

EXT. RIVER - DAY

We see a very wide, swift-flowing RIVER. Dense, primeval FOREST lies to both sides of the RIVER. The FOREST appears bleak, impenetrable and dark. Upon the RIVER is a large wooden SHIP. This is the LANCE OF THE GODS. The LANCE OF THE GODS is a long, wide boat that can be propelled by either SAILS or OARS. A complex system of PULLEYS, ROPES and COUNTERWEIGHTS is in place to help raise and lower the large, heavy SAILS. On the UPPER DECK of the ship are mounted several giant CROSSBOWS. At the moment, the LANCE OF THE GODS is under OAR-power, lines of long, heavy OARS protruding from holes in the hull, dipping into the WATER in perfectly coordinated unison, moving the ship forward very quickly, sliding quickly along the RIVER, against the current.

EXT. LANCE OF THE GODS - UPPER DECK - DAY

CREW MEMBERS are rushing in a frenzy of controlled chaos, going about their duties to keep the LANCE OF THE GODS running smoothly. Two men stand unmoving in the midst of the activity. One of these men is the captain of the LANCE OF THE GODS - WALTER DRAKE. WALTER DRAKE is a large, fit, muscular man with, well-tanned, leathery skin. The man with him is BROM GREY. BROM GREY is captain of Princess EMELINE PAYNE'S Royal Guard. Both men appear very agitated and ill-at ease. Of the two, BROM GREY is the more stricken. BROM GREY and WALTER DRAKE stand together, mostly ignoring the activity going on around them.

WALTER DRAKE

We'll catch them up soon. Have no fears of that, Brom.

BROM GREY

I've failed her. I'm Captain of her Royal Guard and I've failed her.

WALTER DRAKE

No, lad. Ye haven't failed her.

BROM GREY

(very distraught)

How can you say that, Walter? I'm in charge of her safety and I couldn't protect her.

WALTER DRAKE

Ye did what you could. So did your men.
And you still are. We'll catch them up
soon. When we do, that'll be the end of
it.

BROM GREY

No. It won't be. Even after I get her
back, King Oliver will relieve me of my
post.

WALTER DRAKE

Worry about that once we've gotten
Princess Emeline back.

BROM GREY nods, frowning deeply, his sorrow and worry evident in
his expression.

EXT. RIVER - FURTHER ALONG - DAY

On the RIVER is another wooden SHIP. This is a truly massive
double-hulled ship that is really an entire five-story wooden
castle floating upon the water. The enormous vessel is propelled
by many rows of OARS and, despite it's vast size, is making good
time. This floating castle is the TYRANT'S STAY.

INT. TYRANT'S STAY - PRINCESS EMELINE'S ROOM - DAY

The room is small and cramped, yet, somehow, seems larger than it
truly is. It is furnished with rustic pieces that are all
handmade. A STAND is beside the BED. Upon the STAND rest a copper
PITCHER and drinking CUP, along with a copper PLATE and wooden
SPOON. The PLATE holds an untouched MEAL. There is a single
window, barred with a wooden LATTICE. PRINCESS EMELINE sits
forlornly on the BED, staring at the DOOR. She is an
exceptionally lovely, young, petite woman. She is crying silently
as she stares ahead. There is a brusque KNOCK on the DOOR. At
this noise, she starts, her level of distress growing visibly.
The DOOR opens. A tall man, lean yet muscular, with a small,
trimmed beard and a hard look about him is revealed. This man is
HADRIAN DE BOLBEC. HADRIAN DE BOLBEC strides through the OPEN
DOOR, closing it behind him, making his way to where PRINCESS
EMELINE sits. PRINCESS EMELINE scoots away from HADRIAN DE BOLBEC
as he sits on the BED beside her. He gives her a harsh look as
she moves away.

HADRIAN DE BOLBEC

You should act more warmly toward me,
bride-to-be.

PRINCESS EMELINE
 (snorting derisively)
 The only time you'll get warmth from me,
 Hadrian De Bolbec, is if I set you on
 fire.

As she speaks, PRINCESS EMELINE stands quickly from the BED and starts to move away. Before she can move, HADRIAN DE BOLBEC leaps to his feet, grabbing her arm, holding her in place.

HADRIAN DE BOLBEC
 Do not push me, Princess! You know what
 I want. And I shall have it.

PRINCESS EMELINE stares hard into HADRIAN DE BOLBEC'S eyes, unflinching.

PRINCESS EMELINE
 My guard comes for me even now. They'll
 rescue me. And kill you for what you
 have done. Give up now and I'll see to
 it that your death is quick.

HADRIAN DE BOLBEC replies to her words with a silent smile.

EXT. RIVER - DIFFERENT SPOT - DAY

The LANCE OF THE GODS has progressed to another point along the RIVER, yet still trails far enough behind TYRANT'S STAY that the far larger vessel is still out of sight.

EXT. LANCE OF THE GODS - UPPER DECK - DAY

The constant flurry of activity on the UPPER DECK of the LANCE OF THE GODS continues. BROM GREY still stands with WALTER DRAKE. Both men are silent, staring alternately at the RIVER ahead of them and the passing FOREST to either side. The LOOK-OUT'S voice calls out.

LOOK-OUT
 Captain Drake! Something in the water
 ahead!

As BROM GREY and WALTER DRAKE go to join the LOOK-OUT, walking quickly. The LOOK-OUT is a young man.

WALTER DRAKE
 What is it, boy?

BROM GREY
 Tyrant's Stay?

As he speaks, BROM GREY shades his eyes with a hand, staring ahead of the ship.

LOOK-OUT

No, sirs. Down there. In the water. See them? They're so small that with the movement of the water I didn't see them until we were almost on top of them.

Both BROM GREY and WALTER DRAKE edge to the RAIL and peer into the WATER ahead of the SHIP. They see small, open-topped copper POTS floating ahead. Mixed in with these POTS are small cork FLOATS.

BROM GREY

What the-

Inside the nearest POT, a WICK is seen protruding up through the POT'S bottom. Both ends of a thinner CORD run from the POT to a pair of cork FLOATS far to either side. These CORDS form a complex floating web between the copper POTS and the cork FLOATS. We see the CORDS as the LANCE OF THE GODS snaps the first CORD. In one of the floating copper POT the now-broken CORD allows a flint ROLLER to spin, scraping on a steel LIGHTER, striking SPARKS. The SPARKS instantly ignite the WICK sticking up from the bottom of the copper POT. The WICK begins to burn.

BROM GREY (CONT'D)

Walter? What is that?

WALTER DRAKE

I've never seen anything like this before.

WALTER DRAKE spins from the RAIL, shouting, waving his arms.

WALTER DRAKE (CONT'D)

Full stop! Reverse! Reverse!

We see the burning WICK in the copper POT and the brightly-burning FLAME on the FUSE as the FLAME progresses along the WICK through the bottom of the copper POT and into a water-proof SHEATH that appears to be made of some type of animal intestine. The SHEATH keeps the water from the FLAME, allowing it to continue burning UNDERWATER. We see the copper POT floating on the surface. Thick SMOKE billows from the hole in the bottom of the POT where the WICK had been. The FLAME progresses along the WICK inside the SHEATH, moving closer and closer to water-proof POUCHES attached to a small wooden PLATFORM held at neutral buoyancy UNDERWATER by water-proof AIR BLADDERS and WEIGHTS. The unburned end of the WICK splits into several branches, each branch vanishing into one of the POUCHES. The LANCE OF THE GODS slows, OARS dipping into the water, struggling to stop the ship's forward movement. The hull strikes other CORDS, settling off the FLINT and STEEL in other copper POTS, igniting more WICKS. FLAME burns along the first WICKS as it reaches more branch points. Each of the branches begin to burn toward the POUCHES. WALTER DRAKE, still screaming, waves his arms.

WALTER DRAKE (CONT'D)

Full reverse! Now!

We see the UNDERWATER PLATFORMS as the WICKS burn into the POUCHES and the POUCHES explode violently. The WATER above the UNDERWATER PLATFORMS shoots up from the combined EXPLOSIONS of the POUCHES, ripping into the air above. The forward hull of the LANCE OF THE GODS is peppered by the EXPLOSION. BROM GREY staggers, struggling to keep his balance, as EXPLOSIONS rock the LANCE OF THE GODS. Everyone else on the upper deck struggles for balance, too.

WALTER DRAKE (CONT'D)

What was that? Take us back! Get us out of here!

BROM GREY moves toward WALTER DRAKE.

BROM GREY

We have to find Tyrant's Stay!

WALTER DRAKE

We will, lad! But we don't know how many of those...things are in the water. We can't go on until we've cleared them out of our path.

As WALTER DRAKE speaks, two more of the floating MINES explode, sending WATER SPRAY onto the deck, rocking the ship.

BROM GREY
How long will it take to clear them?

WALTER DRAKE
Depends on how many of them there are!

BROM GREY looks around. We see the FOREST to either side of the LANCE OF THE GODS appears still now. As BROM GREY stands on the deck with WALTER DRAKE.

BROM GREY
We've stopped.

WALTER DRAKE
Aye.

BROM GREY
Get men into the water now! Clear those things out!

WALTER DRAKE
In a minute. I'm not sending my men into the water until I'm sure no more of those things are going to blow.

BROM GREY
(very frustrated)
We don't have the time to-

WALTER DRAKE
We'll not do the Princess a mite of good if we get ourselves blown up before we can reach her.

BROM GREY fumes for a moment.

BROM GREY
When your men are clearing those, have them to bring them aboard if they can.

WALTER DRAKE
(puzzled)
Why? They're dangerous! We know that much about them. I don't want them on the Lance of the Gods!

BROM GREY

Hadrian De Bolbec put those things there for us. I'm sure of that. We catch up to Tyrant's Stay, I plan to give them back to him...

INT. TYRANT'S STAY - PRINCESS EMELINE'S ROOM - DAY

HADRIAN DE BOLBEC is still holding PRINCESS EMELINE'S arm. He forces her to turn, then pushes her down onto the BED. She lands hard, staring up at him. HADRIAN DE BOLBEC stands over her.

HADRIAN DE BOLBEC

Your guard has likely already been eliminated, bride-to-be.

HADRIAN DE BOLBEC stares down at PRINCESS EMELINE as she lies on the BED, staring back.

PRINCESS EMELINE

(uncertain)

What do you mean?

HADRIAN DE BOLBEC

I mean, I left a little something for them a few miles back. Now...

HADRIAN DE BOLBEC forces her to one side, then sits beside her on the BED. PRINCESS EMELINE struggles to sit up. HADRIAN DE BOLBEC holds her in place, keeping her from rising from the BED again.

HADRIAN DE BOLBEC (CONT'D)

So. Your loyal guard is gone. You will accompany me back to my own kingdom. Once there, you and I shall wed. Our kingdoms shall be united as one.

PRINCESS EMELINE

I'm not a queen! I have no kingdom!

HADRIAN DE BOLBEC

You shall. You see... The day before you and I wed, I'm afraid poor King Oliver and poor Queen Juliana will have a very unfortunate...accident.

PRINCESS EMELINE
 (furious and terrified)
What?

HADRIAN DE BOLBEC
 Yes. I'm afraid so. It's already been
 arranged.

PRINCESS EMELINE
 (fighting emotions)
 So that's your plan? Kidnap me. Force me
 to marry you. Then kill my parents,
 making me Queen of my own kingdom and
 you its King?

HADRIAN DE BOLBEC nods, saying nothing.

PRINCESS EMELINE (CONT'D)
 I assume you'll kill me on our wedding
 night, then?

HADRIAN DE BOLBEC
 (feigning shock)
 Don't be absurd! You have my word that I
 won't lay a hand on you. Not in that
 manner, anyway. I have people whom I
 trust to take care of trivia such as
 that.

PRINCESS EMELINE
 (slowing losing control)
 So you do mean to kill me.

HADRIAN DE BOLBEC
Have you killed, my dear. As I said, you
 have my solemn word that you'll not die
 by my hand. Consider it a...wedding
 gift. And even then, resign yourself to
 allowing me to rule your lands in your
 stead and it won't be necessary to have
 you removed. So, really, your fate is in
 your own hands.

PRINCESS EMELINE
 But you still mean to have my parents
 killed no matter what.

HADRIAN DE BOLBEC
 (feigning sadness)
 I must, I'm afraid. Long as they live,
 you'll simply be a princess rather than
 a queen. And that simply won't do.

HADRIAN DE BOLBEC stands.

PRINCESS EMELINE
 If I agree to marry you of my own free
 will, will you spare them?

HADRIAN DE BOLBEC walks to the DOOR.

HADRIAN DE BOLBEC
 I can't. As I said, you'd still be only
 a princess. And I don't want to wait for
 them to pass on due to old age. That may
 well take decades.

PRINCESS EMELINE stands up, fighting for control of her emotions.

PRINCESS EMELINE
 You're a monster, De Bolbec!

HADRIAN DE BOLBEC
 So it's been said. Give my offer some
 thought while we journey. Be my willing
 bride and allow me to rule your lands
 after we wed and you may still live a
 long, happy life.

PRINCESS EMELINE
 (scornfully)
 A happy life? With you? Impossible! A
long life spent with you? I'd sooner
 die!

HADRIAN DE BOLBEC, furious, spins away, opens the DOOR, strides
 through and slams the DOOR behind him, EXITING SCENE. PRINCESS
 EMELINE begins to cry.

INT. TYRANT'S STAY - HALLWAY OUTSIDE PRINCESS EMELINE'S ROOM -
 DAY

HADRIAN DE BOLBEC and DOOR GUARD talk.

HADRIAN DE BOLBEC
 Stay here. No one but me goes in.

DOOR GUARD

Yes, sir!

HADRIAN DE BOLBEC

And that door is not to be opened for any reason. Understand?

DOOR GUARD

Yes, sir.

HADRIAN DE BOLBEC

No matter what she says, no matter way she does, that door remains closed until I return.

DOOR GUARD

Yes, sir! I understand.

HADRIAN DE BOLBEC gives DOOR GUARD a long, hard look.

HADRIAN DE BOLBEC

You'd better.

HADRIAN DE BOLBEC turns on his heel and strides off, furious.

INT. TYRANT'S STAY - PRINCESS EMELINE'S ROOM - DAY

Sobbing, PRINCESS EMELINE drops down to the BED, covering her face with her hands. PRINCESS EMELINE slowly looks up and around the room. Abruptly, she grabs up the copper CUP from the STAND and begins to hammer the bottom edge of the CUP on the side of the STAND. She does this until the thin copper has torn a bit, creating a sharp edge. PRINCESS EMELINE uses the sharp edge of the torn copper on the bottom of the CUP as a knife, cutting away a long strip of MATERIAL from her DRESS. Once the MATERIAL is free, she carelessly tosses the damaged CUP away. PRINCESS EMELINE moves to the LATTICE-covered window and slips one end of the MATERIAL through the LATTICE. She then sticks her fingers as far through the LATTICE at the other side as she can.

EXT. TYRANT'S STAY - PRINCESS EMILINE'S WINDOW - DAY

We see the LATTICE from outside the window. PRINCESS EMELINE'S fingers stick through the LATTICE on either side. One hand holds the strip of MATERIAL as she flips it hard, trying to catch the other end with her free fingers. After several tries, she succeeds.

INT. TYRANT'S STAY - PRINCESS EMELINE'S ROOM - DAY

PRINCESS EMELINE draws the second end of the MATERIAL back through the LATTICE. She ties the ends of MATERIAL together, forming it into a continuous LOOP. PRINCESS EMELINE rushes back to the STAND and picks up the wooden SPOON, hurrying back to the LATTICE and the LOOP of MATERIAL. PRINCESS EMELINE slips the SPOON into the LOOP and begins to twist, taking up the slack, tightening the LOOP on the LATTICE. Soon, the SOUND of the LATTICE cracking a bit is heard. PRINCESS EMELINE freezes, looking toward the DOOR. The DOOR remains closed. There are no sounds from outside. PRINCESS EMELINE looks at the LATTICE, LOOP and SPOON. She slowly twists the SPOON. Again, the LATTICE makes a creaking SOUND. PRINCESS EMELINE again freezes. She blows out her breath, thinking. Abruptly she begins to shout as she begins to turn the SPOON, once more drawing the LOOP tighter on the LATTICE. Her shouting covers the CREAKING of the LATTICE this time.

PRINCESS EMELINE

Hadrian De Bolbec? I shall never marry you! Never! Do you hear me, you filthy swine? I'll never be your bride! Not ever!

INT. TYRANT'S STAY - HALLWAY - DAY

HADRIAN DE BOLBEC stands with the CAPTAIN.

HADRIAN DE BOLBEC

Captain?

