

JOHN SKINNER:

It's stopped . . . after 24 hours,
it's finally stopped . . .

DR. BEANES:

Mistress Lucy, can you see
anything?

LUCY:

[CONCERNED] No, it's still too
dark . . .

JOHN SKINNER:

It's almost dawn. You may be able
to make something out by the
morning light . . .

DR. BEANES:

During the night, I was able to
see the flag by the glare of the
bursting shells . . .

JOHN SKINNER:

Francis, where's Cockburn?

FRANCIS:

Gone to one of the forward ships
. . .

JOHN SKINNER:

That can only mean one thing --
the fort has fallen . . .

DR. BEANES:

No, it can't! It mustn't . . .
Look again, Mistress Lucy! Can
you see anything? Is the flag
still there?

LUCY:

I don't know. I-- [SHE SEES SOMETHING] Wait . . . wait! Yes! Yes, it is! I see it!! It's tattered and torn, but it's still there! Still there . . .

JOHN SKINNER:

[AWED] The ships are weighing anchor . . . they're leaving . . . it's over . . . at last, our long night is over . . . Ft. McHenry stands . . .

DR. BEANES:

[ALMOST A WHISPER] Praise the Power that preserves us a nation . . .

[LUCY WALKS OVER TO FRANCIS.]

LUCY:

Excuse me?

FRANCIS:

Yes.

LUCY:

I couldn't help noticing that you've been writing all night long.

FRANCIS:

Just some thoughts . . . a poem . . .

LUCY:

May I . . . read it?

[PAUSE]

FRANCIS:

Of course, Mistress Lucy --read it
aloud . . .

[MUSIC: AS SHE READS, IT CHANGES TO "THE STAR-SPANGLED BANNER."
[LUCY TAKES THE PAPER, AND WITH A QUIVERING VOICE READS:]]

LUCY:

[READS] "O, say, can you see by
the dawn's early light
What so proudly we hail'd at the
twilight's last gleaming,
Whose broad stripes and bright
stars through the perilous fight
O'er the ramparts we watch'd were
so gallantly streaming?
And the rockets' red glare, the
bombs bursting in air,
Gave proof through the night that
our flag was still there.
O, say, does that star-spangled
banner yet wave
O'er the land of the free and the
home of the brave?"