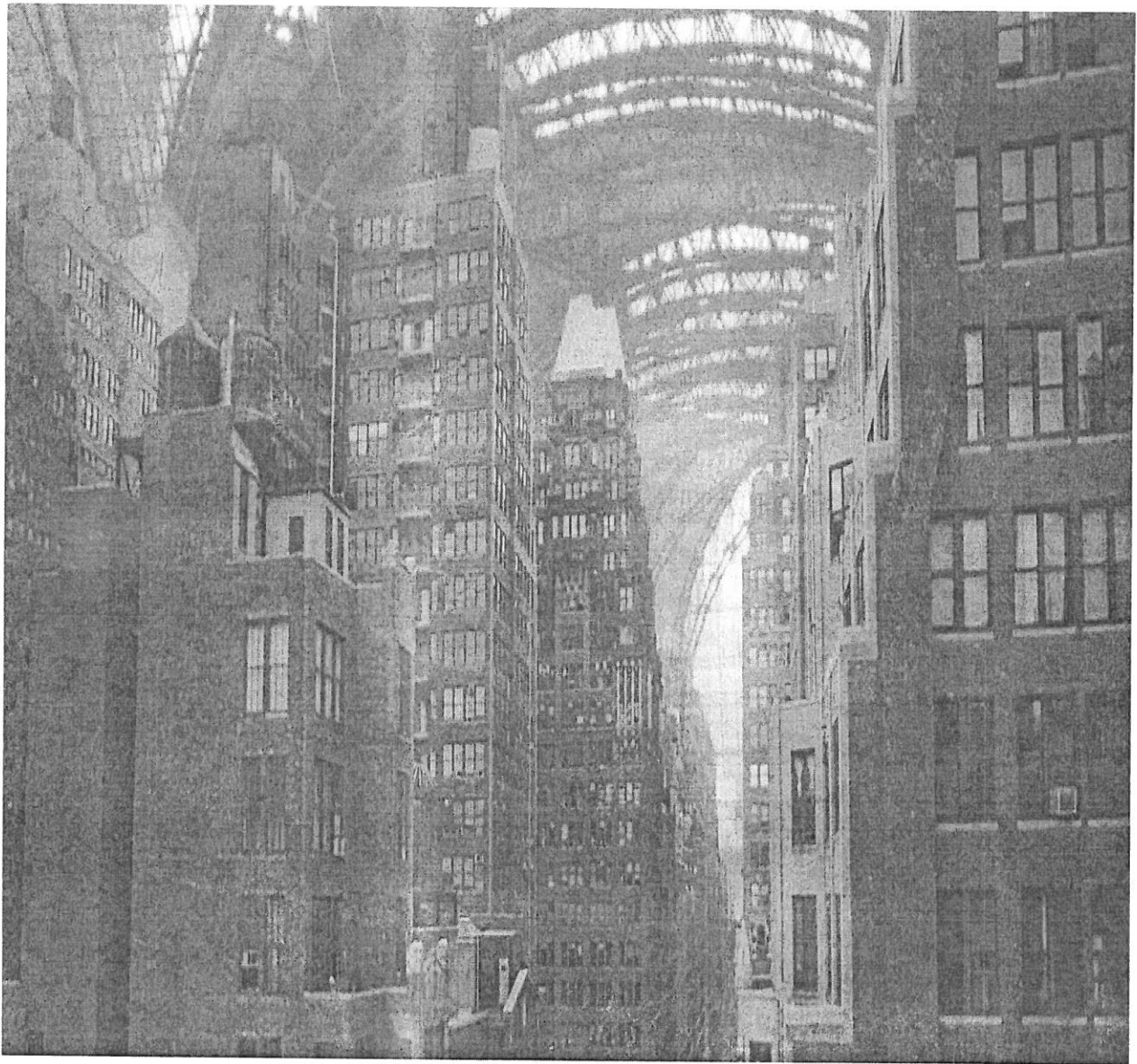


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English 162W
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THE NEW YORK TEMPEST

A MODERN INTERPRETATION OF THE TEMPEST
{AND THE CATHARSIS OF PROSPERO}



CHARACTERS

Charles Prospero... an ambitious film producer that was kicked out of his own company years ago by his partners. Is now living in a solitary building near the NY theater district in which he has created his own mini-city on a stage with his daughter Miranda and "assistants" Ariel and Cal.

