

NARRATOR:

1.PROLOGUE – NEEDLE AND THREAD

Sound: falcon cry

ON A RIDGE 10 MILES NORTHWEST OF HASTINGS, ENGLAND, OCTOBER 14, 1066.

Norman and Saxon forces have fought bloodily all day, Saxons defending the ridge, Normans attacking with archers, foot soldiers and cavalry. Horse and human body parts cover the field and the ground is sodden with blood and gore.

Despite their exhaustion from a forced march from northern England, the Saxons' shield wall holds for many hours. At the last, a stray arrow pierces the eye of King Harold and he dies in agony. At his death, all Saxon resistance collapses. The Saxons are crushed and those still standing flee or are killed on the spot.

Two dismounted Norman knights, GASCON and ROLLO, hear the cheer of victory from their comrades up the hill. Puffing and blowing with the aftermath of battle, they lean on their swords, remove their helmets and shake out their sweat-soaked hair.

GASCON

England is ours, *mon frere*. And Duke William is now a King, a King!

ROLLO

This dirt here, this, this is why we fight! A fine house, a woman, pigs, cattle...a man's dream comes real, by the Holy Virgin.

Sounds of birds of prey circling, armor clinking, horses snorting. Distant battle sounds.

GASCON

Fine tales will be told of this day's battle, Rollo. Bravery, valor, derring do...an epic tale.

ROLLO

I wonder who will tell the tales of this day? Will they remember us?

GASCON

Who can know, *mon frere*? But let us to the spoils and the feast this night!

Sound: Battle sounds dim.