

# The Merchants of Venice 1-2

In the office of the Mayor of Venice



Venice - a museum of the past with a lagoon left for oblivion. We don't have the economical power to maintain the glory that once shaped this lagoon. Instead we have to sell out our old palaces to private investors just to get by. Look at me now! What have I become? A clown in 16th Century outfit begging for money, a laughingstock for the whole world.

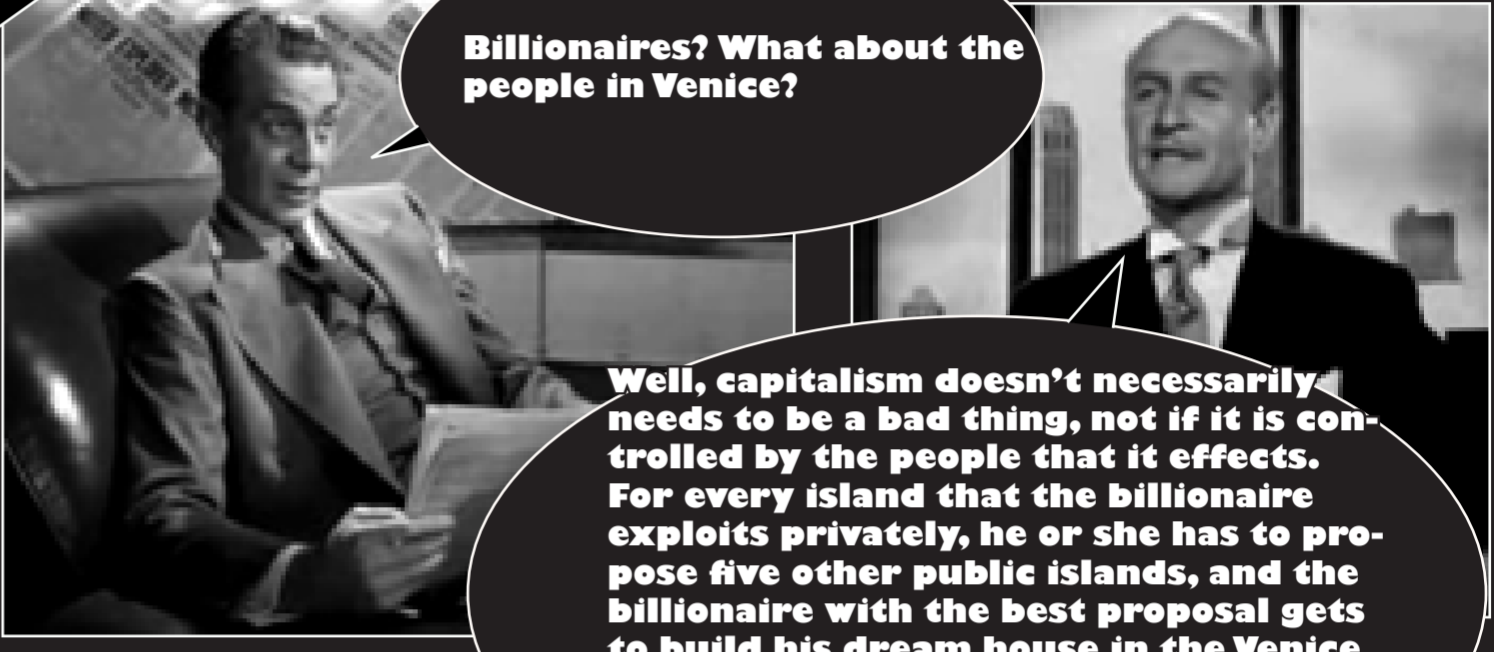
The architectural advisor enters the room



Sir, haven't you heard about the 2G Competition? Some young talented architects proposed a financial system that saves Venice from selling out their architectural masterpieces by simply building new ones.

What!? New ones? But where? Venice is full! The only free space is a shitty dump at that island, what was its name.. Murano-something.

Billionaires? What about the people in Venice?



Well, capitalism doesn't necessarily need to be a bad thing, not if it is controlled by the people that it effects. For every island that the billionaire exploits privately, he or she has to propose five other public islands, and the billionaire with the best proposal gets to build his dream house in the Venice Lagoon. It will also be a slow progress to maintain the exclusiveness of the Lagoon

Hmm.. I like the idea.. but what about that shitty island?

