

KING HORATIO

&

"THE MAIDEN HE SAVED"

Episode 2

WRITTEN BY: JAMES HYATT-EVANS

CAST:

KING HORATIO - Wyatt Bowden ✓

SQUIRE BARTHOLOMEW - Mike Robert VO ✓

SIR VANKALOT - Gethin Hughes ✓

SIR NAH - Peter Evans ✓

ELEANOR - Kalsanthemum ✓

BANDIT - Kamil Ali ✓

SYNOPSIS:

King Horatio, his squire and his two most faithful knights venture out on a quest into the forest of Meeyarsia no knight should ever willingly go. There, they get attacked by sticks, hide from the beasts that dwell in the forest and save a young girl from the clutches of handless bandits. Do they complete the quest and do they make it out of this perilous place in one piece?

SCENE 1: THE WOODS

FX: **NIGHTTIME. SCARY! TERRIFYING! WALKING THROUGH WOODS.**

SIR NAH (scared) Nah...

SIR VANKALOT (a little scared) It's ok, Nah... It's ok...

KING HORATIO You three aren't actually scared of this place, are you?! It's not like the trees can-

FX: **STICK SNAP. EVERYONE STOPS.**

KING HORATIO AH!

SIR VANKALOT Are you ok, my lord?

KING HORATIO (scared) What... What was that?

BARTHOLOMEW That, sir, would be a stick. You stepped on it, see.

KING HORATIO (recovering) A stick... Right... A stick... Ha! No pesky stick can stop me!

BARTHOLOMEW Exactly sir.

KING HORATIO Press on, all!

FX: **CONTINUED WALKING.**

BARTHOLOMEW ...Sir... Are you sure being here is such a good idea?

KING HORATIO I can think of no better past time, my loyal servant!

SIR VANKALOT But sir, it's... the middle of the night... And we are deep in the woods that all knights have been told never to go to... What possessed you to come here?

KING HORATIO A quest, Vankalot. A quest.

SIR VANKALOT And... Did you need us, my lord?

KING HORATIO I need my best knights at my side during this quest! Of course I do!

SIR VANKALOT And why at night, sir? Why not do this during the day?

KING HORATIO Well-

BARTHOLOMEW It's because he asked our court physician if he could go during the day. They went mad saying the place is "dirty" and then took Horatio to his chambers for the day.

SIR VANKALOT The court physician... Grounded you, my lord?

KING HORATIO No, no! (chuckling) Don't be silly, Bartholomew! No!
It had nothing to do with the court physician-

BARTHOLOMEW I think it did, I was there-

KING HORATIO No it didn't! The only reason this is happening at
night is because the quest can only be done at night!
If it is done during the day then... *It* won't appear!

SIR VANKALOT "It"?

KING HORATIO The part of the quest.

SIR VANKALOT Shouldn't we know about the quest we are currently
on, sir? So we know what to do?

KING HORATIO I um... I can't tell you that bit! Because... it will
ruin the quest!

SIR VANKALOT Will it?

SIR NAH Nah.

KING HORATIO It will!

BARTHOLOMEW Sir... I would recommend camping for the night, it is
getting rather dark.

KING HORATIO This is why I said to bring torches, but you,
Bartholomew, didn't like that idea!

BARTHOLOMEW And what would happen if we tripped holding the
torches in such a dense forest, sir?

KING HORATIO We would look like fools! But thankfully that is not
who we are! We are brave knights of Meeyarsia!

BARTHOLOMEW No, what would happen, sir, is that we would catch
the forest on fire.

KING HORATIO Pah! Unlikely! I have seen other knights going in,
holding torches.

BARTHOLOMEW Because they know the forest.

KING HORATIO As do I!

FX: **NEARING RIVER.**

SIR VANKALOT Are you sure? We have been walking through this
forest for about five minutes, and already I think we
have gone in a circle.

KING HORATIO Pah! I am better than anyone I know with directions!
What makes you say that!?

FX: **CROSSING BRIDGE.**

SIR VANKALOT Because we have crossed this bridge before, sir.

FX: **EVERYONE STOPS.**

(beat.)

KING HORATIO Are you sure?

SIR VANKALOT Positive.

SIR NAH Nah.

