VIOLET, BLUE, GREEN, YELLOW, ORANGE AND RED ALL SEWN TOGETHER IN A PATCHWORK.

STRANGER

Why do you want to hurt your sister, son?

SILAS BLUE

(yelling)

She's not my sister - she's a "Violet" and we're "Blues!"

STRANGER

(PUZZLED)

Looking around

"It's so dark here, how can you tell? You all look the same color to me."

The crowd looks at the color of their clothes. The difference is hard to tell.

SILAS BLUE

(angered and yelling)

"We can just tell, that's all!"

The blue children run off as the Stranger bends over and picks up the weeping child.

STRANGER

Don't worry, it's going to be alright.

He kisses her wound, the bleeding stops and the cut is no longer visible. He hugs the girl warmly and puts her down. The other children encircle her staring. Her eyes are now green and bright with no more darkness in them. She runs off laughing happily.

JULIA VIOLET

Who are you?

TIMOTHY VIOLET

Where did you come from?

STRANGER

I own this mountain. I've come from a far away place because I heard that there was fighting going on here. I don't allow that.

LYDIA VIOLET
But we've been fighting forever.

STRANGER
Well, you shouldn't be. Sit down
and I'll tell you why.

All the children sit and the stranger sits with them

STRANGER (CONT'D)
Don't you know that you should
always treat others as you would
want be treated?

LYDIA VIOLET

But, they hate us!

STRANGER
(puzzled)
Who hates you?

LYDIA VIOLET
The "Purples" and the "Greens" and
the "Yellows" and the "Oranges" and
the Blues and the "Reds".

STRANGER
Then you should show them love.
You can't win against hate with
hate. You have to use love.

TIMOTHY VIOLET
(annoyed)
That's stupid! The others would
just think we're weak.

STRANGER
You may think so, but if someone
approaches you in hate and you are
kind to them, they won't be so
angry anymore.

The boy says nothing. He looks thoughtful but skeptical.

STRANGER (CONT'D)
Besides, no one really hates each
other just because. People are
hateful because they've learned to
be. Their own pain makes it easy
to be that way, but when you show
those people love, their pain goes
away and they won't want to hurt
you anymore.

(MORE)

STRANGER (CONT'D)

It may take awhile, but it usually works as long as you keep it up.

(sadly)

Although, some may never respond.

NARRATOR

As time the passed, they listened at his feet and what he taught started to make sense.

As they leave, their eyes hold much less darkness.

EXTERIOR - DAY

NARRATOR

As the weeks went by, the Stranger had the opportunity to teach many things to some of the children from all the towns while on the hill. Some of them learned gladly, making friends with some of the children from the other towns as the darkness started leaving their eyes.

MONTAGE: MANY CHILDREN AT DIFFERENT TIMES AND OF DIFFERENT COLORS SITTING WITH THE STRANGER AND LEARNING FROM HIM.

NARRATOR

Even so, some of them seemed to hate even more; scoffing at the Stranger and becoming even more brutal.

MONTAGE: BRUTAL, WARLIKE FIGHTING BETWEEN CHILDREN AND TEENS OF ALL COLORS, BUT ALSO CHILDREN AND TEENS LAUGHING AND PLAYING TOGETHER.

NARRATOR

Soon, some of the parents from the other towns started to notice something different in their children. They would watch them and see changes, but they couldn't put their finger on just what was different. As they looked into the their faces, they would see their eyes - bright and shining - full of color and life.

(MORE)

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

Soon, their children didn't seem to talk so much about protecting their turf and started to talk about their new friends. It took a while but some of the parents started to ask questions.

INTERIOR - EVENING - A GREEN FAMILY HOME

SIMON GREEN

Who is this new friend you've been talking about, son?

THAD GREEN

I met him on the hill. His dad made him a ball and we play catch.

SIMON GREEN

(confused)

I don't know anyone who makes balls in *this* town.

THAD GREEN

He's from Redtown. He's fun.

SIMON GREEN

(visibly disturbed)

What are you doing playing with a Red?

CHLOE GREEN

(aghast)

Reds are horrible people! Who taught you to think that?

THAD GREEN

The Stranger who owns the hill. He said we can't fight anymore because he doesn't allow it there.

CHLOE GREEN

(agitated)

Who is this stranger?

SIMON GREEN

(angry)

Where does he come from?

THAD GREEN

(startled)

I... I don't know. He said from far away, but he's nice. I like him.

SIMON GREEN
(irritated)
Go to your room now, son. I have to talk with your mother. When we're done, we'll get our instruments out and practice our song.

THAD GREEN
(confused)
Okay, dad.

He gets up and leaves disturbed. His eyes shine brightly as he looks over his shoulder at his folks.

CHLOE GREEN
I blame this on you!

SIMON GREEN
Me? What did I do?

CHLOE GREEN
You're always working. You almost never spend any time with him!

SIMON GREEN
I have to work the fields with the other men. If I didn't work, how would we eat? Besides, am I the ONLY parent he has?

His wife glares at him angrily but decides to let it lay.

CHLOE GREEN
(frustrated)
We'd better start our practice before it gets too late.

SIMON GREEN
I'll get the instruments and music together.

CHLOE GREEN
(agitated)
I wonder if this is going on elsewhere.

SIMON GREEN
You mean this could be spreading to other households?

CHLOE GREEN
Probably to other towns! His new friend is from Redtown, isn't he?

SIMON GREEN
(anxious)
We'd better take this to the
authorities.

EXTERIOR - DAY

Simon Green walks across a rural farmscape toward a fussy
Looking house. He knocks and waits. A woman slightly older
than himself opens the door.

SIMON GREEN
Good day Mrs. Chancellor. Is he in?

ABIGAIL GREEN
Yes, but I don't think he wishes to
be disturbed.

SIMON GREEN
There's been some trouble. I really
have to see him.

ABIGAIL GREEN
Oh. well, come in then.

Simon Green walks in.

INTERIOR - DAY - THE MAYOR IS SEATED IN A SOFT CHAIR WITH A
HOT BEVERAGE SITTING NEXT TO HIM ON A SMALL TABLE. HE'S
READING A BOOK AND SEEMS AMUSED. HE LOOKS OVER THE TOP OF HIS
BOOK AT HIS VISITOR. NOW HE LOOKS ANNOYED.

CHANCELLOR GREEN
(gruffly)
Well what do we have here?

SIMON GREEN
Trouble mister chancellor. Have you
heard about the stranger, the one
on the hill?

CHANCELLOR GREEN
Only some rumors. I haven't had
time to investigate.

SIMON GREEN
(sarcastically)
Yes, I can see you're very busy.

CHANCELLOR GREEN
Now see here...

SIMON GREEN

(angrily)

No, you see here! This stranger is filling my son's head with all kinds of ideas that threaten our ways of life. What are you going to do about it?

CHANCELLOR GREEN

You're the boy's father, what are you doing about it?

SIMON GREEN

That's the same question my wife asked me.

CHANCELLOR GREEN

(smugly)

You're married to a wise woman.

SIMON GREEN

(anger boiling over)

No, I'm married to a woman who takes no responsibility when it comes to raising our child. Everything is *my* fault and now this! Since we no longer barter with the other towns we must produce *and* build everything we need to live. This means long hours in the fields and in the shops building or repairing our tools. You sit in this fancy house and do nothing except collect a portion of everything we produce. You and that band of flunkies you call your council put your head in the sand every time something bad happens, but now it's gone too far!

CHANCELLOR GREEN

Now that's not entirely true, I...

SIMON GREEN

(nastily)

Let me tell you something that is true! I don't like the way you do your job. I didn't vote for you and if something isn't done about this, and quickly, I'm going to personally make sure that you don't get reelected even if I have to run against you myself.

(MORE)

SIMON GREEN (CONT'D)

I've got a lot of friends that
feel the same way, so you'd better
take care of this or you'll find
yourself looking for a real job!

He spins around, heads for the door and slams it on the way
out.

ABIGAIL GREEN

(nervously)

Well, what are you going to do
about this?

CHANCELLOR GREEN

(cynically)

I guess I'd better assemble my
"band of flunkies" and look into
it.

INTERIOR - NIGHT GREENTOWN PUB

A group of men are seated at small tables. There are mugs of
beer in front of them. There's mumbling and sounds of
dissent. The chancellor speaks.

CHANCELLOR GREEN

All right men, let's get started.
How many of you have heard about
the stranger?

STEPHEN GREEN

I have!

MICHA GREEN

So have I.

The chancellor looks around.

CHANCELLOR GREEN

So that's two out of six. Can
either of you tell us anything
about him?

MICHA GREEN

I've heard that he encourages the
children not to fight and to play
with each other instead.

Angry muttering

STEPHEN GREEN

Well I've heard that he actually
encourages them to love each other!

Sounds of revulsion

CHANCELLOR GREEN

(in disbelief)

Are you two sure of this? After all, the information did come from children.

(Looking at Stephan Green)

How old is your child?

STEPHEN GREEN

She's four.

GREENTOWN CHANCELLOR

(Looking at Micah Green)

And yours?

MICHA GREEN

He's five

CHANCELLOR GREEN

(with uncertainty)

Those are some pretty small kids. We need more information on this man before we can decide to do anything about him. I suggest that some of the parents, elders and perhaps some of the religious leaders do some discreet investigation. That way we'll know what we are up against. Who's in agreement?

Affirmative nods and mumblings are heard around the small room.

CHANCELLOR GREEN (CONT'D)

Good. All right then, who's up for another round?

EXTERIOR - CONTINUOUS

Montage: Small groups of Greentown parents, then the elders, then the political and religious leaders start spying on the Stranger. As they do so, They see other people of various colored towns doing the same.

INTERIOR - CONTINUOUS - ORANGETOWN MEETING HALL.

Mayor Orange meets with his council members

MAYOR ORANGE

I now entertain motions on how to rid ourselves of the scourge of this Stranger!

ASHER ORANGE

How can we get rid of him when he owns the hill?

CLAUDIA ORANGE

(skeptically)

Only the King owns the hill or *any* property here. That sounds pretty ridiculous to me.

THOMAS ORANGE

Then we should ask him to produce a deed. The King may have leased it to him. If he did, there's not much we can do.

MAYOR ORANGE

Wouldn't the King have told us about it if that were so?

THOMAS ORANGE

(puzzled)

Has anyone here ever met the King?

Confused faces all around.

INTERIOR - CONTINUOUS - YELLOWTOWN PALACE.

YELLOW PREFECT

Perhaps we should have a public forum. Maybe the citizenry should decide how to get rid of this stranger.

PREFECT'S ADVISOR

Won't that make us seem inept or at least indecisive?

YELLOW PREFECT

Only to the more cynical. To most, it will seem like we care about their opinions. And if it turns out to be a bad decision, we can blame it on them.

PREFECT'S ADVISOR
(smirking)
I don't see how that plan could
lose.

YELLOW PREFECT
(shifty smile)
Good. We'll arrange it today.

INTERIOR - CONTINUOUS - BLUETOWN CHAPPLE

A group of holy men are gathered.

PASTOR BLUE
This is a dangerous situation
brothers. We must consult the
oracles in order to acquire the
wisdom needed to seek a remedy to
this affront against the Prince!
Let us pray.

Prayers of all sorts echo within the walls. After a long
while, the prayers die off.

