

“Ponytail”
A Play in Two Acts
Written by Kevin T. Baldwin

CAST

SEAMUS "PONYTAIL" O'DONOVAN - Insurance investigator, former drummer for a well-known Irish rock and roll band, the “Pony Tales”. Mild Irish brogue. The band’s trademark was the long ponytail worn by all its members. Sometimes referred to as “Pony”. Married a total of four times, but his true love is his current wife, Gail.

ADALYNN ROSE WINCHESTER - Seamus’s 11 year-old niece from a small farming community on an island off the coast of Ireland. She has long hair tied in a ponytail. Stronger Irish accent. She is extremely smart but also in mourning over the loss of her parents so sometimes she comes off a bit cross. New to America she is like a fish out of water.

MARCUS EDELSTEIN - Seamus’s enthusiastic and ambitious young partner. American.

DOMINIC ROUSSOS - Wealthy Greek importer-exporter. Wife dies in hospital and Seamus investigates. Mild Greek accent.

GAIL O'DONOVAN - Seamus’s fourth wife, an American. Suffered from a damaged kidney and is on medication. Devout Catholic. Full of love.

FR. MATHIAS MALOBICKY – Scottish Pastor at Gail’s church. Mild Scottish brogue.

CLAUDIA ESTRADA - Father Mathias’s Latino housekeeper who helps out at Seamus’s place after Gail’s death. Strong Latino accent.

PRINCIPAL HECTOR OWENS - Principal at Adalynn Rose’s school. Can be modified to suit multicultural casting purposes.

DR. EVELYN PIASECKI – School psychiatrist at Adalynn Rose’s school. Can be modified to suit multicultural casting purposes.

SONDRA MINX - Nurse at hospital, aka “Minxie” - Can be modified to suit multicultural casting purposes.

TOM CARNEY – Gail’s brother. Slender build. Attractive. Lead singer and flamboyant front man for Seamus’s old rock band. Tom abandoned rock to become an underground Northern Irish radical. Still sought by international authorities, Tom has been in hiding for years.

SUNSHINE SIMMS - Oldest of Seamus's estranged daughters. An alcoholic. Married with four children.

RAINBOW CHAMBERLAIN - One of Seamus's estranged daughters. In a lesbian relationship.

WILLOW SKYE O'DONOVAN - Youngest of Seamus's estranged daughters. Unemployed.

REESE DUPUIS – Older medical examiner. Can be modified to suit multicultural casting purposes.

NEWS ANCHOR – Typical television or radio newscaster. Can be offstage voice or modified to suit multicultural casting purposes at director's discretion.

Time: 2013

Setting: The Town of Millborough

Act 1, Scene 1 - Millborough Hospital Room

(LIGHTS UP, a typical modern hospital room, replete with intravenous drip with stand, heart monitor and other medical equipment. There is a vase filled with flowers. There is a door leading into the room center stage at the rear. On the door is the number "769". In the hospital bed is a female VICTIM, deceased, and eyes frozen open with blood streamed down on either side of her mouth. A MEDICAL EXAMINER, REESE DUPUIS, is walking around measuring; taking photographs of the body while insurance investigator SEAMUS "PONYTAIL" O'DONOVAN and his partner MARCUS EDELSTEIN examine the area looking for clues. MARCUS turns the deceased's head to get a better look and her body falls over face down in the bed.)

DUPUIS - Edelstein! Jesus, Christ!

EDELSTEIN - Oh, dear.

SEAMUS – (In a mild Irish brogue) Edelstein, what're you doin' to the poor woman, man?

DUPUIS - Would you please be careful? I don't need you guys messing things up here.

EDELSTEIN – I'm Sorry! I'm Sorry!

SEAMUS - Look, Reese, I apologize. It won't happen again. The lad's new.

DUPUIS - At this rate the "lad" ain't gonna be old. The police said your company is here solely at the discretion of the medical examiner's office, MY discretion. and I swear if you two so much as sneeze on any evidence...

EDELSTEIN - Sneeze? (Thinks about it, then feels a sneeze come on) I wish you hadn't said that.

DUPUIS – Stop that! (EDELSTEIN holds in his sneeze) Look, I know how you insurance guys like to tamper with evidence, but that's not going to happen. Not on my watch. Got it?

SEAMUS - Tamper? Nonononono....(In an intentionally over exaggerated Irish brogue) Perish the thought. Sure'n that's the last thing we want to do. Marcus, me boyo, did you bring the bloodied glove and the carving knife?

EDELSTEIN – Sorry, I left it in the car next to your corned beef and cabbage, Seamus.

SEAMUS - Then I guess we'll have to pretend we're the police and...plant something else.

DUPUIS - (After a beat) I hate you. I hate you both.

(NURSE SONDR A MINX enters from the hospital room door)

MINX - Mr. Dupuis, the orderlies are here to take the body to the morgue. Will you be done soon?

DUPUIS – Just a moment, Nurse. (To SEAMUS and EDELSTEIN) All right, now listen very carefully, you two. Mrs. Roussos’s husband is waiting outside. He’s not only a grieving husband he’s a powerful man. If I leave you two clowns alone for two teensy-weensie minutes while I go talk with him, do you think you can keep from, oh, I don’t know, “up-ending” the poor woman’s body a second time?

SEAMUS and EDELSTEIN – (After a beat, then simultaneously) No promises.

DUPUIS – (Sighs) I truly do. I hate you both. I need coffee. (Exits out the hospital room door)

EDELSTEIN – (Smiles at MINX) Hey, Sondra.

MINX – (Disinterested) Edelstein.

SEAMUS – (Smiles at MINX) Hey, Minxie.

MINX – (Smiling, waves at SEAMUS upon her exit) Hey, Pony.

(EDELSTEIN turns to SEAMUS)

EDELSTEIN - Now that’s not fair. She won’t even give me the time of day but she’ll flirt with you. I gotta get a car. All I want is a nice hot car and a good woman. And how come she can call you "Pony" but I can’t?

SEAMUS – (Still examining areas of the room) Because she’s a fan. She remembers me.

EDELSTEIN - So what? I remember you.

SEAMUS - From oldies radio. She actually went to one of our shows.

EDELSTEIN - What? How? When she was two? She and I are practically the same age.

SEAMUS – (Looking at prescription medications near the bed) One of the reunion concerts.

EDELSTEIN - Which you probably gave her tickets to, I suppose?

SEAMUS - (Examining prescription medications by the bed) Well, I always like to help out a fan.

EDELSTEIN – Cute. (Continuing to examine evidence around the body of the VICTIM) Was this in between wives numbers two and three or three and four?

SEAMUS - (After a beat) Three and four. (After another beat) I think. I lose track.

EDELSTEIN – Hey, why’d you guys break up, anyway? The band I mean. Not the wives.

SEAMUS – Because I wanted to enjoy a more lucrative career in insurance claim investigations and answer endless stupid questions from my junior partner.

EDELSTEIN – You know you give me a lot of shit?

SEAMUS – Everyone needs a hobby.

EDELSTEIN - It’s because I’m a Republican, ain’t it? Or didn’t you have your second cup of coffee today?

SEAMUS – I toldja only one cup a day. That’s all she’ll let me have. I swear she knows when I’ve had more than one.

EDELSTEIN – You’re paranoid.

SEAMUS – Mebbe so. (Changing the subject) This “Marogen” for dialysis. What was on the dosage chart for the deceased?

EDELSTEIN – (Checking his notes) There was none. They’d usually grind it up and give it to Mrs. Roussos before her treatment would begin.

SEAMUS - Right. And what about all these other meds?

EDELSTEIN - I'm having toxicology check them out. (DOMINIC ROUSSOS enters into the room from the hospital room door)

SEAMUS – Look at all these meds. She was on more junk than Keith Richards.

ROUSSOS – (In a mild Greek accent) Sofia was in renal failure. (SEAMUS and EDELSTEIN notice ROUSSOS, surprised) The medications were prescribed for her by her physician.

MINX - (Enters hurriedly) I'm sorry, Mr. Roussos. These men are from the insurance company.

ROUSSOS - Totally understandable. The hospital must protect itself. Just good business. I was just coming to see if they had come for my wife yet?

MINX - They'll be bringing her down as soon as these gentlemen are through.

SEAMUS - We're through, Sondra. You can have them come in now. (MINX exits)

ROUSSOS – Your discretion is appreciated, gentlemen.

SEAMUS – No problem at all, sir. (Shows him one of the prescription bottles) I'm, eh, familiar with this one. My wife used to take it at home.

ROUSSOS – Really? She was on dialysis?

SEAMUS – Not permanently, thank the Lord. She lost a kidney and had some problems with the transplant. But she's much better these days. (After a beat) Y'see, while I can't understand the depth of your loss, Mr. Roussos, I do understand what you and your wife must have been going through. I'm certainly glad she is out of her pain.

ROUSSOS – (Graciously) You're very kind, thank you.

SEAMUS – Aye. During that time I learned more about these meds than I ever thought I'd have to know. (Puts the bottle back where he found it) Surely I never thought I'd see this stuff again.

ROUSSOS - I learned everything I could about her treatment, so I could help her. However, I, too, feel it is a knowledge, an area of expertise, if you will, that I wish I didn't possess.

SEAMUS – (Looks at ROUSSOS curiously) Aye. (Hands ROUSSOS a business card) Here.

(GAIL enters from stage left, isolated)

GAIL – (Earnest, American accent) It couldn't wait. I called him on his cell.

SEAMUS – (Continuing) If you can think of any information that might be useful in our investigation, here's my number. (Cellular phone is ringing) Damn. I'm truly sorry for your loss, Mr. Roussos.

ROUSSOS - Dominic, please.

SEAMUS - Dominic. I better get this. (Answers his phone) Hello? (Beat) Gail? What is it? Are you okay? (A longer beat) Caleb? What about him? (A longer beat) I see. (Slowly moves toward stage left, isolated as the stage darkens around him) Was Jeanne and the kid at home with him, then? (Beat) Just Jeanne. (Beat) How'd the fire start? (Beat) Where's Ada now? (Beat) Fine. Adalynn Rose. Where is she? (Beat) Okay. I'm coming right home. We'll figure it out. We'll figure it out. (Still speaking into the phone, SEAMUS begins to cross far left into darkness) What else did the garda (police) say? (LIGHTS DIM as TRANSITION to Act 1, Scene 2 take place as GAIL enters from far stage left, isolated)

GAIL – I swear he got home practically seconds after I got off the phone with him. He loved Caleb and Jeanne, although he hadn't seen them in many, many years. There were so many phone calls to make. Funeral arrangements. Lawyers to consult. Memorial services to schedule. (After a beat) And one...big...decision to make. It was a "no brainer" as far as I was concerned, but Lord, we must have argued for days on what steps to take. Finally I convinced Pony what had to be done. I explained to him that, ultimately, there's only one decision ever to be made in life. The right one.
(LIGHTS DIM)

Act 1, Scene 2 – Millborough Airport, Aer Lingus Terminal

(Airport sounds as LIGHTS UP. A panel with the words "AER LINGUS" and airline flight information is far stage right. The panel moves off right and reveals an 11 year-old girl, ADALYNN ROSE, standing behind it. She is wearing a coat and carrying a large suitcase. SEAMUS returns from far stage left. His clothing has changed slightly to indicate that some time has passed. He stands and waits far stage left near a bench. While he waits a TRAVELER approaches holding an autograph book. Quietly and politely the TRAVELER asks SEAMUS for his autograph. He signs it and then the TRAVELER exits off right. He turns and sees ADALYNN ROSE. He does not recognize her at first but after a long, awkward pause realizes who she must be. He slowly approaches her)

SEAMUS - Hey, kid. You Ada?

ADALYNN ROSE - (In an Irish accent) Come again?

SEAMUS – Oh. Aye. Eh, I'm not some sort of weirdo. I'm here to pick up my niece, Ada Winchester. They told me at the information desk to meet her here.

ADALYNN ROSE - Me name isn't Ada.

SEAMUS – Oh? (Thinking he's made a mistake) Oh. Well, then...(Begins to exit off left)

ADALYNN ROSE - It's Adalynn Rose.

SEAMUS – (Turns back to her) Ada...lynn...Rose. Boy, that's a mouthful, ain't it? (Laughs, then looks at her) Whoa, boy. I didn't see it before.

ADALYNN ROSE - What?

SEAMUS - (Awkwardly) You...you look just like your dad.

ADALYNN ROSE – I don't remember the last time I saw you.

SEAMUS – Well, that's because we've never met. But, well, I'm...Seamus. I'm...your Uncle...Seamus. Seamus O'Donovan. Your uncle.

ADALYNN ROSE – Are you Irish? Or do all Americans talk like you?

SEAMUS – (Curious) Are you being funny, dearie, or is that a real question?

ADALYNN ROSE – I've never traveled, and I've never met an American.

SEAMUS – Yeah, well, I've never traveled to the Aran Islands, and I'm from Ireland. But not every American travels to Washington D.C., now do they?

ADALYNN ROSE – I dunno.

SEAMUS - I'm what you call an Irish-American. Lived here for over 25 years. Stayed on after the '89 tour.

ADALYNN ROSE – The what?

SEAMUS – The '89 tour. In me band.

ADALYNN ROSE – Oh, aye. Dad mentioned something about a band...once.

SEAMUS – (Astounded) Once? Only once? We was world famous. (Proudly) I was drummer and the birds fell all over for me. (Awkwardly) Um...You want me autograph?

ADALYNN ROSE – (Looks at him for a second then shakes her head) No. What's an autograph?

SEAMUS – You're ten years old and...

ADALYNN ROSE – Eleven.

SEAMUS – Your eleven years old and you don't know what an autograph is? (She shakes her head) Craic. Well, ehh...it's a, y'know, a signature. Me name.

ADALYNN ROSE – Your name?

SEAMUS – Right. Me name.

ADALYNN ROSE – Why would I want your name?

SEAMUS - Well, I said I was in a band...used to be famous.

ADALYNN ROSE – And...are you now?

SEAMUS - (After a beat) I...guess not. (Long awkward pause, then) Okay, then.

Uhh...Want to have a seat? Or maybe you're hungry? You look a wee bit jagged. We can stop and get a bite to eat before we leave.

(ADALYNN ROSE shakes her head indicating she's not hungry. She crosses past SEAMUS to the bench and has a seat. SEAMUS slowly walks past her and sits on the opposite side of the bench. There is another long, awkward silence, then)

ADALYNN ROSE - You say you're me Uncle Seamus?

SEAMUS - Aye. Seamus O'Donovan. When the wife is angry she uses me full name and I tend to run fer cover. (imitating GAIL as a TOURIST crosses nearby) Seamus Clancy O'Donovan! (The TOURIST looks at SEAMUS) Hello. How are ye doin'? Nice day. Right. Off ye go, then. (The TOURIST continues off and exits the stage)

ADALYNN ROSE - And you're me dad's brother?

SEAMUS - Yeah.

ADALYNN ROSE - (Thinking, points to SEAMUS) O'Donovan. (Points to herself) Winchester. How come we don't have the same last name?

SEAMUS - We was half-brothers, him and me. Same father, different mothers. Me father and me had only one thing in common. Lotsa women. Lotsa wives. Not your father, though. No, Yer auld lad we was a good skin. A one-man-woman kind of fella, ye might say. Once he met yer mum, that was it.

ADALYNN ROSE - I've never met ANY of dad's side of the family.

SEAMUS - Well unfortunately they're all gone, now, passed away. You see, when me father remarried and his wife had your dad, he was already pretty well up there in years. He died before you were born. His widow, your dad's mum, remarried a guy named Winchester and Caleb took his last name. They both died a while back.

ADALYNN ROSE - Oh, that's so sad.

SEAMUS - Yeah, well, at least I had me a good bro there for awhile. When he d...(realizing he should probably steer away from the "death" topic) I'm boring you, I can tell. (Rising) You wanna just go, then?

ADALYNN ROSE – I still don't get why you was famous?

SEAMUS - What?

ADALYNN ROSE – Your band. What was it they did that made you all famous?

SEAMUS - (Making a big show biz style introduction) Ladies and Gentlemen! Introducing...the "Pony Tales"! (Looks at her hoping to spot some recognition, but there is none) Anything? Nothing? No?

ADALYNN ROSE – Did...did you have...ponies?

SEAMUS - (Shakes his head, a little taken aback by the question) No, we didn't have actual ponies. It was just a name. We all wore our hair in ponytails like this (indicating his long ponytail), see? Get it? Pony? Tales? Pony tales? It was like we was cowboys, telling stories through song.

ADALYNN ROSE - Oh. (After a beat) I don't get it.

SEAMUS – (Giving up) Skip it. (Feigning humility) People, well, fans, really, still sometimes call me "Pony". (After a beat) You, umm, want to call me Pony?

ADALYNN ROSE - (Not understanding, shakes her head) No. Why?

SEAMUS - (Realizing he's not impressing her) Skip it. (Thinks then, trying a different tact, confidently says) Let's try it this way. Y'ever hear of...the Beatles?

