

'WINGS OF THE MORNING'

A play in three short Acts

By

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"If I take the wings of the morning and travel to the farthest limit of the sea, even there your hand shall guide me, your right hand shall hold me fast." Psalm 139

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CAST

Ewen A Highland Estate Manager. Aged about 40. A Highlander.

Louise A young police-woman, late twenties. Works in the Highlands, originally from the Central Belt.

Voices Off....

Donnie Mountain Rescue Team Leader

Simon Mountain Rescue Deputy Leader

“Mike Uniform” Navigator of Sikorski 61 Rescue Helicopter

1 **Act 1**

2 The action of the play takes place in a Mountain Rescue Command Post in
3 the West Highlands. It is a large functional room with benches around the
4 side and bits of spare climbing gear and kit – ice axes, climbing helmets,
5 climbing harnesses, ropes, a stretcher, boots, etc – lying about but stowed
6 tidily. There is a cupboard on one wall. There is a galley in one corner US
7 with a tea-urn (burco boiler), milk, sugar, tea, coffee, tinned food, tinned
8 beer, a small stove, a sink, etc. The sink is an old Belfast sink. DS there is a
9 large map table with a large VHF radio set adjacent to it. There are a couple
10 of moulded plastic chairs at the table. There is a multicharger for hand-held
11 VHF radios nearby with a couple of spare sets and lots of batteries. There is
12 a telephone adjacent to the map table. There is a radio speaker above the
13 map table. All VOICES OFF come through this speaker and are indicated in
14 the script by “VO (Speaker’s Name)” There is a notice board on one wall
15 which has training schedules with a heading “TRAINING”, a letter from
16 the RAF (202 Squadron, Kinloss), an e-mail headed in marker pen
17 “ATTENTION ALL TEAM MEMBERS”, a cartoon, etc. Interior LX should
18 simulate strip lights and there is a modern halogen anglepoise on the map
19 table. There are windows and it is pitch dark LX outside. There is a door.
20 There will be exterior FX wind and driving rain whenever the door opens
21 and perhaps intermittently as on a tin roof.

22

23 The play opens around 0000hrs. It is mid February 2000. LX the set is dark
24 except for the small red pilot lights on bits of equipment.

25

26 ENTER Ewen wearing a lighted head torch on a climbing helmet. He is wet
27 and wearing full hill gear. LX he switches on the interior lights and looks
28 around.

29

30 VO (Donnie)

Glencavan Mobile this is Glencavan One.

31

(Ewen sighs and starts taking off his helmet and jacket)

1 VO (Donnie) Glenclavan Mobile, Glenclavan Mobile this is
2 Glenclavan One.
3 Ewen *(Aside)* Hang on a minute, will you!?
4 VO (Donnie) Glenclavan Mobile, are you getting me, Eoghann?
5 *(Ewen moves to the radio and picks up the fist mike)*
6 Ewen Aye, hang on a minute, Donnie, I'm just in the
7 friggin door here.
8 VO (Donnie) Glenclavan Mobile this is Glenclavan One,
9 Eoghann, will you use correct comms procedures,
10 please, we might have a lot of stations listening in,
11 over.
12 Ewen *(Struggling to take off his wet overtrousers over his*
13 *boots)*Well for a start I'm not mobile any more, I'm
14 in the MRT Post. *(pause)* Over.
15 VO Well in that case, please use Call Sign, Glenclavan
16 Oscar, over.
17 *(Ewen sighs and finally kicks off his overtrousers.)*
18 *(pause)*
19 VO (Donnie) Glenclavan Oscar this is Glenclavan One, over.
20 Ewen What!?
21 VO (Donnie) Glenclavan Oscar, Glenclavan One, do you have
22 the female walker with you - Ms ...eh Galbraith?
23 Over.
24 Ewen Glenclavan One this is Glenclavan...eh Oscar.
25 That's negative. She's down the cop-shop. Over.
26 VO What's she doing down there? We might need her
27 later, over.
28 Ewen She's a bit cold, Donnie. Cold and wet. I took her
29 down there in case she needed a doctor. She's in a
30 bit of a state. Not much help. And there's nobody

1 else here but me. You should have left more of the
2 team behind. Glenclavan Oscar, over.

3 VO Oscar this is Glenclavan One, we're going to need
4 everybody up here. The conditions aren't great. It's
5 a poor night. Have you got comms with the Police
6 Station? Over.

7 Ewen One this is Oscar, I've got the phone, but they're
8 sending a cop up, over.

9 VO Roger that, Oscar, make sure you keep a log, eh?
10 This is Glenclavan One, out.

11 Ewen *(Aside) Aye, Aye....chief bloody gopher and chief
12 bloody clerk. (He goes to the cupboard and finds a
13 notebook, pen and map – he spreads the map on the map
14 table, switches on the anglepoise, looks at his watch and
15 writes in the notebook)*

16 **LX APPROACH OFF. FLASHING BLUE LIGHT, SYNC WITH TX CAR**
17 **APPROACH OFF. AND... CUT LX & TX CAR ENGINE. AND TX CAR**
18 **DOOR OPEN AND SHUT.**

19 **ENTER LOUISE via door. She is wearing police uniform – wet weather gear**
20 **with a high-vis over-jacket. Her shoulder number is 347.**

21 Louise *(Taking off her hat and over-jacket)* This looks like the
22 right place!

23 Ewen Welcome to the Glenclavan Hilton.
24 Are you the lassie from the desk?

25 Louise What desk?

26 Ewen The Police Station desk.

27 Louise No that would be our receptionist. I'm a Police
28 Constable. Constable Campbell. Hence the
29 uniform. I've just come on duty.

30 Ewen But we have met before.

31 Louise Have we?

1 You must be Ewen. (*Extending her hand*).

2 Ewen (*Briefly shaking her hand*). Pleased to meet you, eh

3 Constable Campbell.

4 Louise Louise.

5 Ewen Aye. Do you want to, eh, tea or coffee or

6 something?

7 Louise Tea would be good, thanks.

8 Ewen Help yourself. The urn's on. There's milk. Well it's

9 UHT.

10 Louise Is there any decent coffee?

11 Ewen Sure, there's freshly ground organic beans from

12 Kenya and an espresso machine in the cupboard.

13 Louise Really?

14 Ewen Eh, no, not really. It's powdered stuff in that big

15 tin there. Tastes like iron filings.

16 Louise I'll stick with tea.

17 Ewen Could you make me one? Milk and no sugar.

18 Louise Have the kitchen staff left for the night?

19 Ewen Well, I would do it myself, but I'm kinda busy. I'm

20 Control here and I'm on my own.

21 Louise (*Going to galley*) Okay, Control. One tea. Milk no

22 sugar.

23 Ewen Oscar.

24 Louise Pardon?

25 Ewen I'm not called Control, it's Oscar.

26 Louise I thought your name was Ewen.

27 Ewen It is. My call sign is Oscar. That's the call sign for

28 Control. Don't ask me why.

29 Louise Because you're good wi words mibbe?

30 Ewen Eh?

31 Louise Oscar Wilde. He was good wi words.

1 Ewen I don't think so somehow. And it isn't for my
2 performance either.

3 Louise Performance?

4 Ewen Oscar....best actor and all that.

5 Louise Ah, see, you are good with words! (*FX teacup*)
6 That's no too strong is it?

7 Ewen Just perfect. Thanks.

8 Louise You're welcome, Oscar.

9 Ewen Ewen. Just call me Ewen, okay?

10 Louise Okay, Ewen. (*beat*) Where is everybody?

11 Ewen They're on the hill. Two teams of eight. They're
12 going up either side of the ridge. One team's
13 following Allt na Smeorach, the other, Allt na
14 Gealbhonn. Conditions are poor. Making slow
15 progress. Lot of wind and rain. Cloud base about
16 500 metres. They should be moving into the cloud
17 about now, not that they'll see much anyway.

18 Louise Have you got an ETA?

19 Ewen No they'll be a while yet.

20 Louise Where are the casualties?

21 Ewen Didn't they brief you?

22 Louise I've got a grid reference, but I don't know where it
23 is. (*Taking out her note book*) Two female walkers -
24 one, a Mrs Elizabeth Heron, aged fifty four, lost
25 her footing on the descent, fell about two hundred
26 feet- descending from the top of Sgur nan Eye-oh-
27 Laire.

28 Ewen Sgur nan Iolaire (Yoo-leer)

29 Louise Set off at 1000 hours yesterday morning with a
30 third party, Ms Olivia Galbraith, fifty-five year old
31 female.....

1 Ewen Too bloody late.

2 Louise Pardon?

3 Ewen Too late to start. If you're going to climb a Munro
4 at this time of year, you want an early start. And
5 they're not young.

6 Louise In their mid fifties, all three. Live in the South Side
7 of Glasgow. But they're all experienced hill-
8 walkers. Done over a hundred Munros between
9 each and they always go together.

10 Ewen Still to bloody late for starting, they should have
11 been off at dawn. In fact they shouldn't have
12 bothered getting out of bed. The forecast was
13 pretty poor.

14 Louise Well they came all the way up here to do it I
15 suppose and they didn't want to go back without
16 adding another one to their tally.

17 Ewen Aye and if the weather's bad, the mountain rescue
18 boys can always come and get them.

19 Louise Radio Highland were on the phone before I left the
20 station. You could tell them that.

21 Ewen They shouldn't have gone out on the hill because it
22 was a bad forecast? Or they started out too late?

23 Louise Both. You might as well. I don't think our sergeant
24 will do it. He doesnae like doin media stuff. Be a
25 warning to others.

26 Ewen Nah, we never do that. Never complain. Never
27 criticise. Some teams do but we don't.

28 Louise Why not?

29 Ewen We just don't. It could happen to anybody.
30 Accidents happen. Anyway we don't want to put
31 people off from calling for our help. That's what

1 we're here for. Mind you a ten-o'clock start has
2 probably got more to do with liking their beds too
3 much.

4 Louise Well bed, singular, in this case. Or having too good
5 a breakfast maybe.

6 Ewen Eh?

7 Louise They stayed at the King's House. They do a great
8 breakfast there. I've been a couple of times myself
9 after a night-shift.

10 Ewen No, what do you mean, 'bed, singular'?

11 Louise *(Looking at notebook)* They shared a double room.
12 The three of them. Last night in the Kings House.

13 Ewen Oh, aye! Now we know.

14 Louise That's funny, that's just what my sergeant said.
15 Something wrong with that is there?

16 Ewen Well not any longer obviously. Not with the way
17 things are going. They're legalizing everything
18 now, aren't they? And this new Scottish bloody
19 Parliament is the worst.

20 Louise I wasn't aware that it was illegal for three women
21 to share a bed. Unless I missed something on my
22 Law course.

