

Side 41 - Aoife, Rosemary, Tony

OUTSIDE MULLINGAR

TONY: Stay on your chair.
AOIFE: No. This is it. I'm up.

(The outer door opens and shuts. The inner door opens and Rosemary enters.)

ROSEMARY: Back up. Sit down again.

TONY: Is Anthony behind you?

ROSEMARY: He went walking in the fields. Or flying.

TONY: Oh Jesus, once he starts in with that, he won't be seen till morning.

AOIFE: We should say our good-byes, Rosemary.

ROSEMARY: No. Stay down. I'm going to make tea.

START
(She sets about making tea.)

AOIFE: We should leave Tony sleep.

ROSEMARY: No we shouldn't.

TONY: Alright then. I'd have a cup.

AOIFE: What's that look on you?

ROSEMARY: I hope you have no part in this?

AOIFE: In what?

ROSEMARY: What we say now will never be repeated. Tell me there's no truth in what I just heard.

AOIFE: What did you hear?

ROSEMARY: This is Anthony's farm.

TONY: Oh, Jesus. Don't involve yourself, Rosemary.

AOIFE: Tony's right, Rosemary. This is their own business.

ROSEMARY: Steer clear, Mother. Tony Reilly, do yourself a service and do not cross me.

TONY: Easy. Don't overstep now.

ROSEMARY: Since Mary died, your judgment, which was never good, has faltered worse.

AOIFE: She's right about that, Tony.

TONY: She's nothing. I think I can manage my own farm.

ROSEMARY: If that were true, you would own it. To the road.

Scene 3

Back in the kitchen we find Tony and Aoife.

TONY: It was a fine turnout. It was, though.

AOIFE: It's a shame, the lack of parking at our church. They should charge.

TONY: They should charge, should they? Half of Killucan would renounce the faith.

AOIFE: What grade of faith have they then?

TONY: Not much.

AOIFE: And you? Do you have faith?

TONY: Me? I'm barely devout. It was Mary kept the candles lit.

AOIFE: I believe.

TONY: In what?

AOIFE: I believe in everything.

TONY: You do not.

AOIFE: I believe in everything. There she is. It's time we were off.

TONY: I've heard your name's on that strip of land, Rosemary. And I can tell you now, you will be selling that to me.

AOIFE: I told him it's yours. Don't fault me.

ROSEMARY: I don't. *(To Tony)* I fault you. Why would you think of denying Anthony what's his?

TONY: Leave it.

ROSEMARY: If you want to talk to me about the road, you will talk to me about Anthony.

TONY: What there is to say I won't say. I am bound by an oath, made on a Bible, not to speak of certain things.

ROSEMARY: About Anthony?

TONY: His mother made me swear. Have faith that I know what I'm about.

ROSEMARY: I have no such faith. You've kept him down all his life. And you've done it with the promise of this farm.

TONY: Not a word of truth. I've shielded him on every side. And his interests will be seen to, but the farm will not be his.

ROSEMARY: You have no idea what you're up against, Tony Reilly. You might as well try to stop the calendar from naming the days. I've been older than all of you since I was born, and sure I ache for my own youth. I pray the day may yet come, but not at the price of now.

AOIFE: What are you talking at?

ROSEMARY: When a person knows what will be, and I have always known, the like of you should stand aside.

AOIFE: What are you saying? What do you know?

ROSEMARY: Anthony Reilly and I were born on two farms side by side, and we will die side by side. And no old fool trying to show his muscle at sunset will bungle that.

AOIFE: Rosemary, you have secrets of your own, and once they're out, they're out.

ROSEMARY: I have no secrets. I buried my dear father today, and I'll lose no more.

TONY: Are you in love with Anthony?

ROSEMARY: More than love.

TONY: Don't be.

ROSEMARY: I don't care what happens beyond one thing. I will be on the one farm and he will be on the next.

AOIFE: Rose.

ROSEMARY: Mamm, look at me and take pity. You will leave me soon.

AOIFE: Sure it's true. I can't deny it.

ROSEMARY: I feel that grief never more than today. But what preserves me is knowing there are safe roads after.

TONY: He's not normal.

ROSEMARY: I don't care what he is, and if you're bound by an oath, keep it! I don't care about anything but that that man have his land and my house be hard by!

AOIFE: Rosemary.

TONY: He'll never marry.

ROSEMARY: Then neither will I. And he will be in his house and I will be in mine. Here's your tea.

(She serves the tea.)

STOP

AOIFE: There is much of your father in you.

ROSEMARY: I'm proud to know it.

AOIFE: Two bulldogs.

ROSEMARY: No, I'm a swan.

TONY: I will not let this farm die with Anthony.

ROSEMARY: "You will not do this." "You will not do that." So what will you do?

AOIFE: He means to sell it to his brother's son.

ROSEMARY: In America?

TONY: He'll come and take over.

ROSEMARY: And go through the two gates?

TONY: He wants the road.

ROSEMARY: I'm here to tell you he will never get it.

TONY: You will not tell me how to dispose of my property!

ROSEMARY: And you'll have no sway over mine! Drink your tea.

TONY: Don't order me in my own house!

ROSEMARY: No one owns a house.