

The Hunting Season
by
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(Excerpt from full-length play)

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CHARACTERS:

Marie Jose aka "**Jojo**" **Delacroix**. Female. Haitian-American. Actress must be able to play ages 12-20's. Boukman's twin sister. She has an innate psychic ability which allows her to at first see the past and eventually foretell the possible future. She is tasked by her mother with the responsibility of being her brother's protector. *Must speak with a Haitian accent*

Boukman aka "**Boukie**" **Delacroix**. Male. Haitian-American. Actor must be able to play ages 12-20's. Jojo's twin. He loves his sister but he is very competitive and constantly attempts to one-up her. He is adventurous and resistant to rules and restrictions. His need for freedom is the very trait that his mother and sister attempt to control to protect him from being hunted. *Must be speak with a Haitian accent. Some singing skills.*

God- Female spirit. Of African descent. This being's gentle guidance/ assistance may or may not influence the choices made by the Delacroix family. God is ever present, always powerful.

Emanuel Delacroix. Male. Haitian. 30's. Jojo and Boukman's father. He immigrated to America from Haiti believing "In America, our children can do anything." *Must be comfortable speaking Haitian Creole and has a strong Haitian accent.*

Marie Allerte-Delacroix. Female. Haitian. 30's. Jojo and Boukman's mother. She has a psychic gift, but lacks the training/experience required to mentor her daughter. Her fears and uncertainties regarding her visions of her son being hunted, push her to make radical choices. *Must be comfortable speaking Haitian Creole and has a strong Haitian accent.*

Maman Deux Female. A four-foot tall doll handcrafted by Marie, she serves as a surrogate parent in Marie absence, watching over the children. She wears a buttoned-up housecoat over a simple housedress, her "hair" is tied with a head scarf.

Dr. Farkas Any gender. Any ethnicity. Any age. Overworked county hospital physician who delivers Jojo and Boukman.

Terry Lupo - Any gender. Any Age. Any Ethnicity. Dispassionate occasional rule-enforcing, mostly paper-pusher. Prefers to turn a blind eye to any task that would require additional paper work or overtime.

Alina Lowe - Female. Any Age. African-American. She is dedicated and loyal to money and fame. She has an office in the hood, but she is not from the hood. She goal is to represent headline worthy cases.

Officer Michael Walker - Male. Any age. Caucasian. Detached yet feral. Indifferent to the violence he inflicts in the service of upholding his definition of the law. His actions aren't personal. For him it's simply matter of good vs. evil - he is good and "niggers" are evil.

Peter Frost - Male. Any age. He has the passion of Mike Wallace (a kind of reporter whose mission to out corruption) and the dry wit of Andy Rooney & Jerry Springer.

Norma Payne - Female. Any age. She has the grace of Carole Simpson (former ABC anchor) and the sharp wit, precision, insistent search for truth of Joy-Ann Reid (MSNBC reporter).

Female Ancestral Being - Female. Haitian. Marie Allerte Delacroix ancestor. Her spirit is caught in the "between" realm tied to her descendant by a thin red ribbon. She was a powerful Mambo who died during the Haitian revolution along side her Polish husband in 1803, leaving behind their daughter. She has been tied to her descendents for centuries watching over them, waiting for the next great mambo to be born and continue the legacy.

Male Ancestral Being - Male. Caucasian. Marie Allerte Delacroix ancestor. He was a member of the Polish troop that were sent to defeat the Haitian rebels during the revolution. He (along with many of 5200 other Polish soldier's) knew what it felt like to be enslaved (the Poles had been fight for freedom themselves), refused to fight against the Haitians and deserted. He married a great mambo, they had one daughter They died side by side in battle. His spirit is eternally bound to his wife's and he watches over their ancestors with her.

The following roles may be cast as follows:

Female actress of African descent: Norma Payne/Female Ancestral Being/Dr Farkas/Alina Lowe

Male actor - Caucasian: Peter Frost/Male Ancestral Spirit/Officer Michael Walker/Terry Lupo

Time:

-PAST and PRESENT

Place:

Somewhere in the wilderness

New York City

Rural Florida

Washington DC

ACT ONE, SCENE EIGHT - WILDERNESS

One year later.

Day.

New location.

Projection of inside walls of a cave surrounded by trees.

Barely any sunlight pierce through darkness into this new encampment deep in the forest.

Marie sits in the middle of a circle of rocks downstage as she prays.

Lights up 13-year-old Boukman and Jojo on the eve of their 14th birthday.

