

# Sissy/Man

A PIECE OF MY HEART

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~~WHITNEY. (To audience.) And he didn't. Next morning he got shot down. And I never got involved—again. (SHE sits, turning away.)~~

~~LEANN. (To audience, writing in diary.) Friday the 28th. Hank tells me he's leaving. His time is short enough that he is going home in days—from Vietnam—~~

SISSY. It's the 4th of July when I meet Bill. In August he and his buddy Rory come to get me for a stand-down—

*(As SHE speaks SHE climbs up with RORY to sit on back of a truck [bench].)*

SISSY. And we get on the truck and are riding along—drinking Wild Turkey—passing the bottle back and forth—when Bill has to go to the john. We stop—he jumps down—trots to the bushes, and—

*(Sound of EXPLOSION. SISSY screams.)*

RORY. He stepped on a mine!

*(SISSY jumps off bench. RORY grabs her arm pulling her back up.)*

RORY. Get back up! *Get up!*

*(HE pulls her up, holds her there, SISSY straining to get back down.)*

SISSY. Bill's dead? Let me go! I have to go get him!!  
Bill's dead?

RORY. The detail will be back. The whole place is mined. (*Leans forward as if to talk to driver.*) Steve? Let her roll! GO! GO!

(*RORY pushes SISSY down on bench.*)

SISSY. He's gone? Bill's gone?—

RORY. Drink some of this—here—(*HE offers her flask.*)

(*RORY is terrified too.*)

SISSY. (*Getting hysterical.*) I'm the only woman here—if it wasn't for me he wouldn't have had to get off and go in the bushes—he wouldn't have—

RORY. Stop it!

SISSY. But if it wasn't for me—

RORY. (*Shaking her.*) Stop it! That kind of shit thinking gets nobody nowhere! Now take a drink and SHUT THE SHIT UP! (*HE offers her flask, holding her very close.*)

~~LEANN. (*Looking at diary.*) Tuesday. The 8th. Hank's missing. They took his day-glo posters down. Hank's gone. (*SHE looks up. To audience.*) And I think I am going to die—here in Vietnam—~~

(~~STEELERISES~~)

~~STEELERISES. (*As HEAD NURSE.*) Nurse? (*SHE comes to Leann.*) Is that a ribbon in your hair? Get it off! And never~~