

A CRACKLING FIRE

NARRATOR-MILLIA

(thoughtful straight
man (woman), student)

Dear Sister Valopecia,
I was sorry to hear about your
illness in your last letter. I have
been praying for your health and
well-being, but as an agnostic I am
not sure how much that helped. All
the same, I hope you are taking it
easy and eating lots of soup. Or
should that be drinking lots of
soup?

A lot has happened since last we
spoke, much of it highly secret
information that would cause a
scandal should it get out. I am
telling you because I trust your
candor, and because it's too juicy
for me not to tell somebody.

So I told you a while back about
Siofra's hilariously embarrassing
deep dark tragic past in the King's
elite guard, right? How she seduced
the Queen in a moment of weakness
and had to leave in disgrace? I
know you didn't seem surprised by
this in your letter. I'm beginning
to think she tells it to everyone
she wants to seduce.

Well, her replacement in the Elite
Guard, Lorick, is just as stuffed
up his own butt as Siofra. Is that
inevitable? Am I going to end up
like that when I'm a knight?
Anyway, I learned this when he came
into town on important business. We
were at Lily's bar, like every
night, working hard...

CRACKLING FIRE, MURMURING PUB

SIOFRA

(confident, sex-obsessed
warrior woman)

So then I say, Sure, but which one
of you is the priest? Ha!

SAJA
(adventure-loving
princess)
Ha! Very amusing!

SIOFRA
Hey, I ever tell you about my deep
dark tragic past?

SAJA
No! What happened?

SIOFRA
Well, I don't like to brag, but I
used to be in the king's personal
Elite Guard. Nothing special, you
know, it's just what came of
winning every duel I was challenged
to, banishing the Witch of the
Dust, bringing the Gloom Dragon to
heel, and filling out an
application and making sure to call
back within a few days to show I
was interested in the position.

SAJA
I heard about that application.
Three professional references,
that's not easy to come by on short
notice.

SIOFRA
Just so. I was hob-nobbing every
day with rich folks in the capital,
you wouldn't believe how the other
half lives - not that you don't
seem like a lady of fine
upbringing, but people out there
are on a whole other level. No
offense.

SAJA
None taken.

SIOFRA
Me and the queen had a special sort
of friendship, you know? We didn't
speak a lot but just from glances
across a ballroom I learned a lot
about her. She was almost as
uncomfortable with the revelries of
wealth as I was.

SAJA

Allies in a world you weren't entirely comfortable inhabiting. I hear the queen was from a middle-class family.

SIOFRA

You're as sharp as you are adorable. Well, one day, when the King was away, she summoned me to her chamber, having heard of my prowess in keeping company with scores of women of lesser rank. But we were interrupted when -

DOOR OPENS

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SCENE 3 - SHERIFF, SIOFRA, SJA, LORICK, MILLIA

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CRACKLING FIRE, MURMURING PUB

SHERIFF

(A movie cop)

Siofra! Straighten up. There's business afoot.

SIOFRA

Sorry, my story of the interruption has been interrupted. This had better be big, Sheriff.

SHERIFF

Your highness, I'm sorry for leaving you with my deputy. I hope Siofra hasn't made a nuisance of herself.

SAJA

Not at all.

(beat)

Siofra, I'm sorry for not properly introducing myself. I was wondering if you'd recognize me in plainclothes. Princess Saja Orelia, at your service.

SIOFRA

Princess!

LORICK

(heroic but condescending knight in arms)

(MORE)

LORICK (CONT'D)

Be quiet, both of you. We don't know where our enemies may lurk.

SHERIFF

I'm telling you, we keep this town safe and quiet.

(whispering)

Don't tell him about the demons, Siofra, I'm angling to be legally recognized as a person again.

SAJA

You relax, Lorick. I'm now supping with three of the nation's finest officers, whether or not we officially recognize your existence anymore.

SHERIFF

(Zoidberg)

Rub some salt in it, why not?

LORICK

My lady, the Sheriff and I were just discussing security for tonight's ceremony.

SIOFRA

What ceremony? Has the royal family joined a cult again? I'm not up to duel another elder god.

LORICK

It's need-to-know, Siofra. It's hard enough trusting you to keep knowledge of the princess's presence here a secret from every stripper and milkmaid you encounter.

