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RAPTURE: Origin

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all characters are black

MARI HATI/ZELLE: 20's-30's black woman or gnc

COMMISSIONER PRIOLET:black gnc 20'-30's

Paris 1917

late night. Rain can be heard. A smoky interrogation room. ZELLE & COMMISSIONER

COMMISSIONER:

Tell me a secret.

ZELLE

I have no secrets.

COM

Why are you lying? Everybody has secrets.

ZELLE

I'm not lying.

COM

Then tell the truth.

ZELLE

I am.

COM

The whole truth.

ZELLE

I am.

COM

You're the most honest person I've met then.

ZELLE

How many people do you know?

COM

How many people know themselves? That's the question.

ZELLE

Not my question.

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COM

Not your interrogation. We know who you are, H21.

ZELLE

That's not my name.

COM produces a file

COM

According to the Germans, that is you.

ZELLE

Or according to you.

COM

This is an intercepted Telegram. Do you want to know what it says? Who it reveals you are?

ZELLE

I have no need to prostrate myself; I know who I am. However, it's apparent that you do not.

COM

You are a courtesan, a socialite, a celebrity, an exotic dancer, *a whore*, and worst of all, a spy for the enemy. I know who you *really* are.

ZELLE

I work for the French. You are French, no?

COM

I am the Commissioner and I know you *spy* for the Germans as well as for us.

ZELLE

I have German lovers. I have French lovers. I have Dutch, Spanish, and British lovers.

COM

Even during War?

ZELLE

I like to compare the Nationalities.

COM

This isn't the *Belle époque*.

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ZELLE

There was never a belle époque. War kills. Men kill. Sex does not.

COM

The information you leak does. You do.

ZELLE

What a good way to go.

COM

You're not God.

ZELLE

Not your God.

COM

Excuse me?

ZELLE

I know *your* secret.

COM

I have no secrets.

ZELLE

Everybody has secrets. You just think you don't.

COM

Indulge me. What don't I know, I know?

ZELLE

You're honest to everybody, but yourself. I know what you want.

COM

I want your confession.

ZELLE

You *need* my confession. But this isn't a Church.

COM: This is Paris, 1917. Would you prefer a Brothel?

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ZELLE

I bet you would. That's the only house where you get your prayers answered.

COM

Liar.

ZELLE

That makes two of us, Commissioner Priolet. My *darling*.

COM

We're off track.

ZELLE

We're exactly where we need to be. I know you want me. You always did.

COM

Mata Hari.

ZELLE

Call me by my name. The one you say when you visit me.

COM

Zelle.

ZELLE

That's better.

COM

I'm not your lover today. Today, I am the Commissioner.

ZELLE

Look at me. No in my eyes. What do you see?

COM

God.

ZELLE

What do you want to see?

COM: Satan.

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ZELLE

Then you're more Missionary than Commissioner.

COM

I can't save you, Zelle. I need your confession.

ZELLE

And I need your honesty. You could've sent anybody to interrogate me.

COM

Yes.

ZELLE

But you came yourself.

COM

Yes.

ZELLE

Why are you here?

COM

Does a God choose their worshippers, or do worshippers choose their God?

ZELLE

Ask God.

COM

I am. I see no difference between a God and a whip. A lover and a gun.

ZELLE

I'm your gun.

COM

Is it true?

ZELLE

What?

COM: The spying?

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ZELLE
No.

COM
Were you spying on me?

ZELLE
No.

COM pulls out more files.

COM
Then why do they say otherwise?

ZELLE
I work for you.

COM
You work for everybody.

ZELLE
...

COM
I need you to tell the truth.

ZELLE
...

COM
Who are you really?

ZELLE ...

pause

COM
Did you ever love me?

ZELLE
You were never my lover.

COM
I see.

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ZELLE
Just my everything.

COM
Take responsibility.

ZELLE
Depend on me.

COM
I need you.

ZELLE
How much?

COM
Too much.

ZELLE
Honestly. You remind me of my father. He was my almighty.

COM
You don't have to care about me.

ZELLE
Shouldn't a God care?

COM
My mother didn't.

ZELLE
So you're trying to replace one God with another. Is that your faith?

COM
I don't know what to believe in.

ZELLE
Believe in me.

COM: Can I trust you?

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ZELLE

I don't even trust myself.

COM

Good. In the world of Espionage that's the edge you need.

ZELLE

What?

COM

The world is at war, Zelle. We're all near the breaking point. Something has to give. Imagine if it was the Dam.

ZELLE

So was this a test to see if I'll break?

COM

You're my most valuable asset. My most precious spy. This wasn't a test. This is your origin story.

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