

## Script Betrayal

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EXT. MONT SAINT MICHEL'S BAY- LOW TIDE - NORMANDY - FRANCE -  
1810 - NIGHT

At night, the Mont Saint Michel, built on a rocky tidal island offers a unique landscape:

Surrounded by the sea several blocks of granites emerge from the bay.

The rest of a thin natural land bridge connecting The Mont to the main land can be seen.

The tide change quickly and the moving sand makes the crossing of the bay more dangerous.

At low tide, a messenger is making his way across the Mont Saint Michel's Bay. Prepared for an hazardous walk, he struggles through winter wind down the Bay. He is almost there. His scarf wrapped around his face blocks the majority of his sights. He takes it off little by little until he can see the imposing Gothic "prison" clearly.

EXT. MONT SAINT MICHEL RAMPARTS - PORTE ESCHAUGETTE - LATER

A guard holding a candle leads the way up narrow stairs. We hear distant groans and screams.

INT - MONT SAINT MICHEL - CORRIDOR -MOMENTS LATER

The messenger follows the guard down a narrow dark corridor to a small room.

INT. MONT SAINT MICHEL - A SMALL ROOM - CONTINUOUS

The jailer sits at a desk. The messenger gives the letter to the jailer. He quickly reads it. Then he takes time to think and start writing. When finished he gives it to the messenger.

The groans and screams are closer. The atmosphere is oppressive.

EXT. DE SULTRI'S LANDS - NORMANDY - THE NEXT NIGHT

In the cold winter night, through the thick mist and the dark clouds we barely distinguish the outline of an old French mansion.

[.../...]

Louis de Sultri is a young and handsome man in his 30s limping and hunchbacked, he has some difficulty walking. Despite his thinness and poor appearance, his face is that of an aristocrat. He approaches the mansion anxious.

The mansion is 500 hundreds years old, as old as De Sultri's family. It is in disrepair, and it feels like there are no living souls who have been living here for the past decade.

EXT. DE SULTRI'S MANSION INNER COURTYARD -

Louis de Sultri climbs up the steps to the porch. He opens the mansion's ancient doors to darkness.

INT. DE SULTRI'S MANSION - DARK HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

He walks through a high ceiling wooden hall. The floor creaks under his steps.

He pushes what appears to be the living room doors.

INT. DE SULTRI'S MANSION - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

An old man is sitting on an armchair as old as the mansion!  
He doesn't seem to notice Louis behind him.

                            LOUIS DE SULTRI  
            Father...

He approaches his father's chair.

                            LOUIS DE SULTRI  
            Father. I'm home.

                            FATHER  
                            (talking to himself)  
            Two boys and none are worth it. One  
            left us and...These bastards....I  
            don't even know if they are mine.

A noise is heard in the dark hallway.

                            FATHER  
            Who is this?

                            LOUIS DE SULTRI  
            It's me. I came back...at last.

His father still doesn't look at him but instead at the door. Louis can't stand the view of his dad and leaves the room.

INT. DE SULTRI'S MANSION - DARK HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

At the far end, a young innocent woman in her mid 20s wearing a white nightgown is standing in front of him.

MARIE

You are back. So soon...

LOUIS DE SULTRI

It's been so long my love.

She doesn't notice Louis's wretch appearance.

MARIE

Only a week.

She turns her back to him.

LOUIS DE SULTRI

Marie? Where are you going?

MARIE

(Scared)

You don't need me.

LOUIS DE SULTRI

I do.

He looks at her perfect and beautiful pale figure but froze almost instantly.

LOUIS DE SULTRI ( CONT'D)

You look so sad and frightened.

What happened to you?

MARIE

(With no feeling in her eyes)

You.

Walking up the stairs in silence she lets out a cry.

Louis feels betrayed by the woman he loved and doesn't understand her reaction.

LOUIS DE SULTRI

Marie...

INT. DE SULTRI'S MANSION - HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER

The door of the mansion swing open and a young elegant aristocratic man walks in. He is the spitting image of Louis de Sultri, but more confident and with cleaner clothing. A diabolical smile distorts his handsome face.

He climbs the stairs quickly.

INT. DE SULTRI'S MANSION - MARIE'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

JEAN DE SULTRI

Hi love. How I've missed you. It's been so long.

MARIE

We just saw each other.

Jean de Sultri tries to grab Marie, but she shivers and struggles.

JEAN DE SULTRI

Nonsense, I just came back...

He stops and smiles.

JEAN DE SULTRI (CONT'D)

Oh.

