Episode 7

UID:

Scored Music '107m01' In: 10:00:0

10 00 00 The cover is removed to show the dead man's face. **POWELL** Your father was poisoned. Powell is mixing chemicals into the bell jar as he speaks. James wanders around in the background. POWELL (CONT'D) I would say heavy doses over a short period. 10 00 0 The house is a mess, it has been raided by the soldiers and Brace is desperately trying to tidy things up. Lorna sits by the trunk she has brought inside. LORNA Brace. What's the matter? Brace stops tidying and stands facing Lorna, staring at the trunk. BRACE The truth. 10 00 10 Establisher. Sir Stuart waves a letter as he talks to WILTON... **STRANGE** Language 10:00:10 Those bastards at the Palace have opened a Royal Commission into the sinking of the Influence. 10 00 12 FLASHCUT: Slaves in the hold of the ship reaching out through the hatch 10 00 1 James pulls the scarf over Robert's mouth.

**JAMES** 

CHOLMONDELEY (V.O.)

You are now one of us.

Taboo, Episode 7 script page:

# WILTON Sir Stuart just wants you to know.... It's war!

#### SUDDENLY THE FELICE ADVENTURERO EXPLODES.

WILTON OS

The gloves are off.

10 00 3

James wades out in the water.

WINTER

James. What are you doing?

**JAMES** 

Go away. I am! not fit to be near you! now.

10 00 ( )

The tide has ebbed and it is low as the sun rises.

James wakes on the mud. He is unsure where he is at first. He walks around.

He sees at a pile of rags, walks over, looks with horror as he sees a dead mutilated body.

It is Winter. And she is dead.

Scored Music '2 4 (t) 4 (o)1 ( ) 4 (k)

UK TX Post Production Script

Helga speaks from memory her own words, with a grim certainty....

#### HELGA

Sent to you aboard a sunrise along the road of the river that she loved as if it were her father.

The priest is cold and weary of this but picks up...

## **PRIEST**

Along the road of the river she loved as if it were her father'.

He turns the page over...

10 02 /

10 0 12

James is sitting by his desk in the attic. He appears drunk; half asleep.

WINTER (V.O.)

! ..too many bodies in river. Can I sleep under your house tonight?

JAMES (V.O.)

No. Go away, I'm not fit to be near you now.

Then he hears movement in the shadows. He looks up. At the edge of the candlelight he sees Winter, soaking wet and shivering. Winter speaks softly.

WINTER

James!

James glances over

**JAMES** 

You're among them now, aren't you? The one's who used to sing to T 0..245() 5 (i) 6 (n), A

#### CHICHESTER

I received a message that you wished to speak with me.

James knows already that this man has been looking for him and now a conversation with him will evidently suit his purpose.

Chichester enters. There is no formal greeting.

CHICHESTER (CONT'D)

After you have eluded me so long...

Chichester walks past James, into the sitting room.

James is in the mood for not caring, for speaking in riddles...

CHICHESTER (CONT'D)

May I sit?

**JAMES** 

Hmmm! I need to know why you're seeking me?

Chichester sits (James actually knows Chichester's business already but, for now, the question looks real). Chichester is in the opposite mood to James. He is neat, sober, composed, deadly. James knows it, but feels something positive coming from him.

#### **CHICHESTER**

First, I must tell you that I already know <u>many</u> things about you.

James peers at him. He must knock the certainty out of this man...

**JAMES** 

And I need to be clear that you're not a spirit like the others.

**CHICHESTER** 

No. I'm a rationalist.

James walks into the sitting room and pours himself some more brandy from a side table.

**CHICHESTER** 

I'm carrying out an investigation as part of a Royal Commission...

Chichester now sees that James knows already. Chichester wants to get control, take this onto his own analytical territory but James interrupts.

**JAMES** 

Language 10:09:27

I heard that you don't drink! . that you don't fuck whores and err, that you're squeezing Sir Stuart Strange on behalf of the King...

**CHICHESTER** 

(interrupting)
On behalf of justice.

James sits opposite Chichester.

**JAMES** 

Oh justice, oh no. You believe in justice?

**CHICHESTER** 

I do.

**JAMES** 

Yet you're a rationalist. What kind of rational man believes in justice?

CHICHESTER

I'm investigating the sinking of a sloop called the Cornwallis, renamed the Influence, off the coast of Cabinda in July Eighteen O'Four.

James meets Chichester's stare.

CHICHESTER (CONT'D)

Mr. Delaney. I have strong reason to believe that you were aboard the ship the night it sank.

A pause.

#### **JAMES**

Oh no, no! there no use. I am always like this. Please carry on.