23 Ewen I didn't say it was illegal.

24 Louise You said they were legalizing everything. The
25 Scottish Parliament. Section 28 and all that.

26 Ewen Aye well if you ask me, Brian Soutar has the right
27 idea.

28 VO (Simon) Glenclavan One this is Glenclavan Simon, are you
29 getting me Donnie, over?

1 VO (Donnie) Glenclavan Simon this is Glenclavan One, getting
2 you loud and clear, Simon. Where are you now,
3 over?

4 VO (Simon) One, Simon, we're at the top of the burn. There's a
5 boulder field above us and we're just trying to
6 figure out whether to go through it or round it to
7 the west. Stopping for a breather. It's been hard
8 going. Can't see much. Where are you? It's been a
9 while since we saw your lights, over.

10 *(Ewen starts writing in the log)*

11 VO (Donnie) Glenclavan Simon, this is Glenclavan One. We'll
12 get a fix on the GPS. I think we're above you.
13 We're trying to follow the path but it's more like a
14 river. Stand by, over.

15 Ewen *(Looking at map)* They're both up at Corrie Riabhag.
16 *(On radio mike)* Simon this is Ewen, Glenclavan
17 Oscar. You're best to head due west across the
18 bottom of the corrie. That boulder field is difficult
19 to cross at the best of times. But watch because
20 there's steep ground if you go too far, over.

21 VO (Simon) Roger that Ewen, we're checking the map.
22 Glenclavan Simon, listening.

23 VO (Donnie) Glenclavan Oscar this is Glenclavan One. What's
24 the ground like on this side, Ewen, over?

25 Ewen It's OK Donnie. But stay well up on the side of the
26 corrie, it's very boggy. There's harder ground on
27 the side and a bit of a path sill on the edge. It's the
28 old stalkers track but some of it has washed away.
29 Have you got a grid reference? Over.

1 VO (Donnie) Oscar, Glenclavan one. Yes we're at.....niner, fife,
2 six, wun, fower, fife...that's if the GPS is right.
3 Over.

4 Ewen Should be bang on. Roger, Glenclavan One, over.
5 *(he puts the mike down)* OK, that's both teams at
6 Corrie na Coileach-Oidhche. They'll be a while yet,
7 it's a poor night up there now by the sounds of
8 things.

9 Louise It's a poor night here. I better check in. *(On personal*
10 *radio)* Alpha Whisky, Alpha Whisky from Alpha
11 347, are you receiving, over? *(Pause)* Alpha
12 Whisky, Alpha Whisky from Alpha 347, are you
13 receiving, over?

14 Ewen You won't get comms here.

15 Louise Well you get them well enough. It's VHF.

16 Ewen I've got a 10 metre aerial on the hill out back there,
17 and I've got 50 watts output on this thing. You
18 won't get far with that. You'd be as well shouting
19 out the door. *(pause)* There's a phone.

20 Louise I'll use my mobile. Save your bill.

21 Ewen That won't work either. That's why it took so long
22 to call us out. Olivia Newton Mearns couldn't get
23 a signal on the hill either.

24 Louise Her name is Galbraith. I know. She had to walk all
25 the way down to the main road and then the
26 driver she flagged down had the same problem.

27 Ewen It's the same up the glen here.

28 Louise So why did they build a Mountain Rescue
29 Command Post in a place where you can't get
30 comms?

1 Ewen It was built before we knew what comms were.
2 Used to be a stalker's bothy. This was the stable.
3 We kept the tack in here.
4 Louise We?
5 Ewen Yes, we. I had my first ghillieing job here.
6 Louise You worked here? On the estate.
7 Ewen I still do. I've been here all my life.
8 Louise You're the Estate Manager.
9 Ewen How did you know?
10 Louise We have met before. Drink driving. Near the
11 King's House. Just after New Year.
12 Ewen Ah! I remember you now.
13 Louise I'm surprised you remember anything.
14 Ewen I was sober in the morning. You weren't there
15 then.
16 Louise I was on night shift. I'm always on bloody night
17 shift. You were lucky no-one was killed. You
18 couldn't stand, far less drive.
19 Ewen I was all right.
20 Louise You were nearly three times over the limit!
21 Ewen I was still all right. Well I would have been if it
22 hadn't been for that Eebee barman. It was him that
23 reported me wasn't it?
24 Louise Eebee??
25 Ewen English Bastard.
26 Louise *(she shakes her head)* I'm not sayin anybody
27 reported you.
28 Ewen It was him though, wasn't it?
29 Louise Listen, Ewen, it was lucky we got there when we
30 did. You'd be in a lot worse trouble if you had
31 driven further and caused an accident or somethin.

1 Ewen I'd have been all right.

2 Louise No ye wouldnae.

3 Ewen Look, I can handle my drink fine. I don't drive fast

4 and I know the road. I've been up and down there

5 all my life.

6 Louise Maybe that's part o the problem.

7 Ewen What's that supposed to mean?

8 Louise Nuthin.

9 Ewen Are you trying to say I'm some sort of alky? Just

10 because I get caught over the limit once in my

11 whole life?

12 Louise Well ye were makin excuses for it...handle yer

13 drink fine...don't drive fast and ye know the

14 road...sounds as if it's more of a habit than a once

15 off.

16 Ewen It was a once off.

17 Louise Fine. It's no skin offa my nose. If it's any

18 consolation tae ye ye werenae the only wan that

19 night. There were dozens of ye.

20 Ewen Dozens of what?? Drunken teuchters? (*cod Scots*)

21 Aye, the teuchters, they're all terrible for the drink.

22 Terrible, terrible. It's somethin genetic.

23 Louise I didnae say that.

24 Ewen No but you think it fine, I can tell.

25 Louise Oh can ye? Am I wearin some sort of badge that

26 says, Teuchter Hater?

27 Ewen You might as well be. (beat) Are you the only one

28 they've got spare tonight? Are they short staffed

29 down the Police Station?

30 Louise Look Mr MacDonald, I don't hate Teuch...I don't

31 hate Highlanders. I consider myself one.

1 Ewen You don't sound like one. And you don't look like
2 my idea of a Highland Polis.

3 Louise Well I'm afraid you're stuck with me, Mr
4 MacDonald. I was only saying...I was only trying
5 to say that a lot of people...from lots of
6 places...most of them not locals as it happens,
7 were celebrating the new Millennium on the same
8 night as you.
9 *(pause)*

10 Ewen The name's Ewen and I wasn't celebrating the new
11 Millennium..... Independence, maybe.

12 Louise The new Scottish Parliament?

13 Ewen My wife left me at Christmas.

14 Louise I'm sorry, I didnae know.

15 Ewen It's OK, I'm not looking for sympathy. Best thing
16 that happened to me to be honest - apart from
17 getting arrested for drink driving, that is.
18 *(pause)*

19 I'll use the phone then. *(she picks up the phone and*
20 *dials)*

21 Louise Hallo, it's Constable Campbell. Can I speak to
22 Sergeant Anderson please. *(Beat)* Hallo, sergeant
23 it's Louise. *(Beat)* Aye I know, we're not getting
24 radio comms here. I'm on the phone, the number
25 is....Yes, sergeant.....Eh, no they're going to be a
26 while yet. How long? How long do you reckon
27 they'll be now, Ewen? *(Ewen shrugs)* Don't know
28 yet, a couple of hours probably....

29 Ewen Three.

30 Louise Three hours maybe. They've got pretty bad
31 conditions on the hill. *(beat)* It's the Estate

1 Manager, Mr MacDonald. *(beat)* Aye, him, that's
2 right. No, nobody else. No, he's with the MRT.
3 *(beat)* I dunno, Serg, I'll ask him. *(beat)* Dae ye want
4 me to stay here? *(Beat)* OK, Serg. *(Phone down)*. He
5 wants to know if you're the Radio Officer.
6 Ewen What's he want to know that for?
7 Louise Well he's in charge.
8 Ewen Listen, a graidh, there's only one man in charge of
9 this rescue and he's on the hill.
10 Louise Who's that then?
11 Ewen Donnie. Team Leader. "Glenclavan One" as he
12 likes to be called.
13 Louise It was the police that called you out.
14 Ewen I don't care who called us out. It's not the bloody
15 army we're in. We do what our Team Leader says.
16 If he says we do it, we do it, if he says we don't, we
17 don't. If he says we go, we go, if he says we don't
18 go, we don't go.
19 Louise And where does he get his authority from?
20 Ewen From the team. He gets elected every year by the
21 team at the Annual General Meeting. And if we're
22 not happy with him, we elect somebody else. But
23 that doesn't happen until he says he wants to
24 stand aside.
25 Louise Sounds like a shoo-in.
26 Ewen It's not a shoo-in. That's the way it works. It can be
27 a wee bit dangerous up there, and we've got to
28 trust our Team Leader. Not your sergeant, not you,
29 not the Chief Bloody Commissioner of Police, or
30 whoever. Our Team Leader and that's it!

1 Louise Okay, I'm just askin. I'm only a probationer.
2 (pause) (cheerily) What if there's a fatality?
3 Ewen Hang on a minute! Is that what you're hoping for?
4 Is that why you're here? Is that why you joined the
5 Police? You like a bit of blood and gore!? Not
6 worth turning up unless you get a decent fatality
7 or a major crime scene?
8 (pause)
9 Louise Look. I apologise. I was only askin. I don't know
10 how it works. I'm kinda...new.
11 (pause)
12 I'll make more tea, eh?
13 Ewen It's okay, hen. I'm...I'm just a bit kinda stressed
14 you know? And this drink driving charge on top
15 of everything else.
16 Louise (going to the galley) When's your case come up?
17 Ewen Next month. End of March.
18 Louise I'll see you in court then.
19 Ewen Will you be there!?
20 Louise I was the arresting officer. Unless you just plead
21 guilty by letter. Then they won't bother. Just
22 charge you and that's it.
23 Ewen I might as well.
24 Louise So why are you here?
25 Ewen Because I know the ground.
26 Louise Ye want anything with yer tea?
27 Ewen Any crisps there?
28 Louise (opening a drawer)Don't think so. Mars Bars.
29 Tunnocks Tea Cakes.
30 Ewen I'll have a tea cake.

