



# **THE THREE CROWS**

## **AN THE DOUNFAW O**

### **COCKENZIE POWER STATION LUMS**

**BY**

**RITA BRADD**

A script for radio commissioned by  
Cockenzie Primary School 2016  
Number 12 in The Three Crows Series



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1 Anon

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Sources:

East Lothian Courier

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cockenzie\\_power\\_station](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cockenzie_power_station)

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The Three Crows Series of Scripts

THREE CRAWs SAT UPON A WA

**Traditional**

**ALL:** (SING)

Three Craws sat upon a wa  
Sat upon a wa,  
Sat upon a wa-a-a-a,  
Three Craws Sat upon a wa  
On a cold and frosty morning

The First Craw wis greetin fer his ma  
Greetin fer his ma,  
Greetin fer his ma-a-a-a,  
The First Craw wis greetin fer his ma  
On a cold and frosty morning.

The Second Craw fell an broke his jaw,  
Fell an broke his jaw,  
Fell an broke his jaw-a-a-a,  
The Second Craw fell an broke his jaw  
On a cold an frosty morning.

The Third Craw couldnae flee at aa,  
Couldnae flee at aa,  
Couldnae flee at a-a-a-a,  
The third Craw couldnae flee at aa  
On a cold an frosty morning.

The fourth Craw ...

*wisnae there at aa!*

SCENE 1

**NARRATOR:** The Three Crows are sitting on  
Edinburgh Castle wall. It is mid-  
September. There is no breeze and the  
Saltire hangs limp on the flagpole.

**ALL:** Aaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaah!

**1<sup>st</sup> CRAW:** Dae ye ken, Ah'm gaun tae miss thae  
lums.

**3<sup>rd</sup> CRAW:** Whit are ye talkin about?

**1<sup>st</sup> CRAW:** The lums. Look, ower there.

**2<sup>nd</sup> CRAW:** (PAUSE)Och aye! They've been there an  
awfy lang time, sin 1967.

**3<sup>rd</sup> CRAW:** Ocht, ye mean the Power Station lums?

**1<sup>st</sup> CRAW:** Aye. Cockenzie Power Station lums.

**3<sup>rd</sup> CRAW:** Whit dae ye mean, "Ah'm gaun tae miss  
them"?

**1<sup>st</sup> CRAW:** Weel, they're tae be blawn up.

**2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>**

**CRAW:** Blawn up?!!

**2<sup>nd</sup> CRAW:** Whit are ye talkin about?

**1<sup>st</sup> CRAW:** Weel, fer decades thae lums hae stood an belched oot smoke.

**3<sup>rd</sup> CRAW:** But whit made the smoke?

**1<sup>st</sup> CRAW:** Weel, there wis a guid supply o coal in the grund, so they decided tae dae somethin wi it. They decided tae build a power station whaur they could burn it tae mak electricity.

**2<sup>nd</sup> CRAW:** Ah've seen the smoke gettin cairied by the wind awa frae the land along the mooth o the Firth o Forth an oot across the North Sea.

**1<sup>st</sup> CRAW:** An that wis part o the problem ...

**2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>**

**CRAW:** Problem?

**1<sup>st</sup> CRAW:** Aye. The smoke wis carryin muck in it.

**3<sup>rd</sup> CRAW:** Muck? But it didnae look mucky.

**2<sup>nd</sup> CRAW:** True, but jist 'cos it didnae look mucky, disnae mean it wis clean.

**1<sup>st</sup> CRAW:** Aye. An it wis fawin tae the grund an awfy lang wey awa.

**3<sup>rd</sup> CRAW:** Whaur? Japan? Australia?

**1<sup>st</sup> CRAW:** Naw, dinnae be sae daft. No that far awa.

**2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>**

**CRAW:** Come on, tell us.

**1<sup>st</sup> CRAW:** Sweden, an Norway, an Germany ...

**2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>**

**CRAW:** Sweden? Abba Country?

**1<sup>st</sup> CRAW:** Aye! The Dancin Queen herself wis complainin aboot the pollution. It wis makin the trees in her gairden rot.

**3<sup>rd</sup> CRAW:** Rot?

**2<sup>nd</sup> CRAW:** Is that when the leaves an pine needles  
in Scandinavia were gettin burnt an  
they couldnae breathe?