CAPTAIN

Sir?

HADRIAN DE BOLBEC

The ship following us should have been eliminated by the mines we left. But, I'm not taking chances. Have two bomb-boats sent back to be sure.

CAPTAIN

Yes, sir.

EXT. RIVER - DIFFERENT SPOT - DAY

The LANCE OF THE GODS is free of the floating MINE-FIELD now, once again moving upriver, following TYRANT'S STAY. OARS dip into the wWATER in perfect unison, propelling the ship quickly.

INT. TYRANT'S STAY - PRINCESS EMELINE'S ROOM - DAY

PRINCESS EMELINE is still at the window, twisting the LOOP tighter and tighter with the SPOON.

PRINCESS EMELINE

You are swine, De Bolbec! Do you hear me? Swine! I'll die before I marry you!

EXT. RIVER - DIFFERENT SPOT - DAY

The pair of BOMB-BOATS sent out from the TYRANT'S STAY are moving in the direction of the LANCE OF THE GODS, but the LANCE OF THE GODS is not yet in sight. The BOMB-BOATS are short, narrow vessels with hulls that curl upwards at the BOW and STERN. The BOMB-BOATS are built in two sections, which are held together by heavy iron PINS. The STERNS are designed to be able to float alone after the BOWS have been detached. The BOW of the BOMB-BOATS bristle with sharp iron SPIKES on the outside and have water-proofed packs of EXPLOSIVES and FUSES on the inside, facing the small CREW of each. The small CREW inside each BOMB-BOAT row with OARS, sending the pair of BOMB-BOATS gliding quickly along the RIVER.

EXT. LANCE OF THE GODS - UPPER DECK - DAY

The CREW of the LANCE OF THE GODS bustle around, doing their jobs to keep the ship moving and running smoothly. At the FORWARD RAIL, BROM GREY and WALTER DRAKE stand, looking out at the RIVER. There is NO BREEZE.

BROM GREY

We're not making good enough time.

WALTER DRAKE

We're doing the best we can, lad.

BROM GREY

We can't go any faster at all?

As he speaks, BROM GREY looks imploringly at WALTER DRAKE.

WALTER DRAKE

Nay, I'm afraid not. We've got no wind and the oarsmen are hauling as hard as they can.

BROM GREY

(sighing)

We have to catch them before De Bolbec gets back to his own kingdom.

WALTER DRAKE
We will, lad. We will.

BROM GREY
We'd better. If not-

WALTER DRAKE
The Lance of the Gods is a fighting ship, lad. If, and I stress the word, if we can't catch him before he's in his own kingdom, this ship will be able to hold her own against whatever he sends at us.

BROM GREY
(nodding, looking glum)
I know, Walter. But I'm thinking of the Princess.

WALTER DRAKE eyes BROM GREY for a few moments before speaking.

WALTER DRAKE
You love her, Brom Grey.

BROM GREY
(startled)
What?

WALTER DRAKE
Aye. You love her.

BROM GREY
I can't. I'm Captain of her Guard. It's-

WALTER DRAKE
Don't even say it's forbidden, lad.

BROM GREY
But it is! I'm entrusted with her safety. I'm not allowed to be in love with her! I'm just a guard! I'm so far below her station that-

WALTER DRAKE
But the human heart doesn't care about such things. You know that as well as I do. You love her.

BROM GREY
(hesitantly)
Yes.

WALTER DRAKE nods his head, staring at BROM GREY.

BROM GREY (CONT'D)
Is it that obvious?

WALTER DRAKE
No, lad. Have no worries there. I only just realized it. And then only because I've spent so much time listening to you go on about her and the need to ensure her safety.

BROM GREY
Her safety is my job!

WALTER DRAKE
Aye. It is. But the way you talk, it's more than that. You make it sound personal. Far more so than any job, no matter how important. But, as I keep telling you, have no worries on that score. We'll catch up to Tyrant's Stay soon.

EXT. RIVER - DIFFERENT SPOT - DAY

The BOMB-BOATS speed closer to the LANCE OF THE GODS.

INT. TYRANT'S STAY - PRINCESS EMELINE'S ROOM - DAY

PRINCESS EMELINE is still twisting the LOOP tighter and tighter with the wooden SPOON. The LOOP is now very tight, making it very hard for her to turn the SPOON another time. She is still screaming to cover the SOUNDS of the LATTICE CRACKING.

PRINCESS EMELINE
You can't make me marry you, De Bolbec!
And you won't kill my parents! Do you hear me? I'll stop you! I'll-

PRINCESS EMELINE'S tirade is cut off as the LATTICE finally breaks from the stress, coming apart in several pieces. PRINCESS EMELINE works quietly as she can to clear the broken pieces of LATTICE from the opening. Soon, she has the way cleared. PRINCESS EMELINE hurries to the bedside STAND and drags it back to the now-open window. She winces at the SOUNDS made by the DRAGGING stand. PRINCESS EMELINE climbs onto the STAND and looks out the window. We see the view outside. Her room is several stories up on the floating wooden castle that is the TYRANT'S STAY. Though there is only a narrow strip of the lower floating DECK between the towering structure and the WATER, the RIVER itself looks very far away, the drop dizzying. PRINCESS EMELINE hesitates, backing away from the window, nearly falling from the STAND. Looking uncertain, she glances out the window again. She then turns and looks at the DOOR of her room. Her face sets into an expression of furious resolve. Without hesitating longer, she turns back to the window and begins to climb through, careful not to snag her DRESS on the broken bits of LATTICE which still protrude here and there from the frame.

EXT. RIVER - DIFFERENT SPOT - DAY

The LANCE OF THE GODS glides through the WATER quickly as the OARS can propel it. It is early evening now.

EXT. LANCE OF THE GODS - UPPER DECK - DAY

BROM GREY at the forward RAIL as he looks forlornly at the dense, dark FOREST passing by the LANCE OF THE GODS.

WALTER DRAKE
(speaking softly)
It'll be dark soon.

BROM GREY
I know. I'd hoped to catch them before dark.

WALTER DRAKE
So had I. But I've given orders not to moor for the night.

BROM GREY looks very relieved.

BROM GREY
Thank you.

WALTER DRAKE

It won't be as easy, but we can still see them in the dark. We'll find them soon.

BROM GREY

You keep telling me that.

WALTER DRAKE

Aye. And I keep saying it because it's true. We'll-

LOOK-OUT

Sirs! We have two small vessels approaching our bow quickly!

WALTER DRAKE and BROM GREY exchange a quick look. WALTER DRAKE and BROM GREY move to stand with the LOOK-OUT, as he points into the SHADOWS ahead of the LANCE OF THE GODS.

LOOK-OUT (CONT'D)

I can just barely see them now.

WALTER DRAKE squints into the SHADOWS.

WALTER DRAKE

I see them.

The pair of BOMB-BOATS glides toward the LANCE OF THE GODS. BROM GREY squints into the SHADOWS.

BROM GREY

So do I. I've never seen anything like them before. What are they?

WALTER DRAKE turns quickly from the RAIL

WALTER DRAKE

They're trouble, is what they are. First Officer!

FIRST OFFICER rushes up to stand before WALTER DRAKE.

FIRST OFFICER

Sir?

WALTER DRAKE

We've got two bomb-boats coming at us. Get ready to fight.

FIRST OFFICER'S eyes widen at the news.

FIRST OFFICER

Yes, sir!

FIRST OFFICER turns and rushes into the milling CREW. WALTER DRAKE turns back to face BROM GREY.

WALTER DRAKE

Bomb-boats are nasty bits of work. With luck, we can shoot them out of the water before they get near enough to us to do what they're meant to do.

BROM GREY

Which is what?

Before WALTER DRAKE can reply, FIRST OFFICER is heard shouting.

FIRST OFFICER

That's right, men! Now fire!

Very large, burning crossbow BOLTS fly through the air toward the BOMB-BOATS. The massive CROSSBOWS are being reloaded with giant BOLTS, set aflame, then launched. More burning BOLTS arc through the air. The BOMB-BOATS weave and dodge, causing the burning BOLTS to plunge into the WATER harmlessly. Billows of STEAM are sent up each time a BOLT strikes the WATER.

BROM GREY

It's not working.

WALTER DRAKE

They're small and fast. It's hard to hit them.

BROM GREY watches for a few more moments. The fast-moving, weaving BOMB-BOATS dodging the incoming burning BOLTS. The BOMB-BOATS are moving steadily closer to the LANCE OF THE GODS. BROM GREY unbuckles his BELT and drops the BELT and SWORD to the floor.

WALTER DRAKE

What are you doing, lad?

BROM GREY rips open his SHIRT, revealing his well-muscled upper body. He speaks as he pulls the SHIRT the rest of the way off and tosses it to the floor.

BROM GREY

Call off your men. Leave the boats to me.

WALTER DRAKE

You can't-

BROM GREY

The Princess is my responsibility. So far, I've done nothing but stand around and wait. Your men can't seem to stop these boats. Call them off. I'll deal with them.

WALTER DRAKE

But-

BROM GREY backs up a few steps, then races forward as fast as he can run. He leaps from side of the UPPER DECK of the LANCE OF THE GODS. BROM GREY stretches out in midair as he falls, knifing into the WATER. WALTER DRAKE turns from the RAIL, waving his hands wildly.

WALTER DRAKE (CONT'D)

Cease fire! Cease fire!

EXT. TYRANT'S STAY - NIGHT

PRINCESS EMELINE slowly climbs down the side of the wooden castle that is the TYRANT'S STAY. She makes sure she has a good grip on a window sill, then looks down. The WATER looks much closer. It is still a drop, but not from so great a height this time. No one is visible on the narrow bit of floating DECK between the CASTLE and WATER. PRINCESS EMELINE looking uncertain. She then glances back up toward the window of her own room. The window looks very high above her, showing how far down she has climbed. PRINCESS EMELINE looking down once more. She makes sure her feet are planted firmly, then takes a deep breath and jumps. She falls through the air toward the RIVER. Her DRESS flutters around her as she falls. She narrowly misses the edge of the floating DECK.

EXT. RIVER - NIGHT

PRINCESS EMELINE plunges into the RIVER. She thrusts her head above the WATER, sputtering. Her DRESS, now wet, is very heavy, making it hard for her to stay afloat. Struggling, she tries to swim away from TYRANT'S STAY. PRINCESS EMELINE stops trying to swim and simply struggles to stay afloat and strip out of her DRESS at the same time. Once the heavy DRESS is off, leaving her clad only in her UNDERCLOTHES, she turns her back to TYRANT'S STAY, which has already floated by her, and begins to swim toward a distant shore that is unseen in the darkness.

EXT. RIVER - NIGHT

We the outer hull of one of the BOMB-BOATS. BROM GREY pops up from the WATER, looking up. The BOMB-BOAT moves along. The small CREW is rowing, closing the small vessel with the LANCE OF THE GODS. They have not seen BROM GREY. BROM GREY grabs the side of the BOMB-BOAT'S hull and quickly pulls himself aboard. The CREW reacts to the abrupt presence of an enemy, dropping OARS, standing quickly, drawing SWORDS. BROM GREY attacks the nearest CREW MEMBER, knocking the man overboard and grabbing his SWORD in the brief fight. BROM GREY, now armed, defends himself against the other CREW MEMBERS that attack him. As he fights, BROM GREY backs slowly toward the PINS that hold the two halves of the BOMB-BOAT together. The CREW MEMBERS press him back further until BROM GREY is at the packs of EXPLOSIVES and FUSES attached to the inner part of the upward-curving BOW. A small flint-and-steel STRIKER is there as well, resting in a small alcove. BROM GREY fights furiously, trying to back up the CREW MEMBERS who are pressing him. BROM GREY quickly knocks a pair of CREW MEMBERS overboard. The others back off slightly. BROM GREY diverts his attention from the attacking CREW MEMBERS for an instant, grabbing up the STRIKER, sparking it, and lighting the main FUSE linking all the EXPLOSIVES in the same movement. Rather than try to get by BROM GREY and put out the burning fuse, the CREW MEMBERS all leap into the RIVER and swim furiously. BROM GREY looks at the burning FUSE, then hurries back to the middle of the BOMB-BOAT. Grabbing up an OAR, he fights and struggles to turn the BOMB-BOAT he is on to face the second BOMB-BOAT. As his own BOMB-BOAT turns, BROM GREY yanks the iron PINS at his feet. As the two halves of the turning BOMB-BOAT begin to separate, drifting apart from each other. BROM GREY drops onto a BENCH and grabs a pair of OARS, rowing hard to move away from the now-free BOW of the BOMB-BOAT. The BOW continues to turn slowly to face the second BOMB-BOAT. The CREW of the second BOMB-BOAT react to the threat facing them. Several jump overboard, into the RIVER. One grabs the STRIKER and ignites the second BOMB-BOAT'S payload of EXPLOSIVES before leaping overboard. We see the burning FUSE on the BOW as the FLAME covers the final couple of inches to the EXPLOSIVES. BROM GREY rows hard to get away from the BOW. The BOW explodes in a mighty FIREBALL as the EXPLOSIVES detonate. Wooden SHARDS and iron SPIKES from the front of the BOW are flung through the air. SHARDS and SPIKES slam into the second, now empty, BOMB-BOAT, inflicting heavy damage to it. BROM GREY drops the OARS and ducks protectively. Aboard the damaged second BOMB-BOAT, the burning FUSE has nearly burned to the EXPLOSIVES. BROM GREY picks up his OARS and turns his vessel toward the LANCE OF THE GODS, rowing hard. WALTER DRAKE stands at the forward RAIL on the UPPER DECK of the LANCE OF THE GODS.

WALTER DRAKE
(shouting)
Brom! Are you alright?

BROM GREY rows hard for the LANCE OF THE GODS, angling toward the ship's side.

BROM GREY
(shouting)
Get down! Walter, get-

BROM GREY'S words are cut off by the EXPLOSIVES payload on the second BOMB-BOAT detonating. The EXPLOSION is just as large as the one from the first BOMB-BOAT. Wooden SHARDS and iron SPIKES are sent flying through the air from the FIREBALL. BROM GREY once more drops his OARS and ducks. WALTER DRAKE drops to the floor of the UPPER DECK. We see the forward hull of the LANCE OF THE GODS as hot iron SPIKES from the BOMB-BOAT slam into it, punching deeply into the heavy wooden hull, inflicting heavy DAMAGE.

EXT. RIVERBANK - NIGHT

PRINCESS EMELINE pulls herself from the RIVER and onto the RIVERBANK. Her UNDERCLOTHES cling to her, revealing her petite body's curves. Her hair is a wet, disheveled mess. PRINCESS EMELINE crawls a short way up onto dry ground before collapsing. She lays still, breathing heavily, clearly exhausted. Around her, the FOREST is dark and silent, appearing forbidding.

INT. LANCE OF THE GODS - WALTER DRAKE'S CABIN - NIGHT

WALTER DRAKE'S CABIN is of fair size and clean. There are no real personal touches, giving the impression that WALTER DRAKE is a serious, all-business, no nonsense person. OIL LAMPS give the only light. Those OIL LAMPS which hang from the ceiling sway slightly, the LIGHT they cast moving, causing SHADOWS to shift. BROM GREY is in the CABIN with WALTER DRAKE. BROM GREY is now dry and wearing CLEAN CLOTHING. They stand at a TABLE, looking over sheets of PARCHMENT onto which SCHEMATICS of the LANCE OF THE GODS are drawn. WALTER DRAKE is calm. BROM GREY is bristling with barely-contained anger.

WALTER DRAKE
I'm sorry, Brom. But I can't rush the repairs.

BROM GREY
(highly agitated)
We have to, Walter!

WALTER DRAKE

We can't, lad. If the repairs aren't made properly, we'll only be wasting more time. That blast tore up our bow pretty good. It'll take time to-

BROM GREY

Then I'm going after her alone!

WALTER DRAKE

Don't be daft!

BROM GREY

She's my-

WALTER DRAKE

I know, lad. She's your responsibility. You've told me often enough. And I know that ye love her. But ye can't go after her alone.

BROM GREY

I have to. I'll take the crew half of that bomb-boat I was in before. It'll be slow, but at least I'll be moving toward her.

WALTER DRAKE and BROM GREY stare hard at each other for long seconds. Finally, WALTER DRAKE softens just a bit.

WALTER DRAKE

No. I've got something better and faster for ye to use.

