

Episode 8 transcript

77. INTERIOR – CANTERBURY ABBEY - NIGHT

N: Late at night, Cynewyn is let out of her cell by the Lady Abbess, who escorts her to the pitch black workroom. The women light candles and get to work.

Cynewyn stitches Aelfgyva's name above a figure of her cradling a baby and Odo's name above a figure of him snatching it from her.

CYNEWYN

There! That should do it! There is no doubt, now.

LADY ABBESS

It is a dangerous thing you do, Cynewyn. But I know what you and Aelfgyva have suffered and I stand with you. He must be stopped.

[Sound: transition music then upswell of Aelfgyva theme](#)

78. INTERIOR – ABBEY CHAPEL - DAY

N: The next day Vital and Aelfgyva stand in front of Father Nico in the small chapel at the Abbey.

[Sound: happy crowd hum, fading back](#)

FATHER NICO

Mistress Aelfgyva, Sir Vital, do you pledge before God and each other that you will be true to each other, to love and honor God in your marriage as long as you both shall draw breath on this Earth?

CAPTAIN VITAL AND AELFGYVA

We do.

FATHER NICO

Do you have rings to exchange as tokens of your love?

CAPTAIN VITAL AND AELFGYVA

Yes, Father.

FATHER NICO

In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, I declare you husband and wife. Amen.

Sound: a kiss, then claps and cheers from the attendees

FATHER NICO
Let's to the sunshine, everyone!

Sound: happy crowd noise, shuffling feet

AELFGYVA
(sobbing a little)
Oh Vital, I am so happy! Yet so sad at the same time.

Sound: Aelfgyva's theme, sad music

CAPTAIN VITAL
There there, love.

AELFGYVA
(sobbing)
I need my baby, Vital! Where is he?

CAPTAIN VITAL
We will find Cadman, mon couer. Bardolfe and Wadard
leave even now to search for him. Bon courage, ma cherie.

Sound: transition music, Odo's theme mixed with Aelfgyva's theme

79. EXTERIOR – ABBEY COURTYARD - DAY

N: The next day, the movement of the *tenture* to Winchester Castle begins.

Father Nico and the Lady Abbess supervise as a large wagon is filled with the *tenture's* winding machine.

Sound: creaks, shouts, shuffling feet, horse sounds

WORKMAN #1
There, that should do it, Father.

FATHER NICO
Look you that you drive this **carefully** to Winchester. My
knights will protect and assist you over the worst of the
roads.

WORKMAN #2
We will get the *tenture* to the Castle safely, Father. You
have my word.

FATHER NICO
We will meet there. God speed and fare well!

Sound: horses, creaking wagon, clip clop of hooves

BARDOLFE

Winnie, I know what you have done! Vital told me!
Please, you must not do this thing!

CYNEWYN

It's too late, Bard. And anyway, Odo has to be stopped.
The King must know the truth about him.

BARDOLFE

He is the most powerful man in England after the King!
You cannot accuse him, not, and live!

CYNEWYN

Edith will protect me, as she has all along. And God, too.

BARDOLFE

Aargh!! Listen, the only way you will be safe is if you
have a Norman husband to protect you. I would be that
husband, if you'll have me. Please say you'll have me!

Sound: upswell Cynewyn's theme

CYNEWYN

I'm honored, Bard, I really am. And you know I care for
you, but I will be safe, you'll see. Earl Odo's treachery
will be revealed. Once that happens, we can talk about our
lives together.

BARDOLFE

I will be by your side at the Feast, Winnie. Of that you
can be certain.

CYNEWYN

I will see you in Winchester then, Bard. Au revoir.

Sound: horses moving out, wagon creaks, upswell of Cynewyn's theme and general thematic music

Sound: transition music

Sound: clip clop of horses hooves, jingling of harnesses, creaking of wagon. Shouts of recognition.

80. EXTERIOR – ROAD TO WINCHESTER - DAY

CYNEWYN

Is that my Lord Thurstan? And my cousin Bertana? I am so glad to see her!

LADY ABBESS

Yes, the King is generous in his invitation to all celebrants on Midsummer Eve.

CYNEWYN

I am quite excited, Lady. And a little afraid.

Sound: transition music

LADY ABBESS

Bon courage, ma chere. It is now in the hands of God.

Sound: transition music

81. INTERIOR – GREAT HALL AT WINCHESTER CASTLE – DAY/NIGHT

N: In the great hall of the castle, footmen and women from the Abbey help attach the *tenture* to the walls around the edge of the space. They cover up the wall hanging with plain cloth, to be removed at the end of the Feast.

The Midsummer revelers file in and seat themselves at benches. The group from St. Augustine Abbey sits near the head table, where King William and Lady Edith preside.

Sound: transition music, fading to noise of crowds at table

Sound: staff pounding the floor

82. INTERIOR – GREAT HALL AT WINCHESTER - EVENING

CASTLE STEWARD

Oyes, oyes, good people. Oyes!

Sound: crowds quiet down

WILLIAM

(calling out)

Edith, Lady, we are gathered at a signal event. This is a triumph for you and I bow to your vision and beneficence.

QUEEN EDITH

And I bow to your nobility and your victorious conquest!

