

Masked Identity

The Charm

Screenplay

By

J.C.T. Vangh

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REGISTERED: WGA - West.

FADE IN:

EXT. ESTABLISHING THE BLAKEMAN'S FARM - DAY

SUPER: SOMEWHERE IN ENGLAND, 1500 AD

High in the blue sky, a lone eagle SOARS. SCREECHES. Far below, a lone ranch nestled deep in the valley. Huge mountains cascaded on both sides.

EXT. BLAKEMAN'S FARM - DAY

Livestock scattered. Smoke RISES from the farmhouse in the midst of some scattered barns.

Some distant loud calls.

MAN (O.S.)  
Hurry, son. Let's go!

BOY (O.S.)  
I am coming!

The two elderly BLAKEMANS (both late 50's), still active and fit for their age, emerge from their house.

CHARLES (12), witty and adventurous, soon follows.

He whistles happily. Skips and dances around the two elders.

They walk past a small barn. Disappear into the woods.

EXT. MYSTERY POV - DAY

Twigs breaking in the background, an unseen man is moving, spying on the farm.

EXT. CAMPSITE - DAY

The Blakemans reach a small clearing. A stream flows nearby. They clear the area and build a small shelter.

EXT. IN THE WOODS - DAY

Mr. Blakeman prepares a snare and sets it on the ground. More snares farther ahead. Charles follows. Observes.

Mr. Blakeman gives Charles a bow and an arrow. He points at a bush. They speak softly.

MR. BLAKEMAN

Do you see it?

Charles nods.

MR. BLAKEMAN (CONT'D)

Go get it.

Charles stalks, bow and arrow ready in hand, looking and tracking intently.

DIFFERENT SIDE OF THE BUSH

A GIRL, 10, pretty and daring. Bow and arrow in hands. Stalks. Tracks the same rabbit.

INTERCUT the Girl and Charles

The girl aims.

Charles aims.

Simultaneously: The girl and Charles shoot. Both run toward the bush.

BACK TO SCENE

The girl claims the downed rabbit. Charles stops, can only watch. Surprised.

CHARLES

That's mine!

The girl looks at Charles, ignores him.

King WILLIAM (35), powerful and calm, a KNIGHT and many GUARDS appear.

Another GIRL (10), beautiful with blue eyes, rides along the King.

The girl runs toward the King with the rabbit, dangling in her hand.

GIRL

Father, I got one!

KING

Nice shot, my Princess!

Charles runs toward the princess and King. Pleads.

CHARLES

I shot it. It's mine...

Charles stares in awe at the black knight next to the King.

The King looks at Charles awkwardly.

Mr. Blakeman recognizes the King, kneels before him.

MR. BLAKEMAN

Pardon the young boy, my King.

KING

This boy has no fear. I like him!  
Get up, no need to stand on  
ceremony.

MR. BLAKEMAN

Thank you, my King.

Mr. Blakeman gets up and drags Charles away.

MR. BLAKEMAN (CONT'D)

(whispering)

Charles, come with me.

At a distance, the King and his guards disappear into the woods. Mr. Blakeman looks at Charles.

MR. BLAKEMAN (CONT'D)

Son, did you realize what you could  
have done?

CHARLES

... But my rabbit!

MR. BLAKEMAN

You will get another one.

They walk farther down the trail.

CHARLES

Father, did you see him?

MR. BLAKEMAN

The King?

CHARLES

No, the rider in black.

MR. BLAKEMAN

Oh, the knight!

CHARLES

He looked so powerful. I want to  
be just like him when I grow up.

Mr. Blakeman hesitates, as if holding something back.

MR. BLAKEMAN  
Charles... LOOK!

Mr. Blakeman points at a bush.

Immediately, bow and arrow in hand, Charles stalks.  
Disappears. Moments later, Charles comes running back with a  
rabbit dangling in his hand.

CHARLES  
Father, look!

MR. BLAKEMAN  
See, what I told you?

Charles, all smile, walks ahead.

They check the traps. Another rabbit.

EXT. RIVERBANK - DAY

Mr. Blakeman and Charles in a clearing by the river edge.  
Charles holds a fishing pole. Mr. Blakeman sits on a log.

CHARLES  
I got another one!

Charles pulls his line. It sticks.

CHARLES (CONT'D)  
I think it's stuck.

MR. BLAKEMAN  
Let me...

Mr. Blakeman pulls. Drags something heavy. He lands the  
item on the ground.

CHARLES  
What is IT?

Mr. Blakeman rinses it in the clear water - a mask covered in  
dirt. Charles stares at it curiously.

MR. BLAKEMAN  
Just an old dirty mask. Rubbish.

Mr. Blakeman tosses it.

CHARLES  
Father, no!

It THUDS on the ground across the river.

MR. BLAKEMAN  
Let's go, it's getting late.

Mr. Blakeman starts up the trail.

EXT. CAMPSITE - DAY

Mr. Blakeman emerges out of the trail. Mrs. Blakeman waits anxiously.

MRS. BLAKEMAN  
Where's Charles?

Mr. Blakeman checks behind him.

MR. BLAKEMAN  
That boy... Always so slow.

Charles emerges, places the bucket next to the campfire.

MR. BLAKEMAN (CONT'D)  
Why so slow?

Charles stutters...

CHARLES  
I, I had to rinse the fishes.  
Mother, look!

Mrs. Blakeman peeks inside the bucket.

MRS. BLAKEMAN  
Nice catch!

Mr. Blakeman looks suspicious.

MR. BLAKEMAN  
Charles, what are you hiding?

Slowly, Charles reveals his hand holding something.

MRS. BLAKEMAN  
What is IT?

Mrs. Blakeman grabs the mask. Flips it back and forth.  
Stares at it suspiciously.

CHARLES  
Is IT worth anything?

MRS. BLAKEMAN

No, it's rubbish, Charles.

Mrs. Blakeman tosses it in the fire. The two elders leave for the stream with the bucket of fish.

Charles, eyes big, watches in amazement. The mask remains unharmed in the hot blaze.

EXT. CAMPSITE - NIGHT

Crickets chirp. Owls hoot.

The Blakemans seated around the campfire.

Two rabbits sizzle at the end of sticks. Charles observes them.

CHARLES

We could have had three.

Mrs. Blakeman is curious.

MRS. BLAKEMAN

What happened?

MR. BLAKEMAN

We met the King and his guards. Charles shot one, but the Princess claimed she shot it.

MRS. BLAKEMAN

Son, never offend the King. You WILL get in trouble.

CHARLES

Mother, you should've seen the knight! He looked so powerful. I told father I want to be just like him when I grow up.

MRS. BLAKEMAN

A knight? Charles, you are...

Mr. Blakeman interrupts immediately.

MR. BLAKEMAN

Darling, let it be.

CHARLES

What, mother?

MRS. BLAKEMAN  
Nothing, Charles.

Mr. Blakeman smells a rabbit.

MR. BLAKEMAN  
Ummm... Smells good, son.

LATER

Full moon. Clear sky, filled with stars.

The two elders sit around the campfire.

Charles lies on his back.

CHARLES  
Father, do you see them up there?

Mr. Blakeman looks at the stars.

MR. BLAKEMAN  
Aye, so many we can't count.

CHARLES  
You know what I've always wished  
for?

MR. BLAKEMAN  
No, do tell me, Charles.

CHARLES  
I've always wanted a brother. Or a  
sister. Someone to play with.

Mr. Blakeman looks sad. Serious.

MR. BLAKEMAN  
Your mother almost couldn't even  
bear one, you! So, to have many,  
IS not going to happen. But don't  
be sad. You get all our attention,  
all our love!

Charles pauses. Gets up and hugs his parents.

MR. BLAKEMAN (CONT'D)  
Now, a time will come when your  
mother and I won't be around. You  
will have to be strong, son.

MRS. BLAKEMAN  
... Strong like your father is. He  
never relies on anyone but himself.

Tears in eyes, his mother comforts him.

Wolves howling in the darkness.

INT. CHARLES' ROOM - DAY

Charles lays the mask on a table. He takes out a piece of cloth and polishes it.

It transforms into a beautiful exotic mask, the "A'kuma."

Charles stares at his image in the mirror, puts the A'kuma on. Magically, it grabs on to his face AND --

Suddenly, Charles' face now becomes a GIRLY looking face in the mirror.

Horrified and frightened, he JOLTS back and RAMS forcibly against the wall and falls. Stuffs fall all over the room.

He gathers himself. Slowly, very slowly, he inches himself back into the mirror. He feels the face. Turns side to side. Winks once. The reflection does the same. He reaches under his chin, grabs the mask, now part of his face, peels it off. His face returns.

He stares at the A'kuma, then at his image in the mirror. He is in complete awe.

INT. MIDDLE BARN - DAY

Mrs. Blakeman sits in an old chair. Mr. Blakeman tosses food to feed the animals. Chickens and pigs run lively around. A cow lunges forth.

EXT. IN THE WOODS - DAY

FIVE MEN scout the farm. One man raises two fingers. Points at the barn.

They sneak out into the clearing. Walk toward the elderly couple.

INT. MIDDLE BARN - DAY

The elderly couple hear footsteps. Turn round anxiously --

Five men closing in on them. Bandanas cover their faces. Swords and knives in hands.

Mr. Blakeman is alerted.

MR. BLAKEMAN

How rare to have visitors! What  
can I do for you men today?

A BIG MAN in a black cloak and hat steps forward.

BIG MAN

'Looking for an important person.

MR. BLAKEMAN

Wouldn't you rather look in the  
city, a castle or palace?

BIG MAN

No, because he is hiding out in the  
country.

MR. BLAKEMAN

I have no ideas who you are talking  
about.

BIG MAN

'The name Sir John de Bristol,  
sounds familiar?

Mr. Blakeman thinks. Shakes his head as to say "no."

The Big Man motions to his men. They grab Mr. Blakeman. A  
struggle but they subdue him.

MR. BLAKEMAN

What do you want from us?

He rips open the back of Mr. Blakeman's shirt.

Eyes big, he stares in delight.

BIG MAN

Well, well, well, wouldn't you  
know?!

INT. BLAKEMAN'S HOUSE - DAY

Charles hears unfamiliar voices, shoves A'kuma under his  
shirt. Runs outside.

EXT. BLAKEMAN'S HOUSE - DAY

Behind a corner, he watches. Five men harass his parents.

Terrified, Charles trembles. Accidentally KNOCKS over a metal container. It THUDS, rolling on the ground.

INT. MIDDLE BARN - DAY

The men look his way. The Big Man motions to his men.

Two men run toward Charles.

Moments later, the two men drag Charles in. Shove him beside his parents.

BIG MAN

Well, well, well. Look what have we here?

MR. BLAKEMAN

Who are you? Why are you doing this?

BIG MAN

Let's just say we are exterminators, hunting down those who aren't suppose to be alive. A successful hunt today, I must say.

WHACK!

A HILT to the mid section. Mr. Blakeman falls on his back.

Mrs. Blakeman comes to his aid, but ANOTHER MAN shoves her down to join him on the ground.

MR. BLAKEMAN

(begging)

Please, not my wife!

IN anguish, Charles lunges at the Big Man.

BIG MAN

You little brat! I will show YOU!

He grabs Charles and tosses him in the air. He falls on his back. Grunts.

MR. BLAKEMAN

My son!

In a courageous move, Mr. Blakeman yanks off the Big Man's bandana --

TO REVEAL:

BARON (35), mean and rude. An ugly scar on his left cheek.

BARON

Now you have seen my face, might as well show all our faces.

Baron motions to his men. They take off their bandanas.

BARON (CONT'D)

But get this... None of you will live to tell anyone!

The five men bray.

Baron takes out a small knife. Waves it in Mrs. Blakeman's face. She cries out in fear.

BARON (CONT'D)

You hid well, Mr. Bristol. And you were smart enough to go by a different name, too. But your luck runs out today. It will be the last of the Bristol! Your family name will be wiped out!

Baron thrusts the knife deep in Mrs. Blakeman's throat. She gags and collapses.

Mr. Blakeman tries to muster free.

MR. BLAKEMAN

No! Bastard!

Baron makes a slow cut on Mr. Blakeman's throat. He grunts and spits at Baron.

Baron wipes his face, then --

CRUNCH!

The sword goes deep in Mr. Blakeman's throat. Blood burbling out.

MR. BLAKEMAN (CONT'D)

You will pay for this!

Mr. Blakeman struggles for a few moments and then lies still as Charles watches. Helpless.

BARON

And now, as for you... SON!

Baron points his sword at Charles's eyes.

Charles turns the other way.

Baron rips open the back of Charles' shirt. Checks Charles' back. And shoves Charles back on the ground.

BARON (CONT'D)

Too bad, son. You wouldn't live to become somebody. I just can't allow it.

CRUNCH!

Baron's sword goes deep in Charles' chest, but the A'kuma, hidden underneath his shirt, absorbs the strike as Charles loses consciousness.

EXT. BLAKEMAN'S FARM - DAY

The five men light the house on fire and disappear into to the woods.

Smoke RISES high into the sky.

INT. MIDDLE BARN - DAY

Charles JOLTS up. Takes a big breath. Feels his chest. Seems unhurt. Slips the A'kuma out from underneath his shirt. Opens his shirt to reveal a bruise.

He crawls over to his parents. Shakes their lifeless bodies. An Eagle bracelet charm, a creed of nobility, unbeknown to young Charles, sticks out from his father's shirt pocket. He grabs it. Sobs.

EXT. NEARBY SURROUNDINGS - DAY

The HAWKINS, BENJAMIN and his wife, REBECCA (in their mid 40s), sit, chattering on their farm. They look up. See smoke rising in the distance.

REBECCA

Oh my dear... Look!

BENJAMIN

Probably just burning hays.

REBECCA

Might be a house on fire. Someone might be hurt.

BENJAMIN

You are right. Let's check it out.

The elderly couple get up from their seats.

A view of the clear, blue sky.

EXT. HAWKINS' FARM - DAY

The same view of the clear, blue sky. As we descend, crows gather on treetops. Their caws ECHO across the many endless valleys.

A lone ranch comes into view. Livestock and barns scattered.

SUPER: TEN YEARS LATER

CHARLES (22), tall and charmingly handsome, having been trained by Benjamin since being adopted, is skillful in martial art and sword fighting.

He sits crossed-leg on a mat. Motionless. Eyes-closed. Sword on his legs.

He opens his eyes, picks up his sword and cuts through wood pieces and sends them flying across the open. Simulates moves and takes on a dummy with blurring moves.

Afterward, the dummy is shredded to pieces, scattered on the ground.

Benjamin and Rebecca, Charles' foster parents, pop out of the house. Benjamin watches and nods with a smile.

Charles stares at his sword. Kisses it. Sheaths it.

The two elders approach Charles.

BENJAMIN

You make sure to hang on to that sword. The eagle symbol might mean something some day.

CHARLES

'Surely will.

Rebecca hands Charles a cup of water. He gulps it down AS --

BENJAMIN

You have come a long way, Charles.

CHARLES  
 (finish drinking)  
 Ahhh... 'Still a long way to go.  
 One day... One day, I will get to  
 where you are.

Benjamin pats on Charles' shoulder.

EXT. RIVER - DAY

Charles and his three friends swim in the river. Splashing, laughing, chasing each other.

D'ANGELO (25), calm, CEITIMUS (27), cheerful, and THOMAS (25), quiet.

CHARLES  
 Anybody wants to go to town with me  
 tomorrow?

D'ANGELO  
 For what?

CHARLES  
 To see the twin Princesses.

THOMAS  
 You want to meet them?

CHARLES  
 Of course! If only I can muster  
 the courage to. It'd be an honor.

CEITIMUS  
 I'd be so embarrassing, can't even  
 go near them.

D'ANGELO  
 'Takes lots of guts, are you up to  
 the it?

EXT. GREENWICH CITY STREET - DAY

Charles weaves through the busy street. People walk past, left and right.

He takes a seat on a bench. Takes out his water bottle from his backpack. Opens it. Only a few drops.

He sees a shop across the street.

