

“THE SELKIE BOY”

by

Kevin Fegan

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CHARACTERS

Finn – the selkie boy, aged 16.

FINN'S FRIENDS

Jimmy

Craig

Harry Pothead

Justin

Kenny

Zack

Cheryl

Leona

Olivia

Mariah

Kelly

Britney

FINN'S FAMILY

Mrs Carter (Finn's foster mother)

Mr Carter (Finn's foster father)

Dad (Finn's blood dad)

JIMMY'S FAMILY

Grandad (PUPPET)

Gran

Mum

THE MISSING CHILDREN (PUPPETS)

Rosa -

Abbey – John's twin - teenager

John – Abbey's twin - teenager

Lotty – teenager

Suzie – aged about 7

Liam – teenager

Olly – aged about 4

PEOPLE OF BARROW

Police

Psychiatrists

Social Workers

Journalists

Teachers

Government Officials

Neighbours

Masked Men

Bar Person

Seals

PROLOGUE

MUSIC. A SHADOW PLAY STORY, TOLD BY GRANDAD
WITH THE CAST.

GRANDAD

A young sailor from Walney Island returned from the sea to find that his beautiful young wife had died from a boating accident. Her body was never found. Every night for 7 nights he went down to the beach and shed tears for his young wife. Every year for 7 years he would lay a wreath for her.

In the 7th year, he left a wreath, as normal, and turned to leave; but this time he heard a strange call. A silky-skinned creature, half-seal, half-woman, a “selkie”, emerged from the sea to greet him. He was shivering with cold and trepidation. The selkie took off her seal-skin and wrapped it around the man. They sat together on a rock as the selkie sang him a haunting song. The selkie was beguiling and kind, her voice was soothing and gentle and the man fell in love. They lived together in his little house on Walney. He was so happy that he became frightened his selkie woman would leave him, so he hid her skin in an old treasure chest under the stairs.

Sometimes, on a moonlit beach on Walney, the selkie would stare out to sea and sing a melancholy song about returning to the deep. But without her skin, the selkie could never return, she was trapped ashore. The man and his selkie had a child: a beautiful baby boy. Truth is, she loved their child more

than she loved him. His fear of losing her drove him to keep them both locked away indoors.

When the boy was 7 years old, he found his mother’s skin hidden in the old chest under the stairs. When his mother saw the skin, she wept with joy. She waited until the father left for work and she put on the skin and made her way down to the beach. When her son followed her, she promised him she would return for him one day. The boy watched as his mother swam out to sea, never to be seen again. When the man discovered what had happened, he was angry with his son. He could not contain his despair. He left town and went to work as far away as possible and the boy was taken into care. Not long after, a new family arrived to look after the boy and he was happy for the first time in years.

Some time later, the boy was sailing in a boat with his new parents. They were on their way to visit friends on Piel Island when the boat capsized and the boy fell into the sea. The parents clung to the upturned boat and searched frantically for the boy. He was nowhere to be found. Suddenly a selkie woman surfaced with the boy on her back. The boy was smiling a smile as wide as the ocean. The parents were rescued by a pleasure boat returning from its trip. The selkie and the boy dived and surfaced and dived again until they were seen no more.

SCENE 1

“SMELLY CORNER” NEAR PIEL ISLAND. A SEAL COLONY
ARE RELAXING AS THE SUN SETS. THEY ARE LOOKING
OUT TO THE AUDIENCE.

SEALS

Just look at them – humans.

They think they’re so superior,
they think they own the planet.

Incomers –

hardly been here ten minutes in evolutionary terms.

The lanky uprighters,

with their dry, flaky skin

and sticky-out ears,

no claws or teeth worth speaking of,

they can’t see in the dark,

they don’t even hear so good,

they smell like blue cheese left out in the rain,

they can’t stand the cold,

they can’t stand the heat.

they wear clothes

and they iron them,

they’re so loud

and they play their stupid music all the time,

they sleep away half their lives,

they talk to inanimate objects,

they fall in love with machines,
they live for money,
crave to be famous,
they're never happy with what they've got,
they believe in life after death,
they pick their noses
and their belly-buttons,
they're sentimental cry babies
and they never shut up,
they don't have the sense to migrate in Winter,
they don't lay eggs,
they're obsessed with sex –
have you seen how they make babies?
(THE SEALS WHISPER IN EACH OTHER'S EARS)
Urgh! That's disgusting –
you mean, they hide away to do it – in secret?
They cook food –
shocking!
They keep other animals as pets,
and race them against each other,
and make them fight each other,
and force them to work, to fetch and carry,
they're parasites,
taking milk from cows and goats,
meat from livestock,

they ride horses and camels and donkeys,

they pollute the oceans,

the skies,

the land,

they exterminate entire species,

they're always at war with each other,

they're trashing the planet.

They eat fish –

no?! Really?

Hang on, we eat fish?

Yeah, but they club to death our baby seals

and steal our skins -

never!

It's true, my cousins in the North told me.

Stay well away,

nothing but trouble, that lot.

Look out! Fishing boat!

THE SEALS SCATTER.

SCENE 2

SIX TEENAGERS HAVE SQUEEZED INTO A DINGHY AND
ARE PADDLING ACROSS TO PIEL ISLAND.

CHERYL

I'm sure this dinghy's got a hole in it.

JIMMY

Just paddle, will you?

LEONA

Faster we paddle, quicker we get there.

CRAIG

Who's bright idea was this?

JIMMY

It's got to be done.

CRAIG

Why?

JIMMY

Rite of passage.

OLIVIA

You mean like your first kiss?

CRAIG

More like walking barefoot on hot coals.

JIMMY

Look, you can't grow up 'round here without sleeping over on
Piel island.

CHERYL

Where we going to kip?

LEONA

Have you heard nothing we’ve said? What d’you think that is?

CHERYL

Er, a tent?

LEONA

Correct.

CHERYL

What? Like we’re camping?

LEONA

Duh, yeah.

CHERYL

Outside?

LEONA

That’s what camping is.

JIMMY

Checklist: beers?

CRAIG

Sorted.

HARRY POTHEAD

(SUDDENLY POPPING UP FROM WHERE

HE’S BEEN CHILLING)

Wacky-baccy!

LEONA

Headache tablets.

JIMMY

Water.

OLIVIA

Candles.

CHERYL

Flashlight.

JIMMY

Batteries?

CHERYL

Oh, shit.

JIMMY

You brought a torch without batteries?

CHERYL

Sorry, Jimmy.

