

ELLEN

I'm Ellen Courtney...We rented a house from you, several months ago?

MR. LEACH

Yes ma'am.

(beat)

I remember...what can I do for ya?

ELLEN

Well, I'm not sure...may I sit down please?

MR. LEACH

Why of course, of course.

He leads her to a chair behind the desk.

MR. LEACH (CONT'D)

Right here.

He follows into his seat, grabs the arm of her chair. He leans back.

MR. LEACH (CONT'D)

Now--

ELLEN

I thought perhaps you might...you might tell me something.

MR. LEACH

Like what?

ELLEN

About the house.

MR. LEACH

Yes ma'am. I know what you mean.

(beat)

I expected ya a long time before this.

MR. LEACH (O.S.) (CONT'D)

It was built in eighteen-one, by a man by the name of Cylus Clausen...He left it to his son Michael.

(beat)

Michael was a sea captain. And a good one, so they say...but he was mean...mean!

MR. LEACH (O.S.) (CONT'D)

Killed alot of his men...finally, a crew mutinied, and they keyhauled 'im.

ELLEN

What does that mean?

MR. LEACH

Drug him back and forth, across the bottom of his boat. Barnacles chewed him up pretty bad I guess...Near tore off his right leg.

(beat)

And after that...he was different.

Beat.

MR. LEACH (CONT'D)

When the mutineers was all hung, he retired from the sea.

ELLEN

Was he married?

MR. LEACH

He was.

ELLEN

What was her name?

MR. LEACH

Elspeth.

ELLEN

And what--what happened to her?

Mr. Leach straightens, looks her in the eyes.

MR. LEACH

Don't you know Mrs. Courtney?