

Scorpio Rising Book Talk Script

For this Book Talk you will need:

- A copy of *Alex Rider: Scorpio Rising*
- Two actors (Mr. Ariston and Mr. Kurst)

(Mr. Ariston is sitting with his back to the audience and Mr. Kurst walks up behind him. He stands behind the old man for a minute waiting for acknowledgement.)

Mr. Ariston: *(Turn slowly around to face Mr. Kurst)* Ah, Mr. Kurst, thank you for coming. I am Ariston Xenopolos. *(Extend hand for handshake)*

Mr. Kurst: *(Ignore outstretched hand and sound uninterested)* I know who you are.

Mr. Ariston: Of course, of course. *(Pull hand back, disappointed)* You must be wondering why I asked you to come here today.

Mr. Kurst: *(Impatiently)* Mr. Ariston, I took considerable risks coming here today. What is it you want? A man who pays a million dollars to meet with someone should get to the point as quickly as possible.

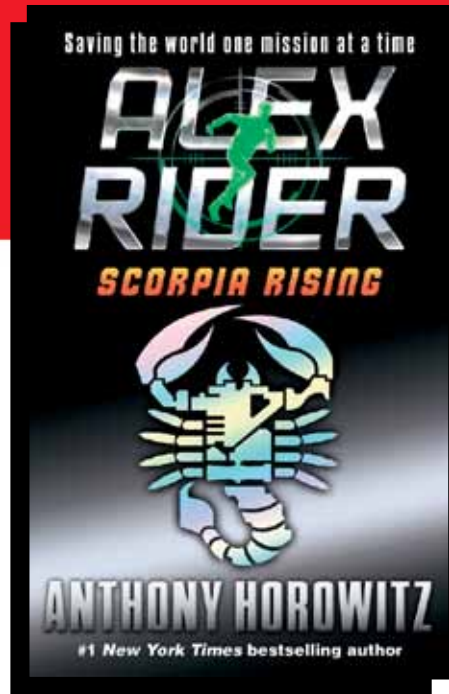
Mr. Ariston: I thought what I wanted would be obvious.

Mr. Kurst: The Elgin Marbles...

Mr. Ariston: Exactly. I wanted to meet here in London so that you would understand how important the Elgin Marbles are to me and my fellow Greeks. These were once the greatest pieces of art the world had ever seen. They are so beautiful it is impossible to describe them. They once decorated the temple in Athens – the Parthenon, dedicated to Athena, the goddess of wisdom...

Mr. Kurst: *(Cut Mr. Ariston off abruptly)* I am aware of the importance of the Elgin Marbles.

☛ continued on next page...



Scorpia Rising Book Talk Script

Continued

- Mr. Ariston:** *(Angry)* Then you are aware that they were stolen! Plundered! And now the English display them in their museum as if they were their own. No matter how adamantly the Greek government has insisted that they return them, the British refuse to cooperate. That is where you and your organization, Scorpia, come into the equation.
- Mr. Kurst:** You understand we can not simply steal them back; they would never be able to be displayed in Greece again.
- Mr. Ariston:** Do whatever is necessary to get them back to my people. This will be my legacy.
- Mr. Kurst:** It will involve blackmail, threatening the British government and more. It will also be very, very expensive.
- Mr. Ariston:** Do what you need to do. Kill half the population of this loathsome country if you must. You will get five million dollars up front and fifteen million once the job is complete.
- Mr. Kurst:** It is not enough. Forty million. Half up front.
- Mr. Ariston:** As you wish. *(Mr. Kurst turns to walk away.)* Mr. Kurst? One more thing.
- Mr. Kurst:** *(Stops walking and turns around.)* Yes?
- Mr. Ariston:** *(Very seriously)* Do not think for a moment that I do not know that Scorpia is not what it used to be. I know you have failed two operations in less than a year. Be sure HE does not get in your way this time.
- Mr. Kurst:** *(Nod and say under breath while clenching fists at your side)* Alex Rider. *(Turn to audience)* Try and catch him at your Book Fair. *(Hold up copy of book).*