

A deal with the devil

Drama

by
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CHARACTER NAME	BRIEF DESCRIPTION	AGE	GENDER
Pierre	He is a poor fisherman. He is known for his stupid ideas.	20	Male
Thomas	He is a poor fisherman. He has a family	31	Male
Roy	He is dressed in a black robe. He wears a black mask. He is the current executioner of New France.	49	Male
François	He is the representative of the Governor General of New France	38	Male

Time : 1756

Place : Quebec city, New France

The plot follows Pierre and Thomas, after hearing rumours of an incoming invasion by Great Britain, they attempt a robbery, but they are caught and are sentenced to death. Pierre then gets an offer that will decide his fate and the one of his friend.

SCENE ONE.

(PIERRE and THOMAS are fishing. PIERRE looks at the distance.)

THOMAS

(Sighs) Can you tell me how come you are always the one that catches more fish?

(PIERRE keeps looking at the distance.)

THOMAS

Pierre?

PIERRE

Uh?

THOMAS

Are you alright?

PIERRE

Oh yes, don't worry, I was only thinking of something foolish.

THOMAS

Like what?

PIERRE

Uhm, did you hear the recent rumour going around town?

THOMAS

There is plenty of rumours going around. You will need to be more specific.

PIERRE

The one that we are fighting the brits on the other side of the sea.

THOMAS

Yes I have heard. Don't tell me you actually believe them.

PIERRE

Yes I do! Don't you remember when they invaded us two winters ago?

THOMAS

That was different.

PIERRE

No it's not! What if the Thirteen Colonies suddenly decide to invade us again? What if they win? Then what Thomas? Do you want to live as a servant of King George?

THOMAS

Stop talking nonsense. It is not going to happen.

PIERRE

Oh really? How are you so sure? How do you know that those dirty brits are not plotting something against us? Would you want your daughter to be a brit's whore?

(THOMAS drops his fishing rod.)

THOMAS

Don't you dare dishonor my daughter.

PIERRE

All I am saying is that we should be ready. Ready for when they come.

THOMAS

You want to join the militia?

PIERRE

Ha! Look at us, we cannot fight a war. I was thinking of getting muskets. Just as a precaution.

THOMAS

What? Pierre we are two poor fishermen. We cannot afford the license, forget the musket.

PIERRE

Who said we would be buying them?

THOMAS

Pierre! We cannot steal a musket. The Good Book taught us better than that!

PIERRE

I am certain that The Good Lord will forgive us if we are doing this to protect those who are dear to us. Think of your wife and your little girl.

(THOMAS looks pensive.)

THOMAS

(sighs) If we are careful we could get the muskets at the general store. I know he has some in the back for the hunters.

PIERRE

Great! We should go now before it gets too late.

(THOMAS sighs and they both leave the scene.)

SCENE TWO

(PIERRE is alone on the stage. He walks around nervously. PIERRE stops walking when the sound of a metallic door opening is heard.)

PIERRE

Is that you Thomas?

THOMAS (OFF STAGE)

Yep.

PIERRE

Did...did you get your trial?

THOMAS (OFF STAGE)

Yes I did. I'll be beheaded tomorrow at noon.

PIERRE

Oh. I...I am sorry.

THOMAS (OFF STAGE)

You better be sorry, it is by your foolishness that we got captured.

PIERRE

Are you sure about that? I don't recall you noticing the soldiers either!

THOMAS (OFF STAGE)

It wasn't my role Pierre! Your role was to be the lookout while I get the muskets. Your failure will cost me my life!

(Long silence.)

PIERRE

You won't be the only one to go to the afterlife. I will be executed an hour after you.

THOMAS (OFF STAGE)

Afterlife? I am not looking forward to be welcomed by The Dark Lord's embrace.

PIERRE

Thomas!

THOMAS (OFF STAGE)

What? We have committed a grave sin Pierre. I don't think The Good Lord will look past that. My fate is sealed but I am going to pray for the safety of my family. If I were you, I would be currently praying for my soul!

(The sound of a metallic door opening is heard. FRANÇOIS walks on the stage.)

FRANÇOIS

Oh my, is it ever dirty in here.

(PIERRE stares at FRANÇOIS.)

FRANÇOIS

Apologies. Uhm, your name is Pierre correct?

PIERRE

Who are you?

FRANÇOIS

I am François Baudelaire, I am here today as a representative of the General Governor, Marquis de Vaudreuil-Cavagnial. Euhm, before we get to the reason of my visit, may I sit down?

(PIERRE points the bed. FRANÇOIS sits on it.)

FRANÇOIS

Thank you. The reason for my visit today is quite simple. The General Governor is proposing that you, Pierre, become the new executioner of New France.

PIERRE

What?

FRANÇOIS

And if you accept the offer, you will have your freedom and your crimes will be forgiven.

PIERRE

Why me?

FRANÇOIS

The answer is quite simple really. You are a foolish young man awaiting death row because of one little mistake. You only did that out of fear because of local gossip.

PIERRE

Local gossip? Are you currently telling me that Great Britain did not invade France?

(FRANÇOIS doesn't reply right away.)

FRANÇOIS

Exactly! We are not at war with Great Britain. But let's get back to the offer shall we? You will be perfect for-

PIERRE

What about Thomas? He is married and has a child. Wouldn't it be more appropriate for him to have the-

FRANÇOIS

No! Tell me Pierre, how would you feel if a family man, a good Christian, were to become an executioner.

PIERRE

I am a good Christian.

