

EPISODE ONE – BASTE STITCH

2. EXTERIOR - DRAYTON VILLAGE THREE YEARS AFTER THE NORMAN INVASION - DAY

CYNEWYN, Mercian Princess and cousin to NORTHERN LORDS EDWIN and MORCAR, strides out of the cowshed. She is 23 years old, with gleaming copper hair and she moves with grace and authority. Her five months of pregnancy begins to show, but hasn't slowed her down.

She watches as a rider approaches the village gate. After being waved through, he trots up to her, slides off and bends the knee.

MESSENGER RANULF

Drottning, I bring a message from...

CYNEWYN

Hush, come with me.

CYNEWYN

Did anyone follow you? Who has seen this?

MESSENGER RANULF

I was not followed. And no one - only your cousins Edwin and Morcar have seen it.

CYNEWYN

He requires twenty more knights and men-at-arms for the battle. Take them with you before sunup tomorrow, Ranulf. And may God give us His protection in the battle ahead.

Sound: [transition music](#)

3. INTERIOR HALL – DRAYTON VILLAGE - DAY

Two weeks later, Cynewyn sits in her hall by the fire with her kinswomen. She stitches a piece of linen, the wool twisting between her nimble fingers, each stitch adding glowing color to the pale fabric.

VILLAGE WOMAN#1

My Lady, is there any news of your father or of the men?
Any news at all?

CYNEWYN

None. I continue to pray for God's protection of them. I have hope.

BERTANA

Cousin, ravens have been circling the village for two days. It is an ill omen. And the cows' milk is running dry. By the saints and old gods, I am afraid.

Sound: cawing of ravens

CYNEWYN

Hush, now, Bertana, Ravens and cows - bah. The portents must be wrong. We are safe here in Drayton.

N: A cavalcade of Norman horsemen approaches the village.

4. EXTERIOR – DRAYTON VILLAGE - DAY

THURSTAN DE BASSET rides slowly through Drayton, observing everything he sees. He is Grand Falconer to King William, in charge of finding and training the premier hunting birds in the world. Pigs and children run for cover while the Headman dashes toward the manor house. A falcon alights on Thurstan's wrist and looks greedily around.

Sound: pigs squealing, children crying out

HEADMAN EADBALD

Sound: panting heavily
Lady, Normans, Normans ride to the gate!

Sound: Gasps, benches being pushed back.

CYNEWYN

Ladies, please be calm. You know what to do.

Sound: horses and swift footsteps.

Pounding on the door.

Door slowly opened, then a thump.

Sound: a woman yelping.

THURSTAN

(in French)

Madam, in the name of his Majesty William, your manor is forfeit.

CYNEWYN

(in English)
Who are you? What are you...

THURSTAN
(in French)
I am Thurstan de Basset, the new master of this village and
of this estate.

Sound: translation from French to English. Gasps from Cynewyn.

CYNEWYN
(English)
By whose authority? We serve King William here!

THURSTAN
Your kinsmen Edwin and Morcar have betrayed William
the rightful King. Edwin is dead at the hands of his own
men, and Morcar is fled to the Picts.

CYNEWYN
No! No! It can't be true.

HEADMAN EADBALD
You fookin' rat turd, leave her be!

A beat.

HEADMAN EADBALD
Here my Lady, let me help you up.

THURSTAN
We are merciful to you because of the loyalty of Edwin's
men, but their lands and that of your father and all their
goods are forfeit, to me.

CYNEWYN
(gasping)
And the men...of Drayton? My father's men? Are they...?

THURSTAN
Dead or fled. Here is the deed from William granting me
this land.

CYNEWYN
My father! Oh no, oh no.

Sound: unrolling paper.

THURSTAN

You have until tonight to remove clothing and special tokens only. Jewelry, carpets, weapons, horses, birds, animals - all must stay here. Do you understand, Lady?

CYNEWYN

Yes.

THURSTAN

You, Headman, I must get my birds settled as soon as possible. Show me to the mews.

HEADMAN EADBALD

As you will, Sir. Lady, stay here. My Lord, follow me.

Sound: the women cry out, are dragged outside roughly. The clank of armor can be heard.

Sound: Footsteps around the side of the house. Sounds of alarm from servants and dovecote attendants.

Sound: birds shuffle and murmur

5. EXTERIOR – DRAYTON MANOR - DAY

HEADMAN EADBALD

Here, my Lord. Most of the birds are with my master, er, the Lord Drayton.

THURSTAN

Well, it is smaller than I am used to, but it will do. Bring the birds from the wagon. Now! And tell your mistress again that she must be out by nightfall!

6. EXTERIOR/INTERIOR – DRAYTON VILLAGE - NIGHT

N: That evening.

Sound: grunt and groan as Cynewyn and Bertana wheel a barrow to the village. Clop of horse's hooves, village women murmur then cry out in distress.

VILLAGE WOMAN#2

Lady, a cottage has been prepared for you. Here...

Sound: Dragging, knocking, door easing open.

CYNEWYN

Ooh. I scarce know what to do.

BERTANA

Cousin, you do not look well. Here, rest yourself.

CYNEWYN

Yes. Let me gather myself.

A beat.

Tell everyone that we will meet in the village hall in one hour.

7. INTERIOR – DRAYTON HALL - NIGHT

N: It nears midnight and Cynewyn's thegns and crofters gather around a hearth fire.

CYNEWYN

What news have you, Eadbald?

HEADMAN EADBALD

Drottning, Edwin was betrayed by his own men! They murdered him five days ago during the battle with William's forces. They now fight for the King, may he be cursed forever.

Sound: man spitting and moans of incredulity.

CYNEWYN

This is terrible news...but what of Morcar?

HEADMAN EADBALD

He has men and horses with Hereward at the Island of Ely. And the word is he lost only two knights.

Sound: assent and murmurs.

CYNEWYN

Oh, that is good news. Hereward hiding in the fens is clever, but I fear William's attack will be ferocious, as it was in York and Durham. The King grows weary of rebellion.

VILLAGE MAN#1

Aye, lady, but we are not weary of it!

Sound: ayes, sounds of assent.

CYNEWYN

Then you, all of you, must go to Morcar. He has need of you, more than me.

Sound: A low growl from the men

Sound: men kneeling

HEADMAN EADBALD

We can't leave you alone at this grievous time, Lady.

CYNEWYN

My friends, I beg you, support my cousin. He is all I have left.

Sound: growls of reluctant consent.

CYNEWYN

Now leave me. I have much and many to grieve.

END EPISODE ONE