

END GAME

by  
Margaret Avnet

Margaret Avnet  
65 Grace Lane  
Levittown NY 11756  
516-822-3852  
[irishamericanwriter@lycos.com](mailto:irishamericanwriter@lycos.com)

FADE IN

INT. AN OLD BARN - DAY

The barn has seen better days. There is a hole of about three feet in the right wall as you enter the barn. Hay is scattered about. A small wooden box, measuring about two by two, lies in the middle of the floor.

BRIDGET O'MALLEY,18, with her hair pulled back in a ponytail enters the barn. Hanging over her shoulder is a medium sized canvas bag. She walks over to the small wooden box, placing her bag to the side of it. She takes out a small white linen table cloth and places it on the box. Then she takes out a small wooden container. She opens it up and takes a chess board out, placing it on the box. She then carefully aligns the chess pieces on the board.

A few moments after the chess board is set up JOHN COVINGTON,18, enters the barn.

Bridget runs over to greet him. She gives him a quick hug.

BRIDGET

John!

John is not looking all that happy.

BRIDGET (cont'd)

What's wrong?

John walks over towards the chess board.

JOHN

Just my brother again.

Bridget walks over to the chess board and sits down next to the box. She straightens out the white Queen.

BRIDGET

You shouldn't let him get to you.

John smiles slightly as he sits across from Bridget.

JOHN

Aye, I know. It's just he's been talking about joining up again.

BRIDGET

Joining up with who? They've all basically disbanded.

JOHN

Try telling that to TOM. I think he's been spending too much time listening to GRANDPA.

Bridget moves a pawn.

BRIDGET

It's the older generation, John. They can't let go of the past.

John moves his own pawn.

JOHN

Well they don't have to be spreading it to this generation.

BRIDGET

Tom still remembers how it was, you know, before the Good Friday Peace Accord. Besides you aren't listening to your grandfather, are you?

Bridget moves a rook.

JOHN

I wouldn't be here if I was.

John moves another pawn.

JOHN (cont'd)

(Laughing)

Grandpa would have a bloody heart attack if he knew I was playing chess with a Catholic.

Bridget leans back into a pile of hay.

BRIDGET

(Sulking)

I thought I was more to you than just a chess partner.

John moves over and leans back in the hay next to Bridget.

JOHN

Ah, sure you know you're my best friend.

Bridget smiles.

BRIDGET  
You're my best friend too John  
Covington.

John picks up a piece of hay and rolls it past his fingers.

JOHN  
That's all well and good that we're  
best friends but...

Bridget props herself up on one elbow.

BRIDGET  
But what?

John sits up.

JOHN  
I would like to be, that is if you  
would like to be, more than just  
best friends.

Bridget looks at him with a puzzled look on her face. John a bit hesitantly leans in and then gives her a quick kiss on the lips. He pulls back as a look of surprise comes over Bridget's face. John stands up and he starts to pace.

JOHN (cont'd)  
I'm sorry, Bridget. I shouldn't  
have taken the liberty. I wouldn't  
blame you if you didn't even want  
to be friends with me anymore.

Bridget gets up and walks over to John taking him by the hand.

BRIDGET  
It's okay John. You just took me a  
bit by surprise. I had no idea that  
you felt that way.

JOHN  
Aye.

BRIDGET  
How long have you wanted to be more  
than best friends?

JOHN  
A while. I just didn't know how to  
tell you.

BRIDGET  
John, I'm your best friend. You can  
tell me anything.

Looking a bit embarrassed he starts to walk away.

JOHN  
Then I suppose you don't want to be  
more than best friends?

BRIDGET  
I didn't say that.

He turns to face her.

JOHN  
Really?

Bridget smiles and walks over to him and returns the kiss.

BRIDGET  
Are you asking me to be your  
girlfriend?

JOHN  
Aye, I suppose I am.

BRIDGET  
Then yes I would love to be more  
than just your best friend.

John smiles and then hugs Bridget.

JOHN  
Grand.

BRIDGET  
Should we finish our game?

JOHN  
Sure.

They sit back down at the chess board.

BRIDGET  
I guess it's best we don't tell our  
parents.

JOHN  
Aye. I mean they don't even know  
we're friends.

Bridget moves another pawn.

BRIDGET

I read that GERRY ADAMS and IAN PAISLEY are due to sit down and talk. Maybe if they can get along our families can too.

JOHN

They have to be willing to let go of the past first.

John moves a knight.

BRIDGET

Aye. I'm glad we were able to do that.

Bridget moves a rook. Then places her hand over John's.

BRIDGET (cont'd)

I don't know what I would do without you John Covington.

John smiles and squeezes Bridget's hand.

JOHN

Me either, Bridget, me either.

ONE WEEK LATER

EXT. THE BARN - DAY

Bridget enters the barn, the canvas bag swung over her shoulder.

Tom, 24, John's brother, waits just behind a nearby tree and watches Bridget disappear into the barn.

He scans the area and then proceeds to head for the barn.

INT. THE BARN - MOMENTS LATER

Bridget is setting up the chess board. Tom very quietly sneaks into the barn. He takes a few steps and then just watches Bridget.

Bridget hums to herself as she continues to carefully place the chess pieces down on the board.

Tom takes a few more steps.

