Castle For Keeps
An original screenplay by
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EXT. SANTA MONICA/ CALIFORNIA - DAY.

SUPER: "SANTA MONICA BEACH - CALIFORNIA"

A blazing hot Californian afternoon in this popular spot. Beach babes cook, while hunks parade hoping to attract admiring female glances.

At the water’s edge, eighteen-year-old, BEN TAYLOR, and his thirteen-year-old brother, DANNY(Dan), emerge from the sea, surfboards in hand.

Ben is a well built handsome guy whom six-packs were named after. Danny has yet to achieve the same qualities. His freckled face and tousled hair still have some way to go.

Both boys are bronzed by the Californian sunshine.

BEN
Time for home, little bro.

DANNY
'Spose so. Anyway the surf's not up to much.

BEN
We can always try again tomorrow.

As they walk up the beach Ben gets admiring glances from the babes and envious stares from the dudes.

A GIRL calls out to Ben.

GIRL
Hi Ben - ya coming to the party tonight?

BEN
You bet.
GIRL
Be there eight o'clock. My place.

Ben waves.

DANNY
Can I come Ben?

He smiles and puts his arm round his brother.

BEN
It's not that kind of party, Dan.

DANNY
I'll bet it's drugs and crazy sex.

BEN
What do you know about drugs and crazy sex?

DANNY
I've heard you on the phone.

BEN
I don’t do drugs.

Ben gives Danny a playful push.

DANNY
 Boy, wish I could come.

EXT. PALLISADES BEACH ROAD, SANTA MONICA - SAME TIME

Their classic sixties red T-Bird convertible is parked on Pallisades Beach Road, Santa Monica.

They throw the boards in the back of the car and climb in. Ben retrieves the key from under his floor mat.

He starts the engine and turns to Danny.

BEN
Dan, don't mention the party to Dad. I'll tell him I'm going to a girl's twenty-first.

DANNY
(giggling)
What's it worth to keep quiet?
BEN
You say anything and I'll tell him about Mary-Lou.

DANNY
What about her?

BEN
I saw you the other night.

DANNY
I only kissed her.

BEN
Yeah, and the rest.

The boys laugh, Ben shifts into drive and the car scoots off.

EXT. LINCOLN BOULEVARD, VENICE - DAY

Ben turns on to the double drive of their two story house in a swish part of Venice. Already there is a large Lexus.

BEN
Dad's home early.

The boys leave the car, walk to the main door and go inside.

INT. HALLWAY - SAME TIME

A large framed photo of Ben in fencing mode hangs prominently.

BEN
Hi Dad, we're home.

MATT (O.S.)
Hello boys. Be right down.

The sound of hurried footsteps on the stairs and MATT TAYLOR appears. He's forty-something, dressed down in an old pair of jeans and a sloppy T-shirt.
MATT
I’m glad you’re back. You remember me telling you I had to go to England to sort out some problems in our company?

BEN
Yeess.

MATT
Well, now’s the time. We leave on the 6.05 tomorrow for London.

BEN
What!

MATT
Sorry boys. That’s the way it is.

Matt shrugs his shoulders.

MATT
Seems the problems are much worse than we thought.

BEN
But I can’t, I mean...

DANNY
(interrupting)
What about your party Ben?

MATT
What party?

BEN
Oh it was just a party.

MATT
You can forget about that.

BEN
Guess I’ve no option.

Matt looks quizzically at the boys.

MATT
Look, get yourself a takeaway. Then an early night. We’ve got to be away at 4 o’clock.
DANNY
That early. Does Mom know?

MATT
I've called her. She says grandma isn't getting any better. Told her we'd be away for at least a month.

BEN

MATT
Might not be that long. Anyway you're both on summer vacation so what's the problem?
(beat)
I'd better finish packing. Throw some things in a suitcase.

DANNY
What's it like in England, Dad? Will we be able to take our boards?

MATT
Sorry son, 'fraid not. We'll be staying in the country. AMG Corporation has fixed us up with a nice country cottage.

BEN
Can't we stay here Dad? I can look after Dan.

MATT
Look, I've booked the flights and we're all going. Okay?

Matt climbs the stairs, stops halfway.

MATT
Some mail for you Ben. Usual place.

BEN
Thanks Dad.

Ben goes off to collect his mail.
Danny swats imaginary flies.

    BEN (O.S.)
    Yes! Yes!

He comes rushing back, letter in hand.

    BEN
    Dad, I’ve got it.

Matt comes down.

    MATT
    Got what?

    BEN
    Got my place at California University.

Matt shakes Ben’s hand.

    MATT
    Congratulations, son.

    DANNY
    What’s all the fuss about?

    MATT
    Ben’s gonna train to be a lawyer.

    DANNY
    Oh great. An accountant and a lawyer in the same family. Boring.

Danny smiles mischievously.

Matt bounds back upstairs.

    DANNY
    Does that mean I’ll not have to worry about getting a speeding ticket when I start driving?

    BEN
    I’ll make sure you’re found guilty.
DANNY
Anyway, why couldn’t you have chosen something interesting like spying -- or film directing?

BEN
There’s more to life than movies and James Bond, Dan. Hey, I'd better phone Angie and tell her the bad news about the party.

DANNY
Looks like your night of crazy sex'll have to wait.

BEN
Who knows? I've heard some of those English chicks can be pretty fruity.

DANNY
You wish.

BEN
I’m going to look for my passport. You, get on the phone and order a pizza -- here's a twenty.

Ben hands Danny a bill.

DANNY
Would sir prefer a pepperoni -- or perhaps a fruity one?

Ben throws Danny a playful punch.

DANNY
Anyway, you’d better go and find your passport.

Danny chuckles, then picks up the phone.

INT. BEN’S BEDROOM - NIGHT
Ben is ransacking a cupboard. He tosses things carelessly on the floor.
He runs to a bookcase, throws books on the bed.
He stands still, scratches his head.

The door opens and Danny enters.

    DANNY
    Bet this is what you’re looking for.

He holds up a passport.

    BEN
    Where...?

    DANNY
    You gave it me for safe keeping after your Paris trip -- remember?

    BEN
    You’ve let me search for the past hour, you little brat.

Ben picks up a large paperback.

    DANNY
    So sue me.

He laughs hilariously and makes a quick exit.

Ben throws the book at the door which lands with a loud thwack.

INT. ON BOARD TRAIN – NIGHT

The traveler’s are in a first class car. Matt is reading an English newspaper. On the table is a copy of the Los Angeles Times.

Ben and Danny are on the opposite seats. They are wired into their iPods which emit the tsk- tsk noise.

Both boys have their eyes closed. Danny wears his L.A. Dodgers baseball cap.

A woman attendant stops at their position. She smiles as she sees the boys and turns to Matt.

    ATTENDANT
    You’ve time for another coffee before you leave the train.
MATT
Yes, thank you that would be nice.
Are we on time?

ATTENDANT
We certainly are. Do you think the
boys'll want anything?

Matt taps Danny with a foot. Danny doesn't stir.

MATT
Guess they're okay, thank you.

The attendant pours the coffee.

ATTENDANT
Black isn't it?

MATT
Yeah, that's just fine.

ATTENDANT
I'll give you a call when we're
getting near your stop. Enjoy your
holiday.

The attendant moves off.

MATT
(to himself)
Some holiday.

Matt drinks his coffee, winces slightly at the taste. Picks
up his newspaper again.

Ben and Danny haven't stirred.

ATTENDANT (V.O. P.A.SYSTEM)
The next stop is Howston. Howston
in five minutes. Please ensure you
have all your belongings when
leaving the train. Thank you for
traveling with us today.

Matt leans over and shakes Ben's shoulder.

MATT
We're getting off. Wake Dan.

Ben stirs himself, yawns, then shakes Danny violently.
BEN
Come on Danny.

DANNY
What's up? Where's the fire?

BEN
Under your butt if you don't move.

Danny looks around, familiarizing himself.

DANNY
Where are we?

BEN
Dad'n'me are getting off. Don't know about you.

The train begins to slow. Matt stands up and exits his seat.

MATT
I'll get the cases. You two shake yourselves.

Matt walks towards the exit. The two boys prepare to follow him.

As they walk down the car both boys begin to sway to the music still blasting in their ears.

Danny clicks his fingers in time to the music.

Two sweet OLD LADIES sitting together watch the boys.

OLD LADY #1
(to second old lady)
Are they on drugs?

OLD LADY #2
No dear, they're Americans.

OLD LADY #1
Oh!

The train stops. The attendant stands by the door.

As the door opens, so do the heavens. Rain falls like a mini Niagara

The attendant retrieves a large corporate umbrella and hands it to Matt.
ATTENDANT
With our compliments sir.

MATT
Thanks. Tell me, can I get a cab here?

ATTENDANT
Try the house next door.

She points to a former station depot house.

EXT. HOWSTON STATION - NIGHT
Matt steps on to the platform and unfurls the umbrella.

The boys follow, dragging the suitcases with them. They try to shelter under its cover. Shivering in the cool night air.

MATT
Come on boys. Just a short walk.

He hands the umbrella to Ben.

The three cower under the umbrella. Matt drags the cases.

The warm, cozy train rumbles off into the night.

At the end of the platform the three turn left and approach the house.

EXT. HOUSE - SAME TIME

MATT
Guess this is it.

BEN
Don't see a cab.

He gazes around, as he does he swivels the umbrella sending a stream of water down Danny's neck.

Danny lands a kick on Ben.

DANNY
Butt head!
BEN
First time your neck's seen water in ages.

Matt approaches the house and knocks on the door.

WOMAN (O.S)
Who's there?

Matt looks at the boys.

MATT
(softly)
Seems like we've disturbed the locals.

BEN
We need a cab.

Keys are turned and a bolt is drawn back. With a grating noise the door is opened and a woman of about sixty peers round.

WOMAN
Yes?

MATT
We were told we could get a cab here.

WOMAN
Oh, I see.

MATT
Well, can we?

WOMAN
My husband doesn't normally turn out at night.

MATT
Look can we, or can't we?

WOMAN
Where do you want to go?

Matt fishes a scrap of paper from an inside pocket, unfurls it.

MATT
Castle Cottage, Wissle.
WOMAN
I'll have a word with my husband.

She shuts the door.

The three males stand shivering on the doorstep.

WOMAN (O.S.)
They want to go to Castle Cottage in Wissle.

MAN (O.S.)
Eh. You what?

WOMAN (V.O.)
I wish you’d get your ears seen to. I said they want to go to Castle Cottage

MAN (O.S.)
I'll have a word.

Danny chuckles.

DANNY
Must be a remake of ‘The Zombies Are Among Us’.

The door grates open again.

A man of about sixty five peers out.

MAN
You want to go to Castle Cottage?

MATT
(fed up)
Look, how far is it to walk?

MAN
It's a fair piece -- 'bout a mile or so I reckon.

MATT
Which way?

The man points.
MAN
That way. Turn left about half a mile and it's on the left. Can't miss it.

MATT
Thank you. Come on boys. Won't take long.

They start to walk away. The man watches them.

MAN
(calling)
I thought you wanted a cab.

They stop.

MATT
Are you offering to take us?

MAN
Wait there. I'll go and get the old girl.

The man disappears back in to the house.

DANNY
He's not bringing that old woman out is he? She's pretty scary.

MATT
I think he means his cab, Dan.

As they wait they hear the grind of a starter motor willing an engine into life.

With a ROAR and a BANG an 80's motor comes into view.

MATT
Our chariot awaits.

BEN
Looks like it came from the same era.

