

The Fabulous Zindels

(c) Dec. 11, 2007 Michael Shire

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TITLES

EXT. ROAD TO ABBEY - EVENING

The sun is just setting over low mountains, we see two men on horses. Riding into view, over a crested hill, are CAPTAIN THOMAS, 35, and his young charge, GERHART, 14. They ride along a road in 16th c. Bavaria, where the forest is thin and it is autumn.

GER

It's getting colder out, Thomas.

THOMAS

Yes it is. Do you want to get a blanket?

GER

No. I'm just ... missing the summer already.... how much longer?

THOMAS

Another hour my lord.

Nearby, they see a campfire set back into the woods. There are some covered wagons and caravans. Ger and Thomas look over.

GER

Do you suppose those are gypsies, Captain?

THOMAS

Looks like. They're wanderers, playing music, doing shows and trading goods. Not really a good life living out in the open all the time.

GER

Well, I guess in one way, they're free though.

THOMAS

The smarter ones go south to the Mediteranean for warmer days in the winter.

GER

(gathering his cloak nearer him)
What about if we galloped a bit?

THOMAS

OK, young master. Let's try to get there before it gets too dark... and see if you can keep up.

Thomas spurs his horse to a gallop, and Ger follows.

EXT. OUTSIDE THE ABBEY - NIGHT

Thomas and Gerhart ride up to the front door of the abbey, which is exclusively for nuns. It has tall 15 foot walls and a huge locked door with a peephole. Thomas dismounts, giving his reins to Gerhart, and swings the big knocker, which makes a BANG, BANG sound. Then he waits, looking up at Ger with a smile and a wink.

The peephole slides open and a woman SISTER BETH answers. She shines a lantern on them.

BETH

Who goes there?

THOMAS

Captain Thomas of the house of Bannet. I'm accompanied by young squire Gerhart Bannet, son of Lord Bannet himself. We're here to visit my sister, SISTER RACHEL.

BETH

You sound like gentlemen, milords.
You know this is a sanctuary to God?

THOMAS

Yes Sister. We will abide by your rules of conduct. We pledge this to God.

Thomas puts his hand over his heart and looks sternly at Ger to do the same. Ger also puts his hand over his heart.

GER

I pledge this to God.

BETH

Then you are welcome to enter gentle men.

The door is heard to unlock, as a heavy beam is removed. Then it swings open. They see three other nuns dressed in black, watching them. There is also a EUNOCH MAN, bald head, who is very big and strong, standing to the side with a tall staff. The abbey is a large building, with a walled front courtyard, and two side buildings - stables and a small hospital. Thomas retrieves his reins and leads his horse into the inner courtyard. Ger rides at a slow walk. They walk towards stables nearby, and they hear the big door close shut. The eunoch slides the large beam to lock the door. CAMERA pans back to show them at the stables, as Ger dismounts.

GER

(quietly to Thomas)

Why is there a man here?

THOMAS

That's a eunoch. He's not really a man anymore, but he's dedicated to God's service ... um, I'll explain later.

INT. ABBEY - NIGHT

Thomas and Ger are shown into a meeting room. RACHEL, 30, Thomas's sister, walks in, dressed all in black and greets Thomas with a hug.

THOMAS

Sorry to have arrived so late.

RACHEL

Oh Thomas. It is so good to see you.
I know I am blessed. And who is this
with you?

THOMAS

Sister. This is young master Gerhart,
whom I am entrusted to teach the
world to him. I thought he could come
here and see what this is about.

RACHEL

You came here just to see me?

THOMAS

Actually we're on our way to Munchen.
It is arranged that Ger will stay
with a tutor there and learn some
advanced language... reading and
writing , and history, that I can not
teach him.

RACHEL

(to Gerhart)

That sounds like a very fine
opportunity Gerhart. I wish you the
best.

THOMAS

Is it possible to ...um, stay here
for tonight? I was thinking - in the
groom's quarters? And tomorrow you
can tell us about life here...

RACHEL

(thoughtful)

The abbey is strictly for women who
serve God, but we will not put out
travellers or the sick. I'll ask the
Mother. Just wait here.

THOMAS

Thank you sister. I also bear
greetings from our family to you.
Father is still doing well, and prays
for you on Sundays.

RACHEL

Tell him thank you for me. Well, I

(CONT.) will talk to the Mother Superior and return shortly.

Rachel leaves. The two look out a small window into the center court with a few lanterns lighting it.

THOMAS

We'll be on our way again tomorrow.

GER

It's nice to have met your sister, the sister.

Ger smiles. Thomas looks at him and smiles too.

FADE OUT

INT. ABBEY STABLES - EARLY MORNING

FADE IN

A little early morning sun filters through a window crack and lights the stables. The men are sleeping here on two of a series of cots/mangers against a wall. A nun MARY enters. She is very excited.

MARY

My Lords. Please wake up. Master Gerhart, your mother is here!

GERHART

(waking up)

What? What is my mother doing here?

THOMAS

What is this?

MARY

Come up to the hospital. Your mother is resting after a harrowing ride.

The two men look at each other and get up to follow.

INT. HOSPITAL in ABBEY - MORNING

CAMERA pans from Mother, LENA, 35, to doorway as the two men enter. Thomas comes over but is passed by Gerhart, who goes to her side. A nun stands nearby. Lena is laying down, but sits up a bit when they enter.

GER

Mother. Are you alright? Are you wounded?

LENA

(dark-eyed and tired)

Gerhart. How good to see you. Give me a hug.

They hug for a moment, while Thomas is getting impatient. Finally he has to speak.

THOMAS

How did you get here Milady? Tell us what happened.

Lena lets Ger go, and recalls the incidents of the day.

LENA

Castle Bannet is lost. We were attacked. I think it was barbarians led by some knights. I'm not sure why. Our guards fought them, but some were killed. And I saw Einar fighting so many men that he was overwhelmed. I don't know what happened to him... I was taken to the stables, by SIR LAMBERT, and helped onto a horse.

Gerhart looks stressed and he breaks down and shows a few tears.

THOMAS

So you don't know if your husband is alive?

LENA

(breaking into tears)

No. I don't know. I pray to God that he is alive.... What can we do Thomas?

THOMAS

We can kill the enemy who has come to our home at night.

LENA

But you may also be killed...

Thomas thinks for a moment, and cools down a bit.

THOMAS

You're right milady. I shouldn't be too brash. Still we can't let anyone do this to the house of Bannet... and I must go find out if Einar is alive.

LENA

Please be careful. I can't lose you too. We can appeal to the Baron.

THOMAS

We will do that, but right now we can't wait for politics. If Einar needs help I am sworn to his aid. Anytime and anywhere.

Thomas gets up to leave. Ger stands up too.

GER

You can't go alone.

THOMAS

Gerhart. It will be very dangerous. I can't risk losing you too. Your mother would be heartbroken if you were to be killed.

GER

(pleading with his eyes)
It's my father. I owe him everything.

LENA

Gerhart. Don't go. Let the soldiers do the fighting.

GER

(to mother)
I've been trained in combat. Mother, you know me - if there is anything I can do... I must.

LENA

Stay out of danger, my love. If you are killed too....

Lena breaks down into tears again. Ger goes and consoles her by her bedside.

GER

I promise to stay out of serious danger ... and to come back to you.

THOMAS

We must leave right away. There is no time to waste.

LENA

What will you do?

THOMAS

We'll have to go to Einar's brother at Dijon, in Bourgoine, several days hard ride. But first I'll try to get some local support, starting with Sir Lambert. You rest now my lady.

Ger gets up and follows him.

GER

(to mother)

I will return mother. That's a promise.

LENA

You both be safe now, you hear?

Then he leaves the room following Thomas. Lena is still in tears. MARY enters and consoles her.

FADE OUT

INT. STABLES / EXT. FRONT DOOR -

Thomas tightens the saddle on the horse. Ger also is doing the same.

THOMAS

You've decided to follow me into danger. I won't stop you. But, if we lose you too, we lose the heir to the family castle. If you stay, you can always come back in two years when you're of age to claim the castle in the name of the Bannet family.

GER

I must know what happened to my
father.

Thomas opens the door and leads the horse out of the stable. Gerhart follows with his horse too. They both mount their horses. The eunuch is at the main gate and opens it for them. They nod to him and exit. The gate closes behind them and they set their spurs to the horses and gallop off.

EXT. LAMBERT'S STONE KEEP - EVENING

ON THE RIDERS -

Thomas and Ger ride within sight of a keep. This is the home of SIR LAMBERT. It is a two story keep on the edge of a small town. The sun has set, but there is still some ambient light.

THOMAS

This is Sir Lambert's home. We'll get him to join up with us. You stay back here ... just in case.

Ger stays back in the trees watching, sitting on his horse. Thomas rides further and dismounts, tying up his horse out front. He knocks on the front door. The door opens and he is captured by two men, slovenly dressed. They grab him and one puts his sword to his throat.

SOLDIER

It's Captain Thomas of castle Bannet.

They take him inside and close the door.

Ger's reaction is shock and he quickly dismounts, sneaks over to a nearby window, and then looks into the lit room through a narrow crack.

LOOKING THROUGH THE WINDOW - GER'S POV -

He sees the two men holding Thomas at sword point as another man SIR BORS, 30, interrogates him. Bors is rough looking and dangerous. He's better dressed than his men however and wears a steel breastplate as his only armour. There are six other fighters here, but the two holding him are: HEINZ, 40, a tall, brutish character and UWE, 30, who is shorter and always looks like he's thinking or scheming.

INT. LAMBERT'S - NIGHT**THOMAS**

Who are you? Why are you here?

BORS

Captain. I'm Sir Bors. And I'll ask the questions. What are you doing here so late at night? Looking for some good men to help you rescue your Lord's castle?

The group around him laugh at that.

BORS

Well, you'll find everyone here is in my employ.

HEINZ

Should he join his friend, Sir Bors?

They look over and see Lambert is dead in a chair, his throat slit, blood everywhere.

THOMAS

(very afraid now)

Why have you done this?

BORS

I need something more for me and my men than just roving the country. With no war on, we need a good patron. And Lord Braun ... is just that. Now, do you think we can trust you to leave the barony and not come back?

THOMAS

(struggles, shaking his head)

You can't do this.

BORS

We've done worse. Your Lord Einar is dead.

ON GER - Ger hears this and puts his hand over his mouth, holding back tears. He's shocked.

THOMAS

I'll see you hanged for foul murder,
you black knight.

BORS

Just what I thought. He wants to
stick by his friends...

He nods to HEINZ who pulls out a dagger and slits his
throat. His body slumps down.

CUT to Ger. He yells "Nooooo". Then realizing his mistake
he puts his hand over his mouth. He immediately turns from
the window and runs for his horse.

BORS and the soldiers look to the window.

BORS

Whoever that was, get him and bring
him back.

EXT. LAMBERT'S - NIGHT

Ger is running as fast as he can, and makes it to the edge
of the trees. UWE and three men chase him on foot. They
watch him mount a horse and turn and gallop away. Three men
from the keep shoot arrows and one hits Ger in the left
thigh. The others turn and run back. Uwe yells to the men
still at the keep.

UWE

(yelling)

Get the horses. It's a young man...
he was with Thomas.

Three men untie horses from the side of the building and
bring out horses by their reins to Uwe. He mounts the
horse, and two others. They gallop into the night after
Ger.

EXT. FOREST CHASE - NIGHT

Ger is hard galloping and is lucky as his horse misses some
fallen trees across the path. Following close behind is UWE
and two others on horse. The third horse trips on one of
the fallen trees and the rider goes flying into a tree. He
makes a winded Oooo sound and falls down to the ground.

The chase continues into the night and Ger continues down a roadway. Then he takes a hard right and goes to a cottage. He jumps over a fence, then a hedge and behind the house. Uwe hesitates, and then sees him in the distance lit by a solitary lantern on the house. He also goes through the cottage yard and followed by the second horse.

CLOSE UP of each horse jump.

UWE ducks last second when he sees a laundry line across the back yard. The second horseman does not see it and he is yanked right off his horse by it. Uwe looks back and then keeps going.

Ger looks back too and rides on. He rides across a field, with only a little moonlight on him. He goes across a low bridge over a creek and past another cottage. This time he circles around the house and comes out heading back behind Uwe. Meanwhile Uwe keeps going forward for a few moments. Finally he has lost the young man and comes to a stop, and stands in his stirrups and listens. He hears galloping back on the main roadway, so he spurs his horse to catch up.

Ger is hard galloping and comes to a large humped up bridge that crosses a trickling creek. He stops and jumps off, looking back. He takes out his sword from the saddle and slaps the horse on the rump saying Hya!. Then he quickly ducks under the bridge, limping and wincing.

Ger listens to his horse gallop off as he hides under the bridge. He looks at the arrow sticking out behind his thigh. Then another horse comes up galloping and loudly across the wooden bridge. As soon as it has passed he starts jumping downhill following beside the creek as it babbles downhill. He is in such a rush that he trips up and starts tumbling down. He falls partially into the creek and then quickly pulls himself out. He staggers down the hill some more.... then he comes across another trail and sits down catching his breath. He sees a light way off in the distance. He's not sure if he sees it.

GER's POV - Blurry vision as he looks at the distant light.

He examines the arrow again and decides he needs to break it off. He grabs a nearby stick and bites it and then with his right hand breaks it off behind his leg. He lets out a short YELP, and grits his teeth, then he closes his eyes and passes out.

He wakes up shivering and feels like he's being watched, and then turns to see someone only three feet from him, watching him. This is NICK, 16, gypsy and thief, dressed in all black and with some black smudges on his face. He watches Ger carefully and moves closer brandishing a dagger.

NICK

You're wounded. And looks like you're trying to escape from someone.

GER

(staying still)

Yes. From men who killed my companion, and shot me.

NICK

(looks him over carefully)

Why? You look like a gentleman ... Maybe I can help.

GER (sighs)

I'm so cold... help me.

NICK

I'd like to help. But is it worth my time ... young sir?

GER

I have a few silver...

He sees he'll have to produce it, so pulls it out of his pocket. He hands it to Nick and he's very delighted.

NICK

Thank you. A little appreciation is all I ask.

GER

Please. Just help me to hide from my ... murderers.

NICK

Don't worry. You can count on Nick.

Nick gets closer, pulls out some thin rope and ties it around his upper thigh.

NICK

You need to stop the bleeding.

He gets up and looks around carefully. He motions for Ger to get up. Nick gets under his arm and supports him. They hobble toward the distant light.

EXT. GYPSY CAMP - NIGHT

ON GER - CAMERA PANS as he walks through forest brush helped by Nick.

OVER GER'S SHOULDER - Ger enters a gypsy style camp with five wagons. There is a low fire in a central fire pit, with logs around it and a few people sitting down. Nearby are ten horses in a rope corral. The wagons each have a glow of a lantern in them. Just on the edge of the inner circle Ger is motioned by Nick to wait. Nick goes on and approaches a tall elderly man with pointy beard and moustache and sharp eyes. This is JEB ZINDEL, 55, the leader of the small troupe.

NICK

My Sire, I have found a pitiful
person, being chased by murderers,
wounded, and freezing in the woods.

He turns to wave his hand to Ger.

JEB

Wounded? Let me see for myself Nick.

Jeb walks over and sees that Ger is wet and shivering.

JEB

Yes, hit by an arrow I see. Come
closer. You're not a thief are you?
Or a cut-throat?

The men sitting on the logs laugh at this.

JEB

What's your name lad? You're bleeding
and you're chilled to the bone.
Welcome to our fire, and warm
yourself. Come, sit down.

GER

Thank you. My name is Gerhart of the family Bannet. And may I ask, who are you?

JEB

We are the Fabulous Zindels, of course. I am Jeb.

JEB leads him to the fire and helps him to sit down on a log. Also sitting around the fire are ANDREZ, 25, a handsome singer, his GIRLFRIEND1, 20, and EMILIO, 40, a strong man. Also sitting on a log together under one full length cloak are FONZO 25, and LUBA 25, who are tatoood. They are quiet.

JEB

Nick, tell Sura who we have here ... and bring a blanket will you?

NICK

Yes, father.

ANDREZ

Who DO you have there, Jeb?

JEB

(looking down on Ger).

Why don't I try to guess? I'll use my mental powers....Hmm. let me see. You are a young man with a secret that others want to kill you for. You were travelling with someone who is called a traitor to the castle Bannet.

GER

(amazed and upset)

That's a lie! Where did you hear that?

JEB

(surprised by his reaction)

Sorry young sir. Someone named Sir Bors came by only an hour ago, looking for a young man... must be you, I think.

GER

That man killed my father - Lord Bannet. My mother barely escaped with her life, and then our loyal friend Thomas went after them and he was killed too. I rode off barely able to escape myself and was struck by this arrow. I'll prove it.