**1<sup>st</sup> CRAW:** Aye. Ye're talkin aboot acid rain.  
The tall lums sent bad gases like  
sulphur dioxide an nitrogen oxide  
across the sea tae Sweden and Norway an  
that got intae the grund watter an  
killed aff some o the lochs an the fish  
aa deid. An in Germany, even some o  
the buildins were startin tae faw tae  
pieces because o the pollution weakenin  
the steel rods an the stane they were  
built o.

**2<sup>nd</sup> CRAW:** Ye mean, they were crumblin, like when  
ye pour watter ower a cube o sugar?

**1<sup>st</sup> CRAW:** Aye.

**3<sup>rd</sup> CRAW:** ... an if trees cannae breathe, neither can we, 'cos it's trees that mak oxygen and that's whit lets us breathe ... an if we cannae breathe ...

**1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup>**

**CRAW:** We dee!!

**ALL:** (LOUD) Jings!

**3<sup>rd</sup> CRAW:** But whit made the smoke?

**1<sup>st</sup> CRAW:** Weel. First of aa they had tae dig the coal oot the grund frae deep coal mines, or 'pits'.

**3<sup>rd</sup> CRAW:** How did they dae that?

**1<sup>st</sup> CRAW:** Men, called 'miners' went doun intae the grund and cut the coal oot an made tunnels that took them deeper and deeper intae the grund.

**3<sup>rd</sup> CRAW:** Ye mean, like moles, tunnelin?

**1<sup>st</sup> CRAW:** Aye. Then efter the miners brocht the lumps o coal tae the surface frae deep mines an open cast mines whaur they jist took coal by diggin below the surface, or 'quarryin' no that far awa, it wis cairied tae the coal plant o the power station in lorries, an by trains like on a merry-go-round, usin hopper wagons.

**3<sup>rd</sup> CRAW:** Merry-go-round? Ah love merry-go-rounds! (HIGH PITCH) Wheeeeeeeeeee!!

**1<sup>st</sup> CRAW:** Then it wis checked an sorted then sent on a conveyor belt tae the main station across the road, and stored in bunkers.

**3<sup>rd</sup> CRAW:** Whit's a bunker?

**2<sup>nd</sup> CRAW:** It's whaur ye store coal.

**3<sup>rd</sup> CRAW:** They must hae been awfy big fer aa thae thousands o tons o coal needin burnt in the power station. Whit happened then?

**1<sup>st</sup> CRAW:** The coal wis fed intae the boiler hoose whaur it wis crushed doun intae stour, jist like sand, then blawn in tae the furnaces, an then it wis burnt tae heat up specially treated watter in boilers. The watter made steam an the steam drove the turbines that drove an alternator an electricity wis generated.

**2<sup>nd</sup> CRAW:** Wi aa this global warmin, the folk in charge o things made up their minds it wis time tae stop burnin coal tae mak power tae gie them electricity tae licht up folks' hames an places folk work in.

**3<sup>rd</sup> CRAW:** Aye, an tae heat them an aa.

**2<sup>nd</sup> CRAW:** Aye. An tae cook their denners.

**3<sup>rd</sup> CRAW:** Heat! Ah could dae wi a bit o heat masel. Ma taes are gettin awfy cauld.

**1<sup>st</sup> CRAW:** But at least they're no blue yet like they gaun in winter.

**ALL:** (LAUGH)

**3<sup>rd</sup> CRAW:** Dae ye ken whit?

**1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup>**

**CRAW:** Whit?

**3<sup>rd</sup> CRAW:** We're gaun tae hae tae gaun tae Cockenzie when the time comes, tae see the giant lums come doun.

**2<sup>nd</sup> CRAW:** Spot on! Dae ye ken whit?

**1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>**

**CRAWS:** Whit?

**2<sup>nd</sup> CRAW:** Ah hope aa thae fishermen an airplane pilots dinnae get lost when the lums are no there ony mair ...

**1<sup>st</sup> CRAW:** Aye, an dinnae forget thae Pink-Footed Geese that flee backwards an forrit tae Iceland an Greenland in summer an winter ...