EXT. RIVERBANK - NIGHT

PRINCESS EMELINE remains lying on dry ground at the RIVERBANK. From somewhere in the FOREST comes the SOUND of a wolf baying. PRINCESS EMELINE starts at the SOUND and rolls over, facing the TREE LINE of the FOREST. Slowly, she climbs to her feet, watching the TREE LINE intently. The FOREST is black with the night, dark, impenetrable-looking and frightening. PRINCESS EMELINE turns to give the RIVER a look. The RIVER glitters with moonlight and is gently-flowing. The SOUNDS of the RIVER are heard. The RIVER seems calm and peaceful, inviting. There is no sign of TYRANT'S STAY. PRINCESS EMELINE turns from the RIVER to the FOREST TREE LINE. Hesitating only a little, she begins to walk toward the TREE LINE.

EXT. RIVER - NIGHT

We see a small SKIFF. BROM GREY in the SKIFF. Due to lack of wind, BROM GREY is using OARS, pulling on them hard, moving the SKIFF along at a good pace.

INT. TYRANT'S STAY - HALLWAY OUTSIDE PRINCESS EMELINE'S ROOM - NIGHT

HADRIAN DE BOLBEC strides along, then stops outside the door of PRINCESS EMELINE'S ROOM. DOOR GUARD still stands guard.

HADRIAN DE BOLBEC
Open the door.

DOOR GUARD
Yes, sir.

DOOR GUARD speaks as he draws out a KEY and begins to unlock the DOOR.

HADRIAN DE BOLBEC
Once I'm in there, she and I are not to be disturbed. Not for anything. Understand?

DOOR GUARD
I do, sir.

HADRIAN DE BOLBEC
Good man. Open the door.

DOOR GUARD opens the DOOR. Without another word to him, HADRIAN DE BOLBEC strides through the OPEN DOOR.

INT. TYRANT'S STAY - PRINCESS EMELINE'S ROOM - NIGHT

HADRIAN DE BOLBEC is shocked and furious, looking around the empty room. Everything is just as PRINCESS EMELINE left it when she escaped. HADRIAN DE BOLBEC is furious as he sees the window and the broken LATTICE. He spins around and strides back out the OPEN DOOR, EXITING SCENE.

INT. TYRANT'S STAY - HALLWAY OUTSIDE PRINCESS EMELINE'S ROOM - NIGHT

HADRIAN DE BOLBEC ENTERS and DOOR GUARD sees the furious expression on HADRIAN DE BOLBEC'S face and cowers.

DOOR GUARD
What... What's the matter, my lord?

HADRIAN DE BOLBEC
When did she escape?

DOOR GUARD
(nearly voiceless with terror)
Escaped?

HADRIAN DE BOLBEC
When?

DOOR GUARD
I... I don't know, sir. I wasn't aware-

HADRIAN DE BOLBEC
Shut up! She's gone! Out through the window! When?

DOOR GUARD
I don't... She was shouting before.

HADRIAN DE BOLBEC
When?

DOOR GUARD
Just after you left her. She kept going on about how...

HADRIAN DE BOLBEC
How what?

DOOR GUARD
(swallowing hard)
About how she would never marry you, my lord.

HADRIAN DE BOLBEC stares at DOOR GUARD for a long moment, his expression eloquently conveying his anger.

HADRIAN DE BOLBEC
When did she go quiet?

DOOR GUARD
Maybe... Half an hour ago?

HADRIAN DE BOLBEC strikes DOOR GUARD in the face, hard. The impact of the blow bounces DOOR GUARD's head off the wall beside the DOOR. DOOR GUARD slides to the floor, out cold. HADRIAN DE BOLBEC spins away from the DOOR GUARD, striding away, shouting.

HADRIAN DE BOLBEC
Captain! Turn us around!

EXT. FOREST - NIGHT

PRINCESS EMELINE makes her way quickly, yet cautiously, through dark, forbidding FOREST. Her hair and UNDERCLOTHES are still damp, though far drier than when we last saw her. From all around her, the nighttime SOUNDS of the FOREST can be heard. As she moves, she casts nervous glances all around her. As she progresses, the WIND begins to pick up. PRINCESS EMELINE pauses, looking up at the dark sky. STORM CLOUDS are moving in, obscuring the STARS and MOON. PRINCESS EMELINE moves on, deeper into the FOREST. As she moves, the WIND begins to blow harder. PRINCESS EMELINE hurries along, the FOREST begins to thin around her a bit. She walks even faster. The FOREST thins more and PRINCESS EMELINE looks into a CLEARING.

EXT. FOREST CLEARING - NIGHT

PRINCESS EMELINE moves into the CLEARING. The TREES in sight sway as the WIND picks up even more. CLEARING is good-sized. A small HOUSE and small BARN stand at the far end of the CLEARING. The BARN is nearer to her than the HOUSE. No one is in sight. PRINCESS EMELINE walks toward the BARN. As she walks, the first drops of RAIN begin to fall. PRINCESS EMELINE begins to run toward the BARN.

EXT. RIVER - NIGHT

BROM GREY is still in the SKIFF. The WIND from the incoming STORM is blowing hard, making the RIVER choppy. BROM GREY has exchanged the OARS for use of the SAIL. He stands in the SKIFF, struggling hard to control the SAIL as the WIND lashes at it violently. Due to the strong WIND, the SKIFF is rocketing along the RIVER at high speed.

INT. TYRANT'S STAY - CAPTAIN'S QUARTERS - NIGHT

The CAPTAIN of TYRANT'S STAY stands with HADRIAN DE BOLBEC. The CAPTAIN'S QUARTERS are lavish, yet functional.

HADRIAN DE BOLBEC

Captain, when we reach the point where she probably jumped ship, moor us there.

CAPTAIN

Yes, my lord.

HADRIAN DE BOLBEC

Then send out an armed search party.
Make sure they're ready for anything. My
betrothed has already proven herself to
be far more resourceful than I was
willing to give her credit for.

CAPTAIN

Yes, my lord.

HADRIAN DE BOLBEC

Also, put armed guards along the
riverbank. Space them out so that
they're just within sight of each other.
She knows what the plan for her parents
is. She'll try to get back home quickly
as she can. The river is the fastest
way.

CAPTAIN

My men will be ready for her when she
tries to return to the water, highness.

HADRIAN DE BOLBEC

See to it that they are. And, on second
thought, don't just send out the search
party. Lead it yourself, personally.

CAPTAIN

(hesitating slightly)
Lead it myself?

HADRIAN DE BOLBEC

(threateningly)
Is that a problem, Captain?

CAPTAIN

No, my lord! Not at all.

HADRIAN DE BOLBEC

Good. See to it that you don't fail me.

CAPTAIN

I shall never fail you, highness.

HADRIAN DE BOLBEC

Speaking of failure... The guard that
was posted on the Princess's door, have
him executed at once.

CAPTAIN
(hesitating slightly)
Yes, my lord.

INT. BARN - NIGHT

PRINCESS EMELINE is inside the BARN, once more drenched. The SOUND of heavy RAIN hammering on the roof is heard. FARM ANIMALS are in their places for the night, restless at the stranger in their midst and SOUNDS of the STORM. A PITCHFORK hangs on one wall. PRINCESS EMELINE ignores them and closes the DOOR, securing it. Before the DOOR closes, we see the RAIN pouring down outside. She then turns to survey the BARN and the FARM ANIMALS. PRINCESS EMELINE crosses to the nearest pile of dry HAY. Sighing, she begins to arrange the HAY into a bed for herself for the night.

EXT. RIVER - NIGHT

BROM GREY'S SKIFF zips along the RIVER. BROM GREY stands in the SKIFF, holding tightly to the LINES, fighting the SAIL, trying to keep from capsizing and using the storm's WIND to speed him along. He is drenched and the RAIN is pouring down. BROM GREY reacts to something up ahead - It's the TYRANT'S STAY as RAIN-soaked CREW hammer MOORING POSTS into the RIVERBANK while other CREW secure MOORING LINES to MOORING POSTS already in place. BROM GREY adjusts the LINES, sending the SKIFF to the RIVERBANK. BROM GREY leaps from the SKIFF, fighting hard to single-handedly haul the SKIFF up onto the RIVERBANK and hide it. BROM GREY creeps toward the TYRANT'S STAY, using TREES and the heavy RAIN as cover.

INT. BARN - NIGHT

PRINCESS EMELINE lies in the HAY, tossing and turning, trying to get comfortable. The SOUNDS of the pouring RAIN and THUNDER from the STORM are clearly heard. Around PRINCESS EMELINE, the FARM ANIMALS are still very restless due to her presence and are making lots of NOISE.

EXT. RIVERBANK - NIGHT

BROM GREY, soaked with the RAIN, creeps closer still to the busy CREW as they finish MOORING the TYRANT'S STAY. CREW, finished with their work, go back aboard TYRANT'S STAY. BROM GREY slips closer still to TYRANT'S STAY. Abruptly, BROM GREY freezes in place, keeping hidden. CAPTAIN leads the SEARCH PARTY and GUARDS from the TYRANT'S STAY. Each man, CAPTAIN, GUARDS and members of the SEARCH PARTY, carries a heavy, loaded CROSSBOW and an OIL LANTERN. All appear miserable in the pounding RAIN. CAPTAIN begins making hand gestures, directing the GUARDS to fan out into their positions. As the GUARDS move away, EXITING the scene, CAPTAIN turns, leading the SEARCH PARTY away from the RIVERBANK, toward the TREE LINE of the FOREST. BROM GREY'S expression changes from confusion to enlightened understanding.

BROM GREY
(whispering to himself)
Princess, you clever girl! You got away
from him, didn't you?

BROM GREY takes a quick look around, then sets off after CAPTAIN and his SEARCH PARTY.

EXT. BARN - NIGHT

The STORM rages on, pounding the BARN with heavy RAIN. From inside the BARN, the SOUNDS of the distressed FARM ANIMALS are heard, even above the SOUNDS of the STORM.

EXT. HOUSE - NIGHT

We see the HOUSE that sits in the same FOREST CLEARING as the BARN. The SOUNDS of the distressed FARM ANIMALS in the BARN are heard, even with the SOUNDS of the raging STORM, though faintly. The HOUSE is dark for a moment before a faint, flickering glow of CANDLELIGHT illuminates a front window.

EXT. FOREST - NIGHT

CAPTAIN and his SEARCH PARTY trudge through. They EXIT SCENE. A moment later, BROM GREY, quietly following, ENTERS SCENE, moving along the same path.

INT. BARN - NIGHT

PRINCESS EMELINE lies in the HAY pile, still trying to get comfortable. By now, her hair and UNDERCLOTHES are almost entirely dry. From outside, the SOUNDS of the STORM are still heard. The FARM ANIMALS, still distressed, are making lots of NOISE. PRINCESS EMELINE sits up, angry, glaring around herself at the FARM ANIMALS.

PRINCESS EMELINE
Will you all shut up?

THAD DARGIN
I'll thank you to both stop scaring my animals and to stop talking to them in that manner.

PRINCESS EMELINE reacts to THAD DARGIN'S voice by spinning quickly, emitting a brief scream.

PRINCESS EMELINE
(tense and frightened)
Who are you?

PRINCESS EMELINE sees THAD DARGIN. He is tall and well-muscled, dressed in threadbare farmer's CLOTHING. He appears only slightly older than PRINCESS EMELINE. It is obvious he dressed in a hurry. THAD DARGIN is carrying an OIL LANTERN. Aside from flashes of LIGHTNING from the STORM, the OIL LANTERN is the only source of LIGHT.

THAD DARGIN
Who am I? You're in my barn. At night. Uninvited. Who are you? That's the question that needs asking. And answering.

PRINCESS EMELINE rises slowly from the HAY, getting to her feet.

PRINCESS EMELINE
I'm Princess Emeline Payne, daughter of King Oliver Payne and Queen Juliana Payne.

THAD DARGIN laughs, responding with a mocking bow to her.

THAD DARGIN

(sarcastically)

Well, then your Royal Highness, you must've gone for quite a walk in your sleep tonight. In case you've not noticed, this isn't exactly Castle Payne.

PRINCESS EMELINE

I'm telling you the truth!

THAD DARGIN

And, Princess, might I add, that's a very lovely gown you're wearing tonight!

PRINCESS EMELINE looks down at her filthy UNDERCLOTHES and flushes, becoming angry and embarrassed.

PRINCESS EMELINE

I was kidnapped! By King Hadrian De Bolbec! I escaped him a few hours ago, got lost in the woods and found my way to your barn as the storm was starting!

THAD DARGIN

Quite the tale. May I have some proof?

PRINCESS EMELINE

I have none. But I have need of your help, Mr...

THAD DARGIN

Thad Dargin is my name. I'm just a lowly farmer trying to eke out a meager living from my fields.

PRINCESS EMELINE

Fields? I saw no fields.

THAD DARGIN

Maybe because it was dark when you came sneaking onto my land?

PRINCESS EMELINE

I saw only a house and this barn.

THAD DARGIN

I built them in this clearing. There's a path on the other side of my house that leads to the fields.

THAD DARGIN pauses, staring hard at PRINCESS EMELINE.

PRINCESS EMELINE

What?

THAD DARGIN

I'm still trying to figure out what to do with you.

PRINCESS EMELINE

I told you. I need your help. I need to return home as quickly as possible.

THAD DARGIN

You come sneaking onto my land in the middle of the night and break into my barn and terrorize my animals. I'm thinking another response is called for...

THAD DARGIN crosses to the PITCHFORK hanging on a wall. Keeping hold of the OIL LANTERN in one hand, he grasps the PITCHFORK with his other. Turning toward PRINCESS EMELINE, he lowers the tines of the PITCHFORK and moves slowly towards her.

PRINCESS EMELINE

(growing more afraid)

What are you doing?

THAD DARGIN

Dealing with an intruder.

PRINCESS EMELINE backs away slowly.

PRINCESS EMELINE

I've done nothing but seek shelter from a storm!

THAD DARGIN

And trespass. And terrorize my animals.
And lie to me.

THAD DARGIN moves toward PRINCESS EMELINE more quickly, jabbing at the air with the PITCHFORK. PRINCESS EMELINE screams, looking for a way by THAD DARGIN to the DOOR. As THAD DARGIN moves closer, PRINCESS EMELINE screams again, louder than before.

EXT. FOREST - NIGHT

CAPTAIN and the SEARCH PARTY are trudging through the STORM. Faintly, the SOUND of PRINCESS EMELINE'S SCREAM is heard. CAPTAIN pauses, listening, then leading the SEARCH PARTY off in the direction of the SCREAM.

INT. BARN - NIGHT

THAD DARGIN menaces PRINCESS EMELINE with the PITCHFORK. PRINCESS EMELINE screams briefly each time he jabs the PITCHFORK toward her. It is instantly obvious that THAD DARGIN is not trying to harm PRINCESS EMELINE, but only to scare her off. It is also obvious that he is enjoying his game of frightening her. PRINCESS EMELINE makes a rush forward, trying to get by THAD DARGIN to the DOOR. THAD DARGIN drops the PITCHFORK and catches PRINCESS EMELINE'S arm, spinning her around, tossing her into the pile of HAY on which she had been resting before. PRINCESS EMELINE screams loudly as he catches and spins her. She lays in the HAY, stunned, staring up at THAD DARGIN, terrified.

PRINCESS EMELINE

What... What are you going to do to me?

THAD DARGIN

You've broken into my barn. What would you do in my place?

PRINCESS EMELINE

Please... I meant no harm! I need your help!

THAD DARGIN

So you keep saying. But you've yet to offer me any proof that you really are the Princess.

PRINCESS EMELINE

Help me! Help me return home and you'll have all the proof you need! Please! The King and Queen - my parents - are in danger!

THAD DARGIN

(dropping all pretense of humor)
I don't believe you. Now come on!

THAD DARGIN reaches down and takes hold of PRINCESS EMELINE'S arm, hauling her to her feet. She screams loudly. Her scream is mingled with the SOUND of the BARN'S DOOR crashing open. CAPTAIN and his SEARCH PARTY come into the BARN. All of them still carry loaded CROSSBOWS and are drenched to the skin from the STORM that still rages outside. PRINCESS EMELINE reacts to the sight of CAPTAIN and the SEARCH PARTY by screaming and breaking free of THAD DARGIN.

CAPTAIN

There you are, Princess. You've led us a merry chase, haven't you?

THAD DARGIN stares at PRINCESS EMELINE in shocked horror.

THAD DARGIN

You mean... You truly are...

PRINCESS EMELINE

Yes! You stupid fool! That's what I've been trying to tell you! And those people are some of the reason I need your help!

THAD DARGIN turns to face CAPTAIN and the SEARCH PARTY.

THAD DARGIN

Leave her alone and get off my property.

CAPTAIN

(sneering)

I'll do half of that. We'll leave. But she's coming with us.

