

WANDERING WILLIE'S TALE

Written by

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Based on, Sir Walter Scott's eponymous short story

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1 EXT. COUNTRYSIDE/ - GENTLY DECLINING TRACK - DAY 1

Wandering Willie, an elderly, tatty blind man with a violin slung on his back, is walking along with his new acquaintance, Darcie Latimer, a dapper young man in his early twenties, also with a violin slung on his own back. Willie is telling a tale.

WILLIE

Now ye are ta ken that my goodsire
lived on Sir Robert Redgauntlet's
grund. They ca' the place Primrose
Knowe and the air is fresher there
than anywhere else i' the country.

2 EXT. PRIMROSE KNOWE/LAND OUTSIDE OF DOOR - DAY 2

WILLIE (V.O.)

There dwelt ma gudesire, Steenie
Steenon an' a could play weel on
the pipes.

STEENIE sits on a bench, playing, on a gentle declivity with a beautiful view over the hills around.

3 INT. REDGAUNTLET CASTLE/PASSAGE WAY - DAY 3

WILLIE (V.O.)

Now Steenie were a favourite o' his
master and, as Redgauntlet's
butler, Dougal McCallum, loved ta
hear the pipes, this Dougal were
allays putting in a word to his
master tay remind him to have
Steenie up ta the castle ta play,
especially when the gentry were
dining.

DOUGAL, the butler gives an encouraging nod and gently pushes Steenie, who starts to play, through the door into the grand dining hall in the castle, from where are heard the noises of a multitude, dining.

4 INT. STEENIE'S FARMHOUSE/KITCHEN - DAY 4

Steenie is sitting at his own kitchen table and his WIFE is serving his meal of bread, cheese and ale.

She then gets a sealed parchment from the dresser, hands it to him and sits down, across the table from him, watching Steenie, as he opens it.

WIFE

The steward's boy brought this
whiles ye were oot, love.

Steenie shakes his head and sighs, whilst he is opening it.

STEENIE

As ye know, hinny, a managed to pit
off the last two terms rent wi' a
little extra piping and fair words,
an a', but a dinna think we wull
manage the same this time.

He reads the rent demand and shakes his head, sorrowfully

STEENIE (CONT'D)

Ach! ... It's the full formal
interview wi' the steward i' the
presence o' Sir Robert, and if a
dinna pay, it's the flittn' fer us,
am afeared!

Steenie's wife wrings her hands

WIFE

Oh! Wat sall we Laurie!
...Laurie Lapraik! He could lend
the gold to ye wi' our sheep as
security.

Steenie nods his head.

STEENIE

Aye. Aye, a'll try Laurie.

He stands up

STEENIE (CONT'D)

A'll gae up there, noo.

He kisses his wife, grabs his hat and goes out, putting it
on.

5

EXT. TRACK ALONG A LOWISH HILL - DAY

5

Steenie rides along to Laurie's on his cobb, looking
hopefully around.

6

EXT. OUTSIDE OF A FARMHOUSE - DAY

6

Steenie arrives outside of a larger, more cared-for farmhouse
than his own.

The farmer, LAURIE, comes out of the front door, calls his name and smiles.

Laurie comes up to Steenie, says hello and asks after him, whilst patting the neck of Steenie's cobb.

Steenie dismounts.

They shake hands and the two of them go into Laurie's house.

7

INT. STEENIE'S HOUSE/KITCHEN - DAY

7

Steenie comes into the house running the coins through his hand into a little drawstring bag.

His wife looks up from standing at the table where she is chopping carrots.

She sighs with relief, smiles at him, and puts her hand on her chest.

Steenie smiles back at her.

He comes around the table, puts his arm around her and kisses her on her cheek.

She lays her head on his shoulder.

WIFE

Ye'll be goin up there after ye've
had a wee bit an' drap?

STEENIE

Aye! A wull, hinny.

