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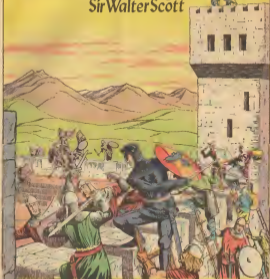
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# Castle Dangerous

Sir Walter Scott



**I**N 1307, THE SCOTS WERE IN THE MIDST OF A BLOODY STRUGGLE TO FREE THEMSELVES FROM ENGLAND. AMONG THE POSSESSIONS HELD BY THE ENGLISH WAS DOUGLAS CASTLE, WHICH OCCUPIED A STRATEGIC POSITION ON THE SCOTTISH BORDER.

DOUGLAS CASTLE WAS GALLANTLY BESIEGED BY THE SCOTS AND DEFENDED WITH EQUAL BRAVERY BY THE ENGLISH. THE CONFLICT FOR CONTROL OF THE CASTLE WAS PRESSED UNDER SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES OF WILDERY AND CRUELTY THAT IT SOON CAME TO BE KNOWN AS CASTLE DANGEROUS.

IT WAS NEAR THIS CASTLE THAT TWO TRAVELLERS WERE SEEN ONE EVENING IN MARCH, 1307

BERTRAM, MY FRIEND, HOW FAR ARE WE FROM DOUGLAS CASTLE?

IT IS STILL THREE GOOD MILES OFF, MY LADY-- I BEG YOUR PARDON-- MY LORD.



CALL ME AUGUSTINE. REMEMBER, YOU ARE TO TREAT ME AS YOUR SON.

AS YOUR LADYSHIP DESIRES.



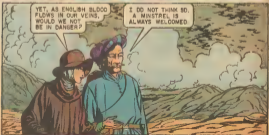
IT WILL BE LATE BEFORE WE REACH THE CASTLE DO YOU KNOW OF A PLACE WHERE WE CAN STAY THE NIGHT?

I KNOW AN HONEST SCOTSMAN WHO HAS A FARM YONDER.



YET, AS ENGLISH BLOOD FLOWS IN OUR VEINS, WOULD WE NOT BE IN DANGER?

I DO NOT THINK SO. A MINSTREL IS ALWAYS WELCOMED



**I***N A FEW MINUTES, THEY STOOD BEFORE THE SCOTSMAN.*

DO YOU REMEMBER BERTRAM, THE ENGLISH MINSTREL? I AND MY SON SEEK SHELTER FOR THE NIGHT

THERE ARE PLENTY OF YOUR COUNTRYMEN HEREABOUTS TO KEEP YOU IN MY REMEMBRANCE

EVEN MY POOR HOUSE HAS A GARRISON OF ENGLISH SOLDIERS QUARTERED IN IT, AS YOU CAN SEE NEVERTHELESS, OLD FRIEND, YOU ARE WELCOME



**B***UT*

I AM AYMER DE VALENCIE, SECOND IN COMMAND AT DOUGLAS CASTLE. IT IS MY DUTY TO EXAMINE ALL TRAVELLERS WHO PASS HERE. WHO ARE YOU?



I AM BERTRAM, AN ENGLISH MINSTREL, BOUND FOR THE CASTLE. THIS IS MY SON, AUGUSTINE

**T***O PROTECT THE DISGUISED LADY, BERTRAM PRETENDED SHE WAS ILL.*

MY SON IS RECOVERING FROM A SICKNESS WHICH HAS BEEN RAGING IN ENGLAND, AND WOULD LIKE TO RETIRE TO HIS OWN BEDCHAMBER.

I WILL HAVE HIM SHOWN TO A ROOM



WHAT IS YOUR BUSINESS AT THE CASTLE?  
I SEEK SOME ANCIENT BOOKS WHICH LIE DEPOSITED IN ITS LIBRARY



BUT THE TRIP HAS BEEN HARD ON MY SON HE IS A DELICATE STRUPLING AND NOT ACCUSTOMED TO THE CREW WHICH RHABIT THIS WORLD



YOU SAY HE HAS HAD A FEVER? WE WANT NO ONE BRINGING DISEASE TO THE ENGLISH GARRISON



THERE IS AN ABBEY NEARBY WHICH WOULD BE A FIT AND QUIET RESIDENCE FOR A STRUPLING AND AN INVALID, UNTIL YOU ARE DONE WITH YOUR BUSINESS AT THE CASTLE



THEN, WITH YOUR PERMISSION, SIR AYMER, I WILL LEAVE MY SON THERE



VERY WELL, BE READY TO SET OUT EARLY ON THE MORROW. I WILL ESCORT YOU TO THE ABBEY AND THENCE TO THE CASTLE



**T**HE FOLLOWING MORNING, THE TWO TRAVELLERS SET OUT WITH A PARTY OF SOLDIERS. THEY SOON REACHED THE ABBEY OF SAINT BRIDE.

I ENTRUST YOU AND THE SISTERS WITH THE CARE OF MY SON FOR A FEW DAYS, UNTIL I FINISH MY BUSINESS AT THE CASTLE.

WE WILL CARE FOR HIM WELL, GODD SIR.

**A**S BERTRAM TOOK LEAVE OF HIS SUPPOSED SON

THIS ARRANGEMENT IS THE BEST ONE, DEAR LADY. IT WILL GIVE YOU TIME TO DECIDE WHAT YOU WISH TO DO MEANWHILE. SEND ME WORD IF YOU HAVE NEED OF ME.

I WILL, BERTRAM.

**B**ERTRAM AND THE SOLDIERS CONTINUED TOWARDS THE CASTLE.

CAN THESE OLD BOOKS YOU SEEK BE SUFFICIENT TO LURE YOU TO A WILD COUNTRY LIKE THIS?

THEY HAVE IN THEM THE HISTORY AND LEGENDS WHICH SURROUND DOUGLAS CASTLE. UNLESS THEY ARE COPIED OVER BY SOMEONE WHO UNDERSTANDS THE LANGUAGE, THEY WILL BE LOST TO POSTERITY.