Cal... Prospero's loyal assistant director who at first wants to help him with his plan, but also sees Prospero for the control freak he is. He also feels that his life has been held back by Prospero and he could have accomplished a lot more if he had not been so loyal to him.

Ariel... Prospero's other loyal assistant; he offers him the lead role in his stage play if he helps him with his plan.

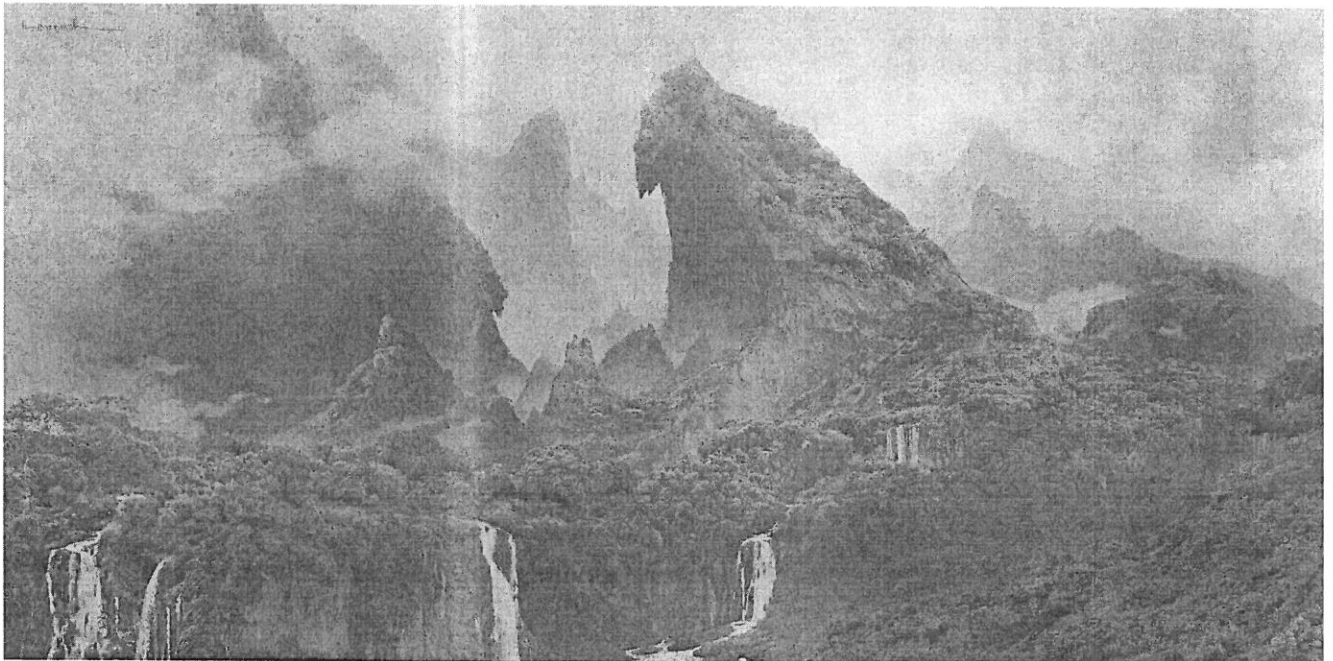
Miranda... Prospero's daughter; he has kept her away from the spotlight for 8 years, keeping her homeschooled. She has not had much human interaction outside of seeing Prospero, Cal and Ariel (Prospero thinks this is for her benefit).

Alonso King.... Head of rival film production studio that helped Prospero's brother Antonio take over his company. Prospero holds a grudge against him.

Ferdinand King... son of Alonso.

Antonio... Charles' Prospero's power-hungry younger brother.

Sebastian King... Alonso's brother.



