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THE WINTER WARRIOR - FADE IN

1 PROLOGUE CAPTION:

1

In the autumn of 573AD, the eight-year civil war that divided the Celtic nations in post Romano-Britain was ended at the Battle of Arthuret.

The Celtic armies were disbanded and the warriors returned to their homes, but the losses to the combined Celtic forces were so great, that the immigrants from Germania - the Angles who settled along the North Sea coast - boldly sent raiding parties into the heart of the Celtic homelands.

2 EXT. CLEARING - DAY

2

FINGAL, a war-painted Celtic warrior is sword fighting a war-painted Angle warrior, FRITHWALD.

Three other Angles lie dead.

JESSICA, Frithwald's slave girl is ransacking Fingal's war bag.

It is a hard fight.

Jessica looks up and is momentarily fixed by the fighting.

Fingal is forcing the Frithwald backwards.

He stumbles on the uneven ground.

The Angle gains the advantage.

Jessica stuffs the small valuable items from Fingal's bag into her clothing.

Fingal regains the advantage with the Frithwald and has him at his mercy.

A spear lands inches from Fingal's leg.

Fingal looks up and sees Jessica staring at him.

The Angle warrior recovers and Fingal is forced to back-step in defence.

Fingal is overwhelmed by the renewed strength of Frithwald.

The Angle succeeds in disarming Fingal.

Fingal reaches for the dagger in his belt.

They are now locked in hand to hand combat.

Jessica pulls the spear from the ground. She raises it and watches for Fingal to expose his back to her.

Fingal is aware of her presence. The Angle shouts at her.

FRITHWALD

Kill him! Kill him!

Jessica hesitates. Fingal wrestles the Angle to the ground.

Jessica continues to hover with the spear.

Fingal has Frithwald in a head hold. He breaks his neck with a loud crack.

There is a deathly silence as the Angle's body slumps to the ground.

Fingal looks up at Jessica.

Jessica drops the spear as she realises the Angle is dead. She turns and flees.

Fingal rises and chases after her.

He chases her across the moor

CUT TO:

He chases her into the woods.

CUT TO:

He chases her down a valley side.

CUT TO:

He catches her as she tries to escape across a stream.

He drags her out of the stream.

She struggles and fights with him.

He throws her down.

The items she has stolen fall from her clothing.

He is angry. He takes out his dagger and bends over her. He is intent on killing her.

She rips the upper part of her own clothing in an attempt to offer herself in exchange for her life.

Fingal hesitates. Around her neck is a Star of David. Fingal takes it in his hand.

Frailty appears in Jessica's face.

FINGAL
You're a slave girl?

Jessica covers herself up.

Fingal pulls her up by her hair and stares into her eyes.

FINGAL (CONT'D)

Slave or not, don't ever throw a
spear at me again or by God I'll
wring your neck.

Fingal takes a piece of rope from his belt and tightly binds Jessica's wrists together.

FINGAL (CONT'D)

Now pick those things up.

Jessica does as she is told.

CUT TO:

Fingal is leading Jessica by the rope back to where the Angle lies dead.

He takes the stolen items from her and repacks his war bag.

Jessica is looking at the dead Angles.

FINGAL (CONT'D)

Shedding tears for your Bernician
masters?

JESSICA

Frithwald was a pig.

FINGAL

So you can talk then?
(She glares at him)
Collect their arms. Then you'll
help me bury them.

CUT TO:

A rough pile of stones mark the graves of the Angle warriors.

Jessica is loaded down with Fingal's war bag and weapons as they set off along the track northwards.

He leads her by the rope, tugging on it from time to time to make sure she does not lag behind.

3

EXT. WOODLAND - DAY

3

It is a glorious late autumn morning.

LILLIAN, Fingal's wife is collecting autumn berries with a young girl, ETHNE.

They are happy in each other's company.

LILLIAN

Rome is so large, Ethne. The monuments are ancient. And the Coliseum spectacular.

They are being watched from behind bushes by two Angle warriors, ULPH and AELLE.

ETHNE

Don't you miss Rome, aunt Lillian?

LILLIAN

Si. But I love it here.

ETHNE

It rains all the time

LILLIAN

Fingal will bring the sun with him.

Lillian is moving closer to the Angles.

They continue to watch her unseen.

ETHNE

How did you meet Uncle Fingal?

LILLIAN

He was a commander in Emperor Justin's army. When the Lombard's invaded, they brought the yellow plague to Rome. We left everything behind.

Lillian is almost upon the Angles.

ETHNE

Uncle likes fighting?

LILLIAN

He is a great soldier. But he won't have to go away anymore ... he has promised to stay home for good this time.

Ulph and Aelle snatch Lillian. They drag her off into the bushes.

Ethne runs away.

Aelle chases after her.

Ethne manages to hide.

Aelle gives up looking for her.

Ulph leads Lillian off, followed by Aelle.

4

EXT. FOREST CLEARING - DAY

4

A small band of ANGLES have formed a circle. In the centre is a frightened badly beaten-up Celt, Fingal's brother DOUGAL. He is on his knees. HUSSA is poking at him with his spear. EDWIN is kicking him.

AETHELRIC is stripping to the waist

IDA, the leader of the band, points with his sword.

IDA

Get his shirt off!

Hussa and Edwin remove Dougal's shirt.

IDA (CONT'D)

Now, my Celtic friend, you will fight our man.

The three Angles back off and leave Dougal to Aethelric.

Dougal's eyes dart looking for a way to escape, but there is none. He charges at Aethelric. They engage.

ULPH

Break his bones, Aethelric!

Dougal puts an arm hold on Aethelric, but the Angle is too strong for him and throws him.

The Angles holler in glee.

Ulph and Aelle herd Lillian into the clearing. She has a rope around her neck.

Ida looks up and is immediately smitten by Lillian's dark looks.

The other Angle's are momentarily distracted by the arrival of Ulph and Aelle.

Aethelric is not. He takes hold of Dougal and throws him again. There is a crunch as Dougal's arm breaks.

LILLIAN

Dougal!

Dougal is too pained to speak.

Aethelric picks Dougal up and places him in a neck lock. Dougal cannot breathe and struggles for life.

The Angles watch as the life slowly drains from Dougal.

Not quite dead, Aethelric lets Dougal drop to his knees.

Dougal's eyes open and stare at Lillian. He smiles as Aethelric places his knee on his backbone

Lillian instinctively looks away

Aethelric breaks Dougal's spine.

Ethne is hiding in the trees.

She cries.

5

EXT. CAMP - NIGHT

5

Fingal and Jessica are camped for the night in a sheltered hollow.

Fingal has made a fire.

There is tension between them.

JESSICA

Why did you spend time to bury them?

FINGAL

All warriors deserve a decent burial.

JESSICA

Why do you stare at me like that?

FINGAL

Like what?

JESSICA

Like I am a Jew.

FINGAL

You've got me all wrong, woman.

JESSICA

Do you think I like being a slave? You are the fourth man in as many years to own me.

FINGAL

I don't own you, I don't even want you. But what are you going to do out here on your own? Another war band would capture you, or some wild animal would eat you.

JESSICA

I can look after myself. If you give me a spear and a knife, I'll be gone by the morning.

FINGAL

And where would you go?

JESSICA

Far away from this miserable land.
Maybe even to Judea.

FINGAL

(laughs)

Judea. What would you do when you
got there?

JESSICA

Visit the shrines of my ancestors.

FINGAL

They're all in ruins.

JESSICA

How do you know?

FINGAL

I went through the Holy Land with
the Roman army on our march to
Africa.

JESSICA

You're a mercenary?

FINGAL

I'm a soldier for hire. Is there
something wrong with that?

JESSICA

(contemptuous)

You plunder and pillage under the
guise of righteousness.

FINGAL

At least I don't eat dogs, horses
or monkeys like some of the
heathens I've fought. Or kiss crude
little effigies and sacrifice
children. There are some strange
gods out there. At least I believe
in one God like your people do.

Jessica half smiles. He offers her some cooked
food from the fire.

FINGAL (CONT'D)

What's your name?

JESSICA

Jessica ...

FINGAL

You speak like a Saxon.

JESSICA

I was schooled in Londinium. My papa traded goods up and down the Germanic Sea. Four years ago, his ship was seized and I was sold into slavery.

FINGAL

What happened to your papa?

JESSICA

Killed for his money. I was traded at the market in Yorvik for a stolen horse.

FINGAL

It must have been a good horse.

JESSICA

I was passed as a camp follower amongst the Bernicians. I've learned how to watch men kill each other over me without getting involved.

FINGAL

Heathen and Christian?

JESSICA

What's the difference. One man is the same as any other.

FINGAL

You're wrong. You've forgotten what it is like to be free. You need re-educated.

JESSICA

And you're the one that's going to do it.

FINGAL

I've a wife, lady. I'll leave your education to somebody else.

Fingal binds Jessica's hands together again.

JESSICA

This is your idea of freedom? Do you not trust me?

FINGAL

I stay alive by knowing what men are capable of doing, and what woman are capable of undoing.

He binds her ankles.

She scowls at him.

He throws a blanket at her.

Fingal settles down by the fire to sleep.

JESSICA

Where are you taking me?

FINGAL

To Caledon. I have given the best years of my life to war and foreign armies. Now I am going to give my remaining years to my wife and my people.

