

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER:
EXECUTIVE PRODUCER:
CO-EXECUTIVE PRODUCER:
SUPERVISING PRODUCER:
DIRECTOR:

BARNEY ROSENZWEIG
KEN WALES
PATRICIA GREEN
TOM BLOMQUIST
MICHAEL RHODES

Brad Michaelson

CHRISTY

Episode 5

"Eye of the Storm"

PRODUCTION #1007

Written by

Pamela K. Long

and

Patricia Green

FINAL DRAFT
November 17, 1993

THIS MATERIAL IS THE PROPERTY OF
FAMILY PRODUCTIONS, INC. AND IS
INTENDED SOLELY FOR USE BY ITS
PERSONNEL. DISTRIBUTION TO
UNAUTHORIZED PERSONS IS PROHIBITED.

Copyright 1993 Family Productions, Inc. All Rights Reserved.

REVISED
November 24, 1993 BLUE
November 29, 1993 PINK
December 1, 1993 YELLOW
p.m. December 1, 1993 GREEN
December 2, 1993 GOLDENROD

CHRISTY"Eye of the Storm"CAST LIST

CHRISTY
DAVID
MACNEILL
MISS ALICE
FAIRLIGHT

Jeb Spencer
John Spencer
Orter Ball O'Teale

Mountie O'Teale
Zady Spencer

Atmosphere:
Fairlight's younger children
Schoolchildren

CHRISTY"Eye of the Storm"SETSINTERIORS

SCHOOLHOUSE

MISSION

PARLOR/DINING ROOM
MISS ALICE'S ROOM
CHRISTY'S BEDROOM
KITCHEN (OMITTED)

MACNEILL'S CABIN

MAIN ROOM
LABORATORY

EXTERIORS

SCHOOLHOUSE

MISSION

DOG RUN
PORCH
KITCHEN PORCH

SCHOOLYARD

MACNEILL'S CABIN - PORCH

"Eye of the Storm"

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

1 EXT. SCHOOLHOUSE - DAY

1

Frost, mud and a lot of bare trees.

CHRISTY (V.O.)

As the days became colder and
winter closed in on Cutter Gap,
it was hard to keep spirits high.
But I did my best.

2 INT. SCHOOLHOUSE - DAY

2

MacNeill has set up a chemistry experiment for the class.

CHRISTY (V.O.)

I tried to warm the schoolroom
with puzzles and games and
unusual lessons.

(amused)

One day, Doctor MacNeill provided
some assistance.

On the blackboard are some simple formulas. (NOTE: Becky O'Teale is not in class). MacNeill puts a match to a five-gallon jar with a little ethyl alcohol inside -- there's a loud WHOOSH and brilliantly colored EXPLOSION inside the bottle. The children burst into delighted applause.

CUT TO:

3 EXT. SCHOOLHOUSE - DAY

3

Christy and MacNeill walk from the school toward his horse.

MACNEILL

Did you see how Zady Spencer
watched? And how she absorbed
those formulas? There's a
scientist in that girl.

CHRISTY

They were all fascinated. So was
I. Thank you for coming, Neil.

MACNEILL

It was my pleasure, Christy.

(CONTINUED)

3 CONTINUED:

3

There's a slightly awkward beat, then Christy extends her hand. They shake hands, and there's that warm connection between them. Christy finds herself not wanting to let go.

*
*
*

4 ANGLE - MISS ALICE

4

just arrived from a trip, watching them. She's not happy.

BACK TO SCENE

The intimate moment passes. MacNeill smiles.

MACNEILL

Next time, we might try one of those hygiene classes.

Seeing her startled look -- MacNeill roars with laughter. Then he rides off.

MISS ALICE

looks even less pleased. She turns her horse toward the mission -- just as Christy sees her.

CHRISTY

Miss Alice!

She waves happily -- but Miss Alice ignores her. Off Christy:

CUT TO:

5 INT. MISSION PARLOR/DINING ROOM - NIGHT

5

Miss Alice repairs a broken churn while DAVID works on a sermon. Christy enters. Miss Alice gives her a brief smile and goes back to her task. Christy feels her coolness but doesn't know what to say. Finally:

*
*

CHRISTY

David, we have to do something about the O'Teale's. Mountie was absent for the third day in a row. I think her mother's keeping her home to do chores.

DAVID

It wouldn't be the first time.

*

(CONTINUED)

5 CONTINUED:

5

CHRISTY

I swear, if she doesn't come tomorrow I'll slog through this mud and collect her myself.

MISS ALICE

Perhaps Mountie is ill. Perhaps she needs Dr. MacNeill.

It's said conversationally but there's an undercurrent directed at Christy.

DAVID

I'm sure Mountie is fine.

Beat. Christy looks at a letter near David's place.

CHRISTY

Is that from Ida?

DAVID

With her letters coming every day, it hardly seems like she's gone.

David opens the letter. RUBY MAE comes in and sets plates on the table -- burned cornbread and burned sidemeat. Miss Alice takes her seat at the table.

MISS ALICE

Thank you, Ruby Mae.

CHRISTY

That looks... good.

RUBY MAE

No, it don't. I done my best -- but Maw always said my cookin' would drive the pigs away.

CHRISTY

(afraid it is)

It's not that bad.

RUBY MAE

You ain't tasted it yet.

(to David)

Is Miss Ida comin' back from Boston soon?

(CONTINUED)

5 CONTINUED: (2)

5

DAVID
(reading)
No such luck. She's delayed.
Mother sprained her wrist and
needs Ida there till she's able
to do for herself.

CHRISTY
Your poor mother.

DAVID
Poor Ida. Mother will run her
ragged.
(to Miss Alice, too)
Looks like we're on our own,
ladies.

MISS ALICE
I'm leaving next week for Sand
Mountain mission. I'll be gone
quite a while. *

The significance hits them -- David and Christy, virtually
alone at the mission. Unthinkable. *

RUBY MAE
Uh-oh. Preacher and Teacher are
gonna be alone... together. *

CUT TO:

5A EXT. SCHOOLHOUSE - DAY

5A

After school. Fairlight and Christy. The Spencer children
play in the b.g.

CHRISTY
Ruby Mae isn't a proper
chaperone, of course. And her
cousin's getting married in Low
Gap this week. She wants to
go...

FAIRLIGHT
I'd be happy to help out.

CHRISTY
Oh, Fairlight, no. I wasn't
asking --

(CONTINUED)

5A CONTINUED:

5A

FAIRLIGHT

I could stay at the mission till
Miss Ida gets back, and do the
cookin' and the washin' --

CHRISTY

That's very generous. But we
can't ask you to leave your
children --

FAIRLIGHT

John and Zady is old enough to
look after the young'uns.
(looks away)
Fact is, I could use the work.
You all can pay me whatever you
think is fair.

