

THE KINGMAKER

ACTION ADVENTURE



BJARNE O. SPEC SCRIPT

Copyright © Bjarne O. Henriksen
bjarneo@bjarneo.com
www.bjarneo.com.

WGA, Library Of Congress

FADE IN:

EXT. DESOLATE MIDDLE AGE VILLAGE - MAIN STREET - DAY

A BEAUTIFUL FARM GIRL, 13, is running for her life.

She looks back over her shoulder, scared and screams.

When YOUNG GARRON, 14, cold-blooded, immature, womanizing Prince of The Kingdom of Garron comes running after her.

He is a distinguishably dressed, interesting looking, aristocratic, slim but strong boy.

YOUNG GARRON

We wont hurt you.

She screams and runs faster.

EXT. ALLEY ON LEFT SIDE OF MAIN STREET - DAY

Fearful, evil WARRIORS, with a rattlesnake head tattooed on their forehead are sitting ready on their horses.

EXT. ALLEY ON RIGHT SIDE OF MAIN STREET - DAY

More evil warriors with a rattlesnake head tattooed on their forehead silently arrives on their horses.

EXT. DESOLATE MIDDLE AGE VILLAGE - MAIN STREET - DAY

The farm girl looks back. Sees Young Garron gain upon her.

He runs faster. Drops his knife without noticing it.

EXT. KING GARRONS CAMP OF TENTS - DAY

An impressive gathering of tents. Battle armed soldiers prepare for battle. A big majestic tent thrones in the middle of the tents.

INT. KING GARRON'S TENT - DAY

KING GARRON, 50, big, fearful, serious man is standing together with 3 of his OFFICERS around a table with a model of The Kingdom of Garron and the surrounding country Kagul.

Small flags on sprigs mark where the kings troops are standing, and where the enemy is standing.

A MAP SERVANT moves the kings flags braking his nails. It hurts, but he swallows the pain.

THE KING

(annoyed)

It's not at all like Gabasa to drag
out the time...What is he waiting
for?

An officer, the king's best man, MURTAC, steps in.

MURTAC

Your Majesty, Young Garron has
disappeared again.

THE KING

(angry)

We've made it absolutely clear, that
the Prince has to be kept under
close surveillance at all times.

MURTAC

Young Garron is a very...bold boy,
Your Majesty.

THE KING

He's a womanizing spoiled brat,
Murtac. If Gabasa finds him before
we do all our efforts are wasted.

EXT. DESOLATE MIDDLE AGE VILLAGE - MAINS STREET - DAY

Young Garron catches up with the farm girl. Knocks her
over a sly with a noble tone and delivery:

YOUNG GARRON

Don't worry, girl. We won't hurt
you...

He sits himself on top of her and wants to kiss her. But
hesitates when suddenly the evil warriors appear from all
sides.

He jumps to his feet. Goes for his knife. It's not there.
He stands upright, proud and aristocratic.

YOUNG GARRON

We're not afraid of you...

The warriors come closer, silently. The farm girl gets
up and runs away.

But suddenly she falls dead to the ground with a crossbow
arrow in her back.

Young Garron is unaffected.

YOUNG GARRON

How very brave...

One of the silent warriors aims at him with his crossbow.

YOUNG GARRON

Wait...let Us turn around first, so
you can hit Us in the back too...

He turns around.

The warrior is about to fire his crossbow, when he's hit by a long-bow arrow in the chest and thrust backwards off his horse and lands stone dead on the ground.

King Garron appears. He has fired the arrow.

Young Garron smiles when he sees the kings men attack from all sides.

A brutal battle begins.

Young Garron is locked in between the fighting soldiers. Has to jump and fight not to be killed or run down.

Suddenly a horseman pulls him up on his horse and rides away.

Young Garron tries to resist. Until he discovers it's his father, the King.

EXT. KING GARRON'S TENT - DAY

More of the kings soldiers ride off for battle.

A Royal coach door opens. The King is standing at the door. With a reluctant, sour Young Garron.

And his servant FILTON, 40, a short, good-natured man.

THE KING

We told, Sir Son, to stay away from girls...

(beat)

You only have yourself to thank that you have to learn the hard way now to be more interested in our fight for Garrons independence. In stead of gadding about.

YOUNG GARRON

We don't want to go back to the castle.

The King gives Young Garron the knife he dropped. Gives Filton a scroll of paper.

THE KING

God's speed.

Young Garron and Filton get's up in the coach. It drives off escorted by 6 soldiers.

The King watch it driving away, when a beautiful woman, COUNTESS LIA, 30, the Kings lover, stops lovingly at his side.

She has a big shiny snake shaped ring on her finger.

LIA

You are much too hard on him.

(beat)

He just need someone who cares for him...who loves him...His mother's been dead for 10 years.

THE KING

You have a heart of gold, my dear Countess Lia. But love is a luxury we Garrons can't afford.

Lifts her up in his arms.

THE KING

...it's too dangerous.

Kisses her.

INT. THE KINGS CASTLE - KITCHEN - DAY

Smoke and steam. Activity. 5 young kitchen girls are working hard. A large pile of dirty dishes.

At one end there is a stairway up to the castle. At the other is the door out to the castle courtyard. In the middle there is the door into the chill room.

The "Kitchen boy" MAJA, 14, charming, potential beautiful girl, dressed and well disguised like a boy, is standing sneaking spices down into her private soup pot.

Her long, curly, black hair suddenly unfolds after being hidden under a cap. She quickly puts it back and hides it again under the cap.

Maja's aunt, HILDA DOUGLAS, 40, kitchen maid, stands working as she looks nervously over at her niece.

AUNT

Maja, The Kitchen Master comes back any second now...

MAJA

Don't call me that, aunt...my name is "Matthew"...

She hesitates, when four soldiers barge in and grab hold of all the young girls and drag them out to the surprise of everyone.

The kitchen master, 40, ERIC "BONELESS", an ugly, effeminate man with big lips, enters from the chill room. With a handful of big sausages.

He looks surprised at the untouched dirty dishes and gets angry. Spots Maja who just manages to hide her soup pot - and quickly walks over to the dirty dishes.

Boneless grabs her by the tiny hairs at the temple and drags her over to a corner in the kitchen. To a big spider web.

No sign of the spider. But the front half of a mouse still alive is caught in the web fighting to get free.

BONELESS
So you killed it, Kitchen boy?

MAJA
...yes, Sir Kitchen Master.

BONELESS
The spider...You killed the spider?

MAJA
Yes, I killed the spider. With my bare hands...

Looks around a little scared.

Boneless doesn't know what to think. Gets a chock and drops the sausages when suddenly the half mouse jumps of the web and lands on him, squealing spooky.

It crawls around a little until he manages to wipe it of.

BONELESS
Don't just stand there, kitchen boy.

He picks up the sausages and pushes Maja over towards the dishes.

BONELESS
And don't forget to make the applesauce for the Chancellor's stomach.

EXT. BARREN HOSTILE LAND SCAPE - DAY

The royal coach with escort rumbles relentlessly through the barren land scape.

INT. ROYAL COACH - DAY

Young Garron is sitting sulking. Filton with the scroll of paper in his lap and a concerned look.

EXT. BARREN HOSTILE LAND SCAPE - RIDGE - DAY

An arrow ready to be fired is aimed at the coachman.

GABASA
No...

PRINCE GABASA, 40, a totally black-eyed man sits on his impressive black horse.

At his side is his right hand, TULL, 35, who puts down his long-bow.

GABASA

...let him go home to Garron. To
meet his destiny...

EXT. OPEN LANDSCAPE - MORNING

The royal coach and escort rumble out of the forest.

On up towards the impressive royal castle that can be
seen in the distance against the rising sun.

INT. ROYAL COACH - MORNING

Filton is snoring asleep. Young Garron sits in a bad mood
and looks out the window at the church.

EXT. THE CHURCH - MORNING

The royal coach passes by the church.

EXT. THE KINGS MARKET PLACE - MORNING

The royal coach passes by the market place.

A DIRTY MAN puts up a poster with "Herring Market". He
looks after the coach with a hatefull look then hurries
away, mumbling angrily.

INT. ROYAL COACH - MORNING

Young Garron is looking out at the market place, sighs.

KING

"...you have to learn the hard way
now to be more interested in our
fight for Garrons independence in
stead of gadding about..."

EXT. ROYAL CASTLE - GATE - MORNING

The gate opens - and two carts full of young girls drives
out and pass by the coach and drives away.

INT. ROYAL COACH - MORNING

Young Garron looks surprised and annoyed.

EXT. ROYAL CASTLE - GATE - MORNING

The Royal coach drives through the gate. It closes with a
heavy BOOM.

INT. CHURCH - BISHOP'S CHAMBERS - EARLY MORNING

BISHOP BORROWHEAD, 50, an ugly, bony man wearing a "sleeping mask" is snoring in his bed.

His lackey, ADORF, 30, cunning looking, wolf-faced man carefully awakens him.

EXT. CHURCH - BELL TOWER - EARLY MORNING

The BELLS are RINGING.

INT. CHURCH - SECRET LIFT - EARLY MORNING

Adorf, the dirty man, and the Bishop, sink below the floor as we hear the CHURCH BELLS RINGING.

The Bishop yawns. Clearly bothered by the dirty mans smell.

INT. CHURCH - BURIAL CHAPEL - MORNING

Adorf, the Bishop and the dirty man stand inside.

DIRTY MAN

I'm absolutely sure, Sir Bishop
...it's was the royal coach...

(beat)

I know it very well...I once cleaned
it...when I was younger, that is...

The Bishop puts a handkerchief to his nose in disgust.

BISHOP

Thank you, my son...
(to Adorf)

Pay him.

The dirty man puts out his hand for his reward. Adorf quickly pulls out a frightening curled knife and kills him in one stab.

BISHOP

Now the time has come, Adorf.

The bishop steps over the dead body and goes out.

INT. CASTLE - YOUNG GARRON'S CHAMBER - DAY

In a gilded cage a white bird sits chirping away.

SUPER: "TWO DAYS LATER".

Stacks of books on a table.

A very annoyed Young Garron is sitting reading. Suddenly he angrily pushes all the books on the floor.

Hears the LAUGHTER of a young girl from the garden and hurries to the window.

He looks down into the castle garden and sees LADY ADRIENNE, 13, the beautiful, but cold-hearted daughter of the Bishop.

The GARDENER prunes a large bush around a chestnut tree. He stops immediately when he sees Adrienne.

GARDENER

You are not suppose to be here, Lady Adrienne...girls are not allowed here in the castle.

He walks towards her, and she starts to run away from him, laughing, around the chestnut bush.

GARDENER

Your father will punish you, My lady...and me too...especially me!

ADRIENNE

I want to se the Prince...They say he loves girls...

GARDENER

Please, My Lady...Not even the Bishop's daughter is allowed to be here in the castle...

Young Garron is about to crawl out of the window, but hesitates when there is a KNOCK on the door.

He quickly picks up the books. Seats himself and appears to be absorbed in reading.

YOUNG GARRON

Enter.

THE CHANCELLOR, 60, tall, gawky, nervous man, steps in together with Filton. He meticulously starts to change the Prince's clothes.

CHANCELLOR

The King's messenger has ridden all night.

(beat)

I am positive that it is good news, Sir Prince.

Adriennes LAUGHTER is heard from outside.

The Chancellor is alarmed and puts a hand on his stomach, that makes a loud WEIRD SOUND and he grimaces with pain.

EXT. CASTLE - GATE - DAY

Lady Adrienne is quickly escorted away by two soldiers.

ADRIENNE

My father will hang you all.

INT. CASTLE - COUNCIL HALL - DAY

A number of high officials, the Chancellor, Filton, the Bishop with an easy smile and Adorf.

In the back Court servants are training serving the tables on horse back.

Young Garron is sitting on his fathers big throne.

KING'S MESSENGER

"...and we have now moved yet closer
to Our goal of winning back our
independence..."

Murmuring spreads. Applause.

It stops when one of the court servants drops a plate to the floor in the back.

The Bishop signals the messenger to continue.

MESSENGER

"...but to win the final battle We
must have new supplies of weapons,
soldiers and provisions from The
Kingdom as quickly as possible.

The Bishop makes the sign of the cross.

Another plate hits the floor.

Young Garron quickly stands up thin-lipped:

YOUNG GARRON

We will retire to Our chamber in
order to study.

They all curtsey to him, respectfully.

INT. CASTLE - YOUNG GARRON'S CHAMBER - DAY

Young Garron angrily slams the door behind him. Walks over to the cage where the bird is chirping away. And suddenly he hits the cage, furious and hard.

INT. CASTLE - HALLWAY - DAY

Young Garron sticks his head out of the door in serf clothing wearing a cowl, that hides his face.

When the guard looks the other way, Young Garron hurries away in the opposite direction.

Two hall guards, unseen by Young Garron, are startled when he sneaks past them down the hall.

They follow him.

EXT. CASTLE GATE - NEAR THE GATEHOUSE - DAY

Two Gatekeepers are rummaging through a cart. It carries MAJA'S UNCLE, 50 and Maja's cousin and admirer, BRODICK, 14. He has a little bouquet of flowers in his lap.

He is peering around after Maja.

Maja's uncle grouchily watches the CORPORAL throwing his weight about.

CORPORAL

Keep on looking. They're all hiding something.

(notices the
flowers)

What's that, boy?

BRODICK

What?

CORPORAL

Don't be fresh, boy. Who are the flowers for?

BRODICK

Eh...my...my...

UNCLE

It's for his mother. The kitchen maid, my wife, Hilda Douglas... don't worry, she hasn't been a girl in years.

The corporal looks at him skeptically.

INT. CASTLE - NEAR MAIN ENTRANCE/HALLWAY - DAY

Young Garron stops and hides behind a tapestry. He catches sight of Boneless who hands a big sausage to a servant woman, who then lets him kiss her.

