

Megan and Kamal (Act One, Scene Five, pages 30-31)

Megan: It's weird that I still think of it with such affection, such longing, but I do. The mice-infested house, full of candles and dirt and music.

Kamal: Where is this place?

Megan: There's a little seaside town in Norfolk. Holkham. Sometimes I just sit with my eyes closed and listen to the trains go past. Just yearning to see if my memory has changed it into something it wasn't.

Kamal: Why this particular house?

Megan: Just some place I seem to remember. I don't know. After Ben died, I ran away.

Kamal: Who's Ben?

Megan: My brother. We were going to go to America, but we never made it. Ben didn't make it anywhere. He died in a motorcycle accident, about a mile from where we grew up. When I die, I want to be near the sea. No need for a ceremony, no gravestone. Just to be in the right place, to have my own ending.

Kamal: You close your eyes and you run away to this place.

Megan: If only in my mind. But sometimes, the urge to run overwhelms me. I can't sleep because of it. Can't draw. Can't paint. At night, when I lie awake I can hear it. A whisper in my head saying, 'slip away'. There's something I have to tell Scott. And when I do... I don't know how he'll react.

Kamal: Are you afraid of Scott?

Megan: Of course not. He's my husband.

Kamal: But...?

Megan: He doesn't trust me. He's right not to. He reads my emails. Checks my internet history.

Kamal: That's a form of emotional abuse.

Megan: It isn't abuse. Not if you deserve it.

Kamal: Why would you deserve it?

Megan: Perhaps it's better I just run away.

Megan and Kamal (Act Two, Scene Three, pages 62-64)

Megan: We deal with everything on our own. When it comes to it. Let me tell you what happened, and then I'll leave, and we can go back to our own lives. I've kept this for so long, it feels like the words could choke me in my sleep. Please. Please listen. The baby. We called her Elizabeth. Libby. One night, we had a fight, Craig and I. He walked out. I remember the roof was leaking. It was cold, the wind driving off the sea. Whistling through the cracks in the window panes. It'd been raining for days, we had no heating. I started drinking, to warm up...but it didn't work so I filled the kettle and saucepans with water, to make a bath. It got in, Libby with me, and it was so warm. She lay on my chest, her head under my chin. I can feel her. There's a candle, flickering, just behind my head. I can still smell the wax. Feel the chill of the air, round my neck, my shoulders. I'm heavy. My body's sinking, into the warmth, into the...and I'm so tired, I'm so tired... When I wake up, I'm cold, really cold. The house feels like it's shaking, the wind screaming, tearing at the slates on the roof.

Kamal: And Libby?

Megan: She was wedged between my arm and the edge of the tub. Her face in the water. I killed her. Scott wants us to have a baby. I keep putting him off but now... How could I ever have a child? I lie there at night, still feeling her on me. I hear her crying. I smell her skin. We buried her in our garden, beneath the daisies. I'd put my cardigan round her, I couldn't bear how cold she was. We used stones to mark her grave. I never saw Craig again.

RECALL: Megan and Scott (Act One, Scene Three, page 18)

Megan: It's about the bit that's missing. Don't you see?

Scott: I can see, but –

Megan: Look, here we have colour and light; and here, there's a kind of drama, something wild, but no matter how much you try to focus on what's there, the eye is always drawn to what's absent.

Scott: Yeah, but what's it supposed to be?

Megan: Come on, Scott. Please try. Don't you ever feel that, that something of you is missing and the more you try to ignore it, the bigger the void gets?

Scott: So, what should be there?

Megan: That's the point! Only you know what should be there. There are voids like this in everyone. We try to exist around them but all the time, their gravity's trying to suck you in, like a black hole.