

EPISODE SEVEN – GROS POINTE

66. EXTERIOR – FOREST NEAR ROUEN - DAY

Sound: thematic music, transition motif

THURSTAN

But *mon frere* there is more. Isabelle talked to me of annulment. Odo has said that he would grant it, but then my son would be a, a...my apologies, Will.

WILLIAM

*Batard*, you mean. A bastard. Like me. Yes, I can see your point.

(a beat)

You wish to marry again? Not just take a concubine?

THURSTAN

Oui.

WILLIAM

Ah. Women are not birds to be trained, more's the pity. Life would be simpler if they were.

Sound: upswell thematic music, transition music Thurstan's motif

67. EXTERIOR – ABBEY COURTYARD - DAY

N: Back at the Abbey, Thurstan pulls out a scroll tube, unscrews the top and passes the parchment to Cynewyn.

THURSTAN

I made this at a small Greek temple in Cyprus. It reminded me of you, somehow.

CYNEWYN

My Lord, Sir Tuold and I were discussing Greek friezes when he was here last. How curious that we both were thinking the same thing!

THURSTAN

And this is for you also.

CYNEWYN

Another, Lord? I don't know if...

THURSTAN  
Open it. You will understand.

N: Cynewyn removes the cloth from around an exquisite icon of Madonna and Child, traced in gold, embedded with garnets and other precious stones and enameled with wires of copper.

CYNEWYN  
(gasps, her voice thick with tears)  
Lord, I don't know what to say. Thank you.

THURSTAN  
(diffidently)  
I made some rubbings for Tuold, too. Perhaps you can see he gets them.

Sound: horse clip clops

67. EXTERIOR – ABBEY COURTYARD - DAY

BARDOLFE  
Well met, Thurstan! Well met indeed!

THURSTAN  
You appear to be thriving, my friend! Your belly is fat, your tunic is rich and your sword is shiny and new! All you need now is a wife...or have you one?

BARDOLFE  
No, not yet...so, it's fat, is it? And you, you have no fat on you at all! Couldn't you catch yourself a wife instead of all these birds?  
(a beat)  
Oh, my apologies, *mon frere*. I had forgotten about Isabelle.

THURSTAN  
No worries, Bard. My new wife, she is flying around right now to find me a fat rabbit, maybe two. Birds over women, my friend.

BARDOLFE  
(guffaws)  
Ha, ha. But tell me, did you see our King Will on your way through the Duchy?

THURSTAN

In Rouen. I had forgotten how rich the hunting is there. So, of course, after my visit, I was lighter by my second best bird which I bought for him in the land of the Kazakhs. It is a very rare hunting eagle. He was best pleased.

BARDOLFE

(grunts)

Don't ever lose the King's favor and maybe I'll see this bird, yet.

THURSTAN

Hmmm, so... Hereward the Wake slipped away again?

BARDOLFE

Oui.

THURSTAN

But the Rebellion is done, yes? Guillame was best pleased at the tribute paid by Morcar, at him finally bending the knee.

BARDOLFE

Is that what he told you? Huh.  
(a beat)

BARDOLFE

It's been a treacherous path these past months, Thurstan. But the *tenture* is almost completed, please God. And then our *Drottning* can go home.  
(a beat)

But first, the feast in your honor!

Sound: thematic upswell, transition music

68. EXTERIOR – ABBEY MEADOW - DAY

Sound: crowd noises, singing, bird song

AELFGYVA

Thanks, friends, for these token of joy! God's goodness to me is in the gift of this man. Our wedding cannot come soon enough!

CAPTAIN VITAL

It is I who has been gifted with this remarkable woman,  
who will soon be my wife.

Sound: cheers and happy conversation.

N: Just then, Odo's cavalcade rides slowly by in the distance, flags waving, armor gleaming in the sun.

Sound: clopping horse hooves, jingling armor and weapons

CAPTAIN VITAL

Don't be alarmed, darling, but the Bishop rides by. Turn away, now.

AELFGYVA

(sobbing a little)  
Vital, when will we be free of him?

CAPTAIN VITAL

He won't dare look at you when we are wed, mon couer.  
Be stalwart.