ADALYNN ROSE – (A little excited) Yes.

SEAMUS - (Self deprecating, bursting his own bubble) Yeah, well we weren't that famous. But we had a few hits. I wrote some but Caleb was the one with the real writing talent. I always wanted to be as good as he was. They talk about the luck of the Irish? He truly had the luck of the Irish. We toured all over the world. We even toured with U-2 and Them.

ADALYNN ROSE – Me, too and who?

SEAMUS – (Mildly annoyed) Not Who, Them. and not you, too. U-2.(ADALYNN ROSE looks at SEAMUS not knowing what he is talking about) U-2? Biggest Irish rock band ever? The band U- (Stops. Looks at ADALYNN ROSE realizing she does not understand) Skip it. Your dad was on our road crew. It was while we were on tour back home in Galway Bay that he met your mum and decided to stay in Ireland.

ADALYNN ROSE - How come you didn't stay, as well?

SEAMUS – (Sits back down) Well, because America became me home. My life was here with my wives...uh, wife. Like I said, I'm married. Very married. Boy have I been married. Gigs stopped coming in the early nineties. I took a job as with an insurance company and I've been doing that ever since.

ADALYNN ROSE - So you were famous, but now you're NOT famous anymore?

SEAMUS – Well, I guess when you put it that way...No. Not so much. (After a beat) Nope. Gail, y'know, she's waiting on us at home. (Stands up) She had me come and get you. We should get goin'. Ye sure you're not hungry?

ADALYNN ROSE - (Curious, realizing it may not have been SEAMUS's idea to take her in) She...told you to come get me?

SEAMUS - Aye, she's waiting. Come along. Lamp along, now. Ye sure you're not hungry? (Picks up her suitcase and finding it extremely heavy puts it back down) Wow. Holy crap. What you got in here?

ADALYNN ROSE - (Picks up the suitcase with ease) I got it. (Points off left) Is it this way? (SEAMUS nods, shocked at the girl's strength as they BOTH exit. Airport sounds diminish and LIGHTS FADE as the airport scene TRANSITIONS to Act 1, Scene 3)

Act 1, Scene 3 – O'Donovan Home

(LIGHTS UP on the O'DONOVAN home, hours later. It is a fairly comprehensive living space, mixture of Victorian and contemporary furnishings. There is a desk, stage right, with a computer/laptop on it and a chair. There is a table next to it. Center towards the back there is an electric piano piled up with songbooks, also with a small bench or chair next to it. Along the back wall, among the hung paintings by artist GAIL, toward center stage there is a large picture window, and toward stage left there is a door leading into the kitchen. There is a small sofa off center left with a table in front of it and a chessboard with a game already in progress on it. Far left is the dining room table. At the table, SEAMUS and ADALYNN ROSE are joined by GAIL. They are ALL seated for dinner. SEAMUS and GAIL are about through with their meals, but ADALYNN ROSE has not eaten a bite. GAIL passes a basket of rolls to ADALYNN ROSE)

GAIL - Some biscuits, Adalynn Rose?

ADALYNN ROSE - (Shakes her head) No thank you, ma'am. It was just savage, thank you.

(GAIL, not sure if that was a compliment, looks at ADALYNN ROSE then at SEAMUS for a translation)

SEAMUS – (To GAIL) “Savage” means delicious, love. (To ADALYNN ROSE) But how could ye tell, dearie? Ye ain’t touched a bite.

GAIL – (To SEAMUS) Quiet, Pony. (To ADALYNN ROSE) Are you tired, dear? Would you like to go to bed?

ADALYNN ROSE - (Nodding) Yea, thank you, ma'am. I don't mean to be such a lame culchie, but I am really zonked.

(GAIL, not sure what a “culchie” is, again looks to SEAMUS for a translation)

SEAMUS – A farm girl, love.

GAIL – (To SEAMUS) Oh, I see. You know, your father said not a lot of people speak English in Inisheer, but you seem to speak it very well.

ADALYNN ROSE – Oh they do, it’s really just the old islanders that speak Irish. It was at church that I learned Irish a’cause that’s all they spoke.

GAIL - (To ADALYNN ROSE) Well, you've been through so much and it was a long flight. We totally understand. (Rises from the table and heads toward ADALYNN ROSE's suitcase stage right)

ADALYNN ROSE - (Rising) Thank you, ma'am.

(GAIL glances at SEAMUS indicating she'd appreciate it if he would assist in the clean-up after dinner. He understands instantly)

SEAMUS - (Rises) I'll clear the table.

GAIL – (To ADALYNN ROSE) Let me grab your bag for you.

SEAMUS – (Cautioning to GAIL) Careful with that bag, love. It's...(GAIL lifts the suitcase up with ease and she and ADALYNN ROSE exit off left) heavy? What the bleedin' hell?

(SEAMUS picks up several dishes from the table, exits through the rear door into the kitchen. By the time he returns, GAIL returns as well and they BOTH sit at the table again)

GAIL - Coffee?

SEAMUS – Aye, thanks.

GAIL – Good. Pour me a cup while you're at it. (SEAMUS glares at her realizing he's just been had. He rises again and goes back through the kitchen and returns with a coffee tray. The tray has two cups and a coffee butler on it. He brings the tray over to the table and pours GAIL a cup as he sits back down)

SEAMUS - Dinner really *was* "savage", love. (He pours himself a cup)

GAIL - Thank you. I'll put her food into a container and put it in the fridge. Maybe she'll want it tomorrow for lunch. (SEAMUS's cellular phone rings) Oh, no! Pony, you said you were going to mute that thing before dinner.

SEAMUS - (Answering the phone, to GAIL) Aye. I forgot, I'm sorry. (Into the phone) Hello? Yes, Diltzie! How the hell are ye? (To GAIL) It's Diltzie. Remember? The concert promoter guy?

GAIL – Not him again. Not now.

SEAMUS - (Into the phone) Yes, sir. (Beat) No, I am interested. (GAIL glares at him in disapproval) This summer? How many dates?

GAIL - Pony. Not now.

SEAMUS - (To GAIL) Relax, woman. I'm only feelin' him out, gettin' a sense of how much the gig will pay. (Into the phone) What was that figure again? You need to look it up? Sure, I'll wait. (To GAIL) That means they're probably not payin' bleedin' much.

GAIL - What about your job? What about Adalynn Rose?

SEAMUS - (To GAIL) Me job is fine. I been there long enough. I've got seniority. Besides, they knew this might happen when they hired me. Thought it would make for good publicity. And what's the girl got to do with anything? (Into the phone) I'm sorry. Can't find it? Want to ring me back, then? (Beat) No? All right. (Rolls his eyes, annoyed) I'll wait.

GAIL – (Itemizing) You said you'd take her to the doctor's tomorrow for her physical. She needs to be registered for school. We have to get her some new clothes. And we need to coordinate all her belongings coming in from Inisheer.

SEAMUS - And darlin', d'ye think this will ALL happen AFORE I get off this phone call? Yer daft. Inisheer's an island. We'll be lucky to see her stuff before the next millennium.

(Into the phone) How much?

GAIL – You've had these types of calls before, Pony, but this time, no matter how much he offers you, I absolutely do not want THIS call to interfere with our responsibilities as parents.

SEAMUS - (Taken aback) Parents? What the hell do ye...(Beat) Oh, I see. Well, then...(Into the phone) I'm sorry, Diltzie. I can't even discuss this. (GAIL smiles thinking he understands) Not with a figure that small. (GAIL frowns understanding he doesn't) Sure, ye can ask the other guys but I'm positive they'll say the same thing. Check back with me when you're able to come up a little. (Beat) Right. (Beat) Thanks. Goodbye. (Disconnects, then looks at GAIL who is glaring at him) What? I am NOT her father.

GAIL - We're her legal guardians, Pony. She's our responsibility now.

SEAMUS – If ye say so, but I dunno. There's something awfully stropky about that child. I can't put my finger on it, but there it is. Very cross.

GAIL – (Compassionately) She's just lost both her parents. How would you be?

SEAMUS – Aye, I suppose so. Seems a lot, I don't know, older, for her age. What is she, again? Ten?

GAIL - Eleven.

SEAMUS – Okay, eleven. But, y'know, we know nothing about her.

GAIL - And whose fault is that?

SEAMUS – (Loud, defensive) Don't start. Ye know Caleb could just have easily picked up the phone or shot me an email.

GAIL – (Cautioning) Keep your voice down. She'll hear you. (Back on topic) Father Malobicky says it was his grandmother who coined the phrase, "Communication is a two-way street".

SEAMUS – She did not, but that Scot keeps quoting her like she's the bleedin' "MacMillan Book of Proverbs, Maxims, and Famous Phrases".

GAIL – Don't be disrespectful. Father Mathias is a wonderful man and he's been a Godsend to the St. Mary's Parish.

SEAMUS – (Ignoring, back to the Caleb discussion) Y'know, Caleb could've written letters.

GAIL – So could you.

SEAMUS - He could have dialed a phone.

GAIL – So could you.

SEAMUS – He never made me a Facebook buddy.

GAIL - You don't Facebook. Neither did he.

SEAMUS - Well he could've twixed.

GAIL - Tweeted.

SEAMUS - He could've skipped.

GAIL - Skyped.

SEAMUS - Dammit, Gail, you know what I mean.

GAIL – (Laughing) Pony, you don't do ANY of those things.

SEAMUS - I would've started. (Pause, becoming more somber) Now, it's...too blasted late.

GAIL – (Gently) Too late for Caleb. Not too late for her, or for you.

SEAMUS – No, my love, no. I'm too old. Look at us, woman. Just look at us. I'm in me late fifties. You...

GAIL – (Strongly cautioning) Be very careful how you finish that sentence, me boyo.

SEAMUS – Sick. I was goin' to say you've been sick. (GAIL doesn't respond. There is a brief quiet as SEAMUS crosses to the chess board on the table by the couch. He tries to sway the conversation in a different direction) Where were we in this chess game, anyway?

GAIL – (Joining him at the game) You were about to lose your king again, as usual.

SEAMUS – (Laughs) I don't think so, girl. Now let's see. (They BOTH concentrate on the game, then GAIL gets back to the original conversation)

GAIL - I feel fine, Pony. (SEAMUS drops his head, realizing his ploy did not work) No problems in two years. You're only making excuses. (Suspicious, but still concentrating on the game) You seem all wound up ever since you got home. Did you have a second cup of coffee today?

SEAMUS - (Mildly defensive) No, I didn't have a second cup. (Rises, somewhat bothered) Look, it's not just that...I've already had me kids. I've done my time. (GAIL looks up from the board as she hears this) I wanted this part of my life to be just for us. (Sees a move on the chess board and moves a chess piece) Ah-ha! Lookie there. Your move.

GAIL - "Done my time"? Pony, its parenthood, not a prison sentence. (Looks back at the board) And to be honest, you were never there for those girls. (He starts to say something but she looks up and stops him) Now, I'm not saying you didn't love them, but you barely know them. (Looks at the board and moves a chess piece). Check.

SEAMUS – (Annoyed) Damn.

GAIL - You were always on the road. Their mothers...

SEAMUS – Money grabbing trollups, the lot of 'em.

GAIL – Be fair, Pony. They were the ones who raised those three girls all by themselves. And they did a great job. The girls turned out to be three mature adult women.

SEAMUS – (Sarcastic) "Mature"? Bollocks. They're as nutty as their mums. (Begins pacing around the room) Sunshine's a drunk, marryin' that alcoholic football player, popping out kid after kid.

GAIL - You introduced her to him.

SEAMUS - Aye, to keep her from marryin' the Meth head football player.

GAIL – Oh, right.

SEAMUS – And Rainbow? She is as screwy as her older sister. Six years of marriage, then it all falls apart because she finds her "true sexuality" and turns into a bean flicker.

GAIL – "Lesbian". Don't be crude, Pony.

SEAMUIS – Fine. She hooks up with this chick she meets on one of those "Survivor" reality game shows. (Sits back down and stares at the chess board)

GAIL – There’s nothing wrong with that, Pony. We met at an “after party” in Bono’s hotel room. It’s practically the same thing.

SEAMUS - Says they made a real "connection".

GAIL – Pony.

SEAMUS - ...And that she wasn't "in tune" with the first langer that married her.

GAIL – Pony.

SEAMUS - They're people, Gail! Not TV sets! (Moves a chess piece) There. Ha-ha-ha! Now you’re done in. My queen’ll have you in three moves.

GAIL – (Laughs) You are incorrigible. Rainbow and her partner have been living happily together for five years, Pony. That’s more than you can say about your marriage to her mom.

SEAMUS – (Smiling) Aye. Ye got me there.

GAIL – And here. (Takes his queen chess piece) Buh-bye queen. Check.

SEAMUS – (More annoyed) Damn! Dammit, girl. (Concentrates on the chess board, then admits) Aye, well, ye have a point. I certainly cocked it up where my daughters are concerned.

GAIL – Maybe not all of them. What about Willow Sky? She seems like she's got her act together.

SEAMUS - (Nodding) Maybe. She's certainly less daft than her sisters, although I couldn’t stand that vegan crap she tried to get me to eat last time she was here.

GAIL – You should try it. It’s good for you. Makes you live longer.

SEAMUS – With deference to you, my love, I’d rather be dead. Of course, Willow is the baby and just out of college so maybe her mum’s “whack job” genes haven’t kicked in yet.

GAIL – (Teasing) Or her father's.

SEAMUS – (Smiles) Aye. Or her father's. (Rising from the game) Look. I admit it. I wasn't a good father then and I'm too old to try again now. (Crossing to pour himself a second cup of coffee)

GAIL – What are you doing?

SEAMUS – (Looks at her quizzically) What? (GAIL points to his cup and holds up two fingers) Oh. (Realizing, puts cup down, even more annoyed) Damn! (GAIL chuckles) Anyway, I'm not even a good grandparent.

GAIL – What makes you say that?

SEAMUS – It's been years since I've seen my three grandkids.

GAIL - (Holding up four fingers) Four.

SEAMUS – Four years?

GAIL – Four grandkids.

SEAMUS – (After a beat) See what I mean? (He looks away from her, unsure of himself)

GAIL – (Quietly, points to the chess board) You’re still in check.

SEAMUS – Oh, put it off for now, love. We can finish it another day.

GAIL – (Rises, and crosses to SEAMUS) What’s wrong, Pony?

SEAMUS - (Serious) Gail, I can’t do it.

GAIL - (Reaching out, gently puts her arms around SEAMUS) She has no one else, Pony.

SEAMUS - (Pulls away, frustrated) Damn it woman, I... (Turns to see ADALYNN ROSE standing near the stage right entrance. She has obviously heard everything. LIGHTS FADE as TRANSITION takes place going to Act 1, Scene 4. SEAMUS and ADALYNN exit as GAIL speaks to the audience, isolated)

GAIL – Pony complains how he feels that he can never win, not in an argument and certainly not in a chess game. Of course, he is always outnumbered. Between all his wives and daughters Seamus says he feels that “all those fueled by estrogen are conspiring against him” and making him do things he doesn’t want to do and go in directions he doesn’t want to go. (Smiling) There might be something to that. (Losing the smile) Now, in comes this NEW girl and Pony’s whole world has to shift on him again and he doesn’t like it. It’s clear Adalynn Rose feels he doesn’t want her around, and there might be something to that, as well. (LIGHTS FADE as GAIL exits)

Act 1, Scene 4 – Roussos Mansion

(LIGHTS UP on Dominic Roussos's mansion, the next day. Exquisite looking Greek architecture adorns the set. SEAMUS sits on a fancy, long white marble looking bench stage right in a waiting area with both EDELSTEIN and ADALYNN ROSE. There is a door along the back wall with a fancy looking vase perched upon a marble pedestal. There is an office door stage left and a curtained entrance stage right)

EDELSTEIN – Tell me again...Why is she here?

SEAMUS – Well, it’s certainly not my bleedin’ idea. The doctor's office is two miles from here and she needs to get a physical before she can go to school.

EDELSTEIN – You’re not really going to keep her, are you?

SEAMUS – What else am I supposed to do, Edelstein? Sell her to the highest bidder? (EDELSTEIN shrugs) No. I’m asking. I really want to know. (ADALYNN ROSE hears this and looks ticked off) What do you think?

EDELSTEIN – I don’t know. (After a beat) What do you think you could get for her?

ADALYNN ROSE – I am sitting right here, y’know. I can hear you.

EDELSTEIN – (Laughs) Sorry. Look, kid, we’re just kidding. (Looks at SEAMUS who doesn’t react) Aren’t we?

ADALYNN ROSE – (Annoyed, rises) I want to look around.

SEAMUS – Fine. Just don’t touch anything. I think even the light switch plates in this mansion are worth more than my annual income. (ADALYNN ROSE walks over and looks at the vase near the door)

EDELSTEIN - Never thought I'd see it come to this. Seamus “Ponytail” O’Donovan, professional rock drummer, professional insurance investigator, now, add to the resume...professional babysitter.