JEAN DE SULTRI

(to Marie)

Where is he?

MARIE

Who?

JEAN DE SULTRI

(Exasperated)

Never mind.

Jean de Sultri leaves the room in a hurry.

EXT. DE SULTRI'S CRYPT - MOMENT LATER

Louis is kneeling next to a grave, lost in his thoughts, he is praying.

Jean is looking at him from a distance and interrupts his thoughts with a cold laughter.

[.../...]

JEAN DE SULTRI

Brother. I knew I could find you  
here, paying your respect to  
mother.

He stops right in front of his mother's burial vault and  
kneels next to his brother.

On the vault a name, dates and an inscription:  
Countess Anne de Sultri

1745 - 1801

"Homo sicut faenum dies eius  
tamquam flos agree sic effloreat  
Quoniam spiritus pertransiit in  
illo et non subsistet et non  
cognoscet amplius locum suum "

In english : " man's days are as  
grass, as the flower of the field  
so shall he flourish. For the  
spirit shall pass in him, and he  
shall not be: and he shall know his  
place no more."

JEAN DE SULTRI (CONT'D)

You are back. So long. Where have  
you been?.

Louis turns to face his twin brother. Face to face, they  
look exactly the same; nothing can say who is who. Same pale  
long face, with intense blue eyes and a smirk. They know  
their places in the society even Louis.

LOUIS DE SULTRI

Didn't you know where I was all  
these years. I was held prisoner at  
the Mont Saint Michel. You never  
came to see me.

JEAN DE SULTRI

I had no idea you were there.

LOUIS DE SULTRI

You were informed of my presence.

JEAN DE SULTRI

I never received any message.

LOUIS DE SULTRI

I need a confession.

JEAN DE SULTRI

What for?

LOUIS DE SULTRI

It's been 10 years since I  
confessed my sins.

JEAN DE SULTRI

Don't they allow you to see a  
priest in jail?

LOUIS DE SULTRI

Please brother. I've always  
confessed in you.

JEAN DE SULTRI

As you can see I'm not...

Louis is looking at Jean anxious, eager to confess his sins.

Louis makes the sign of the cross.

LOUIS DE SULTRI

"Forgive me father for I have  
sinned". It has been 10 years since  
my last confession. I accuse myself  
from the following sins.

Louis looks at his brother intensely.

LOUIS DE SULTRI ( CONT'D)

When I find the man who put me in  
jail, I swear I will kill him.

JEAN DE SULTRI

That is not a sin my brother. You  
have not done it yet.

Louis takes his brother's hand.

LOUIS DE SULTRI

Yes, but I'm not sure I will be  
able to control myself, so help me  
God.

JEAN DE SULTRI

You don't need God's help. You will  
find the man who did that to you,  
maybe sooner than expected.

When Jean reaches the door, Louis calls him out.

LOUIS DE SULTRI  
Why aren't you wearing your  
ecclesiastical ring and your dress?

JEAN DE SULTRI  
I don' wear them here.

LOUIS DE SULTRI  
Why?

JEAN DE SULTRI  
You will see.

Jean de Sultri exits the crypt, leaving his brother alone  
with the dead.

INT. DE SULTRI'S MANSION - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

The father is sitting on the same armchair as the previous  
day. Not moving, looking at the remaining fire. Louis tries  
to talk to him but fails like the first time.

LOUIS DE SULTRI  
Father. Why don't you speak to me  
and tell me what's going on? Jean  
hates this place. Why is he here?  
Why isn't he wearing his ring and  
dress?

FATHER  
(To himself)  
Poor child. So loved and hated at  
the same time. Oh Louis what have  
you done?

LOUIS DE SULTRI  
I am right here.

FATHER  
(to himself)  
Oh Jean...Ungrateful son. You are  
like me, arrogant, proud, and avid  
of power. You will do ANYTHING to  
succeed. I'm surprised you haven't  
done something to Louis yet. What  
did have I done to deserve such a  
horrible son.

LOUIS DE SULTRI  
Father. why can't you speak to me.

Jean with a distorted voice answers his brother.



JEAN DE SULTRI

He is delusional and doesn't speak  
to anyone.

Without moving, the father reacts to Jean's voice.

FATHER

Jean...You, little perverted soul.  
Leave this house. You're not pure  
to enter it.

Upstairs, we hear some groans. Louis is in a dark corner,  
hidden by the darkness of the room.

JEAN DE SULTRI

You are delusional FATHER. You've  
always been.

