

Billiards Room

Lachlan and Grainne are getting ready to perform.

Lachlan

I've got one for ya. It was oh maybe just turning ta summer. I was 7 or maybe eight.

Grainne

Where was I?

Lachlan

I don't know where you were but you weren't playing with John or I.

Grainne

What do you mean you don't know where I was.

Lachlan

It doesn't matter where you were, you weren't with us.

Grainne

Sounds made up to me. I was always with you and John

Lachlan

Do you want to hear the story or no?

Grainne

Tell yer story then.

Lachlan

We're out in the woods playin' something. I don't know Pirate or lookin for treasure or somethin. Anyways, it was gettin' dark and you know how mam was when it got dark.

Grainne

And if she had to call fer ya

Lachlan

Ya couldn't go out and play fer a week. So John and I were running home quick when John next to me stops dead in his tracks and goes all white on me. So I turn round and I say John, what's wrong. And I'm lookin' all over tryin' to see what he's seeing. Then in a small voice he goes, can't ya hear it? I stand still and listen but all I hear is the leaves in the trees. And I look back at John and I go, I don't hear nothing. Then I go to grab his hand to keep runnin' thinkin' of how much trouble we was goin' ta be in. But John yanked his hand way and said, "You can't hear it wailing?" And I'm gettin' scared on account of being 7 or maybe 8 and I say, I say to John, "John I swear on me mam's grave I don't hear no wailing". And that seemed to shake him loose so we go back to runnin'. John's house is first so I go with him, make sure he gets inside and then I see his mam. She's standing in the doorway, tears running down her face and I knew something was wrong. You could tell something had happened. John, ah, poor John. He ran up to his mam and she told him that his da had died at work. Some accident down by the docks and he didn't make it. Died right before we got to the house, 'bout the time John turned white.

Grainne

He heard the banshee didn't he?

Lachlan

John never talked 'bout that again but it changed him. So yeah, I think it was a banshee.

Grainne

Did he ever describe her to ya?

Lachlan

Not once.

Grainne

What do you think she looked like?

Lachlan

Don't know, never saw it.

Grainne

I don't think their hags carryin' round bowls of blood. I think their meant to warn. Yeah know. Let the family prepare for a death so it doesn't sneak up on ya.

Lachlan

I don't know. Think 'bout it Grainne, if we heard a banshee, right now, I think I'd be scared out-of-me mind. I wouldn't know if one of us was 'bout to die. Or if someone out there was being warned.

Grainne

I think I'd want to know. Tell mam, and da, and you goodbye.

Lachlan

After what I seen it do to John I don't know if I'd want ta know.

Grainne

Why didn't ya tell me 'bout it?

Lachlan

I don't know. I didn't see or hear anything. I don't know what I'd be tellin yeah.

Grainne

You're telling me now aren't ya?

Lachlan

Sure, I'm tellin' ya now but I can make more sense of it. Have a little perspective.

Grainne

You're tellin' me that you didn't know it was a banshee when it happened?

Lachlan

I'm sayin' I didn't want to think it was a banshee when it happened. And I certainly didn't want to bring it up.

Grainne

But you're happy to bring it up now.

Lachlan

Well, I'm not scared like I used ta be.

Grainne

(starts to pretend to do an evil voice) Until the banshee cries for you.

Lachlan

Knock it off.

Grainne

(laughing)

Lachlan

It's not funny.

Grainne

(still laughing)

Lachlan

I'm sorry I told ya.

Grainne

Come now, don't be like that. I'm just havin' a wee bit o' fun wit' you is all.

Lachlan

Well, it's not funny.