Boneless stops when he hears the two hall guards approaching. He waves the woman away. Runs down the kitchen stairs. Just before as the soldiers stomp past.

Young Garron looks thoughtfully over at the kitchen stairs.

INT. CASTLE KITCHEN - DAY

Smoke and steam. The same large pile of dirty dishes.

Maja's aunt stands working as she looks nervously at Maja who stands sneaking spices down into her private soup pot again.

AUNT

You'll get us both fired...
"Matthew".

She hesitates when Boneless enters from the chill room with a handful of big sausages. He looks at the untouched dirty dishes. Then at Maja.

She just manages to hide her soup pot. Grabs a basket filled with delightful-looking apples.

BONELESS
Where's the Chancellor's applesauce,
Kitchen boy?

MAJA
They fired all the young girls, Sir
Kitchen Master...I only have two
hands...

He clutches Maja by the forelock.

BONELESS
The applesauce better be finished
when I come back, or else you and
your Aunt is out of here too.

MAJA
Very well, Sir Kitchen Master.

Maja angrily puts down the basket. Glowers at Boneless.

He locks the chill room door. Primps his hair. And disappears through the door to the castle courtyard.

Maja takes out her private soup pot again and doesn't notice Young Garron.

He sneaks down into the kitchen. Grabs Maja's apple basket to hide his face. Continues over toward the door to the courtyard.

Just as he reaches for the door handle. He is clutched from behind by Maja.

MAJA
Get your paws off my apples,
asshole.

She tears the basket away from him and grabs him by the collar. Swings her fist.

MAJA
I'll teach you to...

He pulls free of her grip and says angrily with royal attitude and in an aristocratic manner:

YOUNG GARRON
Touch Us again with those filthy
fists, boy, and We'll murder you,
you lowly mutt.

Maja is astonished by his attitude and speech. Realizes who he is. Is thrilled and finds him very attractive.

MAJA
Holy fishwife you're him...

YOUNG GARRON
Shut up, slave.

MAJA
You're the Prince!

He quickly grabs the apple basket and disappears through the door.

She wants to follow him. But are stopped when her Uncle and Brodick enter.

Brodick smiles lovingly at her. Hands her the flowers. She doesn't take them.

MAJA
What are you doing, Brodick?

BRODICK
I love you Maja.

MAJA
"Matthew". I'm "Matthew".

BRODICK
What?

MAJA
Tell that fool, Uncle. I have to go.

She slips out. Brodick looks after her, disappointed.

EXT. CASTLE COURTYARD - DAY

A determined Young Garron walks towards the gate with his face hidden by the basket.

Maja stops him.

Young Valdemar pulls away angrily. And goes on until she again grabs him.

MAJA
Now I understand why the King has forbidden...
(loud)
Sir Prince...
(normal voice)
...to leave the castle...
(loud)
Sir Prince is too stupid to be running around loose.

Enraged, he punches her in the jaw. She falls over backward. Lies there wincing for a second. Then she angrily pitches into him. The apples fall to the ground.

EXT. CASTLE GATE - DAY

The Corporal closes the gate after Boneless and notices the kids.

EXT. CASTLE COURTYARD - DAY

Maja brutally mashes Young Garron's face down into the stamped on, squashy apples. Grinds it in good.

MAJA

There, now nobody will be able to recognize Sir Prince.

YOUNG GARRON

We're going to kill you.

He twists himself loose. Pulls out his knife and raises it to strike. She grabs the hand with the knife.

They look at each other for a second, he notices with surprise the fine feminine features of the "Kitchen boy".

Then she takes hold of him with her other hand. And begins to dance while shaking his hand so he drops his knife.

MAJA

Dance.

He resists, but she holds him close and tight and they dance face to face.

She's enjoying it, attracted to him. He's clearly also attracted to her, but has big problems with that because he thinks she's a boy, and are puzzled.

A strange moment occurs for a beat where they both realize they are attracted to each other --

-- then suddenly the guards grab hold of them.

EXT. GATE - DUNG HEAP - DAY

Young Garron and Maja are violently thrown headfirst out through the dung hatch.

They land on the heap. Now Young Garron is angry, also because of his ambivalent feelings towards her, and the scary thought that he's attracted to a boy.

YOUNG GARRON

There'll be payment for this.

MAJA

...It's nice to be able to help someone...

YOUNG GARRON

We do not need help.

MAJA

I do.

He pushes her backward onto the heap and leaves.

MAJA

Wait!

EXT. BIG BEAUTIFUL LANDSCAPE - DAY

Maja catches up with Young Garron.

MAJA

It's your fault the Chancellor won't get his applesauce.

YOUNG GARRON

We don't hold conversations with slaves.

MAJA

That's right.

(beat)

You're Sir Prince You can do any damned thing you please...

YOUNG GARRON

Right.

MAJA

...except play with the girls and leave the castle.

EXT. WHEEL TRACK - DAY

Young Garron stops and says vehemently:

YOUNG GARRON

We can do whatever We feel like. We're...

MAJA

...just tired of using the front stairs?

YOUNG GARRON

We don't have to explain Ourselves to you...a filthy slave.

He walks away.

MAJA

(proudly)

I am a cook's son.

(beat)

I can smell the difference between 22 spices...

She follows him.

MAJA

You have to if you want to be the world's best cook. Just like my father was.

(beat)

I'll never make food just to fill out the guts, the way Eric Boneless does.

He ignores her.

MAJA

That's what we call him. The Kitchen Master. "Eric Boneless".

She shows off.

MAJA

He doesn't dare cook anything with bones in it.

(beat)

Not after he nearly took the life of the Chancellor with his "famous" fish salad.

(beat)

That noble man got a whole set of fish ribs stuck in his throat.

He stops. Grabs hold of her. Hesitates for a moment, puzzled.

Notices again the fine, feminine features of the "Kitchen-boy". And again feels very frustrated because he's attracted to "him".

YOUNG GARRON

(angry)

You have an unbelievable ability to chatter, kitchen boy...just like a ...girl.

MAJA

Cook's son, Sir Prince.

YOUNG GARRON

We told you not to call Us that.

He reaches angrily for his knife. It's gone.

MAJA

Your Highness dropped it when I saved your pale butt from being recognized by the Corporal.

He pushes her hard to the ground and begins to walk again.

Sitting in the grass she picks a blade of grass. Blows on it and makes a silly duck-like sound.

He walks on indifferent.

Until a duck answers from nearby. Then he unwillingly smiles.

She jumps to her feet and runs after him.

MAJA

Where are you going? There are no girls in that direction...

(beat)

But I can take you to the forest where...she's naked!

He stops, interested.

INT. CASTLE - CHANCELLOR'S OFFICE - DAY

The Chancellor sits with Young Garron's knife in his hand looking gravely.

The Corporal stands before the desk.

CORPORAL

It's impossible. No one can slip through my gate, Sir Chancellor.

CHANCELLOR

A thief was seen sneaking around the halls.

(a beat)

He must have dropped this on his way out.

CORPORAL

It's impossible.

CHANCELLOR

How else can you explain Sir Prince's knife being found near the gate, Corporal? When he's sitting in his room studying...?

The Chancellor suddenly gets worried. Puts a hand on his stomach that makes the loud WEIRD SOUND again and he grimaces with pain.

INT. CASTLE HALLWAY - YOUNG GARRON'S CHAMBER DOOR - DAY

The Chancellor kneels, puts his eye to the keyhole.

P.O.V. KEYHOLE IN YOUNG GARRON'S DOOR - DAY

Young Garron sitting with his back to the door, studying.

INT. YOUNG GARRON'S CHAMBER - DAY

It's a dummy, not Young Garron, on the chair.

INT. CASTLE HALLWAY - YOUNG GARRON'S CHAMBER DOOR - DAY

But the Chancellor thinks it's Young Garron and stands up, relieved.

CHANCELLOR

Find that thief. And the secret route he uses to get in and out unseen.

CORPORAL

Very well, Sir Chancellor.

EXT. FOREST - "THE BLACK LAKE" - DAY

Young Garron and Maja stand uneasily watching some mysterious rings that appear on the water surface.

BLOB-sounds are heard.

YOUNG GARRON

The forest whore...you're full of tall stories, Kitchen boy.

MAJA

No it's true. She lives in the lake...

YOUNG GARRON

...in the lake??

MAJA

Yes, she's a...a mermaid.

YOUNG GARRON

A mermaid forest whore that lives in a lake...?

He starts to walk away.

MAJA

I'm not making it up. She comes up out of the water once in a while ...naked!

(beat)

Well, suit yourself, I'll go alone...

She walks cautiously out into the lake, afraid.

MAJA

...I'm not afraid...

Young Garron stops and looks back at her. A beat.

YOUNG GARRON

You know how to use your mouth, cook's son.

(beat)

Let's see if you also know how to keep it shut.

He quickly walks out into the water and stops at her side.

YOUNG GARRON

We challenge you.

(beat)

If you can swim under water longer than We can, then We'll allow you to live.

She makes sure her cap is secured and holds in her hair.

They dive beneath the water.

EXT. FOREST LAKE - BENEATH - DAY

Young Garron and Maja swim a race. He leads. She gives it all she's got and overtakes him.

He notices with surprise that the Kitchen boy swims in a very feminine way.

Then suddenly a strange shape and motion appears ahead of them beneath the water.

Terror-stricken they make their way up to the surface.

EXT. FOREST - LAKE SHORE - DAY

Gasping for air, Young Garron and Maja surface among the rushes.

She points at something.

MAJA

Look.

They look at a horseman, who oozes malignancy, wearing a black cowl cross the lake.

Maja discovers that some of her hair sticks out and quickly mashes it in place under the cap.

He looks at her, again invaded by very ambivalent feelings for her.

MAJA

Now do you believe me?

They watch the horseman who rides up over a small hill and disappears.

Young Garron steals forward through the rushes.

MAJA

Where are you going?

YOUNG GARRON

A mermaid forest whore living in a lake on horseback...that We have to see.

Young Garron walks toward the hill.

MAJA
No. I have to make the applesauce
for the chancellor.

Something BUBBLES in the water right behind her.

MAJA
But of course...if you don't dare to
go alone...

She hobbles after him, securing her hair under the cap.

EXT. FOREST - ON THE HILL - DAY

The kids are reaching the top. Suddenly they hear a strange metallic sound. They duck, crawl the rest of the way.

From here they can see down into a clearing.

Here a group of horsemen are gathered in a circle next to a covered carriage.

The horsemen strike their swords together. Making the metallic sound, a greeting to the person inside the carriage.

He extends a gloved hand.

The malignant horseman from the lake removes his cowl. Kisses the gloved hand.

MAJA
That's not the forest whore.

YOUNG GARRON
How disappointing.

MAJA
It's worse. That's Greatfarmer
Donblade.

YOUNG GARRON
"The mermaid Donblade". A woman in
disguise.

MAJA
What's wrong with you? He's a
horrible man.

YOUNG GARRON
Be glad I don't kill you, kitchen
boy.

He walks away down the hill. She grabs hold of him. He continues and she RIPS off a piece of his shirt.

YOUNG GARRON
(loud)
You bloody fool!

EXT. FOREST - CLEARING - DAY

GREATFARMER DONBLADE, 50, leather-faced, fierce-looking man looks up.

Then he signals to his henchman IRON NOSE, 40, who has an artificial iron nose.

He quickly rides away to the hilltop.

From the covered carriage the Bishop looks out, a little uneasy. He signals to the coachman and is swiftly driven away.

EXT. FOREST - HILL - DAY

The kids run as fast as they can down the hill.

YOUNG GARRON

Get away from Us, you clumsy slave.

MAJA

It's your own fault for being so girl-crazy.

They all but fall into a bush.

EXT. FOREST - BUSH - DAY

Maja holds him in a firm grip although he resists as Iron Nose approaches.

Maja discovers that she is bleeding from a cut. Clearly unable to stand the sight of blood.

He claps a hand over her mouth, as Iron Nose pauses right in front of them.

He lifts his iron nose. Blows with the aid of his fingers, a disgusting sight.

Maja GASPS with fear.

Iron Nose smiles an evil smile.

MAJA

Run!

She pulls Young Garron with her out of the bush and runs away.

Iron Nose' horse rears, then he takes after them.

EXT. FOREST - DAY

Maja runs for her life still dragging an angry and resisting Young Garron with her closely followed by Iron Nose.

A series of arrows from his crossbow constantly hit the trees very close by them.

INT. CHURCH - DAY

The Bishop comes quickly in as Adorf approaches.

ADORF
(whispering)
He's here, your Grace.

Evil Prince Gabasa's right hand, Tull, steps out of the dark in the church.

INT. CHURCH - SECRET LIFT - DAY

Adorf leads the Bishop and Tull through a door in the wood panelling. Over to a large square box with a thick rope at the top. They enter.

Adorf pulls a cord.

INT. CHURCH - CELLAR - DAY

A small BELL RINGS. Two monks begin to heave. A large piece of machinery begins to turn.

EXT. CHURCH - BELL TOWER - DAY

The CHURCH BELLS RING.

INT. CHURCH - SECRET LIFT/CELLAR PASSAGE - DAY

As the CHURCH BELLS RINGS, the lift slowly sinks with small soft jerks.

Down beneath the church.

The Bishop and Tull walk out into a torch lit cellar passage.

INT. CHURCH - BURIAL CHAPEL - DAY

Adorf leads the Bishop and Tull into an eerie burial chapel containing 3 royal stone caskets.

Tull takes off his hood and reveals the rattle-snake tattoo on his forehead.

He hands the Bishop a document. The Bishop is appalled. Hurries to give the document to Adorf.

He sticks it into the torch fire and burns it.

BISHOP
 Everything must be handled by voice
 as agreed.

Tull smiles a forced smile of apology.