**2<sup>nd</sup> CRAW:** ... an the Gannets on the Bass Rock. Ye could even see them frae Fife across the watter.

**3<sup>rd</sup> CRAW:** Whit dae ye mean?

**1<sup>st</sup> CRAW:** He means the lums are that tall they stick richt up intae the sky an they gie the crews ...

**3<sup>rd</sup> CRAW:** ... the crews? Dae ye no mean the craws?  
...

**2<sup>nd</sup> CRAW:** Dinnae be sae daft!

**1<sup>st</sup> CRAW:** ... the crews o the boats an planes an the birds are a landmark fer Cockenzie an Port Seton.

**2<sup>nd</sup> CRAW:** Spot on! But maybe when the lums were reekin smoke, they nicht no hae been able tae see!

**3<sup>rd</sup> CRAW:** A landmark?

**2<sup>nd</sup> CRAW:** Aye. That's whit Ah wis goin tae get roond tae. A landmark is somethin that gies ye a bearin.

**3<sup>rd</sup> CRAW:** A Bairn? Ah'm no wantin a bairn!

**1<sup>st</sup> CRAW:** No ... no a bairn ... a bearin. It gies ye somethin tae home in on if ye lose yer compass or get lost. Ye can see a landmark an it acts as a guide tae tell ye whaur ye are. Even the fishermen used them tae position their creels in the sea.

**3<sup>rd</sup> CRAW:** Ye mean like oor Edinburgh Castle? An the muckle great volcanic rock it's built on? An the Saltire? Ah aye ken when we're near hame when Ah see thon flappin in the breeze.

**2<sup>nd</sup> CRAW:** Aye, exactly. An Ah ken this because Ah wis speakin tae some o the bairns at Cockenzie Primary School no that long ago. ...

They telt me that they aye kent when they were near hame when they were comin back frae their holidays, or frae visitin relatives or jist bein awa fer the day, 'cos they could see the lums frae the car windaes or frae the airplane, an even frae the train.

**3<sup>rd</sup> CRAW:** They'd look awfy sma frae high up in the sky. Oh, but dae ye ken, Ah'm gaun tae love gaun tae Cockenzie.

**1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup>**

**CRAW:** Why?

**3<sup>rd</sup> CRAW:** 'Cos ye can scavenge fer bits o fish an chips, an some folk even feed me.

**1<sup>st</sup> CRAW:** But Ah've seen signs sayin 'It is an offence tae feed the birds'.

**3<sup>rd</sup> CRAW:** Naw, naw. It says 'It is an offence tae feed the Seagulls, an we're no Seagulls'.

**ALL:** (LAUGH)

**NARRATOR:** A few days later The Three Crows awaken to a fine blue sky.

**2<sup>nd</sup> CRAW:** (YAWNS) Here ... whit day is it?  
Whit's the date?

**3<sup>rd</sup> CRAW:** Hang on, Ah'll awa an hae a look ...

**NARRATOR:** The Third Crow flies to a shop on The Royal Mile and looks in the window. She returns to join her friends on Edinburgh Castle wall.

**3<sup>rd</sup> CRAW:** ... it's the 26<sup>th</sup> o September.

**2<sup>nd</sup> CRAW:** It's the day!

**1<sup>st</sup> CRAW:** Whit?

**2<sup>nd</sup> CRAW:** The lums! The chimneys! Tak a last look ye twa, this is the day the lums get blawn up.

**3<sup>rd</sup> CRAW:** Ye mean we'll never see them again efter the day?

**2<sup>nd</sup> CRAW:** Spot on!

**All:** CRIVENS!

**3<sup>rd</sup> CRAW:** Whit are we waitin fer? Fish an chips, here Ah come!

**ALL:** (LAUGH) Let's awa. CAA! CAA!

**NARRATOR:** The Three Crows take off from Edinburgh Castle wall. The sky is blue, there are no clouds, especially no smoke coming from Cockenzie Power Station chimneys.

**2<sup>nd</sup> CRAW:** It's jist like whit thae bairns said aboot a landmark.

**3<sup>rd</sup> CRAW:** Aye. Ye jist hae tae point yer beak at the lums an follow it.

**1<sup>st</sup> CRAW:** Aye ... the lums are actin like 'beak-ons' ...

**ALL:** (LAUGH)

**3<sup>rd</sup> CRAW:** (DREAMILY) Ah love a bacon sandwich ... an we'll be there in nae time at a, 'cos we're travellin (IN ENGLISH ACCENT) 'as the crow flies'!

**ALL:** (LAUGH)

**1<sup>st</sup> CRAW:** Aye, fleein frae here tae there in the shortest way possible, nae windy roads, jist in a strecht line.