DANNY
You mean we've got to get in that heap?

MATT
It's that or walking.
The man exits the car and approaches the three very wet males.

MAN
Thought she wasn't going to start.

MATT
Can we get going please?

MAN
Jump aboard. Have you at the cottage in two ticks.

The boys climb reluctantly into the back seat. Matt clambers into the front.

The driver throws the cases in the trunk. The lid takes a few bangs before it closes.

INT. CAR - SAME TIME

Ben taps Matt on the shoulder.

BEN
Stinks in here.

MATT
Just put up with it. At least you're in the dry.

The man jumps in the front. Crunches the gears and the car jerks away.

EXT. THE CAR - NIGHT

The car approaches the crossroads and turns left.

EXT. CASTLE COTTAGE - NIGHT

The car comes to a halt with a squeal of brakes outside a pair of small cottages.

INT. CAR - SAME TIME

MAN
Left one's yours.
He points to the unlit dwelling.

    MATT
    Mrs. Thomas is supposed to be meeting us.

    MAN
    She lives right next door. I'll honk the horn.

Two loud BEEPS shatter the quiet air.

In the adjoining cottage a curtain is pulled back. A shaft of light illuminates a well-tended garden.

The front door opens. A woman, MRS. THOMAS, dashes out, a coat over her head.

She runs up to the car.

Matt winds his window down.

    MATT
    Mrs. Thomas?

    MRS. THOMAS
    Yes.

She bends down to look in the car. Her cheerful, chubby country face exudes warmth.

    MATT
    I'm Matt Taylor. These here are my boys, Danny and Ben.

Mrs. Thomas looks even deeper into the car and smiles at the boys.

    MRS. THOMAS
    Well come on in you poor things. Must be worn out.

Matt hands the driver a £5 note.

The driver stuffs it into the top pocket of an old jacket. Pulls out a grubby card.

    MAN
    Here, case you need a cab again.

He hands it to Matt who passes it to Danny.
MATT
I'll get the cases.

Matt gets out and walks to the trunk. Opens the lid and lifts the cases out. The boys scramble out. Danny tries to get the umbrella up.

Matt knocks on the car window and gives the thumbs up sign. The driver waves, then turns the car and drives off. Danny looks at the card Matt passed to him.

INSERT: ADVERTISEMENT CARD.
"WISSLE FOR A CAB. RING 04992 554466"
BACK TO SCENE.

DANNY
Like we'd be travelin' in that heap of junk again.

He throws the card into a puddle.

MRS. THOMAS
Come on, I've lit the fire so it'll be nice and warm.

Mrs. Thomas leads the way, opens the door, leans in and turns on the light.

MRS. THOMAS
In you go.

INT. CASTLE COTTAGE - SAME TIME.

The interior is cozy. Two comfortable chairs are situated either side of a large open fire. An old sofa completes the homely scene.

A wooden table and six chairs are set further back. An ancient television sits on a small table.

The uneven stone-flagged floor has several rugs scattered haphazardly around.

The low ceiling has blackened oak beams.
Matt drops the cases, walks over to the fire. He rubs his hands happy at the instant warmth.

MATT
Boy, that feels good.

Danny's eyes take in the sights.

DANNY
It's a bit old isn't it?

MRS. THOMAS
It's even older than me -- that's saying something.

Danny is jiggling around. Ben notices.

BEN
What gives Dan?

DANNY
I need the bathroom.

MRS. THOMAS
The bathroom -- oh you mean the toilet. I'll show you.

She leads Danny through a door at the rear of the cottage.

MATT
I'm next. Knew I shouldn't have had that other coffee.

Ben walks around. Gazes at the ancient TV.

BEN
Wonder what the bedrooms are like.

MATT
I'm so tired I could just curl up in that comfy chair.

Danny returns, Mrs. Thomas follows.

DANNY
The bathroom's a bit weird. You have to pull a long chain to make the toilet work.

MATT
Well it's my turn now.
Matt walks through the open rear door.

Mrs. Thomas puts an arm round Danny.

MRS. THOMAS
You'll get used to country life.
Like I said, it's a very old place.

BEN
Must be at least a hundred.

MRS. THOMAS
Try four hundred.

DANNY
Wow! Four hundred years old.

MRS. THOMAS
They do say old Sir Humphrey had this place and mine built for two of his workers.

DANNY
Who's Sir Humphrey?

MRS. THOMAS
He lived in the castle just over the fields.

She points to the back of the cottage.

Matt returns and settles himself in the armchair.

MRS. THOMAS
His family had lived there for more than three hundred years.

Danny pulls a chair out from the table, squats down, his blue eyes wide open.

DANNY
What happened?

MRS. THOMAS
Nobody really knows. But there must have been a terrible tragedy.
DANNY
Oh boy! Only been here five minutes and we're right in the middle of ancient history.

MRS. THOMAS
Old country folk round here say they've heard noises coming from the ruins on moonlit nights.

BEN
What sort of noises?

MRS. THOMAS
Oh I reckon it's just the moonshine talking.

DANNY
What's moonshine?

MRS. THOMAS
Just strong whiskey -- and a vivid imagination.

DANNY
(disappointed)
Oh.

MRS. THOMAS
Here's me blathering on. You must be starving. Bacon and eggs all right?

Mrs. Thomas turns to look at Matt.

MRS. THOMAS
All right for you Mr. Taylor?

Matt doesn't answer. He's sprawled out in the chair in a deep sleep.

MRS. THOMAS
Bless him.

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

The boys are sharing a room. Ben is snoring. Danny is lying on his back, his eyes wide open.
He sits up, looks around. The rain has stopped and a shaft of moonlight squeezes in through a gap in the curtains.

Danny gets out of bed, walks over to Ben.

    DANNY
    You awake, Ben?

Ben doesn't stir. Danny shakes him.

    BEN
    Not now honey.

    DANNY
    I'm not your honey.

    BEN
    Whass that?

    DANNY
    Ben, the moon's out now.

    BEN
    What of it?

    DANNY
    You remember what Mrs. Thomas said happens on moonlit nights?

    BEN
    Go back to bed Dan. I'm pooped.

    DANNY
    Well if you can't be bothered to take a look at the old castle I'll go on my own.

Danny goes to the window, draws back the curtain.

The castle is bathed in a soft silvery light.

It appears to be floating on a bank of fog.

    DANNY
    Oh, looks real spooky.

Ben sits up. Rubs his eyes.

    BEN
    Thanks Dan. Now you've got me wide awake.
He gets out of bed, looks out the window.

    BEN
    If you think I'm going out there tonight you must be nuts.

Ben gets back into bed, turns over.

    BEN
    (muffled voice)
    We'll take a look tomorrow.

    DANNY
    Don't think I'd dare go on my own.

Danny gets back into bed.

    DANNY
    Anyway, I'll bet nothing happens even if it is moonlight.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Ben and Danny are at the table finishing their breakfast.
Mrs. Thomas is busying herself clearing away the dishes.
Early sun streams through the cottage windows.

    MRS. THOMAS
    At least you've got a nice morning.

    BEN
    Anything'ud be better after yesterday.

    MRS. THOMAS
    What are you going to do with yourselves boys?

    DANNY
    We'll see when Dad comes down.

    MRS. THOMAS
    Your Dad was away at 8 o'clock. Car came for him. He said not to disturb you.

Mrs. Thomas laughs out loud.
MRS. THOMAS
He looked in on you, but you were both snoring your heads off.

BEN
Guess we were a bit tired.

DANNY
We could go and explore the old castle.

BEN
Yeah, I 'spose.

MRS. THOMAS
You just be careful. Those old ruins might be dangerous.

DANNY
Dangerous?

MRS. THOMAS
Well -- just take care, that's all.

Mrs. Thomas gives the boys a caring look, then disappears into the kitchen with the pots.

EXT. FIELD NEAR THE CASTLE - DAY

'Once upon a time' it must have been a lovely old place. Small for an English castle, but still displaying an air of very faded eminence.

Ben and Danny are walking towards the ancient pile.

Ben stops and grabs Danny's arm.

DANNY
What's up?

BEN
Just got the feeling someone's following us.

DANNY
You getting spooked already?

Danny turns and gazes around. Sees nothing.
DANNY
You're imagining things again.

BEN
P'raps.

DANNY
Come on, can't wait to see inside.

The boys approach a once magnificent oak door. It swings gently on squeaking rusty hinges.

As they stop by the door, Ben turns round. Suddenly a nearby bush springs back.

BEN
See, I told you someone's watching us.

He runs to the bush, pulls it back.

A girl of about eighteen is hiding behind it.

This is EMILY WALKER. She has long brown hair which is swept back from her pretty face with a ribbon. Her eyes stare unblinking at the boys.

BEN
Why are you following us?

EMILY
What you doin' here?

BEN
I said, why are you following us?

EMILY
Just wonderin' what you were doing, that's all.

DANNY
We're going to explore the castle.

EMILY
You di'nt oughta go in there.

DANNY
Yeah, we know. It might be dangerous.
EMILY
Yeah, well...

BEN
Do you live round here?

EMILY
Over there.

She points to a small cottage across the field.

BEN
What's your name?

EMILY
Emily -- Emily Walker.

DANNY
I'm Danny, this is Ben. You coming in with us Emily?

EMILY
Not on your life.

BEN
Well please yourself. We're gonna take a look. Come on Dan.

The boys walk to the oak door. Ben pushes it open.

INT. OLD CASTLE - SAME TIME

The boys step inside and look nervously around.

The castle has lost its roof. Interior walls are bare. The floor has remnants of large tiles overlaken with dirt.

Danny grabs Ben's arm.

DANNY
Don't think I like this.

BEN
You wanted to come. We're only taking a look.

DANNY
I've taken a look, now I'm off.
BEN
We'll just walk to the end of this passage and then go. Okay?

Ben walks on down the passageway. Danny leans against a wall. His attention is grabbed by a large spider near his foot.

In a flash the wall gives way. Danny falls into a hole.

DANNY (V.O.)
Ben -- Ben!

Ben is walking on. Suddenly a large crow startles him, flapping its wings and CAWING loudly.

BEN
Jeez!

Ben turns to check on Danny.

BEN
Danny! Stop larking about. Where are you?

Ben retraces his steps.

BEN
Dan.

Ben returns to the top of the passageway. Spots the hole.

BEN
Danny.

DANNY (O.S.)
Down here Ben.

BEN
Well come on out.

DANNY (O.S.)
I can't get out. I just sorta fell in.

BEN
Are you hurt?

DANNY (O.S.)
No, I fell on something soft.
BEN
That'd be your head then.

Ben kneels down, peers down into the hole.

BEN
Can't see you.

DANNY (O.S)
I can see you. 'Bout ten feet away.

BEN
Be back in a minute.

Ben runs through the creaky old doorway.

EXT. CASTLE DOOR - SAME TIME

Emily is sitting on the grass. She looks bored.

EMILY
Where's the little 'un?

BEN
Can you run home and get some rope -- and a torch. No time to explain.

Ben runs back inside. Emily starts off for home.

INT. OLD CASTLE - SAME TIME

Ben runs up to the hole in the wall.

BEN
Have you out in a jiffy.

DANNY (O.S.)
Oh no hurry. I'm getting to like it down....

Danny's voice tails off.

BEN
Dan?

DANNY (O.S.)
Something just ran over my feet.
BEN
'Praps it's the castle ghost.

DANNY (O.S.)
Ha, ha. Like it's funny being down here.

Ben walks to the doorway. Looks around. Walks outside.