THERE IS NOT A MINSTREL WHOSE HEART DOES NOT THROB AT THE NAME OF DOUGLAS CASTLE. IT HAS BEEN THE SCENE OF SUCH DEEDS OF VALOUR THAT IT BEARS THE NAME OF CASTLE DANGEROUS.

THREE DIFFERENT TIMES, JAMES, THE PRESENT HEIR OF THE HOUSE OF DOUGLAS, HAS TAKEN IT, ONLY TO LOSE IT AGAIN TO THE ENGLISH. THE LAST ATTEMPT, AS YOU MAY KNOW, IS CALLED THE "DOUGLAS LARDER."

**I**T HAPPENED THAT A LARGE QUANTITY OF PROVISIONS HAD BEEN COLLECTED THERE, WHEN YOUNG JAMES DOUGLAS SURPRISED THE GARRISON AND TOOK THE CASTLE



**U**NABLE TO REMOVE THESE PROVISIONS, HE ORDERED THE GOLD AND SILVER TO BE TAKEN TO SAFETY. THEY HE CAUSED THE MEAT, GRAIN AND DRINK TO BE CARRIED TO THE CELLAR AND EMPTIED IN A HEAP



**T**HE CARCASSES OF HORSES, OXEN AND MEN WERE THROWN INTO THE MESS, RENDERING IT ALL UNUSABLE



**H**E THEN SET THE CASTLE ON FIRE, SO THAT IT WOULD NO LONGER BE OF USE TO THE ENGLISH







BUT, AS YOU CAN SEE, WE REBUILT THE CASTLE, STRONGER THAN BEFORE



AYE, THERE IS A PROPHECY THAT AS OFTEN AS THE WALLS OF DOUGLAS CASTLE SHALL BE BURNT TO THE GROUND, THEY SHALL BE AGAIN REBUILT.

IT OCCUPIES A POSITION TOO IMPORTANT TO THE SAFETY OF OUR BORDER TO PERMIT OUR YIELDING IT UP



SIR JOHN DE WALTON, THE PRESENT GOVERNOR, HOLDS IT WITH A GARRISON TREBLED IN FORCE UNDER THE ASSURANCE THAT IF HE SHOULD KEEP IT FROM THE SCOTS A YEAR AND A DAY, HE SHALL OBTAIN THE BARDON OF DOUGLAS AND THE HAND OF A FAIR LADY, AS WELL



*A SHORT TIME LATER, THEY REACHED THE CASTLE.*

WHO IS WITH YOU, SIR AYMER?

A TRAVELLING MINSTREL.



YOUR WORSHIP IS AWARE WE HAVE STRICT ORDERS NOT TO ADMIT STRANGERS.

DO YOU DOUBT I HAVE AUTHORITY TO ENTERTAIN A GUEST?

HEAVEN FORBID THAT I SHOULD HAVE SUCH DOUBTS! BUT SIR JOHN DE WALTON IS NOT HERE NOW AND...

THIS MINSTREL ONLY WISHES TO EXAMINE OLD BOOKS IN THE CASTLE LIBRARY. IF SIR JOHN IS DISTURBED, I WILL EXPLAIN IT TO HIM MYSELF.



LATER, SIR JOHN DE WALTON RETURNED TO THE CASTLE.

THE GUARD TELLS ME YOU HAVE ADMITTED A STRANGER. THIS TROUBLES ME, AS MY HONOUR AND AFFECTIONS ARE ENGAGED IN KEEPING THIS DANGEROUS CASTLE SAFE IN ENGLAND'S BEHALF. THE MINSTREL COULD BE HERE TO MAKE OBSERVATIONS FOR OUR ENEMIES.



STILL, PERHAPS I AM OVERLY STRICT. I WAS THINKING JUST NOW THAT THE GARRISON COULD DO WITH A LITTLE AMUSEMENT. WHAT THINK YOU TO A HUNT?

THERE ARE STILL IN THIS NEIGHBORHOOD THOSE WILD CATTLE WHICH ARE SAID TO BE THE MOST BOLD AND FIERCE SUBJECTS OF CHASE IN THE ISLAND OF BRITAIN.

EXCELLENT! WE WILL RIDE TO ROUSE THOSE WILD CATTLE.



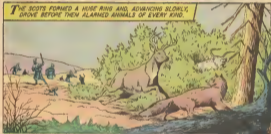
**T**HE HUNT BEGAN AT SIX ON A COLD AND RAW MORNING

WHAT, ARE THESE SCOTS TO JOIN US?

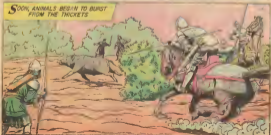
AYE, THEY ARE GLAD OF SOME SPORT, TOO, AND WILL ACT AS BEATERS



**T**HE SCOTS FORMED A HUGE RING AND, ADVANCING SLOWLY, DROVE BEFORE THEM ALARMED ANIMALS OF EVERY KIND.



**S**OON, ANIMALS BEGAN TO BURST FROM THE THICKETS



**T**HE RHYING OF BUGLES, THE GLATTERING OF HOOPS, THE BELLOWING OF THE ENRAGED ANIMALS, THE WILD SHOUTS OF THE MEN— ALL MADE A CHORUS WHICH EXTENDED FAR THROUGH THE SCENE IN WHICH IT AROSE



**T**HE WILD CATTLE WERE BY FAR THE MOST INTERESTING OBJECTS OF PURSUIT



**S**IR JOHN DE WILTON WAS THE ONLY ONE OF THE PARTY WHO MASTERED ONE OF THESE POWERFUL ANIMALS



**T**HE MORNING WAS SPENT IN THIS WAY, UNTIL A BLAST FROM THE MASTER OF THE HUNT ANNOUNCED THE NOONDAY MEAL.



**W**HEN ALL WERE ASSEMBLED

A TOAST-- TO THE HEALTH OF HIS MAJESTY, EDWARD, KING OF ENGLAND



YOU DO NOT DRINK, GOOD SIR?



