

Roger Casement's 1916

**By Mike O'Donnell
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Note to Director: This is a play written in verse format. It may be performed as either a one-man show or otherwise.

The following is the cast:

- Narrator, Lindsey Talbot Crosbie
- Roger Casement
- An approaching stranger, man on Banna Strand
- Four witnesses
- Three RIC men
- Two guards
- Prison Warden
- Gertrude Bannister (Cousin of Roger Casement)
- John Ellis, Hangman
- Police Detective
- Sir Arthur Conan Doyle
- Miss Malone (Housemaid of Sir Arthur)
- Unidentified man and woman
- Anonymous Barrister
- Frs. McCarroll and Carey (Prison Chaplains)
- King's Coroner
- 3 Judges
- F.E. Smith (Attorney General)
- Gavan Duffy (Solicitor for Roger Casement)
- Serjeant Sullivan (Casement's Chief Counsel)
- Gallery
- Court officials
- John Ellis's assistant
- Two Irish Officials (Messrs. Ronan and Ward)
- 15 present at exhumation
- Extras for court, exhumation, procession and burial

Sections and corresponding lines

1. Landing in Ireland (1)
2. Arrest (146)
3. Tralee RIC Station (188)
4. Transfer to London (232)
5. Incarceration in the Tower of London (296)
6. First visit of John Ellis, Hangman in Prison Cell (375)
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8. Arraignment at Bow St. Police Court (491)
9. On remand at Pentonville Prison (525)
10. Casement is Troubled (553)
11. Visited by Cousin, Gertrude Bannister (623)
12. At residence of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle (650)
13. Another Visit to Casement by John Ellis, Hangman (680)
14. Trial (702)
15. Verdict (943)
16. Casement's Speech from the Dock (970)
17. Death Sentence is passed (1040)
18. Hangman John Ellis visits Casement (1063)
19. Reaction to Sentence (1195)
20. Police Detective re-visits Sir Arthur Conan Doyle (1135)
21. Support Wanes (1225)
22. The Appeal (1277)
23. Witnesses Home in Kerry (1401)
24. Preparations for Execution (1430)
25. Casement Prepares for Execution (1475)
26. John Ellis makes final preparations with Casement (1538)
27. Casement's Execution (1592)
28. Immediately upon Execution (1614)
29. Casement's unhappiness at Pentonville Burial (1638)
30. Agreement finally reached on Exhumation of Casement's Remains (1728)
31. The Exhumation of Casement (1792)
32. Transfer of Remains to Ireland (1846)
33. Casement is Buried at Glasnevin (1900)

Part 1: *Landing In Ireland*

1. (*Narrator*) I, Lindsey Talbot Crosbie, saw his footprints on Banna Strand
2. Tracing a path from water to land;
3. Like crooked marks of drunken feet
4. Homeward bound and fatigued.
5. They wandered left and stumbled right;
6. I saw even handprints assist his flight.
7. I followed them like a dog would set
8. On a woodcock, snipe or cock pheasant.
9. Across the strand the trail extended
10. And up the dunes it ascended.
11. Until it seemed to be far from clear
12. To where this trail disappeared.
13. No grains of sand, no heavenly view
14. Could offer me an intelligible clue
15. Of where this fugitive had fled
16. Or where he might have laid his head.
17. It occurred to me it was a phantom
18. Who had laid a trail for some enchantment
19. And led me on an aimless journey
20. So he could laugh at and confuse me.
21. I aimed to turn back and homeward bound
22. After a pointless search and nothing found,
23. When at that moment a muffled cry
24. Caught my ear and alerted my eye.
25. I searched all round like a hungry hound
26. Thirsty for the blood of flesh of fowl.
27. A furious search I undertook
28. Was it the sound of the fugitive?
29. Or was it the cry of the curlew yonder?
30. Or the screech of a gull? I wondered
31. No, no it had come from a human soul
32. Tender, piteous and unmistakable.
33. I listened again until I heard
34. That cry again and, upon my word,
35. It was much closer than expected
36. Just a single dune eastward.
37. I scurried towards the sandy hillock
38. And, with determination, scaled it.
39. Strewn in a depression lay a man
40. Exhausted, prostrate, tormented.
41. He lay motionless - eyes heavy with fear
42. As though his end was perilously near.
43. His body trembled, his lips were blue,
44. Like an ensnared creature facing his doom.
45. He curled into a desperate contortion
46. Wild and wicked, cold and tortured.
47. By sea and cold he was so worn to a thread
48. Had he not stirred I'd have thought him dead.

49. He uttered some words but all in vain;
 50. The trembling made him sound insane.
 51. I wrapped my coat around his shoulder
 52. After some minutes he sounded bolder.
 53. (*Casement*) 'I was thrown overboard as you can infer
 54. I thank you for your kindness, sir.
 55. You must think it unusually strange
 56. To find someone jettisoned by waves
 57. Whose pursuit was of a scholarly kind
 58. An author studying a saint so divine.
 59. St. Brendan is my course of study
 60. I want to publish a book on his life.
 61. Many thanks good sir, you granted me favour;
 62. Today I've found, for me, my saviour.
 63. This strand must be Heaven, I do decree,
 64. For I came from the seas of purgatory.
 65. And if your name St. Peter be
 66. Please guide me to where I should proceed.'
 67. (*Narrator*) But who was I truly, he enquired,
 68. A friend or a foe in wool attired?
 69. So often he said he had met one with kindness
 70. Only to find, in the end, an enemy's conspiring.
 71. 'I am the one who found you', I said,
 72. 'When many a person might have left you dead.
 73. You are the stranger upon my shore
 74. You tell me, I implore, who you are.'
 75. He repeated to me he was an author
 76. Saying to me 'I'm Richard Morton'
 77. (*Narrator to Casement*) 'With your puckered face of a newly plucked beard
 78. You are attempting to hide yourself, I fear.
 79. You're as true a Richard Morton
 80. As a blooming daffodil in Autumn,'
 81. (*Narrator*) In an unconvinced tone I replied
 82. Thinking there was more to this man than met the eye.
 83. (*Casement*) 'What is it to you, you idler on this strand,
 84. What my name is or where I'm from?
 85. What business brings you to this shore?
 86. Such inquisition I should ignore.
 87. What causes you to accost me thus?
 88. Why, to you, I should be anonymous.
 89. Who are you to interrogate me?
 90. Why should I adhere to the truth?
 91. Won't you, like the others, run
 92. And me, like a fool, abandon
 93. Hungry, tired, sick and sore,
 94. A wretch upon this heavenly shore?
 95. No prodigal son am I to ye,
 96. Just a fool, a stranger, a rebel, a queer.
 97. I'll not be taken by a kindly hand
 98. And given food, shelter and protection.

99. I'll be cast like a demon from a raging pyre
 100. Expelled like truth from the mouth of a liar.
 101. But though I be an exhausted, helpless, nuisance
 102. I shall not forfeit my independence.
 103. I shall stay here until I gather my strength
 104. And make my way over sand through fields.
 105. And continue on my pilgrimage.
 106. Skylarks will be my choir overhead
 107. Primroses provide my garden bed.
 108. This is no hill of Calvary where I am seated now
 109. Just a resting place for an exhausted brow!
 110. Why should I die for the sins of men
 111. When men will readily condemn me?
 112. Go on your way and thanks for your good nature
 113. Enjoy this strand and your ambulation.'
 114. (Narrator) Not content to be led for a knave,
 115. I enquire further into his identity:
 116. 'Tell me the truth, you don't lie very well;
 117. Your words are broken as your face swells.
 118. Tell me the truth, your words and body
 119. Do not rhyme when side by side.'
 120. He stirred again, his countenance pained
 121. His weakened body further strained.
 122. What he concealed thus far from me
 123. He now decided to reveal;
 124. And said in weakened voice and depleted tone:
 125. (*Casement*) 'I'm Roger Casement and have come ashore
 126. To warn of the madness yet to come.
 127. But now I fear I am undone.
 128. Please say nothing of this truth
 129. For I fear I'll die in the hangman's noose.
 130. Guilty as a dreadful traitor I will be found
 131. And thrown like a dog in a hole in the ground.
 132. Please let me go about my way.
 133. You saw nothing of me on this Good Friday.
 134. I shall remember your faithfulness
 135. If you make me such a promise'
 136. (*Narrator*) Before I could even utter a response
 137. I heard a shout from just beyond
 138. (*Approaching man to Casement*) Who are you, stranger? What has you here?
 139. (*Narrator*) A plucky young man I could see.
 140. I gently placed Casement's head back on its side
 141. And tried to blow the dust from his blinking eyes.
 142. I retreated behind the sand
 143. And left the stranger to the young man.
 144. I watched from a distance until others gathered
 145. And from the fort Casement was summoned.

Part 2: Arrest

146. Armed RIC men from Ardfert were around him
147. Quite content to have finally found him.
148. I warmed my hands in the fire aglow
149. ‘You were with him, weren’t you?’
150. A maid uttered in accusatorial derision
151. ‘You were in the fort earlier with him’.
152. (*Narrator to maid*) ‘I was not, you silly woman!
153. Go away and go back to your milking!’
154. ‘Yes, you were’, she protested
155. ‘Just before he was arrested’
156. (*Narrator to maid*) ‘No I wasn’t, you were seeing things.
157. You suffer from your imagination.’
158. ‘You shed a tear for him just there;
159. Yes you were with that stranger’
160. ‘No girl’, says I and just at that moment
161. The cock crew as the party left
162. On a horse-drawn cart
163. A mile or so to Ardfert.
164. The prisoner turned his head
165. And upon my face he stared;
166. I knew forever from that moment
167. Whether I denied him or didn’t
168. My soul was wedded
169. To that of Casement.
170. And I should follow where he would go
171. Traitor, patriot, rebel or foe.
172. His body looked neither alive nor dead
173. While to the RIC station he was led.
174. Pale and weak and dour he seemed
175. Like a lost animal in faraway fields.
176. From the cart he climbed to ground.
177. ‘That’s the stranger’, said the whispers around.
178. A drink was served from O’Flaherty’s bar
179. We all assumed for the prisoner.
180. There was some deliberation amongst the locals
181. Ranging from the fearful to the jocose.
182. But the general agreement among us all
183. Was summed up aptly by a local:
184. ‘A man in distress but of some distinction
185. We are not quite sure of his intention.’
186. Speculation ran wild from parish to nation
187. Was this a prince, a scholar or a German collaborator?

Part 3: Tralee RIC Station

188. After some time he was taken to Tralee
189. To the RIC station under an Inspector Kearney.
190. ‘Who are you?’ he enquired of the prisoner

191. Who replied he was the author I mentioned.
 192. Kearney being well-read and well-informed
 193. Knew well of his provenance but held no scorn.
 194. He summoned a priest from the Dominican friary
 195. Who proceeded to make the very same enquiry.
 196. 'I am Roger Casement and I'll make my confession,'
 197. He admitted to the priest without any reticence.
 198. A Doctor Shanahan was called to examine the prisoner;
 199. He alerted those who could be his rescuers.
 200. Kearney unlocked the barracks to provide for an escape
 201. But no risks would the locals dare to take.
 202. 'Who is this foreigner, a stranger, a fool?
 203. Let him bear the consequences of his folly to boot.'
 204. Kearney dried his clothes and fed him steak
 205. And together they debated world affairs.
 206. From their discussion Kearney assessed
 207. The true identity of his noble guest.
 208. Seeing in his eyes deep dejection
 209. And that leaving this world was the prisoner's intention,
 210. Kearney prevented him taking that course
 211. And gently composed his soul.
 212. He kept him overnight in a comfortable bed.
 213. Casement did much appreciate his kindness.
 214. The following morning he was taken through Tralee;
 215. People wondered who he was and what business he had;
 216. Such a tall man walking unchained to the railway
 217. To anyone's eye he seemed to pose no danger.
 218. He climbed aboard a train to Dublin;
 219. With an accompanying RIC man he shared a cabin.
 220. I saw him as I followed them on that very train
 221. And saw the prisoner grow pale with strain.
 222. I saw him enquire of a story that read
 223. Of two men sent from Dublin who were now dead.
 224. I saw Casement shed a tear and maybe more
 225. For those young men who perished the night before.
 226. He had strengthened since I met him on Banna Strand;
 227. He was a different man so he was;
 228. Though it has to be said that from time to time
 229. He faltered and descended to a depression of some kind.
 230. Maybe he was right all along when on the shore
 231. He held little hope for what lay in store.