CHRISTY

But... won't Jeb be against it?

FAIRLIGHT

He ain't here to say. He's been
gone near a month, tryin' to sell
the honey we made this year.
Lord knows when he'll be back.

CHRISTY

It's too much, taking care of us
and your own family --

FAIRLIGHT

I can do it! I can manage!
(and then)
Please.

This is a plea from the heart. Christy can't ignore it.

CHRISTY

All right. We'd be obliged.

CUT TO:

5B INT. MISSION DINING ROOM / PARLOR - NIGHT

5B

David, Christy and Miss Alice sit at the table. Fairlight
sets down a steaming bowl of stew.

DAVID

That smells delicious.

(CONTINUED)

5B CONTINUED:

5B

MISS ALICE

It does. Thank you, Fairlight.
Won't you join us?

FAIRLIGHT

No, thanks. I got work to do.

She goes back into the kitchen. David grins at the others.

DAVID

I don't know about you, but grace
comes straight from my heart
tonight.

He bows his head. Avoiding a smile from Christy, Miss Alice
follows suit.

DAVID

Lord, bless our bounty...

CUT TO:

6 EXT. MISSION DOG RUN - NIGHT

6

Fairlight's CHILDREN materialize out of the darkness and gather
around their mother in a silent circle.

DAVID (V.O.)

The food on our plates, the
nourishment to our bodies...

Fairlight unfolds her apron and breaks the bread into pieces to
give to her children. She passes a jar of milk and they each
take a sip.

DAVID (V.O.)

Strengthen us to do thy service
whenever or wherever that may be.
Amen.

JOHN SPENCER offers his mother his piece of bread.

FAIRLIGHT

No, John. Eat. I've had my
fill.

John chooses to believe his mother's lie. He gives the
precious bread to Lulu. Fairlight's eyes burn with pride in
the moonlight. Then she collapses.

(CONTINUED)

7 CONTINUED:

7

MACNEILL
How long since you've had
something to eat?

FAIRLIGHT
Yesterday... an apple...

MACNEILL
I mean a decent meal.

Fairlight turns her head away in shame.

FAIRLIGHT
(whispers)
I worked for the bread to feed
the young'uns.

MACNEILL
Yes, you did. Why didn't you
take any for yourself?

FAIRLIGHT
I only took what I earned.

MacNeill shakes his head. He looks at her, equal parts
frustration and admiration.

MACNEILL
That stubbornness can kill you.

FAIRLIGHT
Can't live without pride.

MACNEILL
You can't eat it, either.

ON MacNeill and Fairlight's standoff:

CUT TO:

8 EXT. MISSION HOUSE - NIGHT

8 *

David chops wood furiously. John Spencer comes outside.

JOHN
What are you doin'?

DAVID
It helps me feel less useless.

John thinks about it, then grins at David.

(CONTINUED)

8 CONTINUED:

8

JOHN

Doc MacNeill does kinda fill up
a place. Got a spare axe?

*
*

DAVID

Over there.

JOHN

I'll give you a hand.

David smiles. Clearly they feel the same. Off the two of
them, chopping:

CUT TO:

9 INT. CHRISTY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

9

Christy sits beside Zady, Lulu, Clara and Least'Un, who are
tucked into her bed, under a beautiful patchwork quilt. Zady
runs her hand over it.

ZADY

Ain't never seen nothing so fancy
and soft as this.

CHRISTY

It's made of silk and velvet.
And a little brocade.

ZADY

Brocade... wherever did you git
so many purty patterns?

CHRISTY

It's made from my mother's
dresses. Each piece reminds me
of a day she wore it. This quilt
is like a picture book of
memories of my mother.

Christy touches the quilt and grows quiet. Remembering.

ZADY

My mama never had a dress like
your mama.

CHRISTY

But your mother has the same
heart. A very brave heart.
(then, gently)
How long has your father been
gone?

(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED:

9

ZADY

Five weeks near 'bout. Mama
thinks the weather stopped his
wagon. That borrowed wagon means
the world to Pa. We couldn't
live without it, couldn't sell no
honey. Probably got stuck
somewhere. He wouldn't leave it.
No, ma'am. Can't blame him.

Christy pats Zady's hand reassuringly.

CHRISTY

Of course not.

ZADY

He'll be back. Anytime now.

CHRISTY

I'm sure he will.

But she doesn't quite convince herself. As she kisses the
children and blows out the lamp...

CUT TO:

10 INT. MISSION PARLOR/DINING ROOM - NIGHT

10

MacNeill is putting on his coat, buckling his medical bag.
Miss Alice is there.

MACNEILL

The poor woman is half-starved.
I'd like to horse-whip Jeb.

MISS ALICE

I'm sure he's doing the best he
can.

(beat)

Fairlight should rest, of course.
And have three meals a day.

MACNEILL

She'll insist on working and you
let her. And don't give her more
than her due. If she thinks
she's getting charity, she'll be
gone in the blink of an eye.

(and then)

Is Christy still with the
children?

(CONTINUED)

10 CONTINUED:

10

MISS ALICE
(frosty)
I expect so.

MACNEILL
(after a beat)
And what does that tone mean?

MISS ALICE
It means I think you are a
foolish man and you are bound to
be hurt by these feelings --

MACNEILL
I don't know what you're talking
about!

MISS ALICE
(softly)
Don't be a hypocrite, Neil.
Don't lie as well.

MACNEILL
All right. I'll speak the truth
if you will.

That stops Miss Alice cold. Silence. Then:

MACNEILL
(steely)
Tell Christy I'm outside. I've
got something to say to her
before I go.

He leaves her to ponder that. Miss Alice is alone. After a
beat, Christy comes in from upstairs.

CHRISTY
Fairlight's asleep. I thought
Dr. MacNeill --

MISS ALICE
Would he waiting?
(beat)
He's outside.

Christy is completely bewildered by this coolness.

CHRISTY
Miss Alice, if I've done
something to offend you, please
tell me --

(CONTINUED)

10 CONTINUED: (2)

10

MISS ALICE
You haven't done anything.

CHRISTY
I must have --

MISS ALICE
This has nothing to do with you.

CHRISTY
Then why are you angry at me?

MISS ALICE
I am not angry!

And she walks out. Off Christy:

CUT TO:

11 EXT. MISSION PORCH - NIGHT

11

MacNeill smokes his pipe and looks at the stars. After a moment, Christy comes outside. MacNeill sees her troubled look. He's overheard her and Miss Alice.

