

Ruby Bay
by
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EXT. BEACH - DAY

Huge black clouds gather in the sky above the beach.

Through the gloomy half light the shape of a

RUINED TOWER.

Waves crashing against the base of a

LIGHTHOUSE.

EXT. CAVE - DAY

The entrance is littered with beer cans and cigarette packets.

A **SEAGULL** flies towards the outline of a small

ISLAND with steep cliffs.

On top of the cliffs stands the ruins of an old

ABBEY.

The seagull circles the abbey before it comes to roost in an arch where a window had once been.

EXT. GARDEN - DAY

A path bordered with well kept flower beds, bird tables, water features, and gnomes leads to an ornate metal gate.

The flowers begin to droop and die.

RUBY BAY COTTAGE

There's a hole beneath the name -- something is missing --

INT. COTTAGE - DAY

Dusty shelves filled with bric-a-brac and well-read books.

Black and white photographs of fishing boats and fishermen, old pubs and men and women in hats and bonnets.

A copy of **FOLK TALES OF ANCIENT FIFE** sits next to an empty, worn armchair.

EXT. SCHOOL PLAYGROUND - DAY

LIAM, a baby-faced eleven year old, crouches in a doorway with his head in a book - **Myths and Monsters**.

He keeps his head down as THREE BOYS approach.

Liam hears their voices and laughter but keeps on reading until they are right on top of him.

BOY 1
Whatcha' doin' book boy?

Liam doesn't answer. He just turns the page.

BOY 2
Word worm.

Liam sighs and closes the book. He's been here before...

BOY 3
Library loser.

Liam smiles.

LIAM
Excellent use of alliteration.
You've been paying attention in
class haven't you?

The boys look confused.

BOY 1
(offended)
No, I haven't.

BOY 2
Let's make him eat his words.

Two of the boys grab Liam and the other one grabs his book. They rip a page from the book and scrunch it up.

BOY 1
Open wide book boy.

Liam struggles, arms and legs a whirlwind as he fights to free himself. He catches one of the boys in the face with his boot, the boy lets go.

Liam sprints across the playground and out of the school gates.

The boys laugh and shout...

BOYS
Swimming tomorrow book boy!

Once he's clear, Liam slows down to a walk and takes in deep breaths.

INT. DINING ROOM - DAY

Napkins. Best plates. Shiniest cutlery. Potatoes, carrots, peas, cauliflower, cabbage, sprouts...and a huge lump of meat.

Seats for eight, food for twenty, cutlery for three.

Liam at one end, head in a book, fork poking aimlessly around a plate.

PAM, early 40's, dressed for a night at The Ritz, fusses around checking cutlery and serving spoons.

Her plate has a spoonful of peas, a sprout and tiny floret of broccoli.

MALCOLM, ill-fitting pin-stripe suit, rolls of sausage like fat spilling out over his collar, throws thick chunks of meat onto his plate.

MALCOLM
You're a growing lad. You need
more meat on you. That's no plate
for a boy.

Liam shakes his head while still reading his book.

MALCOLM (CONT'D)
You need to eat more meat son.
You're growing. You need more
strength. You've got high school
after the summer. You'll need to
toughen up for that.

LIAM
I don't want more meat.

Pam scoops up a spoonful of cabbage and hovers over Liam's plate.

PAM
Nonsense. It's the greens the lad
needs. It's the goodness from the
greens that he's needing.

Pam dollops the greens on Liam's plate.

Malcolm slices a chunk of meat and marches over to Liam's seat.

He throws the meat onto Liam's plate.

Gravy splashes onto Liam's shirt.

MALCOLM

It's the meat woman. He needs meat. The boy needs some blood in him. He needs the iron to toughen him up. He's too weak.

Pam throws some broccoli onto Liam's plate.

PAM

Greens. Goodness from greens. Not blood. Greens. He's got enough blood. He's got a body full of blood and no goodness. That's his problem.

Malcolm throws an even bigger chunk of meat onto Liam's plate. The gravy splashes Liam's book.

MALCOLM

Blood. Blood. Blood. The boy doesn't have enough blood. Not proper red blood. The blood he's got is rubbish. That's why he sits with those bloomin' books and doesn't play rugby like normal boys.

Malcolm and Pam take turns throwing meat and vegetables onto Liam's plate.

Liam looks up from his book. Bemused and bored.

LIAM

What's for pudding?

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Piles of make-up scattered all over the room. Pam busily fills bags and ticks off a checklist as she packs the bags into boxes.

Liam sits in the corner of the room with his head buried in a book.

PAM

You can help me you know? I need to get these shipped ASAP if I want to get five stars.

Malcolm stomping around the room shouting into a phone.

MALCOLM

For goodness sake you useless little maggot. I told you I wanted that yesterday. Not tomorrow. Tomorrow's too late. Today was too late. I needed it yesterday. No, no I don't want to hear your side of the story. That's your problem, your doctor can worry about that. Not. My. Problem.

Malcolm's face is sweaty and blotchy. He looks around for something or someone to take out his temper on.

MALCOLM (CONT'D)

You still reading? Can't you find something better to do? I'm fed up seeing you with your head in those stupid books. Go and do something normal.

Liam doesn't react. He's heard this a million times.

MALCOLM (CONT'D)

Reading books about stupid made up monsters isn't going to give you any kind of life. You need to be preparing for the real world. For making money, buying cars, buying yourself new stuff. Stuff to make you happy.

Liam smiles.

LIAM

You want me to be more like you? Is that what you mean?

MALCOLM

Of course that's what I mean. Look at the stuff I have. I drive cool cars, look at the size of the TV. How many of your mates have a one hundred inch TV? None. I can stay in the best hotels with the best service and the best food.

(MORE)

MALCOLM (CONT'D)

I wear the coolest clothes, my
girlfriend is much younger than me.
I didn't get that from wasting my
time reading books about gnomes and
dragons. You're not a kid any more.
You're almost a man. Time to start
acting like one.

Liam nods.

LIAM

Right...no reading and more stuff
and I can be as happy as you?

Malcolm distracted by the BEEP of a text message.

MALCOLM

Oh for goodness sake!

INT. LIAM'S BEDROOM - DAY

A GOLDFISH swims around a tiny bowl. The bowl is crammed
full of ornaments. Shipwrecks, mermaids, treasure chests.

Liam is hypnotised by the fish as it explores its kingdom

INT. SCHOOL PLAYGROUND - DAY

Liam holds a book in one hand, the other rummages around in a
packet of crisps. Liam is oblivious to the football game
going on in front of him.

Until

BANG

The ball misses his head by inches and bounces off the wall
above him.

He looks up, just for a second, then goes back to his book.

BANG

BANG

BANG

Liam realises it's no accident. He closes his book. Folds
over his crisp packet. Picks up his bag and walks calmly
away as the football continues to fly past him.

INT. SWIMMING POOL - DAY

A school swimming lesson.

TWENTY CHILDREN, all about eleven years old stand on the edge waiting to jump in.

LIAM, skinny in over-sized shorts, hops from foot to foot. Tears forming in the corner of his deep, dark eyes.

The other kids jump in and begin splashing around.

LAUGHTER echoes around the pool.

Liam clenches his fists, closes his eyes and wishes he could be somewhere else.

Liam looks down into the pool.

The water begins to swirl.

Liam can see

FINS, TAILS, TEETH.

A SEAMONSTER

He looks concerned for the children in the pool.

Can't they see the monster?

TWO BOYS look up at Liam. They start a chant.

BOYS
Liam! Liam! Liam!

The chant is taken up by most of the kids in the pool and continues until the LIFEGUARD blows her WHISTLE.

The kids swim to the side of the pool.

Liam has gone.

EXT. SWIMMING POOL - DAY

Liam, still in his shorts sprints out of the building.

Bare feet, he runs on his tiptoes to avoid the broken glass and dog dirt on the ground.

He runs across the road without looking, causing cars to brake suddenly.

PASSERS-BY stop and stare, but Liam doesn't notice them.

He just runs and runs and runs.

In his swimming shorts.

Through the town until...

EXT. LIAM'S HOUSE - DAY

Liam bangs on the front door.

Tears on his face and shivering.

Malcolm, pin stripe suit and slippers answers the door. He's in the middle of showing a CLIENT out of the house.

MALCOLM

So, if you get those documents to
me next week, that would
be....Liam?

The client looks at Liam...

MALCOLM (CONT'D)

Oh, my son, he's in, er, training
for an er...triathlon. How's it
going son? Good times?

Liam barges past and runs into the house.

INT. BEDROOM - DAY

Liam throws himself onto his bed.

Face down. He sobs. He snorts. He sniffles.

He sits up. Deep breath. Grabs a book. Pulls up his duvet
and begins to read.

Quiet. Calm. Peace.

SLAM

The door bursts open.

Malcolm fills the doorway. An intimidating figure except for
his slippers.

MALCOLM

See? This is the kind of behaviour
and general oddball freakishness
that comes when you're not getting
enough meat.

Liam sighs and puts his book down.

MALCOLM (CONT'D)

Running through the streets in your
trunks? I mean, if you had a body
to be proud of...if you'd been
getting more protein and developed
your core...Maybe if you had one of
those six-packs...then I could
maybe see why. But your skinny
little stick of a body running
through the streets of the town.
You're a joke Liam. And you know
what's worse. You being a joke
makes me a joke. And I do not want
to be a joke.

Malcolm turns to leave.

He pauses.

He spins around.

MALCOLM (CONT'D)

Bacon, sausage and black pudding
for breakfast tomorrow. No
arguments.

Liam watches as Malcolm stomps out, he leaves the door
open...

Liam waits...

Malcolm turns around and

SLAMS the door.

Liam takes a deep breath and is about to pick up his book
when he looks over to the goldfish bowl.

The ornaments are there. The fish has gone.

INT. LIAM'S BEDROOM - DAY

Liam and Pam both stare into the goldfish bowl.

PAM

You see love, I was in here
cleaning, because somebody has to.
Your pants don't just wash
themselves you know. I was dusting
and I'd just finished vacuuming and
I looked at that fish.

LIAM

Odysseus?

PAM

Yeah, that fish. I looked at him
and I thought, that's weird. He's
got a big long string coming out of
his bum.

Liam looks at her and waits for her to continue...

PAM (CONT'D)

And I thought, that's not right.
And I kind of panicked and I
thought he looked like he was in
pain...

Liam raises an eyebrow...

PAM (CONT'D)

So I thought, poor little fish,
he's suffering, and that's not
right...

LIAM

So?

PAM

So...I kind of flushed him down the
toilet...

LIAM

You flushed Odysseus down the
toilet?

PAM

Yeah. Yeah I did. It was for his
own good. He wasn't right. It
wasn't fair to leave him like that.

LIAM

He was having a poo. You flushed
Odysseus down the toilet because he
was having a poo?

PAM

A poo...Is that what it was?

Liam nods.

PAM (CONT'D)

Oh well...I'm sure he'll be happier
wherever he's gone.

Liam looks at the fish bowl.

LIAM

Yeah...he probably will

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Liam standing in the doorway.

Malcolm and Pam on the sofa looking up at him.

MALCOLM

Sit down.

Liam slowly does as he is told and sits in between Malcolm
and Pam on the sofa.

MALCOLM (CONT'D)

As you know, I didn't get to be the
man I am by mincing my words. So...

PAM

It's like this Liam. Your dad
likes you. He does. He really
does. But me? I mean, I know
you're your dad's son. But me and
you, we just don't have that blood
thing to bind us. Do we? I'm sure
you feel the same about me. Maybe
one day we could have that, but at
the moment I feel a kind of
disconnect between us. You know
what that word means Liam?

LIAM

No, I'm not sure what disconnect
means. Can you explain it for me
please?

PAM

It just means that we're not
connected you and me. We're sort of
disconnected. Does that explain it?

LIAM

Oh yes. Thank you. So disconnect means that we are not connected? That's really useful, and interesting. I think you would be a brilliant teacher.

Pam smiles, completely missing the sarcasm.

PAM

Aw, thank you Liam. But I'm not sure about that. All those kids!

