

FADE IN:

EXT. BEACH, UIG, ISLE OF LEWIS - DAY

A sandy beach nestles between treeless rocky headlands piercing the Atlantic. Above the grassy strip of machair is a small graveyard enclosed by a drystone dyke. Smoke rises from a single blackhouse higher up on the hill.

SUPERIMPOSE: "1577, ISLE OF LEWIS, SCOTLAND"

ROWAN, a wee Highland cow grazes on the machair. Below, Agnes, skirts tied up, bare feet, collects mussels amongst seaweed-covered boulders at low tide. This is backbreaking work.

Agnes straightens up and rubs her back.

She looks out to sea.

A birlinn with a single sail moves across the horizon.

Agnes shades her eyes with her hand. She can just make out a figure.

The boat disappears around the headland.

A GROANING sound comes from behind a rock. Agnes investigates.

CESAR, 20's, handsome, dark complexion, bearded, leather tunic, lies half out of the water. Blood oozes from a gash across his forehead.

AGNES

Hello?

Cesar opens his eyes and GROANS.

Agnes sits down next to him. She tears a piece of her skirt and wraps it around the man's forehead.

AGNES (CONT'D)

I'll get help.

Cesar grabs her arm.

CESAR

(in Spanish)

No!

AGNES

Spanish?

Cesar shakes his head.

AGNES (CONT'D)
I don't want to see any more
killing. You understand?

CESAR
Yes.

AGNES
We must hide you. Can you walk?

Cesar nods.

AGNES (CONT'D)
Wait here!

Agnes runs along the beach and looks out to sea. Her stepfather's boat comes around the headland and heads towards the shore.

Agnes rushes back.

AGNES (CONT'D)
Come on, quick!

Cesar crawls to his feet. He almost collapses. Agnes steadies him.

AGNES (CONT'D)
There's a cave round the point.

Agnes supports Cesar as they hobble along the beach.

EXT. BAY - DAY

MURDO MACKENZIE, 40's, takes the sail down.

He rows into the bay.

He gets out and pulls the boat up the beach.

MURDO
(shouting)
Agnes! Agnes? I need a hand.

EXT. CAVE, BEACH - DAY

The cave was once a sea cave but now is above the high tide mark. Sheep droppings litter the front of the cave.

Agnes helps Cesar into the cave.

INT. CAVE, BEACH - DAY

Agnes helps Cesar down into a corner of the cave.

MURDO (O.S.)

Agnes!

AGNES

Stay here. If my stepfather sees
you he'll kill you!

Cesar nods.

AGNES (CONT'D)

I'll try and come back with food
later.

Agnes rushes out of the cave.

EXT. BEACH - DAY

Agnes rushes across the beach.

Murdo strains up the beach with a creel full of fish.

MURDO

Where were you?

AGNES

I had to relieve myself.

Murdo shrugs.

MURDO

Don't leave Rowan again! They
caught two Spaniards down the coast
slaughtering a sheep.

Agnes grabs a hold of one side of the creel basket.

AGNES

A good catch.

MURDO

They were hanged. Too good for the
foreign bastards. I'd have drawn
and quartered them too.

Agnes and Murdo carry the creel up the beach.

Agnes slips on seaweed and falls over.

The fish spill out on the beach.

MURDO (CONT'D)

Oh you clumsy...Agnes?

Agnes lies unconscious.

DREAM SEQUENCE

Agnes lies asleep, stretched out on the machair.

Rowan MOOS. Agnes wakes. She sits up.

A chorus of WHEEZING sounds come from the graveyard.

Agnes gets up and cautiously advances to the graveyard wall.

She peers over the wall and GASPS.

White fingers claw up round edges of all the flat gravestones.

Slowly gravestones lift and are slid across the mossy grass.

Out of the graves climb shrouded dead people of all ages, sunken cheeks, hollow eyes.

The dead stagger along the small path towards the gate at the far end of the graveyard.

AGNES

Gran?

GRAN, an old woman with grey hair, turns and stares at Agnes for a few seconds. She turns and follows the others.

As each of them exit the graveyard they fade away.

Agnes rushes along the wall of the graveyard to the gate.

A dead BABY crawls towards her but disappears when it crosses the gate threshold.

