

SIDES FOR RICK, RUTHIE & RON - Pgs. 7-8

*A cave. In darkness, the sound of running water.
Out of the darkness comes the voice of Bat Boy,
singing.)*

BAT BOY. *(Offstage, singing nonsense syllables.)* Oo-oo-oo-oo-oo. *(Rick, Ron and Ruthie descend into the cave, awestruck.)*

RICK. Whoa... Look at this.

RUTHIE. We've never been this deep before.

RON. What's that smell?

RICK. I don't know. But this cave rocks.

RUTHIE & RON. Fully.

RON. Are we gonna run out of rope?

RICK. *(Landing on stage.)* Nope. We have got to celebrate going deeper than any human being has gone before. *(Ruthie and Rick land, too.)*

RUTHIE. Where are we, Rick?

RICK. That was a major vertical. This could be virgin territory.

RON. C-c-can we go back up now?

RUTHIE. All right, who's packing?

RICK. Reading my mind. *(Rick picks up a small, serviceable bong. Rick and Ruthie turn off their lights and spark up while Ron explores. Suddenly Ron's helmet-light crosses the face of Bat Boy. Bat Boy screeches.)*

RON. *(Turning away.)* Sweet Jesus!

RICK. What?

RON. *(Turning light back again to a blank cave wall.)* The cave monster! The cave monster!

RICK. Shut up, Ron.

RON. I saw him, Rick! I swear.

RUTHIE. There's no such thing as a cave monster, Ron.

RICK. Ooh! It's the cave monster, Ron! The scary caaaave monster! *(Ron finds Bat Boy again with his light and points hysterically; finally, Rick looks.)* Whoa! *(Rick and Ruthie turn on their lights. All three scramble.)*

RUTHIE. Ahhhh! Over here! *(They chase after Bat Boy. Eventually Bat Boy gets caught in the glare of their helmet-lights, his back to the audience, frozen in fear. He slowly backs up DS. He is naked.)*

RON. What is it?

RUTHIE. It's some deformed kid.

RICK. It's a Bat Boy. It's ok, little guy. I'm Rick Taylor. This is my brother Ron. And this is my sister Ruthie.

RUTHIE. Can you say "Ruthie"?

RON. Shut up, Ruthie!

RICK. We are totally keeping this thing.

RON. We won't hurt you.

RICK. Take my hand. Come on.

RON. Don't be afraid. It looks scared.

RUTHIE. See if it likes Fritos. *(She produces some and offers them to Bat Boy.)* Fritos. See? Fritos. *(Bat Boy attacks Ruthie.)* AAAAAHHHHHH! *(Ron and Rick jump on Bat Boy and pummel him.)* I'm bit! I'm bit!

RON. Ruthie's bit! Ruthie's bit!

RICK. Get him, Ron!

RON. I'm getting him! *(Ron pulls Bat Boy off Ruthie and pins him to the ground.)*

RUTHIE. Oh, mama! I don't wanna die!

RICK. You freakin' animal! (*Rick leaps up and stomps Bat Boy on the head.*)

SIDES FOR MEREDITH & SHELLEY - Pgs. 13-14

Meredith and Shelley clean the Parker home living room.

SHELLEY. Can I call Rick again?

MEREDITH. That doesn't make sense, honey. You just left him a message an hour ago.

SHELLEY. I know. But I want to find out if he's coming.

MEREDITH. He'll think about you more if he talks to you less.

SHELLEY. Mom, Rick already knows that I like him.

MEREDITH. Don't talk like a slut, Shelley.

SHELLEY. Sorry.

MEREDITH. *(Putting her arm around Shelley.)* Courting is a slippery slope, dear, and it's a young lady's job to provide the friction. When I was your age a young lady didn't even call a boy, especially if she wanted to. If Rick is worthy of you, he'll know that he needs to call you back. Clean the railing.

SHELLEY. But it's not dirty.

MEREDITH. You can't wait until it *gets* dirty. You have to look out for these boys, Shelley. Most of them are so out of control with their... hormones that they really aren't in charge of their actions. But you don't suffer from their hormonal problems, so you'll bear the responsibility if something... happens.

SHELLEY. Like what?

MEREDITH. The wages of sin is death, sweetheart, that's all I'm saying. *(There is a knock at the door and the sounds of a commotion.)*

SHERIFF. *(Offstage.)* It's Sheriff Reynolds, Meredith! *(Meredith opens the door. Immediately, the Sheriff enters, holding onto Bat Boy, who is hooded and handcuffed. He*

struggles relentlessly against the Sheriff.)

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.

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.

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 Genesis⁹, 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."*

SIDES FOR BATBOY, REV. HIGHTOWER — Pgs. 59-60

REV. HIGHTOWER. All right, let's bring it down, let's bring it down. I know there's someone out there Someone who needs healing. I can feel your distress. You've got a sin... within! Step forward! Let the Holy Ghost heal you! The Holy Ghost is commanding you! He's putting a fire under your seat now. There's a fire under your seat. Mmmm now, feel it. No fear. Who wants the healing? *(Bat Boy, Meredith, and Shelley enter in their Sunday Best. They stop just inside the entrance. The congregation gasps. Bat Boy Steps forward.)*

BAT BOY. I want to be healed.