SIOFRA

I don't hang out with a lot of milkmaids. Fine, you have my secrecy, but my squire will be helping with security as well. She's candid, faithful, and she's been listening to us this whole time anyway.

MILLIA

Sorry, polishing swords got boring.

SIOFRA

That's not a euphemism. Polishing swords is helpful for, uh, learning how swords... work.

LORICK

I'll bet it is. Now, while we search the cathedral, you're going to take five of my men into the woods, keeping your paws far away from the Princess. We have reason to believe there are pirates in the region.

MILLIA

What reason?

LORICK

We saw them. Their airship must be moored somewhere nearby.

SHERIFF

Smart money is to the south. Wide, open spaces. Plus the brothel used to be out there.

LORICK

When you find them, you are to leave no survivors.

SIOFRA

Leave no survivors from me and my squire encountering an entire crew of sky pirates, with all their cannons handy?

LORICK

That's unless you think it's too dangerous.

SIOFRA

Who do you think you're talking to? Your highness, do you have any requests? Should I do it barehanded? Blindfolded? Nude?

MILLIA

Please ignore her, your highness.

LORICK

Yes, your highness. I couldn't have put it better myself. Now, we must get ready.

PASTORAL TOWN. OCCASIONAL HORSE-CARTS.

NARRATOR-MILLIA

So Siofra and I quickly armed
ourselves and began our quest.

SIOFRA

The nerve of that Lorick guy. Who
does he think he is, talking to me
all condescending?

MILLIA

I can see how that would wear on
your nerves, my liege.

SIOFRA

It's like he thought I was gonna
seduce the princess or something.

MILLIA

I'm baffled how he could have
gotten that impression.

SIOFRA

I've known her since she was like
fifteen! Sure, she's had a growth
spurt since then, but she's still
not my type.

MILLIA

So before you knew who she was--

SIOFRA

Innocent flirtation, like you do
with anyone new you meet.

MILLIA

I'll bet you do.

SIOFRA

I don't have to take this.

HELENA

(flirtatious, loves
Siofra, but secretly
plots the destruction of
all humans)
Hey, cats.

SIOFRA

Helena! What brings you back to
town on such a fine day?

HELENA

I've just been to the market. Who was that girl you were drinking with?

SIOFRA

It's a secret. Uh, not like a, uh - she's just a kid, don't be gross. It's a state secret. I'm basically a secret agent.

HELENA

So secret they officially declared you nonexistent.

SIOFRA

Well I'm not going to get anything done as a secret agent if everyone trumpets it from the rooftops!

HELENA

I'll let you get back to your vital mission. Let's get lunch sometime.

SIOFRA

It would be my, uh, my pleasure.

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SCENE 5 - MILLIA, SIOFRA, SUSAN

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WOODLAND, STREAMS, BIRDSONG

NARRATOR-MILLIA

So Siofra managed to untie her tongue and we set off. The path to the cliffs looked completely different in the daylight. It was as different as night and day. We trekked through the farmland south of town in search of the pirates, and before long, with our tracking skills and the pirates disinterest in secrecy, we found them. Before us, through a line of trees, a ramshackle collection of metal and canvas coiled around a clearing, like a sleeping cat. Scores of pirates of all shapes and sizes tinkered with the skeletal airship but one lookout saw us - Siofra wasn't exactly bothering to lay low.

(MORE)

NARRATOR-MILLIA (CONT'D)

Newbie pirates were like breakfast cereal to her - crunchy, but still, uh, something you eat for breakfast.

One woman stepped out from the hustle and bustle of work and with a WHOOP call across the camp they all circled us. The women stared us down as unimpressed as you might stare at, uh, breakfast cereal. I shouldn't write letters before I've eaten in the morning.

SUSAN

(just, the toughest
motherfucker ever)

What have we here? A duet of prey. Nuclear Wing Company D, at your surprise.

MILLIA

That's -at your service.-

SUSAN

Darn right you are.

SIOFRA

Millia, these might not be the kind of wusses I was expecting.

(to Susan)

Nuclear Wing? Last I heard you guys had been killed by demons.

SUSAN

Hope springs eternal, eh? We were routed, sure. They caught us with our pants down, and their boss had some kind of magic protecting her, but I daresay if we ran into each other again things would go very differently.

SIOFRA

That could be arranged. I'd like to propose a truce. Or a trade, information for safety. Our town needs to deal with these demons just as badly as you need revenge.

