

UNIT 13 REVIEW TEST LISTENING SCRIPT

Tim: We have in the studio Brandy Petrov who has recently won an award for her latest novel *What They Didn't Know*. Congratulations Brandy.

Brandy: Thank you so much, Tim.

Tim: So, tell us why you wrote this book that is so different from your previous novels. What led you to write about the Irish immigration experience?

Brandy: Well, a number of years ago, I found a copy of an out-of-print book that I had been interested in reading for a long time. It's called *A World Away*, by Harvey O'Drey.

Tim: I've never heard of it.

Brandy: Not many people outside of Ireland have. But O'Drey is an author that many people in Ireland consider a folk hero.

Tim: Interesting.

Brandy: Yes, this novel was set in the fishing village where O'Drey spent his childhood. He mainly writes about the people's connection with the land and sea. But what I fell in love with were his descriptions of the rocky coasts—I felt somehow that I'd been there.

Tim: You're not Irish? Your name certainly isn't.

Brandy: Yes, actually I'm half Irish. But growing up I never thought of myself as Irish. My mother was born in Russia and my Irish father, who I don't remember, died when I was very young. I grew up learning my mother's culture. Anyway, after reading O'Drey's work I became fascinated with Ireland, and also wanted to know more about my father's ancestors. So I began some research. My mother knew only one living relative, which was Ben Murphy, so I contacted him. In fact he is the person that I dedicated the book to.

Tim: When did you first go to Ireland?

Brandy: Four years ago, and I went straight to the town where O'Drey's novel was set. From the moment I arrived I felt at home. After talking to many people and returning a number of times, I knew exactly how I was going to write the novel.

Tim: So, what is next for you?

Brandy: I've decided I'm going to buy a house when I go to Ireland next. I feel I belong there. The small village, where I have chosen to live is so peaceful, which will be perfect for my writing.

Tim: How interesting. Well, thanks for coming in Brandy.