INT. TOWNSEND SHOP - DAY

Charles opens the door and walks in. TRIA (25), in a long red dress, waits.

TRIA  
Hello there. How can I help you?

CHARLES  
Excuse me, do you have any water?

She walks through a door to the back and a moment later, comes back out with a glass of water in her hand.

TRIA  
Here you go.

Tria watches as Charles gulps the water down his throat.

CHARLES  
By the way, I'm Charles.

Charles hands Tria the empty glass.

TRIA  
I'm Tria. More?

CHARLES  
No, that's enough.

TRIA  
I've never seen you before. Do you live around here?

CHARLES  
I live out in the country. I seldom come to town.

Few customers with nice clothes walk in. Look around. Briefly glance at Charles.

TRIA  
So, what brings you to town today?

CHARLES  
My friends and I are here for a special event.

TRIA  
Oh, the twin Princesses!

CHARLES  
I've always wanted to meet them.

A customer interjects...

A MAN CUSTOMER  
(jeering demeanor)  
Good luck with that!

TRIA  
Isn't it lonely out in the country?

CHARLES  
It is. But I grew up there, I like  
it better than the city.

Tria takes a payment from some folks. Nods as saying "Thank  
you."

TRIA  
You should learn to like the city  
life. It's not as bad as you  
think.

CHARLES  
I may have found just the reason  
to.

Tria looks outside. A small group of men walk in from the  
street. Among them is --

DANTONIEL (25), bulky, heavier in size.

The window by the door rattles as they push open the door.

Dantoniell stops next to Charles and Tria.

DANTONIEL  
Hello, darling. Who is this?

TRIA  
This is Charles. And this is  
Dantoniell.

Charles reaches out to shake hand. Dantoniell shies away in a  
mean demeanor.

TRIA (CONT'D)  
(to Charles)  
Don't mind him.

CHARLES  
It's okay. I will take my leave if  
you don't mind.

Charles steps out the door. Dantoniell and his gang follow.

TRIA  
Dant, Dant...!

EXT. TOWNSEND SHOP - CONTINUOUS

Charles walks away, but Dantoniël grabs Charles' right arm and pulls him to the side.

DANTONIEL  
Why were you talking to my  
girlfriend?

CHARLES  
Can't she talk to customers?

Dantoniël grabs Charles by his collar, but Charles pushes his hands away.

Few people stare at them.

DANTONIEL  
If I ever see you talking to her  
again, I'm going to tear you apart.

Tria opens the door and steps outside.

TRIA  
Dant, enough of that!

INT. TOWNSEND SHOP - CONTINUOUS

Tria storms in as Dantoniël follows closely.

TRIA  
You made yourself a fool out there!

DANTONIEL  
Why did you talk to him? Did you  
even know what kind of a person he  
is? Did you look at his clothes,  
shoes?

TRIA  
Put yourself in their shoes, just  
once. Feel what they feel.

DANTONIEL  
Just don't talk to him again.

TRIA  
I can talk to anyone I wish to.  
You don't own me.

Dantoniel is furious.

TRIA (CONT'D)

Get out of my store before I alert  
the guards out there.

Dantoniel hesitates, then storms out the door.

EXT. GREENWICH CITY STREET - DAY

Charles walks out of a corner. He jumps back as two KNIGHTS  
trounce past.

The Royal wagon follows. The Captain, Sir VICTOR SUTTON  
(40), still handsome and fitted in mid life, trails.

People clear the middle and flock to the side. The poor  
gather around with bowls in hands.

The royal wagon snails by - in open mode.

The crowd roars and waves. The twin Princesses, ISABELLE and  
JOYCE (both 20), both are as pretty as angels, wave back.

FRONT OF THEATRE

Charles stands afar, watching. Hesitates for the moment.  
Then he weaves through the crowd and approaches the royal  
wagon, but a knight blocks his way.

KNIGHT 1

Keep away, keep away!

The knight drives his horse, pushing Charles back.

Charles tries to approach again, BUT --

KNIGHT 1 (CONT'D)

I said, keep away!

The knight storms back, RAMS his horse into Charles, he falls  
to the ground.

PEOPLE stare at Charles.

Charles' three friends stand nearby, peeking out from among  
the crowd.

CEITIMUS

He's going to get himself killed!

Charles gets up, approaches the royal wagon again.

The Princess sees Charles and motions to the driver. The royal wagon comes to a stop.

Charles inches toward the wagon again. The knight blocks his way, BUT --

PRINCESS JOYCE

Let him!

The knight relaxes, backs away.

Charles walks over and gets very close. His eyes glaze over Princess Joyce as she sashays in the royal wagon. He is completely taken by her beauty.

He reaches out his hand.

As he kisses her hand, she gives him a big smile.

PRINCESS JOYCE (CONT'D)

What's your name?

CHARLES

I'm Charles, Princess.

Charles, mesmerizing, forgets to let go of her hand.

PRINCESS JOYCE

Charles, my hand, please...

Charles smiles embarrassingly, lets go of her hand backs away. Ryes still glue to the Princess.

The royal wagon rumbles past and disappears. The dust clears.

THE POSTER WALL

A CROWD gathers, chattering. Charles makes his way in.

The notice reads:

WANTED: Maidservants needed to serve the Princesses. Please submit your name if you are interested.

Qualification: Must be single, young female with good health and hygiene.

Please submit your name to the guard stationed outside the palace gate.

Your King.

CHARLES (V.O.)  
Nothing for us pity men?

THEATRE SQUARE

Charles walks about. He comes across a few prominent MEN, chattering among themselves. He sneaks near them and listens closely.

From behind his back, another MAN approaches.

He taps on Charles' shoulder. Give a shake as saying "No."

The men turn to look at Charles. He goes his way.

By a stage, Charles rejoins his friends.

D'ANGELO  
You looked like a fool out there,  
Charles.

Charles remains quiet.

CEITIMUS  
I was afraid you may get yourself  
killed for you effort.

CHARLES  
I got to kiss her hand...

THOMAS  
Your lucky day!

CHARLES  
Rather, I was determined!

D'ANGELO  
No, you were a fool!

Charles pauses, considers.

CHARLES  
Call me whatever you want... But  
did you see the notice posted?

D'ANGELO  
So? It's not for us men.

CHARLES  
(sigh)  
'Nothing for men. I would love to  
be a knight. Or a guard,  
especially one that stays near the  
twin Princesses!

CEITIMUS  
 (chuckling)  
 What a dreamer.

D'ANGELO  
 They don't like people like us in  
 the Palace.

THOMAS  
 Don't lose hope yet. If there is a  
 war, they might recruit us to join!

Charles feels his wrist, only the half string remains. The  
 bracelet charm is gone.

CHARLES  
 (angry at himself)  
 My charm!

CEITIMUS  
 Did you lose it?

CHARLES  
 Dam IT!!!

D'ANGELO  
 Someone's got it now.

INT. ROYAL DRESSING ROOM - DAY

Maidservants busy around the Princesses.

PRINCESS JOYCE  
 Did you see anything special?

PRINCESS ISABELLE  
 No, just those annoying beggars  
 again as always. You?

PRINCESS JOYCE  
 Guess what I saw.

PRINCESS ISABELLE  
 Just tell me. I'm very bad at  
 guessing.

PRINCESS JOYCE  
 An extremely handsome man.

PRINCESS ISABELLE  
 There are many beautiful people out  
 there. What's so special about  
 him?

PRINCESS JOYCE  
 He kissed my hand and forgot to let  
 it go. I had to ask him.

Princess Joyce chuckles. Smiles to herself.

PRINCESS ISABELLE  
 Hopefully he isn't just a pervert!

Princess Joyce gives Princess Isabelle a stern look.

PRINCESS JOYCE  
 Okay, no more telling stories next  
 time.

INT. HAWKINS' LIVING ROOM - DAY

Rebecca is kneading. Benjamin polishes a sword. Charles  
 sits quietly, thinking.

CHARLES  
 In town, I overheard something that  
 is troubling me.

BENJAMIN  
 Tell us, Charles.

CHARLES  
 There's someone in the Palace that  
 fits the descriptions of my  
 parents' killer.

BENJAMIN  
 How can you be sure of him?

CHARLES  
 I couldn't be sure, so I have to  
 find out myself... Uh! But how can  
 I get in the Palace?

BENJAMIN  
 You can't. The King only invites  
 certain individuals, which will  
 never be bestowed upon a peasant  
 like yourself, Charles.

Charles thinks. Frustrated. Despair.

CHARLES  
 Peasant, peasant, peasant! My  
 parents were peasants.  
 (MORE)

CHARLES (CONT'D)

And then I was adopted by yet, just another two peasants. Why can't I deserve someone better?

Tears in his eyes, Charles looks so PITIFUL, gets up and walks to his room.

The two elder Hawkins stare PITIFULLY AT Charles, then AT each other.

Moments later, Charles storms back out, lunges for Rebecca and Benjamin.

CHARLES (CONT'D)

(sobbing)

I'm sorry... I'm so sorry. I shouldn't have said that.

REBECCA

(softly)

It's okay, Charles. It's okay.

Benjamin pats on Charles' back.

EXT. RIVER EDGE - DAY

Charles sits on a big boulder by the river. Stares at the river. Both hands under his chin.

Suddenly, face lights up with excitement, Charles jumps off the boulder and hurries up the road.

INT. HAWKINS' LIVING ROOM - DAY

Charles barges in the door. Exhausted and excited.

The two elder Hawkins stare at Charles, suspiciously.

BENJAMIN

What is it, Charles?

CHARLES

The King is looking for maidservants.

REBECCA

Only girls qualify, so what's your point?

CHARLES

Exactly! I'm going in as a girl!

A look of disbelief on two elders.

REBECCA

Wh... What?

A moment of silence...

CHARLES

I know what you two are thinking.  
But I must get in... One way or  
another.

Charles disappears into his room for a moment. Then pops  
back out. He shows them the A'kuma.

REBECCA

What the...? You save that all  
these years?

Charles nods.

BENJAMIN

How does it suppose to help?

Charles puts on the A'kuma.

Eye-big, the two elder Hawkins stare with a terrifying look  
of disbelief - a GIRLY looking face of Charles!

BENJAMIN (CONT'D)

The mask... I've never imagined it  
has such magical powers!

REBECCA

It's so unreal.

The two elder Hawkins are in awe.

INT. CEITIMUS' HOUSE - DAY

Charles' three friends are shocked.

CEITIMUS

Why would you want to do that?

CHARLES

My parents' killer is in the  
Palace. I must find him.

THOMAS

Have you ever thought what the King  
would do to you if he ever finds  
out your true identity?

CHARLES

I'm taking a chance, but I have to bring the killer to justice!

D'ANGELO

What does revenge solve? You will just put yourself in great danger, even death.

CEITIMUS

It's not just any place. It's the Palace! Are you out of your mind?

CHARLES

Maybe I am. But I must! One way or another.

EXT. BOOTH OUTSIDE THE PALACE GATE - DAY

The Captain walks out of the gate towards the booth.

A GUARD (30) turns, excited to see the Captain approaching.

GUARD

Captain, I was about to come get you! There's someone you must meet.

EXT. D'ANGELO'S HOUSE - DAY

D'Angelo is splitting some woods. Ceitimus and Thomas approach.

D'ANGELO

What are you two up to?

CEITIMUS

Haven't seen Charles the past few days, just wondering what he is up to.

D'ANGELO

Poor Charles... I just hope he doesn't get himself killed.

THOMAS

'Hate to lose such a friend.

CEITIMUS

Let's go and check on him.

EXT. BOOTH OUTSIDE THE PALACE GATE - DAY

A GIRL, we only see her from the back, stands before the Captain.

CAPTAIN OF THE GUARD  
See you the first of next month.

She nods. Walks away.

The Captain starts walking toward the gate.

CAPTAIN OF THE GUARD (CONT'D)  
Close the booth.

The Guard nods.

EXT. HAWKINS' FARM - DAY

The two elder Hawkins sit, chattering outside their house.

Charles' three friends walk by.

REBECCA  
Hello, you three.

D'ANGELO  
Hello, Rebecca.

THOMAS  
Where's Charles?

BENJAMIN  
He's... Over there!

Charles appears by the edge of the farm.

Charles jogs toward them. Catches his breath. Excited.

CHARLES  
Hello, friends.

D'ANGELO  
Where have you been?

CHARLES  
I got it!

BENJAMIN  
You got what?

CHARLES  
The maidservant job!

They look at each other with mixed feelings.

CEITIMUS

I hope it goes well for you.

CHARLES

Come on, guys! Why that look on your face? You all should be happy for me.

D'ANGELO

'Because we hate to lose you!

Charles considers.

CHARLES

I will be just fine. Just think positive.

CEITIMUS

'Well, let us know if you ever need anything.

Charles nods.

BENJAMIN

As much as I'm against it, I do hope you get him.

EXT. ROAD TO THE PALACE - DAY

Face does not show: A GIRL, in white, bulky dress walks slowly up the road. Palace GUARDS on horses gallop past. PEOPLE walk past. Chattering. Looking at her.

EXT. PALACE (FRONT OF THE GATE) - CONTINUOUS

She reaches the top and stops.

Now, her face shows: Charles is now SOPHIA.

She looks up. In front of her, the Palace.

INT. SOPHIA'S ROOM - MORNING

Sophia stands by the window. Stares at the morning sky. She moves and looks at her image in the mirror.

A knock on the door. She goes to open it.

The Head Maidservant, MONA (45), peeks in.

With her is MARY (25).

MONA

This is Mary. She is another  
maidservant besides you.

Sophia and Mary exchange friendly nods.

They walk down the hall.

SOPHIA

I'm very nervous!

MONA

Of course! It's your first day!  
Who wouldn't?

INT. PRINCESS ISABELLE'S ROOM - DAY

The Princess sits by her dresser, stares at her image in the  
mirror. Combs her hair softly.

Few knocks on the door.

PRINCESS ISABELLE

Come in. It's unlocked!

Sophia opens the door and enters. Nervous.

PRINCESS ISABELLE (CONT'D)

Hello, you must be Sophia!

SOPHIA

Aye, I'm Sophia, your new  
maidservant.

PRINCESS ISABELLE

Welcome, Sophia!

A few knocks on the door. Sophia hurries to open it. A  
guard hands Sophia a stack of letters.

GUARD

For the Princess. Also, remind her  
about the trip tomorrow.

Sophia nods and closes the door.

SOPHIA

My Princess, these letters are for  
you.

The Princess takes the stack of letters, and sorts through it. She takes a long look at one.

PRINCESS ISABELLE

Sophia, would you mind reading a letter to me?

SOPHIA

Aye, anything for you, Princess.

Sophia takes the letter and opens it.

SOPHIA (CONT'D)

Okay, here we go.

The Princess listens. Looks outside.

SOPHIA (CONT'D)

"My Dearest Princess. Lately, I have been thinking a lot about the great time we spent together the last time I came there. That was over six months ago and it feels like eternity. I long for the day when we shall be together, holding each other tightly and listening to each other talking instead of writing and reading letters. Until that day, take good care of yourself. Love, your Prince Hector."

Sophia gives the letter back to the Princess.

PRINCESS ISABELLE

It seems so romantic when someone else reads.

SOPHIA

'Sounds so loving.

INT. SOPHIA'S ROOM - NIGHT

Sophia sits quietly by her desk, sketching an eagle on a piece of paper.

She drops the pencil and steps outside.

INT. PALACE - LOBBY - NIGHT

She gets to the main entrance, a guard stops her.

GUARD

Where do you think you are going at  
this time of the night?

SOPHIA

I need some fresh air. You mind?

He lets her past.

Sophia steps out the main entrance.

EXT. PALACE (PATROLLING AREA) - NIGHT

Sophia walks past a few more guards, patrolling outside.

PATROLLING GUARD

What are you still doing out here?

SOPHIA

Fresh air, and watching the stars.

Sophia looks up into the sky.

SOPHIA (CONT'D)

Can I ask you a question?

PATROLLING GUARD

Sure. What do you want to know?

