SAMPLE OF SCRIPT FOR THE ISLAND

V.O. Flight three four six to Barcelona is now boarding at gate 13. Flight three four six to Barcelona is now boarding at gate 13.

Lucy Ok. Here are your passports and your boarding passes. Let’s go over it again. You take the first plane from here to New York, then…

Tom We transfer to flight five six one for Hawaii and then when we get to Hawaii we go to the light aircraft building and get a small plane over to Tonga. Aunt Lucy, you’ve gone through it a hundred times. Don’t worry, we’ll be ok.

Lucy I know, it’s just that I promised your mum before she died I’d always be the one to look after you both.

Tom And when we get back in September you will, but until then we’re going to have a great time with Dad.

Lucy I know. Jess, did I give you the name of the person you need to meet when you land in Tonga? Jess? Jess!? Are you listening?

Jess What?

Lucy I’ll take that as a no. Can’t you put that thing away for five minutes?

Jess No. Seeing as I’m being packed off to some island in the middle of nowhere against my will, I don’t see why I can’t talk to my friends.

Lucy I’m not saying you can’t talk to them, I’m just asking you to listen for five minutes…

Jess I wouldn’t have to talk to them on my phone if you didn’t make me go.

Lucy Jess, we’ve been through this. I’m not making you go, your father is. He wants to see you.

Jess So after five years he turns round and decides he wants to see us and we have to travel half way round the world. It’s not like he’s ever made any effort before. No Christmas or birthday cards. He didn’t even come back when mum was sick, or to her funeral.

Lucy I know. I’m not completely happy about this myself, but he is your father and he has the right to see you.

Jess But why now?

Lucy Your father isn’t a bad person, he’s just a bit… scatty sometimes, and when he’s working on something he can get a bit of tunnel vision, but he did go to the trouble of arranging and paying for all of your travel, so he is trying.

Jess Whatever.

Tom Come on Jess, it’ll be great. They’ll be loads to explore on a tropical island.

Jess Great. Stuck playing adventurer with my little brother all summer, while all my friends are here, going shopping and having parties and sleepovers. (*sarcastically)* sounds amazing.

V.O. Flight nine two seven to New York is now boarding at gate six. Flight nine two seven to New York is now boarding at gate six.

Tom That’s us, isn’t it?

Jess Great. Let the fun commence.

Jess plugs her headphones back in and picks up her suitcase and exits.

Lucy Bye Jess! She still didn’t answer my question about the meeting in Tonga.

Tom Don’t worry. It’s in her jacket pocket and I copied it out and put it in mine too in case she ‘loses it’.

Lucy I was going to ask her to look after you, but I think it might be better the other way round.

Tom Definitely. She’s a teenager now. There’s no way she wants to look after me! Don’t worry, Aunt Lucy. We’ll be fine. I’ll send you an e-mail to let you know how we’re getting on, if I can find a computer over there.

Lucy I’d like that.

Tom Bye.

Lucy Bye Tom.

*They hug*. *Tom starts to exit.*

Lucy Tom. Don’t let her ruin your trip.

Tom Don’t worry. I won’t. As soon as we get there I’ll be off making friends and having fun. If she wants to sulk in her room she can. I’ll see you in September.

*Tom exits. Lucy waves. Lights go down. Sound of aeroplane taking off. Lights change. Tom and Jess enter, they are on a plane. Tom is asleep. Jess sits sulkily with her phone out, texting. Phone text sound effect.*

Cat (vo) Hi Jess. So how’s the journey so far? Cat xx

Jess It completely sucks. On the flight to New York the food tasted like it had been cooked and reheated a million times. Everything was soggy or tasted like cardboard. We’re on the flight to Hawaii now and the food is just as bad, plus Tom’s driving me crazy. He keeps going on about how much fun this is going to be and chatting all the time and he spilt Coke all over my designer shoes. I wish I was back in England with you guys. Oh, yeah, and did I mention they managed to lose my bag at New York, so I might not have any clothes to wear for the whole trip. I hate my life right now.

*Phone text sound effect.*

Cat (vo) Still. You get to go to a tropical island. That could be good. I bet you’ll get an amazing suntan. I’m only going to Skeggy this year. Maybe you’ll make some new friends, or meet some hot guy. Have a little faith.

Jess No thanks. I don’t have faith in anything. I plan on spending the entire trip in my hotel room avoiding my Dad and counting down the days til I get to come home.

*Looks up from phone.*

Jess Could this summer get any worse?

