

# Into The Sunset

A full length play by Caetlyn McLean

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Cast

Liam  
Claire  
Creature (non-speaking)

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ACT 1

SCENE 1 - BEACH/FOREST

*Lights up to reveal scenery that resembles a tropical beach. The stage is empty. The faint sound of crashing waves can be heard along with the rowing of a boat. The boat soon lands on shore.*

*LIAM and CLAIRE, panting, enter dragging a rather large suitcase.*

CLAIRE Geez, Liam! What the hell have you got in this thing?

LIAM All the essentials for our tropical island getaway.

CLAIRE When I said I wanted a tropical island getaway, this isn't quite what I had in mind.

*They stop in the middle of the stage.*

LIAM Oh, c'mon! Look around you! This is a tropical island, is it not?

CLAIRE Oh, no! Don't you turn this around. It's your fault we're in this mess!

LIAM *(defensively)* Hey, it was your idea to go on a cruise in the first place. You got that, didn't you?

CLAIRE Yeah, in the baggage compartment as stowaways! No wonder they sent us out to sea on a dingy!

LIAM Now, wait a minute. I'm not completely to blame here. You didn't exactly protest when you found out we were hiding in the compartment. *(Pause)* In fact, I'm willing to bet that you wanted this to happen ...

CLAIRE I did *not* want to end up in the middle of nowhere with no food or water!

LIAM Give me some credit. Of course I packed some food and water! *(hasty)* But anyway, aside from that, you wanted the adventure. You wanted to take the risk of not getting caught.

CLAIRE Yeah, but we did.

LIAM Look, will you stop seeing the bad side of things for a second? Go on, admit it. You wanted the thrill of being a stowaway.

CLAIRE *(stubborn)* No, I didn't.

LIAM Yes, you did.

CLAIRE No, I didn't!

LIAM Then why didn't you stop us from hiding?

*There is silence. Embarrassed, CLAIRE gives a shy smile.*

LIAM See? There's nothing wrong with admitting you like taking risks. In fact, it's quite healthy.

CLAIRE (*sarcastically*) Oh, you are a wealth of information, aren't you? (*pause*) Alright, I'm a thrill seeker, like you are. Well, maybe not quite so much. After all, I did grow up in the country. (*hasty*) But now we've got to work out how to get off this rock ...

*LIAM takes a seat on stage.*

LIAM What's the hurry? The sun is shining. The breeze is gently blowing. The waves are crashing on the shore.

CLAIRE (*casually*) The dingy is floating away ...

LIAM What?

CLAIRE The dingy.

LIAM What about it?

CLAIRE You did secure it to something, didn't you?

*LIAM gets up.*

LIAM (*looks around nervously*) Yes ... I did ...

*LIAM slowly edges to the exit.*

LIAM Let me just check on something for a sec. Don't move. I'll be right back.

*LIAM exits hastily.*

CLAIRE (*snorts*) Like I've got anywhere to go ...

*CLAIRE wanders around briefly. Glancing at the suitcase and after some thought, CLAIRE opens it and takes out an assortment of strange objects before slowly taking out a long rope.*

*After a moment, LIAM re-enters, panting.*

LIAM It's no use. It's too far away. I couldn't find any rope to –

*He sees the rope in CLAIRE's hand. Sheepish.*

Oh, right. I'd forgotten I'd packed it in.

CLAIRE You'd forgotten it? *(pause)* Okay, I'll bite. Apart from the obvious, why exactly did you need to pack it in there in the first place?

LIAM *(shrugs)* I like to be prepared for anything.

CLAIRE Like what? A kidnapping?

LIAM No, seriously a rope can be quite handy in medical emergencies.

CLAIRE You scared me sometimes, you know that? *(sighs)* Well, seeing as we're going to be stuck here for a while, we might as well make the most of it.

LIAM *(takes out a phone)* I'll call for help.

CLAIRE Unless there's a phone tower on this island, I doubt you're going to get a signal.

*LIAM isn't listening. Holding the phone up, he wanders off stage, hoping to get a signal of sorts.*

*CLAIRE sighs and takes out a pen and pad paper, and stops to think before starting to write.*

CLAIRE (VO) To whom it may concern, recent events have forced me to put pen and paper to plead for some assistance in locating us for we are hopelessly lost. Yours sincerely, Claire.

*There is a pause. CLAIRE stops writing to think and shakes her head, vehemently.*

No, no, no! That just sounds too snobby. I need something more direct and urgent. *(thinks)* Hmmm .... Ah ha! I know!

