

*NB: This is not a word-for-word transcript*

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**Language focus: modals of speculation and deduction in the present**

**Mary narrating**

I've hardly slept since my uncle's shocking **confession** - how he **lures** ships onto the rocks and drowns women and children. Today, however, I have escaped and am on my way with Jem to the horse market in Launceston.

**Jem**

It's Christmas Eve, Mary. Why so quiet? What's happened?

**Mary**

Nothing...

**Jem**

You look tired.

**Mary**

My uncle has been drinking... and talking... I know about the **wrecks**, Jem.

**Jem**

And you think **I must be involved**...?

**Mary**

There are gaps in the story and you fit into them...

**Jem**

So you think I watch men and women drown and then steal from their dead bodies? ... I may have taken some **tobacco** sometimes from the inn... but I've never killed a man...

**Mary narrating**

Can I believe him?

**Jem**

If you don't believe me, why have you come with me today?

**Mary**

I like your bright eyes...

**Mrs Bassat**

Look, James! That pony looks just like Beauty, except Beauty was grey... How much is she?

**Jem**

She's not for sale. I promised her to a friend.

**Mrs Bassat**

How much does your friend want?

**Jem**

30 guineas.

**Mrs Bassatt**

Well, I'm Mrs Bassat. I'd like to buy her for my children for Christmas. I'll give you 35.

**Jem**

OK. She's yours.

**Mrs Bassat**

Here... My man James will ride her home...

**Jem and Mary**

[laughing...]

**Mary**

Jem Merlyn, you should be ashamed!

**Jem**

Quick Mary, stand under here... I'll keep you warm... We'll get **soaked** if we go back tonight. Stay with me in Launceston tonight.

**Mary**

No, I've been **foolish** enough today.

**Jem**

Alright... I'll get the horse... Wait here.

**Mary**

He is rude, a thief and a liar. **He might even be a murderer.** And yet, if he wasn't so much like his brother, I could fall in love with him...

**Mary**

Where is he? He left over 30 minutes ago... I'll ask that horse seller over there.

Excuse me, have you seen Jem Merlyn?

**Man**

The man with the black pony? I saw him with another man. They left in a **carriage**.

**Mary**

Oh no!

**Mary narrating**

Did they discover that the pony was stolen? Now I'm sorry I didn't agree to stay in Launceston with him... He went to get the horse to take me home... and now he's gone.

**Mary**

What shall I do? Perhaps someone will let me sleep on their floor.

**Vicar**

Hello Mary. What are you doing here on Christmas Eve?

**Mary**

Oh, Vicar, it's you...

**Vicar**

Come, I'll take you home.

**Mary narrating**

Once again I tell him my story ... the market, Jem's disappearance... His glass eyes show no expression...

**Vicar**

You are young... don't cry over him...

Am I right that it's quiet at Jamaica Inn...?

**Mary**

My uncle has been drinking. He talks... Vicar, do you know what **wreckers** are?

**Mary narrating**

I tell him what my uncle told me – about using lights to bring ships onto the rocks ... the dead women and children... the stolen **cargo**...

**Vicar**

So your uncle talks when he is drunk, does he? ... Well there won't be any more wrecks. The government is putting officers on the coast to keep watch.

I'll get off here. The driver will take you home. Goodnight, Mary.

**Mary**

What's happening...?

**Mary narrating**

A gun is pointing at me. I see a face I recognise – the eyes look crazy and mad... **it can only be one person...**

**Joss**

Get out! Ahh, so you've come back! What do you think you're doing at this time of night... on the road! Been with a man, I suppose.

**Mary**

Don't touch me! You're a murderer and a thief and I've been to Launceston today to **inform** on you.

**Joss**

Get back, you fools! She's lying... Get the horse Harry. The wind has changed... We'll use it...

So, Mary, you think you can inform on me so I'll hang...

You're coming with us! **We might not get far** but we won't stay here waiting to be caught! Away!

**Mary narrating**

Where we are going, I don't know. But I can see from the look in my uncle's eyes that something very bad is going to happen.

Join me next time – and find out exactly how bad things get when I discover what Joss and his gang of bad men really get up to.

## **Vocabulary**

### **confession**

admitting you have done something wrong

### **lure**

to tempt someone to go to a place they may not wish to go

### **wreck**

a ship that is destroyed at sea

### **tobacco**

substance smoked in cigarettes or pipes

### **guineas**

money used in Britain in the past. A guinea was a pound and five pence

### **soaked**

very wet

### **foolish**

not sensible

### **carriage**

a vehicle used to carry people in the past with four wheels and pulled by horses

### **wrecker**

person who makes a ship crash onto rocks in order to steal the goods it's carrying

### **cargo**

goods

### **inform**

to give information about a person who has done something wrong