Liam doesn't know where to look. He just stares at the floor.

MALCOLM

Anyway, back to the matter at hand. You're too soft son. Too soft. You read too much. Not enough meat. No rugby. All books no rucks makes Liam a big softie. You don't speak to people. You don't eat enough meat. You're not really giving me a choice. Something needs to change. Me and...I've decided that...

Liam looks up. Genuinely hurt.

MALCOLM (CONT'D)

We're sending you away. We've got your...I've got your best interests at heart. It's one of those tough love things. No pain, no gain...

Liam waits for more information...and waits...and waits....

PAM

Look on it as personal development. It'll be the making of you. You'll look back when you're older and thank me...us.

Malcolm stands up and looks down on Liam.

MALCOLM

You're going to your grandparents. You either change and stop all the reading and eat more meat, get good at sports and be...well...a little less rubbish. And over there, you can get down to the beach.

(MORE)

MALCOLM (CONT'D)
Surf, go kayaking. There's loads
for you to do.

LIAM
Or?

MALCOLM
Or you don't come back.

Liam mulls over what he has heard...

LIAM
And what if I come back and I'm
still....rubbish?

Pam stands up.

PAM
Well that's in your hands Liam.
You've got to the end of the
summer. Just don't come back
rubbish. It's up to you.

MALCOLM
We've talked it through Liam. It
is for your benefit. It's painful
for us...but we care about you.

PAM
Yeah, you don't want to go to high
school and get bullied like your...

Malcolm stands up.

MALCOLM
Grandad's picking you up this
afternoon. Go and pack a bag.

Liam nods and shrugs his shoulders.

PAM
And there's no point complaining.
Me and your dad fly out to Dubai
tomorrow don't we sweetheart?
We're desperate for a break. We've
really earned it. It's been a tough
year for your dad with your mum
dying and everything.

Malcolm nods.

PAM (CONT'D)

And can I be honest Liam? Living with you is just driving us a bit nuts. We need a break don't we Malcolm? It really takes it out of us being around you. You'll understand how hard it is being around kids one day.

Liam ducks as Malcolm tries to ruffle his hair.

MALCOLM

Just come back a bit less rubbish.

Liam stands up.

PAM

And don't even think about crying. This is for your own good. To help you become a man. Like your dad.

INT. BEDROOM - DAY

Liam packs his bags. One bag is full of books. Liam zips it up and then tries to lift it. He can barely lift it off the ground.

His other bag has a few t-shirts, some underwear and a pair of jeans.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Malcolm and Pam are in the middle of giving a list of instructions to GRANDAD DARREN, a very fit and young looking late 60's, dressed in tracksuit and trainers.

MALCOLM

And he absolutely must have meat with every meal. Do you understand?

GRANDAD

He must have a meal with every meal. Two meals with every meal? Gotcha.

PAM

No. MEAT. With. Every. Meal. Ok?

GRANDAD

Oh, no meat with every meal? Is he one of those veterinarians?

Malcolm face palms.

MALCOLM

For goodness sake! Meat. Meat.
Meat. The boy needs meat.

GRANDAD

Who does the boy need to meet?

Liam is standing in the doorway, bag packed, giggling to himself.

PAM

That's another thing. He needs to
get out and meet people.

GRANDAD

Get out and eat people? No. That
sort of thing doesn't happen by the
seaside. That's more of a big city
thing isn't it?

Pam and Malcolm are exasperated.

PAM

Just take him. We've got a flight.

Malcolm approaches Liam. Liam stifles his giggles.

MALCOLM

Just come back a little less
rubbish.

INT. CAR - DAY

Liam stares out of the window at Malcolm and Pam as they
smile and wave.

Grandad HONKS the horn and then presses PLAY on the stereo

FIGHT THE POWER by PUBLIC ENEMY

Grandad **SLAMS** his foot down and the car flies out of the
street.

Liam grips the door handle and grimaces.

EXT. CAR - DAY

The Bass **BOOMING** from the car as it makes its way around the
streets of the town and finally out into the countryside.

INT. CAR - DAY

Liam relaxes his grip on the door handle sits back in his seat.

He watches in awe as Grandad raps along with Chuck D.

They exchange smiles before Grandad turns the volume down.

GRANDAD
They think I'm daft.

He looks at Liam for a reaction.

GRANDAD (CONT'D)
They think anyone who's not like
them is daft.

Liam smiles.

GRANDAD (CONT'D)
I haven't completely lost my
marbles y'know. I know what your
dad is like. Not sure about her
though.

LIAM
She's just as bad.

Grandad takes a hand off the wheel and squeezes Liam's arm.

GRANDAD
Well you'll get a nice break from
them at the cottage. Get out and
have some adventures, spend time in
my library. Gran and I have got
some special plans for you.

Liam smiles to himself.

EXT. HOUSE - DAY

Malcolm and Pam have changed into their purple leisure wear. Pam sits in the driver's seat while Malcolm loads bag after bag into the car.

PAM
Did you pick up the passports?

Malcolm slams another bag into the car.

MALCOLM
No. Passports were your
responsibility.

Pam gets out of the car and SLAMS the door.

PAM
Oh no. That was your job. I gave
you a list of your responsibilities
and that was top of the list.

Malcolm throws a bag onto the floor.

MALCOLM
For goodness sake! I'll go and
look. You just wait in the car.

EXT. GRANDAD'S CAR - DAY

The car making its way along a coastal road.

INT. GRANDAD'S CAR - DAY

Liam, looking a little queasy as Grandad tells him stories.
Grandad puts his hand into his pocket and pulls out two
PASSPORTS.

GRANDAD
Oops! How did they get there?

Liam looks shocked - then laughs.

Grandad and Liam exchange glances and smile at each other.

GRANDAD (CONT'D)
Oh well. Never mind. Anyway, we'll
be there soon. Y'know the Largo Law
story don't you?

Liam nods. He'd prefer to sleep...

Grandad's telling the story anyway...

GRANDAD (CONT'D)
Y'know, there's so much gold in
that hill they say it turned the
sheep yellow.

Liam stares blankly.

GRANDAD (CONT'D)
You don't believe that one do you?
I thought you liked all those all
stories. I've got my books ready
for you.

Liam looks green. He takes deep breaths.

GRANDAD (CONT'D)
They're more than just stories you
know.

Grandad puts his foot flat down as the car races along
country roads.

GRANDAD (CONT'D)
But you understand that don't you?

Liam watches as the scenery flies past in a blur.

LIAM
I just like the stories Grandad.
But that's all they are.

Grandad smiles to himself.

GRANDAD
Sure son, just stories.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

The kitchen in chaos

Clothes scattered all over the floor. Pam and Malcolm
rummaging angrily through suitcases.

PAM
You. You're just as useless as your
son. You can't do anything.

MALCOLM
I booked the holiday, I paid for
the holiday, I organised the
holiday. You were supposed to find
the passports and you couldn't even
do that.

PAM
I had them. You must have put them
somewhere. Why do you have to be so
rubbish?

EXT. COTTAGE - DAY

Grandad hops out of the car and heads through the gate.

He leaves Liam to get his bags out.

As Liam struggles towards the garden gate he notices the sign saying "**Ruby Bay Cottage**".

He stops and stares for a moment.

Grandad fumbles for the right key.

LIAM

Where's the ruby gone?

Grandad tenses.

He drops the keys.

Grandad opens the door and ushers Liam into the

HALLWAY.

GRANDAD

Usual room son. Your gran made up
the bed before she...

Liam bashes the walls with his suitcases as he struggles through the door.

GRANDAD (CONT'D)

Take your time to settle in.
There's no rush to come back down.

INT. GRAN'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

GRANNY JEN, a frail-looking early 70's, but with a real sparkle in her eyes.

She pulls herself up as GRANDAD enters. He busies himself adjust her blankets and pillows.

GRAN

Is the boy ok?

Grandad strokes her forehead tenderly.

GRANDAD

The boy's fine.

Gran nods.

GRAN
Do you think he's ready?

GRANDAD
Ready? Who is ever ready for
anything?

GRAN
I just worry about him.

GRANDAD
No point worrying love, things
happen. Good and bad. Things just
keep happening and we have to just
keep on.

Gran nods and closes her eyes.

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

Liam engrossed in building a model of a boat.

Grandad stands in the doorway for a moment and watches.

GRANDAD
I'll get the paint in from the
garage in the morning.

Liam is too busy holding bits of model boat together to
notice.

Grandad sits down on the bed and tries to stop himself from
interfering.

LIAM
Where has the ruby gone?

Grandad stands up and begins sorting pieces of the model.

GRANDAD
It's just gone missing. That's all
you need to know. For now.

Grandad takes the glue and begins sticking bits of model boat
together.

LIAM
Is it serious? Gran being
sick...Can I see her?

Grandad looks as though he's performing heart surgery, not
sticking pieces of plastic together.

GRANDAD
She'll be fine son. Best just to
let her rest for now.

Liam watches Grandad's nimble fingers in admiration.

INT. LIAM'S BEDROOM - DAY

Liam lost in a daydream, staring out of the window at the
sea-view.

He doesn't notice his Grandad standing behind him.

GRANDAD
Anything interesting out there
today son?

Liam jumps.

LIAM
No. Nothing. Just tankers.

Grandad joins him at the window.

GRANDAD
Your mum and dad will kill me if I
let you stay up here all day.

LIAM
She's not my mum.

GRANDAD
Sorry. The Wicked Witch.

Liam turns and smiles.

LIAM
How's Gran today?

Grandad sucks his teeth.

GRANDAD
Not great son. You're old enough
to understand...she's talking a
lot...she's not always
making...she's saying strange...

Liam tries to take this in his stride, he nods maturely, the
way he's seen grown ups do.

GRANDAD (CONT'D)
She's struggling son. Maybe see her
when she's feeling a bit stronger.

Liam turns back to the window, not because there's anything to see, but to hide the tear trickling down his cheek.

GRANDAD (CONT'D)
She's going on about that ruby.
Saying once it's back then she'll
get better.

Liam wipes his tear.

LIAM
Does she really believe that?

Grandad smiles.

GRANDAD
Oh aye son. She thinks that thing
has...we both...probably just
coincidence, but whenever it
goes...

Liam waits for him to finish the sentence...

GRANDAD (CONT'D)
Breakfast time son. I'll get you
the full monty. You're going to
need it.

INT.KITCHEN - DAY

Grandad prepares a huge breakfast. Smoke everywhere.

Liam wanders in and grabs a banana.

GRANDAD
I told you, you're gonna' need more
than that son.

Liam looks at the mountain of eggs, bacon and sausages.

He takes a bite of the banana.

LIAM
Was it the same kids as last time?
Who took the ruby...

Grandad cracks another egg.

GRANDAD
I think so. We're a bit too old to
go chasing after it now though.

LIAM
You never told me how you got it
back last time.

Grandad dances around as fat splashes from the frying pan.

GRANDAD
It's not for you to worry about.
We got it back again, that's the
important thing.

Liam finishes his banana and picks up a sausage.

LIAM
You know you said Gran thinks the
ruby keeps you safe?

Grandad jumps around as he dodges splashes of fat.

Liam spreads a lump of butter on a piece of toast.

LIAM (CONT'D)
Does it?

GRANDAD
Who knows? Gran just likes
everything in its place. But we all
need something to believe in don't
we?

Grandad opens the fridge and rummages around. Liam waits
patiently for an answer.

GRANDAD (CONT'D)
You do want eggs don't you?

Liam realises he's not getting an answer.

LIAM
I suppose so.

Grandad cracks an egg into the frying pan.

GRANDAD
Your gran isn't well. She says
strange things. Don't you worry.

Liam chews a piece of toast and avoids eye contact with
Grandad.

The egg begins to smoke and splatter.

Liam jumps over to the cooker to turn it down.

INT. COTTAGE - DAY

A shaft of sunlight beams down on a pile of dusty old books next to the bed.

Liam lies on his bed on his stomach, completely engrossed in one. He has no idea he is being watched.

Grandad stands in the doorway. He shakes his head as he watches Liam.

