

PRODUCTION SCRIPT

# STORM BOY

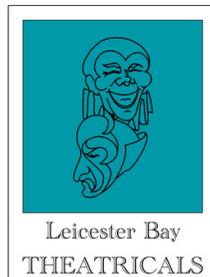
A Devastating Tale of  
Brotherhood, Love, and Loyalty

Script and Lyrics by

**Steve Eaton Evans**

Music by

**Tim Laycock**



Newport, Maine

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## **STORM BOY**

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*Storm Boy* is set in Lynmouth, Devon between the years 1895 -1899. This is an ensemble piece requiring a big cast although judicious doubling can be employed for smaller casts. The given ages of the characters are as they are in 1895.

**CHARACTERS: 20M 12F + villagers (doubling possible)**

**Teale Family**

Alfie Teale (15)  
Mary Teale Mid 40s  
William Teale (15)  
Lizzie Teale(19)  
Maudie Teale (13)  
Queenie Teale (12)  
Seth Teale (11)  
Molly Teale (9)

**The Life Boat Crew**

Jack Crowcombe (coxswain)  
George Richards (second coxswain)  
Richard Ridler (bowman)  
Albert Moore (signalman)  
Richard Burgess  
Charles Crick  
David Crowcombe  
William Jarvis  
Bertram Pennicott  
Thomas Pugsley  
Samuel Richards  
John Riddle

**Other Speaking Roles**

Millicent Baker – William’s girlfriend  
Rev. Arthur Hockley  
Lady Tregonwell  
Lord Clive Tregonwell  
Mrs. Coulston (Landlady of The Anchor)  
Princess (A black market trader)

**Narrators: (can be combined)**

Rose Saddler	Rachel Crick
Clara Moore	Sally Richards
Fanny Jarvis	Ernest Entwhistle
Charlie Sand	Walter Dent

Other Villagers (if needed)

## **SONGS:**

### **ACT ONE**

- #1 – WE WILL SURVIVE (Tim Laycock)
- #2 – BRING OUT THE LIFEBOAT (Tim Laycock)
- #3 – TEALE FAMILY WASSAIL (Tim Laycock)
- #4 – LYNMOUTH FAIR SONG (Tim Laycock)
- #5 – HAUL ON THE ROPES
- #5a – Princess Underscore #1
- #6 – THERE’S A FRIEND FOR LITTLE CHILDREN
- #6a – Act One Ending

### ***INTERVAL***

### **ACT TWO**

- #7 – LET THE LOWER LIGHTS BE BURNING (Traditional -- Arr: Tim Laycock)
- #8 – LET THE LOWER LIGHTS BE BURNING (reprise)
- #9 – THE LARKS THEY SANG MELODIOUS (Traditional)
- #10 – FOR SHE’S A JOLLY GOOD FELLOW (Traditional)
- #11 – THE LIFEBOAT GIRL (Traditional)
- #12 – A-ROVIN’ (Traditional)
- #13 – A-ROVIN’ (reprise) (Traditional)
- #13a – Princess Underscore #2
- #14 – THAT’S MY STAR (Tim Laycock)
- #15 – THAT’S MY STAR (reprise) (Tim Laycock)
- #16 – MY FAITHFUL SAILOR BOY (Traditional)
- #17 – LYNMOUTH LIFEBOAT SONG (Tim Laycock)
- #17a – LYNMOUTH LIFEBOAT SONG (reprise) (Tim Laycock)
- #18 -- ETERNAL FATHER STRONG TO SAVE
- #19 – FAREWELL [FAITHFUL SAILOR BOY (REPRISE)]

### **STORM BOY MUSIC NOTES**

*The music in **Storm Boy** is drawn from three sources: local traditional folk songs and sea shanties; hymns from the Anglican and Methodist traditions popular in seafaring communities; and new songs which we’ve written in the style of folk songs.*

*One of the joys of traditional music is how resilient and flexible it is. How you arrange and treat the songs is down to your own personal taste and the overall style of your production. However, it may be helpful to know how the most authentic ‘period’ approach would sound, so here goes!*

*Folk songs at the time of the play (1895) were usually sung without accompaniment. This would be an authentic and natural way to perform the Larks They Sang Melodious, Amsterdam, Haul on the Ropes, and the Lifeboat Girl. One of the strengths of the original production of Storm Boy was the lusty singing of the Lifeboat Crew. However, if you have an accordion or other free-reed instrument [squeezeboxes or mouth organ], that would also be very appropriate for the period and for the community of the play. The Wassail Song sung by the*

*Teale family is interesting survival of an old seasonal custom; the verse tune is a version of the familiar God Rest Ye, Merry Gentlemen. Wassailing is a midwinter custom in the British Isles, usually found in apple-growing districts. Singers and musicians go into an orchard, surround an apple tree and sing to the tree, to encourage it to produce a finer crop the following autumn. Often cider or apple juice is pouring into the roots of the tree, and toast hung in the branches to attract the birds. Such songs are popular in Devon and in Somerset. Fiddles, penny whistles and accordions are all used to accompany Wassail songs.*

*The hymns can either be sung acapella, or with harmonium/American organ accompaniment. Throw out the Lifeline, Let the Lower Lights be Burning, Eternal Father Strong to Save are all still very popular in maritime communities in the South West of England.*

*Several songs that would benefit from fuller accompaniment. We Will Survive, That's My Star, and the Lynmouth Lifeboat song all work with guitar accompaniment, but adding some woodwind, strings and brass would also be lovely. Lynmouth would have had a town band at the time, which was probably a wind and brass band; and for nearly all this music, a violin [fiddle] would be very appropriate.*

*The Lynmouth Fair song is based on a popular polka tune, and so a fairground/ dance band sound, possibly with percussion, would suit the song very well.*

*The Faithful Sailor Boy is more of a parlour song, although it was very popular in the dockside bars of fishing ports, and indeed can still be heard from time to time. Nowadays it's normally sung unaccompanied, with a solo voice on the verse, and everyone joining in with the chorus.*

*Finally, in 1895 most children would have attended Sunday school at the local church or chapel, and learnt songs such as 'There's a friend for Little Children.'*

*Basically, if you sing these songs from the heart, you can't go far wrong; enjoy the music and the play!*

*Tim Laycock, Littlebredy, Dorset*

### **PRODUCTION NOTES:**

*The staging of the lifeboat rescue itself should be done in a way which requires the audience in Shakespearian tradition, to suspend disbelief. In the original production a part of the set was detachable and wedge shaped. The crew sat on this section holding ropes which were anchored SL and SR by other cast members. Sound effects and lighting along with the dialogue created a powerful scene.*

***"And let us, ciphers to this great accompt,  
On your imaginary forces work."***

***Henry V. Act 1***

# **STORM BOY**

## **ACT 1**

**SCENE** -- *Lynmouth, North Devon 1895. Enter the LIFEBOAT CREW who begin to sing. The rest of the CAST complete the tableau and fill the stage as the song moves on so everyone is on stage in family groups by the final chorus.*

