

The Tinner of the Redbrook

By MED Theatre's Bright Nights Group

CHARACTERS:

GARTH

WIFE

YOUNG MELYS

YOUNG HAEL

SIR JOHN

PERTRISH

WILLIAM

HENRY

OTHER MEN

VILLAGER 1

VILLAGER 2

VILLAGER 3

SAILOR

PIRATES

GROWN MELYS

GROWN HAEL

SCENE 1 by Camilla

(Garth and wife enter)

GARTH: Why me? You can't die!

WIFE: Aaaaghh!

GARTH: Please, stay with me!

WIFE: Garth, my husband.
You have watched over me
Like an eagle
Swooping for its prey.
Protect our son,
Until he grows old
Like an oak tree,
Never forget our happy times,
Goodbye my love.

(By Sophie)

GARTH: No! This isn't happening, it's not true! *(WIFE collapses, dead)* Why? Why?

(Garth bursts out crying)

Now I'll have to raise a child myself! I can't do that, there's hardly enough food for me!

HAEL: Whaaa!

GARTH: I promise I will keep you safe, feed you and make you happy. But what shall I name you? I know, you will be Hael!

HAEL: Whaaa!

GARTH: I suppose that's a yes?

SCENE 2 by Molly

(Enter HAEL)

HAEL: Father, I'm starving. *(His stomach rumbles)*

GARTH: Alright, I will go out to look for a rabbit. Or maybe, if I have to, a hare. *(Sighing)*

(1 hour later, GARTH enters on a hill)

GARTH: The aching pain in my chest, it's too hard, I'm too cold, I need to feed my son if it's the last thing I do. If only the cold would sweep a hare into my path so my dog can end it's run in the wood and help me and Hael to survive. I hope so much the now will stop and the wind will settle down and a timid strip of blue might even dare to show itself. My hands, they seem too startled to feel the crunchy flakes of snow which sadly will not go. *(By Pacha)*

Patch! Catch it, this is a big one, it will feed us for weeks!

(PERTRISH enters)

PERTRISH: You have killed me, taken my soul! Help me! You evil, evil person, you are planning to eat my soul... At least give it back to me!

GARTH: No

PERTRISH: Huh?

GARTH: I don't get this business about hares anyway.

PERTRISH: My dear, it is a very serious matter indeed!

GARTH: Well it can't be that important.

PERTRISH: Well it is, us witches place our souls into hares, you see.

GARTH: What?!

PERTRISH: Goodbye, if you won't give me my soul I will leave you now.

Curse your bravery,

Curse all fight

Curse all evil

Love don't fight.

So give me my soul

I will not fight,

Fight makes hate

Fight makes hurt and spite.

And hares are peaceful

And deserve all life!

Hares are spiritual as can be
They are open
They share everything with me...

(She curses him as she leaves)

GARTH: What has just happened?

 What has that crazy witch done?

 I had no choice.

 How did she expect me

 To feed Hael.

 Oh so little Hael.

 Oh how much he means to me.

 His tiny fingers...

(Exit HAEL)

SCENE 3 by Elisha

(Sound of horses)

(Enter SIR JOHN and young MELYS, thrown onstage. SIR JOHN is unconscious and MELYS hides behind a bush, wearing a silk scarf that has been splattered with blood)

(SIR JOHN's men, including WILLIAM and HENRY enter the stage and look around for MELYS but have no luck)

WILLIAM: Can anyone find the little girl?

MEN: *(They chorus)* No, no sign of her.

HENRY: We must go, otherwise we'll miss our journey to Spain.

WILLIAM: Are you sure we should leave without Melys?

HENRY: Yes, we don't want the boat to sail without us.

(SIR JOHN is helped offstage by the men)

SCENE 4 by Birdie

At the tin mines

(Enter young Melys sobbing. Enter Hael)

HAEL: Daddy, Daddy, come and look at this!

GARTH: *(Offstage)* Coming, coming!

(Enter Garth)

GARTH: Goodness me, a little girl, what are you doing here?

MELYS: Me Melys. *(Taking off the silk scarf)* Me Melys.

GARTH: What's that? Melys is it?

MELYS: *(Assuringly)* Me Melys.

GARTH: What's this Melys? *(Picking up the silk scarf)*

HAEL: Let me see, let me see, what is it Daddy? Let me see!

GARTH: I don't know, but I think she needs help.

(All exit)

(GARTH, HAEL and MELYS enter the village)

VILLAGER 1: Roll up, roll up, get your pumpkins here!

VILLAGER 2: Cherries for sale, this way!

VILLAGER 3: *(Overlapping)* Get your nice plump chickens, a shilling each. Or I can do a bargain for you Garth?

GARTH: I'm not here to buy your silly bargains today, I'm here to help this little infant who I think is called Melys...

MELYS: Me Melys!

GARTH: Yep, there you go, Melys, don't you think? That's all she's said so far.

(HAEL starts tugging at Garth)

HAEL: Daddy, Daddy, cherries, it's cherries. I want some cherries, get me cherries please!

