

What's For Dinner?

A Ten Minute Play

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Characters

TOM Male. Mid 30s. White. Businessman.
 PHIL Male. Mid 20s. White. Mail Runner.
 JUDITH Female. Late 20s. White. Flight attendant.

Setting

Deserted island: three large rocks in a row and a palm tree behind them.

At rise. JUDITH sits on the middle rock. TOM sits on the rock to her right. PHIL sits on the rock to her left. TOM tosses small pebbles in front of him. TOM wears a wedding ring. TOM and PHIL are angry with one another. Their clothes are bloody and torn. Rocks of varying size are scattered along the shoreline.

PHIL

Nope! Already decided! Tom's getting eaten.

TOM

Fat chance, buddy.

JUDITH

Both of you stop! We're not savages. If we're going to eat someone, then let's decide democratically.

TOM

Yes, I agree. Let's put it to a vote.

TOM and PHIL lower their arms.

PHIL

I vote Tom.

TOM

I vote Phil.

PHIL

Judith? Who will it be?

JUDITH

No, no, no. We have to think this through.

TOM

You just said to put it to a vote. That's what we're doing.

JUDITH

I know. I know. It still just feels immoral. There has to be a reason behind eating someone.

PHIL

We're starving. That's the reason.

JUDITH

No. I mean, there has to be a reason for us choosing who we choose. A reason that this person is going to be eaten.

TOM

Like, who has the best reason to live? Who has something they need to get back to?

PHIL

Or, who is the worst person here. Who's done the most horrible thing.

JUDITH

Yeah, something like that. Tom, what do you have waiting for you back home?

TOM

I have two daughters. Samantha, my oldest, she's turning twelve this month. And Isabella, she's eight and just started dancing lessons. I have to get back to them.

JUDITH

What about your wife?

TOM

She's not in the picture anymore. I'm all they have.

JUDITH

Phil? What about you?

PHIL

My girlfriend, Mia. I was on my way to propose. That's why I was on that flight. She's visiting her family. I was going to surprise her. I already have her father's permission.

JUDITH

Hm, okay. I say that we—

PHIL

I also have a dog! It's a cute dog too. I bet he really misses me right now.

JUDITH

Okay, Phil. The proposal was enough to cause sympathy.

PHIL

He can do tricks! Roll over. Shake your hand. He's well trained!

TOM

Shut up about your dog.

PHIL

Wow. Very rude of you, Tom. Doesn't show very good character. I bet you're a terrible guy.

TOM

I've made mistakes. But I assure you... I'm a better man than you'll ever be.

PHIL throws a rock at Tom but it lands halfway between them.

PHIL

Don't you disrespect me like that!

JUDITH

Phil, what's the worst thing you've ever done?

PHIL

Oh, uh. Hmm. Come to think about it... I'm pretty perfect. Never done anything bad.

TOM

Narcissist.

PHIL

No, I believe in God.

JUDITH puts her face in her hands.

JUDITH

Tom?

TOM

I... I killed my wife.

PHIL

Tom's for dinner!

TOM

It was an accident! I swear. We were going to have blowfish... I cut it wrong. I thought I had done it right but... I let her try it while we were making dinner... And it cost her life. I think about her every day. She was the love of my life. That's why I need to see my girls. They stay with family friends when I go on my business trips. I can't let them think I abandoned them.

PHIL

Boo hoo. So sad. Judith? How do you like your meat prepared? Rare? Medium? Well?

JUDITH

Phil, will you shut up? Tom, I'm very sorry about your wife.

TOM

Thank you. Phil, you're not perfect. I've known you for five days and you're insufferable.

PHIL

Insufferable? I'm suffering *right now*. What do you mean?

TOM

Are you dull?

PHIL

No, I'm very entertaining.

JUDITH

Phil! What's the worst thing you've ever done?

PHIL

Fine! Fine... I totaled my dad's lamborghini once... No, wait! Worst ever? When I threw a party on my dad's yacht and it caught on fire... Final answer.

JUDITH

Oh, how much you have struggled.

PHIL

I know, right! He took away my allowance for, like, an entire month!

JUDITH

Okay, so. Tom. Killed his wife, accidentally, and has his two young daughters waiting for him back home. And, Phil. He's himself and is planning on proposing to his girlfriend.

PHIL

Don't forget, Baxter! My dog.

JUDITH

Of course. Baxter. How could we forget?

PHIL

I have no clue.

JUDITH

Tom, your daughters need you. I agree that you must get back to them. Phil, unless you cough up a better reason than Tom... then filet mig-Phil is on the menu tonight.

PHIL

What!? Hold on a second. Tom. Why does it have to be one of us? What about her?

PHIL points at Judith.

She hasn't given us any reason as to why we shouldn't eat her.

TOM rubs his chin.

I don't know about you. But that seems pretty unfair to me.

TOM

Yeah, Judith. I'm surprised, but Phil actually makes a good point.

JUDITH

What? No, he doesn't. He's an idiot. You guys can't eat me.

PHIL

Yes we can. We have teeth.

JUDITH

Idiot. I mean morally!

TOM

But what do you mean by morally?

JUDITH

You guys can't eat a lady. That'd be sexist.

PHIL

Are you saying that a woman's life means more than a man's life? That sounds pretty sexist to me.

TOM

A person is a person. A life is a life. If we've decided to eat someone, then it doesn't matter who or what kind. Someone's dead at the end of the day. Nothing changes that.

PHIL

That's depressing.

JUDITH

Jesus, Tom.

TOM

What do you have waiting back home, Judith?

JUDITH

Well, I'm a flight attendant. I fly around a lot. Haven't spoken to my family in what seems like forever.

PHIL

Okay, okay. Worst thing you've ever done?

Pause.

JUDITH

Smoked a cigarette.

TOM

What?

JUDITH

I smoked a cigarette.

PHIL

I do that all the time. What's the big deal?

JUDITH

I smoked it five days ago... On the flight... In the cockpit...

TOM

I must be missing something here... Are you trying to insinuate that—

PHIL

Yes, Tom. It is a sin to eat people. We've been over this.

TOM

ShutTheFuckUp... Judith, are you saying that that cigarette you smoked in the cockpit caused the plane to crash?

PHIL gasps and brings his hands to his face.

JUDITH

It was an accident! Just like you and your wife, Tom.

TOM

An accident that left three survivors out of God knows how many.

PHIL

I may never see Mia again because of you.

Or Baxter.

TOM

Oh my God! Baxter! My poor boy!

PHIL

Look, it already happened. It's in the past!

JUDITH

It's relevant.

TOM

Hey, Tom.

PHIL

Hey, Phil.

TOM

Let's have another vote.

PHIL

Let's.

TOM

END OF PLAY