

THE OUTLAW KING  
(LION RAMPANT)

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1

I/E. SCOTTISH VILLAGE - DAY

1

A flock of SHEEP wander through corpses. A massacre has taken place. Men, women, children are dead on the ground. Sheep walk through cottages. The cottages have been ransacked.

A SHEEP DOG barks, trying to herd the flock back where they belong. He works with some success, herding them past burned haystacks into the fields.

The animals startle at the sound of galloping hooves. A RIDER is approaching, a BLOODHOUND at his side.

The rider dismounts. Looks around. Takes in the destruction, the death. He eyes a crucifix fallen to the floor in one of the cottages. He's a man of composure but his jaw muscles are popping, his eyes are burning. He is appalled. This is ROBERT THE BRUCE (30s). His dog is FAOLAN.

Robert mounts his horse again, canters off. Stops. A few yards outside the village is a dead GIRL (7). She must have been running away. There is blood down her legs. Raped.

Robert stares at her. Dismounts. Runs like a madman back towards the village.

He returns to the girl, still running, now with a spade. He begins to dig her a grave as fast as he can. Dirt flies through the air. All his anger, all his grief, channeled into the physical act of tearing at the earth.

Faolan licks at the girls bloody leg. Robert lets out a roar.

ROBERT

Here!

The dog bounds obediently to his side.

2

EXT. SCOTTISH LANDSCAPE - DAY

2

Robert rides as fast as he can. Over this, we read:

*Scotland 1297. After their king died suddenly, leaving no heir, the Scottish nobles appointed King Edward of England, to choose a successor.*

*Instead, he exploited the rivalries among the competing claimants to seize power and become the Scots' overlord.*

*When the people rebelled, he began a reign of terror that threatened to crush all opposition and bring the country to its knees... Almost.*

3

EXT. BRUCE CASTLE, COURTYARD - DAY

3

SERVANTS help Robert dismount. They're all efficiency. Their job's to be invisible. One leads his horse away, another quietly asks:

SERVANT

Would you like a bath drawn, my Lord? Something to eat? Something to drink?

ROBERT

Where are my guests?

SERVANT

The tannery, my Lord.

Robert exits.

4 INT. BRUCE CASTLE, TANNERY - DAY

4

Where ANGUS MACDONALD, 30s, a fearsome, cheerful Highlander, and SIR CHRIS SETON, 20s, an agile warrior, are skinning hares. They turn to see a shaken Robert.

ROBERT

You were right. We must join him.

His friends grin. They've been waiting a long time for this.

ANGUS

I told you if you'd get out your castle once in a while you'd see a thing or two.

CHRIS

What's all the dirt on your face?

Robert has no idea his face is filthy from his grave-digging.

CHRIS (CONT'D)

(amused)

I know you like to keep yourself nice and tidy that's all.

5 INT. BRUCE CASTLE, ROBERT'S QUARTERS - NIGHT

5

A fire burns in the fireplace. Robert sits in a tub, lost in thought. A servant scrubs his fingernails clean.

6 EXT. FALKIRK BATTLEGROUND, ENGLISH SIDE - DAY

6

Scottish soldiers charge in a disorderly fashion towards the highly militarized and well-oiled English Army. Volley upon volley of arrows fly from English longbows- impaling the ragged Scots - they are vastly out-numbered, ill-equipped and disorganised. The English advance with THOUSANDS of CAVALRY, INFANTRY, and ARCHERS. DRUMMERS inspire the troops.

The English King Edward I, 50s, tall and imperious, sits on his powerful WHITE WARHORSE feeling terribly alive. He signals troops to his left. They increase their speed.

7 EXT. HILL ABOVE FALKIRK, SCOTTISH SIDE - DAY 7

Robert on the brow of a hill with FIFTY MEN including Angus and Chris. Horrified, they watch the slaughter of their countrymen. Nearby is SIR JOHN COMYN, 30's, piercing eyes, affable smile. Not to be trusted.

Robert looks away from the bloodshed, notices a SPIDER and web in the dewy grass. Focuses on it. Respite.

CHRIS (O.S.)  
You here to fight, Comyn?

Comyn's horse crushes the spider and web. Robert looks up.

COMYN  
I told Wallace this was madness. He says he wants to save our countrymen. Odd choice to lead them to certain slaughter.

8 EXT. FALKIRK, BATTLEFIELD - CONTINUOUS 8

WILLIAM WALLACE (30s) - steely-eyed and filthy - tries to stem the tide of his men fleeing from volleys of arrows - a losing battle. Nearby, a horse rears up, is lanced in the belly.

9 EXT. FALKIRK, BATTLEFIELD, ENGLISH SIDE - CONTINUOUS 9

We are at the very back of the English army. No danger here. On the one side, open fields. On the other, the backsides of the last line of ENGLISH CAVALRY, unlikely to see fighting.

LORD TENNANT (fat, 50s,) not dressed for battle, is running around like a chicken with its head cut off between the soldiers and the fields.

He spies a resting TRUMPET PLAYER (who would have called the sound to battle.)

LORD TENNANT  
Have you seen the Prince? Has anyone seen the Prince?

Nearby, but out of Tennant's view, is THE PRINCE OF WALES (20s) flushed cheeks, hungry to fight. He spies a nearby mounted English soldier.

PRINCE OF WALES  
You, Sir. Get down here.

The soldier dismounts, approaches.

PRINCE OF WALES (CONT'D)  
I want to fight. Give me your horse.

The soldier hands the reigns to the Prince.

PRINCE OF WALES (CONT'D)  
And your helmet.

The soldier removes his helmet. Tennant runs up, breathless.

TENNANT  
(to Prince)  
My Lord, the king your father gave  
word that you are not to fight  
today.

PRINCE OF WALES  
(scornful)  
I'll be perfectly safe, we're  
winning by miles.

TENNANT  
(lowering his voice)  
You need not worry about  
reputation. Your father has his  
finest knight wearing your armour  
fighting on the front lines. By all  
accounts he's doing very well.

The Prince looks at Tennant impatiently.

PRINCE OF WALES  
I don't care. Father gets to fight.

TENNANT  
Your father oversees his great  
army. He no longer risks his life.  
That would be irresponsible, my  
Lord.

The Prince looks at the soldier, waiting, uncomfortable.

PRINCE OF WALES  
Give me your helmet.

Tennant moves between the Prince and the soldier.

TENNANT  
As the heir apparent, my Lord, you  
are to wait back here under my  
watch. Your father has lost two  
sons and I need not remind you that  
these recent tragedies make you  
more precious in not only your  
father's eyes but also in all of  
England's.  
(to the soldier)  
Away with you, soldier.

PRINCE OF WALES  
(to soldier)  
You will wait here.

The soldier freezes, unsure what to do.

TENNANT  
 (to soldier)  
 I am the king's representative in  
 this matter.

PRINCE OF WALES  
 And I am me. And I want to fight.

The Prince reaches for his sword -

TENNANT  
 You're -

- and slices off Tennant's head. The soldier stares, hardly believing it.

PRINCE OF WALES  
 (to soldier)  
 I asked for your helmet.

The soldier hands the Prince his helmet. The Prince eyes Tennant on the ground. Looks back at the soldier. The soldier swallows, scared. The Prince grins. He likes scaring people. He puts on the helmet, jumps on the horse, and gallops, an expert horseman, around the cavalry until he can make his way into the action. He finds some Scotsmen to kill. He fights manfully, having the time of his life, whooping.

10 EXT. FALKIRK, BATTLEFIELD, ENGLISH SIDE - CONTINUOUS 10

Edward hears the distant whoops. He's irritated, shakes his head, sighs. He addresses his general and friend AYMER DE VALENCE (40s, brutal, a man of few words).

EDWARD  
 My son seems to have found his way  
 onto the field.

VALENCE  
 He'll be fine. They're starting to  
 run.

Edward nods. Then, business-like -

EDWARD  
 I want Wallace, alive, in front of  
 me this evening.

Valence nods, rides away, to give the order.

11 EXT. HILL ABOVE FALKIRK, SCOTTISH SIDE - CONTINUOUS 11

Robert inhales. Watches the slaughter below. Fights every instinct screaming "run."

ROBERT  
 Ready?

COMYN

The battle's already lost. Wallace  
will die.

Comyn rides away. Robert takes a beat, puts his heels to his horse and gallops towards the battle.

12 EXT. FALKIRK, BATTLEFIELD - MOMENTS LATER 12

Wallace staggers alone in the mud. He turns to see his men falling all around him. STEWART is retreating on horseback into the forest. Abandoned, Wallace charges into the fray.

13 EXT. HILL ABOVE FALKIRK, SCOTTISH SIDE - DAY 13

Angus rides alongside Robert, grabs his reins so that he can't continue.

ANGUS

Come to your senses man! We can't  
help them now. Edward's won this  
day.

Robert watches the Scots fall, helpless and frustrated. He stares astonished as he sees Wallace fighting hand to hand.

CHRIS

It's the end for Wallace. You're  
still living.

ROBERT

(faintly)  
And there is much work to be  
done...

Angus pulls the horses around...

ANGUS

There are no easy choices in war,  
my friend.

14 EXT. FALKIRK - CONTINUOUS 14

A SCOTTISH SOLDIER watches Robert, Angus and Chris retreat, devastated. A lance rips through his neck and he falls out of frame.

Wallace is pulled off the field by his men and flees with those lucky enough to escape.

Wave after wave of arrows penetrate the Scottish defences. Hundreds of men fall, mercilessly cut down in a horrific bloodbath.

Young Scots are drowned - heads forced into the mud by the advancing feet of English troops.

Edward watches impassively as the English slaughter any remaining Scots on the field. He sees his son showboats, forces his horse to rear up in victory. Tuts. The tatters of the Scottish Army run for their lives.

15

INT. BRUCE CASTLE, GREAT HALL - NIGHT

15

MARJORIE (7) giggles as Robert attempts to place a long carrot in his mouth but accidentally-on-purpose keeps sticking it up his nose. She's his daughter. He adores her.

Colorful wall-paintings line massive walls. Bloodhounds sleep. A lavish meal. SERVANTS are in attendance. One tends to the massive fireplace.

BRUCE SENIOR (50s), Robert's father, tucks into some swan.

BRUCE SENIOR

Robert, by not participating at Falkirk you have pleased Edward.

Robert stops smiling, eyeballs his father. A servant, DREW (14), stares at Robert with disgust. Robert notices.

BRUCE SENIOR (CONT'D)

The king sent over this swan as mark of his thanks this morning.

Robert spits out the bite of swan he'd just taken. Marjorie giggles. Drew smiles at Robert, who slightly-smiles back.

BRUCE SENIOR (CONT'D)

Eat in a manner that befits your status, Robert.

ROBERT

Behave in a manner that befits Christ.

BRUCE SENIOR

I beg your pardon?

Robert fights to keep his voice level in front of his child.

ROBERT

The king is burning Scotland to the ground. Marjorie out.

Marjorie obediently slips out.

ROBERT (CONT'D)

The king allows his soldiers to rape our women, kill our children and you would eat his food?!

Robert smashes his plate to the ground. Robert Senior is not in the least intimidated. The bloodhounds immediately begin to eat the meat on the floor.



BRUCE SENIOR  
(joke to break the  
tension)  
Your dog eats his food too.

Robert snaps his fingers. Faolan runs to his side.

BRUCE SENIOR (CONT'D)  
It was not wise of the people to  
rise up against him, inevitably the  
king retaliates. It will be over  
soon and when the blood dries and  
the wounds heal he will appoint a  
new king of Scotland --

ROBERT  
A lackey.

BRUCE SENIOR  
A king! Our family has a claim. Sit  
down, eat your food and tomorrow  
send him a note saying thank you  
very much, the meat was so tender.

Abundantly clear from Robert's face he won't be doing that.

BRUCE SENIOR (CONT'D)  
(amiably)  
You could be king, Robert. Don't  
challenge him now.

16 INT. BRUCE CASTLE, SERVANTS' QUARTER - NIGHT 16

Drew wakes up with a start as his door opens. It's Robert.

ROBERT  
Shh. Do you have a minute?

17 EXT. BRUCE CASTLE - NIGHT 17

The castle's portcullis opens. Robert steps out with Drew. By  
their feet are a pile of weapons.

A dozen MEN ride up, including Angus and Chris.

CHRIS  
Raided the armory did you, you mad  
Scotsman?

ROBERT  
Take as many as you can carry.  
Hurry before they reach the next  
village.

The men grab the weapons.

DREW  
I'll come too, if there's a horse  
for me.

ROBERT  
Do you know how to fight?

DREW  
Teach me?

ROBERT  
Pick a weapon.

Drew picks a lance. Robert is unsure.

ROBERT (CONT'D)  
It took me ten years to learn how  
to use that effectively. Pick an  
easier weapon.

Drew picks an axe.

ROBERT (CONT'D)  
Basically you swing it a lot.

They ride into the night.

18

EXT. VILLAGE, DISTRICT OF CARRICK - DAY

18

English soldiers herd terrified VILLAGERS into a village square. Soldiers throw sacks of oats and wool into carts, another fills a sack with looted silver and valuables.

COMMANDER  
The King of England thanks you for  
your generosity! This better be all  
of it.

CAMERA FINDS Robert, Angus, Chris and several HIGHLANDERS, hiding, watching.

The villagers grimace as the Commander grabs a thinly-dressed BOY (12). He pats him down, finds a purse with several coins.

BOY  
Please, sir, we're starving. That's  
to feed six of us.

COMMANDER  
String him up!

The villagers scream as he's dragged over to a tree.

On Robert's signal his men move out, silently circling behind the English.

A soldier puts a rope around the boy's neck.

In a flash, Robert lunges forward but too late - the boy is yanked into the air, legs thrashing wildly. Robert drives a dagger into the soldier's chest, killing him.

Chris and Angus glance at each other and then charge. Robert's highly-trained fighters rush at the English.

Robert tries to slash the boy down from the beam, but he's dragged into vicious hand-to-hand combat. Now it's mayhem, vicious fighting all around.

Drew swings his axe wildly and discovers it's an amazingly effective technique. He kills two soldiers. He stares at their corpses, shocked at his efficacy.

Within moments, most of the English are dead. The rest run.

Robert cuts the boy down. The boy falls lifeless. The boy's MOTHER rushes over to his body, sobbing.

ROBERT  
(to the mother)  
I'm sorry. I'm so sorry.

Suddenly twenty HORSEMEN thunder in, led by John Comyn and his cocky nephew, BUCHAN (20s).-

JOHN COMYN  
Put your swords away. We're on the same side, remember?

Robert and his men sheath their swords. Robert and Comyn shake hands.

COMYN  
Sorry we missed the fun. But there's a village a mile from here that's very glad we stopped by.

Comyn eyes the villagers' silver, turns to Buchan.

JOHN COMYN  
Get the silver.

ANGUS  
What's that now?

JOHN COMYN  
We need money to keep fighting this war.

BUCHAN dismounts. Robert blocks him.

ROBERT  
Call your nephew off, Comyn. We protect these people, we don't rob them.

Comyn sighs. Loudly he addresses the villagers:

COMYN  
If there is any man here that would rather keep their money and lose Scotland, step forward and take what is rightfully yours.

Silence except for the boy's mother's quiet sobs. Comyn looks at Robert. Told you so.

Before Robert can respond - a gasp followed by a cry of joy. Robert turns to see the hanged boy breathing again.

Robert starts to laugh. Cheers of joy.

19

EXT. SCOTTISH LANDSCAPE - DAY

19

Robert and Comyn refresh themselves by a stream. They are small figures in a stunning landscape. Their men and horses are a way behind.

COMYN

You heard Wallace escaped?

ROBERT

I heard the rumor. He's a legend already. Who knows what's true?

COMYN

I admire Wallace. He can lead men to certain death, that is a feat.

He eyes Robert, feeling him out as he says -

COMYN (CONT'D)

I believe I can lead men to better lives. That is a feat too. Scotland needs leaders who can rebuild after this devastation, leaders that ensure that the people do not suffer like this again.

Robert agrees. Comyn gets to his real point.

COMYN (CONT'D)

Both our families have a claim to the throne.

ROBERT

(smiling)

I don't want it, Comyn. When we win, it's yours.

Comyn is pleased, surprised. That was easy.

COMYN

If you don't mind me asking, why don't you want it?

ROBERT

I'm not cut out for politics and scheming. I'll fight for my country, I'll die for my country. But I live for this.

Comyn looks around. No idea what Robert is talking about.

COMYN

What is "this?"

ROBERT

This. Peace. There's no peace being king.

COMYN

No, people are always bothering you for something aren't they. You'd hate it. You'd absolutely hate it.

Comyn grins, pleased as punch. He heads back to the men.

COMYN (CONT'D)

(to men)

Let's go! English to kill.

Robert takes a long last look at the beautiful view. Suddenly he hears a ruckus, swords clashing, screaming. He races back towards his men, before he's even close Comyn swerves past him on foot in the other direction, an English soldier at his heels. Seconds later, Robert hits the dirt as another English soldier tackles him. Comyn puts up his hands in surrender. Robert, fights as best he can - easy to draw a contrast between the two men here, one fighting, one giving up. Robert lands a few blows on his assailant, before he's overcome.

20 EXT. SCOTTISH LANDSCAPE - DAY

20

Robert is dragged across the grassland, his feet tied to a galloping horse. He tries to focus on the sky.

VALENCE (O.S.)

We have the south under control, your Majesty. Once we have Stirling, the insurgents will be all but crushed.

21 INT. EDWARD'S TENT - DAY

21

CLOSE ON a map of Scotland. Red English flags cover most of it, with a handful of blue Scottish flags on the east coast and far north. PULL BACK to reveal Edward, Valence and a select RETINUE.

VALENCE

We take control of their continental trade routes. Aberdeen, Dundee, Berwick. Resistance is low, they'll fall easily.

Edward removes the English flags at the top of the map.

EDWARD

Forget the North. It will crumble after we win the east.

He looks up at a loud scraping noise. Sees the Prince is sharpening his sword with a whetstone.

EDWARD (CONT'D)

We have men to do that for you.

PRINCE OF WALES  
I like to do it myself.

EDWARD  
Well don't do it now. You should be listening. Get over here.

The Prince stays where he is.

EDWARD (CONT'D)  
Get over here.

The Prince walks over, deliberately unhurried.

EDWARD (CONT'D)  
Here's the map, I assume you've been listening. How will we defeat the Scots?

PRINCE OF WALES  
Kill them all?

Titters. Edward's not amused.

EDWARD  
Be more specific.

PRINCE OF WALES  
That's what generals are for.

EDWARD  
How will you know who to trust if you don't have any answers yourself?  
(no response)  
A king does not sharpen his own sword and a king does not let other people do the thinking for him.

The Prince stares hatred at his father.

EDWARD (CONT'D)  
You are insolent. You think I don't see it? You are insolent and you are ignorant! Valence!

Valence, far stronger than the Prince, grips him still, arm around his neck, so that the Prince is entirely immobilized.

EDWARD (CONT'D)  
I've been beating insolence out of you since you were five years old and I'll keep doing it until you shed that insolent school boy skin and grow up.

Edward backhands the Prince across the face. Despite the blood now trickling out his nose, the Prince refuses to project anything but calm good cheer with a hint of contempt.

PRINCE OF WALES

I grew up, father. You just don't like me very much.

EDWARD

(genuine)

I would like you more if you would read your Thucydides and study a map or two.

