

The Voice of Death

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From *Scary Readers Theater*

Characters:

Narrator, Rich Man, Young Man, Wife, Barber

Narrator:

Once there was a man who wanted to be rich. He thought of nothing else and eventually became quite wealthy. Then he decided it would be terrible to die and lose all his great wealth, so he set out to find a land where no one died. Whenever he came to a new country, he asked if people died there. When he was told people did indeed die, he set off for another country. Finally, he came to a new country where he met a pleasant young man.

Rich Man:

Good morning, sir. This is lovely country. Tell me, does anyone die here?

Young Man:

No, sir. We have no death here.

Rich Man:

But how can that be? Don't you have great numbers of people in your land?

Young Man:

No. You see, from time to time a voice is heard calling to one person or another. When people hear that voice, they go away, never to return.

Rich Man:

Do they see this person who is calling or just hear the voice?

Young Man:

They seem to see and hear whoever calls.

Narrator:

The man couldn't believe that people were foolish enough to follow the voice knowing they would never return. He decided he would gather his wife and family and move all his possessions to this wonderful country. He would see to it that no one in his family ever followed that voice, no matter what it said. Soon, he was settled in his new home.

Rich Man:

Dear family, I have gathered you together because it is very important that if a voice calls to you it must be ignored. Otherwise, you will go to your death.

Wife:

I don't understand. How could a voice cause our death?

Rich Man:

All I can say is that you must never follow any unknown voice that calls to you. Promise me this.

Narrator:

The family promised, and they enjoyed many good years. But one day, when they were sitting around the table, the man's wife suddenly jumped up.

Wife: (*Loudly*)

I'm coming! I'm coming!

Rich Man: (*Firmly*)

Don't you remember what I told you? Don't answer that voice or you will die. Stay where you are!

Wife:

But it's calling to me. Can't you hear it? I'll just go and

see what it wants and come right back. Don't worry. I promise I'll be right back!

Narrator:

Her husband tried to stop her, but she fought to get away. He shut and barred all his doors.

Wife:

All right, husband, I'll obey you and stay right here.

Narrator:

But a few minutes later, she dashed for one of the doors. Her husband caught her by her coat.

Rich Man: (*Pleading*)

Please, my dear wife, don't go, or you will never return.

Narrator:

But his wife slipped out of her coat and ran away.

Wife:

I'm coming! I'm coming!

Rich Man: (*Sadly*)

I warned her, but I see I can't stop her. I shall miss her dearly.

Narrator:

Years passed, and the rich man lived peacefully. One day, he was at the barber's getting shaved. Suddenly, he sat up in the chair.

Rich Man: (*Loudly*)

I won't come. Hear me? I won't come!

Barber:

What is wrong with you? Why are you shouting like that?

Rich Man: (*Still louder*)

I'm telling you, I won't come, so just go away.

Barber:

Sir, please. You are upsetting everyone. Sit back and let me finish your shave.

Rich Man: (*Even louder*)

Go away! Call as much as you want, but I will have no part of this. You'll never get me to come.

Narrator:

The rich man suddenly stood up and grabbed the barber's razor.

Rich Man:

Give me that razor! I'll show you to leave me alone when I say so!

Narrator:

With that, he ran out of the shop, chasing someone no one else could see. The barber wanted his razor, so he chased after the man. When they got well out of town, the man dropped the razor, fell off a cliff, and was never seen again. The barber went home with his razor and spoke to the townspeople.

Barber:

Listen everyone. I have found where everyone goes when they hear the voice and leave this country. They have all fallen off the cliff into a pit. Come. I'll show you.

Narrator:

But when the people went to examine the pit, they found that it wasn't full of all the people who had left the country. It was empty. But from that time on, when people became old or sick, they died just like other people in the world.