PASTOR BLUE (CONT'D)
I believe the oracles are telling
us that this decision must be made
by all the towns in concert with
each other.

CANTOR BLUE
But isn't it blasphemy to even
speak of the other towns, let alone
talk to them?

PASTOR BLUE
Normally, I'd agree, but this is
too important to keep to ourselves.
The other towns may be able to
confirm or deny what I believe the
oracles are telling us.

CANTOR BLUE
Then we bring it to the other towns
and pray for a successful mission!

Prayers erupt again.

EXTERIOR - DAY - REDTOWN SQUARE

The Redtown Governor is doing his best to fend off the
accusations of a surly mob of townspeople.

DEBORAH RED
He's dangerous!

AARON RED
He's a subversive!

ARCHBISHOP RED
He's teaching our children to love
one another without regard to what
village they come from!

BARTHOLOMEW RED
This will lead to anarchy!

ARCHBISHOP RED
Something must be done, so why are
you doing nothing?

Men on horseback from various towns arrive and shout above
the crowd.

MAYOR ORANGE
Yes, something must be done about
this Stranger. Now we decide what!

Those from Redtown turn around, seeing the delegates from the
other towns. There are looks of anger, distrust, and
confusion and hate.

GOVERNOR RED
(angrily)
What are you all doing here?

INTERIOR - MINUTES LATER - INSIDE REDTOWN TOWN HALL

YELLOWTOWN ASSISTANT

To Redtown Governor
What do you know about this
stranger?

GOVERNOR RED
(suspiciously)

To Yellowtown Vice Prefect
What do you know about him?

PASTOR BLUE

Addressing the room:
We will get nowhere in eliminating
this threat unless we trust each
other!

MAYOR ORANGE

You all could be working together
with this stranger!

CHANCELLOR GREEN

That's nonsense! Toward what end?

COMMISSIONER VIOLET

This man is a common threat to our
ways of life. It's highly unlikely
that we would be working to
undermine ourselves.

VICE PRESIDENT PURPLE

The representative from Bluetown is
right. We must put trust in each
other in order to address this
danger. I suggest a treaty of
cooperation between the towns until
this stranger is dealt with.

MAYOR ORANGE

Does anyone here have authority to
sign a treaty?

CANTOR BLUE

I don't know but I for one, will
have to send a messenger back to
Bluetown to make sure.

GOVERNOR RED

In order to save time, we should
attempt to put a rough treaty
together before you find out if you
have authority to sign it. We must
move fast if we're to banish this
stranger before it's too late!

YELLOWTOWN ASSISTANT

This is a dangerous man. Banishment
may not be enough.

Some nods of agreement are seen around the room.

CANTOR BLUE

Wait, what do you mean by
banishment may not be enough?

EXTERIOR - AFTERNOON 3 DAYS LATER

The Bluetown delegation is riding home.

BLUE PROPHET

(bothered)

I don't like this. They intend to kill the stranger no matter what, I'm sure of it. We are Holy men; how can we agree to that?

CANTOR BLUE

The Stranger *is* dangerous though. If we don't deal with him appropriately and the King were to find out, what would happen to us?

BLUE PROPHET

What would be "appropriate"? Does this man deserve death because he wants the children to love one another?

From another trail ride delegates from the Red and Purple towns.

VICE PRESIDENT PURPLE

Not in our opinion.

LT. GOVERNOR RED

We don't know enough about this man to suggest that his death is warranted.

Delegates from the three parties amble their horses toward each other.

CANTOR BLUE

(warily)

So, we aren't the only ones uneasy about this. But what do you suggest we do?

EXTERIOR - DAY - OUTSIDE THE CHANCELLOR'S OFFICE.

GREENTOWN CHANCELLOR

(To vice Chancellor)

What did you find out?

VICE CHANCELLOR GREEN

It's worse than we thought but it's also better than we thought.

CHANCELLOR GREEN

(Frustrated)

Don't talk in riddles, man. What did you find out?

VICE CHANCELLOR GREEN
It's worse because the stranger's
teachings have infiltrated all the
towns.

CHANCELLOR GREEN
(Angrily)
Then what's the better part?

VICE CHANCELLOR GREEN
(Slyly)
The other towns have agreed that
the stranger must be dealt with in
the harshest possible way. All we
have to do is sign this treaty of
cooperation and the stranger is as
good as gone.

Evil grins paint both men's faces.

INTERIOR - EVENING - ORANGETOWN MAYOR'S OFFICE

MAYOR ORANGE
So you're telling me that all we
have to do is sign a treaty of
cooperation, then we can team up to
get rid of this stranger?

ASHER ORANGE
That's it and then everything can
go back to normal.

Both men laugh.

INTERIOR - DAY - REDTOWN GOVERNOR'S OFFICE

GOVERNOR RED
But if we don't do something about
this stranger the people will
Rebel!

ARCHBISHOP RED
We *should* banish him but killing
him should be out of the question
unless they're no other
alternatives.

LT. GOVERNOR RED
Killing a man for spreading love is
something I can't possibly believe
the King would sanction.

GOVERNOR RED

But if the other towns want to kill him, how are we going to stop them?

LT. GOVERNOR RED

Not all of the towns want that. Just the Violet, yellow, orange and green towns are in favor of the death penalty for this man.

GOVERNOR RED

But that's still three towns against four. Are we going to go to war with four towns over a stranger we don't even know - who means nothing to us? What happens if we lose?

INTERIOR - EVENING - THEN YELLOWTOWN PUB.

YELLOW PREFECT

I tell you, if we don't kill this man nothing good can come of this situation!

PREFECT'S ADVISOR

(Wary)

Are you sure all the other towns are in favor of this?

YELLOW PREFECT

It certainly seemed so when we were in Redtown.

PREFECT'S ADVISOR

Well, if you think so.

YELLOW PREFECT

I do. Let's sign this treaty.

INTERIOR - EVENING - THE VIOLENT COMMISSIONER'S HOUSE

COMMISSIONER VIOLET

TO VICE COMMISSIONER

Now that the treaty is signed, go back to Redtown and get this to the various councils. When are you meeting?

VIOLETOWN VICE COMMISSIONER
Tomorrow sir. I'll leave first
thing in the morning.

INTERIOR - DAY - YELLOWTOWN PALACE.

YELLOW PREFECT
(evil grin)
Now that the treaty has been signed
we should find out when we are free
to execute the stranger.

PREFECT'S ADVISOR
(smiling)
The other towns are meeting in
Redtown tomorrow. We can leave at
your convenience, Prefect.

INTERIOR - NEXT EVENING - REDTOWN MEETING HALL

GOVERNOR RED
After careful deliberation, we have
decided to add an addendum to the
treaty. The Stranger will be
banished and not killed unless he
refuses to leave.

Uproar throughout most of the meeting Hall.

YELLOW PREFECT
(displeased)
Who are you to add an addendum to
the treaty?

CANTOR BLUE
It's not just them. Bluetown is
also not in favor of executing the
stranger for no reason.

VICE COMMISSIONER VIOLET
No reason? You know what he's been
spreading. If the stranger does not
die he may permanently alter our
ways of life. Who knows what the
King will do when he finds out
about this man?

VICE CHANCELLOR GREEN
What if he already knows?

YELLOW PREFECT

(Haughtily)

I'm sure that if the King knew about this already, he would have taken this matter into his own hands and executed this stranger to make an example of him.

VICE PRESIDENT PURPLE

(SHOCKED)

Thankfully, the King is not like you; a violent, puffed-up Manchild.

PREFECT'S ADVISOR

(appalled)

You can't talk to our Prefect that way!

VICE PRESIDENT PURPLE

(With great amusement)

In the words of your own Prefect, "how is it my fault that you're insulted by the truth?"

CANTOR BLUE

We of Bluetown are also not convinced that this man is such a threat that banishment would not be enough. A death sentence should be a last resort.

An argument involving all the representatives ensues. It goes on for several minutes.

GOVERNOR RED

(Yelling)

Stop this bickering at once! This is getting us all nowhere.

CANTOR BLUE

My Brothers and I will consult the oracles tonight in order to determine the fate of The Stranger. We will resume our discussion tomorrow--in a much calmer manner!

YELLOW PREFECT

(Snobbishly)

Since you are against executing this man, how would we know that the oracles would tell you one thing and you would tell us another?

VICE COMMISSIONER VIOLET

Before the trouble, I knew these men very well and I believe that they are still Beyond reproach.

YELLOW PREFECT

Fine. We will meet tomorrow after breakfast. I don't know about the rest of you, but I could use a drink. Is the pub still open?

LT. GOVERNOR RED

I'm sure it is.

YELLOW PREFECT

Let's go then. I'm tired and thirsty.

The meeting Hall empties out, but the red, purple and blue delegates hang behind.

GOVERNOR RED

(Warily)

This doesn't look too good for our side.

VICE PRESIDENT PURPLE

I'm afraid I'll have to agree with you.

CANTOR BLUE

I believe consulting the oracles might be beneficial to us, but I think we should send someone to alert The Stranger. If it doesn't go our way, maybe he'll leave before any harm can come to him.

LT. GOVERNOR RED

We should send someone off tonight. At least the stranger will be able to make an informed decision. He might go of his own accord.

There is agreement within the group.

EXTERIOR - DAY - THE HILL

RACHEL VIOLET

TALKING TO THE STRANGER

(Frightened)

I think everyone wants to kill you.

STRANGER

What makes you say that?

RACHEL VIOLET

(worried)

The town is really mad at you. They don't like it that we're making friends with kids from other towns.

DANNY RED

I've heard that in my town too, but I think they just want you to go away.

STRANGER

Well, I'm certainly not going to leave my own Hill. They can come here and talk to me if they want to.

ISAAC YELLOW

I heard that if you don't leave, they're going to kill you.

STRANGER

I'm sure they'd want to talk to me first. I can't imagine they'd just come up here and kill me for no reason.

DINAH GREEN

Ever since the trouble, the people from all the towns hate each other and they hate anyone who tries to change it.

STRANGER

I guess we'll see what happens then.

EXTERIOR - DAY - THE HILL

Riders from the Redtown, Bluetown and Purpletown approach the stranger who is sitting with various children.

PROPHET BLUE

Good day to you, sir.

STRANGER

And to you.

The others say nothing. They just wait.

PROPHET BLUE
What is your business here?

STRANGER
(amused)
Why, making trouble, of course.

PROPHET BLUE
(annoyed)
There is very little to be amused
about, sir. There's a plan afoot to
remove you from here. If you don't
go, you may be killed.

STRANGER
Is that so?

PROPHET BLUE
(serious)
It is and it's no joke.

STRANGER
I'm sure it isn't, but I'm
certainly not going to leave my own
property, no matter what the
threat.

PROPHET BLUE
You own this hill?

STRANGER
In a manner of speaking.

LT. GOVERNOR RED
And what "manner of speaking" would
that be? Did you purchase it?

STRANGER
No.

VICE PRESIDENT PURPLE
Lease it?

STRANGER
No.

PROPHET BLUE
(annoyed)
Then what are you talking about?

STRANGER
I've always owned it.

VICE PRESIDENT PURPLE
That can't be. The King owns this
property.

STRANGER
The King and I are very close.

