# Lock In Short Stories for Grown Ups submission Matthew McDevitt

## FX: AFTERNOON NOISES OF A QUIET BAR. LAND-LINE RINGS 4-5 TIMES

RORY Hello, The Ship, Rory Speaking?

NOEL (Wheezy) Hello. The Ship. Rory Speaking. You trying to put

manners on my bar?

RORY Naw Da. That's just how you answer a phone when yer a

business.

NOEL (Wheezy) By giving out all your details? Say nothing til you

hear more and say less when you do always done me grand.

RORY prison for receiving stolen goods.

stood behind the bar in wellies again.

NOEL The Ship taking on water?

RORY babysitting the last of the Summer Winos in three inches

of water.

NOEL Get down off the cross we need the wood. Put me on

loudspeaker. I want to speak with my people.

#### FX. NORMAL CALL CUTS TO LOUDSPEAKER

Here! Shouldn't half off you be at work?

#### FX: CHEERY RESPONSE FROM 4-5 REGULARS

(LOUDSPEAKER CONT'D) Thought so! The usual culprits. Quick hello just. I'm out on the veranda to get the signal and you could fry an egg on top of me. Keep her between the ditches! (CHUCKLES) Here am I still on louds

NOEL Appreciate the support Son.

RORY	Naw. Most of our regulars have spent time in an institution.  . Da, times have changed. People need a reason to go to a pub nowadays.
NOEL	Beyond Alcoholism?
	How is Charlie?
RORY	g us as a reference on job applications
	again. I need to sort this place.
NOEL	Trouble in paradise? Hope not. Here I need to head. Haiku
RORY	Haiku Workshop?!
NOEL	I know. I swear I'm using muscles in here I never knew I had.  Did you know it can take a whole lifetime to get one just right.
RORY	Well sure ye've time on your hands.
NOEL	Clever.
RORY	Well-
NOEL	G

### FX: NOEL hangs up.

RORY -(DEFEATED) never agreed to anything.

## FX: MOBILE PHONE RINGS. CLASSIC NOKIA RINGTONE.

RORY Uh... Hello? Who's this?

NOEL (SOTTO) Keep it down. Morris is experimenting with Lucid

Dreaming.

RORY Da is that you? Here how are you ringing me?

NOEL Me and Morris have a wee Nokia 3310 on a timeshare.

RORY Naw, people have timeshares on flats in Tenerife or caravans

in Bundoran. Not on Nokias.

NOEL Wee heads up just. Mickey II drop some oil in to you Sunday.

RORY Tell him not to bother, I never

NOEL Son, I wouldn't normally ask -

**RORY** 

NOEL (IGNORES) -but it's for Lorenzo. Rory...I think the cheese

has slid off the cracker with this fella.

RORY In what way?

NOEL	Wee things. No one can talk during Bargain Hunt. And I
------	--

mean not at all. He basically controls the canteen menu.

re all on. Goji berries are not a

dessert. What's wrong with a bit of dream topping? Sure he's

made Movember compulsory.

RORY It's not even November Da.

NOEL I don't know if he knows that. It's like a Burt Reynolds

impersonator society in here. Poor Fitzy has the wispiest

RORY You make jail sound like a

NOEL Look son,

RORY Stop tapping your head when I cannae see ye. Has to be

somethin

do it.

NOEL Yer very ruthless got. I mind the days when you were as

innocent as the parish disco.

RORY I help you boys trip the light

fantastic and you help me keep the lights in the bar on. Deal?

NOEL Deal. Accounts for the Oil..

**FX: KNOCK KNOCK ON CELL DOOR** 

**FX: Text Alert** 

NOEL Has the Spy come in from the cold?

**FX: Text Alert** 

RORY If you mean has Mickey dropped off the oil then yes.

**FX: Text Alert** 

NOEL Secretion.

FX: Text Alert (marginally quicker)

NOEL Discretion. Sorry. Autocorrect. Use code from now on.

**FX: Text Alert** 

RORY AYE. The eagle has landed. The Moscow winds blow cold.

I know why the jailbird sings.

**FX: Text Alert** 

NOEL Aye, like that. Smiley Face.

NOEL (SOTTO) Naw Son. I'm being bullied by yer man over there... and that boy... and a few others. They all run for Lorenzo. It's his show.

NOEL Pretend you have asthma! Fake an attack!

RORY I do have asthma! Ye not mind hiding my inhaler every time I

played football. Kept telling me to walk it off!

NOEL Did I? Sorry son. I'm not proud of that.

RORY Look Da just tell me where the books are. The Ship is literally

.

no books.

RORY No books. Nothing at all?

NOEL It genuinely was always (tap tap) in here.

RORY How is seeing you tap your head worse?

You wrote nothing down?

NOEL You've brains to burn. That's your thing. Only thing I can do

is get on with ones. So that's what I do. I don't write things

down.

RORY Except that number in the Wispa wrapper!

NOEL You still have that?

RORY Binned it.

NOEL Shame.

RORY I risked joining you in here for nothing then?

NOEL I know we've some strange laws in this part of the world,
Son... but I'm pretty sure beard oil is legal.

RORY Beard oil? Ye think I'm simple? You said the whole wing's

NOEL ive with the

fact she was calling into the bar to see me as much as you.

RORY Hardly!

NOEL . You used to be

good craic.

**RORY** 

NOEL That

RORY Cheers. What would you and Claire even have to talk about?

NOEL YOU!

FX Chair scrapes back. RORY leaving.

MORRIS You do. The worst jail is a closed heart.

**FX TEXT ALERT** 

MORRIS BTW in 3 to

6 months.

**FX TEXT ALERT** 

MORRIS Behaviour dependent.

**FX TEXT ALERT** 

RORY Night Morris.

THE END