

Our amazing lass, Grace

written by

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LOGLINE: 1838: A YOUNG GIRL AND HER FATHER RISK THEIR LIVES ATTEMPTING TO RESCUE SURVIVORS OF A SHIPWRECK IN THE FACE OF A FEROCIOUS STORM.

Fade in

ACT 1

EXT. CHURCH GRAVEYARD - NIGHT

An OWL flies over a graveyard. It settles on a gravestone of a freshly dug grave.

Beat.

The owl preens itself, hoots and flies off.

The camera descends below the surface and down towards the coffin.

INT. COFFIN - CONTINUOUS AUDIENCE P.O.V

Inside lies a YOUNG WOMAN (mid 20'). Her eyes are closed. Arms folded across her chest.

Beat.

Her eyes suddenly open wide as she stares at us.

GRACE

My name is or was Grace Horsley Darling.  
Some of you may have heard of me and of the  
events of 7th September 1838, that changed  
my life forever. Some of you may not have.  
This is my tale of my life, of that night  
and how my life was to change.

Grace closes her eyes.

INT./EXT. BOAT - EVENING

A MAN (WILLIAM DARLING SNR 29) battles through a storm as he rows a coble-type boat. With him is a heavily pregnant WOMAN (THOMASIN SNR early 40's). She is in agony with childbirth.

INT. ROOM - NIGHT

Caption: 24th November 1815.

Thomasin Snr lies on a bed screaming in pain as she gives birth. Two other WOMEN are present assisting her.

INT. ROOM - CONTINUOUS

William Snr waits in the adjacent room. The cries of a new-born baby coming from the next room are heard. MRS MACFARLANE enters from the adjacent room. She is exhausted and carrying a bloodied cloth.

MRS MACFARLANE  
 Congratulations, Mr Darling. You have a  
 baby daughter.

William Snr sits hastily on a wooden chair.

WILLIAM SNR  
 Thank you. How are they?

Beat.

MRS MACFARLANE  
 Mother and baby are doing fine. But they  
 need rest.

William Snr stands back up.

WILLIAM SNR  
 Can I see them?

MRS MACFARLANE  
 Give them some time. Your wife has lost a  
 lot of blood. Excuse me. My assistance is  
 still needed.

Mrs MacFarlane returns to the other room. William Snr sits back down.

INT. BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Thomasin Snr lies in a bed cradling a newborn baby. William Snr walks  
 over to the bed.

THOMASIN SNR  
 She's beautiful.

WILLIAM SNR  
 Aye, pet she is. It is God's grace she is  
 here.

THOMASIN SNR  
 Should be her name, Grace.

Beat.

WILLIAM SNR  
 Hmm, Grace. It suits her.

WILLIAM JNR (9), THOMASIN JNR, MARY-ANN (twins 7) enter. Mary-Ann is  
 holding ELIZABETH's (3) hand. Last to enter is JOB (5). William Jnr  
 is carrying a baby boy (ROBERT)

THOMASIN SNR  
 (to children)  
 It's alright. Come say hello to your baby  
 sister, Grace.

The children gather around the bed looking at Grace.

WILLIAM JNR

Will you be staying here mum?

WILLIAM SNR

No, think its best we head back. Mr Smeddle won't be happy if there's no-one back at Brownsman.

MRS MACFARLANE

I would strongly urge Thomasin to rest for a few days. She'll be safe here.

WILLIAM SNR

Yes, but I've got the lighthouse and the garden to look after. I haven't the time to look after them!

WILLIAM JNR

I can help dad, you know, look after the garden and keep watch, that sort of thing.

WILLIAM SNR

Thanks laddie. I appreciate it.

MARY-ANN

Me and sister can help. You know, look after the young'uns.

WILLIAM SNR

You sure? I mean its a big responsibility.

THOMASIN JNR

We'll cope.

THOMASIN SNR

See, you've nowt to worry about. We'll be fine. Your folks will look after us.

The children kiss their mother goodbye followed by William Snr.

WILLIAM SNR

I love you. I'm proud of you.

THOMASIN SNR

Go on, before you have Smeddle moaning at you.

They exit leaving Thomasin cradling Grace.

INT./EXT. BOAT - MORNING

William Snr is rowing a coble-type boat. With him are Thomasin Snr and Grace.

WILLIAM SNR

She okay?

THOMASIN SNR  
Aye, think she's enjoying this.

WILLIAM SNR  
That's good. She grow up a right proper sea  
lass.

INT. LIGHTHOUSE - EVENING

Will Snr and Will Jnr are up in the lantern. Will Snr is looking through the telescope.

WILLIAM SNR  
Could be in for a quiet night.

Will Snr passes the telescope to his son who looks through it.

WILLIAM JNR  
Ship over there heading north. Should be  
alright.

WILLIAM SNR  
Best we keep an eye on it, though.

Footsteps can be heard running up the stairs. Mary-Ann bursts in.

MARY-ANN  
(panting)  
Father! Quick! You better come!

WILLIAM SNR  
What's up lass?

MARY-ANN  
It's mother! I think she's having a baby!

WILLIAM SNR  
Laddie, keep watch!

Will Snr exits along with Mary-Ann. Will Jnr picks up the telescope to maintain the watch.

INT. LIGHTHOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

Thomasin Snr is sat on a chair panting heavily. Mary and Thomasin Jnr are trying to help her relax.

WILLIAM SNR  
You alright love?

Thomasin Snr shakes her head.

WILLIAM SNR (CONT'D)  
Let's get you on the boat.

He tries to persuade his wife to stand up, but Thomasin refuses.

THOMASIN SNR  
I can't pet.

She screams and bends double.

THOMASIN JNR  
You'll have to fetch someone father, and quick.

WILLIAM SNR  
Wouldn't it be better if you came with me? Sea's fairly calm.

MARY-ANN  
At the moment it is. What if it changes?

THOMASIN SNR  
Mary's right. Sorry love, but please fetch someone. Hurry!

EXT. HOUSE - NIGHT

Will Snr is knocking loudly on a door outside a house. After a minute the door opens. Standing in the doorway is Mrs MacFarlane.

MRS MACFARLANE  
Mr Darling? What can I do for you?

WILLIAM SNR  
Please forgive me. But my wife is in labour!

MRS MACFARLANE  
Where is Mrs Darling?

WILLIAM SNR  
I'm afraid she's back on Brownsman. She's unable to travel.

MRS MACFARLANE  
I'm not keen on the sea. But give me a minute.

She disappears back inside.

INT. LIGHTHOUSE - LATER

Thomasin Snr clutches Mary-Ann's and Thomasin Jnr's hands. Elizabeth enters along with Grace from upstairs.

ELIZABETH  
I think they're on their way back. Just seen the boat.

MARY-ANN  
Good. You okay, mother?

Thomasin Snr nods as she grimaces.

THOMASIN SNR  
Aye, I'm fine love.

Thomasin Snr screams out.

MARY-ANN  
Fetch Laddie, sis. Betsy and Grace can keep  
watch.

Thomasin Jnr leaves. Mary-Ann comforts her mother. Will Jnr enters  
carrying some blankets. He puts the blankets down.

WILLIAM JNR  
Where's father?

MARY-ANN  
Betsy says they're on their way back.

WILLIAM JNR  
How long?

THOMASIN JNR  
I dunno. Half hour.

THOMASIN SNR  
They ought to bloody well hurry!

EXT ROCK - LATER

William Jnr stands out on Brownsman rock as the coble approaches. As  
soon as the coble is next to the rock he reaches out to help Mrs  
MacFarlane disembark as Will Snr rows to keep the boat steady.

INT. LIGHTHOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

Mrs MacFarlane is with Thomasin Snr who is lying on her back on  
blankets.

MRS MACFARLANE  
Mr Darling, can you please ask your  
children to leave. I need room.

WILLIAM SNR  
(to children)  
You heard your auntie. Go on upstairs.

MARY-ANN  
Can I stay?

THOMASIN JNR  
I want to stay too.



WILLIAM SNR

Not a good idea. Go on. I'll call you when we're done.

MRS MACFARLANE

They could help me keeping the blankets and water warm.

WILLIAM SNR

You sure.

MRS MACFARLANE

Wouldn't mind a bit of help. Good practice for them.

WILLIAM SNR

But..

MRS MACFARLANE

Look Mr Darling, I'm not going to argue.

MRS MACFARLANE (CONT'D)

(to Mary Ann and Thomasin Jnr)

You two are my assistant midwives. Now go fetch me some blankets and hot water.

Mary-Ann fetches some blankets lying in a corner, whilst Thomasin Jnr takes a brass kettle of the stove and pours it into a jug. She hands the jug to Mrs MacFarlane.

MARY-ANN

Where would you like these?

MRS MACFARLANE

Just there.

She points to the end of the bed. May-Ann obliges.

MRS MACFARLANE (CONT'D)

Good, now stay there and don't move unless I say so

INT. LIGHTHOUSE - CONTINUOUS

The children are in the first floor bedroom, Robert and Grace are fast asleep. Elizabeth is struggling to stay awake.

WILLIAM JNR

Go shut your eyes, Betsy.

ELIZABETH

Don't want to.

WILLIAM JNR

Looks like you're losing anyway.

From down below the sound of Thomasin Snr screaming in pain can be heard. Suddenly the cries of a newborn baby follows.

INT. LIGHTHOUSE - CONTINUOUS

On the ground floor, William Snr is cradling his new son.

MRS MACFARLANE

Nobody do anything. There's another coming.

Thomasin Snr screams once more as the latest addition to the Darling family is born.

EXT. LIGHTHOUSE - DAY

GRACE (5) is feeding an Eider duck close to the lighthouse. The duck snaps at the food from her hand. William Snr approaches.

WILLIAM SNR

Please don't Grace. They need to live wild.  
You know that.

Grace continues to feed the duck until all the food is gone. The duck looks around for more.

GRACE

Why?

WILLIAM SNR

Cos they got to learn how to fend for  
themselves.

GRACE

But I can look after him.

WILLIAM SNR

I don't think its a good idea.

GRACE

Please daddy. May I?

Beat.

WILLIAM SNR

Not indoors okay. Your mother would have it  
on plate.

Grace picks up the duck and storms off inside the lighthouse.

INT. LIGHTHOUSE - CONTINUOUS

The duck does not struggle or make any attempt to escape. Grace sits on the floor cradling the duck. Thomasin Snr is at her spinning wheel. Besides her is a cot with GEORGE and WILLIAM BROOKS asleep.

THOMASIN SNR

Grace! Why on earth did you bring that thing in!?

Enter William Snr.

WILLIAM SNR

Sorry, love. I couldn't stop her.

THOMASIN SNR

Take it off her, will you.

William Snr sighs, walks over to the duck. Grace holds the duck closely to her.

GRACE

No, he's mine!

William Snr kneels down next to her.

WILLIAM SNR

Grace, you can't keep it. He's better with the other ducks.

GRACE

I want him! I've named him.

THOMASIN SNR

Honestly! You can't name the ducks.

Grace continues to stroke the duck.

GRACE

Mr Dabble, that's his name!

Thomasin tuts.

THOMASIN SNR

Really Grace! Why don't you name all the ducks!

WILLIAM SNR

Don't encourage her.

GRACE

I will!

The duck begins to quack and struggle. Grace struggles to keep hold, but the duck manages to break free and waddles towards the door. Grace begins to cry. William Snr watches the duck exit. Wailing can be heard from the cot.

THOMASIN SNR

Well done Grace! Only just got them to sleep.

William Snr kneels next to Grace. He wipes her face with a cloth.

WILLIAM SNR

Tell you what. How about you keep him. But he stays outside. Okay?

Grace snuffles and wipes her nose with the back of her hand.

GRACE

Why can't he stay with me?

WILLIAM SNR

Cos, he needs to learn how to be a duck.

GRACE

But I can teach him!

THOMASIN SNR

Don't be silly! You're not a duck.

GRACE

Yes, I am. Look.

Grace starts waddling around the room.

GRACE (CONT'D)

Quack, quack. I'm a duck!

THOMASIN SNR

Stop it, Grace.

Grace continues her duck impersonation.

WILLIAM SNR

How about you can help me to look after them?

Grace stops her duck impersonation.

GRACE

How?

WILLIAM SNR

Well, for starters, you can help to collect their eggs and down for your mam.

GRACE

I want my duck!

THOMASIN SNR

Don't be silly Grace. Duck's aren't pets.

GRACE

Why not?!

THOMASIN SNR

They're for eating, and for my quilts.

GRACE

No! You're not eating Mr Dabble!

THOMASIN SNR

If he comes near me, he's getting his neck wrung.

GRACE

No! I won;t let you!

WILLIAM SNR

You can see him and all the other ducks if you help me.

Beat.

GRACE

Promise?

WILLIAM SNR

On the holy bible.

He stands up and walks to the bookshelf. Picks up a bible and walks back to Grace. He sits down next to her. Rests his hand on the bible as if taking an oath.

WILLIAM SNR (CONT'D)

I swear to Almighty God, that Grace Horsley Darling will help to look after all the animals on Brownsman Island.

He holds the bible out towards Grace.

WILLIAM SNR (CONT'D)

Put your hand on the bible.

Grace places her hand palm down on the book.

WILLIAM SNR (CONT'D)

Now repeat after me.

WILLIAM SNR (CONT'D)

I, Grace Horsley Darling.

GRACE

I, Grace Horsley Darling.

WILLIAM SNR

Do solemnly swear by Almighty God.

GRACE

Do solemnly swear by Almighty God.

WILLIAM SNR

That I will look after all the animals on Brownsman Island.

GRACE

That I will look after all the animals on Brownsman Island.

WILLIAM SNR  
So help me God.

GRACE  
So help me God.

William Snr takes the book and stands up.

WILLIAM SNR  
There, you have made a vow in front of  
Almighty God. Now you must honour that  
promise. Or you will never go to heaven.

THOMASIN SNR  
No, you will go to hell instead!

EXT. WALL - DAY

Grace, Elizabeth and Robert are stood outside a walled garden. The wooden gate is closed. Robert pushes the gate.

ROBERT  
Shut! Drat!

He bangs loudly on the gate.

ROBERT (CONT'D)  
(Loudly)  
Grandad!

ELIZABETH  
You know he can't hear very well these  
days.

ROBERT  
But grandpa always leaves the gate open for  
us.

ELIZABETH  
He could be busy.

GRACE  
Is Grandpa poorly?

ELIZABETH  
No, of course not. He probably forgot we  
were coming, that's all.

ROBERT  
Yes, he is getting forgetful these days.

ELIZABETH  
Still doesn't answer the question of how do  
we get in.

Robert looks up at the wall.

ROBERT  
I wonder?

ELIZABETH  
What?

ROBERT  
If I give you a leg up, you should be able  
to scramble over.

Elizabeth looks up at the wall.

ELIZABETH  
Forget it. Its far too high.

Robert starts to kick at the gate.

ELIZABETH (CONT'D)  
Stop it!

Robert keeps kicking.

ELIZABETH (CONT'D)  
Will you stop it!

Robert continues kicking.

ROBERT  
Why?

ELIZABETH  
Because you'll put a hole in it.

ROBERT  
Means we'll get in.

ELIZABETH  
Do you want a thrashing?

Robert stops kicking.

ROBERT  
Well what do you think we do, Miss  
Cleverclogs!?

ELIZABETH  
I don't know. Go home.

GRACE  
I want to see grandad!

ROBERT  
(snaps)  
Well we can't, can we!

GRACE  
But I want too!

ROBERT  
The gate's locked! Isn't it! Stupid girl.

ELIZABETH  
Don't call her that!

ROBERT  
Well its true.

Elizabeth punches him hard on the arm. He rubs his arm and glares at Elizabeth.

ROBERT (CONT'D)  
How about we use Grace as a battering ram!

GRACE  
No!

ROBERT  
Why not? You won't feel anything. Do more damage to the gate than to your thick skull.

Elizabeth punches him hard on the arm. Robert rubs his arm.

