

B A L T I C      U N I O N

Written by

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Based on: The true story of the rise and fall of the Baltic Union,  
circa 1400AD

Logline: Sociopathic King Erik, reigns over the Baltic Union (Denmark, Sweden and Norway). His cruelty sparks a revolution in Sweden. Union representatives are killed or flee. Sweden's new government, serves as the prototype of today's world's parliaments. King Erik... becomes a pirate for 10 years. An epic musical. Bound to be a classic. A save Democracy Motion Picture.

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Out of the cruel and sociopathic reign of King Erik, sparks a revolution in Sweden and the foundation of a new form of democracy, Parliamentary Democracy!

EXT. NORWEGIAN COUNTRYSIDE - DAY - AERIAL

SUPER: Oslo, Norway 1363

MUSIC: Church Bells, then Wedding Music

Aerial over Oslo, banners, flags, flowers, comes upon a cathedral. People clammer to see inside the cathedral.

INT. CHURCH - CONTINUOUS

Aerial continues into the cathedral and there, pans the audience with close ups of official people.

MUSIC: Ends

The aerial approaches the bride just as KING HAAKON (30) (hoe-con) handsome, blond, bearded, lifts the veil. MARGARET (10) by Myers-Briggs Personality Indicator she is an 'advocate,' INFJ, empath and gay.

Justice and fairness are especially important to advocates. *Haakon* lifts the veil, Margaret, black hair, hands up to her mouth, GIGGLES. Wedding audience RESTRAINED LAUGHS.

INT. NORWEGIAN CASTLE - NIGHT

SUPER: Oslo, Norway 1370, seven years later

A pregnant Margaret (17) sits with BODIL (20) (BOW-dill) hand maid and ANNA (20) hand maid. They assist the Queen and fetch hot water for a bath. Margaret helps with the water.

BODIL

Queen Margaret, I know you like to help, but you are with child. Let Anna and I make the bath.

MARGARET

Thank you, *Bodil*. Thank you, Anna.

The hand maids make the bath. Margaret sits in a robe.

BODIL

It's ready ma'am.

MARGARET

Thank you, *Bodil*.

Margaret takes off her robe to reveal naked shoulders. She gets into the tub. POV sees her extended gravid abdomen.

MARGARET (CONT'D)  
*Bodil*, could you brush my hair?

Bodil gets a brush. Margaret's hair hangs over the basin.

BODIL  
 What shall you name the child, my  
 Lady?

MARGARET  
*Haakon* and I have decided on *Olaf*  
 after Saint *Olaf*, if a boy and  
*Helle* if the baby is a girl.

BODIL  
 Those are quite royal names.  
 Norwegian names.

MARGARET  
 If this baby is a boy, I'll see to  
 it *Olaf* rules over Norway, Denmark  
 and Sweden.

INT. NORWEGIAN CASTLE - DAY

SUPER: Oslo, Norway 1376, five years later

GUSTAV (30) bearded, tall, runs into the Queen's spinning  
 room out of breath. Queen Margaret spins with Bodil and Anna.  
 OLAF (5) plays with his maid METTE (20). All stop for Gustav.

GUSTAV  
 (panting)  
 Pardon me, Queen Margaret.

MARGARET  
 Yes, Gustav.

GUSTAV  
 This letter has comes by the  
 fastest boat in the Danish fleet  
 directly from *Roskilde* (*ROSS-kill-*  
*th*).

Margaret takes the letter, she opens the seal and reads.

MARGARET  
 (shock then restrained  
 excitement)  
 My father, King Valdemar of  
 Denmark, has died.  
 (MORE)

## MARGARET (CONT'D)

The Danish Council of Nobles has asked that *Olaf* and I appear before them.

Margaret puts the letter into her lap, thinks a moment. A sad Margaret sings.

MUSIC: Original

## MARGARET (CONT'D)

My father, King Valdemar is dead.  
He was found in the morning in bed.

My father had been ill, with fever and chill. They say it was from natural causes, with few relentless pauses.

Queen Margaret thinks.

## MARGARET (CONT'D)

He married me off at the age of ten, so we didn't see each other often.

But with him I carry a future vision, of a Baltic Union under one King without division.

He and I believed each day was for the next, and the future made more complex. Now *Olaf*, his grandson is in line for the throne.

But the day is renewed, the old kingdom has gone, to make a new day and a new empire for my son.

The next dynasty has begun. The Danish Council of Nobles must still elect him King.

Only with his election can the next king begin, *Olaf* is heir to crowns Danish, Swedish and Norwegian.

Queen Margaret looks like a mastermind.

## MARGARET (CONT'D)

With *Olaf's* election there'll be a new start. But I must be wise when I play my part.

*Olaf* is only five years old.

(MORE)

MARGARET (CONT'D)

So at this time, he the kingship  
can hold, only with a Regent to  
oversee his fold.

I must renounce any claim from me  
for the throne. In order to  
decrease any factions known or  
unknown.

Hurridly and with authority!

Gustav get ready so we can make  
way, off to Denmark straight away.  
The fastest Norwegian ship is what  
we need, to get us to Denmark in  
good speed.

*Mette* grab *Olaf*, so we can get  
going. *Bodil*, Anna pack so the  
ship's men can get rowing.

This is a new day for our entire  
region not just the nation, where  
in Denmark we will find our first  
election.

Margaret holds the letter to chest and speaks. Bodil and Anna  
run away excitedly. Metta and Olaf remain.

MARGARET (CONT'D)

*Olaf* is the only male heir to the  
Danish throne, but the Danish  
Council of Nobles must still elect  
him King.

I can renounce the throne in favor  
of *Olaf* and act as Regent until he  
reaches the age of adulthood.

That will help secure *Olaf's*  
election! *Mette*, get *Olaf* ready!

*Mette* picks up *Olaf* and scurries away.

MUSIC: Ends

INT. DANISH COUNCIL CHAMBER - DAY

The seven member Danish Council of Nobles sit at a table in  
the front of the chamber. The center Noble is OLAF DANISH  
NOBLE 1 and to each side sit OLAF DANISH NOBLE 2 and OLAF  
DANISH NOBLE 3.

The DUKE OF MECKLENBURG (50), sits at a table, a big man. His wife Ingborg (43) and daughter Mary (25) sit with him. At another table sit Margaret, Olaf and Gustav.

OLAF DANISH NOBLE 1

We called you before the Danish Council of Nobles so we can elect the new King or Queen of Denmark.

*Valdemar* has two direct heirs his two daughters *Ingborg* (-een-bow-aw) and Margaret.

*Valdemar's* grandson *Olaf* and his granddaughter Mary are the secondary heirs to the throne.

We are here to decide who of these heirs will be elected the next King or (distain) Queen of Denmark.

We would like to hear from the Mecklenburgs first.

Mecklenburg stands and PACES.

MECKLENBURG

As the council knows, *Ingborg* is the eldest daughter of *Valdemar* and as such she or our daughter, Mary, who is 25 should be elected Queen.

The Mecklenburgs already have the Kingship of Sweden, by my nephew Albert.

By electing *Ingborg* or Mary you will further *Valdemar's* dream of a Baltic Union.

The nobles TALK AMONG THEMSELVES.

OLAF DANISH NOBLE 1

Thank you Duke of Mecklenburg. Margaret, Queen of Norway.

Margaret stands up PACES, gestures. Fingertips together.

MARGARET

Thank you High Nobles for asking *Olaf* and I to appear before you, as you decide to elect your next **King!**

(MORE)

## MARGARET (CONT'D)

Of your four candidates, *Olaf* is the only male heir. *Olaf* is the only heir to the hereditary Norwegian throne.

*Olaf* is the last of the house of *Folkung* and in line for the Swedish throne.

*Olaf* is heir to a Baltic Dynasty! *Olaf's* election would fulfill *Valdemar's* dream of a Baltic Union under one and the same King!

I will forever renounce my claim to any throne in favor of *Olaf*.

I will agree to act as his Regent until he reaches the age of adulthood.

The Danish Nobles TALK AMONG THEMSELVES, with gestures of yes, no, with looks of bewilderment and questions.

## OLAF DANISH NOBLE 2

Margaret is only 22 years old, and *Olaf* 5.

## OLAF DANISH NOBLE 3

We can have our way with them.

## OLAF DANISH NOBLE 1

The *Mecklenburgs* would make Denmark another German territory.

## OLAF DANISH NOBLE 2

Margaret's wise. It's a good decision to renounce her claim to the throne. She is already Queen of Norway.

(to *Olaf*)

*Olaf*, do you want to be King of Denmark?

## MARGARET

(under her breath)

Like we practiced.

Margaret taps her finger tips together. The Duke looks like he's about to lose. *Olaf* stands and moves out in front.

OLAF

(bravely)

My father taught me he's the King of Norway. My mother taught me my grandfather was King *Valdemar Atterday* my grandfather. I want a Baltic Union.

Margaret looks pleased. The Council members talk among themselves quietly. Mecklenburg looks worried.

DANISH NOBLES

Let's pick *Olaf*. *Olaf*. Yes, *Olaf*.

OLAF DANISH NOBLE 1

The council decides to elect *Olaf* King of Denmark. Margaret will act as Regent, until *Olaf* is an adult.

Margaret shows restrained delight. The Duke of Mecklenburg with anger and disgust, HITS HIS FIST on the table.

MECKLENBURG

Let's leave! Damn election process!  
You both would have to be women!

The Mecklenburgs, stand up and storm out.

INT. DANISH CASTLE - DAY

SUPER: Roskilde, Denmark 1378, two years later

Margaret sits at a map strewn table. Olaf (7) takes a map.

OLAF

Mother, can you show me where Denmark and Norway lie?

MARGARET

Way up here Norway lies. With mountains between Sweden side by side.

Sweden in blue is the color we use. Sweden has mountains, plains. Forest, coastline and castles maintained.

For you, Olaf, will have a peaceful reign. Because of your character, it won't be a strain.

Question for the King!

(MORE)

## MARGARET (CONT'D)

The East Danish castles are leased to the League. Their rent is past due and they don't want to leave.

OLAF

What can I do as King, Mother?

MARGARET

We can play a small trick on them. You must write a letter, and then; demand the castles to you rescind.

Then I will send a letter later and say I'm keeping you calm on the matter.

They are Germans and strong willed. You must be stronger and bravery-filled.

Olaf takes a parchment and quill.

Your time in East Danish Castles is through. Your rents are many months past due. I want them back now! I'm **King** and not you! I wear the crown!

The army I'll send to dislodge you. Move or removed, it's up to you. Olaf, **King** of Denmark!

MARGARET (CONT'D)

This is an excellent letter, Olaf, such good penmanship. We'll send it off.

Margeret folds the letter and seals with wax.

OLAF

The plans sound great! I can't wait. Because I'm King.

MARGARET

(duet)

Because you're King!

MARGARET (CONT'D)

It's called diplomacy. Now we pause for their response to see.

INT. SWEDISH CASTLE - DAY

SUPER: Stockholm, Sweden 1383, five years later.

ALBERT (50) tall, with crown, sits while the advisors stand, one GERMAN MILITARY MAN, ALBERT NOBLE 1 and ALBERT NOBLE 2.

ALBERT NOBLE 1

Albert, your knights are killing Swedish citizens over petty grievances.

ALBERT

The people must understand they are ruled by Germans. As long as we receive our taxes.

ALBERT NOBLE 2

Your Highness, the Council of Nobles wants to call a meeting and recall Haakon to the Swedish Throne!

ALBERT

(snarky)

The Day of the Realm can only convene at the King's request. I don't request it.

Albert looks smug.

ALBERT NOBLE 2

Sire, the nobles, merchants and peasants threaten to join together in a general revolt!

ALBERT

The Swedish Council elected me King. I have the Swedish army and the Swedish navy at my disposal.

GERMAN GENERAL

Highness, the men in the Swedish army are Swedish, not German, how much can you count on them?

Albert becomes angry.

ALBERT

Then I have my knights who are doing their jobs. My uncle, the Duke of Mecklenburg could send a fleet.

Albert HITS HIS FIST. He stands.

ALBERT (CONT'D)  
I'm a German, elected by the  
Swedish Council of Nobles, King of  
Sweden. I must do what's best for  
Germany!

EXT. SWEDISH STREET - NIGHT

PAGE (10) runs up a torch lit street, dodges people. Page carries a scroll.

INT. SWEDISH KRO (PUB) - NIGHT

MAN (30) at the counter, orders from MATRON (50). The place is lively, people LAUGH.

MAN  
Mead!

MAITRON  
Two crowns.

Man SLAPS THE COINS on the counter. Pull away to see the three Swedish Nobles, dressed down. The Nobles talk near a group of German Knights who are drunk and belligerent.

EXT. SWEDISH STREET - NIGHT

The page runs up to the kro, straightens himself out.

INT. KRO - CONTINUOUS

Albert Noble 1, 2 and ALBERT NOBLE 3 sit together.

ALBERT NOBLE 1  
What are we going to do about  
Albert? His knights are out of  
control. They ruin everything.

The Page bursts through the door, with the scroll. He steps into the kro and looses the scroll so he can read.

PAGE  
The King, King Albert...

The room gets quiet.

PAGE (CONT'D)

Decreases a tax of fifty øre (*urr-deep* sound) per pint of mead.

MAN

A pint will now cost me two crowns fifty?

The crowd GRUMBLES.

One of the German Knights throws an ax into the chest of the Page, who falls back gasping and bleeding. People rush to help the Page. Knights laugh.

ALBERT NOBLE 2

These are the King's Knights! The King decrees another tax? The taxes are so high now, people are desperate. It's dangerous.

ALBERT NOBLE 3

Albert wants to tax the estates!

ALBERT NOBLE 2

We should demand a recall of Albert and elect *Haakon* as Sweden's King.

A Day of the Realm can only convene on the King's request. Albert has already refused.

ALBERT NOBLE 3

There must be a resolution from the Council demanding there be a Day of the Realm.

Should that fail we should join with the freemen and peasants in a general uprising.

ALBERT NOBLE 1

(contemplatively)

Perhaps we should elect *Olaf* as King of Sweden, *Haakon's* son.

*Olaf* is heir to the Norwegian throne and already King of Denmark.

Margaret acts as Regent. She seems to be reasonable and fair. She has made an excellent Regent, so far.

The other Nobles look pleased. They shake their heads.

## NOBLES

Ok.

## EXT. DANISH CASTLE - DAY

Margaret in the garden, pulls weeds and wipes her forehead. Dirt smears her face. Bodil and Anna help and enjoy themselves. Gustav jogs up.

## GUSTAV

A letter from the Swedish Council of Nobles.

Margaret stands, opens and reads the letter.

## MARGARET

The Swedish Council of Nobles has asked *Olaf* be elected King of Sweden and for me to act as Regent.

She looks up at Gustav.

## MARGARET (CONT'D)

There is one condition. We must drive the Germans out of Sweden.

## EXT. ENCAMPMENT - DAY

SUPER: Swedish Countryside, 1384, seven months later.

*Haakon* (50) sits in an encampment with NORWEGIAN GENERAL 1.

## HAAKON

One city after another should fall to us without a fight.

## NORWEGIAN GENERAL 1

Sweden's and Denmark's armies will meet us at *Falkoeping* (fall-coo-peen) then together we'll march on Stockholm.

## EXT. CASTLE RAMPARTS - DAY

The combined troops storm the gates of Stockholm. They use a battering ram. The combined troops are repelled by arrows and hot liquids. The ram has shields protecting the soldiers.

As *Haakon* rides through the battered gate, a cross-bow arrow pierces his armor at his heart. He falls off the horse.

Haakon's face plate snaps open to reveal a dead Haakon, blood flows out of the armor.

INT. SWEDISH CASTLE STAIRWELL -DAY

Soldiers go up a staircase, break through a door and find Albert, his son and his German advisors.

INT. DANISH CASTLE -DAY

Margaret (31) in the stables shows Olaf (17) the horse's foot. Gustav (38) jogs up.

MARGARET  
See Olaf, here's the horse's frog.

GUSTAV  
My Queen, you have an urgent message from Stockholm.

MARGARET  
Thank you, Gustav.

Margaret takes the letter, opens it.

MARGARET (CONT'D)  
Albert, his son and his Generals have been captured.

She is briefly excited, then stunned.

MARGARET (CONT'D)  
(shocked)  
*Haakon, has died!?*

After holding the letter to her breast, she plops onto the hay and cries. Olaf comes over to comfort her. Olaf starts to cry with her.

OLAF  
Father died? Father, Father.

Margaret gives Olaf a hug.

MARGARET  
(to Olaf)  
Your father was a great King!  
(To Gustav)  
Gustav, contact the Norwegian Council of Nobles to make ready *Haakon's* funeral.

(MORE)

MARGARET (CONT'D)

In this time of mourning, the Norwegian people need us, their Queen and you Olaf, the next King.

GUSTAV

Yes, my Lady.

INT. NORWEGIAN COUNCIL CHAMBERS - DAY

SUPER: Bergen, Norway 1384

NORWEGIAN NOBLE 1 with 6 other nobles, sit at a table in the front of a hall.

NORWEGIAN NOBLE 1

Norway has a hereditary monarchy. Olaf, as the sole heir to the throne will become Norway's King.

You Margaret will act as Regent until he reaches maturity.

MARGARET

Thank you, High Nobles.

INT. DANISH DUNGEON NIGHT

SUPER: Roskilde, Denmark

You hear the MOANS AND PLEAS of the other prisoners. The DUNGEON GUARD escorts a hooded figure through the dungeon to a cell. Albert is held captive in CHAINS. Dungeon Guard holds a sealed letter. Margaret lowers her cowl. Holds her hand to her nose due to the stench of the dungeon.