Sophia thinks for a second.

SOPHIA

Do you know any guard here with a  
big scar on his left cheek?

The guard only shakes his head.

INT. SOPHIA'S ROOM - NIGHT

Sophia lies on her bed. She gets up, takes off her mask.  
She is now Charles. He puts on a black cloak and mask, opens  
the window and sneaks out.

EXT. PALACE WALLS/ROOFS - NIGHT

In the shadows of darkness, Charles scales walls, dashes  
across buildings and drops behind a bush.

He peeks inside the Prison. Guards patrol outside. A guard  
in a shack, wears a half-mask.

Charles shifts to get a clearer look of the guard. Accidentally knocks over a pile of logs. They RUMBLE to the ground.

Guards swarm outside. A cat SCREECHES, runs wildly past the wood pile. They stare in confusion, head back inside.

EXT. NORTHERN ROAD - DAY

The Captain and DANIEL (25), a young Knight, ride side by side way ahead of the group.

CAPTAIN OF THE GUARD  
Ever traveled out of the city  
before?

DANIEL  
First time. What will we be doing  
in Richmond?

CAPTAIN OF THE GUARD  
The King wishes to recruit more  
men.

The royal wagon with the two Princesses, Sophia and Mary, follows.

EXT. MOUNTAIN TOP - DAY

Top of a mountain: The Captain and his group reach a clearing. Logs and boulders scattered.

They rest. Guards scatter.

The black royal wagon parks. The two Princesses step outside. Sophia and Mary follow.

Princess Isabelle walks up a big boulder and sits. Sophia follows.

Across the valley, a high mountain, white snow at the top.

SOPHIA  
Beautiful, isn't it?

Sophia points at the valley below.

PRINCESS ISABELLE  
Indeed, it is. The beauty of  
mother nature. It lacks nothing to  
enjoy.

Sophia climbs down the boulder. Sightseeing.

Suddenly a group of bandits storm out of the woods and surround the Captain and his men.

The Captain steps forward.

CAPTAIN OF THE GUARD  
Who are you? What do you want from  
us?

BARACK (45) with a hood, steps forward.

BARACK  
Opportunists...

CAPTAIN OF THE GUARD  
Do you realize who we are?

BARACK  
I know who you are. Makes it even  
better!

Barack scans the Captain's people.

The Captain motions to the two Princesses. They step inside the royal wagon.

CAPTAIN OF THE GUARD  
We do not transport anything of  
value to you bandits!

BARACK  
I'm not here to argue, CAPTAIN!  
(to his men)  
GET THEM!

Arrows fly. Men swing their swords and clash. Clang FILLS the air.

Sophia runs and disappears behind a bush.

Terrified, Princess Joyce peeks out, and notices a YOUNG MAN in mask, fighting.

PRINCESS JOYCE  
Look, who's he?

Princess Isabelle peeks out.

PRINCESS ISABELLE  
No idea!

The young man eyes out Barack and lunges forward.

Barack parries and the two exchange blows. Their swords flash through the air, and clash as --

Sparks fly.

Barack jumps over a log, the young man close on his heels, then catches up AND --

Kicks him in the chest, sending Barack over a log. The young man spears, but Barack rolls over. His sword goes deep in the log and sticks.

Barack springs to action, lands a heavy blow on the young man's chest.

He falls backward and lets go of the sword. Grunts.

Seeing his opportunity, Barack smiles and spears, BUT --

The young man rolls out of the way. He fishes for a wooden stick and parries, BUT --

SWOOSH!

The sword cuts it in half.

Barack swings his sword wildly as the young man dodges, backing away frantically, but trips over his own feet and falls.

Barack bears in on him, sword raised-high, all out for the kill.

At the last moment, the young man sweeps up a sword next to him and fully extends it forward.

Barack's sword comes down AND --

CRUNCH!

The two are eyes to eyes, staring at each other.

Barack's sword sticks in the ground, barely miss the young man's chest.

Blood trickles down to the ground - the young man's sword, now deeply thrust in Barack's heart.

Barack falls over to the side and lies motionless.

His men retreat and disappear into the woods.

The young man struggles to his feet then moves off as quick as he can toward the royal wagon.

The twin Princesses peek out. Terrified.

The young man steps back and kneels.

YOUNG MAN  
Your highnesses, is everyone okay?

They nod.

He grimaces, bleeds everywhere. Gets up and walks away.

PRINCESS ISABELLE  
WAIT!

The young man stops, looking the other way.

PRINCESS JOYCE  
Who are you?

YOUNG MAN  
Just a nobody.

PRINCESS ISABELLE  
Why did you help us then?

He pauses, and turns around.

YOUNG MAN  
Why not?

The young man disappears just as the Captain rushes in.

CAPTAIN OF THE GUARD  
Who was that?

PRINCESS JOYCE  
He didn't tell.

CAPTAIN OF THE GUARD  
Are you two Princesses okay?

The two Princesses, still catching their breaths --

The nod.

Sophia appears. Terrified.

CAPTAIN OF THE GUARD (CONT'D)  
Where were you?

SOPHIA  
(catching breath)  
I hid!

Sophia points at a bush by the road side.

Guards help and tend to injured soldiers in the surrounding.

CAPTAIN OF THE GUARD  
Help came in just the right time.  
Whoever that stranger was.

Sophia smiles to herself.

INT. PALACE THRONE ROOM - DAY

The Captain enters. Bows. The twin Princesses follow.

CAPTAIN OF THE GUARD  
My King! We were ambushed and had  
to return.

The King runs toward the twin Princesses and embraces them.

KING  
My twins! You two are safe!

CAPTAIN OF THE GUARD  
A mystery young man came and helped  
us.

KING  
Thanks to the young man!

INT. PALACE GUESTS DINNING ROOM - DAY

A table full of foods and drinks.

Sophia stands by the door. Watches.

Prince HECTOR II (25) seated opposite of Princess Isabelle.

He chomps on a piece of steak.

PRINCE HECTOR II  
Ummm... Excellent food each time I  
visit.

PRINCESS ISABELLE  
We only hire the best chefs.

PRINCE HECTOR II  
I can see that.

He forks a piece of meat. Feeds Princess Isabelle.

PRINCE HECTOR II (CONT'D)

I heard about the heroic act of a  
mystery young man during your trip.

PRINCESS ISABELLE

Aye, that is true. That young man,  
he fought really good.

PRINCE HECTOR II

You sound like you already like  
him.

PRINCESS ISABELLE

Oh, please! Don't be so jealous.

Prince Hector chomps on another piece of steak. Stares at  
Sophia.

She looks uneasy.

They only speak in whisper.

PRINCE HECTOR II

Your maidservant is beautiful.

He smiles.

She looks sideway at Sophia. Smiles.

PRINCESS ISABELLE

I can send her to your room.

Princess Isabelle winks.

PRINCE HECTOR II

You don't mind?

PRINCESS ISABELLE

No. So you want her?

He nods.

INT. GUEST DINNING ROOM - NIGHT

Candlelights all around. A table full of food and drink.  
Prince Hector sits opposite Sophia. He forks some foods into  
Sophia's plate. She is nervous.

PRINCE HECTOR II

Don't be shy. Eat.

Sophia forks a piece of meat. Slowly puts it in her mouth.

PRINCE HECTOR II (CONT'D)  
You are so beautiful.

Sophia blushes. Stares on her plate.

PRINCE HECTOR II (CONT'D)  
I want to get to know you better.

SOPHIA  
Truly, my lord, I'm just a peasant.  
You will regret knowing me.

PRINCE HECTOR II  
You are too humble. You need to  
value yourself a little more.

The Prince reaches out. Holds her hand. She pulls away, but he holds firm.

SOPHIA  
Your Highness...

PRINCE HECTOR II  
Aye, my dear.

SOPHIA  
It seems my stomach doesn't like  
the food. Please pardon your  
servant. I have to go.

Sophia feels her stomach. Does a gesture.

PRINCE HECTOR II  
Can I see you some more?

SOPHIA  
We'll see. Now if you would excuse  
me...

Sophia hurries out the door.

INT. SOPHIA'S ROOM - NIGHT

Dead of the night, Charles puts on his black cloak and mask.  
He opens the window and sneaks out.

EXT. PALACE - NIGHT

He dashes behind the shadows of patrolling guards and  
disappears into the darkness.

EXT. PRISON (OUTSIDE THE SHACK) - NIGHT

Charles hides behind a wall of shadows.

A patrolling guard walks by and investigates. He peeks around, then walks back to his post.

Charles goes back to observe. A guard with a half-mask, walks back and forth in a shack.

Charles sneaks in, stands next to the window. Peeks in.

Baron feels a presence, he turns, sees a flick of a shadow moves past the window. He storms outside. Sees a dark shadow moving in the darkness. A gate swings back and forth, squeaking. Baron gives chase as another guard joins.

GUARD

What is it?

BARON

Someone was watching me.

The run after the dark shadow and past Sophia's windows, which is open.

They stare inside, see Sophia combing her hair, staring at her image in the mirror.

They look puzzled. Head back to the prison.

GUARD

Where did it go?

BARON

It just disappeared. Very weird.

INT. PRINCESS ISABELLE'S ROOM - DAY

The Princess in a beautiful dress. Stares at her image in mirror. Feels her hair.

PRINCESS ISABELLE

Sophia, can you fix my hair?

SOPHIA

Aye!

Sophia walks over and takes the comb. She feels the Princess' hair.

SOPHIA (CONT'D)

You have nice, soft hair, Princess.

PRINCESS ISABELLE  
Everyone says that, too.

Suddenly, Sophia's other personality appears --

Charles.

He smells the Princess' hair. Passionately, does a take, expressing a fulsome love writ large across his hugely smiling face and glittery eyes.

Back to Sophia.

SOPHIA  
And it smells... So good!

PRINCESS ISABELLE  
You suppose a man would say that, too?

SOPHIA  
Certainly!

Sophia smiles, hands moving. The Princess looks on.

SOPHIA (CONT'D)  
There... Do you like it?

The Princess turns side to side, looks at her image in the mirror. Nods.

INT. PALACE HALLWAY DOOR - DAY

Princess Isabelle and Sophia about to enter.

A guard lets Princess in, but stops Sophia.

GUARD  
I'm sorry, only royals and nobles are allowed.

Sophia stutters backward, nods, as the Princess disappears.

INT. BIRTHDAY PARTY ROOM - DAY

A huge room is full of tables with foods and drinks.

In the middle, a big dance floor.

Full of guests, nobles gather in numbers. Some in masks of their choices.

The King walks around, smiling. Greets anyone passing by with a customary kiss.

KING

Welcome. Thank you for coming.

The party is in full swing. Soft chattering.

Charles, in a black suit and venetian mask, walks in. Blends right into the crowd of nobles and royals.

He strides through the crowd and greets others like he knows them. The guests look at each other like "Who is he?" They shrug it off and continue chattering.

As he approaches the King and Queen, gives each a kiss on their cheek.

CHARLES

Glad to see you two Highnesses again!

And he goes his way.

KING

Who's that?

The Queen just shrugs.

The twin Princesses chatter by themselves.

Charles approaches, gives each a hug, and a kiss.

CHARLES

How are you two Princesses doing?

He goes on his way.

They stare at each with a look of "Who's that?"

Prince Hector approaches.

PRINCESS JOYCE

I will leave you two alone.

She winks. Disappears.

Prince Hector snags two glasses of champagne from a passing waiter. Gives one to Princess Isabelle.

Emperor HECTOR I (45) walks up to the Princess. They exchange a kiss.

EMPEROR HECTOR I  
You two look so fine together!

They smile.

PRINCESS ISABELLE  
Thank you, Emperor.

EMPEROR HECTOR I  
Now, if you would excuse me.

The Emperor disappears.

Baron, in a nice suit, approaches.

Gives the Princess a tight hug.

PRINCE HECTOR II  
Please excuse me.

He disappears.

BARON  
I can't believe it. Time goes by  
so fast!

PRINCESS ISABELLE  
I know, Uncle. 'Wish I WAS still  
that young, innocent teenage girl!

BARON  
You are growing up to be everything  
as expected, and a lot more!

PRINCESS ISABELLE  
Oh, please, Uncle. Stop that. I'm  
still this foolish girl at times.  
It's no fun being all good!

BARON  
My sister and the King really spoil  
you two!  
(laughing)  
'Party's about to start.

The Queen appears with Princess Joyce.

QUEEN  
Come on, you two. Let's get it  
started.

In the middle, a huge cake, all decorated with candles and  
assorted colors of treats.

The twin Princesses approach, stand next to the cake.

Guests gather around them.

The King and Queen stand behind the cake.

KING

I want to welcome all of my guests  
to the birthday of the twins.  
Today, they turn 21!

A round of applause from the guests.

KING (CONT'D)

So, let's have them blow the  
candles and let the party started!

Two rolls of candles in set of 21.

The twin Princesses take a deep huff, and puff!

All the candles go out.

Another round of big applause from the guests.

Baron approaches. Give each Princess a big hug.

BARON

Happy birthday, Princess Isabelle  
and Princess Joyce!

The Queen approaches the guests.

QUEEN

Everyone, enjoy the food!

The guests chomp away.

KING

For their birthday, I will let them  
pick anyone of their choice to  
dance with.

PRINCESS ISABELLE

Shall we?

She reaches for Prince Hector.

Prince Joyce searches around. Sees Charles pacing among the  
guests.

She approaches him, reaches out her hand.

PRINCESS JOYCE

Shall we?

CHARLES

My honor!

QUEEN

Those that want to dance can join  
them, too.

They pair up in two, approach the dance floor.

The King and Queen join.

The music band starts playing. A waltz.

Charles and Princess Joyce bow to each other, take each other's hands. He swirls her across the dance floor. She responds, swirls back gracefully into his arms. They stare right into each other's eyes.

Charles swirls her out across the dance again. She swirls back into the crook of his arm. She holds his hand as she twirls to the right, then to the left.

They parry each other with dazzling moves. She flips behind him, comes back the other side.

Charles tosses her in the air, she comes crashing down as Charles catches her in one arm, rolls out the other.

It becomes a contest of wills. Each matching the other with moves that flourish.

Their moves and eyes contact tell all. A passion that burns with desire. They dance so fluid together, everyone stares in awe.

The music stops.

KING

Let's go another round with a  
different partner.

Charles approaches Princess Isabelle.

CHARLES

May I have the honor?

He reaches out his hand. They hit the dance floor again.

Charles holds the Princess close as they dance to the music. He swirls her across the dance floor, she twirls back into his arms. Eyes just inches apart.

Other dancers dance quietly beside them.

PRINCESS ISABELLE  
You are such a dancer!

CHARLES  
So are you!

The Princess leans against Charles. Her head rests on his shoulder. They speak softly.

PRINCESS ISABELLE  
First time, yet it feels like I've  
known you for ages.

The Princess closes her eyes. Her body in synch with Charles'.

PRINCESS ISABELLE (CONT'D)  
I don't even know your name yet.

CHARLES  
Why must you know?

PRINCESS ISABELLE  
So I know who this charmer is.

A long pause.

CHARLES  
(into her ears)  
Alright... If you insist. It's  
Hawkins. Charles Hawkins.

The music ends.

Everyone gives a loud applause.

Charles disappears into the crowd AS --

Prince Joyce approaches Princess Isabelle.

PRINCESS JOYCE  
Where did he go!

They search, but Charles is gone.

PRINCESS ISABELLE  
'Think I'm in love...

She is in a blissful state.

The Queen approaches.

QUEEN

You two were so flirtatious, who was he?

The Princess hesitates...

PRINCESS ISABELLE

It's Charles.

INT. PRINCESS ISABELLE'S ROOM - DAY

The Princess storms in. The Queen follows.

QUEEN

You embarrassed your father and me in front of the guests!

The Princess rolls her eyes.

PRINCESS ISABELLE

Oh, mother, please! It's my birthday. Can't you even let me enjoy my life for just one day?

QUEEN

Aye, Princess, but you went overboard.

PRINCESS ISABELLE

What about Princess Joyce?