BEING A SCOTSMAN, MICHAEL TURNBULL BY NAME, EVEN THE CHOICEST LIQUOR CANNOT RENDER THAT HEALTH ACCEPTABLE TO ME.





AS HE FINISHED SPEAKING, TURNBULL MADE A SUDDEN SPRING BACKWARDS WHICH CARRIED HIM OUT OF THE CIRCLE OF ENGLISH SOLDIERS.



**B**UT PLUMGING DOWN A STEEP RAVINE, TURNBULL DISAPPEARED AS MYSTERIOUSLY AS IF THE EARTH HAD ACTUALLY SWALLOWED HIM UP.



**T**HIS UNEXPECTED INTERLUDE PUT AN END TO THE HUNT. SIR JOHN AND HIS MEN RETURNED TO THE CASTLE.

WHAT A NEST OF TRAITORS WE ARE IN!

MIGHT NOT THE MINSTREL, WHO IS HERE, BE ANOTHER?



AND WHAT OF HIS SON, WHO WAS LEFT AT THE ABBEY? THERE WAS SOMETHING ODD ABOUT THE LAD.



I WILL SEE THE MINSTREL AND INQUIRE INTO THIS MATTER MORE FULLY.



SIR JOHN FOUND BERTRAM IN THE STUDY OF THE CASTLE.

GOOD DAY, SIR JOHN.  
HOW MAY I SERVE YOU?



I WANT INFORMATION, SIR, HAVE YOU ANY CONNECTION WITH SCOTSMEN OUTSIDE THE WALLS OF THIS CASTLE?



TAKE CARE TO ANSWER HONESTLY,  
OR WE SHALL FORCE THE TRUTH FROM YOU.



I AM TOTALLY UNCONNECTED WITH ANY PERSON LIKELY TO NOURISH ANY DESIGN AGAINST THIS CASTLE. I DO NOT THINK YOU CAN EXORT ANOTHER ANSWER FROM ME, EVEN THROUGH BOGGLY AGONY. THAT IS THE TRUTH.



VERY WELL. I WILL THEN SEND SOMEONE TO THE ABBEY AND SEE IF THE YOUNG PERSON WHOM YOU PASS OFF AS YOUR SON HAS THE SAME DETERMINATION TO WITHSTAND TORTURE.





SURELY SIR, YOU WOULD NOT HARM A SICKLY YOUTH?



THERE IS TREACHERY ABOUT. I WILL LEAVE NO STONE UNTURNED IN TRACING IT TO ITS SOURCE.



SIR JOHN? WAIT A MOMENT!



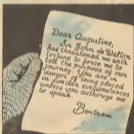
WELL, WHAT IS IT?

I ADVISE YOU, FOR YOUR OWN SAKE, BEWARE HOW YOU INSIST ON YOUR PRESENT PURPOSE.



IF YOU HARM A HAIR OF THAT YOUNG PERSON'S HEAD, YOU WILL SUFFER A DEGREE OF AGONY MORE ACUTE THAN ANYTHING ELSE IN THIS MORTAL WORLD COULD CAUSE YOU.





**E**VENING WAS CLOSING IN AS SIR AYMER AND A SMALL PARTY SET OUT FOR THE ABBEY.

FOG AGAIN! I CAN SCARCELY SEE THE PATH.

AT LEAST THERE WILL BE A MOON TONIGHT.



**T**HE PARTY SLOWLY DROPPED ITS WAY THROUGH THE MIST, SUDDENLY

I HEAR A HORSE APPROACHING.



WHO GOES THERE?

THE DOUGLAS!



**A** AT THE SOUND OF THE SCOTTISH WAR CRY, SIR AYMER FLUNG HIMSELF AHEAD AT A GALLOP.



**B**

WHERE IS HE? CAN THE EARTH HAVE SWALLOWED HIM UP?



**A** FRENZIED SEARCH PROVED FUTILE.

IT WAS AN APPARITION!

IT WAS THE DEVIL HIMSELF!



**T**HE NOISE AROUSED SOME OF THE TOWNSPEOPLE

I CHARGE YOU WITH HARBOURING A TRAITOR IN YOUR MIST!

NO TRAITOR, SIR KNIGHT, UNLESS YOU CALL A GHOST A TRAITOR



IN YONDER CHURCH IS THE BURIAL WILT OF THE COUGLASSES



THE SPIRITS OF THE DECEASED DO NOT REST IN THEIR GRAVES DURING THE DOWNFALL OF THEIR HOUSE SO DO YOU MARVEL THAT A FLESHLESS WARRIOR SHOULD INTERRUPT YOUR MARCH?



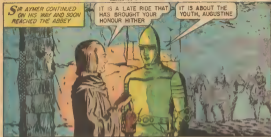
OLD MAN, YOU CANNOT EXPECT THAT I WILL TAKE FOR AN ANSWER A STORY LIKE THIS NEVERTHELESS, I CAN SPARE NO MORE TIME MORE IMPORTANT BUSINESS ENGAGES ME



**SIR AYMER CONTINUED ON HIS WAY AND SOON REACHED THE ABBEY**

IT IS A LATE RIDE THAT HAS BROUGHT YOUR HONOUR HITHER

IT IS ABOUT THE YOUTH, AUGUSTINE



HAS HE BEEN IN CONTACT WITH ANYONE OUTSIDE THE ABBEY?

NO, HE SPENDS A GREAT DEAL OF TIME WITH THE SISTERS, SEEMING TO PREFER THEM TO THE MONKS BUT I HAVE OBSERVED NOTHING WHICH COULD GIVE GROUNDS FOR SUSPICION



NEVERTHELESS, I REQUEST YOU TO SUMMON THE YOUTH IMMEDIATELY

I WILL KNOCK AT HIS DOOR HE KEEPS IT LOCKED SO THAT HIS SLUMBERS MAY BE SUITABLY RESPECTED



**SOON THE DISGUISED YOUNG LADY STOOD BEFORE THE KNIGHT, AFTER SHE READ BERTRAM'S LETTER . . .**

I AM HERE TO CONVEY YOU TO THE CASTLE AT ONCE.