MARGARET

Albert, so we meet under the best of circumstances. You sit in my dungeon in chains.

ALBERT

You have no right to keep me in this stinking dungeon!

MARGARET

The combined troops from Norway, Denmark and Sweden captured you. Your people revolted.

I'm only doing what the Swedish Council of Nobles asked me to do, liberate Sweden from the Germans.

ALBERT

My uncle, the Duke of Mecklenburg  
will invade Denmark and release me.

MARGARET

That seems unlikely, for all the  
armies and navies of Sweden, Norway  
and Denmark are at my disposal, to  
resist any movement by the Duke.

I brought you some reading  
material. It's written in German so  
you know exactly what you sign.

It's an unconditional surrender and  
abdication of the Swedish throne.

Margaret takes the sealed paper from Guard. She hands it to  
Albert gently. Albert slaps it from her hand. CHAINS.

ALBERT

I'm not signing that!

MARGARET

Once you sign this you can be  
released at my discretion.

INT. SWEDISH CASTLE - DAY

Super: Stockholm, Sweden 1385

Margaret and Olaf (17) sit before the seven member Swedish  
Council of Nobles which includes OLAF SWEDISH NOBLE 1 and  
OLAF SWEDISH NOBLE 2.

OLAF SWEDISH NOBLE 1

Here in Sweden we have a 300 year  
history of electing our King.

OLAF SWEDISH NOBLE 2

The King must go before each County  
Council and swear to uphold the  
laws of the land.

OLAF SWEDISH NOBLE 1

*Haakon* died when freeing the  
Swedish people from the German  
Knights and the German King.

The Council has elected *Olaf*  
*Haakonsson* as King of Sweden.

(MORE)

OLAF SWEDISH NOBLE 1 (CONT'D)  
Margaret shall be the 'Great Lady  
of Sweden' his Regent.

Margaret and Olaf look into each others eyes knowingly.

INT. SWEDISH CASTLE - DAY

SUPER: Stockholm, Sweden

Margaret sits on the throne. A TRANSCRIBER (65), poised to record Margaret's proclamations. Margaret surrounds herself with OLAF SWEDISH NOBLE 1, OLAF SWEDISH NOBLE 2 and OLAF BISHOP. She speaks curtly and strongly. Anna and Bodil sit.

MARGARET

Where is the King? Summon him.  
Let's get started. We'll begin by  
returning all the lands stolen from  
the Swedish people.

All estates conferred by Albert are  
revoked to the Crown.

All estates with documentation will  
have their estates as proscribed by  
those documents.

All lands which were free from  
taxation are now being taxed,  
including the Church.

The Swedish Nobles and Bishop look stunned. Margaret responds firmly.

OLAF SWEDISH NOBLE 1

What?! What you do mean, tax the  
estates?

OLAF SWEDISH NOBLE 2

What about the documentation of  
lands?

MARGARET

I will appoint Bailiffs to oversee  
the collection of taxes.

The Bailiffs will have the Crown  
behind them and will answer to me.

TRANSCRIBER

This will assure the Nobles pay  
their taxes no doubt.

MARGARET

All Swedish castles will be only for Swedish Nobles. Only natural born Swedes may serve on the Swedish Council of Nobles.

Olaf Bishop stands nearby.

OLAF BISHOP

Tax the Church?

MARGARET

It has to be equitable.

HENRIK (35), muscular, bearded, runs into the room and bows. He's excited and scared.

HENRIK

Queen Margaret, it's young King Olaf! There is something wrong!

MARGARET

What is it Henrik?

HENRIK

Young King Olaf says his neck hurts. He burns with fever.

Immediately, Margaret stands up and starts to bark orders. She rushes away with her maids and Gustav. The Nobles and the Bishop follow.

MARGARET

Henrik, send for the court physician. *Bodil*, Anna put cool water on his head and make his neck as comfortable as possible.

Bodil and Anne run off ahead. The others walk away quickly.

MARGARET (CONT'D)

Has anything else been unusual?

HENRIK

His neck hurt this morning and it's become worse with fever increasing.

MARGARET

Quickly Henrik, get the physician!

Henrik runs off.

INT. BED CHAMBER - CONTINUOUS

Olaf lays on his back hyperextended supported by his head, the knees draw up toward his chest. Margaret is worried. Margaret feels his forehead and continues to bark orders.

MARGARET

Anna, leave the wet cloth on his head. Help me dampen his clothes.

Gustav, open the windows and the doors. Get air moving around him.

Olaf MOANS.

MARGARET (CONT'D)

Ok. Anna fan him. Bishop, a prayer.

The Bishop starts mumbling. Margaret goes to Olaf to comfort him. Olaf moans and writhes. He holds his neck. Olaf talks slowly and haltingly between surges of pain.

OLAF

My back, my back is in great pain.

MARGARET

Would it help if you had pillows under your back or if you laid on your side?

OLAF

This feels best for the searing pain, mother.

Olaf continues to MOAN. He looks so uncomfortable. Henrik and PHYSICIAN enter the bed chamber out of breath.

MARGARET

His back, physician, is in great pain.

PHYSICIAN

Has he had any problem with his bowels or breathing?

ANNA

King Olaf has a high fever!

The physician examines Olaf, takes pulse.

PHYSICIAN

What you've done here is good. I'll get the tinctures of opium and willow bark. He needs leaches!

(MORE)

## PHYSICIAN (CONT'D)

Give him water with wine.

MARGARET

Hurry physician!

The Physician exist. Henrik gets the wine and Anna gets the water. Margaret tries to give Olaf a sip.

MARGARET (CONT'D)

You have to drink this now.

Margaret gives Olaf a drink with difficulty (his mouth is upside down).

OLAF

I will be as strong as a Norwegian King. Tell me the story of Saint *Olaf*, Mother.

Margaret puts her hand on the forehead towel.

MARGARET

*Olaf*, your distant grandfather, was a Viking King of Norway.

He was a barbarian then, so he plundered into Christendom for Viking fortunes.

Olaf continues to MOAN.

MARGARET (CONT'D)

While in Christendom, he met a monk named *Gemkel* (Gem-Kell).

*Gemkel* told *Olaf* about a new God, Christ, where all who believe in him will gain ever-lasting glory.

*Olaf* was inspired by *Gemkel* and became a Christian.

*Olaf* was baptized by *Gemkel* and given a cross amulet. The one you wear today.

Around his neck but on the floor the cross amulet. Margaret holds it up so Olaf can kiss it. Margaret kisses the amulet.

INT. CHEMIST LAB - DAY

The physician mixes up his tinctures.

PHYSICIAN

Opium will help him relax and help his pain. Willow helps for fever.

Physician goes to a tank to get the leaches. Large and ugly leaches live in a slimy tank with decayed vegetable matter. He puts 6 large leaches into a tin.

INT. BED CHAMBER - DAY

MARGARET

*Olaf* returned to Norway and brought *Gemkel*. They turned the Norwegian pagans into Christians.

He then built churches throughout Norway.

Olaf continues to MOAN. He relaxes and dies.

MARGARET (CONT'D)

What? No! Olaf? NO! You can't die no, no. What will I do without you?

She blows on him and tries to stimulate him. The Bishop crosses himself and crosses Olaf. Everyone crosses themselves. Margaret hugs and shakes Olaf as she cries. The physician runs into the room.

OLAF BISHOP

Spiritus Sanctus...

PHYSICIAN

I have the tinctures right here.

MARGARET

We may be too late.

The physician goes over to Olaf, feels a pulse and looks for breaths. Physician opens Olaf's eyes.

PHYSICIAN

(sadly)

I'm sorry my Queen.

The Physician steps back. Everyone goes into stop motion. Olaf steps out of his body. Olaf walks a short distance.

MUSIC: Original

OLAF

I'd been riding around the wood,  
when upon a meadow I stood.

(MORE)

## OLAF (CONT'D)

I came upon overwhelming nests, of mosquitoes, which were quite the pests. They bit me around my head and neck.

Meningitis is what I would get. To my spine this was a painful torment.

I'm sorry mother to leave you this way, but I do have this last thing to say.

I'm sorry I let you down, in our quest for the royal crowns. We would have been so good together. Now we are separated by forever.

Olaf steps back into his body. Everyone crosses themselves.

MARGARET

My young King, what am I going to do without you?

Margaret crosses herself and starts to cry inconsolably.

INT. DANISH CASTLE - DAY

SUPER: Roskilde, Denmark

Margaret and Gustav sit together.

MARGARET

The only way the Baltic Union will stay together is to have a hereditary monarchy.

She pauses. Margaret looks like a mastermind.

MARGARET (CONT'D)

The next hereditary heir would be my nephew, Bagislav in Pomerania.

I've already renounced claims to any throne in favor of Olaf.

Do you think, Gustav, Norway's Council of Nobles would declare Bagislav the hereditary King, while Denmark and Sweden elect him King.

GUSTAV

Olaf was made King of Norway because his father was *Haakon*, King of Norway. Bagislav would have, no such claim. You could, adopt him. Then he would be the Queen's adopted son and thereby heir?

In Denmark, because he is your sister's grandson there would be no problem with a hereditary monarch.

But the Danish Council of Nobles elect their King.

Bagislav's chances are good in Denmark too. As for Sweden...

Gustav shakes his head and looks contemplatively.

MARGARET

The Swedish Council of Nobles has already elected Olaf their King.

There is an excellent chance to elect Bagislav in Sweden. The Baltic Union will again be under one and the same King.

EXT. POMERANIAN ESTATE - DAY

SUPER: Pomerania, Germany.

BAGISLAV (13) (ESTP-ADMINISTRATER) gay, sociopath (No empathy, stubborn, judgmental) Bagislav has blond hair, athletic, rides a horse bareback.

Horse and rider come up to the house. BAGISLAV'S FATHER (40) receives a letter, opens it. The horseman rides away. Bagislav's Father is handsome, strong and bearded. He runs from the house excited.

BAGISLAV'S FATHER

Bagislav! Bagislav!

Bagislav jumps off the horse and runs up toward his father.

BAGISLAV'S FATHER (CONT'D)

Bagislav! Bagislav!

BAGISLAV

What is it Father?

BAGISLAV'S FATHER

We have received a letter from  
Queen Margaret of Norway.

BAGISLAV

Queen Margaret? Why did she write  
Father?

BAGISLAV'S FATHER

Bagislav, she's summoned you to  
appear before the Danish Council of  
Nobles! They want to elect you  
King!

Bagislav is surprised.

BAGISLAV

They want to make me King? Of  
Denmark?

BAGISLAV'S FATHER

Yes, Bagislav, yes, Sweden and  
Norway, too!

They embrace and dance around. Erik's father becomes serious.

BAGISLAV'S FATHER (CONT'D)

We must get ready to travel  
immediately. Come Bagislav.

BAGISLAV

Yes, Father.

EXT. ON A BOAT - DAY

Bagislav and Father travel to *Roskilde*.

BAGISLAV

What'll it be like to be King  
Father?

BAGISLAV'S FATHER

They'll coronate you and you will  
be under the regency of Margaret.  
She will make all the decisions for  
you.

You will be instructed in the court  
arts.

MUSIC: Original

## BAGISLAV

This has got to be the greatest day, as we set off Denmark's way. They want to make me King. What roles will that bring. I'm only thirteen, but this will be extreme. I want to learn all I can, languages, music, equestrian.

I want to know how to be a gentleman and how to rule other men.

I'm only thirteen, but this could be my thing, when I am King, when I am King.

## MONTAGE

- Bagislav crowned King
- Bagislav's TEACHER squeezes his lips together while she points at a chalkboard with an ø. Books lay about.

## BAGISLAV

ø

- On the field, Bagislav fences.
- Bagislav jumps his horse over a fence perfectly.

GROAN of horse.

- Bagislav greets a demure older Baroness.

## BAGISLAV (CONT'D)

I'm only thirteen, but this could really be my thing. When I am King, When I am King.

## ALL (EXCEPT BAGISLAV)

It'll be good for us. You'll be a plus. When you are King, when you are King.

## BAGISLAV

When I am King!

MUSIC: Ends

INT. DANISH CASTLE - DAY

Bagislav sits with the Queen.

MARGARET

I've chosen Erik as your name, the name of Kings from Denmark, Sweden and Norway.

BAGISLAV

You want to change my name?

MARGARET

It's for political reasons. Erik's a good name for a Union King.

INT. DANISH THRONE ROOM DAY

SUPER: Roskilde, Denmark 1397, twelve years later

Erik (25), blond, handsome, strong, shaven stands beside Margaret (44).

MARGARET

Erik, now you are 25. We'll call a meeting of all the Nobles from the three Kingdoms to Kalmar Castle.

There you will be crowned King of all three Kingdoms, officially creating the Baltic Union.

We'll meet in June, (under her breath) I'm so excited! Scandinavia united!

INT. KALMAR CASTLE - DAY

SUPER: Kalmar Castle, Denmark 1397

MUSIC: Original

The nobles gather in the castle. Some see old friends, and greet each other. Others speak in small groups. KALMAR SWEDISH NOBLE 1, KALMAR SWEDISH NOBLE 2 and KALMAR SWEDISH NOBLE 3 stand together.

KALMAR SWEDISH NOBLE 1

The Union is good for the problems it solves. A hereditary King goes against Swedish laws.

KALMAR SWEDISH NOBLE 2  
Sweden has elected kings before,  
based on heredity and nothing more.

KALMAR SWEDISH NOBLE 3  
A Swedish Regent is what we need,  
to prevent any Union tyranny.

KALMAR SWEDISH NOBLE 2  
What do you think of the new King?  
In manly pursuits he's not lacking.

KALMAR SWEDISH NOBLE 1  
Margaret will rule like she always  
has been. He's just a masculine  
face with a grin.

KALMAR SWEDISH NOBLE 3  
The Danish Council of Nobles will  
back us up, a hereditary King they  
don't like so much.

KALMAR SWEDISH NOBLE 1  
Margaret is strong willed and  
driven. Her diplomacy and politics  
it's clear she's a given.

The three nobles move off.

INT. KALMAR CASTLE - DAY

Margaret, Erik and Gustav (51) are before the gathered Nobles  
including KALMAR DANISH NOBLE and KALMAR NORWEGIAN NOBLE.

GUSTAV  
Gentlemen, Gentlemen let's get  
started. We're here today to get  
the Union charted.

MARGARET  
Gentlemen, we're here to create a  
united Scandinavia. So let's raise  
our glasses and toast the  
advantages.

SKOAL.

MARGARET (CONT'D)  
Now is the time our forefathers  
dreamed, a Baltic Union under just  
one King.

(MORE)

## MARGARET (CONT'D)

Scandinavians are one heritage, one people. We speak the same language, worship under the same steeple.

My father, King Valdemar of Denmark created the ideal, today those dreams are being fulfilled.

The Nobles yell out.

## KALMAR SWEDISH NOBLE 1

For 300 years Sweden has elected its King.

## KALMAR DANISH NOBLE

Yes, Denmark does the exact same thing.

## KALMAR SWEDISH NOBLE 2

The King must swear to uphold the laws of the land.

## KALMAR SWEDISH NOBLE 3

Before each county council he must make a stand.

## MARGARET

Each country will be treated the same. The Council of Nobles, of course, will remain.

Each can elect a Regent, (Quietly) you know just in name. I understand the Swedish position but refrain.

## KALMAR NORWEGIAN NOBLE

In Norway, a hereditary King is what we require. So for a hereditary King is what we desire.

## MARGARET

The Union will join our military might, against aggressors and piracy we'll fight.

Peace will be maintained throughout the regions, because our navies will be sailing in all seasons.

We'll encourage trade within the Baltic and peace. This all now is within our reach.

(MORE)

MARGARET (CONT'D)

In order to maintain a steady course, and speak as a true Scandinavian voice, a hereditary King must be our choice.

KALMAR DANISH NOBLE 3

Where would you place the court?

MARGARET

In Denmark, at *Roskilde's* port.

Those duties requiring the King to sort, will be dispatched to the Baltic Court, and decided in Denmark with the crown's support.

KALMAR SWEDISH NOBLE 2

Will you agree to continue to act as Regent?

MARGARET

Yes, and will increase the visitations, Gent. To each county I'll go to hear more grievances, and take actions required by the Crown's benevolences.

EXCITED TALKING.

KALMAR SWEDISH NOBLE 1

If you can agree each country may elect a Regent.

We want to participate and not just be present. Maybe a hereditary King, should be our intent.

MARGARET

I assure you noble gents.

KALMAR SWEDISH NOBLE 1

The Swedish Nobles take a stand for the Union.

KALMAR DANISH NOBLE

The Danish Nobles shake a hand for the Union.

KALMAR NORWEGIAN NOBLE

The Norwegian Nobles make a brand for the Union.

All three Nobles place their seals on the Union Treaty.  
Margaret speaks to Gustav, in a whisper.

MARGARET

We'll work out the details in the  
upcoming fusion, but I'm in charge  
here, there can be no confusion.

Erik looks blissfully quiet. He puffs out his chest.

MUSIC: Ends

INT. KALMAR CASTLE CHURCH - DAY

MUSIC: Coronation

Margaret walks in unescorted and stands behind Erik's throne.  
Margaret's neckless accentuated.

Kalmar Swedish Noble 1, Kalmar Norwegian Noble, and Kalmar  
Danish Noble walk to the front. They take their places on one  
side of the throne. Three Bishops enter in a line and take  
their places on the other side of the throne to Nobles.

Eric wears a long train, walks up the stairs to the throne  
holding and flipping his train. Erik sits.

Everyone else stands. KALMAR BISHOP 1 walks up escorted by a  
page who holds a pillow, on top, a sturdy crown.