BISHOP
 Oh, well...It is human to forget. We
 hope that you, my son, can remember
 Prince Gabasa's message?

TULL
 Very well, your Grace...

ADORF
 Be so kind as not to speak directly
 to his Grace.

BISHOP
 The pest is a curse...

TULL
 "Prince Gabasa of Kagul sends his
 greetings..."

BISHOP
 You only need to say "He".

TULL
 "He" sends his greetings, Your
 Grace. And hopes that everything is
 moving ahead...

BISHOP
 (interrupts)
 You can tell the Prince that We have
 tricked the Greatfarmers into a
 conspiracy against King Garron.
 (beat)
 Before the King returns We will have
 gathered enough men to storm the
 castle and overtake the throne.

TULL
 (with Gabasa's
 voice)
 "That will not be necessary
 anymore."

The Bishop and Adorf is spooked. They look around,
 uneasy.

TULL
 (Gabasa's voice)
 "We are putting Our trust in Your
 Grace. And hope that you will soon
 become The Kingdom of Garron's new
 king.
 (a beat)
 We want you to prevent King Garron
 from acquiring new supplies of
 weapons, soldiers and provisions
 ...and kill Young Garron".

BISHOP

Kill?

TULL

Prince Gabasa wants his heart.

Tull opens a little heart shaped metal box with a SQUEAKING sound.

INT. FOREST - ANCIENT CASTLE RUIN - AFTERNOON

Maja quickly drags Young Garron in and pushes him to the ground and puts her hand over his mouth.

He resists and wants to remove her hand, but hesitates when Iron Nose stops his horse right outside and looks around ready to shoot.

He looks directly at them, but can't see them.

Greatfarmer Donblade comes, they talk briefly and ride off.

Young Garron gets on his feet.

YOUNG GARRON

I'll have you hang for this, kitchen boy...

MAJA

For saving your life? How nobel of you, Sir Prince.

Young Garron hesitates. Realizes first now where he is.

YOUNG GARRON

What is this place...?

Maja gets up and goes to a very old intact door.

MAJA

It's my secret hiding place...

(beat)

And this door is the door to the first lord of the castle's secret escape route.

(tugs at the door handle)

No one has been able to open this door for 100 years. It's the door down into the cave...

(beat)

...he tried to flee the country with the kingdom's money and the Queens daughter...

(beat)

Love is very dangerous.

She suddenly stabs two fingers into her throat.

MAJA

...arrrgghhh! He was killed by 500
bats...

YOUNG GARRON

You're full of tall stories.

Reluctantly he finds her more and more attractive and interesting. He's falling in love with a boy and is very frustrated and overreacts, angry.

YOUNG GARRON

Our Sir Father has a real secret
escape route at the castle, and only
Sir Father knows where it is...

MAJA

Alright, alright...

(beat)

Don't get upset...relax...?

YOUNG GARRON

(upset)

We're not upset. How dare you.

MAJA

I've also got a secret escape route
here in the ancient ruin...but I
only show that to my boyfriend.

YOUNG GARRON

(jealous)

What do you mean...?

MAJA

What I mean...? What'd you mean...?

YOUNG GARRON

...you said boyfriend?

MAJA

Eh...did I...well, you know what I
mean...

YOUNG GARRON

No...

MAJA

Girlfriend of course...Christ,
what's wrong with you...?

Young Garron's hormones and thoughts are giving him a very hard time in side, and he just stands there looking strange for a moment, then:

YOUNG GARRON

Why did you howl like that? Like a
girl.

MAJA

Christ, you really have girls on
your brain.

YOUNG GARRON

(upset)
Shut up, idiot!! You could have
revealed us.

MAJA

Blood doesn't agree with me.
Especially my own.

He's very frustrated and starts to walk out. She walks
after him.

MAJA

Where are you going? You can't just
go...they're probably still out
there.

EXT. FOREST - DAY

Young Garron walks fast away from the ruin fighting with
his ambivalent feelings -- and Maja at his heels.

MAJA

What do you think those men were
doing?

YOUNG GARRON

Who cares.

MAJA

You should! Greatfarmer Donblade is
an evil man.

(beat)

My Uncle works for him at Crane
Manor. My cousin Brodick works in
the kitchen. He says that every
night before he goes to bed,
Donblade mashes the guts out of a
frog.

(beat)

It's supposed to be good for
attracting the ladies...Maybe you
should try that.

He just keep walking.

MAJA

Hey. You promised to help my Aunt
and me.

(yells)

My Uncle was right. Kings aren't
better people than we are...You lie
too.

(smiles)

...and you can't get in the castle
again with out my help.

EXT. CASTLE WALL - OUTSIDE - AFTERNOON

An angry and troubled Young Garron stops at Maja's side
at the wall beneath a small wooden hatch two meters
overhead.

She smiles triumphantly, more attracted to him now.

MAJA
That's how Eric Boneless smuggles
his women in and out.
(beat)
He can't get enough of you-know-
what...

She puckers, laughs lewdly. He bites his lip.

She pulls on a string and a rope ladder rolls down the wall from the hatch, and she begins to climb up.

He follows and can't help looking at her feminine behind. Bites his lip again and looks away.

INT. CASTLE KITCHEN - CHILL ROOM - DAY

Maja carefully opens the creaking wooden hatch. Lifts a tapestry in front of the hatch and looks inside.

There is no one.

Only shelves filled with food.

She jumps in. He refuses her hand and jumps in on his own.

She hushes him. Waves him along. To a locked glass cabinet containing a sack of "Pepper".

MAJA
I'd gladly give my whole left
buttock for that sack.

He moves over to the door into the kitchen. It's locked.

She smiles and takes out a small fork.

MAJA
I can help you get in. And I can
help you out again.
(beat)
We could go down to the herring
market together.

YOUNG GARRON
Just open the door.

MAJA
People go wild over the herring.
It's the best.
(beat)
There's lots of things going on at
that market...there're whores with
breasts as big as mule bags!

He's clearly interested and is considering it for moment, then is overwhelmed by his ambivalent feelings.

YOUNG GARRON

A king's son cannot play with a
cook's son. Open the door!

She opens the door with the fork. He disappears.

MAJA

Meet me in the chestnut bush in the
garden. Come when I blow the grass
blade.

(beat)

If you dare.

INT. CASTLE KITCHEN - DAY

Young Garron slips past the dirty dishes. Up the stairs
to the castle.

The Gardener has heard everything and hurries out un-
noticed with an evil smile.

Maja comes in and locks the chill room door with the
fork.

Her aunt enters with a heavy bucket of water, angry.

AUNT

Where have you been? Where are the
apple sauce?

MAJA

Some thieving rascal stole the
apples. I tried to stop him. But he
got away.

AUNT

What thieving rascal? Nobody
believes your tall stories.

(beat)

I warned you, Maj..."Matthew". Now
he'll throw us out for sure.

Maja looks at her, a bit crestfallen.

INT. CASTLE - ROYAL "BATHROOM" - DAY

A very displeased Young Garron sits in the bathing tub
completely soaped -- clearly thinking of Maja.

Filton rubs and scrubs him - everywhere. And gets his
hands slapped when he wants to scrup him between his
legs.

The Chancellor stands with lather on his formal coat,
with a worried look on his face.

CHANCELLOR

I've promised your father to train
you to become a King...

YOUNG GARRON

If We say We slipped in the mud in
the courtyard, We slipped in the
mud...

CHANCELLOR

(dubious)

...in the courtyard, yes...

FILTON

It's monstrous. If this goes on one
won't be safe from mud anywhere...

He cleans Young Garron's ears with a passion.

YOUNG GARRON

Ow. We don't make up stories
like...some...some common girl...

CHANCELLOR

Er...girl, Sir Prince...?

YOUNG GARRON

You know what We mean.

CHANCELLOR

...yes...er...Lady Adrienne will not
be allowed in the castle anymore
...er...

INT. YOUNG GARRON'S CHAMBER - DAY

Filton dresses Young Garron and combs his hair while
Young Garron's thoughts clearly are somewhere else --
again thinking of Maja.

The bird is CHIRPING.

CHANCELLOR

...His Majesty the King expects Sir
Prince to be completely finished
with his education when he returns
home in a year...

YOUNG GARRON

(to the bird)

Shut up!

The Chancellor and Filton are surprised.

CHANCELLOR

I beg your pardon, Sir Prince ...?

YOUNG GARRON

...Must We keep that bird within Our
chamber much longer...?

CHANCELLOR

Er...I thought Sir Prince would
appreciate a little company.

YOUNG GARRON
It chirps constantly...like a
girl...

CHANCELLOR
Er...girl, Sir Prince...?

YOUNG GARRON
You know what I mean.

CHANCELLOR
...er...yes...very well, I'll see
what I can do about it, Sir Prince.

The Chancellor withdraws. Turns in the doorway.

CHANCELLOR
Oh, yes that's right. The Corporal
found Sir Prince's knife in the
courtyard. So Sir Prince ought to be
very cautious.
(beat)
It seems that we have a thief here
within the castle.

INT. CASTLE KITCHEN/CHILL ROOM - NEXT DAY

Alone in the kitchen Maja stands in her corner. She takes
a satisfying slurp of her soup, then hides it, when
Boneless walks in with two frightened kitchen maids.

Maja grabs the empty apple basket and walks over to him.

MAJA
I'm sorry about the apples, Sir
Kitchen Master. There was this
thieving rascal...

BONELESS
I know all about that.

MAJA
You do...?

Boneless clutches Maja by the forelock. Pulls her along
into the chill room.

To a big spider web.

A huge spider sits "sucking" the contents out of it's
smaller mate.

BONELESS
It's your fault my maids are afraid
to come in here. You told me you'd
gotten rid of it.

MAJA
I did, Sir Kitchen Master. It must
be the female spider and a its new
mate...

BONELESS
Shut up and kill it.

Maja puts out a frightened hand towards the spider.
Withdraws it when the spider HISSES and lunges at her.

The kitchen maids HOWL and run out.

Boneless takes a frightened step backwards. Hits Maja in his fear.

BONELESS
Kill it. Kill it now!

Maja knocks the spider out of its web with her hand. It lands again on Boneless.

He begins to HOWL when it HISSES angrily. Runs back into the kitchen.

Maja follows and can't help but laugh.

Boneless is hopping on the spot. He brushes the spider over onto Maja. She SCREAMS and hops as well.

They pause abruptly, when the Chancellor suddenly is standing in the kitchen. His stomach is giving off the loud WEIRD SOUND.

CHANCELLOR
What is the problem? You just have
to mash some apples...?

The Killer-spider slip back into the chill room, unnoticed.

INT. CHURCH - BEHIND THE ALTER - DAY

The Bishop, Adorf, Donblade and Iron Nose are listening to the Gardener.

GARDENER
...and they agreed to go to the
Herring Market together tomorrow.

DONBLADE
The Prince is already dead.

BISHOP
Remember to make it look like an
accident...and to bring me his
heart.

The Gardener puts out his hand for his reward.

Adorf pulls out his scary knife. Kills the Gardener with one precise stab.

INT. CASTLE - "SCHOOL CHAMBER" - DAY

A military strategist, OBAN, stands at the slate writing. Young Garron is seated at the lone desk. In deep, troubled thoughts.

STRATEGIST
 ...and then you always attack with
 the sun in your back...like this...

The chalk whines as he demonstrates.

STRATEGIST
 ...and with the vine...uh...the wind
 in your face...

From the castle garden the GRASS BLADE SIGNAL is heard.

Young Garron looks up.

EXT. CASTLE GARDEN - CHESTNUT BUSH - DAY

Maja looks up impatiently at Young Garron's window. She again sounds the grass blade.

She has the empty apple basket and some rags with her.

EXT. CASTLE - "SCHOOL CHAMBER" - DAY

The GRASS BLADE SIGNAL is heard again. Young Garron sneaks out.

The strategist writes on, indifferent.

STRATEGIST
 ...but what is far most important
 for a warrior, is to have ears like
 an elephant...

The GRASS SIGNAL sounds very loud and impatiently.

EXT. CASTLE GARDEN - CHESTNUT BUSH - DAY

Maja lights up, in love, and looks beautiful when Young Garron crawls in. Still wearing his fine clothes.

He notices how beautiful "he" looks and bites his lip.

YOUNG GARRON
 (angry)
 We only came to...

MAJA
 (sly smile)
 Great! I'll be able to show you the
 herring market and still pick apples
 for the Chancellor's sauce at my
 Aunt's.

YOUNG GARRON
Who are you?

MAJA
What? What do you mean?

YOUNG GARRON
...just give me the key. We only
came to get the key...

MAJA
What key?

YOUNG GARRON
The fork.

MAJA
No such luck, Sir Prince.

YOUNG GARRON
Give it to Us. Now, at once.

MAJA
You need me...

YOUNG GARRON
(upset)
No, We don't! We'll rather die!

MAJA
You can't handle being alone out
there...
(gives him the
rags)
Here, put these on.

YOUNG GARRON
Under no circumstances.

EXT. CASTLE - BY THE WALL - DAY

Young Garron, deeply troubled and dressed in female rags and a wig that makes him look like a girl, quickly crawls down the rope ladder from the kitchen hatch.

Maja looks out of the hatch and shout-whispers:

MAJA
Hey, wait. Wait for me!

He jumps down from the ladder and runs away. She shakes her head and begins to climb down.

EXT. HERRING MARKET - DAY

Maja comes running into the market. She stops, exhausted, peers around. She doesn't notice Donblades henchmen disguised like farmers. They are looking for Young Garron.

She ducks when she sees Boneless.

He climbs down from his cart. And gallantly greets a couple of washerwomen and generously hands out big sausages.

And they let him kiss them elegantly on the lips and squeezing their butts.

Maja sneaks away in the opposite direction.

Donblades henchmen walks over to Donblade that appears.

