

HE

(V/O) When I first met her I was playing in this small pub in Edinburgh.

The festival like a river of bodies moving past outside.

I had escaped.

I don't know...

They had a piano in the pub, I just sat down and started playing.

MUSIC: ODIN LAMENT 2 PICKS UP COUPLE OF LINES IN (MIGHT PICK UP ABOUT 30 SECS IN?)

Felt my way round the keys and teased the sound out.

I had just started to play for money - I was all the music in a play that year and it had gone so easy. We'd busked on the streets, wondered in and out of places, done our show and stayed up all night. I played the piano because it soothed me and I I I didn't think anyone was really listening.

I felt someone behind me but I didn't look up. Someone sat down I kept playing but I could feel their heat.

And then she just picked out the notes of the song I was playing...

MERGE INTO ODIN LAMENT 8 WITH THE FIDDLE.

And stood it into the air.

She tore out all of it.

She ripped it, like a heart ripped out of the body.

She stole my heart in that one easy line of a song before I even looked at her.

Sat there playing some ragged fiddle.

I remember I don't want to remember.

HE

I was stolen...

Outside inside.

I let myself be stolen.

Heart stolen.

BEAT. MUSIC GONE.

People disappear.

NOW IN REAL TIME.

I sit in this same pub I don't move I don't play the piano anymore.

This is where it all started.

The piano's gone anyhow. I've stopped playing.

The music I don't allow.

But ghosts still are here.

She sits behind me, her breath on my neck.

The first time that we met.

SHE Hello.

HE (V/O) She said.

HE (TO HER) Nice strings.

SHE Yep.

SHE (LAUGHING) I don't usually burst into playing.

SHE (V/O) I didn't...

I wasn't...

I just liked the way he played – his crumped-up shoulders.

His seriousness.

I wanted to interrupt it somehow.

MUSIC: ODIN LAMENT 1 QUIET.

HE (V/O) I imagined kissing her right /there.

SHE (V/O) /I told him I played folk mu//sic.

HE (V/O) //She had this rawness.

SHE (V/O) I said my songs were all blood and bones.

HE You've been at a gig?

SHE All night. It finished, we just stayed on. Closed doors.

I'm all croak.

HE (V/O) Her hair was a thatch.

I wanted to run my hand through and tease it out.

SHE (TO HIM) You want an egg?

HE Nah.

SHE And toast – they do that here if you ask.

HE For you.

SHE O yeah for me.

SHE YAWNS.

HE (V/O) Throwing her head back this full throttle yawn she let me look at her /neck.

SHE (V/O) /He made me laugh he was so shy and he didn't know I'd already seen him play. He was travelling with this load of actors and they were out on the streets the day before and he played this ukulele like he was alone, with such concentration...

HE PLAYS OUT ON THE STREETS (IF POSS!)

I liked that.

I stopped and watched him - I already had my eye on him.

But this was the first time we'd met.

In this small pub stood off the main haul in the city at the Edinburgh festival.

THEY WALK THROUGH THE STREETS.

HE (V/O) She took me through the noisy streets that seemed to close and open before her.

THEY WALK THROUGH THE CROWDS.

SHE I love the festival.

Most people who live here don't.

But it's like...

All these millions of conversations...

Listen. Sssh.

And stories

Lots of stories

All these different ways of telling.

Each body carrying one inside them.

Each body moving, listening, gleaning.

I love to listen to them.

HE (LAUGHING) You can hear what they're thinking?

SHE If you listen close.

A WHISPER OF VOICES SOUND OF PEOPLE WALKING, TALKING. SHE'S GONE.

HE (V/O) And now I walk on my own.

Trace her steps our steps.

Listening for her.

She's walking next to me our arms brushing.

SHE Look at that guy juggling – he's always here.

HE You think they're real knives?

SHE Yeah, now he'll have fire. Come on!

FIRE CLOSE UP.

HE Whoa!

HE (V/O) I grabbed hold of her hand.

Int. Flat

DAY

SHE (V/O) I stole him to bed and he read this book about rare islands while I took a bath, a small deep hot bath and then I laid clean sheets out for us.

HE (V/O) I never done that before.

Gone home with a girl just like that.

I was playing in the show at six that night and it was that first time I got lost...

I lost all of it.

I lost myself.

And I wanted to be lost.

I'd held on for so long for no good reason.

I let myself...

Int. Bedroom

DAY

THEY ARE CURLED UP WITH EACH OTHER.

SHE I don't even know your name.

HE Tam.

SHE Like the story?

HE What story?

SHE Really, that's really your name?

HE Yeah.

SHE Tamlin - stolen by the fairy queen?

HE Must be me.

SHE Do you know that story?

HE Nah.