*CLAIRE rips a piece of paper off the pad, scrunches it up and scribbles furiously.*

(VO) Help! My boyfriend and I are stranded on a desert island, somewhere in the Indian Ocean! Yours sincerely, Claire.

*LIAM wanders back on, looking defeated.*

CLAIRE (smug) No signal?

LIAM *just looks at CLAIRE. LIAM looks over her shoulder.*

LIAM What are you writing?

CLAIRE An SOS. I don't suppose we have a bottle?

CLAIRE *rips a piece of paper from the pad.*

LIAM Actually, it's funny you should ask that ....

LIAM *rummages through the suitcase, finds an empty bottle and hands it to CLAIRE. She just looks at LIAM who shakes head.*

Look, just ... don't.

CLAIRE *sighs and places the paper in the bottle before screwing the lid back on. She then lets the bottle loose on the edge of the stage as a STAGEHAND, dressed in black, takes the bottle from CLAIRE.*

CLAIRE (looking out to audience) And there it goes. Now, what do we do?

LIAM *finds a pair of sunglasses, put it on and lies down on the stage.*

LIAM I don't know about you but I know exactly what I want to do.

CLAIRE That's not exactly helping.

LIAM Why are you stressing so much? We've got all the time in the world!

*He counts the fingers on hand.*

One, there's no stresses of the concrete jungle. Two, there's no family to hassle you about needing you to play handy man or babysit. Plus, you've have feel good about this glorious weather!

CLAIRE (basking in the sun with eyes closed) I have to admit the sun does feel awesome. (She suddenly opens eyes.) But we have to face reality! We need to find some way for getting rescued!

LIAM Why? This is so much better than the real world!

CLAIRE Okay, but answer me this; how long this is going to last?

LIAM (shrugs) As long as we want it to.



CLAIRE And then what?

LIAM (*sits up again*) We're on an island. Most islands have a very active ecosystem so chances are, even if we do run out of food in the suitcase, there'll be something on this island we can eat.

CLAIRE Speaking of food, what do we have in there?

LIAM (*gestures suitcase*) Feel free.

*CLAIRE goes to the suitcase and rummages through it, pulling out several packets of chips, sweets and some muesli bars.*

CLAIRE What? That's it? Where's the healthy stuff like fruit and veg?

LIAM You're the one who wanted a cruise. You can't exactly bring fruit and veg to an overseas country. That's what quarantine is for.

CLAIRE (*groans*) We're done for. (*pause*) Okay, what about water?

LIAM Easy. We're right by the sea. We can drink all the water we want.

*LIAM goes to the edge of the stage and scoops up some water to take a drink.*

CLAIRE You realize that's salt water, right?

*LIAM spits out the water.*

LIAM (*grins*) Just testing. I've got two large bottles of fresh water in the suitcase. Look, will you please just relax?

CLAIRE (*gets up and paces*) I can't. Your shortsightedness is scaring me and you're supposed to be the paramedic. I need to know that we'll be okay in a few days at least. That (*points to suitcase*) doesn't really look very promising. I'm going to go for a walk.

*CLAIRE starts to exit.*

LIAM (*sighs*) Suit yourself. (*after CLAIRE*) But there's nothing to worry about!

*CLAIRE has gone. LIAM just sits there, twiddling thumbs. There is a slight pause. A bird can be heard flying in the background.*

LIAM (*grins*) Food! Claire will be so proud of me.

*He goes through the suitcase and finds a pocket knife and some string. He exits briefly with the pocketknife and string.*

*Lights change. Sound of foliage rustling can soon be heard along with several snapping of branches.*

*(off) Ouch! God dammit! That hurt! (pause) Ah, ha! Here's some! (pause) Now, let's see. How does this go again? Um ... we do this (pause) and then (pause) Oh, that's right. That ...*

*Sound of scraping wood followed by few seconds of silence.*

There!!

*Lights up. Sounds of a jungle can be heard in the background as well as the faint sound of a waterfall.*

*LIAM re-enters with a readymade bow and an invisible arrow and looks around.*

Now, where's that pesky bird?

*LIAM looks around and begins hunting for the bird. As he is backing towards the exit, CLAIRE enters with a handful of fruit.*

CLAIRE Hey, look what I've found. We can - What the-?

*LIAM spins around in surprise aiming the bow and arrow at CLAIRE who ducks in shock.*

CLAIRE You trying to get me killed??

LIAM Will you stop doing that? I nearly shot you!

CLAIRE Yeah, I can tell! So much for our relationship!

LIAM *(testily)* Actually, I'm trying to get lunch. If you just shut up for a second, I might be able to snag us a nice juicy bird. Listen ...

