

EPISODE NINE - LOCKSTITCH

Sound: upswell of thematic music

84. INTERIOR – GREAT HALL AT WINCHESTER - EVENING

WILLIAM

Guards, take Lady Cynewyn away and lock her into her room. Go.

Sound: Cries of protest, exclamations and shouts.

Sound: Aelfgyva sobs. Thurstan and Bardolfe call out. Uproar from crowd

WILLIAM

Queen Edith, your part in this mockery of our royal family is regrettable, but as I am a lenient king, it will be forgiven this time. But henceforth, Lady...

EDITH

Majesty?

WILLIAM

Lady, you, the Abbess and Cynewyn the Mercian will immediately remove and repair this stain upon my splendid *tenture*. I expect to see it restored to a true view of my God-given victory, one that is not besmirched by vile rumors.

Sound: exclamations from the crowd.

WILLIAM

And Aelfgyva, your husband Vital was one of my doughty men at the Battle of Hastings. He is renowned for his honor and bravery. You are lucky in your marriage.

AELFGYVA

(tearfully)

Yes I am, Majesty.

WILLIAM

We will pray to the saints above that your child is found and restored to you. And I personally will assume part of the *wergild* price of 500 shillings for the theft of your son.

Sound: More murmurs from the crowd.

AELFGYVA

Thank you, Majesty. You are generous and good.

WILLIAM

Now, Lady Abbess, if you would cover the offending stitchery, we can continue viewing this magnificent *tenture* in peace.

Sound: crowd noise now less rowdy

WILLIAM

Brother, we must speak.

ODO

As you will, Guillame. But later. Not here.

85. INTERIOR – SMALL CASTLE CHAMBER - NIGHT

N: After the revelers have dispersed, William and his entourage sit drinking wine in a small receiving room off of the main hall. Thurstan enters and bends the knee.

WILLIAM

(to his entourage)

Leave us.

Sound: shuffling feet.

WILLIAM

So, what is on your mind?

THURSTAN

Will, Majesty, I would ask a boon of you. It is about...

WILLIAM

So **she's** the one, this Cynewyn the Mercian. The one you have been pining for.

THURSTAN,

Oui.

WILLIAM

She comes from tenacious stock, that Mercian. Foolish but brave.

THURSTAN

Agreed, but Will, she can neither pay the 500 shillings nor lose a hand or an eye. Not and keep peace in the kingdom.

WILLIAM

What would you have me? She shamed my brother, a Bishop and an Earl, second only in power to myself, in a public place in front of all the lords and ladies of England. She must be punished.

THURSTAN

Will, Odo is a monster, as well you know. He raped that Saxon woman, then abducted her child by him, simply out of spite and malice when he heard of her marriage to one of your most stalwart knights!

WILLIAM

(sighs)

You want this woman whole, then, unblemished?

THURSTAN

Oui.

WILLIAM

What will you give me for her?

THURSTAN

Rubies from Byzantium and two of my finest birds.

WILLIAM

Le Roi?

THURSTAN

(pauses)

Even Le Roi, who is the noblest bird I have ever seen.

WILLIAM

She is worth that much to you?

THURSTAN

More.

WILLIAM

So, a fistful of the finest rubies from Byzantium and two birds of my choice. It is a steep price for love, my friend, but her debt will be paid in full. My final condition: I never want to see her in Winchester again. Agreed?

THURSTAN

Agreed. Thank you, Will. Thank you.

WILLIAM

And that arrangement we talked about before - the Archbishop gives his blessing.

Sound: transition music. Menacing Odo theme music.

86. EXTERIOR – OUTSIDE WINCHESTER CASTLE - DAY

N: Outside Winchester castle William and Odo have their showdown.

WILLIAM

You know, brother, that you serve at my whim, under my command.

ODO

Of course, Guillaume, but you can't think that that *chienne* is telling the...

WILLIAM

What I think is that you serve at my pleasure and that you represent **me**. When you rape a woman and steal a child, I rape a woman and steal a child. I won't have it.

ODO

She is the most provoking female, fucking Saxon *chienne*. She has no right to...

WILLIAM

She has the right because I say she has the right. And who exactly are we speaking about? The woman Aelfgyva or the woman Cynewyn? Or does it not matter?

ODO

Brother, I don't...

WILLIAM

Just get the child back to its mother and we will never speak of this again. Now get out of my sight.

Sound: transition music

87. INTERIOR – WINCHESTER CASTLE - DAY

N: Back inside the castle, Cynewyn lies on her bed.

Sound: heavy knock on the door

CYNEWYN

Ye, yes?