EXT. CASTLE DOOR - SAME TIME
He sees Emily running back.

BEN
Thank God.

Emily approaches with a long plastic rope.

EMILY
All I could find. It's Mum's washing line.

She hands the line to Ben together with a torch.

EMILY
And this is off Dad's bike.

BEN
You come and hold the torch for me while I pull Danny out of the hole.

EMILY
Hole?

BEN
Yeah. He sort of fell in. Come on -- let's get the little brat out.

EMILY
You want me to go in -- there?

She points to the castle.

BEN
I need your help, Emily.

EMILY
Will it take long?
BEN
No.

Ben walks inside.

Emily cautiously follows.

INT. OLD CASTLE - SAME TIME

Ben points to the hole.

BEN
Shine the torch.

Emily switches the torch on. Points it in THE HOLE

Danny is sitting on what looks like a pile of old rags.

BACK TO SCENE

Ben flings the rope into the hole.

BEN
Grab hold Dan.

IN THE HOLE

Danny grabs the end of the rope.

DANNY
Okay. Pull away.

Ben pulls on the rope, pulls hard.

BEN (O.S)
Cut out the burgers Dan. You weigh a ton.

BACK TO SCENE

Danny's head appears, he scrambles out.

His shorts and T-shirt are thick with grime. His face streaked with dust, forces a weak smile.

DANNY
That's the last time I lean on a wall.
Ben coils the rope, hands it to Emily.

   BEN
   Thank your Mum.

   EMILY
   She doesn't know.

Emily fidgets.

   EMILY
   Can we get out of here, it's scary.

The three walk out of the castle.

EXT. CASTLE DOOR - SAME TIME

Ben catches Emily's arm

   BEN
   Thanks Emily. Dan'ud still have
   been in there if you hadn't hung
   around.

   DANNY
   Aw! You're not going to do all that
   soppy stuff are you?

   BEN
   Take no notice of him. Ungrateful
   little squirt.

Ben shuffles his feet. Looks at Emily.

   BEN
   How d'ya fancy meeting up tonight
   when the moon's out? I want to
   know what goes on here.

   EMILY
   Not me. It's bad enough in daytime.

   BEN
   Danny'n'me are coming back tonight.

   DANNY
   Less of the Danny'n'me, big boy.
BEN
(to Danny)
You said you wanted to.

DANNY
That was then.

Ben makes clucking noises, flaps his arms.

BEN
Who's a little chicken?

Danny shuffles uneasily. Emily looks at Ben.

EMILY
All right -- I'll come.

BEN
Great! Just me and you then.

DANNY
And I'll get a good night's sleep without you snoring.

BEN
(to Emily)
Pick you up at midnight by the gate.

EMILY
(unsure)
Okay.

EXT. ENTRANCE TO CASTLE FIELD - NIGHT

It's a brilliant moonlit night as Ben and Danny walk to the gate. Danny is carrying a large torch, a coil of rope hangs off a shoulder.

Ben checks his watch.

BEN
Just on midnight.

DANNY
D'ya think Emily'll come?

BEN
I didn't think you were coming.
DANNY
Yeah, well, I couldn't leave you alone with a girl. Never know what you'd get up to.

An owl Hoots in a nearby tree.

Danny shivers in the cool night air.

DANNY
Don't like them things. Always makes me think of those old Dracula films they keep showing on TV.

The sound of footsteps crunching on gravel causes the boys to turn their heads. They see a shadowy figure approaching.

BEN
That you Emily?

EMILY
Course it's me.

BEN
Hope you didn't wake your people up getting out.

EMILY
There's only Mum at home and she was snoring like mad when I left. Dad's on the night shift at work.

The three look across to the castle. A greenish colored fog is creeping across the field.

DANNY
Well, are we going or not?

BEN
(to Emily)
You all right with this?

EMILY
I'm with Danny. If we're going, let's go.

As they open the gate a police car draws up.
The three give a cursory glance and walk through the gate into the field.

A policeman, CHRIS BLAKE, gets out of the car and follows them.

He's about twenty-five and slightly built for a cop.

EXT. FIELD NEAR THE CASTLE - NIGHT

CHRIS
What's the game?

BEN
We're just going to explore the castle.

CHRIS
At five past midnight?

BEN
I know it sounds stupid but we've heard some strange things go on in the castle on moonlit nights.

CHRIS
And I've heard of some strange burglaries that happen on moonlit nights.

BEN
Do we look like burglars?

CHRIS
You're a bit young, I'll give you that. Anyway where you from, that accent's not local?

BEN
I'm Ben, this is Danny, my brother. We're from California. Dad's here to visit his company.

The policeman shines his torch on the trio.

CHRIS
Go on then. But I'll be watching.

Chris watches as they get nearer to the fog.
Ben puts an arm round Emily's shoulders.

BEN
Hold my hand if you're frightened.

Emily pushes him away.

EMILY
I'm not frightened.

BEN
It was just a thought.

EMILY
It was a nice thought -- but I'm okay thanks.

Danny has walked on into the fog.

BEN
You okay Danny?

Ben looks around for his brother.

BEN
DANNY. WHERE ARE YOU?

Chris hears his call and runs up to Ben and Emily.

CHRIS
What happened?

BEN
Danny -- just disappeared. It's getting to be a habit.

CHRIS
Let's go on, he can't be far away.

Chris shines his torch into the impenetrable fog. Its denseness reflects the beam back.

CHRIS
Come on we'll have to go through.

ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE FOG.

Danny stands alone.
DANNY
I've never seen fog like that before.

He turns round, no one is to be seen.

DANNY
Ben, stop fooling around. You're not getting smoochy are ya?

THE FIELD - CONTINUOUS

CHRIS
That fog’s weird.

EMILY
Dad says we get it here ‘cos of the river.

BEN
Green fog?

EMILY
Never seen it green before.

BEN
Bet Dan’s got lost in it.

CHRIS
Well we’ll go in, see if we can find him.

BEN
Better stick together.

CHRIS
Yeah, you’re right.

They walk into the fog.

ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE FOG.

Danny looks worried. He turns left and right. Tries the torch, which doesn’t work. He clicks it on and off, again and again.

Suddenly, Danny sees apparitions appearing.

Distorted voices frighten him.

He runs to a large bush and cowers behind it.
Suddenly, Ben, Emily and Chris appear like ghosts emerging from the thick fog.

    BEN
    DANNY!

    DANNY (O.S.)
    That you Ben?

    BEN
    Where the hell are you?

    DANNY (O.S.)
    Over here.

Ben looks around.

    BEN
    Perhaps you’d care to join us.

Danny leaves his hiding place, runs up to Ben, puts an arm round him.

    DANNY
    Never thought I’d be so glad to see you.

    BEN
    Yeah well, next time stick close.

    DANNY
    Next time?

    CHRIS
    Now we’ve found Danny I suggest we go back.

    BEN
    Well we’ve come this far so we might as well take a look inside.

    CHRIS
    As you all seem to be okay I’d better get back on duty.

    BEN
    We’ll be okay, thanks.

    CHRIS
    Take care.
Chris waves then walks into the fog.

DANNY
The castle looks different -- sort of lived in.

Ben points to the main door.

BEN
That creaky old door -- it’s, it’s ....

EMILY
Shut.

BEN
When we came earlier it was sorta hanging off.

Ben walks up to the door, gives it a push. It opens easily.

BEN
Coming?

They are about to step inside when they hear a loud distorted voice.

EMILY
What the hell is that?

DANNY
That’s how it sounded when you were in there.

EMILY
Don’t like it -- it’s spooky.

Chris re-appears.

CHRIS
It won’t let me through.

BEN
What d’ya mean?

CHRIS
It was like something was pushing me back.

DANNY
You mean we’re trapped?
CHRIS
That’s about it.

Emily starts crying.

EMILY
Knew I shouldn’t have come.

Ben puts an arm round her.

BEN
We’ll be all right.

CHRIS
I'll call control. Let them know where I am.

Chris removes his radio from the clip on his shoulder.

CHRIS
(into radio)
Control. This is 337 reporting in.

Chris waits for a reply, but the radio is dead.

CHRIS
(into radio)
Control. Are you receiving me?

Silence.

DANNY
The torch doesn't work either.

Chris tries his torch. It doesn't light.

He peers at his watch.

CHRIS
That's funny. It was 12.03 when I spoke to you at the gate. It's still 12.03.

Ben checks his watch.

BEN
So's mine.

Danny checks his watch.
DANNY
And mine.

They all cautiously enter.

INT. OLD CASTLE - SAME TIME

As they step inside a swirl of dust is raised by a huge blast of air from deeper inside the castle.

Candles light up in sequence in the passage.

The door bangs shut, bolts top and bottom grate into the holders causing them all to jump.

An iron key turns in the lock, extracts itself and floats away out of sight.

DANNY
Tell me I'm dreaming this please.

Chris tries his radio again.

CHRIS
(into radio)
Control over.

But the radio is still dead.

Emily holds on to Ben tightly.

CHRIS
Let's get out -- NOW!

They turn to the door. As they do so, the floor vibrates under their feet and red tiles lay themselves along the passage.

Walls sprout upwards. Ceilings appear, and a majestic staircase rises a tread at a time until it culminates in a large landing.

A JINGLING noise above their heads makes them jump.

An iron chandelier with twenty large candles drops slowly from the ceiling and lights up the hallway.

The brown stone walls are lined with paintings, and here and there a tapestry.

The four stare at each other in shock and horror.
From out of nowhere two large Irish Wolfhounds come bounding towards them, snarling viciously.

They stop ten feet away, their open mouths baring very large teeth.

The four of them cling to each other.

Suddenly a NOISE on the landing causes them to look up.

They see a large figure dressed in white from head to toe, shuffling along.

It moans as it moves. The figure gets to the head of the stairs and stops.

    DANNY
    A g-ghost.

Chris runs to the door, pulls back the bolts. But the door is still securely locked.

The figure moves slowly down the stairs towards them.

A few steps down it halts, lifts an arm.

Chris tries his radio.

    CHRIS
    Control, control -- come in for God's sake.

Ben and Emily hold on tightly to each other.

Danny stares at the figure. His mouth open in fear.

The figure begins advancing down the stairs again.

    SIR HUMPHREY
    You there. What is the meaning of this intrusion?

The dogs snarl, Ben regains his composure.

    BEN
    You gave us a fright.

    DANNY
    We thought you were the castle ghost.
SIR HUMPHREY
I asked, why you have entered my home?

Sir Humphrey descends to the hall. He is dressed in a white nightshirt. On his head a white nightcap with a long bobble.

He shuffles towards them, squinting in the light.

SIR HUMPHREY
'Pon my soul. What in God's name have we here?

BEN
We're as shocked and surprised as you.

DANNY
We just came to explore that's all.

SIR HUMPHREY
Explore! Explore!

His eyes narrow.

SIR HUMPHREY
Methinks you are here on Cromwell's business.

BEN
Who's Cromwell?

Sir Humphrey wags a finger at Ben.

SIR HUMPHREY
Do not shillyshally with me boy.

Ben turns to face the others, shrugs his shoulders.

DANNY
Wow! This only happens in the movies.

BEN
Cut the joking, Dan. This is no movie.

Ben turns to Sir Humphrey.
BEN
Sir, I'm Ben.

He points to Danny.

BEN
This is my brother Danny. We're from California -- on vacation.

SIR HUMPHREY
Calif -- what?

BEN
California, U.S.A.

SIR HUMPHREY
And where might that be?

He shuffles closer to the four. Glances at them, then steps back a few paces.