*There is silent for a moment.*

CLAIRE Once again, you're imagining – *(Bird squawks)* - things.

LIAM *(grins)* I'm not just a pretty face. Now, where did that bird go?

*CLAIRE puts the fruit down. LIAM and CLAIRE look up, waiting.*

*There is a moment of silence, then the sound of a bird flying past.*

*LIAM takes aim and lets the arrow loose. The arrow flies through the air, misses the bird and lands in the waterfall with a small splash. The bird squawks triumphantly and flies away.*

Take two?

CLAIRE Hey, you're the one firing the shots ...

*LIAM and CLAIRE wait once more.*

*A sound of a bird squawk can be heard to the side of the stage. LIAM and CLAIRE look at each other and they both proceed to tiptoe towards the bird.*

*LIAM takes aim and fires the arrow. This time, the arrow misses the bird and ricochets off a tree, causing both LIAM and CLAIRE to duck for cover.*

*There is a moment's silence.*

CLAIRE Have you even done any target practice before?

LIAM Nope. First time.

CLAIRE *(snatching the bow from LIAM)* Give it here! Watch and learn ...

*LIAM and CLAIRE look around stealthily.*

*After a while, LIAM spots the bird and cautiously tugs at CLAIRE who slowly takes aim and fires. The arrow hits the bird who squawks in shock and a thud is heard.*

LIAM *(pats CLAIRE on the back)* Well done! I didn't know you could shoot.

CLAIRE *(grins)* Like I said, country kid. C'mon, lets go and cook our lunch.

LIAM You know, I saw an awesome place back there where we can go cook this thing.

CLAIRE You mean by the waterfall?

LIAM Yep.

*LIAM starts to exit.*

CLAIRE Hang on a tic. I nearly forgot something.

*CLAIRE exits the other side of the stage while LIAM waits.*

LIAM *(groans)* Now what? I'm getting hungry.

*Slight sounds of a stomach rumble. LIAM looks down at his stomach then makes a point of checking his wristwatch.*

LIAM *(off to side)* What are you doing??

CLAIRE *(off)* Keep your knickers on! I'm coming!

*CLAIRE re-enters with the zipped-up suitcase.*

CLAIRE We can't leave this on the beach.

LIAM Ah yes! Good thinking! Come on before something else finds the bird.

*LIAM starts to leave. He stops briefly and realizes CLAIRE is just standing there, looking around.*

LIAM Are you coming?

CLAIRE *(thoughtfully)* Hey, do you suppose there's anyone else on this island?

LIAM If there is, they haven't exactly come down to welcome us.

CLAIRE I wonder how big the island is.

*The sound of a rumbling stomach returns.*

LIAM I hate to interrupt your philosophical thoughts on the island's habitual status but can you postpone it until we've actually eaten? My stomach's not exactly the most patient right now.

CLAIRE Fair enough. Lets go.

*They exit. Lights down.*

SCENE 2 - CAMPSITE

*CLAIRE and LIAM are sitting by a made-up campfire with the suitcase between them. They have just finished their share of the bird. Half a bird still lies above the fire, uneaten. We hear the sounds of nature in the background.*

CLAIRE            How are you feeling now?

LIAM                (*smiles*) Much better, thanks. I can't believe we've eaten only half the bird and we're already full!

CLAIRE            Well, it was a fairly large bird. (*pause*) If I was home now, I'd be giving the rest to Molly.

*CREATURE emerges from behind them curiously as if being called by name, tilting its head from side to side.*

*It is an animal that resembles that of an unkempt chimpanzee but looks like it had once been a human at some stage of its life.*

LIAM                Molly?

CLAIRE            My dog.

LIAM                When were you going to tell me you had a dog?

CLAIRE            When we were on the actual cruise. Would it have changed anything?

LIAM                Of course not. I love dogs. What breed is she?

*CREATURE slowly comes forward and eyes the half eaten bird.*

CLAIRE            Pitbull-mastiff cross. The bottomless pit, I call her. She'd polish the rest of the bird within five minutes - ten, if I'm lucky.

*CREATURE looks back and forth towards the bird and Claire as if begging.*

CLAIRE            I love those big brown sooky eyes looking up at you when she gets hungry. (*pause. Softly*) I miss her.

LIAM                Where is she now?

CLAIRE            With the neighbours. I told them I'd be going away for two weeks. Now, I wish I'd never left.