PRINCE OF WALES

I don't care if you like me or not. One of these days, I'll be the king. And all the men that do whatever you say, will do whatever I say. And one of the very first things I'll say is: I'm not interested in books or maps. That was my father. Who's dead.

Edward experiences the particular brand of impotence and despair common to all parents, royal or not.

EDWARD

(to Valence, disgusted)

Let him go.

Valence releases the Prince as General SIR RICHARD de BURGH (50's) approaches.

RICHARD DE BURGH

The War Wolf's ready, your Majesty.

Edward exits.

22

EXT. STIRLING CASTLE - DAY

22

Edward looks at the imposing castle perched on top of rocks.

EDWARD

Seems a shame.

RICHARD DE BURGH

We can rebuild.

At Edward's nod, De Burgh marches over to a massive trebuchet-catapult. It releases huge boulders. They smash into the castle gate house.

EDWARD

Why do they insist on forcing my hand when they know it will crush them?

RICHARD DE BURGH

That is a question for philosophers, your Majesty.

A bloody, bruised and battered Robert, along with Angus, Chris, Comyn and their men, are pushed by English soldiers through the massive English military camp. Soldiers flock to jeer and spit at him.

Robert takes in the passing weapons stores, blacksmiths, carpenters, and cooks serving the huge English army. He hears a woman's scream - looks over to see a SCOTTISH WOMAN being raped by a soldier. He struggles harder to be free, but -

PRINCE OF WALES (O.C.)  
Hello, Robert.

Robert looks over, surprised to see the Prince of Wales. The woman keeps screaming.

PRINCE OF WALES (CONT'D)  
(cordially)  
What are you doing here? I thought you were with us?

ROBERT  
No, I...I chose to side with the just.

A weird conversation. They could be talking about soccer.

PRINCE OF WALES  
Fair enough. Although now you're losing. Probably not used to that, are you?  
(to soldiers)  
Robert used to spend his summers playing at Westminster when I was a boy. He was always so good at everything.

ROBERT  
It just seemed that way because I was older.

PRINCE OF WALES  
True. Now you and I would probably be more evenly matched.

More screams in the background.

ROBERT  
Could you...help that woman?

PRINCE OF WALES  
No. She's on the losing side too, silly.

The Prince of Wales walks off. On Robert - knowing he's dealing with madness. He looks up. From his POV we see, high on a hill, twenty gallows and twenty hanging Scottish Lords twisting in the wind.



24 INT. EDWARD'S TENT - CONTINUOUS

24

Edward sits on a makeshift throne.

EDWARD  
Bishop. Proceed with the  
petitioners.

BISHOP WILLIAM LAMBERTON (37) nods as an AIDE escorts in an  
OLD WOMAN, who curtsies.

OLD WOMAN  
Yer Majesty. Please gi's oor laddie  
back. We cannae run the fairm wi'  
nae brawn.

Irritated, Edward stares at her, no clue what she's saying.

EDWARD  
Lamberton?

LAMBERTON  
She'd like her son to be released  
from duty, Sire. To help her run  
her farm.

EDWARD  
No.

She's led out. SIR JAMES DOUGLAS (21) enters. He's intense,  
haunted. His whole life is trained on a single goal. Had he  
been born to different circumstances he would have been a man  
who avoided confrontation. That is not an option for him now.

AIDE  
Sir James Douglas, sire --

JAMES  
-- Son of Sir William Douglas who  
died in the Tower of London, where  
you placed him, when I was  
thirteen.

EDWARD  
Your father was a traitor who  
fought with William Wallace at  
Stirling Bridge.

James blinks, forcing himself to stay in control.

JAMES  
My father was the bravest man I  
ever knew. He died a free man in  
chains because he would not bend  
the knee to you.

EDWARD  
A free man in chains. What sweet  
and silly stories your nursie's  
been telling you.

JAMES

You gave our lands, our home, to the English Lord, Sir Richard Clifford. Now I'm of age, I'd like them back.

EDWARD

I'll give you this. You have, possibly, the biggest balls in Scotland. Leave, before I have them removed.

Lamberton, who is behind James, watches closely as James gropes for something in the back of his tunic. Lamberton steps forward, grabs James arm firmly.

LAMBERTON

Sire, forgive me, but I need a squire. Let this foolish hothead serve me.

EDWARD

I will provide you with a more suitable man.

LAMBERTON

Your Majesty, I baptized him. He's no parents, no home.

(softly)

Each generation will tell a story. Better to win a whelp's gratitude with mercy than earn hatred with hardened hearts and breed another rebel.

The Prince enters.

PRINCE OF WALES

Father. Robert the Bruce is here. He's with the losing side, can you believe?

A beat. Edward nods at Lamberton, exits with his entourage. Lamberton hangs back with James. He removes a dagger from the back of James' tunic. Before James can speak -

LAMBERTON

It wouldn't have worked and you would be dead.

Edward stands over Robert in the mud. Nearby are Comyn and Robert and Comyn's men, all prisoners now. The Prince, James, Lamberton and English soldiers stand and watch from various vantage points. James is tense, Lamberton works to appear neutral and the Prince of Wales watches with the same detached interest as when watching a solid tennis match.

EDWARD

(to Robert)

It brings me no pleasure to see you like this. Your father is a dear friend. As the soldiers here know, when you fight by a man in battle he becomes a brother. Your father saved my life many times in the great crusades, and I his.

ROBERT

I was raised to believe that you and my father were fighting a holy war in the east. I worshiped you both for it. But now I am all grown up. And now I suspect it was not a holy war at all but rather the king partaking in his favorite pastime. The hunt.

The Prince of Wales mutters under his breath -

PRINCE OF WALES

Exactly right.

EDWARD

I risk and take no lives without great purpose.

ROBERT

The great purpose is to bring you pleasure.

(loudly, to the English soldiers)

He risks your lives for sport!

EDWARD

(loudly)

I am here at the request of Scottish Lords to act as arbitrator between the claimants to the Scottish throne. It was agreed at that time that the King of England would exercise his divine right as feudal overlord to Scotland in return for beneficent oversight and just protection.

Chris rolls his eyes at Robert. That old story.

EDWARD (CONT'D)

These clannish skirmishes have taken up my precious time and resources and I am glad that our work here is almost done.

Comyn struggles to his feet.

COMYN

Sire. If you believe these wars are over let me be the first to offer my hand in peace.

Robert looks at Comyn. Seriously?

EDWARD

I think the rebels would be more likely to accept a lasting peace if Robert the Bruce extended his hand, and bent his knee.

ROBERT

I cannot do that.

EDWARD

The lords on the hill that twist in the wind refused to kiss my ring. Will you join them?

ROBERT

They inspire me.

EDWARD

(quietly)

Don't make me grieve your father. You have lost this war. Will you die on principle?

Edward gestures to a soldier, who raises his sword and beheads a Highlander standing next to Robert. Robert is sprayed by the spurting blood. He is forced to his knees beside the fallen head. He gags.

EDWARD (CONT'D)

Bring Angus MacDonald.

Angus is thrown in front of him. The soldier draws his sword.

ANGUS

I'll gladly die for my country.

Chris fights tears. Angus and Robert both on their knees stare in to each others eyes. The sword rises.

ANGUS (CONT'D)

One less of my clan to fight your foreign wars. Vive la France and Long live Scotland!

Robert sees that Angus has pissed himself.

ROBERT

No!

The blade is lowered. The king holds out his hand. Robert, approaches, kneels, kisses the ring. Furious.

EDWARD 1

(to the crowd)

Judge a man not by his words but his actions. Always.

Edward looks over at Lamberton, remembering his advice.

EDWARD

Lords Bruce and Comyn. Your families both claim the Scottish throne. Neither of you are currently fit to govern a country. But in honour of your submission I am appointing you joint guardians of Scotland. Do we agree?

Robert and Comyn stare at each other, speechless. Applause. Robert and Angus exchange glances. What now? Comyn smiles at the crowd, enjoys the applause. We linger on him, as he enjoys his new status a little too much.

The Prince of Wales grins. He walks forward cheerfully.

PRINCE OF WALES

So all is forgiven then! And presumably in good time my father will appoint one of you king. May the best man win.

COMYN

Actually, your Majesty, Robert and I have already discussed this and -

Totally uninterested, The Prince walks away. Robert and Comyn exchange looks. What a prick.

26

EXT. ROYAL TENT - NIGHT

26

At one end of the tent, numerous servants lay a magnificent feast. Edward's generals and guests mingle together. John Comyn is working the room.

COMYN

(to a general)

It is a great honor, sir. And I hope a first step to the greater honor of the crown. My family have a claim. And Robert is not interested, you know.

Robert approaches, takes Comyn aside.

ROBERT

You were quick to bend the knee.

COMYN

A hanged man cannot rule. We'll do as the king asks, execute our powers wisely -

ROBERT

(impatient)

We have no real power. We must find Wallace.

Angus approaches.

ANGUS

Let's not stand in a huddle and  
appear to scheme, my Lords.

Comyn moves away. Valence whispers some news to Edward. He  
raises an arm. Immediate silence.

EDWARD

The last rebel stronghold is taken!  
(the lords cheers)  
Mowbray, my brave commander.

MOWBRAY stands, humble.

EDWARD (CONT'D)

I'll leave you Stirling Castle. A  
little broken, perhaps but still a  
mighty jewel. And Sir Richard.

Sir Richard stands.

EDWARD (CONT'D)

For your friendship and loyalty, I  
give you a fine Scottish estate in  
Galloway to add to your collection.

RICHARD DE BURGH

Your Majesty, my thanks.

EDWARD

And for your daughter Elizabeth, my  
god daughter, the hand in marriage  
of Sir Robert Bruce.

Gasps all round. Sir Richard is unnerved, a forced smile.  
Robert stares at the floor.

EDWARD (CONT'D)

To welcome you back into the fold,  
Robert. We'll forge a harmonious  
union between Scotland and England.  
Now let's eat.

On Comyn. Crushed.

GENERAL

(to Comyn)  
He favors Robert.

COMYN

Why, do you think?

GENERAL

Robert is straightforward. You are  
not.

Edward moves to his table, sits and laughs with other English  
lords, who chatter, enjoying the feast. Angus, a ways away,  
watches as Comyn approaches the king.

COMYN  
 (to Edward)  
 I will find Wallace for you. He  
 keeps too much hope alive.

27 EXT. ENGLISH CAMP - NIGHT

27

James, focused, practises swordplay, slicing the night air. A few English soldiers watch him, admiring his skill. James sees Angus through the darkness, approaches him.

JAMES  
 Lord MacDonald? I am James Douglas,  
 son of William Douglas.

ANGUS  
 Your father was a loyal Scot. You  
 work for the English now?

James shakes his head.

JAMES  
 Not at all. And I don't believe  
 Lamberton does either.

ANGUS  
 (beat)  
 Good to know.

He keeps walking.

28 INT. DE BURGHS' CARRIAGE - DAY

28

CLOSE ON ELIZABETH DE BURGHS (18). She keeps a brave face as she stares out at the awful weather and decimated land, the poverty-stricken PEOPLE. Also in the carriage, her father Sir Richard de Burgh and his wife LADY MARGARET DE BURGHS. Lady Margaret looks at her daughter, worried. Says nothing. Sir Richard is more cheerful.

RICHARD DE BURGHS  
 His family has lands north and  
 south of the border. It is said, he  
 held his first wife, Isabella, in  
 high affection, and grieved her  
 passing greatly. You could have  
 done much worse.

ELIZABETH  
 Well I loathe him. And this  
 wretched place.

Elizabeth sits back, distraught.

29 EXT. BRUCE CASTLE - DAY

29

Dressed in finery, Robert is walking towards the castle with Marjorie. She has her arm draped over Faolan.

MARJORIE

Do I have to call her Mother?

ROBERT

No.

MARJORIE

I wonder if she'll like Faolan?

ROBERT

She'd better! Faolan, fetch!

He smiles and throws a stick. Faolan runs after it. A horn sounds in the distance.

ROBERT (CONT'D)

(grim)

They're here!

30

EXT. BRUCE CASTLE - DAY

30

Robert, his brothers, EUAN (21), ALEXANDER (23), and NEIL (17), Bruce Senior, Marjorie and Faolan, and several household servants stand in line.

EUAN

I heard she's extremely unattractive.

NEIL

As did I.

ROBERT

Enough.

ALEXANDER

Warty.

Marjorie giggles.

ROBERT

Quiet.

The Prince rides in with Lamberton and James Douglas. They dismount. Thanks to the rain, everyone is soaking wet. The Bruce family bow.

BRUCE SENIOR

Your Royal Highness. You remember my sons?

PRINCE OF WALES

Not in a distinct way. I just remember they were innumerable.

Bruce Senior nods, takes the insult. The Prince turns to Robert.



PRINCE OF WALES (CONT'D)  
You must be glad to be home,  
Robert. I've brought Lamberton to  
officiate.

Robert's eyes flick from Lamberton to James to Angus. Angus  
nods.

ROBERT  
(to Lamberton, coded)  
I've heard you're a good man.

LAMBERTON  
You heard right.

BRUCE SENIOR  
(to Prince, oblivious)  
And the king will follow?

PRINCE OF WALES  
He is otherwise occupied - taking  
the port of Aberdeen.

ROBERT  
(cold)  
Were not these wars to be ended  
after he appointed myself and Comyn  
guardians?

PRINCE OF WALES  
Kings are fickle.

Elizabeth's carriage door opens.

PRINCE OF WALES (CONT'D)  
Your bride. Elizabeth de Burgh.

Elizabeth steps out with a forced smile. Her shoe sinks into  
a puddle. Her father and mother follow, trying to shield  
themselves from the rain. Elizabeth performs a deep curtsey,  
the bottom of her dress gets covered in mud. Robert bows.

ELIZABETH DE BURGH  
My Lord.

ROBERT  
My Lady. Welcome.

Elizabeth notices Marjorie looking up at her curiously.

ELIZABETH  
You must be Marjorie? And who's  
this?

MARJORIE  
Our dog, Faolan. My Lady.

ELIZABETH  
Please, call me Elizabeth.

Elizabeth strokes Faolan as Marjorie smiles. Robert shifts awkwardly. Bruce Senior steps up.

BRUCE SENIOR  
You're all most welcome. Please,  
let's go inside and celebrate.

He leads the party inside. Elizabeth takes in the overgrown walled-garden, the neglected rose bushes. Robert approaches James.

ROBERT  
James. You must have been ten when  
I last saw you.

JAMES  
I was nine. I begged you to show me  
how to use your war hammer.

ROBERT  
But you couldn't lift it.

James locks eyes with him.

JAMES  
I can now.

31 INT. BRUCE CASTLE, CHAPEL - DAY 31

Comyn, a guest at the wedding, keeps a smile plastered on his face as Lamberton delivers his final blessing to the married couple. The Prince of Wales, bored, moves his head forward and back, as though urging a horse to run faster. Elizabeth catches her mother's eye, miserable. Robert sees Angus indicating they need to talk.

32 EXT. BRUCE CASTLE, CHAPEL - DAY 32

GUESTS congratulate the couple. Angus hugs Robert tight.

ANGUS  
(whispering)  
Rumor has Wallace somewhere in  
Selkirk forest. I have men  
searching for him now.

ROBERT  
(beaming, loud, code)  
Oh happy day.

ELIZABETH  
(oblivious)  
Indeed.

Chris smiles too. Wallace is hope. Comyn watches the exchange between the three friends. Something's up.

MUSICIANS play as guests dance and laugh. Robert and Elizabeth sit at the centre of a table laden with exotic food. Robert watches their fathers toast each other. He smiles as he sees Margaret de Burgh making Marjorie laugh.

Across the room, John Comyn lurks with other Lords and the Prince, clearly talking about Robert, shaking his head.

ELIZABETH  
Do you enjoy music, my Lord?

ROBERT  
Isabella was fond of it.

Elizabeth sighs. So Robert's an asshole. Great.

ELIZABETH  
And dancing?

ROBERT  
My brother enjoys it greatly. Euan!

Euan comes to the table.

ROBERT (CONT'D)  
A dance with your new sister-in-law?

EUAN  
Of course. My Lady?

Elizabeth gets up to dance. Robert walks through the room, passing several other Knights, including FITZALAN - sour-looking, older, and LENNOX - muscular, noble.

FITZALAN  
Congratulations, Bruce. Quite a prize.

LENNOX  
This must make you the biggest landowner in the country, Robert. Submission's not all bad.

ROBERT  
(sharp)  
Aye, well you should know.

Comyn approaches, takes Robert aside.

COMYN  
(warm, intimate)  
Word of advice Robert. Play your part for now. There's so few we can trust.

Robert nods. Good advice.

COMYN (CONT'D)  
 Why did Angus leave? Dear friends  
 are obliged to stay at weddings  
 until the bitter end.

Robert whispers to Comyn. Comyn grins, slaps Robert on the back.

COMYN (CONT'D)  
 (beaming, loud, code)  
 Oh happy day, indeed.

34 INT. BRUCE CASTLE, MAIN HALL - NIGHT 34

The assembled throng cheer as Robert leads his bride away up the stairs. They do their best to smile gracefully.

35 INT. BRUCE CASTLE, HALLWAY - NIGHT 35

Elizabeth and Robert approach the bed chambers. She's skittish, dreading this.

ELIZABETH  
 It's been a long and tiring day, my Lord.

Robert opens the door to reveal a beautifully-appointed room, a nightdress laid on the bed. Elizabeth stares.

ROBERT  
 Yes it has. And you have been most gracious.

ELIZABETH  
 Your first wife, she's buried here?

A shadow falls over Robert's face.

ROBERT  
 She is, yes.

ELIZABETH  
 I'm so sorry.

ROBERT  
 It was five years ago now. I must thank you - for enduring what you had to tonight. And I am grateful for your sensitivity in this...charade. We are being forced to play politics. As you get to know me you will learn that I hate politics.

She's surprised at his frankness and his courtesy.

ROBERT (CONT'D)

We should, however, continue our act, for the sake of safety. Do you agree?

ELIZABETH

Of course.

They stare at each other. This is weird.

ROBERT

Sleep well.

Robert walks away, leaving her relieved and surprised.

36 INT. BRUCE CASTLE, ROBERT'S QUARTERS - DAY

36

A blast from a hunting horn, wakes Robert brutally. He bolts upright, Faolan curled beside him, barking now. Standing over him is the Prince with a horn in his hand, grinning as he pats the dog.

PRINCE OF WALES

Robert, you've got the wrong bitch in your bed!

ROBERT

What do you want?

PRINCE OF WALES

A good wedding must always be followed with a hunt!

Robert grits his teeth. Faolan growls.

37 EXT. BRUCE CASTLE, COURTYARD - DAY

37

Robert mounts his horse, carrying bow and arrows.

ROBERT

Forest or moor?

PRINCE OF WALES

Selkirk Forest. Guess our prey.

(a beat)

Wallace!

Robert stares. This is a disaster.

PRINCE OF WALES (CONT'D)

Lead on, Bruce. But if you find him let me kill him. If possible. My father puts too much stock in beheading enemies personally. If he hadn't been so insistent Wallace was captured alive, the dog would already be dead.

Bottling fury, Robert spurs his horse.

38 EXT. HILL OVERLOOKING SELKIRK FOREST - DAY

38

The Prince and Robert look at the thick woods. A thudding of hooves. Comyn rides up with two of his MEN.