Sound: transition music

69. EXTERIOR – ABBEY MEADOW - DAY

N: On the other side of the field, Father Nico walks up to Thurstan at his stand with hunting birds.

Sound: birds

FATHER NICO

Well met, Lord Thurstan. You are looking well.

THURSTAN

How may I assist you, Father?

FATHER NICO

The generosity of your gift, Sir, has made me eager to learn about the birds you love so well. Books I know about – birds, not at all.

THURSTAN

Father, if you can put down your quill for a little while, I will give you a lesson in training your new bird. Will tomorrow morning suit?

FATHER NICO

Oh yes, that will suit. And I gather that inkstains on my fingers will not affect...?

THURSTAN

Your bird won't mind! Come along and I will see you then!

Sound: retreating footsteps, Cynewyn's theme.

70. EXTERIOR – ABBEY MEADOW - DAY

THURSTAN

Lady, well met. Have you an interest in falconry?

CYNEWYN

I've always dreamed of commanding a bird. I used to ride out with my father and my cousins, but I was never allowed one.

THURSTAN

Let me show you how it's done.

Sound: rustling of bird, beating wings.

THURSTAN

This is Le Roi, the best bird I ever owned. Watch him now.

Sound. Whistle and beating wings.

THURSTAN

There, watch, he has spotted something.

Sound: another whistle

CYNEWYN

(gasping)

Ooh! He is faster than thought! He is magnificent!

THURSTAN

He is the noblest bird I know.

Sound: crunching footsteps

CYNEWYN

You are free, Lord, really free here. I see it on your face.

THURSTAN

I had much time to think on these things on my journey, Lady. The truth is, my wife left me because I loved birds more than her. So, I have my freedom, which is sweet, but it is bitter, too.

CYNEWYN

You saw the Lady Isabelle, in Normandy? She is well?

THURSTAN

She is well and also free, of me. But the price of her freedom is that she will never see her son again. And my price? I have my birds, but I am without a wife.

Sound: preening bird, jingle of bells on his hood, walking footsteps.

CYNEWYN

Those things I said to you, Lord, when we parted, I am sorry for them. I am sorry for you.

THURSTAN

I don't need your pity, Cynewyn, *Drottning*. I need your...

Sound: sound of cantering horse

BARDOLFE

Lady! Thurstan, er Lord! Did you see La Roi make that dive? *Fantastique!*

CYNEWYN

Bard! You are here!

BARDOLFE

Oui, *Drottning*, I am! Your bird truly is a king, Thurstan, I mean, my Lord! The best I have seen!

THURSTAN

Thanks, Bardolfe. He never falters.

Sound: footsteps, clip clop

BARDOLFE

Lord, may I steal Lady Cynewyn away? Lady, will you walk with me? I have a matter to discuss with you.

CYNEWYN

Yes, Bard, I will.  
(a beat)

Thank you, Lord, for the lesson in falconry. I hope I can set my own bird free when next we meet.

Sound: transition music, Odo's motif

#### 71. EXTERIOR /INTERIOR – DOVER CASTLE - NIGHT

N: Rain pours down in Dover, where Gaston, the grandson of Count Eustace, has been held hostage after his grandfather's abortive raid on Odo's castle.

Sound: rain, thunder, creaking wagon wheels, horses clip clopping

CASTLE GUARD

Halt, who goes there?

TUOLD

We are entertainment for the evening. The Bishop expects us. Let us through.

Sound: drawbridge lowers, horses splash across, creak of wheels.

CASTLE GUARD

This way good sirs. Toward the Hall.

TUOLD

Begin the act without me. I will join in after my meeting.

Sound: whistles, claps, small viol and rhythmic stamping as the act gets started. Fades away

TUOLD

Your Grace, you will miss the entertainment. Or perhaps I could do a flip or two???

Sound: distant sounds of the acrobat troupe

ODO

Get on with it.

TUOLD

The payment from Queen Edith is below, the full amount. Before I bring it to you, though, I would see the boy Gaston.

ODO

Bring him in.

Sound of opening and shutting door, dragging feet.

ODO

Speak, *nepos*, quickly. So that Turolde knows you can still squeak like a mouse.

