

# Medieval Murder Mystery and Mayhem

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## Scene 5 -

**Edelle** - ( enters, walks to the audience and stares at them in thought ) Ok, now, I am going to have to search everyone here. ( audience reacts ) Believe me, I am an honest woman, searching you - well, ( reaction ) Ok, ok, let us have some form of order here. I have an idea that might make this all go a bit faster. I will stand here; starting with the first row I want you to, one after the other, stand up and put your arms straight up in the air like this so that I can see that you carry no weapons. If you cannot stand, or are particularly good looking, then remain seated and I will come and search you manually. Ok, one after the other and then row after row and this will go much faster. You there, start us off. ( if they remain standing, wait until the wave gets into the second row ) Wait, Wait! This is not working; I cannot see anyone behind this wall of a row here in front. Everyone sit down. ( thinks ) I have got it. Ok, we will do this again. After the person next to you stands up you sit down again. Yes, this will work. Ok again, you there start us off. ( harass as needed )

**Thea** - ( enters early during the wave, looks on puzzled )

**Edelle** - Ok, ok. I think I have seen enough. Now there are a few personal examinations that must be completed.

**Thea** - Edelle, what are you doing?

**Edelle** - Searching the common folk. I just invented a new technique to rapidly search large numbers of organized crowds in a short amount of time. What do you think?

**Thea** - It was oddly enjoyable to watch.

**Edelle** - Enjoyable to watch?! You miss the point! It is an efficient use of resources and

time. I will call the technique "The Edelle", it will be used for hundreds of years.

**Thea** - And it is enjoyable to watch.

**Edelle** - What? No!

**Thea** - Think about it, did you tell them what the purpose of the activity was before doing it?

**Edelle** - Yes.

**Thea** - Then if anyone had anything to hide, they could have concealed it prior to participating. I do think that you are on to something, if you use the fact that it was enjoyable to watch and had say, someone else whose intentions were not so obvious like Bailiff Leofrick, perform the act with the people then you could stand near and observe the people, having fun and not expecting that they were indeed being inspected.

**Edelle** - Catching them off guard. Now I see your point. A little less honest but then no one can get their feathers ruffled at their honor being in question by having to be searched.

**Thea** - The only down side, really, is that it will need a more innocent name.

**Edelle** - Yes, it will. Well, there goes my place in history. In a hundred years from now no one will know that it was I who invented it.

**Thea** - Your name often appears in the chronicles of my father's great deeds.

**Edelle** - Yes well, he is mad enough at me right now to wipe it out of them.

**Thea** - For what reason?!

**Edelle** - For the most serious of reasons - failure.

**Thea** - Failure! You have never failed my father. He lives because of you - you have saved his life what four times now. You toil always at his side. How could he think of you as a failure?

**Edelle** - He entrusted me with his greatest possession and that possession got hurt in his eyes.

**Thea** - ( pause ) Me. You are speaking of me. I did not get hurt. It was an innocent accident that I now regret. Why can he not just let this go? It was a kiss! That is all that it was.

**Edelle** - I know, I understand.

**Thea** - Why can he not know? Why can he not understand? If it was you it would not have been an act of war! No offense.

**Edelle** - None taken, but it was not me - it was you. You exist upon a pedestal much higher than any other in this Kingdom. He keeps you up there to protect you. A father's love can be the most awe inspiring power in the known world. It can give one strength beyond that of the gods and it can blind one to all reason outside of his duty to protect that which he loves.

**Thea** - I am nothing but a possession to him. To be shown off all pretty but chained up all the same.

**Edelle** - Yes, you are but not out of greed. No. But out of fear.

**Thea** - My father is not afraid of anything.

**Edelle** -All fathers know fear. Fear that someday they will no longer be able to protect their child. You have grown of age. A time when young ladies begin to look elsewhere from their fathers glance. A time when it would be the most advantageous for another man to take you and hold you in ransom to your father. A time when your young curiosity could rob from you a more appropriate future. He does not see you at the moment, all he sees is danger and fear around every corner.

**Thea** - Then why be angry at you? By your words then my folly was his fault.

**Edelle** - I was the one that talked him into allowing you to attend the conference. I was there, I should have stopped you but you were enjoying yourself.