### **SONG #1 – WE WILL SURVIVE**

#### **COMPANY:**

CALLING YOU TRAWLERS, YOU SHANTY MAN BAWLERS  
FLYERS AND TRYERS WHO SWIM FOR THEIR LIVES  
COME ON YOU DRIFTERS, THE TIDE WILL SOON LIFT US  
OUR TIME IS COMING AND WE WILL SURVIVE

WHERE WE ARE HEADING OUR COURSE IS NOT CLEAR  
FOG'S ALL AROUND AND THE DANGERS ARE NEAR  
STORM CLOUDS ARE GATHERING, COMING ON FAST  
AND WE'RE TOO MANY, SO MANY MILES OUT AT SEA

CALLING YOU TRAWLERS, YOU SHANTY MAN BAWLERS  
FLYERS AND TRYERS WHO SWIM FOR THEIR LIVES  
COME ON YOU DRIFTERS, THE TIDE WILL SOON LIFT US  
OUR TIME IS COMING AND WE WILL SURVIVE

REEF IN THE MAINSAILS, BOYS. LAY OUT THE CHARTS  
RED AND GREEN LANTERNS AGLOW IN THE DARK  
LOOK TO YOUR COMRADES AND CHEER UP YOUR HEARTS  
FOR WE'RE TOO MANY, SO MANY MILES OUT AT SEA

CALLING YOU TRAWLERS, YOU SHANTY MAN BAWLERS  
FLYERS AND TRYERS WHO SWIM FOR THEIR LIVES  
COME ON YOU DRIFTERS, THE TIDE WILL SOON LIFT US  
OUR TIME IS COMING AND WE WILL SURVIVE

HOLD ON, STAND YOUR GROUND. NO TIME FOR WHINING  
SEAS CRASHING OVER US, TROUBLES COMBINE  
BUT LOOK TO THE SKY THERE'S A BRIGHTER STAR SHINING  
THOUGH WE'RE TOO MANY, SO MANY MILES OUT AT SEA.

CALLING YOU TRAWLERS, YOU SHANTY MAN BAWLERS  
FLYERS AND TRYERS WHO SWIM FOR THEIR LIVES  
COME ON YOU DRIFTERS, THE TIDE WILL SOON LIFT US  
OUR TIME IS COMING AND WE WILL SURVIVE  
COME ON YOU DRIFTERS, THE TIDE WILL SOON LIFT US  
OUR TIME IS COMING AND WE WILL SURVIVE

*SFX The Sea, gulls, waves etc. CAST exit except the LIFEBOAT CREW.*

**SCENE -- *Bring out The Lifeboat – Fisherman's Friends***

**SONG #2 – BRING OUT THE LIFEBOAT**

**SOLO VOICE:**

BRING OUT THE LIFEBOAT  
BRING OUT THE LIFEBOAT  
SOMEONE IS DRIFTING AWAY  
BRING OUT THE LIFEBOAT  
BRING OUT THE LIFEBOAT  
SOMEONE IS DRIFTING AWAY

*Harmony humming underscores dialogue*

**ALBERT:** Been out in the lifeboat often?

**GEORGE:** Ay, ay, sir, oft enough.

**ALBERT:** When it's rougher than this?

**GEORGE:** Lor' bless you! this ain't what we calls rough!

It's when there's a gale a-blowin',  
and the waves run in and break  
On the shore with a roar like thunder  
and the white cliffs seem to shake;  
When the sea is a hell of waters,  
and the bravest holds his breath  
As he hears the cry for the lifeboat —  
his summons maybe to death —  
That's when we call it rough, sir;  
but, if we can get her afloat,  
There's always enough brave fellows  
ready to man the boat.

**JACK:** 14<sup>th</sup> January 1899 will forever be etched in the memories of the people of Lynmouth. The events of that night and the next day have become legend, and yet as those events unfurled, there was no sense of history

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about them; just a natural order. As for my part in these events, I can look back and say I did my duty...no more, no less. A lifetime of service had taught me to hold on to my own life lightly, for the Lord can call a man back to him at any time. I have seen many men's lives cut short in this service, and I'm sure I shall see many more.

**ALBERT:** *(to audience)* Albert Moore. Signalman. Lynmouth Life Boat Crew. George?

**GEORGE:** *(to audience)* George Richards. Second Coxswain. Lynmouth Life Boat Crew.

*To ALBERT.*

Aye Albert?

**ALBERT:** That Squeeze-Box of yours...

**GEORGE:** Aye what of it?

**ALBERT:** How about a tune? Something to put us in mind of Christmas

*Link: 'Deck The Halls With Boughs of Holly'*

**SCENE 1: The Teale Family Kitchen** -- *The LIFEBOAT CREW begin to set out the Teale's kitchen quietly humming a Christmas tune. They introduce the characters as they go along. The Teales do not acknowledge the crew, who are the story-tellers*

**ALBERT:** Our story must begin two years previously...

**JACK:** Christmas 1893. The Teale Family kitchen. Lynmouth. Mary Teale, widow of Ex-Coxswain Edward Teale, who was claimed by his maker in the great storm of 92. A woman of determined character and substance enough to hold her family together against the odds. Fiercely loyal and morally upright. She worked as cook up at The Grange...home of The Tregonwell (*pronounced 'Tre-gon-al'*) Family

**ALBERT:** You wouldn't want to cross Mary Teale, would you Skip?

**JACK:** I don't know what you are insinuating Albert!

*Laughter from the CREW*

**ALBERT:** This is Lizzie Teale. At 19 She's the eldest, and, like her mother, full of steadfast loyalty. She loved her father beyond measure, and knew when he was gone that she must somehow fill the space left in the family

**LIZZIE:** Now Mother, The bird is plucked but I've looked in the pantry and I can't find the mincemeat for the stuffing?

**MARY:** Oh Lizzie, you know I've only gone and forgotten the mincemeat. What am I to do?

**LIZZIE:** Don't worry mother. I'll take Alfie and walk down to Mrs Pedder's before she closes this evening. You'll come won't you Alfie?

**ALFIE:** Oh Aye

**MOTHER:** Oh thanks Lizzie. Thanks Alfie. Where would I be without you?

**ALBERT:** Now Maudie's another case altogether. She's going to church tomorrow with the rest of the family but her motives aren't perhaps entirely for spiritual advancement!

**MAUDIE:** Careful Queenie! The hem must be perfect for Church on Christmas day. I must look my best, for if John Riddle should be there, it is important that he notice me.

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*The LIFEBOAT CREW laugh at John*

**MOTHER:** I'm sure your thoughts about Christmas Day should be thoughts about the celebration of the birth of our Saviour, Maudie. John Riddle's neither here nor there.