SEAMUS - You know, in drumming, there's something called "batter skin". You know what that is?

EDELSTEIN – No, what is it?

SEAMUS - (Becoming more menacing) It's...the...skin...you...hit! Don't go pushing, Edelstein. (Sees ADALYNN ROSE bump the vase) Watch it! (Runs over to her and steadies the vase). Holy crap. Be careful. My heart just about lodged in me Adams' apple on that one, it did. (Motioning to her to sit back at the bench) Sit down. (SEAMUS and ADALYNN ROSE both sit back down. After a moment)

ADALYNN ROSE - Why did you stop?

SEAMUS – What? Stop what?

ADALYNN ROSE - The band. Why did you stop the band?

EDELSTEIN – (Chuckling) I don't think he had much of a say in it, did you, old man?

SEAMUS - (To EDELSTEIN) Pushing? Again? You're pushing?

ADALYNN ROSE - No, really. I'd like to know.

SEAMUS – (Sighs, exasperated) Gail's brother, Tom, was lead singer in the band. And one day Tom just decided to up and quit. That's all. We replaced him, we went on for a few more years then...that was that.

ADALYNNROSE - That was...what?

EDELSTEIN - I'll tell you what he won't kid. Tom Carney went crazy. I mean "Psycho" crazy.

SEAMUS - Edelstein... He did not.

EDELSTEIN - Carney became a major league Northern Irish underground radical.

ADALYNN ROSE – But I thought Gail was American?

SEAMUS – Aye, and so is Tom. But he got so into the culture he went a little over the edge.

EDELSTEIN – He went nucking futs. (Looks at SEAMUS who gives a look of disapproval) What? It's not like I said "fucking nuts". (Catching himself) Oops. Sorry. Anyway, Tom wanted the band to play all of his anarchy songs.

ADALYNN ROSE – Anarchy songs? What're those?

EDELSTEIN - Songs which were meant to incite people into overthrowing British rule. Power to the people, baby.

SEAMUS - Edelstein...shut up. Ye don't even know what yer talkin' about. (To ADALYNN ROSE) It was a different time. Northern Ireland is a totally different place now.

EDELSTEIN – How would you know? (SEAMUS looks at him) I'm just sayin' you haven't been back in what, twenty years?

SEAMUS – (Thinks about it) Almost thirty.

ADALYNN ROSE – (To SEAMUS) So...?

SEAMUS – So? Oh, well, when we wouldn't do what he wanted, he quit. All right?

EDELSTEIN – What? Wait, that wasn't what happened. He...(SEAMUS looks at EDELSTEIN indicating he does not want ADALYNN ROSE to know what really happened)

SEAMUS - (To EDELSTEIN) All right?

EDELSTEIN – All right. (Sarcastic, teasing) Boy, that was riveting. You sure know how to tell a story.

ADALYNN ROSE – (To SEAMUS) And now...you sell insurance? (EDELSTEIN laughs)

SEAMUS – (Annoyed) I don't "sell insurance". I'm an insurance investigator. Now, look, child, please just settle down. I didn't come here to be asked a lot of fool questions. I'm here because I need to see Mr. Roussos about (avoiding the words "the death of")...about his wife. So, just stay quiet. Okay?

ADALYNN ROSE – (After a beat) Did his wife have insurance? (SEAMUS closes his eyes, curtailing his response)

ELEDSTEIN – That's what we've got to talk to this guy about. See, if we can prove foul play the hospital is covered and the insurance company doesn't have to pay.

ADALYNN ROSE – (Not following) What do you mean "foul play"? I don't get that. You mean cheated? How could she do that?

SEAMUS – (Opening his eyes) Not her, Ada. Him.

ADALYNN ROSE - Stop calling me Ada. It's Adalynn. Adalynn Rose.

EDELSTEIN - Yeah..."Pony".

SEAMUS - (Sternly, to EDELSTEIN) Again with the pushing, Edelstein. I'm going to hurt you. Last warning.

(ROUSSOS enters from fancy French style doors stage left and the TRIO rises from the bench)

ROUSSOS - Mr. O'Donovan, Mr. Edelstein, my apologies to keep you waiting. (Sees ADALYNN ROSE) And who is this delightful young lady? Is she another investigator? Or your boss, perhaps? (EDELSTEIN and SEAMUS chuckle)

SEAMUS – (Smiling) No...the boss is her aunt, my wife. This is my niece, Mr. Roussos. I have to drop her off at a doctor's appointment after we leave here. I hope you don't mind. I didn't want to leave her in the car.

EDELSTEIN – You could have left the window open a crack for her.

SEAMUS – (Sharply) Edelstein...

ROUSSOS – Delighted. I love children. (Leaning over and gently shaking her hand) And what is your name, little one?

ADALYNN ROSE – (Looking at ROUSSOS quizzically) Adalynn Rose. Adalynn Rose Winchester.

(A brunette "MAID" enter through the stage right curtains and quickly walks past ROUSSOS and into his office stage left, closing the door behind "HER". No one notices as the dialogue continues)

ROUSSOS - Really? What a beautiful name. (To SEAMUS) Children are what define us, no? (SEAMUS does not answer) You know, my wife, Sofia, and I could never have children. We tried for years. (To ADALYNN ROSE) My mother's name was Rose. What does Adalynn mean?

ADALYNN ROSE - I dunno.

SEAMUS - It's a family thing. My brother and I liked different sounding names for our kids. We don't want to take up a lot of your time, so...(To ADALYNN ROSE) I'm going to talk with Mr. Roussos for a few minutes, okay, Ada ... lynn Rose? Then we'll go.

(ADALYNN ROSE nods)

ROUSSOS – Do not rush on my account, Mr. O’Donovan. How old is she?

SEAMUS - (Simultaneously with ADALYNN ROSE) She's ten.

ADALYNN ROSE - (Simultaneously with SEAMUS) I'm eleven.

SEAMUS - (Smiling, but embarrassed) Eleven. She's eleven.

ROUSSOS – What a wonderful age. (To SEAMUS) Oh, I remember you spoke of your wife? How is she?

SEAMUS – Oh, just fine, thank you. I know you’re still grieving, but I just have a couple of follow up questions, sir. Merely routine. It concerns the insurance policy you had on your wife.

ROUSSOS – What about it?

EDELSTEIN – There’s a ten million dollar claim but no carrier name listed on the insurance policy.

ROUSSOS – Of course not. We were self-insured.

EDELSTEIN – Self-insured? Why?

ROUSSOS – Because it has always been my belief, Mr. Edelstein, as it was my wife’s, that American insurance companies are the biggest liars, cheats, and thieves on this planet.

(After a beat) No offense.

SEAMUS and EDELSTEIN – (Simultaneously) Nope. Sure. No offense. I agree. None taken, etc.

ROUSSOS - (Chuckling) Thank you. I recognize you are looking to protect the hospital’s interest, but really? Murder? Is that what I am suspected of? I just lost my soul mate, gentlemen. Surely you can understand...

SEAMUS – We have to consider every possibility, sir. I have no reason to believe you did not love your wife.

EDELSTEIN – So this ten million dollars.

ROUSSOS – Was in an account we had our lawyers set up in case of medical emergencies or accidental death. Either one of us could have access to the funds.

SEAMUS – That’s, a little unusual, isn’t it?

ROUSSOS - Sofia and I were both well off. My family has been a dominant force in Greek shipping since ancient times. Look at this mansion.

EDELSTEIN – So if the hospital was proven not to be at fault in her death...

ROUSSOS – The money from the fund would still be intact.

SEAMUS – Of course, if the hospital is found to be at fault...

ROUSSOS – then I’m sure the lawyers would have the case tied up until I am long with her in Heaven. No matter. We have never suffered for money, so this would put, how you would say, a “crimp” into any motives you may have theorized about?

EDELSTEIN – Well, it certainly eliminates one big motive.

SEAMUS – Aye.

ROUSSOS – More than that, Mr. Edelstein, I loved my Sofia...more than you could ever know. (Motions toward the exit stage right) Why don't we continue this conversation outside in my garden? It is quiet out there. I would love to give you some doodo for your wife.

SEAMUS - (Confused, taken aback) Umm, I beg your pardon?

EDELSTEIN – Did you say (snickering) “doodoo”?

ROUSSOS - (Proudly) Doodo. Amaranth. Beautiful Greek flowers. (Pulls a colorful flower out of the vase and shows them) I have my own special brand that I grow on farms in Greece and market internationally.

EDELSTEIN – And you call it ...that?

ROUSSOS – Yes. In Asia, we can't sell enough doodo.

(EDELSTEIN starts to giggle, SEAMUS whispers)

SEAMUS – Edelstein, would ye please stop? I'd expect such immaturity from the child, but not from a grown man, fer cryin' out loud.

ADALYNN ROSE – (Defensive) What? What'd I do? I haven't said a word.

EDELSTEIN – (Trying to contain himself) Sorry. Sorry. He just better not...

ROUSSOS – (Continuing) Yes, the doodo just flies off the shelves.

EDELSTEIN – (Losing control) Oy veh (pronounced oy vay) (EDELSTEIN walks away, trying to regain composure).

SEAMUS – (Sighs) Aye. (Remembering) There was some flowers like that in your wife's hospital room. (EDELSTEIN returns, composed)

ROUSSOS – Yes. My Sofia dearly loved her doodo.

(EDELSTEIN once again turns away from everyone and bends over, holding his sides in quiet laughter. ROUSSOS shows the flowers to ADALYNN ROSE who examines them closer)

ADALYNN ROSE – There are so many beautiful colors.

ROUSSOS – (Smiling) How observant you are, my dear. You see, when flowers wither away, they lose their color. (Indicating the flower) On this, the color never fades. When she...became ill, she lost a lot of color in her skin, in her face. The flowers would help her to feel more alive, more vibrant.

ADALYNN ROSE – You really cared for her, eh?

ROUSSOS – (Sincerely, to ADALYNN ROSE) Oh, she was my world, child. (Eagerly To SEAMUS) And you MUST take some vleeta home with you. Wonderful for salads. (To EDELSTEIN, who has turned back around, regaining composure) Are you married, Mr. Edelstein?

EDELSTEIN – (Chuckles) Well, I would be, but Seamus here didn't leave to many women for the rest of us. That vleep...vleek...

ROUSSOS – Vleeta

EDELSTEIN – Yeah, that. What do you do with that stuff?

ADALYNN ROSE - (Excited) Oh, I know! Make it with fried fish.

ROUSSOS – Very good. How did you know?

ADALYNN ROSE – Me mum used to boil it mixing in some olive oil and vinegar.

Mmmm...it was yummy. Mum had...(stops, remembering the death of her parents, then

says somberly) um...she used to make it.(Walks quietly over to the vase, ROUSSOS looks at SEAMUS trying to understand)

ROUSSOS – I don't...Did I say something to upset her?

SEAMUS – No, sir. The girl just lost her parents same day as your wife passed on.

(ROUSSOS is taken aback) Been a bit hard adjustin', but she'll be fine.

ROUSSOS - (Approaches ADALYNN ROSE at the vase, hands her another colorful flower, and then gently pats her head) Here, Miss Adalynn Rose. An offering.

ADALYNN ROSE – But why?

ROUSSOS – (Smiling) My Sofia used to say, "Every child needs color in life". I know she is in heaven with your parents and all of them are smiling down upon us. (ADALYNN ROSE looks up at ROUSSOS, wanting to smile, but curiosity is holding her back. ROUSSOS says to SEAMUS and EDELSTEIN) Shall we go?

(The MEN exit off right. ADALYNN ROSE smells the flower and sneezes. She begins to look around the room making her way back to the vase to return the flower. The MAID returns from the other room carrying several USB flash drives in one hand. The MAID rushes past ADALYNN ROSE to the front door, dropping a flash drive. ADALYNN ROSE sees it and picks it up)

ADALYNN ROSE - Excuse me, ma'am, but did you drop this "stick"?

(The MAID takes the USB flash drive and heads back to the door. Stops as there is suddenly a myriad of offstage Greek-accented voices overlapping)

VOICES - Someone broke in here. The safe has been opened. I didn't hear a thing. Where are all the files? I saw a cleaning woman in here. Where did she go?

(The MAID looks at ADALYNN ROSE, then knocks over the vase, smashing it to the ground. Runs out the door, closing it. ADALYNN ROSE doesn't know what to do. EDELSTEIN, ROUSSOS and SEAMUS all return from stage right and see the smashed vase and the guilty looking ADALYNN ROSE)

SEAMUS – Sweet Jesus, girl What've ye done?

ROUSSOS – (Angered, to SEAMUS) That was a three thousand dollar vase.

EDELSTEIN – (Trying to ease the tension) Hey, it's only money, remember? (It fails as ROUSSOS glares at EDELSTEIN) Sorry.

VOICE FROM BEHIND THE OFFICE DOOR - Mr. Roussos. Come quickly.

(ROUSSOS exits into the office, closing the door behind him. There is a long silence as SEAMUS looks at the vase and then angrily at ADALYNN ROSE. EDELSTEIN breaks the silence.)

EDELSTEIN - That's gonna be some mighty expensive doodoo.

(LIGHTS FADE as TRANSITION to Act 1, Scene 5 takes place. GAIL enters from stage left, isolated)

GAIL – When Pony and Adalynn Rose returned later that day. Adalynn Rose came running in and went straight to her room, crying. Seamus followed, slamming the door behind him. Neither one would talk to me. When I did manage to get them both to calm down, they'd sit with me, in the same room, maybe eating at the same dinner table, but it was like they weren't even living under the same roof. Weeks passed. We got her into school but she was finding it hard, struggling. She wouldn't participate in class. Principal Owens told me she was very withdrawn, non-conversational, so much so they sent her to the school psychiatrist. Seamus wasn't helping at all. He would drop her off in the morning on the way to work and pick her up and bring her home on his lunch but even in the same car still neither one would speak to the other. I was beginning to fear it would take an act of God to get these two together.

Act 1, Scene 5 – The O'Donovan Home

(Dinner time once more at the O'DONOVAN home, several weeks later. There is a long awkward silence as nobody at the dinner table is speaking with one another. GAIL finally breaks the silence by picking up a plate of fish and offering it to ADALYNN ROSE)

GAIL – You haven't even touched your fried fish, Adalynn Rose. Are you not feeling well? (ADALYNN ROSE shakes her head) You must be starving after all those exams at school this past week. (To SEAMUS, who also isn't touching his food) I swear, they start those competency exams far too early in the school year. Right, Pony? (SEAMUS says nothing, so she tries to speak with ADALYNN ROSE again) Would you like to watch some television with me? I think <insert popular television show here> is on.

ADALYNN ROSE - No, ma'am, thank you. Might I be excused?

GAIL – (Sighs) Yes. Why don't you get changed up for bed and I'll be in shortly.

ADALYNN ROSE - Yes, thank you, ma'am. (She exits. GAIL gives a long stern look to SEAMUS)

SEAMUS – What? It's not that great of a show.

GAIL – Don't give me that. (Rising, starting to clean up the glasses from the dinner table) It's been almost a month, Pony. How long do you intend to be mad at her?

SEAMUS – (Sarcastic) For about three thousand dollars.

GAIL - It was an accident, for God's sake. You can't make her feel any worse than she feels right now.

SEAMUS - (Cellular phone rings and as he answers it he says) You weren't the one standing in that room with a broken vase at your feet and doodo in your hands. (GAIL exits into the kitchen with the glasses. SEAMUS speaks into the phone) Hello? Oh, Hi, Diltzie. What's the story? (After a beat) Davy is doing what? (After a beat) Broadway? (After a beat) He's playing who? (After a beat) Daddy Warbucks? Well, I don't see that. Christ. (After a beat) Do I know of another lead vocalist? No. No. (Beat) Tom? (GAIL returns from the kitchen. SEAMUS looks at GAIL for a beat) No, no idea where Tom is these days. He's still off the grid. (Indicates to GAIL who just shrugs her shoulders then returns to cleaning up) Okay, then. Look, we can still go with one of the other lead vocalists. Yeah, try the guy, y'know the guy who sang those two new songs? The ones that nobody listened to on the Millenium collection. Right. Those. Reach out to him and see what he says. Then we can talk money. Okay. Goodbye. (Disconnects, then says to GAIL) What were we talking about?

GAIL - She said she didn't do it.

SEAMUS – (Cold) Oh, yeah. Her.

GAIL - Why don't you believe her?

SEAMUS - Because there was no evidence. Nobody else was in the room or in the whole bleedin' mansion. (Rises, moves over to the chess set by the couch) Let's finish this game. I think I'll get you in three moves.

GAIL – (Annoyed) You always says that but you never do. (Continues cleaning up, now has quite a stack of dinnerware in her hands) You're an investigator, for God's sake. Why can't you investigate?

SEAMUS - I did, I did. We asked all of Roussos's staff and every one of them claimed nobody else was anywhere in the house.