SHE (V/O) He didn't understand then about stories – how they pass backwards and forwards keep re-telling themselves until they find their proper way, their deep vein, their worst and best telling.

HE Who's Tamlin?

HE KISSES HER.

SHE A man disappeared to stay with the fairy queen.  
There's a song I won't sing you.

HE Tell me it.

SHE (V/O) So I told him the story about how we disa/ppear...

HE (V/O) /We walked into this magical...

SHE (V/O) Disappeared into this //place...

HE (V/O) //Where we weren't ourselves but ///were.

SHE (V/O) ///It's like we walked away from our lives and into them at the  
///same minute.

HE (V/O) ///I imagine her voice...

SHE (V/O) I talked us into being.

HE (V/O) Never telling me about the seven years of hell the story /promised.

SHE (V/O) /I breathed all possibilities...

HE (V/O) She's always here in my mind.

Ext. Street

DAY

HE WALKS THE STREETS.

HE (V/O) I walk down through the city and stand outside the house where her apartment, hidden up in the roof, where I thought she lived.

That first day.

When we slept and talked and...

All afternoon.

She walked down to the show with me.

SHE You're all hurry!

HE (TO HER) I'm half late already – don't want to make a panic.

Come afterwards?

SHE Yeah sure.

HE (V/O) As she disappeared into the crowd that first time I thought I'd never see her again.

Premonition or...

*The play in the background...*

**ROSALIND** *There is a man haunts the forest, that abuses our young plants with carving 'Rosalind' on their barks; hangs odes upon hawthorns and elegies on brambles, all, forsooth, deifying the name of Rosalind:*

**ORLANDO** *I am he that is so love-shaked: I pray you tell me your remedy.*

Int. Small Theatre

NIGHT

A SMALL PLAY IN BACKGROUND, BIT OF BANG. MUSIC: CELTICA 3

HE (V/O) I went into the show and felt my way through it.

I played all the instruments without even seeing myself pick them up and put them down again.

My head was with her, wondering if she'd come back whether...

Had we really done that jumped in thrown ourselves?

The audience laughed and cried in all the right places...

A few surprises.

End of the show I was all falling heart through my shoes to see her.

MUSIC FADES SLOWLY.

MAN Hey! You coming?

HE No I'll wait.

MAN Some woman huh?

HE Yup.

MAN Good show!

HE Best.

MAN See you later.

HE See you, mate.

MAN GOES. CELTICA 7

HE (V/O) I'd have waited all night for her.

And now I'm here.

Waiting.

Looking.

Walking this city.

I come every year to the festival to look for her.

For seven years, I've looked for her.

Seven years of hell, that's what her story promised us.

This is my last time...

There's never any trace.

I know why.

SHE APPROACHES.

SHE Hey.

HE (V/O) She came just before twelve that first time.

She was late but I waited, I would have waited all night.

MUSIC: CELTICA 2.

SHE (V/O) We meandered...



I love that word.

HE Do we drink beer or walk or...?

SHE Just wander the streets.

Aw feel that - the night's a bite of fresh air.

SHE HAS STOPPED.

HE Why are you looking at me like that?

SHE (V/O) I wasn't sure I wanted to meet him again.

That first time had seized me, like an uncontrollable thirst I...

Wanted him.

HE (V/O) She haunts me.

Her arm on my arm.

Her breath on my shoulder pointing out funny stuff that I'd not seen.

She saw all of it.

Took everything in on a deep breath.

It was like she could see through walls and doors.

THEY WALK, MUSIC FADES.

SHE Aw this city, it's like a living thing.

Look at it, all decked up and overdressed, bit of a tart really.

Spilling itself onto the pavements, caught up in its own magic.

SHE (V/O) He smelt so good.

He seemed so alone.

So easy to just take away.

I could feel,

I wanted to take him...

So easy.

HE (V/O) She kissed me then and I fell more.



Step out so I can see you.

HE WAITS.

Appear out of nothing like you always did.

SILENCE.

How you tried to tell me then.

Three pints down sat outside, red moon...

Ext. Outside Pub

NIGHT GOES BY

THEY SIT.

SHE You know the stories in the old songs about...

People being...

HE What?

SHE ...spirited away.

HE Not really.

SHE That's what I do.

HE Tell stories?

SHE No, no.

BEAT.

We come to the festival...

HE We?

SHE I mean I've already done that to you haven't I?

HE What do you mean?

SHE With my strings.

HE What?

SHE You fell in love with me the minute you heard me play.

Right?

HE How did you /know that?

SHE /You will always say that was the minute you fell in love //with me.

HE //It was.

SHE That's how I do it.