CRAIG

Great. How am I going to see where to piss in the middle of the night?

LEONA

As long as you're nowhere near the tent, you animal.

JIMMY

Hey, you two, you're not going out with each other any more so you can stop arguing.

OLIVIA

We should have taken your grandad’s fishing boat, we’ll never get there at this rate.

JIMMY

I’d never steal from him, Olivia. Top bloke, my grandad.

OLIVIA

I didn’t mean steal, Jimmy, I meant borrow.

JIMMY

When me and mum used to stay with him on Walney, before he had his stroke, he used to get me up at night while it was still dark and we’d sail to Piel Island for breakfast. We’d sail back again before mum and gran woke up and then gran would make us another breakfast.

CHERYL

What we having for supper?

MUSIC AS SOMETHING SWIMS PAST.

HARRY POTHEAD

Did you see that, dude?

CHERYL

See what?

LEONA

I saw it.

HARRY POTHEAD

Like a big fish, man.

LEONA

Look! There it is!

APART FROM JIMMY, THEY ALL LUNGE TO ONE SIDE OF
THE DINGHY, NEARLY CAPSIZING IT.

JIMMY

Woe! Get back here!

OLIVIA

It's just somebody swimming.

CRAIG

At this time of night?

CHERYL

Might be a shark?

LEONA

Now that would put a big hole in your inflatable.

CHERYL

Don't.

CRAIG

She's scared.

CHERYL

I am not scared. You can get sharks 'round here sometimes.

CRAIG

Rubbish.

JIMMY

You do. My grandad says –

CRAIG

Come off it.

JIMMY

Porbeagles. They swim down from the Orkneys.

LEONA

Yeah, right.

JIMMY

Don't believe me then.

HARRY POTHEAD

There it is again, man.

OLIVIA

It's a kid, I swear down I got a good luck at him.

HARRY POTHEAD

I'm telling you, it's a seal, dude.

CRAIG

That was not a seal.

JIMMY

We're taking on water.

CHERYL

I told you there was a hole! We're sinking!

LEONA

Paddle faster!

JIMMY

Use your hands, cups, bottles, anything to bail out! Come on!

“The Selkie Boy” by Kevin Fegan ©

HARRY POTHEAD

I don't want to drown, man.

THEY STRUGGLE TO MAKE IT ASHORE.

SCENE 3

“SMELLY CORNER”, PIEL ISLAND. THE SEALS HAVE
BEEN WATCHING THE HUMANS’ ATTEMPTS TO CROSS
A SIMPLE STRETCH OF WATER.

SEALS

Have you seen them?

Call that swimming?

Humans are so-o-o slo-o-o-w.

They can’t hold their breath for more than a few seconds,

they can’t dive further than a few feet,

they can’t hear underwater

or see anything,

they can’t defend themselves in the water,

they have to learn to swim –

really?

Some of them never learn.

THEY LIE ACROSS EACH OTHER, LAUGHING

THEMSELVES TO SLEEP.

SCENE 4

PIEL ISLAND.

THE BOYS ARE MAKING A COMPLETE MESS OF
ERECTING THEIR TENT WHEN THE GIRLS COME ALONG
AND SNAP INTO SHAPE AN INSTANT IGLOO TENT.

OLIVIA

Is it true you're getting married, Leona?

LEONA

I might be.

CRAIG

(INTERRUPTING)

You're doing what? You never told me.

LEONA

You're not invited.

CRAIG

Does everyone else know about this?

CHERYL

'Fraid so, Craig.

CRAIG

But I always thought me and you, Leona, would, you know,
make out, like, be each other's first -

LEONA

Maybe I never wanted to, with you.

CRAIG

She's winding me up, right? When is this supposed to

happen?

LEONA

In a few days.

CRAIG

A few days! Who to?

CHERYL

She’s never even met him.

LEONA

His name’s Troy. He’s from the States.

CHERYL

He says his name’s Troy.

CRAIG

Hang on, you’re telling me you’re getting married, in a few days, to some guy from America, whose name might be Troy?

OLIVIA

Obviously “love at first click”.

CRAIG

What is she talking about, Cheryl?

CHERYL

She means Facebook, she’s getting “married” on Facebook.

It’s not for real.

HARRY POTHEAD

That is heavy shit, man.

CRAIG

That’s not funny. In fact, it’s downright dangerous. He could

come over here and...and...

LEONA

And what? Sweep me off my feet?

CRAIG

He could be a psycho.

LEONA

He doesn't know where I live, dickhead.

CRAIG

It's not fair.

CHERYL

You missed your chance.

OLIVIA

I've got an avatar – in cyberspace.

JIMMY

Where else would you have one?

CHERYL

Let's face it, Olivia, you haven't got much of a life here.

LEONA

That's rich coming from you, Cheryl.

OLIVIA

I'm a detective. There's this site, right, where you can solve crimes and stuff.

JIMMY

Go, Sherlock.

OLIVIA

You can find missing people and things.

HARRY POTHEAD

Wow, can you find real things in cyberspace, man?

OLIVIA

I found this woman’s baby seal.

CRAIG

You liar.

OLIVIA

I did. I posted it on a “missing pets” site and this person got in touch.

CRAIG

Did she pay you a reward?

OLIVIA

No, that’s not why I do it.

CRAIG

Sicko.

OLIVIA

I’ve posted Finn on a “missing persons” site.

JIMMY

That’s not funny.

HARRY POTHEAD

Who’s Finn?

OLIVIA

I’m not being funny. Someone might know where he is?

JIMMY

(TO HARRY POTHEAD)

This lad we all knew when we were younger: he went missing.

CRAIG

He didn't go missing, he drowned.

OLIVIA

No one ever found the body.

JIMMY

He was in a little boat with his mum and dad.

CHERYL

It wasn't his mum and dad, it was his foster-parents.

OLIVIA

So what? They looked after him.

CHERYL

I reckon his real mum took him.

CRAIG

I reckon she killed him.

LEONA

How can you say that, Craig?

CRAIG

His mum was an alky.

LEONA

Doesn't mean she killed him.

JIMMY

His real dad used to keep him and his mum locked up, never

used to let them out, except for when he was with them.

OLIVIA

Social Services took him into care. But they found him a good home, that’s what I can’t understand? Why would he run away from Mr & Mrs Carter, they were lovely.

THEY SETTLE DOWN TO SLEEP.

LEONA

I think he ran away to London.

CHERYL

I think he went on holiday and didn’t come back. I didn’t want to come back from Tenerife.