SIR VANKALOT Even Nah agrees, and he usually disagrees with all I
have to say.

KING HORATIO You are a great knight, Vankalot, but I fear you must
be mistaken. I am certain this bridge is made out of
different wood.

BARTHOLOMEW How can you tell that in this light, sir?

KING HORATIO A king has many powers, Bartholomew. That is
something you shall learn as you get to know me.

FX: **CONTINUE WALKING, ACROSS BRIDGE, ONTO GRASS.**

BARTHOLOMEW I have known you for four years, sir. I have not
witnessed such powers.

KING HORATIO Then, no matter how much it pains me to say, you have
not been paying as much attention to me as I thought...

BARTHOLOMEW Well, either way sir, I do think it would be
advisable to stop and set up camp.

KING HORATIO A knight, a noble knight, a brave knight, stops at
nothing, Bartholomew! Nothing! They have to brave the
darkness and all the beasts they come across!

BARTHOLOMEW Even though they can't see a mere three steps in
front of them?

KING HORATIO Even then, Bartholomew! Even then!

SIR VANKALOT I think Bartholomew is right, sir. We should
definitely stop and have a break.

KING HORATIO Nonsense, Vankalot! We must stay on track! Get to our destination before we- (trips) Woah! (lands on ground) Argh!

FX: **TRIPS! FALLS TO FLOOR.**

SCENE 2: CAMPSITE

FX: **FIRE FLICKERING AWAY, BARTHOLOMEW TENDING TO HORATIO. BUBBLING POT.**

KING HORATIO Argh...

BARTHOLOMEW Seems like nothing is broken, my lord. Well... I can't be sure... I mean, your leg isn't bent in a funny angle so-

KING HORATIO Are you sure it's still there? In your expert opinion.

BARTHOLOMEW My opinion in these matters are anything but expert, my lord, but just from using my eyes-

SIR VANKALOT Your legs are fine.

BARTHOLOMEW Yes, what he said.

KING HORATIO Thank the lords above.

SIR VANKALOT It was those "pesky sticks" sir...

KING HORATIO Yes... They are out to get me... I stepped on one earlier, by mistake... And now they are attacking me for killing their brethren. A fine warrior that stick was, to take me down! Noble! I would have done the same if they had killed one of my own!

BARTHOLOMEW Quite, sir.

FX: **SCOOPING STEW.**

KING HORATIO I would suggest everyone be on high alert... We don't know what others may be in these woods to attack us... Just know, I would put myself in the way to protect my people, just as I did with that stick...

BARTHOLOMEW Stew, sir?

KING HORATIO Oh, yes please, Bartholomew, what is it?

BARTHOLOMEW Ginger and Ale, sir.

KING HORATIO What are those ingredients?

BARTHOLOMEW Some new ones. Just found them in the forest, growing
on plants. Thought I would name them.

KING HORATIO Interesting. I swear I have heard of those before.

SIR VANKALOT I shall have some too, Bartholomew.

SIR NAH Nah!

BARTHOLOMEW You don't want any?

SIR NAH (a little more insistent) Nah!

SIR VANKALOT He says yes.

BARTHOLOMEW Coming right up!

SCENE 3: DEEPER IN THE WOODS

FX: **WOMAN STRUGGLING.**

ELEANOR Stop! Get off me!

BANDIT Show us your tricks, witch!

ELEANOR I have no tricks! I am no witch!

BANDIT Don't make us force them out of you!

ELEANOR I have no tricks! I swear!

BANDIT Then how on gods, green, flat earth did you manage to
steal almost everything in our cart? Quite the trick,
wouldn't you agree?

ELEANOR I don't know what you mean.

BANDIT We had a lot of valuable stuff in there. Stuff we
stole from the generous Meeyarsia. You'd think they
just give the stuff away! But you... You think you
deserve to steal the stuff we spent so much of our
time... (realising how dumb it sounds) ...Stealing.

ELEANOR I did nothing of the sort! All I did was walk through
the forest!

BANDIT A girl as pretty as you venturing out into the forest
at night? Now that instantly makes me suspicious. Do
you not know this is our land?

ELEANOR I was told it was the land of Meeyarsia.