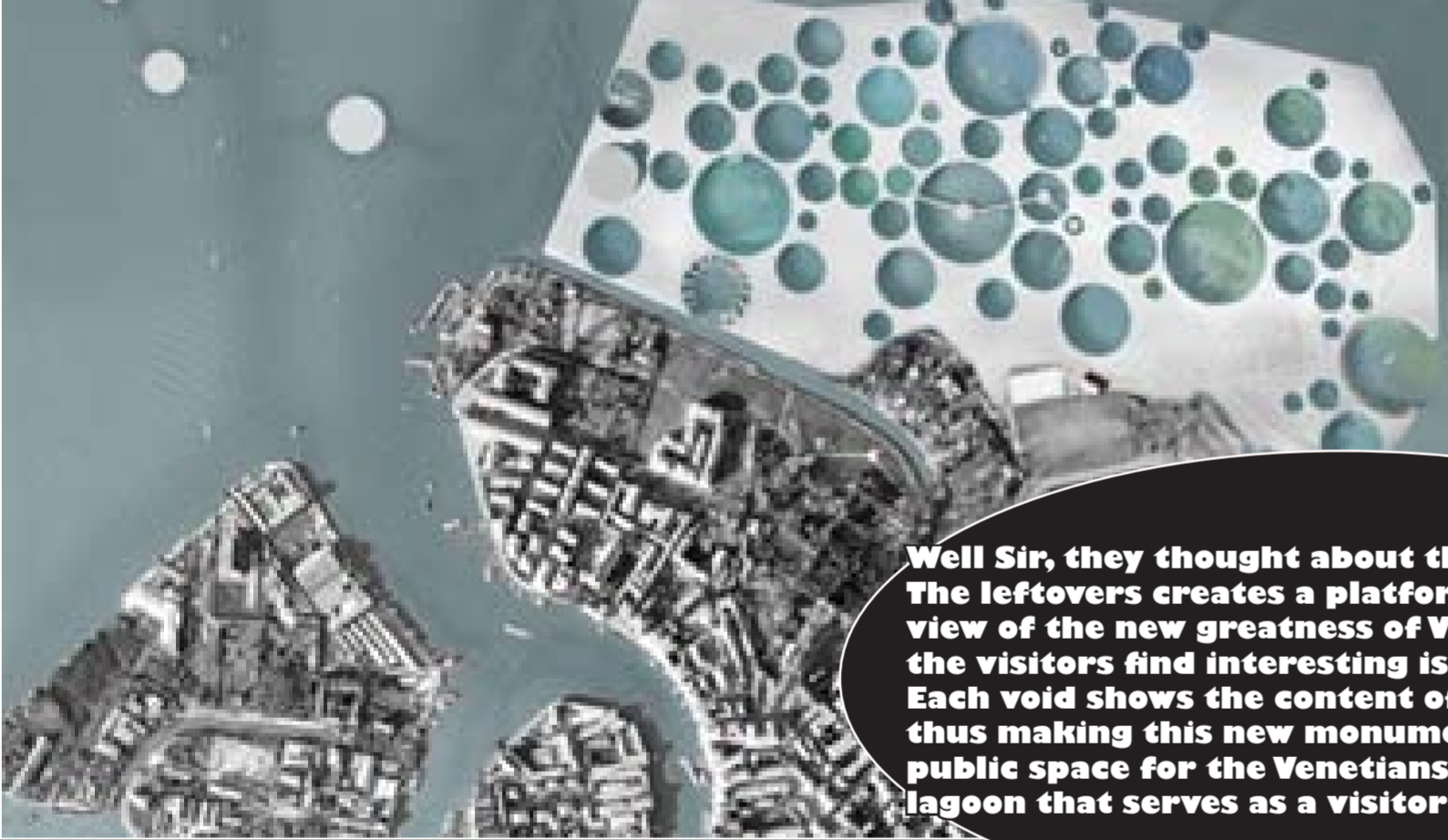


Galaxy of islands



The talents proposed that we take land from that shitty dump and make exclusive islands all around the lagoon and sell it to billionaires.

The Island of Sacca San Mattia



Well Sir, they thought about that too! The leftovers creates a platform with an overall view of the new greatness of Venice Lagoon to help the visitors find interesting islands to visit. Each void shows the content of the created island, thus making this new monument both a major public space for the Venetians and a compact lagoon that serves as a visitor centre.



So we can eat the cake, keep the cake but a better version of it, and at the same time bake a new cake?

The not so shitty island with its variety of voids



Hmm.. Well, something like that Sir.

Now that is my kind of architecture!

**The Merchants of Venice 2-2**

The Billionaire gets a phonecall



Thank you!  
What a pleasant surprise

Congratulations Mister!  
Your proposal was the  
one that got selected by  
the people of Venice



Come on, both you and I know that  
Venice deserves better than that!  
This is Venice Lagoon, and that's why I  
put billions of dollars just to be here.  
Maybe I can find some Scandinavian  
fjord to put your suggestions in.

Welcome!  
You made a tremendous investment and I'm sure  
you will be glad that you did it.  
The city council would perhaps include some  
small improvements to your public islands;  
1. A Refuge. Individual or collective. Temporary stays, maximum 3  
nights. The concept of a refuge and the basic needs it must cover are  
open.  
2. An Observatory. Individual or collective, for the observation of fauna,  
flora, the heavens, etc.  
3. A Landing Stage.  
4. Energy Way Stations. These may be considered as backup elements for  
the rest of the prototypes or as autonomous energy-storage stations.