Part 4: *Transfer to London*

232. When the train reached Kingsbridge Station
 233. You could see the darkness descend on Casement;
 234. The gloom that I spoke of became more pronounced
 235. With a sudden breakdown of his countenance.
 236. The grand figure wilted like an autumn leaf
 237. Touched by wintery ice - its demise a certainty.

238. The six foot four man stood as though four foot six
 239. Diminished, defeated, depleted, depressed.
 240. The next I saw of him was what looked like a ghost
 241. Curled up in a cage on the Holyhead mail-boat.
 242. How much I wanted to wrap my coat round him;
 243. He looked even worse than when I had found him.
 244. (*Casement to Narrator*) No I can't take it, thanks once again.
 245. Hopefully there'll be some warmth in London!
 246. (*Narrator*) He reached out his hand and as I met it
 247. I could feel his long bones as cold as the metal.
 248. (*Casement*) They can have all they like of this flesh – what little is left
 249. But, my friend, they cannot take my spirit!
 250. They can flog me, shoot me, hang me to death.
 251. It is as free as the primrose or lark
 252. Or the waves that wash along Banna's shore
 253. Where lovers walk and yarns are told;
 254. Where hearts are elated and worries are stilled;
 255. Where strangers can meet the kindest friend;
 256. Where the elements are at play
 257. Without pause night and day.
 258. There my spirit will find peace
 259. Where the wash and the shore happily meet.
 260. It is to there one should retire
 261. Till the end of time.
 262. (*Narrator*) Without warning I heard a deafening roar
 263. From the mouth of a policeman in a furore.
 264. (*Guard 1 to Narrator*) Hey you! Yeah you! What is your name?
 265. Are you with this criminal, you too, a shame?
 266. (*Narrator to Guard*) No, sir. No, sir. No, I'm not
 267. What a bad night it is – hope we don't hit rocks!
 268. (*Guard to Narrator*) Yes, it was you who chatted with the prisoner
 269. You are a friend of this here traitor.
 270. (*Narrator to Guard*) Oh, upon my soul, I know not him
 271. Or any prisoner in any dungeon!
 272. (*Guard 2 to Narrator*) Yes, I saw you! (*Narrator*) said a guard from a
 shadow.
 273. (*Guard 2*) You have been with him – I saw you from below.
 274. (*Narrator to Guard 2*) No, no, not me, I'm just an innocent party.
 275. Just passing the time since we departed.
 276. (*Narrator*) Just then the foghorn blew.
 277. Another denial – this I knew.
 278. The prisoner, my friend, was brought by train
 279. To the Tower of London without delay.
 280. His spirits were confused - he must have been deluded.
 281. As he lay in the cabin, wild and mercurial,
 282. Laughing and crying I heard him shout
 283. At a rodent, who had squatted there, and to get out.
 284. They both shared the darkness and each other's company
 285. (*Casement*) You're not my first rat and not the last – that's a certainty!
 286. (*Narrator*) Both survived the journey though the rat must have been as scared

287. To share the cabin with a man so afraid.
 288. At the journey's end, 'twas difficult to tell
 289. Through the shadows into whose hands Casement fell.
 290. (*Casement*) I should not be here, this is a foreign nation!
 291. Send me back to Ireland! (*Narrator*) he yelled with indignation.
 292. (*Casement*) I'm not from here, I owe nothing to you.
 293. You do not own me, I speak the truth!
 294. (*Narrator*) He complained and protested but no mercy was shown;
 295. In the Tower he was thrown.

Part 5: Incarceration in the Tower of London

296. The crash of the door, he could tell,
 297. Had the finality of the funeral bell;
 298. Or the certainty of the hangman's floor
 299. As the condemned fall through the gallows' trapdoor.
 300. He lay in his cell for hours upon the flagstones,
 301. Leaving them colder than his bag of bones.
 302. There was no shore for him to see,
 303. No sky larks or butterflies, no fresh breeze
 304. But only a dismal blackness that only stones can thrust,
 305. A blackness that can be smelt and touched.
 306. Scrawled on the walls was the graffiti of the terrified,
 307. Written by those now crucified.
 308. (*Narrator to Casement*) 'Is this as you expected?' (*Narrator*) I nudged him on
 the shoulder
 309. (*Casement*) 'At least in here I won't grow older!
 310. London Tower is the final trench of many a rebel
 311. Who to the feet of the Crown would never grovel.
 312. If I share their fate it is so proud I'll be.
 313. For infinite love of my sacred country.
 314. I'll hang not like a criminal upon the gallows
 315. But like a primrose – noble and hallowed.
 316. There is no shame, as I see it, to die for love
 317. Only a shame to love to die for nonsense.
 318. No shame to be in this hideous tower
 319. Because wrongful force can never vanquish rightful power.
 320. And so it is with the land of my birth
 321. Its enslaved soil will soon yield a harvest,
 322. Providing an abundance of freedom
 323. From the shackles of this enslaving kingdom.
 324. On that day men will love and labour
 325. In harmony with nature's favour;
 326. My land will be free and breathe
 327. As the Almighty must have decreed.
 328. If my blood into that soil does seep
 329. My ghost will rest there and pleasantly sleep.'
 330. (*Narrator*) Thus he spoke for hours on end -
 331. Consumed by a feverish mania
 332. Until at last his mind gave in

333. And in a stupor he sought water to drink
 334. Roaring at his jailors and insane with thirst
 335. Who provided a bowl after an hour had passed.
 336. The prisoner collapsed in a ragged fall
 337. On to a five foot bed he tried to crawl.
 338. *(Warden)* Get up, get up you rotten prisoner!
 339. Stand up straight; you have a visitor!
 340. *(Intelligence Officer to Casement)* Casement is your name I do believe?
 341. Roger Casement or do my papers deceive?
 342. *(Casement)* I am he, *(Narrator)* the miserable prisoner replied.
 343. *(Intelligence Officer)* You are to be charged with high treason, *(Narrator)* the
 visitor sighed.
 344. *(Intelligence Officer)* Surprise, surprise you rotten traitor
 345. To hell you'll go and forever be tortured.
 346. Prepare your defence, if defence there be,
 347. And beg like a dog for the Lord's mercy.
 348. *(Narrator)* Whoever he was he clicked his fingers
 349. And not for a moment longer did he linger;
 350. The great iron door again was slammed
 351. To remind Casement that he was damned.
 352. *(Narrator)* 'Take little notice', I whispered to him;
 353. He is but a tool of the King's dominion.
 354. 'What did he say,' was Casement's reply,
 355. 'That should surprise one destined to die?'
 356. *(Narrator to Casement)* Is that really your fate Mr. Casement?
 357. Is your attitude truly so fatal?
 358. Why are you willing to resile from your life?
 359. You are desperately adored by many outside.
 360. Think about your plain human side!
 361. Forget about Ireland just for a while.
 362. There are many outside who love you, you know it;
 363. Men and women, artists and poets.
 364. Why forsake them when you ought to contest
 365. These pernicious charges to your very best
 366. Lest you lose all you possibly have
 367. And break so many people's hearts?
 368. Think of the horror on your family's position
 369. To have had in their household a wicked traitor.
 370. At least fight this and don't surrender
 371. Argue your case with a fine defender.
 372. A neck was never saved by a clear conscience;
 373. The hangman's noose can't see innocence.
 374. Speaking of whom, listen who calls at the door.

Part 6: *First visit of Hangman John Ellis in Prison Cell*

375. *(Warden to Casement)* It's John Ellis, the barber and executioner.
 376. *(Casement to Ellis as he enters)* Is this not a little premature, young man?
 377. I've not even had my arraignment!
 378. *(Hangman Ellis)* A courtesy call, Mr. Casement, or is it Sir Roger?

379. You might know I double as a barber.
 380. And better to look well when appearing in court;
 381. You never know what the magistrates looks for.
 382. Being shaven and trimmed can them impress
 383. After all they love their own fancy dress,
 384. With wigs and gowns and God knows what else!
 385. Show them your hide, show them your flesh!’
 386. (*Casement*) Nice thoughts in that barber’s head of yours;
 387. Step right in and mine peruse.
 388. (*Hangman Ellis*) Your hair Mr. Casement is as black as soot
 389. And as wild as a scattered bramble bush.
 390. Your beard it is a mangled fixture;
 391. Are those blackberries on your whiskers?
 392. Where have you been, you’re so unkempt?
 393. You’re not fit to be in Tower of London!
 394. There are rats outside far more groomed
 395. Coats all tailored, whiskers pruned.
 396. And as for your rags, perhaps you should borrow some feathers
 397. From an itchy crow at the end of his tether.
 398. My, oh my! Is that a scalp at last?
 399. Or the crooked floor of a blind bird’s nest?
 400. (*Casement*) ‘Oh what a pleasure to have your manly fingers run through my
 hair;
 401. A delight in this place is so terribly rare.
 402. Your fingers soothe my scalp and mind.
 403. Oh, please do touch my...Right! That’s fine!
 404. (*Hangman Ellis*) Now I’m all ready for your chop!
 405. (*Casement*) You really only mean my hair, my mop?
 406. (*Hangman Ellis*) Steady man, I’m wearing my barber’s apron;
 407. My fingers must have your mind mistaken.
 408. I’m chopping you in the way of high-street fashion.
 409. Your curls - they are a common passion;
 410. Your beard will need a good clipping;
 411. Your whiskers, well, now, now they’re fitting.
 412. (*Casement*) So how many souls have you despatched?
 413. (*Hangman Ellis*) Not one while shaving I must admit!
 414. (*Casement*) So you’re John Ellis – barber and executioner?
 415. (*Hangman, Ellis*) Mr. Casement, I don’t like to mix business and pleasure.
 416. (*Casement*) Well, is it dozens or scores whose lives you’ve ended?
 417. (*Narrator*) It was well over a hundred, he contended.
 418. (*Casement*) Do you recall them all individually?
 419. (*Hangman Ellis*) If you must know – no, not really!
 420. (*Casement*) ‘Some must stand out in your mind, in truth!’
 421. (*Hangman Ellis*) Yes, some indeed, the difficult ones do.
 422. It is not a job of which I’m terribly proud;
 423. I promised my wife I’ll stop soon enough.
 424. It’s difficult to speak of the souls I have killed;
 425. Some fight and resist and their minds are ill;
 426. Other I’ve seen run to the gallows;
 427. Death an escape from a life so horrible.

428. 'Kill me quick, kill me quick!' I once heard a young lady cry;
 429. Those were her last words before she expired.
 430. No prayers for her soothed her mind;
 431. She had lived in hell even before she died.
 432. Did you hear that they hanged an elephant
 433. In America for misbehaving?
 434. How could they hang an animal?
 435. And can you imagine the size of the gallows?
 436. (*Casement*) What, my friend, are they saying outside of these walls?
 437. What are they saying about my cause?
 438. (*Hangman Ellis*) Your case is certainly the talk of the streets
 439. If I were you, I'd hope for little sympathy
 440. While our young men in Belgium and France for his Majesty bleed,
 441. A traitor betrays him in his hour of need.
 442. I know these young men being mangled and maimed
 443. Neighbours children, young men I could name.
 444. John Rawson – a young fellow not yet nineteen
 445. Died after being cut to smithereens;
 446. I attended his funeral – a child I knew well;
 447. I used cut his hair and now he's blown to hell.
 448. What, good God, is your defence?
 449. Have you any bloomin' common sense?
 450. A celebrated hero, a consul, a knight!
 451. Why such awfulness did you ignite?
 452. The newspapers are full of hatred for you
 453. And your hair and beard are bloody messes too!
 454. (*Casement*) Oh please, Mr. Ellis, can you relax a little further?
 455. Your blade is a little close as you caress my jugular.
 456. Mr Casement finally looked neat and trim
 457. And duly presented for his arraignment.

