

THE OLD MAN: (to EDDIE) Boy, is she ever off the wall with this one. You gotta' do somethin' about this.

MAY: The funny thing was, that almost as soon as we'd found him — he disappeared. She was only with him about two weeks before he just vanished. Nobody saw him after that. Ever. And my mother — just turned herself inside out. I never could understand that. I kept watching her grieve, as though somebody'd died. She'd pull herself up into a ball and just stare at the floor. And I couldn't understand that because I was feeling the exact opposite feeling. I was in love, see. I'd come home after school, after being with Eddie, and I was filled with this joy and there she'd be — standing in the middle of the kitchen staring at the sink. Her eyes looked like a funeral. And I didn't know what to say. I didn't even feel sorry for her. All I could think of was him.

THE OLD MAN: (to EDDIE) She's gettin' way outa' line, here.

MAY: And all he could think of was me. Isn't that right, Eddie. We couldn't take a breath without thinking of each other. We couldn't eat if we weren't together. We couldn't sleep. We got sick at night when we were apart. Violently sick. And my mother even took me to see a doctor. And Eddie's mother took him to see the same doctor but the doctor had no idea what was wrong with us. He thought it was the flu or something. And Eddie's mother had no idea what was wrong with him. But my mother — my mother knew exactly what was wrong. She knew it clear down to her bones. She recognized

every symptom. And she begged me not to see him but I wouldn't listen. Then she begged Eddie not to see me but he wouldn't listen. Then she went to Eddie's mother and begged her. And Eddie's mother — (Pause. She looks straight at EDDIE) — Eddie's mother blew her brains out. Didn't she, Eddie? Blew her brains right out.

START

THE OLD MAN: (Standing. He moves from the platform onto the stage, between EDDIE and MAY.) Now, wait a second! Wait a second. Just a goddamn second here. This story doesn't hold water. (To EDDIE who stays seated.) You're not gonna' let her off the hook with that one are ya'? That's the dumbest version I ever heard in my whole life. She never blew her brains out. Nobody ever told me that. Where the hell did that come from? (To EDDIE who remains seated) Stand up! Get on yer feet now goddamn it! I wanna' hear the male side a' this thing. You gotta' represent me now. Speak on my behalf. There's no one to speak for me now! Stand up!

(EDDIE stands slowly. Stares at OLD MAN)

Now tell her. Tell her the way it happened. We've got a pact. Don't forget that.

EDDIE: (calmly to OLD MAN) It was your shotgun. Same one we used to duck hunt with. Browning. She never fired a gun before in her life. That was her first time.

THE OLD MAN: Nobody told me any a' that. I was left completely in the dark.

EDDIE: You were gone.

THE OLD MAN: Somebody could've found me! Somebody could've hunted me down. I wasn't that impossible to find.

EDDIE: You were gone.

THE OLD MAN: That's right, I was gone! I was gone. You're right. But I wasn't disconnected. There was nothing cut off in me. Everything went on just the same as though I'd never left. *(to MAY)* But your mother —your mother wouldn't give it up, would she?

*(THE OLD MAN moves toward MAY and speaks directly to her. MAY keeps her eyes on EDDIE who very slowly turns toward her in the course of THE OLD MAN'S speech. Once their eyes meet they never leave each other's gaze.)*

THE OLD MAN: *(to MAY)* She drew me to her. She went out of her way to draw me in. She was a force. I told her I'd never come across for her. I told her that right from the very start. But she opened up to me. She wouldn't listen. She kept opening up her heart to me. How could I turn her down when she loved me like that? How could I turn away from her? We were completely whole.

*(EDDIE and MAY just stand there staring at each other. THE OLD MAN moves back to EDDIE. Speaks to him directly.)*

THE OLD MAN: *(to EDDIE)* What're you doin'? Speak to her. Bring her around to our side. You gotta' make her see this thing in a clear light.

*(Very slowly EDDIE and MAY move toward each other.)*

END

THE OLD MAN: *(to EDDIE)* Stay away from her! What the hell are you doin'! Keep away from her! You two can't come together! You gotta hold up my end a' this deal. I got nobody now! Nobody! You can't betray me! You gotta' represent me now! You're my son!

*(EDDIE and MAY come together center stage. They embrace. They kiss each other tenderly. Headlights suddenly arc across stage again from upright, cutting across the stage through window then disappearing off left. Sound of loud collision, shattering glass, an explosion. Bright orange and blue light of a gasoline fire suddenly illuminates upstage window. Then sounds of horses screaming wildly, hooves galloping on pavement, fading, then total silence. Light of gas fire continues now to end of play. EDDIE and MAY never stop holding each other through all this. Long pause. No one moves. Then MARTIN stands and moves upstage to window, peers out through Venetian blinds. Pause.)*

MARTIN: *(upstage at window, looking out into flames)* Is that your truck with the horse trailer out there?

EDDIE: *(stays with MAY)* Yeah.

MARTIN: It's on fire.

EDDIE: Yeah.

MARTIN: All the horses are loose.

EDDIE: *(steps back away from MAY)* Yeah, I figured.