

SPRUCEHAVEN B

Three dark tales

By Mark Cornell

Tell Me You Love Me

Characters: ISABEL, 30; TOMMY, 30

Time: Late October, 1995

A Thousand Shades of Black

Characters: FIST, 38; ANSEL, 26; NOAH, 26; ISABEL, 45

Time: Spring, 2010

Lemon Drop

Characters: JOHN, 51; ISABEL, 13; OFFICER SNODGRASS, 38

Time: August, 1978

*Notes on the play:*

*All three plays take place in the B cottage at the Sprucehaven Lodge on Bailey Island, Maine.*

*The actor playing FIST should also play OFFICER SNODGRASS. The actor playing TOMMY should also play NOAH. ISABEL in the first two plays should be played by the same actor. ISABEL at 13 should be played by a teenager. The play, then, requires four men and two women.*

*This play has interludes between plays one and two, and two and three. The stage crew should come on as "the maid service," and dress and behave as those characters.*

*This play should have intermissions during the two interludes between plays one and two, and two and three.*

JOHN (cont'd)  
You're my daughter.

  She fights to free herself. He pulls her all the way into his arms.

  ISABEL  
No! No! Noooooooo!

  JOHN  
You're my daughter.

  ISABEL  
Noo!

  He holds on with everything he's got, crying.

  JOHN  
You're my daughter...you're my daughter...you're my daughter...

  After a moment, he goes limp again. She frees herself. Just then, a pounding at the door. The handle rattles. Then OFFICER SNODGRASS explodes through.

  OFFICER SNODGRASS  
I heard screaming.

  She rushes to him. She embraces him. He does not return. He closes the door.

  OFFICER SNODGRASS (cont'd)  
What happened, Isabel?

  ISABEL  
I gave him the lemon drops.

  He inspects the body.

  OFFICER SNODGRASS  
You really fucked up.

  ISABEL  
But I brought him here, like you said, if I was ever found. I gave him the lemon drops, like you told me to do, Daddy.

  OFFICER SNODGRASS  
You should never have allowed yourself to be caught. You compromised everything.

ISABEL  
But I did what you told me to do.

OFFICER SNODGRASS  
What does he know?

ISABEL  
Nothing.

OFFICER SNODGRASS  
You've been alone together, in here, for almost an hour.  
What did you talk about?

ISABEL  
I...

OFFICER SNODGRASS  
What?

ISABEL  
He tricked me.

He turns, cold-blooded, and looks at  
her.

OFFICER SNODGRASS  
What do you mean?

ISABEL  
He tricked me. He knows who you are.

OFFICER SNODGRASS  
Oh, Isabel. You *really* fucked up.

ISABEL  
He was talking in circles. I got confused!

OFFICER SNODGRASS  
I'm going to need you to do something.

ISABEL  
What?

OFFICER SNODGRASS  
He knows. No one can know.

ISABEL  
What does that mean?

OFFICER SNODGRASS  
You've been traumatized. You weren't thinking straight. You  
got into a fight. You hit him.

ISABEL

*What are you talking about?*

OFFICER SNODGRASS

I want you to finish him off.

ISABEL can't respond. He looks around the room.

OFFICER SNODGRASS (cont'd)

There's several loose stones from the fireplace. Grab one.

ISABEL

And do what?

OFFICER SNODGRASS

Grab it!

She does.

OFFICER SNODGRASS (cont'd)

Kill him, Isabel.

ISABEL

What?

OFFICER SNODGRASS

No one can know about me.

She looks at him, then down at her father.

OFFICER SNODGRASS (cont'd)

Do it.

She hesitates, getting emotional.

ISABEL

*Daddy, please.*

OFFICER SNODGRASS

He never loved you, never hugged you, or spent any time with you. It was like you didn't exist.

Suddenly, she brings down the rock, cracking her father's skull.

OFFICER SNODGRASS (cont'd)

Keep going.

She hits her father again. And again. Blood flies. She stops.

Very good. OFFICER SNODGRASS (cont'd)

ISABEL seems deeply traumatized.

ISABEL

Can we go now?

OFFICER SNODGRASS

No. I have to arrest you.

ISABEL

Why?

OFFICER SNODGRASS

You killed him.

ISABEL

You told me to do it!

OFFICER SNODGRASS

So?

ISABEL

I want to go back home with you!

OFFICER SNODGRASS

You can't come back now. You're a killer. And you have your period.

ISABEL

No...no, I don't. I was just pretending.

OFFICER SNODGRASS

You have your period.

ISABEL

I don't!

OFFICER SNODGRASS

You're all grown up.

ISABEL

I thought you like me grown up!

OFFICER SNODGRASS

You're not the sweet, precious thing I once knew. Not even close. I'm going to call for backup.

He turns away, pulls out his walkie-talkie, and...

OFFICER SNODGRASS (cont'd)

This is Snodgrass. I'm going to need back-up. And an ambulance. There's been a terrible, terrible-

He can't get out the rest of it. ISABEL comes up behind him and strikes him with the stone in the back of the head. He falls, stunned. On the floor, he turns to look up at her.

OFFICER SNODGRASS (cont'd)

Isabel...?

Falling on top of him, she hits him again. And again. Until he is no longer moving. She rolls off, breathing hard. She drops the stone. She is dazed. She sits on the floor, confused, traumatized. She just breathes and stares out at nothing, book-ended by the two bludgeoned bodies. The lights slowly fade out.