HE                                   What are you doing?  
HALF-BEAT.  
You just want to shake me off right?  
So say it...  
I'm know I'm just some loser goes home with people too quick.  
Just say I'm...                                   not your                                   type.  
It won't hurt so much.  
Me, I can mop up my own heart.

SHE                                   You are my type.

HE                                   Am I?

SHE                                   It's just this is how I do it.

HE                                   Do what?

SHE                                   Take you.

HE                                   Where?

SHE                                   Somewhere where there is no people.

HE                                   (LAUGHING) Then you suck my blood or or or...?

SHE                                   Not necessarily.

HE                                   That was a joke by the way.

SHE                                   So was that.  
BEAT.

SHE                                   If you look in my eyes now...  
I mean don't but if you did.  
You would start to unremember  
Parts of...

HE                                   What do you mean unremember?

SHE                                   ...what and who you...  
So don't look into my eyes right.

HE                                   I can't help myself.

SHE                                   You'd forget how to think.  
How to speak...

HE                                   Okay.

SHE Stop it...

HE (LAUGHING) I'm not doing anything!

SHE Stop looking at me.

HE I'm looking at the wall right?

SHE Look at the wall.

BEAT.

HE Can I ask you something.

SHE Yes.

Don't look!

HE Sorry.

BEAT.

Who's we?

BEAT.

SHE We're changelings.

HE What, like fairies?

SHE Old stories.

Changelings become other things.

HE What, like shape-shifting?

SHE (LAUGHS) Yes. No.

HE Like taking someone else's...?

SHE More like taking another creature's skin.

HE Cool.

SHE I can't tell you I have to show you.

HE What do you mean exactly by skin?

SHE We can be brutal. Just a warning.

We get bored easy - it's not always /pretty.

HE /So you're not...?

BEAT.

SHE Messing around? No.

HE See in my dream we'd just we'd just get in a van and drive North, drive through the mountains find a little pub where we could... do gigs, play

music – you know, put up some old tent, pick out stars and sleep outside (mosquito spray obviously) and and...

Be away from all this.

SHE Well it's a bit like that...

On our best days.

SILENCE.

HE You are joking right?

Or I'm very very /very drunk.

SHE /I'm not joking.

HE Or you're mad?

SHE Both.

HE So you rip out my heart?

SHE No.

HE But?

SHE People's hearts do rip when we're done with them we let them loose...

Back here.

And they can't make sense of...

Afterwards.

They keep looking for us and they can't find us.

HE Is that what will happen to me?

SHE No I don't think that will hap/pen.

HE /I don't want to be wandering around //no heart.

SHE //I just want you to know.

So you can decide.

SHE KISSES HIM.

HE (V/O) I don't know if she really let me choose.

HE (TO HER) I'm falling off the edge of the world here...

SHE Look at me.

HE (V/O) And that's when she took me for the first time.

SHE Let me show you.

HE (V/O) That's when she opened me up.

Ext. City NIGHT

THEY MOVE THROUGH THE CITY AND THE CITY MOVES THROUGH THEM.  
MUSIC: RUNES 1 UNDERSCORING SOUND.

HE (V/O) She moved me through the city...

SHE (V/O) Clawed through our early hours.

HE (V/O) I could see all of it...

SHE (V/O) Plays made songs made stamping feet //and shouts.

HE (V/O) //Kissing edge of the pub, half in ///half out...

SHE (V/O) ///The shine and skip...

HE (V/O) Blots and fire.

FIREWORKS IN BACKGROUND.

SHE (V/O) And the sky itself grand...

HE (V/O) Rippling its quiet splendour...

SHE (V/O) A silvery city of //light.

HE (V/O) //And we're moving through it...

No stopping no ends.

Falling

Flung

Caught

(What's happening?)

Strange...

Spins...

Grasp

Someone's groaning.

SHE (V/O) Stars thrown up.

Glitter.

I'm looking at him.

Then I'm starting to go

under his skin.

Is that me groaning?

I try to soothe.

Hide outs and lost places.

Something's wrong.

His heart's almost dug out.

(Look at me)

(I can't look at her)

(Look at me!)

HE IS ALMOST INSIDE THE FESTIVAL.

HE/SHE

(WHISPER) Spill over...

Sing me medley that stretch out the day spin half blind...

Sword swallow string stuck not much left drum me...

Stop me...

Lost words falling falling...

Drunk

Upwards...

Is this tomorrow?

Then we're at a place half-way up the seat, an old broken arch with its door to the sky.

Ext. Seat

NIGHT

SHE

(WHISPER, CLOSE) Let go.

HE

Is this afterwards?

SHE

(CLOSE, INSISTENT) Let go!

HE LETS GO.

HE

(V/O) And suddenly I am we are we are we are way above the city!

THEY RISE UP ON A WING. THEY ARE ABOVE THE CITY.