Part 7: Witnesses to Casement's Landing

458. People who were present at Casement's arrest
 459. Were summoned by the Crown against him to attest.
 460. (*Witness 1*) I can remember the look his face bore when he came ashore;
 461. He was like one of those strange birds blown here by a storm;
 462. Or a stray dog wandering around
 463. Hoping it was home he had found.
 464. You could tell by the look of him
 465. That he was foreign.
 466. (*Witness 2*) Do you think he came to the wrong place?
 467. He in Currahane - for what business?
 468. (*Witness 3*) Are we doing the right thing?
 469. Travelling all the way to London?
 470. What good is in it for us here?
 471. (*Witness 2*) Isn't it a wonderful journey?
 472. Isn't it being paid for?
 473. Isn't it great to get something for nothing sur'?
 474. Isn't it right to stay on the right side of the law?

475. Aren't we doing the RIC a favour?
 476. Won't they look kindly upon us?
 477. (Witness 1) Will they remember that they owe us?
 478. Will they thank us?
 479. What's in it for us?
 480. The odd person says we are betraying him.
 481. I heard someone saying it;
 482. That we should have given him shelter.
 483. And what would happen then?
 484. Our places would have been turned upside down
 485. 'Cause they'd search for him all round.
 486. And if under your bed he was found,
 487. 'Tis you would be on trial in London Town.
 488. (*Witness 4*) Who? That fella Casement?
 489. What's he to us?
 490. Sur' we never heard of him before.

Part 8: Arraignment at Bow Street Police Court

491. (*Narrator*) Legions of lawyers, batteries of reporters,
 492. The idle, the curious, some silent supporters,
 493. Thronged the court for Casement's appearance.
 494. 'As guilty as sin', said the whispers all round us.
 495. The charge was of course no surprise;
 496. High treason was the count that he denied.
 497. The hearing was held in Bow Street Police Court
 498. Where on behalf of Casement his counsel spoke
 499. In response to the Crown Prosecutors
 500. Who put forward the case that he was a traitor.
 501. (*Artemus Jones, Counsel for Casement*) My Lords, my client rejects the
 notion that he engaged in
 502. Any matter conceivable as treason.
 503. He proposes to contest the count as it is prosecuted
 504. As manifestly unjust and will hence refute it.
 505. There is no substance to this accusation,
 506. A terrible, insidious, dangerous allegation
 507. Which, in its entirety my client rejects.
 508. His life and reputation we shall, my Lords, protect
 509. And prepare his case from this day forth.
 510. My lords, may it so please the court.
 511. (*Narrator*) What happened to such a wonderful hero?
 512. Was he diseased or too full of his ego?
 513. Was he led by an evil so grotesque
 514. Was he insane, psychotic, depressed?
 515. What a shameful enterprise had he undertaken!
 516. What were his motives for being so mistaken?
 517. How could he turn from being a servant of the Crown
 518. To being a hideous traitor? He must be a clown.
 519. Such were the questions and conversations
 520. That dominated tea-time deliberations.

521. High-society was confused, perplexed;
 522. Casement the knight, his good name suspect?
 523. From few did Sir Roger truly find favour;
 524. This was, afterall, the knight turned traitor.

Part 9: *On remand at Pentonville Prison*

525. To Pentonville Prison he was remanded
 526. To await trial for his head, which the prosecution demanded.
 527. Amongst gangsters, thieves, murderers and rapists,
 528. Blackguards and brutes and thugs so disdainful.
 529. It was here that Casement took up quarters;
 530. 'Twas a busier place than he was used to.
 531. Cries and shrieks, screams and yells
 532. And on the quarter peeled the chapel bells.
 533. The rattling of pots and clanking of manacles
 534. Dragged by the feet of bitter untouchables.
 535. Rodents of all types, shapes, denominations
 536. Crawled with impunity at every location.
 537. Rats looked down on mice in the social order
 538. Just like inmates were by their prison wardens.
 539. (*Casement*) How wonderful to have paper – a means of liberation
 540. From this torment and toil and degradation.
 541. How heartening to read letters from my loved ones from so far
 542. I know their hands and their bodies were against this paper.
 543. Is that not the scent of my love, a divine incense?
 544. I smell the delicate flesh that on the ink caressed.
 545. Is that not the essence of that beautiful heart?
 546. We are no longer, in truth, that far apart.
 547. Oh that I was with you, I'd take you to my bosom
 548. And tenderly plant my lips on yours, my devotion.
 549. What matter the chatter of idle tongues?
 550. To such matters true lovers ought never succumb.
 551. I'll write from this altar a missive to thee;
 552. Oh the censor will dismiss it so ruthlessly!

Part 10: *Casement is Troubled [sits on bed]*

553. (*Casement*) What is it that stirs my sleep these early mornings?
 554. I nearly fall from the bed, something torments.
 555. I cannot even begin to explain!
 556. Granted I have my own normal complaints;
 557. Trial, certain condemnation, execution,
 558. Hunger, pains and the fowl morning ablutions.
 559. But this disturbance I fail to comprehend;
 560. Nearly every morning since April's end.
 561. In those moments of peace I've always cherished
 562. I am stirred from my sleep as though I will perish
 563. There on the spot here in this cell.

564. It actually frightens me, I'm sure you can tell!
 565. Maybe I should not know, maybe it's a wicked spell
 566. Cast by the devil, who's prodding me from hell.
 567. Or maybe it's nothing, some minor disease;
 568. No it can't be, I've had all of these.
 569. A single thundering sound explodes through my head
 570. As though a bullet from an Enfield fills me with lead.
 571. Every morning, it must be at 4 am
 572. And when I'm roused, everything is still.
 573. I hear the sounds of the distant kitchen
 574. Milk being delivered and the sound of the chaplain.
 575. Can you tell me, my friend, can you decipher
 576. What does it say or what does it augur?
 577. (*Narrator to Casement*) Yes I can explain, and yes I can tell
 578. But I warn you – prepare for something horrible.
 579. You remember why you landed on Banna's shore?
 580. To warn them that Germany would give no more!
 581. (*Casement*) Yes, Crosbie! (*Narrator*) But they did not listen, your warning
 they dismissed;
 582. The rebellion went ahead, their chance they would not miss.
 583. Throughout Easter Week they brought Dublin to its knees.
 584. Led by a poet, they commandeered the city
 585. A proclamation was read, a Republic declared
 586. In this very Empire, how well they dared!
 587. Atop the GPO a green flag was unfurled
 588. As bullets flew and bombs were hurled.
 589. (*Casement*) Tell me how did matters unfold?
 590. Nothing of this I have been told.
 591. (*Narrator*) The forces of the Crown being alerted
 592. Pounded the rebels from all directions.
 593. The centre of Dublin soon stood in a shambles
 594. As though the Great War to Dublin had just rambled.
 595. Artillery, machines guns, powerful shells
 596. Rained down on the city as though deep in Hell.
 597. The terror unleashed was unimagined;
 598. Scores were killed even women and children.
 599. Many hundreds were maimed and terribly injured
 600. Before Pearse, the poet, led the rebels' surrender.
 601. All over the world these events have been reported.
 602. To jails over here the rebels were transported.
 603. I am sorry to bear this terrible news
 604. But it took a turn for the worse after the rebels did lose.
 605. (*Casement weeping*) How dreadful, how daring, how noble, how sad;
 606. How brave, how courageous, neither futile nor bad.
 607. (*Narrator*) The leaders were handpicked for Maxwell's retribution
 608. And ensconced in Kilmainham for execution;
 609. Pearse [*Casement repeats 'Pearse'*] his brother, Connolly, Kent,
 610. MacDonagh, Daly, Plunkett, Ceannt,
 611. MacDiarmada, Colbert, Heuston,
 612. O'Hanrahan, MacBride, Clarke and Mallin.

613. No public trial like you were they afforded;
 614. With bullets from Enfields their head's were bombarded.
 615. Each morning, early at cock crow,
 616. The rebel leaders did fall like ragdolls.
 617. Each was shot by firing squads,
 618. Put to death like a dog.
 619. Poets, thinkers, writers and scholars
 620. Brave, bold, fearless, courageous.
 621. This is what I think has stirred you each morning
 622. God, prepare your defence – it must be a warning.

Part 11: *Visited by his cousin, Gertrude Bannister*

623. (**Warden**) Prisoner! Visitor! (**Narrator**) the warden roared.
 624. The dangling of keys meant the opening of the door.
 625. (**Gertrude**) My dear Roger, I had to come see you, dear cousin!
 626. (**Casement**) Oh Gertrude, Gertrude – not now as I am!
 627. I'm just a shadow of my former self;
 628. A scarecrow avoiding the fires of hell
 629. Please hold me, dearest, I'm sorry about the smell!
 630. (**Gertrude**) You've heard about those rebels in Dublin city?
 631. When I heard they were shot I had to see you directly.
 632. You have not engaged in any such warfare;
 633. Your hands are clean, surely you are no agitator.
 634. They cannot shoot you or hang you from the gallows;
 635. There's no blood on your hands like those fellows.
 636. Be hopeful, dear Roger, I've prepared you a room;
 637. Together we'll be having a Sunday roast, very soon.
 638. We'll dance to the new gramophone
 639. Do you also have one?
 640. They make such beautiful musical sounds
 641. Worlds away from this side of London town.
 642. (**Casement**) My trial is next week, dear cousin, I'm told,
 643. My defence is prepared – now just to be sold.
 644. (**Gertrude**) Is there anything I can do between now and then?
 645. Can I assist you in anyway, dear Roger, please think.
 646. (**Casement**) There is nothing at all I request from you
 647. Other than your thoughts and maybe some prayers too.
 648. All will be well, dearest Gertrude, sweetheart
 649. My lawyers are amongst the very best at the English bar.

Part 12: *At residence of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle*

650. (**Police Detective**) Sir Arthur Conan Doyle I believe? (**Sir Arthur**) Indeed.
 (**P.D.**) What are you doing siding with the traitor Casement?
 651. Can you not think of the thousand better causes for your money to be spent?
 652. To pay for this reprehensible traitor will cause such offence
 653. Amongst those who admire you and respect your judgement.
 654. Have you turned into a fool like Casement – now a German conspirator?

655. Meeting his costs into the Crown you stab a dagger.
 656. I know you love the taste of a noble pursuit
 657. When others would turn away you will deduce
 658. Its moral standing and discernible virtue,
 659. And stand for it despite widespread objection.
 660. You supported Edalji, the tormentor of animals
 661. And won for him a pardon – he was no longer a criminal.
 662. You advocated on behalf of Slater, who, we say, murdered
 663. And you succeeded in having his conviction thwarted.
 664. When Casement’s report scolded King Leopold
 665. You supported his protest and very rightly so.
 666. But this, my friend, is of a different order!
 667. You are now propping up the defence of a traitor.
 668. Come, come you are a noble patriot, lover of the Sovereign;
 669. You are not of the same ilk as this noxious rascalion.
 670. Live in the real world not the world of your fiction!
 671. Please help rid us of the Casement affliction.
 672. It will be found he is an agent of Germany;
 673. The case against him is as clear as crystal.
 674. I don’t expect you to make an immediate decision;
 675. But I trust you’ll bear in mind the general derision.
 676. For anyone who would support an enemy of the King
 677. And expect the respect of the establishment!
 678. If, or when, you come to your senses,
 679. Let me know and we’ll mend our fences!