1 Louise *(bringing them over with the tea and setting them down*
2 *on the map table)* There ye go. It's funny, I always
3 end up making the tea.
4 Ewen You don't have to.
5 Louise It's okay. I'm a domesticated cop.
6 Ewen Look after a man at home do you?
7 Louise I meant at work.
8 Ewen You don't....
9 Louise Don't what?
10 Ewen I mean....where do you stay then?
11 Louise Police accommodation. Next to the Station. It's a
12 hostel. Pretty basic. But I've a nice wee room of my
13 own.
14 Ewen Where are you from?
15 Louise Cumbernauld.
16 Ewen My wife is from there. Well, near there. Condorrat.
17 Louise I know it. Used tae be a wee country place. Not
18 any more.
19 VO (Simon) Glenclavan One, Glenclavan One, Glenclavan One,
20 this is Glenclavan Simon, are you getting me
21 Donnie, Over?
22 VO (Donnie) Glenclavan Simon, this is Glenclavan One, aye,
23 you're a bit broken, over.
24 VO (Simon) Glenclavan One, we're making our way up the
25 boulder field...very hard going here...the ground
26 is very rough. We're soaked through. We're going
27 to bivvy down at the top of the corrie and try to
28 dry out and warm up a bit. Glenclavan Simon
29 over.
30 VO (Donnie) Roger, Simon, I got most of that. We'll do the same
31 on the other side. We're nearly there. Keep a

1 lookout eh? In case the casualties make their way
2 down. Break Break, Glenclavan Oscar, Glenclavan
3 One, you getting me, Ewen, over.
4 Ewen Glenclavan One, Glenclavan Oscar.
5 VO (Donnie) Aye, Ewen, both teams will be topside Corrie Na
6 Geadhan in about half an hour. We're going to
7 bivvy down before we move on up. Can you get
8 us a forecast and ask SAR Control if they've got a
9 helo available. Glenclavan One over.
10 Ewen One this is Oscar, message received and
11 understood. Standby.
12 VO (Donnie) All stations, all stations, all stations, this is
13 Glenclavan One, Glenclavan One, Glenclavan One.
14 Let's keep it together, guys, and keep it tight. It's
15 going to be a long night. We'll bivvy at the top of
16 the corrie and have a breather. It's going to be
17 more exposed up on the shoulder, but the ground
18 is better. We'll stay in two teams until we get up to
19 the plateau area. Glenclavan One, over.
20 *(Ewen picks up the phone and dials)*
21 Ewen Hello, is that SAR Control? *(beat)* Hi there, it's
22 Ewen at the Glenclavan MRT post. *(beat)* Did the
23 police brief you on this one? *(beat)* Aye, that's right
24 we've got two casualties on Sgur nan Iolair. We
25 got a grid ref from the third member of the party.
26 No, not yet, but I reckon they'll be there around
27 0500 hours. We've got strong wind, gusting, and
28 it's been non-stop rain since we put the team on
29 the hill. Aye, that's right. We've got sixteen MRT
30 out, two teams of eight - two stretchers. *(beat)* Yes
31 we will. Can you give us a forecast for the

1 rain. Cloud bases at 600m/2,000 feet but rising to
2 750metres/3,000feet by morning. Winds 70 to 80
3 miles per hour, occasionally gusting to 100 miles
4 per hour at Munro level. Freezing level, 1,000
5 metres/3,300ft, over.

6 VO (Donnie) Aye, Eoghann, that sounds about right for what
7 we're getting anyway. We picked up the shipping
8 forecast from Coastguard on sixteen and they're
9 giving Storm 10 occasionally Severe Storm 11,
10 Westerly veering Norwesterly by morning,
11 Glenclavan One, over.

12 Ewen Glenclavan One, Glenclavan Oscar, well at least
13 you haven't got snow, over.

14 VO (Donnie) Oscar this is One, I wish we had, it would be drier
15 anyway. Better get on up, over.

16 Ewen Roger, One, keep to the west and you'll get a bit of
17 shelter from the worst of it. Glenclavan Oscar,
18 listening, out.

19 *(pause)*
20 So you're a hillwalker?

21 Louise Hillwalker, climber.

22 Ewen How did you get into that? Not many hills in
23 Condorrat.

24 Louise I've been coming up here since I was wee. My
25 dad's from Skye the North of Skye originally, and
26 my mum's from the Western Isles. We always
27 went for walks in the hills when I was younger.
28 The Trotternish Ridge and the Quiraing mainly.
29 Then I got a bit more adventurous in my teens.
30 Discovered the Cuillin, Glencoe - the Buchaille
31 and the Aonach Eagach Ridge, the Ben, an

1 Teallach, the Five Sisters and the South Cluanie
2 Ridge...beautiful places. I couldn't get enough of
3 them. And I liked the challenges...the physical
4 challenges. I don't know it just gives me a great
5 buzz to be on the hills.

6 Ewen You should join the Mountain Rescue. We're
7 looking for women....members.

8 Louise What for...to make the tea?

9 Ewen No. It's good to have women in the team. There
10 are three women out there now. You've got to get
11 in on merit that's all. And if you can climb then
12 that's all the better.

13 Louise How do I go about....applying.

14 Ewen Make me another cup of tea and I'll tell you.
15 *(pause – a look between them. Louise goes over to the*
16 *kettle and...*

17 **FREEZE ACTION. LX FADE TO BLACK PAUSE**
18 **AND SLOW FADE UP. LOUISE AND EWEN**
19 **NOW SEATED. HE WITH TEACUP IN HAND.**
20 **HE IS NODDING OFF.**

21 **Act 2 AS BEFORE. 0400HRS**

22 Louise Ewen!

23 Ewen What?

24 Louise I thought I heard the radio. Glenclavan One.

25 Ewen Glenclaven One this is Glenclavan Oscar, repeat
26 your message over.

27 VO (Donnie) *(TX very distorted)on the north side.....Simon's*
28 *group.....Glenclavan.....helo support.....*

29 Ewen Aye, Donnie, I'm not hearing you at all. Say again,
30 over.
31 *(TX static)*

1 Ach, I'm not getting him, he must be out of the
2 corrie by now. What time is it?

3 Louise Ten past four.

4 Ewen I wonder where Simon is. (*Radio mike*) Glenclavan
5 Simon this is Glenclavan Oscar, over.
6 (*Pause*)
7 Nothing there either.

8 Glenclavan Simon, Glenclavan Simon, Glenclavan
9 Simon, this is Glenclavan Oscar, Glenclavan Oscar,
10 Glenclavan Oscar, Radio Check, over.

11 VO (Simon) Glenclavan Oscar this is Glenclavan Simon,
12 receiving you loud and clear, over.

13 Ewen (*Aside*) You might have said that in the first place.
14 (*Radio*) Glenclavan Simon, this is Oscar, have you
15 got comms with Glenclavan One, Over?

16 VO (Simon) Oscar this is Simon, that's affirmative, over.

17 Ewen Well ...request you relay his last message to me,
18 Oscar, over.

19 VO (Simon) Oscar this is Simon, he's saying he's topside of the
20 quarry. He's waiting up there for us. And he asked
21 if there is any word on helo support, over.

22 Ewen Aye okay, message received, standby.

23 VO (Simon) Ewen, we're coming up to a big rocky outcrop
24 here, called..... Craig Kark Frootch. What's the
25 best way round it? Right or left? Over.

26 Ewen Simon this is Oscar, it's actually called Craig Cearc
27 Fraoich. I would go left if I were you, it's a much
28 better path, over.

29 VO (Simon) Thanks, mate. Over.

30 Ewen (*aside*) I'm not yer mate, mate, ya bloody Eebee.

31 Louise You don't like the English much, do you?

1 Ewen I don't mind them in England. It's when they come
2 up here they get up my nose. They all think they
3 know everything and they all like to be in charge.
4 They come up here and treat the place like a social
5 experiment. The ones in the Team are all like
6 bloody boy scouts forever bangin on about new
7 climbing techniques and navigation and god
8 knows all what.

9 Louise Navigation is important in the hills, surely.

10 Ewen It is. But it's better to know the ground in my
11 opinion than to rely on GPS and all that hi-tech
12 stuff.

13 Louise They'd all be lost without you.

14 Ewen Aye they would. Most probably, aye. It's still no
15 reason for me to be sitting on my arse in here all
16 night, all the same.

17 Louise Would you rather be on the hill?

18 Ewen Of course I would!

19 Louise It's a lot more comfortable here.

20 Ewen Not to me it isn't. I thought you were a hill
21 walker? Well probably a typical hill-
22 walker...rather be indoors in the warm.

23 Louise You were criticising these women for going out in
24 bad weather. You can't have it both ways.

25 Ewen Well obviously they all like it both ways.

26 Louise What do you mean?

27 Ewen All married women. All sharing a bed.

28 Louise Would you say that if it was three men?

29 Ewen Yes I would. Same thing, isn't it?

30 Louise Just because two or three guys, or two or three
31 women come up to the Highlands for a weekend's

1 climbing, and they share a room to save money, or
2 share a tent, it doesn't necessarily mean that they
3 are all gays or lesbians, surely?

4 Ewen I don't care what they do, I would just rather they
5 didn't do it here. They pollute the place.

6 Louise You think that homosexuality is some kind of
7 pollutant?

8 Ewen I'm not talking about homosexuality, I'm talking
9 about all these bloody hillwalkers. They swarm
10 over the hills day and night and they leave their
11 crap all over the place. When I first worked on the
12 hills here there were only a few pony tracks. Now
13 there are footpaths everywhere and its eroding the
14 land. The footpaths become water-courses, and
15 then you get land-slips. They've no respect for the
16 place. They disturb the wildlife and they act as if
17 they own the place. And this new Scottish Bloody
18 Parliament are going to make it worse with all
19 their crazy townie plans. They say they're going to
20 have even more open access to the countryside,
21 they're going to ban hunting...they haven't a
22 bloody clue what they are doing.

23 Louise Hunting with dogs.

24 Ewen What?

25 Louise They are going to ban hunting with dogs. Well
26 that's what Mike Watson is proposing in his bill.

27 Ewen Aye, what does he know about it? Where's he
28 from? Glasgow?

29 Louise Dundee I think.

30 Ewen Dundee, same thing. They don't know what
31 they're talking about, these guys. They should

1 leave the countryside to the people that live in the
2 country.

3 Louise No-one hunts with dogs up here do they?
4 Ewen Not for foxes, but most keepers like myself keep a
5 terrier for flushing out rabbits and that. It won't
6 change much in the way we do things in the
7 Highlands, but it's the it's the principle of the
8 thing. The boss is hopping mad about it. He says
9 they won't get the legislation through anyway.

10 Louise What boss?
11 Ewen My boss. Lord Carr.
12 Louise Ah, the local laird! I've heard about him. But he's
13 not exactly local, is he?
14 Ewen Have you met him?
15 Louise No.
16 Ewen Well you shouldn't pass judgement.
17 Louise I'm not passing judgement. I just said I had heard
18 about him.
19 Ewen He's all right. He's a nice enough bloke. Good
20 boss.
21 Louise English, isn't he?
22 Ewen Sure, he's English. You got something against that?
23 Louise No, but I thought you had.
24 Ewen Well at least he's not an arab..... or something in
25 showbusiness. *(Phone rings. He picks up.)*
26 Hallo.....yes it is. *(pause)* Can you get another one?
27 *(beat)* Okay. *(Beat)* Mike Uniform not available?
28 *(beat)* Okay, thanks a lot. I'll pass that on. *(Phone*
29 *down).*
30 That SeaKing has been grounded. She's got
31 gearbox trouble or something.