GUARD #1

Lady Cynewyn you are free to leave. The King's price has been met.

Sound: key turned in lock. Upwell of Cynewyn's theme

AELFGYVA

It's alright, Winnie, you can come out now.

CYNEWYN

(shakily)

What...How?

AELFGYVA

(sobbing a little)

Oh, Winnie, I was so afraid, so afraid for you.

CYNEWYN

I am well, all is well. But do you know who...?

Sound: transition music

88. INTERIOR – GREAT HALL AT WINCHESTER - DAY

N: In the Great Hall, the seamstresses are busy rehangng the *tenture* to the Castle walls. Cynewyn steps into the room where she sees the Abbess.

CYNEWYN

How did you get this done so quickly, Lady?

LADY ABBESS

We all helped, even the Queen. We only had to amend some of the images a little. As for the Bishop's name, well...

CYNEWYN

How about if we put in the words "a cleric" instead of Bishop Odo's name? We will know to whom it refers, even if no one else understands.

LADY ABBESS

Let us do it now. Together. While no one is watching.

A beat

CYNEWYN

Thank you for defending Aelfgyva, Lady. Perhaps the black stain on her heart will lift a little, now.

LADY ABBESS

There's only one thing that will make that happen, I'm afraid.

Sound: transition music

89. EXTERIOR – CASTLE KITCHEN GARDEN - DAY

N: That afternoon Cynewyn gathers herbs for a soothing tea for Aelfgyva. She is surprised by a hand at her elbow.

Sound: crunching footsteps, cleared voice

THURSTAN

Madam, Lady Cynewyn, I, I'd have a word with you. Please.

CYNEWYN

My Lord Thurstan, well met. Are you looking for Bardolfe? He went off to curry and saddle horses for our journey home.

THURSTAN

No, Cynewyn, it's not Bardolfe I want. It's you.

CYNEWYN

I don't understand.

THURSTAN

I paid the price. The *wergild* you owed the King. I have paid it. Now you are free, to come home to Drayton. With me. As my wife.

CYNEWYN

Your wife? You have a wife, or had you forgotten? And, to be clear, I am not a cow to be bought and sold, Lord. I'm not for sale.

THURSTAN

The King was right about you!! How were you going to pay the *wergild*? Was it to be 500 shillings? Or a hand or an eye? And which hand? Your stitching hand?!

CYNEWYN

Thank you, Lord, but I must attend Aelfgyva. She still mourns her babe. And Bardolfe...

THURSTAN

Lady, Cynewyn, please, listen to me.

CYNEWYN

I thank you for your generosity, Lord. But my heart...

THURSTAN

Is that what this is about? Have you accepted his proposal? Are you to wed with Bardolfe?

[Sound: transition music, Cynewyn's theme](#)

90. INTERIOR – WINCHESTER CASTLE - EVENING

N: Evening approaches and a messenger enters Aelfgyva and Vital's room.

MESSENGER RANULF

Lady and Sir, your presence is requested in the vestibule. There is a package for you.

CAPTAIN VITAL

Come dearest, let's see what it is.

[Sound: walking footsteps, then a run](#)

AELFGYVA

(sobs of joy)

Oh my baby, my baby! He is returned to us! Oh thank you blessed Virgin!

CAPTAIN VITAL
Thank you to the good Lord above
(sotto voce)
and King William.

Sound: joyous celebration, squeals of happiness

Sound: transition music, Aelfgyva's theme in major key

91. EXTERIOR – WINCHESTER CASTLE COURTYARD - DAY

N: The courtyard is packed with well-wishers for Thurstan and Cynewyn's long ride home.

THURSTAN
Vital, I am overjoyed at the return of Cadman! The Lord
moves mysteriously, no?

CAPTAIN VITAL
Yes, and good King Will!

Sound: footsteps approach.

CYNEWYN
Tuold, you are off as well?

TUOLD
I may join you soon in retirement, Lady. My duty is done
- I see days ahead of sitting by the fire, nodding over mead
and chasing fine young maids.

THURSTAN
Come visit me, soon, my friend. I will make a falconer of
you, yet! And we need another song, maybe *The Song of
Edith*, to round out your repertoire! What say you?

TUOLD
Even now the refrains are tumbling through my head...I
will perform it for you soon!

CYNEWYN
Goodbye dear friend! Au revoir!

Sound: shuffling feet, etc. baby whimpering softly

CYNEWYN
And my darling friend, I am so happy and hopeful for you
both. Please come to Drayton soon for a visit!

AELFGYVA

Wave goodbye to the pretty lady, Cadman! Bye, now!

