

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.

TOMMY

Guy walks around town leanin' to his left. Side of his head all caved in. Hair still ain't grown back none.

Finished cleaning, he goes into the kitchenette and opens the fridge.

TOMMY (cont'd)

Moxie an' red hot dogs. How perfectly Maine. Jesus fuckin' Christ. Like this shit the only thing we got in the whole fuckin' state.

He closes the fridge. The wind howls outside, shakes the cabin.

TOMMY (cont'd)

Man, it's blowin' a gale, ain't it?

ISABEL

So who was the one?

TOMMY

One? One what?

ISABEL

The one other girl you'd been with. You said you'd only been with one other girl before me. Who was she?

TOMMY

Come on, Izzy. What'd I just say? It's pointless livin' in the past.

ISABEL

We been married for 10 years, together for 13. Today you tell me there weren't a bunch of girls before me...you could at least tell me who-

TOMMY

It was Samantha.

Beat. She is surprised.

ISABEL

Samantha? I thought you told me she's from up near Lewiston.

TOMMY

She is. Sophomore year I went with my parents up there for some regional sports awards supper thing. She worked in the kitchen. (beat) I'm sorry. I should go.

He looks at the clock on the wall.

TOMMY (cont'd)

Jesus, is that really what time it is?

He goes for his things.

ISABEL

Don't go, please.

TOMMY

I have to. Got the papers in my coat. I want you to sign them.

He gets his shoes, puts them on.

ISABEL

Tommy...

TOMMY

I gotta go, Izzy. I'm serious. Ain't got a lotta time.

ISABEL

You just got here.

TOMMY

So? I'm leavin'.

ISABEL

Don't.

TOMMY

I have to.

ISABEL

I'm sayin' *don't*.

TOMMY

I want you to sign the papers.
(looking)
Where's my jacket?

ISABEL

Tommy.

TOMMY

I'm fuckin' goin'!

ISABEL

NO!!

In a rage, she grabs two fistfuls of her own hair and yanks them out.

TOMMY

Jesus, Izzy.

She looks down at the clumps of hair in her hands. He goes to her. She cries a little.

TOMMY (cont'd)

Fuck.

He inspects her head.

ISABEL

I'm sorry.

TOMMY

You're scarin' me here. Pullin' your fuckin' hair out?

ISABEL

Oh, well.

(laughing it off)

Crazy me. Is it bad?

TOMMY

It ain't great.

She just looks at him. Sad.

ISABEL

Samantha enjoyin' the house?

TOMMY

Izzy...

ISABEL

Has she changed much of it?

TOMMY

You wanna talk about the house? You just pulled clumps of hair outta your head.

ISABEL

Has she changed it?

TOMMY

Ah, shit. You tell me. See you sittin' outside in your car half the time starin' at it like you're doin' a fuckin' appraisal.

ISABEL

What? I don't do that-

TOMMY

We're gonna get a new place. OK?

ISABEL

You are?

TOMMY

She knows there's a story in everything. Yesterday she was rootin' around in the kitchen an' went totally gloomy over that stupid piece of honeycomb we got from that beekeeper up in Brewer.

ISABEL

What'd you tell her?

TOMMY

She didn't ask. An' I didn't want to tell her nothin'.

ISABEL

You don't talk about me?

TOMMY

Come on, Izzy. Would that be smart?

ISABEL

She don't know about Crawley Manor?

TOMMY

Everybody knows about that, Izzy.

ISABEL

She must wonder why you stopped comin' to see me.

TOMMY

I came to see you for three years. You know how many times they'd tell me you didn't wanna come outta your room? You pushed me away. What was I supposed to-

ISABEL

I had a breakdown!

Outside, night has set in. It begins to snow.

ISABEL (cont'd)

I miss you, Tommy. I miss us. It gets lonely with my mother.

TOMMY

What happened, Izzy? I'm up at St. Charles paintin' the rectory an' I get a call that my wife is in jail for climbin' up to the top of the Swingin' Bridge an' the next thing I know you're out in a fuckin' sanitarium.

ISABEL

Everything I knew was slippin' through my fingers. You sent me down to New York for some culinary school. I hated it there. An' you made me stick it out.

TOMMY

You just can't do it, can you?

ISABEL

(crushed)

What?

TOMMY

Do yourself a favor, Izzy. Get outta the past. Get outta your mother's house. Get outta this town. I am.

ISABEL

What does that mean?

TOMMY

Nothin'.

ISABEL

Yeah, it does-

TOMMY

Sam an' me are movin' to Boston.

ISABEL

Boston? Like Boston, Massachusetts?

TOMMY

No, the Boston up in Nova Scotia. Yeah, Boston, Massachusetts. OK? *The Boston.*

She sits. Discards the pom-poms.

ISABEL

Oh. So this new place you're talkin' about gettin' ain't in Brunswick?

She starts chewing her fingernails.

TOMMY

My cousin's got a paintin' company down there. He's been buggin' me to come down. There's no work here, Izzy. Brunswick is dead. This job in Topsham is the first time I've worked since August.

ISABEL

When're you gonna do this?

TOMMY

I don't know. Soon. Couple months.

ISABEL

That *is* soon. You even gonna tell me?

TOMMY

Of course.

ISABEL

When? After you got there? You can't do this to me, Tommy.

TOMMY

Sam's got family down there, too. OK? They said they'd help us get a house. A bigger house. She wants kids.

ISABEL

Oh.

TOMMY

I ain't gonna feel bad about this. I'm leavin'. I got the papers here in my jacket.

He finds his jacket, gets out the papers.

TOMMY (cont'd)

I want you to sign. Now don't do nothin' crazy, OK? (beat) Izzy?

ISABEL

Look, it's dark, it's startin' to snow. It won't be safe. Road back'll be slick.

TOMMY

I'll risk it. I don't got a lotta time.

ISABEL

Where you gotta be so badly? You meetin' Samantha someplace?

TOMMY

At The Pelican. For supper.

Beat. She gets especially somber.

ISABEL

You're celebratin'.

TOMMY

Don't put it like that.

ISABEL

Your freedom.

He puts the papers down on the table. Slaps a pen down.

TOMMY

I want you to sign, Izzy. I don't wanna hound you about this no more.

ISABEL

Hound me? I've only been out of Crawley two months.

TOMMY

Izzy. Please! I'm beggin' you!

ISABEL

I just want to matter. That's all. Every person should matter. I am here. Do you understand me? I am here, too.

TOMMY

I wanna get out of here, *Izzy!* You've had this sick love affair with this place for years! I never liked it here, *Izzy!* I never did! It creep me the fuck out!

He grabs the pen and holds it out.

TOMMY (cont'd)

Now sign the goddamn papers!

She looks at him coldly, then:

ISABEL

Fine. (beat) On one condition.

TOMMY

Ah, Jesus. What?

She backs up towards the bed.

TOMMY (cont'd)

What're you doin'?

She removes her coat and puts it on the bed.

ISABEL

One last time.

TOMMY

You kiddin'? I can't. It's too late. I gotta go.

ISABEL

You came here for it, didn'cha?

She sits down on the bed. Scoots up towards the pillows.

TOMMY

Yeah, but-...*I want you to sign the papers, Izzy!*