JESSICA

What about me when we get there?

FINGAL

Maybe some poor farmer will take pity on you and marry you.

Jessica snorts in disgust.

Fingal laughs to himself and pulls his blanket tight around him.

6

EXT. CAMP - DAWN

6

The fire is smouldering and Fingal is up and packed.

He cuts the rope that binds Jessica and hands her a bannock(dry biscuit).

CUT TO:

Fingal washes his face in a stream.

For the first time we see his face without his war paint.

CUT TO:

He returns to Jessica. He instructs her to pick up the baggage. She disobeys.

FINGAL

We haven't got all day. There's rain on the way.

JESSICA

No.

FINGAL

Look, lady, you either pick that bag up or

He takes her by the throat and threatens to cut it with his knife. Something in the way she looks at him makes him hesitate.

JESSICA

I will serve you but you must let me wash. It is my religion.

Fingal realises that she is menstruating. He lets go of her and steps back.

CUT TO:

Jessica returns from the stream clean and refreshed.

She holds out her wrist to Fingal.

He binds her to a long rope the other end of which he wraps around his own wrist. He points to the baggage.

She does as she is told and picks it up.

7 EXT. MOUNTAINS - DAY 7

Fingal and Jessica are crossing the mountains.

CUT TO:

It is a land of rugged beauty.

CUT TO:

It is cold and they are in the mist

CUT TO:

Fingal gives Jessica a cloak to wear.

CUT TO:

They go higher into the mountains.

8 EXT. FOREST - DAY 8

Ida and his raiding party are following a trail through the woods.

Lillian is being forced along at spear point.

Ethne is following them.

CUT TO:

The raiding party has stopped for a rest.

The Angles huddle close together.

Lillian, a little way off, is propped up against a tree.

Ethne creeps up behind the tree to talk to Lillian.

She throws a stick at Lillian to attract her attention.

LILLIAN

Ethne go back.

ETHNE

No ... I'm frightened.

LILLIAN

Do as I say. Go back and wait for your uncle. Mark the trail. They will camp in this country for the winter.

ETHNE

They'll kill you.

LILLIAN

No, Ethne, the leader wants me for his own. Go Wait for Fingal. He will come soon.

Ida is approaching Lillian with some food.

Ethne backs away into the trees.

Ida hands her the food. She takes it.

IDA

You're the first Roman girl I've ever met. Good looking, educated, well mannered. If you'd seen some of the hags we've captured in the past. Foul mouthed, bad tempered, disease ridden, and ugly ... unbelievably ugly. Even Aethelric wouldn't touch them. But you are the kind of woman a man wants to show off.

Ethne snaps a twig underfoot.

Ida's eyes dart towards where Ethne is hidden. Lillian distracts him.

LILLIAN

Do you like stories?

IDA

(interested)
What kind of stories?

LILLIAN

Stories about Gods, demons, drinking, death, and pillage.

IDA

Can you tell stories like that?

LILLIAN

Yes.

IDA

Then let's make a deal. When we make camp tonight, if you tell me a story, I'll make sure none of the others touch you.

Ida strokes Lillian's face.

IDA (CONT'D)

Ulph! Get the men on their feet.

ULPH

Yes, sir!

Lillian rises. She watches as Ethne slips off into the forest.

9

EXT. LOCHSHORE - DAY

9

Fingal is leading Jessica along a loch shore.

Ahead of them is smoke rises.

Fingal senses danger. He instructs Jessica to crouch low and remain hidden.

Fingal strikes off away from the shore and into the woodland.

Jessica watches as a lone hunter ANGWEN emerges from the woodland carrying fire wood.

Angwen drops the fire wood and sits by the fire to warm himself.

Fingal creeps out of the trees. He stands unnoticed for a moment. He smiles.

FINGAL

Warrior approaching!

Angwen rises in alarm and takes hold of a spear and throws it at Fingal.

Fingal catches it.

FINGAL (CONT'D)

That's no way to greet an old soldier.

ANGWEN

Fingal!

Fingal and Angwen embrace.

FINGAL

How are you, you old fur trader!

ANGWEN

How are you, you old war hog. You should be dead by now!

FINGAL

The Persians tried, the Nubians tried, the Lombards tried, and now the Angles, but I'm still here!

Fingal waves Jessica to join them.

ANGWEN

Who's the woman?

FINGAL

Another casualty of the chaos that exists everywhere.

ANGWEN

Does she keep you warm at night?

FINGAL

I have a wife, Angwen.

ANGWEN

My woman died last winter. Is she available?

FINGAL

I don't think she'd put up with your habits. Let her be.

CUT TO:

Jessica is combing lice out of hair.

Angwen is playing a reed pipe and making eyes at Jessica.

Jessica tries to ignore him.

Fingal is fixing one of his weapons.

ANGWEN

You ever been married, girl?

JESSICA

So that I exist to gather wood and
leaves, to strike fire from a
flint, and to make a hearth so a
man may have comfort of the flame
I've made?

ANGWEN

That's a woman's work? A woman
should obey her man.

JESSICA

(angry)

Your Christ came to redeem women. A
woman it was who bore him. A man
who betrayed him with a kiss. A
woman it was who washed his feet
with tears. A man who smote him
with a reed. A woman who broke the
alabaster box of precious ointment.
A man who three times denied him. A
woman who stood by his cross. It
was a woman to whom he first spoke
on Easter morn, it was a man who
thrust a hand into his side and put
a finger in the nail prints.

(beat)

No less than men do women possess
this earth.

Jessica gets up and moves to the water's edge.

Angwen turns to Fingal.

ANGWEN

Fiery tongued one, she is.

FINGAL

I told you to let her be.

Angwen starts to play his reed pipe again, but his
glances at Jessica betray his desire for her.

He stops playing.

ANGWEN

I'll buy her from you.

FINGAL

She's not for sale.

ANGWEN

I'll give you a bear skin and three
deer hides for her.

FINGAL

You'd kill each other.

Angwen takes from beneath a pelt an small cask of
mead.

ANGWEN

A present from some monks.
(swigs)
Let's keep talking..

Fingal laughs. Angwen hands him the mead and
Fingal drinks.

CUT TO:

Jessica is collecting fire wood.

She returns to the camp fire. Fingal and Angwen
are drunk. Fingal is up with his sword recounting
a tale.

FINGAL

Gwendoleu's druidic forces
outnumbered us Christians by three
to one. But they had one weakness,
they wouldn't fight at night. We
were happy for the rest. Their army
was colossal and we felt the
morning would bring our last day of
glory.

(beat)

King Urien passed amongst us
blessing the dying and encouraging
the wounded. He spoke brave words
about the courage and valour of the
Cymri on both sides.

(MORE)

FINGAL (CONT'D)

(loud) If the house of Coel Hen was to end, it was better that it destroyed itself than all Britannia! He beseeched God to grant us victory over his wayward nephews obsessed by power and ambition.

(beat)

It was a great speech, and when it was over, we regrouped on the sandy hill at Arthuret.

(beat)

Dawn rose and Gwendloeu's forces streamed across the river Esk and tried to take the hill. Thousands of men fell in the carnage and slaughter. In the midst of the battle in his golden torques stood Mydrin. Ringed by destruction, he saw the end had come for his twin brother Gwendoleu.

(beat)

The finest warriors of the Cymri all perished that day. Prince Ewen struck off Gwendoleu's head with his battle axe and paraded it on a spear for all to see. Mydrin turned mad and rent his clothing. He smeared his face and body with Gwendoleu's blood, but on account of his golden torques and as a holy man, he was allowed to stumble and flee from the battlefield to live out the last of miserable days in forests of Caledon.

ANGWEN

You saw all this?

FINGAL

I was the one who carried Gwendoleu's head on the spear. There was no rejoicing, only wailing for the eighty thousand lost.

ANGWEN

That many? How I wish I'd seen that.

FINGAL

There were too many ... to many to
bury. The crows feasted on them.

(beat)

Now our problem is with the Angles.
We are too weakened to face them.
We need a winter to rest.

ANGWEN

Angles are wily. They like to sneak
up on a man.

(points to Jessica)

I wager they've sneaked up on her a
few times.

They laugh. Fingal has drunk too much. He tries to
lie down.

ANGWEN (CONT'D)

Are you well, friend?

FINGAL

I'm tired. Watch the girl doesn't
run off with my treasures.

Fingal settles by the fire.

Angwen plays his reed pipe and eyes Jessica
mischievously.

10 EXT. RIVERSIDE - DAY

10

Lillian is being guarded by Ida. His hand is over
her mouth.

Ulph and Aelle are stalking another CELT WOMAN who
is going to draw water from a stream.

The woman is on the riverbank with her vessel.

Ulph and Aelle seize her. She struggles.

A CELT MAN sees his wife being seized and picks up
an axe.

Hussa and Edwin stab him in the back before he can
intercede.

A CELT BOY lunges at Aethelric with a staff.

Aethelric seizes the boy and strangles him with his own cloak.

11

EXT. LOCHSHORE - DUSK

11

Fingal wakes up suddenly.

The fire is low.

CUT TO:

Jessica, in her shift, is knee deep in the loch washing between her legs.

Her other garments are on a rock on the shore. A hand removes them.

The water is cold and Jessica emerges from the water quickly. She looks for her cloak to dry herself.

