

## **Spotlight Publications**

# **These My Darker Angels**

**A drama in one act  
by Claire Scott**

## ***THESE MY DARKER ANGELS***

### **CAST**

**Trent**, the condemned man

**North**)

**West**)

**South**) Trent's darker angels

**East**)

**Sam**, the victim

**The Guards**

**Time**: the present

**Setting**: the mind of Trent

*Trent sits on a chair, the only thing on stage, in a pool of light. He is still, looking out to the audience. Around him echoing voices, whispers, giggling and random sounds create a cacophony*

**Trent** I know you're there. *(The sound continues)* I can hear you. Aren't you bored with these games by now? *(The sound continues)* Come on then. Time's marching on. *(The sound continues)* They're coming for me. Any minute now. If you want your one last chance this is it. No going back now. Come out, come out wherever you are!

*The sounds die away gradually and North, carrying a chair, walks into the light which expands further*

**Trent** There you are. You took your time. So which one are you this time? The Ghost of Christmas Past, Present or Future?

**North** Hello, Trent.

**Trent** So how are we going to play this, I wonder?

**North** You should know. You chose to see me first.

**Trent** *(laughing)* Fine. Let's do it.

*North sits facing Trent. They regard each other impassively*

**North** Big day.

**Trent** Yup.

**North** Years in the making.

**Trent** Oh yeah.

**North** So how does it feel?

**Trent** Ask me again without the note of pleasure in your voice.

**North** Guilty then?

**Trent** Like I'd make it that easy for you. You want it you work for it.

**North** Let's start in a familiar place then.

**Trent** Oh good. Memory Lane. This is always good.

**North** Samantha.

*Trent reacts to the name*

Your hands.

**Trent** What about them?

**North** They're shaking. They've never done that before, have they? Are you afraid?

*Trent laughs*

Are you?

**Trent** Pointless question.

**North** But it's in your mind. Are you afraid?

**Trent** Of you?

**North** Of the walls closing in.

**Trent** Same walls as always in exactly the same place.

**North** She's here.

**Trent** Excellent.

**North** Not on your terms. Not for fun. You were wrong. This isn't Memory Lane. Not for you. But just to set the scene...

*Sam enters*

You remember where you first saw her?

**Trent** You know I do.

**North** The Christmas market.

**Trent** Yes,

**North** The smell of sugar and cinnamon, cold air like a blade in your chest and fire on your face. Those kids singing...

**Trent** All wrapped up in hats and scarves and gloves...

**North** That carol...

**Sam** (*singing*) Said the night wind to the little lamb. Do you hear what I hear...?

**North** There she is. In jeans and a jumper and boots.

**Trent** (*singing*) Do you see what I see...?

**North** What's she doing?

**Trent** You know what she's doing.

**North** She's laughing. Sharing a joke with the man on the stall.

**Trent** Tilting her head to one side, just a little bit...licking her lips...they're glistening now. Wet. That little bit of pink tongue running over them...and her hair curling in at the nape of her neck like a question mark...

**North** The man on the stall.

**Trent** If I move a little bit closer...I can feel the heat from her body. She's all life. All fire...

**North** The man on the stall.

**Trent** What?

**North** The man on the stall.

**Trent** Sshhhh! I'm busy!

*Trent closes his eyes to relive the moment*

There.

**North** What's he doing?

**Trent** What?

**North** What's he doing?

**Trent** Who?

**North** The man on the stall.

**Trent** I don't know. What does it even matter?

**North** Look! He's wrapping something. What is it?

**Trent** I don't know. I don't care.

**North** He's wrapping...

**Sam** Chocolate. In a red box. With a silver ribbon and a bow.

**North** That's right. And she's pulling off a glove, opening her purse, her fingers reaching in... she doesn't even know you exist.

**Trent** She will though.

**North** There's nothing there now except cold air and that music. And that sweet, sugary scent. And she's all of it. Isn't she? Now it's going to be just you and her. Just you and her. The Night Wind and the Little Lamb.

Your mind is racing. Your heart feels like it's bursting through your chest. Just you and her. And that's how it's going to be from now on, isn't it?