BEN
America sir.

DANNY
You know -- America. Land of the brave and home of the free -- or somethin' like that.

SIR HUMPHREY
Next you'll be telling me the wind blew you here.

DANNY
No -- we came in a great big jet.

Sir Humphrey sits on the bottom tread of the stairs, puts his head in his hands.

SIR HUMPHREY
Too much feasting. Too much wine and cheese. Never a good idea.

He looks up, rubs his eyes.

SIR HUMPHREY
But it wasn’t a nightmare, you are still here.

He shuffles over to Ben. Pinches an arm. Ben recoils.
Chris stands by the door, chewing his nails.

CHRIS
If you'll just let us out -- and call off the dogs.

His voice tails off.

SIR HUMPHREY
And let Cromwell's bully boys in.

DANNY
Who's this guy Cromwell?

SIR HUMPHREY
He's not Guy Cromwell. It is Satan himself, Oliver Cromwell.

DANNY
Never 'eard of him.

SIR HUMPHREY
Bless me! I declare the boy is a simpleton.

EMILY
We read about him in school...

CHRIS
(butting in)
He started the Civil War -- but he's been dead over three hundred years.

SIR HUMPHREY
You think so? I tell you this -- he's very much alive. Hang the man!

EMILY
So you're a Monarchist?

SIR HUMPHREY
Yes young madam, I was knighted by the fair hand of King Charles himself.

DANNY
What's this knighted mean?
CHRIS
You know -- the king taps you on
the shoulder and makes you a sir.
A knight of the Realm.

DANNY
Wow! You mean this guy's a real
sir?

SIR HUMPHREY
(pompously)
I am Sir Humphrey Berkley, and
this is my home.

Danny looks sheepish.

DANNY
Sorry sir. Didn't mean to be
discourteous.

SIR HUMPHREY
That blackguard Cromwell wants to
tear it down.

Sir Humphrey dabs his eyes.

SIR HUMPHREY
He declares it could be defended
and stop him capturing the city.

Ben is leaning on a large hall cupboard.

Danny points to the wall.

DANNY
That's where I fell into a hole.

SIR HUMPHREY
The castle was built in 1388.
That hole was a small prison.

Danny shivers.

DANNY
You mean I...

SIR HUMPHREY
(sniffs)
Had it blocked up.
DANNY
You didn’t do a good job.
Ben gives him a look which conveys ‘shut up.’
Chris is still trying the front door.
The dogs are keeping a watchful eye on them all.

CHRIS
Can we leave now sir? I have to go back on duty.

Sir Humphrey gives him an inquisitive look.

SIR HUMPHREY
What is that strange garb you wear?

CHRIS
I'm a policeman -- or at least I was.

SIR HUMPHREY
Are you on the kings duty?

CHRIS
No sir, on Queens duty. Queen Elizabeth.

SIR HUMPHREY
This is all too much for me.

Sir Humphrey shakes his head.

Then a smile crosses his lips.

SIR HUMPHREY
Then you are a Royalist too. You must help me.

CHRIS
How?

Ben walks over.

BEN
Don't you see. This guy's in terrible trouble.

Ben walks over to Sir Humphrey, holds out a hand.
Sir Humphrey gingerly stretches out, shakes Ben's hand.

**BEN**
I don't understand what's happened or why we're here. I don't care. All I know is, where we come from we help the little guy.

Ben blushes.

**BEN**
Oh, begging your pardon sir.

**SIR HUMPHREY**
Granted.

Danny walks over.

**DANNY**
We'll help sir. Tell us what you want us to do.

**CHRIS**
But what we can do? I don’t see how we can help.

**BEN**
You're a cop. Surely you must have some ideas.

**CHRIS**
I’ve only been a cop for a few months. I'll get fired if I don't report in.

Ben turns to Sir Humphrey.

**BEN**
How can we help?

**SIR HUMPHREY**
I only have two men, Walker and Thomas. And there’s old Joshua, but he’s past it.

Sir Humphrey mops his brow.
SIR HUMPHREY
With you four and those two we may be able to scare them off. At least for the time being.

DANNY
Yeah, a fight.

SIR HUMPHREY
They return the day after tomorrow.

EMILY
Excuse me sir. It's already today -- that means they'll be back tomorrow.

SIR HUMPHREY
I'm an old man. Memory's not what it was. You are correct young lady.

BEN
How many came last time?

SIR HUMPHREY
Six, seven maybe.

BEN
Mmm. Six against seven. Do you have any weapons?

SIR HUMPHREY
Swords and a small armory -- flintlocks mostly.

BEN
And bullets?

SIR HUMPHREY
Bullets?

BEN
For the guns.

SIR HUMPHREY
(loudly)
Balls.
BEN
Pardon me?

SIR HUMPHREY
Balls, for the guns.

DANNY
It's the old-fashioned gun, Ben. I read about them on the internet.

BEN
What were you doing learning about guns?

DANNY
No matter. You load gunpowder in one end and ram a ball down the muzzle. Then a spark lights the powder and the ball shoots out.

Danny strokes his chin.

DANNY
Phew, what I'd give for a Magnum.

Sir Humphrey surveys the party.

SIR HUMPHREY
The hour is late. What will you do for a night's rest?

BEN
Well we can't get home.

Sir Humphrey looks intently at them.

SIR HUMPHREY
Might I suggest you spend the night here?

BEN
That's very kind of you sir.

SIR HUMPHREY
I have bedchambers, if you will follow me.

Sir Humphrey turns, begins walking upstairs.

The others follow.
On the stairs Ben points to a portrait of a beautiful woman in her twenties.

BEN
Your wife, sir?

SIR HUMPHREY
Ah, my wife. Lost her in childbirth many years ago. We longed for a son and heir. T’was not to be.

Sir Humphrey sighs deeply.

INT. ON THE LANDING - CONTINUOUS

They all stand on the landing.

SIR HUMPHREY
Moonlight's all the illumination we have up here.

BEN
We'll manage.

Sir Humphrey points to Ben and Danny.

SIR HUMPHREY
You two take that one. The young lady in here.

He opens the nearest door. Emily peers in.

EMILY
I'm scared.

BEN
I'll come in with you -- get you settled.

DANNY
He never misses a trick does he?

BEN
Zip it Dan.

EMILY
Just help me to the bed, then I'll be all right.
DANNY
You heard her Ben. Just help her to
the bed.

Ben and Emily walk into the bedroom.

INT. EMILY'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

The moon casts a silvery glow over bare wooden floorboards
that CREAK as they walk.

In the dim light they make out the shape of a small four-poster bed and walk towards it.

Ben puts an arm round Emily. She leans her head on his
shoulder.

BEN
This is surreal. I mean what the
hell is going on?

EMILY
Hold me tight Ben.

Ben puts his arms around her.

In a shaft of moonlight they kiss deeply.

BEN
Sleep tight, my lovely.

In the doorway Danny has seen it all.

DANNY
Watch him, he's a fast worker.

Ben doesn't answer back. He helps Emily on to the bed, leans
over and kisses her again.

BEN
I'm only next door if you need me.

He strokes her hair, then walks out to

THE LANDING

Sir Humphrey, Chris and Danny are waiting.

SIR HUMPHREY
She will be comfortable in there.
BEN
She's just a bit nervous that's all.

DANNY
Who wouldn't be with you planting smackeroos on them.

Ben gives Danny a withering look.

SIR HUMPHREY
(to Chris)
You sir, in the end room.

CHRIS
Thank you sir. Good night all.

Chris walks off.

SIR HUMPHREY
I'll bid you a peaceful rest.

Sir Humphrey begins to shuffle off to his own room.

DANNY
Excuse me sir. Where's the bathroom?

Sir Humphrey peers at Danny in the gloom.

SIR HUMPHREY
Bathroom?

DANNY
You know, the toilet, lavatory. Where do you go for a pee?

Sir Humphrey clicks his fingers.

SIR HUMPHREY
Ah, you mean relieve yourself. Under the bed.

DANNY
Under the bed?

SIR HUMPHREY
You'll find a pot -- under the bed.

Danny shakes his head.
DANNY
Thank you sir.

BEN
Come on Dan, let's get some shuteye.

DANNY
Don't think I'll be able to sleep.

BEN
Uh.

DANNY
What with having to find a pot under the bed, and you all fired up with passion.

Danny ducks as Ben throws a smack his way.

Sir Humphrey shakes his head, makes off for his room.

INT. BEN & DANNY'S BEDROOM - DAY
A deep yellow sun streams in through a large leaded window.
The two boys are lying on top of a massive bed.
Ben is on his back, his eyes wide open, his hands behind his head.

He turns to look at Danny. He's on his back too, mouth wide open, eyes tightly closed in a deep sleep.

Ben smiles mischievously, sits up, puts an arm round Danny and shakes him gently.

BEN
(softly)
Oh Emily, Emily, kiss me Emily.

Danny grunts, licks his lips.

BEN
Kiss me Emily.

Danny wakes suddenly, sees Ben leaning over him.

DANNY
Geroff, you dork.
BEN
There was me, dreamin' you were Emily.

DANNY
Yeah, well dream’s over.

BEN
Sorry -- just teasing.

DANNY
And get on your own side of the bed.

Danny sits up, looks at his surroundings.

The walls are lined with dark paneling.

The ceiling is covered in decorative plasterwork.

DANNY
My watch still says 12.03. Wonder what the real time is.

A knock at the door startles them.

BEN
Come in.

The door is opened by JOSHUA THOMAS. He's a small man with beady eyes and a furtive servile manner.

He wears well-cut clothes of the period.

In his hands is a bowl with a jug in it. A towel is draped over an arm.

JOSHUA
Sir Humphrey thought you would like to freshen up young gentlemen.

Joshua places the bowl on a small oak table.

BEN
What's the time?

JOSHUA
Past seven o'clock in the forenoon.
BEN
You don't seem surprised to see us.

JOSHUA
Sir Humphrey has explained all. It is not my place to question him.

BEN
Are the others awake?

JOSHUA
I have left the same outside the young lady's room. The man at the end has been awoken too.

He bows stiffly and exits the room.

Ben leaps off the bed, runs to the door.

INT. ON THE LANDING - CONTINUOUS

Joshua is on the stairs.

Ben leans round the door.

BEN
Is there any grub going?

JOSHUA
Grub sir?

BEN
You know -- food.

He mimics putting food in his mouth.

JOSHUA
Come down when you are ready. Martha will make you something.

INT. BEN & DANNY'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Ben goes to the table, puts water in the bowl, splashes his face then wipes it dry on the rough towel.

BEN
Your turn Dan.
DANNY
I'm not using that water. Never know what I might catch.

BEN
Suit yourself. The only time you ever got washed was when Mary-Lou was coming round.

DANNY
(dreamily)
Mary-Lou. I’ll bet she's missing me.

BEN
Probably glad of the rest.

Ben picks up the bowl, walks towards Danny.

DANNY
You wouldn't dare.

As Ben advances he trips on an exposed floorboard.

The bowl and its contents land squarely on Danny.

DANNY
Of all the brainless idiots.

BEN
You got your wash after all.

DANNY
Throw me that towel.

Ben throws the towel, Danny mops his face.

BEN
Sorry Dan. Didn't mean to do that.

Ben sits on the bed, looks at Danny.

BEN
Don't know what Dad's gonna think. I mean with us out all night.

DANNY
Probably not noticed.
BEN
I'm worried about how we'll get back. I mean, this can’t be happening in our time can it?

DANNY
God! Hadn't thought about that.

Ben gives Danny a playful punch.

