



This is not a word-for-word transcript

Language focus: quantifiers: all, each, either, neither, every etc...

Mary narrator

I've not seen my uncle since I arrived. I am glad because he's got a violent temper and treats my aunt badly. This morning, I've been exploring the country around the inn...

There is nothing but **heather** and grass for miles. ...In the distance I can see the **marsh**.

It was in this wild and lonely land that my uncle lived as a boy with his two brothers... last night he told me their story ...

Joss

If you had lived here, you would have taken to drink, like I did. It makes you do things. I had a family once: a father, mother, two brothers, but **each one of them** disappeared one way or another... My father was **hanged**. He killed a man... My brother Jem is clever – but they'll catch him, too and hang him. My brother Matthew – well, he drowned in the marsh - they found him one summer when the marsh dried up...

Mary narrator

When I get back to the inn my uncle is there...

Joss

Well, did you miss me?

Mary

Did you have a nice trip?

Joss

Nice, **be damned**. I've been riding for four days. There was **a bit of money** involved... That's all I care about...

Mary

Well, I'll go and help my aunt.

Joss

It's me you'll be helping tonight, in the bar.

Mary narrator

It's Saturday night – the bar is crowded. The air is full of smoke and the smell of unwashed bodies. **All of them** are drunk. **Some men** are so drunk that they lie on the benches like dead men.

Harry (man in bar)

Another pint...

Joss

Hurry up there, girl.

Mary

Uncle, I cannot **bear** this. I'm going upstairs.

Joss

Too good for us are you? Well it's almost midnight now. Go to your room and lock your door.

Mary

Oww! Let go of my wrist! You're hurting me...

Joss

Hear this. Keep your mouth shut – and you won't get hurt - but if you start to ask ...

Mary

Oh! What's that noise? It's coming from under my room...

Mary narrator

The moonlight pours into my room, creating ghostly shadows. I creep over to the window. My uncle is below and I recognise other men from earlier this evening. There are four or five **wagons**. The men have been taking big boxes from them into the inn.

Harry

That's the last of them...

Joss

Good. Get going now. Be quick...

Man

What will you do about... him?

Joss

Don't worry. Harry and I will deal with him later...

Mary narrator

I understand now. They are **smuggling!** Jamaica Inn is a perfect place for it. But what's my uncle doing at the moment? I have to go and see...

As I get closer to the bar, I hear voices. I hide in the shadows.

Man

No, and no again - I will not be a part of it - that's murder you are talking about Mr Merlyn ...killing **innocent** women and children – no!

Joss

Not so fast. By God, you will do as I say! Another man said the same and he was hanging at the end of a rope a few minutes later! Harry – you go and lock the door behind you. I'll finish here...

Mary narrator

I feel sick. My heart has been beating so loudly, I am sure they have heard it. I go back to my room quietly...

Mary

What shall I do? If I had a gun or a knife, I could perhaps hurt my uncle so that the man can escape... But I have nothing. I must do something, though

Mary narrator

I creep downstairs again. The door to the bar is shut. There is silence. I suddenly know I have to open the door to find out.

Mary

There's no one here! Just the tables and **a few empty glasses**. The door is open at the back.

But wait... what's that hanging in the middle of the room? It's swinging... A rope hanging from a hook in the ceiling! But there's nothing on the end of it. What's happened to that man? I fear the worst...

Mary narrator

Next time we meet, an interesting visitor arrives at Jamaica Inn. But who is he - and can he be trusted?

Vocabulary

heather

a wild plant with small purple flowers that grows on hills and in wild places

hanged

to be killed by having a rope put around the neck and then being made to fall

marsh

area of soft, wet land

be damned

slang expression meaning you do not care about something at all

bear

continue to accept a bad or difficult situation

wagons

form of transport, with four wheels, which is pulled by horses

smuggle

to secretly bring things in and out of a place in a way that is not allowed by law

innocent

describes someone who has not done anything wrong

Comprehension questions

1 What happened to Joss's brother Matthew?

- a) He drowned in the marsh.
- b) He was hanged.
- c) He was killed by a man.

2 Why does Mary wake up in the night?

- a) Because someone knocks at her door.
- b) Because she hears noises below her room.
- c) Because the moon is so bright.

3 What or who does Mary find when she opens the door to the bar?

- a) A rope hanging from the ceiling.
- b) Her uncle and Harry.
- c) A dead man.

Feedback

1 a) Correct answer – Well done!

b) Wrong answer – He died in a different way.

c) Wrong answer – He died in a different way.

2 a) Wrong answer – She hears a different sound.

b) Correct answer – Well done!

c) There is a bright moon, but this is not why Mary wakes up.

3 a) Correct answer – Well done!

b) Wrong answer - There is no one in the room when Mary opens the door. She finds something else.

c) Wrong answer – She finds something else.