

COOKIES



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CHARACTERS

The Fool
Death
Dog

[FOOL COMES UPON A PRONE UNMOVING
DOG AS DEATH ENTERS]

FOOL

Dog? Are you all right? Why are you lying so still?

DEATH

Why do you think?

FOOL

What did you do to him?

DEATH

Nothing. Dog died.

FOOL

You killed my dog?

DEATH

No no no, I just show up when death happens.

FOOL

Why did he die?

DEATH

Dunno.

FOOL

Did I make him die?

DEATH

It was his time.

FOOL

Why?

DEATH

Dunno, Fool. I just show up when someone dies.

FOOL

Who are you?

DEATH

I am Death.

Are you here for me too?	FOOL
Of course not.	DEATH
Then give Dog his life back.	FOOL
Can't do that, Fool.	DEATH
I can't believe Dog is gone.	FOOL
I know, but sadly you will.	DEATH
You don't make any sense.	FOOL
I get that a lot.	DEATH
Do you always show up when someone dies?	FOOL
Yep.	DEATH
Have I met you before?	FOOL
Yes, but I'm easily forgotten or ignored.	DEATH
I want Dog, not you. If you go away, will Dog come back?	FOOL
No. You can deny my being here if you want or you can recognize me and embrace your grief. I love hugs.	DEATH
Hug a bony skeleton? Gross.	FOOL

Lots of things in life are gross. Hugs? DEATH

Will I die if I do? FOOL

I'm not here for that. DEATH

Will I die if I don't? FOOL

No. I'll simply return next time -- a similar next time that resembles this time. Hugs? DEATH

Can't you just leave us alone? FOOL

No and I'll follow you everywhere until you give me a hug. DEATH

Why? FOOL

It's my nature to stalk those who won't give me hugs. DEATH

That doesn't sound good. FOOL

You have no idea. But I can't be ignored – not even by you. DEATH

I'll don a disguise. FOOL

I'll see through it. DEATH

I'll hide. FOOL

There's nowhere to hide from me. DEATH

I'll tell lies and escape you. FOOL

You'll tell what? DEATH

Lies. Don't you know what a lie is? FOOL

I only see truth. Others have tried to explain lies to me, but I still don't quite get it. DEATH

You have no right to take Dog away from me. I love Dog and Dog loves me. You're a greedy bag of bones who doesn't even know what it means to love - or even lie. What kind of evil are you? FOOL

What is evil? DEATH

You don't know what evil is? FOOL

That's why I asked. DEATH

Evil is the opposite of good. Life is the opposite of death. Any fool knows that. FOOL

I don't understand but I do know that you are the Fool and I am Death. DEATH

Have you ever met Life? FOOL

Who? DEATH

Life. Isn't life the opposite of death? FOOL

I only show up when someone dies. DEATH

Why are you pouting? FOOL

DEATH

I get why everyone hates me but I thought you'd be foolish enough to know better.

FOOL

You're nothing but a bag of bones who only cares about themselves.

DEATH

I care about all living things who come to the end of their lives.

FOOL

I don't believe you. I think you just like dead things.

DEATH

You're angry, Fool, for which I am honored.

FOOL

Honored? Why would you be honored that I'm mad at you?

DEATH

Anger is a good thing, a healthy thing, a thing only the living feel. I wish I could feel anger.

FOOL

Now I know you're a fool.

DEATH

No, I am Death.

FOOL

What do I need to do to get Dog back?

DEATH

You'll see him again.

FOOL

When?

DEATH

Normally I'd say when you die, but you are not a typical living being.

FOOL

I'm not?

DEATH

We are living archetypes. Fool, I am Death and I seek your embrace. Please. I'm sorry you've lost your canine friend. Hugs?

FOOL

Dog -- my dog is really gone. No more yip yarf. Now that I know it's true and I feel like only chaos is real and I'm out of control, yet I can't move.

DEATH

Grief can be demobilizing.

FOOL

No more bow wow wow. [HE WEEPS] Dog was the only one I trusted and now he's gone. How will I live without him?

DEATH

You'll find a way, Fool.

FOOL

I'm sad and scared to be alone. Hold me, Death. I'm hurting.

DEATH

I love hugs. [HOLDS FOOL WHO CONTINUES TO WEEP]

FOOL

You smell good, Death – like cookies. And I like the feel of you. You're not a bag of bones at all.

DEATH

I'm whatever or whomever you need. I offer you love unconditional to aid you through your pain.

FOOL

Never let me go, Death, never let me go. I hurt.

DEATH

I know, Fool.

FOOL

Will the hurt go away?

DEATH

Not soon and not completely, Fool. But it'll get easier in time.

FOOL

Does that mean I'll forget Dog?

DEATH

Maybe sometimes but never always.

FOOL

Thank you, Death. Will I ever hug you again?

DEATH

You've hugged me many times before and you'll hug me many times again. Every time you leap from your precipice, I'm there.

FOOL

I know I've done tried to fly off a cliff before, but I don't remember.

DEATH

Lucky you. I remember everyone and everything.

FOOL

I do remember is that Dog tried to stop me from taking flight.

DEATH

Sometimes he succeeds, but usually you prefer taking the risk you might succeed because, after all, you are the Fool. I've been there every time you've succeeded in falling, especially when you've been willing to feel the ecstasy and pain of your fall, and give me hugs.

FOOL

I'm sorry I've forgotten you.

DEATH

That's okay, Fool. I'm used to it.

FOOL

I love you, Death. Do others love you as much as I do?

DEATH

Some do. Most feel my embrace in one moment and fear me the next before forgetting or ignoring me all together. I must leave you with your own truth now, Fool.

[DOG RISES]

FOOL

Dog?

DEATH

No worries. I'll take good care of him for you.

DOG

Yip yarf.

FOOL

A hug before you go? [DEATH HUGS FOOL] I meant Dog.

DEATH

No can do. He has no substance.

FOOL

I understand.

DEATH

You are a remarkable being, Fool. Maybe you'll remember me next time.

FOOL

You are scary, Death, but you feel good and smell like cookies. [DEATH AND DOG EXIT] What did I just say? Death smells like cookies? I am a fool indeed.

[BLACKOUT]