

Script

for

Techniques of the Bird Observer III

Monologue

This draft is a monologue. There is a two-hander draft as well.

Rosemarie McGoldrick

MAN: Ahh... *something's* coming.

[*Long pause*]

MAN: Oh well, I guess it's going to be a real *session*, then...

[*Pause. BOY starts humming*]

MAN: Hey, shhh. No, shhhh. OK? The whole point about this sort of place is that it's supposed to be quiet. You don't disturb other people and you don't disturb what you came to look at. OK?

[*Pause*]

MAN: It's not boring, it's just quiet and slow, no action, which is just as it should be.

[*Pause*]

MAN: Nothing. It's up to you what you get out of it.

[*Pause*]

MAN: OK, look, before you do anything else, just make a mental note, you know, the time the conditions, that sort of thing, yeah? You know, make a note. Remember it for later.

[*Pause*]

MAN: I don't know, I don't think you'd get one of those round here for miles around.

[*Pause*]

MAN: See?

[*Pause*]

MAN: No, we're here because we've come to see something, who knows what we're going to see, it could be very ordinary, it could be something really special. Just settle down and keep looking.

[*Pause*]

MAN: Mmm, I know there's not much there now, but with these things you've got to wait. Understand? Good.

[Long pause]

MAN: Yeah, we could be here a long time.

[Pause]

MAN: Well, sometimes it takes ages, other times things just pop up and wham, bang, it's amazing. That's the whole point of it, really.

[Pause]

MAN: Now, there's definitely a knack to it. So, hang on.

[Pause]

MAN: You've just got to try hard.

[Long pause]

MAN: Isn't this just the business, eh?

[Pause]

MAN: I mean it's so quiet, just us, in here, the air outside, you know.

[Pause]

MAN: Ah, you're way too... Look, this is what it's worth getting out of bed for.

[Long pause]

MAN: So, anything showing that side?

[Pause]

MAN: Look, it's OK, all of this, you know... I mean, it's worth taking the time.

[Pause]

MAN: What's that over there?

[Pause]

MAN: There. Just over by that bit that sticks out. Hmm? No, not over there, see that bunch of well, where the surface bends, and where that line... sort of sticks out, no where the surface bends and the line sticks out, no, not there, left of that, left, left, left, do you see the line that sticks out, now at 10 o'clock, OK good, well, something just came out of there. It's gone back in again, now.

[*Pause*]

MAN: Hey, I was only telling you... hey, it's not like it's work or school or anything, is it, I just pointed it out...

[*Pause*]

MAN: You mean a trick of the eye? Hmm, maybe...

[*Pause*]

[*Pause*]

MAN: Uh, uh, uh, no-one dragged you here, you came of your own accord.

[*Pause*]

MAN: What do you mean? You didn't want to do that, you wanted to do this. And why not? I'm up for it.

[*Pause*]

MAN: Fair enough. Fair enough. Just keep your eyes peeled for anything unusual and then stick to it like a limpet. And tell me when you see it.

[*Long pause*]

MAN: Well, I suppose you've got to ask yourself what sort of thing would show up here, anyway. Time of day, time of year, that sort of thing.

[*Pause*]

MAN: There's no point in being here if you're not going to look. You've got to put in some effort, otherwise...just... remain alert. Alright?

[*Pause*]

MAN: Sometimes if you close your eyes for ten seconds or so, you open them again and there's something there, just appeared, like *ready* for you.

[Pause]

MAN: Look, I don't care, *I'm* getting something out of it for sure.

[Pause]

MAN: Yes, and? That's the main reason for being here, isn't it?

[Pause]

MAN: There's masses to look at – it's big, man, I'm looking at it and I can see it.

[Pause]

MAN: Oh, just go quiet...you'll get something soon.

[Pause]

MAN: No, it's not like when we went fishing. That's nothing to do with it. Fishing is like, fishing is like *sport*. This is more like... general interest.

[Pause]

MAN: You should see it as a never-ending opportunity. Well, one that goes on for a while, anyway.

[Pause]

MAN: Now... finally. Maybe not.

[Pause]

MAN: Sometimes... sometimes nothing shows and you just have to put up with it, you know? It's just how it is, it's nothing to do with you.

[Pause]

MAN: Yeah, I know, but we're here and that's the way it's going to be.

[Pause]

MAN: No, I mean, just live with it, just for now, OK?

[Pause]

MAN: Well, yes, I suppose it is a matter of endurance in the end, you're right. But it doesn't have to be dull, does it?

[*Pause*]

MAN: Something always comes along. That's half the fun.

[*Pause*]

MAN: Well, I came here to see something and I'm not going until I've seen it.

[*Pause*]

MAN: Now. Check out that bit over there in the corner. There's a ... No, my mistake.

[*Pause*]

MAN: There is something to be said for just being here, you know...it does have its merits.

[*Pause*]

MAN: Right. A good thing to do is to concentrate on one area, because by concentrating you start to see things you wouldn't otherwise have seen, I know that sound daft, but I'm sure you know what I mean.

[*Pause*]

MAN: It's actually the environment itself ...

[*Long pause*]

MAN: Seriously, what would we be doing otherwise, eh?

[*Pause*]

MAN: I'm not saying anything. I mean it. Nothing.

[*Pause*]

MAN: Yes, but if you applied yourself, it would work for you. It's no good just sitting there and letting it happen. Or rather standing there, you know what I mean....

[*Pause*]

MAN: Hey, you know what they say, seeing is believing. So just hang on a bit.

[Long pause]

MAN: The thing about somewhere like this is there's always, always something going on in the background. And that's useful. I mean, just listen.... then look.

[Pause]

MAN: There's a value in silence, you know...

[Pause]

MAN: It can be like this sometimes... it's not for want of trying.

[Pause]

MAN: If you turned your back on it, you just know something would come along right then.

[Pause]

MAN: There. I bet you anything you like that that's a... No. it's not. Sorry.

[Pause]

MAN: Nothing like a good day out, really...

[Pause]

MAN: You can't exactly call it perfect, but it's alright, it's got the making of one hasn't it?

[here the script ends, but in the audio it loops back to the beginning, seamlessly, so that the script is circular with no beginning or end]