8

EXT. WOODLAND TRACK - DAY

8

Steenie trots along and puts his hand to his jacket, to check that the money is there.

He smiles and pats the lump in his interior pocket.

9

INT. REDGAUNTLET CASTLE/PASSAGEWAY - DAY

9

Dougal hurries Steenie along the corridor.

DOUGAL

Right glad a am ta see ye, Steenie
lad.

There is the sound of a high-pitched whistle

STEENIE
Is the maister in a gude humour,
then?

DOUGAL
Na! He's fretted hisself inta a fit
of gout. He's sair i' pain. That
whistle is him callin' us.

STEENIE
Is the steward there?

DOUGAL
Na. There's jist Major Weir

The whistle sounds again.

They arrive at the great oak parlour

STEENIE
Who's Major We....

Dougal shoves Steenie in at the door.

10 INT. REDGAUNTLET CASTLE/OAK PARLOUR - DAY

10

Steenie steps into the parlour to see Sir Robert sitting by
the fire at the far end. He is clad in nightshirt and
dressing gown and has his bandaged leg on a pillow on a
stool.

Sir Robert picks up and drinks from a goblet.

He looks up as Steenie comes in, followed by Dougal, the
butler.

There is suddenly a shockingly loud screech and Steenie jumps
back and looks at a great coloured parrot, PERCIE, on a perch
at one side of the room.

PERCIE
Pieces of eight!....Pieces of
eight!!

Steenie stares with his mouth open, as he has never seen a
parrot, before.

REDGAUNTLET
Hast never seen a parrot before,
Steenie, man?

Steenie tears his gaze away to answer

STEENIE

Er, yes..... er, er, no, yer honour.

REDGAUNTLET

Say 'hello, Percie'

Steenie turns back to the bird

STEENIE

"Hello, Percie"

Redgauntlet shakes his head at the idiocy of his tenant.

PERCIE

ERKK!...Show us yer drawers! Show us yer drawers!

REDGAUNTLET

Stupid brute!

PERCIE

(Mumbles to itself)

Wossname, wossname, wossname!

Steenie stands amazed, so Redgauntlet impatiently beckons him forwards.

REDGAUNTLET

Are ye come light-handed, ye son of a toom whistle? 'Cos if ye are...

Steenie darts forwards and places the small bag of gold coins on the small table next to Redgauntlet.

Sir Robert picks up the small bag and weighs it in his hand.

He leans over a bit and calls to Dougal behind Steenie, a little.

REDGAUNTLET (CONT'D)

Ah! Dougal! Take Steenie downstairs and give him a tass o' brandy, till I count the siller and write the receipt.

The butler bows

DOUGAL

Yes, Sir Robert.

Dougal beckons and then chivvies Steenie away, back through the door.

11 INT. REDGAUNTLET CASTLE/CORRIDOR - DAY

11

Dougal is just leading the way down the corridor when he and Steenie hear a most terrible scream from Redgauntlet, back in the parlour.

This scream is followed by the frantic tooting of the whistle.

Dougal turns and runs back, followed more slowly by Steenie, filled with dread and not knowing what is happening.

TWO FOOTMEN arrive and push past, followed by a NURSE.

12 INT. REDGAUNTLET CASTLE/OAK PARLOUR - DAY

12

Redgauntlet howls and gives eldritch screams.

REDGAUNTLET
Wine for ma throat!! WINE!!

The nurse attempts to undo the bandages around his foot, but he kicks her away with his other foot.

The staff are furiously arguing about what they should do and one footman is sending the other, second footman "fer the doctor"!

Another, third footman appears, regards the scene, and then beckons, and he and the second footman run back out, together.

REDGAUNTLET (CONT'D)
Cold water for my foot! ...COLD
WATER!! I'm burning! Burning!

The parrot is constantly screeching "Pieces of eight! Pieces of eight!"

The nurse now tries again to unbandage Sire Robert's foot and manages it, this time.