KALMAR BISHOP 1

I, by the power of the Church and  
willed by the Councils of Nobles,  
crown you Erik, King of Norway,

King of Sweden and King of Denmark,  
King of the Baltic Union.

Bishop places the crown on Erik's head. The audience crosses  
themselves and kneel.

INT. CASTLE WAR ROOM - NIGHT

Margaret, Erik, Gustav and ERIK DANISH GENERAL gather in the  
war room as they look at maps of *Slesvig* (sless-vee) and  
*Holstein* (whole-steen).

ERIK DANISH GENERAL

The Count of *Holstein* has attacked  
a garrison of our troops while  
encamped in Danish territory.

ERIK

Damn that bastard!

MARGARET

I hope this doesn't turn into another long, drawn out, expensive war. But we must deal with this situation appropriately.

ERIK

Let's lay siege to the main city in *Holstein*... *Gotlieb* (got-leeb).

MARGARET

The Count already has possession of *Slesvig*.

Let's offer it to him under the condition, when he dies the province returns to Danish control.

ERIK DANISH GENERAL

As we engage the Count, we can tax the Swedes and Norwegians for wars against the Union.

ERIK

We should go in and run over him with our cavalry. Dislodge the German Nobles of the region who don't accept our terms.

MARGARET

Yes, we could do that, however, Kings must be diplomats as well as warriors.

EXT. SWEDEN - DAY

SUPER: Ljungby, Sweden 1397

The royal carriage travels through the Swedish countryside accompanied by musicians, armed horsemen and foot soldiers, followed by the supply oxen. A soldier holds a staff with the royal crest, a circle of red with 3 gold crowns sewn in.

INT. CARRIAGE - DAY

Margaret and Erik lay back on pillows. Margaret enjoys the day and the excursion. Erik seems relaxed but coarse.

ERIK

You like traveling around like this, don't you? It's a game. I would rather get on a fast horse and ride like the wind. This traveling circus bores me.

MARGARET

When we come to Sweden, we can hear the peoples' grievances personally.

ERIK

But, isn't that what the Council of Nobles is for?

MARGARET

This approach breeds loyalty among your peasants and merchants. Personal Royal visits strengthen the Union.

The caravan pulls into *Ljungby* (loon-boo). People gather excitedly. LJUNGBY WOMAN 1 and LJUNGBY WOMAN 2 stand near.

LJUNGBY WOMAN 1

It's the Great Lady of Sweden!

LJUNGBY WOMAN 2

I hear she will take up the grievances of the Swedish people.

LJUNGBY WOMAN 1

I adore her. She's so wise and kind.

Margaret leans out of the carriage and waves.

LJUNGBY WOMAN 2

Welcome to *Ljungby*, our humble village.

MARGARET

HELLO EVERYONE!

PEASANTS YELL OUT

We love you! It's the Great Lady of Sweden!

Margaret blows them kisses. The guards hold the people back. Erik's eye brow furls in contempt.

MARGARET

Guard, let them approach.

An annoyed Erik rolls his eyes and exhales. Margaret touches the peasants' hands and waves. The caravan doesn't slow down and goes right on through the town.

LJUNGBY WOMAN 1

She touched my hand! She'll be a saint one day. I touched her hand!

INT. THRONE ROOM - DAY

SUPER: Stockholm, Sweden.

Margaret and Erik sit side by side. STOCKHOLM PEASANT WOMAN addresses them. The BAILIFF stands at the side.

STOCKHOLM PEASANT WOMAN

We had a cheese business with four milk cows. The bailiff took two of our cows but not the cheeses we offered them.

They took our means of production. The bailiff threatened to hang us if we did anything to stop him.

MARGARET

(to bailiff)

Is this true?

Bailiff timidly agrees.

MARGARET (CONT'D)

See to her concerns High Constable, these kinds of threats and actions are NOT appropriate.

Give this woman back two healthy young milk cows. A little discipline may be in order. Do you understand me High Constable?

Constable nods. The next to address Erik and Margaret is STOCKHOLM MERCHANT.

STOCKHOLM MERCHANT

The Union helps tremendously with trade between the Hanseatic Cities and the Baltic Union countries.

But pirates plunder our goods on the high sea. Isn't there more the Union can do about pirates?

MARGARET

Pirates are of great concern because not only goods but people travel by boat and pirates hold hostages for exorbitant ransoms.

Our combined Navies have increased patrol and we've been successfully capturing many pirates.

INT. DANISH CASTLE - DAY

SUPER: Denmark 1400, three years later

Erik () and Margaret () sit at a table and eat.

MARGARET

I decided you must wed. I've chosen Philippa, Henry the Fifth's sister. Henry is heir to England's crown.

ERIK

Do I have to marry?

MARGARET

It is for political reasons. With your marriage to Philippa, we can enlarge our sphere of Nordic influence back into England.

This is an opportunity for you to produce an heir, for the Union throne.

ERIK

I have no interest in marriage or in Philippa.

Margaret waves her hand, like no obstacle.

MARGARET

Erik, I am going to stay at the Saint Brigittine Cloister in Sweden. You can assume more of the royal duties.

ERIK

You will leave me in charge?

MARGARET

Gustav will communicate to me about major political and military issues.

(MORE)

MARGARET (CONT'D)

I will give my responses with great haste.

It's very important with regard to *Slesvig* and the Count of *Holstein*.

We want the Swedish people to love their Regent and their King.

I'm entering the cloister for political reasons. Gustav alone will make the decision whether material should be seen by me.

You must listen to Gustav's advice, for I speak through him.

INT. DANISH CHURCH - DAY

SUPER: Roskilde, Denmark 1406

PHILIPPA (12) and Erik kneel in front of the WEDDING BISHOP.

WEDDING BISHOP

Do you Philippa, take Erik, to be married in the eyes of the Church, the Crown, and these witnesses?

PHILIPPA

I do.

WEDDING BISHOP

Do you Erik, take Philippa, to be married in the eyes of the Church, the Crown and these witnesses?

Erik hesitates. He looks to Margaret. She gives him a stern look. A resigned Erik answers.

ERIK

I do.

WEDDING BISHOP

By the power vested to me by the Church of Rome, and the Crowns, I pronounce you husband and wife.

INT. BRIGITTINE CLOISTER - NIGHT

SUPER: Brigittine Cloister, Sweden 1417, 11 years later.

Margaret (59) writes at a small desk in her small bedroom with fireplace. Someone petite sleeps in the bed. You can see Margaret's breath. She wraps herself in a blanket.

MARGARET (V.O.)  
Swedish Council of Nobles.

The *Holstein* conflict has come to an armistice which I hope will translate into peace.

We may be able to lower Swedish taxes if peace prevails. Margaret.

She folds the letter and seals it with wax. She picks up another letter, opens it.

PHILIPPA (V.O.)  
Dearest Margaret, Erik and I have been married eleven years and we have not consummated our marriage.

How am I to produce an heir under these conditions? Philippa

Margaret puts pen to paper.

MARGARET (V.O.)  
Dearest Erik, King of the Baltic Union, you must consider producing an heir for the Baltic Union.

I will leave the Cloister to see the fleet off at *Flensborg* (*flens bor, soft r*). We can discuss it there. Margaret.

EXT. FLENSBORG BAY - DAY

SUPER: Flensborg Bay, Denmark 1417

On the docks, Margeret and Erik approach ADMIRAL HAROLD.

MARGARET  
Admiral Harald.

HAROLD  
Welcome your highnesses, welcome to the flagship. This is my First Mate, Dover. (Dove-r)

Erik looks DOVER (45) up and down and smiles. Dover is handsome, muscular and bearded. Margaret speaks from the flagship to the SAILORS, in uniform and at attention.

MARGARET

Thank you sailors, who take this mission from myself, your Regent, King Erik and the Baltic people.

Sailors CHEER.

An agitated Erik mumbles.

ERIK

She didn't say my name first. I'm tired of living in her shadow.

MUSIC: SUSPENSE

INT. SHIP STATE ROOM - NIGHT

Harald, Margaret, Dover and Erik eat and drink together. Erik and Dover give flirtatious looks at each other.

MARGARET

Thank you Admiral Harald for taking this duty. You will tour the Baltic for pirates and to keep the peace.

HARALD

Thank you for your trust in me, Highnesses.

ERIK

Dover where are you from?

DOVER

*Ubberup (oo-bear-up), near Kalundborg (caw-lund-boar' soft r).*

ERIK

What do you do with pirates when you capture them?

HARALD

We will overwhelm the pirates with our ships. They usually surrender. We put the pirates in shackles.

We commandeer the boat and try to find the owner of the cargo by the registry and name of the boat.

ERIK  
What about the pirate captains?

HARALD  
They are confined to prisons. I  
have run-through some notorious  
pirates, with royal permission.

Margaret appears to be drunk.

MARGARET  
Erik, can I talk to you privately?

Margaret puts her hand to her forehead.

MARGARET (CONT'D)  
Maybe we can talk tomorrow. I  
didn't really drink that much.

Margaret starts to get up and stumbles. Harald and Gustav  
assist her to bed. Erik follows.

ERIK  
(with a subtle disdain)  
Sleep soundly, Queen Margaret.

A quiet Margaret rolls over and goes to sleep.

EXT. SHIP - NIGHT

Erik and Dover talk on a quiet ship. POV at a distance so  
they just MUMBLE/LAUGH.

INT. SHIP - MORNING

Harald nudges Margaret.

HARALD  
Highness, are you alright?

Gustav comes in. They uncover her. She's dead.

GUSTAV  
The Queen is dead!?

HARALD  
Oh my God!

The Admiral rushes out on deck.

EXT. SHIP - CONTINUOUS

On deck, Admiral Harald first whispers to Dover then shakes his head. Dover's eyes dart left. He yells to the Sailors.

DOVER  
ALL HANDS ON DECK.

Sailors yell around the ships, 'all hands on deck.'

HARALD  
YOUR REGENT, QUEEN MARGARET IS  
DEAD.

Sailors HUSHED MURMURS. They all cross themselves. *FLENSBORG*  
SAILOR 1 yells out.

FLENSBORG SAILOR 1  
LONG LIVE KING ERIK!

SAILORS  
LONG LIVE KING ERIK!

Erik stretches his arms above his head as the sailors chant his name. Dover stands close by.

SAILORS (CONT'D)  
LONG LIVE KING ERIK. LONG LIVE KING  
ERIK.

INT. DANISH CASTLE - DAY

SUPER: Roskilde, Denmark 1420

Erik sits with ERIK ADVISOR 1 and ERIK ADVISOR 2.

ERIK ADVISOR 1  
Erik, the armistice with the Count  
of Holstein has not become peace.  
We're back at war for Slesvig.

ERIK ADVISOR 2  
Highness, the Bailiffs are more out  
of control than usual because they  
don't have Margaret to answer to.

ERIK  
Margaret is dead.

ERIK ADVISOR 1  
I recommend you go to Sweden. Stop  
any taking of lands for the crown,  
for the war. You can do that there.

(MORE)

ERIK ADVISOR 1 (CONT'D)  
We don't want Sweden as another  
problem. You can listen to some  
peasants and they will love you.

ERIK  
(resigned and unenthused)  
Ok, let's go.

INT. SWEDISH CASTLE - DAY

SUPER: Stockholm, Sweden 1420

Erik speaks before the Swedish Council of Nobles which  
includes ERIK SWEDISH NOBLE 1, ERIK SWEDISH NOBLE 2 and Erik  
PUK (50) a stern man for what is right.

ERIK SWEDISH NOBLE 1  
The seizure of lands must stop!

ERIK  
The seizure of lands has stopped. I  
want to restore some of the lands  
for the benefit of Sweden and for  
the relief of taxation.

Everyone nods their heads.

PUK  
Your Bailiffs are brutal when  
collecting taxes. Can you better  
redress grievances.

ERIK  
That's the Bailiff's job, to  
collect taxes. Nobody likes it.

ERIK SWEDISH NOBLE 1  
Will you make more frequent visits  
to Sweden to confer with us and to  
hear grievances by the citizens?

ERIK  
Yes, Philippa or I will make  
frequent visits. I shall appoint  
Archbishop Trolle to Uppsala.

The Nobles look distressed.

ERIK SWEDISH NOBLE 2  
A Danish archbishop?

INT. DANISH CASTLE - DAY

SUPER: Roskilde, Denmark

Erik, in the war room, talks with ERIK GENERAL 1 and ERIK GENERAL 2, and ERIK DANISH NOBLE 1.

ERIK

Can we rid ourselves of that Count of *Holstein*? The man loves war. Two can play that game. Let's go after the main city, *Gotlieb*. (Got-leeb)

ERIK GENERAL 1

This will be an expensive war. We need supplies and personnel for a long campaign to beat the Count.

ERIK

We have Baltic Union resources. I decree that the taxes change from payment-in-kind to payment-in-cash.

Everyone looks stunned.

ERIK GENERAL 2

Sire, there are not enough coins in circulation to do that.

ERIK

Then we will mint more! I want to change the capital from Roskilde to Copenhagen.

ERIK DANISH NOBLE 1

Your Highness, that will all be costly.

ERIK

I want the Danish capital to have easy access to the sea. Roskilde is a hard to navigate backwater. Well, get to it!

INT. SWEDISH CHURCH - DAY

Super: Archbishop Troll

A confessional, ARCHBISHOP TROLLE takes confessions. The CONFESSOR (18) woman, wears a nice dress.

CONFESSOR 1

Forgive me father for I have sinned.

TROLLE

Yes, my child?

CONFESSOR 1

I touched myself in such a way as to bring me pleasure.

TROLLE

Your body belongs to God, and not to you. It is a cardinal sin my daughter. Penitence is searing.

EXT. SWEDISH CHURCH YARD - DAY

Confessor held in a device to expose a breast. Executioner sears her breast. SCREAMS. Trolle crosses himself and her.

TROLLE

Your sins are forgiven, go and sin no more.

EXT. DANISH COASTLINE - DAY

SUPER: Helsingør, Denmark 1425

Erik, Dover and advisors on horseback stand outside *Helsingør* (ell-sing-urr [deep r]) and look over the Strait.

ERIK

I'll raise revenue by charging a tax on every ship passing through the strait at *Helsingør*.

Erik's entourage is shocked.

ERIK ADVISOR 1

Kings of Denmark have always had the power to charge the Sound Tax but no King has done this before.

ERIK

We need more money for the war in *Slesvig*. We can raise more taxes with Danish Bailiffs in Sweden.

I'm going to send *Jute* (yoot) to the north of Sweden. He'll extract the taxes we need.

(MORE)

ERIK (CONT'D)

I'll send Philippa. Let them all  
whine to her.

Erik laughs maniacally. They all ride off.

EXT. SWEDISH VILLAGE - DAY

SUPER: Dalarna County, Sweden 1427

Start with close of *Jute's* necklace's royal seal. *Jute* stands and directs his soldiers. He lashes women in carts.

JUTE

Get that cow, take all belongings.  
If they resist burn the houses.

JUTE PEASANT 1 (18), a woman, resists the soldier.

JUTE PEASANT 1

No, not the cows.

JUTE

Look for hidden coins. Girl stop  
resisting or I'll have you hanged.

The girl continues to pull at the cow rope.

JUTE (CONT'D)

Take her. Smoke them to death!

Jute Peasant 1 hangs over a fire with four others. The peasants struggle, SCREAM AND MOAN. They get covered.

*ENGELBREKT Engelbrektsson* (40), (ain-gell [hard g]-brek-tsson)(INFJ Advocate-justice driven) a shorter man, muscled and ruggedly handsome, comes out of the mine. He pushes an ore cart. He sees the village burning and the commotion.

He runs down to the village, as he puts his shirt back on. He find the village in ruins with people killed and totally ransacked. JUTE PEASANT 2 (40), man, stands stunned.

ENGELBREKT

What happened here?

JUTE PEASANT 2

(haltingly)

The local bailiff, *Jute*, did this  
for taxes in the name of the Crown.

ENGELBREKT

This is merciless cruelty! To whom  
do the bailiffs answer?

JUTE PEASANT 2

I don't know, my Lord.

ENGELBREKT

I must talk to the Dalarna County  
Council of Nobles. This kind of  
treatment MUST STOP!

*Engelbrekt pumps his fist down, in the air.*

INT. DANISH CASTLE - DAY

SUPER: Copenhagen, Denmark 1428

Philippa (age) doesn't hold back her anger. Erik (age).

PHILIPPA

All those coins you minted are  
worth nothing. Swedish and Danish  
goods are too expensive in Germany  
and across Europe.

It is driving the merchants and  
peasants to desperation and  
starvation.

ERIK

That will take care of itself. Some  
starving peasants, what a price to  
pay for peace in the south.

PHILIPPA

Your Bailiffs are out of control  
and burn whole villages!

The Sound Tax has the Swedes up in  
arms because they consider  
themselves part of the Union.

ERIK

Philippa, the Bailiffs do their job  
to collect taxes. Nobody likes it.

PHILIPPA

They're killing peasants to extract  
your taxes! Margaret would never  
have allowed this.

ERIK  
Margaret is dead!

PHILIPPA  
I will not act as your deaf ears  
and your moot promises. I decided  
to follow Margaret's example and  
move into the Brigittine Cloister.

You have not even touched me since  
our marriage. I cannot produce an  
heir under those conditions. I  
might as well live in a convent!

Erik dismisses the comment with a flip of his wrist.

INT. SWEDISH CASTLE - DAY

An agitated *Engelbrekt* talks with the Dalarna Council of  
Nobles, ENGELBREKT NOBLE 1 and ENGELBREKT NOBLE 2, PUK.

ENGELBREKT  
You mean the entire Swedish  
government has broken down?

ENGELBREKT NOBLE 1  
Since Margaret's death, King Erik  
has not called a Day of the Realm.  
The posts of High Lord Constable  
and Chancellor are vacant.

