

Cambridge IGCSE[™]

DRAMA 0411/13

Paper 1 May/June 2021

PRE-RELEASE MATERIAL



This material must be given to candidates on receipt by the centre.

INSTRUCTIONS

- The questions in Paper 1 will be based on the stimuli and the play extract provided in this booklet.
- You may do any appropriate preparatory work. It is recommended that you perform the extract, at least informally.
- You will **not** be allowed to take this copy of the material **or** any other notes or preparation into the examination.
- A copy of the pre-release material will be provided with the question paper.

This document has 24 pages. Any blank pages are indicated.

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STIMULI

Choose **one** of the following three stimuli and devise a piece of drama based on it. You should work in groups of between two and six performers. Your piece should last approximately 15 minutes.

In the Written examination, you will be asked questions about your piece that will cover both practical and theoretical issues.

Stimulus 1

Greek myth: Theseus and the Minotaur

Stimulus 2

Proverbial wisdom: When in Rome, do as the Romans do

Stimulus 3

Photograph: Women taking part in a public gymnastics session



EXTRACT

Taken from Mary Shelley, by Helen Edmundson

These notes are intended to help you understand the context of the drama.

The extract is taken from Helen Edmundson's play, *Mary Shelley*, which was first performed at the West Yorkshire Playhouse, Leeds, England, in 2012.

The play is set in 1814 and focuses on aspects of the life of Mary Shelley, the daughter of pioneer feminist writer, Mary Wollstonecraft, and famous as the author of several books including *Frankenstein*.

The play begins just before she meets Percy Bysshe Shelley, the Romantic poet who had ideas of society that were far ahead of his time.

The play is in five Acts, and the extract consists of an abridged version of Act One.

Characters:

WILLIAM GODWIN A radical political thinker and writer

MRS GODWIN Second wife of WILLIAM GODWIN, following the death of MARY

WOLLSTONECRAFT

MARY Daughter of WILLIAM GODWIN and MARY WOLLSTONECRAFT

FANNY Half-sister of MARY JANE Step-sister of MARY

PERCY BYSSHE SHELLEY Poet

ACT ONE

Scene One

March 1814. The mouth of the Thames. MARY is standing alone on the deck of a ship. There is a book in her hands.

MARY

[reading]: 'Her first thought had led her to Battersea Bridge, but she found it too public. It was night when she arrived at Putney, and by that time it had begun to rain with great violence. The rain suggested to her the idea of walking up and down the bridge until her clothes were thoroughly drenched and heavy with the wet.'

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We are plunged into MARY's imagination. Darkness. Rain lashes down.

We see a woman – MARY WOLLSTONECRAFT – holding out her arms to the elements, drenching herself. Then she climbs onto the edge of the bridge and jumps into the water. We hear the sound of the water pounding in her ears, see her struggle to stay under, groaning and wailing with frustration. Finally she becomes senseless, giving herself to the water.

Mother ... 15

Scene Two

A wharf. London docks. MARY has disembarked and stands on the quay. It is noisy and crowded. People hurry past her. A SAILOR puts her trunk down next to her. She gives him a penny and he leaves.

FANNY approaches her through the crowd.

FANNY: Mary! Mary! MARY: Fanny!

i aility:

FANNY rushes to her. They embrace.

FANNY: Oh, Mary. You're home. You're home at last.
MARY: Are you alone? Father wrote that he would come.

FANNY: He wanted to, indeed he did. But he got called to a meeting with some 25

lawyers and ...

MARY: Lawyers?

FANNY: Don't worry. But how cold you are. Why didn't you stay below?

MARY: Oh, you know I can't bear to be below. It makes me feel sicker than ever.

And besides, I was reading this – [Holds out the book.] and I wanted to read it with water churning beneath me and a wild wind banging in my

ears.

FANNY: What is it?

MARY: Fanny ... it's Father's memoir of our mother. And I cannot tell you what a

revelation it has been.

FANNY: Mary ...

MARY: I've read it over and over. I feel as if I know her and love her a hundred

times better than I did before. I feel as if she could be standing here right now, and I would slip my arm through hers and kiss her cheek quite

naturally, for she is real to me.

FANNY: Where did you get this?

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MARY:	Did you know that our mother tried to kill herself? It was after your father left her. She was so desperate, broken. She threw herself into the river. This river.	
FANNY:	Hush.	45
MADY	It's against the law, Mary.	
MARY:	Did you know? Did you?	
FANNY:	I thought something like that had happened. Yes.	
MARY:	When I first read it, I was sitting alone on a beach in Scotland, with the waves coming towards me and coming towards me. I almost knew what was going to happen before I saw the words. They're Father's words, so they are quite measured and restrained, but I could imagine it all	50
	beneath the lines – her agony, her desire to have it all stop. I almost wished the waters had taken her, for that is what she truly wanted, but then, if they had, I would not be here upon this earth – whatever this earth might be.	55
FANNY:	Where did you get this from?	
MARY:	It was on Father's shelves. He said I could take whatever I liked before I left.	
FANNY:	But he didn't mean this.	60
MARY:	Why not? It's a published work. Hundreds of people have read it. He wouldn't want to hide the truth from us. Truth is omnipotent.	
FANNY:	Truth. I sometimes think our family speaks a great deal too much truth. I wish we could be like normal people, and keep our thoughts to ourselves.	65
MARY:	But that would be cowardly.	00
WIT COLOR	Are we not normal people then?	
FANNY:	You know we aren't.	
MARY:	Oh, don't be cross, Fanny. This is a precious discovery. I mean to read it	
WIZTET.	to you.	70
FANNY:	No.	70
MARY:	Yes. We'll read a little every night. Our mother would have wanted that. I	
FANNY	know she would. [gazing at the book]: 'Your real mother was only too ready to leave you	
FAININT	behind.' That's what Mama said. 'Your real mother didn't even think of you when	75
	she tried to end it all.'	
MARY:	She said that? When? How dare she say that to you?	
FANNY:	It doesn't matter. I didn't tell you so you would be cross with Mama.	
MARY:	Don't call her Mama. She's not our mama. She's just the dreadful creature who my father has the misfortune to be married to.	80
FANNY:	Mary	
MARY:	Your real mother did think about you. She must have felt that you would	
	be better off being raised by others. She was so wretched.	
FANNY:	Perhaps.	85
MARY:	Our poor mother. You could not cheer her with all your sweetness, and	
	I I was the cause of her death.	
FANNY:	Please don't make trouble with Mama – I mean, with Mrs Godwin –	
. ,	when we get home. You won't, will you?	
MARY:	No. I won't. I have come home determined to rise above the dreadful	90
Wir di Ci :	Mrs Godwin. I intend to remain completely aloof.	00
	How are things at Skinner Street? How is dear Papa?	
FANNY:	He is very much occupied, but in reasonably good spirits.	
MARY:	And have you been lonely, with everyone away?	
FANNY:	I haven't had time. Mama has started another translation, so there's	95
I AININI.	been a great deal of copying to do. And I've been writing letters for Papa	90
	and running errands and minding the shop. Jane arrived home from	

