

Mask of Thorns

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A Play in One Act

By

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## Cast of Characters

### Charlotte:

Mid-thirties. She is a single mother and wears it with pride. Divorced and single. Like any good mother, she loves her son and will do anything for him. She is a member of the St. Thérèse of Lisieux School PTA.

### Theodore:

Upper-thirties. He is the ex-husband of Charlotte. He visits his son when he can, but is active in his child's life. He is a gifted artist, specializing in painting and drafting.

### Mrs. Travis:

Mid-Twenties. Like any good teacher, she is overworked and underpaid.

Scene

Second grade  
classroom at St.  
Thérèse of Lisieux  
Elementary school.

Time

2:45pm on a sunny  
Friday afternoon in  
springtime during the  
school's Spring  
festival.

**At Rise:**

CHARLOTTE is standing  
still looking for  
someone. Two rows of  
three lift lid desks  
are set center stage.  
Each desk has a  
colored drawing  
except one. The  
teacher's desk  
sitting on the right  
side of the stage  
with two adult sized  
chairs in front of  
the teacher's desk.  
The audience is the  
windows showing the  
school fair. She is  
smoking in the  
classroom, blowing  
smoke out the window.  
The back of the stage  
holds a wall that  
displays the  
student's classwork.  
The school fair is  
going on right  
outside the school  
building. Kids,  
families, teachers  
and school staff are

enjoying the fair.  
Theodore enters the  
classroom. Light  
carnival music is  
playing.

THEODORE  
sees CHARLOTTE and  
pauses. Closes the  
door behind him.)

CHARLOTTE  
(Stoic and still)  
Why I am not surprised that you are  
late again?

THEODORE  
Walking to center  
stage)  
Hello to you too, Charlie.

CHARLOTTE  
(Unmoving)  
Don't call me that. You do not get to  
call me that anymore.

THEODORE  
Sorry, sorry. Old habits.

CHARLOTTE  
(Silent)

(THEODORE waits for  
a reply while  
CHARLOTTE continues  
smoking. Her eyes  
still searching.)

THEODORE  
You know that you are not allowed to

smoke here right?

CHARLOTTE

(Still silent)

(THEODORE quietly scoffs at CHARLOTTE and paces around the desks, examining them as he passes. Eventually, he stops at a random desk and reads.)

THEODORE

(Chuckling)

"When I grow up, I want to be loved by my family, friends and strangers by Brittany Knox"... that is a future stripper for sure.

CHARLOTTE

We all know you have a lot of experience with them.

THEODORE

That was a year ago Charlie. She was a nude model. I knew her from several other colleagues.

CHARLOTTE

I still cannot believe you did that.

THEODORE

Well, get over it. We were already divorced. Just because you cannot get over it does not mean I shouldn't.

CHARLOTTE

(turns silent and  
resumes smoking  
while THEODORE  
lumbers around the  
classroom.  
CHARLOTTE  
eventually breaks  
the long silence)

I don't think our son is at the fair.

THEODORE  
Of course he's there. He is probably  
with his friends loading up on junk  
food. I thought he would be here with  
you.

(THEODORE notices  
an empty desk and  
awkwardly sits on  
the chair and opens  
the lid of the  
desk. CHARLOTTE  
finally turns to  
face him as he goes  
through it.)

CHARLOTTE  
What the hell are you doing?

THEODORE  
I am looking through our son's desk.

CHARLOTTE  
(Walking over)  
How do you know that it's his?

THEODORE  
All the other students have drawings  
with their names on the desk. This one  
doesn't.

(CHARLOTTE and

THEODORE examine  
papers found  
inside.)

CHARLOTTE

This is his handwriting...

THEODORE

The hell is this?

THEODORE pulls out  
a small, thin  
shaped piece of  
plastic.)

CHARLOTTE

(Taking the item to  
examine it.)

It looks an EpiPen...

THEODORE

Daniel is not allergic to anything  
though.

CHARLOTTE

No, he's not... Did he take this from  
someone?

(The classroom door  
slowly opens and  
MRS. TRAVIS slowly  
enters the  
classroom. She is  
carrying a big load  
of papers. She  
drops a significant  
amount. CHARLOTTE  
rushes over to help  
her while THEODORE  
frantically shoves  
the EpiPen and the  
papers back into  
his son's desk.)

MRS. TRAVIS

Thank you. Thank you. I am so sorry I'm  
late. You must be Daniel's parents?