

calling, they say. Ring three times. Don't go out. And no one does. Except Quick Lamb.

QUICK, on patrol, moves through the dark.

Armed with his handcuffs, torch and truncheon, he gets his patrol. Quick wants to see what evil really looks like, see whether it can be stopped. He can smell fear in every lane. There's someone out there killing and doing evil and he's losing the fight.

SCENE 82

ROSE sits in a spotless caravan beside the new home-site. SAM enters with roses.

ROSE: This is a surprise. Shouldn't you be at the races?

SAM: Well, shouldn't you be out doin' something?

ROSE shrugs. He hands her the flowers.

You look awful.

ROSE: Thanks. You'll want a cuppa.

SAM: Yeah. No milk.

ROSE: I remember, Dad. I'm the daughter, remember.

SAM: Yeah, I recall right enough. Small here, isn't it?

ROSE: New house won't be ready for a few months. Sorry it's such a mess.

SAM: A mess? Rosie, I could eat off the floor.

ROSE: You wouldn't know. You live at Cloudstreet. [*Beat.*] There must be something wrong.

SAM: I'm here about your mum.

ROSE: Can't manage a friendly visit?

SAM: We don't exactly see you makin' a nuisance of yourself visitin' Cloudstreet. Besides, it'd be a brave bastard who tried makin' a friendly visit on you.

ROSE: Let's just have a cuppa, shall we?

SAM: Ever since Ted died, your mum's been losin' control altogether.

ROSE: She never had any. Rats have more control than old Dolly.

SAM: Jesus, Rose. She's gettin' old and scared. If she doesn't lay off the stops a bit she'll die.

~~ROSE: You'd be better off moving out and leaving her to it. She'll never change, Dad. And you'll never change her.~~

~~SAM: Do you remember when you were a girl, you found me in the bathroom getting ready to slit my throat? You remember? You came in. I stopped. For you. She'll stop for you, too, you know.~~

~~ROSE: Dad, I cleaned up her vomit, washed her clothes, dragged her home from the pub every bloody night of my childhood. I did her work. I think I've done enough in that department.~~

~~SAM: She hasn't been able to get out of bed. She's grievin'. Ted was her favourite.~~

~~ROSE: You don't have to tell me! She only ever loved one of us.~~

~~SAM: For Christ's sake, how do you think that makes me feel? Show some pity, Rose. She lost a child.~~

~~ROSE: She's not the only one. I lost my baby and she hasn't come to see me once.~~

~~SAM: You never knew years. It's not the same. She was Ted's mother. ROSE: She was never a mother.~~

~~SAM: Don't be cruel to her, Rose. She's had her chances and she's nearly finished. Winnin' over someone like that isn't much of a victory. She can only lose from now on in. She can only get old and die. You're young. You can have more babies, things are ahead of you. Look at me. Whatever I'm gonna get I've had, and damn near all that's been lost. You can bear it when you lose money and furniture. You can take it when you lose your looks, your teeth, your youth. But, Christ Jesus, when your family goes, it's more than a man can handle.]~~

~~SAM goes.~~

SCENE 83

~~The ghost of TED passes as DOLLY thrashes in her bed.~~

~~DOLLY: Teddy? Where are you goin' Teddy?~~

~~TED: Down the jetty, Mum, I'm gonna chuck a few bombies, I'm gonna stick a jellyfish down Rose's bathers...~~

~~DOLLY: Ted? Teddy? Don't leave me...~~

~~TED's ghost fades as ROSE approaches DOLLY.~~

~~Teddy?~~