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MARY: FANNY:	school two days ago. She was going to come with me to meet you, but then she discovered I was walking here and That's so like her. We shall get a chaise back, of course. Papa put some money by. And we have some new friends.	100
MARY:	Do we?	
FANNY:	Do you remember a young man – one of Papa's disciples – who wrote him all those elaborate letters that he used to read out to us?	105
MARY:	Do you mean the man called Shelley?	
FANNY:	Yes. Well, he's in London now. He talks and talks philosophy with Papa. He says <i>Political Justice</i> is his bible.	
MARY:	Isn't he a baronet or something of the sort?	
FANNY:	He's the heir to a baronetcy. His grandfather is Sir Bysshe Shelley of Sussex.	110
MARY:	How grand.	
FANNY:	He wants to help us. He wants to invest in the bookshop.	
MARY:	Really?	
FANNY:	And he is quite extraordinary.	115
MARY:	In what way?	
FANNY:	He's I don't know how to explain it He's so vibrant. More vibrant than anyone I ever met. And he speaks to me so easily. I feel I could talk to him about anything.	
MARY:	Fanny Godwin I do believe you are in love.	120
FANNY:	I'm not. I'm not. He's married.	120
MARY:	But that doesn't stop you from falling in love.	
FANNY:	His wife is quite lovely. Quite a fine lady. But you shall see all this.	
.,	Come now, my poor cold girl. Let's find a chaise and get you home.	
Scene Three		
	The parlour. Skinner Street. A window looks out onto the street, and from outside the noise of a crowd can be heard.	125
	MARY and FANNY set the trunk down. MRS GODWIN enters.	
MRS GODWIN:	Move that trunk out of the way, Mary. What makes you think we want that in the middle of the parlour?	400
MARY:	I'm a little tired. I'll move it soon.	130
MRS GODWIN:	You went away for your health, you shouldn't have come back tired.	
MARY:	I'm tired from the journey, that's all.	
MRS GODWIN:	Well, we're all tired. Now move it.	
FANNY:	I'll move it.	405
MARY:	No, leave it, Fanny. I'll do it.	135
MRS GODWIN: FANNY:	Go and help Jane with the tea things, Fanny. Yes, Mama.	
	FANNY leaves. MRS GODWIN begins to set up a small table for tea. MARY moves the trunk.	
MARY:	Can't the maid see to the tea?	140
MRS GODWIN:	The maid doesn't work today. She does three days now. We had less	
	need of her with everyone away. Everyone has to do their bit, that's all.	
	[Calling.] Mr Godwin! Tea!	
	Charles is doing awfully well in Edinburgh.	
MARY:	Yes. He wrote to me.	145
MRS GODWIN:	But you didn't see him, I suppose?	

MARY: No. MRS GODWIN: I would have thought you might want to visit your stepbrother, with him being so close. MARY: It's quite some distance from Dundee to Edinburgh. We made do with 150 letters. MRS GODWIN: I don't know why he had to go so far away. There are plenty of apprenticeships to be had in London. Why go all the way to Scotland? MARY: I can't imagine. MRS GODWIN [calling]: Mr Godwin! If you don't come out, we shall come in! 155 Every day. MARY: There's really no need to disturb his work. I can see him at dinner. JANE enters. MARY goes to the window and looks out. JANF. Maman, Fanny wants to know if we should put all the sugar buns out? 160 MRS GODWIN: All of them? Of course not. One each. We're not elephants. JANE goes to the window. JANE: Gracious, what a crowd. I wonder who they're hanging? [to MARY]: And you left the Baxters tolerably well, I hope? MRS GODWIN I'm sorry ...? MARY: The Baxters. You left them tolerably well? 165 MRS GODWIN: Yes. They were fine, thank you. MARY: MRS GODWIN: Did they send their regards to me? MARY: To my father and to you, yes. MRS GODWIN: Oh. Then you should pass them on. Not leave me to prise them out of 170 you. [Calling.] Mr Godwin! She leaves. JANE and MARY listen to the crowd passing by. JANE: Isn't hanging the most awful thing? So primitive, don't you think, Mary? So utterly barbaric. 175 GODWIN enters from the study. GODWIN: What is utterly barbaric? MARY: Hanging. GODWIN: Ah, yes. That would qualify. MARY: Hello, Papa. 180 MARY goes to him and kisses his cheek with great affection. GODWIN: Well, well. Hello to you too. MRS GODWIN enters, holding a tablecloth. MRS GODWIN: Finally, he emerges.

your only daughter is back from a six-month visit.

GODWIN: Mary understands.

I'm sorry, Mrs Godwin, am I horribly late? Have I missed tea?

No. But I should have thought you might want to come out sooner when

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MARY: Mary understands.

MARY: Of course I do.

GODWIN: And I had three daughters last time I looked.