**2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>**

**CRAW:** Aye. We'll soon be there.

**ALL:** It's awfy excitin!

SCENE 2

The Three Crows arrive over  
Cockenzie Power Station.

**2<sup>nd</sup> CRAW:** Look! The roads are aa shut aff.

**3<sup>rd</sup> CRAW:** See thon wee laddie? Ah've seen him afore. He's awfy guid at drawin pictures. He'll no be able tae walk his dugs aroon the Power Station ony mair, no at least until the site's been cleared.

**1<sup>st</sup> CRAW:** He'd hae been okay in the dark, 'cos Ah heard frae yin o the bairns in P2C that the Power Station glowed reid at nicht an it wis like a great giant standin loomin ower Hawthorn Terrace.

**3<sup>rd</sup> CRAW:** Aye, an it wis lit up in bonnie colours at the Millennium, in 2000 when we moved intae a new century, an somebody else said it looked like a lovely cruise-liner!

**2<sup>nd</sup> CRAW:** That wid tak some imagination.

**ALL:** (LAUGH)

**3<sup>rd</sup> CRAW:** Dae ye ken, it must hae been awfy scary, but it wid hae been easy tae ken when tae get up in the mornins.

**1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup>**

**CRAWS:** How come?

**3<sup>rd</sup> CRAW:** 'Cos a wee lass telt me it made a noise in the mornin, and she lives in Prestonpans a wee bit doun the road.



**3<sup>rd</sup> CRAW:** Weel, they're makin folk stand back in case onybody gets injured by flyin bricks and aa that stuff they use tae build somethin like this. Ah wonder when it wis built.

**2<sup>nd</sup> CRAW:** It wis opened in 1967, an dae ye ken, folk were hurt and even deid in the buildin o it?

**1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>**

**CRAWS:** Crivens! That's awfy. How dae ye ken that?

**2<sup>nd</sup> CRAW:** Weel, a wee laddie telt me his Great-Grandad wis killed in 1965 when it wis bein built.

**1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>**

**CRAWS:** Aw, whit an awfy shame.

**2<sup>nd</sup> CRAW:** An dae ye ken whit else?

**1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>**

**CRAWS:** Whit?

**2<sup>nd</sup> CRAW:** Thirteen folk aa thegither deid in the buildin o it ... an there's a black brick built intae the lums tae mind folk o every man that deid.

**1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>**

**CRAWS:** Jings!

**2<sup>nd</sup> CRAW:** An the folk that worked in the power station could be frae three generations, like a gran-faither, his laddie an his wife, an their bairn, an if the power station wisnae bein blawn up, the next bairn could hae worked in it an aa, makin it fower generations.

**1<sup>st</sup> CRAW:** An Ah ken some folk came tae East Lothian especially tae build the power station. It brought folk thegither, made a new community. Some folk came frae England tae set up the power station an train folk on how tae work it afore movin on tae dae the same in ither power stations.

**3<sup>rd</sup> CRAW:** So the local folk got tae ken new folk,  
and they became freens?

**1<sup>st</sup> CRAW:** Aye, an they even took up fishin.

**3<sup>rd</sup> CRAW:** Wheesht, yer makin me think of fish an  
chips again. Ye've made ma belly  
rumble. (LOUD RUMBLING SOUND)Whit did  
they catch?

**1<sup>st</sup> CRAW:** Mullet, bass an mackerel.

**3<sup>rd</sup> CRAW:** Bass? Bass? Like the Bass Rock?

**1<sup>st</sup> CRAW:** Aye, but it's no the Bass Rock jist  
because o the Bass in the watter.  
There's Bass fish swimmin aa ower the  
place. Dae ye ken whit else?

**2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>**

**CRAW:** Whit?

**1<sup>st</sup> CRAW:** Folk even came tae fix the boilers  
where the steam wis made that drove the  
turbines, when they broke doun. They  
came frae aa ower. The bunkers  
sometimes needed fixed an aa, but that  
wis done by the local skilled men  
workin at the power station.

**1<sup>st</sup> CRAW:** (SLOWLY AND CREEPILY) Dae ye ken whit else?

**2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>**

**CRAW:** (SHAKILY) Whit ... ?

**1<sup>st</sup> CRAW:** Somebody telt me the power station wis haunted!

**2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>**

**CRAW:** Haunted! Dinnae tell us!! HELP! Ah want ma Mammy!

**1<sup>st</sup> CRAW:** Aye ... 'cos o aa the folk that deid in the buildin o it, an it made a lot o noise at nicht an even a great rumblin racket that made some folk think it wis the end o the world!