SUSAN

That sounds reasonable. Of course, instead of this trade, we could simply torture you until you tell us where to find the demons, slaughter them in their beds, and then descend on your town in a rain of pillaging and bloodshed.

MILLIA

We could just tell you the location with no need for torture.

SUSAN

You seem to have misunderstood our motivation. We're the Nuclear Wing Company D, the scourges of the sky, the single greatest reason commercial air travel is not a feasible enterprise.

I am Captain Susan the Thirteenth, sole survivor of the Devil's Grail. I held Gryan, the city of whores, in such fear that they elected me mayor... unanimously. I am no one to screw with. Investigate my bona fides if you wish, but it may cost you your life.

SIOFRA

(quietly, lustily)

Scissor me timbers.

(confidently)

Well, lest you misunderstood the situation, you're talking to Siofra Aine Whelan -

MILLIA

Do you do this with every tough woman you meet?

SIOFRA

Siofra Aine Whelan, student of Lakrym the Elvish hero, and formerly of the King's Elite Guard. I've slain dictators and lain dragons. I defended Labrysinnia from the Sedimented Golem Army using nothing more than a kiln and a toothpick.

MILLIA

Is this a universal warrior thing?
The introductory sword-measuring
contest?

SUSAN

I'm quaking in my boots. I've cut
down women with more fight in their
eyes than you, without a second's
hesitation. When you hear cattle
whimpering in their fields at night
it's a safe bet they know I passed
overhead.

SIOFRA

It's funny you talk about cows.
Your reputation says you fight no
better than them. I, on the other
hand, have matched enormous
minotaurs in bare-fisted combat -
I've cuckolded minotaurs in bare-
fisted -

MILLIA

I hate this. I've never hated
anything more than this.

SUSAN

You sex-obsessed joke of a knight.

SIOFRA

Disease-ridden sky-rat.

SUSAN

Tramp.

SIOFRA

Crook.

SIOFRA AND SUSAN

(they begin to make kissy noises)

SUSAN

I'm going to kill you in your
sleep.

SIOFRA

I'd like to see you try, you
sniveling coward.

SUSAN

What did you plan on when you came
to a pirate ship in the middle of
nowhere?

(MORE)

SUSAN (CONT'D)

Are you one of those people who loves the idea of being captured and ravished by heartless criminals?

SIOFRA

I came to cut you pack hunters down like the dogs you are.

SUSAN

I'll make you heel.

MILLIA

Siofra, you make me wish I'd followed my father in his career and scooped dung for a living.

SUSAN

Cute kid. She yours?

SIOFRA

I've never seen her before in my life.

SUSAN

Keep her around. Life's more fun when you're pissing someone off. This is about this princess, isn't it?

MILLIA

Why would you think there's a princess afoot?

SUSAN

Because you wannabe social climbers keep using words like -afoot.- Look, we know every criminal for hundreds of miles, of course we know about the princess.

MILLIA

Stay far away from her or Siofra will make you rue the day you were born.

SUSAN

Your threats need work. You know they're marrying her to someone she's never met for political purposes, right?

SIOFRA

Makes sense.

MILLIA

Wait, I thought they wouldn't tell you why she was here.

SIOFRA

It's the only non-occult explanation that leaps to mind. We're technically neutral soil, and the succession wars have been boiling on and off for generations. Why else would they sneak her out here? I'll bet you whoever they chose as the lucky royal spouse is skulking around right now too. They just have to stay alive until a legally binding ceremony and the wars will be settled.

SUSAN

For now, until some new yahoo wants his bloodline blessed. I think it's disgusting to see a girl in the prime of her life sold off to buy a few weeks of peace.

MILLIA

You're very noble. I bet you'll be happy to help her escape, and even collect a tidy ransom when you sell her back to her family - hrrk!

SUSAN

(insulted)

Ha ha ha. I was gonna play that part by ear. I might collect the ransom and then never return her. Siofra, if you want my knife removed from your squire's neck -

MILLIA

I wouldn't turn down the offer.

SUSAN

Here's how we're going to play this. I feel like a fight tonight. You get me the demons, I leave your precious princess to marry someone she barely knows. No demons, and your entire town will be slaughtered and your valuables smelted to make me a set of gold-plated jewel-encrusted lingerie.

