Rosemary #1 p1/4
(#1+#2 = 7 pages TOTAL)

TONY. Alright then. I'd have a cup.
AOIFE. What's that look on you?
ROSEMARY. I hope you have no part in this?
AOIFE. In what?
ROSEMARY. What we say now will never be repeated. Tell me there's no truth in what I just heard.
AOIFE. What did you hear?
ROSEMARY. This is Anthony's farm.
TONY. Oh, Jesus. Don't involve yourself, Rosemary.
AOIFE. Tony's right, Rosemary. This is their own business.
ROSEMARY. Steer clear, mother. Tony Reilly, do yourself a service and do not cross me.
TONY. Easy. Don't overstep now.
ROSEMARY. Since Mary died your judgement, which was never good, has faltered worse.
AOIFE. She's right about that, Tony.
TONY. She's nothing. I think I can manage my own farm.
ROSEMARY. If that were true, you would own it. To the road!
TONY. I've heard your name's on that strip of land, Rosemary. And I can tell you now, you will be selling that to me.
AOIFE. I told him it's yours. Don't fault me.
ROSEMARY. I don't. *(To Tony.)* I fault you. Why would you think of denying Anthony what's his?
TONY. Leave it.
start / ROSEMARY. If you want to talk to me about the road, you will talk to me about Anthony.
TONY. What there is to say I won't say. I am bound by an oath, made on a Bible, not to speak of certain things.
ROSEMARY. About Anthony?
TONY. His mother made me swear. Have faith that I know what I'm about.
ROSEMARY. I have no such faith. You've kept him down all his life. And you've done it with the promise of this farm.
TONY. Not a word of truth. I've shielded him on every side. And his interests will be seen to, but the farm will not be his.
ROSEMARY. You have no idea what you're up against, Tony Reilly. You might as well try to stop the calendar from naming the days. I've been older than all of you since I was born, and sure I ache for my own youth. I pray the day may yet come, but not at the price of now.

AOIFE. What are you talking at?
ROSEMARY. When a person knows what will be, and I have always known, the like of you should stand aside.
AOIFE. What are you saying? What do you know?
ROSEMARY. Anthony Reilly and I were born on two farms side by side, and we will die side by side. And no old fool trying to show his power at sunset will bungle that.
AOIFE. Rosemary, you have secrets of your own, and once they're out, they're out.
ROSEMARY. I have no secrets. I buried my dear father today, and I'll lose no more.
TONY. Are you in love with Anthony?
ROSEMARY. More than love.
TONY. Don't be.
ROSEMARY. I don't care what happens beyond one thing. I will be on the one farm and he will be on the next.
AOIFE. Rose.
ROSEMARY. Mam, look at me and take pity. You will leave me soon.
AOIFE. Sure it's true. I can't deny it.
ROSEMARY. I feel that grief never more than today. But what preserves me is knowing there are safe roads after.
TONY. He's not normal.
ROSEMARY. I don't care what he is, and if you're bound by an oath, keep it! I don't care about anything but that that man have his land and my house be hard by!
AOIFE. Rosemary.
TONY. He'll never marry.
ROSEMARY. Then neither will I. And he will be in his house and I will be in mine. Here's your tea. *(She slams down the tea.)*
AOIFE. There is much of your father in you.
ROSEMARY. I'm proud to know it.
AOIFE. Two bulldogs.
ROSEMARY. No, I'm a swan.
TONY. I will not let this farm die with Anthony.
ROSEMARY. "You will not do this. You will not do that." So what will you do?
AOIFE. He means to sell it to his brother's son.
ROSEMARY. In America?
TONY. He'll come and take over.
ROSEMARY. And go through the two gates?

TONY. He wants the road.
ROSEMARY. I'm here to tell you he will never get it.
TONY. You will not tell me how to dispose of my property!
ROSEMARY. And you'll have no sway over mine! Drink your tea.
TONY. Don't order me in my own house!
ROSEMARY. No one owns a house.
TONY. I own mine.
ROSEMARY. It was handed to you.
TONY. I gave my life to it.
ROSEMARY. And Anthony his.
TONY. He's not a Reilly.
ROSEMARY. Is that what you're about? Your name?
TONY. He takes after his mother's father John Kelly.
AOIFE. He does. In the face.
TONY. And in the head. John Kelly put his dog on trial for slander.
ROSEMARY. When was that? A hundred years ago?
TONY. Less than seventy.
ROSEMARY. You're the one who's daft.
TONY. Say what you want. Blood will tell.
ROSEMARY. I think it's talking right now a lot of bloody nonsense.
TONY. Anthony doesn't love the farm.
ROSEMARY. What's got hold of you isn't love, old man!
TONY. Who do you think you are?
ROSEMARY. It's pride.
AOIFE. She's right, Tony. You're out of bounds.
TONY. Oh you're the referee now?
AOIFE. What mother isn't? Now stop trying to bully the room.
TONY. This is my kitchen!
ROSEMARY. And look at it! You're lucky you're not poisoned with the dirt. From the look of that table and the squalor in that sink, I wonder if the cattle don't take their meals along with you. There's grease on the wall and a pizza box under the chair. Now drink your tea, you damn savage. You can't be the master of what comes after your time, and your time is nigh well done.
AOIFE. Now don't say a thing like that. It's morbid.
ROSEMARY. If he can play at destiny, so can I. Promise me you'll drop this plan or I swear by the stars, I'll kill you meself.
TONY. I'll promise nothing.
ROSEMARY. Do you think I won't lay hands on you? I'll deal you a mortal blow!