GRANDAD

You do need to get out. Out in the real world. Meet some people. Do some things. Not because they said, because it will be good for you.

Liam jumps up. He slams the book shut.

GRANDAD (CONT'D)

A boy your age should be out down the beach. Playing cricket or talking to girls.

Liam smiles as he tries to disguise his embarrassment.

LIAM

I just want to read for a while.

GRANDAD

When I was your age, I was never in. As soon as the sun came up I was out. Didn't come back until the sun went down. A boy needs adventure.

Liam starts to put the books back on the shelves.

GRANDAD (CONT'D)

That shouldn't change as you get older. Everyday can be a magic carpet ride if you let it. Mind you put them books back right now.

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

Grandad stares out of the window at the pumpkin moon balanced on the sea.

Gran sits up and shuffles as she tries to get herself comfortable in bed.

GRAN

Did you speak to the boy?

Grandad pulls the curtains and turns to help his wife plump up her pillows.

GRANDAD

No. Not properly. Not yet.

GRAN

Well you need to do it soon.

Gran puts her head on the pillow and closes her eyes.

GRANDAD

I know. But it's hard. He's just so...so young.

It's a battle for Gran to open her eyes...she manages to open one.

GRAN

He needs to know Darren. He needs to know.

Grandad strokes her head as she closes her eyes again.

GRAN (CONT'D)

This isn't about you or me. It's about the boy.

GRANDAD

How do I find the words?

With her eyes still closed, Gran manages to speak...

GRAN

You will. You will.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Grandad finishes packing a rucksack for Liam.

GRANDAD

Now that should keep you going for the day.

Liam produces a book from behind his back.

LIAM

Can I take it? I might get bored with all that surfing and sailing.

Grandad smiles and rolls his eyes. He picks up the rucksack and walks to the

FRONT DOOR with Liam.

EXT. COTTAGE - DAY

Grandad fiddles with the strap as Liam looks down towards the beach.

GRANDAD

Why do they make these things so complicated? You'd think in this day and age there would be an easy way.

Liam smiles and starts fiddling with the straps too.

GRANDAD (CONT'D)

It's maybe not my place to be giving advice son. The last thing you want is some old codger telling you about life.

Liam is too polite to reply.

GRANDAD (CONT'D)

But I've been around for a few years now...and as daft as I am, I have learned a few lessons.

Grandad pulls the straps again...they still won't budge.

GRANDAD (CONT'D)

Things happen. You might not like them. You won't want them to happen. But they will, and you have the...strength to deal with them.

The straps begin to move. Grandad lifts the rucksack onto Liam's back.

GRANDAD (CONT'D)

It's the way that you deal with those things that's important. That's what's going to...to...define the kind of man you'll become.

Liam shuffles and pulls the rucksack over his shoulders.

Grandad tightens the straps, when he's satisfied, he pulls Liam around to face him.

GRANDAD (CONT'D)

Life is full of traps. Some you'll avoid, some you won't. Some will be be easy to see, others will catch you by surprise. Just always be aware. And a little bit of courage goes a long way.

Liam nods.

LIAM

Ok. See you later Grandad.

Liam tries to walk away, but he feels Grandad's grip on his shoulder tighten.

GRANDAD

Sometimes the traps are necessary. Sometimes you have to go through them to move on. Understand?

Liam pulls his most serious 'I understand' face, and nods.

GRANDAD (CONT'D)

When the ground opens up and you're flat on your back. When you feel lost. That's when you discover who you really are. It's the making of some people. But it's the breaking of others. Remember. A little bit of courage.

Liam nods again.

LIAM

Can I get a fish supper later?

Grandad smiles.

GRANDAD

Of course son. Of course.

Grandad grabs Liam for a hug. He squeezes him tightly. When he eventually lets go he reaches into his pocket. He pulls out an old pocket watch.

GRANDAD (CONT'D)

I almost forgot. I'd like you to have this. It was supposed to be for your dad but he said it was too old for him.

Liam takes the watch, handling it like a treasure.

LIAM
I promise I'll look after it.

EXT. BEACH - DAY

Groups of KIDS having fun on the beach. Some are sailing, others windsurfing.

Some just hanging out around fires.

Liam looks on from a distance. He tries to read but is distracted by the noise and the activity of the kids.

EXT. BEACH - DAY

Liam down on his knees at a **ROCK POOL**. He pokes around, lifting stones and watching tiny crabs scurry through the water.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Grandad flutters around the kitchen. Sweeping the floor one second, scrubbing surfaces the next. A bundle of nervous energy.

Soup bubbles over on the cooker. He drops the brush and cloth and slides over to rescue the soup.

Once the soup is safe, he has a moment to himself.

GRANDAD
Breathe Darren. Breathe.

He puts his hands on his stomach and begins taking deep breaths.

DARREN
In for four....hold for
seven....and out...

Once he's satisfied that he has calmed down, he ladles soup into a bowl.

EXT. BEACH - DAY

Liam on his hands and knees combing carefully through the sand.

A group of COOL KIDS approach.

KID 1
Hey, it's Indiana Jones!
You looking for treasure Indiana?

Liam ignores them and continues digging.

They walk away sniggering.

INT. BEDROOM - DAY

Gran sitting up with a mountain of pillows at her back.
Grandad sitting on the bed with her.

He holds the bowl of soup in one hand and the spoon in the other.

He gently blows on a spoonful of soup before feeding it to gran.

GRANDAD
Mulligatawny.

Gran has the tiniest slurp, then closes her eyes.

Grandad prepares another spoonful.

GRANDAD (CONT'D)
You need to keep your strength up.

Gran makes an attempt at nodding. She manages a whisper.

GRAN
We both will.

Grandad puts the soup down on the bedside cabinet.

GRANDAD
We'll try again later.

EXT. BEACH - DAY

Liam poking around in a rock pool again. He watches as a crab scurries along the bottom and hides under a large stone.

Liam bends over and tries to move the stone.

It doesn't budge.

He tries to roll it over with his foot.

It doesn't budge.

He bends down and tries to move it with two hands.

It's not moving.

He gets down on his hands and knees. He grabs it with both hands. It moves slightly.

He digs his hands into the sand beneath the rock. Slowly it tips back. Liam pushes it right over and the rock falls back with a

SPLASH.

The splash muddies the water. As the sand swirls around the pool Liam looks up at the sky.

STORM CLOUDS have appeared from nowhere.

The cool kids run for shelter.

Liam looks back to the pool.

The water has cleared. Liam's eyes widen as he gazes down at a **HUGE RED RUDY.**

Liam plunges his hand back into the water and digs frantically.

He pulls it out.

As it pops out the massive black clouds open up.

Torrential rain pours down onto the beach.

Liam runs to the **CAVE** in the corner of the beach for shelter.

INT. BEDROOM - DAY

Grandad at the window watching the storm over the beach.

INT. CAVE - DAY

Liam watches the rain fall into the sea.

This is more than just a shower.

Liam reaches into his pocket and feels for the ruby.

As he pulls the ruby from his pocket

BANG

The floor opens up.

Liam falls through.

INT. TUNNEL - DAY

Fingers stretch out.

Then an arm.

Elbows bend.

Slowly and carefully Liam begins to pull himself up from the ground.

He brushes himself down as he struggles to understand what has happened.

He remembers. He reaches for the ruby. It's gone.

He hears **FOOTSTEPS** scurrying away.

Although Liam has spent most of his life worrying about something or other, this is different.

He's scared. Too scared to move. He glances around.

He sees flames dotted along the walls of the tunnel.

Liam knows he must move - but has no idea which way.

His mind is made up when he hears rough whispers.

Liam's legs spring to life and he darts the opposite way.

He runs in short sprints. Stopping at each flame to check for the whispers.

Although tired and a little sore, he gets an energy boost when he spots the light at the end of the tunnel.

He pushes himself the final twenty yards out into the light.

EXT. BEACH - DAY

Blinding light.

Liam collapses onto the sand.

Out of breath, he rubs his eyes.

Once he has focused he looks along the beach and up towards the town.

It's gone.

There are buildings. Some recognisable from earlier.

But it's changed. Dramatically.

Confused, Liam's eyes dart across the beach.

The sailing boats and windsurf boards have gone - replaced by **FISHING BOATS.**

Utterly disorientated, Liam wanders across the beach in the direction of the town.

His focus returning, he looks up to where his Gran's house should be.

It's gone.

He pauses.

He turns around and heads for the ruined tower.

The tower is no longer ruined.

It stands proud and pristine. Metal grids cover the windows.

Liam stops and stares.

Tears in his eyes, Liam takes a deep breath and heads towards the tower.

EXT. TOWER - DAY

Liam shuffles towards the tower.

He stops dead as he hears

A BELL RINGING.

A well dressed young man, TOM appears in the tower doorway.

Tom strides out from the tower, he rings the hand held bell dramatically and aggressively as he strides towards Liam.

Liam is too tired and too bewildered to run.

He freezes as Tom approaches him. He continues ringing the bell. Tom's face becomes more threatening as he enters Liam's personal space.

He holds the bell up and rings it right in front of Liam's face.

Liam stands firm, not through bravery but because he has nowhere to run.

Tom, obviously not used to this kind of reaction, stares into Liam's eyes.

Liam is not intimidated. He stares back.

TOM

I don't know who you are. But you really should be on your way.

LIAM

Should I?

It's Tom who is looking worried now. His plan A has failed and he doesn't have a plan B. He looks back towards the tower.

TOM

I have the bell.

LIAM

The bell?

TOM

She'll be out imminently. She will not be pleased. You do know that?

Liam looks over Tom's shoulder to the tower. He's just thinking that it looks a good place to get some sleep.

LIAM

She? She who?

TOM

Lady Anstruther. This is her bathing time. If she sees you, she will have you hung.

Now Liam looks worried.

LIAM

Hung?

TOM

By the neck. You'll be buried before the next sunrise.

Tom begins to realise that Liam is no threat. He retreats from Liam's space just as

LADY ANSTRUTHER appears in the doorway of the tower.
Striking, head of flaming orange hair and a swimsuit that
leaves everything to the imagination - even arms and legs.

She strides purposefully over and immediately dominates the
conversation.

LADY ANSTRUTHER
Hung? Oh no, I won't have him
hung. Drowning is my thing now.
I'll have him tossed to the fish
and the gulls.

LIAM
But your high...your hon...Mrs...I
don't understand...I'm just...I'm
lost...

Lady Anstruther looks him up and down.

She glances at Tom.

LADY ANSTRUTHER
He's lost?

Liam's well rehearsed puppy-dog expression routine kicks in.

He lowers his head and raises his eyes...

LADY ANSTRUTHER (CONT'D)
Well you do look rather...strange.
Where have you come from?

Liam looks towards where his Grandparent's house should be.
He hears how stupid that would sound...

LADY ANSTRUTHER (CONT'D)
What are you? A stowaway? A
ragamuffin? A rascalion?

Liam looks at her with pleading eyes.

LIAM
I'm just lost.

Lady Anstruther reaches out to Liam. She ruffles his hair
gently.

LADY ANSTRUTHER
Darling, we're all lost.
Of course I won't have you killed.
What kind of Barbarian do you think
I am? You can stay if you like. Do
you want to stay child?

Liam shakes his head.

LIAM
That's very kind, and thank you,
but I just want to go home.

LADY ANSTRUTHER
What beautiful manners you have
boy. So polite and pleasant. How
delightful. Your parents must be
awfully proud of you.

Liam turns and walks away from the tower in silence.

EXT. BEACH - DAY

Liam trudges across the sand. He gazes up at the town and
watches as FISHERMEN in the distance go about their business.

He looks out to sea and watches as the sun slips below the
horizon.

Liam climbs into a battered old rowing boat and snuggles up
into a ball.

He collapses.

Exhausted.

INT. SWIMMING POOL - DAY

DREAM

A SWIMMING GALA.

Screams and shouts echo around the pool as a race is about to
finish.

In the pool Liam's fingertips touch the side of the pool.

He's won!

Liam raises a fist in celebration.