ROBERT (CONT'D)  
Ow! That hurt!

ELIZABETH  
Good, its meant to. Apologise.

ROBERT  
Shan't.

Elizabeth punches him again, this time harder. Grace giggles as Robert rubs his arm.

ROBERT (CONT'D)  
Stop laughing, its not funny. It hurts.

ELIZABETH  
Good, supposed to. Say sorry.

GRACE  
Yes it is!

ROBERT  
Shut up, or I'll throw you overboard. Say you drowned!

Elizabeth signals them to be quiet.

ELIZABETH  
Shut up! I think I hear someone.

She presses her ear against the gate. After a few seconds she steps back.



ELIZABETH (CONT'D)  
There's someone there!

She knocks loudly.

ELIZABETH (CONT'D)  
(Loudly)  
Hello!

MALE VOICE (O.C.)  
Who's there?

ROBERT  
Is that you, Grandad?

Beat.

MALE VOICE (O.C.)  
Who is it?

ROBERT  
It's us. Elizabeth, Grace and me!

Beat.

MALE VOICE (O.C.)  
Whose me?

ELIZABETH  
Its only Robert, granddad.

MALE VOICE (O.C.)  
Well why didn't he say so. Hang on I'll let  
you in.

The sound of the key being turned can be heard. The gate opens and  
the children enter.

EXT. GARDEN - CONTINUOUS

The children are standing in a walled garden surrounded by fruit and  
vegetables. A MAN (late 70's) stands before closing the gate.

Grace hugs him around his legs.

GRACE  
Granddad!

GRANDDAD JOB  
Aye up, me darlings.

ELIZABETH  
Why was the gate locked?

GRANDDAD JOB  
Sorry. Must have forgot you were coming.

Grace pulls away from him.

GRANDAD JOB (CONT'D)

Anyway, now you're here. Why don't you help me pick some fruit.

ROBERT

Course we can. Which ones?

GRANDAD JOB

Well the blackberries for starters. Mind the thorns though.

ROBERT

Grace can do that! Don't matter if she gets pricked!

Elizabeth slaps him hard on the upper arm.

ELIZABETH

You ought to do it. Don't give a fig about you!

ROBERT

No should be Grace. She's smaller and can get in all the brambles. Anyway if she gets stuck we'll just leave her!

Elizabeth again punches him on the same arm only harder. Robert rubs his arm.

ROBERT (CONT'D)

Ow! Will you stop doing that.

ELIZABETH

You keep deserving it.

ROBERT

Yes, but you have to admit, it'll be so much quieter at home!

ELIZABETH

Mother would kill you.

GRANDAD JOB

Stop squabbling. Plenty of jobs to go round. Tell you what, Rob you help me. Betsy, why don't you and Grace go pick the blackberries.

EXT. GARDEN - MOMENTS LATER

Grace and Elizabeth are busy picking ripe blackberries placing them in a wicker basket. They both giggle as they sneakily eat the odd one.

EXT. LIGHTHOUSE - DAY.

William Jnr is saying his goodbyes to his family.

THOMASIN SNR

Why not stay another year? Until Job's older at least.

WILLIAM JNR

Sorry mam. I need to find my own way now, don't I?

THOMASIN SNR

I know pet. Surely staying here a bit longer won't hurt.

WILLIAM JNR

The place is getting crowded as it is. We're struggling for space now.

THOMASIN SNR

But why love? I mean you've got a good career here. Your father needs you.

WILLIAM JNR

Dad's doing fine. Look mum we've been through this and I'm not staying. I can't.

THOMASIN SNR

I know love. It's just that...you know you'll all be gone, and it'll just be me and your old man.

William Jnr gives her a hug.

WILLIAM JNR

I know. I promise I'll visit when I can.

Beat.

WILLIAM JNR (CONT'D)

Better go. Can't keep dad waiting.

WILLIAM JNR (CONT'D)

(to Job)

It's your responsibility now to help our old man.

JOB

I know, Laddie.

WILLIAM JNR

Just remember everything you've been taught and listen.

JOB

I know.

William Jnr embraces Thomasin Jnr and Mary-Ann.

WILLIAM JNR

Look after mam and the young 'uns.

MARY-ANN

Stop fretting. They'll be fine.

THOMASIN JNR

Be more concerned about you. Go on father's getting restless.

William Jnr gives his family one final group hug before embarking on the boat.

WILLIAM SNR

Thought you weren't coming.

WILLIAM JNR

Had to say goodbye, didn't I?

William Snr begins to row. William Jnr moves to sit next to his father. The two begin rowing together.

EXT. LIGHTHOUSE - CONTINUOUS

The Darling family wave as the coble boat heads westwards towards the mainland. Thomasin Snr wipes away a tear.

THOMASIN SNR

Which one of you will be next?

INT. ROOM - DAY

The Darlings with the exception of Job sit around the kitchen table.

WILLIAM SNR

Job seems to be a long time.

MARY-ANN

Said he was going to explore.

WILLIAM SNR

As long as he's back before its dark.

MARY-ANN

You know he'll be.

A puffin wanders aimlessly in through the open door. Grace points to it.

GRACE

Look!

THOMASIN SNR

Wish you lot would keep that door shut.

William Snr throws some scraps of food towards the puffin which gobbles them down.

THOMASIN SNR (CONT'D)

You shouldn't be encouraging them. You know what they're like.

The puffin looks for anymore food. Grace holds out a piece of bread in her hand which the puffin quickly takes before leaving.

THOMASIN SNR (CONT'D)

Keep feeding them bread, they'll won't ever eat fish.

EXT ROCK - DAY.

Grace and Will Snr are stood looking out towards the sea. Overhead gulls and terns fly.

WILLIAM SNR

Use your eyes Grace. Look at the waves and the sky.

GRACE

Yes father.

WILLIAM SNR

One day you'll have to know all this. Lives will depend on you. Make a mistake and you'll never forgive yourself.

GRACE

Have you, father? Made a mistake?

Beat.

WILLIAM SNR

Aye, pet. I have.

GRACE

What happened?

WILLIAM SNR

People drowned Grace, people drowned.

Beat.

WILLIAM SNR (CONT'D)

Anyway, I learnt from it and quick mind.

He stares out to sea, deep in thought.

GRACE

Father?

WILLIAM SNR

Sorry. Can't dwell on it. So what's it going to do?

Grace stares at the sea and sky, looking for any clues.

GRACE

I don't know.

WILLIAM SNR

Go on have a guess. Won't be upset if you're wrong.

Grace keeps looking at the sea and sky.

GRACE

Is there a storm coming?

WILLIAM SNR

And why do you say that?

Grace points to the horizon.

GRACE

Those clouds. They're darker.

WILLIAM SNR

Good. What else?

GRACE

The waves are getting bigger.

WILLIAM SNR

Well done lass. Look at the birds Grace. They know. God's given us the signs. All we have to do is know how to read them.

GRACE

Will it come this way?

WILLIAM SNR

Unless the wind changes, it will.

EXT. COAST - DAY

Grace is collecting eggs from the eider ducks nests. A female duck sits on her nest as Grace strokes it. A boat passes close by. Grace waves to it. Job walks up to her.

JOB

A fine collection you got, sis.

Grace continues to collect eggs.

JOB (CONT'D)

Remember to leave some.

GRACE

I know.

Job kneels down next to Grace.

JOB

Want to go out on the boat?

GRACE

But father said I was to wait.

JOB

Wait for what?

GRACE

Till I turned eight.

JOB

Why? He had me on the water when I was your age.

He stands up.

JOB (CONT'D)

Come on, I'll teach you.

Grace remains kneeling. Job beckons her to come with him.

JOB (CONT'D)

Well, are you coming or not?

GRACE

But...

JOB

No buts.

Grace stands up and is about to pick up the basket of eggs.

JOB (CONT'D)

Leave it.

He begins to walk away from her. Grace hesitates then leaves the basket. She walks after him.

INT./EXT. BOAT - LATER

Grace and Job are in a Coble boat close to the Farne Islands. Job rows. Grace sits in front facing him. Seals watch them from the rocks.

JOB

Want a go?

Grace moves and sits next to him. She grabs an oar.

JOB (CONT'D)

Hold firm. Just do what I do.

Grace begins to row following her brother's lead.

JOB (CONT'D)

Well done! Now lift up your oar. I'll turn us round.

Grace lifts up her oar as Job changes direction.

JOB (CONT'D)

Lower your oar.

Graces obliges and begins to row, keeping in rhythm with her brother.

EXT. BOAT - LATER

Grace is getting the hang of rowing. She is improving much to Job's delight.

JOB

Well done! We'll make an oarswoman out of you yet!

A grey seal pops it head up next to the boat. Grace takes care not to hit it with her oar.

INT. LIGHTHOUSE - AFTERNOON

William Snr is teaching Grace at the table. Laid out are various books on a variety of subjects. Grace is struggling to concentrate on her studies. Thomasin Snr is at her spinning wheel.

GRACE

Please can I take a break, father?

WILLIAM SNR

Not yet. When you've solved it, then you can.

THOMASIN JNR sits next to Grace.

THOMASIN JNR

Let me help.

WILLIAM SNR

I'd sooner let her do it herself.

Elizabeth takes the paper from Grace.

THOMASIN JNR

A little bit of help won't hurt. I won't tell her the answers.



WILLIAM SNR  
I don't want you to.

THOMASIN JNR  
Why? Laddie helped us didn't he?

WILLIAM SNR  
But that was different.

THOMASIN JNR  
Why, and don't say cos he's a man.

WILLIAM SNR  
I wasn't. What I was going to say was only  
the three of you then.

THOMASIN JNR  
Yes, but if I help Grace, you can  
concentrate on the lighthouse.

GRACE  
And you can look after the garden.

THOMASIN JNR  
See, Grace has a point.

Beat.

WILLIAM SNR  
Very well, don't tell her the answers. I'll  
test you later Grace.

GRACE  
Yes father.

William Snr leaves as Thomasin Jnr continues to help Grace.

EXT ROCK - DAY.

William Snr and Job repairing a wooden lattice pyramid structure.  
William Snr hammers a nail into a crossbeam. All around are pieces of  
debris from the previous night's storm.

JOB  
There. Should stay up.

WILLIAM SNR  
Aye. Till the next time.

Job picks up a small plank of wood.

JOB  
Whenever that will be.

A freak wave crashes over the rock, soaking them.

JOB (CONT'D)

One day someone will invent something so we don't have to keep doing this.

WILLIAM SNR

Another lighthouse will do. Best we get going. Don't want to get stranded.

JOB

That'll be embarrassing.

He throws away the piece of wood.

INT. LIGHTHOUSE - EVENING

Grace, Thomasin Jnr and Mary-Ann stand by the lighthouse lantern.

THOMASIN JNR

Oh come on! Who? Tell me.

MARY-ANN

Someone will. Have some faith, sis.

THOMASIN JNR

Yes a blind man!

MARY-ANN

Don't be silly.

THOMASIN JNR

I'm not. Come on, you know what men are like. They'll take one look at me and run!

MARY-ANN

You're being too harsh on yourself.

THOMASIN JNR

No I'm not.

MARY-ANN

You are. Tell her, Grace.

THOMASIN JNR

(tuts)

What's the point of asking her! What does she know.

Grace folds her arms defiantly.

GRACE

I know some things.

THOMASIN JNR

Hah, yes, life here. But of the heart and the ways of men. No, you know nothing.

GRACE

Neither do you.

THOMASIN JNR

I know more than you.

GRACE

No you don't! Prove it.

Thomasin stands on a wooden box.

THOMASIN JNR

I, Thomasin Darling Junior hereby do declare that I shall never marry!

MARY-ANN

Really sis! You're such an ass!

Thomasin jumps off the box.

THOMASIN JNR

No I'm not. I've made my decision and intend to keep it.

GRACE

Its not a proper promise. You need to swear on the bible. Father says so.

THOMASIN JNR

Well, its only temporary, until I go downstairs and make it permanent.

MARY-ANN

But you may find someone. Then what? Break a vow to God?

GRACE

You'll go to hell if you do.

THOMASIN JNR

It won't come to that.

MARY-ANN

It may. You never know.

GRACE

You could. Once they get to know you. Then you'll have to break your vow.

Thomasin Jnr leans against the window.

THOMASIN JNR

Well if I do I'll, I'll..

MARY-ANN

Do what?

Thomasin Jnr looks down from the window.

THOMASIN JNR

I'll jump out of this window!

GRACE

Don't be silly sister.

MARY-ANN

Gracie's right. You'll make a horrible mess. Imagine how mother and father would feel.

GRACE

And us.

MARY-ANN

And I don't fancy scraping you up.

GRACE

Urgh! There'll be blood and guts everywhere!

THOMASIN JNR

Fine. I'll jump of the castle! Then you won't have to see my guts gets splattered.

MARY-ANN

Stop it sister. All you have to do is give someone a chance.

THOMASIN JNR

But will they give me a chance?

MARY-ANN

Yes, if you let them.

THOMASIN JNR

And then what? We get married and have children? What happens if I pass this on to them?

She touches her cleft lip.

MARY-ANN

You may not. None of us have it.

THOMASIN JNR

How lucky you are.

GRACE

If you don't want to get married, why not become a nun?

THOMASIN JNR

No thank you. I would look even more hideous in a habit!

GRACE

I agree.

THOMASIN JNR  
Shut up, or I'll send you to the nunnery.

MARY-ANN  
So what will you do, sis?

THOMASIN JNR  
I don't know.

Grace looks out the window next to Thomasin Jnr and points in a direction of a small burning light.

GRACE  
Look! Over there!

Her two sisters look in the same direction. They see a flame on the horizon.

THOMASIN JNR  
I see it!

GRACE  
What is it?

THOMASIN JNR  
Not sure. It's not a beacon that I'm certain.

MARY-ANN  
Could it be though?

THOMASIN JNR  
No, father would have told us. And I'm sure there's not one there.

GRACE  
I don't think it was there last night.

MARY-ANN  
It's too bright for starters.

GRACE  
Could it be a shipwreck?

MARY-ANN  
Has to be. Can't be nowt else.

THOMASIN JNR  
Where's the telescope?

Mary-Ann passes a telescope to Thomasin Jnr. Thomasin peers through the telescope.

GRACE  
What can you see?

THOMASIN JNR

I can make out a mast or something, can't tell. Fog ain't helping.

She puts the telescope down on the ledge.

MARY-ANN

We better tell father. Gracie, stay here.

She quickly gets up and rushes out followed by Thomasin. Grace picks up a telescope and looks through it towards the beacon.

INT. /EXT BOAT - LATER

Job and William Snr are rowing headwind in a gale towards some rocks.

WILLIAM SNR

(loudly)

Can you see them?!

Job looks behind him. The rain and waves make it hard for him to see.

JOB

(loudly)

Just! Best we go south!

The two men continue to row.

EXT ROCK - CONTINUOUS

A MALE shipwreck survivor waves a flaming torch in the direction of a small rowing boat approaching. He is surrounded by wreckage of a boat and two dead bodies. Waves wash over him causing him to nearly slip.

INT./EXT. BOAT - CONTINUOUS

A large wave crashes over the boat swamping Job and William Jnr. Job continues to row as William grabs a bucket and begins to bail some of the water out.

JOB

(shouts)

I see them! Looks like there's three of 'em.

WILLIAM SNR

Right, I'll try and get closer.

Job stands precariously causing the boat to rock violently. He quickly sits back down. He picks up a rope.

EXT ROCK - CONTINUOUS

The survivor puts down his torch once the boat is close to the rocks. Job carefully stands up, whilst holding onto one end of the boat, as William Snr tries to keep the boat stationary. Job tosses the other end towards the survivor who grabs the end. He ties the rope around his waist and jumps off the rock. As he swims towards the boat Job begins to reel the rope in.

INT./EXT. BOAT - MOMENTS LATER

As soon as the survivor is next to the boat, Job reaches down to grab him.

JOB  
Give me your hand.

Job and William Snr help the survivor to get onboard. The survivor coughs and splutters.