Angwen takes hold of her from behind. His hands clutch her breasts.

ANGWEN

Quietly now, my little beauty.

She bites him and runs off.

He chases after her.

She is barefooted. He quickly catches up with her.

He pulls her to the ground and attempts to kiss her.

Jessica struggles but he is too strong for her.

ANGWEN (CONT'D)

Make it easy on yourself!

A hand comes round Angwen's throat. It is Fingal.

He drives his knife into Angwen's belly.

Angwen gurgles. He dies.

Jessica stares up at Fingal. He offers her the rest of her clothes.

FINGAL

After he'd finished with you, he would have thought about killing me.

CUT TO:

It is dark. The stars are out.

Fingal and Jessica are sitting at the fire.

Fingal hands Jessica the mead to drink.

She takes a measure.

Fingal throws Angwen's reed pipe into the fire.

They sit and watch it burn.

12 EXT. SETTLEMENT - NIGHT

12

Ida and his men have occupied the hut of the settlers. They are playing with the artifacts of the dwelling. Edwin is dressed as a woman and is the 'bride' of the raiding party. The others are rejecting him and are teasing MONA, the terrified woman they have captured.

IDA

The boys are happy tonight. They have a roof over their head and don't have to suffer Edwin's advances

LILLIAN

Are you not going to protect her?

IDA

She is just a herdsman's wife. You told me your husband is a soldier. You should understand our way of life.

LILLIAN

Should I? Do you think my husband tells me everything he has done on his campaigns? He is marked by his silence.

IDA

Perhaps he is an honourable man.

LILLIAN

If you were an honourable man you would protect that woman from your men.

Ulph is rubbing his hand on Mona's thigh as Aelle holds her.

IDA

Ulph!

ULPH

What!

IDA

Aelle! Not in front of the lady.

Mona rises and throws herself beside Lillian.

ULPH

That woman is bewitching you, Ida.

IDA

Enough!

Ulph backs down.

IDA (CONT'D)

You promised me a story.

Edwin! Take that cloak off!

Edwin undresses and sits down quietly.

LILLIAN

(storytelling)

I am Isis, all that has ever been, that is or shall be: no mortal man has ever seen me unveiled. Crowned with the moon and clad in the robe of the stars, I am the daughter of Hermes, I am the mystery of mysteries. Many have sought to glimpse through my veil, but only I may chose to show myself. I hide from all but the most steadfast seeker.

ULPH

Yeah, show me your moons, darling.

The Angles laugh, but they are spell-bound in the fire light.

LILLIAN

My mystery revolves around my consort Osiris, the god of the sun, who died at the hands of his brother, cruel Set. The body of my Osiris he cut into fourteen parts and scattered them through the known world. I undertook a terrible journey, suffered great hardship, to seek the broken body of my lord and reunite him. I did so save one part, his phallus, thrown into the Nile and consumed by a fish.

AELLE

Here that, lads. She can borrow mine!

More laughter.

LILLIAN

But such was the power I held in my mysteries, I conceived by way of an artificial phallus, and bore my child Horus who avenged his father by killing Set. For I am Isis, Queen of all Heaven, greater than Ra, lord over the Pharoahs.

There is silence. The fire flickers.

Ida stares at Lillian with longing eyes as she comforts the distressed Mona.

ULPH

(whispers to the others)
She's a witch. See how she charms Ida.

The Angles nod and agree.

13 EXT. MOORLAND - DAY 13

Fingal and Jessica are travelling across a moorland.

The weather is adverse and they are wrapped up in their cloaks.

Winter is on the way.

14 EXT. SETTLEMENT - DAY 14

Ida and his raiding party are leaving the settlement.

Lillian and Mona are tied together.

The party climbs out of the valley and up onto the open moors.

15 EXT. SETTLEMENT - DAY 15

Fingal arrives in his home settlement. It is deserted.

Jessica follows him into one of the huts.

16 INT. HUT - DAY 16

Fingal is searching for something that he does not find.

FINGAL

Wait here!

Fingal leaves the hut.

17 EXT. WOODS - DAY 17

Fingal is passing cautiously through the trees.

He is fixed upon some prey and moves lightly.

He circles.

He pounces.

Fingal plucks Ethne from the undergrowth. She struggles as he places his hand over her mouth.

Ethne recognises her uncle and discontinues struggling. She throws her hands around his neck.

Fingal sees Dougal's body lying at their feet.

FINGAL

Wait for me on the edge of the forest, Ethne.
I will bury your father.

18

INT. HUT - DAY

18

Jessica has started a fire and is preparing to cook.

Fingal carries Ethne into the hut.

FINGAL

This is my niece.

Ethne flinches at seeing Jessica as she is dressed like an Angle. Fingal puts her down.

FINGAL (CONT'D)

Don't be scared of her. She's just a slave girl I've freed along the way.

Jessica throws Fingal a darting look.

FINGAL (CONT'D)

An Angle raiding party killed my brother. They've taken my wife up country.

Jessica shows genuine concern. Fingal's anger builds.

FINGAL (CONT'D)

I'll see everyone of them buried!
Ethne, you'll come with me and carry my weapons.

JESSICA

She is a child

Ethne is distressed. Jessica covers her with a cloak.

JESSICA (CONT'D)

Leave her behind with some kind people. I'll take her place.

FINGAL

Why will you do that?

JESSICA

So you have something to trade for your wife.

(beat)

This is not my country, I could never be happy here. At least with the Angles I will have the chance of escaping back to Londinium.

FINGAL

Maybe they won't want you.

JESSICA

They'll want me.

(to Ethne)

Was one of them as tall as a tree? And one of them couldn't speak?

Ethne nods.

FINGAL

You know them.

JESSICA

They are Frithwald's cousins. They came into this country together. Ida their leader has been trying to bed me for the last two years.

(beat)

Angles live for sport. They know someone will come after them to trade for their hostages. They are counting on it.

(beat)

I know how to please soldiers when they are far from home. But it will cost more than me. They'll want coin and spoil.

FINGAL

If that's the way it is to be ...
then don't expect me ... or Ethne
here ... to be grateful to you. You
are every bit one of them.

Jessica is disappointed in Fingal's opinion of
her.

Fingal hands Ethne something to eat.

FINGAL (CONT'D)

We'll leave first thing in the
morning.

19 INT. HUT - NIGHT

19

Fingal is watching over a sleepy Ethne. Jessica is
listening to him.

FINGAL

This is our land, Ethne. A people
knows when the land is theirs. They
can name every mountain, every
stream, know how many generations
old a forest is. Our stories tell
of how our ancestors first came
upon the land, and how this land
was conquered.

ETHNE

Were there other people here?

FINGAL

When our ancestors came here in
small boats, there was only ice and
snow. They stole the land from the
animals - the bear and mountain
lion.

Fingal kisses Ethne on the forehead and wraps her
for sleep.

JESSICA

You'd make a great father?

FINGAL

I'm a soldier, lady.

JESSICA

Maybe it's time you became a farmer.

FINGAL

A farmer? ... with savages going around intent on robbery and murder?

JESSICA

Treat a dog badly and it will bite you.

FINGAL

I don't need any of your Eastern talk. The Angles will not be happy until they have all our land.

JESSICA

Can't you share it with them?

FINGAL

And be made slaves? My people are free and we will fight for that freedom just as your people have fought since Moses time.

JESSICA

That's man talk. What about the girl's future. Where's her mother?

FINGAL

Her mother died of the yellow plague.

JESSICA

The plague came to this distant place?

FINGAL

There is no hiding from something that carries in the air. In this country you'll see the work of many, but it's very bare of people.

(beat)

The Angles are constantly reinforced with fresh immigrants. To defeat them, each of us Celts must fight like ten men.

(beat)

(MORE)

FINGAL (CONT'D)

I am my most valuable as a warrior
... to fight those who oppose my
people.

JESSICA

So you are not driven by self-
interest or revenge like all other
men.

FINGAL

I live by a code of honour. If I
did not live by that code, you
would be dead.

(beat)

Get to bed, now.

He points to a spot where she should sleep.
Jessica does as she is told.

Fingal settles near Ethne.

Jessica lies staring at the stars. She closes her
eyes and mouths her own prayers to Jehovah.

20 EXT. SETTLEMENT - DAY 20

Fingal, Jessica and Ethne leave Fingal's
settlement.

They start on the path out of the valley.

21 EXT. ANGLE CAMP - DAY 21

The Angles are breaking camp.

Ida is washing in a stream.

Ida is approached by Ulph and Aelle from across
the stream.

They wade across to him.

IDA

You two look tired.

ULPH

There's a large tun about half a
day's march from here.

IDA

How many?

ULPH

Maybe as many as twenty, twenty
five all living in one big hall.

Ulph takes a stick and draws in the gravel.

ULPH (CONT'D)

The lake is here and the hall is
built on stilts and pushes out into
the lake. There is a short wooden
causeway that connects the hall to
the shore.

IDA

Do you think we could take it and
hold it for the winter?

ULPH

Easily. We only saw about four or
five old men. The rest are women
and children.

Aelle nods to confirm Ulph's information.

IDA

Get some rest. We'll pull out when
the cloud breaks.

Ida walks off with a bowl of water and heads
straight towards Lillian with it.

Ulph throws Aelle a look

ULPH

The Witch and the other woman are
slowing us down. The sooner we get
rid of them, the safer we'll be.

