

The Pool of Cerberus

a short play

by

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Cast

“SAM”

“ALAN”

THE MAN

Setting

Wharf.

Time

3am.

The Pool of Cerberus

Wharf, 3am.

“SAM” and “ALAN”, waiting. Long pause.

“SAM”: I don’t understand.

“ALAN” DOES NOT RESPOND.

“SAM”: I said I don’t understand.

PAUSE.

“ALAN”: I heard you.

PAUSE.

“SAM”: I don’t understand why it has to be here. Now.

“ALAN”: This is the place.

“SAM”: It’s cold. I’m freezing. And it stinks. What is that smell ? Fish ? I don’t know any fish that smells like that.

“ALAN”: This is where we’re meant to be.

“SAM”: I’m saying I don’t like it.

“ALAN”: Calm down. He’ll be here soon.

“SAM”: I am – Don’t you tell me ... I am calm.

PAUSE. “ALAN” LOOKS AT “SAM”.

“ALAN”: He’ll be here soon.

PAUSE. “SAM” MOVES AWAY.

“SAM”: I don’t understand.

“ALAN”: This is where we’re meant to be.

“SAM”: But why ? Why here ?

“ALAN”: It’s the best place.

“SAM”: *This* is the best place ?

“ALAN”:
For what needs to happen.

“SAM”:
This is not the best place.

“ALAN”:
It was selected.

“SAM”:
Why was it selected ?

“ALAN”:
Many reasons.

“SAM”:
What reasons ?

“ALAN”:
The reasons they chose.

“SAM”:
But why choose here ?

“ALAN”:
Enough now Sam.

“SAM”:
What did you call me ? Don’t you call me ...

“ALAN”:
That’s your name.

“SAM”:
That’s not my name. My name isn’t ...

“ALAN”:
It is now. You need to get used to it. I’m Alan and you’re Sam.

“SAM”:
I’ll never be Sam.

“ALAN”:
Just for a short while.

PAUSE. “ALAN” LOOKS OFF.

“ALAN”:
I’m sorry about this.

“SAM”:
It’s not your fault.

“ALAN”:
It shouldn’t be like this. You shouldn’t be made to wait.

“SAM”:
It’s not your fault.

“ALAN”:
Waiting like this is bad. It’s not fair for you.

“SAM”:
I don’t mind.

“ALAN”:
But it’s wrong.

PAUSE. THEY SIT.

“SAM”:
Thank you for saying that.

“ALAN”:
It needed to be said.

PAUSE.

“SAM”:
This is not your first time.

“ALAN”:
We are forbidden to speak of that.

“SAM”:
I need to know.

“ALAN”:
We are instructed not to.

“SAM”:
Please Alan. It will help me.

PAUSE.

“ALAN”:
I have been before.

“SAM”:
And ... ?

“ALAN”:
I must not.

“SAM”:
Please.

PAUSE.

“ALAN”:
I came back.

“SAM”:
And where you ... where they – successful ?

“ALAN”:
We were made proud.

“SAM”:
Proud ? What does that mean ? Proud.

“ALAN”:
Proud.

“SAM”:
But were you successful ? Was your objective accomplished ?

PAUSE.

“ALAN”:
Yes. Our objectives were accomplished.

“SAM”:
And now your back for more ?

“ALAN”:
I have experience. I know what is expected.

“SAM”:
No. I don't think you do know. You don't have any idea what is expected of me. What I'm being asked to do. To spend eight hours in a sealed metal box with only a pin hole to breathe through.

“ALAN”:
I will be with you.

“SAM”:
To smuggle into a country I have no desire to be smuggled into and meet people who I’m not sure even exist.

“ALAN”:
They will be waiting.

“SAM”:
And then to ... To ...

“ALAN”:
Sam. I will be with you.

“SAM”:
Yes, you’ll be with me. Up to a point. Why do they send you ? Why do you even need to be here ?

“ALAN”:
I am here to help.

“SAM”:
Help ? Make sure I don’t get cold feet. Make sure the objective is accomplished.

“ALAN”:
I am here to help.

“SAM”:
No you’re not here to help. You’re the insurance. To make sure everything goes as planned. To make sure the package is delivered.

“ALAN”:
Sam. I will be there.

“SAM”:
Yes. But you’ll be coming home alone.

PAUSE.

“ALAN”:
No one forced you to be here. This is your choice.

“SAM”:
This is my choice.

“ALAN”:
You can leave.

“SAM”:
I can leave.

“ALAN”:
We can end this right now.

PAUSE.

“SAM”:
No. I don’t want it to end. I know why I came here. I know why I need to do this. Why it is the only thing I can do. To bring peace to those ... To bring peace to those who have no peace.

“ALAN”:
You show great courage.

“SAM”:
Courage ? Is that what they – “You show great courage.” Do they tell you to say stuff like that ?

“ALAN”:
They tell me to say nothing.

PAUSE.

“SAM”:
People will die. Many people will die.

“ALAN”:
Many people have died.

“SAM”:
Many people will die because of me.

PAUSE.

“ALAN”:
If we are successful.

A LIGHT FLASHES OFF.

“ALAN”:
He is coming. Are you ready ?

“SAM”:
Is it now ?

“ALAN”:
You must say now Sam. Yes or no.

“SAM”:
Is it now ?

“ALAN”:
Sam. He can not wait.

A MAN ENTERS. HE FLASHES A TORCH ONCE.

“ALAN”:
Sam.

PAUSE. “ALAN” WATCHES “SAM”. “SAM” STANDS.

“SAM”:
I am ready. I am happy.

“ALAN” SIGNALS TO THE MAN. THE MAN EXITS.

“SAM” FOLLOWS THE MAN OFF. “ALAN” CLOSE BEHIND.