

Gwenllian  
by  
Jack Wibbe

640 Realm Court West  
Odenton MD 21113  
r3aaa@yahoo.com  
240 319 0838 cell

Read all of Jack's scripts at <https://threewibbes.wordpress.com/>

FADE IN:

INT. PRIORY CELL - DAY

Two women in nun's habits occupy a cell in Lincolnshire, 1327. The oldest, GWENLLIAN, is in her 40s. ALICE, younger, sits writing at a table as Gwenllian watches her work.

GWENLLIAN

My name is Gwenllian. I am Princess of Wales, but I have never seen my native country. I have been imprisoned since I was a baby. I have no memory of my mother, who died giving birth to me. I have no memory of my father, who was killed when I was a few months old. They were revolutionaries. Traitors.

She picks up the paper.

GWENLLIAN (CONT'D)

I never had a family. I was fed and clothed by priests and sisters. I never had a husband or a child. That is my story, at least as the English tell it...No, no, spell my name the right way. The Welsh way.

SISTER ALICE

The Welsh way?

GWENLLIAN

Gwenllian.  
(pronounced the proper  
Welsh way)  
Now the "T" - now you try... I was born in the year twelve hundred eighty two, in the reign of Edward the First. The old king. From my birth, I have been the true Princess of Wales. But I was almost never born at all. My father was leader of the Welsh: he led one war after another against the English. My mother was the daughter of Simon Montfort, the baron who overthrew the English King, can you believe it? And my mother had royal blood too, going all the way back to King John.

She sets down the paper.

GWENLLIAN (CONT'D)

So King Edward didn't want my parents to marry at all. He was terrified - his enemies uniting against him. But they married anyway. If they had had a son, the boy could have overthrown Edward. But they had me. They named me after the first Gwenllian, the warrior. I'm not a revolutionary. I didn't do anything in this world. Except disappear.

INT. PRIVY COUNCIL CHAMBER - DAY

HENRY, king of England, squabbles with his tall son LONGSHANKS, about 30, and SIMON de Montfort, a nobleman.

NOTE: England had three consecutive kings, all named Edward, and all appear in this script. To eliminate confusion, our first Edward is LONGSHANKS, the second is EDWARD OF CARNARVON, and the third is the YOUNG KING.

LONGSHANKS

Father, the privy council was two hours of solid chaos. We didn't solve anything.

HENRY

Just having a rough patch.

LONGSHANKS

But all the meetings are like that. So when can I have Gascony?

HENRY

You're too young -

LONGSHANKS

When, Father?

HENRY

Fine. I dub thee Lord of Gascony.

LONGSHANKS

Father!

HENRY

But Simon here will be the governor down there.

LONGSHANKS

And the revenue -

HENRY

And Simon collects the revenue.  
What on earth would a boy like you  
do with all that money?

INT. PRIVY COUNCIL CHAMBER - DAY

Montage. Series of meetings with Henry, Longshanks and their senior advisers.

HENRY

I say those French members, Savoy  
and Valence, are out of control and  
need to be reined in. I don't care  
what my wife thinks. Who in  
Parliament stands with the king?

The council splits in two parts; Longshanks crosses to the side opposite the king.

Almost identical scene.

HENRY (CONT'D)

I say we cannot side with the  
Solers in the Gascony revolt, we  
must remain neutral. Who in  
Parliament stands with the king?

Another council division, Longshanks against the king.

Almost identical scene.

HENRY (CONT'D)

I say the lords of Lusignan need to  
be cut down to size. Who in  
Parliament stands with the king?

Another division, Longshanks against the king.

HENRY (CONT'D)

You're getting a reputation as a  
man who can't be trusted. I can't  
imagine why.

INT. BATTLE TENT, FRANCE - NIGHT

Henry confers with a LORD.

HENRY

What's the point of owning so much  
French territory if I'm coming back  
every summer to reconquer it?

LORD  
Quite right, sire.

HENRY  
And my son sided with Montfort?  
Against me? Again?

LORD  
Yes, sire?

HENRY  
After Montfort stole all his money  
in Gascony?

LORD  
The boy is appointing reformers to  
the council.

HENRY  
Reformers?

LORD  
If I may speak freely, he's  
actually cleaning up a lot of your  
messes.

HENRY  
How long is it before he declares  
himself king, throws me in a  
dungeon?

INT. BATTLE TENT, FRANCE - DAY

Henry surrounded by Simon and soldiers.

HENRY  
Alright, Simon, you took the field  
of battle, you win. Am I under  
arrest?

SIMON  
Well, let's try to avoid that.

SOLDIER  
Let's just kill him, what was the  
point of the battle?

SIMON  
He's the king. Your majesty, we  
will escort you back to the palace  
so you can reclaim your throne.

HENRY

Of course.

SIMON

And in return you're going to give us some surety.

HENRY

Surety?

SIMON

Some royal hostages, to guarantee your good behavior.

HENRY

Take the boy, Longshanks. He's working for you most of the time already.

A SOLDIER pulls Simon aside.

SOLDIER

Are we really going to keep the Crown Prince hostage?

SIMON

No, we're going to have our revenge on the king. We're going to let the prince escape.

SOLDIER

God help us all.

INT. CASTLE KITCHEN - NIGHT

Longshanks, a prisoner, sits in a corner as a cook wrangles a live chicken.

COOK

You betrayed your king. A sensible king knows what to do with traitors. Hung, drawn and quartered.

LONGSHANKS

Hung -

COOK

Hung!

He wrings the chicken's neck.

COOK (CONT'D)  
 Draw your guts!

With two swift strokes of a knife, the chicken's guts tumble into a table.

COOK (CONT'D)  
 And quarter yas!

Three strokes of the knife and the chicken is in four parts. Then the head is struck off.

COOK (CONT'D)  
 Two arms, two legs, and here's your head!

EXT. BEACH, SICILY - DAY

Longshanks enjoys a quiet moment with his soldiers. Their crusade in the Holy Land was a disaster and they're licking their wounds.

SOLDIER  
 We can go back to the Holy Land.

LONGSHANKS  
 Another crusade?

A new SOLDIER runs to the king; the other soldiers rise.

SECOND SOLDIER  
 Your Grace -

LONGSHANKS  
 Just sailed in from France?

SECOND SOLDIER  
 Your father is dead.

LONGSHANKS  
 Who's running the country?

SECOND SOLDIER  
 Well, it's a tangle.

LONGSHANKS  
 And my possessions in France?

SECOND SOLDIER  
 It's a tangle.

LONGSHANKS  
 France first, then London.

INT. PRIVY COUNCIL CHAMBER - NIGHT

LONGSHANKS, his young son EDWARD OF CARNARVON, and lords including Roger BIGOD and Humphrey de BOHUN.

LONGSHANKS

You, boy. Stand right there. Be quiet and watch.

EDWARD OF CARNARVON

But I'm in the council.

LONGSHANKS

You're in the council room. Right over there. My father's reign was chaos, it never ended. Because he had nobles picking away at him like nits. And this I will not have.

He stands.

LONGSHANKS (CONT'D)

You had a fine old time, out in your counties, stealing everything that isn't nailed down. I'm sending sheriffs and justices out there, to see what you've been up to.

Grumbles.

LONGSHANKS (CONT'D)

Next time we sit for parliament, we're letting the commoners in again. And this time we let them speak like the rest of us.

More grumbles.

LONGSHANKS (CONT'D)

Bishop, don't get too comfortable back there. We're going to talk about taxes again. And where are the northern lords?

EDWARD OF CARNARVON

Don't know, sire.

LONGSHANKS

Three meetings in a row, they're haranguing me over the soldiers and the taxes, and now they're -

EDWARD OF CARNARVON

Didn't come in, sire.

A messenger arrives.

MESSENGER

Your Grace, riders from Yorkshire.  
The Scots hit us hard, At Stirling.  
It was a disaster.

LONGSHANKS

Yes, because Roger, where are you?  
When it's time to give me soldiers  
and taxes, everyone wants to stand  
in the back. Roger, Humphrey,  
securing our rear in Scotland and  
now you will do as I say --

BIGOD

We will discuss the levy or we're  
off home.

LONGSHANKS

By God, Sir Earl, either go or  
hang!

BIGOD

By that same oath, O king, I shall  
neither go nor hang!

Longshanks stalks out.

INT. PRIVY COUNCIL CHAMBER - DAY

Longshanks confers with his trusty ARCHBISHOP.

ARCHBISHOP

Three more lords are refusing to  
send troops, one is -

LONGSHANKS

Humphrey de Bohun and Roger Bigod  
and Hereford.

ARCHBISHOP

How did you -

LONGSHANKS

This is how I stay alive. It never  
stops. I suppose you're going to  
yammer at me over the wedding.

ARCHBISHOP

May I try once more to make clear  
how unbelievably stupid this is?

(MORE)

ARCHBISHOP (CONT'D)

Eleanor and Llywelyn are the children of your most dangerous enemies. Llywelyn took control in Wales, made a peace agreement, and then rounded up his armies and attacked! His father before him --

LONGSHANKS

Attacked the crown.

ARCHBISHOP

Eleanor's father, Montfort, attacked the crown. Are you seeing a pattern? Montfort threw your father off the throne. They threw you in prison!

LONGSHANKS

You'll notice, however, that they didn't kill me. They should have. Why they didn't, I'll never know.

ARCHBISHOP

Their families made alliances against you. And now Llywelyn and Eleanor have married by proxy. Their children will have royal blood - they could take your throne! You cannot let them marry!

LONGSHANKS

Will you stop trying to force my hand? The girl, Eleanor, tried to cross the sea to Wales so she could meet Llywelyn. I hired pirates to seize their ship. Fair enough?...Now bring Llywelyn in.

He nods toward a door and soldiers bring in Gwenllian's father, LLYWELYN.

LONGSHANKS (CONT'D)

Well, here we are again. You'll be pleased to know that my soldiers and sailors found your beautiful bride and are keeping her safe.

LLYWELYN

Your majesty, please. You've had her in prison for three years...My wife...

LONGSHANKS

My God. I've read this thing all wrong.

(MORE)

LONGSHANKS (CONT'D)

I was sure you two children were building an alliance against me. You actually love this girl, don't you?...It's a matter of debate, whether she really is your wife: she has royal blood, she needs my consent...

He hesitates, irritated.

LONGSHANKS (CONT'D)

Against my better judgment, I'm going to let you live. And you can marry Eleanor, in person this time. I love weddings! I'll give the bride away, I'll pay for the feast. She can even keep the title, Princess of Wales, get to work making babies. But you, my friend, will give me a long list of concessions. You've got a lot more land than is good for you. And you're going to swear loyalty to me. Again. In public. On your wedding day.

LLYWELYN

Thank you, your Grace.

LONGSHANKS

I'm doing this for her, not for you - because she really does love you. And because her father didn't kill me when he had the chance. Let's hope your children inherit his mercy, or perhaps it was stupidity. Either one will serve my purposes.

LLYWELYN

When can I see her again?

LONGSHANKS

I do hope you can be more loyal to her, than you were to me. I really am going to try to keep you alive, but I'm not going to make it my life's work. You're going to have to help me a bit.

INT. BATTLE TENT, WALES - NIGHT

A bloody Llywelyn is guarded by soldiers, brought to the ARCHBISHOP of Canterbury.

ARCHBISHOP

Well, imagine that. Llywelyn,  
leading yet another revolt. What  
was the excuse this time, taxes?

SOLDIER

We pretended we were offering to  
switch sides and join him. He left  
his army and walked right into our  
ambush. We caught him in the woods.

LLYWELYN

And then I surrendered and your men  
cut me down anyway!

ARCHBISHOP

Look at all that blood... The king  
made a fair offer. Give up Wales  
and send your brother out of the  
country on crusade, and the king  
lets you live, gives you a nice  
estate to live on. And you said...

LLYWELYN

I said I will not abandon my  
people: My forefathers have  
protected them since the days of  
Camber. Son of Brutus.

ARCHBISHOP

You were going to show your love of  
the people by killing Caesar, then?

The king enters. Everyone kneels, shocked.

LONGSHANKS

Llywelyn. Again.

LLYWELYN

Your Grace.

LONGSHANKS

He always addresses me with my  
royal titles, after he's been  
caught. Raiding my land.

LLYWELYN

Please. Can't you do the Christian  
thing?

LONGSHANKS

I already did the Christian thing!  
The first time! The Christian  
thing.

(MORE)

LONGSHANKS (CONT'D)

My father was a saintly king,  
 forgave everybody. He named me  
 after a saint and sent me off to  
 crusade in the Holy Land. He wanted  
 to govern as Christ would have  
 done. The barons lost patience and  
 threw him out. I had to fight a war  
 to put Henry back in the chair.  
 That's where Christian charity can  
 lead if you're not careful...