HE

(SHOUTS) NO!!



HE FALLS.

Ext. Seat (close up)

NIGHT

HE LIES. SHE LANDS BY HIM. CROUCHES BY HIM.

HE                   What was that                   what was...?  
What just happened?

SHE                   You were a bird.

HE                   How could I be a bird?  
Am I /dreaming?

SHE                   /You know you're not.

HE                   Get off me.

SHE                   It just takes a minute for the mind...

HE                   That's not possible to be a...

SHE                   Not for you.

HE                   How did you,                   what have you...?

SHE                   I told you, you didn't listen.

HE                   Look I gotta go.  
We...  
Look.

SHE                   Go.  
HE STANDS UP.

HE                   Sorry,                   I have to I have to                   go.

SHE                   See yer.

HE                   Okay.  
HE GOES. SHE STANDS.

SHE                   (V/O) They always run the first time.  
Fast as they can far away as they can.  
BEAT.

But they come back,  
They come back they have to come back.  
They never felt anything like that...  
That life was so possible.

Int. Bedroom

NIGHT

HE SLEEPS, THEN WONDERS RESTLESS.

HE (V/O) I went back to the flat we all had and slept like a dead thing for twelve hours. I woke up I convinced myself it was some sort of...

Pass out bad dream good dream.

It was like this restless thing in me...

Like...

I couldn't stand up sit down or...

Move about.

I...

I went out, I go down to her flat.

Ext. Door of Brownstone

NIGHT

HE RINGS AT THE DOOR, BANGS. EVENTUALLY ABOVE A WINDOW OPENS.

MAN Who you looking for?

HE (V/O) I realised then I didn't know her name.  
How could I not of...?

HE This woman.

MAN What woman?

HE She lives up there.

MAN Here?

HE Yeah.  
MAN No woman here.  
HE I've been up there – do you live there?  
MAN. You were up here? You were in this flat?  
HE Maybe I got the wrong place /maybe I'm lost.  
MAN /I think you are lost.  
HE I'm just looking for her.  
MAN Forget that woman. You stay away from her all right? Or I'm gonna kill yer.

HE BACKS AWAY.

Ext. Alleyway

NIGHT

THROUGH A CUT DOWN.

HE (V/O) I cut off down this alleyway.  
Who was that?  
How could she...  
I ran I...

HE ALMOST WALKS INTO HER.

SHE What are you doing?  
HE How are you /here?  
SHE /Looking for //you.  
HE //You following me?  
SHE You following ///me?  
HE ///Where's your flat?  
SHE Why are you shouting ////at me?  
HE ////Whose flat was that we were /in?  
SHE /It was very nice //wasn't it?  
HE //So it wasn't your place?

SHE Ah you know I stay there sometimes.

HE Sometimes?

SHE We sense empty places.

HE What like me?

SHE In people yeah we feel your ///emptiness.

HE ///Who was that man?

SHE What man?

HE There was a man ////there.

SHE ////Probably my brother.

HE He told me to stay away from you.

SHE O he always says that.

SHE PUTS HER HAND OUT TOWARDS HIM.

HE Don't touch me.

SHE No harm.

HALF BEAT.

We leave good luck in all these places.

HALF BEAT.

HE Bollocks.

SHE So you don't want to come with me anymore?

HE That's right.

SHE But here you are...

Looking for me, running round /the city.

HE /You're looking for me too.

SHE I am looking for //you.

HE //So where do you live?

SHE That's hard to explain.

HE Try.

HALF-BEAT.

SHE I can't just tell you standing out here on the street.

HE So you just want to take me into the /sky?

SHE /I was trying to show you what I am.  
HE What are you?  
SHE There's a pub halfway down halfway up.  
Come in with me?

Int. Pub

NIGHT

HE (V/O) People sitting around, it was safe.  
Sits opposite me.  
I can't look at her I'm scared to look at her.

SHE If you don't want this I'll go away you won't see me I'll never look for you again.  
If you want that.  
BEAT.

HE I don't want /that.

SHE /You won't be hurt.  
Not in the way you think.

HE In what way then?  
HALF-BEAT.

SHE I don't usually tell people.  
I don't usually ask //them.

HE //You just take them?

SHE Yes.

HE So why tell me?  
BEAT.

SHE The way you play.  
Music is the one thing the only thing that makes sense to me here.  
You make sense to me.  
That's all.

MUSIC: HEART HAMMER 3

HE (V/O) And someone gave her fiddle and she started to play.  
Maybe it was a trap.  
She played and she got me.  
I was crying I don't even know why I was crying.  
My life was so small  
So narrow  
So constrained.  
Someone put a fiddle in my hands, I never even played the fiddle and I was  
picking at it like it was part of me.  
And her playing... us playing together.  
It blew out all my sorrows.  
She unhinged me.  
I was like fire.