Chichester sees the marks on James' body. He suspects trauma and tries empathy....

Chichester takes a moment. In all his previous encounters he has been in control. Now he is wrong-footed and James is taking him deeper into his own certainty. Chichester returns to facts.

#### CHICHESTER

You travelled to the Volta as a slave and then began to deal slaves. You stole diamonds from a fellow slaver and then returned to London.

#### **JAMES**

I have done much worse things, than stealing diamonds.

#### **CHICHESTER**

Yes. I know this too.

#### **JAMES**

Ah! What do you want?

Chichester is finding it hard to maintain his purpose but cuts to it....

#### CHICHESTER

As far as I can ascertain, you are the only surviving member of the crew of the Cornwallis. I want you to write an account naming Sir Stuart Strange as the man who organized the loading of the Cornwallis with slaves. Bound for a sugar plantation in Jumby Bay Antigua. Owned by his own brother.

A pause. James takes a sip of his brandy.

#### CHICHESTER (CONT'D)

In return, the Royal Commission will offer you a full pardon for your crime. For crime it is.

A pause. James is in darkness and we just see the shine of his eyes. We might guess this is all part of his wider plan.

#### **JAMES**

I have an alternative suggestion.

10 12 0

James is now looking at Zilpha and for the first time Zilpha sees pain on James's face, hidden deep. She knows him well because she knew him as a child. But she misunderstands...

Scored Music '107m10' In: 10:17:1

**ZILPHA** 

(Bluff reminiscence)

When you first came back, you told me you loved me... I would never thought...

James interrupts...

**JAMES** 

But you don't think! Do you?

**ZILPHA** 

I know you. I know your nature. I know you.

James interrupts firmly...

**JAMES** 

No! I believed once that we where the same person.

**ZILPHA** 

(A plea)

We are.

**JAMES** 

(shaking his head)

We are not.

**ZILPHA** 

(A plea)

We are.

He stares at her....

**JAMES** 

Not any more ! . Perhaps, you should thank your God for that.

Zilpha realises what he is saying and looks devastated, but tries to stay strong.

**ZILPHA** 

(Perpelexed)

No. No James!..

Pause.

ZILPHA (CONT'D)

No.

Pause.

ZILPHA (CONT'D)

No. You can't do this!

1	(Pause) Not now.	
1	It is done.	JAMES
1	Please ! ?	ZILPHA
Zilpha is horror s the table.	struck. He opens	s a drawer and takes out a single diamond. He pushes it across
1	For your widowl	JAMES (CONT'D) hood.
Zilpha is speechl	less, she cries o	out.
1	Now, I have wo	JAMES (CONT'D) rk do so, please excuse me.
Zilpha is bereft.		
We see the barre	els of gunpowde	er stored in Bedlam. Rain is dripping in through the roof.  Scored Music '107m10' out: 10:18:4  Scored Music '107m11' In: 10:18:4
		-
		s is soaked. He repeatedly knocks on the doors. James is n his back and another sack filled with tools.
A Guard opens t	he heavy door t	o reveal a fire burning brightly.
1	No fires within the	JAMES hese walls.
1	I'm sorry.	GUARD

10 1 3

10 1

# ATTICUS We're not moving the powder today are we?

No response from James.

ATTICUS (CONT'D) So, what's so urgent I had to d

We hear footsteps on the stairs. James is in the house.

James enters, halfway out of his coat. He registers what's going on. Lorna looks up. Expects the worst.

**JAMES** 

Where's Brace?

As James comes in. Robert looks nervous. He tries to help immediately.

**ROBERT** 

In his room.

**LORNA** 

He's been there all day, either mad or sick. Or drunk.

**ROBERT** 

We knocked. He won't answer.

James walks back up the stairs. Brace will answer to him.

10 21 21 - ' -

Rats fun freely about the house.

Brace's room is spartan and tiny. Everything is neatly stowed. We are in his inner sanctum but it gives precious little clues to the man.

Brace lies in his clothes on a narrow bed. He holds something in his hand and stares, not out of the window, but at the wall. He is completely closed in on himself.

We sense his desolation even more, when he ignores James' heavy footfalls on the stairs. Then on the landing.

JAMES (O.S.)

Brace. You are not sick and you are not dead yet.

Brace continues to stare at the wall, not moving.

JAMES (O.S)

Come out, or I will come in there and drag you out.

Brace pushes himself to a sitting position on his bed.

10 21 0 -

James is sitting on the landing, waiting. We hear footsteps. It is Brace; he has left his room and joins James on the landing, taking a seat opposite him. His hand is still clenched on the unknown things. His face set away. James watches him; remains still.

