

FEAR NOT - A FAIRY STORY FOR GROWN-UPS

By Robert Kelly

(adapted from Irish folk tales, historical events and 'The Story of the Youth Who Went Forth to Learn What Fear Was' by the Brothers Grimm)

ipswichrockradio@yahoo.com
01473 745120

FADE IN

EXT. COUNTRY ROAD TO ROUNDWOOD TOWN, SOUTH EAST IRELAND - DAY

804 A.D. Ireland is undeveloped - crude fields with lakes overlooked by wooded mountains. In the distance the small fortified town of 'Roundwood'. A track-road winds to the town on which a simple cart pulled by an old horse approaches.

FATHER THOMAS narrates - he has a cultured calming voice. He is around 55, English but well travelled.

FATHER THOMAS (V.O)

Once upon a time, in the days when Ireland consisted of several kingdoms and the Vikings first started to raid the British Isles, there lived a young lad named 'Fear Not'.

PAN TO THE CART. The driver is 'FEAR NOT', 19, a mop of curls and vacuous expression. He is a peasant and rather foolish.

FATHER THOMAS (V.O)

Fear Not's Father was a carpenter. One day - when his Father and brother were working on a new church he was given three pennies and sent buy some tools.

FADE TO

EXT. ROUNDWOOD TOWN STREETS, SOUTH EAST IRELAND - DAY

Inside the town - a market with stalls surrounded by sprawling wooden buildings and crude walls. A ramshackle TAVERN by the main gate, some barrels outside. Several LOCALS (Irish peasants) wander, haggling with market traders.

NOTE: The Irish didn't benefit from Roman building methods - all buildings seen throughout are crude and simple.

Fear Not and his cart pass through the main gate and the SOUND OF IRISH FOLK MUSIC is heard from inside the tavern.

CUE MUSIC : THE TARA JIG (on violin and Bodhrán drum). From 'the Dinnseanchas' - Irish music from late 500 a.d.

FATHER THOMAS (V.O)

Fear Not being Fear Not was easily distracted when he heard the most wonderful tune coming from the tavern.

Fear Not quickly parks and hurries eagerly to the tavern.

FADE TO

INT. THE TAVERN, ROUNDWOOD TOWN - DAY

Primitive, straw on the floor, rough benches and barrels. Locals are lounging and drinking, paying little attention to THE TINKER as he plays his fiddle (the source of the music).

The Tinker aka Mr McKay is about 45, grimy and unshaved. His flamboyant clothes are heavily patched and grimy.

Accompanying him on a Bodhrán is THE TAVERN WENCH. She is about 30, busty and flirty and she wears a low cut dress.

MUSIC continues from the previous scene (performed live).

NOTE: Unless stated otherwise all characters heard are IRISH and so have Irish accents throughout.

Fear Not enters and wanders to the musicians - awe struck.

The music concludes - a few Peasants CLAP, most take little notice. Fear Not CLAPS LOUDLY and CHEERS - amazed.

The Tinker bows - rather surprised. The Tavern Wench WINKS at Fear Not them passes her donation bowl around the room.

The Tinker steps towards Fear Not, happy to have a fan. Initially (in *italics*) the speaker is dubbed, voiced by VO.

FATHER THOMAS (V.O)

(as Tinker and self)

"Hello young sir", said the Tinker,

"You seem the sort who appreciates

good music - am I right?".

Fear Not replies - also MUTED and voiced by the narrator.

FATHER THOMAS (V.O)

(as Fear Not and self)

"Why yes," replies the boy "But I've

never seen an instrument like that

before, what on Earth is it?"

FATHER THOMAS (V.O)

(as Tinker and self)

"A version of a Byzantine Lyre" says

the Tinker. "But extra strings added

for a fuller sound."

FATHER THOMAS (V.O)
 (as *Fear Not* and self)
"It sounds marvellous!" says our lad.
"I wish I could play such a wonderful instrument as that."

From this point dialogue is spoken directly, not dubbed.

THE TINKER
 As it happens I might be looking to sell this instrument I call 'a fiddle' and teach the basics on how to play.

FEAR NOT
 Really? How much for such a wonder?

THE TINKER
 (eager)
 How much have you got?

FEAR NOT
 Just three coins - which my Father gave me to buy a new lathe and tools.

Fear Not pulls out of his pocket 3 x CELTIC RING COINS - bound together by string. The Tinkers eyes bulge.

THE TINKER
 What a happy coincidence - just the right amount! You won't find another instrument of this quality, it's the offer of a lifetime. You'll be able to make a good living playing and girls will love you. You'll be set for life!

The Tavern Wench pauses to smile suggestively at Fear Not, who scratches his head as he looks at his coins, thinking.

FADE TO

INT. COTTAGE OF FEAR NOT, GLENDALOUGH, IRELAND - PM

Primitive and cluttered, a single room kitchen with table. Ladders lead up to bunk-beds, shelves and alcoves. Fear Not is torturing the violin, cranking harder the worse it sounds.

The door BURSTS OPEN and FEAR NOT'S FATHER enters. 55, grey, balding and bearded. His clothing suggests he's a carpenter.

FEAR NOT'S FATHER
 What's that terrible noise? I could

hear it down the road, thought someone
was being murdered!

FEAR NOT
It's 'music' Father. If I practice
enough The Tinker said one day I'd be
bigger than the Christian God!

Fear Not's Father is unconvinced as Fear Not goes on to
explain what it cost him (MUTED) his Father is annoyed.

FATHER THOMAS (V.O)
On hearing the tools were never bought
and money all squandered his Father
flew into a terrible rage.

Fear Not's Father turns red with anger and begins to chase
Fear Not around the table, he grabs a ROLLING-PIN to hit him.

FATHER THOMAS (V.O)
His Father resolved to beat Fear Not,
but luckily the brighter brother
'Rory' arrived and intervened.

RORY enters - Fear Not's older Brother, clutching his ears.

The three have a MUTED argument as Rory tries to placate
their Father, restraining him as he sweeps at Fear Not.

FATHER THOMAS (V.O)
It was no secret that Fear Not was
considered 'simple' by most. Rory
pleaded for one last chance and Fear
Not promised to do better next time.

Whenever Fear Not speaks things get worse. Finally Fear Not's
Father calms, stops chasing and lowers the rolling-pin.

FADE TO

EXT. COUNTRY ROAD TO ROUNDWOOD TOWN, SOUTH EAST IRELAND - AM

Raining slightly. Fear Not and his cart head to the town, the
wheels SPLASH in puddles. He is soggy and struggles to play
his violin with one hand as he holds the reins.

FATHER THOMAS (V.O)
The following day Fear Not's Father
gave him his last coin for tools or a
lathe. Fear Not was determined not to
fail him again.

FADE TO

EXT. ROUNDWOOD TOWN STREETS, SOUTH EAST IRELAND - AM

Rain. The Tinker is hiding behind a barrel by the tavern, a rucksack over his shoulder. The Tavern Wench is searching for him among other barrels, she seems very angry.

Fear Not arrives with his cart through the gate, he lowers his fiddle and looks questioningly at The Tinker. The Tinker gestures for him to keep quiet. Fear Not WINKS and parks his cart to block the view of The Tavern Wench.

Seeing Fear Not her angry demeanour changes - she pouts at him and waggles her eyebrows then sways back in the Tavern.

The Tinker hurries towards Fear Not, very relieved.

THE TINKER

Thank goodness for that! That awful woman said I owed her money. LOTS of money. You saved me there lad.

FEAR NOT

And do you? Owe her money??

THE TINKER

If anything she owes me - what with her bad drumming and awful cooking. She even wanted back my gift!

The Tinker shows him a SILVER TALISMAN - silver with a BYZANTINE CROSS motive. Fear Not stares at it in wonder.

FEAR NOT

What is this - a locket?

THE TINKER

Solid silver, crafted by the smiths of old Byzantium and taken to Rome to be blessed by the Pope himself.

FEAR NOT

I've never seen anything so dainty or well made... It's rather wonderful.

THE TINKER

Do you have a sweetheart lad?

FEAR NOT

Not yet, the girls around here think

me silly. But I hope to one day,
perhaps when I've made my fortune.

THE TINKER

This locket causes the hearts of all
young ladies to flutter, they grow
weak at the knees to see it. It brings
luck too... And wards-off ghosts.

FEAR NOT

It must be very valuable then?

THE TINKER

Oh it is. But as I'm looking to move
on I might be looking to sell this
great treasure, for the right price.

Fear Not moves to return it but The Tinker stops him.

FEAR NOT

My poor old Mum would have loved this
- she was always fond of crosses.

THE TINKER

I'd be sad to part with it, but it's
yours for only three more pennies.

FEAR NOT

I have but one penny sir... But I need
that to get a lathe or tools. I have
nothing else but the horse and cart.

THE TINKER

But with a 'lucky locket' and your
fiddle you're set for life. You can
buy tools and a whole fleet of carts.

Fear Not scratches his head, deep in thought.

FATHER THOMAS (V.O)

The deal was done. Fear Not gave the
Tinker his horse and cart but kept his
last penny and brought a lathe. The
Tinker offered Fear Not a lift home,
plus a free music lesson on the way.

FADE TO

EXT. COUNTRYSIDE, GLENDALOUGH, SOUTHERN IRELAND - MIDDAY

A track among hills where Fear Not's cottage is located. The

Tinker is driving the cart and Fear Not torturing his violin beside him. A new lathe is in the back.

CUE MUSIC : TICKET TO RIDE (Beatles cover performed by Fear Not - violin only with no vocals).

NOTE: Fear Not performs tunes that will later be invented by The Beatles. Ahead of his time but a terrible performer.

The Tinker NODS ALONG, pretending to like the music. After a moment he pulls over and Fear Not stops 'playing'.

THE TINKER

Is your Father always so angry? You never got a chance to unload the lathe. For a moment I thought he was going to do us both a mischief.

FATHER THOMAS

Oh no, that was him on a good day. He said not to come back unless it's with a new cart, money, or new skills. So I plan to learn how to shudder.

THE TINKER

You what? Learn to 'shudder'?

FEAR NOT

It's something everyone is able to do but me. They call me a fool for it - but if I learn to be afraid then I'll be 'normal' and can get on in life.

THE TINKER

Well as you're homeless now I cannot help but feel a little responsible... So I might be prepared to help you learn fear - if that is what you want?

FEAR NOT

Yes - great! All my life I've wanted to tremble, to have my hair stand up on end and be afraid.

THE TINKER

Then consider me your teacher. I'm always nervous, especially when bar bills or the rent needs paying.

FEAR NOT

Sounds like you're an expert?

THE TINKER

I'll soon have you quaking and
whimpering. And for just three more
pennies - which you can owe. Any cash
you have now I'll take on account?

Fear Not rolls his eyes and fumbles in his pockets.

THE TINKER

Actually I have an idea already...
Have you heard of an Oilliphéist lad?

FEAR NOT

Is that a sea-monster?

THE TINKER

It just so happens that there is an
Oilliphéist by a village near here,
causing mischief - stealing cattle and
attacking boats. The monster is so
terrifying that even the bravest man
will flee, whimpering for his mother.

FEAR NOT

Sounds ideal then! Though my own poor
Mother died three years ago.

Fear Not finds his last coin - small and tin.

THE TINKER

Well we all had one once, or we'd not
be here. And more importantly - the
villagers are offering a big reward
for help with the monster.

The Tinker SNATCHES the coin and bites it. He tucks it away
and resumes driving. Fear Not reaches for his violin.

FADE TO

EXT. COASTAL CLIFFS AT CURRACLOE, SOUTH EAST IRELAND - PM

Rocky cliffs with inlets (in todays County Wexford). The
Tinker and Fear Not are walking along the beach towards the
sea, looking for the monster. Fear Not carries a rucksack.

THE TINKER

When I passed this way before the Town
Elder spoke of a cliff by a shallow -
where the monster can't reach.

(points at cliff)

(MORE)

From there perhaps you can throw
things or try to beach it?

FEAR NOT
Up there you mean? Good idea. Now all
we need to find is the monster.

The Tinker glances then gapes at the sea - Fear Not turns to
look where he is staring. The Tinker looks afraid.

CGI SPECIAL EFFECT : THE OILLIPHÉIST rises and swims closer.
A semi-mythical 'Cadborosaurus', like a Plesiosaurus, 20
metres long with long neck and flippers.

THE TINKER
Holy Mother Mary - it's the beast! RUN
LAD! RUN FOR YOUR LIFE!

Before Fear Not can speak The Tinker flees as fast as he can
back the way he came, YELPING and waving his arms.

FEAR NOT
Er - I'll see you later then?

Fear Not strolls towards the cliff as the beast approaches,
SNAPPING its jaws and moving closer so it can attack.

