

## Koyt (formerly The Bogus)

### *Prologue*

*Springville, Utah, USA '96*

*Underground*

**JOHN SHY** - *thin, undernourished, dressed in rags*  
*His lamp illuminates a row of human skulls*  
*He lifts one down, blows the dust off and inspects the jaw*  
*He plucks a gold tooth out with a pair of pincers*

**JOHN SHY**            Y'don't have to tell me it's a sin to rob the dead but I'm  
starving. If half these brain-pans was alive they'd give me their  
gold teeth outa compassion.

*He draws another tooth*

**JOHN SHY**            Name's John Shy. I can't get work see I'm on the black-

*A VOICE calls from above*  
**JOHN SHY recoils**

**VOICE**                (*sings*) Sing from the chamber to the grave,  
I hear the dying miner say...

**JOHN SHY**            (*petrified*) Hear that?

**VOICE**                (*sings*) A sound of melody I crave,  
Upon my burial day.

**JOHN SHY**            There's three or four hundred corpses round me and one of the  
bastards is singing a song.

**VOICE**                Help!

**JOHN SHY**            That's a mortal voice. He ain't dead. Yet.

**VOICE**                Help me!

**JOHN SHY**            I'm coming buddy! Hold fast!

**SONG** (*scherzo*)      Once there was a man  
Who called himself John Shy,  
But that is not the name  
That you will know him by.  
Which is just as well  
Cus John Shy was a loner  
With nothing to him till he took  
Another man's persona.

*Above ground, ARTHUR MAY lies dying in a ditch*

*Enter JOHN SHY*

**JOHN SHY** Know this man? Yes y'do. It's Arthur May. Governor May.

*ARTHUR MAY groans*

**JOHN SHY** Somebody put a bullet in him and I ain't at all surprised cus this guy is one prime bastard. Bin assassinated. Look at his stomach. Flensed and raw like the meat deck on a whaleboat.

**ARTHUR MAY** Mister-

**JOHN SHY** What is it Governor?

Arthur had some breath left  
To ask John Shy a favour-

**ARTHUR** (*adagio*) I'm on my way to Kernow  
To visit my old mother.  
I wrote her I was coming  
And I can't let her down,  
Wear my coat, say you're me,  
Go to my home town.  
If you can keep your nerve,  
They won't know your face,  
I was no more than a child  
When I was taken from that place.

*ARTHUR MAY dies in JOHN SHY's arms*

**JOHN SHY** His mouth is open but he ain't gonna sing no more.

*He extracts three gold teeth*

**JOHN SHY** Why should I do as he asks? He was Governor of Utah! Never did a god-dam thing for me. I don't owe him any favours at all. Visit Kernow? Where the hell's that? Go see his mother? Some old bitch who's expecting her son, a little boy who left home all those years ago, to pay her one final...one...before she...aw shit! The last wish of a dying man. To call on his mother. That's something. Boy I don't care if he's a friend or foe I'm a man of integrity and I will honour that wish.

The transformation is complete,  
John Shy is no more,  
And Arthur's journey started  
Towards a distant shore.  
Bound for a town in Kernow  
Where Arthur May was born,  
A desperate town, a lawless town,  
Where good days fear to dawn.

# Act One

*Rural Sanitary District of KOYT, KERNOW, '96*

*GRACE BRINEY'S shop on the eastern edge of town*

*SIGN: 'GRACE BRINEY'S sabotage shop; Dynies for sale; Top Kwality nitro; 'dozers*

