QUITE THE SCOUNDREL

by

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INT. COBLER SHOP - EVENING

CHARLES
Where's Marlowe? That bastard owes me.

CHESTER
He's dead.

CHARLES
Dead, you say?

CHESTER
Dead.

CHARLES
That bastard.

CHESTER
He left this for you.

Chester hands Charlie a note.

Reading out loud.

CHARLES
"Even in death I beat you!"

Charles laughs. He crumbles up the paper and throws it in the face of Chester.

CHESTER
There was no need for that, sir.

Charles draws his sword.

CHARLES
I'll chop him to bloody pieces!

CHESTER
He's dead.

CHARLES
I don't care!

CHESTER
Yes, but, he's already buried.

CHARLES
Then I'll dig him up and then chop through his flesh.
CHESTER
Yes but, he's been cremated and then buried.

CHARLES
Why?

CHESTER
That was his wish.

CHARLES
But why bury a man's ashes? Why not go out to sea or something more honorable?

CHESTER
He was a fickled man.

CHARLES
Where is he buried, so that I may pee on the soil of his grave? May it drip down and soak up his ashes into clumpy balls of urine.

CHESTER
That is quite an image, sir.

CHARLES
Where is he buried?!

CHESTER
The exact location was actually drawn on the back of the paper you crumpled up and threw in my face...sir.

Charles sticks out his hand. Chester hands him the ball of paper. Charles opens it up and studies the drawing.

CHARLES
Why was the exact location drawn to this scoundrel's grave?

CHESTER
He drew it himself.

CHARLES
That's absurd!

CHESTER
He committed suicide.

CHARLES
...Did he?
CHESTER
Yes, sir. He already had the plot.

CHARLES
Strange. So very strange. Why would he take the time to draw me a map to the location of his grave, before killing himself?

CHESTER
That, I am not sure, sir.

CHARLES
Hmmm. I better not.

He hands the paper back to Chester.

CHESTER
I don't understand.

CHARLES
It's a trap. I wasn't born yesterday. That bastard wants to get one last laugh so he may rest in peace and I will give him no such pleasure.

CHESTER
There may be truth to your claim. Why else would a jokester and a scoundrel and a fool such as Marlowe create this drawing?

CHARLES
Hah! Exactly my good man. Looks like I'll get the last laugh after all. (beat) Good day.

CHESTER
But, sir?

Pause.

CHARLES
What?

CHESTER
What if that drawing is more than a direction to his grave site? What if it leads you to the debt he owes you?

CHARLES
Debt?
CHESTER
Perhaps Marlowe wished to pay you back from beyond the grave.

CHARLES
Urban legend does say that in order to move on to the next world, one must be given clearance of all debts in the afterlife. Perhaps you are right!

CHESTER
Perhaps!

CHARLES
Perhaps!

CHESTER
Perhaps!

CHARLES
Perhaps! Well now, I will follow the map and...no. Maybe this can be my revenge. By not retrieving his debt, I can get even with him after all these years.

CHESTER
That's a hard bargain, sir. It will put a spot on your own soul.

CHARLES
Hmmm. I will sleep on it. Make my decision by morning.

Charles storms out.

CHESTER
Good day!

Pause.

In comes Marlowe from a back door.

MARLOWE
Did he buy it?

CHESTER
That will be the amount we agreed on please.

MARLOWE
Can i pay you tomorrow?
Marlowe pulls out a few coins and hands it to Chester.

Marlowe begins to exit.

Chester laughs.

Marlowe exits.