EXT. HERRING MARKET - DAY

Maja roams around looking for Young Garron. Among booths, farmers with wagonloads. Merchants with pedlar boxes. Whores around the ale booth. The herring booth.

Passing several of Donblades disguised henchmen on the look out for Young Garron.

EXT. HERRING MARKET - HERRING BOOTH - DAY

People are waiting in line. The booth is empty. 2 "gutting wives" stand ready.

A man runs over to the booth, enthusiastically shouting:

MAN

It's coming now. The herring is here.

Maja is suddenly pushed forward toward the herring booth by the now eager townspeople.

Just then she catches sight of Young Garron.

P.O.V. HERRING MARKET - DAY

Young Garron stands a distance away surrounded by people. With his hands up ready to box as he speaks to a big loutish peasant boy.

EXT. HERRING MARKET - HERRING BOOTH - DAY

Maja tries to push her way out of the herring line. But is shoved back towards the booth.

TOWNSMAN

Say, stick to your own spot in line, boy.

Maja is completely mashed against the herring booth.

The "cart hand" now arrives with the crates of herring escorted by soldiers.

The crowd becomes frenzied.

Maja dives down beneath the crowd.

EXT. HERRING MARKET - DAY

Within the small circle of nosy townspeople stands the big hulking, good-natured PEASANT BOY looking at Young Garron in astonishment and clearly attracted to "her".

Young Garron wants to fight very bad, frustrated. He moves his hands ready to fight.

YOUNG GARRON

(angry)

You can forget about apologizing, slave.

PEASANT BOY

Wh'...What'd she say?

MAN

She doesn't want you to say you're sorry, Carl. For kissing her and calling her beautiful.

PEASANT BOY

Why? What's wrong with that...she is very beautiful...??

YOUNG GARRON

Silence, you fool.

(looks around at
the crowd)

We can have you all hanged.

The group bursts into laughter.

WOMAN

She's funny.

MAN

Who is "we"?

WOMAN

Maybe she's a witch...?

YOUNG GARRON

(to peasant boy)

Come on, slave. Fight!

PEASANT BOY

Er...well, really now, honey. Relax, It was just a kiss...?

EXT. HERRING MARKET - DAY

Maja is crawling among the crowd's legs.

Suddenly she bumps into a pair of shiny boots. She looks up. Sees Greatfarmer Donblade's angry face looking down.

Maja smiles innocently and quickly crawls away.

EXT. HERRING MARKET - DAY

Young Garron is very upset and eager to fight the huge peasant boy.

YOUNG GARRON
Come on, slave...fight! You have
offended "Us"...

MAN
Why does she keep saying "we" and
"us", when she's all by herself?

Maja steps forward and grabs hold of Young Garron.

MAJA
Because she's born that way.

She puts an affectionate arm around him. He resists.

MAJA
Ah, there you are, Guenevere. Have
"we" run away again, huh?
(to crowd)
My sister isn't completely normal up
here.

She points to his brain.

MAJA
I sure hope she hasn't peed on any
of you.

The crowd moves back a little.

Maja pulls Young Garron away with him.

EXT. HERRING MARKET - DAY

Maja and Young Garron walks towards the herring booth.

MAJA
You are crazy. Evil Donblade's here.

She pulls his wig futher down his face.

YOUNG GARRON
Let go of Us.

MAJA
Not before you promise to behave
yourself.

He catches sight of Lady Adrienne walking with a couple of servants looking at stuff.

YOUNG GARRON
Lady Adrienne.

He pulls off his female clothes and the wig and wants to walk over to her, but Maja pulls him with her over towards the herring booth, jealous and angry-afraid.

MAJA

I saved you're butt from Evil Donblade. You're going to help me get revenge on ugly Boneless.

He realizes she is right, annoyed.

MAJA

I tell you, it was big as a fist.

He looks at her, irritated and not knowing what she's talking about.

MAJA

The spider I had to move it with my bare hands.

YOUNG GARRON

Spiders don't "hiss".

MAJA

Exactly. It's a monster. A blood-drinking spider.

He looks over at Lady Adrienne again. Maja pulls him away with her.

MAJA

(angry)

I'm going to put a herring in his "famous" vegetable pie.

YOUNG GARRON

Our Sir Father hates herring.

MAJA

So what? He can't smell a fish from that far away.

EXT. HERRING MARKET - HERRING BOOTH - DAY

Maja and Young Garron stops at the herring booth. She rummages in her pocket.

Finds a 1 cent coin, gives it to the Herring Man.

MAJA

One herring, thanks. The one with the most bones in it.

The Herring Man picks up the nearest herring.

HERRING MAN

5 cent.

MAJA

5 cent? For one herring? Last year they cost 1 cent?

HERRING MAN

Want this herring or not, boy?

YOUNG GARRON
Yes, we'll take it.

He grabs the herring and runs, she runs away after him.

HERRING MAN
Hey Stop, the thief!

Donblades henchmen spots them and takes after them.

EXT. HERRING MARKET - "WHORE ALLEY" - DAY

Young Garron and Maja flee through the herring market.
Pursued by more and more of Donblades henchmen.

Young Garron and Maja hide between two whore tents.

He puts the herring down the front of his pants. She
keeps an eye out for Donblades henchmen.

MAJA
You're out of your mind, Gar. They
hang you for stealing...
(beat)
...or even worse, cut off your hand.
Nobody would hire a one-handed cook.

She hesitates. Discovers he is not listening. He is
standing looking into the whore tent through a tear.

YOUNG GARRON
We didn't think they could get that
big.

Goes over to see for herself.

MAJA
Holy Cloud. What'd I tell you...big
as mule bags.

She pulls him away -- jealous again.

YOUNG GARRON
What are you doing?

MAJA
Don't you remember? We have to pick
the...
(freezes)
Iron Nose!

YOUNG GARRON
...the what?

Iron Nose grabs him from behind and lifts him up to eye
level.

Maja is terrified.

Young Garron gives Iron Nose a cold look.

YOUNG GARRON
 (royal attitude)
 Remove your filthy fist, ugly mutt.

Maja laughs her panic.

IRON NOSE
 We've been looking for you, Sir
 Prince...

MAJA
 We don't have time, we have apples
 to pick.

She kicks Iron Nose hard on the shin. He drops Young
 Garron. The kids run off.

Iron Nose runs after them. Stops when Donblade appears.

IRON NOSE
 It was him Sir Prince.

DONBLADE
 Forget it, and follow me.

EXT. HERRING MARKET - DAY

Young Garron and Maja storm out of "whore alley".

They stop when Brodick suddenly blocks their way. They're
 out of breath.

BRODICK
 Hello, Maja.

A beat. Young Garron looks at Brodick, then at Maja with
 a puzzled look.

MAJA
 I'm not Maja. Get lost, slave.

Brodick is surprised and hurt.

He notices the bulge the herring makes in the front of
 Young Garron's pants.

MAJA
 Get lost, I said.

Young Garron and Maja run away.

BRODICK
 I hate you, Maja. You'll be sorry.

INT. CASTLE - COUNCIL HALL - DAY

The Chancellor looks up somewhat shocked from a document
 emblazoned with the Kings siegl.

The King's dusty messenger stands before him.

CHANCELLOR

It can't be true...By this evening?

MESSENGER

Yes, Sir Chancellor, possibly earlier than that.

CHANCELLOR

We're not at all prepared?

Filton enters holding the Young Garron dummy.

The Chancellor is startled.

FILTON

I found this in Young Garron's chamber.

CHANCELLOR

Where is Young Garron?

FILTON

Put your heart at rest, Sir Chancellor. He is learning about Military Strategy with Oban...

They turn as Oban enters, short of breath and furious.

OBAN

He disappeared. Right in front of my ears...

The Chancellor puts a hand on his stomach, that makes the loud WEIRD SOUND.

INT. CHURCH - BISHOP'S "GREENHOUSE" - DAY

The Bishop sits among the white Royal Lilies writing a speech.

BISHOP

"...evil tongues claim that it is the Prince Gabasa of Kagul who is behind the murder of...

(beat)

...the murder of our beloved Prince Garron..."

He quickly hides his papers when Lady Adrienne comes.

ADRIENNE

I'm bored, Father...

BISHOP

Not now, my dear...not now...

ADRIENNE

I thought you were a powerful man.

The Bishop looks up, with a serious look.

BISHOP

I am. I am...and I'm going to be even more powerful if you let me write my letter in peace.

ADRIENNE

What letter?

BISHOP

Never mind...

ADRIENNE

You have to let me meet the Prince...

The Bishop gets up, angry.

BISHOP

Forget about the Prince Go now... go, go!

She leaves reluctantly.

The Bishop starts writing again:

BISHOP

"...but We have unquestionable evidence that it is this country's Greatfarmers who are at the bottom of it all, led by Greatfarmer..."

Hesitates when Donblade appears.

BISHOP

...Donblade?

Gets up, irritated by being disturb again.

BISHOP

What is it now.

DONBLADE

The King has returned.

BISHOP

What??

DONBLADE

He is on his way to the castle right as we speak.

EXT. MAJA'S AUNT'S HOUSE - DAY

Presentation of a small thatched cottage. On a slope down towards a bay. Odd BIRD CALLS and the GRASS BLADE SIGNAL are heard.

EXT. MAJA'S AUNT'S HOUSE - GARDEN - DAY

Young Garron and Maja lie beneath a large apple tree. Competing with bird calls.

Young Garron is best at it, especially the makeshift grouse call.

YOUNG GARRON
He must be pretty stupid if he things you are a girl...

MAJA
He is...
(beat)
I like the grass signal better than the makeshift grouse call...

She toots the grass signal.

YOUNG GARRON
No, I mean, really stupid...he's in love with you...a boy.

MAJA
No...

YOUNG GARRON
What do you mean, no? You're not a boy, or his not in love with you?

MAJA
You're stupid too...

YOUNG GARRON
Of course he's in love with you -- he said he hates you.

A beat.

MAJA
What is your problem? Forget about Brodick...he's a nut and I'm a boy.

She gets up and bows respectfully to Young Garron.

MAJA
"May the Cook's son have the honor of inviting the King's Son to her... his 15th birthday...
(beat)
...at my secret place inside the castle ruin..."

YOUNG GARRON
On one condition...

MAJA
(irritated)
What?

He gets up and moves close to her. She gets uneasy.

MAJA
What?

YOUNG GARRON
That you look after your own herring
..."Maja"?

Pulls the herring out of his jacket and hands it to her.
He looks at her with a little cunning smile.

MAJA
Please...

He keeps looking at her silently and skeptically.

YOUNG GARRON
What is your name then, kitchen boy?

MAJA
Don't tell me you're in love with me
too?

YOUNG GARRON
(upset)
I could have you killed for saying
things like that...

MAJA
Then stop acting like a nut.

YOUNG GARRON
So you don't have a name?

MAJA
Of course...my name is...

Suddenly a large apple falls and hits Maja on the head.
Her hair threatens to unfold. She manages to stop it just
in time.

MAJA
Holy Cloud The Chancellor's sauce.

She's about to go, when.

YOUNG GARRON
Stop!

MAJA
What?

YOUNG GARRON
Look.

He points at something in the distance.

At the dusty military column. The dust settles. They see
the banner with the Kings sign.

YOUNG GARRON
(afraid)
My father's returned!?

INT. CASTLE - YOUNG GARRON'S CHAMBER - DAY

A bewildered Chancellor stands at the window. Caressing his WEIRD SOUNDING stomach watching as the King and his soldiers ride over to the castle stairs.

Filton has put a small leather hood on Young Garron's bird. It can't chirp now. Filton is closing the cage door.

CHANCELLOR

Try to put off His Majesty while I
find Young Garron...No, it's better
I do it...

Filton is confused.

CHANCELLOR

I'll put off His Majesty while...

FILTON

Yes. Very well.

They run to the door, at the same time. Get stuck.

EXT. CASTLE WALL - SECRET ENTRANCE - DAY

Young Garron hurries up the rope ladder. Maja stands below watching him, crestfallen.

MAJA

You promised to come to my
birthday...

He disappears through the hatch.

MAJA

Meet me in the bush when you hear
the grass signal...

She sighs.

INT. CASTLE - COUNCIL HALL - DAY

The Bishop, Chancellor, Murtac and a couple other HIGH OFFICIALS stand together with the King around the table which holds the model of the Kingdom of Garron and the surrounding land Kagul.

The map servant moves the flags that indicate the King's conquests to the new positions with his chipped, sore fingernails.

The Chancellor sends a nervous glance toward the door. He gets a little chock, when the King throws a knife down hard into the middle of Kagul on the model.

KING

We don't understand, why haven't the
weapons, provisions and soldiers
already been gathered for departure?

CHANCELLOR

Er...the Greatfarmers have just informed me today, that they need a couple of more days, Your Majesty.

Small tense pause with looks exchanged.

BISHOP

The Greatfarmers are more than aware of the advantages The Kingdom has reaped due to Your Majesty...

KING

They don't have more time.

MURTAC

Leave the Greatfarmers to me, Your Majesty.

KING

Go out to the Greatfarmers, Murtac.

MURTAC

I ride at once, Your Majesty.

He kisses the King's hand, leaves with a determined stride.

The King brightens when Young Garron enters.

He's nervous and wearing a slightly too small coat of mail. A much too large sword at his side. Followed by Filton who brushes the dust from his clothes.

Young Garron kneels before his father.

KING

Sir Prince...it pleases Us that you could spare the time to welcome Us home.

YOUNG GARRON

Welcome home, Sir Father.

KING

You have grown. This pleases Us, Sir Son. We were going to have a completely new coat of mail made for you anyway...

YOUNG GARRON

I'm ready to leave with you, Sir father.

KING

...a coat of mail worthy of a Co-Ruler.

The Bishop startles.

Young Garron looks at his father in surprise.