MACNEILL
I know how you feel. There are times when I could cheerfully throttle that woman. *

CHRISTY
Something is wrong. And she won't say what.

MACNEILL
She has her moods. She'll come around. *

CHRISTY
(after a beat)
Miss Alice said you had something to tell me.

MACNEILL
I got a letter today. From St. Timothy's Hospital in Baltimore. One of my old professors practices there, and I'd written him about my research on the human eye. He wrote me back to say the hospital's very interested --

(CONTINUED)

11 CONTINUED:

11

CHRISTY

Oh, Neil, that's wonderful!
Maybe they'll send you money for
equipment and books --

MACNEILL

What they've offered is a job,
Christy. A medical residency
with a research grant on the
side.

(off her shock)

If I accept, I leave for
Baltimore next month.

Christy can't even speak for a moment. Then:

CHRISTY

How can you leave? Who will take
care of the people here?

MACNEILL

Alice will find another doctor,
if she has to kidnap one.

(and then)

This is a great opportunity, a
real chance to find a cure for
trachoma. I can't turn it down.

This upsets Christy far more than she would've thought. She
tries to hide it by turning away from MacNeill.

MACNEILL

I can't let Cutter Gap prevent me
from doing some good in the
world.

Christy hardly knows why she's so angry. After a beat:

CHRISTY

No. You can't.

(beat)

Why are you telling me? Why not
Miss Alice?

*
*
*

So Christy would talk him out of it? He can't say that.

*

MACNEILL

I don't know.

(beat)

But I'd appreciate it if you'd
keep it to yourself. I'm not
ready to announce it yet.

*
*
*

(CONTINUED)

11 CONTINUED: (2)

11

CHRISTY

Of course.

(quietly furious)

I'm delighted for you, Doctor.
Congratulations.

(CONTINUED)

11 CONTINUED: (2) 11

Christy walks into the mission and slams the door. Now
MacNeill sees:

12 DAVID 12

standing near the dog run, having watched all this.

13 MACNEILL 13

stares at him, then stomps off the porch toward his horse.

DAVID

watches him go -- and smiles.

FADE OUT.

END ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

14 EXT. MISSION - DAY

14

PANORAMIC SHOT of sunrise in the Great Smokies.

CUT TO:

15 INT. CHRISTY'S BEDROOM - DAY

15

Little hands (Clara Spencer's) polish Christy's boots with a rag. Other small hands (Lulu's) brush Christy's skirt and (Zady's) iron Christy's tie. They're a little clumsy at it, but their good intentions are clear. Christy wakes up and sees them busily at work. Then Zady realizes she's awake. *

ZADY

Good morning, Miz Christy. *

Off Christy's surprise at their industry and determination:

CUT TO:

16 INT. MISSION PARLOR/DINING ROOM - DAY

16

Fairlight sets the table. Miss Alice brings in the silverware, and it's immediately whisked out of her hands by Fairlight. David enters and John quickly jumps to pull out his chair. Christy enters with the Spencer girls trailing behind.

CHRISTY

Good morning, everyone.

Everyone AD LIBS good mornings. Fairlight glances at the clothes basket by the door brimming with David's wet shirts and looks at her children. Without a word, they exit to hang the clothes on the line. As Fairlight serves breakfast:

DAVID

(under his breath)

Did the little elves clean your room and shine your shoes?

CHRISTY

And ironed all my ribbons and polished my leather Bible. I thought Zady was going to hold me down and clean my ears for good measure.

(CONTINUED)

16 CONTINUED:

16

MISS ALICE
If cleanliness is next to
Godliness, the Spencer children
are trying to insure our
divinity.

Fairlight tries to hide her pride.

FAIRLIGHT
They're workin' for their keep,
that's all.

CUT TO:

17 INT. SCHOOLHOUSE - DAY

17

Christy calls the roll.

KIDS
CHRISTY
Orter Ball O'Teale.

ORTER
Present, Teacher.

Christy looks at Mountie O'Teale's empty desk.

CHRISTY
Orter, where is Mountie? Is she
sick?

ORTER
Reckon you'll have to ask her.

CHRISTY
I can't ask her if she isn't
here.

ORTER
Maybe she is.

He smiles. So do a few others. This has become a game.

CHRISTY
Orter, tell me where your sister
is or you'll write it a hundred
times on the blackboard.

ORTER
She come with us, but she's
hidin' out.

(CONTINUED)

17 CONTINUED:

17

CHRISTY
Why?

ORTER shrugs.

CHRISTY
At least tell me where.

Orter gets that stubborn look that says he knows but will never tell. Exasperated, Christy leaves the classroom.

CUT TO:

18 EXT. SCHOOLHOUSE - DAY

18

Christy looks around, cupping her hands to her mouth.

CHRISTY
(yelling)
Mountie! Mountie O'Teale!

But there's no answer. Christy's voice echoes through the hills as we:

CUT TO:

19 INT. MISSION HOUSE - DAY

19 *

That afternoon, after school. The door opens to reveal Fairlight on her hands and knees scrubbing the floor. She looks up. Framed in the doorway is JEB. And he's angry.

CUT TO:

20 EXT. MISSION - DAY

20

Smirts and sheets on the clothesline billow in the wind as Jeb plunks the Spencer children one by one into the wagon. Fairlight stands by, looking miserable. David and Alice arrive.

ZADY
Don't make us go, Daddy.

JEB
We don't take no charity.

(CONTINUED)

20 CONTINUED:

20

DAVID

It isn't charity, Jeb. Fairlight has been working for us while Ida is away.

JEB

(steel)

My wife don't get on her hands and knees fer hand-outs from nobody.

MISS ALICE

She did it for the children.

JEB

I provide for my children!

FAIRLIGHT

You was away too long this time, Jeb. I tried to hold on but the eggs ran out, then the lard. When the flour was gone, I fed'em water and sourweed soup, but Lulu was cryin' and Least'un was running water instead of solids. I got scared --

*
*

JEB

Git in the wagon, woman. You're goin' home where you belong.

*

Fairlight stares up at her husband. Love and hurt war in her eyes and then that stubborn look kills both. Fairlight turns her back, strides to the clothesline, tears down the shirts and folds them. It looks like she'll go to her grave folding clothes before she'll turn to look at Jeb. The children stare from their mother to their father. Jeb grabs the reins and clucks the horses.

JEB

C'mon now, git!

David trots beside the wagon.

DAVID

Remember what the Lord said, Jeb --

JEB

He said a wife's place was with her husband!

