

The Bone Hunter

by
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Current Revisions
8th October 2002

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WWII Bone Hunter - FADE IN

1 PROLOGUE NARRATION (BY RODERICH) 1

In 575AD, in the aftermath of the destruction of post Romano-British life, a valuable Christian relic is carried from Constantinople by a Greek monk to the end of the known world.

On the same ship is a widow, returning to her native Caledon, but the ship is wrecked within site of her homeland.

The monk drowns but the widow survives, and the remains of the Roman crew struggle to reach the safety of the widow's land north of Hadrian's Wall.

CREDITS, MUSIC.

2 EXT. HADRIAN'S WALL - DAY 2

Six shipwrecked ROMANS climb a long flight of stairs.

With them is HENNINI, the widow, who is veiled.

CUT TO:

Shots of Hadrian's Wall and the wilderness.

CUT TO:

The Romans cross the wall.

CUT TO:

A band of eight Northumbrian ANGLES, led by AEDGAR, are patrolling the lands north of the Wall.

CUT TO:

The Romans are tired and weary.

CUT TO:

They are confronted by the Angles who take up battle formation.

CUT TO:

The Romans are ill-equipped for battle and have no shields.

CUT TO:

The Angles advance.

CUT TO:

The Romans are wheeled onto boggy ground.

CUT TO:

Hennini is left on a small knoll to watch the skirmish.

CUT TO:

The Angles advance with their spears to the fore.

CUT TO:

The Romans are restricted to using their short swords.

CUT TO:

The two sides clash.

CUT TO:

The Romans are no match for the heavily armed Angles.

CUT TO

All but one of the Romans, MARCELLA, are killed.

CUT TO

Marcella turns and flees.

CUT TO

He escapes across the moors pursued by three of the Angles.

CUT TO

Hennini, still veiled, is roughly seized by two of the remaining Angles .

CUT TO

Marcella runs for his life into the hills.

CUT TO

The three Angles give up pursuing him.

CUT TO

Aedgar removes his helmet and wipes his face.

He raises his arms in the air.

AEDGAR

Woden!!!!!!

END OF CREDITS

3

EXT. FIELD - DAY

3

FINGAL, shirtless, is pulling a plough.

ETHNE, Fingal's daughter, thirteen, is on the end of the plough weighing it down as it breaks the soil.

At the end of the field is a large cross with the name JESSICA.

They stop to rest.

ETHNE

Why don't we buy an ox?

FINGAL

With what, Ethne?

ETHNE

Grand-father Roderick could help us.

Fingal smiles at his daughter.

Fingal looks up. Ethne follows his gaze across the field.

A Celt, DOMALL with a spear is crossing the field towards them.

Fingal throws off the halter.

He goes to his shirt. Underneath is a dagger. He places it in his belt. Ethne puts a stone in her sling.

Fingal signals Ethne to stand behind him.

The Celt stops short. He calls out.

DOMALL

Warrior approaching!

(beat)

Are you Fingal, brother of Dougal?

FINGAL

Name your business!

DOMALL

I have been sent to enlist you in a hunt for a hostage.

Domall approaches. He offers his hand.

DOMALL (CONT'D)

Domall of Trool. I knew your half brother. Some say we looked so much alike we may have had the same father.

Domall invites Fingal to study him. Fingal searches Domall's face but sees no resemblance.

FINGAL

Dougal's father was a drunkard.

DOMALL

(cheerfully)

I like a drink myself ... especially before hunting down Angles.

Domall throws a purse of coins. Fingal catches it.

DOMALL (CONT'D)

One of their roaming patrols have captured the bride to be of my chief.

Fingal counts the coins.

FINGAL

He doesn't think she's worth very much.

DOMALL

She's his brother's widow. He wants to marry her to inherit her lands. By accounts she is as ugly as sin.

Fingal looks at the plough, then Ethne.

FINGAL

What's your chief's name?

DOMALL

Cathen, protector of the Wall.

Fingal recognizes the name and is bitter.

FINGAL

Gwendoleu's father! He fought
against us at Arthuret.

DOMALL

He had no choice. None of us had
any choice.
(beat)
Let us bury our differences.

Fingal turns to Ethne. He takes the stone out of
her sling and gives her the money.

FINGAL

Take the goats and go to your
grandfather's.

ETHNE

Will I show him the coins?

FINGAL

He'll know what it means.
(kisses her)
Now, go.

Ethne begins to run across the field.

FINGAL (CONT'D)

Where the Angles are holding her?

DOMALL

We will be told when we meet the
Chief at Cunedda's Stone.

4 EXT. MOORLAND - DAY

4

Fingal, now armed with a bow and small weapons, is
travelling across the moors with Domall.

FINGAL V.O

The violence and savagery of rulers
like Cathen have wrecked all of
saint Ninian's work.

DOMALL V.O

He's taken refuge in teachings of
John the Baptist since the death of
Mydrynn.

FINGAL V.O

That's what's wrong, Domall. We go
from one set of religious laws to
another until no one knows good
from bad.

They carry quickly across the moor and into the
hills.

The grey swirling clouds roll across the
mountains.

5

EXT. ANGLE CAMP 1 - LATE AFTERNOON

5

AEDGAR,, leader of the Angles studies Hennini who
sits veiled. ROLF stands guarding her. The rest of
the Angles, AELFRED, CEDRIC, CISSA, AETHELSTAN and
HUSSA are taunting her and poking her with the end
of their spears in an attempt to get her to remove
her veil.

Hennini appears undisturbed by their behavior.

TANNU, Aedgar's camp follower, is jealous.

TANNU

Why don't you give her to Rolf?
He's very lonely.

AEDGAR

He's too simple for her. Look ...
she's got Eastern manners ... she's
not going to do anything she
doesn't want to.

TANNU

And I do? I know what you like,
Aedgar. Isn't that enough for you?

Tannu runs her hand down Aedgar's chest.

AEDGAR

It's all those years in a Celtic
convent. You're ignorant of the
ways of the world, Tannu.

Aedgar takes Tannu and kisses her hard. He darts a
glance at Hennini.

Hennini watches with a calculating look. She
removes her veil and stares at him.

AEDGAR (CONT'D)

Go and fetch me some food.

Tannu turns away and goes to Rolf. She whispers in
his ear. Rolf's face falls. Tannu goes to the
fire.

AEDGAR (CONT'D)

Bring her to me!

The Angles fall silent. Rolf takes Hennini to
Aedgar.

AEDGAR (CONT'D)

What's your name?

HENNINI

Why don't you guess? If you get it
right, I'll sleep with you.

AEDGAR

Here that, lads. Alright ... by the
looks of you, it'll be something
Roman like ... Anastasia, or
Justinia or Constancia.

He darts a look at Tannu.

HENNINI

(laughs)

Those are Roman whore names.

AEDGAR

Let my men try.

(turns to others)

The first one to guess her name may
have her.

The Angles are excited. She turns to face them one by one.

CEDRIC
Bertha!

AETHELSTAN
Frida!

AELFRED
Greta!

CISSA
Ingva!

It is Hussa's turn but he is mute. The others laugh at him as he tries to utter a name.

Meanwhile, Tannu is rummaging in Hennini's belongings and finds a bracelet with Hennini's name on it. She hands it to Rolf.

Rolf is reluctant, but Tannu pushes him into the circle. Hennini sees the bracelet in Rolf's hand.

Rolf holds up the bracelet. He attempts to read it.

Aedgar, jealous, snatches the bracelet from Rolf.

AEDGAR
You know you can't read, Rolf. Take the watch!

Rolf does as he is told.

Aedgar gazes at the name on the bracelet, looks up slowly, then hands it to Hennini. She studies it contemplatively, then looks Aedgar in the eye.

HENNINI
Can't you read either?

AEDGAR
I sometimes choose to forget what I read.

HENNINI
You find me attractive, don't you?

AEDGAR

That is not the issue. You are a
hostage. You are worth something to
someone. Complications will ensue
if I lay a hand on you.

Aedgar makes to turn. Hennini grabs him by the
wrist. She pushes the bracelet into his hand.

HENNINI

Then say my name ... for what is
life without complications?

AEDGAR

What good will it do me?

HENNINI

I am rich.

Aedgar is interested to hear more. Hennini
whispers in his ear.

HENNINI (CONT'D)

Don't give up me to some old man
while I am still young. Say my name
and we will be lovers.

Aedgar looks once more at the bracelet. He
clenches it in his fist.

Tannu is watching them. Aedgar catches her look,
but is ambitious, and he has been bewitched by
Hennini. He reads the bracelet.

AEDGAR

Hennini

HENNINI

Louder. Let her hear it.

AEDGAR

Hennini

Tannu knows her relationship with Aedgar is over.
She turns and runs.

Rolf catches Tannu by the arm. He reads the
situation.

ROLF

He's besmitten by her. Be my woman,
Tannu.

She thinks for a moment then smiles slyly.

TANNU

She'll bring doom on him.
(beat)
We need to get rid of her, Rolf.
(beat)
It'll be our little secret.

Rolf smiles wickedly.

6

EXT. ANGLE CAMP 1 - DAWN

6

Tannu is cooking food. Cissa and Cedric are hanging over the fire laughing.

She hands Rolf a bowl of gruel. They exchange looks. Rolf hands her a vial and she empties the contents into the bowl, and stirs it vigorously.