He looks at the Archbishop.

LONGSHANKS (CONT'D)

And how much smarter am I, than my  
 father, really? Here I am in the  
 same stupid spot - I offered you  
 forgiveness that Christ himself  
 would have denied you. And here you  
 are with another Welsh army.

LLYWELYN

Please. I've already lost Eleanor.  
 She died in childbirth...

LONGSHANKS

In June. I know. And the child?

LLYWELYN

A girl.

LONGSHANKS

A girl. And a lucky thing too. If  
 you had had a son, with the blood  
 of English and Welsh royalty? I  
 probably would have had to kill  
 him, or make a priest of him. What  
 name did you give the child?

LLYWELYN

Your Grace, I really don't...

LONGSHANKS

What is the child's name?

LLYWELYN

Gwenllian.

LONGSHANKS

I might have known. You named her  
 after that rabble-rouser? The Robin  
 Hood of Wales? "Revenge for  
 Gwenllian!"...? You know she was  
 beheaded...

(MORE)

LONGSHANKS (CONT'D)

So now we have another Gwenllian.  
This was your plan, to raise  
another generation of rebels?

LLYWELYN

Please, let the girl live. I love  
that child, she's my life!

ARCHBISHOP

Do you, now? It is your own  
treachery that has put her life at  
risk...You have showed these people  
too much mercy already.

LONGSHANKS

I know, you were right. Llywelyn,  
my one-time friend, you are going  
to die tomorrow. Look at those  
wounds; you were dying anyway. I  
will give you a quick death. You  
will not be butchered like a  
traitor. And I will let your girl  
live. Little Robin Hood will remain  
in prison, but alive. Probably  
another of my "Christian" mistakes.

EXT. BEFORE A CASTLE - DAY

Before Bristol Castle, a ship in the background. Longshanks  
confers with the Archbishop. Young prisoners of both sexes  
guarded. A crowd gathers.

ARCHBISHOP

You got Llywelyn, isn't that  
enough?

LONGSHANKS

All these nieces and nephews have  
royal blood as well. The girls take  
ship for Lincoln.

ARCHBISHOP

They're not going to marry, have  
children?

LONGSHANKS

Each one to a different nunnery, so  
they can't plot against me.

ARCHBISHOP

And where are they -

LONGSHANKS

Only the constable knows. If the Welsh learn where they are, they could help them escape. And for the boys..

Blacksmiths finish hammering together two massive timber and iron cages for two boys, and lock them in. Archbishop appalled. A young Welsh teen, BREN, steps forward. Other Welshmen come closer, curious.

ARCHBISHOP

And when do we let them out?

LONGSHANKS

Get back to your post.

BREN

When do you let them out? What about the Princess? The real one? Gwenllian?

LONGSHANKS

And what's your name, boy?

BREN

Llewelyn Bren.

LONGSHANKS

Another Llewelyn. The former princess is still alive. I made a promise to a dead man. Let's all try to keep her alive, shall we?

INT. PRIORY CELL - DAY

Gwenllian, 14, is visited by her ABBESS.

ABBESS

Alright, you're fourteen now, old enough to marry -

GWENLLIAN

Marry?

ABBESS

No more sass, girl, you know what I meant. Now you must follow the same rules as the other sisters.

GWENLLIAN

Take a vow of silence? Never talk to an outsider again? I won't.

ABBESS

Sister -

GWENLLIAN

I'm no sister. I didn't come here to make a lifetime communion with Jesus. I came because the king is terrified that I'll start dropping little princes out of my bottom.

ABBESS

Sister, you change your tone or -

GWENLLIAN

Or what? You're under King's orders same as me. We're stuck with each other. I will never be a sister.

ABBESS

Well, we're going to have some rules.

GWENLLIAN

Yes, and I'm telling you what they are. I'll never shame the priory, you took good care of me. I'll never try to escape. But you've got to give me something, a life, or I'll go mad.

ABBESS

You mean come out to the meeting rooms, meet outsiders?

GWENLLIAN

I've got to or I'll die. Just once a week?

ABBESS

Sister Martha's half-blind, she needs help with the nursing.

GWENLLIAN

You don't mean nursing babies, only way my teats will -

ABBESS

I know. I mean nursing the sick, the mothers when their time comes.

GWENLLIAN

You know how lonely I am? You choose this life. All my dreams are out there.

INT. PRIORY MEETING ROOM - DAY

This room is where Gwenllian treats the sick. Today she helps deliver a MOTHER's baby while the Abbess watches her work.

ABBESS

You can actually manage the work.

Gwenllian holds the newborn and starts to cry.

GWENLLIAN

Bleeding Jesus!

ABBESS

Sister!

GWENLLIAN

Please, can I hold him just a little longer?

MOTHER

You can carry on until he pees on you. Again.

GWENLLIAN

Again - bollocks!

ABBESS

Sister!

GWENLLIAN

I'm sorry! Lord, his skin is so soft. I never get enough.

The young FATHER enters. Quite good looking. Gwenllian notices.

ABBESS

And finally the father.

GWENLLIAN

Bleeding Jesus!

FATHER

Name's David actually. Can you have a go with my blister, now I'm here?

GWENLLIAN

You're baby's fine, a big loud brute.

FATHER

The wife did the hard part, all I had to do was - sorry. There's a thing you do.

GWENLLIAN

I know.

ABBESS

Don't be putting those ideas in her head. Cruel to be tempting her with something she can't ever have.

EXT. OUTSIDE A PRIORY - DAY

Sixhills, Lincolnshire, a priory gate. A soldier escorts Gwenllian, now grown, to the gate where a sister appears.

SISTER

That's close enough.

SOLDIER

King's orders. Gwenllian, Princess of Wales, to be lodged here at the expense of the crown.

GWENLLIAN

So where are we, another nunnery?

SOLDIER

Yes, miss.

GWENLLIAN

This is the fifth, now? The sixth?

SOLDIER

You're not far wrong. Actually the name of the place is Sixhills. Near Lincoln. I'm not sure why they are allowing you to come here...

GWENLLIAN

Why? What do you mean?

SOLDIER

The king ordered that you be kept away from all your relatives, to stop you from causing trouble. But...

GWENLLIAN

A nunnery. Don't tell me, is Gwladus here? My cousin?

SOLDIER  
Last I heard, yes!

GWENLLIAN  
Well, come on, then, before the  
king finds out and sends us down  
the road all over again!

A nun appears, Gwenllian's cousin GWLADUS, who embraces  
Gwenllian. The soldier retreats back down a road.

GWLADUS  
The prioress was right. Gwenllian!

GWENLLIAN  
Have you taken the veil?

GWLADUS  
The king ordered me to take vows.  
Edward is afraid of me. You're the  
one with royal blood, I'm astounded  
he allowed you out on the road!  
Frankly I'm amazed you're alive!

GWENLLIAN  
Yes, he ordered me to take vows, so  
I don't have children, but I'm  
going slow as I can with the  
sisters. I've become a Very. Slow.  
Student. You heard about my father?

GWLADUS  
Same happened to my father. Worse,  
actually. He was hanged, cut down  
alive, drawn and quartered.

GWENLLIAN  
Uncle David!...Poor girl.

GWLADUS  
No, it's you I feel sorry for. You  
had nothing. I had thirteen years  
travelling with my Dad. He taught  
me to ride, to sing, nagging me to  
hurry up and get married --

GWENLLIAN  
You really miss him, don't you.

GWLADUS  
So how on earth did you get here?

GWENLLIAN

The king is moving me from one nunnery to another. They brought me here by sea, can you believe it? They were afraid they'd be attacked by a Welsh rescue party on land. The sisters cared for me well as they could, but time and again I had to move to another place. And none of those women was...

GWLADUS

None of them was your mother.

The soldier returns.

SOLDIER

Miss, I have new orders to take you to the last stop. Sempringham. Forty fives miles away.

GWLADUS

My God, that was fast.

GWENLLIAN

But when can I see my cousin again?

He says nothing.

GWENLLIAN (CONT'D)

Oh, God, no! Can't I stay? Can't she come with me?

SOLDIER

Not a chance, miss. The captain was thrashed just for allowing you to meet her tonight. We've got to go.

GWENLLIAN

Surely we'll wait until morning? Just to have her to talk to. Please!

SOLDIER

Well, the orders didn't really say when we were to...

GWENLLIAN

Morning then. This is my last chance to see any of my family. Ever.

He sighs and rolls his eyes, she embraces him.

GWENLLIAN (CONT'D)

God bless you!...Come, we have the whole night. I need you to tell me all about my father and my mother. Everything.

GWLADUS

But I only knew them for a few years, I was still a child..

GWENLLIAN

But you're all that's left. Please, tell me. Tonight is all I have.

INT. PARLIAMENT - DAY

Longshanks his son EDWARD OF CARNARVON, a boy of 17. Also lords and the Archbishop.

LONGSHANKS

In the year of our Lord thirteen hundred and one, by means of the decease of the native candidacies, the throne of England declares the principality of Wales to be in vacancy. Accordingly, the crown has chosen to bestow the title of Prince of Wales, upon the heir to the English crown, Prince Edward. Stand up, boy.

The boy does.

LONGSHANKS (CONT'D)

And hereinafter the aforesaid title will devolve upon the royal heirs for as long as England rules in Wales. It is our hope and expectation that our Welsh subjects will serve their new Prince in good faith. Gentlemen, the Prince of Wales.

Polite, confused round of "hear hear".

LONGSHANKS (CONT'D)

People of England...I've made mistakes. I beg the forgiveness of the people. The French are making war with us and you all know what that means.

(MORE)

LONGSHANKS (CONT'D)

I am going to meet danger in your behalf, and I pray you, should I return, receive me as you receive me now, and I will give you back all that has been taken from you and if I do not return, crown my son as your king.

ARCHBISHOP

Well played.

EXT. FOREST - NIGHT

Bren, now in his early 30s, and a handful of Welshmen escort a terrified Gwenllian through the woods.

BREN

Let's get off the road.

GWENLLIAN

Stop! Stop it!

She tries to run.

GWENLLIAN (CONT'D)

Who are you people?

BREN

We're Welshmen. We came all the way here to bring you home.

GWENLLIAN

Home?

BREN

Wales. It will take us a month to get back there. Only took a few days to come get you - and two months of gold we saved up to bribe your way out of Lincolnshire.

GWENLLIAN

Are you insane? Take me back to the priory!

BREN

The king will kill you. You escaped. The die is cast.

GWENLLIAN

Well I didn't cast it, did I?

BREN

We had to do something. You are the Princess of Wales. The English king just took away your title and gave it to that idiot son of his.

GWENLLIAN

And what makes you think I care about being the Princess of anything? I am Gwenllian of the Sempringham priory.

BREN

You're wrong, both times! You're not a novice, you're a princess, you can take that bloody sack off your head.

After a moment, she pulls off her nun's cowl; her hair is a catastrophe, so perhaps he straightens a few of her stray hairs as she watches him suspiciously.

BREN (CONT'D)

And you're not Gwenllian  
(pronounced the English  
way)  
your name is Gwenllian.  
(pronounced properly)  
Those bloody barons -- didn't even  
teach you to say your name right!

GWENLLIAN

Gwen - what was it again?

BREN

Gwenllian.

GWENLLIAN

You're joking...Gwenllian. Is that who I really was all this time?

BREN

Now you sound almost Welsh.

GWENLLIAN

Do I now?

BREN

Poor girl, no children at your age.

GWENLLIAN

I'm freezing. So do you have any plans beyond attacking a house full of women?

Bren gives her his cloak, and takes her hands in his for a moment, until she pulls them away.

BREN

I thought I was being clever, not a soldier in sight. The next step is getting you safely back to Wales. That's a tough job right there.

GWENLLIAN

And then what? Am I your prisoner or your princess? Do you rule me, or do I rule you?

BREN

For starters we'll teach you proper Welsh. Doesn't even know her own name. We'll teach you to sing the Welsh too. Do you sing at all?

GWENLLIAN

The sisters say I sing rather well, but that's them telling it, not me.

BREN

All good Welsh girls can sing. Now I know we stole the right girl.

GWENLLIAN

You mean you weren't sure you had the right one?

BREN

A bit of guesswork there, it was dark. But we were lucky, for once.

GWENLLIAN

Oh my God...You got some food, then?

BREN

Out here we only have the English rubbish. Oh, wait, I think we saved some Welsh cheese!

She eats a bit and moans with pleasure.

GWENLLIAN

It's bloody marvelous.

BREN

The sisters taught you a bit of barnyard language.

GWENLLIAN

Yes, you'd be surprised. They're farm girls mostly - except for me.

BREN

They married the Lord because they don't care about men?

