

Dark Sails On The Horizon

By

Patrick K Gamble

[pgamble@uow.edu.au](mailto:pgamble@uow.edu.au)  
614-2529-1180

FADE IN:

EXT. SEASIDE TOWN CBD - DAY

A modest Touring Bus, chugs and rumbles. It's an overcast day, everything silent and grey. It's parked near the town centre of a dreary northern coastal town. The one they forgot to shut down. Boarding are an assortment of passengers.

Greeting every passenger as they climb aboard is bubbly TOUR GUIDE 40s blue eye shadow, false eye lashes and a big hairdo.

TOUR GUIDE

Hello! Welcome aboard.

A large young AUTISTIC MAN giggles as he enters. Behind him is his PRETTY MOTHER(40s) who struggles to hide a yawn.

TOUR GUIDE (CONT'D)

Hello! Welcome aboard. Welcome aboard.

Various passengers enter the bus.

POV: From a distance the line into the bus is near complete. From perspective of TOURIST RUNNING LATE, a hurried approach to the front of the line and face to face with Tour Guide.

TOUR GUIDE (CONT'D)

Hello! Welcome aboard.  
Glad you could join us.

INT. TOURING BUS - DAY

POV of Tourist Running Late: On route to a vacant seat, pass Autistic Man and his weary eyed Mother sitting up front. Next is a Blind Man(40s) with black glasses and cane one side, an old Granny the other. Various passengers as search continues.

POV of Tourist Running Late: Search for a seat leads to back seat. A CHUBBY MOTHER (30s) sits centre, her BRATTY TWINS(10) misbehave on right half of the seat, leaving the left empty and available. Tourist slips into the cozy nook with a view.

POV of Tourist Running Late: At the end of the isle, at the front of the bus, stands the Tour Guide with Mic in hand. The bus groans and rumbles alive like some deep dark hum.

TOUR GUIDE

Welcome aboard to Northumbria  
Tour's Coastal towns of  
Northumbria. My name is Jackie and  
the good looking mop top behind the  
wheel's Bert. Say Hi Bert.

BERT(30s) sports a mop top. He flashes a smile via rear view.

The tour guide continues with her spool.

TOUR GUIDE (CONT'D)

I'll be identifying points of interest as well as highlighting local trivia and folklore as we make our way to Mundleton, birth place of Northumbria's most famous son and of course, the world famous Mundleton Gelato store.

The passengers at the front of the bus all look excited at the mention of gelato. The Autistic man licks his chops.

POV of Tourist Running Late: At the far end of the isle, at the front, the Tour Guide with Mic, wraps up her spool.

TOUR GUIDE (CONT'D)

So sit back, relax and enjoy as we meander through Northumbria's scenic coastal towns and rugged coastline. Steeped in history, beauty, legend and a little magic.

The tour guide turns off her mic and winds up the mic chord. She has a word to Bert as she stores the mic away and they share a chuckle. Bert grins in rear view. He places the Bus in gear, releases the handbrake and pulls away from the curb.

POV of Tourist Running Late: At the far end of the isle, the Tour Guide sits and is out of sight. The bus jolts and shakes as it pulls out. Engine whines. Attention redirected to window. Unremarkable buildings and small shops scroll by.

The unremarkable buildings and stores continue to wizz past - it's all a blur. Buildings touched with the ugly stick. The buildings continue in a painfully boring parade.

FADE TO BLACK.

EXT. MUNDLETON MAIN STREET CIRCA 850AD - DAY

SUPER: MUNDLETON MAIN STREET 850AD

An overcast day. Mundleton - a dirt track lined with buildings of similar construction. Brick walls comprise of bricks of various sizes and a thatched roof that hangs low. Peasants exit bakery with string bags full of bread loaves.

INT. MUNDLETON BAKERY - DAY

In a near empty medieval bakery exhausted widow NERIDA attends to customers. She resembles the weary mother of the Autistic man. Behind her cane baskets hold loaves and rolls. Tall stack of pancakes on display has a sign 'Half Price'.

Covering one side wall are various sketches of albatrosses on parchment. On the opposite wall are juvenile sketches of monsters and woolly dogs and puppies wearing diapers/nappies.

Weary Nerida serves twins ALLARD and INGRITH who resemble bratty twins on the bus. She puts two loaves into a string bag and gestures to the pancakes.

NERIDA

Would you like some pancakes?  
Delicious with a cup of--

INGRITH

No thanks.  
Mother says they're awful.

Nerida winces.

NERIDA

What else does mother say?

INGRITH

That your son is the village idiot.

ALLARD

Father calls him the fool on the  
hill.

Nerida looks like she was punched in the gut. She grabs the string bag and replaces the fresh loaves with stale ones from under the counter. She tosses the bag to Ingrith.

NERIDA

Here are your loaves. Now get out!

INGRITH

But those loaves are not fresh!

ALLARD

Father hates stale bread.

NERIDA

Tell your parents this will be the  
last loaves from me unless their  
account is settled and their  
underlings learn some manners!

The twins cower away to the exit. Nerida shouts after them.

NERIDA (CONT'D)

And the next time you tell me my  
son's an idiot or fool, I will slap  
you down. Hard! Child or not!  
Now get out!

The two run out the door. Nerida regains her composure.  
She turns to the remaining customer, the elderly wise MISS  
FARAH who resembles the grandma who was knitting on the bus.

NERIDA (CONT'D)

Sorry you had to-

MISS FARAH

Quite all right.  
It seems the fruit does not fall  
far from the tree.

Nerida places a loaf in a bag. She notices the pancakes.

NERIDA

Would you like half a dozen  
pancakes Miss Farah? Free of  
charge. They're nice with--

MISS FARAH

Oh no thank you.  
I'm afraid the last time I tried  
them they did not agree with me.  
Just the loaf thank you.

Nerida's deeply hurt. She can't even give them away. She  
hides her disappointment as she gives Miss Farah her bread.

NERIDA

Well you have a nice afternoon.

MISS FARAH

Thank you.

String bag with bread in hand, Miss Farah turns and heads for  
the exit. On her way out she almost runs into the town's  
seamstress SHELBY dressed medieval chic. Shelby resembles  
the Tour Guide. Shelby and Miss Farah exchange cursory nods.

Nerida greets her best friend.

NERIDA

Shelby!

SHELBY  
Nerida!

NERIDA  
Tea?

SHELBY  
Love one.

Shelby sits at the counter. Nerida heads off to make tea.

EXT. HILLTOP OF BRIDGELY'S HILL - DAY

Gentle giant Bridgely, an eight year old trapped in a large man's body struggles to reach the top of a windswept hill with string bags full of bread loaves. Bridgely resembles the young autistic man from the Tour.

The hilltop looks out over Mundleton as well as beaches north and south and treacherous rocks and sea to the east.

Bridgely catches his breath. He looks playfully skyward.

Far out to sea, black specks gather against the grey skies.

Bridgely chuckles to himself. He has a playful grin.

The specks take shape. Dozens and dozens of Albatrosses.

The Albatrosses land on the hilltop before Bridgely. There is a field of wings. The birds resemble seagulls on steroids.

Bridgely rips the loaves up into small chunks and flicks it here and there.

The albatrosses compete for each piece.

Bridgely giggles with delight.

INT. MUNDLETON BAKERY - DAY

At the counter both enjoying mugs of tea and a sit down are BFFs Nerida and Shelby. No one else is in the bakery.

SHELBY  
So where's Bridgely?

NERIDA  
Feeding time.

Shelby gives Nerida an 'of course' nod. Shelby laments.

SHELBY  
Tomorrow's the ten year  
anniversary. Can you believe it?

NERIDA  
Not much to celebrate about.

There is an uncomfortable silence. Shelby stands to leave.

SHELBY  
I should go. I have a couple of  
orders I need to finish.

NERIDA  
So when would you like me and  
Bridgely to come over?

SHELBY  
A little after dusk.

The stack of pancakes with 'half price' still stands tall.  
Shelby gestures to the pancakes.

SHELBY (CONT'D)  
Would you like me to take them now?  
You might have your hands full with  
Bridgely.

NERIDA  
Bridgely? A handful?  
(long beat)  
I'll get you the plate.

Nerida grabs the pancake stack plate and gives to Shelby.

SHELBY  
Thanks for this yummy dinner.

NERIDA  
Don't thank me. They're bloody  
awful.

SHELBY  
No no they're okay.

Nerida looks Shelby square in the eyes. Don't bullshit me.

SHELBY (CONT'D)  
Smother em in loads of jam and  
fresh cream and wash it all down  
with a mug of sweet tea.  
(beat)  
Then they're okay.

Shelby and Nerida share a chuckle as Shelby exits the store with the stack of pancakes. Nerida wipes down the counter.

In enters Bridgely with empty string bags in a good mood.

Nerida confronts Bridgely trying not to smirk.

NERIDA

Have you something to tell me?

Bridgely looks guilty by Nerida's inquisition.

BRIDGELY

No, nothing.

NERIDA

Did you use my fresh loaves?

Bridgely breaks out into a chuckle.

BRIDGELY

Sorry Mum!

NERIDA

I told you stale bread Bridgely!  
Stale bread!

BRIDGELY

But they like the fresh better.

Nerida can't help but smile at this remark. She gives Bridgely a huge hug and they both share a chuckle.

EXT. MUNDLETON VILLAGE - NIGHT

A near full moon above bathes the village in a warm glow.

INT. SHELBY'S HOME - NIGHT

Bridgely, Nerida and Shelby finish a dinner of pancakes with lashings of jam and cream at a table in Shelby's cosy cottage. Bridgely has jam and cream on his face. He is cross with his mother.

BRIDGELY

Why did you take my jam Mum! Why  
did you take my jam errrrrrrrrrr!

NERIDA

You took all the jam and cream  
Bridgely.

BRIDGELY  
Not fair! Not fair!

NERIDA  
Oh please Bridgely, I only took a  
teeny weeny teaspoon of jam and  
cream. Mummy can't eat pancakes  
without jam and cream. It's my  
favourite part.

BRIDGELY  
Mine too.

Bridgely's moaning stops but he is still cranky.

Shelby retrieves a deck of cards from a side table.

SHELBY  
Bridgely? Would you like to play  
cards with me and your Mum?

BRIDGELY  
No, I want to go home.  
(to Nerida)  
Mum! Take me home this instant.

SHELBY  
Awwwww don't you like my house  
Bridgely?

BRIDGELY  
No I don't.  
Good Bye.  
Mum! Mum!

Nerida sighs and rolls her eyes. She looks worn out.

Shelby realises she needs to pull out all stops.

SHELBY  
I guess I won't be able to show you  
the amazing gadgets my Denis  
invented.

NERIDA  
Wasn't he a Candlestick maker?

SHELBY  
He liked to tinker. More of a  
hobby really.  
(to Bridgely)  
So would you like to see some of  
Denis's inventions Bridgely?

Bridgely is very curious and nods.

SHELBY (CONT'D)

One moment.

Shelby steps out. Bridgely anxiously waits. Shelby returns with a wooden box with the top end open. She puts it down. Shelby pulls out of the box a large Hour Glass.

SHELBY

This is his 'sand wait'.

NERIDA

What's it do?

Shelby flips the hourglass over.

SHELBY

It gives you a set wait from first grain to last. Handy when you are doing something where time is critical like making jam. This is his long wait.

Shelby puts the large hour glass down. She pulls out one a quarter size.

SHELBY

And this is his short wait.

NERIDA

Shelby? Do you think I could borrow that from you. I might be able to use that in the kitchen.

Shelby smiles and hands Nerida the short wait.

SHELBY

Well it's only gathering dust in the box.

BRIDGELY

What else is in there Shelby? Do you have a baby woofers in a nappy?

SHELBY

Well let me see.

(Shelby looks in box)

No baby woofers but we have another one of Denis's strange inventions.

Shelby pulls out a thick glass medieval hand mirror.

SHELBY (CONT'D)

He called this one the 'look back'  
cause you can look back behind you.  
Would you like to play with this?

Bridgely nods enthusiastically. He places the mirror in front of his face and makes various funny faces. He giggles.

INT. BARRELMAKER'S HUT - NIGHT

Surly overweight lazy barrelmaker WAYLON waits cross armed at a square table with twins Allard and Ingrith either side. Table has four empty wooden bowls and wooden spoons.

The table is on one end of a large room. Other side strewn with incomplete half built barrels. Candles light the room.

EDWINA resembles the twin's mother from the rear of the bus. She places a plate full of sliced bread in the centre and proceeds to ladle out muddy brown gruel into the bowls. Edwina joins her family for dinner.

Waylon tries some bread. He is annoyed it's stale.

WAYLON

Why is this bread stale?

EDWINA

That's what you get when you don't pay your account. Stale bread!

WAYLON

Well it's not my fault Edwina! Not my fault the bottom has fallen out of the barrel market.

EDWINA

It's not the bottom falling out of the market, it's the bottom falling out of your barrels.

WAYLON

That only happened twice.

EDWINA

Three times.

The children are seen but not heard. Edwina fumes.

EDWINA (CONT'D)

People are still buying barrels.  
They're just not buying from you.

WAYLON

Enough! Have some faith woman!  
Things will pick up!

EDWINA

Well maybe if you stop with the  
rum. Maybe then--

WAYLON

Oh here we go again. Are you gunna  
deprive a drink to a working man?

EDWINA

Well there's the rub. You aren't  
working, are you?

Waylon fumes. He knows she's right. He dunks a chunk of  
bread into the gruel and chews it with a half smile.

WAYLON

With the gruel it ain't half bad.

EDWINA

Enjoy it. It's the last loaf we  
get from the widow till we fix up  
our account.

Waylon erupts.

WAYLON

You're telling me she can't even  
spare a two day old loaf of bread!

EDWINA

Here's the thing. Your children  
told the widow her son is a fool  
and an idiot. She is not happy.

WAYLON

Well her son is the village idiot.  
That fool on the hill wasting all  
that good bread on those damn  
birds. Surely she can spare a loaf  
or two.

EDWINA

She chased our children out of the  
bakery threatening to slap them.  
Hard.

Waylon looks mad. He fumes as he chews his stale bread.

INT. SHELBY'S HOME - NIGHT

Nerida and Shelby are still at the table playing cards by candle light. Shelby deliberates over which card to play. Nerida plays fast, playing her card without delay.

The hour glass is nearby and the sands have almost run dry.

Nerida glances at the hand mirror on the table as she waits her turn. She looks annoyed as she notices her crows feet. She shoves the hand mirror out of reach.

NERIDA

I'm not sure whether the 'look back' is a blessing or a curse.

SHELBY

Know what you mean.

Shelby finally plays her card. Nerida plays her card without delay. Shelby ponders over her next card.

SHELBY

Bridgely must be enjoying Denis's 'Look Closer'. Hasn't made a peep.

Nerida notices the hour glass run dry.

NERIDA

The long wait just finished. It must be late. I need to get Bridgely to bed.

Nerida rushes out. Shelby struggles deciding over her next card. She realizes it's futile and throws her hand in.

EXT. SHELBY'S BACK PORCH - NIGHT

Behind Shelby's hut, on the back porch, Bridgely uses the world's first ever telescope aimed skyward. The near full moon bathes Bridgely and the village in a silvery glow.

Bridgely's POV: A near full moon through the eye piece.

Bridgely continues moon gazing. Nerida arrives flustered.

NERIDA

We need to go home now Bridgely. I need to get some sleep.

BRIDGELY

(using 'look closer')  
Not yet. I need to look some more.

NERIDA  
What are you looking at?

BRIDGELY  
(using 'look closer')  
The moon. I'm looking for  
monsters.

NERIDA  
Monsters?

BRIDGELY  
(using 'look closer')  
From my imagination.  
(beat)  
We'll go home when I see one.

NERIDA  
Come on Bridgely. Please. Mummy  
needs to sleep.

BRIDGELY  
(using 'look closer')  
But I want to see monsters.  
Eeerrrrrrrrrrrr!

Nerida thinks hard.

NERIDA  
Bridgely? Do you know why you  
can't see the monsters? They're on  
the other side, the side you can't  
see.

BRIDGELY  
Yes that's right.  
(stops looking)  
Take me home Mum. I'm very sleepy.

Bridgely gets up and is now very very tired.

NERIDA  
Come on pumpkin.

BRIDGELY  
I'm not a pumpkin. I'm a chipmunk.

NERIDA  
And a fine one at that.

Nerida leads Bridgely away from the 'look closer'.

EXT. MUNDLETON VILLAGE - NIGHT

The near full moon bathes the village in a warm glow.

EXT. MUNDLETON BEACH - DAWN

Out to sea, the sun's golden lava peaks over the horizon.

INT. MUNDLETON BAKERY - CONTINUOUS

Nerida's eyes are closed, she's having a micro sleep.

Nerida stands before a basket full of rolls, eyes closed. She shakes herself awake and proceeds to sort the rolls.

Bridgely draws a monster with hundreds of eyes on parchment.

Nerida notices Bridgely at the end of the counter and smiles.

NERIDA

What are you drawing Bridgely?  
Another albatross.

BRIDGELY

What's wrong with you Mum? Is your  
brain broken?

NERIDA

No. Why would my--

BRIDGELY

Albatrosses are Wodens day and  
Thors day! Wodens day and Thors day  
MUM! Errrrrrrrr!

NERIDA

Oh that's right. Sorry Bridgely  
Mummy's just so very tired.