SIOFRA
 Alright. You'll get your demons.
 You know, the enemy of my enemy is
 my crush.

MILLIA
 Friend.

SIOFRA
 Friend.

MILLIA
 (whispering)
 Let's get out of here, Siofra.

SIOFRA
 (whispering,
 schoolgirlish)
 I think she liked me!

6 SCENE 6 - MILLIA, SIOFRA

6

PASTORAL TOWN. SWORDS BEING SHARPENED.

NARRATOR-MILLIA
 When we returned to Bedleham it
 quickly became clear that Susan's
 theory was right - the cathedral
 was surrounded by men with swords
 trying very hard to look
 inconspicuous. Siofra recognized
 many of them.

SIOFRA
 Hey Carl. Steve. Sup Henrietta?

MILLIA
 Bet you didn't expect to see so
 many of your old co-workers.
 (beat)
 Oh... Sorry. I guess I should have
 realized it wouldn't be that
 pleasant.

SIOFRA
 Nah, it's not that. They just make
 me anxious. You ever been a leader,
 kid?

MILLIA
 I was in charge of my scout troop's
 bake sales.
 (MORE)

MILLIA (CONT'D)

Lot of paperwork, but thanks to some careful delegation we made it through.

SIOFRA

Huh. The thing about life-and-death struggles is everyone gets antsy because you don't know how much you can count on anyone, even in the Elite Guard. That's how come when there's a large group of people shooting at someone they all always miss. All the arrows flying everywhere throw off your focus. It's like a fundamental law of the universe. And don't get me started when they're ninjas. I was briefly put in charge of the Anaconda Unit -

MILLIA

Is that why you weren't worried about the pirates? Too many of them to fight properly?

SIOFRA

Yeah. It was just bad luck Susan was there. I heard she shattered a castle once with just one cannonball.

MILLIA

Was it an old castle?

SIOFRA

Yes, but what was alarming was she didn't need a cannon to throw it.

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SCENE 7 - SIOFRA, MILLIA, SAJA, LORICK

7

ROARING FIRE

DOOR KNOCKING

SIOFRA

Let us in, we're with the band.

SAJA

(through a door)
Siofra!

LORICK

(through a door)
Princess, wait!

DOOR OPENING

SAJA

What news of the pirates?

SIOFRA

Taken care of.

LORICK

And you two without a scratch.

SIOFRA

Don't sound so disappointed.

LORICK

Next I want you to meet with the Prince of Tinderwood, whose caravan should be arriving soon. You will be staying with him tonight. Far from the princess.

SIOFRA

You know if the crown doesn't recognize me I don't really have to listen to you, right, pencil-neck?

LORICK

If you don't care about the peace process we will be enacting tonight-

SIOFRA

You mean the political marriage that you're doing a bad job keeping under wraps?

SAJA

Gosh, Siofra, you're as sharp as you are pretty.

SIOFRA

Shucks, 'tweren't nuthin'.

SAJA

Siofra will be my bodyguard tonight, Lorick. You can visit the Prince of Tinderwood and assess whether he will present a threat to my person.

LORICK

Your majesty, Siofra has proven on several occasions that she cannot be trusted.

SAJA

Thank you, Lorick. I don't wish for your company as I prepare for my wedding. That will be all.

LORICK

(extremely flustered)
Very well, Majesty.

DOOR OPENS, CLOSES.

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SCENE 8 - SAJA, SIOFRA, MILLIA

8

ROARING FIRE

SAJA

Ha ha! What a twerp!

SIOFRA

Ah, I was probably just as annoying when I wore the royal crest.

SAJA

Not at all. I always wanted to grow up to be just like you. I was always too shy to say it but when I was alone in my room I took my curtain rod and pretended I was fighting monsters with you.

SIOFRA

I always wondered why the castle went through so many curtain rods.

MILLIA

Are you looking forward to the wedding?

SAJA

I guess so. It should ease some geopolitical tensions for a while.

MILLIA

Geopolitical tensions? This is your life.

SAJA

I am aware of that. Just as I am aware every time news reaches my father of more fatalities from fighting over his crown. The region needs something to unify it, and if I can help I have no choice.

SIOFRA

If so many people would oppose this marriage that you need to keep it a secret until it's done, who's to say it will change anything?

SAJA

Do you have any better ideas?

SIOFRA

Not a one.

MILLIA

So what are we doing about the demons, Siofra?