*She draws her knees closer to her chest and stares at the fire. CREATURE too gazes into the fire, entranced.*

CLAIRE All I ever wanted was to have a stress-free vacation on a luxury cruise ship. *(turning on LIAM)* It's all your fault we're on this mess! If I'd known we were going to stowaway on a dingy, I would never have agreed it this! Some vacation this turned out to be! How could you!

*Annoyed, she suddenly gets up. Scared, CREATURE scrambles back the way it came.*

LIAM Where are you going?

CLAIRE To get away from you.

LIAM Come on. Don't be silly ...

CLAIRE *(scathing)* Oh, I'm silly now, am I? I'm not the one who didn't get tickets for the cruise. Why were we even stowing away in the first place? You said you won them!

LIAM I did! I swear! I won them in a raffle!

CLAIRE So, what happened to them?

LIAM *(ashamed)* I ... um ... I lost them.

CLAIRE Lost them?

LIAM Yeah, on the bus. They must've fallen out of my pocket when I stood up to get off.

CLAIRE Great, so now someone else is enjoying the life of luxury when it's supposed to be us! Thanks a heap!

*She storms off stage.*

*CREATURE slowly emerges again heads towards the fire, staring at it in a trace.*

LIAM *(sighs)* Come on, Claire, come back. We're on a desert island!  
*(pause)* You're going to get lost.

*CREATURE spots the suitcase lying there and moves towards it. It is just about to pick the suitcase when -*

LIAM *(calls off to side)* Claire!

*CREATURE recoils and looks cautiously at Liam.*



CLAIRE *does as she's told. They sit for a few moments amidst the sounds of nature.*

LIAM Well?

CLAIRE Umm ... I hear birds.

LIAM What else?

CLAIRE Err ... the breeze from the trees.

LIAM Anything else?

*We hear the faint sound of the bird being eaten by CREATURE. They both frown and look around.*

LIAM What's that sound?

CLAIRE I take it that's not what I was supposed to be listening out for.

*The eating sounds continues.*

LIAM Er ... no but aside from that, listen to the (*He steals a quick glance off stage*) ... um ... peace. There's no honking of cars, no rumbling of traffic. (*pauses as the sound continues. Distracted*) No screaming neighbours or chatter of noisy people.

CLAIRE Just the noisy eating of our lunch.

*LIAM gives her a look as the eating sound stops.*

LIAM (*ignores her*) Just as nature intended.

*CLAIRE returns his look for a moment then sighs.*

CLAIRE I guess you're right. I never really noticed how noisy the city was before. I just got so used to it.

LIAM I'm curious about something.

CLAIRE Yeah?

LIAM You said you grew up in the country.

CLAIRE Yeah.

LIAM How come you don't take notice of the peace? I thought all country folk go back to their roots at some stage.

CLAIRE            (*shrugs*) I guess I've spent so long in the city, I'd forgotten how to appreciate nature. Plus Molly usually keeps me occupied. (*deep sigh*) I guess I'll never see her again.

LIAM                Don't say that. Of course, you will. We just need to keep thinking positive and come up with a plan of survival.

CLAIRE            Well, what do you suggest?

LIAM                Okay, what do you know about camping?

CLAIRE            Not much. Except for getting a fire going.

LIAM                (*smiles*) See, that's a start and we've had our first meal from it already. I can hunt for more food and-

CLAIRE            (*ridiculously*) You? You're a lousy shot. I'll do the hunting.

LIAM                Okay, then I'll ... um ...

CLAIRE            You can build things.

LIAM                I'm not exactly the best builder.

CLAIRE            You made the bow and arrow from scratch with your knife. I'm lousy at that sort of stuff. If it hadn't been for you, I'd still be starving.

LIAM                I suppose. But don't expect me to build a two-storey mansion out here.

CLAIRE            (*teasing*) Go on, off to it then. Seriously though, if we start building little things to help us get by, we might just make it.

*The lights start to dim.*

LIAM                That's the spirit! Incidentally, we're going to have to find shelter somewhere. It's starting to get dark.

CLAIRE            (*blinks*) Really, it was sunny a moment ago. What time is it?

*LIAM looks at his watch.*

LIAM                About four thirty.

*We heard the soft rumbling of thunder in a distance.*

LIAM                Is that what I think it is?

CLAIRE Yeah, I think it might be. (*She gets up.*) Come on. (*She helps LIAM up.*) I think I saw a cave near the waterfall when we were hunting for the bird. Maybe we can take shelter there.

*LIAM picks up the suitcase. He notices the bird missing and looks around, frowning.*

CLAIRE What's the matter?

LIAM I was going to take the bird with us so we could have it later for dinner but ...

*CLAIRE notices the missing bird too.*

CLAIRE Where did it go? (*pause*) You don't suppose that eating sound we heard earlier ...

