

**IDLE TEARS**

By Hank Boland

**Wright Now Play Later: October**

**Prompts:**

*A teenage girl purchases an authentic, wool sweater from Scotland. After a rainy day of walking, while in a pub eating fish n' chips, her friends begin to question why it has been smelling like sheep all day...*

*&*

*Getting bad news from home while travelling in a remote area*

**Synopsis:** Over dinner and drinks in a Scottish pub, two theatre friends help a third decide whether to return home for a funeral or stay and do the show.

**Cast:** 4 (3W/Role of Chris is Flexible)

*STAGE DIRECTIONS: A pub in Edinburgh, Scotland. Last summer. Bex, Amber, and Chris sit at a table together.*

BEX I just want you both to understand that I'm here to do this.

CHRIS We appreciate that, but you're replaceable.

BEX (*Begins crying*)

AMBER Brilliant.

CHRIS That's not what I meant. You know what I mean: we can do it without you.

AMBER Shut. Up.

BEX Do you not think I'm invested in this?

CHRIS No. I mean 'No, I don't think that'. Yes.

*STAGE DIRECTIONS: The Waitress, DEIRDRE enters with three pints of cider... DEIRDRE Three ciders. Right back with food.*

*STAGE DIRECTIONS: ...and exits.* AMBER We all know you're invested.

CHRIS Absolutely. AMBER We wouldn't be here without you.

CHRIS This is your baby as much as it is Amber's or mine. Every one of us knows 'Tennyson, by Eleven Daughters' would not be in Edinburgh without you.

AMBER Your 'Light Brigade' opening sets the tone for the whole experience.

BEX I'm really proud of that.

CHRIS You should be.

AMBER And your song.

CHRIS The 'Locksley Hall and Oates' mash-up is inspired.

*STAGE DIRECTIONS: DEIRDRE enters with three platters of Fish and Chips.* DEIRDRE Fish and Chips. Fish and Chips. Fish and Chips.

*STAGE DIRECTIONS: ...and exits.*

CHRIS We're saying that this is just theatre.

BEX It's not 'just' theatre.

AMBER Maybe you should be with your family.

BEX You are my family.

AMBER Yes, and..

CHRIS Theatre family is a real thing..

AMBER And so is 'family family'.

CHRIS And there's a difference between 'paint a set' family and 'transplant a kidney' family.

BEX You're right. I know you're right. And when my 'family family' needs my kidney, I'll be there. Right now my theatre family needs me here, right?

AMBER We just want to support you.

CHRIS This is a super emotional thing and we understand that.

BEX Thank you.

AMBER We want you here, but if you go, we can make it work.

BEX I know you can.

CHRIS And if you're here, and your mind and heart are there.

BEX I know. I know.

*STAGE DIRECTIONS: DEIRDRE enters with a bottle of malt vinegar.*

DEIRDRE Malt. Aren't you gonna eat, dear?

AMBER Her grandmother just...

CHRIS Died.

BEX And we're here for the festival and I just don't know what to do.

DEIRDRE So sorry love.

*STAGE DIRECTIONS: DEIRDRE gives BEX a loving hug around the neck.*

DEIRDRE Oh, my.

CHRIS It's the sweater.

DEIRDRE Did you get it directly off the ram, love?

BEX I was in Hartwood yesterday, and I/

DEIRDRE (*Long Sniff*) The mill on Old Bluemyre?

BEX How did you?

DEIRDRE Should burn that place to the ground. Husband has a scarf from there he loves. It's the lanolin, dear. You go back to your room. Boil some water. Pick up a bottle of nice smelling shampoo.

BEX That will fix it?

DEIRDRE Pick up two bottles. Let me get you all another round of cider.

*STAGE DIRECTIONS: DEIRDRE exits.*

CHRIS If it's the money, we can help you find a way.

BEX Maybe I could talk to the airline and change the ticket. 4

AMBER We can help find a way to cover the rest if we need to.

BEX I'm sure my folks can cover it.

AMBER How is your mom?

BEX She's a mess. Crying all the time. This is the most I've talked to my Dad on the phone since before I left for college.

CHRIS You're mom's strong. She'll be fine.

BEX It's gonna be so hard for her. Worse if I'm not there.

AMBER She's got your dad, and her dad.

BEX My granddad is devastated. I'm going home. I'm calling the airline and changing the ticket. It's where I need to be.

AMBER Are you sure?

BEX Yes.

CHRIS Okay, then let's talk about how we cover your track. I was thinking that/

*STAGE DIRECTIONS: DEIRDRE enters with three more ciders.*

DEIRDRE Ciders for you, you and you. You know, dear, on our first date my husband wore a scarf from the Bluemyre Mill. He was so proud of it. Picked it out himself. Bragged on it. It was like spending the night in a pasture. He went in for a kiss and I told him I wasn't about to kiss a stinking sheep. He threw it into the Forth then and there. I got him a new one as a wedding gift. The people you love, dear, are the people you love; and the things they love are the things that make them lovable. Did you love your gran?

BEX Yes.

DEIRDRE Did she love you?

BEX Yes.

DEIRDRE Was she excited about your being here and doing your theatre thing?

BEX She saw everything I did in High School.

DEIRDRE Then you stay here and you do the thing you love. The thing your family there, and your friends here, love you for. You do the thing you love, and those that love you will still love you. Even from beyond.

BEX You're right. You're right. I'm staying. Because I love this and I love you.

AMBER Okay, Okay, are you sure.

BEX Yes.

CHRIS Good. Good. We love you, too.

BEX I'm gonna go and...

DEIRDRE The water closet's this way, let me show you, love.

*STAGE DIRECTIONS: DEIRDRE exits with her arm around BEX. When they are clear.*

AMBER So much for cutting that stupid Light Brigade bullshit at the top of the show.

**SCENE**