Dougal pours and gives some wine to Redgauntlet, and Sir Robert sips it, but then roars

REDGAUNTLET (CONT'D)
It's BLOOD! BLOOD! ... Ye've
given me BLOOD!

He throws the goblet at Dougal

The other two footmen appear with a small half barrel of cold water.

They lower Redgauntlet's foot into the cold water, whereupon the water bubbles up as if his foot is a red hot poker!

PERCIE
Pieces of eight! Pieces of eight!
...ERK! ERK! ERRRRRRK!

REDGAUNTLET
AGGGHH!! ... I'm burning in HELL!!
Hell, hell, hell, and its flames!!
AGGGGHHHH!!!

Steenie turns tail and flees out of the door.

13 INT. REDGAUNTLET CASTLE/CORRIDOR - DAY 13

Steenie runs, in terror, down the long corridor.

He keeps looking back, momentarily, but no-one comes out and the screams gradually fade.

At the bottom of the corridor, he pauses, sighs and wipes his brow, before descending the stairs.

He pauses, looks back, bites his lip and worries that he did not get chance to collect the receipt.

Steenie then slowly shakes his head and then descends the stairs.

14 INT. STEENIE'S HOUSE/KITCHEN - DAY 14

Steenie is eating his soup and his wife is drying some pots and putting them away.

WIFE
Pit Dougal saw ye gi' the gowd tae
the maister?

STEENIE
Weel, he WAS behind me, hinny, but
I dunna nae that he saw the bag o'
gowd, hisself, sae as ta speak.

She smiles at him

WIFE
(Re-assuringly)
I'se sure that the receipt is
there, somewhere.

She kisses the top of his head.

15

EXT. STEENIE'S HOUSE/FRONT GARDEN - DAY

15

Steenie is digging in his garden when Laurie rides past at a walking pace.

They see each other and Steenie digs in his spade, upright.

Steenie walks over to the wall, rubs his hand on his jacket, and shakes hands over the wall, with his friend.

LAURIE

Ye've heard?

STEENIE

About the new laird?...Aye.

LAURIE

Apparently Sir John is waur than his father! This un mebbe a pratin' puritan, an' a lawyer, pit he grips as hard, if no harder tae the gowd, than his old man!

STEENIE

Then it's thankful a aim that ye lent that gowd ta me, Laurie. Ye saved ma skin.

Laurie nods

LAURIE

Jist as long as ye no ferget ta repay me, Steenie, mon!

He nods and kicks on into a trot, riding away.

16

INT. REDGAUNTLET CASTLE/ANTE-ROOM - NIGHT

16

The night is very dark and the wind is howling outside.

Dougal the butler and another old caretaker, HUTCHEON, sit by the fire, huddling over it to keep warm. They are drinking some ale, in tankards.

They peer round fearfully, from time to time, and exchange a few words, in undertones, as if afraid of being overheard.

A long case clock ticks with a deep tone over the crackle of the fire and the distant moan of the wind.

Suddenly there is the piercing toot of Redgauntlet's whistle and the two old men stiffen and look up.

DOUGAL
 (Aghast)
 The maister's whistle!

They put their tankards down

CARETAKER
 We mun gae!

They shoot to their feet and hurry in to the next room, which is Redgauntlet's bedroom.

17 INT. REDGAUNTLET'S CASTLE/BEDROOM - NIGHT

17

The two old men dash into the room

The room is lit by wall-mounted flambeaux and the coffin stands on a trestle, in the middle of the room. On top of the coffin, however, is a squatting, red demon who is removing the whistle from his mouth and grinning at them, tauntingly.

Dougal gives a loud groan, and then drops dead to the floor.

His friend frantically shakes him and calls to him.

HUTCHEON
 Dougal! Dougal mon!!

He looks back up at the demon which smiles and then slowly vanishes in a wisp of smoke.

