

The Rehearsal

Comedy · Scene for 4 · 4 min · Male role · Adult · Intermediate

(A rehearsal. The director is tearing his hair out.)

RÉGIS

From the top. The poison scene. Nina, you enter, you see the body, you scream.

NINA

I scream inwardly. It's a choice.

RÉGIS

The audience can't hear your insides, Nina.

BÉBERT

Quick question: I'm the corpse. Do I breathe or not?

RÉGIS

You're dead, Bébert. The dead don't breathe.

BÉBERT

Yes, but last time I held my breath and actually fainted. At least that was realistic.

CLÉMENCE

And my costume? They put me in widow's black, but I play the sister.

RÉGIS

The widow's ill. You're the widow tonight.

CLÉMENCE

So I cry for a husband I never rehearsed?

RÉGIS

You cry, that's all! People cry perfectly well for strangers: ask any funeral.

NINA

He's cracking. I love it when he cracks, he gets sincere.

RÉGIS

I'm not cracking! I... I'm directing. With passion. From the top. Bébert, die. Nina, scream. Clémence, cry. And please, someone, tonight, pretend to believe it.

(Everyone freezes, deeply focused. Bébert raises a hand.)

BÉBERT

... Do I take one last breath first, or not?

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.