FRANÇOIS

That is not what I meant. Let me rephrase. How do you think the public would react if a respectable married man decided to become the executioner instead of trusting The Good Lord's embrace. It would bring shame to him and his family. It is better for everyone that he be beheaded.

THOMAS (OFF STAGE)

I heard that! Are you saying that my family will be better when I pass? I provide for them! They will starve once I am gone!

(FRANÇOIS sighs. He makes a gesture to someone off-stage. ROY walks in.)

FRANÇOIS

Could you take care of this little problem?

(ROY walks out of the scene. The sound of a metallic door opening is heard.)

THOMAS (OFF STAGE)

No! Stay away!

(Sounds of a beating are heard. FRANÇOIS looks around, unaffected by the situation. PIERRE raises his head and stares at the wall. After the beating, the sound of a metallic door closing is heard and ROY walks in.)

FRANÇOIS

Thank you. So, *(claps his hands)* if you accept this offer. Your first execution will be tomorrow at noon.

(PIERRE stares at ROY.)

FRANÇOIS

Pierre?

PIERRE

Uh?

FRANÇOIS

Did you hear what I said?

PIERRE

Yes, my first beheading will be at noon tomorrow.

FRANÇOIS

Great! Now we need to-

PIERRE

You mean when Thomas will be beheaded.

FRANÇOIS

Mmm, yes.

PIERRE

You want me to kill my friend.

FRANÇOIS

Euh, that is one way to put it. The other way, the correct way, is to look at it as you are simply doing what you are supposed to do.

(Long silence.)

FRANÇOIS

I will let you think about it. If you need me just scream at the guard and I will be here shortly.

(FRANÇOIS gestures at ROY. They both leave and the sound of a metallic door closing is heard.)

PIERRE

Are you okay Thomas?

THOMAS (OFF STAGE)

(Coughs) Yeah.

(Long silence.)

THOMAS (OFF STAGE)

Are you going to take the deal?

PIERRE

No.

THOMAS (OFF STAGE)

Why not?

PIERRE

Do you remember when we went to fish far from town?

THOMAS (OFF STAGE)

Yes I do, are you talking about the day that you almost joined the afterlife?

PIERRE

You carried me for three days without taking a break. You almost died by doing so. I owe you my life.

THOMAS (OFF STAGE)

I appreciate it. I did not think you were a man of honor Pierre.

PIERRE

Ha! Me neither.

(The sound of metallic door opening is heard. ROY walks in and grabs PIERRE.)

PIERRE

No! No! No! Let me go!

(ROY drags him out of the scene.)

THOMAS (OFF STAGE)

What's happening? Pierre? Pierre!

FADE TO BLACK.

SCENE THREE

(ROY drags PIERRE on the scene.)

PIERRE

Stop! My execution is planned for tomorrow!

(ROY throws him and PIERRE falls on the ground.)

ROY

You stupid foolish boy!

PIERRE

What? What did I do?

ROY

You know damn well what you did!

PIERRE

Are you talking about my decision?

ROY

Yes! Do you realize that you are about to ruin the life of your friend and his family?

PIERRE

What? What are you talking about?

ROY

If you refuse the deal. François will just come back and ask Thomas to fulfill the role instead!

PIERRE

What? He told me that he wouldn't.

ROY

And you believed him? François is not a man of honor. He needs someone to replace me. He can't go back empty handed to the General Governor.

PIERRE

Then at least his life will be saved. I would have fulfilled my debt.

ROY

What? Are you insane? Do you know what it's like to be the executioner?

(PIERRE shakes his head.)

ROY

Even if you wear a mask, everyone knows who you are. Anywhere you go, all eyes are on you. Everyone is scared of you. The families of your victims know that they can't attack you directly, but they will take their revenge on your family. Pierre, you are celibate, you don't have a wife or kids. But Thomas does, if you choose to give the role to him, you will ruin his family!

(PIERRE looks down.)

ROY

Accept the deal if you truly want what is best for him.

FADE TO BLACK.

SCENE FOUR

(THOMAS is laying on his bed.)

THOMAS

Are you there Pierre?

(Short silence)

PIERRE (OFF STAGE)

Yeah. I'm here.

THOMAS

What time is it?

PIERRE (OFF STAGE)

It's eleven thirty.

THOMAS

Oh.

(Long silence)

PIERRE (OFF STAGE)

I didn't want this. Thomas, I am sorry, I truly am...

THOMAS

It's fine, what is done is done.

(Long silence.)

THOMAS

You know, I really wish I could see them one last time. When I would come home after fishing, my daughter would run to me screaming "Father! Father!". I know that she is going to forget all these memories. She will only remember me for the thief that I have become.

(PIERRE walks on the stage. He is dressed like ROY.)

THOMAS

No! No! I am not going there!

*(THOMAS places his fists in front of him.
PIERRE removes his mask.)*

THOMAS

What? No!...No! No! No!

PIERRE

I...

THOMAS

No! You don't...you can't!

(Long silence.)

PIERRE

I am sorry -

THOMAS

Don't you dare apologize to me! You dragged me into this! I saved your damn life! And now, you are the one that is going to kill me! Go to hell!

PIERRE

I don't ask for your forgiveness. I promise that I will take care of your wife and kid. They won't starve.

THOMAS

You are a fool. They won't accept your help. To them, you will only be the man that cut off my head.

(Silence. PIERRE looks off-stage.)

PIERRE

It's...euhm, it's time.

(PIERRE puts his mask back on.)

THOMAS

Coward.

*(PIERRE drags THOMAS out of the stage.
A bang is heard and a crowd cheers.)*

End of play.