BANDIT On paper, yes. But what knight of Meeyarsia will stop us? What kingdom will help a kingdom as unknown as Meeyarsia get rid of us? We own these woods, it's practically our own Kingdom.

ELEANOR What... What are you going to do to me?

BANDIT Punishments in many kingdoms for theft is getting your fingers cut off. Others, it's your hands getting cut off. I prefer that way, don't you boys!

FX: JEERING.

ELEANOR Oh god...

BANDIT Then you'll see how we feel.

ELEANOR What do you mean?

BANDIT Because we got caught. Multiple times.

ELEANOR What?! Wait... So... You don't have hands?

BANDIT No we don't... Just shows how great at stealing we are. We don't even need them.

ELEANOR So... You *physically* aren't holding me here...?

BANDIT No? Of course not! What gave you that idea-

ELEANOR Then I'm off!

FX: RUNNING OFF.

BANDIT What!? She's getting away! AFTER HER!

FX: EVERYONE ELSE RUNS AFTER HER.

SCENE 4: CAMPSITE

FX: FINISHING OFF FOOD, SCRAPING OF THE BOWL.

KING HORATIO (breathing in and out really quick, it was spicy food!)

SIR VANKALOT (breathing in and out really quick, it was spicy food!)

SIR NAH (breathing in and out really quick, it was spicy food!)

BARTHOLOMEW Mmm... That was really nice. What did everyone else think?

SIR VANKALOT (dealing with spice) What the... What the hell did you put in that?! My mouth is on fire!

KING HORATIO (dealing with spice) Is this how dragons must feel?!

BARTHOLOMEW I... Thought it was ok... What did you think, Nah?

SIR NAH (dealing with spice) Nah! Nah!

BARTHOLOMEW An overwhelming disappointment, then. Sorry about that.

KING HORATIO (dealing with spice) Bartholomew... Bartholomew...

BARTHOLOMEW What?

KING HORATIO (dealing with spice) Am... Am I going to die? Have you...
(sad) Poisoned me?!

BARTHOLOMEW What?! NO! Sir! You are fine! You are not going to die!

SIR VANKALOT (dealing with spice) It sure feels like I am dying!
My mouth has never felt this much pain before!

BARTHOLOMEW Everyone is overreacting! It's all fine! Please!
Trust me! I am ok!

KING HORATIO (ill) You know, my stomach is starting to feel a bit...
Weird...

FX: **SUDDENLY! RUSTLING IN THE BUSHES NEARBY!**

BARTHOLOMEW What was that?

KING HORATIO (ill) What was what? In case you haven't noticed,
Bartholomew, the rest of us are trying to internally
fight the poison you gave us!

BARTHOLOMEW I didn't give you any-

FX: **RUNNING TOWARDS.**

BARTHOLOMEW Something is coming.

KING HORATIO (ill) What?

BARTHOLOMEW Something is coming right this way! We need to
protect the king!

SIR VANKALOT (ill) What?!

SIR NAH (ill) Nah!

BARTHOLOMEW Oh please! Come on! Something is coming this way!

SIR VANKALOT (ill) I shall try! If I can stand!

BARTHOLOMEW You shall do more than try! This is the king we are talking about!

KING HORATIO (ill) Thank you, Bartholomew, but I can fight my own fights!

BARTHOLOMEW I assure you, sir, in this state, you can't. Vankalot! Nah!

SIR VANKALOT (ill) Right...

FX: THEY UNSURELY STAND. BOTH UNSHEATH SWORD. READY THEMSELVES.

KING HORATIO (very ill) Guys... I am really not (burp) feeling good.

SIR VANKALOT Don't worry, sir, we shall get you back to the castle right after we have dealt with this.

KING HORATIO (ill) But the quest, though...

SIR VANKALOT I fear we will have to abandon the quest, sir... Nah? You ready?

SIR NAH Nah.

SIR VANKALOT I'll take that as a yes. Be prepared, be ready and-

ELEANOR (distant) (screams)

SIR NAH Nah...

SIR VANKALOT A woman...

KING HORATIO (frightened) Oh dear, what a shame. Seems like whatever animal was there has gotten her. Good thing she distracted it for us, hey, guys?

SIR VANKALOT We have to go and find her, save her.

