

(Name of Project)

by
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in Order of Work Performed)

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PRINCESS
I am the Princess of Wales.

WALLACE
Wife of Edward, the king's son?

She nods; somehow she is already ashamed.

PRINCESS
I come as the king's servant, and
with his authority.

WALLACE
It's battle I want, not talk.

PRINCESS
But now that I am here, will you
speak with a woman?

She leads him under the pavilion, a purple canopy shading rich carpets laid on the bare ground. She studies him, taking in his anger and his pride.

PRINCESS (CONT'D)
I understand that you have recently
been given the rank of knight.

WALLACE
I have been given nothing. God
makes men what they are.

PRINCESS
Did God make you the sacker of
peaceful cities? The executioner
of the king's nephew, my husband's
own cousin?

WALLACE
York was the staging point for
every invasion of my country. And
that royal cousin hanged a hundred
Scots, even women and children,
from the city walls.

PRINCESS
That is not possible.

But knowing Longshanks' family, she glances at a richly-dressed advisor, a CRONY of the king, who averts his eyes.

WALLACE
Longshanks did far worse, the last
time he took a Scottish city.

The Crony mumbles to her in LATIN, WITH SUBTITLES...

CRONY

(Latin)
He is a murdering bandit, he lies.

WALLACE

(Latin!)
I am no bandit. And I do not lie.
Or in French if you prefer that:
Certainmous et ver! Ask your
king to his face, and see if his
eyes can convince you of the
truth.

She stares for a long moment at Wallace's eyes.

PRINCESS

Hamilton, leave us.

CRONY (HAMILTON)

M'lady--

PRINCESS

Leave us now.

He reluctantly obeys. Wallace and the princess are left alone.

PRINCESS (CONT'D)

Let us talk plainly. You invade
England. But you cannot complete
the conquest, so far from your
shelter and supply. The King
proposes that you withdraw your
attack. In return he grants
you title, estates, and this chest
with a thousand pounds of
gold, which am to pay to you
personally.

WALLACE

A Lordship. And gold. That I
should become Judas.

PRINCESS

Peace is made is such ways.

WALLACE

SLAVES ARE MADE IN SUCH WAYS!

The outburst startles even those watching from a distance.
The Princess is mesmerized by Wallace's passion.

PRINCESS

I understand you have suffered. I
know...about your woman.

WALLACE

She was my wife. We married in
secret because I would not share
her with an English lord. they
killed her to get to me. And she
was pregnant.

The Princess is stunned; Wallace is dead still.

WALLACE (CONT'D)

I've never told anyone. I don't
know why I tell you--except
because you look...much like her.
And someday you will be a
queen, and you must open your eyes!

(beat)

Tell your king that William Wallace
will not be ruled. Nor will
any Scot, while I live.

The Princess rises slowly from her chair.

PRINCESS

Sir. I leave this money, as a
gift. Not from the king, but from
myself. And not to you, but to the
orphans of your country.

She lifts her face. Their eyes hold a moment too long.