CUT TO:

Hennini is wrapping something in a cloth in Aedgar's shelter. Rolf hands her the bowl of gruel. She stares at it.

HENNINI

How can I march with this in my belly!
(She throws over the bowl)
Where's Aedgar?

ROLF

He's out hunting with Aelfred and Aethelstan.

HENNINI

I'll have meat when he returns.

Rolf picks up the empty bowl and retreats.

Rolf returns to the fire. Tannu exchanges a glance. Rolf shakes his head.

7

EXT. CUNNEDA'S STONE - DAY

7

Cathen sits moodily at the base of the stone. Nearby are four of RETAINERS with Marcella, who is heavily bandaged.

Fingal and Domall approach the stone.

Cathen stiffens and stands. Domall bows before him.

CATHEN

Is this him?
(beat)
Has he agreed to do it?

FINGAL

I will speak for myself.

CATHEN

Your manner, your look, speaks to me of a boy who has been raised without a backhand from a father.

Cathen's men are amused by their master's wit.

FINGAL

You want me to fetch this woman for you? What's wrong with your own men?

CATHEN

They have families. You, on the other hand, I care nothing for. You bore my son's head on a spear.

FINGAL

The world needed to know the fighting was over.

CATHEN

Gwendoleu was a great general. I brought him here as a boy to see that great men like Cunedda can achieve immortal fame.

FINGAL

You put him under the guidance of that wizard Mydrinn ... Your son nearly destroyed our nation.

CATHEN

(hurt)
Bring the Roman.

Marcella is brought forward.

CATHEN (CONT'D)

Tell him who you are and why you
are here.

MARCELLA

I am Marcella of Constantinople. I
was employed by a Greek monk but he
perished when our ship wrecked.

CATHEN

Tell him the rest.

MARCELLA

His name was Regulus. He said he
was being directed by an angel to
carry the bones of the martyr
Andrew to the ends of the earth.

Fingal is greatly interested in this news.

FINGAL

Andrew ... The first apostle?
(beat)
Where are the bones now?

CATHEN

With my brother's widow.

MARCELLA

The monk passed them to Lady
Hennini just before the ship sank.

Domall is trying to follow the conversation.

FINGAL

Are the bones valuable?

MARCELLA

Beyond price.

FINGAL

Do the Angles know this?

CATHEN

Hennini knows. That vixen has no scruples.

FINGAL

Perhaps you would be happier if she were dead. You could inherit your brother's lands without the need of marriage

Cathen pulls out his sword. Fingal reacts in equal measure. Domall intercedes.

DOMALL

The Angles are our enemies! Let us fight them!

Fingal lowers his weapon.

FINGAL

So be it. Name the place where the Angles are stationed, and I'll do the rest.

CATHEN

The ruined fort of Vindolandia.

Fingal turns and walks away.

Domall looks to Cathen for guidance.

CATHEN (CONT'D)

Go with him!

One of the Retainers throws Domall a spear.

Domall follows after Fingal.

8

EXT. ANGLE CAMP 1 - DAY

8

Aedgar is cleaning his sword. Hennini approaches him.

HENNINI

How long have you been stationed in this country.

AEDGAR

A year I like it. Once we've cleared off all the Celts, I'll build a farm.

HENNINI

You're such a pagan. Don't you want to live in a town, have clean clothes, take baths.

AEDGAR

Northumbrian towns are full of immigrant pigs living in their own filth.

(beat)

My parents gave up their small farm north of Angeln to sail across the Germanic Sea in a long boat that cost them everything to build. When they got here, they found a land of bribed officials and religious bigots. They acquired no wealth and died pining for the old country.

(beat)

I want none of that. The only way to get rich is to take it.

HENNINI

So you believe in murder and plunder?

AEDGAR

Kill or be killed! We Angles are not very popular. The Celts think we sacrifice our children to Woden.

(laughs)

How did you come to be a widow?

HENNINI

My father arranged for me to marry Theodoric when I was twelve. He was forty two.

(beat)

King Urien appointed him as his counsel with Emperor Justinian in Constantinople. I had to go with him.

(beat)

My father's land and castle passed to Theodoric and myself ...

(MORE)

HENNINI (CONT'D)

but now he is dead, I must marry
his brother Cathen or lose it all.

AEDGAR

Are they rich lands?

HENNINI

The richest you have ever seen.

AEDGAR

Is the castle in good repair?

HENNINI

The castle is magnificent. It sits
on a cliff overlooking the sea.

AEDGAR

Then it is a young healthy husband
you need to keep it that way, not a
weak old man.

(beat)

You will wed me!

HENNINI

The people on my land will not
accept an Angle as their overlord.

AEDGAR

Then we will give then an heir.

Aedgar pulls Hennini to him and kisses her. She
gives to him.

9

EXT. HILLS - DAY

9

Fingal crosses the hills with Domall.

CUT TO:

Fingal is walking ahead of Domall.

Fingal stops and stares.

Before him on the ground is a body.

Fingal bends and turns the body.

REGULUS groans. He sees the cross hanging around
Fingal's neck and kisses it.

REGULUS

Praise God. I've found a Christian
at the end of the earth.

10 INT. MOUNTAIN HOVEL - DAY

10

It is raining. Fingal and Domall are sheltering in
a hovel. Regulus is recovering.

DOMALL

When I saw you in that field, I
said to myself - why is it that a
great man like that doesn't have a
bull to pull his plough?

FINGAL

The war. We ate what we could get
our hands on, burnt what we
couldn't eat. We've lost everything
our ancestors left us.

REGULUS

You've still got greed. Power.
Corruption. Envy. Revenge.

Regulus sits up.

DOMALL

Everyone thought you had drowned,
Regulus.

REGULUS

Call me Reg. It was a miracle, my
son. A giant wave just lifted me
out of the water and bore me to
shore.

Fingal studies Regulus but says nothing. Regulus
looks out the hut.

REGULUS (CONT'D)

This entire country is in ruins.

DOMALL

I have no wish to fight in another
war. Life is too short.

FINGAL

Our trouble is with the Angles ...

REGULUS
(interjecting)
I've heard that Celts can be just
as cruel and unjust as the Angles.

DOMALL
You've spent too much time
believing Roman cowshit.

REGULUS
At least Romans know that they are
corrupt. Celt and Angle ... they're
no different ... they just deny it
to themselves.

Domall has his dagger out. He waves it at Regulus.

DOMALL
You're pretty lippy for a priest.

Fingal takes the dagger from Domall and slaps him
across the face.

FINGAL
Forgive him, Reg. He's ignorant.

REGULUS
He is forgiven.

Domall sits rubbing his cheek.

They settle down and wait for the bad weather to
pass.

11 EXT. HILLS - DAY

11

The Angles are patrolling the open hills.

CUT TO:

Fingal gets within sight of the Angles. He signals
Domall and Regulus to hide in the grass.

FINGAL
Stay here.

REGULUS
Let me speak with Lady Hennini?

DOMALL

Do you want to die squealing like a pig? The Angles will stick you on a spit and roast you.

Regulus weighs this information.

FINGAL

Let's go, Domall

Fingal and Domall leave Regulus.

EXT. ANGLE CAMP 2 - DAY

A wood. Tannu is building a fire. Hennini is watching her. The Angles are quietly taking up hiding places.

HENNINI

How long have you been Aedgar's camp follower?

TANNU

Don't try and small talk me, I have your measure.

HENNINI

Aedgar is mine now. Why don't you get a liking for that love wet Rolf. He would be good to you.

TANNU

He has no education. I can read.

HENNINI

Out here I don't think you have the mind to make use of what you have read.

TANNU

You're a bitch.

HENNINI

I know ... but I am not a camp whore. You don't need to be one either.

CUT TO:

Fingal and Domall are creeping forward through the trees.

There is the SOUND of YELLING.

The Angles surround Fingal and Domall. Fingal prepares to fight. Domall is wounded.

DOMALL

Disarm, Fingal! I'm hurt!

The Celts give up their weapons.

12 EXT. ANGLE CAMP 2 - LATER

12

Fingal and Domall are kneeling with their hands bound.

AEDGAR

What's your business here?

FINGAL

You have stolen a man's bride.

AEDGAR

Have we now?

(beat)

What's your name, Celt?

FINGAL

Ask your friend there

Hussa is hysterical and tries to make his companions realise who Fingal is. Hussa lifts an axe to behead Fingal. Aelfred stops him.

AEDGAR

What's got into him?

CISSA

He's been demented ever since he escaped from the Celts last year.

Aelfred takes Domall by the hair.

AELFRED

If I chop this one's head off,
maybe he'll talk.

Aelfred raises his axe. Fingal gives in.

FINGAL
My name is Fingal!

Hussa mouths 'Fingal' to his companions.

AELFRED
He's the one who killed Ida and his
brothers last winter.

The Angles turn their full attention on Fingal. He
is pulled to his feet.

CISSA
There's a bounty on his head,
Aedgar.

FINGAL
There'll be a bigger one on his if
he doesn't let her go.

Hennini goes to Aedgar's side.

AEDGAR
She is mine now. Isn't that so, my
beloved?

Hennini takes a deep breath and announces to all.

HENNINI
Of my own freewill ... I have
agreed to wed Aedgar.