LT. GOVERNOR RED
You know the King?

STRANGER
(even more amused)
In a manner of speaking.

PROPHET BLUE
(frustrated)
This is futile!

LT. GOVERNOR RED
Just hold on a second.

PURPLE PROPHET
But this man is talking in riddles!
How can we help him if he's not
going to cooperate?

The Purpletown Vice President motions to the other men.

VICE PRESIDENT PURPLE
To the stranger
Can you give us a minute?

STRANGER
(smiling)
Take all the time you need.

The three riders move several yards away.

VICE PRESIDENT PURPLE
(quietly)
I'm not sure this man is in his
right mind.

BLUE PROPHET
He seems lucid enough.

VICE PRESIDENT PURPLE
But he speaks in riddles. He's
always owned this hill "in a manner
of speaking"? He's very close to
the King "in a manner of speaking"?
We've been living here for
generations.

(MORE)

VICE PRESIDENT PURPLE (CONT'D)

Have any of us ever seen this man before? Have any of us ever met the King or even seen him? Sometimes I wonder if he even exists. If it wasn't for you prophets, I don't think I'd believe any of this at all.

LT. GOVERNOR RED
(skeptically)

This man can't be right in the head. He must be delusional.

PROPHET BLUE
True, but I don't get the feeling he's dangerous to the children.

VICE PRESIDENT PURPLE
I don't think so either; at least not on a physical level. But he's certainly filling their heads with unacceptable thoughts.

LT. GOVERNOR RED
(frustrated)

Now I'm even more convinced that it would be wrong to just kill him.

Both the other men agree.

PROPHET BLUE
Should we ask him a few more questions?

VICE PRESIDENT PURPLE
Like what?

LT. GOVERNOR RED
Who he is and where he came from?

PROPHET BLUE
He might just start talking in riddles again. Besides, the more I speak to him, the weirder I feel.

VICE PRESIDENT PURPLE
You too? I thought that was just me!

LT. GOVERNOR RED
Apparently, it's all of us.

PROPHET BLUE

I feel peaceful and annoyed at the same time!

LT. GOVERNOR RED

That's the feeling alright.

VICE PRESIDENT PURPLE

I wonder what it is?

PROPHET BLUE

I doubt we'd get get anywhere asking him about it.

VICE PRESIDENT PURPLE

I don't think so either.

The party sees the stranger engrossed in conversation with the children.

VICE PRESIDENT PURPLE (CONT'D)

Do you think he'd notice if we just left?

LT. GOVERNOR RED

Perhaps, but I think it's pointless to talk to him anymore.

PROPHET BLUE

Let's go then.

The men ride off. The Stranger watches as they go and smiles.

INTERIOR - EVENING - REDTOWN GOVERNOR'S OFFICE

GOVERNOR RED

(troubled)

So, you say this stranger is unbalanced?

LT. GOVERNOR RED

(resigned)

He must be sir. He thinks he's always owned the hill "in a manner of speaking". He talks in riddles and isn't bothered by the possibility that he could be killed.

GOVERNOR RED

Do you think the children are in danger?

LT. GOVERNOR RED
It's the consensus that they're not, sir. The stranger may delusional, but he means no one any harm.

GOVERNOR RED
What do you mean "consensus"?

LT. GOVERNOR RED
During the meeting, the officials from Redtown and Bluetown also felt that it was unjust to kill the stranger without at least talking to him.

GOVERNOR RED
So what happened?

LT. GOVERNOR RED
The rest of the towns weren't agreeable, so we went and talked to him ourselves.

GREENTOWN CHANCELLOR
(Smiling)
That was a pretty gutsy move. So are the officials from Purpletown and Bluetown in agreement with you?

LT. GOVERNOR RED
Yes sir, they are.

GOVERNOR RED
So what are we going to do?

INTERIOR - EVENING - BLUETOWN TEMPLE

PROPHET BLUE
So you understand that we just can't allow this man to be killed like this.

PASTOR BLUE
If he held a real danger there would be no question, but in this case I don't see how we could. Our consciences would never allow it.

PROPHET BLUE

We are working on a plan to remove him before he can be killed, but Redtown and Purpletown will both have to be involved. It's more than we can handle on our own.

PASTOR BLUE

Will their people accept it?

PROPHET BLUE

It's doubtful. That's why we're keeping it among the top officials.

PASTOR BLUE

I think that's wise. Let's all put our heads together and see how we can help this stranger and ourselves.

INTERIOR - EVENING - A PUB IN PURPLETOWN

PRESIDENT PURPLE

I hope you know what you're doing.

VICE PRESIDENT PURPLE

We have to try to do something. It just wouldn't be right to condemn a mentally deficient man to death. How could we live with ourselves if we allowed this to happen?

PRESIDENT PURPLE

(nervously)

Of course you're right, but if anyone was to find out, the other towns might decide to attack us.

VICE PRESIDENT PURPLE

I don't think that would happen. None of the other towns trust each other as it is. Besides, this treaty is temporary at best. I doubt would last more than a few minutes after the stranger was dealt with.

PRESIDENT PURPLE

You're right I suppose, but the whole thing makes me nervous. Have you got a plan together yet?

VICE PRESIDENT PURPLE
Of sorts. It's rough and needs
fine-tuning but we think it could
work.

PRESIDENT PURPLE
Well get it down and when you're
ready to get the bugs out, let me
know. There's quite a few very
smart people in this place.

VICE PRESIDENT PURPLE
Yes sir! I'll probably need some
help with the finer aspects. Your
diplomatic skills would be handy
when it comes to dealing with the
officials from other towns.

PRESIDENT PURPLE
I'd be happy to help. After all, we
just want to get rid of this
stranger. We're not murderers!

VICE PRESIDENT PURPLE
There's a spot on the hill where
our officials can meet with those
of the Red and Blue towns.

PRESIDENT PURPLE
(cautiously)
Violet Town is right between us and
them. Be careful you're not seen.

EXTERIOR - NIGHT

Messengers from the red, blue and purple towns meet to make
plans for a meeting place for their officials.

JARED RED - MESSENGER

Leading his horse along
(whispering)
The meetings should be held in the
brush so no one will be seen.

JOSIAH PURPLE - MESSENGER
That could get pretty
uncomfortable.

JABIN BLUE - MESSENGER
Maybe we could dig small cave into
the hill and make a shelter with
some brush and branches.
(MORE)

JABIN BLUE - MESSENGER (CONT'D)

We could put some pillows and
blankets inside.

JOSIAH PURPLE - MESSENGER

This would be a good spot for it,
but to do it could take some time.

JARED RED - MESSENGER

Maybe our officials could drag
their feet to buy us some.

JOSIAH PURPLE - MESSENGER

We'll come back tomorrow night with
some picks and shovels and get
started. If we each bring an extra
man, we can get it done quick!

INTERIOR - DAY - THE BLUE TEMPLE

The Bluetown messenger is meeting with the Prophet and the
two blue holymen.

PASTOR BLUE

How soon can you have the cave
done?

JABIN BLUE

If there are six men working on it,
one and a half, maybe two nights.
Do you have a plan for how to get
the stranger to leave yet?

PASTOR BLUE

Not yet.

CANTOR BLUE

(thoughtfully)

If you were to make the cave big
enough, we could abduct him and
hide the stranger there until we
got rid of him.

PASTOR BLUE

That might work.

JABIN BLUE

With anymore than six men, we'd be
seen. We'll have to work fast.

EXTERIOR - NIGHT - REDTOWN GOVERNOR'S OFFICE

GOVERNOR RED

All that just to make a meeting place?

JARED RED

We're trying to make sure the violet townspeople don't see us.

GOVERNOR RED

(thoughtfully)

I can see that. How much time do you think it would take to make it big enough to hide a couple of men and the stranger in?

JARED RED

That's a good idea! With three teams of two men each, a night or two. It would be big enough for him and two other men.

GOVERNOR RED

Good. Get it done as soon as possible. There'll be a final vote at the end of the week.

JARED RED

Can you slow things down any?

GOVERNOR RED

I'll contact the Bluetown Holyman and see what kind of story we can give the rest of them, but I can't promise anything. In the meantime, get an extra set of hands and get the cave done as fast as you can.

INTERIOR - DAY - THE PURPLETOWN PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

PRESIDENT PURPLE

A cave might be just the thing.

JOSIAH PURPLE

What do you mean, sir?

PRESIDENT PURPLE

If it was big enough, we could grab the stranger and hide him there until we decide what to do with him.

JOSIAH PURPLE
(skeptical)
That would have to be a pretty big
cave.

PRESIDENT PURPLE
If we tied him up, we'd only need
two men to watch him.

JOSIAH PURPLE
(still skeptical)
Well, you're the boss.

EXTERIOR - NEXT NIGHT - BACK AT THE MEETING PLACE

Men with picks and shovels are digging into a steep place in
the side of the hill.

JABIN BLUE
Isn't it odd that all three of our
leaders thought of kidnapping the
stranger and hiding him in this
cave?

AARON RED
I suppose, but our leaders are
pretty smart men.

ABRAHAM PURPLE
I'm not sure if any of them are
that smart!

JARED RED
(irked)
What do you mean?

ABRAHAM PURPLE
If they were all that smart, why
didn't they check with each other
about the song and the instruments
before all this trouble got
started?

PETER BLUE
How would that have helped?

ABRAHAM PURPLE
If they all could've gotten
together before, maybe we could
have avoided all this. Look, we no
longer even talk with each other,
let alone barter. Now we all have
to work longer hours.
(MORE)

ABRAHAM PURPLE (CONT'D)

Our wives and children fight with each other and everyone is unhappy. I've lost a lot of friends I've had since childhood because of this and life is more bleak all the way around.

PETER BLUE

(thoughtfully)

Yes, life is a lot more difficult now, but what can we do? Isn't this what the King wants?

AARON RED

No one I've met has ever *seen* the King. How could *anyone* know what he wants? Life had always been good until a few years ago. It's hard to believe the King would foul things up like this on purpose.

JOSIAH PURPLE

(skeptically)

Maybe it's not the King's fault.

JABIN BLUE

How do you mean?

JOSIAH PURPLE

Did you see how our leaders all acted on the first day we all got together to play the song?

PETER BLUE

(thoughtfully)

They got surley right away.

JOSIAH PURPLE

Yeah, they all jumped on each other without any thought that *they* might be the ones in the wrong.

PETER BLUE

Our Holy men didn't do that. They tried to calm everyone!

JARED RED

I know, but the rest of them are just politicians. They always try to avoid responsibility if they possibly can.

ABRAHAM PURPLE
 (sarcastically)
 And now most of them want to kill
 this stranger because he's trying
 to bring peace.

JABIN BLUE
 True. It's not right, is it?

AARON RED
 That's why I volunteered for this
 when I could be tending my farm. If
 we can save this stranger, perhaps
 he can bring us all together and
 things can go back to the way they
 were.

There are affirmative mumblings throughout the workers. A few
 yards away watchful eyes stare from behind some shrubs at the
 goings on, but the watcher is unaware that someone else is
 watching him.

INTERIOR - MORNING - THE VIOLET COMMISSIONER'S HOME

COMMISSIONER VIOLET'S SMALL DAUGHTER AND HE IN CONVERSATION.

PRISCILLA VIOLET
 (inquisitively)
 Daddy?