Ger pulls out a gold chain necklace from under his shirt with small medallion on it, with his family crest BANNET. Jeb kneels down and looks at this carefully, then studies his face a moment.

GER

I'm a squire to my father, and heir to the castle Bannet... But the castle is in enemy hands now... this Sir Bors.

Ger looks sincere. Jeb then looks very serious. Ger puts it back.

JEB

A squire? I'll believe you. BUT you need to get attention on that wound right away. Here comes Sura, our family's healer.

SURA, 40, dressed in lots of lace comes up to Ger. Nick brings a blanket, and Jeb takes it and wraps it around Ger's body. Sura examines him.

SURA

Oooo. Let's tend that wound right now young man.

She leads him to the back of her wagon, where MILA, 16, a buxom beauty, has the door open. He's invited to go up the stairs. MILA helps him. Emilio and Jeb walk to the back and watch.

MILA

Hello.

GER

Hello. I'm Gerhart. You can call me Ger.

MILA

I'm Mila.

Then SURA goes up into the wagon too and helps Ger lie down.

SURA

(to Mila)

MILA, please boil a little water in the kettle.

She gets a smokey black kettle and goes out the back and closes the door. Emilio walks aside with Jeb and talks to him quietly.

EMILIO

It's dangerous to help someone like that. Especially with that rogue knight looking for him.

JEB

But we can't just leave him to those wolves. I'm going to talk to FLORA. Tell everyone to wait for what for what she says. And get Fonzo and Luba out here.

Emilio walks away and we see Mila and him going to the fire. Jeb walks over to Floras Wagon. He sees her looking out a side window, holding back a curtain. He knocks, she says Come, and he enters. The side of her wagon says 'Fortunes Foretold' and 'Astrology' and 'Cards of Fate'.

EXT. BACK AT THE FIRE -

Mila watches over a kettle heating in the fire. Andrez is sitting with girlfriend1 sharing a wineskin and talking quietly and she laughs drunk. Nick sits there warming himself.

MILA

(to Nick)

What do you know about this boy?

NICK

I found him wounded and cold. I thought if I left him he might die out there.

ANDREZ

(sarcastically)

We're such good citizens. We help everyone. But what about when that Black Knight comes back?

MILA

(tries to ignore him,
then to Nick)

What else?

NICK

He's the son of a Lord. He says his father was killed recently and his good friend too. They almost got him too.

EMILIO comes back and sits down on a log.

ANDREZ

(teasing Mila)

Well, Mila might have a new boy friend. If she wraps him in bandages then he can't run away.

(Andrez's girlfriend laughs.)

MILA

(annoyed at Andrez)

Why don't you just go to your wagon.

ANDREZ

That's a good idea, young miss.

(then to girlfriend)

What do you say my lovely?

She laughs and just smiles looking up at him. He stands up and staggers a bit and she gets to her feet too. They hold each other up and walk away to a wagon.

EMILIO

Sorry about Andrez. He's just teasing you.

MILA

I know. I wouldn't want a sleazy guy like that anyway. I couldn't ever trust him.

EMILIO

Probably not.

They sit quiet for a moment again, then hear laughter of the girl with ANDREZ. Mila shakes her head. They hear the boy let out a muffled yell.

NICK

That must be the arrow coming out.

LUBA

Poor boy.

Nick pulls out Ger's sword from its scabbard.

EMILIO

Where'd you get that?

NICK

It's the kid's.

EMILIO

He's not much younger than you, you know. Can I see that?

Nick hands it over to him. Emilio pulls it out of its scabbard slowly and sees it is quite nice.

FONZO

What's the kid's name?

EMILIO

Gerhart Bannet, an heir to a castle.

Emilio hands the sword to Mila. Shes impressed. She passes it on to Fonzo, and then picks up the kettle with a stick. They hear laughter from Anrez's wagon again. Mila glances.

MILA

I think it's hot enough. I'll be back.

She gets up and leaves.

FONZO

I know that castle. We've been there.

Then JEB comes walking up.

JEB

Where'd you get that?

EMILIO

(hands it over)

It's Gerhart's.

JEB

That is very nice. Looks like he's telling the truth. Where's Andrez?

Jeb puts the sword back into the scabbard.

EMILIO

He thought his latest girl needed some ... private attention.

JEB

I see. Well, the rest of you should know that after consulting with Flora, I've decided to help out this boy for a while. She feels we'll be good friends with him and his family. And he's going to need time to heal.

NICK

Where's he gonna stay?

JEB

He'll have to stay in our wagon I suppose. But I'm sure we can find things for him to do to help out. It won't be so bad. What do you think Fonzo? Luba?

FONZO

Sure Jeb. If Flora says so then I think it's good.

LUBA

I think it's good Karma to help those in need.

EMILIO

He'll need a new name, a gypsy name.

JEB

Hmm... let me think about that. It's late and I think we can all get some

sleep. We should get moving early tomorrow. The further we get from here the better for him.

Fonzo and Luba get up and say Goodnight. They walk to their wagon. Nick gets up and follows Jeb to their wagon. Emilio stays and watches the fire.

INT. SURA'S WAGON - NIGHT

This wagon has lots of shelves of herbs and perfumes everywhere. She's a healer and sells perfumes too. Maybe even some love potions. Sura is hunched over close to Ger, cleaning his wound, with white cloths dipped in a pot. Mila is watching and helping. Mila finishes mixing something in a clay mug and then gently puts it to Ger's lips to drink a sip.

SURA

Yes, drink that up. You'll feel a lot better. Mila, get the jar with the white cream on the center shelf, please.

Mila grabs it and opens it, smells it. It is strong. She hands it to Sura. She grabs some green leaves and applies it to the wound, then puts more green leaves (aloe?) on the wound. Then starts wrapping it with strips of cloth.

SURA

Help me with this.

They lift his arm and wrap it.

GER

(getting sleepy)

Thank you so much. I feel...sleepy

SURA

You just go to sleep now. You need rest.

Sura and Mila finish wrapping him, then he falls asleep.

MILA

(looking doubtful)

I guess he sleeps here tonight?

SURA

We'll let him sleep. He's no danger to us. Come my dear, we'll put up a curtain for your privacy.

MILA

Alright mama.

INT. JEB'S WAGON - NIGHT

Jeb and Nick are folding their beds down and putting down blankets. A wagon has two beds, one on each side, with sheep wool padding and blankets bundled inside.

JEB

Nick. You did good tonight... bringing that boy here. He could have bled to death or some wolves might have found him...

NICK

Yeah. Good thing I found him.
(a beat) Father, what's a squire?

JEB

Someone trained to know about battle. He learns horsemanship, swordplay, tactics, but also must learn to read and write... even gentlemanly and courtly behaviour.

NICK

And that knight chasing him?

JEB

Most likely he's a free-lancer. If he is a Sir but has no lands, then he'll work for other nobles who need him ... usually wanting something done that can't be traced back to them. That would be a Black Knight, not much better than a thief.

NICK

Well, even if I'm no squire, I can read and write.

JEB

That's the least that I can give you,

(CONT.) son. You're learning all about the world when you caravan with your people, the Romas.

NICK

How long do you think before he's well enough?

JEB

You don't want him to leave just yet do you? We might learn a lot of things from him. It's always good to make new friends, especially in high places.

They both get into their beds and lay down. Jeb reaches up and turns down the lantern.

FADE OUT

EXT. FOREST ROAD - DAY

LONG SHOT of wagons heading down forest road, early morning. Then climbing up gentle slopes, heading far into the alps. It is fall and the leaves are orange.

INT. SURA'S WAGON - DAY

Ger is sleeping and being jostled. His eyes open and he looks around. He sees Mila reading, then she looks at him.

MILA

Ah. I was wondering when you'd wake up.

GER

Hello. You helped to wrap up my wound?

MILA

Yes. And I'm supposed to feed you when you wake up.

Mila gets some bread and jam and fixes it up for Ger. He takes it and eats it.

GER

Thank you. I mean for taking me in. There's someone after me.

MILA

Yes, we know. He came last night and threatened us. He's seems very mean.

GER

(nods, thoughtful)

He killed my father, and my good friend. He's very dangerous.

MILA

(tries to lighten the mood)

Well you're safe in here. Just eat and rest.

GER

(looking off
into the distance)

Safe for now.

EXT. FOREST CLEARING, REST STOP - DAY

The wagons are stopped beside the road. Nick takes a horse by the reins and leads him to a pasture to eat. He ties a rope around his neck and ties it to a tree. Fonzo also helps with the horses, grooming one. Emilio is building up a small fire in a well used firepit, with logs around to sit on. Ger gets down carefully from SURA's wagon. He goes to Emilio.

GER

Hello.

EMILIO

Hello to you. You think you should be resting?

GER

I want to see if I can help.

EMILIO

OK. Just watch this fire while I go get a little more wood.

Emilio leaves Ger tending the small fire. Mila comes and sits down. Luba comes to the fire bringing some food to heat. Fonzo comes up to Gerhart.

FONZO

Hello Gerhart? I'm Fonzo, and this is Luba. Every seen a tatoood man? Or woman?

They both smile at him to see his reaction. Mila is also entertained by this. They have tattoos on their faces and arms and he can imagine many more places.

GER

(blushing a bit)

I've seen some, yes. On entertainers coming to our castle.

FONZO

That's right. You've probably been entertained a lot. I've been to your castle.

LUBA

Do you know what our special skills are?

GER shakes his head.

LUBA

Fonzo eats fire, and I can fit into a small box. Ever seen that?

GER

Not exactly sure.

Andrez comes up to the fire alone. Emilio comes back too, and puts logs on the fire and a pot with a lid to simmer.

FONZO

Andrez. Lost another girlfriend?

ANDREZ

Yes. She declined the opportunity to see the world. But she'll be waiting for me when we come back this way.

ANDREZ

(looks to Ger.)

Hello Squire. I am Andrez, famous poet and mistrel. How's your leg?

GER

Very sore. Like someone hit me with a log.

MILA

(smiling)

At least you've got some colour in your face now. You were a ghost last night.

ANDREZ

(to Ger)

Tell me, can we expect that knight to come back for you?

Ger looks up and says nothing. FLORA appears, bringing a mug to find a drink.

FLORA

Yes, Andrez. I've seen him.

ANDREZ

That's what I thought too. Could be dangerous ... to us.

Andrez sits down, looking into the fire.

FLORA

Hello all. Someone has some hot water?

MILA

Here you go Flora. Did you meet our guest? His name is ...

FLORA

Gerhart Bannet, squire and heir to castle Bannet. Hello there.

She stirs her drink and sits down on the log too.

FLORA

I've seen a vision of your family, young man. I see us as friends who will help each other.

Andrez is aloof, but the others listen.

FLORA

You will stay with us for a while, and

(CONT.) hide when Sir Bors comes.

Jeb comes walking up.

JEB

I was listening. We'll protect Gerhart while we can. He'll be part of our family... a nephew of mine. We can help him get out of this Barony. He needs to go west too.

(a beat)

What's for lunch?

Emilio pulls up the pot closer to his face and takes the lid off and smells.

EMILIO

Stew. What else?

Mila, Fonzo, Luba all pull out a dry long bread loaf. They do it at the same time and then laugh.

EMILIO

(smiling)

And bread.

Mila hands Ger a loaf of bread too. Emilio stirs it and puts the pot back on the fire.

CUT TO:

EXT. CAMP OUTSIDE AUGSBURG - EVENING

The wagons pass a sign that says, AUGSBURG. They go a bit past and pull into a clearing. Jeb comes to a stop and puts on the hand brake. He gets down and unhooks the horse. Nick comes around from the back.

NICK

You going to see little Eva?

JEB

Yes. I'll be back as quick as a wink. Don't start supper until I get back.

Jeb gets on his horse and canters away.

EXT. GYPSY CAMPFIRE - NIGHT

It is dark now and everyone except Flora and Jeb are sitting around a nice size fire. Andrez is tuning his lute. He plays some nice instrumental slow song. He sings it quietly, then accompanied by Mila. She watches him with some admiration. When the song is done, the others clap, and Andrez pretends to tip his hat. He takes a big swig of his wineskin.

Then Jeb returns riding up on his horse. He dismounts as Nick gets up and goes over to him, taking the reins and tying up the horse.

JEB

(walking to the fire)

Hello all. I have something special for supper tonight. Emilio, get the spit.

He pulls out from under his arm a wrapped up cloth, and inside is a gutted and dead piglet, ready to cook.

JEB

Mila, you probably don't want to see this.

MILA

Ohh, you're right. Poor little guy.

ANDREZ

But very tasty. Thank you Jeb.

Emilio comes back with a turning spit. Mila turns around to sit backward on the log. Sura stands up and faces Jeb.

SURA

I love pork too... but just call me when it's ready.

She walks back to the wagon, and Mila follows.

MILA

I'm coming with you, mother.

ANDREZ

Ha. They don't mind eating it but can't watch it cooking.

EMILIO

Wait until it smells good, then they'll be back.

EXT. GYPSY CAMPFIRE - LATER

CLOSE UP on the roasted piglet. It is mostly gone, and set aside from the fire now. Everyone is sitting around the fire now, finishing some bits from their plates. Andrez drinks from his wineskin. (DOG? Eats scraps?)

JEB

Ah, wine. That's what we need. Nick can you get the big pig?

Nick leaves and comes back with a large wineskin - a large pig skin. He uncorks it and lifts it up and drinks, spilling some on him.

JEB

OK. Don't go too heavy on that. Just a BIT of wine everyday brings good health.

He lifts it and squirts some into his mouth too. Then passes it to Ger.

JEB

Go ahead boy, it'll put hair on your chest, or something like that...

Ger takes it and does the same, coughing a bit, but smiling after he's done.

GER

Thank you. It's ... good.

Then Mila takes some too.

ANDREZ

(laughing)

Let's hope it doesn't put hair on your chest, firebrand.

They all laugh. Andrez passes his wineskin to Fonzo and Luba who drink.

Flora comes to Fonzo and holds out her mug. Fonzo gets up and pours some for Flora. Sura declines to drink.

JEB

Well that was a good meal. And good wine. Now we need good music and dance. Should we entertain our newest guest, friends?

Andrez licks his greasy fingers and cleans them with a cloth in his pocket. Then picks up his lute, starting to play. Emilio gets out a flute and plays an accompaniment. Mila and Nick leave. Nick comes back with a drum and tambourine, giving the drum to Fonzo. Nick starts to tap the tambourine in rhythm. Mila returns with her finger cymbals.

The music starts to get rhythmic and Mila starts to dance around the fire and around everyone. She dances close to Andrez, Emilio, Nick, and Ger equally, and loves the attention. While she's dancing, Nick pours more wine into a cup for Ger and hands it to him. Nick pretends to drink his cup too, but watches to make sure Ger drinks too much.

NICK

This is the Roma way. Drink up. Look, I'll drink with you.

ANDREZ

Yes, Squire. Wine, women and song. Drink up.

They all smile watching slyly as Ger drinks the wine. They want to see how much he can hold. The first song is over and Ger is a little dizzy sitting on the log, tottering.

ANDREZ

Next song. A slow dance for Mila to practice.

They start a new song and soon Ger is sitting back reclining, as his eyes are closing yet he fights to keep them open.

GERHARTS POV - a bit blurry.

Jeb sees this and shakes his head.

JEB

(smiling to everyone)
 You want to see how much he can
 drink? Not too much I think ... he's
 still a bit young.

DISSOLVE

EXT. GYPSY CAMPFIRE - LATER

It is quiet around the fire, and the glowing embers have become dim. Ger opens his eye and sees only Nick, sitting on a log near him, and Flora.

NICK

Ah. You fell asleep, squire.

GER

Yes. Seems so. But I liked the music.

Ger yawns and looks over at Flora. She's catches his eyes and stares at him for a bit with intense eyes. She looks mysterious.

FLORA

Now... I will look to your future
 Master Gerhart. Come with me. It's
 OK. Come with me...

She gets up and becons him to follow. He looks over to Nick who just shrugs his shoulders at him. Then Ger gets up and follows her to her wagon.

INT. FLORA'S WAGON - NIGHT

Flora enters, followed by Ger. There is one dim lamp on, but she lights a long match and then lights a few candles.

FLORA

Come in. Please close the door. Don't
 be afraid, young sir.

She settles down in a chair, and motions for his to sit across from her. He does so, but looks all around. He sees all sorts of interesting things here and there. He's a bit out of it though with the wine he's had.

GER

I've never had my fortune told.

Flora puts her hands out and grabs his hands tight. She looks right at him.

FLORA

I've already seen some of your future... through Jeb Zindel. You are linked to our family's fate now.

GER

Maybe you can tell me ... what about my father? Is he dead?

FLORA

Those questions we shall answer. Now... I want you to relax... just close your eyes for a moment and clear your head.