18 EXT. STEENIE'S HOUSE/OUTSIDE - DAY

18

Steenie mounts his old hack and his wife gives him a kiss.

WIFE
 Ye'll jist have to tell the new
 laird the story o' yer remittance.

STEENIE
 Aye

WIFE
 The receipt will be there,
 somewhere.

STEENIE
 Well, a hope sae, wi' old Dougal
 being dead, na!

His wife nods encouragingly to him as Steenie nods back and rides away, at a trot.

19 EXT. REDGAUNTLET CASTLE/MAIN DRIVE - DAY 19

Steenie rides up the main drive, looking up at the vast, old castle, with dread.

The crows in the trees, rise up and caw, with a melancholic cry and the day is cool, with leaden skies.

20 INT. REDGAUNTLET CASTLE/OAK ROOM - DAY 20

Steenie is ushered in by two footmen, who then stand against the back wall.

Steenie steps into the room, where Sir John now sits in his father's old chair. Sir John is clad in black with black armbands and he looks grim.

Steenie removes his cap and works it around, nervously, in his hands.

STEENIE

I wuss ye joy, sir, o' the head seat, and the white loaf, and the braid lairdship. Yer father was a kind man tae his follower....

SIR JOHN

...Aye Steenie. His was a sudden call. No time to set his house in orderHem! hem!But we maun go to business, Steenie...Much to do!

He opens a massive tome on the small table to his side and finds the entry, therein.

SIR JOHN (CONT'D)

Steven Stephenson you are here down as owing one entire term's remittances.

STEENIE

Please, yer honour, Sir John, a paid it tae yer father.

SIR JOHN

You doubtless have a receipt then, Steenie?

STEENIE

He were aboot ta write the receipt when he were taen wi' the pains, yer honour.

SIR JOHN
That was unlucky, certainly
But perhaps you had a witness?

STEENIE
Yes, sir. Dougal, who has followed
his maister, sir.

Sir John addresses the two footmen

SIR JOHN
Did you, or any of the staff see
this man arrive with any bags of
money.

The footmen both shake their heads

FOOTMEN
No, yer honour.

Sir John looks menacingly at Steenie

SIR JOHN
Then where do you suppose this so-
called money to BE?

Steenie is driven to desperation and blurts out

STEENIE
I, I doona nae!...In HELL, if ye
will ha' it!In hell, wi' yer
father, his parrot and his silver
whistle! In hell wi A' the men who
ha bin pursuing an' killin the
small folks who differ frae their
creed!

Sir John opens his moth to speak, in outrage, but Steenie has
fled out of the door.

21 INT. REDGAUNTLET CASTLEW/CORRIDOR - DAY

21

Steenie runs along the corridor, in distress, with the sounds
of Sir John behind him growing fainter.

SIR JOHN
Bring the baillie!....Fetch the
baron-officer!.....I want that
blackguard in the streets, THIS
WEEK!!

22 EXT. LAURIE HOUSE/FRONT DRIVE - DAY 22

Steenie stands with his horse's reins in his hands, talking to Laurie.

He explains about the problem of the vanished gold coins.

Laurie shakes his head and says that this makes no difference to the loan, as he still expects his money back, plus the interest.

Steenie explains that this will take a long time, unless they can find the coins.

Laurie drives Steenie from him with curses and gesticulations.

23 EXT. MOOR - DAY 23

Steenie rides on with his head bowed, knowing that he and his wife are about to lose their home and perhaps that he is going to jail.

24 EXT. PITMURKIE WOOD/TRACK - DAY 24

Steenie enters into the wood and looks around at the old dark fir trees with trepidation.

He takes a long swig of the brandy in his hip flask to give him courage as the wind moans in the trees above.

Steenie rides on at a walk, but suddenly his horse starts to caracole, and prance and snort.

Steenie fights with the reins

STEENIE

Wat yer doin', ya beast?

Suddenly a black clad rider appears at this side.

The rider touches Steenie's horse's neck with his crop and the horse suddenly desists and resumes its walk.

