

Excerpt from MARTHA's (B)RAINSTORM: A Boston Fairy Tale

In Boston, 2072, the water levels and temperatures have gone sky high. MARTHA just quit her job at the Mayor's Office in protest of the city's leaders prioritizing businesses instead of communities in their plans to fight against the changing climate. She comes to her local inconvenience store for ice cream and a friend, and to get out of the hot night.

SCENE FOUR: If You Say Something, See Something

[Convenience store, Dorchester. Late that night. RUDY plugs in and tests De-Salinator, listening to the Red Sox game. He uses a cane when walking.]

SOX ANNOUNCER 1

And that's 3 out in the top of the eighth. If the Yanks hold this lead, the Sox season is kaput.

SOX ANNOUNCER 2

Sox have not made the postseason since '68 when the league lost half the coastal teams.

SOX ANNOUNCER 1

It's a shame. This rivalry is legendary but it hasn't had legs since Fenway flooded and the Yankees moved to Jersey. There really was magic in those old houses, Bob.

SOX ANNOUNCER 2

Break in the 8th here in BoMa, you know what that means...

[RUDY sings along to SWEET CAROLINE. MARTHA enters. They Dance.]

RUDY:

Hands...touching hands...reaching out, touching me, touching You!
Sweet Martha Mine! BAH BAH BAH
Evening, Bee-yooty-full. Whadda you need?

MARTHA:

I dream of ice cream.

RUDY:

That's our specialty at Rudy's Inconvenience - making dreams come true!
Two for one deal after 10pm: pint and a Puffer, \$20.

MARTHA:

Pass. Smoked my fill tonight.

RUDY:

Why don't you leave the door open while you think about it? You want a brownout again?

MARTHA:

Sorry! Decision fatigue.

RUDY:

You look blue.

MARTHA:

I lost my job today.

RUDY:

Aw, no, honey.

MARTHA:

Well, I quit.

RUDY:

So your job lost you! Good! Mayor Wu-Hoo don't deserve you.
Here - this will cheer you up. You were saying about the drought, and people needing fresh water? Allow me to introduce: The Dot Ave DeSalinator. For all your purification needs.

MARTHA:

You did that because of me?

RUDY:

It was a great idea! Helps out the people, stirs up business. It's a win-win. You're a smart cookie. That's why you don't belong at City Hall: you're a doer; they're all don'ters.

[DUC enters, wearing an air mask]

Mask off in the store, buddy.

[In Vietnamese]

Mask off: See the sign?

DUC: [Vietnamese]

It's a bad air day.

RUDY:

The air is perfectly breathable in the store. Mask off.
And it runs off the solar station.

MARTHA

I didn't think you took all that to heart.

RUDY:

I got a thick old skull. But give it time, those good ideas seep in, then BAM! Like magic.
So what are you doing with your retirement?

MARTHA

Eat this ice cream and sleep.

RUDY

Hey what'd I say about that mask?

DUC

Where's your bottled water?

RUDY:

Back here where it's safe from thugs. How much you want?

[DUC pulls a knife]

DUC:

All of it.

RUDY [brandishing his cane in defense]

Your mother ever teach you to respect your elders?

DUC: [grabs the cane]

No. Just how to die from the Heat Death.

MARTHA:

Drop the knife.

[MARTHA whips his knife with her ice cream, and jiu-jitsu's him to the floor]

DUC

Yargh! Ow!

MARTHA:

Am I hurting you?

DUC:

Yes! AHH!

MARTHA:

Good! Why you stealing water?

DUC:

We ain't had fresh water since June. My sister has heat rash, but I got no clean water for baths.

MARTHA:

Why you got to steal it? Get water stamps.

DUC:

Mom's dead I said.

RUDY:

Even more reason.

DUC:

We don't have papers. I can't get stamps without papers and I can't get papers if--

MARTHA:

What's your name?

DUC:

Duc Nguyen.

MARTHA:

Look at me, Duc. Stealing won't solve the problem. One case will last you, what? Three days?

DUC:

We need it.

MARTHA:

That machine behind you cleans water. Makes salt water fresh. It's free, Rudy?

RUDY:

Sure. He takes his mask off in my store.

MARTHA:

Go over to Morrissey Salt Marsh, and fill up a bottle, a bucket, anything.

RUDY:

And we'll clean it.

DUC:

Why would you do that for me?

RUDY:

It's not for you. It's for everybody, *Du Ma*.

MARTHA:

Rudy, get me a case. Take this home for starters.

[RUDY gets a case of the water]

DUC:

I can just take it?

RUDY

Dorchester gotta stick together.

MARTHA:

Next time it's on you. Take this ointment for her rash.

DUC:

Yeah. Why are you being nice to me?

RUDY:

Get that girl a good bath.

DUC:

Yo. Thank you.

[DUC exits]

RUDY:

Quitting jobs, jumping thugs. Whose balls did you borrow?

MARTHA:

These are all mine.

RUDY:

You got some way with words and people, Martha.
You look shook. Not like a lady just whooped an ass.

MARTHA:

This heat is getting to me. Let me pay for the water.

RUDY:

My treat. I think you just made me a customer.

MARTHA:

Thank you, Rudy.
[she goes, turns]
I know you been lonely. Since Gladys died?

RUDY:

Aw, no. She still visits.

MARTHA:

Come again?

RUDY:

We don't ever really die, Martha. There's a red bird comes to my garden when I'm singing, tell you, she visits me. And that's why I don't use poison. There's a rat in the store I think is my uncle Jerry. Just...don't let it get out I talk to animals, ok?

MARTHA:

I want you to find someone - a person - you can spend time with, Rudy. Good night.
[She exits]

RUDY:

Lonely? Pshaw. Got my boys, don't I?
[Radio back on]

SOX ANNOUNCER 2

Three outs closes the game and the season for the Sox. Hopefully come April they'll have a new home.

SOX ANNOUNCER 1

And a new pitching staff. Goodnight BoMa! We'll see you at spring tra—
[WHOOOMP! Power fails and Rudy is in the dark]

RUDY:

Big Papi's Ghost! I'm getting too old for this.

[End of Excerpt]