



DEATH PLANS A HOLIDAY

By John Busser

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Cast of Characters

DEATH:	Male, 30's - 50's
CAMILLE:	Female, 20's
AUDREY:	Female, 30's - 50's
BRIAN:	Male, 20's - 30's

Place

The kitchen of Death / The office of VistaValley Vacations

Time

Morning 10:05am

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At lights up, DEATH sits at his kitchen table, stage left. He is dressed in a hooded black cloak. He wears a bright, colored bath robe over this as well as slippers. He has a cup of coffee and a cell phone. His scythe leans against the table. His wife AUDREY, also in a bathrobe and slippers (but no cloak), reads the paper and sips her cup of coffee. He dials a number. (NOTE: If possible, make DEATH look skeletal. AUDREY looks human.) At a desk stage right, sits CAMILLE. She is in business attire and wears a headset while she works. A sign behind her reads VistaValley Vacations. She is EXTREMELY perky.

CAMILLE

Hello, VistaValley Vacations, my name is Camille. What can I do for you today?

DEATH

Yeah, hi Camille. I'm putting you on speaker. (*He does so*) Listen, I'm thinking about taking a vacation and I've never done this before. Can you help me?

CAMILLE

Certainly sir. I am at your disposal.

DEATH

(*Quietly*) Heh, everybody's at my disposal...

CAMILLE

What was that, sir?

DEATH

Nothing. So, how does this work?

CAMILLE

Well, first off, may I have your name so I can start inputting your request into our system?

DEATH

Oh, right. Makes sense. Um, well, my name is Death.

CAMILLE

Beth? Did you say Beth? Is that your first or last name?

DEATH

(*Slightly peeved*) Nooo, I said DEATH. D – E – A – T – H. My first name is... uh, Angelo.

CAMILLE

"Death." That's an unusual name.

DEATH

It's... Canadian.

CAMILLE

Oh, how nice. (*She types*) Okay, and where are you thinking of going for vacation?

DEATH

Um, I'm actually not sure. I've never taken a vacation before.

CAMILLE

Wow! Never? A real workaholic, huh?

DEATH

My workload never ends.

CAMILLE

Except on the weekends, am I right?

DEATH

Well I wouldn't say that.

CAMILLE

Oh my! Weekends too? You're gonna work yourself to death!

DEATH

Too late. *(They both laugh at his little "joke". AUDREY looks up from her newspaper and frowns)*

CAMILLE

I know what you mean, Mr. Death. I'm exhausted after my eight hours.

DEATH

Yeah, well...

CAMILLE

May I ask what you do?

DEATH

I beg your pardon.

CAMILLE

Your job. I'm just kinda curious. What do you do? You know, for a living?

DEATH

Well, right now, I'm just trying to appreciate the irony of that question.

CAMILLE

In between jobs, huh? That's too bad. But you know, **MAYBE** this is the best time for a vacation. Recharge the ol' batteries. Make some life changes. There's an "Introduction to Cajun Cooking" class over at the learning annex on Wednesd---

DEATH

(Interrupting) Um, I'm sorry. Can we just get on with this?

CAMILLE

My apologies. I'm just a Chatty Cathy if you get me started.

DEATH

It's okay...

CAMILLE

I'm just naturally loquacious. Isn't that a great word? Loquacious!

DEATH

I guess...

CAMILLE

Do you know what that means?

DEATH

(He is beginning to be annoyed) I bet you're going to tell me.

CAMILLE

It describes someone who is verbose!

DEATH

Oh good. Another word you'll probably explain...

CAMILLE

To be verbose is to be chatty, talkative, conversational...

DEATH

(Definitely annoyed now) Wordy, long-winded, motormouthed...

CAMILLE

People tell me all the time, "Cammie, you're gonna talk somebody ONTO a ledge one day!" *(She giggles at this)*

DEATH

I know I'M halfway there...

CAMILLE

My friends tell me I talk so much I'd be gabbing it up at my own funeral.

DEATH

Let's find out.

DEATH picks up his scythe, bangs it once upon the floor, and Cammie suddenly goes wide-eyed and drops face forward, dead, onto her laptop keyboard. She is silent.

DEATH

(Listening for a moment) Guess your friends are wrong...

AUDREY

(AUDREY looks up from her paper) Would you quit fooling around? I'd like to book this vacation today. *(AUDREY snaps her fingers. CAMILLE bolts upright again with a confused look on her face.)*

DEATH

Audrey, she was really getting on my nerves.

AUDREY

Oh, everybody gets on your nerves. Remember Jonestown? (*Snidely imitating him*) “I don’t like strawberry. Try the grape.”

DEATH

I have ONE cranky day...

CAMILLE

Hello?... Hello? Is there somebody on the line?

DEATH

Hello... Camille, right? Yeah, I’m here.

CAMILLE

Uh, that’s right, it’s Camille.... I’m sorry, I seem to have forgotten your name.

DEATH

Angelo. Angelo Death.

CAMILLE

I’m so sorry. Guess I had a bit of a brain-fart there. You ever have that?

DEATH

Just in passing...

CAMILLE

Just in... Ha ha ha! Good one, Mr. D!

DEATH

I let one slip every now and then.

CAMILLE

(*Giggling even more*) Oh, that’s hilarious!

DEATH

(*On a roll*) You know, whenever I’m thinking about cabbage. (*He makes a rim shot sound*)

CAMILLE

(*Stops laughing, thinks about it a second*) ... I don’t get it.

DEATH

(*Sighing*) Understandable, Camille. Happens to the best of you.

AUDREY

(*Whispering*) It really wasn’t that good.

DEATH

(*Whispering*) Thank you, Johnny Carson.

CAMILLE

(Still a bit confused) Sir, um, what were we talking about?

DEATH

Well, I'm trying to plan a vacation...

CAMILLE

(Perky again and ready to help) Oh my, yes! You've NEVER had one before. How exciting!

DEATH

Yes, it will be... if we could actually plan it.

CAMILLE

Well, I'm your girl, Mr. D! I'm going to help you plan the most fantastic vacation ever!

AUDREY

Awww, she's adorable.

DEATH

Oh please...

CAMILLE

First things first! We have to find you the right place to visit!

DEATH

Sounds good. What have you got?

CAMILLE

How about someplace festive? Like Rio.

DEATH

Um, yeah, I'm really not big on the whole party atmosphere.

CAMILLE

I understand. You want something more relaxing. Do you like Florida? Lots of beaches there.

DEATH

I do, but I don't want to be near any spring breakers.

CAMILLE

Then this is perfect. It's in Tierra Verde. No college kids for miles around. Lots of long walks, great sunsets...

DEATH

That DOES sound good...

CAMILLE

...and if you have pets, they allow your dogs to run free without a leash.

DEATH

Dogs?