FOR FAMILY & FOR BAVARIA

By Bendib Abir

Framed by:

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DRAMATIS PERSONAE

Charles:

An emotionless 19-years-old man. He is the illegal Duke's son. He lives in his own dwelling and spends all his time in his chamber reading.

Claudia Fritz:

A commoner. She is a 17-yearsold lady who is ready to help anyone in need. She is confident and kind.

Earnest:

The Duke of Bavaria and Charles' father.

ACT I

Scene 1

SETTING:

The action takes place during the 15th century in the Bavarian capital, inside Charles' dwelling. His chamber contains a bed, a library full of books and a desk. There are lots of books placed on the desk and a candlestick.

AT RISE:

CHARLES is sitting on his desk reading a book, when he hears a knock.

CHARLES

Enter.

(Claudia enters wearing a maid apron; she bows)

CLAUDIA

Greetings sir Charles! My apologies for disturbing your grace.

(Charles continues reading)

My name is Claudia Fritz. The duke appointed me to serve you as a maid.

(Charles raises his head)

It is my pleasure to serve your-

CHARLES

(Astonished)

Pardon? You were saying my father "the duke of great Bavaria" is suddenly concerned about me?

(Charles stands up)

That is ridiculous

CLAUDIA

In fact, I was the one who requested that from his highness since the servants here are very few although you are the duke's son.

CHARLES

(Annoyed)

Let me be clear young lady, I am not in need of any servants. Also, correct your information, the duke has never considered me as his "son".

CLAUDIA

My apologies, but staying alone in an isolated dwelling is not a wise idea. Excuse me, I will take my leave to do the chores.

(Claudia leaves. Charles covers his eyes and walks away from his desk. Suddenly, he coughs loudly and faints. Claudia knocks at the door)

CLAUDIA

Is everything all right, your grace?

(Claudia opens the door slowly. She sees Charles on the ground and rushes to him)

Your grace! He is not breathing. I have to do something; otherwise, he will...

(Claudia starts pushing his chest while praying)

Oh Lord! I cry out for your salvation. Give me the strength to save him.

(Charles breathes again, and he opens his eyes coughing. Claudia helps him sit on the chair)

CHARLES

(Exhausted)

You saved my life... Thank you.

CLAUDIA

All thanks to the Lord. I assume you need to rest. Please, call me whenever you need help.

(Claudia turns around to leave)

CHARLES

Um hey... What was your name again, young lady?

CLAUDIA

(Smiling)

It is Claudia.

(She exits)

(BLACKOUT)

(At rise, after a few days, CLAUDIA brings a cup of tea to CHARLES' chamber when he is reading)

CLAUDIA

It has been a while since you collapsed. How are you doing today?

CHARLES

Honestly, I feel something strange in my heart. I am

CLAUDIA

(Worried)

I will call for a doctor!

CHARLES

(Nervous)

Wait, there is no need for that. I believe... I fell in love with you.

(Claudia places her hand on his forehead)

CLAUDIA

I guess you are having a fever, your grace. I shall go call-

(Charles grabs her wrist)

CHARLES

(With a serious tone)

I am totally aware of what I said. Claudia, I adore you with all $\ensuremath{\mathsf{my}}$ soul.

CLAUDIA

(Shocked)

I am just a commoner your grace...

(Claudia looks down)

CHARLES

So? Where is the problem?

CLAUDIA

I belong to a lesser social class. A commoner like me has no right even to dream of falling for a noble. It is illicit and unacceptable.

CHARLES

Even the so-called "higher" social class are not celestial.

CLAUDIA

You are the duke's son. You have the opportunity to marry any princess. Why would you fall for such a servant...?

CHARLES

That kind of relationships always hide political motives. That's why, they are fake. But I know my feeling for you are real.

CLAUDIA

(Troubled)

I am... My sincerest apologies your grace, I cannot accept your feelings. I do not want to be in your way of living a fancy life.

CHARLES

(Upset)

why are you trying to plug that hole of light that has finally penetrated to my dark life?! Claudia, I want you to be my family, am I asking for a lot?

CLAUDIA

(Agitated)

Not at all! But it is impossible. And the duke's permission is out of the question...

CHARLES

If his blessing is all what you need, then I will go get it.

CLAUDIA

(Sigh)

It's not about the duke, it is about the whole social system.

CHARLES

Please, ask the other servant to prepare the cart, I will visit the duke's palace.

CLAUDIA

(Sadly)

As you wish, your grace.

(Claudia exits. Charles' hands begin to tremble. He takes a deep breath and leaves)

(BLACKOUT)

(At rise, CHARLES returns to his house after visiting the Duke. He opens the door violently)

CHARLES

(Furiously)

Ugh! "I will never allow such nonsense" he says. Furthermore, he threatened me!