SIR NAH (agreeing) Nah.

KING HORATIO (ill) Wait... No... Do you think that's really- (burp) A good idea?

SIR VANKALOT I see no better mission, my lord. Bartholomew-

BARTHOLOMEW I shall protect our queen, yes.

SIR VANKALOT Thank you... Onward we go!

FX: **THEY RUN OFF.**

KING HORATIO Sorry... Queen?

BARTHOLOMEW Shouldn't you have jumped at the opportunity to help that woman, my lord?

KING HORATIO Her fault for being in the woods this late at night, isn't it? Anyway, I am sure she can fend for herself.

BARTHOLOMEW That isn't very kingly, sir.

KING HORATIO I have no idea what you mean! Of course it is! I am just... Unable to go at the moment!

BARTHOLOMEW And why is that, sir?

KING HORATIO (ill) Because... I have a stomach pain.

BARTHOLOMEW ...Of course, sir-

SIR VANKALOT (distant) AHHH!

SIR NAH (distant) NAHHH!

FX: **SITS UP.**

KING HORATIO Oh my lord! Sir Vankalot! Sir Nah! ...They were... They were good knights.

BARTHOLOMEW (can't believe what Horatio is saying) Sorry?

KING HORATIO We should prepare to go back to the castle, Bartholomew. This forest is obviously no place for a king.

BARTHOLOMEW But your quest! Your knights? They are your friends, sir!

KING HORATIO They and the quest are all but lost, Bartholomew. Now! I suggest we get out of here pronto before-

SIR VANKALOT (distant) AHHH!

BARTHOLOMEW They are still alive.

KING HORATIO Still being... Mauled by whatever beast is in these woods...

SIR VANKALOT (distant) It is not a beast! Please! Help us, sir!

KING HORATIO Soon, they shall be all but gone.

SIR VANKALOT (distant) Please, sir! Help- Ahhh! Ahh! Ahhhh!

BARTHOLOMEW Maybe we should help them sir-?

KING HORATIO Give it a minute...

SIR VANKALOT Ahhh!

SIR NAH Nahhh!

SIR VANKALOT Ahhh!

(beat.)

KING HORATIO There... There was nothing we could have done... We just did not get there quick enough.

BARTHOLOMEW But sir-

KING HORATIO Come on, Bartholomew... Come on. I know it's hard for you to accept, but they are gone...

FX: GETS UP.

KING HORATIO (ill) Argh... When I get back, I'll need to get the court physician to look at my tummy... It hurts ever so much...

BARTHOLOMEW Are you ok, sir-

KING HORATIO (ill) Carry me, Bartholomew! Carry me!

BARTHOLOMEW I don't think I can sir-

KING HORATIO (ill) Carry me!

BARTHOLOMEW Ok... You can lean on me. Is that ok?

KING HORATIO (ill) That shall... Have to do.

FX: WALKING.

KING HORATIO Quick! We must go! Who knows how long I may have left!

BARTHOLOMEW Sir, I really don't think you are going to die-

KING HORATIO Of course I am! Of course! But do not worry, Bartholomew! As a king, I have been on the brink of death before! And I shall pull through! Like I have every other time!

BARTHOLOMEW Oh, here we go...

KING HORATIO I shall do it for you, Bartholomew! For you!

BARTHOLOMEW You aren't dying sir! I would know!

KING HORATIO Of course I am! I have been so close to death so many times in my eventful past, so many people have tried to rid this land of peace and tranquillity by eradicating me, and every time they have come close, I have pulled through, just like I shall now!

BARTHOLOMEW Sir, I am sure you are fine. The food was a little burny, yes, but I don't think it'll kill you. I had the same food as you, and I am all well, my lord!

KING HORATIO I am just glad I was able to take the brunt of the poison, Bartholomew, for you, and for those knights that selflessly sacrificed themselves for their king.

FX: **ELEANOR RUNNING TOWARDS.**

BARTHOLOMEW Are you sure running away and not helping them is a good idea, my lord? They are your friends?

KING HORATIO And to show it, they gave us time to get away, whatever beast is in these woods with us, shall be... Mauling on them now. Giving us the time we need to get away.

BARTHOLOMEW But-

KING HORATIO Am I not always right, Bartholomew?! Are you saying the King of Meeyarsia is not always right?

