

The Tempest

Episode 8

NARRATOR

Prospero sits in his invisibility cloak and watches the miserable courtiers, huddled together weeping under a tree. No matter how evil they once were it seems they genuinely have repented. He decides he *must* forgive them. He summons Ariel, tells him to find Caliban and the drunks and bring them to the beach. Next he must go to the ship and release all the sailors from their spell. 'Will I then be free..?' asks Ariel.

'Very soon, dear spirit,' says Prospero. 'Very soon.'

With a joyful whoosh Ariel's gone.

Prospero now removes his cloak and hurls it into the air - it disappears! He takes his magic book and closes it - it disappears too. Finally he grasps his magic staff and breaks it across his knee. A crack of lightning and he steps forward, no longer Prospero, the magician...but once again Prospero, Duke of Milan. The courtiers are amazed to see him. Alonso begs his forgiveness - which is given. 'If only my dear son, Ferdinand, were still alive,' says Alonso. At which point, arm in arm, Ferdinand and Miranda emerge onto the beach. 'And they're not just alive,' says Prospero, 'they have my permission to marry too.' Well, as you can expect, there are all kinds of hugs and kisses and explanations...

Now Caliban, Trinculo and Stefano appear - miserable, hung-over and finally, round the point and heading for the beach comes the lost ship, its crew fit and healthy and the sails looking better even than when they left port.

PROSPERO

Nicely done, Ariel. Nicely done.

ARIEL

Is that all, master? Am I..?

PROSPERO

Yes, Ariel. You are free. Your work is over. And so is mine. It is time for me, time for us all, to return to our old lives and make them new.

NARRATOR

The ship's boats pull up on the shore and the castaways climb aboard. Caliban, now free just like Ariel, scratches his head and waves them off. Soon the ship is ready to leave, the anchors are pulled aboard, the wind fills the sails and the island with no name grows smaller on the horizon. They're going home.