EXT. BEACH - DAY

Liam still sleeping in the rowing boat. He tosses and turns
and punches the air.

Lady Anstruther and Tom watch as Liam slowly opens one eye.

He looks up at them. He opens his other eye.

A look of disappointment on his face.

He pulls himself up.

LADY ANSTRUTHER
Tom's brought you bread. We thought
you might be hungry.

Tom steps forward with a basket loaded with food.

LADY ANSTRUTHER (CONT'D)
Feed the boy Tom.

Liam looks down at the basket.

LIAM
I'm not hungry.

Lady Anstruther reaches into the basket and pulls out some bread.

LADY ANSTRUTHER
If you intend to find your way back
home then you're going to need some
sustenance boy.

Liam climbs out of the boat and dusts himself down.

LADY ANSTRUTHER (CONT'D)
You are still wanting to leave
aren't you?

Liam nods.

LADY ANSTRUTHER (CONT'D)
Well you can't very well continue
on your way on an empty stomach can
you? Not with what you're going to
have to do.

Liam looks at Tom, who is kneeling down at a huge picnic hamper.

LADY ANSTRUTHER (CONT'D)
Come on Tom. The boy's hungry.

Later...

Liam wipes crumbs from his face

LADY ANSTRUTHER (CONT'D)
You're such an infuriating boy. Do
you know that?

LIAM

Liam. My name's Liam.

Lady Anstruther raises an eyebrow.

LADY ANSTRUTHER

Oh, you think I don't know your name boy? You really do have a lot to learn don't you?

She looks at Tom.

LADY ANSTRUTHER (CONT'D)

What a card this one is Tom. Don't you think?

Liam looks uneasy.

LADY ANSTRUTHER (CONT'D)

I have a great memory for names don't I Tim?

Tom smiles.

TOM

Yes you do lady.

Lady Anstruther pats Liam's head.

LADY ANSTRUTHER

Don't you worry Liam. Well do worry, because you're in for a rather difficult time. What I should have said is I am on your side. I'm here for you. And Tom. But I'm not sure what use he will be to you.

Liam stands up straight and brushes himself down.

LIAM

A difficult time? What do you...

Lady Anstruther grabs Liam by the hand and pulls him to his feet.

LADY ANSTRUTHER

I think you should be on you way now. You've got things to do, places to be.

Liam brushes crumbs from his mouth.

LIAM

Thank you for the food. It was..

LADY ANSTRUTHER

Nonsense boy. I was having a picnic anyway. Tom can get me more food later.

LIAM

Well I'd better be...

LADY ANSTRUTHER

What you had better be boy is brave. Not stupid. Not reckless. There is a difference.

Liam pauses to listen.

LADY ANSTRUTHER (CONT'D)

Oh be scared. Be very scared. There's plenty to be scared of. But being brave is being scared but doing what you need to regardless.

The words seem to resonate with Liam, he is now hanging on every word.

LADY ANSTRUTHER (CONT'D)

Just be careful who you speak to boy. Very careful.

Lady Anstruther grabs Liam's hand and gives it an enthusiastic shake. She walks away leaving Liam speechless. Tom hurriedly gathers up the last of the picnic hamper.

TOM

Good luck Liam. You do believe in luck don't you?

LADY ANSTRUTHER

Ignore him. Luck is simply what happens when preparation meets opportunity.

Liam pauses, unsure how to reply.

Tom and Liam exchange smiles.

INT. BEDROOM - DAY

Gran fast asleep. Erratic breathing.

Her eyes OPEN.

She stares at Grandad.

He squeezes her hand.

GRANDAD
Look after him.

She struggles to keep her eyes open.

GRANDAD (CONT'D)
Will he be ok?

GRAN
Maybe. I see...

GRANDAD
What? What do you see?

GRAN
...leave me...

GRANDAD
Be careful with him.

Gran closes her eyes.

EXT. MARKET - DAY

The streets are lined with **MARKET STALLS**.

The noise of **CHICKENS**, **GOATS** and **DUCKS** fills the air.

CARTS filled with **CARROTS** and **POTATOES**.

Liam peers out from a side street. He pauses for a moment as he takes in the scene. He scans the street for a friendly face or somewhere safe to move.

Liam takes a tentative step into the market.

His 21st century clothes ensure he is the centre of attention, he becomes more self-conscious than ever.

The stares of the **VILLAGERS** and **STALLHOLDERS** send Liam scurrying back down the side street.

EXT. BACK STREET - DAY

Liam rubs his eyes and is just about to cry when he looks down and notices a blanket-covered figure on the floor. The figure throws the blanket off and stands up.

This is WESLEY, a 14 year old Oliver Twist with a knife.

WESLEY

And what's your business?

Liam freezes, Wesley stands nose to nose with him.

WESLEY (CONT'D)

Well?

Liam takes a step back.

LIAM

I'm just a bit lost. I'm looking
for my grandad's house.

Wesley takes a step back. He looks Liam up and down.

WESLEY

You look like you're in need of a
Guinea or two. Do you have a
Guinea?

Liam just looks confused.

LIAM

No, I'm just a bit lost. I need to
get back home.

Wesley looks shifty. He scans the street.

WESLEY

Home? What do you mean? Where is
that?

LIAM

The place I live. Where my family
are. Where I sleep.

WESLEY

It looks like this is your new home
now.

LIAM

You need to help me. I need to get
back. I don't belong here.

A grin appears on Wesley's face.

WESLEY

Help you say. Well I could be just
who you need.

Liam empties his pockets.

LIAM

I don't have any more though. I
can't pay you.

WESLEY

You don't need to pay me. Although
if you do happen to have a Guinea
or two...

Wesley puts an arm around Liam and steers him through the
streets. Liam has no choice but to allow himself to fall
under the control of Wesley

EXT. STREET -DAY

As Wesley steers Liam through the streets Liam seems to have
disappeared. People just going about their business, paying
no attention to him.

The calm is shattered though as they arrive at:

EXT. PUB -DAY

DRUNK MEN rolling around on the floor.

Drunken attempts at fights. BOTTLES and GLASSES fly and SMASH
against the wall

BURLY MEN flailing around as they try in vain to punch
somebody, anybody, anything.

Wesley carefully guides Liam through the mayhem and into..

INT. PUB - DAY

Liam flinches at the wall of NOISE as he enters.

Assorted FISHERMEN, VAGABONDS and WENCHES nod at Wesley as he
leads Liam to the back of the pub.

SEYMOUR DALGUISE, a little ferret of a man, sits at a table
with a pile of papers.

He stands as Wesley and Liam approach him.

SEYMOUR

Oh, young Wesley. Hope God is taking
care of you. How's your mother and
father?

Wesley smiles and nods towards Liam.

WESLEY

Mr Seymour Dalguise is a wit.

SEYMOUR

So Wesley, are you going to introduce me to your acquaintance?

Seymour stands up.

WESLEY

Oh of course. This is...

Liam takes a step back as Seymour walks towards him.

LIAM

Liam...

Seymour stands still and looks Liam up and down. He grabs Liam's hands. He turns them over and inspects them carefully before shaking them vigorously.

SEYMOUR

Surprisingly clean.

Liam tries to pull his hand back, but Seymour clutches it tightly.

SEYMOUR (CONT'D)

I don't think these hands have sliced whale meat have they? Gouged eyeballs? Removed organs?

Liam scans the room for an escape route.

LIAM

I once helped mum carve a chicken.

Seymour walks around Liam.

Liam freezes.

SEYMOUR

I'll give you 2 guineas for it. It looks like it could survive a bit of cold. But no guarantees.

Seymour looks deep into Liam's eyes.

SEYMOUR (CONT'D)

I've got whaling ship leaving Dundee in a couple of days. But you'll need to get your sea-legs. I can have you out on the sea this very evening.

Seymour hands Wesley a couple of coins.

SEYMOUR (CONT'D)

Take it down to the harbour. Find Robert, but tell him I want it back in one piece. This one could be a good earner. Could get a few trips out of this one.

Liam looks terrified as Seymour beckons over a couple of HUGE, BEARDED MAN MOUNTAINS.

WESLEY

There's no need for that. This one is too stupid and weak to escape.

Liam looks pleadingly at Wesley as he realises what has happened.

Seymour raises an eyebrow.

SEYMOUR

Very well. On your head be it.

EXT. PUB -DAY

Liam flinches as DRUNKEN BODIES come flying out of the door.

Wesley takes it all in his stride, neatly sidestepping the drunks littering the floor.

Liam looks around, scanning for an escape route.

A DRUNK jumps up, he grabs Wesley by the arm. Wesley stays cool.

DRUNK

Wesley!

Wesley tries to shake him off. The drunk wraps his arms around him.

Liam sees his chance to escape

He goes for it.

He hurdles the drunks and disappears along the road.

Wesley wrestles with the drunk, but is forced to watch as Liam escapes.

Liam runs breathlessly through the narrow streets. He is too afraid to turn around. He runs and runs and runs. No idea where he is or where he is going.

Eventually he spots a narrow street leading down to the beach.

EXT. BEACH - DAY

Liam, breathless and sweating, slows down. He looks out to sea.

Forlorn, he sits down and puts his head in his hands.

He picks up a shell and writes

HELP

in the sand.

He pulls Grandad's watch from his jacket pocket.

The hands have disappeared.

INT. BEDROOM - DAY

Grandad strokes Gran's hand. She opens her eyes.

He leans in and whispers to her.

GRANDAD

The boy. Where is he? Is he ok?

Gran smiles and nods her head.

Grandad runs the back of his finger down Gran's cheek until she closes her eyes.

GRANDAD (CONT'D)

Look after him.

EXT. BEACH - DAY

The sun already high in the sky. Voices of people and squawking of seagulls fill the air.

Liam, curled up in a rowing boat, rubs his eyes.

A FIGURE standing over him.

He rubs his eyes again.

TWO FIGURES

He rubs his eyes frantically and then widens them, struggling to focus.

THREE FIGURES. They are becoming clearer. Long blonde hair. Curves. Flowing white dresses.

Women.

Relief on his face, Liam pulls himself upright.

Only to see that these three women all have

Handlebar moustaches.

A look of shock on Liam's face. His jaw drops.

These women are known as the TACHE HAGS.

TACHE HAG 1

Child. Are you the stranger that we await?

Liam spellbound by their facial hair.

TACHE HAG 2

The boy is no use to us. Look at him. He's as scared as a starfish. Look at that mouth. It's not him.

Liam closes his mouth.

TACHE HAG 3

Let's just steal what he's got. He looks rich. Let's just take what he has and be on our way.

Liam begins to wake up.

TACHE HAG 1

Wait. Let's not be hasty.

She strokes Liam's shoulder.

TACHE HAG 1 (CONT'D)

Have you been sent to take us back? We've waited a century for this. Is it really you?

LIAM

I'm sorry...

TACHE HAG 1

The ruby? Do you have the ruby?

Liam brushes himself down.

LIAM

Ruby?

Liam feels the pressure of the gaze of the Tache Hags.

LIAM (CONT'D)

No. No. I don't know about a ruby.

TACHE HAG 2

The boy's just a stowaway. Look at his clothes. Poor mite. The boy is in need of help.

LIAM

I'm just...

TACHE HAG 3

Well child. If you don't have the ruby what do you have? You must have something.

Liam climbs from the boat and brushes himself down.

LIAM

I don't have anything.

The Tache Hags exchange glances.

TACHE HAG 1

So it isn't you? You haven't been sent?

LIAM

Sent? No, I'm just lost.

TACHE HAG 3

I don't believe you. Just hand it over.

Tache Hag 3 GRABS Liam.

Liam stands still and puts his hands in the air.

TACHE HAG 3 (CONT'D)

Check the boat!

Liam stands calmly as Tache Hag 2 frisks him.

She doesn't find anything and steps back.

TACHE HAG 3 (CONT'D)
Where is it? Where have you hidden
it?

A FLOCK OF SEAGULLS circle over head.

LIAM
I've told you. I don't know about a
ruby. I'm just lost. I just want to
go home.

The Tache Hag's attitude softens.

TACHE HAG 1
We can't help. If you need help you
need to get yourself out there.

