

TRANSCRIPT FOR EPISODE 4 – TRAPUNTO

35. INTERIOR – CASTLE SIDE HALL - DAY

QUEEN EDITH

Defeat, conquest, it is never as simple as that. The Normans are here now, but they won't decide the story. Or the telling of it. We will.

Sound: thematic music

36. EXTERIOR – CASTLE COURTYARD - DAY

N: The next morning, the Queen and her coterie gather in the courtyard at Winchester Castle. The ladies are about to mount their horses for the ride to Canterbury Abbey, when a cavalcade of knights, wearing Odo's livery and flying his flags, clatter into the courtyard.

Sound: clattering of horse hooves, calls of men, jingling of harnesses.

CYNEWYN

Lady, whose beautiful charger is that? And is that my Lord Thurstan?

QUEEN EDITH

Ah yes. I wondered if we might see them before we left.

Sound: horses.

ODO

Who is that arresting woman?

THURSTAN

That is my chateleine, Cynewyn. Of Drayton.

ODO

The Mercian. I've heard of her. Introduce me.

Sound: horses moving, shuffling and snorting.

ODO

So, Lady Edith, well met. Lord Thurstan and I have just returned from a hunt with his new falcon. Isn't she a beauty?

QUEEN EDITH

Yes, Earl Odo. Well met indeed. This is Lady Cynewyn, of whom you have heard so much.

ODO

Canterbury is the richer for your service, Lady Cynewyn.

N: Odo fondles Cynewyn's hand, grips it hard.

CYNEWYN

Ahhh....

QUEEN EDITH

Now, Earl Odo, gentle. That hand is precious to me. And to William.

ODO

Lady, we were discussing the birds that Thurstan will purchase for William and myself in the land of the Khazars. A truly magnificent bird is worth its weight in silver, yes?

QUEEN EDITH

Indeed. Lord Thurstan, we look for some splendid new fledglings from you, as well. We would add to your funds.

QUEEN EDITH

If you please, Eaditha. Bring me that casket.

Sound: shuffling, clink of coins.

THURSTAN

Lady, this is more than plenty.

QUEEN EDITH

Money for your journey, then. We must depart, so I wish you happy hunting, Lord. And may the Father Above keep you safe from the barbarians.

37. EXTERIOR – CASTLE COURTYARD - DAY

N. Thurstan takes Cynewyn's arm and escorts her to a quiet corner of the courtyard.

Sound: footsteps, horse noise in the background

THURSTAN

Drayton is the poorer for your absence, Lady.

CYNEWYN

What happened? Why are you here?

THURSTAN

I had to answer Earl Odo's call. He and William want some new birds so...

CYNEWYN

But my people? Who is in charge?

THURSTAN

My brother Foulque will arrive in a fortnight. I trust him, Lady. He is firm but fair - your people are safe.

A beat.

CYNEWYN

So we are both exiles, then.

THURSTAN

Lady, Cynewyn, my heart is heavy with regret over your losses. All of them.

CYNEWYN

You would apologize? Now? It is **your wife** who sent me to this, this punishment, in Canterbury. I could be home caring for my people!

THURSTAN

Please, Cynewyn. This was not my plan, not at all.

CYNEWYN

Then your plans need amending! Everything you touch turns to disaster!

THURSTAN

Lady, I...I, would say some things to you.

CYNEWYN

What?

THURSTAN

Be very careful of Odo, his treachery is well known. William is fair, but don't cross him. Edith can protect you, and, if you meet Tuold, you can trust him with your life.

CYNEWYN

That's all you can say? Warnings? Advice? You would leave me here while you are free to be with your birds? To explore the world in comfort and safety?

THURSTAN

Cynewyn, Drottning, I...

CYNEWYN

How dare you call me that! I am not your queen and never will be! Adieu!

Sound: horses, jingling harnesses

ODO

(muttering)

Beautiful and high-spirited. Hmmm.

Sound: transition music

N: Cynewyn journeys to Canterbury and soon takes charge of the large workroom at the Abbey. She becomes engrossed in planning the *tenture*.

38. EXTERIOR/INTERIOR – CANTERBURY ABBEY - DAY

N. A month has passed and Queen Edith visits the Abbey, walking serenely amongst the dyers vats in the courtyard, then up the stairs to the bustle of the weavers and spinners.

Sound: busy life at the Abbey. Hello Lady, hello Lady, can be heard O.C.