*immobilized; Trespassers will be vindicated; Fish-head soup'*

*Enter JOHN SHY*

*BIDDICK BATE raises her head from behind a wall*

**BIDDICK** Stay where you are mister! If you value your life!

**JOHN SHY** Why?

*A loud explosion inside the shop*

*JOHN SHY drops to the ground*

**BIDDICK** She's mixin up the nitroglycerine.

**BRINEY** (*within*) Biddick!

**BIDDICK** Loosen the flange bolt on the acid inlet before you run the water!

**BRINEY** (*within*) I done that!

**BIDDICK** Did you pipe air up through the agitator coils?!

*Another explosion*

**BRINEY** (*within*) Biddick!

**BIDDICK** Shall I announce your arrival?

**JOHN SHY** Who to?

**BIDDICK** Grace Briney.

**JOHN SHY** Where am I?

**BIDDICK** Town of Koyt. Country of Kernow.

**JOHN SHY** Koyt. Strange place, no bones about it.

*Enter GRACE BRINEY*

**BRINEY** O yes! Every inch a Governor.

**BIDDICK** Governor is it?

**BRINEY** Governor Arthur May.

**BIDDICK** Huh.

**BRINEY** E said so on 'is letter.

**JOHN SHY**                    (*alarmed*) Which letter?

**BRINEY**                    The one you wrote to my late husband.

**BIDDICK**                    Blind Harold Briney.

**BRINEY**                    Chairman of Koyt Rural Sanitary Authority.

**JOHN SHY**                    How did he die?

**BIDDICK**                    Assassination.

**JOHN SHY**                    Let me see that.

**BRINEY**                    (*handing him letter*) It was the last thing I ever read to im.

**BIDDICK**                    Forgive us our grief.

**BRINEY**                    We only burned im yesterday.

*BIDDICK thrusts a bucket at JOHN SHY*

**BIDDICK**                    There's his ashes.

*Enter ALICE MAY*

**ALICE**                    I wanna stick a dynamite!

**BRINEY**                    A dynie madam? What size?

*ALICE snatches the bucket from JOHN SHY and empties out the ashes*

**BRINEY**                    Harold!

## **The Catch**

*SWIDDLES goes to the window and looks out. Looks at his watch. LEADWELL goes to the scullery for more toast.*

Bastard fog.

**LEADWELL**                    Where we gonna shoot they pots.

**SWIDDLES**                    Gulland.

**LEADWELL**                    Gyat tis fished out. Shoot em deeper man.

**SWIDDLES**                    An lose em. Git trawled up be the fuckin frogs.

**LEADWELL**                    Thass where the lobsters are. They idn crawlin.

**SWIDDLES** They id'n crawlin cus the grounds is getting churned up be the trawling.

**LEADWELL** Can't elp that Swids, thass a fact a life. Can't sit ere an bemoan the common market. Git our there an tangle with em.

**SWIDDLES** Bastards.

**LEADWELL** Ad a shindig up the lifeboat station 'smornin, in the crewroom, ad the news we'd lost the vote up Brussels, no to the twelve mile limit, Peeler said blockade the ports, stop em landing, I said whass the point a that, wun't last, Gilbert said e felt militant, I said we all do e said there's bugger all else we can do, Delwyn said blockade the navy up Devonport, Peeler said go on strike an I said whass the point a that we idn' catchin nothin anyhow what difference do it make.

**SWIDDLES** None.

**LEADWELL** I said the only thing we can do is refuse lifeboat assistance to French trawlers working inside the twelve mile.

**SWIDDLES** Can't do that boy.

**LEADWELL** I said thass all we can do. That a git national coverage, Gilbert said there's the RNLI principle at stake.

**SWIDDLES** Thass ob'm.

**LEADWELL** I said times are chagin. Values are changing. Principles dun't mean nothing in the world no more.

*Pause. SWIDDLES looks at LEADWELL.*

**SWIDDLES** Bullshit.

**LEADWELL** Bloody true man. Tis a changin world. Gotta save your own skin. Survival. Thass what we'm talking about. Takes months t'organise a blockade, be too late then, cus they'm killin immature fish. They got casualties occurring everyday out there this time a year, id a make the eadlines tomorrer, 'Lifeboat Cox Refuse Assistance to French Trawler Fishin Leb'n Mile Off the Coast'.

**SWIDDLES** The whole bloody institute was founded on if you got a man out there an e radio assistance you launch no matter what 'is persuasion no matter is religion or politics, six toes or glass eye, you git out there Leadwell.

**LEADWELL** Your livelihood man.

**SWIDDLES** Dun't wan ear no more.

**LEADWELL** Your livin. You think they frogs got scruples? They know what they'm doin to e. They know. Bloody French ab'm got a word in their language for scruple. Everytime e shoot is trawl e'm killin lobsters e know that. E could fish is own waters but the pounds strong an e git a better price over ere. Thass all e care about. E dun't give a fuck about you and me breakin our

backs over one lobster to a string a pots. Break is leg an e oller  
for the lifeboat an we toddle off to the bugger. Tis weak. Soft  
as sand. Clear as daylight to me. Make a stand.