HARRY POTHEAD

I think he was abducted by aliens, dude.

THEY FALL TO SLEEP IN POSITIONS THAT ECHO THE
SEALS, SPRAWLING OVER EACH OTHER.

SCENE 5

PIEL ISLAND AT DAWN. MUSIC. THE SELKIE BOY, FINN, EMERGES FROM THE SEA, WEARING A SEAL-SKIN COVER. HE TAKES A GOOD LOOK AT ALL THE SLEEPING TEENAGERS. HE FINDS A LIT CANDLE IN A LANTERN. HE IS INTRIGUED BECAUSE IT IS A LONG TIME SINCE HE HAS EXPERIENCED FIRE. HE FINDS A PAIR OF SHORTS HANGING ON THE TENT AND PUTS THEM ON. HE TAKES OFF HIS SEAL-SKIN AND FINDS A PLACE TO HIDE IT. HE HUDDLES AROUND THE CANDLE AS IF IT WAS AN OPEN FIRE.

HARRY POTHEAD GETS UP, HALF-ASLEEP, AND NIPS BEHIND THE TENT FOR A PISS. WHEN HE COMES BACK, HE SEES FINN AND IS STARTLED. HIS SCREAM WAKES THE REST OF THE GROUP.

HARRY POTHEAD

You shouldn't go scaring people half to death, dude.

FINN SAYS NOTHING.

JIMMY

What's going on?

CRAIG

Who's the wacko?

HARRY POTHEAD

Hey, they're my shorts.

HARRY POTHEAD PULLS AT FINN'S SHORTS, BUT FINN

PUSHED HIM AWAY.

HARRY POTHEAD

Hey, man, I don't do violence.

OLIVIA

Who are you?

SILENCE.

LEONA

Look, this is a private party.

CRAIG

Yeah, piss off and find your own.

OLIVIA

Don't be like that, Craig. What's your name?

SILENCE.

CHERYL

Maybe he's a mute.

LEONA

More of a “cutie”, I'd say.

OLIVIA APPROACHES FINN AND HE BACKS AWAY.

OLIVIA

No one's going to hurt you.

FINN SHOWS HER THE BURNING CANDLE.

FINN

Fire.

CRAIG

It speaks.

OLIVIA

Yes, fire. You just want to get warm, don't you?

FINN

Selkie Boy.

OLIVIA

Is that your name? My name's –

FINN

Olivia.

OLIVIA

How did you know?

FINN NAMES THE OTHERS IN TURN, EXCEPT FOR
HARRY POTHEAD.

FINN

Leona, Cheryl, Jimmy, Craig...

CHERYL

That's Harry – Harry Pothead.

HARRY POTHEAD

I don't know if I want him to know my name, man.

OLIVIA

Do we know you?

JIMMY

He does look familiar.

FINN

Mr and Mrs Carter.

OLIVIA

The foster parents.

JIMMY

Finn? Is it really you?

FINN

Where can I find them?

JIMMY

I can show you where they live.

OLIVIA

They moved house to Barrow Island, after you...

JIMMY

Disappeared.

CRAIG

So what's the story?

LEONA

Where have you been?

FINN

In the sea.

CRAIG

Sailor boy.

FINN

At the bottom of the sea.

CRAIG

Submarine boy.

LEONA

Yeah, right.

HARRY POTHEAD

Whatever he’s on, dude, I want to be smoking some of that
shit.

CHERYL

Shut up, Pothead.

FINN

Selkie Boy.

OLIVIA

What does he mean, “Selkie Boy”?

JIMMY

I don’t know.

FINN

We live at the bottom of the sea.

OLIVIA

“We”?

FINN

The missing children.

OLIVIA

There are others, like you?

FINN

All the missing children.

OLIVIA

Living under the sea?

JIMMY

My grandad once told me about a secret tunnel that runs under the sea from Furness Abbey to Piel Island.

CRAIG

You don't believe this fruitcake, do you?

OLIVIA

The Carters' boat capsized off Piel Island.

JIMMY

That's what I'm saying. Maybe, when Finn disappeared in the water, he somehow found his way into the tunnel?

LEONA

That's not Finn. Finn was a lot of things, but he was never weird.

CHERYL

Ask him to prove it.

OLIVIA

He knew our names, didn't he?

LEONA

So what?

OLIVIA

Finn, do you remember when we were little, you used to keep fish? Before your mum and dad split up.

FINN

Yes.

OLIVIA

I secretly brought my fish ‘round to yours and we tried to get them to trap off with each other?

FINN

We were going to sell the babies and make lots of money.

OLIVIA

That’s right. Do you remember our favourite fish?

FINN

Gloria - Gloria and Bill.

OLIVIA

(TO OTHERS)

No one else knew our secret – it’s definitely Finn.

CRAIG

I’ve never heard such a load of old...fish.

CHERYL

Proves nothing.

LEONA

I’m not so sure.

CRAIG

You lot can go back in the dinghy if you want, I’m taking the ferry.

CRAIG, HARRY POTHEAD, CHERYL & LEONA COLLECT THEIR BELONGINGS AND EXIT.

JIMMY

We should take him to the Carters.

OLIVIA

Tell me what it's like, Finn, where you've been?

MUSIC.

FINN

I come from a floating world
where drifting is the only way to be,
a sea of lost souls.

THE MISSING CHILDREN JOIN FINN.

The largest part of our planet is hidden from view,
the ocean is a world where creatures can still hide,
like the giant squid you've heard of but never seen.

JIMMY

Have you seen it?

FINN & MISSING CHILDREN

And more, much more.
We share the deep with the strangest of creatures:
there are sulphur-eaters and methane-eaters,
sea butterflies, snails with wings, sea cucumbers,
plants that weave huge mucous webs the size of sails,
hatchet fish and hagfish,
blind porcelain-white crabs,
giant tube worms with blood-red heads like orchids
and manta rays gliding through the water like flying saucers.
In the deep everything is transparent and yet
everything is a master of disguise:

lantern fish with lights on their head
and angler fish sporting an antennae
like a fishing rod with a luminous tip –
I love those guys.

In the darkzone, the pressure on these creatures
is like a hedgehog having to bear the weight
of a 40 ton articulated lorry across its back.

The sea is both destroyer and provider:
its waves can wreck ships and yet
it provides shelter for millions of creatures.

There are seasons in the sea:
the plankton blooms in Spring
and provides 80% of our planet’s oxygen
and in late Summer they die in large numbers;
the flakes fall like marine snow
until it becomes a blizzard and arrives
at the sea-floor as fresh food.