**Thea** - You, my father's most trusted, never took your eyes off me, and that is why I snuck away. It was my fault, I shall tell him that, if he will listen.

**Edelle** - And a rather nice job of sneaking however you are right, I never take my eyes off of you. There is nothing that you do that I do not know about.

**Thea** - How comforting.

**Edelle** - A princess's life is so hard.

**Thea** - Yes, well let me put down my tiara for a moment and give you a hand with whatever it is that you are doing.

**Edelle** - And why would you want to do that?

**Thea** - Because it can be so heavy and boring at times. Your life seems much more appealing. By the way, what are you doing?

**Edelle** - Searching every nook and cranny in these walls for concealed weapons. The Baron has a knack for hiding all sorts of things. He is known for walking around so boldly without a weapon because he hides them all around him so there is never one far from reach. Mark my words he will come unarmed to the banquet tonight.

**Thea** - But you always command that everyone be unarmed in the Kings presence.

**Edelle** - That is not the point. He will strut in his bravery to hide that he will actually be the biggest coward in the room. ( all the while searching ) Ah, ha! Here is another one. I thought as such ( pulls a sword out ) This makes seven that I have found so far.

**Thea** - How is it that you know the Baron so well and why do you hate each other so?

**Edelle** - Oh, that could take all day to tell and I have many more nooks to search.

**Thea** - Then give me the short version now and I shall savor the full version along the trip home tomorrow.

**Edelle** - Thea, always so curious. I know every block of this castle because I grew up here.

**Thea** - Here?! But how was that?

**Edelle** - The Bulgar War, it took the lives of many noblemen leaving even more orphans behind. Your grandfather decreed that the surviving noblemen must save us from poverty by taking us in as wards.

**Thea** - And Kormack's father took you in. You grew up with the Baron. You should be siblings not enemies. Something must have happened.

**Edelle** - Yes something happened.

Elizabeth enters but stays off to the side unseen.

**Thea** - ( pause ) And? You cannot just end it there. What happened? ( pause ) Of which you are not going to tell. You are being very cruel.

**Edelle** - And you let your curiosity get you into trouble. It is personal and it is family. Now, since you want to help, follow that corridor to the end. There you will find a torch upon the wall. Pick it up and then put it back down. A small opening in the wall should appear. Check the space for a sword. If there is one then remove it.

**Thea** - Ooo, adventure and secrets. It will only make me ask again and again. ( starts to exit, stops ) Ah Edelle?

**Edelle** - ( already searching someplace else ) Yes?

**Thea** - Do you really know about everything I do?

**Edelle** - ( smiles but doesn't stop searching ) Right down to the crumpets you ate for morning meal.

**Thea** - How comforting. ( exits )

**Edelle** - ( beat - without looking ) And what about you, young Elizabeth?

**Elizabeth** - ( startled ) Oh, me, I was just listening.

**Edelle** - Hmmm, that can get one into just as much trouble as having too much curiosity.

**Elizabeth** - ( walks up to Edelle ) Are you really a Knight?

**Edelle** - Yes I am.

**Elizabeth** - But you are a ... girl. There are girl Knights?

**Edelle** - In this Kingdom there are.

**Elizabeth** - My father says that there is no proper place for women in the world.

**Edelle** - Yes, he would say that. Elizabeth, I want you to know this, and I say that it is the truth, on my knightly honor; you can be whatever you want to be. You have to have a talent and a willingness to work hard for it but it does not matter if you are a boy or a girl.

**Elizabeth** - You know, I thought as much but around here...

**Edelle** - I wish you had known your grandfather, he would have liked you. Tell you what, in two years, when you come to age, if you want a try at becoming a Knight you write me a letter and I will sponsor you for Squire-hood.

**Elizabeth** - I do not think that will make my father very happy.

**Edelle** - Not one bit. It will make me happy. But most importantly, if it makes you happy then it is worth trying.

**Elizabeth** - I am not sure if I want to be a Knight but I do know that I... I want to be respected. I will write you a letter in two years and let you know my feelings.

**Edelle** - I am sure that you will.

Elizabeth runs off as Edelle chuckles.