FATHER

You killed...

JEAN DE SULTRI

OH FATHER...

FATHER

And this noise...This noise... so  
loud, so vivid. I can hear her. She  
speaks to me.

The father has difficulty breathing, he coughs and try  
sitting in his armchair. His pulse weakens, his arms  
tremble.

Jean de Sultri leaves his dad dying while Louis running  
toward him tries helping him in vain.

EXT. DE SULTRI'S LANDS - CONTINUOUS

Marie in her white nightgown walks slowly in the cold winter  
into the gathering dark , with no goal in mind. She comes to  
a halt, lost in her thoughts. Jean holds her tight and  
shakes her, like you shake appels from a tree.

MARIE

Don't...

MARIE (CONT'D)

Oh no please...Why are you doing  
this to me...I loved you so much.

Her bloodshot eyes narrows, her voice is shaken by fury.

He tries to kiss her.

[.../...]

MARIE (CONT'D)

Oh, no...You've soiled me. I feel sick. You've ruined me. I can't. I can't.

JEAN DE SULTRI

You can, and you will. You love me.

MARIE

Yes. But how can I love a monster?

Marie starts crying softly. Jean takes her in his arms and let her cry. Her small body cowers in a distorted way. Her skin has a ghastly color and her emotional state can be read on her face. She wants to howl but can't manage to do it. She is too tired.

MARIE (CONT'D)

Louis, I love you so much.

EXT. DE SULTRI LANDS - CONTINUOUS

LOUIS DE SULTRI

(infuriated)

What have you done?

MARIE

(To Louis)

Jean.

LOUIS DE SULTRI

Marie, Marie, you are going to get cold. Get back inside.

Louis gives Marie his jacket but she can't take it. She can't touch him. She doesn't feel his touch on her skin.

MARIE

I don't need it Jean.

LOUIS DE SULTRI

Jean. Oh Marie. It's Louis not Jean.

At this precise moment Marie understands that the man she thought was Louis for 10 years was in fact his brother Jean. He pretended to be Louis for a decade!

Louis feels exactly the same; he knows that his brother took his place for all these years and betrayed him.

MARIE  
I was so blind.

Marie feels sick and leans on a nearby rock.

JEAN DE SULTRI  
(to Marie)  
You never doubted me, not for a split second. Never questioned me about my erratic behavior... And more importantly you never tried to leave me.

He turns to Louis laughing.

JEAN DE SULTRI (CONT'D)  
(to Louis)  
And you my brother, you don't have to look very far for the man who put you in prison. I did.

LOUIS DE SULTRI  
But why?

JEAN DE SULTRI  
I was JEALOUS. You had it all. Father and Marie loved you.

LOUIS DE SULTRI  
You are a man of the church.

JEAN DE SULTRI  
I despise the church. Couldn't you see it all these years? For the past decade I've pretended to be you inside these walls and outside I was still me: Priest Jean de Sultri.

He walks frantically, nervous with a fast pace.

JEAN DE SULTRI (CONT'D)  
(to Louis)  
I never visited you in prison and death welcomed you.

LOUIS DE SULTRI  
What are you saying?

JEAN DE SULTRI  
You are DEAD my brother. Do you recall how you got here?.

LOUIS DE SULTRI

No.

JEAN DE SULTRI

Oh yes! Few days before your  
release.

LOUIS DE SULTRI

NO, NO.

JEAN DE SULTRI

Father never spoke to you.

LOUIS DE SULTRI

He never liked me.

JEAN DE SULTRI

Au contraire, you were his  
favorite.

LOUIS DE SULTRI

You killed him.

JEAN DE SULTRI

Liked I killed you. I'm the ONLY  
heir to this family now.

LOUIS DE SULTRI

You did all this for greed and  
money.

JEAN DE SULTRI

Don't forget power.

Marie is horrified by what she has just heard. Jean turns his back to her. Filled by a wild rage Marie grabs a stone and hits Jean on the head as hard as she can. Jean falls on the ground, inert, having difficulty breathing.

Knowing that he can't do anything, Louis watches the scene helplessly.

Suddenly Jean grabs Marie by her ankle, she falls. Jean tries to strangle her. Finding some last courage and strengths she takes the blooded stone next to her and hits him again for good. Bloods runs all over her nightgown. Horrified, we can hear her heavy breathing.

She takes jean's knife and lifts herself on to a rock, contemplates the knife for a second.

MARIE

I will be with you soon my love.

She cuts her throat. Her body lies on the rock.

THE END