The shitty island

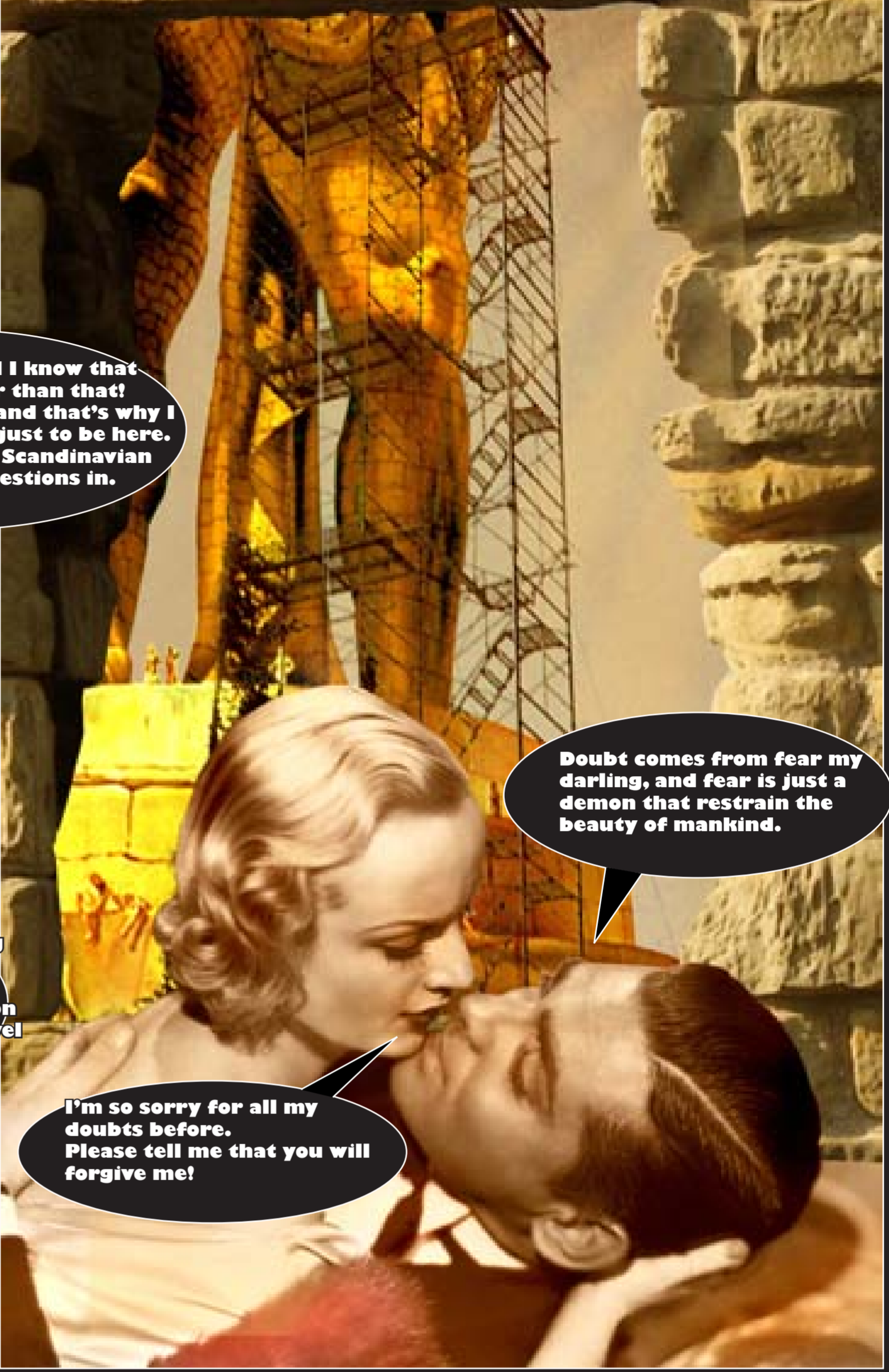
The newly bought island of the Billionaire



It is not the sand we're paying  
for.  
We're going to live on one of  
the most exclusive locations on  
Earth, and where you see gravel  
I see greatness.  
Now get a hold of yourself!

It is just sand you fool!  
You invested all our  
money on this?!  
I should have listened to  
my mother!

The mansion of the Billionaire



Doubt comes from fear my  
darling, and fear is just a  
demon that restrain the  
beauty of mankind.

I'm so sorry for all my  
doubts before.  
Please tell me that you will  
forgive me!

The archipelago of the Golden Statues



A nice beginning.  
I wonder what the next  
billionaire will do.