A tarp draped over tree branches provide them with a makeshift shelter in front of the mouth of the cave.

“Maman Deux” is placed upstage of the children. Watching over them through her button eyes.

The ancestral spirits mark the new region, as they move around the family’s camp, creating a new spiritual haven for their descendants with their silent invocations and throaty breaths.

Jojo plays “school” with Boukman.

JOJO:

(imitating her mother’s voice)

$E=mc^2$

BOUKMAN:

This is boring. No more reading. No more reciting.

JOJO:

(speaking in her own voice)

Come on Boukie.

BOUKMAN

Maman, Maman Deux taught us relativity a long time ago. Why we still have to do it now? I'm reading calculus theorems now.

Marie doesn't respond.

Jojo presses her ear to Maman Deux' lips.

JOJO

Maman Deux says it's story time.

BOUKMAN

What is Maman always doing in your ears?

JOJO

Ehn?

BOUKMAN

I see you two -

He imitates them whispering secretively.

JOJO

She teach me.

BOUKMAN

Teach you what? Why she no teach me, too?

JOJO (TEASES)

Boukman, you jealous?

BOUKMAN

No! Maman loves me, too.

JOJO

I no mean she no love you -

BOUKMAN:

Maman! Can we come out?

JOJO

Shhh. She busy.

BOUKMAN:

Maman, you want us to sing you a song?

Marie covers her ears.

JOJO

Okay! I tell you what we talk about. My true-true. She tell me what it mean.

BOUKMAN:

Tell me a true-true.

JOJO:

Not now.

Boukman pokes her.

BOUKMAN:

Why you not tell me your true-trues no more?

Jojo pulls away from Boukman.

JOJO:

I don't want to.

BOUKMAN

Come on. You not fair.

JOJO

You bad. Leave me in peace.

Turns away.

Beat.

BOUKMAN:

Let's play "I have candy." Dat make Maman smile.

JOJO:

You always win.

BOUKMAN:

Dat because my candy is sweeter.

JOJO:
Maman Deux didn't think so.

BOUKMAN:
Maman does. She always smile.

JOJO:
No she doesn't.

BOUKMAN
Yes she does -

Boukman sings Ti Zwazo

And Jojo competes for Marie's attention by making animal sounds.

Marie suddenly sprinkles them with salt water from one of the jars.

MARIE
Out evil spirit. Out. Love come in.

MARIE
If you let evil spirits in, dey steal your love.

The siblings stop bickering and watch Marie.

Marie walks around the camp sprinkling salt water along the periphery of the camp.

BOUKMAN:
I no like dis new place.

JOJO:
Tomorrow is our 14 birthday and it will be good..

BOUKMAN:
Why we have to move here? Four time we move to new place. All day yesterday - we carry, we walk and walk. and walk.. to dis new... dark place. All dese trees. No sky. No sun. No moon. And now she sprinkling to scare away Lougawou. Why we come here?

JOJO
Maman has power. You have to trust Maman. She see true-true tomorrow. Lougawou come to find us in de old place. Dat why we come here.

Marie moans.

Out evil spirits!

MARIE

Okay. Maman.

BOUKMAN

Sssh Boukie -

JOJO

Tomorrow, I get to hunt. Right?

BOUKMAN

No. You kill a chicken.

MARIE

I kill a chicken for two birtdays. Please Maman, let me go hunt dis birtday. You said I could. I promise I won't go far.

BOUKMAN

Boukie, cherie. Tomorrow you kill your chicken. I see tomorrow is not a good day to hunt.

MARIE

Marie walks to her meditation circle and sits.

Boukman petulantly sits on the far end of the encampment.

Jojo joins him.

When the sun comes up, maybe she change her mind.

JOJO

My chicken, Ti Tet, got away.

BOUKMAN

Take my chicken. I don't want to kill.

JOJO

Killing chicken too easy. (he yawns) I dream I have de hunt power tomorrow.

BOUKMAN

Jojo laughs at him

You dream God give you hunt power?

JOJO

BOUKMAN

You have true-true power. All de time. Tomorrow I have hunt power. Dat good.

Boukman lies on his cot, closes his eyes and falls asleep.

Jojo lies next to Boukman wondering what tomorrow will bring as she falls asleep.

Enter spirit of Emanuel

MARIE

De visions are getting stronger, Mano.

EMANUEL

He want to be hunter. It good.