COMMISSIONER VIOLET
 Yes, precious?

PRISCILLA VIOLET
 Are you going to kill that nice
 stranger?

COMMISSIONER VIOLET
 Oh, no... not you too!

PRISCILLA VIOLET
 (hurt)
 But why daddy? He's such a nice
 man. All he wants is for us to love
 each other.

COMMISSIONER VIOLET
 I don't know how to explain this to
 you. He's disrupting our lives.

PRISCILLA VIOLET
 (upset)
 No he's not daddy. He's helping us!

COMMISSIONER VIOLET
 (frustrated)
 You just don't understand, sweetie.
 If we let him, he will undermine
 what the King wants!

PRISCILLA VIOLET
 (confused)
 But, how do you know what the King
 wants?

COMMISSIONER VIOLET
 The King gave us instruments and
 music so we could honor his son,
 but all other the towns have
 instruments and music that will
 dishonor him.

PRISCILLA VIOLET
 (afraid)
 But, daddy... how do you know that
 our song is the right one?

The Commissioner Violette stares blankly at his daughter. His
 mouth hangs open.

INTERIOR - DAY - THE GREENTOWN CHANCELLOR'S HOME.

CHANCELLOR GREEN
 I don't know what's taking so long.
 We should have all the treaties
 back by now so we can move on this
 problem.

ABIGAIL GREEN
 Do you really think killing this
 man is the right thing to do?

CHANCELLOR GREEN
 Of course. Why wouldn't it be?

ABIGAIL GREEN
 Do you have to *kill* him? Why not
 just banish him?

CHANCELLOR GREEN
 Supposed he comes back... then
 what?

ABIGAIL GREEN
 Then you could talk about killing
 him.

CHANCELLOR GREEN
 (surprised)
 Talk about killing him... talk
 about it? That's just foolish!

ABIGAIL GREEN
 What's foolish is spilling innocent
 blood! What has this man done
 beside try to spread peace?

CHANCELLOR GREEN
 (nervous whisper)
 Shhh!

Greentown Chancellor walks over and closes the window.

CHANCELLOR GREEN (CONT'D)
 (speaking softly)
 You don't understand. The people of
 this town want him dead. If I don't
 deliver the stranger up to them, I
 could lose the next election, Then
 where would we be?

ABIGAIL GREEN
 Is it them you're worried about or
 your reputation among the other
 town leaders?

CHANCELLOR GREEN
 (confused)
 What's that supposed to mean?

ABIGAIL GREEN
 I see the way you act around that
 boys club. Everyone always trying
 to one-up the other; especially
 that Prefect from Yellowtown. What
 an arrogant, puffed-up baby he is
 and yet he intimidates you, doesn't
 he?

CHANCELLOR GREEN
 (sheepishly)
 No...

ABIGAIL GREEN

Looks at her husband frostily

ABIGAIL GREEN (CONT'D)
 Do you really expect me to believe
 that?

CHANCELLOR GREEN
(changing the subject)
Look, it's politics. I have to
appear to give our town what it
wants or at least what it needs or
I'll lose my job! Then where'll we
be?

ABIGAIL GREEN
(sarcastically)
For one thing, you'd have to go
back to work.

The Greentown Chancellor shivers down to his boots.

CHANCELLOR GREEN
So, I have to do *something*!

ABIGAIL GREEN
But why kill him? Wouldn't you look
just as commanding if you
publically ran him out of town?

CHANCELLOR GREEN
But it's not entirely up to me. All
but the Red, Blue and Purple towns
want him dead!

ABIGAIL GREEN
What do those towns want to do?

CHANCELLOR GREEN
They want him banished.

ABIGAIL GREEN
Why not join with them? Then there
will be no blood on your hands!

CHANCELLOR GREEN
But I believe our townsfolk want
him dead too!

ABIGAIL GREEN
The Stranger is not guilty of
anything but spreading peace. Isn't
it your job to show our townspeople
the truth?

CHANCELLOR GREEN
It's in our best interest for me to
stay in office and I'm not going to
do that by looking weak in their
eyes.

Abigail Green Chancellor glares at her husband and shakes her head.

ABIGAIL GREEN
You are not the man I married.

EXTERIOR - DAY - ORANGETOWN SQUARE

An angry crowd has assembled. The Mayor is trying to calm them.

MAYOR ORANGE
(pleading)
Please, we need more time. I'm still waiting for word on the treaty.

RUFUS ORANGE
(angrily)
Why do we need a treaty? Let's go up that hill, find the stranger and kill him ourselves!

ORANGETOWN MAYOR
No. This must be a cooperative effort. It's what the oracles have stated to the prophets!

To the Orangetown Prophet

SIMEON ORANGE
Is he telling the truth?

PROPHET ORANGE
We have met with the Holy men from the other towns and this is what the oracles have told us!

HANNAH ORANGE
Then how much longer are we to wait... why isn't this treaty signed yet?

MAYOR ORANGE
We are in negotiations even as we speak.

ASHER ORANGE
The delegations will meet again in two days!

Groans from the crowd

ELIZABETH ORANGE
 (shocked)
 Two days? How are we to wait two more days? Our children are more affected all the time!

ASHER ORANGE
 Please... be patient.

HANNAH ORANGE
 A course of action will be decided then, right?

THOMAS ORANGE
 We hope so.

The crowd erupts in boos and catcalls. The Mayor glares angrily at the Council member.

HANNAH ORANGE
 (angrily)
 We *hope* so? What kind of answer is that?

RUFUS ORANGE
 (snarling)
 You're nothing but a bunch of incompetents!

MAYOR ORANGE
 (Calls out firmly)
 Alright, everyone calm down. You're just going to have to trust that we know what we're doing.

The angry crowd starts to pelt the Mayor and council members with rotten fruit and vegetables. The men run into the meeting hall and lock the doors.

THOMAS ORANGE
 That didn't go as well as I expected.

ORANGETOWN MAYOR
 (angrily)
 Y'think?

Looks at his council members:

MAYOR ORANGE
 Do any of you nincompoops have any idea of the progress on the treaty?

The council men look sheepishly at each other and then at the mayor. They slowly shake their heads.

ORANGETOWN MAYOR
(shouting)
Well, find out!

The men scatter like rats.

INTERIOR - DAY - YELLOWTOWN OFFICE OF THE PREFECT: THE YELLOW PREFECT IN CONFERENCE WITH SETH YELLOW, A LOCAL TEEN.

YELLOW PREFECT
So, members of the opposition are digging a cave in the side of the hill, are they?

SETH YELLOW
Yes Prefect. I saw them there last night.

YELLOW PREFECT
Do you know why?

SETH YELLOW
No Prefect, but I'm sure I could find out... for a price.

YELLOWTOWN PREFECT
(grinning slyly)
Aren't you the little mercenary?
And what price would that be?

SETH YELLOW
Thirty barter credits, Prefect.

YELLOW PREFECT
Thirty it is. (chuckling) I would have paid forty.

SETH YELLOW
(smirking)
I would have taken twenty.

The Prefect shrugs.

YELLOW PREFECT
Inconsequential. I'll have the treasurer give you half now... for incentive.

SETH YELLOW

Thank you prefect. I won't let you
down.

YELLOW PREFECT

(with evil in his voice)
I know you won't. If you did, you'd
end up as dead as that stranger
will be.

The teen shivers to his boots and backs bowing out of the
Prefect's office never taking his eyes off him and closes the
door.

YELLOW PREFECT (CONT'D)

Leans back in his chair.

YELLOWTOWN PREFECT

(with an evil smile)
It's nice to have power.

A knock at the door.

YELLOW PREFECT (CONT'D)

(annoyed)
Who is it?

PREFECT'S ADVISOR

Sir, the Violettown commissioner
is here.

YELLOW PREFECT

(Even more annoyed)
What does *he* want?

PREFECT'S ADVISOR

The Violettown commissioner pushes past the Yellowtown
councilman.

COMMISSIONER VIOLET

(angrily)
I'll tell you what he wants. He
wants to know why you've refused to
see the messengers he's sent and
why you've ignored his messages.

YELLOW PREFECT

(lazily)
Is it absolutely necessary that you
refer to yourself in the third
person?

COMMISSIONER VIOLET
Is it absolutely necessary that you
act like an indolent windbag?

YELLOW PREFECT
(annoyed)
This conversation is starting off
on bad foot commissioner. If you've
come here to insult me you can
leave now. Or, you can tell me what
your business here is.

COMMISSIONER VIOLET
I sent Messengers to you two days
ago to find out where we were in
treaty negotiations. Why did you
refuse to see them? Are we no
further along?

YELLOW PREFECT
(indifferent)
I assumed that's the reason they
were here but I have nothing new to
report so I sent them back to you.
Is there something wrong with that?

COMMISSIONER VIOLET
(Agitated)
Of course there's something wrong
with that! How are we going to
coordinate our efforts if you
refuse to cooperate?

YELLOW PREFECT
Frankly, I find your sort...
distasteful. The less I have to
deal with you and yours the happier
I am.

COMMISSIONER VIOLET
If we are being frank, I find you
and your attitude even more
distasteful than you find me and
mine.

YELLOW PREFECT
Sniffs, looks uncaring.

COMMISSIONER VIOLET
I don't like dealing with you or
yours any more than you like
dealing with me and mine.
(MORE)

COMMISSIONER VIOLET (CONT'D)

However the oracles put us
together. It's not been by choice.

YELLOW PREFECT

(Lazily)

True, but I've never been a
particularly religious man.

COMMISSIONER VIOLET

I can see that. You act like you're
your own god.

YELLOW PREFECT

(smugly)

Well, if the shoe fits...

COMMISSIONER VIOLET

(Irked)

So I take it we'll get little to no
cooperation from you?

YELLOW PREFECT

(Ired)

You'll get as much cooperation as I
care to give at any particular time
and no more. I also wouldn't waste
any more of your time and effort
sending messengers to me.

COMMISSIONER VIOLET

(resigned)

Yes, I can see that would be
futile.

YELLOW PREFECT

If we are through here, it's time
for my lunch.

The Violettown Commissioner looks at the Prefect with
disdain.

COMMISSIONER VIOLET

(sarcastically)

We wouldn't want you to miss that.
You could starve to death. Good day
sir.

The Violet Town Commissioner turns and walks out of the room.

YELLOW PREFECT

(disgustedly)

Peasant.

YELLOW PREFECT (CONT'D)
(yelling)
Where is my lunch?

PREFECT'S SERVANT
(bowing and scraping)
Right away, Prefect... Right away!

EXTERIOR - MOMENTS LATER - OUTSIDE THE PREFECT'S PALACE

VICE COMMISSIONER VIOLET
You don't look happy.

COMMISSIONER VIOLET
Why should I be? We can expect no
help whatsoever from that arrogant
tub of lard.

VICE COMMISSIONER VIOLET
Isn't that what I told you?

COMMISSIONER VIOLET
If I wanted to hear an "I told you
so", I'd go home to my wife. What I
need from you is a solution.

VICE COMMISSIONER VIOLET
Let's ride to Greentown. Maybe we
can get some information there.

COMMISSIONER VIOLET
If we get nothing there, we'll ride
to Orangetown. Somebody must know
something!