SHE (V/O) And I loved him.  
I loved him then.  
I loved him.  
I always loved him.  
Whatever came later...  
I never forgot how he was part of me.

HE (V/O) I didn't go back to my show.  
I didn't ever go back there again.  
I disappeared just like that.  
No message no nothing.  
We were gone.

THE WORLD OPENS. THE SKY THROWS ITSELF INTO THEM. MOVES INTO  
MAGIC... (MUSIC BUILDS)

THEY MOVE THROUGH THE OUTSIDE.

SHE

(V/O) We disappeared into folds of hills.

Still

Huge

Oaks

Cut open by time

Places where no words

Where

All

Through

Touch

Breath

I reach his thought, eye to eye.

Then his mind...

HE

(V/O) I am blood.

I am fire guts.

I hear everything.

I hear stones.

I hear waves of the estuary.

Then the deeper calls out to sea.

I am mouse horse bird.

I change.

SHE

(V/O) I am the ripple of skin.

HE

(V/O) My heart a great plate.

My chest a stag's.

My mouth can't form.

I stand unknown, even to myself.

SHE (V/O) We see night in all colours.  
He sees that night never gets dark, just splits and changes.  
I show him every creature.  
He flies as an owl - a giant mock of an angel, the silence broken up by the break of his wing.

HE (V/O) The door I closed each night without looking is open and the stars are bigger, closer.  
The salt, the dry wind. I can't explain. It's exhilarating. Like someone turned everything up loud and close.

SHE (V/O) Day after day.

HE (V/O) Night after night.

SHE (V/O) Month after...

HE (V/O) Time changes...

SHE (V/O) We sometimes re-set our faces - some small gig on the edge of the city. Remind ourselves of words and stories, drink too much – sometimes /brawl.

HE (V/O) /She'd tumble into the old songs and I would go with her on guitar or ukulele, she'd smile and shrug – lead me again into music without //speaking.

SHE (V/O) //He'd struggle for words and claw for reason and I would soothe him.

HE (V/O) Turn me into the curl of a tree...

SHE (V/O) Contract into the sharp movements of a mouse.

HE (V/O) Release me into the lights and depth of the mind of an otter.

SHE (V/O) The slyness of a wild pony.

HE (V/O) Set me as an osprey on the edge of the wind until words,  
My will my understanding...  
Became only the necessary movement of air.

MUSIC BEGINS TO FADE SLOWLY.



Ext. Edinburgh streets

NIGHT

SHE (V/O) I knew he couldn't stay with me.

HE Why couldn't I stay?

SHE (V/O) I knew we couldn't live between.

SHE I started falling.

I was already in free fall.

We fell.

And I couldn't have stopped what happened.

I should have stopped.

Thrown you off...

Left you.

But it was too late.

BEAT.

I hit the ground.

Hard.

PAUSE

Ext. Park /By the River

DAY

THEY SIT.

SHE I'm having a baby.

HALF-BEAT.

HE What?

HALF-BEAT.

SHE You heard me.

HALF-BEAT.

HE Is that possible?

SHE Is that all you can /say?  
HE /I just didn't know that...  
BEAT.  
SHE Are you happy?  
TINY-BEAT.  
HE Yeah. Of course.  
Of course of course.  
TINY-BEAT.  
Are you?  
HALF-BEAT.  
SHE I'm scared.  
HE Why?  
SHE Because it shouldn't be possible.  
HE Why should it not /be possible?  
SHE /Living like we do...  
HE What do you mean?  
SHE Between.  
HE But it's possible because...  
How long are you?  
SHE I don't know.  
HE You need to go to the...  
SHE Time moves in different ways.  
HE How?  
SHE You know you've been with me nearly seven years in our time do you know that?  
HE It isn't that //long.  
SHE //But we've only seen two festivals here right?  
HE Right.  
SHE Time moves tardy in this world.  
HE So you don't know how long?  
SHE I don't.

I can feel her...

HE Her?

SHE Moving. Restless.

BEAT.

We have to choose  
To live in one place or other...  
We can't step between anymore.  
She'll be split open...

BEAT.

HE We should be here.

SHE Why?

HE Million reasons.

SHE What?

HE Hospitals?

SHE I won't need a hospital.

HE But if something happens?

SHE Nothing will happen.

HE I'm just worried if we keep going back and forth...

SHE What?

HE What shape the baby might...

SHE Shape?

HE Well you know – form.

SHE Yours or mine you mean?

HE No.

SHE What then?

HE (V/O) I was scared of it all going wrong.  
So I held onto the easy drone and noise of the city,  
No surprises.  
  
