

(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.

GIDEON

That's what a Cavalier would do. But... I'm on a mission to save a Cavalier! I have to be alive for that!

ALANNA

(less delighted. advancing on Gideon, who backs up)

Oh, I see. So it's perfectly okay to let me die, is that it?

(Gideon is backed up against the bars. We hear a thud... and then crumble of stone from above)

ALANNA

(looks around, glances up)

Hmm. Interesting. There appears to be a gap in the bars near the ceiling. But it's too tall to climb.

GIDEON

If we help each other, we can reach it! And we can climb out and escape!

ALANNA

Oh splendid! We shall work as partners. Now bend over so I can use you as a stepladder.

GIDEON

(eyeing the guard)

If that guard wakes up he'll shoot whoever's trying to escape.

ALANNA

He's passed out. Help me up.

GIDEON

He could wake at any second.

ALANNA

Thank you for your opinion. Now bend over, that's a lad.

GIDEON

It's too dangerous.

ALANNA

Stableboy, I have given you an order!

GIDEON

(not budging)

(ALANNA lets loose another arrow which whizzes by.)

SPIKE

I think she's firing arrows sir!

TRENT

Are you sure?

TROUBADOUR

(An arrow now protrudes from Spike's helmet.)

SPIKE

Pretty sure sir!

(HACK rides up, now covered with bandages.)

HACK

What'd I miss?

TRENT

Get. Me. My. Things!!

HACK

Good as got. Giddyap!

(HACK races ahead.)

GIDEON

NOT IMPOSSIBLE, NOT IMPOSSIBLE
NOT IMPOSSIBLE, NOT IMPOSSIBLE!

ALANNA

Another bandit's almost upon us!

HACK

Out of arrows, eh my sweet?

ALANNA

Hurry!

GIDEON

I can't go any faster!

HACK

(reaching out)
C'mere and give us a hug!