

# Medieval Murder Mystery and Mayhem

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Stage and Steel Productions  
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# Act I

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## Scene 1

Helena, Terryyn, and Elizabeth come out and stand, waiting. Helena straightens Terryyn's tunic at his great displeasure. Then she tries to wipe his face with her handkerchief and he swats her hand away. Helena holds the handkerchief in the open throughout the scene. They wait. Leofrick enters in haste.

**Leofrick** - He comes, the Baron has returned. ( joins the others and stands in line with them )

**Terryyn** - You belong a pace back Bailiff!

**Leofrick** - Lord Terryyn, on St. Justin's Day I have equal rights...

**Terryyn** - If you think yourself actually worthy to stand with us then you will get no privileges on this day so I suggest that you get back to your place.

**Loefrick** - Yes, Lord Terryyn. (takes a step back )

**Kormack** - ( enters, takes off his cloak and hands it out )

**Loefrick** - ( quickly grabs the cloak )

**Helena** - ( bows ) Husband.

**Terryyn** - ( bows ) Father.

**Elizabeth** - ( curtsies ) Father.

**Kormack** - Report!

**Terryyn** - We have begun preparing for the St. Justin's Day feast. All will be ready by...

**Kormack** - ( slaps him )

**Terryyn** - ( reacts, steps back directly into his mother's arms )

**Kormack** - Cancel it at once! Why would I ever allow St. Justin's Day to be celebrated in this castle! Think boy.

**Helena** - ( tries to straighten out his tunic again )

**Terryn** - ( pulls himself from his mother's pampering ) We should not so openly defy the Kings creed...

**Kormack** - We! There is no "we" in this house hold. There is only me. I was not just given my power, I had to take it. Now report!

**Terryn** - I went to the conference as instructed and met with Baron Turinch. After a bit of haggling I was able to secure the item for the price of 50 goats, 20 cattle, and two parcels of land. He even...

**Kormack** - You what! ( slaps him again )

**Terryn** - ( goes to the floor this time )

**Kormack** - I give you a small errand to do and you go off and empty my coffers. That item is not worth half that. If I had sired a horse he would have had more wits then you do!

**Elizabeth** - ( steps forward ) Actually Father, the land was just swamps to the south. The loss of them will only reduce your taxes to the King. However, 30 goats and 15 cattle should have been sufficient.

**Kormack** - ( turns slowly to her and raises his hand to slap her too )

**Helena** - ( steps forward ) Do not even think to dare!

**Kormack** - Dare? Woman! I will dare as I will in my own castle and no woman shall stand in my way! I dare to ask you why I have been cursed with a daughter that has more brains than my son.

**Terryn** - ( gets himself up ) Enough! ( draws his sword )

***Fight #1*** ensues between them. The others get out of the way. Kormack beats his son in a humiliating way.

**Helena** - Stop it! Can you not see that you are hurting him?

**Kormack** - ( Steps back and lets him go )

**Helena** - ( tries to console her son )

**Kormack** - He is weak because you keep picking him up and dusting him off.

**Terryn** - ( pushes himself away from his mother )  
Leave me be. I am not weak! I will prove it to you. When I kill you, you will then know that I am not weak. ( steps towards the Baron) I will kill you.

**Kormack** - ( yells loudly and faints an attack )

**Terryn** - ( flinches )

**Kormack** - You and what army!

**Terryn** - ( exits in haste )

**Helena** - When will you learn that you cannot beat strength into someone only hatred.

**Kormack** - When I want a woman's opinion I will request it. You are the reason he is so dimwitted. All these years and you still have not learned your place. Now get the servants back to work.

**Leofrick** - ( Enters in haste dragging Terryn by the arm ) My Lord Baron, my Lord Baron! The King has arrived and seeks an audience with you. He nears the gate at this very moment.

**Kormack** - I am busy.

**Terryn** - ( pulls out of Leofrick's grasp ) Let me be!

**Leofrick** - Ah, Yes, but Baron, this is in earnest. You must come at once. The King, he approaches.

**Kormack** - This day just keeps getting worse.

Edelle enters from the aisle and is looking around. Leofrick, Kormack, Helena, Terryn, and Elizabeth all file in line.