GODWIN:

MRS GODWIN:

	•	
MRS GODWIN:	You know very well what I mean – the only one as is the fruit of your loins.	190
JANE: MRS GODWIN: JANE:	Maman, must you? Must you use such awful words? Oh, don't you start that. What?	
MRS GODWIN:	You've been doing it all day – making out there's some sort of coarseness in me which you don't like to be associated with.	195
JANE: MRS GODWIN:	I've done nothing of the sort. A few weeks at boarding school and you think you can look down on me. Well, you can't.	
JANE: MRS GODWIN:	But I'm just as good as you – [<i>Pointing at</i> MARY.] and you, and I shan't be	200
JANE: MRS GODWIN:	treated like this in my own home. Maman, I didn't mean anything. Really Loins is a perfectly respectable word. I'm sure it is in Mr Johnson's	
GODWIN:	Dictionary. I'm sure everyone has loins. Do you have loins, Mr Godwin? I'm rather afraid I do.	205
MRS GODWIN:	There. And I'm sure most people would be happy to admit to it.	
	FANNY enters, carrying a tray of tea things.	
FANNY: JANE:	I didn't get an answer, Jane. Oh, sorry, Fanny. I forgot.	210
MRS GODWIN: FANNY: MARY:	One each. One each. Good. That's what I thought. We're not elephants.	
	FANNY carries the tray to the table.	
MRS GODWIN:	Bring your chair round, Mary. Don't just stand there.	215
JANE: GODWIN:	Who are they hanging, Papa? Do you know? A man called Bates. Theft of a gun.	270
FANNY: MARY:	Shall I go down and sit in the shop? No, Fanny.	
MRS GODWIN:	Oh, I've closed the shop. We shan't get any customers now with this going on. I always said this was a stupid place to open a children's bookshop. We're so close to the gallows we can almost hear the necks snap.	220
JANE: MARY:	Maman! At least we get passing trade.	225
MRS GODWIN:	Oh, yes. I'm sure any number of these louts is likely to pop in for a copy of <i>Pilgrim's Progress</i> .	220
GODWIN:	I don't remember you saying this was a stupid place to open a bookshop, Mrs Godwin.	
MRS GODWIN:	Well, that just shows how seldom you listen to me. Oh, do come away and sit down, Jane. Let's all just sit down nicely and have tea, like normal people.	230
	They sit together, and tea commences. In the street below, someone in the passing crowd is shouting, and there is a burst of laughter. GODWIN raises his teacup to MARY.	235
GODWIN:	Welcome home, Mary.	
MARY: JANE:	Thank you. Yes. Welcome home.	
JAINE.	TES. WEICOTHE HOTHE.	

How was the dreaded voyage?

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GODWIN:

MARY:	It passed quite quickly. And the weather was so beautiful this morning. I	240
GODWIN:	was on deck to see the sun rise. You look well, at any rate. The Scottish air obviously agreed with you.	
MARY:	It did.	
MRS GODWIN:	She didn't see Charles.	0.45
GODWIN:	And a new dress, eh?	245
MARY:	Yes. Thank you for sending the money.	
GODWIN: JANE:	You put me in mind of one of Walter Scott's heroines. I've never been sure about tartan. I mean, I'm sure it looks very fine in	
JANE.	its natural habitat, as it were. The Highlands, and the glens. Kilts, and	
	SO On.	250
FANNY:	I think it's a very pretty dress.	200
JANE:	Oh, so do I. In fact, I should love to have one just like it.	
MRS GODWIN:	You've had your new dress this season.	
JANE:	Yes, I know. I only meant	
	She trails off.	255
GODWIN:	And how did you spend your days?	
MARY:	Walking, mostly. Bathing a little. Though the water was ferociously cold.	
MRS GODWIN:	The Baxters send their regards. Evidently.	
MARY:	I have letters for you from Mr Baxter, Papa.	
MRS GODWIN:	Letters. Oh. Very nice.	260
GODWIN:	Thank you.	
	And I hope you did some writing.	
MARY:	I did. I've begun a new story.	
FANNY:	What's it about?	
MARY:	It's about But I won't say yet. Because I'm not quite sure if it's going	265
0.000	to take. You understand.	
GODWIN:	Only too well.	
MARY:	But when I've finished it, I'll show it to Papa, and if he thinks it's good	
MRS GODWIN:	enough, I shall read it to you all. I have begun a new translation – <i>The Swiss Family Robinson</i> . It is very	270
WING GODWIN.	taxing.	270
JANE:	Did Fanny tell you about Mr Shelley, Mary?	
MARY:	Yes.	
JANE:	I can't wait for you to meet him.	
MARY:	You've met him already?	275
JANE:	He was here yesterday. And he really is the most extraordinary man.	
	Quite the most vibrant human being I have ever met.	
GODWIN:	Yes. I'm afraid you will find that both your sisters are rather taken with	
	my young friend Shelley.	
FANNY:	Papa, really.	280
JANE:	Is he coming this evening?	
GODWIN:	Tomorrow.	
MARY:	He's doing some business with you – is that right?	
GODWIN:	Of sorts. I am helping him with a rather complicated financial transaction,	
	and he is showing a kind interest in our little enterprise here.	285
JANE:	He's giving Papa some money.	
GODWIN:	Lending me some money, Jane. Lending me some money so that I	
	might be able to discharge one or two of the difficulties which have built	
	up of late, and so that I might begin to concentrate on my writing again.	
NA DV	Which is the most important thing.	290
MARY:	Yes.	
MRS GODWIN:	Well, I shall believe it when I see it. I wouldn't be at all surprised if we	
	never saw a penny of this alleged money from Mr Shelley.	

