

Sides 3A + 3B - Anthony + Rosemary

JOHN PATRICK SHANLEY

OUTSIDE MULLINGAR

ANTHONY: I suppose I can't blame you whatever you choose to do on the night your father died.

ROSEMARY: He died three days ago.

ANTHONY: During the general time that your father died.

ROSEMARY: So I have special rights tonight?

ANTHONY: I suppose.

ROSEMARY: Then I'll use them. Will you answer me a question?

ANTHONY: What?

ROSEMARY: Have you ever heard from Fiona?

ANTHONY: Is the human race against me this night?

ROSEMARY: Don't answer then.

ANTHONY: Never. I have never heard from Fiona since our childhood days.

ROSEMARY: And your heart's still broken?

ANTHONY: Yes.

ROSEMARY: Do you know where she is?

ANTHONY: I do. In Wicklow. With a husband and three daughters.

ROSEMARY: Why didn't you just get over her like other people do?

ANTHONY: I don't know what other people do and I don't care.

Why do you do what you do? Why do you stay over there in that lonely house?

ROSEMARY: It's not lonely.

ANTHONY: You should fly. Once your mam . . . Once you're alone. You should make plans to fly away.

ROSEMARY: Why don't you fly?

ANTHONY: It may come to that.

ROSEMARY: Ha. You'll never leave.

ANTHONY: I might. Tony's up to mischief.

ROSEMARY: What kind?

ANTHONY: He says I don't love the farm.

ROSEMARY: Do you?

ANTHONY: He says I'm not a Reilly.

ROSEMARY: Then what are you?

ANTHONY: He claims I'm a Reilly in name, but a Kelly in the face. He's making noises like he might not sign it over.

ROSEMARY: Well, that's not right.

ANTHONY: He's always been half craft. Not like your da, may he rest in peace. He was full on.

ROSEMARY: Till he wasn't. It was me that found him. I looked in on him, and then I was going to go, but for his hand. His one hand lay outside the sheet and I found myself looking at it. And it came across me that there was no life in it and he was dead. Then I called, and Mam came, and her face went white, so I gave her a drink of water. But didn't the glass have his teeth in it.

ANTHONY: No.

ROSEMARY: Oh. It was awful. She was wild. She won't drink from a glass since.

ANTHONY: I can testify to that. She said it tastes like teeth.

ROSEMARY: Says it tastes like teeth.

3A
START
(They laugh.)

ANTHONY: But really. Your da. He was here and now he's not. Where do we go? Do we go into the sky?

ROSEMARY: The ground.

ANTHONY: Then what's the sky for?

ROSEMARY: Now. It's for now.

ANTHONY: Now. Seize the day, is that it? Seize it and do what though? What do you do?

ROSEMARY: Me? I smoke.

ANTHONY: You should quit that.

ROSEMARY: Why?

ANTHONY: I don't know but do it.

ROSEMARY: Girl needs a reason.

(He looks into the night.)

ANTHONY: I hear a voice sometimes when I'm in the fields, and the voice says, "Go."

ROSEMARY: I came upon a patch of white heather this morning.

ANTHONY: White? You did not. That's only in shops.

ROSEMARY: Wild.

ANTHONY: Wild white heather? That's good luck.

ROSEMARY: They say. So is Tony right? Do you not love the farm?

ANTHONY: Love? I hate it for a prison. I came up out of it like a tree and here I am with it around me.

ROSEMARY: Then let Tony do what he wants and follow the voice.

ANTHONY: Do you mean it?

ROSEMARY: I'm saying it.

ANTHONY: Run off. Where? The airport?

ROSEMARY: Take Lutfhansa. I hear it's good.

ANTHONY: No. It's all here. It's sitting on top of me.

ROSEMARY: The voice said Go.

ANTHONY: And what am I? St. Joan following voices? My life is fixed down with a rock on each corner.

ROSEMARY: By what?