BUT CRUEL DISEASE HANGS AROUND ME, AND TO TRAVEL THROUGH THIS CAMP NIGHT WOULD ENDANGER MY LIFE.



DO YOU HOLD, FATHER, THAT THERE IS REAL DANGER IN CARRYING THIS YOUTH TO THE CASTLE TONIGHT?

I CONCEIVE SUCH DANGER



THEN YOU MAY STAY THE NIGHT, WITH A SOLDIER IN YOUR ROOM TO KEEP WATCH.

BUT MIGHT NOT MY UNFORTUNATE CONDITION ENDANGER HIS HEALTH?



LET IT BE SO. HE CAN SLEEP OUTSIDE THE DOOR.



YOU ARE SURE, FATHER, THAT THE ROOM HAS NO OTHER ENTRANCE OR MEANS OF ESCAPE?

I AM CERTAIN OF THIS.



SO BE IT, THEN I, MYSELF, WILL LIE DOWN AND SNATCH A SLEEP TILL THE RUGGY GAWN CALLS HE AGAIN TO DUTY.



### THE NEXT MORNING

HAS ALL BEEN QUIET WITHIN?

THERE HAS BEEN NO NOISE ALL THE NIGHT.



### THE ABBOT TAPPED AT THE DOOR

AUGUSTINE! IT IS TIME FOR YOU TO LEAVE FOR THE CASTLE.



THERE IS NO ANSWER!  
CAN HE SLEEP SO  
SOUNDLY?



HE HAS CERTAINLY  
FALLEN INTO A SWOON  
OR MADE HIS  
ESCAPE!



BUT THAT IS  
IMPOSSIBLE!

WE SHALL  
SPECIALLY  
SEE BRING  
CROWBARS  
AND LEVERS  
BURST THAT  
DOOR INTO  
SPLINTERS!



**T**HE DOOR FELL CRASHING INTO  
THE ROOM.

AS I FEARED!  
IT IS EMPTY!





**THE DISAPPEARANCE OF AUGUSTINE WAS ACCOMPLISHED DURING THE NIGHT WHEN AUGUSTINE (OR AUGUSTA, AS SHE HAS REALLY CALLED) RETURNED TO HER ROOM AFTER HER INTERVIEW WITH SIR ARNER . . .**



OH, IT IS YOU, SISTER URSULA.



YOU SEEM GREATLY TROUBLED.

OH, HELP ME, SISTER.



I WOULD RATHER DIE THAN BE FOUND OUT AS A THOUGHTLESS MAIDEN WHO FOOLISHLY FOLLOWED A MAN INTO A WILD COUNTRY WHERE SHE DOES NOT BELONG.



NAH, MY DAUGHTER, COMFORT YOURSELF IF I CAN AID YOU, BE ASSURED I WILL BY MEANS ARE SOMEWHAT MORE THAN MY PRESENT SITUATION MAY EXPRESS.

YOU KNOW MY STORY, DEAR FRIEND— THAT I AM LADY AUGUSTA OF BERKELY, AN HEIRESS AND WARD OF THE KING.



*"ON CHRISTMAS EVE, WE HAD A HUGE FEAST IN MY CASTLE. MANY KNIGHTS OF NOBLE NAME WERE PRESENT."*



*"BERTRAM, MY MINSTREL, BEGAN TO SING OF DOUGLAS CASTLE AND OF ITS FREQUENT CAPTURE BY THE SCOTS."*

WHERE IS THERE A BRAVE ENGLISHMAN WHO CAN DEFEND THE CASTLE DANGEROUS AGAINST SCOTTISH REBELS WHO HAVE VOWED TO RETAKE IT BY THE YEAR ROLL TO AN END?



AND WHERE ARE THE NOBLE LADIES WHOSE SMILES USED TO GIVE COURAGE TO THE ENGLISH KNIGHTS?





***D***EEPENED BY THE APPLAUSE FOR MY  
PATRIOTISM, I SAT DOWN.



***T***HEN  
I, SIR JOHN  
DE WALTON,  
WOULD AVAIL MYSELF OF  
MY LADY'S NOBLE OFFER



AND SO I WAS PLEDGED TO SIR JOHN, WHO SET OUT IMMEDIATELY FOR DOUGLAS CASTLE. SOON THINGS BEGAN TO COME TO ME OF THE CONSTANT DANGERS WITH WHICH HE WAS SURROUNDED.



I RESOLVED TO SET OUT IN MASCULINE DISGUISE, ACCOMPANIED ONLY BY MY FAITHFUL MINSTREL, BERTRAM, TO SEE FOR MYSELF IN WHAT SITUATION I HAD PLACED MY KNIGHT.



AND SO, AS A RESULT OF THIS MADNESS, I WILL BE DRAGGED IN SHAME BEFORE SIR JOHN TOMORROW, TO DECLARE MYSELF THE FEMALE IN WHOSE HONOUR HE HOLDS THE CASTLE DANGEROUS. BUT I FEAR MY BOLDSNESS IN THIS VENTURE WILL FORFEIT THE RESPECT HE ONCE HAD FOR ME.



IF YOU WISH IT, I CAN FURNISH YOU WITH A MEANS OF ESCAPE.

OH, YES! BUT FIRST I MUST LEAVE A NOTE GIVING BERTRAM PERMISSION

TO SAVE HIMSELF BY CONCEALING MY SECRET TO SIR JOHN.



WHEN LADY AUGUSTA HAD FINISHED HER NOTE...

WE DESCEND THROUGH THIS TRIPDOOR, WHICH LEADS TO A SECRET POSTERN WHERE HORSES AND A GUIDE AWAIT US.



WILL YOU  
COME, TOO?