GWENLLIAN

You got it backwards. Girls get sent here because they fell in love and their parents wanted to put a stop to it. Or they're younger daughters with no dowries, couldn't land a man. So a few tears at night.

BREN

I can't believe the cheese is still good, all the time it was in my bag.

GWENLLIAN

So you were going to come all the way here, and then kill me with your moldy cheese? What's your name?

BREN

Llewelyn Bren. We have a dozen Llewelyns, just call me Bren.

GWENLLIAN

Bren. Simpler than Gwenllian anyway.

BREN

I just realized. Your father named you after the girl who was the Robin Hood of Wales. Steal from the rich, give to the poor? You'll never guess where we are now!

GWENLLIAN

Of course, Sherwood Forest! Why did it take you so long to cross over?

BREN

Frankly we got lost in the night.

GWENLLIAN

Lost in the woods with rotten cheese, they've got to write a heroic legend about you.

(MORE)

GWENLLIAN (CONT'D)

Do we have any place as beautiful  
as this in Wales?

BREN

You have no idea. No surprise the  
English keep trying to steal it.  
You said "we"?

GWENLLIAN

It's the cheese, I'm starting to  
feel a bit like Wales is my home.  
Teach me a bit of Welsh, then.

BREN

Rwy'n dy garu di.

GWENLLIAN

Roo een deeg...erm...

BREN

This is hopeless. Rwy'n dy garu di.

GWENLLIAN

You know how often I've been alone  
with a man? Never.

BREN

But you've been alone.

GWENLLIAN

So up close, do all men look like  
this?

BREN

We come in all sorts.

GWENLLIAN

Gracious. Always wondered why the  
Abbess wanted to keep us away from  
the men.

BREN

I hear horses. Dowse that damned  
fire!

They run.

EXT. CROSSROAD - DAY

Longshanks watches two peasants erect an Eleanor cross, then  
kneels before it. Archbishop and Bigod watch.

BIGOD

He was always a hard man, now he's getting mean.

ARCHBISHOP

Man just buried his wife, you know.

BIGOD

How many of these crosses does he want?

INT. PRIVY COUNCIL CHAMBER - DAY

Longshanks and son confer.

LONGSHANKS

Alright, try again. It's twenty years from now, you are King Edward the Second. Scottish warriors come south and sacks the city of York. What do you do first?

EDWARD OF CARNARVON

Muster my knights and soldiers...

LONGSHANKS

Yes, and what then?

EDWARD OF CARNARVON

Summon the barons on the Welsh border, marshal my forces, and march to the Scottish border!

LONGSHANKS

No! You haven't been listening! You have got to guard against the Scots and the Welsh. If you take the barons away from the Welsh border, you're sending the Welsh a gold-plated invitation to charge toward London! You want to throw away the whole kingdom in one campaign?

EDWARD OF CARNARVON

I'm sorry, your Grace.

LONGSHANKS

All the gold I spent on your education. I have built a strong kingdom, and when I die, you must keep it all together, against the Welsh, the Scots, the French.

EDWARD OF CARNARVON

You have a gift for it, I don't.  
Can't you give the throne to  
somebody else?

LONGSHANKS

Who? You have a two-year-old  
brother and a three-year-old. I die  
tomorrow, which of them do you want  
to be king? Your brother Thomas? At  
least he doesn't pee himself  
anymore.

EDWARD OF CARNARVON

The girls, I have five sisters, one  
of them could rule the country?

LONGSHANKS

The last time we let a queen rule  
England, the barons refused to  
obey, we had eighteen years of war.  
No, it's got to be you. When you're  
the Prince, you can't just quit. If  
you give up the throne, you'll be  
dead within a year.

EDWARD OF CARNARVON

But why?

LONGSHANKS

Because whoever you give the throne  
to will kill you, to make sure you  
don't change your mind and take the  
throne back. Edward, it's the  
barons. Look past their beautiful  
robes. Two hundred years they took  
this country by force. They killed  
the men, raped the women, stole  
everything. And our family led them  
all. It's all one great crime. And  
the barons are constantly trying to  
climb to the top and kill whoever's  
up there. They threw my father off  
the throne, they went after me too.

EDWARD OF CARNARVON

But you're not like them.

LONGSHANKS

And that's the problem. I've been  
taking power away from the barons,  
defending the common farmers  
against them, inviting merchants  
into parliament -

EDWARD OF CARNARVON

"That which touches us all shall be approved by all."

LONGSHANKS

The barons didn't want a bunch of grain dealers telling them what to do. They fought back. I had to back down on taxes, on Magna Carta...I have quarrels with the French and the church and Wales and Scotland, but I can't do anything until the barons are under control. Otherwise I'll end up a Runnymede like old King John, surrendering everything.

EDWARD OF CARNARVON

Can't you wait them out?

LONGSHANKS

They can wait us out. They will wait until I'm dead, and then kill you. I'm trying to save your life. So you've got to learn faster. There isn't much time. Year after year, another attack comes.

EDWARD OF CARNARVON

You always win, Father.

LONGSHANKS

Someday my luck will run out - it only takes one mistake. Someday I will be dead, and my enemies won't be thinking of me anymore. Every one of them will be looking at you.

EDWARD OF CARNARVON

Me?

LONGSHANKS

They will attack at once, to see whether you can handle it. They think you're going to be a weakling like your grandfather. You've got to be ready. Even a king who's ready can make a mistake.

EDWARD OF CARNARVON

You never make mistakes.

LONGSHANKS

You haven't been paying attention.  
I've already made one disastrous  
mistake. It may sink us all.

EDWARD OF CARNARVON

You never told me this before?

LONGSHANKS

I saved this lesson for last. I had  
two powerful enemies. Simon  
Montfort led a rebellion against my  
father. Then Llywelyn attacked from  
Wales. Beat them both.

EDWARD OF CARNARVON

So what was your mistake?

LONGSHANKS

Montfort had a daughter and  
Llywelyn had a son, and I allowed  
the children to marry each other.

EDWARD OF CARNARVON

The children of your enemies...

LONGSHANKS

Yes, I know, I was an idiot, I  
liked them both. I took a gamble. I  
thought everything would be  
alright, but then these two people  
of course had a child -

EDWARD OF CARNARVON

A son?

LONGSHANKS

No, a daughter, thank God. I held  
her prisoner in a nunnery. But now  
the Welsh are in arms, they want  
her to marry the new Welsh leader  
and conquer England. And now, she's  
escaped.

EDWARD OF CARNARVON

...and ran off to Wales?

LONGSHANKS

The girls you see, from the time  
they're thirteen they're all either  
big in the belly, or nursing off  
the teat. This one's different. We  
have a patrol hunting for her...And  
it gets worse.

(MORE)

LONGSHANKS (CONT'D)

The girl has royal blood, she's your cousin. So if she does lead an army to London and tries to claim the crown...

EDWARD OF CARNARVON

The barons would listen to her, wouldn't they? All she needs to do is promise to cancel your taxes.

LONGSHANKS

And what if someday she has a son?

EDWARD OF CARNARVON

He would have royal blood too. But they couldn't really capture London, it's impossible!

LONGSHANKS

Not if you take all our soldiers north every time the King of Scotland sneezes.

EDWARD OF CARNARVON

The Welsh could never take London...

LONGSHANKS

You know the prophecy? Merlin. The heir of King Arthur will appear, take the throne of Wales, and become King of England. The Welsh think that their new leader is the man to do it. Llywelyn thought he was the anointed one.

EDWARD OF CARNARVON

I don't think that that's what Merlin's prophecy said...

LONGSHANKS

Doesn't matter what Merlin said or whether he existed. What do people believe?

EDWARD OF CARNARVON

So where is this girl Gwenllian?

LONGSHANKS

Since I found out about this, I've had men searching high and low. If we don't find her, what do we do?

EDWARD OF CARNARVON

Invade Wales before they attack?

LONGSHANKS

Try it! The Welsh know their hills like their eyes know the insides of their eyelids. Believe me, we tried: we kill rebels, burn farms, we achieve nothing. And there's a bandit raider, Llewelyn Bren, picking off our soldiers every time they go into the trees for a pee.

EDWARD OF CARNARVON

So we wait?

LONGSHANKS

Waiting is a good policy if you're stumped, there's a chance that your enemy will make a mistake, and you can pounce. But I hate to wait, so we're looking for the girl. And if we find her, then what?

EDWARD OF CARNARVON

Do we kill her?

Longshanks didn't expect that answer.

LONGSHANKS

No, the Welsh adore her, and even the English are sympathetic. Killing her would be too unpopular.

EDWARD OF CARNARVON

But you're the king...

LONGSHANKS

Even when you're king, you can't kill everyone who frightens you. But...

EDWARD OF CARNARVON

But you'll kill her if you have to...Why not throw her in a dungeon or something?

LONGSHANKS

Well, we tried that, and look where we are now. As long as she's alive, people will rally to her cause. She's a threat...Son, exactly what was it you were doing when you came, you were all covered in mud...?

EDWARD OF CARNARVON

Planting turnips.

LONGSHANKS

Turnips.

He gets up and groans. Obviously in pain.

LONGSHANKS (CONT'D)

When I fight, I sleep on the ground like a soldier. Only way your men will respect you. One night my horse trampled me in my sleep, broke my ribs. The soldiers terrified, and the barons, trying to stop from smiling - waiting for a sign of weakness. So, broken ribs and all, I vaulted into the saddle and rode off. Took two minutes before I could breathe. But a king can never, ever look weak.

INT. CHURCH HALL - NIGHT

Women are finishing their chores and preparing the hall for a feast. Gwenllian clings to Bren's arm in the crowd.

GWENLLIAN

Why are the wives staring at me?

FARM WIFE

You're not married yet. No babies. They want to keep you away from their men. Hey, don't bother yourself, lass. The sensible girls know you're all mad for your Bren.

GWENLLIAN

I'm just glad to be around people, even the mean ones.

Gwenllian crosses to a two girls sorting tools, pulling Bren by the hand.

GWENLLIAN (CONT'D)

And what's this one?

GIRL

That's for carding wool and that's for spinning.

SECOND GIRL

And that's for washing clothes.

GIRL

And that's for the oxen, so they  
don't go lame. Got harvest coming.

SECOND GIRL

Look, mum, big piece of a honey  
comb! Da can make beer with it!

GWENLLIAN

All that lovely honey, you want to  
make beer out of it?

BREN

Course!

GWENLLIAN

Hold still, I'm fixing your hair.

She kisses Bren.

BREN

You need to stay in the house.

GWENLLIAN

English soldiers?

BREN

They're looking for you.

GWENLLIAN

You're sure no one knows my real  
name?

BREN

Only the priest.

INT. PEASANT HUT - NIGHT

Bren and Gwenllian curled up on a bed of straw with a  
blanket.

BREN

I can't breathe. You're doing it  
again.

GWENLLIAN

You need to hold me. All the years  
with the sisters, nobody held me  
close like this.

BREN

I was any closer I'd be behind you.

Gwenllian throws one leg and one arm over him and begins to snore.

INT. WESTMINSTER ABBEY - DAY

Longshanks is putting the Stone of Scone in Westminster.

LONGSHANKS

I don't care they call it the stone of destiny. The stone belongs to Scotland and Scotland belongs to me.

INT. PEASANT HUT - DAY

Gwenllian at the window; Bren enters wounded.

GWENLLIAN

Bren, you came back!

She hugs him, checks his wound.

BREN

Not much fighting this time, the English were riding fast. It was strange, they had no interest in fighting. As though they were here for something else entirely.

GWENLLIAN

Bren, please. If you keep running these raids on the English, it is only a matter of time...

BREN

Are we really going to go round this maypole again?

GWENLLIAN

Do you want to end up like my Uncle? Running from farm to farm? Captured, torn apart by horses like an old rag?...God, you remember the fair last month? The food, the games, the singing? All the gossip? The looks on those hill folk when we loaded their packs with bread?

BREN

Yes.

GWENLLIAN

And the sun went down and the girls were singing, you took me into the high grass and kissed me all night?

BREN

Yes.

GWENLLIAN

That's all I want, to live a normal life and be happy.

BREN

Remember what else happened that day? The English came through -

GWENLLIAN

I know, they were hunting for me. They'll never find me, Bren.

BREN

While you were hiding under that load of hay, they grabbed half our fair money. Taxes, they said. Theft, is what it is. They will take all we have, and they'll take you. How in the world are we supposed to just accept the soldiers? ...How can I stop fighting? What do I do then?

GWENLLIAN

(entirely unromantic)

Marry me! Stop raiding, and I'll marry you. We'll start a farm. But not if you're still fighting.

BREN

Why is it so important to you? Is it because of your father?

GWENLLIAN

In the wife's tales, love always conquers all in the end. But it doesn't, Bren. If you want to go down one road, and I want to go down another, no love in the world can overcome that.