BEN
Come on little bro'. Let's see if we can get some grub.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Ben and Danny enter. The cook, MARTHA, is seated on a wooden chair by a large open fire.

She looks up as the boys enter.

BEN
Hi!

MARTHA
Good morning sirs.

DANNY
I'm Danny, this is Ben.

MARTHA
It's a strange going on is it not?

BEN
We can't explain what's happened.

Martha dabs her eyes with the large apron she’s wearing.

MARTHA
Those evil men! That wicked captain killed old Benjamin right there.

She stands and points to a spot on the rough stone floor.

MARTHA
Right there, in front of me. I thought I was a goner too.
BEN
That's terrible.

DANNY
We're gonna give 'em a fright when they come back.

MARTHA
I hope so -- I hope so.
'Specially that captain.

Martha walks across the kitchen, picks up a large meat cleaver.

Danny's eyes widen in fear.

MARTHA
Why if he were sitting at that table I'd -- I'd take his head off.

She swings the cleaver down into a wooden block, thwack.

The cleaver stays upright.

MARTHA
That's what I'd do.

BEN
Thank God we're not Cromwell's troops.

Martha calms down.

MARTHA
Can I get you some ham and bread -- or cheese?

BEN
Ham'ud be fine, thank you.

Martha goes to a large cupboard, brings out a joint of ham, sets it on the table.

She places a carving knife by the ham and lays two pewter plates for the boys.

MARTHA
Tuck in -- it's very tasty.

Ben cuts two slices off the joint, places one on each plate.
Martha puts a round loaf on the table.

    BEN
    How do we cut the bread?

    MARTHA
    Just break off what you want.

Danny breaks off a lump.

Ben picks up his ham, bites off a chunk.

    BEN
    It's very nice.

Martha busies herself with the fire.

Ben picks up his ham and stuffs it in his pocket.

Martha turns and sees Ben's empty plate.

    MARTHA
    Why sir, you must have had an
    empty belly. Please have some
    more.

    BEN
    (panicky)
    No, no thank you. There's a heavy
day ahead.

Ben pats his stomach.

Danny tries his ham. He chews, his eyes roll.

He pretends to cough and spits the ham into his hand.

The door opens and Sir Humphrey enters.

    SIR HUMPHREY
    I really thought you were a
    figment of my imagination. I am
    so relieved to find you were not.

    BEN
    Good morning sir. We're here to
    help, remember?

    SIR HUMPHREY
    How do you think we should rout
    these rapscallions?
DANNY
Pardon me sir, I thought they were Republicans.

Sir Humphrey gives Danny a look that conveys "lunatic".

BEN
If we're gonna scare them off we need to secure the castle.

SIR HUMPHREY
Just what I was thinking.

BEN
How many entrances are there?

SIR HUMPHREY
Just two. Front and back.

BEN
Then they need strengthening. We'll place heavy items against them.

SIR HUMPHREY
Oh, no need for that. My doors are made of stout English oak.

BEN
But even if they break the doors down we should still be able to hold them off.

Danny jumps up.

DANNY
Can't we drop boiling oil on them?

Sir Humphrey and Ben ignore him.

DANNY
I saw it in a movie once.

BEN
Then we must gather all your guns and ammunition -- and we should have the swords handy.
DANNY
Give you a chance to practice
what you learnt in Venice, Ben.

Sir Humphrey pricks up his ears.

SIR HUMPHREY
Venice you say. A delightful spot
-- visited more than once.

Sir Humphrey wrinkles his nose.

SIR HUMPHREY
Stinks in summertime.

Danny rolls his eyes, gives a why bother to explain look.

BEN
May we take a look around sir?

SIR HUMPHREY
Is your repast over?

Ben looks puzzled.

BEN
Repast?

SIR HUMPHREY
Your meal.

BEN
Oh yes, thank you Sir Humphrey.
It was delicious.

SIR HUMPHREY
Good, good, follow me.

INT. PASSAGEWAY - CONTINUOUS

Sir Humphrey leads the way, his hands clasped behind his back.

Danny trails behind him mimicking his walk.

Ben notices.

BEN (MOS)
Stop it.
SIR HUMPHREY
I'll show you where we can defend the castle.

They cross the HALL.

Sir Humphrey opens a small door.

Stone steps lead up.

Sir Humphrey walks in.

SIR HUMPHREY
Follow me.

INT. CIRCULAR STEPS - CONTINUOUS

Sir Humphrey starts to climb. Ben and Danny follow.

SIR HUMPHREY
(panting)
Not as young as I was.

BEN
Take your time sir.

DANNY
We'll catch you if you fall.

EXT. CASTLE BATTLEMENTS - DAY

Sir Humphrey exits, panting, followed by Ben and Danny.

Danny rushes to the edge and looks round.

DANNY
Wow! You can see for miles.

He points.

DANNY
I can see our cottage. But it looks different. Can't see any soldiers though.
SIR HUMPHREY
All the better for that. Walker can be stationed here. Give us warning when those devils appear.

Ben looks carefully around.

The tower is off to the left of the main entrance and gives a clear view all over the small castle and beyond.

BEN
If we have the cop and one of your men up here with guns we might be able to hold them off. Emily can help by doing the loading.

DANNY
And what am I supposed to be doing?

BEN
I've got a special job for you -- tell you later.

DANNY
Special job -- oh great.

BEN
I haven't seen the cop or Emily yet.

SIR HUMPHREY
The young lady and the strange man went out walking.

BEN
Oh no!

SIR HUMPHREY
They wished to leave.

Ben turns to Danny.

BEN
You know what this means?

DANNY
What does this mean?
BEN
They think they can resume their normal lives.

DANNY
Do you think...?

BEN
I'll bet Emily's gone to her cottage looking for her Mom. The cop'll think he can get back on duty.

Ben stamps a foot in frustration.

BEN
The damn fools.

DANNY
They must realize...

BEN
They don't.

Sir Humphrey looks on in puzzled amusement.

SIR HUMPHREY
Young sirs, you leave me flummoxed.

BEN
Must go and look for them.

DANNY
You mean go out?

BEN
They might be in danger.

DANNY
All right, long as we stick together.

BEN
I'm sorry Sir Humphrey. We must find them.

SIR HUMPHREY
Mmm! Of course. I shall instruct Walker to seek them too.
BEN
Thank you sir.
(to Danny)
Come on Dan.

The boys race down the spiral stairs.

EXT. CASTLE DOOR - SAME TIME
Ben and Danny tear out of the door.

EXT. FIELD NEAR THE CASTLE - DAY
The boys start to run in the direction of the entrance gate.

EXT. SITE OF THE GATE - DAY
Ben and Danny arrive at the gate.
But the gate isn't there any more.
And the road is just a deeply rutted cart track.

BEN
We'll try this way first.

Ben points right in the direction of Emily's home.

EXT. CART TRACK - CONTINUOUS
The boys march briskly along the track.
Suddenly they hear loud voices.

CHRIS (V.O.)
You have no right to threaten us like this. We mean you no harm.

The four men, ABE, JOE, NAT and WILLIAM, laugh out loud.

ABE (O.S.)
He means us no harm lads.

The unseen others jeer.
EMILY (O.S.)
You let us go. I'll tell Sir Humphrey.

The jeers rise again.

Ben looks at Danny.

BEN
(softly)
Hope there's not too many of them.

Some large bushes obscure the mob holding Chris and Emily hostage.

Ben walks up to a bush, gently parts it.

Four rough looking men have surrounded Chris and Emily.

They hold large lumps of wood at a menacing angle.

Ben looks at Danny.

BEN
Any ideas?

DANNY
Not right now.

Ben looks thoughtful.

BEN
You were the sprinting champ at school.

DANNY
Yeess.

BEN
Well you'll easily outrun this bunch of losers.

DANNY
Don't think I'm gonna like what's coming next.

BEN
I'll hide in the bush, shout and scream; make out like there's ten of us.
DANNY
And...?

BEN
When they turn, you jump out and call them some abusive names.

DANNY
What you mean like...

BEN
(hastily)
Not now. Just say whatever comes into your head.

Ben places a hand on Danny's shoulder.

BEN
Some of 'em are bound to follow. So run like hell back to the castle.

DANNY
You don't think I'd be stopping to pick daisies do you?

Ben peers through the bush.

The men are still menacing Chris and Emily.

BEN
It's now or never, Dan.

Danny looks frightened.

DANNY
Okay.

Danny walks gingerly from the hiding place.

Chris and Emily see him.

Danny motions 'keep quiet'.

Ben whoops, hollers, makes threatening noises.

The men turn in alarm and see Danny.

DANNY
Ya, ya, ya. You stink.
He pulls his mouth open and sticks his tongue out.

JOE
All that noise from such a little mouse. Get him lads.

Nat and William peel off, make for Danny.

Danny turns, runs like hell.

The two men run past Ben's hiding place.

BEN
(softly)
Go Dan, go.

Ben leaves his retreat and walks quietly up to the two remaining men.

BEN
Try me for size.

He beckons to Chris.

BEN
Chris, help me.

Chris nods.

ABE
Uh! What?

He doesn't get a chance for more as Ben places a well aimed kick that lands in his airway.

He falls to the ground gasping for breath.

Joe advances on Ben.

Chris runs up to Joe, rabbit chops him in the back of the neck.

He screams in pain, wobbles to turn to Chris but falls to the ground.

BEN
Handcuff them together.

CHRIS
Do you think I should.
BEN
Why the hell not?

CHRIS
I might be in trouble when I get back to the station.

BEN
In case you hadn't noticed, you ain't getting back -- at least not yet.

Emily runs sobbing up to Ben. She puts her arm round his neck.

EMILY
Thanks Ben.

BEN
Just knew I'd need my taekwondo training one day.

A worried look crosses Ben’s face.

EMILY
What's wrong Ben?

BEN
It's Dan.

EMILY
Oh God.

CHRIS
To hell with it.

He takes his handcuffs and shackles Abe and Joe together.

CHRIS
(triumphantly)
Now get out of that.

Abe and Joe spit and scream. Joe tries to stand, dragging Abe with him.

Suddenly Danny's voice is heard.

DANNY (O.S.)
Get off you dorks -- ow -- you're hurting me.
Ben ushers Emily to hide.

Nat and William appear holding Danny by his hair.

When they see Ben and Chris they throw Danny to the ground and charge them, screaming abuse.

Ben stands his ground.

Chris removes his truncheon flicks it to its full length.

    BEN
    I don't like people hurting my brother.

    NAT
    You're next I'm thinking.

He gives a vicious smile displaying a mouthful of rotting teeth.

    ABE
    Leave 'em be Nat. Help us out of these chains.

He lifts his arm. Joe yells in agony as the handcuffs bite into his wrist.

    BEN
    (to Nat)
    You'll get the same. Now let us be.

    NAT
    Remove the chains and we won't give no more trouble.

    BEN
    No!

    NAT
    Then it's a taste of my weapon.

Nat moves menacingly towards Ben.

Ben turns to Chris.

    BEN
    Throat and neck?

Ben and Chris push clenched fists together.
Ben advances on Nat, who raises his club menacingly.

William urges Nat on.

Ben looks squarely at Nat then raises his left leg high.

Nat laughs out loud.

> NAT
> Look mates, he wants to dance with me.

Nat bows mockingly.

Ben drops his left leg spins round then lands a crippling blow on Nat's neck with his right.

Nat's face turns purple as he gasps for breath. He drops to his knees, clutching his throat.

> WILLIAM
> We didn't mean no harm.

He turns sharply and runs off.