QUICK FADE TO
EXT. FURTHER UP COASTAL CLIFFS, CURRACLOE - PM

An almost vertical cliff with a flat top above. Fear Not is
calmly climbing as the Oilliphéist reaches up from below and
SNAPS. The monster in a rocky inlet - a sheer drop down.

Suddenly a GULL flaps out of a niche, Fear Not nearly loses
his grip. Luckily the gull flies into the mouth of the
monster - which CRUNCHES the bird up loudly.

Fear Not glances at the monster then climbs more speedily and
reached the top - this is flat barren area. The Oilliphéist
can't quite reach him and gnashes and stain to bite.

FEAR NOT
Well Monster - looks like I'm out of
your reach. What will you do now?

Fear Not is very surprised when the monster replies, it has a
sombre monotone voice - rather hypnotic and soothing.

THE OILLIPHÉIST

For the moment perhaps, but you'll
make my dinner soon enough.

FEAR NOT

You can talk?

THE OILLIPHÉIST

Of course I can talk.

FEAR NOT

But you're a sea creature?

THE OILLIPHÉIST

Many sea creatures can talk. Dolphins
are very chatty. Whales too - though
they do go on a bit. When was the last
time you ever tried talking to us?

FEAR NOT

Well I must admit - you're the first.

THE OILLIPHÉIST

There you are then. Typically you lot
tend to stab us with sticks or catch
us in your horrid nets. Or just scream
'It's a monster' and run away.

FEAR NOT

If you can talk perhaps we can find a
compromise? Is there is somewhere else
you could make home - where you're not
upsetting or scaring anyone else?

THE OILLIPHÉIST

I like scaring people, starved for
entertainment as I am. Here I have
plenty of wandering cattle to bite,
the odd shepherd and all the fish I
can ever eat. No - I'm very
comfortable here. I think I'll stay.

FEAR NOT

Is there nothing I can offer? No way I
might persuade you?

THE OILLIPHÉIST

None. Now would you mind stepping a
little closer, I'm rather peckish?
Don't worry - I'll be 'humane' about
it. You won't feel a thing.

FEAR NOT

I'm not giving up yet. I'll stay up
here as long as it takes to win.

THE OILLIPHÉIST

Well you're welcome to try - though my
lifespan far exceeds yours. I remember
a time your ancestors were smaller and
more hairy. You lot tend to build more
things now and kill one another more.

FEAR NOT

Are there more of you around?

THE OILLIPHÉIST

I've not seen another of my kind for
centuries now. Most went North-West
across the sea. But I prefer it here,
it's warmer. And no - I don't miss
them before you ask. They used to
pinch all the best fish, greedy gits.

FEAR NOT

You mentioned entertainment?

Fear Not pulls out his violin from his rucksack.

THE OILLIPHÉIST

What is that? A weapon?

FEAR NOT

No, it's called a fiddle.

Fear Not begins to PLAY an unrecognisable tune - even worse
than before - the violin screeches. The Oilliphéist sways its
head and HISSES and SPLASHES its flippers, distressed.

THE OILLIPHÉIST

What is that terrible sound?!?

Fear Not stops and adjusts the strings.

FEAR NOT

This is music, something you sea
monsters may not have heard before.

THE OILLIPHÉIST

Music? It's awful! It's like something
dying in an unthinkably agonising way.

FEAR NOT

Well there's no need to be rude - a quick re-tune and I'll play you a brand new song I just composed.

THE OILLIPHÉIST

I've already heard more than enough - thank you.

FEAR NOT

Here is a number I'm calling "Oh Yeah". At least for the moment.

Fear Not begins playing, singing and tapping his foot.

CUE MUSIC : I WANNA HOLD YOUR HAND (awful Beatles cover)

FEAR NOT

(singing badly)

Oh yeah, I'll tell you somethin'...

I think you'll understand.

When I say that somethin'

I want to hold your hand!

I want to hold your hand...

I want to hold your hand!

THE OILLIPHÉIST

But I don't have a hand - I have a flipper! Please stop making that awful noise, it really hurts my ears.

Fear Not plays with greater determination, dancing too.

FEAR NOT

And when I touch you I feel happy inside...

It's such a feelin' that my love...

I can't hide!

I can't hide!

I can't hide!

The Oilliphéist sways in pain, splashing and HISSING.

THE OILLIPHÉIST
No more! Please! No more!

Fear Not continues - really getting into his performance.

FEAR NOT
Yeah you, you got that something'...

I think you'll understand.

When I say that something' - I want to hold your hand!

I want to hold your hand...

I want to hold your hand!

THE OILLIPHÉIST
You win! I can't take any more!

The Oilliphéist begins to retreat to the sea - Fear Not STOPS PLAYING and looks offended.

FEAR NOT
 Don't go - there's more! My teacher says I have a rare gift - that girls will scream whenever they see me.

THE OILLIPHÉIST
 Your teacher is clearly a sadist, although the screaming bit is very believable. I'm off - I won't be coming back - not ever!

The monster heads out to sea, away from the cliff.

FEAR NOT
 Wait a moment - I've a better one!

Fear Not quickly re-tunes and starts a fresh tune.

CUE MUSIC : WE CAN WORK IT OUT (terrible cover by Fear Not)

FEAR NOT
 (singing badly)
Try to see it my way,

Do I have to keep on talking till I can't go on?

While you see it your way,

*Run the risk of knowing that our love
may soon be gone.*

We can work it out,

We can work it out...

The Oilliphéist swims eagerly out to sea but calls back.

THE OILLIPHÉIST
No we bloody can't!

The Oilliphéist submerges. Fear Not seems disappointed and STOPS PLAYING. The music thankfully stops.

FADE TO

EXT. BLACKWATER VILLAGE, SOUTH EAST IRELAND - EVENING

A coastal village with buildings made from wrecked ships. Communal tables and barrels have been put in the central square with drinks and fish-based snacks. VILLAGERS are celebrating - some playing early Irish musical instruments (much better than Fear Not).

CUE MUSIC : MUINEIRA DE PONTESAPAIO - folk music again from The Dinnseanchas, performed here by VILLAGE MUSICIANS.

Villagers are mainly fishers and their wives or children. Among them is AILBHE (pronounced "Alva") - a pretty peasant girl, 17, long dark hair, in her 'Sunday Best'.

The Tinker and Fear Not are eating and drinking - guest of honour. Fear Not has flower-wreathes and enjoys the music.

THE TINKER
Well my lad - I knew you could do it!

FEAR NOT
I'm just pleased to have helped... And it was good of you to hang onto all that reward money. You really think putting it in a monastery is wise?

THE TINKER
Oh yes - monasteries are big business. Investors are doubling their fortunes in a few years. You don't even have to be Christian - 'money is money' to the monks, they're canny businessmen.

Ailbhe approaches Fear Not shyly and presents him with a bowl of shelled COCKLES in vinegar.

The Tinker grins at her, grabs her bowl and pulls her to sit on his lap. She rolls her eyes as he puts an arm around her waist and eats from the bowl with his free hand.

FEAR NOT
Thank you for all you've done for me,
but I've still not learnt to shudder.

The Tinker chews quickly so he can reply.

THE TINKER
Well... It just so happens I've heard tell of a castle near here, said to be haunted. If anyone spends three nights there and survives there is treasure to be had, and the hand of a fair Princess from Wales into the bargain.

Ailbhe SIGHS - perhaps wishing she were a princess.

FADE TO

INT. BEDCHAMBERS OF THE PRINCESS, FERNS CASTLE - DAY

Ferns Castle in this era is a big tower. The upper rooms for The Princess and her handmaiden (prisoners). FATHER THOMAS is concluding his tale to PRINCESS AYLWEN. Listening at the ajar door to his tale is DEE THE HANDMAIDEN.

Father Thomas, 55, is a poorer 9th Century Bishop with a silver cross around his neck. (Now seen as well as heard).

Princess Aylwen is 19 with red flowing hair, beautiful, curvaceous and a WELSH accent. Her regal dress is tattered.

Dee is 22, dark haired and plain. She too is WELSH but with a stronger accent than the Princess (as more 'common').

FATHER THOMAS
And now the young hero comes calling,
hoping for a glimpse of his bride.

PRINCESS
Bride my arse! I have no desire to marry a commoner, especially one too stupid to be afraid. Is he not the third adventurer to try?

FATHER THOMAS

The fourth since your abduction highness. This has been on-going for centuries - all keen for the treasure. There are so few heroes left now the King has offered you into the bargain.

PRINCESS

I'm not sure what is worse - marrying an Irish peasant or a lecherous King.

FATHER THOMAS

The King thinks none will succeed, but unlike his predecessors Fear Not has no knowledge of fear and is said to be both strong and handsome.

Dee GASPS - happily imagining a handsome hero. The Princess turns angrily to her. Dee curtseys and totters into the room.

DEE

Er... The King is asking for you downstairs highness.

PRINCESS

Let him wait. It's bad enough he doesn't get me new dresses or feed me properly. Not even a leek to be had!

(to Father Thomas)

So you think this lad has a chance?

FATHER THOMAS

Perhaps. And should he return alive they have to release you. And then of course, you can escape back to Wales.

PRINCESS

I don't want to pin all my hopes on a peasant. What were you saying about this Alchemists poison?

Father Thomas looks furtively around and steps closer.

FADE TO

INT. THRONE ROOM, FERNS CASTLE - DAY

A large door to a courtyard and inner door to stairwell. KING FINSNECHTA CETHARDEC sits on the throne, an empty throne beside him. RUDOLPHO THE ALCHEMIST grovels before him. A couple of GUARDS by main door - Celtic warriors with spears.

The King is about 30 and has a QUIFF of black hair, like an early version of Elvis. (Cethardec means "four-eyes").

The Alchemist is 50, Italian, balding and wearing Byzantine robes. He has been showing the King his scrolls.

THE KING

It's no good Ruldolfo, bring me those eye-things you made.

The Alchemist hands the King crude RIVET SPECTACLES (these clip onto the nose). The King puts them on and smiles.

THE KING

Much better. I can even see your warts. These are truly a marvel!

The Alchemist bows happily - glad for any compliments.

The GUARD CAPTAIN enters from outside and BOWS - another warrior but in hardened leather armour. He glances disapprovingly at The Alchemist.

GUARD CAPTAIN

The hero is here majesty. 'Fear Not' from Glendalough, vanquisher of The terrible Oilliphéist of Blackwater.

The King shoves The Alchemist and his scrolls aside rather rudely and adjusts his crown to look more regal.

THE KING

Thank you Captain - send him in. Ruldolfo - see where that troublesome Princess has gotten herself to.

The Guard Captain bows then withdraws through the main door.

The Alchemist hurries to the stairs with his scrolls.

Fear Not enters, escorted by the Guard Captain. The Guards watch him suspiciously but he grins vacuously back.

GUARD CAPTAIN

(announcing proudly)

His royal majesty - King Finsnechta Cethardec Mac Cellaig of Leinster.

The King smiles and waves him away. The Guard Captain exits.

FEAR NOT
Hello there!

THE KING
So you are the youth known as 'Fear Not'? The lad who knows no fear?

FEAR NOT
That's right sir... Er... sire, I mean. What are those discs on your face? Do they hurt?

THE KING
These are spectacles - a new invention to help me see. They were fashioned for me by my Italian Alchemist.

FEAR NOT
Oh? My old Dad might like a pair, he's always bumping into things. Although mainly after he's had a few.

The King rolls his eyes, finding Fear Not annoying.

THE KING
I am told you wish to seek permission to venture to Tellarought Castle? To fight the monsters and ghosts within?

FEAR NOT
Yes majesty. Ghosts and goblins don't scare me. But if anything I'm rather hoping they might.

THE KING
Really? How so?

FEAR NOT
I don't know how to shudder sire... I have no sense of fear. My dad calls me a fool for it, so I'm dedicated to learn and better myself.

THE KING
You should be careful what you wish for. Only one warrior ever survived a night at Tellarought. He was found days later, wandering, his mind gone.

FEAR NOT
Really? Sounds promising.

THE KING

Any who survive three nights is entitled to claim the treasures within and may claim the greatest treasure of all - the hand of Princess Aylwen.

(under breath)

Whenever she turns up.

FEAR NOT

What if I defeat the monsters? Can I have the haunted castle? You see I'm homeless, need a roof over me head.

The King BURSTS OUT LAUGHING and the Guards CHUCKLE.

THE KING

Why not - take the lands too! The abandoned fields would there be very valuable if not for the demons, devils and ghouls that roam them at night.

Fear Not nods happily.

FEAR NOT

Ok sire - I'll do it. And thank you so much, I won't let you down.

Father Thomas enters from the internal door and bows to The King. He moves to stand near the vacant throne.

