

Dark Eden

Showcase Cut

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DARK EDEN

DARREN
What kind of plant is this?

SILDA
(quiet)
Moses.

DARREN
Moses! . . . Moss you mean.

(She finishes packing the dirt.)

You feel better after / doing this?

SILDA
(quickly)
Give it light; give it rain; lord, please oh please; show me
that you came. The wind blows south; the sun shines east--

DARREN
Enough.

SILDA
The wind blows / south, the--

DARREN
Silda.

SILDA
Sun shines east.

DARREN
Stop!

(He grabs her hand.)

Smash it.

SILDA
No!

(They struggle. He makes her hand smash the plant
on the word "plant".)

DARREN
I said smash the plant.

(She stares at him. He smiles.)

SILDA

Oh, no. Oh, no!

(Her eyes look toward the bag. They both go for it. He grabs the bag first.)

DARREN

Ahh, ahh, ah, little girl.

SILDA

I'm not a little girl.

DARREN

Well, *he's* a boy!

(She jolts toward him and the bag. A little too close than she should have. They both realize this.)

(beat)

You're right . . . Not a girl.

(SILDA snatches the bag, and makes a run for it. DARREN slices his hand through the air, SILDA's bag flying out of her grasp. She stares at him.)

(She looks to the bag.)

Back away from the bag, woman!

SILDA

I'm a woman now?

DARREN

Amazing how fast you grow up.

SILDA

I planted all of these. They're my trees--

DARREN

Purple sap! . . . Drop, trickle, flutter from the spruce. Catch the rain off the leaves; hide from its abuse.

SILDA

You're crazy.

DARREN

Or walk right into it.

SILDA

Go back to your tent.

DARREN

There's a name for what you're doing. Though I won't speak the word. More planting, more *faith*; the better off you are.

SILDA

(whispering)

Give it rain; give it light, / plants protect us from the dark, dark night. Give it rain; give it light, plants protect us from the dark, dark night.

DARREN

You think it's working for awhile. Though no sooner is your purple creation in the ground, time for another one isn't it? . . . Isn't it?

SILDA

Yes.

DARREN

No longer to "spruce" the place up so to speak. Now, it's save your brother. Then it's punishment . . . for everything. Guilt, fear. For not making the young one better. For stealing a glance at his nether regions?

SILDA

Nether?

DARREN

(mouthing the words; pointing down)

Nether.

SILDA

. . . Why is Jacob sick?

DARREN

An excellent question. You won't believe what the answer is.

(He walks to a purple tree, modeling it like a prize on a game show.)

SILDA

No!

DARREN

I once thought like you, sweet Silda. Everything could be solved, the great mysteries of life. Human *spirit* as they say. It could all be unraveled. All I needed was to look up there.

(He looks up at the sky.)

And it was wonderful, beautiful really how much the old man decided to share. A generous being to be sure. The others . . . They looked to the sky . . . But it was too much;

panic bled from their pupils. "Stop, they pleaded."
Anything and everything to avoid the one thing they feared
most . . .

(to Silda)

See, the old man had tricked yours truly. But nothing
compared to the whopper he threw on those poor fellows.

(quietly)

Made the bastards think he was listening!

SILDA

Bastards?

DARREN

Your brother's one. Though what do you call it when it
happens to a female?

(looking at the sky)

Isn't that absurd! After all this time, I really don't know!

SILDA

Where is Jacob?

DARREN

With my darling. Chatting. Who knows what they're chatting
about. You perhaps. Or me. Hard to tell what goes through
her head, though I do hope she goes easy on him. We can only
handle so much information at once.

SILDA

Information?

DARREN

It's what we know and you don't.

SILDA

Kay's creepy.

DARREN

(mock outrage)

Really!

SILDA

I don't like her.

DARREN

She's not a fan of you either.

SILDA

(hurt)

Why not?

DARREN

Didn't mind when it was you, doing the not liking.

(smiling)

. . . She's not a fan, but doesn't know it yet.

SILDA

I wouldn't hurt Jacob.

DARREN

Not on purpose. But you are. And the best part.

(gesturing to the sky)

He hasn't told you. You're doing it for him. The *Lord* as you call him. Does the old man crave attention that much?

(KAY enters with JACOB.)

KAY

Miss me?

DARREN

Always.

KAY

A twitter, a tatter, a bit of cake batter.

DARREN

I'm sure that's delicious.

KAY

Since I cannot have that, I must settle for . . . alternatives . . . Where were you?

JACOB

Why are you up, Silda?

SILDA

(avoiding eye contact)

Looking for you.

(JACOB sees SILDA's bag lying on the ground. He goes and gets it for her.)

JACOB

(to Silda)

You dropped your bag.

DARREN

Silda doesn't need it anymore.

SILDA

You're wrong; I'm going to plant.

KAY

(to Darren)

Stalling for this, honey?

DARREN

Patience.

KAY

You'd think you'd learn by now. You'd think you'd know.

DARREN

Hmmh?

KAY

You cannot force it, dear. You cannot *make* one give up what they could never live without.

DARREN

Doubt my abilities?

KAY

(looking at Jacob and Silda)

You doubt theirs.

(raising her eyes at the sky)

And his.

