

SIRTAKI

Written by

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(The Impact, Act I)

DRAFT 3

Note: This was originally set in Greece, hence the title. It would work equally well in any place that has a sunny, lazy feeling and a traditional circle dance.

EXT. SUNNY SOUTHERN VILLAGE SQUARE - DAY

The sleepy square is framed by tourist shops. A few customers in a café enjoy the spring sun.

IOANNA, an oddly dressed, plump young woman in her early 20s, peeks around a corner. Her mongoloid features and impish smile give her a look of superb innocence.

STAVROS the jeweller, a well-dressed man in his 40s, leans in his shop door. He notices Ioanna and smiles at her.

Ioanna steps into the square, looks over her shoulder at Stavros and coquettishly flutters her eyelids at him. He mimes "who, me?" and turns away in mock shyness. She claps her hands over her mouth and giggles in delight.

Ioanna disappears around the corner. Stavros starts to look for her. Ioanna jumps out, laughing. Stavros mimes surprise and pleasure.

The people around the square watch, amused. This is clearly a regular occurrence. GEORGIS (50s), a ruddy-faced shop-owner, joins the game with a wink and blows Ioanna a kiss.

Suddenly everyone - except Ioanna - receives phone calls. Smiles disappear. People rush to the café where staff have switched on the TV.

Dismay spreads as they follow the news about the impact. From the houses around the square, shouts and wailing erupt.

People rush off past a puzzled Ioanna.

Stavros and Georgis glance over at Ioanna, all alone in the square, anxious. They confer briefly, urgently.

Georgis goes to Ioanna, kisses her on both cheeks, then makes a phone call.

Stavros goes back to his shop and resumes his position in the open door. He turns to Ioanna and raises an eyebrow.

An invitation to play.

Ioanna's anxiousness disappears. She claps her hands, waddles off to hide around her corner, jumps out again and resumes her flirting. Stavros puts on a brave face and plays along.

The TV is frozen on a map of the impact. A WAITER, the only other person in the square, stares at the map.

Ioanna is happily lost in her game.

Then they start coming.

IOANNA'S MOTHER rushes to Ioanna and embraces her tightly.

GEORGIS' WIFE arrives, and STAVROS' WIFE with their THREE CHILDREN. Stavros hugs them tightly and speaks to the kids, pointing at Ioanna.

Georgis speaks to the waiter, who goes behind the bar and starts putting out glasses and bottles.

The children pull Ioanna behind the corner. Stavros goes looking for her. Georgis winks at her.

The game resumes.

Georgis' son MIKIS arrives, carrying a mandolin. He embraces his father, sits down and begins to play.

Ioanna, fully in her element, flirts with Mikis.

More and more families arrive. The waiter keeps bringing glasses and pouring for everyone.

People start clapping their hands to the music. Two men link arms over their shoulders and take a few dance steps.

Georgis, Stavros and his wife join the men and start to form a circle around Ioanna and the children.

More people join the dance until there are two circles - Stavros, Georgis and other adults on the outside, Ioanna and the children on the inside.

Ioanna beams at Stavros.

CUT TO:

EXT. VILLAGE SQUARE - LATER - JUST BEFORE THE BLAST HITS

The two circles of dancers are huddled very close. No more music.

The ground shakes. A small boy emits a scared whimper.

Ioanna smiles at the boy and scoops him into her arms.

The blast hits.