GAIL - And you take their word over the word of your own child?

SEAMUS - (Firm) She's not my child!

GAIL - (Slamming the dinnerware down, upset) She is! She is your child! You are her parent, now. (Begins to cry)

SEAMUS – All right, all right. Calm down, now.

GAIL – I will NOT “calm down”. You selfish...Think about it, Seamus. When the doctors told me I couldn't have children, I didn't blame Him. I didn't blame anybody. Now God has given us this wonderful opportunity.

SEAMUS – “Opportunity”? What's “wonderful” about it? He took my brother. Killed her mother and father.

GAIL – (Reasoning with SEAMUS) Of course He didn't, Pony. You were just saying how you “cocked it up” as a parent with your daughters. Well, maybe then, if there is some higher plan in this, if *any* good can come out of Caleb and Jeanne's deaths, perhaps it's that this gives you the chance, your last chance, to get it right.

SEAMUS - (Comes up to her, apologetic, soft) I'm sorry...but I don't think I can do it. I've never been the strong, stubborn Catholic like you.

GAIL – It's not stubbornness. It's fortitude.

SEAMUS – (Annoyed) Ah, no. You've been talking to the Scotsman again.

GAIL - (Imitating SEAMUS's Irish brogue, brushes his forehead then picks the plates back up) Seamus Clancy O'Donovan, ye better learn to be more respectful afore ye meet yer maker.

SEAMUS – (Smiling) Oh, whee girl, now I'm in trouble. You used me full name. (Laughs as he crosses back and sits on the sofa) But me? Heaven? Ha! Like I got a shot at getting in.

GAIL - You never know. You might surprise yourself someday. Father Mathias and I pray for your soul every Sunday. Maybe that helps.

SEAMUS - I doubt it. Remember how many “commandments” I told you I broke during the '89 tour?

GAIL – (Realizing) Oh, yeah. You might have to answer for some of those. (BOTH laugh)

SEAMUS – Here, darlin'. Let me get those for ye. (Reaches for the plates but then grabs GAIL from behind)

GAIL – Stop it! You'll make me break more of these. I've got to get them into the dishwasher.

SEAMUS – (Smiling) Fine. But as soon as you walk back through that door, y'know I'll be goin' for yer bum again. I can be just as stubborn about things as you, then.

GAIL – (Points to off stage right) You go speak with her. Then, we can finish the game when you get back and we'll see just who will have whom in three moves.

SEAMUS – (Anticipating a win) Get along with you, then. (Salutes GAIL) Meet ye on the battlefield.

GAIL – Oh, Lord. Go! (GAIL laughs as she exits into the kitchen)

(SEAMUS begins to cross off right. Just before he exits the stage he suddenly hears a crash coming from the kitchen)

SEAMUS - (Concerned) Gail? (No answer) Gail? Are ye all right? Gail? (He exits into the kitchen. LIGHTS FADE as the TRANSITION to Act 1, Scene 6 takes place. GAIL enters from stage left, isolated)

GAIL – When people enter into a marriage, each party, man and woman, brings with them some “baggage”, problems that they wind up having to share. Father Mathias said in one of his sermons how “a problem shared is a problem halved”. Hmm...maybe Seamus was right. Where does he get these hokey phrases? Anyway, obviously, Father Mathias didn't know Seamus well. Pony had far more luggage than I expected, and more than most women would want to “share”, but let me tell you...all throughout my kidney problems he was there for me. That's why I knew there's a good man in there and more so, a good parent. I just needed to help him see it, too. That's why I thought having Adalynn Rose stay with us would be the best thing, for both of them. Now...a pulmonary embolism? God, whatever will they do now? (LIGHTS DIM on GAIL as she exits)

Act 1, Scene 6 - The O'Donovan Home

(The O'Donovan home, several days later. After GAIL's funeral service, family and friends have gathered together. Everyone is dressed in black or dark clothing, but cheerful Irish music is playing in the background. SEAMUS is seated at the dinner table having a beer with EDELSTEIN and FATHER MATHIAS MALOBICKY. SEVERAL MOURNERS are gathered in the room, socializing, eating and drinking. SOME MOURNERS put condolence cards at the table by the piano. The table is adorned with flowers and a large photo display featuring various photos of GAIL and SEAMUS. A HOUSEKEEPER, CLAUDIA ESTRADA, is walking around the room "policing" the area, picking up any used cups and empty food dishes. SONDRÁ MINX is also in attendance. SEAMUS's daughters, SUNSHINE, RAINBOW and WILLOW SKY are gathered together far stage left, talking. SUNSHINE appears to have been drinking heavily. ADALYNN ROSE is seated at the piano, quietly staring at everyone. FATHER MATHIAS sees her and, taking his beer, crosses from the table to the piano, sitting next to ADALYNN ROSE. He speaks in a very mild Scottish Brogue)

FATHER MATHIAS - It's a fine turnout for Gail, Don't you think? (No response) She would've liked the music. She'd want people to celebrate life, not mourn the loss of her own. (No response) Do you remember me, lassie? (ADALYNN ROSE shakes her head) Gail introduced us at a Sunday service last month. (No response) I'm Father Malobicky. (No response) Most folks find it easier to call me by my first name, so I tend to go by Father Mathias. (No response. Puts a sympathetic arm around her shoulder) How are you holding up there, Miss Winchester?

ADALYNN ROSE – (Glancing out at the room) I don't know anyone here.

FATHER MATHIAS - (Sipping his beer, then says) Well, my Scottish grandmother used to say, "Communication is a two way street". (ADALYNN ROSE looks at him, not understanding) You could go up and introduce yourself.

ADALYNN ROSE - (After a beat) Maybe later.

FATHER MATHIAS - Not been an easy time, eh? (ADALYNN ROSE nods) How's school been, then? (She shrugs her shoulders) Made any new friends?

ADALYNN ROSE - No. Not yet.

FATHER MATHIAS - Well, give it time. It's got to be like a whole new world for you, lassie, so just hang in there. Good things happen...eventually.

ADALYNN ROSE – (Looking around the room) There's no kids here.

FATHER MATHIAS - No. (Pointing to SUNSHINE, RAINBOW and WILLOW SKY) Seamus's oldest daughter over there decided to keep all her kids at home. His youngest daughter isn't in a relationship. And the middle one? Well (Finding difficulty in explaining lesbianism to a child) Y'see, there's a word, y'know, when two people...and they're both, y'see, well, both the same...y'know...the word...

ADALYNN ROSE – She's gay.

FATHER MATHIAS – Aye. That's the word. That's the word.

ADALYNN ROSE - Why didn't Auntie Gail have any kids?

FATHER MATHIAS - She had...problems. Y'see, she hadn't been well for a long, long while. She lost a kidney awhile back. Actually, we almost lost her a couple of times. Thanks be to God we didn't. (Sips his beer, then) She had been getting better these last few years which is why this is such a shock for everybody, especially Seamus. (ADALYNN ROSE glances over at SEAMUS who sits staring into his beer) Be patient with him, lassie. He's a good man. (SUNSHINE starts to weave a little bit, steadied by RAINBOW. MOURNERS begin to exit off to the sides as the THREE DAUGHTERS walk toward SEAMUS) He just hasn't had a lot of practice at parenting. (ADALYNN ROSE points at the DAUGHTERS as they walk past) What? Them? Ach, any man can father a child, lassie. That's just simple biology. But, being a parent? Well, now, that requires a totally different set of skills. (Rising) Be well, Miss Winchester. I'm going to go help Mrs. Estrada clean up then have another pint. (Gently shakes her hand) Don't be a stranger. (Exits into the kitchen with CLAUDIA)

(SEAMUS rises to greet his DAUGHTERS as they get to the table. He is also inebriated, but nowhere near as intoxicated as SUNSHINE)

SEAMUS - You girls heading out already?

RAINBOW – Yeah, Pony. Sunshine isn't...ummm, well, she isn't feeling too hot.

WILLOW SKY – (Sarcastic) She's totally tanked.

SEAMUS - Aye. She looks like I felt during one of the after parties...

ALL THREE GIRLS – On the '89 Tour.

SUNSHINE – We know, Pony, we know. (Drunk) I feel fine. I'll drive.

WILLOW SKY - We came in a cab.

SUNSHINE (After a beat) So? (hiccups) I'm just saying...(Drifts off)

RAINBOW - What? (Nudging SUNSHINE) Say what?

SUNSHINE (Joking around, tries an urban slant) Say whaaat? (Laughs)

RAINBOW - Yeah, okay. Elvis has left the building, and so should we.

SEAMUS - Yeah. (Singing) Sunshine go away today...

SUNSHINE - Ah, shaddup, Pony. (WILLOW SKY steadies SUNSHINE and moves her to one side as SEAMUS calls out to RAINBOW)

SEAMUS - Hey, Rainbow. Got a sec? (RAINBOW approaches SEAMUS) You and...Cindy...you two still moving to Alaska? Ummm...together?

RAINBOW – (Nodding) Two weeks. It's a great opportunity for her.

SEAMUS - (Indicating ADALYNN ROSE) Did you and she discuss what we talked about?

RAINBOW - (Shaking her head) It's just not the right time for us now, Pony.

SEAMUS - Like it is for me?

RAINBOW – (Sighs) Please don't start this again. We talked about it and we agreed. We simply can't take her. I'm sorry. You'll have to figure something else out for the girl.

(Motioning to the other two DAUGHTERS) We really...really have to go, Pony.

SEAMUS – Aye. Yeah, sure I get it. That's okay. Listen, you three have a safe trip back to...to...(Realizing he doesn't know) to wherever it is you come from. Thanks for bein' here. It would have meant a lot to Gail. I'm just sorry your mums couldn't be here.

ALL THREE GIRLS - No you're not.

SEAMUS – (Smiles) You're right. Have a safe trip back, all three of you. Okay? Oh, you need money for the cab?

RAINBOW - No, Pony, we got it.

WILLOW SKY - (Backtracking) Bu-u-u-t, if you're handing out cash anyway, I'll take some.

SEAMUS - (Pulls out some cash from his wallet and hands it to her) Couldn't pay the rent again, eh, Sky?

WILLOW SKY – (Whining) Don't get on my case. I get enough shit from mom and dad. It'll happen, Pony. Just wait.

SEAMUS - I used to say the same thing. Now, look at me. An insurance adjustor.

EDELSTEIN – (Lifting up his beer) Investigator.

SEAMUS – (Shrugging) Like who cares? (Lifts and drinks his beer)

WILLOW SKY and RAINBOW - Bye, Pony.

(The DAUGHTERS start to leave out through the kitchen when SEAMUS calls out to RAINBOW)

SEAMUS - (To RAINBOW) Say hi to me grandkids for me.

SUNSHINE - (Snapping) They're MY kids, Seamus. Remember, ya stupid mick, God damn limey bastard? My kids. (Points at RAINBOW's stomach and pelvic region) See? No kids. (Points to her own stomach and pelvic region) Me? Kids. Do you even know their names, you sunova-rotten-stinkin'-bitch?

SEAMUS - (Takes a big sip, then asks) Do you?

SUNSHINE - (Begins to proudly recite the names but stops when she draws a blank) Oh, God. Oh, God. I knew them when I came in here. I KNEW them when I came IN here! (Begins to fall apart and cry) Oh, God. (Realizing) I have to go home to those horrible little shits. Oh, God. Oh, God. Oh, God! (Repeats all the way out as the DAUGHTERS all exit as FATHER MATHIAS and CLAUDIA re-enter and catch only the tail end of her tirade) FATHER MATHIAS – My, it is good to see a lass so motivated in prayer.

SEAMUS - (After a beat, realizing) Aye. That it is, Father. That it is. (Nudging EDELSTEIN) 'Tis my guess the lass said those very same words on the eve of her children's conception...ing. (Sits back down at the table and takes another drink. EDELSTEIN has a confused expression on his face) Edelstein, it's not polite to stare. (After a beat) What?

EDELSTEIN - They call you "Pony", too?

SEAMUS – Aye. 'Tis me name. (Looks at EDELSTEIN who obviously wants more information) Fine. It was decided, see...we decided...their mothers...and me...that it would be best, see? They all got remarried...the wives, not the daughters...so we decided, see...their mothers and me...

EDELSTEIN - Yeah, I got it, I got it. (Breaking it down) So each daughter calls your ex-wives' now-husbands father and you Pony?

SEAMUS - Jesus, why do you have to make things sound so confusing? (Takes another drink, thinks about it, then says) Yes.

EDELSTEIN – I never got that, by the way. Why "Pony Tales"?

SEAMUS – I told you, we all had 'em. Long hair was everywhere in Ireland back then, that and those punk-ish daft "Flock of Seagulls" haircuts, which we all despised.

EDELSTEIN – I'd pay real money to see you in one of those. (Laughs)

SEAMUS – (Laughs, then takes another sip) But it was Caleb what come up with the name. See, while we was playin' in school he read this book called "The Outsiders".

EDELSTEIN – (Recognizing the title) Hey, I know that one.

SEAMUS – Well, d'ye remember there was this kid called "Ponyboy"?

EDELSTEIN –(Overlapping) "Ponyboy", sure, sure.

SEAMUS – Caleb thought "Ponyboy" would make a good name for the band, but of course I said "yer daft, lad". Then we all looked at each other's ponytails and we thought "Pony Tales" and there ye have it.

EDELSTEIN – (Looks over at ADALYNN ROSE, then says to SEAMUS) You should tell that story to the kid.

SEAMUS – (Looks at ADALYNN ROSE, then emotionless says) I don't think so.

EDELSTEIN – Why?

SEAMUS – (Still coldly) Ye said ye read the book. Remember what happened to Ponyboy's parents?

EDELSTEIN – They were kill...(Realizing) oh, yeah. They were killed.

SEAMUS – Aye. Another pint, then? (Sips his beer again as FATHER MATHIAS and CLAUDIA approach during the following)

EDELSTEIN – No thanks. I'm good.

SEAMUS – Are ye driving?

EDELSTEIN – No. You know I don't have a car. I took a cab.

SEAMUS – Another pint, then?

EDELSTEIN – (Giving in) Please. (SEAMUS rises)

FATHER MATHIAS – Seamus...

SEAMUS – Another pint, padre?

FATHER MATHIAS – (Politely) No, thank you. I have to be getting back to the rectory.

SEAMUS – Well, I hate to admit it, Father Malo...Malobee...Father Mathias, but it ye handled the service brilliantly.

FATHER MATHIAS – Thank you, Mr. O'Donovan. When Father Shea left the parish last year, Gail told me of your reaction to St. Mary's bringing in a Scottish priest.

SEAMUS – (Surprised) She used those words in church, did she?

FATHER MATHIAS – She paraphrased. She paraphrased.

EDELSTEIN - I gotta head out as well there, bud. (Leans over to SEAMUS) Can I borrow the keys to the company car? I'm short on cab fare. (SEAMUS hands him the keys) Thanks, bud. (To FATHER MATHIAS) By the way, Father, I ain't never been to a Catholic service before. That was real nice. But y'know, I still don't get it. You guys spend so much time with the body out, just lyin' there day after day. My people? I swear we move so fast we just wanna get 'em in the ground before the hole's even been dug. (SEAMUS and FATHER MATHIAS laugh, then EDELSTEIN says to SEAMUS) We'll see you when you get back to work, buddy.

SEAMUS – (Still chuckling, shaking his head in disbelief) Thanks, Edelstein.

EDELSTEIN – (Putting a sympathetic hand upon SEAMUS's shoulder, saying sincerely) And if you need anything, let me know okay?

SEAMUS - (Shakes EDELSTEIN's other hand and smiles) Thank you, Marcus.

(EDELSTEIN exits through the kitchen as SEAMUS rises to speak with FATHER MATHIAS and CLAUDIA)

FATHER MATHIAS – Anyway, Seamus, I...

SEAMUS – So who ye likin' in the Old Firm this year, Father? Celtics or Rangers?

FATHER MATHIAS – (Pleading neutrality) I believe I'll take...Switzerland. (Both men laugh)

SEAMUS – Ha! Very diplomatic, Scotsman. (Sincerely) Thanks for everything, Father. Gail woulda been pleased. And thank you, Mrs. Est..Ester....

CLAUDIA – “Estrada”. And it was no trouble, Señor. Please, call me Claudia.

SEAMUS – That's good 'cause I'm havin' some trouble with the other one...

FATHER MATHIAS – You and Claudia have something in common. She raised three lads. Put them all through college, all on her own.

SEAMUS – Then I think she has more in common with me ex-wives, Father.

FATHER MATHIAS – Oh, yes. Right. Anyway, Claudia has graciously offered to come by a couple of days a week should you need anything.

SEAMUS – Thank you, Father, but I'm okay. I'm not in need of charity.

CLAUDIA – Oh, it's no charity, Señor O'Seamus.

SEAMUS – O'Donovan.