YES, I HAVE  
NOT TAKEN  
MY FINAL  
VOWS, AND  
HAVE WISHED FOR  
SOME TIME TO LEAVE  
THE ABBEY. I HAVE  
LONG SINCE HELD  
THIS MEANS OF  
ESCAPE IN READINESS



SISTER URSULA LED THE  
WAY THROUGH  
DIFFERENT PASSAGES  
UNTIL THEY CAME OUT  
INTO THE MOONLIGHT.



OUR GUIDE  
WILL BE  
YONDER.

A STRANGER APPROACHED



THEY MOUNTED AND RODE OFF QUIETLY.



WHEN SIR AYMER BROKE INTO THE ROOM THE NEXT MORNING HE WAS GREATLY DISTURBED

AUGUSTINE IS GONE! HOW COULD I HAVE LET A MERE YOUTH OUTWIT ME?



SEE, HE HAS LEFT A NOTE.



*As I cannot prevail upon myself to disclose my shameful secret, I charge Bertlam and himself, to tell you the purpose with which I come to Douglas Castle*



I MUST WITHOUT A MOMENT'S DELAY INFORM SIR JOHN OF THE TURN WHICH AFFAIRS HAVE TAKEN.



**S**IR AYMER HASTENED BACK TO THE CASTLE WITH SIR JOHN, HE WENT TO BERTLAM'S CELL AND GAVE HIM THE NOTE

I CAN NOW REVEAL TO YOU, SIR JOHN, THAT MY SUPPOSED SON, AUGUSTINE, IS IN TRUTH THE LADY AUGUSTA OF BERRELY, YOUR BETROTHED.



IS IT POSSIBLE? WILL SHE EVER FORGIVE ME FOR THE ANXIETY I HAVE CAUSED HER?

I AM CERTAIN SHE WILL PARDON YOU FOR A MISTAKE IN WHICH SHE LED THE WAY BUT FIRST SHE MUST BE FOUND, FOR SHE MAY BE IN GREAT DANGER IN THESE WOODS



**LADY AUGUSTA AND SISTER URSULA HAD FOLLOWED THEIR GUIDE THROUGH THE FOREST.**

YOU HAVE MADE NO INQUIRY WHETHER YOU ARE TRAVELLING, OR UNDER WHOSE CHARGE

AS WE ARE UNDER THE PROTECTION OF ONE YOU TRUST AS A FRIEND, NEED I BE ANXIOUS?



AS I AM SCOTTISH, THE PERSONS WITH WHOM I STAND CONNECTED ARE PERHAPS NOT EXACTLY THE PROTECTORS TO WHOM AN ENGLISH LADY SHOULD ENTRUST HERSELF



WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

I MEAN THAT JAMES DOUGLAS AND OTHERS OF THAT PARTY, WHO WERE MY FRIENDS IN THE DAYS BEFORE I ENTERED A CONVENT, AND WHO HELP ME NOW, MIGHT BE UNDER STRONG TEMPTATION TO CONSIDER YOU A HOSTAGE THROWN INTO THEIR HANDS BY PROVIDENCE.



THEN I AM LIKELY TO SUFFER AT THE HANDS OF YOUR FRIENDS, WHOM I MUST BE EXCUSED FOR TERMING REBELS?



IF YOUR FRIENDS, WHOM I SHOULD TERM OPPRESSORS AND TYRANTS, TAKE OUR LAND AND OUR LIVES, YOU MUST CONFESS THAT THE ROUGH LAWS OF WAR INDULGE MINE WITH THE PRIVILEGE OF RETALIATION.



NEVERTHELESS, I WILL TRY TO HELP YOU BUT, HEARKEN, DID YOU HEAR THE CRY OF AN OWLET?

YES WHAT DOES IT MEAN?



THAT THE DECISION AS TO YOUR FUTURE IS NO LONGER IN OUR HANDS.



I MUST GO FORWARD AND SPEAK TO SOMEONE WHEN THE GUIDE PERMITS. FOLLOW ME DOWN THAT PATH INTO THE THICKET



SISTER URSULA DISAPPEARED AMONG THE BOUGHS AFTER TEN MINUTES ELAPSED, THE GUIDE SIGNALLED LADY AUGUSTA TO FOLLOW



SHE TOOK THE PATH OF THE THICKET AND SOON MET WITH A SINGULAR SIGHT.







**THE KNIGHT LED THE KEE ALONG THE TREES AND COPSEWOOD**

HE SEEMS RATHER TO HAVE THE PURPOSE OF BEWILDERING ME, THAN TO BE FOLLOWING ANY FIXED PATH.



AM I NOT, PERHAPS, IN THE HANDS OF A SCOTTISH INSURGENT BENT ON SOME DARK PURPOSE?



I BESECH YOU, SIR KNIGHT, TO GIVE ME MY LIBERTY. I WILL REWARD YOU WITH WEALTH AND TREASURES FROM MY CASTLE.

YOUR FATE IS NOT UP TO ME. IT WILL DEPEND ON THE WILL OF SIR JOHN DE WALTON, TO WHOM YOU HAVE PLEDGED YOURSELF.



**A FEW MINUTES LATER, THEY REACHED THE BOTTOM OF A STEEP RAVINE, WHERE HALF A SCORE OF ARMED MEN SHOWED THEMSELVES.**





**T**HERE WAS A SHORT PAUSE WHILE JAMES DOUGLAS AND MICHAEL TURNBULL WHISPERED TOGETHER. THEN

COME, MY LADY, WE MUST GO NOW. DO NOT FEAR, BUT FOR A SPACE YOU MUST BE BLINDFOLDED.



**S**UBMITTING IN SILENT TERROR, LADY AUGUSTA SUFFERED HERSELF TO BE LED FOR SOME TIME OVER ROUGH TERRAIN.



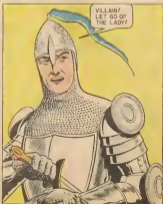
**S**OON THE TRUMP OF A HORSE WAS HEARD.