**JAMES** 

Talk to me, about the rats.

Brace senses what's coming.

BRACE Every house has rats.

**BRACE** 

You were dead. Everyone was at his throat. He was burning his own flesh! He had no need to go on. Nothing left to live for.

A pause.

**JAMES** 

So you did him a kindness.

**BRACE** 

I put an end to his pain.

**JAMES** 

You did him! a kindness!

BRACE

I killed him! You came back too late! For both of us.

There's a silence.

Brace is looking at James. Beseeching him to understand and shaking with unvented sobs.

**JAMES** 

You are wanted urgently downstairs.

We hear the banging of Lorna "preparing the duck" from below stairs.

Scored Music '107m13' out: 10:24:0

JAMES (CONT'D)

Mrs. Delaney is destroying the kitchen. She's about to ruin a duck.

Brace looks away from James in disbelief.

10 2 12 .

HELGA
In gold.

A pause.

PEARL
And silver.

Strange completes the details fast, like rolling down a hill...

STRANGE And you are a British citizen?

HELGA German by birth, British by marriage.

**STRANGE** 

And you....

**PEARL** 

I'm from Dulwich Sir.

**STRANGE** 

Dulwich. Very good...

Scored Music '107m14' In: 10:25:5

Strange raises his hand and Godfrey stops writing. We come close to Godfrey as he reacts to Strange, who now speaks fast and even to Wilton and Pettifer.5 (er) 4 (.) 5  $\,$  3 ( )(n)sTm /8 7 (r) 5 cm BT 0.1

#### STRANGE (CONT'D)

He'll be cut to pieces, a piece each gentlemen...

As they all laugh, Strange gets to his feet, raising his glass in a mock toast.

STRANGE (CONT'D)

Gentlemen.

**HELGA** 

Sir, can we go now?

Strange looks at Helga with amusement.

**STRANGE** 

Go?

All the men laugh and peer at them...

STRANGE (CONT'D)

No. No. No. No.

STRANGE (CONT'D)

You are far, far too precious to 'go' anywhere.

He is more serious now.

STRANGE (CONT'D)

And as accessories for a crime against the Crown there will be due process. Take them.

Helga steps back. Strange gestures at the footmen, who were waiting at the door for this purpose. They approach...

STRANGE (CONT'D)

You will be held in a secure place until your pardon can be exchanged for your testimony in court.

**HELGA** 

What?!

The footmen grab the two women and pull them towards the door. Pearl immediately begins to struggle and yell.

YoL PEARL

10 2 3 , -

Thoyt reads aloud from a heavy legal text. Coop, Strange, Wilton and Pettifer are hanging on his words.

#### THOYT

'In the event of the conviction for <u>high</u> treason, compassing the death of our Lord the King, then the law of 'Corruption of Blood' will take precedence over all other'.

Strange can't help but smile to himself at the beauty of this outcome...

# THOYT (CONT'D)

'All land, property, chattels and investments of the guilty party will pass without hindrance to the Crown...

Coop reacts. Thoyt looks up and reads from memory...

COOP

Go on.

**STRANGE** 

The ladies who are to give the crucial evidence against James Delaney are now in the protective custody of the East India Company....

Coop gets it fast. He laughs as Strange continues...

STRANGE (CONT'D)

Their whereabouts are, are known to just a handful of trusted Directors.

Coop can't help but smile as Thoyt hands Strange a scroll in canvas cover which he begins to unpack.

Strange hands the scroll to Coop.

STRANGE (CONT'D)

So. To ensure their safe delivery...

A pause.

STRANGE (CONT'D)

We humbly suggest you assign a monopoly. The trade in sea otter pelts for tea, between Nootka and China....

A pause.

COOP

In favor of the loyal ! . and honourable East India Company.

Coop takes a moment, knowing the game is over and also knowing it is an honourable draw.

COOP (CONT'D)

The King gets the land. You get the tea trade.

Coop hides in studying the scroll. The Company men are still not sure he will go for the deal (though he has no choice). At last he turns to Strange.

COOP (SOFTLY)

You got lucky with a whore, Stuart.

Stuart grins almost bashfully, the game over, he can be himself and looks almost child like...

**STRANGE** 

Well, there was an element of fortune. And an element of God's grace.

Pettifer then adds darkldamoks almost41 0 0 8 0.24 E

In just a moment we might sense a dark secret between Strange, Wilton and Pettifer but Coop lets it pass. He doesn't need the details. We will return to this. For now, Coop turns to the window...

