

MY NEW SAMPO TATTOO

by

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FIRST DRAFT FOR DAY 2 OF THE 29 PLAYS LATER CHALLENGE.

THEME: THE FUNNIEST THING YOU EVER HEARD

BUT A TRAGEDY WITH NO HUMOUR AND THREE MADE UP WORDS*

FARIS (tattoo enthusiast)

GUY (male friend)

TONI (female friend)

BRUNO (tattoo artist)

KAT (tattoo artist)

GIL (tattoo parlour regular)

ROZZ (tattoo parlour regular)

* Stricker-Purvis, Slovovia, Colitexia/Colitexic

SCENE 1

FARIS: Prepare. To. Freak.

GUY: You didn't!?

TONI: What didn't he do?

GUY : You did it?

FARIS: Get ready to be astonished!

GUY: Oh MAN!

TONI: Whad'he do?

GUY:: Amazing!

FARIS: How long was I talking about this, how long?

GUY: Long! Like, long long.

FARIS: And now it's done - finished the last bit yesterday.

GUY: That's awesome, Faris.

FARIS: Thanks geeze. You're the first to see it. You better prepare yourself.

TONI: What's he done!?

FARIS: The. Greatest. Work of art. In the history. Of western civilisation.

TONI: You what?

GUY: The tattoo.

TONI: OH! The TATT-OOOO.

FARIS: The mother-lovin' tattoo my friends. This is no ordinary tattoo. This is a priceless game-changing bar-raising put security cameras and a fence up work of heart-stopping wonder.

GUY: So cool. Let's see, let's see.

FARIS: All right then. Hang on. Just gotta.

GUY: Whoa, how big is it?

FARIS: Bigger than the universe. The universe just got bigger, and badder. This is the tatt from, from the quantum multiverse man. This tatt. Is the Sistine Chapel of tattoo art.

GUY: COOL

FARIS: All right. We're gonna do this. On three. One. Two. And...
Three.

[PAUSE]

TONI: What is it?

FARIS: Isn't it great? Cost me thousands. And just hours and hours
of just sitting there with the needle pricking away at my skin,
and the detail and the colour and the complex forms..

GUY: Uh. Is it... is it finished then?

FARIS: This is the debut. Le debut.

TONI: It's really interesting.

GUY: Yeah, it's, it's very you.

TONI: You should. You should. Have. That.

GUY: Framed. Have, like in a frame too.

TONI: Not your skin in a frame.

GUY : Yeah I mean, people should, should see this.

TONI: Definitely see this.

FARIS: Aw thanks guys. I'm so psyched.

TONI: So is it a....

GUY: Yeah, is it...

TONI: Is it?

FARIS : It's the Sampo.

TONI: The Sampo?

FARIS: Yeah the Sampo. The Sampo from Finnish mythology.

TONI: Oh, the Sampo!

GUY: Oh, THAT Sampo!

FARIS: Yeah man. The World Pillar. The World Tree. A quern mill that can make flour, or salt, or spin gold out of thin air. The most accurate astrolabe ever made, containing bright gold treasure. The Sampo grinds out all the different world ages from the dark age to the golden and back in infinity. The Sampo was smashed and lost at sea. It's somewhere waiting to be found, and when it's found in the north of Finland, in Lappland, in the sea up there with the Northern Lights, when it's found again a new age will be ground out by the Sampo,

and a better age, a golden age come into being.

TONI: And that's what your tattoo is.

GUY: Man.

TONI: The Sampo. Oh yeah, I see now. Yeah. It's a sampo. Guy, you can see it can't you?

GUY: What- uh, yeah, totally sampo. Amazing. Good Sampo.

TONI: Are you - is it fixed on?

FARIS : It's in my blood man, deep in the skin, forever, until I die, and then even longer if I get my skin taken off, you know, like used to cover a book or something. Skin's a great book covering material.

GUY: Definitely get a book.

TONI: Yeah.

FARIS: All right Guys, I mean Guy, and Toni. I gotta shoot. I'm gonna pile down to King Ink later, maybe see you in there, gonna get Boris a special gift for this bad boy. Give him a framed photo of it, I'm just off to the dude.

GUY: Boris did it?

FARIS: Yeah man, he's got skills.

TONI: Yup. Skills. Definite skills.

GUY: Tattooing skills, Boris has.

FARIS: Right then. Stay funky. Namekiin!