CLAUDIA - I'm retired but I still like to be useful. My sons, grandkids, they're so far away now, all over the country. I'll be happy to clean, do laundry, or watch over the girl while you are out. (Smiling) After three boys, it would be my pleasure to take care of a little girl for a change.

SEAMUS – That's very sweet of you, Claudia. I'll be going back to work next week so that would be a big help until I figure out what to do with her.

CLAUDIA – (Looks at ADALYNN ROSE and then says to SEAMUS) Does she ever smile, señor?

SEAMUS – No. I dunno. Not for me. Why don't you try? (CLAUDIA smiles and nods then goes over and speaks with ADALYNN ROSE at the piano)

FATHER MATHIAS - (Serious) I wish you'd reconsider, Seamus.

SEAMUS - Nay, Father. I can't do this. Certainly not without Gail.

FATHER MATHIAS - Seamus...

SEAMUS – Look...she set this whole thing up. It was all her thing. Her project.

FATHER MATHIAS - "Project"? (Getting angry) We're not talking about de-grouting yer bathroom or replacing storm windows. I can see Gail was right, you are a stubborn walaper. (CLAUDIA brings ADALYNN ROSE over to the chess game to see if she'd like to play) No offence.

SEAMUS – None taken.

FATHER MATHIAS – But we're talkin' about the raising of a child. Yer brother's child.

SEAMUS - (Slowly sits down at the table, then softly says) Mathias, I'm too old. I can't do it without her. (Becoming more lost in his memory of GAIL but trying to control his emotions) Father, I'm not feelin' too well. Do ye think...

FATHER MATHIAS - (Motioning to CLAUDIA who comes to him) I'll leave you with your peace, now, Mr. O'Donovan, but think about it some more, please? (Starts to leave, then turns back to say) I know you've never been a spiritual person, Seamus, but Gail was, and I'm sure she would say...

SEAMUS - There's a plan? Aye, she did, Father, she did. (Slow building rage) But damned if I know what it is. I mean, what kind of "infinite wisdom" would be so cruel as to include the death of my brother, his wife and my wife all just to prove something? (Throws his beer off stage left)

(FATHER MATHIAS and CLAUDIA exit, leaving SEAMUS alone at the table and ADALYNN ROSE still seated by the piano. SEAMUS gets up from the table and sees ADALYNN ROSE at the chess game)

SEAMUS – (Warning) Don't touch that. That was hers. You never, EVER touch that!

(ADALYNN ROSE says nothing. She doesn't react, merely makes a slow cross right to exit to her room. SHE turns back to see SEAMUS just staring at her. There is a long look with SEAMUS not knowing what to do next as a parent. He decides to take EDELSTEIN's empty glass and exits into the kitchen. ADALYNN ROSE exits. There is a long silence then, from far left enters GAIL's brother, TOM CARNEY, a handsome middle aged man, dressed in a suit and tie. He holds a large white card envelope in his hand)

TOM - Hello? Is anyone here?

(SEAMUS returns from the kitchen. He is stunned at the sight of TOM)

SEAMUS - So, it was you I saw lurkin' at the back of the church. My God. Ye haven't aged a day in thirty years. Look at you, ye stupid bitchbag.

TOM - (Jovial) Hey, bro'. Nice to see you, as well.

SEAMUS – (Angry and anxious) Don't go given me the blarney, now, Tom. What makes you think you can just come around here now, you stupid, selfish, bleedin' son of a bitch? (SEAMUS walks up and hugs TOM) It's so good to see ya. But how'd you even find out?

TOM - She was my sister, Pony. You really think I wouldn't find out?

SEAMUS – (SEAMUS angrily slugs TOM) Bullshit! Where the hell were you years ago when she needed a kidney?

TOM – (Recovering from the blow) I'm still a wanted criminal, dude. (Punches SEAMUS back. SEAMUS falls to the ground) Besides, you wouldn't have wanted my kidney. It hasn't been the same since the '89 tour.

SEAMUS – (Understanding) Aye. I can sympathize. (Rises) So what are ye doin' here?

TOM – I'm fighting with my fellow Irish Catholics for a unified Ireland.

SEAMUS - (Chuckles) A fine thing. The Yank in Northern Ireland, fightin' for the Irish and the Irish-American, hold up in America, fightin' to keep hospitals from goin' broke.

TOM – (Proudly) Well, one of us has got to take care of things back home. And it has been my home now a long time. I’m involved...

SEAMUS – You’re involved, all right, boyo...involved with bombings, assaults, anarchy...

TOM – In defense only, which makes me more of an Irishman than you. Fact is, me “boyo”, you haven’t been an Irishman for years.

SEAMUS – (Furious, comes up ready to punch TOM again) Don’t you tell me I’m not an Irishman. I was bleeding Irish blood before you was born.

TOM – (Not flinching) Then come home.

SEAMUS – (Pulls away from TOM) I am home.

TOM – And so am I, there. I’m fighting against the Unionists and Loyalists. I’m helping to fight for a free Northern Ireland.

SEAMUS – (Calming TOM down) All right, all right. Shut up. Get off yer pedestal, ye daft maggot, ye. (Reflecting) I wished ye had been here, fightin’ for your sister’s life.

TOM - It wouldn’t matter, she still would be gone and we both know it. My being here would not have changed a thing. (After a beat, SEAMUS nods, then) But truth is, Pony, I was already here in town when she died. I came to see her. To see you, as well.

SEAMUS – (Turning back towards TOM) Didja, now? After all this time? Bloody hell, Tom. What in God’s name...

TOM - I found out you’ve been speaking with this guy named Roussos.

SEAMUS – Aye. He lost his wife. So?

TOM - He...(ADALYNN ROSE returns from stage right) Hey, now. And just who is this?

SEAMUS – This is my niece, Ada.

ADALYNN ROSE - Adalynn Ro-

SEAMUS - Whatever. She's...(Realizing TOM may not know CALEB is dead) Caleb's girl.

TOM – Caleb’s little girl? Dude, that's...absolutely...fantastic! (Runs up and picks ADALYNN ROSE up and hugs her. SHE smiles) Adalynn Rose! How are you?

ADALYNN ROSE – (Confused, but still smiling) Do I know you?

TOM - Oh, darlin’, you may not remember me, but your father and me had some totally bitchin’ times together. (To SEAMUS) Is he here, Pony? (ADALYNN ROSE looks at SEAMUS who is also surprised by the question)

SEAMUS - Put her down, lad. She might break. She's a “culchie”.

TOM - Oh, right. (Puts her down) We know how fragile they can be. (To ADALYNN ROSE) Listen dudette, wouldja do me a favor and put this card over on the table over there?

(SHE takes the card and does as he asks, staying over by the table and browsing at the unopened cards)

SEAMUS – (To TOM) Come here. (TOM walks up to SEAMUS) How do you know her?

TOM – I popped in on Caleb and Jeanne on the farm about ten years ago, but she was just a baby, then.

SEAMUS – (Breaking the bad news to TOM) There was a fire. Caleb and Jeanne were killed. The girl’s stayin’ with us...with me...until I can figure something...else...out.

TOM – That’s awful. You can’t keep her?

SEAMUS – it’s...a thorny situation right now.

TOM – Wow. (Looks at the child, wistful) Man, I wished I had children.

SEAMUS - And what kind of life would that have been for them, boyo? Running from town to town with their anarchist father?

TOM - Not anarchist, Pony. Patriot.

SEAMUS –“Patriot”? Are ye daft? It’s still my bleedin’ country, ya maggot. You defied the Good Friday Agreement! That’s the stupidest thing I ever heard of. Everybody was in favor of it.

TOM – Not everybody, Pony.

SEAMUS – Oh, sure. Not you, of course. What the hell were ye thinkin’, Tom?

TOM – Look, the rules of the agreement have to apply to everybody or the agreement means nothing, Pony. The Protestants still want to sleep with the British flag. I’m a Catholic. We want a united Ireland.

SEAMUS – We? You mean you and a whopping four percent of other anarchist maggots. (Slowly walks up to TOM and sneers) How patriotic is it to blow up a Protestant church, anyway?

TOM – (Backing away, defensive) Whoa, dude. That’s totally cold. No one was supposed to have been in there. We only picked that one because the priest in there was a known pedophile.

SEAMUS – Well, you made some noise, then, didn’t you? Aye, you killed the man. Guess it was just bad timing on his part to have scheduled that baptism, then? What does the military call that, again? “Collateral damage”?

TOM – (Distraught) If I could change that, don't you think I would?

SEAMUS – (Angry) No. You just had to go on about, acting the maggot.

TOM – Stop calling me that.

SEAMUS - You Eejit. We had it made. You realize every year...okay, every other year... I'm on the phone with concert promoters? We could all be touring, right now, seeing the world, set for life. But, without our original lead vocalist, you, we're nowhere near as big. We might as well be like “Chicago” touring without Peter Cetera or “Supertramp” without Roger Hodgson.

TOM – (Joking but still upset) Or “Air Supply” without oxygen. Look, we had a band, a good band, but I found a cause, and it is an important cause. A cause that means something, and over the years we have made an impact. There may not have even been an Agreement without some of the things we did. I really believe in what we do. And, yeah, I’ve made my mistakes, but this means more to me than anything else in this world. What about you? You found something like that you can believe in?

SEAMUS - (Looks at ADALYNN ROSE, who returns to TOM) No. Not yet.

ADALYNN ROSE – (Holding his hand, smiling) Will you be staying with us?

TOM – (Looks at SEAMUS, then at ADALYNN ROSE) No. As a matter of fact, my little dudette, I have to leave. But I want you to know, when we were kids, your father was one of my best friends. (Hugs her, then says to SEAMUS) Well, I have a plane to catch.

SEAMUS - Don't be daft...you only just got-

TOM - Man on the run, Pony. Man on the run. As a matter of fact, I probably already have overstayed my welcome. Wait for it. (Red and blue police lights are seen outside the house) Oh, lookie there. How about that? The paddy wagon is here me. I should have left by now. Well, I was always late for my cues anyway, right dude?

SEAMUS – (Points off stage right) Right. You suck. (Caring) Out the back.

ADALYNN ROSE – (Runs to the window and looks out at the police cars) Look. There's police cars coming up the driveway.

TOM – (To SEAMUS) Look, Pony. Real fast. Don't let Roussos con you. This dude is bad news like Fox News. He's been running arms to other Irish terrorist groups through US controlled Slovakian ports.

SEAMUS - And what? You're mad because he's arming other radicals cutting in on your territory?

TOM – (Shaking his head) I've got my reasons, but his closest ally was about to give him up.

SEAMUS - You haven't changed. Still the anarchist. Well, this has nothing to do with me. They can have you. I'm not going to involve myself. I'm just an insurance, uh...

ADALYNN ROSE - (Returning) Investigator

SEAMUS - (To ADALYNN ROSE) Right. Thank you. (To TOM) Anyway, why tell me?

TOM - I've got no one else I can trust. He's got a long reach all over Europe and the U.S.

SEAMUS – (Shakes his head) Nay. I can't. I won't.

ADALYNN ROSE – (Looking out the window) They're getting' out of their cars!

TOM – (To SEAMUS) I have to go. Meet me Thursday at the Commodore Hotel on Beach Street. I'm in room 121.

SEAMUS – How'd ye swing that, then? It's the most expensive hotel in the state.

TOM – (Smiling) Right. They'd never look for me there. (Heading off left)

SEAMUS - But how can you afford it?

TOM - I told you. (Points to ADALYNN ROSE) No kids.

SEAMUS – Ah. Be careful, boyo.

TOM - So long, boyo. (Exits)

SEAMUS – It never works when a Yank says that.

ADALYNN ROSE – What's a "dudette"?

OFFSTAGE VOICE OF POLICEMAN – Police! Open up.

SEAMUS – (Exiting out through the kitchen) All right! All right! What're ye doin'? Put those guns away. I've got a child inside. (LIGHTS FADE as TRANSITION to Act 1, Scene 7 takes place. TOM steps into an isolated light)

TOM – I was barely 17. I was just a kid! I didn't know what I wanted. But there I was, in a hotel room jamming with U-2 and the Pony Tales, just partying with all these Irish dudes. The Pony Tales had basically been an all-instrumental band. Caleb told me they were looking for a lead singer to cut some songs with. He had heard me sing in another band so he knew I was good. They were all way older than me...granted only by two or three years...but when you're 17 those years might as well be decades. Gail was with me. She couldn't take her eyes off of Pony, but she knew he was crazy back then so she stayed away. He was a player, nailing a chick in every place we jammed. As we got more famous, we toured, Europe fascinated me. In Ireland, I became obsessed with Irish culture and especially with Irish politics and the emancipation of a unified Northern Ireland. I could have had lots of women like Pony, but I guess I was more like Caleb, a one-woman man. When she miscarried, I admit I cried for days. Then, when I lost her, I didn't expect my reaction. Rage. (Exits off stage left)

Act 1, Scene 7 - The O'Donovan Home

(The O'Donovan home, one week later on a Saturday morning. SEAMUS and ADALYNN ROSE share yet another long, awkward silence at breakfast. He is facing away from her, speaking on his cellular phone. His jacket is draped over the chair. CLAUDIA enters from far stage right with a laundry basket. She is now dressed in housekeeping attire)

SEAMUS - Yeah, Diltzie. I've worked with that guy before. He's great. He should work out fine. All the other guys say they're on board yet? Well, when they do, call me and if we can agree on some numbers and dates I think we'll have a deal. Okay, thanks. Bye. (Disconnects. Turns around and looks at the disapproval on the face of ADALYNN ROSE) What?

ADALYNN ROSE – (Sour) Nothing. (SEAMUS starts to eat his breakfast)

CLAUDIA – Just leave the dishes. I'll get to them after I'm done with laundry. Honestly, I do not know how many unmatched socks one human being can own. (Puts the basket down on the sofa and holds up two different color socks) Couldn't you afford a whole pair?

SEAMUS - (Takes a bite of a bacon strip, then) Gail always suspected there's a vortex that gets formed from within the inside of the dryer.

CLAUDIA – (Pointing to ADALYNN ROSE) Yet I found all this one's socks and their matches.

SEAMUS – Come to think of it, Gail always found hers, as well. Oh, well. Maybe the vortex only happens to men's socks.

CLAUDIA - Probably 'cause men have stinkier feet. (Laughs, then asks curiously) Well, what are you wearing for socks now?

SEAMUS - (Stands up and crosses to the front of the table, pulls up his trouser legs and shows her his bare ankles and shoes) There. THESE are my Saturday pair.

CLAUDIA - But you're not wearing *any* socks.

SEAMUS - I know. THESE are my Saturday pair. (Moves to the side of the table)

ADALYNN ROSE – (Bored) May I please be excused?

CLAUDIA - What manners.

SEAMUS - You finish breakfast?

ADALYNN ROSE – (Bored) Yes.

SEAMUS - Go. (ADALYNN ROSE exits off stage left) Don't you want to go outside and play (she's out)...no, I guess not.

CLAUDIA - (Looking at photo display and the collection of condolence cards still set up by the piano) She was a beautiful lady, sir.

SEAMUS - Yes.

CLAUDIA - With a big heart. Always volunteering at the church. Helping someone in need.

SEAMUS - Yes.

CLAUDIA - And...

SEAMUS – I'm going to stop you right there, Claudia. I know what you're doing. Father Mathias wanted you to drop some subtle hints to get me to change my mind about Ada.

ADALYNN ROSE - (Screaming) Adalynn Rose!

SEAMUS - (Shouts back at her) Whatever! (To CLAUDIA) Now I am (as he puts his right thumb and index finger close together as CLAUDIA stares) this close to a deal that will mean I can go back out on tour. I can't have a kid on the road with me. (After a beat) Why're ye lookin' at me like that?

CLAUDIA - Because you are 57 years old.

SEAMUS - 55.

CLAUDIA - Whatever. But NOBODY wants to buy music made by old men.

SEAMUS - What are you talking about? I'm not that old. Besides, look at the Rolling Stones, Paul McCartney, U-2.

CLAUDIA - I am. But NOBODY wants to buy music made by old men. (There is a bell ring) Anyway you can't leave the little girl. She is family. Family stick together. (Another ring)

SEAMUS - That must be the people from the school. (Looks at his watch) They're early. Would you show them in while I try to find an actual pair of socks in this mess?

CLAUDIA – Si. I'll grab some of these plates as I go.

(CLAUDIA clears some of the table as she exits into the kitchen. SEAMUS crosses over to the laundry basket and digs through the socks. Nothing matches, so he pulls out two NON-matching socks, sits down on the couch and starts to put them on just as CLAUDIA returns with PRINCIPAL HECTOR OWENS and school guidance counselor DR. EVELYN PIASECKI. SEAMUS scrambles to get the socks on quickly, throwing one sock on his foot and the other sock over his shoulder)

CLAUDIA - Can I get you something? Coffee or tea?

DR. PIASECKI - No, I'm fine, thank you.

PRINCIPAL OWENS - Also fine, Thank you.