She lights some incense now, the thin white smoke rising. She then gets out a bag of tarot cards, and puts them on the table. She hums a tune as she moves them all over, mixing them up, then she stacks them into five random stacks, on a circle marked out on the tablecloth.

FLORA

OK. Open your eyes.

She grabs for his hands again.

FLORA

Tell me exactly who you and your father are. Don't leave anything out ... or add ... I will know.

Ger swallows nervously as he sees he is in her grasp literally. She closes her eyes.

GER

I am Gerhart Bannet, squire to my father Sir Einar Bannet. Our castle was attacked a few nights ago by Sir Bors, a cruel rogue knight. He said he killed my father ...

(he has a hard time with that)

FLORA

And a companion was also killed? Did you witness that?

GER

Yes I did. Bors had Captain Thomas killed right before my eyes. He cut his throat.

FLORA

That's enough. Now we'll look at what the cards say. Please gather up the cards and give them to me, face down.

He stacks them up and hands them to her. She deals out nine cards face down, in a 3 by 3 pattern, then sets the stack to one side into an area again marked out. Then she counts out three cards and puts them in front of her.

FLORA

First three cards are your past ...

She pulls out a FEAST, FOOL, KNIGHT. She puts these face up over the face down cards.

FLORA

Feast. You were living a good life.
Fool. You were caught unawares.
Knight. Your father who protects you?
The next three are your present

She pulls out a HARE, DEVIL, MOON. Face up again.

FLORA

Hare. You run and are prey. Devil.
The man who comes after you. Moon.
He'll come at night. The last three
cards ... your future.

She pulls out a JUSTICE, SUN, TOWER. Face up on the cards.

FLORA

Justice. For your family. Sun.
Darkness will be lifted. Tower. A
castle or keep...
Now. Close your eyes and concentrate on your
father.

She starts to hum again and rock a bit in her chair. Then keeping her eyes closed she says. He closes his eyes for a moment.

FLORA

Gerhart. Point out the one card that reflects how you feel about your father. Do it now.

He opens his eyes and moves his hand over the cards. He decides on JUSTICE. She opens her eyes too. She moves her hand over to pick up the two cards stacked together. She takes it and puts her other hand under it so that it is within the two palms of her hands. She turns it over and places it in front of her.

FLORA

Oh. It is the BLIND MAN. That's good news. I believe your father is not dead. But he may be ...somewhere hidden. No cards were death. That means you and your family can survive this.

GER

You really think that's true? That would be so ... great.

Flora gathers up the cards, putting them in the bag.

FLORA

The cards help me to interpret fate and chance. Some things WILL come to pass and others MIGHT come to pass. I'm happy for you Gerhart. The cards are favorable to you. Now let me rest.

She stands up and starts to blow out the candles. He stands up too.

GER

Thank you Flora. I am happy my father is alive somewhere.

FLORA

Next time we'll try something different. But you have a good sleep now. Good night.

Ger exits the wagon, bidding her goodnight.

EXT. CAMP - NIGHT

Then he walks by the fire which is almost out now, and goes to Jeb's wagon.

GER

Hello?

NICK

Ger? Come on in. We've made a bed for you. I left the lantern on for you.

Nick opens the door and quietly goes inside. We see the inside lit only by one lantern, Gerhart looks around and closes the door. CAMERA stays on door outside and moves around to look in the window.

GER (o.c)

Where do I sleep?

NICK (o.c)

Right there.

GER (o.c)

On the floor?

NICK (o.c)

Sorry, Ger, but that's all we got. There's lots of sheepskins. Just make yourself comfortable.

GER (o.c.)

(polite to a fault)

Thank you Nick.

The lantern fades out to darkness. The moon is coming up to full, but it is overcast.

FADE OUT

INT. SURA'S WAGON - MORNING

Gerhart is getting the last of the bandage re-wrapped.

SURA

Good news. It's healing fine, Ger. Just keep drinking that herbal tea twice a day.

Mila comes over with hot water in mug. Sura takes a powder and pinches it into the drink, then stirs it. Ger drinks it with a bitter expression.

Jeb comes up and knocks ; the back door is open.

JEB

Sura, my lovely sister, are you ready to go to town?

SURA

We'll be ready in only a moment. Are we walking?

JEB

I think we'll walk. It's less than a half-mile. And it's a beautiful day. We'll take one horse to carry your goods.

Sura finishes with Ger, and he gets up and leaves the wagon.

EXT. CAMP - DAY

Ger talks to Jeb just outside.

GER

What should I do?

JEB

You'd better stay here. I'd hate for you to be caught by Sir Bors. If you feel better, just help Nick.

GER

OK.

AT THE HORSE -

Mila secures a wooden herb sample box onto the horse's back. Sura watches and puts a lacey shawl over her head. Jeb joins them as they lead the horse way, then look back to wave to the camp. Ger is watching and looks a little lost.

ON MILA. She looks back at Ger as she walks along. She talks to her mother.

MILA

What do you think of Ger mother?

SURA

Oh ho. You have eyes for that young man, daughter?

MILA

I think he's nice. He's definitely polite.

SURA

He's young, but I think he's mature in some ways. He seems responsible.

MILA

I just think he's cute.

JEB

(laughs)

That's what you get when you talk to a girl, Sura.

EXT. CAMPSITE, AUGSBURG - DAY

Ger sees Emilio, wearing only a white shirt, coming back from the nearby creek, carrying two buckets of water. As he gets close to his wagon, ANDREZ exits, wearing only his white shirt too, and lurches down the ladder past Emilio, and goes to the woods to pee, which they hear. Emilio sets the pails down, and motions to Ger, who comes over.

EMILIO

Ger. Hope you don't still feel the wine from last night do you?

GER

No.

EMILIO

Good. Why don't you help me out here? Grab a bucket and come on in.

Emilio goes up inside, carrying one bucket of water and Ger follows with the other.

INT. EMILIOS WAGON - DAY

Emilio takes the lid off a big water barrel and pours the pail inside it. Then taking the other from Ger, he does the same.

GER

You two live here?

EMILIO

(looking around)

Yes, we share this wagon, and he owns the horse. Don't mind this mess. It's mostly Andrez. Good thing he's gone most of the time.

GER

Yeah? Where to?

EMILIO

To talk to the local ladies. He does very well with his looks and a bit of charm.

Just then Andrez comes back in. He sees Ger.

ANDREZ

Squire! Welcome to our humble home. Have a hangover?

He grabs his over jacket and puts it on buttoning it up.

GER

I feel fine, thanks.

EMILIO

(to Andrez)

I hope Ger will help me tidy up around here. Can you get more water, Ger?

GER

Sure.

Andrez then grabs a hat, looks in the mirror and knows he's handsome.

ANDREZ

I'll be out for a while Emilio. I

(CONT.) know a girl or two in this town. Maybe I can talk them into coming back here and helping clean up too.

EMILIO

(smiling)

Well, that's one way to help out....

Ger exits out the back door with the two pails, and followed by Andrez.

EXT. CAMPSITE, AUGSBURG - DAY

ON GER.

He first tries to figure out how to carry two pails with a shoulder yoke, then abandons that and just grabs both pails. He walks down a slope to the near creek. He goes to the edge of the water and starts to fill up a pail. He hears a woman laughing. He looks downstream and sees the back of LUBA naked and washing. She's with FONZO also naked. They are soaping each other and then rinsing in the creek. Ger is watching this sideways so not to get caught. We see they are almost completely tattooed head to foot.

CUT TO:

EXT. TOWN, AUGSBURG - DAY

Jeb, Sura, and Mila walk through the open gates of the town leading their horse. It is only slightly busy with activity today, as it is not a weekend. They see a few shops opened and the owners bring out tables to display a few items, or signs to hang up. The three walk to what looks like the very center of the town square, and stop, looking around.

JEB

Augsburg. I've always liked this town. Why don't you set up over here Sura? I'll introduce us to the locals.

Jeb takes down the box and helps set it up against a wall. They also have two folding chairs. Sura and Mila then bring out a large assortment of small jars. As one woman passes by, Sura stops her a moment.

SURA

Maybe you have an ailment? Or know of

(CONT.) someone who does? I have the latest herbs, teas and powders from the far east.

FOLLOWING JEB -

Jeb walks across the square and talks to a merchant outside his shop who is interested in this gypsy and shakes his hand.

JEB

Hello sir. I represent the fabulous Zindels. I am Jeb.

MERCHANT

Well hello sir. You look like a gypsy. What can I do for you?

JEB

We are Romas... at least that's our name for gypsies. We are camped just west of town and we offer many things not available here. Our herbalist and healer is just across the street there, and she has many rare healing herbs, spices and even perfumes for sale. And for those wishing to look into the future, our Fortune teller is very expert in reading cards and she has been known to receive a message from a departed loved one. The rest of the family are entertainers. Tonight at our camp, we will have music, dancing and other entertainments.

MERCHANT

That sounds exciting alright, but seeing it's not a festival day, not too many people may come.

JEB

Yes, I understand. Still I thank you for telling anyone who may be interested. Good day sir.

MERCHANT

Good day. I will spread the word.

Jeb then goes on walking saying hello to various people. Then he goes on into a Tavern.

FOLLOWING MILA -

Sura and Mila sit in the chairs, and look for possible customers. It is getting a bit busy but only a few people glance at their table.

SURA

Don't forget to get some fresh bread for the family today.

MILA

Why don't I go right now?

SURA

(hands her some
small silver coins)

That's fine. Here's some silver bits. Get one dozen please.

MILA

Yes momma.

INT. TAVERN , AUGSBURG - DAY

Jeb walks in to this small town medieval tavern. The shutters are open, letting in lots of light. He looks around and there's only four other people here. He catches the eye of the proprietor cleaning tankards behind the counter. He walks over.

JEB

Hello. It's a little early even for a roma to drink. What have you for a bite to eat?

BARKEEP

I know your type. You're a gypsy right?

JEB

Well, that's one name for us.

BARKEEP

My experience is that some of you are thieves.

JEB

That may be true. But I hope that our family can change the minds of people who think we're all like that. We're here to offer real trade goods... rare herbs and medicines, spices, and perfumes. You must know a few local women that would love some new perfumes from egypt or china.

BARKEEP

Selling perfumes sounds good. What other trades do you practice?

JEB

We are also professional performers. The Fabulous Zindels, and we offer music of the best quality, exotic dancing, and some other and mysterious magics for special audiences.

BARKEEP

Well... that sounds good. I don't know if you can get work in our town with those skills. We need more farmers.

JEB

(smiling, charming)

I see what you're saying friend... but we'll only be here two days then we travel on to the Harvest festival in Burgau.

BARKEEP

I see. Did you say you wanted something to eat?

JEB

Let's see... too early for meat I think. How about a slice of fruit pie?

BARKEEP

Coming right up.

INT. EMILIOS WAGON - DAY

Ger is watching Emilio polish his boots sitting just outside his wagon.

GER

Don't you think Mila is beautiful... and graceful... almost like an angel? Is she... with someone?

EMILIO

You mean has a boyfriend? She's as free as a bird. I do think she's one of the best dancer's I've ever seen.

GER

Emilio.... Andrez seems to get lots of women. Do you know how to talk to women?

EMILIO

I'm 45 years old. Too old to chase young girls, but I'm not an old man either. What I try to do is to be the best musician I can be. Some women notice that.

GER

You were never married? No children?

EMILIO

No. I've had a few beautiful women love me, but it just wasn't in the stars.

GER

What about Fonzo and Luba? Do you think they'll get married?

EMILIO

(laughs)

There is no reason why they should. Well ... unless you think it's a sin to love someone without being married.

GER

God says it's a sin. That's what my mother taught us.

EMILIO

Ok. Understand this Ger. We all believe in God and Mary and sins and saints. But we also think that we're human animals after all... how can we know if we love someone? We must be with them for a while first. It's complicated I guess.

GER

I know that a man and a woman get together to make a family... and to be blessed by God, they need to be married.

EMILIO

Well that's the church's version. When you get to my age, you've seen so many types of relationships that you learn the truth about people. That you really need to just love one another. I think Fonzo and Luba do. I wouldn't be surprised if they tie the knot.

GER

Tie the knot? I've never heard that before.

EMILIO

Really? Around us, you'll probably hear a lot of things you've never heard of before.

INT. TAVERN , AUGSBURG - DAY

Jeb is playing a game for two other patrons, two younger men. It is the cups and balls sleight-of-hand trick.

JEB

OK. This is not just for entertainment, friends. If you think that your eyes are as fast as my hands, then we have a wager. I'll bet one silver piece that you lose track of where the ball is. Who is up for the challenge?

YOUNGMAN1

Do it one more time for me. Then I'll bet.

JEB

OK. I'll show you how it works again. See... the ball is here, then covered by the cup. Then I move them all around quick as I can. If you followed it , you'll see it is ...
HERE.

He reveals the red ball. The YOUNGMAN1 decides he can do it.

YOUNGMAN1

Alright. Go ahead.

JEB

You must put down your silver bit, please. And I will match it. You will honor this wager?

YOUNGMAN1

Yes. I agree.

Youngman1 puts down one silver bit (coin). Jeb takes one out of his vest pocket and puts it right beside it.

JEB

OK. Let's start. The ball is here in the center. I'll move it at least ten times and then you pick it out, or the money goes to me.

He then moves them around fast. Youngman1 picks a cup, and Jeb turns it over and it is empty.

JEB

Sorry, that's wrong. It's here.

He turns another and it has the red ball.

YOUNGMAN1

Let's do it again.

JEB

I'll give you a chance to get your money back. But please don't be upset

if you still don't get it. It IS
difficult to keep up with how fast my
hands can move.

They set it up again without speaking. Jeb does ten moves
and then stops. Youngman1 picks a cup, Jeb turns it over
and again it is empty. Jeb pulls them back and turns over
the correct one.

JEB

You know in India this is called the
shell game, because they use nuts and
shells.

YOUNGMAN1

(beginning to look angry)
You got me twice. I won't go again.
You're too good for me.

JEB

(hands him back
a silver bit)
I'm sorry. Why don't I give you back
one silver bit. Then I don't feel so
bad either. Come out to our camp
later tonight, and for one silver
only, you'll get some fine entertain-
ment. We'll have music and exotic
dancing from the most beautiful girl
you might ever see.

YOUNGMAN1

Maybe. Thanks for the game.

They stand up and leave. Jeb looks around for someone else
to play with. One man is looking at him with admiration and
a smile. He comes over to Jeb. He is Jurgen, Lord
Gronwald's assistant.

JURGEN

Very good sir. You play that red ball
game very well.

JEB

Thank you. May I ask who you are?

JURGEN

I have heard about your family. The
fabulous Zindels right?

JEB

Yes sir. And you are...

JURGEN

I am Jurgen. We've heard about your 'fabulous' show and I have come to ask you to come this evening to Lord Gronwald's castle to entertain him and his guests.

JEB

That sounds spectacular, Jurgen. Let's discuss what our fee would be....

JURGEN

Would you like some wine first?

JEB

Why thank you sir. I think I will...

CUT TO:

INT. OLD STONE SMOKEHOUSE - DAY

Some daylight comes through into the narrow corridor just outside of a dark stone walled room. We hear the far door being opened by chains and a deadbolt pulled. The far door opens and we see BORS enter and walk toward us. He's followed by a GUARDSMAN, bringing a ring of keys. Bors walks a bit past the door and waits impatiently for the guard.

BORS

Open it.

The guard unlocks the door.

BORS

You can wait outside.

Bors waits for him to leave, then opens the door and enters the cell.

IN THE CELL -

Bors enters and sees a prisoner sitting on the floor, looking up at him. It is EINAR, 40, wearing only a dirty

torn white shirt and pants. He has shackles on his feet and hands.

EINAR

Why am I being held here? Is it for ransom? Just give me pen and parchment and I'll write to the Baron for gold.

BORS

I just came back to make sure you're alive. You're my insurance.

EINAR

Tell me... does my wife and son live?

BORS

Your wife knows nothing ... she's in a nunnery nearby. But your son... ah your son... he's led us on a long goose chase.

EINAR

You don't need to kill him. I'll pay you whatever you want.

BORS

I've already arranged for my pay.
(CONT. laughing)
And it's your money anyway.

Bors leaves through the door, closing it after him. Einar goes up to the little slot.

EINAR

Why? Why? Just for money? Damn mercenary. What about your oath?

CUT TO:

EXT. GRONWALD'S CASTLE GATES - LATE DAY

Two gypsy wagons move along to the front doors of a castle. The first wagon has 'Fabulous Zindels' painted on the side, and the second is Emilio's wagon. They are stopped at the gates as guards inspect them, and then let them pass. CAMERA cranes up over and we see the castle. The wagons drive right up close to the doors, and everyone gets out, bringing some of their props. Jeb, Nick, Mila, Andrez, Emilio and Ger. Ger motions Jeb to the side to talk to him.