JANE: MARY: MRS GODWIN:	Maman. Why? Firstly, because he decen't have any manay. He's having to barrow it.	295
GODWIN:	Firstly, because he doesn't have any money. He's having to borrow it himself, against his future fortune	
MRS GODWIN:	I would rather we didn't speak of business at tea at an exorbitant cost. And secondly, because the only reliable thing about Mr Shelley is that he is completely unreliable. He turns up here when he isn't invited, and then when he is invited, he doesn't turn up. I've lost count of the number of dinners I've prepared for him, only to have them wasted.	300
GODWIN:	You cannot dismiss a man's character on the basis of a few discarded chops.	305
MRS GODWIN:	Chops which have to be paid for, and with money we haven't got. And then there was the time he disappeared altogether. What's to stop him doing that again?	
FANNY: MRS GODWIN:	That was a long time ago, Mama. And what of that?	310
FANNY: MRS GODWIN:	I I think he's become more reliable lately. I think 'Come to my hotel, Mrs Godwin. Dine with us, Mr Godwin.' And then we get there and he's gone. Packed up and left. I've never been so humiliated.	
MARY: GODWIN:	Do we need the money badly, Papa? There is no question of Shelley disappearing. I have great faith in him. You cannot sit for hours with a man, discussing my <i>Political Justice</i> , without learning something of his true nature. There are certain principles upon which we disagree was but he knows as well as I what	315
	principles upon which we disagree, yes, but he knows as well as I what constitutes just treatment of one man by another. Now can we please stop discussing business at tea.	320
MRS GODWIN: GODWIN:	You are too trusting, Mr Godwin. And you are too cynical, my dear.	
MRS GODWIN:	I'd rather be cynical than an old fool.	
	There is a moment of shocked silence.	325
MARY: FANNY: MARY:	It's possible to be both. It's possible to be a cynical old fool. Mary I only said it's possible.	
MRS GODWIN: GODWIN:	Is that in some way directed at me? [To GODWIN.] Are you going to let her speak to me like that? I'm sorry, I must have missed that.	330
MRS GODWIN: GODWIN:	Oh, I see. Return of the selective deafness. Now, now, my dear.	
MARY: GODWIN: MARY:	I also did a great deal of reading in Scotland. I hope you kept a list. I did. <i>Clarissa</i>	335
GODWIN: MARY:	Ah, yes. And I read your memoir of my mother. [Looking at FANNY.] Of our mother. Memoirs of the Author of the Rights of Woman.	
GODWIN: MRS GODWIN: GODWIN: MARY:	Did you? You read the Memoirs? First or second edition? First.	340
MRS GODWIN: MARY:	Is that all you've got to say? It's a beautiful piece of writing, Papa. Aside from anything else. I couldn't	345
GODWIN:	be more proud of you. Or of my wonderful mother. Yes. I see. I am gratified.	

JANE: MARY:	What memoir? A memoir of Mary Wollstonecraft. Papa tells the whole story of her life. Her politics, her philosophies, her travels. Her love affairs. Well Laurence Lam expected to keep guidt on this acception. But I must	350
MRS GODWIN:	Well. I suppose I am expected to keep quiet on this occasion. But I must say, I shouldn't have thought it suitable reading at all for a sixteen-year-old girl.	
MARY:	Why not? I think it should be compulsory reading for all sixteen-year-old girls. To learn about such a woman. So courageous. So liberated.	355
MRS GODWIN: JANE: MARY:	Well, I don't want Jane reading it. Maman!	
FANNY: MARY:	Why not? I think we should change the subject. Why don't you wish Jane to read it?	360
MRS GODWIN: MARY: GODWIN:	Oh, I couldn't possibly say. Because it's none of my business, is it? No, it isn't. It isn't any of your business. Mary	
MRS GODWIN: MARY:	How dare you speak to me like that? I do dare. I suppose you're going to threaten to slap my wrists? Send me to bed without any supper? I came back here determined to be civil to you but it is impossible. No one in the whole of Scotland ever spoke	365
MRS GODWIN: MARY: GODWIN	to me in such a rude and disrespectful way. Disrespectful? Huh! That's very high and mighty, I must say. The Baxters did not even speak to their dogs in such a way! [standing]: Time to get back to work, everyone. I'm sure we all have	370
MRS GODWIN:	things we should be doing. Oh, that's right, Mr Godwin – run off back to your study.	
	The noise of a great roar from the nearby crowd is heard. JANE rushes to the window.	375
MARY: GODWIN:	So rude! Please attempt to control your temper, Mrs Godwin. Remember what we spoke about.	
	JANE bursts into tears.	
MRS GODWIN: JANE: MRS GODWIN:	What's the matter with you? He's dead. Who is?	380
JANE:	The poor man. All he did was steal a gun and now he's dead, dead, dead.	
MRS GODWIN: JANE: MARY	Well, he was nothing to you, you silly girl. He was a fellow creature. A fellow creature and now he's dead. [going to leave]: I've had enough of this.	385
MRS GODWIN:	Don't you think of flouncing out. If anyone is going to flounce out, it's me!	
	MRS GODWIN leaves. JANE sobs loudly.	390
GODWIN:	Well. Thank you for tea.	
	GODWIN exits to the study.	
FANNY: MARY:	Mary, did you have to? Yes. Yes, I did.	

Scene Four

395 Evening. GODWIN's study. Windows look out onto the street. Above a large fireplace there is a portrait of Mary Wollstonecraft. Books line the walls, and lie in piles on the floor. Between the windows there is an old leather sofa. GODWIN is working at his desk. MARY enters quietly. There is a small bundle of letters in her hand. MARY: The letters from Mr Baxter, Papa. 400 **GODWIN** [without looking up]: Thank you. Place them there. MARY puts them on the desk. She waits, but he continues to work. MARY: Shouldn't you stop now? It's quite late. GODWIN: One or two things more. MARY: What are you working on? 405 GODWIN: It doesn't deserve to be called work. Calculations. Business. Commercial drudgery. MARY: All the more reason to stop. She goes to stand before the portrait and stares up at it. 410 How old was she in this portrait? GODWIN: About thirty-eight. She was pregnant with you. MARY: She looks content. GODWIN: You have grown more like her. MARY: Have I? GODWIN: A little in your looks. A great deal in your stridency of expression. 415 You went away a girl, and have returned a young woman. GODWIN finishes his work and sets his pen down. They smile at each other. So, am I forgiven for sending you away? MARY: I wasn't cross. Just a little nervous, I suppose. 420 I knew it was time for you to make a foray into the outside world. GODWIN: MARY: You were right. Your mother was a great believer in girls experiencing life outside the GODWIN: home. Within reason, of course. Papa, are there more books about my mother which I can read? Or can 425 MARY: I read the other books she wrote? GODWIN: Hum. I can't remember what you've read already. He goes to the bookshelves. MARY: Not that much. The Rights of Woman. You read us that. View of the 430 French Revolution. GODWIN: Her travels in Sweden? MARY: No. He hands it to her. GODWIN: I think Fanny has read that one. Of course, there's a great deal in there about Fanny, as a baby. Your mother took her with her on her travels. 435 Yes. Anything else? MARY: **GODWIN** [hesitating]: There are the letters.

