

The Family Council

Romantic comedy · Scene for 4 · 2 min · Female role · Young adult · Advanced

(A drawing room of old. The father holds a letter.)

LE PÈRE

I have read it. The name he bears is too low for ours. My daughter shall love only whom I name.

HÉLÈNE

Father, one does not command the heart like a servant. It obeys in silence only when betrayed.

LE FRÈRE

Hear her, Father. A forced marriage makes two wretched souls where none was wanted.

LA TANTE

Two titled wretches, nephew, are worth more than a happy, penniless couple pointed at.

HÉLÈNE

Then count my days as one counts a dowry: I yield them all to you; keep their silence.

LE PÈRE

You speak to me as a daughter, and judge me as a queen. Where did you learn that tone?

HÉLÈNE

From you, Father. One also inherits the pride that is denied one.

(The father is the first to lower his eyes.)

LE PÈRE

... Leave me this night. The day sometimes undoes what fear resolved.

What you can do with it

Original text written for Acto. Read it, print it, work on it in class, perform it at an audition or on a self-tape: that is what it is for, and you need no permission. For a public performance or any commercial use, write to us at contact@acto.re.