

Script: *Same day, next year.*

Scene 1/ Int / Night

January 20th, 1990:

Paul, 17 years-old adjusts his tie in front of the mirror.

Paul: (to his mother) Do I really have to go?

Mother: You know it's not for me. It's really important to your father.

Paul: I come every year to dine with these people. They will understand if we don't show up.

Mother: Com'on, we won't stay late.

Scene 2/ Int / Night

A group of 20 people in a private restaurant room are chatting with a glass in their hands. Paul and his mother arrive in the room and Paul takes a seat while his mother greets a pregnant woman, (Marie).

The room is full, we hear people chatting and eating.

Paul is talking to his neighbor...

Paul: I was supposed to hang out with friends this weekend. Can you hand me the bottle of wine, hum, Marc?

3 older men are seated at the end of the table and are talking to each other. Paul looks at them, especially at the one in the middle; his father, Michel, the one to his right is his uncle, Jean-Pierre and the third man is Pierre.

Paul: Look at them, we have been here for two hours and they don't even talk to us. Maybe they should dine just the 3 of them together.

His brother, Charles: Don't be like that Paul.

Paul: (addressing to Charles) You know that Dad and our dear uncle are paying for everyone here. He is generous, right? Not as generous with his Christmas gifts to us.

Paul grabs the bottle of wine and fills his glass.

David seated at his right: You should not say such things..

Paul (scorn): Excuse me but this is a family business.

David: A family business that you don't know anything about.

Paul: (laughing) I know everything there is to know. Though, I still don't know why this unnecessary dinner is happening every year.

David: (pauses, looks at his glass) Then, you know nothing.

David's wife, Marie, seated in front of David: You should tell him, David.

Paul: Tell him what?

David: Why YOU are here tonight.

SCENE 3/ EXT/ DAY

Flashback, January 20th, 1943, three young children are walking to school in the snow. Paul's father, Michel 7 years old, his brother Jean-Pierre 9 and the youngest, Maurice; 4.

David (background voice): Your father and uncle lived in a small village in the French Alps, they had to leave Paris because they would have been arrested.

Michel: Maurice! don't stay behind, we're going to be late again.

SCENE 4 /EXT/DAY

Michel, Jean-Pierre is playing with marbles with Pierrot (11 years old) in the school playground.

Pierrot: I am the oldest, why do I always lose!

Michel: The oldest maybe but not the smartest. (he laughs)

Jean-Pierre laughs and gets Pierrot's marbles.

Another child circled by two others gets closer: (to Michel) Is it true that you come from Paris?

Michel looks at his brother with despair.

Jean-Pierre: No, we never lived there, we were born and raised in this village.

The child: I never saw your dad in the school. Where is he?

Jean-Pierre: He travels a lot for his job.

Michel looks at his brother and down with sorrow.

The child (insisting): What kind of job?

The school alarm rings, a savior for Jean-Pierre. They all get back to their respective classes.

SCENE 5/INT/NGT

1990 - Restaurant

Paul: I do know this story, I knew that my own father and my uncle were hidden in a small village in France.

Marc, 60 years old enters the conversation: Not your uncle, Paul, your uncles.

SCENE 6/INT/DAY

1943 - Flashback

A classroom with 30 children chatting loudly, a teacher trying to restore the silence. Jean-Pierre and Michel are seated next to each other. The seat at Michel's right is empty.

Michel: (addressing to Jean-Pierre) Psst, where is Pierrot? He has all my marbles.

Teacher: Please be quiet, Michel don't make me call your mother again.

Pierrot enters the classroom out of breath. The voices stop.

Pierrot, looking towards Michel and Jean-Pierre: You have to come with me. Now.

He looks at the teacher, she stays quiet for a moment looking at Michel and Jean-Pierre

Teacher: Go.

The three of them exit the class.

Pierrot: Follow me, this way.

They walk and see the police inside the classroom next to theirs. They are checking identities. Maurice is in this class.

Michel: Wait, we can't leave without Maurice.

Pierrot: It's too late, they are already in the class. They wouldn't do anything to a 4-year-old kid. (he stops and looks at the class, worried). I hope.

Jean-Pierre and Michel stop and look at each other not knowing what to do.

Pierrot: We have to go.

There is a moment of silence, the three of them walk looking down.

SCENE 7/INT/DAY

Pierrot, followed by Michel and Jean-Pierre is walking in the forest.

Jean-Pierre: How did you know?

Pierrot: I heard my parents talking about a police round-up last night, you were denounced. They came for you.

They keep walking quietly.

David, Voice-over: They had to walk 5 miles not knowing where and if they would ever see their brother again.

Marie (in a somber voice): They never did.

David: They arrested him on that day, they never heard from him again.

Marc (Voice-over): Pierrot's family hid your dad and your uncle until the end of the war. Their mother joined them later on at Pierrot's family house.

Paul: What happened to Pierrot, is he alive? Do we know where he lives now? Can we contact him?

David (smiles): He is laughing with your dad and uncle at the moment we're talking. He is my dad, Pierre.

Paul looks at his dad, laughing with his uncle and the third old man, Pierre.

Marc: It became a tradition. This dinner is a way to remember what happened that day and to thank Pierre for saving the life of many future generations. Every year there are new members of both families seated at this table.

Marie: I don't know how many we will be next year. (she looks at her belly and caresses it with a tender smile)

SCENE 8/INT/NIGHT

January 20th, 2018

Same-restaurant but the room is bigger, more than 50 people are all seated at the same table. Paul, his brother Charles and David are seated next to each other at the edge of the table.

Paul (gets up from his chair, smiles to David): A toast. To Pierrot.

They all raise their glass: To Pierrot!

A young adult seated at the other side of the table: Wait, who is Pierrot?

Based on a true story.