AOIFE. Rosemary!
TONY. If Anthony were a man through and through, if he were a Reilly, he would have at me himself.
ROSEMARY. If you were a man down to your heart, you would not have hurt him with your loveless ways.
TONY. What are you talking about?
ROSEMARY. It's Anthony who loves those fields. Not you. So what if his love makes him suffer? You just want to go on and on. You're selfish.
AOIFE. And what are you?
ROSEMARY. I'm strength. For now.
TONY. He'll never be the man I am.
ROSEMARY. Well, thank God for that. He's done everything for you. You've sat here like a king for twenty years. When was the last time you stayed up with a ewe or clipped the hedge or even killed a rat? You're fooling no one with that captain's hat. Anthony runs the show and you're nothing but the dummy in the window.
TONY. I've earned some rest.
ROSEMARY. Lie down! Who's stopping you?
TONY. But he'll never marry. Look at it. The place would go in auction. It's not right. /end
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 rights 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.

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TONY. Thank you then. Good man. You better take the pipe. *(Anthony takes the pipe.)* You were a good son.
ANTHONY. Thank you, Da.
TONY. I have faith that love will find you. Out in those fields where you wander. God bless you.
ANTHONY. And you.
TONY. I'll sleep now.
ANTHONY. You want the oxygen?
TONY. I'll try without. *(Anthony turns off the light and goes.)*

start /

Scene 5

Out by the manger. A year later. A sunny day.

Anthony comes out with a pail of turf to discover Rosemary with a covered dish. She's caught smoking and flicks the butt.

ROSEMARY. Anthony.
ANTHONY. Rosemary. Still smoking.
ROSEMARY. I brought you some stew. *(She sits it down.)*
ANTHONY. I can cook.
ROSEMARY. You don't though. Now that Mam's gone, I've no one to do for. Keeps me busy.
ANTHONY. Right.
ROSEMARY. The sun's out. Good walking weather.
ANTHONY. One place is the same as another.
ROSEMARY. How can you say it? I was down at the bog cutting turf and the heather is everywhere.
ANTHONY. Cutting your own turf?
ROSEMARY. Who else?
ANTHONY. A bit late.
ROSEMARY. I got to it.
ANTHONY. That's a two man job.
ROSEMARY. Or one woman.
ANTHONY. That's the world now.

ROSEMARY. What?
ANTHONY. Men are useless.
ROSEMARY. It's not so.
ANTHONY. What's a man for? What's his place?
ROSEMARY. That's for you to say.
ANTHONY. Is it? I know, you know.
ROSEMARY. About what?
ANTHONY. My da told me.
ROSEMARY. Told you what?
ANTHONY. How you went at him over the farm.
ROSEMARY. Oh that. He was talking blather, may he rest in peace. The farm's yours, as it should be.
ANTHONY. You shouldn't have done that.
ROSEMARY. Why not?
ANTHONY. You spoke for me.
ROSEMARY. You wouldn't speak for yourself.
ANTHONY. I said as much as I wanted.
ROSEMARY. It wasn't enough.
ANTHONY. Well maybe the quiet around a thing is as important as the thing itself.
ROSEMARY. Do you still hear the voice in the fields?
ANTHONY. I don't know.
ROSEMARY. You have the farm.
ANTHONY. I do.
ROSEMARY. Are you happy?
ANTHONY. No.
ROSEMARY. Why not go ahead and be happy?
ANTHONY. I don't know how.
ROSEMARY. There's nothing in the way.
ANTHONY. No?
ROSEMARY. There's no one left to catch you laughing, Anthony.
ANTHONY. That's true.
ROSEMARY. How many days do we have where the sun shines?
ANTHONY. Not too many. Are you alright then?
ROSEMARY. Yes, I am.
ANTHONY. With just you up there in the house?
ROSEMARY. What about you?
ANTHONY. You know, I've been having such dreams! I've been dreaming about everyone who ever lived.
ROSEMARY. That's a lot.

ANTHONY. Ancestors and more than that. The whole wide circus, the history of people. And me at the front of them, like the leader of a marching band. Jesus, I sat up in me bed and I didn't know what to make of it. Here I am, alone as a castaway, and my night is spilling over with people. We're known to each other quite the while now.
ROSEMARY. We are.
ANTHONY. And now we're at the front of the group. Have you thought about what I said?
ROSEMARY. Which? We never speak. It's been a year. I'm over in me house with nothing to do if you want to come by.
ANTHONY. I see you at church.
ROSEMARY. I wouldn't go if you didn't. I hate the Bible. They should call it the book of awful stories.
ANTHONY. Have you no faith?
ROSEMARY. I do have faith, though I don't know how I came by it.
ANTHONY. It's just you now. Nothing holds you here. You should go.
ROSEMARY. Leave this place?
ANTHONY. Why not?
ROSEMARY. Do you want me to?
ANTHONY. I think you should.
ROSEMARY. I'll think about it.
ANTHONY. Do.
ROSEMARY. Come by the house sometime.
ANTHONY. I will maybe.
ROSEMARY. You won't. Girl needs a chat.
ANTHONY. I'd better take this in. I thank you for it.
ROSEMARY. Alright.
ANTHONY. You should quit the smokes. *(He takes the covered dish towards the house. She calls after him.)*
ROSEMARY. It's a grand day for a walk. *(He's gone. She stands there, looking after him. She mutters.)* And those days are few. *(She starts to light a cigarette, thinks better of it, walks off.)*

end