FATHER THOMAS

(to King)

Greetings majesty. Have I arrived at some auspicious moment? It is nice to hear laughter in these sombre halls.

THE KING

We are pleased to meet our new Champion, young 'Fear Not'.

(to Fear Not)

This is Father Thomas - a Bishop from Ulaid seeking my patronage in the construction of several churches.

FEAR NOT

Hello there Father. Please call me 'Fear Not'. Everyone else does.

FATHER THOMAS

Pleased to meet you young man. I wish you good fortune in your perilous

quest - may the Lord watch over you.

FEAR NOT
 Thanks - but I was brought up to
 believe in the old gods. Though 'me'
 late mother was Christian, my Dad
 kidnapped her from 'Angle-Land'.

Father Thomas looks sternly at the King.

FATHER THOMAS
 A terrible Irish custom - one the
 church is putting a stop to. Raiding
 and carting-away ladies to be wives is
 a disgrace. Isn't that so majesty?

THE KING
 Oh shut up.
 (to Fear Not)
 You DO understand the great peril you
 face? The odds of surviving a single
 night are very weighted against you?

FEAR NOT
 Yes sire - I'm looking forward to it.

Father Thomas and The King exchange questioning glances.

FATHER THOMAS
 (whispers to King)
 Perhaps this lad should be known as
 'Brain-not'. Is he simple?

The Princess enters with Dee following, helping prevent the
 Princesses long dress dragging on the floor.

THE KING
 Ah, about time. Considering the modest
 size of this castle the Princess
 always manages to be late.

The King leeringly watches the Princess curtsy and sits
 beside him. Dee finds the Princess from behind with a fan.

PRINCESS
 Good Day majesty. So this must be the
 latest hero planning to visit the lair
 of ancient King Fachtna Fáthach?

Dee seems smiles at Fear Not - impressed, still fanning.

THE KING

Indeed, so potentially your future husband. But failing this it will finally be OUR wedding, right Father?

FATHER THOMAS

As I said sire, Papal permission is not something which can be rushed.

THE KING

It had better be, or those new churches can easily be made 'pagan'.

The King smiles evilly at the Princess. She SIGHS.

FEAR NOT

(to Princess)

Hello there. I'm known as Fear Not.

FADE TO

EXT. ROAD TO FERNS, CAPITAL OF LEINSTER - PM

The walled town 'Ferns' in the background with the top of the castle seen. A glimpse of the Princess in the upper window. The countryside around is fields and farmsteads. Fear Not and The Tinker are leaving in the cart as they chat, passing some other TRAVELLERS heading into the town.

THE TINKER

So how did it go with the king lad?

FEAR NOT

Fine Mr McKay. The Princess seemed nice too. Funny accent though.

THE TINKER

I heard she was carried-off from Gwynedd by the King. I've always wanted to see a Princess, but those buggers wouldn't let me in. Tinkers are not welcome - so they said.

FEAR NOT

Stick with me and you can dazzle any other Princesses we meet with your share of all the treasure.

THE TINKER

I'd rather dazzle them with my charms, and keep my treasure for 'meself'.

FEAR NOT
 I'm told there's an inn nearby. The
 Inn-Keeper is tasked with checking
 those visiting the castle... And
 burying them the day after.

THE TINKER
 Aye yes - I know if it. Some very nice
 ales to be had there, brewed by monks.

FADE TO

INT. BEDCHAMBERS OF THE PRINCESS, FERNS CASTLE - PM

The Princess is in a tin bath by the fire, naked and washing.
 Dee is pouring a jug of steaming hot water into the tub.

PRINCESS
 Hotter! You know I hate tepid.

DEE
 Sorry majesty. The pot will take a few
 minutes to heat again.

PRINCESS
 Then soap my back while waiting.

DEE
 Yes mistress.
 (soaping)
 Might I ask highness - what was your
 impression of the young man we saw,
 the young lad they say has no fear?

PRINCESS
 A buffoon. A commoner. I doubt he even
 owns a sword, let alone can use one.

DEE
 He looked handsome to me. Nice legs
 and lovely hair. What curls!

PRINCESS
 When I want your opinion Dee I'll ask.
 If not - kindly shut up. And get a
 move on with my water - I'm freezing.

DEE
 Yes Mistress.

Dee curtsies and hurries away to bring water. She unknowingly

passes a small HOLE IN THE WALL. An EYE is watching!

FADE TO

INT. SECRET PASSAGE, FERNS CASTLE - PM

Behind the rooms of the Princess. A door to a corridor has been left ajar. The King has his glasses on and is peering through a hole in the wall, grinning.

POV as seen by the King - through the hole we see a glimpse of the Princess in her bath - as per the previous scene.

THE KING (O.S)

Lovely... So lovely.

BACK TO SCENE

Father Thomas enters and CLEARS HIS THROAT loudly. The King GASPS and turns, then stuffs-up the hole with a bung.

FATHER THOMAS

Hope I'm not interrupting sire?

THE KING

Actually you are. Was there something you wanted urgently Father?

FATHER THOMAS

Only that I have an update for your baptism and marriage.

THE KING

Does it really take so long to arrange a splash of water and a wedding? I'm amazed you Christians have the sway that you do, as all you do is dither.

FATHER THOMAS

Your conversion is not the issue sire - it is the forced marriage to a Christian girl stolen from a rich and influential family. Such matters trouble His Holiness, but - finally all is agreed, you may marry her.

THE KING

Finally! I was beginning to think those new churches might actually be built by the time I get to have her. Legally - as my wife - I mean.

FATHER THOMAS

It is said sire 'the longer the wait,
the sweeter the taste'.

THE KING

She certainly looks tasty, but it's
not her love that interests me.

Father Thomas looks disapprovingly at The King.

THE KING

It is her lineage. Our offspring will
have a claim on the throne of Gwynedd.
A claim I shall be keen to press.

FATHER THOMAS

Of course sire. Closer ties between
both Kingdoms - under godly rule -
will bring peace for all.

THE KING

Peace? You Christians promised peace
when you first came to Ireland but
there has been nothing but conflict
ever since.

FATHER THOMAS

It's terrible there is still strife,
yes. But in years to come 'the
troubles' we be long forgotten.

THE KING

People are always people, no matter
what nonsense they learn from priests.
And I hear your 'brethren' have been
stirring things up in the north, just
as they did over in Angle-Land.

FATHER THOMAS

Whatever do you mean sire?

THE KING

Traditionally churches are for all -
adorned with pagan and Christian
symbols alike, for all faiths. In the
north I hear Christians have driven
the pagans out, that tolerance is no
longer practiced by Christian rulers.

FATHER THOMAS

Many kingdoms differ sire - some

rulers more devout, some interpret the
Lords teachings in other ways. You
seem to sense conspiracy everywhere
when the Church is only here to help.

THE KING
Help itself... No, of course - as you
say Father. Now if you'll excuse me?

Father Thomas bows and exits the way he came. The King POPS
open the the bung and peers through again.

THE KING
Curses! She's put her knickers on.

FADE TO

EXT. TELLAROUGHT CASTLE, SOUTHERN IRELAND - LATE PM

An archaic fortress from the Iron Age. A moat of human skulls
spanned by rotting draw-bridge through open gate with open
portcullis. All around are dead trees and abandoned fields, a
'cursed' area where none travel.

NOTE : Modern ruins are 14th Century, built on the site.

Fear Not and The Tinker arrive on the cart, travelling along
an overgrown road. This stops near the drawbridge and Fear
Not hops down and looks at the castle, impressed.

FEAR NOT
This is the place, I can tell by the
skulls. Perhaps here I can shudder?

THE TINKER
I'd say it's a certainty lad, why I'm
shuddering already. I think I'll wait
over at the Inn if you don't mind?

FEAR NOT
If you'd prefer? I'd better take a few
things with me though.

Fear Not rummages at the back of the cart and fills his
backpack, adding half a loaf, the lathe a gourd, fire wood,
candles and a dull bread-knife.

THE TINKER
If half the stories are true I doubt
you'll get bored here. There's a new
church being built down the road -

hide in there if things get nasty.

FEAR NOT
There's new churches everywhere these days. Christianity is the 'in-thing'.

THE TINKER
Good luck lad. I'll be back come morning to check you're alive. Failing that I'll see you properly buried.

Fear Not is barely listening, he grabs his bulging backpack and violin and hurries towards the gate, eager to begin.

FEAR NOT
Ok Mr McKay. See you in the morning!

Fear Not skips happily across the drawbridge. The Tinker rolls his eyes and begins to drive away, worried.

FADE TO

EXT. COURTYARD, TELLAROUGHT CASTLE - LATE PM

Ruins of stables and kennels, tunnels down to crypts. Gibbets with rotting corpses, skulls on spikes and human bones and rusting weapons scattered about. The main building is a central squat tower with tiny windows - all very ominous.

Fear Not hurries through the rotted main gates with his possessions and looks around happily at the mess.

FEAR NOT
(to self)
This looks promising!

Suddenly the Portcullis closes behind him to prevent his retreat. Fear Not smiles and trots towards the main building.

FEAR NOT
Fantastic! Just what I need.

FADE TO

INT. MAIN HALL, TELLAROUGHT CASTLE - LATE PM

Dimming daylight through small windows. A stone fireplace, rusting armour and weapons, an ancient SKELETON slumped at the head of a rotting table. An internal wooden door leads deeper inside. All is caked in dust and cobwebs.

The main door to outside swings open with a LOUD CREAK as
Fear Not enters happily. RATS are heard scurrying away.

FEAR NOT
(calling)
Hello? ANYONE AT HOME?

The slight ECHO of Fear Not's own voice around the castle.

Fear Not unpacks on the table, pulling out the gourd.

FADE TO

INT. BEDCHAMBERS OF THE PRINCESS, FERNS CASTLE - EVENING

PAN OUT from a bottle of POISON handed by Father Thomas to
The Princess, with Dee keeping lookout at the doorway.

FATHER THOMAS
Three drops will be more than enough
to kill. Rudolpho is a sinner but his
potions are powerful. When the deed is
done I'll return the bottle to his
laboratory - he will take the blame.

DEE
Father Thomas - must poor Princess
Aylwen commit such a callous act?
Surely it is sinful and wicked?

PRINCESS
Silence Dee! Don't interrupt your
bettters. And for your information you
will be doing most of the work.

DEE
Oh...
(sarcastic)
That's all right then.

FATHER THOMAS
King Aed Oirdnide and his army stand
ready to invade from the North. With
King Cethardec dead there will be
chaos and confusion. Then you will be
free to return home to Gwynedd.

DEE
Isn't King Oirdnide said to be a
tyrant? Keen on torture and having
those who displease him flayed alive?

FATHER THOMAS
 A baseless rumour, started by pagans.
 No - King Oirdnide is a good
 Christian, I've met him. All will
 rejoice when he takes control. Then
 all will be united under the true
 faith, as foretold by Saint Patrick.

PRINCESS
 Yes, yes... But be sure to be in the
 hallway at midnight. I will meet you
 with the bottle when the deed is done.

The Princess pockets the bottle in her tattered dress.

FADE TO

INT. MAIN HALL, TELLAROUGHT CASTLE - NIGHT

A small fire burns in the fireplace, candles lit - eerie
 shadows. The skeleton has been wrapped in a table-cloth and
 moved by the exit. The internal door forced open and spiral
 stone steps lead up and down beyond - dark and uninviting.
 Fear Not is toasting some bread in the fire.

FEAR NOT
 (to self)
 Well I'm shuddering - but only because
 it seems colder suddenly.

SOMETHING SCURRYING in the darkness. Fear Not breaks a bit of
 toast off and throws it. There is a happy SQUEAK.

FEAR NOT
 Share and share alike.

He chews the remaining toast cheerfully, gazing about.

A GUST OF WIND through the broken shutters - candles flicker,
 most blown out - leaving the fire as the source of light.

Fear Not shrugs and continues chewing.

FEAR NOT
 Pity the shutters are broken. But I'm
 not here to fix things.

An echo of a male SCREAM heard through the internal door.
 This sounds like The Tinker but is not clearly heard.

Fear Not stands and tilts his head to listen closely.

FEAR NOT
Am I hearing things?

Fear Not jiggles his fingers in his ears to remove wax. There is silence, just the WIND howling outside.

FEAR NOT
Just the wind?

He retrieves his violin from the table and tunes it.

A FAINT VOICE echoes through the internal door. OPHELIA - a pale willowy lady with long dark hair, her airy clothing from a previous age. A flimsy light burial shroud over all.

OPHELIA (O.S)
It is so cold! I cannot bear it...

FEAR NOT
That time was not the wind.

Fear Not puts down his violin and hurries to the internal door. He calls out and his voice echos in the darkness.