*…………………………………………*

*Storm music and sound effects. Lightning flashes. The stage is now the island. Rain slowly begins to fade out and the lights settle. Alika enters creeping slowly on. She looks around. Keahi enters behind her.*

Keahi Alika? What are you doing out here? The storm has only just passed.

Alika I saw something.

Keahi And it couldn’t wait until the rain had stopped?

Alika No.

Keahi You know how much trouble we will be in if Loto finds out and tells Lord Hyun. He would have us hanging by our thumbs over the canyon for days.

Alika Then you had better be quiet to make sure they don’t find out.

*Alika moves across the stage. Keahi looks back and sighs, then follows her.*

Keahi I still don’t like this.

Alika Then go back.

Keahi I can’t leave you alone out here. You could meet a blue islander and they would kill you on sight. You might need someone to help fight them off.

Alika Then come with me.

Keahi I am doing, but I’m still not convinced this is a good idea.

Alika Keahi, you worry too much.

Keahi Why are you so convinced we should be out here anyway?

Alika I told you. I saw something in the storm.

Keahi Where?

Alika In the sky. It was flying.

Keahi Like a bird?

Alika No. Much bigger.

Keahi A giant bird?

Alika You don’t get giant birds.

Keahi How do you know? Just because you haven’t seen one, doesn’t mean they don’t exist.

Alika No. It wasn’t a bird. It didn’t have feathers. It was smooth and its skin shone like the moon.

Keahi Where did it go?

Alika It seemed to be flying to the mountain.

Keahi Now I know you’re crazy. We can’t go to the mountain. It is forbidden by Lord Hyun.

Alika It didn’t get as far as the mountain. It fell from the sky. I thought it landed somewhere round here.

Keahi And what if it is dangerous? Did you think about that before you led us out here?

Alika Keahi. You’re worrying again.

Keahi One of us has to. Alika, let’s go back to the village.

Alika Not yet. Just a little further.

Keahi Shh. I hear something.

Alika Hide.

*They hide. A small group of blue islanders run on, led by Nyree. She stops and looks around nervously, then they exit. Keahi and Alika carefully creep out of hiding.*

Keahi Blue Islanders. Now I know we should go.

Alika No. They never come out this far unless there is some reason to.

Keahi Do you think they’re searching for the flying creature too?

Alika If they are, we have to find it first. It could be valuable. As Red Islanders it is our duty to bring it back for the glory of our village.

Keahi Then we had better keep searching.

*Keahi moves and spots something in the bushes. It’s Jess’s bag, containing her phone.*

Keahi Alika, Look.

Alika We’re getting close.

*Keahi opens it and pulls out the phone and a couple of other things.*

Keahi What do you think it is?

Alika I don’t know. We should take it to the village. Perhaps Lord Hyun will know.

*They exit. Scene changes. Jess is lying down one side of the stage. Nyree enters with her group. They fan out. Lelei spots Jess and creeps closer to her.*

Dyani What is it?

Lelei I don’t know.

Nyree Is it a Red Islander?

Dyani Be careful. If it is this could be a trap.

Lelei No. It doesn’t look like a Red.

Nyree They can be treacherous. This may be a trick.

Lelei I don’t think so. I think it is a girl.

Dyani Where did she come from, if she isn’t a Red?

Nyree Maybe we should leave her here.

Lelei But she’s hurt.

Nyree It isn’t our place to care for her.

Dyani But what if the Gods sent her to us?

Nyree Why would the Gods send a strange girl here?

Dyani Why do they do anything? If we knew the answers to that then we’d be Gods ourselves.

Lelei She did arrive here during one of their storms.

Nyree She doesn’t look like she’s going to be anything important or of use. If the God’s did send her, then she’s some kind of joke.

Lelei Maybe they did, maybe they didn’t, but she needs our help.

Dyani We should at least take her back to the caves. Maybe Tadtasi will know what to do with her. It would be better for us to find her than the Reds.

Lelei Nyree. She needs to be healed soon.

Nyree Alright. We’ll take her back to the caves, but if Tadtasi gets annoyed about it, remember, this was all your idea.

*Lights fade out. Scene changes back to an empty stage. Tom wanders on slowly. He is rubbing his head, where a large cut is visible. He looks pretty rough.*

Tom Jess? Jess? Where are you? Jess? Can you hear me? Jess?

*Shikoba enters at a run and pins Tom to the floor, threatening him with a knife.*

Tom Let me go!