PRINCE OF WALES  
I'm afraid Comyn rather has the  
edge on you for the crown now,  
Robert. It was his spies that  
tipped us off.

Robert stares at Comyn. *Ice. You're a traitor?* Comyn stares back defiantly.

COMYN  
Your Royal Highness, my scout says  
he's in the south near the river.

PRINCE OF WALES  
(to Robert)  
If you're the one who catches him,  
that will probably even things out.

He gallops into the forest. Comyn follows. Then Robert.

39 EXT. FOREST CLEARING/FOREST - DAY

39

Deep within the bowels of the huge forest, in a dark and hidden clearing, Robert comes upon the remains of a fire.

A twig snaps. He turns to find Wallace, a filthy bag of bones now, and three of his feral MEN. Robert's face registers shock at their physical state.

ROBERT  
William, my God.

WALLACE MAN 1  
-- Just kill him! He's a lackey of  
the king!

One of the men moves to Robert, his dagger out.

ROBERT  
(to Wallace)  
You must flee. They're coming for  
you.

WALLACE  
They will catch me. Our horses are  
gone.

Robert dismounts.

ROBERT  
Take mine.

INTERCUT:

IN THE FOREST: A SOLDIER glimpses the figures in the clearing. He waves the soldier closest to him, pointing.

IN THE CLEARING:

ROBERT (CONT'D)  
Gather your strength. We'll wage war on Edward together - when the time is right.

WALLACE  
You will. I've not much fight left in me.

Suddenly, several SOLDIERS emerge from behind Robert. Robert and Wallace's eyes meet. Robert nods.

A spark lights in Wallace's eye. He and Robert wheel round, lightning swords flash as they fell the soldiers. One of Wallace's men falls. A soldier screams.

SOLDIER  
They're here! They're --

Wallace runs him through while the Prince, Comyn and other men charge towards the clearing. Robert grabs Wallace.

ROBERT  
Try to get to Islay. We'll regroup there. Angus MacDonald's men will hide you. God be with you.

Wallace vanishes into the trees. Seconds later, the Prince and his men rush in, swords drawn. They see Robert bent over, panting, with seven dead soldiers at his feet.

ROBERT (CONT'D)  
There were thirty, forty even. They ambushed us. Took my horse.

PRINCE OF WALES  
And they didn't kill you?

Robert indicates Wallace's dead man.

ROBERT  
Well, he tried. Sire.

A beat. Will the Prince believe Robert?

PRINCE OF WALES  
So far, you have drawn the first blood, Robert. That's to be commended.

Comyn rolls his eyes.

PRINCE OF WALES (CONT'D)  
And it's not over yet! Let's get the bastards, once and for all!

He races off, his men follow. Just Robert and Comyn now, staring at each other, hatred between them now.

ROBERT  
Why would you want Wallace dead?

COMYN  
It is more efficient for me to become king if Edward simply offers me the title.

ROBERT  
Edward will only crown someone prepared to be a king in name only. It is Edward who would make every decision and he would make those decisions to serve his interests only.

A beat. Comyn shrugs. Fine with him.

COMYN  
I would be king. I have a claim. Oppose me and Edward and his son will know that the horse they will find Wallace on is your horse, with your saddle, your stirrups, your bridle. Support me, and we can enjoy many jolly dinners together.

Beat. Comyn smiles his affable smile.

COMYN (CONT'D)  
Cheer up man. You said all you want is peace.

Comyn rides off. Robert's face darkens. Peace is no longer an option.

40 EXT. SELKIRK FOREST - DAY

40

Robert walks quickly back towards the castle. He hears a noise. Stops. Looks around. Walks a few paces stops again.

ROBERT'S POV - A WOLF in a hunter's trap. Injured. Whining.

Robert stares at the noble, desperate beast. Looks around. Finds more traps, rabbits inside. He's in a poacher's lair.

Robert walks towards the rabbits, pathetically snuffling. He's about to release them when -

VOICE (O.S.)  
My Lord, don't.

Robert turns to see a WOMAN, a peasant. He recoils slightly. She's not easy on the eye.

WOMAN  
Please. My family needs food.



Robert steps away from the traps.

ROBERT  
Of course.

The woman produces an large knife, approaches the wolf.

WOMAN  
And blankets for winter.  
(curtseying, meek)  
With the king's permission, of  
course.

ROBERT  
The king?

WOMAN  
Are you not a knight of King  
Edward?

ROBERT  
I am not English.

The woman grins. This is good news.

WOMAN  
(whispers)  
Alba gu bràth.

ROBERT  
I'm sorry, I don't know what that  
means.

WOMAN  
(surprised)  
Scotland forever.  
(shyly)  
They say Wallace lives in this  
forest. He'll free Scotland, don't  
you worry. I always leave one  
rabbit behind. Just in case he  
needs it.

The wolf howls. Robert and the woman both look at the animal  
with sympathy. The woman prepares her knife.

WOMAN (CONT'D)  
(apologetically to wolf)  
I'm sorry, boy. Men are beasts.

As Robert turns away, we hear the beast whimper.

41 INT. BRUCE CASTLE, FALCONRY - MOMENTS LATER

41

Robert, Chris and Angus mid-heated-conversation.

ANGUS  
How did Comyn hear about Wallace?

ROBERT

I told him.  
 (off their looks)  
 I thought we working together.

ANGUS

Comyn works with no one. He's everyone's friend so he's loyal to none.

ROBERT

Why didn't you share this astute character analysis before?

ANGUS

It's obvious! I thought you knew it, man! You're not totally oblivious to the ways of the world are you? Or maybe you are. Maybe you've been locked up in this castle too long with your golden dishes and white horses and you've lost every natural instinct a man should have.

ROBERT

(angry and defensive)  
 I've no interest in scheming and double-crossing. Comyn and I agreed to -

ANGUS

Enough of your excuses. Comyn should not be king, you should! You pretend you're above it all, you pretend it's not in your nature to dirty your hands with the messy business of government, but I will tell you something my friend. You're a liar.

Chris looks at Angus, alarmed. This is a more aggressive tone than one should really take with Robert the Bruce, Guardian of Scotland.

ANGUS (CONT'D)

It's your nature to fight, it's your nature to lead and you resist your own nature because you're frightened -

CHRIS

Angus man, Robert's no coward --

ANGUS

He fears a life with no time for his books, no time for riding up hills for the love of a view, no time for his daughter.

Robert tenses. This is the truth.

ANGUS (CONT'D)  
 Scotland has many daughters. And  
 too many good fathers with a claim  
 have been hanged.

Pause. They await Robert's response. Robert pulls his sword.

ROBERT  
 Watch how you talk to me!  
 (beat)  
 I'm to be your king!

A moment, before Angus and Chris break into smiles.

ROBERT (CONT'D)  
 (to Angus, soft)  
 Always talk to me like that.  
 Always, the truth.

Angus agrees, moved.

CHRIS  
 So we raise up an army.

ROBERT  
 No. Before more blood is spilled we  
 may try a different approach. There  
 is one man more powerful than  
 Edward. The Pope. The Pope can  
 confirm the legitimacy of the  
 Scottish crown. Edward would have  
 to accept it.

CHRIS  
 He would never cross the church.

ANGUS  
 (smirking)  
 And you say you have no head for  
 politics.

ROBERT  
 (a beat)  
 We will convince the good Bishop.

42 INT. LAMBERTON'S PRIVATE OFFICE, GLASGOW - NIGHT 42

Lamberton seals a document intended for the Pope, hands it to an EMISSARY. Sucks in his cheeks. This is a bold move. As the emissary exits, Lamberton stands, looks out of his window and watches James in the courtyard, training.

43 EXT. GLASGOW CATHEDRAL - NIGHT 43

James practicing his sword moves, slashing at the night air. We see his extraordinary skills as a knight, his hunger to avenge. He runs his sword through the imaginary English.

JAMES  
Douglas! Douglas!

44 EXT. LORD COMYN'S CASTLE - NIGHT 44

The emissary rides in, dismounts.

45 INT. LORD COMYN'S CASTLE, GREAT ROOM - NIGHT 45

Lord Comyn looks up, curious, as Lamberton's emissary enters. The emissary smiles. He's young, a little out of his depths but ambitious.

EMISSARY  
Do you pay good money for good  
information?

COMYN  
It depends on the information.

The emissary hesitates (should he secure some kind of fee now?) Then hands him Lamberton's missive to the Pope. Comyn reads it, sucks in his cheeks, angry.

EMISSARY  
Worth quite a lot, wouldn't you  
say? You can keep it if you pay me.  
I'll tell Lamberton I was robbed.

Comyn takes a sword hanging on the wall. The emissary backs away, eyes wide, but Comyn gracefully lunges and slashes at his throat. An outstanding swordsman, he merely scrapes it so that a little necklace of blood dribbles out.

COMYN  
Dastardly folk, these robbers. Good  
swordsmen.

The emissary stares, frozen in fear.

COMYN (CONT'D)  
You can make a little money now. Or  
a lot of money later if you do as I  
tell you.

46 EXT. BRUCE CASTLE, COURTYARD - DAY 46

English soldiers observe TENANTS lining up with carts and livestock. Elizabeth and Marjorie are helping.

Bruce Senior and his FACTOR sit as a tenant places produce on their table, piles of food and caged ducks and hens behind them. English soldiers load up their carts.

Nearby, fighting-age male tenants line up beside the English soldiers. Robert addresses them.

ROBERT

It may be your feudal duty to come here for military service...

Robert looks to the ranks of English soldiers. Elizabeth watches him, sees Robert's discomfort.

ROBERT (CONT'D)

This year our... 'guests' from King Edward's army will also be training you...in time you may be selected to serve in their ranks. As you are all aware, we must provide fighting men to our overlord.

An English SOLDIER steps forward.

SOLDIER

Line up! Now march! March!

Robert returns to the factor's table as a TENANT WOMAN puts her taxed silver into a pot.

TENANT WOMAN

It's all we have.

Robert's eyes accuse his father as the woman moves away.

BRUCE SENIOR

(sadly)

These are our obligations, Robert. I had hoped Edward would be more respectful.

A sudden commotion as an English soldier drags a nine year old BOY from his PARENTS.

MOTHER

No, don't take him, please!

The boy's FATHER tries to intervene. The soldiers throw him to the ground and start beating him. Robert runs over and tries to pull the soldiers off.

ROBERT

In the name of decency, let the child go.

SOLDIER 1

We need him for France. Step aside.

Robert begins to draw his sword.

ELIZABETH

(approaching)

Surely the mighty English army can do without a boy this size. He'll perish on the journey. Wait two years and he'll be a worthy soldier.

Unsure how far to take this, the soldiers release the boy and step away. Elizabeth walks the boy to his parents. Robert studies Elizabeth, impressed. Bruce Senior studies Robert. There are tears in his eyes.

47

INT. BRUCE CASTLE, LIBRARY - NIGHT

47

A servant stokes the fire. Robert reads in the stunningly decorated room. Illuminated texts hang on the wall. Bruce Senior enters, he does not walk easily, he sits with relief.

BRUCE SENIOR

Did I ever tell you that when I went to the Holy Land to fight I purchased a small monkey on a chain thinking it would be amusing to keep such a creature about my person in the camp. I was right. It was amusing. And Edward, King Edward and I, spent hours training this monkey that we christened Moses, training Moses to ride a horse, to do flips on his back and eventually to shoot a small bow and arrow from the horse, that Edward himself had fashioned.

(beat)

He was my friend. I was wrong about my friend. You cannot be his king. I apologize for asking you to do something that would have brought shame to our ancestors. Shame to Scotland.

Robert takes in the apology. Says quietly -

ROBERT

I have sent an emissary to the Pope. If he will recognize our family's claim, I will wear the crown.

Bruce Senior takes this in. Terribly proud.

BRUCE SENIOR

You believe Edward will not risk offending his holiness?

Robert nods.

ROBERT

You never liked violence I saw you once save a bird from a cat. But in a vacuum of power it would be a miracle to become king without bloodshed.

Robert returns to his book. Both men sit alone yet together, satisfied with their quiet reconciliation.

ROBERT (CONT'D)  
Father? Wallace lives. I did that.

Bruce Senior nods. Understanding. Pleased.

48 EXT. BRUCE CASTLE, GATEHOUSE - NIGHT

48

The emissary is talking to the head PORTER.

EMISSARY  
I must talk to Sir Robert at once.  
I have a message from Bishop  
Lamberton.

PORTER  
This way.

He leads the emissary into the castle.

49 INT. BRUCE CASTLE, LIBRARY - NIGHT

49

Marjorie runs in. She's wearing a large, heavy knight's helmet, pretending to be a ghost.

MARJORIE  
Ooooooh! Wooooooo!

Robert gestures his sleeping father.

ROBERT  
Shhh..

Elizabeth enters, she's wearing a helmet too. Robert notices her, can't help but smile.

ROBERT (CONT'D)  
Fetching.

ELIZABETH  
That's not a very nice thing to  
say, it covers up my face.

MARJORIE  
(Bruce Senior)  
He should sleep in bed.

ROBERT  
You're right. Father?

Bruce Senior doesn't move. Elizabeth removes her helmet. Her eyes meet Robert. Something's wrong.

ROBERT (CONT'D)  
Father?

Elizabeth ushers Marjorie out of the room.

ELIZABETH  
Let's go downstairs...

Elizabeth and Marjorie head downstairs.

50 INT. BRUCE CASTLE - CORRIDOR - CONTINUOUS 50

Where the porter and emissary approach the library.

ELIZABETH  
(to Porter, distracted)  
Send a man to ride for a physician  
at once. Now.

The Porter hurries off as Elizabeth exits to take Marjorie to her room. The emissary is left alone. Perfect. He creeps to the library.

51 INT. BRUCE CASTLE, LIBRARY - CONTINUOUS 51

The Emissary sees Robert kneeling by his dead father's body. He takes out a knife. Prepares himself to stab a man in the back. And runs at Robert.

Robert turns just in time. They fight, falling at one point over the Robert Senior's corpse. Robert finally grasps the emissary's knife and holds it at the emissary's throat.

ROBERT  
Who sent you?

The emissary grimaces. Robert digs the knife in.

ROBERT (CONT'D)  
Tell me now!

EMISSARY  
Comyn.

Furious, horrified, Robert stabs him.

52 INT. BRUCE CASTLE, MAIN HALL - DAY 52

Bruce Senior lies in an open coffin. The Bruce brothers receive MOURNERS paying their respects. Angus, Chris and James are with Robert.

JAMES  
Comyn will send another assassin.  
It could be someone in this room.

He scans the room for possible assassins.

ROBERT  
I can't talk about this now.

Pause.

JAMES  
Has Lambertson written to the Pope  
again?



CHRIS  
He can't talk about this now.

Pause. Robert nods politely at mourners paying their respects.

JAMES  
We must kill Comyn. I'll do it.  
Happily.

ROBERT  
Comyn has many followers. If we  
kill him, the country will divide.

Robert steps away from his friends, approaches Elizabeth.

JAMES  
(to Angus)  
I'll tell Comyn we want to meet and  
negotiate. I'll ride tonight.

James exits.

CHRIS  
I like him.

ANGUS  
Me too.

Nearby, Richard de Burgh approaches Robert and Elizabeth.

RICHARD DE BURGH  
Sorry for your loss.

ROBERT  
Thank you.

RICHARD DE BURGH  
To everything there is a season  
though, eh? I have a bit of good  
news. Wallace has been caught.

Robert tenses. Elizabeth notes his discombobulation.

ELIZABETH  
Father, now is not the time for  
politics. Can't you see my husband  
is upset?

Elizabeth leads her father away. She watches as Robert, Chris, James and Angus confer, then separate.

Elizabeth can't sleep. She's stewing about something. She sits up suddenly. Gets out of bed.

54 INT. BRUCE CASTLE, HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS 54

Elizabeth marches towards Robert's room. Two servants, a man and woman, rise.

ELIZABETH

I don't need anything, thank you.

The servants smirk. Sex is about to happen.

SERVANT

(to the other)

Finally...

55 INT. BRUCE CASTLE, ROBERT'S QUARTERS - CONTINUOUS 55

Elizabeth enters. Robert is asleep.

ELIZABETH

Robert. Robert!

And now he's awake and surprised. Before he can say anything -

ELIZABETH (CONT'D)

In a certain sense, I know very little of the world. I've fought no battles, I've sat at no tables where great decisions were made. But I have watched men rise and fall in my father's favor and in the king's favor and I have drawn conclusions of my own about the nature of power.

ROBERT

(where's this going?)

All right...

ELIZABETH

Power is making decisions. Power is not allowing yourself to be buffeted on the tides of history but instead choosing a boat and climbing aboard and hoisting the sail.

Robert is struck by the wisdom of this.

ELIZABETH (CONT'D)

I choose you and whatever course you are charting. I choose you.

Robert nods. Elizabeth is satisfied that she has delivered her message effectively. She exits.

56 INT. BRUCE CASTLE, HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS 56

Elizabeth sweeps past the servants.

SERVANT  
 (to the other)  
 That was quick...

57 INT. BRUCE CASTLE, GREAT HALL - DAY

57

Robert and Elizabeth eat. Angus and Chris enter. Chris waits by the door, Angus approaches, whispers in Robert's ear. Robert listens. He feels Elizabeth's curious eyes on him. Given the night before, he decides she can be trusted.

ROBERT  
 (to Elizabeth)  
 Lord Comyn is in Dumfries and has  
 agreed to meet with me regarding  
 the future of the country.  
 (beat)  
 I will offer him land and money to  
 give up his claim to the throne.

Elizabeth takes this in.

ELIZABETH  
 What if chooses the title over your  
 riches?

ROBERT  
 Our riches.

Angus raises his eyebrows. These two seem to be getting along.

CHRIS  
 He won't.

ANGUS  
 What he'll do is strike a hard  
 bargain. The two of you could be  
 the poorest king and queen that  
 ever lived.

CHRIS  
 Comyn is a greedy bugger.

ROBERT  
 (to Angus)  
 Please don't use language like -

ELIZABETH  
 Do the English know that you are to  
 negotiate with Lord Comyn?

ROBERT  
 They do not.

ELIZABETH  
 What makes you think they will  
 honor any Islaygement you come to?

ANGUS

We're trying to get the Pope on Robert's side, my lady. And we're hopeful. If the Pope comes around, then the English will back off.

ELIZABETH

And if the Pope does not "come around."

ROBERT

Civil War.

Elizabeth nods. Good to know. Got it.

ELIZABETH

Travel safely.

58

EXT. BRUCE CASTLE - DAY

58

Robert, Angus and Chris ride off.

ANGUS

(to Robert)

Feels good to have the love of a good woman again, doesn't it, laddie? Feels good to rest that troubled brow of yours on those milky, jaunty breasts.

ROBERT

(trying not to smile)

Enough.

ANGUS

I'm happy for you. You mourned too long.

ROBERT

It was not a real marriage. She was forced and I'm not taking advantage of that.

ANGUS

Are you serious, man?

Robert is serious. Angus guffaws, spurs his horse to Chris.

ANGUS (CONT'D)

Chris! Chris! Listen to this.

59

EXT. SCOTTISH BORDERS - DAY

59

Robert, Angus and Chris gallop across high, bleak moors, lightning flashing. A lonely figure awaits them up ahead. It's James. He rides up to greet them.

JAMES

He'll meet you. At Greyfriars' church.