[SOUND OF FARIS GOING - FOOTSTEPS, DOOR ETC]

[THEY BURST OUT LAUGHING]

TONI: Oh my god what was THAT!?

GUY: I KNOW right!?

TONI: Oh my god

GUY: Oh shit man

TONI: I'm dying

GUY: I thought I was gonna shit

TONI: Seriously

GUY: Fucking hell

TONI: What was he THINKING

GUY: Jesus

TONI: I've never seen anything like it

GUY: Just horrendous

TONI: God, did you get a photo, we have to put this on buzzfeed

GUY: How does he not KNOW?

TONI: Is he kidding? It's a joke right? Isn't it? Right? A joke?

GUY: Shitting hell. I'm gonna die.

TONI: So bad.

GUY: What a twat. The fuck is a Sampo.

TONI: Aw we gonna destroy this.

GUY: I can't wait.

TONI: Shit, did you see that shit?

[FADE OVER THEM CREASED WITH LAUGHTER]

SCENE 2 - KING INK TATTOO PARLOUR

ROZZ: It's not a word.

GIL: I'm telling you it's a word.

KAT: Guys, I'm trying to concentrate on this tattoo. [ASIDE]
Ignore them, love. Another twenty minutes and this'll be
done. [SOUND OF TATTOO GUN RESUMES]

ROZZ: What was it again?

GIL: Sesquipedalian. So the word for having a million syllables
has a million syllables.

ROZZ: Bit convenient isn't it?

GIL: Convenient?

ROZZ: Contrived.

GIL: Yeah, like it sounds made up. Like colitexia.

ROZZ: What's colitexia?

GIL: It's a made up word.

ROZZ: Yeah but what's it mean?

GIL: It means a made up word.

ROZZ: Colitexia?

GIL: Which is itself a made up word.

[PHONE RINGS]

KAT: [ASIDE] Gimme a sec darlin'. [PHONE CLICK PICK UP] King Ink Tattoos... Yeah, King Ink. No, not the Chinese takeaway. What? We don't do squid. It's a tattoo parlour. No, KING Ink. Ink as in tattoo, King as in, as in King. All, right, bye. [TO ROZZ/GIL] Another one. How does anyone confuse King Ink with a Chinese?

GIL: I can see that.

ROZZ: Yeah totally, Chinese takeaways always have King in the name.

GIL: King Wok, Noodle King, King Noodle....

ROZZ: Singapore King. Was there ever a king of Singapore?

GIL: Nah, it's a city state republic.

ROZZ: Yeah it must have had a king at some point.

GIL : Well, yeah. It was part of the Sumatran empire, and later under British colonisation until 1942.

ROZZ: Yeah but Colonial suzerainty isn't the same as independent dominion.

GIL: I'm not saying it is, I -

KAT: GUYS. Cool it all right, I'm tryna draw a tattoo man. Jesus. It's cool you guys hanging out here, it is, but you know, can you cool it with the, what is that, geography.

[DOOR CRASHES OPEN]

FARIS: WHERE'S BRUNO?

GIL: Hey Faris

FARIS: Where is the bastard?

ROZZ: You lookin' for Bruno?

FARIS: Yeah, Bruno.

ROZZ: Yeah I don't think he's in today. Is he in today, Kat?

KAT: He's not in today.

FARIS: Then where can I find him?

KAT: You could come in tomorrow. He's finishing off Pony's butt sleeve.

FARIS : I want him NOW.

ROZZ: He might be at Biker Hair.

GIL: Yeah isn't it Black Jeepster tonight?

ROZZ: Nah bruh, that's tomorrow.

GIL: Oh yeah.

KAT: You going?

FARIS: I WANT BORIS NOW. I want my fingers around his throat. I want to look into his face and bite his big flat nose off and eat it.

KAT: What did he do Faris?

FARIS: This.

[SOUND OF GROUP AGHAST]

GIL: What is it?

FARIS: It's supposed to be the Sampo.

GIL: What's that?

ROZZ: Oh I know that, it's a money printing machine from Finland yo.

FARIS: No, it's - yes, it is, but that's. Look. Where's Boris?

KAT: You should have a beer here before you see Boris, man.

ROZZ: You wanna beer?

FARIS: No I want to kill Boris.

GIL: You should have a beer.

FARIS: If you see Boris, tell him I'm after him. No, in fact, don't tell him I'm after him. I'm going to eat his skin. I mean it.