1 (Radio) Glenclavan One, Glenclavan One this is
2 Glenclavan Oscar, are you receiving me Donnie,
3 over?
4 VO (Donnie) Glenclavan Oscar, Glenclavan One, loud and clear,
5 over.
6 Ewen Aye, Donnie, bad news on the helo support. The
7 Navy Sea King from HMS Gannet has had to call
8 off. She's got gearbox trouble and had to put down
9 to try and sort it but they're not going to be able to
10 fix her till late morning at the earliest. They've a
11 request out for the duty helo at RAF Lossiemouth
12 but she's on a shout in the North Sea, Glenclavan
13 Oscar, over.
14 VO (Donnie) Aye, Oscar, I copy that. What about Mike Uniform,
15 over?
16 Ewen That's what I asked. They don't seem to keen, I
17 think they want to hold her in reserve for any
18 developing rescues at sea. There's a lot going on
19 tonight. But he seemed confident that he could get
20 an RAF Sea King. Oscar, over.
21 VO (Donnie) We won't get the team off in a Sea King. Not in
22 one go anyway. We're getting pretty knackered up
23 here, over.
24 Ewen I'll see what I can do, Donnie. Where are you?
25 Have you got an ETA for the casualties' grid ref,
26 over.
27 VO (Donnie) Should be there in an hour or so. One, over.
28 Louise Is airlifting the team off the hill not going to slow
29 things down? I thought the priority was to get the
30 casualties to hospital.
31 Ewen It's certainly not my priority.

1 (pause)

2 Louise What exactly is your problem with these women,
3 Ewen? Is it because they are women, or lesbians, or
4 might be lesbians; they probably aren't. Or
5 hillwalkers, or irresponsible? Or English? Or what
6 is it exactly?

7 Ewen They're not English.

8 Louise So if they were English you'd do even less to help
9 them?

10 Ewen Listen, Louise, I've got a team of sixteen out on the
11 hill trying their damndest in very difficult
12 conditions to rescue them. If they can rescue them
13 then that will be great and we'll all be happy. But
14 they are the ones that matter to me... the team.
15 First rule of Mountain Rescue...get the team home
16 safe. The casualties can stay where they are. They
17 can die. I don't really care what happens to them.
18 They got themselves into that situation, and if we
19 can't get them out of it then that's just tough luck.
20 My first priority here is to get the team home safe.
21 Simple as that.

22 (pause)

23 Louise But you don't like them, do you?

24 Ewen Louise, I'm trying to rescue them am I not? I'm
25 spending the night here when I could be in my
26 bed. Nobody's paying us to do this job, you know.
27 You're the only one here getting paid. We don't
28 even get expenses for turning out.

29 Louise So why do you do it?

30 Ewen I don't know. Somebody has to do it. Somebody
31 that knows the hills.

1 One this is Simon, message from control.
2 Expecting RAF Sea King from Lossiemouth in one
3 hour, over.
4 *(Pause)*
5 Roger, Donnie, wilco, this is Glenclavan Simon,
6 out.
7 Louise Can you get an ETA at the casualties, Ewen?
8 Ewen Glenclavan Simon, Glenclavan Oscar, what is your
9 ETA at the casualties' position, over?
10 VO (Simon) Oscar this is Simon, should be there in fifteen, one
11 five minutes, over.
12 Ewen Simon this is Oscar, I copy that, one five minutes,
13 over.
14 Louise That's the team on the west side, Serge, they
15 reckon they'll be there in about fifteen minutes.
16 Okay , Serge. How is Ms Galbraith? *(pause)* Okay,
17 serge. *(phone down)*
18 Ewen How is she?
19 Louise She's all right. Anxious about her friend as you can
20 imagine.
21 Ewen Which one?
22 Louise Well, both of them probably. The one that fell,
23 she'll be in the worse state I expect. I don't know,
24 the sergeant just said she was anxious about her
25 friend. Does it matter?
26 Ewen No, I just wondered. Wondered why she didn't
27 say 'friends'.
28 Louise Maybe she did, I don't know.
29 *(pause)*
30 Ewen Listen, a graidh, I'm sorry if I've offended you. I've
31 nothing against people like you using the hills. It's

1 a free country. I just think the Scottish Parliament
2 has the wrong idea about it – talking about
3 freedom of access and all that. They don't
4 understand that there are people with a job to do
5 as well. And a lot of the folk that come up here just
6 don't respect the place. They don't respect the
7 land.

8 Louise I understand that. But I think that most of them do
9 respect it. People that use the hills are into the
10 environment and the preservation of wild places.

11 Ewen People still have to live and work here. Land has
12 to be managed. Stock have to be looked after.
13 Vermin need to be controlled...the deer need to be
14 controlled. We can't carry out anything like our
15 annual cull these days because of people on the
16 hills disturbing the stalking. We put up signs but
17 they ignore them. You can't stalk deer round here
18 any more. It's nearly impossible. We only got a
19 dozen stags at the back end and about twenty
20 hinds at the turn of the year. It's not nearly
21 enough, but the worst of it is the walkers that get
22 in the way all the time.

23 Louise Do people pay to come deer-stalking here?

24 Ewen Not here, no. It's just the boss and some of his
25 family that come here. They all stay at the Lodge. I
26 do the hinds myself usually. I generally get an old
27 boy to help me. He was the head keeper before me,
28 but he's getting on a bit now and he's not fit for
29 the hill. There's no-one else willing to do it.

30 Louise Does no-one else work on the Estate?

1 Ewen Not really. I've got a woman from the village to
2 come in to clean the holiday cottages. All the estate
3 property is made over to holiday lets now. She's
4 going to take over from my wife at Easter.

5 Louise What happens between now and Easter?

6 Ewen Nothing. There's no holiday lets just now. It's off
7 season. So there's only me left about the place
8 now. I'm the last one. There used to be twenty odd
9 people working here when I first started, families
10 living here and everything. I get some casual help
11 for fencing and ghillieing and that, but that's about
12 it.

13 Louise I'll help you if you like.

14 Ewen What with?

15 Louise The stalking. The hinds.

16 Ewen You wouldn't know what to do.

17 Louise Of course I would. I can stalk. I can gralloch. I can
18 drag...and I can shoot.

19 Ewen You have to be a good shot for the hinds.

20 Louise I am a good shot.

21 Ewen Aye, but you have to...

22 Louise I know what you have to do. You have to kill with
23 the first shot. You have to take it with a head shot
24 if possible. You have to fire simultaneously with
25 the first gun.

26 Ewen Because if you don't...

27 Louise ...the beasts will startle and run before you get a
28 chance. I know. I know all about it. My Dad used
29 to take me.

30 Ewen Stalker was he?

1 Louise Well you know. The kind of stalker who goes out
2 at night.

3 Ewen And the kind of angler who goes out with a
4 monofilament net in a sack no doubt.

5 Louise He never used anything like that.

6 Ewen What did he use then?

7 Louise Snares. But he made his own.

8 Ewen What from?

9 Louise (*wee lassie*) Whins. You plat them as you're
10 walking along. Then you lash them to a good bit of
11 stick. Ye need tae cut a notch near the end o the
12 stick wi yer knife.

13 Ewen Is that how you do it!? My, my.

14 Louise I'm sorry. You must know.

15 Ewen The phrase about grannies sucking eggs comes to
16 mind. (*beat*) You're lucky you never got caught.
17 That would have been your police career out the
18 window.

19 Louise Haven't done that since I was a wee lassie anyway.
20 No salmon left in the rivers now. The fish farms
21 have put paid to that.

22 Ewen There's a few. Not many though. And it's not just
23 the fault of the fish farms. They won't last much
24 longer anyway. That industry's just about finished.
25 It's all in the hands of big multinationals now
26 anyway and they don't give a damn about
27 anything, least of all their workers. So much for
28 the dream of all the crofters having a wee fish farm
29 of their own.

30 Louise Maybe they will when the multinationals leave.

1 Ewen I doubt it. They didn't take the opportunity the last
2 time.

3 Louise Maybe they will, Ewen! Why are you so cynical
4 about everything? Maybe the Scottish Parliament
5 will help them in ways that the UK parliament was
6 never able to. Maybe they will understand the
7 issues much better, understand the people. Maybe
8 it's just what the Highlands needs after centuries
9 of depopulation and economic strangulation.

10 Ewen Maybe pigs will fly.

11 Louise Well maybe they will.

12 Ewen Pigs can't fly, Louise.

13 Louise They're not pigs, Ewen, they're people. And they
14 can do it if they're given half a chance. That's all
15 I'm sayin. (*pause*) You're right. I don't know what
16 I'm talkin about.

17 Ewen Well, just for now, I'd rather you kept talking on
18 that radio (*getting up*) I'll make another strupag.

19 Louise What do you want me to say?

20 Ewen See if you can get comms with Glenclavan One.
21 Just do a radio check.

22 Louise What's my call-sign?

23 Ewen Glenclavan Oscar. Same as me. It's the station that
24 has the call-sign, not the person.

25 Louise Glenclavan One from Glenclavan Oscar. Request
26 radio check, over.

27 VO (Donnie) Glenclavan Oscar this is Glenclavan One,
28 Receiving you loud and clear. Who's that? Over.

29 Louise One from Oscar, PC Campbell from the Police,
30 Ewen is just having a wee break, over.

1 VO (Donnie) Very good, Oscar. What's the position on helo
2 support now, over?

3 Louise One from Oscar, we haven't heard any more. I
4 assume that they're on their way, over.

5 VO (Donnie) Okay, *ma tha*, let me know when if you hear any
6 more. The cloud base seems to be lifting here, the
7 mist is clearing. Rain's going off a bit as well. We
8 should be with the casualties shortly, we're not far
9 from their position, over

10 Louise One from Oscar, I copy all that, thank you, out.

11 Ewen That was good. You did a good job.

12 Louise Thanks. I'm still not used to working on a radio,
13 and the police use different procedures.

14 Ewen Well it was good enough for Donnie, and he's
15 pretty particular. He even spoke some gaelic to
16 you.

17 Louise It was hardly a conversation.

18 Ewen *A bheil Gaidhlig agad?*¹

19 Louise *Tha beagan. Tha mi 'ga h'ionnsachadh.*²

20 Ewen I'm surprised.

21 Louise I told you my folks were from up here.

22 Ewen You're not supposed to use it on the radio anyway.
23 English is supposed to be the only language used.
24 Radio imperialism.