QUEEN

She is not engaged. Her time will come.

PRINCESS ISABELLE

I never consented my engagement to Prince Hector to start with.

QUEEN

It was for your own good, Princess.

PRINCESS ISABELLE

My own good? How can you say that when you don't even know what I want?

The Princess storms into her bedroom and slams the door shut.

INT. PRINCESS ISABELLE'S BATHROOM - NIGHT

The tub, full of water and bubbling soap.

Princess Isabelle takes off her CLOTHES and jumps in. She submerges herself under the soapy water and closes here eyes.

Sophia walks in with the towel on her arms.

The Princess lifts her legs up high, and washes them from the toes to thigh.

SOPHIA

You had a great time, didn't you?

PRINCESS ISABELLE

How can you tell?

SOPHIA

'The way you danced with the masked man.

PRINCESS ISABELLE

You saw us?

SOPHIA

Of course, the door was half opened.

PRINCESS ISABELLE

I was having a great time until the Queen scolded me.

The Princess turns over.

Sophia's second personality appears --

Charles.

He sits on the edge of the tub. Scrubs her back with a wash cloth. She stays still, feels the soothing sensation.

He drops the wash cloth, his bare hands now washing the Princess' back, rubbing, caressing.

PRINCESS ISABELLE (CONT'D)

Ummm... It feels even better with your bare hands!

Back to Sophia.

The Princess stands up and Sophia puts a towel over her body.

EXT. REBELS' HIDEOUT - DAY

Huge valley opens up into a big open field. Scattered tents among trees throughout. Men in black and gold uniforms with weapons in hands wander about.

Sound of hoofbeats as horsemen patrol the surroundings.

Three RIDERS race through the entrance. Stop by a tent and dismount. A black and gold flag flies above.

INT. STRATEGY TENT - DAY

A Knight, BROCK (30), fearsome and powerful, takes off his helmet as he enters. Seated behind a huge map is ARAMACK (45), mean and fearsome, the Cornish rebel leader.

ARAMACK

What did you find out?

BROCK

Supposedly there is a trip coming up.

ARAMACK

Keep your eyes and ears open.

BROCK

Aye, Sir!

INT. TRAINING FACILITY - DAY

Inside a training ring: Princess Isabelle in a training suit. The Captain tosses a sword to her. She catches it. Struggles to hold on.

Princess Joyce stands nearby. Observes. Listens.

Mouth moving, the Captain gives the Princess MUTED instructions and fighting motions. The Princess follows along with nods.

CAPTAIN OF THE GUARD

Now... Are you ready?

The Princess nods. Nervous.

CAPTAIN OF THE GUARD (CONT'D)

Remember, I'm your teacher now.

(beat)

EN GARDE!

The Captain lunges forward. Scared, the Princess runs outside the training ring.

CAPTAIN OF THE GUARD (CONT'D)  
Princess! Don't run. Fight!

She turns back, steps back into the training ring. Takes a fighting stance, eying the Captain.

CAPTAIN OF THE GUARD (CONT'D)  
Now... DEFEND!

The Captain lunges forward again. She parries. The two exchanges blows.

The Captain gives the Princess a few workouts and --

WHACK!

A hit on her ass as they run past each other.

PRINCESS ISABELLE  
OUCH, that HURTS!  
(girlish gesture)  
Captain...!

Frustrated, exhausted she rubs her ass.

CAPTAIN OF THE GUARD  
Defend YOURSELF!

The Captain smiles and lunges forward again. The two exchange more blows. He sweeps away her sword. CLATTERS on the ground.

CAPTAIN OF THE GUARD (CONT'D)  
Pick it up. Try AGAIN!

She picks up her sword again. Looks more determined.

The Princess lunges forward. The Captain does a quick side-step. She stumbles past.

The Princess gathers herself, lunges forward again. The Captain dodges. She stumbles past again, crouching, exhausted.

The Princess gets set again, lunges forward. The Captain moves to the side, she stops and swing her sword, the Captain parries. After a few blows, she lands one on the Captain's chest. He smiles grimacingly.

CAPTAIN OF THE GUARD (CONT'D)  
Alright... Enough for you today.

Princess Isabelle smiles, spears her sword in the ground and disappears.

CAPTAIN OF THE GUARD (CONT'D)  
Now, your turn, Princess Joyce!

Princess Joyce lazily gets up. Picks up the sword.

The Captain moves to his corner. Motions her to attack him.

She takes an ugly fighting stance. Weakly lunges forward.

The Captain sweeps away her sword. CLATTERS ten feet away.

CAPTAIN OF THE GUARD (CONT'D)  
Princess, that's NOT how you attack  
your enemy! Try AGAIN!

The Princess picks up her sword. Gathers herself.

INT. ISABELLE'S ROOM - NIGHT

The Princess stares at her image in the mirror. Smiles.  
Hums to herself.

Sophia seated on a desk, drawing.

PRINCESS ISABELLE  
Sophia, do you think I would make a  
good wife?

SOPHIA  
Of course, you will. But the real  
question is: Will Prince Hector  
make a good husband?

PRINCESS ISABELLE  
Oh, please. Don't bring him into  
the conversation. I don't even  
know him.

SOPHIA  
You two look so lovely with each  
other.

PRINCESS ISABELLE  
Ummm... You think so?

SOPHIA  
Aye, I do... May I ask why is your  
Uncle wearing a half-mask?

PRINCESS ISABELLE

He keeps telling everyone his cheek is deformed. Why do you want to know?

SOPHIA

Oh, just wondering. He loves you very much, doesn't he?

PRINCESS ISABELLE

Aye, he does love us the twins very much.

EXT. GREENWICH CITY STREET - DAY

The Captain and few guards trot along on their horse. A wall. The Captain suddenly stops. Listens.

EXT. BEHIND THE WALL - CONTINUOUS

A group of men discuss quietly among themselves. Cautious. Look around. They speak in gibberish.

EXT. GREENWICH CITY STREET - CONTINUOUS

The Captain listens for a moment. Motions to the guards. They gallop away.

INT. PALACE THRONE ROOM - DAY

The Captain barges in the door and kneels before the King.

CAPTAIN OF THE GUARD

My King, there is report of a possible new revolt.

The King looks concerned, leans forward.

KING

Who are these pests anyway?

CAPTAIN OF THE GUARD

Their leader is named Aramack. A follower of Michael An Gof.

KING

Aramack again? Wipe out these pests from the land!

The twin Princesses barge in through the door.

PRINCESS ISABELLE  
 Father, the twins would like to  
 join. Please let us help!

The King hesitates...

KING  
 I will not send my treasure to the  
 killing field!

PRINCESS JOYCE  
 Cowards are no treasure!

PRINCESS ISABELLE  
 ... Allow us, father. We are very  
 capable.

The King interrupts...

KING  
 Absolutely not! And that's my  
 final answer.

INT. PRINCESS ISABELLE'S ROOM - DAY

The Princess stands by the window. Looks outside.

Sophia waits.

PRINCESS ISABELLE  
 Beautiful day, isn't it?

SOPHIA  
 It is, my Princess.

PRINCESS ISABELLE  
 Let's go out for a walk.

EXT. FLOWERS GARDEN - DAY

A beautiful garden, full of flowers of all kinds, in rolls  
 and patterns.

Few guards scattered. Workers watering the flowers about.

The Princess and Sophia pace through the rolls of flowers.

The Princess stops and smells a rose.

Mesmerizing, Sophia stares at the Princess in a strange way.

PRINCESS ISABELLE  
Why are staring at me that way?

Waking up from a trance, Sophia gathers her sense.

SOPHIA  
Oh, was just thinking how romantic  
it would be for two lovers to  
stroll through a valley full of  
flowers, that's all.

PRINCESS ISABELLE  
Sophia, if you don't mind me  
asking: Do you have a boyfriend?

SOPHIA  
No. Why did you ask?

PRINCESS ISABELLE  
It just seems odd a pretty girl  
like yourself without a boyfriend.  
Would you like to get to know one?

SOPHIA  
No, thanks.

PRINCESS ISABELLE  
Sometimes you keep giving me that  
look. Makes me curious...

SOPHIA  
Let's go and pray today!

INT. CHURCH - DAY

Princess Isabelle and Sophia walks in. The Priest approaches them.

PRIEST  
Can I do anything for you,  
Princess?

PRINCESS ISABELLE  
No, I'm just here to pray.

PRIEST  
Please let me know if you need  
anything.

The Princess nods.

She walks to the front, Sophia follows. They kneel and bow.  
Perform the sign of the cross.

EXT. CHURCH SQUARE - DAY

Princess Isabelle and Sophia enter the royal wagon.

INT. ROYAL WAGON - DAY

They stare outside as the wagon rumbles along. People passing by.

SOPHIA

What did you pray for, Princess?

PRINCESS ISABELLE

Protection. Health. What about you?

SOPHIA

I prayed for my parents. Foster parents, actually.

PRINCESS ISABELLE

What happened to your real parents?

SOPHIA

They were murdered...

PRINCESS ISABELLE

Awww... How awful.

SOPHIA

'Exactly ten years ago today, actually. Feels like it was just yesterday.

PRINCESS ISABELLE

I can't imagine how hard it is to cope with it everyday of your life.

SOPHIA

I've learned to move on by not talking about it too much.

EXT. REBELS' HIDEOUT - DAY

Soldiers move about. Horsemen patrol the surroundings.

Brock gallops fast out of the woods and dismounts. Takes off his helmet.

INT. ARAMACK'S TENT - DAY

He enters and lays his sword on a table.

ARAMACK  
Any news lately?

BROCK  
They are heading this way as we  
speak.

ARAMACK  
The twin Princesses... I need them  
alive!

Sound of muffled hoofbeats in the background.

EXT. AMBUSH VALLEY - DAY

The Captain and some GUARDS trot along, leading. In the middle, the royal wagon with the twin Princesses inside. Few more guards trailing.

Suddenly, a net traps come down from the trees, trapping the Captain and a few of the guards.

Men in black and gold uniforms emerge out of the woods.

Arrows fly at every direction, swords clash, men slash at each other.

Aramack slashes away, royal soldiers falling.

The Captain takes out his sword and cuts through the net trap.

He emerges, sword lashing out, slashing away.

The royal guards disarray. The Captain sees the chaos.

CAPTAIN OF THE GUARD  
(shouting)  
The twins! Protect the twins!

No one hears him.

Aramack's men lunge at the Captain.

Brock and his men storm the royal wagon, the twin Princesses are carried away, screaming, kicking. They disappear.

The Captain watches helplessly at a distance as --

Aramack, on his horse, stands at a distance. Taunts the Captain.

ARAMACK  
 (shouting)  
 We got what we came here for! You  
 fell right into our trap!  
 (to his men)  
 Let's go boys!

The rebels disperse.

The Captain and his men could only watch.

INT. PALACE THRONE ROOM - DAY

The King SLAMS his fists on a table. FLINGS a plate across the room. PUSHES over a table, RUMBLING to the floor.

KING  
 NO NO NO, CAPTAIN! I entrusted the  
 twins in your care!

The Captain looks on the floor. Sweats.

KING (CONT'D)  
 My twins, my treasure! How could  
 this be?

All silent - as the King's agonizing cry ECHOES across the hall.

INT. INTERROGATION ROOM - DAY

The twin Princesses tied. Aramack takes out a knife, waves it in their faces.

ARAMACK  
 We'll see if the King comes for his  
 two daughters!

The two Princesses lean on each other in a corner. Aramack waves the knife up and down, just inches from Princess Isabelle's chest.

ARAMACK (CONT'D)  
 (to Brock)  
 Bring the puppet guard in!

Brock walks out the room. Moments later, he drags the royal guard in, shoves him before Aramack.

ARAMACK (CONT'D)  
The King better get this!

He hands the royal guard a letter.

INT. PALACE - THRONE ROOM - DAY

The guard limps in the door, kneels before the King and hands over a letter.

The King scans it.

KING  
Advisors, summon the Council  
immediately!

The Advisors scurry out.

INT. SOPHIA'S ROOM - DAY

Mary, all serious. Concerned.

SOPHIA  
The twin Princesses have been  
captured? Are you joking?

MARY  
It's true.

Sophia gasps...

SOPHIA  
Oh NO!!! What now?

INT. PALACE THRONE ROOM - DAY

The Council and Advisors gather.

The King is troubled.

KING  
The twins have been captured.

All gasp. Whisper.

COUNCIL MEMBER 1  
What do they want from the King?

The King hands him the letter. He scans through it and shakes his head.

EXT. GREENWICH CITY STREET - DAY

Busy city streets. Many gather about in chaos. Murmur.  
Speak softly...

A crowd.

A MAN  
The King to renounce his throne...

A WOMAN  
... To save the twins?

The crowd gasps.

AN OLD WOMAN  
Oh my... Such a demand!

ANOTHER WOMAN  
So awful... What now?

Whispers about.

ANOTHER MAN  
It's the twins... Or his throne.

Everyone is out of words.

ANOTHER OLD WOMAN  
What will happen to the kingdom  
now?

INT. PALACE THRONE ROOM - DAY

The King is restless, walks back and forth.

ADVISOR 1  
My King, may I suggest we try to  
negotiate?

The King stops.

KING  
With what?

ADVISOR 2  
Gold or silver.

KING  
That's not what they demand. How  
could we?

ADVISOR 1

Perhaps if the deal is reasonable,  
we might catch a break.

COUNCIL MEMBER 2

My King, I support that idea as  
well. Nothing is worth more to the  
kingdom than the twins and the  
throne.

CAPTAIN OF THE GUARD

... I will go and negotiate, if the  
King should choose that option.

The King thinks deeply.

INT. OUTSIDE THE THRONE ROOM - HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Sophia listens. Disappears.

EXT. REBELS' CAMP (ENTRANCE) - DAY

Guards stand by the gate. Horsemen and foot soldiers  
patrolling.

Two COACHMAN CLOWNS drive a wagon toward the entrance.

Brock rushes in, sword-blocks their way.

BROCK

What's your business here?

MUSICIAN CLOWN

We are the angels of death...

The JUGGLER CLOWN interrupts...

JUGGLER CLOWN

... No, he is a clown. I'm a  
clown. And there is also have a  
dancer in the cart... I'm sure  
your brave men wouldn't mind a  
little entertainment tonight.  
Would they?

Brock peeks in.

Inside the wagon: A GIRL in dancing uniform, with a veil  
covering half of her face, nods agreeably.

Brock eyes the two clowns cautiously.

BROCK  
No! You could be anyone!

JUGGLER CLOWN  
Could be, aye. But no.

Juggler Clown motions to Musician Clown.

Musician Clown reaches behind their backs.

Uneasy, Brock puts his sword to Musician Clown's throat.

BROCK  
What are you doing?!

Juggler Clown intervenes...

JUGGLER CLOWN  
Wo wo wo... Easy now. Easy...

Brock steps back.

Musician Clown grabs the juggling clubs out of the back of the carriage and they give a dazzling display of juggling.

Brock is amazed. Motions them to follow.

INT. ARAMACK'S TENT - DAY

Aramack seated next to a table full of foods, chomping on a piece of chicken leg greedily.

Brock enters nervously.

ARAMACK  
What now?

Brock hesitates...

BROCK  
I was thinking, sir...

ARAMACK  
... Too many times you have interrupted me like that. You watch out!

BROCK  
The men are getting bored, sir. Some amusement might help with their morale.

ARAMACK

Isn't women and food enough? What more do they want?

BROCK

There are some show folks out there. If they could do a show tonight, it might be a good idea.

ARAMACK

Show me!

Aramack steps outside.

EXT. REBELS' CAMP (ENTRANCE) - DAY

Aramack surveys the wagon's occupants.

EXT. REBELS' CAMP - NIGHT

Dark, few torches scattered. Guards stand by the gate. Some patrolling.

INT. AMUSEMENT TENT - NIGHT

A big room. Tables full of foods and drinks scattered.

Guards enjoy themselves. Some indulge themselves with WOMEN of all types.

All chattering, laughing, drinking.