Agnes falls to the ground. She mops the sweat off her brow.

Agnes gets up . She enters the graveyard.

She meanders through the graveyard. All the stones have been pushed aside.

Agnes wanders up to a stone slab with the inscription

"CHRISTINE MACKENZIE BELOVED WIFE OF DUNCAN MACKENZIE, 1501-1576"

Agnes touches the inscription with her finger.

AGNES (CONT'D)

Gran.

Agnes looks into the grave.

The rotten coffin lid has been broken through.

Agnes SHIVERS and pulls her shawl around her.

Agnes sits under the old yew tree in the middle of the graveyard.

She watches the graveyard gate swing in the wind.

A seagull CRIES.

Agnes opens her eyes.

Through the gate the dead return.

Agnes breaks a branch off the yew tree and holds it in a defensive pose.

First the baby crawls through the gate from empty air, GIGGLING. A middle aged WOMAN with dark hair in a shroud appears and picks the baby up.

She staggers towards a grave.

She puts the baby down on the grass and climbs down into the grave. Her hands appear and gently pull the baby down below. The baby CRIES.

White fingers clasp the edge of the stone slab and with a supernatural force the grave stone slides back into place. The baby CRIES are muffled.

All around Agnes the dead pour back into their graves.

Agnes sees her grandmother heading towards her grave.

Agnes gets up and goes towards her grandmother.

AGNES (CONT'D)

Gran. It's me Agnes.

The grandmother stops for a brief moment. She shuffles towards Agnes but doesn't stop.

The grandmother passes right through Agnes.

Agnes SCREAMS.

The grandmother and the other dead don't seem to notice Agnes. The grandmother climbs down into her grave.

Agnes kneels beside the grandmothers grave.

AGNES (CONT'D)

Gran. What's happening?

White knarled fingers pull the gravestone over the grave.

Agnes bangs on the gravestone.

AGNES (CONT'D)

Gran?

Agnes stands up. She wanders around the graveyard. All the graves are closed apart from one.

The gate SQUEAKS open.

PRINCESS FREYA, a tall young woman in a shroud appears at the gate. She has long blonde hair and wears a crown.

Princess Freya solemnly marches towards the open grave.

Suddenly Agnes rushes past her. Agnes place the yew branch across the open grave.

Princess Freya stops at the grave side. She stares at Freya.

PRINCESS FREYA

(in Norwegian)

Remove the stick.

AGNES

What's happening here?

PRINCESS FREYA

I am late. Remove the stick.

Agnes shakes with fright but is determined to get an answer.

AGNES

Not until you tell me what's happening. Who are you?

PRINCESS FREYA

Princess Freya of Norway.

AGNES

What is happening?

PRINCESS FREYA

Remove the stick and you will be rewarded.

Agnes picks up the stick and throws it off to one side.

Princess Freya climbs into the grave.

She pulls the stone slab over her.

Agnes kneels down and tries to stop the slab closing.

AGNES

My reward?

The stone slab closes over the grave.

Slightly muffled, Princess Freya speaks from the grave.

PRINCESS FREYA
Cut the peat and find the gift.

AGNES
What?

Agnes bangs on the gravestone.

A small bluish torus-shaped stone shimmers into existence on the gravestone.

Agnes picks it up.

AGNES (CONT'D)
A stone? What use is that!

Agnes throws the stone away in disgust.

END DREAM SEQUENCE

Murdo shakes Agnes.

MURDO
Agnes?

He listens to her chest.

He lifts Agnes up in his arms.

He carries her up into the hills.

EXT - BLACKHOUSE - DAY

In front of the small stone house Mary, in a dark shawl, sits on a stool spinning wool. The years haven't been kind to her.

Mary gets up and runs forward when she sees Murdo carrying Agnes.

MARY
What happened? You didn't hit her again?

MURDO
Boil some water!

Murdo carries Agnes into the house.

Mary gathers a handful of peats from the stack at the side of the house.

She rushes into the blackhouse.

INT. BLACKHOUSE - DAY

The house is very basic. A peat fire in the middle of the room with a cauldron hanging from metal poles. A low wooden wall on one side partitions off the animal quarter. The furniture consists of two box beds, a table, a dresser, one chair and some stools.