BARTHOLOMEW ...No, my lord. Of course, you are always right.

KING HORATIO Good, just what I like to hear. Now, this way Bartholomew, I know my way through these woods-

FX: **BUMP INTO.**

BARTHOLOMEW (Bumps into Eleanor)

ELEANOR (bumps into Bartholomew)

KING HORATIO Oh my lord! Ah!

ELEANOR Ah!

BARTHOLOMEW Everyone calm down!

ELEANOR Are you... Are you going to hurt me!?

BARTHOLOMEW No! Why would you say that-

KING HORATIO Are you going to hurt us?!

ELEANOR Why would I do that? I was literally just running away from something in the woods!

KING HORATIO But... You came from in front of us...

BARTHOLOMEW Which means whatever evil beast is in these woods...

KING HORATIO We were heading straight towards.

BARTHOLOMEW ...We said earlier you weren't the best at venturing these woods, my lord...

FX: **RUNNING TOWARDS.**

BARTHOLOMEW Do you hear that?

ELEANOR Oh god...

KING HORATIO RUN!

SIR VANKALOT Wait! No, sir! Wait!

KING HORATIO Vankalot? Nah!?

SIR NAH Nah!

SIR VANKALOT I tried telling you before, this was not some beast!

KING HORATIO Then what is in these woods?

ELEANOR Bandits. Handless ones.

KING HORATIO Bandits? In these woods?

BARTHOLOMEW The handless bandits?! I have heard terrifying tales of them, my lord.

ELEANOR They have taken it as their own, even though it is in the land of Meeyarsia.

KING HORATIO Well of course it is! Who thinks they can take it from me!?

ELEANOR From you?

KING HORATIO I am King Horatio, my fair maiden, owner of these woods!

ELEANOR Oh my...

KING HORATIO And I shall do everything I can to save these woods!

FX: **RUNNING TOWARDS.**

SIR VANKALOT They are fairly strong, my lord.

ELEANOR And surprisingly good with a sword.

KING HORATIO I thought you said they were lacking hands-

BANDIT There she is!

FX: STOP RUNNING.

KING HORATIO (quietly to Vankalot) Vankalot...

SIR VANKALOT (quietly to Horatio) Yes, my king?

KING HORATIO (quietly to Vankalot) I thought you said they were "fairly strong". (louder) Not massive!

BANDIT You knights think you are noble protecting this girl! But she is nothing but a common crook!

ELEANOR (to bandit) Unlike you! (to Horatio) They had stolen from you, my lord!

KING HORATIO Really?

BANDIT Oh! "My Lord", is that really you?!

KING HORATIO I uh... Who are you to speak to a king in this way?!

BANDIT I, "my liege", am Slash.

SIR VANKALOT "Slash"? Is that really your name? Isn't that slang for having a jimmy-

BANDIT (CONT'D) **I** am the owner of these woods. And your greatest nightmare.

KING HORATIO These woods!? These are woods of Meeyarsia, I have you know!

BANDIT They stopped being land of Meeyarsia long ago... Now... I see you're protecting this criminal, are you? "King of Meeyarsia"!?

BARTHOLOMEW You sound like more of a criminal!

BANDIT Shut it, peasant before I rip you to shreds!

KING HORATIO (braving) Hey... You... Don't say that to my people!

BANDIT And what are you going to do about it, my liege?

KING HORATIO (braving) I am... (burp)

BANDIT (chuckling) You ok, my king?

FX: TAKE OUT SWORD, SLOWLY.

BANDIT Or did you want me to put you out of your misery?

KING HORATIO You don't want to fight me.

BANDIT And why is that?

SIR VANKALOT Because he is the greatest fighter in all the kingdoms!

BARTHOLOMEW Yes! Definitely!

SIR NAH Nah!

KING HORATIO Yes, uh... What they said...

BANDIT And do you want to test that theory?

KING HORATIO Well uh...

BARTHOLOMEW Here, sir!

FX: **THROW SWORD, LAND ON GROUND.**

BANDIT He can't even catch his own sword!

KING HORATIO Why did you have my sword!?

FX: **PICKING SWORD UP.**

BARTHOLOMEW Sharp edges? Dangerous.