Ethnic music plays in the background.

Middle of the room: a Clown plays a violin. Another Clown juggling some fire sticks. A Dancer, dances.

Aramack stands up. Motions to his men. Everyone quiets down.

ARAMACK

This shows is all for you! For your hard work. And now, a big TOAST to our future. Let everyone be merry!

Huge applause from the guards. Everyone goes back to eating, drinking, and be merry.

The Dancer eyes Aramack as the crowd cheers her on.

The Musician Clown stops and motions all to quiet down.

MUSICIAN CLOWN

And now, come the more exciting part of the show... my partner shall perform something very special. Who among you has the courage to volunteer?

The two clowns search around the room. Everyone mellows out.

Finally, a GUARD (30) raises his hand, reluctantly.

MUSICIAN CLOWN (CONT'D)

Ladies and gentlemen... We have a volunteer here!

A big applause for the volunteer AS --

The Musician Clown leads the guard to a wooden wall. He points at the wall, mouths something and motions to the guard.

The guard stands with his back against the wall, spreads out his arms and legs. A fear in his eyes.

JUGGLER CLOWN

I will now attempt to throw knives at the guard without injuring him.

The Juggler Clown opens his jacket, reveals a vest with many pockets, full of knives.

Alarmed, Aramack looks at the Juggler Clown cautiously.

All eyes on the Juggler Clown as he takes out a knife.

It ZINGS through the air, lands inches above the guard's head. His eyes grow bigger.

Everyone gasps.

JUGGLER CLOWN (CONT'D)

And now... ladies and gentlemen, the most daring one. I will now blindfold myself.

All silence, fix their eyes on the Juggler Clown AS --

He blindfolds himself, takes out a single knife.

It ZINGS through the air, lands just below the guard's crotch. He looks down, eyes big, raises himself up on his toes.

More applause from the guards.

MUSICIAN CLOWN

And now, the last one of the night.  
My partner will perform it in the  
dark.

The Musician Clown proceeds to turn off all the torches.  
It's now in complete darkness.

Suddenly, dozen of knives GLINT as they ZING about the room.

Moments later, there is light as the torches come back on.  
Charles is behind Aramack with a knife to his throat. On the  
floor, dead bodies scattered.

CHARLES

Don't move an inch, or your leader  
dies!

All the guards freeze in their tracks.

In a quick move, Aramack spins off and escapes Charles'  
grasp, picks up his sword, move to center of the room.

Charles moves in and the two battle. Swords clash. Sparks  
fly.

Aramack lunges forward, misses, CRASHES against a table,  
RUMBLING to the floor.

Food and drink scatter on the floor as the battle continues.

Their moves are fast with blurring action.

A graceful move, Charles disarms Aramack with a flick of his  
sword.

As Aramack's sword CLATTERS on the ground, Charles dashes  
behind him and puts the sword to his throat again.

Seems the battle is over BUT --

Suddenly, SOMEONE claps from behind a wall. Out comes  
another Aramack. Smiling.

Charles stares in confusion.

ARAMACK

Bravo! Oh, let me introduce my  
twin to you! Look alike twins,  
that is!

Aramack does a fake laugh.

ARAMACK (CONT'D)

No. Wait. Take off your mask!

The fake Aramack takes off his mask --

TO REVEAL:

Brock.

The three stare in confusion. Disbelief.

Suddenly, half dozen of swords to Charles' throat.

More of Aramack's men storm in.

Aramack walks toward Charles AND --

WHACK!

His powerful fist pummels Charles in the abdomen. He falls to his knees, grunting.

ARAMACK (CONT'D)

You think I would just hand over  
the twin Princesses to you...

(snaps his finger)

'Just like that? I knew what you  
were up to all along. How?

Surprise!

(beat)

You can come out now.

From behind a wall, Thomas steps out. Slowly.

CHARLES

Thomas?

D'ANGELO

Why?

Thomas looks at Charles and the two Clowns. Looks on the floor. Has a sorry look on his face.

ARAMACK

Do you even know who he is? I  
don't think so. Let me tell you.  
He is my adopted son! I raised him  
like my own.

A look of disbelief on the two Clowns and Charles.

The room is now FILLED with guards.

ARAMACK (CONT'D)  
 (to his men)  
 Lock them up! We'll deal with them  
 tomorrow.

INT. INSIDE A CAGE - DAY

Charles and his friends asleep soundly. A guard splashes water on Charles' face. He jolts up. Gets up to a sitting position.

His friends also wake up.

ARAMACK  
 Good morning, WOMAN!

CHARLES  
 I'm not a woman.

ARAMACK  
 You were... A beautiful one, that was. One that a man would fall in love with... Instantly!

CHARLES  
 What do you want?

Thomas stands nearby.

ARAMACK  
 You realize what kind of prize we would lose?

CHARLES  
 What prize?

ARAMACK  
 You peasants, mere subjects of the King. You would never understand what we stand for!

Aramack walks to a corner.

Charles sees a key hangs by the door, fifteen feet away.

CHARLES  
 Why risk your own life? You know you would never win against the King!

Furious, Aramack turns AND --

WHACK!

He punches Charles in the face. Charles falls on his side. Mouth bleeds.

ARAMACK

Freedom is worth every drop of my blood!

Aramack bends down. Left hand grabs a fistful of sand. Then releases it. Slowly, the sand trickles down. Right hand, he points at Charles...

ARAMACK (CONT'D)

YOU! Who are you... so young and naive to lecture someone like me? You know NOTHING!

Aramack takes out his knife. Flips it.

ARAMACK (CONT'D)

If by tomorrow, the King doesn't respond to our demand, you all will be dead. Including the twin Princesses! The King's heirs... What a waste...

Thomas looks uneasy. Concerned.

EXT. INTERROGATION TENT - DAY

Aramack steps out. Thomas follows, catches up to him.

THOMAS

You told me no harm would come to any of them.

ARAMACK

And you believed me? I raised you, you should know me better than that.

EXT. REBELS' CAMP (ENTRANCE) - DAY

Aramack hands a guard a letter.

ARAMACK

Make sure the King gets this.

The guard nods. Jumps on a horse and gallops away.

INT. PALACE - THRONE ROOM - DAY

The King, in his throne. Restless. Mouth rests on his back hand.

The Advisors gather. The Captain stands nearby.

ADVISOR 1

My King, the letter says another rescue attempt and the Twins are dead.

KING

Who would further endanger the Twins?

Everyone looks clueless.

The King gets mad. Everyone is frightened.

KING (CONT'D)

Captain, you find out who these rescuers are. And why they are endangering the Twins.

The Captain nods.

INT. ARAMACK'S TENT - DAY

Thomas enters. Meekly.

ARAMACK

Why do you always have that look?

Thomas shrugs.

THOMAS

You called for me?

On a table, a bag. Aramack slides it over to Thomas.

Thomas peeks inside it. Slides it back to Aramack.

THOMAS (CONT'D)

This is not what you promised me.

Furious, Aramack SLAMS his fists on the table. Slides the bag back to Thomas again.

ARAMACK

This is all you deserve! I raised you! You are nothing without me!

Aramack points his finger right in Thomas' face.

With confidence, Thomas pushes Aramack's hand aside.

THOMAS

A promise is still a promise. No more, no less.

ARAMACK

Take it or leave it. It's your choice.

Thomas picks up the bag. Tosses it at Aramack.

THOMAS

Keep it to yourself then!

He storms out and slams the door hard.

ARAMACK

You'll regret this!

INT. PRISONER HUT - NIGHT

Candles glimmer. Guards asleep.

INSIDE A CAGE

Charles weaves a tiny rope. Makes a loop.

D'ANGELO

(whispering)

What are you doing?

Charles points at the a key by the door.

OUTSIDE THE CAGE

Guards all asleep. Snore.

INSIDE THE CAGE

CHARLES

(whispering)

Here. Put your talent to work.

D'ANGELO

(whispering)

I can't do that.

CHARLES  
 (whispering)  
 You have no choice. You want to  
 end up dead here?

D'Angelo hesitates. Then nods. Aims. Tosses the rope  
 across the room.

THE WALL

The rope misses the key. THUDS on the floor.

INSIDE THE CAGE

D'Angelo retrieve the rope. Aims. Lets it go again.

THE WALL

It misses again.

IN THE CAGE

D'Angelo gets frustrated. Retrieves the rope again.

D'ANGELO  
 (whispering to himself)  
 Come on. Come on. Come on.

OUTSIDE THE CAGE

A guard turns. Mouth moves.

INSIDE THE CAGE

D'Angelo and Charles freeze.

OUTSIDE THE CAGE

The guard turns the other side. Goes back to snore.

INSIDE THE CAGE

Ceitimus wakes up. Wipes his eyes.

CEITIMUS  
 (whispering)  
 What are you two up to?

CHARLES  
 (whispering)  
 What do you think?

Ceitimus looks at the rope.

Charles points at the key hangs by they wall.

CEITIMUS  
(whispering)  
Let me try.

Ceitimus extends his arm outside the cage. Aims. Lets the rope fly.

THE WALL

The rope lands on the key. A quick pull and it snags on it tightly.

INSIDE THE CAGE

CHARLES  
(whispering)  
Careful.

Ceitimus pulls it hard. The key THUDS on the floor.

Charles grabs the key. Unlocks the cage. They step out.

OUTSIDE THE CAGE

Three guards asleep. Simultaneously, Charles and his two friends knock the three guards out cold. They exchange uniforms with the guards. Drag the guards inside the cage. Lock them up.

On the wall, two vests full of knives and the A'kuma.

EXT. OUTSIDE THE PRISONER HUT - NIGHT

The door slowly swings open. Charles' head pops out. Surveys the surrounding and steps out. D'Angelo and Ceitimus follow.

Charles motions something to his two friends. They disappear.

EXT. REBELS' CAMP - NIGHT

Charles weaves his way through huts. Sees a guard patrolling.

GUARD  
Hold it there!

Charles freezes.

GUARD (CONT'D)  
Where are you going?

CHARLES  
Taking a leak.

Charles walks a few steps.

The guard sword-blocks Charles' way.

A lightning dash, Charles takes down the guard. Pulls him behind some logs.

Charles sneaks to another building. Opens the door.

INT. HOSTAGE SHELTER - NIGHT

Charles enters. Two GUARDS on the floor awaken.

CHARLES  
You two are done for the night. My partner and I will take it from here.

GUARD 1  
Who said so?

CHARLES  
Aramack sent us here.

GUARD 2  
Where's your partner?

CHARLES  
He will be here shortly. Go on your way.

GUARD 1  
I will go and ask Aramack first.

He makes his way toward the door.

One guard grabs the other one's shoulder. Motions.

They put away their swords. Step out the door.

Charles looks inside a locked room.

On a thin mat, the twin Princesses sleep harshly.

A key hangs by the door. Charles grabs it.

## LOCKED ROOM

Charles enters. The twin Princesses wake up to his presence. Scared. Takes comfort on each other.

CHARLES  
(whispering)  
Put these on. And quickly. There  
isn't much time!

Charles tosses them some black clothes.

## EXT. HOSTAGE SHELTER - NIGHT

Charles pops out the door. Surveys. He motions. The twin Princesses follow. Charles points into the darkness. The twin Princesses disappear.

## EXT. REBELS' CAMP - NIGHT

Charles dashes from one building to the next. Sets fire on each. Soon, fire tears through the camp.

Guards scurry wildly. Shout in confusion.

A wagon rumbles past the blazing houses, heads towards the entrance.

## INT. ARAMACK'S TENT - NIGHT

Aramack hears shouting and fire cracking, wakes up. He grabs his sword and steps outside. Guards scurry in confusion.

ARAMACK  
(Shouting)  
Guard the gate!

## EXT. REBELS' CAMP (GATE) - NIGHT

Guards swarm to the gate. The wagon rumbles towards it. Knives ZING in the air. Guards drop to the ground.

Charles darts out from the wagon, heads for the gate.

Guards swarm him. He slashes at them. Suddenly, Thomas appears and takes on the guards. He motions to Charles.

THOMAS  
The gate!

Charles heads for gate lever. Gate slowly opens. Just enough room, the wagon rumbles through it.

Charles heads toward the wagon. Turns back and looks at Thomas.

CHARLES

Come on, Thomas! Let's go!

Thomas tosses a pole at the guards, and lunges for the wagon.

Aramack appears, staring at Thomas, hanging on to the wagon.

ARAMACK

Give me that!

He grabs a bow and arrow from a guard. The arrow ZINGS through the air AND --

CRUNCH!

It goes deep in Thomas' back. In agony, Thomas turns and looks at Charles.

CHARLES

Thomas! Oh... no.

Charles pulls Thomas inside the wagon.

Few barrels tumble off the back of the wagon, rolling on the ground.

Horsemen drive after the wagon BUT --

BOOM!!!

Big explosion of fire, blocking the gate.

Horsemen jump back as fire blazes the area.

The wagon disappears into the night.

EXT. THE ESCAPE ROAD - NIGHT

Thomas agonizes, clinging on to his life.

Charles puts him on his lap, looks at the wound.

CHARLES

Hang on, Thomas.

Thomas becomes weaker, coughing, tears in eyes.

THOMAS  
I'm sorry... Ch... Ch...

CHARLES  
Don't say anything. Just hang on.

The twin Princesses stare in horror.

Thomas coughs out blood. He is jerking.

CHARLES (CONT'D)  
Thomas! No, no, no, no.

Thomas stops moving, becomes limp. And he passes.

Charles embraces Thomas tight.

CHARLES (CONT'D)  
NO!!!

His agonizing scream ECHOES across the darkness into the night.

EXT. EVEREST GROVE SHELTER - DAY

The twin Princesses wake up to the sun in the horizon. A horse grazes nearby.

Nearby, Charles kneels, staring at a gravel tomb, mourning. A cross sticks to the top.

PRINCESS JOYCE  
So sorry about your friend.

Charles nods sadly.

CHARLES  
Go and wash yourself in the stream.

The twins Princesses head for the stream.

INT. PALACE/THRONE ROOM - DAY

The Captain barges in the door and kneels.

CAPTAIN OF THE GUARD  
My King! We found the rebels' hideout, but their shelters were all burnt down. No sign of the Twins.

The King, horrified, restless, walks back and forth.

KING  
No sign of the rescuers either?

CAPTAIN OF THE GUARD  
No, my King.

A guard barges in the door. Exhausted. Kneels.

GUARD  
... My King!!!

Everyone turns.

GUARD (CONT'D)  
We have good news.

KING  
Tell me!

GUARD  
Two strangers dropped by the gate.  
They said the twin Princesses were  
rescued and safe!

The King's face lights up.

KING  
The rescuers, they must have...  
Captain, send help right away!

CAPTAIN OF THE GUARD  
Aye, my King!

EXT. EVEREST GROVE SHELTER - DAY

The twin Princesses walk back to a warm campfire. Two rabbits sizzle at the end of the sticks.

Charles smells them. Gives the twin Princesses one each.

Princess Isabelle grosses out.

CHARLES  
This is not the Palace, Princess.

PRINCESS ISABELLE  
What about you?

CHARLES  
I will eat the left over, if any.

PRINCESS JOYCE  
Here...

Princes Joyce gives a piece to Charles. They chomp on hungrily.

Charles finishes eating. Feels his chest. Grimaces.

PRINCESS JOYCE (CONT'D)  
You got injured. Let me...

She reaches over. Few bruises and a bloody gash under Charles' shirt.

STREAM

She tears off a piece of her garment and wets it.

CAMPFIRE

PRINCESS JOYCE (CONT'D)  
Stay still. It will sting a little.

She cleans the wound.

Charles grunts. Grimaces.

PRINCESS JOYCE (CONT'D)  
Almost done.  
(long beat)  
There! All done now.

She fixes the clothes over the wound, stares into Charles' eyes.

PRINCESS JOYCE (CONT'D)  
Whoever you are, you have our thanks.

PRINCESS ISABELLE  
The King will pay you handsomely for your noble deed.

CHARLES  
I'm sure the King will... But I don't want anything.

