

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.*

He gets it for her. She closes the curtains. He puts the coat over her shoulders.

ISABEL

Thanks.

They look at each other.

ISABEL (cont'd)

It's good to see you.

TOMMY

Yeah. It is. (beat) How is everything?

ISABEL

You mean, now that I'm outta the nut house?

TOMMY

Don't say that.

ISABEL

I'd forgotten how much I hated livin' with my mother. All we talk about is pottery. It's pure hell. The only plus is with my brother bein' in prison, she got other people to rag on besides me.

TOMMY

You workin'?

ISABEL

Part-time over at Bowdoin. Financial aid stuff. Beyond boring. (beat) Hey, I saw that Cuddy's had closed down.

TOMMY

Yeah. Last spring. Everyone started goin' to O'Hara's instead.

ISABEL

Went by the Project. They still gettin' good bands?

He moves away from the window.

TOMMY

What're we doin', Isabel? I mean, what're we doin' here?

ISABEL

What'ya mean?

TOMMY

I ain't never cheated on Samantha.

ISABEL

Technically, you been cheatin' on me. With her. We are still married after all.

TOMMY

Only 'cause I can't get you to sign the fuckin' paperwork. Like today. Only reason we met today at O'Hara's was to-

ISABEL

Hey, I can't help it if you can't resist lycra. (beat) You never brought her here, have you?

TOMMY

Samantha? No. No. She don't even know this place exists.

ISABEL

She don't know about Sprucehaven B?

TOMMY

No. This place got a lotta fuckin' history.

ISABEL

Hey, look!

She rushes to the stone around the stove.

ISABEL (cont'd)

It's still here!

She touches a finger to a place in one of the stones.

ISABEL (cont'd)

Look! "IT." Isabel Tommy. I-T. "IT."

She looks around the room.

ISABEL (cont'd)

This place has so many memories, doesn't it?

She giggles at the thought of it all.

ISABEL (cont'd)

We've been bad in here, haven't we? Like rock stars.

He notices something else.

TOMMY

Ah, shit, we broke the wooden moose.

He inspects, then looks around the room.

TOMMY (cont'd)

You know what? I'm gonna straighten up a bit. Don't wanna look like total assholes, do we? Piss off the maids? Those three sisters would break us both in half. They still work here, don't they?

TOMMY cleans up, rights the lamp, corrals the pillows, etc. ISABEL doesn't help.

ISABEL

Remember the first time we came here?

TOMMY

Sure. Right after the homecomin' game.

ISABEL

Some game. Your big pass. Then, after. You an' me. King an' Queen. You were so hot.

TOMMY

Were. Now I'm just pudgy.

ISABEL

Got here 'bout midnight. That first time was so...wild. Wasn't the video awesome?

TOMMY

You were a little hell-cat. 'course you were always a hell-cat.

ISABEL

(demure)

Me?

TOMMY

You always made me feel a little...you know, wicked nervous.

ISABEL

Oh, please.

TOMMY

Izzy, I'd never been with but one other girl when we hooked up.

ISABEL

Huh?

TOMMY

I was never what everybody made me out to be. Why're we talkin' about all this anyway? The past is the past. The cheerin' has stopped. I paint houses now. I don't throw touchdowns.

ISABEL

Samantha has cast some spell. She a witch or somethin'?

TOMMY

Look, what happened then is over. I don't wanna be one of those people who peaked at 17. I only just turned 30. It's all still in front of me.

ISABEL

But nothin's ever gonna be as good as it was back then.

TOMMY

Are we talkin' about me? Or you?

ISABEL

Not a day goes by that somebody doesn't mention the state title an' that game against Mount Blue when we were losin', like, 35-0 at half an' you almost single-handedly-

TOMMY

So what? No colleges lined up to get me. Not even Bowdoin.

ISABEL

Yeah, but-

TOMMY

Just stop, OK? Stop. I'm nobody, Izzy. The newspapers don't call me no more. OK? I don't get high-fives on the street. Guys like me get replaced. Forget football. An' forget our old friends. Because I know you. You're gonna start in like we're all still best pals. They're gone. Randy's up in The County an' Lisa is a teacher down in Portland an' Mike got religious an' is off in Africa convertin' the natives. We ain't in high school no more.

ISABEL

I know.

TOMMY

Then move on, Izzy. From all of it. This is you. This is me. We are where we are. I'm with Sam. An' you...you should go out an' find someone. Right? You could hook up again with Snodgrass.

ISABEL

That's a terrible thing to say to me.

TOMMY

I'm sorry. You seen him lately?

ISABEL

No.