The Angles look at Aedgar with astonishment.

AELFRED
What's this then, Aedgar?

AEDGAR
It's true, lads. The lass wants me.

Aedgar smiles at Tannu. She looks down.

Fingal sizes the situation.

FINGAL
Untie me. I will take the message
to chief Cathen and let him know he
has been jilted.

AEDGAR

(laughs)
We are not that foolish.

Aedgar signs his men to cut Fingal and Domall's throats. Tannu seizes the moment.

TANNU

Let them run the arrow!

The Angles look at one another, then to Aedgar. He nods.

The Angles lower their axes.

FINGAL

(whispers)
What is that?

DOMALL

It's our only chance

13

EXT. HILLS - LATER

13

Fingal and Domall are bare footed. The Angles crowd around them, yelling at them.

Aedgar stands on a small knoll with a bow and arrow.

DOMALL

Where the arrow lands is your head start.

Aedgar lets fly with his arrow.

CUT TO:

The arrow embeds in the ground.

CUT TO:

Fingal and Domall start to run.

FINGAL

Has anyone ever survived this?

DOMALL

No.

Fingal and Domall run towards the arrow.

The Angles look to Aedgar on the hill.

Fingal and Domall reach the arrow and halt. They look back, then at each other.

FINGAL

You look like my brother Dugall ...
(Domall smiles)
How's the wound?

DOMALL

Not good. You're on your own now.
Good luck, Fingal

FINGAL

Good luck, Domall.

They run.

Aedgar's arm drops and the Angles begin to pursue the fleeing Celts.

Fingal and Domall run. Their bare feet are being torn by the bracken and the rocks.

The Angles pursue led by Aedgar.

Domall is beginning to fall behind.

Aedgar is now well ahead of his own men.

Domall is falling further and further behind Fingal.

Fingal is in pain, but he keeps running.

Aedgar is gaining on Domall.

Domall is exhausted. He clutches at his chest and falls to his knees.

Aedgar comes running up, and as he overtakes Domall, he kills him with a blow from his axe.

Aedgar continues after Fingal. The other Angles pass the body of Domall, leaving Husa to make certain he is dead.

Fingal is now close to collapse. He reaches a rise and trips and rolls down the other side.

Aedgar reaches the rise.

Fingal is lying in the bracken. A hand appears on his shoulder. He looks up.

It is Regulus.

REGULUS

This way!

Regulus leads Fingal to a hiding place amongst some rocks.

Aedgar appears nearby. He looks about, then runs on.

The rest of the Angles follow.

Regulus leads Fingal off in another direction.

14 EXT. HILLS - EVENING

14

Regulus is throwing wood on small fire.

REGULUS

How are your feet?

Fingal's feet are bandaged in rags from Regulus's tunic.

FINGAL

Bloody sore.

REGULUS

Did you get to see the bones?

FINGAL

I saw nothing but Angles.

REGULUS

What about Lady Hennini?

FINGAL

She's no lady. She's wedding the Angle leader.

Regulus laughs heartily.

REGULUS

You should have taken me. I could have performed the ceremony with this.

Regulus removes a beautifully crafted sword from beneath his tunic.

FINGAL

Where did you get that?

REGULUS

I picked it up on my journey. It's the reason I sank when I jumped from the ship.

Fingal takes the sword and swings it. It sings.

REGULUS (CONT'D)

This was gifted to me by Childebert, king of the Franks. It was the sword of Conan of Amoria.

FINGAL

Conan the Barbarian?
(rises)
I underestimated you, Reg.

Fingal gets a feel for the sword.

REGULUS

It's understandable. I'm not looking my best.
(beat)
Look, man is born into this world with only a tiny spark of goodness in him. The spark is God, the rest is ugliness and evil. The spark must be guarded like a treasure, it must be nurtured, it must be sparked into a flame.

(beat)
Bad teachers, each have their own rules and prophets. The bones will be the spark for the mother church in this country and Jesus's teachings as Andrew heard them.
(beat)

(MORE)

REGULUS (CONT'D)

Lady Hennini ... whatever other flaws she has, she is a true believer. She will give up the spark so it can be fanned into a flame.

15 EXT. ANGLE CAMP 2 - EVENING

15

Aedgar and his men are huddled together making jokes about his marriage to Hennini.

TANNU

If Aedgar marries you he'll soon have long hair and a cross around his neck.

HENNINI

He will be rich while you become fat weaning the bastard children of these soldiers.

TANNU

You know nothing of me. I left a convent, crimson with shame, and dreading pursuit, to hide my faith in his arms. Now I am no longer a virgin, Aedgar scorns me.

Hennini is affected by this news.

HENNINI

I misjudged you.

TANNU

Like you, I am a Celt. My real name is Constancia, but if I am captured and my secret discovered, I will be sentenced to death.

Aedgar comes between them.

AEDGAR

I prefer it when you two argue.

Hennini and Tannu exchange looks but say nothing.

AEDGAR (CONT'D)

Tomorrow we'll start for your lands.

HENNINI

What about your duties?

AEDGAR

I have orders to do as I please.
We'll leave Hussa behind to guard
our whole empire (laughs)!

16 EXT. FOOTHILLS - DAY

16

The Angles file along a track.

Hennini is in the centre of the file. Tannu brings
up the rear with Rolf.

CUT TO:

Fingal watches from above.

The Angles pass through a narrow gorge.

Hennini stops to rub her feet.

The others file past her.

CUT TO:

Fingal pounces on Hennini. Her baggage drops from
her as he drags her off into the undergrowth.

She struggles, but he is too strong for her.

FINGAL

Regulus is alive and wants his
bones back.

HENNINI

I don't believe you!

Fingal shows Hennini the sword.

HENNINI (CONT'D)

The sword of Conan!

CUT TO:

Aedgar has turned back to find Hennini. He sees
her baggage on the ground and is suspicious. He
draws his sword.

AEDGAR

Hennini!

CUT TO:

Hennini and Fingal exchange fearful looks.

HENNINI

I'm passing water!

(to Fingal)

The bones are safe in my bundle.

Come to me at dusk.

(starts to go)

I will give you a signal.

FINGAL

(grabs her)

You're coming with me too.

HENNINI

No! Aedgar is going to challenge

Cathen for me. If you don't agree,

I will call out.

FINGAL

You're a traitor.

HENNINI

If you think that of me, you value

duty over love!

She breaks free. Fingal watches her go.

CUT TO:

Hennini rejoins Aedgar.

AEDGAR

You look troubled.

HENNINI

(gently)

It's a woman's burden to worry, and

a man's task to reassure her.

Hennini starts to pick up her pack, but Aedgar does it for her.

AEDGAR

I'll get one of the lads to carry
this for you.

HENNINI

No. They dislike me enough. I must
win their respect.

AEDGAR

Fair enough.

Aedgar hands over her baggage. She takes it and
together they continue on their way.

Fingal slips away into the undergrowth.

17

EXT. ANGLE CAMP 3 - DUSK

17

Rolf, Aelfred, Aethelstan, Cissa, Cedric and Husa
are doing a ringed war dance with firebrands.

In the centre of the ring is Tannu who is
mesmerized by the brands.

Aedgar sits laughing.

Hennini, bearing a brand, slips away into the
dark.

CUT TO:

Hennini stands in a small clearing waving her
brand.

FINGAL O.S

Lower that! We are already here.

Fingal and Regulus appear from the shadows.

HENNINI

Father ... you are safe.

REGULUS

And well bathed Do you have
the relic?

HENNINI

Yes.

Hennini hands Regulus a wrapped cloth.

Regulus unwraps the cloth to exposed an arm bone, a knee-cap, and some fingers.

REGULUS

Where is the tooth.

Hennini removes the tooth from the folds of her clothing.

HENNINI

It has kept me safe.

She hands the tooth to Regulus.

REGULUS

Thank you Give me the torch.

She does as she is told. Regulus nods to Fingal. He punches Hennini on the jaw and knocks her out cold. He catches her.

REGULUS (CONT'D)

I thought you were going to be gentle?

FINGAL

It'd take a smith's hammer to break her jaw.

Fingal throws Hennini over his shoulder.

Regulus throws the brand away.

They disappear back into the shadows.

18

EXT. HIGH HILLS - DAWN

18

Fingal is hobbling, Regulus is limping and Hennini is dragging her feet across the high hills.

Hennini is being led on a rope.

HENNINI

You are devils for doing this to me!

FINGAL

It's common for ransom victims to
fall in love with their abductors.
You'll get over it.

Fingal pulls on the rope and yanks Hennini
forward. Angry, Hennini has a tantrum.

HENNINI

You are a brute. You trudge me
through the mud like an animal on
it's way to market! I am a
civilized person! Have you never
seen a carriage or a horse? People
do not have to live this way! This
is barbarian!

FINGAL

Look, lady, it was your idea to
marry that Angle, not mine.

HENNINI

(appeals)

Father ... please untie me. I
promise I won't run away. I give my
word!

REGULUS

Untie her, Fingal.

Fingal reluctantly goes to her and begins to untie
her.

SOUND OF WAR CRIES

Two PICTS block the way.

REGULUS (CONT'D)

What are these?

FINGAL

They're Picts. Leave this to me.

Fingal goes forward. The leader LUIS is looking at
Fingal's bandaged feet. He looks up at Fingal and
turns to his companion BETH.

