

**ACT ONE SCENE TWO**

*DAWN. AS THE LIGHTS SLOWLY COME UP  
STEVE ENTERS CARRYING A SACK OF FEED  
OVER HIS SHOULDER. HE STOPS AND PUTS  
THE SACK DOWN ON THE GROUND.*

**STEVE**

Come on ladies, here we go.

*CHLOE ENTERS. SHE SEEMS DISTRACTED  
STEVE NOTICES HER AND TURNS*

**CHLOE**

How long have you been back?

**STEVE**

A while. I looked in on you, but you were asleep.

**CHLOE**

Right.

*HE STRUGGLES TO FIND THE WORDS*

**STEVE**

I'm sorry 'bout last night.

**CHLOE**

Did you get them all?

*HE TURNS BACK TO THE SHEEP*

**STEVE**

Yeah; took most of the night to round them up though.

**CHLOE**

How are they?

**STEVE**

Spooked.

**CHLOE**

Where did they get to?

**STEVE**

All over, really. Some pressed up behind the old stone wall in the top field, some tucked in by the trees in the dip. The rest; here, there, and everywhere.

**CHLOE**

How was Sadie?

**STEVE**

Good.

**CHLOE**

She behaved herself then?

**STEVE**

Yeah. Good as gold actually.

**CHLOE**

Perhaps she's learning. Perhaps we're all getting better at this.

**STEVE**

Yeah. And you're right; they are normally a bit wary of her.

**CHLOE**

Maybe that's because she nips at 'em all the time. Wonder who she gets that from?

**STEVE**

It's like she just can't help herself; part of her nature, I suppose. Perhaps we just have to accept we'll never change that.

**CHLOE**

Or maybe, we just have to try harder.

**STEVE**

In fact, they seemed pleased to see her; happy to have some order restored.

**CHLOE**

We all want to be looked after, Steve.

*STEVE FINALLY STOPS IGNORING WHAT  
CHLOE IS TRYING TO SAY TO HIM*

**STEVE**

Yeah. Sorry.

**CHLOE**

I know you are, but you going off on one, doesn't help. All that does is shut me out.

**STEVE**

I don't mean to.

**CHLOE**

Maybe not, but the effect's the same.

**STEVE**

It's good you managed to get some sleep though?

**CHLOE**

I didn't. Not really.

**STEVE**

But when I came back...

**CHLOE**

I wasn't asleep.

**STEVE**

But...

*STEVE LOOKS CONFUSED*

**CHLOE**

When you left I went back to bed but I couldn't sleep. So I'm lying there, thinking about what you said, about the flock taking off for the cliff and so I got up, dressed and came out to help; came looking for you. I made my way out to Bee's Head, thought I might see your light, but you weren't there.

**STEVE**

I went out that way first, just in case; but when I couldn't see them...

**CHLOE**

It was so dark, quiet.

**STEVE**

It's a lonely old place at night.

**CHLOE**

But when I got to the headland, the cloud broke and the moon gave me enough light to make it to the cliff path.

**STEVE**

You shouldn't have been out there on your own.

**CHLOE**

I wanted to be with you, although God knows why... And that's when I saw it.

**STEVE**

What?

**CHLOE**

You must have seen it.

**STEVE**

What?

**CHLOE**

I can't believe you missed it.

**STEVE**

Missed what?

**CHLOE**

On the rocks, just to the left of the bay, where the cliffs curve round. A warship.

**STEVE**

Warship?

**CHLOE**

Grounded on the spit.

**STEVE**

What sort of warship?

**CHLOE**

How would I know? A big one.

**STEVE**

Why would a warship come up here into the Irish Sea?

**CHLOE**

All I know is it's there. So I went down to have a look.

**STEVE**

Chloe, that path's not safe at the best of times, and in the dark.

**CHLOE**

I had to see.

**STEVE**

I just think you need to be more careful.

**CHLOE**

Can you not listen to me for once without interrupting?

**STEVE**

Sorry.

**CHLOE**

It was enormous.

**STEVE**

Warships are.

**CHLOE**

And now you're laughing at me.

**STEVE**

No.

*CHLOE IS NOT CONVINCED*

**STEVE**

Of course I'm not but... Look, we're both tired.

**CHLOE**

You don't believe me.

**STEVE**

It's not a case of whether I believe you or not. Look at us, we're exhausted. Let's just try to catch a couple of hours kip and then...

**CHLOE**

No! I need you to listen to me.

*STEVE IS SILENT*

**CHLOE**

I didn't imagine it, Steve!

**STEVE**

I didn't say you did.

**CHLOE**

So?

**STEVE**

Alright. I'm listening.

