

WHERE'S DOVE?

By Hammond Samba

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Casting Note: All roles are open to any gender, race and ethnicity. With that said, JO is preferably a person of colour.

CAST OF CHARACTERS:

(in order of appearance)

JO

SPOON - the embodiment of need

TEDDY - the embodiment of love/care

STAPLE - the embodiment of logic

ROPE - the embodiment of freedom

SETTING: A cove in a labyrinth. Is it real? We don't know.

Time: there is no way to time in this labyrinth.

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JO sits in a room where the only furniture present is a wooden chair and a small end table. There are multiple hallways that lead out of the room but you can not see where they lead. They are writing a list.

Enter SPOON, skipping in from one of the hallways. SPOON hovers around JO, watching them write this list for a moment.

JO

What do you want Spoon?

SPOON

Nothing...

JO

You never want "nothing" so just come out with it.

SPOON

Can't I just come to hang out with you. My pal, my bestie, my icon, my legend -

JO

I don't have time for this Spoon, I'm busy.

SPOON

*(coyly)* Too busy for me?

JO

Yes.

SPOON

Fine...

JO  
So what did you want?

SPOON  
...I'm hungry...

JO  
You're hungry.

SPOON nods.  
JO  
You came here just to tell me you're hungry.

SPOON  
Well we haven't eaten in days.

JO  
How do you know it's been days? There is no way to tell time here.

SPOON  
I just know.

Enter TEDDY. They carry an empty tray.

TEDDY  
I heard you were hungry.

SPOON  
Yes!

JO  
They're hungry. I'm not.

TEDDY  
You've got to eat. Here.

TEDDY hands JO the empty tray.

JO

There is nothing on here.

SPOON

Give me that.

SPOON snatches the tray and finds a spot in the room to start nibbling on the tray itself.

JO and TEDDY turn their attention to the list JO is still writing.

TEDDY

So, what is this that you're writing?

JO

Nothing.

TEDDY

Oh come on now, it's just me.

JO

It's—

Enter STAPLE.

STAPLE

It's the guest list for their release party.

SPOON

Release?

TEDDY

I didn't know you found a way out of here.

JO

I didn't find one..

SPOON

Then how can you be released if you're still stuck here.

JO

I know a way.

TEDDY looks over at STAPLE.

STAPLE shakes their head.

TEDDY

Well, who is coming? I need to know how many people we're catering for.

STAPLE

How are you going to cater when there is no food in sight?

TEDDY

I'll find a way. So, who will be here?

JO

It's just going to be you guys, Dove and Rope.

SPOON

Dove *and* Rope?

TEDDY

You want Dove and Rope in the same room?

STAPLE

I don't think that's wise.

JO

Well I want them both here.

SPOON

They almost killed me that one time—

JO

That was an accident, their argument just got a little out of hand.

SPOON

I was lost for like a month.

STAPLE

You can't tell time here.

SPOON

Well it felt like a month. It was dark, cold and quite frankly, terrifying. And I had no food. Do you know what it's like to be constantly hungry and not know if there will ever be an end to it. No light, no warmth, no comfort, break, no respite. Just hunger.

JO

Yes. *(Beat)* But there is no food anywhere.

SPOON

Well Rope's creepy.

JO

No they aren't, and it's my party so I'll invite whoever I want.

SPOON

Fine.

TEDDY

As long as you're happy.

STAPLE remains silent  
SPOON returns to their  
corner to continue eating  
the already half consumed  
tray.

JO

I promise they'll behave.

Entre ROPE

ROPE

Who will behave?

STAPLE

You will.

ROPE

Have I never *not* behaved.

STAPLE

Well, if you're fishing for example who about when you decided that—

TEDDY

That is enough. From both of you. We are here for Jo.

JO

Thank you Teddy.

ROPE

Why are we here anyway?

STAPLE

It's Jo's release party.

ROPE

I didn't know Staple was speaking or you Jo.

JO

No they are not. But yes, it's my release party.

ROPE

Release? So you considered our little chat.

