

The Dinner of the Absent

Supernatural · Scene for 3 · 3 min · Female role · Young adult · Intermediate

(A family dinner. An empty chair, an untouched place setting, a filled glass. No one touches it.)

MAMIE

We always keep his place. For twenty years. Your grandfather used to say a table without its chair is a table that's given up.

ÉLOI

Grandma... he's not going to come. He can't come. We all know it.

MAMIE

We lay the place anyway. It's not for him. It's for us. So we don't get used to his absence.

(The candle in the centre flickers. No window is open.)

JUNE

...The flame moved. There's no draught. I checked earlier.

(The full glass, at the empty place, trembles slightly. A ring forms on the surface of the wine.)

ÉLOI

The wine. Look at the wine.

(She smiles, without fear.)

MAMIE

Good evening, old friend. Sit down. We kept your place. We always will.

What you can do with it

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