ANTHONY: There's the green fields, and the animals living off them. And over that there's us, living off the animals. And over that there's that which tends to us and lives off us. Whatever that is, it holds me here. No. The voice I hear in the fields wants me in the fields.

ROSEMARY: Then why does it say go?

ANTHONY: I don't know. Everything doesn't tally.

ROSEMARY: I don't feel the land like you do.

ANTHONY: Count your blessings.

ROSEMARY: Your eyes have pagan things in them sometimes.

ANTHONY: My eyes, is it? Your mother says you're mad.

ROSEMARY: I'm not.

ANTHONY: I am. Should we go in?

ROSEMARY: How are you mad?

ANTHONY: People don't appeal to me that much.

ROSEMARY: That's normal. Who likes people? Nobody.

ANTHONY: I don't know what I'm saying. I'm just more with nature . . . than people. Stories I heard when I was a boy got hold of me. Should we go in then?

~~ROSEMARY: I'm grieving.~~

ANTHONY: Of course you are. When my mother died, Jesus, I couldn't see colors anymore.

ROSEMARY: My man's falling apart. She needs new hips, but she can't get 'em 'cause her lungs and heart are cooked. She's not long for it.

ANTHONY: You think not?

ROSEMARY: I know.

ANTHONY: And will you take over the farm?

ROSEMARY: I will.

ANTHONY: But you can't.

ROSEMARY: I must though.

ANTHONY: It's too much.

ROSEMARY: You do it.

ANTHONY: I don't. And what I do get done, it murders me. It's no work for a woman, I'll tell you that.

ROSEMARY: I can hold my own.

ANTHONY: What about pulking calves?

ROSEMARY: I'll hire someone then.

ANTHONY: Takes money.

ROSEMARY: We're alright. What would Tony do with the farm if he didn't leave it to you?

ANTHONY: He might give it to the church.

ROSEMARY: He's too cheap. He'd sell.

ANTHONY: He wouldn't get his price for it.

ROSEMARY: Why not?

ANTHONY: Who would take it on without the road?

ROSEMARY: Ah. Right.

ANTHONY: No one would sign on without that strip of land by the road.

ROSEMARY: Maybe not.

ANTHONY: Be realistic. No one else would open two gates just to get to your own front door.

ROSEMARY: You do.

ANTHONY: And look at me.

ROSEMARY: So you're lucky then.

ANTHONY: How am I lucky?

STOP

ANTHONY: When did you see a baller?

ROSEMARY: My da took me to one.

ANTHONY: Doesn't sound like him.

ROSEMARY: It was him. He took me to *Swan Lake* and he told me I was the White Swan. And so I am.

ANTHONY: I thought he hated birds.

ROSEMARY: Just crows.

ANTHONY: A man like that at the ballet. I guess I never knew him.

ROSEMARY: To watch him walk was to know there was grace in the world. He had the blood of kings in him.

ANTHONY: He kept his counsel like a king. That's sure. No one knew his mind.

ROSEMARY: I did. He wasn't much of a talker, but he always had his reasons. As do I.

ANTHONY: Then tell me this if you know. Why did he buy that right of way?

ROSEMARY: Because your da came begging.

ANTHONY: You'd like to think so. My man just wanted a loan is all.

ROSEMARY: Either way.

ANTHONY: There was no hat in hand.

ROSEMARY: Bloody hell, his hand was out.

ANTHONY: Would you stand there and lord it over us?

ROSEMARY: Have you never heard of gratitude?

ANTHONY: I'll tell you what I've never heard. I've never heard a decent word from you or yours on the subject of your family's shortcoming!

ROSEMARY: Shortcoming? What shortcoming?

ANTHONY: Sure if you want I can name it! The Muldoon's *lar-deney*.

ROSEMARY: The Muldoon's what?

ANTHONY: It should wake you at night. What your people have done!