Until he came...

Your brother or whatever he was.

We'd already met.

Int. Flat

DAY

BROTHER SITS. HE SITS. SHE STANDS BY WINDOW.

BROTHER

And you're living with this?

HE

(LAUGHING) By this you mean /me?

BROTHER

/It's a kind of hell isn't it...

SHE

What?

BROTHER

Living in these boxes.

You stop hearing stuff...

It's like the cars shut it all down.

Your eyes full of shite.

SHE

I don't see it that //way.

BROTHER

//Don't become like them.

HE

By them you mean/// me?

BROTHER

///Things that crawl.

They don't feel anything.

HE

You still talking about me?

SHE

Take no notice of the /stupid things he...

BROTHER

/They don't... touch things see things care for things like...

SHE

We do?

BROTHER

They're lacking.

HE

Really lacking.

BROTHER

So so...

Far from themselves from what they are.

They make so much noise.

Look what they done to all this.

Everything they touch a scar.

How can you live near one?

HE Near one?

SHE They're still us.

BROTHER They're not /us.

SHE /A version of us.

BROTHER Once.

SHE They got lost.

BROTHER They killed so many of our people.  
For difference, they killed us...  
They don't even know.  
You don't even know what you've done to us.

HE I've done nothing.

BROTHER I could tear you to pieces.

SHE But that's what we do right - steal them, keep them, torture them?

BROTHER We claw one or two back – why not?  
It's skint revenge.

SHE So don't say they're not us.

BROTHER We're not monsters.

HE I love her.

BROTHER We don't use that word.  
That's just taken understood lived out.  
We don't keep throwing it around like it's cheap.

HE Look at me...  
Can't you even look at me?

BROTHER I can look at you.

HE I love her.  
We're having a /baby.

SHE /Don't!

HE What? You're having a... Is that true?

PAUSE.

SHE Yes.

BROTHER                    Are you mad?

SHE                            I am mad.

BROTHER                    Not here?

SHE                            Yes here.

  

BROTHER                    You need to come back with me you've gotta have it /there.

SHE                            /No!

BROTHER                    It won't live.

HE                             What do you mean it won't /live?

BROTHER                    /She won't live.

                                  It's too dangerous.

                                  You can't cross over.

SHE                            I crossed over.

                                  I'm here I'm fine.

BROTHER                    It's against...

SHE                            What?

BROTHER                    Our ways.

SHE                            No-one tells me how I will or won't.

                                  I will do it how I want to do it – here in my home.

                                  Away from all of you.

BROTHER                    You're a risk.

                                  You know that.

                                  To all of us.

SHE                            Then go away pretend I'm not living.

HE                             Please don't do this.

BROTHER                    Your blood will be here.

                                  On this floor your blood.

                                  Hell will be coming for you if you don't give this up.

  

HE GOES OUT.

Int. Apartment

DAY

HE PLAYS.

HE (V/O) We put away his hard words and made dreams into shapes with our collecting things which we would never use.

I played her music in your belly sweet  
dreams and turns as she slid waiting to be born.

And she was born.

SHE HOLDS THE BABY, THEY ARE CLOSE.

HE She's so perfect. So whole.

Her eyes are so wild.

SHE She's looking at everything, she's not missing one thing.

Ah look at that.

That's your daddy.

Never say all children are born with blue eyes those eyes are black.

HE Are you always born with black eyes?

SHE They say the fairy child greets the world with knowing.

HE (V/O) We had three perfect hours.

Int. Bathroom

NIGHT

THEY IN THE BATHROOM. MUSIC MOVES INTO MAIDEN WEBS 6. COMING IN AND OUT.

HE (V/O) But then you started to bleed...

I was calling the ambulance and trying to stop it...

And in that moment on that terrible night...

I took my eyes from my baby.

The windows blew open and it got so cold so cold

Like the wind itself sluiced us round its mouth.

I was made stone

I (I can't explain it)

I couldn't move.

In that long long frozen moment – it was like someone froze time.

Our baby our baby

I couldn't hear her

Anymore.

And I was stone

A rock – locked into its cold slabs.

Tearing at everything trying to get out.

And you a wolf calling for your cub.

SHE IS CRYING.

Int. Bedroom

NIGHT

HIM IN THE BEDROOM.

HE (V/O) Somehow I tore myself out...

I got back to where the baby was.

She'd become so still.

So small.

So so so cold.

Like everything she was had fled out of her.

I took her in my arms tried to warm her.

SHE No no no!

THE MUSIC FADES OR VERY VERY LOW.



SHE It wasn't her.

HE You're freezing.  
They think you need more blood.

SHE No.

HE Listen to /me.

SHE /She wasn't that.

HE It was her.

SHE They took her.