ENGELBREKT NOBLE 2  
There is no judicial body over the  
Bailiffs except the King himself.

ENGELBREKT  
(boldly)  
Then we must take our grievances to  
the King! We must tell him how the  
people suffer under the Bailiffs  
and the inflation. Who is with me?

ENGELBREKT NOBLE 1  
You want to go to the King?

ENGELBREKT  
If you want things to change we  
must present our grievances to the  
King! Who is with me?!

PUK  
I am with you, Engelbrekt. I see  
the people suffer.

(MORE)

PUK (CONT'D)

There must be relief.

I see this as foreign domination,  
no different from the Germans,  
except it's Union domination.

This is not how to treat an equal  
partner.

Other Nobles CHIME IN and start to strategize.

EXT. BATTLE FIELD - DAY

SUPER: Gotlieb, Holstein 1430

MONTAGE

- Erik, at the front leads his army.
- Erik's army blockades the city.
- Erik's army assemble siege ladders of wood with wheels.
- Erik with Dover, both in upper body armor, and four other soldiers push the siege ladders to the wall of the city. An arrow hits DANISH SOLDIER 1 in the shoulder. '*Lort!*'
- As he pulls the arrow out then as he throws the arrow down, '*Søren*' (sur-en)! He starts to push the siege ladder.
- Erik and Dover ascend the ladder with swords. The siege ladders have slots in the sides so the soldiers can fire arrows at the top of the other siege ladder on both sides.
- The siege ladder's draw gate has a lever to open. Erik bursts through. He swings his sword.
- Erik, with Dover by his side, fight their way back to the city gate and open it.
- Erik's men flood through the open gate.
- Erik and Dover walk through the rubble of the city.

DOVER

Now we've captured *Gotlieb*. What's  
our next move?

ERIK

I'll regroup my forces. I'll push  
southward to the border of Hamburg  
itself!

(MORE)

ERIK (CONT'D)  
All of *Holstein* will be liberated.

Then we can finally be rid of that  
Count of *Holstein*.

INT. THRONE ROOM - DAY

SUPER: Copenhagen, Denmark 1433

Engelbrekt, Erik Puk with entourage stand before King Erik.

ENGELBREKT  
(boldly)  
I am Engelbrekt Engelbrektsson. I  
come before the King to lay down  
grievances from the county of  
Dalarna, Sweden.

Engelbrekt tries to hand papers to Erik who waves it away and  
is taken by the Advisor.

ENGELBREKT (CONT'D)  
I was a witness of misdeeds by the  
Bailiffs.

Your Bailiffs kill Swedish citizens  
and burn whole villages to extract  
your taxes.

ERIK  
(To Puk)  
Are you with him on this?

PUK  
(demure)  
There is great suffering in the  
land. The Bailiffs are very cruel.

ERIK  
The Bailiffs are there to collect  
taxes. Listen, nobody likes it. So  
long as the Crown receives the  
taxes, what's the problem?

ENGELBREKT  
The Swedish people are destitute  
and starving! The citizens are  
treated with great cruelty by your  
Bailiffs.

ERIK  
Oh, a few disgruntled peasants.

(MORE)

ERIK (CONT'D)

This is the price for peace in the south. Take it up with the Swedish Council of Nobles.

Erik turns to Erik General 1.

ERIK (CONT'D)

How are our garrisons in the south? What supplies do they need?

ENGELBREKT

That's it? Your Bailiffs kill Swedish citizens!

ERIK

Yes, that is all, you are dismissed.

ENGELBREKT

After 3 days journey and you do nothing. You have not looked at our evidence, nor engaged us in a discussion of the grievances.

ERIK

Ok. So what? I said you are dismissed! I have more important matters to attend to.

Erik waves his hand of dismissal. Erik turns toward his General. Engelbrekt and the Nobles look at each other. An angry Engelbrekt storms out of the room, followed by others. Erik turns to watch them leave.

INT. HOUSE - DAY

SUPER: Engelbrekt's house, Sweden.

Engelbrekt sits at a table surrounded by men, including OLE (oh-lay)(40) big, bearded, peasant and ENGELBREKT PEASANT 2.

ENGELBREKT

The mission to the King was a failure! Erik won't take action except to have the Council of Nobles look into the problem.

Nothing has changed! Erik is a callous fool. Send out messengers. The mission was a failure. We must have a general meeting.

OLE

If the Council of Nobles and the King won't take up our grievances, what do we do?

ENGELBREKT

We must turn to ourselves! We must drive the Union Bailiffs out of Dalarna and out of Sweden!

OLE

Do you mean fight against the King's army?

ENGELBREKT

Not just fight, but win! We must work together. This war will liberate Sweden from Union domination.

Farmers, bring your harvests, miners and foundry workers bring your tools.

ENGELBREKT PEASANT 2

I would rather risk my life to stop Union rule than to live under the cruel Danish Bailiffs and those evil Danish Archbishops.

PEASANTS YELL OUT

Let's storm *Jute's* house and kill him! Get *Jute*. Let's do it tonight!

ENGELBREKT

Let's do it tonight, we have most able bodied man here.

We are armed with pitchforks, axes and hammers. Let's drive the Union out of Sweden!

PEASANTS YELL OUT

*Ja!* (Ya) We'll go *berserk!* (burr-zerk)(Viking fighting style) I'll kill *Jute* myself.

EXT. JUTE'S HOUSE - NIGHT - MOON LIGHT

Engelbrekt and 25 men approach quietly and without torches. There are two guards. Engelbrekt's troops hide in the woods. With a BIRDCALL, the 25 rush the guards to enter the house.

Engelbrekt and the peasants comb the house. They find *Jute*, overwhelm him, push him over a table and cut off his head.

The head rolls across the floor. Engelbrekt grabs the bloody royal necklace off the floor and holds it high.

CHEERS AND YELLS by the peasants.

ENGELBREKT

Men, men. This is but our first victory. The Swedish people will be behind us to help liberate Sweden.

Agriculture and industry must work together, which will give us the ability to move through Sweden all the way to the Union border.

MONTAGE

- Peasant scythes a wheat field.
- Kneading dough.
- Loaves come from the oven.
- Miners, shirtless, use picks and shovels; stop work, turn and walk out with their tools and shirts.
- Foundry workers, shirtless with aprons pour tools.
- Bailiffs' houses stormed time and again. Bailiffs flee.
- The montage overlays a map of Sweden; arrows point south, overlay 3 calendar pages, April, May, June. 1434

EXT. DANISH COUNTRYSIDE - DAY

SUPER: Helsingør, Denmark

Erik rides with his advisors on horseback. They ride up to a castle on the sea coast under construction.

ERIK

What's happening in Sweden?

DOVER

It's a peasant revolt which has taken Sweden by storm.

ERIK

My troops are all in *Holstein* ready to push to Hamburg. It would be a major effort to get men to Sweden.

DOVER

This *Engelbrekt Engelbrektsson* is poised ready to invade the islands.

Maybe you could stall things by going to Stockholm yourself and try to split his friends and foes.

ERIK ADVISOR 1

Given your position in *Holstein*, perhaps you could call an armistice, freeing up men.

DOVER

I think that is a bad idea. You don't want to lose your position in *Holstein*, not now.

INT. SWEDISH COUNCIL CHAMBER - DAY

SUPER: Sweden, Council of Nobles

Erik sits with the Swedish Council of Nobles.

ERIK SWEDISH NOBLE 1

I'm in awe. *Engelbrekt's* rapid movement into the Union is amazing.

ERIK

Aren't you afraid you may be swept up in the tide? Maybe the Bailiffs were a little cruel and the economy lies in ruin.

These can correct themselves because I will make regular visits. I'll call a Day of the Realm. You can fill those vacancies.

PUK

Some of the Nobles support Engelbrekt, I for one. You have been too lax dealing with Sweden.

You have not kept the Bailiffs in control like Margaret used to do.

ERIK

(cold and calculating)

Margaret is DEAD! We can form a tribunal of Swedes, Danes and Norwegians to arbitrate between the citizens and the Crown.

This tribunal would have the power to redress any illegalities.

Erik laughs sinisterly.

ERIK SWEDISH NOBLE 1

That sounds like a good start to me. Let's meet in *Vadstena* (Vath [soft -th] sten-a) to workout the details.

PUK

I can support the effort if Engelbrekt is kept up to date.

EXT. SWEDEN COUNTRYSIDE - DAY

SUPER: Dalarna County, Sweden

Engelbrekt jumps on a horse and rides into the forest. He stops by a river, gets the proposal, and something to eat.

He looks through the papers. BIRDS SING, THE RIVER RUNS. Engelbrekt looks perplexed.

ENGELBREKT

This arbitration between the King and the citizens is preposterous.

This proposal renders the King's position a foregone conclusion. How does this serve justice?

He packs up his lunch, gets on the horse and rides away.

INT. ENGELBREKT'S HOUSE - DAY

Engelbrekt sits at a table surrounded by men.

ENGELBREKT

This arbitration is bull shit! It would render the King's decision a foregone conclusion.

(MORE)

ENGELBREKT (CONT'D)

This is an absolute insult to everything we have worked for. The Council supports this garbage?

OLE

What do we do now?

ENGELBREKT

We must go to *Vadstena*, to the Council meeting with our rag-tag army to show them we want to secede from the Union.

INT. VADSTENA CASTLE - NIGHT

SUPER: Vadstena, Sweden 1435

A staircase descends into the castle's great hall.

PUK

This proposal is fraud on its face.

SWEDISH NOBLE 3

Maybe we can modify it in some way. This is a good first start.

PUK

This is bad faith! The King is not interested in justice but in exacting his will.

SWEDISH NOBLE 4

Certainly, having a tribunal in place will provide an outlet for grievances.

PUK

I don't trust that King Erik.

SOUNDS OF MEN APPROACH FROM OUTSIDE. Engelbrekt bursts through the door on the top of the staircase. The nobles include VADSTENA NOBLE 1, and VADSTENA NOBLE 2.

MUSIC: Original

ENGELBREKT

I am Engelbrekt Engelbrektsson.

Engelbrekt descends the stairs as he sings. He stops 3-4 steps above the floor. Hands Puk the petition.

I'm here to impress upon you the reason, the Swedish Council of Nobles should commit a form of treason,

by Union and King Erik denunciation, and the demand for a separation, for Sweden as an independent nation.

Engelbrekt's men YELL AND CHANT.

VADSTENA NOBLE 1

You cannot make us denounce the King.

VADSTENA NOBLE 2

I, for one, want the Union thing.

ENGELBREKT

Why don't you explain your position to my troops, who have driven the Union out in broad swoops.

We brought the King to the bargaining table. This is no mere fable.

PUK

I believe the King's arbitration, is a slap on the face of all Sweden.

I will denounce the King, and demand separation from the Union thing. I'm with you Engelbrekt.

ENGELBREKT

Thank you Erik.

PUK

It's the right thing.

ENGELBREKT

Who else will denounce the King?

Those who don't can explain it to my men, and answer them, why they fight to liberate Sweden.

CHEERS from Engelbrekt's men. Some Nobles appear stunned and look at each other.

PUK  
Where do I sign?

NOBLES  
(enthusiastically)  
I'll sign, too. Where do I sign?

The other nobles look at each other like: What are we to do?  
They reluctantly sign the document, too.

VADSTENA NOBLE 1  
I'm signing reluctantly let the  
Union be.

ENGELBREKT  
Sweden must be free.

The Nobles sign.

MUSIC: Ends

INT. ENGELBREKT'S HOUSE - DAY

PUK  
We need to decide what we want the  
Swedish government to look like  
when we separate from the Union.

ENGELBREKT  
It's been the people of Sweden, the  
peasants and the merchants who have  
driven the Union out of Sweden.

They must have a direct voice in  
decisions which effect them.

PUK  
Perhaps we could expand the Council  
of Nobles to include merchants, but  
peasants?

ENGELBREKT  
Then the Council of Nobles will  
again be electing the King of  
Sweden. There must be another way.

EXT. SWEDISH COUNTRYSIDE - DAY

Engelbrekt alone, gets on his horse and rides into the forest  
to a river. BIRDS CHIRP AND WATER RUNS.

ENGELBREKT

What are the classes of citizen?  
The Nobles, Clergy, Merchants and  
Peasants, each need a voice.

Engelbrekt gets off his horse, ties horse. He walks around to look for stones. He places four round flat stones of equal size next to each other in a square.

ENGELBREKT (CONT'D)

What if we formed a council of the  
four classes each with an equal  
vote for King and in all  
legislative matters?

Then he places an equal sized stone on top of the square.

ENGELBREKT (CONT'D)

The King would be elected and  
required to take a sacred oath to  
uphold the laws decided by the 4  
house assembly.

We'll call it *Riksdag* (rick's-day)  
(Citizen's Day) for the purpose of  
discussing and voting on matters.

He sits back, thinks and looks at the stones. He gets up and jumps onto his horse and rides away. POV sees the five stones close with Engelbrekt in the background.

INT. ENGELBREKT'S HOUSE - DAY

Engelbrekt sits with his advisors, Ole and Puk.

ENGELBREKT

Erik, we need to bring this idea  
for a *Riksdag* to the four houses.

We must call a meeting of all the  
houses: Nobles, Clergy, Merchants  
and Peasants.

We'll call the first *Riksdag* in 3  
months.

PUK

The Icelanders have used something  
like *Riksdag* for years and it seems  
to work for them.

OLE

Icelanders are few in number. Can it work for all Sweden?

ENGELBREKT

We won't know until we all try, together.

PUK

This is a radical idea! Everyone will think it's a great idea. It supports our traditions of electing our King.

It also gives all the people a voice in how they are governed. This is genius!

ENGELBREKT

How do you think the nobles will take it?

PUK

They will be opposed at first but when they realize this represents a real way to maintain order, they will come around.

Besides, other nobles and I are behind you on this. We can be your allies; your eyes, ears and mouths on the Council.

ENGELBREKT

We have a lot of letters and proposals to go out.

MONTAGE

Puk, Ole and Engelbrekt write day and night, seal with wax.

- The letters are given to a horseman.
- Nobles receive a letter.
- Clergy receive a letter.
- Merchants receive a letter.
- Peasants receive a letter.

INT. DANISH CASTLE - DAY

SUPER: Copenhagen, Denmark 1435

Erik sits on the throne, with crown, with Dover and Erik's Advisors.

ERIK ADVISOR 1

In Sweden, they have called a Day of the Realm to organize a democratic kingdom.

The *Riksdag* elects the king, not the Council.

DOVER

That's pathetic to have peasants on the Council. What do you think the Council will get out of them?

ERIK ADVISOR 1

Like it or not they're doing it.

ERIK

Only I can call a Day of the Realm! They'd have a meeting without effect.

ERIC ADVISOR 1

It'll have an effect! The Swedes will create the *Riksdag* and elect a regent and king.

I expect them to secede. Then it's Denmark and Norway versus the Count of *Holstein*.

DOVER

You have to do something. Call a Day of the Realm yourself, go to Sweden and really make an attempt to justly deal with grievances.

Like Margaret would have done.

ERIK

MARGARET IS DEAD! I choose to do nothing! They can't do anything without my consent!

The Advisors look very mad and frustrated.

INT. SWEDISH CASTLE - NIGHT

SUPER: Arboga, Sweden January 1436

Everyone meets to set up the new government.

Nobles meet in a castle room with fireplaces. The Nobles mill around. Some see old friends, or speak in small groups.

All four classes are represented. The dress is varied from elegant to practical and ecumenical (church garments).

ENGELBREKT CLERGY 1, ENGELBREKT CLERGY 2 and ENGELBREKT CLERGY 3 stand in a group.

MUSIC: Original

ENGELBREKT CLERGY 1

The church having one fourth the vote, very generous we all should note.

ENGELBREKT CLERGY 2

But fair. We could add God's mercies to the forefront, to vote on civil laws and elect a Regent.

ENGELBREKT CLERGY 3

How do we organize our vote?

ENGELBREKT CLERGY 1

On national issues the Archbishop takes note. Greater issues we confer with the Pope.

ENGELBREKT MERCHANT 1, ENGELBREKT MERCHANT 2, and ENGELBREKT MERCHANT 3 stand together.

ENGELBREKT MERCHANT 1

This *Riksdag* idea is great for us merchants.

ENGELBREKT MERCHANT 2

With one fourth the vote we'll prevent any tyrants.

ENGELBREKT MERCHANT 3

This is a revolutionary concept, I hope it takes hold. Having merchants govern Sweden sounds very bold.

Ole, Engelbrekt Peasant 2 and ENGELBREKT PEASANT 3 stand together.

OLE

That Engelbrekt he's a miracle worker, to bring us together in the middle of Winter.

ENGELBREKT PEASANT 2

It's amazing peasants are meant, to have a say in our own government.

ENGELBREKT PEASANT 3

I hope they like the idea. I'm very excited.

OLE

The peasants and merchants are very delighted. When we drove the Union out of Sweden united. With Engelbrekt's help our spirits ignited.

Puk, Engelbrekt Noble 1 and Engelbrekt Noble 2 stand together.

PUK

I helped craft the concept of the four houses, in light of the sacrifice and values it espouses.

I think of this concept as the most fair. It's revolutionary!  
Governance we all share.

ENGELBREKT NOBLE 1

It cuts the nobility's power from full vote to a quarter. How good is this deal? I won't be a martyr.

ENGELBREKT NOBLE 2

How again do we make out in this barter?

PUK

*Riksdag* is stabilizing, which makes it a good thing. Allows orderly conduct of commerce, and transfer of government, a common curse.

It provides a means of grievance and redress, not just for the Nobles but for everyone else.

ENGELBREKT NOBLE 1

All those peasants in *Riksdag* a good thing?