Ida handles Lillian the bowl.

IDA

Did you sleep well?

LILLIAN

Yes. What have I to do with this?
Drink it or wash with it?

IDA
Do as you please.

LILLIAN
Do you expect me to sleep with you
because you have brought me a bowl
of water?

IDA
Don't embarrass me in front of my
men.

She throws the water in his face.

Ida's men stiffen.

Ida wipes his face.

IDA (CONT'D)
Hussa! Edwin!

Ida points to Mona. Hussa and Edwin seize her.

IDA (CONT'D)
Ulph! Aelle! Take her in the trees
and do what you wish with her.

Mona is dragged off screaming into the trees by
the four men.

Lillian watches as Ida whispers to Aethelric.

IDA (CONT'D)
When they're finished, bury her.

Aethelric goes into the trees.

Ida returns his attention to Lillian. He picks up
the bowl. He thrusts it into her hand.

IDA (CONT'D)
You will go to that stream and you
will prepare yourself.

Ida takes Lillian by the arm and marches her to
the stream.

LILLIAN
You might as well kill me now!

She throws the bowl at him.

He seizes her in a rage and thrusts her head into the water and holds it there. Lillian is drowning.

There is a scream. The birds rise from the trees.

Edwin emerges with blood streaming down his face.

Ida releases Lillian. She is half drowned.

Ida reaches Edwin.

EDWIN

I'm blinded! The bitch stuck a
stick in my eye!

There is another scream from the trees. Silence follows.

The four Angle soldiers emerge from the trees covered in blood.

Ulph heads straight for Lillian. He is intent on killing her.

Ida disarms him and knocks him to the ground.

IDA

Get up! Get up I said. That's an
order!

Ulph drags himself to his feet.

ULPH

It's the Witch's doing!

IDA

Get back to the fire! I want the
camp cleared now. All of you!
Aethelric! Do as I told you!

Aethelric nods and goes back into the trees.

Ida turns to Lillian.

IDA (CONT'D)

From now on there will be no
special favours. One word, one
wrong look, and you're theirs.

LILLIAN

I don't care. I'm already dead.

Ida's men, grouped around the camp fire, watch him argue with Lillian.

Ulph spits on the ground.

Aelle does the same and turns to Husa.

Husa looks at them defiantly. He turns to attend to Edwin's blinding.

Ida binds Lillian's hands.

22

EXT. CRANNOG - DAY

22

The lakeside settlement appears deserted.

The door of the crannog (hall) is sealed.

Fingal, Jessica and Ethne approach the end of the causeway.

FINGAL

Fesh ka ma! Fesh ka ma!
We come as friends!

VOICE (O.S.)

Who are you?

FINGAL

It is Fingal, brother of Dougal,
husband of Mairi. I have with me
Mairi's daughter. Her father is
killed by the Angles.

The door of the crannog is opened cautiously.

RODERICH, an aged man appears followed by two
SETTLERS.

Ethne sees her grandfather and runs to him.

He embraces her.

RODERICH

You are not welcome here, Fingal.

FINGAL

The civil war is over, Roderich. We are cold and wet. At least show this woman some Celtic hospitality.

Roderich looks down at his grand-daughter. He relents.

Jessica and Fingal follow Roderick and Ethne into the crannog.

23

INT. CRANNOG - DAY

23

The interior is dark, but there is a fire and a small group of SETTLERS.

Fingal is resting. Roderich is with Jessica.

RODERICH

I lost three sons in the war.

JESSICA

You can't blame the soldier for that, chief.

RODERICH

I've seen nothing in him that impresses me.

JESSICA

Why do you dislike him so much?

RODERICH

He is the father of my grand-daughter?

JESSICA

She calls him uncle?

RODERICH

She doesn't know. He went off to war and left my daughter pregnant. His brother married her and brought the child up as his own.

JESSICA

Does he know this?

RODERICH

No. He was gone eight years and returned with a Roman wife. She brought the yellow plague with her. It destroyed our way of life. The Angles may do as they please with her. It is the will of God.

JESSICA

Are you not going to help him get her back?

RODERICH

If God is great, then he will help him.

JESSICA

(Angry)

I pity you people. You are bitter and divided. All your little secrets. You are no match for the Angles.

RODERICH

The Angles will never come in sufficient numbers to defeat us.

JESSICA

You are wrong, chief. I have seen their keels. They carry forty men. They arrive every day from Danmark and Germania. They are organised and hungry for land.

RODERICH

The Spirits of our Ancestors will protect us.

JESSICA

They haven't done any good up to now, chief? I think it's wise to enlist Fingal on your side. It's time to heal your differences.

RODERICH

You are a strange being. You sound like a woman but talk like a man.

JESSICA

Make no mistake chief, I am a woman.

24 EXT. CRANNOG - DAY 24

Ida is staring across a clearing to the crannog.

The rest of the Angles and Lillian are close by. Lillian is gagged.

Ida is still displeased with Ulph. He signals Aelle to join him.

CUT TO:

Ida and Aelle stride cautiously into the clearing.

They swiftly cross the clearing and come to the end of the causeway.

25 INT. CRANNOG - DAY 25

One of the Settlers is on sentry.

SETTLER

Angles!

Everyone in the crannog jumps to their feet.

Fingal arms himself.

FINGAL

How many?

SETTLER

I see only two.

FINGAL

Give me that!

Fingal takes a spear and takes Jessica by the arm.

26 EXT. CRANNOG - DAY 26

The crannog door opens cautiously.

Ida and Aelle have their weapons raised in the air.

Fingal emerges. He has Jessica crouched at his feet unseen by the Angles.

FINGAL

Is it them?

JESSICA

Yes. It's Ida and his brother Aelle.

FINGAL

How many are in their band?

JESSICA

He has four other half-brothers. They'll be hiding in the trees.

FINGAL

Are you still willing to be traded?

JESSICA

Yes.

Ida and Aelle are hesitant.

FINGAL

What do you want?

IDA

We come to talk to your chief.

FINGAL

I'll do the talking.

IDA

We want food and tribute or we will kill everyone.

Fingal pulls Jessica up.

FINGAL

You wouldn't want to kill one of your own!

Ida and Aelle are momentarily confused.

AELLE

That's cousin Frithwald's woman.

FINGAL

Your comrades are dead!

IDA

Leave this to me.

(to Fingal)

What do you want for her?

FINGAL

Any women of ours you have.

AELLE

Trade the Roman witch and be rid of her. Then we can come back and slaughter them all.

IDA

(to Fingal)

We don't have any of your women. But if you give her up to us, we will go away in peace.

FINGAL

You'll have to come and get her.

(to Jessica)

I don't trust anything he says. I'm going to have to fight them.

AELLE

(to Ida)

What are we going to do?

IDA

Shut up, Aelle. This Celt's a fool.

(to Fingal))

If you don't hand her over we'll set fire to your hall.

FINGAL

Come now, lads. Leave the civilians out of it. We are fighting men. I'll fight your champion. If he wins you can have her. If not, you give us what hostages you have, and leave our land.

Ida and Aelle smile.

IDA

I told you he was a fool.

(to Fingal)

You will wrestle with our champion
Aethelric. My men will prepare the
ground!

(to Aelle)

Make sure the Roman is bound and
kept hidden until after the match.

JESSICA

Aethelric has never lost.

FINGAL

There's a first time for
everything.

27 EXT. CLEARED GROUND - DAY

27

A space has been cleared and marked for the
wresting match.

On one side of the space, Aethelric is stripped
and ready. His brothers are shouting
encouragement.

On the other side of the space is Fingal supported
by Roderich and two male Settlers.

Jessica is tied to a pole driven into the ground.

The rest of the settlers watch from the safety of
the crannog.

Edwin is hidden in the trees guarding Lillian.

IDA

There'll be no kicking, punching or
gouging. The first to make two
falls wins. Understood?

Fingal nods. Aethelric smiles broadly.

They lock hands

They circle one another

Aethelric tries to take Fingal's feet from him

Fingal finds his balance.

Aethelric puts him in a bear hug.

Fingal finally breaks free but Aethelric manages to topple him and he falls.

The Angles cheer.

IDA (CONT'D)
First fall to our man!

They circle each other once again.

Fingal goes in low and takes Aethelric and flips him over his shoulder.

Aethelric falls with a thud.

Roderich and the Settlers cheer.

IDA (CONT'D)
(unhappy)
One fall all.

The two men clash again.

Aethelric gets Fingal in a back-break.

Fingal is choking. In a last gasp effort he drives his elbow into Aethelric's belly and winds him.

Aethelric lets go. Fingal springs on him and takes him by the neck.

He snaps Aethelric's neck and kills him.

His body flops to earth.

The Angles immediately spring to arms.

Fingal is caught unarmed.

Ida cuts Jessica from the pole.

IDA (CONT'D)
Run. Hide in the trees.

Jessica hesitates.

IDA (CONT'D)

What's the wrong with you?

JESSICA

Where is your honour? You lost the match.

The other Angles are backing up on Fingal who is still unarmed.

Ulph wounds Fingal with his spear.

ULPH

Ida! What do we do here!

IDA

Let him have it, Ulph!

Jessica struggles free and runs between Fingal and the Angles.

JESSICA

Give him his wife!

Ida laughs at the situation.

IDA

Hold up your spears, men!
Edwin!