Shikoba Who are you? What are you doing here?

Tom My name’s Tom. Tom Anderson, from England and I don’t even know where here is!

Shikoba So, Tom Anderson from England, did you think you could just walk in to Red territory and get away with it?

Tom I told you. I don’t know where I am. I was on a plane with my sister flying to Tonga and there was this big storm and I guess the plane got blown off course. We crashed here.

Shikoba What is a plane?

Tom You know. An aeroplane. You fly in it.

Shikoba You speak in dark riddles. I think you have come here to confuse us. Lord Hyun said there were demons that would come and speak lies to us.

Tom I’m not a demon, I’m just a boy and I need to look for my sister. Please let me go.

Shikoba You will come with me to Lord Hyun. He will know what to do with you.

Tom No. Please I have to try to find Jess. I’ll go with you after that, but she could be hurt. Please.

Shikoba I will not be fooled by you, demon.

*Alika and Keahi enter.*

Alika Shikoba? What are you doing?

Shikoba I should ask you the same thing. I thought you two were forbidden to leave the village.

Alika Unless it was something important, and this was. I saw something fall from the sky and I knew Lord Hyun would want to know what it was so I went to find it.

Shikoba And did you find what you were looking for?

Alika I found a strange creature with wings. It was broken in two. It must have been destroyed in the storm.

Tom Yes. That’s the plane I came in.

Shikoba Quiet!

Keahi And we found…

Alika interrupts and hides the bag Keahi was about to show behind her back.

Alika A trail leading from it. That is what led us here. Is this who left the trail?

Shikoba I believe it is one of the demons Lord Hyun warned us of. He has come to confuse our minds. I was just about to take him back to the village.

Alika Then we can go together.

Shikoba Very well. Together then.

*They exit, taking Tom with them. He protests loudly, but he can’t escape.*

*………………………………………..*

*. Hyun sits on his throne. Loto is reporting to him.*

Loto I followed her as you asked. She went straight to the prisoner.

Hyun I knew it.

Loto She had strange items like the demon’s weapons. One made music.

Hyun She is getting to be more trouble than she is worth.

Loto There is one more thing, Master.

Hyun Yes.

Loto There are those in the village who are questioning if the demon is a demon and if…

Hyun IF?

Loto Not me you understand, master. I am loyal to you. But there are those who wonder if the Blue Islanders are right.

Hyun I am the one true God!

Loto Forgive me. I should not have spoken.

Hyun No. I’m glad you did. Those Blue Islanders have caused me nothing but trouble! It’s time we got rid of them once and for all.

Loto You mean, start a war.

Hyun Yes.

Loto But they have given us no reason to start one.

*Hyun has a plan.*

Hyun But they will. I think I have a plan as to how to get rid of two problems in one.

Loto My lord?

Hyun You will go to steal food from the Blue’s tonight, with Alika.

Loto Just us. But couldn’t that be dangerous.

Hyun Very. For her. You are to make sure she is taken prisoner, and make sure she knows that when the suns rises tomorrow morning we will execute the demon. If the Blue Islanders really believe he is something else they will want to stop us. Then the war will begin. Now Go!

*He laughs. Loto exits. Lights blackout.*

*Scene changes to the Blue camp. Dyani and Quiona bring on Alika. Tadtasi, Nyree, Lelei and Jess stand by the fire.*

Dyani We caught her by the river. She was trying to take our food.

Alika Let me go!

Tadtasi Silence. You are our prisoner now.

Dyani Raiding our food! You should be thrown in the river like the slimy eel that you are.

Tadtasi A good idea Dyani.

Jess You’re not really going to hurt her are you?

Tadtasi She has stolen the most precious thing we possess. She deserves to be punished.

Alika Wait. You’re Jess.

Jess How do you know that?

Alika Tom told me.

Jess Tom. Where is he?

Alika Prisoner of our village.

Jess Is he alright?

Alika For now, but tomorrow morning he will be executed.

Jess Executed! Why?

Alika Lord Hyun says he is a demon sent to destroy us and so he must be destroyed first.

Jess Tadtasi. Please. You can’t let them kill him. He’s my brother!

Tadtasi There is nothing we can do.

Lelei But if the Gods have sent him too, we must do something.

Tadtasi Then we will meet them and trade her for him.

Dyani Do you think they’ll give him up in exchange?

Alika Not likely.

Tadtasi We will try. Now tie her up and get some rest. Tomorrow will be a busy day.

