

SIDES FOR PARKER & MEREDITH – Pgs. 30-31

Parker home. Dr. Thomas Parker enters, drunk, carrying two dead geese and a shotgun. He doesn't see Bat Boy yet.

PARKER. Sorry I'm so late! The roads are all mud and the lights are out all over town! But I got a limit! Hello! *(Parker regards his dead geese.)* I'll call this one Fricassee, and this one I'll call Cacciatore. Heh-heh... I was just getting ready to pack it in when the wind starts kicking up, and this perfect formation of honkers comes banking in from the West, and— *(Bangs into the cage.)* Aah! What's the big cage doing out? Another stray? *(Parker takes a candle and walks over to the cage. The light from the candle illuminates Parker's reaction to Bat Boy. Thunder.)* Sweet wounded Jesus! How did you get here? *(Parker pulls out a flask from his doctor's bag and takes a drink. He takes out a pocket tape recorder and studies Bat Boy, dictating:)*

PARKER.

MAMMAL, HUMANOID,
ADOLESCENT MALE,
MASSIVE OVERBITE,
FEVERISH AND PALE.
CLAWED PREHENSILE FEET,
SORES THAT WILL NOT HEAL,

(He picks up Meredith's stew pot and considers it.)

STARVING BUT WON'T EAT.

...I KNOW HOW YOU FEEL.

(Parker pauses, then pulls from his doctor's bag a syringe, which he fills with pink liquid from a vial.) Well, this'll put one of us out of our misery. *(Parker is just about to pierce Bat Boy's neck with the needle when Meredith enters and...)*

MEREDITH. Thomas, no!

PARKER. What?

MEREDITH. Please. Don't.

PARKER. Well, why not? *(He leans in to inject Bat Boy.)*

MEREDITH. Please!

PARKER. What?!

MEREDITH. Let him live. He's just a boy.

PARKER. You know what this is, don't you?

MEREDITH. Yes, I know. You could save him if you wanted to, couldn't you? You could make him well again?

PARKER. Are you kidding me? The ranchers would go nuts. They're already blaming their problems on anything they can think of.

MEREDITH. But if you wanted to...

PARKER. I can hear it now. "There goes Dr. Parker. He couldn't manage to save our cattle, but he saved the Bat Boy. He's Hope Falls' finest citizen, maybe we won't run him out on a rail after all..."

MEREDITH. ...but we could just keep him here in the house...

PARKER. ...They'll have my head for something like this, Meredith. And I'll

bet you dollars to donuts that Sheriff Reynolds expects me to put is down, don't try to tell me any different. There's just no way around this. Sorry, little fella, there's just no way around it. *(He moves to Bat Boy, pushes his head to the side and bares his neck for the needle.)*

MEREDITH. *(Falling to her knees.)* No, please! I'm begging you. You can't just kill him like an animal. Please, please.

PARKER. So now you've got all this love in your heart, do you?

MEREDITH. You have to let him live. We can take care of him.

PARKER. Where'd you find the room for all this love in your heart all of a sudden?

MEREDITH. We have to let him live.

PARKER. Who do you love?

MEREDITH. Oh please, Thomas.

PARKER. Tell me who you love. Who do you love, Meredith?

MEREDITH. Please don't do this.

PARKER. Me, right? It's me you love.

MEREDITH. Of course I do. I'm your wife.

PARKER. You haven't been a wife to me in years.

MEREDITH. I could be.

PARKER. Tonight? ...*Tonight?*

MEREDITH. Let me get you a drink.