Murdo lays Agnes down on one of the box beds.

Mary stacks up the fire.

Mary dips a rag into the cauldron. She takes it out and brings it to Murdo.

Murdo wipes Agnes' face.

Agnes MOANS. She opens her eyes.

She tries to get up.

MURDO

Lie down.

AGNES

Wha... what happened?

MURDO

You don't remember?

AGNES

A dark stranger.. he..

Mary GASPS.

MARY

The devil!

Agnes falls asleep.

INT - BLACKHOUSE - NIGHT

Mary spins wool by candlelight.

Agnes stirs. She opens her eyes. Feels the bump on her head.

Mary gets up and comes over to Agnes.

MARY

How are you feeling?

AGNES

Sore head.

MARY

I've boiled tatties and herring.

Mary fills a plate and brings it to Agnes.

Agnes shakes her head.

AGNES

Later.

MARY

You were rambling on about graves opening up and dark strangers in your sleep.

AGNES

Was I? How strange. Where's stepfather?

MARY

There's been sightings of a Spaniard. He's gone off to help with the hunt.

Agnes gets out of the bed.

MARY (CONT'D)

You should stay in bed.

AGNES

I'm fine. I need to get outside and clear my head. I'll go down to the beach for a walk.

Agnes bundles the herring and tatties up in a cloth.

MARY

Well don't be long.

Agnes leaves the house.

EXT. BEACH - NIGHT

The moonlight reflects off the calm sea. Agnes walks along the beach towards the cave.

CAVE ENTRANCE

Agnes stops at the entrance.

AGNES

Hello?

CESAR (O.S.)

(Spanish)

Hello.

INT. CAVE - NIGHT

A small fire flickers Cesar's shadow against the wall.

CESAR
I not think you come.

AGNES
I had an accident.

Agnes points to her head.

Cesar notices the bump. He kisses it.

Agnes LAUGHS.

Agnes hands the wrapped up fish to him.

Cesar opens it and greedily scoffs it down.

AGNES (CONT'D)
You'll have to move south tomorrow.
They are searching for you.

CESAR
(Spanish)
What?

Agnes walks her fingers across the ground. She points south.

Cesar gives her a questioning look.

Agnes again walks her fingers across the ground.

Cesar nods and grins. He walks his fingers across the ground and meets up with hers.

He entwines her fingers with his.

He brings her fingers up to his lips and kisses them.

Agnes smiles.

Cesar pulls Agnes close to him and they kiss passionately.

INT. CAVE - DAY

Agnes wakes up. She stretches stiffly. She turns to Cesar but he's gone. Next to her on the ground lies a gold ring. Agnes picks it up and studies it. It has a golden fleece embossed into it.

Agnes buries the ring.

She leaves the cave.

EXT. HILL - DAY

A group of Lewis men bearing hoes and burning torches fan out in a line.

Ahead of them heather burns across the hill. Cesar bolts out of some bracken.

MURDO

There he is!

Cesar runs across the hill. He is cut off by another group of men. They light the heather in front of them.

Cesar is now cut off by fire on three sides. He runs towards the sea.

Cesar stops at cliffs.

The men close in.

Cesar jumps off the cliffs into the sea.

The men rush forward and look down.

There is no sign of Cesar.

INT. BLACKHOUSE - NIGHT

Mary spins wool. Agnes cards wool. The door opens and Murdo stomps in.

MURDO

The coward drowned himself. Jumped off the cliff.

Murdo goes to a cupboard and peers into it.

MURDO (CONT'D)

Where is it?

He turns and glares at Mary.

MARY

I don't know what you're..

Murdo slaps Mary across the face.

Agnes stands up.

AGNES

You left it in your boat.

Murdo GRUNTS. He picks up a lantern.

MARY

I need that!

Murdo goes out and slams the door leaving only the light of the fire in the room.

Agnes lights a candle from the fire.

Mary puts down her spinning. She rummages in a sack and pulls out a potato.

Mary carves a face in the potato.

AGNES

What are you doing.

Mary drops the potato into a cauldron of water.

Mary rubs her cheek where Murdo hit her.

MARY

Nothing.