RIDER

That's a fine, mettlesome beast you have, sir! Will you sell him.

Steenie is a little annoyed at the man's interference and presumption.

STEENIE

Na. I need him!

Steenie kicks on at a trot, irritatedly, but the man trots on too, to keep up with Steenie.

RIDER

You seem depressed my friend.

STEENIE

Hah! Depression!...It's hardly a surprise!

RIDER

What is your problem? Perhaps I can help?

STEENIE

It's a lang tale, mon!

RIDER

I have all day!

Steenie pulls back to a walk and gives a big sigh.

STEENIE

Weel, it's like THIS!....

They walk their horses on, and Steenie tells his tale, with great gesticulations, to the rider who listens with great interest.

Eventually,

RIDER

It's a hard pinch, but I think I could help you.

STEENIE

Ye wad lend me the monies, sir?

RIDER

No, but I can tell you that your old laird is disturbed in his grave by your curses and if you daur venture tae go and see him, he will give ye the receipt.

Steenie stares in incomprehension at this rider.

Then

STEENIE

Sir! A aim sae desperate that I
would venture through the gates o'
heel, if it would serve ma need!

The rider laughs

RIDER

Aye! Mebbe it's as weel ya
would!

He kicks on to a smart trot and Steenie follows him through
the dark woods for quite a way.

25

EXT. REDGAUNTLET CASTLE - NIGHT

25

The rider and Steenie emerge from the woods and there is
Redgauntlet castle ahead, to the side of them.

Steenie stares with wonder at all of the lights being lit and
a throng within, with servants going in and out of the door,
carrying things.

STEENIE

But this is.....! But the castle
shouldna be here!We were i'
the WEST?!

The sound of a merry pibroch is heard and Steenie stares even
more.

STEENIE (CONT'D)

Dancin'!? ... But thir in mournin'!

The rider dismounts at the head of the drive, and chivvies
Steenie to dismount, also, and go up to the main door.

STEENIE (CONT'D)

God! If, if Sir Robert's death
be but a dream?!

He knocks at the door and it is opened by Dougal MacCallum.

DOUGAL

Piper Steenie, are ye there, lad?
Sir Robert has bin callin' fer ye!

He steps back and Steenie steps in.

26 INT. REDGAUNTLET CASTLE/CORRIDORS AND TRAVERSING - NIGHT 26

Dougal beetles off through the main hall and along various corridors, followed by a bemused Steenie.

Steenie looks back, but his guide has vanished.

STEENIE

Dougal! Are ye livin' then,
mon?....A thought ye had been dead!

Dougal looks around as they hurry along.

DOUGAL

Dinna fash yesen wi' me, but listen
tae what a say, Steenie!....
Look tae yersen, mon! See that ye
tak naething from ANYBODY here!
.... As yer life depends upon it,
tak neither meat, nor drink, nor
siller, excepting jist the receipt
which is yer ain!

They arrive at the great oak parlour and Dougal gently pushes Steenie through the door.

27 INT. REDGAUNTLET CASTLE/OAK PARLOUR - NIGHT

27

The fire is roaring and the candles lit on a great table at which are sat twelve bewigged, richly clad male gentry and senior officers, with Sir Robert Redgauntlet at the head.

They are singing a loud drinking song, joining in the chorus to the verses which Sir Robert sings. The party is very rowdy and drunk, with fruit and bread strewn across the table and dogs roaming around the floor eating scraps.

Sir Robert spies Steenie from the head of the table, where he sits still with his bandaged leg on a cushioned chair.

REDGAUNTLET

Steenie! You!

He gestures to a servant

REDGAUNTLET (CONT'D)

Bring that man here!

Steenie hurries to the head of the table, where all of the silk-clad male gentry and officers stare at him.

REDGAUNTLET (CONT'D)
 Weel Piper...ha ye settled wi' ma
 son, fer the year's rent?