N: Edith looks for Cynewyn and finally finds her in the last place she expects.

QUEEN EDITH

Ah, there you are, Lady Cynewyn, busy as ever.

A beat

QUEEN EDITH

Take care lest you soil your robe!

CYNEWYN

The cloister floor is the only space long enough. Oooof!

Sound: crawling, slipping fabric

CYNEWYN

Three hundred hand spans around the inside of the Hall, you said. The finished length.

QUEEN EDITH

Ah, I see. Yes. This is a test for the *tenture*. And, does it fit?

CYNEWYN

Father Nico paced it out. It is perfect. But my designs are not, I'm afraid.

39. N: Back in the workroom, Cynewyn holds a sample piece of linen to practice with lines and colors. She wads it up and throws it away. Father Nico and the Lady Abbess hover nearby.

Sound: busy workroom sounds

CYNEWYN

(gusty sigh)

Father, do you have something for me that might help? I am that frustrated.

Sound: scroll unrolling, paper shuffling

FATHER NICO

My Lady, the rubbings we were speaking of the other day? Here they are. Perhaps these can be of some use to you.

CYNEWYN

But these are fantastic! Soldiers, horses, sailboats that move! Where did you get them?

FATHER NICO

Our pilgrimage to Rome exposed us to stonework of an unusual kind. Trajan's Tower it is called. And although the subject matter is not consistent with the teachings of the Church, the artistry is skillful.

CYNEWYN

(gusty sigh)

But this is rendered in stone. The depth, the smoothness of it - to have the same effect in linen and floss - I don't know.

FATHER NICO

The Queen demands the very best from all of us, Lady. We will not fail.

Sound: transition music, then sweeping theme music as Thurstan heads to the big wild.

40. EXTERIOR/INTERIOR – RUSSIAN TOWN - DAY

N: Meanwhile, Thurstan sails from England to Sweden, then on to Russia.

Sound: gulls crying, waves lapping, oars dipping into water. A boat is dragged up onto a beach.

Sound: crowded markets, background noises in other languages.

THURSTAN

The Rus. Finally.

Sound: crowded markets, more background noises.

THURSTAN

Show me the way to the stall of Bratoslav, the falconer.

MARKET MAN

Aye, Sir, he is there in that pavilion.

Sound: footsteps, market noises, calling back and forth in other languages.

TURKISH GUARD

Halt!

THURSTAN

Well, you're a big fellow!

TURKISH GUARD

Show me your token from the Vizier. Or no entry.

THURSTAN

I come on the business of Guillaume, King of England.
And this is my token.

Sound: clink of coins

TURKISH GUARD

Right away, Sir. Please follow me.

41. INTERIOR – PAVILION/MEWS - DAY

N: The Turkish Guard leads Thurstan into a gaudily decorated room which doubles as a mews to the hunting birds.

THURSTAN

Bratoslav, greetings from Guillaume, King of England. I
have come far to meet you for the pleasure of my Lord.

BRATOSLAV RUSSIAN MERCHANT

I am honored by your custom, Sir. What is his desire?
Falcon, eagle, gyrfalcon?

THURSTAN

Where is your best bird, the one worth its weight in rubies.
I would have it for my King.

BRATOSLAV RUSSIAN MERCHANT

There is one just captured, my Lord.
(in Russian)
Bring the gyrfalcon and hold back the hunting eagle.
Quickly!

Sound: birds rustling, crying.

THURSTAN

This is a fine bird, fine indeed. But have you no better? As
you say, fit for a King?

N: The attendant slowly brings out a hunting eagle, truly a regal bird. Large, swift and deadly.

BRATOSLAV RUSSIAN MERCHANT

Will this do, Sir? But be warned. It can be handled only
by a member of the Kazakh tribe of the wild mountains.

THURSTAN

Leave him with me. We shall soon see who will be master
and who will be bird.

Sound: transition music, Middle Eastern theme

42. EXTERIOR/INTERIOR – IMPERIAL PALACE - CONSTANTINOPLE - DAY

N: Thurstan arrives in Constantinople after passing through the lands of the Khazars and wild Turkic tribes.

At the gates of the Imperial Palace he is met by the Varangian Guard, tall, Nordic warriors who are fierce and fair of face.

Sound: calling of challenge from guards, stamping hooves, crash of weapons. Background city noise.