FEAR NOT
Hello? HELLO? Anyone there? I have a fire going if you're cold? Only a small one, the chimney is blocked.

No reply - only the echo of his own voice.

Fear Not shrugs and turns back to the fire. To his surprise Ophelia is hunched here with her back turned to him.

FEAR NOT
Oh Hello? And who might you be?

The pale hands of Ophelia reach for the fire, warming. She turns in her shroud-hood and we see a glimpse of her face. He stops and GASPS - shocked by who he sees.

CAMERA TRICK - In the flickering light the face of an older woman with grey hair - it is FEAR NOT'S DEAD MOTHER.

FEAR NOT
MOTHER? Is that you?

She smiles and turns back to the fire to resume warming herself, again facing away. He steps closer, troubled.

FEAR NOT
Mother? How can it be you?

CAMERA TRICK - he pulls her to face him. It is Ophelia - 25, pretty but pale, big sad eyes and pouting red lips.

OPHELIA
My name is Ophelia. I came to warm myself by your fire - I heard you calling. I hope you don't mind?

Fear Not releases her and steps back. Ophelia lowers her shroud-hood, her long hair frames her pretty face.

FEAR NOT
Sorry Miss - for a moment you looked just like my mother. It must be a trick of the lighting here.

OPHELIA
Sorry if I scared you?

FEAR NOT
Oh I wasn't scared - I loved my mother dearly and will be happy to see her again someday. I don't know fear, that's why I'm here - to learn how to shudder. My name is Fear Not.

OPHELIA
Then 'Fear Not' you have come to the right place. These dark halls have known millennia of horror and despair, the foundations permeate with evil.

FEAR NOT
Good! Just what I'm looking for.

Ophelia seems puzzled but removes her shroud, her dress is millennia old. She folds her shroud and puts it on the table.

FEAR NOT
No wonder you're cold, your dress has seen better days. Get comfy by the fire and I'll do you some toast? I would have cider too but my friend Mr McKay drank most of that on the way.

Ophelia moves back to the fire again.

OPHELIA

You are very kind, but I do not drink
cider. You're not alone here then?

FEAR NOT

He went to the Inn down the road, this
is no place for him. He couldn't wait
to get away, was shaking in his
boots... Lucky devil.

OPHELIA

You are in danger. There is a man
here, a wicked fiend with a black
soul, whose very presence wilts fresh
flowers and curdles milk.

FEAR NOT

Really? When do I get to meet him?

OPHELIA

Pray that you never do, he will strip
the flesh from your bones and suck out
the eyeballs from your head!

FEAR NOT

Sounds an odd fellow, considering I've
done nothing to upset him. Does he
live here then? And do you?

OPHELIA

He keeps me here - I'm a prisoner! I
cannot leave and am compelled to obey
his whims and perverse fancies.

FEAR NOT

Well if he makes you clean and tidy, I
can see your heart isn't really in it.

OPHELIA

I beg your pardon?

FEAR NOT

Just thinking out loud. I'd be happy
to scrap him if you'd like? Help you
escape? I'm up for anything really...
I was getting bored.

OPHELIA

I have tried countless times to
escape, he always manages to stop me.
He is a fiend, a monster!

Ophelia becomes upset and he hurries to hug her. As they hug she smiles and eyes up the vein in his neck.

FEAR NOT
Don't be upset miss - I'm here now.
Tell me what I can do to help?

Ophelia licks her lips but resists and pulls away.

OPHELIA
There may be a way to escape... My
coffin. We need my coffin.

FEAR NOT
Mike MacLoughlin? Who is he?

OPHELIA
No - the coffin in which I was buried.
I must return by dawn, but move this
and I'll be free from this nightmare.

FEAR NOT
You mean you're... er...? Um...

OPHELIA
Not alive? No. Nothing within these
walls still lives. Here only the
'undead' remain - cursed to roam these
halls for all eternity.

Fear Not NODS and tries to look knowledgeable.

FADE TO

INT. THE KINGS BEDCHAMBER, FERNS CASTLE - NIGHT

Beside the Kings four-poster is a bedside table with a burning candle, tinderbox, wine and two goblets. A VANITY SCREEN - hiding behind is Dee. The King is in bed, his nightshirt and glasses are on. Before him is The Princess - performing a striptease as he stares in amazement.

THE KING
Oh Princess, this is a dream come
true! You're a vision of loveliness!

PRINCESS
Our wedding is now set so I thought it
pointless to resist any longer.

She slides down her dress as The Kings eyes bulge.

THE KING
Oh excellent... Excellent!

The Princess sways in her underwear (a chemise, tights and a type of 'bloomers'). The King wipes drool from his chin.

PRINCESS
Can you pour us some wine darling?

THE KING
Yes, yes of course.

The King eagerly pours wine into the two goblets.

THE KING
I had this imported from Frankia -
been saving it for a special occasion.

PRINCESS
I hope tonight will prove VERY
special. One you'll never forget!

The King SIPS his wine then leaves the goblets on the table, watching eagerly as the Princess peels down her tights.

THE KING
Wonderful! Lovely!

She turns her back and pulls off her chemise then slides down her bloomers, swaying her bum. She turns, hiding her modesty with her hands. The King gapes, panting.

PRINCESS
Ready for me to join you in bed?

THE KING
More than ready - I can't wait!

PRINCESS
I have one small request first -
before I give up my delights.

The Princess lowers her hands - the King GASPS and looks as though he is on the verge of having a heart-attack.

THE KING
Anything?! Anything! ASK!

PRINCESS
Can you blow out the candle? I'm much
more relaxed in the dark.

The Princess moves to the foot of the bed as the King turns to blow the candle. He PUFFS several times - as panting.

Dee quickly creeps out of her hiding place and sneaks towards the foot of the bed - unseen by the King.

He manages to BLOW OUT the candle and all becomes dark, then moonlight from outside shines through the window.

Dee and The Princess swap places - Dee moves into the bed under the sheets as The Princess ducks down out of sight. The King is delighted as Dee begins to bob under the sheets.

PRINCESS
(throwing her voice)
Close your eyes Great King.

The King lays back and GASPS happily, closing his eyes.

THE KING
Oh yes, that's nice... Lovely!

Dee makes 'Mmmm-mmm' sounds as she moves under the covers. The Princess pulls out the poison and sneaks to the goblets.

THE KING
I thought you Christian girls are all
shy and useless, but how wrong I was!

The Princess pours ALL THE POISON into both goblets equally and shakes out the last few drips. He keeps his eyes shut.

THE KING
That's it... Like that...

The Princess sneaks to hide at the foot of the bed, she returns the empty bottle to her discarded clothes.

THE KING
Now I know why they call you lot
'Angles'. You're an angel!

The King SCREAMS in delight and Dee SQUEALS as he holds her under the blankets and judders. Both remain still.

THE KING
(very happy)
That was heaven. So good... I think I
need a drink after that.

As The King fumbles for his wine Dee sneaks out of the foot

of the bed and the Princess sneaks in to take her place. Dee tip-toes behind the Vanity Screen, wiping her mouth.

PRINCESS

I'm a 'Briton' actually sire - not an Angle or Saxon. And very proud of it.

THE KING

I think we will have a long happy marriage, judging by that experience.

The King KNOCKS OVER both goblets - their contents spill everywhere as they CLATTER to the floor.

THE KING

Oh blast it! It's no good my dear - I can't see a thing in this darkness.

The King uses the tinderbox to re-light the candle. Dee ducks out of sight and The Princess moves beside him.

THE KING

Let there be light - as you Christians like to say.

Now with light on he finds a third goblet inside the bedside cabinet. He notices the Princess glaring at the goblet.

THE KING

Don't worry - the servants will clear up the mess. There's plenty left.

She forces a smile as The King fills the goblet and takes a sip then passes this to her. After a sip each he puts the goblet down then gets comfy beside her, caressing.

THE KING

I'll use your bosom as a pillow.
Perhaps in a while we can go again?

PRINCESS

(unconvincing)

Oh great. I just can't wait.

As the King lays on her bare chest, he pulls-up a sheet and drapes his arm over her, pinning her into place.

THE KING

If I snore I hope you won't mind?

The Princess SIGHES - anticipating a long night ahead.

FADE TO

INT. THE CRYPT, TELLAROUGHT CASTLE - NIGHT

Underground, spiral stone steps up to the main hall. Cobwebs and ancient rotting coffins. A pile of rotting remains in one corner. Several big unlit candles, all melted into position.

Ophelia leads Fear Not down the steps towards her open coffin. He has a candle for light (she can see in the dark).

FEAR NOT

How can you get away Ophelia - if you're already dead I mean? Haven't you left it rather late?

OPHELIA

By moving my coffin out away from this hellish place. Where it lays I must return to rest inside - cursed to rise in an endless cycle of misery.

FEAR NOT

I'll help, don't you worry.

Ophelia makes a strange gesture with her hands. The candles all burst into flames, the room suddenly much brighter.

FEAR NOT

That's a good trick.

He places his candle down on a sarcophagus and follows .

OPHELIA

Did Seamus the Inn Keeper send you?

FEAR NOT

No, the King did.

OPHELIA

The King has an arrangement with the lord of this castle to keep him supplied with victims... So he need not venture outside these walls.

FEAR NOT

He'd have trouble leaving anyhow. There are 'spike things' at the gate, no-one can get in or out.

OPHELIA

The Portcullis? There is a ladder to a pulley just above the gate. Simply pull and they open with weights. There are pads in the ground that trigger spikes - the triangular flagstones.

FEAR NOT

Ah - good to know. Thanks Ophelia.

They reach her open coffin, this has locks on the lid.

OPHELIA

Here is where I must return by dawn - I am drawn here and cannot resist.

FEAR NOT

And a very nice coffin it is too. My home isn't that much bigger really.

Fear Not moves to look inside the coffin, unaware that Ophelia slides behind him, about to shove him in!

He suddenly turns to face her with a big smile. She smiles back coldly and glides away instead.

OPHELIA

You are really going to help me?

FEAR NOT

Aye, of course! I'm always ready to help a lady in need. Even a pale one.

OPHELIA

I suppose you want a reward? That you wish to know about the treasure here?

FEAR NOT

Not really. I'm just happy to help.

OPHELIA

(surprised)

You're not interested in the treasure?

FEAR NOT

Well I'd like enough to buy tools for 'me' old Dad, so he'll forgive me. Oh and a new cart and horse.

OPHELIA

Usually all are keen to see the

treasure... Here - I shall show you.

Ophelia opens an upright sarcophagus, we get a glimpse of SPARKLING GOLD stacked from bottom to top inside.

Fear Not nods politely but seems uninterested.

She closes the lid and glides back towards him seductively.

OPHELIA

Afterwards they want to get to know me more 'intimately'.

FEAR NOT

That ends tonight, don't fret. There is a Christian church down the road, perhaps you'll find peace there?

OPHELIA

Anywhere away from here is welcome, though I know little of Christians. Come closer - let me kiss you?

FEAR NOT

Kiss me? Whatever for?

OPHELIA

For all the kindness you've shown me.

Ophelia moves closer, licking her red lips.

FEAR NOT

Well just a peck? I'm not very experienced... Well, apart from kisses from 'me' late mother.

OPHELIA

This will be very different.

Her eyes gleam as she pulls him closer.

FEAR NOT

Ok but no 'Frankish' stuff - tongues are to help chew, not to slobber.

OPHELIA

My kisses are sweet - the sweetest you shall ever know. It's even better if you close your eyes for a moment.

Fear Not closes his eyes and pouts. She opens her mouth to

show FANGS. She moves to bite then GASPS and withdraws, hiding her face behind her arm. Fear Not opens his eyes.

FEAR NOT
Oh heck - my breath. My brother Rory is always teasing me about it.

OPHELIA
Your neck? You have a magic talisman?

Ophelia cowers as Fear Not pulls out THE SILVER TALISMAN that had been under his shirt. She HISSES and steps away.

OPHELIA
Why does it affect me so?

FEAR NOT
Oh... Mr McKay said ladies will be overcome by this... Nice isn't it?
Blessed by the Pope himself.

Ophelia GASPS and retreats into her coffin, keen to avoid the talisman. Not understanding, Fear Not follows and waves it.

FEAR NOT
Here, have a closer look?

Ophelia seems choked and unable to talk - she frantically begins to pull the lid of the coffin shut to get away.

FEAR NOT
Oh - settling down already? Then let me lend you a hand. Here!

Fear Not helps with the lid and THROWS the talisman with her! She HISSES like a cat as he shuts the lid and locks it.

FEAR NOT
Keep it if you like it? A gift between two new friends.

There is a faint KNOCKING from the coffin.

FEAR NOT
(to coffin)
You don't have to thank me. A good deed is its own reward. Sit tight and I'll see if I can move you.