**QUEENIE:** Let's hope he's there Maudie.

**MAUDIE:** I'd rather he were here!

**MOTHER:** Now, now Queenie. Don't encourage her. Hurry up Molly. William will be home soon.

*Giggling. MOLLY is knitting a scarf.*

**LIZZIE:** We don't want him to see his present until Christmas Day.

**MOLLY:** There's a piece missing!. I did the red, Lizzie did the Pink, who did this brown colour?

**MAUDIE:** That's beige! And I did it!

**MOLLY:** Queenie did the green, and Mother did the blue.

**MOTHER:** Royal Blue. Seth, Where's your bit?

**SETH:** Oh, it's not quite finished.

**MOTHER:** Seth! It's Christmas Eve!

**SETH:** Well I'm no good at knitting! Knitting's for girls! Why couldn't we give him a cricket bat or a bicycle? And why didn't Alfie have to do a bit?

**MOTHER:** We can't afford it. You know that Seth. We have to make do with what we have.

**SETH:** Well why didn't Alfie have to do a bit?

**MOTHER:** Alfie's made a lifeboat for William, haven't you dear?

**ALFIE:** I've m-m-made a lifeboat for W-W-William, Seth.

**JACK:** Now, Alfie is William's twin, and he's a character central to our tale.

**GEORGE:** But we mustn't give too much away, must we Skip.

**JACK:** Only to say that Alfie was the first born, but was breach. And his first moments on this earth affected the rest of his life.

**ALBERT:** The cord connecting him to his mother was wrapped around his neck.

**JACK:** And Alfie didn't breathe.....until it had taken its toll on a part of his brain.

**GEORGE:** But Alfie is everyone's friend.

*Murmurs of agreement from the CREW*

There's no one in Lynmouth who doesn't know Alfie. And Alfie is interested in lifeboats, isn't he Skip?

**ALFIE:** I've m-m-made a lifeboat for W-W-William, Seth

**SETH:** I know Alfie.....but I had to make a piece of a sappy old scarf

**MOTHER:** Well we'll have to make do with whatever you've done. Where is it?

**MAUDIE:** Yes Seth, Show them what you've done.

**SETH:** Only if you all promise you won't laugh.

**MOTHER:** Of course we'll promise not to laugh. You wouldn't laugh at him would you children?

**ALL:** 'Oh no' 'We wouldn't laugh would we?' etc.

*SETH shows a pitiful effort. ALL laugh uproariously, especially ALFIE*

**SETH:** There you are! I knew you'd laugh!

**MOTHER:** Alright, Seth's right, it's not fair to laugh at him. It's lovely Seth. I'm sure William will be very pleased with it. It's very...

**QUEENIE:** Holy...

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*They ALL fall around laughing again*

**ALFIE:** Perfect for Christmas day!

*Laughter. Even SETH*

**MOLLY:** Here Seth, give it to me. I'll sew it on. He can wear that end in the summer!

**MOTHER:** What ever you do, do it quickly. He'll be home any minute.

**MOLLY:** Let's play a game Mother.

**MOTHER:** What kind of game?

**QUEENIE:** How about The Minister's Cat?

**MOTHER:** Alright...the Minister's Cat is an appealing cat. Lizzie, the Minister's Cat is.....

**LIZZIE:** The minister's cat is an adorable cat. The minister's cat is ....your turn Maudie.

**MAUDIE:** ...an annoying cat. The minister's cat is .....Alfie.

**ALFIE:** The minister's cat.....is.....is.....a lifeboat cat.

**MAUDIE:** No, Alfie, it has to begin with 'A'.

**ALFIE:** 'A' lifeboat cat.

**SETH:** That's fair enough... The minister's cat is an active cat.

**QUEENIE:** The minister's cat is an admirable cat. Molly.

**MOLLY:** The minister's cat is an argumentative cat....Mother.... Mother!

**MOTHER:** The minister's cat is fat, overfed and thoroughly spoiled!

**MOLLY:** No mother, b. You're first. You've got to think of something beginning with b.

**MOTHER:** Of course. Where was I? The minister's cat is a Big cat.

**LIZZIE:** The minister's cat is a blundering cat.

**MAUDIE:** The minister's cat is a bristly cat.

**ALFIE:** The minister's cat is going to 'Beeeee' a lifeboat cat!

*Looks between the members of the FAMILY indicate general acceptance of Alfie's ingenuity*

**SETH:** The minister's cat is a bald cat.

**QUEENIE:** The minister's cat is a bellowing cat.

**MOLLY:** The minister's cat is a beautiful cat!

**MOTHER:** We'll play the 'C' round later. There's too much to be done. Queenie and Alfie I want you to stir the Christmas pudding. Seth that's very good. Maudie.....Maudie!

*MAUDIE is holding her dress up and dancing round the room.*

**MAUDIE:** Oh how fine we shall look in church tomorrow, all of us dressed in our best clothes. I can't wait.

They will all turn their heads and gaze on us with admiration. Even the minister's cat.

**MOTHER:** Yes Maudie, and if you should catch the eye of young John Riddle you'll be happier still.

**MAUDIE:** Oh Mother, how you know the secrets of my heart! Yes it's true. I shouldn't mind that.

**MOTHER:** Now you be very careful with that dress. It's very old. Sew some of this ribbon round the cuffs and no one will notice how faded it really is.

**SETH:** I'm glad I'm a Teale. This family knows better than any other how to make the best of things.

**MOTHER:** That's because we all work together to help each other.

**ALFIE:** And forgive each other.

**LIZZIE:** Quick Molly. Hide the scarf....William's coming!

*Enter WILLIAM. Lots of business trying to hide the scarf over the next dialogue.*

**MOTHER:** (*Trying to decoy him*) William! What time do you call this?

**JACK:** William. Alfie's twin

**WILLIAM:** Sorry, Mother..... Choir practice went on a bit. And then I had to practice for the Bible reading. 'The Shepherds in the field'. Maudie....what a dress! Too good for a duchess. Fit for an empress! ...And you two...

*indicating ALFIE and QUEENIE.*

They're good little mixers, Mother. Come on, Alfie, let's give the pudding one more stir with the big spoon. Ooh look what I found in my pocket!

*WILLIAM brings out a shiny sixpence. Gasps from FAMILY.*

**MOTHER:** William! Where did you get sixpence?

**WILLIAM:** Shoveling coal for Old Mother Figgis. Molly, you can drop it in and give the pudding one more revolution.

**MOTHER:** Oh William... You're such a love! If only your father could be here to see this....

*MOTHER begins to cry.*

**WILLIAM:** Now Mother. Dry your eyes. Christmas is a time for us to be merry. Father would have wanted it.

**MOTHER:** You're right I know William. But I do miss him.

**LIZZIE:** We all miss him Mother. But remember what Seth said. We know how to make the best of things

### **SONG #3 – TEALE FAMILY WASSAIL**

WE'VE BEEN A WHILE A WANDERING AMONG THE LEAVES SO GREEN;  
AND NOW WE COME A WASSAILING SO FAIR TO BE SEEN!

FOR 'TIS CHRISTMAS TIME, WHEN WE TRAVEL FAR AND NEAR,  
MAY GOD BLESS YOU, AND SEND YOU A HAPPY NEW YEAR!