25 Louise Don't you use it...on the radio, I mean.

26 Ewen Sometimes, between ourselves. If we've got
27 something private to say. The same as when we're
28 stalking with the toffs.

29 Louise Maybe they know it and don't let on.

¹ Do you speak Gaelic?

² A little. I'm learning it.

1 Ewen I don't think so. It won't be spoken on this estate
2 much longer.

3 Louise Why not?

4 Ewen It's for sale. The boss's family have had enough.
5 They don't get any pleasure out of it any more and
6 it costs money to run. It will probably go to
7 foreigners now.

8 Louise Why doesn't the local community buy it? The
9 Scottish Parliament will help them. They are very
10 keen on helping community buy-outs apparently.

11 Ewen This community won't. Not the ones that are left.
12 They're a pretty conservative bunch. You've got
13 mostly old and retired folk that can't be bothered.
14 You've got locals that want traditional landlords.
15 You've got incomers that want it to be like the
16 Home Counties. You've got townies that don't like
17 any kind of agricultural work going on. You've got
18 animal lovers that don't like any kind of wildlife
19 management. You've got the anti-hunting brigade,
20 the anti-Gaelic brigade. You've got the anti-
21 drinking brigade. You've got the 'all teuchters are
22 idiots' brigade. You've got the Sabbatarians that
23 don't like you enjoying yourselves any day of the
24 week.

25 Louise It worked in Assynt, in Eigg, and it's happening in
26 Knoydart.

27 Ewen It won't work here. This community can't agree on
28 anything and all the young folk with any
29 gumption have left. Any one with any kind of
30 sense that ever lived here has left.
31 *(pause)*

1 Louise You're still here. You could persuade them.

2 Ewen *(picking up used cups and taking them to the sink)* No I

3 couldn't. *(beat)* And even if I could, what would be

4 the point? This place is finished for me and people

5 like me.

6 Louise Why?

7 Ewen Why? *(beat)* I'll tell you why. This old sink is the

8 only thing that's left from the days when it was a

9 stalkers' bothy. I used to come in here when I was

10 a wee boy. Before I even went to the hill. I'd help

11 with the ponies and come in here and get a drink

12 of milk from the big milk-pail. I'd listen to all the

13 crack from the Stalkers, the ponymen, and the

14 ghillies. It was all in Gaelic. We only spoke English

15 with the toffs from the Lodge. What stories there

16 were...stories about drovers and packmen and

17 cattle rustlers. Stories about battles and old feuds.

18 And later on when they took me to the hill there

19 would be a tale about every single rock and cleft in

20 the hill. Tales about the fairy folk, water beasts,

21 ghosts, mystical pipers, devils pretending to be

22 men. Tales about old battles between the clans,

23 tales from the potato famine and from the

24 emigrations. Tales about every Gaelic name for

25 every place on the hill. Local names that weren't

26 on the maps. Names that go back to the Fianna, the

27 war-band of Finn MacCumhal. Tales of giants,

28 tales of raiders from the sea, of broken men, of

29 Spaniards, of tinkers, and weavers and wandering

30 craftsmen. Tales of feats of strength and

31 endurance, of gatherings, of games, of ceilidhs, of

1 townships long gone, of shielings long gone, of
2 people long gone. Now there's an end to it. I
3 dreamed that one day I would be head stalker here
4 and it came to pass, but everyone else has gone.
5 The people have gone, the culture of the people
6 and the language of the people. It's all gone.
7 *(Pause)*
8 Louise It hasn't gone, Ewen, it's still here. It's here in you.
9 You are the one who....
10 **FX Phone Rings. She picks up.**
11 Hello... This is Constable Campbell. *(beat)*
12 Returned to base, yes I understand. Yes I'll pass
13 that on. *(Beat)* ...from Stornoway. Yes okay. Thank
14 you. *(Phone down)* That was SAR Control at
15 Kinloss. The Sea King has had to return to base.
16 The weather was too bad for them coming over.
17 The crew are exhausted. This is their ninth shout
18 of the night. They've gone home for a crew change
19 at 0800 but they think they can get us the
20 Coastguard Helicopter from Stornoway, but not
21 until first light.
22 Ewen Shit. Better tell them on the hill.
23 Louise You want me to?
24 Ewen Sure.
25 Louise *(Radio)* Glenclavan One from Glenclavan Oscar,
26 over.
27 VO (Donnie) Glenclavan Oscar, Glenclavan One, over.
28 Louise We've just heard from SAR control, the RAF helo
29 has had to return to base because of bad weather,
30 but they hope to get the Stornoway Rescue Helo to
31 us at first light, over.

1 VO (Donnie) Aye, aye Oscar, copy that. The weather is
2 improving slightly, it's getting a wee bit better.
3 You can tell them that, you can pass that message.
4 Break Break, Glenclavan Simon, Glenclavan
5 Simon, Glenclavan One, over.

6 VO (Simon) Glenclavan One this is Simon, over.

7 VO (Donnie) Simon this is One, did you copy that traffic
8 regarding helo support, over?

9 VO (Simon) One, Simon, Affirm, Affirm all that. Standby,
10 we're approaching the RV, over.

11 VO (Donnie) Simon this is One, standby all stations, channel
12 five three, over.

13 Louise What's that mean?

14 Ewen Simon's team are coming on to the location of the
15 casualties.

16 Louise You better take this.

17 Ewen *(radio)* All stations, this is control, Glenclavan
18 Oscar, standing by, over.
19 *(Pause)*

20 VO (Simon) All stations, all stations, all stations, this is
21 Glenclavan Simon, Glenclavan Simon, Glenclavan
22 Simon, my position is grid niner, fife, too, wun,
23 fower, ait... we are on the north side path below
24 summit Sgur nan Ioliare. There is no sign of the
25 casualties, I repeat no sign of the casualties,
26 Glenclavan Simon, over.

27 VO (Donnie) All stations this is One. Check that grid-ref. Simon,
28 spread your team out from the summit down on a
29 northerly bearing, we'll come in below. We'll
30 sweep search the whole summit area. Over.

1 Ewen Louise, you better phone and double-check that
2 location she gave us with Miss Whatshername, the
3 Glasgow wifie. Get her to check it on a map. If
4 she's not sure, get her up here. Either her friends
5 have moved or she's got it wrong. Tell her that.
6 (*radio*) Glenclavan One Glenclavan Oscar, over.
7 VO (Donnie) Oscar, One, over.
8 Ewen We're checking that location, Donnie. Watch
9 yourself on the south side of the summit. The
10 ground is very steep and there's a scree slope as
11 well that's a bit unstable, over
12 VO (Donnie) Oscar this is one, we copy.
13 Louise (*on phone*) Yes it's me, can you tell Ms Galbraith
14 that her friends are not at the location she gave.
15 No. Can you put her on the phone. (*pause*) Hello,
16 Ms Galbraith, it's Louise here. The mountain
17 rescue team are at the location you gave us, but
18 there is no sign of them. Do you have a map there?
19 (*pause*) Can you get one? (*pause*) Yes, can you look
20 for that grid reference on the map.
21 Ewen Better get her up here, we can't do this on the
22 phone.
23 VO (Simon) All stations, all stations, all stations, this is
24 Glenclavan Simon, we've located the casualties, I
25 repeat, we've located the casualties. Standby.
26 Louise Yes, Ms Galbraith, just hold the line a moment,
27 will you?
28 Ewen Don't tell her anything yet.
29 VO (Simon) All stations this is Simon, looks like we've got a
30 severely hypothermic, and....a Category Five, I

1 repeat, one casualty severely hypothermic, and
2 one Category Five, over.

3 Ewen Put the phone down.

4 VO (Donnie) All stations this is Glenclavan One. I want all
5 personnel to Simon, all personnel to Simon. I want
6 that Cat Five checked and double-checked for Vital
7 Signs and I want the other one fully checked
8 before you move her. Simon, give us flares to
9 guide us in. Eoghann, get me helo support as soon
10 as you can, over.

11 VO (Simon) Glenclavan One this is Glenclavan Simon, we
12 copy. Stand by for flares, over.

13 Ewen Hang up that phone!

14 Louise (putting phone down) What's wrong?

15 VO (Simon) All stations, all stations, all stations, this I
16 Glenclavan Simon, I need medics, I need stretchers
17 and I need cas-bags. Stand by for flares, over.
18 *(Ewen picks up phone and dials)*

19 Louise What's a 'Category Five'? What does it mean?

20 Ewen Hello, it's Glenclavan Control here, we've located
21 the casualties. We've got a severe hypothermia
22 and a Cat Five. We need helo support...urgently
23 for a medical evacuation. *(beat)* I'm not sure yet,
24 standby on that....Yes, we're checking. Standby.

25 VO (Simon) All stations, this is Glenclavan Simon, prepare for
26 flares. Red distress para and white hand-held.
27 Counting down, five, four, two, one, firing. *(VO*
28 *TX rocket flare and short explosion)*
29 *(pause)*
30 *(Ewen lays down the telephone receiver and walks to a*
31 *window, looking out and up. He turns)*

1 Ewen It means she's dead.
2 (pause)
3 **LX. FADE TO BLACK. EXIT LOUISE. SLOW**
4 **FADE UP.**
5 **Act 3 AS BEFORE. 0600HRS. EWEN BACK AT MAP**
6 **TABLE. LX. VERY SLOW FADE UP OF DAWN**
7 **LIGHT OUTSIDE WINDOW TO FULL**
8 **DAYLIGHT BY END OF ACT.**
9 VO (Donnie) Glenclaven Oscar this is Glenclaven One, over.
10 Ewen One this is Oscar, over.
11 VO (Donnie) Any word... (static)... helo (static)... deteriorating
12 (static), Eoghann?
13 Ewen One this is Oscar, say again, Donnie, you're very
14 broken, over.
15 VO (Donnie) (with static) Oscar this is one, I say again is there
16 any word on that helo yet? The weather seems to
17 be deteriorating again here, over.
18 Ewen One this is Oscar, you're very broken, Donnie. No
19 word from the helo yet but she is on her way.
20 What weather have you got, over?
21 VO (Donnie) The mist has come down again but the rain isn't so
22 bad. We're getting shelter behind the south ridge,
23 One, over.
24 Ewen Aye, Donnie, that's why I'm not hearing you,
25 you're out of my line of sight. There's not much
26 flat ground there, over.
27 VO (Donnie) Oscar this is One, say again, over.
28 Ewen One this is Oscar, there is not much flat ground
29 there, over.
30 VO (Donnie) Oscar from One, say again, over.
31 Ewen One from Oscar. Where are you, over?