He drags the coffin across the stone floor to the stairs.

FEAR NOT
I'm stronger than I thought or you are
lighter than you look. Hang on!

Fear Not drags the coffin up the first step. He pauses and opens the lid. Inside Ophelia GASPS and chokes, her hands have withered and shrivelled, a WAFT of smoke.

FEAR NOT
This might get bumpy.

Ophelia opens her mouth to protest but he closes the lid and locks it again. He begins to bump the coffin up the steps.

FADE TO

EXT. TELLAROUGHT CASTLE, SOUTHERN IRELAND - NIGHT

Moonlight from a full moon, WINDY. The Portcullis is now open, we get a glimpse of a shadowy figure watching from the 1st floor window of the tower. THE FIEND - he is pale and vampiric and will be seen more closely later.

Fear Not is dragging the coffin along, away from the castle.

FEAR NOT
(to coffin)
The new church is down the road, I'm sure you'll find peace there. If you like crosses you'll love it - it's full of cross-shaped graves.

OPHELIA (O.S)
(from inside coffin)
Help... Help me...

FEAR NOT
Yes - I'm helping you, don't worry. In a few minutes you'll be well away from here, just like you wanted.

Fear Not drags the coffin more speedily along.

FADE TO

INT. THE KINGS BEDCHAMBER, FERNS CASTLE - NIGHT

As before - the Princess lays next to The King who has his arms draped over her and SNORES loudly. She is wide awake and annoyed. The feet of Dee are sticking-out from behind the vanity-screen, she is SNORING also.

FADE TO

EXT. CHURCH GRAVEYARD, COUNTRYSIDE - NIGHT

A glimpse of a new church with scaffolding - new here but in the old style. A few freshly dug grave and spade. Fear Not is burying Ophelia's coffin. As dirt lands there is TAPPING.

FEAR NOT

(to coffin)

Sit tight - I'll have you buried in a minute. Soon you'll be at peace among the other dead here.

A soft HOWL OF ANGUISH from Ophelia from inside the coffin - but Fear Not takes no notice as he shovels more dirt.

FADE TO

INT. HALL WITH STAIRS, FERNS CASTLE - NIGHT

An area with a door to Kings bedroom. Stairs continue up and down, with alcoves and corridors - one alcove leads to a crude toilet behind a curtain nearby.

Father Thomas is loitering with a candle in his nightgown.

FATHER THOMAS

(whispers to self)

Where is that silly girl? I hope nothing has gone amiss.

The sound of someone approaching and another flickering candle - someone is ascending the stairs.

Father Thomas moves to greet them and is surprised to see The Alchemist, fully dressed, also with a candle.

FATHER THOMAS

Oh? You? I just nipped to the privy. Good night Rudolpho. Sorry about the smell, I'm not used to rich food.

Father Thomas hurries away, leaving the Alchemist staring.

SLOW FADE TO

INT. MAIN HALL, TELLAROUGHT CASTLE - MORNING

Sunlight streams through the windows. A small blanket by the smouldering fire. Fear Not is tired but happy, rubbing his

eyes as The Tinker nervously talks to him.

THE TINKER

Are you sure that's what really
happened last night?

FEAR NOT

Yes, after I returned I got comfy and
nodded-off. The next thing I knew it
was morning and here we are.

THE TINKER

I didn't want to set foot in this
awful place but thought something had
befallen you.

The Tinker spots the ancient shroud of Ophelia on the table.

THE TINKER

What's this strange thing?

FEAR NOT

That's Ophelia's - she was wearing it.
She took it off after she warmed
herself by the fire.

The Tinker lifts the shroud and both are surprised when it
crumbles away to dust.

THE TINKER

They don't make things how they used
to, that's for sure.

The Tinker brushes his hands and shrugs.

FEAR NOT

Did you bring any grub? Digging is
hungry work. It was a hard days night,
I've been working like a dog.

THE TINKER

The Inn Keeper is just outside - he
promised us a slap-up breakfast if
you're alive. Come on - let's get out
of this terrible place while we can.

The Tinker heads for the door, Fear Not sleepily follows but
pops back a few steps to retrieve his violin.

FEAR NOT

Don't want to forget my fiddle.

The Tinker pauses in the doorway as Fear Not catches up.

THE TINKER
Must you lad?
(pause)
Between the two of us I think the Inn
Keeper is spying. He seems much more
interested in us than he should be.

FADE TO

INT. BEDCHAMBERS OF THE PRINCESS, FERNS CASTLE - MORNING

The Princess converses with Father Thomas - both dressed.

PRINCESS
Then he started snoring, but I'm not
complaining about that - things could
have been a lot worse.

FATHER THOMAS
The Lord above I'm sure must have
watched over you Princess.

PRINCESS
What do I do now? He'll expect me
again tonight.

FATHER THOMAS
Well as a priest I've heard many
confessions from many wives . Don't
worry - I can tell you a thousand
excuses. Start with the classic - say
you have a headache.

PRINCESS
Headaches won't last forever.

Dee enters and curtsies to both, she seems tired.

DEE
(husky)
Good morning Father. Sorry - husky
this morning. Did you hear about the
Viking raiders last night?

FATHER THOMAS
Raiders? What raiders??

FADE TO

FLASHBACK BEGINS - VIKING ATTACK

EXT. BLACKWATER VILLAGE, SOUTH EAST IRELAND - EVENING

The village is BURNING. In the background villagers flee VIKINGS who have landed in dragon-ships. The Vikings are mostly male but some are female also - all well armed.

In the foreground some Villagers FIGHT Vikings using fishing implements. Among them is CONNOR - about 19 with a crude sword. He and the villagers do little damage as the Vikings have good shields and seem expert fighters.

DEE (V.O)
(husky throughout)

A couple of coastal villages were attacked. Without the sea-monster the Norse Men are emboldened. Some say King 'Maredudd ap Tewdws' of Gwynedd hired Vikings to find Princess Aylwen and return her to him in Wales.

The Villagers become tired and start to back away. The Vikings taunt them into making rash actions (MUTED).

Ailbhe and a few female and aged villagers exit from a smouldering hut and run away during fighting.

DEE (V.O)
The peasants tried to protect the woman and children as they fled, but were no match for Viking warriors.

The fighting resumes harder, the Villagers defend those fleeing. Connor seems to be going well in the fighting.

Ailbhe looks behind at the fight as she runs. She BUMPS into HALDOR THE SLAYER. Haldor is a beast of a man - 7 foot tall, tattooed and hairy. His double-sided axe as tall as he.

Ailbhe bounces off Haldor like hitting a tree and falls onto her backside and stares up at him in terror.

FATHER THOMAS (V.O)
Is the name of any of the raiders known? Or who leads them?

Haldor props his axe by the wall and reaches down for Ailbhe. Holding her down with one giant hand he begins to tear off her clothes with the other. She SCREAMS!

DEE (V.O)
 I was told by Ailbhe, the survivor.
 Her brother Connor was killed. She was
 spared - to bring word to the King.

Connor spots Ailbhe and hurries away to help her.

PRINCESS (V.O)
 What is the name Dee? Speak up!

Haldor moves on top of Ailbhe, her clothing mostly torn off.
 She struggles and whimpers helplessly.

DEE (V.O)
 They are led by a berserker named
 'Haldor'.

The Peasant Hero STABS Haldor - slashing his back. Haldor
 turns angrily, as if insulted. He clammers up, grabs his axe
 and ROARS - trembling with berserk fury.

Connor backs away from the huge angry Viking - clearly
 outmatched. Ailbhe covers herself and cowers.

FATHER THOMAS (V.O)
 Haldor The Slayer?!

Haldor CHOPS Connor in half - his legs fall one side and his
 torso the other. Ailbhe gapes in horror.

Haldor lifts the upper part of Connor by his hair - somehow
 still alive. He THROWS the torso up and WHACKS this like a
 baseball with the flat of his axe, the torso goes flying.

FATHER THOMAS (V.O)
 Haldor is an unbeatable Viking warrior
 said to eat Christians!

Villagers fighting nearby see this and scatter - running for
 their lives. The Vikings chase them, laughing and jeering.

(PRINCESS (V.O))
 Isn't he the chief who conquered 'the
 isle of Maen'* for Ivor The Boneless?

NOTE: * Now known as 'The Isle of Man'

Haldor can't be bothered to chase, he turns back to Ailbhe
 who has scrambled up. She backs away, horrified.

FATHER THOMAS (V.O)
 If it is him marauding our shores then
 our whole kingdom is in peril.

Dee begins to COUGH LOUDLY at this point.

DEE (V.O)
 Sorry - I've a bit of a frog today.

FLASHBACK ENDS

FADE TO

INT. HALL WITH STAIRS, FERNS CASTLE - DAY

Outside the closed door of the Kings bedroom is The Princess.

FATHER THOMAS (V.O)
 I tried talking to the King earlier -
 he said he was busy. We must learn
 what was said. Is some arrangement
 made with the invaders perhaps?

PRINCESS (V.O)
 Leave that to me Father, I'll have him
 singing all his secrets.

The Princess KNOCKS on the door.

THE KING (O.S)
 (from behind door)
 Go away - I'm busy!!

The Princess KNOCKS again.

PRINCESS
 It's me majesty. And I've not many
 clothes on today.

The door unlocks and opens ajar - the King appears with
 spectacles on - his bedroom beyond him darkened.

THE KING
 (disappointed)
 Well you look fully dressed to me.
 What do you want Princess?

PRINCESS
 Only to see you again highness. After
 our 'special night' together.

THE KING
 Understandable - I was rather
 impressive. But you need to wait. I've
 had troubling news and am very busy.

PRINCESS
 News? What news sire?

THE KING
 Vikings have landed. Bad timing as the
 bulk of my forces are at the northern
 border, where that 'toad' King Áed
 Oirdnide has been massing his men.

PRINCESS
 But I thought you had a huge army?
 Those who kidnapped me certainly
 seemed to know what they were doing.

THE KING
 Those were mercenaries, long gone.
 Between you and me there has been a
 shortage of soldiers here for years,
 what with all the on-and-off wars.

PRINCESS
 Oh? Am I... Er, 'we' in any danger?

THE KING
 I have a parlay with the Viking Leader
 and a 'little surprise' in store too.
 Don't worry Aylwen - soon all will be
 fine. You'll be able to fill your
 pretty little head with my impressive
 manliness, not worries of enemies.

He retreats and closes the door. She SIGHS and wanders away.

FADE TO

INT. THE INN, SOUTH-EAST IRELAND - PM

A more substantial inn where PEASANTS eat and drink in the background. Fear Not and The Tinker are seated together with remnants of stew and empty tankards. Fear Not dozes as the Tinker pinches the meat from his bowl.

The INN KEEPER enters clutching a letter. He peers at Fear Not then shuffles behind the bar to join THE BAR MAID.

The Inn Keeper is large and fat, an apron around his gut. He

wears DISTINCTIVE CURLED SHOES.

Molly The Bar Maid has a low cut dress and large chest, her hair is a sea of curls, about 25.

THE TINKER

Here he is again, back from another
strange errand. Old Seamus is up to
something lad, I'm sure of it.

Fear Not SNORES so the Tinker nudges him angrily.

THE TINKER

This is no time to doze! In a couple
of hours you'll need to get back to
the castle for the second night.

FEAR NOT

Just resting my eyes.

The Inn Keeper whispers in The Maids ear, she looks
questioningly at Fear Not. The Tinker watches suspiciously.

THE TINKER

(whispering)

There's something going on, so keep
your wits about you lad.

Fear Not GASPS and clammers up - to The Tinkers surprise.

FEAR NOT

Yes - you're right. Something
marvellous is going-on here!

Fear Not hurries to the far side of the room where a few
Peasants have arranged wooden SKITTLES and one has a ball.

FEAR NOT

I saw them doing this earlier - it
looks great fun!

(to Peasants)

Mind if I have a go?

The Peasants hand Fear Not the ball.

THE TINKER

This is no time for games!

The Tinker moves to join Fear Not, nearly bumping into The
Bar Maid who begins collecting tankards. He smiles at her.

Fear Not rolls the ball with enthusiasm - but misses.

FADE TO

INT. HALL WITH STAIRS, FERNS CASTLE - PM

The Alchemist hands The King a small box. The King waves this in the air happily.

THE KING

You are truly a marvel, a wonderful alchemist! The Christians may condemn and threaten you but I applaud you.

Father Thomas approaches and The King quickly tucks away the box. The Alchemist nods to Father Thomas then hurries away.

FATHER THOMAS

You seem in good spirits sire?

THE KING

Ah, Father Thomas. Apologies about this morning. I had received word of a raid - but everything is resolved.

FATHER THOMAS

Glad to hear it majesty. More mercenaries hired I take it?