PRINCESS JOYCE  
You look and sound like someone we met before.

CHARLES  
Of course, I'm with you two all the times!

The twin Princesses look confused.

PRINCESS ISABELLE  
What? How is that possible?

PRINCESS JOYCE  
Let me see...

She reaches out for the mask, but Charles backs away.

CHARLES  
No, Princess. I can't do that.

PRINCESS JOYCE  
Why not?

CHARLES  
If you ever see my face, you will  
have nightmares.

PRINCESS ISABELLE  
What could possibly be so bad about  
your face?

CHARLES  
It's deformed. Ugly.

PRINCESS JOYCE  
We still want to see it.

A long beat...

CHARLES  
Alright, if you insist...

Charles turns away from the twin Princesses. Slowly takes  
off the mask. They look on. Eager. Half way off...

CHARLES (CONT'D)  
... Still do?

Suddenly, a voice from somewhere unseen...

CAPTAIN OF THE GUARD (O.S.)  
(yelling)  
Princess Isabelle! Princess Joyce!

The twin Princesses distracted. Turn.

PRINCESS ISABELLE  
(yelling)  
Over here!

They stare intently into the woods.

The Captain and his men step out of the woods into the clearing. Run toward the twin Princesses.

CAPTAIN OF THE GUARD  
You two are safe!

PRINCESS ISABELLE  
Aye! And thanks to him...

She turns around and points... at a blank area.

PRINCESS JOYCE  
... And some strangers.  
(beat)  
Where did... he just go? He was  
just... right there!

Everyone stares in confusion.

INT. SOPHIA'S ROOM - DAY

Charles stares at his image in the mirror, washing his face. The A'kuma is on the counter.

INT. PALACE HALLWAY (SOPHIA'S DOOR) - CONTINUOUS

Princess Isabelle walks by and knocks on the door.

INT. SOPHIA'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Charles panics, quickly switches clothes and grabs the A'kuma. He knocks things all over the floor.

INT. PALACE HALLWAY (SOPHIA'S DOOR) - CONTINUOUS

SOPHIA (O.S.)  
Just a second!

The Princess listens on the door and hears rumbling noise from inside the room AS --

The door swings open and Sophia peeks out.

SOPHIA (CONT'D)  
Oh, hello, Princess!

PRINCESS ISABELLE  
Where have you been? And what was  
with the rumbling noise?

The Princess tries to get a peek inside as Sophia tries to obstruct her view.

SOPHIA

Oh, nothing. Just knocking over something.

PRINCESS ISABELLE

We need to talk.

INT. PALACE MAIN ROOM - DAY

The King, in his throne, stares at Sophia on the floor. The twin Princesses look on.

KING

Sophia, where were you?

SOPHIA

I visited my family.

PRINCESS JOYCE

You went out when we were in such crisis?

SOPHIA

I... I figured there was nothing I could do, so...

PRINCESS ISABELLE

... You left? How irresponsible!

KING

You have a commitment and you left without asking!

Terrified, Sophia bows low, dress spreads out - legs exposed, stares blankly on the floor.

SOPHIA

Please forgive your servant, my King.

Princess Isabelle stares wide-eyed at Sophia's manly legs. She points it out to Princess Joyce. They both stare wide-eyed.

KING

Guards, send her to her room!

INT. SOPHIA'S ROOM - DAY

Sophia breaks down.

Suddenly, guards kick the door open and storm in. The twin Princesses follow.

Terrified, Sophia stops crying.

PRINCESS JOYCE  
Sophia, tell us who you are!

Sophia remains silence.

PRINCESS ISABELLE  
Okay, you give us no choice.

The guards swarm in, Sophia fights back. But they pin her to the wall.

CAPTAIN OF THE GUARD  
Strip her!

The guards violently tear off her clothes, two cotton balls fall to the floor.

PRINCESS JOYCE  
Who are you, really?

A view from Sophia's back, she slowly peels off the mask --

TO REVEAL:

Charles!

The twin Princesses, hands over mouth, stare wide-eyed, in a state of disbelief.

PRINCESS ISABELLE  
(yelling)  
Oh my!

INT. ESTABLISHING THE PRISON - DAY

A horrible, terrifying place: A place that terrorizes even the strongest person; bare floors with cracks, mice run wildly around, chasing after roaches and crumbs.

INT. PRISON HALLWAY - DAY

The guards bring Charles to the Prison Keeper, Baron.

BARON  
What's his charge?

CAPTAIN OF THE GUARD  
Deception and betrayal.

Baron opens the cell door and shoves Charles inside. Slams the cell door shut.

INT. PRISON CELL - DAY

Crowded cell. PRISONERS stink like dead carcass.

PRISONER 1  
How does a person like you end up  
in here?

Charles stares on the ground. Silence.

PRISONER 2  
Isn't that a typical response when  
you are caught red-handed?

Prisoner 3 interrupts. Punches Prisoner 2 in the face.

PRISONER 3  
Shut up, you bastard! Why are you  
so quick to judge?

They scuffle. Charles stops them.

CHARLES  
Let him say whatever he wants to.

Exhausted, Prisoner 2 stares on the floor.

INT. PRINCESS ISABELLE'S ROOM - DAY

Princess Isabelle sobs. Jumps on the bed. Screams.

A knock on the door. Princess Isabelle buries her face in the pillow.

The door squeaks open, Princess Joyce steps in.

PRINCESS ISABELLE  
I feel awful! I just want to kill  
that bastard!

She pounds on her bed.

PRINCESS JOYCE  
Don't hurt yourself, Sister.

She lunges toward Princess Joyce. They embrace.

INT. PRISON CELL - NIGHT

Charles lies on a thin mat. Tosses. Turns. Scratches.

INT. PRISON HALL - MORNING

Metal clangs. Footsteps echo across the hallways.

BARON  
(shouting)  
Get up, you wretched! Time to  
work!

Baron's voice fills the hallways. Prisoners moan and groan, slowly waking up.

Baron opens the cell doors. Guards scurry by.

INT. ESTABLISHING THE UNDERGROUND MINE - DAY

Beneath the beautiful Palace, lies a terrifying place; a gruesome place of torture, where the strongest come back crawling at the end of the day.

INT. MINING QUARTER - DAY

Each prisoner takes a spade. They dig in tormented as spades penetrating the rock-hardened soil. Sounds echo endlessly.

A fellow prisoner falls. Charles walks over, and picks him up. A guard strikes him.

GUARD  
Get back to your area!

Bumps and bruises, Charles walks back to his area and digs. His strength weakens by the hour.

The torture ends. Charles drags along in exhaustion.

INT. PRISON CELL - NIGHT

Tosses and turns, Charles groans. Drained-out. Confused. Even regretful.

Clear sky, FILLED with bright stars. The full moon SHINES brightly.

INT. THE PRISON CELL - MORNING

The cell door opens and Baron shoves Prisoner 1 in to the floor. Bruised and beaten up.

BARON  
Charles, you are NEXT!

CHARLES  
I'm in pain...

BARON  
NOW!

Baron drags Charles out.

Charles scales the wall, drags himself along.

EXT. FIGHTING RING - CONTINUOUS

Charles limps into the ring. Staggered around.

A guard steps inside. Gives Charles a few punches.

Charles falls. Gets up. More punches, Charles falls again. Can't stand up.

FIGHTER GUARD  
This is no fun! NEXT!

INT. THE PRISON CELL - DAY

The cell door opens, Baron shoves Charles on the floor. He crawls and groans.

BARON  
You! Come out!

He points at Prisoner 1. His face drops. Terrified.

INT. PALACE THRONE ROOM - DAY

The King sits silently in his throne. His mind is far away. Princess Isabelle stands nearby.

PRINCESS ISABELLE

Father, I beg you. Charles may have deceived you, but his crime doesn't deserve such punishment.

KING

What do you suggest we do, Princess?

PRINCESS ISABELLE

Let him serve only five days in the prison, then release him and of his duty.

INT. PRISON CELL - NIGHT

Clothes all torn, Charles lies on the thin mat. Baron checks in and bends down.

BARON

What's a young man like yourself doing...

As Baron speaks, he looks down on Charles' back. He notices a mark - an eagle tattoo. Baron's heart sinks, shaken, he steps outside.

INT. PRISON KEEPERS' SHACK - NIGHT

Baron's men playing chess. Talking. Laughing loudly.

Baron steps inside. Shaken with a horror face. His men stare at him. Puzzled.

BARON

(whispering)

We have a problem. The boy didn't die.

(beat)

He is here!

All look scared.

BARON (CONT'D)

What do we do now?

Whispers among them.

Baron pauses. Walks back and forth a few times. Raises his finger in the air.

BARON (CONT'D)  
 (whispering)  
 I have a plan. Here is what we are  
 going to do.

Baron motions to his men. Band their heads together.  
 Whispers. Everyone nods.

INT. PRISON ENTRANCE - NIGHT

A guard patrols the area.

Behind a bush, a SHADOW FIGURE moves in and takes down the  
 patrolling guard. Another FIGURE joins him.

They pull the unconscious guard behind a bush and enter the  
 prison.

INT. PRISON HALLWAY - NIGHT

The two figures sneak to Charles' cell and unlock the door.  
 They speak with their hands only. Grab Charles and sneak  
 out.

EXT. ESCAPE ROUTE - DAWN

Two men in black cloak and with hoods help Charles to a  
 clearing. One man takes out a cloak with a hood, black and  
 white pattern on the back. Hands it to Charles.

MAN 1  
 Here, put this cloak on.

MAN 2  
 Jump on this wagon and take the  
 road to your right, past the  
 valley. When you come to a flat  
 area, and a clearing, wait there.

Baron's men jump on their horses and disappear.

Charles reins his horse swiftly through the valley.

All tied up, the Princess awakens, pops her head out from  
 under the trunk. She sees a man in black cloak with a hood  
 driving the wagon.

EXT. THE ESCAPE ROAD/IN THE CLEARING - DAY

Charles reaches the clearing and stops in the middle. Looks around.

Suddenly, the King's army swarms in and surrounds Charles.

The Captain steps forward.

Charles is confused as to what just happened.

CAPTAIN OF THE GUARD

Charles, do you realize what you  
have done? Search the wagon!

The guards storm the wagon. Out pops the Princess from the trunk, mouth gagged and hands all tied up.

The guards untie the Princess and she steps down, shaken and terrified.

A guard grabs Charles and pulls. He tumbles down.

The hood comes off. The Princess, seeing is believing, full of fury, approaches Charles.

PRINCESS ISABELLE

(yelling)

Why did you have to stoop this low  
to do such?

Dumbfounded, Charles stares on the ground.

The Princess slaps Charles hard on the face. Jumps on a horse and gallops away.

INT. PALACE MAIN ROOM - DAY

The King sits restlessly, still terrified. The Advisors and Queen comfort the King.

ADVISOR 2

My King, tell us what happened!

KING

I was sleeping soundly...

BEGIN FLASHBACK:

INT. THE KING'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Dark, except the moonlight. The King sleeps soundly. Snores. A soft THUD is heard. The window SQUEAKS, slowly opens. A DARK FIGURE with a black bag over his head appears, crawls through the window.

He steps down from the window. His footsteps awaken the King, but he doesn't move. The figure jumps on the bed, sword flashing in the moonlight. He jumps high to spear the King, but he rolls out of the bed. Runs to the door, screaming. He opens the door and the Captain storms in, sword in hand.

The dark figure and Captain slash at each other. The Captain lands a few blows on the dark figure, he dashes for the window and jumps off.

END FLASHBACK

INT. PALACE MAIN ROOM - DAY

The Council members Advisors listen. Concerned.

QUEEN

Then we heard sound coming from  
Princess Isabelle's room.

BEGIN FLASHBACK:

INT. PRINCESS ISABELLE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

A small lantern flickers on a night table. The Princess sleeps quietly.

There is movement outside her window. SOMEONE in pitch black cloak slowly opens the window. Sneaks in. Then there is ANOTHER ONE, following.

The Princess is still sleeps. Then two figures jump on the Princess, she wakes up and scream. But her scream is abruptly MUFFLED by a piece of cloth over her mouth.

They tie her quickly, lower her through the window. Disappear into the darkness.

END FLASHBACK

INT. PALACE MAIN ROOM - DAY

Princess Isabelle barges in the door. The twin Princesses embrace. The Queen and King join in.

QUEEN

Princess!

KING

Thank goodness, you are safe!

The Captain barges in from the door.

CAPTAIN OF THE GUARD

My King, we caught the kidnapper.  
We believe he is the same person  
that also tried to kill you.

Guards storm in, dragging Charles in their midst. Shove him before the King.

Princess Joyce stares in disbelief.

CAPTAIN OF THE GUARD (CONT'D)

My King, is this the man?

The King stares at Charles up and down.

KING

Aye, that's him!

Furious, the King grabs a sword from a guard and lunges it at Charles.

Calmly, Charles lifts up his head. Closes his eyes BUT --

Princess Joyce steps in front of Charles.

PRINCESS JOYCE

NO!!!

The King stops. Tip of sword just inches from Princess Joyce.

KING

What are you doing?

PRINCESS JOYCE

I won't allow this, father. I feel  
he is innocent!

INT. PRISON HALLWAY - DAY

Two guards escort Charles. Stop by Baron.

BARON  
Welcome back, Charles!

Charles spits at his face. Baron wipes his face and --

WHACK!

Baron spears Charles in the abdomen. Charles drops to his knees. Gasps for air.

BARON (CONT'D)  
The fun has just begun!

Baron opens a cell and shoves Charles inside.

INT. PRISON CELL - CONTINUOUS

Charles drops to the floor and groans. He curls up and rests against a corner.

INT. PRISON CELL - NIGHT

Crickets chirp outside. Charles is sleepless. A big cockroach crawls on Charles's leg, he smashes it. Turns the other side.

INT. PRISON HALL - DAY

The Captain hurries through the hall and stops by Baron.

CAPTAIN OF THE GUARD  
Escort Charles to the King.

Baron nods.

INT. THE COURT ROOM - DAY

Charles, chained and handcuffed, appears in the presence of the King and the Judge.

JUDGE  
Charles is being charged with kidnapping and assassination! Both crimes were committed against the Royals, therefore, the penalty is death by hanging!

KING

Charles, do you have anything to say?

Charles remains silent.

JUDGE

Guards, escort Charles back to his cell.

EXT. THE HAWKINS' FARM - DAY

The two elder Hawkins sit, chitchatting outside their house.

Horses appear at the edge of their farm clearing and gallop toward the Hawkins.

The horsemen stop in front of the Hawkins' house.

GUARD

Is this Charles Hawkins' house?

BENJAMIN

Aye, it is.

GUARD

A message from him.

A guard hands Benjamin a letter.

GUARD (CONT'D)

Farewell...

They gallop back up the road and disappear.

Benjamin glances over the message. Shaken, tears stream down his eyes.

REBECCA

What is it, darling?

Unable to make a sound, Benjamin hands Rebecca the letter. She glances over it and collapses.

Benjamin pick up Rebecca and help her inside the house.

INT. PRISON HALLWAY - DAY

Princess Isabelle approaches Baron.

BARON

Princess, what can I do for you?

PRINCESS ISABELLE  
I want to talk to Charles.

BARON  
Aye, this way please.

INT. PRISON CELL - DAY

Baron leads the Princess to a cell. Charles sits sadly inside, looking somberly on the cracked floor.

BARON  
Someone's here to see you.

Charles sits motionless. Baron bangs on the cell with his club as the Princess peeks in.

PRINCESS ISABELLE  
Leave us.

Baron disappears.

PRINCESS ISABELLE (CONT'D)  
Answer me, Charles. Why?

Charles remains motionless, dead silence.

The Princess shakes the cell in frustration.

Charles slowly turns, and looks at the Princess.

CHARLES  
What is the use? You wouldn't believe me anyway.

PRINCESS ISABELLE  
You made a fool out of me! First, it was your deception...

Charles interjects immediately...

CHARLES  
'Because I love you!

PRINCESS ISABELLE  
What...? What a pervert!