STEENIE
 I couldna' sir, as a had paid you
 but had no the receipt!

REDGAUNTLET
 Ha! ... Then ye shall have it!
 ...But first, play us a tune on the
 pipes!

He gestures to Dougal to hand over some pipes to Steenie.

The pipes' chanter is red hot, however, and sizzles with
 heat.

Dougal signs with his eyes for Steenie to avoid accepting the
 pipes.

Steenie turns to Redgauntlet

STEENIE
 Am winded wi the fever, yer honour
 and unable to play at the moment.
 Aim maist sorry fer this!

REDGAUNTLET
 Then ye maun eat and drink,
 Steenie, boy.

STEENIE
 Again, a canna, yer honour, but I
 would jist like to ha ma receipt
 fer which a came.

Redgauntlet throws back his head and laughs.

The whole company does, as well.

He then takes out and opens a pocket book.

Redgauntlet hands over the receipt to Steenie.

REDGAUNTLET
 GO on, then! THERE is yer
 receipt, ya pitiful cur! And, as
 tae the money, my dog-whelp of a
 son may gae and look fer it in the
 Cat's Cradle!

Steenie smiles and bows his thanks.

He starts to turn away.

REDGAUNTLET (CONT'D)
 Stop! I have not finished with ye,
 yet! Ye must return on this very
 day, each year ta pay yer master
 the homage ye owe me fer my
 protection.

Steenie takes a deep breath

STEENIE
 A'm sorry, but I refer myself ainly
 tae GOD'S pleasure, and not tae
 yours, sir!

Redgauntlet stares with outrage at this audacity and then suddenly looks pained, and starts to howl with a rising tone.

His howls become a general terrible howling, and then a screaming, and the figures around the table start to blur and swim.

These figures then spin around the table, in the air, in a screaming, spiritous wind.

The sound gets louder and then louder until there is a sudden bang, all goes dark, and Steenie falls to the floor, senseless.

28 EXT. CHURCH/KIRKYARD - DAY

28

In the early morning mist, Steenie gradually wakes up to find himself laying on the grass and his horse grazing quietly next to him.

He sits up stiffly and enquiringly.

Steenie notices that he is still gripping the receipt of what he thought was a dream.

He reads it, but it is genuine and he is relieved.

The signature tails off two thirds way through the autograph.

Steenie gets up, groggily, remounts his horse and rides back to the castle.

29 EXT. REDGAUNTLET CASTLE/FRONT DOOR

29

Steenie knocks on the door.

It is opened by the new BUTLER who knows Steenie.

BUTLER
Yes

STEENIE
A've come ta see his honour.

BUTLER
Have you an appointment?

STEENIE
Naw, but a have that which his
honour wull want to see directly!

The butler sighs, with annoyance and rolls his eyes.

He opens the door and Steenie is allowed in.

30 INT. REDGAUNTLET CASDTLE/OAK PARLOUR - DAY

30

Steenie is shown into the parlour and finds Sir John stranding behind the table.

SIR JOHN
Well, you bankrupt! Have you
brought me my rent?

STEENIE
Na! As I said... I ha' paid it, but
a HAVE brought yer honour the
receipt.

He hands the receipt over to Sir John who reads it amazedly.

SIR JOHN
How came you by this, man?

STEENIE
Weel, a were jist riding alo ...
mnu, mnu, mnu

The housemaid comes into the room and makes the fire

Sir John listens, disbelievingly

The butler comes in with a tray of tea for Sir John, who signals Steenie to sit down and pours out for the two of them.

Sir John asks a couple of questions and they sip their tea.

Sir John suddenly stands up

SIR JOHN

But I don't know where the Cat's
Cradle IS!We had better ask
Hutcheon. He's been here the
longest.

He rings a bell and they sip their tea, as Sir John paces.

Steenie is offered a biscuit and takes one, gingerly.

As he nibbles it, Hutcheon hobbles in.