CAPTAIN crosses to PRINCESS EMELINE and takes hold of her arm. THAD DARGIN drops his LANTERN and grabs CAPTAIN by the collar, yanking him away from PRINCESS EMELINE, dumping him on the floor. CAPTAIN drops his CROSSBOW. SEARCH PARTY looking amazed. CAPTAIN climbs to his feet and picks up his CROSSBOW. He levels the CROSSBOW at THAD DARGIN.

CAPTAIN (CONT'D)

That was the last mistake you'll ever make...

CAPTAIN'S finger tightens on the trigger of the CROSSBOW as he sneers at THAD DARGIN, slowly, drawing out the moment. Just before the trigger is pulled enough to cause the CROSSBOW to fire... BROM GREY roughly shoves members of the SEARCH PARTY. BROM GREY leaps at CAPTAIN, tackling him, knocking the CROSSBOW from his hands.

PRINCESS EMELINE

Brom!

BROM GREY and CAPTAIN wrestle on the floor.

BROM GREY

(to THAD DARGIN)

Get her out of here! Now!

THAD DARGIN grabs PRINCESS EMELINE by the arm.

THAD DARGIN

Come on!

THAD DARGIN drags PRINCESS EMELINE toward the DOOR as SEARCH PARTY level CROSSBOWS at THAD DARGIN and PRINCESS EMELINE. THAD DARGIN and PRINCESS EMELINE freeze, staring at the loaded CROSSBOWS. BROM GREY and CAPTAIN are still wrestling on the floor. BROM GREY slams his elbow into CAPTAIN'S jaw. CAPTAIN is out cold. BROM GREY stands, turning toward SEARCH PARTY. SEARCH PARTY still holds PRINCESS EMELINE, THAD DARGIN and BROM GREY at CROSSBOW point. BROM GREY looks around, then freezes as he sees THAD DARGIN'S PITCHFORK lying on the floor. BROM GREY eases slowly toward the PITCHFORK. SEARCH PARTY motions for PRINCESS EMELINE, BROM GREY and THAD DARGIN to proceed out of the BARN. BROM GREY'S foot slips under the curved tines of the PITCHFORK.

BROM GREY

Princess? Sir? Get ready.

PRINCESS EMELINE

For what?

BROM GREY

Duck!

BROM GREY kicks up his foot, launching the PITCHFORK at SEARCH PARTY. PRINCESS EMELINE and THAD DARGIN duck, getting out of the way of the flying PITCHFORK. SEARCH PARTY members scatter as the PITCHFORK flies at them. A couple fire CROSSBOWS, but the BOLTS miss their targets, slamming into walls, harming no people or FARM ANIMALS.

BROM GREY (CONT'D)

Run!

THAD DARGIN leads PRINCESS EMELINE at a run as they EXIT the BARN. BROM GREY draws his SWORD, rushing through the confused SEARCH PARTY. He EXITS the BARN at a run.

EXT. FOREST CLEARING - NIGHT

PRINCESS EMELINE and THAD DARGIN ENTER. They pause, looking back. A moment later, BROM GREY joins them, SWORD still drawn.

THAD DARGIN
(panicked)
Which way?

PRINCESS EMELINE
Back to the river! I have to get home
and warn my parents. The river is the
quickest way!

PRINCESS EMELINE starts toward the RIVER. BROM GREY grabs her arm, stopping her. She turns, giving him a startled, angry look.

BROM GREY
Sorry, Princess. But the way to the
river is guarded. And De Bolbec's men
will be after us in a second. Quickly
now, deeper into the woods!

With BROM GREY leading, the trio rushes to the edge of the FOREST CLEARING and deeper into the FOREST.

EXT. FOREST - NIGHT

BROM GREY, PRINCESS EMELINE and THAD DARGIN run through the FOREST. It is dark, the STORM is still raging. None have a light. They stumble as they run. From behind them come the SOUNDS of THAD DARGIN'S HOUSE being ransacked. The SOUNDS are faint, but heard even above the SOUNDS of the STORM.

THAD DARGIN
They're destroying my house!

BROM GREY
They must think we sought shelter there.
Better your house torn apart than us!

THAD DARGIN
Easy for you to say! It isn't your
livelihood being ruined!

PRINCESS EMELINE
Enough! Where are we going?

BROM GREY

The Lance of the Gods was damaged some time ago. I came after you alone. If we stay in the woods De Bolbec's men will have a harder time of finding us. We can go right by the area of riverbank being guarded and join up with Captain Drake and the Lance of Gods on the river.

PRINCESS EMELINE

How badly damaged was the ship?

BROM GREY

When I left, it couldn't be moved. But Walter was already starting repairs. Even if it can't be sailed yet, we'll still have protection.

PRINCESS EMELINE

To the Lance it is, then!

EXT. RIVER - NIGHT

We see the LANCE OF THE GODS. The ship is still damaged, but a good deal of the damage has been repaired. WALTER DRAKE stands in the heavy RAIN, directing CREW as they work to make repairs. OIL LANTERNS are everywhere, casting LIGHT on the scene.

EXT. FOREST GROVE - NIGHT

We see a GROVE of closely-grown TREES. BROM GREY, PRINCESS EMELINE and THAD DARGIN ENTER at a run, staggering to a halt. All three are breathing hard. All are soaked to the skin by the RAIN. TREES of the GROVE block the vast majority of the RAIN, providing a fair shelter.

BROM GREY

I say we stop an rest a bit. The rain will be washing away our trail as we make it. De Bolbec's men won't have an easy time tracking us.

THAD DARGIN simply nods agreement, too winded to speak.

PRINCESS EMELINE

Alright, Brom. I don't like stopping, but if we keep going like this in the rain and dark one of us will get hurt.

BROM GREY

My thoughts exactly. And we have some shelter here. I say we wait here until morning. Even if it's still raining, we'll have light to see by.

PRINCESS EMELINE

Agreed.

PRINCESS EMELINE steps away, as far from BROM GREY and THAD DARGIN as she can be, yet still remain in the GROVE. She begins futile attempts at wringing water from her UNDERCLOTHES. THAD DARGIN watches PRINCESS EMELINE with a look of barely-disguised lust on his face. BROM GREY moves to PRINCESS EMELINE'S side. He replaces his SWORD in its SHEATH as he moves. PRINCESS EMELINE doesn't look pleased to have him follow her.

PRINCESS EMELINE (CONT'D)

Brom, some privacy, please.

BROM GREY

(sheepish)

I apologize, Princess. I only thought...

PRINCESS EMELINE shivers with cold.

PRINCESS EMELINE

Thought what?

BROM GREY

You're cold, milady.

BROM GREY quickly removes his shirt, offering it to PRINCESS EMELINE.

PRINCESS EMELINE

What?

BROM GREY

It's soaked though, but at least it'll be another layer of clothing on you. Please, Princess. Take it.

PRINCESS EMELINE hesitates, staring at him. He is shirtless and soaked from the RAIN, his heavily-muscled chest and arms glistening wetly. PRINCESS EMELINE stares at him, a look of wonder on her face.

BROM GREY (CONT'D)
Princess?

PRINCESS EMELINE
Huh? Oh! I'm sorry. Thank you.

PRINCESS EMELINE takes the SHIRT that BROM GREY is offering her. She wrings water out of it, still watching him. When the SHIRT is as dry as she can get it, she puts it on. THAD DARGIN crosses GROVE to join BROM GREY and PRINCESS EMELINE.

THAD DARGIN
So we're bedding down here for the night, then?

BROM GREY shoots a look of annoyance at THAD DARGIN.

PRINCESS EMELINE
Yes. Now you both stay here. I need a few moments of...privacy.

PRINCESS EMELINE crosses to the other side of GROVE.

BROM GREY
Milady? Where are you-

PRINCESS EMELINE stops, turning towards BROM GREY.

PRINCESS EMELINE
Both of you, stay here. I need to...relieve myself. I won't go far.

PRINCESS EMELINE turns, slipping from sight into TREES at the edge of GROVE, EXITING SCENE. THAD DARGIN watches BROM GREY. BROM GREY stares toward the spot where PRINCESS EMELINE vanished from sight.

THAD DARGIN
You love her. Don't you?

BROM GREY abruptly starts, turning to face THAD DARGIN.

BROM GREY

Don't be ridiculous. I'm the captain of the branch of the Royal Guard assigned to watch over her and protect her.

THAD DARGIN

Not going such a good job of that. Are you?

BROM GREY

(angry)

De Bolbec's men ambushed us. They were bold, striking close to the castle. Many of my men were killed. In the confusion, they stole the Princess.

THAD DARGIN

And you set off after her alone?

BROM GREY

No. Not alone. I had a force with me.

THAD DARGIN

But left them behind on the damaged ship you spoke of?

BROM GREY

The Lance of the Gods. Yes. There was no time to organize everyone for a march. I came on after the Princess alone then.

THAD DARGIN

Because you love her.

BROM GREY

I don't-

THAD DARGIN

You do. Admit it. It's obvious. And, looking at her, it's obvious as to why.

BROM GREY

(more angry)

What do you mean?

THAD DARGIN

Just what I said. She's a very beautiful woman. I can see how you could fall in love with her. I think I may even feel a stirring of it myself.

BROM GREY takes a step back, putting his hand on the hilt of his SWORD.

BROM GREY

Touch her and it will be the last thing you do.

THAD DARGIN

You see? You love her. Your anger isn't that of a guard protecting someone. It's that of a man jealous because another man shows interest in the woman he loves.

BROM GREY

You're a farmer. A peasant. You're far lower down the social ladder than I am. If it's forbidden for me to love her, then for someone such as you to love her would be nothing less than blasphemy.

THAD DARGIN pauses for a moment, thinking. The RAIN begins to ease up.

THAD DARGIN

We will see. Here we are, the three of us, far out into the woods, relying on each other for safety. We have far to go yet, I judge, from the way you spoke before of the damaged ship. We will see which of us she chooses.

Before BROM GREY can respond, PRINCESS EMELINE ENTERS. She hesitates, looking from BROM GREY to THAD DARGIN and back. Her gaze lingers far longer on BROM GREY. THAD DARGIN notices this and scowls.

PRINCESS EMELINE

The rain is stopping. I suggest we all try and get some sleep. I think it would be best if we set out again at first light.

BROM GREY
Sleep, milady. I shall stand watch.

As he speaks, BROM GRAY casts a pointed looks toward THAD DARGIN.

PRINCESS EMELINE
Brom, you can't stay awake all night.

BROM GREY
The night is mostly gone already.

EXT. FOREST GROVE - DAY

The same GROVE. Morning is just dawning. PRINCESS EMELINE lies on the ground, asleep, to one side of the GROVE. THAD DARGIN lies sleeping on the other side. BROM GREY stands near PRINCESS EMELINE, but not too near. The STORM and RAIN have both stopped, though everything drips with WATER. BROM GREY is still shirtless, PRINCESS EMELINE still wears BROM GREY'S SHIRT.

EXT. FOREST - DAY

BROM GREY is leading, PRINCESS EMELINE behind him and THAD DARGIN bringing up the rear. BROM GREY is still shirtless, PRINCESS EMELINE still wears BROM GREY'S SHIRT. Now that it is light, the trio moves more quickly. BROM GREY keeps casting looks back toward PRINCESS EMELINE.

THAD DARGIN
Wish we had something for breakfast.

BROM GREY
You know these woods. Where might we find some?

THAD DARGIN
I rarely stray from my farm. I do not know this part of the woodland very well.

BROM GREY
Terrific.

BROM GREY stops abruptly, holding up a hand. PRINCESS EMELINE and THAD DARGIN also halt. BROM GREY is looking at something on the ground. PRINCESS EMELINE steps slowly forward to stand with BROM GREY.

PRINCESS EMELINE

What is it?

BROM GREY

Tracks. Someone has been through here.
Very recently, probably only a few
minutes ago.

PRINCESS EMELINE casts fearful glances around.

THAD DARGIN

Is it the men who were after us last
night?

BROM GREY

I've no way to tell. Let's keep going.
Quietly.

BROM GREY leads PRINCESS EMELINE and THAD DARGIN forward. They
move as silently as possible. Every so often BROM GREY pauses,
looking around, listening. After a short time, he stops again.

PRINCESS EMELINE

More tracks?

BROM GREY

Yes.

THAD DARGIN pushes forward to look.

THAD DARGIN

Let me see.

BROM GREY points to the ground. Fresh TRACKS are in the MUD.
There are several sets of TRACKS, each overlapping and mixing
with the others. Several people have been through very recently.
However, one set of TRACKS is very distinct - made by one FOOT
and one CRUTCH.

PRINCESS EMELINE

I can't make heads of tails out of that
mess. Can you, Brom?

THAD DARGIN laughs merrily.

THAD DARGIN

I know who they are. They're harmless.

BROM GREY
 (annoyed)
 Mind letting us in on the joke?

THAD DARGIN
 There's a small group of vagabonds that wander through the area a few times a year. I let them camp on my land, just as long as they stay out of my fields. The leader of the group is a man named William Canfield. William's only got one leg. He gets around by use of a crutch. It's his group that's been here and left these tracks.

PRINCESS EMELINE
 You're sure?

THAD DARGIN
 'Course I am! I've been finding William Canfield's tracks on my land for years. They're harmless. In fact, if we follow these prints, we'll likely come to their camp. We do that, we'll be given breakfast and they may even be willing to give us a hand with the men following us.

BROM GREY, looks highly skeptical.

EXT. VAGABOND CAMP - DAY

Everything is tattered, worn and weathered. TENTS and LEAN-TOS are arranged haphazardly in a small clearing. CAMPFIRES are contained in rings of ROCKS. Small POTS hang over CAMPFIRES on wobbly TRIPODS. The VAGABONDS themselves are dirty and their clothing is in rags. The group consists of MEN, WOMEN and CHILDREN. WILLIAM CANFIELD is not in sight. From the edge of the VAGABOND CAMP, THAD DARGIN ENTERS, leading BROM GREY and PRINCESS EMELINE. BROM GREY is still shirtless, PRINCESS EMELINE still wears BROM GREY'S SHIRT. VAGABONDS react to the entrance of the newcomers. THAD DARGIN strides into VAGABOND CAMP, looking around.

THAD DARGIN
 Greetings! Is William Canfield around?

On the largest and least tattered of the TENTS, the flap opens and WILLIAM CANFIELD comes out. WILLIAM CANFIELD is a tall man, bedraggled and dirty, with only one leg. He walks with a CRUTCH to take the place of his missing leg.

WILLIAM CANFIELD

Thad? Thad Dargin?

THAD DARGIN

Yes, William. I've come to visit. And brought a couple of friends.

THAD DARGIN motions to BROM GREY and PRINCESS EMELINE as he speaks. BROM GREY and PRINCESS EMELINE look around at the VAGABOND CAMP skeptically. PRINCESS EMELINE'S expression also holds a good deal of disgust, though she tries not to show her revulsion for the filth around her. VAGABONDS stare back at BROM GREY and PRINCESS EMELINE. Their expressions vary from uncertainty to outright distrust. Several of the MEN are staring at PRINCESS EMELINE with looks of undisguised lust on their faces. Some of the WOMEN look at BROM GREY with the same lust. PRINCESS EMELINE eases closer to BROM GREY. It's not clear if she's moving closer out of fear of jealousy.

THAD DARGIN

Might I come in, William? We need to talk.

WILLIAM CANFIELD

Certainly! You're friends can join us, too.

THAD DARGIN

(speaking quickly)

No, I think it best if they remain out here. Neither of them are used to your...um...unique living conditions.

WILLIAM CANFIELD

(somewhat insulted)

Very well.

THAD DARGIN

But...if you might be able to spare some breakfast for us?

WILLIAM CANFIELD

Certainly. Come on in. We'll eat as we talk. Your friends can join the others.

INT. WILLIAM CANFIELD'S TENT - DAY

Everything is dirty and worn. SUNLIGHT streams through tears in the fabric. THAD DARGIN and WILLIAM CANFIELD sit together on the floor, a low, rickety, dirty TABLE between them. On the TABLE are two BOWLS of thin SOUP. There are no eating utensils in sight. WILLIAM CANFIELD'S CRUTCH is lying on the floor beside him. As they speak, they keep their voices low, so as not to be heard by anyone outside.

WILLIAM CANFIELD

You're positive she's really the Princess?

THAD DARGIN

I am. When I first found her in my barn I wasn't. But the instant De Bolbec's men came in after her...

WILLIAM CANFIELD

So what's the plan, my friend?

THAD DARGIN

Brom Grey, that's the man with us, has a ship somewhere on the river. He plans to take us past De Bolbec's guards and to that ship.

WILLIAM CANFIELD

And from there, back to Castle Payne where the princess will be safe.