[SOUND OF FARIS EXIT]

GIL: Think he'll really eat his skin?

ROZZ: Nah.

[FADE OUT]

[ROCK MUSIC]

SCENE 3

BRUNO: You make them comfortable, have a smoke maybe, you know, but not too much. Must not affect blood flow for make tattoo. For this reason, you don't tattoo if they are drunk. Is blood clotting.

TONI: I heard that.

GUY: Bruno, you ever tattoo someone with the wrong thing just to fuck them up?

TONI: Yeah, like they wanted something LOVE FOREVER in Chinese..

GUY: And you did STUPID TOURIST or something...

TONI: Ever do that?

BRUNO: I never do that. Professional standard.

GUY: I would do that.

TONI: But what did you do to Faris?

GUY: Yeah, that was messed up.

BRUNO: I do nothing to Faris. We make tattoo. Many hours, many money and many colours. Is Sampo, decorated period shield from Finland.

TONI: Na, man, we freaked. We sent it to everyone.

GUY: Noone could believe it. It's like a meme now.

BRUNO: Is good tattoo. Is Sampo, a golden astrolabe.

GUY: Yeah, an asteroid. We were just like Oh yeah Faris that's great, yeah lemme get a photo.

TONI: And then when he went away - HELLO INTERNET -

GUY: He must have been killed man. It was everywhere.

BRUNO: The tattoo was perfect. Was drawn by Faris myself. I make the stencil, I smooth it out and remove bubble, I make tattoo.

GUY: Yeah you make tattoo.

TONI: That you do.

BRUNO: Is Sampo. From Finland. A world pillar. From Finland.

[SCREAM, SONIC FLOURISH, SOUNDS, CRASHING]

FARIS: BRUUUUUUUUNO

BRUNO: Faris! Faris! Let me go

FARIS : BRUNO!

BRUNO: STOP!

FARIS: I'm going to stick that tattoo gun up your arse so far you can draw pictures on the inside of your eyeballs.

BORIS: FARIS!

[SCUFFLING]

FARIS: Get off me! Let me at him!

TONI: NO, Faris!

GUY: Come on Faris.

BORIS: Faris, is good tattoo! Is good Sampo!

FARIS: GOOD!? GOOD!? LOOK!?

[TONI & GUY REACT, BORIS DOESNT]

BORIS: Is good tattoo.

FARIS: BORIS are you fucking serious. What is this. I've been ridiculed. You know. I'm a fucking laughing stock.

BORIS: Is good tattoo.

FARIS: BORIS, there's a slideshow on youtube that's had a million hits and reporters have started calling me to find out what it is.

BORIS: Is Sampo tatt, is Byzantine coin die. From Finland.

FARIS: It's a joke is what it is Boris. I'm fucked.

BORIS : Faris...

FARIS: What is it Boris?

BORIS: If you stop trying for kill me, may I tell you the truth?

TONI: What is it Boris?

GUY: You okay man?

FARIS: What truth?

BORIS: Is truth. You know I come from Slovoia. It is my home land. I come here to make tattoos, to be artist. I work, very successful. I make tattoo, very good. I make name. But then I am bereft! Then my happiness is all gone because I am learning I have Stricker-Purvis Disease.

TONI: Oh my god

GUY: God Boris

TONI: Man you okay

GUY: When, how long?

BORIS: Is very new. But Stricker-Purvis work very fast. Is faster than I think. It affects neurological condition, but I can not tell anyone because I am working and if I am not working then I am being deported back to Slovoia and I die.

GUY: Aw Boris that's terrible.

TONI: Jeeze dude, how long will it take?

BORIS: Thank you, please do not tell anyone. I undergo procedure only tomorrow to correct neurological symptom and then is okay and I go on.

FARIS: And in the meantime I'm totally fucked. You fucking rotter. You cuntin' spastic purvis twat.

[SOUNDS OF EXTREME VIOLENCE]

TONI: STOP IT FARIS

GUY: YOU'RE KILLING HIM

FARIS: GO BACK TO SLOVOVIA. GO BACK TO SLOVOVIA
WITH YOUR FUCKING DISEASE. GO BACK. GO BACK.

[FADE OUT SOUNDS OF VIOLENCE]

SCENE 4 - KING INK TATTOO PARLOUR

GIL: No, but that then leads to sepsis which sets off inflammation and blood clotting.