JOB (CONT'D)  
There, you're safe. We'll get your mates.

The survivor coughs.

SURVIVOR  
I wouldn't worry about them.

William Snr begins to row back towards the lighthouse.

INT. LIGHTHOUSE - LATER

Job and William Snr enter helping the shipwrecked survivor. The survivor sits shivering on a wooden chair. Thomasin Snr wraps him in warm blankets and offers him a bowl of soup.

THOMASIN SNR  
Anymore?

William Snr shakes his head.

WILLIAM SNR  
We'll try and pick up the bodies in the morning.

William Snr and Job dry themselves and sit by the fire. Thomasin Snr pours out three bowls of soup. She offers them to the three men.

THOMASIN SNR  
Here get this down.

The sailor eats his soup with trembling hands.

SURVIVOR  
Thank you.

THOMASIN SNR

Don't mention it. Just doing our job.

She passes two bowls of soup to Job and William Snr who began eating.

WILLIAM SNR

What happened?

SAILOR

Not sure, we were blown off course. Next thing I know we're on the rocks. Bob slipped and...

THOMASIN SNR

Its okay. Don't dwell on it. Come on, eat up.

SURVIVOR

We didn't know where we where. We didn't know about the rocks until we hit them.

THOMASIN SNR

The beacons?

SURVIVOR

Sorry, there wasn't any. Look Mr Darling. The beacons are fine, but they ain't the answer.

WILLIAM SNR

I know.

SURVIVOR

There needs to be a lighthouse out there.

THOMASIN SNR

You're not the first and nor will you be last to say that.

The sailor continues to eat as Grace and Mary-Ann enter. The sailor barely acknowledges them.

WILLIAM SNR

Mary, could you fetch some blankets, looks like we'll have a visitor.

THOMASIN SNR

See if there's any of Laddie's old clothes. He looks about his size.

Mary exits.

INT./EXT. BOAT - DAY

Grace, Mary-Ann, and Job are in a boat passing close by the various rocks and islets of the Farnes. Job is rowing.



MARY-ANN

I say we stop at the next cove.

JOB

Good, need a rest.

He rows to a nearby cove. The children jump out pulling the boat onto the rocks before they go exploring.

MARY-ANN

Look at all this stuff.

Around her are wooden fragments of what was once a boat, along with bits of debris. She kneels and picks up a leather purse. She opens it and finds a couple of coins.

JOB

Must be from that shipwreck the other night.

GRACE

Didn't father say he salvaged what they could.

MARY-ANN

Perhaps somehow all this managed to end up over here.

She stands up. They scour through the debris trying to see if anything can be salvaged. Grace gasps and points to the water.

GRACE

Look over there.

Mary-Ann and Job look and see a body floating face down in the water.

GRACE (CONT'D)

Is he dead?

JOB

Course he is. Stay here.

EXT ROCK - MOMENTS LATER

Job and Mary-Ann look down at the body bobbing up and down on the sea.

JOB

I'll say he's from that shipwreck. Poor sod.

MARY-ANN

We can't leave him here.

JOB

So, how do you propose we get him out?

Beat.

MARY-ANN  
Got an idea. Come on.

INT./EXT. BOAT - MOMENTS LATER

Job, and Mary-Ann are trying to haul the body into the boat. Grace is trying her best to keep the boat stationary.

JOB  
Keep her steady!

GRACE  
I'm trying!

JOB  
Pity Laddie's left.

MARY-ANN  
She's doing her best.

With much effort Job and Mary-Ann manage to haul the body onto the boat.

JOB  
(panting)  
He was heavy.

He takes over from Grace and begins to row away from the island.

EXT. LIGHTHOUSE - LATER

William Snr helps Job to carry the body onto the rock in front of the lighthouse. The place the body down. Job rummages through the corpse's belonging's. Elizabeth approaches along with George and William Brooks (now both 5). Elizabeth holds their hands.

ELIZABETH  
Whose he?

Job continues to search through the corpse's belongings.

JOB  
No idea. Can't find anything on him.

WILLIAM SNR  
Pity our guest has left.

JOB  
Did he say anything?

WILLIAM SNR  
No, nothing.

MARY-ANN

I think he did mention a name, but I can't remember.

ELIZABETH

So we take him back to the mainland?

WILLIAM SNR

We'll have to. Someone must know who he is. Betsy can you fetch a blanket?

Elizabeth heads back inside along with the two boys. Job stands up.

WILLIAM SNR (CONT'D)

No sign of anyone else.

JOB

Nothing. Searched the rocks. Couldn't see anyone dead or alive.

WILLIAM SNR

The sea must have claimed them.

Elizabeth returns carrying a blanket. She passes the blanket to her father, who along with Job's help wrap the body in the blanket.

INT. LIGHTHOUSE - EVENING

William Snr is playing a fiddle. Job plays a smallpipe. The children dance to the sound of a lively jig. When William Snr stops playing the children rest.

THOMASIN JNR

You dance very well Betsy.

ELIZABETH

Thank you. So do you.

THOMASIN JNR

Ready to go again?

ELIZABETH

Let Mary.

MARY-ANN

Not yet. Only just sat myself down.

Elizabeth drinks from a tankard.

ELIZABETH

Why not?

MARY-ANN

Let father rest first. I vote we hear Gracie sing.

GEORGE

Yes! Please sing Grace.

THOMASIN JNR

Yes Grace please do. Who knows when I'll  
hear your voice again.

Grace reluctantly stands up and steps on the kitchen table. William  
Snr and Job pick up their instruments and begin to play.

GRACE

COME HERE ME LITTLE JACKIE  
NOW AV SMOKED ME BACCY  
LET WER HAV A CRACKY  
TILL THE BOAT COMES IN  
DANCE TA YA DADDY MY BONNY LADDIE  
DANCE TA YA DADDY TI YA MAMMY SING  
THOU SHALT HAV A FISHY ON A LITTLE DISHY  
THOU SHALL HAV A KIPPER WHEN THE BOAT COMES  
IN  
HEAR YA MOTHER HUMMIN  
SHEZ A CANNY WOMAN  
YONDER GANS YA FATHER  
DRUNK HE CANNIT STAND  
DANCE TA YA DADDY MY BONNY LADDIE  
DANCE TA YA DADDY TI YA MAMMY SING  
THOU SHALT HAV A FISHY ON A LITTLE DISHY  
THOU SHALL HAV A BLOATER WHEN THE BOAT  
COMES IN  
OUR TOMMY'S ALWAZ FUDDLING  
HEZ SO FOND OF ALE  
BUT HEZ GOOD TA ME  
A 'HOPE HE WINNA FAIL  
DANCE TA YA DADDY MY BONNY LADDIE  
DANCE TA YA DADDY TA YA MAMMY SING  
THOU SHALT HAV A FISHY ON A LITTLE DISHY  
THOU SHALL HAV A HADDOCK WHEN THE BOAT  
COMES IN  
WELL I LIKE A DROP MESELL  
WHEN I CAN GET IT SLY  
AND THOU ME BOONY BAIRN  
WILL LIKE IT WELL AS I  
DANCE TA YA DADDY MY BONNY LADDIE  
DANCE TA YA DADDY TA YA MAMMY SING  
THOU SHALT HAV A FISHY ON A LITTLE DISHY  
THOU SHALL HAV A CODLING WHEN THE BOAT  
COMES IN  
MAY WE GET A DROP OFT  
AS WE STAND IN NEED  
WEEL MAK THE KEEL ROW  
THAT BRINGS THA BAIRNS THEIR BREED  
DANCE TA YA DADDY MY BONNY LADDIE  
DANCE TA YA DADDY TA YA MAMMY SING  
THOU SHALT HAV A FISHY ON A LITTLE DISHY  
THOU SHALL HAV A SALMON WHEN THE BOAT COMES  
IN.

Grace climbs down as the rest of the Darling family applaud. Grace sits down and drinks.

THOMASIN JNR  
That was lovely.

Grace just nods.

EXT. SHOP - DAY

Thomasin Jnr stands outside an empty shop looking in. Inside is a MAN. She wears a veil around her lower face.

Beat.

She enters the shop and can be seen talking to the man.

INT. LIGHTHOUSE - EVENING

Thomasin Snr and William Snr are alone. William Snr is sat at a desk writing whilst Thomasin knits.

THOMASIN SNR  
Better relieve 'em soon love.

WILLIAM SNR  
After I've wrote this.

THOMASIN SNR  
Think they'll listen?

WILLIAM SNR  
Oh, they'll listen alright. The question is though, will they actually do anything.

He continues to write.

INT./EXT. BOAT - AFTERNOON

Grace is by herself rowing the coble boat. She carefully steers around the rocks but maintaining a close distance. A few seals watch her. In the background we see a lighthouse being constructed. It is partially built with scaffolding erected all around.

EXT. LIGHTHOUSE - EVENING

The Darling family stand outside the new lighthouse on Longstone Island. The island is barren and desolate.

THOMASIN SNR  
Good thing they've let us keep Brownsmans.

WILLIAM SNR

Aye, would be buggered else. Nothing's going to grow here. Never has and never will.

He looks at the newly constructed lighthouse.

WILLIAM SNR (CONT'D)

Done a bloody gone job.

GEORGE

Can we go in? Please.

William Snr looks at the darkening clouds.

WILLIAM SNR

Might as well. Lantern's ain't going to light itself.

INT. LIGHTHOUSE - LATER

The family enter the lighthouse. Inside is some items of furniture including chairs and a table. George and William Brooks run up the spiral staircase.

WILLIAM SNR

Looks alright.

THOMASIN SNR

Suppose we'll get used to it.

WILLIAM SNR

Have to. Ain't got much choice.

ELIZABETH

Gonna miss the old place.

WILLIAM SNR

Don't worry pet. We'll have to nip over won't we? The animals can't feed themselves now can they?

EXT. LIGHTHOUSE - EVENING

The Darling family with the exception of William Snr and Grace are standing outside. Looking upwards they see William Snr and Grace peering over the railings at the very top of the lighthouse. Grace waves to her siblings.

GEORGE

(shouts upwards)

Jump! Go on!

Thomasin Snr clips him around the ear.

GEORGE (CONT'D)

Ow!

He rubs his ear.

THOMASIN SNR

Any more lip and you'll be spending the night up there.

WILLIAM BROOKS

Please mum. Keep him there. He'll have to catch birds and eat them raw!

George punches his brother who punches him back. The two brothers begin laying punches on each other.

THOMASIN SNR

(sternly)

Stop it, pair of yer. Else you're both sleeping out here!

The two brothers immediately stop.

EXT. LIGHTHOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Grace peers down from the lantern gallery. William Snr stands next to her.

GRACE

Sure that's Berwick over there.

She points northwards.

WILLIAM SNR

Could be. Come on let's get this thing lit up.

They enter the lantern.

EXT. LIGHTHOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Suddenly a bright light shines out from the top of the lighthouse. Everyone on the ground claps and cheers.

ELIZABETH

Now its Laddie's turn.

The family look towards the lighthouse back on Brownsman Island. The light still shining bright. Almost immediately the light on Brownsman fades until there is no light at all.

INT. BEDROOM - EVENING

Elizabeth and Grace are in their bedroom. At the foot of Elizabeth's bed are a couple of small travel chests. They sit on their own beds.

ELIZABETH

Look at this way, sis. You'll have the room to yourself.

GRACE

Aye, but it won't be the same will it?

ELIZABETH

One day you'll be leaving.

GRACE

I don't know.

ELIZABETH

What do you mean? Thought you wanted to get married.

GRACE

Aren't I supposed to look after mam and dad? You lot are all leaving. Mum's getting on, isn't she?

ELIZABETH

Thought dad would want Brooksy or George to take over.

GRACE

Not sure if they want to. Brooksy especially. Keeps saying he going to join the lifeboat crew.

ELIZABETH

I suppose there always Robert. He'll be finishing school soon.

GRACE

Aye. But he'll have to learn quick though. I mean we know more than he does. Besides did you read his last letter?

ELIZABETH

Aye I did.

Beat.

GRACE

You will visit, won't you?

Elizabeth climbs out of her bed and walks across to Grace's were she sits on the edge of the bed. She holds Grace's hand.



ELIZABETH

Promise, whenever I can. You won't get rid of me that easily!

INT. ROOM - DAY

Job coughs violently, almost bending over double as he works on a piece of wood. Some of the other MEN look at him before returning to their own work. One approaches Job.

JOINER

You alright, lad?

JOB

(spluttering)

Yeah, just got a nasty cough that's all.

JOINER

Well make sure you get rid off it.

Job nods before returning to his joinery.

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

Job is coughing and sweating profusely in bed. His breathing is heavy and laboured. As he coughs he brings up blood. Job reaches across and takes a drink from a tankard before trying to get some sleep, coughing violently as he does.

EXT. GARDEN - DAY

Grace and William Snr are picking vegetables from the Brownsman garden. They place the vegetables in the baskets. Once each basket is full William Snr carries them to the awaiting coble.

GRACE

Looks so lonely.

WILLIAM SNR

It may not be a lighthouse but its still a home.

Grace notices William Brooks and George rowing towards them.

GRACE

Any idea why the lads are coming?

William Snr looks towards the approaching boat.

WILLIAM SNR

Nope. Sure we'll find out.

George and William Brooks clamber onto Brownsman.

WILLIAM SNR (CONT'D)  
 What's up lads?

WILLIAM BROOKS  
 You better come home.

GRACE  
 Why?

WILLIAM BROOKS  
 It's Job.

EXT. CHURCH GRAVEYARD - DAY.

The Darling family are gathered around a freshly dug grave. Thomasin Snr is inconsolable as William Snr comforts her. The Darling children are also present with the exception of Job. Behind stand friends and family. REV JOHN ROBB is conducting the service.

REV ROBB  
 We commit the body of our brother Job  
 Daring back to the earth from which we  
 came. There to rest only to rise at the  
 end of time along with our lord and saviour  
 Jesus Christ. Dust to dust, ashes to ashes.

He makes the sign of the cross before sprinkling soil over the coffin. The mourners do the same.

INT./EXT. BOAT - DAY.

George, William Brooks are in the coble boat along with their father. The two brothers are rowing. They stay close to the coast.

GEORGE  
 Reckon we can reach Newcastle?

WILLIAM BROOKS  
 Should be able to. The sea's calm. We're  
 flowing with the tide. Yeah, let's do it.

WILLIAM SNR  
 You sure? It's a fair distance. You do know  
 its about fifty miles.

GEORGE  
 Aye I do. We can take it in turns. Keep up  
 a good pace. Six hours I'd say.

WILLIAM SNR  
 More like seven.

GEORGE  
 We can do it in six.

WILLIAM BROOKS

Well, if you're so sure. Want to bet?

GEORGE

Aye why not. A penny?

George and William Brooks shake hands.

WILLIAM BROOKS

You can send me an IOU.

WILLIAM SNR

Yes, but if the weather changes.

GEORGE

We'll turn around. So Brooksy you want to go first or second?

WILLIAM BROOKS

I'll go first. Thirty minutes each?

GEORGE

Seems fair.

WILLIAM SNR

Mind the bloody rocks. If you damage this boat, you're paying for any repairs the pair of you.

WILLIAM BROOKS

Yes father.

William Brooks begins to row as William Snr realises he has no choice in the matter.

GEORGE

Don't worry. Once I've done my apprenticeship I'll build you a better boat.

WILLIAM SNR

Nowt wrong with this one lad. Seen and survived many a storm and will do for a long time.

WILLIAM BROOKS

Dunno, since you ain't coming back you ought to row more.

INT. LIGHTHOUSE - EVENING.

Thomasin Snr is on the ground floor when William Snr and William Brooks enter. They sit down exhausted.

THOMASIN SNR

How was it?

WILLIAM BROOKS  
Bloody knackerin!

Thomasin Snr offers them each a drink which are gratefully accepted.

WILLIAM SNR  
Aye, way there wasn't too bad. It was coming back was the problem.

THOMASIN SNR  
Rough, was it?