BANDIT Aww! Worried you were going to get hurt, are you!

SIR VANKALOT Do not say such things to the king! He shall defeat you easily.

BANDIT Try me.

KING HORATIO Well... Uh... Actually-

FX: **SWORD BROUGHT DOWN! SWORDS CLATTER.**

KING HORATIO Woah! I wasn't ready yet!

BANDIT I don't play by "rules".

KING HORATIO How are you even holding a sword! You don't have hands!

BANDIT Skill.

FX: **SWORDS SEPARATE, SWORD HIT AGAINST SWORD AGAIN AND AGAIN AND AGAIN!**

KING HORATIO No! Stop! Unhand me!

SIR VANKALOT Are you ok, my fair lady?

ELEANOR Yes... I am just fine... Thankyou for coming to my aid
with such haste.

SIR VANKALOT Of course.

SIR NAH Nah!

ELEANOR And of course, thank you to your very negative friend
here, as well.

KING HORATIO (struggling, fighting) Vankalot! Nah! Help me!

SIR NAH Nah?

SIR VANKALOT You seem to be doing fine on your own, Horatio. They
have no hands, you have such a high chance of
winning!

KING HORATIO Help me!

BANDIT I've got you now!

KING HORATIO (to Vankalot) Please!

SIR VANKALOT I don't know... My arms are kind of aching.

ELEANOR Oh, go on... Help him out.

BARTHOLOMEW I think he is really starting to need it.

FX: **SWORD CLASH DOWN ON SWORD.**

BANDIT Haha! And the king shall be no more!

KING HORATIO Ah! Help me!

SIR VANKALOT Come on, Nah!

FX: **RUN TOWARDS.**

SIR VANKALOT Not so fast! For we are the knights of Meeyarsia! We
shall defeat you!

FX: **SLASH!**

BANDIT Argh!

SIR VANKALOT You do not hurt our king.

BANDIT My hand! You hurt my hand!

SIR VANKALOT You don't have a hand.

BANDIT Oh yeah. (upset) My hands! ...Men! Let's get out of here!

FX: RUN OFF.

KING HORATIO Yeah! And stay away! And tell the rest of your friends to fear the wrath of King Horatio and his knights!

SIR VANKALOT I actually feel quite sorry for them, I understand their frustrations... Imagine not being able to merely scratch your arse-

ELEANOR They're... Gone... They're actually gone... You saved me...

KING HORATIO Well, it was truly no-

SIR VANKALOT Do not worry, fair maiden. Tis' what a knight does.

ELEANOR What are the names of my saviours?

SIR VANKALOT Well uh...

SIR NAH Nah!

SIR VANKALT Yes, he is Nah...

ELEANOR And you, noble knight?

SIR VANKALOT N-noble...? ...I am... I am Sir Vankalot...

ELEANOR What a nice name... Thankyou, sir Vankalot-

SIR NAH Nah!

ELEANOR *And Nah* for your nobleness. Even saving your king when he tried to protect me.

KING HORATIO "Saving your king?!" He didn't save me! (growing weak) I had it... Perfectly... Handled...

FX: FALL TO FLOOR.

BARTHOLOMEW My king?!

FX: RUSH OVER.

BARTHOLOMEW My king?! What is wrong?!

KING HORATIO (injured) I do not know... I fear... I fear he may have...

BARTHOLOMEW What is it, my king?!

KING HORATIO (injured) I fear he may have stabbed me...

SIR VANKALOT What?!

ELEANOR Everyone move out of the way! I know basic medical assistance!

KING HORATIO (injured) What?! No! I can't have you help me! Bartholomew can! Bartholomew! Tell her!

BARTHOLOMEW If she does know medical training, my lord, then that is more than I know.

KING HORATIO (injured) But I just saved her...

ELEANOR And you still did. But if you won't let me help, you won't be able to...

SIR VANKALOT (quietly, finish sentence) Gloat.

ELEANOR (cont'd) Tell everyone about how you saved me, will you?

KING HORATIO (injured) And you can help me?

ELEANOR Yes. And even then, I shall be forever indebted to you.

SIR VANKALOT Oh, you are so kind.

KING HORATIO (injured) Ok then... Get it over with...