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MARY: GODWIN:	The letters? I edited a volume of her letters. But perhaps that's for another day.	
MARY:	Please let me see it. I feel as though I've been sleeping on top of buried treasure.	440
GODWIN MARY:	[handing it to her]: Very well. Thank you.	
GODWIN:	Mary	
MARY:	I'm sorry I lost my temper with Mrs Godwin. But she seemed to be implying that there was something wrong about my mother – about the way she lived. And there wasn't, was there?	445
GODWIN:	No. But, Mary, you are old enough to understand now that there are many people who cannot view the world as openly as your mother did. Or as you and I do.	450
MARY:	You mean small-minded people. Like Mrs Godwin.	,00
GODWIN:	That is not what I mean.	
MARY:	But she spoke about your book as though it were contaminated.	
GODWIN:	Mrs Godwin has worked hard – tremendously hard, as have I, to achieve the relatively settled life which we have given you. And all our children. If she is a little alarmed, or decidedly averse to anything which seems to veer towards scandal, then she is understandably so.	455
MARY:	Scandal?	
GODWIN:	The <i>Memoirs</i> were not well received. It is only right that you be made aware of that. In fact, I was vilified.	460
MARY:	But	
GODWIN:	And not only in the reactionary press. Some people — friends even – thought I was wrong to write in detail about her private affairs. Some thought I was wrong to write so quickly after her death. I was only trying to make something useful out of tragedy	465
MARY:	Yes.	
GODWIN:	But I was judged – we were both judged, very harshly. The suicide attempt the circumstances of Fanny's birth many people thought I should have left those things unstated. It was a shock to me. I had not realised until then how entirely out of step I had become – even with radical society.	470
	In the second edition, I tried to remedy some of the damage. Her sisters in Ireland – your aunts – had been very upset by the book. One or two of her friends	475
MARY:	But you don't regret writing it? Surely you don't.	470
GODWIN:	No. Although, in hindsight, I am not at all sure that I should have had it published.	
MARY:	But surely for every person who balked at it, there was someone like me who found it inspiring?	480
GODWIN:	I simply want you to be aware that there are certain sensitivities surrounding your mother's reputation, which we must be mindful of. Not least because we are reliant upon a business. A shop which sells books for children.	
MARY:	Then perhaps we should not be. If it means we cannot be true to our principles and to your philosophies. If it means I cannot be openly proud of my mother.	485
GODWIN:	Well. I'm afraid we must deal with things as they are. Come and kiss me.	
	She does so. She hugs him.	490
MARY:	Poor Papa.	

[Turn over

GODWIN: You even smell the way your mother used to smell. Is that possible, do vou think? MARY: I'm sure it is. GODWIN: My dearest girl. 495 You are right to be proud of your mother, Mary. But we must be patient, cautious with those who do not have our capacity and strength of mind. Always remember who you are. And ask more of yourself. Goodnight now. MARY: Goodnight. 500 She starts to go. I wish she hadn't died. I wish we were together now. My mother and you. Fanny and I. That was how it was meant to be. She leaves. Scene Five 505 Late at night. GODWIN's study. There is the sound of knocking on the front door of the house. It stops. After a few moments, GODWIN enters, with SHELLEY behind him. GODWIN is carrying a candle. GODWIN: We had better come in here. SHELLEY: I didn't realise it was so late. 510 GODWIN lights a lamp. You weren't in bed? GODWIN: Yes. But no matter. SHELLEY: Was I expected here this evening? I felt sure I was. GODWIN: We expected you tomorrow, Shelley. 515 SHELLEY: Ah. Tomorrow. Then I'm early. Yes. Early and late, it would seem. A walking challenge to the laws of GODWIN: physics. SHELLEY: I went to the Fleet this afternoon. The first time I've been in a prison. It shook me rather. 520 GODWIN: I'm sure it did. SHELLEY: I went for a walk by the river. I must have lost track of time. And the days are getting longer now, aren't they? Perhaps it was that. A trick of the light. GODWIN: What took you to the Fleet? Sit down for a moment. 525 SHELLEY: A friend of mine was arrested for debt yesterday. He has a wife and five children to support. GODWIN: I'm sorry to hear it. SHELLEY: It's the perversity of it which enrages me. To confine a man, to shackle him, at the very moment he has most need to be industrious. 530 **GODWIN:** Does your friend have private rooms, at least? SHELLEY: No, no. He shares a cell with three others. I thought I knew what it was to be in prison. But the reality ... I took him a copy of Caleb Williams. GODWIN: Did you? SHELLEY: He had read it, of course, but he was glad to have it with him. A lone 535 voice of sanity amidst the madness. 'Go, go, ignorant fool and visit the

GODWIN: GODWIN:	scenes of our prisons, then show me the man shameless enough to rejoice and say, "England has no Bastille".' Yes. Those passages were the result of bitter experience. I dare not think of the hours I have spent visiting men in prison cells. Good men. Wasted lives. I am going to take up the cry. I don't know how yet, but I shall. Godwin, when will we have the money? I have sworn that I will help him. I won't use any of your share, of course, but I shall use mine – all of it, if need be. We are making progress, certainly. I saw the lawyers this afternoon.	540 545
SHELLEY:	What did they say? FANNY enters. She is in a nightdress and dressing gown.	
FANNY: SHELLEY: GODWIN: SHELLEY:	Oh. Mr Shelley. Miss Godwin. Forgive me. I have come rather Early. Yes.	550
FANNY:	Please don't worry. I only wondered if anyone had need of anything. Are	
SHELLEY: GODWIN: SHELLEY:	you staying, Mr Shelley? Staying? Yes. Yes. Thank you. If that would be agreeable? By all means, stay a while. It's true I have no wish to be alone tonight. If I could lie down amongst	555
	friends it would mean a great deal to me.	
FANNY: GODWIN: SHELLEY: FANNY:	Oh. Ah. Staying. It has been a day of great emotion. Yes. I must see if the spare room is Sometimes it is rather full of	560
SHELLEY: GODWIN: SHELLEY:	books and so on. But I can sleep in here. If you don't object, Godwin? No. When I get tired I can sleep anywhere. I shall sleep curled up on the rug there. Or on the sofa.	565
FANNY: SHELLEY: FANNY: SHELLEY:	Yes. A blanket, perhaps, for the early hours? And a glass of water, please. If it isn't too much trouble. Not at all. I'll fetch them. Thank you.	570
	FANNY leaves. GODWIN and SHELLEY sit down together.	
	MRS GODWIN is heard from outside the door –	
MRS GODWIN GODWIN	[off]: Mr Godwin? What is going on? [to SHELLEY]: Excuse me one moment?	575
	GODWIN leaves. There is the sound of whispering. After a moment, FANNY enters. She is carrying some blankets and a glass of water.	
SHELLEY: FANNY:	I appear to have woken the whole house. Don't worry.	580
	FANNY begins to make up a bed on the sofa.	