**Edelle** - ( looking at Kormack ) Tell your men on the wall to stand down, the King approaches the gates.

**Kormack** - ( says and does nothing )

**Leofrick** - ( nervous at the silence from his Baron ) My Lord, it is only proper when the King honors your home.

**Kormack** - ( says and does nothing )

**Terryn** - ( steps forward in haste ) Father, the King approaches, if he sees the Guard in full ready he will be offended.

**Kormack** - Let him be.

**Elizabeth** - Father, our house will lose favor with the King. We cannot afford that.

**Kormack** - You think yourself a politician now? Fine, if the King's presence brings you honor, then you tell the Guard to stand down.

Elizabeth, unsure of herself, cautiously takes a step forward but Terryn stops her afraid to go against his father.

**Edelle** - Then I will go and inform the King that you stand against him. ( turns and begins to leave )

**Kormack** - ( still does nothing )

**Leofrick** - My Lords?

**Terryn** - ( steps forward ) Wait! Leofrick, tell the men to stand down. Open the gates and welcome the King in the Name of the Barony of Wedgemore.

**Leofrick** - ( bows and leaves in haste )

**Edelle** - ( turns back ) Lord Terryn, Son of Baron Kormack, you show more wisdom than your father does.

**Kormack** - My son has opened the gates for the King not for you. You are not welcome here and I will not have your stench within these walls. Leave at once, I command you!

**Edelle** - You cannot command me in this for I have a duty to a higher authority than you.

**Kormack** - I told you that if you ever returned I would...

**Gavin** - You would what?

Gavin, Thea, and Leofrick enter from the back of the audience.

**Gavin** - Run her through or hug her as if she were a long lost sister? She stays and that is my command as your King. Now, on my way in here I saw a servant fetching a pale of water. What is the meaning of this on St. Justin's Day?

**Kormack** - ( smiles ) *Lord Terryn*, find that servant and carry his pale for him.

**Terryn** - ( not happy but obliging ) At once father. ( begins to leave past the King )

**Gavin** - ( stops the Lord ) And Lord Terryn, I better not see another servant lifting a finger on this a day of rest.

**Terryn** - Yes, of course, my King. At once I will see to this. ( nervous, bows and backs right into the chairs nearly falling over them and the people ) Servant out of my way!

**Thea** - My Lord, St. Justin's Day is a day of charity too.

**Terryn** - Right, charity. ( turns back to the servant ) For you Princess, I would commit any act of charity. ( exits )

**Thea** - ( just shakes her head in disbelief and watches him leave )

**Helena** - ( again with her handkerchief in clear view ) My King, allow me to show you some hospitality. Welcome to our Castle Wedgemore. Please, to what great fortune do we owe you for this visit?

**Gavin** - ( takes her hand and kisses it ) My Lady Helena I am always...

**Kormack** - King or not, in MY castle you will please me to refrain from touching MY *Lady*.

**Gavin** - ( Glares at Kormack ) Yes, well. We will stay the night.

**Helena** - ( embarrassed to be the center of a tussle ) As you wish, it would be our honor to house you.

**Gavin** - We will share in your St. Justin's Day feast.

**Helena** - As you wish, our table shall be yours.

Terryn enters, back just in time for...

**Gavin** - And over diner I shall hear the Baron make an account of himself.

**Kormack** - Oh, what is the charge?

**Gavin** - You stand accused of seducing my daughter, the Princess. It has been said that four days previous, at the Conference of Cultural Arts in Risenburo you were seen in a dark corner, alone with the Princess, in an unfit embrace.

**Thea** - ( looks on embarrassed )

**Kormack** - I see.

**Gavin** - I will give you this afternoon to think upon this accusation and properly come up with your answer to it.

**Kormack** - How charitable of you to give me such time.

**Gavin** - Yes. Now, ( turns to Helena ) Baroness, if you will show us to chambers.

**Helena** - Ah... ( is lost in thought, suddenly afraid )

**Kormack** - Woman, that is your cue!

**Helena** - ( jumps ) At once, my King, please this way.

Helena leads the King and Princess off with Leofrick on their heels. Terryn, suddenly has eyes on the ground, seeks another exit but runs into Elizabeth who tries to point at him and say something but he shushes her and pushes her off. The Baron and Edelle are left to stare in hatred at each other.