INTERIOR - DAY - BLUETOWN TEMPLE

A multitudes of prayers ring out

PASTOR BLUE
Brothers and sisters, what say the
oracles?

PROPHETESS BLUE
We must approach the other towns to
try and prevent the death of the
stranger!

BLUE PROPHEET
That's what the oracles told me
too.

PASTOR BLUE

Then that's what we must do.

PROPHETESS BLUE

What makes you think they'll listen?

BLUE PROPHET

Our job is to do what the oracles tell us. If they choose not to listen us and to them, it's on their heads.

INTERIOR - MOMENTS LATER - IN THE OFFICE OF THE TEMPLE.

PASTOR BLUE

Call in the the messenger.

Cantor Blue walks to the door and calls out softly. The man enters.

PASTOR BLUE (CONT'D)

What the progress on our "project"?

JABIN BLUE

We should have it done by tomorrow morning, but there's been a development.

PASTOR BLUE

What kind of development?

JABIN BLUE

For one thing, the leaders of the red and purple towns have all decided that the stranger should be abducted and kept in the cave until this all blows over.

PASTOR BLUE

Each one decided that with no input from the others?

JABIN BLUE

That's right sir.

PASTOR BLUE

Interesting. Do you think the oracles might have something to do with this, Cantor?

CANTOR BLUE

I suppose it's possible.

JABIN BLUE

That's not all sir. All the workers from all the other towns are not only against killing the stranger, but are also questioning the wisdom of even banishing him.

PASTOR BLUE

(in disbelief)

But why?

JABIN BLUE

Some of the men complained that because we no longer barter with the other towns, that they have to work longer hours and *still* don't have the foods or products they used to get from other towns. Others talked about losing lifelong friendships they had before all the trouble.

PASTOR BLUE

Yes, I can see those points.

JABIN BLUE

(sadly)

I had a very good friend from Orangetown that I've known since childhood. We used to do everything together and now we can't even talk to each other.

PASTOR BLUE

But what about the King's edict? How can we associate with people who don't follow him?

JABIN BLUE

Begging your pardon sir, but how do you know we aren't the ones not following the king?

EXTERIOR - LATE AFTERNOON - THE ROAD TO GREEN TOWN

COMMISSIONER VIOLET

This is turning out to be a longer ride than I expected.

Violet town vice commissioner nods

VICE COMMISSIONER VIOLET

It's only about another hour or so.

COMMISSIONER VIOLET
Hopefully, we can find out what's
going on with the treaty. I'd hate
to have to ride to Orangetown from
here.

Violettetown vice commissioner nods again.

VICE COMMISSIONER VIOLET
We're almost out of food. Do you
think we can get some in Greentown?

COMMISSIONER VIOLET
Well, we are trying to cooperate in
this matter, so I hope so.

EXTERIOR - DAY - GREENTOWN

The Violet Town delegation arrives in Greentown. Townsfolk
look at them with anger and disdain. A couple of toughs with
clubs blocks their way.

GREENTOUGH 1
(snarling)
What are you two doing here?

GREENTOUGH 2
(growling)
Yeah, what's your business?

COMMISSIONER VIOLET
(irritated)
Our business isn't any of your
business.

The VIOLETOWN VICE COMMISSIONER attempts to calm the
situation.

VICE COMMISSIONER VIOLET
(calmly)
We're here to see your Chancellor.

GREENTOUGH 2
What makes you think he wants to
see you?

VIOLETTOWN COMMISSIONER
(lying)
Because he summoned us, that's why.

GREENTOUGH 1
Then why doesn't anyone else know
about it?

COMMISSIONER VIOLET
Are you one of his officials?

GREENTOUGH 1
(sheepishly)
No.

VIOLETTOWN COMMISSIONER
Looks at other tough.

COMMISSIONER VIOLET
Are you?

GREENTOUGH 2
(irritated)
You know we're not!

COMMISSIONER VIOLET
Then get out of way before there's
trouble.

The first tough draws breath to speak, but is cut off by the
Chancellor who saw the Violettetown men arrive.

CHANCELLOR GREEN
What's going on here?

GREENTOUGH 1
These Violette's are trespassing.
We were just about to show them out
of town.

COMMISSIONER VIOLET
(lying)
We tried to tell them about our
meeting Chancellor, but they
refused to listen.

CHANCELLOR GREEN
(annoyed)
Who appointed you two my security
force?

GREENTOUGH 2
We don't want their kind here!

CHANCELLOR GREEN
How about the Stranger... do you
want his kind here?

The toughs shake their heads.

CHANCELLOR GREEN (CONT'D)

The oracles have ordained that all the towns work together to get rid of the stranger. How are we to do that if you fools interfere? Now get out of the way and go find something useful to do.

The toughs wander off grumbling. As the two Violet Town officials dismount.

COMMISSIONER VIOLET

Well, that...

CHANCELLOR GREEN

(softly out the side of his mouth)

Quiet. Let's go inside.

The men walk toward the Greentown Chancellor's house.

INTERIOR - MOMENTS LATER IN CHANCELLOR'S HOUSE.

CHANCELLOR GREEN

It's risky you coming here. Things have been in an uproar ever since that stranger showed up.

COMMISSIONER VIOLET

That's what we're here about. What do you know about the treaty?

CHANCELLOR GREEN

Not much. Everyone has been pretty tight-lipped about it, especially the Prefect.

COMMISSIONER VIOLET

We just came from there. He'll be of no use to us.

CHANCELLOR GREEN

In all honesty, I never liked him even before all this trouble. In my opinion, he's worthless and stupid.

VICE COMMISSIONER VIOLET

I believe he appears to be those things, but I think he's more shrewd than that. I don't trust him.

CHANCELLOR GREEN
(to the two men)
Do you think he's up to something?

COMMISSIONER VIOLET
I don't know, but I think my vice
commissioner is right. He's a
shrewd man who pretends to be
stupid. We should keep an eye on
him.

CHANCELLOR GREEN
Agreed. Now, how can we find out
about the treaty?

COMMISSIONER VIOLET
If you don't know anything, we'll
have to ride to Orangetown.

CHANCELLOR GREEN
It's too late for that today. You
can stay here until morning.

COMMISSIONER VIOLET
Are you sure that'll be alright?
The townsfolk and those young
toughs we ran into didn't seem very
happy to see us.

CHANCELLOR GREEN
The townsfolk may not like you
here, but they won't bother you.
Those toughs are just troublemakers
with not enough to do to keep them
out of mischief.

COMMISSIONER VIOLET
Well, you know your town better
than we do.

CHANCELLOR GREEN
Relax. We'll have some food and
then we'll put together a party to
go with you tomorrow. The Oranges
can be pretty surly at times.

COMMISSIONER VIOLET
That's very kind of you.

CHANCELLOR GREEN
The oracles want us to work
together. We can't do that and
still be at each other's throats.

EXTERIOR - NIGHT - AT THE CAVE

The Seth Yellow moves quietly through the brush trying to get within earshot of the men digging into the side of the hill.

JARED RED

Hand me a pickaxe. I've hit some big rocks.

PETER BLUE

How big? Will they slow us down?

JARED RED

Yes, but I'm not sure by how much. It depend on the size of the rocks.

ABRAHAM PURPLE

I've brought a long pry bar. That should help.

AARON RED

How did you know to bring that?

ABRAHAM PURPLE

The hill is pretty rocky on this side. It's like this near our town too.

JARED RED

I've cleared around the rock. Let me have the pry bar.

The men push on the bar together and the big rock comes free.

ABRAHAM PURPLE

That did it!

The men clap each other on the back and go back to digging. The Yellow teen stares into the darkness in wonderment.

SETH YELLOW

(muttering to himself)
I wonder what that cave is *for*?

The Stranger sneaks up on the Teen.

STRANGER

Whatcha looking at?

The teen startles.

SETH YELLOW

Whu... I uh...

The teen bolts away at a high speed.

STRANGER
(to himself)
Well, *that* was rude!

The men look around.

JOSIAH PURPLE
(startled)
What was that noise?

AARON RED
Probably just an animal of some
kind.

JOSIAH PURPLE
(shakely)
Sounded like a pretty big animal.

JABIN BLUE
I'm sure it was nothing dangerous.
If it was, we'd know about by now.

JOSIAH PURPLE
(warily)
I guess you're right.

STRANGER
(Grins and walks away)

EXTERIOR - MORNING - GREENTOWN

The Violette party along with the Greentown chancellor mount
up and head for Orangetown.

COMMISSIONER VIOLET
Thank you for the extra food
Chancellor. We were just about out.

CHANCELLOR GREEN
I'm glad you let me know. I'm not
unfamiliar with hunger. When the
trouble started, we were
unprepared. Food became very scarce
and had to be rationed.

COMMISSIONER VIOLET
(sadly)
I'm so very sorry. I wish I would
have known. Perhaps *something* could
have been done.

GREENTOWN CHANCELLOR

(frankly)

Don't let it bother you. None of us were of a mind to help each other back then. It's all water under the bridge now.

VICE COMMISSIONER VIOLET

If it wasn't for the oracles, we wouldn't be working together right now. Sometimes I wonder if all this separation is the right thing.

CHANCELLOR GREEN

What do you mean?

VICE COMMISSIONER VIOLET

All this fighting seems so futile. Could this really be what the King wants?

In the distance, the men see two men on horseback riding along the crest of the hill going in the opposite direction.

COMMISSIONER VIOLET

It looks like those two are heading toward Yellowtown. Who do you suppose they are?

GREENTOWN CHANCELLOR

I can't tell from here. Curious, isn't it?

EXTERIOR - MORNING - THE CAVE

The workers are gone. Seth Yellow looks around to make sure he's alone. He pulls some cut branches away from the mouth of the small cave. He pokes his head in and looks around. There are pillows, blankets and a small supply of food and water. He puts the branches back and leaves unaware he's being watched.

EXTERIOR - MID-MORNING - ORANGETOWN.

The Violette and Green Town emissaries ride into town. Townspeople look at them askance.

CHANCELLOR GREEN

(to a townswoman)

Excuse me ma'am, but do you know where I can find the Mayor?

She spits on the ground and keeps walking.

COMMISSIONER VIOLET
I guess not.

CHANCELLOR GREEN
You can hardly blame these people.
It's been years since the trouble,
but everyone is still angry. They'd
probably get the same reaction if
they were in Greentown.

They keep riding until they see a large building.

CHANCELLOR GREEN (CONT'D)
That could be their meeting hall.

The party looks to see if anyone is around. The Commissioner
Violette get off his horse, walks over and knocks on big
double doors. A man answers.

ASHER ORANGE
(shocked)
What are you all doing here? Quick,
quick... come in!

He ushers them in as he closes the door looking around to
make sure no one has seen.

ASHER ORANGE (CONT'D)
Don't you know how dangerous it is
for you to be here?

COMMISSIONER VIOLET
(snidely)
For us or for you?

CHANCELLOR GREEN
(annoyed to Commissioner
Violette)
That's enough of that.

ASHER ORANGE
(irritated)
For *all* of us!

CHANCELLOR GREEN
We need to see your Mayor. Is he
about?

ASHER ORANGE
He's out of town. What this is
about?

COMMISSIONER VIOLET
 We were hoping he might know
 something about progress on the
 treaty.