(Charles hits the wall; he holds his head between his hands. Suddenly, He hears a knock, so he quickly adjusts his posture. Claudia enters wearing a hat and a coat)

CLAUDIA

Um is everything fine? I heard a noise

CHARLES

(Nervous)

Oh... That? I was just coughing

(Charles forces a cough)

CLAUDIA

(With a doubt look)

If you say so...

CHARLES

Yes... But why are you wearing your outside outfit?

CLAUDIA

Oh this... In fact, I am quitting my job here. The last thing I want is to cause you trouble. This will be the wisest thing to do.

CHARLES

(Shocked)

what? You cannot leave just like that.

CLAUDIA

I apologize. my low social class is a reality that I cannot deny it.

CHARLES

Claudia... Please

CLAUDIA

Pardon me your grace. I'll take my leave to gather my stuff.

(Claudia exits. Out of fury, Charles throws his books at the ground. He grabs a bottle of wine and sleeps on his desk. Claudia enters the chamber holding her bag. She collects the thrown stuff and puts them on the desk)

CLAUDIA

(Sad smile)

Farewell, your grace...

(Claudia pats Charles' head, then leaves)

(BLACKOUT)

(At rise, Charles wakes up next morning feeling dizzy)

CHARLES

It is morning already

(Charles holds his head in his hands. He hits his desk. Someone knocks and enters)

CLAUDIA

(Nervously)

Good morning...

CHARLES

(sighs)

Amazing, now I am having hallucinations-

(Charles raises his head. He gets surprised and stands up) Claudia! You...

CLAUDIA

(Timidly)

The last thing I want is to harm your grace that's why I could not leave after seeing your reaction yesterday... My apologies

CHARLES

I have made my decision, regardless of what the others or the duke might think.

(Charles bows on his knee and extends his hand)

Claudia, will you become my spouse?

CLAUDIA

(Smiling)

Yes, I will

(She puts her hand in his)

(BLACKOUT)

ACT II

Scene 5

(At rise, two weeks has passed.

CLAUDIA is sitting on a table
in the house garden, drinking
tea. CHARLES joins her holding
a book)

CHARLES

(Softly)

Is my angel enjoying her tea?

CLAUDIA

Yes, it tastes a little weirder than usual, but it is fine.

CHARLES

Oh, I see. It has been two weeks since our marriage. It is unbelievable, right? time really flies by fas-

(Suddenly, Claudia starts to cough blood. Charles drops his book)

CHARLES

Claudia! Huh...Blood? I will call for help, just endure it for a little bit.

CLAUDIA

(reassured)

The last two weeks were really the happiest days in my whole life.

(Claudia caresses Charles' face)

Thank you, Charles... farewell.

(Claudia's hand is dropped. Charles cries while holding her hand. He puts a white cover on her and takes her handkerchief smudged with blood)

CHARLES

(Enraged)

I swear that I will take my vengeance from whoever was behind that, no matter the cost! even if it were the duke himself.

(Charles exits)

(BLACKOUT)

(END OF SCENE)

SCENE 6

(At rise, in front of the palace. CHARLES and the Bavarian people organized the execution of the Duke. CHARLES performs a speech)

CHARLES

People of Bavaria, it took us months of preparation for this blessed revolution. Finally, here we are! Witnessing the execution of the oppressive Bavarian Duke. For a long time, we suffered from that unjust social class division, so we decided to rebel against it. This is the grandest moment in the Bavarian history! I won't be your king; instead, I will be your leader! In order to build a classless society, where people won't be judged by their social class. In the end, all Men are created equal. We might struggle trying to achieve that, but we will never stop! Bavaria is waiting to be liberated. Oppression has to end now! We will fight for justice and social equality together and bring light back to our life. For family!... For Bavaria!

(Applause)

(BLACKOUT)

(At rise, CHARLES walks towards CLAUDIA's grave holding a bouquet of flowers and his sword)

CHARLES

It has been already a year since you passed away.

(Charles puts the flower)

Life is never the same without you. I am craving to see you again, Claudia.

(Charles stabs himself and falls down. He hears a voice calling him)

CLAUDIA

Charles...

(Charles opens his eyes and stands up confused)

CHARLES

(Surprised)

Claudia?

CLAUDIA

You did a magnificent job, Charles. You can rest now. (Claudia holds his hands)

CHARLES

Yes, my angel...

(Charles smiles with tears in his eyes)

THE END

Inspiration

Plot:

- (comic book) A tender heart:
 The story of how I became
 the Duke's maid
- Marxism

Settings:

• (historical character) Agnes Bernauer biography

Charles' Speech:

- (Video game series)
 Assassin's Creed.
- Martin Luther King Jr. Speech

Title:

• Assassin's Creed: Syndicate