Part 13: *Another Visit to Casement by Hangman John Ellis*

680. (*Hangman Ellis*) Sir Roger, are you there or are you in Germany?
 681. Wake up, it’s your barber, your trial is imminent!
 682. (*Casement*) Oh, Mr. Ellis, how thoughtful of you to come along
 683. For that decent shave you promised.
 684. (*Hangman Ellis*) You look unwell, Mr. Casement, given the plight ahead.
 685. Remember to make faces at the jury so that we’ll meet again!
 686. Now lean back here so that I can shave your beard
 687. And I’ll measure your neck; have no reason to fear.
 688. Why are you so silent on this important morning?
 689. You seem to be dwelling too much on your problems!
 690. Yesterday I saw a man like you downbeat, depressed.
 691. ‘Twas a strangler whose victim he killed with her dress.
 692. And where is he now, that troubled convict?
 693. Six foot down in a scalding lime-pit.
 694. I often wonder where a man’s troubles go
 695. Do they really attach to his soul?
 696. Where are they deposited, to where do they flow?
 697. They must just vanish, do you know?
 698. Oh, these are but petty affairs and idle thoughts;
 699. You need to present at your best to assist your cause.
 700. How does this seem in this mirror, Sir Roger?
 701. Will it get you back to Ireland or here to this dungeon?

Part 14: Trial

702. (*Narrator*) The scene was set at the Royal Courts that morning
703. Preparations meticulous, the courtroom unadorned.
704. Multitudes had tickets booked for the trial;
705. More were disappointed as seats were denied.
706. Despite *Searchlights* at the Ambassador,
707. *Razzle Dazzle* at the Theatre Royal or
708. *The Maharani* at the Coliseum,
709. None drew the crowds as did *King versus Casement*.
710. Bonnets and feathers, toppers and tails
711. All gathered to witness Casement's fate.
712. Lawyers, witnesses, bobbies, administrators,
713. Wardens, court artists, common speculators,
714. Were joined by frantic reporters
715. Who had travelled from the world over.
716. The noise was chaotic, tense and discordant,
717. Like an orchestra before an operatic performance.
718. Whispers were issued hither and thither;
719. What might happen was their occupation.
720. '*Possibly*', '*maybe*', '*perhaps*', '*certainly*',
721. '*Normally*', '*usually*', '*never*', '*occasionally*'
722. Were the commonest words of these conversations,
723. Guesses, opinions and speculations.
724. However matters were to unfold,
725. Here was history being made to be told.
726. The Great War was being relegated to the inside of the papers.
727. What would happen to this suspected traitor?
728. As the usher entered the court at last
729. Demanding silence from all who gathered,
730. The trio that entered were now who mattered -
731. The Lord Chief Justice, Ivory and Horridge
732. Henceforth presided with imperial carriage.
733. The trio bowed to the barristers present
734. Who duly returned a bow in deference.
735. The clerk now cried '*King versus Casement!*'
736. Nothing so grabbed the minds of the congregation
737. As Casement was brought out, the silence sensational.
738. In a black suit he was appropriately clad,
739. With trimmed beard, immaculate.
740. The prisoner walked the short distance to his seat;
741. His eyes darting round, plucking at his beard.
742. Peering from the dock like an animal from its cage
743. His appearance was a battle between fear and courage.
744. An ostentatious bow he proffered
745. That the Lord Chief Justice did acknowledge.
746. The expert diviners of the human face
747. Quickly began to determine his case.
748. Whispers ascended to full conversations;
749. The attendance shared their speculations:

750. (*Person 1*) You can tell his guilt, can't you by his face?
 751. (*Person 2*) The way he holds himself – what a disgrace!
 752. (*Person 3*) You can tell from his eyes – the windows to his soul
 753. His guilt is convincing – he's evil and cold.
 754. (*Narrator*) I reached out and grasped his hand
 755. 'Twas as cold as on the night we left Ireland.
 756. He finally rested, solemn and still
 757. I could feel him breathe normally again.
 758. He leant over to me and whispered
 759. (*Casement*) I recognise these people
 760. (*Narrator*) And I did too, for they were my neighbours:
 761. A smattering of witnesses for the Crown to use.
 762. (*Casement to Narrator*) Did these people really assent to this?
 763. To assist the Crown for me to convict?
 764. What harm did I ever do them
 765. That they should help the prosecution?
 766. Although I see by them they are terrified
 767. How could I think they would want me crucified?
 768. (*Narrator*) I concurred and he was assured
 769. And he offered some forgiving words
 770. To Mary Gorman and Michael Hussey,
 771. Young Martin Collins and John McCarthy
 772. And another, Maurice Moriarty
 773. All had been there on that Good Friday;
 774. Clearly transported from their holy ground
 775. To provide witness for the clever Crown.
 776. The prisoner suddenly my arm did grasp
 777. This trial against him commenced at last.
 778. The King's Coroner addressed the court;
 779. Casement was ordered to step forth.
 780. He put to the prisoner what was asserted:
 781. (*King's Coroner*) That you had contrived and intended
 782. To aid and assist the German Emperor
 783. Against his Lord the King as a traitor
 784. And aid and comfort the said enemy
 785. Beginning in the Empire of Germany;
 786. That you did solicit and incite
 787. British prisoners to take flight
 788. Forsake their allegiance and their duty
 789. To join a war of blatant mutiny
 790. To persuade these men, our soldiers to wit
 791. To make war against his majesty;
 792. That you did set forth in an expedition
 793. In an attempt at the most horrific sedition
 794. By attempting to land arms and ammunition
 795. On the west coast of Ireland, the King's province.
 796. The aforementioned is the accusation;
 797. This is the case of the prosecution.
 798. How saith you, Sir Roger David Casement
 799. To this charge of High Treason;

800. Do you plead guilty or do you not?
 801. *(Narrator)* But before the prisoner could utter a word
 802. His counsel Sullivan took the floor
 803. *(Serjeant Sullivan)* My Lords I must confess
 804. That against these charges I do protest
 805. Not one of them - and I've most assiduously perused them -
 806. Purport any act in the King's dominion
 807. How can these charges be prosecuted?
 808. *(Narrator)* The entire court was utterly muted.
 809. His lordships pondered and conferred.
 810. I propose to your lordships that these charges
 811. Be summarily quashed and my client freed.
 812. *(Lord Chief Justice)* If, Mr. Sullivan, there is an injustice you feel,
 813. There may well be an option to appeal.
 814. The accused will respond to the charges levied
 815. And this trial as laid out will proceed.
 816. Coroner, continue that the accused might plead
 817. *(King's Coroner)* How saith you, Roger Casement?
 818. Do you plead guilty or do you not?
 819. *(Narrator)* Everybody strained to hear
 820. Him say in gentle voice '*Not guilty!*'
 821. *(Person 1)* What did he say? *(Person 2)* What was that?
 822. *(Person 3)* What happens next? *(Person 4)* He's for the chop!
 823. *(Narrator)* Immediately a jury was selected;
 824. No side raised its objection.
 825. They studied Casement from their box;
 826. I heard one say '*the bloody fox!*'
 827. They swore a verdict they would return
 828. Upon their duty to his Lord the Sovereign.
 829. The Attorney General appeared with his learned friends
 830. Addressing the jury on charges against the realm.
 831. The charges against the prisoner were most serious he contended
 832. Requiring every man's studied and considered attention.
 833. Upon conviction the prisoner would suspend
 834. From the hangman's gallows to meet his end.
 835. Casement at this point caught Gertrude's eye
 836. And with affection summoned a smile.
 837. I reached for him and grasped his wrist
 838. *(Casement to Narrator)* Do I really have to bear all this?
 839. *(Narrator)* F.E. Smith, his chief tormentor
 840. Outlined in detail the case against him.
 841. *(F.E. Smith)* 'May it please your lordships: [*in acknowledgement*]. Gentlemen
 of the jury, this able and cultivated man
 842. Attempted to wage war against the Sovereign;
 843. He's formerly a great servant of our Lord the King;
 844. He defended the oppressed with great distinction.
 845. His work revealed the most ghastly enslavement in the Belgian Congo;
 846. And, indeed, humbled Belgium's King Leopold.
 847. And did similar work on behalf the people of Putamayo
 848. While Consul-General in Rio de Janeiro.

849. For his services, he received the highest honour:
 850. A knighthood, gentleman, from our Lord the Sovereign.
 851. He presented at the Whitehouse before President Taft;
 852. His record in his field has no precedent.
 853. And now he is before you, I regret to say,
 854. A rebel consumed by treacherous ways.
 855. Who would dare to strike at the mouth that fed him
 856. Educated, cultivated, every privilege bestowed on him
 857. And attempt to seduce our soldiers of Irish birth;
 858. Captured by the enemy in the war they wage against us
 859. For the purpose of subverting by insurrection
 860. The rule of his majesty, what naked desertion!
 861. What an abomination! We have witnesses and more
 862. Guns and ammunition left on Banna shore.
 863. We have the testimony of soldiers hardened by war,
 864. RIC men and innocents who will tell you more.
 865. We have maps, pistols, coded-instructions,
 866. Letters, train tickets and ammunition.
 867. This was a man who masqueraded as an author.
 868. Yes, planning the destruction of the Empire's quarter!
 869. You will have no choice when you see the evidence;
 870. Indeed you will see it as a duty as subjects
 871. To convict this man, Sir Roger David Casement
 872. As an evil, dangerous, corrupted traitor.'
 873. (*Narrator*) Those viewing unacquainted with legal machinations
 874. Were convinced that Casement had met his damnation.
 875. While the court expected Roger to bury a heavy head
 876. In his cold hands that should have felt like metal,
 877. He sat there holding an air of insouciance,
 878. Hands in pockets, looking up in defiance.
 879. Far from crushed was the prisoner's spirit
 880. His head in the air, thoughts deliberate.
 881. I could hear people repeat the words '*guilty*',
 882. '*Traitor*', '*dangerous*', '*treachery*'.
 883. The words resounded out on to the streets
 884. Where verdicts spread like a virus in the heat.
 885. I saw an artist sketch as Casement looked ghastly.
 886. Furiously scratching with paper and pastels.
 887. 'I have him', he whispered 'he's full of expression
 888. In such a terrible mood, he makes an impression'.
 889. Casement's counsel were unperturbed by events;
 890. I even saw Morgan offer Casement a wink.
 891. The wigs and gowns made darker the occasion
 892. But smirks and whispers evaded persuasion.
 893. (*Serjeant Sullivan*) 'How, my lords, can my friend honestly make the
 contention
 894. That my client has to the King been offensive
 895. When beyond the bounds of His Majesty's Empire
 896. The power of his law does expire?
 897. If I can refer your lordships to the relevant statute

898. Study the words, the comma included.’
 899. *(Narrator)* Thus in sum was Casement’s defence
 900. That comma stood between him the death sentence.
 901. *(Juror 1)* What a strange man, Fred!
 902. Don’t like the way he hides behind his beard.
 903. Never trust a man with who wears a mask
 904. Something to hide, so they have.
 905. *(Juror 2)* And see him often make a laugh
 906. Not very useful on his behalf.
 907. *(Juror 3)* Notice his hands thin, unworked, delicate
 908. Beard and moustache so perfect.
 909. Too well kept this man I swear
 910. Every to have give (*colloquialism*) a full day’s labour.
 911. *(Juror 4)* See the way he shifts on his seat
 912. He must be afraid the truth might be revealed.
 913. *(Juror 5)* Imagine a knight to betray our nation!
 914. *(Juror 6)* Indeed and side with our sworn enemy!
 915. *(Juror 7)* Yeah and you’ll never guess what I was just told
 916. Not such a good boy our Roger, it should be noted.
 917. It’s rumoured his wicked diaries tell it all
 918. I knew there was something, so abnormal.
 919. *(Juror 8)* Let’s stop all this useless, endless chatting
 920. Can we give them our verdict now and not wait for the morning?
 921. *(Casement to Narrator)* I cannot contest what the witnesses said
 922. I cannot, Crosbie, deny the truth of it.
 923. What is there that I can say
 924. That can avoid my execution day?
 925. The grammar of the law is academic
 926. I must confess I enjoy the polemic.
 927. My teachers used threaten us with rods and leathers
 928. For the misuse of the comma, apostrophe, parenthesis;
 929. I recall the difference between a colon and its semi
 930. As clear as Master Roycroft’s four foot sally.
 931. So a comma, looks like an innocuous thing
 932. From it I could really swing?
 933. The jury clearly demands my sentence
 934. Looking like archers with bows all tensed;
 935. Even the hangman Ellis with me lovingly acquaints
 936. Like the vulture whispering in the ear of the dying carcass.
 937. The affairs of the universe seem to conspire against me
 938. So that hanging from the noose I should die.
 939. Sages, theologians, philosophers like to debate
 940. Whether there is really life after death.
 941. The real question for me is
 942. Why isn’t there life before it?