**Trent** Some things are just meant to be.

**North** Meant to be? That's disappointing. I expected more than a glib cliché from you today of all days.

**Trent** Do you imagine this is upsetting for me? I expected more from you too. All this has been sustaining me in the quiet and the dark for years. The nights I've spent reliving that moment...

**North** It's how you always see her, isn't it? That twisted snapshot before you tore it all apart for her. But there's more. Isn't there? There's what you did. Can you see that? Smell that? Is there music?

*Sam steps forward*

**Trent** That all depends on what you consider to be music. Ah there she is. Hello, Sam.

**Sam** Hello, Trent. Is this how you remember me?

**Trent** Perfect. As always. It's lovely to see you.

**Sam** Is it? Why?

**Trent** You're what it's all been about. All these years in the cold and dark. You were worth it. If this is my last chance to say it, I want you to know how very special you are to me.

**Sam** The chocolate.

**Trent** What?

**Sam** That box of chocolates. Did you know who they were for?

**Trent** Didn't you hear what I said? You're my special girl. I've been faithful all these years. Kept your memory close. Right in here. Right in my heart. Uppermost in my mind. Aren't you grateful?

**Sam** They were for my mother. Not for Christmas. They were for her birthday. She was born on the shortest day of the year when there was hardly any light. Every year I would get her fresh cream lilac chocolates. She never had them any other time. She never bought them for herself or got them from anyone else. It was

always me. Me and her. Our thing.

**Trent** So?

**Sam** She's never had them since. That died with me, a tiny thing that mattered so much that nobody else ever saw. And a little bit of her died too, day by day. She's still dying. Still disappearing piece by piece. Now every day is dark for her.

**Trent** Why are you going on about this? This has nothing to do with us?

**Sam** Us?

**Trent** I know it meant as much to you as it did to me.

**Sam** They found those chocolates in a ditch. Right next to the spot where you grabbed me.

**Trent** Will you stop going on about the fucking chocolate?

**Sam** Why?

**Trent** It doesn't matter. None of this matters. Sam, you and I...we were special together. Our time with each other is all that matters to me. I know you feel the same. I know you do.

**Sam** Feel? I don't feel. I'm dead, remember?

**Trent** Not to me! Never to me.

**Sam** You killed me.

**Trent** Up here, in my mind...that's where you live. That's where I can find you whenever I need you. And you come to me, and you smile at me. And that's how I know we were meant to be. It was all meant to be.

**North** I know why he killed you.

**Trent** Shut up!

**North** I'm just saying...

**Trent** Just shut up, okay.

**North** It's all right, Trent. Maybe it's time she knew.

**Trent** Don't!

**Sam** Tell me.

**North** Oh I don't think I should say.

**Sam** Oh go on.

**North** It's almost too pathetic for words.

**Trent** I'm warning you...

**Sam** Oh please tell me. Don't be such a tease...

**North** Well, I would but...the thing is...he doesn't know. No, no that's not it. He doesn't want to know. He can't face the fact. He can't bear the thought of you knowing.

**Sam** Oh I see. Well, why don't you just whisper it to me? Then he can go on pretending that I don't.

**North** What a good idea.

**Sam** You'll have to get really close to me though. Really, really close.

**Trent** Don't go near her. Don't you dare touch her.

**Sam** Don't listen to him. Come and tell me. Come and put your lips up close to my ear. You'll have to push back my hair...nice and slowly. Maybe your fingers will brush against my skin...

**North** Do you think I should?

**Trent** Don't you fucking dare! Don't not touch her.

**Sam** Go on...maybe you'll feel my heat, my pulse...

**North** Oh Trent...it's tempting...

**Trent** Leave her alone.

**Sam** Look how scared he is. Go on. Destroy him and take what he loves the most in one go.

**Trent** Shut up!

**North** It's killing you that she wants me close to her, isn't it? She never wanted you.

**Trent** Liar! Sam, don't...please....don't listen to him. It's all lies. You know the truth. Please don't listen. Don't let him touch you.

**North** Oh come on Trent. It's time to face up to it. It was never about her. You never had anything special. No great love story. It was about you.