(CONTINUED)

20 CONTINUED: (2)

20

DAVID

He also said, "Don't let the sun
go down on your anger."

Alice goes to Fairlight. Fairlight continues to snatch the
clothes off the line angrily. Alice begins to fold a sheet.

MISS ALICE

You can still catch him,
Fairlight.

FAIRLIGHT

I give my word I'd work and I
ain't takin' it back.

MISS ALICE

A man's pride is a powerful
thing.

FAIRLIGHT

(whirls on her)

A man's pride ain't more
important than his babies' belly!

Alice looks at her for a long moment.

MISS ALICE

No. It isn't. You have "right"
on your side. And Jeb has pride
on his. And each will make a
cold bed partner tonight.

PULL BACK to see Fairlight, rooted, while her husband drives
further and further away.

CUT TO:

21 INT. MISSION PARLOR/DINING ROOM - DAY

21

Christy and David are in mid-discussion. Alice packs medicine
materials in her saddlebag for a trip.

CHRISTY

Jeb should be ashamed of himself.

DAVID

I tried to reason with him. Now
I'll leave it in God's hands.

CHRISTY

(thinking)

MacNeill.

(CONTINUED)

21 CONTINUED:

21

Alice looks up.

CHRISTY

He knows how to talk to these men. He's one of them. Dr. MacNeill should talk to Jeb. *

DAVID

(drily)

Yes. I'm sure MacNeill could do better than the Almighty. *

CHRISTY

I didn't mean that. *

But he doesn't seem to hear her, as he heads for the door. *

DAVID

I just remembered. The well-cover's broken. I have to fix it. *

David leaves. Christy turns to Miss Alice. *

CHRISTY

Now what did I do?

MISS ALICE

You put Neil MacNeill up to be God's answer to the world.

CHRISTY

I don't think he's God's answer. I think he's selfish and arrogant and egotistical. Sometimes. *

(and then)

But I do have this feeling... that God has special plans for him.

MISS ALICE

God? Or you?

(off her look)

Your fascination is obvious. You came to this mission to teach, Miss Huddleston. Not to find a husband. *

CHRISTY

That's not fair! I don't think of Dr. MacNeill that way. And besides, he's not even going to be...

(CONTINUED)

21 CONTINUED: (2)

21

She trails off.

MISS ALICE
Going to be what?

CHRISTY
(long beat)
I can't tell you. I promised I
wouldn't.

MISS ALICE
So. You're sharing secrets now.
(and then)
I am very disappointed in you,
Christy.

CHRISTY
Miss Alice...

MISS ALICE
There's a storm coming. If I
don't start now, I'll never get
to Sand Mountain.

CHRISTY
Miss Alice, please!

But Miss Alice has walked out. Off Christy:

CUT TO:

21A EXT. MISSION - KITCHEN PORCH - DAY

21A

Zady sits gloomily on the steps. Miss Alice comes by, leading
her horse, on her way out of town.

MISS ALICE
Zady. I thought you went home
with your father.

ZADY
I snuck back.
(and then)
I tried to make Mama come home.

MISS ALICE
But she didn't want to.

Zady shakes her head miserably. Holding her horse's reins,
Miss Alice sits beside Zady.

(CONTINUED)

21A CONTINUED:

21A

MISS ALICE

People have to work out their own troubles. As much as you care for your mama and papa, there are things you cannot make better.

ZADY

It ain't right for them to be apart. They got true love, Miss Alice.

MISS ALICE

How do you know, Zady?

ZADY

It's plain as day, ma'am. It's in daddy's eyes when he looks at her. And on mama's face when she thinks he ain't watchin'.

MISS ALICE

(moved)

Then they are fortunate. And so art thou.

She gets up, about to be on her way. Then she turns back.

MISS ALICE

I think they will remember.

She hugs Zady, and leaves.

CUT TO:

21B EXT. MISSION DOG RUN - DAY

21B *

Fairlight stirs David's boiling shirts. She looks up to see Zady in the doorway.

FAIRLIGHT

Your daddy wants you home. I thought I told you to go.

ZADY

I will, Mama. I just wanted you to do something.

FAIRLIGHT

What?

(CONTINUED)

21B CONTINUED:

21B

ZADY
(beat, softly)
Remember how much Daddy loves
you.

Off Fairlight:

CUT TO:

22 INT. SCHOOLHOUSE - DAY

22

The sun is going down. Wind WHISTLES through the trees
outside. The windows RATTLE. Christy struggles to correct
papers in the waning light. A THUMP under her feet.

CHRISTY
Those pigs...
(off louder THUMP)
Hush, you pigs!!

Christy STOMPS back HARD on the floor. Silence. Christy
goes back to work. A CRY. Human. Christy, startled,
STOMPS on the floor again. A small THUMP answers.

*Can't hear
& makes*

CHRISTY
Oh, Lord.

Christy rushes out.

CUT TO:

23 EXT. SCHOOLHOUSE - DAY (DUSK)

23 *

The wind is blowing hard, whipping Christy's hair around her
face. She drops to her knees and peers into the shadows. *

CLOSE ON Christy.

CHRISTY
Mountie?

A WHIMPER. Christy reaches under the schoolhouse, grabs
MOUNTIE'S hand and pulls her out. She hugs her close in the
darkness.

CHRISTY
Why did you hide?

Mountie covers her face.

*No pigs -
head down
area for Mountie*

(CONTINUED)

23 CONTINUED:

23

MOUNTIE
(crying)
Don't look at me.

CHRISTY
Let me see, Mountie.

Christy pulls Mountie's hands away. She holds the light to Mountie's face. Christy GASPS. Mountie CRIES out in pain and covers her eyes from the light.

MOUNTIE
It hurts...

CHRISTY
Dear Heavenly Father...

CUT TO:

23A - EXT MacNeill's - to start this scene
24 INT. MACNEILL'S CABIN - NIGHT

24

The wind blows a branch against the cabin wall. A loud THUNDER CLAP nearly shakes the house. A BANG on the door. Thinking it's the branch again, MacNeill ignores it and lights his magnificent pipe.

MACNEILL
(puffing on his pipe)
"...Quoth the Raven,
nevermore..."

A LOUDER KNOCK.

CHRISTY (O.S.)
Dr. MacNeill! Let me in.

MacNeill's pipe drops out of his mouth, landing in his lap with unpleasant results. He jumps up, brushing the sparks away, and rushes to the door. He opens it. A flash of LIGHTNING illuminates Christy cradling Mountie in her arms. MacNeill pulls them in and pushes the door shut against the wind.