Part 15: Verdict

943. **(King's Coroner)** Gentlemen of the jury are you agreed upon your verdict?
944. **(Foreman of the Jury)** Yes we are, **(Narrator)** replied the foreman as some women wept.
945. **(Casement to Narrator)** I remember I was tossed overboard by the waves
946. As I came ashore on that Good Friday;
947. I must have drank gallons of sea water;
948. Or perhaps the waves just tasted this dreadful mariner.
949. **(King's Coroner)** How say you? Guilty or not guilty whereof the high treason he stands indicted?
950. **(Casement to Narrator)** Miserable and weak but somehow my heart loved it
951. I was coughed on to the sand which was like the finest silver dust,
952. Which turned golden, like the sun, as the morning broke.
953. Monteith and the other, being of tougher mettle,
954. Went on while I staggered to a place where I might settle.
955. I needed a rest and was treated to such an abundance
956. Of curlew and snipe as they had called and had fun.
957. I saw a trio of swans fly over my head;
958. Skylarks rose singing from their grassy beds.
959. Such a joy to behold, for one who just sought tranquillity.
960. **(Foreman of the jury)** Guilty! *(out loud)*
961. **(Casement to Narrator)** The swallows darted with such endless energy;
962. They swooped in my direction and dipped and rolled and dived
963. And shot like whirring bullets in search of flies.
964. Oh to feel the smell of grass and the scent of flowers
965. Mingled with the salt and fresh sand's powder!
966. Seaweed tossed upon the strand
967. Ragged like me, but home at last.
968. **(Lord Chief Justice)** Sir Roger David Casement, you stand convicted of high treason
969. Why this court should not sentence you to death, can you state a reason?

Part 16: Casement's Speech from the Dock

970. **(Casement)** My Lord Chief Justice,
971. As I protest at this court's jurisdiction,
972. I chose my fellow countryman
973. As my audience.
974. My application against this statute
975. May not be legally astute
976. But, on the grounds of morality,
977. It makes more sense to me
978. Not so much to adhere to the King's enemies
979. As to adhere to my own people.
980. This ancient statute you rely on
981. Is tied to a blind sense of religion.
982. When now such lack of religious loyalty
983. Is not a matter for penalty,

984. The lack of allegiance to the King
985. Is still a matter of that old treachery.
986. To Ireland is my allegiance;
987. My devotion to her, my offence.
988. I am being tried not by my peers
989. But by English fears.
990. Loyalty is a sentiment, not a law;
991. It rests on love, not on restraint.
992. England's rule demands no love
993. So no loyalty does it evoke.
994. Indeed Poyning's law provides
995. That only in Ireland should I be tried.
996. This jury is the public opinion of this country
997. Which is prejudiced against me.
998. There is no evil in what I did
999. Only to assert the right of my country.
1000. If it is wrong that to Ireland I could not have appealed
1001. I have a right to be tried there, not here.
1002. The Crown was aware of this
1003. So, by stealth, they brought me here.
1004. I do not accept their trial that I stand
1005. Their sentence that they hand.
1006. I am not afraid of Ireland;
1007. It is my right to be tried by my countrymen.
1008. England's rule of Ireland is by conquest;
1009. Not by reason, affection or judgment.
1010. Ireland has attempted to protect its lives
1011. In the face of a mounting threat of lawlessness.
1012. We sought arms to protect our liberty
1013. And provide our land with security.
1014. We are told that if Ireland sheds its blood
1015. On the battlefields for Belgium
1016. In Mesopotamia or Gallapoli
1017. Ireland's self government is promised.
1018. But if Irishmen should shed blood
1019. Daring to fight for their own freedom,
1020. As traitors, they must die;
1021. Their loyalty to their own country a crime!
1022. Self-government is a right from birth
1023. As the right to life itself!
1024. Only from a convict is it held.
1025. But on this account, Ireland is treated as a criminal.
1026. If it be treason to fight against such an unnatural fate
1027. It is better for men to die for that.
1028. Where you contrive such a state,
1029. Where men must beg with bated breath,
1030. To subsist in their own land,
1031. To think their own thoughts,
1032. To sing their own songs,
1033. To gather the fruits of their own labours,

1034. And, even, while they beg,
 1035. To see things inexorably withdrawn from them;
 1036. Then, surely, it is a braver, saner
 1037. Truer thing to be a rebel
 1038. Than to accept it
 1039. As the natural lot of men.

Part 17: *Death Sentence is Passed*

1040. (*Casement*) Here on this beautiful spot I realised that the elements were my consolation
 1041. Every human on this earth had me as his poor relation.
 1042. (*Warden to Casement*) Hey Roddy, look who's appearing
 1043. Not a good sign, mate, believe me.
 1044. That clergyman skulks in only for a death sentence
 1045. Can't you tell he smells of incense?
 1046. (*Narrator*) 'Silence!' the usher cried before sentence was passed
 1047. (*Casement to Narrator*) I recall the wild winds calling 'you've come home at last'
 1048. (*Lord Chief Justice*) Sir Roger David Casement, you have been found guilty of treason,
 1049. The gravest crime in the court's opinion;
 1050. You assisted the King's enemy
 1051. The Empire of Germany
 1052. During this terrible war
 1053. Being fought against us;
 1054. You shall be taken hence
 1055. To a lawful prison,
 1056. To a place of execution.
 1057. And hanged by the neck
 1058. Until your death.
 1059. May the Lord have mercy on your soul.
 1060. (*Casement to Narrator*) It was then a hand unknown
 1061. Pulled me from the white horses to the shore;
 1062. How precious it felt to be going home.'

Part 18: *John Ellis, Hangman, visits Casement*

1063. (*Hangman Ellis*) Sir Roger, it's only me – Ellis – again.
 1064. How are you bearing up? I heard the news just then.
 1065. I am glad you are down here near my workshop;
 1066. Terribly cold where you were upstairs in that block.
 1067. I can't guarantee you a professional job just yet
 1068. I have learned that an appeal date for you is set.
 1069. You must be prepared; you must look your best.
 1070. They say in the library that Sir John Lavery is painting a canvas at it
 1071. And hear you're to be at the centre of the work;
 1072. A Judge Darling commission – it will be of worth.
 1073. Come here and sit down,

1074. Let me put on the proper gown.
 1075. So tell me dear Sir Roger what goes on in your head?
 1076. Your hair is as stiff as a wiry mesh.
 1077. Consider yourself lucky to be in a portrait;
 1078. Immortalised for years and well after your death.
 1079. A secret dream of mine is to be painted;
 1080. But my handiwork has my reputation much too tainted.
 1081. I have read up on you, Mr. Roger Casement;
 1082. A colourful life you have, if I may say so.
 1083. You have dined with princes, journeyed through jungles.
 1084. How do these places compare to this dungeon?
 1085. We have our faults here, it can be contended;
 1086. Rats and mice and the widespread infection.
 1087. But lions and snakes and killer bees;
 1088. The most you get here is a rash or a sneeze.
 1089. Monkeys, strange humans and killer gorillas.
 1090. Why would one bother live there in a villa?
 1091. Terrible pestilence, war and famine;
 1092. Aren't we much better off here in Old England?
 1093. Storms and hurricanes, tornadoes and floods
 1094. Are about as foreign to us as drink to a judge.
 1095. I read the natives wear little only reeds for dress;
 1096. How immodest and immoral, how ridiculous!
 1097. They eat strange things, not meat or vegetables;
 1098. Some even say they consume each other.
 1099. I hear they have no money or alcohol or beer,
 1100. Are backward, uncivilised and know no cheer.
 1101. All pagans and mad men it would appear.
 1102. Never even heard of Christ it seems.
 1103. How appalling such places with no law and order;
 1104. How do they exist with so much disorder?
 1105. Not like England with its rules and regulations
 1106. Posh with culture and education.
 1107. Nobody does anything better than we do
 1108. But if they do, we have them conquered.
 1109. Why these strange places must be saved
 1110. From madness and badness and manners depraved,
 1111. Ignorance, backwardness, no civility,
 1112. Wildness, sinfulness, terrible indecency,
 1113. Jungles, hunger, pestilence, famine;
 1114. Sounds to me just like that a mad place – like Ireland.

Part 19: Reaction to Sentence

1115. (*Narrator*) From far and wide came loud protestations
 1116. At Sir Roger Casement's condemnation.
 1117. Writers, statesmen, politicians
 1118. From England, Ireland and other nations
 1119. Called for the penalty's commutation.
 1120. For a heroic and celebrated humanitarian

1121. Such a treatment was antiquarian.
 1122. Missives and pleadings to the Government were sent
 1123. Even to King George, the sovereign himself.
 1124. The high street newspapers salivated
 1125. Casement should hang as an inglorious traitor;
 1126. From the Empire he had won his reputation
 1127. But had bitten the hand that fed him.
 1128. He should hang from the scaffold they advised
 1129. As the villain committed a heinous crime.
 1130. 'Casement traitor', 'Casement to Die
 1131. At Pentonville Prison', 'Death for the Knight'.
 1132. Soon his supporters like a tide that recedes
 1133. Silenced to murmur when rumours spread;
 1134. Some thinking it would be better that the traitor be dead.