ROSEMARY: What WE'VE done? What have we done? You should thank Christ for a good neighbor!

ANTHONY: Bollocks to that! You've had us by the throat for thirty years with your landgrabbing and why? Why did your da want our right of way?

ROSEMARY (*Overlapping*): For me! For me! You eegit boy! You pushed me down, that's why! You shoved me down and left me crying in the yellow grass. And I would have mine back I would, and ran to my da. So now you have two gates between you and what's yours, and I hope you like it, because there's none to blame but yourself!

ANTHONY: You don't mean it.

ROSEMARY: I do.

ANTHONY: Jesus, Mary, it was you behind that?

ROSEMARY: You shoved me like I was nothing.

ANTHONY: I don't even remember the day.

ROSEMARY: I remember. And I own that parcel and you do not.

ANTHONY: You mean your mam.

ROSEMARY: No. Me. I own it. And I'll never sell it.

ANTHONY: Why not?

ROSEMARY: Because MY voice says no.

ANTHONY: Fine. Do what you want then. The lot of ya are too much for me altogether.

ROSEMARY: Because you won't fight for what's yours. Why don't you move to Wicklow? You could moon after your lost love till death takes you

ANTHONY: I'll ignore ya now.

ROSEMARY: Nothing new there.

ANTHONY: I don't understand you. Why bring up Fiona?

ROSEMARY: The Black Swan.

ANTHONY: What do you do with your time? Why have you never married?

ROSEMARY: Why haven't you?

ANTHONY: I was ruined after Fiona.

ROSEMARY: Fiona, Fiona.

ANTHONY: I know. But there it is.

ROSEMARY: Well, I'm thinking of going to China.

ANTHONY: Just like that.

ROSEMARY: That's right. In a flash.

ANTHONY: Fine. Have a nice trip. Take Lufthansa. When?

ROSEMARY: When I'm ready.

ANTHONY: The Olympics caught your fancy, hey?

ROSEMARY: I like the Chinese. They're proud.

ANTHONY: Why do you look at me when you say that?

ROSEMARY: Because your pride is where?

ANTHONY: What would I be proud about?

ROSEMARY: You're right. What would ya? I'm stumped.

ANTHONY: I'm just a long suffering man. It's no one's fault. I'm not to be understood, not even by me.

ROSEMARY: Oh, what are you now? Deep waters?

ANTHONY: I'm nothing. You saw your father gone as I have this day. Chris Muldoon gone! He was part of everything. Now that part's where? Like the fog wiped from a glass. And what am I, given that? A tiny thing certainly. Jesus. My own father scheming to rob me of my farm.

ROSEMARY: Then fight for it.

ANTHONY: Or wash my hands.

ROSEMARY: So you're Pontius Pilate?

ANTHONY: Maybe so. It's too much. There's no reward for the work I've done and it must be that I don't deserve any. It must be that I've done nothing right.

ROSEMARY: You mean you've done nothing.

ANTHONY: I'm mad tired for a man who's done nothing.

ROSEMARY: Then wake up and live. Oh, do what you want. You always have. And you see where it's gotten you. You're on the point of being pushed out.

ANTHONY: Pushed out? When was I in? Among people? They'd eat the legs out from under ya. You know. You know what?

I tell ya. I've had enough. I'm going flying.

ROSEMARY: Flying is it? Where's your wings?

ANTHONY: Walking, I mean.

ROSEMARY: Go then. Stay off the road.

ANTHONY: No road for me. Off into the fields. I'll see you at church. Or I won't. Turn off the lights when you're done.

ROSEMARY: Take note of your cattle. You're like a brother to them.

(Anthony is gone.)

ANTHONY *(Off)*: I'll see you at church.

ROSEMARY: "There's the green fields, and the animals living off them. And over that there's us, living off the animals. And over us there's that which tends to us." When you say those things, Anthony, I know that I have a soul.

(She heads back toward the house.)

Good luck to him. And to me.