PUK

Engelbrekt wants a democratically elected *Riksdag* and King. I support him on all that, and will work with him to make it a fact.

ENGELBREKT NOBLE 2

I still would have preferred the Union. With popular pressures I'm under no delusion.

Engelbrekt enters the room among CLAPS and CHEERS.

ENGELBREKT

Gentlemen, we are here tonight to choose a new Swedish government, one for all Swedes; noble, merchant, clergy and peasant.

We each must swear a duty to uphold the law, and work jointly between us all.

We must swear to go with majority vote. To that ideal we must all take an oath.

The different classes yell out.

AUDIENCE

I swear. Me, too. I'll swear.

ENGELBREKT

We need to get down to business and get vacancies filled, and make declarations that the *Riksdag* has willed.

Break with the Union and govern ourselves until, Sweden is filled with democratic goodwill!

CHEERS.

Time passes. Engelbrekt stands at a table in front of a hall.

PUK

After much debate and by unanimous consent. Karl *Knutsson* (Ka-noots-son) and Engelbrekt are elected Co-Regent.

(MORE)

PUK (CONT'D)

We've filled all administrative vacancies, and a break from the Union we voted unanimously.

ENGELBREKT PEASANT 3

Now our proclamations are through, what with them are we to do?

ENGELBREKT

Today we toast Sweden and our progeny. We embarked on a journey of democracy.

Today we live free without Union intrusion. With the King there will be no collusion.

What we create today for all to see, is Sweden's and the world's destiny!

Engelbrekt raises his glass.

ALL

*Skoal!*

MUSIC: Ends

INT. DANISH CASTLE - DAY

SUPER: Copenhagen, Denmark

Erik and his advisors stand together in the great hall.

ERIK ADVISOR 1

Highness, Sweden has organized a form of self-government, *Riksdag*.

They've elected Co-Regents, Karl *Knutsson* and that *Engelbrekt Engelbrektsson*.

DOVER

He's been stirring up all kinds of problems for us.

ERIK ADVISOR 2

Most of the Swedish nobles are still for the Union. I think you can count on their support.

Karl *Knutsson* was the nominee of the Nobles.

ERIK ADVISOR 1

The Swedish Council of Nobles has put forward their own proposal.

They propose to be the only nominating body for King. They want the Swedish castles for Swedish citizens, no foreign Bailiffs.

ERIK ADVISOR 2

The Council of Nobles wants to be the functioning government in Sweden.

They want the Union King to retain only outward signs of dignity, but no real power.

ERIK

I don't like any of those options. I am King of Sweden, its governance shall be at my discretion.

ERIK ADVISOR 1

What are you going to do?

ERIK

We don't need to start negotiations for the Union again. The Council of Nobles must answer to **me**.

ERIK ADVISOR 2

What about this *Riksdag* and that *Engelbrekt Engelbrektsson*?

DOVER

I'm sure he has enemies. Enemies he doesn't know.

INT. ENGELBREKT'S HOUSE - DAY

Engelbrekt sits around a table with his advisors.

ENGELBREKT

We haven't heard anything from the King. It's been two months.

PUK

I'm not surprised the King hasn't responded. (pause)

(MORE)

PUK (CONT'D)

The Nobles want me to invite you to a feast in your honor, in *Orebro* (*oh-ray-bro*).

ENGELBREKT

That's great! I would get to meet and know more Nobles. Please tell them I'd love to attend.

MUSIC: Suspense

INT. SWEDISH CASTLE - NIGHT

SUPER: Orebro, Sweden 1436

The Nobles gather for Engelbrekt's feast. Engelbrekt's entourage enters. CLAPS. Puk introduces Nobles to Engelbrekt. The entourage stays together and quiet. Ole stays close, whispers in Engelbrekt's ear.

OLE

Be careful what you eat and drink.

They all eat and drink. One noble, HANDSOME NOBLE (who has a name but goes unused) and Engelbrekt make eye contact. The Handsome Noble comes over to talk with Engelbrekt.

HANDSOME NOBLE

I pictured you as taller. But you are much stockier.

ENGELBREKT

I own a mine. It is good to be strong and short.

HANDSOME NOBLE

Well, I sure like what I see.

ENGELBREKT

You're a handsome one yourself.

MONTAGE: MUTED WITH ORIGINAL MUSIC

- Handsome Noble takes a big drink of beer. Laughs out loud.
- Engelbrekt laughs out loud. He's drunk.
- Pan feast for other celebrants. Engelbrekt's men solemn.
- Engelbrekt tears off some bread, dips it into a bowl.
- Ole stands at a distance and watches Engelbrekt eat.

– Engelbrekt and Handsome Noble touch each other playfully.

HANDSOME NOBLE  
Let's find a place more private.

The two get up and move outside. Ole follows at a distance.

MUSIC: Suspense

EXT. CASTLE GROUNDS - CONTINUOUS

The Handsome Noble and Engelbrekt come outside. They walk the shore of a long lake with an island just off shore.

They stroll side by side. Handsome Noble pushes Engelbrekt in a playful way. They come to a boat. Ole watches.

HANDSOME NOBLE  
Let's go out to that island. We'll  
have lots of privacy.

ENGELBREKT  
All right.

They set the boat afloat and each takes an oar. They get to the island. On the island they embrace and kiss passionately.

They begin to touch each others chests then crotches. As they kiss, the Noble stabs Engelbrekt in the heart from below.

HANDSOME NOBLE  
This is for the Union!

Ole on shore, hears Engelbrekt MOAN.

OLE  
(whisper)  
*Engelbrekt cums so loud.*

Handsome Noble backs away as Engelbrekt's body slumps down. Handsome Noble, covered in blood, hurriedly gets in the boat and rows back. Ole sees this and thus puzzled. He runs over to the Noble as he lands ashore.

OLE (CONT'D)  
WHERE IS *ENGELBREKT*?

Ole sees the Noble covered in blood. He shakes the Noble.

OLE (CONT'D)  
WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO *ENGELBREKT*?  
WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO *ENGELBREKT*?

Handsome Noble is stunned.

HANDSOME NOBLE

He's on the island, I had to defend myself.

OLE

DO YOU MEAN YOU KILLED HIM?

Ole hands Handsome Noble over to the others to keep. Ole runs through the water to the island. He looks around and finds Engelbrekt's body slumped and lifeless.

OLE (CONT'D)

*ENGELBREKT! ENGELBREKT!*

NO! *ENGELBREKT*, NO!

(softly) What are we going to do without you?

He embraces Engelbrekt... Shouts, cries.

OLE (CONT'D)

*ENGELBREKT IS DEAD!* (Cries and in resignation) *Engelbrekt is dead.*

By this time a crowd has gathered. Everyone is in shock. Erik Puk grabs the Noble. Several of Engelbrekt's men pull swords.

PUK

You fool. Why did you kill Engelbrekt, why, why?

You fool, do you want to start a civil war in Sweden. That is just what may happen.

Puk regains his composure.

CROWD

Kill him, kill him.

PUK

No, we must follow the laws and have this Noble arrested and dealt with by the newly elected Marshall.

It would be just as wrong to met out mob justice. Put him in the dungeon in shackles.

Ole lifts the lifeless body and carries the body across through the water.

OLE

Let's take his body to the *Orebro* church and hold vigil until we can bury him tomorrow.

Engelbrekt's entourage carries the body to the church followed by the Nobles. They sing the Song of Saint George. OREBRO NOBLE 1 and OREBRO NOBLE 2 walk side by side while the others sing.

OREBRO NOBLE 1

With *Engelbrekt's* death...

OREBRO NOBLE 2

We can reestablish the Union.

Sinister laughs.

INT. DANISH CASTLE - DAY

Erik sits in the throne room, with his 2 Advisors and Dover.

ERIK

*Engelbrekt* met his match.

ERIK ADVISOR 1

*Engelbrekt* is dead, but that doesn't mean there'll be peace. This murder could erupt into a civil war.

ERIK ADVISOR 2

The Nobles of Norway disapprove of your governance and are in revolt. That's unlike the Norwegians.

ERIK ADVISOR 1

The Count of *Holstein* has retaken *Slesvig*.

ERIK ADVISOR 2

The loss of tax revenue from Sweden and the revolt in Norway has made you impotent! No one takes you seriously.

Even the Danish nobles are threatening revolt.

ERIK

I'll do as I please.

The advisors shake their heads.

INT. DANISH CASTLE - DAY

SUPER: Copenhagen, Denmark 1437

Erik Danish Nobles 1, 2, 3 sit at a table with beers.

ERIK DANISH NOBLE 1  
Erik's a meanspirited, ignorant  
fool.

ERIK DANISH NOBLE 2  
What are we going to do about him?

ERIK DANISH NOBLE 3  
We are going to have to govern  
ourselves. Erik is incapable.

ERIK DANISH NOBLE 1  
We must make the Union King a title  
of dignity without any real power.  
It's the only way we can continue  
to let Erik reign.

ERIK DANISH NOBLE 3  
Must we let him continue to reign?

ERIK DANISH NOBLE 2  
What are you suggesting?

ERIK DANISH NOBLE 3  
Dethrone him. He was elected to the  
throne, he can be elected out.

ERIK DANISH NOBLE 2  
Alright, the Council must take on  
the task to dethrone him. That's  
how we'll get rid of him.

INT. DANISH CASTLE - DAY

Erik stands in front of the throne with his advisors.

ERIK  
I am not giving any powers of the  
Crown to the Council of Nobles.

ERIK ADVISOR 1  
King Erik, let the Nobles have some  
of the administrative duties. It  
will free your time and let them  
get more involved in governance.

ERIK

I will not!

ERIK ADVISOR 2

You risk dethroning by the Danish Nobles.

ERIK

It would take the Council of Nobles from Denmark, Sweden and Norway to dethrone me.

ERIK ADVISOR 1

As of this moment, the Swedes have withdrawn from the Union, the nobles of Denmark and Norway have had it with your governance.

I don't think there would be any problem to get the votes from the Councils for your dethroning.

Erik takes his crown and throws it across the room.

ERIK

I'm sick of being King! Maybe my cousin, Christopher, could run things better. Let him try!

Erik storms out of the throne room.

ERIK ADVISOR 1

Has he abdicated?

ERIK ADVISOR 2

I'm not sure.

ERIK ADVISOR 1

It doesn't matter. He'll be dethroned by the three Kingdoms.

ERIK ADVISOR 2

The Swedish Council of Nobles will be with us to make the dethroning official.

ERIK ADVISOR 1

The Swedish Council of Nobles wants a Union, despite Erik and his mistakes, misdeeds and maliciousness.

ERIK ADVISOR 2

But the *Riksdag* alone has the power to elect a new King and Regent.

ERIK ADVISOR 1

That *Riksdag* idea, and the idea of a democratically elected peasant party?

The men start laughing out loud.

ERIK ADVISOR 1 (CONT'D)

That idea has died with *Engelbrekt*. It will be back to politics as usual with a Union King.

The Council of Nobles elect the King. Just like it's always been.

INT. BED CHAMBER - NIGHT

Erik readies himself for bed. He gets into bed, snuggles with Dover and goes to sleep. Dover sleeps beside him.

EXT. FLENSBURG DOCKS - DAY - DREAM

FLENSBURG SAILORS

(slow, muffled)

LONG LIVE KING ERIK. LONG LIVE KING ERIK

INT. FLAGSHIP AFTCASTLE - NIGHT - DREAM

Erik watches as Queen Margaret stumbles to bed.

ERIK

Sleep soundly, Queen Margaret.

INT. BLACK ROOM - NIGHT - DREAM

Erik kneels in front of Gustav (at age Queen Margaret died) who stands. Harsh light from below. Erik sobs then cries out.

ERIK

NO!

INT. BED CHAMBER - NIGHT

Erik sits up in bed, short of breath and sweats.

EXT. DOCKS - DAY

Erik walks up to the HARBOR MASTER.

HARBOR MASTER  
Highness, welcome to the docks.

ERIK  
Harbor Master, I want three ships including the flagship for a one month patrol.

Could you have them supplied with rations and men? The men should be the best and most handsome seamen.

I will command the fleet myself. I have personally picked the captains of the other two vessels.

HARBOR MASTER  
Yes, your Highness.

INT. DANISH CASTLE - NIGHT

Erik packs his things into a chest including 'booty' (candle sticks). Erik Advisor 1 walks in and Erik stops packing.

ERIK ADVISOR 1  
What are you doing?

ERIK  
What does it look like I'm doing?

ERIK ADVISOR 1  
It looks like you are packing to leave.

The Advisor sees the booty in the case.

ERIK ADVISOR 1 (CONT'D)  
For a long time.

ERIK  
Why don't you have someone who likes being pushed around then hated. Maybe my cousin could do a better job.

ERIK ADVISOR 1  
Are you abdicating then?

ERIK

No, I won't abdicate. You have to dethrone me. I'm still King.

ERIK ADVISOR 1

Your Highness, please be reasonable.

ERIK

NO!

EXT. DOCKS - DAY

Erik walks with the Harbor Master, Dover in uniform.

ERIK

Are my ships ready?

HARBOR MASTER

All the supplies will be aboard by tonight.

ERIK

I want a ship's surgeon on board.

HARBOR MASTER

Already among the crew, Highness. You will be ready to set off by daybreak.

ERIK

Thank you Harbor Master. I want everyone on board tonight, so we can set off without delay.

EXT. IN HARBOR / ON BOARD SHIP - NIGHT LIGHT WIND

The sleeping bags on the deck have two men to a bag. Erik stands on the aftcastle with Dover. ERIK SEAMAN 1 and ERIK SEAMAN 2 sleep in the same bag.

ERIK SEAMAN 1

Hey, mate, know where we're goin'?

ERIK SEAMAN 2

I think we set sail to visit the Hanseatic cities. I don't know. Have you noticed there are no high officials to accompany the King?

ERIK SEAMAN 2 (CONT'D)  
 Yes, I have noticed. I wonder why  
 that is?

The two men snuggle together, one kisses and caresses the  
 neck of his bag mate.

EXT. AFTCASTLE - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

DOVER  
 Where are we going, Erik.

ERIK  
 Dover.

Erik puts his hand on Dover's shoulder

ERIK (CONT'D)  
 We are going to *Visby* (vees-boo) on  
 the island of *Gotland* (got-land).

DOVER  
 But *Visby* is a den of pirates.

ERIK  
 I know.

EXT. BOAT DECK - DAY

The boats sail in the middle of the sea. The seamen work.  
 Erik stands on the aftcastle of the flagship with Dover.

ERIK  
 Call full stop and all hands on  
 deck.

DOVER  
 ALL STOP. ALL STOP.

The seamen stop what they do.

DOVER (CONT'D)  
 ALL HANDS ON DECK! ALL HANDS ON  
 DECK!

The seamen yell around the ship 'all hands on deck!' The  
 seamen come onto deck. Each yells 'Aye!'. The three ships  
 move closer.

ERIK  
 Thank you, Dover.

Erik shouts to the two other ships.

ERIK (CONT'D)  
WE ARE GOING TO BECOME, WE ARE  
GOING TO BECOME, PIRATES, PIRATES.

ALL  
Cheers. Erik, Erik.

Close on the two Seamen.

ERIK SEAMAN 1  
Did he say we were going to become  
pirates?

ERIK SEAMAN 2  
Yes, we are going to be pirates!

ERIK SEAMAN 1  
Erik! Erik!

INT. AFTCASTLE - NIGHT

Erik and his consorts sit around a table onboard ship.

ERIK  
First, we will put off, with  
passage, anyone who doesn't want to  
be a pirate with us.

I want to start our first capture  
of a Swedish ship as soon as  
possible.

DOVER  
We will have to see how many men we  
put off. We could sell a ship.

ERIK  
I'll engage Swedish ships at sea.  
I'll take their cargo and then head  
into *Visby*.

We can act as a decoy because these  
ships are men-of-war flying the  
Union flag.

Any man injured or loses the use of  
a limb will be compensated.

I as King and Capitan will receive  
the largest portion of the spoils.

DOVER  
We can make Rostock by tomorrow.

EXT. ROSTOCK HARBOR - DAY

SUPER: Rostock, Germany

Erik has an early beard, Dover a full beard. Erik carries some fur coats and Dover the candlesticks. A ROSTOCK MERCHANT joins the two.

ROSTOCK MERCHANT  
What brings the Union King to Rostock?

ERIK  
I've given up the Crown. I want to take up free booting.

The merchant is shocked.

ROSTOCK MERCHANT  
Well, you should do quite well with your ships. Your merchandise will always be welcomed in Rostock.

ERIK  
I plan to ply the waters around the island of *Gotland*, prey on Swedish merchant vessels.

ROSTOCK MERCHANT  
Now, don't take any of my ships. We fly the Hanseatic flag.

They laugh.

ERIK  
I've some items for trade right now if you don't mind.

ROSTOCK MERCHANT  
I'll look at what you have.

ERIK  
It's my first booty from the Danish Court; jewelry, and some very fashionable fur coats I can trade.

The men step into a store front.

INT. STORE - CONTINUOUS

They walk around a table. Erik pulls out a box from his coat. Inside lie three beautiful, jeweled necklaces. Queen Margaret wore one during Erik's coronation.

ERIK

They belonged to Queen Margaret but are of no sentimental value to me. Their value in gold is what I seek.

The merchant looks at them closely with an oil lamp with a slit in it. He looks through the stones.

ROSTOCK MERCHANT

I'll offer five-hundred Crowns each.

Erik is taken aback.

ERIK

These are worth at least four-thousand Crowns each.

ROSTOCK MERCHANT

You have to keep your merchants happy. Piracy proves a hard life. I still have to make a profit.