WILLIAM SNR  
Aye. But George seems to have settled in okay.

THOMASIN SNR  
Hope he's made the right choice.

WILLIAM SNR  
Just wish he'd stay. Was hoping he'll take over running this place.

THOMASIN SNR  
Aye, you never know. One day he might. Anyway you're still lots of years left in you.

William Snr kisses his wife.

WILLIAM SNR  
Thanks pet. But got to think of the future haven't we.

INT. SHOP - DAY.

Mary-Ann is in her twin sister's shop.

THOMASIN JNR  
So come on, tell me his name.

MARY-ANN  
He's called George and lives near the castle.

THOMASIN JNR  
What's his surname?

MARY-ANN  
Dixon-Carr.

Beat.

THOMASIN JNR  
I know him. Decent fella. Thought he had his eye on whatshername.

MARY-ANN

No. He's asked me for my hand.

Thomasin Jnr gasps and hugs her sister.

THOMASIN JNR

Oh, Mary I'm so pleased! Congratulations!  
Have you told mother and father?

MARY-ANN

Not yet, only you. Want to tell them in person.

THOMASIN JNR

So have they met him yet?

MARY-ANN

Not yet. Hopefully soon. Anyway, sis. I have something to ask you.

THOMASIN JNR

What's that?

MARY-ANN

Will you do the honour of being my maid of honour?

THOMASIN JNR

I would be delighted! But what about Betsy and Grace?

MARY-ANN

They can be my bridesmaids.

THOMASIN JNR

Whose doing your dress.

Beat.

MARY-ANN

That's why I'm here. Would you do me the honour and make one for me?

They embrace.

THOMASIN JNR

I would be delighted. But I've never made a wedding dress before.

MARY-ANN

Don't worry I've got faith in you, sis.

EXT. CHURCH - DAY.

Mary-Ann and George Dixon Carr have just married. The two families line up on either side as Mary-Ann and George emerge from the church. They begin clapping and throwing birdseed and grain over Mary-Ann and George as the newlyweds walk down the church path to the awaiting carriage pulled by four white horses. Mary-Ann and George look straight ahead not acknowledging their guests. The church bells peals.

INT. LIGHTHOUSE - EVENING

The Darlings are sat around on chairs on the ground floor. Each are occupied with their own things. Enter William Snr.

THOMASIN SNR  
Whats up, pet?

WILLIAM SNR  
A vessel's just hit Knavestone rock.

William Jnr gets up.

WILLIAM JNR  
When?

WILLIAM SNR  
Just now. Saw it with my own eyes. Going to see if there's any survivors.

William Snr heads towards the door. Both Robert and William Jnr stand up.

WILLIAM JNR  
Wait. We're coming.

WILLIAM SNR  
Ta.

The three exit.

INT./EXT. BOAT - MOMENTS LATER

The coble is battered by the strong waves as the Williams struggle rowing against the strong current. Robert sits on the bow keeping watch. He is soaked by the spray from the sea.

WILLIAM JNR  
(loudly)  
See anything Rob!?

ROBERT  
I can see the wreck. Can't see no one!

Robert strains to see through the worsening conditions.

ROBERT (CONT'D)

Wait! I think I see see someone!

WILLIAM JNR

(loudly)

You sure?

ROBERT

Certain! I've seen movement.

They draw nearer to the wreckage and see a sole surviving SAILOR sitting on the rock. He waves frantically at the coble as it draws nearer.

INT. LIGHTHOUSE - LATER

The Darling men enter the lighthouse along with the survivor. All four are soaking wet and cold. Thomasin Snr immediately offers them blankets and soup which are gratefully received. The survivor sits by the fire.

WILLIAM SNR

Grace still upstairs?

THOMASIN SNR

Aye. She went as soon as you left. There's some fresh clothes upstairs.

WILLIAM SNR

Thanks pet. You two go up and fetch something down for our guest.

Robert and Will Brooks climb upstairs.

SAILOR

Thank you, but there's really no need. Saving my life was more than I could have asked for.

THOMASIN SNR

Don't talk nonsense. Wouldn't want you dying of cold after my lads have just saved you.

The sailor continues to stare at the fire, holding his soup-bowl, reflecting on his lost shipmates.

INT. LIGHTHOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

Grace is on the third floor staring out of the window through her telescope. Enter William Snr. He is now dressed in fresh clothing and carrying some fresh clothing.

WILLIAM SNR

Go and see our guest, will you love? I found some of Job's old clothes.

Grace passes him the telescope before taking the clothes of him.

GRACE

I'm sure Job wouldn't mind. Be glad to see them being used.

WILLIAM SNR

Anything to report?

GRACE

Nothing. Been quiet. They're all avoiding the rocks.

WILLIAM SNR

Good, don't fancy going out in that again.

INT. LIGHTHOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

Everyone is on the ground floor. The two brothers have changed into fresh clothing as has the sailor. In order to liven everyone spirits William Snr plays on his fiddle. The Darling children dance around. The sailor although not in the mood for such jollity is grateful for the lively atmosphere.

SAILOR

A fine voice, your daughter has, madam.

THOMASIN SNR

Yes, its one of her many talents.

SAILOR

I apologise for ruining your Christmas.

THOMASIN SNR

Don't be stupid. Saving lives is the greatest gift of all.

SAILOR

Aye, suppose it is. Err may I be so bold in asking, is her daughter?

THOMASIN SNR

In a relationship?

SAILOR

Err, yes. How did you know?

THOMASIN SNR

You forget laddie. I'm her mother and a woman. And if you wish to know the answer to your question is no. Grace is quite content here. No, love, our Grace has only one love in her life and that is one lass you have no chance against.



EXT ROCK - DAY.

Grace is on Brownsman tending to the vegetables. As she does a couple of chickens wander up to her. Grace delves into her pocket and scatters some seed on the ground. Within a minute she is surrounded by various types of birds.

GRACE

I know. I miss you all too.

She picks up two baskets of vegetables and makes her way back to the boat. She places the baskets in the bow where there already several other baskets. She then climbs in and begins to row back to Longstone.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

INT/EXT. SHIP - NIGHT

Caption: SS Forfarshire - location: off Flamborough Head. 6th September 1838.

The steamer is constantly being rocked by the heavy sea. Waves crash over the bow, soaking the deck passengers who try to protect themselves as best they can. CAPTAIN HUMBLE is at the ship's wheel battling against the storm. JAMES DUNCAN approaches.

JAMES.

(Shouts)

Some of the passengers are complaining about the noise!

CAPTAIN HUMBLE

(Shouts)

They'll have to put it with it! How's it going?

JAMES.

Not good! Mr Stewart says there are too many leaks!

MRS HUMBLE approaches.

CAPTAIN HUMBLE

Dearest, I've told you. Please stay below. You'll be safer there.

MRS HUMBLE

I want to know what's happening?

JAMES.

Problem with the engines, Mrs Humble.

MRS HUMBLE

Well, can it be fixed?

JAMES.

If we can stop the leaks then maybe.

MRS HUMBLE

And if not?

CAPTAIN HUMBLE

We'll take shelter till this storm passes.

INT. LIGHTHOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Gales and rain batter Longstone lighthouse. Thomasin Snr and William Snr are sat on the ground floor.

THOMASIN SNR

I pity anyone out in this.

WILLIAM SNR

Aye our young William gonna struggle if he's needed.

THOMASIN SNR

Grace'll need to extra vigilant tonight.

WILLIAM SNR

She will.

THOMASIN SNR

You better get some shut-eye love.

WILLIAM SNR

Aye, I will.

He climbs the stairs.

INT. SHIP'S PASSENGER CABIN - CONTINUOUS

The cabin passengers are trying to cope with the stormy conditions. They are crammed inside. Many grumble and complain. Children began to cry. Enter Captain Humble.

CAPTAIN HUMBLE

(shouts)

Ladies and Gentlemen!

The passengers either ignore or cannot hear him.

CAPTAIN HUMBLE (CONT'D)

(shouts louder)

Ladies and Gentlemen! Please!

Beat.

Captain Humble grabs a bell and rings it loudly. The passengers look at him.

Beat.

CAPTAIN HUMBLE (CONT'D)

(loudly)

I'm afraid we've had some problems with the boilers.

The passengers grumble loudly.

MALE PASSENGER

(shouts)

So what yer going to do about it!

CAPTAIN HUMBLE

(loudly)

I can assure you, sir. We are working on the problem.

MALE PASSENGER  
 (loudly)  
 Aye, but can you fix it?

Beat.

CAPTAIN HUMBLE  
 (loudly)  
 My men are fully committed to fixing the  
 boilers. We hope to back under full power  
 shortly.

A rumble of grumbling and disbelief runs through the passengers. Many do not believe Captain Humble.

SARAH DAWSON  
 (loud and angry)  
 Tell them to hurry up!

CAPTAIN HUMBLE  
 (loudly)  
 Madam, these types of repairs cannot be  
 rushed.

MALE PASSENGER  
 (loudly)  
 And if you can't fix it, then what?

CAPTAIN HUMBLE  
 (loudly)  
 Then, we will head for the nearest safest  
 place and take shelter. And come the  
 morning we will take stock of our  
 situation.

MALE PASSENGER  
 And if we can't reach harbour?

CAPTAIN HUMBLE  
 Sir, I assure you and your fellow  
 passengers that your safety and of this  
 vessel are of utmost importance. We will  
 endeavour to ensure that no matter what, my  
 crew and I will do all in our power to make  
 for shelter.

Captain Humble exits, leaving the passengers to moan amongst themselves.

INT. SHIP'S BOILER ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Captain Humble is with ALAN STEWART, chief engineer. They watch as crewmembers try in vain to pump water into the boiler, only to watch it leak out again.

ALAN

It's no good! It's like pumping water through a sieve!

CAPTAIN HUMBLE

About the others?

ALAN

They're holding for now. But I strongly suggest we head for the nearest harbour.

CAPTAIN HUMBLE

We still have power. We will push on.

ALAN

But Captain we are losing power. We just haven't enough manpower!

CAPTAIN HUMBLE

Then I will get you the manpower, Mr Stewart.

ALAN

Can't seeing it doing much good.

CAPTAIN HUMBLE

It'll have to be, Mr Stewart, it'll have to be.

INT/EXT. BOAT - LATER

The Forfarshire continues on its journey. The sails are being battered by the storm. A topsail comes loose and blows away. A mast snaps in half nearly hitting Captain Humble and the other crew members.

JAMES.

(shouts)

This is stupid!

The deck passenger who like the crew are exposed to the elements hanker down behind whatever protection they can find.

CAPTAIN HUMBLE

(shouts)

Quite right, Mr Duncan. Reverse course. We'll take shelter by the Farnes!

JAMES

What about them? Can't leave them out here.

CAPTAIN HUMBLE

They'll be safer up here. But if they want to go below then let them.

James nods and makes his way along the deck speaking to the passengers as he does.

INT. SHIP'S PASSENGER CABIN - MOMENTS LATER

The lights flicker as the Forfarshire rocks even more violently, causing some passengers to be seasick. Many are regretting making the journey.

MALE PASSENGER  
(loud and angry)  
They've no bloody idea!

Mrs Humble stands up.

MRS HUMBLE  
(angry)  
Sir, my husband knows fully well what he is doing.

MALE PASSENGER  
(loudly)  
It appears, madam, that your husband does not!

MRS HUMBLE  
Sir, I can assure you my husband is a most excellent captain!

MALE PASSENGER  
Madam, if your husband was such an excellent captain, we would not be in this predicament!

MRS HUMBLE  
Unfortunately sir, my husband has no control over the weather. Perhaps you like to speak directly to a higher authority who does?

A murmur of agreement, even some faint laughter can be heard from the other passengers.

MRS HUMBLE (CONT'D)  
Sir, if my captain was indeed incompetent as you imply, then why was he given command of this vessel?!

The ship lurches suddenly to the left causing various items crash onto the floor. Some passengers lose their footing and fall awkwardly. The scene is becoming one of chaos.

INT. SHIP'S BOILER ROOM - NIGHT

Captain Humble is back in the boiler room. He looks at the ship's crew who are now joined by passengers busily pumping away. They are all physically exhausted.

ALAN

It's hopeless, captain. We can't carry on like this. They've been at it for hours.

CAPTAIN HUMBLE

Are they working in shifts?

ALAN

Tried it. But it means we haven't enough men at any time to maintain pressure on the pumps. Either we get more people down here or you stop the engines.

One of the other boilers suddenly springs a leak. Water begins to leak out.

ALAN (CONT'D)

That's torn it. Ain't got enough pumps for that one.

CAPTAIN HUMBLE

Leave this one. Transfer all efforts to stopping that one from leaking.

ALAN

Won't do us any good. I won't be able to raise enough steam.

CAPTAIN HUMBLE

Do the best you can Mr Stewart. Get us to our destination and I'll make sure there's a reward in it for you.

He pats Alan on the shoulder before leaving. Alan encourages those pumping to carry on.

INT./EXT. BOAT - LATER

Some of the crew brave the elements and rig up a makeshift sail.

INT. SHIP'S PASSENGER CABIN - MOMENTS LATER

The deck passengers enter the cabin.

MALE PASSENGER

What are they doing in here!

MALE DECK PASSENGER

Captain Humble advised us to.

MALE PASSENGER

Hah, I wouldn't listen to him!

MALE DECK PASSENGER

He said we would be safer down here.

MALE PASSENGER

This is not for the likes of you!

MALE DECK PASSENGER

Then perhaps I suggest we swap spaces and you go up top.

The male passenger squares up to the male deck passenger, as if he is about to punch him.

MALE DECK PASSENGER (CONT'D)

Try it, and you'll be spending the rest of the voyage looking for your teeth.

The male passenger backs away.

EXT. BOAT - MOMENTS LATER

Now completely helpless in the face of the storm and high seas, the Forfarshire begins to drift southwards. The makeshift sail is beginning to come loose.

CAPTAIN HUMBLE

What's our current situation?

JAMES

Mr Stewart says its hopeless. Like flogging a dead horse he says.

Captain Humble looks at the thin wisp of steam coming out of the funnel.

CAPTAIN HUMBLE

Tell Mr Stewart to stop all engines. It's sail from now on.

JAMES

Aye Captain. Lets hope the sail holds.

CAPTAIN HUMBLE

Just pray it does.

Captain Humble sees a light in the distance. He alters course keeping the light on his left.

CAPTAIN HUMBLE (CONT'D)

That light. I'm sure that's Inner Farne. We can take shelter in the Fairway.

JAMES

Are you sure captain?

CAPTAIN HUMBLE

Of course I am. I've sailed these waters enough times.



INT. SHIP'S BOILER ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

James is with Alan. Those pumping have stopped, relieved not be pumping anymore. Their arms ache. They sit on the floor groaning.

ALAN

So what's he going to do?

JAMES

Honestly I don't think he knows.

ALAN

At least he's seen some sense.

JAMES

Can they be repaired?

ALAN

Unless we're in harbour the answer's no.

JAMES

Better send the passengers back.

Alan hands over a bag of coins. James looks inside and sees a collection of shillings.

ALAN

Only way we could get them to help. A shilling each. Captain said so.

James begins to hand out the coins to each of the passengers.

INT/EXT. SHIP - CONTINUOUS

Captain Humble remains at the wheel as the sail flaps violently in the gale.

CAPTAIN HUMBLE

(shouts)

Mr Matson!

MR MATSON

(shouts)

Aye captain?!

CAPTAIN HUMBLE

Take down the sails!

Beat.

MR MATSON

Are you sure sir?!

CAPTAIN HUMBLE

(shouts)

Of course I am. Now do it, before the wind does your job for you!

Mr Matson signals to a couple of the crew to assist him in taking down the sail.

JAMES

I hope you know what you're doing.

CAPTAIN HUMBLE

As soon as we're in the Fairway prepare to drop anchor. We'll use the sea to our advantage for once.

EXT. SHIP - CONTINUOUS

Caption: 4:00am Friday 7th September.

