

The Mansion

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Setting: House, Town square, Hill, Mansion

Characters:

DESMOND: 38 years old, short brown hair, small beard, 180 cm, wears glasses, fit body, British, architect, helpful and realistic

JENNIFER: 37 years old, long blonde hair, 165 cm, blue eyes, wears pearl necklace, daughter of a wealthy and well-known family, British, kind, innocent

MR. ALBERT: 66 years old, bold, white mustache, light weight, wears monocle and pocket watch, Father of Jennifer, Landowner, British, cruel, angry

BENJAMIN: 39 years old, short black hair, 195 cm, black eyes, friend of Desmond, British, strong, coward

FRANKLIN: 20 years old, long black hair, 173 cm, black eye, Benjamin's brother, angry

OLD MAN: 90 years old, wrinkled-face, thin, little white hair

GUARD 1: Mr. Albert's guard.

GUARD 2: Mr. Albert's guard.

PEASANT WOMAN: Insignificant side character

SCENE 1

(DESMOND is sitting in his cold, stone built house in a small town in England, next to his stove that nearly warms the room. He sometimes looks through the window at the cloudy weather of England and sometimes looks at his paperworks and old books left over from his old job that he lost due to war. At that moment, he hears a horse carriage and the people screaming so he immediately rushes outside.)

DESMOND: Hey, hey you! What's happening?

PEASANT WOMAN: *(Tired from running)* MR. ALBERT and his guards have arrived. They are taking the men and the women for slavery again.

DESMOND: Where are they?

PEASANT WOMAN: *(In a panic)* Th-They're over there in the town square.

DESMOND: Okay, don't panic. Go to your house and look after your children. Be careful!

(The PEASANT WOMAN runs toward her house again and DESMOND runs to the town square. MR. ALBERT and his guards are coming by a horse carriage with a dungeon in the back to the town square)

Mr.ALBERT: *(Speaking to his guards)* Whether they are men or women, find 10 people and bring them in front of me. Immediately! I don't want to wait on this disgusting mud.

(Guards are capturing the men and women in the town and forcing them to kneel down in front of MR. ALBERT and the people of the town are watching this horrible scene with fear and tears.)

MR.ALBERT: (*Speaking to the town*) Our land is going through bad days. Too many people have died in these times and it caused me a lack of labor power. So, be thankful to my kindness, I just take 3 of your people with me.

(*Desmond is listening to MR. ALBERT from the back, and he hears people insult MR. ALBERT greatly.*)

MR.ALBERT: (*Blushing with anger*) Don't exceed your limits! All of you are living on my land, drinking in my river, farming on my fields. If this is the reward for my kindness, I will take three more of your people. (*MR. ALBERT chooses the people who are going with him. The crowd doesn't make any noise and MR. ALBERT's guards take the chosen people and lead them to the horse carriage. DESMOND is pushing through the crowd and running toward MR. ALBERT.*)

DESMOND: Si-sir ALBERT, please have some mercy. There are only a few people left to farm and we're running out of supplies, Sir.

MR.ALBERT:(*avoiding DESMOND's face while talking*) Then your people need to work harder, boy.

DESMOND: Sir, please, there is a famine in the town. We can't feed our children.

MR.ALBERT: Look, boy, I care about my money and I don't care about the rest. (*Speaking to DESMOND face-to-face with anger*) I gave your people a home and a field to fill their stomach. What did they give me? Just insults.

DESMOND: Please, sir, don't take more people. We will give you more taxes.

(*Crowd protecting their silence and they are curious about what will happen with DESMOND.*)

MR.ALBERT: You're a smart boy, DESMOND. You have studied in the same university with my daughter and you worked on the renovation of my mansion. I appreciate that. You are the only person that I feel good emotions toward in this town. Don't make me regret it and take you with me. *(Pointing to the horse carriage with his finger)*

(DESMOND bows his head helplessly and steps back.)

DESMOND:*(In silence)* I can no longer be quiet about these cruelties. If I can't do something, the town will die because of the famine.