GER

I've been to this castle before. My family knows the Gronwalds. I hope they don't recognize me.

JEB

As my assistant, you just keep your head down and don't say a word. I'll get you a good jesters hood that'll help.

INT. CASTLE, SIDE ROOM -

The whole troupe of the Zindels are sitting in a room on chairs waiting to be called to go on. Jurgen enters the room.

JURGEN

Hello Zindels. Thank you for coming. Please bring everything you need. They are ready for you.

They all stand up and grab their props or instruments and exit the room.

INT. CASTLE, CENTER COURT -

They all enter the large central court, and there are lots of chairs in a semicircle filled with the Lord's guests. Lord Gornwald himself, and his wife, sit in the middle on short platforms to elevate them.

JURGEN

(addressing the crowd)

For your pleasure today, we have the music and dancing of the Fabulous Zindels.

The audience claps while Andrez and Emilio step forward first. They walk to the center and bow deeply to the lord and Lady of the castle. Then Andrez starts playing his lute. He's joined by Emilio on flute. Andrez starts to sing a simple short song. While he's doing that, Fonzo and Luba, with most tatoos covered, enter on both sides bringing in drums and pillows. They squat on the floor and ready their drums in their laps.

Ger looks around carefully at the audience. He recognizes some of them.

The second song starts with the drums playing. Then lute, then reed flute. Mila enters by twirling a few times, her skirt flying out sharply. She pauses in the middle of the room and then starts to chime her little finger cymbals, as she slowly rises. She dances very nicely from one corner to the other, and around the Lord's chairs.

Ger is looking again, keeping his head down, but can't help but watch MILA dancing. She has smitten him. He starts to fantasize about her. SLOW MOTION?

Then he he spots SIR BORS, across the room leaning on a pillar and watching Mila's every move. He panics a bit. Then he looks over and sees Uwe. Then he sees Heinz watching him and Jeb with a serious look. Ger looks down again, scared.

The song ends and Mila bows to the audience. As she walks to the back, Fonzo and Luba rise and leave their pillows on the floor. Emilio and Andrez sit down on each pillow. Andrez sets down his lute and then begins drumming. Emilio plays light flute.

Fonzo takes off his outer coat and steps to the middle of the room. Luba gets a small torch and lights it from one of the candles in the room. She brings it to Fonzo. He eats the fire and then bows. Then she brings him two small swords and he swallows these. Then pulls them out and bows to the audience. Next he motions to Luba who takes off her outer clothing revealing her tatoored body. She writhes around on the floor contorting herself into impossible positions, as Fonzo gets the audience to clap. Then Fonzo goes to the back and brings a small box that he puts in the center of the room. She slowly gets in, double jointedly and he can close the lid. The audience claps. He lifts it and carries it to the back.

Then it is finally Jeb's turn. He steps into the center.

JEB

Thank you, thank you. Our final act is some trickery. It looks like magic but is just illusion. No black magic. Just entertainment for you.

Jeb motions for Ger to bring out a small table covered in black cloth. He produces a small crystal ball. Then he rolls it around over his fingers. He gets a black cloth and covers it, then it starts to bob and rise and he moves it around the room. Everyone is awed. He bows and puts it away.

His next trick is producing a wire birdcage. He takes a red silk bag and shows it is empty by pulling it inside out. He hands that to Ger. Jeb pulls a dove from nowhere and puts it inside the cage. Then he covers it with a red silk scarf. The lifts it up and then shakes it and it is gone! He gets the bag back and pulls the dove out. He bows again and has Ger remove the table.

JEB

Now for my final illusion, I'll take
our beautiful Mila, and pass swords
through her.

Ger and Mila carry a larger box out and place it in the center of the room. Ger retreats and Mila stays. The music is quiet.

JEB

Please welcome back my assistant
Mila.

The audience applauds and he then carefully puts her into the box. Then Ger returns with an armful of swords, perhaps ten. Jeb motions for the music to start again. He then takes each sword and carefully pushes it through the box. When he has put all swords into it, he rotates it on its wheels. Then he pulls out all swords and opens the box and Mila exits, bowing.

Jeb and all the Zindels line up and bow to the entire court a few times. Ger sees Bors watching them. The Lord stands up and is very enthusiastic,

LORD BROMWALD

Thank you very much. Very
entertaining.

The Zindels keep backing up and then turn and exit to the side room.

INT. CASTLE SIDE ROOM -

Outside the window it is getting dark, and the sun is setting.

JEB

Very good show.

ANDREZ

Yes, it was very good. But what about that black knight? I see he's still out there...

Andrez glares at Ger.

JEB

If he comes back here, he'll only find 'Petra', our magic assistant.

EMILIO

Don't worry Andrez. That knight already came to our camp ... I think he's satisfied that the boy he's looking for is not with us.

ANDREZ

Maybe. What about the way he was watching our Mila? Like a hawk watches a rabbit.

EMILIO

There's not much we can do about that.

JEB

Now where did Nick go to?

CUT TO:

EXT. GYPSY CAMP - NIGHT

Ger walks into the camp center carrying more firewood. Fonzo is sitting, tending the firepit, and grabs a log from Ger's arms as he walks past. Ger puts down the wood and sees Jeb coming with Sura to the fire and they warm their hands.

JEB

Well that was a good show tonight. And after today, we may have a few visitors later this evening.

SURA

Thank you boys for the fire.

Emilio comes out of Mila's wagon carrying bread in a basket, setting it down and then pausing before going back to his wagon.

EMILIO

I better start something to eat.
We've got fresh bread. I'll go heat
up some stew with pork.

JEB

Thank you Emilio.

Jeb is still worried. He looks around for Nick.

FONZO

(standing up, following Emilio)
I'll help.

Fonzo follows Emilio to his wagon.

JEB

Hello Gerhart. How's your leg doing
today?

GER

It's better. Thanks for everything.

JEB

Very good. Now here comes our first
visitors tonight.

They look and see a middle aged man with two young girls
coming. It is RITA and ANNA, with their father, HELMUT.

Emilio and Fonzo come back to the fire, and start cooking.
Ger sits down out of the way, staying inconspicuous. Jeb
waits for them to arrive and then greets them.

JEB

Hello. We are the family Zindel, and
we welcome you to our camp.

He makes a grand gesture and slight bow, then shakes the
father's hand, and takes the girls hands in his and kisses
them.

JEB

Are you the father? Yes. Then you are blessed, sir, to have such lovely daughters. Here is Sura, our herbalist and healer. Have you come for exotic powders or potions?

HELMUT

Hello. My daughters are interested in looking into their future, sir. I see your fortune teller's wagon there. Can my girls go and talk to your seer?

JEB

Please ladies, go right over and introduce yourselves to Flora, our lady of fortunes and fates. You sir, might be interested in some small game of chance?

HELMUT

(unsure but smiles)

I'd like to see some entertainments sure, but I'll not wager money. No sir, that's a sin.

JEB

Is it a sin to win money, or to lose it? But yes I understand your honor sir. We'll have music and dancing after we've eaten. Perhaps you're a bit hungry too?

HELMUT

Why thank you.

INT. FLORA'S WAGON - NIGHT

Flora is sitting down, eyes closed, with candles lit, and she is not surprised when there is a knock on the door.

FLORA

Come in, if it pleases you.

The two girls open the door, come up the stairs, and stand there a moment looking around. Anna whispers into Ritas ear

and they laugh a little uncomfortably. Flora opens her eyes and stands up.

FLORA

Welcome young ladies. I would like to look into your futures if the spirits are willing. Please sit down.

They both sit down in chairs opposite Flora.

FLORA

I have many techniques to learn the hidden secrets to help your life. Astrology, cards of fate, hand-reading, past-life experiences ...?

ANNA

I need a love spell of some sort.

FLORA

Ahh. I do not have love potions, or have any frog princes in little boxes. But I can help you to channel your emotion, passion, and energy to the person you desire.

ANNA

That sounds good to me.

RITA

And I need to know if I should leave this town as my father wishes.

FLORA

Well, we can try to look to the stars in the sky for you. If your stars are in certain rotation, and alignment, it will tell us if you can be ensured a safe journey.

RITA

Yes. I need to know what to do... and I don't want to make a mistake.

FLORA

Don't worry girls, I'll help you as much as I can. My fee is a silver sliver for each reading, BUT I must

warn you that I can only do one reading on someone each night.

ANNA

(gets out money)

We understand. Here you go.

EXT. FIREPIT , CAMP - NIGHT

Helmut is sitting down and finishing eating some bread and some stew in a mug. Fonzo and Luba are just finishing eating. Jeb is finishing eating and wipes his mouth with a kerchief and puts back in his pocket.

Mila begins dancing slowly as Emilio plays his flute.

Then the two daughters exit Flora's wagon. And come over to the fire. Helmut waves them over and motions them to sit down to watch. They huddle together whispering and watching Mila and Luba dancing in the light of the firepit. Helmut gets out his wineskin, tilt his head back and squirts wine into his mouth. When he brings it back down he realises he should offer some to his host.

HELMUT

Herr Zindel. Would you like some fine raspberry wine?

JEB

Sounds delicious. And very generous of you. Do you mind if we all have a little?

HELMUT

I suppose not.

Jeb gets up and goes to his wagon. Mila keep dancing. Jeb returns with two fistsful of tankards. He puts them down on a stone shelf beside the firepit, lining them up. He reaches out for the wineskin.

JEB

I'll pour.

Helmut stares at the mugs and reluctantly gives him the wineskin.

JEB

Would your girls like some too?

They nod excitedly.

HELMUT

We'll I suppose we'll all have to drink.

JEB

Thank you for your offering, Sir. Dancing is worth at least a full cup of wine for everyone... a small price to pay for such entertainment.

As the mugs are filled, the wineskin gets emptied. Jeb hands it back to Helmut. Jeb takes them and hands them to Sura. She brings five to Ger, Emilio, Fonzo, Luba and herself. Jeb takes three for Ger, Mila, and himself. Jeb makes sure to hand the last one to Helmut.

Anna and Rita also lift their mugs. Jeb holds his mug out for everyone to toast.

JEB

Here's to our guests, Helmut and his daughters. And to our dancers. As a roaming people we are always blessed to drink in the company of friends.

Everyone drinks up.

It is momentarily quiet, and we hear horses cantering closer. Ger stands up wide eyed and fearful, watching. He looks at the wagon to hide behind but thinks he might be too late to move. Helmut stands up with Jeb and we see BORS and one other rider, UWE. The horses walk up to the people, and the riders stay in their saddles.

BORS

Hello again gypsies. We're still looking for our missing young man.

Bors eyes Ger directly, and Ger looks down with panic in his eyes.

BORS

It could be him getting into trouble in town tonight. We have a report of a young man seen inside someones house, and some items possibly stolen. Who is this, Herr Zindel?

JEB

Oh, this is my nephew, Petra. He's been here all night. Just ask these good people here.

Jeb motions to Helmut and the two daughters.

HELMUT

Yes, he was here all evening.

BORS

Come here boy.

Ger walks over to him despite his great fear. Jeb walks beside him and puts his arm around him for support.

BORS

Your nephew you say... Where are you from then, boy?

JEB

(speaks for him)

He's here from Moravia. He lost his father, my brother, and now he's part of our family here.

BORS

(now angry)

Can't he talk for himself?

Ger tries his best at a gypsy accent, and keeps his words short.

GER

Yes, sir.

JEB

Well, Petra here can not be this same boy who is sneaking around town. We are law-abiding people, sir Bors. It could be a local boy, couldn't it?

BORS

Perhaps.

Then he looks around at the camp.

BORS

Except for the beautiful dancers I've seen, I don't trust gypsy folk. Just stay out of trouble.

Bors and Uwe turn their horses and gallop off back to town. As soon as they are on their way, Helmut is nervous and uncomfortable here. He stands up and motions his daughter to stand too.

HELMUT

Well. It's time for us to get back home. Thank you for the food and dancing.

Helmut and daughters leave their mugs on the stone table and start walking away. They bow as they leave.

JEB

Thank you coming. Good night.

They all sit down quietly around the fire as Helmut and his daughters leave. When they are out of earshot, they can talk freely.

SURA

Who do you think they're looking for?

JEB

I have a bad feeling that it is Nick.
I mean where is he?

Jeb looks at Sura who is looking past the fire, she looks at him and back. Then they all turn and look and see Nick standing at the far edge of the camp, just on the edge of the light.

JEB

Nick ! Come here. We need to talk.

Nick walks past the fire and goes to the lead wagon without saying anything. Jeb gets up and starts to go after him. He stops and motions for them to play music.

JEB

Go ahead, play something.

Then he enters the wagon while Emilio starts to play something on his flute. The others just sit there looking at each other.

INT. JEB'S WAGON - NIGHT

Jeb closes the door behind him. He tries not to raise his voice.

JEB

Was that you tonight?

Nick says nothing. Just sits down and looks downward.

JEB

You know that I want to spread the good word about us. About our people. That we are not thieves, but honest people. We shouldn't be suspected of crimes by just showing up somewhere. It's not good for our reputation to be interrogated by authorities like tonight. If we give them reason then we'll always be criminal types to them.

NICK

Yes, I understand.

JEB

All we have is each other and our wagons. We can't go back home, because we don't have any homes.

NICK

I'm sorry father. I just want something for myself.

JEB

You can work for it. We can make honest money with our performances. But now, you'll have to lay low tomorrow. I can't have them know we have two boys here.

NICK

OK.

JEB

Well enough of that. I think you know better now. So show me what did you get?

Nick brings out two silver candlesticks from a sack.

JEB

Those are very nice. I'd like to return them ... but it's too risky. Just hide them really well.

Nick feels quite ashamed, and Jeb gives him a hug.

JEB

It's OK son. I've stolen things a few times when I was young too. But I swore to give that up. You can too.

CUT TO BLACK:

EXT. CAMP AUGSBURG - NIGHT

FADE IN:

Late at night, Jeb is sleeping in bed. Ger wakes up and looks over to hear Jeb snoring. He gets up and exits the wagon quietly. The he goes past the horses tethered. We hear him peeing.

WIDE SHOT of camp at night. Some moonlight. We see two dark shadows sneaking into camp.

ON GER, he walks back to the wagons, feeling his way in the dark. Suddenly he's confronted with Nick. He makes the SHHH motion to his lips. Then waves him to follow. They both go carefully in the dark to FONZO's wagon. They hear the two of them inside making love. She's moaning a little. There's only moonlight coming in through the window. Both boys sneak up to the edge and peer in. They see some nakedness and some kissing.

After a moment, Ger feels someone watching him too, and he looks around. He sees Mila in the shadows watching the two boys. Ger takes a moment to adjust his eyes to seeing her. Then a dark shadow comes behind her and grabs her! She makes a small yelp, but her mouth is covered by the man.

GER

Nick! There's someone here! Quick. At the wagon, look! There's a man!

NICK

Who could that be?

Fonzo stops and looks out his window, seeing the boys.

FONZO

Who's there?

GER

It's us. Mila's in trouble... come quick. I think she's kidnapped.

At Jeb's wagon, the light inside quickly grows as he turns up a lantern. Jeb comes out... The two boys run to him.

JEB

What's that? Some trouble?

NICK

Ger says that Mila's been kidnapped.

GER

It's Mila, Jeb. We've got to save her. She's been taken by a man in the darkness.

Ger jumps into the wagon and gets his sword.

JEB

Get me a sword too, young squire.

Jeb puts on his long coat. Then Gerhart comes out of the wagon with two swords, pulls his out of its scabbard and leaves it there. He starts to run into the night searching... Jeb follows with lantern and sword. Nick comes along too.

GER

Over here. I heard some scuffling...

Ger goes past the horses and we see a man with a black scarf over his face, lit by the moonlight. He's struggling to get Mila onto the back of a horse. She's up on top, draped over the sides, with hands tied and mouth gagged. Ger runs right up to him. It is a masked man (UWE). Ger brandishes his sword at him.

GER

Leave her alone you rogue.

Uwe pulls out a sword too and they parry twice. Then JEB comes up lighting up both of them with the lantern.

JEB

You villain. You would take this innocent girl with you?

Uwe realizes he's almost caught, so he swats the swords away with his sword. Ger lands a small cut to his face. The man pauses as his mask was cut into and feels the blood on his face. He dashes into the woods and is gone from sight. Nick think to go after him, but Jeb calls him back.

JEB

Nick! We can't go after him in the dark. We've stopped him. That's enough.

Ger helps Mila to get down off the horse, and takes off the mouth gag.

GER

Mila, are you alright?

MILA

Oh, thank you Gerhart.

She's shaking a bit and shes upset. Ger hugs her and consoles her.

JEB

Yes. You've saved us from catastrophe. Who knows what they'd do to this poor girl.

GER

You think he's working for someone... Sir Bors?