TUROLDE

Gaston, you are whole and unharmed?

GASTON

(snuffling, suppressing sobs)

Ye, yes, Lord. I am well.

Sound: stamping, shuffling of feet

TUROLDE

Very well, Your Grace. Our business is concluded. We will leave after the performance tonight for the coast and Boulogne. You will not follow us, as per your oath. Yes?

ODO

Yes. Farewell little mouse. Go run to your grandpère's hole.

(spitting)

And Turolde, give my regards to Edith. She may be the canniest of us all.

Sound: upswell of crowd noise, stamping and cheering then transitional music. Odo's theme

Sound: transition, theme music?

## 72. INTERIOR – WINCHESTER CASTLE - NIGHT

N: A swift messenger arrives from Boulogne as Queen Edith sits with her councilors in the war room at Winchester Castle.

QUEEN EDITH

It is done, finally. Eustace's grandson is safe and Odo stands down. For now. William will have no more cause for complaint.

COUNCILLOR #1

So, how do we keep the brawl between Odo and Eustace from breaking out again? I've never seen two men hate each other more.

QUEEN EDITH



The *tenture* is the final piece to keep the peace. A sop to both their egos. And a reminder of just who they owe their loyalty to.

Sound: transition music, Odo's theme

### 73. INTERIOR/EXTERIOR – VITAL'S HUT - NIGHT

N: Back near the Abbey in Canterbury, Aelfgyva and Vital are asleep in bed, baby Cadman swaddled in a basket on the floor, two days before the wedding.

Sound: crickets singing, thump

AELFGYVA

Vital, what's that sound?

Sound: rustling, scraping, a flint is struck.

CAPTAIN VITAL

Stay here, *ma cherie*.

Sound: more rustling

CAPTAIN VITAL

Who goes there? Stop!

Sound: a door quietly closes, jingle of bridle then horses hoofbeats fade in the distance and a weak baby's cry can be heard.

AELFGYVA

(screams)

Vital! Cadman! He's gone! Aahhh!

Sound: transition theme, Cynewyn theme?

### 74. INTERIOR – ABBEY WORKROOM - DAY

N: The next day in the workroom, Cynewyn has her arm around Aelfgyva while the Lady Abbess and the other women cluster around.

Sound: hubbub of women's alarmed voices.

AELFGYVA

(sobbing)

But who has taken him? Why have they taken him? Who will feed him?

(wailing)

Where is he?

Sound: more crying and exclamations from the seamstresses

Sound: footsteps out of the room.

75. INTERIOR – SMALL ROOM IN ABBEY - DAY

CYNEWYN

Lady Abbess, this smells of Odo's handiwork. He is just vengeful enough to steal Aelfgyva's baby two days before the wedding.

LADY ABBESS

If true, there is little we can do. The boy is his child, after all.

CYNEWYN

I refuse to accept that! In Saxon and Mercian law, a father cannot steal away a child, especially a bastard. The child belongs to the mother!

LADY ABBESS

But we are ruled by Norman law, now. Only the father has rights, not the mother.

CYNEWYN

You knew what he did to Aelfgyva and you allowed it to happen under your own roof! She has suffered enough! And he did it to hurt me, too! Please, Lady. There must be something we can do!

LADY ABBESS

(hissing)

You know he could have me removed, and our Abbey shut down at the lift of his finger! Archbishop Lanfranc may rule here, but Odo has the power! I had no choice!

CYNEWYN

Well, I do have a choice. Aelfgyva and many other women, have suffered too much from Odo's lechery. He must be shamed, publicly shamed, for his monstrous actions.

LADY ABBESS

The *wergild* for abduction of a royal child is quite steep. That alone may convince the Bishop to resolve this issue.

CYNEWYN

But that is not enough! Our King *must* see the depth of his brother's tyranny. And Odo **must** return Aelfgyva's baby to her and Vital.

A beat.

CYNEWYN

Let me think, let me think.

A beat.

CYNEWYN

Yes. That will do.

LADY ABBESS

Cynewyn? What do you have in mind?

CYNEWYN

Something simple, but effective.

Sound: upswell of transition music, tense thematic music.

END OF EPISODE SEVEN

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