JO is silent.

TEDDY

What little chat?

JO

Well, remember when you asked how I was being released?

They all stop in their tracks.

SPOON

You can't be serious.



JO

I am.

TEDDY

Jo, what exactly are you talking about...

JO

Stop playing dumb Teddy, you know what I'm talking about.

TEDDY

Staple, do something...

ROPE

Oh come now, y'all know it's the only way that they'll get released.

TEDDY

Where is Dove when we need them?

ROPE

I don't think they'll come this time.

STAPLE

They have to come.

JO

They'll come, we just have to wait.

ROPE

While, y'all wait for Dove, Imma just take Jo and-

TEDDY

You are not taking Jo anywhere. I am sick and tired of you thinking that your way is the only way out, Rope. Yes you're giving release but to one person. One person, Rope. What happens to the rest of us? Are we just expected to keep entertaining the next Jo until they can't handle this existence and decide to take your "oh so kind offer" of release. I have had enough, Rope. I am tired. Aren't you tired?

ROPE

You're acting as if this is my decision, as if I have some sort of say about how this goes. If it were up to me, we would never have to do this in the first place but this is our life. Our purpose.

(to JO) Come now, it's time.

ROPE offers a hand. JO regards it and their resolve seems to deteriorate

ROPE (cont'd)

Jo? It's what you want. Isn't it?

JO

I just want to be sure. I need to talk to Dove.

ROPE

Dove will talk you into staying. You know this. Trust your gut.

JO

I am trusting *my* gut.

ROPE

Fine but don't be disappointed when they don't show.

JO

They will come. I just know they will.

They all sit in silence for a bit. No one is comfortable in this silence.

ROPE goes to the end table and brings out a little radio. He turns it on. Faint and muffled music started playing behind static.

TEDDY

How about a game.

A game?

STAPLE

Yes a game, since we will be waiting for some time.

TEDDY

I like games.

SPOON

I'm in.

ROPE

Okay. What game?

JO

Truth or Dare.

ROPE

Now that's just childish.

STAPLE

Do you have any other suggestions?

ROPE

...No.

STAPLE

I like truth or dare.

SPOON

See! Spoon agrees.

ROPE

Okay so who starts.

JO

Why don't you?

ROPE

JO

Oh okay. Truth or Dare Spoon.

SPOON

Dare.

JO

Okay, I dare you... to finish eating the tray.

SPOON

Wait, that's easy.

JO

I can give you another one.

SPOON

No, it's totally fine.

SPOON finishes eating the tray. They look disappointed in the fact that the tray is gone.

SPOON

My turn. Rope, truth or dare?

ROPE

Truth.

SPOON

Ugh, you're no fun. Um, let me think... Where do you go when you're released? What's on the outside?

ROPE is taken aback.

ROPE

I don't know how to describe it other than nothing. But not a bad nothing. A peaceful nothing. Darkness that hugs, silence that sings. A serene void. I wish I could say that it was a beautiful paradise where you could frolic for all eternity. One where you could find things you once lost. Things you've waited your whole life to find again. But to be honest, nothing is better. Joy in perpetuity loses its meaning. But nothing? Nothing is already nothing. There is comfort in that.

Silence.

JO

I think I'm ready.

TEDDY moves to stand in front of JO to block their movement.

TEDDY

Wait, Jo, honey, just think about this-

JO

I have, Teddy. I can't do this facsimile of nothingness anymore. I can't keep waking up from counterfeit sleep to live a shell of a life. I just want nothing. Real nothing.

TEDDY retreats, defeated.

TEDDY

If this is what you want. We won't stop you.

JO

I just wish I could've seen Dove before I left.

ROPE

I'm sure they feel the same. But it doesn't seem like they're coming.

JO

Okay. Well, It has and hasn't been a pleasure, and I am grateful for that.

JO takes ROPE's outstretched hand and they turn towards a hallway that seems much darker than the others. TEDDY, STAPLE and SPOON watch as JO and ROPE walk down the hallway until they disappear.

END OF PLAY