WE ARE NOT DAILY BEGGARS WHO BEG FROM DOOR TO DOOR;  
BUT WE ARE NEIGHBOURS CHILDREN WHO YOU HAVE SEEN BEFORE:

FOR 'TIS CHRISTMAS TIME, WHEN WE TRAVEL FAR AND NEAR,  
MAY GOD BLESS YOU, AND SEND YOU A HAPPY NEW YEAR!

WE HAVE GOT A LITTLE PURSE OF STRETCHING LEATHER SKIN;  
WE WANT A LITTLE SIX PENCE TO LINE IT WELL WITHIN!

FOR 'TIS CHRISTMAS TIME, WHEN WE TRAVEL FAR AND NEAR,  
MAY GOD BLESS YOU, AND SEND YOU A HAPPY NEW YEAR!

**LINK A** -- *At The end of the song the people move off. The lifeboat crew take up their posts as narrators*

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**BERTRAM:** Joyful as it would be to stay with the Teales as they celebrate Christmas together, we must move our story on...

**THOMAS:** ...to May 1895. A month before William and Alfie's 16<sup>th</sup> birthday...

**GEORGE:** Alfie was mending nets for Old Harry Huscombe on the quay...

*SFX Sea and gulls. ALFIE is on the quay mending a fishing net.*

**BERTRAM:** ...And William was on his way home from Choir practice

**SCENE 2** -- *WILLIAM is walking with Millicent (MILLIE) Baker. Clearly there is a frisson between them. He is showing off. She is giggling.*

**WILLIAM:** *(imitating the choir master)* I've told you before William. It must be pianissimo.....pianissimo. Not forte! You sound like a fog horn!

*MILLIE giggles.*

...Hello, Alfie! ...This is Millicent Baker. Millie...This is my twin brother Alfie.

*ALFIE cannot speak. He looks at the ground and mumbles.*

**MILLIE:** Hello Alfie...I'm very pleased to meet you...what are you doing?

**WILLIAM:** Millie's the new harbour master's daughter, Alfie

**ALFIE:** m-m-m-mend-mendin' nets

**WILLIAM:** Alfie always helps them get ready for the mackerel season

**MILLIE:** Mending nets is a nice job....especially in this weather

**WILLIAM:** Alfie don't mind about the weather do you Alfie?

**ALFIE:** *(with a knowing smirk)* ...I-I d-d-don't mind about the weather, Will!

**WILLIAM:** Alfie had a job last December; movin' rocks off the beach to build a breakwater...Old Henry Hobbs told 'im to get on with it until he came back to relieve him. Only trouble was, Henry forgot all about Alfie...Mother got worried at 10 o'clock at night. Sent me down to find 'im. He was still goin' weren't you, Alfie?

**ALFIE:** S-S-Still m-m-movin' rocks.

**WILLIAM:** See, if you tell Alfie to do somethin' he'll do it, won't you Alfie?

**ALFIE:** I'll d-d-do it, w-w-won't I William?

**MILLIE:** I think I'm going to like you, Alfie.

*ALFIE tries to hide a smile.*

**LINK B**

**CLARA MOORE:** It's time we women had a say. *(general agreement from the women)* Most of these men think the story revolves around them, but we all had our part to play!

**SALLY BURGESS:** May in Lynmouth is special: the weather starts improvin' and if you're lucky, the Town Fete is fine...

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**RACHEL CRICK:** ...between showers!...The bunting is flutterin' gaily in the breeze and the whole town is feelin' happier.

**CLARA MOORE:** Summer's on its way! And for us Lifeboat wives who dread the storms, we begin to walk with a spring in our step!

**SCENE 4 --** *The Lynmouth Town Fete. Bunting, flags, roundabout, Pea shooting stall, Gingerbread, Candyfloss, cake stand, RNLI, Punch and Judy etc. Stalls including the stall owned by PRINCESS, which sells pots and trinkets.*

**SONG #4 -- LYNMOUTH FAIR SONG**

PENNY FOR A RIDE ON THE ROUNDABOUT,  
NOW COME ON DON'T BE SLOW!  
ALL ABOARD FOR A SPIN ME DEARS,  
AND ROUND AND ROUND WE GO.  
COME AND AKE A SHOT AT A COCONUT,  
YOU'RE BOUND TO WIN THE PRIZE  
WHEN YOUR MUM SEES WHAT YOU'VE WON,  
SHE WON'T BELIEVE HER EYES.

WITH A ONE TWO THREE AND AWAY WE GO,  
FORGET ABOUT YOUR CARES  
THERE IS FUN FOR FREE AND AN JOLLY SPREE  
WHEN YOU COME TO LYNMOUTH FAIR  
AND ALL YOUR FRIENDS ARE THERE.

ROLL UP, ROLL UP, SKITTLE FOR A PIG  
AND MAKE THE PORKER SQUEAL  
AND WHEN YOU'VE KNOCKED THE NINEPIN DOWN,  
IT'S OFF TO THE FERRIS WHEEL  
PARSON'S THERE WITH HIS NOSE IN THE AIR  
HAVING A CUP OF TEA  
AND WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME ANYONE  
SAW BEN AND EMILY?

GINGERBREAD AND CANDYFLOSS,  
THERE'S BRANDY SNAPS AND WINE  
PIES AND CAKES AND TOFFEE APPLES  
BOBBING ON A LINE

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MR PUNCH COME BEAT YOUR DRUM  
HE NEVER FAILS TO PLEASE  
WATCH THE SMILE ON THE CROCODILE,  
HE'S LOOKING FOR HIS TEA!

*Some teenage girls; MABEL Coulston, KATE Pedder and BIDDY Crick are in a gaggle DS.*

**BIDDY:** He is comin'. I was talkin' to Nora.....and she said she saw them headin' down the street. He was with Alfie and Seth and his sisters!

**KATE:** I 'ope he is Biddy. He's a dream-boat.

**MABEL:** You'll 'ave to wait in the queue Kate.....He stands just across from me in choir. He's always castin' me glances!

**BIDDY:** It's not you he's lookin' at you Mabel! It's Millicent Fry.

**MABEL:** What?....The new harbour master's daughter. She's nothin' to write 'ome about!

**BIDDY:** He can't take his eyes off her.

**KATE:** She ain't half pretty an' all.

**MABEL:** He'll get tired of 'er. It's me he wants.....it's just he don't know it yet.

**KATE:** You could always have Alfie!

**MABEL:** Get away!.....He's simple!

**BIDDY:** Oh.....don't be mean.....I like Alfie. He's ever so sweet.

**KATE:** Hush up mind! They be comin'.

*Enter WILLIAM, ALFIE, and SETH excitedly.*

**MABEL:** Hello, William!

**WILLIAM:** Hello, Mabel.

**KATE:** (*mischievously*) Mabel was wonderin' if you might like to take 'er on the roundabout...weren't you Mabel?

**MABEL:** Shut up, Kate!

**WILLIAM:** How kind of you to offer Mabel. Thing is....I promised Mother I'd stick with Alfie today.

**MABEL:** (*crestfallen*) Oh!

*MABEL walks off to be consoled. Enter MOTHER, QUEENIE, LIZZIE and MOLLY.*

**MOTHER:** Now as I said, Molly mustn't go off on her own so one of you girls must be with her if she wants to ride on the merry-go-round.