BRIDGELY

Tired and silly too Mum!

NERIDA

Tired and silly too.

Nerida looks tired as she sorts out more bread rolls.

Bridgely returns to his drawing. He completes it.

BRIDGELY

Ta-da!

Nerida takes a break and walks over to view Bridgely's work.



WAYLON

Well I was thinking of a bottle or two but that would only come after I pick up a sack of flour for you.

EDWINA

What's the flour for?

WAYLON

You could use it to make bread.

EDWINA

I could could I. Have you any idea how much work it is to keep house in this day and age?

WAYLON

I understand making bread is more work for you but I wanna help.

EDWINA

You wanna help. Pinch me I must be dreaming. You can do the laundry.

WAYLON

The laundry? Fine.

EDWINA

Oh and as well as the flour I'll need a sack of instant gruel, a sack of onions and a sack of apples. We're also going to need more wood for the stove and candles.

WAYLON

Looks like I need to finish off a couple more barrels.

EDWINA

Well I'll leave it to yah. Come on kids.

Edwina and the twins walk out. Waylon calls her back.

WAYLON

Oh Edwina? What day's laundry.

EDWINA

Wodens day, Thors day and Freyas day.

Edwina and the twins all struggle not to grin on their exit.

Waylon looks pissed.

INT. MUNDLETON BAKERY - DAY

Nerida finishes serving the only customers in the bakery - a middle aged couple who resemble a couple on the tour bus. She hands them their order - loaves of bread and they exchange cursory nods. The couple leave with their bread.

As the couple exit, they almost run into Shelby. All three exchange cursory nods. Shelby heads to the counter.

SHELBY

How's your day been sweet pea?

NERIDA

The worst. Yours?

SHELBY

Dreadful. I was working on an order and cross stitched where I should of sewed. Needless to say I wasted all morning on that silly mistake. I won't get a thing right today.

NERIDA

I can't set a foot right either and to make matters worse, I touched Bridgely's latest drawing.

SHELBY

Oh no.  
Is he still angry?

Nerida nods and wipes away a tear. She is about to crumble.

SHELBY (CONT'D)

I think you could use a cuppa.

NERIDA

I believe I could.

SHELBY

Take a seat my dear. I'll make it.

Not a word of protest from Nerida. She wants to feel spoilt. The best friends share a smile before Shelby exits.

Nerida sits at the counter a tad less sad.

EXT. BEHIND BARRELMAKER'S HUT - DAY

Waylon loads barrels onto a large barrow. He pushes the barrow away.

EXT. WELL WORN TRAIL OUTSKIRTS OF MUNDLETON - DAY

On a steep scenic part of the trail -all quiet and peaceful. Serenity is broken with runaway loaded barrow hurtling down hill and Waylon struggling to catch it. Waylon and cart exit scenic view. Waylon wails and the sound of a ten pin strike.

INT. MUNDLETON BAKERY - DAY

The two friends reminisce over a mug of tea.

SHELBY

So I'm sorry I never got to really know Darren. He sounded lovely.

NERIDA

One in a million. One in a million. He called me his little Princess and he'd wait on me hand and foot and make me cups of tea. He didn't want me to lift a finger. Always said he wanted to spoil me. And best of all - my God he could bake.

Enter brooding handsome stranger DARBY who resembles the Blind man from the bus. Nerida and Shelby snap out of their sombre demeanour and both flash Darby a welcoming smile.

EXT. BEHIND MUNDLETON BAKERY - DAY

Nerida and Darby stand before a small thatched roof hut behind the bakery. The small hut is in disrepair.

NERIDA

So who sent you?

DARBY

Preston. He said you had a hut I could rent for a month.

Darby and Nerida stare at the sorry state of the hut. Part of the roof is missing. Two chickens run out.

NERIDA

Well as you can see, it needs work. My late husband was no builder. He was a baker.

Darby surveys the work required to make the hut habitable.

DARBY

Maybe we can work out something.  
Half rent for the first week and  
I'll fix it up. Sounds fair?

NERIDA

Sounds fair.

Nerida sticks out her hand to seal the deal. A hearty handshake, both smile, a deal is struck and sparks fly.

INT. MUNDLETON BAKERY - DAY

Shelby sits at the counter finishing her tea. Nerida re-enters.

SHELBY

How did it go with the brooding Mr  
Darby?

NERIDA

He's staying.

SHELBY

Things just got a whole lot more  
interesting around here.

Shelby gets up to leave.

SHELBY (CONT'D)

See you tonight at the town  
meeting.

NERIDA

Bye Shelby.

Shelby exits the bakery.

INT. BARRELMAKER'S HUT - DAY

Waylon stands behind his barrow that's in the middle of the room. The barrow is loaded with various sacks and supplies. Edwina looks through the various supplies.

EDWINA

Where's the apples?

WAYLON

I had an accident. A couple of  
barrels broke on the way to town.

Edwina's furious as she pulls out a jug from the barrow.

EDWINA

No apples but you still had enough  
to buy rum. You have some nerve!

Waylon snatches the jug from Edwina and puts it out of reach.

WAYLON

I'll finish off some more barrels  
in the morning and I'll get the  
apples tomorrow. Okay?

Edwina continues to search the barrow, points to a sack.

EDWINA

Peanuts? You didn't get apples but  
you got peanuts! You selfish pig!

WAYLON

Now now the kids like them and they  
were real cheap - practically threw  
them at me. Lot cheaper then apples.

EDWINA

You are not eating them when you're  
drinking. Do you hear me? You  
almost choked last summer.

WAYLON

Not eat them when I drink. Good  
Lord woman! When can I eat them?  
When I'm asleep?

Edwina glares at Waylon.

EXT. MUNDLETON VILLAGE - NIGHT

SUPER: MUNDLETON TOWN MEETING - FIRST MOONNIGHT OF THE MONTH

Villagers stream into a large hut - 'Mundleton Town Hall'  
located center of the village. It's a full moon.

INT. MUNDLETON TOWN HALL - NIGHT

The hall is dimly lit with candles. At a table on stage  
sits BROTHER TARTHER, in monk robes and tonsure taking notes  
with a quill. He resembles a passenger on the tour bus.

Besides Brother Tarter sits handsome PRESTON the mayor, who  
resembles the Bus Driver Bert. He looks over some notes.

Two rows of benches face the stage, enough to accommodate over a hundred. The seats quickly fill with village folk.

Bridgely sits with Nerida at the front. Nerida looks ahead steadfast. Bridgely is distracted, keeps looking back.

A couple of rows back and off to one side is Waylon, Edwina and the twins. Waylon stares hard at the back of Nerida's head. He looks daggers her way.

Nerida continues to stare ahead, she looks uncomfortable.

BRIDGELY

Mum? Why is the barrelmaker  
staring at us? Errrrrrrr!

NERIDA

(stares dead ahead)  
Ignore him please. He's being silly.

Bridgely takes another look before following Nerida's advice.

BRIDGELY

Errrrrrrr!

Shelby arrives and sits next to Nerida. Her arrival settles Bridgely. After a brief word with Nerida and Bridgely, Shelby exchanges a sweet smile and a wave with Preston.

The hall is near full with just a few stragglers taking their seat. The whole village has turned out. Most talk amongst themselves.

Brother Tarthar stands surveying the audience. He sits back down and whispers something to Preston. Preston nods. He turns to the audience and gives Bridgely a nod.

Bridgely jumps to his feet and runs over to a large gong. He grabs a mallet nearby and bangs the gong over and over.

The village folk stop talking and are transfixed on Bridgely.

Bridgely looks estatic as he wildly bangs the gong.

Nerida anxiously hopes he'll stop.

Bridgely finally stops.

Preston stands to his feet.

PRESTON

Well done Bridgely! A round of  
applause for Bridgely everyone.

A huge applause. Bridgely takes a bow.

BRIDGELY

Hey Mum! Did you see me? I banged  
the gong again!

Nerida gestures to Bridgely to shush and to return to his seat. Shelby gives Bridgely a thumbs up. Bridgely sits down.

PRESTON

Thanks for coming. First item on  
the agenda. Today marks the tenth  
anniversary where two brave men  
made the ultimate sacrifice and  
saved us all from the Viking horde.

The crowd go quiet. Shelby and Nerida cry. Bridgely is unperturbed.

PRESTON (CONT'D)

That horrible day we just didn't  
lose a baker and a candlestick  
maker, we lost a husband, a father,  
a brother, a neighbour, a friend.  
A moment silence for our fallen  
brothers.

The village folk bow their heads in silence. Nerida tries to hug Bridgely.

BRIDGELY

Quit it Mum. Stop hugging me!  
Errrrrrrr!

PRESTON

The threat of another Viking attack  
is inevitable. It's not a question  
of if but when. That is why our  
next guest has such an important  
message for us all. Darby?

Preston sits. Darby enters from the side and addresses all.

DARBY

Hello I'm Darby and I have been  
helping towns like Mundleton to  
survive the Vikings.

Darby has everyone's attention.

WAYLON

(heckles)

Why do you want to help us for?

DARBY

Cause I know what the Vikings can do. I'm from Ravenscar and I lost everyone.

Everyone is in shock. Nerida and Shelby share a surprised look.

WAYLON

(heckles)

How did you survive? Did you run away? Ha ha.

This remark makes Nerida angry. She gives Waylon a filthy look.

DARBY

No I was hunting and on my return I found everyone dead. My parents, my brother, my neighbours, my wife, my little girl. Everyone. Dead.

Darby looks like a broken man. The town share his sorrow. Preston stands up next to Darby to help sell his plan.

PRESTON

Darby has been visiting coastal towns like Mundleton to introduce this very important community program - the Viking Watch.

Shelby puts her hand up.

SHELBY

I'm wondering Preston. How does this Viking Watch work?

PRESTON

Glad you asked Shelby. Darby will be overseeing the construction of a small hut on the sea-ward side of Bridgely's hill, amongst the scrub not far from the cliff face. We've also set up a roster. Every able man in Mundleton will need to devote one day watch a fortnight and a night watch once a month.

The BLACKSMITH, who resembles an elderly man from the bus, lifts his hand to ask a question. Preston gives him a nod.

BLACKSMITH

What do we do on these watches?

DARBY

Observe and report.

If you observe dark sails on the horizon, you report to the rest of the village to head for the hills as a matter of great haste. For this program to be a success we need to follow Viking Watch at all times to ensure we all survive. All agree?

A long silence. Nerida and Shelby stand to clap. Others follow and soon all are on their feet clapping - all except Waylon and his family. Nerida and Darby share a smile.

The meeting is over. The congregation are leaving. Preston yells after them.

PRESTON

Thanks for coming and don't forget to check the Viking Watch roster on your way out.

Various male townsfolk inspect the roster posted on parchment on a wall at the rear of the hall. Most look happy or impartial. Waylon looks at the roster pissed. He finds his shifts and rolls his eyes.

EXT. MUNDLETON VILLAGE - NIGHT

It's very late and a full moon watches over the quiet town.

INT. BAKERY KITCHEN - NIGHT

In the dimly lit kitchen, Nerida yawns long and hard. She splashes her face with water from a large bowl on the bench. There's a large pile of rolled dough balls to her left.

Nerida places a large rack of dough balls into a large oven. She turns the 'short wait' on the bench over to reset it.

Nerida kneads a large ball of dough on the bench.

The sands of the short wait run dry.

Nerida pulls out a large rack of cooked rolls from the oven.

Nerida carries a large woven basket full of cooked rolls.

EXT. SEAWARD SIDE OF BRIDGELY'S HILL - DAWN

Out to sea, the golden sun slowly edges over the horizon.

EXT. SEAWARD SIDE OF BRIDGELY'S HILL - EARLY MORNING

Preston and Darby construct a fortress style hut overlooking hazardous rocks and the sea. The posts are in place and the two men are busy fixing large bearers to the posts. A pile of wood to complete the 'Viking Watch' hut lays nearby.

INT. MUNDLETON BAKERY - DAY

Nerida yawns long and hard before sorting fresh rolls in hanging baskets behind the counter.

At the counter nearby, Bridgely draws a juvenile drawing of a fluffy puppy in a diaper/nappy.

INT. BARRELMAKER'S HUT - DAY

Waylon snores. He sits on the floor with his back against the wall. Before him is an unfinished barrel, some tools and an empty jug of rum lay on his lap with the cork missing. Scattered over his lap and all about are peanut shells.

In enters Edwina. She looks upon Waylon with disgust.

EDWINA

Wake up you waste of skin! WAKE UP!

She kicks Waylon in an effort to wake him but to no avail.

EXT. SEAWARD SIDE OF BRIDGELY'S HILL - DAY

Preston and Darby complete construction of the fortress style 'Viking Watch'. The sun is high and it is past noon.

EXT. HILLTOP OF BRIDGELY'S HILL - DAY

The hilltop is covered in hungry Albatrosses. Bridgely giggles as he feeds them chunks of bread. The Albatrosses fiercely compete for each piece Bridgely throws their way.

Preston and Darby walk past this spectacle carrying tool bags. The two keep a distance from Bridgely and the birds.

Bridgely is oblivious to the two men's close proximity. He's fully focused on the task at hand - feeding the Albatrosses.

Darby looks on in amazement.

DARBY

He feeds them every day?

PRESTON  
For the best part of ten years.

INT. BARRELMAKER'S HUT - DAY

Waylon is still asleep on the floor with an unfinished barrel, before him. He smiles in his drunk slumber. Peanut shells lay all about him.

Edwina awakens Waylon with a pail of water. He is drenched.

WAYLON  
Why did you do that for?

EDWINA  
You promised me apples! Now get to work and finish that barrel!

Waylon has a hangover. He struggles to wake up.

EXT. BEHIND MUNDLETON BAKERY - DAY

Darby is on a wooden ladder mending the thatched roof on the small hut behind the bakery. Long shadows indicate it's late in the afternoon. Nerida arrives carrying a plate with pancakes and a stone jug.

NERIDA  
Mister Darby? I wonder whether you'd like something to eat?

Darby climbs down from the ladder.

DARBY  
Why thank you. I'm famished.

Darby sits on a log nearby and tries the pancakes. He swigs on the jug.

DARBY (CONT'D)  
Hmmm They are ahhhh

NERIDA  
Be honest. They're bad. Right?

DARBY  
No no no. They are ahhhh okay.

NERIDA  
Okay? Okay?  
(beat)  
That's the nicest thing anyone has ever said about them.

The two share a smile.

DARBY

My Dad was the village baker and he made pancakes very similar to these.

NERIDA

He did? Oh so you're a baker.

DARBY

Oh no, I'm no baker. I do know my way around a kitchen though. My older brother Nate was the baker.

An uncomfortable silence at the mention of dead family.

NERIDA

I'm very sorry for your loss Mr Darby. I am very very sorry.

DARBY

And I for yours.

Another uncomfortable silence. Darby swigs from the jug. He gives Nerida back the empty plate and jug.

DARBY (CONT'D)

The apple cider is very good.

NERIDA

Not okay? Oh I am disappointed.

The two share a smirk. Nerida turns to return to the bakery.

DARBY

I hope you don't find me too forward but I think you will find a pinch of nutmeg will make a huge difference.

NERIDA

With the cider?

DARBY

No no no. The pancakes.

NERIDA

I'll give it a try. Thank you Mr Darby.

DARBY

No. Thank you. I was famished.

NERIDA

Please Mr Darby, call me Nerida.

DARBY

Thank you Nerida and please call me just Darby.

NERIDA

Bye just Darby.

DARBY

Bye Nerida.

The two share another smile. Nerida returns to the Bakery and Darby returns to mending the thatched roof.

MONTAGE OF THE FOLLOWING WEEK IN MUNDLETON

- A) Nerida yawns long. She resumes to kneading dough in the kitchen. It's the middle of the night. She looks tired.
- B) Waylon struggles to wash clothes on the river bank with a wooden paddle and wash tub. He loses clothes down river. Village women washing nearby snicker at his poor form.
- C) The Blacksmith squints as he looks out to sea. He sits on a stool before the Viking Watch hut recently built.
- D) Tired Nerida serves a customer in a near empty Bakery. A large stack of pancakes indicates they're not selling.
- E) Bridgely giggles as he feeds Albatrosses on the hilltop.
- F) Darby sits with the BARBER(50s) who resembles a well groomed man from the bus. The two keep warm in the night sitting around a camp fire before the Viking Watch hut. They share a joke and both laugh long and hard.
- G) Nerida looks tired. She places a tray of dough balls in the oven. It's the middle of the night.
- H) Edwina pulls out a tray of burnt loaves from an outdoor wood-fired cob oven using rags. She rushes and places the tray on a side table as it's hot and burning her hands.
- I) Waylon eats peanuts on Viking Watch. He takes a swig of rum from a stone jug and resumes to eating peanuts.
- J) Tired Nerida hands Miss Farah a loaf in a string bag in a near empty Bakery. Miss Farah exits leaving Nerida all alone. She stares forlorn at a large stack of pancakes.

- K) Bridgely chuckles as he tosses a chunk of bread into the air. Albatrosses fiercely compete for the tasty morsel.
- L) Darby sits with the Blacksmith before a camp fire on Viking Watch. They play cards in the dark cold night.
- M) Nerida's eyelids look heavy. It's the middle of the night. The 'short wait' runs dry. She pulls out a tray of golden rolls from the oven and places them on the bench.
- N) Waylon's asleep on the floor with his back against the wall. Before him is an unfinished barrel and nearby an empty jug. Edwina enters. She's furious and kicks him.
- O) Preston squints as he looks out to sea. He peels an apple with a paring knife as he sits on Viking Watch.
- P) Nerida is alone in the empty bakery. She wipes down the counter. She notices the large stack of pancakes untouched. She tries a portion of pancake and grimaces.
- Q) Bridgely guffaws, empty string bag in hand, Albatrosses all about are in mid take-off, wings spread, skyward.

