

Rise

by

Gabrielle Barnby

Inspired by: 'Queen on Horseback' and 'Face-kicking' by
Margaret Tait

GMB Fellowship Writing
competition, 2018.
Word count: 1999

gaby_barnby@hotmail.com

EXT. SCAPA BEACH - NIGHT

It is Saturday night, Orkney County Show weekend.

Eva (15) a natural beauty, but dolled up to the nines, prances down the steps of the sea wall and goes toward a small bonfire, high heels sinking.

The sun throws long shadows from the distant town. Woman 1 is walking a terrier with a first prize rosette. The sound of fairground rides and screams drift on the breeze.

A motorbike pulls up. Its rider Terry (24), lean and well-dressed, dismounts and surveys the scene.

Eva gazes into the flames. Her cousin Amy (18) more demurely dressed, passes her a plastic bag weighed down with bottles.

EVA
Goin already?

AMY
Riding the Marches the morn remember.

EVA
I ken, but it's only gettin started.

Amy yawns. She looks over at the young men grouped around the motorbike. She watches money change hands. Eva takes no interest.

AMY
It's goin to rain. Dae you want my coat?

EVA
No.

AMY
I'll see if Euan'll come.

Amy leaves, a young man follows her from the group.

EXT. LONGSTAY CARPARK, KIRKWALL - DAY

The next morning, horse boxes are arriving. Amy is preparing her mount, a statuesque bay. Her sister Sarah (24) moves stiffly carrying a saddle.

AMY
Need a hand?

SARAH
No. Where the hell's Eva?

AMY
I don't ken.

SARAH
Took some effort to get Barley in the trailer for her not to show.

AMY
I've messaged her.

Disgruntled, Sarah throws over her saddle wincing in pain. Amy notices, but says nothing and touches her own high buttoned collar. A yellow horse stamps in its box.

More trailers pull into the dar park. Women and girls prepare for Riding the Marches.

EXT. SCAPA BEACH - NIGHT

Terry passes out small bags of tablets. They change hands quickly.

TERRY
Two for a tenner.

BOY 1
How much fir wan?

TERRY
A single?
(Muted laughter from the other boys.)

Boy 2 holds out a tenner and receives a small plastic bag containing two pills.

BOY 1
Whit's the difference?

TERRY
You'll ken.
(More laughter)

The products are slipped away. Beer is handed around.

TERRY
No lasses?

BOY 1
On the beach.

Terry looks across to the fire.

BOY 2
Eva's on for a good night.

Music plays from a small speaker. Eva takes off her jersey, stumbles and starts to dance, her long hair glowing in the firelight.

EVA
(Singing along)
...I miss the way you make me feel
and...we watched the sunset over the
castle on the hill...

INT. ORDINARY KITCHEN - DAY

Kettle, chopping board, sink and stove.

Bridget Hewitt (59) places triangular sandwiches on a tray with practised ease. She has swollen knuckles and a tight wedding band.

Eggs, bacon and cosied teapot wait by the stove.

Mrs H. quietly pads to the foot of the stairs, listens then returns.

She turns the radio on. Barely audible, 'Castle on the Hill' is playing. She continues her task.

EXT. LONGSTAY CARPARK, KIRKWALL - DAY

Amy is touching up her make-up in the front of a Land Rover. She checks her phone repeatedly.

SARAH
Still no reply?

AMY

I don't ken where she's at.

SARAH

I can't leave Barley here all afternoon.

AMY

Somebody'll be stayin behind.

Sarah looks away frustrated.

AMY

Ask Mrs Hewitt.

Sarah crosses the carpark. Mrs Hewitt is fixing stirrups for her granddaughter on a very small pony.

GRANDDAUGHTER

I'm gey hungry granny.

MRS H.

I'll be around with sandwiches and cakes efter.

GRANDDAUGHTER

I'm hungry noo.

AMY

Whit like Bridget?

MRS H.

No bad. Yourself?

EXT. SCAPA BEACH DUNES - NIGHT

Eva is dancing and laughing with a couple of other girls.

Terry drops a tablet into her bottle - a bright blue alco-pop. Boy 1 watches, swigs his beer then stares into the ocean.

Eva comes back and takes a mouthful.

EVA

Oh my God, I'm starvin. Aren't you?