**MAUDIE:** We'll go ride on the merry-go-round won't we, Queenie?

**QUEENIE:** We'll go with you, Molly.

**MOTHER:** Molly, here's a farthing.

**MOLLY:** Ooh a farthing!

**MOTHER:** And remember that's all you're getting, so make it last. Maudie Darling, you'd better look after it for her.

**MOLLY:** I can put it in my pocket mother.

**MOTHER:** No, Molly, I want Maudie to keep it. Remember what happened last time!

**MOLLY:** Oh Mother!

*MOLLY hands the money to MAUDIE and they exit. Enter LADY Victoria Tregonwell.*

**Storm Boy** by *Steve Eaton Evans & Tim Laycock*

**LADY T:** Good day to you, Mary. I hope you and your family are enjoying the fete. It is rather fun isn't it.

**MOTHER:** Good day your Ladyship. Have you met my son, William?

**LADY T:** Good morning, William. I believe I've seen you harvesting with John Fear up on Countisbury Hill

**WILLIAM:** That's right, Your Ladyship.

**LADY T:** And this must be young Alfie

*ALFIE is dumbstruck.*

**MOTHER:** Say good morning to Lady Tregonwell, Alfie.

**ALFIE:** G-G-Good...G-G-

**LADY T:** I've heard an awful lot about you, Alfie. We have an old lifeboat up at the Grange. *Free Spirit*. She was replaced by *The Louisa* but Clive couldn't bear the idea that she'd be scrapped. Keeps her in the old stable block. Heaven knows why! But I heard you were interested in lifeboats. Is that right?

**ALFIE:** G-G-Gonna be a lifeboat man when I'm 16.

**LADY T:** Jolly Good...well if ever you'd like to come and see her, you're very welcome. She's in a frightful state. Needs a bit of love from someone like you.

**MARY:** I'm sure Alfie would be very pleased to come, wouldn't you, Alfie?

**ALFIE:** B-B-Be very pleased to come.

**LADY T:** Good. That's settled then. I'll see you on Friday morning. Might get a pot of paint out. Could be just what's needed to spur Clive into action! Good day to you, Mary. I'll see you on Monday morning...and remember, Peggy can't help in the kitchen next week. She'll be in Cork for her Grandmother's funeral so I've asked Rose to help out on Thursday when The Duke and Duchess of Cornwall are coming to stay.

**MARY:** Don't you worry, Your Ladyship. I have the menu planned already and Rose will be just fine.

**LADY T:** I hope you plan to make some of that divine plum pudding.

**MARY:** Of course, your ladyship!

**LADY T:** Jolly Good. See you on Monday morning then.

**MARY:** Good Day, Your Ladyship.

*LADY T wanders off.*

**MOTHER:** Well, that was nice wasn't it, Alfie. It would be lovely to restore the Free Spirit. Now, William...what are you and Alfie going to do?

**WILLIAM:** Alfie wants go see the lifeboat, Mother. They're recruiting.

**ALFIE:** Mother, I want to s-s-see the lifeboat.

**MOTHER:** Now you don't want Mr Crowcombe getting tired of you, Alfie. You're round at the lifeboat station nearly every day for some reason or another. And you know you're not old enough to join-up yet. You have to be 16.

**ALFIE:** I'll be s-s-sixteen next month, M-M-Mother. Me and William'll be sixteen, won't we, William.

**MOTHER:** I know you will love, but you won't be a lifeboat man if you plague the coxswain.

**ALFIE:** Mr Crowcombe don't mind me mother. He likes answering my questions. He says I've got a question for every minute of the day.

**MOTHER:** That's what I'm afraid of, Alfie. Mr Crowcombe doesn't have time to answer all your questions.

*Enter MILLIE.*

**MILLIE:** Hello, William, Hello, Alfie. Good afternoon, Mrs Teale.

**MOTHER:** Good Afternoon, Millicent. How are you?

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**MILLIE:** I'm fine thank you.

**MOTHER:** And your father? Is he recovering from his accident?

**MILLIE:** Father's fine, thank you. It's only a sprain....*(to William)* He fell over a lobster pot on the quay!

**WILLIAM:** We were going to try the coconut shy...weren't we, Alfie....*(he is grinning inanely)* ...would you like to come with us?

**MILLIE:** I'd love to.

**ALFIE:** Hello, Milli-Mill-Millicent.

**MILLIE:** Hello, Alfie. Have you been to see the lifeboat?

**WILLIAM:** I was just about to go over with Alfie ... Why don't we all go to see the lifeboat first... Don't worry mother, I'll try to keep the questions down to a minimum – and then we can try the coconut shy... Alfie can go first.

**ALFIE:** I d-d-don't wanna see the shy c-c-coconut... I wanna' see the lifeboat.

**MILLIE:** Don't worry, Mrs Teale. We'll go with him.

**MOTHER:** Alright, you can go to see the lifeboat, but before you do that here's sixpence. Go and buy some pasties for lunch from Mr Cowling's stall.

*ALFIE, MILLIE & WILLIAM. As they go ALFIE is repeating his well known mantra.*

**ALFIE:** I'm gonna be a lifeboat man, Millicent. Next month, when I'm 16.

**MILLIE:** Are you, Alfie?

**ALFIE:** We're both gonna be life boat men, aren't we, William?

*Exit MOTHER. Enter CHARLIE Sand flanked by ERNEST Entwistle and WALTER Dent. By their air and demeanour we can see that Charlie is the leader. They are teenage trouble-makers. They are whispering and gesturing to the Princess's stall. The Princess is African. She is selling pots which she has made. CHARLIE saunters past and 'accidentally' knocks a pot off the stall. It shatters.*

**CHARLIE:** *(sarcastic)* Oops! Sorry. Must have just caught my elbow.

**PRINCESS:** Never mind. It's no problem.

**CHARLIE:** ...But who'd want to buy this African junk anyway.

**PRINCESS:** Some people like it.

**ERNEST:** Who...other nig-nogs?

*smirking.*

Don't see many others around here!

**CHARLIE:** You see, we don't need mud hut stuff like this. This is England.

**WALTER:** Yeh!

**PRINCESS:** Like I said....some people like it.

**WALTER:** Why don't you go home?

**PRINCESS:** Home?

**WALTER:** Yeh!

*Enter WILLIAM and ALFIE with MILLIE. They catch the last part of the dialogue.*

**PRINCESS:** I was born here.....In England.

**CHARLIE:** You may have been born here to some slave bitch, but that don't make you English.

**WILLIAM:** Look, Millie. Look at this. Do you think mother would like one of these pots?

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**CHARLIE:** I might have known one of you bloody Teales would wanna buy some of this nig-nog junk.