VILLAGER 1: I think you should take care of her Garth.

VILLAGER 2: Until her real parents arrive.

GARTH: But how shall I raise her?

VILLAGER3: Act like she is your own daughter, she can keep Hael company.

GARTH: Alright, I shall take good care of her.

(Exit ALL)

SCENE 5 by Matthew

(Enter SIR JOHN with WILLIAM and HENRY)

SIR JOHN: Where is Melys??

HENRY: We don't know...

WILLIAM: I'm sorry sir; I think she might have died.

SIR JOHN: Nonsense, the Pritchard family are the strongest.

HENRY: Umm, well there is a slight chance that she could be alive.

SIR JOHN: Well then we need to find her!

WILLIAM: But we're half way to Spain!

SIR JOHN: Aargh! Is she okay? Where did I trip?

(SIR JOHN starts to pace)

WILLIAM: At the tin mine, near the Redbrook

SIR JOHN: *(Loudly)* WHY DID YOU LEAVE HER BEHIND?

HENRY: You'll just have to tell her Spanish relatives that she is missing...

SIR JOHN: Well we are probably nearly in Spain, so we'll just have to get on the next boat back to Dartmouth.

(Suddenly there is a knock, a SAILOR rushes onstage)

SAILOR: Arghh, pirates aboard!

(PIRATES rush in, wildly)

PIRATE: Yargh, ye be coming with us!

(PIRATES drag everybody offstage)

SIR JOHN: Nooooo!

SCENE 6 by Beth and Matthew

By the river

(Enter HAEL with MELYS)

HAEL: We should go down to the bridge, and watch where the rivers meet.

MELYS: Yes, we should, like we used to when we were little and I remember loving the calming sound it makes as the water rushes down the waterfall!

(They walk on)

HAEL: Would you like to sit here?

MELYS: Errmm, sure!

HAEL: Well, you know how we've been very close recently?

MELYS: Yes, definitely, we've been very close.

HAEL: Well, you see where these two streams join together? I think we should live like that, forever... Will you marry me Melys?

MELYS: Oh my gosh, yes, yes!

HAEL: Oh wonderful, I'll tell my father!

(HAEL exits)

MELYS: Oh Hael and Garth are so wonderful. Now that me and Hael are engaged nothing could ruin this...

(Exit MELYS)

SCENE 7 by Pacha

(Enter Garth, at work at the tin mine. Enter SIR JOHN. GARTH stops working.)

GARTH: Can I help you sir?

SIR JOHN: Well this is the last place I saw my daughter, and I hope so much that she is alive. But the chances of that are very low.

GARTH: I hope you don't mind me asking, but how long ago was that?

SIR JOHN: Thirteen years. I was riding my horse with her in front of me, we were on our way to her mother's family, but the horse tripped and I fell unconscious.

GARTH: When you fell unconscious, was your daughter wearing anything, I mean a token of some sort?

SIR JOHN: Why yes! Before I fell, Melys was wrapped in my silk scarf!

(GARTH is surprised and excited)

GARTH: Please wait here a minute sir.

(GARTH exits the stage and returns with the silk scarf with blood on.)

SIR JOHN: Oh my, that's the very scarf! How did you get it?

GARTH: I found her that day on Dartmoor, she was hiding behind a bush and I have brought her up with my son, Hael. If you like I will go and get her now, I'm sure she will be overjoyed.

(Exit SIR JOHN and GARTH)

SCENE 8 by Sophie

(GARTH and HAEL enter)

GARTH: Hael! I have great news!

HAEL: I do too... What is your news?

GARTH: *(In an excited voice)* Melys' father is back for her.

HAEL: But...

GARTH: But what?

HAEL: *(Quietly)* But we were going to get married.

GARTH: What did you say?

HAEL: WE WERE GOING TO GET MARRIED!

GARTH: Oh.

HAEL: If Melys goes with her father she is going to marry a nobleman and she will forget me because we are poor.

GARTH: Ok then, go and get Melys and hide her, as far away as possible.

HAEL: Do you think it will be okay?

GARTH: Yes.

(Exit GARTH and HAEL)

SCENE 9 by Matthew, Mae and Elisha

(Enter HAEL, he runs towards MELYS but is suddenly struck with guilt)

HAEL: Wait... I can't do this. I'll go and tell Melys the truth.

(Enter MELYS)

MELYS: Oh, hello. What did your father say?

HAEL: Umm, well your real father is here. I was going to hide you but... he wants to see you. I have told you the truth because I couldn't live with the guilt otherwise.

MELYS: Really? Oh Hael, I'm so excited. Take me to him!

(Exit MELYS and HAEL)

(Enter SIR JOHN and GARTH)

SIR JOHN: Ahh, here comes my daughter, I'm so relieved to find her alive and well.

(Enter MELYS and HAEL, GARTH looks surprised)

MELYS: Oh father! How happy I am to see you...

GARTH: You have his eyes, Melys.