SEAMUS - (Rising up, one sock on one foot and the other foot bare) Hello there. (Goes over to shake their hands carrying the other non-matching sock over his shoulder)

PRINCIPAL OWENS – (Attempting to start off right with an Irish greeting) Top of the morning there, Mr. O’Donovan.

SEAMUS – (Acting as if amused but really isn’t) What? Oh, aye. Very good. Very good. That Irish greeting, thing, there. Sorry, I’m all out of me “Lucky Charms” today.

PRINCIPAL OWENS – (Laughs) Good one. (Sees SEAMUS’s shoulder with the sock still on it) I see we are having some static cling issues going on this morning, eh, Mr. O’Donovan?

SEAMUS - (Grabbing the sock off his shoulder) What? Oh this? Sorry about that. Some sock malfeasance being performed by me dryer these days.

DR. PIASECKI - May we sit for a moment?

SEAMUS - Absolutely. (CLAUDIA takes the laundry basket and heads off right as SEAMUS, PRINCIPAL OWENS and DR. PIASECKI go over to the table and sit)

PRINCIPAL OWENS - As an insurance person, I assume you knew why we wanted to meet you here instead of at the school.

SEAMUS - (Nodding) You want to assess the kid's home life to make sure she's all right. If anything were to happen to her and you didn't...

DR. PIASECKI - Our liability would be outrageous.

PRINCIPAL OWENS - It's for her protection...and ours. Many schools do this.

SEAMUS - Yes, they do, Principal Owens, but they don't usually bring the school psychologist along.

PRINCIPAL OWENS - Oh, Dr. Piasecki is here just to evaluate the child's mental health.

DR. PIASECKI - You have to admit, Adalynn Rose has been through so much. The death of her mother and father and now the passing of her new mother...

SEAMUS - (Firmly) Aunt. Her aunt, Doctor. Not her mother.

PRINCIPAL OWENS - Yes, well. Several teachers have reported her increasingly withdrawn the last few days.

SEAMUS - Well, of course. Like you said, she's been through...

DR. PIASECKI - She's shut down, stopped participating completely. When she missed two days of homework assignments she told her teacher "What's it matter? I won't be here much longer, anyway."

PRINCIPAL OWENS - And when the teacher asked what she meant she didn't say anything. These are clear red flags that the child may need some professional counseling.

SEAMUS - She only said that because she knows I can't care for her and I might have to go back out on the road soon.

DR. PIASECKI - How does she know you can't care for her? Have you said this to her?

SEAMUS - Well, no, but...

DR. PIASECKI – (Cautioning) Mr. O’Donovan, her statement could also be interpreted as a suicide threat.

SEAMUS - Suicide? (Rising) Don't be daft. Adalynn Rose! Come here. (ADALYNN ROSE enters from stage right) We'll settle this right now.

DR. PIASECKI - Mr. O’Donovan, this may not be the best course of action...whatever it is.

SEAMUS - (To ADALYNN ROSE) Are ye suicidal?

ADALYNN ROSE - No.

SEAMUS – Are ye sure?

ADALYNN ROSE – Yes.

SEAMUS - Do ye plan on being suicidal anytime in the future?

ADALYNN ROSE – No.

PRINCIPAL OWENS - Mr. O'Donovan...

SEAMUS – (To ADALYNN ROSE) So ye don't, right?

ADALYNN ROSE – (Annoyed) I said “No”. I hadn't planned on it.

SEAMUS - Good. Then don't. Ever. Thank you. Off with ye, now. (ADALYNN ROSE exits)

PRINCIPAL OWENS - Mr. O'Donovan, that proves nothing.

SEAMUS – No? I think it does. (Phone rings) Look, you two may not get this, but I was on the road a long time. I toured with me band mates for 30 years. There were a lot of rough times. (Phone rings again) I lost a lot of me mates along the way. Some paid a heavy price but I learned the hard way just what suicide looks like. Have you? I remember one time Rory Calhoun once...(Phone rings again, SEAMUS shouts) Would somebody please pick up the bleedin' phone?

CLAUDIA - (Offstage shouts) I get it!

SEAMUS – (Shouting back) Thank you! Now, what was I sayin'?

DR. PIASECKI – Mr. O'Donovan, those were adults with adult problems. Children minds aren't fully developed yet. They work differently and they have different problems.

SEAMUS -Look, Doctor, let me lay it out for you. That girl is my niece. Now, I loved my brother. I would do anything to make this work, for him, for her, for everybody. But I'm 57...

CLAUDIA - (Offstage) 55!

SEAMUS – (Shouts at CLAUDIA) Quiet, please! (Then calmly, to DR. PIASECKI) I'm 55 years old. I've had four marriages and I guarantee you there are wives and children who would back me up when I say that, habitually, I haven't been the most responsible person in the world.

PRINCIPAL OWENS - So, you are looking to move the girl into some other living arrangement?

SEAMUS – Of course I am. I want what's best for her. We all want what's best for her. But, until I do find her another place, she's safe here. And, I mean, the law of averages is on her side now.

DR. PIASECKI – Law of averages?

SEAMUS – Aye. Consider, after three major deaths in the family in the matter of months, weeks even, what else can happen, right?

CLAUDIA - (Re-entering) Mr. Seamus? (SEAMUS walks over to CLAUDIA. She whispers in his ear. He returns to the table)

SEAMUS - I'm afraid we're going to have to postpone the rest of this conversation.

DR. PIASECKI - Is everything all right?

SEAMUS – (Putting on his jacket) That was the police. It appears my brother-in-law just overdosed in his hotel room. I have to go and identify the body. Claudia will show you out. (Exits as LIGHTS DIM as TRANSITION to Act 1, Scene 8 takes place. TOM enters from far stage left, isolated)

TOM - After wife number three burned him for a lot of bread, Pony said he was done with chicks. Of course, he said that to Gail over dinner. When I split from the group he was asking if she knew where I was. Two weeks later they were married. In recent years, she'd post an occasional update on her Facebook page and I'd see it, so I could know what was happening in their lives. Pony never knew. She told me that when times were at their lowest, when he almost lost her and when the gigs just weren't happening anymore, that's when he realized he was going to have to make some changes. But...an insurance investigator? Dude, what's that all about? He likes being some sort of Irish "Banacek"? He totally sold out. But I never would. I know this means my days are probably numbered, but I only hope it's not too late for Pony. (Exits far stage left)

Act 1, Scene 8 – Commodore Hotel Room # 769

(LIGHTS UP on TOM'S hotel room, now a murder scene. TOM's dead body is face down on the pillow in his bed, a prescription bottle clutched in his left hand. The MEDICAL EXAMINER REESE DUPUIS is there taking pictures. SEAMUS enters the room and sees his brother-in-law and reacts)

SEAMUS – (Sighs) More acting the maggot, eh Tom?

DUPUIS - Seamus. You working this one? Where's Edelstein?

SEAMUS – (Shaking his head) Nay. It's not business. (Pointing to TOM's body) That's my wife's brother.

DUPUIS – Oh. (After a beat) Which wife?

SEAMUS – My...last wife. I was sent to the wrong room. What's it looking like then, Reese?

DUPUIS – Overdose looks like, I'm afraid. Sorry, Seamus.

SEAMUS - Thanks, but don't be so sure, 'cause this is not a suicide.

DUPUIS - How do you figure? Pill bottle. Suicide note. No signs of struggle.

SEAMUS – I'd be the first one to claim that me brother-in-law was nothing if not bad news. He killed others for his causes and he knew he would face eternal damnation for that. However, he was still a devout Irish Catholic and there's just no way on earth he would ever take his own life.

DUPUIS - (Pulling out a polybagged note from his jacket pocket) Here's the suicide note. (Hands it to SEAMUS)

SEAMUS - (Reading) "Seamus, forgive me. I'll say hello to Gail when I meet her at the pearly gates." No. No. No. No. See? This is crap. A bogus suicide note. (Hands the note back to DUPUIS) He would never have written this.

DUPUIS – (Thinking SEAMUS is in denial) Gotta mark the bag. (Grabbing a pen from the nightstand next to the bed) How can you be so sure? (Tries to write on the bag)

SEAMUS – Simple. He would never, ever call me Seamus. (Thick Irish brogue) Ye see, me boyo, Tom was the first person to call me "Pony" and he never stopped. Do you know what I mean?

DUPUIS – I'm barely listening. I've been here for three hours and I haven't had my coffee yet. (Shaking the pen) Jeez, if he used this pen to write the suicide note with it wouldn't have helped him much.

SEAMUS - (Looking at the pen, takes it from DUPUIS) Wait. Dupuis, where'd you get this pen?

DUPUIS - From the nightstand. They already dusted for prints, so...

SEAMUS - Did the police use blacklight around the hotel room?

DUPUIS - Yes. They didn't find anything atypical. I've got a handheld in my bag. Why?

SEAMUS - Can I use it?

DUPUIS - Sure. Kill the lights. (DUPUIS goes to his medical bag and pulls out a handheld blacklight device)

SEAMUS – (Turning off the area lights) Tom and me, in the band, did an entire album cover which was written in invisible ink. We thought it was brilliant, till we found out back then that the ink we were using wore off after only a few days. Sales plummeted. But we used pens like this one to write on the cover. (There is minimal darkness on stage with use of blacklight effect)

DUPUIS – (Handing the handheld blacklight to SEAMUS) Here you go. I didn't see anything out of the norm. (Takes out an apple and starts eating it) The police scanned this whole area, Seamus. There's nothing conclusive.

(SEAMUS scours the room with the blacklight then looks at TOM)

SEAMUS - (To DUPUIS) Reese, can you grab that pillow, please?

DUPUIS - What? I haven't finished eating my apple, yet.

(SEAMUS grabs the pillow and hands it to DUPUIS)

SEAMUS - Here. Now, just hold this up to the light. (DUPUIS does so and SEAMUS scans the pillow, revealing the word "ROUSSOS") And thar she blows. Tom, I always did enjoy playin' poker with ye 'cause you always were a bit of a devilish sleeveen.

DUPUIS – Sleeveen?

SEAMUS – Means cunning. (Looking at the pillow) Very clever, indeed.

DUPUIS – What about the suicide note?

SEAMUS – Gets trumped by a dying declaration.

(Blackout - End of Act One)

Act 2, Scene 1 – The O’Donovan Home

(LIGHTS UP on O'Donovan home once more. Another gathering after TOM's funeral. This time there is present on stage only SEAMUS, EDELSTEIN and FATHER MATHIAS. The MEN are seated around the dinner table having beers as they had been for Act 1, Scene 6)

FATHER MATHIAS - It was a nice service.

EDELSTEIN - Yeah. (Stretches, almost as if bored, but he just doesn't know what to say) Yeah...yeah...yeah...So, ummm...you Catholics do this a lot, do you?

SEAMUS - (Cautioning) Edelstein.

EDELSTEIN - Sorry. Just trying to make conversation.

SEAMUS – Well don’t. Just drink yer pint.

FATHER MATHIAS - (Looking around) Where is Adalynn Rose?

EDELSTEIN - Out with Mrs. Estrada. The lady said they had an errand to run. (There is a prolonged beat of silence as the MEN just stare about, not knowing what to say. Then, Edelstein says to FATHER MATHIAS) It was a...nice service, Father.

FATHER MATHIAS - Thank you. (Also stretching, almost as if bored, but also not knowing what to say) Thank you. Yes. Yes. It...it was a...nice service.

SEAMUS – It was...

EDELSTEIN – Nice.

SEAMUS – Very nice. Very nice.

FATHER MATHIAS - (After a beat) I must admit...I've never presided over a service where the body wasn't present.

EDELSTEIN - No?

FATHER MATHIAS - No. Well, since I’ve been with the church there've been closed caskets, cremated remains in an urn and such, things of that sort.

EDELSTEIN – Sure, sure.

FATHER MATHIAS - Father Shea once presided over a drowning victim where the body wasn't recovered.

EDELSTEIN – (Recalling) The Nesmith case. Hey, I remember that. Do you remember that, Seamus?

SEAMUS – (Resting his head against his right fist, right elbow on the table) I so don’t want to be here right now.

FATHER MATHIAS – (Continuing) Of course, in that case, there was no "body" to be found. But, in the case of Mr. Carney, we actually do know where the "body" is. So, no. No, for me, this was definitely my first legitimate "no body" funeral service.

EDELSTEIN – That’s interesting.

SEAMUS – No, it isn’t.

FATHER MATHIAS and EDELSTEIN – (Simultaneously but a bit staggered) No, it isn’t.

SEAMUS – (Taking a drink) They had to fly Tom’s body back to Ireland. Political minutia.

EDELSTEIN – Minutia?

SEAMUS – Crap. (To MATHIAS) I do appreciate the service, Father. It would have meant a lot to Gail.

FATHER MATHIAS - Well, at least you had some nice photos of Tom. (Trying to be diplomatic) Uhhh, did he always dress, so...

SEAMUS – I believe the word you’re looking for, Father, is “flamboyant” and yes. In our band days Tom was practically certifiable. Y’know, lads, I couldn’t find one picture of him wearin’ a suit. And then, the one time he shows up in ten years, and he’s got on a blessed suit. I don’t get it.

(CLAUDIA enters with ADALYNN ROSE in tow. ADALYNN ROSE is crying and runs to her room off right)

SEAMUS – (Rising, as do the OTHERS) What's the matter? Why is she crying?

CLAUDIA - We just came from the church.

SEAMUS - (Surprised) You took her to the church?

CLAUDIA - (Admitting) Si.

SEAMUS - (Angry) After I distinctively told you I didn't want her to have to go through another funeral?

CLAUDIA - (Apologetic) I know. I'm sorry. She wanted to go and so I took her.

FATHER MATHIAS - (Curious) But why, Claudia? Why would you do such a thing?

CLAUDIA - (To SEAMUS) I remember that night when he come to see you. Your brother in law was the first person since Adalynn Rose come here and make her smile.

SEAMUS – For the love of...(After a beat, angry) Thank you for your help, Mrs. Estrada, but we shan't require your help anymore.

CLAUDIA - But...

SEAMUS - You're fired.

CLAUDIA - But...you don't pay me. I'm a volunteer.

EDELSTEIN - (Trying to make light of the situation) She's got you there, Pony.

FATHER MATHIAS - (Trying to diffuse the situation) Why don't we sit and talk about it?

SEAMUS - (Exploding) Would you all just stop telling me what to do? First the school and now you three. Jesus H. Christ! (To FATHER MATHIAS) Sorry, Father. (Taking a breath to calm down) Look, thank you all for your help, but I think everybody should leave and let me handle this, now.

FATHER MATHIAS – Aye. We’ll go.

EDELSTEIN – (Gathering his overcoat) Say Father, uh, I’m short on cab fare. Can I get a lift?

FATHER MATHIAS – Sure, Mr. Edelstein. I’ll meet you outside. (Motions to EDELSTEIN and CLAUDIA who then exit through the kitchen, leaving FATHER MATHIAS alone to talk with SEAMUS) Y’know, Gail once confessed you were concerned about your age and bein’ too old to start raisin’ a child. (SEAMUS looks at FATHER MATHIAS, disapproving) Aye. I’m breakin’ a confidence, but I don’t think she’d mind in this case. I know the lassie has been shown a lot of death, but who’s to say you canna’ show her life, as well? Slainte (pronounced SLAHNchuh), Seamus.

SEAMUS – (Deadpan) Aye. “To your health”, as well, Father. (FATHER MATHIAS exits out through the kitchen. SEAMUS paces the room for a moment, then pulls out his cellular phone and calls) Hello? Willow Sky? It's me, Seam...ummm...Pony. (Beat) I know it's late where you are, but...(Beat) What do you mean where you are is in your car? (Beat) You lost the apartment? Wow, couldn't see that one coming, eh? Your parents, what'd they say? (Beat) They called you a what? (Beat) A what? (Beat) Spell it, girl. (A few beats, then) Oh, that. Not very Christian of them, now was it? Listen, why not spend some time here? Help me with the kid until I find a new place for her to go and you can stay here rent free till you get back on your feet. How does that sound? (Beat) Okay, fine. Ten dollars an hour. But none of that vegan crap, y'got it? (Beat) Fine. Get here when you can scrounge up enough gas money. Bye.

(SEAMUS disengages and puts the phone down. Slowly walks over to the table where all the cards remain unopened. He pulls out the one from Tom and puts it back down. He moves over to the computer. Selects a tune to play. He moves over to the piano and pantomimes playing along with the tune. As the tune plays, ADALYNN ROSE returns. She sees SEAMUS playing and walks over to him)

ADALYNN ROSE – (Uneasy) Are you cheesed off with me, then?

SEAMUS – Huh? What? Oh, Aye. Yes, I'm mad all right (looks at her)...but not at you. You okay?

ADALYNN ROSE - Aye. (Beat) I ain't never been to a funeral where there wasn't a body.