**WILLIAM:** Do you have another one like the one that was broken?

**WALTER:** (*mocking-mimicking Alfie's slow speech*) Hello Alfie...b-b-been down the l-l-lifeboat station yet?

**MILLIE:** Leave him alone!

**WALTER:** 'I'm gonna b-b-b-beeeeeee a lifeboat man'!

*Laughter. PRINCESS brings one from a box.*

**WILLIAM:** That's perfect. Thank you, how much is that?

**PRINCESS:** Just a farthing.

**WILLIAM:** Thank you. It's very pretty. Mother'll love it.

**ERNEST:** She needs a new piss-pot!

*WILLIAM grabs hold of ERNEST and puts him in a painful arm-lock. He is in agony.*

Oooagh! Charlie.....get him off me!

*WILLIAM twists his arm again.*

**WILLIAM:** Take one more step and I'll break his arm!

*Another yank!*

**ERNEST:** Aaaaagh! Stay where you are, Charlie...He's gonna break my arm!!

*They move towards him but enter Richard BURGESS and Charles CRICK.*

**BURGESS:** You 'avin some trouble there, Will?

**WILLIAM:** Just a small matter of a breakage that hasn't been paid for, Richard.

**CRICK:** Now we can't have that can we, Ernest?

**WILLIAM:** Now I don't know if you agree with me, Earnest but...usually, it's customary in this country to pay for breakages...it's all part of being English...we like to think we believe in fair play, don't we, Ernest?

**ERNEST:** (*A twist*) Aaaaaagh! Yes. Fair Play...yes!

**WILLIAM:** Do you have a farthing on you Ernest?

**ERNEST:** No...I haven't got nothing on me!

**WILLIAM:** Well, I reckon it's right that the person who broke it pays for it. What do you think, Charlie?

**CHARLIE:** You'll not get a penny off me, Teale!

**WILLIAM:** Well I'll just have to have Earnest's arm as a down-payment then.

*Another twist. ERNEST is in agony. The CREWMEN have gathered round Charlie threateningly.*

**ERNEST:** Pay him the money, Charlie!...PLEASE. JUST PAY IT!

**CHARLIE:** Alright, let him go.

*Reluctantly CHARLIE throws a coin on the floor.*

You wait, Teale.....You just bloody wait!

*CHARLIE, WALTER and ERNEST exit grumbling.*

**WILLIAM:** Thanks, boys.

*To Princess.*

Are you alright?

**PRINCESS:** Yes...Mr Teale...I am alright...thank you.

**WILLIAM:** Just let me know if they try it on again.

**PRINCESS:** Thank you...Thank you...God bless you all

**SONG #5 – HAUL ON THE ROPES**

**LIFEBOAT CREW** (*SING as many times as it takes to complete scene change*)

HAUL ON THE OARS, PULL FOR THE SHORE  
SWING HER ROUND TOGETHER, ME BOYS,  
WE'RE BOUND FOR BALTIMORE.  
WHEN WE REACH THE HARBOUR THEN WE HEAD ON SHORE  
HI YI, HI YI, WE'RE BOUND FOR BALTIMORE!

**SCENE 5 -- The Teale's Kitchen** -- *CREWMEN move the furniture to set up the Teale's kitchen.*

**QUEENIE:** Who told you, Lizzie? How did Charlie Sand react?

**LIZZIE:** Mabel Fisher was there. She said he nearly broke Ernest's arm.

**SETH:** William's ever so strong, Mother...I bet he really sent Charlie and his mates packin'.

**MOTHER:** It's not right for any son of mine to be brawling in the street!

**LIZZIE:** He was brave, mother! There were three of them! And it wasn't brawling. It was chivalry. He was helping the African lady.

**MOTHER:** Be that as it may...

*Enter Alfie*

Alfie Love...I'm glad you're back.....Is this true what they're saying about William and Charlie Sand?  
*Long pause. He looks to the others for support. He doesn't know how much they have already said.*

**ALFIE:** (*Guilty*) I-I-I don't know n-n-nothin', mother. I didn't see no f-fightin'.

**MOTHER:** Alfie! I didn't say anything about fighting. You wouldn't lie to me, would you?

**ALFIE:** I...But...I...

*caving in.*

Oh Mother! Will told me not to s-s-say anything!

**MOTHER:** ...Yes well, William may not be so clever as you think. That Charlie Sand's a nasty piece of work and you can bet he'll be wanting to get his own back...Now you get yourself out in the yard and chop some wood for me...I've got to get some supper on...where is William?

**ALFIE:** He's s-s-standing by M-Millicent's gate.

**MOTHER:** Standing by Millicent's gate?

**QUEENIE:** (*Excitedly*) Ooh Mother...do you think...?

**ALFIE:** ...with M-M-Millicent?

**SETH:** Ha! I told you Queenie... Will's in love!

**ALFIE:** ...and I was s-s-standing by Millicent's gate too.....but then W-W-William told me to g-g-go 'ome .....to feed the chickens.

**MOTHER:** Oh, he did, did he?

*MAUDIE and QUEENIE are in a state of great excitement.*

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**MAUDIE:** And they were just standing by the gate! Ooh Mother...How romantic!

**MOTHER:** Now Maudie...Calm yourself, Dear...I expect he just wanted to find out how Millicent's father was.

**QUEENIE:** And were they close together Alfie?

**MOLLY:** Were they holding hands?

**LIZZIE:** What did he say to her, Alfie?.....did you hear?

**MOTHER:** Lizzie!

**SETH:** (*standing on the table*) Did he kiss her, Alfie...a big long sloppy one? ...on the lips?

**MOTHER:** Seth! That's enough. GET DOWN!

**ALFIE:** I d-d-don't know...I c-c-came home...to feed the chickens.

**MAUDIE:** Oh I wish I could stand by the gate....with a handsome young lifeboat man.

**SETH:** Well I think kissing's disgusting and sappy!

**MAUDIE:** Well you don't know anything!

**MOTHER:** Enough of this silly nonsense! Now we've a lot to do if you want any supper...so Seth, you can feed the chickens and then Alfie can chop the wood.

**ALFIE:** But W-W-William told me to feed the chickens mother.

**MOTHER:** ...William was just...oh never mind Alfie...I want you to chop the wood. Lizzie you can prepare the vegetables and Maudie and Queenie can lay the table. Molly can fetch some water for the pot.

*The FAMILY swings into action. SETH and ALFIE begin exit to the yard.*

**MAUDIE:** One day I'm going to stand by a garden gate, holding hands with my true love...John Riddle.

**SETH:** (*on his way out*)...And if he's got any sense he'll be over the gate and off down the road!

**MAUDIE:** Oh Seth! Mother, Seth's being unkind to me again.

**MOTHER:** Now, now Seth...don't bait your sister...I must fetch some milk from the parlour.

*MOTHER exits. Enter WILLIAM looking rather smug.*

**MAUDIE:** Ooh! Will, what happened?

**WILLIAM:** I dunno what you're talkin' about.

**QUEENIE:** Alfie told us what you've been doing.

**WILLIAM:** Oh he did, did he?

**SETH:** He told us how you dragged her into a bush and kissed her...a long sloppy kiss...

**MOLLY:** ...on the lips.

**WILLIAM:** ...I'm sayin' nothing...and anyway how could Alfie have seen anything, he was already round the corner...

**MOLLY:** That means you did kiss her!

**WILLIAM:** ...I might have kissed her...and she might have agreed to go walking with me on Friday!

*Great excitement from the girls who dance with WILLIAM as MOTHER enters with milk.*

**MOTHER:** William!

*Silence. Children run off to do their chores, but listen in.*

**WILLIAM:** ...Hello, Mother

**MOTHER:** I don't know what it is that you've got to look so smug about!

**WILLIAM:** ...smug, Mother?

**MOTHER:** What's all this about fighting at the fair?

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**WILLIAM:** Ah, now I can explain all that Mother...you see there was this African Lady...and Charlie Sand ...