Edwin appears from the trees with Lillian.

LILLIAN

Fingal!

Fingal's eyes dart to Lillian. Edwin has a knife at the throat.

IDA

Look, lads! She knows him. It is her soldier man!

Fingal momentarily physically deflates.

JESSICA

Give him his wife. He won match fair and square.

IDA

I'm a fair man. Which one do you want, Celt? The Roman or the Jew? Come on, it's one or the other.

FINGAL

(bravely)

If it is tribute you want, I can pay you to keep both. Business is business. You are a long way from home. I'm sure you have a wife of your own.

ULPH

Let him buy back the witch, Ida. She's nothing but trouble.

IDA

Be quiet, Ulph. I'm sorry, friend, but you can't have both. I'll need one of them to keep me warm this winter.

Jessica is angry with Ida.

JESSICA

Give her up or I will charge you with falsehood and light seven candles and heap the curses of your Gods on you.

Jessica's outburst has an effect on Ida.

IDA

I like a bit of spirit. Will you go with me freely?

JESSICA

(hesitates)

Yes!

IDA

Then it is settled. We will wait in the trees until dusk. Bring her, food and whatever tribute you have, and you will have your pretty wife returned to you. You have my word.

Ida signals Edwin to take Lillian back into the trees.

Hussa, Aelle and Ulph carry Aethelric away.

28

EXT. CLEARING IN TREES - DUSK

28

The Angles are loading up their tribute that includes Fingal's booty bag.

Edwin is playing with the dress and jewelry Fingal has brought home for his wife.

Hussa is a little way off guarding Lillian.

Ida takes Fingal's sword from him.

IDA

Edwin! You are making a fool of yourself.

Aelle and Ulph carry off the tribute.

FINGAL

We have made our bargain. Now give me my wife.

Ida takes hold of Jessica.

IDA

Hussa! Give him the Roman.

Hussa brings Lillian towards Fingal and unties her bindings.

Lillian runs to greet Fingal. Suddenly she stops, falters and falls to the ground.

There is a spear in her back.

FINGAL

Lillian! Lillian!

Ulph stands grinning.

Ida takes hold of Ulph.

IDA

You have undone my word!

Edwin and Aelle pull Ida off Ulph.

ULPH

She had it coming! He has already
cursed us.

Fingal and Roderich reach Lillian.

The Angles pick up their baggage.

They flee with Jessica into the dark.

LILLIAN

I'm sorry for everything. I've
always brought you bad luck.

FINGAL

I've never been home for you. I've
always been at war.

LILLIAN

I knew that when I married you.
Fingall. Everything is growing
dark.

FINGAL

Lillian. I've been a bad husband.
Stay, let me make it up to you.

LILLIAN

You made me happy when I thought of
you.

(to Roderich))

Forgive me for the plague.

Roderich turns his head away in shame.

Lillian dies.

Fingal rises in a rage. Roderich takes hold of
him.

RODERICH

No. You are unarmed. They will kill
you! You are wounded. You must rest
and gather your strength.

Fingal lifts Lillian and carries her back towards
the crannog.

It is two days later. Fingal is sitting mourning over Lillian.

Roderich and the Settlers are huddled together whispering.

Fingal is unaware of them. He is turning a wooden cross over and over in his hand.

Roderich and the Settlers sit by him.

RODERICH

How are you, son?

FINGAL

Where is God now?

RODERICH

It is evil they have done.

FINGAL

I never truly loved her the way she loved me. I wasted her love. I took her from everything she knew and she never cursed me. Even in death, she didn't curse me.

RODERICH

You must sit with the living. Leave her now. The women want to prepare her for burial.

Roderich moves Fingal away from Lillian and sits him by the fire.

RODERICH (CONT'D)

How are your wounds?

FINGAL

Well enough.

RODERICH

We have spoken and agreed you must rescue the Jew.

FINGAL

Why?

RODERICH

She is pure in spirit. She showed us she was willing to sacrifice her freedom for you. It is your creed to fight slavery where you see it. It is your duty as a warrior to liberate her. These Angles must pay for their trickery, for now that I have seen their ways, I believe that we will all die at their hands if we do not fight.

FINGAL

I am only one man.

RODERICH

We have a gift that will give you the strength of ten.

One of the Settlers hands Roderich a broad sword in a scabbard. Roderich hands it to Fingal.

Fingal studies the scabbard.

RODERICH (CONT'D)

This was the sword of great chief Cunedda who died when you were a boy. He entrusted it to me and bade me to keep it until the day our people found a warrior who could lead us wisely into the future.

FINGAL

I am not that man.

Fingal hands back the sword to Roderich.

RODERICH

If you are not that man, then the Gods have deserted us forever.

Roderich hands the sword back to him. Fingal looks at the cross-handled hilt.

FINGAL

Let it be understood, there is only one God. The spell that Mydrinn placed on us for two generations is broken.

(MORE)

FINGAL (CONT'D)

It is the God of our own Saint
Ninian and only he, we shall
worship.

RODERICH

It is agreed.

Fingal pulls the hilt from the scabbard.

The blade rings as it is laid bare.

FINGAL

Then in the name of God, I am your
warrior.

The sword gleams in the firelight.

30

EXT. BURIAL SITE - DAY

30

Fingal is dressed for war.

He is alone with Ethne praying over Lillian's
grave.

FINGAL

Before I leave I have something to
tell you.

ETHNE

Grandfather Roderich told me.

FINGAL

Told you what?

ETHNE

That I will live with him if you
don't return.

Fingal takes Ethne in his arms.

FINGAL

I will return.

ETHNE

Will you be a good father to me?

FINGAL

I will be the best father in all
Caledon.

Ethne kisses him.

ETHNE

I love you.

FINGAL

I love you too, Ethne.

ETHNE

Mama told me you were my papa
before she died.

Ethne kisses Fingal again. Fingal has been aware
that Ethne is his daughter.

FINGAL

Oh Ethne.

(beat)

Come now ... before we both start
crying.

ETHNE

If you find Jessica, can she stay
with us too?

FINGAL

We'll see.

Roderick and the Settlers come to see Fingal off.

RODERICH

The Angles were seen yesterday
heading towards the high country.

FINGAL

Without a guide they won't find a
way across the mountains. I'll
catch them.

Roderich thrusts a purse of coin into his hand.

RODERICH

You may need to buy a few friends.

Fingal nods and pockets the purse.

Laden with provisions, he sets off.

The Settlers watch him go.

31 EXT. FOOTHILLS - DAY

31

The Angle band are following a path along the side of hill.

They are being watched by a group of three Picts, LUIS (Rowan), COLL (Hazel), and BETH (Birch)

The Picts slip off unseen.

CUT TO:

The Angles are tired.

Edwin is troubled by his eye and is lagging behind.

He sits down below an overhanging rock and adjusts the bandage over his eye.

The Picts single him out.

Edwin unloads some of the booty he is carrying to make his load lighter.

He discards a leather bound bible and a heavy cross.

Luis creeps across the rock with the intention of jumping on him.

Edwin suddenly rises.

Luis freezes above him.

Edwin moves on and runs to catch up with the others.

CUT TO:

Luis rejoins his companions with the goods Edwin has discarded.

Coll snatches the book from him.

Beth tries to wrestle the cross from Luis. The cross breaks.

Coll tears a page out of the book and throws it to the wind.

He is amused by the way the wind carries the paper away. He tears out another page.

Luis takes the book from him and huddles against a rock.

Beth joins him.

They turn the pages and look at the coloured pictures.

Luis scratches the lettering.

BETH

How much is it worth?

LUIS

To a Christian it's worth it's weight in coin.

Beth feels the weight of the book and smiles.

BETH

I'll buy me a dress.

Luis takes the book back from her. Beth takes him by the hair and kisses him.

Coll is practising his fight technique with his axe.

COLL

Are we just going to let them go?

LUIS

They're lost. We'll wait and see if we can pick them off one by one.

Luis and Beth start to make out.

Coll carries on practising with his axe.

32

EXT. VALLEY - DAY

32

Fingal is crouched looking at footprints in the mud of a valley track.

His eyes follow up out of the valley to the hills.

The hills are snow topped.

He stands and starts to head towards the hills.

33

EXT. FOOTHILLS - DAY

33

The Angles are resting.

Ida is glinting at the sky.

IDA

It's impossible to get a bearing in
this land. It's always cloudy.

AELLE

Maybe it will clear and we'll see
the stars tonight.

The others are frustrated. Jessica remains silent.

EDWIN

When are we going home?

ULPH

Shut up, Edwin. I'm tired of your
moaning. I wish you were mute like
Hussa.

Hussa throws Ulph a look.

IDA

Get her to collect wood for a fire.
We'll camp here for the night.

ULPH

This place is wide open. A fire
will be seen for miles. We should
camp in the trees.

IDA

Haven't you notice we're being
followed.

Everyone looks up.

IDA (CONT'D)

There are three of them. I noticed
them this morning.

AELLE
Celts?

IDA
Picts.

EDWIN
Picts! That means we've been
heading north not south.

ULPH
Edwin's right, Ida. What's the
sport in this?

IDA
If we march northwards another few
days then strike east, in three
days we'll reach the German Sea.

AELLE
Then what?

IDA
We'll commandeer a boat and sail
home.

ULPH
Just like that?

