

NB: This is not a word-for-word transcript

LANGUAGE FOCUS: Present tenses mixed together- revision and extension. Revise Present simple, present continuous and present perfect, and especially the differences between them in terms of time indication

Mary narrator

My name is Mary, Mary Yellan. I'm 23 years old. **I'm not usually very brave, but I feel brave today.** Here I am ... on this long journey to Cornwall ... on my own. **I've left the farm** where **I've lived all my life.** I wanted to stay there, but last week I made a promise to my dear Mother...

Mother

[coughing/weak voice] Mary, my child... listen...I won't be in this world much longer.

Mary

Don't say that, Mother.

Mother

It's true, Mary. But, before I go, **I have only one wish**

Mary

Yes, Mother dear?

Mother

When I die, promise me you will go and live with my sister Patience.

Mary

But why can't I stay here on the farm, here in Helford?

Mother

You can't stay here alone.

Mary

But **I haven't seen Patience since I was a child!**

Mother

I know, but soon she will be the only family you have. [coughing] **I have written to her. She has agreed** that you can go and live with her and your uncle Joshua. **They live on Bodmin Moor in Cornwall.** Here, take her letter.

Mary

Bodmin Moor! But that's so far away!

Mary narrator

Mother died last Tuesday. The funeral was yesterday. We buried her next to Papa. **Now, I'm on my way to my aunt's house. I've got the letter here ...**

[reading] **Joss and I now live in Jamaica Inn**, where he is **landlord**. It's on the road between Bodmin and Launceston...

This journey is so long! We have been travelling for hours. What a wild and lonely county Cornwall is. My only **consolation** is that I will see my aunt again after so many years. Oh how pretty she was with her golden hair and blue eyes! Always laughing, enjoying ourselves

But **I never visited her** and I never met her husband either. ... Ah, at last, I can see houses and people – this must be Bodmin town.

There is just me and one other traveller left. It's so cold and grey outside... **The rain is lashing against the window.** I wish it would stop! All I can see is mile upon mile of empty **moorland**. No trees ... no houses ... I wonder how many more hours we have to travel?

Mary

Excuse me, sir – is it much further?

Man

Where are you going?

Mary

Jamaica Inn **Do you know it?**

Man

Maybe I do and maybe I don't...and **why are you going there?**

Mary

I'm going to live there with my aunt and uncle.

Man

That will be Joss Merlyn ... **People say that queer things go on at Jamaica Inn.**

Mary
What do you mean – queer?

Man
It's just what they say. But **respectable people don't go there any more.** It's a lonely place.

Man
If I were you, Miss, I would go on to Launceston tonight and go back to Bodmin tomorrow.

Mary
But I can't. **My aunt and uncle are waiting for me.**

Man
Jamaica Inn is no place for a young woman.

Mary
I have nowhere else to go...

Mary narrator
What can he mean by 'queer things'? **Why is he looking at me in that curious way?**

Driver
Whoa boy...! Slow now.

Mary
Why have we stopped here – it's the middle of nowhere?

Driver
Jamaica Inn! There you go Miss.

Mary
But there's nothing here! Oh – what's that? There up on the **moor** - a dark building with tall chimneys. I can see a path to the door. There's a sign twisting in the wind. It says 'Jamaica Inn'.

Mary narrator
Suddenly **I feel frightened. I want to climb back in the coach.**
Too late – **it's already gone...** I suppose my only choice now is to enter Jamaica Inn.

Next time we meet – I get to meet my Aunt Patience and Uncle Joss. I discover what a mean and scary man my uncle is. And I discover a locked room – what is inside?

Vocabulary

inn

pub where people can stay overnight

landlord

person who owns or manages a hotel or an inn

consolation

something that you makes you feel better about a difficult situation

lashing

when rain is lashing, it is falling very heavily, often with a lot of wind

moor(land)

large open area of land with very few trees or plants and very few buildings

queer

(here) strange, unusual

respectable

acceptable to most people in a place

coach

form of transport that is pulled by horses and was used in the past

Quiz

1. What did Mary promise her mother to do?

- a) Stay on the farm
- b) Get married
- c) Go to live with her aunt

2. Who is Joss Merlyn?

- a) Mary's father
- b) The landlord of Jamaica Inn
- c) A man she meets on her journey

3 What does the man in the coach say about Jamaica Inn?

- a) Local people like going there
- b) Strange things happen there
- c) Mary will like it there

Feedback:

1. What did Mary promise her mother to do?

- a) Stay on the farm - Wrong – Mary's mother doesn't want her to stay on the farm on her own. She wants her to go and live with her aunt in Cornwall.
- b) Get married - Wrong – Mary's mother says to Mary: '...promise me you will go and live with my sister Patience.'
- c) Go to live with her aunt - Correct – Well done!**

2. Who is Joss Merlyn?

- a) Mary's father - Wrong – Joss Merlyn is Mary's uncle.
- b) The landlord of Jamaica Inn - Correct – Well done!**
- c) A man she meets on her journey - Wrong – Joss Merlyn is Mary's uncle.

3 What does the man in the coach say about Jamaica Inn?

- a) Local people like going there - Wrong – He says 'respectable people don't go there any more'.
- b) Strange things happen there - Correct – Well done!**
- c) Mary will like it there - Wrong – He says it's 'no place for a young woman'. He advises her to go back to Bodmin.