She points enigmatically out to sea.

TACHE HAG 2
The Abbey on the island. You need
to see the witch.

LIAM
Witch?

TACHE HAG 3
You don't know? Really? Oh...If
you're too scared you can stay
here. You could wait with us.

LIAM
I'm not scared. It's fine. I'll do
it.

The Tache Hags exchange glances.

TACHE HAG 1
Well if you're as brave as you say
then you could be back before noon.

TACHE HAG 3
But if you're not then you might
not be back at all.

Liam looks out to the outline of the Abbey standing on the
island.

TACHE HAG 2
I'm not sure he's brave enough.

Liam has made his mind up.

LIAM

I am. It doesn't look that far. I'm going.

Liam grabs the boat and begins to try to pull it into the sea.

The boat doesn't move.

The Tache Hags watch him for a moment.

Liam pushes and pulls the boat. It fails to move.

The Tache Hags grab the rope and pull it easily into the sea.

Liam, embarrassed, smiles his thanks.

TACHE HAG 1

Good luck.

Liam hops into the boat and wobbles as he tries to sit down.

Tache Hag 2 grabs Liam by the hand.

TACHE HAG 2

Whatever you do. Don't scream.

Liam grabs one oar and pushes the boat out to sea.

TACHE HAG 3

Can you row?

He picks up the other and tries to row.

Liam gets frustrated as the boat spins in circles.

A SEAGULL lands on the boat.

Eventually Liam lines up the oars and the boat bobs through the waves towards the Island.

SCENE WITH LIAM'S MUM AND DAD

EXT. SEA - DAY

Liam, half-way there tired, miserable and sore. His blistered hands find it impossible to grip the oars.

The boat bobs around aimlessly.

Something catches Liam's eye. A **SHADOW** underwater.

He watches and waits.

Nothing.

He notices BUBBLES in the water.

BANG

The boat shakes as it is rammed from beneath.

Liam loses his grip on the oars completely. He watches in horror as they slip into the sea.

Liam looks around, waiting for the next attack.

Silence.

SQUAWKING of seagulls above distracts him for a moment.

BANG

The boat is rammed again. The
damage is done this time.

A CRACK in the boat begins to let water in.

BANG

This time the boat SPLITS down the middle.

Liam looks to the island. He's only 100 metres from safety.
SEALS and SEABIRDS watch Liam from the rocks.

The boat is going down.

Liam watches the SHADOW circle around beneath the waves.

The flock of seagulls above has grown to hundreds.

Liam shivers as he slips into the water.

Suddenly the 100 metres looks like 100 miles.

Liam panics as his eyes frantically search for the shadows.

The seagulls swoop down over Liam.

The shadow appears in the water. The seagulls swoop down and
seem to frighten the shadow away.

Liam manages to compose himself enough to begin swimming. His
aching arms and legs struggle to cut through the swelling
waves.

The effort takes its toll. Liam cries as he pulls himself
through the water.

His strength gone. Liam rolls over onto his back.

The CURRENT seems to be dragging him towards the shore.

Liam reaches shallow water and drags himself to his feet. As he stands he takes a deep breath and pauses as he looks back at the remains of the boat being tossed about in the waves.

Liam stumbles through the water and onto the beach.

The seagulls circle overhead a couple of times before flying away.

EXT. ABBEY - DAY

Dripping with seawater and pulling seaweed out of his trousers, Liam sighs as he looks up at the next part of his task.

The Abbey stands on the top of a sheer cliff.

OHe looks around the tiny beach. He looks up again. He steps back into the sea to see if he can get around. But spots the remains of the boat still being tossed about.

INT. BEDROOM - DAY

Gran tossing in turning in her bed. Grandad mops her brow with a cloth.

He whispers in her ear.

GRANDAD
Look after him.

Gran is throwing herself about in the bed so much she almost falls out. Grandad grabs her by the arm, leans in and hugs her tightly.

EXT. ABBEY - DAY

Liam standing at the bottom of the cliff. He takes a step back and looks up. He looks around for help. Nobody or nothing around.

He stares out to sea and takes in some deep breaths.

His brow furrows as he prepares himself for whatever is about to happen.

LIAM

I am not rubbish. I am not rubbish.

A picture of focus and determination, Liam grabs a stone in the cliff.

He pulls it. Solid.

He takes his first step. His hand reaches out for another stone to grasp. He finds one and pulls himself up.

Feet digging into the crumbling earth, Liam continues to pull himself up the cliff.

Fingers raw and muscles aching. He makes the mistake of looking down.

The size of the drop makes him shudder. His grip loosens. Earth begins to crumble and pour down onto his face.

He grabs a clump of grass. It holds. He digs a foot into the cliff and manages to heave himself onto the cliff ledge.

As he pulls himself up he is faced with...AGNES ADAM - her knotted hair and filthy face make it impossible to put an age on her - somewhere between 40 and 80 years old.

Liam looks her up and down. He thinks he should be scared. He's not. She doesn't look like a witch.

The dirt on her face cracks as she smiles. A warm, welcoming smile, until her crooked, cracked and yellow teeth appear.

Liam takes a step towards her.

AGNES

No further child.

Liam freezes.

AGNES (CONT'D)

Who sent you here?

Liam attempts to move...

AGNES (CONT'D)

Halt child.

LIAM

I don't...I'm not sure...I'm lost.
Three women said...

Agnes moves closer. She wags a finger in his face.

AGNES

Enough. I know who sent you. I know
why you're here.

Agnes beckons him with a bony finger. On the finger is a
bright red ruby ring.

Agnes smiles as she catches Liam looking at it.

AGNES (CONT'D)

Not the one you need child. This
one is mine. So don't even think
about it.

LIAM

They said you'd help me.

AGNES

They did?

LIAM

They said the old witch would help.

Agnes smiles again. She watches as Liam squirms as he waits
for her reply.

AGNES

Oh. You've only just met me and you
think I'm a witch? How charming!

LIAM

I don't...I'm not sure...They said
to come to the island...and you
would, you might help me.

AGNES

Oh, *they* think I'm a witch. They
treated me like a witch. The things
they did to me.

LIAM

They?

AGNES

The people over there. The good
people. You're just a child. You
shouldn't know. You wouldn't
understand.

Agnes softens...

AGNES (CONT'D)

Come with me child.

Liam responds to her change in attitude and follows her towards the Abbey.

AGNES (CONT'D)

So tell me, are you one of the good people? Or are you a good person?

LIAM

I don't know. I'm not very good in school. My teacher said I was bad. My dad and his girlfriend said I was bad. I don't feel bad...They think I'm rubbish...

Agnes laughs.

AGNES

People? Don't listen to people. They're all stupid. All of them. They all follow each other and nobody has any thoughts of their own.

Liam follows Agnes into the Abbey

INT. ABBEY - DAY

The Abbey is a complete shell. Although the walls and windows are intact, there are absolutely no fittings. Just a small fire and a pile of rags.

Liam looks into the flames. Hypnotised for a second.

AGNES

You expected a cauldron, a pointy hat and a broomstick didn't you?

LIAM

Well...

AGNES

This way child.

Liam follows her into a tower. No stairs, no fittings. Just an empty tower.

AGNES (CONT'D)

Is this what they told you about? Is it? The test? They told you about it child?

LIAM

They did say something. But they didn't...

AGNES

It's really quite simple child. You pass the test and I help. You don't and...

Agnes points at a SEAGULL perched on a window ledge. Liam takes a moment before he realises what she means.

AGNES (CONT'D)

I'm not quite as nice as I appear.
So? Are you brave enough child?
Brave enough or desperate enough?

Liam strains his neck as he looks up to the top of the tower.

AGNES (CONT'D)

Do you believe in magic child? Do you believe in special powers?

LIAM

I...I suppose I do. I think I have to. Don't I?

AGNES

So do you believe I'm a witch?

The seagulls begin to SQUAWK. They take to the sky.

LIAM

I don't know.

AGNES

If you don't know, why are you here? You need a witch to help. Am I a witch or not?

Liam gulps. He's terrified of giving the wrong answer.

AGNES (CONT'D)

Were the good people right to do what they did? Were the right to torture me and banish me to this island? Well?

Liam summons up the courage to speak.

LIAM

I hope you're a witch. I was told I need a witch to help me. If you are witch then you can help me.

(MORE)

LIAM (CONT'D)

So, yes. I think you are. You're a witch.

Agnes smiles and raises her eyebrows.

AGNES

You're not as stupid as people say you are. Are you? People do call you stupid don't they? Back in your world. They make fun of you. You will get stronger. But before you do.

Agnes screws her face up. She stares at Liam. Her eyeballs bulge.

Liam is frozen. He can't even try to move.

She holds out a claw like hand, she looks at Liam.

Liam tentatitively holds her hand.

AGNES (CONT'D)

You were expecting spells and cauldrons. I don't work like that. Now, you will be able to speak in just a second. You can say yes or no. If you pass the test then I will help you. If you fail, then you are a coward and you can join them.

Agnes points at the flock of seagulls flying overhead.

AGNES (CONT'D)

So. Do you want to take the test?

LIAM

Yes.

Liam is immediately sent shooting upwards. He stops as he leaves the tower. His body is still frozen. Only his eyes move.

Liam looks out over the sea to the town and the beach on the mainland.

He cast his eyes down to see the figure of Agnes down below.

Liam drops like a stone.

He stops a foot from the ground. His expression has not changed.

AGNES

No screams? I'm surprised.
Surprised but very impressed.
Again?

LIAM

Yes.

He shoots upwards again.

The seagulls have gathered around the open top of the tower.

They circle Liam's head as he looks down at Agnes again.

AGNES

There's more to you than meets the
eye child.

Liam slowly drifts back to the ground.

AGNES (CONT'D)

You will find what you need in the
highest nest on the island.

INT. BEDROOM - DAY

Gran is sitting up in bed. Grandad paces up and down the room.

GRANDAD

Are you sure he'll be ok?

GRAN

Stop worrying. I'll guide him home.
But I'm almost done.

Grandad gazes out of the window and out to sea.

GRANDAD

I'm just not sure I did the right
thing. I'm not sure he was ready

Gran slips down into the bed and closes her eyes.

GRAN

You did the right thing. The boy
was ready for adventure.

Grandad sits back down on the bed.

GRAN (CONT'D)

You're going to miss me.

She manages to produce the tiniest of smiles.

Grandad wipes a tear away.

EXT. ISLAND - DAY

Liam strains his neck to look up at the tallest trees. He scans the branches for nests.

He thinks about climbing one, but realises the first branch is out of reach. He changes his mind.

Liam walks around the trees, checking for any possibility of a way up.

Unable to find a foothold, he sits down with his back against a tree and thinks.

Thinks some more and mumbles to himself.

The silence is shattered by the sound of WINGS flapping above him.

He freezes as he follows the sound.

Slowly, he gets to his feet. His eyes dart around trying to locate the sound again.

He looks up.

Leaves RUSTLE.

A RAVEN is perched on a branch directly above him.

Liam looks closer. He strains his eyes and he stares.

The outline of a NEST is just about visible through the leaves.

INT. BEDROOM - DAY

Gran slowly sips a spoonful of soup while Grandad watches.

GRAN

You've got stop your worrying

Grandad shakes his head.

GRANDAD

I'm not worried. Just nervous.

GRAN

You are worried. You don't think
he's up to it.

Grandad chews on a sweet.

GRANDAD

He's just a boy. He shouldn't have
to go through things like this.

GRAN

But he's not just a boy. Is he?

EXT. ISLAND - DAY

Liam still looking up at the nest, trying to work out a way
to get off the ground.

He wraps his arms around the tree trunk. Pulls tight then
puts one foot on the bottom of the trunk.

Slowly, he begins to shuffle up the tree, unsure of how he's
managing it he finds himself climbing up to the first set of
branches.

It's all easy from here.

Until he looks down.

Liam suddenly becomes unsteady.

He stands upright on a thick branch. His hands holding onto a
branch above.

He takes deep breaths and speaks to himself.

LIAM

Keep looking up. Don't look back.
Look up.