CHRIS

He's frightened for his life if he will only meet you in a church. There can be no killing there.

JAMES

I suggested the church. To protect Robert.

Robert nods his thanks at James. Good plan.

60

INT. GREYFRIARS CHURCH - DAY

60

Robert enters and sees Comyn, his back to him, standing near the alter. Robert takes a moment to bottle his anger. The man did try to have him killed.

ROBERT

I'm here.

Comyn spins around, tense, scans Robert to check he has no weapon in hand.

Robert is too repelled by Comyn to approach. Instead he stays near the entrance as he says what he came to say:

ROBERT (CONT'D)

It is abundantly apparent that you are not interested in the actual business of ruling but instead seek to enjoy simply the wealth and privileges of royalty. I am here to offer you those privileges.

Comyn isn't entirely sure where this is going but he's fascinated and somehow amused.

COMYN

Go on.

ROBERT

You may have one third of all my land and my wealth in exchange for relinquishing your claim and keeping the peace.

COMYN

How can I let you be the king of Scotland when you break your promises? You promised me I could be king. You are an oathbreaker. I cannot leave the Scottish people at the mercy of an oathbreaker.

Robert's temper is fraying which manifests as a dangerous calm. He moves closer to Comyn.

ROBERT

You care nothing for the Scottish people.

COMYN

I believe that the Scottish people, who are in the most part drab and dim, require a king that seeks peace with our English brothers, that knows enough to benefit from English strength at home and abroad.

ROBERT

You will not be king. Two thirds of my land and my estates.

COMYN

(mock shocked)

In this holy place you would dangle in front of me your wealth in an obscene display to make me covet thy house?

ROBERT

You want all? Take all. Be as a king, I'll have the documents prepared.

Robert is too close for Comyn's comfort now, his anger is intimidating. Comyn keeps his cool but backs away.

COMYN

My dear Robert, don't you see that when I am king I can simply take your lands.

ROBERT

You will not be king.

COMYN

Edward knows of your betrayal. The entire English army are engaged in a mass competition to cut off your head and put it on a spike for your daughter to see when she's marched to the tower.

And that's it. Comyn's flipped a switch in Robert. He should never have mentioned Marjorie.

ROBERT

For my daughter to see?

Comyn is really unsettled now.

ROBERT (CONT'D)

You hope for my head on a stake?  
You dream of my daughter imprisoned?

Robert draws his sword.

ROBERT (CONT'D)  
 You send a lackey to stab my back  
 while I grieve my father?

COMYN  
 We are in God's -

Robert runs his sword through Comyn. Comyn's eyes widen as he dies. He can't believe this has happened. And neither can Robert. His eyes fall on the figure of Christ. He spins around and his eyes fall on the figure of Mary. Judgment everywhere. He runs out.

61 EXT. GREYFRIARS CHURCH - CONTINUOUS 61

Where James sees him, ashen, shaking, blood on his sword.

JAMES  
 The horses, quick!

Robert doesn't move. James notes Buchan and Comyn's men are nearby, as yet unaware anything is amiss.

JAMES (CONT'D)  
 (a hiss)  
 Chris!

Chris sees Robert, the sword, the lay of the land. He silently, speedily, alerts Angus to untie the horses as James physically hustles an ashen Robert over to them and up onto the saddle. Buchan hears them, sees them.

ANGUS  
 Move.

Buchan rushes inside the chapel as James, Chris, Angus and Robert ride off. The church bell starts to clang.

62 EXT. COUNTRYSIDE - DAY 62

Robert rides as fast as he can. His face a mess of emotion. Angus and the others catch up. They slow their horses. Look at Robert, concerned. Take stock of the situation.

CHRIS  
 I think it's possible that this may  
 push the Pope in the other  
 direction.

Robert breaks into a half-laugh, half sob.

ROBERT  
 Yes, he can hardly support a king  
 who is damned.

It's clear that the half-laugh is hysteria not amusement. Robert believes he will burn in hell.

JAMES

Edward attacked Berwick on Good Friday while everyone was at church. A whole town and almost no one survived. There are no rules that war obeys.

ANGUS

God himself drowned the entire world but for one family, so disgusted was He with the way it turned. He did not save his own shrines.

ROBERT

Are you a theologian now, Angus?

ANGUS

(grim and determined)  
Let us talk to the theologians.

63 EXT. STREETS OF LONDON - DAY

63

An exhausted MESSENGER drives his panting mud-spattered horse towards Westminster. He crosses London Bridge, which is lined up with the heads of Scottish rebels on stakes, scraps of their clan banners and tartans fluttering still recognizable. Wallace's head is there. As the messenger nears the gate, GUARDS jump out, spears raised.

GUARDS

Halt!

64 INT. WESTMINSTER PALACE, KING'S CHAMBERS - DAY

64

Edward has just heard the news from the messenger. The Prince of Wales and GENERALS await his response.

MOWBRAY

(flabbergasted)  
No bishop will crown him. He murdered a man in a church.

PRINCE OF WALES

(amused)  
So brave. To take on God himself.

EDWARD

Whether the bishops crown him or not is immaterial. He must be stopped. He must be brought to me. And he must be killed. His hanged, drawn and quartered body must be displayed throughout all of Scotland as a stark reminder that you do not challenge England!

Pause. The king rarely loses his cool to the extent that he raises his voice.



PRINCE OF WALES  
Raise the dragon banner.

The generals trade glances. The dragon banner is serious.

EDWARD  
( 'no' )  
English knights live and die by  
their chivalry.

PRINCE OF WALES  
The Scots' desire for independence  
is a fire you have very  
successfully reduced to a spark.  
But a spark can be very dangerous.  
A spark is the fire.

The king considers.

PRINCE OF WALES (CONT'D)  
This is not mentioned in  
Thucydides. And yet it is known.

EDWARD  
(to Mowbray)  
Send word to Valence. Tell him the  
rules of engagement have changed.  
Raise the dragon banner. My son  
will ride north with it and three  
hundred men. And my son will bring  
back Robert the Bruce.

The Prince of Wales grins. Excellent news.

65 INT. CATHEDRAL ANTE ROOM, GLASGOW - DAY 65

Robert, Angus, Chris and James wait. Robert's head is in his hands.

66 INT. CATHEDRAL, GLASGOW - DAY 66

Lamberton watches as CLERGY engage in deep discussion.

CLERGYMAN 1  
We must excommunicate him as the  
Pope will surely do.

Lamberton's eyes meet BISHOP WISHART. Wishart is elderly but full of fire.

CLERGYMAN 2  
He was defending himself.

CLERGYMAN 1  
So he says...

CLERGYMAN 2  
He's a good man.

CLERGYMAN 1

There are others with claims.  
Comyn's gone, Robert must surely  
step back, others will come  
forward.

Wishart rises. The discussion ceases. This man's word goes.

WISHART

The English have taken endless  
advantage of our indecision. We  
need to select a leader and rally  
united behind him.

(beat)

There is only one true authority.  
If we silence our mouths and open  
our hearts in prayer, I believe we  
will be able to hear Him clearly  
and do His will.

Wishart kneels, prays. The clergy kneel too. After a moment -

WISHART (CONT'D)

It is clear, is it not?

They look at him. Is it?

WISHART (CONT'D)

Robert the Bruce must be king.

A few nods. Absolutely. That's what God said to us to.

WISHART (CONT'D)

God knows men stumble. That is why,  
in his infinite wisdom, He charted  
a path for our redemption.

67

INT. CATHEDRAL ANTE-ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

67

Robert looks up as Wishart enters. All business.

WISHART

You will confess. I will absolve  
you.

Robert nods, too humbled to smile.

WISHART (CONT'D)

The Church is with you. We will  
rally the people from the pulpit.  
You must rally the lords. As soon  
as possible you must be crowned at  
Scone Abbey.

CHRIS

We cannot get to Scone. Valence and  
half his army have set up residence  
in Perth.

JAMES

No, it must be Scone.

WISHART

Yes indeed, at the Royal chapel  
where all Scots kings are crowned.  
(to Robert)  
Find Lamberton. He will prepare you  
for confession.

Robert exits. The others trade glances. Good result.

CHRIS

(to Wishart)  
What about the Pope?

WISHART

He is in Rome. By the time this  
matter has been brought to his  
attention Robert will be absolved  
and fighting. For Scotland.

Angus chuckles, slaps the Bishop on the back.

68

EXT. GLASGOW CATHEDRAL - DAY

68

Robert and his men mount their horses.

CHRIS

The horses need more rest.

JAMES

We can exchange them in town. We  
must get to the Lords. The more  
support before the coronation the  
better.

James gallops ahead. The three friends look after him,  
energized and amused by the way he never stops to take a  
breath.

ROBERT

(laughing)  
Better do what the man says.

They race after, catch up to James. And there's joy here.  
Because in some sense there are also just men, in the prime  
of their lives, pushing themselves to the limit.

69

EXT. GLASGOW HARBOUR FRONT - DAY

69

Robert and his men walk along the busy harbour front.  
Sweating DOCKERS lift huge crates of Scottish produce onto  
ships flying English flags.

JAMES

There go our food supplies.

70

EXT. GLASGOW MARKET SQUARE - DAY

70

Robert and his men hurry through the square.

A crowd is forming at one end. They push through the increasingly agitated throng to see what's going on. The crowd clears a moment to reveal...

An arm and ripped half torso nailed to a post. A sign above reads: *'The traitor William Wallace'*

A wave of shock. Robert stares in horror. Cries of anguish rise all around him as the people become an angry mob.

ENGLISH COMMANDER  
Clear the square! Clear the square  
now!

The crowd heaves forward, terrified soldiers slash at them with their swords.

Robert, Angus, James and Chris are separated as mounted soldiers shove the angry crowd along. Robert can only go with the chaotic flow.

71 EXT. GLASGOW STREETS - DAY

71

Chaos. Heaving, angry bodies, some trampled. Robert struggles through the crowd to Chris, James and Angus.

The English soldiers are herding the mob now, using their horses and swords to force the Scots to run terrified along the streets.

Chris, Angus, James and Robert escape down a side street.

ROBERT  
The people are ready to fight.

JAMES  
The people are angry but there is no discipline in a mob. First, the Lords. Then the people. You're preparing some words, I trust.

Robert nods, of course he is.

72 INT. BRUCE CASTLE, MAIN HALL - NIGHT

72

Pandemonium. LORDS argue and shout over each other. Robert stands amidst them, trying to talk, being shouted over. Angus, Chris, James and Elizabeth look on, worried.

LORD 1	ROBERT
In the name of God what have you done, Bruce! The northern lords will never forgive this!	We'll drive out the English, port by port, inch by inch.

LORD 2  
You've given Edward reason to crush us!

ROBERT  
Which is why I need your support.

LORD 1  
You think I'll support you now?!

ROBERT  
I want unity and stability so we  
can take back our trade with  
Ireland -

LORD 3  
Where were you at the battle of  
Falkirk?!

ROBERT  
Control our ports and our waters.  
And after that, I'll call a  
Parliament.

LORD CARLYLE  
I'm with you, Robert!

LORD 3  
Are you out of your mind, Carlyle?

We cut from chaos to -

73

EXT. BRUCE CASTLE, MAIN HALL - LATER

73

Quiet. Robert and Elizabeth sit exhausted on opposite sides  
of a very long table. After a moment -

ROBERT  
I would prefer to go to Scone with  
more support.

ELIZABETH  
You got a few of them. Only a king  
can convince every lord in Scotland  
to join him.

ROBERT  
Comyn's people are spreading lies.

ELIZABETH  
Of course. Inevitable.

Robert looks at her. Curious about this woman.

ROBERT  
So you are to be Queen. Your  
thoughts on that?

He gives her a slow smile, a smile she likes

ELIZABETH  
Probably not as much fun as life in  
a small residence by the sea.  
Children playing.  
(MORE)

ELIZABETH (CONT'D)  
No Lords shouting and doubting and  
spilling their drinks.

ROBERT  
Lords always spill their drinks.

She smiles. He's funny.

ROBERT (CONT'D)  
Wallace had a great gift for  
rousing the people. I fear I am not  
a rabble rouser.

He smiles again, but this time to mask his embarrassment at  
this admission of weakness.

ELIZABETH  
There are men to whom grand  
speeches come easily because they  
crave the masses to hold them up.  
There are other men that operate  
with an inner resolve. Such men are  
less noisy perhaps, perhaps it will  
take longer for word of their  
actions to spread. But if they act  
nobly the people will hear and the  
people will come and it will be  
left to others, to balladeers and  
chroniclers, to tell of the quiet  
man's courage.

Robert is somewhat comforted.

ROBERT  
The journey to Scone will be  
dangerous. I apologize. After the  
coronation I will have you and  
Marjorie sent to France. You will  
be safe there.

He stands.

ROBERT (CONT'D)  
Good night.

She walks towards the door. Instead of exiting, she then  
walks back up Robert's side of the table. It's a massive  
table so this takes quiet a while. He watches her. She stands  
very close to him.

She waits. He leans towards her, kisses her, almost shyly,  
but she doesn't pull away. Eventually she does. Clears her  
throat. That was a lot. And she is a virgin.

ELIZABETH  
Good night.

He watches her leave.

74 EXT. BRUCE CASTLE, COURTYARD - DAY

74

Worried-looking tenants assemble as Elizabeth, Robert and Marjorie prepare to depart. An elderly servant holds Faolan while Marjorie bids him a tearful goodbye.

MARJORIE

Please can we take him?

Robert shakes his head.

ELDERLY SERVANT

Be safe, my lord.

ROBERT

(quietly to him)

Get away from here as soon as possible. Edward's men will be on your tail.

NEIL

(to Marjorie)

Come on! On my back! I'll be your horse.

Marjorie climbs on. Neil trots her to the men: Chris, James, Euan and Alexander, and several lords, including Lennox, Fitzalan, and Lord Carlyle. Robert walks to his horse, pauses at Carlyle.

ROBERT

Thank you for joining us, Carlyle.  
I appreciate it.

Carlyle nods.

ANGUS

(riding up)

Let's move out!

Robert and Neil help Elizabeth and Marjorie into their carriage. The Bruce party start their journey.

75 INT. PERTSHIRE - DAY

75

The train moves northwards under a hot midday sun. Elizabeth cradles a sleeping Marjorie. Robert passes on his horse, offers her water to drink. He points into the distance. The town of Perth, its castle prominent.

ROBERT

That's Perth.

(his finger to the right)

And that's Scone.

A smaller hamlet, barely visible. Elizabeth looks concerned.

ROBERT (CONT'D)

Rest easy. We'll pass right under his nose.

They move on.

76

INT. PRIVATE CHAMBER, WESTMINSTER PALACE - DAY

76

The Prince is being dressed by SERVANTS in a suit of shining jet black armour. Edward watches.

EDWARD

I don't want you to be just like me. Be better than me.

PRINCE OF WALES

(casually)

I asked my servant here, Jacko, to grab you by the neck and hold you immobile as you have had Valence do to me so many times. I thought I would strike you in the face and get a taste of what it will be like to be king.

JACKO is uncomfortable, keeps working.

PRINCE OF WALES (CONT'D)

Jacko refused. He is loyal to the crown. Of course that means when I am king staying alive will prove very precarious for him because I will not forget that he did not do what I asked.

Jacko looks like he might vomit. Keeps working.

EDWARD

My son -

PRINCE OF WALES

I don't need anyone to hold you down.

The Prince strikes him in the jaw, the hardest punch he's got, full of all the hate and love he has for his father. Edward rubs his jaw.

PRINCE OF WALES (CONT'D)

I decided years ago that when you hit me, I would never cry, I would never flinch, I wouldn't give you the satisfaction of trying to rub the pain away. I'm stronger than you. And although you miss my brothers, one day you'll realise that I am more intelligent and braver than the two of them put together ever were.

Edward smiles, his teeth full of blood.

EDWARD

Get the Bruce and I'll believe you.



77 EXT. WESTMINSTER PALACE, COURTYARD - DAY

77

The Prince walks in to greet his knights kneeling before him. He raises the DRAGON BANNER.

PRINCE OF WALES

When this flag is raised, there will be no mercy, no quarter. No prisoners shall be taken. Robert Bruce is to be hounded from here to hell. Anyone calling him their king forfeits their right to decent death. Now, rise before us as knights.

A deafening clatter of steel as THREE HUNDRED KNIGHTS in the same black armour rise to their feet in front of him.

78 EXT. LONDON STREETS - DAY

78

Looking like they've ridden out of hell, the Prince and his dark mass of knights gallop forbiddingly towards the city gates. TOWNSPEOPLE stare in awe as they pass.

79 EXT. CENTRAL LOWLANDS - NIGHT

79

Robert's party moves silently under the shadow of English-occupied Perth Castle. Soldiers patrol the battlements.

Robert dismounts, gesturing for the others to move on. He scans the dark mass of trees. Up ahead, James looks back.

As Robert turns away, Buchan and SEVERAL ARMED MEN suddenly lunge out of the dark. Robert jumps aside, narrowly missing Buchan's sword before turning and slashing one man's throat, then dropping low and cutting the sword-hand off the second. Screams.

Angus, James and Euan thunder into the fray, each taking on an armed man. James swings his sword expertly. Buchan is under pressure from Chris. He hacks his sword down but it's blocked by Chris's blade. With a second sword, Chris throws Buchan backwards, onto his knees. Chris is at his throat. Robert steps up.

ROBERT

Let him go. Stop. All of you.

Reluctantly Chris lets Buchan go as the fighting ceases.

ROBERT (CONT'D)

Buchan, listen to me, what happened with Comyn was not --

BUCHAN

-- God will show you no mercy, Bruce.

Buchan runs into the dark with his remaining men.

ROBERT

I doubt we've seen the last of him.

ALEXANDER

Why spare him?

ROBERT

I can't keep killing my own countrymen.

The men return to the others.

80 EXT. STABLES, PERTH - NIGHT 80

Armour is placed on hundreds of HORSES.

81 EXT. SCONE ESTATE - NIGHT 81

Robert's train comes to a stop in front of the ancient, imposing Scone abbey. Wishart hurries out.

WISHART

Come, we must hurry.

Wishart and Clergy appears with two ceremonial robes. Elizabeth and Robert eye each other as the robes are draped around their shoulders. It's both humbling and absurd. So much finery. Elizabeth takes Robert's hand.

ELIZABETH

(whispers)

Just think of it as our wedding,  
but for real this time.

82 EXT. INNER COURTYARD, SCONE ABBEY - NIGHT 82

Torches flicker in a decaying but beautiful court-yard. Robert and his party walk through the quiet abbey. They greet serious-looking LORDS, including SINCLAIR and MAR.

ROBERT

Lord Sinclair. Lord Mar. Thank you  
for your support.

83 EXT. CEREMONIAL GROUND - NIGHT 83

Wishart produces a golden, jeweled crown from his cloak and places it on Robert's head. Elizabeth smiles proudly. Wishart blesses Elizabeth. They take each other's hands, and rise together, smiling. Just like newly-weds.

Angus, Chris, Marjorie and his brothers watch, burning with pride. Robert catches Marjorie's eye, pulls a ridiculous face. She giggles. The Lords looks askance. Not appropriate.

Robert walks out of the Abbey holding Elizabeth's hand, his retinue following. Angus puts a hand on his shoulder.

ANGUS

Robert. Look there.

