

The Preparer

A Monologue by Dan Kehde

Selected from his collection, "1400 Boxes of Jello and Other Monologues"

Cast: 1

Length: 1 page of dialogue (1131 words)

Performance time: About 7 minutes

The Story

An older servant directs a younger one in preparing the king's body for burial. After specific procedures and treatments with special oils and herbs, the body is ready. The older servant then tells the younger one how to die peacefully herself as the two servants are finally sealed in the royal tomb to serve their master in the afterlife.

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THE PREPARER

Look at him. So young. Such a beautiful body to be wasted ... oh, I know I shouldn't say such things – the gods have their needs, perhaps? Such a boy he was, don't you think. There ... I saw him once, did I not tell you? On the steps, by the palace gate before his sickness. He was more beautiful even than now, with his gold headdress and staff and robes. He nodded to us, to his priests and those who would prepare him and to his teachers. I believe he knew even then that he'd have a greater need for us than any of the others. It was in his eyes. Those eyes. How deep even now.

Use the hook, dear. You must break through the passages, before it will come out. No, here, allow me. You see, you must steady the head thus, then take the hook and up through ... there, hear the crack? Now you're through, see. Now just use the hook and it will all start to drain out. That's right, in this vessel ... the third of the holy ones. It shall be sealed for all ages. Take your time and get it all, time is all he has now. That's it. That's just right.

It is a fine oil, is it not? Jasmine blossoms ... smell? Smooths the skin and warms it. See? Feel his hand, see how warm it seems. He will wear it well on the other side too. Such shoulders. They say he was a true marksman, they do. With the staff and spear and sling. You can feel it in his muscles here, and here. How are you doing there? Almost done? Take your time. There's no rush now. We'll take the second knife, do you see it there? Let me have it. And we'll cut from here all the way down ... to here.

End of Freeview

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