Sounds: farewell, clip clop of horses' hooves

92. EXTERIOR – WINCHESTER CASTLE/COUNTRYSIDE - DAY

N: Horsemen flank Cynewyn and Thurstan as they ride out the courtyard.

Sound: clip clop, transition music

Sound: clip clop clip clop, crickets and birds

THURSTAN

Let's pause for a moment or two, Lady. Le Roi needs some exercise.

(a beat)

Ranulf and Francois, you may ride ahead. We will catch you up.

Sound: fast trot of horse hooves as the men ride away.

THURSTAN

Le Roi, be free! Fly!

Sound: bird flying, countryside sounds

CYNEWYN

What a strange idea of freedom you have, my Lord. One small moment of soaring high above the earth, but the rest of the time living in the dark in a cage.

THURSTAN

Winnie, if this is about my proposal, I don't expect you to come at my whistle or to live in a cage! You will be my wife in all but name, a second union blessed by the King and by Archbishop Lanfranc. And you will be with your people again. Our people.

CYNEWYN

Thurstan, there is too much pain between us. How can we...?

Sound: crickets, rustling leaves

THURSTAN

Winnie, I regret so deeply the pain that I gave you when first we met. I would assuage some of your hurt. It is

justice, I think, that you come back with me and that we are together.

CYNEWYN

But if this only out of guilt, then no, I cannot be with you. I need more than that. I need love, too.

THURSTAN

Arggh! Winnie, of course I...but, I would not coax you like one of my birds. I would have you come to me of your own will, freely, happily.

Sound: galloping horses, cries

93. EXTERIOR – COUNTRYSIDE - DAY

CYNEWYN

Lord, watch out!

Sound: galloping horse, whistle to catch attention, shouts

BARDOLFE

Winnie, Thurstan, beware, it's a trap! Look out!

N: Cynewyn and Thurstan are cut off by rogue horsemen who have galloped out of trees along the road.

BARDOLFE

Get back, you devils! Oof!

Bardolfe charges two of them on his horse, but is knocked off and wrestled to the ground.

Sound: battle, wrestling men, grunts curses

N: Bardolfe pulls a knife from his waistband, but one of the attackers twists it toward him.

THURSTAN

Unhand me! Oooof! Winnie, look out! Run!

CYNEWYN

(screams)

Help! No!

Sound: screams, yells, sounds of blows, running feet

N. The assailant grabs Cynewyn's sewing hand, places it on a block and smashes it with a mallet.

Sound: smashing of mallet on wood, screams fill the air.

ASSAILANT #1

Lord Odo sends you a message: "This is *my* justice, cunt."

Sound: sobbing, gasping, men struggling.

THURSTAN

(whistling)

Le Roi, attack!

ASSAILANT #1

Fucking bird! Aargh!!

THURSTAN

(whistles)

Again! To Bardolfe!

BARDOLFE

Aah! I am stabbed!

Sound: sobs, gasps, tussels, aftermath of battle, groans, assailants ride away.

BARDOLFE

Oh... Winnie...

Sound: Thurstan's men galloping back to them

CYNEWYN

(cries out in pain)

Thurstan, help him!

THURSTAN

You are bleeding, Bard. Here, put this against the wound.

Sound: horses gallop up, skid to a stop

CYNEWYN

Thurstan, Bardolfe can't die, he can't!

THURSTAN

Mon Dieu! Winnie. Your hand, your hand!

CYNEWYN

(sobbing)

Ooohh!! You were both hurt because of **me**, because you were near **me**! Oohhh!

THURSTAN

This hurt is nothing, *ma cherie*. You know I would do anything for you. It's not about justice or guilt. It's about love. I love you, Winnie, *Drottning*, I have always loved you.

CYNEWYN

(sobs)

No, no, Thurstan. I cannot...Bardolfe?

Sound: gasps, moans, sobs

BARDOFFE

(gasping with pain)

Winnie, please. It's all right. You belong to him, not to me. I know it, you know it. So please, soften your heart. Go to him. Go.

Cynewyn sobs, covers her face with her hands while Thurstan's man binds Bardolfe's wound.

Sound: flapping of bird wings and bird cry.

CYNEWYN

Ooh, ooh ooh

(sobbing)

Yes, I will go with you, Thurstan. I do love you, I always have.

THURSTAN

(to his men at arms as they ride up)

Quickly, Ranulf, ride back to the Castle and ask for the Lady Abbess. Tell her we need a healer, bandages, and someone who can use a needle and thread.

Sound: transition music, thematic music

END EPISODE NINE