ERIK

Give me two-thousand Crowns each, five-thousand Crowns for all three. That should make you a tidy profit.

ROSTOCK MERCHANT

Two-thousand Crowns total.

ERIK

What?! No, five-thousand Crowns! That is half their worth. There are other merchants with whom I can trade.

Erik picks up the necklaces. Erik stands. Erik looks sternly into the merchant's eyes. Merchant nods.

ROSTOCK MERCHANT

OK, what about the fur coats?

Erik puts the necklaces back on the table.

EXT. SHIP - NIGHT

Erik and Dover come on board the flagship drunk.

MUSIC: Original

ERIK

Hey mates! I bought you all a cask of wine. It's yours my crew to have a good time.

Our first booty has been sold and then, one-thousand Crowns will be distributed among you men.

The men CHEER and look at each other, happily.

ERIK (CONT'D)

We'll travel the sea in search of plunder. We'll take Swedish ships asunder.

SAILORS

We're men who prefer the company of men. We could choose the clergy, the army or to be seamen.

The sweat we smell is that of our own, mixed with other bodies in tone.

ERIK

Our crew will cherish one another. We prefer men like a brother. In fact, my first mate Dover, has long been my lover.

He and I go back a long way, from a trip to *Flensburg* Bay.

SAILORS

The life of pirates is only for a few. We each have chosen this life brand new.

Our yearnings are for adventure, conquest and prizes. Each conquest is new and full of surprises.

ERIK

We take the plunder to my own warships. We cut their riggings or steal merchant ships.

DOVER

We'll take prisoners for ransom of gold, take their goods and have them sold.

ERIK

Visby is where we are to port. New people and places we have to cavort.

I am King Erik so what I say goes, let's all get inside and take off our clothes.

SAILORS

Tonight we are pirates, we heard the call. Live life to the fullest until we fall, and a good time will be had by all!

The men CHEER. Erik motions 'come here' to Dover. They go into the aft castle. The sailors make for the keg.

INT. AFTCASTLE - CONTINUOUS

Erik and Dover enter and close the door. Erik lunges at Dover, kisses him passionately.

ERIK

Tonight we're pirates!

They start to undress each other.

MUSIC: Ends

EXT. ROSTOCK HARBOR - DAY

Erik walks with Dover on the docks.

DOVER

That Swedish ship leaves bound for Stockholm today.

ERIK

Yes, I heard the same thing.

DOVER

They carry spices and silks from the Orient along with skins and ivory from Africa.

ERIK

Remember the gold and silver! The niece of a Great Noble in Sweden is on board and would be perfect for a little ransom.

DOVER

How shall we approach this?

ERIK

Let's leave port as they do. Their suspicions will not be aroused because we fly the Union flag.

The captain will think we're on patrol. Once we get to open sea we'll take her and board her.

TOGETHER

No prey, no pay.

MONTAGE

- The Swedish ship sails out.
- The pirate crew rigs the ship to sail.
- Erik's ships move out just after the Swedish ship.
- Erik's ships follow the Swedish merchant ship.

EXT. OPEN SEA - ON BOARD SHIP - DAY

Erik and his crew sail within view of the Swedish ship.

EXT. SWEDISH MERCHANT SHIP DECK - DAY

The CAPTAIN OF THE MERCHANT SHIP comments:

CAPTAIN OF MERCHANT SHIP

It will be nice to have a Union fleet sail with us to Stockholm.

It will dissuade pirates. They move toward us. I wonder what they want?

The 3 Pirate ships move together toward the merchant ship.

ERIK

Ahoy, I am Erik, King of Denmark,  
Sweden and Norway. I am  
confiscating your cargo.

The men of the pirate ships wait to jump aboard the merchant ship. Once near, the pirates throw ropes and swing over. Erik swings over effortlessly. The pirates hold the merchant ship's crew at sword point.

ERIK (CONT'D)

You are captain of this ship?

CAPTAIN OF MERCHANT SHIP

I'm the captain of this ship. The  
cargo is not mine. Be so friendly  
as to spare the ship and men.

ERIK

Then you will be happy to turn over  
all the gold and silver you carry.  
You also carry a passenger we want.

A pirate approaches with GIRL (16) over his shoulder.

GIRL

Unhand me! Let me go!

ERIK

You'll make a fine ransom, so  
pretty.

The girl spits on Erik. Erik steps back surprised.

GIRL

You pirate pig!

ERIK

Put her below, in shackles!

A sailor carries Girl across and onto the Union vessel. The sailors carry booty. The Captain escorts Erik into the aftcastle where they store the gold and silver.

The pirate sailors follow the Captain and Erik into the aftcastle. When they return, six pirates carry the gold on deck. Erik takes the Captain on top of the aftcastle.

ERIK (CONT'D)

ATTENTION! ATTENTION! Was your  
captain a good or an evil captain?

MERCHANT SAILOR 1 assembles with others.

MERCHANT SAILOR 1  
Our Captain is a good and kind  
captain.

MERCHANT SAILORS  
Ya, a good captain. Good captain.

ERIK  
Then I will spare this vessel and  
its crew.

Anyone wishing to join us, may do  
so. I'm certain you'll be cherished  
by the crew.

No one answers.

ERIK (CONT'D)  
So be it. You may set off after  
we've unloaded what we want.

MERCHANT SAILORS  
King Erik! Wait, I'll join. I'll  
join, too.

The two merchant seamen go to get their personal items,  
return quickly. The pirate sailors greet the merchant sailors  
warmly with pats on the butt, big smiles.

The pirate sailors continue to unload the cargo.

ERIK  
Let's take a look at our pretty  
little prize.

INT. ERIK'S SHIP'S HOLD - CONTINUOUS

Erik goes into the ship's brig. Girl sits in SHACKLES.

GIRL  
Let me go at once! I am the niece  
of the Great Noble *Jen* (yen)  
*Andersson* (anders-son).

ERIK  
A great Swedish Nobleman! Then your  
ransom is twenty-thousand Crowns.

GIRL  
Twenty-thousand Crowns?! You could  
at least treat me decently!

ERIK

If I act as a pirate pig, I would sell you to the slave trade after I whipped you for spitting on me.

I could give you to pleasure my crew, however most have sworn off women. But ransom will bring a much higher price.

Erik closes the door. Girl scream.

GIRL

DON'T LEAVE ME IN HERE!

INT. DANISH CHURCH - DAY

Erik Advisor 1 and Erik Danish Noble 1 whisper together in church. They sit next to their wives. Mass is in Latin.

ERIK ADVISOR 1

What are we going to do with Erik up and leaving like that?

ERIK DANISH NOBLE 1

We'll have to go to each Nations' Councils to dethrone him.

ERIK ADVISOR 1

I think dethroning Erik should be an easy process.

TOGETHER

(Matter-of-factly)

Yes.

OTHER PARISHIONERS

Shhh.

INT. SWEDISH RIKSDAG CHAMBERS - DAY

SUPER: Stockholm, Sweden

In the Swedish *Riksdag* chambers, all four groups sit separately (Nobles, Clergy, Merchants and Peasants).

OLE

Under this plan by the Nobles, the peasants would not have a voice.

(MORE)

OLE (CONT'D)

The peasant party wants a democratically elected King and to participate in law making.

ENGELBREKT NOBLE 1

The nobles are for the Union. The Council will elect the Union King who is King in title only.

The true Swedish administration will be the Regent, Karl Knutsson. I suppose *Riksdag* for Swedish laws.

OLE

Why exclude the peasants and merchants from electing a King if it's only a title?

The peasant party has the backing of the people. They adored Engelbrekt.

Crowd ROARS.

ENGELBREKT MERCHANT 1

We merchants agree with the peasant party on this issue.

Why exclude us from electing Sweden's King?

ENGELBREKT MERCHANT 2

You question the *Riksdag*? We want a democratically elected King to act as a King of Sweden, and make laws through *Riksdag*.

ENGELBREKT MERCHANT 1

We want to separate from the Union like we all agreed at the first *Riksdag*.

MERCHANTS/PEASANT

(Yell out)

Separate from the Union. Sweden wants its own King. A democratically elected King. Full *Riksdag*.

ENGELBREKT BISHOP 1

The clergy are for the Union because we believe all should be united under one Holy Church.

(MORE)

ENGELBREKT BISHOP 1 (CONT'D)  
 We see a Union as a good thing for  
 the Church.

Close up of Engelbrekt Bishop 1 saying to ENGELBREKT BISHOP 2

ENGELBREKT BISHOP 1 (CONT'D)  
 (whisper)  
 Along with the handsome gifts the  
 nobility sacrifice to the Church.

Engelbrekt Bishop 2 smiles.

ENGELBREKT BISHOP 2  
 Uh huh.

INT. DANISH CASTLE - DAY

SUPER: Copenhagen, Denmark 1439

Erik Danish Nobles 1, 2, 3 meet to discuss Erik's situation  
 in a kro.

ERIK DANISH NOBLE 1  
 We must dethrone him! I'll write up  
 the declaration.

ERIK DANISH NOBLE 2  
 We'll send it to the Norwegian and  
 Swedish Councils for their  
 approval.

ERIK DANISH NOBLE 1  
 Has anyone thought about his  
 successor?

ERIK DANISH NOBLE 2  
 We'll want someone who supports the  
 Nobility to maintain the Union.

ERIK DANISH NOBLE 3  
 By heredity, Erik's cousin,  
 Christopher of Bavaria is the  
 closest heir.

ERIK DANISH NOBLE 2  
 Not another foreign King? Can't  
 Denmark produce a King from within  
 her citizenry, or a Scandinavian?

They look at each other.

TOGETHER  
 Who?

INT. SWEDISH CASTLE - DAY

SUPER: Stockholm, Sweden 1440

Erik Puk and Karl Knutsson talk in a castle.

KNUTSSON

Now that *Engelbrekt* is dead, I am the sole Regent of Sweden.

PUK

The peasants and merchants want *Riksdag* which all parties agreed to at *Arboga, Engelbrekt's Riksdag*.

KNUTSSON

You are a Noble, do you really think peasants should make laws and elect the King?

PUK

I have kept the peasants from revolt, Karl, because of the murder of *Engelbrekt*.

If you intend to let the aristocracy rule and elect the King, the peasants will be furious.

I'll be livid. You have to come down on the side of a democratically elected King.

KNUTSSON

Peasants elect the King?

PUK

Don't be so smug. The Nobles don't like your intentions for the throne, one bit.

Moving ahead with the Union will pit your intentions for the Swedish throne against the Nobles desire for a Union King.

KNUTSSON

I'll deal with those issues as they arise.

PUK

I'll lead the peasants myself, unless they get *Riksdag* as promised.

KNUTSSON

You're so sure you want the peasants to elect the King?

PUK

Yes!

EXT. VISBY PORT - DAY

SUPER: Visby, Island of Gotland, Sweden 1440

Erik and a group of men walk the dock. They roll a cask on its tip. Erik stops a PASSERBY.

ERIK

Who is the Chieftain of *Visby*?

PASSERBY

That would be Forked Beard. You'll meet him soon if you're new. Here he comes now.

FORKED BEARD (50) a crotchety man surrounds himself with young muscular men armed with swords. He wears fine garments and gold. He has a forked beard.

FORKED BEARD

Just who might you be?

ERIK

I'm Erik, King of Denmark, Norway and Sweden, with 3 men-of-war.

Forked Beard and his men take a step back. The men draw their swords.

FORKED BEARD

(hesitantly)

What brings you to *Visby*? Are you going to blockade the port or sink our ships?

Erik laughs.

ERIK

No, no. We brought you a cask of mead as our gift. I've taken up freebooting, and would like to use *Visby* as my main port.

FORKED BEARD

Well then, you are welcome into the brotherhood of pirates. Bring your cask this way.

Forked Beard is dubious. Erik's men ROLL the cask on the dock. They stop under a sign: 'Forked Beard' with bas relief below Forked Beards nose, of his chin and forked beard.

INT. FORKED BEARD'S SHOP - CONTINUOUS

The keg rolls in and is set up.

Forked Beard fills pitchers and hands them off.

FORKED BEARD

Now, I expect these goblets back.  
Don't freeboot from Forked Beard.

All the men LAUGH. Forked Beard fills pitcher after pitcher.

FORKED BEARD (CONT'D)

First, our guests.

Forked Beard pours around.

FORKED BEARD (CONT'D)

To the life of freebooting!

All the men raise their glasses 'SKOAL' and drink. Erik chugs his and eagerly beckons more.

ERIK

I want to get drunk with you and get to know you.

FORKED BEARD

Before we do that, there is the matter of the docking privileges. There is a fifteen percent fee to the chieftain, me.

I take the tribute and use it to operate the docks and provide myself with the lifestyle I deserve.

ERIK

Do you mean fifteen percent of the cargo transferred?

FORKED BEARD

Yes.

ERIK

I have a captive for ransom. Do you have a dungeon?

FORKED BEARD

Yes, we have one. The same deal, fifteen percent.

ERIK

I have three men-of-war fully armed with trained sailors. We would be an asset to your band of pirates.

We could put up a blockade to stop any navy from dismembering you. I'll pay ten percent.

FORKED BEARD

I can see how you and your men could be beneficial. Let's split the difference. After all, we don't pay Swedish or Union taxes.

ERIK

I agree! Let's toast the agreement.

'SKOAL' They all LAUGH and CHEER and drink their mead.

EXT. CART - DAY

Girl, lashed in a cart, taken out over the shoulder of GUARD.

INT. DUNGEON - CONTINUOUS

Girl struggles. Guard takes her to a cell and puts her down on a bed. Guard unties and ungags her.

GIRL

BRING ME A QUILL AND PARCHMENT SO I MAY WRITE MY FAMILY AND UNCLE!

She rubs her wrists and wipes her mouth.

GIRL (CONT'D)

NOW! DO YOU UNDERSTAND SWEDISH?!

Girl gets up and holds the bars.

GIRL (CONT'D)

Could I at least get a chamber pot?

GUARD

You'll be lucky if you get something to eat.

Girl sits back down on the bed.

GIRL

Oh, my God, captured by pirates.

She puts her head in her hands and starts to sob.

INT. FORKED BREAD STORE - NIGHT

Everyone is drunk. Many arms around touching sailors.

ERIK

I just up and left. I'm still the King of Denmark, Sweden and Norway.

Erik raises his glass high. Mead spills. Erik slowly brings the glass closer to his chest, then down toward the floor. Forked Beard barely keeps his eyes open. Erik rambles on.

ERIK (CONT'D)

But not for much longer. The Swedes were the worst.

The Swedish Council of Nobles sent me a nasty letter demanding Sweden separate from the Union. It just went down from there.

It was always Queen Margaret this and Queen Margaret that. She was always number one.

I wasn't like Queen Margaret. She always knew what to do.

EXT. DOCKS - NIGHT

Erik and Dover, drunk, amble arm on shoulder. They sing a drinking song. Erik and Dover go up the ship's gangway.

INT. AFTCASTLE - NIGHT

Erik and Dover enter the aftcastle.

They get ready for bed by taking off all their clothes. (full frontal nudity) They get into bed, snuggle and kiss. They each pass out immediately.

INT. BLACK ROOM - NIGHT - DREAM

Gustav and Harald stand, black background, lit from below.  
Erik on his knees.

GUSTAV  
What have you done?

HARALD  
What have you done?

TOGETHER  
What have you done?

ERIK  
NO!

INT. AFTCASTLE - NIGHT

Erik awakens suddenly, face covered in sweat, out of breath.

INT. DUNGEON - DAY

Dover comes into the cell and carries an arm load of things.

DOVER  
These things are from King Erik.

GIRL  
It's about time! King Erik? Really?  
Did you bring the parchment and  
quill, so I may write my father and  
uncle?

DOVER  
Here they are, along with bedding  
and change of clothes.

GIRL  
What about food?

DOVER  
It comes straight away.

Guard enters with a big plate. He sets it down. Girl gobbles  
food. Dover puts the articles down. Girl looks a mess. Girl  
looks up as she eats.

GIRL  
From King to pirate? He must not  
have been a very good King!

INT. DANISH CASTLE - DAY

SUPER: Copenhagen, Denmark 1441

The Danish Council of Nobles meets.

ERIK DANISH NOBLE 3

We finally received the documents from the Norwegians. It took longer than I wanted.

ERIK DANISH NOBLE 1

Next we have to elect the next King of the Union.

ERIK DANISH NOBLE 3

I think we should elect Christopher of Bavaria. He is the last male heir to the Valdemar Atterday lineage.

ERIK DANISH NOBLE 2

Do we want a German King? We elect our King and need not be based on heredity. Why Christopher?

ERIK DANISH NOBLE 1

He's young, naïve and an aristocrat. He'd support the Union.

ERIK DANISH NOBLE 2

Aren't there any Danes or Scandinavians to serve as King?

ERIK DANISH NOBLE 3

He is Valdemar's great grandson.

ERIK DANISH NOBLE 2

Why? I just don't understand.

ERIK DANISH NOBLE 3

All those electing Christopher raise your hands.

Nobles raise their hands.

It's a majority. Christopher will be the next Union King!

INT. SWEDISH CASTLE - DAY

Karl *Knutsson* and *KNUTSSON* ADVISOR 1 sit at a table.

## KNUTSSON ADVISOR 1

Erik Puk leads the Merchant and Peasant Parties in uprisings around Sweden.

## MONTAGE

- Angry peasants walk hard with pitch forks, hammers and swords
- Soldiers slaughter peasants. Peasants slaughter soldiers
- Soldiers burn villages.
- Soldiers apprehend Erik Puk.
- Erik Puk is placed in a cell.

## INT. DUNGEON - NIGHT

Erik Puk sits in the cell. Karl *Knutsson* approaches with guards and enters the cell. Puk remains seated.

