

# 4. Abaddona

(Mile 44)

(Introduction:)

**NARRATOR:**

Use three different voices: low (Master), high (Margarita), medium (narration).

In Mikhail Bulgakov's novel "The Master and Margarita", Voland (the Master) shows Margarita his magic globus, a kind of crystal ball in which anything happening anywhere can be seen:

Frederic Rzewski (1999)  
Text: adapted from Bulgakov  
(Master i Margarita, ch. 22)

**MASTER:**

Blood is a big business.  
Krov — velikoe delo.

I see you are interested in my globus— (Hiss:)  
Ya vizhu, chto vas interesuyet moi globus— Sssssssssssssssssssssssssssssss

**MARGHERITA:**

Oh yes, I never saw a little thing like that.  
O da, ya nie videla takoi vyeshchitsi.

**MASTER:**

It's very nice, this gadget. I don't care for the news on the radio.  
Harashaya vyeshchitsa. Ya nie lyubyu poslednikh novostei po radio.

My globus is much better. For instance, do you see that little piece—  
Moi globus gorazdo udobneye. Vot, naprimer, vidite etot kus—

(Hiss) —of land? Look, it just caught fire.  
 Sssssssssssssssssss — sok zemli? Smotrite, vot on nalivaetsya ognem.

A war has started there.  
 If you look closer,  
 Tam nachalas voina.  
 Yesli vi priblizite glaza,

you'll see the details.  
 vi uvidite i detali.

(Release middle pedal)

**NARRATOR:**

(Hiss:) Margarita bent over the globus— Sssssssssssssssssss  
 Margarita naklonilas k globusu—

—and saw the square piece of land grow larger.  
 —i uvidela, chto kvadratik zemli rasshirilsya.

She saw a river, with a village next to it.  
 Ona uvidela reki, i kakoe-to celenie vozle neyo.

There was a little house that looked like a matchbox.  
 Domik stal kak spichechnaya korobka.

(Hiss:) Sssssssssssssssssss

Suddenly,  
 and with no sound,  
 Vnezapno  
 i byezzvuchno

the roof of the house flew up in  
 the air in a puff of smoke,  
 krysha etovo doma vzletela  
 naverkh vmeste s klubom dyma,

and the walls collapsed, so that, of the two-storied little box, nothing remained, a stenki rukhnuli, tak chto ot dvukhetazhnoi korobochki nichevo nie ostalos,

except for a few small heaps, out of which came black s— krome kucheckhi, ot kotoroi valil ch—

(Hiss:) Sssssssssssssssss

— smoke. Taking a still closer look, Margarita made out — cherny dym. Yeshche pribliziv svoi glaz, Margarita razglyadela

Musical score for the first system, featuring piano accompaniment and vocal lines with lyrics.

a small female figure lying on the ground, malenkuyu zhenskuyu figurku, lezhashchuyu na zemlie,

and next to it, in a pool of blood, with its arms— a vozlie nieyo v luzhe krovi rasmetyavsh—

(Hiss:) Sssssssssssssssss

— spread out, a small child — shevo ruki, malenkovo rebenka.

Musical score for the second system, featuring piano accompaniment and vocal lines with lyrics.

**MASTER:**

"And that's that! He never got a chance to sin," said Voland, smiling. — Vot i vso, — ulibayas, skazal Voland, — on nie uspiel nagreshit.

The work of Abadonna is impeccable. Rabota Abadonny bezukoriznenna.

**MARGHERITA:**

I wouldn't want to be on the wrong side, against Abadonna, Ya nie khotela by byt na toi storone, protiv kotoroi etot Abadonna,

(Hiss:) Sssssssssssssssss

Musical score for the third system, featuring piano accompaniment and vocal lines with lyrics.

**MASTER:**

— said Margarita.  
Whose side is he on?  
— skazal Margarita,  
— na chei on storonie?

"The more I talk with you," Voland replied  
amiably,  
— Chem dalshe govoryu s vami, — lyubezno  
otozvalsya Voland, —

the more I am convinced that you are very  
intelligent.  
tem bolshe ubezhdaius v tom, chto vy ochen  
umny.

Musical score for the first system. It consists of a piano accompaniment and a vocal line. The piano part has a treble and bass clef. The vocal line is in a single staff. A section of the vocal line is marked "(cadenza)".

Let me reassssssssssss—sure you. He is remarkably with the same feelings toward both sides of a  
impartial, conflict.  
Ya usssssssssssssss—spokoiu vas. On na redkost i ravno sochuvstvuyet obeim  
bespristrasten, srazhaiushchimsya storonam.

Consequently the outcome for both sides  
Vsledstvie etovo i rezultaty dlia obeikh storon

Musical score for the second system. It consists of a piano accompaniment and a vocal line. The piano part has a treble and bass clef. The vocal line is in a single staff.

is always...  
byvaiut vs—

(Hiss:)

(very soft, almost whispered:)  
identical."

Sssssssssssssssssssss

— siegda odinakovy.

Musical score for the third system. It consists of a piano accompaniment and a vocal line. The piano part has a treble and bass clef. The vocal line is in a single staff.