

(SNEAKER ties Aspiration to the tree outside the cave.)

GIDEON

But I'm on an important mission! I'm helping a Cavalier fight a Blundersnorp!

TRENT

I love that! I think I'm going to use that, if I'm ever captured.

TROUBADOUR

It was here where they encountered... a complication.

(Another bandit, HACK, arrives. He drags along a young woman a little older than Gideon. She wears fine clothes that are smudged and torn. The girl - ALANNA - struggles and yells in protest.)

ALANNA

Let me go!

TRENT

What have we here?

HACK

What'd you say you were again?

ALANNA

I am Alanna, viscountess of Cembria, and know now that my father will never pay ransom. We do not treat with thugs such as you!

HACK

She's our hostage!

SNEAKER

We've already got a hostage!

SPIKE

That makes

(pauses to think)

... two!

TRENT

Lovely, but there's a difficulty. We're loading the horses with treasure tomorrow. Even with this new horse, we've barely got room for one hostage.

HACK

Why not make a horse carry 'em both along with treasure?

TRENT

Don't be absurd. That would be inhumane.

(points to Gideon and Alanna)

No, we'll have to kill one of them.

GIDEON / ALANNA

What?!?

ALANNA

My father will pay fabulous ransom for my release!

GIDEON

Can't you just let one of us go?

TRENT

No, we can't risk you revealing this secret camp. We've put in a lot of paintwork.

HACK

What've ye got?

SNEAKER

Stableboy. Easy to sell.

HACK

I took this one off a fancy royal convoy. Got to be worth a pretty penny.

TRENT

Yes, but then, it's dangerous to collect ransom.

ALANNA

Incredibly safe!

(TRENT grabs both Gideon and Alanna by the scruff and pushes them into the cage. While he does this:)

TRENT

We'll work this out tomorrow. Ugh, into the cell, there you go. To the campfire, my thieves! We've some celebrating to do!

(The BANDITS cheer. TRENT removes his bow and quiver of arrows and thrusts them into Kludge's hands.)