ASHER ORANGE
 (firmly)
 As far as I know, there hasn't been
 any progress... at least nothing
 I've heard about. The blues,
 purples and reds don't want to deal
 with the stranger the way the rest
 of want to.

COMMISSIONER VIOLET
 (sarcastically)
 You mean they want to banish him
 instead of killing him!

ASHER ORANGE
 (angrily)
 What's wrong with *that*? He's a
 dangerous subversive... he *should*
 die!

COMMISSIONER VIOLET
 (annoyed)
 If we banish him, that doesn't mean
 we are going carry him out of town
 on a sedan-chair made of puffy
 pillows. He will be beaten and
 warned not to come back! Why isn't
 that enough for you?

ASHER ORANGE
 (angrily)
 His ideas are dangerous and are
 affecting our children... *all* of
 our children! Why shouldn't he die?

CHANCELLOR GREEN
 Alright, alright. Enough of this.
 We aren't going to solve anything
 today. Sir, would know where your
 mayor went?

ASHER ORANGE
 No, I wouldn't. Show yourselves
 out. I've got work to do.

The council member turns and walks away glaring at the
 Violettown Vice Commissioner over his shoulder leaving
 through a door on the opposite wall.

CHANCELLOR GREEN

What was *that* about? Are you now unsure about a death sentence for this man.

VICE COMMISSIONER VIOLET

(frustrated)

I don't know. I'm just tired of all this fighting and the stranger wants to end it. I can't see what's wrong with that.

INTERIOR - AFTERNOON - THE PREFECT'S PALACE

Seth Yellow stands in the foyer waiting.

YELLOW PREFECT

(annoyed)

This better be good. You're interrupting my lunch.

SETH YELLOW

I'm sorry Prefect, but I thought you'd want to know what the men who digging were doing. It looks like men from the blue, red and purple towns have built a cave. It might be some sort of hiding place.

YELLOW PREFECT

What do you mean "hiding place"?

SETH YELLOW

They dug a cave about six feet deep. It's reinforced with timbers and there is food and water in it - enough for a couple of days. There are also pillows and blankets.

YELLOW PREFECT

Where is this place?

SETH YELLOW

It's dug into the side of the hill near...

The Prefect interrupts.

YELLOW PREFECT

Just draw me a map.

PREFECT'S SERVANT

Excuse me Prefect.

YELLOW PREFECT
(very annoyed)
Now what is it? Can I get no peace?

PREFECT'S SERVANT
I'm sorry Prefect, but a delegation
from Orangetown is here to see you.

YELLOW PREFECT
(rolls eyes)
Yesterday the Violettes and now
this! What do they want?

PREFECT'S SERVANT
They didn't say, Prefect.

YELLOW PREFECT
(disgusted)
Well find out!

His servant turns fast and almost trips going out.

YELLOW PREFECT (CONT'D)
Wait!

The servant stops dead.

YELLOW PREFECT (CONT'D)
(Firmly)
I'm going to finish my lunch before
I see them. Seat them is my
anteroom. I'll get to them at my
convenience.

PREFECT'S SERVANT
Yes, Prefect.

YELLOW PREFECT
And get this boy some paper and a
marker.

PREFECT'S SERVANT
Yes, Prefect.

INTERIOR - MOMENTS LATER -THE ANTEROOM

Impatient men sit around fidgeting and tapping their fingers.
Seth Yellow sits at a large table drawing.

MAYOR ORANGE

If this self-satisfied despot was going to make us wait this long, the least he could have done was to offer us some refreshments.

CLAUDIA ORANGE

(snickers)

Have you ever seen him eat? He's probably afraid that if he did, there wouldn't be enough for him!

MAYOR ORANGE

(whispers tensely)

Shhhh. Someone may be listening!

The Claudia Orange snickers again.

MAYOR ORANGE (CONT'D)

(whispers angrily)

Will you be quiet! We are trying to get information out of the Prefect. If you annoy him, we won't get any cooperation.

CLAUDIA ORANGE

(clears her throat)

Tries to regain his composure.

CLAUDIA ORANGE (CONT'D)

Sorry... sorry.

ORANGETOWN MAYOR

(annoyed)

And get that stupid grin off your face!

CLAUDIA ORANGE

(breathes deeply)

Sorry... I'm sorry.

In an effort to distract herself, the Council member asks the teen.

CLAUDIA ORANGE (CONT'D)

What are you doing there?

SETH YELLOW

Nothing.

CLAUDIA ORANGE

It doesn't look like nothing.

SETH YELLOW
What it is, is none of your
business.

CLAUDIA ORANGE
Look you, I asked you a question!

SETH YELLOW
And I answered you. This is between
me and the Prefect, so mind your
own business!

The Council member stands up, walks over and is just about to
slap the teen when the Prefect walks in.

YELLOW PREFECT
What's going on here?

SETH YELLOW
They were making jokes about you
being fat, then they tried to get
the map!

MAYOR ORANGE
That's not true!

CLAUDIA ORANGE
We didn't even know what he was
doing. He wouldn't tell us!

YELLOW PREFECT
So there were no fat jokes?

They all wear sheepish grins.

YELLOW PREFECT (CONT'D)
And you wonder why we don't get
along.

Pauses, shakes his head

YELLOW PREFECT (CONT'D)
(disgusted)
What do you all want?

MAYOR ORANGE
We're trying to find out about the
treaty.

YELLOW PREFECT
I have seen more of you other
townspeople in the last few days
than I have in years. That *doesn't*
make me happy.

MAYOR ORANGE

What do you mean?

YELLOW PREFECT

Yesterday, men from Violet Town showed up asking why I wouldn't receive their messengers.

MAYOR ORANGE

And?

The Prefect plops himself down hard in a chair.

YELLOW PREFECT

I didn't because I know nothing more than the rest of you! Right now, I wish we had some way to better communicate, but we don't. Do you know why?

MAYOR ORANGE

Not really.

YELLOW PREFECT

It's because I'd rather not communicate with any of you others.

MAYOR ORANGE

Sadly, in the case of the Stranger we must cooperate.

YELLOW PREFECT

(slyly)

True, and I may have a way we can do that and satisfy all involved.

To Seth Yellow.

YELLOW PREFECT (CONT'D)

Show them the map.

EXTERIOR - DAY - THE HILLTOP

The Stranger is sitting with a group of children. Most of them are from the blue, red and purple towns, but a smattering of others are also there.

RACHEL VIOLET

(frightened)

But you have to leave. They want to kill you.

NOAH PURPLE

I've heard that too. They say
you're dangerous.

STRANGER

If they think that, why haven't
they just asked me to leave?

NOAH PURPLE

I don't know. Maybe they're afraid.

THAD GREEN

They're afraid of what you're
teaching us. They don't like it
that you don't want us fighting.

STRANGER

Of course I don't want you
fighting; it accomplishes nothing.

DANNY RED

If you don't want to leave for
good, maybe you could go for a
little while and then come back.

STRANGER

No, I don't think that would
accomplish anything either. This is
going to have to be decided once
and for all.

DINAH GREEN

(Sniffing back tears)

But... you could die.

INTERIOR - THE PREFECT'S ANTEROOM

MAYOR ORANGE

So the blues, purples and reds
built a little hideaway. What of
it?

YELLOW PREFECT

They may have built it to subvert
the will of the majority.

MAYOR ORANGE

(confused)

How do you mean?

YELLOW PREFECT

Suppose they built it to hide the
Stranger so he couldn't be killed?

MAYOR ORANGE

I guess that's possible. What do you suggest we do?

YELLOW PREFECT

We send a contingent of armed men to the cave. If anyone tries to use it to protect the Stranger, we kill them and the Stranger ourselves.

MAYOR ORANGE

No... absolutely not! We will not kill those from the other towns.

YELLOW PREFECT

(irked)

Then what do you suggest we do?

MAYOR ORANGE

We'll wait to see how the treaty goes. If we get a majority, fine. If not, we'll decide how to deal with the Stranger on our own.

YELLOW PREFECT

(annoyed)

Very well, we'll see where the treaty goes. In the meantime, I will send four armed men to destroy the cave.

MAYOR ORANGE

If you would, please wait for the treaty vote.

YELLOW PREFECT

(frustrated)

As you wish.

The Prefect shouts for his servant.

PREFECT'S SERVANT

Yes, Prefect?

YELLOW PREFECT

Show these men out.

PREFECT'S SERVANT

Yes, Prefect.

The Orangetown delegation leaves.

PREFECT'S SERVANT (CONT'D)

Is there anything else, Prefect?

YELLOW PREFECT

Yes. Send four of my best guards to my office.

YELLOWTOWN PREFECT

(to the teen)

You may wait outside.

INTERIOR - MOMENTS LATER - THE PREFECTS OFFICE

YELLOW PREFECT

So, we understand each other?

SARGENT YELLOW

(questioning)

You want us to kill anyone who tries to help the Stranger, Prefect? Why?

YELLOW PREFECT

Are you questioning my orders?

SARGENT YELLOW

No! Well, yes. Is this something the oracles would allow?

YELLOW PREFECT

(with disdain)

Oracles, pfft! Has anyone one ever seen the oracles? They're fairytales; nothing more.

SARGENT YELLOW

But, sir... I

YELLOW PREFECT

(slyly)

You and your men would be adequately compensated. Say, one hundred barter credits each?

The guards stand blank-faced. They stare at each other.

YELLOW PREFECT (CONT'D)

One hundred fifty, but that's my final offer. If you're not willing, I'm sure there are other guards that would be more than happy to take this assignment.

SARGENT YELLOW
(looks at his men)
What do you say?

Affirmative grumbles from the men.

YELLOW PREFECT
Good. Be prepared to leave at a
moment's notice. The treaty vote
should be any day now. Once there,
if anyone gives you any trouble,
deal with them appropriately.

SARGENT YELLOW
Yes, Prefect.

YELLOW PREFECT
You may go to the treasurer and
have them give you your pay for
this in advance.

The guards leave the room and go toward the treasurer's
office.

EXTERIOR - MOMENTS LATER - OUTSIDE THE PALACE

CORPORAL YELLOW
I don't like this.

SARGENT YELLOW
Then why did you say yes?

CORPORAL YELLOW
I need the barter credits. Life is
hard now that we can't trade with
the other towns. All the towns gave
to each too. That's gone now.

SUB-CORPORAL YELLOW
True. My family barely gets by on
what we're able to trade for.

PRIVATE YELLOW
Killing the Stranger is one thing,
but the other townspeople? I'm sure
that would displease the oracles.

SUB-CORPORAL YELLOW
(whispering)
We've got our credits, so I suggest
we change the plans.

SARGENT YELLOW

How?

SUB-CORPORAL YELLOW

When we get to the cave, we'll make sure that whoever is in there, stays in there. If it's the Stranger, we'll kill him ourselves. If it's some of the other townspeople, two of us will keep them in there and the other two will find the Stranger kill him.

PRIVATE YELLOW

I like *that* plan. The last thing we want to do is to anger the oracles.

SARGENT YELLOW

Sounds good to me. As long as the Stranger ends up dead, the Prefect will be satisfied and we should be right with the oracles.

Affirmative grumblings

SARGENT YELLOW (CONT'D)

Where are the Orangetown officials?

CORPORAL YELLOW

I think they're in the main courtyard.