1 VO (Donnie) (static) Back of the ridge, in a gully.

2 Ewen One from Oscar, Give me your grid, I repeat, give

3 me your grid! Over.

4 VO (Donnie) Not very sure. Stand by.

5 Ewen (aside) Now the bloody mountain rescue team's

6 lost. That'll be a great headline in the papers.

7 VO (Donnie) (static) ...torch batteries....

8 Ewen (on radio) It'll be dawn soon, a bhallaich.

9 VO (Donnie) (static) say again.....

10 Ewen (aside) Never mind. If you are where I think you

11 are, you'll need more than a helicopter to get you

12 out.

13 VO (Donnie) (static) Oscar this is One we are at grid....(static).

14 Ewen One this is Oscar, I can't hear you, I repeat, I can't

15 hear you. Put up a relay, put up a relay, over.

16 (aside) Put somebody up on the ridge for god's

17 sake, you surely don't need sixteen people to look

18 after one casualty and one corpse.

19 VO (Simon) Glenclaven Oscar this is Glenclaven Simon, over.

20 Ewen Simon this is Oscar, where are you, over?

21 VO (Simon) Oscar this is Simon, still in the original location,

22 over.

23 Ewen (aside) Okay, now I understand. The team's split

24 again, thanks for telling me, guys, I'm only

25 Control. (radio) Simon, this is Oscar, do you know

26 the location of Glenclaven One, the casualty, and

27 the rest of the team, over?

28 VO (Simon) Oscar this is Simon, affirmative, over.

29 Ewen Simon this is Oscar, well can you tell me, over!?

30 VO (Simon) Oscar this is Simon, affirmative, they are at grid

31 niner fower seven wun fower eight, in the gully at

1 the back of the hill, on the west side. Six MRT and
2 the casualty. They needed shelter for the casualty,
3 Ewen, the medics wanted her out of the wind and
4 in shelter, over.

5 Ewen Roger that, Simon, I copy. Is she bad?

6 (VO) Simon No she's actually quite good now. We've had her
7 in a cas-bag with one of the girls and she's warmer
8 now than we are. Over. Still very upset. She's a bit
9 distraught. She was asking...sorry I can't
10 remember, over

11 Ewen She was asking what, over?

12 (VO) Simon She was asking if she could be taken down to you,
13 over.

14 Ewen To me? What does she want to come here for? over

15 (VO) Simon To see her friend, I think, over.

16 Ewen Her friend isn't here, Simon, she's at the police
17 station, over.

18 (VO) Simon Where are you then?

19 Ewen Bloody hell, Simon, I'm at the MRT rescue centre. I
20 thought you knew that. Over.

21 (VO) Simon Oh that's right, sorry mate, over.

22 *(Pause)*

23 Ewen *(Shakes his head and looks at map)* Simon, can you tell
24 him that they'll need to get out of there. He'll
25 never get an airlift out of there, over.

26 VO (Simon) Oscar this is Simon, I think he knows that, Ewen,
27 he plans to bring her back up when there is word
28 on the helo, over.

29 Ewen Aye, roger that, Simon. What's the weather like
30 there now? Oscar over.

31 VO (Simon) Misty...very misty, cold and wet, over.

1 Ewen What about wind?
2 VO (Simon) Wind's died down a bit, Ewen, over.
3 Ewen What direction!? Over.
4 VO (Simon) Ehdirection Souwest. I think it's souwesterly,
5 over.
6 **ENTER LOUISE WEARING DRESS UNIFORM**
7 Ewen Aye, copy that, Simon, over. (*aside*) Doesn't matter
8 much if they can't see.
9 Louise Who can't see?
10 Ewen The helicopter. They won't want to go to the
11 summit if they can't see where they are going.
12 Louise Can they not fly on instruments?
13 Ewen They can, but they don't like to. Not in the
14 mountains. The RAF have got special goggles -
15 well it's a kind of hi-tech headset - for flying at
16 night and in mist, but the Coastguard helo hasn't
17 got them yet. But these guys are fearless, they'll go
18 anywhere if they have to. (*beat*) You're looking
19 pretty smart, *mo graidh*.
20 Louise Well the dress uniform goes with the job
21 sometimes, especially breaking bad news.
22 Ewen How did she take it.
23 Louise Not well. She's very distressed. Thinks it's all her
24 fault.
25 Ewen That's often the way. Often the best way.
26 Louise Best?
27 Ewen Sure. People need to grieve. A close friend dies
28 and you need to grieve. No point in saying she
29 should get over it, shouldn't blame yourself and all
30 those other platitudes that people say at times of
31 death.

1 Louise You're quite the sensitive soul sometimes.

2 Ewen Nah, not sensitive. I just understand these things I

3 suppose. I always feel a wee bit of a pang myself.

4 Every man's death diminisheth me.

5 Louise So do not send to know for whom the bell tolls, it

6 tolls for thee.

7 Ewen They didn't teach you that at the Police College.

8 Louise I wasn't always a cop you know.

9 Ewen What did you do before you joined the police?

10 Louise I worked in a Call Centre.

11 Ewen What were you selling? Renaissance English

12 Poetry.

13 Louise We didnae sell anythin. We worked for corporate

14 clients. You give their customers advice on stuff.

15 Problems they have with their products and that. I

16 was a 'Customer Services Representative'. I hated

17 it. Couldnae wait to leave and couldnae wait to get

18 away at weekends and into the hills. Speaking of

19 which, what's happening on the hill?

20 Ewen Everything is okay. I'm getting a bit worried

21 though.

22 Louise How is the casualty?

23 Ewen I think she's stable, they are getting her warm.

24 She's okay I think. It's not her I'm worried about.

25 Louise What then?

26 Ewen The team. They are making mistakes...well not

27 mistakes. They're not as sharp as they should

28 be...and then they can make mistakes.

29 Louise They must be tired.

30 Ewen They are tired, but it's not that. It's the cold.

1 Louise They must be used to it are they not? They are all
2 well kitted out and experienced hill men.

3 Ewen Men and women. There are three women up there.
4 Four if you count the casualty. Two of them are
5 our medics – they are working with the casualty.
6 Women actually do better in the cold. More sub-
7 cutaneous fat or something. They survive longer in
8 the cold anyway – not so prone to hypothermia.

9 Louise I didn't know that.

10 Ewen You should know it. Hypothermia is the killer on
11 the hill. It either kills you directly or it makes you
12 do something else, something stupid, and quite
13 often that kills you as well.

14 Louise I know that, I just didn't know that women coped
15 with it better.

16 Ewen Apparently so. But they'll all be suffering now.
17 They've been up there for over six hours, nearly
18 seven. It hasn't stopped raining and the wind-chill
19 is cutting into them all the time. They are working
20 hard and sweating and that cools them even more.
21 They are moving into energy deficiency and they
22 haven't the physical resources to warm up
23 properly. They are chilling down and they are
24 getting a wee bit confused, a bit less sharp, and a
25 wee bit disorientated. We need to get them off that
26 hill. All of them.

27 Louise What can we do?

28 Ewen Nothing much. Pray for a helicopter.
29 *(pause)*
30 How long do you think I'll get for the drink
31 driving charge?

1 Louise First offence?
2 Ewen Aye.
3 Louise A year probably. Your alcohol count was quite
4 high but you'll probably get away with a year.
5 Ewen That's what I thought.
6 Louise Get yersel a good lawyer. Dae ye need yer licence?
7 Ewen I need it for my job. I need it to get about the place
8 to look after my own stock.
9 Louise Get yer lawyer tae say that. I don't think they'll let
10 you off, but.
11 Ewen Ach, I'll probably sell the stock and pack in the job.
12 I was thinking I would anyway. It might be a
13 while before the place is sold and I don't want to
14 hang around.
15 Louise What stock dae ye have?
16 Ewen Four cows of my own, two with calves. Maybe
17 sixty ewes - they're mostly in lamb. Two of the
18 cows are due for calving. I've hens, but that's just
19 at the house. There's more stock belonging to the
20 Estate. Not much. Less than I have. The boss isn't
21 interested in farming. They're all mine really, just
22 the Estate's in name.
23 Louise You see! It is your place. You cannae leave. Your
24 family must have been here for generations -
25 centuries maybe.
26 Ewen No we haven't. My grandfather was the first to
27 come here - in the Twenties, he came to work on
28 the Estate. My family's from Knoydart originally.
29 We got the croft through my grandmother's
30 family. They're local.

1 Louise Well, it's the same thing. That'll go back a long
2 way and it's still your family.

3 Ewen Crofting doesn't go back that far. Only to the
4 beginning of the Nineteenth Century.

5 Louise Well they're still local. Don't you think you have a
6 responsibility?

7 Ewen Not to the past. What difference will it make to
8 people who are dead and gone?

9 Louise To the future then.

10 Ewen Listen Louise, there is no future here. Not for me,
11 and I don't have any kids. I know what it is you
12 want, but it's pie in the sky. You think we can live
13 in some sort of hi-tech Highland future. Where we
14 all sit happily in our crofts and do some sort of
15 'home-working' on computers. Or set up call-
16 centres...or be fashion designers in the tweed
17 industry. It's all bollocks. You're looking at it
18 through tartan-coloured spectacles. You're no
19 different from yanks that come and live here, some
20 of them called MacDonald, who think it's all going
21 to be computers and claymores, whisky and
22 whimsy, gaelic and global marketing. It's all
23 bollocks.

24 Louise I don't think like that.

25 Ewen What is it you think then?

26 Louise I think there is a future. It's on the land and in the
27 hills and in the outdoors. It's about re-energising
28 communities. It's in the language, and people are
29 going back to the language. They are using it in
30 Education, and in the media, and in the places
31 where people work. I'm not talking about whimsy,

1 I'm talking about bein able tae express yersell from
2 the heart about things that really matter. I'm talkin
3 about a place that really matters, about people that
4 really matter – all of them, wherever they come
5 from, romantics and cynics, whatever they are –
6 but it needs people like you tae make it work. I'm
7 talkin about livin in harmony wi the land and the
8 environment, and the past and the future, and the
9 culture that runs through that. I'm talkin about
10 real people doin real work. I'm talkin about real
11 businesses and real industry – practical businesses,
12 creative businesses. I'm talkin about harnessin the
13 resources of the most creative and intellectual, and
14 inventive people on god's earth in wan o the most
15 beautiful places on god's earth. But it needs people
16 like you tae make it happen.

17 *(long pause)*

18 Ewen That's bollocks. What are we going to do? Take
19 coach parties into the hills and tell them stories?

20 Louise No. Just what any society does but we can dae it
21 better.

22 Ewen It's not for me anyway.

23 *(pause)*

24 Louise Where would you go?

25 Ewen I don't know. I was thinking of the rigs. I know a
26 few boys that have gone out as roustabouts.

27 Louise You'd be mad!

28 Ewen Well what else can I do if I've no licence? How else
29 can I get about the place? There's no buses or taxis
30 here. It's not Cumbernauld you know.