SEAMUS - Then I guess it's a day of firsts for both you *and* the Scotsman, then. (Curious) Tell me - Caleb, I mean, your dad, and your mum...what was that funeral like?

ADALYNN ROSE - Oh, it was small, but lovely. We lived on a small farm, not many people around. There's only like 150 or 160 people around us.

SEAMUS – That's tiny.

ADALYNN ROSE – (Smiling as she recalls, for the first time) The church, it had these three small stained glass windows on the altar, and the sun was beamin' through. (Closes her eyes, thinking) I remember...orchids. There was lots of orchids, mum's favorite... There was a lot of music, laughter and it was, I dunno...(opening her eyes again) just nice. (Looks at SEAMUS, curious) Why didn't you come?

SEAMUS – Oh, it really was like I told ye. It was real tough on Gail at times. When we thought a goin' she was a bit too queasy to travel, y'know. Finally, she...(He suddenly becomes lost in the memory of her), I don't know. She, umm...

ADALYNN ROSE - (Looking at the expression on his face) You really miss her, don't you?

SEAMUS - (After a beat, looks back at her, gently) I miss 'em ALL, kid. (Indicating the back table) Still haven't been able to open all those condolence cards from Gail's funeral. (Continues playing)

ADALYNN ROSE – I saw the pictures of Tom at St. Mary's.

SEAMUS – (Smiling as he recalls) Gail had a ton of photos of him back when we played in the band together.

ADALYNN ROSE - (Nodding) It was such a gas. You all looked so different back then.

SEAMUS - Back when?

ADALYNN ROSE - Back when you was young.

SEAMUS - (Stops playing, looks at her, then admits) Aye, I suppose. (Continues playing) Look I made a hash of things of late, but I want ye to know it's nothin' personal. I've just never been good with kids, is all. I'm a bit of a jibbers, that's why I got to find you a new...

ADALYNN ROSE – (Interrupting, not wanting SEAMUS to finish that sentence) What's this song?

SEAMUS - "Tupelo Honey".

ADALYNN ROSE - Is it one of yours?

SEAMUS – (Chuckles) I wish. I haven't written a song in such a long time. (Realizing) I miss it, so I try not to think about it. (Looks at her) I guess you must know what that's like, eh? (Continues playing) This is by an Irish named Van Morrison. Huge hit for him. Lemme guess. Ye never heard of him.

ADALYNN ROSE – (Shakes her head) Sorry. But, you like it?

SEAMUS - Nope. Not particularly.

ADALYNN ROSE – (Confused) Then why are you...

SEAMUS - Gail did. She and Tom used to sing it together, goofing around. Back in the early days, before we started touring, Gail was working late hours as a hotel maid. Tom would invite her to come watch us jam and have a pint after she got out of work. (Smiling as he recalls) Sometimes he'd tip back a few too many and he'd dress up in her uniform and oh, would that just piss her off... I mean...make her madder than a wee folk with a yoyo.

ADALYNN ROSE - Why?

SEAMUS – (Laughing) 'Cause he'd actually pull it off. He looked hotter in her clothes than she did. Of course, I could never tell her that. She'd think I was a wanker or something. Haha. But he'd throw on this stupid black wig he got from some dollar store and you'd swear he was Shania Twain. (Continues to laugh)

ADALYNN ROSE – (Considers, then asks) Shania who?

SEAMUS – Sha...(remembers he's talking to an 11 year old, stops laughing) Oh, for the love of... Skip it.

ADALYNN ROSE - (Smiling) No-no-no. Tell me. Really, I want to see. Do you have pictures?

SEAMUS – Yer dad never showed you?

ADALYNN ROSE - (She shakes her head) Nope. Now, of course, we lost most everything in the fire.

SEAMUS – Right. Well...(recalling) as a matter of fact, aye. We used the best photo of him on the back sleeve for our album "Working Girls".

ADALYNN ROSE - What's an album?

SEAMUS - (Feeling old) Sigh. It's what came before CDs and the Internet. (Indicating the wall along the rear of the stage) It's in that stack of 'em I got along the back wall over there. (SEAMUS crosses and sits at the computer). I need to go online. Need to see how badly takin' out another three grand to replace a vase is gonna hurt my bank account. I wish people at the funeral had offered cash instead of condolences. (Looking around the

computer's hard drive) Hello. Where is it? (To ADALYNN ROSE) Have you seen the USB drive that was in here?

ADALYNN ROSE – The what?

SEAMUS - The (trying to describe it) little...thingy. The flash drive.

ADALYNN ROSE - Oh. The stick?

SEAMUS - "Stick"?

ADALYNN ROSE - We call 'em sticks in me old school.

SEAMUS – I'm amazed you even had internet access. (Realizing) Wait. Is that what you were talking about at Roussos's place? (ADALYNN ROSE nods) So, the woman you saw dropped a USB drive? (She nods again) Okay. Now I get it. (Finds the USB drive) Found it. All right, be off with ye now, and lemme get some work done.

(ADALYNN ROSE goes over to the stack of album and locates the record. Her face becomes excited as she runs back to SEAMUS with the recording and hands it to him)

ADALYNN ROSE - There she is! (Pointing to the photo on the back cover of the album) It's her!

SEAMUS – (Exasperated, to HIMSELF) Bollocks. I'm never gonna get anything bleedin' done today. (To ADALYNN ROSE) Who is it?

ADALYNN ROSE - The woman I saw.

SEAMUS - (Laughing) Tom? That's impossible. This picture was probably taken thirty years...(He stops, recalling how he remarked to TOM that he hadn't aged) Are you sure?

ADALYNN ROSE – (Excited) Aye. I'm positive. She came out, dropped the sticks, and then, when some men began a'chasin' her, she knocked over the vase and ran out the door. I swear.

SEAMUS - (Looks at the album cover, as his cellular phone rings) Oh, Tom. What did you do, ye maggot? (Into the phone) Hello? Aye, Dilzie. (Looks at ADALYNN ROSE) Umm, me battery is low. Lemme take this in the other room. I'll call ye right back. (SEAMUS exits the room, leaving the cellular phone)

ADALYNN ROSE – (Picks up the phone and looks at it) The battery's fine. What's he doin', then? (Realizing) Wait a sec. Condolences? (ADALYNN ROSE goes over to the table with the unopened condolence card envelopes) He still hasn't opened these cards. Maybe there is cash in them, then. (She rustles through them, finding the large white one from TOM. She opens it up and finds a CD-ROM. She returns to the computer and puts the CD-ROM into the drive)

ADALYNN ROSE – (Stares at the screen) Hallo? What have we got here? (Studies the screen for a moment, then) Oh, he's got to see this. (Gets up from the computer. Walks over to overhear SEAMUS's telephone conversation)

OFFSTAGE VOICE OF SEAMUS - Okay, Diltzie, we got a deal. Send me those contracts. I'm in for the whole tour. I just need to take care of a few loose ends but, after that, I'm all yours.

ADALYNN ROSE – (Angry) "Loose end" am I? I'll show you.

(ADALYNN ROSE, feeling like she's about to be abandoned, takes SEAMUS's camera and snaps a quick photo of the record album cover. She runs out of the house through the kitchen as LIGHTS FADE. TRANSITION to ACT 2, Scene 2)

Act 2, Scene 2 – The Roussos Mansion

(ROUSSOS mansion, moments later. ADALYNN ROSE is once again seated on the bench as ROUSSOS re-enters from his office)

ROUSSOS – Why, Miss Winchester. I am surprised. It pleases me to see you again, but it is so late. It is getting dark. What brings you here? Where is your uncle?

ADALYNN ROSE – I walked here.

ROUSSOS - (Assuming she may have come to apologize) Is this about the vase?

ADALYNN ROSE – (Rising) No, sir, it's the funniest thing, actually. Y'see, I was trying to come up with a good reason why you lied to me uncle when we was here. Then, it all came together for me.

ROUSSOS - (Confused) I do not...

ADALYNN ROSE – Aye. It's a real interesting story, it is. Would make a good flick. See, there's lots of action, gangsters, smuggling, a love affair, murder.

ROUSSOS – (Laughs hard, sits on the bench, entertained) Oh, my. You are precious, little one. This is a story you are writing? Wonderful! Go on. This whole idea interests me. What murder?

ADALYNN ROSE – You murdered Tom Carney, or ye had him killed. Not sure on that yet.

ROUSSOS – (Struggles to keep her from seeing that he recognizes the name) What? Who...Who is...

ADALYNN ROSE – Y'know, me dad and me used to play chess, and he'd always win. It used to make me mad. I couldn't git why he was so good, he just was. I thought he just was really smart. Then, just afore he died, he told me his secret. He said that, sometimes, not always, he could see the next move in his opponent's face. It was like he knew what they was feeling or thinking.

ROUSSOS – How fascinating, but I...

ADALYNN ROSE – Aye, he was great at it. I could never be as good as him, but I did get better. Good enough to know, judgin' by your face right now, you recognize Tom's name. Matter of fact, you look a little bit stung, don't'cha know. My guess is ye hated him. He must have made you practically off yer nut to want to have him killed like that.

(SEAMUS enters the room from the door along the back)

ROUSSOS – (Rising, angered) I no longer find this amusing. I'm afraid, my dear, I have no idea...

SEAMUS - Please, Mr. Roussos, for the sake of our wives respective memories, let's not insult the poor little bird. She's a smart one, she is. Hear her out. After all, she's right.

ROUSSOS – Mr. O’Donovan. I can’t believe you would send this girl out here on some wild goose chase?

SEAMUS – No, sir. I had no idea she was comin’ here. Excuse us a minute. (Brings ADALYNN ROSE close) What were ye thinkin’?

ADALYNN ROSE – I heard you on the phone. I don’t want to be a “loose end”. I wanted to show you I could be useful to you.

SEAMUS – By comin’ here? Are ye out of yer mind, girl? We will discuss this more at length later. (To ROUSSOS) I’m sorry, sir. Now, where was I? Oh, yes. Y’see, my brother-in-law was always, for lack of a better word, colorful.

ADALYNN ROSE - But you already knew that, didn't you, Mr. Roussos?

SEAMUS – Sssh. I’ve got this. (After a beat) But you already knew that, didn't you, Mr. Roussos?

ROUSSOS - I have never met this man of whom you speak.

SEAMUS - Aye. Y'see, your just makin’ this worse for yourself, don’t’cha know. Do you like Genesis, sir?

ROUSSOS – From the Bible?

SEAMUS – No, from England. The rock group, Genesis.

ROUSSOS – I’ve heard some of their songs, yes.

SEAMUS – Aye, well, when we played in our band, Tom was what we call our “front man”. (Pulls out a photograph and shows it to ROUSSOS) He was a lot like Peter Gabriel in his day...

ROUSSOS – Who?

ADALYNN ROSE – Who?

SEAMUS – (Realizing they do not understand the dated reference, sighs) Skip it. Anyway, he could be very dramatic and flamboyant is what I’m gettin’ at. He’d always wear these outrageous costumes, sometimes real gender-benders.

(ADALYNN ROSE pulls out SEAMUS’s phone and hands it to ROUSSOS who does not react)

SEAMUS – Ah! So there’s me phone.

ADALYNN ROSE – (To ROUSSOS) I found this photo of Tom on an old record cover.

SEAMUS - And you know, she recognized this as the woman who she saw stealing some flash drives from your office.

ROUSSOS – The...”sticks”?

SEAMUS – (Smiles) Aye. The “sticks”. (Goes to the door. Opens it and motions to someone unseen) Y’see, Tom grabbed proof of all your dock transcripts for the gun runs and of all your illegal money transactions. Your wife kept all yer books for you, didn’t she? As a matter of fact, Tom got *all* the records, Mr. Roussos, didn’t he, now?

ADALYNN ROSE - He put all the info onto the stick and then made this CD-Rom.

SEAMUS - I burned a copy for the police who are waiting outside. (Calling out) Edelstein! (EDELSTEIN enters through the door with NURSE MINX in tow) They also know how you murdered your wife.

ROUSSOS – (Defeated) No.

EDELSTEIN - The toxicology report showed your wife was on quinapril hydrochloride. You had Minxie here screw with her meds.

SEAMUS – To us, and to the police, it looks like accidental manslaughter. On an accidental overdose claim, either you could sue the hospital or insist to her superiors that Minxie lose her job.

EDELSTEIN - But since you orchestrated the whole thing, and since you were your wife's only family, there was no risk of a lawsuit.

SEAMUS - And even if Minxie had lost her job, I'm guessin' what you paid her more than covered it.

ADALYNN ROSE – But the only question I still have is why. I mean, your wife was dying, anyway. Why do it?

SEAMUS – (To ADALYNN ROSE) Maybe she wasn't really dying? (To ROUSSOS) A jealous rage, perhaps? You fooled her doctors. You really gave her the symptoms passing for her illness.

ROUSSOS – There's no way you can know that.

SEAMUS – No? I've been married four times, skin. I know how angry a man can get with a cheating wife.

EDELSTEIN – Don't ask him about the '89 tour. He won't shut up about it and...

SEAMUS – Not now Edelstein!

EDELSTEIN – Sorry.

ADALYNN ROSE – It must have felt horrible. The affair, I mean.

EDELSTEIN - Big man, but your wife made you look like a little schmuck.

ROUSSOS – Stop it. All of you. Leave now.

SEAMUS – 'Fraid we can't do that. See, the police are outside. They brought Minxie here who already told us everything.

EDELSTEIN - She also confessed to killing Tom Carney with painkillers while two of your men held him down. They also gave you up.

MINX – (To ROUSSOS) Sorry. I got scared. The cops said I could get life.

ROUSSOS – Shut up, woman!

SEAMUS - You were slowly, gradually poisoning Sofia with her own medication.

EDELSTEIN - When the Greek authorities began to suspect, you came to the US to finish the job.

SEAMUS - You just didn't expect Tom to follow you here.

ROUSSOS – He didn't follow me. He followed...her.

SEAMUS – Aye. There's the missing piece. Tom was sleepin' with your wife.

ROUSSOS – He told you? Must have bragged about it.

SEAMUS – No. In all the years I knew him Tom was never one to be a gentleman, for sure, but with your wife he was. He never said a word.

ROUSSOS – Then...how...?

SEAMUS - I told you Tom had a flair for the dramatic. He told me he was staying in room 121 at the Commodore Hotel.

EDELSTEIN - But when the police called Seamus in to identify Tom's body, when he got there Tom was actually in room 769.

SEAMUS - Not a big deal until I remembered how 769 was the number of the hospital room for your wife. If it had been *anybody* else I'd bow to coincidence, (smiling at the memory of TOM) but Tom wasn't one for coincidence, either.

ADALYNN ROSE – The night I met him, Tom mentioned something about your “closest ally” about to spoil the beans on you.

SEAMUS – “Spill”.

ADALYNN ROSE – What?

SEAMUS – “Spill the beans”. Not “spoil the beans”.

ADALYNN ROSE – Oh, sorry. But Tom was talking about Sofia, wasn't he?

SEAMUS – He said he had always wanted kids. (To ROUSSOS, who is emotionless by this point) Just how long had the affair been goin' on before you found out Sofia was pregnant with Tom's kid? (ROUSSOS says nothing) Well, I guess it doesn't matter anymore. It's finished.

EDELSTEIN - (Heading to the door) I'll go tell the cops, Seamus.

(ROUSSOS quickly reaches into his suit pocket, pulls out a gun and wounds EDELSTEIN in the shoulder. He then shoots MINX who drops to the ground, dead. He then aims at ADALYNN ROSE)

SEAMUS – (Gets in front of the girl to protect her) Don't shoot, man! Don't shoot!

(SEAMUS gets shot in the abdomen as EDELSTEIN pulls out his gun and shoots ROUSSOS in the chest. Both men drop to the ground. ADALYNN ROSE rushes to SEAMUS's side as EDELSTEIN goes over and gets ROUSSOS's gun and then props the dying man up to examine his wounds)

ADALYNN ROSE - Uncle Seamus! Uncle Seamus! Please don't die. Please! Don't die!

OFFSTAGE VOICE OF GAIL – (Calling out) Pony.

SEAMUS – (Bleeding, wearily calling out) Gail?

EDELSTEIN – (To ROUSSOS) Hold on, you bastard. Police are here. We have to get you to the (pulls out his hand from the inside of ROUSSOS's suit and it is covered in blood. He realizes the man is dying) to the hospital.

ROUSSOS – (Calls out to ADALYNN ROSE, gravely wounded) I'm sorry you were involved in this. I do so love children. (Fading, blood trailing from his mouth) If only my wife and I were able to...(Looks to the sky) Sofia? Agapetos (beloved), if only we were able to...to have...(Falls silent. He is dead).

OFFSTAGE VOICE OF GAIL – (Calling out) Pony.

ADALYNN ROSE - Uncle Seamus! Uncle Seamus! Pony! Please don't die. Please! Don't die!