I’ve seen pods of Orcas, killer whales,
with 6ft dorsal fins sticking out of the water,
I’ve seen a blue whale the weight of 1500 people,
with a heart the size of a family car,
I’ve seen turtles over 100 years old,
Lion’s Mane jellyfish with tentacles 36 meters long
and seaweed fronds 100 metres long,
I’ve seen dolphins surfing the waves from ships

like water-skiers behind motor-boats

hitching a free ride.

I've seen seals wrap themselves in seaweed,

while they sleep, to avoid being swept to sea

and eaten by Orcas, like children wrapping themselves

in their duvet to avoid falling from the top bunk.

I've seen mudskippers – fish that can breath

through their gills and through their skin.

OLIVIA

Can you do that, Finn? Is that how you survived?

FINN & MISSING CHILDREN

All living things, including us, are mostly water.

Many billions of years ago,

somewhere in our galaxy,

hydrogen first encountered oxygen

to create water, H₂O.

Earth was born of water trapped in planet-sized rocks

colliding in our solar system.

Life on planet Earth began on the ocean floor

in hot springs, where life is still constantly renewed,

and life will end there, when our planet dries and burns

and dies like Venus, too close to our Sun.

EXIT ALL.

SCENE 6

BARROW ISLAND. WORD HAS SPREAD ABOUT “THE BOY WHO CAME BACK FROM THE SEA”. JIMMY AND OLIVIA ARRIVE WITH FINN, BUT THEY KEEP HIM HIDDEN FROM THE CROWD THAT IS GATHERING.

JOURNALISTS

Missing boy re-appears after 7 years -
read all about it, the strangest of tales.
Tears of sadness, tears of joy
in tonight’s North West Evening Mail.
Mystery still remains
as missing boy makes extraordinary claim
to have been living under the ocean.
Emotions are running high,
guaranteed to cause a big commotion.

POLICE

The whole matter is under investigation.
At this point we don’t have enough information.
We’d like to speak to the boy’s mother
before we make any other comments.

PSYCHIATRISTS

It is the considered opinion
of the medical profession
that the boy is suffering delusions.
It’s a perfectly normal

reaction to such loss and trauma.

We have tablets for this sort of thing,

fear not, we can treat him.

TEACHERS

Yes, it's true, we were teachers at the boy's school.

He never really played by the rules,

I believe he had a bit of a reputation

as a day-dreamer: vivid imagination,

always a bit dangerous.

Didn't know him personally, of course,

can't afford to waste energy and resources

on every child with problems.

I blame the parents for not doing a very good job.

SOCIAL WORKERS

We took the boy into care at a tender age,

then fostered him into a good family, firm but fair.

It can't have been easy dealing with the boy's inner rage.

Unfortunately, they lost the boy at sea,

it could happen to anybody.

JIMMY'S GRANDAD

I saw the whole thing with my one good eye:

he was carried away by a “selkie”.

Those poor people did their best,

but when their boat collapsed

and we had to pull them from the fearsome waves,

the selkie and the boy disappeared without trace.
They say the selkies only take their own.
I've heard tell of a place, deep in the darkest ocean
where the selkies roam.

GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS

The boy isn't on trial, that's not our style,
but the Department has opened an X-file.
We might have to borrow him for a few days
for routine tests with infra red and X-rays,
no need to be alarmed,
I'm sure it will amount to nothing, please remain calm.
MR & MRS CARTER APPEAR. FINN IS STRAINING TO
SEE THEM.

NEIGHBOURS

There's something fishy going on next door
at the Carters. The Law
have been 'round asking questions.
I wouldn't normally give it a mention,
I'm not one to gossip about the old codgers,
but I've always thought they were a bit dodgy.
JIMMY AND OLIVIA TAKE FINN AWAY BEFORE THE
CROWD CAN SPOT HIM.

FINN

I can see the Carters.

JIMMY

Sorry, Finn, we can't risk it at the moment.

OLIVIA

It's a media circus.

JIMMY

You can stay at ours for a while

OLIVIA

You'll be safe at Jimmy's.

I'll stay and ask Mr & Mrs Carter to visit you later, shall I?

EXIT ALL.

SCENE 7

JIMMY’S HOUSE. JIMMY ARRIVES WITH FINN.

JIMMY’S GRAN

Is this the lad they’re all talking about?

JIMMY

Gran, this is Finn.

FINN

Pleased to meet you.

GRAN

Handsome young fella, and polite – who do you take after?

FINN

My mum.

JIMMY’S MUM

And where is your mum?

JIMMY

Finn, this is my mum.

FINN

She’s waiting for me.

MUM

Oh, and where exactly is she waiting?

FINN

I’m just visiting for a while.

If you’d rather I didn’t stay –

GRAN

You’re welcome to stay while you sort yourself out. This is still

my house.

MUM

You’ll have to sleep with Jimmy, we’re a bit pushed for room because grandad has to have his own bed.

JIMMY

This is my grandad.

FINN

Hello.

GRAN

He’s not said a word since he had his stroke, bless.

MUM

He’s lost the power of speech.

GRAN

But there’s still a lot going on in that noggin of his, believe you me.

FINN

I’ll hear him.

MUM

What do you mean?

JIMMY

He’s been at sea most of his life, haven’t you grandad?

GRAN

He’s an old sea-dog, so he is, full of fantastical stories.

FINN

Can I sit with you a while?

FINN AND GRANDAD SIT IN SILENCE.

JIMMY

Let's leave them to it, while we sort my room. They can keep each other company.

EXIT JIMMY, GRAN AND MUM.

GRANDAD

I knew your mother.

FINN

Really?

GRANDAD

She was a Selkie – like you.

FINN

Yes.

GRANDAD

Poor lost souls.

FINN

We have a good life now.

GRANDAD

Oh aye, then why are you here?

FINN

I've always felt bad about leaving my foster parents.

GRANDAD

So you should, they thought you were drowned.

FINN

I want to let them know I'm alive and well.

GRANDAD

They blame themselves.

FINN

I'm sorry.

GRANDAD

Sorry's no good to me.

Your mother took you off, didn't she?

FINN

Yes.

GRANDAD

I was there.

FINN

Why didn't you tell them?

GRANDAD

Who's going to believe another far-fetched story by an old sailor such as myself? (PAUSE) Can't be much of a life, always on the run?

FINN

We're not criminals.

GRANDAD

Your mother broke the Law when she took you from your foster parents.

FINN

We're on the move all the time – floating around.