MACNEILL
What are you doing out on a night like this?! Have you taken leave of your senses? There's a storm blowing in!

CHRISTY
It couldn't wait. It's waited much too long as it is.

(CONTINUED)

*five retard
his pipe*

24 CONTINUED:

24

Christy puts Mountie on the table and pulls her hands from her face. MacNeill face grows serious.

MACNEILL

Bring the lamp closer, Christy.

Christy lifts the lamp to Mountie's face. Mountie pulls away from the light with a WHIMPER.

MACNEILL

There, there, wee one. I know
the light pains you but be a
brave girl.

Christy holds Mountie's hands while MacNeill examines her.
Mountie CRIES out once.

CHRISTY

Please don't move, Mountie. When
it hurts you just squeeze my
hands. Squeeze as hard as you
can. That way I'll take some of
the pain away.

MOUNTIE

I'll be a good girl. *

CHRISTY

You're always a good girl.

MOUNTIE

I seen bad things... I peeked at
my schoolbooks on the Sabbath. *
*
*

CHRISTY

It's not your fault, Mountie!
You didn't do anything. You have
an eye infection. Isn't that
right, Doctor MacNeill?

MacNeill takes Mountie's face gently in his hands.

MACNEILL

Nothing you have done or could do
would cause this to your eyes.
There are things you can't see
that get in your eyes and make
them hurt. And it even happens
to very good girls. Girls like
you.

Mountie SNIFFLES quietly.

(CONTINUED)

24 CONTINUED: (2)

24

CHRISTY

But Doctor MacNeill is going to fix your eyes. Aren't you, Dr. MacNeill?

MacNeill puts his instruments away.

MACNEILL

Mountie, can you guess what's in the jar on the kitchen table?

Mountie shakes her head.

MACNEILL

Something special for very good girls. Butterscotch. Help yourself.

Mountie hops off the table and goes into the kitchen. MacNeill heads into his lab without a word. Christy follows. *

24A INT. MACNEILL'S LAB - CONTINUOUS

24A *

As Christy approaches: *

CHRISTY

You can help her, can't you?

MACNEILL

She has trachoma.

The dreaded word hangs in the air. Long beat.

CHRISTY

But you must be able to treat it.

MACNEILL

People have tried to treat trachoma since the pharaohs built the sphinx! Mountie's case is advanced.

CHRISTY

What will happen to her?

MACNEILL

Blindness. Oh, not for a while. Maybe a few years. But it's inevitable.

Christy is devastated. She refuses to believe it.

(CONTINUED)

24A CONTINUED:

24A

CHRISTY
(outpouring)
She can't. She's worked so
hard... She's just started to
read... there must be something
you can do!

MACNEILL
Not at this stage.

CHRISTY
What about your research?

MACNEILL
That's all it is. Research.

CHRISTY
You must have found something.
You must have some kind of hope --

MACNEILL
I've never tested it. I've no
idea if it would really work. It
could make her worse.

CHRISTY
But you're sure Mountie will go
blind if she's not treated?
(off his weary nod)
Then you have to treat her.

MACNEILL
I don't have the right to test my
theories on Mountie!

CHRISTY
God gave you the right when he
gave you the gift!

MacNeill stares at her.

MACNEILL
You're always so sure. Just like
her.

CHRISTY
Like who?

MACNEILL
Who told you that you have all
the answers? Your God? Your God
is too demanding!

(CONTINUED)

24A CONTINUED: (2)

24A

Christy stares at him a beat, not knowing what to say.
MacNeill turns away, busying himself with one task or
another. Finally, Christy exits to:

*
*
*

24B INT. MACNEILL'S CABIN - CONTINUOUS

24B

Christy returns and puts her arms around Mountie.
LIGHTNING flashes, THUNDER ROLLS. *

MOUNTIE

Is God mad?

CHRISTY

Yes, Mountie, I'm sure he is.

MOUNTIE

At me?

CHRISTY

No -- at the thing that made your
eyes sore. But don't be afraid
of the thunder. It's just God
talking to Dr. MacNeill.

MOUNTIE

He sure does have a loud voice.

The storm rages outside.

FADE OUT.

END ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

25 INT. MISSION PARLOR/DINING ROOM - NIGHT

25

David and Fairlight. He's got his coat on and is reaching for his hat. She's trying to stop him. *

FAIRLIGHT *

You won't find her, Preacher.
You'll only get lost yourself --

DAVID *

Christy might be hurt. Something
could've happened --

FAIRLIGHT *

Or she found shelter and she's
waitin' out the storm. It won't
help her none if you get hurt --

Suddenly the front door opens. Hope lights David's face -- *
but it's Miss Alice, soaked and covered with mud. *

FAIRLIGHT

Oh, my Lord.

David and Fairlight help Alice inside, take off her coat. *

DAVID *

Are you all right? What
happened?

MISS ALICE

A mudslide, near Cutter Branch.
My horse was nearly buried. We
had to turn around and come home.

DAVID *

I thought you were Christy.

MISS ALICE

(stares at him)
She's out in this?

DAVID

I don't know. Nobody's seen her
since school this afternoon.

Miss Alice abruptly starts putting on her things again.

DAVID

What are you doing?

(CONTINUED)

25 CONTINUED:

25

MISS ALICE
I have to find her.

DAVID
(grabbing her arm)
Alice, I'll go --

MISS ALICE
I have to!

She breaks free and is out the door. Before Fairlight can stop him, David is gone, too. Fairlight can only wait and worry.

CUT TO:

25A EXT. MISSION HOUSE - NIGHT

25A *

The storm rages as Alice and David emerge, mount their horses and ride off. *

CUT TO:

26 INT. MACNEILL'S CABIN - MAIN ROOM - NIGHT

26

Rain drums on the roof with a steady pounding. Mountie is asleep by the fire, MacNeill's coat over her. MacNeill comes from the kitchen area with a cup of tea. He sees Christy by the door, putting on her coat.

MACNEILL
What do you think you're doing?

CHRISTY
Nobody knows we're here.
Mountie's family must be worried.
I have to tell them where she is --

MacNeill drops the cup and grabs her arm, hard. His anger is out of proportion to the situation.

MACNEILL
Are you insane?! It's been
pouring for hours --

CHRISTY
I can make it --

MACNEILL
The river's too high to cross!
You're not leaving this cabin!

(CONTINUED)

26 CONTINUED:

26

That awakens Mountie, who sits up and stares at them.
Christy looks at MacNeill's hand on her arm. MacNeill lets go.

CHRISTY
(quietly)
Whatever you say, Doctor.