KING

Yes, We have decided that the coronation shall take place in 2 days.

(a beat)

If We die, Sir Son must be ready to rule The Kingdom...

The chancellor's stomach makes the weird sound.

KING

Yes, let's eat.

INT. CASTLE - CASTLE KITCHEN - DAY

Everyone is working at full speed. Maja discovers that her soup is gone.

MAJA

Where's my soup?

AUNT

I don't know...

MAJA

You're lying.

AUNT

Boneless didn't have anything prepared...

(beat)

He was going to throw us out, Maja.

MAJA

The lowly mutt stole my soup?

AUNT

The King was very hungry.

MAJA

It's my birthday soup.

She goes resolutely to the stairs leading up to the castle.

AUNT

Maja..."Matthew"! Where are you going? Maja, come back...

EXT. CASTLE GARDEN - LAWN - DAY

A nervous Eric Boneless stands beside a serving table. Stirring Maja's soup pot.

A little distance away the King sits together with Young Garron and the Chancellor at a dining table.

A small band of musicians are fighting with a hastily rehearsed heroic tribute.

The map servant is also a member. He plays the lute as good as he can with his sore nails.

KING

...there will be a loss of 5,000 men
for each attack at this season of
year...

Young Garron freezes. He sees Maja crawling on all fours out of a bush with the herring in her mouth. Over to hide herself under the serving table.

The King misinterprets his reaction.

KING

Freedom and independence cost human
lives, Sir Son.

YOUNG GARRON

Very well, Sir Father.

He barely stifles a grin.

KING

Taking the weather into
consideration I suggest that we
allow the farm workers to mount the
first attack.

(beat)

They're best in the mud.

Young Garron again stifles a laugh, when he sees Maja's hand plops the herring into the soup pot.

The King notices it, disappointed. He's about to say something, when Boneless walks over to him with a bowl of soup.

KING

(annoyed)

This is not soup I hope...We hate
soup...soup is for sissies...?

BONELESS

(nervous)

Eh...It's not really soup...and
naturally it is only an appetizer,
Your Majesty...

The King skeptically tastes the soup. Then he looks up and makes an indeterminable face.

Boneless swallows with difficulty.

BONELESS

Er...actually I wasn't the one who
ma...

KING

It's a glorious...a-a...soup...
Kitchen Master. My compliments. You
have really outdone yourself.

(beat)

(MORE)

KING (CONT'D)

We have never tasted anything like it. This is how soup is suppose to taste!

Boneless is relieved. The King takes another spoonful.

KING

My God. Exquisite.

BONELESS

(tears of relief)

Thank you, Your Highness.

He goes back to the serving table.

Young Garron curiously tastes the soup. Slurps loudly.

KING

We're very disappointed.

CHANCELLOR

Your Highness...?

Brief tense pause.

KING

How is Sir Prince's education going?

YOUNG GARRON

...no.

KING

...no?

CHANCELLOR

...er...Sir Prince means that Sir Prince has not been playing with girls...er...?

KING

That was not what We asked?

CHANCELLOR

No...

KING

...uhmm, this is a magnificent soup.
(to Boneless)
Kitchen Master, more soup!

BONELESS

Thank you, Your Majesty.

Boneless stiffens with fright and stares in the soup. Pulls the soup ladle up from the pot -- with a herring skeleton on it.

He hurries to stuff it into his pocket. And quickly stirs the soup around.

CHANCELLOR

You have my assurances, Your Majesty.

(MORE)

CHANCELLOR (CONT'D)

Sir Prince has attended his studies
irreproachably.

(beat)

But then we had counted on having a
whole year, not only two weeks.

Boneless puts a new bowl of warm soup before the King
with trembling hands.

The Chancellor startles when the herring skeleton head
suddenly pops up in Boneless' pocket.

Boneless quickly stuffs it back down in his pocket.

Young Garron sees it too and can't stop laughing now.

KING

I had hoped Sir Prince at least had
grown out of his childish ways...

Young Garron laughs even more when he sees Maja scurry on
all fours back to the bush.

EXT. TWILIGHT FOREST - ANCIENT CASTLE RUIN - EVENING

One of Donblade's henchmen is sitting almost hidden
astride his horse guarding a cart filled with barrels and
crates.

Maja's Uncle and Iron Nose carry a crate into the ruin.

INT. ANCIENT CASTLE RUIN - EVENING

Maja's Uncle and Iron Nose carry the crate over to the
very old intact door.

Maja's Uncle unlocks it. They carry the crate into a dark
room. A torch is lighted in the room. It is filled with
weapons and provisions.

EXT. CASTLE - GATE - MORNING

Maja with a birthday food basket walks through the gate
when it opens, she has to jump to the side --

-- when a cart full of young girls drives in at full
speed.

She looks at it, surprised and jealously.

INT. CASTLE - YOUNG GARRON'S CHAMBER - MORNING

Young Garron's bird CHIRPS. But it almost can't be heard
because of the leather hood.

The sun's first rays illuminate Young Garron's sleeping
face.

The door bursts open and two grim soldiers dressed for battle quickly tramp in.

EXT. CASTLE - CASTLE COURTYARD - EARLY MORNING

Blazing bonfires are lit around in various places.

Young Garron, in full military armor, clearly made uneasy by the fire, looks around at the bonfires.

He is dragged down the main stairs and is now surprised to see that a lot of young naked girls are walking around.

The soldiers put a barrel helmet on his head.

The King appears in front of him with a big two-hand sword.

KING

It's time you grow up, Sir Son.

He hands him the big two-hand sword. Young Garron can barely hold it.

The King signals.

And 6 big knights in armor all armed with big two-hand swords starts running toward Young Garron, ready to fight.

The King steps back.

A brutal real fight on life and death begins -- while the naked young girls are walking around.

The King notes his son's fear of fire. Signals to his knights to drive Young Garron toward the bonfires.

EXT. CASTLE GARDEN - CHESTNUT BUSH - EARLY MORNING

Maja crawls in and puts down her birthday food basket. She looks up at Young Garron's window, then plucks a blade of grass.

EXT. CASTLE COURTYARD - EARLY MORNING

Close to the bonfire flames the Kings knights and an agitated Young Garron are battling -- while the young naked girls are walking by.

The King's knights launches a powerful attack on Young Garron.

Young Garron hesitates when the GRASS SIGNAL is heard.

The King's knights is all but cutting Young Garron in two.

KING
What is wrong, Sir Son?

YOUNG GARRON
We're afraid of the fire, Sir
Father.

Young Garron hurries away from the flames -- and sends the naked young girls a glance.

KING
A Garron is not afraid of anything.

The King signals and his knights forces Young Garron back towards the flames.

Young Garron fights for his life and to avoid the flames.

The GRASS SIGNAL sounds again, impatiently. Young Garron hesitates.

INT. CHURCH - BISHOP'S CHAMBERS - EARLY MORNING

Adorf carefully awakens the snoring Bishop who wears the "sleeping mask".

EXT. CHURCH - BELL TOWER - EARLY MORNING

The BELLS are RINGING.

INT. CHURCH - SECRET LIFT - EARLY MORNING

Adorf, Tull and the Bishop sink below the floor.

The CHURCH BELLS RINGS.

The Bishop yawns.

INT. CHURCH - BURIAL CHAPEL - MORNING

Adorf, Bishop and Tull stand inside.

TULL
"We now feel compelled to explore other avenues since Your Grace has proven to be unequal to the task."

BISHOP
Unequal to the task...?

TULL
"Your Grace failed to kill Young Garron - a child.
(beat)
It is no longer sufficient to merely prevent King Garron from acquiring soldiers, weapons and provisions.
(beat)
(MORE)

TULL (CONT'D)

Both The King and Young Garron must be killed now."

BISHOP

That's much too dangerous...We had an agreement...

TULL

"We have already engaged an assassin for whom you will provide assistance. We wish immediate results."

BISHOP

This is an outrage. We will not allow Ourselves to be treated like a common lackey.

TULL

(Gabasa's deep voice)

"Is this the reply Your Grace wishes my man to bring back to me, Dear Bishop..?"

The Bishop swallows his humiliation. Adorf gives Tull a dirty look. And touches his knife.

TULL

Your Grace will be contacted tomorrow...at the beach.

BISHOP

(appalled)

...the beach?

EXT. CASTLE - CASTLE GARDEN - DAY

Maja looks impatiently up at the window, jealous.

EXT. CASTLE - COURTYARD - DAY

The King forces a very exhausted Young Garron to walk very closely by the lined up naked young girls who are looking very scared and uncomfortable.

The MAKESHIFT GROUSE call sounds.

KING

Enough for today...We're hungry ...What do Sir Son say to a nice crisp makeshift grouse?

YOUNG GARRON

I'm not hungry.

EXT. CASTLE - CASTLE GARDEN - DAY

The King armed with a long-bow sneaks in with Young Garron right behind him and an Arrow-bearer.

The King hushes the arrow-bearer. Points at the chestnut bush when the "grouse call" is heard again from inside the bush.

YOUNG GARRON

We rather want soup...

KING

Aim for the sound.

Young Garron deliberately shoots far to the side. The King gets behind Young Garron. Directs his bow toward the bush.

INT. CASTLE GARDEN - CHESTNUT BUSH - DAY

The arrow hits right under Maja's nose. Splits a branch in two. Maja HOWLS with fright.

EXT. CASTLE - CASTLE GARDEN - DAY

Young Garron is afraid. The King sends his hunting dogs into the bush.

Shortly after one comes out with Maja's birthday food basket.

And the other chases Maja out and suddenly her hair unfolds and reveals she's a girl.

She is afraid when she sees the King's angry face.

Young Garron is surprised and relieved that Maja is a girl, but can't fully show his feelings for her.

EXT. CASTLE - GATE - DAY

The Corporal strides toward the gate. At the head of his two gatekeepers who drag Maja after them by the hair.

CORPORAL

If you show yourself here at the castle again you will be executed without hesitation.

(beat)

By order of the King.

Maja sees the many naked young girls and gets very depressed and jealous.

EXT. CASTLE - DUNGHEAP - DAY

Maja is thrown head first out of the dung hatch and rolls down and lands hard on the dungheap.

EXT. FOREST - CRANE MANOR - EVENING

The Bishop minces angrily through the mud. To a backdoor and enters.

INT. CRANE MANOR - OFFICE - EVENING

Donblade is packing a bag. The Bishop enters.

BISHOP
What's going on here?

DONBLADE
Murtac is on his way. He's already been to Greatfarmers Gasforth and Osmond.

BISHOP
It's just a routine visit.

DONBLADE
Both Gasforth and Osmond's manors have been burned to the ground.

The Bishop stiffens.

DONBLADE
There's no use, Bishop. The King means business. And so do I.

BISHOP
If you go to war with the King now, then we are all lost. We forbid it.

Iron Nose enters.

IRON NOSE
Murtac's passed the great oak. We have to leave now, Sire.

Donblade grabs his bag and walks toward the door. The Bishop becomes frantic.

BISHOP
You were right, Donblade.
(beat)
We'll have to eliminate the King and his son - with a plot.

Donblade stops.

DONBLADE
I'm ready.

BISHOP
We have already engaged a professional assassin. The best in Europe...
(beat)
You were right, Donblade.

Donblade gives the Bishop a brief look.

DONBLADE

I don't trust you anymore, Bishop
Borrowhead.

The Bishop is filled with dark thoughts.

EXT. MAJA'S AUNT'S HOUSE - EVENING

Warm light streams out of the windows. A HAPPY FOLK SONG
is heard from within.

INT. MAJA'S AUNT'S HOUSE - FRONT ROOM - EVENING

A birthday cake with 15 candles is on the table.

Maja's Aunt pours juice for cousin Brodick who is in a
bad, jealous mood.

The Uncle sings and plays the lute.

Maja with her beautiful long curly hair out and dressed
like a girl is sitting sadly in her own thoughts.

BRODICK

Aren't she going to blow out the
candles?

AUNT

Let your father finish his song
first, son.

The Uncle stops and puts down the lute.

UNCLE

That's right. We have to give three
cheers for our niece.

Maja forces a little smile.

BRODICK

First she has to blow out the
candles.

AUNT

Yes, come now, Maja. What's wrong?
It's your birthday.

UNCLE

It's probably love troubles.

BRODICK

I wish I was dead.

The aunt and the uncle look surprised after Brodick, who
leaves the room. Then someone is KNOCKING on the door.

AUNT

Who could it be at this hour?

The Uncle goes over and opens the door. Outside in the
dark stands Iron Nose.

IRON NOSE

It's time.

Maja's Uncle puts on his coat. Turns to the family.

UNCLE

I have to leave now.

He leaves.

Maja is unaffected still in her dark thoughts.

INT. CAVE - (NIGHTMARE)

Maja as a girl flees through a cave carrying a large sack of pepper pursued by a human-like monster with a head shaped like an enlarged artificial iron nose.

Suddenly she is attacked by hundreds of bats.

The largest bat brutally hooks its large canine teeth into her throat and starts sucking her blood.

Then Brodick turns up and saves Maja and they kiss passionately.

Young Garron appears with his huge two-hand sword and stabs Brodick to death. He SCREAMS and it sounds more and more like a bird.

A BIRD SCREAM is heard.

INT. CASTLE - YOUNG GARRON'S CHAMBER - MIDNIGHT

Young Garron tosses and turns with the nightmare. The bird SCREAM is heard again.

Young Garron jerks awake, bathed in sweat. He discovers that it is his bird that is screaming. It has fought its way half-way free of the leather hood.

EXT. CASTLE WALL NIGHT

Young Garron quickly crawls down the rope ladder from the kitchen hatch and sneaks away.

EXT. MAJA'S AUNT'S HOUSE CHICKEN YARD NIGHT

There's no light in the house.

Young Garron sneaks in the chicken yard.