GRANDAD

Making sure no one recognises you? Reports you to the police?

FINN

There are others like us. Some missing, some lost, some stolen.

ENTER THE MISSING CHILDREN.

GRANDAD

Friends of yours?

FINN

You can see them?

GRANDAD

I'm as lost as any of you, Finn. All I can do is sit here and grin, unless someone talks to my mind and not my body.

MUSIC UNDER FIRST OF THE STORIES BY THE MISSING CHILDREN.

ROSA'S STORY

ROSA

(TO AUDIENCE)

They say I'm missing, but it was my choice to drop out. The name's Rosa, I'm used to drifting, it's in my blood: dad's a traveller, from a long line of travellers. He tried living with us in a house, but he couldn't hack it. I don't blame him. Houses are nothing but germ factories, breeding grounds for all manner of bugs. Families squeezed into a box, sealed with

double-glazing and central heating, people coughing all over each other, never think of opening a window, as if a bit of fresh air would kill them. And they wonder why asthma's on the increase?

I get by. There's food everywhere, if you're looking. You'd be surprised the amount people throw away. I'd sooner live off scraps than feed off the rat-race. I read palms and tell fortunes. I can tell yours and yours and yours... You're all either falling in love or falling out of love, you're all about to make some serious money and you're all struggling with debts, you were all born and you're all going to die.

I can take care of myself. I've a blade here for any pervert tries it on with me. I'll hook up with dad soon. He won't mind me travelling with him. He'll be proud of me, keeping the family tradition going. I know he's out there somewhere, I just have to find him.

ENTER JIMMY. HE DOESN'T SEE THE MISSING CHILDREN.

JIMMY

Room's ready. I hope you've not been talking Finn to death, grandad?

FINN

We've had a good long chat.

JIMMY LOOKS CONFUSED.

EXIT FINN AND JIMMY.

MUSIC UNDER THE SECOND OF THE MISSING
CHILDREN’S STORIES.

SUZIE’S STORY

SUZIE

(TO AUDIENCE)

(SINGS) “I wanna be a rock star...”

Nobody comes here at night. I can look up at the stars and sing as loud as I want, until my throat goes all froggy. There’s lots to eat, like cabbages and carrots and other things I don’t like. Only I do like them now ‘cause, well, I have to eat something and, actually, they taste lovely straight from the ground. I didn’t know you could eat food straight from the ground. I wash them first, silly. There’s lots of taps with clean water.

I hide during the day, in the shed that nobody uses. It’s smelly and cold, but it’s quiet and I can fall sleep. It’s my fault they’re arguing. I’ve heard them talking about it: if I hadn’t been born, it would have all been different. I started singing every time they started shouting. Singing about the stars, mostly. I like singing.

(SINGS) “Twinkle, twinkle, little star...”

EXIT THE MISSING CHILDREN AND GRANDAD.

SCENE 8

LEONA’S BEDROOM.

CHERYL, OLIVIA, MARIAH, KELLY & BRITNEY ARE
DRESSING LEONA FOR HER HEN NIGHT.

GIRLS

Makeover time!

LEONA

I want you all to be my bridesmaids.

MARIAH

It’s so romantic: the dresses, the flowers, the rings, the
vows – saying you’ll love each other forever...

LEONA

Yep, Wedding of the Year, 2pm sharp, tomorrow afternoon,
location – my bedroom.

THEY LAUGH.

KELLY

What time will it be in the States?

BRITNEY

Er, 9 in the morning.

LEONA

He’d better not be late.

THEY LAUGH AGAIN.

OLIVIA

Craig is really jealous, you know?

LEONA

Duh, that could be the whole point.

OLIVIA

That’s cruel.

LEONA

That’s “getting even”.

CHERYL

She doesn’t understand, she’s in love.

OLIVIA

I am not.

CHERYL

Finn.

LEONA

Ask him out.

OLIVIA

No, I can’t. He’s been through enough.

CHERYL

I’ll ask him for you.

OLIVIA

Don’t you dare.

GIRLS PUT ‘L’ PLATES ON LEONA AS THE FINISHING
TOUCH.

LEONA

Hey, I don’t need those – I passed my test a long time ago!

I’m on to the Advanced Course.

KELLY

Spoken like a true slapper.

LEONA

You cheeky mare!

BRITNEY

Come on, this is your last chance to be as free as a bird.

THEY LEAVE SINGING “I BELIEVE I CAN FLY...”

SCENE 9

PUB.

BAR PERSON LOOKS ON AS HARRY, JIMMY, JUSTIN,
KENNY & ZACK ARE COMMISERATING WITH A
DRUNKEN CRAIG.

HARRY

You’ve had a narrow escape, man. As soon as that ring is on
the finger, you can kiss goodbye to freedom, dude.

JUSTIN

Right, we’ve done the Kings, the Lion, the Keys, where to
next?

KENNY

The boat!

ZACK

We’ll never get in.

CRAIG

I happen to know the bouncers. We’re going to the boat and
I’m jumping overboard.

BAR PERSON

Sounds like someone’s having a good Stag Night?

CRAIG

I’ll have you know, this is not my Stag Night, this is my “Not
the Stag Night”.

JIMMY

(EXPLAINING)

The love of his life, she’s marrying someone else tomorrow.

BAR STAFF

Tough call.

CRAIG

I love these guys. No, listen up, I do, I love you guys.

HARRY

We love you too, man.

THEY STAGGER OFF.

ENTER GIRLS ON THEIR HEN NIGHT. THEY ARE STILL
SINGING.

GIRLS

“I believe I can fly, I believe I can touch the sky...”

MARIAH

Bar person, more spritzers!

LEONA

No, please, no more spritzers, they give me gas and I get all
weepy.

KELLY

Shots!

THEY DRINK.

BRITNEY

1, 2, 3...chuck it down!

ENTER MALE STRIPPER TO STRIPPER MUSIC.

STRIPPER

Hello ladies, which one of you ordered the stripper?

LEONA

Woe! Come with us, big boy, to the back room!

THEY LEAD HIM AWAY AND EXIT.

SCENE 10

THE BOYS CARRY HARRY ACROSS THE STAGE AND
CHAIN HIM TO A FENCE, THEN RUN OFF.

THE GIRLS ENTER.

MARIAH

What have we got here here, girls? Another male in need of
our support?

LEONA

I recognise that body, it's Harry Pothead.

HARRY

I am so happy to see you ladies! If you can just call the fire
brigade, my moby's in –

KELLY

Don't worry, Harry, we will, won't we girls?