With the light from a lighthouse on the port side, the Forfarshire drifts unseen towards a large rock.

INT. SHIP'S PASSENGER CABIN - CONTINUOUS

The passengers are thrown about as the Forfarshire hits the rock. Terror and panic begins to set in amongst the passengers as the sound of fracturing metal is heard.

INT/EXT. SHIP - MOMENTS LATER

The crew desperately struggle to lower a boat. As soon as the boat is on the water eight CREWMEN leap in. A MALE PASSENGER appears, carrying his trousers leaps into the boat. They then row away, but the tides take them further eastwards into the North Sea.

INT. SHIP'S CAPTAIN'S CABIN - MOMENTS LATER.

Mrs Humble is alone trying to grab some provisions. Enter Captain Humble. He's badly shook up.

MRS HUMBLE

What's happening?

CAPTAIN HUMBLE

We've hit a rock.

MRS HUMBLE

Is it serious?

CAPTAIN HUMBLE

As long as we remain steadfast we should be okay.

MRS HUMBLE

Are we stuck?

CAPTAIN HUMBLE

If the water gets high enough we may be able to re-float.

MRS HUMBLE

Will that be wise?

CAPTAIN HUMBLE

Providing we are not holed we should be able to make to port.

MRS HUMBLE

And if we are? We stay here?

The ship creaks as the hull fractures before breaking in half.

EXT. SHIP - CONTINUOUS

The rear half of the Forfarshire shears away before it disappears beneath the waves, taking those trapped inside their cabins to their watery graves.

A few passengers manage to escape the sinking broken ship by being swept overboard. The majority drown in the stormy sea. A couple manage to reach Harcar rock.

INT. SHIP'S CAPTAIN'S CABIN - CONTINUOUS

Trapped in the cabin knowing they are about to meet their fate, Captain Humble and his wife hold each in a tight embrace as they sink below the waves.

INT. LIGHTHOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Grace is in her bedroom looking out to sea. She puts the telescope to her eye. The window is open. Rain lashes down. William Snr approaches.

WILLIAM SNR

Anything?

GRACE

Nothing, but its hard to tell.

WILLIAM SNR

Be light soon. Let's hope its stays a quiet night.

He leaves her to continue her watch.

EXT. SEA - CONTINUOUS

Passengers are desperately trying to swim to the rock or to grab hold of anything they can use as a life-belt. Their cries of help are drowned out by the sound of the sea and storm as they drown.

INT./EXT. BOAT - CONTINUOUS

The men in the quarter-boat began to try to row towards the wrecked ship. But despite their best efforts they are constantly swept back away from the Farnes.

INT/EXT. SHIP - CONTINUOUS

The few remaining survivors cling desperately onto the front half of the Forfarshire. Of the rear half there is no sign. The tide is receding, revealing more of the rock as the storm continues to rage.

JOHN TULLOCH.  
(loudly)  
I say we jump!

DANIEL DONOVAN  
(loudly)  
That's suicide!

JOHN TULLOCH.  
(loudly)  
It's suicide us staying here. We'll be safer on the rock!

The two men leap onto the rock. Daniel slips and nearly breaks his leg, but only twists his ankle. John Tulloch helps him to stand. They beckon the remaining survivors to jump.

DANIEL DONOVAN  
(loudly)  
Miss! Pass us your children!

Sarah Dawson is trying to hold onto her TWO CHILDREN whilst at the same time clinging onto the wreckage.

DANIEL DONOVAN (CONT'D)  
(loudly)  
Please Miss! You'll die on there!

The remains of the Forfarshire suddenly rock violently. Sarah nearly loses her grasp. She is finding it harder to maintain her grip.

DANIEL DONOVAN (CONT'D)  
(loudly)  
Miss! Please! For God's sake! Before its too late!

Clinging onto the wreckage Sarah gradually passes the children down towards John Tulloch and Daniel Donovan. The two men cover the children with their coats in attempt to keep them warm and to offer them some protection from the elements.

JOHN TULLOCH.  
Now Miss! Jump!

Sarah looks down at the rock, then jumps. She lands awkwardly, slipping on the surface.

DANIEL DONOVAN  
You alright Miss?

Sarah gets to her feet and heads to her children. The remaining survivors gather around them. The light from the Longstone lighthouse shining through the storm. Reverend Robb stands on the bow.

JOHN NICOLSON  
Jump Reverend!

Rev Robb clasps his hands in prayer before jumping. As he lands he slips and smashes his head amongst the rocks killing him instantly. The remaining gasp in shock as blood trickles out from Rev Robb's skull. The survivors look at his corpse in shock.

INT. BEDROOM - MORNING.

Grace is looking through her telescope towards the shipwreck. Quickly she puts down the telescope and runs out off her bedroom.

INT. ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Grace descend the stairs to the ground floor room. Her parents are already up.

THOMASIN SNR  
Grace! Whatever is the matter?

Beat.

GRACE  
A ship's hit Big Harcar!

WILLIAM SNR  
We'll have a look when its lighter.

GRACE  
But I've seen people, out there on the rock!

THOMASIN SNR  
Don't be silly. No one could have survived that storm.

GRACE  
I'm not! I'm telling you! I've seen people, alive! They're stranded!

Beat.

WILLIAM SNR  
How many?

GRACE

Not sure. Two, maybe three.

THOMASIN SNR

It's too risky. Best wait for the lifeboat.

William looks out of the window.

WILLIAM SNR

Not sure if the lifeboat can make it in this.

GRACE

Please father! We must do something!

THOMASIN SNR

Grace if you go out there, you'll drown.

GRACE

But they'll die out there! Please we have to save them!

THOMASIN SNR

Shouldn't we wait till it calms down?

GRACE

It'll be too late by then.

Beat.

WILLIAM SNR

Could be possible.

THOMASIN SNR

You'll never reach them.

WILLIAM SNR

Not if we head south. Use the rocks to shelter us.

Grace suddenly runs outside.

WILLIAM SNR (CONT'D)

(shouting)

Grace!

THOMASIN SNR

Quick! After her!

William runs after Grace leaving the door wide open. Thomasin stands up and looks out watching her husband and daughter.

EXT. COAST - MOMENTS LATER

Grace is struggling to untie the boat. The rope is wet and despite her best efforts the rope will not untie itself. William Snr appears next to her.

WILLIAM SNR

(shouts)

If the sea don't get us, then your mother will!

He gets out a knife and cuts through the rope. Grace climbs in as William Snr holds the boat steady. He then climbs in.

INT/EXT. BOAT - MOMENTS LATER

Grace and William Snr battle as they row against the waves. Seawater washes over them.

EXT. ROCK - CONTINUOUS

The nine survivors are clinging onto big Harcar rock. The waves crash over them causing the rock to become slippery. Sarah clings onto the corpses of her two dead young children.

JOHN NICOLSON

(shouts)

We can't stay here! I'm going to swim for it!

DANIEL DONOVAN

(shouts)

Don't be a fool, you'll drown for sure!

JOHN NICOLSON

(shouts)

We're dead if we stay! I say we swim for it!

DANIEL DONOVAN

(shouts)

No! We're best staying put.

JOHN NICOLSON

(shouts)

You can! I'm off!

He is about to jump into the swell when two MALE SURVIVORS grab hold and restrain him. He struggles to get free but one of the survivors punches him hard almost knocking him out.

INT./EXT. BOAT - LATER

Grace and William Snr continue to row towards the survivors. They are physically exhausted. The sea conditions worsen as they are tossed by the waves. Grace has to lift her oar as to avoid hitting a rock which they pass perilously close by.

EXT ROCK - LATER

The survivors huddle together in the middle of Harcar Rock. John Tulloch suddenly stands up and peers out. He stares intently before pointing.

JOHN TULLOCH.  
(Shouts)  
Look! A boat!

Some of the survivors stand and look in the same direction. Others remain seated. A few begin to wave and shout.

DANIEL DONOVAN  
Its not the quarter-boat surely.

JOHN TULLOCH.  
Can't tell. Could be the lifeboat from  
Seahouses.

DANIEL DONOVAN  
Whoever they are, they're coming this way.

INT./EXT. BOAT - MOMENTS LATER

Grace and William Snr approach Harcar. Grace looks over her shoulder.

GRACE  
(shouts)  
There must be ten at least!

They row as close they dare up to the rock's edge. William Snr looks at the bedraggled group of survivors.

WILLIAM SNR  
(shouts)  
Hold her steady!

He jumps off the boat onto the rock. Grace fights to keep the boat in a stationary location by rowing back and forth.

EXT ROCK - MOMENTS LATER

William Snr looks at the survivors.

WILLIAM SNR  
(shouts)  
Is anyone badly hurt?

Some survivors shake their heads, whilst others remain motionless. Sarah just stares at her dead children.

WILLIAM SNR (CONT'D)  
Okay. Look, I can't take you all in one go.

He walks up to to Sarah.



WILLIAM SNR (CONT'D)

Miss.

Beat.

WILLIAM SNR (CONT'D)

Miss.

Sarah looks at him. She is in shock.

WILLIAM SNR (CONT'D)

What's your name?

Beat.

WILLIAM SNR (CONT'D)

Miss?

Beat.

SARAH

Sarah. Sarah Dawson. These are my children.  
That's James and this is Matilda.

WILLIAM SNR

Sarah. I want you to come with me.

Beat.

SARAH

I can't leave my children!

WILLIAM SNR

Sarah! Listen to me! Your children are in  
the hands of the lord. I'm sorry, but  
there's nowt I can do for them.

SARAH

I don't want to leave them!

WILLIAM SNR

Sarah! Please we've got to go.

He points towards Grace who is clearly beginning to tire.

WILLIAM SNR (CONT'D)

Look. That's my daughter there!

Sarah looks in the direction of Grace.

WILLIAM SNR (CONT'D)

Look at her! She can't hold on for much  
longer. We've got to go!

Sarah gently kisses her two children before placing them gently on  
the rock.

SARAH

Mummy won't be long. Stay here.

William Snr looks at the others. He sees Daniel who seems to be in more pain than the others. William Snr walks up to him.

WILLIAM SNR

(shouts)

I can take you. You look like you need help.

Daniel grimaces and stands up. JOHN KIDD approaches.

JOHN KIDD

Hang on! Why should he go?! I ought to!

WILLIAM SNR

You will. But I can't take you all right now.

JOHN KIDD

I'm going! You can leave him here to die!

WILLIAM SNR

I'm not doing that. I promise you'll all get off.

JOHN KIDD

Bet you don't come back!

He begins to make his way towards the boat. William Snr places his hand on John Kidd's shoulder who swings round and punches William Snr, loses his balance and topples over.

John Tulloch then punches John Kidd who falls backwards. John Nicolson helps William to stand.

JOHN NICOLSON

You okay?

William rubs his cheek and nods. He looks at the man who punched him who is lying dazed.

JOHN NICOLSON (CONT'D)

Don't worry about him. Ask me you ought to leave him.

William stands up.

WILLIAM SNR

You ought to come first. Can you two row?

Both John Nicolson and Tulloch nod.

WILLIAM SNR (CONT'D)

Good, we're going to need you.

The four leap into the boat causing it to rock violently.

INT./EXT. BOAT - CONTINUOUS

Grace is using the last of her strength to keep the boat as stationary as possible. She is at the end of her physical endurance. Her arms hurt like hell.

William climbs in and helps Sarah to board. The injured man is next followed by the two Johns.

WILLIAM SNR

Grace. We'll take over. Let go off the oars.

Grace finds she can't let go. Her arms are so stiff she can barely move them. William gently prises Grace's fingers from the oars. He takes her place. The two Johns grab an oar whilst William Snr holds Grace's oar.

EXT ROCK - CONTINUOUS

John Kidd watches as the boat heads away from the rock.

JOHN KIDD

Bet they don't return.

DANIEL DONOVAN

If they don't, sure they'll send for help.

John Kidd looks at the body of Reverend Robb.

JOHN KIDD

So much praying did for you.

INT. SEAHOUSES LIFEBOAT HOUSE - MORNING

William Brooks along with the other LIFEBOATMEN are sat in various chairs. A game of cards is in progress. Horses hooves can be heard outside. Enter ROBERT SMEDDLE.

WILLIAM BROOKS

Mr Meddle, sir. This is most unexpected.

ROBERT SMEDDLE

Quick! There's been a shipwreck!

WILLIAM BROOKS

Where!

ROBERT SMEDDLE

The Farnes! Look like its hit Big Harcar.

WILLIAM BROOKS

Any survivors?

ROBERT SMEDDLE

I cannot say.

The lifeboat men rush out of the door, grabbing provisions as they do.

INT. LIGHTHOUSE - MORNING.

Thomasin Snr is sat waiting. She hears a commotion outside. Enter William Senior follow by Grace. Grace is holding Sarah's hand. The two John's enter last. John Tulloch helps the injured man. Thomasin Snr helps Sarah to a chair.

THOMASIN SNR

Is this all?

WILLIAM SNR

No there's a few more. I'm going back out.

THOMASIN SNR

Can't they wait for out for our Wills with his lifeboat.

WILLIAM SNR

By the time he gets to them, they'll be dead. We're their only hope.

He turns to the two John's.

WILLIAM SNR (CONT'D)

Sirs, I know I shouldn't ask you, but will you please assist me in saving your fellow passengers.

JOHN NICOLSON

Sir. You have saved our lives. We are forever in your debt.

The three men exit. Thomasin tends to the injured man, whilst Grace comforts Sarah.

INT./EXT. BOAT - LATER

The crew of the Seahouses lifeboat battle against the raging storm as they head towards the wreck of the Forfarshire. As they approach they see only the three corpses.

WILLIAM BROOKS

There's no one here.

MICHAEL ROBSON

You don't think we're too late?

WILLIAM BROOKS

We'll check the other rocks.

They continue to row around the rocks, battling the storm as they do so.

INT. LIGHTHOUSE - LATER

Thomasin Snr and Grace tend to the survivors, whilst anxiously waiting for the return of the others. Sarah suddenly stands up and heads for the door.

THOMASIN SNR  
Sarah!

Beat.

THOMASIN SNR (CONT'D)  
Mrs Dawson! Stop!

Sarah stops just as she is about to exit.

THOMASIN SNR (CONT'D)  
Where are you going?

SARAH  
My children! I've left out there!

Thomasin Snr gently takes hold of Sarah's arm.

THOMASIN SNR  
Come and sit back down. My William will bring them back.

Beat.

SARAH  
How can you be sure he will?

THOMASIN SNR  
I can't but I know my William will try his hardest. That I can promise.

INT./EXT. BOAT - LATER

The lifeboat crew continue their search around the rocks. The sea conditions worsen.

MICHAEL ROBSON  
(shouts)  
This is stupid. No one could have survived this!

WILLIAM BROOKS  
True! Lets get out of here!

MICHAEL ROBSON  
Best we head to the lighthouse.

WILLIAM BROOKS  
Good idea.

INT./EXT. BOAT - LATER

The lifeboat crew reach the Longstone lighthouse. Tired and exhausted they manage to haul the boat out of the water.

INT. LIGHTHOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

The lifeboat crew enter the lighthouse kitchen. They stand speechless as they notice the nine survivors mingling around still wrapped in blankets. A few are sleeping on the floor.

WILLIAM BROOKS  
Who are these people?

WILLIAM SNR  
These are the people we picked up from the wreck out there?

Beat.

WILLIAM BROOKS  
We?

WILLIAM SNR  
Your sister and I.

WILLIAM BROOKS  
How?

GRACE  
In our boat, how else?

WILLIAM SNR  
Took us two trips.

Beat.

WILLIAM BROOKS  
Well, sis you're either very brave or utterly stupid. Either way.

He gives Grace a hug.

GRACE  
If we hadn't then...

WILLIAM BROOKS  
I know. If you ever want to join the lifeboat crew.

GRACE  
I've more than enough to do here, but thanks.

WILLIAM BROOKS  
Even so, good going.

WILLIAM SNR

Brooksy, you and your lads ought to stay here too.