LUIS

Look who we have here?

BETH

He's the one that got my brother
killed!

FINGAL

Come now, friends, that was the
Angles' doing not mine.

LUIS

He's right, Beth.

BETH

He took my dress back. I want
paying for it.

FINGAL

We have nothing that would interest
you.

LUIS

(points to Regulus)

He's got a good looking tunic. I
could see myself wearing that.

BETH

I want her dress!

FINGAL

You'll have the cold tip my sword
if you touch her.

LUIS

You're going to have to pay us
something to use this road.

Luis whistles.

Two more Picts, TIREE and MULL slip up on Regulus
and Hennini and put knives to their throats.

BETH

Can I have me dress now?

CUT TO:

Regulus is having his tunic removed by Luis.

The bones fall to the ground.

LUIS
(horrified)
What are these!

Regulus gathers them up.

REGULUS
I'm a holy man.

LUIS
(throws up his hands)
Keep them away from me.

CUT TO:

Regulus and Hennini are in their undergarments and running down the path to the taunts of Tiree and Mull.

Beth is admiring her new dress, Luis his tunic.

FINGAL
If I ever see you again, I'll make you pay.

BETH
Here that, Luis, he's threatening us.

LUIS
And for old time's sake, we haven't taken a thing from him.

Luis whistles and the Picts melt into the hills.

Fingal turns and follows after Regulus and Hennini.

19 EXT. ANGLE CAMP 3 -DAY

19

Aedgar and his men are searching close by to the camp. They find the abandoned brand.

AELFRED
You're well rid of her, Aedgar.

AEDGAR
What makes you think she ran off?

AELFRED

What makes you think she didn't?

Tannu shows them Hennini's baggage.

TANNU

She would have taken something with her.

AEDGAR

She's been snatched.

ROLF

By who?

AELFRED

The Celt. We should have killed him!

CISSA

It was her idea to let him run the arrow.

AEDGAR

Be quiet! There is only one place they could be going ... to her lands.

AELFRED

How are we going to find that?

AEDGAR

Tannu is from the Wall lands. She can guide us.

TANNU

No. I'm not going back there.

AEDGAR

What are you worried about? We'll protect you.

(beat)

What do you say, lads. Are you up for a raid?

AELFRED

I'm all for it!

The others agree except Rolf.

ROLF

Is it worth it, Aedgar? Why don't we go home?

AELFRED

You're going soft on me, Rolf. It's her doing, working on you, eating away at you. Why don't you just force yourself on her she likes it.

Tannu is shamed.

ROLF

You are cruel, Aedgar.

Rolf points Tannu back towards camp and follows after her.

AELFRED

Rolf is getting to be bad company. He should go home and take up brewing beer.

The others laugh.

AEDGAR

We need him, Aelfred. If I plan to challenge Cathen ... we must be strong.

They raise their arms to the sky.

ANGLES ALL

Woden!!!!!!!!!!

20 EXT. ANGLE CAMP 3 - LATER

20

Tannu is packing up camp. She is crying. Rolf tries to comfort her.

TANNU

Leave me, Rolf!

ROLF

I want to help.

TANNU

By my own will I chose this life.
My rose has bloomed and all that's
left is the stalk. It is my penance
for breaking my vows.

ROLF

Life with us is not that bad.

TANNU

His is no life

ROLF

I know that I am happy when the sun
shines, and sad when it rains. I
have feelings and I want to speak
them.

TANNU

Not if they are for me.

ROLF

I will kill Aedgar for you.
He has shamed you.

TANNU

Nay, Rolf.

ROLF

I have carved runes for you, Tannu.

TANNU

I know, Rolf. But I can never be
yours.

21 EXT. FOREST - DAY

21

Hennini and Regulus sit shivering under Fingal's
plaid while Fingal cooks game.

HENNINI

How many more bandits are there in
this country?

FINGAL

Are we talking Picts, Angles or
chief's like Cathen?

(beat)

(MORE)

FINGAL (CONT'D)

We're lucky to be alive. Long life
these days is unlikely.

REGULUS

It's all part of the adventure.

HENNINI

What are you so cheerful about?
I've never been so miserable. I'd
be better dead.

FINGAL

That could be arranged.
(Hennini is shocked)
Cathen would like to see you dead.

Hennini stares at Fingal. Her eyes dart in her
head as she tries to reason with herself.

FINGAL (CONT'D)

I was sent to collect the bones,
not you.

HENNINI

(furious)
That double crossing old goat! He
wants to take Caerlaverock from me.

FINGAL

You wanted to marry the Angle ...

HENNINI

That's different!

FINGAL

How?

HENNINI

(floundering)
Well Cathen's twenty ... no,
thirty years older than me!

FINGAL

You know the law. Widows must marry
or lose all their property to the
next of kin.

HENNINI

Don't tell me the stupid law! I was
happy to leave this horrid country.

REGULUS

There's nothing wrong with this country that can't be fixed.

HENNINI

Everything is broken. You can't fix something that has been smashed into a thousand pieces!

FINGAL

You can try. You can marry Cathen and turn an old man's bitterness into something that rebuilds this land.

HENNINI

What is there worth rebuilding?

REGULUS

Your own sense of worth. Use your knowledge to help your people.

HENNINI

(fatalistic)

I am beyond all that.

Fingal is frustrated by Hennini's responses.

FINGAL

She is a lost cause. We don't need her kind here.

REGULUS

You are wrong, Fingal. Hennini has strengths no one yet has seen. She will come into her own.

Regulus puts his arm around Hennini and comforts her like a father.

22

EXT. CASTLE - DAY

22

The castle is perched on a cliff top and its battlements are in ruins.

Fingal, Hennini and Regulus appear on the beach below the cliff.

Hennini is shocked by the castle's appearance.

She falls to the pebbled beach in despair.

HENNINI

It is ruined!

REGULUS V.O

(to Fingal)
What happened here?

FINGAL V.O

Her nephew Gwendoleu raised his forces here. King Urien ordered it destroyed after his defeat.

REGULUS

Up, child. You are being tested by God.

WIDE SHOT - Regulus picks Hennini up and all three trudge wearily on towards the castle.

The wind howls into the sky.

INT. CASTLE - DAY

Although in ruins, parts of the castle are still inhabited.

They pass through the gate and come upon a courtyard.

Cathen, his Retainers, and Marcella appear in the courtyard.

RODERICK and six armed CELTS also appear. Ethne comes running forward.

FINGAL

Ethne!

Fingal embraces his daughter. Regulus embraces Marcella.

Cathen turns his attention on Hennini.

CATHEN

Is this her?

Cathen takes Hennini by the jaw and examines her teeth. His eyes travel down her. He likes what he sees.

CATHEN (CONT'D)

You were a young girl the last time
I saw you.
(turns to Fingal)
Where are the bones?

REGULUS

I have them.

CATHEN

And who are you?

REGULUS

I might ask the same of you.

RODERICH

Gentlemen, please. We are civilized
men.

(to Regulus)

From Marcella's reaction, you must
be the venerable Regulus. Welcome
to our humble land.

Roderich kisses Regulus on both cheeks.

RODERICH (CONT'D)

I spent some time in Rome and heard
all about your work in
Constantinople with the sick and
poor Come!

Roderich ushers Regulus into a small room off the
courtyard. Marcella follows.

HENNINI

Who is he?

FINGAL

Roderich is my daughter's
grandfather. He is the new governor
of the Wall lands and Strathclyde.

CATHEN

It is an injustice. He was nothing
more than a petty chief until now.

HENNINI

(smiles)

Then justice is not blind. I do not need to marry him at all!

CATHEN

The law proscribes that I have the right to marry the widow of my brother and that she cannot refuse me.

HENNINI

What would you be getting. A pile of rubble and the title Lord of Caerlaverock!

CATHEN

I have been stripped of all title and my own lands confiscated because of my son's defeat. This castle, ruined though it is, shall be my new home.

Cathen waves one of his men to come forward. He is carrying a dress.

HENNINI

Over my dead body! You ruined your son and your son has ruined us all. I will not have you!

CATHEN

I demand my right. That is the end of the matter!
(throws the dress at her)
Roderich will be informed. We shall be married in the morn before all assembled.

Cathen retreats to the room off the courtyard.

23

EXT. CASTLE - DAWN

23

Aedgar and his men appear under the cliff of the castle. He turns to Tannu.

AEDGAR

Are you certain this is it?

TANNU

This is Caerlaverock.

AELFRED

Hennini lied to you, Aedgar! It is deserted.

AEDGAR

No. She left here long before the war. She must not have known.

ROLF

Let's give this up.

AEDGAR

No. Look there is smoke. Cissa. Cedric. Scout the battlements. I want to know who is there.

24

INT. CASTLE - MORNING

24

On a waist-high plinth, the bones of St. Andrew are laid on a velvet cloth. On one side of the plinth is Hennini wearing the wedding dress. Cathen is by her side. On the other side is Roderich and Regulus. The others, including Fingal, are gathered around.

Regulus takes the hands of Hennini and Cathen and joins them over the bones.

REGULUS

Are you, Hennini of Caerlaverock, free of all disease?

HENNINI

I know not.

REGULUS

Are you with any other man's child?

HENNINI

I know not.