THAD DARGIN

Yes.

WILLIAM CANFIELD

There's sure to be a rather large reward for anyone who helps return the Princess to safety.

THAD DARGIN

Yes. But I'm thinking that De Bolbec would also be willing to give a reward. A larger one.

WILLIAM CANFIELD

How so?

THAD DARGIN

Think about it! King Oliver controls a single kingdom. If De Bolbec has his way, he'll soon control two!

WILLIAM CANFIELD cackles with laughter.

WILLIAM CANFIELD

Twice the kingdoms, twice the wealth!

THAD DARGIN

Yes!

WILLIAM CANFIELD

Twice the wealth, twice the reward he might offer to anyone who helped him to gain such control.

THAD DARGIN

Yes! You see what a marvelous position I've found myself in? I'm tired of fighting the land, trying to eke out a living, ending up with just enough to get by on.

WILLIAM CANFIELD

So why come to me?

THAD DARGIN

If you and your people will help, I'll share the reward with you.

WILLIAM CANFIELD

A few would go along with what you're suggesting, but not all.

THAD DARGIN

(shrugging)

So don't tell them what we're about. Tell them just enough to get them to help us.

WILLIAM CANFIELD

(nodding)

So what's the plan?

THAD DARGIN

First off, Brom Grey has to die. He's a fierce fighter and completely loyal to the Princess. What's more, he's in love with her.

WILLIAM CANFIELD

Go on.

THAD DARGIN

After he's dead, we can simply scoop up the Princess and carry her straight to De Bolbec.

WILLIAM CANFIELD

If this Brom Grey is such a warrior, how do you propose we kill him?

THAD DARGIN

In his sleep. Tonight.

EXT. VAGABOND CAMP - DAY

We see rickety, make-shift TRESSLE TABLE. Seated around it are several VAGABONDS, BROM GREY and PRINCESS EMELINE. BROM GREY and PRINCESS EMELINE are seated next to each other. BROM GREY is still without a shirt, PRINCESS EMELINE is still wearing BROM GREY'S SHIRT and her filthy UNDERCLOTHES. All of the CHAIRS are mismatched and look as bad as the TRESSEL TABLE. On the TRESSEL TABLE are BOWLS and PLATES of unhealthy-looking FOOD. The VAGABONDS are eating with no thought. BROM GREY is picking slightly at the FOOD before him. PRINCESS EMELINE is not eating at all, looking at both FOOD and VAGABONDS with open disgust now.

PRINCESS EMELINE

(whispering)

I certainly hope we're not here long.

BROM GREY

(shaking his head)

We won't be. I want to rejoin Captain Drake and the Lance of the Gods tomorrow if we can make it that far that quickly.

PRINCESS EMELINE gives BROM GREY a long, appraising look.

PRINCESS EMELINE

You came a long way on your own to find me.

BROM GREY

It's my job. I'm responsible for your safety.

PRINCESS EMELINE
I think it's more than that.

BROM GREY looks at her, startled.

BROM GREY
What do you mean, milady?

PRINCESS EMELINE stands.

PRINCESS EMELINE
Care to go for a brief walk with me?

BROM GREY
We shouldn't. De Bolbec's men are
searching for us. We're safer here.

PRINCESS EMELINE casts a highly skeptical look at the VAGABONDS.

PRINCESS EMELINE
Are you sure?

BROM GREY
(hesitating)
No. Not entirely. But we're just asking
for trouble if we leave camp. The more
tracks we leave in the woods-

PRINCESS EMELINE
(sighing)
Alright. You're right. We won't leave
camp. Yet, anyway.

When BROM GREY still hesitates, PRINCESS EMELINE holds out a hand to him. BROM GREY reaches out to take her hand and stands. BROM GREY and PRINCESS EMELINE start to walk away from the TRESSEL TABLE.

THAD DARGIN
Princess? Brom?

BROM GREY and PRINCESS EMELINE turn together, releasing each other's hands, to respond to the summons. THAD DARGIN is ENTERING SCENE from WILLIAM CANFIELD'S TENT with WILLIAM CANFIELD hobbling along on his CRUTCH right behind him. THAD DARGIN steps closer.

THAD DARGIN (CONT'D)

I've spoken with William. And we've been invited to spend today and tonight in camp.

BROM GREY and PRINCESS EMELINE reluctantly walk toward WILLIAM CANFIELD'S TENT.

BROM GREY

No. Thank you, but no. We must be on our way.

WILLIAM CANFIELD

We thought you'd say that. But those men seeking you, they will be all through the woods. Stay here. In my tent. You'll be my personal guests. I'll have my people cover the entire area with a crisscrossed mess of tracks today. No one looking for you will be able to find you. Spend the night. Then, in the morning, you can be on your way. And, should anyone manage to find you during your stay here, you'll have plenty of able bodies to defend you.

BROM GREY

Again, thank you. But no. We really must be on our way. Time is of the utmost importance.

WILLIAM CANFIELD frowns, glancing at THAD DARGIN. THAD DARGIN also frowns.

THAD DARGIN

William is right, Brom. We'll be safer if we do as he suggests.

BROM GREY

Stay if you like. Princess Emeline and I will be on our way.

PRINCESS EMELINE

Now, please.

BROM GREY

Of course, milady.

BROM GREY and PRINCESS EMELINE turn and move toward the edge of the VAGABOND CAMP.

THAD DARGIN
Wait! Please!

BROM GREY and PRINCESS EMELINE turn as THAD DARGIN runs up to them.

THAD DARGIN (CONT'D)
If you really won't stay, I'll go with you. But first, let me speak to William again. Maybe he can get some of his people to travel with us. You know, safety in numbers?

PRINCESS EMELINE and BROM GREY exchange an apprehensive look.

BROM GREY
It may be better that way, milady. Safety in numbers, as he says. Besides, De Bolbec's men seek the Princess, the Captain of her Guard and a farmer. Maybe they won't think to follow tracks left by a larger party.

PRINCESS EMELINE
(nodding reluctantly)
Very well.

THAD DARGIN turns and EXITS back toward WILLIAM CANFIELD'S TENT.

BROM GREY
I don't like this. But what he says is true. We may well be safer traveling with a small group.

PRINCESS EMELINE
I don't know. I don't trust him.

BROM GREY looks towards THAD DARGIN and WILLIAM CANFIELD as they stand together, whispering, casting quick glances at BROM GREY and PRINCESS EMELINE.

BROM GREY
Which one?

PRINCESS EMELINE
Neither.

EXT. RIVER - DAY

The CREW of the LANCE OF THE GODS work feverishly on the repairs. WALTER DRAKE stands in the midst of the chaos, directing everything. Without the storm, and with the LIGHT of day, work is progresing much faster. The LANCE OF THE GODS appears nearly ready to set out once more.

EXT. FOREST - DAY

BROM GREY leads PRINCESS EMELINE, THAD DARGIN and six VAGABONDS through the FOREST. PRINCESS EMELINE quickens her step, coming alongside BROM GREY. When they speak, their voices are low, whispering. BROM GREY is still without a shirt, while PRINCESS EMELINE still wears BROM GREY'S SHIRT over her filthy UNDERCLOTHES.

PRINCESS EMELINE

I'm still having doubts about this.

BROM GREY

I'll keep my eye on them.

PRINCESS EMELINE

Me, too. At least the guy with the crutch stayed behind. I feel better about that.

BROM GREY

He wanted to come. I said no because he'd have slowed us down too much.

PRINCESS EMELINE

Any idea how far the Lance is?

BROM GREY

Not really, no. I was travling on a skiff, at night. When the storm came in, I rode the wind from it until I saw Tryant's Stay.

PRINCESS EMELINE

How will we know when we've gone far enough?

BROM GREY

We won't. Not for sure. We'll have to guess.

PRINCESS EMELINE

What if the ship has moved by the time we get there?

BROM GREY

Then we'll continue on foot.

PRINCESS EMELINE

(frowning)

That'll be slow progress. I have to warn my parents.

BROM GREY

I know. We're heading in the right direction, at least. If Walter has repaired the Lance and moved it, we'll keep going until we find a better mode of transport than walking.

THAD DARGIN increases his own pace to join BROM GREY and PRINCESS EMELINE.

THAD DARGIN

What are you two whispering about up here?

PRINCESS EMELINE

(distainfully)

I am your royal Princess! My business is none of yours.

THAD DARGIN

Right now, we're all in this mess together. What effects one, effects us all.

BROM GREY

This is a private conversation.

As he speaks, BROM GREY puts his hand on the hilt of his SWORD.

THAD DARGIN

No need for that. I'm only trying to help.

BROM GREY

Your help isn't needed. Even if it were, I'd question it.

THAD DARGIN

(afrosted)

Meaning what?

BROM GREY

Meaning that your friends, whom you were so certain would help us, weren't really much help.

THAD DARGIN

How can you say that?

BROM GREY

The food they offered was barely edible. They didn't even bother to offer Princess Emeline clothing or me a new shirt. There really was no point in our even going to them.

THAD DARGIN

You can't mean that! They are very poor people. The food they offered was all they have! And they didn't offer clothing to you or the Princess because they haven't got it to offer!

PRINCESS EMELINE

Just go back to your friends and let us talk in peace!

THAD DARGIN gives her a sour look and falls back, EXITING the SHOT, leaving BROM GREY and PRINCESS EMELINE walking alone once more.

BROM GREY

In the camp, you said you wanted to go for a walk. For what reason.

PRINCESS EMELINE

To talk.

BROM GREY

About?

PRINCESS EMELINE casts a glance back at THAD DARGIN and the six VAGABONDS. The VAGABONDS seem to be ignoring her. THAD DARGIN is frowning, staring right at her. BROM GREY and PRINCESS EMELINE walk at the head of the group.

PRINCESS EMELINE

It can wait. I don't want to discuss it in present company.

EXT. RIVER - DAY

The LANCE OF THE GODS, now fully-repaired, makes its way upriver under the power of many OARS. On the UPPER DECK, the GIANT CROSSBOWS are manned and ready to go.

EXT. FOREST - DAY

BROM GREY and PRINCESS EMELINE, still leading the group. BROM GREY is still shirtless, PRINCESS EMELINE still wears BROM GREY'S SHIRT. THAD DARGIN and the six VAGABONDS trail behind them. Everyone is silent, yet walking quickly. THAD DARGIN sneezes very loudly. BROM GREY spins to face THAD DARGIN.

BROM GREY

Quiet!

THAD DARGIN wipes his nose on his sleeve, sniffing.

THAD DARGIN

Sorry. I must be catching a chill.

BROM GREY

It's not cold out.

THAD DARGIN shugs and continues to walk. He sneezes again, just as loudly as before. BROM GREY again turns to face him. This time, however, BROM GREY says nothing, merely glares at THAD DARGIN. THAD DARGIN'S smiles in reply to BROM GREY'S glare.

EXT. TYRANT'S STAY - DAY

It is still moored securely at the RIVERBANK. All is calm, peaceful.

INT. TYRANT'S STAY - HADRIAN DE BOLBEC'S QUARTERS - DAY

HADRIAN DE BOLBEC paces back and forth, over and over, in his QUARTERS aboard the TYRANT'S STAY. HADRIAN DE BOLBEC'S QUARTERS are very large and very plushly opulent. Everything indicates a powerful, wealthy man who revels in his power and wealth, yet hungers for more.

HADRIAN DE BOLBEC

Where are they? It shouldn't take this long to find a scared little Princess lost in the middle of the woods!

EXT. FOREST - DAY

BROM GREY and PRINCESS EMELINE still lead their group. BROM GREY is still shirtless, PRINCESS EMELINE still wears BROM GREY'S SHIRT. THAD DARGIN and the VAGABONDS are behind them. THAD DARGIN sniffs loudly, wiping his nose on his sleeve. He then sneezes very loudly. BROM GREY, furious, leaves PRINCESS EMELINE'S side and rushing to THAD DARGIN. The entire procession comes to a halt.

BROM GREY
(speaking in a harsh whisper)
Be silent!

THAD DARGIN
(speaking loudly)
I'm sorry! I told you, I've caught a chill.

BROM GREY
(harsh whisper)
Quiet!

THAD DARGIN
(loudly)
Why? There's no one out here but the nine of us.

BROM GREY
(harsh whisper)
Shut your mouth and keep quiet.

THAD DARGIN
(loudly)
Or?

BROM GREY quickly draws his SWORD. PRINCESS EMELINE watches BROM GREY intently. BROM GREY faces off with THAD DARGIN, SWORD in hand. Sweat glistens on BROM GREY'S muscular chest and arms.

BROM GREY
(harsh whisper)
Or I'll silence you for good! I'm trying to protect the Princess! You seem to be trying to put her in danger!

THAD DARGIN
(loudly)
I told you-

THAD DARGIN'S words are cut short as BROM GREY slams the hilt of his SWORD into THAT DARGIN'S jaw, knocking THAD DARGIN to the ground. THAD DARGIN lies on the ground, rubbing his BRUISED jaw. BROM GREY, furious, angles his SWORD, putting the tip of the blade to THAD DARGIN'S throat.

BROM GREY
 (harsh whisper)
 Now. Get up. Keep walking. And, above
 all, keep quiet. Do you understand?

THAD DARGIN as he nods, giving BROM GREY a look of mingled rage and humiliation. BROM GREY sheathes his SWORD, then rejoins PRINCESS EMELINE at the front of the line. PRINCESS EMELINE falls into step beside him.

PRINCESS EMELINE
 Hopefully he'll keep silent now.

BROM GREY
 Can you walk faster?

PRINCESS EMELINE
 Yes.

BROM GREY
 Good. After that, I want us out of this
 area quick as we can manage.

EXT. FOREST - DAY

CAPTAIN of TYRANT'S STAY and his SEARCH PARTY walk. Suddenly he stops, staring intently into the FOREST to one side. Everyone appears exhausted and filthy after their night searching in the FOREST.

CAPTAIN
 This way. I just heard something. It
 sounded like a voice.

CAPTAIN leads the SEARCH PARTY in the indicated direction.

CAPTAIN (CONT'D)
 It'd better be her! I'm sick of being
 out here. And De Bolbec will be furious
 at how long this has already taken!

EXT. FOREST - DAY

BROM GREY and PRINCESS EMELINE still lead their group. BROM GREY is still shirtless, PRINCESS EMELINE still wears BROM GREY'S SHIRT. THAD DARGIN and the VAGABONDS are behind them. THAD DARGIN is silent, but glares at BROM GREY'S back as he walks.

EXT. FOREST - DAY

The CAPTAIN of TYRANT'S STAY and his SEARCH PARTY stand still, staring at the ground. TRACKS run in a line, vanishing into the FOREST ahead.

CAPTAIN

A lot more than three people. Looks like six or seven. Maybe more.

CAPTAIN looks around briefly before returning his attention to the TRACKS.

CAPTAIN (CONT'D)

Let's go after them. Maybe these travelers have seen the Princess and her friends.

CAPTAIN leads the SEARCH PARTY, following the TRACKS.

EXT. FOREST - DAY

BROM GREY and PRINCESS EMELINE still lead their group. BROM GREY is still shirtless, PRINCESS EMELINE still wears BROM GREY'S SHIRT. THAD DARGIN and the VAGABONDS are behind them. THAD DARGIN is silent, but glares at BROM GREY'S back as he walks.

PRINCESS EMELINE

Brom?

BROM GREY

Yes, milady?

PRINCESS EMELINE

(smiling)

Given the circumstances, I think it might be okay for you to drop the formalities.

BROM GREY gazes at her wistfully.

BROM GREY
I can't, milady. Those formalities are
all that keep me from forgetting...

PRINCESS EMELINE returns his gaze, curious.

PRINCESS EMELINE
Keeps you from forgetting what?

BROM GREY
Nothing, milady. I nearly misspoke.
Forgive me. Please, what did you want
before?

PRINCESS EMELINE hesitates before speaking again, giving BROM
GREY a long, curious stare.

PRINCESS EMELINE
Might it be alright if we rested for a
short while?

BROM GREY is hesitant before answering.

BROM GREY
Yes, I suppose we should rest. Maybe we
can forage for a bit of food, too.

PRINCESS EMELINE
I thank you and my stomach will thank
you for any food you turn up.

BROM GREY and PRINCESS EMELINE share a friendly chuckle at her
words. In that chuckle, the social barriers that separate them
seem to crumble. BROM GREY looks at PRINCESS EMELINE, wonder in
his expression. PRINCESS EMELINE looks back at BROM GREY, wonder
in her expression. BROM GREY and PRINCESS EMELINE stop, gazing at
each other.

THAD DARGIN
What's wrong?

The moment broken, both BROM GREY and PRINCESS EMELINE grow
flustered and look away from each other.