**MOTHER:** Enough! I don't want to hear any of your excuses...

**MOLLY:** The African lady is beautiful, Mother

**QUEENIE:** ...and she makes beautiful things...

**MAUDIE:** Pots and jewellery and all sorts

**LIZZIE:** And they were picking on her...like they pick on everyone...

**MOLLY:** especially if they're different...

**MOTHER:** Be quiet! All of you! I haven't finished what I was saying.

*Pause.*

William it sounds as if you did exactly what was required. No more, no less. Well done. I'm proud of you...  
Now go and help Alfie chop the wood before your head swells too much for you to get through the door

*WILLIAM makes for the door.*

Oh and William...I'm glad you are forming a 'friendship' with Millicent. She's a lovely girl...from a good family...but just you be a gentleman and treat her with the respect she's due.

**WILLIAM:** I will, mother.

*LINK D -- Instrumental underscore as PRINCESS speaks from above. She is detached from the action.*

**MUSIC #5a – Princess Underscore #1**

**PRINCESS:**

We have a bright tomorrow  
Bright before us  
Like a flame.  
Yesterday  
A night-gone thing,  
A sun-down name.  
A dawn-today  
Broad arch above the road we came.  
We march!

**SCENE 6 -- The Lane to The Grange -- SFX BIRDSONG, COUNTRYSIDE ATMOSPHERE.** *As we see MOTHER giving ALFIE his packed lunch and kissing him goodbye. It is Friday. ALFIE is walking up the lane to The Grange. He has his lunch in a pack. He is humming or whistling to himself when ERNEST, CHARLIE, and WALTER appear.*

**CHARLIE:** Well, Well Boys.....look who's here

**WALTER:** Pea-Brain Alfie !

**ERNEST & WALTER:** 'I wanna B-B-beeeee a lifeboat man'

*They laugh.*

**CHARLIE:** Where you off to then Alfie?

**ALFIE:** G-G-Goin... T-T

**ERNEST:** 'G-G-G... T-T

**ALFIE:** S-S-See Lady... Tr-Tr-

**CHARLIE:** Lady Tregonwell, eh?... She taken pity on you has she? Does a lot of charity work.

**ALFIE:** J-J-Just g-g-gonna see the L-Life-Lifeboat.

*WALTER and ERNEST fall around laughing.*

**CHARLIE:** Ooh! That's nice Alfie... She's got a lifeboat up there has she?

**ALFIE:** In-In... the B-B-Barn.

**CHARLIE:** That's good then, Alfie... cos you can pretend to be a lifeboat man then can't you!

**WALTER:** He'll 'ave to pretend won't he?

**ERNEST:** He'll 'ave to pretend cos he's never gonna be one for real!

**CHARLIE:** What's in the bag Alfie?

**ALFIE:** J-J-Just.....my-my.....lunch.

**CHARLIE:** Did mother pack you some din-dins then, Alfie?

**ALFIE:** Y-Y-

**ERNEST:** I'm hungry aren't you Walter?

**WALTER:** Yeh... I'm a bit peckish an 'all.

**CHARLIE:** Why don't we all have a look at what's for lunch shall we, Alfie?

**ALFIE:** N-N-No... M-Mother... Mother s-says...

**CHARLIE:** Never mind what mother says... I fancy a bite to eat boys, don't you?

*WALTER and ERNEST move in and wrestle with ALFIE. The food is scattered over the floor.*

*ALFIE is beaten. He doesn't lift a finger. MAUDIE, LIZZIE, and QUEENIE enter.*

**LIZZIE:** Leave him alone!

*She weighs in and pushes them away. WALTER is unceremoniously dumped on the floor. She picks up a stick and waves it dangerously.*

You're animals... bloody animals!

**WALTER:** Oy! Leave off with that stick!

**LIZZIE:** Cowards... You leave him alone... he's done nothin' to deserve this... now clear off or I'll have Lord Tregonwell's men after you!

**ERNEST:** C'mon Charlie... we'd better scarper.

*CHARLIE and the others pick up hats etc and sidle off. QUEENIE is tending to ALFIE.*

**QUEENIE:** Oh Alfie... you've got a black eye comin' up.

**ALFIE:** A... An' a w-w-wobbly tooth.

**LIZZIE:** Alfie... you shouldn't let 'em... why don't you fight back?

**ALFIE:** Rev-rev-Reverend Hockley... he told us in S-Sunday s-school... we have to t-t-turn the other ch-cheek like ... like J-J-Jesus

**LIZZIE:** That's all very well, Alfie... but did Reverend Hockley tell you about the other bit of the Bible where

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it says 'an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth'.

**QUEENIE:** Which in your case seems quite appropriate!

**LIZZIE:** Come on let's get you home and cleaned up. You can't go to see Lady Tregonwell like that...

**ALFIE:** Wanna see the lifeboat ...

**LIZZIE:** I know you do, Alfie...we'll get you cleaned up. Then you can go and see the lifeboat.

*They walk off down the hill.*

**LINK E**

**ROSE:** Charlie Sand and his sidekicks have got a reputation in the village...

**CLARA:** It's not the first time those lads have caused trouble.

**FANNY:** Aye...but their's is another story. Three weeks later Alfie and William's 16<sup>th</sup> birthday and the boys have been down the lifeboat station first thing in the morning to sign up for the crew

**SCENE 7 -- The Boatyard --** *The LIFEBOAT CREW is preparing lifejackets, sanding oars, preparing supplies*

**CROWCOMBE:** Right, George I've had the oars out of the station this morning. Get the lads to give 'em a lick of varnish. Them new lifejackets needs unpackin, and I want Richard and Harry down the yard to paint the keel.

**GEORGE:** Right, Skip..... Come on then lads, you 'eard the Coxswain!

*Enter MOTHER with MAUDIE.*

**MOTHER:** Mr Crowcombe.

**CROWCOMBE:** Mrs Teale.

**MOTHER:** I gather two of my boys came to see you this morning to talk about the lifeboat?

**CROWCOMBE:** That they did Ma'am. William and Alfie.

**MOTHER:** I'll not beat about the bush, Mr Crowcombe... William has come back to me with a fine tale that you'll be happy to take him on to train for the crew but you'll not even consider Alfie.

**CROWCOMBE:** Now Mary...

**MOTHER:** Don't you 'Mary' me, Jack Crowcombe! You know how that boy has talked of nothing else but the Lynmouth Lifeboat from his cradle to this day...and you'll not deny him!

