

"Black Taxi" By SiD
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PADDY

Are you alright? You've
hardly said two words all night.

ROSE

When I first told Marie about us
do you know what she said?

PADDY

No. What?

ROSE

She said men like you can't
fall in love.

PADDY

Men like me?

ROSE

Hard men. Ex-prisoners--

PADDY

I'm not a hard man.

ROSE

--Ex-volunteers...(beat)
She said they can't trust
anyone. Ever.

PADDY

Is there something you
want to ask me, Roisín?

ROSE (Pause)

Were you in the IRA?

PADDY

Yes.

ROSE

Are you still?

PADDY

Yes.

ROSE

Have you ever killed anyone?

PADDY (beat)

Yes.

ROSE

Oh God! Oh God, how can you
say that!?! How can you just
sit there and say that - like
you're reading the paper...!

PADDY

It happened.

ROSE

You've murdered people!

PADDY

I'm the same man I was ten
minutes ago -

ROSE

No!

PADDY

Yes! The same man you slept beside
last night -

ROSE

Stop it!

PADDY

- the same man you made love
to, the same man who was
inside you...

ROSE

Oh God!

(LONG PAUSE)

PADDY

Rose? Look at me. (beat)
Rose?

ROSE

No!

PADDY

Look at me! (beat) I'm
just a man. I'm not inhuman.
I'm not a monster.

ROSE

How many?

PADDY

Don't. Please.

ROSE

How many people have you
killed?

PADDY

Don't do this. It hurts me
to talk about it.

ROSE

You!? What about the families of
the people you've killed? Don't
you think it hurts them?

PADDY

Of course it does! I know it does!
(beat) You don't understand...

ROSE

No I don't! I'll never understand!

Paddy

Then you should go.

(beat)

I can't change who I am, Rose.
'Can't change what I've done. My
hand to God, I've not known a
moment's peace or happiness since
I did it. But I believed in the
reasons why I did it and I still
believe in them. They gave us no
alternative. I want peace! I do!
I don't want to pick up a fucking
gun again! I don't want my sons
to pick up a gun! I don't want anyone
else to die! (beat) But by God,
if politics doesn't work I will go
back to war, and I'd rather it be men
like me in the streets than these young

(MORE)

PADDY (con't)

lads now - without the experience.
Without the scars. (beat) See...you
just don't understand Rose.

I love my Country!
I love my Church, my God! I love my
family, my friends, my community! I love
them so much I'd die for them! And I've
killed to protect them! I want to be free!
I want my freedom! It's my right as a human
being on this planet, and it is non-negotiable!
(beat) And if, the Brits, or the peelers, or
the UDA comes into my street - to burn it
down, to arrest our people, to brutalize
and baton and shoot us - it's ME they'll
have to go through, and God help them!
(pause) Now please leave.