Cathen suddenly withdraws his hand in horror.

CATHEN

What is this! She is trying to find reason to make me give up my claim on her.

Hennini puts her hands on the bones.

HENNINI

I pray I am with child. An Angle child!

Cathen pulls her hand off the bones and slaps her across the face.

CATHEN

What kind of woman are you!

Fingal intercedes.

FINGAL

Enough! You will marry her. If there is a child you will raise it as your heir!

Fingal signals Regulus to continue.

REGULUS

Are you, Cathen of Rheged, free of all sickness of the mind?

FINGAL

He is.

Fingal nods to Roderich.

RODERICH

This is a marriage, sworn on the bones of an apostle, before God and under the laws of the land Henceforth, Hennini, widow of Theodoric of Caerlaverock, will be the property and wife of Cathen of Rheged, now lord of Caerlaverock, master of Strathnith, defender of the Wall.

Hennini looks miserable, Cathen angry.

RODERICH (CONT'D)

In custom, all here assembled are
bid to witness this declaration,
and say aye.

FINGAL ET AL

Aye!

An ARROW flies through the air and strikes
Regulus. Fingal catches him as he falls.

REGULUS

Guard the true faith, my son.

Regulus dies in Fingal's arms.

The Angles stream into the castle and form a
battle triangle in the courtyard. Protected by
their shields, they are a formidable threat.

AEDGAR

Wheel right!

The Angle formation slowly turns until Aedgar is
facing Fingal and Hennini.

AEDGAR (CONT'D)

I am here to claim her as my bride.

FINGAL

You are too late, Angle. She is
wed.

Aedgar looks at Hennini. He is disappointed.

HENNINI

It was not of my own will!

Aedgar smiles. He searches for Cathen.

AEDGAR

Where is the old swine?
(sees him)
Well, old man?

CATHEN

Prepare to meet your God.
(signals his men)
Engage!

There is hand to hand combat. The fighting is fierce and the Angle formation is broken.

Fingal kills Cedric.

Aedgar kills Marcella.

The Angles appear to be gaining the upper hand. Some of Cathen and Roderich's men fall.

Tannu lurks in the shadows.

Aedgar fights his way towards Hennini, but Cathen and two of his Retainers block his advance.

Fingal kills Aethelstan.

One of Roderich's men captures Tannu.

Cissa is killed by Roderich.

Aelfred kills one of Roderich's men, but is wounded and panics.

AELFRED

Aedgar!

Aedgar reads the situation. He sees the bones and gathers them up.

Aelfred is cornered and killed by Fingal.

CATHEN

The Angle has the bones!

Aedgar finds himself cornered with Rolf.

AEDGAR

There's something special about these.

He holds up the bones over the battlements.

AEDGAR (CONT'D)

I will drop these in the sea!

The Celts, one by one, lower their swords.

AEDGAR (CONT'D)

Give me Hennini.

Hennini moves forward but Fingal stops her.

FINGAL

No. You can't have her.

Aedgar smiles and goes to drop the bones. Rolf sees that Tannu is captured.

ROLF

Tannu!

Aedgar realizes Rolf has given Tannu away.

AEDGAR

You fool, Rolf.

(beat)

Over the wall!

ROLF

We can't just leave her!

AEDGAR

Then we'll meet in the Other World.

Aedgar leaps over the wall with the bones.

The Celts, led by Fingal rush towards Rolf.

Rolf jumps over the wall.

25 EXT. CASTLE - DAY

25

Aedgar lands in a heap beside Rolf.

They are both winded.

AEDGAR

Woden is with us, Rolf!

Let's go!

The hobble off.

26 INT. CASTLE - DAY

26

Fingal and Roderich are on the battlements watching the Angles escape.

FINGAL
I'm getting tired of this,
Roderich.

RODERICH
Someone has to get the bones back.

FINGAL
It's Cathen's business now.

RODERICH
He is not to be trusted. Take my
men.

Fingal nods wearily.

27

INT. CASTLE - EVENING

27

Roderich and Cathen are sitting on a bench. Before
them is Tannu.

CATHEN
One of my men knows this girl. Her
name is Constancia of Comlangan.

TANNU
My name is Tannu. I am a Votadini.

RODERICH
You're no more Votadini than I am.
You're a Wall Land girl.

Cathen refers to a scroll.

CATHEN
Constancia of Comlangan was sent to
the convent of the Five Duns and
took her vows when she was
fourteen. She was sent to the
Culdee settlement of the Scots in
the west. During the war, an Angle
ship sought shelter from a storm in
their harbour.
(beat)
Next day, Constancia disappeared
and Abbess Monenna sent notice to
her family that she was abducted.

RODERICH
Were you abducted?

TANNU
No

CATHEN
She went of her own free will and
enjoyed knowledge with Angle men.

There is a moment of silence. Roderich winces.

RODERICH
The law proscribes that you be
returned to the place you came
from. They will decide your
punishment.

TANNU
I will perish!

Roderich washes his hands in a bowl.

Cathen nods and Tannu is removed from the room.

28

INT. CASTLE - LATER

28

Hennini is in a small room praying by candle-
light. The body of Regulus is laid out on a bier.

HENNINI
Jesus, I pray for everlasting
happiness for your servant Regulus,
and his companion Marcella, who
have been taken to heaven from this
place of bitter darkness.
(beat)
I pray for the return of the
remains of Andrew who was the first
to believe in you.
(beat)
I pray for the future of your bride
Constancia who has sinned, but
whose heart is good. Please, Jesus,
forgive her.
(beat)
I pray you give me the will to
outlive my new husband who has no
love for me.

(MORE)

HENNINI (CONT'D)
May you strike him dead with a
thunderbolt if he tries to seduce
me on my wedding night.

The door bursts open. It is Cathen

HENNINI (CONT'D)
What do you want!

CATHEN
I'm banishing you until your
bastard child is dead!

The Retainers gag Hennini and pick her up off her
knees and carry her out.

29 EXT. CASTLE - DUSK 29

The light is fading and Hennini and Tannu are led
by Cathen and two Retainers from the castle to the
ruined harbour where a boat waits.

30 EXT. HARBOUR - DUSK 30

Hennini and Tannu are placed in a boat with a
boatman.

HENNINI
Where is he taking us!

CATHEN
To hell!

Cathen casts them adrift.

31 INT. CASTLE - EVENING 31

Fingal returns with Roderich's men. He is weary.
Roderich and Ethne greet him.

FINGAL
We chased them up into the hills
but we lost them.
(beat)
I saw a boat leaving the harbour?

RODERICH

The captured girl was a runaway nun. She's been sent back to her convent.

FINGAL

I'm tired, Roderich. Someone else will have to track those Angles down.

RODERICH

I'll send a messenger to King Urien ... but we'll lose Saint Andrew to him if his men capture the Angles.

ETHNE

Can we go home, papa?

FINGAL

We'll leave tomorrow.

Fingal's mind is made up and Roderich reluctantly accepts it.

ETHNE

(delighted)

Can we buy a bull?

FINGAL

I think so. Have you still got the money?

ETHNE

I gave it to grandfather.

Roderich smiles and passes Fingal his purse of coin.

FINGAL

It's been hard earned.

32

EXT. HIGH HILLS - DAWN

32

Aedgar and Rolf are sharing a camp fire. Aedgar is dispirited and playing with the bones. Rolf is unnerved and jittery.

AEDGAR

I am sore for the loss of our men.

ROLF

They were brave men, Aedgar. You must compose a dirge for them.

AEDGAR

What would I say in it, Rolf? We captured this girl ... she wanted to marry me ... If king Aethelric heard it, he would have us killed.
(beat)
I'll end my days here. You must return to the camp.

ROLF

Then what?

AEDGAR

Head back to Hexham with Husa and tell them you were attacked while on patrol and we're all dead.

ROLF

I'm a poor storyteller, Aedgar. What will you do?

AEDGAR

Go back for Hennini.

ROLF

You are berserk.

AEDGAR

I'm besmitten by her I have to win her back.

ROLF

And I Tannu!

AEDGAR

Tannu doesn't want you, Rolf.

ROLF

They'll kill her. Don't you care about her?

AEDGAR

Of course I care about her. I've always cared about her.

ROLF

Then we go together. We are brothers!

Rolf offers Aedgar his hand. Aedgar juggles the bones in his hands, and accepts it.

Suddenly they are surrounded by the Picts.

The Angles throw their arms up. Aedgar is holding the arm bone in his left hand.

LUIS

Ahh! It's those bones again!

Aedgar sees an opportunity to save their lives.

BETH

Let's just kill them and take their clothes.

AEDGAR

Nay, nay, nay ... look! These are worth a king's ransom to a Christian.

Beth's eyes open wide. She takes the arm bone from Aedgar and scratches it.

AEDGAR (CONT'D)

Look there's some fingers and

Beth snatches the knee bone and studies it.

BETH

Where's this from?

She tries to find a part on her body that matches the bone.

LUIS

It's your knee. Look!

Luis shows Beth his knee moving back and forward. Beth puts the bone to her knee and starts dancing.

Aedgar reaches for his sword. Luis raises his axe.

LUIS (CONT'D)

Don't!
 (to other Picts)
 Let's hang them!

33 EXT. SHORE - DAY 33

The boat beaches in the shingle.

