

Hazel, Rose and Robin Section 2

P 47 - P50 This is the turning point of the play. Robin knows Rose has cancer. He almost certainly knows he has radiation sickness.

ROSE. I'm going back. To work at the power station

HAZEL. You're not serious.

ROSE. Yes.

ROSE *laughs*

I mean. Yes. Somebody has to restore control.

HAZEL *gets up from ROBIN*

ROBIN. Rose, are you sure / you want to

HAZEL. There are people doing that.

ROSE. Yes of course, but they're all so young. Most of the engineers are under thirty-five / and

ROBIN. But it's their job. It's what they're trained for

ROSE. Yes and but lots of them have families. Their whole lives ahead, and I just feel, I feel very strongly. It's not fair. Every day they're there is less life. They've raised the radiation exposure limit from a hundred millisieverts to two hundred and fifty / millisieverts

ROBIN. Yes we heard.

ROSE. These.... *young people* these *children*, basically, actually with their whole lives ahead and it's not fair it's not right it seems *wrong*. Doesn't it? Because we built it, didn't we? Or helped to, we're responsible, so I do, I feel the need to, to to

HAZEL. To clear it up

ROSE. Yes. Yes.

Pause,

ROSE *finishes her cigarette, closes the door.*

ROBIN. That's.....

HAZEL. That's very brave

ROSE. Brave?

HAZEL. Yes, brave, very brave very, I don't know

ROBIN. Noble

ROSE. I don't think I'm particularly special.

HAZEL. Don't you?

ROSE. No. I think most people would, if they could, if they had the education, the expertise, the knowledge / that we

HAZEL. But then you don't have any children

ROSE. No I suppose not

HAZEL. grandchildren

ROSE. No but

HAZEL. you're not married.

ROBIN. Shut up Hazel.

HAZEL. I'm sorry?

ROBIN. Just fucking shut up for a fucking minute will you?

ROBIN *takes ROSE's hands*

It's death, Rose. You understand that?

HAZEL *takes out a can of air freshener from under the sink and sprays it liberally*

HAZEL. Of course she understands it, she's a leader in her field.

ROBIN. They're playing it down in the press, to protect the industry -

HAZEL. Of course they are, they / have to

ROBIN. That's not what / I'm

HAZEL. No good getting silly about nuclear because what's the alternative?

ROBIN. Whose idea was it? Who asked you to do this?

ROSE. No one. It was my idea. When I heard about the wave, and the meltdown, when I saw it on the news, and understood the full, the mess, the meaning of this, the thought came into my head immediately. And of course I dismissed it but I couldn't shake it off.....

(To HAZEL.) It was like you with the house after the wave. It was so simple. Like Archimedes, I knew it was right.

Right now I'm looking for a team of twenty people over the age of sixty-five. To take over and let the young ones go, while they still have the chance, while there's still the possibility of, well, life.

I still have contacts at the Science Council so I flew back and I took it to them and they, I think fast-tracked is the word and, so what happened is I've been in talks with the Government, and the operating company and two weeks ago they approved the proposal. So now I've been.....gathering people.

HAZEL. People.

ROSE. Yes, we're going to need scientists, engineers. Construction workers, that's not my field, I'm leaving that to Mike Briar.

The last few weeks I've been writing emails, making phone calls but mostly going about the country, visiting people

HAZEL. Guilt-tripping them.

ROSE. No I don't think all of them saw it like that.

HAZEL. Oh, didn't they? That's good.

ROSE. No, I think a lot of them were, not happy, but, relieved maybe. I think there was relief, that someone was taking charge.

HAZEL. Horse shit

ROBIN. Hazel.

HAZEL. No, I'm sorry but horse shit horse *shit!* That's not / how they felt

ROBIN. How many have you asked?

ROSE. Well it's.....maybe about a hundred / or

ROBIN. And these other people have agreed to, to do this?

ROSE. Yes. Well, no only eighteen so far, / but

HAZEL. Eighteen?

ROBIN. Anyone we know?

ROSE. One or two.

ROBIN. Not Douglas

ROSE. Actually Douglas was among the first.