BREN

You're heir to the throne. All of Wales knows your name.

GWENLLIAN

I left that behind. It's dangerous. I need to know that you're here for me. Just me. Not because I can get you thousands of soldiers with a snap of my fingers. Can you honestly say it and mean it - "I love you". How many men are afraid of those three little words. Is any of that for real?

Silence.

BREN

I hear horses.

GWENLLIAN

Damn! Bren, that's no answer!

BREN

Sh. The English followed me.

They cling to each other. Two armed noblemen enter, HEREFORD and Hugh DESPENSER.

HEREFORD

Is it just the two of you here?

Bren holding a knife, but not threatening anyone with it.

BREN

What do you want?

HEREFORD

Mind your manners. That was you and your little rebel band out on the road, wasn't it?

Bren touches Gwenllian's cheek.

BREN

You've made a mistake. Do I look like the "Son of Destiny"? I'm no rebel. I'm just an ordinary farmer. That's all I am.

HEREFORD

Luckily for you, we weren't sent here on a raid. We came to find a woman.

DESPENSER

(looks at a paper)  
Gwen Lee Ann, summat.  
(MORE)

DESPENSER (CONT'D)

Been looking all over these hills for you. There's no mistaking the girl. You're coming with us, miss.

Bren reacts.

GWENLLIAN

Bren, no!

Hereford calmly picks up the knife.

HEREFORD

Son, you're best off leaving here while you can. There's a fair chance the next patrol through here will hang you, farmer or not.

DESPENSER

Be easier just to kill the girl, don't have to drag her all the way to London. King make a knight of me.

HEREFORD

Or he might kill you. Just do as your told, boy.

BREN

Rwy'n dy garu di.  
(ru-een di gari di)

GWENLLIAN

Rwy'n dy garu di. Make sure he's safe.

Bren hugs her tight and leaves. She's shocked; she sits and starts to cry.

DESPENSER

Roin dee...what? What is this, some secret code? Send a message to your rebel friends? Quick little ambush?

HEREFORD

Great pillock. How many months you been fighting in Wales? And you never learned the language. Rwy'n dy garu di. He told the girl "I love you"....

(mutters)

Secret code. Come now, pretty girl like you, I'm sure he said "I love you" every day.

GWENLLIAN

No. This was...different.

HEREFORD

You had a year with this lad, don't know how you managed it. Hiding from all the king's spies. We would have found you earlier, but we had to keep the hunt a secret - the Welsh ready to fight a war for you.

GWENLLIAN

Back to the sisters again?

HEREFORD

No, miss. To the king this time.

GWENLLIAN

And when can I come home again?

The soldiers are silent, looking at each other.

GWENLLIAN (CONT'D)

Please, God, no!

INT. PRIVY COUNCIL CHAMBER - DAY

Longshanks and son are conferring when Hereford enters, covered in mud.

HEREFORD

Your Grace, we found her!

LONGSHANKS

Gwenllian?

HEREFORD

Rode straight to bring word.

LONGSHANKS

(tosses a purse)

A token of my appreciation, don't drink it all in one night. Ha!  
There is a God, and he likes me!  
I'm asking you, son, what do we do?

EDWARD OF CARNARVON

I'm sorry, father, I don't know!

LONGSHANKS

That's it!

EDWARD OF CARNARVON

Erm, that's what?...

LONGSHANKS

That's the right answer. We won't know what to do until we find out what this Gwenllian is up to.

EDWARD OF CARNARVON

I don't suppose we could ask her...

LONGSHANKS

Right again! Just because I'm devious, doesn't mean I don't like simple solutions. Sitting and listening, to friends and enemies both, will save your life. And that is one thing that you are good at.

EDWARD OF CARNARVON

Thank you, Father!

LONGSHANKS

Me, I love to talk too much. I'm going to give you this little job with Gwenllian.

EDWARD OF CARNARVON

Me?

LONGSHANKS

Son, think. You can marry the girl, hammer out a few princes on her...

EDWARD OF CARNARVON

Marry a girl?

LONGSHANKS

I know you've never been interested in women, but this is your duty. You must give us sons. Once you do that, you can pursue other interests...other pleasures...

EDWARD OF CARNARVON

I'm a disappointment to you...

LONGSHANKS

I'm realistic. I don't expect you to go build an empire, but I don't expect you to ruin the empire that I've built either.

EDWARD OF CARNARVON

You arranged for me to marry that French princess -

LONGSHANKS

I don't need the French now. I need this Welsh girl under control. Talk to her. Sit up straight, be polite, tell her you like her dress, don't talk to her about horses...I know that winning a woman isn't your line of country, I can't teach it in two minutes, but make an effort, will you?

EDWARD OF CARNARVON

You're leaving me alone with her?

LONGSHANKS

That's how these things are done, a chaperone would only get in the way. God, if I were younger I'd find a way to marry her myself.

EXT. OUTSIDE A CASTLE - DAY

Longshanks and the Archbishop watch a woman being nailed into a cage. Onlookers are appalled.

ARCHBISHOP

But she's the sister of Scotland's rightful king.

LONGSHANKS

Sister of a rebel.

ARCHBISHOP

But she'll freeze to death!

INT. PRIVY COUNCIL CHAMBER - DAY

The prince awaits; Hereford and Gwenllian, both muddy, enter.

HEREFORD

Your Grace, where is the king...

EDWARD OF CARNARVON

I will handle this.

Hereford hesitates.

EDWARD OF CARNARVON (CONT'D)  
 Leave her and go!

Hereford at him in disbelief.

EDWARD OF CARNARVON (CONT'D)  
 Please, you may go.  
 (to the girl)  
 It is customary for a subject to  
 kneel in the royal presence.

GWENLLIAN  
 It is customary for a gentleman to  
 ask a lady to sit.

EDWARD OF CARNARVON  
 Erm, well yes, please sit. Erm,  
 pretty dress.

She looks blankly at her quite plain, mudstained dress and  
 then at him.

GWENLLIAN  
 (mutters)  
 Royal presence. Please don't tell  
 me that you're the king?

EDWARD OF CARNARVON  
 I beg your pardon?

GWENLLIAN  
 You're not nearly old enough. And  
 you don't look the part.

EDWARD OF CARNARVON  
 Why do people keep saying that?

GWENLLIAN  
 The King's fool perhaps.

EDWARD OF CARNARVON  
 You're not far wrong. I'm the  
 Prince of Wales.

GWENLLIAN  
 Let's ride off to Wales and tell  
 that to the Welsh. They'll beat you  
 to a pulp, put you on your horse,  
 and send you back to London where  
 you belong.

EDWARD OF CARNARVON

When I am king I look forward to invading your country and grinding it under the heel of my boot.

GWENLLIAN

Oh, now that is disappointing. Why say something awful and horrible when it's not even what you feel? Was it to impress me?

EDWARD OF CARNARVON

I'm sorry.

GWENLLIAN

Your father's a cruel man who says cruel things. Don't try to be a scary king like your father, you haven't got the spit for it.

EDWARD OF CARNARVON

But I will be king someday.

GWENLLIAN

(slowly, intrigued)

Is that what you want? Sorry, I have so few people to talk to.

EDWARD OF CARNARVON

I didn't choose to be heir to the throne any more than I chose to be a man. If I was born a girl, all of this wouldn't be happening to me.

GWENLLIAN

Oh, really? I cannot escape all this scheming any more than you can. I've tried. I am a princess of Wales - a real one - and every day some Welsh general wants to marry me, build a Welsh dynasty, just as your father has built here. I've heard stories about his court, packed with vultures, thieves and liars. All trying to win the king's favor, stabbing each other in the back. The Welsh want to create a mess just like it back home.

EDWARD OF CARNARVON

Everyone I know wants power, money. You could have it with a snap of your fingers and you don't want it?

GWENLLIAN

I love Wales just as it is. I want to marry a man, raise children. I don't want to send them off to kill Englishmen every summer. I want just a little house, on a hill.

EDWARD OF CARNARVON

Well, why can't you?

GWENLLIAN

The man I want to marry is a Welsh soldier. He's the best of the lot, but even he has the fever. He wants to fight wars, build a kingdom.

EDWARD OF CARNARVON

He sounds like my father. He loves riding and fighting. He's been trying to teach me.

GWENLLIAN

But you're not interested. Do you want to be king?

EDWARD OF CARNARVON

I haven't a choice. I'll be king someday, unless Father lives forever. He might, you know, he's a wonder.

GWENLLIAN

I know, it's a shame. In the early days your father was a clever lawmaker, he gave rights to every free man so the nobles wouldn't have all the power. But then the barons wanted a war, and the Welsh were most convenient target.

EDWARD OF CARNARVON

Still, he's quite a man.

GWENLLIAN

You love him, and he's so different from you.

EDWARD OF CARNARVON

You love that Welshman, and he's so different from you.

GWENLLIAN

(smiles, wistful)  
Serves me right!  
(MORE)

GWENLLIAN (CONT'D)

You hit the nail right on the head...If you weren't going to be king, what would you do? I'm sure you can recite Aristotle in three languages, but what can you do?

EDWARD OF CARNARVON

I don't know...

GWENLLIAN

Think! Imagine that you have a magician's staff, you can be anything, do anything!

EDWARD OF CARNARVON

I never imagined anything else but being king.

GWENLLIAN

Ah, if you're already going to be king, why dream of being anything else...?

EDWARD OF CARNARVON

Something like that.

GWENLLIAN

So you never dream? But everybody dreams...When was the last time you were happy doing something?

Prince thinks, with a long face.

GWENLLIAN (CONT'D)

It's been a while, hasn't it?

EDWARD OF CARNARVON

Cousin of mine, eight years, fell off a horse. I showed him how the saddle and bridle worked. He climbed on, pulled the reins like I told him, horse turned perfectly. I could see the boy smile, as though he had just conquered Scotland.

GWENLLIAN

You like children, you're good with horses, you like to teach, a good heart. Why on earth should you be wasted as a king?

EDWARD OF CARNARVON  
I could change things. There  
wouldn't be any wars if I were  
king.

GWENLLIAN  
The barons only know how to do one  
thing, fight, and if you don't lead  
them into battle, they will turn  
and attack you.

EDWARD OF CARNARVON  
But what if England and Wales were  
allies?

GWENLLIAN  
What if England and Wales were...  
(pained look on her face)  
Oh, Edward, I see why I was brought  
here to you, instead of your  
father.  
(dully)  
He wants you to marry me.

EDWARD OF CARNARVON  
Yes.

GWENLLIAN  
So I won't lead an army against  
him. I thought I was free. When  
your father told you he wanted you  
to marry me, what did you say?

EDWARD OF CARNARVON  
I didn't say much of anything.

She does a skirt twirl.

GWENLLIAN  
Well, you've gotten a good look at  
me...?

EDWARD OF CARNARVON  
You've really never borne a  
child?...This is hard..

GWENLLIAN  
I was dragged into the road at  
swordpoint and brought to the  
castle of Edward, my enemy. This is  
no great joy for me, either. So say  
it, I won't be hurt. I know men  
don't like strong women. Trust me.

EDWARD OF CARNARVON

You don't understand. I don't think there's a woman in the world that I can love.

GWENLLIAN

Well, you're honest. I don't know what kind of king you could be, if you don't know to lie better than that...Then we're trapped.

EDWARD OF CARNARVON

Trapped?

GWENLLIAN

I will not marry a man who cannot love me.

EDWARD OF CARNARVON

It's not your fault. I'm not made for it. I tried. My father bought me the most expensive women in the world...I've offended you...

GWENLLIAN

No.

EDWARD OF CARNARVON

...I hurt your feelings...

GWENLLIAN

Of course not.

EDWARD OF CARNARVON

You're taking this awfully well, you might show some regret.

GWENLLIAN

Oh, Edward, I've hurt your feelings.

EDWARD OF CARNARVON

It's not that...I shouldn't tell you this, but...

GWENLLIAN

But if I don't marry you, I'm in a bad spot? Your father isn't going to let me ride off into the night, and then come back with thousands of soldiers at my back...You might help me escape, you know.

EDWARD OF CARNARVON

(blanches)

No.

GWENLLIAN

I don't want to raise English princes who will brutalize the people I love. What he wants from me is total betrayal. Or my death. All I want is my little house on the hill, and my children. A simple dream that any other woman could have. Why is this so...impossible?

EDWARD OF CARNARVON

(energized)

If I had my way, you could have it. You're too good for the rest of us. I'll bet you could give yourself to a whole yard full of boys, little girls. I can't see myself on the throne, but I can see you raising a dozen children.

GWENLLIAN

A sweet thing to say.

(laughs)

A dozen! Your father tried to turn you into a coldhearted ogre, seems he failed.