The shore is deserted.

Hennini and Tannu are ushered on to the shingle by the boatman.

They are led on a chain up the beach.

34 EXT. HIGH HILLS - DAY 34

Fingal is trekking across the hills with Ethne.

ETHNE

Father

FINGAL

Yes, Ethne?

ETHNE

What will the Culdees do to Tannu when she is returned to them?

FINGAL

Punish her.

ETHNE

Yes ... but what will they do to her?

FINGAL

Make her eat bread and water for a month. I don't know.

35 EXT. SHORE - DAY 35

The boatman chains Hennini and Tannu to a ring on a windswept rock.

A short distance away he places a scroll in a crevice.

He returns to his boat.

Hennini and Tannu watch as the boat sails off.

36

EXT. HIGH HILLS - DAY

36

Fingal and Ethne are still crossing the hills.

ETHNE

Father ... what does immuring mean?

FINGAL

Where did you here that?

ETHNE

I overheard Chief Cathen. He said that's what the nuns would do to Tannu and Lady Hennini.

Fingal stops and turns.

FINGAL

Lady Hennini?

ETHNE

She was sent to the Culdees with Tannu.

A Pict appears on the skyline.

FINGAL

Down, Ethne!

He pulls Ethne to the ground with him.

The Pict disappears again.

Fingal looks up.

FINGAL (CONT'D)

You hide yourself here.

He hands her his pack.

FINGAL (CONT'D)

If I'm not back before the sun goes
over that hill, head homewards.

He kisses her and departs.

37 EXT. PICT CAMP - DAY 37

The Pict camp is heavy with the valuables they
have robbed from wayfarers.

Aedgar and Rolf are hanging tied upside down from
the limb of a tree.

Beth is dancing in Hennini's dress to a beat of
Luis's borran.

Fingal watches them. He smiles when he sees the
Angles.

38 EXT. PICT CAMP - MINUTES LATER 38

The Picts are sitting around their fire. Fingal
breaks in on them.

FINGAL

Don't get up!

The Picts are momentarily alarmed, but Luis calms
them.

LUIS

What do you want?

BETH

He wants this dress back!

FINGAL

I'm not interested in the dress.
It's them I want.

Fingal points to the Angles.

BETH

You can't have them. They're ours!

FINGAL

I'll pay you for them.

LUIS
They're not for sale.

Beth holds up the arm bone.

BETH
You're a Christian. What is this worth?

FINGAL
It's just an old bone. It's worthless.

LUIS
Lying Angle!

Luis pulls a knife and rises and goes towards Aedgar. Fingal intervenes.

FINGAL
I'll do the job for you!
Here!

He throws them his bag of coins.

FINGAL (CONT'D)
Buy yourself a bullock cart to put your treasure on.
(beat)
Now clear your camp ... I want to be alone when I do this.

The Picts pick up their belongings.

Fingal eyes Beth and the bones.

Beth senses something and wraps the bones back up and tucks them in the folds of her clothes.

She picks up her pack and departs.

39

EXT. SHORE - DAY

39

The female CULDEES appear on the shore. They are led by MONENNA.

Tannu immediate begins to tremble.

HENNINI

Tannu, be strong.

Monenna is handed the scroll.

TANNU

That's Monenna ... she is the
Mother.

Monenna signals her Culdees to unchain Tannu.

Tannu is released and taken away.

MONENNA

How the mighty fall. It's a wicked
world. A wicked world.

HENNINI

It's all men's doing.

MONENNA

It's God's doing. Make no mistake.
Everything is God's doing.

HENNINI

Do you always repeat yourself?

MONENNA

We'll leave you here until you show
respect. Show me respect.

Monenna shakes Hennini's chains then walks away
and signals her Culdees to follow her.

Hennini remains tied to the rock.

40

EXT. PICT CAMP - DAY

40

The Angles are now barefooted and have their hands
tied behind their backs.

FINGAL

I'm giving you a chance, lads.

AEDGAR

If you were a fair man, you'd untie
our hands.

FINGAL
I'm not stupid, Angle.

ROLF
How is Tannu? Is she safe?

FINGAL
What do you care?

AEDGAR
We are responsible. When we
harboured from the storm on the
Culdee shore, I met Tannu. She had
not seen a man since childhood and
she took to me.
(beat)
When we put to sea we found she had
hidden herself under the spare
sail. It was Rolf who discovered
her. We offered to take her back
but she refused. After that, she
went everywhere with us.

FINGAL
You did her no favours. She has
been sent back there with Hennini.

AEDGAR
Hennini? What has she done wrong?

FINGAL
Like Tannu, she betrayed us by
giving herself to you.

AEDGAR
What is wrong with you people! Do
you have so many women to spare
that you can waste their lives?

FINGAL
Look, why don't be just get on with
this.

AEDGAR
No, I'm not going to play this
game.

Aedgar head-butts Fingal in the stomach. The bow
and arrow fly out of his grip.

He falls over with such force, he hits his head on a rock and is knocked out.

ROLF

I don't believe this, Aedgar. Frig has blessed us!

Aedgar takes Fingal's knife and cuts the rope binding Rolf's hands. Rolf does the same for Aedgar.

Aedgar picks up Conan's sword. He swings it in the air. It sings.

ROLF (CONT'D)

What now, Aedgar?

AEDGAR

We dip wind-singer in the ribs of our rivals!
We scan the shores for the love of our lives!

41 EXT. SHORE -DAY 41

Hennini is still bound to the rock.

She is in a state of half-wake, half delirium.

42 EXT. DOVECOT - DAY 42

The Culdees are bricking up the entrance of the dovecot.

43 INT. DOVECOT - DAY 43

Tannu is inside the dovecot. She is terrified.

TANNU

I will seek revelation, Mother Monenna. Please

44 EXT. DOVECOT - DAY 44

The Culdees continue to brick up the entrance watched by Monenna.

MONENNA

We will await God's intervention.
We shall give you bread and
light. If God wishes you to live,
he will feed you, give you the
strength to repent your sins.

TANNU

My flesh was weak I beg you,
for the love of Jesus ... show me
mercy.

The last of the bricks are put in place.

45 INT. DOVECOT - DAY 45

The last rays of light are streaming through a
hole the width of one brick.

Tannu is barely visible. She watches as a lighted
candle is pushed through the hole. Tannu takes it.
Its flame flickers in the bare dovecot.

The candle is followed by a hand pushing through a
small piece of bread.

The last brick is pushed into the wall, snapping
out all daylight.

Tannu breaks down and cries.

46 EXT. DOVECOT - DAY 46

The Culdees move in silence from the Dovecot led
by Monenna.

47 EXT. SHORE -DAY 47

Hennini is still bound by the chain.

She is watching the clouds move across the sky
threatening rain.

48 EXT. HIGH HILLS - AFTERNOON 48

Ethne is watching the sun going over the hills in the distance.

She is worried, but does not move.

EXT. SHORE - AFTERNOON

Hennini is released from her chains by two Culdees.

She is wet and hungry, but unbroken.

49 INT. CULDEE CELL - AFTERNOON 49

Hennini is left in Monenna's cell which is bare of all but a blanket, a bowl and a candle. There are some scrolls piled against the back wall.

MONENNA

I demand obedience here. We have a code of silence that only I am allowed to break at times of crisis.

HENNINI

Do I represent a crisis?

MONENNA

You represent everything I detest. Conceit. Arrogance. Vanity. Decadence. Lustfulness.

HENNINI

And you represent selfishness, indulgence and power gone mad! How can you lead these women to waste their lives? It is madness!

MONENNA

We are all light-bearers in a time of darkness. In us is invisible particles of light that is God. Only by stripping away the Devil's flesh that hides our light, will all of God reveal himself.

(MORE)

MONENNA (CONT'D)

If we do not try, and the flesh
pulls us down, then God must
intervene to redeem us.

HENNINI

God is not in us! I trust in God
and love him. I don't need to
discover who he is!

Monenna stands close to Hennini.

MONENNA

You're body has trapped your light.
You're shame is paraded in the way
you walk ... your hind as wanton as
any seasoned animal. Your stance is
that of prostitute , your breast
that of a common whore your
mouth
(pinches Hennini's lips)

Hennini brushes her hand away. Monenna puts her
hand back on Hennini's neck and runs it down
towards her breast.

Hennini slaps Monenna hard on the face. Monenna
slaps her back.

MONENNA (CONT'D)

You will learn to obey me.

HENNINI

That's never going to happen.

Monenna claps her hands. Two Culdees arrive.

MONENNA

Show her Constancia.

Hennini is shuffled out.

50

EXT. DOVECOT - DUSK

50

Hennini is led by two Culdees to the Dovecot.

A Culdee removes a brick in the wall. Hennini is
given a lighted candle and instructed to peer
inside.

51 INT. DOVECOT - AFTERNOON

51

The candle lights the room.

Tannu looks up. She is resigned.

HENNINI O.S
Tannu ... it is me.

TANNU
Hennini ...?

Tannu rise and goes towards the light.

TANNU (CONT'D)
Am I rescued?

HENNINI
Rescue will come, I am sure of it.

TANNU
Aedgar will not come for me.

HENNINI
We must hope.

TANNU
No one cares for me.

HENNINI
I care for you.

TANNU
Why?

HENNINI
We only have each other.