MARIE:

In Haiti, the Ton Ton Macoute police didn't care about you if you don't have things for them to take. If you didn't cause trouble they don't bother you.. Only if you are a beautiful woman, they will want to take you. In Haiti, if you keep quiet they don't come for you at night. You mind your own business and you wake up in the morning in your bed. Alive and free. Here, the police...he's the Ton Ton Macoute. He is the Lougawou. Dey kill you. Our Boukie. I pray, we hide, I pray. I see the same...I don't know what to do.

Marie turns to Emanuel and reaches out to him.

Emanuel joins Marie in her circle.

MARIE

Say something?!

Emanuel tries to speak, but he cannot.

Finally he sings.

EMANUEL:

Ti zwezo nan bwa ki t' ape koute

MARIE

Kisa mwen ta dwe fe? (What should I do?) Mano? I saw dem. They are tearing down trees, building homes near our land. They are so close. Are dey going to find us?

Emanuel sings louder.

EMANUEL:

Ti zwezo nan bwa ki t' ape koute

Emanuel stops singing. He tries to speak, but he can't.

MARIE

Mano? Tell me what to do.

Marie falls to her knees at his feet and cries..

MARIE:

Pran pitye pou mwen. (Take pity on me.) Please tell me, Mano.

Emanuel looks away from Marie.

She bows her head, in acceptance.

Enter God.

MARIE

Journey within.

Marie sits in her circle of rocks.

Marie has a vision.

She grows calm as she journeys within.

RED LIGHT on Marie

VISION OF WHAT CAN BE

Enter Boukman as though pushed from behind he lands downstage on his knees.

Jojo runs in after him but can't catch up to him.

JOJO:

Always know you are loved, Boukman Delacroix - son of Emanuel and Marie Allerte-Delacroix!!!

BOUKMAN

Always know you are loved, Marie Jose Delacroix - daughter of Emanuel and Marie Allerte-Delacroix!!!

Jojo exits as though pushed.

Boukman reacts as though he's been hit on the side of his head, and falls on his side on the ground.

Marie watches - reluctantly

Enter Officer Michael Walker.

Officer Michael Walker stands with his back to the audience, his legs firmly planted, feet apart, tapping his baton in his hand.

OFFICER MICHAEL WALKER:

Repeat after me. Dear Officer Walker, I am a no good piece of shit. Repeat after me. Pick him up. This is one of those bad one. Did you hear me? Pick the nigger up. No fucking coon is going to sell drugs in my town and think he can get away with it. You must think you're something, playing all that jungle bunny boom boom music, selling drugs and messing up our perfect country - On 4th of July! You disrespected my national holiday, boy. Our number one picnic day. I could kill you right here and no one would give a shit. You drug dealing piece of shit. Do you hear me, boy? No one would give a shit. One less drug dealing piece of shit to pollute the fucking world.

Sound of a yip and a howl.

Officer Michael Walker spins around and listens.

Reveal the face of a white werewolf with a long red beard.

OFFICER MICHAEL WALKER:

What?!? We've got the wrong guy?!? The drug dealer's in the next cell?!? Who the fuck is this guy?!?

Sound of growls and barks.

Officer Walker listens. He struggles to mask his fear that he won't be able to get away with his brutal treatment of Boukman as he stalks around Boukman's body.

In his barely conscious state, Boukman makes a low rumbling noise as his head flops to the side - his face toward the Officer Michael Walker.

Officer Walker kicks his prone body.

OFFICER MICHAEL WALKER:

Who you lookin' at? Did I tell you to look at me, boy. I am your worse nightmare, boy. An officer of the law with a constitutional right to kill your sorry ass. But I won't kill you. I'll let you leave this precinct alive, seeing how it's Independence day, and all. I'm even going to take you to the hospital. Damn, look at you. You're bleeding like a freakin' pig on my shoes. I'm going to have to go and get them polished. Look at me when I talk to you, boy. I'm going to take you to the hospital, and have them take care of that bleeding ass of yours. Don't fuckin think you can go in there and blab off about what happened here. I know where you live. I'll roll up in there and kill your whole family. You hear me nigger? Get him the hell out of here.

Enter guard who takes Boukman away

Beat. Office Walker checks his watch.

OFFICE MICHAEL WALKER

Shoot, I missed the fireworks.

Exit Officer Walker.

Lights change.

BACK TO PRESENT DAY.

Marie sits up.

Heartbroken by the vision she has seen.

MARIE:

A soul for gold.

Lights change.

END OF SCENE