BRITNEY

Yeah, in a minute.

MARIAH

This will be one stag night you'll never forget, Harry Pothead.

THE GIRLS SMEAR THEIR LIPS WITH LIPSTICK AND KISS
HIM ALL OVER HIS FACE.

KELLY

Take his picture.

MARIAH TAKES HIS MOBY AND TAKES A PICTURE.

BRITNEY

Now send it to everyone in his address book.

MARIAH SENDS PHOTO AND GIVES HIM BACK HIS
MOBY, THEN MAKES A CALL ON HER OWN MOBY.

MARIAH

Fire brigade, please, yeah, it's an emergency...

THEY EXIT, LAUGHING.

SCENE 11

MUSIC UNDER THE THIRD OF THE MISSING CHILDREN’S STORIES.

ABBEY & JOHN’S STORY

ABBEY

Some people don’t deserve kids.

JOHN

We’ll teach them a lesson.

ABBEY

They’ll learn to appreciate us.

JOHN

Or they’ll never see us again.

ABBEY

Glastonbury – it’s not a lot to ask.

JOHN

Everybody goes to Glastonbury when they’re young.

JOHN & ABBEY

But not us.

ABBEY

I was going with my twin brother, John.

JOHN

I was going with my twin sister, Abbey.

JOHN & ABBEY

You can’t get much safer than that.

JOHN

But no: (QUOTING PARENTS) “It’s too dangerous”.

ABBEY

Duh, it's only a festival, not a political rally.

JOHN

“It's too loud, you'll damage your ears.”

ABBEY

Hello, it's called music.

JOHN

“You don't know who you're going to meet.”

ABBEY

Er, lots of nice people?

JOHN

“It'll be very muddy.”

ABBEY

So we'll get wet.

JOHN

“What about the drugs?”

ABBEY

Like we haven't tried stuff already? Get over it.

JOHN

So we went anyway.

ABBEY

Yeah, it was safe, man.

JOHN

And now we daren't go home.

ABBEY

Really? Why not?

JOHN

I stole some money.

ABBEY

What?

JOHN

From mum’s purse. For the trip.

ABBEY

They’ll kill us.

JOHN

Disown us.

ABBEY

Make us get a job.

JOHN

Leave school.

ABBEY

They don’t love us any more.

JOHN

Never wanted kids.

ABBEY

Especially twins.

JOHN

We weren’t planned.

ABBEY

Who is these days?

JOHN

We never asked to be born.

ABBEY

We’re staying with our new friends.

JOHN

We don’t need them.

ABBEY

They probably haven’t even noticed we’re missing.

JOHN

It’s only been a few weeks.

ABBEY

Give it a few months.

THEY LOOK AT EACH OTHER, TRYING NOT TO BE
HOMESICK.

I don’t miss hot chocolate.

JOHN

Or electric blankets.

ABBEY

Showers.

JOHN

The dog.

ABBEY

Cat.

JOHN & ABBEY

Budgies.

JOHN

Mum’s pastry.

ABBEY

Dad’s crap jokes.

(IN DENIAL) I’m not homesick.

JOHN

Me neither.

SCENE 12

JIMMY’S HOUSE. OLIVIA BRINGS MR & MRS CARTER TO
SEE FINN. JIMMY IS WITH HER.

OLIVIA

Finn, you’ve got visitors.

MRS CARTER

It’s true, it is you.

FINN

Hello, mother.

MRS CARTER HUGS FINN. MR CARTER HOLDS BACK.

OLIVIA

Come on, Jimmy, let’s give them some privacy.

OLIVIA AND JIMMY EXIT.

MRS CARTER

I can’t believe it. After all these years.

FINN

Father?

MR CARTER

Years of not knowing if you were dead or alive.

FINN

I’m sorry. I didn’t have a choice.

MR CARTER

Oh, you had a choice all right. It’s us that didn’t.

MRS CARTER

You’re back now, that’s the main thing.

MR CARTER

He can't just come strolling back into our lives as if nothing has happened.

MRS CARTER

I said I didn't want you to make a scene – not in someone else's house.

MR CARTER

You think it's fair on your mother, do you, showing up like this?

MRS CARTER

We've a spare room made up, you can move straight back in.

MR CARTER

No, he cannot.

FINN

It's okay, I'm staying here with Jimmy for a while.

MR CARTER

See what you're doing to your mother?

MRS CARTER

I'm happy, I've got my son back.

MR CARTER

Opening old wounds - you should've kept away, we were dealing with it.

FINN

I wanted to let you know I was still alive.

MR CARTER

It was easier when you were dead.

MRS CARTER

How can you say that?

FINN

I think it's best if I leave.

MRS CARTER

No, please son, stay. Your father's emotional. He cried for years over you. He doesn't mean what he says.

MR CARTER

Don't I?

MRS CARTER

Stop it! You're driving him away again.

MR CARTER

That's right, blame me, you've always wanted to.

MRS CARTER

This is not about you.

FINN

Mum came back for me, I had to go.

MRS CARTER

I understand. It didn't work out with her and now you're back.

It's not her fault, she has her own problems.

MR CARTER

That's it, is it, nowhere else to go?

FINN

No, that’s not why I’m here. Mum sorted herself out before she took me away. She’s not touched a drop since. I’m still with her.

MR CARTER

We’re blacklisted because of her. We’re not allowed to foster any more, not after you went missing.

FINN

This is all my fault.

MRS CARTER

It’s no one’s fault.

FINN

I shouldn’t have come.

EXIT FINN, FOLLOWED BY MR & MRS CARTER.

SCENE 13

MUSIC UNDER THE FOURTH OF THE MISSING CHILDREN’S STORIES.

LIAM’S STORY

LIAM

(TO AUDIENCE)

I can’t talk about it so don’t ask. I didn’t know he’d done those things in the war. I hope he goes to prison, even if he is my dad. How am I supposed to face my mates? I don’t understand: he’s never hit me, he’s not a violent man. They said they’d never let it happen again in Europe; but it did happen. Dad saw a lot of bad things. And mum. What did I know, I was just a toddler when we left? Dad said, “Liam, we had to leave, it wasn’t safe in our own country.” Now it’s not safe here.

I’ll have to start again, somewhere new. It’s a jungle out there, kill or be killed. I’m not going to be the victim no more.

Somebody else can suffer, I’ve done more than my share. I’m not a violent person, but if I have to be, I will. And if I get into trouble, I’ll go to prison, like my dad.