ELEANOR So, where did he hurt you?

KING HORATIO (injured) The stomach. There.

ELEANOR Your belly then... Strange, I don't see any blood. I may need to lift up your chainmail to-

KING HORATIO (injured) A woman undressing a king!? Bartholomew!

BARTHOLOMEW She is only trying to help, sire...

ELEANOR Can I continue? Or would you rather just die?

KING HORATIO (injured) ...You may... Continue.

FX: **LIFTING UP CHAINMAIL.**

ELEANOR let's have a look here then...

SIR VANKALOT What is... Your name?

ELEANOR Is this really the time?

SIR VANKALOT I just... Wondered-

ELEANOR Eleanor. That is my name.

SIR VANKALOT Lovely name.

SIR NAH Nah.

ELEANOR Do you not like it?

SIR VANKALOT That is his way of complimenting.

ELEANOR Right... ..Uh... ..Huh... Strange...

BARTHOLOMEW What's wrong?

ELEANOR It's Horatio...

KING HORATIO (injured, worried) Oh god, is it fatal?!

ELEANOR Quite the opposite... You are... Fine. No wound in the slightest.

KING HORATIO (injured) That cannot be! I felt the blade go in! I feel the pain! Bartholomew! Check it for me!

FX; **BARTHOLOMEW CHECKS.**

BARTHOLOMEW Yes... She is right, my lord... You seem... Completely fine. No wounds...

KING HORATIO (injured) Then what is this pain then- ARGH!

BARTHOLOMEW What is happening to him?

ELEANOR I-I Don't know.

KING HORATIO (injured) Magic! It has to be magic!

SIR VANKALOT Magic doesn't exist!

KING HORATIO (injured) Then you do not know the dangers of being- Argh! King!

SIR VANKALOT Is there anything you can do?

ELEANOR I don't know! I don't know what's causing this!

BARTHOLOMEW Maybe it's something below the skin?

ELEANOR Like something has gotten under there? Maybe... But how... (to Horatio) Horatio, do you mind me touching your tummy-

KING HORATIO (injured) Just do it! ARGH!

ELEANOR Ok, my hands are-

KING HORATIO (injured) Argh! Cold!

ELEANOR (cont'd) Cold so be warned... ..Right, just going to have a feel around.

BARTHOLOMEW Do you feel anything?

ELEANOR Not yet... But-

KING HORATIO (injured) No! Don't squeeze there!

ELEANOR Is that where it hurts?

KING HORATIO (injured) Yes... Yes it is!

BARTHOLOMEW Is there anything there?

ELEANOR Not that I can feel...

KING HORATIO (injured) It's really hurting! Argh! Make it stop! Make it stop!

ELEANOR He needs to relax his muscles. We need to calm him down! Which one of you is closest to him?

BARTHOLOMEW Horatio, Horatio, listen to me everything is fine.

KING HORATIO (injured) No it's not! I just got stabbed!

BARTHOLOMEW You didn't get stabbed. Everything is fine... Trust me...

KING HORATIO (injured) But it really hurts.

BARTHOLOMEW Trust me Horatio, just keep calm, keep relaxed... I know you as the best king there has ever been on the throne of Meeyarsia, I know that you will get through this. So, keep relaxed for the kingdom's sake, and if not for the kingdom, for me.

KING HORATIO (calmer) For you?

BARTHOLOMEW yes... Just relax. Relax all of your muscles and-

FX: A MASSIVE FART. IT STOPS. THEN A LITTLE TOOT.

(beat.)

ALL BUT HORATIO (reacting to a really smelly fart)

ELEANOR That is really bad!

SIR VANKALOT I don't think I can breathe!

SIR NAH Nah! Nah! Nah!

BARTHOLOMEW (coughing)

SIR VANKALOT (gagging noises)

KING HORATIO Oh my god! You were right! Wow! I feel so much better! Oh my lord! I really thought I was going to die then! Phew!

FX: **STANDS UP.**

KING HORATIO Right then! Is everyone ready to leave?