Once he's composed, he continues his progress up the tree.

Much more confident.

He looks up again. The NEST is just visible.

Liam stands on tiptoes to try to peek in. He's not quite tall
enough.

He tries reaching a hand up and over. He can't reach over the
top. He looks down looking for another branch to stand on.
None. He wraps his legs around the tree and tries to pull
himself up the extra few inches.

He makes slight, but very unstable progress. His arms and legs wrapped around the tree.

Liam has made up the few inches. But now his arms and legs are stuck.

He has now choice but to release an arm and try to reach into the nest.

SNAP

Something in the nest nips his fingers.

The shock sends Liam slipping down the tree. His fall is broken by branches a few feet below.

The SQUAWKING from the nest has brought the RAVEN back to tree.

Liam looks up as she sits in the nest and looks out.

Liam brushes himself down and begins to climb again.

Scratches on his hands and face. But a grim determination in his eyes.

The raven spies him and SWOOPS down.

Liam clings close to the tree and begins shuffling.

The raven pecks at his head, and his hands.

Liam SWIPES it away. He catches it with a fist and sends it tumbling down.

He takes advantage of the temporary respite and hauls himself up to the nest. He manages to peer in.

The CHICKS SQUAWK and FLAP.

There it is!

Liam reaches in and pulls the **RUBY** out.

He begins scrambling down the tree.

Bumping and scraping limbs. He winces with every movement.

Until at last he's back on the ground.

INT. HOSPITAL - DAY

Grandad leans over Gran and gives her a kiss.

GRAN
I think he will make it.

GRANDAD
What about you?

She squeezes his hand.

EXT. ISLAND BEACH - DAY

The excitement of finding the ruby has worn off.

Liam is now faced with the reality of getting back to the mainland with no boat.

He peers out into the distance at the mainland.

He grips the ruby tightly in his hands.

LIAM
Come on. You're supposed to be magic.

He closes his eyes as he struggles to think of a plan or some magic to happen - something, anything!

EXT. ISLAND BEACH - DAY

The ruby safely in Liam's hands.

Except - -

Liam is

sound asleep on the beach surrounded by THREE PIRATES: RENATO, HENRI and LUIS. These are not Jonny Depp pirates, these are old men, ragged and scarred.

RENATO
We could just take the boy and the jewel.

HENRI
What use is the boy? He's of no use to anybody. Let's take the jewel and leave the boy.

LUIS
We could just slit his throat while he sleeps. Then take the jewel.

Liam's eyes flicker.

He's wide awake.

His eyes dart around. No escape. He clutches the ruby tighter.

Not tight enough to stop Henri pulling it from his grasp.

LIAM

But I need that. It's mine.

The Pirates laugh.

LUIS

Oh, sorry young Squire. In that case then I shall return it to your ownership presently.

HENRI

Where did you learn to speak like that?

LUIS

That's how I speak when I'm not out pirating and looting.

RENATO

You sound like a real gentleman.

Liam watches on - bemused.

LIAM

So can I...?

The pirates look down at Liam.

LUIS

Oh I'm not sure...we'd need something in exchange. We can't go back to the ship empty handed. That just wouldn't do now would it?

Liam still unsure whether to be frightened or not. He gazes at the ruby.

LIAM

It's not actually worth much. I just want it for my gran...

LUIS

Oh, your Gran! Well young sir. Is she on this island? This Gran of yours? Is she? Has she brought her entire collection?

LIAM

No, no. She's a long...she's not here...

Liam decides to stop talking.

HENRI

Listen here sunshine. Here's how it is. You seem like a decent fellow. But, with us being Pirates an' all. We've got to take your stuff. Nothing personal against you or anything. It's just, well, it's just what we do.

LIAM

I understand. Sometimes you have to do stuff you don't want to. I don't hold it against you. In fact, I'm happy to help.

Renato thinks about giving Liam a hug - - he doesn't.

HENRI

I've never felt guilty stealing before. It doesn't feel right.

LUIS

Why don't we just slit his...

RENATO

Look, you seem like a decent kid. But the problem is, you've got something we need. I'll give it to you straight. We've been to your times, we know all about your travels. We loved it when we were there.

HENRI

Now you're making us sound like a bunch of freaks, time travel and what not!

LUIS

What is is...we saw those magic boats when we in your times. No sails, no oars, just stick in a magic key and BOOM!

RENATO

Imagine what pirates could do with that? We'd own the Seven Seas in no time.

LUIS

We would own all The Booty. Know what I mean?

LIAM

What?

RENATO

Like I said kid, I don't want to steal from you. So here's what's going down.

HENRI

You're gonna' give us that ruby. We'll take you back to the mainland.

LUIS

And this is the bit where we get all piratey.

RENATO

You find us 100 pieces of gold and we'll take you with us.

LUIS

A pirate needs gold bro'!

LIAM

But the ruby is mine.

HENRI

You are dealing with Pirates squire. Did you forget that?

LUIS

We could just slit your throat remember...

LIAM

No. No of course not...just one thing?

RENATO

Yes?

LIAM

Where am I supposed to find 100 pieces of gold?

EXT. ROWING BOAT - DAY

Liam in the middle of the boat as the Pirates row across the sea.

LUIS

If we had one of them magic boats
we'd be there by now.

RENATO

And I wouldn't have such sore
biceps. But at least my arms will
be stronger for pirating I suppose.

Liam just ignores them and stares across the sea towards the mainland.

HENRI

I do admire your bravery boy. You
come face to with three dangerous
killers and you have the courage to
not only defy us, but to ask us for
a ride. That is either courage or
stupidity.

EXT. PUB - DAY

Liam follows the Pirates to the door. As they open the door they turn to Liam.

LUIS

You want to come with us, then be
here before falling over time with
ten pieces of gold.

LIAM

What if I come back and you're not
here.

HENRI

Oh we'll keep our word, don't
worry.

EXT. MARKET - DAY

The market is closing down for the day. A general air of tiredness about the place. A stark contrast to earlier in the day. Liam wanders the street unnoticed by the Traders and stragglers still hanging about.

EXT. BEACH - DUSK

Liam stares out to sea. He looks lost. As he contemplates his next move, Lady Anstruther and Tom come striding towards him.

LADY ANSTRUTHER

Made it back in one piece? Quite the achievement. There's definitely more to you than meets the eyes isn't there boy?

TOM

To be honest, it is certainly quite the surprise to see you back here. Buy well done. Good to see you again.

Tom ruffles Liam's hair.

LADY ANSTRUTHER

So what are you doing sitting here staring out to sea like a comatose cormorant? Haven't you got tasks to complete? Obstacles to overcome?

Liam looks utterly deflated.

LIAM

I need gold.

LADY ANSTRUTHER

Don't we all boy. Don't we all.

Liam is not amused.

LIAM

I need it to buy the ruby back.

LADY ANSTRUTHER

No need to explain boy. No need to explain.

The three of them stare out to sea for a moment.

LADY ANSTRUTHER (CONT'D)

I could of course simply just give you the gold.

Liam tries not to get excited.

LADY ANSTRUTHER (CONT'D)

But what kind of message would that give an impressionable boy?

(MORE)

LADY ANSTRUTHER (CONT'D)
What kind of precedent would that
set for you?

LIAM
A really good one?

Lady Anstruther smiles patronisingly.

LADY ANSTRUTHER
I simply couldn't live with myself
if I did such a thing. What would
the lesson be? What would you learn
about life?

LIAM
That it's good to help people?

TOM
What the Lady is saying, is it
wouldn't do you any good, it would
be kind and nice, but there would
be no benefit. Except of course for
helping you...

LIAM
I don't care what you do. I just
want to go home.

Lady Anstruther and Tom exchange smiles.

LADY ANSTRUTHER
No, no you don't. Not yet. You
still have demons to face. Then,
and only then will you be ready to
return. Ready for the challenges
and hardships of life. Ready to
appreciate the joy.

Liam looks like he has had enough, but lacks the energy to
argue.

TOM
I'll fetch us some bread and
cheese. We can talk a while.

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

Grandad in bed next to Gran. She snores loudly as he tosses
and turns.

She suddenly sits upright.

GRANDAD

What the...?

Gran looks confused as she stares around the room.

GRAN

I can't go. I'm not ready. Not yet.

EXT. BEACH - DUSK

Liam, Lady Anstruther and Tom sitting on the sand staring out to sea.

LADY ANSTRUTHER

As pleasant as this is, you can't sit here all night. You have work to do.

LIAM

I'm tired. Maybe tomorrow. I need to sleep.

TOM

Sleeping isn't going to get you anywhere.

Lady Anstruther stands up.

LADY ANSTRUTHER

You need to head up the hill. You will encounter a creature. It's name is not important.

LIAM

A creature? What kind of creature?

LADY ANSTRUTHER

Impossible to say. But it will talk to you of death and the end of things. It will make you see things.

Liam looks terrified.

LIAM

What kind of things?

TOM

Things a boy shouldn't see.

LADY ANSTRUTHER

Do not make eye contact. If you do then it will devour your soul.

TOM

Oh yes, it will suck the breath
from your body and that will be it
for you.

LIAM

Excellent. So what do I need to do?

Lady Anstruther smiles reassuringly.

LADY ANSTRUTHER

Something you are already capable
of. Just stay strong. Think your
own thoughts. Do not let it in.

TOM

Luckily for you it has a very short
attention span.

LADY ANSTRUTHER

But if it senses weakness or
fear...

TOM

Just stay strong.

Liam nibbles a piece of bread as he contemplates his fate.

LIAM

Is that it? Once I get past the
creature I'll be fine?

TOM

...not exactly.

LADY ANSTRUTHER

At the river at the foot of the
hill you will undoubtedly bump into
a ghostly figure.

LIAM

Really?

LADY ANSTRUTHER

This woman, this ghost of a woman,
she roams the riverbank looking for
her son.

LIAM

And she's going to think it's me?

TOM

He drowned many years ago.

LADY ANSTRUTHER

Even if you don't see her, you will hear her voice on the wind.

TOM

"Come to me, come home, come to mamma." That's what you'll hear.

LIAM

Are you really sure you don't just want to give me the gold?

Lady Anstruther shakes her head.

LADY ANSTRUTHER

That would be no help to you boy. It would make this a wasted opportunity.

LIAM

That's ok. I wouldn't mind.

Lady Anstruther and Tom share a smile.

TOM

But where would the learning be if we did that?

LADY ANSTRUTHER

This woman. To deal with her you must have the courage to stand up to her. Tell the truth.

LIAM

Right...I'm not your son. He's dead.

LADY ANSTRUTHER

But also the compassion to understand her loss.

TOM

But if she gets too close, she will never leave your side.

Liam throws his bread out to sea. A seagull immediately swoops down and snatches it.

LIAM

I'm too young for this. It's not fair. I shouldn't have to deal with all of this stuff. This stupid place and these stupid stories.

Liam stands up.

LADY ANSTRUTHER
There is one more thing.

Liam sighs.

LIAM
Go on.

TOM
Are you sure you want to tell him?
He's not going to like this one.

LIAM
I'm not going to like **this** one?

LADY ANSTRUTHER
You are aware of the word
cannibalism?

Liam's frustration is replaced by fear.

LADY ANSTRUTHER (CONT'D)
One who feasts upon the flesh of
another. Human in this case.

LIAM
Are you joking?

TOM
Unfortunately not. It's a real
problem over that way.

LADY ANSTRUTHER
You will encounter not just one of
these monstrous people, but a whole
family.

Liam, incredulous and terrified takes in a deep breath.

LIAM
So...there's a secret word I say? A
trick I play?

TOM
Alas no. Just run like hell when
you see them.

LADY ANSTRUTHER
You've got quite the challenge in
front of you. The sun is almost
down.

(MORE)

LADY ANSTRUTHER (CONT'D)
Fortunately for you the moon will
be full. But you will need to be
gone by the sunrise. Or...

TOM
This will be your home. Forever.

EXT. WOODLAND - NIGHT

Liam striding through the woods. His path illuminated by the light from the full moon. He mutters to himself under his breath.