DARREN

He has nothing to do with it.

(DARREN thinks a moment.)

(to Jacob and Silda)

Know what a child is?

KAY

Be precise.

DARREN

A newborn. You two are children, in spirit.

(to Silda)

Young woman.

(to Jacob)

Child . . . Adolescent if I'm feeling generous.

(beat)

I had always wondered about this. Not that my wondering would change the world so to speak, though I'm sure I could have done *something*. See, I wondered when a woman begets a / young one . . .

KAY

Begets?

DARREN

When a woman becomes . . .

KAY

(looking at Jacob and Silda)

Do they know the first part?

JACOB

What first part?

KAY
How she gets the child?

SILDA
I do.

DARREN
(likes this)
Do you?

(KAY looks at him.)

SILDA
I figured it out.

KAY
(unkind)
Course you did.

SILDA
It can't happen to me, can it?

DARREN
We'll save that for later.

(KAY gives DARREN a looks of concern.)

Anyway I was wondering . . .

KAY
About the newborn.

DARREN
Right! The newborn; that's what you call it when it's done,
uh . . .

KAY
Cooking.

DARREN
Yesss. When it's done in the oven.

KAY
(to Jacob)
The tummy.
(to Silda)
You know that.

DARREN
When she, she being the women, first becomes with child.
When this first happens, and I had a discussion with the old
man about this.

KAY

He never said--

DARREN

He doesn't tell you everything . . . Neither do I.

(to Jacob and Silda)

I discussed this with the old man, my feelings on the subject. I'd often do that.

(to Kay)

Which is why, by the way he kept me around as long as he did.

KAY

(to Jacob)

I call him the funny one.

DARREN

The old man?

KAY

No, you sweetheart.

DARREN

If you do that, it's not so funny, is it?

KAY

(beat)

No.

JACOB

(to Darren)

What are you telling us?

DARREN

(threateningly)

Excuse me?

(beat)

That's what I thought . . . See, I asked the old man what would happen if the woman . . . fell down.

KAY

(beat)

What?

DARREN

If she fell down and lost the child. What would happen?

SILDA

I don't understand.

DARREN

Well. A long time ago, and I don't want to confuse anyone here; a long time ago, but not too long, I was visiting a country, or,

(in an Irish accent)

another land.

(in his normal voice)

Yes, I was visiting this

(in an Irish accent)

other land,

(in normal voice)

on assignment. The people there, who by the way all wore green; they had very strict rules about this sort of thing. If one was in the position to have a child.

KAY

One being the female.

DARREN

One would have to have it to completion. No if's, and's, or but's. No exceptions . . . I was in a pub.

(JACOB glances at DARREN.)

(to Jacob)

Not worth your time, son . . . And in this pub I asked one of the gentleman, the

(in an Irish accent)

lads,

(in normal voice)

if 'she' had to have the newborn. If she really had to have it What could you do if she . . . fell down? In the beginning. Not later, but early on . . . In the beginning!

KAY

He get it?

DARREN

Oh, he got it.

(indicating the side of his mouth)

Punched me one right here. Very painful.

(in an Irish accent)

Got to love the locals.

KAY

Do you?

DARREN

(serious)

He never made it home that night, guess not.

(beat; to Jacob and Silda)

See, the old man saw my point! If the woman for whatever reason didn't want this child, she could choose to fall down. And what could you do?

KAY

Tie her up.

DARREN

You *could* do that. If you knew she wanted to fall down. Or had made an attempt. But try tying them all up. *All* the women.

KAY

Some have.

DARREN

Yes, that's true.

(to Jacob and Silda)

See, this is important for later. When things begin again.

KAY

Oh, sweetheart you're coming around.

(DARREN looks away.)

DARREN

Of *course* I am.

JACOB

(beat)

What do you mean, when things begin again?

DARREN

What do I mean? . . . What do I *mean*? Kay, tell him what I mean.

KAY

Darren?

DARREN

It's time . . . Go ahead. Careful, but go ahead.

KAY

Jacob. You and . . .

(She looks at SILDA.)

You and your sister . . . Are the only ones left.

DARREN

On earth.

KAY

On earth.

DARREN

I cannot vouch for the other planets. Not my field.

KAY

(to Jacob and Silda)

There was a world, children.

DARREN

(to Jacob and Silda)

You both make food. That's admirable. Imagine the rumble in your stomachs if the food stopped coming--

KAY

That's enough.

DARREN

Just because *they've* forgotten doesn't mean I have.

KAY

It's over.

DARREN

It's not. He did not intervene. Why should we now?

KAY

(tired)

Because he asked us to, baby.

SILDA

What did the people look like?

JACOB

Silda.

SILDA

I want to know.

DARREN

The people . . . looked like you. And Jacob. And Kay, and me. Some were old, some were young. Some on their way to being old, some simply on their way.

KAY

Some didn't know how good they had it.

DARREN

(to Jacob and Silda)

And once upon a long time ago, Kay was one of them. Like you both are.

SILDA

What are *you*?

DARREN

Don't worry about me.

KAY

He's different.

DARREN

I'm *different*.

SILDA

What happened to the people?

DARREN

The same thing that'll happen to you if you keep planting.
False hopes. False dreams. False promises.