EXT. BEACH - NIGHT

Murdo stomps along the beach to his boat. The boat lies half out of the water.

He jumps into the boat and fumbles around the bottom amongst baskets.

Murdo finds the bottle.

MURDO

Ah!

Murdo settles down in the stern of the boat. He takes a long swig from the bottle.

Suddenly Cesar rises up from the sea and drags Murdo backwards over the side.

Murdo struggles but it's all over in a minute.

Cesar pushes the boat off.

He unfurls the sail.

The boat heads out to sea.

EXT. BLACKHOUSE - DAY

JAMES MACKENZIE ,25, swaggers up the path to the house.

SUPERIMPOSE "9 MONTHS LATER"

Agnes , heavily pregnant, sits on a stool . She weaves a basket. Mary sits on another stool, also weaving. Mary looks down the croft and sees James.

Mary stands up. She runs down to greet James, arms outstretched.

She gives him a big hug.

MARY

I was so worried you'd been killed.
No word for two years!

JAMES

It's great to be home. What's up
with Agnes? Is she not pleased to
see her husband?

Mary lowers her head.

James runs up the croft to Agnes.

Agnes stands up.

James stares down at her swollen belly.

AGNES

James I...

JAMES

Whore!

James slaps Agnes across the face.

Mary runs up.

MARY

No, you don't understand James!

JAMES

What?

MARY

She was raped by the devil.

JAMES

Enough of your nonsense. Where's my
father? I'll get the truth from
him.

MARY

He was lost at sea nine months
back.

James stamps on the half-made wicker basket.

JAMES

My father and I take you two in and
this is what happens!

He kicks over the stools.

JAMES (CONT'D)

So I'm master of the house now!
Agnes I want you out of this
household by nightfall.

Agnes rushes into the house.

Mary touches James on the shoulder.

MARY

You can't throw her out. She's due
any day now.

JAMES

You'd best be quiet or I'll throw
you out too!

Agnes comes out of the house. She carries a peat creel filled
with clothes.

Agnes stares at James.

AGNES

I wish you had died in your foreign
battles.

Agnes stamps off down the path.

INT - SEA CAVE - NIGHT

A frugal fire lights up Mary as she sits next to Agnes who
lies on a blanket. In the background is the sound of WAVES
breaking on the shore.

Agnes GRUNTS and SCREAMS as she bears down.

MARY

I can see the head! One last push
Agnes!

Agnes SCREAMS. She gives birth.

Mary cuts the cord.

The baby CRIES.

Mary wraps the baby in a blanket and hands it to Agnes.

MARY (CONT'D)

My grandson.

Agnes cuddles the baby and smiles.

AGNES
Hello Kenneth!

The baby GIGGLES in delight.

Mary gets up to leave.

MARY
I'll have to get back before James
sees that I've gone. I'll try and
bring you more food tomorrow.

Mary kisses the baby.

Mary leaves the cave.

EXT. SEA CAVE - DAY

Kenneth ,18, long dark hair, runs along the beach holding a large trout in his hands.

SUPERIMPOSE "18 YEARS LATER"

Agnes picks mussels off the rocks.

KENNETH
Mother!

Agnes straightens up and rubs her back.

Kenneth runs up to his mother and holds out the trout.

KENNETH (CONT'D)
I caught old Luke at last!

AGNES
Well done Kenneth!

Agnes lifts the basket of mussels and heads to the cave.
Kenneth runs in front of Agnes.

KENNETH
I'll gut him and tell your future.

Agnes LAUGHS.

INT. SEA CAVE - DAY

The cave is much more homely now, with wooden wall across the entrance, two heather-filled beds and a crude fireplace.

Agnes stirs a pan of mussels on the fire.

Kenneth guts the trout.

He drops the guts onto the earth floor and stares at them.

KENNETH

Old Lachie will let us use his peat bank!

AGNES

That would be great if that happens.

Kenneth picks up the guts and throws them into the fire. He LAUGHS.

AGNES (CONT'D)

What?

KENNETH

I was teasing you. I already met Lachie at the burn. He said we can use the bank if we give him half the peats.

AGNES

He's a canny man. He is.

A KNOCK at the wooden wall. The door opens. Mary enters.