**3<sup>rd</sup> CRAW:** But it wid hae been like the end o the world if folk didnae hae electricity across the country!

**2<sup>nd</sup> CRAW:** It's no much fun tae be kept in the dark! But Ah ken a lot o years ago there wis an Open Day at Cockenzie Power Station. Folk could come and see whit went on inside it, how it worked, an aa that. ...

There were a load o buttons an switches  
tae control it, and it wis awfy noisy.  
Ah heard about a lassie inside sittin  
on a bicycle that wis gaun nae whaur.  
But she wis pedallin that fast, a licht  
bulb lit up frae aa the energy she wis  
pittin intae turnin the wheels.

**3<sup>rd</sup> CRAW:** Ye mean, she wis generatin electricity?

**2<sup>nd</sup> CRAW:** Aye. An it wis frae a renewable source  
as long as she kept pedallin.

**3<sup>rd</sup> CRAW:** An she'd hae tae keep eatin a lot o  
food tae hae the calories ... calories!  
Food! Whours the fish an chips!

**2<sup>nd</sup> CRAW:** Spot on! Calories tae keep pedallin.  
Calories are whit's in coal an aa, an  
gas, an logs, an that's whit gies aff  
the energy. But Ah'm wonderin whit  
happens tae the coal efter it's burnt.

**1<sup>st</sup> CRAW:** Weel, first of aa, it maks an awfy stour that mucks up awbody's cars an windaes an washin.

**2<sup>nd</sup> CRAW:** Spot on!

**3<sup>rd</sup> CRAW:** Spots on, ye mean! Aa ower the braw white sheets an nappies!

**ALL:** (LAUGH)

**1<sup>st</sup> CRAW:** Aye! But the smoke blew awa like Ah said afore. Then the burnt coal turned intae a powdery ash an stour.

**3<sup>rd</sup> CRAW:** Whit did they dae wi it?

**1<sup>st</sup> CRAW:** It wis used tae reclaim land frae the sea between Prestonpans and Musselburgh.

**3<sup>rd</sup> CRAW:** Crivens! How did they dae that?

**1<sup>st</sup> CRAW:** The ash wis mixed wi seawater tae mak a slurry. This went intae a pipe that cairied it along the shore tae lagoons ...

**3<sup>rd</sup> CRAW:** Whit's a 'lagoon'?

**1st CRAW:** ... a salt-water loch or a pond by the sea ... lagoons at Levenhall Links whaur there's an awfy lot of birds an wildlife noo because o it ... an it's protected ... an they used it tae build roads an aa, includin an extra bit o the M74.

**2<sup>nd</sup> CRAW:** But how did they keep the slurry frae gettin washed oot tae sea?

**1st CRAW:** Weel, that's whaur the sea wa comes in. It wis built in 1964 tae keep the sea back an it kept the slurry frae gettin washed awa an aa.

**3<sup>rd</sup> CRAW:** Ah'm wonderin ... maybe the A701 and A702 were made wi it ... ye ken, the roads that took us tae Dumfries fer Rabbie Burns' Birthday Pairty.

**2nd CRAW:** Maybe ...

**3<sup>rd</sup> CRAW:** Talkin aboot pairties ... did ye ken they used tae hae pairties in the power station? Ah do love a pairty! Ah expect they'd hae had them at Christmas time for the workers an their faimilies, an am shair they'd hae yin when they stopped the power station workin and started takin it tae bits in 2013. There wis an awfy guid canteen, ye ken. (RUMBLING SOUND) Oh! There Ah gaun again!

**1<sup>st</sup> CRAW:** Ye mean, 'decommissionin' it.

**3<sup>rd</sup> CRAW:** Aye.

**1<sup>st</sup> CRAW:** Look, there's the coal plant on the Greenhills jist beside whaur the Battle o Prestonpans took place, an see! There's some bairns in thon hay field that's been cut. They're haein a hay fecht!

**3<sup>rd</sup> CRAW:** There's an awfy lot o folk an an awfy lot o cameras. See, they're at Prestonpans an aa.

**2<sup>nd</sup> CRAW:** Prestonpans ... where the Battle wis ... an  
mind we went tae Bayeux wi The Battle o  
Prestonpans Tapestry and had a lot o  
fun gaun roond the streets an in the  
Museum courtyard tellin folk about the  
Tapestry visitin the Museum there?