EDWARD OF CARNARVON

I could go with you.

GWENLLIAN

Go with me...?

EDWARD OF CARNARVON

I know nothing about loving a woman. But I don't know how to be king, either! If I'm going to fail at something, why not be terrible doing something I want? If you and I were in that little house of yours, I would be happier there than here.

GWENLLIAN

We cannot share a life here: I cannot be queen of England and betray my own people. I could never look them in the face again. And we can't go to Wales, it's silly, your father would stop us.

EDWARD OF CARNARVON  
He won't live forever...

GWENLLIAN  
Even when he is dead, you must stay  
and do your job. If you leave, the  
nobles will start a civil war to  
get the crown, and thousands of  
people will die. Women, children...

EDWARD OF CARNARVON  
My father told me I can't run away.

GWENLLIAN  
And he's right.

EDWARD OF CARNARVON  
I will give up the Welsh wars when  
I am king.

GWENLLIAN  
The barons won't let you. And you  
don't love me. But it was a lovely  
gesture, Edward. I know you are not  
likely to love any woman, but it  
was so sweet of you, all the same.  
If only I were a man, we'd make a  
fine pair, wouldn't we? Together we  
could have beaten them all.

INT. CASTLE KITCHEN - NIGHT

Longshanks is making his way to the council chamber when he  
encounters his old cook, who is boning a chicken.

COOK  
Girl's a traitor, isn't she? Never  
seen a girl drawn and quartered  
before. Nasty business.

And he continues his poultry dismemberment.

INT. PRIVY COUNCIL CHAMBER - NIGHT

Gwenllian and the prince await, and the king arrives.

LONGSHANKS  
How pretty you are, even after my  
soldiers dragged you through the  
mud. So you like my boy?

GWENLLIAN

A fine young man.

LONGSHANKS

Yes, he'll be a fine king, a fine husband, a fine father.

GWENLLIAN

(can't help herself)

Pardon me, Sire, is that what you really believe?

LONGSHANKS

No. I take it that you do not find him to your liking?

GWENLLIAN

On the contrary, a fine man, as I said...

EDWARD OF CARNARVON

Father...

LONGSHANKS

Can I assume that you have not met with dazzling success here?

GWENLLIAN

Your son cannot love me. I am to marry a man of my own people. A man who will give me children -

LONGSHANKS

That Welsh man of yours, he wants nothing more than that?

She hesitates just a second too long.

GWENLLIAN

I know you are afraid of me, but I have no greater ambitions than that.

LONGSHANKS

Yes, you're a sweet girl, as innocent as the dawn. That's not what I asked. This groom of yours, what does he want?

She says nothing.

LONGSHANKS (CONT'D)

You're a pretty girl, but Wales is full of pretty girls.

(MORE)

LONGSHANKS (CONT'D)

This man wants you, because his armies will follow you if you attack England.

GWENLLIAN

No, your Grace, he loves me...

LONGSHANKS

Yes, I'm sure. What sort of man is he?

GWENLLIAN

Just an old soldier.

LONGSHANKS

A man who could command an army.

GWENLLIAN

Men do follow him.

LONGSHANKS

Follow him all the way to London, wouldn't they?

GWENLLIAN

No, your Grace...

LONGSHANKS

This man of yours hurt his shoulder last month? Riding, or...something.

GWENLLIAN

You know who he is.

LONGSHANKS

I know who he is, where he is, I know what he wants. I let details like that slip through my fingers, I'd be a dead man, my boy here would be running things. And if I allowed you, a descendant of King John, to marry a man who wants to take my crown...

GWENLLIAN

I've done nothing wrong, I have no ambitions in England, I just want to go home...

LONGSHANKS

All my advisers wanted me to kill your parents. I let them live. I am quite a merciful man, but the times force me to be harsh.

GWENLLIAN

No one forces you to be harsh.

LONGSHANKS

Oh, don't they? Your father was a man I invited into my home - I let him marry the Montfort girl, I hosted the blasted wedding party. And he attacked.

GWENLLIAN

A man you loved.

LONGSHANKS

Exactly. And I had to kill him. Only good thing he did, he had no sons to bother me.

GWENLLIAN

Only me.

LONGSHANKS

I loved Montfort too. That's the bother about being a king. Any man who is talented enough to help you, is talented enough to threaten your power. You're a ship captain, you can surround yourself with weak men who can never attack you, but they can't trim the sails in a storm...

GWENLLIAN

And the ship sinks.

LONGSHANKS

What a change to have a perceptive student. Or you surround yourself with talented men, great sailors, and you watch your back every night, because every one of them wants to slit your throat and take the wheel himself. Your father was a man like that.

GWENLLIAN

So my father is dead.

LONGSHANKS

I set him free, he attacked. I'm not going to make the same mistake with you. I don't want to kill this Welshman of yours and I don't want to kill you, although experience teaches me that I should.

(MORE)

LONGSHANKS (CONT'D)

I don't take joy in killing, not even my enemies, so I'm not going to allow you to become an enemy.

GWENLLIAN

And if I marry your son...

LONGSHANKS

You've been in a cage for so long. But now, everything a woman could dream of would be at your fingertips.

GWENLLIAN

What do you think a woman dreams of? Money, clothes, power, great parties, gossip at court? I want to be as far away from court as possible.

LONGSHANKS

As far away from my son as possible?

GWENLLIAN

Your son might be a great man if he were not your son.

LONGSHANKS

I have a great vast well of patience. It's beginning to run dry.

EDWARD OF CARNARVON

Father, you simply cannot -

LONGSHANKS

Edward. Please tell me you are not going to defy me to my face. I've seen you plotting with my wife against me. Stupid I am not.

GWENLLIAN

Your son is in danger! He is not cut out to be a king.

LONGSHANKS

I can see you swept her off her feet.

EDWARD OF CARNARVON

Father...

LONGSHANKS

Well done.

(to her)

So you would rather risk prison and death, than marry my boy? Just what any father wants to hear.

EDWARD OF CARNARVON

You won't do anything rash?

LONGSHANKS

I'm trying to find a way, boy. Well, my dear, I'm going to set a bad example for my son and do something stupid again. You're not going to the execution block, or to the dungeon.

EDWARD OF CARNARVON

(overjoyed)

Father!

LONGSHANKS

You are going to the convent, and this time you prepare to become a nun. Many miles from Wales. You swear an oath to God that you will never take a husband. Spend your life as a sister, helping the poor. Forever. You will never leave. I'll have soldiers there to make sure.

GWENLLIAN

(stunned, absorbing it)

A sister.

LONGSHANKS

Care for the poor and the sick.

GWENLLIAN

There are children there...

LONGSHANKS

Hundreds.

GWENLLIAN

I will take care of them?

LONGSHANKS

If you wish.

GWENLLIAN

(thinks)

Then that is what I will do. I will be alone again.

LONGSHANKS

You would make a fine wife for my boy. Keep him alive and safe. You're perfect for him.

GWENLLIAN

We could never be happy. Your son deserves the best woman there is. It's the least he should have, for what is going to happen to him.

LONGSHANKS

What is going to happen to him? Is this some sort of threat?

GWENLLIAN

(softly)

Is that your whole life, worrying about threats?

LONGSHANKS

You'd be surprised.

GWENLLIAN

You know what happens when he becomes king, unready and unwilling, surrounded by hungry men...

LONGSHANKS

Nonsense. He has a quick mind, there is still time.

He gets up.

GWENLLIAN

We're not finished.

LONGSHANKS

Aren't we?

GWENLLIAN

I am giving up my life. In return, you are going to try very, very hard not to kill off the rest of my family. My two cousins, the boys -

LONGSHANKS

I'm keeping them safe.

GWENLLIAN

And you're going to keep them  
alive.

LONGSHANKS

Would they rather live in a cage  
all their lives? Or go out quickly?

GWENLLIAN

You keep them alive. You will set  
Uncle Rodri free, he never wanted  
any part of all this. And my stupid  
cousin Madoc, he's changed sides so  
many times that no one will ever  
trust him anyway.

(hesitates, goes for the  
big one)

And my man Bren. I miss him  
something awful. Been days since  
I've seen him. And you be leaving  
him alone.

LONGSHANKS

(thinks)

If your man Bren stays on his farm  
and doesn't cause trouble, I won't  
go looking for him. If he starts  
raiding again, all bets are off.  
And you can't see him, ever. We're  
erasing your name from the royal  
rolls. You're going to disappear,  
your family name, all of you. None  
of this ever happened. They say I'm  
getting meaner in my old age.

He rises.

LONGSHANKS (CONT'D)

A fascinating girl, I was very fond  
of your parents - really, I was.  
And I will be watching over you.  
I'll be watching very closely.

INT. BEDCHAMBER - NIGHT

Gwenllian prepares for bed; the prince enters.

EDWARD OF CARNARVON

Gwenllian, my first order as king  
will be to set you free.

GWENLLIAN

I swear an oath to serve God, and then when I am an old woman, you will help me break my word? Search for a man willing to marry me? Wouldn't you worry about me causing trouble in Wales?

EDWARD OF CARNARVON

I'm not afraid of you.

GWENLLIAN

You should be. Your father is terrified of me. He thinks I want to rule England.

(weary smile)

If he only knew. You set me free, the other nobles will kill me. They want your crown, I'd be in the way.

EDWARD OF CARNARVON

And what about that house on the hill, with all those children?

GWENLLIAN

Every day a girl has a dream that doesn't come true. What will happen to you, when you must rule, play a role you don't want to play? You will be lost... If only I could free you from this.

HEREFORD

We have a troop assembled. When you're ready, miss.

GWENLLIAN

Goodbye. I will pray for you. You keep an eye out for my Bren.

She takes his face in her hands, kisses him, gives him a hug.

INT. PRIORY MEETING ROOM

Gwenllian returns to her cell in Sempringham, a wreck; the Abbess finds her, and then the other sisters.

ABBESS

I was so sure you were out safe.

GWENLLIAN

So was I.

ABBESS

I was so hoping you found a man,  
had a babe of your own -

Gwenllian looks at the other sisters in alarm, and then at the Abbess. She shakes her head.

GWENLLIAN

Not a bloody word.

ABBESS

You know what the king will do to  
your baby -

GWENLLIAN

Please, stop. Just don't.

ABBESS

You want company?

GWENLLIAN

I always want company.

INT. PRIORY CELL - NIGHT

It's a warm night. Gwenllian has her blanket all bollixed up next to her in bed. She throws one arm and one leg around the blanket, just as she used to do with Bren.

INT. BATTLE TENT, FRANCE - NIGHT

King, prince and Hereford. The king is ill.

EDWARD OF CARNARVON

But Father, we put off the marriage  
four times!

LONGSHANKS

Strategy, my boy.

EDWARD OF CARNARVON

Isabella is frightened out of her  
mind! She's practically a prisoner!

LONGSHANKS

Right now all I care about is  
pounding down the Scots.

EDWARD OF CARNARVON

How much longer will he last?

HEREFORD

He's had the flux for too long. A few days at most.

INT. BANQUET HALL - NIGHT

Edward of Carnarvon is now king and his new Bride is ISABELLA, 12, princess of France, thin and fair, clever. And right now, hurt. Because the groom is drunk, sitting and carousing with his pal Pierre.

EDWARD OF CARNARVON

Well, wife, you wanted a wedding, my father's dead, and here we are, finally!

ISABELLA

Yes, your Grace -

EDWARD OF CARNARVON

What a lovely necklace! Here, Pierre, try it on!

He removes her necklace.

ISABELLA

But that was a gift from -

EDWARD OF CARNARVON

Suits you! Gift from my new wife!

ISABELLA

My Lord, I can't find my ladies in waiting -

EDWARD OF CARNARVON

You live with me, you don't need your own household! Just get to work making babies, it's your job!

The prince is drinking and laughing with his pal Pierre. Isabella, on the verge of tears, stands with a group of angry French noblemen.

EDWARD OF CARNARVON (CONT'D)

Well, I do have to say, the French have an undeserved reputation for merriment and revelry. Look, what a sour bunch they are!

ISABELLA

Father of my children, that.

INT. BATTLE TENT, SCOTLAND - NIGHT

Edward, Isabella, Hereford, soldiers.

HEREFORD

My Lord, when can we face things as they are? The Scots are too quick for us, they know their own land.

EDWARD OF CARNARVON

Nonsense, our scouts have seen their outriders just east of here. If we ride tonight we can catch them by surprise and slaughter them! Be back in no time.

He leaves. Long silence. Isabella reads a book by candlelight. Horses heard.

ISABELLA

Put out the candle. Quickly!

SOLDIER

Which way is east?

SECOND SOLDIER

That way.

SOLDIER

I hear cavalry over there, to the west.

ISABELLA

Any chance it's ours?