Kenneth rushes up to her.

KENNETH

What have you brought me granny?

Mary LAUGHS. She takes an apple from her shawl.

Kenneth excitedly holds the apple up. He shines it on his tunic.

Kenneth eats the apple.

Mary sits down next to Agnes.

MARY

I've found work for you.

Agnes nods.

MARY (CONT'D)

Seonach MacLeod's arthritis' worse. She needs someone to milk her cow, make the butter and crowdie. You'd get a share of the produce.

AGNES

I'll do it.

KENNETH

I'll help.

MARY

No. She'll not have you around.
Think's you're devil's spawn.

Mary LAUGHS.

MARY (CONT'D)

Because my husband was burnt as a
witch? The fool.

AGNES

But that night when stepfather
drowned. Didn't you..

MARY

No.

KENNETH

Are we devil spawn?

Mary shrugs.

MARY

Your grandfather had the second
sight. He was no devil.

KENNETH

But my father? Anne at the mill
said he was the devil.

AGNES

Your father was a stranger, but no
devil.

KENNETH

What's the big secret? Why won't
you discuss him?

AGNES

He died before you were born.
There's nothing to discuss.

Mary gets up.

MARY

I'd best go. James will be wanting
his dinner. I'll come round the
morrow.

AGNES

We'll be up the hill. We're doing
Lachie's peats.

EXT. PEAT BANK, MOOR - DAY

The empty moor overlooks the sea. Agnes and Kenneth work a peat bank; a long open-sided trench.

Agnes is on top of the bank. She presses down on the tosg (peat cutting spade) and gives it a twist.

Kenneth , below the bank , grabs the newly created peat and throws it up onto the peat bank.

Agnes presses down with the tosg again.

The tosg SCRATCHES against something buried in the peat.

KENNETH

What is it?

AGNES

I don't know.

Kenneth climbs up the bank.

KENNETH

Here I'll do it.

Agnes hands the tosg to Kenneth.

He digs into the peat.

He uncovers a stone slightly smaller than his fist.

KENNETH (CONT'D)

Just a stone!

Kenneth throws it away.

AGNES

Wait.

Agnes climbs down the bank . She picks up the stone. She rubs off the excess peat.

AGNES (CONT'D)

She said I'd find it cutting peats.

KENNETH

Who?

Agnes holds the stone up to the sky. The stone is torus-shaped and a dull blue.

AGNES

Freya.

KENNETH

Who?

Agnes holds the stone to her eye and looks through it.

AGNES

Nothing!

KENNETH

What are you doing mother?

Agnes hands Kenneth the stone.

AGNES

It was meant for you.

KENNETH

It's just a stone, mother.

AGNES

No it's an adder stone. It will help you to scry.

KENNETH

Scry?

AGNES

Foretell the future. Look through it and tell me what you see.

KENNETH

I don't know if I want to see the future.

AGNES

Don't be daft. It's a gift. Use it!

Kenneth laughs and hold the stone up to his right eye.

Kenneth stares through the hole.

AGNES (CONT'D)

What do you see? Concentrate.

KENNETH

A seagull, the sea. Oh someone's carrying a branch on the headland.

AGNES

Och! I can see that myself.

Kenneth takes the stone from his eye.

KENNETH

I wonder what they are doing up there?

Agnes takes Kenneth's hand with the stone and drags it up to his eye.

AGNES
Never mind that. Try again. Come
on. Concentrate!

Kenneth shrugs.

He stares into the stone.

The air in front of the stone shimmers.

DREAM SEQUENCE - EXT. A BONFIRE ON TOP OF A HILL BY SEA -
NIGHT

Kenneth runs along the headland towards a CROWD of people
gathered around a bonfire. On top of the bonfire is a barrel
with dark smoke pouring out of it.

The crowd chant.

CROWD
Burn the witch, burn the witch, burn
the witch!

Kenneth looks up to the fire. The brightness sears his eyes.

Kenneth CRIES out in pain and covers his right eye with his
hand.

END DREAM SEQUENCE

Kenneth kneels to the ground, hand over his eye. The scrying
stone lies on the peat beside him.

Agnes kneels down beside him.

AGNES
Son. What happened?

Kenneth CRIES out.