JEB

Quite possible. But if that's true, they now know you're here. You don't act like a typical Roma and you're accent is not foreign. They'll come very soon for you. We have to leave now.

Jeb consoles her too now and takes her away from Ger, back to her wagon. They all walk back to camp. Fonzo comes running up. He sees Mila.

FONZO

Is Mila OK?

JEB

Thanks to Ger, yes...

FADE OUT

EXT. FOREST ROAD - EARLY MORNING

All wagons are already moving down the road. The first wagon is JEB's and he's in front driving his wagon forward at a walking pace. Then the other wagons fall into line. They have to move to one side as a farmer with a large load of hay in a wagon has to pass them.

EXT. ON THE ROAD, LATER - DAY

On one stretch of road we follow JEB driving the wagon from sitting in front. Nick comes out and sits down beside his father.

NICK

Everyone's worried about what happened last night. Do you think we've got some sort of curse on us now?

JEB

Flora says that we can and should help Gerhart. He needs help. I trust in fate. I don't think it will lead us wrong.

NICK

Ger was kinda noble last night, wasn't he?

JEB

Yes he was. He's got noble blood in him. We just need to help him get to his next of kin in Bourgoine.

LONG SHOT of the wagons travelling. Ger is riding in the first wagon, looking out the back window. Then we see two horses come riding up behind the caravan of wagons. Ger pulls back and hides, peeking through the curtains. It is BORS and HEINZ. They come right past all wagons up to the

front. Bors motions to Heinz and he goes up and cuts off the horses, stopping them.

BORS

Herr Zindel. We need to search the wagons again. We know you have two boys with you.

JEB

Where's your other partner, sir Bors?

BORS

And who is this beside you then?
Doesn't look like your nephew we saw last night. Maybe this is the thief from last night?

JEB

This is my son, Nicki. I'll vouch for his good character.

BORS

We'll see if that's enough.

Bors gets off his horse. He goes to the back of the first wagon where Ger is. He opens the door and pulls back the curtains. Jeb gets off and comes back around. Bors goes inside and flips up the beds, opens trunks and closets, then we see two magic boxes stacked on each other. He pulls the first down and realises it is light. The tries to move the other, but it is heavy. He tries to open it but he can't see how. So he sees the slots of where the swords go in. He looks back smiling at Jeb.

BORS

I remember this trick box. You can put swords into it can't you? Is it only trick swords?

With that he pulls out his sword slowly and then puts the tip to the slot. Then he readies himself and slams the sword into it. REACTION of JEB, who looks worried. Then BORS removes it slowly looking for blood. There is none and Jeb is relieved.

BORS

Well must be no one in there.

He gets up and exits the wagon at the back and goes to the next one. It is Sura's, and it was led by the tethers so no one needed to drive it. Jeb goes to the back and gets both women out.

JEB

Come on out. Sir Bors wants to search again.

The two women come out and Mila goes up to Jeb, clutching him, and looking worried. Sura stands there with Jeb. Meanwhile HEINZ was searching the third wagon, EMILIO's. He gets out and shakes his head to BORS. Then SURA and MILA go back inside. Jeb goes on to the the fourth wagon. He talks to FONZO. Luba comes out too.

JEB

(to FONZO)

OK. Let them search.

(then to LUBA)

Can you go back and tell Flora that it's OK. Thanks.

BORS searches Fonzo's wagon while HEINZ searches FLORAS.

JEB

They'll be gone as soon as they've finished searching.

MEANWHILE - JEB'S WAGON , UP FRONT.

ON NICK. Nick is getting more and more nervous. He's closing his eyes and praying silently to some saint to help him out.

HEINZ (O.C.)

Found something!!

Nick opens his eyes and he's panicking. He looks back around the corner to see them coming toward him. He looks forward. He puts his hands over his face.

Sir Bors and Heinz come up beside the front, bringing a cloth bundled. Jeb is walking along side them and comes right up to Nick too.

BORS

(to Nick)

(CONT.) Do you recognize these silver candlesticks, boy?

NICK

No, sir. I've not seen them before.

BORS

(to JEB)

Where is the other lad? Your nephew ...?

JEB

He ran away last night. We don't know where he is... he does that sometimes.

BORS

This is proof enough that someone here has stolen these. It was taken by a young man... and your son here is the only one who fits that description.

Bors pauses and watches Nicks reaction. He almost want to turn in Ger, but finally gives up and sighs. Fonzo and Emilio come up to see what's happening.

BORS

You will come with me. We're going back to Augsburg, to face the Magistrate. Herr Zindel, you can come back with us, or meet us there later. We should be able to put him before the judge later today.

JEB

Alright then Sir Bors. I'll go on to the next campsite, then meet you there.

(then to Nick)

Sorry Nick. I'll stand beside you whatever happens, son. You better go.

Nick gets down and goes over to Bor's horse.

BORS

You ride behind him. Jump up.

(to Jeb)

It's good that you understand the

need for justice and law. We'll see you there.

Bors and Heinz ride off with Nick on the back of Heinz's horse. When they are around a corner, Jeb goes to the back of the wagon to find Ger. He opens the back door and climbs up. He goes to the inside and looks at the magic box. He flicks some secret switch behind and the top opens. Ger is here! And he looks around worried.

GER

I jumped in the box and then did my best to figure out how you did that trick. Looks like I made the right move.

JEB

I thought you might get skewered. Good job.

They sit up in the wagon, and Fonzo and Emilio look in from the back. Jeb tells them his plan.

JEB

We must keep going... to get out of this county where that man can find us. We're expected in Burgau for the Harvest Festival. We'll keep going to the next campsite, and I'll take a horse and go back to Augsburg.

Jeb reaches down to a small hiding space and gets a box out. He pulls out a large jewelled medallion on a gold chain.

JEB

It's the Zindel family crest. I can't leave Nick to go to prison.. even for a little while. I hope that the judge will accept a fine instead.

EMILIO

You can go now. We can drive the wagon for you.

Jeb sits there holding the medallion, staring at it.

JEB

Maybe I should go right now.

FONZO

I'll drive. Gerhart, you stay hidden back here in case they come back.

GER

I'm sorry for all the trouble I've caused.

JEB

(stands up)

This was Nick's doing. He's paying for his own poor judgment. You just stay safe, our squire.

Jeb leaves the wagon. Ger watches out the window as Jeb gets on a horse. The wagon starts to move he watches Jeb ride away and around a corner.

DISSOLVE

EXT. CAMPSITE - ROADSIDE - NIGHT

EXT. SHOT of caravan at new campsite. CAMERA moves to focus on 'Fortunes' on wagon.

INT. FLORA'S WAGON

Inside, Gerhart is sitting across from Flora the old woman. Candles are lit and incense is burning. She is looking into a round mirror on the table. It is divided into three parts, a triangle and three semi-circles, and symbols in the corners. She's put three candles on the three corners. She's burning a bundle of grass tied tightly and waves the smoke over the mirror.

FLORA

Hmm. The spirits don't show me anything in the mirror. I will try the crystal ball.

She puts the smokey bundle aside in an ashtray of sorts. Then she picks up the mirror and puts into a velvet bag with runes embroidered on it. She leaves the three candles. She gets a large crystal ball out of a velvet bag too. She places it carefully in the center of the table.

FLORA

Please put your hands around the

(CONT.) ball, cupping it. This gives it your spirit energy.

Then she puts her hands out and over his. She closes her eyes.

FLORA

Close your eyes too and concentrate on your family. Yes, that's good.

After swaying a bit and humming a simple melody, she opens her eyes and stares at the crystal ball.

FLORA

I feel your father is thinking of you. And your mother misses you too. Your families connection is strong. I'll try to look to the future.
(pause) I see you with more of your family... an ... uncle?

GER

Yes, my uncle is Lord Gaheris.

FLORA

I see that after you meet him, you will then see your father. And a stag's head. That is how you'll find your father.

GER

Can you tell me about Sir Bors?

FLORA

I feel... he's angry and... and fearful. He tries desperately to catch you. This is his reputation he must uphold. You must save your father before he is hurt by this man. He'll come back in two days. And ... that is all I see.

She puts her head down to rest. She lets go of his hands and puts hers across her chest.

FLORA

That is all I can do for tonight. Your future is uncertain, but there

(CONT.) are good omens for your family. Go now, Gerhart.

He gets up and leaves quietly.

GER

Thank you Flora. I need to know these things....

EXT. CAMPFIRE - NIGHT

The group is sitting around the fire very quietly. Gerhart looks around slowly at the family here. Emilio stirs the fire. Andrez just stares into the fire. Sura and Mila are warming themselves, as are Fonzo and Luba. Even Flora is out here sitting down and getting warm.

EMILIO

I hope they'll return tonight.

FONZO

Hope that Nick stays out of prison.

SURA

Hope we get our family back.

MILA

I wish that Bors would fall and break his neck.

SURA

That sounds like a curse.

MILA

If I could curse him, I would. He's evil.

FLORA

An evil person has the devil working through him.

ANDREZ

Then he IS the devil alright. And I do put a curse on him ... he's cursed us with bad luck.

They all fall quiet. Then Fonzo and Luba get up and leave.

LUBA

We're going to bed. Good night.

ANDREZ

Me too. Night.

Those three leave, and then followed by Emilio. Then MILA comes and sits beside Ger on a log. He looks at her with an I'm sorry expression. She just sits close to him and just watches the fire with him. Then Flora and Sura exchange glances after looking at the two young people remaining. They nod in a knowing way and get up and leave.

MILA

I wanted to thank you for saving my life... I mean that masked man might have killed me.

GER

I would do anything for you. You're so beautiful ... but you know that.

He looks back down at the fire. She smiles at his comment and then puts her hand on his hand. When he doesn't move it, she leans against him a bit, then leans her head against his too.

MILA

You know... this is how we say a proper thank you...

She looks at him, then his lips, and kisses him for a moment. Just then some light rain starts to come down. Ger looks up and smiles.

GER

Is that a good or bad omen?

MILA

(getting up)

Come on. Let's get out of the rain.

She leads him to his wagon. They jump inside and sit down in the dark, looking out at the sputtering fire. She leans into him, and he has his arm around her. They just sit, quite happy.

INT. WAGON , LATER - NIGHT

It is raining steady now, and Ger awakes again. He hears the sounds of horses walking and snorting. He's alarmed that it might be the masked man again. His eyes go wide and he freezes, looking around the wagon with his eyes. He sees the sword in scabbard... on the floor. He whispers in Mila's ear and she wakes and looks at him. He makes the SHH motion to his lips, then she sits up a bit and he goes for his sword. Picks it up and then very stealthy he pulls the sword out of the scabbard.

NICK (o.c)

Ger? Ger are you there?

Ger and Mila both sigh a big relief and Ger puts the sword back into the sheath, and looks at Mila.

GER

Mila, you'll have to go.

He gets a blanket and gives it to her. He opens the back door as she puts it over her head and quickly exits the wagon and is gone into the night. Then Ger hears Nick again.

NICK (o.c)

Ger are you there?

GER

Yes, still here. It's very good to hear your voice.

He waits at the back door holding it open for the two of them. Nick comes in, then Jeb. Ger closes the door.

JEB

(to Nick)

Put a light on, will you?

Nick strikes a match and lights a lantern. He turns it up. Ger closes all windows and shutters them.

GER

So tell me how did the day go for you? We were all very worried.

JEB

Well ... The evidence was enough to convict him... even without a witness

(CONT.) seeing his face. The judge wanted to put him in prison for a year, for theft. But I was able to convince them that a heavy fine would be a severe punishment too. So I had to give them our family crest - that medallion's worth a whole year of savings for our family.

GER

That is very costly... but then Nick's life must be worth one year at least.

JEB

That's exactly my thoughts Ger. It's only money, but family is worth everything.

NICK

And I promise to help earn enough money to buy that back someday. It was my own stupid fault. I promise not to steal anymore. It just got us all into trouble.

JEB

That's good you think that. Now let's get to sleep. Good night boys.

NICK

Good night.

GER

Good night.

They put the light out.

CUT TO:

INT. CASTLE BANNET, LARGE BED CHAMBER - DAY

Morning SHOT. Sunlight coming in through open window on the second story floor room and onto...

LORD BRAUN, 50, is having breakfast in a large bed chamber. He's large, and wears a extra large dirty white undershirt. He has a full beard. He cracks his hard-boiled eggs carefully, in egg cups, and then splits them in two with a

knife. A servant is waiting beside him. They hear some commotion outside the door as BORS tries to get entry.

BORS (o.c.)

He'll want to see me. It's important.
Just let me in.

Finally he enters accompanied by RUDOLPH, his captain, who looks at Braun. Braun nods to him and he waits just inside the door. Bors comes up to Braun.

BORS

Lord Braun. I've been riding around the countryside for quite a few days and still haven't found the boy.

BRAUN

(remains sitting)

Sir Bors. I hired you, and your mercenaries, to ensure the complete takeover of this castle. With his father dead, that boy is the only person alive who could still reclaim this castle from me. I didn't do all of this to then lose it.

BORS

I understand. It's just that I don't know exactly who I'm looking for.

BRAUN

Hmm. Let me show you something I've found in his bedroom.

Braun finishes eating and stands up. He walks over to a wall to a painting which is turned around and is leaning against the wall. He picks it up, turns it around and hands it to Bors.

BRAUN

Here is his son : Gerhart.

Bors studies it a moment and then recognizes him.

BORS

Yes... I've seen him. Wait... yes, he WAS with those lying gypsies. Damn it! Now I know exactly where to find

him. We'll leave immediately... no time to waste.

BRAUN

That's the kind of enthusiasm I like.

Bors bows his head slightly and turns and marches fast out of the door.

BRAUN

(calling to Bors)

Do not return again without the boy... dead or alive.

EXT. ROAD TO BURGAU - DAY

WIDE SHOT. Wagons are heading down the road. Going through muddy areas from last night's rain. They head off toward a pass between two mountains.

JEB is driving his wagon up front. Ger peeks his head out of the curtained window.

GER

I'm bored. Can I come up front?

JEB

I suppose it's OK. Just be ready to duck back inside anytime we see something suspicious.

Ger climbs up front and sits beside JEB.

GER

I've been thinking... It's because of me that you've got these bad men after you.

JEB

Ahh. But I've been thinking too. How can he know you're here? He's already seen you, and didn't know who you were. Only thing he knows now is that my nephew Petra has ran away.

GER

That's true. But.. I don't think he's going to give up. So... I was think-

ing that if I really did run away -
you could tell him I'm gone.

JEB

Well, I already have told him that.
Besides maybe running away is not
always the answer.

GER

Well I can't fight him. He's got
years of experience... And stronger,
and probably smarter.

JEB

(thinks a bit)

But you've got friends. Together
we'll be stronger.

EXT. GYPSY CAMP AT BURGAU - NIGHT

The wagons round a corner and Ger's asleep leaning against
JEB. He bumps his arm to wake him. They see lots of
lanterns not far ahead on the road. It's another gypsy
wagon troupe camped out.

JEB

(calls to the back)

Nick! NICK!

Nick puts his head through the front looking ahead.

NICK

What?

JEB

We're here. Tell the others please.

Nick is heard going to the back and calling out to the
others behind him.

NICK (O.C.)

We're here. Burgau, and the Harvest
Festival.

As Jeb gets closer, we hear GEORGIO, 25, a gypsy from the
camp who spots them and brings a lantern onto the road. He
comes up to Jeb holding his lantern high.

GEORGIO

Hello there. Are you friend?

JEB

We're the fabulous Zindels. And if you haven't heard of us, then you must have been born deaf. (smiling)

GEORGIO

Of course! Jeb. We're waiting for you to arrive. Come and be welcomed.

Georgio leaves to return to the wagons already there. A few cheers go up when they hear who it is. Jeb's steers his wagon into a favorable spot, while the others park their wagons close by.

Jeb gets down, goes to the back, pulls down the back stairs, then goes up them.

JEB

Nick. Bring a lantern.

Nick exits carrying a lantern. Someone is coming up to them. It is MARKO VARGA, 60, with white hair, and short beard. He's carrying a lantern and comes up to Jeb.

MARKO

Good travels, friend?

JEB

Marko! Good to see you.

Jeb and he shakes hands. Ger comes out of the wagon just then.

JEB

Remember my son Nicki?

Nick shakes his hand.

NICK

Herr Varga. Good to see you.

JEB

And here is my long-lost nephew Petra, from Moravia.

MARKO

Good to see you all. Let's see who else I can remember.

He walks to the next wagon followed by Jeb, Nick and Ger. The others are exiting their wagons with lanterns too. At the second wagon they meet Sura and Mila as they step down onto the ground.

SURA

(smiling, and holding up her lantern)
The Zindels have arrived. Let me see... Marko Varga, right?