ROZZ: So what?

GIL: Which causes reduced blood pressure leading to organ failure and death.

ROZZ: But that only happens in a section of the affected population.

GIL: Yeah but it's classic, like-

[TATTOO GUN STOPS]

KAT: Guys. Come on. And anyway it doesn't lead to sepsis.

ROZZ: SEE!?

GIL: Not in every case, I'm not saying that.

ROZZ: I'd still say SARS, Leprosy, Black Death, Polio, then Smallpox, Cholera, Ebola, Spanish Flu, then AIDS.

GIL: AIDS isn't worse than Smallpox.

ROZZ: How is it not worse?

GIL: Smallpox you get malignant lesions that flush the skin all over.

ROZZ: That's bad sure, but.

GIL: Look my point was Stricker-Purvis Disease isn't so bad.

ROZZ: Course it is!

GIL: It's not like, you know Spanish flu.

ROZZ: Yeah but it's neurological too.

GIL: Hey man Rozz, Nietzsche's madness has been attributed to onset syphilis, so don't tell me that Stricker-Purvis is the only-

ROZZ: I'm not saying-

GIL: -physio-corporeal disease with a neurological component, man.

ROZZ: Hey bruh, you got me wrong here-

KAT: Guys! You're welcome to hang out here, yo. But I'm trying to do this rosebush sleeve here, man.

ROZZ: Sorry Kat

GIL: Sorry Kat. What do you think, Kat?

KAT: Neurological is worse man.

ROZZ: How is it worse than skin lesions and acute sepsis?

KAT: It's in your head isn't it. You're like, you can't see it. You can see if your fingers are hanging off, but if it's like your brain, how do you know? Fucking terrifies me.

GIL: Me too man. Think of, think of Faris, the Sampo tattoo.

ROZZ: Shit.

KAT: Right.

[SOUND OF DOOR ENTRY]

BRUNO: Hey Kat.

KAT: Hey Bruno.

ROZZ:: Bruno! It's been long!

GIL: Really long!

ROZZ: You're looking great man!

BRUNO: It is taking long time. Faris, the beating he gave me, I am not recovering. I am here in sadness.

KAT: What's wrong Bruno?

BRUNO: I only pick up my last things. Because I can not work after Faris beat me, when I get out I run out of money, and I run out of money and now I am being deported back to Slovovia.

ROZZ: Aw no man that sucks.

GIL: Terrible.

BRUNO: Is sad because I make my life here, and now I have not the treatment for the Stricker-Purvis disease and I am bereft. I can not make tattoo, I can not make life. I return to Slovovia, and I am bereft.

ROZZ: Oh Bruno.

GIL: Peace brother.

BRUNO: And where is Faris now?

KAT: He's gone.

BRUNO: Where has he gone?

GIL: Noone knows.

ROZZ: He took off, because of the way he fucked you up, and the shame, and Sampo thing, and everything, and-

GIL: He's lost his mind. Totally lost it.

KAT: He needs help for sure, but noone knows where he is.

GIL: He might be dead, or mad, or...

ROZZ: Or arrested, or abroad. It's pretty messed up.

BORIS: All life are messed up. Is human condition, is not? Still we

make forward. One day I again make tattoo! The great tattoo! And I make life, and return from Slovovia.

ROZZ: Sure, Boris.

GIL: Yeah man.

KAT: Stay for a drink, Boris.

BORIS: No thank you Kat. This place is all memories now. I go. I go to Slovovia, I go to dark place, I go to dark place.

[FADE OUT]

SCENE 5 - FINLAND

SOUND OF GUSTING WIND

FARIS: Can't see. Getting dark. Getting darker further north. Less light. Soon be out of Finland into Lappland. Same. Keep going. Find the Sampo. North to the Northern Lights, the beautiful green glow of the sky. Sublime, green, yellow and blue in the deep dark. The snow, my breath in front of me. I'll find the Sampo. I'll keep going north, into Lappland, until I find it. It's out there. I'll find it, set in the silver sea, and I'll set it in motion, set it grinding. The Sampo will grind out a new age, a golden age, and we'll go back, everything will be golden. Keep going. Toward the Sampo. North, it's getting colder, getting darker. So dark now. The dark is closing in.

I'm empty, and so cold. It's so cold now, so dark.

[SOUND OF GUSTING OVERWHELMS VOICE]

[END]