The clasp hands together.

TANNU
What have they planned for you?

HENNINI
I don't know yet.

52 INT. DOVECOT - AFTERNOON

52

Hennini lets go of Tannu's hand

HENNINI

I have to go now I will come
whenever I can.

Everything goes black.

53 EXT. DOVECOT - AFTERNOON 53

The Culdee finishes replacing the brick.

The other Culdee claps her hands and signals
Hennini to follow her.

54 EXT. SHORE - AFTERNOON 54

Hennini is led by the two Culdees to a small cave
on the shore.

In the cave is some straw, a candle, and a
blanket.

It is obvious that this is meant to be her cave.

The Culdees depart.

Tired, Hennini curls up on the straw and covers
herself with the blanket.

55 EXT. PICT CAMP - DUSK 55

Ethne finds Fingal bound and gagged.

She frees him. Fingal is angry.

FINGAL

I thought I told you to go home?

ETHNE

Aren't you glad I didn't?

Fingal hugs her.

ETHNE (CONT'D)

Where are the Picts?

FINGAL

Long gone with the bones.

ETHNE

Did they take Conan's sword

FINGAL

That was the Angles. I'm mad,
bloody mad with them all.

ETHNE

Do you still have the money for the
bull?

FINGAL

No.

ETHNE

Who was it? The Angles or the
Picts?

FINGAL

Picts

ETHNE

(annoyed)

There's no point going home then
until you catch them, is there?

FINGAL

Ethne

ETHNE

I'm not speaking to you until you
get the money back

Ethne walks off. Frustrated, Fingal follows.

56 EXT. SHORE - NIGHT 56

Hennini steals some fish drying on a net.

57 EXT/INT . DOVECOT - NIGHT 57

Hennini removes the brick from the wall.

HENNINI

Tannu

CUT TO:

Tannu's candle is burnt almost to it's end.

She hears Hennini calling her and goes to the hole.

CUT TO:

Hennini tries to make a hole in the wall larger. She succeeds in removing some more bricks.

She passes through the half cured fish.

HENNINI (CONT'D)

I'm going to get you out of here.

TANNU

You'll be caught.

Tannu starts to eat the fish.

HENNINI

Do you want to be holed up until doomsday?

TANNU

No

Hennini continues to remove the bricks.

Suddenly a lighted brand appears held by Monenna. Behind her are some Culdees.

MONENNA

You have intervened and spoilt all chance of the girl's redemption. Take her back to the rock!

Some Culdees carry Hennini off.

MONENNA (CONT'D)

Shut her up for good this time. Let no light, no air enter.

58

EXT. HIGH HILLS - MORNING

58

The Picts are winding along a path.

Fingal jumps upon Tiree and breaks his neck.

He takes the Pict's axe and brings it down on the head of Mull.

Luis and Beth raise their weapons.

LUIS

We don't want to fight with you,
man.

FINGAL

Give up your weapons!

Luis and Beth throw their weapons aside.

FINGAL (CONT'D)

I want my money back!

Luis throws the purse to Fingal.

FINGAL (CONT'D)

Now the bones!

Beth produces the bones.

BETH

Here! You can have them!

Beth throws them to the ground.

FINGAL

Ethne!

Ethne appears. Fingal gathers the bones.

FINGAL (CONT'D)

Take these.

Ethne takes the bones and looks at him.

ETHNE

And the money for the bull, father?

Fingal hands her the purse.

ETHNE (CONT'D)

From now on I look after the money
in the family.

The Picts give Fingal a strange look.

Fingal feels the need to explain.

FINGAL
She's my daughter

The Picts smile.

FINGAL (CONT'D)
(whispers)
Take the bones to Mungo the Dear
One.

ETHNE
What will I tell him?

FINGAL
Tell him all you know.

Ethne hugs Fingal, then departs.

FINGAL (CONT'D)
Right you, pair. I want the dress
and the tunic.

59 EXT. HIGH HILLS - LATER

59

Luis and Beth are in their underwear. Fingal has his bow and an arrow at the ready. He fires an arrow.

FINGAL
I'm going to count to ten then come
after you.

BETH
That's not fair. Make it twenty!

FINGAL
One

Luis and Beth start running through the heather.

FINGAL (CONT'D)
(louder)
Two

The Picts keep running.

Fingal gathers what he needs and sets off in the opposite direction.

60 EXT. CASTLE - DAY 60

Cathen is alone surveying his domain.

AEDGAR
Enjoy it, old man.

Cathen turns to find himself confronted by Aedgar and Rolf.

Aedgar runs Cathen through with Conan's sword.

Cathen falls backwards over the battlements.

His body lands on the rocks below.

61 EXT. HARBOUR - DAY 61

Aedgar and Rolf steal along the harbour wall.

They kill a Retainer.

They steal a boat.

62 EXT. SHORE - DAY 62

Hennini has been out over night on the rock.

Two Culdees unchain her.

63 EXT. DOVECOT - DAY 63

Hennini is dragged by the dovecot.

She sees that it is now completely sealed.

For the first time she fears for her own life.

The Culdees are all pressed into the small cell. Hennini stands in the midst of them facing Monenna.

MONENNA

You have had time to reflect?

HENNINI

How can I reflect when I am half dead from cold.

MONENNA

We have a right to protect our purity. Since you have been here, you have deflected us from our purpose.

HENNINI

I still don't see the purpose of living like this. You are all mad. Or have been driven mad by her.

MONENNA

I did not ask for you to be sent here. This is not a prison. Everyone in this room has come here of their own free will.

HENNINI

Then send me back to the mainland.

MONENNA

We have discussed that, have we not?

CULDEES

(in unison)

Aye.

Hennini is surprised to hear the Culdees speak.

MONENNA

Our code is strict but we are not without compassion. We recognize that you are a worldly woman. However, we believe we can help you to find God within yourself

HENNINI

I don't want to find God! I want to be set free.

MONENNA

Your body is controlling you.

Monenna lays a hand on her shoulder.

HENNINI

Leave me alone!

MONENNA

Undress her.

The Culdees remove Hennini's wedding dress and cloth her in a habit like their own.

MONENNA (CONT'D)

You will put on the Craig and left there until your body is broken of its hold on your mind.

Hennini is carried out screaming from the cell.

65 EXT. CASTLE - DAY

65

Fingal finds the body of Cathen on the rocks.

The looks up to the castle.

He takes Cathen's sword from his body.

66 INT. CASTLE - DAY

66

Fingal enters the courtyard.

He finds Cathen's two Retainers and the Boatman playing marbles against a wall. They have been drinking heavily

On seeing Fingal and Cathen's sword, they fear trouble.

FINGAL

Your master is dead on the rocks.

All three appear shocked.

RETAINER

How so?

FINGAL

You tell me? He's been run through.

The three look at one another for an answer, but there is none.

FINGAL (CONT'D)

Is Roderich gone?

RETAINER

Back to Strathclyde.

FINGAL

Then there is none here but yourselves?

RETAINER

No

Fingal paces a little and looks off to the harbour.

FINGAL

You are the boatman?

BOATMAN

Yes

FINGAL

Where is your boat?

All three rush to the battlements.

FINGAL (CONT'D)

You have been visited by Angles.

The three turn to stare at Fingal.

FINGAL (CONT'D)

You are going to find me another boat, and carry me to the Culdees.

BOATMAN

You have no business there. It is a woman's sanctuary.

FINGAL
Do it or I'll chop your ears off!

The three men scurry to prepare.

67 EXT. SHORE - DAY 67

Hennini is put in a small boat.

The Culdees row towards a forlorn island far from shore.

68 EXT. SHORE - DUSK 68

Aedgar and Rolf put ashore in a hidden bay near the Culdee settlement.

CUT TO:

The Culdees are retuning from the forlorn island. They leave their boat.

CUT TO:

Aedgar and Rolf watch as the Culdees file up the cliff.

Monenna is waiting for them at the Dovecot.

They file past her.

AEDGAR
That's the witch who refused us help when we sheltered here three years ago.

Aedgar holes the Culdees boat.

69 EXT. DOVECOT - DUSK 69

Aedgar and Rolf reveal themselves holding firebrands.

The Culdees see them and fly in to a state of panic and hide themselves away.

Monenna holds her ground. She knows there is no escape.

MONENNA

This is a sanctuary! Be gone from here!

Aedgar and Rolf draw nearer to her.

AEDGAR

Remember me

MONENNA

(recognizes him)
The shipman

AEDGAR

Shipman no more

Where's the girl?

Monenna's places her hand on the wall of the Dovecot. She acts faint.

MONENNA

Lord you have answered our prayers.
You have intervened to offer the child redemption.
(to Angles)
Hurry, make haste! Break down the wall!

Monenna backs away as Rolf realizes that Tannu is inside the Dovecot.

Rolf sets to break down the wall, but the cement has set hard.

ROLF

Help me, Aedgar!

Rolf and Aedgar set to breaking down the wall. A brick falls out.

70

INT. DOVECOT - DUSK

70

A faint light breaks into the dovecot.

More and more light floods in.

Tannu is lying on the floor of the dovecot.

Rolf scrambles into the dovecot and takes Tannu in his arms.

Aedgar appears with a brand in his hand.

Tannu is pale and lifeless.