*LIAM holds out a hand.*

LIAM Probably. But right now, let go find that cave before we get rained on too much.

*Another clap of thunder and sound of heavy rain can be heard. LIAM and CLAIRE shield their heads and race offstage.*



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SCENE 3 - CAVE

*The stage is dark. There is no movement for a while but we hear the coming of a storm. The storm intensifies as thunder can soon be heard.*

*Dim lights as LIAM and CLAIRE rushes onto the stage with the suitcase, shaking themselves dry.*

LIAM                    (*panting*) Well, that was unexpected. Good thing you found this cave while looking for fruit before.

CLAIRE                Thanks although I'm not sure how beneficial this is.

LIAM                    As long as we're out of the storm, we'll be fine.

*They sit down in silence for a few moments. The storm continues to rage in outside.*

LIAM                    You think it'll last long?

CLAIRE                You're not panicking already, are you?

*LIAM looks around.*

LIAM                    Well, no but I'm not seeing much in the way of wood for fire later on. Plus, what if we get hungry?

CLAIRE                Hungry? We've just eaten that bird we shot.

LIAM                    (*testy*) I'm not hungry now but we can't stay in here forever. What if someone came to rescue us? They wouldn't know we were in here.

CLAIRE                No one is going to be rescuing us while we're in here. They'd be crazy to venture out into a storm like that! Besides, you just said we'll be fine as long as we stay in here.

LIAM                    (*looking around cautiously*) I guess.

CLAIRE                (*appraising LIAM*) You okay?

LIAM                    (*nervously*) Yeah, why?

*Thunder strikes outside, making LIAM jump. CLAIRE looks at him for a moment and smiles.*

CLAIRE                You're not scared of the storm, are you?

LIAM                    (*trying to stay calm but starting to shake*) No, what makes you say that?

CLAIRE Go on, admit it. You're scared.

LIAM No, I'm not.

CLAIRE (*smug*) Yes, you are. You're scared!

LIAM (*snorts*) Me? In your dreams!

*Thunder strikes again and LIAM suddenly latches onto CLAIRE for comfort. She doesn't react for a few seconds.*

CLAIRE (*monotone*) In that case, I'm definitely dreaming.

*CLAIRE slowly looks down at LIAM who returns the look at her and lets go, embarrassed.*

LIAM Sorry. Okay, so I get a bit nervous when I'm in a cave.

CLAIRE Don't worry, Liam. It'll only be as long as the storm subsides. Just take a deep breath and try and relax. I'll talk you through the storm. It's not that bad. We're protected from the elements in here.

*LIAM takes a deep breath. Howling wind can be heard. He looks around nervously.*

CLAIRE (*soothingly*) That's just the howling of the wind. Just close your eyes and think of a cool summer breeze.

*LIAM obeys while CLAIRE goes the suitcase and eventually brings out a torch. CLAIRE turns on the torch. The light shines eerily on her face.*

*Fascinated for a brief moment, CLAIRE starts making faces by torchlight. LIAM soon senses the silence.*

LIAM (*frowns*) What are you doing?

*With eyes open, LIAM turns to face CLAIRE who hastily pulls the torch away and tries to look innocent.*

CLAIRE (*clearing throat*) Nothing. I ... um ... found a torch.

LIAM Oh, yeah. I'd forgotten about that.

*There is a faint scratching sound coming from somewhere. The storm outside dies down slightly.*

CLAIRE By the way, you're in luck. I think the storm is passing.

*A faint thunder strikes. LIAM looks at CLAIRE cautiously.*

CLAIRE C'mon, you can't seriously tell me you're still scared of thunder!

LIAM Actually, I'm feeling a lot better.

*The scratching sound increases.*

LIAM Will you stop that! It's not funny!

CLAIRE Stop what?

LIAM That sound.

CLAIRE What sound?

*They both stay still for a few moments, listening. There is silence.*

CLAIRE You're just imagining things. There's nothing there!

*She goes to the suitcase and takes out a strange fruit. She hands the fruit to LIAM.*

CLAIRE Here, have something to eat. It'll help with the distraction.

*LIAM takes a bite.*

LIAM Thanks, I admit I was getting a bit hungry and when I do, I don't think straight.

CLAIRE Did you now there's a name for that?

LIAM *(busy munching on the fruit)* Mmmm?

*Lights begin to fade to black. The reverb in CLAIRE's voice slowly increases.*

CLAIRE Yeah, it's called being hangry where people get aggressive when they don't get something to eat. It's got something to do with the fight for survival.