THAD DARGIN (CONT'D)
Are we stopping for a rest?

BROM GREY
Yes. For a brief rest. And food, if we
can find any.

THAD DARGIN waves a hand toward the VAGABONDS.

THAD DARGIN
My friends here know these woods. I'm
sure they can find us something.

PRINCESS EMELINE
(sarcastically)
Oh, how lovely.

EXT. FOREST - DAY

CAPTAIN of TYRANT'S STAY and his SEARCH PARTY follow the TRACKS left by BROM GREY, PRINCESS EMELINE and those they travel with.

EXT. FOREST - DAY

BROM GREY and PRINCESS EMELINE sit together at the base of a large TREE. BROM GREY is still shirtless, PRINCESS EMELINE still wears BROM GREY'S SHIRT. Close by, THAD DARGIN and the VAGABONDS sit. All are eating APPLES. THAD DARGIN continues casting baleful looks at BROM GREY.

PRINCESS EMELINE
I know we're resting, but maybe now
might be a good time for that walk we
were going to take this morning?

BROM GREY
(hesitant)
Are you sure? You were the one who asked
for the rest break.

PRINCESS EMELINE
Well, maybe we could just go off a bit
and rest by ourselves?

BROM GREY
We could. But-

PRINCESS EMELINE
(mock-serious)
Are you thinking of denying a royal
request from me?

BROM GREY
(slightly flustered)
No, milady.

PRINCESS EMELINE
Good.

BROM GREY stands, holding out a hand and helping PRINCESS EMELINE to her feet. BROM GREY releases PRINCESS EMELINE'S hand with obvious reluctance before turning to THAD DARGIN and the VAGABONDS.

BROM GREY

We'll be back shortly. The Princess and I have something to discuss in private.

THAD DARGIN stares with open hatred at BROM GREY.

EXT. FOREST - DAY

BROM GREY and PRINCESS EMELINE walking slowly through the FOREST together. BROM GREY is still shirtless, PRINCESS EMELINE still wears BROM GREY'S SHIRT. PRINCESS EMELINE seems very relaxed. BROM GREY is obviously tense.

BROM GREY

What was it you wanted to talk about, Princess?

PRINCESS EMELINE stops, turning to face BROM GREY. BROM GREY stops, facing her.

PRINCESS EMELINE

What do I want to talk about? Something very important. You truly have no idea what that something is?

BROM GREY

I'm sorry, but no. Have I done something wrong?

PRINCESS EMELINE laughs, truly amused.

PRINCESS EMELINE

Wrong? No! Far from it, Brom. You've done everything right. Everything! You've gone far above and beyond the call any duty your rank and position as Captain of my Royal Guard calls for.

BROM GREY

No disrespect meant, milady, but I disagree. My duty is to protect you and keep you safe. That's all I've tried to do.

PRINCESS EMELINE
But you've done it for other reasons,
too. Haven't you?

BROM GREY
(caught off guard)
What?

PRINCESS EMELINE
I know. I overheard part of the
discussion you and Thad had last night,
when we first ran from his farm.

BROM GREY
(blanching with horror)
You did?

PRINCESS EMELINE
I did. At first I didn't know what to
think. I mean, I never had the slightest
inkling that you had any special
feelings for me, much less that you love
me.

BROM GREY
Milady, if I-

PRINCESS EMELINE holds up a hand, putting her fingers on his lips
gently, cutting off his words.

PRINCESS EMELINE
Let me speak, Brom. When I heard that
last night, I was shocked. But I've
given it thought since then. And I'm...

BROM GREY
Milady?

PRINCESS EMELINE gives BROM GREY a bright, dazzling smile.

PRINCESS EMELINE
I'm glad you feel that way, Brom.

BROM GREY is stunned.

BROM GREY
You...are?

PRINCESS EMELINE

Yes. I am. I've been watching you closely. You're brave, intelligent, honorable, loyal...

PRINCESS EMELINE reaches out slowly as she speaks, placing her hands lightly on BROM GREY'S hips. Slowly, sensuously, she caresses his body, moving her hands upward, until her palms are on his muscular chest.

BROM GREY

Princess-

PRINCESS EMELINE

You, Brom Grey, are also very handsome.

PRINCESS EMELINE moves closer, pressing herself against BROM GREY'S body. BROM GREY slowly reaches out, embracing her.

BROM GREY

And you, milady, are also brave, intelligent, honorable, loyal and very, very beautiful.

PRINCESS EMELINE cranes her head to look up into BROM GREY'S eyes.

PRINCESS EMELINE

You've done so much for me; so much to save me. It would have been so easy for you to just let De Bolbec have me.

BROM GREY

No. I could never do that.

PRINCESS EMELINE

I love you, Brom Grey.

BROM GREY

And I love you, Princess.

PRINCESS EMELINE

(speaking very softly)

My name isn't "milady" or "Princess", Brom. It's Emeline. Emeline Payne.

As PRINCESS EMELINE speaks, she slowly moves her mouth closer to BROM GREY'S mouth. Just after she whispers the final word, both move to close the final fraction of an inch between their lips. BROM GREY and PRINCESS EMELINE share their first kiss, BROM GREY hugs her tightly against him. Both seem to melt into one another. The kiss is powerful and invigorating for them both. It is a kiss borne of true love for each other. The kiss is broken by the SOUNDS of SCREAMS from the direction of THAD DARGIN and the VAGABONDS. Both BROM GREY and PRINCESS EMELINE turn to look, expressions of shocked horror on their faces. The SCREAMS are already dying away.

BROM GREY
Stay here!

BROM GREY draws his SWORD.

PRINCESS EMELINE
No, Brom. I've only just found you. I'm
not letting you go.

BROM GREY runs back toward THAD DARGIN and the VAGABONDS, PRINCESS EMELINE following him closely.

EXT. FOREST - DAY

The six VAGABONDS lie dead on the ground. Around them stand CAPTAIN, the SEARCH PARTY and THAD DARGIN. CAPTAIN is holding THAD DARGIN captive. After a moment, BROM GREY and PRINCESS EMELINE ENTER at a run. Both come to a quick halt upon seeing the scene before them. THAD DARGIN is being held at CROSSBOW-point by CAPTAIN. THAD DARGIN looks very uneasy and points at PRINCESS EMELINE the moment she ENTERS.

THAD DARGIN
See? I told you!

CAPTAIN peers at PRINCESS EMELINE suspiciously.

CAPTAIN
Looks like what I remember. Mostly.
She's so filthy it's hard to be sure...

THAD DARGIN
It's her! I swear to you! Now will you
let me go?

BROM GREY, SWORD in hand, glares at THAD DARGIN, hatred darkening his face as he uses his free hand to push PRINCESS EMELINE behind himself.

BROM GREY
You told them she was here?

THAD DARGIN
They killed the others! They'd have
killed me, too, if I hadn't!

BROM GREY
Better you'd died then given her up.

THAD DARGIN
Easy for you to say.

CAPTAIN as he shifts the aim of his CROSSBOW from THAD DARGIN to
BROM GREY.

CAPTAIN
You're Captain of her Royal Guard?

BROM GREY
I am.

CAPTAIN
So I don't suppose I can count on you to
just turn her over to me?

BROM GREY
I'll die before I let you touch her.

CAPTAIN simply shrugs and pulls the trigger of his CROSSBOW. The
QUARREL shoots from the CROSSBOW towards BROM GREY. PRINCESS
EMELINE screams. BROM GREY sweeps his SWORD around, deflecting
the QUARREL safely away from himself and PRINCESS EMELINE.
CAPTAIN stares, stunned, at BROM GREY. BROM GREY leaps forward,
SWORD swinging, lunging for CAPTAIN. CAPTAIN backpedals.

CAPTAIN
Don't just stand there! Get him!

SEARCH PARTY rushes forward, CROSSBOWS aimed at BROM GREY.

PRINCESS EMELINE
Brom!

BROM GREY spins, turning to rush back toward PRINCESS EMELINE. As BROM GREY spins, his SWORD catches one of the SEARCH PARTY member's CROSSBOW, knocking the weapon from the man's hands. BROM GREY runs to PRINCESS EMELINE, grabbing her by the arm and rushing off into the deeper FOREST with her, EXITING scene. QUARRELS slam into trunks of TREES that BROM GREY and PRINCESS EMELINE just ran by.

CAPTAIN

Reload! After them! Now!

THAD DARGIN tries sneaking away. CAPTAIN rushes to grab THAD DARGIN, holding him in place. THAD DARGIN looks terrified.

CAPTAIN (CONT'D)

You want to live? Help us catch her.

THAD DARGIN

Brom Grey will kill me.

CAPTAIN

I'll kill you if you refuse.

EXT. FOREST - DAY

BROM GREY and PRINCESS EMELINE run through the FOREST fast as they can. BROM GREY is still shirtless, PRINCESS EMELINE still wears BROM GREY'S SHIRT. BROM GREY'S SWORD is in his hand.

BROM GREY

Keep going! Head for the river! Watch out for De Bolbec's guards. When you reach the water, follow it toward home until you find the Lance of the Gods.

PRINCESS EMELINE

I won't leave you!

BROM GREY

You have to!

PRINCESS EMELINE

I won't! I just truly found you. I won't let you face this alone!

BROM GREY

You must! Go. Now. Please.

Without allowing her to say more, BROM GREY turns away, running back toward SEARCH PARTY, EXITING SCENE. PRINCESS EMELINE runs toward RIVER. As she runs, PRINCESS EMELINE casts a look back, her expression one of despair.

EXT. FOREST - DAY

SEARCH PARTY moves through the FOREST. They are led by CAPTAIN, who is forcing THAD DARGIN along.

INT. TYRANT'S STAY - BRIDGE - DAY

HADRIAN DE BOLBEC stands on the BRIDGE of TYRANT'S STAY, scowling with fury. Around him, CREW scurry about, doing their duties. It is obvious that everyone is highly distressed. HADRIAN DE BOLBEC stares out the forward view port and sees the LANCE OF THE GODS as the smaller vessel closes, propelled by OARS.

HADRIAN DE BOLBEC
How did they survive the mine field?

When no one answers, HADRIAN DE BOLBEC spins, grabbing a CREW MEMBER at random.

HADRIAN DE BOLBEC (CONT'D)
(bellowing)
How did they survive the mine field?

CREW MEMBER
I... I don't know, my lord!

HADRIAN DE BOLBEC
And the bomb-boats! How did they get by them?

CREW MEMBER
I can't say, my lord.

HADRIAN DE BOLBEC turns, tossing CREW MEMBER aside roughly. CREW MEMBER falls to the floor, then gets up quickly, rushing off, EXITING, before HADRIAN DE BOLBEC can lash out at him again.

HADRIAN DE BOLBEC
Blow them out of the water!

EXT. LANCE OF THE GODS - UPPER DECK - DAY

WALTER DRAKE stares at TYRANT'S STAY and sees CATAPULTS on top of the massive floating castle are swung to aim at the LANCE OF THE GODS.

WALTER DRAKE
Prepare to return fire!

EXT. FOREST - DAY

SEARCH PARTY rushes through FOREST after BROM GREY and PRINCESS EMELINE. The last member of the SEARCH PARTY is abruptly yanked out of place and EXITS scene into COVER PLANTS with a shout of surprise that is quickly cut off. CAPTAIN stops running and turns back. He keeps a firm grip on THAD DARGIN.

CAPTAIN
What was that? What happened?

We see COVER PLANTS as the SOUND of a CROSSBOW firing is heard. A QUARREL as it flies from the COVER PLANTS and strikes CAPTAIN in the stomach. CAPTAIN screams, letting go of THAD DARGIN and dropping to the ground, writhing. THAD DARGIN, frozen with fear, starts toward COVER PLANTS. BROM GREY steps through them, still shirtless, ENTERING scene. BROM GREY holds a reloaded CROSSBOW in his hands, swinging it around to cover the remainder of the SEARCH PARTY and THAD DARGIN.

BROM GREY
Any of De Bolbec's men who throws down
his weapon runs away will be spared. Any
who fight, die.

The remainder of SEARCH PARTY look at each other with uncertain expressions and look at CAPTAIN. One by one, SEARCH PARTY tosses down their CROSSBOWS, turn and flee into deeper FOREST, EXITING. BROM GREY crosses to where CAPTAIN lies still on the ground. BROM GREY'S foot kicks CAPTAIN'S CROSSBOW out of reach. THAD DARGIN, stares at BROM GREY in terror.

THAD DARGIN
What do you mean to do to me?

BROM GREY kneels down, checking CAPTAIN, then stands.

BROM GREY
Your friend is dead.

THAD DARGIN
He wasn't my friend. He'd have killed me
if-

BROM GREY
(furious)
If you hadn't betrayed the Princess!

THAD DARGIN
I didn't have a choice!

BROM GREY steps closer to THAD DARGIN, keeping the CROSSBOW aimed at him.

BROM GREY
That was your plan all along. Wasn't it?

THAD DARGIN
(shaking head)
No.

BROM GREY
Liar. All the noise you made, the loud
talking, the sneezing... You were trying
to bring De Bolbec's men to us.

THAD DARGIN
No!

BROM GREY
Liar. And in the camp, your one-legged
friend invited us to stay the night. The
pair of you planned to betray us then.
Didn't you?

THAD DARGIN
No! You've got it wrong!

BROM GREY
Liar. What would you do with you if you
were me?

THAD DARGIN stares at BROM GREY in horror.

EXT. RIVER - DAY

The LANCE OF THE GODS and TYRANT'S STAY use CATAPULTS to lob chunks of burning STONE at each other and giant CROSSBOWS to fire massive QUARRELS at each other. On both ships, CREW rush to and fro with BUCKETS full of WATER, trying to put out FIRES that burn. There is a huge amount of NOISE from the battle.

EXT. FOREST - DAY

BROM GREY, still shirtless, and THAD DARGIN face each other. BROM GREY still has the CROSSBOW aimed squarely at THAD DARGIN. THAD DARGIN looks utterly terrified.

BROM GREY

Tell me. If our positions were reversed,
what would you do?

THAD DARGIN stares mutely for a moment before turning away quickly. THAD DARGIN dives for CAPTAIN'S CROSSBOW. Grabbing it, THAD DARGIN rolls over, coming up to his feet. THAD DARGIN levels the CROSSBOW in his hands at BROM GREY. BROM GREY pulls the trigger of his CROSSBOW. The QUARREL flies straight into THAD DARGIN'S chest. THAD DARGIN freezes, stunned, and drops the CROSSBOW. Slowly, THAD DARGIN starts to look down at the QUARREL in his chest. However, before he can even focus on it, he drops to the ground, dead. BROM GREY looks at THAD DARGIN'S body with a grim expression as he reloads his CROSSBOW. BROM GREY runs into the deeper FOREST in pursuit of PRINCESS EMELINE. NOISE from the battle on the RIVER is heard, but only faintly.

EXT. RIVER - DAY

The LANCE OF THE GODS and TYRANT'S STAY use CATAPULTS to lob chunks of burning STONE at each other and giant CROSSBOWS to fire massive QUARRELS at each other. On both ships, CREW rush to and fro with BUCKETS full of WATER, trying to put out FIRES that burn. There is a huge amount of NOISE from the battle.

EXT. RIVERBANK - DAY

One of HADRIAN DE BOLBEC'S GUARDS looks around, keeping his CROSSBOW ready. NOISE from the battle on the RIVER is heard. GUARD turns toward NOISE. GUARD runs toward battle, following NOISE.

EXT. FOREST - DAY

PRINCESS EMELINE, still wearing BROM GREY'S SHIRT, runs through FOREST. NOISE of battle is heard. PRINCESS EMELINE stops, looking around, listening to NOISE.

PRINCESS EMELINE
What on earth...?

PRINCESS EMELINE runs through FOREST again, following NOISE toward the battle.

EXT. RIVERBANK - DAY

As the LANCE OF THE GODS does battle against TYRANT'S STAY on the RIVER, BROM GREY ENTERS scene, still shirtless, stopping in his tracks, staring at the two ships on the RIVER as they engage each other in combat. BROM GREY stares at the battle.

PRINCESS EMELINE
Brom!

BROM GREY turns upon hearing PRINCESS EMELINE'S voice. PRINCESS EMELINE stands up from COVER PLANTS, still wearing BROM GREY'S SHIRT, then rushes to BROM GREY. She throws herself into BROM GREY'S arms. They embrace and share a brief kiss.

PRINCESS EMELINE (CONT'D)
It would seem that Captain Drake repaired his ship.

BROM GREY
That it would.

PRINCESS EMELINE
(eyes widening)
What happened in the woods?