INT. MAJA'S AUNT'S HOUSE - MAJA'S ROOM - NIGHT

Maja is asleep. Looking beautiful and feminine with her long, curly hair. Next to the bed is the untouched birthday cake with 15 candles.

EXT. MAJA'S AUNT'S HOUSE NIGHT

Young Garron forces a window open with his knife.

INT. MAJA'S AUNT'S HOUSE - MAJA'S ROOM - NIGHT

Young Garron comes in through the window. Moves silently over to Maja's bed and stops at her bed side, astounded by her beauty.

He smiles, happy, and lifts up her bed cover and reveals her feminine feet. He bends down and kisses her on her forehead.

She wakes up and startles when she sees him. He smiles a warm smile, in love.

YOUNG GARRON

I've had my suspicion from the first time I saw you. You're much to pretty to be a boy...Maja.

He wants to kiss her again, but she slaps his face hard.

MAJA

You can't just come barging in here and start kissing me...what kind of girl do you take me for?

YOUNG GARRON

I'm sorry...you're right, I totally forgot my manors...

She suddenly grabs hold of him and starts kissing him very passionately.

INT. CASTLE - COUNCIL HALL - EARLY MORNING

The Chancellor and the Bishop both watch with fatigue as Murtac enters and goes to stand before a wide-awake King.

MURTAC

The Greatfarmers have hidden their weapons and provision, Your Majesty.

KING

Of course. Prince Gabasa of Kagul is behind this. He needs time to gather his forces...

BISHOP

Er...Surely not all the Greatfarmers could be that "false-hearted".

MURTAC

I say, if it's war they want then give them war.

The Chancellor's stomach makes it's WEIRD SOUND.

BISHOP

Yes, but...maybe it would be sufficient to make an example of someone...

KING

An example?

BISHOP

...find the main one who's behind this...and use all the force necessary to...persuade him.

KING

It astonishes Us that so often it's the churchmen who are the most cunning. It only makes Us even more grateful to have the Church on Our side.

(a beat)

Who do you, dear Bishop, believe to be responsible for this conspiracy?

Suddenly Young Garron's bird flies in the window.

The Chancellor immediately suspects mischief. His stomach makes the WEIRD SOUND again.

The Bishop quickly sets a handkerchief to his mouth.

The bird lands on top of the his hat. Drops a mess. Adorf waves the bird away with a hard blow.

It flutters down. Falls down in the middle of the model of Kingdom of Garron. Jerks a couple of times and dies.

Worried looks are exchanged.

INT. CASTLE - YOUNG GARRON'S CHAMBER - EARLY MORNING

The door is kicked open by the Corporal. The King enters. Finds the dummy in Young Garron's bed.

KING

Arrest the kitchen girl at once!

EXT. FOREST - ANCIENT CASTLE RUIN - DAY

Maja and Young Garron sit in Maja's secret hiding-place. Her hair is out and she's dressed like a girl. They are clearly in love with each other.

Young Garron wants to kiss her, but she plays hard to get.

MAJA

I want to be the best cook in the world...that's why I pretended to be a boy...

YOUNG GARRON
You didn't fool me.

MAJA
Girls are not allowed to become
anything but whores...

YOUNG GARRON
(serious)
Would you burn yourself for my sake?

MAJA
What?

YOUNG GARRON
If I was sleeping inside a house
that suddenly caught on fire, would
you rescue me?

MAJA
...yes. But it might not be possible
to get inside the house...it depends
on how much it's burning.

YOUNG GARRON
A true friend would do it no matter
what. I would do that for you.

He takes her hand, looks her deep in the eyes.

YOUNG GARRON
Close your eyes, Maja.

MAJA
Wha-?

YOUNG GARRON
Just do as I say.

She closes her eyes half-way.

YOUNG GARRON
No. You're cheating.

He takes off his scarf. Maja becomes uneasy. He ties his
scarf over Maja's eyes.

Takes out a small round wrapped gift and puts it down in
front of her. Finally he lays down his knife.

YOUNG GARRON
So now you may open your eyes.

He removes the scarf. She is surprised.

YOUNG GARRON
Happy birthday, my love.

MAJA
Thanks, Gar...

She opens the gift. Smiles sheepishly when she sees it's
the pepper sack from the chill room.

MAJA
 Holy Fishwife. You've stolen
 Boneless' pepper...You're a regular
 little thief, Gar.

YOUNG GARRON
 I would do anything for you, Maja.

They look each other deep in the eyes. She wants to kiss
 him now, but now he moves back. And picks up his knife.

She gets a little uneasy. Hesitates when he cuts his
 thumb so that it bleeds.

MAJA
 What are you doing?

YOUNG GARRON
 Proving that I'm your friend.

MAJA
 I thought you wanted to kiss me??
 Girls don't do things like that...

He hands her the knife.

YOUNG GARRON
 We are offering you to become Our
 brother in blood.

MAJA
 ...that's nice...but...you know I
 can't stand to look at blood.

YOUNG GARRON
 Exactly. Only a true friend would do
 it anyway.

EXT. FOREST - OUTSIDE THE ANCIENT CASTLE RUIN - DAY

Maja is heard SCREAMING loudly with pain.

INT. CASTLE - KITCHEN STAIRS - DAY

The King descends followed by the Corporal.

CORPORAL
 I have searched the entire castle,
 Your Majesty.

INT. CASTLE - KITCHEN - DAY

The King enters the kitchen. Corporal behind him. Maja's
 Aunt and the kitchen maids bow respectfully.

The King goes over to the chill room door. It is locked.

KING
 What's in here?

AUNT
That's the chill room, Your Majesty.

KING
Open it.

CORPORAL
I can't, Your Majesty. Only the
Kitchen Master has the key to this
room.

The King goes to the door and opens it with one kick.

INT. CASTLE - SECRET ROOM INSIDE CHILL ROOM - DAY

Boneless stiffens with his lips pressed against those of a half-naked washerwoman. She removes her lips from his and takes a big bite of one of the big sausages.

They are sitting on some bedding. Boneless listens in fear.

KING (O.S.)
Here, what is this, Corporal?

INT. CASTLE - CHILL ROOM - DAY

The King stands beside the glass cabinet. It has been forced open and the pepper sack is gone.

CORPORAL
I've never seen this before, Your
Majesty...like I said...only the
Kitchen master has the key to the
chill room.

INT. CASTLE - SECRET ROOM IN CHILL ROOM - DAY

KING (O.S.)
Where is the Kitchen master?

Boneless still hold his breath afraid, while the woman hungrily eats the sausage.

They don't notice the large killer-spider "lowering" itself down behind Boneless.

CORPORAL (O.S.)
He's probably at the market, Your
Majesty...selling his big sausages
...they're very popular among women.

INT. CASTLE - CHILL ROOM - DAY

The King pulls the tapestry aside and reveals the little wooden hatch. He opens it and discovers the rope. Pulls it and watches as the rope ladder rolls down.

KING
Sir Prince has left the castle.

INT. CASTLE - SECRET ROOM IN CHILL ROOM - DAY

Boneless still holding his breath is signaling to the woman to stop eating and making noise.

She now sees the spider disappear up underneath his jacket.

INT. CASTLE - CHILL ROOM - DAY

The King walks angrily toward the door into the kitchen with the Corporal behind him.

KING
...We want very much to speak with
The Kitchen Master...and hear what
he has to say...

Boneless suddenly HOWLS. The King and the Corporal pause.

INT. CASTLE - CASTLE COURTYARD - DAY

The stocks are slammed shut over Boneless. The Corporal is standing smiling while he is eating one of the big sausages.

CORPORAL
Thank your God the King likes your
soup, Boneless.
(beat)
Otherwise right now you'd be kissing
angels.

He salutes as Murtac and a large, formidable group of soldiers ride past. They whirl up dust into Boneless' face.

EXT. FOREST - EVENING

Someone on foot moves through the brush.

EXT. FOREST - ANCIENT CASTLE RUIN - EVENING

Young Garron and Maja sit close together around a small bonfire -- kissing and hugging. Deeply in love.

Both with a bandage on their thumb.

She suddenly stops.

MAJA
Shhh?

YOUNG GARRON
What?

MAJA

There's somebody out there...?

They listen. Something RUSTLES outside.

YOUNG GARRON

I'll go out and take a look.

MAJA

No?

YOUNG GARRON

Why?

MAJA

You mustn't show you face. You are the Prince.

YOUNG GARRON

Well it is dark. No one can see that it's me.

MAJA

I wont have it.

YOUNG GARRON

Okay.

The sound is heard again.

YOUNG GARRON

Hurry now. Before they come in here.

MAJA

(scared)

Who?

YOUNG GARRON

Don't worry. It's probably just a creature.

She gets even more frightened.

EXT. FOREST - ANCIENT CASTLE RUIN - EVENING

Maja carefully creeps out of the entrance with Young Garron's knife ready in her hand.

She's glancing around with fear. Suddenly she is confronted with a dark form. Her Uncle.

MAJA

Uncle? Bless my eyes, what a fright you gave me.

(quickly hides

Young Garrons

dagger)

What are you doing here?

UNCLE

No need for you to worry about that, Maja.

INT. ANCIENT CASTLE RUIN - EVENING

Young Garron watches. Sees Maja stands talking with Majas Uncle, a stranger to him. He can't hear what they are saying. Sees Maja run away.

The stranger remain standing. Young Garron is astonished and skeptical. Then he ducks, when Greatfarmer Donblade and Iron Nose arrive.

Donblade speaks indignantly. Young Garron still can't hear what he's saying.

The men move to enter the ruin. Young Garron draws back. He gets a shock when he is suddenly grabbed from behind and pulled away.

He's resisting until he sees it's Maja.

EXT. FOREST - EVENING

Young Garron and Maja are fleeing through the dark forest.

They stop and catch their breath.

MAJA

That's the second time I've saved your life, Gar.

YOUNG GARRON

It sounded like you were talking to someone?

MAJA

No. There wasn't anybody...but somebody came.

Young Garron looks at her skeptically.

MAJA

That's why I had to hide. You saw them yourself. Donblade and the rest.

He knows she's lying. She feels a bit awkward. Points suddenly at something in the distance.

MAJA

Look! There's a fire...

There is a reddish light in the night sky outside the forest.

MAJA

Come on.

Maja and Young Garron run through the forest. Towards where the fiery red glow can be seen.

Suddenly a white ghostly figure flaps out of the undergrowth in front of them. They stop short.

It is Brodick in his white nightshirt, paralyzed with fear.

MAJA
What's happened?

BRODICK
The King's soldiers...the King's
soldiers...they'll kill us all!

They quickly draw Brodick to the side.

One of Donblade's henchmen appears. He is running with Donblade's bag on his shoulders.

3 of the King's horsemen rush forward. From different directions and block his path.

They brutally cuts him down in full view of Brodick, Young Garron and Maja.

She gets a spurt of blood on her and is about to scream. But Young Garron put his hand over her mouth.

The horsemen turn and ride away.

Brodick pulls free and flaps onward.

EXT. FOREST EDGE - NEAR DONBLADE'S MANOR - EVENING

Maja and Young Garron appear behind some bushes. They see that Donblade's manor is ablaze. Soldiers, livestock and people run around in confusion.

MAJA
That's Crane Manor, Donblade's
manor?

EXT. IN FRONT OF CRANE MANOR - EVENING

Murtac observes the scene together with two soldiers, all on horseback.

EXT. FOREST EDGE - NEAR CRANE MANOR - EVENING

Maja and Young Garron are astonished.

YOUNG GARRON
That's Murtac...?

MAJA
Yeah, let's go.

YOUNG GARRON
No, wait.

MAJA
For what? Let's get out of here
before they see us.

YOUNG GARRON
(royal attitude)

No!

He wants to leave the bush, but she holds him back.

MAJA
You're not supposed to leave the
castle...or be playing with girls,
remember.

YOUNG GARRON
(royal attitude)
Let go of Us.

He pushes her back and runs out of the bush and over
towards Murtac.

EXT. IN FRONT OF CRANE MANOR - EVENING

Murtac discovers Young Garron running toward him.

MURTAC
It's The Prince!? Get him!

One of the soldiers ride towards Young Garron.

MURTAC
...and search those bushes. No one
must escape.

The other soldier set out toward the forest edge.

Passes by the other soldier. Who roughly picks up Young
Garron and rides away with him.

Young Garron protests in vain.

The other soldier pulls his sword and rides directly over
toward Maja.

EXT. FOREST EDGE - NEAR CRANE MANOR - EVENING

Panic-stricken, Maja gets up and is about to run away,
when Brodick suddenly appears right behind her.

He grabs hold of her and prevents her from running away
with a terrified iron grip.

BRODICK
The King's soldiers...The King's
soldiers...they'll kill us all!

MAJA
Yes. And they're coming right over
here now. So let go of me.

Suddenly he knocks her over and clings tightly to her,
lying on top of her. She can't get free. But manages to
wriggle them into the bush.

BRODICK

The soldiers are coming. The
soldiers are coming.

MAJA

Then shut your mouth!

She is unable to free her hands. And she is obliged, very
reluctantly, to cover his mouth with hers in order to
quiet him.

Just then the soldier comes to a halt right outside the
bush and looks around.

He starts to poke his sword into the bushes.

Brodick begins to enjoy "the kiss". She is disgusted and
wants him to stop. But can't do anything with out
revealing them.

The soldier gives up and rides away.

Brodick is happy, until he's pushed away hard by a deeply
worried Maja who wipes her mouth and spits.

EXT. THE BEACH - NIGHT

The waves are CRASHING against the coast. A storm has
broken.

The Bishop sits in his coach with Adorf. The Bishop with
a handkerchief over his mouth looking down toward the
water.

In the surf a rowboat is making its way in from a ship.
The rowboat reaches the beach. A cloaked man is helped
ashore.

Walks up to the Bishop's coach.

