

LEAVING NORWAY (extracts from script)

Intention: The intention for this drama is to show the struggles of a young man to find a better life for himself. He first struggles to leave his family and then must face the betrayal of the one person he has pinned his hopes on for a future life together. The style is realism.

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Scene 1.

Flo: Spoken thought aloud (*sits USL with a young woman and two suitcases , as if catching a train.*) Oh god! What have I done! I'm going to break mums heart when she realises I'm never coming home again. But I have nothing going for me here. Although I guess it makes it clear to Mary that we have nothing anymore, and to Laura it will show her that I really do actually love her.

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Train sounds and they exit the stage.

Mother enters and finds a letter.

Mother: reads letter aloud.

Mum I'm leaving. I know you'll try and stop me but I'm warning you now it's no good. I'm eighteen and, well there's not much going for me here. I'm confined to this farm and I don't blame you but it's not the way I want to spend the rest of my life. Geoffrey is 15 now and he knows he has to work hard and you need to go softer on him. He'll help you just right. I've sorted everything out and I will be on the train as you read this. I didn't tell you earlier because I knew you would constantly be on my case about. I'll send money once I start working and have some to spare. In the meantime I know you will be fine. One day you'll see me again, don't worry. This is my goodbye mother.

(*Mother breaks down in tears*) Oh Flo! You can't leave! You have a life here! (*Continues to sob*) oh you always knew what you wanted didn't you? Just like your father. But how am I meant to run the whole farm with just Lily and myself? Please come back one day Flo... Please...*Exits.*

⑥

Flashback Flo is kneeling on floor packing a suitcase.

Scene 2

On the train

Flo: (*Over joyed yet sad at leaving Lily*) Laura this is it! We're finally leaving! No more hiding from damn Mary! It will be great for you to catch up with your old friend Johnny too. We are lucky to have someone there for us like him, especially as he told you he would help us find a place to live and a job.

Laura: You made it happen too Flo. A new start... I'm kind of scared. I mean I'm used to the loneliness of having nobody around but there have always been people to talk to. Johnny will be there for us though. But when we get there it's going to be a whole new unfamiliar country, I know a little English to get by but still there's a lot to learn.

Flo: (*Flo comforts Laura*) Are you sure you want to do this? It's not too late to stay. I won't be offended Laura?

Laura: No Flo I still want to go. But I'm just...worried.

Scene 4

Lights come up and down several times to show a series of scenes and time passing showing Laura and Jonny and another gambler sitting at a table playing poker. It is obvious that Jonny wins most of the time and the gambler a couple of times. Laura loses her money each time. On the last one Flo enters and sees Laura gambling.

Flo: Hey Laura, hey Johnny. The sun is just setting over the horizon, it looks beautiful- um I'm sorry to interrupt but what the HELL ARE YOU both DOING?

Laura: Oh please don't be mad it's just for a bit of fun. You know to help pass the time of day.

Johnny: Come on Flo, pull up a seat and we'll teach you. You know Laura's not too bad at bluffing now.

Flo: Wait let me guess. You've been teaching Laura how to gamble but she's been using my money yet you've been winning every game.

Laura: Oh Flo it's not like that. We only do it for fun and I've really enjoyed it. Johnny understands what it's like to lose your family, to lose everything like I did.

Johnny: It's hard Flo and I mean you no disrespect in saying that it's hard to understand when you haven't experienced it.

Flo: Laura do you not understand? That was my money! You have no idea how long it took me to save that up! That was going to get us started in Australia! Now we have nothing... And as for not understanding what it is like to lose your family, do you think it was easy for me to walk out on my mother, my brother, and-and-my sister! Do you think it was easy to leave all of that behind? *(From this point on, Flo's anger steadily increases quite dramatically.)*

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Laura: Flo I know how much your sister and family mean to you. But Flo they are still alive and, as your sister said she will come over. And you do your best to understand Flo but Johnny went through it like me.

Flo: They may as well be bloody dead Laura! I gave it all up! EVERYTHING! I hugged my little brother for which may as well have been the last time! I- I had to tell my sister the truth, it broke my heart Laura and do you know what is even worse?

Laura: No Flo...

Flo: I broke Mums heart! I've left her with no one! And I- I did it all for you! I traded my family and friends for you! FOR YOU!

Flo: I realise now that I turned my back on the road when it was trying to guide me, I turned into the wind, I let the sun go down over my horizon, I brought the rain down harder than normal and I fell from the Great Spirits hands in which you were holding me. You were guiding me all the time Flo and- I was just too naïve to realise. I had to give it all away before it all before it became clear to me. It's made me realise that I still hold true some belief that my parents had for the great spirit, as I ended up here, with you.

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(Laura begins to cry)

Flo: *(Tears begin to form in his eyes.)* I am sorry I ever hit you Laura, I don't know what I was thinking, I – I just lost my cool. I felt very disappointed that you would betray my goodwill. Your actions have dire consequences and It made me wonder if I could ever trust you again. I left my family and gave up my life in Norway for us to come here and it was like you had no respect for that.

Laura: *(very remorseful)* Oh Flo, what can I do to have you stay in my life?. I promise to stand by you and do what we need to do to be together. One thing is that I can't trust Jonny anymore and don't think he is the friend I thought he was.

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Flo: No, he isn't, and it would be better if we move forward without him in our lives. *Pause* I do want to give us another chance Laura, I don't want to live without you. Come here. *(He puts his arms round her)!*

The End