**CHLOE**

So I get down to the beach and the smell of burning is overwhelming; the air's thick with it. And that's when I saw him. In a pool, near the water's edge. I thought at first it was just a bundle of rags, but when I got closer... It was terrible.

*STEVE IS IRRITATED BUT ALSO CONCERNED  
AT WHAT HE IS HEARING*

**CHLOE**

He could only have been young, twenty at most, and as I reached him he made this noise... A sort of low moan. I tried to lift him but he was too heavy, so I just rolled him over and...

*THIS HAS BEEN WEIGHING HEAVILY ON  
CHLOE SINCE SHE WITNESSED IT*

**STEVE**

Listen, you don't need to...

**CHLOE**

His face was gone; his tongue flapping in the hole where his mouth should have been. But his eyes. He looked at me, and I knew... He had his whole life in front of him...

**STEVE**

No more. Alright.

**CHLOE**

I didn't imagine it, Steve.

**STEVE**

I know. But enough now. You need to lose that thought... Let me get you back to bed.

*CHLOE LOOKS AT HIM AS IF IN REALISATION.*

**CHLOE**

Did you see it?

**STEVE**

No.

**CHLOE**

But you just said... You did. Didn't you? You saw it. I can see it in your face.

**STEVE**

I said no, Chloe.

**CHLOE**

You've just let me go on, and you knew it was there all the time.

**STEVE**

Are you not listening to me? I didn't see it. Alright?

**CHLOE**

When you were off here, there and everywhere looking for the flock? I don't believe you.

**STEVE**

Shit!

**CHLOE**

Did you go down there? Did you see him?

**STEVE**

I told you, no! Why would I lie about it?

**CHLOE**

I don't know, Steve.

**STEVE**

I promise you. I didn't see anything.

*THEY ARE SILENT AGAIN. THEY BOTH  
RECOGNISE THEY ARE GOING ROUND IN  
CIRCLES AGAIN.*

**STEVE**

Now can we leave it? Please. I'm so tired... I'll go down there in the morning; get it sorted. I'll talk to the coastguard tomorrow. Come on.

*HE TRIES TO LEAD HER OFF BUT SHE PULLS  
FREE.*

I can't.

**CHLOE**

You need to sleep.

**STEVE**

*CHLOE DOES NOT WANT TO MOVE*

You have to let this go.

**STEVE**

There's more I need to tell you.

**CHLOE**

What?

**STEVE**

**CHLOE**

He was in such torment, Steve. I couldn't just leave him there. I managed to lift his head and pull him up to me. Sat with him for a while, held him and then... Hunched him across the sand and closer to the pool. After a minute or two I just laid him down in the water. Slowly at first, so as not to shock him. He made one more sound and then I just let his head slip under the surface. He didn't struggle. I didn't have to hold him down. The air just bubbled out of him and then stopped. I said a prayer and when I finally stood up, I don't know why, but I looked up at the cliffs and that's when I saw it.

What?

**STEVE**

A horse.

**CHLOE**

A horse?

**STEVE**

Looking down at me stood there by the pool.

**CHLOE**

What sort of horse?

**STEVE**

It was huge.

**CHLOE**

**STEVE**

Things often look bigger at night.

**CHLOE**

No, it wasn't that. It was a heavy horse, a shire maybe.

**STEVE**

There's no-one around here with a horse like that. You'll not find an animal like that up here in the fells.

**CHLOE**

That's what I thought.

*STEVE IS THOUGHTFUL*

**STEVE**

You were upset; maybe you...

**CHLOE**

Imagined it? Again. Is that what you think?

**STEVE**

No. I'm not saying...

**CHLOE**

I saw it Steve. I did. I'm not making this up.

**STEVE**

It's been a difficult night.

**CHLOE**

It was stood there, as large as life, looking down at me, then it just tossed its head and disappeared. By the time I climbed back up to the top it had gone; there was no sign of it.

**STEVE**

Trust me; in this light it could've been anything.

*STEVE TURNS AND MOVES AWAY TOWARDS  
THE EXIT*

**CHLOE**

You really don't believe me, do you?

**STEVE**

I'm not doing this anymore, Chloe. First I'm a liar... And now this. I'm going to put the kettle on and make some breakfast. You can join me if you want. If not, you can do the other thing.

*STEVE EXITS LEAVING CHLOE THOUGHTFUL, CONFUSED. AFTER A WHILE STEVE CALLS TO HER FROM OFFSTAGE.*

**STEVE**

(OFFSTAGE) Are you coming?

*CHLOE STANDS FOR A MOMENT AND THEN EXITS.*

*LIGHTS FADE TO BLACK*