

Sheep Love To Die

A play by

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STOOD ON THE EDGE OF THE WORLD

LIGHTS UP. MUSIC PLAYS TO CREATE A MYSTERIOUS, EERIE ATMOSPHERE. INTO THE LIGHT STEP THE ACTORS WHO WILL PLAY STEVE AND CHLOE IN THE PLAY. THEIR PHYSICALITY THOUGH SUGGESTS SOMETHING OTHER THAN PEOPLE. PHYSICALLY THEY SHOULD TRY TO CAPTURE THE ENERGY AND MOVEMENT OF TWO HEAVY HORSES WHO COME TO A STOP IN THE LIGHT. THEY SHOULD STAND LOOKING FORWARD. PROUD. ROOTED IN THE LANDSCAPE.

LIGHTS SNAP TO BLACK AND THE ACTORS EXIT UNDER COVER OF THE B/O.

A BRIGHT LIGHT IN THE SKY

LIGHTS UP TO REVEAL A YOUNG MAN STANDING ALONE. IT'S NIGHT. HE'S STARING OUT INTO THE MIDDLE DISTANCE WHEN HE'S HIT BY AN INTENSE, BRIGHT WHITE LIGHT AND THE TREMENDOUS SOUND OF AN EXPLOSION WHICH THEN FADES, SWIFTLY FOLLOWED BY THE SOUND OF A RUSHING WIND THAT GROWS TO A TERRIBLE ROAR. AS HE STANDS THERE HE IS JOINED ON STAGE BY A YOUNG WOMAN, SHE IS PREGNANT. SHE INITIALLY STANDS A FEW YARDS OFF HIM.

Steve? What was that?

CHLOE

I don't know.

STEVE

Have you ever heard anything like it?

CHLOE

No.

STEVE

CHLOE

And so bright. You don't think...?

STEVE

I said! I don't know. OK? The answer doesn't change because you keep asking, Chloe!

CHLOE

But if it was...?

STEVE

If it was... there's nothing we're going to be able to do about it. Is there? We'll just have to deal with whatever that brings.

CHLOE

I know that but...

STEVE

If everything's kicked off...we're finished. Is that what you want me to say?

THEY STAND IN SILENCE, TAKING IN THE ENORMITY OF WHAT MIGHT BE HAPPENING. THIS IS A MOMENT OF REAL FEAR FOR THEM BOTH. CHLOE IS CLOSE TO TEARS. SHE'S CARRYING HIS CHILD.

STEVE

Come here.

SHE DOESN'T MOVE

CHLOE

What are we going to do, Steve?

STEVE

I don't know. And... I'm sorry. I didn't mean to snap.

CHLOE

It's just that we wouldn't even be here if it wasn't for this baby.

STEVE

We did what we thought was for the best. And no.... This hasn't turned out the way we planned... But d'you know what? For the first time in, I don't know how long, this feels right... Us... Being here.

Really? **CHLOE**

Yes. **STEVE**

But with all this going on... **CHLOE**

We're probably safer out here than we'd have ever been back in Leeds. **STEVE**

I just worry that... Somewhere down the line, you'll blame me. **CHLOE**

*HE IS HURT BUT, COMPOSING HIMSELF,
HE SPEAKS AGAIN.*

I won't. I promise you. **STEVE**

You say that now, but.... you're not sleeping. **CHLOE**

I didn't mean to wake you. **STEVE**

You didn't... I was awake anyway; worrying about you. You're like it every night at the moment. I just lie there, next to you, trying not to disturb you, staying as still as I can, while you toss and turn..... **CHLOE**

I didn't know that! **STEVE**

What is it? **CHLOE**

All this isn't enough for you? **STEVE**

It's not just this though, is it? You've been like it for months. **CHLOE**

It's nothing. I promise you. **STEVE**

Are you hiding something?
CHLOE

No.
STEVE

Then, why won't you talk to me?
CHLOE

There's nothing to tell.
STEVE

It was enough to get you up in the middle of the night and bring you out here. Why can't you just be honest with me?
CHLOE

I am.
STEVE

No, Steve. You're not!
CHLOE

HE STRUGGLES TO FIND AN ANSWER

Talk to me.
CHLOE

STEVE BREATHES IN AND OUT HEAVILY

It's been harder than I thought; taking on the farm. Is that what you want to hear? Harder than I hoped.
STEVE

I knew there was something wrong. And I'm no help like this.
CHLOE

That's why I didn't say anything. I knew this is how you'd be. It's what you always do; start blaming yourself. Honestly. We're doing OK.
STEVE

But we're not. Are we?
CHLOE

It was never going to be a walk in the park.
STEVE

CHLOE

But day to day, I can't be out here with you. I try, but I just can't.