**A** MOMENT LATER, SIR JOHN DE WALTON APPEARED.



VILLAIN!  
LET GO OF  
THE LADY!



*SPRINGING FROM HIS HORSE, HE APPROACHED WITH DRAWN SWORD.*



FORBEAR, SIR JOHN, UNTIL YOU HEAR UPON WHAT OBJECT SHE IS BROUGHT HITHER.

THE LADY AUGUSTA HAS BECOME PRISONER OF THE NOBLE LORD DOUGLAS. HE WILL DELIVER HER TO SIR JOHN DE WALTON ON CONDITION THAT THE DOUGLAS CASTLE BE SURRENDERED TO HIM.



IT SUITS NOT DE WALTON TO HAVE THE LAWS OF WAR DICTATED TO HIM.



WE WILL THEN WITHDRAW, WHILE YOU MAKE UP YOUR MIND COME, MADAM.

*AS MICHAEL TURNBULL SEIZED AUGUSTA'S HAND, SHE WAS OVERCOME WITH FEAR.*



HELP ME, SIR JOHN!

**STUNG TO INSTANT RAGE, SIR JOHN ASSAULTED THE SCOTSMAN WITH UTMOST FURY.**



**TAKEN UNAWARES, TURNBULL WAS MORTALLY WOUNDED**



BUT ALAS, THIS MAN WAS ONLY AN AMBASSADOR AND SHOULD HAVE PASSED FREE FROM INJURY, WHO KNOWS WHAT FRIGHTFUL VENGEANCE MAY NOW BE EXACTED BY THE WILD SCOTS?

I DEFY THEM ALL TO INSTANT COMBAT!



**AT THIS, THE LILL KNIGHT STEPPED FORTH FROM THE THicket.**



**A**LTHOUGH SURPRISED, SIR JOHN MOVED TO THE ENCOUNTER.



**T**HE TWO KNIGHTS' BLOWS FELL AND WERE MET AND PARRIED WITH EQUAL STRENGTH AND DEXTERITY.



**O**N AND ON THEY FOUGHT UNTIL

FOR HEAVEN'S SAKE, HOLD YOUR HANDS, IF ONLY FOR AN HOUR. THIS IS PALM SUNDAY AND THE BELLS ARE RINGING FOR THE SERVICE. CEASE YOUR FELD AT LEAST SO FAR AS TO PASS TO THE CHURCH.



I DO NOT OBJECT, AS THERE I MAY FIND FRIENDS TO WHOM I CAN COMMIT LADY AUGUSTA IN CASE I AM UNFORTUNATE WHEN WE RESUME THIS COMBAT.

I ALSO ASSENT, NOR DO I FEAR THERE MAY NOT BE SCOTSMEN ENOUGH AT CHURCH WHO WOULD NOT SEE THEIR MASTER OVERPOWERED.



LADY AUGUSTA AND THE TWO KNIGHTS SET OUT FOR CHURCH, WHERE BOTH SCOTS AND ENGLISHMEN WERE GATHERING.



AMONG THE WORSHIPPERS WAS BERTRAM, THE MINSTREL.

DOES IT NOT SEEM TO YOU THAT A GREAT MANY SCOTSMEN ARE ABROAD TODAY?

AYE, AND WITH BULLEN COUNTERANCES



SOME ARE IN DISGUISE. YONDER, FOR EXAMPLE, COMES A BOY WHOSE DRESS, I WILL BE SWORN, HAS NEVER SHAPED IN SCOTLAND.



WHY, IT IS LADY AUGUSTA!



BERTRAM SLIPPED TO HER SIDE.

SIR JOHN AND JAMES COUGLAS ARE HERE, ALSO, I FEAR THERE WILL BE A FIGHT.

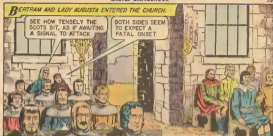




**B**ERTRAM AND LADY AUGUSTA ENTERED THE CHURCH.

SEE HOW TENSELY THE SCOTS SIT, AS IF AWAITING A SIGNAL TO ATTACK

BOTH SIDES SEEM TO EXPECT A FATAL ONSET



**T**HE PRELATE HAD JUST CONCLUDED THE SERVICE WHEN THE LOUD FLLOURISH OF A TRUMPET WAS HEARD, CAUSING ALL MEN TO REACH FOR THEIR WEAPONS



**T**HEN A HERALD SPOKE.

THERE ARE MANY NOBLE SCOTTISH KNIGHTS PRESENTLY ASSEMBLED READY TO DEFEND THE GUARREL TOUCHING THE FREEDOM OF LADY AUGUSTA OF BERKELY AND REDDITION OF DOUGLAS CASTLE TO ITS RIGHTFUL OWNER.

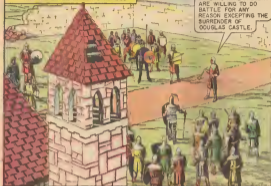


THEREFORE, THEY CHALLENGE THE ENGLISH KNIGHTS TO COMBAT WHICH, ACCORDING TO THE LAWS OF CHIVALRY, THEY CANNOT IN HONOUR REFUSE.



**AFTER A SHORT PAUSE, A TRUMPET AGAIN FLOURISHED, AND THE ENGLISH KNIGHTS REPLIED:**

ALL THE KNIGHTS OF ENGLAND HERE PRESENT ARE WILLING TO DO BATTLE FOR ANY REASON EXCEPTING THE SURRENDER OF DOUGLAS CASTLE.



I WILL HOLD DOUGLAS CASTLE IN SPITE OF ALL DEATH! TAKE YOUR ARMS!



**SIR ARMER SPRANG TO HIS SIDE**

I STAND BY YOU, SIR JOHN!



**JUST THEN**

NOBLE ENGLISH, A MESSENGER BRINGS NOTICE THAT LORD PEMBROKE IS ON THE MARCH TO AID US AND WILL BE HERE IN HALF AN HOUR! FIGHT ON, GALLANT MEN!