AEDGAR

She is dead

Rolf picks up the remains of the candle and lights it from the brand.

Rolf holds the candle close to Tannu's lips. The flame flickers slightly.

ROLF

She is alive, Aedgar!

Rolf wells up with joy.

AEDGAR

Carry her out!

71 EXT. DOVECOT - DUSK 71

Aedgar, Rolf with Tannu in his arms, emerge from the dovecot.

Monenna is nowhere to be seen.

72 INT. CULDEE CELL - DUSK 72

The Angles break into the cell carrying Tannu.

Monenna is huddled in a corner fearful for her life.

Rolf puts Tannu down and advances on Monenna. He puts his hands around her neck.

He strangles her to death.

73 EXT. SHORE - DUSK 73

Rolf raises Monenna's body over his head and tosses her into the sea.

74 INT. CULDEE CELL - DUSK 74

Tannu opens her eyes and sees Aedgar tending her.

TANNU

Aedgar

AEDGAR

Be quiet, Tannu ... It is Rolf you must thank.

Aedgar gets up and Rolf takes his place with Tannu.

TANNU

Rolf

75 EXT. CULDEE CELL - DUSK 75

Aedgar has a hazel wood pole in his hand.

The Culdees watch him.

On the pole he places the head of a cow. He addresses the Culdees.

AEDGAR

Here I erect a Mocking Pole. I turn this mockery towards King Urien and his councillors ...

(he turns the head towards Rheged)
I turn this head against the spirits who guard that land so that they will wander astray, none reaching or finding his home until they drive King Urien from the land.

Aedgar drives the pole into a cleft in a rock, and makes it stand.

INT. CULDEE CELL - DUSK

Aedgar is looking around the cell. He finds Hennini's dress and is alarmed.

AEDGAR (CONT'D)

What have they done with Hennini? I can't find her anywhere.

TANNU

They will have sent her to the Rock.

(beat)

You can see it from the headland.

76 EXT. HEADLAND - SUNSET

76

Aedgar stands on the headland and looks out to sea.

In the distance is a rock rising out of the sea.

Rolf joins Aedgar

AEDGAR

I'm going to get her, Rolf.

ROLF

The tide is against you. You must wait til morning, Aedgar.

Rolf turns back towards the settlement.

Aedgar continues to look towards the rock until the sun sets.

77 EXT. ROCK - SUNSET

77

Hennini is on the rock.

Below the waves crash against it's base.

Cold, hungry and windswept, she prepares a bed in a cleft of rock.

78 EXT. HARRBOUR - MORNING

78

A storm is raging.

Fingal stands on the harbour wall being sprayed by brine.

He paces up and down, knowing that days might pass before the storm abates.

79

INT. CULDEE CELL - THREE DAYS LATER

79

The wind is howling.

Tannu is now almost recovered.

Aedgar is agitated. Rolf is irritated by his pacing.

ROLF

Sit down, Aedgar.

AEDGAR

Look at the weather! It's been like this for three days!

ROLF

There is nothing we can do.

AEDGAR

I hate this place.

ROLF

You shouldn't have made the curse until we were ready to leave.

TANNU

You don't actually believe in all that do you?

Rolf turns to stare at Tannu.

ROLF

That witch believed your God intervened by sending us here. So why can't our Gods blow up a good storm?

TANNU

(laughs)

Alright, Rolf ... I've known you long enough to live with your crazy ideas.

Aedgar continues to pace.

80 EXT. HARBOUR - DAWN 80

Fingal sets sail for the Culdees.

81 EXT. SHORE - DAY 81

Aedgar and Rolf, accompanied by Tannu, find their boat smashed on the rocks.

Aedgar is beside himself.

AEDGAR

We are marooned here!

TANNU

The Mother kept a small coracle in a cave for her own use.

AEDGAR

Show us!

CUT TO:

Tannu watches Rolf help Aedgar drag a small coracle only big enough for one to the waters edge.

Aedgar gets in the coracle.

AEDGAR (CONT'D)

Just as well Angles are men of the sea.

ROLF

It will sink if you return with her!

AEDGAR

I will swim alongside if I have to.

Rolf pushes the coracle into the water.

Aedgar begins to paddle towards the Rock.

Rolf and Tannu look towards the Rock.

82 EXT. SEA - DAY 82

Fingal is approaching the Culdee island.

He sees Aedgar in the coracle heading towards the rock.

Fingal changes course for the rock.

83 EXT. ROCK - DAY 83

Aedgar edges his coracle between the rocks.

He manages to get ashore and pull the coracle out of the water.

He looks back.

CUT TO:

Fingal is approaching the rock.

CUT TO:

Aedgar smiles.

He drags the coracle out of sight.

He climbs the Rock.

CUT TO:

Fingal with sword, bow and arrow, struggles to land.

His boat is too big and there is no place to beach it.

He leaps for the rocks and lands safely.

His boat drifts off with the tide.

He momentarily weighs up the consequences of this, then turns and climbs the Rock.

84 EXT. TOP OF ROCK - DAY 84

Aedgar reaches the top of the Rock.

Hennini is motionless, hunched hugging her knees watching him.

Aedgar stands for a moment, then drops the coracle. He goes forward.

Hennini remains motionless.

Aedgar covers the distance between them.

AEDGAR

I've come for you.

HENNINI

It's too late.

AEDGAR

We can start all over.

HENNINI

Where would be go?

AEDGAR

Germania ... Illyria ... what does it matter.

HENNINI

You are a dreamer, Aedgar.

(beat)

I watched you cross the water. At first when I recognized you, my heart soared. Then I knew that I felt like that for the wrong reason. You were to be my escape from here, as you were to be my escape from Cathen.

AEDGAR

I have come to save your life! You belong to me!

HENNINI

Like a slave? Like a possession? Is that the basis for a future together? You don't love me.

AEDGAR

Why am I here then?

HENNINI

To recover what you stole. You stole me, Aedgar, you did not win me. Remember?

(beat)

You came here to prove your manhood. Just like Fingal who followed you here. It is a game between you.

Fingal appears on the top of the Rock.

HENNINI (CONT'D)

It's time to finish it.

Aedgar draws Conan's sword and turns to face Fingal.

Fingal throws down his bow and draws Cathen's sword.

AEDGAR

How's your head, Celt?

FINGAL

Better than my feet, Angle.

Aedgar salutes his god.

AEDGAR

Woden!!!!!!

FINGAL

Prepare to meet him

Fingal and Aedgar clash.

FIGHT

Fingal mortally wounds Aedgar.

Aedgar still manages to remain standing.

AEDGAR

Let me run the arrow

A look of compassion comes into Fingal's face.

He picks up his bow.

He draws an arrow and prepares to fire it over the cliff and into the sea.

Aedgar smiles and makes towards the cliff.

Hennini senses what is about to occur.

HENNINI

No, Aedgar! Not yet!

AEDGAR

It's my last chance of adventure. I don't want to miss it.

HENNINI

Take me with you.

AEDGAR

I'm going to the Other World.

HENNINI

Is there a spark of goodness in that world?

AEDGAR

There's a bright burning flame.

Hennini smiles.

HENNINI

(gently)

Loose the arrow

Fingal draws back his bow and let's the arrow fly high into the sky over the cliff.

Hennini and Aedgar walk to the cliff edge.

Together they jump off the cliff to their deaths.

85 EXT. SHORE - DAY 85

The coracle is beached on the shingle of the Culdee island.

86 EXT. CULDEE CELL - DAY 86

Fingal takes the Mocking Pole and casts it down.

Tannu emerges from the cell. She takes a deep breath on seeing Fingal.

FINGAL

Hennini and the Angle are dead.

Emerging behind her is Rolf and some of the Culdees. Both men spring to arms.

Tannu gets between the men.

TANNU

No! There has been enough bloodshed!

(beat)

I am the law on this island now!
Put your weapons down.

Fingal and Rolf are shocked at Tannu's new strength.

TANNU (CONT'D)

(to Fingal)

You owe me an honour. I gave you the chance of life once. I am exchanging it now for Rolf's life.

Fingal is unsure.

FINGAL

Will he abide by our Celtic laws?

ROLF

If you accept me as one of you?

Rolf offers Fingal his hand. Fingal is reluctant to accept it, but finally does.

TANNU

We are to wed and set up home here.

FINGAL

What about these women?

TANNU

They are free to leave or stay.
Rolf will repair our boat so we can
come and go as we please.

FINGAL

So be it. I will tell Roderich.

87 EXT. FARM - DAY

87

Fingal is at his farm with Ethne. They are
preparing to plough. Roderich is hitching up a
bull to the plough

RODERICH

From the holy man Mungo, free of
charge. It's quite a gift.

Roderick hands Fingal his purse of money back.

FINGAL

What will Mungo do with Saint
Andrew's bones?

RODERICH

Found a new abbey amongst the Picts
in the north and east. In the main,
they are beyond avarice.

They laugh.

FINGAL

And where do we as a people go from
here, Roderich?

RODERICH

Plough our fields, sow our seeds,
and be grateful that we are alive.
In time our spring will come, and
the world renewed.

Fingal nods and leads the bull into his field.

CUT TO:

Out in his field, Fingal lets fly an arrow.

It lands at the end of the field.

He breaks the bow over his knee and tosses it away.

He continues to plough.

END CREDITS.

THE END