**3<sup>rd</sup> CRAW:** Och, aye. That wis a lot o fun. Mind  
Ah had tae speak in French ...

**1<sup>st</sup> CRAW:** (ENGLISH ACCENT) ... and I had to speak  
in English. Yes, we did have rather a  
lot of fun.

**ALL:** (LAUGH)

**2<sup>nd</sup> CRAW:** Ah can see folk at Seton Sands an aa  
the wey tae Longniddry Beach. There's  
aa sorts o ages, an folk frae aa sorts  
o places aroon the world, aa gaithered  
here fer this historic moment.

**3<sup>rd</sup> CRAW:** But there'll be folk that'll no see this 'cos o bein too sad tae see them come doun, or maybe they'll be awa at a weddin or somethin like that, wi this bein a Saturday an aa, but they'll be able tae get tae see the rest o the power station comin doun anither day.

**1<sup>st</sup> CRAW:** Some folk are watchin frae thae hundreds o boats oot on the sea.

**2<sup>nd</sup> CRAW:** Did ye ken there wis a raffle tae find a lucky winner whae wis gaun tae get the chance tae press the button that set aff the explosives that will bring the lums doun?

**3<sup>rd</sup> CRAW:** Ah wish Ah'd kent aboot thon. Ah think Ah micht jist hae foond enough strength in ma wings tae press that button. Whae organised that?

**2<sup>nd</sup> CRAW:** Weel, speakin about Longniddry earlier, it wis Longniddry an District Rotary Club that sold tickets. The money's gaun tae charities.

**3<sup>rd</sup> CRAW:** Ah'd hae loved tae be the yin tae topple thae lums. We're fleein ower them the noo, and they're 149 metres high!

**1<sup>st</sup> CRAW:** Dae ye mind the Number 129 bus used tae gaun frae Edinburgh tae Seton Sands?

**2<sup>nd</sup> CRAW:** Spot on! Ah used tae hitch a ride on it when the driver wisnae lookin. It saved me a load o calories gettin burnt! ...

**ALL:** (LAUGH)

**2<sup>nd</sup> CRAW:** Look! There's a fellah in a pinstripe suit. He looks awfy important.

**3<sup>rd</sup> CRAW:** Haud on, Ah'll swoop doun an see whit he's up tae ... (MAKES A WHOOSH SOUND) ... Jings! (MAKES A WHOOSH SOUND) ... He's haudin a yellay machine thing in his hauns. It's no a mobile phone or a camera. It's no got a screen but it has got twa big grey buttons!

**1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup>**

**CRAWS:** Crivens!

**1<sup>st</sup> CRAW:** Ah see him!

**2<sup>nd</sup> CRAW:** So do Ah. Here! It's no safe bein up here richt above the lums when they're aboot tae blaw!

**3<sup>rd</sup> CRAW:** Ye're richt! Especially no wi thon microlight fleein that close tae the lums. He might no see us. Come on, it's nearly time fer the coontdoun. Ah seen it on thon man's phone.

**1<sup>st</sup> CRAW:** It's gaun awfy quiet. Ye could hear a peen drap.

**3<sup>rd</sup> CRAW:** A peen drap? Mair likely a pair o lums  
drap ... Look oot ... he's gaun tae press  
thae buttons ... Ah'm oot o here!

**ALL:** Let's awa! (FLAPPING NOISES) CAA! CAA!

**NARRATOR:** The Three Crows flap their wings as  
hard as they can. A cloud of Pigeons  
rise from the Greenhills, and soon a  
whole crowd of Oystercatchers take to  
the air.

**ALL:** Ten ... nine ... eight ... seven ... six ... five  
... four ... three ...

**3<sup>rd</sup> CRAW:** Look! See thae puffs o smoke at the  
bottom o the lums!

**2<sup>nd</sup> CRAW:** (SHOUTS) The lums are startin tae lean!

**1<sup>st</sup> CRAW:** Jings! They're fawin intae each ither!  
They look like twa pencils crashin  
intae each ither.

**3<sup>rd</sup> CRAW:** (LOUD) They're giein each ither a  
goodbye kiss! Jings! Thon stour's  
fair stingin ma een!

**2<sup>nd</sup> CRAW:** (EXCITED) Look at that! There's a giant  
man stridin oot o the stour.

**1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>**

**CRAW:** Crivens! So there is! (SHOUT) Mammy!

(PAUSE)

**3<sup>rd</sup> CRAW:** That wis close! That wis an  
(LOUD) almighty bang! See, that wee  
lassie sittin on the herbour wa nearly  
fell intae the watter wi the fricht she  
got.