(DESMOND speaks with himself and thinks of how to solve this problem and suddenly MR. ALBERT's daughter and DESMOND's old friend, JENNIFER, raises her head from the window of the horse carriage and looks with a sad smile to DESMOND.)

DESMOND: *(In silence)* I have an idea. *(Looking at JENNIFER's face)* Ah, beautiful JENNIFER, I will use you as a key for my plan to succeed. Please forgive me.

(DESMOND walks towards his little house with tired steps lost in thoughts.)

SCENE 2

(DESMOND reaches his little house. With every step, his thoughts become more complicated, and it becomes more difficult to take another step. He opens his small door and he enters his house bowing his head to not hit his face. He crawls to the corner to try to sleep as someone starts knocking on his door. DESMOND opens the door slowly and sees his friend BENJAMIN.)

BENJAMIN:*(With haste)* DE-DESMOND th-they took...

DESMOND: *(Holding BENJAMIN's arm)* Try to breathe, BENJAMIN. Here, take a sip of water.*(Holds a glass for BENJAMIN)* Now tell me who they took?

BENJAMIN: When you went. My little brother FRANKLIN attacked a guard. They beat him a lot an-and I just stood there and didn't do anything.*(Crying in shame)* And then, the guards took him with ruthless ALBERT.

DESMOND: Don't blame yourself, my friend. You couldn't have saved your brother. There were too many guards there, don't blame yourself. We'll find a way to save him, okay.

BENJAMIN: You said there are too many guards. How do we save my brother, DESMOND? Do you have a gun? *(Helplessly)* Look at us, look! We are two useless men. We don't have any clothes to wear yet and you say you will save my brother.*(In panic)* I won't be able to see my little brother again. *(Starts to cry again)*

DESMOND: Have some faith! There is always a way. Just let me think.

(DESMOND walks around the room, lost in thought. BENJAMIN is sitting and looking outside through the window and the merchant is coming into town with a horse carriage.)

BENJAMIN: The merchant has arrived in town. He brought a lot of supplies in a carriage, like we have money to buy it.

(DESMOND stops for a moment and looks at BENJAMIN.)

DESMOND: What did you say?

BENJAMIN: Merchant, I said. He arrived in town.

DESMOND: No no, you said a carriage.

BENJAMIN: *(Unable to make sense of what DESMOND said)* Yes, he arrived with a horse carriage. I don't understand. It is just a carriage.

DESMOND: *(happily)* I found BENJAMIN, I found a plan.

BENJAMIN: *(Quickly gets up)* What? Tell me now!

DESMOND: Look, Do you know JENNIFER, the daughter of ALBERT, my old girlfriend at university before the war?

(BENJAMIN shakes his head curiously.)

DESMOND: Every Sunday she goes through town to the tailor in the city. But she stops at the hill near the town and warns the guards not to be near her. Then she watches the view for ten or fifteen minutes alone.

BENJAMIN: *(In a surprised way)* How do you know that?

DESMOND: Because I love her, BENJAMIN. I follow her every Sunday just to see her face once. *(Looks outside sadly and turns to BENJAMIN)* Forget it. We need to focus on our plan. *(Takes a deep breath)* Me and you will be there on the hill tomorrow and we need to sneak to the carriage silently. Then the carriage will take us to ALBERT's mansion. I think your little brother is in the mansion's dungeon.

BENJAMIN: But, when we sneak into the carriage, JENNIFER will see us and she will call the guards. *(In panic)* Oh DESMOND, I'm so scared.

DESMOND: You should be ashamed. You are like a wrestler but you are thinking like a child. Today I saw JENNIFER in her dad's carriage. She smiled sadly at me. I know she is also thinking that this whole harm that her dad caused to us is nonsense. I know she will help us. She must be.

BENJAMIN: Let's say she accepts our plan. How we're gonna enter the mansion.

