

## Scene 15 (Extract)

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**Peter** I don't know what I did wrong. It's out of my hands. I was just a parent. Not the world. I didn't scoop his heart out and fill it with a tangle. Out of my hands. I kept the house... but it was the weather that mattered. His dust fell like snow. And like any child... he had to play... and I had to let him.

**Margaret** Stop snivelling, ya little cripple. Ya only get one father, one chance. Yer not up to it.

**Joseph stands and goes to Margaret.**

**Joseph** Finally now, I've had enough of you to last a lifetime. You'll be quiet now.

**Margaret** Here we are again. Arent' you ashamed of him ? T'think he's a son of yours. Would ya look at me ! Here I am twisted.... out a shape by me own strength... making up for fallen men. Stupid....

**Joseph raises his fist as if he were to strike her full in the face. But as he draws his arm back she covers her face with a brief scream. Still. She slowly takes her hands away. They are covered in blood. Her nose is bleeding.**

**Joseph puts his fist down.**

**Margaret sits. No-one goes to her.**

**Long quiet.**

**Quiet.**

**Margaret** **(To Peter)** ... You didn't defend me. That man hit me. You didn't blink an eye.

**Joseph** I didn't.....

**Peter** It's a nose-bleed.

**Margaret** ... you see... the thought of it's good enough these days.

**Joseph** I've never hit you.

**Margaret** You would have done.

**Peter** He didn't hit you.

**Margaret** What in God's name has been done ? Jesus. Won't anybody defend me. No-one ? **(She stands)** That child upstairs... that half-baked man.... He brought this. No.... No..... **(To Peter)** You..... you brought this badness into my family. That woman's a ..... door to darkness. What is it ? A rotten gene ? ..... I've read a thing or two..... What is it ?.... If we can't.... can't understand.... what hope.... Hope.... what hope... is there ? ..... There's not a book.... to read it in.... No... There was a book... but ... the.... children.... scribbled.... every page.... over and over and over.... no words.....

**Quiet. Callum enters.**

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