## KNUTSSON

You know I have to kill you, you and your (distain) peasant party.

## PUK

You're not well admired by the Nobles either.

## KNUTSSON

Your peasant party has made Sweden look cheap.

Erik stands up. CHAINS.

## PUK

Look cheap, how? That the peasants want to have a voice in their own governance?

Let them have grievances about how taxes are levied? Why are you so afraid?

## KNUTSSON

The democratic parties would never vote for me. Without the peasants and merchants, there remain only the Nobles and Clergy.

Erik looks angry.

PUK  
*Knulla dig!* (k-noola die)(Fuck you)

EXT. EXECUTION YARD - DAY

Erik Puk, on his knees, faces the chopping block. *Knutsson* stands nearby. Everyone gets into position.

KNUTSSON  
 Before you die, I want you to meet  
 my new Lord High Constable and the  
 man responsible for your capture.

Out of the shadows steps Handsome Noble.

PUK  
 You can't kill democracy once born  
 in the hearts of men.

The executioner swings the ax, CHOPS off Puk's head.

KNUTSSON  
 So much for the democratic forces.

He brushes his hands together. Takes Handsome Noble by the shoulder.

INT. SWEDISH CASTLE - DAY

SUPER: Stockholm, Sweden 1441

Karl *Knutsson* and *Knutsson* Advisor 1 talk at a table.

KNUTSSON ADVISOR 1  
 The Nobles will want Christopher to  
 ascend the Swedish throne to  
 reestablish the Union.

KNUTSSON  
 I'm for the Union.

KNUTSSON ADVISOR 1  
 You cannot then be Regent of  
 Sweden.

Dramatic pause.

KNUTSSON  
 I'll abdicate at the upcoming Day  
 of the Realm.

(MORE)

KNUTSSON (CONT'D)

Christopher could then be elected King of Sweden. It will come at a price. I'll ask for fiefs and land.

KNUTSSON ADVISOR 1

That seems your best option.

INT. SWEDISH CASTLE - DAY

The *Riksdag* meets. *KNUTSSON NOBLE 1*, *KNUTSSON NOBLE 2* and *KNUTSSON NOBLE 3* sit together. The merchants and peasants don't have a vote for King so they are down-hearted.

KNUTSSON NOBLE 1

Since Karl abdicated, we're free to elect our King, the Union King!

KNUTSSON NOBLE 2

We can reestablish the Union.

KNUTSSON NOBLE 3

Christopher should make a good King. He will restore order to the Nobles system of government.

He's not a mean-spirited, callous autocrat like Erik was.

KNUTSSON NOBLE 1

It must be conditional.

MUSIC: Original

NOBLES ALL (CHORUS)

Only Swedes in Swedish castles.  
Only Swedes may have their fief.  
Only Swedes hold royal domains.  
Only Swedes will rule for life.

KNUTSSON NOBLE 1

Money should not go out of Sweden, to someplace like France or Spain, but only spent for the Swedish Kingdom, while the King resides on Sweden's plain.

KNUTSSON NOBLES ALL

Only Swedes in Swedish castles.  
Only Swedes may have their fief.  
Only Swedes hold royal domains.  
Only Swedes will rule for life.

## KNUTSSON NOBLE 2

The King's death will be so dire,  
because all holdings will retire,  
and reassigned by the new heir, who  
will do his best to be fair.

## KNUTSSON NOBLES ALL

Only Swedes in Swedish castles.  
Only Swedes may have their fief.  
Only Swedes hold royal domains,  
Only Swedes will rule for life.

## KNUTSSON NOBLE 3

Let the Union King handle the wars.  
Have the Union navy patrol the  
shores. There will be less taxes to  
pay,

## KNUTSSON NOBLES ALL

When the Baltic Union is here to  
stay!

MUSIC: Ends.

Classes sit together. Karl Knutsson sits on the side.

## KNUTSSON NOBLE 1

(to the crowd)

The four estates are assembled in  
the *Riksdag*.

The election of Christopher as King  
of Sweden lies before this body,  
thus reestablishing the Union.

Only the Nobles and Clergy can vote  
on this issue.

(to Nobles)

Everyone familiar with the  
conditions required for Christopher  
to be elected King?

Nobles and Clergy shake their head yes, while the merchants  
and peasants appear down-hearted.

## KNUTSSON NOBLE 2

I move to elect Christopher King of  
Sweden, given the aforementioned  
conditions.

## KNUTSSON NOBLE 1

All those in favor?

KNUTSSON NOBLES AND CLERGY  
 (loudly)  
 Aye.

KNUTSSON NOBLE 1  
 Opposed?

From the sullen peasants and merchants,

CROWD  
 (quieter)  
 Nay.

KNUTSSON NOBLE 1  
 (excitedly)  
 Good, the Union is reestablished!

INT. DANISH CASTLE - DAY

SUPER: Copenhagen, Denmark

CHRISTOPHER (25), stocky and clean shaven, expresses some anger with CHRISTOPHER ADVISOR 1 and CHRISTOPHER ADVISOR 2

CHRISTOPHER  
 I don't like those Swedish conditions! What do they mean only Swedes can occupy Swedish castles.

or, or, I can't use the Swedish treasury when I'm out of Sweden!?

CHRISTOPHER ADVISOR 1  
 King Christopher, it will have the effect to reestablish the Union.

CHRISTOPHER ADVISOR 2  
 You can get around that treasury requirement. Sweden is but a short journey by horseback.

CHRISTOPHER  
 But if I'm King of Sweden, I'll want to assign castles and fiefs to some of my relatives.

CHRISTOPHER ADVISOR 1  
 The Swedes have been through a lot with Erik. I'm sure they feel a little sensitive to foreigners with holdings in Sweden.

(MORE)

CHRISTOPHER ADVISOR 1 (CONT'D)

I think they will stick to their conditions, tenaciously.

CHRISTOPHER ADVISOR 2

It would be but a small price to pay for unity.

CHRISTOPHER

I don't like those conditions at all, none of them!

Christopher storms off.

INT. DANISH CASTLE - DAY

SUPER: Denmark, two months later

Christopher sits with his advisors.

CHRISTOPHER

All right, I'm ready to sign.

MONTAGE

- Background pages of calendar peel off. 1440, 1441, 1442, 1443, 1444, 1445, 1446. Follow montage simultaneously with calendar page turning.

- Erik raids a ship.

- Erik takes a hostage.

- Erik sells his booty.

- Erik in a Kro drunk.

- Erik and Dover stand on the aft castle, kiss beneath the full moon.

- Erik involved in an orgy on ship.

INT. DANISH CASTLE - DAY

SUPER: Copenhagen, Denmark 1446

Christopher and Christopher Advisor 1 sit in the parlor. A lute player makes music in the corner.

CHRISTOPHER ADVISOR 1  
The Swedes are upset that Erik and his men are a menace on Swedish shipping, for 10 years now!

CHRISTOPHER  
Perhaps we could do something, but my Uncle must be captured alive.

CHRISTOPHER ADVISOR 1  
Then you have to order the navies into *Visby*.

CHRISTOPHER  
I will. If anyone were to harm my Uncle, they must deal with me directly! I will NOT tolerate it!

EXT. AFTCASTLE - NIGHT

Lit by the moon and lanterns, SORCERER, bejeweled and veiled, hands the runes to Erik. He throws them in a wave of his right hand from left to right. Erik and Dover wear beards.

ERIK  
(as he throws)  
Tell me about pirating!

The runes land. Erik and the Sorcerer change places.

SORCERER  
Humm. This is a very personal question. These runes show you have been a very good pirate.

The men CHEER.

SORCERER (CONT'D)  
This movement tile shows you are living moment to moment.

SAILORS ALL  
No prey, no pay.

Close on rune.

SORCERER  
This rune, nauthiz reversed, the great teacher, disguised as bringer of pain and limitations.

Something you want to disown wrecks havoc with you.

Erik looks concerned.

ERIK

What do you mean wrecks havoc?

SORCERER

Something great and terrible you  
may have done that haunts you.  
You've told the story and laughed,  
but your action burns within you.

She stares knowingly into Erik's eyes.

SORCERER (CONT'D)

These runes, show powerful forces  
at work against you. You will  
experience a death-like state.

Perth advises let go of everything,  
your past, present and future.

ERIK

Does this mean I am to die?

SORCERER

No, it only means you will  
experience a profound change.

With regard to your sacrifice,  
events are completely beyond your  
control. Expect a significant  
disruption in pirating.

ERIK

There is nothing I can do?

Sorcerer shakes her head no.

SORCERER

No, nothing. This tile means you  
have your back vulnerable.

ERIK

Does this mean I am to be overcome  
by one of my crew?

The men LAUGH.

SAILORS ALL

No, we adore you. I'll kill anyone  
who harms you. No, we have the best  
captain.

SORCERER

Much greater forces are in effect.  
Let's finish your reading. With  
regard to your new situation.

You can foresee the larger picture.  
The time has come to attain the  
best bargaining position.

ERIK

Wow, that sounds absolutely  
terrible.

Erik, down-hearted, rubs his head.

SORCERER

Powerful forces work against you to  
change your life completely. What  
you think is safety, is no longer.

You will meet this challenge  
initially with defenses but you  
will reach a breakthrough.

You must have a reunion with your  
past.

Erik stands up. He points at the Sorcerer.

ERIK

You're wrong! I'm King Erik! Men  
escort her out.

Sorcerer stands up and shakes off the men.

SORCERER

Beware! The runes have greater  
power than you think. You will be  
put upon to stop pirating. The  
issue of my fee.

ERIK

Woman, you're lucky I don't run you  
through.

SORCERER

Then I curse you, King Erik! I can  
see myself off.

She storms off.

EXT. SWEDISH NAVAL SHIP AFTCASTLE - DAY

A fleet of three Swedish military ships sail. The SWEDISH CAPTAIN and the SWEDISH FIRST MATE are on the aftcastle. CROW'S NEST above.

SWEDISH CAPTAIN

(to first mate)

We finally got permission to go after that Erik. Damn the King's order to spare him.

SWEDISH FIRST MATE

He's preyed on Swedes for ten years now. I'd run him through.

SWEDISH CROW'S NEST

Danish warships flying the red banner off starboard.

SWEDISH CAPTAIN

Order the ships starboard.

SWEDISH FIRST MATE

Aye, captain.

EXT. ERIK'S SHIP - DAY

Erik sails the royal flagship, with his two warships. A crew member yells from ERIK'S CROW'S NEST.

ERIK'S CROW'S NEST

Swedish fleet off port.

ERIK

Odin was right! Trim those sails. We need to get back to *Visby*.

MONTAGE

MUSIC: Original

- Erik's sailors get busy with the sails. With moderate winds and moderate waves, Erik sets off.

- Swedish crew set sails.

- Erik's ship jumps a wave.

- Erik on the aftcastle, looks back at the closing Swedish ships. Erik grabs the wheel from Dover to steer.

- Swedish Captain on aftcastle steers.
- Swedish ship jumps a wave.
- Swedish sailors adjust sails.
- *Visby* lies ahead off Erik's ship's bow.
- Erik's ships make it back into port.
- Swedish ships blockade the harbor.

MUSIC: Ends

EXT. SWEDISH SHIP AFTCASTLE - DAY

The Captain stands on the aftcastle with First Mate.

SWEDISH CAPTAIN  
Good, he's in port.

FIRST MATE  
We could blockade the port or let  
loose the cannons.

SWEDISH CAPTAIN  
(Sarcastically)  
We wouldn't want to hurt Erik.

INT. ERIK'S SHIP - DAY

Erik and his men talk in the aftcastle.

DOVER  
What will we do?

ERIK  
I know what the sorcerer was saying  
now. I must surrender. It's me they  
want. I need conditions.

I can surrender to a Danish Fleet  
and ask to live under house arrest.

You Dover, and the crew, must be  
included in any agreements. Let's  
send a boat with those conditions.

EXT. VISBY PORT - NIGHT

A small boat goes out to the larger vessel. The 3 occupants  
aboard are Dover, Boatman, big Body Guard.

INT. SWEDISH SHIP AFTCASTLE - NIGHT

DOVER

Erik will surrender if he's allowed  
to submit to a Danish fleet.

SWEDISH CAPTAIN

I think the King would approve.

DOVER

Erik wants the crew to be spared  
and provided passage.

SWEDISH CAPTAIN

That may be possible.

DOVER

Erik wants to be held under house  
arrest as penalty for his misdeeds.

SWEDISH CAPTAIN

We'll present Erik's propositions.  
Let the King decide his fate.

DOVER

Thank you, Captain.

The Swedish Captain, standing, turns his back to Dover, gives  
a low hand wave of; 'you do not deserve to see my face.'

EXT. VISBY PORT - NIGHT

A small boat with the same three men go to Erik's ship.

INT. ERIK'S SHIP'S AFTCASTLE - NIGHT

Erik and his men sit around a table.

DOVER

The Swedish Captain agrees to take  
your propositions to King  
Christopher to decide your fate.

ERIK

Now we wait. We'll surrender to the  
Danish fleet.

The men, down-hearted sit in the aftcastle.

ERIK (CONT'D)

We will all surrender when the  
Danish fleet arrives.

(MORE)

ERIK (CONT'D)  
 We'll also know the King's  
 decision.

Everyone looks sad.

EXT. ERIK'S BOAT - DAY

Erik and Dover walk down the side stairs to the boat landing.  
 The Boatman rows them to the Danish ship.

EXT. DANISH SHIP - DAY

Erik and Dover come aboard, met by the DANISH CAPTAIN.  
 Sailors put wrist irons on them both.

ERIK  
 I hereby surrender.

DANISH CAPTAIN  
 The King has accepted your terms.  
 The pirate crew will receive  
 passage. Put them below.

EXT. SWEDISH LANDSCAPE - DAY

SUPER: Sweden 1448, two years later

AERIAL: Over Swedish landscape to come upon a castle.

MALE VOICE (V.O.)  
 Within two years King Christopher  
 died and King Christian was elected  
 Union King. In Sweden, the *Riksdag*  
 meets to elect a Regent for Sweden.

AA

AERIAL: POV men roll an extra large barrel of beer.

INT. CASTLE LARGE ROOM - DAY

They bring the keg into the room and tap it. The CROWD ROARS.  
 Pitchers are filled and handed off. STEN STURE (35) is a  
 rugged, bearded, strong man. He yells out.

MUSIC: Original

STEN STURE  
 This is 600 pints of strong German  
 beer. So drink it all down and  
 we'll be of like cheer.

(MORE)

STEN STURE (CONT'D)

Drink my friends, everyone, for there are 6 more to come. This is a festive time for a Regent to be elected.

With beer, our minds can be vigorously dissected. Because *Riksdag* has sway, on how we live day to day.

This is for all of you who have come. Drink this beer so of minds we are one!

CROWD YELLS 'SKOAL'. They drink as they break into groups.

STURE NOBLE 1, STURE NOBLE 2 and STURE NOBLE 3 stand together.

STURE NOBLE 1

Sten Sture is the nephew of Karl *Knutsson*, an aristocrat and nationalist without ties to the Union.

STURE NOBLE 2

Personally, I'm for a break from the Union. Let Swedes govern Sweden without outside intrusion.

STURE NOBLE 3

Some aristocrats have their own Union Party, to force the nationalist movement to end.

But nationalist nobles are hearty, to vote the regency to Sten.

STURE NOBLE 2

In the end will the Unionists support Sten Sture?

STURE NOBLE 1

Only at the election will we know for sure.

Sten Sture steps in.

STEN STURE

Gentlemen, Gentlemen are we feeling good? Are you drinking it down like a fine Swede would.

The nobles nod.

STURE NOBLE 1

Yes, thank you for all the beer,  
it's brought us more into your  
sphere.

STEN STURE

It's the least I could do for my  
Swedish brothers, at this festive  
event and for one another.

STURE NOBLE 2

We like you have nationalist  
leanings, Sweden ruled by the  
Swedes. A new beginning.

STURE NOBLE 3

We're behind you for Regent.

STEN STURE

Thank you, kind, noble gents.

We move to another group of STURE CLERGY 1, STURE CLERGY 2  
and STURE CLERGY 3.

STURE CLERGY 1

I feel most Nobles are behind *Herr*  
(hair) Sture. In the eyes of God  
his intentions seem pure.

STURE CLERGY 2

He's a separatist, a nationalist  
what's more, he wants peace as a  
practice not war.

STURE CLERGY 3

The border parishes are the ones in  
mind. We'll endure a war or with  
peace be fine.

STURE CLERGY 2

Will electing a nationalist make  
peace at our border? Or will it  
bring us to more disorder?

Sten Sture walks in.

STEN STURE

Archbishops. Are we all in good  
spirits? Will the beer help us all  
hear it?

STURE CLERGY 3

Yes, thank you for the brew, it gives us a whole different view, of you, which we never knew.

STURE CLERGY 1

All we want is simply peace, but we fear Union wars will not cease.

STURE CLERGY 2

It's the peasants and the parishes who suffer the most, along the Union border from coast to coast.

STURE CLERGY 1

The peasants of both sides, make great strides, by signing their own peace agreements.

STURE CLERGY 3

But the peasants play hosts, to marauding ghosts, who plunder and burn their tenements.

STURE CLERGY 2

Are you going to bring us quiet around here? Because it's more skirmishes we fear.

STEN STURE

Parishes of that location, fear reprisal of nation.

Peace treaties reached with imagination, by the peasants which brings peace to the regions. I, too, recognize their seasons.

STURE CLERGY 3

If you can assure us your intentions are clear. It is not war which will appear. That's our intent, by electing you regent.

STURE CLERGY 1

We can throw in our votes for you, by pledging a devotion to peace anew.