Part 20: Police Detective re-visits Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

1135. (*Miss Malone*) Sir Arthur, I beg your pardon sir, you have a visitor!
 1136. (*Sir Arthur*) Who is it, Ms. Malone? What business can, at this hour, matter?
 1137. (*Miss Malone*) It is the same gentleman, Sir Arthur, as called the other eve.
 1138. (*Sir Arthur*) Oh, I assumed that our business was complete;
 1139. They have his head prepared for the hangman's noose.
 1140. What more outrageous can they induce?
 1141. Show him in. Show him in, dear Miss Malone!
 1142. Why can't they just leave a busy man alone?
 1143. (*to Police Detective*) 'What troubles you that you should see it in your favour
 1144. To come to my home at this unearthly hour?
 1145. My good man, it's almost ten, yes ten;
 1146. Not an hour to be troubled by a policeman.
 1147. Have you not sanctuary in your station?
 1148. A bed to sleep on, you have a strange dedication.
 1149. Never let an occupation becomes a pre-occupation;
 1150. It's a form of madness with no recuperation.
 1151. What drives you here must be strange indeed.
 1152. Why do you stray from the sunlight to carry out your deed?
 1153. The night time is provided by nature for us to sleep;
 1154. Its shadows only worked by those engaged in deceit:
 1155. Common criminals, gangsters, killers
 1156. Or those who populate a writer's thrillers.
 1157. Explain yourself, you do delay;
 1158. My bed awaits my bones to lay.
 1159. Yes I know you have Casement damned;
 1160. In a silly temper he is condemned.
 1161. This poor man gave many years of life
 1162. So that we could learn of others' plight.
 1163. Human beings, like you and me,
 1164. Are being oppressed in slavery.
 1165. From Congo to the Amazon basin;
 1166. A shame upon this noble nation.
 1167. Precious souls dehumanised;

1168. Their cultures crushed and pulverised.
 1169. And what do we do with the very one
 1170. Who was first to bring it to our attention?
 1171. Admittedly a madness he must have acquired
 1172. To see this wickedness with his very eyes.
 1173. His health, it's well known has been impaired.
 1174. I cannot see his life being spared;
 1175. We put him on trial to create a rebel martyr
 1176. So that he'll be canonised forever after.
 1177. For a miserable, petty humiliation
 1178. We now hang Sir Roger – what molestation
 1179. Of civilisation is this proposal
 1180. To achieve this noble man's disposal.
 1181. As I say he way have been diseased,
 1182. His mind warped by a terrible unease.
 1183. Sick and poorly, they describe his demeanour.
 1184. He's an unwell man, certainly not evil.
 1185. Let's hope his appeal is very soon heard
 1186. So that from this mad course we are spared.
 1187. *(Police Detective)* What brings me here is unnatural indeed,
 1188. Like stars at noon or fish in the fields.
 1189. I would not be troubled by nature's designs
 1190. What it decrees is moral and divine.
 1191. But when nature's order is corrupted
 1192. Or its normal course interrupted,
 1193. It is left to me or one of my occupation
 1194. To expose the agent of the abomination.
 1195. We all agree a particular standard of morality
 1196. Which underpins our values with certainty.
 1197. If it ever be subsumed,
 1198. The world, as we know it, is doomed.
 1199. It is the thread that holds the nation together-
 1200. Young and old, fathers, mothers,
 1201. Protestant, Catholic, Jews, Dissenters.
 1202. Without nature's law, we're in the hands of the devil.
 1203. *(Sir Arthur)* You sound serious, sir, even imperious
 1204. What has you, at this hour, so delirious?
 1205. *(Police Detective)* How well do you know the traitor Casement?
 1206. I have it from good contact
 1207. That you continue to defend his position
 1208. And fund his fees with insistence.
 1209. Do you know, in truth, this man
 1210. Before his trial even started he was criminal?
 1211. *(Sir Arthur)* What talk is that of a kind friend?
 1212. Damned or not he has a knighthood by our Lord the King?
 1213. *(Police Detective)* Explain these journals of his that we found [*puts dairies on*
 the table]
 1214. Who authored these, nature confounds?
 1215. I cannot read a second time their contents;
 1216. I can truly say, they are abhorrent.

1217. Perplexing, disgusting, revolting they may be
 1218. But what of their author do they reveal?
 1219. This man, Casement, is an aberration,
 1220. An embarrassment to our nation.
 1221. We cannot have him besmirch our name;
 1222. The sooner on the gallows the less our shame.
 1223. So if you need convincing or persuasion
 1224. Open part of this journal - even one page.
 1225. Be prepared to be disgusted
 1226. Or if you're too decent, just kindly trust me.
 1227. If the jury had known about this
 1228. They'd simply have run to convict.
 1229. To have such a creature even sit in the dock
 1230. Makes me sick to my stomach.
 1231. Do you really think it upright, defensible
 1232. That you would pay for the costs of this criminal?
 1233. A sordid, base, blot on his race,
 1234. A treacherous traitor.
 1235. What will people rightly conclude?
 1236. Sir Arthur with evil does collude.
 1237. (*Sir Arthur*) You make a strong case, Detective,
 1238. Persuading, convincing, I do contend.
 1239. You speak with passion; I can hear it in your pleas.
 1240. There is no doubt you move me
 1241. To defend Casement's integrity
 1242. And his outstanding bravery.
 1243. He went before the courts, he was on trial
 1244. With his head to lose if his case was denied.
 1245. This matter, as I can see it,
 1246. Is just trivial to the charge of treason.
 1247. It is but a hill of beans before Everest,
 1248. A tea-spoon full to the Pacific.
 1249. Whether the author was my dear friend
 1250. Of the work of a fraudster with a skilled hand,
 1251. Such material matters much
 1252. Only to the minds of the idle curious.
 1253. Whether true or false this documentation be,
 1254. I need my sleep immediately!

Part 21: Support wanes

1255. (*Narrator*) While some remained loyal to the damned convict,
 1256. More turned their noses up as to a terrible stink;
 1257. The mere possibility of Casement's homosexuality
 1258. Scared off the Archbishop of Canterbury.
 1259. (*Anonymous Woman to Anonymous Man*) My dear, you must listen to me
 1260. How can you support a person so queer?
 1261. If you have nothing else, you have your reputation;
 1262. How can you have any such association?
 1263. The law is the law, it must take its course;

1264. His fate is not ours and he has shown no remorse.
 1265. His type, besotted by principles and idealism,
 1266. Have no appreciation of what's real.
 1267. Casement was seduced by romantic, maybe noble, thoughts;
 1268. Now he must suffer with his life and pay the cost.
 1269. So don't, my beloved, waste your time, in your position
 1270. On a martyr for nothing, with an aberrant passion.
 1271. Seek not for the traitor the King's clemency.
 1272. Where there's no remorse, why seek mercy?
 1273. Write no more letters for his reprieve;
 1274. 'Tis few for a degenerate's soul will grieve.
 1275. So for your sake, for our children's,
 1276. Have nothing to do with this criminal.

Part 22: *The Appeal*

1277. (*Anonymous Barrister*) Sir John, I beg your pardon, sir.
 1278. I am given to understand by my junior
 1279. That you have been requisitioned
 1280. To create a oil-on-canvas commission
 1281. By the Honourable Lord Chief Justice Darling.
 1282. Clearly starting this very morning.
 1283. I trust I am correct to make this presumption
 1284. Or is it a misplaced assumption?
 1285. My junior further relates that he is well and truly aware
 1286. Of your renowned artistic flair.
 1287. And has further brought to my attention
 1288. That you paint with the best of intentions
 1289. What meets your precisely observant eye,
 1290. Leaving little negotiation between what you find
 1291. Entering your ocular regions
 1292. And your subjects' undulations.
 1293. What an incredible talent you possess!
 1294. How wonderful, how curious!
 1295. (*Sir John Lavery*) Many thanks, you're very kind sir.
 1296. Do you require a commission?
 1297. (*Anonymous Barrister*) Not at all, Sir John, my dear man!
 1298. Perhaps you might make small my abdomen?
 1299. I have of late been endowed with a generous middle;
 1300. It burdens me and retards me as I'm usually as fit as a fiddle.
 1301. I'm normally as thin and nimble as Jack Sprat
 1302. Quite embarrassing to me is this new found fat.
 1303. I ask you to have mercy with your easel,
 1304. Like their Lordships have for those who have done evil.
 1305. For this contortion presently visiting my corpus
 1306. In this department is an alien and uninvited guest -
 1307. Particularly around my waist
 1308. Leaving in my mouth a gruesome taste.
 1309. Do you realise how many generations will view your work so divine?
 1310. I really don't want history to see me as elephantine.

1311. *(Narrator)* The canvas was huge, seven feet by ten,
 1312. Reflecting the defining and historic occasion.
 1313. The artist Lavery in the jury-box stood poised
 1314. With brushes, easel and linseed oil.
 1315. Courtroom one of the Royal Courts of Justice
 1316. Was busy with the legal papers,
 1317. Lawyers, solicitors, officials and jailors.
 1318. Loyal friends and bitter enemies
 1319. Competed for seats in the gallery.
 1320. Whispers, guffaws, mutters and sighs
 1321. Went hither and thither before the usher did cry.
 1322. Casement was secreted from that notorious door;
 1323. The hush descended as it did before.
 1324. Now he appeared as a plain Irish felon
 1325. Stripped of his knighthood, a wicked Fenian.
 1326. At this Court of Criminal Appeal
 1327. For his life he would plead,
 1328. As his reputation was being lacerated
 1329. By high-placed machinations
 1330. Which thrived on the pernicious power of rumour,
 1331. Casting Casement as a deviant, as well as a traitor.
 1332. Gertrude provided Casement great comfort
 1333. As she tended to his spirits as his devoted cousin.
 1334. *(Casement to Gertrude)* Who is he? Who is she?' the felon used enquire;
 1335. 'New friends and well-wishers', she would always reply.
 1336. *(Member of Public)* Look at how nonchalant he appears -
 1337. No remorse or regret, does he have no fear?
 1338. How awful to throw one's favour to the wolves;
 1339. Treason is something one cannot absolve.
 1340. To consort with Fenians shows little cultivation;
 1341. They're given to monstrous mutilation
 1342. Of what God ordains as this Empire -
 1343. To ruin it is their constant desire;
 1344. To govern themselves by insurrection;
 1345. What a monstrous notion, what a corruption.
 1346. How can the ungovernable govern themselves?
 1347. The very notion should be buried with this rebel.
 1348. *(Narrator)* 'Silence!' cried the usher, the justices appeared;
 1349. Five scarlet robes entered the scene;
 1350. Painted and powdered, this formidable bench
 1351. Would have to be turned by Casement's defence.
 1352. Gavan Duffy, who had sacrificed his station,
 1353. With gallant gestured re-assured Casement.
 1354. The gavel was struck, the appeal commenced
 1355. To overturn the cold death sentence.
 1356. *[A note is passed to Casement]* 'Dear Roddy, I'm above looking down on you.
 1357. I am seated near the end of the second pew.
 1358. Look up when you read this;
 1359. I'll blow you a kiss.
 1360. Our love is as strong

1361. *As the mightiest bond.*
 1362. *This chalice will pass*
 1363. *As it must.*
 1364. *I will be there all the time*
 1365. *So throw me a smile,*
 1366. *A wink or a glance.*
 1367. *In this battle you may struggle;*
 1368. *You may see no end to your troubles;*
 1369. *You may see damnation;*
 1370. *Your name's condemnation.*
 1371. *This battle you may lose*
 1372. *And find yourself facing the hangman's noose.*
 1373. *But please be assured that you will overcome*
 1374. *The forces that pretend to have you undone.*
 1375. *Your name will be honoured;*
 1376. *So be undeterred!*
 1377. *And please throw me a wink,*
 1378. *A smile, a nod, even a glimpse.*
 1379. *Your spirit is written on your face.*
 1380. *Show those in this sordid place*
 1381. *That yours is alive and well,*
 1382. *Strong, determined and unquenchable.*
 1383. *Show them that you fear them not;*
 1384. *That though in the ground your flesh may rot,*
 1385. *Your spirit, your cause, your love for freedom*
 1386. *Is undying, strong, unconquerable;*
 1387. *That their law is not yours,*
 1388. *That Ireland does not bend to their rules.*
 1389. *Do not be ashamed, be proud!*
 1390. *Hold your head high and laugh aloud.*
 1391. *There is nothing behind this charade;*
 1392. *Here the high and mighty are on parade;*
 1393. *Let them have their spectre!*
 1394. *Please wave to me, you lovable creature!'*
 1395. **(Warder)** *Hey there Roddy, you realise this is only theatre*
 1396. *As real as Razzle Dazzle in the Ambassador.*
 1397. *I was there last night with the missus*
 1398. *And saw that judge there as drunk as a whistle;*
 1399. *You'll lose your head but he won't lose sleep!*
 1400. *Look at him now – out of his eyes not a peep.'*

Part 23: Witnesses Home in Kerry

1401. **(Witness 1)** *They're calling us Casement killers!*
 1402. *Will they ever forgive us?*
 1403. *He is to be hanged in the morn.*
 1404. *I wish I was never born!*
 1405. *Isn't it our fault?*
 1406. *Didn't we turn him in?*
 1407. **(Witness 3)** *I didn't want to tell them anything.*

1408. It was your decision.
 1409. (*Witness 1*) He was only trying to free our land
 1410. From England.
 1411. (*Witness 2*) We were only doing as we were told;
 1412. The law we must uphold.
 1413. Put them in our shoes;
 1414. Wonder what they would do?
 1415. Will he haunt us when he's dead?
 1416. (*Witness 1*) Poor oul' Casement.
 1417. If he's an educated man
 1418. He will understand.
 1419. He smiled at me from the dock.
 1420. (*Witness 3*) Yes, I remember that;
 1421. No bitterness in his heart.
 1422. He was gentle, thoughtful,
 1423. Very likeable.
 1424. (*Witness 1*) I will pray for him as long as I live
 1425. I hope he will each of us forgive.
 1426. If ever I have a child, I will call him Roger
 1427. (*Witness 3*) It sounds like a great idea.
 1428. I think he was a lovely man.
 1429. (*Witness 1*) Never was a truer word said.