**CROWCOMBE:** I cannot take the risk, Mary...Your William is a good lad. He'll make a fine life boat man.

**MOTHER:** Never mind William. Alfie is as strong and as dependable as any man on that boat.

**CROWCOMBE:** I'm not sayin' he isn't physically capable of the job, Mary....but you know as well as I do that he's...simple...he can't take orders like the other men.

**MOTHER:** If I want the chickens fed or the coal scuttle fillin' or the wood chopped' it's not William or Seth who'll be counted on to do it...it's Alfie...And if a ewe needs delivering in the middle of the night, or a fox is worryin' the chickens, it's always Alfie that'll jump to it even before I've asked him. You haven't a clue, have you Jack? What that boy's life has been like. Havin' to deal with what happened to him, and then to

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have his father dyin' and all. Sixteen years ago to the day Jack...I was in labour with the two of 'em...

**MAUDIE:** Now Mother...you don't have to...

**MOTHER:** Leave me be Maudie!...Two good strong, healthy boys. Alfie was first, and in those precious minutes, while the midwife was trying to make him breathe, something went askew in his head. And that's why he couldn't keep up with the other children in school when he was doing his composition, or algebra or his Latin translation – fat lot of good that was going to do for him anyway - but he can take orders just as any young man can...and he's been a son any mother would have wanted ...more than that...he's been more than that ...he's been the son any mother would have been proud of ...He's already had life deal him a lousy hand, Jack Crowcombe, and I'll not let you take away his dream of workin' on that Lifeboat.

**CROWCOMBE:** I'm afraid there's nothin' you can do about it, Mary. I'm the Coxswain of the Lynmouth Lifeboat, and I'm charged with the responsibility of crewing it. Life boating isn't a game Mary. It's about savin' lives. I'm tellin' you that Alfie will never crew on The Louisa.

**MOTHER:** And that's your last word on the matter?

**CROWCOMBE:** That's my last word Mary...I'm sorry.

*Enter LIZZIE and WILLIAM running.*

**LIZZIE:** Mother.....Mother...

**WILLIAM:** It's Alfie, Mother...he's disappeared. We didn't want to worry you but no one can find him anywhere.

**LIZZIE:** He didn't come in for his tea, mother. Alfie always comes in for tea.

**MOTHER:** *(to Crowcombe)* You see...what you've done! If anything happens to that boy...I'll never forgive you.

**CROWCOMBE:** Now, Mary, let's not jump to conclusions. I'll get the lads out after him. Don't worry about a thing. We'll find him. George, ring the alarm bell. Get the lads down on the quay. You and Jim go with Charlie and Walter and begin to go through the woods on Countisbury Hill. We'll need some lanterns, Tom. You take young Jacob and fill them with oil. Then bring them back here and we'll cover the roads to Linton and West Lyn.

**CLARA:** Well, the search went on from six till midnight, but Alfie was nowhere to be found.

**RACHEL:** The whole village was out with lanterns...callin' Alfie's name...

**FANNY:** But Alfie didn't want to be found...

*VILLAGERS and LIFEBOAT CREW with lanterns carry out search as light fades. The VILLAGERS call out for ALFIE.*

**SCENE 8 -- A Folly near The Valley of The Rocks --** *Alfie sits in a corner of the folly<sup>1</sup> in a foetal position. He is rocking backwards and forwards. Enter Princess. She hears the sobbing. She knows who he is. She begins to unpack some food. As she does this she sings softly like a mother to a small, frightened child.*

**SONG #6 – THERE'S A FRIEND FOR LITTLE CHILDREN**

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<sup>1</sup> A folly is a building, usually built by a rich landowner, which has no practical function. Therefore called a "folly".

**PRINCESS:**

THERE'S A FRIEND FOR LITTLE CHILDREN  
ABOVE THE BRIGHT BLUE SKY  
A FRIEND WHO NEVER CHANGES  
WHOSE LOVE WILL NEVER DIE  
OUR EARTHLY FRIENDS MAY FAIL US,  
AND CHANGE WITH CHANGING YEARS  
THIS FRIEND IS ALWAYS WORTHY  
OF THAT DEAR NAME HE BEARS

Hello

*ALFIE doesn't speak.*

I know you...Alfie Teale...Would you like something to eat? I have some bread, and some cheese...How about a little ale? ...

*She begins to take out the food.*

...You've done well, Alfie Teale...This is a good hiding place. Everyone is looking for you, you know... Don't worry. I won't tell them where you are...Here...try some of this. You must be hungry.

*ALFIE takes the bread.*

You and me Alfie...we are the same...We are the same because we are different...In their eyes...we are different. You are feelin' sorry for yourself right now, Alfie Teale. And may be you have got good reason for that. This is a good hiding place... Would you like something to eat, Alfie Teal? I have some bread and some cheese... how about some ale?

*She continues to take out the food.*

... Don't worry. I won't tell them where you are... Here - you must be hungry...

We are the same...different in Their eyes Alfie. You sit and pity yourself - you have reason for this. Some time ago, in Africa ...the Ashanti tribe of the Gold Coast lost their King and Queen ...Men came on ships with swords and guns to take people away to sell. Their Queen was made to work in a big house in Bristol; her kingdom lost... her daughter born into a world so different. Under the sun, Ashanti's queen told this child "You are a princess... never you lose your identity" - Alfie my mother did not stop being a queen... She is what God made her. I am what God made me...Open your eyes, Alfie, it is only when night is at her darkest that you can see the stars...Do you know what God made you to be?

**ALFIE:** ... a l-l-life boat man....but Mr C-C-Crowcombe says I can't be a l-l-lifeboat man...because I think too slowly.

**PRINCESS:** Do you know the story of David in The Bible, Alfie Teale?

**ALFIE:** Ay ...David ...He was a little k-k-kid...but he killed a giant. Reverend Hoyland told me about him in S-S-Sunday School...I like that story.

**PRINCESS:** God made David to be a king. Most of the time David didn't feel like a king. But God loved him and it took a long time...but David did become a king. And when David felt sad like you, he wrote songs. One of his songs goes like this: "Delight yourself in the LORD and he will give you the desires of your heart."

**ALFIE:** D-D-Delight yourself in The Lord and he will give you the desires of your heart.

**Storm Boy** by *Steve Eaton Evans & Tim Laycock*

**PRINCESS:** ...so when I feel sad I have to remember what God made me to be...

**ALFIE:** ...a princess

**PRINCESS:** One more thing, Alfie...Being' different isn't the same as being bad...

**ALFIE:** Thank you ...Princess.

*Pause*

**PRINCESS:** Your mother is worried about you, you know.

**ALFIE:** I know.

**PRINCESS:** And your brother William, and your sisters.....

**ALFIE:** I know.

**PRINCESS:** And Reverend Hockley...and even Mr Crowcombe...

**ALFIE:** Mr Crowcombe?

**PRINCESS:** I think, may be especially Mr Crowcombe...

**MUSIC #6a – Act One Ending**

*Fadeout*

**INTERVAL**

**27 more pages in ACT TWO**