Sound: hear hear

Sound: clatter of dishes, servers move around. Crowd hums.

QUEEN EDITH

(tapping a glass for attention)

Ladies and gentlemen, you will see around you a mysterious draped object. When I began this project near two years ago, my simple idea was to record the events of the past ten years on a *tenture*, so that our children and our children's children would know and understand them.

QUEEN EDITH

But over time, my ideas about it have changed. I realized that this *tenture*, this painting with needle and thread, could be a tool for peace. It is a living symbol of the stitching together of two cultures. It is in that spirit that I present to you tonight the Great *Tenture* of Guillame and his doughty men, the conquerors who brought two great people together, Saxon and Norman! Behold!

N: Workers pull down the drapes over the wall hanging, and its images in brilliant colors glow against the stone walls of the hall.

Sound: applause, gasps of admiration and murmurs of surprise

WILLIAM

(standing)

Thank you, Queen Edith. I know you created this *tenture* with the advice and assistance of the Lady Abbess of St. Augustine and Father Nico, who designed and executed the images thereon.

(a beat)

I, Earl Odo, and Count Eustace are greatly in your debt for creating such a majestic artifact.

People of my kingdom, please feel free to follow us in viewing the *tenture* to see the noble history presented therein!

Sound: crowd noise swells - laughter, exclamations, gasps.

83. N: Halfway round the hall, Odo stops dead in front of the Aelfgyva panel, William and Edith by his sides.

N: William, who cannot read, looks to Edith for explanation.

Sound: crowd noise abates

ODO

What is the meaning of this? I demand to know who did this!

WILLIAM

I, too, want to know what this scene is all about. Lady?

Sound: crowd murmurs, shuffling of feet

EDITH

Ah, I see. There's been an addition to the story.

N: Odo moves to attack Cynewyn. Bardolfe steps to her side and Thurstan quickly cuts Odo off. Odo throws off Thurstan's arm and plunges toward her once again.

Sound: chaotic shouts, exclamations

ODO

You *chienne*! I should have known you would try to defame me! I'll have your head on a pike for this!

N: William signals to his knights, who grab Odo's arms. Odo stands, chest heaving, death in his eyes.

WILLIAM

Lady Abbess, Lady Edith, what am I seeing here? Who is this man who defames this woman in the *tenture*?

LADY ABBESS

Your Majesty, the actions shown here in this *tenture*, are of Earl Odo stealing Mistress Aelfgyva's child. This much is true - he abused her, got her with child, then stole her baby away.

Sound: An uproar sweeps over the crowd.

ODO

These are lies spurred by madness and jealousy, Majesty. Nothing more.

WILLIAM

Where is this Aelfgyva? Is she present to support these accusations?

LADY ABBESS

Yes, here your Majesty. Aelfgyva, come. Do not be afraid.

Sound: murmurs and shouts.

WILLIAM

Quickly, woman, tell me the truth of this matter. On your life.

AELFGYVA

(choking back sobs)

Majesty, your brother, Bishop Odo, did press himself on my body against my will when I was employed as a seamstress on the *tenture*. I tried to resist him, Lord, but he was too strong for me. And he had the key to my cell.

Sound: the crowd mutters ominously

AELFGYVA

I prayed that he would tire of me, Lord, and he did, but not til I was well gone of his child and for many months after.

WILLIAM

Proceed.

AELFGYVA

I was delivered of his child four weeks past, my Lord, a beautiful baby boy, named Cadman. Although conceived in pain and fear, I was most happy with him, Lord. He has been a joy in my life.

WILLIAM

Pray continue, Mistress.

AELFGYVA

(sobbing)

These three weeks past Sir Vital asked for my hand in marriage, to make me a whole woman and wife, and I gladly said yes, as I love Sir Vital truly. But then, Lord, a week ago, men came into our hut in the dead of night and stole Cadman, stole my baby!

Sound: cries of shame, shame!

N: Odo glares at Aelfgyva, then turns his stare to Cynewyn.

WILLIAM

Brother, is this true? Is the child yours? And did you steal it away from its mother?

ODO

Brother, you know me. Of what use would I have for a child?

Sound: quieter crowd muttering

CYNEWYN

Majesty, I was witness to Bishop Odo's predations upon Aelfgyva during my time at the Abbey. The child, his child, was born a month past, but Bishop Odo showed no interest in him, until word of Aelfgyva's upcoming wedding with Vital was carried to his ears. He meant to punish her, Lord, in the worst way he knew how, by stealing her child. I am sure of it!

WILLIAM

Woman, did I give you permission to speak? You, an insignificant Mercian, have no right to comment on Norman law or the world of your betters!

CYNEWYN

Majesty, I understand well enough when someone is evil and does something wrong! Grievously wrong! I demand justice for Aelfgyva!

WILLIAM

Silence! Hold your tongue! For this dangerous slur against my brother, the Earl of Kent and Bishop of Bayeux, I fine you and your household 500 shillings. And if you are unable to pay it, the sentence is loss of a hand or an eye.

Sound: A gasp echoes around the hall.

WILLIAM

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

Sound: transition theme, Cyewyn's theme in a minor key

END EPISODE EIGHT