

MICHAEL  
So how much?

BRENDAN  
A lot of millions.

MICHAEL  
(Changing the subject.)  
Where did you go while I was setting up the potter's wheel?

BRENDAN  
Oh, I just went for a walk.

MICHAEL  
(Stripping the piece of corn.)  
Where?

BRENDAN  
...Just down the beach.

MICHAEL  
(Stops stripping the corn.)  
I looked across the field. You remember the old Indian graveyard?

BRENDAN  
(Beat)  
You just walk off the beach and up the bank and you're there...

(Beat)  
MICHAEL  
You went up there?  
(Beat)  
You told me ten years ago the place frightened you.  
(MICHAEL waits for an answer  
but doesn't get one.)  
Remember?

BRENDAN  
The last few years I have gone into the New York Public Library and I have researched the Wampanoag people. I found some of the artifacts I had given to Andrea. I think I understand those graves.

MICHAEL

Before you bought this place?

BRENDAN

I think Andrea has great memories of the summer we painted houses up here.

MICHAEL

This was the last place we painted that summer...

BRENDAN

Yes it was...

MICHAEL

Is it like there is some unfinished business left up here?

BRENDAN

...Andrea and I left for New York the next day.

MICHAEL

(Continuing to strip the corn.)

I saw you have paint cans in there.

BRENDAN

Next spring I'm goin' to paint the house. I could get the paint cheaper in New York City. It didn't cost me anything extra to bring it up here last weekend when we came up for the closing...

MICHAEL

You want me to help you paint this place?

BRENDAN

No. You don't have to do that.

MICHAEL

We could all do it this weekend. Each take a quarter of the house. Hell, at least three of us know the house.

BRENDAN

No, I want you all to have a good time. We'll go down to the beach and drink wine at night. You know. Get acquainted again.

MICHAEL

That's the way to do it. We need a common project. It won't be work. It's what we all did together before - okay?

BRENDAN

No.

MICHAEL

(Pulls a paint brush out of his back pocket and hands it to BRENDAN.)

I pulled this from your box of supplies. Feel the gentle taper of the stem, the balance.

(He hands it to BRENDAN.)

What's it feel like?

BRENDAN

It feels good.

MICHAEL

You've got to be back in New York on Monday?

BRENDAN

Yes.

(He holds the paintbrush in his hand.)

MICHAEL

(Looking at BRENDAN as BRENDAN daydreams for a moment.)

A penny for your thoughts.

(The lights go down and a flashlight flickers from offstage and then centers on BRENDAN'S face. This is the second flashback of the play. ANDREA, dressed in the yellow slicker holds the light. She addresses BRENDAN as he descends from a ladder at the edge of the house with the paintbrush still in his hand.)

ANDREA

Are you still painting?

BRENDAN

Yes.

ANDREA

It's all over. I saw the fat man on the road as I came up here.

BRENDAN

I'm almost finished.

ANDREA

Did you get the five hundred bucks?

BRENDAN

(Beat)

It took longer than I thought.

ANDREA

You didn't get paid?

BRENDAN

Why are you way up here?

ANDREA

I didn't know where you were so I hitchhiked up here.

BRENDAN

Where's Michael?

ANDREA

Back down at the barn.

BRENDAN

Why?

ANDREA

I left him.

(Beat)

It's over. I knew you'd still be up here...

BRENDAN

(Beat)

Wait for me. I'm almost finished.

ANDREA

Michael says the house was sold at auction. Is that true?

BRENDAN

Yes. Right out on this deck.

ANDREA

Brendan... It's just an exercise in futility...

(She offers him her hand. He kisses her and laughs. The Lights Go Out on the FLASHBACK.)

MICHAEL

(The lights rise again after the flashback and BRENDAN is laughing to himself.)

Why are you laughing?

BRENDAN

(Points off stage toward the Indian graveyard.)

...When I was planning to buy this place I fell in love with that meadow of ever changing wildflowers. There is one out there that is what they call a "garden escape." It grows almost three feet tall, above the others, it has this feral beauty, if such a thing exists for a flower. It's elegant in it's isolation. It's different from the rest. It is from the Iris family. It is called "Iris Versicolor." It is named the "Blue Flag." It is a survivor.

MICHAEL

"Feral beauty?"

BRENDAN

Go into the kitchen. Open the first drawer on the left. Bring back what you find.

MICHAEL

(MICHAEL gets up and goes into the house and BRENDAN keeps stripping the corn.)

After a long pause MICHAEL comes  
back with a handgun in his hand.)

What is this?

BRENDAN

When Andrea agreed she wanted the house. I said I wanted the handgun. I wanted it to be here when you became our first visitor.

MICHAEL

(Holding the gun in his  
hand.)

There is no crime here.

BRENDAN

...Look over at the dunes past the wildflowers. Right below the Indian graveyard. See the flower beds? I planted those before I bought the place. That may be fifty yards? That night after the closing I took one practice shot ...To make sure the gun worked. I wanted to see if I could deadhead a pansy.

MICHAEL

(Handling the gun.)

Deadhead a pansy?

BRENDAN

Go ahead... Deadhead a pansy... It's loaded.

MICHAEL

Right below the Indian Graveyard? You want me to just shoot into the graveyard?

BRENDAN

Sure. They are the ones who brought food to the first Thanksgiving. ...Less than a generation later they were at war for their land.

MICHAEL

Yes. King Philip's War?

BRENDAN

The women owned this land. Apparently it got passed through the daughters not the sons.

MICHAEL

So you want to see if I can deadhead a pansy?

(MICHAEL levels the gun and pulls the trigger and the sound brings the women storming out of the house.)

CAROL

(CAROL exploding through the kitchen door addressing MICHAEL.)

What is that?

MICHAEL

Brendan's gun.

ANDREA

(Flying out of the door behind CAROL.)

It's okay. It's okay. Brendan said if I got the house he wanted a gun.

CAROL

It came with the house?

ANDREA

He offered to buy the house. He asked for the gun. What's the problem?

CAROL

Brendan, why do you want a gun when you buy this house?

BRENDAN

(To MICHAEL laughing.)

I wanted to see if Michael can deadhead a pansy.

(BLACKOUT)

(END OF SCENE)