> ABE
> Let us go mister. Ain't right to keep us in chains.

Ben takes Chris, Emily and Danny to one side.

> BEN
> We could do with extra hands tomorrow. What do you think?

Chris shrugs his shoulders.

> DANNY
> Don't know what Humph would think having those morons about.

> BEN
> Sir Humphrey to you Dan -- remember?

> DANNY
> Still don't think he'd like it.

> BEN
> I reckon if the soldiers see this lot they'll be running scared.
Ben walks back to the three remaining rough men who look subdued.

BEN
Do you want to earn some money?

ABE
What do we need money for? We live in the woods yonder.

He points to a large clump of trees.

JOE
We live off the land. Don't owe nobody nuthin'.

BEN
Tomorrow, Cromwell's troops are coming to tear Sir Humphrey's castle down.

NAT
Him as lives in the big house?

BEN
We want you to help fight them off.

JOE
Risk our lives for him?

BEN
Have you ever done anything good in your miserable lives?

Ben looks at Chris, Emily and Danny who all look worried.

BEN
Well I guess we could leave you like this -- chained together.

Ben looks at Nat who is still rubbing his neck.

BEN
I could fix the other side for you.

Ben lifts a leg again.
NAT
(whining)
No, no mister.

Ben motions to Chris, Emily and Danny to leave the rough men.

BEN
Come on, we've got work to do.

ABE
Don't leave us like this. Say what you want us to do.

BEN
Be at the castle door at sun-up tomorrow -- but no dirty tricks and I promise you'll be rewarded.

JOE
Let us go. We'll be there.

BEN
And bring your friend -- the one who ran off.

Ben motions to Chris to unlock the handcuffs.

Chris shrugs his shoulders.

CHRIS
If you're sure Ben.

Chris walks warily over to the two handcuffed men. Unlocks the cuffs.

Abe and Joe rub their wrists.

BEN
They're just simple guys really. I think we can trust them.

EMILY
What if they turn on us at the castle?

BEN
Then we'll shoot 'em.
INT. CASTLE - DAY

Ben and the others return. Sir Humphrey is pacing up and down.

He smiles as he sees them enter.

    SIR HUMPHREY
    I was worried you would not come back.

    BEN
    We gave you our word that we'd help, sir.

    SIR HUMPHREY
    Then I shall instruct Martha to make us a grand feast tonight. Pheasant, goose and all the trimmings.

Sir Humphrey’s eyes twinkle.

    SIR HUMPHREY
    And perhaps a glass or two of port to wash it down. For tomorrow -- who knows?

    BEN
    You’ll feel better after a few glasses of port, sir.

Sir Humphrey puts an arm on Ben’s shoulder.

    SIR HUMPHREY
    You’re a good lad, Ben. You could have been my heir.

Danny turns to Chris. Puts his fingers in his mouth, feigns puking.

    DANNY
    (to Chris)
    I hope there won’t be any of that crappy ham.

Chris looks on bemused.

    CHRIS (MOS)
    Crappy ham.
He shakes his head.

INT. DINING ROOM - NIGHT

A large table is set for dinner for five.
Silver cutlery and napkins, glasses and silver candelabra adorn the table.
Paneled walls and paintings complete a scene of some grandeur.
The double doors open and Sir Humphrey enters followed by Ben, Emily, Danny and Chris.

SIR HUMPHREY
Sit yourselves down my friends.

He waves his arms expansively.

They all sit, with Sir Humphrey at the top of the table.
Ben and Emily on one side, Chris and Danny the other.
Sir Humphrey picks up a small bell and RINGS it loudly.

Danny covers his ears.

DANNY
(to Chris)
Back home we just shout.

Chris smiles.

CHRIS
The landed gentry you know. They like to do things properly.

The doors open and Joshua and Walker enter carrying large servers with goose and pheasants on them.

Then they return with more dishes; baked hare and chicken pie.

The dogs slink in and sit down expectantly.

SIR HUMPHREY
Don’t stand on ceremony, just tuck in. We have a Momentous day tomorrow.
Sir Humphrey leans over the table and breaks a leg off a goose.

SIR HUMPHREY
Capital, capital. Done to a turn. And I can vouch for the chicken pie.

He looks round, sees the others just watching.

SIR HUMPHREY
Well come on, come on. Can’t eat it all meself.

Ben leans over, breaks off a leg for Emily, then gets one for himself.

Danny picks on a pheasant. Chris goes for goose.

BEN
This meat is delicious, sir. Is it turkey?

SIR HUMPHREY
Turkey?

BEN
You know, the stuff we have at thanksgiving.

SIR HUMPHREY
It’s goose. Keep some birds here. Better than dogs at giving a warning if anybody is on the prowl.

BEN
We could make use of them when the soldiers return.

Sir Humphrey nods.

SIR HUMPHREY
Now who’s for some port?

He picks up a flagon containing a dark brown liquid.

BEN
I’ll try a little sir.

He holds his glass out. Sir Humphrey fills it to the brim.
BEN
Whoa, sir. That’s more than enough.

SIR HUMPHREY
Nonsense. Got to keep your strength up.

Sir Humphrey gets up, walks round the table with the flagon, fills everyone’s glass.

Danny’s eyes twinkle.

DANNY
Wow. Never had a real drink before.

Danny finishes his pheasant leg, tosses it to the dogs who snarl over it.

BEN
Manners, Dan.

DANNY
Saw it in a film about an old king who did that.

CHRIS
That’ud be Henry the Eighth.

DANNY
Really.

Danny takes a huge slurp of the port. He goes cross-eyed and starts coughing.

BEN
You’re supposed to sip it crumb-head. It ain’t Coke.

DANNY
Now -- you-- tell-- me.

SIR HUMPHREY
Finish it all off. There’s plenty more if you need it.

Sir Humphrey rings the bell again.

Joshua enters.
SIR HUMPHREY
What’s for dessert?

JOSHUA
Baked apple, sir.

SIR HUMPHREY
Who’s for that?

BEN
I couldn’t eat another thing sir.

Chris and Emily agree.

DANNY
I’ll try some please. I love apple pie.

SIR HUMPHREY
Two helpings Joshua, if you please.

JOSHUA
I’ll see to it right away sir.

He exits the room.

Danny breaks wind noisily.

DANNY
Oh, begging your pardon, sir. I think it must have been the drink.

Chris and Emily smile. Ben winces and gives Danny a withering look.

Sir Humphrey laughs out loud.

SIR HUMPHREY
At least the young man enjoyed his food.

He turns serious and looks at his guests.

SIR HUMPHREY
Now my young friends. About tomorrow. Have you any plans?

BEN
I’ve hired some extra help sir.
SIR HUMPHREY
Who might they be?

BEN
Four local men. They wanted to help you.

Sir Humphrey beams.

SIR HUMPHREY
Local men eh? They wanted to help me eh. Just goes to show. There’s good in all men.

Sir Humphrey lifts his glass.

SIR HUMPHREY
Except blasted Republicans!

He laughs heartily, then belches loudly.

SIR HUMPHREY
Let’s drink a toast to King James and all good loyal Englishmen.

DANNY
You’ve got two Americans here as well. Don’t forget them.

SIR HUMPHREY
And two Americans -- whosoever they are.

They all laugh and raise their glasses.

INT. HALL - DAY

Abe, Nat and Joe are squatting down murmuring quietly to themselves.

William stands, looking on.

Their heavy clubs lie by their side.

Sir Humphrey is pacing up and down muttering quietly to himself. His hands are clasped behind his back.

Ben, Danny, Chris and Emily are standing quietly in a group.

Tension shows on their faces.
Joshua stands on his own.

Sir Humphrey stops and looks at Ben.

    SIR HUMPHREY
    The waiting, that is the worst part.

    BEN
    We're as prepared as we can be sir.

Sir Humphrey walks closer to Ben.

    SIR HUMPHREY
    Are you sure about these -- these scoundrels?

He nods his head in their direction.

    BEN
    Having them might be the difference between winning and losing.

Sir Humphrey nods agreement.

Ben notices Danny is missing.

    BEN
    Anyone seen Danny?

Everyone shakes their heads ‘no’.

    BEN
    I’ll kill the little brat when I find him.

    CHRIS
    Careful what you say in front of a cop, Ben.

Ben looks round anxiously.

EXT. CASTLE GARDEN - DAY

(NOTE: Livestock -- twelve geese needed)

Danny is creeping towards the goose pen.
The geese CACKLE loudly as they see him.

Danny checks out the surroundings.

He satisfies himself that all is clear. Undoes a clip holding the pen shut.

Two dozen geese storm towards freedom.

Danny runs for his life and reaches safety just as the geese, necks outstretched fly for him.

EXT. BATTLEMENTS - SAME TIME

Walker scours the countryside.

He looks left, right, left.

The sun beats mercilessly down. Walker yawns.

By each slit a gun stands, primed, ready and waiting.

Walker takes another look. Satisfied that all is clear he slides down onto his butt. He yawns again.

His eyes close.

INT. HALL - DAY

All is deathly quiet. Even Danny's normally cheery face wears a worried look.

Ben and Emily sit together on the stairs. Emily's head on Ben's shoulder. He puts an arm around her.

Chris stands and bites his nails.

Sir Humphrey has walked down the passageway out of sight.

The rough men say nothing, but keep a watchful eye on the dogs close by.

Danny takes his baseball cap off, looks at it carefully then brushes off some imaginary dust before replacing it back to front on his head.

One of the dogs scratches itself.
Suddenly, three loud BANGS on the door galvanize the group into action.

The dogs bark and jump around excitedly.

The rough men jump up in alarm. Abe looks through a small window.

BEN
How many Abe?

Abe holds up both hands.

The BANGS come again.

FAIRFAX (O.S.)
Open up!

BEN
Everybody go to their positions. Come on Chris and Emily. Danny, go and keep guard on the rear door.

Danny gives a mock salute and runs down the passageway.

Ben, Chris and Emily run to the small door and clatter up the circular stairs.

EXT. BATTLEMENTS - SAME TIME

Ben, Chris and Emily emerge. Walker is stirring himself.

BEN
So much for a lookout.

WALKER
Sorry sir. Must have dozed off.

Ben peers over the battlements. The horsemen are grouped together.

BEN (to Fairfax)
Push off. We're not opening the door.

One of the soldiers raises a musket and aims it at Ben.
The musket FIRES and a ball chips some masonry off the wall close to Ben's head.

Ben picks up a pistol, aims it at the soldier. The pistol FIRES with a large puff of smoke.

The ball hits the soldier’s steel helmet, ricochets off and hits the breastplate of another soldier. From there the ball rebounds onto the flank of a horse.

The horse rears, suddenly taking off towards the river. The soldier clings on in desperation trying to bring the horse to a stop.

At the rivers edge it comes to a sudden halt, catapulting the soldier head first into the water.

The soldier surfaces, spluttering a hatred of all things equine and spitting out a mouthful of muddy brown goo.

The other members of the troop laugh out loud. Except Fairfax.

    FAIRFAX
    (shouting to Ben)
    Be warned, boy. This is one fight you cannot win. Now open up in the name of Oliver Cromwell.

    BEN
    Oliver who? We're not scared of you punks.

Chris and Walker each pick up a pistol and fire on the soldiers.

The soldiers retaliate by firing back.

Emily is reloading.

ON THE GROUND.

Fairfax motions to Sergeant Lampley and three of the soldiers to close up with him.

Fairfax points. The soldiers dismount and run to the door. They begin kicking and heaving at it with their shoulders, but the door remains firmly closed.
BEN
(to Fairfax)
Nice try. If you break it down
we've got a wonderful reception
waiting for you.