BROM GREY
Thad Dargin is dead. So are two of De Bolbec's men. The others ran.

PRINCESS EMELINE
You killed Thad Dargin?

BROM GREY
Yes. I'll explain everything later. Right now, we need to get aboard the Lance of the Gods and get you home.

PRINCESS EMELINE

Oh! With everything that's happened today I nearly forgot! You're right! We have to warn my parents!

BROM GREY

You have no idea when De Bolbec plans to have them assassinated?

PRINCESS EMELINE

No. Only that he planned to do it just before forcing me to marry him.

BROM GREY

Now that you've escaped, he may do it at any time out of retribution.

PRINCESS EMELINE

(even more fearful)

We have to hurry!

BROM GREY

Yes.

BROM GREY turns to face the RIVER and the battle being waged there. PRINCESS EMELINE turns with him. They continue to hold each other.

PRINCESS EMELINE

How do we get to the ship?

BROM GREY

Swim?

PRINCESS EMELINE gives him an incredulous look. After a moment, she begins removing BROM GREY'S SHIRT, preparing to swim.

EXT. RIVER - DAY

The LANCE OF THE GODS and TYRANT'S STAY use CATAPULTS to lob chunks of burning STONE at each other and giant CROSSBOWS to fire massive QUARRELS at each other. On both ships, CREW rush to and fro with BUCKETS full of WATER, trying to put out FIRES that burn. There is a huge amount of NOISE from the battle.

EXT. RIVER - DAY

BROM GREY, still shirtless, and PRINCESS EMELINE, now no longer wearing BROM GREY'S SHIRT, swim toward the LANCE OF THE GODS. BROM GREY keeps himself between PRINCESS EMELINE and TYRANT'S STAY as the battle rages.

EXT. LANCE OF THE GODS - UPPER DECK - DAY

INCOMING FIRE from TYRANT'S STAY bombards the LANCE OF THE GODS.

WALTER DRAKE

More draw on the weapons! Hit them with
as much power as we've got!

LOOK-OUT

Captain Drake! In the water!

WALTER DRAKE

What?

LOOK-OUT

In the water! It's Brom Grey and
Princess Emeline!

WALTER DRAKE

(looking around)
Where?

LOOK-OUT

(pointing into RIVER)
There!

INT. TYRANT'S STAY - BRIDGE - DAY

As the chaos around him continues, abruptly, HADRIAN DE BOLBEC'S eyes widen and his already furious expression grows even more so.

HADRIAN DE BOLBEC

How...?

Out the forward view port, he sees, aboard the LANCE OF THE GODS, CREW tossing ROPES over the ship's side. In the WATER, BROM GREY and PRINCESS EMELINE grab the ROPES and are pulled from the WATER.

HADRIAN DE BOLBEC (CONT'D)

Impossible!

HADRIAN DE BOLBEC spins from the view port, screaming at the CREW around him.

HADRIAN DE BOLBEC (CONT'D)
 The Princess and her guard are on that
 ship! Sink the ship! Kill the guard!
 Then bring me my bride-to-be!

EXT. LANCE OF THE GODS - UPPER DECK - DAY

BROM GREY, shirtless, and PRINCESS EMELINE, once more only clad
 in her UNDERCLOTHES, both dripping wet, stand with WALTER DRAKE.
 Around them, the battle continues.

BROM GREY
 Walter, I'll fill you in later, when
 there's time. For now, turn us around.
 Get us back to Castle Payne quickly as
 you can!

WALTER DRAKE hesitates.

PRINCESS EMELINE
 Do it, Captain. My parents are in great
 danger.

WALTER DRAKE
 Yes, milady!

INT. TYRANT'S STAY - BRIDGE - DAY

We see out the main view port as the LANCE OF THE GODS, still
 firing at TYRANT'S STAY, turns and begins to retreat. HADRIAN DE
 BOLBEC turns quickly from the view port.

HADRIAN DE BOLBEC
 After them!

INT. LANCE OF THE GODS - BROM GREY'S QUARTERS

Everything is very utilitarian. It's obvious that BROM GREY does
 not think of these QUARTERS as anything close to home. BROM GREY
 is dry now and just putting on a clean SHIRT. The SOUND of a
 knock on the DOOR is heard.

BROM GREY
 Come in. It's unlocked.

The DOOR opens, revealing PRINCESS EMELINE, now clean and dry,
 wearing FRESH CLOTHING. She looks radiant and stares at BROM GREY
 with undisguised emotion. BROM GREY stares at PRINCESS EMELINE,
 stunned.

BROM GREY (CONT'D)
Princess. You look...lovely.

PRINCESS EMELINE, smiling, crosses to BROM GREY, wrapping her arms around his neck, kissing him.

PRINCESS EMELINE
What did I tell you about that, Brom? My name isn't "Princess".

BROM GREY returns her kiss.

BROM GREY
Sorry.

PRINCESS EMELINE leads BROM GREY to the BED and sits down, pulling him down next to her. They hold hands.

PRINCESS EMELINE
Is Captain Drake really sure Tyrant's Stay can't catch us?

BROM GREY
Quite sure. Tyrant's Stay is built for power and strength, but it's slow due to its size. The Lance of the Gods doesn't have the firepower, but it's much faster. Besides, as soon as we lost sight of De Bolbec's ship, Walter and I left a little surprise in the water for him. A fog was moving in, too. So it should be a complete surprise!

PRINCESS EMELINE
Really? What did you leave?

EXT. RIVER - MINE FEILD - DAY

A web of floating copper POTS and cork FLOATS form a MINE FIELD in the water. The MINE FIELD is mostly hidden by drifting fog atop the water. TYRANT'S STAY ENTERS scene, still a short ways off, but heading toward the MINE FIELD at top speed.

INT. LANCE OF THE GODS - BROM GREY'S QUARTERS

BROM GREY and PRINCESS EMELINE still sit on BROM GREY'S BED. PRINCESS EMELINE appears stunned.

PRINCESS EMELINE
You really went through a floating mine
field to get to me?

BROM GREY
I did. And I'd go through more if that's
what it took.

PRINCESS EMELINE kisses BROM GREY. It is a light, lingering kiss.

PRINCESS EMELINE
How long before we reach the castle?

BROM GREY
A few more hours, at most. Walter has us
under sail as long as we have the wind.
We're making much faster progress than
we did when we went after you.

PRINCESS EMELINE
So we don't have much time.

BROM GREY
No.

PRINCESS EMELINE kisses BROM GREY again, a bit harder this time,
yet still lingering.

PRINCESS EMELINE
So we'd best make the most of it.

BROM GREY
Princess... Emeline... You're royalty.
I'm not. You can't expect us to-

PRINCESS EMELINE places a finger lightly on his lips, cutting off
his words.

PRINCESS EMELINE
You're right. I'm royalty. That means I
get what I want. And what I want is you.

PRINCESS EMELINE kisses BROM GREY again, harder still.

BROM GREY
But what will your parents say when they
find out?

PRINCESS EMELINE

What will they say when they learn that I'm going to marry a brave, honorable, handsome man who will risk life and limb to keep me safe from harm? What can they say?

BROM GREY

Marry?

PRINCESS EMELINE

Yes. Isn't that what you want?

BROM GREY

Yes, but I... With our stations in life, I hadn't even...

PRINCESS EMELINE

(smiling)

Now you can think about it. Soon as my parents are safe we'll announce our engagement.

BROM GREY leans to kiss her. PRINCESS EMELINE begins to open his SHIRT while they kiss. As PRINCESS EMELINE opens BROM GREY'S SHIRT, BROM GREY begins to work in the LACES on PRINCESS EMELINE'S DRESS

EXT. RIVER - MINE FEILD - DAY

The MINE FEILD is still mostly hidden in fog. TYRANT'S STAY moves into the MINE FEILD. CORDS snap. SPARKS ignite inside copper POTS. Moments later, as TYRANT'S STAY goes deeper into the MINE FEILD, MINES begin to explode, sending GEYSERS shooting into the air. The HULL of TYRANT'S STAY is ripped apart by the exploding MINES.

INT. TYRANT'S STAY - BRIDGE - DAY

CREW and HADRIAN DE BOLBEC react to the EXPLOSIONS and the BRIDGE sways with the force of the EXPLOSIONS. HADRIAN DE BOLBEC, looking panicked, turns and EXITS SCENE at a run.

INT. LANCE OF THE GODS - BROM GREY'S QUARTERS - DAY

BROM GREY and PRINCESS EMELINE lie in BROM GREY'S BED, covered but undressed, sleeping soundly in each other's arms.

EXT. RIVER - MINE FEILD - DAY

HADRIAN DE BOLBEC is on a SKIFF, moves away from the MINE FEILD, following the LANCE OF THE GODS. HADRIAN DE BOLBEC looks furious. Behind him, half-hidden in FOG the remains of TYRANT'S STAY sink into the RIVER.

EXT. LANCE OF THE GODS - DAY

LANCE OF THE GODS makes its way up the RIVER toward CASTLE PAYNE. CASTLE PAYNE is not yet in sight.

INT. LANCE OF THE GODS - BROM GREY'S QUARTERS - DAY

BROM GREY and PRINCESS EMELINE lying in bed together, covered but undressed. Both have just woken and lie in each other's arms, very obviously in love.

PRINCESS EMELINE
Sleep well, beloved?

BROM GREY
(smiling)
Better than I ever have in my life.

BROM GREY and PRINCESS EMELINE share a long, loving kiss.

PRINCESS EMELINE
Good. So did I.

BROM GREY
I'm glad.

BROM GREY kisses PRINCESS EMELINE again, a long, slow, lingering kiss. He then reluctantly releases her and gets out of BED. BROM GREY begins to dress. PRINCESS EMELINE props herself up in bed, watching him, frowning.

PRINCESS EMELINE
Where are you going?

BROM GREY
To talk to Walter.

PRINCESS EMELINE
Captain Drake? Why?

BROM GREY
Two reasons. I want to know how far from home we still are. And I want to know for sure if Tyrant's Stay is still following us.

PRINCESS EMELINE
But the mine field...

BROM GREY
Walter got the Lance of the Gods through
it before. And Tyrant's Stay is a much
larger vessel.

PRINCESS EMELINE
But the look-out for Captain Drake
spotted the mines.

BROM GREY
Right. Otherwise we'd have gone right
into the field. That's why we laid the
mines in fog for Tyrant's Stay. We're
hoping the look-outs De Bolbec would
have posted wouldn't have seen the mines
in the fog.

PRINCESS EMELINE
And Tyrant's Stay would sail right in
and sustain more damage.

BROM GREY
Right. But if that didn't happen, De
Bolbec will still be after us.

PRINCESS EMELINE
If so, what can we do?

BROM GREY finishes dressing as he speaks.

BROM GREY
You, my love, do nothing but stay here
and rest.

PRINCESS EMELINE stares at him with an arched eyebrow, an amused
expression on her face.

PRINCESS EMELINE
(teasing)
So you're trying to give orders to your
Princess now?

BROM GREY looks embarrassed and flustered.

BROM GREY
I'm sorry. I didn't mean-

PRINCESS EMELINE
(amused)
Then what did you mean?

BROM GREY

After all you've been through, I think you should simply rest and relax.

PRINCESS EMELINE

On two conditions.

BROM GREY

What might those be?

PRINCESS EMELINE

First, you kiss me again before you leave. Second, you have your talk with Captain Drake and get back here to bed as quickly as you can.

BROM GREY moves to PRINCESS EMELINE'S side of the BED, leans down and kisses PRINCESS EMELINE.

BROM GREY

Anything you say, milady.

PRINCESS EMELINE laughs, amused and delighted, as she caresses BROM GREY'S face lightly with her fingertips.

PRINCESS EMELINE

Hurry back, beloved.

BROM GREY crosses toward the DOOR of his QUARTERS.

BROM GREY

I will.

BROM GREY EXITS. PRINCESS EMELINE shifts to a more comfortable position as she looks toward the DOOR, a contented smile on her face.

EXT. RIVER - DAY

HADRIAN DE BOLBEC'S SKIFF zips along the WATER. The SKIFF is moving far faster than the LANCE OF THE GODS, being smaller and lighter. HADRIAN DE BOLBEC'S furious expression.

INT. LANCE OF THE GODS - WALTER DRAKE'S CABIN - DAY

WALTER DRAKE

No, lad. No sign of De Bolbec's floating monstrosity.

BROM GREY

(relived)

Good. How long until we reach Castle Payne?

WALTER DRAKE

(shrugging)

Depends. We're still a ways away. But we're under sail and will be long as we have the wind. If we stay under sail, we'll be in port by tomorrow morning. If we lose the wind and use the oars, it'll take us more time.

BROM GREY

Pray to the gods for a steady wind, then.

WALTER DRAKE

Aye.

BROM GREY turns to leave.

WALTER DRAKE (CONT'D)

Before ye go, have you seen the Princess? I've not seen her since you and she came aboard.

BROM GREY'S looks slightly panicked as he turns to face WALTER DRAKE. WALTER DRAKE eyes BROM GREY carefully.

WALTER DRAKE (CONT'D)

Ye've seen her. I can tell. Where is she?

BROM GREY

Princess Emeline has opted to stay in my quarters, rather than her own.

WALTER DRAKE chokes in surprise.

WALTER DRAKE

What? Why is she there?

BROM GREY

She and I are...

WALTER DRAKE

(suspicious)

Are what?

BROM GREY
Engaged.

WALTER DRAKE
Engaged in what?

BROM GREY
Engaged to be married.

WALTER DRAKE
(choking again)
How did that happen?

BROM GREY
(grinning)
How do such things tend to happen?

WALTER DRAKE
What will the King and Queen say?

BROM GREY
(hesitantly)
I have the same doubt. Princess Emeline thinks they'll be okay with it, or, at the very least, not be able to argue with her logic.

WALTER DRAKE
(suspicious)
Which is...? What? That you went to such lengths to get her back, so her parents should welcome you as they son-in-law with no problems?

BROM GREY
Basically.

WALTER DRAKE shakes his head in disbelief. BROM GREY turns and EXITS.

INT. LANCE OF THE GODS - BROM GREY'S QUARTERS - DAY

PRINCESS EMELINE sits up in BED, waiting on BROM GREY. The SOUND of BROM GREY ENTERING is heard. PRINCESS EMELINE's expression lights up with delight.

PRINCESS EMELINE
That was fast.

BROM GREY ENTERS SCENE, already beginning to undress.

BROM GREY
I promised, didn't I?

PRINCESS EMELINE flips the BLANKETS on BROM GREY'S side of the BED down.

PRINCESS EMELINE
I've kept things warm for you, my love.

BROM GREY finishes undressing quickly and slips into BED. He quickly covers up with the BLANKETS and takes PRINCESS EMELINE in his arms. They kiss.

INT. LANCE OF THE GODS - BROM GREY'S QUARTERS - DAY - LATER

BROM GREY and PRINCESS EMELINE are in BED, undressed but covered, sleeping peacefully in each other's arms.

INT. LANCE OF THE GODS - BROM GREY'S QUARTERS - NIGHT

BROM GREY and PRINCESS EMELINE, in BED, undressed but covered, sleeping peacefully in each other's arms. The SOUND of a KNOCK on the DOOR is heard. Both BROM GREY and PRINCESS EMELINE awake at the SOUND. BROM GREY rolls to face the DOOR, propping himself up.

BROM GREY
Who's there?

WALTER DRAKE
(heard through the door)
Captain Drake. We're coming into port.

EXT. PORT - NIGHT

The sky is clear. The WIND is still blowing strongly. LIGHT from many LANTERNS and OIL LAMPS glow in the darkness. The LANCE OF THE GODS pulls into a BERTH. CREW on the LANCE OF THE GODS toss MOORING LINES to CREW and TRAITORS on the DOCK. As the DOCK CREW begin to secure the MOORING LINES, PRINCESS EMELINE appears on the UPPER DECK of the LANCE OF THE GODS. PRINCESS EMELINE calls down to the DOCK CREW.

PRINCESS EMELINE
Get me a messenger quickly! The King and Queen are in great danger!

EXT. RIVER - NIGHT

HADRIAN DE BOLBEC'S SKIFF continues to zip along, propelled by the WIND in its SAIL. The SKIFF is rapidly approaching the PORT.

EXT. CASTLE PAYNE - APPROACH - NIGHT

PRINCESS EMELINE runs toward CASTLE PAYNE, BROM GREY, WALTER DRAKE and several CREW from the LANCE OF THE GODS following her closely. The APPROACH is a wide lane, lined with large TREES on either side. Since it is NIGHT, illuminated LANTERNS hang from POLES spaced among the TREES, giving LIGHT.

