**Audition Scene 6**

**Scene Twelve : Crofter’s Cottage. Outside.**

*(***CLOWN 1** *appears. He is* **JOHN McTYTE** *an ancient and surly Scottish crofter. He peers into the mist.* **HANNAY** *appears. The crofter twitches with suspicion.)*

**HANNAY.** Hello there.

**CROFTER.** Can I help ye?

**HANNAY.** Yes I’m um looking for work.

**CROFTER.** What kind of work?

**HANNAY.** I’m an itinerant labourer.

**CROFTER.** Ye’ll find nothing in this vicinity.

**HANNAY.** Are there no –

*(significantly)*

– big houses round here?

**CROFTER.** No big houses.

**HANNAY.** So what’s that big house?

**CROFTER.** What big house?

**HANNAY.** *(points)* That big house?

**CROFTER.** Oh that big house.

**HANNAY.** Isn’t that a big house?

**CROFTER.** That is a big house.

**HANNAY.** So whose…hoose is that then?

**CROFTER.** A professor I believe. Professor Jordan. *(twitching)* An Englishman.

**HANNAY.** An Englishman? It wouldn’t be called –

*(He takes out the enormous and unruly map. It is even big ger than before. He battles with it. The* **CROFTER** *watches.)*

– Alt na Shellach, would it?

**CROFTER.** It would.

**HANNAY.** Right! Well – thanks very much. I’ll try there. Cheerio.

**CROFTER.** Ye won’t tonight!

**HANNAY.** Won’t I?

**CROFTER.** It’s fourteen miles. The other side of the loch. **HANNAY.** No really! I’m sure I’ll be –

**CROFTER.** Margaret!

*(***MARGARET** *appears. An incredibly pretty Scottish girl.)*

**MARGARET.** Ay?

**CROFTER.** Come here! We have a visitor.

*(***MARGARET** *crosses to them, head lowered. She looks at* **HANNAY***, blushes.)*

**MARGARET.** Good evening, sir.

*(***HANNAY** *sees how incredibly pretty she is. He smiles handsomely.)*

**HANNAY.** Good evening.

*(***MARGARET** *blushes even more.)*

**CROFTER.** You could stay here if you wanted.

**HANNAY.** Well on second thoughts that’d be very kind.

**CROFTER.** Can you eat the herring?

**HANNAY.** I could murder half a dozen right now.

**CROFTER.** Can you sleep in a box bed?

**HANNAY.** I can try.

**CROFTER.** Two and six.

**HANNAY.** Done.

**CROFTER.** See to the gentleman and be quick about it.

**HANNAY.** Your daughter?

**CROFTER.** My wife!

**HANNAY.** Well done.

*(***MARGARET** *and* **HANNAY** *look at each other. They look away.)*

**CROFTER.** Prepare the herring.

**MARGARET.** Ay.

**CROFTER.** I’ll see to the coos. **HANNAY**. Sorry?

**CROFTER.** I’ll see to the coos!

**HANNAY.** *(still doesn’t understand)* Right.

*(The* **CROFTER** *stomps off.)*

**MARGARET**. Will ye come in?

**HANNAY.** I’d love to.