I think you should sleep on here tonight. Please don't sleep on the floor.

SHELLEY:	If anyone had told me, when I was at school, that one day I would lie down to sleep in the study of the great William Godwin – with Mary Wollstonecraft gazing down upon me – I would have thought it too much	585
	a fantasy to be believed. And to have her legendary daughter as my companion	
FANNY: SHELLEY:	I am hardly legendary. But you are. You must know you are. No child has ever been so lovingly described. Your joy in being, your inquisitiveness.	590
FANNY:	I am glad to have those descriptions to look back upon.	030
SHELLEY:	You know, when Harriet first discovered she was pregnant, I gave her a copy of your mother's thoughts on raising daughters. In case we had a girl. And then we did –	
FANNY:	Has she found it useful?	595
SHELLEY:	Yes. Though she has not taken it to heart entirely – in the way I hoped she would. On education she is completely agreed. But she would not feed the baby herself. That I found very difficult. She hired a wet nurse. I would have snatched the child away and fed her myself if I could.	
FANNY:	I'm sorry. I suppose it is a very personal It's very personal.	600
SHELLEY: FANNY:	Yes. But your daughter is well, isn't she?	
SHELLEY:	Yes. She is thriving.	
FANNY:	That's the most important thing. I feel sure my mother would say so.	
SHELLEY: FANNY:	We are to have another. Harriet told me this morning. Oh. Another baby.	605
SHELLEY:	Some time in the autumn.	
FANNY:	That's wonderful. That's wonderful news.	
SHELLEY:	I suppose it is.	
FANNY:	You aren't sure?	610
SHELLEY:	It's very hard this question of responsibility to one's own children. I wish I want to take responsibility for the whole world, and yet I am expected to reserve a vast share of my attention for one or two individual creatures, whom I had a part in creating. Do you understand what I	
	mean?	615
FANNY:	I think I do.	
SHELLEY: FANNY:	Today I saw a small boy being thrown into the river. Oh, no.	
SHELLEY:	He was on a coal barge that was passing by. He was arguing with a	
	large man. And the man suddenly picked him up and tossed him over the side. Quite casually. As though he were emptying his piss-pot. The boy was floundering. I ran down to the edge of the water and made as much commotion as I could. I can't swim, or I would have gone in to get him.	620
FANNY:	Yes.	625
SHELLEY:	He was picked up and rowed to shore. I felt so much for him. I wanted to	
	keep him. I would have taken him home, but all he wanted was to run to catch up	
	with the barge. I gave him all the money in my pockets. I felt so much for	
	him, in his plight. As much as I have ever felt for my own child. Does that seem wrong?	630
FANNY:	No. No, not at all. I have often felt quite overwhelmed with love for the children I visit in the poor schools.	
SHELLEY:	Have you?	
FANNY:	I have often thought there could be no greater vocation in life – no greater use of energy – than to rescue a whole class full of those children from the evils of poverty and ignorance.	635
SHELLEY:	A greater vocation than motherhood?	

FANNY: SHELLEY:	Yes. How right you are. How wise. Why don't you stay with me, and talk to me all night? Really. I don't feel at all sleepy. Do you?	640
FANNY: SHELLEY: FANNY: SHELLEY: FANNY: SHELLEY:	No, but I would like to, but But what? Have you ever stayed up and talked all night? No Then you must. It is one of the great pleasures of life. I don't think I don't think Mama would allow it. Why not? Would you stay if I were a woman?	645
FANNY: SHELLEY:	Yes. Then stay. Surely your father, of all people, would not insist upon the proprieties? Are we such animals that we cannot control our desires?	650
	FANNY cannot answer. GODWIN enters.	
FANNY: GODWIN:	l'Il say goodnight. Yes.	655
FANNY SHELLEY:	[to SHELLEY]: Goodnight. If goodnight it must be.	000
	She leaves. He gazes after her.	
Scene Six		
	Morning. GODWIN's study. SHELLEY is lying on the sofa under a blanket. The sounds of the busy street below are drifting into the room.	660
	MARY enters. She is wearing a dressing gown, and her hair is undone. She does not see Shelley. She heads towards her father's desk, but then changes her mind and goes to the window and draws back the curtains.	
SHELLEY:	But soft, what light through yonder window breaks?	665
	MARY gasps with surprise. SHELLEY sits up, smiling. He is in a state of half-undress.	
MARY: SHELLEY:	Sorry. I couldn't resist Oh. I didn't realise there was anyone in here. I'm sorry. I thought you were Miss Godwin.	670
	I stayed the night. Shelley. Percy. Bysshe. Ah. Of course.	070
MARY: SHELLEY: MARY: SHELLEY: MARY: SHELLEY:	An. Of course. And you? Are you? Mary. Mary Wollstonecraft Godwin. Mary. You're back. Yes. No one told me.	675
	The immediate rapport between them is tangible.	
MARY:	I'll go and tell Mrs Godwin you're awake.	680
	She starts to go.	