MARKO

(hugs her and kisses her cheek)
My beautiful lady Sura. I'd not forget you so soon. And this is Mila?

MILA

A little more grown up since you last seen me...

MARKO

Grown up and grown out too. Excuse an old man for noticing but you are beautiful in your youth, little Mila.

Marko hugs her a moment, then takes her hand and kisses it too. Mila goes to stand beside Ger.

MARKO

Come to the fire, my friends. No need to cook for yourselves tonight. We have some excellent food in the grill.

THE CAMPFIRE -

The Zindels follow to the large fire and walk around one side greeting everyone. They've formed a greeting line, with Jeb leading. Ger stay close to Nick as he goes up first to a very fit man, GEORGIO, 25, and shake hands.

NICK

Hello. I remember you. You're Georgio! You're the best juggler I've ever known.

GEORGIO

Thank you master Nicki. Good to meet you Petra. (meaning Ger)

Behind Nick and Ger, Mila and Sura follow. Nick next meets VIOLA, 20, a beautiful dancing girl.

NICK

Hello. I'm Nick. This is Petra, my cousin.

VIOLA

(smiling wide, pointer to herself)
Viola! And you two ... are so cute.
It's great to see you.

Nick awkwardly hugs her, and she puts out her cheek for a kiss. She enjoys embarrassing these boys. Ger also hugs her and kisses her, blushing a bit. The boys look at each other like 'WOW'.

MILA sees this from Ger and pinches his arm. He mouths 'OW' and leaves the girl alone. Mila is right next to him and shakes her hand, smiling.

Next Nick meets ROSA, 50, Marko's woman. He goes up to her and hugs her.

NICK

I'm Nick and this is Petra. Good to meet you.

ROSA

I'm Rosa. It's always good to make new friends.

Next Nick comes up to the old tinker, OMAR, 60.

NICK

Hello sir. I'm Nick, and this is Petra.

OMAR

I'm Omar. Anything you need fixing, just bring it to me. No charge for family.

Next they bump into Jeb and the three of them listen to a little man, LUKAS, 20. He speaks for all the little people here.

LUKAS

I am Lukas, and these are my fellow performers... These three are famous acrobatic performers. And this is my favorite girl, GINA, 20. She plays the flute, and I play the violin. And we remember you Jeb ... and Nick.

Jeb introduces them all....

JEB

You already know me, Jeb, and Nick here. This is Petra. Then we have Mila and Sura.

NICK

I remember you too Lukas. What do you have for food? We're starving!

They laugh.

LUKAS

I hope you brought lots of wine. We'll supply the food.

NICK

You'll have to talk to Andrez. He's in charge of the wine.

NEW ANGLE. They grab some wooden plates and put bread on them, then get food from the fire pit, and sit and eat. They intermingle well and have fun eating.

DISSOLVE

EXT. BURGAU CAMP LATER - NIGHT

Music fills the air as all the musicians play a long dancing song. Mila and Viola are both dancing around the fire and learning new moves from each other. They dance around all the men, and tease them. Then off to the side, two of the dwarves get burning firebrands out of the fire and juggle them, passing to each other. Emilio and Gina play flute harmonies. Andrez is sitting beside GIRLFRIEND2, as he strums the lute.

Lukas is on the viloin, and Fonzo, Luba, Rosa, Nick, and even Ger all play drums.

LATER , the CAMPFIRE - NIGHT

Music is quieter now. Emilio and Gina play the flute and pan pipes together. Mila is sitting with her mother Sura, eating and talking. Viola is sitting with Andrez and GIRLFRIEND2 and they laugh loudly every few moments. Marko is with Rosa.

Ger is sitting, and sharing a tankard of wine with Nick. Jeb sees them and comes and sits between them.

JEB

Let's forget our troubles for a night. Drink, dance and laugh.

Lukas and Gina come over and sit beside them. He raises a tankard to toast to them. Ger, Jeb, and Nick raise their mugs to toast with them.

LUKAS

Here's to the family Zindels!
Together again with the Varga's troupe.

JEB

Here, here.

LUKAS

Tell us about your show, Jeb.
Anything new?

JEB

Well, this year we found Fonzo and Luba. You might have noticed they love tattoos. He's a fire eater, and knife thrower, and she's double jointed. They are a good addition. How about the Vargas? I haven't seen the acrobats before.

LUKAS

Oh, they were travelling a lot in the north and decided to come to our mountain country. People do love them.

JEB

I think tomorrow will be a good show. We always look forward to the Harvest Festival. And the people of Burgau always put on a good one.

Marko comes over and sits down across from them.

MARKO

Did you all get enough to eat? Good. How's your supply of wine, Jeb?

JEB

It's dwindling. I hope to buy or trade for some at the market tomorrow. Maybe you know of someone with extra wine?

MARKO

Maybe. We have a new friend here. A baker and his wife. They like to trade for exotic things. I think Sura will do very well with them.

JEB

Good. We can leave messages with them too?

MARKO

He sounds like he really likes the Vargas. I think he'll like the Zindels too. Let's toast to that.

Marko notices the music stopped and so stands up to toast.

MARKO

To the Kings of the road. The romas.

JEB

To good friends, old and new.

They all tip their mugs and drink. Then Marko sees everyone watching him.

MARKO

How about a new tall tale?

VIOLA and ROSA

Yes, tell us Marko.

MARKO

You might not believe this, but it was told to me by the devil himself.

(he smiles at his own joke)

MARKO (dramatically)

When the Lord God created all creatures he selected wolves to be his pets. The devil wanted creatures for his own too, so he chose goats, who were made as graceful as the wolves. But when they went out to graze, they always caught their tails in briar bushes, and soon the devil was fed up with this. He bit off all their tails so they could eat without his help.

Then it happened that the Lord let his wolves out in the same field and the wolves would catch them easily because they had poor eyesight. So the devil poked out all their eyes and put in his own so they could see better. Even after all this, they were not quick enough to elude the fast wolves. The devil gave them horns to keep God's wolves away.

Finally, when the goats were down to the last one, the devil possessed it and escaped, so he could save his pet. That is why all goats have short tails, devils eyes, two horns, and why the devil himself likes to appear in their shape.

ROSA

(clapping softly)

Good story Marko.

JEB

Yes, very good.

All the little people clap.

WIDE SHOT - The camp's fire throws long shadows behind everyone. The sound of the flute and pan pipe start again.

DISSOLVE

INT. LARGE SHOW TENT - DAY

From inside the tent, FOLLOW A FAMILY of six as they enter. We see daylight outside. Inside the large colourful tent it is lit without lanterns or torches. There is loud music and drums and the two girls twirling and dancing around. All around the edges of the large tent is a low rope perimeter, and many people and families are sitting on the ground or on pillows and watching. Just outside Rosa and Sura are getting money as people pass and enter into the tent. MARKO is outside is calling to the public.

MARKO (O.C.)

Come on in. See the dancers, the jugglers, the man breathing fire, the acrobats...

The music stops and the dancers end. Everyone here claps loudly as they bow and exit the center area.

GEORGIO the Juggler goes to the center and juggles for a while as the drums make a fun beat. Fonzo joins him nearby.

FONZO brings a fire brand and blows a bit of a fireball from his mouth. He bows. Then he eats the fire and bows again. Then he takes three fire sticks and deftly passes them to GEORGIO who exchanges them for his long knives he was juggling. When he's done that a bit, They stop and bow.

LUBA enters, takes off her outer cloak and everyone is amazed at her tatoos. Then she brings out a small chair and does her famous contortions all around and inside it. The audience claps again.

EXT. OUTSIDE TOWN OF BURG AU - DAY

On the main roadway, three riders on horses are passing the town of Burgau and not stopping.

FADE OUT:

INT. LARGE SHOW TENT - EVENING

From inside the tent, FOLLOW A FAMILY of six as they exit. We see dusk outside, and people walking by with lanterns. Inside the large tent it is lit with lanterns and a few small braziers. There are only about half the people here

now sitting on the ground or on pillows and watching. They watch a mummings play. There is some low drumming music, and a reed flute playing.

One person is dressed like the DEVIL, all in red, walking behind a young boy, NICK, with a large straw hat on. The devil prods him with a real pitchfork. They walk past a young girl, MILA, who is dressed like a milkmaid. Behind her is an ANGEL all in white, and with wings and a halo. They mime without speaking. They dance along a line like a small parade to the lively jig music.

Then from behind a curtain comes someone dressed all in black like the REAPER, with a skull mask on, and carrying a scythe. The boy is finally tempted to go and grabs the girl in his arms, but she turns and knees him, making him fall down. They get a big laugh.

The joke is now the DEVIL talks to the ANGEL and argues with him. The REAPER says nothing and just stays back menacingly.

CAMERA moves down to a carved Pumpkin, jack-o-lantern.

CUT TO:

EXT. BURGAU CAMPFIRE LATER - NIGHT

CAMERA moves UP FROM a carved Pumpkin, jack-o-lantern to camp.

Jeb, Andrez and Emilio are all drinking from mugs and laughing at a joke. They all have masks on. We see a group of people coming to the large camp, carrying lanterns. There are 4 children and four adults. They all have masks or face paint. As they get close Jeb calls to them. Nearby are Mila, Sura, and Luba, sitting and watching.

JEB

Welcome. Do you want a trick or a treat?

The kids all say together TREATS.
The adults say TRICKS.

JEB

Come to our table and get a candied apple or a large honey biscuit.

The kids come forward and the adults stay back waiting to see what will happen. Some kids turn around but the adults encourage the kids to keep going. The boldest kid goes right up and gets a cookie. He turns to show the others it's OK.

When he goes for another piece a HAND comes up THROUGH the plate on the table and grabs his hand. He SHRIEKS. The kids run away.

JEB

Oh, I thought you said you wanted a TRICK. Don't worry, it's just our friend, Fonzo. Come on out...

Fonzo comes out and bows. The kids come back and get goodies again. Then the adults come forward. One is a man PARENT, with a simple paper mache skull mask on.

PARENT

That was a good trick. But too simple.

JEB

Oh? Why don't you see what's in that basket... if you dare.

PARENT looks twice and decides to do it. He puts his hand on the top and then carefully lifts it up. Suddenly a large SHEET comes flying out hanging from a black cord. The man staggers back, very scared, but recovers fast. Jeb and family and the other parents laugh a bit. Then they leave just as three horse come galloping up.

The riders are BORS, UWE and HEINZ. BORS takes his horse right up to the fire and it kicks over the table with the goodies on it. He's very upset, brings out his sword, and goes right up to Jeb. Jeb is taken aback.

BORS

When I left you last, you had the boy Gerhart with you. Now I know this for a fact. And you must have known who he was, so you LIED to me. You can straighten this out right now by telling me where he is.

JEB

He's not here.

BORS

Well, I can see he's not in my sight.
I asked WHERE is he?

JEB

He ran away two days ago, like I told
you. I never knew who he was, Sir
Bors.

BORS

I think you're protecting him. You
WILL tell me where he is or there
will be dire consequences.

From behind a wagon, Ger and Nick show up and hear them
talking. He ducks down and sneaks up to the fire and spies
on Bors. CLOSE UP on Ger - he knows he's caught and
something serious will happen here.

JEB

We don't know where this Gerhart
went.

Bors jumps off his horse, gets a burning stick from the
fire. Heinz dismounts too and gets a burning stick. He
passes one up to UWE, still mounted.

BORS

If he doesn't tell me what I want to
know, go ahead and burn that wagon.

JEB

Please, don't harm us, Sir. We have
no weapons and we're defenseless.

BORS

You must know more than your telling.
You're a curious kind aren't you?
Didn't you ask him?

JEB

He said something about an uncle... I
can't remember where. That's all I
know.

Meanwhile Mila is staring at the man on the horse. His face
is in shadow, but he moves the torch so she can see a SCAR

on his face. She's shaking. Sura sees her shaking, looks up at the man who glares at her, and then she understands.

BORS

(to Heinz)

Go ahead. Look in the wagons.

Heinz starts looking through wagons with dangerous fire.

Then Bors grabs MILA, holds her close and puts the sword to her throat. Uwe is close on his horse.

BORS

Will you trade this beautiful girl
for that stranger? You don't even
know who he is!

CLOSE UP. Ger's reaction. He wants to give himself up, but he's held back by Nick. He instead mouths OK and then ducks out from under Nick's grasp.

SURA

Sir! Sir! Please, not my daughter.
She's innocent!

BORS

Ah. Maybe you can tell me... where is
this Gerhart? It'd be a shame to lose
such a young beauty like this.

SURA

Don't! He's in the town tonight!

Sura gets on her knees pleading. She puts her head down, feeling like a traitor. Other gypsies come out and watch what's happening. The little people, MARKO, ROSA.

SURA

That's all I can sayHe left us a
few hours ago.

BORS (to Uwe)

Thank you. Much better. Uwe, what do
you think? Should I arrest the
beautiful MILA too?

MARKO

On what charge?

BORS

For helping to hide a known criminal.

JEB

Better stay out of this Marko.

(then to BORS)

We don't know he's a criminal. Why do you say that?

BORS

He's a traitor to Lord Braun. I will take him back to face charges against him.

EMILIO

(steps forward)

Just leave the girl alone. You don't have the right to threaten us.

BORS

I'm an authority of law. We'll go through town, and if don't find him we'll be back for him again. If he's not here, we WILL make an arrest. Think about that.

Heinz is still looking into wagons, when GERHART rides into the clearing. He wears a long cloak. He has a hastily put together bundle of horse blankets on the saddle in front of him. (no sword)

GERHART

You can let her go. It's only me you want, and you'll have to catch me...

With that, Ger rides past Heinz and they watch him ride into the night. Bors drops Mila, Jeb catches her. Sura goes over and cradles her, comforting her. Bors starts to scramble to get on his horse, and shouts to Uwe.

BORS

Do it!

Uwe throws the torch into the open wagon as Bors gets in his saddle. Heinz quickly gets on his horse now.

BORS

That's your reward for hiding a criminal.

As large flames appear, we watch Bors gallop off, followed by both his partners.

Jeb has to stop Sura from running up to the wagon. He holds her back.

JEB

Sura, don't get yourself hurt. Emilio will take care of it.

Emilio runs out of his wagon with two buckets and douses the flames somewhat, then he tosses the empty buckets to Nick, who runs off down to the creek. Some of the other people there come up with some buckets of water and hand them to Emilio.

Suras ANGLE as she watches Emilio douse the fire. CLOSE UP on Sura who watches the fire with tears in her eyes. MILA comes up and hugs her.

EXT. FOREST ROAD ESCAPE - NIGHT

Ger is galloping hard down the road. Gerhart has a rested horse and the others are tired. They continue after him for a mile, then start to fall back.

UWE

Damn. The horses are tired already.

BORS

Damn is right. We'll have to slow a bit.

They let the horse comes to a walk.

BORS

Now that we've got his trail, we'll catch him soon enough. His horse will also tire soon.

ON GERHART, He sees them fall behind. He keeps going galloping down the road.

FADE OUT

EXT. ZINDELS CAMP - DAY

Sura's wagon is partially burnt and Mila and her are going through burnt wood trying to sort through stuff. Emilio, Fonzo, Luba, Andrez are gathering up burnt wood pieces and putting them near the fire in a stack.

EMILIO

Damn it. These are the only homes we have. They didn't need to do this. They just hate us because we're free people.

LUBA

I think bad men like that just have hate in their hearts toward everyone.

INT. FLORAS WAGON - DAY

Jeb is sitting down inside Floras wagon and listens carefully to her. He is sitting across from her with his hands on the crystal ball, and she's got her hands over his, and looking down with eyes closed.

FLORA

Yes, I am sure of it. Castle Bannet. Ger is with his father and mother. I would not see this much unless it also part of our fate.

Jeb opens his eyes, and looks at her.

JEB

That's what I thought.

FLORA

This is not what MUST be, but what MAY be.

JEB

Yes. Gerhart was meant to come into our lives. And we were meant to help him too.

FLORA

Of course there is danger in this vision. There usually is.

JEB

Gerhart is a good man. I wouldn't

(CONT.) want him to take those risks himself.

FLORA

You sound like a surrogate father.

JEB

Until he gets his father, yes, he needs protection. OK. I've made up my mind. We need to go back to Schroben. Today.

Jeb gets up and exits the door. Flora stays concentrating with her eyes closed.

EXT. WAGONS -

Jeb comes out of Floras wagon and looks at the burnt wagon caravan. Beside it is an unpainted open wagon with a frame like a large box. The Tinker is getting helped by WAGON builder to put some large canvas over it. All the people helping are now moving items from the old one to the new one. Marko sees Jeb and comes over to him.

MARKO

Jeb. I found a carpenter who repairs wagons. He'll take the old one and fix it up for you. We'll all pitch in some money to get it back to the way it was.

JEB

Thank you. That's kind of you all.