Fairfax scowls and beckons his troop to follow him some way
off from the castle.

Suddenly geese round a corner of the castle, wings
outstretched, SCREAMING at the top of their voices.

They see Fairfax and his troops and make for them.

The soldiers look on uneasily.

FAIRFAX
Stand your ground men. They’re
only a few geese.

Several of the soldiers retreat.

The horses are restless. Some WHINNY, others just paw the
ground.

Some of the geese make for Fairfax and begin pecking his
legs.

Fairfax withdraws his sword and begins slashing at the
birds.

The soldiers are running with more geese chasing them.

ON THE BATTLEMENTS

Ben and Chris are laughing fit to bust.

BEN
Looks like we’ve got some great
helpers. They might frighten them
off all by themselves.

WALKER
They’re savage little devils.

CHRISS
That’s the funniest thing I ever
saw.

Ben looks at Chris and Walker.
BEN
I'm going back down. Make sure the door is okay. Keep your eyes on them Walker.

WALKER
(laughing)
I will.

Ben makes off down the circular stairs.

INT. HALLWAY - SAME TIME

Ben rushes out into the hall.

Nat is by the door, swinging his club.

NAT
Come on, I'm ready.

BEN
They'll have guns and swords Nat.

Walker runs into the hall.

WALKER
They're coming back -- and some soldiers are carrying a tree trunk.

BEN
What happened to the geese?

WALKER
Fairfax killed one of 'em. The others just got bored and made off.

BEN
Go get the guns and tell Chris to come down.

WALKER
And me?

BEN
Yes -- and tell Emily to stay up -- but out of sight.

Walker nods and runs back up the stairs.
Danny comes haring into the hall.

DANNY
They've gone round the back with a tree trunk.

BEN
How many?

DANNY
Three -- I think.

BEN
Go back and keep an eye on them.

Danny runs off down the passageway.

BEN
(to Nat)
Can you handle a sword?

NAT
Never needed to...

He swings his club round.

NAT
...This is all I've ever needed.

Chris and Walker join Ben.

They carry the pistols and ammunition between them.

CHRIS
If the back door goes we've had it.

BEN
How many guns have we?

CHRIS
Five, all loaded -- I've left one on the battlements.

BEN
Give one to Nat.

CHRIS
(quietly to Ben)
Not sure about that.
BEN
(sharply)
Give him a gun.

Chris hands Nat a gun.

Ben shows him how to handle it.

BEN
Don't fire unless the door goes.
Then just pull the trigger and
aim for a leg where there's no
armor.

Nat nods and smiles.

CHRIS
Where's Sir Humphrey?

BEN
I'd forgotten about him -- I
don't know.

Suddenly there's an almighty CRASH from the rear of the
castle that shakes the walls to their very foundations.

Danny runs back.

DANNY
I don't think it's gonna hold.

BEN
Take two guns and two swords.

Danny picks up the guns and swords.

BEN
Then come back here -- okay --
OKAY?

DANNY
(grudgingly)
Okay.

The sound of BREAKING GLASS from the library makes them all
jump.

Nat runs to the library door.
INT. LIBRARY - SAME TIME

A leg is dangling over the casement as a soldier attempts to climb in.

Nat runs into the library and smashes his club on it.

A SCREAM of pain (V.O.) The leg is hurriedly withdrawn.

INT. HALLWAY - SAME TIME

Nat comes back. He taps his club.

    NAT
    My weapon! All I need!

He waves it menacingly in the air.

    BEN
    Keep an eye on that window.

    NAT
    Aye, I'll do that.

Danny comes running back.

    DANNY
    (panting)
    The door is starting to break up.

    BEN
    Here's your special job. Go up there...

He points to the stairs.

    BEN
    ...Stay with Emily. She'll be scared witless.

    DANNY
    I'll miss all the action.

    BEN
    For once in your life Dan, do as I say. And keep out of sight.

Danny slinks off.

The CRASHES are getting louder from the rear of the castle.
Ben picks up the guns and swords, motions Chris to follow him.

INT. REAR DOOR - CONTINUOUS

Ben and Chris arrive and see the door coming apart.

Ben looks through a small window sees Sergeant Lampley directing three soldiers who are manipulating a tree trunk, battering the door.

Splinters of wood fly off.

BEN
Cock your guns.

EXT. BATTLEMENTS - SAME TIME

Danny peers over the edge.

Emily sits on the floor - terrified.

Fairfax and several soldiers are grouped together.

Fairfax looks up and sees Danny.

Danny picks up the pistol, cocks it and aims it at Fairfax.

He FIRES, but the ball is wide of its mark.

Two soldiers FIRE back. The balls dig harmlessly into the masonry.

DANNY
(to Emily)
I'll get him next time.

INT. REAR DOOR - CONTINUOUS

The door is almost shattered.

The faces of the three soldiers show their determination.

Old Joshua looks grief stricken at the mess.

JOSHUA
This is a terrible day.
BEN
We're gonna win Josh.

JOSHUA
We'll never beat the likes of Cromwell's army.

BEN
Then we'll go down fighting.

Joshua just shakes his head.

JOSHUA
Perhaps, sir, t'would have been better to let them have their way.

BEN
No! These people are thugs and murderers.

EXT. BATTLEMENTS - SAME TIME

Danny and Emily sit together. He puts his arms round her.

DANNY
We'll be okay Em. Don't worry. There's enough of us to see 'em off.

EMILY
Don't think so.

She starts to cry.

EMILY
Wish I could go home and see mum.

Danny pulls her close to him.

Suddenly a loud metallic noise makes them jump.

Danny turns and sees a grappling hook digging into a slit in the masonry.

He peers over. Three soldiers are down below. One of them pulls on the rope attached to the hook, testing that it is safely secured.

He nods to the others and begins to climb.
Danny picks up the gun and cocks it.

DANNY
That's far enough. Any further and I'll make little meatballs out of your brains.

The soldiers on the ground laugh.

SOLDIER # 1
Listen to the young pup.

SOLDIER # 2
He's the one I'm going to teach a lesson in manners when this is all over.

Danny points the gun at the climbing soldier.

He squeezes the trigger. But the gun doesn't fire.

DANNY
(to Emily)
Quick Em, reload.

EMILY
Can't. Chris has taken all the ammunition.

Danny goes to the grappling hook and tries to dislodge it.

The weight of the soldier prevents it.

The soldier is now half way up the wall.

DANNY
Look round Em. See if you can find something to get this thing off the wall.

Emily looks round.

EMILY
There's nothing.

Danny watches as the soldier gets nearer.

He holds the barrel of the pistol ready to strike the soldier.
As the soldier's head gets level he crashes the butt onto his helmet.

The soldier shakes his head, gives Danny an evil look. His gloved hands grasp the top of the masonry. Danny smashes the pistol butt on them. The soldier cries out, lifts his head.

Danny swings a right hook onto the soldier's jaw, causing him to lose his grip, and he falls back to earth with a METALLIC CRASH.

As he falls, Danny loosens the grappling hook and pulls the rope up.

He turns to Emily, grinning. Then he grimaces and shakes his hand

DANNY
Wow, that hurt.

EMILY
Well if you will play macho man. But they're not going to give up that easy.

INT. REAR DOOR - CONTINUOUS
Fairfax has joined the soldiers and is urging them on.

The door is in bits.

FAIRFAX
In you go lads.

BEN
Aim at their legs.

William and Abe are stationed either side of the doorway, clubs in hand.

Sergeant Lampley and two soldiers push through the shattered door.

Chris and Joshua FIRE. Joshua misses and the ball digs into the soft wall.
Chris hits with his shot and Sergeant Lampley falls to his knees whimpering.

The other soldier pushes in, Abe crashes his club down onto his head.

He goes down like a falling tree.

Two more soldiers push past the door debris, swords flashing in the sunlight.

Ben fires at the first, the ball ripping through his boot.

He screams in pain and lunges at Ben, his sword aimed at Ben's chest.

William puts him out of his misery, crashing his club on the back of the soldier's neck.

Ben sees Fairfax stamping his feet in rage. Draws his sword and motions to the other two soldiers to follow him.

Fairfax is slashing his sword left and right, bends down and rushes in.

Ben points his gun at him.

    BEN
    One more step and you'll be joining your men on the floor.

    FAIRFAX
    (screaming)
    Pipsqueak! You dare to threaten a captain of Cromwell's army.

    BEN
    I don't give a stuff about you -- or that idiot Cromwell.

Fairfax advances on Ben.

Ben aims his gun at Fairfax's fleshy legs.

    BEN
    You'll be singing in a squeaky voice if you get any closer.

Fairfax still moves closer to Ben.
**BEN**
I warned you.

Ben squeezes the trigger, but the gun refuses to fire.

**FAIRFAX**
Ha! Now who has the upper hand?

Fairfax turns to Chris, Abe and William.

**FAIRFAX**
Keep your distance.

Fairfax sneers.

**FAIRFAX**
I want to take this young gentleman as a prisoner. One false move by you and his heart will be ripped out.

Chris looks on in horror.

**CHRIS**
Captain, I beg you to let him go.

**FAIRFAX**
Beg all you like. This young man will be returning to the garrison with me.

He gives a mocking laugh.

**FAIRFAX**
He'll be well treated -- before we hang him.

Fairfax motions to the remaining two soldiers who are hovering just outside.

**FAIRFAX**
Come on men.

He beckons to Chris, Abe and William.

**FAIRFAX**
Let them pass, or...

He puts the tip of his sword closer to Ben's chest.

Ben flinches.
Two soldiers cautiously enter. Fairfax waves them on up the passageway.

    FAIRFAX
    Open the main door. Let the others in.

The two soldiers run up the passageway.

INT. CASTLE DOOR - CONTINUOUS

Two soldiers are at the door struggling to get it open.

One turns and sees Walker.

    SOLDIER # 2
    Where's the key?

    WALKER
    The key?

    SOLDIER # 2
    The key for the door, clod.

    WALKER
    My master keeps it about his person.

    SOLDIER # 2
    Fetch it.

    WALKER
    My master is in his chambers. He does not wish to be disturbed.

The soldier advances towards Walker. He holds his sword menacingly.

    SOLDIER # 2
    FETCH IT!

Walker turns on his heels and makes for the stairs.

INT. REAR DOOR - CONTINUOUS

Ben looks at Chris, then at a sword dropped by a downed soldier.

Chris picks it up. But Fairfax has noticed.
FAIRFAX
Drop that weapon.

Chris drops the sword but nods his head at Ben to move backwards.

Ben steps back two paces. Chris picks up the sword by the blade and tosses it to Ben.

Ben catches the handle and crashes it down on Fairfax's.

BEN
Now we're equal.

FAIRFAX
So, you still want to fight?

BEN
As a choice between living and dying, yes.

FAIRFAX
Then I suggest you make the most of the time you have left.

Ben adopts a fencing pose. Fairfax advances, smashing his sword on to Ben's.

BEN
(panting)
Chris, go see if Dan and Em are okay.

Chris runs up the passageway.

Ben is forced into

THE PASSAGEWAY

by the desperate slashing of Fairfax's sword.

Ben slashes his sword round above his head. The blade slices through three candles on the wall.

The candles roll onto the floor.

Fairfax stands on one which causes him to lose his balance, and he falls backwards.

Ben advances, places his sword close to Fairfax's chest.
BEN
Call off your men.

FAIRFAX
Never.

BEN
Then I'll run you through.