**Sam** I'm not special to you. Not now, not even then. And you've always known that deep down inside. And you meant nothing to me.

**Trent** Don't say that.

**Sam** I heard you, talking about my tongue and my lips and my hair curling at my neck...and the smell. You were getting hard sitting there remembering all those tiny details. Here's something for you. I don't even know what you look like.

**Trent** Shut up!

**Sam** You stood so close to me you could feel my warmth. Did you brush against me? I didn't notice. You were the background. An insignificant shadow on a beautiful day. Not even as much as a face in the crowd.

**Trent** Don't you dare say these things to me.

**Sam** Did I turn my back on you? Walk away? I must have. You can't follow someone unless you are trailing along behind them. Like a puppy dog. Or a bad dream. There I was at the centre of your universe and I had no clue you even existed.

**Trent** I gave up everything for you.

*South enters*

**South** You tell her.

**North** Oh here we go. The ego has landed.

**Trent** You were the reason I gave up my life, my freedom...

**North** Gave up? You were terrified. You ran, coward that you are. They hunted you down like a dog. Didn't they find you hiding in a railway tunnel? The stink of diesel and rat piss? When push came to shove it was all about looking after number one.

**Sam** You hid?

**South** Well of course he did. He knew they would never understand.

**Sam** About our earth-shattering love affair?

**South** Sarcasm doesn't become you, Samantha.

**North** Didn't you claim to be insane at your trial?

**Trent** That wasn't me! That was a legal strategy...

**North** To do what?

**Sam** Yes, Trent, to do what?

**South** To win the game.

**Sam** The game?

**South** Trials are a game, a test of wit and intelligence. You play your cards the best way you can and you use everything in your hand to make sure you win.

**North** And what's the prize?

**South** Vindication. Freedom.

**North** Freedom! I thought you gave that up for love, Trent?

**Trent** You don't know the first thing about me....you don't have the right....

**South** Don't rise to it, Trent.

**North** Why did you bury her in wasteland?

**Trent** It wasn't my choice...

**North** If you loved her so much. If she was so special...

**Trent** Shut up!

**Sam** They found me in a bin bag like a piece of rubbish. Used up and thrown away.

**South** Enough!

**North** You buried her like that to hide the truth. From the world. You even hid it from yourself. No, that's wrong. You hid from the truth. You're still hiding from it now. I wonder if you even know what the truth is.

**Trent** Shut up.

**North** I can tell you the truth. Do you want to hear it?

**Trent** No.

**North** You did it because you were weak.

**Trent** That's not true.

**North** You did it because you had no self control.

**South** Leave him alone!

**North** You gave in to your darker angels and now we're back. Well guess what Trent. We're never leaving again.

**Trent** I know the truth. You don't have to tell me. I know the truth. It's my truth.

**Sam** Then say it. Tell me why I had to die. And like that.

**South** Leave him alone.

**North** No! Answer her.

**South** Why should you? You don't answer to her.

**Sam** I want to hear him say it.

**South** You want? When did that ever matter?

**Sam** Tell me why you killed me.

**South** Don't say a word.

**North** Are you going to let her tell you what to do? Since when did you take orders?

**South** Don't let them get to you. Do not answer them.

**North** What is it you are afraid of?

*West and East enter and watch impassively*

**Sam** Answer me!

**North** Come on, Trent. Who will ever know? You're all alone. Just us. Just the little old voices in your head.

**South** Don't listen. Shut it out.

**North** Now! Come on. It's your last chance. You don't miss chances, remember? You take them. You take them! Go on! Take this one. Tell her the truth.

**Sam** Tell me.

**South** Don't!

**Trent** Shut up! Just shut up, all of you. Leave me alone!

## **These My Darker Angels**

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A powerful drama set in the mind of Trent, condemned to death for the murder of his girlfriend Sam.

### **Plot Summary**

Sentenced to death for murder, Trent sits alone in his cell, waiting for the seconds to tick away. In the silence he has time to think about his life and his actions, and he quickly finds he cannot control the thoughts in his head as he would like. As time runs out for him will Trent manage to maintain the illusion he has clung to for so long or will his darker angels betray him at the end?

Running time: about 30 minutes.