Then he gets closer to all the people near the new wagon. He announces...

JEB

We need to go back to Bavaria. To castle Schroben.

EXT. FOREST ROAD - DAY

WIDE ANGLE PAN to see a SMALL HAMLET. It is the summit of this mountain pass, called RAVENS PASS. There is a small INN with a sign that says 'RAVEN'S INN'. Attached to it at the side is a stable, that can hold maybe 10 horses. We see a STABLE BOY, pitching hay into feeding mangers.

Gerhart exits the INN to continue his journey. The stable boy passes Ger and goes into the INN. Ger wanders into the stables, finds his horse, and puts a blanket on his back.

GER

Hope you're rested. We need to go for a few more hours before we can stop again.

He then throws the saddle up on his back, and when he bends down to tighten the straps, he hears three horses come riding up. He spies around his horse and sees his enemies coming. He looks for an exit. Behind him is a narrow doorway for people.

He grabs the bridle and walks the horse through it. On the other side of the INN he tightens up the saddle.

ON BORS - Bors rides up to the stables, followed by Uwe and Heinz. Bors dismounts, as do the other two.

ON GER - He sees a shortcut to the highway and cuts through a path, leading his horse. When he gets to the road, he mounts quickly, spurs his horse to a gallop and rides off.

FADE OUT

INT. CASTLE DIJON - DAY

Ger's uncle GAHERIS, 50, is pacing around his chamber dictating a letter to his SENESHAL, 40. Also watching is Captain WAGNER, 35. They wear nice doublets.

GAHERIS

Thank you Baron Hammond for the news. My family here are all in deep sorrow over the loss of my brother Einar, and our extended family members there in the castle Bannet.

(a beat)

It is a great loss to yourself that the castle has fallen to barbarians and that your loyal and excellent servant Lord Einar has been killed. I am dedicated under my oath of honor to attend any services to commemorate his death, and would also like to be present to witness the new ownership of the castle and lands. It should only take three days from the time of

this writing for myself and some friends to arrive in Bavaria. Please expect us then. Sincerely....

SENESHAL

Yes, my lord, that should do nicely. I'll get this off to the messenger immediately.

He continues writing as the other two talk.

WAGNER

After thinking about this news for some time, Gaheris, I think it is suspicious that Einar's castle should get attacked, particularly the ONLY one attacked in that region.

GAHERIS

My thoughts too. Where did these barbarians come from? We must go to look further into this.

WAGNER

Saying that most of them were killed in the attack is very convenient.

GAHERIS

I've met this Braun. Einar always thought he had plans to expand his holdings. I just can't believe that they'd take the castle Bannet so quickly...

WAGNER

How many men should we take, my lord?

GAHERIS

We better go with twenty men, in case there is trouble. I don't think he'd try anything with that many men.

WAGNER

I'll have them ready within an hour Sir Gaheris.

EXT. WIDE SHOT OF DIJON - DAY

Ger comes around a corner and sees the town of Dijon. Just to one side is the castle Dijon. He rides down the slope and into the town.

INT. CASTLE DIJON - DAY

Gaheris is sitting with his wife when the Seneshal enters the room. They remain seated. Seneshal comes up to them both and bows slightly. Two servants are standing back against the wall.

SENESHAL

My Lord Gaheris, my Lady. Someone very dear to you I think has arrived.

The Seneshal looks behind him and waves for a page to open the door. In walks Gerhart. Gaheris stands up, followed by his wife. He walks briskly to Gerhart, smiling but confused.

GAHERIS

Gerhart! Is it really you?

He gives him a big embrace.

GAHERIS

They said not to expect any survivors... that you may all be dead.

GER

Hello Uncle. It was very difficult, but I managed to escape with my life.... so has Mother.

The wife comes up and hugs Gerhart too.

WIFE

Very good to see you alive. We were very worried about the whole business.

GAHERIS

What about your father and mother?

GER

Mother escaped to the abbey for

(CONT.) protection. They should keep her safe.... but father... I don't know... except that I was told by a seer that he is still alive.

GAHERIS

That's not what the message from the Baron says.

WIFE

But if there's any chance that that is true.... we should find out.

Then WAGNER enters the room. He sees them with someone and stands back. Gaheris sees him then waves him closer.

GAHERIS

Captain... this is my nephew Gerhart, from the Bannet castle! This is great news, that he and his mother are alive. There is some doubt about his father, but when we get there we shall find out the truth!

Wagner walks up and bows to him too.

WAGNER

Good to have you here Master Gerhart. My lord Gaheris, should I have the men wait a while longer...?

GAHERIS

Yes. Give us another hour to talk to this young man.

Wagner bows and leaves. Gaheris walks Ger with his arm around his shoulder. He leads him to a seat. Gaheris and his wife sit on either side of him.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. MOUNTAIN PASS - DAY

Sir Gaheris rides in front of a large contingent of mounted soldiers behind him. Half of the men wear armour on their chests only, the rest have none. They have banners and pennons flying with the DIJON crest. Up front are Captain WAGNER, wearing armor on his chest and arms only, Sir GAHERIS and Squire GERHART wearing breastplates only, and

all riding side by side. Far up ahead they have two men riding and looking ahead. No wagons to slow them down.

GERHART

Sir Gaheris. Do you think if my father is alive, that we could free him first?

GAHERIS

You say that a fortune teller could see that your father is alive. I think that we would all like to believe that.... but you should be ready to accept the truth if it turns out different.

GERHART

She's a wise old woman named Flora. I'm sure that she could see into my future. Don't you think that's possible?

GAHERIS

I have my own seer at the castle and he looks to the stars for the future. He can even read prophecies ... but I still don't know how helpful he is.

WAGNER

Sometimes I wonder what's the difference between a seer and a witch, except a witch has become ugly by making so many curses.

GAHERIS

Doesn't a witch turn onto a black cat or something?

WAGNER

That's their nine lives. They can shape change nine times into one of their familiars ... a black crow, or a black cat. Many people are superstitious about that.

GERHART

But this woman is not an old hag! She's very wise and knowledgeable.

GAHERIS

Did you also dream about your father?

GER

Actually I did. He warned me of danger. I think he could still be alive.

GAHERIS

That would be the best for everyone if he still is alive. But where could he be?

WAGNER

I see what you mean. If he's alive, and no one knows about it, then he would be in hiding... which I don't think he would do.

GAHERIS

OR, he could be wounded and in some hermit's care somewhere...

GER

OR, he could be held prisoner in the castle.

GAHERIS

Maybe.

CUT TO:

EXT. ROAD TO RAVENS INN - DAY

The group of GAHERIS' horsemen ride three across in a long line. They canter along the road and come within sight of the Ravens Inn, then they slow to a walk.

GER

Yes, that's the Inn just ahead.

WAGNER

I've been here before too. It's good place to have a rest through this pass. If we break here, we should still be able to make it to BURGAU by late tonight.

Just when they are a few yards from the inn, the stable doors open and three riders gallop off away from them. Ger sees Sir Bors among them.

GER

That's them!

GAHERIS

You stay here. They won't get too far... come on men... after them.

Gaheris spurs his horse to full gallop and he's joined by all the men. One stays back with Gerhart.

At a full gallop, Gaheris catches up with the slowest, Uwe. He pulls out his sword and swings at him as he is beside his horse. Uwe ducks and pulls his sword out too, then he swings back a few times. Another rider comes up on his other side and jumps on his horse tackling him off. As they fall to the ground, one of Gaheris's men stops and helps him.

Gaheris and Wagner then catch up to Heinz, who is galloping hard. This time it is Wagner who swings first at him from the other side. Heinz swings back and strikes Wagner and hits his forearm. Wagner loses his sword and falls back a bit. Gaheris hits hard a few times and can not get past his guard. Then Wagner gets right beside him and grabs him and drags them both down between the horses to the ground. After they hit the ground, Wagner is a bit groggy from tumbling hard, but he gets up and staggers over to Heinz as the rest of the horses gallop past him. Two men stop to help. They surround Heinz as he gets to his feet too. Wagner walks up close to punch him, but Heinz steps to one side to avoid, pulls out a dagger, and puts it to Wagners neck, but Wagner blocked it with his left forearm and now it is trapped under Heinz grip.

WAGNER

You're very fast. And tough. But you're outnumbered.

HEINZ

Just give me one of your horses right now and I'll let you go.

WAGNER

You're the one who killed Lambert, weren't you?

HEINZ

What does that matter?

WAGNER

He was my friend.

Wagner removes his dagger too, facing upwards, and he jabs straight back into Heinz's neck. Heinz gets weak and drops his dagger, and gurgles blood before dropping to the ground.

ON GAHERIS - The horses are getting very tired quickly from galloping hard. Finally Bors' horse slows enough for Gaheris to catch him. Gaheris gets up close and boots him very firmly OFF his horse onto the ground. Finally he pulls his horse to a stop and walks back.

GAHERIS

Good thing you didn't break your neck. That'd be a shame.

Bors gets up off the ground standing wearily. Gaheris goes up to him, sword drawn. A few other riders meet up with them.

GAHERIS

Drop your dagger, BORS. You're coming with us to see Sir Braun, where we'll get to the truth about my brother's supposed death.

Bors has nothing to say.

EXT. GAHERIS CAMP - NIGHT

Gaheris is sitting near a good fire, and surrounded by ten of his men. Near him is BORS and UWE, both with their hands tied in front of them and guarded by two men. Ger and Wagner are eating quietly.

GAHERIS

Sorry about Heinz, SIR BORS. I hope he wasn't a close friend.

BORS says nothing.

GAHERIS

You may as well tell us what's your involvement with Sir Braun. It will come to light when we're in front of the Baron.

GERHART

Uncle. I'm sure that they had planned to kill me just like they did to Lambert.

WAGNER

And all the other good men who died in the service of your father.

GAHERIS

The only reason not to kill them as traitors right now, is if they can convince us that Einar is alive somewhere. What say you?

BORS

You're right. If you kill me, you might never find him... well, before it's too late.

GER

(stands)

So he IS alive! I knew it.

WAGNER

Don't get ahead of yourself Gerhart. He might say anything right now to save his skin.

GAHERIS

That's right. Unless he takes us to Einar directly, we will kill him for his murder.

BORS

Don't you need a trial, or a judge or something?

GAHERIS

We have the code of honor of knighthood, and all these men who could witness that you know where he is.

BORS

Ohh... The noble code of honor. That doesn't work for all knights.

WAGNER

That's right. Only for the ones who HAVE honor.

EXT. AUGSBURG TOWN - LATE NIGHT, JEWEL THIEF

It is very quiet now that it is so late in the town. Jeb is wearing all black with a black cloak, and walks his horse quietly down the narrow cobblestone street. He pauses near a stables, and rides into a darkened alley. He dismounts and looks around stealthily. He ties his horse up in the dark and then he slinks down back alleyways.

Jeb moves from one dark shadow to another. In the shadows he is invisible, and he is completely quiet. He travels under some open windows and hears some laughter in the second storey floors.

Next, he enters a main street and then sees long shadows coming. He ducks back, hiding, and waits for the staggering drunk man to walk past. Then he goes across the street and goes a few feet into the dark and bumps something. It is someone homeless sleeping there. The person makes some grumbling noises, then falls back to sleep. Jeb looks around and then moves on.

He stops across from a large building with a lantern hanging. He looks both ways and runs across. At the front doors we see the sign "MAGISTRATE". Jeb sees a steel wrought iron gate covering the front door. He examines it and it looks too good.

He goes to one side, where there is less light, and tries the wood shutters. He takes out a long knife from his leg and slides it silently into the crack and tries wiggling it. It does not open the shutters. He puts it back into its sheath. He stands back a bit and starts looking at all the upstairs windows. He finally sees one that is just slightly ajar.

He leaves a moments and returns with a cart, that he puts under the window. Then he goes and comes back again with a long pole. He stands up in the cart, ses the pole beside him and opens his black cloth satchel at his side. He gets

out some rope with a large hook tied to one end. He makes a special knot at the hook and then puts the end of the pole into it. Raising it up to the window shutter, he gets it to the right height and slowly opens one shutter. It squeaks a bit, but he keeps going. Once it is open enough to get the hook onto the sill, he puts it there, and removes the pole. Then he checks on the rope by pulling to ensure it is secure. Climbing up slowly, he makes it to the sill and opens both shutters enough to get in. He pops his head up just enough to spy inside and seeing no one there, he pulls himself up. CONT. from OUTSIDE we see the rope go up into the window.

INSIDE MAGISTRATES HOUSE, UPSTAIRS - NIGHT

Jeb wraps up rope and puts it in stachel bag. He stays crouched and looks and sees a child sleeping here. He gets a small bottle out of his satchel and goes back to the iron hinges and puts oil on the hinges. Jeb goes to the rooms door, and also puts oils on the hinges. He pulls out a fancy key and pick, and proceeds to pick it as it goes CLICK. He carefully opens the door and peers into a corridor.

CORRIDOR - He exits quietly, closing the door, and starts to move down the corridor, when he sees a DOG there. It raises its head and looks at him, growling. Jeb crouches and uses a soft voice.

JEB

"I thought you might be here."

He goes into his satchel and gets out some bacon strips. The dog smells it and looks quizzitively. Jeb bites a small corner off and waves it friendly to him. The dog comes over care-fully, and Jeb tosses one strip to him. Then he holds on to the second one, and the dog seems to be content. The last one, Jeb pets him as he eats it.

JEB

"Good boy. See, I'm just a good friend. I'm going now. Lay down and relax."

Jeb then gets up and continues straight down the corridor and down squeaky stairs. When he gets to the bottom he unbars and opens the main door to the courtroom.

INT. MAGISTRATES COURTROOM, DOWNSTAIRS, - NIGHT

It is very dark here, so he lights a candle, then walks forward. He goes to rear door that leads to an office behind the high court chairs. He tries the handle, and the door opens. Upon entering the office, there is a large desk crowding the room, and behind that are huge bookcases.

INT. MAGISTRATES OFFICE, DOWNSTAIRS - NIGHT

Jeb looks over the bookcases very carefully and closely with his one candle. Between some books he notices a slight draft, as his candle flame flickers very subtly. Now he knows where there is something hidden, but not how to trigger it. So he pulls gently on the books and finds a few that won't move. He pulls a stack of books out and places them carefully in a stack. Then he puts his candle close and sees a wooden box screwed into place. Jeb gets out his long knife again and puts in between some cracks and finally feels a latch. He presses hard and it won't open, so he puts his knife back and studies it more. He feels all around pushing and pulling and finally feels a book on the top shelf that when it moves, it tilts down and does not come off the shelf. He leaves it tilted down and tried the fake books box. It now opens.

Jeb pulls sees several small trays here, with official sealed notes, and others with jewels and another with gold coins. He slides them all back except the jewels. He pulls it out and sees the Zindel medallion. He takes it and smiles a bit in satisfaction, then puts it back, locks the box by tilting the book, and starts to put back all the other books.

EXT. GAHERIS CAMP - LATER - NIGHT

It is very dark, and Bors is sitting beside Uwe, watching GUARD1 carefully as he falls asleep. Then Bors gets up very slowly and gets close to the guard, and slowly pulls out his dagger from his belt. Then he goes back to his spot and carefully cuts his ropes. Another guard comes by and sees his buddy sleeping.

GUARD2

Hey. Wake up. If they escape it'll be on your head.

GUARD1 shakes his head and sits up again, and watches as the other guard goes to the far side of the camp.

Bors keeps sawing at the ropes, and finally they are free. He again watches the guard as he falls asleep. Then he cuts the ropes on Uwe. When they are both free, they look around, seeing everyone asleep. Bors goes into the darkness followed by Uwe.

EXT. GAHERIS CAMP - MORNING

Everyone is awake now, and dressed to go. Gaheris mounts his horse, followed by Gerhart. Wagner goes to talk to another soldier, while Gaheris and Gerhart ride to the front of the group.

GAHERIS

OK men. If they make it to the castle before us, they'll kill my brother. We'll ride steady on and hope to reach Schroben by nightfall.

He turns and canters a little ways, while Wagner catches up to him. Then they all get into a gallop and ride around a curve in the road.

EXT. CASTLE BANNET - DAY

Outside the modest stone built castle, the caravan of gypsy wagons come into view of the castle and stop. There is a large clearing in front of the castle, so they keep their five wagons on this side of the clearing. Jeb gets down, talks to Nick, and then looks at the castle. Andrez, Sura and Emilio come walking over. Jeb and Nick begin covering up the ZINDELS sign on the wagon with some large blankets.

JEB

We don't know if Bors is there or not. And we don't know how we're supposed to help, but we're here.

ANDREZ

We're taking a big risk coming close to where that Bors might be. He

definitely WON'T be happy to see us here.

EMILIO

And we're going on a lot of faith in Old Flora.