[Turn over

SHELLEY: MARY: SHELLEY: MARY: SHELLEY MARY:	But what did you come for? Oh. It doesn't matter. A book? I would be the last person on earth to deprive you of a book. I came for some paper. [jumping up]: Paper! Let me help you find some. It's all right. I think I know where it is. My notebook's full, and I just need a few sheets of paper, until I can get another one.	685
SHELLEY:	Are you writing? Your sisters told me that you write. You cannot know how happy I was to hear that. What are you writing?	690
MARY: SHELLEY: MARY:	A story. I write poetry. Do you?	
SHELLEY:	Yes. I have recently finished a poem. It's my best work. I have had several copies printed.	695
MARY: SHELLEY:	That's wonderful. Yes. It's a long poem. Epic, I suppose one could say. I can't put my name to it – the content is too dangerous. It's not that I'm afraid to take on the authorities. But I don't want to find myself in prison when I've only	
MARY:	just begun. What's it about?	700
SHELLEY: MARY:	It is very much inspired by your father's work. Is it really?	
SHELLEY:	Although I showed it to him and he was rather critical. He thinks I should stick to prose. Prose and politics.	705
MARY:	But my father has never been fond of poetry. You ought to hear him on the subject of Lord Byron.	
SHELLEY: MARY:	Really? I adore Byron. So do I. But Father likes things to be said in a logical way. I'm sure it is not the fault of your poem.	710
	JANE enters.	
JANE: MARY:	Oh. Mary. You're here. Good morning, Jane.	
SHELLEY:	Miss Jane! How sweet and fresh you look today.	
JANE:	Do I? I've only just woken up. But look at you two. You've met at last.	715
SHELLEY: JANE:	Yes. It's not fair. It's really too unkind. I wanted to be the person to introduce you. I told him all about you, Mary. Now, is she as lovely as I said she is?	
MARY:	Jane.	720
SHELLEY:	Certainly, she is.	
MARY:	Jane, please.	
JANE:	What?	
MARY:	Please don't say such silly things.	705
JANE:	Oh, don't be embarrassed. Embarrassment is so petty. But, Shelley, I must tell you something quite extraordinary.	725
SHELLEY: JANE:	That's a very promising beginning. When Mama told me just now that you had stayed the night, I wasn't at all surprised, because I knew. Because all night all night I had the strangest feeling that you were close by.	730
SHELLEY:	Did you really?	, 00
JANE:	I was finding it hard to sleep, you see, because I had been so upset yesterday about the poor man being hanged. Hadn't I, Mary? I was quite	
MARY:	inconsolable. I can't bear any sort of cruelty, can I, Mary? No.	735

JANE: But then I started to feel quite calm suddenly, and I started to feel that there was a presence close by - a good, strong presence - and then I realised that it was you. SHELLEY: That's fascinating. JANE: And then I slept quite happily. And calmly. How can I describe it? I felt 740 very ... soft. And relaxed. SHELLEY: How extraordinary. I'm glad to have been of service. [laughing]: Did you know? I mean, were you ... thinking ...? JANE SHELLEY: I wasn't conscious of anything. You didn't come upstairs at all? 745 JANE: No. But who knows where our souls wander when we sleep? SHELLEY: GODWIN enters and goes straight to his desk. GODWIN: Ah, you're awake, Shelley. Good. [Calling.] Fanny! She was afraid we might disturb you, but I see we are too late for that. JANE: He was awake when I came in, Papa. 750 GODWIN [to MARY and SHELLEY]: So you've met. Yes. We introduced ourselves. SHELLEY: FANNY enters. FANNY: Good morning. SHELLEY: Good morning, my dear Miss Godwin. 755 FANNY: Rather an invasion, I'm afraid. Would you like a little privacy? SHELLEY: No. This is the perfect start to my day. How are you, Mary? Rested? FANNY: MARY: Yes, thank you, dear. This is the letter I wish you to copy, Fanny. 760 GODWIN: **FANNY** [crossing to the desk]: Jane, go down and mind the shop please. JANE: Now? FANNY: Yes. JANE: But I don't want to. Surely if anyone comes they can ring the bell? No one will come anyway. 765 Will it be clear enough? GODWIN: Yes. I think so. FANNY: GODWIN: Shelley, I've ascertained where we must go for the certificate, but the office will close at midday, so we must start out as soon as you're ready. SHELLEY: Right. Yes. What time is it now? 770 It's almost half-past ten. MARY. SHELLEY: Is it really? I'm always losing track of time. JANE: MRS GODWIN enters. MRS GODWIN: What on earth is going on in here? 775 I do apologise, Mr Shelley. I gave orders that you were not to be disturbed. Mary was here before I was. JANE: SHELLEY: But it's been splendid, Mrs Godwin. Really. It reminds me of being a child again. Waking up surrounded by my sisters. 780 Well, we are none of us children now. What do you say, Mr Godwin? MRS GODWIN: GODWIN: What's that, my dear? MRS GODWIN: Come out now, girls. In fact, no. Mr Shelley, I think you should come out, if you don't mind? You may use my bedroom in which to refresh yourself, and so forth. I'm sure you must need to do that. 785

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SHELLEY: Thank you. You're very kind.

MRS GODWIN: And who's minding the shop, may I ask?

FANNY: I was. But I'm busy now. I asked Jane to go down.

MRS GODWIN: Then go down. Jane. At once. What do you think this is? A public

holiday?

JANE [to SHELLEY]: Will you be coming back? SHELLEY: I hope so. Will we come back, Godwin?

GODWIN: Back? No. Windsor. SHELLEY: Ah, yes. A pity.

JANE: But you'll come again soon? 795

MRS GODWIN: Jane!

JANE: Sorry. [To SHELLEY.] Come out through the shop and say goodbye!

She leaves.

MRS GODWIN [inviting him to come with her]: Mr Shelley?

SHELLEY [to MARY]: I hope I will see you soon. You're not going away again? 800

MARY: No. I have no more plans to travel.

SHELLEY: I wonder if you would read my poem? Would you?

MARY: Yes. Of course. I would like that very much.

SHELLEY: I will come back as soon as I can.

They smile deeply at each other. 805

790

Good day, Miss Godwin.

FANNY: Good day. I hope ...

MRS GODWIN [ushering him out]: I have saved you a nice slice of bacon for your

breakfast, Mr Shelley.

GODWIN: No time! 810

SHELLEY: Oh, I never eat breakfast, Mrs Godwin. Or meat.

MRS GODWIN: No? Of course you don't.

They leave.

GODWIN: Right. Once you have finished it, I want you to deliver it. You know the

office?

FANNY: Yes, Papa.

GODWIN: As soon as you can.

He gathers his things together.

Writing today, Mary?

MARY: Yes, Papa. 820

GODWIN: Very good.

He leaves. FANNY watches MARY for a moment. MARY is looking

shocked and flushed.