*The stage is now dark. Weird swirling sounds can be heard. Lights come back up.*

*CLAIRE is now wearing an ominous cape and holding a sword. The swirling sounds fade but CLAIRE's voice still sounds very echoey.*

CLAIRE           And now is your chance to prove your worth.

LIAM             I don't have to prove anything to you!

CLAIRE           Silence! The master has spoken! Fight or die!

*CLAIRE swings the sword at LIAM who ducks in terror. LIAM scrambles to the ground and also finds a sword. He brandishes the sword.*

LIAM             *(suddenly angry)* Right, you want a fight? I'll give you a fight!!

*LIAM takes a swing at CLAIRE who fights back.*

CLAIRE           Surrender! You cannot defeat me! I am powerful than you!

LIAM             Yeah, well, now it's your turn to prove your worth!

*LIAM and CLAIRE engage in battle.*

*After a few moments, CLAIRE drops the sword and trips over. LIAM prepares to strike her. CLAIRE's voice is suddenly normal again.*

CLAIRE           Liam! Don't! Put it down! You're not yourself!

LIAM             Don't try to weasel your way out of this. You will die for your deception!

*Both LIAM and CLAIRE freeze. The lights fade.*

CLAIRE(VO)     Liam, just calm down. You're not yourself. Just put the branch down!

LIAM (VO)       How dare you call my weapon a branch! I will strike you where you lie, you coward!

*Lights up.*

*LIAM is posed to strike CLAIRE with a weedy branch. She is no longer wearing the cape.*

CLAIRE           Liam, just listen to yourself. Please, look at what you're holding.

LIAM             What happened?

CLAIRE           You were trying to beat me with a skinny stick ...

*LIAM looks at the branch and drops it on the ground.*

LIAM                    Sorry, but you were about to kill me with a sword.

CLAIRE                What sword?

*LIAM looks around but can't see any sword.*

LIAM                    (*confused*) I dunno but you were wearing a strange cape.

CLAIRE                (*ridiculously*) A cape??

*There is a pause. CLAIRE makes a sudden realization.*

CLAIRE                (*slowly*) Oh, my god ...

LIAM                    What?

CLAIRE                I can't believe I've been so stupid!

LIAM                    (*urging*) What?

CLAIRE                I'm sorry. It's too embarrassing ...

LIAM                    What?! What did you do?

CLAIRE                (*shamefully*) You're going to hate me.

LIAM                    I'm going to hate you if you don't tell me.

*There is a slight pause.*

CLAIRE                You know that strange fruit I gave you?

LIAM                    (*wary*) Yes ...

CLAIRE                I think it made you hallucinate.

LIAM                    And you didn't think before you gave it to me?

CLAIRE                I'm really sorry. I was planning on having some myself but you were hungry.

LIAM                    So much for healthy eating.

CLAIRE                I'm curious about something.

LIAM                    What?

CLAIRE                If you suffer from the hangries, how do you manage to get by your ambulance shifts without killing people?

LIAM                    That's why I keep muesli bars with me. That why we have a couple in the suitcase.

CLAIRE                I guess that makes sense.

*There is silence.*

CLAIRE                Hey, do you hear that?

LIAM                    Don't try and change the subject. You tried to poison me. I should really –

CLAIRE                No, I'm serious. Listen.

*They both listen. Still no noise. The shadow of CREATURE lurks in the background, unnoticed by them.*

LIAM                    I don't hear anything.

CLAIRE                Exactly! The storm's died down.

*They look at each other for a moment then both exit in a rush of excitement.*

*CREATURE comes crawling out like an untamed creature. It looks around cautiously, hisses at the audience and drags the suitcase offstage. Lights down.*



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SCENE 4 - BEACH

*There are a few trees on stage and the sound of a jungle can be heard in the background. LIAM and CLAIRE run on stage in ecstasy.*

LIAM           *(laughing)* Sun!

CLAIRE        Warmth!

LIAM           *(collapsing down on his knees)* Rain!

*CLAIRE looks at LIAM.*

LIAM           I meant the smell of rain. I love the smell of rain after the storm. It makes you feel so calm inside.

CLAIRE        *(smiles)* Amen to that! *(looks around)* I think we might be missing something.

LIAM           What?

CLAIRE        You didn't happen to bring the suitcase out, did you?

LIAM           I thought you did. *(Pause.)* Alright, I'll go and get it if it means so much to you.

*He gets up and starts to head towards the exit.*

CLAIRE        I thought you were scared of the dark.

*LIAM stops where he's going and looks back at her.*

LIAM           I don't hear you offering to retrieve it.