FX: **FALL TO GROUND.**

KING HORATIO Nah? Hey! Wake up! It's not time to sleep yet-

FX: **FALL TO GROUND.**

KING HORATIO Vankalot! Not you too-

FX: **FALL TO GROUND.**

KING HORATIO No! Eleanor! You need to take us to where those Bandits took the stuff they stole and-

FX: **FALL TO GROUND.**

KING HORATIO Bartholomew?! Bartholomew?! What is happening to everyone? ...My loyal knights! Please do as your king says and stand up!

(beat.)

KING HORATIO Huh... I thought that would work... Look... Could you please wake up? Guys? Guys? Hey! Wake up! Hello! Come on! Wake up! (fade out)

SCENE 5: THRONE ROOM

KING HORATIO Bartholomew! Where is my sword I asked you to sharpen?

BARTHOLOMEW (groaning noises, hangover-like)

KING HORATIO Are you ok, Bartholomew?

BARTHOLOMEW (hangover-like) Just recovering from last night, sir, that's all...

FX: **LARGE DOORS OPENING. TWO PEOPLE WALK IN.**

KING HORATIO Ah! Vankalot! Eleanor! How was your excursion of the forest?

SIR VANKALOT It went well, sir. The forest is a lot less treacherous during the day.

ELEANOR We found the stolen goods, my lord.

KING HORATIO What was there?

SIR VANKALOT Weirdly enough, the handless bandits only stole second hand things.

BARTHOLOMEW (hangover-like) To be expected.

SIR VANKALOT (cont'd) Clothes, toys, etcetera.

KING HORATIO And anything of value?

ELEANOR Sadly to say, nothing, sir.

KING HORATIO How unfortunate... You brought the stolen goods back, I presume?

SIR VANKALOT Yes, sir.

KING HORATIO Good... Very good.

SIR VANKALOT Yes...

(awkward beat.)

ELEANOR Right then! I better be off!

KING HORATIO Off?

ELEANOR yeah. Don't want to burden you fine people.

SIR VANKALOT Nonsense!

KING HORATIO Yes! Nonsense! You and Bartholomew together... Um... (clears throat) valiantly saved my life last night. I would be more than happy for you to stay as long as you would like.

ELEANOR Well I wouldn't want to take up room.

SIR VANKALOT There's a room next to my chambers!

BARTHOLOMEW (hangover-like) Well, theres actually several free rooms on the opposite end of the castle but-

SIR VANKALOT (to Bartholomew) Quiet Bartholomew! ...(to Eleanor) If last night is anything to go by, Eleanor, then I feel it would be safer for you to stay here than to venture out at night again.

KING HORATIO He makes a good point. Unless, of course, you were hoping to get to another destination?

ELEANOR Well uh... No... In fact I didn't have a destination... I just thought I'd stay wherever I ended up.

SIR VANKALOT And fate brought you here. Doesn't it sound like a sign to stay?

KING HORATIO I am sure you will love the stay, Miss Eleanor.

ELEANOR ...Well, uh... If it's quite alright.

KING HORATIO If you are willing to work, of course?

ELEANOR Work, right... Well, I couldn't be a medic because you already have a court physician and I don't have many other qualities so-

SIR VANKALOT You could help me! Be a knight's personal assistant! It is Bartholomew's job currently, but it'll take a load of work off of him for you to do it for me instead! That is, if you would be willing to?

ELEANOR Well...

BARTHOLOMEW (hangover-like) Please stay... I have a lot to do as it is...

ELEANOR Well, if thats the case... Yes! Of course I would love to stay!

SIR VANKALOT Amazing, absolutely amazing.

ELEANOR So then, can I stay, sir?

KING HORATIO Of course you can! Welcome to Meeyarsia, Eleanor.

ELEANOR Thank you, *my king*.

SIR VANKALOT Let me show you to your room, Eleanor. This way.

ELEANOR Thank you, Vankalot, thank you.

FX: **WALK OFF. CLOSE DOORS.**

KING HORATIO (chuckle) She'll make a good addition to Meeyarsia, I can just feel it.

BARTHOLOMEW (hangover-like) I am sure she will, my lord...

KING HORATIO Oh, you aren't still sulking are you, Bartholomew?! Right, sharpen my sword! It got blunted in that courageous fight with that huge man. That should take your mind off of things.

BARTHOLOMEW (hangover-like) (sighs) Sir...

END.