

QUITE THE SCOUNDREL

by

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INT. COBBLER 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 outloud.

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?

CHESTER

No.

Marlowe pulls out a few coins and hands it to Chester.

MARLOWE

Bastard.

CHESTER

A deal is a deal. I risked the well being of my shop for you.

MARLOWE

That you did. Thank you.

Marlowe begins to exit.

CHESTER

Sir? How do you plan on never encountering Sir Charles?

MARLOWE

I will wear a disguise.

CHESTER

Surely, not forever.

MARLOWE

For as long as it takes.

CHESTER

And what if he visits the grave and doesn't see your name?

MARLOWE

I picked an unnamed gravestone.

Chester laughs.

CHESTER

You are quite the scoundrel.

Marlowe exits.