(CONTINUED)

26 CONTINUED:

26

Then THUNDER BOOMS. Mountie cowers under MacNeill's coat and whimpers. Christy goes to her.

CHRISTY

It's all right. There's nothing to be afraid of.

But LIGHTNING FLASHES, making Mountie bury her head in Christy's arms.

MOUNTIE

I don't like the lights. *

CHRISTY

You mean the lightning? We're inside, honey. It can't hurt you.

MACNEILL

It's only the Silkie, searching for his lost love.

That, as MacNeill intended, piques Mountie's curiosity.

MOUNTIE

Who?

MACNEILL

A water spirit. Lord of the Sea.
(glances at Christy)
You see, Mountie, before there was a Christian God, spirits ruled the world. The Silkie was half-man and half-fish, with long flowing hair of seaweed and a big fish tail that could make ocean churn and foam when he was angry. *

Now Mountie is enchanted, the storm forgotten.

MACNEILL

But the Silkie was lonely. He was half-man so he couldn't marry a fish, and he was half-fish, so he couldn't marry a woman. But one day, a beautiful girl, with big blue eyes like yours, was shipwrecked on his island. When the Silkie pulled her from the waves, he fell instantly in love.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

26 CONTINUED: (2)

26

MACNEILL (CONT'D)

And when she opened her eyes, the girl fell in love with the Silkie and so they were married.

MOUNTIE

And lived happily ever after.

MACNEILL

No. Alas they did not. The girl's people had searched and searched, and they finally found her on the Silkie's island. And they said she must come home with them. The girl cried and cried, but it was no use. They sailed away with her, leaving the Silkie alone again.

MOUNTIE

Poor Silkie.

Poor MacNeill.

MACNEILL

The Silkie missed his love so much that he raged and cursed and swept the sea with terrible storms.

MOUNTIE

Like this one?

MACNEILL

Much, much bigger. The waves were hundreds of feet high. The clouds were miles across and black as coal. But nothing the Silkie did would bring back his love.

(beat, softer)

So his brother, the spirit of the Sky, took pity on him and created the lightning. Whenever the Silkie cried and raged and churned the sea with storms, lightning would flash in the sky, to light his way to his lost love.

MOUNTIE

(beat, softly)

Did he ever find her?

(CONTINUED)

26 CONTINUED: (4)

26

MACNEILL
No. He never did. You can tell
by the lightning -- he searches
to this very day.

*
*
*

Off Christy:

CUT TO:

27 INT. MISSION PARLOR/DINING ROOM - NIGHT

27

Fairlight squints by the firelight sewing quilt squares.
The THUNDER CLAPS and she jumps pricking her finger. She
sticks it in her mouth and bursts into tears.

FAIRLIGHT
(a whisper)
Oh, Jeb.

A bolt of LIGHTNING bathes the entire mission in an eerie
light. Fairlight looks out the window and gasps.

CUT TO:

28 EXT. MISSION - NIGHT

28

The LIGHTNING illuminates a solitary figure standing in the
rain. His posture is a study in misery. It's Jeb Spencer.
Fairlight walks, then runs down the steps and sashes
through the mud and water, to Jeb. They throw themselves
into each other's arms. Fairlight is soon soaked. And
totally oblivious.

CUT TO:

29 INT. MISSION PARLOR/DINING ROOM - NIGHT

29

Jeb sits by the fire wrapped in a blanket. Fairlight,
dressed in a dry nightgown, sets a steaming wash tub in
front of Jeb. She slips off his boots and puts his feet in
the tub to soak.

FAIRLIGHT
Coulda caught your death of cold.

Jeb doesn't answer.

FAIRLIGHT
Who would have looked after the
children then?

(CONTINUED)

29 CONTINUED:

29

JEB

There'd be a line of men a mile
long before I was cold.

Fairlight blushes. Pleased.

FAIRLIGHT

You think I'd look at another
man?

JEB

Probably wouldn't need one,
seein' as how you a working woman
now.

Fairlight begins to twist up her hair and pin it.

JEB

No, don't. I like your hair down
and wet like that.

FAIRLIGHT

Don't talk foolishness, Jeb
Spencer.

JEB

Makes me think about the first
time I come up to your daddy's
place to court you. Your Mama
had you in the creek, scrubbin'
you up one side and down the
other. *

FAIRLIGHT

You shoulda been ashamed, peepin'
at a girl havin' her bath. *

JEB

Shoot. Yore teeth stuck out
more'n anything else. *

FAIRLIGHT

Why'd you bother looking, then?!

JEB

You was as shiny as a new nickel.
I wanted to put you in my pocket
and take you home right then.

(and then)

Come over here.

Fairlight, shy as a new bride, slides closer to JEB.

(CONTINUED)

29 CONTINUED: (2)

29

JEB
(softly)
Closer.

Fairlight creeps up to his knees. Jeb leans down, never touching her, and smells her hair.

JEB
(whispers)
Just like a baby. That's what I
couldn't stand.

FAIRLIGHT
What?

JEB
Not smelling you beside me. I
couldn't sleep in our bed with
you gone and ten miles of anger
between us. I jest couldn't.

She snuggles into his arms.

FAIRLIGHT
I couldn't, either.

CUT TO:

29A EXT. DEEP WOODS PATH - NIGHT

29A

The storm continues, pummeling everything in sight with sheets of rain and a formidable blast of wind. A jolt of lightning ignites the scene -- revealing Miss Alice on horseback. As she braces herself against the elements, another horse appears from a converging path. It's David.

DAVID
(calls out)
It's no use, Alice. I've looked
all over the ravine. There's no
sign of Christy anywhere!

Alice grimly considers the news. Then:

MISS ALICE
We weren't far from Neil's cabin.
I think we should get his help.

David hesitates, obviously disliking the idea. Alice catches it.

(CONTINUED)

29A CONTINUED:

29A

MISS ALICE
He knows this mountain better
than either of us, David. We
need him.

*

Without further discussion, he turns and rides off. Alice
quickly follows.

*

*

CUT TO:

30 INT. MACNEILL'S LABORATORY - NIGHT

30

MacNeill pores over his notebooks, and a textbook -- as if he
were planning to treat Becky. Then he shoves them aside, in
disgust at himself.

MACNEILL
Coward.

CHRISTY (O.S.)
Never, Doctor. Not you.

He looks to see her standing in the doorway. Memories of
someone else flood back to him. A long beat.

CHRISTY
Becky is sound asleep. That was
a beautiful story.

He realizes that in telling it, he gave himself away a little.

MACNEILL
Only a fairy tale.

