

You Saw Me Standing Alone

By Leonie Thompson

CHARACTERS:

SAM, a teenager aged 17

AMANDA, a woman in her 60s

CLAIRE, a woman in her 60s

EXTRACT:

*At the point at which Amanda mentions the map, she takes an old, well-worn OS map from out of her coat pocket, opens it and becomes muddled, turning it upside down. **CLAIRE** gently and calmly takes it from her and slowly refolds the map as **AMANDA** continues with her story. **AMANDA** does not recognise **CLAIRE**'s presence.*

You know, however much we had eaten for breakfast we were always ravenous by lunchtime—probably all the fresh air! Old “Mrs B-and-B” even loaned us a pair of binoculars one day so we could watch the birds from the cliff top and that’s when we saw the grey osprey. It was all just by chance—we happened to be there at that time, an extremely rare visit to this shore, by an endangered bird, seen by us through borrowed binoculars, loaned to us for one day. But that’s how life works, isn’t it? Once in a blue moon wonderful things happen all at the right time, just by chance and it’s a magical moment. Claire’s pure joy when she spotted the osprey was just lovely, she actually jumped up and down with excitement... and that’s when I knew I loved her.

***CLAIRE**, who has an old-fashioned pair of binoculars around her neck, smiles, remembering, as the story of the sighting of the bird is told.*

We were together for forty-four years. Rarely a cross word and just so much love. My soulmate.

*The women then face each other directly for the first time and smile. **CLAIRE** gently hands the folded map back to **AMANDA**. They softly touch each other’s faces. **CLAIRE** backs away and slowly walks off stage. Sam remains oblivious to **CLAIRE** but is still interested in **AMANDA**'s story.*