

Free - Under a Midsummer Moon (1m, 1f)

DAVID: (m) 17, hurting from his brother's death in Viet Nam

MADRIGAL: 16, sent to America to escape "the troubles" in Belfast

SCENE 2 – Sunrise in the Park, July 1969

(MADRIGAL is very still on a rock. DAVID approaches.)

DAVID

Hey/

MADRIGAL

Shhh!

DAVID

You shouldn't/

(MADRIGAL turns and puts her fingers to her lips to "shhh" David.)

DAVID (cont'd)

This isn't/

MADRIGAL

Shhh!/
/safe!

DAVID

(And they watch for a moment as the sun rises.)

MADRIGAL

Ah – sure but that's a wondrous thing, isn't it? Seeing the sun rise over the treescape. And it's there every morn, just for the taking.

DAVID

I guess. You really shouldn't be here this early. Nobody's in the park except muggers.

MADRIGAL

Surely, you're not proclaiming yourself to be a mugger then?

DAVID

Well, no.

MADRIGAL

Nothing evil can happen while the sun rises. 'tis a fact.

DAVID

Where do you get your facts from? Fairy tales?

MADRIGAL

Indeed – one learns a lot from the “little people.” If one bothers to pay attention.

DAVID

And you do?

MADRIGAL

Most definitely. But don't try listening for them now. For they're all curled up snug as ladybugs in the dew-soaked petals of the smallest flowers. For they are but wee ones.

DAVID

Wee ones?

MADRIGAL

Little people. Don't look so wide-eyed. If you don't listen for them – you'll never hear them. And your life will be just a touch sad. And know that I meaning that in the nicest way.

DAVID

You're a wee bit nuts, you know that? And know that I meaning that – in the nicest way.

MADRIGAL

I know things.

DAVID

Told to you by the “little people?”

MADRIGAL

Yes.

(Beat.)

DAVID

Sooooo ... come here often?

MADRIGAL

Every morning. And you?

DAVID

I grew up nearby and now I work here. So, yeah, I come here. I used to dig plants up and bring them home and try to identify them. I didn't know it was illegal. I was – a “wee one.” Once I brought my brother a pail of poison ivy. He was bummed when we broke out in a rash.

MADRIGAL

Ah – but – ‘tis all in the interest of discovery. Does your brother share your love of plants.

DAVID

Once. Not anymore.

MADRIGAL

Things change.

DAVID

That they do.

MADRIGAL

What will you be searching for today?

DAVID

I don't search anymore. I work. And really, who cares about what grows in a city park? It's mostly weeds.

(Noting MADRIGAL'S dead stick she has planted.)

Are you the perpetrator of this?

MADRIGAL

Do you like it?

DAVID

It's – dead. Yeah, I like it.

MADRIGAL

But surrounded by life. Imagine – if you plant a moonbeam, what would you get?

DAVID

But you can't plant a moonbeam.

MADRIGAL

But I have.

DAVID

And what did you get? Moonbeam stalks?

MADRIGAL

Have fun with me if you will! For I am here today and gone tomorrow. But know that if you plant a moonbeam, you will harvest memories to treasure. Those are special things.

DAVID

If you say so.

MADRIGAL

I do. Spend the day with me! I'll take you to where the rocky highland dips into the lake. Will you come? It's me own private hazel wood of safety.

DAVID

You – want me to go fairy-chasing with you?

MADRIGA:

It's a quest we will be doing. Me da taught me that. Find your own safe place – where you can be quiet and discover yourself.

DAVID

This park used to be my safe place. Not anymore. Are you here with your dad?

MADRIGAL

No. He – died last spring.

DAVID

I'm sorry. Really.

MADRIGAL

The Giant's Causeway is me own safe place – do you know it?

DAVID

No.

MADRIGAL

It's a great, craggy miracle of a place. The wild Irish Sea crashes against cliffs and caves. St. Patrick tended sheep on nearby Slemish mountain and castles appear from clouds. It was made from the days of enchantment. Me da and I would sit on the Causeway every spring and he would tell me tales.

DAVID

Sorry about your dad. He sounds like one of the good guys.

MADRIGAL

You'd have loved him. Everyone did. There was an explosion you see, and Da was in the wrong place, talking to the wrong person at the wrong time. Me mum thought – send me away to aunt in America. Keep me safe. But I'd rather be home. Even if there are troubles.

DAVID

There's no guarantee of safety here either. Crime is pretty high in the city - especially in the park. At sunrise.

MADRIGAL

At home, people want to build barricades to separate themselves from each other.

DAVID

Maybe there is no safe haven.

MADRIGAL

That's why you search inside you. Look at this.

(She shows DAVID some small pieces of rock.)

DAVID

Pebbles. You carry around pebbles?

MADRIGAL

Precious pieces of quartz from the Giant's Causeway. From the sweet nights when my family built bonfires for the fairies. I take these everywhere. Where you see "pebbles," I see time. I see a piece of the earth that was here when dragons flew and the earth began. Something that is as old as the fairies and as new as the first bud on a tree. They're memory, perhaps even eternity. Spend the morning with me. I am offering you an escape – if only for a brief moment in time.

DAVID

It's tempting, but the thing is – it's – just – weird. Going – fairy chasing with someone I don't know.

MADRIGAL

I'm Madrigal. Now you know me.

DAVID

If I went with you, could you do something magical?

MADRIGAL

I – don't know.

DAVID

Because that's what I need. Some magic to turn back time. But you can't do that. If you could, you would have gone back to save your dad.

MADRIGAL

Come with me, who knows what we will discover?

DAVID

I – can't. There're things I need to do before work. I have my own – stuff.

MADRIGAL

If the seasons of your mind change –

DAVID

I'll find you.

MADRIGAL

Or – I'll find you. Now there are things I must do. Promises to keep.

(MADRIGAL exits.)

DAVID

(Calling after her.)

I'm David!