

SIDES FOR BATBOY, MEREDITH, PARKER, SHELLEY – Pgs. 46-47

Parker home. Shelley puts a linen sport coat on Bat Boy and looks at him.

SHELLEY. You look great.

BAT BOY. *(Very proper English accent.)* Thank you, Shelley, you're looking splendid yourself.

SHELLEY. You look like you're ready to go to the dance hall in Wheeling.

BAT BOY. Oh *(A bow.)* May I have the pleasure, Miss Shelley?

SHELLEY. *(A curtsy.)* Why, I'd be delighted, Master Edgar. *(Bat Boy puts both hands on Shelley's waist. A moment as they take each other in. Shelley recovers first.)* Um... no. It's like this. Your right hand stays there, but your left goes up here.

BAT BOY. Oh, yes, I see. *(Another moment as they stare into each other's eyes. They awkwardly start to dance... In the kitchen Meredith readies a tea service.)*

PARKER. It's just for the weekend.

MEREDITH. I don't like the Town Council telling me what to do with my family.

PARKER. I know. I don't either. But these are stubborn people, and we're not holding many cards, dear. I think we have to let them win this one.

MEREDITH. Well, I suppose it will be good for Edgar to get away for a few days.

PARKER. Thank you, Meredith. *(Meredith and Parker enter the living room.)*

MEREDITH. Edgar! Shelley! *(Bat Boy and Shelley separate. Meredith bring a tea service out on a tray and sets it at the head of the table. Parker follows.)* Oh! You're already here. Don't you look lovely, Edgar.

BAT BOY. Thank you, Mrs. Parker. You're looking splendid yourself.

MEREDITH. Why, thank you. Those BBC language tapes are really helping your diction.

SHELLEY. And his vocabulary.

BAT BOY. Indubitably. *(All laugh.)*

MEREDITH. Come, let's sit down. *(Parker sits at the head of the table and prepares to pour tea.)*

BAT BOY. May I serve?

MEREDITH. Of course you may. *(Parker slides the tea service to Bat Boy as Shelley and Meredith take their places at the table. Bat Boy flawlessly serves tea and sandwiches during the following.)*

BAT BOY. You know, I was reading the newspaper this morning.

MEREDITH. Is that right?

BAT BOY. Yes. And I noticed that, beginning tomorrow, the Reverend Billy Hightower is holding a weekend revival. And, as I have just finished reading the Bible again, it would mean so much to me if I could attend.

SHELLEY. Yes! That would be so cool. You could wear your new suit and I could wear my new dress. Oh my God. I can just see everybody's faces.

BAT BOY. I think it would be a nice coming out for me.

PARKER. Actually, we were thinking that maybe we'd go away on a camping trip for the weekend. Just us? Alone in the woods?

MEREDITH. Wouldn't that be nice, Edgar?

BAT BOY. Oh yes! But we can do that anytime. The revival is the societal event of the season.

MEREDITH. Oh Edgar, I feel horrible telling you no, but it just isn't the right time for that sort of thing.

SHELLEY. But the way people talk about him, it's not fair.

PARKER. *Shelley*. This is not up for discussion right now.

BAT BOY. (*To Shelley*.) What is it that people... say about me?

PARKER. People can be very cruel. It doesn't mean anything about y—

BAT BOY. —They say *cruel* things? Is that it?

MEREDITH. Some people—

BAT BOY. —They don't know me.

PARKER. That's why they're so cruel.