

RIOGHAIN  
Have we gone far enough astray?

VIF  
Astray?

RIOGHAIN  
To confuse our trail.  
(beat)  
To throw them from the-

VIF slows and turns to her.

VIF  
Whither do you think we are bound?

RIOGHAIN  
To the beach.

VIF  
I sat that beach for weeks. There  
is nothing but corpses.

RIOGHAIN  
There is a boat.

VIF  
That leads where?

RIOGHAIN  
(flustered)  
Somewhere. Somewhere not here.

VIF  
Nowhere.

VIF continues walking. As she speaks, the mists seem to grow  
and grow around them.

RIOGHAIN  
Whither do you think we are bound?

VIF  
The hall.  
(beat)  
To free my jarl.

RIOGHAIN  
That is where *he* is bound!

VIF  
Yes. We stole a march on him.  
(beat)

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

VIF (cont'd)  
Now we go for the hall while he  
searches for you.

RIOGHAIN is shaking her head. VIF stops and turns towards her. All about them is nothing but white swirling mist; the forest is lost completely.

VIF  
Do not be afeared. You have my  
shield.

RIOGHAIN  
(beat)  
The same as your jarl did?

This stings VIF and she goes cold.

RIOGHAIN  
I will not walk into some devil's  
den.  
(beat)  
I will return to the beach and take  
the boat.

RIOGHAIN spins and starts to walk away. Then she stops short, caught by the collar.

VIF holds the other end of her chain. RIOGHAIN looks back, betrayal on her face.

VIF  
You are safest with me.  
(beat)  
If he comes upon you, here in the  
mists, he will-

There is a voice in the whiteness - a child's sobbing. The sound transfixes RIOGHAIN and seems instantly to forget about VIF. Her eyes wander the mist, searching for its source and she walks that way, until the chain goes taut.

VIF - who does not seem to hear the sound - looks down at the chain, tight in her hands. Link by link, she lets the chain go, until it falls from her hand.

RIOGHAIN does not seem to notice. She continues walking into the whiteness, an expression of terror on her face. VIF opens her mouth to say something but cannot find the words. Instead, she hefts her shield and follows cautiously begin.

Then she hears something - faded laughter - that make her stop.