THE KING

Not this time, a much cheaper option. Come tomorrow the Vikings will find themselves in Valhalla.

FATHER THOMAS

Good news indeed. Might I enquire how this miracle is to be achieved?

THE KING

I also have friends in high places...

The King smiles and retreats into his room, closing the door.

Father Thomas looks rather bewildered.

FADE TO

EXT. TELLAROUGHT CASTLE, SOUTHERN IRELAND - EVENING

In the background Fear Not is hurrying to the open gate clutching his bag. Driving away is The Tinker in the cart,

which has more junk than before in the back.

THE TINKER
(calling)
Good luck lad! If you're alive I'll
see you come morning!

Fear Not pauses to wave then hurries through the gate.

PAN OUT to the foreground.

The Inn Keeper is watching from behind a dead tree. He has a letter clutched in his chubby hand. As the cart trundles closer he ducks behind the tree to avoid being seen.

FADE TO

INT. BEDCHAMBERS OF THE PRINCESS, FERNS CASTLE - NIGHT

The Princess is chatting with Dee in her bedroom, both are wearing nightgowns and lamps and candles are lit.

PRINCESS
He didn't seem angry at all. It was
almost... 'suspicious'.

DEE
But what happened my lady?

PRINCESS
Well, it was like this...

FADE TO

FLASHBACK OF THE PRINCESS BEGINS

INT. BEDCHAMBERS OF THE PRINCESS, FERNS CASTLE - EVENING

About two hours earlier. The King and The Princess are here and both are fully dressed.

THE KING
A headache my love?

PRINCESS
I'm afraid so. And I was so looking
forward to our evening together. Just
thinking of you it suddenly came on.

THE KING
Well not too worry.

The Princess raises an eyebrow.

PRINCESS

Are you not angry? Disappointed?

THE KING

Not at all, such things happen. Don't worry darling - we have plenty more evenings ahead of us. Get some rest and I'll see you down at breakfast.

The King heads to the door, unknown to her (as his back is turned to her) he grins evilly.

PRINCESS

Well - I'll bid you good night then?

THE KING

(under breath)

Oh it will be... For me.

FADE TO

FLASHBACK ENDS

INT. BEDCHAMBERS OF THE PRINCESS, FERNS CASTLE - NIGHT

As before - Dee listens as The Princess concludes her brief tale. Dee is CHEWING, the box seen before has sweets in and is now open on the bedside table.

NOTE: 'Sweets' are marzipan cakes and honeyed doughnuts.

The Princess turns suspiciously - Dee stops chewing and smiles innocently. The Princess scratches her chin thoughtfully and turns back away - Dee continues chewing.

PRINCESS

He left me some nibbles - those sweets in the style of food of 'The Moors'.

DEE

Very 'Moorish', yes mistress.

Dee swallows then GASPS - her stomach GURGLES.

PRINCESS

Are you alright Dee? You look a bit funny all of a sudden.

Dee is flushed and starts breathing heavily.

DEE
The sweets... The sweets!

PRINCESS
Oh!? Pinching my treats again, eh?

DEE
Oh... OH! Mistress, something is
happening to me... Something strange.

PRINCESS
Not poison?

DEE
No, I feel good... REALLY good.

Dee begins panting and rubbing herself - overwhelmed.

PRINCESS
Dee - behave yourself. What do you
think you are doing in my presence?

DEE
I can't help myself... I'm overwhelmed
by desire! Frisky all of a sudden!

Dee begins to grind against the bed post, unable to stop
herself. The Princess watches disapprovingly.

There is a KNOCK at the door.

THE KING (O.S)
(from outside)
Yoo hoo! Princess - it's me! Are you
in need of my company yet?

PRINCESS
(whispers to Dee)
Quick Dee - into my bed! I'll blow out
the candles. And just keep quiet!

Dee hurries into bed as The Princess blows out the lights
then clammers under the bed to hide. Moonlight through the
window grows and helps with visibility.

PRINCESS (O.S)
Come in my love!

The King enters, in a nightshirt and no glasses on.

THE KING

Thought you'd change your mind. It's
dark in here? I can't see a thing.

PRINCESS (O.S)

I'm over here in bed, waiting! And I
like it in the dark, remember?

THE KING

Oh yes, so you do!

He hurries to the bed and clammers in, not realising Dee is
here instead. His hands wander and Dee GASPS happily.

THE KING

You've eaten my sweets then?

To his surprise Dee GRABS him and pulls him on-top, wrapping
her legs round him and encouraging him. The Princess is
squashed under the bed as the King and Dee frolic above.

The Princess SIGHS wearily - another long night lays ahead.

FADE TO

INT. MAIN HALL, TELLAROUGHT CASTLE - NIGHT

Candles are lit and a small fire burns. Fear Not is
practising his violin, tapping and singing.

CUE MUSIC : WHEN I'M SIXTY-FOUR (Beatles cover by Fear Not)

As he plays and sings he doesn't spot a LADDER moves past the
window outside and a glimpse of the Inn Keeper is seen.

Moments pass as Fear Not plays and sings (badly) .

A MUFFLED MALE SCREAM from upstairs - the Inn Keeper. Fear
Not stops playing, the MUSIC STOPS and he looks around.

FEAR NOT

Not a music lover then?

Fear not hurries to the internal doorway and peers.

FEAR NOT

(calling)

Anyone up there? HELLO?

SOMETHING BIG FALLS down the chimney. He moves to the
fireplace as a cloud of soot rises. We see the legs and feet

of the Inn Keeper sticking out of the smouldering fire.

FEAR NOT

(to self)

The Inn Keeper! I'd know those strange
shoes of his anywhere.

(to legs)

Don't worry old Seamus - I'm coming!

Fear Not pulls the legs and to his horror the whole lower part of the Inn Keeper is yanked out of the fireplace - his top missing, gory entrails dangle from the stomach.

FEAR NOT

By the old gods! Did I pull too hard?

Fear Not drags the remains clear of the fire and holds a candle near to see. SOMETHING ELSE falls down the chimney.

The Fiend lands in the fireplace, somehow alive despite only his upper half here. Ugly, about 40 with long dark hair.

The Fiend pulls himself out of the fireplace and walks on his hands towards Fear Not, who gapes in amazement.

FEAR NOT

Er, hello. I was expecting the other half of the Inn Keeper. He seems to have had a terrible accident?

FIEND

Hello? Hello?! Are you not terrified??

FEAR NOT

Should I be?

FIEND

Yes, if you had any sense. But as you're not - kindly hold those legs steady a moment could you?

Fear Not holds the legs and the Fiend pulls himself onto them - his middle joins the Inn Keepers body, becoming one.

FEAR NOT

A please would be nice?

The candles splutter and the shadows jump excitedly as some sort of unholy magic seems to be happening.

The Fiend grins and clammers up - complete but his lower part

overlaps, but any gore and blood rapidly congeals.

FEAR NOT
That's a good trick.

FIEND
Something I learned to do centuries ago. These will last me a week or two until they begin to decay.
(looking at Fear Not's legs)
You're a nice tall lad, are you in good health?

FEAR NOT
I have no complaints.

FIEND
Your legs - any warts or boils?
Strange birthmarks? In-growing toe-nails? Smelly feet?

FEAR NOT
No, nothing like that. I even bathe once a month. Sometimes more.

FIEND
Excellent! And a teenager too I see?

FEAR NOT
My name is Fear Not. Who might you be?
Where have you been all this time?

FIEND
I am Lord of this castle. As a man I was Fachtna Fáthach - High King of all Picts. Since the battle of 'Leitir Ruad' I became half the man I was.

FEAR NOT
Oh? Well I'm sorry to hear that.

FIEND
My grandparents built this fort when our capital moved to Tara from Aberffraw across the sea. But still the Celts came - hoards upon hoards.

FEAR NOT
Well I'm sorry about that, but must be long before my time I'm guessing?

FIEND

Forgive an old man reminiscing... I see you have bested Ophelia, my treacherous ward. The first to get the better of her in centuries.

FEAR NOT

Treacherous? She was being kept here against her will. I only wanted to help the poor girl find peace.

FIEND

It was she who trapped me - upstairs, having no legs tends to limit my manoeuvrability. She was here for her own good - and to honour an ancient bargain I once made.

FEAR NOT

A bargain?

FIEND

Made with the local King - probably the Great Grandfather of the current one. He now dares to seek extra favours on top of our deal.

FEAR NOT

Well I'm here because of the King - if I survive three nights I get to have this castle, the land and treasure within. Oh and a princess too.

FIEND

You know of the treasure?

FEAR NOT

Ophelia offered me a glimpse.

FIEND

I bet she did, little minx. You were not tempted to steal it then?

FEAR NOT

No, of course not - it's not mine... Yet. First I must defeat you.

The Fiend LAUGHS - chilling - this echos throughout.

FADE TO

INT. ALCHEMISTS LAB, FERNS CASTLE - LATE EVENING

Cramped and full of alchemical apparatus, bottles, flasks and tubes. The Alchemist is here, confronted by Father Thomas. The door is wide open - this leads to the stone stairwell.

FATHER THOMAS

You may have the Kings protection, but
the reach of The Lord is a long one.
Sinners like you, necromancers and
dabblers in forbidden lore all meet
with an unfortunate end.

The Alchemist opens his mouth to protest but is interrupted.

FATHER THOMAS

And keep away from poor Ailbhe, the
survivor from Blackwater. She's been
through enough and doesn't need to be
mixed-up with the likes of you! I'll
be watching Rudolpho... And so is God.

The Alchemist is about to reply but Father Thomas turns and leaves abruptly - SLAMMING the door behind him.

Hiding behind the door in the corner was Ailbhe. She has new clothing and is recovered.

The Alchemist puts his finger to his lips and passes her a bottle containing brightly glowing liquid. She smiles.

FADE TO

INT. MAIN HALL, TELLAROUGHT CASTLE - NIGHT

The Fiend is waving a phial-locket before Fear Nots face. This is on a chain and appears to contain dark blood.

FIEND

How about a wager? Your legs against
this 'dragon blood'? A sip from it
gives the strength of ten men.

FEAR NOT

I rather like my legs... But I do like
the thought of being strong.

FIEND

I am starved of distraction here...
It's not sporting to kill outright, no
matter how gruesome or gory.

FEAR NOT

If its distractions you seek, how
about a tune or two from my fiddle?

FIEND

I heard you earlier - I'm not that
starved. No - I was thinking of a
contest. Where you have at least a
sporting chance not to die horribly.

FEAR NOT

That works for me. How about skittles?

FIEND

Skittles? What are 'skittles'?

FADE TO

INT. THE CRYPT, TELLAROUGHT CASTLE - NIGHT

An area cleared and skittles made of human thigh-bones. These
SMASH as The Fiend's ball rolls. His 'ball' a human skull.

Fear Not descends the stairs, carrying his modified skull -
this has been chiselled smoother and is well rounded.

FIEND

There is indeed something strangely
satisfying about smashing things.

FEAR NOT

Are you ready to begin then?

The Fiend nods and re-arranges the skittles.

FIEND

If you've finished playing with that
funny grinding thing upstairs?

FEAR NOT

The lathe? Yes - all done.

Fear Not blows a bit of chiselled-skull dust off his 'ball'.

FIEND

First one to twenty four wins. I go
first. Potentially just four strikes
can do it. When I win I get your legs
- so better than these blubbery ones.

FEAR NOT
And if I win I get the dragon blood?

The Fiend tries not to snigger as he recovers his ball.

FIEND
Yes, the good stuff... And I promise
not to kill you - at least tonight.

FEAR NOT
Ok, sounds fair then. Lets roll!

FADE TO

SERIES OF SHORT SHOTS - BOWLING BATTLE

NOTE: this is intended as a parody of 'King Pin' and the
showdown between Bill Murray and Woody Harrelson.

INT. THE CRYPT, TELLAROUGHT CASTLE - NIGHT

CLOSE UP - as the bone-skittles SMASH!

CLOSE UP - The ugly face of the Fiend laughing.

CLOSE UP - Fear Not rolling his chiselled ball carefully.

CLOSE UP - Another SMASH as skittles go flying.

CLOSE UP - The Fiend aims and rolls his skull-ball.

CLOSE UP - SMASH! So hard a bone skittle breaks.

CLOSE UP - The hands of Fear Not setting-up skittles.

CLOSE UP - The Fiend performing a victory dance.

CLOSE UP - Fear Not dancing and waving his bum at The Fiend.

FADE TO

SHORT SERIES OF CUTS ENDS

INT. THE CRYPT, TELLAROUGHT CASTLE - NIGHT

As before - the final round and the skittles are in place as
The Fiend aims his ball, pausing to grin at Fear Not.

FIEND
One more strike and I win. But I must
admit, playing has been the most fun

I've had in decades... It's almost a
shame to violently murder you.