BISHOP

Welcome. We are grateful that you
could lend a hand so quickly.

The man uncovers his face. The Bishop and Adorf hesitates
in surprise. It's Countess Lia.

BISHOP

Countess Lia...?

LIA

I'm invited to the coronation of
Young Garron tomorrow...I am honored
by such a noble reception.

She flips open a device on her big snake shaped ring. The
Bishop's eyes widen.

Two poisoned needle-thin rattlesnake hook-teeth and a
small chamber are revealed with a HISSING sound.

She smiles and removes a tiny roll of paper from the chamber. Hands it to the Bishop.

LIA
Prince Gabasa grants me Carte
Blanche.

EXT. CASTLE - DAY

Heavy clouds drift over the Royal Castle.

INT. CASTLE - COUNCIL HALL - DAY

A grave Young Garron is being taken to task before the King. The Chancellor, Murtac, the Bishop and a couple of high officials are present.

The Bishop smiles with satisfaction.

Maja's Uncle is dragged out.

KING
We don't know how you feel, Sir Son,
but We don't feel at ease with this
kind of person.
(gravely)
But they aren't nearly as dangerous
as those who are eager to be Our
friend.

YOUNG GARRON
Maja...uh...the Kitchen girl had
nothing to do with the plot...

KING
So it was pure coincidence that she
disguised herself as a boy and
helped you to leave the castle?
(beat)
Led you to the same ancient castle
ruin the conspirators used to hide
their weapons and provisions from
Us...
(beat)
...and also used as a secret meeting
place...?

Young Garron is confused and burdened. The King puts his hand on Young Garron's shoulder.

KING
Sir Son has been the victim of an
age-old trick...
(beat)
That's why We've taken our
precautions by forbidding girls in
your presence...
(beat)
Of course We could be wrong.

YOUNG GARRON

What do you mean?

KING

The kitchen girl perhaps did tell you about her uncle and the conspirators...

(beat)

The way a true friend would?

Young Garron unhappily drops his head.

KING

You have experience bodily that We can trust no one other than Ourselves...especially not women.

(a beat)

A very important lesson.

(beat)

We couldn't even trust you, Sir Son...You swore that you would obey Us.

Young Garron is dismayed.

YOUNG GARRON

You can trust Us, Sir Father. We will never let you down again.

KING

Sir Prince will have ample opportunity to prove that.

He turns to the gathering.

KING

In the presence of witnesses We hereby assign to Sir Prince his first Royal Function:

(a beat)

To pass judgment upon the kitchen Girl Maja Douglas.

Young Garron stares blankly ahead.

EXT. CHURCH - BELL TOWER - DAY

The CHURCH BELLS are RINGING, more vigorously than before.

INT. CHURCH - DAY

Beneath the church arches choir singing blends with the distant bells.

Thousands of candles gleam as the coronation procession moves toward the altar headed by a solemn Young Garron.

The Bishop presides over the ceremony.

Young Garron kneels at the altar.

Countess Lia and the Chancellor sits among the noble guests in the front row.

The King steps forward. Holds a royal crown above his son's head.

KING

"In the name of the Trinity and the Indivisible Host, We, King Garron, Ruler of The Kingdom of Garron by the grace of God, declare Our son of the Holy Mother Church, Young Garron V, to be Our Co-Ruler in time of war and in time of peace."

The SOUND from the CORONATION CEREMONY is heard off during the following montage.

INT. GREATFARMER MANOR - BEDROOM - DAY

The King's soldiers barge in. Tear one of Donblade's men out of bed. Drag him out with them while his wife SCREAMS.

EXT. SMALL ROADSIDE INN - DAY

Suddenly the door flies open. Donblade backs out fencing with two soldiers.

Iron Nose also comes out and tries to escape. He is cornered when more of the King's horsemen arrive.

Donblade will not surrender and is killed.

INT. CHURCH - DAY

A very "holy" Bishop swings the incense burner. States a benediction over Young Garron. He puts a hand on the crown that the King holds forward.

Young Garron stares gravely ahead.

EXT. MAJA'S AUNT'S HOUSE - CHICKEN YARD - DAY

Maja, looking like girl with her beautiful long hair, is feeding the hens.

Suddenly the King's soldiers rush in. Brutally grab Maja and drag her away.

EXT. MAJA'S AUNT'S HOUSE - DAY

Maja is thrown up into a prison wagon. The barred door is slammed behind her.

Her Aunt comes running out. She's held back as she watches them drive away with Maja.

INT. CHURCH - DAY

Young Garron doggedly receives the benediction. He looks up at the King who nods appreciatively.

The crown is lowered onto Young Garron's head.

Countess Lia smiles and applause with the others.

INT. CASTLE - DUNGEON - DAY

Maja is thrown into the darkness, with her beautiful long hair now cut very short, so she looks like a boy. The door is SLAMMED behind her. She beats on the door with all her strength.

MAJA

Let me out! I'm friends with Young Garron...He loves me!

An evil laughter is heard behind her. She turns around. Gets a shock when she sees that it's Iron Nose. He is sitting in a corner eating from a bowl.

She looks at him with terror.

INT. CASTLE - COUNCIL HALL - DAY

A document reads:

"AT DAYBREAK, AUGUST 19 1218, THE KITCHEN GIRL MAJA DOUGLAS, SHALL SUFFER DEATH BY HANGING."

Young Garron's royal ring is pressed down into the red wax on the document.

Young Garron hands the document to the King. The King turns and hands the document to the Corporal.

KING

Carry out the sentence tomorrow promptly at daybreak, Corporal.

CORPORAL

Very well, Your Majesty.

He leaves.

The King puts an arm around Young Garron's shoulders. Young Garron appears a bit sullen.

KING

(warm smile)

It's going to be a fine ball in your honor this evening, Sir Son.

Young Garron nods with a little forced smile.

INT. DUNGEON - DAY

Maja stands rigid with fear. Watching Iron Nose scrape the bowl clean. Iron Nose throws away the bowl.

IRON NOSE

Before this day is over both the Prince and the King will be very dead.

(beat)

Too bad your uncle couldn't beat sense into your skull.

He reaches for her. Hesitates when she bangs feverishly on the door.

MAJA

Help! Help!

IRON NOSE

Say a last prayer, boy.

He grabs her and accidentally pulls open her shirt and reveals her breasts, and hesitates surprised.

IRON NOSE

What the hell...??

Maja hectically fumbles the pepper sack out of her pocket. Opens it. And empties it into Iron Nose's face.

He lets her go with a powerful sneeze.

The door opens and a soldier quickly pulls her out.

INT. CASTLE - DUNGEON - DAY

Boneless stands outside. The soldier has hold of Maja. Boneless is looking angry at her.

BONELESS

You fooled me girl.

The soldier is confused because Boneless calls Maja, who looks like a boy, for a girl.

BONELESS

But never mind. Just give me the soup recipe.

MAJA

They're going to kill the King and Young Garron. We have to warn them.

BONELESS

Shut up with your stories.

MAJA

It's not stories. It's the truth.

BONELESS

Throw him...uh...throw her back into
the dungeon.

The soldier is still confused.

MAJA

No, wait...I'll give you my recipe.
But on one condition ...

Iron Nose's powerful SNEEZES can constantly be heard.

MAJA

I don't want to go back into the
dungeon...and I want to go up to the
kitchen and make the soup myself.

SOLDIER

That was two conditions.

BONELESS

Shut up!

He slaps the soldier.

MAJA

It's not enough to know the recipe.
You also have to know how to stir
the soup.

(beat)

And be able to stir it quick enough.

She moves her hand very quickly through the air. Boneless
and the soldier are surprised.

EXT. CASTLE COURTYARD - MAIN STAIRS - EVENING

The Bishop's coach pulls to a halt. The gallows is being
build in the back ground.

The Bishop gets out of the coach. Helps Lia out looking
very beautiful. Her snake shaped ring shines in the
light.

INT. CASTLE - ASSEMBLY HALL - EVENING

The band of musicians sits ready. Delicacies have been
arranged on the tables out along the side.

The royal Servants on horse back are riding around
serving food and drink.

The Chancellor stands beside the huge fireplace. He is
watching with interest as the King and Young Garron play
chess.

His stomach is making the WEIRD SOUND. A dog starts
barging at him and runs off whining.

Young Garron has given himself completely to the game. He doesn't notice Lady Adrienne watching him with great interest.

He makes a clever move and smiles, excited.

The King pays no attention to this but looks at the door - - as the Bishop and the stunningly beautiful countess Lia now enters followed by Adorf.

The King is clearly taken a back because of the beauty of Countess Lia. He rises and hold out his hand to her.

She kneels and kisses his hand.

KING

You're stunning, my dear Countess.
Exquisite. I'm glad you could
come...

LIA

Your Majesty is all too kind.

Young Garron jealously watches the King and Lia. The King is delighted.

KING

I have the most delightful soup you
have to taste...but first...
(turns to the
musicians)
Let the dance begin.

The band strikes up.

Young Garron is disappointed.

Lady Adrienne smiles, ready to make her move. She goes over to him and kneels and kisses his hand.

INT. CASTLE KITCHEN - EVENING

Maja stands very quickly stirring the soup, listening annoyed to the DANCE MUSIC in the Assembly Hall.

It splashes and Boneless moves a little distance away.

BONELESS

...don't try anything...I know
exactly how it's supposed to taste.

MAJA

...it won't taste right without the
herring.

Boneless grabs her by the forelock.

BONELESS

Don't try to pull any tricks.

MAJA

As you wish, Sir Kitchen Master It's
your head.

BONELESS

(angry to Maja's
Aunt)

What are you waiting for, woman? Get
the damn fish!

The Aunt hurries into the chill room.

INT. CASTLE - ASSEMBLY HALL - EVENING

Young Garron dances disinterestedly with Lady Adrienne
who's enjoying herself very much. He jealously watches
the King and Lia.

They are dancing very closely, captivated by each other.

The Chancellor is also dancing. His stomach gives of the
WEIRD SOUND. His dancing partner looks spooked.

The Bishop sits down on a chair in front of the fireplace
and looks just like a devil. He nibbles at a tidbit as he
watches the King and Lia with satisfaction.

Smiles discreetly to Adorf who stands behind him.

INT. CASTLE KITCHEN - EVENING

Maja's Aunt comes over to Maja with a herring.

AUNT

It's the last one, Sir.

Maja holds it over the soup pot, hesitates.

BONELESS

What are you waiting for? In with
it, girl.

She looks at Boneless for a moment. Then throws the
herring high up into the air.

Boneless tries to catch it.

Maja slips away. Runs up the stairs to the castle.

Boneless catches the herring.

BONELESS

(to aunt)

Keep stirring!

Boneless dashes after Maja, still with the herring in his
hand.

INT. ASSEMBLY HALL - ENTRANCE - EVENING

The dancing continues. Boneless comes to a halt at the entrance. 1st Court Servant waves him over.

1ST COURT SERVANT
His Majesty wishes the soup to be served immediately following the dance.

He notices the herring. Boneless quickly hides it.

BONELESS
Er...very well.

He hurries back in the direction of the kitchen.

INT. ASSEMBLY HALL - EVENING

Lady Adrienne dances very excited and happy with Young Garron, while he looks at the King and Lia dancing.

They are now dancing completely absorbed in each other. The King secretly whispers something in her ear. She laughs and nods, smiling lovingly.

Just then a window opens. The draft extinguishes several of the candles. The light in the hall is dimmed.

Indifferent to this the King and Lia dance on.

And the others follow suit. There are a few jovial, surprised exclamations.

GUEST
Dear me...Now a ghost is moving among us in this very hall.

Laughter.

The Bishop gets a little uneasy and looks around.

The Chancellor too.

A small, dark shape wearing a ghost-like thing moves through the hall. Among the court servants who are busy getting candles and closing the window.

Lady Adrienne is about to launch a kiss on Young Garron who is squinting in order to see the King and Lia.

Suddenly Lady Adrienne is push away hard by the small, dark shaped figure in the ghost-like thing -- a piece of white table cloth -- it's Maja, who continues dancing with Young Garron.

He's surprised, also to see all her beautiful hair is gone.

Resolutely she dances the resisting Young Garron towards the entrance.

YOUNG GARRON

Let go of me.

MAJA

They're going to kill you and your father.

They dance right by the Bishop who has heard every word.

He signals to Adorf, who discretely sets after Young Garron and Maja who are dancing quickly out of the hall.

INT. CASTLE - HALLWAY - EVENING

Outside Young Garron frees himself from Maja's grasp.

YOUNG GARRON

Let go of Us Traitor.

MAJA

Traitor...? Who?...Me?

YOUNG GARRON

Guard. Guard!

She pulls him along with her down the hallway.

MAJA

Damn, so you're the one who had them take off all my hair and throw me into the dungeon.

(beat)

What do I get, hung or my head chopped off?

He's troubled, but still thinks she a traitor.

YOUNG GARRON

Let go Guard. Guard!

She pushes him in to the council Hall and closes the door.

Just then Adorf comes out of the assembly hall. He looks around for them.

The court servants on horse backs with lit candelabra hurry past him into the assembly hall.

INT. CASTLE - COUNCIL HALL - EVENING

In the moonlight Maja holds the rebellious Young Garron with an iron grip inside the doorway.

INT. CASTLE - HALLWAY - EVENING

Adorf is walking quickly past the door.

INT. CASTLE - COUNCIL HALL - EVENING

Maja pushes Young Garron into the room.

MAJA
How can you condemn the girl you
love to death?

YOUNG GARRON
I don't love you.

MAJA
Of course you do.

YOUNG GARRON
You are in league with the
greatfarmers.

He tears free and pushes her away.

YOUNG GARRON
You lured me away from the castle.
To the ancient ruin where the rebels
hid weapons and provisions.

He pushes her again. They begin to fight. Rolling around
and knocking things over.