SCENE 14

MUSIC. FINN IS LOOKING OUT TO SEA.

ENTER OLIVIA.

OLIVIA

The Carters do want you back.

FINN

I've hurt them all over again.

OLIVIA

Better that way than never see you again.

FINN

It was a mistake. I was only thinking of myself.

OLIVIA

There are others who are pleased to see you.

PAUSE.

Do you miss your friends?

FINN

And my mum.

OLIVIA

Will you be leaving us again soon?

FINN

I must.

OLIVIA

In that case, I'll tell you a secret: I kept a shoebox. When you disappeared, I collected photos and press-cuttings and put them in a scrapbook, in a special box, my “Finn-box”, with a

present you gave me for my seventh birthday.

FINN

The pirate ship.

OLIVIA

We took it to the park and launched it in the pond; but it sank.

FINN

With my pirates on board.

OLIVIA

I jumped in and pulled the ship out of the water.

FINN

But the pirates were missing.

OLIVIA

Presumed dead.

FINN

I thought you were very brave.

OLIVIA

More reckless than brave.

FINN

You’ve changed so much, Olivia – in looks, I mean.

OLIVIA

Glad you noticed.

I think girls change more than boys, if you know what I mean?

FINN

I’m glad you’re still the same Olivia inside.

OLIVIA

Am I? I’ve had to toughen up.

FINN

Me too.

OLIVIA

Did you ever think of us?

FINN

Of course.

OLIVIA

I mean “us”?

FINN

My “Olivia-box”, is in here, in my head.

SUDDENLY, MASKED MEN BUNDLE FINN AND OLIVIA
INTO SACKS. THEY TRY TO FIGHT THEM OFF, BUT THE
MEN INJECT THEM WITH A SEDATIVE AND THEY ARE
TAKEN AWAY.

SCENE 15

MUSIC UNDER THE FIFTH OF THE MISSING CHILDREN’S STORIES.

LOTTY’S STORY

LOTTY

(TO AUDIENCE)

What am I supposed to do on my own? I don’t know how to pay the bills? Most kids want a place of their own, but not like this? How could she walk out on us? For him, of all people, the tosser. He’s brain-washed her. I can’t believe she would put him before us, her own flesh and blood. They’ve gone to live in Spain. She says they might come back visiting. I’m not a mum, I’m fifteen, I’m just little Lotty. It’s not my job to look after the others, they’re not my kids. But somebody’s got to and I don’t see a queue of volunteers. We can’t tell Social Services, they’ll split us up or put us all in Care. It’s our secret, we’ve all agreed, we’re telling no one. I put them to bed, I get them ready for school, I go to work at the Bingo. She sends money, but it’s never enough.

The toilet’s not flushing properly, I don’t know how to fix it. I can’t do everything. I don’t even know how to cook. The tin opener’s really stiff and the microwave’s making a funny noise.

I want to go to the cinema, I want to go dancing and having a laugh in a club. I’ve got no mates any more. I’d like a boyfriend. I’d like to get a life.

SCENE 16

LEONA’S BEDROOM.

WEDDING GUESTS ARE WAITING. JUSTIN IS FILMING THE EVENT. KENNY ENTERS CARRYING AN OPEN LAPTOP. HE PLACES IT ON A CHAIR AT ONE END OF THE ROOM, FACING THE AUDIENCE. KENNY WAITS, AS BEST MAN, BEHIND THE LAPTOP. CHERYL JOINS HIM, OPPOSITE, AS BEST WOMAN. HARRY ENTERS AS THE VICAR.

“WEDDING MARCH” MUSIC. THE BRIDE, LEONA, ENTERS, ARM LINKED TO ZACK, AS FATHER OF THE BRIDE. SHE IS FOLLOWED BY BRIDESMAIDS, MARIAH, KELLY AND BRITNEY. THE BRIDE JOINS THE LAPTOP AT THE FRONT.

HARRY

Okay, dudes, this is far-out. It gives me great pleasure to welcome you all to witness this Facebook marriage between the lovely Leona and this very fine young laptop.

LEONA

Troy, his name’s Troy.

HARRY

Cool, the laptop’s called Troy.

LEONA

(TO CHERYL)

Where’s Olivia?

CHERYL

I don't know.

HARRY

Do you, Leona and laptop dude Troy, take each other to be man and wife, to get it on as regular as you –

LEONA

We do.

HARRY

All right. Does anyone here have any reason why this laptop and this woman should not be joined in, in –

CRAIG CRASHES IN.

CRAIG

I do.

HARRY

Damn, Craig, this is inconvenient, dude.

CRAIG TRASHES THE LAPTOP.

CRAIG

Don't do it, Leona, please, I'm sorry for being such an arse, I want us to get back together again, please?

LEONA

What about my laptop?

CRAIG

He's no good for you.

LEONA

I mean, you've broken my laptop.

CRAIG

I'll buy you a new one.

LEONA

Okay, Craig, you seem to have learned your lesson.

CRAIG

Yes!

ROUND OF APPLAUSE AND CHEERS AS EVERYONE

EXITS.

SCENE 17

MUSIC UNDER THE SIXTH OF THE MISSING CHILDREN’S STORIES.

OLLY’S STORY. OLLY IS HOLDING KIRK, HIS CUDDLY TOY.

OLLY

(TO AUDIENCE)

I think it was a few minutes ago. Or was it hours? Kirk says it was yesterday. I think it was tomorrow. I cried but nobody came. So I laughed and somebody gave me sweets. I said, “My name’s Olly.” This is Kirk.

Kirk likes sweets. I like his carrot face. I bite his nose when he’s naughty. Mummy sells sweets in her corner shop.

Me and mummy went “trick or treat”. I took Kirk with me because he’s a scarecrow and he can scare away any bad tricks.

I think they’re taking me back to mummy’s shop. Kirk says they’re taking me to the seaside. I like it at the seaside. But I haven’t got my bucket and spade. I might get a new one, if I’m good.

SCENE 18

BARROW ISLAND. SPECIAL UNIT. THE AUTHORITIES
HAVE TAKEN FINN (AND OLIVIA) TO “OBSERVE” HIM.
FINN IS ALREADY BOUND AND GAGGED AND
CONSCIOUS. OLIVIA IS RELEASED FROM HER SACK BY
THE MASKED MEN. SHE IS STILL GROGGY.

GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS

(TO MASKED MEN)

What in the world have you brought her for,
you fools? We don't need the girl!

MASKED MEN

Sorry boss, they were stood together.