Agnes takes Kenneth's hand from his eye.

AGNES (CONT'D)
Let me see.

Kenneth blinks his eye.

Agnes pulls down on his bottom lid with her finger.

AGNES (CONT'D)
Look up.

Kenneth moves his eye up.

AGNES (CONT'D)

Down.

Kenneth moves his eye.

AGNES (CONT'D)

I can't see anything.

Kenneth blinks his eye.

KENNETH

I saw a fire. They were going to
burn a witch.

Kenneth rubs his eye.

AGNES

Burn a witch? Who?

KENNETH

I didn't see.

Agnes picks up the stone. She turns it over in her hands.

EXT. SEONACH'S BARN - DAY

A stone barn. Agnes sits on a stool and milks Flossie the
cow.

SPURT, SPURT into the bucket.

A black cat slinks into the barn.

The cat MIAOWS.

AGNES

Away with you puss! Go catch a rat!

The cat sneaks closer.

SEONACH 70's huddles into the barn. The cat runs to a corner.

SEONACH

You've put the butter off again.

AGNES

Mine is fine.

SEONACH

You've done something to my butter.
I know you've cursed it.

The cat MIAOWS.

SEONACH (CONT'D)

What was that?

AGNES

Your cat.

SEONACH

Cat? I don't have a cat. The devil's familiar.

The cat comes out of the corner and rubs its head against Agnes' leg. It PURRS.

SEONACH (CONT'D)

That's the devil who's been spoiling the butter. Your familiar!

The cat rubs against Agnes' leg again.

SEONACH (CONT'D)

See!

AGNES

That's not my cat or familiar or anything. Away with you puss!

Agnes stands up.

The cat twists around Agnes' legs.

AGNES (CONT'D)

Do you want me to milk Flossie or not?

Flossie MOOS.

EXT. SEONACH'S HOUSE - DAY

Seonach sits with her neighbour UNA, 60's, on a wooden bench against the wall of the stone house, near a barrel.

SEONACH

When will Uisdean MacLeod arrive?

UNA

At high tide.

SEONACH

We'll have to..shh.!

Agnes strolls past with the cow.

UNA

Did she hear?

SEONACH

I don't think so.

From behind the barrel Kenneth peeks at the two old women.

EXT - BEACH - DAY

Agnes ambles along the beach with Flossie. She looks up at the headland.

A MAN carries a branch of wood towards a pile stacked up on the end of the headland.

Agnes walks along the machair towards the headland.

EXT. HEADLAND - DAY

Agnes walks around the pile of wood stacked up around a pole.

AGNES

Hello?

Agnes looks out to sea.

A boat in the distance. Too far away to see how many people in it.

A hand touches Agnes' back.

Agnes GASPS and turns.

AGNES (CONT'D)

Kenneth!

KENNETH

Seonach has sent for Uisdean MacLeod, the witch hunter. He's going to burn you.

AGNES

What?

KENNETH

I heard them. Seonach and Una talking about it. High tide.

Kenneth takes the adder stone from his pocket.

KENNETH (CONT'D)

That's what my vision was about.

Agnes looks out to sea.

KENNETH (CONT'D)

They haven't any proof.

AGNES

That didn't stop him from murdering my father. That man is pure evil.

KENNETH

It's nearly high tide.
Mother. We need to go now!

AGNES

I'll need to collect something from
home first.

KENNETH

What about grandmother?

AGNES

James' is in with the church. They
won't bother her.

Agnes rushes off.

Kenneth runs after her.

INT. BOAT, SEA - DAY

Uisdean Macleod, stands in the bows of the boat. He shades
his eyes and peers at the closing mainland.

He turns and signals to one of the four OARSMEN.

The oarsman lets down the sail. He sits down with the other
three.

They row towards the beach.

INT. SEA CAVE - DAY

Agnes runs to a rock beside the fireplace. She digs down into
the ground and uncovers the gold ring.

KENNETH

What is that?

AGNES

Your father's. Come on!

KENNETH

My father?

Agnes rushes out of the cave.

INT. BOAT, SEA - DAY

The boat passes the headland.

Uisdean peers up at the wood pile.

EXT. TOP OF HILL - DAY

Agnes and Kenneth hide amongst bracken.