SAJA

There are demons afoot? Cooool!

SIOFRA

They're just these guys we know. Really not as exciting as they want you to think. The problem is finding them.

MILLIA

They're living at the lighthouse.

SIOFRA

How do you figure?

MILLIA

Nexus of magical energy, convenient to everywhere we've encountered them, stylish, ominous...

SIOFRA

I guess we'd better let the pirates know.

SAJA

You left the pirates alive?

SIOFRA

We made a deal so everyone can live. I'm sure you of all people understand where we're coming from.

SAJA

I suppose so.

(beat)

The Prince of Tinderwood isn't that bad. Sure, he's a jerk, but aren't most twelve-year-olds?

MILLIA
He's twelve?!

SAJA
You really don't understand
political marriages, huh?

MILLIA
I really don't. Princess, you're
stronger than I ever appreciated.

SAJA
Thank you. You know, when I was
little I always dreamed people
would tell me that. Not in these
circumstances, of course. I should
get dressed. And Siofra... I'm glad
I got to see you one last time as a
member of my own family. You were
always my hero.

SIOFRA
It is an honor, your highness.

DOOR CLOSSES.

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SCENE 9 - SIOFRA, MILLIA

9

PASTORAL TOWN

SIOFRA
I guess it's time we let Susan know
where her demons are. Assuming your
guess holds true.

MILLIA
I hate everything about this
situation. Poor Saja.

SIOFRA
She called me a hero.
(beat)
I guess that's life. We don't all
get happy endings.

MILLIA
I almost wish the pirates would
attack the wedding. Hey, Siofra, a
horse could run on cobbled paths
faster than those motorcycle things
the demons use, right?

SIOFRA
I imagine, yes. Why?

MILLIA
Can you find me a horse before the wedding? I think I can solve everything.

SIOFRA
Wait, I think I see your idea. It's brilliant, Millia. You're such a genius I could kiss you. I just have one alteration.

10 SCENE 10 - SAJA, MILLIA

10

PASTORAL TOWN

DOOR OPENS

SAJA
Where's Siofra?

MILLIA
She's off getting to do the cool stuff. Like usual.

SAJA
The cool stuff?

MILLIA
Last-minute escapes and derring-do.

SAJA
She never let me go on her adventures either.

MILLIA
Of course, the more witnesses there are, the less she can talk up her bravery down the line.

SAJA
Is she a coward in private?

MILLIA
No, but I don't think anyone could live up to the reputation she wants. She was telling me today about someone who threw cannonballs barehanded.

SAJA

Was this a real person or a
folklore thing?

MILLIA

That's the thing! I really never
know with her!

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SCENE 11 - MILLIA, LORICK, PRINCE

11

ROARING FIRE

NARRATOR-MILLIA

I spent much of that afternoon
learning how to lace a corset. The
princess was not accustomed to
doing so herself. That's one thing
about working with Siofra. Your CV
overfloweth with bizarre skills. On
the other side of the cathedral,
Lorick was learning new things as
well.

LORICK

... No, I couldn't tell you whether
she's a good kisser. I suppose
there won't be much kissing anyway.
I'm led to understand political
weddings involve a lot of
concubines.

PRINCE

(a relatively sweet twelve
year old boy)
That just seems rude.

LORICK

She'll have them too.

PRINCE

That's worse! Why can't we just
form an alliance without all this?

LORICK

Because years down the line, who's
to say there won't be a double-
cross? This way, we can't strike
without endangering our princess,
and you can't strike without your
wife being very upset about it.

PRINCE

I'll already be cheating on her.

LORICK

That's different. Peasants cheat when they're bored with people they married for love. You'll cheat so you don't get annoyed with someone you're trapped with.

PRINCE

Did you study negotiation as well as swordplay?

LORICK

I'm not even supposed to be guarding you...

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SCENE 12 - MILLIA, HELENA, HAROLD

12

HEAVY WIND ON THE MOORS

NARRATOR-MILLIA

On the moors, Siofra was putting her plan into action, atop a chestnut steed I later learned she tamed in the woods. As I say, Siofra has a bizarre skillset indeed. But although we only discussed checking where the demons were, her horse made a low profile difficult.

HELENA

Harold.

HAROLD

(a biker chick with a goofy man's name. Wants to be a terrifying supervillain but can't quite hack it)

Helena. You return from town. What news?