OLIVIA SEES FINN AND TRIES TO ESCAPE.

GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS

Let her go back to her neighbourhood.

THE MASKED MEN RELUCTANTLY ALLOW HER TO
LEAVE.

GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS

We're trying to help you, Finn, it's for your own good.

We had to sedate you, you were out for the count,
so the doctors could take some blood.

A considerable amount of money
has been spent on your risk assessment:
this “special unit” is a substantial investment
in the welfare of our “special” children

and the government’s latest in joined-up thinking.
True, the results to date are very disappointing,
but we have a range of leading experts
to examine and analyse your brain.

PSYCHIATRISTS

There appears to be no paranormal activity,
no superhuman powers; nothing
we could use as a weapon against our enemies,
but equally no threat to our own society.
He has not been taking his medication
and is running the risk of a nervous breakdown;
a course of C.B.T. is our recommendation.

SOCIAL WORKERS

We’re monitoring the situation.
The boy needs a stable environment
and a strict routine with gentle supervision.
We’re concerned the boy is still having these dreams
and suggest he is kept in the special unit regime.

TEACHERS

The boy is behind because of his “home education”,
it’s a nationwide problem,
we really don’t approve of parents
without proper training, pretending to be teachers.
Children can be tricky little creatures,
this one is certainly intelligent,

but clearly an under-achiever.

POLICE

It's the Law that he goes to school,

it's up to us to enforce the rules.

We're investigating whether any crimes

have been committed in this case,

including wasting police time.

OUTSIDE THE UNIT, A CROWD HAS GATHERED,
INCLUDING JOURNALISTS AND NEIGHBOURS AND
CAMPAIGNERS OLIVIA, JIMMY AND HIS FAMILY.

JOURNALISTS

Latest news: shock horror scandal, join the debate:

should “fish-boy” be kept at tax-payers' expense?

Where's the common sense in that?

With any luck, the story will run for months at this rate.

CAMPAIGNERS

Free Finn now! Free Finn now!

NEIGHBOURS

Nicest people in the world, the Carters,

martyrs to the cause of adoption,

you couldn't wish for better neighbours,

we won't have a bad word said against them –

we've heard they're in line for massive compensation.

CAMPAIGNERS

Free Finn now! Free Finn now!

GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS

In these circumstances the State
has to act as Guardian to the child;
none of you have legal probate
over the boy, we cannot allow “trial by media”.

ENTER FINN’S DAD.

DAD

I have the right.

GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS

And who might you be?

DAD

Finn’s dad.

GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS

We were informed his dad had left the area?

DAD

For longer than I care to remember,
but I’m here now to repair the damage,
I’m his family.

GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS

We need to see some I.D.?

DAD SHOWS THEM AN I.D. CARD.

You’re with the military?

DAD

Marines – Royal Navy.

GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS

I hope you know what you're doing?

DAD

He's my son, not some kind of freakshow.

GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS

Let the boy go.

THEY RELEASE FINN TO HIS DAD AND THE
CAMPAIGNERS WHO CELEBRATE HIS RETURN. FINN
IGNORES HIS DAD AND SETS OFF TO LEAVE.

DAD

Where are you going?

FINN

I'm not living with you.

DAD

I don't expect you to.

FINN

Good. And don't expect any thanks.

DAD

How's your mum?

FINN

Better for not seeing you.

DAD

I suppose I deserve that.

Will you say “sorry” to her for me?

FINN

Tell her yourself.

DAD

She wouldn't want to see me?

FINN

I don't want to see you.

DAD

I'm sorry for what I did to you.

FINN

You know, jellyfish have no heart, no brain, no eyes; yet they can feel, think and see more than you ever could.

DAD

You're still angry with me. I don't blame you.

FINN

Very big of you.

DAD

Give me another chance, son?

FINN

So you can abandon me again?

DAD

Not this time.

FINN

I'm going, I need to see my mum.

DAD

You don't have to choose between us.

FINN DELIBERATELY APPROACHES MR & MRS CARTER
WHERE HIS DAD CAN SEE AND HEAR THEM.

FINN

Can I visit you in the future?

MRS CARTER

Come to us for your holidays.

FINN LOOKS FOR MR CARTER'S APPROVAL.

MR CARTER

We'd both like that.

FINN

Thank you – for everything.

THEY HUG.

FINN APPROACHES OLIVIA.

OLIVIA

Your dad's right, you know.

FINN

I have to know how mum feels first.

OLIVIA

You don't have to go back, you're not “missing” any more?

FINN

They're my friends.

OLIVIA

You have friends here.

FINN

Mum only let me come here on condition I returned. I need

her to help me understand where I belong.

OLIVIA

Take me with you?

FINN

I can't. Your life is with your family.

OLIVIA

I'll leave home one day.

FINN

I'll be back for you, I promise.

FINN TAKES HER BY THE HAND.

OLIVIA

I won't wait forever.

FINN

I know.

THEY HUG. FINN GOES TO THANK JIMMY AND HIS
FAMILY, THEN RETURNS TO HIS DAD.

FINN

You have to earn trust.

DAD

I will.

THEY SHAKE HANDS.

FINN RUNS OFF. EVERYONE FOLLOWS.

SCENE 19

PIEL ISLAND.

MUSIC. AS A SHADOW PLAY, WE SEE EVERYONE
WAVING AS FINN SWIMS ACROSS TO PIEL ISLAND.
THE SEALS ARE WATCHING.

SEALS

Now there's one human who really can swim.

That's because he's not human, he's a selkie.

Yeah, it's the seal in him that's the swimmer.

I don't approve: seals and humans, it's not natural.

Course it's natural, it's called evolution.

You wouldn't be lying there today on your fat arse on this
sandbank, if it wasn't for evolution.

Where's evolution got us? Humans, that's where. If they're top
of the food chain, I'd rather evolution stopped at us.

Aye, let's drink to that.

THEY CLAP AND ROAR.

ENTER FINN IN HIS SHORTS. HE FINDS HIS SEAL-SKIN
AND WRAPS HIMSELF IN IT.

MUSIC.

ENTER THE MISSING CHILDREN WHO LEAD FINN
AWAY, LEAVING JIMMY'S GRANDDAD ON HIS OWN FOR
THE EPILOGUE.

EPILOGUE

GRANDAD

If you're walking alone on the beach under a moonlit sky and you hear a selkie singing its melancholy song, be sure to return swiftly to the safety of your own home.

It is said that the selkies are supernatural creatures, formed from the souls of those drowned at sea.

PLAY ENDS