1 Louise Well what did they dae here before they had cars,
2 or landrovers, or whatever it is ye drive.
3 Ewen You're not seriously suggesting I should go to my
4 work in a horse and cart are you?
5 *(pause)*
6 Louise No.
7 Ewen Well what are you suggesting?
8 Louise Get someone tae help ye. Get yer boss tae take
9 someone on tae help ye. What about yer wife?
10 Ewen I told you. She left.
11 Louise She might come back.
12 Ewen No chance. And who else is there? There's nobody
13 left here. They've all gone. I'm the only one left.
14 Louise There are new people moving into the area all the
15 time. There are new houses going up all over the
16 place - old ones being renovated. House prices are
17 goin through the roof. I know because I've been
18 lookin for one.
19 Ewen Aye but they're all townies. People escaping from
20 the rat-race thinking they will take their ease in
21 some...heathery highland heaven. They buy
22 houses, but most of them don't live here. They
23 come on holiday and walk about the hills in their
24 designer gear with their designer dogs. Most of
25 them are English. They know nothing about the
26 place - croft work or hill work, or anything like
27 that.
28 Louise I'm not English.
29 Ewen Are you offering to help me?
30 Louise I said I would.
31 Ewen But you're.....

1 Louise What? A cop? (*beat*) A lesbian?

2 Ewen I didn't say you were a lesbian. I don't care what

3 you are.

4 Louise Fair enough then.

5 (*pause*)

6 Ewen Well you've got a job. A full-time job.

7 Louise That's right. I'm a cop.

8 Ewen There you are then.

9 Louise Fair enough.

10 Ewen Och, don't be like that.

11 Louise Like what?

12 Ewen Like..... what you are. You've taken umbrage or

13 something. Look, I'm sorry if I offended you, all

14 right? I just don't like being told what I should do.

15 You don't even know me and you're telling me I

16 shouldn't give up my job. You don't know

17 anything about it. You don't know anything about

18 me.

19 Louise I didnae say you shouldnae give up yer job.

20 Ewen What did you say then?

21 Louise I said you shouldnae leave.

22 Ewen Why not? What's it to you?

23 Louise You know the place, Ewen. You love the place. I

24 can tell by the way you talk about it. You said

25 yersel you're the last one. It's important for you tae

26 stay. Tae pass on what ye know.

27 Ewen My time is finished. My people are finished. My

28 language is finished. The old ways are gone. The

29 Highlands are just a theme park now. A theme

30 park for townies and sassenachs.

1 Louise Ye said all that before, but you're wrong. It's not a
2 theme park, it's real. And it's people like you that
3 make it real. And you are the only one left. But
4 it's important that ye don't give up on it. It's
5 people like you that have tae preserve the culture
6 and the language and pass it on. An what ye're
7 talkin about isnae old. Not the landlords like yer
8 boss that own estates like this. It's them that have
9 made it a theme park. It's a Victorian plaything for
10 people like him, that's all it is. All that business o
11 private deer forests and huntin and shootin and
12 fishin and playin the Highland laird. He doesnae
13 own this place. Ye said as much yersel. You own it.
14 It's yours. Ye cannae leave it.

15 Ewen That's bollocks. The lunatics have taken over the
16 asylum and that's the truth of it. Look at this new
17 Scottish Parliament. Donald Dewar and all the rest
18 of them. Sitting down there like cocks of the walk
19 trying to tell us all how to behave, and what to
20 believe in. It's like being governed by Lanarkshire
21 County Council. They no nothing about the
22 Highlands and care less. They know nothing about
23 the countryside and the hills, about farming or
24 crofting or anything. They're a bunch of failed
25 lawyers and trade union shop stewards and do-
26 goody liberals and.... rejects from our useless
27 education system, and local government and the
28 Health Service.

29 Louise Would you rather that the political power was all
30 still in London?

1 Ewen Well at least we only suspected that they hated us
2 there. Now we know it for certain. It would be
3 different if they said they would do something
4 about the fact that our education system can't turn
5 out anyone with practical skills any more or about
6 the fact that we've no proper industries left in this
7 country. And if they were interested in the
8 Highlands they would be doing something about
9 the extortionate fuel prices here, the lamentable
10 state of our transport system, about the erosion of
11 Gaelic. About house prices that the locals can't
12 afford, about holiday homes only paying half the
13 Council Tax, about all the second rate services we
14 get. Instead all they are doing is talking about
15 banning blood sports, giving everyone the right to
16 roam wherever they like, and letting kids in school
17 learn about buggery.

18 Louise That's not what the repeal of Section 28 is about.

19 Ewen What's it about then?

20 Louise It's about puttin down a marker. A marker that
21 says, this is what we are as a nation. That we are a
22 liberal and tolerant democracy who won't
23 discriminate against any minority in our society.
24 Section 28 was never used anyway. It was just a
25 political ploy by Maggie Thatcher to pander to the
26 bigots of Middle England. It's not about not
27 teaching kids about buggery anyway, it's.....

28 (VO) MU Glenclaven Oscar, Glenclaven Oscar, Glenclaven
29 Oscar, this is rescue helo Mike Uniform on
30 Channel five three, how do you read, over?

1 Ewen (aside) A Dhia, it's the helicopter. (radio) Mike
2 Uniform, this is Glanclaven Oscar, reading you
3 loud and clear, over.
4 (VO) MU Glanclaven Oscar, good morning to you. We are
5 approximately ten miles north west of your
6 position, and we're flying low to avoid the cloud.
7 Our transit from Stornoway has been a little
8 slower than we would have liked due to adverse
9 weather conditions. Expected ETA with you zero
10 six three zero hours. Mike Uniform, over.
11 Ewen Mike Uniform, this is Glenclaven Oscar, we copy
12 that, zero six three zero hours ETA, over.
13 (VO) MU Glenclaven Oscar, Mike Uniform, we understand
14 you have one severely hypothermic casualty and
15 one category five for evacuation from Sgur nan
16 Iolair, over.
17 Ewen Mike Uniform this is Glenclaven Oscar, that is
18 correct, that is correct, over.
19 (VO) MU Oscar, Mike Uniform, we have local cloud base,
20 approximately fifteen hundred feet, I don't think
21 we can risk a high level evacuation, request your
22 team bring casualties down below cloudbase, over.
23 Ewen Mike Uniform, this is Oscar, that's going to take a
24 while, I repeat, that's going to take a while, over an
25 hour, I would say. They're all bivvied in near the
26 summit, over.
27 (VO) MU Glenclaven Oscar, Mike Uniform, stand by.
28 Louise I thought you said she had recovered?
29 Ewen I don't want to tell him that.
30 (VO) Donnie Mike Uniform this is Glenclaven One, over.

1 (VO) MU Glenclaven One, this is Mike Uniform, good
2 morning, Donnie.
3 (VO) Donnie Aye, good morning. Our casualty isn't too bad
4 now, but I'd prefer to stretcher her out of here all
5 the same. The mist seems to be clearing and we're
6 getting some daylight. We can take her up on to
7 the plateau for evacuation, Glenclaven One, over.
8 (VO) MU Glenclaven One this is Mike Uniform, negative to
9 that, we're not going up there for walking
10 wounded unless this cloud lifts. Request you take
11 her down, I repeat, request, you take her down
12 below fifteen hundred. We can come back later for
13 your Cat Five, over.
14 Ewen *(aside)* That's going to take hours!
15 (VO) Donnie Mike Uniform, Glenclaven One, standby.
16 Ewen Damn it. We're not going to get them off the hill.
17 Louise Bit it's not big enough to lift everyone off.
18 Ewen They could do it in two lifts.
19 Louise Then you'd be asking them to go up there twice. It
20 sounds as if once is bad enough.
21 **TX PHONE RINGS**
22 Ewen Hello. *(beat)* Yes this is Ewen. *(beat)* Well I gave
23 you the information I had, I thought she was
24 severely hypothermic *(beat)* Well that's not my
25 fault. *(Beat)* You can't recall them! I need them to
26 get the team off. *(beat)* Of course they can walk off
27 but they've been up there all night. They're not in
28 very good shape. I don't think the casualty is all
29 that great either. *(Beat)* Well how the hell would I
30 know? I'm not on the hill. *(slams phone down)*
31 Louise Search and Rescue Control?

1 Ewen Yes. Not very happy campers. They said I should
2 have told them that the casualty was only mildly
3 hypothermic. They've got a specialist hypothermia
4 team ready to receive her at the hospital in Fort
5 William. I don't suppose they'll be very happy
6 either.

7 **TX FADE UP. HELICOPTER APPROACH**
8 **(FLYING AT 1200 FEET)**

9 Louise That's all my fault.

10 Ewen Why?

11 Louise For distracting you with all that chatting about
12 politics and everything.

13 Ewen It's not your fault. You weren't even here at the
14 time. That's the helo now. *(He goes to window and*
15 *looks out)* It's still pretty misty up there.
16 *(Louise picks up the phone and dials)*

17 (VO) MU Glenclaven Oscar, this is Mike Uniform, over.

18 Louise Mike Uniform this is Glenclaven Oscar.

19 (VO) MU Oscar, Oscar our plan is to have a quick recce here
20 and then go off to shut down at Broadford Airport
21 on Skye. We can't fly to the summit safely in this
22 cloud. We should return about Oh eight thirty and
23 see what conditions are like then, Mike Uniform,
24 over.

25 Louise Mike Uniform from Glenclaven Oscar, *(beat)* we
26 would greatly appreciate if you would consider an
27 attempt to evacuate the whole team now, over.

28 (VO) MU Oscar, Mike Uniform. How many personnel on the
29 hill now, over?

30 Louise Mike Uniform, we have sixteen MRT, over.

1 (VO) MU Oscar, please confirm, one six MRT and two
2 casualties, over?

3 Louise Mike Uniform, that is correct, over

4 (VO) MU Oscar Oscar, that's a twenty two person lift
5 including ourselves. Negative on your request. We
6 can't possibly attempt that in these conditions. Our
7 control has asked us to return to Stornoway. The
8 best we can do for you is try again at zero eight
9 thirty and to attempt an evacuation then of your
10 one casualty and your Cat Five for transit to Fort
11 William, over.

12 **TX. HELO PASSES OVER**

13 Louise Mike Uniform, I am the police officer co-
14 ordinating. As you know we have a fatal accident
15 here and it is very much a police matter. We
16 would like you to bring the casualty and the
17 Category Five down here for hand over to us,
18 over.