YOUNG GARRON
Your Uncle confessed to every-
thing...
(beat)
Maybe you'd also like to deny that
he was in on the plot.

MAJA
We don't have time for this.

YOUNG GARRON
You have made a fool out of Us for
the last time, Slave.
(beat)
We saw you together with your uncle
out in the forest that night. You
said no one was there.

MAJA
Wake up, Gar. It's my uncle. You
don't betray your own family, damn
it. You don't betray the ones you
love.
(beat)
I didn't tell him you were in the
ruin...And I didn't know he was in
on any plot.

He draws his knife and attacks. She dodges him.

MAJA
I didn't lure you out of the castle.
We were thrown out.

He slashes the knife into the wall beside her face.

YOUNG GARRON

You'll say anything at all to save
your skin.

MAJA

I'm trying to save yours, you stupid
fool.

She angrily pushes him on top of the model of the
Kingdom. It splits in two.

He hesitates. The beginning of doubt can be seen on his
face. And that he still loves her.

YOUNG GARRON

How did you get out of the dungeon?

MAJA

With the help of my soup, of course.

(angry)

I was thrown into the same hole Iron
Nose was in. He's the one who
told me you and your father will be
murdered tonight.

She gives him a hard blow.

MAJA

How could you do it, Gar? To the
girl you love. Look at my hair!

(beat)

He was going to tear my nose off!
Have you ever seen a cook without a
nose.

He suddenly grabs her. Turns her over. Quickly ties her
hands behind her back with his scarf.

MAJA

You're a nut.

INT. CASTLE - HALLWAY - EVENING

Adorf is approaching Young Garron's chamber. When he gets
closer he finds the door ajar.

And hears some very sexually sounding rubbing and
breathing sounds and draws his scary knife.

INT. CASTLE - YOUNG GARRON'S CHAMBER - EVENING

Adorf enters ready with his scary knife, puzzled. He is
surprised to see Filton very energetically polishing
Young Garron's new silver coat of mail.

It's sitting on a stand and shines like the Holy Grail in
the candlelight.

INT. ASSEMBLY HALL - ENTRANCE - EVENING

Young Garron and a bound Maja pause at the entrance. 1st Royal Court Servant comes over to him, surprised.

1ST R. COURT SERVANT
Your Royal Highness...??

YOUNG GARRON
I have to talk to my father.

1ST R. COURT SERVANT
Er...his Majesty has retired with
the countess.

He is startled when Young Garron pushes Maja onward.

INT. ASSEMBLY HALL - EVENING

The Bishop sees this and gets uneasy. He gets up and wants to leave, when Lady Adrienne suddenly appears right in front of him very angry and unhappy.

ADRIENNE
I'm bored father...dance with me or
I'll scream.

The bishop reluctantly starts to dance with his daughter.

INT. CASTLE - HALLWAY - EVENING

Young Garron and Maja run quickly down the hallway.

MAJA
Where are we going?

YOUNG GARRON
To my father's chambers.

They run on further for a bit. Then stop when they hear someone approaching.

They hide in a niche.

Boneless appears on horse back in fine clothes, a big hat and looking impressive.

Behind him a court servant is wheeling a small serving table with the soup afraid of spilling it.

As soon as they have passed, Young Garron and Maja run on.

INT. CASTLE - HALLWAY CORNER - EVENING

Young Garron and Maja comes around the corner and stops short, when their way is blocked by Adorf.

He pulls his scary knife. Jumps forward and grabs Young Garron. Lets go again with a howl when Maja kicks him in the shins.

They run away.

INT. CASTLE - ASSEMBLY HALL - EVENING

Boneless sits on his horse in the doorway, enraged. 1st Royal Court Servant blocks the serving table.

BONELESS

What do you mean, the soup is canceled?

1ST R. C. SERVANT

His Majesty doesn't have any appetite for soup this evening after all.

BONELESS

But...he must. I...

1ST R. C. SERVANT

Kindly remove yourself or I'll call the guards.

Boneless withdraws reluctantly and angry. He clumsily begins to turn the horse around.

INT. CASTLE - HALLWAY AT STAIRCASE - EVENING

Young Garron hauls Maja toward the staircase. They halt in shock when one of the King's guards suddenly tumbles out of the staircase, dead.

With two "vampire" holes in his throat.

Young Garron looks at Maja.

MAJA

Do you believe me now?

Young Garron draws his knife to cut her free. Hesitates when Adorf shows up again. Ready with his scary knife.

He forces Young Garron and Maja into a corner.

MAJA

Come on, Gar. Cut me loose.

Young Garron has to use his knife to hold Adorf off.

Maja picks out a sharp object on the wall. Starts rubbing the scarf against it.

Suddenly Young Garron and her are swallowed up by the floor right under the nose of Adorf.

He is taken aback and can't find out where they went.

INT. CASTLE - KING'S SECRET ESCAPE ROUTE - EVENING

Young Garron and Maja find themselves in a dark crawl passage. He frees her from the scarf.

YOUNG GARRON

This is my father's secret passage.
Sir Father said that no one could
find it.

(beat)

Let's hope we find him alive.

MAJA

Let's hope there aren't any spiders
in here...?

Just then the SQUEAKING sound of rats is heard.

YOUNG GARRON

No, the rats ate them all.

MAJA

You're a real Prince, Gar.

They crawl through the dark, winding crawl passage.
Impeded by rats and ordinary fear.

Shortly after they reach a small stone door with a
"louver" in it.

They look through.

The stone door is placed at the back of the huge
fireplace in the King's chamber. The fire is lit.

Young Garron fights back his phobia.

Through the flames he sees his father lying lifelessly on
the bed fully clothed.

Young Garron is stricken.

YOUNG GARRON

We're too late.

LIA

No. Don't look, Your Majesty. Not
until I say so...

The King lifts his head and smiles.

KING

No, no...

Young Garron is relieved.

Countess Lia steps in front of the fireplace and begins
to undress.

Young Garron gape, caught by surprise.

Maja gives him a hard jealous jab.

INT. CASTLE - KING'S CHAMBERS - EVENING

Countess Lia stands in her negligee.

LIA
You may look now, Your Majesty.

The King opens his eyes and smiles expectantly.

Lia crawls seductively up into the bed with him. Begins to undress him.

The King stops her when she is about to loosen his sword belt. He removes it himself and lays it right beside the bed.

Lia begins to caress him. She slowly rolls his shirt down over his arms while kissing his torso.

The King is unable to move his arms. He smiles and closes his eyes with pleasure.

INT. BEHIND FIREPLACE KING'S CHAMBERS - EVENING

Young Garron now watches as Lia releases the snake shaped killer-ring with the HISSING sound.

YOUNG GARRON
No father, look out!

INT. CASTLE - KING'S CHAMBERS - EVENING

Lia hesitates for a moment. Astonished. The King grabs her hand. Lets go of it when she scratches him deep in the face.

She jumps off the bed and quickly draws the King's large sword.

INT. BEHIND FIREPLACE, KING'S CHAMBERS - EVENING

Young Garron and Maja feverishly struggle to open the heavy stone door in the fireplace.

INT. CASTLE - KING'S CHAMBERS - EVENING

Lia strikes brutally at the King. He flees backward around the room trying to free himself of his shirt.

INT. BEHIND FIREPLACE, KING'S CHAMBERS - EVENING

The kids get the door open a little. Creates a draft and sparks from the fireplace fly into the room.

INT. CASTLE - KING'S CHAMBERS - EVENING - EVENING

The sparks fly close to her negligee. She does not notice.

With difficulty, the King wards off her repeated blows. He tears off his shirt and is exposed for a second -- and she thrusts the sword into his side.

When she withdraws the sword, the King falls limp and defenseless to the floor.

Lia glances briefly into the fireplace at the kids.

KING

Why...?

A beat.

LIA

Prince Gabasa gave me an offer I couldn't refuse...

INT. BEHIND FIREPLACE, KING'S CHAMBERS - EVENING

Young Garron and Maja push desperately at the door. The sparks fly into the room. Hitting her negligee without her noticing it.

INT. CASTLE - KING'S CHAMBERS - EVENING

The King tries to rise but collapses, gasping with pain.

LIA

Love is a luxury we women can't afford either. It makes you loose your head!

She raises the sword and prepares to behead the King.

INT. BEHIND FIREPLACE, KING'S CHAMBERS - EVENING

Young Garron and Maja get the door open. He swallows his phobia and leaps through the flames.

INT. CASTLE - KING'S CHAMBERS - EVENING

Young Garron quick-wittedly grabs the fire poker and prevents Lia from beheading the King in the last second.

Lia swings viciously at Young Garron. He falls back.

She again tries to give the King the death blow but is stopped by Young Garron.

LIA

Sir Prince has my gratitude. You make it much easier for me to get your heart for Gabasa...

She fences Young Garron a few steps backward.

YOUNG GARRON
Sorry, my dear Countess, my heart
belongs to someone else...

The King looks at his son with surprise, when he vehemently fences Lia back toward the balcony door.

She is also surprised by his strength and fencing ability.

She discovers that her clothes are on fire. Young Garron prevents her from putting the fire out. It quickly spreads.

INT. BEHIND FIREPLACE, KING'S CHAMBERS - EVENING

Maja follows the fight with great worry.

INT CASTLE - HALLWAY - EVENING

The Bishop calms down Adorf who is very worried and nervously fidgeting back and forth.

BISHOP
The kids can't do anything...She's
the best in Europe...Relax...
(beat)
This is my big moment, Adorf, don't
spoil it.

INT. CASTLE - KING'S CHAMBERS - EVENING

Young Garron and Lia are engaged in a life and death fight.

Lia is just about to finish off Young Garron, when he disarms her and lunges at her to give the death blow.

She just manages to avoid it by moving backwards, but loses her balance, stumbles backward out onto the balcony.

Topples out over it bursting into flames.

INT. CASTLE - HALLWAY - EVENING

The Bishop and Adorf, nervously fidgeting back and forth both stop short, when a SCREAMING Lia wrapped in flames plummets down outside past the window.

They look scared at each other.

INT. CASTLE - KING'S CHAMBERS - EVENING

Young Garron kneels beside the King who is badly wounded, but smiles at Young Garron.

KING

Your education is complete, Sir Son.

(beat)

We are proud of you. You have fully proven yourself worthy to be King of Garron.

(beat)

And you've learned your lesson about women...We simply can't trust them.

MAJA

Ow, horse manure.

The King startles.

Maja hops out through the fireplace with one of her sleeves on fire.

The King stare at her, surprised.

MAJA

Don't just stand there, Gar. Help me, for bread's sake.

Young Garron comes to her rescue. Puts out the flames in her clothes and looks at her, in love.

MAJA

What are you waiting for?

He smiles and wants to kiss her, but is pushed away.

MAJA

No, help your Father, help the King to his feet.

Young Garron and Maja helps the King to his feet. He looks at Maja, astounded but impressed.

She curtsy elegantly to him.

EXT. CASTLE - CASTLE COURTYARD - EVENING

Lia's burning corpse lies on the gallows platform. She has set the entire gallows aflame.

The Bishop and Adorf pass by on foot, terrified. Fleeing toward the castle gate.

EXT. CASTLE - THE GATE - EVENING

The Bishop and Adorf reach the gate. The Bishop sighs in relief. Adorf begins to struggle to lift the heavy gate bar.

The Corporal steps up behind him with his two guards. The Bishop and Adorf realize the battle is lost.

INT. CASTLE KITCHEN - NEXT DAY

Maja's Aunt carries a large basket of apples. Over to Boneless who stands mashing apples.

AUNT

After that you start on the walls
...Don't forget the spider webs in
the corners.

BONELESS

No, Kitchen Mistress.

AUNT

Everything must be clean when I
return, Boneless.

BONELESS

Very well, Kitchen Mistress.

Sounds from the next scene can already be heard.

EXT. CASTLE - GATE - DAY

FANFARE and DRUMS. The castle gate opens. Young Garron, wearing his new shining armor, rides out together with the King looking very handsome. At the head of the soldiers.

INT. CASTLE - YOUNG GARRON'S CHAMBER - DAY

The Chancellor stands at the window. He is looking somewhat sullenly down at the procession.

He holds a bowl of soup in his hand. His stomach makes a more NORMAL SOUND now.

Filton comes over to him with the Young Garron dummy.

FILTON

Do you still wish me to throw this
on the dung heap, Sir Chancellor?

The Chancellor glances briefly at the dummy. Gets slightly irritated -- misses Young Garron already.

CHANCELLOR

We'll have to wait and ask Young
Garron about it -- when he returns.

Filton smiles happily.

The Chancellor turns back to the window. He is clearly a bit saddened. He takes a large spoonful of soup from the bowl.

CHANCELLOR

Tell the kitchen mistress to forget
about the applesauce. This soup is
much better.

Filton smiles.

EXT. MARKET PLACE - DAY

The procession goes past the townspeople. They happily wave.

Brodick with a new girlfriend and Maja's Aunt come running up. They peer about expectantly. Suddenly they light up and begin to wave excitedly.

Maja drives by sitting on the food wagon. She is dressed in a fine, feminine cook's outfit with a "chef's bonnet" that hides her hair, looking beautiful.

She is smiling, full of pride and love, as she passes by.

Maja's Aunt shed a few tears of happiness. Brodick is proud but also a little sad. His new girl-friend jerks him hard, jealous.

The procession move on, while:

TEXT & NARRATOR

"The Garrons defeated the Evil Prince Gabasa of Kagul in the final battle. The Kingdom of Garron was again independent. But only very few people knew..."

EXT. BEHIND THE BATTLE GROUND - DAY

Maja stands by the kitchen wagon dishing out her soup from her soup bowl to the hungry soldiers.

TEXT & NARRATOR

"...that it was all thanks to the kitchen girl Maja - The King Maker.

THE END