FANNY: So ... That is Mr Shelley.

MARY: Yes. 825

I need some paper.

MARY goes to the desk and finds the paper.

FANNY: Is something wrong?

MARY: No. Not at all.

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FANNY: What did you think of him?

MARY: I thought he was ... Yes. He's very pleasant.

FANNY: 'Pleasant'? What do you mean? That's the most ... pale ... the most

insipid word I ever heard fall from your lips.

MARY: He's beautiful. There must be angels who command less light.

Looking at MARY's impassioned face, FANNY is suddenly filled with 835

disquiet. MARY sees it.

You looked after him last night?

FANNY: Yes. We had a long talk.

MARY: I'm glad. Well. I'll let you get on. Tell me if I can be of any help.

FANNY: Yes. Thank you. 840

MARY leaves.

Scene Seven

The sisters' bedroom. MARY rushes in. She is full of the most staggering emotions – literally lovestruck. She feels as though the room is too small

to contain her. She throws the pieces of paper up into the air.

She sits down suddenly, hugging her knees and covering her mouth. 845

Then she laughs.

MARY: Madness.

She stands again. She has to move, to release the feeling.

I wonder if you would read my poem? Would you?

Yes. Of course. Of course. Of course. 850

I will come back as soon as I can.

Come back. Come back to me. Mr Shelley. Shelley. Like the name of a

rose. Or something fragile from the sea.

Scene Eight

Night. The sisters' bedroom. MARY, in her nightgown, pulls all the

855

865

blankets and quilts from the beds into the middle of the floor. She lights candles and places them around. She takes the books she has

borrowed from her father, and places them on the covers.

She goes to the window and opens it, letting the moonlight in.

MARY: Come, gentle night; come, loving black-brow'd night.

FANNY enters. She is in her nightgown and carries a candle. She stops 860

in astonishment – a little thrilled by the sight.

FANNY: Mary? What ...?

MARY takes FANNY's hand and sits her on the covers.

MARY: I have more books. Love letters. More beautiful than you can imagine.

Papa gave them to me, so you need not fear.

FANNY [looking at the little book of letters]: I don't know if I can.

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MARY: We have to. Mother may not be here, but she can still teach us what it is to love. She takes the book and goes to a marked page. 870 Look – read this page. FANNY takes it and reads. Read it aloud. **FANNY** [reading]: 'I have been playing and laughing with the little girl so long, that I cannot take up my pen to address you without emotion.' MARY: It is written to your father – do you see? 875 **FANNY** [reading]: 'Pressing her to my bosom, she looked so like you, every nerve seemed to vibrate to the touch, and you seemed to pervade my whole frame, quickening the beat of my heart.' The child is me. MARY: Yes. 880 JANE enters, also dressed for bed and carrying a candle. JANE: What are you doing? Hush, Jane. Come away from the door. MARY: JANE: What are you doing? Can I join in? She sits with them on the floor. She picks up a book. Ah! Is this it? Is this the *Memoir*? 885 **MARY** [reading]: 'Recollection now makes my heart bound to thee; I have thy honest countenance before me, relaxed by tenderness. Thy lips then feel softer than soft, and I rest my cheek on thine, forgetting all the world.' JANE: But that is too gorgeous! 890 FANNY: Is that written to my father too? MARY: She must have loved him deeply. I'm sure, when we were younger, we were made to think it was no more than a passing fancy. JANE: Listen to this. [Reading from the Memoirs.] 'Mary rested her head upon my shoulder – the shoulder of her lover ...' This is Papa speaking! 895 FANNY: Papa? JANE [reading]: '... I had never loved till now; or, at least, had never nourished a passion to the same growth, or met with an object so consummately worthy.' Is that not the funniest thing? MARY: 900 That is Papa's way of saying that he was overwhelmed with passion! She throws herself onto JANE, who laughs. Abandoned to a desire that changed him utterly, that pushed him to the ground, that launched him to the winds! [reading from the Memoirs]: 'We did not marry.' I thought they did. **FANNY** MARY: Eventually. But I was conceived in the first throes of their passion. 905 Oh, Mary! JANE: FANNY: You don't mind, do you? Of course not. Marriage is a nonsense. You were conceived at a tollgate, MARY: Fanny. JANE: A tollgate? 910 [taking up the Letters]: Look here - let me see ... here. She calls you **MARY**

her 'barrier-girl'. She would meet your father at one of the barriers into FANNY: 'Barrier-girl'? Papa used to call me the barrier-child sometimes. Do you remember? I always thought it meant something bad. That I had been in 915 the way somehow. MARY: Oh, Fanny. They would spend nights together in a room in the tollgate. JANE: How romantic! FANNY: Is that really true? MARY: A child of the Revolution. 920 And outside, all around, people were having their heads chopped off! JANE: Look here - [Reading.] '... my imagination then rather chooses to MARY: ramble back to the barrier with you, to see you coming to meet me, and my basket of grapes and wine, and with the blissful hours to come.' I never heard of anything so romantic. JANE: 925 They lie back and grow quieter. FANNY reads to the end of the letter. FANNY: 'My little barrier-girl ...' I wish she was my mother. Oh, I wish she was. JANE: I am going to change my name to hers. Jane is such a dull name. And really I was christened Mary-Jane, so ... 930 FANNY [laughing]: But you can't take 'Mary'. Oh, yes! Oh, no. Then I shall take her birthday! When was her birthday? JANE: FANNY: April the twenty-seventh. Then from now on that will be my birthday. Will you let me? And you JANE: must mark it. 935 You will, won't you? MARY: All right. But don't tell Mama, or she will laugh and think me stupid. JANE: FANNY: Let's blow out the candles now. They do so, and settle down. 940 MARY: We cannot let our lives be small. There is no life but loving. Gradually, they begin to drift into sleep. In MARY's mind, SHELLEY enters the room. The energy between them draws them together. They do not touch, but seem to lean and brush against each other. 945 When she awakens, FANNY is standing by the window, gazing out at the night sky. [Whispering.] Are you all right, Fanny? FANNY: It is too much to bear. **MARY** [hesitantly]: What do you mean? 950 But FANNY only goes back to her bed and closes her eyes. End of Act One.

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