

SIDES FOR BATBOY, PARKER, MEREDITH – Pgs. 49-51

PARKER. Edgar! You have made your request and the answer has been given to you, and that answer is no. That's all.

BAT BOY. (*Rising furiously.*) I might as well be in a cage! You must allow me to show myself!

MEREDITH. Oh, Edgar.

PARKER. (*Rising.*) No!

BAT BOY. Why not?

MEREDITH. Edgar, calm yourself, dear.

BAT BOY. Why not? (*His voice changes to a squeal.*) Why not? Why not?! WHY NOT?!! (*Bat Boy loses control, breaks down, and cries.*)

MEREDITH. Oh, I can't bear it. Thomas, can't we just let him go? Once they meet him for themselves, they'll change their minds, don't you think?

PARKER. (*Stunned.*) Well, no...

MEREDITH. Sure they will. He's so charming and well-spoken. Once they see what a proper young man he is—

PARKER. No no no no no! Meredith, I'm afraid I have to put my foot down on this. I've given my word of honor.

MEREDITH. Well, surely that's not more important than...

PARKER. My word of honor, Meredith. This would humiliate me.

MEREDITH. But can't you see what this means to him?

BAT BOY. ...Please, Dr. Parker...

PARKER. I'm putting my foot down. None of us will attend the revival, and that's final.

MEREDITH. (*Pause*) Fine, don't go. Shelley and I will go with Edgar.

PARKER. No, I'm putting my foot down.

MEREDITH. Edgar, I'm afraid we'll have to go without Dr. Parker, but Shelley and I will be there for you.

BAT BOY. Really?

PARKER. But I'm putting my foot down.

MEREDITH. Yes, dear. And the rest of us are going to the revival. It's settled.

BAT BOY. You're not too ashamed of me?

MEREDITH. No, no, Edgar, never.

PARKER. Meredith...

BAT BOY. Oh, this is wonderful.

MEREDITH. (*Ignoring Parker; to Bat Boy, kissing him.*) We're not ashamed of you, Edgar. We love you. We all love you so much. Don't you know that? You do know I love you, don't you? Say that you do.

PARKER. Meredith...

BAT BOY. I know. I love you, too, Mrs. Parker.

PARKER. You made a promise to me.

MEREDITH. (*Kissing him again.*) Oh, Edgar.

PARKER. (*Grabbing her.*) How can you do this to me?! (*Bat Boy suddenly attacks Parker. He pins him to the ground and is poised to bite when Meredith speaks.*)

MEREDITH. No! Edgar, dear. Edgar? Honey, let's calm down, okay?

BAT BOY. I, I'm sorry, I—

MEREDITH. I know. Get off Dr. Parker honey. Come here. Come to me. (*Bat Boy finally dismounts Parker and turns to Meredith.*)

BAT BOY. I'm sorry. I'm so sorry.

MEREDITH. It's all right, come here. (*Embracing him.*) I know, dear. It's just because you're hungry. It's okay now.

BAT BOY. I don't know what happened to me.

MEREDITH. (*To Bat Boy.*) Are you all right?

PARKER. (*Getting up.*) Yes, I'm fine, it's just a— (*Sees Meredith is not paying attention to him.*) Oh.

MEREDITH. It's okay. Edgar, I love you so much.

PARKER. (*Quietly.*)

AND SO AT LAST I KNOW,
YOU WENT AND LIED TO ME...

MEREDITH. (*To Bat Boy.*) We'll get you some food and you'll be okay.

PARKER.

I SAY BRAVO;
I WAS FOOLED QUITE A WHILE.

MEREDITH. (*To Parker.*) I think it's time for Edgar's medication.

PARKER. (*With growing rage.*)

THOUGH YOU CAME BACK TO MY ARMS,

MEREDITH. (*To Bat Boy.*) Everything will be all right, sweetheart.

PARKER.

YOU'VE ALWAYS LOVED HIM MUCH MORE;

MEREDITH. (*She kisses Bat Boy, standing up.*) So, tomorrow we'll go to the revival.

PARKER.

AND EV'RY VOW THAT YOU SWORE
WAS AS FALSE AS YOURSMILE!...

MEREDITH. Edgar, I just know that when everyone sees you for who you really are, it's all going to be okay. Don't you think so, Thomas?

PARKER. (*Smiling.*) Yes. Yes, I do. Sure, it'll work out. Why, it's gonna be great!

BAT BOY. Really?

MEREDITH. Really?

PARKER. Of course! We'll show them what Edgar's made of. They'll all see it. It'll be fine!

MEREDITH. Right, exactly!

BAT BOY. This is so lovely.

PARKER. I have a little work at the lab in the morning, but I'll meet you here. And if anybody has a problem with Edgar, by God, they're going to have to answer to Dr. Parker!

MEREDITH. Did you hear that, Edgar?

PARKER. Meredith, why don't you run up and tell Shelley the good news, and I'll give Edgar his medication?

MEREDITH. All right. Well, this is wonderful! Thank you, Thomas.

PARKER. Things are really turning around for us, aren't they?

MEREDITH. (*Turning to Bat Boy, kissing him.*) I love you, Edgar. This is all going to be fine, you'll see.

BAT BOY. Thank you, Mrs. Parker. *(Exit Meredith. Parker stares after her. Pause.)*
I'm sorry I hurt you.

PARKER. *(Beat.)* Are you hungry, Edgar? *(Bat Boy sobs.)* You're crying. Why are you crying?

BAT BOY. Because I'm hungry.

PARKER. You know that I'll feed you.

BAT BOY. I know... Dr. Parker, in Genesis 9, verse 4, God says to Noah, "*Blood shall ye not eat.*"

PARKER. Hmm. Well, that's pretty clear, isn't it?

BAT BOY. A commandment from God Himself! Do you think I'll ever be able to stop?

PARKER. Do you think you can?

BAT BOY. Yes. Maybe.

PARKER. Well, if you think you can, perhaps you can. It's all a matter of will power, I suppose. But, then again, if it's part of your nature, that's a tougher problem for you.

(Parker opens his doctor's bag, revealing a live rabbit.)

BAT BOY. *(Horrorified.)* It's not dead.

PARKER. Hmm?

BAT BOY. It's not dead.

PARKER. Oh. Yes. Well, you don't need me to kill it for you, do you? Hey, perhaps this would be a good time to test yourself. Can you resist? *(Bat Boy whines.)* Try Psalm 23.

BAT BOY. Oh, yes. I see. "*Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of Death, I will fear no evil. For Thou art with me. Thy rod and Thy staff they comfort me. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies.*"