They look down to the sea below.

EXT. BOAT, - UIG BAY - DAY

The boat enters the bay.

The crew row up to the beach.

An oarsman jumps out and ties the boat to a rock.

Uisdean disembarks.

The oarsmen follow.

Uisdean leads as they march along the beach.

EXT. SEA CAVE - DAY

Uisdean and his men walk along the beach and enter the cave.

INT. SEA CAVE - DAY

The fire smoulders. The cave is empty.

UISDEAN
Search everywhere!

The oarsmen scatter the heather beds. They knock everything over.

UISDEAN (CONT'D)
Burn the witches lair!

The oarsmen stick heather into the smouldering fire. The flames catch the heather.

They spread the burning heather around the cave.

Bitterly disappointed, Uisdean marches out of the cave.

EXT. BLACKHOUSE - DAY

Uisdean and his oarsmen march up to the house.

Uisdean BANGS on the door.

James opens it.

JAMES
What do you want?

Uisdean tries to push past James into the house.

JAMES (CONT'D)

Hey!

James grabs at Uisdean.

Two of the oarsmen wrestle James to the ground.

Uisdean places his foot on James' head and pushes him into the dirt.

UISDEAN

Where's the witch?

JAMES

What witch? What are you on about man?

Mary hobbles out of the house.

MARY

What's the meaning of this?

UISDEAN

Ah Mary MacKenzie! The witch's mother.

MARY

I don't know what you're on about you evil bastard.

Uisdean turns and walks down the hill. He shouts without looking back.

UISDEAN

Take her.

The oarsmen drag Mary down the hill.

MARY

No! James help me! Please!

James makes to attack the oarsmen.

Uisdean turns and stares at James.

UISDEAN

Interfere and you'll burn too!

James drops his head in shame.

MARY

James?

James walks back to the house.

He goes in and slams the door shut.

Uisdean beckons with his hand.

The oarsmen drag Mary down to him.

UISDEAN

Come on. We've got a bonny fire
waiting for you. Unless you can
tell the whereabouts of your witch
daughter that is?

MARY

Never.

Mary spits on the ground.

Uisdean heads for the headland and the pile of wood.

UISDEAN

Bring her.

EXT. HILL - DAY

Agnes and Kenneth watch from above as Mary is dragged along
the headland.

A group of villagers follow them.

KENNETH

We must do something!

AGNES

We can't. There's too many of them.

KENNETH

Surely our neighbours will help.

AGNES

No one will help. We can only save
ourselves. Pray that your
grandmother had time to prepare.

KENNETH

Prepare for what?

Agnes touches her sleeve.

AGNES

See that lump? Filled with poison
berries. All I need for a quick
death.

KENNETH

But mother!

EXT. HEADLAND- DAY

Mary stands next to the pile of wood. Her arms are tied in front of her. Uisdean reads from a scroll of paper.

UISDEAN

..must not suffer a witch to live.

Mary brings her arms up to her mouth. She bites down on a sleeve.

Mary smiles.

UISDEAN (CONT'D)

What's so amusing witch?

MARY

Rot in hell!

UISDEAN

Bind the witch to the stake!

Two of the oarsmen grab Mary. She collapses.

UISDEAN (CONT'D)

Wake her.

Seonach brings a wooden bucket of water. She pours it over Mary.

Mary doesn't react.

The oarsmen shake her.

Uisdean comes closer. He holds up Mary's head.

White foam comes from her mouth. Her dead eyes stare at him.

UISDEAN (CONT'D)

The witch has cheated us. Burn her anyway!

An oarsman touches Uisdean on the shoulder.

OARSMAN

Sire!

UISDEAN

What is it?

The oarsman points down to the boat below.

Agnes sits in the boat. Kenneth unties the rope and jumps in.

UISDEAN (CONT'D)

After them!

The oarsmen run along the headland towards the beach.

Agnes and Kenneth frantically row the boat.

Two of the oarsmen reach the shore. They wade out to sea.

Uisdean, the other two oarsmen and some of the villagers arrive at the beach.

Kenneth unfurls the sail.

UISDEAN (CONT'D)
Get after them!

The oarsmen wade back to shore.