Down the hill, a crowd of supporters has gathered, silently lifting their torches to show honour to their king and queen. Robert and Elizabeth are heartened. Robert raises his hand and bows. Elizabeth curtsies.

ANGUS (CONT'D)

It's a good thing they've come. Valence men are assembling three miles from here, he has made a challenge.

ROBERT

How formal. Not his style.

JAMES

He knows we're outnumbered. The English seek a very public defeat.

ROBERT

Alexander. Euan.

His brothers approach.

ROBERT (CONT'D)

Ride down to those that hold the torches, recruit any man prepared to fight. Then ride on to the villages. Do the same.

His brothers head away.

CHRIS

(to Robert)

Let's not reply. We can wait for more men, then launch a surprise attack.

JAMES

This is his first battle with the English as king. Better word spreads that he fought with all deference to the chivalric code and won because God is on our side, than we gain a dishonorable victory fought devil-cloaked in shadows.

ROBERT

(thinks, to Angus)

Send a messenger back to Valence. Tell him I've been crowned king and we can meet tomorrow to agree terms.

James nods, pleased.

ANGUS  
Yes, Your Majesty.

Robert glances at him, adjusting to his new title.

85 EXT. SCONE ABBEY, ROBERT'S TENT, SCOTTISH CAMP - NIGHT 85

Robert and Elizabeth sit by the fire. He pours wine into a cup for her.

ROBERT  
I couldn't find any goblets.

ELIZABETH  
(drinks)  
Nor any decent wine.

He laughs. They look at each other. Stirring of desire.

ELIZABETH (CONT'D)  
Alas, we are but king and queen of  
the May, and the morning will come  
to strip us of our crowns.

ROBERT  
No my queen, only death can do  
that. And we have too much to do to  
let that happen now.

She hangs a crown of flowers on him. A quiet moment.  
Awareness of the gravity of recent events.

Robert turns to look at the tents facing theirs. Angus, Chris  
and others outside one, Lambertson and James outside another.  
Robert gets to his feet.

ROBERT (CONT'D)  
Shall we walk?

86 EXT. FOREST - NIGHT 86

Elizabeth walks ahead of Robert through the willow trees,  
murmuring in the wind. He takes her hand. She stops, turns to  
face him. She kisses him. He pulls her to him, strokes her  
face. The kiss becomes passionate.

87 EXT. FOREST - NIGHT 87

Post-coital, Elizabeth lies in Robert's arms. He stares up at  
the sky, knowing this is a fleeting moment. She laughs at the  
state they're in, pulling leaves and twigs from her hair. He  
pulls her close again.

88 EXT. FLAT GROUND - DAY 88

Valence and his generals stop before Robert, Angus, Chris and  
James and thirty of his men.

JAMES

We fight for a sovereign nation,  
under the banner of King Robert the  
first.

Valence looks up at the tatty royal banner. Then at Robert.

VALENCE

My men have had a long ride. As a  
knight of honour, Sir. Will you  
allow them the chance to rest  
before combat?

ROBERT

Very well.

VALENCE

You have my gratitude, Sir. May I  
suggest we commence at sunrise  
tomorrow?

ROBERT

Agreed. And you agree to surrender  
your castle when faced with defeat?

VALENCE

By my troth.

They shake hands. Angus looks worried. As they ride away -

ANGUS

All very honorable and everything,  
but it makes me nervous.

ROBERT

(tense)  
It's in our favor. My brothers  
aren't back yet. Comyn's men,  
maybe?

89

EXT. FLAT GROUND - MOMENTS LATER

89

As Valence rides away with his generals...

GENERAL

The Prince will add only disarray.  
He lacks discipline. I wish we  
could fight without his "help."

VALENCE

The Prince served his purpose by  
raising the dragon banner. We may  
now do as we wish.

GENERAL

But the king -

VALENCE

The king has made clear that the  
means don't matter. Only the end.

James stands alone, practicing his sword skills. As he runs through imaginary Englishmen he hisses...

JAMES

Douglas! Douglas!

Nearby, a SQUIRE feeds the campfire warming Robert and his knights as they confer.

ROBERT

At dawn, Angus, take the footsoldiers. Flanking your left will be Chris and Lennox. Fitzalan and Neil will move their men down to your right and come up behind.

(to the exiting Squire)

Thank you.

(to Knights)

Sinclair and Mar will hold the rear with Carlyle and James. James?

He looks over to see James practising battle in the dark.

NEIL

(re James)

My memory is that when he was a lad they said he was one for study not war. Look at him now.

They all study James for a moment, so intent, now brilliant at an art not natural to him.

Drew approaches. They look up. Yes?

DREW

I would fight by King's side, if he'll have me to protect him.

Robert nods, moved. Drew is pleased. Heads off. The meeting continues. Robert heads after Drew.

CHRIS (O.S)

I will be heading straight for Valence himself. If he falls, his men will panic.

Robert passes through the ranks. The men sit outside their tents by fires, sharpening spears, eating rations.

He finds Drew sitting with some foot-soldiers, including ARCHIBALD, a bearded soldier, older than the others.

Robert joins them. From his pocket, Archibald pulls out some knucklebones (medieval jacks).

ARCHIBALD

Who's for a game of knucklebones?

The men move closer, grinning. Robert takes off his ring.

ROBERT

The winner gets this ring.

The ring bears the Bruce crest. Impressed, the men play.

92

INT. ROBERT'S TENT - NIGHT

92

Robert enters the tent, to find Elizabeth telling Marjorie a bedtime story, stroking her head.

ELIZABETH

And brave Guinevere waited  
patiently many years to be reunited  
with her love...

Marjorie's asleep. Smiling, Robert lies down beside them, so that Marjorie's in the middle.

ROBERT

Thank you for being so good with  
her. She adores you.

ELIZABETH

We must look after each other.  
There aren't many of us ladies  
around.

Suddenly, a sinister HIGH-PITCHED SOUND. Robert sits up. The sound again.

ELIZABETH (CONT'D)

What is it?

ROBERT

Wait!

He looks out of the tent into the darkness. The sound a third time. It dawns on him.

ROBERT (CONT'D)

Stay with Marjorie. Don't go  
anywhere.

93

EXT. SCOTTISH CAMP - NIGHT

93

He runs to the nearby tents. Around him, his foot soldiers begin to awaken, panicking, as the arrows rain down.

ROBERT

Wake up! Quickly! Angus! Chris!

Robert stops dead. Above their camp, standing silently, an immense black wall of Valence's SOLDIERS. They lift their arms, pulling back their bows, aiming into the sky.

ROBERT (CONT'D)  
GET UP! ARCHERS!

The men start to stir and panic. The sound comes again, the quiver of a hundred bow-strings on release.

ROBERT (CONT'D)  
Take cover!

Robert dives into his tent.

94 INT. ROBERT'S TENT - NIGHT 94

Holding his shield up, Robert throws himself on top of the terrified Elizabeth and Marjorie. Several arrows smash through the tent and lodge in his shield.

ROBERT  
Come with me now!

He rushes them out, under cover of his shield.

95 EXT. SCOTTISH CAMP - NIGHT 95

Another swarm of deadly arrows fly through the darkness and rain down on Robert's men killing dozens instantly.

96 EXT. ROBERT'S TENT - NIGHT 96

Using his shield to deflect arrows, Robert runs with Elizabeth and Marjorie, to ground out of the archers' range.

ROBERT  
(shouting back to Angus)  
Get the men out of range!

Chaos. Soldiers run around bewildered and terrified. Angus is on his horse, screaming at the men. The other lords try to marshal their men too.

ANGUS  
Bruce men over here!

Drew appears and runs over to Angus, who shields him protectively. The younger men follow suit.

LENNOX  
Lennox men here!

Another volley of arrows falls out of the sky, killing more men as they run.

97 EXT. DARK GROUND - NIGHT 97

Robert, Elizabeth and Marjorie reach a large boulder.



ROBERT

Wait here. I'll send Neil to take you to Kildrummy. Lord Fraser is a friend. He will get you to France.

MARJORIE

You take us.

ROBERT

I'll meet you there.

He meets Elizabeth's eyes, both knowing this is unlikely. Marjorie begins to cry. He tries to hug her but she scratches at his face, screaming -

MARJORIE

You take us!

She's hysterical. Elizabeth pulls her off.

ELIZABETH

(firmly)  
Go with God.

Robert forces himself to leave them, heads back to the fray.

98

EXT. SCOTTISH CAMP - NIGHT

98

The tree cover doesn't offer much protection, but it does help to obstruct an English charge. Despite this, waves of arrows are decimating Robert's men, who are gathering around their lords in panic. Robert arrives back, sees James.

ROBERT

James!

James runs towards him.

ROBERT (CONT'D)

Get the horses! As many as you can!

Carlyle sprint towards the tethered horses. Another swarm of arrows kills more men. Chris runs towards Robert.

CHRIS

Get back! You have to --

An arrow buries itself in his back. Chris collapses dead in Robert's arms. Robert despairs.

ROBERT

Chris!

He lays him down. Then, from out of the darkness -

VALENCE

CHARGE!

A wall of soldiers, swords drawn, start running forward. Robert looks across, eyes burning with fury. James appears on a horse, pulling another one after him.

JAMES

My Lord!

Robert jumps onto the horse. Spots Angus.

ANGUS

Over here! Quickly!

Instead Robert and James exchange a look and turn their horse towards the approaching English and charge towards the oncoming soldiers. The Scots can only watch, stunned as James launches into the crowd of bewildered English.

JAMES

DOUGLAS! DOUGLAS!

The English charge as Robert heads towards them, swinging his axe, killing several soldiers and wounding horses before pulling up to assess.

Suddenly a group of English knights, lead by Mowbray, ride up and bear down on him. Mowbray spears his horse's heart and it collapses. Robert's thrown off and pinned by the flailing horse. Mowbray jumps off and grabs Robert by the throat.

MOWBRAY

I have him! I have--

A thud as Mowbray keels over, unconscious, revealing Drew behind with his axe.

Robert frees himself from under the horse.

On the outskirts of the camp, Alexander and Euan with a rag-tag bunch of thirty NEW SCOTS RECRUITS ride up.

EUAN

Holy...

The brothers stare at the midnight bloodshed. Horrified, but -

EUAN (CONT'D)

We fight now, for Scotland and  
King Robert the Bruce! Charge!

Some of the new recruits turn and run, some follow Alexander and Euan into the battle. More fighting, more bloodshed. Drew expertly swings his axe, James his sword.

ANGUS

(to Euan and Alexander)  
What took you so long?

EUAN

The people took some convincing.

ANGUS

Bet they're glad they came.

Alexander gives a short, desperate laugh. This is insanity.

Terrible fighting ensues. A SCOTSMAN too old to be fighting and poorly-armoured, staggers fearlessly among the English like a drunk man in traffic. He wears tartan, he swings his weapon, tears streaming down his face. He mutters in Gaelic. And we make out -

SCOTSMAN

Alba gu bràth. Alba gu bràth.

He fells four English soldiers before he's killed. He's glad he came.

A swarm of English infantry head for Robert. Angus jumps onto a stray horse, rides between the soldiers and Robert, heading them off. A panicked look between him and Robert.

ROBERT

Retreat! Pull back!

The overwhelmed Scottish troops start to retreat.

ANGUS

Get on! Now!

Robert jumps up behind him. They ride off with their retreating army.

99

EXT. OUTSIDE METHVEN FOREST - DAY

99

CLOSE ON Chris, dead, still beautiful.

COMMANDER (O.S.)

We have their provisions, General.

CAMERA PULLS BACK to reveal infantry walking through the camp, killing off the helpless wounded soldiers. Other soldiers pick over their possessions. One stands over Archibald - who lies dead on the ground. He removes the ring he won at knucklebones the night before.

Valence looks at his commander. He's a little worried.

VALENCE

Perhaps we'll starve them out. Not that we'll need to. They're heading into unwelcome terrain anyway.

100

EXT. SCOTTISH GLEN - DALRIGH GLEN - DAY

100

Exhausted and in shock, Robert's depleted group ride hurriedly along a rutted track. The remaining foot soldiers march quickly behind. Steep slopes of stony scree are either side, dotted with clumps of gorse.

Robert leads them to a spot, hidden from view. They stop, catch their breath.

ROBERT  
Let's head out to the shore and  
make for Islay, if Angus will have  
us. We'll be safe there.

Angus nods, supportive.

JAMES  
(quietly to Robert)  
Maybe say a little something more  
to the men. England has raised the  
dragon banner. Secure loyalty  
whenever you can.

Robert nods, clears his throat.

ROBERT  
I thank you all for your allegiance  
and your bravery.

The men listen, expectant.

ROBERT (CONT'D)  
We are not many. The path to  
victory is not short.

James, Angus, Euan look concerned. Not an inspiring start.

ROBERT (CONT'D)  
But as I have always said to my  
daughter...

James wrinkles his nose. Daughter?

ROBERT (CONT'D)  
If you do not fear, then how can  
you have courage? If the triumph is  
easy, then how can you rejoice?

Robert has the men's attention.

ROBERT (CONT'D)  
And if others do not follow you  
when you set upon a path you  
believe to be right, then you must  
walk alone and trust that in time  
others will join and you'll no  
longer be alone.

Robert scans the glen and spots a still FIGURE high up on the scree. A powerful-looking CLAN LEADER. Beyond him, hundreds of HIGHLANDERS emerge, holding long-handled axes. James and Angus follow Robert's look. The men notice them too, shift on their feet, nervous.

ROBERT (CONT'D)  
It seems like in Scotland for some  
time we have been living in the age  
of the tyrants.

(MORE)

ROBERT (CONT'D)  
These days there are many Goliaths.  
But David always wins. God was ever  
on the side of David.

JAMES  
Friend or foe?

ANGUS  
MacDougalls. That's all I know.

Robert looks back at the track they came in on, then to the  
pass ahead. He calls up to the Highlanders.

ROBERT  
I am Robert Bruce. King of  
Scotland. As God is my witness, I  
ask you to join my army to ensure  
the freedom of Scotland.

MACDOUGALL  
(shouting down)  
And why would God be wanting us to  
do that?

ROBERT  
It's true, I've made mistakes. I've  
let good men be killed.

Angus and James exchange a worried glance.

JAMES  
(hissing)  
You need to work on your speeches.

ROBERT  
I've had friends die. Family. But I  
will not bow down. With me,  
there'll be no more taxes for the  
pocket of Edward. No good men  
fighting wars not of our making.

Some of Robert's men smile. Sounds good.

MACDOUGALL  
You've some raging ambition, Bruce,  
I'll give you that. But you're no  
king of ours!

Anticipating attack, Robert rallies his men to action.

ROBERT  
Horses up front! Infantrymen, we'll  
protect you as best we can!

MACDOUGALL  
You'll die like the devil you are.

The clan race forward. The knights on horses canter forward.  
The foot soldiers cover the rear. The MacDougalls smash into  
them, swinging their axes low, taking down the horses. Robert  
and his men kill several of them but still more surge  
forward.

Robert goes to help his footsoldiers, picking off as many MacDougalls as he can. A MacDougall lunges at Robert, slashing his sword into Robert's calf. Grimacing, Robert swings his axe and kills him.

Robert wheels round. Another wave of Highlanders storms down the slopes. Robert shouts to his men on horses.

ROBERT  
Save as many men as you can!

James fights off the front line of Highlanders as Angus, Alexander and Euan ride in as far as they dare. Each of them pulls a footsoldier onto their horse, then rides them uphill to safety. When they attempt to do it again, it's clear the few remaining footsoldiers have been overwhelmed by MacDougalls. James signals for them to retreat. Robert can only follow.

As they ride for the forest, Robert looks back to see the last of his footsoldiers being massacred.

ROBERT (CONT'D)  
For God's sake, we can't leave them to die.

ANGUS  
We've been here before. You're no good to us dead, your majesty.

ROBERT  
Don't call me that.

ANGUS  
(angrily)  
You're king now! We win if you survive.

Angus pulls Robert's reins, spurs their horses away. Robert clenches his jaw, accepting and hating the strategy.

101 INT. KILDRUMMY CASTLE, ENTRANCE GATE - DAY 101

Elizabeth, Marjorie and Neil are welcomed by LORD FRASER, elderly and kind.

FRASER  
Welcome to Kildrummy, your Royal Highness.

ELIZABETH  
Thank you so much, the child needs food.

102 EXT. RISE OF HILL - DAY 102

Robert's group pull up. Below, a mile distant LOCH LOMOND, a huge body of grey water, bars the route west. Robert looks at the sky. The wind's picking up, the clouds darkening.

103 EXT. JETTY - SHORES OF LOCH - DAY

103

Robert's forty men ride into a small settlement on the loch's shores. As they pass, they notice a few VILLAGERS scurry into their houses and extinguish the lights, scared the new arrivals bring trouble.

Angus scans the surrounding hills, sensing danger. He spies a man running out around the back of a house, riding off into the hills in haste.

Robert looks out over the water. There's a jetty and a small rowing boat. Angus and Robert share a look at the size of the meagre rowboat.

ROBERT  
How long over land?

JAMES  
Two days. Maybe more.

ANGUS  
If we cross here, it means losing  
the horses.

ROBERT  
We need the time more.

104 EXT. SHORE OF LOCH - DAY

104

The rowboat holds eight men. James motions for Angus to go with Robert.

ANGUS  
Robert, you must go first.

Robert, Angus and Alexander wade out, get into the boat. Seven other men climb in, leaving thirty on the shore. Angus and Alexander start rowing. Dark clouds gather.

Unseen by Robert several Highlander warriors appear on the brow of the hill above the Loch.

105 EXT. FAR SIDE OF LOCH - DAY

105

Robert leaps out into the waist-high water with the others, struggling to reach the shore. Alexander and Angus start rowing back for more of their men.

ROBERT  
As fast as you can, men!

Robert struggles ashore, looks back at the crossing and sees a swarm of Highlanders rushing down the hills towards the loch, unseen by Alexander and Angus as they're facing the wrong way. He looks around, spots a second, smaller rowing boat, pushes it into the loch, starts rowing furiously back.

106 EXT. NEAR SIDE OF LOCH - DAY

106

James catches sight of the Highlanders running down the hill.

JAMES

Into the water! Into the water!

Alexander and the men rush into the water of the loch and start swimming. They gasp at the shock of the cold water.

107 EXT. LOCH - DAY.

107

Spears fly towards the boats. Some of the men cannot swim. Robert, Alexander and Angus pull as many on board as they can including James, Drew and several others.

As Robert turns around, Alexander is hit in the chest by a spear and killed instantly. Euan grabs him and tries to shake him alive. More men grab hold of the boat's side. A frantic scabble to save one another. To make room for his men Robert has to pull Euan away from his dead brother. The Highlanders descend into the water with their spears poised. Out of his mind, Robert screams at the men.

ROBERT

For God's sake ROW! Come on, men,  
row!

More spears descend relentlessly on the overflowing boats as they sail out of the Highlanders' reach. Robert looks back at Alexander amongst the dead, floating away in the dark water, bereft. Euan rows for his life, tears pouring down his face.

108 EXT. MIDDLE OF LOCH - DAY

108

Angus' boat slightly ahead, Robert, James and Euan heave on the oars, aware of the men in the freezing water; teeth chattering, eyes going blank. Once out of range of the arrows, Robert stops rowing and jumps into the water to help save the dying men. James helps to pull the worst cases on board.