William Brooks steps over a couple of survivors who are sleeping on the floor.

MICHAEL ROBSON

Your father's right, Will. You've seen it outside. We'll never make it.

THOMASIN SNR

I'll see if there's any extra blankets.

She gets up from her stool and heads upstairs.

WILLIAM SNR

Some of you will have to sleep outside. The women can share Grace's room.

MICHAEL ROBSON

We'll go outside. They need the beds more than us. Take it you'll be wanting to sleep in your old bed, Brooks?

WILLIAM BROOKS

Too small. Grown up a bit since.

The lifeboatmen exit.

INT. BUILDING - MOMENTS LATER

As the storm continues to rage, the lifeboatmen to try make themselves as comfy as they can. The floor is flooded meaning they are sitting in the water. Cold and wet, none of them can sleep despite being utterly exhausted.

INT. LIGHTHOUSE - AFTERNOON

William Snr is in the storeroom. Outside the storm has been raging continuously for two days. The already limited provisions are getting dangerously low.

INT. LIGHTHOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

William Snr is back on the ground floor with everyone else.

WILLIAM SNR

So that's the situation. Either this storm passes quick or we begin to tighten rations.

MICHAEL ROBSON

Could be there something on Brownsman?

WILLIAM BROOKS

Anything on there would be lost or waterlogged.

DANIEL DONOVAN

So what do we do?

WILLIAM SNR

We can wait for the storm to pass. How long that will be, who can say.

JOHN TULLOCH.

What about taking the boat to the mainland?

WILLIAM BROOKS

Wouldn't risk it in this.

MICHAEL ROBSON

I dunno about everyone else, but won't our folks be getting worried about us?

THOMASIN SNR

Aye, they'll be worried sick.

WILLIAM BROOKS

I say we'll give it till the morning and then see.

EXT. LIGHTHOUSE - MORNING

The Forfarshire survivors stand outside the lighthouse along with the lifeboat crew. The storm is still raging, but has now diminished in its intensity. Robert Smeddle is also present, as are two other boats. MEN are unloading supplies of the boats.

WILLIAM SNR

Good thing you came when you did, Mr Smeddle.

ROBERT SMEDDLE

We would have come sooner if it weren't for that storm.

THOMASIN SNR

Well, you're here now and that's the main thing.

Each of the survivors pulls out a strand of hair which they give to Sarah who places them in a locket who then fastens the locket around Grace's neck.

SARAH

Please accept this gift. It's a small token I know. But there's nothing else we can offer.



GRACE

Thank you. I shall treasure it always. I'm sorry we couldn't have saved your children and the others.

SARAH

You're not to blame. You did your best.

DANIEL DONOVAN

True, without you, none of us would be here now.

WILLIAM SNR

You going to make for Seahouses?

WILLIAM BROOKS

Not sure. May be safer to head down the coast.

WILLIAM SNR

Aye lad, would do the same if it were me. Ah well, have a safe journey.

William Brooks embraces his sister and mother before joining the other lifeboatmen, before rowing away. John Kidd approaches William Snr.

JOHN KIDD

I just want to say thank you.

WILLIAM SNR

Only doing my job.

JOHN KIDD

Even so, just want to say thank you and I'm sorry for punching you.

He offers his hand which William Snr accepts.

WILLIAM SNR

Forget about it.

JOHN KIDD

The sea's a safer place knowing that there people like you and your daughter.

WILLIAM SNR

Thanks. You better get off. Don't want to be left behind.

John Kidd climbs onboard one of Smeddle's boats along with the rest of the survivors.

ROBERT SMEDDLE

There'll be a silk gown for you, for this Grace.

GRACE

Not sure if that would be practical for a lighthouse.

ROBERT SMEDDLE

Trust me, you'll be having plenty of offers to wear such a gown. Somehow, for you, Grace, I believe that your life is about to change in ways you cannot foresee.

WILLIAM SNR

I take it I'll be asked to be present at the inquest?

ROBERT SMEDDLE

Naturally. When you are needed to attend you'll be notified.

WILLIAM SNR

Will Grace be asked to attend also?

ROBERT SMEDDLE

Maybe. Depends.

He climbs into one of his boats. The Darlings watch as the boats are rowed away.

GRACE

Well that's that I suppose. Back to normality.

THOMASIN SNR

I'm not so sure it is.

GRACE

How do you mean?

THOMASIN SNR

Not sure but something tells me we ain't heard the last of this.

GRACE

Hope not, that's more than enough excitement for quite a while for me.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

EXT ROCK - DAY.

William Snr and Grace are on Brownsman surveying the storm damage. All around them are scattered crops. Intermingled amongst the ruined crop are several dead birds. William Snr picks up a carrot before throwing it away.

GRACE

Poor buggers, never stood a chance.

WILLIAM SNR

Aye. Looks like we're reliant on the castle again.

The pair get to work trying as best they can to repair the damage. Grace starts to pick up the dead birds.

INT. ROOM - AFTERNOON

A REPORTER sits at a desk. Opposite sits John Nicolson.

REPORTER

Okay, so you say this young girl rescued you.

JOHN NICOLSON

Aye that's right. Me and the others. Right bonny lass she were.

REPORTER

Just her?

JOHN NICOLSON

No her father too. He helped. Took us in they did. Looked after us all.

REPORTER

Sorry, what did you say her name was?

JOHN NICOLSON

Grace, I think. Forgive me I've forgotten. Her father's a lighthouse keeper.

REPORTER

You don't mean the Darlings? The one's on the Farnes?

JOHN NICOLSON

Yes that's them!

REPORTER

Known her since she were a wee lass. Knew she was handy on the water. Tell me more please.

He starts writing as John Nicolson recounts what happened.

EXT. LIGHTHOUSE - DAY

Grace is outside about to enter the coble boat out to sea, when she sees another boat approaching. She stops and looks in the direction of the boat shielding her eyes.

INT./EXT. BOAT - CONTINUOUS

That same boat is occupied by two MEN, one is rowing, whilst the other is clearly not enjoying the experience and holds something wrapped in brown paper.

EXT. LIGHTHOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

The boat comes to a halt by Longstone. One of the men gingerly gets off, being very unsteady on his feet, whilst trying not drop the bundle he is carrying. The rower remains on the boat keeping the boat stationary.

The passenger approaches Grace.

PASSENGER  
Miss Darling?

Beat.

GRACE  
Yes?

PASSENGER  
Miss Grace Horsley Darling?

GRACE  
Yes, I am she.

The man passes the bundle to Grace.

PASSENGER  
These are for you.

Grace takes the bundle.

GRACE  
Thank you. May I enquire as to what is contained within?

PASSENGER  
Newspapers.

GRACE  
Newspapers?

PASSENGER

Yes, Miss.

GRACE

Thank you. But why so many? We only get the local, and that's only on occasion.

PASSENGER

What can I say Miss Darling, save that I was told to deliver this to you in person.

GRACE

Yes, but pray tell. Why such a parcel?

PASSENGER

There must be at least a dozen in there.

GRACE

But, why?

PASSENGER

I presume it is because of what you did. Now I must bid you farewell. Sorry I'm not one for the sea.

He bows slightly, before heading back towards the boat. Grace watches as the boat heads back towards the mainland.

INT. LIGHTHOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

Grace steps back inside carrying the parcel, which she places on the table. She fetches a knife and cut away at the binding. Thomasin Snr is at her spinning wheel.

THOMASIN SNR

What have you there?

GRACE

A parcel a gentlemen gave me. Says they're newspapers.

THOMASIN SNR

From where?

Grace removes the paper revealing several newspapers. She picks the top one up and begins to read.

THOMASIN SNR (CONT'D)

What are you reading about?

Grace ignores her, instead continues to read.

THOMASIN SNR (CONT'D)

Grace!

GRACE

The Times mother, its about me and father.

Thomasin Snr stops spinning.

THOMASIN SNR

Why on earth would the Times be interested in you and your father?

GRACE

Its about the rescue we did.

She picks up another newspaper and looks at the front page. It is the Illustrated London News. She makes her way through the pile.

GRACE (CONT'D)

They're from all over the place. How do they know about me in London?

William Snr enters.

THOMASIN SNR

William, dear. It would appear that you and our daughter have made the Times.

WILLIAM SNR

The Times? Why would they be interested in us?

GRACE

I suppose its cos we rescued those people from the Forfarshire.

William sits down.

WILLIAM SNR

We've saved people before, and no one's ever made a fuss about it.

THOMASIN SNR

How did they find out?

WILLIAM SNR

Presumably someone told them. The question is who.

She passes the Times to William Snr, who begins to read the same article. Grace sits down and reads another paper.

THOMASIN SNR

Which one is that?

GRACE

The Kelso. It seems that some of the people we saved have spoken to journalists about us.

THOMASIN SNR

Wonder who. Can't see it being that lass.

WILLIAM SNR

This is utter tosh! No you didn't do that.  
Do they know anything about the sea! Who  
the hell did they talk to!?

He flings the paper and down picks up another.

THOMASIN SNR

You knows what the papers are like. Never  
trusted them and never will.

WILLIAM SNR

You would have thought this one would be  
more accurate. I mean they're only along  
the coast.

He gets up and storms outside. Grace is about to get up.

THOMASIN SNR

Leave him be. Let him calm down. Pass me  
one love.

Grace hands her a newspaper. Thomasin chuckles as she reads the  
article.

GRACE

Why didn't they just ask us?

THOMASIN SNR

Suppose its better from one of the  
survivors. First hand accounts and all  
that. More of an impact.

GRACE

Can't get more first hand than asking me.

THOMASIN SNR

True, but would you have spoken to them?

Grace remains silent.

EXT. CHURCH GRAVEYARD - DAY.

Sarah stands by a freshly dug grave. Weeping, she places a single  
rose on the grave.

INT. LIGHTHOUSE - DAY

Thomasin Snr opens an envelope. She passes it to William Snr who  
takes out a letter. He sits down and begins to read.

THOMASIN SNR

Well, what does it say?

William Snr continues to read, much to Thomasin Snr annoyance.

THOMASIN SNR (CONT'D)

William!

Beat.

WILLIAM SNR

It would appear that the Master of Trinity House have deemed that we're to be awarded ten pounds each.

GRACE

Ten pounds!

THOMASIN SNR

Isn't the Master?

WILLIAM SNR

The Duke of Wellington, yes.

GRACE

How did he find out?

WILLIAM SNR

I suppose he reads the newspapers too. Or someone told him.

THOMASIN SNR

Probably Smeddle.

INT. ROOM - DAY.

The inquest into the Forfarshire is taking place. The place is full of people, including a few survivors of the Forfarshire. Neither Grace, William Snr or any of the surviving crew and lifeboatmen are present. Robert Smeddle is presiding.

ROBERT SMEDDLE

So, Mr Donovan. In your opinion who was to blame?

DANIEL DONOVAN

Simple sir. I fully blame Captain Humble.

ROBERT SMEDDLE

And why should you accuse Captain Humble?

DANIEL DONOVAN

He knew the boilers were dangerous, and yet he still proceeded when he should have gone into port for repairs.

ROBERT SMEDDLE

Is that your opinion?

DANIEL DONOVAN

It is.



ROBERT SMEDDLE

And do others concur with your assessment?

Daniel looks at the other survivors who are all sitting together.

DANIEL DONOVAN

They do. Sir I may have been a passenger onboard the Forfarshire, but I am a seasoned sailor with many years experience and I would have never let a vessel in such a state to set sail.

A murmur of agreement emanates from the other survivors.

ROBERT SMEDDLE

And did you raise your concerns with Captain Smeddle?

DANIEL DONOVAN

I did.

ROBERT SMEDDLE

And how did he respond?

DANIEL DONOVAN

He told me that it was his ship and he thanked me for my concern.

ROBERT SMEDDLE

And did he seem worried about the state of the vessel?

DANIEL DONOVAN

To be honest, he showed a total disregard for his ship, crew and passengers.

From the gallery there are murmurs of both agreement and disagreement.

ROBERT SMEDDLE

Thank you Mr Donovan. I shall consider the evidence before me and will deliver my verdict in due course.

INT. LIGHTHOUSE - DAY.

William Snr is reading a newspaper. Thomasin Snr sits opposite at her sewing machine.

WILLIAM SNR

They're blaming Captain Humble saying he was culpably negligible for allowing a ship to sail with its boilers in such a state.

THOMASIN SNR

Cannot understand why you weren't asked to appear, or Gracie for that matter.

WILLIAM SNR

Looks like we weren't the only ones.  
Brooksy says none of his lot were asked and  
nor were any of the crew.

THOMASIN SNR

So who was there?

WILLIAM SNR

According to this, custom officers, a few  
agents. A couple of survivors were there.  
Apparently Mr Donovan was the key witness.

THOMASIN SNR

Oh him! Never did trust him.

EXT. SHOP - DAY.

On a shop wall is a poster reading:

"William Batty Esq, owner of Batty's Circus Royal, is delighted to  
announce Miss Grace Darling, heroine of the Forfarshire rescue, will  
be appearing in person."

People stop and read the poster. Many chattering and discussing if it  
is true. Some are excited at the prospect.

INT. LIGHTHOUSE - DAY.

William Snr is in conversation with MR SYLVESTER. On the table is a  
bag of coins. Grace is also present.

WILLIAM SNR

Sir, are you suggesting that my daughter is  
nothing more than mere circus  
entertainment?

MR SYLVESTER

Of course not. But Mr Batty has requested  
that Miss Darling would honour the good  
people of Edinburgh and attend.

GRACE

Of course I would delighted to do so.

WILLIAM SNR

Sorry Grace, love. I agree that Mr Batty  
means well, but think about it. He ain't  
doing this for your benefit.

MR SYLVESTER

That is not true. Mr Batty has assured me  
that all the proceeds from your daughter's  
appearance will be given to her. Mr Batty  
will not claim a penny.

WILLIAM SNR

What worries me most is that people will believe my daughter will do anything for money.

GRACE

That's not true!

WILLIAM SNR

I know its not and you know its not, but people will see it differently.

GRACE

So what do I do?

MR SYLVESTER

Only you can make that decision. But remember if you say no, you will be disappointing a great many people.

WILLIAM SNR

Aye, and no doubt helping Mr Batty increase his profits.

MR SYLVESTER

Sir. Mr Batty may be a businessman, but I assure you he has your daughter's best interest at heart.

WILLIAM SNR

Aye, well in that case, why ain't he here in person and not his lackey.

MR SYLVESTER

Mr Batty is a very busy man and I, sir, am not his lackey.

Mr Sylvester gets up and walks towards the door.

MR SYLVESTER (CONT'D)

I bid you both good-day. Mr Batty will be expecting your answer by the end of the week, Miss Darling.

EXT. HARBOUR - DAY.

A steamer has pulled into the harbour. Crowds gather all around vying to catch a glimpse.

As the passengers descends down the gangplank the crowds surge forwards.

WOMAN

(pointing)

Look! There she is!

The crowd rush towards the passengers who have to push their way through.

EXT. HARBOUR - CONTINUOUS

In amongst the throng of passengers Grace and William Snr try to amongst the passengers as they are jostled by the crowds.

WILLIAM SNR  
Say nothing. Keep your head down.

A WOMAN suddenly grabs hold of Grace.

WOMAN  
Excuse me. Are you Grace Darling?

GRACE  
(pointing behind her)  
Err no, sorry. I think I saw her back there.

The woman lets go of Grace and heads off in the direction Grace pointed.

Grace pulls her bonnet as low as possible and begins to walk as fast she can.

WILLIAM SNR  
(whispering)  
Not too fast. You'll raise suspicion.

A man grabs Grace's arm.

MAN  
Grace? It is you!

GRACE  
Sorry sir, but you are mistaken.

MAN  
No, it is you. I know you anywhere.

GRACE  
Sir I insist. I am not she!

MAN  
Grace! I should recognise the woman who saved me!

Grace looks at him. She realises he is John Tulloch.

GRACE  
Please, I'm sorry. I didn't recognise you.