HE No we'll see her.  
They just wanted to...

SHE They took her.

HE She died.  
They did all they could do - it's no-one's fault.  
They said she was very very small.  
That she was...  
It was too soon.

SHE They took her.

HE No-one took her.

SHE She was stolen.

HE O love.  
Love...  
They have our baby – they just need to take her to see what...

SHE That is not our baby that thing.  
They changed her.

HE No-one changed her.

SHE That's not her...

HE (V/O) After the hospital.  
After the many many hours sat at home.  
You still...

THE MUSIC GONE.

Int. Flat

DAY

SHE No you're wrong.  
You're wrong.  
You're wrong.  
That wasn't her.  
They took her.

HE Stop.

SHE Listen to me...

HE Who took her?

SHE My brother, the others...

HE Please.

SHE It's what they do.

HE No.

SHE They take something small, that's dead and they /change it.

HE /No.

SHE Take away the human child.

HE (V/O) And I couldn't  
I couldn't  
I couldn't  
I couldn't  
I couldn't  
Stop you.  
Couldn't make you see.  
Until I was out of words  
There were no more words.

SHE I need to go.

HE What?

SHE To look for her.

HE Bloody hell stop this please //stop this!

SHE //I've got to go.

HE No. Please.

SHE You haven't ///understood.

SHE ///You've heard our sto/ries.

HE /No.

SHE You know what they do.

HE No.

Our baby's dead.

I held her in my //arms.

SHE //That's what they want you to think!

HE This is your grief!

This is what happens.

We have to look at it.

We have /to believe...

SHE /No.

HE Because you feel it's our fault because of what we are //what we did.

SHE //No.

SHE You can't stop ///me.

HE ///I'll stop you.

HE (V/O) And as she went through the door I tried to hold her.

I held her as tight as I could and I was sure I would never never never never let go of her.

But in my arms she transformed...

THE SOUNDS OF THE CREATURES, THE STRUGGLE MERGE. MUSIC: TRICKY  
LOKI 6.

HE

(V/O) Into a wolf...

A bear half wrung out.

A buzzard flaying in my arms.

At last a mountain lion she felled me and bled me like she had been bled in  
that small apartment.

She ran no shoes she spat me out.

That was the last time I saw her.

SILENCE.

I buried our daughter.

I didn't speak.

I went home

There were no words that could make sense...

MUSIC: TRICKY LOKI 9

It was like a punishment.

My skin peeled back.

My family kept picking me up.

They had words for what was wrong with me.

They wouldn't let me go.

And time continued.

Without me and with me.

Each year I'd come back to the Festival.  
Seven years.

THE FESTIVAL BLOWS UP AROUND HIM.

HE (V/O) This is the last time.  
Because in our story – I read the old story.  
They said hell lasted for seven years.

MUSIC FADES TO END THROUGH NEXT SCENE.

Ext. Streets

DAY

A MAN CATCHES HIM ON THE SHOULDER AS HE WALKS.

BROTHER Hey.  
Hey hey  
It's me.  
Hey!  
Remember me?  
IT'S THE BROTHER.

HE You gonna kill me put me out of my...?

BROTHER I been on the look-out for /yer.

HE /Have you seen her?

BROTHER You still looking?

HE Do you know where she is?

BROTHER She tried to kill me.  
She hunted me down pretty much wrung the life out of me.  
I was so angry I wouldn't have spoken if I could...  
I was no match though.  
She could have torn down mountains.

HE Do you know where she is now?

BROTHER No.

PAUSE.

HE Then what's this then?

BROTHER It's the festival – we're all out and about.

HE But why am I seeing you?

BROTHER SIGHS.

BROTHER I was wrong.

About you.

I know how you've look for her.

How you've held on.

I watched you.

BEAT.

I lied.

Love - it is a word to us.

No-one says it.

It's too...

Big

Too

Wild

I don't know.

Too beyond all of it to say out loud.

You got that

With her.

That's all I'm gonna say.

HE What you gonna do now – go get a tasty victim?

BROTHER I don't do that no more.

HE But you haven't seen her?

BROTHER                   She's here.  
I feel her.

HE                           (V/O) And he moves away so lightly and I somehow feel for the first time in  
such a long time the dread lift.  
Like he peeled it away with him.

MUSIC PLAYS ON THE STREET. A GIRL PLAYING THE FIDDLE. ODIN LAMENT 8.

Suddenly there's music.  
The thing I haven't been able to hear for so long.  
I hear it somewhere playing.  
I run, I think it's her...

THE MUSIC IS CLOSER, A GIRL BUSKING. HE MOVES TOWARDS HER.

But it's a young woman.  
With a fiddle.  
And she's so like you it takes my breath away.  
She stops cos I'm crying.