**1<sup>st</sup> CRAW:** Or maybe frae the grund shakin like an  
earthquake or a volcano eruptin!

**3<sup>rd</sup> CRAW:** Oh! Ah can hardly see her noo fer aa  
the stour ower the herbour!

**2<sup>nd</sup> CRAW:** Is it no awfy weird how we seen the  
lums fawin afore we heard the big bang?

**3<sup>rd</sup> CRAW:** Aye. Maybe somethin tae dae wi the speed o sound.

**2<sup>nd</sup> CRAW:** Listen tae thon racket! Folk are cheerin

**3<sup>rd</sup> CRAW:** ... an shoutin ...

**1<sup>st</sup> CRAW:** ... an clappin. Ah can even see their faces noo the stour's clearin. Some o them look awfy sad ...

**2<sup>nd</sup> CRAW:** ... an surprised ...

**1<sup>st</sup> CRAW:** ... an shocked ...

**3<sup>rd</sup> CRAW:** ... an there's a lot of laughin ... but see, thon wifey's greetin.

**ALL:** (LOUDLY) Crivens! Look at that! The Boiler Hoose is explodin noo an aa!

**NARRATOR:** The Three Crows flap their wings really hard. They take a last look at all the dust, the piles of bricks, the boats on the water, all the people, before heading back to their perch on Edinburgh Castle wall.

SCENE 3

Edinburgh Castle Wall.

**3<sup>rd</sup> CRAW:** Jings! Whit was that aa about? Ah'm scared oot o ma wits!

**2<sup>nd</sup> CRAW:** Me an aa. Whit wis thon man comin oot o the stour aa about?

**3<sup>rd</sup> CRAW:** (SHAKILY) Maybe ... the ghost o a miner ...

**2<sup>nd</sup> CRAW:** Or, maybe it wis folks' lives an memories gaun up in smoke ...

**3<sup>rd</sup> CRAW:** ... or maybe it wis a salute tae the folk that deid in the buildin o it.

**ALL:** (LOUDLY) S-P-O-O-K-Y!

**3<sup>rd</sup> CRAW:** Jist look at oor feathers ... they're aa covered in black stour, jist like thon wee lassie's dolly Ah seen afore we flew aff.

**NARRATOR:** It was not long after the Cockenzie Power Station chimneys came down that the rest of the power station was blown up too, its windows shattering in the blast. Cockenzie Primary School children and parents did a countdown, watching from the school park. There was 'millions' of dirty dust, and there was singing.

**3<sup>rd</sup> CRAW:** Dae ye ken, Ah'm really gaun tae miss thae lums.

**2<sup>nd</sup> CRAW:** Aye, but whit a bonnie place it is  
roond about wi aa thae braw beaches.  
Ah wonder whit they'll pit in their  
place.

**1<sup>st</sup> CRAW:** Ah jist wish Ah could hae cairied a  
brick hame wi me. Some folk hae bricks  
and bits frae the lums as souvenirs.

**3<sup>rd</sup> CRAW:** It wis great tae see freens an  
faimilies frae the community, an folk o  
aa ages, races an cultures frae aa ower  
gettin thegither fer this historic  
event.

**2<sup>nd</sup> CRAW:** Aye. An dae ye ken, it wis even on the  
news in Australia.

**3<sup>rd</sup> CRAW:** Australia! Jings! That's the ither  
side o the world!

**1<sup>st</sup> CRAW:** Dae ye ken there's a place called  
'Little Scotland' at Goolwa in South  
Australia whaur Francis Cadell an  
George Johnston frae Cockenzie settled?  
Johnston even named the hoose he built  
aroon 1857 'Cockenzie Hoose', an ye  
ken, it's still got its lums!

**All:** (SING LOUD THEN FADING)

Three Crows sat upon a wa,  
Sat upon a wa, Sat upon a wa-a-a-a,  
Three Crows sat upon a wa,  
On a cold and frosty mornin.

END



The Three Crows Plays are intended as an introduction to Scots language with comparison to English language and are based on facts presented in a fun way. Some spellings of words will vary with dialects in different regions of Scotland.



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