HELENA

Something's going down. You might want to keep an eye out for Siofra today. I think there's a royal passing through.

HAROLD

The crown... Should we ransom a member of the King's family I daresay our entire purpose here would be simpler. What do you propose?

HELENA

Well, it's funny you ask that, as just out the window Siofra's ridden a horse into view. Something is -

HAROLD

Siofra? Here? Everyone! Get your swords! We shall slay the woman who humiliated me!

HELENA

I'll just, you know, stay here. In case you blow it again and still need a double agent.

HAROLD

Prepare to taste defeat, Siofra!

HORSE CLOPPING

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SCENE 13 - SAJA, MILLIA, LORICK, PRINCE

13

WEDDING BELLS, ORGAN MUSIC

SAJA

Where is Siofra?

MILLIA

I'm beginning to wonder the same thing. She knows time is ticking.

LORICK

We're just driving up risk by waiting, whatever idiotic plan she had. Prince, are you ready for your big moment?

PRINCE

Is this meant to be good or bad? Make up your mind.

SHERIFF

Hello, all. As the law around these legally neutral parts, I'm going to be acting as your clergy. Is everyone present and accounted for?

MILLIA
Siofra's not here.

SHERIFF
Everyone who matters to the event?

SAJA
Here.

PRINCE
(like a schoolboy)
Present.

SHERIFF
Do we have the rings?

MILLIA
I hope she's okay, Saja. She's not usually this bad at timing. I know she'd want to be here for you.

SHERIFF
Dearly beloved, et cetera, et cetera, these two are going to get married and if you don't like it this is your last chance to say so. What do you vow?

SAJA
I vow to be faithful and tolerant and nice at all times.

PRINCE
I vow never to be a party to any attacks on your country as long as our marriage is healthy.

LORICK
(coughing)

PRINCE
And to... love and cherish you.

SAJA
Thank you. That means a lot to me.

SHERIFF
Very well. By the power vested in me by absolutely no one, and thank you so much for rubbing that in so much today, you are now...

HORSE HOOVES GALLOPING. ENGINES REVVING.

SAJA
What's that?

14 SCENE 14 - SIOFRA, LORICK, MILLIA

14

STAINED GLASS SHATTERS. A HORSE WHINNIES AND LANDS ON THE WOOD.

THE BELLS AND ORGAN MUSIC STOP. SILENCE.

SIOFRA
Heeyah! Get back to the woods with you!

HORSE TROTS AWAY

LORICK
What the devil is going on?

SIOFRA
Did I make it in on the -if anyone has any objection to this union-bit?

MILLIA
They weren't doing that part.

SIOFRA
Darn it. Cheaters.
I advise everyone to take cover. We will be attacked in quick succession by two different groups of armed maniacs but don't worry, they hate each other more than us.

MOTORCYCLES REV IN THE DISTANCE.

FOUR STAINED-GLASS WINDOWS SHATTER

15 SCENE 15 - SHERIFF, HAROLD, SUSAN

15

SHERIFF
Do these people realize that stained glass doesn't just grow back?!

HAROLD
Humans! I bet you thought you were rid of me, but whatever human rituals you use this isolated cathedral for will not be happening tonight!

AN AIRPLANE SWOOPS OVERHEAD

MORE STAINED GLASS WINDOWS SHATTER

SHERIFF

It's expensive glass! And the
artists aren't easy to commission!

SUSAN

Onward, men! Pillage and - Harold!

HAROLD

Susan.

SUSAN

You humiliated me once. It shall
not happen again.

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SCENE 16 - SIOFRA, MILLIA, SAJA

16

A BATTLE ENSUES. ORGANS SMASH, PEOPLE YELL, SWORDS CLASH.

SIOFRA

Good job the only people who came
were bodyguards. I'm glad just once
before I died I got to see a
wedding where every guest was
armed. Reminds me of the stories my
mother told me of her homeland. Of
course, the only armed wedding
guests there are the families of
whichever spouse is pregnant.

MILLIA

It's amazing more people aren't
dying gruesomely.

SIOFRA

I told you. The more people, the
worse they fight. Anyway, I can't
thank you enough. You're a genius,
Millia, realizing the cathedral was
far enough out of town that the
demons could tread on this ground
without breaking their word!