FEAR NOT
Nice of you to say. Well good luck!

The Fiend rolls his skull-ball - this rolls to one side and
only 3 x skittles are knocked down. The Fiend SNARLS.

FEAR NOT
Bad luck Fiend! Now I have a chance to
catch up or perhaps win.

Fear Not replaces the skittles and hands the Fiend back his
skull-ball. The Fiend snarls at him angrily.

Fear Not aims his modified ball carefully - the Fiend tries
to distract him by suddenly COUGHING. After a dirty look to
The Fiend he rolls and gets a strike! The skittles scatter.

FEAR NOT
I win!

FIEND
You bloody cheated!

FEAR NOT
No I didn't. I have a better ball than
you. And my bowling technique is
better too... See - I'll show you?

Fear Not retrieves his ball, turning his back to the Fiend.

CGI EFFECT : The Fiends hands turn into talons, his teeth
become like tusks, his eyes glow red.

The transformed Fiend steps behind Fear Not - about to grab.

Fear Not turns and rolls his ball - the balls SMASHES the
legs of the Fiend, splitting him back into two parts.

FIEND
My legs! Look what you've done!

FEAR NOT
What are you doing sneaking behind me?
That was your fault, not mine.

The Fiends upper-half turns back to normal - with fingers and
normal eyes. He walks on his hands, gazing at his lost legs.

FIEND

It can take ages to get connected just right. I should kill you for this!

FEAR NOT

But I won. We had a deal. And if you're unhappy we could always have a rematch? Maybe tomorrow night?

The Fiend considers for a moment then rummages in his shirt and pulls out the talisman-phial of blood.

FIEND

Very well. Help me back... And here is that blood. I like this trinket though, I'll reclaim it from your corpse tomorrow if that's alright?

Fear Not puts his new talisman around his neck.

FEAR NOT

Fair enough. I won't ask more about this until you're in a better mood.

FIEND

Oh shut up. When I've got my legs back I'll leave. But tomorrow night you'd better watch your step - boy.

Fear Not moves the lower half of the Fiend to assist him in reattaching himself.

FADE TO

INT. BEDCHAMBERS OF THE PRINCESS, FERNS CASTLE - AM

Dee is sleeping beside the snoring King. The Princess is under the bed, awake and angry. Sunlight shines inside.

The Princess creeps out and shakes Dee to wake her.

DEE

(half waking)

Not again. I'm too sore...

The Princess covers Dee's mouth with her hand and shakes her more roughly. Dee glares at her.

PRINCESS

Sssh! Get out of here while you can
Dee, I've not slept a wink all night.

Dee nods and climbs out of bed, careful not to wake the King. She tip-toes away and opens the door with a loud CREAK. She exits quickly and closes the door behind herself.

The Princess settles into bed beside the King for a much needed sleep but he GASPS and awakens, then sits up.

THE KING
Morning love! Sleep well?

PRINCESS
Er... Yes, when you were finally done.

THE KING
Done? You were like a tigress, wanting more and more... I'm not complaining.

PRINCESS
Well I... I'm not like that normally.

THE KING
How about another quick one? I don't think the servants are up yet.

PRINCESS
Oh god...

THE KING
What?

PRINCESS
'God' - I, er, forgot to pray before bed. I'd better pray then, right now.

THE KING
Well alright... I'll go and find some breakfast. See you downstairs.

He clammers out - his nightgown torn. He leans towards her and she reluctantly pecks him. He heads gingerly to the door.

THE KING
You Christians are a funny lot.

FADE TO

INT. MAIN HALL, TELLAROUGHT CASTLE - MORNING

Fear Not has 4 x beetles in a small box with greased walls. He is whispering instructions to them as The Tinker approaches nervously.

THE TINKER
Still alive then?

FEAR NOT
Yes thanks, all good.

THE TINKER
What have you got there lad?

FEAR NOT
My new act, who'll I'll perform with
after more rehearsing.

THE TINKER
But they're bugs? No-one likes bugs,
they've too many legs.

FEAR NOT
These are beetles. I'm trying to get
them to dance, but they don't seem to
understand showmanship.

THE TINKER
Have you glued mops of hair on them?
Sometimes I DO worry about you lad.

FEAR NOT
This isn't the end result - when I get
it all right we'll be big, you'll see!

THE TINKER
Well, big or not - I have news. Stop
tormenting bugs and come on - I'll
tell you all about it on the way.

The Tinker heads towards the exit Fear Not releases the bugs,
grabs his things and follows behind him.

THE TINKER
Vikings have landed - they've been
hired to bring back the Princess.
They're camped at Black Water.

FEAR NOT
Well if she wants to go home to Wales
she can. I think I'd prefer a more
'down to Earth' girl anyway, or at
least one without such a silly accent.

FADE TO

INT. COURTYARD, TELLAROUGHT CASTLE - MORNING

The drained upper-half of the dead Inn Keeper on the ground, by to the ladder to the upper window. The Guard Captain examines the remains and pulls a letter from the dead hand.

Suddenly the door of the main building SQUEAKS opens Fear Not and The Tinker are exiting together. The Guard Captain quickly hides behind some crates - not spotted.

THE TINKER

Oh and old Seamus has disappeared.
Poor Molly the bar maid is very upset.

FEAR NOT

I'll play her a tune to cheer her up.

THE TINKER

No, not THAT upset. I think she just needs peace and quiet.

Fear Not and the Tinker wander towards the main gate, unaware of the Guard Captain or the corpse laying nearby.

THE TINKER

So other than bugs, how was your night? You seem less tired today.

FEAR NOT

Not bad, I got to play skittles.

THE TINKER

Skittles?!

FADE TO

INT. THRONE ROOM, FERNS CASTLE - LUNCHTIME

The Guard Captain is standing near the King, who is seated, dressed and reading the dead mans letter with his glasses on.

THE KING

(as reading)

So much for 'don't shoot the messenger'. This was the reply?

GUARD CAPTAIN

So I assume highness. And the lad was there all night long.

The King finishes skimming, he clammers up and starts pacing

angrily as he crumples the letter.

GUARD CAPTAIN
My Lord?

THE KING
Did you read this letter?

GUARD CAPTAIN
I cannot read sire.

THE KING
To win I must lose something of value,
but if I lose I lose even more.

GUARD CAPTAIN
I don't understand my lord?

THE KING
The Fiends price is higher than
expected. For help against the Vikings
he insists on a new companion, saying
he has recently lost his own.

GUARD CAPTAIN
A new Companion my lord? Who?

THE KING
The Princess! He wants The Princess.
And just as I was starting to 'break
her in'.

FADE TO

INT. THE INN, SOUTH-EAST IRELAND - LUNCHTIME

A few PEASANTS eat and drink. The Tinker is finishing a meal,
The Bar Maid hovers near him, with puffy eyes from crying. On
the far side Fear Not is tuning his fiddle.

The VIKING SPY sits in the far corner, watching. His long
blond hair is mostly hidden under a hood.

THE TINKER
(to Bar Maid)
This is lovely Molly. You're as fine a
cook as Old Seamus. You could run this
place much better without him I bet.

The Bar Maid smiles politely, unconvinced.

Fear Not begins to play and sing, stamping his foot.

CUE MUSIC : HERE COMES THE SUN (Beatles cover by Fear Not)

Most of the Peasants abandon their food and hurry to the exit, looking pained. The Tinker beckons The Bar Maid - she begins to take his plate but he stops her.

THE TINKER

I'm still eating. Have you seen that fair fellow in yonder corner? The shifty fellow who keeps watching?

The Bar Maid and The Tinker stare at The Viking Spy. She shrugs. The Viking Spy spots them staring and clammers up, pulls his cloak over himself and hurries towards the exit with other hastily departing Peasants.

THE TINKER

Maybe he just has a sensitive ear?

CUE MUSIC : 'music' fades with scene.

FADE TO

EXT. ROAD TO FERNS, CAPITAL OF LEINSTER - PM

The walled town in the background, no other travellers. Guards are up at the battlements. Looking out from the upper tower is The King, who appears troubled.

Father Thomas is escorting The Princess and Dee away from the town, all on foot. He has removed his cross. Dee carries the baggage. The ladies wear peasant shawls - as disguises.

FATHER THOMAS

Come along ladies, before his majesty changes his mind.

DEE

Is there really a cart waiting?

FATHER THOMAS

Meeting us at the new church. Then from there a ship awaits and you'll be back in Wales by the morning.

PRINCESS

Couldn't the King provide a carriage to the church? I hate walking.

FATHER THOMAS

Most horses are commandeered. King Oirdnide is on the march, he has a bigger cavalry than our king.

DEE

Sounds like we're getting out just in time. But what about the Vikings?

FATHER THOMAS

The King has a truce with them, they've promised to behave themselves.

PRINCESS

He never kissed me goodbye. And after all I've done for him.

DEE

After all YOU'VE done for him???

The Princess looks scathingly at Dee.

FATHER THOMAS

His majesty tells me that he has learned his lesson. He says it was wrong to kidnap Britons, even wealthy ones. Says he will try to be a good Christian from now on.

The Princess and Dee both burst out LAUGHING.

FADE TO

INT. THRONE ROOM, FERNS CASTLE - LATE PM

The King is on his throne, drumming his fingers as The Viking Spy is escorted towards him by The Guard Captain. A Guard stands at the door, wary of the Viking.

The King puts on his spectacles as the Viking Spy BOWS.

THE KING

So... I understand you have a message from your leader?

The Spy nods and hands him a scroll which the King skims.

THE KING

I take it no-one saw you entering?

The Spy shakes his head.

GUARD CAPTAIN
 Not many about this time of day sire.
 And our friend here seems skilled at
 keeping in the shadows.

The spy smiles, proud of his work.

FADE TO

EXT. OUTSIDE CHURCH GRAVEYARD, COUNTRYSIDE - EVENING

The same church and graveyard seen before but outside the gate. The church is empty and quiet. The sun has just set.

Father Thomas is approaching the gate along the crude road with The Princess and Dee - tired from walking for miles.

FATHER THOMAS
 This is the church where the King said
 to wait. Hopefully our cart will
 arrive any moment. My feet do ache.

Dee gratefully dumps the bags and collapses.

PRINCESS
 It's getting dark... Couldn't we wait
 in the church?

FATHER THOMAS
 No, no - stick to the plan. The King
 was very specific on the details.

DEE
 Why did you have to leave your silver
 cross behind Father?

FATHER THOMAS
 Another instruct I had. I just hope
 his majesty isn't planning to sell it.

A shadowy form approaches further down the road - initially an outline of a man - with glowing eyes.

PRINCESS
 Look - someone coming. But I don't see
 a carriage anywhere.

FATHER THOMAS
 Maybe it's the new Sexton?

DEE

Saints preserve us! Look at those
strange eyes, how they gleam.

PRINCESS

And his teeth are so white.

The Fiend strides closer on the plump legs of the Inn Keeper,
becoming more visible as he quickly approaches.

FATHER THOMAS

Never mind his eyes, look at his legs!
His body seems not to match itself.

The Fiend arrives - the ladies cower behind Father Thomas.

FIEND

You are early.

FATHER THOMAS

Oh... Good Evening. Did the King send
you to meet us perchance?

FIEND

He did indeed.

SPECIAL EFFECT - Moving in a blur the Fiend lifts Father Thomas by his neck. Dee GASPS ten tries to pull him free. The Princess WHIMPERS and backs away.

FIEND

You will all be coming with me!

FADE TO

INT. THE INN, SOUTH-EAST IRELAND - EVENING

The Peasants are back and boisterous, quaffing drinks,
playing cards and LAUGHING. Fear Not is tipsy and drinking
with a few Peasants and has empty tankards around him.

The Bar Maid is wiping the table of The Tinker, he watches as
her cleavage bounces. She smiles at him, rubbing faster.

FEAR NOT

(tipsy, calling)

Hey Mr McKay - have you tried this
ruby ale? It's great stuff!

The Bar Maid 'accidentally' drops her cloth, she bends to
retrieve it and the Tinker gropes her bum.

FEAR NOT
(calling)
Want to try some?

THE TINKER
Not now lad - I'm busy!

A distant CHURCH BELL strikes eight. Fear Not counts the chimes then hurries drunkenly towards The Tinker. The Bar Maid stands and adjusts her attire, embarrassed.

FEAR NOT
Time we were going, it's already dark.
Can you drop me off again?

THE TINKER
Just coming. I was... Helping Molly.

FEAR NOT
Well - hopefully I'll see you again
Molly. But if not, your stew today was
great. Just so you know.

The Tinker SLAPS her bum and heads to the exit. She pecks Fear Not on his cheek. He smiles and follows the Tinker.