OARSMAN
We can't swim sir.

UISDEAN
Damn!

INT. BOAT, SEA - NIGHT

The sun sets over the Isle of Lewis in the distance.

KENNETH
Where will we head for?

AGNES
Use the stone.

Kenneth puts his hand into his tunic and pulls out the adder stone. It hangs from a piece of leather around his neck.

Kenneth lifts up the stone to his right eye. A milky cataract has formed over his eye.

He looks through the hole.

The waves shimmer.

DREAM SEQUENCE - EXT. RIVER - DAY

A strange cone-shaped mountain rises above a loch.

The loch empties into a river. A stunning woman, 20's, long brown hair, stands in the river. She opens a freshwater mussel and picks out a large pearl. She holds the pearl up to her eye.

END DREAM SEQUENCE

INT. BOAT, SEA - DAY

AGNES
Kenneth. Wake up!

Kenneth stirs.

KENNETH
What happened?

AGNES
You've been in a trance for hours.
I was worried that you were dead!

KENNETH
I saw a beautiful woman. And a
pearl. She had found a huge pearl.

AGNES
Yes, but what else. Did your vision
tell us where to go?

KENNETH
A strange mountain. Like a cone.

AGNES
Kenneth!

KENNETH
What?

Agnes turns and points.

On the distant mainland a strange cone-shaped mountain looms
on the skyline.

EXT. HEADLAND- DAY

KENNETH MACKENZIE, 30's, long brown hair, lashed to a pole,
on top of an unlit bonfire.

A GROUP of villagers look on as witch hunter UISDEAN
MACLEOD, 20's, in a velvet cloak, holds up a burning torch.

Kenneth's wife MARY, 28, and daughter AGNES, 9, watch with
horror.

LADY CATHERINE, 45, a smile across her cruel face starts up a
chant. She strokes the head of a spaniel she holds in her
arms.

LADY CATHERINE
Burn the witch!

Uisdean lights the bonfire.

UISDEAN

May God cleanse your soul.

The villagers join in the chant as the fire takes hold.

VILLAGERS

Burn the witch, burn the witch,
burn the witch.

Mary hides her daughter's face from the scene.

Agnes breaks away from her mother and drags a log from the fire.

Several of the villagers pull her back. Agnes SCREAMS.

AGNES

Father!

Mary pushes the villagers away and hugs her daughter.

KENNETH

Uisdean MacLeod, the devil will
claim your daughter and all your
lands.

Uisdean LAUGHS.

Smoke billows up. Kenneth COUGHS.

KENNETH (CONT'D)

Lady Catherine, before the day has
passed..

With an effort Kenneth GASPS and carries on.

KENNETH (CONT'D)

..you will join me in hell!

Lady Catherine puts on a smile but is rattled.

The flames grow higher and Kenneth is hidden by the smoke but we hear SCREAMS.

The spaniel BARKS. It jumps out of Lady Catherine's arms and runs to the fire.

LADY CATHERINE

Poppet! Here poppet!

Lady Catherine runs to pick up her pet.

The bonfire collapses on top of her as the dog manages to rush out of the flames.

The dog turns and BARKS at the fire.

INT. BOAT - DAY

The sun rises over the cone-shaped mountain that looms on the skyline.

The boat drifts towards a sandy beach with a natural arch in the cliffs.

Agnes wakes up. She looks at a wisp of smoke coming from the top of the natural arch.

Agnes wakes Kenneth.

They row towards the beach and land.

EXT. CLACHTOLL BEACH, DAY

KENNETH
Which way now?

AGNES
Near that mountain. Suilven. Come
I'll ask at that fire.

Agnes points to smoke rising from a the top of a natural arch.

Agnes and Kenneth march across the beach and scramble up the hill.

EXT.TOP OF NATURAL ARCH, DAY

Kenneth and Agnes follow a rough path that zigzags around the side of the arch.

The sound of metal CLANGING.

On the top is a flat area with a small furnace. A stocky man DARETH hammers a horseshoe into shape.

AGNES
Can you show us the way to Eilean
Assynt?

Dareth dips the horseshoe into a bucket of water. HISS of steam.

DARETH
What's your business there?

AGNES
Visiting a relative.