SIR JOHN: How happy I am to see you in person, I shall take you back home with me. Thank you Garth!

(Exit MELYS with SIR JOHN. Exit HAEL and GARTH the other way)

SCENE 10 Part 1 by Mae

(Enter HAEL and GARTH)

HAEL: Why did we let Melys go?

GARTH: I thought she might want to go and live with her father.

HAEL: I loved her so much, don't you see? Don't bother with dinner.

GARTH: But...

(Exit both)

SCENE 10 Part 2 by Aurelia

(HAEL walks onstage slowly, the wind is howling)

HAEL: I wish I hadn't let Melys go, oh why did I even come out here? I shouldn't have been so hard on father; I can't stand it out here in the snow and the cold. Oh Melys, where are you? I need you, why did you leave me? I have so many questions; I hope my father understood why I have come out here. Melys, don't leave me... I should just lie here behind this bramble bush and wait; maybe father will find me in the morning... *(Yawns)* *(By Mae)*

(HAEL sits down under the blackthorn bush. He groans, freezing.)

Melys, Melys, is that you? I need you! Only you can help me... *(he reaches out but the vision is gone)* Wait, where have you gone? Oh, help me; I made a mistake coming out here on such a cold night...

(HAEL shivers)

How much do I regret letting her go?

I feel like I am my own self's foe.

Now I lie here in the snow,

As our river does not flow.

I know that I must not freeze

But my life does not come with ease.

And now I feel to be sleeping,

As my heart seizes to be beating,

And my chest refuses to be breathing.

How I wish I had not come into the cold,

As now my life I cannot hold...

(By Camila)

(HAEL dies)

(Enter GARTH at the back)

GARTH: It's so cold, it has been snowing for hours, where is he? Hael! I hope he is ok!

(GARTH is still looking for HAEL when he sees him and is devastated.)

GARTH: Nooo! Why? Come on Hael, wake up, I need you!

(GARTH shakes HAEL)

GARTH: Please, I can't live without you...

(GARTH realises HAEL is dead and carries his body offstage)

SCENE 11 by Rosa

(Enter MELYS crying)

MELYS: Oh, I miss Hael so, so much. I want to see him again.

(Enter SIR JOHN)

SIR JOHN: Are you ok?

MELYS: I'm just upset, because I miss Hael and Garth.

SIR JOHN: I know you're missing them, but are you not happy here?

MELYS: No, I love Hael and want to go back to him.

SIR JOHN: Are you sure?

MELYS: Yes.

SIR JOHN: Ok, well if you're happy then I'm happy. I'll take you back in the morning.

MELYS: Thank you, father.

(MELYS hugs SIR JOHN)

(Exit SIR JOHN)

MELYS: I can't wait to see them.

(Exit MELYS)

SCENE 12 by Lissy

(GARTH enters the stage, crying. HAEL lies dead on the table, covered except his face by a cloth.)

(Enter SIR JOHN and MELYS on horse. Horse sounds)

MELYS: Oh Garth! I've returned to you! Where is Hael? *(She is happy but then sees GARTH is crying)*

SIR JOHN: Melys, I will miss you very much but I know you will be happier here.

(They ride down the hill, closer to GARTH.)

GARTH: *(Muttering to himself)* It's all my fault.

MELYS: Garth, Garth, I'm here. *(Comforting)*

(GARTH looks up at MELYS but then looks down again at HAEL)

GARTH: Hello Melys. I'm sorry, I have some very bad news.

MELYS: *(She comes closer)* What's wrong? Tell me.

(MELYS sees HAEL is dead and stands, staring in astonishment)

MELYS: Noooo!

(GARTH comforts MELYS. SIR JOHN is still waiting at the back to say goodbye to MELYS)

MELYS: How did this happen?

(MELYS kneels down by GARTH and HAEL, they shiver in the cold)

SIR JOHN: Melys *(he shouts to her)* it's time for me to go.

(MELYS runs back to SIR JOHN)

MELYS: Goodbye Father. I'm sorry to leave you so soon, but Garth needs me to look after him.

SIR JOHN: I understand child. Farewell Garth, take good care of her.

(Exit SIR JOHN)

(VILLAGER is passing and sees GARTH)

VILLAGER 1: Oh, I'm sorry for your loss Garth, if there is anything I can do for you, you know where to find me.

(MELYS returns to GARTH and they sit together by HAEL)

NARRATOR: Sorrow fills the room.

The fire burns brightly.

The snow falls gently

Outside the window.

Hael lies cold and silent

In his never ending sleep.

Quietly, Garth and Melys hope

That the warmth of the crackling fire

Would bring life to the pale body.

(Exit MELYS and GARTH with HAEL)

EPILOGUE By Elisha?

MELYS: Oh, Hael. When I look at this river it reminds me of you and how I never thought this would happen. The river is flowing through the rocks like your soul flowing through

me, and how I remember when you used to say that the rivers meet like you and I.
Oh Hael, how I wish you were still here with me!