EXT. SEAWARD SIDE OF BRIDGELY'S HILL - NIGHT

Darby sits with Brother Tarthar at the Viking Watch campfire.

DARBY

So Brother, any issues with the night watch?

BROTHER TARTHAR

(concerned)

The second watch Waylon turned up with a jug of rum and a big bag of peanuts - both of which he's since finished.

Waylon is drunk as a skunk, sound asleep and snoring on a blanket near the campfire. Jug and peanut shells lay nearby.

BROTHER TARTHAR (CONT'D) (O.S.)

Hope he wakes for his watch later.

Darby looks concerned.

DARBY

Hmm, yes we need to make sure everyone on Watch refrains from drinking. It's vital everyone stays alert. I'll mention it at the next town meeting.

INT. BAKERY KITCHEN - NIGHT

One corner of the kitchen bench, the 'short wait' runs dry.

Adjacent, Nerida has fallen asleep. Her arms folded rest on the bench and her head snuggled into her elbow. She snores.

EXT. SEAWARD SIDE OF BRIDGELY'S HILL - NIGHT

Brother Tarthar tries desperately to wake Waylon who is asleep near the campfire.

BROTHER TARTHAR

Wake Up! It's your watch. Wake up!

Brother Tarthar continues to plead for Waylon to wake up. Waylon shrugs him away as if he is an annoying fly.

INT. BAKERY KITCHEN - NIGHT

Dark smoke seeps out of the oven door.

The smoke covers Nerida asleep. She wakes up coughing.

She quickly realises the gravity of the situation. Nerida grabs some rags and opens the oven and is engulfed with a cloud of smoke. Once the smoke clears, the rolls on the tray resemble charcoal. She flings the mess onto the bench.

Nerida's fully awake. She inspects the mess. Nerida screams.

In rushes Darby with a candle alight.

NERIDA

W-w-what are you doing here?

DARBY

I heard the scream and the smoke.

NERIDA

Oh um I put some rolls in and I was waiting for the 'short wait'--

DARBY

The 'short what'?

Nerida picks up the small hourglass and flips it over.

NERIDA

The 'short wait'. Handy to time the cooking of the rolls. Except--

DARBY

You fell asleep.

NERIDA

Exactly.

Darby is mesmerized by the shifting sands in the hourglass.

DARBY

Brilliant contraption but would be great if it came with a bell.

Nerida puts down the hourglass. She breaks down.

NERIDA

Who am I kidding? I wasn't meant for this life. I was supposed to marry a Prince and live the life of a Princess. Happily ever after. It's never going to happen. Waaaah!

Darby offers Nerida a rag that's on the bench nearby. She accepts and sobs into the rag and then blows her nose very loudly. She regains her composure and hands back the used rag. Darby delicately handles the rag and places it back.

NERIDA (CONT'D)

Well thank you for coming to my rescue. How did you get here so fast? Weren't you asleep?

DARBY

Oh I've been checking on the night shifts on the Viking Watch. Making sure everyone's on the same page.

NERIDA

Well thank you again. I really need to get this mess cleaned up else there won't be anything to sell.

DARBY

Well you sit down. Clearly your own body is telling you to rest.

NERIDA

But the mess and today's bread.

DARBY

How does this sound? I'm checking on the night shifts for the next few weeks. Why don't I help you. You can give me a quick run through and I'll get it all done. And you can get some much needed rest.

NERIDA  
Why would you--

DARBY  
Cause behind those deep dark  
circles under your eyes is a  
Princess who deserves a break.

Nerida's heart melts.

DARBY (CONT'D)  
And besides, I kind of miss it.

NERIDA  
Thank you.

DARBY  
You're welcome.

The two share a sweet smile.

EXT. SEAWARD SIDE OF BRIDGELY'S HILL - NIGHT

Reflection of the three quarter moon glimmers on the ocean.

Brother Tarthar sits near the dwindling campfire with a  
blanket around him, shivering and struggling to stay awake.

Waylon smiles in his deep slumber, wrapped in a blanket near  
the campfire's dying embers.

INT. BAKERY KITCHEN - NIGHT

Darby pulls out of the oven a tray of golden rolls. He  
replaces it with a tray of dough balls. He enjoys the work.

EXT. SEAWARD SIDE OF BRIDGELY'S HILL - DAWN

The sun slowly nudges over the horizon.

Brother Tarthar looks dead tired. He yawns and has to keep  
slapping himself hard in the face to avoid falling asleep.

Waylon's asleep on a blanket near a bed of ash that was last  
night's campfire. Peanut shells are strewn all around him.

INT. MUNDLETON BAKERY - CONTINUOUS

Darby briskly loads baskets behind the counter with freshly  
baked rolls. Bridgely enters half asleep.

BRIDGELY  
Hey you're not my Mum. Where my  
Mum? Mum! Mum!

DARBY

Bridgely, it's me Darby from out the back.

BRIDGELY

Where's Mum? Mum! Mum!

DARBY

Bridgely, your Mum is sleeping. She needs a good rest so I'm helping. Is that okay?

Bridgely looks concerned.

BRIDGELY

Mum okay?

DARBY

Your Mum is okay. She is just very very tired and we are letting her sleep in. Good idea?

Bridgely grins and gives Darby a thumbs up.

BRIDGELY

Good idea!

Bridgely plonks himself at the counter.

BRIDGELY (CONT'D)

Breakfast time.

DARBY

Your Mum said you'd wake up hungry. Just give me a moment little mouse.

BRIDGELY

I'm not a mouse. I'm a chipmunk!

Darby disappears and returns with a small stack of pancakes. He places the pancakes and utensils before Bridgely.

DARBY

I just made them. Dig in.

Bridgely turns his nose up at the pancakes, shakes his head.

DARBY (CONT'D)

These are a new recipe. My recipe.

BRIDGELY

Good?

DARBY

Yes good. Very very good.

Bridgely is curious. He cuts off a small piece and tries it. Bridgely licks his chops, his tongue round and round.

DARBY (CONT'D)

Good?

BRIDGELY

Ten out of ten.

Bridgely proceeds to eat the stack in record time. Darby looks on, pleased with the response from Bridgely.

EXT. SEAWARD SIDE OF BRIDGELY'S HILL - DAY

Brother Tarthar struggles to stay awake as he stares out to sea. The Barber arrives for his day shift.

BARBER

How goes the watch Brother?

BROTHER TARTHAR

Dreadful. The second watch I couldn't wake, Drunk. And I had to pull an all nighter. I'm exhausted. Good bye.

Brother Tarthar stands up to leave. The Barber gestures to Waylon in a deep blissful slumber smiling to himself.

BARBER

Brother? What about him?

BROTHER TARTHAR

Not my problem. He's yours.

Brother Tarthar wanders off half asleep. The Barber assesses Waylon's intoxicated state. He walks over to Waylon and tries to wake him up.

BARBER

Hey! Mate! You need to go home.

Waylon swats the Barber away like some annoying fly.

WAYLON

Shooh shooh. Go away.

The Barber tries to wake Waylon but has no success and leaves Waylon to wake up in his own time.

INT. MUNDLETON BAKERY - DAY

Darby sorts out rolls into various baskets behind the counter.

Bridgely sits at the counter drawing on parchment.

Darby tries to start some conversation with Bridgely.

DARBY  
What are you drawing?

BRIDGELY  
My secret.

DARBY  
HMMMMMMMM.

Darby walks over to a wall covered in Albatrosses sketches.

DARBY (CONT'D)  
Is it an Albatross?

BRIDGELY  
QUIET PLEASE I'M DRAWING!

Darby walks over to another wall covered with monsters.

DARBY  
I know, it's a monster.

BRIDGELY  
QUIET!

Bridgely's anxiety escalates. Darby walks to the last wall.

DARBY  
So you're drawing a--

BRIDGELY  
STOP TALKING!!!!!!!!!!!!!!  
EERRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRR!

Darby realises he's crossed some boundary.

DARBY  
I'm very sorry Bridgely. I'm going  
back to sorting rolls. Sorry.

BRIDGELY  
Good bye!  
EERRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRR

Darby returns to the rolls. He gives Bridgely some space.

Bridgely returns to his drawing. He calms down.

Darby places a large plate of pancakes cut into bite size chunks. He places two signs either side - 'New Recipe' and 'Free Samples'.

Bridgely finishes his drawing.

BRIDGELY (CONT'D)

Ta Da!

DARBY

Can I have a look.

Bridgely proudly displays his drawing 'A baby woofers wearing a nappy'

DARBY

Oh it's an adorable puppy!

BRIDGELY

It's not a puppy! It's a baby woofers! ERRRRRRRR!

DARBY

Oh Oh! My mistake! So it is! An adorable baby woofers!

Bridgely smiles with this remark.

Nerida enters looking refreshed and upbeat.

NERIDA

Good morning Bridgely, Darby. How was breakfast?

DARBY

I think it went well. What do you think Bridgely?

BRIDGELY

Ten out of ten!

NERIDA

Impressive score little pumpkin.

BRIDGELY

I'm not a pumpkin, I'm a chipmunk.

NERIDA

I keep forgetting that.

Nerida playfully tickles Bridgely. He giggles hysterically.

Nerida turns to Darby.

NERIDA (CONT'D)  
 So what did you give him that  
 deserves a ten? He's never scored  
 anything over seven till now.

Darby offers the 'Free Samples' plate to Nerida. She tries a sample and almost faints. Her eyes roll back. So good. Darby tries to retrieve the plate. Nerida growls at him.

DARBY  
 Think I'll leave them.

Nerida and Darby share a grin.

EXT. SEAWARD SIDE OF BRIDGELY'S HILL - DAY

The Barber looks out to see. He glances at Waylon who is on his side and one side of his face is sunburnt lobster red. The Barber gets up and attempts to wake Waylon.

BARBER  
 Wake up Waylon. It's home time.

Waylon swats the Barber away. He's still very drunk.

WAYLON  
 Go away. Shoooh shoooh.

BARBER  
 Well at least roll over man, you're  
 all sunburnt on one side.

The Barber tries to roll Waylon over but he retaliates.

WAYLON  
 Stop it! Stop it! Go away!

The Barber gives up on waking or rescuing Waylon. He returns to his watch.

SERIES OF SHOTS - THE PANCAKES WERE A HIT

- A) Miss Farah and another female customer try a pancake sample. Both nod in agreement to it being tasty.
- B) A young couple try a sample. They enthusiastically agree.
- C) A husband and wife try a sample. Both nod in agreement.
- D) Time elapse footage of the shrinking stack of pancakes.
- E) Darby serves with a smile. Banters with the customers.

- F) Nerida is upbeat as she serves a female customer.
- G) Darby places a fresh stack of pancakes on the counter.
- H) Darby places a fully loaded sample plate on the counter.
- I) An elderly man tries a sample. He nods and smiles.
- J) A teenage girl tries a sample. She nods and smiles.
- K) A father and son try a sample. Both nod in agreement.
- L) Time elapse footage of the shrinking stack of pancakes.
- M) Darby has a way with the customers. Makes them laugh.
- N) Nerida admires Darby's rapport with customers.

EXT. SEAWARD SIDE OF BRIDGELY'S HILL - DAY

The Barber on Viking Watch stares out over the ocean.

The BREWER, a thickset scruffy man who resembles a passenger on the bus, arrives for his day shift. It's high noon.

BREWER  
See any Viking sails?

BARBER  
A lot of birds but no sails.

The Barber relinquishes his seat to the Brewer. He starts to walk away but the Brewer calls him back.

BREWER  
Hey what about him?

Waylon still lay sound asleep sleeping on one side near the remains of last night's campfire under a blistering sun.

BARBER  
His from night shift. Got plastered  
and slept through his watch.

BREWER  
Should I wake him?

BARBER  
Good luck.

The Barber leaves. Waylon continues to sleep, one side of his face looks severely burnt - bright red like a lobster.

INT. MUNDLETON BAKERY - DAY

Nerida serves the last remaining customer a young Mother with a toddler. Darby wipes down the counter. Nerida hands the customer her items, cursory nods and the customers exit.

NERIDA

You've done this thing before.

DARBY

Well I did help my Dad in his Bakery growing up. Dad would always say "make em laugh".

NERIDA

You did that. Even made me laugh.

Nerida and Darby share a smile.

Bridgely marches over to a basket and puts a loaf in a bag.

NERIDA (CONT'D)

Bridgely! If that is for those damn birds you are not to use my fresh bread. Do you hear me?

Bridgely giggles as he piles in another two loaves.

NERIDA (CONT'D)

Stop! Thief! Stop!

Nerida feigns being angry. She chases him with half a grin.

Bridgely giggles hysterically running out with fresh loaves.

NERIDA (CONT'D)

What am I gunna do, he loves them birds.

DARBY

And you love that boy.

Nerida nods and they share a smile.

DARBY (CONT'D)

Does he always go there alone?

Nerida replies with a pain in her eyes.

NERIDA

Pretty much. See he doesn't have any friends. Not real friends and he kinda prefers his own company. I'd love it if he had a friend.

DARBY  
I would love to be Bridgely's  
friend if that is okay with you.

NERIDA  
That's fine by me.

Nerida and Darby share a smile.

EXT. SEAWARD SIDE OF BRIDGELY'S HILL - DAY

The Brewer on Viking Watch looks over the ocean.

Waylon finally stirs awake. As he gets up, Waylon touches his face and grimaces. His face is as red as a lobster.

WAYLON  
What time is it?

BREWER  
Well after noon.

Waylon touches his severely sunburnt face, grimaces in pain.

WAYLON  
Why didn't you wake me sooner?

BREWER  
Believe me it's not from a lack of  
trying. I tried, the morning watch  
tried and I guess Night watch too.

Waylon caresses his face that is a bright red. He is hungover. Waylon wanders off without even a goodbye.

The Brewer observes Waylon walk off without a word.

BREWER (CONT'D)  
You're welcome.

The Brewer returns to his watch.

INT. MUNDLETON BAKERY - DAY

Nerida and Shelby sit at the counter chatting. Both look happy. Darby arrives with two steamy mugs of tea.

DARBY  
Here's your tea ladies.

Both give him an appreciative smile.

DARBY (CONT'D)

Well I'm off. I'll be back after midnight.

NERIDA

Are you sure? If it's not too much trouble.

DARBY

No trouble at all. See you in the morning. Bye Nerida, Shelby.

NERIDA || SHELBY

Bye!

Darby leaves. Shelby grins.

SHELBY

So you seem to have inherited a very attentive apprentice.

NERIDA

He's more the baker than I. His father was the village baker of Ravenscar.

SHELBY

Lucky you.

NERIDA

I hope he's not expecting to be paid.

SHELBY

(smirks)

I'm sure being in good favour with the proprietor is payment enough.

Nerida playfully slaps Shelby's shoulder. They both chuckle.

SHELBY (CONT'D)

So I just made some fresh jam and thought I'd take some pancakes off your hands.

NERIDA

Sorry but we sold out.

SHELBY

Sold out! How?

NERIDA

It's Darby's recipe - a pinch of nutmeg makes all the difference.

Nerida and Shelby exchange a 'wouldn't you know' nod.

NERIDA (CONT'D)  
Bridgely gave them a ten out of ten.

SHELBY  
Bridgely has never scored anything over seven.

Nerida nods.

SHELBY (CONT'D)  
Well I guess I'll be having eggs.

NERIDA  
Nonsense - come out back and I'll cook you a fresh batch.

SHELBY  
Are you sure? Wouldn't want to put you out.

NERIDA  
You're not putting me out. I'm fully rested. Come on out back.

The BFFs take their steamy mugs and exit towards the kitchen.

EXT. HILLTOP OF BRIDGELY'S HILL - DAY

Bridgely tears off small chunks from a loaf and throws it here and there. Albatrosses compete for each morsel. The feeding has him in hysterics, can't stop giggling. He is in stitches. Him and the birds slow motion, an ecstatic state.

Waylon walks by, hungover, sunburnt and cranky. He makes a half hearted attempt yelling at the birds, in a hope they'll fly away but none of the birds take any notice of him.

Bridgely continues to giggle hysterically. Him and the birds in slow motion. Bridgely is in an ecstatic state.

Waylon walks up close to Bridgely and angrily hurls abuse.

WAYLON  
IDIOT!

Bridgely giggles as he throws the chunks this way and that. Him and the birds in slow motion. He is oblivious to Waylon.

Waylon's face looks red with anger as well as sunburnt. He looks upset as he continues on his way with a huge hangover.

Bridgely continues to feed the birds with great delight.

INT. BAKERY KITCHEN - DAY

Shelby sits at the bench, mouth full, munching on a stack of pancakes. She's in bliss, gives Nerida a nod and a thumbs up.

NERIDA

Hard to believe a pinch of nutmeg  
would make all the difference.

INT. BARRELMAKER'S HUT - NIGHT

Waylon, Edwina and the twins sit down at the table.  
Tonight's dinner is burnt bread and dark brown gruel.  
Everyone's clothes are dirty and tattered - a result of poor  
laundry. All miserable, especially Waylon with half red face.

