

SYLVIA CB

"The Cottage" by Sandy Rustin 11/4/2017

52.

DIERDRE

START Once he poisoned a lovely bloke named Gavin at our local pub.

SYLVIA

You take lovers as often as the Queen takes tea.

DIERDRE

(paying a compliment)

You're much more clever than Beau made you out to be.

SYLVIA

(livid, to BEAU)

You told her about me?

DIERDRE

Only in that he had a strong willed sister-in-law.

SYLVIA

Oh, is that what he said?

BEAU

Now, let's not get hung up on semantics.

SYLVIA

Semantics aren't the only thing I'd like to see hung! No thank you. I'm staying put, right here. (She sits). Let's see what this mass murderer has up his sleeve, thank you very much. My life is worthless now anyway - perhaps he'll redirect his anger at me and I can get this life over with once and for all.

BEAU

Sylvie, please. Be reasonable.

MARJORIE

Yes, Sylvie. Be reasonable.

SYLVIA

I don't believe the two of you are well suited ambassadors for reason!

BEAU

(fed up)

I've had enough of this! I'm going to pack. Sylvia, I suggest you change.*

BEAU exits into the bedroom.

*This assumes that BEAU has managed to get mostly dressed during all this hullabaloo. If, in the staging, BEAU is not yet dressed, the line may be altered to: "I'm going to change."

SYLVIA

(off to BEAU)

I've done enough changing for today. (then to herself) Less than an hour ago I was a woman in love on the brink of my life's beginning. Now, I'm on the precipice of divorce with nothing but a killer's entrance to look forward to.

CLARKE

You're so dramatic.

CLARKE exits (dramatically) to the kitchen, clearing something perhaps, in preparation to depart.

SYLVIA

(calling after him)

You're the one who thinks God has personally involved himself in your love affair!

END

MARJORIE moves to get her hat, etc.

MARJORIE

I'm sorry you've gotten hold of the wrong end of the stick, Sylvie. But you're still quite pretty really. You'll meet a man eventually. Now gather your things and let's be off.

SYLVIA

I've met men, Marjorie. I even married one ... remember? I keep trying to convince myself that I'm in love, but the problem is, I was already in love once. I was madly, deeply in love with a boy from Shrewsbury.

MARJORIE

I do love a good love story, darling. Do you think you might change your clothes, and tell us all about it on the train, where we're not at risk of being slaughtered?

DIERDRE

Oh! That's a good idea!

CLARKE re-enters.

MARJORIE & CLARKE go about gathering their things and readying themselves for departure. (Hats, gloves, umbrella, etc.).

SYLVIA

William was tall. Taller than your average boy. Broad shouldered. Green eyed.

DIERDRE

My Richard has green eyes.