MUSIC STOPS.

GIRL                        You okay?

HE                           Sorry.  
You look like someone I once loved.

She played that.

GIRL She played this music?

HE Just passed down.

GIRL No-one else I know knows it, just my family.

HE How do you know it?

GIRL Sometimes I think it came from the mountains  
Do you play?

HE Used to.

GIRL Not anymore?

BEAT. PULLS HIMSELF TOGETHER.

HE You're really good. O...  
THROWS SOME MONEY.

GIRL Thanks.

HE You from here?

GIRL Aw everywhere you know,  
All over.  
Look I better...  
SHE STRUMS.

HE Yeah.  
Sure.  
Thanks.  
Good luck.

GIRL You leaving?

HE Yeah, just getting out the city...

GIRL Good luck to you.  
SHE STARTS TO PLAY. HE STARTS TO WALK AWAY.

HE (V/O) I climb halfway up the hill where we went so I can look over the city one more time. The little ruined abbey where we'd stop because we couldn't be bothered to walk to the top. The place with the sky-door. The place we jumped off.  
HE STANDS.



HE (TO HER) I know you're here.  
I can feel you.  
This is it then.  
This is goodbye.  
I gotta go home now.  
I can't go on with this hell.  
I hope you're out here somewhere.  
I hope you're okay.

MUSIC: ODIN LAMENT 5.

SHE (V/O) And I watch you climb up the hill.  
I watched you walk round all the city.  
I wonder that you carry me still in you after all these things.  
That you walk with me through me in me.  
And I think shall I at last...?  
Shall I let you see me?

Ext. Half way up

DAY

HE MAKES IT UP. LOOKS THROUGH.

HE (V/O) The door still a cut into the sky.  
I stand in it and watch the city.  
HE STANDS. MUSIC GONE.

HE (TO HER) I can feel you here.

Say something, if you're here.

BEAT

SHE Did you see our daughter?

HE LOOKS ROUND – SHE IS THERE.

HE Where've you been?

HE STARTS TOWARDS HER, BREAKS DOWN...

I've been looking for you – o my god.

SHE Don't touch me – I'm not quite whole.

How long have I been gone for?

HE Seven years.

SHE For me it's been twenty-one years since I last saw you.

HE You don't look any different.

SHE You do.

HE Where have you been?

SHE I told you I was looking for our daughter.

HE And did you find her?

SHE I nearly killed my brother – I stalked him for so many years. He ran for a long time, but at last I buried him, dived him deep into a volcanos so long dead that he started to unbody.

Then he told me...

HE What?

SHE He'd hidden her in a nest of a hawk and then a herd of wild ponies.

Eventually, knowing I'd find her – he brought her here. Because he knew this was a place I couldn't stand to think of. Because here I'd lost you.

HE You're telling me she's...?

SHE She felt me...

She can change like me.

I was a kite – she was a small falcon, she tried to dive bomb to bring me down.

HE She's not...



HE I didn't know.

SHE All this time we could have been together.

HE I'm so sorry.

SHE I can't be that small thing you imagine me.

HE I don't want that.

SHE I can't stay in this small body.

HE I know.

Don't go.

After all this time, don't...

SHE They always changed the end of the story do you know that?  
That it was Tamlin left the fairy queen.  
That she wasn't enough.  
That she was mad or some kind of monster.  
But that was never the true end.  
It was because she was beyond his imaginings.  
So in each time...  
They could never see beyond the confines of his mind.

BEAT.

HE What will you do?

SHE Go with my daughter, show her the mountains...

HE Like you showed me.

SHE ...play music.

HE Let me come with you.

SHE Do you remember how to play?

HE It got lost.

SHE I'll always love that part of you.  
That free, wild... That's how I found you...

HE I love you.

SHE ...you called to me.

HE Don't leave me.

SHE If you could find that again maybe...

HE What?

SHE Tomorrow.

Or a hundred years from now.

SHE KISSES HIM.

Goodbye.

SHE FLIES UP AND AWAY.

HE (V/O) There was one piano I've seen, left over, stood out on the street of this grand old city. I went down, I ran down, I didn't know how else I could carry on. It was out of tune but it was me that was so much more out of tune.

My back all crumped up.

I started to play.

THE MUSIC STARTS AS BEGINNING. ODIN'S LAMENT 2 (20 SECS)

Creaking, all the deadness inside me stretched and woke.

I played for her then.

I played for another telling of this story.

I played to try and steal back her heart.

FLOWS INTO ODIN'S LAMENT 7 (7 SECS)

THE PIANO STRETCHES AND STRETCHES, THEN AT LAST THE FIDDLE COMES IN. FLOWS INTO ODIN'S LAMENT 6 TO END.