DESMOND: I think you forget that I am one of the architects who designed the mansion. Do you see those papers? *(Pointing to the papers on the floor with his finger)* I know every detail about the mansion, every secret passage that the guards don't know. I know how we're gonna enter that mansion.

(DESMOND is collecting the papers that include the construction plan of the mansion and he is filling them into his cloth bag.)

DESMOND: BENJAMIN, go and prepare for tomorrow and bring some water and bread. Don't forget, JENNIFER will be on the hill tomorrow afternoon. I will meet you there in the bushes.

BENJAMIN: Don't worry. I will be on the hill at the exact time. Goodbye
DESMOND.

DESMOND: Goodbye BENJAMIN. Take a good rest tonight. We will need that.

(The sun is setting slowly on the hill that they will start their plan to rescue FRANKLIN. With the sun DESMOND is also going through his bed to sleep.)

SCENE 3

(In the afternoon the guards are waiting for JENNIFER's order away from the horse carriage to go to the tailor in the city. JENNIFER is watching the beautiful view of the Town in the carriage that stops on the hill. Thinking about the dress that she wants to sew. She doesn't get out of the car because of the rain.)

(DESMOND and BENJAMIN are watching the carriage in the bushes. They are waiting for the best moment to sneak into the carriage.)

DESMOND: *(Getting out of the bushes)* Come on BENJAMIN, it's the time. Walk bent over and don't make any noises.

(The rain is getting faster and they are struggling because of the mud. The guards are coming slowly through the carriage due to their heavy armor because of the heavy rain.)

BENJAMIN: *(Panicly)* H-Hey DESMOND, the guards are coming!

DESMOND: *(Walking bent over quickly)* We need to go behind the carriage.

BENJAMIN: We can't hide DESMOND. Just get in the carriage. They are coming. Get in now!

DESMOND: *(Opens the carriage door)* JENNIFER don't be scared. Please don't shout.

JENNIFER: *(Loudly)* Help help!

(Because of the rain and thunder, GUARDS aren't hearing JENNIFER's shout.)

DESMOND: JENNIFER, please calm down. *(Wiping the mud on his face)* It's me DESMOND.

JENNIFER: DESMOND, why are you here? You can't be here and who is this man?

DESMOND: I will explain all of them, but, JENNIFER please don't alert the guards. Trust me we are here for a good thing. This is my friend from the town BENJAMIN.

BENJAMIN: Sorry for this chaos madam. My name is BENJAMIN. Please excuse me madam, but, your father arrested my little brother. His name is FRANKLIN. I

need your help to rescue him. He is innocent, trust my words madam I am saying with all honesty. *(Tears are flowing from his eyes and makes paths in the mud on his face.)* I don't have any family except FRANKLIN. He is the only thing I inherited from my father. Please madam, I'm begging you.

(JENNIFER's anger is turning to sadness.)

JENNIFER: Sorry for you BENJAMIN, but unfortunately, I can't help your little brother. My father won't listen to me, he only listens to himself. I am sorry, before the guards came I only request that both of you go immediately. I'm saying this for your good. If the guards see you, my father kills you.

DESMOND: No, JENNIFER I have a plan. You just take us to the mansion, you don't need to ask your father, your father won't know this. We will rescue FRANKLIN silently. I know where the dungeon is. I just need the k...

(The GUARDS are knocking on the carriage's door.)

JENNIFER: *(Speaking with GUARDS)* Just a moment.*(Silently speaking with DESMOND and BENJAMIN)* They are here, keep your silence.

JENNIFER: *(opening the door a little)* Was there something wrong, sir?

GUARD 1: Lady JENNIFER, sorry for interrupting. Unfortunately, we can't go to the city in this bad weather. Shall we head back to your mansion If you find it appropriate.

JENNIFER: Sounds good to me, sir. Actually this bad weather made me sad. Let's go back to the mansion, I don't want to tire you and these beautiful horses too much in this terrible weather.

GUARD 1: What a beautiful thought, thank you my lady. *(Closes the carriage's door slowly)*

DESMOND: *(Slowly getting out where he is hiding)* Thank you JENNIFER, I don't know how to repay this favor.