SUB-CORPORAL YELLOW

I'm not sure they should leave right away. They won't be able to get to Orangetown before well after nightfall.

SARGENT YELLOW

Let's go talk to them.

EXTERIOR - MOMENTS LATER - THE MAIN COURTYARD

MAYOR ORANGE

Would it be wise to stay the night? Your Prefect is not the most hospitable man.

SARGENT YELLOW

True, but you can stay in our quarters. The night-shift doesn't need their beds.

MAYOR ORANGE

If you think that would be alright
with the Prefect...

SARGENT YELLOW

We're not going to tell him. You'll
leave early and he sleeps late.

MAYOR ORANGE

Alright. Where do we bunk?

SARGENT YELLOW

We'll show you, but first we'll
have dinner in the mess hall.

THOMAS ORANGE

Good. I'm hungry.

The men walk toward the guard facilities.

EXTERIOR - AFTERNOON - THE HILL - TWO DAYS LATER

Officials and People from all the towns are there. The Yellow
town guards are in the background.

GOVERNOR RED

We are still not in favor of
killing the stranger when we could
just beat him and drive him out of
town.

PRESIDENT PURPLE

Us neither. Killing him might anger
the oracles!

PASTOR BLUE

Almost certainly!

YELLOW PREFECT

The oracles are nonsense. If they
actually existed, why has no one
ever seen them? Let's just kill
this Stranger and be done with it!

An affirmative roar from the crowd.

CHANCELLOR GREEN

If the citizenry are for it, how
can we refuse them?

COMMISSIONER VIOLET

It's the will of the people that
counts, isn't it?

PASTOR BLUE

What has this man done to deserve death... spread peace? How can that be wrong?

MAYOR ORANGE

Our ways of life and the safety of our children are at risk!

GOVERNOR RED

Nonsense. This man has done no harm to our children.

COMMISSIONER VIOLET

He's encouraging them not only to consort with each other, but to show love to each other! What's next?

PASTOR BLUE

(agitated)

Why would this man just randomly show up here? Perhaps he was sent by the oracles!

YELLOW PREFECT

(frustrated)

The oracles again? There are no oracles... they are a fairy tale!

As the argument continues, the Prefect secretly signals his guards who move down the hill.

EXTERIOR - DAY- THE CAVE

One man each from the red, blue and purple towns converge on the cave. They're armed with small knives and clubs.

AARON RED

Has anyone seen the Stranger?

PETER BLUE

He was over by Greentown a bit ago.

ABRAHAM PURPLE

I don't think the vote is going our way.

AARON RED

Then let's go get him.

SARGENT YELLOW

Not so fast.

CORPORAL YELLOW
You're not going anywhere.

The three men turn to see four Yellow guards armed with long knives and spears.

AARON RED
This isn't your territory. What are you doing here?

SARGENT YELLOW
We're just making sure the will of the majority is carried out.

ABRAHAM PURPLE
What makes that your business?

SARGENT YELLOW
Our Prefect made it our business.

PRIVATE YELLOW
(jovial)
He and one hundred fifty barter credits each!

CORPORAL YELLOW
Shut up, Henry!

Private Yellow Grins awkwardly and glares at the other three men.

REDTOWN MAN 1 Pulls his knife and raises his club

AARON RED
(snarling at the guards)
Try and stop us!

ABRAHAM PURPLE
What are you doing? We're outnumbered and they've got better weapons!

AARON RED
(growling)
I'm no coward!

SARGENT YELLOW
We don't want to hurt anyone, so put the weapons down.

Looks at his friends. Peter Blue says to Aaron Red:

PETER BLUE

We are trying to prevent a death
Aaron, not add to the body count.

AARON RED

Are we just supposed to let them
kill the stranger?

ABRAHAM PURPLE

I've got a wife and children. I
can't afford to leave behind a
widow and orphans.

Peter Blue to Yellow Town guards:

PETER BLUE

You men know this isn't right,
don't you?

SARGENT YELLOW

That's not for us to decide.

He looks at the three other guards:

SARGENT YELLOW (CONT'D)

Zeke, you and Henry stay here and
watch these three. We'll go and
find the Stranger.

SUB-CORPORAL YELLOW

Yes sir.

To the three men:

SUB-CORPORAL YELLOW (CONT'D)

Alright, let's make ourselves
comfortable. We could be here a
while.

EXTERIOR - THE HILL

PASTOR BLUE

But we can't just kill him!

YELLOW PREFECT

The vote has been taken. The
Stranger will be executed... as
soon as he is found.

STRANGER

(grinning)
Look no further.

The stranger walks into the clearing surrounded by bright-eyed children.

YELLOW PREFECT
Do you think those children will
protect you? Kill him!

The women and some men run to their kids and scoop them up or grab them away.

SILAS BLUE
(angry)
Leave him alone!

ESTHER VIOLET
(terrified)
Please!

THAD GREEN
(begging)
Don't kill him!

ISAAC YELLOW
(incredulous)
You can't do this!

Men with knives and clubs rush the surprisingly calm stranger. They beat and stab him. One of the Yellow guards sticks his spear into the Stranger's side.

STRANGER
(Painful whisper)
Forgive them, my King...

Blood runs down his face and hands to his feet. He falls on his back dead.

YELLOW PREFECT
Well, that takes care of that.

The Prefect sniffs and looks around disdainfully.

YELLOW PREFECT (CONT'D)
Leave the rabble to clean up this
mess. Let us go back to Yellowtown

GOVERNOR RED
(angry)
Clean it up yourself, you useless
tub of lard! Who put you in charge?

COMMISSIONER VIOLET
 (disgusted)
 Couldn't that have waited until the
 children were taken away?

The Yellow Prefect is uncaring. He waves away the criticism.
 The crowd looks angry as townsfolk carry away sobbing
 children. Some of the adults look just as unhappy.

PASTOR BLUE
 (flabbergasted)
 That was horrible!

PRESIDENT PURPLE
 (horrified)
 It was much worse than I imagined.

MAYOR ORANGE
 (dumbfounded)
 I'm sorry. If I knew that over-
 stuffed buffoon was going to do
 that, I would have tried to stop
 it.

CHANCELLOR GREEN
 (stunned)
 It all happened so fast!

MAYOR ORANGE
 At least it's over now.

PASTOR BLUE
 Is it? What will the oracles say
 about this? It was nothing but cold
 blooded murder!

Those left on the hill just stare at the body.

CHANCELLOR GREEN
 What shall do with the body? We
 can't just leave it here. It will
 be eaten by beasts.

JOSIAH PURPLE
 Sirs?

PRESIDENT PURPLE
 Yes?

JOSIAH PURPLE
 We could stack some rocks over him
 until it's decided what we should
 to do with him.

Affirmative grumblings

PRESIDENT PURPLE
If everyone left here grabs two
rocks each, that should do it.

DEBORAH RED
There's some just down the hill.

People of all colors follow the man.

INTERIOR - EVENING - YELLOWTOWN MEETING HALL.

A big party is going on. People are drinking dancing and
making merry. Over against the wall, stand an unhappy group
of small children and tweens.

PREFECT'S ADVISOR
Everyone certainly seems to be
having a good time, Prefect.

YELLOW PREFECT
(smirking)
Now that we've eliminated our
problem, things will go back to
normal.

PREFECT'S ADVISOR
How long do you think this party
will last?

YELLOW PREFECT
The people need to blow off some
steam so I'm not going to stop it.
But I won't let it go past three
days.

PREFECT'S ADVISOR
(Looking around)
Does it seem darker in here to you?

INTERIOR - EVENING - GREENTOWN

Another big party is going on and another group of unhappy
children stand looking sadly at their partying parents.

ABIGAIL GREEN
(bitterly)
I hope you're happy. Look at those
sad faces.

CHANCELLOR GREEN
 (frustrated)
 There was nothing I could do! You
 saw how fast everything happened.

ABIGAIL GREEN
 Why didn't you at least yell or
 something?

CHANCELLOR GREEN
 (annoyed)
 If I had, these people would have
 thrown me out of office. They might
 not have even waited until the next
 election! (looks around) Why is it
 so dark in here?

ABIGAIL GREEN
 Never mind that! It's obvious that
 holding office means more to you
 than doing the right thing. You
 used to be a brave man, but now
 you're a coward!

CHANCELLOR GREEN
 (defeated)
 I'm too old to work in the fields
 or build and repair tools. If I was
 out of office, what would we do?

ABIGAIL GREEN
 (sarcastically)
 I'm sure there would've been
 something, but there's no worry
 now, is there?

INTERIOR - EVENING - ORANGETOWN HALL

Another party and more sad children.

HANNAH ORANGE
 (wistfully)
 I'm sure they'll get over it.

ELIZABETH ORANGE
 (still shocked)
 I don't know. That was the most
 brutal thing I've ever seen!

The Orangetown Prophet overhears the women and wanders over
 to them.

PROPHET ORANGE

I'm concerned as well. Not only are the children traumatized, but our relationship with the oracles may be at risk.

HANNAH ORANGE

It seems dark in here, doesn't it?

The Prophet both women nod in agreement.

INTERIOR - EVENING - BLUETOWN TEMPLE

Sounds of revelry outside.

PASTOR BLUE

(dumbstruck)

How can these people celebrate? A horrible crime has been committed today!

CANTOR BLUE

Stares bleakly, shakes head.

PROPHET BLUE

I don't know what the oracles might say to us. Surely they wouldn't agree with what was done.

PROPHETESS BLUE

I'm sure they wouldn't, but what could have been done? All four other towns voted for the Stranger's execution.

A knock at the door. Pastor Blue walks over and opens it. Jabin Blue and Peter Blue are standing there with their wives and children.

PASTOR BLUE

(surprised)

Good evening. Is there something we can do for you?

JABIN BLUE

No, there isn't. We just came so you'd know.

PASTOR BLUE

Know what?

JOANNA BLUE
Our children are very upset.

PASTOR BLUE
Yes, I can imagine.

PETER BLUE
No, you can't imagine because you
have no children. We've come to
tell you that we're leaving.

PASTOR BLUE
(shocked)
Leaving?

JABIN BLUE
If something like what happened
today can go on, this is not the
place for our families anymore.

PETER BLUE
(bitterly)
Our people had no input on today's
proceedings. You all kowtowed to
that arrogant Yellow Prefect and he
took just over.

JOANNA BLUE
(sourly)
Our children are so distressed over
the death of that Stranger and you
did nothing to stop it.

PASTOR BLUE
But all the towns took a vote!

DINAH BLUE
(incredulous)
Why would you take a vote with
people who have declared themselves
our enemies over a song?

PASTOR BLUE
There's more to it than that. The
king gave us the song to...

Bluetown messenger cuts off the Holyman

JABIN BLUE
We've all heard that story; too
much, I think! No one from any of
the towns can be sure who has the
right song.

JOANNA BLUE
It doesn't matter anymore.

PETER BLUE
We'll have to live with what was done today. Our children may never get over it.

PASTOR BLUE
But if you leave, where will you go?

PETER BLUE
We're going to see if we can find the King and move to wherever he lives.

PASTOR BLUE
(shocked)
But... no one *knows* where he lives!

PETER BLUE
We'll find him. We'll keep looking until we *do*!

PASTOR BLUE
But...