JOHN TULLOCH.  
Its alright, quite understandable.

The crowds begin enclose ever closer on the Darlings. Grace can feel her anxiety rising. She begins to panic and hyper-ventilate.

JOHN TULLOCH. (CONT'D)  
What's up? You okay?

GRACE  
Please, get me away.

JOHN TULLOCH.  
Leave it with me.

He quickly wraps his coat around Grace and quickly walks with his arm around her waist. Grace keeps her bonnet pulled low and keeps her head down.

JOHN TULLOCH. (CONT'D)  
(loudly)  
Please, will you let us pass! My wife is in labour!

As the crowd depart John and Grace hurriedly make their way through the throng of people.

INT./EXT. CARRIAGE - LATER.

Grace and William Snr are sat in a open top carriage, escorted by four cavalrymen on horseback. Crowds line the streets waving and cheering as the coach passes by. Grace meekly waves back. William Snr tries to ignore the crowds.

INT. ROOM - LATER

Grace and William Snr stand in a richly ornate and lavishly decorated room. Also present are the DUKE and DUCHESS OF NORTHUMBERLAND.

The Duke hands over £50 to William Snr.

WILLIAM SNR  
Thank you, your Grace. But we couldn't accept such an amount.

DUKE  
Its not from me. I received instruction from her Majesty herself that you should be given this.

GRACE  
That is most kind and generous of her Majesty.

DUKE  
Yes. I am told that her Majesty was most touched and heartened by your deeds.

WILLIAM SNR

Please tell her Majesty that we are grateful, but we could not possibly accept.

GRACE

Father! It is a gift from the Queen. How could we refuse.

DUCHESS

Is it not a treasonable offence to refuse a gift from a monarch?

DUKE

I have no idea, my dear. May have been once.

WILLIAM SNR

Grace, we have no need for such large amounts.

GRACE

But it would set us up for life.

DUKE

Her majesty personally sent the money to you, Grace. Therefore it is your decision alone.

GRACE.

I would not wish to offend her Majesty in any way, so I gratefully accept.

DUKE

I'm sure her Majesty will be pleased to hear. Now I have something else for you.

The Duke signals for a FOOTMAN to approach. A FOOTMAN approaches and passes a small wooden box to the duke. The duke opens the box and takes out two medals.

DUKE (CONT'D)

I had these specially made for you two. Please accept them as recognition of your deeds.

He offers the medals to Grace and William Snr.

WILLIAM SNR

Thank you, your Grace.

The duchess hands Grace a Paisley shawl.

DUCHESS

I was wondering if you would like this to keep you warm.

She offers the shawl to Grace who accepts it with a curtesy.

GRACE

Thank you.

DUCHESS

I had it specially made for you.

WILLIAM SNR

Not sure if your mother would approve.

DUCHESS

And how is Mrs Darling?

WILLIAM SNR

She is doing well, your Grace.

DUKE

We have met before, Miss Darling.

GRACE

I am afraid I have no recollection of such a meeting.

DUKE

It was when Longstone was being built. You must have been nine or ten.

GRACE

And now we return the honour.

DUKE

Now it has come to my attention you have had rather unscrupulous dealings with a Mr Batty.

WILLIAM SNR

That is true, your Grace.

DUKE

I would like to suggest a proposal.

WILLIAM SNR

And what may that be?

DUKE

I would like to become Grace's guardian.

WILLIAM SNR

And what would that entail?

DUKE

That any donations Grace and your good self receive should come through my lawyers.

WILLIAM SNR

Shouldn't Grace or myself handle her finances.

DUKE

I would agree, but the amount of donations that Grace is receiving I believe that it would be prudent if my lawyers were to handle Grace's finances from now on.

WILLIAM SNR

Makes sense I suppose. Who though?

DUKE

I shall appoint three trustee. Don't worry Mr Darling. They're all Crewe Trustees here and will be no stranger to you. So Grace, what do you say?

GRACE

That is an excellent offer, your Grace and I accept.

DUKE

Come let us retire and discuss this matter in more detail.

The four exit. The footman follows behind.

INT. ROOM - DAY/NIGHT (TIMELAPSE)

Grace sits on a stool. In front of her is an easel. As the day progresses the artist painting her changes as does the painting itself. Grace remains sat as her clothes and appearance alter. Her expression changes from one of relaxed contentment to that of being completely and utterly fed up as day turns into night.

INT. ROOM - EVENING

Grace is reading a letter. She screws the letter into a ball before throwing it roughly on the floor. Elizabeth is also with her.

GRACE

Really! Another one!

ELIZABETH

Another what?

GRACE

A flaming artist! I'm fed up with them!

ELIZABETH

Dunno some are quite the catch if I may say so.

GRACE

In that case, you're welcome to them.

ELIZABETH

Wish someone would paint mine.



GRACE

Same here. Give me a break from them all.

ELIZABETH

Hah, doubt it.

GRACE

Why not, you're better looking than me.

ELIZABETH

Don't be silly. I'm not. Besides it ain't me they're interested in.

GRACE

Yes, you are. If it had been you they'll be painting yours.

ELIZABETH

Be nice if just one of them would ask if they could paint my portrait.

GRACE

Wish they would. It's getting stupid. Wouldn't mind but its nearly every day now.

ELIZABETH

Yes but hasn't father banned anymore artists?

GRACE

He did, but they still keep coming.

Beat.

ELIZABETH

I've got an idea.

GRACE

Please tell.

Elizabeth whispers into Grace's ear. Grace giggles.

EXT. SHOP - DAY

Grace and William Snr are being jostled by a large crowd as they try to enter a shop. The sign above the doors reads: "T Darling - Dressmaker".

INT. SHOP - MOMENTS LATER

Grace and William Snr find themselves surrounded by people, all pushing and jostling trying to either speak or touch Grace who is beginning to hyperventilate.

WILLIAM SNR

Grace. Are you okay?

THOMASIN JNR

Sorry Grace. I did try to stop them.

Grace is starting to have a panic attack.

GRACE

Please, I want to go!

William holds her hand.

WILLIAM SNR

Take deep breaths. Just give 'em a wave.

GRACE

Please father. I want to go.

WILLIAM SNR

Okay, lets see if we can go upstairs.

Pushing his way through the crowd, William Snr leads Grace towards the stairs before disappearing upwards. Thomasin Jnr stands at the foot of the foot of the stairs blocking the way.

THOMASIN JNR

(loudly and firmly)

No one, and I mean no one is to go up these stairs.

People try to look past Thomasin Jnr desperate to get the slightest glimpse.

INT. ROOM - LATER

William Snr is staring out of the window.

CROWD (O.C.)

(loud shouting)

Grace! Grace! We want Grace! We want Grace!

William Snr takes a step back.

WILLIAM SNR

There must be hundreds!

Grace is sat at the far end of the room away from the window. William sits next to her on the bed. He holds her hand.

WILLIAM SNR (CONT'D)

Just give them a wave. Some must have travelled miles to see you.

Grace remains seated.

William Snr stands back up. He gestures for Grace to stand. The crowd can still be heard shouting.

WILLIAM SNR (CONT'D)

Come on, just give them a quick wave and they'll leave.

Grace slowly stands up. Holding her fathers hand she walks towards the window. Upon sighting her the crowd cheer and wave even louder. Grace stares at the crowd before giving a brief wave. She then retreats back from the window.

GRACE

When will they leave?

William Snr returns to the window. He lifts the window and peers outside. The noise from the crowd is now louder. Thomasin Jnr enters.

THOMASIN JNR

I've closed the shop. Wouldn't mind if they bought something.

She sits next to Grace, comforting her.

WILLIAM SNR

(loudly)

Ladies and Gentlemen!

The crowd continue to cheer. William Snr flaps his hands trying to quieten the crowd.

WILLIAM SNR (CONT'D)

(loudly)

Please! Ladies and Gentlemen! May I have your attention!

The noise from the crowd descends to a lower volume.

WILLIAM SNR (CONT'D)

(loudly)

My daughter and I thank you for the kindness you have shown us.

The crowd cheers.

WILLIAM SNR (CONT'D)

(loudly)

Unfortunately Grace is feeling unwell and therefore needs to rest.

A murmur can be heard from the crowd.

WILLIAM SNR (CONT'D)

(loudly)

Therefore it pains me to say that Grace will not be making any more appearances.

The crowd groan and begin to mumble in dismay. Suddenly they begin shouting.

CROWD  
 (loudly)  
 Grace! Grace! We want Grace! We want Grace!

William Snr closes the window and returns to sit next to Grace. He puts his arm around her.

WILLIAM SNR  
 Come on. They'll soon get bored.

EXT. SHOP - LATER

A couple of hours has now passed. From the back of Thomasin Jnr's shop creep out Grace and William Snr, both in disguise. They hurry to an awaiting coach emblazoned on the door with the Duke of Northumberland's coat of arms.

INT. ROOM - DAY.

Grace sits on a plush chair next to a set of grand doors. She nervously clutches a small bag. The doors open and a FOOTMAN appears.

FOOTMAN  
 Her majesty will see you now.

Grace rises and follows the footman through the doors.

INT. ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Grace finds herself in a large opulent room. Well dressed people stand around. All stare at Grace. Some mutter, whilst others whisper to each other. Grace ignores them, looking directly ahead. Grace curtesy's and walks towards the throne. When she reaches the throne she courtesies again.

GRACE  
 Your majesty.

Grace remains in a curtsied position.

QUEEN VICTORIA  
 Miss Darling.

Grace stands up.

GRACE  
 I would like to thank her majesty for her gift.

QUEEN VICTORIA.  
 A small gesture of our gratitude. No reward could possibly compare with the gratitude we owe to you.

GRACE

Your majesty is too kind.

QUEEN VICTORIA

I see your fame has spread beyond this shores.

GRACE

That is true. You should see the collection. Letters from Australia, America even Japan.

QUEEN VICTORIA

Japan? I'm still awaiting any correspondence from the Emperor. Clearly news travels fast.

GRACE

It does your majesty.

Queen Victoria beckons a SERVANT to approach. She whispers something in the servants who bows and leaves.

QUEEN VICTORIA

I have read the newspapers and one is most impressed by your act of bravery.

GRACE

They embellish the story. It was father who deserves the credit really.

QUEEN VICTORIA

Ah yes. Newspapers are prone to, how can one say, exaggerate the facts.

The servant returns carrying a tray of memorabilia. He presents the tray to Queen Victoria who casually picks up postcards, china cups, jugs, model boats and unlikelike figures of Grace.

QUEEN VICTORIA (CONT'D)

Your fame is greater than mine, Miss Darling.

Grace politely chuckles.

GRACE

It will pass your majesty.

QUEEN VICTORIA

And what will you do then? Marry?

GRACE

I don't think I ever will.

QUEEN VICTORIA

Why may I ask?

GRACE

Because the notion does not sit comfortably with me. A woman should be able to live her life without having to rely completely on a man during her life.

QUEEN VICTORIA

And your verdict regarding all this paraphernalia?

GRACE

May I ask what does your majesty refer to?

Queen Victoria passes a cup to Grace. Grace examines the mug. It shows her alone in a boat rowing towards a shipwreck. She puts in back on the tray.

The servant backs away.

QUEEN VICTORIA

These.

GRACE

May I be honest?

QUEEN VICTORIA

It would be refreshing to hear honesty in this walls.

A murmur of discontent can be heard from the audience.

GRACE

I cannot say I am particularly enamoured by them.

QUEEN VICTORIA

Indeed why?

GRACE

Because I do not believe in profiteering from tragedy, least of all death.

Queen Victoria stands up.

QUEEN VICTORIA

Walk with me.

An ADVISOR approaches.

ADVISOR

Your majesty. I must protest!

QUEEN VICTORIA

And why must you?

Beat.

QUEEN VICTORIA (CONT'D)

Well why? Speak man!

Beat.

ADVISOR

It is uncalled for, that a mere commoner should walk besides her queen.

QUEEN VICTORIA

Sir I chose to walk with whomever I choose.

ADVISOR

But she is not...

QUEEN VICTORIA

Protest any more and I see that you find yourself looking for employment elsewhere.

ADVISOR

Your majesty!

QUEEN VICTORIA

One more word, and I'll have you mucking out the stables for the rest of your miserable life. Understand?

ADVISOR

Yes, your majesty.

Beat.

QUEEN VICTORIA

Now get out of my sight!

The advisor bows and quickly exits.

EXT. GARDEN - MOMENTS LATER

Queen Victoria and Grace walk in the palace grounds. Two LADIES IN WAITING follow a few steps behind.

QUEEN VICTORIA

Tell me about the Farnes.

GRACE

I'm afraid we live a simple life. But I wouldn't change it for anything.

QUEEN VICTORIA

And you are happy there?

GRACE

It's what I'm used to. And it provides me with sanctuary, away from all this.

QUEEN VICTORIA

I envy you.

GRACE

I do not follow.

QUEEN VICTORIA

I wonder who is the more isolated of us.

GRACE

Please forgive me, your majesty, but I do not fully understand.

QUEEN VICTORIA

Never mind. I understand Mr Smeddle is setting up another enquiry.

GRACE

Your majesty is well informed.

QUEEN VICTORIA

And will you be asked to give evidence?

GRACE

So far I have received no such summons to do so.

QUEEN VICTORIA

Well if you do, I am sure you will be proper and truthful in your account.

GRACE

I shall. Mr Smeddle has said he intends to question the surviving crewmembers this time, to get a better understanding of what actually happened.

QUEEN VICTORIA

The Duke of Wellington speaks highly of Mr Smeddle.

GRACE

That is good to hear.

QUEEN VICTORIA

And I am positive that Mr Smeddle will leave no stone unturned in his dedication.

GRACE

Mr Smeddle is a good man, your majesty. His Grace, the duke of Wellington does Mr Smeddle a great honour.

QUEEN VICTORIA

Arthur also speaks highly of you and of your father.



GRACE

I am most humbled your majesty.

INT. LIGHTHOUSE - DAY

In the corner of Grace's bedroom is an ever growing pile of books, fine clothing, silks and silverware. Also present is Mary-Ann who is heavily pregnant. Grace wears a hat. A wig on a stand is next to her bed.

MARY-ANN

Honestly Grace. Anymore and we'll need to build an extension!

Grace is going through all the gifts. Mary-Ann picks up a letter.

MARY-ANN (CONT'D)

Australia! How on earth do they know about you in Australia?

GRACE

Not just Australia. There's letters all over. Wish I knew a translator. Someone who speaks Japanese and Mandarin.

MARY-ANN

Don't think you'll find many in this parts.

Grace points to a pile of separate pile of letters. Mary-Ann goes through the pile. She picks one out every so often, reads it then puts it back.

MARY-ANN (CONT'D)

So what are your intentions? A world tour?

GRACE

No, I just want it all to end. Go back to how things were.

MARY-ANN

Don't worry it will. Wait for the next big story.

She winces as the baby kicks before picking up a letter.

MARY-ANN (CONT'D)

I wonder what it says.

GRACE

Oh probably the same as all the others. A lock of my hair, a signature. Will have to be a signature.

She removes her hat revealing that she is almost bald, her hair cut close to the scalp.

MARY-ANN

Grace! What have you done!

GRACE

They keep asking for locks of my hair.

MARY-ANN

And you keep giving it to them. Why?

GRACE

I feel I must oblige.

She stands up and walks over to the wardrobe. She opens it and brings out a dress and lays it out on the bed. The dress is cut to pieces, so much so that there is barely any material left.

GRACE (CONT'D)

But at least my hair will grow back. This won't. Once its gone that's it.

MARY-ANN

Christ, Grace. What are going to do if someone asks for your finger or toe? Chop it off!?

GRACE

Don't be ridiculous!

MARY-ANN

I'm not. You are. Look at yourself. You look like a convict. Just stop it Grace.

GRACE

How can I? Look at this.

She picks up three letters.

GRACE (CONT'D)

Take this one. They've wrote three times asking for a strand of my hair.

She passes them to Mary-Ann who tosses them to one side without even looking at them.