SEAMUS – (Becoming more faint, to ADALYNN ROSE) Stop shoutin' in my ear, girl. I'm shot, not deaf. (Coughs up some blood, wipes it away) Now this, girl...this is more what it felt like on the '89 tour. (Chuckles, then winces in pain) Damn, that hurts. (Calling out, fading) Gail? (His eyes close) Gail. (He falls silent)

(LIGHTS FADE as ambulance sounds are heard as the TRANSITION TO ACT 2, Scene 3 takes place. GAIL enters from far stage right, isolated. A NEWS ANCHOR speaks)

OFFSTAGE VOICE OF NEWS ANCHOR – More information released today on the shooting that took place at the mansion of shipping tycoon Dominic Roussos causing multiple fatalities. Police have confirmed that the shooting exchanged between Roussos and former rock and roll drummer Seamus O’Donovan.

GAIL – (Calling out) Pony? Pony? Where are you?

OFFSTAGE VOICE OF NEWS ANCHOR – (Continuing) O’Donovan, who had been working as an investigator for Millborough Insurance for the past twenty years, had been probing the death of the shipping magnate’s late wife.

GAIL – (Calling out) Pony? (TOM enters from far left, also isolated, but his lighting may be slightly different than GAIL’s at director’s discretion. GAIL calls out to TOM by looking straight ahead. NEITHER hears the NEWS ANCHOR) Tom? Tom? Can you hear me?

TOM – (Looking up to the sky as if he’s speaking with her) Yeah, sis. I hear you.

What’s...up? (Apologizing for the pun) Sorry about that.

OFFSTAGE VOICE OF NEWS ANCHOR – (Continuing) According to police, Roussos got off two shots before he was shot once in the chest. A nurse on the scene received one gunshot wound by Roussos in the back while O’Donovan was shot once by Roussos in the abdomen.

GAIL – Have you seen Seamus? Here’s not here. Is he...with you?

TOM – No. He’s not here. Why?

GAIL – I thought I heard him, just now.

TOM – (Listens, then says) Nope. I don’t hear anything at my end. (Exits the way he came)

GAIL – (Considers) Hmmm. Strange. He must still have things to do, I guess. (Shrugging shoulders) Oh, well. Maybe later. Maybe later. (Exits off right)

OFFSTAGE VOICE OF NEWSCASTER – (Continuing) Hospital officials say Roussos died instantly while the nurse was dead on arrival. As for O’Donovan he is not expected to survive. In other news...

Act 2, Scene 3 – The O’Donovan Home

(LIGHTS UP on the O’Donovan home once more, after some time has passed. Looking similar to Act 1, Scene 6, with FATHER MATHIAS and EDELSTEIN once again seated at the dinner table drinking beer. EDELSTEIN’s wounded arm is in a sling. CLAUDIA, dressed nice, is tidying up around the living room area. SUNSHINE, RAINBOW and WILLOW SKY are also in the living room area also dressed as if they have just come from a formal church service. EDELSTEIN takes a swig of his beer then speaks to FATHER MATHIAS)

EDELSTEIN – It was another great service, Father.

FATHER MATHIAS – Aye. It was good to see such a turnout.

EDELSTEIN – This keeps up I'll never be able to show my face at Temple Beth Am ever again.

FATHER MATHIAS – Your certainly a blessing to this house, man, a hero, Marcus. I canna' believe you entered that house with a gun. Were you expecting there to be shooting?

EDELSTEIN – No. Didn't even cross my mind. I always carry a gun.

FATHER MATHIAS – Ye do? Why? Wait! Lemme guess. I know! Is it required for yer job?

EDELSTEIN – Nope.

FATHER MATHIAS – Then why, man?

EDELSTEIN – For protection.

FATHER MATHIAS – Protection? Do you feel like your life is in constant danger?

EDELSTEIN – Of course. (Beat) I'm a Republican. (Alternate response: "I'm in insurance")
(Takes a swig of his beer)

(ADALYN ROSE enters carrying a "party platter" of food)

ADALYN ROSE – Foods up. (The kitchen door swings back and we hear a "thud")

SEAMUS – (Offstage) Ow!

ADALYN ROSE – Whoops. (SEAMUS enters walking with a cane and rubbing his head)
Sorry.

SEAMUS – Never mind, never mind. Just put the bleedin' food down. (Calling out)
Everybody dig in! Grab a plate. Help yerselves.

(ALL gather around the table, picking up paper plates)

CLAUDIA – The food looks good, ADALYN Rose.

ADALYN ROSE – Aye. Thank Willow Sky for that. She ordered it.

WILLOW SKY – It was my pleasure.

SEAMUS – It was my credit card.

WILLOW SKY – Don't get your girdle in a twist, Pony.

FATHER MATHIAS – How long do you need to wear them bandages around your midsection, Seamus?

SEAMUS – Another two weeks, then the doctors said the staples can come out.

FATHER MATHIAS – Wonderful.

SEAMUS – Dunno how "wonderful" you'd think it is trussed up like this for two months.

CLAUDIA – (Pushing her way through to ADALYNN ROSE) Never mind! Today is a special day. (Looks at ADALYNN ROSE and SEAMUS) Adopted. I am so happy for both of you.

(Hugs ADALYNN ROSE)

SEAMUS – (Looking at the platter) Wait just a minute. Sky, I told ye t'get the party platter. What's all this?

WILLOW SKY – I did. I got the vegan party platter from that new Middle Eastern restaurant.

SEAMUS – (Annoyed) Oh fer the love of...

WILLOW SKY - (Pointing out the various items on the plate) It's got falafel, hummus, sprouts, baba ghanouj, baby tomatoes, tabouli, pita, and over there is some tahini dressing.

ALL (EXCEPT SEAMUS) – Oh, wow! That's sound great. Let's dig in. Wonderful!

SEAMUS – I'm going to projectile vomit if I eat this. (ALL put their plates down, appetites destroyed)

SUNSHINE – Pony!

EDELSTEIN – Dude! Seriously?

WILLOW SKY – (Scolding) In the hospital you said you'd stop drinking and try new foods.

SEAMUS – In the hospital the food was so revolting I'd say just about anything to get the hell out of there. (To FATHER MATHIAS) Sorry, Father.

FATHER MATHIAS – Not at all. By the by, boyo, is there any ale *left*?

SEAMUS – In the kitchen, padre. Help yerself to what's left in the fridge. (WILLOW SKY rolls her eyes as FATHER MATHIAS smiles exiting into the kitchen) Well, I may not like her taste in food, but I am glad Willow Sky was able to convince her sisters to come. It would've meant a lot to Ga...no, I'm not gonna do that. (Thinking of GAIL) She wouldn't have wanted that. You know what, girls, it means a lot to *me*. (Lifting his beer) A toast: May you have the hindsight to know where you've been, the foresight to know where you're going, and the insight to know when you're going too far...or ye might get shot. (ALL laugh) All right? Bottoms up. Cheers!

SUNSHINE – (Enthusiastic, tipsy) I'll drink to that.

RAINBOW – (Taking her glass) No you won't. You're on the wagon.

SUNSHINE – Since when?

RAINBOW – Since now.

SUNSHINE – (Looking at the group) Oh, God. This isn't another intervention, is it? Is it? (Breaking down again, begins to cause a scene) Oh, God. Oh, God. Oh, God. (RAINBOW and WILLOW SKY escort SUNSHINE out through the kitchen as FATHER MATHIAS returns)

FATHER MATHIAS – (Holding up his mug of beer) And blessed be his kingdom.

ALL – Now, and forever. Amen.

SEAMUS – (To FATHER MATHIAS) Nice save, Scot.

FATHER MATHIAS – (To SEAMUS) Yer welcome, Irish. (They clink mugs)

(WILLOW SKY returns)

WILLOW SKY – Pony, we need cab fare.

SEAMUS – Aye. Yer comin' home just after ye see them off, right?

WILLOW SKY – (Nodding) Right after I stop at the pharmacy to get some more vitamin E for that wound of yours.

EDELSTEIN – (To SEAMUS) With three kids I think the last thing you need is vitamin E. (SEAMUS laughs)

WILLOW SKY - Try the hummus, at least. It's good for you. (Begins to exit, then returns and quickly gives SEAMUS a peck on the cheek) See you, Pony. (Exits)

SEAMUS – Goodbye, girl. (To FATHER MATHIAS) Well, maybe there's some hope for me with *that* one at least, anyway. (Tries the hummus and gags on it) Maybe not. Oh, that's vile. Bloody hell! (To FATHER MATHIAS) Sorry, Father.

FATHER MATHIAS – Not at all. Give your daughters a wee bit more time to come around. Healing can be a very slow process, but it's well worth the wait in the end.

SEAMUS – (Sighs) Yer grandmother pull that one out of the bible or out of some fortune cookie?

FATHER MATHIAS – (Smiles) Can I help it if m'granny likes Chinese food? (BOTH laugh)

EDELSTEIN – Oooh, Chinese food? (Thinks, then) I, uh, need to call a cab. (Pulls out his cell phone from his suit and walks over to the window during the following)

CLAUDIA – (Grabbing her coat and gloves) Father, how did you get the adoption judge to come to the church?

FATHER MATHIAS – T'was easy. He's on the vestry. (Chuckles)

SEAMUS – (Smiling) Aye. We took care of the paperwork at City Hall. Today was more of a formality than anything else.

EDELSTEIN – (Indicating out the window) Say, whose Maserati is that parked in the driveway?

CLAUDIA – (Putting on her coat and gloves) That would be mine, señor.

EDELSTEIN – You can afford a Maserati? No offense, but how much money is there in housekeeping?

CLAUDIA – Oh, I do not get paid for housekeeping. I am retired.

EDELSTEIN – Retired? Then, how...

SEAMUS – Put two and two together, man.

EDELSTEIN – You mean you're...

CLAUDIA – Loaded. Si, señor.

EDELSTEIN – But you work for...

CLAUDIA – (Correcting him) No-no. I volunteer. After running my own cleaning service for twenty-five years, putting my boys through school, I wanted to give back to the church.

EDELSTEIN – (Recognizing the name) "Estrada Cleaning...Service to the Stars"? That's you? (CLAUDIA nods) Holeee...(Looks around the room and realizes he better not finish that expletive) cow?

SEAMUS – Tell everybody at the office I send me regards.

EDELSTEIN – Sure you won't reconsider coming back?

SEAMUS – Nope, I'm done. I'm a musician, and I've been away from it far too long.

EDELSTEIN – It's a big change.

SEAMUS – Aye, but headin' back to Ireland to start me writing again, it just feels right.

(To CLAUDIA) And I may not sell a lot, bein' an "old man" and all (CLAUDIA laughs), but everything that's happened recently got me to thinkin'. If there ARE fewer days ahead of me than behind, I (Looks at ADALYNN ROSE) I want them ALL to count for something.

And, while America's been a big chunk of me life, when I do die...and I ain't plannin' on it happenin' any time soon...but when I do, I want to die an Irishman.

EDELSTEIN – Well, at least you got a nice chunk of change out of that Roussos case.

SEAMUS – Aye. My last and greatest victory as an insurance investigator. (Smiles with eyes wide)

EDELSTEIN - Quite a “killing” you might say? (Laughs then sobers as he looks at FATHER MATHIAS’s disapproval) Sorry father. (FATHER MATHIAS rolls his eyes as he then drinks his beer)

CLAUDIA – Can I drop you someplace, Mr. Edselstein?

EDELSTEIN – (Enthusiastically) Can I drive?

CLAUDIA – (Laughs) You are funny. (Deadpan) No.

EDELSTEIN – Fine. Bye guys! (Tries to wave with his wounded arm in the sling but hurts himself in the process) Ow! (Waves with the other hand, exits through the kitchen)

CLAUDIA – I like him. A bit of a tool, but I like him. (Waving farewell) Adios! (Exits)

FATHER MATHIAS – A May-December romance bloomin’, perhaps?

SEAMUS – (Sarcastic) It’s bloomin’, alright. (Takes a drink of his beer)

FATHER MATHIAS – Well, I’d best be off, as well. (Hands SEAMUS his now-empty beer mug) Adalynn Rose, you and your cousin take good care of yer uncle. (Looks at them fondly) Well, Irish. Aussie. Be good to one another. I suspect you’ll have more struggles ahead. Lord knows you’ve already had more than your fair share. But let those experiences make you stronger and make the good times even more precious to ye. (Performs the sign of the cross over them) God bless.

ADALYNN ROSE – Thank you, Father.

SEAMUS – (Shaking FATHER MATHIAS’s hand) Aye. Thank ye, Scotsman.

(FATHER MATHIAS smiles as he exits through the kitchen, leaving SEAMUS and ADALYNN ROSE alone on stage. There is an awkward silence then SEAMUS limps over to the chess board and says to ADALYNN ROSE)

SEAMUS – Ummm...Care to play a game of chess?

ADALYNN ROSE – (Runs over and sits on one side of the board) Oh, I love chess!

SEAMUS – (Slowly sits down on the other side of the chess board, laying his cane to one side) Yeah, well, probably not the way I play it. See, I’m serious about it and...

ADALYNN ROSE – (Moving chess piece into position) Check mate!

SEAMUS – (Furious) Now, stop that! Stop that! Wait a minute! You can’t just pick up a piece and call check mate! What’s the matter with you? (ADALYNN ROSE laughs as he continues) We got to start a proper game, a new game, that’s what we need to do. Now, over in the box next to ya are the pieces. Let’s put them all out. (ADALYNN ROSE puts out her chess pieces as does SEAMUS)

ADALYNN ROSE – Can I ask ye something?

SEAMUS – I suppose.

(GAIL enters from stage left again, isolated, but this time she is silent, watching the following and enjoying the moment)

ADALYNN ROSE – I know you adopted me ‘n’ all, but...ain’tcha’ still going out on tour?

SEAMUS – Aye. I am. Lookin’ forward to it. Jammin’ again, makin’ music with me mates, and there’s a wad of cash involved. Can’t pass it up.

ADALYNN ROSE –World tour. Ireland. (After a beat) Does this mean you still plan on sendin’ me away somewhere? (Fearful) Not with Sunshine, I hope!

SEAMUS – (Laughs) No, dearie. Don’t be daft. It’s a *summer* tour I signed on fer. I already arranged the dates and there’ll be no conflicts with finishing yer schoolin’ here. And, *as long as you keep your grades up*, like ye have been lately, I *guess* ye can come with me.

ADALYNN ROSE – Yay! Will we be goin’ to the Arun Islands?

SEAMUS – Aye. I suppose we can visit there as well. (After a beat, SEAMUS looks at ADALYNN ROSE but also appears to be saying the next part to GAIL) But wherever I go, you’ll be with me. (GAIL smiles back at SEAMUS. SEAMUS, realizing he’s becoming overly sentimental, becomes more gruff) Now shut up about it. (Looks around) You see my other knight anywhere?

ADALYNN ROSE – (Handing him the piece) Here she is.

SEAMUS – “She”?

ADALYNN ROSE – Who says it can’t be a girl?

SEAMUS – So, she’s Gladys Knight, then? (Laughs)

ADALYNN ROSE – Who?

SEAMUS – (Stops laughing) Skip it. (Continues positioning his pieces)

ADALYNN ROSE – (After a moment) What made you change your mind?

SEAMUS – What?

ADALYNN ROSE – Why did you decide to adopt me?

SEAMUS – Ye like ghost stories? (ADALYNN ROSE nods) Call it an out of body experience. There I was, near dead.

ADALYNN ROSE – You actually had one of those?

SEAMUS – Aye. Sh. Now there I was, floatin’ above the hospital table, lookin’ down at meself and the room was gettin’ dark. And there, floatin’ above me, was a bright light and in that light, Gail

ADALYNN ROSE – (Not buying it) Uncle Seamus...

SEAMUS – Quiet! Don’t ruin a good ghost story. And there she was, callin’ to me. I couldn’t quite make out what she was sayin’ so I had to get closer. As I got closer, I could see down below the life disappearing from me bones.

ADALYNN ROSE – I thought it was dark.

SEAMUS – Shut up. Still I get closer. And the closer I got the more I was able to make out what she was sayin’.

ADALYNN ROSE - And just what was she sayin’ to you?

SEAMUS – (After a beat) “Maybe later”.

ADALYNN ROSE – (Thinking about it, then) What does that mean?

SEAMUS – How the hell should I know? I’m not a spirit. (Smiles, thinking of GAIL, who exits) But, she used to say to me, y’see, “Ultimately, there’s only one decision ever to be made in life. The right one”.

ADALYNN ROSE – Y’know, Father Mathias said his grandmother told him that as a child.

SEAMUS – (Nodding) Of course he did. (Finishes setting up the game) Well, what am I, then, Miss (Showing her he's got her name right)...Adalynn Rose?

ADALYNN ROSE – (Smiles, then points at the chess board) I'm the black chessmen and you're the white. (She leans back, happy) It's your move...Pony.

SEAMUS – (Smiles) Aye. That it is. (Looks at the chess board as the LIGHTS FADE)

(BLACK OUT)

The End