

## **OUTSIDE MULLINGAR Callback Sides**

### **SIDE 1: TONY/AOIFE**

**TONY** Well, look at him.

**AOIFE** Don't tease him then.

**TONY** I wasn't teasing.

**AOIFE** You were, and don't. He's sad. You know he feels more deeply than most. God love him. He never got over Fiona.

**TONY** He was sixteen.

**AOIFE** A tender age.

**TONY** He is now forty two.

**AOIFE** Time means nothing. Love is love.

**TONY** She never had use for him. I never saw it. The whole thing happened in his mind.

**AOIFE** And where else do things happen? We all can't have the love I had. Or you. Look at this. More tears. Oh, where do they come from? What's it all for, Tony?

**TONY** Ask a priest.

**AOIFE** I've buried husband, son. Was I only born to bury and be buried?

**TONY** That's about it maybe.

**AOIFE** Don't say it. That leaves off the best bit.

**TONY** And what would that be?

**AOIFE** The middle. The middle is the best part. The middle of anything is the heart of the thing. I think of Rosemary.

**TONY** She's only watching the clock spin, waiting for you to go.

**AOIFE** I know.

**TONY** But she's waited too long. They both did. Mine and yours.

**AOIFE** It's natural.

**TONY** But with Rosemary, it's a shame.

**AOIFE** She's had no lack of men come by.

**TONY** Oh I know. But youth and beauty pass smartly by, and that parade has gone.

**AOIFE** You'd think a girl of twenty-five is past prime.

**TONY** Twenty-five? She'll never see thirty-five again.

**AOIFE** You'll not see tomorrow if you keep talking.

**TONY** I will see it. I have a cool eye on tomorrow. The future of this place is what keeps me sharp. And the funeral today reminded me that time is in short supply. Biscuit?

**AOIFE** I'm stuffed. But you're not serious what you were saying? You can't begrudge Anthony the farm?

**TONY** There's no marriage in the man. He's strange. Stranger than you know. He takes after John Kelly and that's a fact. I'm sworn by an oath or I'd tell ya. So what happens then? When he's gone, it's all gone.

**AOIFE** Either way, it's all gone.

**TONY** No. There's another route.

**AOIFE** What?

**TONY** America.

**AOIFE** What?

**TONY** I have my brother there, Frank, and he has a son. Adam.

**AOIFE** You would not.

**TONY** I'll do what's right. Watch me. I will.

**AOIFE** You can't do it. What would become of Anthony?

**TONY** There'd be money for him. He'd move to Dublin and love it.

## **SIDE 2: TONY/ANTHONY**

**TONY** The farm is yours now, and I'm sorry to be leaving it to you not as it was given me.

**ANTHONY** Don't think of it. It's nothing.

**TONY** There was reason. When I asked Mam to marry, sure I had nothing to call my own. The ring I gave her was but brass, though she took it like diamonds. Listen, son. Your Mam. I didn't love her.

**ANTHONY** What are you saying?

**TONY** The truth.

**ANTHONY** No.

**TONY** I needed a wife, and Mary would have me. But there was no love in it.

**ANTHONY** Sure what are you saying? You loved her.

**TONY** No. I was without those feelings. The want and loneliness had gotten in me and I looked at people like they were work. I don't know why she said yes. I thought maybe she wanted her own kitchen, as poor as ours was. She made a garden for vegetables so she could see it in the morning, and she'd wait for me by the front door when I came down the old boreen by night. I walked by her half the time without so much as a nod. She bore me children. Trish and Audrey. Then you. And I felt nothing. Till one day something gave way. Out in the fields and the wet grass, the quiet hand of God touched me so soft I thought it was the breeze. Something came to save me, son, and it will come for you, too. I'd drive out with the feed in the morning and split open the bag into the trough, and the cattle would walk forward... I can't name the day. The cattle were there. The rain let up. The sun shone... The sun shone on me. And I started in singing. Just like that. That old song. Mam's song. Wild Mountain Thyme. Do you know it?

