

EXT. PEACOCK - DAWN

The rising sun is imperfect, a single billow of SMOKE wafts directly into it.

INT. SKILLPA HOUSE - KITCHEN - MORNING

Emma, with arms folded, leans against the counter.

She is perfectly still and her eyes suggest a place of deep thought.

An empty frying pan sits on the stove.

On the counter next to her is an open egg carton with only a single egg. Next to it is the blank pad of paper and pen that she used to write John's notes.

KNOCK

KNOCK

Emma remorsefully sighs and looks to the front door.

INT. SKILLPA HOUSE - FRONT DOOR - MORNING

Emma opens the door to reveal --

A PRIEST and Officer McGonigle standing in the doorway with dour looks on their faces.

Fanny waits at the end of the walkway.

MCGONIGLE

Misses Emma Skillpa?

EMMA

Yes?

PRIEST

May we come in?

Emma looks past the two men and locks eyes with a visibly upset Fanny.

INT. SKILLPA HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - MORNING

Fanny, McGonigle and the Priest sit on the sofa while Emma sits across from them in a chair.

MCGONIGLE

The Fire Chief said it was probably caused by John smoking in bed.

There's an uncomfortable silence in the room.

Fanny pulls a chair next to Emma and places her hand on her shoulder.

McGonigle searches for the right words.

MCGONIGLE (CONT'D)

Well, I know John was having a pretty rough time.

Emma rubs her hand on the side of her dress and shakes her head slightly.

EMMA

John didn't do anything wrong.

As her words still hang in the room, a confused and frightened Emma tries to hold it together.

She rises, turns her back to the trio and goes to the front window.

FANNY

Emma, is there anything I can do?

Emma looks down at her feet.

After a beat, Fanny looks to the Priest and McGonigle.

FANNY (CONT'D)

She needs some time alone.

Fanny stands.

FANNY (CONT'D)

Why don't we have a prayer for John, then we should be going.

Emma continues her stare out the window.

EXT. NEBRASKA CORNFIELD - SUNSET

The brown, dead stalks have been cut down to tiny stumps.

We HEAR the faint SOUNDS of a SMALL CROWD CHEERING.