SOLDIER

Grab what you can and run for the trees. Now!

They run, and soon Scottish soldiers ride in and surround the tent. Not a kilt in sight because we're in the 14th century; for the same reason, they're not painted with blue woad. They listen for sounds of the tent's occupants, but Isabella and her courtiers are silent.

ISABELLA

Are they gone -

SOLDIER

Shh!

SECOND SOLDIER

Silence.

ISABELLA

My God, where is the king?

They wander in the dark until they see soldiers. Long terrifying silence; animal noises.

ISABELLA (CONT'D)

Make for the trees over there.

SOLDIER

Can't tell -- ours or the Scots?

English soldiers come to the rescue.

INT. PRIORY MEETING ROOM - DAY

Isabella, trailing a two year old boy, sits in a council meeting.

ISABELLA

Let me remind you. We have two kinds of council meetings, the kind where we actually get things done, and the kind where I am absent. You planned this last Scotland campaign without me and it was a disaster.

DESPENSER

The barons already rose up against you once, my lady, and they won, if you remember.

He pulls Hereford aside.

DESPENSER (CONT'D)

I can't take another night like this. Cut her allowance and her household.

INT. PRIORY CELL - NIGHT

Gwenllian and the Abbess.

ABBESS

The harvest fair is at full flood, we need you to stitch up a few cut fingers and bashed heads.

GWENLLIAN

I'll wait until after the festival.

ABBESS

No, come on down, half the people there were your patients and students. Time for you to shake it all loose.

INT. PRIORY MEETING ROOM - NIGHT

Farmers bang away on primitive musical instruments; children dance. Strapping young man named DAVIE crosses to Gwenllian when she arrives.

DAVIE

Come on Sister Gwen, dance with me. Not like we're going to hell, you're not even a real nun.

They dance. She begins to cry.

DAVIE (CONT'D)

Sorry, didn't mean to get wise with you.

GWENLLIAN

No, it's just - you know how long it's been, since I had a man's arms around me?

Some of the locals begin to sing. A nice mood settles in.

Music stops: the queen has arrived. She figures out, immediately, which "nun" is Gwenllian, and summons her to into a kitchen.

ISABELLA

You are that Gwenllian.

GWENLLIAN

Not the only one.

ISABELLA

So-called princess of Wales. That title's mine, you know.

GWENLLIAN

Of course, your Grace.

ISABELLA

You escaped from royal custody, they should have hanged you. You tell me where your son is, the heir to your titles.

GWENLLIAN

I have no son. And no titles.

ISABELLA

You can't fool me. I went to Wales.  
They call you the Captive Mother.  
They all know you have a son.

GWENLLIAN

I thought I was forgotten.

ISABELLA

Not by me. You will send your son  
to take my husband's throne.

GWENLLIAN

Nothing would please me more, if I  
had a son to send. Your husband -

ISABELLA

You dare to criticize our sovereign  
lord.

GWENLLIAN

He doesn't belong on that throne.  
You know it and I know it.

ISABELLA

He talks about freeing you. He  
almost married you. I wish he had.

Isabella begins to cry.

ISABELLA (CONT'D)

I can't, I just can't -

GWENLLIAN

Not what you expected, is it?

ISABELLA

He took my jewelry, my money, he  
sent away my friends, I have no one  
to talk to -

GWENLLIAN

Talk to me anytime, I'm not going  
anywhere. Time on my hands.

ISABELLA

He took me to the battlefield, I  
was almost kidnapped!

GWENLLIAN

Gracious.

ISABELLA

Nothing gets done in council unless  
I go there myself to see it done.

GWENLLIAN

Being a princess is a dangerous  
business. Take my word for it. You  
give him children yet?

ISABELLA

Two boys already. The court is  
obsessed, princes and more princes.  
You have everything you need here?

GWENLLIAN

I'd like paper, write some letters.

ISABELLA

To whom? If I find you have a son,  
anywhere, you won't be in this  
comfortable little nunnery anymore.

GWENLLIAN

I want to write to Bren. Just a  
word he's safe.

A soldier arrives.

ISABELLA

Keep her in her cell for a week.  
Give her time for contemplation.

SOLDIER

No men allowed in the cells.

ISABELLA

Do as I say! And give her some  
paper and ink.

INT. CHURCH HALL - NIGHT

Wales. A SOLDIER masquerading as a tinker is spotted by a  
FARMER. Other farmers, including a lad named TWM, gather.

FARMER

Found another one.

SOLDIER

Just a tinker passing through.

FARMER

You're a spy for the queen, looking  
for that boy.

SOLDIER

No, I'm -

FARMER

This is the hill country. If a stranger shows up, the whole valley knows in minutes. You don't even speak Welsh. You go tell the queen the boy isn't here.

The soldier draws his sword slowly. The farmers unsure what to do next.

SOLDIER

Now you watch it. Got orders to spit that boy like a pig. You can't hide him forever, even up here.

Bren is watching, with his wife LLEUCU (pronounced hlay-kay).

LLEUCU

We can claim the boy as our own.

BREN

It's sweet of you, but you can't. The only way he stays alive, is if he's not related to me.

LLEUCU

So he's just an orphan then.

BREN

And he can't join the rebels, either. I promised his Ma.

LLEUCU

The other boys will beat him if he won't fight.

BREN

I promised.

LLEUCU

We should move him somewhere else.

BREN

Too dangerous. It doesn't bother you, the boy?

LLEUCU

It's not the boy, half the boys in the county are bastards.

(MORE)

LLEUCU (CONT'D)

Every summer the British soldiers come, every spring another crop of bastard babies. It's his mother.

BREN

Well, she's in jail and she hasn't had a man in years. If that makes you feel better.

LLEUCU

Poor girl. So you loved her then.

BREN

I did. Gwenllian. They erased the whole family. The kings and queens of Wales, as though they never existed.

LLEUCU

I hear horses. Send the boy out to the barn.

BREN

Why?

LLEUCU

Just do it!

Twm runs to the barn. Despenser enters.

BREN

So where's the other one, the Englishman?

DESPENSER

Called to London, wasn't getting the job done. One raid too many up here. We're putting troops in, they will be staying on your farms. Feeding them is your job.

BREN

Our crops our played out, we can't even feed ourselves.

DESPENSER

And we're behind in tax collection. You're that man Bren? Let me help you. King is sending out special reeves, in Wales and Scotland. I've told them to take you to London on a charge of treason. I think you've got a few weeks.

The soldiers leave and Bren rounds up the farmers.

BREN

Alright, we're arguing for a month about whether to go to war. Are we all settled now? I've got seven sons to give to the cause.

FARMER

All the king's best troops died at Bannockburn, let's see if his second-best boys can be beaten.

Despenser returns.

DESPENSER

Queen got soldiers all over Wales. Looking for a boy, about that high.

BREN

Again? Like the Bible. Pharaoh looking for all the little boys of an age so he can kill them.

DESPENSER

A boy with no family, an orphan.

BREN

Can't help you.

He looks nervously at the other farmers, to see if anyone cracks; Despenser notices, and addresses the farmers.

DESPENSER

There's a reward.

BREN

Still can't help you.

EXT. OUTSIDE A CASTLE - DAY

Siege at Caerphilly castle. Bren and the Welsh on the outside, English within.

BREN

Caerphilly. Best defended castle anywhere, it'll be ours in a week.

SOLDIER

You're not attacking?

BREN

No, we're starving them out.

SOLDIER

The rebellion is spreading all the way to Cardiff.

English army arrives, led by Hereford. They capture Bren after a bit of skirmishing.

HEREFORD

Bren. I've heard your name a lot in the last month.

BREN

I don't know whether the king still listens to you. If the king wants my blood he can have it. Spare my captains and spare my sons.

HEREFORD

I'll take your sons to the Tower. I'll try to save you, but the king is terrified of these rebel attacks. He wants you dead.

EXT. TOWN SQUARE - DAY

Bren, surrounded by Despenser soldiers with frightening implements of torture, and a horrified crowd which includes Longshanks' old cook, a cleaver in his belt.

BREN

Despenser! Where is Hereford?

DESPENSER

Recalled to London. I've just seen your wife.

BREN

My wife -

DESPENSER

She's here in Cardiff. In a cell. Just downstairs from your sons.

BREN

They were sent to the Tower -

DESPENSER

Yes, the king is dilly-dallying again. I'm putting an end to all this. At noon, hang this man -

FARMER

This isn't even legal -

DESPENSER

Then cut him down, draw his guts,  
and quarter him. If it was good  
enough for William Wallace --

FARMER

By whose order -

DESPENSER

Display his parts in the squares,  
Cardiff, Swansea. But send his head  
to the king.

He slams the cook's cleaver into a tree stump emphatically.

DESPENSER (CONT'D)

Or I can kill you quick. If you  
tell me where the boy is. Offers  
good to anyone -- give me the boy,  
and I go easy on your friend here.

Silence.

DESPENSER (CONT'D)

Right, then. A load of barbarians,  
all of you.

INT. PRIORY CELL - NIGHT

Isabella visits Gwenllian.

GWENLLIAN

Your Grace.

ISABELLA

I come from France, you know. We're  
civilized. Edward's father, the  
executions, they rip a man's guts  
out and pull his legs off. He was a  
barbarian.

GWENLLIAN

But he didn't kill me.

ISABELLA

He was clumsy. When I have men  
executed, or women, hangman or  
headsman? I don't want to be cruel.  
Even a clumsy hangman can kill you  
on the first try, but a clumsy  
headsman can take five, six swings  
of the axe.

(MORE)

ISABELLA (CONT'D)

I want to be a merciful queen. I want you to remember that. I'm not trying to be cruel.

GWENLLIAN

What happened?

ISABELLA

Our troops entered Wales again.

GWENLLIAN

And your side is winning. Congratulations.

ISABELLA

I went to your court. The Llys of the house of Aberffraw. We tore it down for the stones. Your kingdom is gone. I watched it myself.

GWENLLIAN

I know. My family has been erased from all the rolls. Once I die, we will all be forgotten. Is all this to hurt me?

ISABELLA

I'm telling you there's no point in fighting me further. So you can tell the truth. That man Bren? The man you didn't fall in love with, the man who didn't give you a son?

GWENLLIAN

What about him?

ISABELLA

He was captured. He was hanged, drawn and quartered.

GWENLLIAN

Quartered -

ISABELLA

Soldiers are displaying his...parts in town squares all over Wales.

GWENLLIAN

Oh God...

ISABELLA

I would have hanged him and have done. But they didn't kill the man's family.

GWENLLIAN

The family?

She's streaming tears.

ISABELLA

I didn't come to hurt you. Bren had a wife, and sons. They're in the Tower, I told the captains to keep them safe. I thought they might be people you care about. Now, I want to know where your son is hidden.

GWENLLIAN

I have no son! How could you possibly be so afraid of some orphan out in farm country?

ISABELLA

Because my husband is a fool. Your boy would hardly need to be Julius Caesar to defeat him.

GWENLLIAN

But I have no son!

ISABELLA

So be it.

GWENLLIAN

(angry)

I warned him to stay out of trouble. That stupid man. I warned him. Now I really am alone. Last I remember of him, he was so young. So many years back.

ABBESS

You're not going to take away her visits?

ISABELLA

Look at her. I killed her heart. Leave her be. We find her son later.

INT. BATTLE TENT, SCOTLAND - DAY

King, Queen Isabella and Despenser argue.

ISABELLA

What makes you think it will work this time?

EDWARD OF CARNARVON

My father took Scotland, it belongs to me, I just need to round up more men.

ISABELLA

Where? The people up here hate us. In the kitchens they say another Scots army is coming. If you find more men, send them here to the priory, I'm afraid.

EDWARD OF CARNARVON

Despenser, protect my wife -

DESPENSER

Bollocks, I want to go to the battlefield -

ISABELLA

And I want a man I can trust!

EDWARD OF CARNARVON

Fine, you don't want Despenser, you can do without. Hugh, assemble your men, we're taking the north road.

EXT. BATTLEFIELD - DAY

Outside the royal battle tent. Isabella, two of her LADIES, and very young SQUIRES survey the horizon.

SQUIRE

Kitchen wenches were right. Look up that ridge. The Scots.

ISABELLA

We have no men!

SQUIRE

We have a few squires.

LADY

They can't fight!

ISABELLA

No choice. Boys, I need you to slow down the Scots for me. Boy, take a few lads, see if you can steal a boat for us.

Isabella disappears. Tense silence. In short order Scots troops slaughter three squires and two of Isabella's ladies.

EXT. DECK OF A SMALL COASTAL VESSEL - DAY

Isabella watches with some soldiers as another ship shoots arrows at her vessel.

ISABELLA  
We've got the tide on our side.

SOLDIER  
If we live that long.