He stops in his tracks when he hears a **VOICE**.

He freezes as he listens. Nothing. He looks around. Nothing moves. It's like he is in a painting.

LIAM (WHISPERING)
Ignore it. Ignore it. Ignore it.

Just as he's about to move he notices a RUSTLING in the bushes ahead.

VOICE (O.C.)
There's no point going any further.
Rest awhile. There's always
tomorrow. Join me.

Liam tries to make out where the voice is coming from. His options flood his brain, he's unable to move. He looks at the path ahead. He looks at where he has just come from.

He looks again at the bush.

VOICE (CONT'D)
It's not worth it. You know that
don't you? Come and join me. We can
stay here in peace.

Now the voice isn't coming from the bush. It seems to be coming from all around.

Liam covers his ears.

VOICE (CONT'D)
Don't make it hard for yourself.
Stay here. Come to me. I'll look
after you.

Liam looks around. Full of panic. Terrified.

VOICE (CONT'D)

This is where it ends Liam. It's
all over now. I will make it easy
for you. Over here. Come to me.

Liam scans the bushes and the undergrowth. He looks up to the
top of the trees.

VOICE (CONT'D)

This is it Liam. Come on. Don't be
afraid. There will be nothing to
worry about. Come to me.

Liam suddenly remembers the advice.

LIAM (WHISPERING)

Don't engage. Don't look.

He puts his head down and stares at the ground as he forces
his feet to move. One step, then another...

VOICE

Don't go. Don't leave me. Stay with
me. You'll be happy with me.

Liam's steps are getting faster and faster.

The voice is all around.

VOICE (CONT'D)

Stay. Stay with me. Stay here.
Don't go.

Liam breaks into a jog. Taking back control.

VOICE (CONT'D)

Please...stay with me...

Liam begins to sprint through the woods.

The Voice fading.

VOICE (CONT'D)

Don't leave me here.

Liam runs and runs until he is breathless.

He finally gets the courage to stop.

EXT. RIVERSIDE - DUSK

Liam walks alongside the river, looking for a place to cross. He looks exhausted.

He stops as he hears a gentle **HUMMING** sound. He cocks his head as he tries to work out where it is coming from. His eyes glaze as he listens to the melody. It's beautiful, relaxing, hypnotic. The humming gets louder and louder, Liam is drawn towards it. He finds himself at the

RIVER BANK

He stares into the water.

A **SCREAM** wakes Liam.

He finds himself staring down at an **OLD WOMAN** who is kneeling down at the river's edge, washing clothes.

As she turns around to look at Liam she pulls a **HOODIE** from the water.

Liam is stunned. It's identical to his.

He begins to back away. She pulls out a **PAIR OF JEANS**. They are exactly the same as the ones he is wearing.

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

Gran suddenly sits bolt upright in the bed. She startles Grandad who has been sleeping next to her. Gran stares straight ahead.

GRANDAD

What is it? What's wrong? What's happening?

She stares for a few more seconds before slipping back to sleep.

EXT. RIVERSIDE - DUSK

The Old Woman is approaching Liam with the soaking wet clothes in her arms.

Liam backs slowly away.

OLD WOMAN

My son. Is that you? Have you returned. Finally. I knew you would.

Liam freezes. The Old Woman gets closer.

OLD WOMAN (CONT'D)
It must be you. The eyes tell me
it's you.

Liam becoming more uncomfortable.

OLD WOMAN (CONT'D)
Please be him. I'm lost without
him. I need him.

Liam takes another step backwards.

LIAM
I'm sorry, I'm really sorry, but
I'm not who you think I am.

OLD WOMAN
I can look after you. Stay with me.
I'll keep you safe.

Liam takes a moment to think...

LIAM
You are very kind. Thank you. But I
need to get back to my family.

The Old Woman stares at Liam.

LIAM (CONT'D)
But I can't stay with you. I'm sure
you'll find him soon. He'll be back
one day.

Liam stares at the Old Woman as she wipes a tear from her
eye.

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

Gran muttering under her breath as Grandad holds her hand.

GRANDAD
I'm here, I'm here. I'm not leaving
you. Please don't leave me.

EXT. FIELD - DUSK

Liam stops at a fence and stares up towards the top of the
hill. He looks exhausted but knows he has no choice.

Liam trudges through the field towards the hill. Tired but determined. On and on he goes. He fights back tears of tiredness and despair.

He can hardly take anymore. He sits down on a rock to get his breath back. As he stretches his legs, he spots something in the long grass. Intrigued, he gets down on his hands and knees and scrabbles around in the soil.

He begins to dig around the object with his fingers. He begins to get excited. Maybe it's some kind of treasure...

It's bigger than he thought. The shiny white surface is now revealed. He digs faster and deeper. His fingers deep in the earth until the soil loosens its grip on the object. He wobbles it with both hands and pulls at it.

A HUMAN SKULL

Too shocked to drop it, Liam takes a step backwards, still holding the skull.

He tries to scream but nothing comes out. He stares into the hollow eye sockets of the skull.

It's too much. He breaks down and begins to sob.

Liam is in such a state of shock he fails to notice a group of almost SKELETAL FIGURES wandering towards him.

Liam is brought back to reality when he hears the sound of PIG-LIKE GRUNTS from behind him.

He turns around to see the Skeletal Figures approaching him.

They are lead by a tall, gaunt and unsteady FATHER. He leads his equally gaunt family towards Liam.

Liam scans the area for an escape route. But by the time he has looked back towards the family, the Father has taken giant strides towards him and is almost within touching distance.

Guttural sounds of pain and anguish fill the air. The whole Family are now closing in on Liam.

Liam's instincts finally kick in. He takes off up the hill.

Too scared to look back, he runs and runs and runs.

The Family lack the strength and vitality for the chase stare at Liam from a distance.

When Liam does eventually stop, he looks back down at the family to see them sitting in a circle gnawing on what appear to be human bones.

INT. BEDROOM - DAY

Grandma sleeping soundly in bed. Grandad sitting back in an armchair watching her. He sips a cup of tea before flicking through a selection of books. He picks up **FIFE FOLKLORE** and scans the contents page until he comes to:

THE LEGEND OF LARGO LAW

EXT. FIELD - DAY

Liam's determination is disappearing fast. His pace has slowed and he struggles up the hill.

He sits on a rock and stares at the hill. He looks back out over the hills to the sea. He scans the sea thinks...

He's come this far...

Liam pulls himself up. Looks at the hill. Takes a deep breath and begins his ascent.

INT. COTTAGE - DAY

Grandad finishes his cup of tea. He puts it down carefully and walks to the window. He gazes out to sea.

GRANDAD

You can make it son. You can make it.

EXT. HILLSIDE - DAY

Liam trudges up the hill. **SHEEP** scatter as he heads towards them.

His strides shorten with each step he takes. He's shattered.

He looks around him for a sign...anything.

Nothing.

Liam turns around and looks out to sea. There's nothing for it. He has to plod on.

INT. BEDROOM - DAY

Grandad busily tidies Liam's room. He picks up the books that are scattered across the floor and puts them back on the shelves.

EXT. HILLSIDE - DAY

Liam stops and rubs his eyes. He's not sure if he's seeing things.

A FIGURE in the distance.

Liam is too tired to flee. So he stays still and waits as the figure slowly approaches him.

The figure gets closer.

It's a SHEPHERD, a hood covers his head and most of his face. He stops a few yards from Liam and beckons him with an index finger. Liam freezes.

SHEPHERD

Reckless? Foolish? Brave? Which one?

Liam doesn't answer.

SHEPHERD (CONT'D)

Perhaps all three?

LIAM

I don't mean to...I'm sorry if I scared your sheep.

SHEPHERD

Oh, they're not the ones who are scared.

The Shepherd holds Liam's gaze. Liam shifts his eyes first. He looks down at his shoes...then looks across at the Shepherd's feet...**HOOVES!**

LIAM

I'm er...just passing through. I'm on my way to my gran's.

The Shepherd just stares at Liam.

SHEPHERD

Well you should be on your way then Liam.

Liam is taken aback.

SHEPHERD (CONT'D)
Does it surprise you that I know
your name?

LIAM
I'm not surprised by anything now.

SHEPHERD
And my name?

Liam shrugs his shoulders.

SHEPHERD (CONT'D)
They call me Old Cloutie. Some
call me Cloutie. Others call me
Horny or Old Horny. Too many names.
People need to make up their stupid
minds.

The Shepherd pulls down his hood and ruffles his hair to
reveal two devils horns.

SHEPHERD (CONT'D)
I think you would call me The
Devil. I don't really care what I'm
called. But I'm not too keen on the
prefix of 'old' with any of my
names. I find that quite offensive.

Liam's confusion has turned to fear.

LIAM
Well...Sir...Mr Devil...It's nice
to meet you...but...I really
need...

SHEPHERD
You can call me Cloutie. I think
we could get on. Don't you?

Liam nods.

SHEPHERD (CONT'D)
I know of your predicament.
Fortunately for you, I am in a
position to be of assistance to
you.

Liam grimaces. He has no idea what to say.

SHEPHERD (CONT'D)
Would you be willing to make a deal
with the devil Liam?

Liam looks around. Lost. Alone. Tired and hungry.
He doesn't seem to have a choice.

LIAM
Deal? What kind of deal?

The Shepherd bangs his crook on the ground.

POOOOF!

A PLUME OF SMOKE.

The Shepherd transforms into what we think of as The Devil.

Liam is too tired to be truly terrified. His eyes widen and he takes a step back. Much to the disappointment of The Devil.

DEVIL
Oh. I see. Brave are we?

LIAM
No. Not really. Everyone says I'm a wimp.

DEVIL
A wimp? I don't know what that means, but never mind. Here's the deal.

LIAM
Just tell me. I'll do it. I need to get home.

The Devil leans into Liam's face. Liam just looks impatient.

DEVIL
Many have tried and many have failed. You must succeed or you'll be impaled.

Now Liam looks worried.

LIAM
Impaled? Really? Why?

The Devil laughs a thoroughly Devilish laugh.

DEVIL

Do I really look like the kind of
person who would impale a young
child?

Liam decides it would be better not to answer...

DEVIL (CONT'D)

I like you. You're braver than you
look. So, I'm happy to make a deal.

LIAM

Deal?

DEVIL

I'll give you the gold.

LIAM

Really?

DEVIL

Of course. But...I need you to do
something for me. That's how these
deals work. Especially when you
deal with the devil himself.

LIAM

Will it help me get home?

DEVIL

If you succeed.

Liam weighs up his options...he doesn't really have any.

LIAM

What do I have to do?

The Devil begins to walk away. Liam watches him for a moment
before following him.

LIAM (CONT'D)

What is it? What do I need to do?

The Devil sits down on a rock. He beckons for Liam to join
him.

DEVIL

You don't seem to be afraid of me.
Why is that?

LIAM

I don't think I'm scared of
anything anymore.

The Devil smiles.

DEVIL
Lady Anstruther. Are you aware of
her?

Liam is reluctant to give too much information away.

DEVIL (CONT'D)
The tower on the beach. You are
aware of that?

LIAM
I have seen it.

DEVIL
Well the boy who protects her. He
has a bell.

Liam nods.

DEVIL (CONT'D)
The bell wards off evil spirits.

The Devil stands and stares into Liam's eyes.

DEVIL (CONT'D)
Some would say I'm an evil spirit.
Would you agree with that?

Liam doesn't flinch.

LIAM
I don't care. I just want to go
back.

The Devil tries to put an arm around Liam. He shrugs it off.

DEVIL
Bring the bell to me and the gold
will be yours.

INT. BEDROOM - DAY

Gran is out of bed. Standing at the window staring out to
sea.

EXT. TOWER - NIGHT

A line of burning torches provides a path to the tower door.

Liam, breathless and sweating stops running as he reaches the torches.

As he tries to get his breath back, Tom appears in the doorway, burning torch in one hand and the bell in the other.

TOM

You? You're still here?

Lady Anstruther appears behind Tom.

LADY ANSTRUTHER

The boy!

TOM

You came back?