IMPERIAL GUARD

This way, Sir. Please follow me.

43. INTERIOR – IMPERIAL PALACE - DAY

N: Thurstan is ushered into a magnificent receiving room where the riches of Byzantium are on display. When called to the throne, Thurstan bows deeply, a hooded falcon on his wrist.

Sound of shuffling footsteps, men snapping to attention.

THURSTAN

Your Imperial Majesty, I bear greetings from the court of Guillaume, King of England and Duke of Normandy. He begs that you will receive these humble gifts with his highest regards.

N: Serving men bring caskets of amber and silver and gold jewelry.

EMPEROR MICHAEL

Your reputation precedes you, Sir Thurstan de Basset. The testament is on your wrist for all to see.

THURSTAN

My thanks, Majesty.

EMPEROR MICHAEL

But come, let us not be formal. Join me at dinner tonight, and we can speak more deeply of your King's conquests. And his desire to be a friend to Byzantium.

44. INTERIOR – IMPERIAL PALACE - NIGHT

N: That evening Thurstan sups with the Emperor at a splendid table surrounded by courtiers, slaves and the Varangian Guards.

Sound: exotic Eastern music, clink and clank of dishes and silver, coughing guests.

N: He notices several members of the Guard, whom he recognizes as expatriate Anglo-Saxons.

Sound: transition music

45. EXTERIOR – ENGLISH FENS - DAY

N: One year earlier, William's forces battled with the rebels of Hereward the Wake across the fens.

Sound: battle sounds, blows, horse noises, clashing swords

THURSTAN

Siward! You can't hide forever! Coward!

Sound: trumpet sounding the retreat, running men, clanking armor.

46. INTERIOR/EXTERIOR – IMPERIAL PALACE - NIGHT

Back in the present moment, with a nod of his head, he signals the Varangian Guard leader.

N: Later that night, Thurstan slips out of a side door and steps into the courtyard, where off-duty Guards sit around a fire.

Sound: footsteps on stone

Sound: men laughing, eating and drinking. Crackling fire.

THURSTAN

Siward, it is I. Thurstan.

SIWARD

Join us, **Sir** Thurstan. Drink.

A beat

Sound: clink of cups, drinking sounds.

SIWARD

So. You have come far to see the Emperor. Halfway round the world.

A beat.

SIWARD

Why are you not wenching and reaping fat harvests at your estates in the belly of England?

THURSTAN

I am no lord, as well you know, Siward.

Sound: gulping of a drink

THURSTAN

Just a knight who is lucky with birds. And with choosing a winner.

SIWARD

Yes, we were not so lucky, that is true.

Sound: more eating and drinking, crackling fire

THURSTAN

And your leader, Hereward, what of him? I've no news from home.

SIWARD

He, like you, is lucky. He escaped and most of us with him. After that battle, your king issued a general pardon with the condition that we immediately leave England. Hereward refused, but myself and my men, well, here we are.

A beat.

THURSTAN

And life here - how is it?

SIWARD

(sighing contentedly)

The Emperor is a good master. And the fighting is very good.

KENRICK

He is generous with booty and women. I have two wives and a small villa outside the city. A son and daughter and another one on the way.

THURSTAN

And what of land? What has he promised you?

WADE

His Vizier, Caesarus, knows we crave land of our own. He has promised us...

SIWARD

He has promised us fat land on the other side of the inner sea.

THURSTAN

Hmmph. So what must you do to get this "fat land?"

WADE

There's this small matter of troublesome Turkic warlords who have been harrying the Emperor's lands. If we solve his problem for him then...

THURSTAN

Ah...I just came from there. Fat land indeed...and all your own.

A beat

THURSTAN

And your master and Court politics at a far remove - it sounds ideal.

Sound: a little quieter now, crackling fire

KENRICK

And you, Lord, what made you take this perilous journey?

a beat.

SIWARD

Let me guess - Court politics, an overbearing monarch and...a woman?

Sound: men laughing

THURSTAN

Two out of three. And which of those is true remains with me.

Sound: guffaws

A beat

SIWARD

You know, Thurstan, you could stay with us. Join the Guard and go adventuring in the East Lands. Land, birds, treasure...as you say, far from the troubles of kings and courtiers. And who knows, a pair of warm arms may be waiting for you.

END EPISODE FOUR

Sound: fade out, transition music and thematic music upswell