ISABELLA  
They're watching the coast for us -  
take me to Flanders instead.

SOLDIER  
Surely the king will -

ISABELLA  
I can't believe he did it to me  
again! I'm beginning to think the  
king wants me dead.

INT. ROYAL APARTMENT - NIGHT

King and queen having it out.

EDWARD OF CARNARVON  
Fine, it's a big castle, sleep in  
your own apartments if you wish.

ISABELLA  
Fine.

EDWARD OF CARNARVON  
But I have too many rebels on my  
hands, the Welsh are up in arms,  
the Scots. I can't have it in my  
own house.

ISABELLA  
All I want is my own apartments  
back.

EDWARD OF CARNARVON  
And you're going to swear an oath  
of loyalty to Despenser.

ISABELLA  
Loyalty - to him? Is he the king  
now?

EDWARD OF CARNARVON  
You will swear to it.

ISABELLA  
I will not.

Standoff.

EDWARD OF CARNARVON  
Right. I'm confiscating your land.  
I'm removing you from all  
patronage.

ISABELLA  
Don't care.

EDWARD OF CARNARVON  
I'm putting your ladies in the  
Tower.

ISABELLA  
What?

EDWARD OF CARNARVON  
And Despenser will look after your  
children.

ISABELLA  
My children?

EDWARD OF CARNARVON  
Despenser steals everything that  
isn't nailed down, Lancaster wants  
to rule in my place and he's got  
Hereford behind him. And now my own  
wife. It never stops.

INT. TOWER OF LONDON - NIGHT

Isabella is searching for her children when she comes upon an  
attractive nobleman, MORTIMER.

ISABELLA  
You're Mortimer, aren't you? The  
king's enemy.

MORTIMER  
I'd be quite the fool if I admitted  
that to his queen. What on earth  
are you doing here?

ISABELLA

It's madness. He has my children  
and my ladies here.

MORTIMER

Quite a lot has happened since they  
threw me in the bag.

ISABELLA

You took on Robert the Bruce.

MORTIMER

Yes.

ISABELLA

And beat the Irish?

MORTIMER

Yes.

ISABELLA

No friend of Despenser?

MORTIMER

He stole most of my land so, no.

ISABELLA

Sergeant, could we have a flagon of  
wine? Let's chat. I was just  
thinking of that girl, Gwenllian.  
Been years since she had a real man  
in her bed. Sometimes there's an  
itch needs scratching.

INT. TOWER OF LONDON - NIGHT

Mortimer digs a hole in his cell wall.

EXT. TOWER OF LONDON - NIGHT

Mortimer climbs to the roof, finds a rope ladder, and climbs  
down to the Thames. He then boards a boat.

SAILOR

If we make it to Greenwich, there's  
a boat to take you to France.

INT. FRENCH ROYAL COURT - DAY

Casually chatting with courtiers is CHARLES the Fair, Isabella's brother, king of France.

Mortimer arrives and Isabella clings to him.

ISABELLA

I was sure they were going to catch you in Greenwich.

They greet Isabella's son as he arrives, Edward of Carnarvon's son, whom we'll call the YOUNG KING because he'll be ascending the throne soon. Mortimer sticks to Isabella like glue.

ISABELLA (CONT'D)

There's my boy.

YOUNG KING

What on earth am I doing here, mother?

ISABELLA

If anyone asks, the French king demanded your father come to do homage for his holdings in Aquitaine. You're here to do it in his place.

YOUNG KING

And the real reason?

ISABELLA

All in good time. Goodness, half the English court is here.

YOUNG KING

A lot of nobles have had enough of the king. So will the French help us?

ISABELLA

The king of France is my brother, we're in with a chance.

CHARLES

I summoned your husband to Paris.

ISABELLA

I have no husband.

CHARLES

Is that why you're dressed as a widow?...He refuses to come - he sent a messenger demanding to know where his wife was.

ISABELLA

He sent me as negotiator.

CHARLES

Did he, really?

ISABELLA

He's afraid that if he leaves England he'll be overthrown.

CHARLES

Not as foolish as I thought. Well, I could never deny my sister anything. You can stay here, raise an army, belly with your lover.

ISABELLA

But in return -

CHARLES

I'm taking back the Aquitaine, all of it.

YOUNG KING

Mother, that belongs to us -

ISABELLA

If we don't get the army to take London, the Aquitaine is lost anyway.

CHARLES

Listen to your mother, boy.

EXT. BATTLEFIELD - DAY

Welsh soldiers, Bren's wife and Twm watch as Hereford approaches under a white flag.

SOLDIER

What's that? Who flies a white flag? Is he attacking?

SECOND SOLDIER

I think he's surrendering.

SOLDIER

Let's go ask him.

SECOND SOLDIER

Wait, I know you, you're Hereford.  
If this an attack, it's not a very  
good one.

HEREFORD

I heard what Despenser did to that  
man Bren.

SOLDIER

The whole country heard.

HEREFORD

I've had enough of it. And I'm not  
alone. Do you people know anything  
about soldiering? Do you even have  
scouts in the east valley?

SOLDIER

Yes, we saw your men. Just sitting  
there.

HEREFORD

If your troops and mine head east  
together, we can bring down  
everything.

SOLDIER

Despenser?

HEREFORD

The king, everything. Talk it over.  
Bren's woman, is she here?

Lleucu steps forward, sons at her side.

HEREFORD (CONT'D)

I know you don't really trust me,  
none of you. I want to take Bren's  
boys into my service.

LLEUCU

If nothing else, the boys will eat  
on campaign. And you'll bring them  
back to me? Alive?

HEREFORD

Can't promise.

LLEUCU

I know.

HEREFORD

I'm also looking for that boy who doesn't exist. Gwenllian's son.

LLEUCU

You leave him alone, he didn't ask to come into this world, any more than the rest of us.

SOLDIER

What if you found him?

HEREFORD

I'd tell him that his mother's better now. She had some sort of grippe or catarrh in the winter. I've been keeping watch.

TWM

Do you have room for one more in your regiment? I'm the orphan. I'll help anyone's going after the king.

Hereford and Twm share a long look.

HEREFORD

Is this a boy I want in the field with me?

SOLDIER

Yes.

LLEUCU

Bren was right. I should have sent you away.

EXT. BATTLEFIELD - DAY

One of Edward's soldiers comes to the Welsh camp and is shocked to find Hereford and other English nobles there.

HEREFORD

You tell the king we'll keep raiding his land until Despenser is gone.

SOLDIER

Hold on, the king is bringing reinforcements. Over that hill!

EXT. DECK OF A SMALL COASTAL VESSEL - DAY

Isabella, her son and Mortimer land in England. A crowd cheers.

ISABELLA

Look, a whole mob waiting for us!

MORTIMER

They hate Edward. We can take London in a week.

YOUNG KING

Killing that Welshman, Bren, it's made the whole country go mad.

ISABELLA

That bastard Despenser still has my daughters.

EXT. STREETS OF LONDON - DAY

Mobs take over London, Isabella and Mortimer overjoyed.

EXT. BATTLEFIELD - DAY

Wales. Welsh soldiers and Twm hide along a tree line.

TWM

Get down!

SOLDIER

Got English soldiers rounding up orphans again.

TWM

Looking for me. I'm putting you in danger.

SOLDIER

Take a boat to the island, I'll let you know when it's safe.

TWM

No, wait. It's just one. I think I know him --

Despenser approaches with a white flag.

SOLDIER

Here's another with the white flag.

TWM

King Edward's losing generals left  
and right.

SOLDIER

It's Despenser!

TWM

Get his knife. And the sword.

DESPENSER

Word has it, you took Hereford in,  
let him join your army.

TWM

That was Hereford. You killed Bren.  
You thought you could hop the fence  
and join us? See, this is a chess  
game with three players. Us, the  
king, and Mortimer, that man the  
queen's screwing. Mortimer will pay  
top price for you, so the queen can  
have you ripped to pieces. I'd  
watch if I could.

DESPENSER

It's you. You're that bastard boy.

TWM

No idea what you're talking about.

DESPENSER

What about the white flag?

TWM

Never heard of it. We're  
barbarians.

INT. PRIVY COUNCIL CHAMBER - DAY

Isabella looks down into a courtyard where dogs are ripping  
apart unidentifiable bits of flesh. Her husband is revolted,  
likewise her son.

ISABELLA

Hugh Despenser. Drawn, quartered,  
food for my dogs.

EDWARD OF CARNARVON

You didn't let him see you, so you  
could gloat?

ISABELLA

What, give him a big speech? I just wanted him dead.

EDWARD OF CARNARVON

Was it really necessary to castrate him?

ISABELLA

Pour courager les autres.

EDWARD OF CARNARVON

Les autres?

ISABELLA

All your little friends out there. You will abdicate, and I will be regent for my son. Parliament will approve it to keep the peace.

YOUNG KING

And they can change their minds at any time.

ISABELLA

Thus the castration. And the bribes.

YOUNG KING

Bribes?

ISABELLA

Got men I trust guarding the treasury and the taxmen are going back to the counties that dragged their feet in supporting us.

YOUNG KING

Mother, may I ask a question? Now that you're, what, keeping the throne warm for me?

ISABELLA

Regent.

YOUNG KING

You gave away my Scottish lands to your friends, and you gave the Agenais back to the French?

ISABELLA

We're too weak for a war in the north or in France.

YOUNG KING

And what do I get?

ISABELLA

Well, you're not a threat. Are you?

EXT. TOWN SQUARE - DAY

The young king's new fiance has arrived, PHILIPPA, 13 years old. A crowd cheers. Two washerwomen watch. Shortly, Isabella arrives to greet the girl.

WASHERWOMAN

I think we like the new princess.

SECOND WASHERWOMAN

Princess?

WASHERWOMAN

She's going to marry Isabella's son. Didn't bring a big entourage, just a bit of baggage. No fancy French airs here.

SECOND WASHERWOMAN

Nice change from the other one.

WASHERWOMAN

Such a tiny thing, how you get babies out of that one?

ISABELLA

Are you comfortable here with my boy?

PHILLIPA

We live differently in France, but I'm learning. The people in town are friendly. Edward was asking about my coronation -

ISABELLA

I know, he wants the best for you, he really does love you, you know.

PHILLIPA

So the ceremony -

ISABELLA

For the time, I think the people need to know there's only one queen.

PHILLIPA

And my dowry? I need to buy my food in town.

ISABELLA

I'm afraid I needed to bribe a few people with that. Being queen isn't one banquet after another, you cut corners, you make sacrifices... Mortimer! A word.

Philippa watches Isabella cross to her lover.

ISABELLA (CONT'D)

That Welsh boy, Gwenllian's son. We don't even know his name. How long does it take every soldier in England to find one boy?

MORTIMER

Well, I've got news. Your husband? He met with an accident.

ISABELLA

We killed the king.

MORTIMER

We killed the king.

ISABELLA

That silly girl is going to get her coronation ceremony after all. Find the Archbishop, quickly!

INT. PRIORY CELL - NIGHT

Gwenllian's dictation on the table. Gwenllian asleep, enter a sister.

SISTER

Sister, wake up. Please, hurry!

GWENLLIAN

I'm forty five. My notion of hurrying is not what yours is. I was up last night tending to that fat fool who went drinking and got his fingers mashed in the mill.

SISTER

There's a royal party coming up the road.

GWENLLIAN

Perhaps a duke or two has lost  
their way in the night.

Actually it's the young king.

YOUNG KING

Is the Princess here?

SISTER

The Princess?? It's not her nursing  
day, she's not allowed visitors. We  
are not acquainted with your grace.

YOUNG KING

No reason you should be. I am your  
new king.

The sister drops to her knees as though she's been shot.

SISTER

But you're just a...

YOUNG KING

Just a boy. You think perhaps I've  
heard that only about twenty times  
since I took the throne?

SISTER

My God, the king!

YOUNG KING

The king, but just barely. My  
mother's lover is really running  
things in London. But not for long.

GWENLLIAN

You're the son of Prince Edward?  
Grandson of the old king? I met  
both of them, twenty four years  
now. Come here, boy, we're related.

She hugs him.

YOUNG KING

You met my grandfather, then? I  
heard he was a nasty old devil.

GWENLLIAN

Don't blaspheme about your  
forefathers, boy.

YOUNG KING

I beg your pardon?

GWENLLIAN

I'm even older than your father. By rights I should be dead. I'm not afraid of you, so mind your tongue.

YOUNG KING

Yes, Sister.

GWENLLIAN

Your grandfather built that parliament. Inviting common people to speak their minds on the state of things. Your gaffer, of all people. The noblemen feared him, the common people feared him, and my God, did he fear all of them. And still he tried to trust them.

YOUNG KING

I wonder if he was lonely.