(CONTINUED)

30 CONTINUED:

30

CHRISTY
You underrate yourself --

MACNEILL
Then it's my business! *

Silence. He can't bring himself to apologize.

CHRISTY
Sometimes, Doctor, I have the
strangest feeling you're not
talking to me.

He stares at her for a long beat.

MACNEILL
You are so... like her.

CHRISTY
(softly)
Your wife.

MACNEILL
Margaret.
(and then)
She was Alice Henderson's
daughter.

That's a complete shock to Christy. A long moment, then: *

CHRISTY
What happened to her?

MacNeill's not sure he can talk about it. But with Christy,
somehow he wants to.

MACNEILL
She hated Cutter Gap. She
couldn't understand why I had to
leave her alone for days at a
time. She couldn't understand
that they needed me...
(and then)
We quarreled. I said one last
hurtful thing and left. She must
have tried to follow me. The
river swept her away and she
drowned.

CHRISTY
(moved)
I'm so sorry.

(CONTINUED)

30 CONTINUED: (2)

30

MACNEILL

(harshly)

It wasn't romantic. We were miserable together. Nothing here was ever good enough for her. I was never good enough...

And it's clear as day that he still loved her. Christy puts a gentle hand on his arm.

CHRISTY

That's not true --

MACNEILL

How do I know?! How do I know I won't ruin Mountie's eyesight if I try to cure her? I can't be sure... I can't take the risk.

CHRISTY

I wish you believed in yourself as much as I believe in you.

There's an intimate moment between them -- broken by LOUD POUNDING on the door to the cabin.

CUT TO:

31 INT. MACNEILL'S CABIN - MAIN ROOM - NIGHT

31

MacNeill opens the door -- to David and Miss Alice.

DAVID

Christy is missing. Can you help us look --

He breaks off, as he sees Christy standing behind MacNeill, safe and warm. The closeness between them is still obvious. Off David -- and Miss Alice:

FADE OUT.

END ACT THREE

*DBL-SIDED
Book*

ACT FOUR

well down

FADE IN:

31A EXT. MACNEILL'S CABIN - PORCH - DAY

31A

The next morning. The storm is over. Christy buttons Mountie's coat and makes sure her scarf is wrapped tight.

CHRISTY (V.O.)

The rest of the night was awful. Dr. MacNeill and Miss Alice discussed Mountie's case in strained whispers. David and I avoided each other.

MacNeill comes outside, dressed for traveling. Still inside are David and Miss Alice, putting on their coats.

MACNEILL

(to Mountie, gently)

Good. You're all bundled up. I'll take you home now.

CHRISTY

Everything's going to be all right, Mountie. I promise.

Mountie wants to believe it. So does MacNeill. Off Christy:

CUT TO:

32 EXT. MISSION - DAY

32

Miss Alice rides her horse up to the mission, stone-faced, well ahead of Christy and David, who are both on his horse. Miss Alice keeps riding, up toward the corral. David stops, dismounts and helps Christy down, in front of the mission.

DAVID

I keep trying to rescue you.

CHRISTY

You were wonderful to come out in the storm, David. Thank you.

DAVID

I always seem to end up at MacNeill's -- and you're always safe. At MacNeill's.

(and then)

I'm glad he's leaving.

(CONTINUED)

32 CONTINUED:

32

CHRISTY
(stares at him)
How did you know?

DAVID
I overheard. By accident.

Before she can decide whether she's mad, he takes her hand and holds it, looking at her intensely.

DAVID
I'm sorry. I shouldn't have listened but I couldn't help it. I try to pray at night but all I can think about is you.

David kisses Christy gently. Slowly her arms rise to encircle David's neck.

DAVID
I need you, Christy. I want you to need me the same way. I want an "understanding" with you.

Christy studies his face. Her feelings are very mixed, joy on the one hand -- and thoughts of MacNeill on the other.

CHRISTY
Is this a marriage proposal, David Grantland?

DAVID
(laughing, a little taken aback)
Well, no. Not yet.

CHRISTY
(beat, smile failing)
Then what kind of understanding are you looking for? The kind that says I don't kiss anyone but you and that you can kiss me whenever you want to?

DAVID
Now, hold on --

CHRISTY
You never mentioned the word love. You want to kiss me but we hardly ever talk --

(CONTINUED)

32 CONTINUED: (2)

32

DAVID
You need words. I thought you
were smarter than that.

David grabs the horse's bridle and heads for the corral.

CHRISTY
(shouting after him)
I'm smart enough not to be fooled
by a man who sees I'm the only
eligible woman his age within
fifty miles!

He doesn't stop or turn around. Christy is suddenly regretful.

CHRISTY
David!

But he keeps on going. She could cry from frustration.

CUT TO:

33 OMITTED

33

34 EXT. MISSION YARD - DAY

34 *

Later. Miss Alice is almost ready to leave. Christy emerges
from the house, very apprehensive. *

CHRISTY
Miss Alice, we have to talk.

MISS ALICE
I don't have time. My trip was
delayed by the storm and I'm
overdue at Sand Mountain. I have
a number of patients to visit, I
can't say when I'll be back --

CHRISTY
Please! Don't shut me out.
(and then)
I know... this has something to
do with your daughter.

Miss Alice stops. She turns slowly and stares at Christy.

MISS ALICE
(softly)
What do you know about my
daughter?

(CONTINUED)

34 CONTINUED:

34

CHRISTY

She was married to Dr. MacNeill.
She drowned in a storm.
(and then)
He said they were unhappy.

Christy is unprepared for the intense emotion in Miss Alice.

MISS ALICE

I'm surprised he remembers. One
look at you and he completely
forgot Margaret. As if she never
existed. All he can see is the
chance to live his life over
again...
(the worst hurt)
And you encourage him.

CHRISTY

Miss Alice, you're wrong --

MISS ALICE

You make him forget. When he's
with you, there is no one else in
the world. Margaret means
nothing to him. He can pretend
he never had a wife. He can tell
himself he never loved her...

CHRISTY

There is nothing between Dr.
MacNeill and me besides respect
and friendship. I'm not your
daughter... But I care about you
and I'm sorry to cause you so
much pain.

The moment is broken with approach of MacNeill on
horseback, as he bursts into scene.

MACNEILL

I've changed my mind. I'm going
to try my treatment on Becky.
(off Christie's joy)
I don't want anyone there, I
won't be gawked at this time.
And she'll have to wear bandages
for several weeks. She won't be
able to go to school.

There's an awkward silence.

(CONTINUED)

34 CONTINUED: (2)

34

CHRISTY
(softly)
Thank you... for telling me.