JABIN BLUE
(resigned)
There's no use in trying to talk us out of it. Life here has been too hard for too long and now it's become too brutal as well.

PETER BLUE
(firmly)
We're packing up and leaving day after tomorrow. On our way out, we'll pay our final respects to the Stranger. Good evening.

They walk away. Pastor Blue watches them go. He shuts the door.

PASTOR BLUE
(surprised)
I certainly didn't expect *that*!

PROPHETESS BLUE
(troubled)
I don't think anyone did. How can we stop them?

BLUE PROPHET

Stop them? I think I'll join them!
 What have we become? We sit here
 pray and consult the oracles. Then
 we witness a cold blooded murder
 and don't even try to stop it? We
 say we have faith, but if we do
 nothing with it, what good is it?

PROPHETESS BLUE

Is it darker in here or is it just
 me?

EXTERIOR - NIGHT - PURPLE TOWN HALL

Dancing and drinking

Abraham Purple leans against the wall watching. He looks
 disturbed.

JOSIAH PURPLE

You look as dark as this room.
 What's going on?

ABRAHAM PURPLE

I'm fed up with this place; all the
 hard work, the ineffectual
 government, the lost friendships
 and now the killing of that
 Stranger today. I can't do it
 anymore.

JOSIAH PURPLE

Do what anymore?

ABRAHAM PURPLE

I can't stay here anymore.

JOSIAH PURPLE

C'mon, where would you go. You
 wouldn't be accepted in the other
 towns. You'd have to go far away
 and you just got married a few
 months ago. What about your new
 wife?

ABRAHAM PURPLE

After today, she doesn't want to be
 here anymore either. She doesn't
 even want to have children in a
 place where love and peace have
 been outlawed.

JOSIAH PURPLE

Outlawed?

ABRAHAM PURPLE

That was the word she used and y'know, she's right. The Stranger was murdered for spreading love and peace.

JOSIAH PURPLE

I guess I never thought of it that way.

(pause)

I'm going to talk to my wife. I think we may go with you.

INTERIOR - NIGHT - REDTOWN MEETING HALL

Loud music and partying.

GOVERNOR RED

I think I'll go home. I'm not in the mood for a party.

LT. GOVERNOR RED

If you do, you'd better tell people you weren't feeling well. If they think you're unhappy with the Stranger's execution, you could lose the next election.

GOVERNOR RED

(callously)

I'm not sure I care about holding office anymore.

LT. GOVERNOR RED

Actually, I was going to talk to you about breaking away from the other towns completely. Let them handle their own problems.

GOVERNOR RED

That's a good idea. We shouldn't even have participated in that vote.

REDTOWN LT. GOVERNOR

If not for that, the Stranger would still be alive and the children would not be so upset.

AARON RED
Excuse me, sirs.

GOVERNOR RED
Yes, Aaron?

AARON RED
We've talked it over and our family
has decided to leave.

LT. GOVERNOR RED
Why would you leave? Things are
just getting back to normal.

AARON RED
That's just it. Our children don't
want to live in a place where
there's so much hate.

The Redtown Prophet overhears and wanders over.

GOVERNOR RED
They're young. They'll forget all
about after a while.

AARON RED
I don't think so.

RED PROPHET
Neither do I. I was looking at the
faces of those horrified children
as the Stranger was being murdered.

GOVERNOR RED
(incredulous)
It was more like self-defense.

RED PROPHET
No, let's call it what it was –
cold blooded murder. Something like
that may never leave them.

LT. GOVERNOR RED
(scoffingly)
You all are making much more of
this than there is.

AARON RED
My wife and I don't think so.

RED PROPHET
(to Aaron Red)
Do have room for some extra people?
(MORE)

RED PROPHET (CONT'D)

My brothers and I have also
discussed leaving.

The two men walk away talking.

GOVERNOR RED

Well, how about that?

LT. GOVERNOR RED

I'm sure they don't mean it. Where
would they go?

REDTOWN GOVERNOR

I don't know. Why is it so dark in
here?

INTERIOR - NIGHT - THE VIOLET TOWN HALL.

VICE COMMISSIONER VIOLET

(to Violet Town
commissioner)

It seems a lot darker in here than
usual.

COMMISSIONER VIOLET

I guess.

VICE COMMISSIONER VIOLET

I wanted to talk to you, but you
look pretty unhappy.

COMMISSIONER VIOLET

My little girl hasn't stopped
crying since this afternoon.

VICE COMMISSIONER VIOLET

That must be hard.

Commissioner nods

VICE COMMISSIONER VIOLET (CONT'D)

Do you think we did the right thing
killing that Stranger?

COMMISSIONER VIOLET

(looks around and
whispers)

As far as know, we've never
executed anyone around here. I
don't know how it *could* be right.
What did that Stranger do that
deserved death?

COMMISSIONER VIOLET (CONT'D)
Why didn't you say something?

VICE COMMISSIONER VIOLET
Everyone was so caught up in
bloodlust, I didn't think anything
I could've said would've mattered.

COMMISSIONER VIOLET
Bloodlust is a good word for it,
but promise me this – next time you
think that something needs to be
said, just say it.

VICE COMMISSIONER VIOLET
There won't be a next time. My
family and I are leaving.

COMMISSIONER VIOLET
(shocked)
What?

VICE COMMISSIONER VIOLET
It was news to me, but my wife has
been unhappy here for a long time.
She misses her friends from the
other towns and we don't get to
spend enough time together because
of all the long hours in the fields
and workshops. The events of today
just put her over the top.

COMMISSIONER VIOLET
(incredulous)
But we've lived here all our lives.
Where would you go?

VICE COMMISSIONER VIOLET
We were thinking of trying to find
the King. Where he lives would have
to be better.

COMMISSIONER VIOLET
Maybe I could assign some men to
help you. It would lighten your
load. Would that change your mind?

VICE COMMISSIONER VIOLET
That's a very generous offer, but
no. My wife is done with this place
and marriage sometimes requires
sacrifice.

COMMISSIONER VIOLET
I'll be sorry to see you go. When
are you leaving?

VIOLETOWN VICE COMMISSIONER
In a couple of days.

The men shake hands and the vice commissioner walks away.

COMMISSIONER VIOLET
What's going on with the lighting
in here?

EXTERIOR - DAY - YELLOWTOWN PALACE - DAY AFTER NEXT

SUB-CORPORAL YELLOW
(Looking at the sky)
Dark day, isn't it?

SARGENT YELLOW
In more ways than one.

SUB-CORPORAL YELLOW
What do you mean?

SARGENT YELLOW
The Corporal hasn't been the same
since he speared that Stranger.

Private Yellow walks up.

PRIVATE YELLOW
Have any of you seen the Corporal?
He never showed up this morning.

SARGENT YELLOW
I've got a bad feeling about this.
Let's go over toward the stables.

SUB-CORPORAL YELLOW
Why the stables?

SARGENT YELLOW
I'm playing a hunch.

SUB-CORPORAL YELLOW
What kind of a hunch?

SARGENT YELLOW
You'll see. (to livery man) You
there... have you seen the
Corporal?

LIVERYMAN

Not since this morning when he traded me for a horse. I think he might've left town.

SARGENT YELLOW

What makes you say that?

LIVERYMAN

He had a travel bag with him, along with food and water.

SARGENT YELLOW

Did he ride out of town?

LIVERYMAN

I'm not sure, but I thought he went in that direction.

SUB-CORPORAL YELLOW

Do you think he'd really leave town?

EXTERIOR - MORNING - THE HILL DAY AFTER NEXT

Bands of people from all the towns wander up the Hill and converge where the stranger lay covered with rocks. All the townsfolk are packed to leave the area. There are horses, wagons and hand carts filled with supplies, their possessions and their instruments. As they converge upon the makeshift grave some of the children start to cry again. Parents hold them close and some weep with them.

VICE COMMISSIONER VIOLET

Speaking to the crowd

I'm sorry I allowed this to happen.
I should have tried to stop it and I didn't.

CORPORAL YELLOW

(anguished)

I was the one who speared him in the side! If that didn't kill him I don't know what did. I'm nothing but a murderer!

AARON RED

We're all responsible for this. Bad leadership and everyone's anger got us so riled up that instead of doing the right thing, we allowed this man to be killed.

A light wind picks up. The sky at the horizon starts to grow brighter.

CORPORAL YELLOW

Is the sky getting brighter?

BLUE PROPHET

Do you feel that?

MAYOR ORANGE

It's so peaceful. What is it?

JOSIAH PURPLE

What's going on?

The ground starts to rumble and shake. The rocks start rolling off of the Strangers body.

Rachel Violet points at the sky in the distance.

RACHEL VIOLET

(excited)

Look at that cloud!

The cloud drifts closer.

BLUE PROPHET

That's not a cloud!

A figure floats toward them through the air. The train of his gigantic robe swirls beneath him creating a cloud like platform.

JOSIAH PURPLE

(Thunderstruck)

Could that be... the King?

The figure is now directly over them and the body of the slain stranger.

KING

(voice booming)

This is my beloved Son. As you loved him play for him!

BLUE PROPHET

To the other townsfolk:

(Reluctant)

But the only song we know is the
love song to The Prince. How can we
play that?

HANNAH ORANGE

All the songs are different. So are
our instruments.

KING

As you loved him, play for Him.

The townsfolk move toward their belongings and grab up their
instruments. They move back to the fallen Prince.

VICE COMMISSIONER VIOLET

(confused)

Okay, folks... I guess start
playing.

People put instruments to their lips, bows and fingers to
strings and start playing.

AARON RED

(shocked)

ELIZABETH ORANGE

It sounds wonderful!

CORPORAL YELLOW

(amazed)

I've never heard anything like it.

VICE COMMISSIONER VIOLET

(surprised)

All the music fits together!

HANNAH ORANGE

It's so sweet and pure – so full of
love!

As the music rises, their instruments start to glow and
pulse! Streams of color start to flow out of the instruments
and into the air; thick and liquidy. It flows towards the
King.

BLUE PROPHET

(joyous)

This is unbelievable!

The King raises his arms and pulls the color into himself. He
points His hands toward the Prince and white light spills
from the King to the Prince.

It raises him up full of color, light and life! The darkness in the atmosphere is driven away. His robe glistens.

RACHEL VIOLET
(in tears of joy)

Wow!

Everyone's clothing and all creation around them become the bright colors that they were intended to be.

JOSIAH PURPLE
This is amazing!

LYDIA VIOLET
Pointing at the prince:

LYDIA VIOLET (CONT'D)
Look!

The colors of the Prince's robe started to stir and blend; becoming pure white. The light grew brighter and the music sweeter. The same thing happens to the everyone's clothing; stirring and blending until they also became the same brilliant white.

BLUE PROPHET
The oracles *never* spoke of this!

The Prince rises in the air to meet the King! They touch hands.

NARRATOR

As they touched hands the spirit of peace surrounded them both, and an exquisite rainbow – like an emerald – emitted from them in a brilliant ring; fanning out as far as the eye could see. The rainbow ring formed thrones for the King and the Prince; everlasting thrones where they would dwell among their people forever. As they all rose in the air to meet the King and Prince, all they felt was comfort, joy and love. The Spirit filled the air and there was beauty all around. They all knew in their hearts that it would be that way forever because it was just the beginning.