109 EXT. FAR SIDE OF LOCH - DAY

109

Robert's exhausted men land on the shore. He drags a shivering MAN out of the water.

ROBERT

Huddle together.

He pulls off his woollen tunic and wraps the man in it. The other men do the same.

Robert directs the men to huddle in a large circle, the soaked men in the middle, the dry men on the outside, using their bodies to keep the men warm.

Slowly, colour and life returns to the men.



110 EXT. BAY - ISLAY - DAY 110

Robert, his arm around Euan, heads up the beach towards ANGUS' with his bedraggled men. Angus' WIFE and several CLANSMEN run to greet them. Tears of joy as she sees her husband alive.

111 INT. PERTH CASTLE, COURTYARD - DAY 111

Valence and his men at attention. The Prince removes his helmet. The black knights stare at Valence unnervingly.

PRINCE OF WALES

You did not wait for me, you  
 attacked by night. You outnumbered  
 him, you had the element of  
 surprise. And yet you lost him.  
 What is it, I wonder, that my  
 father sees in you?

The Prince pokes his sword into Valence's neck.

PRINCE OF WALES (CONT'D)

How does it feel to lead an army  
 and yet know that same army  
 standing behind you now would watch  
 me take your life and do nothing?

VALENCE

(very uncomfortable)

I have helped bring Scotland to her  
 knees. There will always be rogue  
 elements, they are nothing.

PRINCE OF WALES

Rogue elements? He calls himself  
 king.

VALENCE

He is a deluded soul who, thanks to  
 you can never come home again. He  
 will die friendless, an outlaw and  
 a joke.

The Prince responds well to flattery. He lowers his sword.

PRINCE OF WALES

Do you even know where he was  
 heading?

VALENCE

West. I'm sure of it.

PRINCE OF WALES

West, your Highness.

A few HORSEMEN approach. They're challenged by SOLDIERS.

VALENCE

It's Buchan. Comyn's nephew.

PRINCE OF WALES  
 (to Valence, not letting  
 it go)  
 West, your Highness, West your  
Highness, West your Highness.

VALENCE  
 West, your highness.

Buchan's brought before the Prince.

BUCHAN  
 (bowing)  
 Your Highness.

The Prince of Wales smiles. Nods at Valence. See?

PRINCE OF WALES  
 Do you bring news of the Bruce?

BUCHAN  
 No, your Highness.  
 (beat)  
 His wife and child.

112 INT. KILDRUMMY CASTLE, ELIZABETH'S QUARTERS - NIGHT 112

Elizabeth and Marjorie lie asleep in bed. A noise from outside then footsteps outside her chambers. Neil rushes into their room.

NEIL  
 Quickly, Army approaching!

Neil stares from the window as the army gathers outside the front of the castle as Marjorie and Elizabeth dress hurriedly. Once they're ready they follow Neil out.

113 INT. KILDRUMMY CASTLE - NIGHT 113

Marjorie and Elizabeth follow Neil down some back stairs and through a secret passage. They arrive at an exit.

NEIL  
 Get to the trees, I'll send horses  
 and men. God be with you.

Elizabeth and Marjorie run for the trees.

114 EXT. BATTLEMENTS, KILDRUMMY CASTLE - NIGHT 114

Lord Fraser looks down at the Prince, with Buchan and Valence beside him. A warning shot of flaming arrows are shot over the castle walls.

PRINCE OF WALES

Lord Fraser! I know you have the  
Bruce's wife and daughter. Hand  
them over and I spare the castle.

Several flaming arrows are shot over the castle walls. Neil  
runs in, approaches Fraser.

NEIL

They are gone, my Lord.

FRASER

(calling down)

They are not here, Majesty. And  
this is a most unwelcome intrusion!

115

INT. KILDRUMMY CASTLE, COURTYARD - NIGHT

115

Neil and Fraser stand in front of the Prince. The Prince is  
working hard and well at running the show. Buchan and Valence  
are nearby.

PRINCE OF WALES

Where's your brother?

NEIL

Your Highness, I don't know.

PRINCE OF WALES

I find that hard to believe. Where  
are his wife and daughter?

NEIL

They left for Turnberry on Tuesday.  
I was to join them there tomorrow.

The Prince smirks. Valence's soldiers drag Elizabeth and  
Marjorie into the courtyard. The Prince nods to one of  
Valence's soldiers, who forces Neil onto his knees and raises  
his sword above him.

PRINCE OF WALES

Let's hear the truth, Neil. Where  
is your brother?

NEIL

I don't know.

The Prince nods. The soldier cuts off Neil's head. Elizabeth  
tries to shield Marjorie, horrified, hysterical. The head  
rolls on the ground. A HUNTING DOG immediately laps at the  
blood of the neck-stump.

THE PRINCE OF WALES

(to Elizabeth)

Where is Bruce?

Elizabeth covers Marjorie's ears and hugs her tight.

ELIZABETH  
We don't know.

VALENCE  
(to a knight)  
Take the child!

A soldier tries to separate them but Elizabeth clings to Marjorie and Marjorie to Elizabeth.

ELIZABETH  
(to the Prince)  
Please have mercy, your father is a tyrant, you are not.

PRINCE OF WALES  
You think I'm weak?

ELIZABETH  
Compassion is not weakness.

Elizabeth stares him in the eyes.

PRINCE OF WALES  
My mother is dead. And I do not miss her.

Elizabeth is flummoxed by this response. Marjorie begins to scream.

PRINCE OF WALES (CONT'D)  
You look like you're an honest man, Fraser. Do tell all. Where are they?

FRASER  
(terrified and honest)  
I don't know.

Elizabeth and Marjorie are led away to the sound of Fraser's screams. Elizabeth grabs Marjorie and carries her in her arms, whispering comfort to her as she whimpers.

PRINCE OF WALES  
I knew there'd be progress as soon as father let me fight.

116 INT. PRISON, CELL - NIGHT

116

ENGLISH GUARDS throw Elizabeth and Marjorie inside. The door is slammed shut. They take in their surroundings. No windows, a cold stone floor and rough walls. Cave-like. The door opens again, a nervous ENGLISH GUARD throws a blanket on the floor.

GUARD  
For the child.

He shuts the door again quickly.

117 EXT. ISLAY - DAY

117

Robert watches GULLS swooping just above the ocean. Nearby, ISLANDERS dry seaweed on rocks, thread nets, catch crabs.

Robert turns to see a COURIER approaching with Angus and James. They are grim-faced. Robert blinks, steeling himself.

JAMES  
Kildrummy's fallen. Every man  
massacred -

Robert loses his mind. Literally in that second. He grabs Angus, ready to kill him -

ROBERT  
My daughter! We've killed my  
daughter with this scheming!

ANGUS  
She's safe, man! She's safe!

Robert falls to his knees, hides his head.

JAMES  
Elizabeth and Marjorie have been  
taken by the Prince.

Robert cannot speak.

118 EXT. ISLAY - LATER

118

Robert's eyes are red. He and James look out over the water.

JAMES  
We cannot march to England before  
we've conquered the hearts of the  
Scots. We should sail to Clan  
Maclean on Mull first. Then  
Mackenzie. Then MacKinnon on Skye,  
although he can be a stubborn  
bugger.

ROBERT  
I'm sure they will join us.  
They're tough and proud. We've  
nothing to lose and nor do they.  
We'll sail to Mull at first light.

JAMES  
Another day to wait.

ROBERT  
Time to study and plan. Scotland,  
has a king, yes - but what it needs  
now is a general.

Robert looks at the sea, sees a sailing ship.

ROBERT (CONT'D)  
She said to me once, power is  
choosing a boat, hoisting the sail.

JAMES  
Marjorie?

ROBERT  
Elizabeth.

119 INT. ABBEY LIBRARY - NIGHT 119

Robert pours over ancient manuscripts and maps of Scotland.  
Pages of notes and hand-drawn diagrams lie around him.

With great attention he studies an old manuscript with  
illustrations of Roman legions in formations. One is 'The  
Testudo' - a kind of human tank.

120 EXT. ISLAY - NIGHT 120

James practices his sword moves facing the sea.

121 INT. PRISON, CELL - NIGHT 121

Marjorie sleeps. Elizabeth's face is a mask, as the English  
Guard kisses her neck.

GUARD  
Is that nice?

ELIZABETH  
(lying)  
It's very nice.

GUARD  
(reaching under her  
skirts)  
I can be very quiet.  
(she flinches, resists)  
I don't have to ask, you know.

ELIZABETH  
But you're so chivalrous, that's  
what's so wonderful about you.  
Robert was a brute.

The Guard is flattered. He's actually kind of a nice guy.  
Dim, but nice.

ELIZABETH (CONT'D)  
My soul is in turmoil. I am a  
married woman. What I need is to  
make a confession of my sinful  
thoughts about you.  
(MORE)

ELIZABETH (CONT'D)

If I were able to confess and was reminded of Christ's generosity and mercy then perhaps, after, you and I could enjoy each other without shame, without sin.

GUARD

How would you confess?

ELIZABETH

Well, I'd need to see a clergyman.

GUARD

The Prince says no visitors.

ELIZABETH

But you can sneak in a clergyman. I believe Bishop Lamberton would not betray our secret.

GUARD

Lamberton?

ELIZABETH

He is discreet. Send for him. And then afterwards, you and I can enjoy each other more fully.

The Guard nods, confused but willing. He kisses her. Exits. Elizabeth sits by the sleeping child. Traumatized. Strong.

ELIZABETH (CONT'D)

(muttering to herself)

I'll get you out, my darling. I'll get you out.

122

EXT. SCOTTISH BEACH - DAY

122

Robert and his men are pushing out the boat when a MESSENGER approaches. Angus, James and Euan watch curiously as Robert runs towards him. They watch as Robert consults with the messenger, appears to have an emotional moment. He collects himself. Heads back.

ROBERT

Lamberton has had Marjorie removed to a convent. And Elizabeth's parents are petitioning the king for her release.

The men are relieved, happy for Robert.

JAMES

The king and de Burgh are close. He will grant the request, annul the marriage to save face.

ANGUS

She had you pegged as trouble the first time she laid eyes on you. She'll be glad to be rid of you.

EUAN

Perhaps there'll be more good news  
by the end of the day. It would be  
nice to get at least one of these  
Lords on side.

ANGUS

Aye, maybe MacKinnon's the one.

On Robert, hopeful. They push their boats into the water.

123

INT. CASTLE, ISLE OF SKYE - NIGHT

123

Lord MacKinnon, wizened and wise, looks sadly at Robert.

MACKINNON

You can't do it, my Lord.

JAMES

(dangerously)

He is your king.

MacKinnon silently acknowledges this.

MACKINNON

You have won not a single battle. I  
stood with Wallace. Where were you  
then, my noble sir?

ROBERT

Wallace inspired me too, that's why  
I'm here.

MACKINNON

You've never faced down twenty  
thousand men and horses. When  
you've come close, you've run. I do  
not believe you can lead men into  
battle. I cannot in good conscience  
support you.

EUAN

That's treason, My Lord.

MACKINNON

Then you must have me hanged.

A tense silence. Robert breaks it, saying lightly -

ROBERT

Enough Lords have been hanged in  
Scotland.

MACKINNON

How many men have you, as it  
stands?

ROBERT

Forty.



ANGUS

(bluffing)

Sixty. Seventy. I'm still rounding people up.

MACKINNON

Peasants mostly, is it? Well. Good luck with everything.

(beat, sadly)

We cannot have a king that inspires no loyalty.

Robert accepts his decision. Looks him in the eye.

ROBERT

I hope in time, you'll change your mind. I believe that you will.

124

EXT. CASTLE, COURTYARD - MOMENTS LATER.

124

Robert, Euan, James and Angus walking away. Robert is strangely calm. The others are furious.

ANGUS

That lily-livered -

EUAN

Treacherous, ignorant -

ANGUS

Who needs him!? Too old, anyway -

ROBERT

We need victories to inspire people.

ANGUS

(losing his temper)

That's why I'm trying to get you an army, man! Your Majesty. Your Majesty, man.

JAMES

You know my father, before he was taken, captured the castles of Disdeir and Sanguhar back from the English. And he did so with very few men.

They stop, listen to James who's eyes shine and voice always shakes a little when he talks of his father.

JAMES (CONT'D)

With Sanguhar my father sent in his own servant to talk to the porter there about wood or fuel. The porter opened the gates and my father's man stabbed him. Our knights rode through. The castle was taken. Briefly.

Robert thinks.

ROBERT  
Remember, when Edward first took  
Scotland, one castle at a time -  
the fear of attack ran ahead of  
him?

EUAN  
Aye, like a plague. By the time he  
reached Perth all the other castles  
surrendered.

ROBERT  
We don't need an army. Forty men  
will inspire forty more with forty  
proud stories of victory to tell.  
We'll fight as they did, at night,  
creep like foxes towards chicken  
sheds.

The men take this in. It's a plan.

ANGUS  
At night? What of chivalry?

ROBERT  
(grim)  
Times change.

125 EXT. FIELDS - ISLAY - DAY

125

Robert trains the forty men he has - with sticks and shields.  
He takes them through repetitive motions. It's almost like a  
dance and the islanders can't do it.

ROBERT  
Shield, parry, strike-low, shield.  
A disciplined mind gives freedom of  
movement. Train together and you  
are stronger. Shield, parry, strike-  
high.  
(beat)  
Now come together into formation!

The islanders try to form a square but all bump into each  
other and start arguing.

Other islanders come to watch. Some point and laugh. Others  
are curious.

Robert steps up to the front. Faces them. At first, he moves  
slowly, allowing them to copy every movement in almost slow-  
mo, then he quickens, and they follow, and within minutes  
they're moving together as if choreographed in a strange  
medieval ballet. His pace quickens, and suddenly what looked  
feeble before now looks ferocious, strong and agile.

126 EXT. DECK OF BOAT - NIGHT 126

Sunset. Robert and James stand on the prow as his men row towards the mainland. Robert looks across at several other wooden boats transporting his men across the sea. Angus and Euan head another boat.

127 EXT. BEACH, SEA COAST - NIGHT 127

Robert jumps ashore, the men following. Robert's eyes scan the dark treeline as the men pull the boats into the trees. Suddenly a group of ten English soldiers appear, and give chase. Angus and three knights hold them back, allowing Robert and the rest of the men to escape into the trees.

The English soldiers are cut down by Angus and his men, acting together. The other Scottish boats arrive, the men quickly running up the beach and into the woods.

128 EXT. COUNTRYSIDE - NIGHT 128

English soldiers steer two wagons full of provisions towards a castle. As they turn a bend they find the path obstructed with branches and have to stop. From behind the branches Robert appears. The driver of the first carriage suddenly finds James beside him, holding a dagger.

129 EXT. A CASTLE - NIGHT 129

The two wagons pull up in front of the closed gates. A GUARD steps out to question them.

ROBERT

Corn for the stores.

The guard opens the gate and several soldiers approach. On Robert's signal, Angus and his men emerge from the corn and ride inside with the wagons, as more men jump from the second wagon and fan out through the castle like a spider's web, stealthily fighting and killing guards as they go.

They light flaming arrows and set the castle alight.

130 EXT. COUNTRYSIDE - MOMENTS LATER 130

Robert stares at the flames of the burning castle in the distance. James approaches.

ROBERT

I hate to burn a man's house but we haven't the men to hold it.

JAMES

My father's castle is a day's ride.

ROBERT  
And very well-defended. We said our  
revenge can wait, James.

JAMES  
I can't wait.

ROBERT  
We must take Perth.

JAMES  
I can't wait.

Robert accepts that James needs to do this.

JAMES (CONT'D)  
You go to Perth. I need but five  
men.

ROBERT  
Be safe. I need you with us, James  
Douglas. You are my brother now.

131 INT. SOUTHERN PRISON - WARDEN'S OFFICE - DAY

131

Elizabeth is dragged in, thin, in thread-bare clothes.  
Visible relief as she sees her father, mother and Lamberton.  
They are shocked by her appearance which stands in stark  
contrast to their finery. Elizabeth looks down at her rags  
and giggles. The world has become insane.

The Prince enters.

PRINCE OF WALES  
The only reason you're alive is  
because of your father's loyalty to  
my father. Understood?

MARGARET DE BURGH  
(quickly)  
And we are grateful, Sire.

PRINCE OF WALES  
(to Elizabeth)  
Give up the title of 'Queen of  
Scotland' and you're free. The  
marriage will be annulled.

Lamberton passes her a parchment. He smiles at her  
encouragingly. Elizabeth hesitates.

PRINCE OF WALES (CONT'D)  
Sign it quickly or you'll be a  
widow-woman.  
(to de Burgh)  
Valence is flooding the South West,  
Robert's raids are becoming  
tiresome.

ELIZABETH  
His raids?

RICHARD DE BURGH  
Sign. Your pitiful union was a  
charade and now it is over.

Elizabeth steps back. Her mother is worried.

MARGARET DE BURGH  
Sign it, Elizabeth, please.

Elizabeth hangs her head. She will not.

RICHARD DE BURGH  
(baffled)  
Why?

Elizabeth's mother closes her eyes for a moment, overcome by  
horror and grief. She sees it all. Elizabeth loves Robert.  
This love may kill her.

132 EXT. DOUGLAS CASTLE - DAY 132

James and Drew crawl and survey the castle. On the  
battlements, GUARDS keep watch. James never takes his eyes  
off his family's home as he says -

JAMES  
I watched once from that window my  
mother and father in the courtyard  
and my father whispered something  
in my mother's ear and I don't know  
what he said but it must have been  
very funny because she couldn't  
stop laughing.

James turns to look across the open land surrounding the  
castle. His gaze falls on a herd of black cattle.

133 EXT. DOUGLAS CASTLE, ENTRANCE - NIGHT 133

Mooing cattle move slowly forward. Hidden amongst them, James  
and his men, using the tips of their daggers to keep the cows  
moving forward.

The SENTRY GUARDS above the entrance gates look bored as they  
watch the cattle below.

134 EXT. DOUGLAS CASTLE, SIDE WALLS - NIGHT 134

Using grappler spikes attached to rope ladders, James and  
Drew and men haul themselves up the castle walls.

135 EXT. DOUGLAS CASTLE, BATTLEMENTS - NIGHT 135

James and his men loom up behind the oblivious sentries.

136 INT. DOUGLAS CASTLE, MASTER BEDROOM - NIGHT

136

James approaches the sleeping LORD CLIFFORD. His WIFE asleep beside him. He takes a moment to let it sink in - his dreams are about to become reality.

JAMES  
Lord Clifford? Your Lordship?

Clifford rolls over but is still sleeping.

JAMES (CONT'D)  
You're sleeping in my father's bed,  
while his head rests on London  
Bridge. I am James Douglas, son of  
Sir William Douglas. Wake up man.

Clifford wakes with a start.

JAMES (CONT'D)  
I could never kill a man in his  
sleep.

James pushes his dagger into his neck. Clifford's wife wakes now - and screams.

JAMES (CONT'D)  
This is my mother's bed. Get up.

Clifford's wife runs terrified from the room. James screams, finally able to lose all control.

JAMES (CONT'D)  
RUN! RUN! THIS IS MY MOTHER'S BED!

137 INT. DOUGLAS CASTLE, GRAND HALLWAY - NIGHT

137

James holds a flaming torch. He looks around his childhood home for a moment before holding the torch to a curtain to ignite it. The flames spread. He strides out.