*Beat.*

CLAIRE        Stay right there.

*She hurries off stage before LIAM can stop her. There is a slight pause and we hear CLAIRE scream. LIAM turns to look.*

LIAM           'You okay there, Claire?

CLAIRE        *(off, trying to keep calm)* Yeah, I'm okay but ... there's this ... thing guarding the suitcase.

LIAM           A thing?

CLAIRE (off) Yeah.

LIAM Well, what does he look like?

CLAIRE (off) I wouldn't exactly call it a he.

LIAM Look, stop splitting hairs! What does it look like?

CLAIRE (off) Bloody scary! *(There is an angry hiss. Shaky voice)* There, there. Nice little thing. All - all I want is the suitcase.

LIAM Hey, I've got an idea! I'll be back in the tic.

*LIAM exits the other side of the stage.*

CLAIRE (off) Liam, don't just leave me here! Urgh!! Get away from me!!

*There is another vicious hiss and CLAIRE comes running back on stage in terror followed by some underwear being thrown. She stops and looks towards the cave.*

CLAIRE Hey! If you're going to throw our underwear at us, you can at least give the suitcase back too.

*LIAM returns on stage with a handful of fruit. CLAIRE looks at the fruit.*

CLAIRE Don't tell me you're hungry at a time like this.

*LIAM doesn't reply and just rolls one fruit towards the cave. We hear noisy devouring of the fruit followed by panting and licking of lips. CLAIRE begins to smile.*

CLAIRE Do it again.

*LIAM does so and CLAIRE quickly rushes offstage. Once again we hear brief devouring. The sound stops followed by growls.*

CLAIRE (off) It's okay, thing. Just eat your delicious fruit. Don't mind me. I'll just take the suitcase and leave you alone.

*There is a pause. The devouring continues and CLAIRE returns on stage with the suitcase, panting. Devouring sound fades.*

CLAIRE Phew! That was a close one!

LIAM So, that's what the scratching noise was! I knew there was a reason why I was so edgy in there! I'm not usually scared of the dark.

CLAIRE I don't remember any scratching ...

LIAM You can't be serious.

CLAIRE I am. I don't remember hearing it. I thought you were just imagining it because you were so anxious in there.

*There is an ominous silence for a moment as they both consider what the noise was.*

LIAM In any case, you can't deny there was a ... creature hiding in there.

CLAIRE Well, not anymore. Speaking of the creature, I'm starting to get hungry.

*CLAIRE goes to the suitcase and rummages through it.*

CLAIRE Ah crap!

LIAM What?

CLAIRE How many packet of chips did you put in here?

LIAM I dunno. I didn't count them. Why?

CLAIRE Well, I can't count any. What about the sweets and muesli bars?

LIAM Them too.

CLAIRE (*suspiciously*) How many did you have when I wasn't looking?

LIAM (*insulted*) Wasn't looking? For one, I wouldn't be able to eat all of it in one go. Secondly, I was with you the *whole* time!

CLAIRE Bullshit!

LIAM (*annoyed*) You calling me a liar?

CLAIRE If the shoe fits. After all, you're the one who gets hangry.

LIAM What the hell has that got to do with anything??

CLAIRE What about the time I went looking for the fruit?

LIAM (*testily*) In case you've forgotten, I was trying to shoot down a bird with bow and arrows I crafted with my own hands. Just so we wouldn't GO hungry!

*There is a pause.*

CLAIRE Hang on. So, if you didn't have any of the food and I didn't have any of the food, whose been eating them?

*They both look towards the cave.*

LIAM Well, that's just great! Here we are on the verge of starvation and Mr Thing in there has been helping itself to our food supply.

CLAIRE (*knowingly*) You know, there is one thing we can do ...

LIAM What's that? (CLAIRE *mimes shooting an arrow with a bow. Sheepish*) I think there might be a slight problem.

CLAIRE (*groan*) Don't tell me ...

LIAM Sorry.

CLAIRE You said you made the bow and arrows.

LIAM (*curious*) Yeah?

CLAIRE Well ...

*LIAM looks confused for a moment then slowly smiles. He runs to the suitcase and digs out the roll of string and a knife.*

LIAM I'll be right back ...

*LIAM dashes offstage. CLAIRE watches him go and shakes head, sighing. Lights slowly starts change to orange.*

CLAIRE (*to self*) Seriously, I don't know how Liam expects to get rescued. We've been here for at least an hour already.

*She tries to look at her watch only to realize there is none.*

CLAIRE Well, I think it was an hour. He's the one with the watch.