19 (VO) MU Glenclaven Oscar, we can't do that. Not now.
20 Request denied, Mike Uniform, over.

21 Louise Mike Uniform, listen, the team have been on that
22 mountain all night in very poor conditions. We are
23 concerned for their safety and well-being. Please.
24 Please will you look at the possibility of a full
25 evacuation now, over?

26 (VO) MU Glenclaven One, this is Mike Uniform, standby.

27 Ewen They'll never do it.

28 **TX. HELO PASSES OVER AGAIN**

29 That's them going back now.

30 (VO) Donnie Glenclaven Oscar, Glenclaven One, over.

31 Ewen Glenclaven One this is Oscar, over.

1 (VO) Donnie Glenclaven Oscar this is One. We are preparing for
2 descent. Two stretcher parties, one casualty, one
3 Cat Five, two zero MRT. Departing grid niner, fife,
4 too, wun, fower, ait, via Corrie na Coileach-
5 Oidhche and Allt na Smeorach. One team
6 descending. Tell Mike Uniform that they can
7 return to base. We'll walk off, over.

8 Ewen One this is Oscar, *Ciamar a tha sibh, a charaidean?*³
9 (VO) Donnie *Tha an slighe fhada agus cudthomach. Tha sinn bog*
10 *fluich agus air ar leitheadh.*⁴

11 Ewen Take it easy, boys, take it easy. Over.
12 Break, break, Mike Uniform, this is Glenclaven
13 Oscar, over.

14 (VO) MU Oscar this is Mike Uniform, we have received that
15 traffic, over.

16 Ewen Roger Mike Uniform, Glenclaven Oscar, out.
17 *(to Louise)* Never mind, *mo ghraidh*, you gave it a
18 good try.
19 *(long pause)*

20 **TX. HELO OVERHEAD, LOUDER THAN**
21 **BEFORE.**

22 (VO) MU Glenclaven One, Glenclaven One, this is Mike
23 Uniform, over.

24 (VO) Donnie Mike Uniform, Glenclaven One, over.

25 (VO) MU Glenclaven One, Mike Uniform, give me flares, *a*
26 *bhallaich*, we're coming in. Let it never be said that
27 the Leosachs let you down, over.

³ How are you, my friends?

⁴ The way is long and burdensome. We are soaking wet and benumbed.

1 (VO) Donnie Mike Uniform, Glenclaven One, moran taing.
2 Stand by for flares, over.

3 Ewen Bloody hell, they're going up there after all.
4 (radio) Glenclaven One, you'll need to get up onto
5 the plateau, I repeat, get up onto the plateau as
6 soon as you can, over.

7 (VO) Donnie Roger that, Oscar, preparing pyros. Moving up to
8 plateau, over.

9 (VO) MU Glenclaven One, Mike Uniform, request Hand
10 Helds, no rockets, I repeat, no rockets. Mark for
11 your present position and when you get to the
12 plateau. Break Break, Glenclaven Oscar, check grid
13 for plateau and copy, over.

14 Ewen Mike Uniform, grid for plateau....niner, fife, zero,
15 one, fife, zero, over.

16 (VO) Donnie All Stations, Glenclaven One, check and copy.
17 Firing hand-held distress now (*TX small explosion*
18 *behind*). Two man flare party ascending. Standby
19 for two white hand helds in five minutes, over.

20 (VO) MU Glenclaven One, Mike Uniform, we have a fix on
21 that. We'll climb and try to drop down on grid
22 niner, fife, zero, one, fife, zero. All stations,
23 standby.

24 Ewen It's all in the lap of the gods now. Donnie's putting
25 a couple of the boys onto the plateau to give the
26 helo another fix. They'll be running up and the rest
27 of the team will be taking their packs up I guess.
28 (*Pause*)

29 Louise How does the helicopter navigate if they can't see?
30 Ewen They'll be using GPS and radar. As long as they go
31 high they won't hit anything, but it's going to be

1 risky coming down again. The wind can go in all
2 directions up round the tops. It's going to be very
3 difficult, and that plateau area is very small.
4 *(pause)*
5 Louise I hope we've done the right thing.
6 Ewen Ach, if it all goes wrong, we'll just blame you.
7 You're the officer in charge after all.
8 Louise Oh my god, I'm not the officer in charge. I haven't
9 even told the sergeant what's going on. I better
10 phone him.
11 Ewen Don't worry, a ghraidh, I'm kidding. Don't tell the
12 sergeant anything. What he doesn't know won't
13 hurt him.
14 Louise He'll find out eventually. I'm in big trouble.
15 Ewen Listen Louise, there are plenty people in trouble
16 here right now, and you're not one of them. Relax.
17 Louise Relax!?
18 Ewen Well sit down at least and stop getting your
19 knickers in a twist. You're making me nervous.
20 Louise *(sitting)* I'm not cut out for this job. I should have
21 taken my mother's advice.
22 Ewen What was that? Don't spend the night with strange
23 men in mountain bothies?
24 Louise Not quite, she said I should go back to the croft.
25 Ewen Maybe you should have.
26 Louise We didn't have a croft. We lived in Cumbernauld.
27 Ewen Practicalities needn't get in the way of ambition.
28 Or imagination come to that.
29 Louise Did your mother encourage your imagination?
30 Ewen Yes I suppose she did. She told us boys plenty
31 stories anyway.

1 Louise How many brothers have you?
2 Ewen Three.
3 Louise Any sisters?
4 Louise No, no sisters.
5 Louise What was her ambition for you all?
6 Ewen She never spoke of ambition, or what any of us
7 would do. Just assumed we would stay here and
8 do what our father did I suppose, and my
9 grandfather before him. But I was the only one.
10 Louise I think she was right.
11 Ewen I don't.
12 Louise Are your brothers happy? Would you rather have
13 done what they did?
14 *(pause)*
15 Ewen I don't know.
16 *(pause)*
17 They should be getting close now. It won't take
18 them long.
19 *(pause)*
20 Why do you think I should stay here?
21 Louise I told you. Because you're part of the place. You're
22 needed here. Not working for the Estate
23 necessarily, but in the place where you've always
24 been.
25 *(pause)*
26 There is a future here. Ewen, a future for you. It's
27 in you and people like you that the past and the
28 future will come together. Otherwise it will be an
29 empty place, a place wi nae heart. You can create a
30 future for us all here. It's a new beginning. New
31 millennium, new Scotland, new Highlands.

1 Ewen I don't deny it will be new, but it's not for me.
2 Louise It is for you. It's a new beginning for all of us, a
3 new opportunity.
4 *(pause)*
5 VO (MU) Glenclaven Oscar, this is Mike Uniform, over.
6 Ewen Mike Uniform, this is Glenclaven Oscar, over.
7 VO (MU) Glenclaven Oscar, we are on the plateau, rotors
8 turning, I repeat we are on the plateau. It was a bit
9 hairy coming in but we made it, over.
10 Ewen Roger, Mike Uniform, well done, guys, we
11 appreciate it, over.
12 VO (MU) Oscar, Mike Uniform, it's not over yet, we've a big
13 lift to make yet. Break Break, Glenclaven One, is
14 your team ready for boarding, over?
15 (VO) Donnie Mike Uniform, Glenclaven One, almost there, two
16 minutes, over.
17 VO (MU) Roger, Glenclaven One, we'll take your stretchers
18 first. Make it as fast as you can, we're not hanging
19 about here. Bring the whole team to our port side
20 in one group, and watch the disc, over.
21 (VO) Donnie Roger, Mike Uniform, we're coming in. Coming
22 up and coming in, standby.
23 *(pause)*
24 Louise Ye'll hate it on the rigs anyway.
25 Ewen Probably.
26 Louise And ye'll be back
27 Ewen How do you know?
28 Louise The corrie on the hill - the one where the team
29 were earlier. There's a lochan there, lying in the
30 corrie.
31 Ewen That's right, there is. How do you know?

1 Louise My dad told me about it. You can see it from the
2 pass on a clear day when you are going out of the
3 glen.
4 Ewen That's right.
5 Louise 'Loch na Geadhnean', the Loch of the Geese.
6 Ewen That's the name of it.
7 Louise Sometimes it disappears. It goes away.
8 Ewen A trick of the light. You can't see it on a poor day
9 just.
10 Louise No but you can see it before the weather is going
11 to get better.
12 Ewen Well, so they say.
13 Louise It's because one night, the geese landed on it, and
14 the lochan froze. And in the morning they were
15 frozen by their feet to the water, but they all beat
16 their wings, and lifted the frozen water into the
17 sky and flew off with it. They flew off with the
18 lochan.
19 Ewen Your Dad told you this.
20 Louise Aye, he told me. And he told me that before the
21 sun came again, the geese would return with it. So
22 that they would be freed.
23 Ewen So you can forecast the weather from the lochan
24 and whether you can see it or not. Why are you
25 telling me this? I've known it all my life.
26 Louise Because everything that belongs to the glen and to
27 the hill will return to them.
28 Ewen Only if the day will be fine.
29 Louise The day will be fine. Look at the dawn. I bet you
30 can see the lochan from the pass.

1 VO (MU) Glenclaven Oscar, Glenclaven Oscar, Glenclaven
2 Oscar, this is Mike Uniform, over.
3 Ewen Mike Uniform, this is Oscar, over.
4 VO (MU) Glenclaven Oscar, Mike Uniform, we have all
5 personnel aboard safely and it's a tight squeeze.
6 We are heavy but we are airborne. We'll drop the
7 team back with you and continue on to the local
8 hospital with the casualty and the Cat Five. Over.
9 Ewen Mike Uniform, this is Oscar, we're relieved to hear
10 that. Many many thanks for your help, boys, we
11 appreciate it. Over.
12 VO (MU) Glenclaven Oscar, always happy to oblige, Mike
13 Uniform, out.
14 *(Pause)*
15 Louise The geese are coming home.
16 Ewen I bet they were shitting themselves on that take off.
17 *(pause)*
18 Louise Well I guess I better get back and make my report.
19 *(looking at watch)* Won't be long till lows in time
20 now anyway.
21 Ewen What about Miss Galbraith?
22 Louise I expect she'll want to go to the hospital to be with
23 her friends. They'll take care of that at the station.
24 Ewen What time do you finish?
25 Louise Nine o'clock.
26 Ewen How about breakfast - the King's House - Oh nine
27 thirty? *(beat)* Sorry, I'm locked in radio-speak now.
28 *(pause)*
29 Louise Okay then. See you there.
30 *(Moving off)* Catch you later then.
31 Ewen Aye, okay.

1 Oh, see when you're going out the glen...

2 Louise (Off) What?

3 Ewen See if the lochan has come back.

4 Louise Do you think it will have?

5 (pause)

6 Ewen I think maybe it will.

7 **LX. BLACKOUT.**