EDWINA

We can't go on like this?

WAYLON

What do you mean?

Edwina gestures to his face and the tattered dirty clothes.

EDWINA

This and this.

WAYLON

What do you want me to do about it?

EDWINA

Provide for your family.  
You're a good tradesman when you're  
not drunk.

Waylon looks down, disappointed with himself.

EDWINA (CONT'D)

Children. Off to bed. Quick smart  
now.

The children stand, grateful not having to finish.

ALLARD

Night Mother Father.

INGRITH

Night night Mother Father.

The parents give their twins a cursory nod. The twins exit.

EDWINA

Waylon my dear, when we wed I vowed  
for richer or poorer but I'm not  
prepared to see you drive the  
family any further down.

WAYLON

(protests)  
It's just that--

EDWINA

Tut tut. We know it's the drink.

WAYLON

I don't have a drinking problem.

Waylon looks ridiculous with only one side severely sunburnt.  
Edwina looks cross. She stares him down.

WAYLON (CONT'D)

Well maybe a little.

EDWINA

Look I don't want to deprive it  
from you love but all the time?

Waylon looks down, disappointed in himself.

EDWINA (CONT'D)

I just think you should stay sober  
for a portion of the day, you know,  
to make a living. That's all.

WAYLON

What if I promise to be always  
sober in the morning. I could make  
quite a few barrels in a morning.

EDWINA

I was thinking more along the lines  
of 'after dark'.

Waylon looks miserable. Edwina takes pity on him.

EDWINA (CONT'D)

We could try it as an interim  
measure. Aim at building it up to  
a full day sober by Spring.

WAYLON

I could do that. I promise, from  
now on, to only drink in the  
afternoons, nights and rainy days.

EDWINA  
Rainy days?

WAYLON  
It's an unwritten rule in the  
tradesman's code of conduct.  
Rainy days are unpaid holidays.

Edwina looks daggers on this response.

WAYLON  
I heat up tar outside.  
Can't do that on rainy days.

Edwina looks at him sideways, unsure if she's being scammed.

EDWINA  
Okay but remember.  
This is temporary.

WAYLON  
I understand.  
And I promise I'll be a better  
provider.

EDWINA  
Yes and the first money you make  
goes to the widow.  
I cannot make bread.

WAYLON  
Oh I don't know, it ain't half bad  
when you dip it in some gruel.

Waylon dips a burnt chunk into his gruel. He has trouble  
chewing. Waylon grimaces at the taste. It's hard to swallow.

EXT. MUNDLETON VILLAGE - NIGHT

A half full moon glimmers above the village of Mundleton.

INT. BAKERY KITCHEN - NIGHT

Darby is upbeat and whistles as he pulls out of the oven a  
tray of golden rolls. Darby promptly replaces them with a  
tray of dough balls. He looks pleased with himself.

EXT. SEAWARD SIDE OF BRIDGELY'S HILL - DAWN

Out past the sea, edging over the horizon, the golden sun.

INT. BARRELMAKER'S HUT - CONTINUOUS

Waylon sits at the table swigging rum from a stone jug, eating peanuts and playing cards-solitaire. He's very drunk.

Edwina enters half asleep and bewildered.

EDWINA  
Have you been up all night?

WAYLON  
(drunk, gets up)  
Sorry. Didn't realise the time.

Waylon struggles to stand. He staggers away.

EDWINA  
Where are you going?

WAYLON  
Bed.

EDWINA  
Bed?

Waylon walks off. Edwina looks mad.

INT. MUNDLETON BAKERY - DAY

Bridgely shows Darby monster drawings covering the Bakery wall. Darby listens keenly as Bridgely tells him a story behind one of the monster drawing.

Nerida enters refreshed and upbeat.

NERIDA  
Good morning. How are we this morning?

BRIDGELY  
Morning Mum.

Bridgely returns to the bench and continues with a sketch.

Darby returns behind the counter, sorts rolls along side Nerida. There are two stacks of pancakes on display.

DARBY  
Good morning. Sleep well?

NERIDA  
Wonderful. I can't remember the last time I've slept so much.

The two share a smile.

NERIDA (CONT'D)  
You and Bridgely seem to be getting  
on well.

DARBY  
Bridgely's been telling me all  
about his monsters.  
He has quite an imagination.

NERIDA  
Yes in the field of monsters  
Bridgely is a scholar.

The two share another smile.

DARBY  
Bridgely also told me you and he  
haven't spent much time  
together away from the Bakery.

NERIDA  
It's a little hard with the Bakery.

DARBY  
I've got the bakery covered. This  
afternoon, when Bridgely returns  
from his birds, you two are  
going to do something.  
You're finishing early.

NERIDA  
(huge smile)  
Are you sure? Don't you need to  
leave early to catch up on sleep?

DARBY  
It's one afternoon. I'll be all  
right.

NERIDA  
Well Bridgely could do with a  
haircut.

DARBY  
So it's settled.

Nerida smiles ear to ear at the prospect of finishing early.

INT. BARRELMAKER'S HUT - MAIN BEDROOM - DAY

In a modest bedroom, Waylon snores sound asleep and fully  
clothed on a double bed made with slats and straw mattress.

Edwina tries to wake him but to no avail. She is furious.

EDWINA

Wake up you lazy man. It's late  
and you need to be making a living.

Waylon is oblivious to Edwina's efforts. He rolls over.

EXT. SEAWARD SIDE OF BRIDGELY'S HILL - DAY

Brother Tarthar on Viking Watch. He prays with rosary beads. In between holy whispers he whips himself with a knotted rope. In between prayer and penance he glances out to sea.

INT. BARRELMAKER'S HUT - DAY

Edwina loads the barrow with luggage, pots and packages. The twins stand close by. All three in their Sunday best.

Waylon stumbles in, half asleep and severely hungover.

WAYLON

What's all this? Why are you--

EDWINA

Waylon, I'm leaving you.

This news wakes up Waylon but he still has a bad hangover.

WAYLON

Leaving?

EDWINA

I did warn you Waylon. I did warn  
you I wasn't going to stick around  
and watch you go under.

Edwina gets behind the barrow.

EDWINA (CONT'D)

Keep up now children, fast pace and  
we should be at June's by tea.

WAYLON

Stop. Stop. You can't go. You  
can't.

EDWINA

We can't? How will this time be  
any different Waylon?

WAYLON

I'll stop drinking. When it's dark.

This has Edwina's attention.

WAYLON (CONT'D)  
 And I won't stay up anymore.  
 I'll come to bed with my wife.

EDWINA  
 You mean this? With all your heart  
 and soul?

Waylon nods and smiles. Edwina's heart melts. They embrace.

The twins who have witnessed all exchange a confused shrug.

INT. MUNDLETON BAKERY - DAY

Nerida and Darby are behind the counter. Besides them, the place is empty. Nerida's anxious, she stares at the door. Darby notices Nerida's behaviour, smirks to himself.

In enters Bridgely carrying empty string bags.

NERIDA  
 Bridgely! You're home!

This overly intense welcome freaks Bridgely out.

BRIDGELY  
 Why you saying that for Mum! Why  
 you say that ERRRRRRR!

NERIDA  
 You're getting a haircut.  
 Remember?

This reminder puts Bridgely in a much better mood.

BRIDGELY  
 Oh boy!  
 I need to get something.

Bridgely darts out back. Darby and Nerida seem curious. Bridgely returns with a small hessian bag

DARBY  
 What's in the bag Bridgely?

BRIDGELY  
 My secret.

Nerida checks her handbag has handkerchiefs, coins and key.

NERIDA

Darby I've washed a few rags.  
Could you hang them out back?

DARBY

Sure. Bye Nerida, Bridgely.

Nerida escorts Bridgely out of the Bakery.

BRIDGELY | NERIDA

Bye!

EXT. BEHIND BAKERY - DAY

Darby hangs out washed rags on a 'T' line.

The rear of the bakery, the oven extends out by around six feet - a brick box with arched roof. There's a huge crack.

Darby takes a closer look at the crack rear of the oven. He closely inspects and shakes his head in annoyance.

INT. BARBER SHOP - DAY

Bridgely gets his beard trimmed by the village Barber in a medieval barber shop. Resembles modern barbershops except chairs are not fancy but fixed and elevated and no mirrors. Bridgely's hair has had a trim. He enjoys being pampered.

The Barber takes the last final snips on the beard trim. He removes the sheet and stands back to admire his work.

BARBER

Well Mum? What do you think?

NERIDA

Much better. You scrubbed up very nicely Bridgely.

Bridgely leans over and retrieves his hessian bag. He pulls out of the bag the 'look back', the medieval hand mirror.

BRIDGELY

(admiring himself)

Hmmmmmmmm. Very pretty-full!

The Barber is mesmerized by the 'look back'.

BARBER

That thing-me-jig is great.  
Hey do you think I could borrow it?  
My customers would get a real hoot.

BRIDGELY  
 (annoyed)  
 No. It's mine! Errrrrr!

NERIDA  
 Bridgely? What did I tell you about  
 sharing.

BRIDGELY  
 (begrudgingly)  
 A little bit.

BARBER  
 I'll take really good care of it.

BRIDGELY  
 (seriously)  
 Tell everyone it's mine. Okay?

BARBER  
 Oh I will Bridgely. I will.

Bridgely is on his feet.

BRIDGELY  
 Okay. Bye! Come on Mom! Errrrrr!

Bridgely heads for the exit. Nerida gives the Barber a quick  
 wave and follows Bridgely out the door.

The Barber, now all alone, marvels at the hand mirror.

EXT. SEAWARD SIDE OF BRIDGELY'S HILL - DUSK

Brother Tarthar on Viking Watch continues to pray with  
 rosary beads. The Blacksmith and the BUTCHER, a burly man  
 with a moustache who resembles a tourist from the bus arrive.

BUTCHER  
 Any sign of the Viking horde  
 brother?

BROTHER TARTHAR  
 No Vikings. Lots of Albatrosses.

Brother Tarthar slowly gets up. He gives the Blacksmith and  
 Butcher a wave and wanders off. The two take their seats.

EXT. BEHIND BAKERY - CONTINUOUS

It's the golden hour. Darby shows Nerida the huge crack in  
 the rear of the oven. She looks very concerned.

INT. MUNDLETON BAKERY - CONTINUOUS

In an empty bakery, with the day's fading light, Nerida gets a handle of the gravity of the situation.

NERIDA

I never considered having problems with the oven.

DARBY

Nothing lasts forever.

NERIDA

So what's the damage.

DARBY

You'll need to shut down the bakery for a couple of days and we need to replace at least a dozen firebricks. We'll need to order them and they are not cheap.

NERIDA

How do you know all this?

DARBY

I helped my Dad mend his oven. I can help with the labour but as for the money, I'm sorry but I just--

NERIDA

Oh please. This is my oven but I appreciate the offer. Thank you.

Nerida looks concerned.

DARBY

Have you any money put aside?

Nerida scoffs.

DARBY (CONT'D)

Maybe you need to tell your customers to settle their accounts.

Nerida is embarrassed.

NERIDA

That could be a little hard. I've cleaned everyone's slate clean.

DARBY

Everyones?

NERIDA

Well it's all your fault? Ever since I've been catching up on sleep and you've been working I have felt blessed and happy. And I wanted to spread that good will.

DARBY

So you cancelled their debt. And how did that make you feel?

NERIDA

Great!

The two chuckle.

DARBY

That leaves us with the predicament of making some money fast. That oven's got three weeks at best.

NERIDA

But how are we going to make some quick money.

Darby stares hard at Albatross sketches. He has an idea.

INT. MUNDLETON BAKERY - DAY

It's the following morning and Darby sticks a sign above the Albatross sketches. 'ART SALE'

Nerida looks on. She turns to Bridgely who seems calm.

NERIDA

And your okay with this Bridgely?

BRIDGELY

I'm gunna be famous!

NERIDA

Hmmmm, I hope so. But won't you miss your Albatross drawings?

BRIDGELY

I can draw some more.

Nerida turns to Darby, they share a smile.

NERIDA

That's settled. This is officially Mundleton's first ever Art Sale.

Everyone shares a smile. Bridgely is pleased with himself.

INT. BARRELMAKER'S HUT - DAY

Waylon works diligently putting together a half constructed barrel. Five completed barrels stacked nearby.

Edwina enters. Waylon remains focused on the job at hand.

WAYLON

Are you pleased with my progress?

EDWINA

Are they solid and watertight?

WAYLON

As a drum.

EDWINA

Do you have a buyer?

WAYLON

The Brewer. He needs four in a hurry. He wants them by noon.

EDWINA

Do well and this could be a regular job. Brewers use loads of barrels.

WAYLON

I certainly will. Now if you give me some alone time so I can concentrate with the job at hand.

EDWINA

Yes yes you and your concentration. Confounds me why you can't do both.

Edwina leaves in a huff. Waylon makes sure the coast is clear. He retrieves a stone jug hidden and takes a swig.

INT. MUNDLETON BAKERY - DAY

Miss Farah and a village woman MADGE, inspect the 'Art Sale'.

Darby and Nerida behind the counter serves a customer each. Darby ends his sale. He turns to Nerida, gives her a wink.

Darby sneaks over to the ladies like a used car salesman.

DARBY

Good day ladies. In the market for some Art?

Miss Farah exchanges a smirk with elderly Madge.

MISS FARAH  
Art? What's that?

DARBY  
It's illustrations and likenesses like these here. So far only enjoyed by Kings and Queens and Lords and Ladies, Art is something you appreciate, like a fine wine. And now, for the first time, you too can enjoy this royal luxury.

MISS FARAH  
How much?

DARBY  
One silver coin.

MISS FARAH  
That's steep. What's it do again?

DARBY  
It's to be appreciated and admired.

MISS FARAH  
Sorry. Can't see the point spending a whole silver coin just so I can look at it. I can look at it here!

Miss Farah turns to Madge.

MISS FARAH (CONT'D)  
Can you see the point Madge?

Madge shrugs.

DARBY  
So I'll put you down as a maybe.

Miss Farah scoffs and shakes her head.

MISS FARAH  
Come on Madge, I'll make some tea.

Both ladies head for the exit. Darby is losing the sale.

DARBY  
We can organise a payment plan. Buy now, pay later. Ladies?

Nerida, now customer free, smirks at Darby's dismal failure. Darby returns back behind the counter.

DARBY (CONT'D)

Miss Farah is a tough nut. Still, it's early. I'm sure it will pick--

NERIDA

Oh Darby, you might as well take down the sign. Miss Farah is the village gossip and she'll be telling everyone about our Art Sale.

DARBY

What? No five stars?

Shelby enters and heads for 'Art Sale'. Nerida approaches.

SHELBY

What's all this then?

NERIDA

It's an Art Sale. Bridgely has kindly donated his sketches. We need to raise money for the oven.

SHELBY

Oh your oven needs mending?

NERIDA

Apparently so.  
Would you like to buy some Art?  
Only one silver coin.

Shelby looks embarrassed and disappointed.

SHELBY

I'm sorry sweetheart. I spent my last cent on my next order of silk.

NERIDA

Well why don't you pick one anyway. Maybe you can pay us later.

SHELBY

I would love one but I'll pay just like everyone else, okay? I will have some money later this week and I'll buy a sketch then.

NERIDA

Thanks.

The two friends share a smile.

SERIES OF SHOTS - ART SALE AND WAYLON BRINGS HOME THE BACON

- A) Behind Waylon's hut, Waylon loads barrels onto his barrow.
- B) A young couple timidly check out the Art Sale. Over zealous Darby tries to sell them art, he scares them off.
- C) Nerida serves a customer, witnesses failed sale. Smirks.
- D) Waylon pushes the loaded barrow along a well worn trail.
- E) Brother Tarthar admires Art Sale. Darby approaches. Tarthar fearful, hurries away. Darby shrugs at Nerida.
- F) Nerida alone behind the counter chuckles at Darby.
- G) Bridgely's on his hilltop, giggling as he feeds the birds.
- H) In a damp cellar, Waylon unloads barrels. Brewer enters and they shake hands. The Brewer gives him a silver coin.
- I) The Blacksmith and his wife admire Art Sale. Darby tries to make a sale but the couple flee as Darby approaches.
- J) Nerida, Shelby and Bridgely at counter chuckle at Darby.
- K) Waylon pushes empty barrow home along a well worn trail.
- L) Barber admires an Albatross sketch. Darby arrives with a cheesy smile. Barber turns his back to him. Walks away. Darby feigns being upset crying. Shrugs arms asking why.
- M) Nerida behind the counter chuckles. They share a smile.
- N) Waylon enters hut, greets Edwina. He offers her silver coin which glimmers brightly. Puts a smile on her face.
- O) Preston admires Art Sale. Darby arrives. Preston bolts.
- M) Nerida and Shelby drink tea, both chuckle at Darby.

INT. MUNDLETON BAKERY - DAY

Shadows long, it's late afternoon. Darby sweeps up bakery.

Shelby and Nerida sit at the counter, finishing their tea.

Darby approaches the ladies, like he's just had an idea.

DARBY

Hey Shelby? Interested in some fine art?

SHELBY

I am but I'm skint.

NERIDA

I already asked her Slick!

DARBY

Well I'm sure tomorrow will be better.

NERIDA

It couldn't get any worse.

EXT. MUNDLETON VILLAGE - NIGHT

A crescent moon faintly glimmers over Mundleton.