Scored Music '107m16' out: 10:32:0 Scored Music '107m17' In: 10:32:0

COOP

Language 10:32:07 So get to it. Arrest the bastard.

10 32 0 - -

James and Godfrey have arrived outside the Molly House. When Godfrey realises where James is taking him he is surprised.

Chichester looks around and glances back at the book of erotic art...

#### CHICHESTER (CONT'D)

You lead a very interesting life...

Godfrey turns quickly to James as Chichester takes a seat.

#### **GODFREY**

James, if he is religious and scornful...

#### **CHICHESTER**

I am scornful of those who judge. I myself, am only concerned with men's minds. Clothes are of no interest to me. We can talk with purpose or without purpose.

Godfrey pours himself a large glass of gin and takes a large drink.

#### **CHICHESTER**

We can talk with purpose or without.

James holds out his hand for him to stop.

#### **JAMES**

Godders!.no gin.

All three men, including Godfrey, know that James is playing Godfrey, warming him up, using him, but Godfrey is in love with James.

#### CHICHESTER

Your account of the sinking of the Cornwallis, changes everything.

**GODFREY** 

A pause. Godfrey takes a big swig from his glass.

CHICHESTER (CONT'D)
How long have you worked for the East India Company?

Taboo, Episode 7 script page:

# JAMES (CONT'D) You will never have to testify. My ship will sail long

Taboo, Episode 7 script page:

UK TX Post Production Script

## **JAMES**

Well what's the use in hiding? I need a ship and passage...

## GODFREY

James, they're not going to give you a ship they're going

(giggling)
Then surely we should stay!

The other Mollies all laugh raucously at this joke.

**MOLLY IN TURBAN** 

Ooohhh! . You're almost out of wine!

MOLLY IN HEAVY FACE PAINT

I know! I think that wine has gone to my head!! Oh here he comes.

Scored Music '107m19' out: 10:38:0. Scored Music '107m20' In: 10:38:1.

**JAMES** 

Who said that?

MOLLY IN HEAVY FACE PAINT

Me.

**JAMES** 

Right.

A pause.

**JAMES** 

I suggest that you leave, very quickly and very, very quietly. Or you can stay! for the extreme violence that is coming your way.

The Mollies have lost a bit of their bravado and look nervously at each other. They know of James Delaney.

**JAMES** 

Your choice!

**MOLLY** 

Come on ladies.

They leave quickly.

10 3 3 / .

The militia dismount and head inside and start searching.

James sits as he waits for the militia to find him. Picks up the cards from the table.

Then the soldiers enter in a swarm.

**CAPTAIN** 

Go! He must ( )(u) 3 8 2 176.96 cm BT0.0119 Tc 41 0 0 F (iT01 0 0F (j E6q 09 1 ( ) 0980

In here Captain!

#### **CAPTAIN**

James Keziah Delaney, you are hereby charged with High Treason compassing the death of our Lord the King!

James is smacked in the face with the butt of a rifle.

Scored Music '107m20' out: 10:39:24 Scored Music '107m20b' In: 10:39:24

10 3 2 . ' /

A young man in the clothes of a junior CLERK comes running at full pelt.

CLERK

Doctor Dumbarton!! Doctor Dumbarton!!

Dumbarton is hard at work on the fixing of colors into a sheet, using his vat and wooden staff. All

The soldiers eventually leave, locking a beaten and naked James lying on the floor.

10 0 / -

We follow Lorna as she walks down a street.

Lorna's eye is drawn to a group of mudlarks who are hanging out, dividing spoils and talking strategy. She stoa9.6 **Q** 0.24 0q 0.24 0q 0.240 0**Q**Segydt..24 0.24 0 0 0.24 290.2656 7T 0970 0BT 0.0092

Lorna watches him and waits patiently. Temple looks at her, scared.

10 2 10 . ' -

Brace is hard at work scrubbing a pot. Perhaps too hard. He works with a feverish intensity in cold water. Lorna enters taking off her coat, filled with her news...

Scored Music '107m23' out: 10:42:1.

Brace continues to scrub.

**LORNA** 

Brace? Brace? Brace, where's James? I need to talk to him...

Lorna comes close and sees the fierce look in Brace's eyes as he scratches at the iron pot furiously. She speaks evenly to bring him back...

LORNA (CONT'D)

Brace, I spoke to a witness. It wasn't James that killed the girl...

Scored Music '107m24' In: 10:42:3

Brace scrubs the pot harder and harder...

LORNA (CONT'D)

It was the Company...

She speaks clearly to get his attention....

LORNA (CONT'D)

It was the East India Company. I need to tell James....