**G**REATLY HEARTENED, THE ENGLISH DREW THEIR SWORDS AND THE BATTLE BEGAN.



WITHOUT A WORD, JAMES DOUGLAS AND SIR JOHN RESUMED THEIR COMBAT WITH REINFORCED FURY



SEEING THEIR SUPERIORS DESPERATELY ENGAGED, THE OTHER MEN STOOD STILL ON EITHER SIDE AND LOOKED ON AT THE FURIOUS BATTLE



SO EVENLY WERE THE TWO MEN MATCHED, THE FATE OF THE COMBAT STOOD IN SUSPENSE



THREE QUARTERS OF AN HOUR PASSED IN HARD CONTEST. THEN



HOLD A MOMENT!

ARE YOU NOW READY TO RESTORE TO ME MY CASTLE AND MY PROPERTY?

NEVER! LORD PEMROKE IS UPON THE MARCH TO

RESCUE US. I WILL MAINTAIN MY GROUND UNTIL SUPPORT ARRIVES.



JUST THEN

I BRING NEWS OF PEMROKE.



IS HE NEAR?

NO, BUT I BRING HIS COMMANDS TO SIR JOHN DE WALTON.



I STAND READY TO OBEY THEM THROUGH EVERY DANGER.



WHO IS HE THAT MY MOUTH  
SHOULD BRING TIDINGS SO  
UNWELCOME? PEMBROKE  
HAS MET A BODY OF MEN  
LED BY THAT FAMOUS  
ROBERT BRUCE, WHOM THE  
SCOTS ACKNOWLEDGE  
AS THEIR KING.



THE ENGLISH HAVE BEEN  
COMPLETELY DEFEATED  
AND FORCED  
TO RETREAT.



PEMBROKE SENDS  
INSTRUCTIONS TO SIR JOHN  
DE WALTON TO MAKE THE  
BEST TERMS HE CAN FOR  
THE SURRENDER OF  
DOUGLAS CASTLE.



**A**T THIS UNEXPECTED NEWS, THE SCOTS JOINED IN A LOUD SHOUT



I MUST SUBMIT TO MY FATE AND ACCEPT WHATEVER TERMS OF SURRENDER YOU THINK FIT TO GRANT ME.



I TRANSFER MY CLAIM UPON YOUR PERSON TO THE NOBLE LADY AUGUSTA WHO, I HOPE, WILL NOT SCORN TO ACCEPT FROM A DOUGLAS A GIFT WHICH THE CHANGE OF WAR HAS THROWN INTO HIS HANDS.

I THINK THE NOBLE DOUGLAS FOR THE LIFE OF ONE TO WHOM I HAVE GIVEN MY HAND



SIR JOHN DE HALTON, YOU WILL SURRENDER DOUGLAS CASTLE AND RETURN WITH YOUR GARRISON BY THE SHORTEST ROUTE TO ENGLAND. ONCE THERE, I WISH YOU AND THE LADY WELL.



**D**OUGLAS CASTLE WAS SURRENDERED TO THE SCOTS ON MARCH 19, 1307. IT WAS THE BEGINNING OF A CAREER OF CONQUESTS BY WHICH THE SCOTS ULTIMATELY WON THEIR INDEPENDENCE FROM ENGLAND.



THE END

NOW THAT YOU HAVE READ THE CLASSICS *Illustrated* EDITION, DON'T MISS THE ADDED ENJOYMENT OF READING THE ORIGINAL, OBTAINABLE AT YOUR SCHOOL OR PUBLIC LIBRARY.

## SIR WALTER SCOTT



**A**T THE PEAK of his career, Sir Walter Scott was the most popular writer of his day. His works were so impatiently awaited in this country that the first sheets of each novel were rushed into post in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania while the last pages were being finished in Edinburgh, Scotland. Then the first batch of 2,000 copies was rushed on horseback from Philadelphia to New York a scarce thirty-six hours after the printer had received the last sheet.

Scott was a sensation, not only in America, but all over Europe. It was said that in Berlin, Germany everyone went to bed with *Waverley* under the pillow and read *Rob Roy* while sipping the morning chocolate.

This literary lion was born in Edinburgh in 1771. When he was eighteen months old, he suffered an attack of polio and lost the use of his right leg. Scott's parents sent him to his grandfather's home to recover. One of Scott's earliest recollections of childhood was lying on the floor in the skin of a freshly killed sheep, being coaxed by his grandfather to crawl.

In spite of his deformity, Scott spent much time outdoors and he grew to be physically active and able. When he was fifteen, he was apprenticed to his father, an attorney. He himself became a lawyer at the age of twenty-one. It was at this time that Scott, whom the law interested very little, began to divide his life into distinct halves. There was a place for business and there was a place for the creative work he enjoyed.

At the age of twenty-six, Scott met and married a French girl, Charlotte Charpentier. Shortly afterward, he began to publish his poetry.

As time passed, Scott acquired various political and judicial appointments which provided him with an income and left him time to write. His first novel, *Waverley*, was published in 1814. A number of books soon followed, including *Gay Mummering* and *Rob Roy*. In 1820, his greatest success, *Ivanhoe*, appeared. Scott's novels immediately became the rage the world over. They had romance, action, and were able to present dry historical events in terms of living human beings. Actually, Scott was the father of the modern historical novel.

In 1820, Scott was dubbed Sir Walter. The writer was enchanted by royalty, and when King George IV of England visited Scotland in 1822, Scott was on the welcoming committee. At one point, the King, delighted by Scott's wit, called for brandy to drink his health. Sir Walter, thrilled by this honor, asked that the King's glass be given him as a souvenir of the occasion. Scott reverently wrapped the glass in a kerchief and put it into his back pocket. Some time later, he sat down heavily on a chair. He rose immediately with a scream.

When not writing, Scott's major interest was his estate, Abbotsford. It was a hundred acre tract of land on the Tweed River, and from time to time Scott added to it until it was one of the largest in the countryside. But his dreams of living in his castle, as a feudal knight out of *Ivanhoe*, perhaps, were not to be fulfilled. For Abbotsford was his downfall. He spent wildly for improvements and when, in 1826, a publishing firm in which he had a major interest collapsed, Scott went bankrupt.