JENNIFER: By saving your own life, DESMOND, and please don't involve me in this.

BENJAMIN: Thank you madam, thank you.

(The carriage slowly moving through the mansion, JENNIFER always looking at DESMOND with curious and lovely eyes. DESMOND is also looking at JENNIFER. Outside thunder is rumbling and heavily raining.)

SCENE 4

(The carriage slowly stops in the mansion's yard)

JENNIFER: DESMOND, guards will lead me to the inside. At that time, you two should silently but quickly run to that door. It's opening through the kitchen. The labor's work must be finished. Then you need to go –

(DESMOND interrupts JENNIFER's words)

DESMOND: JENNIFER, I know the path. Don't worry. *(Shows the construction plans of the mansion)* But, I need a key to open FRANKLIN's dungeon.

JENNIFER: This is what I can do. I can't help you after getting off this carriage. Please take care of yourself. *(Slowly opens the door and steps off the carriage)*

(Guards accompany JENNIFER to the door.)

BENJAMIN: Okay DESMOND. This is the only chance we have got. Let's go.

(DESMOND and BENJAMIN run toward the kitchen door. DESMOND silently opens the door and enters MR. ALBERT's mansion. BENJAMIN also enters after DESMOND.)

SCENE 5

(Desmond is checking the kitchen and Benjamin closes the door silently)

DESMOND: BENJAMIN we pass the easiest part. At this time, this plan could get harder. BENJAMIN, we need to find Franklin and leave as quickly as possible. Don't make any trouble. Alright?

BENJAMIN: I am determined to save my brother at any cost. If we need to go quietly, we go quietly.

(DESMOND shakes his head and takes his papers of the plan of the mansion.)

DESMOND: There is ventilation in the kitchen. It must lead us directly to the dungeon.

BENJAMIN: Hey DESMOND. *(Whispering)* Here it is.

(BENJAMIN opens the ventilation's screwdrivers with a knife.)

BENJAMIN: You go first. *(Place the knife on his waist)*

SCENE 6

(DESMOND and BENJAMIN are slowly moving in a tight and dusty ventilation tunnel.)

DESMOND: *(Looking inside through the gaps on the ventilation lid.)* We are here. There is a guard there who fell asleep, we are lucky. *(Slowly and silently takes the lip out and enters the dungeon)* Okay, come on BENJAMIN.

BENJAMIN: The doors are locked. I will go and take the keys from the guard.

DESMOND: *(Whispering)* Be careful.

(BENJAMIN slowly moves toward the sleeping guard and lengthens his arms to guard's keys. He slowly touches the keys and the keys are chinking. Sweats fall from Benjamin's forehead.)

BENJAMIN: Oh I, I got it.*(struggling to breath)*

(The guard moves and return back to sleeping)

BENJAMIN: *(Whispering)* I got the keys DESMOND, I got it. Now, we need to find my brother's cell.

DESMOND: You check the right cells , I will check the left ones.

(They are checking all the cells one by one but there is no one in except one person.)

DESMOND: BENJAMIN come here. There is an old man in this cell, maybe he knows about FRANKLIN.

(Benjamin is trying all the keys until he finds the right one. He silently opens the old man's cell's door.)

BENJAMIN: Hey hey! Wake up, wake up.

OLD MAN: *(Angrily)* Who are you and why do you wake me. Do you know what a great sin to keep an old man close to death from his beautiful dream. *(His words are barely understanding)*

BENJAMIN: I am not here to take advice from an old man! I need to find my brother.

OLD MAN: Hmm, you are in haste. Don't be in haste my son, live your life slowly. Don't waste time by being in haste. Haste makes waste and after you will regret, there is no return. The clock is ticking and time is running. Our time.

(Old man returns back to sleeping)

BENJAMIN: Answer my question! *(Shaking the OLD MAN's moveless body)* Where is FRANKLIN? Where is he? *(Crying)*

DESMOND: I think he is dead, BENJAMIN.