138 EXT. FIELDS BEYOND DOUGLAS CASTLE - NIGHT

138

James and his men ride from the burning castle. A few soldiers give chase. James stops in his tracks and turns. He gallops towards them, two swords drawn.

JAMES  
DOUGLAS! DOUGLAS!

The Scots watch as James slaughters the soldiers, screaming his family name. Drew and Sinclair exchange looks. A solemn moment. The glory and horror of vengeance.

Another stronghold overcome, its English soldiers roped together to one side. Robert watches his men carry much-needed supplies from the castle larder.

ROBERT  
Keep half of that. Give the rest to them.

He nods at the starving TENANTS looking on. James rides up with his men.

JAMES  
(joking)  
Word is about, that the Bruce has taken ten castles! They can't count, these English folk - we've only taken the five.

Robert looks at James, relieved, but notices a slight change in James now he's had his revenge. Euan appears from inside the castle, with him three French KNIGHTS blinking in the sunlight. They have no armour, they are filthy. They've been in prison a long time.

EUAN  
These gentlemen of France were being held here. They request to join us.

Robert studies the malnourished warriors.

ROBERT  
The French are always welcome. Get yourself some armour.

He nods at the roped English soldiers. The French walk to the English, pick some helmets from off their heads, try them on for size. The French swap helmets with each other. At last, the perfect fit. The English soldiers look on. What is happening?

A young tenant approaches Robert.

LAD  
Is it true you're the King of Scotland?

Robert smiles, acknowledges. He looks over to see that many of the tenants are kneeling in acknowledgment of his title.

LAD (CONT'D)  
Will you make me a knight?

The boy kneels. Robert takes his sword, rests it on the boys shoulder.

ROBERT  
I dub thee lord -?

LAD

Andrew.

ROBERT

Lord Andrew. Defender of Scotland.

One of the English soldiers watches this. Very nervous. This is not good.

140 EXT. PRISON, RAMPARTS - DAY

140

Elizabeth is led to a large WICKER CAGE chained to a swing gallows. A GUARD opens it and pushes her inside. The cage is lifted clear and swung out one hundred feet from the ground. She screams as the basket plummets. The chain reaches its length, the cage juddering wildly as it stops in mid-air. As she dangles and swings she looks out. Beside her cage hangs another. Inside is a mound of clothes and bones being picked by crows through the iron bars.

141 EXT. ARCHERY FIELD, WESTMINSTER PALACE - DAY

141

The king is there for target practise, the Prince and generals are briefing him.

PRINCE OF WALES

I think we should remove Valence from command. As he seems incapable of even finding the rebels.

GENERAL

Certainly that is an option.

Edward's aged, liver-spotted hand pulls back an arrow on the bow. His hand shakes. He decides not to take the shot.

EDWARD

This morning I rose, I performed my ablutions, I walked from bed chamber to the great room to meet with counsellors and on the way I stumbled. No reason. I simply lost my footing.

No one is entirely sure how to respond to this information.

GENERAL

(helpfully)

I lose my footing sometimes. Especially in the morning when the body is still waking up.

EDWARD

It was my hope to grow old and not die on the battlefield. But now I see the great danger of death by natural causes is that you may be lying in a bedchamber thinking of all that was left undone.



PRINCE OF WALES  
We'll get him, father. It's just a few castles.

Edward doesn't believe a word of it.

EDWARD  
You were supposed to get him last time and you failed like everyone else.

PRINCE OF WALES  
(peevish)  
Valence began without me.

EDWARD  
(beat)  
What will he do next.  
(answering his own question)  
Next he will go back to the Lords.

142 EXT. GREAT NORTHERN GLEN - DAY 142

Robert and his party ride. They are greater in number now. Over one hundred.

143 INT. SCOTTISH CASTLE, HALL - DAY 143

Robert, Angus and James sit with SIX SCOTTISH LORDS, including the thin, nervy Lord ABERCROMBIE.

ROBERT  
An Independent scottish kingdom.  
Control of our ports and our waters. Lords will control their own affairs.

The lords glance at each other. James and Angus stare at them, very serious.

ABERCROMBIE  
You've some raging ambition, Bruce, I'll give you that.

ROBERT  
And what do you have, my Lords?  
Imagine it. Our land for our use.  
For our children's pleasure.

Robert walks to the door.

ROBERT (CONT'D)  
You've ten minutes.

ABERCROMBIE  
Or what?

ROBERT  
I set James on you.

144 INT. SCOTTISH CASTLE, HALL - DAY

144

Robert and his men wait.

JAMES  
How many do you think?

ROBERT  
All. They know it's time.

ANGUS  
Maybe Adair and Fletcher.  
Abercrombie's line was always close  
with Edward.

ROBERT  
So was mine.

The door opens. Abercrombie and the Lords emerge to face  
Bruce. A beat.

ABERCROMBIE  
Your Majesty.

All of the Lords kneel before him.

ROBERT  
(embarrassed and pleased)  
Rise. Rise.

They rise. Smiles all around. Let's do this.

ROBERT (CONT'D)  
Go back to your castles and prepare  
your men. Then we march on  
Aberdeen.

ABERCROMBIE  
Aberdeen is three days' march from  
here, your Majesty. Your men are  
welcome to camp at my castle in  
Inverness.

ROBERT  
Thank you, Abercrombie. It's  
appreciated.

The lords leave. Robert watches Abercrombie closely. Angus  
turns to Robert.

ANGUS  
You were right, I was wrong.

145 EXT. INVERNESS - DAY

145

Robert, Angus, James, Drew and FIVE SOLDIERS ride towards Inverness Castle. A small settlement off to one side. Robert notices how deserted it is.

ANGUS  
Why're we riding so far ahead of  
the men?

ROBERT  
In case I was wrong and you were  
right.

The drawbridge lowers. Abercrombie rides out with several knights. Robert watches them, suspiciously.

ABERCROMBIE  
Welcome, your Majesty --

Suddenly, a YOUNG WOMAN tears out of a croft, yelling.

YOUNG WOMAN  
The English are here, your Majesty!

Abercrombie's face darkens. One of his knights turns quick as a flash and fires an arrow into the young woman.

ROBERT  
Traitor!

Abercrombie grins horribly. Before an arrow hits him in the chest - fired by James.

From the castle, a flash of steel. Valence rides out with a force of English knights and cavalry behind him. Robert and his men turn and flee.

146 EXT. SCOTTISH HILL COUNTRY, INVERNESS - DAY

146

Valence, twenty knights and soldiers thunder after Robert's small party.

ROBERT  
To the forest!

They turn their horses and head for the forest. Valence and his men give chase.

147 EXT. FOREST - DAY

147

The forest is too dense to ride through.

ROBERT  
Leave the horses! Separate!

Robert and his men abandon the horses and run through the forest, dodging arrows before breaking from the trees.

Angus leads half the men in another direction which helps take attention away from Robert and James. They sprint towards a steep, gorse-covered hill.

148 EXT. SCOTTISH HILL COUNTRY - DAY 148

James watches the English charge behind them. There's still plenty of them. Angus and his men are up the hill.

JAMES  
They're not giving up.

Robert squints up at the glen ahead of them.

149 EXT. HIGHLAND GLEN - DAY 149

Robert scrambles up a steep path beside a raging burn, crouches low behind a boulder. On the other side of the burn, the English approach, lead by a TRACKER, a MacDougall Highlander. They look up to where Robert's hidden.

MACDOUGALL TRACKER  
Up there. The gully.

150 EXT. GLEN, THE BURN - DAY 150

The tracker scrambles up the north bank. Robert rises up at him, rams his spear into him, kicks his body backwards. It tumbles down to the burn below.

Valence's men scramble into position. Robert puts his shield on top of the boulder so that only his helmet peeks out

Three English soldiers cross the burn, one after the other. Robert crouches low and takes out their legs.

ENGLISH COMMANDER  
Archers!

151 EXT. SUMMIT - DAY 151

James rejoins Angus and has marshalled the others to the summit. He turns back to help Robert.

152 EXT. GLEN - DAY 152

Archers fire off a volley. Some lodge in Robert's shield. The Commander gestures soldiers to climb up. Robert hacks off the shafts from the arrows, punctures the first soldier's neck.

Using the soldier as cover to prevent the archers firing, Robert retreats. The English archers fire forty arrows into the body of the soldier.

ENGLISH COMMANDER  
For God's sake, get him!

Three knights on horseback lurch forwards. Robert reaches for his axe. James runs towards him yelling. He's stopped as a volley of arrows rain down on Robert.

153 EXT. HIGHLAND CRAGS - DAY 153

Bleeding badly, Robert is helped by James and his handful of men, to scramble across rocky outcrops. They stop. Robert has an arrow lodged in his thigh. He takes off his helmet and pulls the arrow out, grimacing

A group of English knights are in pursuit.

ROBERT

Angus, create a diversion, take the men and head east! James, with me.

Angus leads his group up into the mountains as Robert and James head across the ledge.

154 EXT. MOUNTAIN LEDGE - DAY 154

Panting, Robert and James climb the craggy ledge. At the top, they spot a stream, flowing heavily, up ahead. Instinctively, they run towards it, and wade their way along its path.

JAMES

When you were crowned, I bet you never thought being king would involve so much running.

ROBERT

How little I knew then.

After they've made good progress, they check back. English troops still following them.

JAMES

Why can't we shake them?

155 EXT. HIGH WALL GULLY - DAY 155

They scramble over rocks hemmed between two towering walls of granite. Arrows whizzing overhead.

156 EXT. MOUNTAIN COPSE - DAY 156

Hidden in trees, Robert and James watch the English come into view. Robert's shocked to see a Tracker leading them with his dog, Faolan, straining on a leash.

ROBERT

The bastards have Faolan.

157 EXT. GLEN - DAY

157

The troops and tracker are joined by Valence on horseback. Valence watches as Robert rises into view, with bow and arrow, arm shaking.

VALENCE

Get down!

Valence's men try to duck for cover but Robert's too quick. Eyes welling up, Robert raises his bow.

ROBERT

Forgive me, boy.

Robert releases the bow. Faolan drops dead, an arrow in his side. Robert looks heartbroken.

158 EXT. FOREST SLOPE - DAY

158

Robert and James descend downwards.

159 EXT. HIGHLAND GORGE - DAY

159

They emerge out of the forest. Below them, a towering gorge. Hundreds of feet below, a raging river. Downstream, the ominous crest of a massive waterfall.

JAMES

The fall will kill us.

ROBERT

Which one?

JAMES

(thinking)

The second one.

The English troops draw closer. Robert and James jump into the water below. Valence arrives with his troops.

VALENCE

After them!

He kicks two soldiers over the edge.

160 EXT. HIGHLAND RIVER GORGE - DAY

160

Their heads keep disappearing under the water as the current sweeps Robert and James along at speed, towards the treacherous sounding waterfall. Robert slams his axe into an overhanging branch. James grabs onto his legs. Valence's two soldiers are swept past them. One of them bashes his head on a massive rock before both disappear over the waterfall.

ROBERT

Climb over me!

The water rips James free. He too smashes into a rock, his body goes limp.

ROBERT (CONT'D)

James!

He disappears over the waterfall. Robert drags himself out of the water and through the mud, panting, desperately looking for James.

161 EXT. HIGHLAND WATERFALL - DAY 161

Robert stares into the raging pool at the drowned bodies of the two English soldiers. There's no sign of James. Robert looks stricken, his body shaking.

Above, but unable to see Robert, Valence and his remaining troops look down. Satisfied, the troops turn away. The Bruce is surely dead. Valence remains, scanning the water for any sign of life. Then, convinced, he too turns and walks away.

162 EXT. UNDERGROWTH - NIGHT 162

Robert picks his way through a thick tangle of branches and roots. He comes to a clearing, the blackened remains of a fire. He scrabbles around but finds no food or water. Beyond though, he spots a black slit in the rocks. A cave.

163 EXT. CAVE - NIGHT 163

Robert crawls inside. His body screams at the effort. Across his path, a large spider's web. He takes it in for a moment, swipes at it, destroying it.

Exhausted, he rests his head on the cool earth.

164 EXT. PRISON, RAMPARTS - NIGHT 164

Elizabeth in the cage sings an old Scots lullaby to herself. In the corner is a bucket for her to relieve herself into.

ELIZABETH

*My babe on a curling green  
wave be they cradling  
La di vik, la di vik,  
Ho-ro-la*

*Ho-ro little child,  
La na ban, la na ban  
Ho ro ei*

*While the seagull and swan  
For thy cur-ach are caring  
la-na-ban, la-di-vik, la-divik  
Ho-ro-la*

(MORE)

ELIZABETH (CONT'D)  
*With his nets from the bay  
 Will they father be faring  
 La na ban, la na ban, ho ro la.*

- 165 INT. THE CAVE - DAY 165
- Robert opens his eyes and the first thing he sees is the spider's web. The spider is rebuilding her web again. He closes his eyes, barely conscious.
- 166 INT. CAVE - NIGHT 166
- A full moon. A shaft of moonlight on a feverish Robert. He checks his wound, it's angry and swollen. His eye's caught by the spider still rebuilding her web.
- Outside, he can hear rain. He drags himself to the mouth of the cave. Runs his hand over the wet grass, trying to scoop up water. He gets very little. He puts his mouth over the grass, slurps up what there is. No different to an animal.
- Crawls back into the cave, passing through the spider web.
- 167 I/E THE CAVE - DAY 167
- Robert stares through the darkness out to the light at the mouth of the cave. He's shivering. He is filthy. He looks at his fingernails. Dirt. Bloody.
- He sees the spider again, spinning the web.
- He lies deathly still as a single shaft of sun falls across his broken body. He closes his eyes. Forces them open again, sensing sleep means death.
- He crawls through the web and outside the cave. Staggers to a nearby tree. Pricks some pine sap, stumbles back into the cave. He pulls off his ragged shirt and rubs the sticky sap into his wound.
- 168 INT. CAVE - NIGHT 168
- Robert opens his eyes and stares. A WOLF is at the mouth of the cave. Robert swallows. Hallucination? Death?
- The wolf looks away from Robert, begins to dig, spraying dirt. Robert watches the wolf dig. Eventually he closes his eyes again.
- 169 INT. CAVE - NIGHT 169
- Robert smashes flint against stone trying to get a spark going to light a little pile of dried grass. He tries again and again, almost crying with frustration.



ROBERT

How did they do this?

He refocuses. Tries again. Finally, some sparks. He blows on the grass and eventually the sparks become a little flame. Robert grins. A victory. He throws on some twigs. Fire. The cave illuminates. It feels like a miracle. Robert gets to his knees. He prays the Lord's prayer.

ROBERT (CONT'D)

Pater Noster, qui es in caelis,  
sanctificetur nomen tuum. Adveniat  
regnum tuum. Fiat voluntas tua,  
sicut in caelo et in terra.

170 EXT. CAVE - CONTINUOUS 170

Darkness and a soundscape: rain, wolves, bats and a man praying.

171 INT. CAVE - DAY 171

Robert opens his eyes. Clearly in pain he struggles to sit up. He sees the spider, working on her almost-complete web. It sparkles in the morning light. He watches closely as a fly buzzes into the trap. Then another. It gives him an idea.

Robert hears someone approaching. With great effort he grabs his axe. A FIGURE staggers at the mouth of the cave. A very bloody, bruised and dishevelled James. Robert stares.

ROBERT

Are you a ghost?

JAMES

God's not getting me yet.

(entering)

A king in a cave, what is the world coming to?

He hugs Bruce. Then sniffs the air.

JAMES (CONT'D)

Ye Gods, what's that smell! This king could do with a bath!

Robert laughs. He takes James' hand, is hauled out to -

172 EXT. CAVE - CONTINUOUS 172

Where he stares through sunlight at the spider in her web.

ROBERT

One spider. Many flies. No matter what happens, she keeps spinning.

JAMES

I'll say this for animals. They are persistent.

They start to walk, both men in very bad shape.

HIGHLAND GLEN - DAY

Robert and James pick their way. Persistent. Stumbling. Falling. Glad to be alive. Quick cuts of them, walking through the landscape, forcing each other on.

The natural world is intensely vivid to Robert as it is to those who have escaped death. Colours blaze. Silver leaves, indigo heather. The kind of natural beauty that forces an atheist to their knees to pray.

173 EXT. SCOTTISH LANDSCAPE - DAY 173

Robert and James trudge on. Robert looks up. Up ahead, in the sunlight are Angus and Euan. The men smile at each other. They are well met. Many have fallen. But they've made it.

174 EXT. SCOTTISH LANDSCAPE - NIGHT 174

Robert, James, Angus and Euan around a campfire. Robert pokes the fire. Quiet. Certain.

ROBERT

It's time.

JAMES

For what?

ROBERT

To come out into the open.

JAMES

Meaning?

ROBERT

We have done well, taking one castle at a time, letting word spread to the English and Scottish alike that we resist the occupation, that we will never surrender. Now it is time to show we shall do more than resist the occupation, we shall do more than win one or two struggles in the night.

JAMES

What do you have in mind?

ROBERT

A direct and public challenge to Edward. His army. Our army. May the best man win.

Angus and Euan are uncertain. James is inspired.

JAMES

Yes.

ROBERT

We must come out of the shadows.

JAMES

Yes.

ANGUS

We barely have an army.

JAMES

We have five hundred men.

ANGUS

And we'll be back down to ten if we offer them up to the English.

EUAN

I agree with Angus. And the chances of you surviving, Robert, on an open battlefield are very slight. They'll be riding straight for you.

ROBERT

So be it.

ANGUS

You'll be as dead as Wallace.

JAMES

I'll fight by Robert.

EUAN

(really irritated)

Yes, we all will, and we'll all probably die.

ANGUS

Better to -

ROBERT

(angrily)

I am sick of running, I am sick of hiding. I'm the king of this country and I will take her back in broad daylight and I would not say it, Angus, if I didn't feel the wind at our backs, if I didn't know in my heart that the time is now.

A pause. Angus and Euan are not convinced. Silence. Until-

JAMES

There is something in nature that forces us to build our home again and again.

(MORE)

JAMES (CONT'D)

Go to a rich man's house, a poor man's house, even if the structure is perfectly appointed, they will still dream up ways to improve it. Let fire take that house, let a flood take it, let another man take it - as long as there is breath in us we rebuild.

(beat)

We have five hundred souls who are not schooled in the art of war and it doesn't matter. What we are asking them to do will be as natural to them as asking the sun to rise in the morning. Their roofs are burning, they are fighting to breathe! My father once told me, fear not the great man with the broad sword. Fear the little man with a single stone who is fighting for his life.

(beat)

All of which is to say, I think we will win.

ROBERT

So do I. And when we win more men will join us. Five hundred will become five thousand at the next battle, then fifty thousand for the one after that. Win this battle, and we will win the war.

175 INT. WESTMINSTER PALACE - DAY

175

Valence has read King Edward and the Prince a letter from Robert.

EDWARD

He proposes a fight in Ayrshire?

VALENCE

Yes, my Lord.

EDWARD

He is referring to that rag-tag bunch of stragglers as an army?

VALENCE

He is.

EDWARD

Given that the infirm nature of the opposition we need only send two hundred and fifty of our own men and it would be enough.

VALENCE

Given that he has had luck on his side, might I suggest that we send five hundred men. Just to be safe.

EDWARD

Let us send a thousand and be decisive.

VALENCE

A thousand, men.

EDWARD

Two thousand men. Why not? The spectacle alone will send half his army running.