**ANTHONY** Sure I do.

**TONY** (Sings) And we'll all go together (Anthony sings with him) to pull wild mountain thyme... (They stop) The sun shone on me. And I laughed cause I saw ME singing, and I had never been that man. Never! Singing in the field?! All the days are alike on a farm, and yet of a sudden the drudgery I had known since birth lifted off me and a joy came up into me out of the land. Out of all of it. The cattle and the sky. And when I went home to the house, a moment came there too, where all of it, you, the girls, her, even the house itself, all of it came to life in me. But it started out there in the fields that had been lonely. When the sun shone on me. And I knew it was her. Mary. Somehow she was my way into the farm and all else besides.

**SIDE 3: AOIFE/ROSEMARY**

**AOIFE** Trust in God, Tony. Sure life has its surprises.

**ROSEMARY** That it does. I have been to the doctor and I have frozen my eggs.

**AOIFE** What?

**TONY** You what? Mother of God!

**ROSEMARY** So. Surprises, as you say.

**AOIFE** Frozen your eggs?

**TONY** To the purpose of what?

**ROSEMARY** I will keep my options alive.

**AOIFE** Jesus, Rosemary, be careful. Don't rampage over the natural order of nature.

**ROSEMARY** What nature? It's only my own life I'm playing with.

**AOIFE** Your life then. You can't just rage forward without a road.

**ROSEMARY** I know where I'm going.

**AOIFE** Well, I hope things go your way. Anthony is a bit slow.

**TONY** Slow is it? You should have frozen your whole body if you're waiting for that one.

**ROSEMARY** I believe he will come to me.

**TONY** He'll never marry.

**AOIFE** You don't know that.

**TONY** I have reason to think it.

**ROSEMARY** The farm goes to Anthony. Say it. Say it.

**AOIFE** Don't answer wrong with wrong, Rosemary. Don't bully the man.

**ROSEMARY** Think. Of his mother.

**AOIFE** She's right, Tony. That's the question. What would his mother want? What would Mary want?

**TONY** She's gone. I can't be thinking that way.

**ROSEMARY** Sitting by that stove she'd be. Her ghost is there to see right now.

**AOIFE** And Anthony on her knee.

**ROSEMARY** By the stove with a piece of turf in her hand. What did she care except for her children?

**AOIFE** Sure Anthony was the apple of her eye.

**ROSEMARY** And she was a Kelly.

**AOIFE** Through and through.

**SIDE 4: TONY/ROSEMARY**

**ANTHONY** I suppose I can't blame you whatever you on the night your father died.

**ROSEMARY** He died three days ago.

**ANTHONY** During the general time that your father died.

**ROSEMARY** So I have special rights tonight?

**ANTHONY** I suppose.

**ROSEMARY** Then I'll use them. Will you answer me a question?

**ANTHONY** What?

**ROSEMARY** Have you ever heard from Fiona?

**ANTHONY** Is the human race against me this night?

**ROSEMARY** Don't answer then.

**ANTHONY** Never. I have never heard from Fiona since our childhood days.

**ROSEMARY** And your heart's still broken?

**ANTHONY** Yes.

**ROSEMARY** Do you know where she is?

**ANTHONY** I do. In Wicklow. With a husband and three daughters.

**ROSEMARY** Why didn't you just get over her like other people do?

**ANTHONY** I don't know what other people do and I don't care. Why do you do what you do? Why do you stay over there in that lonely house?

**ROSEMARY** It's not lonely.

**ANTHONY** You should fly. Once your Mam... Once you're alone. You should make plans to fly away.

**ROSEMARY** Why don't you fly?

**ANTHONY** It may come to that.

**ROSEMARY** Ha. You'll never leave.

**ANTHONY** I might. Tony's up to mischief.

**ROSEMARY** What kind?

**ANTHONY** He says I don't love the farm.

**ROSEMARY** Do you?

**ANTHONY** He says I'm not a Reilly.

**ROSEMARY** Then what are you?

**ANTHONY** He claims I'm a Reilly in name, but a Kelly in the face. He's making noises like he might not sign the farm over to me.

**ROSEMARY** Well, that's not right.

**ANTHONY** He's always been half craft. Not like your Da, may he rest in peace. He was full on.

**ROSEMARY** It was me that found him. I looked in on him, and then I was going to go, but for his hand. His one hand lay outside the sheet and I found myself looking at it. And it came across me that there was no life in it and he was dead. Then I called, and Mam came, and her face went white, so I gave her a drink of water. But didn't the glass have his teeth in it.

**ANTHONY** No.

**ROSEMARY** Oh it was awful. She was wild. She won't drink from a glass since.