GWENLLIAN

I wonder if anyone ever really loved him, besides that clever wife of his, and his son...And remember, your grandfather kept me alive, when his advisers told him to kill me. Or do you think he made a mistake there?... But what of the son, the young prince, your father? How did he pass away?

YOUNG KING

It was no accident. Butchered by thugs. Well, he wasn't a very good king, God rest him. He did marry a girl, obviously, else I wouldn't be here. But he also had his favorites, some lads he liked, they did little but spend all the money. Mother hated him, and took a lover. They had him murdered. Her own husband.

During that speech, Gwenllian is progressively more horrified.

GWENLLIAN

He was so unlike the rest of them. He couldn't help himself. Perhaps that's why they killed him. He opened himself up to me, in a way that even Bren never did.

(MORE)

GWENLLIAN (CONT'D)

I knew terrible things would happen to Edward, an actor playing the wrong part. A lamb among the wolves.

She begins to really cry.

GWENLLIAN (CONT'D)

I wonder - if I had married him, could I have saved him?

(smile)

Then I would have been your mother. Well, tomorrow we say a mass for his soul. He deserves something better in heaven than he ever had here.

YOUNG KING

Your abbess sounded envious of you. The people on the farms here -- when the sick need help, the children learn their letters, they all say "Let's go to Sister Gwen". They know your name, in every corner of Lincolnshire.

GWENLLIAN

When I was a girl I dreamed of living in a house on a hill, caring for children, caring for people. All this time I looked at this  
(waves at the walls)  
as forty years disappearing off the face of the earth, wasting away in a cage. But I didn't disappear, I got exactly what I asked God for. My dream came true, even the house on the hill.

(ironic)

"Love". The people here give me more love than most people have in a lifetime, and I love every one of them, even that jackass who got drunk and crushed his hand. In this life the only thing that matters, I think, is taking care of people.

(looks at him)

Well, thank you for coming. You've made me see all this in a new way.

YOUNG KING

One of my father's spies insisted for years that you had a son out there. The true Prince of Wales.

GWENLLIAN

Now that sounds like your grandfather, a conspiracy behind every tree! No, my family is gone forever, dead or in jail. But look at the villages down the hill, I don't have one son who loves me, I have a thousand...A thousand.

YOUNG KING

Not sure my grandfather would have seen it that way.

GWENLLIAN

I even had one year when I was... alive. Head over heels in love with Bren. We fought like cats about the war. But really, we were madly in love for a year - how many women ever manage more than that? There's a small part of me that feels lucky.

The king crosses to the table and looks at the paper.

YOUNG KING

Lucky. Here I thought you were going to beg me to set you free. Tell you what I can do: I will endow you with a pension, for life. I'm a king, I already have a knack for spending money. You are my cousin, you know.

Now he's intrigued by the paper.

YOUNG KING (CONT'D)

The court in London insists that none of that nonsense in Wales ever took place. You never escaped, never fell in love with your man, never learned to speak Welsh, never had a son.

GWENLLIAN

Of course they say that.

YOUNG KING

(holds up the paper)  
But if that's so, why do you sign your name the Welsh way? Wentliane? Where did you learn to speak the Welsh?

GWENLLIAN

Ha! You caught that! Clever boy.  
Bren taught me. My man Bren.

YOUNG KING

So it was all true. You really are  
a rebel then.

GWENLLIAN

I did outsmart the old king. I  
never did take the vows of a nun.  
My training dragged on twenty years  
- afraid I'm a poor student! That's  
why I'm allowed to help the people  
of the town. The prioress calls me  
"a guest who cannot leave".

YOUNG KING

And your boy?

GWENLLIAN

What boy?

Poker face staredown.

YOUNG KING

I'll leave it alone, then. Fair  
trade for a life you never got to  
live.

GWENLLIAN

Goodbye. And thank you.

SISTER

The miller's children are here.

GWENLLIAN

Did their mother make it through  
the night?

The sister says nothing.

GWENLLIAN (CONT'D)

So the girls are orphans?

Three girls enter, ELIZABETH, SUSAN and ANNE, running from 13  
down to 8; they ignore the king, and embrace Gwenllian one by  
one, Anne last.

GWENLLIAN (CONT'D)

Sh. Yes. I heard...Tomorrow at the  
service we give your mother all our  
tears, but tonight, why don't you  
tell me something cheerful?

ANNE

(sits on Gwenllian's lap)  
Elizabeth has her eye on the son of  
the blacksmith. She hasn't a clue  
what to do.

ELIZABETH

Shut it, you cow!

GWENLLIAN

Come to me for advice about the  
boys? Me, of all people.

ELIZABETH

I always thought I'd ask my mother..

GWENLLIAN

I know. I think that no girl should  
bother with a boy unless he treats  
her like a princess. I never wanted  
to be a princess, but there was a  
lad who treated me like one...That's  
really all I have for you. Not much  
I know about men.

ELIZABETH

So how do they treat you when  
you're a princess?

GWENLLIAN

Well, that depends.

ELIZABETH

But you're a princess, aren't you?

GWENLLIAN

That was long ago.

The girls cry; the king offers Elizabeth a handkerchief.

GWENLLIAN (CONT'D)

This is a friend from down south.  
Edward. So, Anne, your Mum and Pa  
are gone? That was me forty years  
ago. Now there I can help you. No  
matter how bad it all gets, no  
matter how alone you are, just make  
your own family.

ANNE

You mean babies?

GWENLLIAN

Not just babies. As long as you can love someone, as long as you love people, you may be hurt, but you'll never be alone. Just think of it! And there's always someone who needs love. Always. They're all around you.

ANNE

I thought Mum would always be here. And Pa.

GWENLLIAN

(smiles)

Well, they're gone. But I will be here, long as you need me. I will always be here, I can promise you that. Rwy'n dy garu di.

INT. BEDCHAMBER - NIGHT

Nottingham castle. Isabella and Mortimer are about to be joined by a soldier named MONTAGUE and other soldiers.

MORTIMER

How did your son round up so many troops so quickly?

ISABELLA

Hold yourself together. We're safe here until help comes. What's that smell?

Montague enter through a hole in the wall, knives drawn.

MONTAGUE

Hold still, I'll take the dagger.

ISABELLA

What on earth are you doing in my bed chamber?

MONTAGUE

Name's Montague. Your son sent me to depose you and execute him, so let's keep this moving, shall we?

ISABELLA

You got past my regiments?

MONTAGUE

I've been in half the sieges in  
half the castles in England.  
There's always a secret passage in  
and out, and it's always right  
through the place where you shit.

MORTIMER

Get your grimy hands off me!

MONTAGUE

Your son is a good sport. No one  
will know you've been sleeping with  
this pillock here, you'll be kept  
in a nice castle. You behave  
yourself, he might even allow you  
to travel.

MORTIMER

And what about me? Do I get the  
William Wallace? Disemboweled,  
ripped apart by horses?

MONTAGUE

The king -

MORTIMER

The king?

MONTAGUE

The new king has decided to be  
lenient. You get a nice quick  
hanging. You can even have a  
priest. Say your goodbyes now. You!  
Girl! Draw me a bath!

MORTIMER

Bleeding Jesus.

INT. PRIORY CELL - DAY

Isabella and Philippa visit Gwenllian.

ISABELLA

Well, I'm not queen anymore. The  
girl finally got her coronation.

PHILLIPA

Yes, six months pregnant.  
Humiliating.

ISABELLA

As long as you go to bed with a crown. They call me the She Wolf of France. At least my son lets me travel. At least I can see my son.

GWENLLIAN

How many times have I told you? I have no son.

ISABELLA

Oh great blazes!

She storms off to a window. Gwenllian takes firm hold of Philippa's hands.

GWENLLIAN

Can I trust you?

PHILLIPA

To keep a secret?

GWENLLIAN

To be merciful.

PHILLIPA

Teaching my husband to be merciful is half my job.

GWENLLIAN

Never tell the She Wolf. My son is in Wales. Wonder what he looks like, last I saw he was a baby.

PHILLIPA

My God. You want to see him?

GWENLLIAN

God yes. Too dangerous. Just make sure he's safe. Safe from her. I have a sickness on my lungs. I'm heading off to find my Bren. Thirty years since I saw him last.

EXT. BATTLEFIELD - DAY

Philippa and her soldiers stare down a line of Scottish soldiers. Lots of chaos.

PHILLIPA

Rally on me, form a line!

SOLDIER

You're not even the queen!

PHILLIPA

I'm regent until Edward comes home.  
Line up!

SOLDIER

The Scots. What are they doing down here!

PHILLIPA

What they always do. You got a message through the cavalry?

SOLDIER

Sending them around for a wing attack from the left, that's been the winning move in every battle in history. And here they come.

English horse stampede Scottish soldiers from the field. The English manage to corner the king of Scotland.

KING OF SCOTLAND

Dammit, I'm the King of Scotland!  
Who's the girl?

ISABELLA

I'm your queen, and you are my prisoner.

EXT. TOWN SQUARE - DAY

The young king and his mother, and French burghers discuss the surrender of Calais. The queen arrives, hugs him, touches his chest.

PHILLIPA

Promise me. No holes.

YOUNG KING

Sixteen battles, not a single hole.

ISABELLA

(to the French)

By law, the entire city of Calais is forfeit, we should execute you all, so we needn't come back and take the town again.

YOUNG KING

Mother! You were born here, yes?

PHILLIPA

Husband, they're not generals,  
they're grain dealers and wine  
sellers. Send them back to their  
shops, sell them your wool, tax the  
pants off of them.

YOUNG KING

Bring in the boy.

Twm and a soldier enter.

YOUNG KING (CONT'D)

The night Gwenllian was arrested, a  
man told her he loved her. Your  
father. Then an orphan suddenly  
appears on his farm.

TWM

Yes, it's me. Gwenllian's son.

ISABELLA

Dammit, I was right!

YOUNG KING

Mother -

ISABELLA

I was right!

YOUNG KING

And if you had found the boy, you  
would have done, what? Kill him?

ISABELLA

He can raise an army against you!

YOUNG KING

What you think, mouse?

PHILLIPA

You already know what I think.

YOUNG KING

He fought for me in Calais, he  
helped me win. So you're a soldier?

TWM

No. Mostly I brew beer.

YOUNG KING

Any sons?

TWM

They brew beer.

YOUNG KING

They're not fighters?

TWM

My daughters, they fight like cats.  
You know, girls. The boys mostly  
want to make beer, and make babies.  
And sing. They all love to sing.

YOUNG KING

If this boy wants to trade jobs  
with me...I'm tempted.

ISABELLA

Edward!

TWM

We make the beer with grain and  
honey, so I get a lot of bee  
stings. Still interested?

YOUNG KING

If you only trusted me, I would  
have taken you to find your mother.  
I was there when she passed. Send  
my a barrel of beer for the wife's  
birthday.

TWM

I'll bring it myself. My ale is so  
good, when you send it out in  
wagons it tends to go missing.  
...Spent the last ten years hiding  
behind hay bales whenever a soldier  
goes by. Don't fancy running and  
hiding.

YOUNG KING

Don't take this the wrong way, but  
I'm not afraid of the beer brewer  
with the little girls. I'm the best  
general on any field anywhere, I  
captured the king of France and the  
king of Scotland -

PHILLIPA

I captured the king of Scotland.

YOUNG KING

And now you're going to have a dozen children, mouse, so no one will ever wonder who is the king. And then a hundred grandchildren.

TWM

Won't all those grandchildren be fighting wars to take the throne?

YOUNG KING

No, those days are over.

INT. PEASANT HUT - NIGHT

Twm and his family.

TWM

New king knows who I am.

TWM'S WIFE

Who sold you out?

TWM

Told him myself. I owe him a keg of beer, wife's birthday.

TWM'S WIFE

So it's all over then?

She hugs him.

TWM'S WIFE (CONT'D)

I missed you something awful. You know there's a nasty chill out.

TWM

It's July.

TWM'S WIFE

You better come up the loft, keep me warm, I'll catch my death.

TWM

How many sons do you need?

TWM'S WIFE

Next one's a daughter. I decided.

TWM

Man's work is never done.

CHILD

Mummy's at it again. Let's go play  
in the barn.

INT. MODERN PUB - NIGHT

Welshmen putting pints away.

FIRST WELSHMAN

All the young king's grandkids did  
fight a war for the throne, tore  
England apart for thirty years.

SECOND WELSHMAN

Wars of the Roses.

FIRST WELSHMAN

And they still got the wrong king.

SECOND WELSHMAN

Somewhere in Wales, the rightful  
king of England is on a farm,  
bringing in a crop, brewing the  
perfect pint, getting stung by a  
bee.

FIRST WELSHMAN

Look on the barstool to your left,  
and then your right.

SECOND WELSHMAN

I think it's you then.

THE END.