LADY ANSTRUTHER

You must come in. How are you? How have you survived all alone? Do you need help?

Liam nods.

LIAM

I do. I need the bell.

Lady Anstruther and Tom exchange glances.

LADY ANSTRUTHER

The bell?

INT. TOWER - NIGHT

A tiny wooden table in the middle of the room. A pot sits over the fire.

Tom busily devours a hot bowl of something brown and meaty while Lady Anstruther and Tom stare at him. They allow Tom to finish chewing before they eventually speak to him.

LADY ANSTRUTHER

The very fact that you have survived suggests that you are indeed a special boy.

Tom looks up from the stew.

LIAM

Special?

Lady Anstruther and Tom exchange glances.

TOM
You really don't know?

Liam pushes his bowl away.

LIAM
I'm not special. I'm useless. I'm
rubbish. I'm weak.

Lady Anstruther and Tom giggle to themselves.

LADY ANSTRUTHER
Young man, people have been waiting
a long time for you.

Tom puts a hand on Liam's shoulder.

TOM
What is it you need?

Liam looks at the bell.

Tom takes his hand off Liam's shoulder.

TOM (CONT'D)
Oh...

Liam doesn't understand.

LADY ANSTRUTHER
The bell? Oh, I don't think so.

LIAM
But I need it. I have to.

Tom picks the bell up and holds it to his chest.

TOM
This bell, this bell is our life.
It keeps us alive. It has done for
the past hundred years.

Liam looks confused.

LIAM
A hundred years?

Lady Anstruther snatches the bell back. Tom stands empty
handed and confused.

LADY ANSTRUTHER
The boy's need is greater than
ours. Go fetch Lazarus.

EXT. BEACH - NIGHT

Tache hags making their way along the beach towards the cave.

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

Gran drifts in and out of sleep as Grandad strokes her hand.

GRAN
I think it's time.

Grandad squeezes her hand.

GRAN (CONT'D)
Get me something to see me through.

EXT. BEACH - NIGHT

Liam a million miles away from hero status as he struggles to mount a HORSE, like a mouse climbing on a dog.

He tries

He falls

He tries

He falls

He eventually gets his balance, clings onto the reins and waits for Tom to mount behind him.

TOM
What kind of a hero has never
ridden a bold steed?

LIAM
I am not a hero.

Tom and Lady Anstruther laugh, Tom grabs the reins from Liam, boots the horse in the side and they're off!

EXT. BEACH - NIGHT

The huge full moon illuminates the beach as the horse gallops along close to the shore.

EXT. WOODLAND - NIGHT

Liam has managed to pull himself upright, but still looking terrified as the horse gallops through woodland.

EXT. HILLSIDE - NIGHT

Liam hurriedly dismounts. He stretches his legs while Tom ties Lazarus to a tree.

TOM

You must not return without this.

Tom hands Liam the bell.

LIAM

But I need it. He wants it for the gold.

TOM

You'll understand. You'll think of something.

Tom puts an arm around around Liam.

TOM (CONT'D)

Good luck.

Liam, dishevelled and tired, begins his ascent of the hill.

EXT. HILLTOP - NIGHT

The Devil, perched on a rock, watching as Liam tramps towards him.

The Devil stands and walks towards Liam.

He greets Liam with a sinister smile.

DEVIL

I am surprised. But very pleased.

LIAM

I want the gold.

DEVIL

Don't you worry. I keep my word.
Come.

Liam has no choice but to follow. The devil leads him around the hillside. He stops suddenly at a large rock.

DEVIL (CONT'D)
Come see. Or are you suddenly
frightened?

Liam grips the bell even tighter.

DEVIL (CONT'D)
So it's gold you want? Watch this.

The Devil drops to his knees and scratches at a patch of
earth next to the rock.

Liam watches on anxiously.

The Devil begins to dig faster.

Liam is now full of doubt.

The Devil digs frantically.

DEVIL (CONT'D)
It was here. It was here.

Liam moves closer to look.

The Devil's fingers strike something hard.

He looks up at Liam and smiles.

Liam watches the Devil scratches around in the ground before
carefully prising out a piece of gold the size of a golf
ball.

DEVIL (CONT'D)
And there's plenty more boy. If you
do as I say.

He throws the piece of gold to Liam, but Liam, reluctant to
let go of the bell, lets the gold drop at his feet.

LIAM
They said I need ten.

The Devil turns and stands upright. His expression now
fierce.

DEVIL
Then ten you shall have. If you do
as I say.

The sound of THUNDERING HOOVES

Tom, astride Lazarus, galloping furiously towards Liam.

Before he knows what has hit him, Liam is dangling from the horse, holding onto Tom's hand for dear life.

The pair manage to scramble onto the horse's back while the horse bounds through the countryside.

Liam, breathless, is close to tears.

LIAM
The gold. The gold. I didn't get
the gold.

TOM
Don't worry. I've taken care of
that.

The horse gallops downhill towards the beach with Liam unsure and forlorn while Tom boots the horse ever faster.

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

Gran's eyes are closed. Grandad gently wipes crumbs from her lips.

GRANDAD
Goodnight. See you soon.

EXT. TOWER - NIGHT

Lady Anstruther is waiting to greet Tom and Liam.

Liam falls off the horse and struggles, exhausted, to his feet.

LADY ANSTRUTHER
Well?

LIAM
Ask him.

Tom jumps elegantly from the horse.

Liam looks out to sea.

LIAM (CONT'D)
That was my only hope.

Tom approaches him carefully. He puts an arm gently around his shoulder.

TOM
I know.

Liam sighs and looks at his feet

TOM (CONT'D)
Well it's just lucky I got you
this...

Tom reaches into his jacket pocket and pulls out a VELVET BAG.

He holds the bag in front of Liam's face.

Liam is almost dazzled.

LIAM
Where did you...?

TOM
Never you mind...The Devil doesn't
have all the tricks.

Tom holds the bag out for Liam.

TOM (CONT'D)
Here. Take it. It's yours.

Liam looks in the bag again.

LIAM
But I only need ten pieces.

TOM
Take it. You've earned it.

Liam takes the bag and hands over the bell to Tom.

LIAM
Does that really work?

TOM
It depends how much you want it to.

EXT. BEACH - NIGHT

The Tache Hags sprinting along the beach.

EXT. BEACH - NIGHT

The Tache Hags up to their knees in water as the tide comes in.

They begin to get excited as they see Liam in the distance.

Liam clutches the RUBY in his hand as he wades through the water.

The waves begin to get bigger and stronger as Liam struggles through the rising sea.

He looks up and sees the Tache Hags waving frantically at the entrance to the cave.

He looks back to the safety of the land, but decides to continue battling through the water.

Suddenly Liam stops. He looks down. A SHADOW in the water.

Liam is frozen.

The SHADOW gets closer. The water rises. In seconds it's up to his chest.

Liam looks up the sky. He takes a deep breath. He forces himself underwater.

He opens his eyes. The water is crystal clear. Liam swims in a circle.

Nothing.

Liam swims back to the surface.

As his head emerges, the tide begins to recede.

The water is down to his waist. Liam begins to wade towards the Tache Hags.

The Tache Hags jump up and down excitedly as Liam approaches.

TACHE HAGS

Hurry up! He's getting closer!

Liam looks up to see Cloutie striding towards him. Liam glances back towards the tower.

Tom rings the BELL frantically.

Lady Anstruther stands aloof and blows Liam a kiss.

LADY ANSTRUTHER

You can do this. Goodbye Liam.

As Liam emerges from the water he is set upon by the Tache Hags.

TACHE HAGS

We knew you were the one. We knew
you were special.

They drag Liam towards the cave, where he finds The Pirates
waiting for him.

Liam holds the velvet bag of gold coins out towards Luis.

Luis shakes his head.

LIAM

Are you sure you don't want the
gold?

LUIS

No use for gold where we're going.
It's all about the Bitcoin. Leave
that for your friends. Let's roll.

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

Grandad sits in his armchair. He stares at the empty bed.

INT. CAVE NIGHT

Liam begins to push the walls. Nothing happens.

He jumps around from wall to wall. Pushing, slapping, kicking
the walls.

Still nothing.

Liam freezes.

He turns around.

Clootie is in the entrance.

Liam clutches the RUBY as he looks Clootie in the eye.

LIAM

I'm not scared. You don't frighten
me.

WHOOSH

The ground has opened up.

Liam, the Pirates and the Tache Hags tumble through the
darkness.

THUMP

INT. CAVE. DAY

Liam on his back on the floor of the cave. Not moving.

One eye opens. Then the other.

He slowly pulls himself up.

He dusts himself down and squints as he looks out of the cave towards the

BEACH

Sunshine and blue skies.

Liam slowly edges his way out of the cave. Scared of what sights might greet him.

He looks up at the tower. It's ruined.

No fishing boats on the sea.

Groups of kids kayaking and windsurfing.

Liam closes his eyes.

LIAM

I made it.

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

Grandad with his arm around Liam.

GRANDAD

She was fine. She knew it was her time.

LIAM

But I never thought...

GRANDAD

I know son. Me neither.

LIAM

I don't understand. How long was I away? I don't...I can't...It's all been a bit weird and...sad...

GRANDAD

You did what you had to. Your Gran did what she had to. I, well, I'm here for you. We'll talk about it later.

Liam looks across at the empty bed. A selection of photographs on the wall catches his eye.

Young Gran and Grandad sitting outside the tower.

Grandad smiles at him.

GRANDAD (CONT'D)

We'll talk about it later.

INT. COTTAGE BEDROOM - DAY

Liam sitting on the window ledge staring out to sea. Trying to make sense of his adventures, but quietly proud of himself.

He's disturbed from his dream by the sound of an engine approaching.

Liam looks down from the window and sees Malcolm arriving.

Liam listens as Malcolm rings the door bell.

DOWNSTAIRS

Grandad answers the door as Liam watches on from the top of the stairs.

GRANDAD

I thought you were in Dubai.

Malcolm invites himself in and slams the door behind him.

MALCOLM

Should have been. Pam lost the passports. Stupid old...

GRANDAD

Oh dear. That's not good. So you're not going away then?

MALCOLM

No. No we're not. Cost me a fortune as well.

GRANDAD

Is Pam still in the car? Invite her in.

MALCOLM

Pam's gone. She's gone back to Barry. She was no good anyway. It was never going to work.

GRANDAD

Oh that is a shame. You can stay for tea if you want.

Malcolm spots Liam at the top of the stairs.

MALCOLM

That's very kind, but I'm just here to take the boy home.

An awkward moment as Liam descends the stairs.

Malcolm goes to give him a hug. Liam takes a step back.

MALCOLM (CONT'D)

You not got a hug for your old dad?

Liam steps forward into a very uncomfortable embrace. He doesn't return it.

MALCOLM (CONT'D)

I'm here to take you home son.

Liam looks at Grandad...

LIAM

I'm not sure...I think I like it here.

MALCOLM

But it'll just be me and you now. All boys together!

LIAM

I think I need to stay a while longer, maybe at the end of the holidays. I might come back then. If you're a bit less rubbish.

Malcolm takes a moment to compose himself. The words hurt.

MALCOLM

No. You're right. I need some time to myself. Get myself together.

Liam and Grandad watch on as Malcolm continues to convince himself.

MALCOLM (CONT'D)

Yeah, you stay here with Grandad.
I'll sort myself out while you have
some more adventures. Does that
sound like a plan?

LIAM

That sounds like a plan dad.

Liam steps forward to give Malcolm a real, genuine hug.

Malcolm tries to wipe away a tear without being seen - but Grandad has spotted it.

MALCOLM

Well, I'd better go. Remember lots
of meat and exercise.

LIAM

Yeah, right dad.

EXT. COTTAGE - DAY

Grandad and Liam watch as Malcolm walks along the garden path. As he walks along, FLOWERS begin to emerge from the ground.

LIAM

See you soon dad.

As Malcolm stops. He spots a FLOWER growing up right next to his foot.

He shakes his head in disbelief.

Grandad and Liam watch as Malcolm gets into his car and drives away.

FADE OUT