- SWIDDLES** You'm riskin your life inne.
- LEADWELL** Thass zactly what I said.
- SWIDDLES** You'm riskin your life to save a man who's ruinin yours.
- LEADWELL** You got'm.
- SWIDDLES** Bloody ugly way to go 'bout things son.
- LEADWELL** Tis a bloody ugly world boy.
- SWIDDLES** Tid'n that ugly.
- LEADWELL** There's a world fulla Goggo's out there Swids, ready to scalp e.  
Got arm yourself man. Or go under.
- SWIDDLES** What th'other boys say? When you mooted that?
- LEADWELL** Went mute. Couldn'a believe I'd mooted it.
- SWIDDLES** You was ostrisised.
- LEADWELL** Gilbert said if I mooted it again I was off the crew. Back on the  
slipway.
- SWIDDLES** You'm unrepentant.
- LEADWELL** I bloody meant it boy. I bloody did.

## **Never Say Rabbit in boat (Extract)**

*HELLYAR comes hopping in, holding his finger.*

Squashed your finger eve e?

**HELLYAR**

Bloody rats!

**HAMILTON**

Rat bit e did e?

**HELLYAR**

Damn rat out there in the rubbish, gib'm a yell an slammed the door, caught me bloody finger, gyaw ta hell!

*HE hops and grabs the cleaning gear. Sits and starts cleaning the gun.*

**HAMILTON**

Want a beer Dad?

**HELLYAR**

Where d'y get that to?

**HAMILTON**

Up the pub, on the way 'ome, stopped off an got this.

**HELLYAR**

Paid for?

**HAMILTON**

Course!

**HELLYAR**

Giss one thun.

*HAMILTON opens a bottle and hands it to HELLYAR.*

**HELLYAR**

Anyone up there?

**HAMILTON**

One or two.

**HELLYAR**

When was the last time you cleaned this gun boy, no wonder you can't shoot straight, damn thing...(LOOKING DOWN THE BARREL)...'s rusted up!

**HAMILTON**

'Undred an fifty stone a fish, all pulled be 'and.

**HELLYAR**

That all?

**HAMILTON**

Each, that is...mind you, good money mind...dropped off when the wind got up though, thank God, easier then.

**HELLYAR**

'When the wind is in the East, the fish dun't feast'

**HAMILTON**

Gyaw I didn' 'alf envy they guard men at the end of the day, tis like takin sweets from a baby with a gurdy...

**HELLYAR**

Too damn soft, thass your trouble.

**HAMILTON**

They got strippers now...

**HELLYAR**

Eh?

**HAMILTON**

Strippers.

**HELLYAR**

*(STOPS AND LOOKS UP)* Women?

**HAMILTON**

No ya daft arab.

**HELLYAR**

What then?

**HAMILTON**

*(STANDS AND DEMONSTRATES)* You got your gurdy right?

**HELLYAR**

Ez...

**HAMILTON**

Let your line out, on your gurdy, find fish, wind up. You got a pully thing over on your other gunnel over ere...

**HELLYAR**

Gyaw.

**HAMILTON**

Line go round that, an back to this gunnel ere, now just ere, over the fish room, you got two strips a wood, like this...

**HELLYAR**

Gitton!



**HAMILTON**

Fish come up, over the gurdy, round your pulley, an they d'go through these strips, they d'catch their mouths an wrench em off th'ook.

**HELLYAR**

Good gor! Tis a bloody factory boy!

**HAMILTON**

Blood bath more like.

**HELLYAR**

But there's no skill to it these days boy.

**HAMILTON**

Not wi gurdies.

**HELLYAR**

All this electronic gear, dun't know what a gannet is, some ob'm.

**HAMILTON**

They do.

**HELLYAR**

They dun't! Can't tell a gannet from a black back... wouldn't know what to do if they seed a whale.

**HAMILTON**

Run.

**HELLYAR**

None ob'm know any a the superstitions.

**HAMILTON**

Eh?

**HELLYAR**

The old superstitions boy, there was a lotta truth in em, used ta live by em man, all the'old sayins...

**HAMILTON**

When the wind is in the East...

**HELLYAR**

True that is, thass damn true, that is...

**HAMILTON**

Hahahaha! Gyaaw, pack of ole...

**HELLYAR**

You laugh boy, but I can tell e a thing or two, make your  
'air curl...

**HAMILTON**

Gyat! (*HE drinks*)

*HELLYAR carries on with the gun. At length.*

**HELLYAR**

Never say rabbit in a boat, thass another one.

**HAMILTON**

Eh?

**HELLYAR**

Never mention rabbits in a boat. Bad luck that is.

**HAMILTON**

Gitton with e.

**HELLYAR**

Tis true that is, you mention rabbits in a boat boy, you'll  
never catch fish.