INT. MUNDLETON BAKERY - DAY

The Brewer and his wife admire Bridgely's Art Sale sketches. Darby approaches them and they exit leaving Darby bewildered.

Nerida notices Darby's failed sale and smiles. The shop is quiet. She has a new customer. She's stunned it is Edwina.

NERIDA

Edwina!

EDWINA

Hello Nerida.

There is an uncomfortable silence.

NERIDA

I am so sorry I spoke to your children in such a harsh manner.

EDWINA

I'm sure you had your reasons.

NERIDA

I was upset and tired and over reacted. Please accept my apology.

EDWINA

Only if you'll accept mine. My kids were wrong to say what they did and I'm teaching them to behave proper.

NERIDA

Your children are wonderful. I I I just wasn't getting enough sleep.

An uncomfortable pause. Edwina pulls out the silver coin.

EDWINA

I was hoping we could reopen our account. This should cover most what we owe.

NERIDA

I don't want your money Edwina.

EDWINA

(sobs)

Please sell me bread. I don't think I can bare burning another loaf.

Nerida comforts her.

NERIDA

Oh Edwina my dear, of course I'll sell you bread. It's just that I've wiped the slate clean for all my other customers. My bit to help out others during these dark times. Wouldn't be fair if you only paid.

Edwina pushes the coin to Nerida.

EDWINA

Please take the coin Nerida. It has been my main goal, to settle our account. It'd mean so much.

Nerida is of two minds, refuse the coin for a charitable gesture or accept it and make Edwina happy. She ponders.

NERIDA

Means a lot to settle your account?

EDWINA

Very much. I want to be able to walk down the street holding my head high.

NERIDA

Well I'm sorry. I've closed everyone's account. But I do have a solution if you are keen to part with that coin.

EDWINA

I am. If I bring that coin home, Waylon will spend it all on rum.

Darby returns behind the counter to serve other customers.

NERIDA

Well may I suggest investing in art.

Nerida gestures to the Art Sale wall.

EDWINA

Art? What's that?

NERIDA

Art are pretty pictures previously only owned by Kings and Queens. Likenesses which you can admire at any time. And for today only, you can take home a Bridgely Albatross sketch for only one silver coin.

EDWINA

Bridgely's scribbles. That's art?

NERIDA

It is. But most importantly you are not just buying a work of art, you are investing in a family heirloom.

Darby nearby looks impressed with Nerida's sale skills.

EDWINA

Family heirloom?

NERIDA

Art makes the best family heirlooms. Something you can pass on to the next generation. Just think, in a thousand years time, your great great great great great grand son will be admiring an heirloom that you invested in. And your descendants will remember their matriarch who started the tradition - Edwina.

EDWINA

I'm not sure.

NERIDA

And the best thing about family heirlooms like works of art, they only get more valuable with age.

EDWINA

And I can pick the one I want?

NERIDA

Certainly.

Edwina walks over to the Art Sale wall. Darby moves in close to Nerida.

DARBY  
Geez you're good.

Nerida and Darby share a smile before Nerida follows Edwina.

Edwina looks at the various sketches and points to one sketch where the albatross looks to have a cheeky grin.

EDWINA  
That one.

Nerida takes the sketch off the wall and rolls it up. She ties it with some string and passes the sketch to Edwina. Edwina passes Nerida a coin. Edwina is excited buying art.

Edwina leaves with a smile and the work of art. She almost runs into Miss Farah and Madge. They are surprised to see Edwina purchase the Art work. Miss Farah approaches Nerida.

MISS FARAH  
Did Edwina, the barrelmaker's wife just buy one of Bridgely's art works?

NERIDA  
Yes she did. We were talking what a great family heirloom this art makes. Something to leave your descendants and be remembered by.

Miss Farah and Madge whisper amongst themselves. She turns back to Nerida.

MISS FARAH  
Madge and I are interested in some art work. We can pick what we like?

NERIDA  
Certainly ladies. This way.

The three walk over to the Art Sale wall.

SERIES OF SHOTS - NEXT FEW DAYS

- A) The Blacksmith and his wife choose an albatross sketch. Darby takes down the sketch. A few have been sold. Nerida looks on, pleased with Art Sale's new popularity.
- B) Waylon builds a barrel. Looks about, checks coast is clear. He retrieves a stone jug hidden and takes a swig.

- C) Brother Tarthar, the Barber and Brewer want same sketch. Each protests they should own it. Darby looks on unsure.
- D) Waylon pushes the loaded barrow along a well worn trail.
- E) Shelby looks excited as she holds up a silver coin. She points to an albatross sketch. There's only a few left.
- F) In a damp cellar, Waylon unloads barrels. Brewer enters and they shake hands. The Brewer gives him a silver coin.
- G) A mother with a small child view the Art Sale. The child points and giggles at the albatross with a comical smile.
- H) Waylon pushes empty barrow home along a well worn trail.
- I) Bridgely's on his hilltop, giggling as he feeds the birds.
- J) There is only one sketch left. No more customers. Darby and Nerida look at the near empty wall in amazement. Darby digs deep into his pocket, pulls out a silver coin.
- K) Nerida gestures no need but Darby places the coin on the counter. He walks over to the wall and instead of taking down the sketch, he takes down 'Art Sale' sign instead.
- L) A thin crescent moon faintly glimmers over Mundleton.
- M) Darby and Preston use a sledge hammer and large bar to remove broken bricks from the rear of the oven. Stack of bricks located nearby. Take turns swinging the hammer.
- N) Waylon builds a new barrel. Completed barrels nearby. He checks coast is clear, retrieves a stone jug and takes a few long extra swigs. He hides the jug, resumes to work.
- O) Darby and Preston toil and sweat on the back oven wall. They finish removing the old broken bricks. Nerida arrives with a large mug, offers to Darby. Shelby does likewise with Preston. The couples share smiles.
- P) Waylon unloads barrels out of barrow in a cellar. The Brewer gives him a silver coin. The new empty barrels are stacked adjacent several barrels tapped and in use.
- Q) Darby provides fresh sloppy mortar on a board adjacent the back oven. Preston uses a trowel, lays a fire brick.
- R) Waylon pushes empty barrow home along a well worn trail.
- S) Bridgely's on his hilltop, giggling as he feeds the birds.

- T) Preston lays the last brick. The rear oven wall is mended. Darby, Shelby and Nerida look on pleased it is finished.
- U) A thin crescent moon faintly glimmers over Mundleton.
- V) Darby pulls out a tray of golden rolls from the mended oven. He replaces it with a tray of dough balls.
- W) Dawn breaks - golden sun peeks over the ocean's horizon.
- X) Waylon constructs a new barrel. He checks coast is clear, retrieves a stone jug and takes longer extra swigs.
- Y) Bakery's in full swing. Darby and Nerida serve customers.
- Z) In a damp cellar, one of Waylon's barrels that is tapped and in use springs a leak. Cellar floor inch deep in brew.

EXT. MUNDLETON VILLAGE - NIGHT

A quarter moon glimmers over Mundleton.

INT. BAKERY KITCHEN - DAY

Darby looks at one of Bridgely's monster pictures on the wall. Bridgely explains the story and main characters.

Nerida enters awake, alert and energetic.

NERIDA  
Morning Bridgely, Darby.

BRIDGELY  
Morning Mum.

DARBY  
Morning Nerida.

Nerida heads behind the counter and sorts out bread rolls.

Darby turns back to Bridgely.

DARBY (CONT'D)  
I need to go help your Mum with the shop but can you tell me more later.

BRIDGELY  
Okay.

DARBY  
Maybe I should write it down.

BRIDGELY  
Yes write it down! Write it down!

DARBY

Good idea. We'll do that. Bye.

BRIDGELY

Write it down! Eeeeeeeeee!

Darby gets to work behind the counter near Nerida.

NERIDA

You know the last couple of days have been hectic and I'm sorry I didn't say this sooner. Thank you.

DARBY

The pleasure was all mine.

NERIDA

Well I don't know where me and Bridgely would be if that oven gave out. What you did for us, I'll never forget. I wish I could say more. Thank you.

Darby looks uncomfortable, changes the subject.

DARBY

Bridgely has been telling me monster stories. He has a vivid imagination.

NERIDA

When it comes to monsters, Bridgely is a scholar.

Darby and Nerida share a sweet smile.

EXT. MUNDLETON LIGHT INDUSTRIAL - DAY

Waylon pushes a barrow stacked with barrels along the street up to a large hut with the sign 'Mundleton Brewery'.

Brewer exits hut and confronts Waylon yards from the door.

BREWER

We won't be needing any more.

Waylon has a look of half bewilderment, half disappointment.

INT. MUNDLETON BAKERY - DAY

Nerida and Shelby enjoy their afternoon mugs of tea.

Shelby gets up to leave.

SHELBY  
I need to get going. See you  
tomorrow my love.

NERIDA  
Bye Shelby.

Out of nowhere flies Darby.

DARBY  
I'm off as well. Hold on Shelby,  
I'll walk you out.

Shelby waits for Darby.

DARBY (CONT'D)  
Bye Nerida. See you tomorrow.

SHELBY  
Bye.

Nerida looks on. Jealous. Disappointed. She moves near  
the door and spies on Darby and her BFF from a front window.

EXT. STREET IN FRONT OF MUNDLETON BAKERY - DAY

Shelby and Darby stand in the street front of the Bakery.  
Nerida peers at the two from a front Bakery window.

SHELBY  
I've almost finished all the hand  
puppets. I'll have them and the  
curtain done by Woden's day.

DARBY  
That's great. That'll give us a week  
to practice the show. Do you have any  
problem if we ask Preston to narrate?

SHELBY  
Not at all. Don't know if you knew  
but Preston is Denis's baby brother.

DARBY  
Will that be a little awkward,  
working with him on this?

SHELBY  
No! Not at all. As a matter of  
fact I'm looking forward to it.  
What I'm finding awkward is doing  
this all behind Nerida's back.

DARBY

It is going to be awkward but the surprise will be worth it.

Darby and Shelby share a smile. Nerida -watching on- frowns.

EXT. MUNDLETON VILLAGE - NIGHT

A half moon watches over Mundleton.

INT. BARRELMAKER'S HUT - NIGHT

Everyone busy eating dinner, Waylon uses a chunk of bread, cleans up the remains of his gruel and gravy. A clean plate.

The twins and Edwina enjoy their dinner with Nerida's bread.

WAYLON

(blurts out)

The standing order with the Brewer.  
It's done.

EDWINA

What do you mean it's done. He's been our meal ticket. Why didn't you say something sooner?

WAYLON

I wanted to but you seem so happy.

EDWINA

Waylon! You need to tell me. Good stuff and bad. What was his reason?

WAYLON

Huh?

EDWINA

Why doesn't he want to buy from you any more? Is he closing up?

WAYLON

He's not closing up. He just wants to buy elsewhere. Okay?

EDWINA

Yeah but why?

WAYLON

I didn't ask. That be the man's business.

EDWINA

What about our business Waylon?

Waylon looks down.

WAYLON

Things might be a little tight till I find some more orders.

EDWINA

You should first find out why the brewer decided to buy elsewhere.

WAYLON

Let it go woman. Let it go.

EDWINA

If I knew that Brewer was so fickle, I would not have spent our last coin on the Albatross art.

On the wall for all to see hangs a Bridgely Albatross sketch.

WAYLON

What do you mean art? Did you spend a whole silver coin on bird scribbles by the village idiot? That was to settle our account with the widow.

EDWINA

The widow wiped the slate clean. We didn't owe her anything so I thought this would make a great family heirloom. Something our descendants will remember us by.

WAYLON

Yeah. Stupid old farts who paid a fortune for bird scribbles by the village idiot. They will be proud.

EXT. MUNDLETON VILLAGE CBD - DAY

Darby pushes a barrow with large sacks of flour. He stops front of a medieval store with sign 'Mundleton Alterations & Materials'. He leaves the burrow outside and enters store.

INT. MUNDLETON ALTERATIONS & MATERIALS - DAY

Inside the store over half the space is devoted to large rolls of fabrics and materials. Large desk for cutting and working, various scissors, cottons, buttons and a mannequin.

At the rear Shelby uses an old mechanical foot pedalled sowing machine. She completes a green monster hand puppet.

Darby approaches and has much interest in her current work.

DARBY  
How goes it?

SHELBY  
You tell me.

Shelby places the just completed puppet on her hand.

SHELBY  
GRAAARRRR!

DARBY  
Very convincing.  
Oh and by the way, that was your  
audition and you passed. Well done!

SHELBY  
Darn! I was supposed to flunk that.

They share a chuckle.

DARBY  
I suggest we meet up at Preston's  
every evening till the meeting.

SHELBY  
Oh shoot, Nerida usually comes over  
on a Freya's night for cards.

DARBY  
I think if we manage every other  
night, we should get enough practice.

SHELBY  
That's great cause I wouldn't want to  
make up some excuse and lie to her.

DARBY  
Nerida's sharp as a tack. Let's avoid  
any suspicion. How does that sound?

Shelby answers with her hand puppet.

SHELBY  
GRRRRRRR-EAT!

Shelby and Darby chuckle.

INT. BREWER'S CELLAR - DAY

The cellar floor is covered in foamy ale. The Brewer uses a mop and bucket to clean up the mess. He is surrounded by damp barrels, tapped and lying flat except for two upright.

Edwina enters the cellar and is surprised by the scene.

BREWER  
(annoyed)  
Can I help you?

EDWINA  
Are you the Brewer?

BREWER  
No, I'm the mop boy. Hence the mop.

EDWINA  
Can you tell me where the--

BREWER  
Here. I was joking. Something I tend to do when faced with a shitty job.

EDWINA  
Oh right. Well I'm Edwina, the barrelmaker's wife. We had some regular business and it just suddenly stopped. And I want to know why?

The Brewer gestures to the mess all around him.

Edwina's mood becomes more sombre and apologetic.

EDWINA (CONT'D)  
One of our barrel's leaked?

The Brewer shakes his head. He holds up two fingers.

EDWINA (CONT'D)  
Oh I am sorry. I'm so so sorry. Any chance you'd ever reconsider.

BREWER  
Your husband's barrels are cheaper than my other supplier but what good is cheap when this happens. You should have seen this place yesterday.

EDWINA  
Please give us another chance. I promise this will never happen again.

BREWER  
Madam, please don't think me a fool but I took a huge chance dealing with the town drunk. Now I'm paying for it.

EDWINA

Oh he isn't like that any more.

BREWER

Madam, please don't take me for a fool. Every day he was here, he was half pickled and stank of cheap rum.

EDWINA

That can't be right. He only drinks after noon. You must be mistaken.

BREWER

Madam, this is one thing I am sure of. A skill acquired from my work.

Edwina looks defeated.

BREWER (CONT'D)

I'm sorry but I need to pay for quality. Now if you'll excuse me.

The brewer returns his attention to mopping. Edwina thinks.

EDWINA

What if I could promise you we could deliver you a quality barrel guaranteed not to leak for the same cheap price.

The Brewer seems semi-interested.

BREWER

How can you guarantee that with your husband being the village drunk.

EDWINA

Well it'll be my assurance that each barrel sold has been tested for seven whole days for any leaks. Can your other supplier guarantee that?

BREWER

No.

EDWINA

We can provide you these quality barrels from one week tomorrow. Do we have a deal?

Edwina bravely holds out her hand. The Brewer looks at her outreached hand and considers it. He finally shakes it.

BREWER

And every barrel I buy will be fully tested for seven whole days. Correct?

EDWINA

Yes sir.  
You have my quality assurance.

Edwina is pleased with her newly discovered business acumen.

EXT. MUNDLETON VILLAGE - NIGHT

A half moon watches over Mundleton.

INT. PRESTON'S HUT - NIGHT

Preston sits at a wooden table reading a hand written script. He chuckles to himself. Sitting opposite is Darby.

PRESTON

This is all Bridgely?

DARBY

All Bridgely. I just put it all down on parchment. Hope it makes sense. My Saxon is a little rusty.

PRESTON

And you want me to read this out loud. Why?

DARBY

You are the narrator. You tell the story the hand puppets act out.

A puppet theatre stands adjacent the table. Its curtains are drawn. The puppet stage has a park background.

Entering the stage is a young chipmunk puppet wearing a diaper and a woofer puppet. The young chipmunk plays ball with the woofer. Shelby pops her head up in between smiling.

SHELBY

Isn't this fun!

INT. BARRELMAKER'S HUT - NIGHT

Everyone busy eating dinner, Waylon looks miserable.

EDWINA

(blurts out)

I saw the Brewer and he wants to buy from us again.

WAYLON

You saw the--  
(thinks)  
How did you manage that?

EDWINA

I promised quality for the same price. He wants seven next Woden's day.

WAYLON

Seven by next week. Yeah I think--

EDWINA

No. Not by next week. Seven by tomorrow. We need to test them for seven days. It's our quality assurance.

WAYLON

Test them?

EDWINA

Yeah test them. Fill em up with water and make sure they don't spring a leak. Duh!

WAYLON

So I need to finish seven barrels by noon. Great!

EDWINA

Yes and you'll need to fill all with water. The first week will be tough but after a few weeks you'll probably only need to make two a day.

WAYLON

Well I suppose I can manage seven this one time.

EDWINA

Good man. And from now on you will kiss your good wife on the cheek every noon and if I should smell one ounce of rum you will end up dying alone. Do I make myself clear?