MARY-ANN

Simple just ignore all their letters. And if they want a lock of your hair then get a load from the barbers.

GRACE

But that's..

MARY-ANN

Cheating, being dishonest? Maybe but its best for you. Okay how about this.

She takes a pair of scissors and begins to cut at her own hair.

GRACE

Stop it!

Mary-Ann continues to at her hair.

MARY-ANN

Why? It's what you're doing.

GRACE

Yes, but its being dishonest.

MARY-ANN

Maybe so, but I ain't letting you martyr yourself for people you'll never meet.

GRACE

But what about all these letters? All asking for my signature.

She picks up a pile of letters.

GRACE (CONT'D)

It's going to take a lifetime. Mr Smeddle's offered to help, but even then.

Mary-Ann takes a letter and writes on it. She passes it back to Grace.

MARY-ANN

There.

Grace looks at her sister's attempt at forging her signature.

GRACE

Looks nothing like mine.

MARY-ANN

Doesn't matter. Where these are going to , no one will ever know. Pass me some more.

Grace hands over a pile of letters. Mary-Ann begins to forge Grace's signature.

MARY-ANN (CONT'D)

There's one asking for your hand in marriage.

GRACE

Oh there's a load of them. Even got an a offer from some duke.

MARY-ANN

Who, which one?

GRACE

I don't know. Some Austrian one I think. Can't remember.

MARY-ANN

Flipping heck. If I were in your place,  
I'll say yes immediately.

GRACE

Bit harsh, isn't it? How long has it been  
since George?

MARY-ANN

Maybe, but I've got to think about this  
one.

She pats her pregnant belly.

GRACE

You now me sis, I'm content here. Besides  
whose going to look after mum and dad?

MARY-ANN

Marry that duke and they'll be servants to  
do that.

GRACE

Could you honestly see mum and dad living  
in a castle?!

They both chuckle.

EXT. LIGHTHOUSE - DAY

A group of people land near the lighthouse. They approach. A WOMAN  
knocks on the door. Thomasin Snr opens the door.

THOMASIN SNR

Yes, may I be of service?

WOMAN

We would like to see Miss Darling.

THOMASIN SNR

Well I'm afraid you've wasted a journey. My  
daughter is receiving no visitors.

WOMAN

But all we want to see her and to tell her  
we are all proud of her.

THOMASIN SNR

I shall pass on your praise to my daughter,  
but as I have said she will not be seeing  
any visitors.

WOMAN

Please, only for a few minutes at most.

THOMASIN SNR

Have you any idea how many people we have had in the past week?

Beat.

THOMASIN SNR (CONT'D)

Nor do I, but I can tell you it is almost constant.

WOMAN

Please, just a glimpse. That's all we ask. Surely madam, that is not too much to ask.

THOMASIN SNR

My daughter wishes not be to seen nor does she wish to speak to anyone save her family.

WOMAN

I wonder, if that is her choice or yours.

THOMASIN SNR

Whose choice it is, is of no matter, Now I bid you good day.

Thomasin Snr slams the door, leaving the woman and her friends standing outside.

INT. BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Grace is sat on her bed trembling. Thomasin Snr enters who sits on the bed next to Grace. The curtains are closed.

GRACE

Have they gone!

Thomasin Snr peeks through the curtains. She sees the group still stood by the door.

THOMASIN SNR

Nope, they're still there.

GRACE

Why don't they just leave me alone!

Thomasin Snr sits next to Grace, and puts her arm around her.

THOMASIN SNR

They will do.

GRACE

When?

THOMASIN SNR

When something else happens, and you get forgotten.

GRACE

Well, it better happen soon!

INT. ROOM - DAY

Elizabeth sits on a stool. The ARTIST is setting up. Grace is watching through a gap in the door, trying not to giggle.

ARTIST

Now Miss Darling, may I call you Grace?

ELIZABETH

Of course.

ARTIST

Could you just turn slightly that way.

Elizabeth obliges.

ELIZABETH

Like this?

ARTIST

Perfect Grace, now just remain still.

He picks a pencil and begins sketching. Elizabeth is trying not to giggle.

INT. LIGHTHOUSE - MORNING

It is Christmas. Grace and her parents are opening presents. Grace opens up a Christmas box revealing a gold watch.

WILLIAM SNR

That must be worth more than a year's pay.

THOMASIN SNR

Who's it from?

Grace reads a label.

GRACE

It's from the Duke and Duchess.

WILLIAM SNR

Best we keep it safe somewhere.

THOMASIN SNR

Aye, don't trust half these artists.  
Anything else?

Grace rummages through the box. She takes out a silver teapot.

GRACE

This is for you, mother.

Grace passes the teapot to Thomasin Snr, who puts it down on the table without a second glance.

THOMASIN SNR

Huh, can't see what's wrong with the one we've got.

WILLIAM SNR

Aye love, should be grateful, mind.

THOMASIN SNR

I am, just can't see the point in it.

Grace takes out a bundle wrapped in paper and tied with string, She hands it other to William Snr, who uses a knife to cut through the string. He removes the wrapping to reveal a collection of books. He looks through the collection, before placing the pile on the table. He picks up the book on the top of the pile and begins to browse through it.

GRACE

What's it about?

WILLIAM SNR

Complete works of Burns.

He looks at the inside of the front cover.

WILLIAM SNR (CONT'D)

Its signed.

GRACE

Who by?

WILLIAM SNR

Robert Burns himself.

THOMASIN SNR

What are the others about?

WILLIAM SNR

A couple of prayer books and one on border ballads.

THOMASIN SNR

Be nice to hear Gracie sing something new.

WILLIAM SNR

Next time when we have everyone back home.

THOMASIN SNR

Aye, our Job would have loved that.

WILLIAM SNR

I'm sure he'll be listening.

Grace takes out a small rectangular wooden box, tied with a silk ribbon. Engraved on the lid is the coat of arms of the Duke and Duchess of Northumberland. Grace unties the ribbon and removes the lid. Inside are two medals. Grace inspects them before passing them to William Snr who does likewise.

THOMASIN SNR

Anymore, and you'll have more than the Duke of Wellington!

Grace reaches down and pulls out what looks like clothing.

THOMASIN SNR (CONT'D)

What on earth is that?

Grace is feeling the strange material. A note is attached.

GRACE

Its the latest invention from Mr MacIntosh. Apparently its waterproof clothing.

WILLIAM SNR

If it works, will be useful.

GRACE

Wonder what its made from?

She passes it to her parents who handle the material.

INT. THEATRE - DAY.

On a stage is a moving panorama display. The reel shows a painting of a steamer paddle-ship battling through a violent storm. Standing next to the panorama is Daniel Donovan. He faces the packed audience. A small BAND plays in the pit. Portraits of the Darlings are on display as are the two busts of Grace and William Snr. On a table are various products and souvenirs featuring Grace.

DANIEL DONOVAN

Ladies and Gentlemen. I thank you all for attending as I, Daniel Donovan, a survivor of the Forfarshire shall recount that tragic night of 7th September 1838.

MALE VOICE

(o.c)

Where's Grace?!

DANIEL DONOVAN

Unfortunately Miss Darling will not be attending.

MALE VOICE

(o.c)

Why not? She's never once made an appearance!



A few audible murmurs of agreement can be heard within the audience.

DANIEL DONOVAN

I did write to Miss Darling asking her if she would like to attend.

MALE VOICE

(o.c)

Waste of time coming!

DANIEL DONOVAN

Sir, if you would like to leave then by all means do so. But, I would like to begin.

Music plays loudly badly imitating the sound of crashing waves and a storm.

Right in the very back corner of the highest tier are Elizabeth and Mary-Ann watching the show.

ELIZABETH

(whispering)

Likes the sound of his own voice, doesn't he?

Daniel can be heard talking inaudibly.

MARY-ANN

(whispering)

You would have though he was the hero.

INT. LIGHTHOUSE - DAY.

Grace is on the ground-floor. With her are William Brooks and his wife JANE DOWNEY and their nine young children (seven BOYS and two GIRLS). Along the walls are three piles of rolled up blankets. The children are running all over the place. From outside the sound of building work can be heard. The lighthouse is vastly overcrowded.

JANE

It won't be long. The foreman said he hopes to be finished by the end of next week.

GRACE

Said that last week.

JANE

I know he did.

WILLIAM BROOKS

Best they make a good job of it.

JANE

Will, why don't you take the children out?

WILLIAM BROOKS

Aye, not bad idea. Come on, lets go out on the water.

Him and the children exit, leaving Grace and Jane on their own.

JANE

Look, I know its not perfect but won't be forever.

GRACE

I'm sorry, I know its not you. It's just everything.

JANE

None of us are happy about it, but its only temporary at least. What's happening with Mary-Ann?

GRACE

Dunno, said she was thinking about moving in with Sister, but whether she's serious I'm not sure.

INT. ROOM - AFTERNOON

Caption: Coquet Island.

Grace is staying with William Jnr and his wife ANN. Rain can be heard outside.

ANN

Please we could have helped.

GRACE

Thank you, its getting ridiculous back home.

WILLIAM JNR

You would have really thought people would have become bored or at least forgotten about you by now.

ANN

True, how long ago is it now? Four years?

GRACE

Something like that.

WILLIAM SNR

Been better if Brooksy stayed at Seahouses.

ANN

Thought he wanted to stay with the lifeboat.

GRACE

I think he did, but Mr Smeddle persuaded him otherwise.

Grace coughs.

GRACE (CONT'D)

Sorry.

ANN

Are you feeling unwell?

Grace keeps coughing

GRACE

(spluttering)

Just a small cough. Can't seem to shake it off.

ANN

Seems to be more than just a cough.

WILLIAM JNR

Aye, Ann's right, sis. That's more than just a cough.

GRACE

Seriously I'm fine. It'll go. Just need to rest up.

Grace begins to make her way upstairs, coughing as she does so. Ann and William Brooks watch her exit.

ANN

I'll best make her something.

WILLIAM JNR

I think its best she's stays here until she's better.

ANN

I blame all this attention she's been getting. Not helping one bit.

EXT. COAST - DAY.

Along the coast Grace rides a horse. She looks healthier than before.

As she rides it begins to rain. Noticing the heavy, leaden clouds Grace wheels the horse around.

Riding back they become drenched, Grace lowers herself as close to the horse's mane as they ride headwind in the rain.

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

Grace is wide awake lying in a box-bed. The panel is closed. She tosses and turns violently. She pants and sweats.

GRACE  
(screaming)  
Go! Just leave me alone!

She waves her hands frantically in front of her face.

The panel slides open. Grace sees Thomasin Jnr kneeling besides her.

THOMASIN JNR  
(soothingly)  
Grace. Whatever is the matter?

Beat.

THOMASIN JNR (CONT'D)  
(gently)  
Grace. Come on, tell me.

Grace stares at her, her eyes wide open and wild.

GRACE  
(hysterical)  
Can't you see them!

THOMASIN JNR  
See what, sis?

GRACE  
(hysterical)  
The eyes!

THOMASIN JNR  
What eyes?

GRACE  
(hysterical)  
Can't you see them?!

THOMASIN JNR  
(calming)  
No sis, I can't.

GRACE  
(hysterical)  
They're everywhere! How can you not see them?!

Thomasin dabs Grace's forehead with a cloth, removing some of the sweat.

THOMASIN JNR  
Let me get you something. Help you sleep.

GRACE

I can't! I see them even when I sleep!

THOMASIN JNR

See who?

GRACE

(yells)

The eyes! The eyes, sis! That's who!

Thomasin stands up and walks to the door. She opens the door and turns back to face Grace.

THOMASIN JNR

I'm going to fetch someone.

Thomasin Jnr closes the sliding panel. Grace pulls the bedclothes over her.

EXT. COACH - NIGHT.

Grace, now very pale and suffering from Tuberculosis is helped into a coach by two MEN.

INT./EXT. COACH - MOMENTS LATER

The coach makes its way down the road. Grace is wrapped up in blankets. Opposite sits Elizabeth and Robert.

ROBERT

Ready?

Grace weakly nods. Robert taps on the roof with a cane. A crack of a whip can be heard followed by the sound of horseshoes as the coach begins its journey.

INT. ROOM - EVENING

Caption: Thursday 20th October 1842.

Grace lies on her bed, her breathing is now more laboured as she gasps for air.

Standing around her are her parents and remaining siblings. Also present is a PRIEST. Grace hands out various items to each. Elizabeth refuses to accept Grace's gift.

ELIZABETH

(weeping)

Please, sis. I can't.

GRACE

(whispering)

Please, Betsy. For me.

Sobbing Elizabeth accepts Grace's gift of a locket. Elizabeth is consoled by Thomasin Jnr and Mary-Ann in a corner.

GRACE (CONT'D)  
 (whispering)  
 Sit me up.

William Snr and Thomasin Snr help sit Grace up.

GRACE (CONT'D)  
 (whispering)  
 Thank you.

Grace looks out of the window and points.

GRACE (CONT'D)  
 (whispering)  
 Is that a new lighthouse?

WILLIAM JNR  
 There's no lighthouse, Grace.

GRACE  
 (whispering)  
 But I see a....

Grace takes one deep breath and falls back on her pillow.

Thomasin Snr cries over Grace. William Snr kneels down holds Grace's hand against his forehead and begins to sob. Grace's siblings comfort each other. The priest gives Grace the last rites.

EXT. CHURCH - DAY.

Caption: Monday 24th October 1842 - St Aidan's Church Bamburgh.

Gathered around the freshly dug grave are Grace's family along with the Duke and Duchess of Northumberland. Also present is Robert Smeddle. Behind are villagers and strangers. On top of the coffin are a few stones.

PRIEST  
 We commit the body of our loving daughter  
 and sister Grace Horsley Darling to that of  
 eternal rest.

The priest picks up a handful of soil.

PRIEST (CONT'D)  
 Earth to Earth, dust to dust, ashes to  
 ashes.

Grace's coffin is lowered into the grave. The priest scatters the soil onto the coffin.

PRIEST (CONT'D)

To sit besides our lord, heavenly father,  
our saviour Jesus Christ and the holy  
spirit. To rise at the end of time. Amen

MOURNERS

Amen.

A BOY passes a bowl of soil to each of the Darling family, Robert Smeddle and the Duke and Duchess. They each take a pinch of soil and scatter onto the coffin.

EXT. CHURCH - EVENING

The graveyard is now empty. Standing next to Grace's grave a YOUNG MAN (20's) places a single rose on Grace's grave before leaving.

EXT. CHURCH GRAVEYARD - NIGHT

Silence is all around. The camera pans to a single grave before descending below the surface.

INT. GRAVE - CONTINUOUS AUDIENCE P.O.V

We see a coffin, its lid firmly closed. Our vision continues.

INT. COFFIN - CONTINUOUS

Inside lies Grace Darling. She opens her eyes and looks up at us.

GRACE

That was my story, my life as it were.  
People said I was heroine. They wrote  
poems and stories about me. Even plays  
about me were performed.

Beat.

GRACE (CONT'D)

Remember me. Not as the girl that saved  
lives, but for who I was. I did what anyone  
would have done. I was just an ordinary  
girl who did something extraordinary.

Beat.

GRACE (CONT'D)

Oh, and if you wish to visit me, I don't  
lie under that memorial. I sleep here with  
my family.

Grace closes her eyes as the camera pulls away eventually emerging above the surface.

CLOSE IN ON GRAVE.

END.

Grace Darling died from suspected Tuberculosis aged 26.

At the second inquest into the sinking of the Forfarshire a verdict of accidental drowning caused by tempestuous weather was recorded. An estimated forty three people lost their lives on the night of 7th September 1838. Many of those were never recovered.

The "National Institution for the Preservation of Life from Shipwreck" was founded in 1824 by Sir William Hilary. In 1854 it became the Royal National Lifeboat Institution. Since 1824 RNLI volunteers have rescued thousands of people and have saved more than 143,000 lives from drowning.

"With courage, nothing is impossible."

Sir William Hilary