CHARLES  
I love you, Princess. I just wanted to stay close to you.

The Princess is stunned. Shocked.

PRINCESS ISABELLE  
 Are you nuts? What kind of  
 sickening mind is that?

CHARLES  
 (calmly)  
 It is true, Princess.

PRINCESS ISABELLE  
 So, you figured since you couldn't  
 have me, you decided to kidnap me?

CHARLES  
 I didn't do it. Neither did I try  
 to assassinate the King.

The Princess jumps in...

PRINCESS ISABELLE  
 How can you deny such? The facts  
 are... are just too obvious!

CHARLES  
 Somebody set me up. You have to  
 believe me!

The Princess is furious.

PRINCESS ISABELLE  
 Set you up? Who would believe you  
 now? You make me sick!

Charles returns to silence. Sits motionless.

Frustrated, the Princess leaves.

INT. PRISON HALLWAY - DAY

The Princess stops by Baron.

BARON  
 Princess, did you get your answers?

PRINCESS ISABELLE  
 Can you tell me again how Charles  
 escaped?

BARON  
 Princess, it seems you are doubting  
 me. As your Uncle, I will die  
 trying to protect you and your  
 sister from any harm.

The Princess pauses.

PRINCESS ISABELLE  
 Never mind it. After all, what is  
 a peasant's worth to me anyway?  
 NOTHING!

BARON  
 Right... NOTHING!

INT. PRISON CELL - NIGHT

All quiet, except crickets chirping. A great sadness in  
 prisoners' face, chattering softly.

Devastated, Charles sits motionless on the mat.

Baron peeks in. Charles plays deaf. Baron beats on the cell  
 bars and startles Charles.

BARON  
 Got you to move, didn't I? I just  
 love to watch the face of a dead  
 man.

Baron takes out his knife and waves it in the air.

BARON (CONT'D)  
 Remember this knife? Let me tell  
 you: It was quite enjoyable.

Charles stands up abruptly and violently shakes the cell  
 bars.

CHARLES  
 So it was you that killed my  
 parents!

Charles reaches out. Baron steps back.

EXT. OUTSIDE THE PRISON BARRED WINDOW - CONTINUOUS

A DARK FIGURE sits in silence, listens.

INT. PRISON CELL - CONTINUOUS

BARON  
 I could kill you anytime I want.  
 But I got a better idea - with the  
 kidnapping and assassination  
 charges...

(MORE)

BARON (CONT'D)

'Give you a more humiliating execution... more gratifying for me.

Charles growls, bangs hard against the cell bars.

CHARLES

Everybody, even the twins believe you are this loving and caring Uncle of them. Instead, you are this two-headed monster!

BARON

No, I'm nice that's why I tell you now. You should appreciate that.

An evil grin on Baron's face.

CHARLES

(screaming)  
YOU'RE evil!

Charles' scream echoes across the hallways.

EXT. OUTSIDE THE PRISON BARRED WINDOW - CONTINUOUS

The dark figure gets up, disappears into the darkness.

EXT. EXECUTION GALLOWES - DAY

Charles, a black bag over his head, only eyes peeking out. Hands tied behind his back. He fights against the guards as they march him up the gallows. The struggle continues as a HANGMAN places a noose around his neck.

A large crowd gathers. Soft murmurs among some. Sneers among others.

Nearby, the twin Princesses peek out from the royal wagon. Leering. They mouth at each other as if they are arguing.

Princess Isabelle, unemotional, cranes to see the gallows. Princess Joyce, in tears, shies away from it.

In the midst of the crowd, Charles' parents and his two friends stare helplessly.

CHARLES

Ummm! Ummm! UMMM!!!

He mumbles as if his mouth was taped shut.

Baron's hands shake on the release lever AS --

The King raises his right hand high. Then abruptly, his hand comes down.

The trap door swings open. Charles falls through the hole, feet dangling, and kicking. His eyes glue to the twin.

The two elderly Hawkins sob, turn away. His two friends couldn't stand to look, stare on the ground.

Baron watches with a gratifying smile.

Charles continues to struggle AS --

The light becomes dimmer with each passing second. Then it is black, pitch black as the struggle comes to a still.

A guard in helmet stands nearby, staring at the twin Princesses.

Princess Joyce is in tears.

INT. SOPHIA'S ROOM - DAY

Maids clean. Organize. Sadly, the twin Princesses walk around. Observe. Items scattered on the floor.

A maid opens a drawer: Inside, a half-string. She grabs it. Princess Joyce notices it and grabs it from the maid.

PRINCESS ISABELLE

What is IT?

Princess Joyce stares at it. Hurries out. Princess Isabelle follows.

INT. PRINCESS JOYCE'S ROOM - DAY

Princess Joyce barges in the door and heads straight for her drawer. She opens it and reaches inside: A half string, attached to a bracelet charm.

Princess Isabelle walks in. Stares at it with curiosity.

Princess Joyce matches the two torn pieces of string. They magically reattach.

PRINCESS JOYCE

So, this belongs to him! Oh my lord!

EXT. GRAVEYARD - DAY

The two elderly Hawkins approach a tomb. Stare in sadness.

Loss of words, shattered by the tragedy; a long beat of silent, then Benjamin lays the sword next to the tomb.

He motions to Rebecca and they walk away.

From behind a tree, a MYSTERY PERSON watches.

INT. CAPTAIN'S HOUSE - DAY

BEDROOM

Charles wakes up with a headache, grabs his head. Sits up and stares around.

LIVING ROOM

A MAN stands by the window. Looks outside.

Charles pops out from the bedroom. Looks at the man.

CHARLES

Who are you?

The man turns around...

TO REVEAL:

The Captain of the Guard in plain clothes.

CHARLES (CONT'D)

It's you!

CAPTAIN OF THE GUARD

Who else?

CHARLES

How did I end up here?

CAPTAIN OF THE GUARD

You were a complete mess. Drunk.

Charles' sword lays on a table. The Captains grabs it. Tosses it to Charles.

CAPTAIN OF THE GUARD (CONT'D)

Where did you get this sword?

CHARLES

Passed down from my folks.

CAPTAIN OF THE GUARD  
Any ideas what the eagle symbol  
stands for?

CHARLES  
No, they never told me before they  
passed, so I guess I will never  
know.

CAPTAIN OF THE GUARD  
It's a classic sword for sure.

DINNING ROOM

Charles sits quietly, somberly. The Captain brings him a plate and sits.

Charles stares at the food PITIFULLY. Grabs the sword and steps outside.

EXT. CAPTAIN'S HOUSE (YARD) - DAY

Charles stands by a practice dummy. Full of rage, he releases his frustrations on it.

The Captain stands by the door and watches.

After numerous assaults on the practice dummy, Charles finally falls to the ground in exhaustion.

The Captain walks over, helps Charles to a seat.

Charles sits motionless, barely blinks, looks completely loss.

CAPTAIN OF THE GUARD  
Control yourself!  
(long beat)  
You still have a score to settle.

EXT. PUBLIC COURTYARD - DAY

Baron and his men escort a PRISONER in chain up a stage.

A crowd gathers. Some congregate. Murmur. Speak softly.

Baron motions all to quiet down. Readies himself for a speech BUT --

By the gate, a FIGURE ON A HORSE, in a mask, approaches. He arrives with a rush of wind, and jumps off his horse.

MAN IN MASK  
Listen up, everyone!

Everyone quiets down.

MAN IN MASK (CONT'D)  
Baron is out to convict yet another  
innocent man. We cannot allow this  
to continue!

The man in mask points at the prisoner and --

MAN IN MASK (CONT'D)  
He should be freed!

Everyone clamors in agreement.

Offended and mad, Baron approaches the man in mask.

BARON  
Who are you?

He takes off his mask only half way, then puts it back on.

Baron stares wide-eyed as if he just saw a dead man. He  
backs away and shrinks in fear. Stutters.

BARON (CONT'D)  
It's. It's. It's you!

CHARLES  
You are not seeing a ghost!

Baron quails.

BARON  
Guards! Guards!

Baron's men swarm in and surround Charles.

BARON (CONT'D)  
Kill him! KILL HIM!!!

They move in and lunge at Charles. He parries, toying with  
their attack. Then he rains blow after blow on them and they  
tumble to the ground. They crawl on their backs and groan.

He gathers their swords and tosses them away.

He turns and points his sword at Baron. More guards swarm  
in.

The Captain walks in...

CAPTAIN OF THE GUARD

Listen up, everyone! Let these two settle their personal matter. There is no need for anyone of you to get involved.

Guards look at each other, then back away.

BARON

What do you want?

CHARLES

(gesture)

You know exactly what I want!

Baron takes out his sword and takes up a fighting stance, moving, all the time moving, and walking.

From behind Charles' back, Baron lunges forward, blade fully extended. Charles easily turns aside, a graceful move, and Baron stumbles past.

CHARLES (CONT'D)

Is that how you attack, from behind? Fight like a man, not like a coward!

BARON

(angry)

I will kill you NOW!

His face full of anger and fear, Baron lunges forward at Charles again.

Charles parries, and as Baron stumbles again, he flicks the blade out, nicking Baron on the arm.

CHARLES

Now, it's my turn: Pay back time!

BARON

(really angry)

Shut up! JUST SHUT UP!

Baron lunges forward again. Charles parries it as their blades clash, ECHOING across the courtyard.

Baron manages to slice Charles once on his arm. Blood seeps out. He dips his own blood and tastes it.

CHARLES

Hmm, you get better by the seconds. Let's try a little harder, shall we?!

Charles lunges forward, raining blow after blow down on Baron. He falls to the ground and groans.

Baron grabs a handful of dirt and flings it into Charles' face, blinding him temporarily.

Baron slashes at Charles wildly, as he wipes the dirt from his eyes, unable to parry the wild blows.

Baron pushes Charles hard. He collides with a pile of barrels and tumbles with the barrels to the ground.

BARON

Hah! A taste of your own medicine!

Charles gets up and wipes his eyes.

CHARLES

No, a cheap shot, that's all it was. Nobody ever gives me a cheap shot!

Charles is angry now and his blade is moving faster than ever.

INT. PALACE MAIN ROOM - DAY

The twin Princesses read quietly to themselves. The Queen seated next to the King. Feeds him some grapes.

The Captain barges in the door.

CAPTAIN OF THE GUARD

My King. There is something you may want to see.

EXT. PUBLIC COURTYARD - DAY

As Baron and Charles fight, anything goes. A kick to each other as both go flying. They run up and down the steps, chasing, attacking, defending.

They fight as they move through the crowd. Baron stumbles and staggers around, shoves anyone he can grab toward Charles.

The guards now refuse to protect him and they shove him back in front of Charles.

The Royal family appears. Weaves through the crowd. Watches in confusion.

PRINCESS ISABELLE  
Who's that masked man?

PRINCESS JOYCE  
No idea, but he so familiar!

Charles rains blow after blow on Baron. He falls to the ground. Scrambles about.

Baron gnashes his teeth, lunges forward, but his strength is failing as his lunge can barely reach the man.

In an attempt to restore his pride, Baron gathers all his strength and goes all out at Charles.

Charles parries it, pierces Baron's hand so his sword drops to the ground.

Charles puts his sword to Baron's throat. Baron gulps.

Out of nowhere, a mystery SWORD to Charles' throat.

Princess Isabelle, stellar and as beautiful as ever, appears. Sword in her hand.

PRINCESS ISABELLE  
Who are you? Why are you trying to  
kill my Uncle?

CHARLES  
Doesn't this mask remind you of  
anything?

Charles turns to look at the Princess, his mask, so familiar.

BEGIN FLASHBACK

EXT. MOUNTAIN TOP - DAY

The young man struggles to his feet then moves off as quick as he can toward the royal wagon.

The twin Princesses peek out. Terrified.

The young man steps back and kneels.

YOUNG MAN  
Your highnesses, is everyone okay?

They nod.

He grimaces, bleeds everywhere. Gets up and walks away.

PRINCESS ISABELLE

WAIT!

The young man stops, looking the other way.

PRINCESS JOYCE

Who are you?

YOUNG MAN

Just a nobody.

PRINCESS ISABELLE

Why did you help us then?

He pauses, and turns around.

YOUNG MAN

Why not?

EXT. EVEREST GROVE SHELTER - DAY

The twin Princesses and Charles sit around a warm campfire.

PRINCESS JOYCE

You look and sound like someone we met before.

CHARLES

Of course, I'm with you two all the times!

The twin Princesses look confused.

PRINCESS ISABELLE

What? How is that possible?

PRINCESS JOYCE

Let me see...

She reaches out for the mask, but Charles backs away.

END FLASHBACK

EXT. PUBLIC COURTYARD - DAY

The Princess considers, hesitates, undecided.

BARON

Princess, save your only Uncle.

She looks at Baron, then looks at Charles.

PRINCESS ISABELLE

(to Charles)

Drop your sword! You know I will  
do it!

Charles hesitates, then drops his sword.

Seeing his chance, Baron reaches under his cloak, grabs his  
knife then --

A lightning move, he grabs Charles and puts a knife to his  
throat.

Baron pulls off the mask --

TO REVEAL:

A familiar face, Charles!

All the Royals stare wide-eyed.

Baron steps backward, reaches down, drops his knife and grabs  
his sword THEN --

WHACK!

A HILT to Charles in the back of his head. He tumbles to the  
ground. A kick to Charles in his mid section. He gasps and  
rolls about on the ground. Another kick. And repeatedly.

Soon, Charles crawls on all four, trying to get up.

BARON

You crawl just like your father  
did. How sad if he sees his son  
doing the same thing!

Another thunderous kick and Charles goes down in a heap on  
his back.

The battle continues in the background.

Princess Joyce leans over, hands the King something.

PRINCESS JOYCE

'Belongs to Charles.

The King stares at the bracelet charm in his hand.

KING

When did you get this?

PRINCESS JOYCE

The day we toured the city, father.

KING

This is a creed of nobility!

The twin Princesses' hearts sink. Stare at each in shock.

Baron stands tall, raises his sword high.

BARON

Now, you join him in hell!

And --

CRUNCH!

The strike feels odd as his sword penetrates and sticks in Charles chest.

Charles slowly rips open his shirt, and out pops the A'kuma from his chest. The sword sticks to it.

He gets up and tosses them out of reach.

CHARLES

Haven't you learn by now? That's the wrong place, moron!

Baron's face sinks, staring at the A'kuma and the sword. Stunned. Disappointed

Furious, Charles springs to action. He pummels Baron. Again and again. Baron rolls about in agony. Soon, Baron lies on his back, gasping for air.

CHARLES (CONT'D)

How does it feel to be at someone's mercy?

Then full of rage, Charles grabs his sword and jumps high in the air, SWOOPS down for the kill BUT --

PRINCESS ISABELLE

No, don't!

He comes to a sudden HALT. Freezes himself AS --

Everyone gasps.

Inches from Baron's throat, the sharp point of Charles' sword flashes in the sun.

CHARLES

(calmly)

No, I'm not like you, Baron. You are not worth it.

BARON

But.. But you were hung!

CHARLES

The Captain knows.

The Captain approaches.

CAPTAIN OF THE GUARD

Have your own men all been accounted for? Long story short, I was outside the prison window and overheard how you killed his parents and framed him for the crime against the Royal family.

BARON

You traitor!

CAPTAIN OF THE GUARD

Hey, I was only doing my job, saving an innocent man.

PRINCESS ISABELLE

Uncle... Is that true?

BARON

Princess.... I, I, I.

Baron is dumbfounded. Dejected, humiliated and lost.

Charles withdraws his sword. And limps away.

His eyes dart around, locates his knife. Reaches for it.

BARON (CONT'D)

Ha! Without the mask, you won't be so lucky. HERE!

The knife ZINGS through the air.

Charles sees the knife coming at him.

CHARLES

'Still have my bat!

Charles SWORD-BATS the knife --

WHOOSH!

Eyes big in agony, Baron two-handed grabs his own knife. Now deeply thrust in his throat.

Blood burbles up through his mouth and trickles down his chin.

He can barely utter any words.