Part 24: Preparations for Execution

1430. (*Hangman Ellis reading a notice*) The very colour of the paper can seal a
 man's fate.
 1431. Who is it now that I must eradicate?
 1432. What ragamuffin's end does the governor order?
 1433. Casement? Sir Roger Casement? It would be murder!
 1434. Should I not hang a clown instead
 1435. For he's so polite and so gentle.
 1436. He's a man who has my utter sympathy.
 1437. My ancient mother-in-law she should well be dead.
 1438. Is there a dummy somewhere so I can pretend
 1439. This noble man's body to suspend?
 1440. (*Warden*) The law, my friend, you must apply;
 1441. Your position will be lost otherwise.
 1442. (*Hangman Ellis*) Oh yes, Henry, you go find an executioner;
 1443. You'll still be searching when you're a pensioner.
 1444. You'll never find a hangman like me, who's also a barber;
 1445. You'll sooner find a mass murderer.
 1446. I come from a long line, well rope of hangmen;
 1447. Each a fine, distinguished artisan.
 1448. Those heads the crown cannot spare,
 1449. We dispatch with dignity and care.
 1450. No client ever returns complaining;
 1451. I conduct my business quite sanely.
 1452. Now, 'Casement' it says here on this notice
 1453. And his beard, goodness gracious.

1454. To the gallows? At what moment?
 1455. Ah, he's far too solemn and too silent,
 1456. Much too fine he to be hanged?
 1457. What got into those judges' minds?
 1458. Let me check my book.
 1459. I'm afraid I'm a bit stuck;
 1460. I'm cutting the hair of a preacher at three,
 1461. Hanging a teacher later that eve,
 1462. Shaving a man-eater at dawn,
 1463. Back at the gallows later that morn,
 1464. The damn trap needs new door;
 1465. It doesn't swing open anymore.
 1466. Nine o'clock.
 1467. Nine on the dot
 1468. Casement will drop.
 1469. I've hanged better criminals that Casement;
 1470. There is no truer a statement.
 1471. Murderers, beasts, rats, weasels,
 1472. Molesters, deserters, even Fenians!
 1473. (*Warden*) Make sure you make good your preparation:
 1474. For the gallows this traitor.

Part 25: Casement Prepares for Execution

1475. (*Narrator*) The rebel, now faced with his end
 1476. Made one request of Gertrude his cousin.
 1477. (*Casement to Gertrude*) You know I am to pass from this life soon
 1478. Please take my body from this dreadful place, Gertrude.
 1479. And take it home with you so to rest may it lay
 1480. In the old churchyard at Murlough Bay.
 1481. I don't care what they do with me;
 1482. Hang, draw, quarter, cremate;
 1483. Please get me home sooner, I pray.
 1484. (*Casement to Priest*) Father, it cannot be easy for a priest
 1485. To prepare this soul soon to be cut from its corpse
 1486. To make its peace with God
 1487. After the ground upon which it has plod.
 1488. This is a weary soul, weighed by fatigue;
 1489. I should be glad if it reaches the shores of purgatory.
 1490. Last night I read a line from St. Mark
 1491. As Christ on the cross from this life departs:
 1492. 'My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?'
 1493. And thought the reverse is true in my case be
 1494. 'My God, my God, when wilt thou take me?'
 1495. In this life, I've had my fill of purgatory,
 1496. And now I face another trial – shouldn't I be grateful!
 1497. The last one for my body, the next on for my soul!
 1498. But when again I come to my senses
 1499. These thoughts my heart renounces;
 1500. I join a long litany of Irish martyrs

1501. Including my Dublin friends just departed.
 1502. 'Fools!' I hear people say one day,
 1503. 'For what did they give their lives, the knaves?
 1504. For four bare fields with tormented masses,
 1505. Plundered, impoverished by poor harvests?'
 1506. For something divinely precious, I maintain;
 1507. That Irish people can determine their destiny.
 1508. But these arguments are well extolled,
 1509. Have been rehearsed before I was ever born.
 1510. But it angers me that I've been stolen
 1511. Being put to death by foreign forces.
 1512. This is no time for argument or anger;
 1513. Forgive me, Father, my mind does wander.
 1514. Please tell them I wish go home to Murlough.
 1515. What use restless bones here in Pentonville muck?
 1516. Tell me, Father, you've pondered this mess;
 1517. Is there truly life after death?
 1518. And, if there is, can you foresee
 1519. If in that life there happiness will be?
 1520. What form do you think it takes?
 1521. Wine and whiskey, chocolate cake?
 1522. Gardens, fields, mountains, lakes?
 1523. Seashores for our lovers' hands to take?
 1524. Or is this whole other world affair
 1525. A monstrous lie, a fairytale?
 1526. Does God really bother to care?
 1527. Or is he, really, really there?
 1528. Is this religion mere obfuscation?
 1529. The witchcraft of a ruling nation?
 1530. A little man behind a curtain?
 1531. Can anyone really be certain?
 1532. You didn't come all this way
 1533. To disappoint me!
 1534. I'm not a patient mind you perceive
 1535. I have things to do with my life, you see.
 1536. (*Priest*) My dear Roger, I shall leave you and return
 1537. Very soon, before morn.

Part 26: John Eillis makes Final Preparations with Casement

1538. (*Hangman Ellis*) Roger, what weight are you again?
 1539. Hopefully you haven't been gorging on this ration!
 1540. (*Casement*) What does not trouble you Ellis, my man?
 1541. You look more perturbed than the condemned.
 1542. (*Hangman Ellis*) Oh Roger will you just do something with your life?
 1543. Just stand up there and breathe in tight.
 1544. Mmm, it seems you're up a notch tonight.
 1545. Have you been eating extra portions of the Bread of Life?
 1546. (*Casement*) I did hear you mention your mother-in-law?
 1547. (*Ellis*) Oh don't mention her; upon my wits she always gnaws.

1548. Why I could hang her instead?
 1549. We'll stick your beard upon her head.
 1550. I give you to wear my assistant's apron
 1551. What a marvellous escape plan!
 1552. Why mention her, may I ask?
 1553. (*Casement*) What I had in mind was just that!
 1554. (*Hangman Ellis*) It would mean of course you'd have to fill her shoes
 1555. And in my kitchen drink my booze:
 1556. Whiskey, brandy, stout and gin.
 1557. Roger, do you even drink?
 1558. (*Casement*) Not particularly, you boozy man!
 1559. I prefer wine, the finer the more foreign.
 1560. (*Hangman Ellis*) Well, that scuppers that I must admit;
 1561. Except, is there time to change that habit?
 1562. (*Casement*) I think I'd look well in a lady's bonnet
 1563. And sure you'd love me powdered and plucked?
 1564. (*Hangman Ellis*) Oh you'll be in your Sunday attire;
 1565. In that marvellous suit, you wore at the trial.
 1566. (*Casement*) How mindful of you to suggest;
 1567. Your taste in fashion does impress!
 1568. (*Ellis's Assistant*) Mr. Ellis sir! The sand all ready for the test!
 1569. (*Hangman Ellis*) I'm on my way - can your master not even rest?
 1570. Roger, dear, this is just scientific business;
 1571. We must test the apparatus.
 1572. After all, when we open the trap door
 1573. Your weight must really to go through the floor.
 1574. Good night Roger, I shall see you anon
 1575. I'll dream of you, while you of Irish freedom?
 1576. And Roger don't forget your last meal;
 1577. But, do leave a little bit for me?
 1578. On the menu is British Lamb,
 1579. Bucking Ham,
 1580. Royal Beef,
 1581. Sovereign Cheek,
 1582. Princess' thigh,
 1583. Coronation pies,
 1584. Monarch's tongue,
 1585. Victoria Sponge,
 1586. Trevelyan's Potatoes,
 1587. Imperial Tomatoes,
 1588. Jersey Royals,
 1589. Princess Loins
 1590. Crown Hakes,
 1591. And Queen Cakes.

Part 27: Casement's Execution

1592. (*Narrator*) The night stole by in a blink of an eye;
 1593. Roger arose after five.
 1594. It was August the third, nineteen sixteen;

1595. He was fifty one years.
 1596. *(Narrator to Casement)* You were laughing and crying
 1597. All night living and dying
 1598. *(Casement)* Yes, thinking of my loved ones
 1599. And the great times that are done.
 1600. *(Warden)* Chaplains McCarroll and Carey, Roger, sir.
 1601. *(Casement)* Welcome, welcome, welcome Fathers!
 1602. *(Fr. McCarroll)* 'Peace be with you, child of God.
 1603. Have you made your peace?' *(Casement)* Yes, Father
 1604. *[Priest anoints forehead and hands]* *(Fr. McCarroll)* *Per istam sanctum*
unctionem et suam pissiman misericordiam adiuvet te.
 1605. *Dominus gratia spiritus sancti*
 1606. *Ut a peccatis liberatum te salvet*
 1607. *Atque propitius alleviat.*
 1608. *(Narrator)* The prison bell rang its death toll
 1609. As a small procession approached the scaffold.
 1610. *(Chaplains)* Lord have mercy on your soul.
 1611. *(Casement)* Lord have mercy on my soul.
 1612. *(Chaplains)* Lord have mercy on your soul.
 1613. *(Casement)* I die for my country *(Chaplains, simultaneously)* Lord have
 mercy on your soul.
[Darkness and pause]

Part 28: Immediately upon Execution

1614. *(In darkness, Narrator)* Do you have it? You must grip hard, Roger!
 1615. *(Casement)* Yes, I would know that hand anywhere.
 1616. *(Narrator as lights up)* Come with me then. Look at the assembled crowd!
 1617. There must be thousands all round.
 1618. Some of them cheer, as they hear your death-bell.
 1619. Others kneel and pray to heaven.
 1620. Look at the notices on the prison doors
 1621. To tell the world you are no more!
 1622. Now your solicitor, Mr. Duffy, identifies you, that you're dead.
 1623. You amaze – not a single grey hair on your head!
 1624. He asks that your remains be returned to your family
 1625. But his earnest request is swiftly spurned.
 1626. Duffy is not at all pleased:
 1627. *(Duffy)* A monstrous act of indecency.
 1628. *(Narrator to Casement)* No coffin for you, a traitor, they find -
 1629. Just content to throw you in quick-lime.
 1630. Sir Erley Blackwell, knowing full well
 1631. That the English hadn't hanged a criminal,
 1632. Nonetheless puts forward the explanation
 1633. That they would not part with the remains;
 1634. He refers to a certain act
 1635. From 1868 which provided that
 1636. 'The body of every offender executed shall be buried within the walls of the
 prison
 1637. Within which judgment of death is executed on him."

