

A Highland Requiem

By R. James Scott

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STORY OF THE PLAY

In the spring of 1609, two Scottish clans, the McLorens and the McGreggors, come together for an arranged marriage. The young bridegroom, William McGreggor, arrives early and by chance meets his bride-to-be at the church. Heather McLoren does not recognize him for who he is, and later that day at the wedding is infuriated at the ruse he has played. The play ends happily as the spirits of fallen ancestors bless the union. About 45 minutes.

CAST OF CHARACTERS

(5 m, 4 w, 1 flexible + many extras.)

WILLIAM McGREGGOR: Young bridegroom.

JAMES McGREGGOR: William's brother.

TOM McLOREN: Heather's brother. (May be Chani
McLoren if a sister is substituted for the brother.)

HEATHER McLOREN: Young bride.

FATHER McLOREN: Heather's father.

MOTHER McLOREN: Heather's mother.

BONNIE: Friend of Mother.

MAGGIE: Friend of Mother.

PRIEST: Performs ceremony.

FATHER McGREGGOR: Father of William and James.

EXTRAS

CLANSWOMEN: About 12.

CLANSMEN: About 12.

BALLET DANCERS: About 7.

WARRIORS: About 10. May double as clansmen.

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SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

PROLOGUE: Before dawn.

SCENE 1: Early morning of the wedding day.

INTERLUDE: Spirit ballet.

SCENE 2: Evening at the wedding.

SETTING

An old stone church in the Highlands of Scotland.

TIME

Spring, 1609.

MUSIC

Celtic music for ballet dancers and scene transitions.
Bagpipe for wedding ceremony.

A HIGHLAND REQUIEM

PROLOGUE

(The scene opens on an old stone church in the Highlands of Scotland. Celtic MUSIC plays softly in the background as the scene begins to brighten. Trees and rocks and ferns grow within what was a stone church. Clumps of heather grow here and there. What's left of the Gothic arch is UCR; left of the arch are tumbled down walls, and stone building blocks litter the stage. Moss and ivy cling to the ruins. In front of the arch are three steps up to a platform and DL are remnants of two walls of the church, along with part of a stone pillar. The mists flow down the steps, and onto the main part of the stage. The LIGHT of dawn silhouettes the scene against the cyclorama. In the subdued light, we can barely see a few spirits moving through the church ruins. A couple of the DANCERS, as well as a few of the WARRIOR MEN used later in the play, move through as the light grows. The Warriors carry swords and come together to freeze in battle pose. Spirit women [Dancers] enter to escort the warriors offstage as the dawn breaks.)

END PROLOGUE

SCENE 1

(JAMES has entered SL and crosses DRC into the scene. He wears a kilt, and has his wrap pulled around his shoulders as it is still in the cool of the morning. Entering behind him is WILLIAM in similar garb. They stop CS and gaze about them.)

JAMES: *(Moving across the stage from left to DRC.)* 'Tis as I remember, though it took a bit of findin'.

WILLIAM: *(Moves from left to LC.)* Aye, we've rode near forty mile, most of it in circles I think.

JAMES: 'Twas not so far as the crow flies, but we've not wings on our shoulders, and the moon was not so bright as I might have liked.

WILLIAM: So it happened here.

JAMES: Aye, where we stand.

WILLIAM: 'Tis much smaller than I expected.

JAMES: And a bit fallen down. I expect all things are bigger when you it is that is small. 'Twas long ago when I last was here.

WILLIAM: Aye, but a good guide ye were in gettin' us here afore the sun.

JAMES: I kanna understand why ya couldna wait fer ta come with the others.

WILLIAM: 'Tis a holy day fer me, my brother. I need the time alone.

JAMES: Aye. Then I'll be leavin'.

WILLIAM: You'll meet the others on their way.

JAMES: Aye, an' then I'll turn around again.

WILLIAM: More circles.

JAMES: I'll hobble yer horses in the glen.

WILLIAM: They shant go far, there's feed aplenty, and water.

JAMES: I'm off, then!

WILLIAM: God's speed, brother.

JAMES: Mind ye ta be here still when I return.

WILLIAM: If I'm not, ya can find me in Aberdeen, with a fair one.

End of Freeview

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