The New York Tempest: A Modern Interpretation of The Tempest
(And the Catharsis of Prospero)

ACT III, Scene I

{At this point, Ariel has called Antonio and Alonso along with Ferdinand and Sebastian to the theater for a “business proposition” (not knowing Prospero is behind this), but they have been stuck in Prospero’s stage (which has been turned into a mini NYC), seeing wild illusions and images reminding them of their past}

Enter PROSPERO

PROSPERO Finally, after years of waiting and planning.... I will be able to face my wrongdoers. They publically shamed me, that Alonso King and Antonio... oh, my own brother. How could he have done this to his own niece? I earned my position. I produced the best films...hired the best writers and directors... crafted beautiful stories... I made art! And for all the money I earned for the studio... I took care of my brother. He would be nothing without me. And he got me kicked out of my own company... MY COMPANY! He never cared to find out where I was hidden... where his niece was hidden... he is a disgrace. And Alonso King... he is a small man. His company was going nowhere, so he helped Antonio kick me out of my production house. Now he will see me for the great man I truly am... with how beautiful my handcrafted city is... on this blessed stage... once they see me, they will be begging for forgiveness.

Enter ARIEL and CAL on the side

ARIEL Okay Cal... uh... well the bad guys are stuck in the fake city for now. Do we just wait? Weren’t you supposed to mess with them too?

CAL I’m supposed to do a lot of things, but I rarely do them. Listen, we gotta stop this...

...like all of this. It's going nowhere.

ARIEL But this is what Charles was planning for! For years!

CAL Sure, but look, he isn't exactly the most sane person in this theater right now. He's sorta blinded by revenge.

ARIEL It's not really revenge though! He just wants them to beg for forgiveness!

CAL By taking 8 years to build a mini version of New York City on a huge theater stage, filling it with crazy, high-tech fake monsters and traps, calling these dudes here over for a fake business deal, and then trapping them here for a day, potentially traumatizing these dudes for life? How is this not a crazy, immoral revenge plan? And how did we even agree to this? I'm pretty sure we have a chance of being jailed!

ARIEL Actually, that last part isn't true. We had them sign waivers before they walked in!

CAL True, but they didn't know what they were signing... so that's still a possible offense. Look, either way, there's nothing right about this. Like, I know what happened to him and Miranda was messed up, and he kind of had no choice but to live in solitude...but I don't know. After working on this for so long... I know we've been with him almost every step of the way since we left the production house with him, but now that we're actually here, it doesn't feel right. There has to be a better way for him to confront these guys. Anything's better than this weird crazy madhouse he's created. Well... I guess we've all created it.

ARIEL Man, I'm not sure if right now is the best time to start questioning things. I mean come on, after all we've been through, working on this together. And you know these guys deserve it. Besides, the traps and weird monsters in here aren't so bad, it's the videos of Prospero and Antonio we put in there that will probably do the most damage.

CAL Why are you defending this man so much? Why have we even been supporting him? He's never really even done anything for us!

ARIEL He promised me that after this whole deal, he'll make me the star of this play! It's finally gonna happen!

CAL (*laughing*) Ariel, are you serious? This guy is a flat-out liar. Did you seriously forget the time where he said he wouldn't need our help on this anymore and would finally start production of this play soon? That was THREE YEARS AGO. You can't believe anything he says.

ARIEL pauses to ponder his thoughts.

ARIEL Yeah... I mean, I guess maybe you have a point. So what should we do, this late in the game?

CAL (*excited*) Alright! Uh, okay, so you have to get those guys out of the mini city, alright? Text me once you do that. And then I'll go to Charles and tell him that he needs to reconsider his options. I know this sounds crazy...but I'm gonna have to try to reason with him. Don't you hear him? He's been monologuing for ten minutes! He's gone nuts!

ARIEL Okay, sounds like a plan. So what do I do after I get the guys out and text you?

CAL Oh, you're gonna bring them in front of Prospero. I'll let you know exactly when.

ACT III, Scene II

Enter CAL and PROSPERO.

CAL (*walking up to PROSPERO*) Hey Charles... how's it going?

PROSPERO Oh, all's well, my dear Cal! At last, my revenge will be complete within the hour!