*We hear the sound of a helicopter and CLAIRE looks around trying to find out where the helicopter is.*

*With sudden realization, she frantically tries to get the helicopter's attention, calling out to it.*

CLAIRE (*to self*) Oh, wait a minute ...

*She runs offstage briefly and returns with a big stick.*

*She then starts drawing on the ground before resuming on getting the helicopter's attention. The helicopter sound eventually fades. She groans miserably.*

CLAIRE Great! Now, we'll never get off this bloody island!

*LIAM rushes back on stage, looking around.*

LIAM *(excited)* Was that what I thought it was?

CLAIRE *(deflated)* Yeah, but it's gone now. *(gestures to her drawing)* I even tried to write an SOS but I don't think it saw us.

LIAM Don't worry. I'm sure there'll be more.

CLAIRE *(getting upset)* But what if there isn't? I don't want to be stuck here for the rest of my life. There is so much I wanted to do! *(She starts breaking down in tears.)* I just want to be in my own bed cuddling up with Molly.

*LIAM puts his arms around here and she sinks into his arms.*

LIAM It's going to be okay. We have each other.

CLAIRE *(sniffing)* I guess. We were so close too.

LIAM I know. *(looks at his watch)* Look, it's nearly six. We can't go back to the cave with the thing in there. We're going to have to find somewhere else to spent the night.

*CLAIRE looks out towards the audience. The lights are now bright orange.*

CLAIRE *(wistfully)* Do we have to?

LIAM What do you mean "do we have to"? It's getting dark.

CLAIRE Just look out there, Liam, and tell me what you see.

*LIAM too looks out towards the audience, shading his eyes.*

LIAM All I see is the nothingness of the ocean.

CLAIRE *(rolling her eyes)* You're the one who's been going on about the beauty of nature. It's right in front of us!

LIAM                    (*grinning*) Of course I see the sunset. (*pause, sighing*) It is a stunner.

*They both admire the sunset for a moment, listening to the sound of the crashing waves in front of them.*

CLAIRE                I've never seen one like it.

*She sinks down onto the ground and sits there. LIAM looks down at her and smiles.*

LIAM                    Alright, you've twisted my arm. We'll set up camp here for the night. We'll just have to move back a bit though so we don't get caught up by the high tide later. I'll go find some firewood in the forest.

*He begins to exit. He looks back at CLAIRE who is still staring out towards the audience.*

LIAM                    You going to be okay while I'm gone?

*CLAIRE blinks and looks back at him.*

CLAIRE                (*smiles*) Yeah, just go. I'll be fine.

*LIAM leaves. CLAIRE continues to stare at the sunset.*

CLAIRE                (*to self*) Oh, Molly, I wish you could be here to see this. (*chuckles*) I can just imagine you chasing all the seagulls too. (*heavy sigh, then pause*) I wonder what is left in the case. I just hope we have enough to last us until we get rescued. The bloody thing's probably eaten all our food supply.

*She heads towards the suitcase and opens it. She rummages through it and produces a small velvet box. She looks at it in wonder and opens it as LIAM wanders back on stage carrying a pile of large sticks.*

*She stares at it wide-eyed, then yelps and shuts the box again. She hastily throws it back in the suitcase again in shock just as LIAM looks up at her.*

LIAM                    What have you -

*There's an awkward silence. LIAM puts the sticks on the ground.*

CLAIRE                (*lost for words*) I was just ... um ... well, I ...

*He goes up to the suitcase and looks inside. He picks up the box.*



LIAM (sheepish) Oh, yeah. With all that's happened, I completely forgot about it.

*He opens the box and gently takes a ring out from inside it.*

CLAIRE When were you actually going to do it?

LIAM On the cruise. I figured it would be a nice romantic surprise. (pause) You know, I think the sunset is just as romantic.

*He kneels down in front of her.*

LIAM Claire, will you do the honour –

CLAIRE Wait a sec. Who's going to make it legal? There's no one else here. Well, maybe a couple of curious seagulls. And the thing in the cave but I don't-

LIAM Claire?

CLAIRE Yeah?

LIAM You're spoiling the moment.

CLAIRE (sheepish) Sorry.

LIAM (clears this throat) Claire, will you do the honour of being my wife?

CLAIRE (teasing) And if I say no?

*LIAM pretends to look at her, crushed.*

CLAIRE (smiles) Of course, I will!

LIAM (relieved) Oh, thank god for that!

*He puts the rings on her finger, gets up and puts his arms on her shoulders.*

LIAM I do love you, despite all that's happened.

CLAIRE So do I, Liam.

*They kiss as the lights go down.*