IDA
Look, we're short on numbers. If
Frithwald's party hadn't been
killed, we would not be in this
position.

EDWIN
You should never have let that Celt
fight Aethelric.

ULPH
He's right. We should have taken
over that hall and settled there
for winter. It would have been easy
to defend.

IDA
You said it was easy to take ... a
few old men and the rest women and
children?

ULPH

The Celt must have shown up later.

IDA

Enough! We are warriors. Woden is testing our courage.

EDWIN

We're going to the Hidden World.

Ulph strikes Edwin.

ULPH

Shut up! You're a disgrace to our family.

Edwin moves off a little to sulk.

IDA

Hussa. You'll take the first watch.

Hussa does as he is told.

Hussa posts himself on a large rock that looks out across the hills.

The others prepare the camp.

34 EXT. CAMP - NIGHT

34

Fingal has made camp and burns a small fire.

He is cleaning his sword and watching the sparks rise in the flames.

His mind is on other things.

Out of the dark the three Picts appear and surround him.

LUIS

Don't get up. We've come to join you.

Warily they sit by the fire.

FINGAL

What do you want?

BETH
Are you a Christian?

FINGAL
Why? Do you want a bedtime story?

COLL
She wants a new dress.

LUIS
How much would you give us for
this?

Luis produces the bible.

Fingal immediately recognizes it.

FINGAL
Where did you get that?

BETH
Pay us for it and we'll tell you.

Fingal takes out the purse of coin and weighs it
in his hand.

FINGAL
I'm all out of trust these days.
Tell me first.

Luis, Beth and Coll look at one another.

LUIS
Her mother left it to her when she
died.

FINGAL
Pull the other one. You stole it.

BETH
I did not! He did!

LUIS
I did not, you hag. The Cyclops
threw it away.

FINGAL
Where was this?

LUIS
Not half a day back there.

FINGAL
Back that way?

COLL
No. They've been going around in circles for two days. They're up that way now camped in the open.

FINGAL
Can you guide me?

LUIS
It'll cost you.

BETH
You still haven't bought the book.

FINGAL
Lead me to where they are and I'll give you all the coin I have.

LUIS
Why don't we just take his coin and keep the book too?

Fingal leaps to his feet with his sword drawn.

FINGAL
I wouldn't try it. I'm sure you are handy with those weapons, but I warn you, you are no match for me.

The sword glints in the firelight. Fingal moves swiftly to lay the point of his sword to Luis's belly.

FINGAL (CONT'D)
Why don't you just point me in the direction the Angles are camped.

Luis points.

FINGAL (CONT'D)
Thank you.

Fingal snatches the book from Luis then lowers his sword.

The three Picts flee.
Fingal dowses his fire.

35

EXT. MOORLAND - DAY

35

It is misty morning as the Angles camp awakens.
They have had a cold miserable night in the open
and they are low in spirit.
A damp fire smoulders. Ida is wrapped in a blanket
with Jessica.

IDA
Get the fire going, girl.

JESSICA
My name is Jessica.

IDA
I know your name.

He pulls the blanket off her.

JESSICA
You soldiers are all the same. No
manners.

IDA
That's what the wife says. But I
wouldn't dare kick her out of bed.

JESSICA
Very funny.

Jessica kindles the fire.

IDA
You've met my wife. Frieda?

JESSICA
Yes. She's as fat as a pig.

IDA
Why do you think I'm away so much.
(beat)
Tell me, girl ... Why did you save
the Celt from being killed.

Jessica has her back to Ida.

JESSICA
(lying)
He spared my life. Now we are even.

IDA
You should have let us kill him.

JESSICA
You did not see him fight Frithwald
and the others. He's the best
fighter I have ever seen.

IDA
Better than me?

JESSICA
Yes.

IDA
Why didn't he kill you when he
captured you?

JESSICA
He needed someone to carry his war
tribute.

IDA
We has some fine things.

Ida rummages in a bag.

IDA (CONT'D)
Here take this.

It is the embroidered dress Fingal had meant for
Lillian.

JESSICA
No, I can't. It was meant for the
dead woman.

IDA
It's yours! Maybe when we make camp
tonight you can wear it and dance
for me.

Edwin approaches.

Jessica stuffs the dress into one of her bags.

EDWIN

Are we getting out of here? This place gives me the chills.

Jessica gathers her things and scurries past Edwin.

Edwin sees a corner of the dress and snatches it from her.

He gives her a bitchy look.

The Angles load up and move out.

36 EXT. MOORLAND - DAY 36

Some hours later.

Fingal comes upon the vacated camp of the Angles.

The fire is still smoking.

He picks up a blood stained rag abandoned by Edwin.

He studies it then throws it on the fire.

He marches out of the camp.

37 EXT. MOUNTAINS - DAY 37

The hills are changing to mountains.

The wind is howling and the weather is bleak.

The Angles trek higher and higher into the mountains.

More and more Edwin lags behind the others.

38 EXT. MOUNTAINS - DAY 38

Fingal treks higher and higher into the mountains.

39 EXT. MOUNTAIN PASS - DAY

39

The Angles are passing along a narrow mountain path.

CUT TO:

Above them, watching them pass, are the three Picts.

CUT TO:

Edwin is now hundreds of metres behind the main party.

CUT TO:

The Picts prepare to ambush him.

CUT TO:

Edwin is in great pain, but he is trying to remain cheerful, and is singing a song to himself.

CUT TO:

The Picts prepare to jump him.

CUT TO:

Edwin looks up.

Luis and Beth are in front of him.

Edwin looks round.

Coll is behind him.

Edwin raises his spear to defend himself

They fight.

It is an uneven contest. Edwin is half blind.

The Picts disarm him.

They club him to death with their axes.

CUT TO:

Beth ransacks in Edwin's bag and pulls out a bottle of scent.

She sniffs it then rugs some of it on herself.

Luis and Coll are stripping Edwin of his clothes.

Beth parades in Edwin's jewelry taken from Fingal.

The thread on one of the bands breaks and the beads scatter on the ground.

Luis and Coll have found a bottle of mead in Edwin's bag. They commence to drink it.

Beth finds the dress. She is delighted.

40

EXT. MOUNTAIN PASS HIGHER - DAY

40

Ida and his men are looking back down the pass.

IDA

Where's Edwin?

AELLE

(dismissive)

He'll catch us up.

Ida is concerned for his younger brother.

IDA

Hussa. Go back and help Edwin with his load.

Hussa drops his own load and does as he is told.

41 EXT. MOUNTAIN PASS - DAY

41

Fingal, hundreds of metres below, is climbing up towards the pass.

CUT TO:

Hussa is climbing down.

CUT TO:

The Picts are dragging Edwin's body into the heather.

CUT TO:

Hussa suddenly stops and crouches to the ground.

CUT TO:

Fingal climbs steadily.

CUT TO:

The Picts are hidden barely ten metres away from Hussa. Edwin's legs are sticking out of the undergrowth.

CUT TO:

Hussa finds a bead on the ground. The significance of this puzzles him.

CUT TO:

Fingal continues to climb towards the pass.

CUT TO:

Coll prepares to leap on Hussa but Luis holds him back.

CUT TO:

Hussa sees Edwin's legs, then the crouching Picts. He leaps to his feet.

The Picts toss the body of Edwin at him.

Hussa is horrified.

The Picts disappear into the heather.

Hussa touches Edwin's blooded body, then backs off in fear.

He starts to run back up the hill.

CUT TO:

Fingal sees Husa. He smiles.

42 EXT. MOUNTAIN PASS HIGHER - DAY

42

Hussa rejoins the other Angles.

ULPH

Hussa!

The Angles are quickly in a state of panic as Husa tries to describe what he has seen. He shows them his blood stained hand.

IDA

Edwin?

Hussa nods. He describes the killers.

AELLE

It's Picts! They use axes!

IDA

Get yourself together, Aelle!

AELLE

Shut up, Ida! You're leading us to our deaths.

ULPH

He's right, Ida. This is grim. I'm going back the way we came. Aelle? Husa?

Hussa shakes his head. He takes Ulph by the arm and points down the mountain.

The hillside is empty

ULPH (CONT'D)

I don't see anything?

Hussa is animated as he tries to describe Fingal.

AELLE

He's not making sense.

IDA

Whatever it is, he doesn't want to go back that way.

Jessica sits quietly watching them.

JESSICA

It's the Celt. Isn't it Hussa? He's pursuing us.

Hussa nods.

ULPH

Great. That's all we need.

AELLE

How far are we from the ocean?

IDA

Maybe two days.

AELLE

How can we slow him down?

IDA

We'll set some traps along the way. Come, let's move. And stay together.

The Angles move on.

43 EXT. MOUNTAIN PASS - DAY

43

Fingal is crouched by Edwin's body.

He picks up a bead and clutches it in his fist.

CUT TO:

Fingal has buried Edwin and fashioned a cross over the grave.

He looks up towards the pass.

He sets off after the Picts.

44 EXT. MOUNTAIN CAMP - NIGHT

44

The three Picts are happy on mead.

Beth is wearing the embroidered dress and is dancing.

Coll is playing a borran.

Luis is playing pipes.

CUT TO:

A spear flies into the camp at Luis and Coll's feet.

Both men jump up in fright.

Fingal emerges from the dark.

FINGAL

Don't get up, I've come to join you.