CAL Revenge? I thought you just wanted them to ask for forgiveness.

PROSPERO (*chuckling*) What? Oh yes, of course. That is what i meant.

CAL Listen, Charles.. I've been meaning to talk to you. This isn't right. Like all of this. What we're doing. There's gotta be a better way to deal with this. We don't have the right to mess with them like this.

PROSPERO (*tone becoming darker*) Oh, you mean, instead of doing all of this, you have Ariel bring them to me right now and we can just... *talk it out?*

CAL (*shocked*) You heard us talking?

PROSPERO Of course, my young assistant. I have eyes and ears everywhere.

CAL That isn't right! You can't just do that!

PROSPERO Of course I can! This stage is my world! I control every aspect of this place. That also means I have control over you and Ariel!

CAL Damn it, you really have gone crazy. Okay, Ariel! Cat's out of the bag. Bring them here now!

Enter ARIEL with ALONSO, ANTONIO, and SEBASTIAN looking traumatized. FERDINAND and MIRANDA also enter a few seconds after.

PROSPERO (*confused*) Miranda? What were you doing in there?

ARIEL I found them making out behind one of the fake kiosks. Not the best hiding spot, to be honest.

CAL I guess you can't control everything, right?

PROSPERO I disapprove of this!

MIRANDA I'm not gonna listen to you anymore, dad! You're insane!

ANTONIO (*feebly*) Ch...Charles? Is that you?

ALONSO You were behind... all of this? Oh, the things I've seen today...

FERDINAND What's going on here?

CAL Okay, everyone, shut up! Charles here had a crazy plan for you guys in order to exact revenge on Alonso and Antonio for what they did years ago. Yeah, Miranda, these guys are the reason you weren't able to have a life for the past 8 years. And Charles thought he could control everyone over here and have everything go his way... but I have something else planned here. Charles, you gotta talk to them! No more tricks, no more traps!

PROSPERO This isn't how this was supposed to go down... but fine. Antonio... Alonso... you two betrayed me. Ruined my life. And I spent all this time planning my revenge.

ALONSO What, really? That's insane.

CAL Thank you!

PROSPERO I mean, I wasn't gonna kill you guys or anything, but you guys deserved what you went through today. And there was still a lot more!

ANTONIO Brother... if you had all these resources to pull all of this off... you could have used this time to create another company and save your image! Or you could have used that time to get me kicked out of the company, I mean that's how long I took to plan my coup of the company!

ALONSO I agree that we did deserve what we went through today. Antonio and I are pretty horrible people. And I am very sorry for what I did.

ANTONIO I'm sorry as well.

PROSPERO Apology accepted. And I can't believe I stooped to your guys' level today with all of this nonsense. I should have been better than this... but yeah. You guys can leave now.

ANTONIO, ALONSO and SEBASTIAN exit the scene.

PROSPERO Miranda and what's-his-name can leave too. I'll reprimand you after.

MIRANDA and FERDINAND exit the scene.

PROSPERO (*turning to Ariel and Cal*) You were right, Cal. Being straightforward was much better. Instead of all of these theatrics. And I hope you can forgive me for how I have treated you over the years.

CAL and ARIEL It's alright!

PROSPERO I know those guys. They're probably gonna end up suing me for what I did today. But I still have a good attorney. I'll be fine. I trust you two to take care of Miranda. And make sure what's-his-name is a good guy. And once again, I apologize for all the pointless long hours and days you two put in here...treating you like slaves. Cal, I give you ownership of the theater I have on the upper east side. Direct whatever play you want to. And Ariel, yes, you are the star.

ARIEL Thank you! Finally! But what about this theater?

PROSPERO This stage can never be used. No story can live up to the expectations that come from this beautiful set. I will continue to live here. This is my home, my world. My name will exist in the outside world, but my life will reside here. It is something I can never escape. My world, my stories. They will always follow me wherever I go. So I shall stay here.

CALOkay, boss. Whatever you say. Take care of yourself.

CAL and ARIEL exit the scene.

PROSPERO (*facing the empty theater audience seats*) This is the end of this story! Let me hear your applause!

THE END