*Dyani and Quiona exit with Alika.*

Jess Will it work?

Tadtasi The Reds are different from us. They cannot be trusted.

Jess And if she’s right. If they won’t take the exchange, what then?

Tadtasi You must have faith, Jess. Now sleep. There is much to do tomorrow.

*Tadtasi lies down to sleep, as does Lelei and Nyree. Jess lies down too. Dyani re-enters with Jess’s bag. Jess looks up.*

Jess That’s my bag. Where did you get it?

Dyani She had it. Here.

Jess *(takes bag)* Please say it’s in here!

*Jess pulls out her phone.*

Jess Yes! If I can call for help, then maybe I can get us home… No signal. Great. There goes that great idea.

Quiona Don’t worry. The Gods will make everything alright again.

Jess I wish I could believe that.

*Dyani lies down to sleep. The lights fade slightly, but Jess can’t sleep. She gets up quietly and exits. Nyree hears her go and rises slowly and follows. Scene changes. Jess enters walking quickly. Nyree jumps out in front of her.*

Nyree Where do you think you’re going, Jess?

Jess To get Tom and get off this stupid island.

Nyree So you just thought you’d go marching off to the Red’s village and do what?

Jess Break in and get my brother out. You heard the Red girl. She said they wouldn’t make the trade. I can’t take the chance.

Nyree Red’s aren’t to be trusted, Jess.

Jess Why do you hate each other so much?

Nyree Because it has always been this way.

Jess That’s ridiculous.

Nyree Jess. You can’t go in there alone. It won’t work. They will catch you too and then you will be executed as well.

Jess I have to try.

Nyree I can’t let you, Jess. The Gods sent you here for a reason. Please, listen to me.

Jess Nyree. I have to do something.

Nyree Well. Keep going if you want, but you’re not going in the right direction.

Jess Sorry?

Nyree Jess. You’re heading up the mountain. Neither tribe comes up here.

Jess Why not?

Nyree I suppose there isn’t a reason to. Everything that lives grows lower down the island. You’re miles from the Red village.

*Jess drops to the floor.*

Jess This is all so messed up! I wish I knew what to do, but I don’t. Your Gods didn’t send me here, it was just an accident and now everything is going wrong, and please don’t tell me to have faith, because I’m all out of that right now!

*Nyree is about to say something, when Keahi jumps out of the bushes and attacks her. There is a struggle. Jess ducks out of the way, Keahi doesn’t really notice her. Nyree ends up on the floor, Keahi, holds her down using a knife to threaten her.*

Keahi Don’t move, or I’ll slice your throat.

Nyree Get off me.

Keahi Not until you tell me what you did with my friend. Where is she?

Nyree The prisoner?

Keahi Yes. Where is she?

Nyree Safe for now, but if you hurt me she will die.

Keahi You will take me to her.

*Jess walks up behind Keahi and kicks the knife out of her hand. Nyree pushes Keahi up.*

Nyree Now, what was that you threatened me with? Maybe I should get the knife and threaten you!

*They struggle. Jess pulls them apart.*

Jess That’s enough. Is that all you do on this island? Fight all the time? Because I’ve had enough of it. Sit down, both of you and be quiet.

*Nyree and Keahi sit glaring at each other.*

Jess That’s better. Now you want your friend back, and I want my brother back, so we are going to work together to make that happen.

Nyree Work with a Red. Never.

Keahi I will die before I work with a Blue!

Nyree I can arrange that.

Jess Enough!

*Jess’s shout echoes around. They freeze. The Gods Asaka and Yulia enter.*

Asaka Papa Ge grows impatient. If they should start a war we must destroy them all.

Yulia She has stopped one fight. This is the beginning. Asaka, we must give her time.

Asaka That is something we may not have.

Yulia Then we must guide them to the truth.

Asaka You mean the lady of the mountain.

Yulia We both agree the people must not suffer. Send them there. You have the power.

Asaka Very well. I shall open up the earth beneath their feet and they will fall to the lady of the mountain, but if the other Gods find out we have intervened further we may not be able to stop Papa Ge from taking them in anger.

Yulia It is a chance we must take.

*Asaka raises her hands. There is a rumbling sound. The ground begins to shake. Jess, Nyree and Keahi begin to move again.*

Nyree Jess. What did you do?

Jess I don’t know.

Keahi The ground is dividing.

Nyree We’re going to fall!

*They run closer together. Then the lights plunge to black. They scream.*