

INTO THE BEAUTIFUL NORTH

16th Street Theater

adapted by Karen Zacarias from the novel by Luis Alberto Urrea

ATOMIKO SIDE

Edited to be read as a monologue from pages 49 – 54 and from novel page 128

NOTE: Words in italics signify the lines you are responding to

ATOMIKO

Here I am, the warrior Atómiko. King of the Hill. Baddest of the trash pickers. The master of the dompe, known by all, feared by many. I am a samurai. And beside me is my long samurai sword. Well, it is a staff. But it is noble and powerful in my hands.

Hurt me, girlie! I want to be wounded by you!

(Does some fancy moves)

Nice huh?

I am Atómiko!

I am a sergeant in the Mexican army! Well, I was, until I ran away.

Is it true? You're going across illegally to collect vatos to take home?

Correct.

You're collecting men.

Seven men.

And you'll smuggle them out of the Yunaites.

Yes.

Back to Mexico.

Exactly.

But you have to sneak.

Sí.

Because it's illegal to transport illegals.

Correct.

Even if they're going south.

Right.

Holy Christ, I love this story!

I am Atómiko.

You can't recruit vatos from the dompe. It's not what you set out to do. You have to accomplish your quest. To el Norte. Besides, these warriors are not worthy.

(underscore)

Look—these men here, they came from there. *(Warrior points South)*

They came from the lands you left! And they ran out of steam right here. You need the men who made it through the border. You need the warriors who have passed their challenge. Men worthy of the honor. *(Swings his staff north.)*

The warriors are before you. You must go across the line to retrieve them.