

MARIE

So, what happened last night?

ROSE

He came home with me.

MARIE

And?

ROSE

And he stayed.

MARIE

Jesus, God you didn't!

ROSE

I did. (beat) You disapprove.

MARIE

No. I'm concerned.

ROSE

You can stop worrying. It was safe sex.

MARIE

There's no such thing with a "hard" man.

ROSE

I thought the whole point was to find a hard man.

MARIE

Don't be flippant. You don't know him.

ROSE

Well now I know him considerably better.

MARIE

Do you?

ROSE

I thought you liked him.

MARIE

I do...but he's like a lot of our men, Rose. He has a past.

ROSE

I know about his marriage. It's been eight years.

MARIE

That's not what I meant.

ROSE

Well, what do you mean?

MARIE (beat)

Do you know what they call him?

ROSE

Who?

MARIE

The boys, the other men.

ROSE

Everyone calls him Paddy.

MARIE

"Sniper", Rose. They call him "Sniper". They have since he was fifteen.

ROSE (pause)

Kids get nicknames. It could mean anything.

MARIE

Not here, it couldn't.

ROSE

Oh come on. He was fifteen!

MARIE

And he was in the Kesh by seventeen. He did six years.

ROSE (beat)

So what are you telling me?  
That he's a killer?

MARIE

A volunteer. At least, he was.  
I don't know if he still is.

ROSE

Oh, well that makes me feel  
better then.

MARIE

I'm not telling you this to  
frighten you. It doesn't change  
who he is.

ROSE

What the fuck! Of course it  
does!

MARIE

No. It doesn't. I'm only  
telling you this because if  
you like this man, if you're  
considering a life with him,  
you have to know it won't be  
easy.

ROSE

Jesus, what do I do?

MARIE

Do you like him?

ROSE

Christ! I did! But...for fuck  
sake!

MARIE

Here, see your man at the bar  
who served us?

ROSE

Jimmy? What about him?

MARIE

What do you think of him?

ROSE

Why? You think I should date  
him instead?

MARIE

What were your impressions?

ROSE

I like him.

MARIE

Sure. He's a nice fellow. Sweet  
Decent.

ROSE

What's this got to do -

MARIE

He was a bomber Rose.

ROSE

What?

MARIE

That one over there? They call  
him "Rocket Man". Best RPG man  
in West Belfast. Your man there  
in the corner? Got life for  
planning the attack on Thatcher.

ROSE

Jesus! What kind of bar did  
you bring me to?

MARIE

It wouldn't matter where I took  
you, here, or any other Catholic  
neighbourhood in the city!  
You're not in your world, Rose.  
The same standards do not apply.  
(beat)  
This is the North. Black is  
white, white is black. It's war.  
If you had been here the last  
thirty years you'd know that.