Fairfax rolls sideways, drags himself off the floor.

Ben turns and runs into the

HALL.

Fairfax runs after him.

FAIRFAX
You have nowhere to hide, boy.

Ben runs to the small open door.

BEN
(shouting)
DANNY -- you okay?

Fairfax runs over, Ben turns and is just in time to avoid a
fearsome downward slash of his sword.

Ben and Fairfax clash swords again.

Chris is standing in the small doorway.

Ben sees him. Chris mouths and nods ‘okay’.

Fairfax slashes, Ben parries, then lunges at the chest of
Fairfax.

Fairfax leans back and makes a downward slash at Ben.

Ben sidesteps and the two swords CLASH.

Fairfax lunges again.

Five soldiers, guarding Nat, Joe and Walker, cheer him on.

The dogs are snarling.

Fairfax lunges at Ben who retreats towards the stairs.
As Fairfax lunges Ben stumbles backwards, his sword held high to protect himself.

Fairfax gives a mighty swipe at Ben's sword which snaps the blade.

The force of the blow causes Ben to fall back on the bottom steps.

**FAIRFAX**
(triumphantly)
Advantage to me, I think.

**BEN**
Think again, schmuck.

Ben rolls sideways, stands, then head down butts Fairfax in the stomach.

Fairfax's eyes roll as he stumbles, winded.

A soldier with his sword aloft advances on Ben.

Ben points beyond the soldier.

**BEN**
Behind you!

The unsuspecting soldier turns his head long enough for Ben to kick him very hard in the crutch.

The soldier drops the sword and holds himself.

Ben picks up the sword and marches up to Fairfax.

**BEN**
Where did we get to?

Fairfax crashes his sword onto Ben's. His blow rips Ben’s arm open and blood gushes out.

Ben holds his arm and wraps a handkerchief round the wound.

He staggers back, loses his footing and falls to the ground.

Fairfax raises his sword.
FAIRFAX
Why waste time hanging you. I’ve raised the first blood. Now let me finish you off.

He places the sword close to Ben's throat.

FAIRFAX
Any last thoughts?

INT. LANDING - CONTINUOUS

Sir Humphrey has seen everything.

SIR HUMPHREY
(shouting)
Leave him be. 'Tis me you're seeking.

FAIRFAX
Ah, Sir Humphrey. How kind of you to join us.

Fairfax's sword is still dangerously close to Ben's throat.

FAIRFAX
But first I have some unfinished business.

SIR HUMPHREY
Spare him and you can do as you please.

FAIRFAX
(screaming)
Spare him, spare him -- I think not.

Ben's face is a mask of horror.

Fairfax lifts his sword to plunge into Ben's chest.

The dogs are ready to pounce on Fairfax.

As they leap they freeze in mid air, their mouths open and teeth bared.

Ben closes his eyes.
But Fairfax stands motionless, his face twisted in a vicious sneer. The soldiers, Nat, Joe and Walker are like statues. Then they crumble to a pile of dust.

Sir Humphrey fades away.

Fairfax crumbles.

Ben opens his eyes. He surveys the scene.

The sword in Ben's hand fades to nothing.

Sunlight streams through the open oak door.

Suddenly day becomes night.

Walls and ceilings crash down. The tiled floor retreats.

The stairs disintegrate.

Now bright moonlight graces the scene.

In the gloom Ben sees Chris transfixed.

BEN
(shakily)
You all right Chris?

CHRIS
Not too sure.

BEN
God! Dan and Em.

Ben rushes to the circular stairs. But they are just a pile of rubble.

BEN
DANNY!

DANNY (V.O.)
We're trapped. What the hell happened?

BEN
Don't move. If you've still got the torch shine it down. But don't get too close to the edge.

DANNY (V.O.)
Okay.
A small gleam of light shines into the hall.

BEN
Is Emily okay?

DANNY (V.O.)
Yeah.

Suddenly Chris's radio crackles into life.

RADIO OPERATOR (O.S.)
337.

CHRIS
My God -- we're back in real time.

RADIO OPERATOR (O.S.)
337.

CHRIS
Go ahead.

RADIO OPERATOR (O.S.)
Where are you Chris?

CHRIS
I'm looking for a couple of kids at Wissle Castle.

RADIO OPERATOR (O.S.)
Give us a shout if you need any help. Gary's on standby. Oh Chris, don't forget to call in at the all night cafe for my bacon sandwich when you go off shift at two.

CHRIS
I hadn't forgotten.

Chris switches his radio off. Looks at Ben. He shakes his head in disbelief.

BEN
Shine your torch up there Chris.

He points to where Danny and Emily are trapped.

The torch picks out the face of a frightened Danny.
DANNY
Is it all over Ben?

BEN
Not till we get you and Em down.

EMILY (V.O.)
I'm all right Ben, Danny's looking after me.

BEN
I'll bet he is.

Ben turns to Chris.

BEN
Any ideas?

CHRIS
I'll call the fire service.

He pushes the button on his radio.

CHRIS
(into radio)
Sue, it's Chris. Can you call the fire service please. There's two kids trapped on a ledge at Wissle Castle.

RADIO OPERATOR (O.S.)
What the hell are two kids doing out at ten past midnight?

CHRIS
It's a long story.

RADIO OPERATOR (O.S.)
I'll call 'em. See you later.

Ben walks out through the creaky old door.

EXT. CASTLE DOOR - SAME TIME

Ben sits on the grass, rests his head on his legs.

Chris joins him.
CHRIS
Can you believe it? All we've been through happened in a minute of real time.

BEN
I just get the feeling that I'm going to wake up and find it was all a dream.

CHRIS
So how can you explain the kids up there?

BEN
I can't.

The handkerchief falls from Ben’s arm revealing that the sword cut has miraculously healed.

BEN
It gives me the shivers to think we’ve been mixing with ghosts -- and I didn't believe in them.

He shakes his head in disbelief.

They both sit in silence.

In the distance a late night train rushes by.
A plane whines in the cool night air.
Its vapor trail leaves a long plume in the moonlight.

Chris and Ben look at each other. Shake their heads.

BEN
Never thought I’d be so glad to hear normal things like trains and planes.

CHRIS
But do you feel you’ve changed because of what you’ve been through?
BEN
Yeah. I got so close to being a goner with that lunatic captain. I’m just glad to be alive.

CHRIS
All these things happened. But they didn’t really happen -- did they?

BEN
Yeah, guess you’re right. Never thought of it like that. But when you look at the old castle, Cromwell won in the end.

CHRIS
We couldn’t change history. What happened all those years ago couldn’t have been altered.

In the distance, the RUMBLE of the fire engine and flashing blue lights.

CHRIS
That was quick.

The engine turns in at the gate, rocks and bounces on the uneven field.

Chris stands and shines his torch.

The engine turns to the light and stops with a squeal of brakes.

The fire captain leaps out and approaches Chris.

FIRE CAPTAIN
Where are they?

Chris shines his torch. Danny leans over.

FIRE CAPTAIN
Soon have them down.

He turns to Chris.

FIRE CAPTAIN
Little buggers -- they should be in bed. Two boys is it?
CHRIS
Boy and girl.

FIRE CAPTAIN
Well it's a bloody silly place to go for a bit of nooky.

CHRIS
No -- it's not like that.

FIRE CAPTAIN
(smiling)
Things have changed since my day then.

The fire captain turns to his crew.

FIRE CAPTAIN.
Pump ladder up there.

He points to where Danny is leaning over.

FIRE CAPTAIN.
Two teenagers, boy and girl.

The firemen nod 'okay'.

The ladder begins to elevate and HISSES and CLUNKS metallically.

FIRE CAPTAIN.
Martin'll go up. Can't send young Eric -- he's a right randy sod. He'd want the girl’s phone number before he brought her down.

Ben looks on anxiously.

FIRE CAPTAIN.
Up you go Martin.

The fireman nods, then climbs the ladder.

At the top he helps Emily on to the rungs then guides her down.

Ben chews his nails.

On the ground Emily runs to Ben, flings her arms round his neck and sobs quietly.
BEN
You're safe now.

EMILY
I'm glad it's all over.

BEN
You know something? So am I.

EMILY
What happened with all the fighting?

BEN
Tell you tomorrow.

Emily lifts her face, gives a weak smile.

EMILY
It's tomorrow now.

BEN
Reckon I must be losing my marbles like poor old Sir Humphrey.

Danny is down and runs up to Ben and Emily.

DANNY
That was exciting.

BEN
Should'a thought you'd had enough excitement.

Ben gives Danny a quizzical look.

BEN
By the way, how did the geese get out?

Danny shrugs his shoulders.

DANNY
Search me.

Ben gives Danny a knowing look.

Eric walks over to Emily.
ERIC
Hi. If you need any help to get over what you’ve been through you can always give me a call at the fire house.

EMILY
Thanks, but Ben will look after me now.

ERIC
It’s just that I’ve been through a counseling course for this sort of thing.

EMILY
Thanks.

BEN
I’m not letting you out of my sight young lady!

EMILY
(under her breath)
Fine by me.

She hugs Ben tightly.

The fire captain approaches.

FIRE CAPTAIN.
Right you two, I'm placing you in the bobby's hands. Hope he locks you up.
(to Eric)
OK mate. Let’s go.

CHRIS
Don't worry chief, they're gonna get a good tongue lashing.

FIRE CAPTAIN.
Well, job done. We'll be on our way -- see you.
(to Eric)
Come on -- now would be good.

ERIC
Don’t forget, if you need help.
BEN
Thanks. We’ll be all right.

The ladder retracts back on to the engine with a metallic CLANG.

The fire captain leaps aboard the engine which turns and makes its way out of the field.

Chris puts an arm round Emily, Danny and Ben.

CHRIS
Right you three, to bed. Me, I've got to get back on my rounds.

They walk in the moonlight back towards the gate.

CHRIS
I don’t know whether I’m pleased or sorry that I didn’t stop you from going in that damn castle.

DANNY
Wouldn’t have missed it for the world.

EMILY
I live here. Every time I look at the place now I’m going to think about what happened.

BEN
At least we all got out okay.

EMILY
Now all we’ve got to do is get home without waking anyone.

BEN
Then we’ve got to try and get to sleep.

DANNY
No bother. I could sleep standing up.

BEN
We’ll leave you here then, shall we?
Wouldn’t worry me.

Ben gives Danny a playful smack on the head.

EXT. CASTLE GATE - CONTINUOUS

Chris takes the car keys from his pocket.

CHRIS
I'll call later today -- see you're all okay.

BEN
Thanks for everything Chris.

They shake hands.

CHRIS
Just another day in a copper's life.

They all laugh. Chris enters his car and scoots away.

Emily gives Ben a peck on the cheek.

Ben pulls her close to him and gives her a deep kiss.

Danny gets a hug from her.

DANNY
Wow, I’ll have to protect you from evil forces again some time.

EMILY
My brave little man.

She kisses Dan on the cheek.

Dan blushes.

EMILY
See you later boys.

She runs the few yards to her home.

Ben and Danny watch as she goes through her garden gate, then turn and make their way to Castle Cottage.
BEN
(dreamily)
She’s some girl.

Danny gives him an evil look.

DANNY
You know what? I'm going to write a movie about all of this -- make a million bucks.

BEN
Uh, uh.

DANNY
Reckon it'd be a blockbuster.

BEN
You'd be wasting your time Dan. Nobody'ud ever believe it.

He puts an arm round Danny's shoulders.

BEN
Beddy-byes. God I’m tired.

They walk off together.

FADE OUT.

THE END