Part 29: Casement's Unhappiness at Pentonville Burial

1638. **(Casement)** What truly awful, barren ground!
1639. There are not even weeds around;
1640. This place is packed with mud and clay
1641. Hair and bone and the smell of decay.
1642. No place for a human to rest.
1643. Take me out of here please, I just will not last.
1644. I'll never rest or asleep be found;
1645. I'll yet escape from this cursed ground.
1646. Why didn't they burn me at the stake?
1647. No fuss would I ever have made!
1648. Why didn't they dispose of my mortal mass
1649. Instead of burying this rotting carcass?
1650. Why couldn't they have finished the job proper
1651. And feed my carcass to one another?
1652. I'd gladly on bed of nails prostrate
1653. And have the Lord Chief Justice dance on my face;
1654. Horridge sit upon my chest;
1655. And Scrutton to further mutilation attest.
1656. F.E. Smith proclaim it as an insult to the Crown
1657. That an Irish rebel should not die a second time round.
1658. And perhaps put me on trial once again:
1659. **(F.E. Smith)** Look at the traitor in the dock – the skeleton!
1660. Despite our best efforts to procure a second death,
1661. The accused refuses to co-operate!
1662. We cannot see his heart sink;
1663. His eyes we cannot see, in terror, blink.
1664. We cannot see his stomach knot
1665. Or if his face has paled somewhat.
1666. We believe this to be an evil scheme -
1667. Traacherous, mischievous, rebellious in the extreme.
1668. The King's Coroner addresses the skeleton;
1669. **(King's Coroner)** How do you bleed, Mr. Casement?
1670. **(Casement)** My bones rattle in defiance:
1671. '*I cannot nor will not!*' my teeth chatter in alliance.
1672. They shackle to me to the mahogany dock
1673. And begin their cursed onslaught:
1674. They hurl and spit their insidious venom,
1675. Dressed up in civilised, jargoned manner,
1676. In words to cut deeper than a dagger.
1677. But no flesh do they meet;
1678. No drop of blood do I bleed;
1679. Their seething anger is in vain;
1680. Their collective countenance becomes insane;
1681. **(F.E. Smith)** We'll poison his reputation yet again;
1682. Stain his memory in most terrible sin;
1683. Re-write his work as odd and evil;

1684. His name we'll hang instead.
 1685. (*Casement*) And so the letters of my name
 1686. Are carried aloft to the hangman's chamber.
 1687. Each letter to the noose is tied;
 1688. Each letter is hanged a hundred times.
 1689. Alas, never once do they hear a terrible cry;
 1690. Never do the letters die.
 1691. My name rises again and again
 1692. Untired, untortured, unmoved, undead.
 1693. The name of Casement stains the taste of every conversation
 1694. About Ireland's English domination.
 1695. I see them carry my remains
 1696. As though they bear a deity
 1697. Wrapped in a shroud I am carried
 1698. By four men to where I am to be buried.
 1699. 'I am traitor to your cause -
 1700. A degenerate, a man flawed!
 1701. Why not throw me to your dogs!
 1702. Why give me the comfort of your mud?
 1703. Why comfort me with your sediment?
 1704. Why need you be so solemn?'
 1705. I am not thrown down an eight foot deep grave
 1706. I am lowered down with Fr. McCarroll's prayer.
 1707. Once the obsequies are complete
 1708. They threw quicklime on my body.
 1709. As no charcoal they could find
 1710. And there my body, it would lie
 1711. Not at rest but with a spirit that could not die.
 1712. (*Narrator*) And so the troubled soul of Casement
 1713. Night after night in torment dreamt.
 1714. Never once did his soul rest;
 1715. Never comfort did he get.
 1716. (*Casement*) Bring me home to Ireland;
 1717. For Morlough my heart yearns.
 1718. (*Narrator*) For nights, for weeks, for years, for decades
 1719. Far away from his fellow patriots dead,
 1720. Buried in the deep, dark clay he remained,
 1721. Alone and cold in his Pentonville grave.
 1722. Casement's supporters continued to make his request
 1723. But on deaf ears his wish fell.
 1724. All that was heard of this Irish son
 1725. Was his name echoed in poetry and song.
 1726. Little was mentioned of his great deeds
 1727. For Ireland and humanity.

Part 30: *Agreement finally reached on Exhumation of Casement's Remains*

1728. Finally letters were dispatched by the Irish government
 1729. Requesting the British to relinquish Casement's body.

1730. But each request was turned down
 1731. As the traitor's remains rotted further in the ground.
 1732. This lingering sore persisted
 1733. Despite the Irish government's insistence
 1734. That the rebel be brought home
 1735. Where his body would not be alone.
 1736. Request was met with refusal
 1737. At highest government level,
 1738. Until at last the British acquiesced
 1739. To the relief of much distress
 1740. And stated that they would hand over
 1741. The body of Roger Casement.
 1742. He should be buried, they insisted
 1743. In Glasnevin but not in Ulster.
 1744. They further wanted guarantee
 1745. That the remains' authenticity
 1746. Would not be a source of controversy;
 1747. The Irish acted in complicity.
 1748. Thus began the re-interment
 1749. Of the remains of Roger Casement
 1750. In February nineteen sixty five;
 1751. They were to leave English soil.
 1752. On the 22nd of that month
 1753. At a hurried gathering
 1754. Messrs. Ronan, Ward and Keating
 1755. Met in London with British officials.
 1756. Arrangements they made
 1757. For this historic operation.
 1758. The deed was done in secret
 1759. In advance of the Prime Minister's speech,
 1760. When he would announce to the Parliament
 1761. That they had exhumed the body of Casement
 1762. And given it over to the officials
 1763. Of the Irish Republic.
 1764. The secrecy was to ensure
 1765. That nobody would know
 1766. Lest the media would make
 1767. A sensation of the case.
 1768. The location of the grave
 1769. In Pentonville jail
 1770. Was finally identified
 1771. For the exhumation that night.
 1772. His bones shivered in anticipation
 1773. For his Irish relocation.
 1774. (*Narrator*) What a joy it must be
 1775. To be brought across the Irish Sea
 1776. And be laid on the soil
 1777. Of the land for which you died!
 1778. You will be in safe keeping there
 1779. Amongst friends and fellow rebels

1780. Your welcome will be true
 1781. From those who adore you.
 1782. No longer will you be shackled
 1783. As a slave to his manacle;
 1784. Your spirit can wander free
 1785. In the land you hold dear.
 1786. (*Casement*) Yes, happier you can say.
 1787. But how much closer to Murlough Bay?
 1788. (*Narrator*) The British and Irish agreed
 1789. On the type of coffin the remains would need.
 1790. The container they decided upon
 1791. Had a leaden casket therein.

Part 31: *The Exhumation of Casement*

1792. (*Narrator*) On Tuesday, February the twenty second,
 1793. As darkness fell on London,
 1794. The exhumation began
 1795. With some fifteen present.
 1796. These comprised the British,
 1797. Irish and prison officials.
 1798. High walls bounded the burial ground
 1799. Where the remains of Casement would be found.
 1800. A canvas screen was erected
 1801. To offer protection
 1802. Against on-lookers or the curious
 1803. Who might have suspected something spurious.
 1804. After some detailed triangulation
 1805. They agreed the remains' location.
 1806. Wooden pegs were placed around
 1807. This portion of the ground.
 1808. At 4.50pm the first sod was turned
 1809. In preparation for pick-axe and shovel.
 1810. The soil was thick and sodden
 1811. Requiring much physical exertion.
 1812. The dig proceeded at two feet per hour
 1813. As the pit grew deeper and darker.
 1814. Between six and seven feet
 1815. A layer of quicklime they did meet.
 1816. As the lime was dug further
 1817. In the middle sprung a pool of water.
 1818. On top of this little pond,
 1819. Two pieces of matter were found.
 1820. Upon careful examination,
 1821. They were identified as bones of the thumb.
 1822. The water was pumped out
 1823. From where these bones were found.
 1824. Within a few minutes a rib-bone was discovered;
 1825. Then a jaw-bone, vertebrae and other bones uncovered.
 1826. The skull was located wrapped in a shroud,

- 1827. Deeper than where most of the skeleton was found.
- 1828. Attached to it appeared to be a scalp all blackened
- 1829. The prize possession of the English Establishment.
- 1830. The bones were meticulously placed
- 1831. In the coffin's leaden case.
- 1832. At 10.20pm when no more bones could be found
- 1833. The exhumation was declared done - Casement found.
- 1834. To the Prison chapel the remains were brought
- 1835. And received by Fr. Keane with a sign of the cross.
- 1836. Despite the remains being those of a hanged traitor,
- 1837. The Irish officials noted the British co-operation;
- 1838. They recorded the humanity and reverence
- 1839. Of the six prison officers who performed the exhumation.
- 1840. They mentioned in particular Officer McKay
- 1841. Who recovered the skull of Casement so carefully.
- 1842. The Irish offered gifts to each of them
- 1843. But these were not accepted as they would be counter to regulation.
- 1844. Finally the Home Office agreed to a presentation
- 1845. Of Waterford Glass to the Prison Officers' association.

Part 32: *Transfer of Remains to Ireland*

- 1846. The following morning the prison officers
- 1847. Carried the remains through the prison corridors,
- 1848. Shoulder high followed by the Irish officials and the Governor.
- 1849. From there the remains were brought at slow pace
- 1850. To Northolt – a military base.
- 1851. Here the *Aer Lingus* plane called *Friendship* awaited
- 1852. To bring home the body of Roger Casement.
- 1853. The crew had been instructed to fly to London Airport
- 1854. But at the last minute had been diverted to Northolt.
- 1855. The purpose of their flight was never divulged
- 1856. To the crew - except at the last moment.
- 1857. A tricolour was placed on top of the coffin
- 1858. Before it was deposited in the cargo section.
- 1859. That afternoon the British Prime Minister Harold Wilson
- 1860. Made a statement to the House of Commons:
- 1861. That his government had agreed to an Irish request
- 1862. To have the remains of Casement re-interred
- 1863. In Glasnevin Cemetery, Dublin;
- 1864. And to have it that they would always rest there.
- 1865. And that arrangements had been made
- 1866. To have the remains removed that very day.
- 1867. At 3.15p.m. 'Friendship' left London
- 1868. And at 5p.m. it landed in Dublin.
- 1869. At Baldonnell Aerdrome
- 1870. An Army Commandant came aboard the plane
- 1871. To arrange the removal of the remains.
- 1872. Politicians and diplomats all stood
- 1873. As on a gun carriage the coffin was put.

1874. To the strains of *The Dead March from Saul*
 1875. A solemn procession followed to the Airport Chapel.
 1876. Later that evening they carried the coffin
 1877. To Arbour Hill where Casement lay in state;
 1878. There he remained for four days.
 1879. Hundreds of thousands from all over Ireland
 1880. Filed past Casement's coffin.
 1881. Thereafter the remains of the patriot icon
 1882. Were brought in procession
 1883. To the Pro-Cathedral.
 1884. Thousands of people lined the streets
 1885. As his remains were brought to a slow, sad beat.
 1886. Many tears were shed.
 1887. As the patriot was led
 1888. Sombre airs awakened in the people's minds
 1889. The sacrifice of Casement's kind.
 1890. As the state funeral proceeded to Glasnevin
 1891. Outside the GPO it paused for a minute;
 1892. This was the place where the Proclamation was read
 1893. As the doomed 1916 Easter Rising commenced.
 1894. The rebel traitor
 1895. Was now a patriot;
 1896. Finally acclaimed
 1897. Among the greatest
 1898. By his own people
 1899. As a heroic Irish rebel.

Part 33: Casement is Buried at Glasnevin

1900. In a plot selected by his sister,
 1901. Casement's remains were re-interred.
 1902. The day was cold and depressing
 1903. As De Valera made a televised address,
 1904. Saying those present were privileged
 1905. To witness Casement's funeral;
 1906. That people would remember the name of Casement
 1907. Wherever in the world they were oppressed.
 1908. The coffin of the martyr was finally buried
 1909. And the army fired volleys overhead;
 1910. Among the wreathes that were laid,
 1911. Was a sod of turf from Murlough Bay.
 1912. On that very day another ceremony took place;
 1913. In Ulster in the very spot where he wanted to be laid.
 1914. (*Narrator to Casement*) Roger, how do you feel to be at home on this day?
 1915. (*Casement*) Yes happier, you can say;
 1916. But how much closer to Murlough Bay?

[END]