MACNEILL
(beat, gruffly)
I'll let you know when to expect
her.

MacNeill leaves. Off Christy and Miss Alice:

CUT TO:

35
thru OMITTED
36

35
thru
36

36A EXT. MISSION YARD - DAY

36A

Christy comes down the hill from the schoolhouse.

CHRISTY (V.O.)
Miss Alice left without another
word and two weeks went by.
David kept to himself, and the
mission seemed cold and lonely.

David sits at the picnic bench, carving wooden plaque. As
Christy comes closer, he tries to hide it, then gives up.

DAVID
(awkwardly)
I've been working on this a
while. It's for you.

There's a Biblical saying on it. Christy is touched.

CHRISTY
That's very sweet. Thank you.

DAVID
You were right, Christy. I was
being selfish and unfair to you.
(and then)
If it's all right, I'd like to
sit by the fire tonight and have
a long talk.

*
*

CHRISTY
I'd like that, too.

(CONTINUED)

36B EXT. MISSION - KITCHEN PORCH - DAY

36B

Jeb is sitting on the steps, looking dejected. Fairlight comes out and sits beside him.

JEB

Have you lost faith in me finally, Fairlight?

FAIRLIGHT

No! I know you can take care of us, but you have to work so hard to do it! It takes half your profit on the honey to rent that old wagon and I spend the whole time you're away prayin' it don't break down. You're gone for weeks at a time in the dead of winter because it's the only time you can afford the rent on the wagon.

JEB

I don't mind --

FAIRLIGHT

I do!

(off his surprise)

If I keep workin' at the mission, we could start to save.

JEB

What is it you want that we don't have?

FAIRLIGHT

Wagon wheels.

Jeb stares at his wife like it's for the first time.

FAIRLIGHT

Stop spendin' your money rentin' that wagon. I'll work here while you and John build one. I can buy us flour and lard and we can eat the honey you ain't sold yet and the meat you and John hunt. You'll be home -- and someday we'll have us our own wagon.

The idea makes real sense to Jeb. After a beat:

JEB

How we gonna get a mule?

(CONTINUED)

36B CONTINUED:

36B

FAIRLIGHT
I'll think of something.

JEB
(beat, chuckles)
That's a fact. You probably
will.

He takes her in his arms and kisses her. Off their
happiness:

CUT TO:

36C EXT. SCHOOLHOUSE - DAY

36C *

After school. Christy comes outside to go home.

CHRISTY (V.O.)
Another week went by. Miss Alice
had never been gone so long, and
I missed her very much.

Then she sees Miss Alice, waiting for her.

MISS ALICE
I must ask thy forgiveness.

CHRISTY
It's not necessary --

MISS ALICE
I must.
(and then)
I blamed thee for being like
Margaret. I blamed thee for
living when she was dead. I
hated Neil for seeing her in
thee... because I did, too.

CHRISTY
She was your daughter. You loved
her --

MISS ALICE
I never let her go. To me, she
was not dead... until you came
here.

Christy can see the pain that caused her. After a beat:

CHRISTY
Do you want me to leave?

(CONTINUED)

36C CONTINUED:

36C

MISS ALICE

No. Oh, no. I've frightened
thee and I didn't mean to...

(joy breaks through)

When I was on the road, the light
came to me. I thought of the
love Neil and thee both have for
the children. And I finally saw
what I was meant to see.
Margaret is gone... and thou art
another gift.

She takes Christy's hands and gives her a radiant smile.
Christy smiles through her tears.

CHRISTY

I'm so happy you came back.

MISS ALICE

And thee does forgive me?

CHRISTY

Of course.

MISS ALICE

(after a beat)

Now tell me. How is Becky?

CHRISTY

Her bandages come off tomorrow.

CUT TO:

37 INT. MACNEILL'S LAB - DAY

37

Carefully, Dr. MacNeill cuts the bandages off Becky's eyes,
while Christy and Miss Alice look on.

MACNEILL

I excised the sores and debrided
the conjunctiva below the tarsal
margin and along the transitional
folds, to promote epidermal
regeneration.

CHRISTY

I see.

MacNeill looks at her confused face and laughs.

(CONTINUED)

37 CONTINUED:

37

MACNEILL

I scraped Moutie's eyelids so new skin would grow back without the disease.

He finishes removing the bandages. Moutie's eyes look fine, the skin pink and healthy. Miss Alice, Christy and MacNeill are delighted, but of course MacNeill tries to hide it. Moutie blinks, trying to get used to the light.

CUT TO:

38
thru
39
OMITTED

X

38
thru
39

40 EXT. MACNEILL'S CABIN - DAY

40 *

Later. Miss Alice carries Moutie outside, to a small crowd of children waiting for her. They crowd around, buzzing. Miss Alice glances back once at Christy and MacNeill on the porch, then busies herself with the children.

MACNEILL

Swannie O'Teale will have to clean up that cabin. I'll haunt her if she doesn't.

CHRISTY

If you don't, I will.

MACNEILL

I'm convinced trachoma is spread by dirty utensils. If the operation works, I don't want Moutie re-infected.

CHRISTY

It has worked.

MACNEILL

There's no guarantee. The sores could come back. And she'll need regular treatments with ox-bile salts for many months. That's crucial. I have to give the new skin a chance to grow.

CHRISTY

(looks at him)
You won't be here.

*If Mrs O'Teale
and other adults...*

(CONTINUED)

40 CONTINUED:

40

MACNEILL
(not looking at her)
I wrote to St. Timothy's. I told
them my work is in Cutter Gap.
If they want to provide money for
my research, I'd be delighted.

He does look at her then, with his lovely smile. *

MACNEILL
But I won't be going to
Baltimore.

Christy is happier than she could possibly explain. *

CHRISTY (V.O.)
I wondered why I hadn't noticed
before. It was a very beautiful
day. *

Off Christy, MacNeill, and a joyous Mountie playing with the
other children:

41
thru OMITTED
43

41
thru *
43

FADE OUT.

THE END

SCRIPT SUPERVISOR'S DAY BREAKDOWN
Episode 5 "Eye of the Storm"
Blue Script 11/28/93

DAY 1	Scs. 1 - 4
NIGHT 1	Sc. 5
DAY 2	Sc. 5A
NIGHT 2	Scs. 5B - 13
DAY 3	Scs. 14 - 22
NIGHT 3	Scs. 23 - 31
DAY 4	Scs. 31A - 34
DAY 5	Scs. 36A - 36B
DAY 6	Sc. 36C
DAY 7	Scs. 37 - 40