SIR JOHN (CONT'D)

Ah, Hutcheon! ...Where is the Cat's
Cradle?

HUTCHEON

The Cat's Cradle, sir?Ah, that
would be the old small turret, ye
ken. The one next ta the clock
hoos. The entry is frae the
battlements.

Sir John nods.

SIR JOHN

Thank you, Hutcheon.

Hutcheon hobbles out whilst Sir John puts his cup down on the
desk.

SIR JOHN (CONT'D)

(Sighs)

You might as well come along to see
the end of this, if what you say is
true.

Steenie gets up and follows him out.

31 INT. REDGAUNTLET CASTLE/TRAVERSING - DAY

31

Redgauntlet strides through the castle, with Steenie beetling
along behind him.

Sir John picks up one of his father's pistols from the hall
table, as they pass through.

He looks at his priming, as he goes.

They ascend several pairs of stairs and come out onto the
roof.

32 EXT. REDGAUNTLET CASTLE/BATTLEMENTS - DAY

32

Sir John looks up at a small turret across the leads. There is a ladder leading up to a small door in it.

He nods

SIR JOHN
I think that must be the turret
Hutcheon meant!

Steenie nods

STEENIE
Aye, I think mebbe!

SIR JOHN
Stay here!

He strides away across the leads and climbs the ladder, still holding the pistol.

Steenie stares, anticipatingly, with his mouth open.

Sir John steps through the open doorway, off his ladder.

There is a loud screech, and then a cry.

This is followed by the sound of the pistol.

Steenie runs across to the turret and calls up

STEENIE
Sir John!Are ye aright, Sir
John? ... Wat is...

Sir John appears at the turret door, holding a small bag of coins up, in the air.

SIR JOHN
My father's parrot had it!
Major Weir! Nearly took my eye
out! ... Wretched brute!

He turns and comes back down the ladder and Steenie utters a great sigh of relief.

33 INT. REDGAUNTLET CASTLE/OAK PARLOUR - DAY

33

Sir John stalks in, drops the money on the table and turns to Steenie.

He proffers his hand and they shake

SIR JOHN

I owe you an apology, Steenie, and
I shall find a way to make amends.

He nods

SIR JOHN (CONT'D)

I shall have a look at the
condition of your croft and look to
the stocking, as well. Also,
as I was told you had borrowed the
sum, anyway, I'll pay your creditor
for you, this one time.

Steenie looks amazed and delighted.

STEENIE

Oh, thank ee', sir, thank ee'!!

Sir John smiles and shows Steenie to the parlour door.

He nods

SIR JOHN

I hope I shall be a better master
to you from now on, Steenie.

STEENIE

Thank 'ee, Sir John. I'se just
relieved that I'se been cleared o'
me non payment!

Steenie smiles, bows and retires.

34

EXT. MOORLAND/PATH - DUSK

34

Darcie and Wandering Willie are still walking along the old
track and Darcie looks up at Willie.

DARCIE

So what did they tell people?....I
mean about the real cause.

WILLIE

Ah! ... Weel, Sir John wasna sae
keen to ha' all the details of the
story spread abroad, so they agreed
ta jist lay all the blame at the
duir o' Major Weir.

DARCIE

Did Steenie do well?

WILLIE

Oh aye! He had a few bairns, ma
brothers, and he played the pipes
as weel as a play this instrument.

He indicates his fiddle with his shoulder.

WILLIE (CONT'D)

Am playing a wedding tonight. ...
Think ye can keep up wi' me, young
laddie?

DARCIE

A slap up dinner says I CAN!

WILLIE

A weel, we'd better walk a little
slower then, ta save yer
strength.... and mebbe do a little
rehearsal, considerin' yer
inexperience, an all!

He nods, ironically, and Darcie smiles as they start to
descend a hill, into the valley below, where lies a small
clachan.

The sun is just about to set and the valley is golden all
around.