JEB

She said we'd be key to helping the family of Bannet. I'll go see her again. Maybe she has a clearer vision now.

Jeb gets up and goes to Flora's Wagon.

EXT. CASTLE BANNET - DAY

Nick is grooming the lead horse with a brush, and Emilio and Mila are here feeding the horse with some grass.

NICK

Here comes someone from the castle now.

The gypsies stay near the horses and groom and feed them. Andrez comes out from his wagon as the rider approaches them. It is RALF, 25. Emilio steps forward to greet him.

EMILIO

Hello there. We are travellers just stopping for a rest - our horses are tired. I trust we are not trespassing?

RALF

(from horseback)

My lord's castle may want some entertainment. Are you musicians?

ANDREZ

Yes we are. We play music and have a beautiful dancer.

RALF

What do you know about this castle and the lord within?

EMILIO

Only that a few months back we came through here and were welcomed. We performed for an hour - the lord seemed very pleased.

RALF

There was a raid by some barbarians, and ... that lord is now gone.

(studies them for reaction)

The new lord of the castle would like some music to warm the spirits of his men. Could you come and entertain us this evening?

EMILIO

Yes. We'd be honored.

RALF

Very good then. Just after supper will please my lord Braun. And who shall I introduce you as?

ANDREZ

We are 'The gypsies - ANDREZ and family'.

RALF

Very good.

Ralf nods his head, turns his horse away and gallops off back to the castle. Jeb exits Floras wagon watching the rider leaving and comes up to Andrez and Emilio.

EMILIO

Jeb. We've been invited to perform for the new lord. But not until evening.

JEB

That's good. We have the day then to explore around the castle. We need to find a STAGS HEAD. If I run into trouble, I'd be glad for some help. Who would like to accompany me?

NICK

I don't think I'll be of any use in a fight...

ANDREZ

I've never swung a sword in earnest.
But if we run into some women...

EMILIO

I can swing a sword fair enough to
save my life I think.

JEB

Then I'll take Emilio. We may
encounter Bors ... if he has too many
men with him, then we'll have to run
for it.

EMILIO

(suddenly has an idea)
We can be looking for water for our
camp!

JEB

That's a great idea. A perfect excuse
to ride around the grounds. Let's get
going.

Jeb and Emilio mount up and ride off at a canter, while
Nick begins grooming the next horse. Andrez goes to Suras
wagon.

EXT. BEHIND CASTLE, A GARDEN - DAY

JEB and Emilio ride on towards the back of the castle and
see a large garden, filled with pumpkins. They meet the
GARDENER, a man, 30.

JEB

Hello sir. Very nice garden you have
here.

GARDENER

Yes sir. It's the time of year for
these gourds. (a BEAT)
You look like gypsies. I must ask,
why are you here? I mean in my
garden?

JEB

We've been invited to perform for the
lord here today, but in the meanwhile

we're looking for some nearby water for our horses.

GARDENER

Oh, well I can help there. There's a nearby creek a few minutes from here in that direction.

JEB

Good we'll see if it's good to bring horses there. By the way, have you seen a stag's head? I mean a symbol or shield? Do you know what I'm talking about?

GARDENER

There's an old stone smokehouse past the creek there. You could look there. They used to butcher deer there.

JEB

Thank you kindly.

EXT. CREEK - DAY

Jeb and Emilio ride off to the creek. After a moment they arrive there and see the path continues on the other side. There is no bridge.

JEB

We better keep going. I want to see this smokehouse, don't you?

EMILIO

It's the only clue we've got.

They both ride through the shallow water and keep going on the path. They canter a bit and very soon they come upon the ...

EXT. OLD STONE SMOKEHOUSE - DAY

The building is pretty old and sagging on one side. They both look at each other, nodding.

Jeb and Emilio enter the little clearing in front of this old cabin. As they round the corner they see the boney skull of a STAG'S HEAD on the front, above the door. Emilio sees it.

EMILIO

Flora's future sight is still amazing.

They dismount and tie their horses to a porch post, looking around carefully. Jeb tries the door and it is locked. Emilio goes around the corner to make sure it is safe. He returns with an axe. Jeb wiggles the lock and pick and SNAP it opens.

EMILIO

You still have the touch, master thief.

JEB

No master thief anymore. Just master performer. Don't tell anyone about this...

EMILIO

Yes master. (smiles) OK. I'm ready.

Jeb opens the door with a heavy push with his shoulder... It opens and it is dark here.

JEB

Hello? Is there anyone here?

They both enter slowly - Emilio right behind him with his axe carried high and ready.

INT. OLD STONE SMOKEHOUSE - DAY

It gets darker as they go further into the cabin. Then they see locks on two cells to either side (four in total).

JEB

Hello? Someone there?

From inside the cell to the left they hear a mans shakey voice.

EINAR (o.c.)

Yes. I'm here. Have you come to free me?

JEB

If you are the lord of the castle...

EINAR

You have found me... I'm Einar! A prisoner of Sir Bors... a mercenary knight.

JEB

Just one moment. We'll get you out...
(then to Emilio)
Look for some keys.

Emilio leans the axe against the wall behind him. Then he sees a single key on a hook. He passes it to Jeb, who opens the lock. They open the door and see Einar there in the dark.

Emilio gets a lantern hanging in the corridor and they enter the cell. Jeb strikes a match and lights the lantern and Emilio holds it as Jeb leans forward and unlocks handcuffs and chains.

JEB

Lord Einar? We have met your son, Gerhart.

EINAR

My son? That is great news. So he's safe?

They get him to his feet and get to the cell door.

JEB

He's not with us now, but I believe he's with his uncle at Dijon. Don't worry about him... the important thing is to get out of here before
....

Blocking the light coming in from the front door is SIR BORS.

BORS

... before BORS gets here? Ha ha.
Very good. I've got three of you now.

EMILIO looks down the short corridor, and sees the axe in a dark shadow. He steps out into the corridor behind Jeb.

BORS

I'm sorry, but you'll all have to die. I can't have any more loose ends.

Uwe and Bors fit tight through the narrow door and advance on them with their swords out. Suddenly Emilio swings the axe out, and holds it menacingly in two hands. The other two pause, glancing at each other. Emilio acts faster than them and steps forward, hitting Uwe, the closer one, in the chest. He recovers the axe and starts to advance on Bors.

Bors immediately backs up and out the doorway. With his partner dead, he's amaxed and retreats.

EXT. OLD STONE SMOKEHOUSE - DAY

BORS runs out, looking over his shoulder, and gets up quickly on his horse. Emilio runs after him, followed by Jeb. Bors keeps Emilio at a distance by swinging his sword. JEB grabs the horse by the bridle, while the horse tries to rear up.

EINAR picks up the sword that UWE dropped, and comes outside to watch the fight.

BORS swings again at Emilio, and this time SLICES his forearm, forcing him to drop the axe, and the reins, and yell out in pain, blood oozing, retreating.

Jeb grabs somethings from his pocket and throws it at the horse. It is a flash of light from flash powder. The horse rears up and Bors falls off the back.

Einar closes the distance then and as Bors gets to his feet, he thrusts his sword into Bors' midsection! Bors drops his sword, stares at Einar a moment, becomes weak and falls to the ground dead.

EINAR

That was for Captain Thomas, you murderer.

EXT. GYPSY CAMP, CASTLE BANNET- DAY

From out of the side woods, three horses come to the clearing. It is Einar, Jeb, and Emilio, who is holding his arm and blood is drenched on his clothes, he is slumped forward in the saddle. Mila sees this and rushes up to see him.

MILA

Oh my God... what happened?

JEB

We were attacked by Bors -- Einar killed him. And his henchman is dead too. We need to get him to your wagon, Mila. Sura can bandage him up.

Jeb and Einar dismount and are met by Sura, Fonzo, Luba, Andrez and Nick. Mila sees all the blood, puts her face in her hands and is in shock. Jeb helps Emilio down from his horse, and they help him toward Sura's wagon.

SURA

He looks pretty pale! Lost a lot of blood.

After helping him into the wagon, Jeb steps aside. Mila goes in to help, along with Luba. The men gather just outside.

JEB

(to Nick)

Get some clean water from Emilio's wagon. Quick.

Nick leaves. Andrez stands there getting noticeably upset and red-faced, shaking his head.

ANDREZ

(to Jeb)

I knew that we shouldn't have come here, Jeb. You know - we didn't have to come here.

EINAR

(to Andrez)

Excuse me. I'm sorry for your friend. It was to rescue me that you people came here. I am very grieved that

anyone of you would be hurt for my sake.

Andrez is a little reassured by his comments.

JEB

Thanks you Lord Einar. You're still weak from your imprisonment. I think you need rest too. Sit down , my friend.

Jeb motions Einar to have a seat between the wagons. Flora come walking up to the men sitting.

FLORA

My lords (greeting). Sounds like upsetting news. What's happened?

FONZO

Emilio is wounded... but Bors is killed - so is his henchman.

FLORA

Victory never comes without a price.

ANDREZ

Well with Sir Bors dead, at least we don't have them chasing us anymore.

FLORA

And I've a strong feeling that Gerhart is returning - now. And with many soldiers.

FONZO

Then I'll go out to the highway and watch for them.

FLORA

Wait... they're here. Look.

Just then they look as the whole regiment of Gaheris's men come riding up to them. Gaheris and Gerhart are leading the twenty or so horses. Mila pokes her head out of the wagon to see. Gaheris wears a cloak to cover his shiny armour. They ride up close and only Gaheris, Gerhart and Wagner dismount - the other men stay mounted.

The men at camp stand up, as Gerhart sees his father. Ger walks up and embraces him.

GERHART

Father! I knew you were alive. You make my heart beat with joy. Mother is alright too - she's at the abbey!

Einar smiles proudly at him, holding him at arms length.

EINAR

With my family still alive, I know I'm blessed. And I see you brought my brother.

GAHERIS

I knew they couldn't kill you. You're worth more ... than this castle.

JEB

And you sir?

GAHERIS

(shaking his hand)

I am Lord Gaheris of Dijon. Ger rode all the way to bring me here.

EINAR

How many men did you bring with you?

GAHERIS

We have 20 soldiers, my captain, and myself. What do you want to do?

Einar has to consider a moment.

EINAR

They're expecting you right? Then let's go and reclaim my castle.

INT. CASTLE BANNET, LARGE BED CHAMBER - DAY

Sir Braun is beside RUDOLPH, looking out the window at the approaching horsemen - 20 strong.

BRAUN

What do you think? Sir Gaheris?

RUDOLPH

Yes, my lord. You said he will be expected. I'll go down and see what his intentions are.

Rudolph leaves as Braun continues to look out the window.

EXT. CASTLE BANNET, FRONT GATES - DAY

Gaheris and Wagner lead his large group of soldiers, all riding up the main castle gates, which are closed. Five soldiers on the ground step in front to address them.

SOLDIER

Who are you my lords?

GAHERIS

I am Gaheris, brother to lord Einar (pauses for effect) ... and have come to help him reclaim his castle.

SOLDIER

But lord Einar is dead. This castle is now commanded by Lord Braun.

Einar moves his horse a bit forward and takes his hood down.

EINAR

Lord Einar is ALIVE! Do you not recognise your own lord, Sergeant?

The soldier is amazed. All the soldiers there start to smile.

SOLDIER

My lord! We were told...

EINAR

Open the door. I'll not be shut out of my own castle.

A soldier runs up to the peep hole and shouts to open the door. The large door creaks open.

GAHERIS

Brother. Let me go in first... in case we're attacked.

The riders go in through the wide door single file into a small entry courtyard. Gaheris, then Wagner, Einar, Ger and the rest.

SIR BRAUN - accompanied by Einar's loyal captain, RUDOLPH, and ten of Bors soldiers - enter the courtyard on foot. Then Sir Gaheris rides up, stops and greets SIR BRAUN.

GAHERIS

Good news Sir Braun. Einar is alive!

Einar spurs his horse forward a second time, and reveals himself. Sir Braun is amazed - but he recovers quickly.

BRAUN

That's good news. Welcome back Lord Einar. We thought you were killed.

Captain RUDOLPH comes forward to greet Lord Einar. Many of Gaheris' men dismount their horses. Rudolph knows Einar and greets him with a warm handshake.

RUDOLPH

We all thought you were killed in the attack. So good that you're still alive, my lord.

While this is happening, Gaheris and Wagner walk past BRAUN, shaking hands with a few soldiers. Suddenly Gaheris and Wagner turn and grab Braun from the back, putting a dagger to his neck.

All Braun's soldiers around him pull out their swords. BUT - so do Gaheris' men. There are ten (10) mercenaries, paid by BRAUN who are stopped from acting by Gaheris' men. Einar addresses everyone here in a commanding voice:

EINAR

Put up your weapons! Sir Braun is a traitor to this castle - and we have proof!

He pulls out an official letter with a broken red wax seal, raising it so that everyone can see.

EINAR

(to Braun)

Sir Braun. We have proof that you paid Sir Bors for his treachery. Here is

(cont.) the promissory note you made to him.

Einar then shows it to Capt. Rudolph, who reads it silently, then announces to all the soldiers:

RUDOLPH

It's true. Sir Braun hired BORS to attack the castle with his mercenaries. All of Bor's men here should be arrested.

At this moment, Sir Bors breaks loose from Gaheris and pulls his sword to fight Einar. All the men stand back, wanting to see who would win. Einar is sore and tired, but determined ... Bors needs only to kill him to take over the castle.

SWORD FIGHT -

They exchange a few blows and parries, and Einar quickly disarms Bors, holding his sword point to his neck.

EINAR

Surrender, and I'll spare you.

At that, Bors finally gives up. He knows he's beat. He puts up both hands and steps back. Capt. Rudolph quickly disarms him.

RUDOLPH

To the dungeons my Lord?

EINAR

Yes. Get anyone - loyal to him only - to the dungeons. Tomorrow, we'll meet the Baron, and he can judge him for his crimes

The ten mercenaries are taken away, escorted by ten of Gaheris's men, to a side door of the main castle, and into the dungeons. Bors remains to face Einar.

Rudolph watches as Einar approaches Braun, held at bay by Captain Rudolph's dagger. Gaheris removes Braun's dagger, and sword, and steps away from him, holding the sword to him.

EINAR

You thought to take over my castle,
neighbor?

BRAUN

It's too bad you came back. I really
thought you were dead.

EINAR

I should really kill you for
everything you've put me through! But
I'll have to be satisfied with
killing your mercenary ... BORS.

ON BRAUN - He is surprised, he even looks a little worried.

EINAR

That's right, he's dead.
Wagner, take him to the dungeon.

WAGNER (O.C.)

My pleasure, my lord.

Wagner, turns him around, putting the dagger to his back,
and marches him away. Gaheris and Rudolph come to see Einar
and Gerhart.

RUDOLPH

My Lord. We were told you were
killed. I never meant...

EINAR

I know. You always were always loyal
to our family. I still want you to
lead the castle garrison.

Rudolph kneels on one knee.

RUDOLPH

My pleasure lord. I will secure the
castle. And ... thank you.

He stands up, leaves to go look after the new prisoners.
Gaheris watches him leave, then motions to the castle.

GAHERIS

Well brother. We took it back without
shedding any blood.

EINAR

Thank you. And thanks to all your men too.

(turning to **Ger**)

And now it's time to show our appreciation to your men - and the gypsies. Let's see what food and drink we can provide for our guests. I'm starving.

CUT TO:

EXT. FRONT GATES, CASTLE - NIGHT

The glow of a large fire illuminates the GYPSY WAGON surrounding the fire. Ten men are bringing long benches to sit down on. Some carry deluxe nobles' chairs and set them in a row. To one side we see Gaheris and Einar talking and drinking. Jeb motions for them to sit, and they sit down at the center chairs. Then sitting near them are Gerhart and Wagner. Also sitting are Fonzo and Luba, with Sura and Flora. All the rest of the soldiers are nearby watching.

Andrez and Mila step out of Andrez's wagon in nice costumes and bow to the crowd.

ON EINAR - Einar talks to Ger and Gaheris - they are in the center chairs.

EINAR

These people are good people. I'm impressed. You say they took you in until you could get to Dijon?

GER

Yes. We owe them everything.

EINAR

And to you too, my son. Herr Zindel was the one who found me ... I must think of a good reward.

GAHERIS

I think Ger already has his reward. That young beauty really likes him.

JEB gets everyones attention here.

JEB

Gentlemen and ladies. We wish to entertain you all in celebration of

the return of this castle to the
BANNET family.

Andrez starts playing his lute. Andrez and Luba drum. Mila starts to twirl and dance, moving toward Ger. In a moment the crowd starts to clap along.

Behind everyone, RALF and RUDOLPH come out, leading some cooks and helpers who bring a few large platters of food and a few large wineskins.

Finally we see Emilio who looks out Sura's window and smiles.

FADE OUT

END