WAYLON

Is the kiss for subjection or affection?  
A good wife should trust her man.

EDWINA

I think you mean a stupid wife.  
Bottom line, you will be supplying  
the Brewer seven barrels come rain,  
hail or shine.

WAYLON

But I don't work when it rains.

EDWINA

Well it all depends on you Waylon.  
Work hard, make a few extra for a  
rainy day. Make hay while the sun  
shines. If you don't you'll need to  
work in the rain my little sunshine.

Waylon looks upset.

EDWINA (CONT'D)

Cheer up. It's not all bad news. I  
did get our standing order back and a  
regular income.

(beat)

So no more drinking in the morning.

(beat)

Last warning.

(beat)

And if I ever find you drinking rum  
before noon, kids and I'll be gone.

Edwina's deadly serious. The twins tremble. Waylon's stunned.

INT. BARRELMAKER'S HUT - DAY

Waylon works feverish on his first barrel. He stops midway  
and creeps over to a tool bag. He looks about to confirm the  
coast is clear and retrieves a hidden jug from the tool bag.

Waylon holds the jug outstretched before him. Half of him  
wants to drink it all down, the other half wants to resist.

Waylon stares longingly at the jug. He struggles and  
ponders long and hard and considers and reconsiders. He  
slowly tips the bottle upside down emptying its contents. He  
looks emotionally drained and spent.

SERIES OF SHOTS - REHEARSALS, CARDS AND JEALOUSY

A) A five eighth moon glimmers over Mundleton.

B) Preston reads out the manuscript. Shelby and Darby, in  
full sight animate chipmunk boy, his woofer and monsters.

- C) Nerida and Shelby finish their tea. Shelby gets up to leave, heads for the exit. Darby appears from nowhere. They exit together leaving Nerida alone and perplexed.
- D) A three quarter moon softly glows over Mundleton.
- E) Preston and Shelby practice scene requiring 2 narrators. Darby manipulates a triangle hand puppet at the same time.
- F) Shelby hugs Nerida, bids her farewell. Shelby turns to head for the exit. From nowhere she's escorted by Darby. The two leave together leaving Nerida alone and left out.
- G) A seven eighth moon scorches down on Mundleton.
- H) Preston and Darby sit side by side over the manuscript. Darby gives suggestion. Preston agrees and makes updates.
- I) Shelby and Nerida play cards. Shelby takes ages to consider best card to play, Nerida prefers to play fast.
- J) Shelby and Nerida finish their tea. Shelby bids Nerida farewell. She heads for the exit and from nowhere she's escorted out by Darby. The two leave together leaving Nerida very alone, confused and miserable.
- K) A near full moon glimmers over Mundleton.
- L) Preston looks more confident as he narrates the play, chest out, only occasionally referring to the manuscript.
- M) A small boy chipmunk, woofers and monster characters come to life in the puppet theatre. Shelby and Darby cannot be seen but they have clearly mastered art of puppeteering.

INT. BREWER'S CELLAR - DAY

Waylon enters pushing his burrow holding seven new barrels. He is greeted by the Brewer.

BREWER

Your wife told me all barrels would be fully tested for seven days. Can you vouch for this.

WAYLON

That be correct. All barrels were fully tested for seven whole days. And all passed. Quality assured.

BREWER

Great. And its for the same original price.

WAYLON

Yes sir.

BREWER

Could you stack them here.

The Brewer points to an area adjacent a wall.

Waylon proceeds to unload the barrels.

Waylon unloads the last barrel.

BREWER (CONT'D)

That's great, here you go.

The Brewer gives Waylon a shiny silver coin.

BREWER (CONT'D)

And please send my regards to your dear wife. You are one lucky man being married to someone so clever.

WAYLON

A little too clever I'm afraid. Well I'll be back with another seven fully tested next week.

Come rain, hail or shine.

(beat)

Bye.

Waylon pushes his empty barrow out of the cellar.

INT. MUNDLETON BAKERY - DAY

Nerida and Shelby enjoy their afternoon mugs of tea. Nerida struggles to tell Shelby her suspicions.

NERIDA

Shelby. We've always told each other everything. Haven't we?

SHELBY

Uh Huh.

NERIDA

And you'd tell me if there was a new man in your life. Right?

SHELBY

Well actually --

NERIDA

You don't need to tell me any more. It's obvious.

SHELBY

It is?

NERIDA

You and Darby.

Shelby bursts into a loud long guffaw.

SHELBY

Darby? I though you meant Preston.

NERIDA

You and Preston are a thing? Denis's little brother Preston? The Mayor?

SHELBY

Oh please don't judge me pet. I know I'm old enough to be his aunt but boy he's easy on the eyes and I just can't stop thinking about him. He shares a lot of Denis's charm and humour I love and he makes me happy.

NERIDA

So you are not having an affair with Darby.

SHELBY

Hardly. That love sick fool only has eyes for one and that's you babe.

NERIDA

So why does he keep running out with you each afternoon.

SHELBY

Can you keep a secret?

NERIDA

Yeah.

SHELBY

Well I struggle with it. Every evening bar Freya's I have been working on a top secret project with Preston and Darby.

NERIDA

Top secret?

SHELBY

More of a surprise I don't want to ruin. All will be revealed at tonight's town meeting. I promise.

NERIDA

This all sounds a little strange.

SHELBY

Hey I'm your BFF. I'd never steal your man.

NERIDA

Well the thing is he is not my man, just a heroic knight who rescued a weary damsel from her own personal hell. The month is up, Viking Watch is up and running. He'll be off to his next village down the coast. Continuing his crusade.

SHELBY

What about you? Do you like him?

NERIDA

Well um ahh I think I do. Actually I think I like like him a lot. He has such a good heart. He's such a sweet kind gentle man. And he's so cute!

SHELBY

Well Babe, you need to tell him. Before he moves on. Someone like Darby happens once in a lifetime.

NERIDA

Oh Shell, I can't tell him. I mean, I don't want him to stay cause he feels obliged. It's a big ask especially with my situation.

SHELBY

What situation? Babe you're both wonderful lonely people who could make each other very happy. And he thinks the world of Bridgely. Don't let him slip through your fingers love. Let him know how you feel.

NERIDA

I really want to Shell. Honest I do but I can't. I'm just hoping that maybe, just maybe, he'll stay but it has to be his own decision.

Shelby gives Nerida a sympathetic smile and pats her hand.

EXT. MUNDLETON VILLAGE - NIGHT

A full moon. Villagers stream into Mundleton Town Hall.

INT. MUNDLETON TOWN HALL - NIGHT

At the table on stage sits Brother Tarthar, Preston and Darby.

The main characters are all back in there usual seats.

Preston and Shelby share a sweet smile.

Waylon, Edwina and the twins are in sunday best. Waylon is sober, quiet and agreeable. Edwina squeezes his hand.

Preston stands.

PRESTON

Evening one and all. Tonight I'll be breaking tradition and Bridgely will no longer be banging the meeting in.

Groans from the audience.

PRESTON (CONT'D)

I know this is a highlight for most of you but we want to introduce tonight a new tradition. A better tradition. More on that later.

The towns folk look on fondly.

PRESTON (CONT'D)

As requested, many have bought a plate of tasty fare which we will all enjoy following this meeting. A very yummy spread and I am looking forward to Miss Farah's tasty sausage rolls.

Crowd chuckles. Miss Farah blushes. Bridgely licks chops.

PRESTON (CONT'D)

And we have had a busy month with the full implementation of Viking Watch. Everyone. Give yourselves a hand.

A huge applause. Smiles all round.

PRESTON (CONT'D)

And of course it's success can be hugely attributed to Darby who visited every night shift. Darby stand up and take a bow.

Darby stands near Preston and bows to huge applause.

PRESTON (CONT'D)

So Darby, on behalf of Mundleton.  
Thank you. Is there anything you  
wish to add?

DARBY

Thank you one and all for accepting  
me so warmly. I have grown fondly of  
this little nook and it will forever  
be dear to my heart.

Huge applause from an appreciative audience. Darby waits for  
the applause to die down. Nerida looks teary eyed.

DARBY (CONT'D)

I just want to add, I have shown you  
the way to survive the viking horde.  
Now it is up to you all to remain  
forever diligent. Remember, a chain  
is only as strong as its weakest link.

PRESTON

Darby was there some warning you  
wanted to add.

DARBY

Oh yes.  
Just want to mention over the month we  
had one incident where a watcher was  
drunk. Now I begrudge no man a drink  
but Viking Watch demands an alert mind.  
So please, come sober. Thank you.

Miss Farah and Madge turn around and give Edwina and Waylon  
a 'shame on you' look. Edwina protests.

EDWINA

He's not like that any more.

Darby walks off stage. Shelby turns to Nerida and whispers.

SHELBY

Soon all to be revealed.

Shelby gets up and walks to the back of the stage.

Preston walks to centre stage where a large object is  
covered by a large quilt. He removes the quilt revealing a  
puppet theatre. Ooohs aaahs and gasps from the children.

PRESTON

And tonight's entertainment is puppet theatre. I hope you don't mind. Say there is some space here before the stage. If any youngsters would like front row seats.

Youngsters from all over scramble for a spot before the stage. The twins look excited.

ALLARD

Oh please may we go?

INGRITH

We promise we'll behave.

EDWINA

What do you think father?

WAYLON

Hey it's free aint it. Have fun sweet ones.

The twins smile fondly as they head to the front. Edwina gives Waylon a rare sweet smile. Family bliss.

A small group of children sit cross legged in front of the puppet theatre. All look excited. The twins join them. Behind the children, sitting at the front row, is Bridgely.

Preston positions himself one side of the theatre.

PRESTON

Presenting Chesties Adventures on the Flip Side.

The curtains are drawn. The puppet stage has a park background.

Entering the stage is a young chipmunk puppet wearing a diaper/nappy and a woofers/dog puppet. The young chipmunk plays ball with the woofers.

NARRATOR (PRESTON)(V.O.)

Chestie was a mischievous young Chipmunk. Whenever he was not making mischief he would be playing with his best pal, his woofers, Snowflake.

Chestie and Snowflake exit left. The background changes to a bedroom. Chestie and Snowflake enter left. Chestie lies down on a bed and Snowflake at his feet.

NARRATOR (PRESTON)(V.O.)

And here is Chestie's favorite place of all. His bed.

(beat)

Every night, in his bed, Chestie would dream of amazing monsters and amazing adventures.

(beat)

And every day, on his bed, Chestie would daydream about the same monsters and adventures.

(beat)

And these monsters weren't just amazing, they were stupendously amazing to the nth degree, the likes no one has ever dreamt of before.

(beat)

There was the monster of a thousand screams with its thousand eyes and razor sharp teeth. There was George the Green Dragon and the Horrible Slug Monster and many many more.

The backdrop has changed to a starry night with a lunar background.

NARRATOR (PRESTON)(V.O.)

Early one morning, after a night of excellent dreaming, Chestie and Snowflake awoke to find themselves on the moon - on the dark side.

(beat)

They awoke at the bottom of a deep crater. The night sky was full of stars. There were so many, they were able to see from all that starlight.

Chestie and Snowflake climb out of the crater. They exit right off the stage.

A monster with lots and lots of eyes and shark like teeth enters from right and moves to centre stage. Chestie and Snowflake enter stage from left and confront the monster.

NARRATOR (PRESTON)(V.O.)

And you cannot believe who the pair ran into. Chestie's all time scariest monster - the Monster of a Thousand Screams.

SERIES OF SHOTS - CHESTIE'S ADVENTURES ON THE FLIP SIDE

- A) Chestie and Snowflake are chased by the Monster of a Thousand Screams.
- B) Small group of youngsters directly in front of stage watch the play and are totally mesmerized and in awe.
- C) Chestie and Snowflake hide behind a boulder. The monster runs past.
- D) Adults and the elderly in the audience watch the play and are totally mesmerized and in awe as well.
- E) Chestie and Snowflake ride on the back of a green dragon.
- F) Bridgely watches on with one hundred percent attention.
- G) Chestie and Snowflake are chased by the Horrible Slug Monster. They trick the monster into falling down a crater.
- H) The crowd cheer with delight.
- I) Chestie and Snowflake are chased by three other hideous monsters.
- J) Nerida watches the play -totally mesmerized and in awe.
- K) Chestie and Snowflake hide behind a boulder. Three hideous monsters run past the boulder and exit right.

NARRATOR (PRESTON)

But folks that's where our story comes to an abrupt halt. Cause the next main character, the supreme ruler of the flipside refuses to take part in the play. But he said he'd consider a cameo if someone sung his praise.

Shelby steps out from behind the theatre and stands on the opposite side of the stage to Preston.

NARRATOR 2(SHELBY)

Sing his praise. What's that?

NARRATOR (PRESTON)

He loves it when someone sings his song. Very vain that supreme ruler.

NARRATOR 2 (SHELBY)  
So what's the supreme ruler's song?

NARRATOR (PRESTON)  
I have no idea.

NARRATOR 2 (SHELBY)  
Oh no! Does anyone know the  
supreme ruler's song?

Bridgely shoots his hand up. Bridgely stands up.

NARRATOR (PRESTON)  
Bridgely! Thank god. What's the  
song?

BRIDGELY  
Four Four Seven Triangle.

NARRATOR (PRESTON)  
Bridgely could you please come up  
on stage and sing it?

Bridgely walks up on stage. He sings the song along with  
hand jive. For the lyrics, Bridgely outlines the three  
sides of a triangle with his hands. For the chorus, he uses  
fingers, counting out the numbers and forming a triangle.

BRIDGELY  
(lyrically)  
*It's four and four and seven.*  
(chorus)  
*Four four seven triangle.*  
*Four four seven triangle.*

Preston looks hard at the stage. Shelby slinks back stage.

After a few seconds, a bright shiny silver four four seven  
triangle appears on stage.

Everyone in the crowd cheers.

NARRATOR (PRESTON)  
Well done Bridgely! Round of  
applause for Bridgely.

Bridgely loves the attention. He receives a huge applause. He gives the audience a huge bow and returns to his seat.

NARRATOR (PRESTON) (V.O.)  
 He might not look real menacing but triangles are monsters worst nightmare. The three sides just does their mind in. Triangles are terrifying in the monster universe and the 4 4 7 triangle was the most terrifying of them all. That's how 4 4 7 became the Supreme Leader. From sheer terror as well as a black belt in martial arts.

View of stage - a silver 4 4 7 triangle is at one side of the stage. On the other side enters Chestie and Snow Flake puppets. The puppets approach the triangle.

NARRATOR (PRESTON)  
 So Chestie and Snow Flake had an audience with the four four seven triangle.

TRIANGLE (V.O)  
 Greetings. You may ask me three questions. No more. No less.

CHESTIE (V.O)  
 Where are we?

TRIANGLE (V.O)  
 We call it Flip Side. You call it the dark side of the moon. All the scary monsters you have nightmares about, this is where they live.

CHESTIE (V.O)  
 How did I get here?

TRIANGLE (V.O)  
 Happens from time to time. Especially with kids with great imaginations. Somehow the dreamer awakes on the Flip Side.

CHESTIE (V.O)  
 And how do I get home?

TRIANGLE (V.O)  
 Simply fall back to sleep and you should wake up in your own bed.

CHESTIE (V.O)  
 And how do you talk without a  
 mouth?

TRIANGLE (V.O)  
 Hey! Don't be acute! I said three  
 questions only! Four is so square!

The Triangle exits the stage.

Chestie and Snow Flake lay down and fall asleep. Background  
 changes from lunar to a bedroom.

NARRATOR (PRESTON) (V.O.)  
 And so when Chestie woke up he  
 found he and his faithful companion  
 Snow Flake safe and sound back in  
 his own bed.  
 (beat)  
 The End.

The audience give the play a long standing applause.

PRESTON  
 It gives me great pleasure to  
 introduce the puppeteers.  
 Shelby and Darby!

Shelby and Darby step from behind the puppet stage - still  
 with hand puppets on their hands. They receive a huge  
 applause. Shelby catches Nerida's eye - mouths 'SURPRISE'.  
 Both bow and then return to the rear of the stage.

PRESTON (CONT'D)  
 Every story has an author and the  
 author of tonight's play is  
 Bridgely.

A lot of the audience gasp with surprise. Everyone looks to  
 check if they didn't hear wrong.

Bridgely walks up on stage, faces the crowd and bows.

The audience all cheer and the sound is deafening. There  
 are cries such as "Way to go Bridgely" and "Bridgely!"

The applause seems to go on forever. Waylon looks annoyed,  
 gives Bridgely a slow clap.

PRESTON (CONT'D)  
 Before we enjoy this feast before  
 us, as a token of appreciation for  
 his wonderful work, Bridgely? Would  
 you honour us and lead the buffet?

Huge applause as Bridgely heads over for first dibs on food.

PRESTON (CONT'D)  
And Bridgely? Don't eat all Miss  
Farah's sausage rolls. Okay?

BRIDGELY  
O-kay. Errrrrrrrrrr!

PRESTON  
Okay everyone, if you'd like to join  
Bridgely in an orderly manner. Let's  
not give Bridgely too much of a  
headstart.

Waylon and Edwina jostle others as they hurry for the buffet.

EDWINA  
It's one thing to enjoy a buffet  
but this is ridiculous.

WAYLON  
Every year I miss out. Once, just  
once I would like to have one of Miss  
Farah's famous sausage rolls.

Waylon drags Edwina along as he pushes through the crowd.