STEVE

Look... It's not an issue.

CHLOE

Why won't you talk to me?

STEVE

What else do you want me to say?

CHLOE

You need to be straight with me Steve! You can't keep things from me.

STEVE

I just wanted to get this right. OK? On my own. Just for once in my life. One thing.

CHLOE

You've done so much!

STEVE

Well it doesn't feel like it.

CHLOE

I don't know why you need to be so hard on yourself.

STEVE

Look, can we drop it? Please? It's like you say, everything's gonna be fine. It'll all work out. I just don't want to have to go through it all again now. OK? Not tonight. Not with all this going on.

THE PAUSE IS HELD AS THE IMPLICATION OF THIS HITS HOME TO HER.

CHLOE

So you do think it's all kicked off!

STEVE

I don't know, Chloe! So, can we just stop going round and round in circles.

CHLOE IS HURT BY HIS REACTION. STEVE REALISES THIS. THEY BOTH STAND UNSURE AS TO HOW TO CONTINUE.

Did you try the radio?

STEVE

It's dead; there's no signal.

CHLOE

THE REALITY OF THE SITUATION IS NOW REALLY BEGINNING TO GROW ON THEM.

Can I tell you something?

CHLOE

Go on!

STEVE

I'm frightened.

CHLOE

I know. Me too.

STEVE

HE GESTURES ONCE MORE FOR HER TO JOIN HIM WHICH SHE DOES. HE HOLDS HER TO HIM

What's happened to the flock?

CHLOE

Scattered in all directions.

STEVE

Will they be alright?

CHLOE

STEVE
I hope so. They panic. They're sheep; it's their job. They do it so we don't have to! Hopefully, they've just run for cover. Keep your fingers crossed they didn't head for the cliffs; otherwise we could be picking them up off the rocks in the morning.

Don't say that.

CHLOE

STEVE
Well, if they have and the whole thing's gone tits up... That's it! Over. That'll be the end of it. But like I said, there's nothing we can do about it now. Everyone always said this was a mad idea.

*CHLOE TAKES A BREATH AND TRIES TO
FIND SOME RESOLVE*

CHLOE

Come on, Steve. Look, at me. You know me, I get it wrong! I'm probably getting worked up over nothing. What is it you always say? Hormones! And you're probably right. They're turning somersaults right now. Whatever it is, we'll deal with it. OK? Together.

*CHLOE SMILES AT HIM, BUT HIS HEAD
HAS DROPPED - IT'S AS THOUGH THIS IS A
STEP TOO FAR.*

CHLOE

It's not like you to let your head drop. We can't just give in. Can we? Not when we've come this far.

STEVE

I'm not giving in, Chloe. But if you're right? If the world has gone mental, then I have no idea what we're going to do.

CHLOE

Then we'll all be in the same boat. Won't we? We'll just have to pull together.

*THEY HOLD THE MOMENT TOGETHER IN
AN EMBRACE*

STEVE

What can you hear?

CHLOE

What do you mean?

STEVE

What I said; what can you hear?

CHLOE

Nothing.

STEVE

Precisely. Nothing. So where's everyone else? All these people pulling together?

CHLOE

It's the middle of the night.

STEVE

And you're telling me they slept through all that?

HE GOES TO EXIT

CHLOE

Where are you going?

STEVE

To look for the sheep.

CHLOE

Steve, can't it wait 'til morning. Please...

STEVE

No. Maybe I can get this right, at least. Go back to bed, Chloe. Try to get some sleep.

*HE EXITS. CHLOE WATCHES HIM GO. SHE
WAITS A MOMENT AND THEN EXITS
HERSELF.*

LIGHTS FADE TO BLACK