**HELLYAR**

Gor I ab'm eard nothing like it...

**HELLYAR**

I tell e boy, you go round talkin rabbit talk in a boat  
they'll...

**HAMILTON**

Who the hell's goin' ta mention rabbits in a boat  
anyway?

**HELLYAR**

Aah you dun't know boy, you'd be surprised 'ow often  
rabbits d' crop up in a conversation.

**HAMILTON**

They do wi you. You dun't talk about nothin but rabbits.

**HELLYAR**

Tid'n only me boy.

**HAMILTON**

Bloody rabbits all the time, you ab'm got nothin else in your 'ead bar rabbits...you an Stan Deock, saw e today, em another rabbit fiend.

**HELLYAR**

Gya e dun't know nothin.

**HAMILTON**

E'm all right.

**HELLYAR**

Dun't like'n.

**HAMILTON**

Harry asked'n come in on the net with us.

**HELLYAR**

Eh? Who?

**HAMILTON**

E'm comin in with us, sixth shareholder.

**HELLYAR**

E 'idden!

**HAMILTON**

'Sright.

**HELLYAR**

Why wad'n I consulted?

**HAMILTON**

Did'n think you'd mind.

**HELLYAR**

You can't ave e in!

**HAMILTON**

We've all decided.

**HELLYAR**

That does it, that is. What the hell do you. think you'm playin at Askin 'im! ...Bloody arabs!

**HAMILTON**

Aw come on Father...

**HELLYAR**

What on God's earth... thass me that is, mentionin bloody rabbits. I knew it, thass it, id'n it, thass talkin rabbits, I told e boy, they'm bloody potent these superstitions, mention bloody rabbits...

**HAMILTON**

You'm not in a boat!

**HELLYAR**

Anywhere! We'm talkin boats an rabbits, the two dun't mix! Talkin boats an rabbits then you tell me bloody Stanly's in on the net, e'm like a bloody rabbit e is, in a boat, jumpin up an down like a doe on 'eat....

**HAMILTON**

What the hell's wrong wid'n?

**HELLYAR**

Wrong wid'n! There's every damn thing wrong wid'n! E'm a bloody Jonah! You'm sunk wid'n anywhere near a damn boat or a net or a...sunk!

**HAMILTON**

Well tis too late Dad, we asked'n an e's keen, e's comin ere now with all the others to discuss the purchase.

**HELLYAR**

What a bloody flabborsome mess!

**HAMILTON**

Tidn flabbersome! Now just leave off Stanly Father...

**HELLYAR**

I wun't leave off'n!

**HAMILTON**

There idn' nothin you can do 'bout it so drop the bloody subject. They'll be ere in a minute.

**HELLYA1R**

Bloody smilkin e is...

**HAMILTON**

Leave off your words.

**HELLYAR**

Put in wi the bread an took out wi the cakes..

**HAMILTON**

Aww...

**HELLYAR**

You can't afford to risk a man like Stanly Deock near a net!

**HAMILTON**

Look, it take five men to handle a net, beach seine...

**HELLYAR**

I done it wi two.

**HAMILTON**

You got 'ave two in the bloody boat! One rowin, one shootin!

**HELLYAR**

Ez you, thass right..

**HAMILTON**

How the hell're e goin t'aul it if you got no-one on beach?

**HELLYAR**

...I arn't goin 'ave nothin do wid'n if Stan Deock is roped in for shareholder.

**HAMILTON**

You'm a damn stubborn ole man.

**HELLYAR**

If e'm in a boat, Amen said the goose boy, I wun't go near'n, not for any price...

**HAMILTON**

Keep'n ashore, e dun' ave ta shoot or row.

**HELLYAR**

Get the bugger within fifty yards of a boat an e's in'n boy, e'm too damn excitable, I seen im capsize a damn boat, tryin to land a conger, got that excited by it, sea was flat as a pea on a plate an e capsized the bugger tryin to kill this ere conger.

**HAMILTON**

We got 'ave six share'olders, we got th'original five'n me an you make six, an all the others agree to Stan an e'm keen to do it. Anyway, you dun't do bugger all, juss sit an grumble...

**HELLYAR**

Stanlys in, I'm out. There's such a thing as seamanship an e lack it...

**HAMILTON**

He dun't.

**HELLYAR**

E lack it summin cronic.

**HAMILTON**

E'll be ere in a minute...

**HELLYAR**

I'm gone.