

Rosarian

Written by
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INT. ISLAND COTTAGE - MORNING

A table set for three. JOSEPH, age worn, puts on a tattered raincoat then scarf and looks out towards a mainland hamlet.

JOSEPH (V.O.)

I grew up here with my mother.
Father? Died first war. I was
conscripted, posted overseas in the
second. One day in France a German
lay wounded, helpless.

ROSE (V.O.)

What did you do?

JOSEPH (V.O.)

My dear Rose, we were both on
foreign soil. I couldn't leave him.
I was a medic.

EXT. ISLAND SHORE - MORNING

Joseph places a rose on the stern seat of a small rowing boat.

ROSE (V.O.)

And what happened?

JOSEPH (V.O.)

They came back for him. I was
captured. Marched to Poland. Hard
times. Little food, cold - for all
of us, prisoners and guards. We
survived together, I don't know
how.

Joseph fixes oars and rows a steady pace towards the hamlet shore.

JOSEPH (V.O.) (cont'd)

I suppose she thought I'd been
killed in action. Became so frail,
not even the strength to tend the
roses she adored.

ROSE (V.O.)

So sad.

JOSEPH (V.O.)

War changes many things...

FADE TO:

EXT. HAMLET - MORNING

Joseph meets an OLD LADY at the Post Office doorway.

OLD LADY
She's new.

JOSEPH
That's good.

Joseph enters the Post Office.

INT. POST OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER

Shelves of stationery, greetings cards, cheap gifts and groceries lead to a counter behind which ROSE - early twenties, the epitome of innocence and beauty - serves.

Joseph collects a packet of tea from the groceries shelf.

ROSE
Hello.

Joseph politely coughs.

ROSE (cont'd)
I'm sorry. It's...

Rose checks for a price.

JOSEPH
One pound eighty seven?

ROSE
(Giggling) If you say so.

JOSEPH
And the post, for Island Cottage?

Rose checks a row of postal pigeon holes.

ROSE
Sorry there's no post Mr...

JOSEPH
Call me Joseph and you are?

ROSE
I'm Rose.

JOSEPH
Rose! Such a beautiful name.
And you've been here for?

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CONTINUED:

ROSE
Nearly a week.

JOSEPH
This place could grow on you.

ROSE
I hope so but it's getting to know people.

JOSEPH
The first thing you must do. I have an idea. Why not come and have tea at our cottage?

ROSE
On the island? I'd love to.

JOSEPH
Then tonight? I'll tell Mother, she loves to cook.

Joseph walks to the post office door.

ROSE
Tonight? But Mr...

JOSEPH
Pah, it's Joseph, call me Joseph. I'll be here for when you finish.

FADE TO:

EXT. WATER - LATE AFTERNOON

Rose sits on the boat's stern seat admiring her rose.

ROSE
What a wonderful thought.

JOSEPH
Nobody grows a rose like mother.

Rose shivers in the cool air.

ROSE
Getting a little late. Perhaps I should visit tomorrow?

Joseph stops rowing. The boat drifts.

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