Waylon and Edwina get to the buffet. They spot a plate of  
sausage rolls stacked high on a far table. Bridgely's ahead  
and gets to the sausage rolls first. Waylon & Edwina line up  
behind Bridgely, excited for finally getting a sausage roll.

WAYLON (CONT'D)  
Finally I get to savour Miss  
Farah's famous sausage rolls.

Waylon and Edwina share a happy excited smile.

Bridgely finally moves on. The sausage roll plate's empty.

Waylon and Edwina are devastated and in shock. Waylon sobs  
and is comforted by Edwina. He cries hard on her shoulder.

The Hall is near empty on the stage end. Darby cuts a  
lonely figure as he tidies up the puppet stage, hand puppets  
and scripts.

NERIDA (O.S.)  
That was a truly wonderful thing  
you did. From my heart, thank you.

Darby turns to see Nerida standing ten feet away.

NERIDA (CONT'D)  
 Bridgely is soooooo happy.  
 He can't stop smiling.

DARBY  
 It's my pleasure. He's a wonderful  
 kid. You've done a wonderful job  
 raising him. You're a wonderful Mom.

Nerida gets teary and emotional.

NERIDA  
 Oh I don't know. I love him to  
 bits but just for once I'd like  
 some me time. And cause I have to  
 bake half the night I'm always  
 tired and cranky. Sometimes I feel  
 like screaming - "What about me".  
 Why do I get all the shit arse luck  
 huh?

Nerida wipes her eyes with a handkerchief.

NERIDA (CONT'D)  
 Sorry.

DARBY  
 No it's okay. It's okay.

NERIDA  
 But it's not okay Darby. It's not.  
 And any hope that it will ever be  
 okay flew out the window years ago.

Darby looks stunned but holds his ground.

NERIDA (CONT'D)  
 When Bridgely was younger I'd  
 always think maybe next year.  
 Maybe next year. And then one day  
 it hit me like a hard slap. It's  
 never gunna get better.

DARBY  
 But what about the last couple of  
 weeks. Hasn't it gotten better.

NERIDA  
 Yeah but you're leaving and--

DARBY  
 Well I've been meaning to tell you.  
 but just haven't found the--

NERIDA

What?

DARBY

I'm staying.

NERIDA

You're staying?

DARBY

That's if you'll have me.

NERIDA

Oh Darby of course I'd love you to stay! But what about your crusade?

DARBY

Mundleton's the end of the line.

NERIDA

I wish I knew that up front. I've been so anxious you were moving on.

DARBY

And I'll only stay on one condition. I do the baking and you get plenty of rest and keep on being a great Mom.

NERIDA

Wow! Yes of course!

(beat)

But what's in it for you?

DARBY

I get to spoil you.

Nerida's heart melts. They share a sweet tender kiss.

NERIDA

Oh shoot.

DARBY

What's the problem?

NERIDA

Business is up but it'll be a struggle to pay two wages

DARBY

New improved pancakes not enough?

NERIDA

Afraid not.

DARBY

I don't need to get paid Nerida.

NERIDA

Oh but you should my love, you should.

DARBY

What if I share with you a recipe that's a family favourite. Anyone who ever tried this fare is forever under its spell. It will triple your sales.

NERIDA

Triple our sales?  
Surely you jest.  
What is this wondrous treat?

INT. BAKERY KITCHEN - DAY

Darby spoons fresh cream into a cloth piping bag with nozzle. Nerida looks on. On the bench is a tray of golden pastries.

Bridgely is at the end of the bench drawing.

NERIDA

What are they?

DARBY

Apple turnovers. My Da sold em. People would come for miles just for one of his Apple Turnovers. They put Ravenscar on the map.

Darby continues filling the piping bag with fresh cream.

DARBY (CONT'D)

After the apple turnovers have cooled down, we are almost done.

Darby turns to Bridgely who is busy drawing.

DARBY (CONT'D)

Hey Bridgely can you help me?

BRIDGELY

Not now I'm busy errrr!

DARBY

But Bridgely this is important and it might even make you famous.

BRIDGELY  
Famous? Oh boy. What do you want?

DARBY  
I've made these new pastries for  
the bakery but I want to ask, do  
you think I should add fresh cream.

Bridgely nods and puts his thumb up.

BRIDGELY  
Fresh cream. Good idea!

Darby proceeds to inject fresh cream in the apple turnovers.  
They swell in size.

DARBY  
Ta dah! Presenting Bridgely's  
famous Apple turnovers.

BRIDGELY  
Oh boy I'm famous.

NERIDA  
Why are you naming them after  
Bridgely?

DARBY  
Well it was his idea to add the  
fresh cream.

Darby gives Nerida a secret wink. He places an apple  
turnover on a plate and presents to Bridgely busy drawing.

DARBY (CONT'D)  
Hey Bridgely?

BRIDGELY  
Why you bothering me, I'm busy Err!

DARBY  
Sorry Bridgely but I need a taste  
tester to check that this new line  
is tasty. Would you like the role  
of official taste tester for  
Bridgely's famous Apple Turnovers.

BRIDGELY  
Yes I would.

Bridgely takes a huge bite. His face is covered with cream.  
He gives a thumbs up.

BRIDGELY (CONT'D)  
Delicious-full.

Bridgely eats the Apple Turnover in record time.

Darby cuts one of the other Apple Turnovers in half and offers Nerida some.

DARBY  
Would you like to try?

Nerida cautiously tries but is delighted by the taste.

NERIDA  
Yum!

INT. BARRELMAKER'S HUT - DAY

Waylon looks alert, serious and diligent as he quickly assembles a barrel. A half dozen stacked against the wall.

Edwina and the twins enter carrying string bags full of loaves and a string bag with an apple turnover.

EDWINA  
You have been busy. Well done.

WAYLON  
Proud?

EDWINA  
Very much. So now you have enough for a rainy day and then sum.

WAYLON  
A surplus will be handy when it rains. The grocer and miller have also shown interest in our fully tested barrels.

EDWINA  
Really? How wonderful.

WAYLON  
So after a lot of soul searching, dealing with my inner demons, I've decided to return working full time.

EDWINA  
Darling I'm so so proud of you.

WAYLON

This in no way means I'll be giving away a drink in the evening or my rainy days. Are we in agreement?

EDWINA

Yes my darling and now I would very much enjoy to kiss you on the lips.

WAYLON

Darling the children.

Edwina marches up to Waylon demanding a kiss. She puckers up. The children look on with glee and chuckle.

EDWINA

Tut tut. The children are not stupid.

WAYLON

But noon is a ways off. What is it with the early check?

EDWINA

Why are you such a jerk Waylon? Can't a wife simply want a kiss.

WAYLON

Sorry.

Edwina and Waylon enjoy a sweet kiss. The twins chuckle.

INGRITH

Mummy Mummy, give Daddy his treat.

ALLARD

Oh Daddy will be pleased. Ha Ha Ha.

Edwina holds up a string bag with Waylon's Apple Turnover.

EDWINA

Waylon! Your children would not leave the bakery until I bought their daddy this new tasty treat.

WAYLON

Oh bless them. What did you bring me children?

INGRITH | ALLARD

Apple Turnover!

Edwina holds up her string bag holding the Apple Turnover.

EDWINA

Come sit my love. Oh you are in  
for a treat. Anyone want to see  
Daddy eat his first Apple Turnover?

The twins hands shoot up. They are both excited.

Waylon looks excited as he waits. Edwina drops a plate with  
utensils and an Apple Turnover before him. The twins chuckle.

All eyes on Waylon as he tries his first Apple Turnover.  
The twins sit opposite and Edwina to his immediate right.

Waylon devours the turnover. He thoroughly enjoys it. Tip  
of his nose covered in cream. Edwina and the twins laugh.

WAYLON

Well that was a treat!

INGRITH

The Apple Turnover is Bridgely's  
recipe.

ALLARD

It was Bridgely's idea to include  
fresh cream.

WAYLON

I doubt the idiot had anything to  
do with inventing such a fine fare.  
More likely a ploy by the widow to  
give the fool some unearned credit.

EDWINA

Why must you always do that?

WAYLON

Do what?

EDWINA

Belittle the widow's son so. Why  
must you always look down on him.  
I don't look down on anyone. We're  
all equal in the eyes of the Lord.

WAYLON

Don't blame me. It is the way  
things are.

EDWINA

The way things are?

WAYLON

Exactly. The rest of the village have contempt for the drunk and the fool. The only one beneath the drunk is the fool and it is therefore my privilege and right to look down upon the widow's son.

EDWINA

But you aren't the village drunk. Not any more.

WAYLON

I'm afraid the rest of the village doesn't see it that way.

Waylon looks sad. Smiles weakly. Edwina pats his hand.

INT. MUNDLETON BAKERY - DAY

Nerida, Darby and Shelby serve customers desperate for an apple turnover. Bakery full of customers waiting to order standing five deep. They clamour for service.

Darby serves Brother Tarthar.

DARBY

Welcome back brother.

BROTHER TARTHAR

Another turnover on my tab.

DARBY

Certainly.

Darby serves Brother Tarthar an apple turnover.

BROTHER TARTHAR

Bless you my son.

Brother Tarthar and Darby exchange cursory nods. The monk leaves. Darby serves a new customer. Customers five deep.

Bridgely stealthy places loaves in string bags. Nerida, Darby and Shelby are busy serving customers. They are only yards away but fail to notice him. He leaves with loaves.

EXT. BARRELMAKER'S BACK PORCH - DAY

Waylon kicks back on a rocking chair on his back porch swigging rum. He has a clear view of Bridgely's hill. Nearby dozens of barrels stand upright under test.

Edwina comes out with a large basket of laundry.

EDWINA

I thought you were going back to working afternoons again.

WAYLON

I may have been a little premature with my announcement. I'm not ready.

EDWINA

I was surprised when you said you would. What if you ramp up slowly to working full time again.

WAYLON

Good idea. I'll work one afternoon this week and aim to be back full time by the end of the month.

EDWINA

That sounds like a plan. Now have you got extra barrels being tested to cover when it rains or if you pick up new business.

WAYLON

We have the Brewer's next order tested as well as an additional dozen for rain and new business.

EDWINA

Well I've got some laundry to do. Please don't get too drunk Waylon.

WAYLON

No I'll just finish this jug off.

EDWINA

Bye

WAYLON

Bye

Edwina walks off with her basket full of laundry. Waylon kicks back, swigs on a stone jug. Cracks peanut shells.

From his back porch, Waylon has a clear view of Bridgely feeding the Albatrosses on Bridgely's hill.

Waylon looks cranky, he flares at the sight of Bridgely.

WAYLON (CONT'D)  
Idiot! Wasting fresh bread on  
those damn birds!

EXT. MUNDLETON VILLAGE - NIGHT

A three quarter moon glimmers over Mundleton.

EXT. MUNDLETON BEACH - DAWN

The golden sun edges over the horizon

INT. BAKERY - DAY

Shelby is busy behind the counter sorting rolls. Darby carries a basket of rolls from the kitchen. Bridgely is busy drawing at the end of the counter. Nerida enters wide eyed and alert. She is surprised to see Shelby.

NERIDA  
Shelby, you're here.

SHELBY  
Darby asked me to come in.

DARBY  
I asked Shelby to come in early. I  
hope you don't mind.

NERIDA  
No, I'm always happy to see Shelby.

DARBY  
I asked Shelby to come in early so  
we can have the morning off.

Nerida looks surprised and curious.

EXT. MUNDLETON BEACH - DAY

Nerida and Darby walk down on the beach just south of  
Bridgely's hill.

NERIDA  
So why are we here? Why the  
morning off?

DARBY  
It's my daughter's birthday.

NERIDA  
Oh

DARBY

Every birthday I would take her to the beach and I thought maybe we could continue the tradition.

NERIDA

Of course. What would you like to do?

DARBY

Follow me.

Darby walks to the water's edge where the sand is wet and hard and the waves splutter out and retreat.

Darby turns to Nerida.

DARBY (CONT'D)

Want wet or dry?

NERIDA

Huh?

DARBY

My daughter and I had a game we'd play. We'd run along the water's edge, hand in hand, eyes closed.

NERIDA

Okay.

DARBY

So are you game?

NERIDA

Sure. Arrr I'll go dry.

Darby stands in the surf's froth at the water's edge. Nerida stands beside him, waves lapping inches from her feet. Both have bare feet.

DARBY

Ready?

NERIDA

Ready.

Darby and Nerida close their eyes. They run down the beach, hand in hand, along the water's edge. Nerida and Darby laugh hard as they run eye's closed, water splashing.

Darby smiles as he runs along the water's edge.

Darby runs down the beach hand in hand with his daughter, a girl with down syndrome. Both laugh heartily as they run along the beach eyes closed.

Nerida laughs hard as she runs eyes closed.

Darby runs down the beach hand in hand with Nerida again. Both eyes closed and laughing.

Darby and Nerida walk hand in hand back up the beach. They run into Preston.

PRESTON

Hello you two. Having fun?

NERIDA

(embarrassed)

Did you see us?

PRESTON

(smirks)

Yes and it looked like a lot of fun.

DARBY

Just continuing a tradition that I started years ago with my daughter. It's her birthday.

PRESTON

Oh right right. Say I'm glad I caught you. The Brewer mentioned this morning the Viking watch hut needs mending. I was hoping you'd be able to take a look at it.

DARBY

Sure. I'll check it out after the lunch time rush if that is okay.

PRESTON

That would be great. I'd fix it myself but --

DARBY

It's okay. Now that I'm staying I'm happy to do my bit.

PRESTON

Thanks Darby.

INT. BARRELMAKER'S HUT - DAY

Waylon diligently puts together a barrel. Completed barrels are stacked neatly against the wall.

INT. BAKERY - DAY

Shelby, Nerida and Darby are busy as they serve the lunch time rush. Customers clamour for an apple turnover and stand five deep.

EXT. BARRELMAKER'S BACK PORCH - DAY

Waylon swigs on a jug as he sits on a rocking chair on his back porch. He cracks peanut shells and eats peanuts.

Allard and another two boys of similar age take turns trying to hit a stone jug in the barrelmaker's backyard. Each boy has a stack of pebbles and the jug is fifty yards away.

Waylon looks on with a mild interest as Allard and the boys try to hit the jug with near misses. Allard hits the jug, it smashes into pieces. Waylon, Allard and the boys rejoice.

WAYLON

Well done Allard, well done.

The boys pat Allard on the back. Waylon has an evil idea.

WAYLON (CONT'D)

You boys should find something more challenging. Some wild game would be quite the sport.

ALLARD

Wild game. That does sound much better than a stone jug. Where is this wild game father?

WAYLON

Bridgely's hill of course.

The boys nod with glee. Allard looks confused and stunned.

ALLARD

Do you mean the Albatrosses? The ones that Bridgely feeds every day.

WAYLON

Yes. All those birds everywhere. So many it'd be hard not to miss.

ALLARD

But father, what about Bridgely?

WAYLON

The fool. I think he would find it very amusing you all making that flock take off, wings a flutterin'. He'll sure to think it good folly.

The two boys look excited at the prospect of throwing rocks at albatrosses but Allard looks unsure.

ALLARD

Are you sure father? I would think if we chase Bridgely's birds away he will be most upset.

WAYLON

Oh son, do not concern yourself with such trivial thoughts. If the fool complains or protests, laugh at him.

ALLARD

Laugh at him?

WAYLON

Laughter is music to a fool. Laugh long and hard and all will be well.

ALLARD

I wouldn't want to upset--

WAYLON

Oh tut tut. It will be good folly. Don't let a fool come in the way of a good time.

Allard looks uncertain but the boys are excited.

WAYLON (CONT'D)

And if any of you hit one of them birds, I'll buy you an apple turnover. How's that sound. HMMMMM?

Prospects of an apple turnover even has Allard excited. The boys head off.

Waylon watches them walk off with a sneer. He returns to swigging rum and eating peanuts. Waylon looks smug.

EXT. SEAWARD SIDE OF BRIDGELY'S HILL - DAY

The Blacksmith on Viking Watch stares out to sea.

Darby's on a ladder mending the roof on the Viking Watch hut.

The Blacksmith points out to sea.

BLACKSMITH

Here they come.

DARBY

Right on time.

Darby and the Blacksmith are mesmerized by the Albatrosses.

EXT. HILLTOP OF BRIDGELY'S HILL - DAY

Bridgely is in sheer bliss. Giggles as he feeds the birds.

Out of the shadows appears Allard and his two friends. They immediately start hurling stones at the birds. Birds take off in total panic, feathers, squawks, mayhem.

Bridgely is in shock. He repeatedly screams 'Why?'.

EXT. SEAWARD SIDE OF BRIDGELY'S HILL - DAY

Darby climbs down the ladder. Half way down he stops to see Albatrosses flying overhead, flying off in all directions. Sounds of wings flapping and birds squawking fills the air.

Blacksmith and Darby look skyward wondering what happened.

Birds fly away and the sounds of flapping and squawks fade.

Darby hears someone screaming in distress. It's Bridgely.

Darby hurries down the ladder. He rushes off to Bridgely.

EXT. BRIDGELY'S HILL - DAY

Bridgely stands over a dead albatross apologizing over and over sobbing. Rest of the birds have flown away. Allard and the boys stand nearby pointing at Bridgely laughing loudly.

BRIDGELY

Sorry! Sorry! Errr! I'm sorry! Err!

Darby arrives to find Bridgely apologizing over the dead bird and the boys nearby laughing at him.