BRIDGET  
(Turning around)  
I plan to beat you this time, John.

She gasps and takes a couple of steps back when she realizes it's Tom.

BRIDGET (cont'd)  
Tom. What...what are you doing here?

TOM  
So you know who I am?

BRIDGET  
Aye, you're John's brother.

TOM  
(Smirking)  
Funny John never mentioned you.

BRIDGET  
What do you want?

He takes a couple of steps forward and Bridget steps a couple of steps back, bumping into the chess set.

TOM  
What I want is for you to leave my brother alone.

BRIDGET  
Leave him alone?

TOM  
Aye. He shouldn't have gotten involved with a... girl like you.

BRIDGET  
You said John never mentioned me so how would you know what kind of girl I am?

TOM  
I know what's been going on here, Bridget.

BRIDGET  
How do you know my name?

He steps closer to her.

TOM  
That doesn't matter. What matters  
is that you leave John be.

BRIDGET  
And if I don't?

Tom reaches out for her just John enters the barn.

JOHN  
Don't you dare be laying a hand on  
her Tom!

Tom turns around to face his younger brother.

TOM  
How many times have I told you not  
to get involved with trash like  
this?

John walks over to Bridget.

JOHN  
Are you all right?

BRIDGET  
Aye.

He puts his arm around her waist.

JOHN  
Are you sure?

Tom pulls John's arm away from Bridget.

TOM  
Walk away John.

John yanks his arm free from Tom's grip.

JOHN  
Don't be telling me what to do Tom.

TOM  
I'm your older brother and you'll  
be doing what I say.

John pushes his brother almost knocking him over.

JOHN  
Forget it.

TOM  
Don't you be laying your hands on  
me.

He punches John in the face. John looking a bit shocked wipes  
a bit of blood away from his mouth with the back of his hand.

JOHN  
Leave!

TOM  
I'm not the one to be leaving. You  
are.

John swings at his brother but Tom ducks out of the way. Tom  
then responds by hitting John again. John then tackles his  
older brother and they end up exchanging punches on the barn  
floor.

BRIDGET  
Stop!

The two continue to go at each other. After a few more  
punches are thrown Tom manages to get on his feet. John a bit  
more unsteady eventually manages to stand up as well.

TOM  
She isn't worth it John!

John glances over at Bridget who is visible shaken up. He  
walks over to her.

BRIDGET  
(Crying)  
Please John, just go.

JOHN  
No. I won't be leaving you here  
alone with him

She caresses his cheek.

BRIDGET  
I don't want to get hurt anymore  
then you are.

JOHN  
Forget about me. I'll be fine. I  
can handle him. But you...

BRIDGET  
But he's your brother.

John looks over at Tom who is still very angry.

JOHN  
I'm not going to let him hurt you.

TOM  
You're not choosing her over me?

John brushes back Bridget hair.

JOHN  
Aye, Tom I am.

BRIDGET  
John, don't.

Tom picks up a two by four and rushes towards John and Bridget.

TOM  
I won't let you do that.

BRIDGET  
John watch out!

John turns to see Tom rushing from behind him and blocks the blow just in time sending the piece of wood flying. Bridget screams.

JOHN  
You're bloody insane!

TOM  
I'd rather see you dead then be  
with one of them!

Tom picks up the two by four again. John backs up a few steps looking around for a weapon himself. He spots a pitch folk and scoops it out of the hay, pointing the prongs at Tom.

JOHN  
Put it down Tom!

Tom lunges towards John. John thrusts the pitch folk into his brother's chest. Bridget screams again and starts to cry.

A look of shock comes over Tom's face just before he collapses to the ground, knocking over the chess board, the pitch folk still protruding from him.

John looks at his brother for a moment in disbelief. Then rushes over to pull the pitch folk from his chest.

JOHN (cont'd)  
Tom! Tom! I'm sorry!

He kneels beside his brother who is breathing heavily.

JOHN (cont'd)  
Tom, I didn't mean it!

Bridget walks up to the two brothers, tears coming down her cheeks.

TOM  
John...

Tom then dies.

JOHN  
(Grabbing hold of his  
brother)  
No! Tom please don't die! Don't  
die!

Bridget kneels beside John, putting her hand on his shoulder.

BRIDGET  
John, he's gone.

He rocks his brother back and forth.

JOHN  
I didn't mean it Bridget. I didn't.

She hugs him from behind as he still cradles his brother.

BRIDGET  
I know you didn't. You didn't have  
a choice.

He gently places Tom on the ground and turns to face Bridget.

JOHN  
He didn't give you a chance. If he  
only gave you a chance.

Bridget caresses his arm.

BRIDGET  
It really wasn't his fault.

JOHN  
What? What do you mean?

BRIDGET  
His whole life he was told to hate  
Catholics. He grew up watching  
Catholics bomb the Protestants and  
Protestants bomb the Catholics.

Bridget looks down at the ground and picks up a pawn from the  
chess set.

BRIDGET (cont'd)  
He was a pawn in their chess game.

John takes the pawn from Bridget and looks it a few moments.

JOHN  
(Hugging Bridget)  
I won't be their pawn.

Bridget squeezes him tighter.

BRIDGET  
I know you won't.

FADE OUT.

THE END