MILLIA

My plan was, check that the demons
were at the lighthouse and escape
on horseback before telling the
pirates!

SIOFRA

Oh. That would have worked too.

MILLIA

What exactly is your plan?

SIOFRA

Wing it. The wedding is broken up and now Saja can go home to live her own life and both our kingdoms can unite to blame the demons and the Nuclear Wing Company D.

SAJA

And you.

SIOFRA

Princess, you can shower me with admiration later. For now, let's get to safety.

SAJA

Heck no! Gimme a sword, I'm gonna gank some B-words!

17

SCENE 17 - WHOLE CAST

17

SUSAN

Princess Saja, I presume!

SAJA

The same!

SUSAN

I hereby abduct you as the captain of the Nuclear Wing Company D!

SAJA

You can't abduct someone who wants to join!

SUSAN

We'll work you hard! - Hiyahhh!

BODY BEING CLUBBED, GLASS SHATTERING

SAJA

I've been breaking iron curtain rods since I was a kid!

SUSAN

You got spunk! Get on the rope ladder, kid, you're a member of the crew now!

SAJA

I'll make you proud!

LORICK

Princess, no!

PRINCE

Good luck Saja! Sorry things didn't work ou--ut!

SIOFRA

(beat)

Well, I admit I didn't expect that.

HAROLD

Did you expect to meet your death by my hand at a wedding?!

SUSAN

Harold. I expect you're still feeling pretty cool for attacking a crew of pirates in their sleep.

HAROLD

I've heard no complaints. Not from anyone I respect.

SUSAN

I guess you -are- the kind of wuss who surrounds yourself with yes-men.

HAROLD

What are you doing? Don't pick me up -

SUSAN

Demons! You see your boss? Fetch!

WHOOSH. STAINED GLASS WINDOWS SHATTER

18

SCENE 18 - SHERIFF, SUSAN, LORICK, SAJA

18

FIGHT DYING DOWN

SHERIFF

I forgot we even HAD that one!

SUSAN

Ha! They're turning tail pretty quick without their boss. Well, Siofra, Lorick, it's been real and it's been fun but it hasn't been very profitable.

LORICK

You were in league with Siofra this whole time?

SUSAN

Nah. I acted on my own. And relax. Now your wedding's been crashed and your princess abducted you'll have one heck of a good reason to join forces with Tinderwood. Good luck finding us. Men! Retreat!

SAJA

Goodbye Lorick! Goodbye Siofra! Thanks for rescuing me!

SUSAN

Gosh you're purdy.

SAJA

(Fonzie)
Eyyyyy.

SUSAN

(Fonzie)
Eyyyyy.

AIRSHIP WHOOSHES OVERHEAD

19

SCENE 19 - LORICK, SIOFRA, MILLIA, PRINCE, SHERIFF

19

SILENCE.

LORICK

I don't know what I'll tell the King.

SIOFRA

Tell him the truth. Some knight you know figured out a way to give his daughter what she wanted and unite the warring kingdoms.

LORICK

I hope you don't think you'll ever stand a chance to regain your old rank after this.

SIOFRA

Ah, I'm shooting for a better title anyway. Hero.

MILLIA

Eeeesh.

SIOFRA

Did you SEE me on that horse? I could have made butter cream.

PRINCE

What does that mean?

SIOFRA

Go home, kid. And don't take it personally. Stuff like this happens to everyone as they grow up.

PRINCE

I'm not sure that's true, but okay.

SHERIFF

I've never seen you cause this much destruction before, Siofra.

MILLIA

It looks like a pretty happy ending to me. On all accounts.

SHERIFF

It could have certainly gone worse. I didn't realize they sent you after Nuclear Wing. I guess it's good you played them against each other. But you still have work to do.

SIOFRA

Harold lived, to terrorize us another day.

SHERIFF

Yes, that. Plus, you and your squire now have the honor of cleaning up the cathedral.

SIOFRA

Millia, you know an important skill
for any knight to develop is-

MILLIA

You're helping.

SIOFRA

Fine, fine.

NARRATOR-MILLIA

Sister Valopecia, I never realized
politics involved so much brawling.
I'm learning a lot out here. And it
was interesting seeing how the
Elite Guard comport themselves:
Just as lazily as everyone else in
politics.
Anyway, I hope by the time this
letter reaches you you're feeling a
little better.
All my love,
Millia Ezrand, a squire.