

Confederation 75

Michelle Clemens, St. John's

Baby Bonus (an excerpt)

LIZZIE

You came after Joey brought us into Canada and resettled us in Twillingate. Where there was hope and help.

MAUDE

You'll have dad rolling in his grave if you talk about resettlement. He hated it.

LIZZIE

Well, he can roll. He had pretty notions about living on that arsehole of an island, but I gave birth to five children there and I lost half of them.

MAUDE

You told me two.

LIZZIE

Yes two, in the first months after they were born. They had managed to claw it out, for a time, in the cold. Me with so little milk because I had birthing fever. What I never told anyone was that Tommy, was one of a twin. The other one never made it. No doctor, no midwife, not one damn thing to comfort me or to help the little ones. Your father and his precious rock.

Maude sits, as she is shocked. Amber wraps both arms around her pregnant belly.

SOPHIA

Grampy must have known. He always said how proud of you he was.

LIZZIE

Proud of me. He watched my suffering. I watched my babies pass. Some, no where near term, as they came away from my body. I dealt with it, myself. There was no way to say no to him, in the dark of the night, when he turned to me. And no help, for me, to deal with all that came after that.