We see blood pouring from Brace's hand.

Lorna sees this also and stares at him, confused and shocked.

**BRACE** 

Arsenic is gentle.

He suddenly sweeps the huge iron pot onto the ground and the noise is deafening as it breaks apart. Lorna flinches.

BRACE (CONT'D)

It was mercy. Horace was no longer a Christian soul. I only wish I'd killed James too. Give him a kind death. Protect him from himself...

Lorna stares at Brace...

BRACE (CONT'D)

Instead, they've got him.

**LORNA** 

What do you mean? Where is he?

## COOP (CONT'D)

! who will do most of the necessary work. Although for some tasks he will need helpers with strong hands.

Coop gestures to the two soldiers.

## COOP (CONT'D)

And together they will walk you along a tight rope. The line between life and death.

James is retreating into his inner world as Coop paces around his chair...

## COOP (CONT'D)

We need the names of all the people who helped you manufacture the gunpowder.

10 3 . -

Cholmondeley is burning papers. He turns and puts on his hat...

COOP (V.O.)

Move the gunpowder, but most pressingly of all, we need the names !

10 , -

The Countess Musgrove is emptying a drawer filled with papers. The papers contain letters and also codes and cyphers. She begins to dump the papers onto a fire which billows smoke...

COOP (V.O.)

Of all the members of the Society of Secret Correspondence that you have dealt with.

10 . -

Coop comes close.

COOP

The Americans.

10 0 . -

On the Countess Musgrove.

COOP (V.O.)

The places you met. Code names, signals.

On her secret papers, burning in the fireplace.

10 0 . -

Cholmondeley heads out of the door with a small suitcase.

Well in that case Mr. Delaney, Sir Stuart Strange is busy. Mr. Arrow starts grating James' knee again. 10 21 Chichester is sitting at his desk, holding a nail, twisting it and tapping it on his desk. 10 3 James is being held down whilst being waterboarded. This is brutal. The doctor checks James' vitals before they repeat the process. COOP Give us the Americans and then we'll stop! There is no response from James so Coop signals to Mr. Arrow to continue. 10 1 23 10 2 10 Coop checks his watch. **SOLDIER** Sir! Coop steps forward and pulls back the hood from James' face. James spits out the water. Scored Music '107m26' out: 10:48:4 COOP What did you say? Mr. Delaney! What did you say? A pause. JAMES (CONT'D) (whispered exhaustion) Stuart Strange... That is not what Coop wants to hear. The hood is put back over James' head. 10 A golf club whacks a golf ball.

Coop nods and turns back to James...

COOP

Sir Stuart Strange is a man at peace with himself. He feels he has won a battle and is taking a day off. He is playing a round of golf. His caddy is black and wearing the livery of the Honourable East India. The caddy stands to attention.

Sir Stuart is not happy with his shot but he takes it well. He walks on.

In the near distance we see a figure approaching on foot.

Sir Stuart is finding his ball and planning his next shot onto the green. As he crouches he notices a figure at the edge of the rough.

We will know it is George Chichester but to Sir Stuart the man is a stranger. Chichester stands and watches Sir Stuart prepare his shot. Finally he addresses Chichester with some irritation...

**STRANGE** 

Caddy. If you have lost your master go to the club house and ask...

Strange stands over his ball.

STRANGE (CONT'D)

Don't stand there gawping.

A chill wind blows...

**CHICHESTER** 

I have no master. Sir.

Strange looks up, amused...

**STRANGE** 

You're not a player.

**CHICHESTER** 

No. Not of this game.

Strange is no fool. He has begun to suspect who this might be. He angles his head.

**STRANGE** 

Look. Do you mind? I've got a shot to make.

**CHICHESTER** 

So make it.

Strange is now deeply uneasy. He stands over his ball. Chichester studies him. Strange abandons his shot.

STRANGE

Who the hell are you?

After a pause.

**CHICHESTER** 

My name is George Chichester.

10 0 . -

Godfrey is now dressed entirely (and believably) as a woman as Martinez approaches in his rowing boat.

GODFREY Where exactly are we going?

Martinez stays silent, offering his hand to Godfrey.

We end on Martinez rowing Godfrey past the Tower of London, down the Thames. On Godfrey's lap is a leather bag.

10 12 . -

A large globe spins very, very fast. We pull out to reveal the Prince Regent sitting beside it, spinning it with a mix of fury and boredom.

Scored Music '107m27' out: 10:51:3

The globe spins faster and faster until at last Coop enters and bows. The Prince turns and lets

₹D 1

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Scored Music '107m30' out: 10:57:0-