EXT. CASTLE PAYNE - FRONT GATE - NIGHT

The FRONT GATE is open. KING OLIVER and QUEEN JULIANA come into sight together, ENTERING SCENE. Both are middle-aged, yet attractive, dressed in rich GARMENTS of high quality, as befitting a King and Queen. Both are obviously cautious. As they ENTER, the SOUND of PRINCESS EMELINE'S voice is heard, calling out to them.

PRINCESS EMELINE

(O.S.)

Mother! Father! You're in grave danger!
Back inside! Quickly!

KING OLIVER and QUEEN JULIANA turn, peering along the APPROACH at the SOUND of PRINCESS EMELINE'S voice. Both of their expressions change to ones of excitement and relief.

KING OLIVER

Emeline?

QUEEN JULIANA

Is it really you?

KING OLIVER

You're home!

PRINCESS EMELINE ENTERS SCENE, followed by BROM GREY and the others who trail after her. The moment PRINCESS EMELINE ENTERS, she, KING OLIVER and QUEEN JULIANA embrace each other in a crushing group hug. After that hug ends, PRINCESS EMELINE hugs QUEEN JULIANA, then KING OLIVER, one at a time.

QUEEN JULIANA

It really is you!

KING OLIVER

(to BROM GREY)

Thank you for bringing her home.

PRINCESS EMELINE

Time for that later! Mother, Father,
your lives are in danger.

BROM GREY

She's right, your Highnesses. May I suggest we get inside.

PRINCESS EMELINE

Quickly!

EXT. PORT - NIGHT

HADRIAN DE BOLBEC'S SKIFF speeds into PORT, barely slowly enough to avoid smashing to pieces in its BERTH. HADRIAN DE BOLBEC leaps from the SKIFF onto the DOCK. Without slowing, he runs toward the APPROACH to CASTLE PAYNE, shouting.

HADRIAN DE BOLBEC

Now is the time! Now is the time!

WORKERS and TRAITORS among look up from their jobs, their attention caught by HADRIAN DE BOLBEC'S shouting. Several TRAITORS drop whatever they're doing and rush after HADRIAN DE BOLBEC.

INT. CASTLE PAYNE - THRONE ROOM - NIGHT

It is large and lavish, opulence and wealth evident from every angle and the ARTIFACTS on display. KING OLIVER and QUEEN JULIANA sit side-by-side in matching THRONES of elaborate, elegant design. The walls are stone, covered by rich TAPESTRIES. A long RUNNER covers the stone floor from the DOUBLE DOORS to the DAIS upon which the THRONES sit. Standing before the DAIS are PRINCESS EMELINE, BROM GREY and WALTER DRAKE.

KING OLIVER

Are you certain that's what De Bolbec has planned?

PRINCESS EMELINE

He told me so himself.

QUEEN JULIANA

This cannot be allowed to stand! We will send the army to root him out of his castle at once for what he has done to you, daughter, and his threats against us!

PRINCESS EMELINE

That may not be needed, Mother. Brom?

As she says his name, PRINCESS EMELINE turns to look at BROM GREY.

BROM GREY

Captain Drake and I laid a trap for De Bolbec. He had left a snare for us - a floating field of mines on the river. We collected most and left them waiting for Tyrant's Stay while on our way home. It was foggy. With luck, Tyrant's Stay ran right into the trap and went down.

KING OLIVER

But we cannot count on it.

BROM GREY

No, Highness. But we can hope.

QUEEN JULIANA

If Hadrian De Bolbec does still lives, he'll be brought before us to account for his crimes.

PRINCESS EMELINE

(nearly in a panic)

We can deal with that later! Right now we must find out who De Bolbec planted here to...do what he planned.

WALTER DRAKE

If I may, Highnesses?

KING OLIVER nods consent.

WALTER DRAKE (CONT'D)

Thank you, my lord. For the moment, I believe you and the Queen are safe here, in your throne room. I have men on guard outside. All are men I trust. Captain Grey and I will chose our most loyal men and begin a sweep through the castle. We'll question each man and woman here and root out De Bolbec's person or people. If, that is, you agree to that.

KING OLIVER nods again. He opens his mouth to speak, but

QUEEN JULIANA

We can't live in here, though. Such a search might take days to be effective.

PRINCESS EMELINE
Better that than miss an assassin.

WALTER DRAKE
I agree.

BROM GREY
As do I.

KING OLIVER
Get to it. The sooner you start, the
soon you'll be-

KING OLIVER'S words are cut off by the SOUNDS of battle erupting from the other side of the closed DOUBLE DOORS - SHOUTS, men SCREAMING, SWORDS CLASHING, THUMPS and BANGS.

QUEEN JULIANA
What on earth...?

WALTER DRAKE AND BROM GREY
(to PRINCESS EMELINE)
Stay here!

Both WALTER DRAKE and BROM GREY draw their SWORDS and hurry toward the DOUBLE DOORS.

PRINCESS EMELINE
Brom! Be careful, my love!

KING OLIVER and QUEEN JULIANA exchange a startled look at PRINCESS EMELINE'S words to BROM GREY. BROM GREY and WALTER DRAKE race to the DOUBLE DOORS of the THRONE ROOM. Just before they reach the DOUBLE DOORS... DOUBLE DOORS are flung wide open. Revealed are HADRIAN DE BOLBEC and the TRAITORS. All are armed with SWORDS. The floor at their feet is littered with the bodies of the CREW from the LANCE OF THE GODS who had followed PRINCESS EMELINE to the CASTLE. BROM GREY and WALTER DRAKE come to an abrupt halt, glaring at HADRIAN DE BOLBEC with hate. HADRIAN DE BOLBEC spots PRINCESS EMELINE.

HADRIAN DE BOLBEC
Ah! Betrothed. There you are. Come here.

PRINCESS EMELINE backs slowly toward the DAIS and THRONES, a look of mingled fear and hate on her face.

PRINCESS EMELINE
Never!

HADRIAN DE BOLBEC
 (shaking his head sadly)
 Such a difficult child. I had so hoped
 you'd live beyond our wedding night.

HADRIAN DE BOLBEC motions with the hand holding his SWORD. At his signal, the TRAITORS race forward. BROM GREY and WALTER DRAKE place themselves between TRAITORS and the ROYAL FAMILY. BROM GREY, WALTER DRAKE and TRAITORS meet in a clash of SWORDS. Swordplay ensues as TRAITORS drop one by one, slain by BROM GREY and WALTER DRAKE. HADRIAN DE BOLBEC uses the fighting as a distraction, slowly easing his way around the edge of the THRONE ROOM, moving closer to the ROYAL FAMILY. More TRAITORS drop one by one, slain by BROM GREY and WALTER DRAKE, until the mingled SOUNDS of PRINCESS EMELINE and QUEEN JULIANA screaming and KING OLIVER gasping are heard.

HADRIAN DE BOLBEC (CONT'D)
 Stop! That's enough.

The fight stops, the few remaining TRAITORS backing slowly away from BROM GREY and WALTER DRAKE. HADRIAN DE BOLBEC now stands beside the DIAS, holding PRINCESS EMELINE before him, her back to his chest, the blade of his SWORD across her throat.

HADRIAN DE BOLBEC (CONT'D)
 My bride-to-be and I will be leaving
 now. If anyone stands in our way, I'll
 kill her.

BROM GREY
 (calmly furious)
 Harm her and you'll never get out of
 here alive.

HADRIAN DE BOLBEC
 (amused)
 But I will have slain the woman you
 love. In a way, you'd be dead as well.
 And your kingdom will be in turmoil. Are
 you willing to risk those things, and
 her life?

As he speaks, HADRIAN DE BOLBEC begins easing toward the door, forcing PRINCESS EMELINE to move with him.

WALTER DRAKE
 Let her go.

HADRIAN DE BOLBEC
 Captain Drake, isn't it? No, I think
 I'll take her with me. And I'll make
 sure she doesn't get away this time.

KING OLIVER
 De Bolbec! Release my daughter! Please!
 Do so and I'll grant you any request.

HADRIAN DE BOLBEC
 (pausing)
 You'll kill yourself and allow me to
 marry your lovely wife? I'm going to
 rule my own kingdom and yours. I have to
 marry either your wife or daughter to do
 so.

HADRIAN DE BOLBEC thinks for a moment before speaking again.

HADRIAN DE BOLBEC (CONT'D)
 No. As I say, I have to marry one of
 them. I'd rather have the younger of the
 two.

HADRIAN DE BOLBEC glances at the remaining TRAITORS.

HADRIAN DE BOLBEC (CONT'D)
 Kill them. All of them.

TRAITORS move in against BROM GREY and WALTER DRAKE once more and
 HADRIAN DE BOLBEC EXITS through open doors, forcing PRINCESS
 EMELINE with him.

PRINCESS EMELINE
 Brom!

BROM GREY
 Emeline!

EXT. CASTLE PAYNE - FRONT GATE - NIGHT

HADRIAN DE BOLBEC and PRINCESS EMELINE ENTER SCENE together.
 HADRIAN DE BOLBEC is still forcing PRINCESS EMELINE along, while
 using her as a shield at the same time. PRINCESS EMELINE
 struggles.

HADRIAN DE BOLBEC
 Stop it! Keep fighting me and you won't
 even live beyond the final moment of our
 wedding!

PRINCESS EMELINE continues to struggle.

HADRIAN DE BOLBEC (CONT'D)
 Keep still or I'll see to it that your
 death is as slow and painful as it can
 be!

PRINCESS EMELINE stops struggling, allowing herself to be moved
 along.

INT. CASTLE PAYNE - THRONE ROOM - NIGHT

BROM GREY and WALTER DRAKE, superior swordsmen, finish the last
 of the TRAITORS. KING OLIVER and QUEEN JULIANA rush forward to
 join BROM GREY and WALTER DRAKE.

KING OLIVER
 Quickly! After De Bolbec!

QUEEN JULIANA
 Guards!

KING OLIVER
 Shh! Who knows how many others De Bolbec
 has gotten to? There are four of us -
 enough to stop him. Come on!

KING OLIVER leads the way, QUEEN JULIANA following, BROM GREY and
 WALTER DRAKE side-by-side as the four EXIT the THRONE ROOM.

EXT. CASTLE PAYNE - APPROACH - NIGHT

HADRIAN DE BOLBEC forces PRINCESS EMELINE toward the PORT. Both
 freeze upon hearing the SOUND of KING OLIVER'S commanding SHOUT.

KING OLIVER
 (O.S.)
 De Bolbec! Stop!

PRINCESS EMELINE tries to twist in HADRIAN DE BOLBEC'S grasp to
 see KING OLIVER.

PRINCESS EMELINE
 Father!

BROM GREY
 Hang on, Emeline! We're here!

PRINCESS EMELINE
 (nearly in tears)
 Brom?

HADRIAN DE BOLBEC begins to force PRINCESS EMELINE forward once more.

HADRIAN DE BOLBEC
 Stay back! All of you! Come any closer
 and she dies!

QUEEN JULIANA
 Harm my daughter and you'll be dead the
 next instant.

PRINCESS EMELINE begins to struggle once more, more violently than before. She manages to break free and drops to the ground. PRINCESS EMELINE rolls into the TREES at the side of the APPROACH.

PRINCESS EMELINE
 Brom! Now!

HADRIAN DE BOLBEC turns, looking terrified. BROM GREY and WALTER DRAKE race toward HADRIAN DE BOLBEC as PRINCESS EMELINE gets to her feet.

BROM GREY
 He's mine, Walter!

WALTER DRAKE stops running, left behind as BROM GREY runs on ahead, SWORD ready. BROM GREY and HADRIAN DE BOLBEC meet, SWORDS clashing. A long, very vicious duel is fought between BROM GREY and HADRIAN DE BOLBEC as WALTER DRAKE, KING OLIVER, QUEEN JULIANA and PRINCESS EMELINE watch. BROM GREY knocks HADRIAN DE BOLBEC'S SWORD from his hand, then strikes HADRIAN DE BOLBEC hard in the temple with the hilt of his SWORD, knocking him to the ground. BROM GREY stands over the beaten HADRIAN DE BOLBEC. HADRIAN DE BOLBEC'S expression is of terror and hatred as he looks up at BROM GREY. BROM GREY stands over the beaten HADRIAN DE BOLBEC and flips his SWORD point-down, preparing to strike the final blow.

KING OLIVER
 Captain Grey, stay your hand.

Looking puzzled and dissatisfied, BROM GREY glances at KING OLIVER before fixing his attention on HADRIAN DE BOLBEC once more.

KING OLIVER

This man, King Hadrian De Bolbec, is guilty of horrible crimes against us. So horrible that I judge death to be too swift and merciful a punishment for him.

BROM GREY

(puzzled)

Sire?

KING OLIVER

Do not kill him. Take him to the dungeons. Lock him away in darkness. Let him live out his days there with only rats as company. Let him spend his nights sleeping on dank, musty straw. While he does, let him remember the luxury and opulence of his living chambers and throne room in the castle he left behind.

BROM GREY

(cheering up slightly)

Yes, highness.

KING OLIVER steps closer, staring balefully down at HADRAN DE BOLBEC.

KING OLIVER

Not content with a single kingdom, you sought to kill myself and my wife and force our daughter to marry you. You plotted to kill her upon the wedding night, placing you firmly upon the throne of not one, but two kingdoms. Now, not only have you not gained the second, but you've lost the one you had.

QUEEN JULIANA

Are you sure this is the best thing to do? Letting him live, I mean?

KING OLIVER

Quite sure. Captains Grey and Drake, take De Bolbec to his new living quarters.

HADRAN DE BOLBEC

No! Please!

PRINCESS EMELINE steps forward as BROM GREY and WALTER DRAKE force HADRIAN DE BOLBEC to his feet.

PRINCESS EMELINE

My father is King, so his word is law.
Count yourself fortunate, De Bolbec.
Were I in charge, you'd be locked in a
crow's cage and hung in the sun until
you withered.

HADRIAN DE BOLBEC

Would I? We'll see who locks whom away.

HADRIAN DE BOLBEC moves suddenly, jerking free of WALTER DRAKE, whipping a hidden DAGGER from within his clothing. In an instant, HADRIAN DE BOLBEC swings the DAGGER at BROM GREY. BROM GREY releases HADRIAN DE BOLBEC, dancing clear of the attack as

PRINCESS EMELINE

Brom!

BROM GREY, SWORD in hand, lunges at HADRIAN DE BOLBEC. HADRIAN DE BOLBEC turns the thrust of the SWORD aside with his DAGGER, cutting into BROM GREY'S arm as he does so. PRINCESS EMELINE screams as BROM GREY reacts to the injury. HADRIAN DE BOLBEC turns, throwing himself at BROM GREY. BROM GREY moves aside, grabbing HADRIAN DE BOLBEC'S arm and using HADRIAN DE BOLBEC'S own momentum to throw him against one of the TREES lining the APPROACH. HADRIAN DE BOLBEC screams shrilly as his impact shatters one of the LANTERNS, dousing him with OIL that catches FIRE. HADRIAN DE BOLBEC screams and twists, trying to put out the FLAMES as they spread over him. HADRIAN DE BOLBEC rushes BROM GREY one last time. BROM GREY steps aside. HADRIAN DE BOLBEC just misses BROM GREY, slamming into a second TREE. As HADRIAN DE BOLBEC strikes the TREE, a jagged broken BRANCH impales him. HADRIAN DE BOLBEC struggles weakly for a moment before going still. We see the reactions of BROM GREY, WALTER DRAKE, PRINCESS EMELINE, KING OLIVER and QUEEN JULIANA to the death of HADRIAN DE BOLBEC.

KING OLIVER
(speaking softly)

Captain Grey, despite my desire that Hadrain De Bolbec should live, he gave you no choice. You slew De Bolbec in fair, armed combat. As he had no heirs to his throne, you are now King of his lands. Emeline has expressed love for you. You have my blessing if you should decide to take her for your Queen. When I and my wife have passed on, the two kingdoms De Bolbec so wanted to rule shall both belong to you and Emeline, united as the two of you shall be.

As he speaks, we again see HADRRAIN DE BOLBEC'S corpse as it burns, impaled to the TREE.

EXT. CASTLE PAYNE - APPROACH - DAY

A very large group of WEDDING ATTENDANTS all dressed in opulent finery is there. At the forefront of the crowd are KING OLIVER, QUEEN JULIANA and WALTER DRAKE. The WEDDING ATTENDANTS are all in a large ring around a DAIS upon which BROM GREY and PRINCESS EMELINE stand, both dressed in their WEDDING CLOTHES. A PRIEST stands before them. BROM GREY and PRINCESS EMELINE turn to each other, embrace and share the wedding kiss.

THE END