BARON

I... I die by my own knife...

More blood bubbling out.

He stutters backward. Then collapses. Convulsing. Kicking.

CHARLES

'Because I never miss!

Baron struggles, trying to point at Charles as if saying, "You!" Then he becomes limp.

Time stands still as Baron lies on the ground - eyes wide-opened.

Deep sadness in his eyes, Charles kneels beside the lifeless body, and brushes over the eyes to close them.

A ring falls off. Charles picks it up.

Princess Isabelle rushes toward her dead uncle. The Queen follows. Screaming. Crying.

Shirtless, Charles walks away as the Royals look on. The King stares wide-eyed at Charles' back - an Eagle tattoo, another symbol of nobility.

QUEEN

(to Charles)

Hold it there!

Charles freezes.

QUEEN (CONT'D)

Guards, arrest him!

The guards swarm in and apprehend Charles.

QUEEN (CONT'D)

Citizens of Elphoria, heed your Queen's words! This man deserves death. He just killed the Queen's brother!

A gasp. Some tossing debris at Charles.

Princess Joyce approaches the Queen, pleads.

PRINCESS JOYCE  
Mother, no!

QUEEN  
Have you forgotten your role? Why  
are you pleading for your Uncle's  
killer?

Princess Joyce considers.

The King approaches Charles, grabs a sword from a guard.

KING  
(calmly to Charles)  
Kneel, Charles.

Charles obliges. Kneels. Stares on the ground.

PRINCESS JOYCE  
No, father!

Princess Joyce lunges for Charles.

KING  
Stop interrupting me, Princess!  
Let me do my job!

PRINCESS JOYCE  
Charles, run! Run away!

CHARLES  
I avenged my parents' death. Now I  
can die in peace.

Princess Joyce backs away.

The King motions to the crowd. It's now silent.

The sword flashes bright in the sun.

KING  
Charles...

The crowd gasps. Some shy away. Others crane to see closer.

Charles sees the shadow of the sword on the ground as the  
King raises it high. Charles closes his eyes, anticipating  
death at any second.

KING (CONT'D)  
... Grandson of the great Knight,  
Sir John de Bristol...  
(taps on Charles'  
shoulders)  
(MORE)

KING (CONT'D)

I, as King of this Elphoria, hereby  
proclaim you as Knight, Sir Charles  
de Bristol!

The Queen stares wide-eyed in disbelief.

The crowd is shocked. Confused.

Charles stares at the crowd in shock! His vision becomes  
bright white.

BEGIN FLASHBACK

EXT. IN THE WOODS - DAY

The young Charles, stares in awe at the black knight besides  
the King.

YOUNG CHARLES (V.O.)

Father, I want to be just like him  
when I grow up.

END FLASHBACK

EXT. PUBLIC COURTYARD - DAY

The Queen rushes toward the King.

QUEEN

He just killed my brother and you  
proclaimed him a Knight?

KING

What he did was just.

Anguish, mad, she sobs for her brother, Baron.

KING (CONT'D)

(to the crowd)

Without this man, the twin  
Princesses wouldn't be here  
today... He rescued the Twins, not  
just once, but twice! What's  
more, I just found out his true  
identity, he was a Knight all  
along. Today, he becomes more than  
just a Knight. He is our hero!

The crowd bursts out in joy, cheering.

Princess Joyce lunges for him, they embrace each other  
tightly.

PRINCESS JOYCE

Charles, I knew it!

Princess Isabelle watches with a painful expression, if imagined. She approaches Charles.

PRINCESS ISABELLE

Charles, I was so wrong about you.

Choked with emotion, Charles manages a distant smile.

The Captain approaches. Taps on his shoulder.

They nod at each other.

EXT. IN THE WOODS/AMBUSH SITE - DAY

A small group, Aramack and his men, gallop down a quiet trail.

Suddenly, the forest comes alive. Trees groan as they fall left and right, over HORSEMEN, SLAMMING them to the ground. Sharp branches and spikes, impaling them. They scream out in pain as their uniform takes on the red tinge of the gushing blood from their wounds.

From behind trees and boulders, the Captain's men storm out, swords lashing.

Men slashing away, lunging at each other.

Charles dashes out, eyes darting around for a certain man, Aramack.

He sees him slashing away at the Captain's men. THEN --

He dashes in...

CHARLES

YOU'RE mine!

Charles lunges at Aramack and their swords clash. Sparks fly.

ARAMACK

It's you again! That pretty girl,  
I still remember.

CHARLES

You will find out just how much  
more prettier I can get!

They swing their sword at each other, each parrying the other's attack as easy as if they are doing a synchronizing performance.

They fight, moving through the forest floor, kicking up leaves, breaking twigs.

Brock and the Captain are swinging, slashing away at each other.

CAPTAIN OF THE GUARD

Last time you took away my pride.  
This time, you pay for it!

The Captain sends a powerful kick into Brock, he goes sprawling to the ground.

The Captain lunges at Brock. Brock parries, but the Captain flicks up his sword. Brock's sword goes flying, CLATTERS on the ground.

A thunderous KICK to the mid section and --

Brock lands on the ground on his knees. Helpless.

The Captain raises his sword high, and comes down --

SWOOSH!

It slices through Brock's throat.

Immediately, both hands grasping his neck as blood burbling out, trickles down his chest. His eyes grow big, struggling, and he collapses.

Aramack sees Brock lying on the ground. Fights harder, but his strength is ebbing. Charles' sword now moves faster than ever.

As they lunge at each other, Charles flicks Aramack's sword away.

In the same motion --

CRUNCH!

In shock, Aramack stands still, staring at Charles' sword, now deeply plunged in his heart.

CHARLES

Like I said before, you can't win  
against the King!

He stares at Charles in despair.

ARAMACK  
You... You... You!

Charles pulls out his sword.

CHARLES  
And that was for my friend, Thomas!

Aramack drops to the ground.

The two rebel leaders lie on the ground, in pools of their own blood. The rebels guards stare in horror. They disperse and disappear.

EXT. HORSE STALL - DAY

Charles and the Captain gallop in. Jump down and tie their horses.

The twin Princesses stand nearby, staring at Charles, a fine knight in his new self. Big smile on their faces.

He looks up, sees them staring. Nods.

Princess Joyce rushes toward Charles.

PRINCESS JOYCE  
How did it go, Knight?

CHARLES  
I came home in one piece. And he felt my fury, unleashed. Well deserved, I must say.

EXT. CEMETERY - DAY

Charles gallops in. Jumps off his horse and sadly kneels beside two tombstones, side by side. He lays a rose next to each.

His face, full of sorrow.

CHARLES (V.O.)  
Father and mother, would you two like to see what your son has become?

Charles now has little smile.

CHARLES  
I did it. Just as what I wished for, I'm a knight now.

A big smile on Charles' face.

CHARLES (CONT'D)

I just wish you two are here to rejoice with me. It would mean even much more. Now, rest in peace.

EXT. HAWKINS' FARM - DAY

The two elder Hawkins stand by a fence, tossing food to the livestock.

They hear hoofbeats, turn round anxiously --

Few RIDERS in blue uniform fast approaching.

They come to a halt, one takes off his helmet.

The two elders peer closer - a powerful Knight, Charles!

Eyes big, they are shocked.

BENJAMIN

Charles?

REBECCA

Must be a dream...

CHARLES

No, it's really me, Charles.

He jumps off the horse.

The two elders lunge for him, tears in their eyes.

They embrace.

REBECCA

But we thought you were...

CHARLES

... Dead. Supposed to, but God has other plan.

BENJAMIN

Look at you!

REBECCA

Oh, Charles, how wonderful!

INT. PALACE MAIN ROOM - DAY

The King on his throne as Charles walks in. Kneels.

CHARLES

My King, you summoned me?

KING

Aye, Charles. Just something I have to get off my chest.

CHARLES

What is it, my King?

KING

Do you love Princess Isabelle?

Charles is stunned with the question. He stutters with words.

CHARLES

If, if... If I could beg for my King's forgiveness, I...

KING

... I know, Charles.

INT. DANCING BALLROOM - NIGHT

A huge room, a band of musicians with a violinists section. Two main singers: A man and a woman. And a choir section.

Dancers gather, all same size and height.. Sixteen men and sixteen women. All in masks. All ladies in the same style of white dresses, flowing to the floor. All men in the same style of black tuxedos.

All the dancers pair up: a lady and a man. They take to the stage, walk to the middle.

They form a circle. Men to the inner, ladies to the outer.

The music starts.

They dance. With unison steps, they veer right, swirling, holding each other's hands. The men swirl the ladies across the dance floor. They swirl back, twirl gracefully into the crook of the men's arms. Eyes just inches from each others.

In a continuous, unison flow, they switch partners. The ladies parry the men's move with elegance. On each swirl out, they swirl back to their next partners. And repeat.

After a few rounds, they pair up in two. It becomes a contest of wills, each matching the other in moves and steps as if they are battling against each other.

A contest of silence, each stares deep in the partner's eyes, parries the partner's moves.

The music slowly comes to an end. All the dancers stop, with their partner in their arms.

The King stands on a stage.

KING

Now, Charles, it's time to see  
which Princess is your bride.  
Please take off your mask, pair by  
pair.

In pair, they take off their mask. Pair by pair, comes down to the last --

Man and woman. Slowly, both take off their mask simultaneously --

TO REVEAL:

Charles. And...

Princess Isabelle.

Just inches away, Charles stares right into the eyes of Princess Isabelle.

In Charles' eyes, a burning passion and desire.

CHARLES

My Princess!

PRINCESS ISABELLE

Charles, I'm so happy... For you  
and...

They embrace, but she just gives Charles a cold hug.

CHARLES

Princess, what's wrong?

PRINCESS ISABELLE

Charles, it's not me. Look behind  
you.

Charles turns anxiously --

TO SEE:

Princess Joyce.

Standing there, ever so lovely like an angel, eyes glittering, staring at Charles.

Charles hesitates.

PRINCESS ISABELLE (CONT'D)

Go ahead. She is the one that truly deserves your love.

Tears of joy in both their eyes.

PRINCESS JOYCE

Remember this?

(shows him the bracelet charm)

You kept one half and put the other half in my hand, remember?

QUICK FLASH

-- Charles kisses Princess Joyce's hand. His bracelet charm magically breaks of into two halves, one half falls into the Princess' palm.

BACK TO SCENE

CHARLES

It was you all along!

PRINCESS JOYCE

You won my heart that day.

A monstrous embrace. A grand kiss.

INT. PALACE MAIN ROOM - DAY

The Queen faces the other way. Suddenly turns. Bursts out in anguish.

QUEEN

Why?! Why, Princess?

PRINCESS ISABELLE

I'm not ready. I don't even know him!

QUEEN

You marry him, you inherit his kingdom, Splendora!

PRINCESS ISABELLE  
I marry a heart, not a kingdom.

QUEEN  
Princess... You don't see the long  
term goal. You...

The Princess storms out the door.

INT. PRINCESS ISABELLE'S ROOM - DAY

The Princess barges in the door and slams the door locked and jumps in her bed. Her cry echoes across the hallway.

The Queen knocks on the Princess' door.

PRINCESS ISABELLE  
(crying hard)  
Go away! I don't need any comfort!  
Just go away!

Depressed and sad, Princess Isabelle locks herself in her room. Sits on her bed.

INT. PRINCESS ISABELLE'S ROOM - NIGHT

Same position, Princess Isabelle sits like a statue on her bed. Almost not blinking.

A few knocks on the door.

She remains silence.

MAIDSERVANT (O.S.)  
Princess, your food is by the door.

INT. HALLWAY - DOOR TO PRINCESS' ISABELLE'S ROOM - DAY

The same food cart, food remains untouched. A maidservant scurries by, bringing with her a new food cart and food. She looks at the old food cart and food. Shakes her head.

MAIDSERVANT  
(at the door)  
Princess, you really need to eat!

She leaves the new food cart and rolls away with the old food cart.

INT. PALACE MAIN ROOM - DAY

The King, hands behind his back, staring at the back of the room as Charles walks in the door. He turns toward Charles.

CHARLES

My King, you sent for me?

KING

Aye, it was the Queen, actually.

QUEEN

Princess Isabelle hasn't been eating for the past few days. Can you talk to her?

CHARLES

Aye, my Queen, I will see what I can do.

INT. PRINCESS ISABELLE'S ROOM - DAY

The Princess still sits in the same position, still like a statue.

A few knocks on the door.

She doesn't move. It's like she doesn't hear it at all.

A few more knocks.

CHARLES (O.S.)

Princess... It's Charles.

The Princess turns. Her face brightens up.

PRINCESS ISABELLE

What do you want?

CHARLES (O.S.)

'Just want to talk.

She gets up, walks to the door and opens it.

Charles walks in.

PRINCESS ISABELLE

Charles!

She lunges for him. For the first time, a yearning, a burning desire for him. They embrace. Tears streaming down her eyes.

CHARLES  
Princess, what's wrong?

PRINCESS ISABELLE  
Charles, I wish I could turn back  
time... The way I treated you.

CHARLES  
Stop talking non-sense. Let the  
past be the past.

PRINCESS ISABELLE  
... But I love you... I truly love  
you... now.

Charles is stunned by the Princess' words.

CHARLES  
Princess, if you truly love me,  
then please eat. Eat for me, if  
not for anything else.

Charles steps out the door and brings the food cart in.

Sets it before the Princess.

CHARLES (CONT'D)  
Here, eat. These are delicious,  
unlike the rabbit I gave you in the  
wild.

For once, a laugh and a great smile on her face.

CHARLES (CONT'D)  
There you go, that's the face I  
want to remember you by.

Charles stands by while the Princess devours her food.

CHARLES (CONT'D)  
Now, if I may ask a big favor of  
you. Please attend your sister's  
wedding. We want your blessing.

Tears start streaming down her eyes again as she finishes  
eating.

CHARLES (CONT'D)  
Awww, come on. Please do not cry.

Charles kisses her tears, wipes them off.

CHARLES (CONT'D)  
I want a happy blessing.

Gives her another hug. She embraces him, never wants to let him go.

INT. WEDDING THEATRE - DAY

Guests and nobles gather in number. The theatre is full.

A stage, a podium in the middle. Charles and Princess Joyce stand before a priest.

PRIEST

Do you, Charles, take Joyce as your wedded wife, to love and to cherish her until death?

CHARLES

I do.

PRIEST

Do you, Joyce, take Charles as your wedded husband, to love and to cherish him until death?

PRINCESS JOYCE

I do.

Princess Isabelle looks on AS --

Charles puts a ring on Joyce's finger.

A big applause from the audience.

Tears stream down Princess Isabelle's happy face.

In great joy, Princess Joyce and Charles kiss...

INT. ELPHORIA CASTLE/BABY ROOM - DAY

SUPER: THREE YEARS LATER

The same kiss, a TODDLER BOY plays in front of them.

Rebecca walks in.

REBECCA

I want to play with the baby outside. May I take him?

QUEEN JOYCE

Have fun.

Rebecca picks up the toddler boy. Disappears.

EXT. ELPHORIA CASTLE - DAY

The two elder Hawkins play with the toddler. Babyish chattering and calls.

Inside a ring, D'Angelo and Ceitimus practice with swords, sparring. Both laughing, shouting, chasing, playing.

Guards scattered. Some are like statue. Some are patrolling.

INT. ELPHORIA CASTLE/MASTER BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

King Charles and Queen Joyce hold hands by the window, looking outside. A beautiful view of the kingdom under a blue sky, stretching far out into the endless horizon.

Queen Joyce walks O.S., comes back with some grapes. Feeds King Charles.

A sheer joy on their faces.

A FOOD CART stands next to the master bed.

Charles, freezes, becomes a drawing.

INT. ROYAL MASTER BEDROOM - DAY

SUPER: FIVE DECADES LATER

Charles' framed drawing, now hangs on the wall.

The same food cart, next to a bed. In the bed, the old Queen Isabelle is dying. Her tears drop on the pillow. Eyes wide open. She never blinks. And she passes.

FADE into BLACK.

THE END.