(The old man isn't waking up and BENJAMIN is crying in the OLD MAN's cell)

DESMOND: There is always another way. Don't cry, we will find your brother.

BENJAMIN: *(Loudly)* There is not a way. There isn't. Don't lie to me.

(The GUARD 2 wakes up and coming toward the OLD MAN's cell)

GUARD 2 : How many times I will say to you to shut up you old dumb!

(GUARD 2 sees the open door and hold his gun)

GUARD 2: *(Slowly approaching toward the cell door)* Don't do any wrong things old man or I will put this bullet into your head.

(DESMOND and BENJAMIN hide back of the cell door)

DESMOND: Shhhh!

(GUARD 2 enters the room and sees the OLD MAN's dead body laying on the cell floor)

GUARD 2: *(Bends over toward the OLD MAN's dead body)* What the hell.

(BENJAMIN takes his knife and holds the guard's neck behind him and the knife touching guard's neck)

GUARD 2: *(Fearing)* Hold on, hold on! Don't hurt me. I have a family, please.

BENJAMIN: *(Shouting)* I have a family too! But, where is my family? It's gone. Gone!

DESMOND: BENJAMIN, we can't kill a man. Don't do it. Ju-just put the knife down.

BENJAMIN: Put the knife down ha, DESMOND. What if he was holding the knife? What will happen then? He would kill us.

(DESMOND can't say any words. GUARD 2 is starting to cry and begging for his life)

GUARD 2 : No, no I wouldn't do th...

BENJAMIN: SHUT UP! Where is my brother? Where is FRANKLIN?

GUARD 2: I don't know who FRANKLIN is. Please have mercy.

DESMOND: Where are the other prisoners, where did they go?

GUARD 2: *(Barely talking because of the fear)* To- Today's day of execution. Mister ALBERT took all the prisoners except this OLD MAN. They execute all the prisoners in 1 hour in the backyard.

(BENJAMIN hits the back of the head of guards to pass him out.)

BENJAMIN: *(In haste)* DESMOND, we need to go, now. They will execute my brother!

DESMOND: Wait BENJAMIN! We can't go there like this. They will kill us.

BENJAMIN: I said, I will do everything to save my brother. At any cost.

DESMOND: Wait!

(BENJAMIN opens the dungeon's door quickly and sees the guards are holding their rifles to him and DESMOND.)

SCENE 7

(GUARDS are holding them by their arms and leading them to the backyard. DESMOND is taking steps with disappointment and fear. With every step he takes, he is getting closer to death's cold hands. He is thinking of the town, he is thinking of OLD MAN, He is thinking of JENNIFER.)

DESMOND: *(Turns his head to BENJAMIN)* Sorry, BENJAMIN.

(MR ALBERT is waiting outside. DESMOND and BENJAMIN walks to MR. ALBERT with force. FRANKLIN stands on a chair but can't talk because of the cloth that keeps his mouth.)

BENJAMIN: FRANKLIN! I can't save you. I'm sorry.

(Guard punches BENJAMIN and closes BENJAMIN's mouth with some cloth)

MR. ALBERT: *(Turns to DESMOND)* I know that DESMOND. I know one day you would be involved in my business. Because you see yourself as the hero of the town.

DESMOND: You are a psychopath. You are evil!

MR. ALBERT: *(Comes closer to DESMOND)* No I am not. I gave you a chance back in town. What now? You made the second mistake.

(DESMOND spits Mr. ALBERT's face)

MR. ALBERT: And you made the third mistake. *(Turns to his guards)* Go on gentlemen.

(Guards hold DESMOND's and BENJAMIN's arms again and lead them to the chairs. BENJAMIN and FRANKLIN looking at each other.)

(DESMOND sees JENNIFER behind the guards.)

DESMOND: *(With muttering)* JENNIFER! *(A sudden silence)*

(In the backyard of the mansion, there is just silence and the voice of crying JENNIFER and laughing MR. ALBERT)

THE END