PRINCE OF WALES

I suggest three thousand men. And I would tell that last thousand that their sole focus is killing just one man.

A beat.

EDWARD

Two thousand is enough. Three thousand is absurd.

(beat)

I shall go too. It may be my last battle. I shall enjoy the spectacle of my own glorious troops. They are not needed but they shall fight by my side to bring me pleasure.

(moving on, to Valence)

Why Ayrshire?

VALENCE

(shrugging)

Why not?

176 EXT. LANDSCAPE - DAY

176

Edward rides at the head of his vast army. He pulls back, lets soldier after soldier overtake him so he can admire the strength of the horses, the glint of the shields. He nods and smiles at his men. He lives for days like these. And, smiling still, he lurches off his horse, and hangs to the side. Only his stirrups are preventing him from falling.

177 EXT. ROAD TO LOUDOUN HILL - DAY

177

A vast landscape. Birds - black grouse - peck for seeds on the ground. Then take flight as Robert, James, Euan and Angus ride into frame. Robert is healed and clean and full of hope. The men come to a halt as their horses' hooves sink in mud.

JAMES

There's the bog.

Robert jumps down, landing up to his knees in bog-water. His men are highly amused.

Robert takes his sword, draws a long line, hundreds of feet across the grass, bisected by the Roman road. He draws another line alongside.

ROBERT  
We dig trenches along these lines.  
And we'll funnel their cavalry  
between them. So they end up in  
this bog.

The men realise what he's doing. Smiles all around.

ROBERT (CONT'D)  
They would take our land? They  
don't know our land.

178 EXT. ROAD TO LOUDOUN HILL - CONTINUOUS

178

Ten soldiers erect the king's tent. Edward lies on the ground nearby. Desperately disappointed. His eyes open as he hears -

VALENCE (O.S.)  
We will ride on! For our king!

Nearby, the Prince stands by an enormous white horse. He is lost in thought. This day, he knows, will change his life. In a way his life now begins. We can still hear Valence in the background rallying the troops.

VALENCE (O.S.) (CONT'D)  
We will pray for his recovery! And  
we will defeat the Scots once and  
for all!

The horse's HANDLER approaches.

HANDLER  
It is your father's war horse,  
Sire. If you wish you may ride him  
into battle.

PRINCE OF WALES  
I'll follow. For now, I'd prefer to  
watch my father die.

179 EXT. ROAD TO LOUDOUN HILL - MOMENTS LATER

179

Valence leads the massive army as they thunder on.

180 EXT. VILLAGE - DAY

180

Angus, James and Euan watch as a YOUNG GIRL, not unlike Marjorie, hands a spade to Robert. There's something in the whole group's demeanor that's changed. No desperation now.

Robert crouches to her height and smiles at her.

GIRL  
My mother says you have to return  
it.

ROBERT  
I will, I promise.

Drew approaches, smiles at the others. He's ushering fifteen  
PEASANTS towards Robert.

PEASANT  
We've come to fight for his  
Majesty. Is he here?

The peasants look at them all, unsure who is king. Robert  
steps forward.

ROBERT  
Hello.  
(as they bow)  
Stand. You have weapons?

The peasants hold up their weapons: sticks, clubs, an axe,  
rusty swords, even a table-leg. Robert catches Drew's eye.  
They grin.

ROBERT (CONT'D)  
Alba gu bràth!

PEASANTS  
Alba gu bràth!

ROBERT  
Our men are stationed a mile from  
here. Drew?

We see Drew now. He leads the peasants away.

DREW  
(kindly, to table leg  
peasant)  
You can leave that. We'll find you  
a sword.  
(kindly, to Axe peasant)  
That's great. Swing it around a  
lot.

181 EXT. LOUDOUN HILL, GRASSLAND - LATER

181

Drew and the peasants see, up ahead, an army of five hundred  
SCOTS silhouetted against the sky.

PEASANT 1  
You said he had raised a great  
army.

DREW  
I believe he has.

The peasants look in the other direction. There's the English ARMY, thousands of them, waiting.

182 EXT. LOUDOUN HILL, GRASSLAND - MOMENTS LATER 182

The peasants walk with Drew towards the Scottish army. One peasant turns tail, hurries off. A few moments, then the deserter changes his mind, turns back, and rushes to catch back up with Drew and his people.

183 EXT. LOUDOUN HILL, GRASSLAND - NIGHT 183

Robert and Euan walk along the two trenches the men are digging. Angus is with his men, toiling alongside. Drew, James and others whittle tree branches into lethal stakes.

184 INT. KING'S TENT - NIGHT 184

Edward's on a makeshift bed. He is dying, he knows it, he hates it.

There are various DOCTORS, CLERGY, SERVANTS in attendance. Herbs are being burned, a poultice is being prepared. We get the impression from all the activity that a tremendous amount of spaghetti is being thrown at the wall to cure the king.

The Prince of Wales is nearby, with a General. We pick up mid-conversation.

EDWARD

I want his head brought to me.

GENERAL

We have told Valence.

EDWARD

If he fails to secure it, he must send me his own. Head.

GENERAL

Valence cannot fail. Robert is vastly out-numbered.

EDWARD

I pray you're right.  
(a bitter laugh)  
That's all that's left to me.  
Prayer.

PRINCE OF WALES

Valence has consistently failed.  
Why should tomorrow be any different?

GENERAL

Because Robert's pride has got the better of him. He seeks glory too soon.



The Prince of Wales shrugs. Whatever.

EDWARD

(to the Prince)

After I die, I want my body boiled and my bones preserved. And, if Valence fails, as you predict, I want my bones carried by the cavalry into every battle with the Scots. Inter them in the crypt only after the Scots are defeated.

PRINCE OF WALES

Macabre.

EDWARD

Promise.

PRINCE OF WALES

I promise. But rest assured those bones of yours will be buried soon enough. I do not believe the Bruce will evade me quite as easily as he has you.

EDWARD

(without malice)

I consulted a magician about you. A descendent, they say, directly from King Arthur's Merlin. Probably nonsense but I heard he was wise.

The Prince of Wales is surprised. So is the general.

EDWARD (CONT'D)

And I told him, try as I might, I cannot imagine my son leading armies into battle, as I have done. I cannot imagine him urging his horse forward to the beat of the drums, hungry for victory, accepting nothing less. I can't see him saying, "You sir, you'll take the left, you sir, command the right! Tell the archers hold until my signal!"

He pauses, lost in past glories.

DOCTOR

(edging past the Prince)

Excuse me.

The Prince of Wales finds himself near the back of the room, able to hear his father, but not at his side. Edward doesn't notice.

EDWARD

My father had no aptitude for warfare. Perhaps it skips a generation.

A doctor places a leech on each cheek of the king. He pulls the King's bedcovers off, raises the King's shirt to place leeches on his stomach. The king's genitals are exposed.

Over this -

EDWARD (CONT'D)

The alchemist assured me that he would do a spell and I would dream of you riding into battle, cutting men down to the beat of the drum.

EDWARD (CONT'D)

I try, I try, I try, I try, I try to dream it. But I have had no such dream.

On the Prince of Wales. Grim. Disgusted by the prophecy. He pulls the general outside -

185 EXT. KING'S TENT - CONTINUOUS

185

PRINCE OF WALES

I want one thousand extra soldiers to ride at once to Loudoun Hill. Tell them their focus is solely to ride for and kill Robert the Bruce.

GENERAL

Even if more men were necessary, your father has said Robert must be captured alive.

The Prince of Wales heads into the tent. A moment. The general waits, confused. The Prince comes back out, his eyes wide, his breath faster.

PRINCE OF WALES

My father is dead. Get me those men.

The General bows very, very low. It's a whole new ballgame.

GENERAL

Yes, Majesty.

The Prince enters.

186 INT. ROYAL TENT - CONTINUOUS

186

Looks at his father's corpse. Removes the ring from his finger. Says loudly -

PRINCE OF WALES

Send the corpse to London. No need to extract his bones.

187 EXT. ROYAL TENT - MOMENTS LATER 187

The Prince of Wales climbs on his father's white horse and gallops like hell towards battle and victory.

188 EXT. LOUDOUN HILL, ROBERT'S CAMP - DAY 188

Robert's men gather round in full armour: Angus, James, and Euan flank him. Behind are Fitzalan, Mar, Lennox, and Mentieth. He uses a stick to outline the battleground and draws the two trench lines. He indicates the first line.

ROBERT

Lennox and Fitzalan. You take up position here, while Sinclair, Mar and Euan are here.

(points to the second line)

James you're on the near-side, behind the trenches with the archers. Wait for my signal. Stay down until then. Angus, with me.

A MESSENGER approaches Robert, whispers in his ear. Robert is taken aback.

ROBERT (CONT'D)

King Edward did not survive the journey.

Serious faces brighten. But Robert is grim. It is his first moment of fear.

EUAN

This is good news!

ROBERT

I know from years spent at the palace in my youth that the Prince is a liar and a cheat and thinks nothing of cutting the tail off a cat. He is a different enemy.

189 EXT. LOUDOUN HILL, ENGLISH CAMP - DAY 189

Valence looks up as the Prince of Wales arrives leading another thousand men. The two men approach. Valence bows low.

PRINCE OF WALES

The men were stationed in Edinburgh.

VALENCE

Majesty, I will incorporate them into our structure of attack. This will not take long. It is now three thousand against five hundred. Six English soldiers to every Scot.

## PRINCE OF WALES

You do with your men as you wish.  
My strategy has rather more  
effective odds. It is one thousand  
English soldiers against a single  
man.

He grins. Pleased with himself. And Valence too is impressed -  
and scared.

## VALENCE

(a beat)

May I kiss your ring, Sire?

Valence drops to one knee. The Prince extends his hand.

190 INT. ROBERT'S TENT - NIGHT 190

Robert lies awake.

## VOICE (O.C.)

Scottish cunt. Whore.

191 INT. PRISON, RAMPARTS - CONTINUOUS 191

Elizabeth, pale and thin, is awakened by something hitting  
the underside of the cage.

## VOICE (O.C.)

Cunt! Scottish whore!

She looks down. A group of laughing boys throwing stones at  
her. Elizabeth struggles to her feet. She picks up her piss-  
bucket, tips it onto their heads. The boys scream in disgust,  
run away.

Elizabeth lies down again, shivering. Begins to pray.

## ELIZABETH

Pater Noster, qui es in caelis,  
sanctificetur nomen tuum.

192 INT. ROBERT'S TENT - CONTINUOUS 192

Robert is praying too. We hear their voices together, the two  
of them in the exact same place and so far away.

## ROBERT / ELIZABETH

Adveniat regnum tuum. Fiat voluntas  
tua, sicut in caelo et in terra.

193 EXT. LOUDOUN HILL, GRASSLAND - DAY 193

Robert, grim and determined, walks at the head of his army  
towards the mounds of earth. Behind Angus, three hundred of  
the men move to take up their positions.

Most go behind the mounds, with a thin line of soldiers lined up in front of them. Angus signals for them to hold. Looks to Robert. A flicker of doubt, then a bold and confident smile.

194 EXT. LOUDOUN HILL, OPEN GROUND, ENGLISH SIDE - DAY 194

Valence looks confidently along his front line. Fifty armoured KNIGHTS. Thousands of CAVALRYMEN beyond them and behind, two hundred FOOTSOLDIERS.

Valence pulls down his helmet as the army rumbles forward. Meanwhile the Prince is trying to get his father's white horse to rear up.

PRINCE OF WALES

Up! Up!

The horse refuses.

195 EXT. LOUDOUN HILL, GRASSLAND - SCOTTISH SIDE - CONTINUOUS 195

The tiny Scottish army. At the front, Robert, Euan, Angus, James and Drew in position. We linger on them. Young. Brave. Ready.

Robert signals and the Scottish Royal Lion Rampant Banner is raised. The Scots cheer. Somewhere, the bagpipes play.

196 EXT. LOUDOUN HILL, OPEN GROUND, ENGLISH SIDE - CONTINUOUS 196

Valence snorts at the sight of the banner. The English DRUMMERS begin to drum. The English knights are ready.

VALENCE

Sound the charge! Take the day!

A bugle sounds. The knights kick their horses and the cavalry charge forward.

197 EXT. LOUDOUN HILL, GRASSLAND, SCOTTISH SIDE - CONTINUOUS 197

Robert's in the middle of his men, watching as the English cavalry gain speed. Angus' battalion stand ready.

ROBERT

Hold your ground!

Hitting the boggy ground the cavalry line falters and breaks as the horses sink into the bog. Panicking, the second line swerve to avoid collision, pulling towards the drier middle ground.

ROBERT (CONT'D)

Now!

ANGUS

Follow, men!

Robert and Angus' front lines of men turn and sprint through the gap between the mounds of earth. Surging forward, the leading cavalrymen fall into the trenches. Horses and men scream as they're impaled.

198 EXT. LOUDOUN HILL, GRASSLAND, ENGLISH SIDE - CONTINUOUS 198

Valence watches as his army are drawn in past the first line of trenches into the narrow channel where they're set upon by the Scottish infantry rushing out from behind the earth mounds.

Now the English are caught in the bottleneck, Angus' battalion drag Valence's knights from their horses and kill them. Robert wields his mighty axe alongside his men, inflicting critical blows.

The Prince of Wales sees what's happening. Screams to his thousand men -

PRINCE OF WALES  
Around! Around the bog! Five  
hundred left! Five hundred right!

His thousand men split and begin the long gallop around each side of the bog.

PRINCE OF WALES (CONT'D)  
(furious)  
Ride further! Ride further!

He races along, parallel to the bog.

199 EXT. LOUDOUN HILL, SCOTTISH SIDE - CONTINUOUS 199

James runs up a mound of earth with the archers.

JAMES  
Archers, fire!

The archers fire into the English at close range. James races down the mound, pulls out his two swords from behind his back, and launches into the fray.

JAMES (CONT'D)  
Douglas! Douglas!

James cuts down English soldiers like a man possessed. A few feet away, Drew swings his axe.

Robert works alongside, knocking men from their horses with his axe and finishing them off with his sword.

Around them, the Scots fight confidently, the English soldiers are flailing under the onslaught. Some start panicking.

The Prince's men try to cross believing they have outrun it. They try to cross, and fall.

- 200 EXT. LOUDOUN HILL, GRASSLAND - SCOTTISH SIDE - DAY 200
- Angus is directing his men, when he sees a huge English Knight gunning for Drew, sword raised. Angus throws his massive frame towards Drew, pushing him out of the way just as the English Knight descends. The sword finds a gap in Angus' armour and strikes his leg.
- ANGUS
- Argh!!!
- Angus turns, bashes off the knight's helmet and sinks his sword into his neck. Angus limps back into the fray.
- 201 EXT. LOUDOUN HILL, GRASSLAND, ENGLISH SIDE - DAY 201
- Valence brutally beats a Scottish Knight to the ground then turns to watch in horror as his men are routed. He looks around, trying to make a decision. What to do?
- 202 EXT. LOUDOUN HILL, GRASSLAND, ENGLISH SIDE - CONTINUOUS 202
- The Prince of Wales, now far from the bottleneck and initial point of entry, begins to cross the bog.
- PRINCE OF WALES
- Solid ground here! Solid ground!
- Many of his men follow him...and the Prince and the white horse sink into the mud. So too, do the men behind him. Furious, the Prince struggles off his saddle, heaves himself back towards dry land.
- 203 EXT. LOUDOUN HILL, GRASSLAND, MIDDLE GROUND - CONTINUOUS 203
- Drew fights, immensely successful with his axe - until - an English knight lances him.
- 204 EXT. LOUDOUN HILL, GRASSLAND - ENGLISH SIDE 204
- Fifty or so English soldiers finally make it across the bog.
- 205 EXT. LOUDOUN HILL, GRASSLAND, SCOTTISH SIDE - CONTINUOUS 205
- Robert sees several English soldiers racing towards him from the left and right. He begins to mow them down - effectively, but more keep coming. James races to his side.
- JAMES
- I have the left!
- The two men fight side by side. Euan joins them. And then Angus. A stream of English soldiers steadily fight for Robert, but none get near. Robert and his friends fighting for their lives with a passion and precision that is unbeatable.

On the English side of the bog Valence stares.

They are completely immersed in what they are doing, no overview of the battle at all - and then suddenly -

- it stops. No more soldiers coming at them. A moment. The group look up. Finally a view of the battlefield. They are surrounded by English corpses. And -

VALENCE  
RETREAT!

He turns, rides away.

ANGUS  
Robert, look!! They're running!  
They're running!

Robert turns to watch as the massive English army run. Robert runs forward, his face full of vindication, triumph.

EUAN  
We did it! We did it!

The Scottish troops are screaming with victory. Robert stops suddenly. Sees Drew, lying dead at his feat.

Robert forces his eyes from Drew's corpse to the retreating English army, cheers, trying to focus on the joy of victory not the cost, not the loss.

Then Robert's eyes catch a sole figure on the English side. The Prince of Wales. Robert walks forward, runs now until the two men are on each side of the bog where the bottleneck allow for a crossing. Robert yells over -

ROBERT  
Get a horse!

Robert sees a riderless horse on his side, jumps on it. Prepares his weapon. The Prince of Wales sees the same thing. Runs to a horse, jumps onto his back.

The Scottish army watch.

The Prince gets his horse to rear up. He raises his sword - every inch the powerful warrior. A beat. He faces Robert, longing to fight him.

Close on Robert, finally victorious, finally out in the open, ready, willing, able to fight.

The Prince of Wales thinks and thinks. Then he turns tail and rides away. Robert briefly gives chase as the Scottish cheer. Robert pulls his horse up to a halt.

ROBERT (CONT'D)  
Yes! You run! You run! You run now!



As the Prince rides, we see he is blinking away tears. The man at the beginning who wanted to fight isn't as brave as he thought. He feels it with every inch of his being. We read:

***Robert the Bruce went on to defeat the English in battle after battle.***

Robert rides back, joins Angus, Euan and James, quietly instructs them to bury the dead.

***In 1328 England signed the Treaty of Edinburgh-Northampton, recognizing Scotland as an independent kingdom with Bruce as it's first king, Elizabeth as queen.***

ELIZABETH (O.S.)  
*My babe on a curling green  
 wave be they cradling  
 La di vik, la di vik,  
 Ho-ro-la...*

***Robert's wife, Elizabeth, was released from prison in England. She immediately returned to Scotland where Robert and Marjorie were waiting.***

Meanwhile, Robert takes a spade and begins to dig a grave, just as he did at the beginning of the story.

***Robert and Elizabeth were buried side by side.***

Drew is carried by men from the battlefield and brought to his grave.

ELIZABETH (O.S.) (CONT'D)  
*Ho-ro little child,  
 La na ban, la na ban  
 Ho ro ei*

*While the seagull and swan  
 For thy cur-ach are caring  
 la-na-ban, la-di-vik  
 Ho-ro-la -*

ELIZABETH (O.S.) (CONT'D)  
*With his nets from the bay  
 Will they father be faring  
 La na ban, la na ban, ho ro la.*

Robert covers Drew's beautiful young face with earth. It's not the angry burial at the beginning of the movie. There is ritual here and sanctity. This is a leader now, a warrior who understands the cost of war, what it takes to fight and win.

Robert blinks. Looks out over the land. He sees everything. The horror. The victory. What he was fighting for.

Hold on Robert until we -

CUT TO BLACK:

END OF FILM.

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