STEN STURE

Peace is what I seek, across the bridge on Fur Creek, the border between our two nations.

POV moves to a group STURE MERCHANT 1, STURE MERCHANT 2, STURE MERCHANT 3.

STURE MERCHANT 1

Sten wants trade for the trading members. Sture, the merchants, he remembers.

STURE MERCHANT 2

Increase in flax, woolens and lumber, in quality and number.

STURE MERCHANT 3

We could use more lumber, with our goods increase peasant's slumber.

STURE MERCHANT 1

The peasants don't know how to bring products to market. They make it for themselves and will sell to get started.

STURE MERCHANT 3

When they can trade cheeses for knives, pots and scythes. They'll want to trade in a minute.

Sten Sture walks up.

STEN STURE

Gentlemen, Gentlemen are we in good *sted*? (sted) Is the beer making you feel good in your head?

STURE MERCHANT 2

The gift of the beer is so delightful. You're more our man by the glassful.

STURE MERCHANT 1

We want more trade with the countryside. You said you had a plan. Tell it to us now if you can. If we like it, we'll be on your side.

STEN STURE

I will establish *minehosts*, where you rent a bed as warm as toast.

You can have breakfast, lunch and dinner, you can drink like a sinner.

(MORE)

STEN STURE (CONT'D)

You can travel the countryside with ease and comfort, and not have to pack a traveling fort.

STURE MERCHANT 2

For a small fee we could travel to inland ports, relieved of all the nasty discomforts?

STURE MERCHANT 3

This would give us access to flax to the max, cheeses, woolens and wood from the axe.

STEN STURE

It would be good for the peasants to see worldly presents, in order to increase their culture.

But the merchants can be assured, you'll be heard, by me, in all your ventures.

STURE MERCHANT 1

You're an energetic and clever fellow. If you can pull it off, we'll follow.

It gives us direction and movement, which we desire at this moment.

STURE MERCHANT 2

The conversation and the beers have brought us to the moment, to have the vote from us merchants without torment.

POV comes upon STURE PEASANT 1, STURE PEASANT 2 and STURE PEASANT 3.

STURE PEASANT 1

We can't seem to escape our lot in life.

STURE PEASANT 2

Empty from hunger, from toil and strife.

STURE PEASANT 1

Our children are forced to work too, for lack of anything better to do.

STURE PEASANT 3

The peasants could get along just fine, if we weren't in the middle of two firing lines.

STURE PEASANT 2

I want what will bring peace to our villages. End the burnings, the lootings and pillages.

STURE PEASANT 3

Peace is what I want to reign, whether the King be from Denmark or Spain.

STURE PEASANT 1

Tell me, do we know for sure, peace will reign with Sten Sture, or will we more bark bread endure?

Sten Sture steps into the group.

STEN STURE

Gentlemen, Gentlemen in a good place? Are you drinking your beer at a proper pace?

STURE PEASANT 1

Hey, thanks for the suds. We feel like we're your buds. What will you present us, for a vote from the peasants?

STEN STURE

The peasants have a hard life, with toil, children and a wife.

It's impossible to improve your status, without trade or an educational apparatus.

Two more buildings in each village will be, the church, the school house and the minehost make three.

You need to see more outside influences, to teach your children not just facts but nuances.

STURE PEASANT 2

Tell me, will your reign, bring peace or more pain?

STEN STURE

I want peace as much as any man.  
But if Sweden is threatened I'll  
take a stand.

Peasants have helped maintain the  
peace along the border, by drawing  
up peace treaties in good order.

I support your efforts with all my  
heart, with those treaties the  
peace will start.

But more, I want to educate Swedish  
children, to read, write and add  
like their noble brethren.

There should be no distinction  
between noble and peasant. An  
education will be a helpful hand  
and a present.

STURE PEASANT 3

I'm for the man who brought the  
cask. What more do we need ask?

STURE PEASANT 1

*Herr* Sture, we like you and trust  
in your pact.

SWEDISH PEASANTS

We wish you well on your plan of  
attack.

Everyone raises their glasses. Sture stands at the front of  
the group with STURE NOBLE 1.

STURE NOBLE 1

Signify by saying aye, to vote for  
Sten Sture, one hell of a guy.

CROWD

AYE!!

The Crowd lifts their glasses.

CROWD (CONT'D)

SKOAL.

They all drink their beer.

## CROWD (CONT'D)

Sten Sture, Sten Sture. We want him  
for sure. Sten Sture, Sten Sture.  
We want him for sure.

They all raise their glasses with Sten Sture at the front of  
the group with Sture Noble 1. UNION PARTY NOBLE sits at the  
back of the crowd then stands.

## UNION PARTY NOBLE

The Union Party must vote no, a  
vote for Sten Sture we have to let  
go.

Though we are few in number we  
represent, and stand against Sten  
Sture for Regent.

We are part of five jurisdictions,  
so you must consider our  
convictions.

## STURE NOBLE 1

Why must you spoil our fun, when  
you know Sten Sture is the one.

He has the majority votes from each  
estate across our nation, the  
nobles, clergy, merchants and  
peasants.

Therefore, let's celebrate his  
election. Let him get to work for  
the good of the nation.

CHEERS from the Crowd. Sten Sture steps up.

## STEN STURE

Gentlemen, Gentlemen let's not  
squabble or cause a lot of trouble.

Let's all work together for Sweden.  
Working together we'll make it an  
Eden.

## CROWD

Sten Sture, Sten Sture, we want him  
for sure.

MUSIC: Ends.

INT. DANISH CASTLE - DAY

SUPER: Copenhagen, Denmark 1448

King CHRISTIAN (35) slight man, clean shaven, sits on the throne.

His advisors CHRISTIAN ADVISOR 1 and CHRISTIAN ADVISOR 2 stand beside him. King Christian stands up from the throne and yells.

CHRISTIAN

WHAT DO YOU MEAN? Sweden has elected a Regent without Union approval?

CHRISTIAN ADVISOR 1

King Christian, there is opposition in Sweden against Sten Sture and the Nationalists.

They're called the Union Party.

CHRISTIAN ADVISOR 2

They represent parts of 5 counties in Sweden.

CHRISTIAN

Can we count on their support if we invade Sweden? Who are they?

CHRISTIAN ADVISOR 2

*Jan Olsson, Erik Bond, Søren Berg, Hans Larsson, others from Orebro, Varmland and Uppsala Counties.*

CHRISTIAN ADVISOR 1

We can split the nobles and impose the Union with threat of arms.

Christian talks kind of crazy.

CHRISTIAN

The Swedes want to undermine my authority, work behind my back.

They want to take away the power of the King to choose the Lord High Constable and Chancellor.

The Swedes have always been like that. They already took away my ability to assign fives or castles.

(MORE)

CHRISTIAN (CONT'D)

Sweden's withdraw from the Union will take away Swedish taxes from the Union Treasury. I can't just let Sweden slip through my fingers.

What will the nobles think of me as King? They'll think I'm powerless. I'd be a laughing stock.

EXT. MILITARY FIELD- DAY

King Christian inspects the troops on the military field with CHRISTIAN GENERAL and Christian Advisor 1.

CHRISTIAN

I'm not going to let the Swedes humiliate me like that. We must prepare for war. Ready the troops! We march on Sweden!

CHRISTIAN GENERAL

Yes, Highness.

CHRISTIAN ADVISOR 1

I'll contact the Unionists. We can meet up with them near Stockholm

CHRISTIAN

We'll march on Stockholm as soon as we are able.

CHRISTIAN ADVISOR 1

Yes, my King.

INT. SWEDISH CASTLE - DAY

SUPER: Stockholm, Sweden 1449

Sten Sture sits at a table with STURE ADVISOR 1 and STURE ADVISOR 2.

STURE ADVISOR 1

King Christian isn't satisfied to let the *Riksdag* decide the Regent for Sweden.

Instead, he has joined with the Union Party and declared war.

STEN STURE

I promised a peaceful reign. I also said if Sweden is threatened, I'll take a stand.

STURE ADVISOR 2

What should we do?

STEN STURE

We'll employ the peasant's border treaties drawn up by the clergy. Those agreements contain the terms.

The Danish peasants must tell the Swedish peasants about an eminent attack. We can use this information to strategize our response.

STURE ADVISOR 1

Can't Christian use the same peasant agreements to his advantage?

STEN STURE

King Christian has nothing but contempt for peasants. He won't consider that an option.

We should quickly call a *Riksdag* to approve actions and get the Swedish citizens behind us.

Summon peasants from the border regions.

INT. RIKSDAG HALL - DAY

The *Riksdag* meets. All classes of citizens attend. Sten Sture stands at the front of the *Riksdag*.

STEN STURE

King Christian has declared war on Sweden because *Riksdag* elected me Regent. *Riksdag* is clear we want Sweden governed by Swedes.

The crowd MUMBLES.

STURE PEASANT 1

Sweden for the Swedes.

CROWD

Sweden for the Swedes.

STEN STURE

Where are the peasants and the clergy?

We must call upon the peasant's peace treaties the clergy have drawn up. These treaties exist all along the border with the Union.

STURE CLERGY 1

The peasants have agreed to warn each other along the border if they know troops approach.

They also agreed to act as agents for troops as far as the border.

They have sworn not to cross the border to lay hand upon a neighbor peasant.

STEN STURE

Good, we'll use these agreements to our tactical advantage. Do we agree to face the Union threat?

RIKSDAG ROARS.

STEN STURE

Send messengers to the border regions to shore up those agreements.

Make sure everyone is clear these agreements are in place.

RIKSDAG ROARS.

EXT. SEA COAST - DAY

Erik and Dover sit on a blanket while they eat bread, cheese and wine. Their horses graze in the background.

ERIK

Let's have a midsummer's night party!

DOVER

That gives us a month to get ready.

ERIK

It will be a fun, drunken orgy.

DOVER

You always throw the best parties.

ERIK

To the life of debauchery!

They clink glasses.

EXT. DANISH COUNTRYSIDE - DAY

The Union army marches through the countryside. King Christian leads the army surrounded by his Generals. Fifty light cavalry follow fifty men in light armor, then men.

The Union soldiers carry muskets and side arm swords. Supply wagons follow up the very impressive procession. Christian comes upon a peasant village.

CHRISTIAN

You peasants, Union citizens, march with us on Sweden.

March with us on behalf of the Union and the rightful King of Sweden, King Christian.

The peasants send off a messenger. The peasants gather farm implements and start to walk with the Union soldiers.

They continue to march until they reach a large carved rock (Rune stone) beside a sturdy bridge. No peasants cross the bridge.

All peasants stop, many touch the Rune. UNION PEASANT 1 (45) big and bearded, stands near the road.

CHRISTIAN (CONT'D)

Why have you stopped?

UNION PEASANT 1

We have sworn a solemn oath before God. We will not lay hand against neighbor peasants.

We may not cross the border and enter into hostilities.

CHRISTIAN

You stupid useless peasants!

Christian kicks at Union Peasant 1 and misses.

CHRISTIAN (CONT'D)

Let's go.

Christian's army crosses the bridge. Christian comes upon another peasant village. It lies deserted.

CHRISTIAN (CONT'D)

(whisper)

Something's up.

The Swedish Union Party arrives with the Union flag.

INT. SWEDISH CASTLE - DAY

Sten Sture sits with his advisors: Sture Noble 1, Sture Clergy 1, Sture Merchant 1, Sture Peasant 1 and STURE GENERAL.

STEN STURE

We've just received word. Christian and his army have crossed the Bridge on Fur Creek. Are our armies ready to meet Christian's army?

STURE GENERAL

We have been at ready for days waiting for this moment.

STEN STURE

Great! General lead your men for Sweden!

EXT. SWEDISH COUNTRYSIDE - DAY

The Swedish army marches through the countryside. They're more ragged than the Union army.

The peasants among the soldiers carry bows and arrows, swords and a few muskets. Peasants of the villages pick up farming implements and follow the Swedish army.

STURE GENERAL

We'll confront them at *Brunkeburg* Pass. Christian's army will be subject to ambush.

STEN STURE

Yes, General. Make ready!

EXT. BRUNKEBURG PASS - DAY

SUPER: Brunkeburg Pass, Sweden 1450

At *Brunkeburg* the Swedish troops arrive first.

STURE GENERAL  
BRING THE MEN AROUND THOSE HILLS.  
WE WANT TO SURPRISE CHRISTIAN AND  
HIS ARMY. SPARE THE KING.

The Swedish army hides behind bushes and trees on hills which overlook the pass. The Swedish troops wait for Christian to walk into their trap. Christian's army rides up slowly with Christian in the lead.

SWEDISH SOLDIERS  
(whisper around)  
Spare the King. Spare the King.

King Christian and his army approach *Brunkeburg* and walk around a corner. Sten Sture, on horseback, has his hand raised. Sten lowers his arm quickly.

Sture's army shoots arrows and muskets from both sides of the valley as they catch Christian's troops in the cross fire.

The peasants and soldiers run downhill to Christian's army already severely stricken by the first assault. The Swedish troops finish off the dying Union soldiers.

It is a gruesome slaughter of Christian's troops. Christian turns around to see his dead soldiers as the Swedes finish off the Union soldiers. Swedish troops capture Christian.

Sture rides up to the front to confront King Christian.

STEN STURE  
DO THE KING NO HARM! Good,  
Christian belongs to Sweden.

CHRISTIAN  
Unhand me, I'm King Christian!

STEN STURE  
Tie him well.

Christian struggles but is tied at the wrists, and tied on a horse. Christian is led away by his captors.

CHRISTIAN  
What will the Nobles think of me  
now as King, a captive.

INT. SWEDISH DUNGEON - DAY.

Sten Sture with guards, approach Christian's cell.

STEN STURE

Your fears have made you our prisoner, which is perhaps your greatest fear. Now you are completely powerless.

CHRISTIAN

What are you going to do with me?

STEN STURE

To keep you alive and in prison will destabilize the Union further. Sweden will be a separate nation with no foreign domination.

That's why the people elected me Regent. But you, you brought this on yourself.

CHRISTIAN

I had to do something, the Nobles would have thought I was weak.

STEN STURE

Look at you, now. Your fears and arrogance have made you our prisoner.

CHRISTIAN

Please let me go! I'll agree to any demands.

STEN STURE

I have no demands, all I want is peace. Keeping you in prison will help assure that.

CHRISTIAN

You can't just keep me imprisoned!

STEN STURE

(sarcasm)  
Uh huh.

EXT. RUGENWALD CASTLE - DAY

SUPER: RUGENWALD CASTLE 1450

Music: Lively music, strings, horns and percussion.

Men with beards mill around as they eat and drink. The revelers talk and laugh. A pig spit-roasts over a fire.

ERIK REVELER 1 and ERIK REVELER 2 talk together.

ERIK REVELER 1

Did you hear what happened to King Christian?

ERIK REVELER 2

Yes, he was captured by Sten Sture who slaughtered Christian's troops. Sture holds Christian imprisoned.

ERIK REVELER 1

I guess we've seen the end of the Baltic Union.

ERIK REVELER 2

Unless *Herr* Sture releases him under conditions.

ERIK REVELER 1

I think one of those conditions will be the dissolution of the great idea of a Baltic Union.

MONTAGE

- Erik and other revelers drink and talk in groups.
- At the roasting pig, groups of men stand around and watch.
- Musicians play music.
- ERIK REVELER 3 (40) bearded and handsome, strikes up a conversation with Erik.

ERIK REVELER 3

Erik, want to go play in the shadows?

Erik looks him up and down.

ERIK

To the life of debauchery! Let's go to the stables, plenty of shadows there.

Erik takes Erik Reveler 3 down a path to the stables.

MUSIC: Fades.

INT. STABLES - CONTINUOUS

MONTAGE CONTINUES

- Erik and Erik Reveler 3 come into the stables.
- Erik and Erik Reveler 3 kiss and touch each other. Erik drops to his knees and starts to open Erik Reveler 3's pants.
- After the pants are open, the perspective change to behind Erik Reveler 3. Fellatio motions and sounds.
- Erik Reveler 3 orgasms then steps back and buttons his pants. Erik falls back into the hay and passes out.

INT. DARK CHAMBER - NIGHT - DREAM

Admiral Harald, Gustav and a young Dover (dressed in uniform) stand in the harsh low-light with mist around their feet.

HARALD

What have you done?

GUSTAV

What have you done?

YOUNG DOVER

What have you done?

ERIK

NO!

EXT. DANISH FLAGSHIP FLENSBORG - NIGHT - FLASHBACK

Erik talks to Dover the first night they met on deck on the flagship.

YOUNGER ERIK

I think something is going to change. Why don't you come with me and be my advisor?

Dover nods in approval.

INT. DANISH FLAGSHIP - FLENSBORG - NIGHT - DREAM

Young Erik puts a powder into the Queen's glass.

YOUNGER ERIK

Sleep soundly, Queen Margaret.

INT. BLACK BACKGROUND - NIGHT - Dream

The mist blows away and Queen Margaret lays supine.

GUSTAV, ADMIRAL, DOVER

You killed Queen Margaret.

Erik begins to sob.

ERIK

I killed Queen Margaret.

INT. STABLES - NIGHT

Erik sits up in the hay with a start and clutches his chest, then falls back dead. Close up of his dilated eyes. Camera pulls through the roof of the stable to see the whole party.

During the voice over, the camera pulls out in a Google Earth manner. Each country by name, highlighted which uses the Parliamentary system of government.

MALE VOICE

King Christian spent the rest of his life in a Swedish prison. The Union soon dissolved.

Engelbrekt's *Riksdag* went on to serve as the prototype of the Parliaments of today which serve 3.1 billion people world wide.

As Earth spins, the camera pulls away to Earth full screen.

SUPER: THE END

FADE DOWN