DARBY  
(furious)  
Hey! What are you boys doing?  
Leave! Leave!

The boys promptly stop laughing and exit quickly to avoid Darby's fury. Allard looks back one last time before leaving the scene. He looks unsure at what happened.

EXT. SIDE OF BRIDGELY'S HILL - DAY

Bridgely is in shock sobbing. Darby has to help him down the hill.

INT. BAKERY - DAY

Shelby and Nerida sit at the counter enjoying their tea. It's late afternoon, there are no customers.

Bridgely enters sobbing and in shock. He's assisted by Darby.

Nerida hurries to Bridgely's side, concerned. Bridgely cries on her shoulder.

EXT. MUNDLETON VILLAGE - NIGHT

A five eighth moon glows over Mundleton.

INT. BRIDGELY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Bridgely is sound asleep in his modest bedroom. A few of his sketches are on the walls. Nerida sits near a candle watching over Bridgely while he sleeps. She looks concerned.

SERIES OF SHOTS - NEXT FEW DAYS

- A) Nerida helps distressed Bridgely walk up the hill. It's mid afternoon and they carry string bags full of loaves.
- B) Bridgely and Nerida stare out to sea. The Albatrosses are nowhere to be seen. Bridgely's anxious and frustrated.
- C) It's getting dark. Nerida struggles to persuade Bridgely to return home.
- D) Bridgely and Nerida enter the Bakery. Darby waits for them in semi dark, a candle dimly lights up the Bakery. Bridgely is upset and cries on Nerida's shoulder.
- E) A half moon watches over Mundleton.
- F) Nerida watches over Bridgely as he sleeps, she is concerned.

- G) Nerida helps her depressed son up the hill. It's mid afternoon and she has in hand a string bag full of loaves.
- H) Bridgely and Nerida stare out to sea. Bridgely bites his hand and moans frustrated. No albatrosses anywhere.
- I) It's getting dark. Bridgely reluctantly returns with Nerida down the hill.
- J) Bridgely and Nerida enter the dimly lit bakery. Darby awaits their return. Bridgely cries on Nerida's shoulder, she shakes her head at Darby indicating no Albatrosses.
- K) A three eighth moon glimmers over Mundleton.
- L) Nerida continues her vigil over Bridgely as he sleeps in his bed.
- M) Nerida helps Bridgely up the hill. It's an overcast afternoon. Nerida carries a string bag full of loaves.
- N) Bridgely and Nerida stare out to sea. No sign of Albatrosses, just dark rain clouds rolling in.
- O) It's cold dark and overcast. Nerida persuades reluctant Bridgely to return home.
- P) Bridgely and Nerida enter the dimly lit bakery to find Darby waiting. Bridgely sobs hard on Nerida's shoulder.
- Q) A quarter moon peaks weakly over Mundleton from behind dark clouds.
- R) Nerida watches over Bridgely as he sleeps in his bed.
- S) It's a very bleak day. Rain falls hard over Mundleton.

INT. BAKERY - DAY

Nerida and Darby work behind the counter, serving customers. The bakery is near empty

NERIDA

Thank goodness for the rain. I don't think I have the energy to drag Bridgely up that hill again.

Darby nods in agreement.

EXT. BARRELMAKER'S BACK PORCH - DAY

Waylon looks out at the heavy rain from the shelter of his back porch. He swigs rum and eats peanuts.

Edwina approaches him.

EDWINA  
What are you doing?

WAYLON  
It's raining. It's my day off.

Waylon takes another swig. He is half drunk.

EDWINA  
But Waylon, today you're scheduled  
for Viking Watch. Remember?

Waylon looks annoyed.

WAYLON  
Oh don't be silly woman. It's far  
too stormy for the Vikings to  
invade.

Edwina shakes her head in disgust and walks off.

EXT. SEAWARD SIDE OF BRIDGELY'S HILL - DAY

It's raining heavily. The Viking Watch hut is unmanned.

INT. BAKERY - DAY

Shelby, Darby and Nerida are busy serving customers. It is mid afternoon and the number of customers have swelled to around three deep. Bridgely stealthy puts loaves in string bags and leaves without being noticed.

EXT. SIDE OF BRIDGELY'S HILL - DAY

It is a hard slog for Bridgely in the wind and rain as he climbs the hill. He has in hand string bags full of loaves.

EXT. BRIDGELY'S HILL - DAY

Bridgely is soaked to the bone, he strains to look out to sea but visibility is low due to the heavy rain.

INT. BAKERY - DAY

Shelby and Darby are busy serving a few customers. Nerida enters looking concerned.

NERIDA  
I've looked everywhere for Bridgely  
and I can't find him. I think he's  
gone to the hilltop.

DARBY  
I'll find him.

Darby rushes out of the bakery.

EXT. SIDE OF BRIDGELY'S HILL - DAY

Darby sprints up the hill in the heavy rain.

EXT. BRIDGELY'S HILL - DAY

Darby finds Bridgely staring out to sea in the heavy rain.

Bridgely sees Darby. He points to dark sails on the horizon.

BRIDGELY  
Dark Sails! Dark sails!

Darby stares out and notices dark sails near the horizon.

DARBY  
Quick Bridgely. We need to warn  
everyone.

Bridgely and Darby take off down the hill.

EXT. MUNDLETON VILLAGE - NIGHT

SUPER : TWO WEEKS LATER

It's a full moon. Village folk stream into the town hall.

INT. MUNDLETON TOWN HALL - NIGHT

Preston stands before the congregation. Sitting all together in the front row are Shelby, Nerida, Darby and Bridgely. Nerida and Darby hold hands.

PRESTON  
Bridgely, everyone in the village  
owe you their life. Please come up  
to accept a token of appreciation.

Bridgely is excited as he walks on stage. Brother Tarther comes from rear of the stage holding a Golden retriever puppy with a pink ribbon around its neck and wearing a nappy/diaper.

PRESTON (CONT'D)  
Bridgely, a little birdie told me  
you have always wanted a baby  
woofer wearing a nappy.

BRIDGELY  
Was the little birdie an albatross?

Chuckles from the crowd.

Brother Tarter hands Bridgely his puppy.

BRIDGELY (CONT'D)  
Oh how pretty-full.

PRESTON  
Hey everyone, how about a round of  
applause for Bridgely the hero.

Everyone except Waylon and his family are on their feet cheering and applauding. Bridgely is pleased with himself and cuddles his puppy.

Allard looks annoyed and angry. He confronts his father.

ALLARD  
Why are they cheering for the  
village idiot father? It was your  
shift, not his. Why aren't they  
cheering for you?

WAYLON  
Shut up boy!

Edwina and the twins look daggers at Waylon.

Bridgely continues to bask in the applause which seems to go on forever. He takes a bow and cuddles his puppy.

EXT. BARRELMAKER'S BACK PORCH - DAY

SUPER: THREE MONTHS LATER

Waylon swigs rum and eats peanuts on a rocking chair on his back porch. He looks surly. It's mid afternoon.

Edwina and twins stop before Waylon dressed in sunday best.

EDWINA  
I do wish you'd come along and make  
your peace with the widow's son.

WAYLON  
The purpose of the fool is to be  
ridiculed. Period. Not to be  
praised!

EDWINA  
Come on children.

Edwina leads twins away, but after a few steps she stops.

EDWINA (CONT'D)  
Waylon? I would like to attend as a family. Please come with us.

WAYLON  
No! I'm perfectly happy here. Go feed the idiot's birds. Hurry up now! Go!

EDWINA  
Why fill your heart with so much hatred for someone who means you no harm? Why burden your soul so?

Waylon disrespectfully cracks peanuts and eats them.

WAYLON  
Amen. Is today's sermon over?

EDWINA  
What can I say Waylon. Once a jerk, always a jerk. And stop with the peanuts. Remember what happened -

WAYLON  
I'll be fine. Good bye!

Edwina is in a huff as she leads the twins away.

Waylon throws a handful of peanuts in his mouth in defiance.

EXT. HILLTOP OF BRIDGELY'S HILL - DAY

Most of the town have turned out anticipating albatrosses. It's a friendly atmosphere, Shelby and Nerida laugh, Darby, Preston and the Brewer share a joke, Bridgely has hold of his puppy which is now considerably bigger under his arm.

Edwina and the twins arrive. Edwina gives Nerida and Shelby a wave. They wave her over to join them.

The twins see Bridgely. They wave at Bridgely. The twins and Edwina exchange nods and the twins head for Bridgely and Edwina for Nerida and Shelby. As she passes, Darby and Preston, Edwina exchanges with them cursory nods.

Edwina reaches Shelby and Nerida who receive her warmly. The three friends laugh and smile.

The twins pamper Bridgely's puppy which is before Bridgely. Bridgely enjoys watching the children pamper his pet.

The groups all turn to see the approaching albatrosses. Darby and Preston, turn, their jaws drop. Nerida, Shelby and Edwina look seaward, their smiles just grew much wider.

The puppy is back under Bridgely's arm. The twins continue to pat the puppy. All lapse into hysterical giggles on sight of the birds. They look deliriously happy.

The whole town look deliriously happy as the birds land.

EXT. BARRELMAKER'S BACK PORCH - DAY

Waylon eats a handful of peanuts and washes it down with rum. The distant sound of the crowd has made him annoyed.

WAYLON

Oooh! Aaaah! They're just mangy  
sea birds yah morons!

WAYLON'S POV: From his back porch, Waylon gets clear view of the hilltop and the landing of the albatrosses.

WAYLON (O.S.) (CONT'D)

Alas, the world has gone mad. Thank  
god for rum and peanuts.

CRUNCH CRUNCH CRUNCH.

WAYLON'S POV: Waylon briefly looks skyward as he swigs rum.

WAYLON'S POV: Waylon's view returns focus to the hilltop.

WAYLON (O.S.) (CONT'D)

A sweet smelling milk maid if I  
were back in my youth. Oh yes!  
Ha ha ha ha ha! Errrrrrr! Errr!

WAYLON'S POV: Waylon looks on in vain, the whole town are on the hilltop and he is choking on a peanut. The hilltop, the last thing Waylon sees, flickers to black as the choking continues. It's Waylon's last glimpse. His terminal breath.

CUT TO BLACK.

INT. TOURING BUS - DAY

POV of Tourist Running Late: A jolt, eyes open and view out window slowly comes into focus. Wintry beach, rough seas and the sky dark, grey and foreboding. Sound of bratty children breaks the focus of attention away from the window.

POV of Tourist Running Late: The Chubby Mother gives a sweet inviting but also a little desperate smile. She commands her children to quiet down without faulting her inviting smile.

CHUBBY MOTHER  
Children! Quiet now. Quiet!

The children continue to bicker loudly.

CHUBBY MOTHER (CONT'D)  
If you don't stop - no ice cream.

Miraculously the children obey and focus on their phones.

CHUBBY MOTHER (CONT'D)  
They simply love Mundleton Gelato.

TOUR GUIDE(O.S.)  
Testing one two.

POV of Tourist Running Late: Focus of attention redirected towards the front. Tour Guide with Mic gestures your way.

TOUR GUIDE  
Hear me back there? Great.

The Tour Guide goes autopilot reciting her standard spool.

TOUR GUIDE (CONT'D)  
We are minutes away from reaching a very historic site which celebrates the life and legacy of Northumbria's favorite son Bridgely. How can one even begin to explain this medieval enigma, a man centuries before his time.

Passenger's at the front listen intently.

TOUR GUIDE (CONT'D)  
An artist who's Bird portraits on parchment fetch over six million pounds at Christies. A successful playwright who lived eight centuries before Shakespeare. The inventor of the telescope, mirror and hourglass. But that's not all.

The Blind man smirks.

TOUR GUIDE (CONT'D)  
A Master baker who invented the Apple Turnover --

The Autistic man licks his chops on hearing Apple Turnover.

TOUR GUIDE (O.S.)(CONT'D)  
- and saved the family bakery.

The Tour Guide handles herself with great confidence.

TOUR GUIDE (CONT'D)  
A hero who single handedly saved  
the whole town from the Vikings.

More passengers listen in with great interest.

The Tour guide shifts into top gear with her spool.

TOUR GUIDE (CONT'D)  
But his greatest achievement, his  
greatest legacy is the bond he  
developed between a large flock of  
Albatrosses and the town. And we  
are right on time for Feeding--

The blind man interrupts her. He has an American accent.

BLIND MAN  
Excuse me Maam. Maam!

The Tour Guide looks put out by this latest interruption.  
She gives a 'this better be good' look and finally realises  
the Man is blind and the look is totally wasted.

TOUR GUIDE  
Yes? You have a --

BLIND MAN  
I earlier googled Mundleton  
Gelato's web site. The store  
closes early today at four.

A clock indicates it is just gone three. A lot of murmuring  
amongst the passengers. The Guide tries to settle them.

TOUR GUIDE  
Now settle down everyone.

Various passengers frantically check their phones.

TOUR GUIDE (O.S.) (CONT'D)  
I can assure you it will be open as  
usual to five so no need to be  
concerned-

MALE PASSENGER  
 (looking at phone)  
 He's right. He's right.

The murmuring on the bus builds at this latest development.

TOUR GUIDE  
 Please everyone, please. I'm sure  
 it's a clerical error. A mere typo.

The Tour Guide pulls out cell, calls a number on speed dial.

TOUR GUIDE (CONT'D)  
 I'll get this straightened out.  
 (talks into phone)  
 Hello this is Jackie.  
 (listens)  
 Jackie? Tour Guide?  
 (listens)  
 Northumbria Tours?  
 (listens)  
 That's right. The one with the hair.  
 So we have some passengers on board  
 who are a little anxious cause they  
 learnt you are closing early.  
 (listens)  
 You are?

Murmuring amongst the passengers escalates.

The Tour Guide tries to be persuasive.

TOUR GUIDE (CONT'D)  
 Well we have a whole bus load eager  
 to try your wares, but we're  
 scheduled to get there just after  
 (listens)  
 Look I don't think you understand,  
 I have a whole bus load who are  
 eager to wrap up our tour with  
 dessert at your establishment.  
 (listens and gets mad)  
 Well it's pretty unprofessional to  
 just change your hours willy nilly  
 when you've maintained the same  
 closing time for decades! There is  
 no excuse for such poor management!  
 (listens and softens)  
 Well I didn't realise. My  
 condolences. How many years had  
 you been? Twenty seven years. Well  
 I am sorry. Again my condolences.

The Tour Guide is relieved to hang up. She uses her Mic.

TOUR GUIDE (CONT'D)  
 Passengers, we have a dilemma. We  
 can either attend Mundleton Gelato  
 store now or stay here and visit  
 Bridgely's--

The Autistic Man interrupts the Tour Guide and builds up a  
 chant for the Ice Cream.

AUTISTIC MAN  
 Nooooooooooooooooooooooooooooo!!!!  
 WE WANT ICE CREAM!  
 WE WANT ICE CREAM!  
 WE WANT ICE CREAM!

Doesn't take long for just about every passenger to join in.  
 Even the Chubby mother and the bratty twins join in as well.

PASSENGERS ON THE BUS  
 WE WANT ICE CREAM!  
 WE WANT ICE CREAM!  
 WE WANT ICE CREAM!

Tour Guide looks convinced that everyone wants Ice Cream.

TOUR GUIDE  
 Well it appears we have a unanimous  
 decision for Ice Cream so--

TOURIST RUNNING LATE (O.S.)  
 Maam! Maam!

Tour Guide looks annoyed with the interruption from the back.

POV of Tourist Running Late: Running down the isle, a blur  
 of curious passengers. The Tour Guide with Mic looks puzzled.

TOURIST RUNNING LATE (O.S.) (CONT'D)  
 Not unanimous. Not unanimous.

The Autistic Man protests to his weary mother.

AUTISTIC MAN  
 MUM! He said the NOT word. EEEEEEE!

EXT. DOWNTOWN MUNDLETON - DAY

The Bus is parked downtown Mundleton. Still overcast. Two  
 story brick buildings built long ago fill the street. The  
 bus pulls out and drives off revealing the TOURIST - a  
 middle age overweight man who resembles Barrelmaker Waylon.

The Tourist looks both ways and proceeds to cross the street.

The Tourist follows a well worn path that leads up a hill. The path is congested with families, couples and friends all heading towards the top of a grass covered hill. The weather begins to clear.

The Tourist stops at a stall near the hill top and buys a small white bag. He flicks the vendor a dollar.

Dark clouds clear and the sun bathes the hill in a warm glow.

The Tourist reaches the top of the hill. He looks in awe.

Families, couples, children, friends all participate in the feeding of the Albatrosses. Many overseas visitors - Chinese, Russian, German, American, African, Arabs, Indians take delight in feeding the hungry birds. Dozens are fed.

The Tourist is overwhelmed. He makes for an empty spot.

In the empty spot is the apparition of Bridgely. He waves and yells - "Hey it's me! Bridgely!" - but there's no sound.

The Tourist steps into the spot where the apparition resides unaware of its presence. The apparition fades away.

The Tourist opens up the white bag and proceeds to feed the albatrosses bread. He can't stop laughing and he cries like a baby. It's as if the whole weight of the world was lifted.

The Tourist joins the rest of the happy visitors feeding the Albatrosses. The sun is out and it's a glorious afternoon. Top of hill is unchanged but all about are modern buildings.

On the edge of the hilltop is a sign "*Bridgely's Hill*".

FADE OUT.