LUIS

What do you want?

FINGAL

First I'll have my dress and jewelry back.

BETH

They're mine.

FINGAL

We can hand them over or I can tan your backside?

BETH

Are you going to let him talk to me like that?

Fingal grabs Beth and puts her over his knee.

BETH (CONT'D)

Luis!

LUIS

I've been wanting to do that for a long time.

(beat)

Give him the dress, sweetums.

Beth takes the dress off and throws it at him.

FINGAL

You boys are going to help me catch those Angles.

COLL

It'll cost you.

FINGAL

I don't mind paying.

Fingal throws them the purse of coin.

Beth rushes to them to count it.

LUIS

Chief. We're hired.

45 EXT. WOOD - DAY

45

The Angles are bending small trees to rig their traps.

Jessica watches.

46 EXT. HILLSIDE - DAY

46

Fingal is accompanied by the three Picts.

COLL

I'm a poet, really

LUIS

He can't even write.

COLL

I can tell jokes.

BETH

His jokes are lousy.

COLL
I'm a truly great artist. I've
recited to kings.

LUIS
Dead ones. He talks to the stones.

BETH
We only humour him because he's my
younger brother.

COLL
I'm older than him.

LUIS
He is not.

COLL
I've got more teeth than you.

BETH
He has not.

Fingal keeps marching as the three Picts try to
keep up him.

47

EXT. WOOD - DAY

47

The Angles finish and cover their work.

They pick up their packs and continue their trek.

CUT TO:

The three Picts are still arguing.

Fingal halts suddenly.

The Picts go silent.

LUIS
What is it?

FINGAL
The trees are bent.

BETH
So?

FINGAL
We'll go round this place.

COLL
Don't be cuckoo. That will take us
an afternoon out of our way.

Coll goes forward.

COLL (CONT'D)
See. There's nothing to be a afraid
of.

Coll's foot hits a birch switch.

In an split second a tree whiplashes upright and
fires a spear into Coll's chest.

He is dead instantly.

BETH
Coll!

Fingal holds her back.

FINGAL
Stay back. The whole wood is rigged
as catapults.

Fingal picks up a stone and throws it ahead of
him.

There is a delay, then another tree whiplashes
upright and delivers a deadly spear through the
air.

LUIS
We can't leave him for the crows.

FINGAL
After battle, it's not always
possible to bury the slain.

Luis and Beth consider Fingal's remark cold.

FINGAL (CONT'D)
Show me the way around this place.

48 EXT. WATERFALL - DAY 48

Luis and Beth lead Fingal down into a raging river chasm.

They across a waterfall.

Fingal looks back to take in the view.

They travel on.

49 EXT. WIDE MOOR - DAY 49

The Angles are struggling to cross a wide moor dotted in lochans.

The baggage they are carrying is now a burden.

Ulph discards Fingal's rug into the heather.

Jessica following behind quietly retrieves the rug from the heather.

She lays it careful in a line that shows the direction they are taking.

The Angles travel on.

50 EXT. WIDE MOOR RIDGE - DAY 50

Fingal is scanning the moor.

Luis and Beth are resting.

FINGAL

Where are they heading for?

LUIS

Don't ask me.

FINGAL

They must be heading for somewhere.

BETH

Back across the sea I hope.

Fingal sits with them.

FINGAL

Of course. The sea.

(beat)

How much time did we lose by going round the trap?

LUIS

A quarter sun. If they have crossed the moors, we'll never find them in the mist of the high peaks.

FINGAL

They can't be traveling as fast as us. We should be in sight of them

...

Come on! Up!

BETH

You're a hard man, mister.

Luis and Beth follow on behind Fingal.

51

EXT. LOCHAN - DAY

51

The Angles are resting by a lochan.

ULPH

Do you think the catapults got him?

IDA

No.

AELLE

Why are we so scared of him?
There's four of us.

IDA

He's the hunter, we're the prey.

ULPH

Why don't we hunt him and be done with it?

AELLE

I'm for that! Hussa?

Hussa nods his head in agreement.

JESSICA
He'll kill you all.

IDA
Shut up, Jessica.
(beat)
Maybe you're right, Ulph. I'm tired
of looking over my shoulder.

AELLE
That's more like it, Ida.

ULPH
Yea. We'll string him up. We owe
him for Aethelric.

AELLE
We need some bait.

One by one they turn and look at Jessica.

JESSICA
Why are you looking at me.

ULPH
We've got a job for you.

52 EXT. WIDE MOOR - DAY

52

Fingal is standing over the rug.
He looks up and along the line it is laid.

FINGAL
The girl is helping us.

Luis and Beth exchange a knowing look.
Fingal picks up the rug and throws it to Luis to
carry.

53 EXT. LOCHAN - DUSK

53

There is a wisp of smoke fire.
Fingal instructs Luis and Beth to wait.

He crawls forward through the heather.

CUT TO:

Jessica is bound and strung upside down from a thorn tree.

The Angles have made camp but there is no sign of them.

Fingal is cautious. He edges forward.

CUT TO:

CU on Jessica - her mouth is gagged. She sees Fingal and starts to struggle as a warning.

Fingal senses the danger and slides back into the heather.

CUT TO:

Ulph and Aelle surprise Luis and Beth.

There is a struggle.

Luis wounds Aelle but Aelle kills Luis.

Beth escapes but Ulph chases her through the heather.

He catches her and cuts her throat.

CUT TO:

Fingal finds Luis dead.

He breaks out into a cold sweat.

CUT TO:

On the moor, the four Angles are probing the heather with their spears.

CUT TO:

Fingal slithers away into the tall grass.

He slides down a bog hole and comes to rest against Beth's dead body.

54 EXT. LOCHAN - NIGHT

54

A fire is now burning brightly.

Fingal, cold and hungry crawls towards it.

Jessica is no longer hanging from the tree.

The camp has been cleared.

CUT TO:

The Angle band are marching swiftly in the moonlight.

CUT TO:

Fingal huddles by the fire thankful that he is alive.

55 EXT. LOCHAN - DAWN

55

Fingal awakes to thunder.

The clouds roll in on the high peaks ahead.

Abandoned on the ground is the small figurine that was once his.

He picks it up and throws it in the lochan.

He gathers the rest of his belongings from Luis and Beth.

He takes out the dress and stuffs it in his shirt.

He throws the rest of the baggage into the lochan.

FINGAL

Be done with you!

He un-sheaths his sword and swings it above his head.

There is more thunder.

He starts to dig with his sword.

CUT TO:

A fashioned cross is on each of two graves.

Fingal turns with purpose and swiftness. He is no longer burdened by the possessions of his past.

He leaves the lochan and sets off in the direction of the high peaks.

56

EXT. HIGH MOUNTAIN - DAY

56

The wind is bitter and the Angles are struggling to keep their footing.

They shelter in a rocky crevice.

ULPH

Admit we're lost, Ida.

IDA

I won't give in. We'll find the sea.

Hussa is tending Aelle's wound.

ULPH

Aelle is in a bad way.

IDA

He'll make it. Once over these mountains, we'll reach the sea.

ULPH

You better be right, Ida, or I'm going to kill you.

IDA

What's the matter with you, Ulph. Since we started this raid you've been at my throat.

ULPH

I'm getting too old for this, Ida. Why can't we settle down and pay others to fight for us.

IDA

We'd be sending them out to die. If the Celts didn't kill them, the land would. Look at us?

They both laugh sardonically.

Jessica is huddled beneath a rock trying to keep out of the rain.

ULPH

What are we going to do with her?

IDA

We'll let her go when we reach the sea.

They both know it is a lie.

Ulph studies Jessica. The look on his face is one of malice.

Hussa jumps up and mumbles. He points down the mountain.

IDA (CONT'D)

The Celt! He doesn't know when to give up.

(beat)

Come on. Let's lose him in the clouds.

Ida takes Jessica's arm and forces her up.

The continue to climb.

57

EXT. HIGH MOUNTAIN PEAKS - DAY

57

Fingal is lost in the mists of the mountain.

It is treacherous underfoot.

He rests against a rock and stares into the grey void.

CUT TO:

A trickle of scree falls from above.

CUT TO:

Fingal smiles. He continues to climb.

58

EXT. HIGH MOUNTAIN SUMMIT - DAY

58

The Angles emerge from the mists to find themselves on top of the mountain.

The view extends in all directions as far as they can see.

AELLE

Where's the sea, Ida?

Ida is frantically looking around him.

IDA

It must be somewhere.

ULPH

(angry)

I see nothing but more mountains!

Ulph grabs Ida and knocks him to the ground.

They struggle.

Hussa separates them.

ULPH (CONT'D)

Get back, Husa. This is between us.

Ulph pulls out his axe.

Ida draws his sword.

IDA

Don't do this, Ulph.

ULPH

I'm taking over, Ida. Drop the sword now or I swear I'll kill you.

IDA

You never could beat me, Ulph.

AELLE

Ida's right, Ulph. We are brothers,
remember.

Ulph lunges at Ida. The axe swings past his head.

Ida slashes at Ulph, but they are wild tired
stokes.

ULPH

You're getting old, Ida. This is a
good place to die. We are close to
the gods.

Ulph and Ida engage in combat.

AELLE

Hussa ... Stop them.

Hussa shakes his head. He backs away.

Ulph's axe is knocked from his hand.