REV. HIGHTOWER. *(Staring at him in horror.)* Oh, my Lord. Oh, Jesus, Son of God.

CONGREGATION. *(Whispering.)* I can't believe it!/ He showed up here?/ We had an agreement.

REV. HIGHTOWER. Now hold on, hold on. Let's bring it down, bring it down. *(To Bat Boy.)* You've got something bad in you, don't you, son?

BAT BOY. Yes.

REV. HIGHTOWER. And you want the healing.

BAT BOY. Yes. I do.

REV. HIGHTOWER. Well, come on down!

CROWD. Oh my Lordy!/ This can't be happening./ I'm going to faint. *(etc.)*

REV. HIGHTOWER. Come on down, come on down! Well, look at you! You've got a hunger, don't you son? It's eating you up. It's gnawing a hole in your soul.

BAT BOY. Yes.

REV. HIGHTOWER. Are you ready for the healing? Are you ready for the healing?

BAT BOY. Yes. *(Bursts into tears.)* Yes! Yes! *(The preacher lays a hand on Bat Boy's head. He closes his eyes, deep in*

concentration. Suddenly he opens his eyes and takes his hands off of Bat Boy's head.)

REV. HIGHTOWER. *(Quietly.)* I hear the Holy Ghost talking to me. He says there's someone in this room who doesn't want this boy to be healed. Can that be right? Is there someone here tonight who does not want healing for this boy?

BAT BOY. *(To congregation.)* I know... *(Clears throat.)* I know you hate me. But I have to believe that it's because you don't know me. If you could see me... I mean, if you could really see me the way I see all of you...

SIDES FOR PARKER, BATBOY, MEREDITH, SHERRIF, SHELLEY — Pgs.
62-64

REV. HIGHTOWER. Amen! Amen! Thank you all for coming. God bless you. Our souls are full, but our bellies are empty, so we have barbecue and lemonade outside. Praise Jesus!
(The Reverend exits. Parker enters drunk.)

PARKER. There's something you all should know! I'm sorry, I'm sorry. I have some terrible news. Please, quiet down, I have some terrible news. It's about Edgar. I was working in my laboratory last night, studying a sample of Edgar's saliva. I made a startling discovery. This morning I rushed to the hospital to see if the state of Ruthie Taylor's would confirmed my suspicions. Unfortunately, I discovered that Ruthie Taylor died in the night. Her death was due to a bizarre and unprecedented infection, an infection, caused by Edgar's bite.

MEREDITH. No!

PARKER. I'm so sorry. Edgar is... deadly. Deadly to Ruthie. And to cattle.

BUD. I knew it! He's the cause of the plague!

PARKER. I'm sorry, Meredith.

BAT BOY. That girl is dead?

MEREDITH. It's not your fault, sweetheart. This must be a mistake.

PARKER. It's true, my love. It's true. I'm so sorry. I've called the Institute in Wheeling. They're coming to take him off our hands. I know it's difficult to accept all this, but we'll get through it together.

MEREDITH. *(Backing away from Parker.)* The Institute? This is madness.

BAT BOY. I never meant to hurt anybody.

PARKER. *(Approaching Meredith.)* Oh, sweetheart, I'll be here for you.

MEREDITH. What are you doing?

PARKER. Don't worry. Our love will get us through.

MEREDITH. Get your hands off me!

PARKER. That's right, let it out.

MEREDITH. *(To crowd.)* Please! Everyone! It's true Edgar was not civilized when he was first captured, but that's because he was a cornered animal back then. Since then... I mean, look at him. You all just heard him. Can't you see he's not a danger to any of us?

PARKER. Forgive her. She's taken to the boy. *(Enter Rick, Ron, and Mrs. Taylor.)*

RICK. *(Going for Bat Boy.)* I'm gonna kill that freak!

MRS. TAYLOR. Ruthie's dead!!! He killed her! That freak killed my daughter!

BUD. *(Stopping Rick.)* Hang on there.

RON. Let me at him!

NED. Calm down, now.

BAT BOY. No, I didn't meant to.

NED. What're we going now, Sheriff?

SHERIFF. We just gotta take a second...

MEREDITH. Thomas, why?

RICK. Murderer!

SHELLEY. Stop it, Rick.

MRS. TAYLOR. *(To Sheriff)*

MRS. TAYLOR. You've got to do *something*?

RICK. Freak!

BAT BOY. I didn't know...

BUD. We can't let him roam free, Sheriff.

SHERIFF. I'm just saying let's take a second...

DAISY. This is terrible!

BAT BOY. No, I never meant to hurt anyone.

MRS. TAYLOR. You know what you have to do, Sheriff.

RICK. Animal!

SHELLEY. Stop it! (*Rick pulls out a pistol and fires it into the air. Everyone screams. The Sheriff pulls his revolver out and points it at Rick. Ad-lib hubbub.*)

SHERIFF. Now, don't do anything stupid, son.

MRS. TAYLOR. Don't you point a gun at my boy!

RICK. (*Waving gun around.*) Everyone shut up!

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