Sir Walter spent the rest of his life working to pay his creditors. In less than two years after the bankruptcy, Scott published six books, including *The Life of Napoleon Bonaparte* in nine volumes. Scott worked at a feverish pace. The strain wore him down and his health declined rapidly. In 1832, Sir Walter died at Abbotsford.



## THE REBELLIOUS SCOTS

*Scots, wha hae wi' Wallace bled—  
Scots, wham Bruce has aften led—  
Welcome to your gory bed,  
Or to victorie!*

—ROBERT BURNS

**I**N 1290, MARGARET, heiress to the Scottish throne, died. Her death caused a political crisis, with no less than thirteen people claiming the throne. In this situation, King Edward I of England intervened and, in 1292, made John de Balliol King of Scotland.

The Scots bitterly resented this English interference. In 1295, Balliol formed an alliance with France, which was then at war with England, and incited his people to revolt. The following year, Edward I took John de Balliol prisoner and proclaimed himself King of Scotland as well as England. To symbolize this union, Edward entered Scotland, carried off the ancient Stone of Scone, on which Scottish kings had long been crowned, and placed it beneath the throne at Westminster Abbey.

Soon after Edward returned to England, Scotland rose once again. Under the leadership of William Wallace, the Scots destroyed an English army at Stirling, Scotland. However, the following year, the Scots were defeated at Falkirk. Later, Wallace was captured and killed by the English.

The Scottish spirit of revolt was very strong, however, and they soon found another leader in Robert Bruce. Bruce was the Scottish leader at the last big battle of the Scottish War of Independence, which was fought in 1314 at Bannockburn, near Stirling Castle. Bruce chose a strong position, with the River Bannock on one side, and Stirling Castle on the other. In the front were thick marshes. Wherever it was possible, Bruce had his men dig deep pits to trap the enemy's horsemen. When the armored English knights advanced, they fell into the pits.

After much hard fighting, the English were badly beaten and Scotland emerged the victor. Bruce's throne and Scottish independence were made secure. Bruce was a wise king as well as a brave warrior. During his reign, he earned the title of "good king Robert."

In his later years, he longed to go to Palestine to fight in the Crusades. When he became ill and knew that he would die without fulfilling his wish, he called his faithful and closest friend, Lord James Douglas, who is the hero of *Castle Dangerous*, and begged him to take his heart after his death and carry it to the Holy Land. Douglas, who was commonly referred to as the "good Sir James," agreed to do this for his king. For Douglas had early joined Robert Bruce, and was one of his chief supporters. Douglas fought in some seventy battles, fifty-three of which were victories.

Soon after Bruce died, Douglas attempted to carry out his last request. He started for the Holy Land with Bruce's heart in a silver casket. In Spain, however, he found the Christians being beaten by the Mohammedans and he went to their aid. In the heat of battle, he tossed Bruce's heart into the midst of the fighting, shouting, "Go thou before as thou wert wont to do, and Douglas will follow!"

Douglas perished in the battle, but one of his knights retrieved Bruce's heart. It was then carried back to Scotland and buried in Melrose Abbey.



## ELVES AND URISKS



LAUREL AND evergreen plants are excellent for getting rid of demons and avoiding lightning, or so some Scots would lead us to believe. This is one of many ideas cherished by Scots of long ago, whose superstitions were sometimes as colorful as their tartans.

The Scots had many superstitious customs and beliefs especially in reference to plant and animal life. There are some trees today which still have their place in Scottish beliefs, such as the alder, the willow and the aspen. Generally these beliefs date back to the early Christian era. The aspen is forever trembling with shame because it was the tree on which Judas Iscariot hung himself.

Flowers also have a deeply rooted place in Scottish custom and superstition. The national emblem of Scotland is the thistle. One explanation for this is that the thistle saved an entire army of Scotsmen. It is said that many years ago, a large force of bare-legged Vikings were planning a surprise attack by night on a Scottish camp. On their way, they blundered directly into a large field of thistles. The muffled cries and shouts of the injured Vikings awoke and alerted the Scots who soon made short work of the enemy.

Superstition among the Scots took different forms. Many Scots believed quite firmly in the power of witchcraft and sorcery. Those individuals who practiced witchcraft were believed to have sold themselves, body and soul, to the Devil. Upon accepting a witch's allegiance, the Devil was supposed to set his mark upon the person. This mark, generally described as a small, brown mole, was not visible to the eye. It was placed somewhere on the body which was always covered by clothes. Also, it was placed on a point or spot

where, if it were injured, it would cause no pain to the sorcerer.

Witches were charged with a variety of offenses. They were accused of entering households through the keyholes, gliding through the air on a broomstick to alarm children and animals, and enchanting dogs and cats. By her evil practices, a witch was supposed to present to the eye all sorts of changes that were strange or unpleasant. An experienced witch,

*Had much of glamour night;  
Could make a lady seem a knight;  
The cobwebs on a dungeon wall  
Seem tapestry in lordly hall;  
A nutshell seem a gilded barge  
A mud flat seem a palace large;  
And youth seem age and age seem  
youth;  
All was delusion, naught was truth.*

It was believed the Devil employed many spiritual agents, in addition to witches. They were often described as the "light infantry of Satan." Aside from brownies, elves and gnomes, there was a being which made its home in mountain caves. It was called the *weeik* and it resembled both man and goat. On the Isle of Skye, *Gruagach*, a sort of female urisk, was believed to stay near sheep pens. With a small wand, she would hit anyone who refused to supply her with food and drink. In the more remote glens of Scotland, supernatural cattle were also believed in. It was thought that some of these cattle could be killed only with silver bullets.

Many of these superstitions were, in some form, held by other people, and most have been abandoned. But, in their time, they were good mazy tales to be told on a dark, misty night in the Highlands.



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