Ida backs him towards the edge of a cliff.

IDA

You shouldn't have killed her,
brother!

Ida swings his sword over his head and brings it
down on Ulph.

Ulph goes over the cliff.

Ida's adrenaline is pumping

IDA (CONT'D)

Anyone else want to challenge me?
Aelle? Husa?

Both men shake their heads. Jessica looks away.

IDA (CONT'D)

What's the matter with you all?
(beat)
Have you nothing to say?

Ida takes hold of Jessica.

IDA (CONT'D)

You think I'm a fool?

JESSICA

I think nothing.

IDA

I am a fool. I am fool to think that what I do is right, and what I have done is right. I never set out to get us into this mess. But we are in it!

(beat)

So what do we do now? Do we stay here and die in the wind and rain, or do we decide that we are going to go on living!

(beat)

I am for living, and I am going down this mountain to find the sea. Somewhere amongst these many fingers of land is the ocean, and I intend to find a boat and sail it back to Bamburgh. You can all rot here with Ulph!

Ida picks up his baggage and starts off the mountain.

AELLE

Ida

Aelle gets up and follows after Ida.

AELLE (CONT'D)

Ida!

Hussa tries to help Jessica up. She refuses his help.

She picks up her baggage and follows after Aelle.

Hussa follows on.

59

EXT. HIGH MOUNTAIN CLIFF - DAY

59

Fingal finds the body of Ulph.

CUT TO:

Fingal says a prayer over Ulph's grave of mounded stones.

He continues his pursuit.

60 EXT. HIGH MOUNTAIN SUMMIT - DAY 60

Fingal is on the summit of the mountain.

He pauses to take in the view.

He starts to go down.

61 EXT. HIGH MOUNTAIN VALLEY - DAY 61

Aelle is bleeding badly.

Ida helps him as they go down into the valley.

AELLE

I'm slowing you up. I'm not going to make it.

IDA

Don't talk that way, Aelle.

AELLE

Let me rest, Ida.

IDA

We must keep moving.

Aelle takes a look at his wound. He winces.

AELLE

I told you I was in a bad way. Leave me an axe and a spear.

IDA

No, Aelle, I'm not leaving you here. Husa!

Husa takes over helping Aelle.

JESSICA

Can't you see he's dying.

IDA
Do you really care?

JESSICA
Each man should be allowed his own
way to go to heaven.

AELLE
She's right, Ida. Let me die like a
warrior.

Hussa nods.

They set Aelle against a rock.

They place an axe in Aelle's hand, and a spear in
his other.

AELLE (CONT'D)
Go, now. I will wait for the Celt.
Go!

Ida and Husa in turn embrace their brother.

Jessica lightly touches his cheek with the back of
her hand.

Aelle starts reciting a poem as they leave.

AELLE (CONT'D)
(Extract from The Wanderer)

Ida, Husa and Jessica depart.

CUT TO:

Aelle is still reciting, but more weakly now.

Fingal comes upon him.

Aelle looks up.

AELLE (CONT'D)
What took you so long? The Gods are
waiting for me.

Aelle throws his spear.

Fingal catches it.

FINGAL

They won't have much longer to wait.

He throws the spear aside.

Aelle, axe in hand, rushes at Fingal.

Fingal cuts him down with a blow from his sword.

Aelle gets up. There is blood streaming from him. He smiles, then charges at Fingal again.

Fingal strikes him dead.

CUT TO:

Fingal moves on.

Aelle's spear and axe mark his grave.

62 EXT. MOUNTAIN STREAM - DAY

62

The stream is swollen with flood waters.

Ida, Jessica, then Husa cross the river.

Husa loses his spear in the flood.

CUT TO:

Fingal reaches the stream.

He crosses it.

63 EXT. MOUNTAIN WOOD - DAY

63

The Angles reach the safety of a mountain wood.

Jessica marks where they have entered by leaving a rag on a tree.

CUT TO:

Fingal comes to the forest.

He finds the rag and follows on after the Angles.

64 EXT. MOUNTAIN WOOD INTERIOR - DUSK

64

In the woods it is dark.

The Angles are exhausted.

They quickly make a hide to cover themselves.

CUT TO:

It is almost dark

Fingal is making his way through the trees.

He passes within ten metres of the hide.

Ida holds his hand over Jessica's mouth.

Hussa indicates he wants to cut Fingal's throat.

Ida shakes his head.

Fingal passes on into the dark.

65 EXT. MOUNTAIN CLEARING - DAWN

65

The Angles emerge cautiously from the trees into a clearing that gives a view to the west.

Hussa points towards the distance.

IDA

The sea!

Ida and Hussa are overjoyed.

Jessica slumps to the ground.

IDA (CONT'D)

Get up, girl.

JESSICA

I can't go any further.

Ida takes her by the arms.

IDA

Look! It's our one chance.

JESSICA

What have I to live for. Another
twenty years of slavery?

IDA

I will free you. I will disown my
pig of a wife and marry you.

Jessica laughs. Ida is insulted.

IDA (CONT'D)

You're playing me for a fool.

He goes to strike her, but Hussa grabs him by the
arm.

Ida pulls his arm away.

Hussa pulls Jessica up and makes her march ahead
of him.

Ida follows behind.

CUT TO:

Fingal emerges from the trees.

He has lost the trail and is frustrated.

The sun emerges from the clouds.

Fingal stretches his arms and feels the rays.

His spirits brighten.

He climbs a rock and scans the horizon.

He smiles. He sees the sea.

66

EXT. SHORELINE - DAY

66

The Angles pass through the last trees and break
out on to the shoreline.

The waves crash on to the deserted rocky beach.

Hussa is worried. He signals that the waves are
high.

Ida flops to the sand, exhausted.

JESSICA
What's wrong?

IDA
It's not the Germanic Sea.

JESSICA
What sea is it?

IDA
It must be the Western Ocean.

Jessica laughs loudly.

IDA (CONT'D)
It is not funny.

JESSICA
So we have traveled the wrong way
all this time! What a leader you
are!

IDA
Shut up! We can still steal a small
boat and sail northwards and round
to the Germanic Sea.

JESSICA
In winter. You'd drown us!
(beat)
Give up, Ida. You're beaten. Give
yourself up to the Celts. Maybe
they'll spare you and keep you in
chains until you're ransomed.

IDA
After what Ulph did to the Roman?

JESSICA
What about him? What does he think?

Hussa looks up.

IDA
Well, Hussa? What should we do?

Hussa signs that they should find a boat.

Ida brightens. He gets up.

IDA (CONT'D)
Angles are men of the sea. It's in
our blood. Isn't that right, Husa?

Husa grins.

They start along the beach.

CUT TO:

From a high rock, Fingal watches the Angles on the beach.

He watches them.

CUT TO:

Jessica sees Fingal.

She looks to see if the others have seen them.

They are in their own thoughts.

Jessica looks again. Fingal is gone.

67 EXT. SANDY BEACH - DAY

67

The Angles are lying flat in the sand.

Ahead of them, a lone FISHERMAN is pulling in a coracle.

IDA
Let's go!

Ida and Husa rise. They start running along the beach towards the Fisherman.

Jessica walks slowly after them.

Ida is within thirty metres of the Fisherman.

The Fisherman throws off his hood. It is Fingal.

Ida and Husa stop in their tracks.

Fingal lifts his claymore out of the boat. He swings it over his head with one hand.

Ida and Husa circle wide.

IDA (CONT'D)

Back off, Husa. I've waited a long time for this.

Husa backs off. He is joined by Jessica.

FINGAL

Prepare yourself for the grave, Angle.

They fight.

It is a long fight

A very long fight

Fingal kills Ida.

CUT TO:

Fingal turns to Husa.

Husa drops his axe and falls on his knees.

He starts to cry.

Jessica shows compassion for him.

JESSICA

He has lost all of his family.

Fingal lowers his sword. He pushes the boat into the waves.

FINGAL

Get him in the boat before I change my mind.

Jessica raises Husa. She helps him into the boat.

Fingal thrusts an oar into Husa's hand.

Fingal gives the boat a last push.

The boat and Husa glide into the waves.

FINGAL (CONT'D)
May God spare you, Angle.

Hussa starts to row.

Jessica studies Fingal.

JESSICA
You are a strange man.

FINGAL
What shall I do with you?

JESSICA
Free me.

FINGAL
And let you go to Judea?

JESSICA
If you wish

Fingal draws the dress out of his shirt.

FINGAL
It bought it for her

JESSICA
I cannot wear it.

FINGAL
Then all that has happened has been
for nothing ...

Jessica takes the dress.

68

EXT. LOCHSIDE - DAY

68

Ethne is running and playing along the shore of
the loch.

Jessica is wearing the dress.

Fingal has his sword in his hand.

He swings the sword above his head and lets it go.

It flies into the deep waters of the loch.

The ripples hit the shore.

Arm in arm Fingal and Jessica turn from the shore.

Ethne runs to them and joins them.

The mists drift over the mountains.

69

EPILOGUE CAPTION

69

In 603AD, the Angles defeated the Cymri at Caterick near York. For the next two centuries, they infiltrated and settled central and southern Britain, but failed in the north.

Finally in 843AD, the Celtic dark age in Britain ended when the mixed nations of Caledonian Celts united to create the kingdom of Scotland.

THE CREDITS

THE END