FADE TO

INT. TORTURE CHAMBER, TELLAROUGHT CASTLE - NIGHT

A 1st floor chamber filled with torture devices. A window overlooks the courtyard where the top of a ladder is seen. Father Thomas has torn clothes and is unconscious and chained to the wall. Chained beside him is Dee, in her underwear. On an X-shaped rack is The Princess, also in her underwear.

The Fiend tightens the rack and the Princess WHIMPERS.

DEE
Stop you fiend! Leave her alone!

FIEND
Don't worry - you'll have a turn soon.

The Fiend pauses to caress Dee with his talon-like finger. She whimpers and struggles - much to his delight.

PRINCESS
(gasping)
What.. What do you want? Why are you
doing these terrible things to us?

FIEND

Because I enjoy it. This is the most fun I've had in centuries... Every moan is music to my ears!

The Fiend cranks a lever so small spikes point into the Princess, greatly impeding her movement.

PRINCESS

You do know that I'm a Princess?

FIEND

That heightens my pleasure enormously.

She stares defiantly as he runs his hands over her. After a moment of pawing he tears off her remaining clothing.

FIEND

Once I have a better lower half I will give you and your maid 'the full works'. This lardy lower body isn't up to much though, such as it is.

PRINCESS

What is it with you Kings? Are you all a bunch of perverts?

FIEND

What do you mean?

PRINCESS

You could torture me fully dressed - like you did the poor priest.

FIEND

Wheres the fun in that? A squirming nude Princess is much better.

The Fiend extends his disgusting tongue and licks her body. She struggles and GASPS - more distressed than before. Dee pulls nosily at her chains, watching in horror. The Fiend turns to Dee and smiles evilly.

FIEND

Don't think I've forgotten you either.

FEAR NOT (O.S)

(from downstairs)

HELLO THERE! FIEND! Are you there?
It's me, back for my final night.

FIEND

Sorry ladies - I will have to keep you
on 'simmer'. I'll kill this young
idiot then be straight back.

The Fiend briefly licks Dee's cheek, then happily tightens
the rack of the Princess - she WHIMPERS.

FIEND

Back soon, my lovelies.

The Fiend hurries to the window, almost skipping with joy.

PRINCESS

Don't rush on my account!

FADE TO

INT. MAIN HALL, TELLAROUGHT CASTLE - NIGHT

The fire burns and candles lit. Fear Not plays his fiddle
while waiting and he still seems tipsy.

CUE MUSIC: FIXING A HOLE (Fear Not's Beatles cover)

About a minute passes. A muffled SCREAM upstairs - The sound
of the Princess being tormented.

Fear Not stops to listen - his 'music' stops abruptly.

The Fiend arrives through the outside door and steps closer.

FIEND

Good Evening - albeit your final one.
What was that strange noise?

FEAR NOT

I've been working on some new songs.
If I survive I will do my first big
performance at the Inn next week.

FIEND

To think people call me a fiend.

FEAR NOT

No chimney entrance tonight then?

FIEND

I used the ladder, the stairs here are
awful. One day I'll get them fixed.

FEAR NOT
Did I hear a scream upstairs?

FIEND
Undoubtedly. I am a pressed for time -
I have other guests. If you don't mind
I'll kill you quickly and take your
legs. You're lower half is going to be
very busy soon...

FEAR NOT
Well in that case, let's get started.

SPECIAL EFFECT: The hands of the Fiend transform into talons
and his mouth splits open to reveal a mass of fangs.

Fear Not puts his violin calmly on the table and BELCHES as
the Fiend steps closer.

FIEND
Aren't you scared? Not even a little?

FEAR NOT
Well to be honest I've been drinking
all day. Might have over did it.

FIEND
Well feel free to scream or whimper.
Beg for mercy if you'd like?

FEAR NOT
I can't be bothered with that, besides
- I won't receive mercy, will I?

FIEND
True enough... No.

SPECIAL EFFECT: The Fiend transforms into a horrific bat-like
form, all claws and fangs.

FIEND
How about this then?

FEAR NOT
How about what?

FIEND
This doesn't scare you at all?

FEAR NOT
Nah, sorry. The only thing that

worries me is the thought my wonderful
music will be gone forever without me.

SPECIAL EFFECT: The Fiend transforms back into his usual self
(ie, into two halves joined).

FIEND

Why not shriek a little? Or run? I'll
give you a head-start if you want?

FEAR NOT

Actually - I really need your toilet.
Kill me in a minute or two, can you?

Fear Not hurries past The Fiend towards the internal door.
The Fiend scratches his head, disappointed and puzzled.

FADE TO

INT. THE CRYPT, TELLAROUGHT CASTLE - NIGHT

The skittles are gone and a large sarcophagus had been added
below a crumbling pillar. Flickering candles burn all round.

Fear Not hurries down the stairs, moves to the pile of
rotting bones and relieves himself (his back to the camera).
As he tinkles The Fiend comes down the stairs.

FIEND

I must admit, you're not my usual
visitor... Usually there's a lot of
snivelling and begging, or a least a
really good scream.

FEAR NOT

Does that make a difference?

FIEND

Killing like this is disappointing -
too clinical - no fun at all. Can't
you pretend to be scared?

Fear Not fastens himself up and turns to the Fiend.

FEAR NOT

(unconvincing)

Oh no - don't eat me - I'm terrified.
Oh - is that a new coffin?

FIEND

It's mine - from upstairs.

The Fiend lifts the stone lid proudly.

FIEND
It's more dank here, only I need to be
careful about this loose pillar.

Fear Not nods and moves to examine the sarcophagus.

FEAR NOT
Much more impressive than Ophelia's.

FIEND
Solid stone, a marble interior and
velvet lining. See? Quality stuff.

FEAR NOT
Really? Looks very expensive.

FIEND
Oh yes. Roomy too. The best place one
could be caught dead in. See?

The Fiend hops into the sarcophagus to demonstrate. Fear Not closes the lid and KICKS the pillar and springs back - rubble CRASHES DOWN and onto the sarcophagus - trapping the Fiend.

FIEND (O.S)
(from inside coffin)
Hey! You're 'for it' now sonny! Just
wait till I get free...

Fear Not doesn't wait - he hurries towards the stairs.

FADE TO

INT. TORTURE CHAMBER, TELLAROUGHT CASTLE - NIGHT

The ladder is gone. Father Thomas is awake and worried, Dee is trying to placate him. The Princess is still on the rack.

DEE
Think of this as being tested by God.

FATHER THOMAS
Screw that! I only joined the church
to line my pockets. I don't even
believe in god, it's all baloney.

PRINCESS
Quiet you two - I hear something!

DEE
Not the Fiend returning?

Father Thomas pulls at his chains and begins to cry.

The top of the ladder appears at the window, someone climbing. Fear Not appears and climbs through into the room.

DEE
Fear Not!

FEAR NOT
Hello all - I'm here to save you.

FATHER THOMAS
Thank the Lord - a friendly face!

Fear Not averts his eyes as he fumbles to untie the Princess.

PRINCESS
Hurry up - get me out - I'm freezing!

FATHER THOMAS
Where is that awful man then?

DEE
Did you slay him?

FEAR NOT
I've trapped him downstairs, but he may escape soon.

The Princess rubs her sore limbs then begins to dress as Fear Not unties Dee. Dee smiles at him, filled with admiration.

FEAR NOT
You can get away down the ladder. Be sure not to stand on any triangle flagstones to avoid the spiky things.

DEE
Spiky things?

FEAR NOT
The sort of things that you don't want to get poked by, yes.

Dee is free and she dresses as Fear Not frees Father Thomas.

FATHER THOMAS
Bless you my son! You are a saint! A

gift sent by heaven...
 (to Princess)
 Hey wait for us!

The Princess has dressed and is climbing through the window,
 out and down via the ladder.

PRINCESS
 I'm not hanging around for that fiend
 to carry out his threat. The King was
 bad enough, but at least he was alive.

FADE TO

INT. MAIN HALL, TELLAROUGHT CASTLE - NIGHT

A huddled body laying by the fire. Fear Not enters via the main entrance. The Door SLAMS behind him. He approaches the body and is surprised to find it is The Tinker -dead.

FEAR NOT
 Mr McKay? What are you doing here?
 This is no place for you!

Fear Not tries shaking his dead friend and becomes upset.

FEAR NOT
 Dead? How can this be? You were my one
 and only friend! Mr McKay!!

Fear Not begins to WEEP. Suddenly The Tinker GRABS Fear Not by his throat and SNARLS - his glowing eyes open.

NOTE : The Tinker has the voice of The Fiend (dubbed)

FIEND (V.O)
 (as The Tinker)
 You will rue the day you wished to
 learn fear boy!

Fear Not is being throttled - the Fiend/Tinker is super-strong. As they struggle Fear Not closes his eyes.

Fear Not opens his eyes - he is strangling himself and is alone. He stops and GASPS, catching his breath.

The voice of the Fiend somehow echoes all around.

FIEND (O.S)
 You were a fool not to flee with the
 others... They will not get far in the

dark - darkness is my domain.

FEAR NOT
I'm not afraid of you! Besides - I
needed to come back for my fiddle.

A GUST OF WIND and the candles blow out - the fire splutters
but recovers. It is now much darker.

The Fiend appears in a moment of flickering darkness behind
Fear Not, PANTING in his deep raspy breath.

Fear Not turns - startled to see the Fiend.

FIEND
Boo!

FEAR NOT
If that's to scare me, it doesn't.

Fear Not grabs an old sword from the floor, looking away from
the Fiend a moment. When he turns back the Fiend is gone!

LAUGHTER of the Fiend echoes all around in the castle.

FADE TO

EXT. TELLAROUGHT CASTLE, SOUTHERN IRELAND - NIGHT

The Guard Captain and the two Guards seen before are
loitering behind a dead tree, keeping watch. The Captain has
a small lamp for light and all wear hooded cloaks.

GUARD CAPTAIN
(nervously, to Guards)
I'm not sure what's worse - stuck here
with you lot, or stuck here between
Vikings and evil ghosts.

A RUSTLE noise behind them. All turn and the Guard Captain
raises his torch. They step towards the sound. Something low
moves - they approach nervously. The flickering light reveals
an ancient SKULL. The jaw moves! All GASP and step back.

A HEDGEHOG shuffles out and waddles away, snuffling.

Relieved all turn back to the castle, feeling ashamed.

Suddenly The Princess steps out from behind the tree,
followed by Dee and Father Thomas. All are startled.

GUARD CAPTAIN
Bloody hell!

The Princess relaxes when she recognises the guards.

FATHER THOMAS
Captain - thank the Lord it's you!

DEE
Sorry if we scared you?

GUARD CAPTAIN
Scared me? I've already had to change
my underwear twice tonight.

FATHER THOMAS
I'm with you there... Please excuse my
funny walk, it's been a rough night.

DEE
A fiend kept us prisoner in his
dungeon at the castle. We've escaped!

PRINCESS
We were heading to Wales. There should
be a ship waiting if you'll excuse us?

The Guard Captain thinks for a moment then stops her.

GUARD CAPTAIN
Oh no, you're not going anywhere!

PRINCESS
How dare you - unhand me sir!

FATHER THOMAS
What is the meaning of this?

DEE
Haven't we suffered enough?

GUARD CAPTAIN
Vikings are rampaging these parts, the
truce has collapsed. You better come
with us. Come on, MOVE IT!

The Guard Captain leads them away. They fail to notice
scurrying towards the gates is The Tinker with a lantern.

FADE TO

INT. MAIN HALL, TELLAROUGHT CASTLE - NIGHT

A few candles re-lit. Fear Not has his rusty sword.

FIEND (O.S)
(whispering from shadows)
Tonight you die!

FEAR NOT
Of boredom perhaps. Come and fight
like a man, or whatever you are!

The main door beings to open, someone struggle with the latch. Fear Not hurries beside he door, readying his sword.

The Tinker enters nervously, carrying his small lantern.

NOTE: This really is the Tinker.

THE TINKER
Fear Not! Are you here lad?

Fear Not pulls The Tinker down, waving the sword in his face. The Tinker SQUEALS and raises his hands.

FEAR NOT
Is it you? Is it REALLY you?

THE TINKER
Yes, it's me lad - have you gone mad?
Don't your recognise your faithful old
friend Mr McKay? The Tinker?

FEAR NOT
If you're really you - tell me how
many pennies I paid for my violin?

THE TINKER
Three! And it was a bargain for such a
fine instrument.

FEAR NOT
What is the name of my sweet heart?

THE TINKER
How can I tell you something that you
don't know for yourself?

FEAR NOT
Then it IS you! Why are you here?

THE TINKER

To warn you - the Inn is abandoned -
 Vikings are on the war path! I came to
 warn you with the little courage I
 have left... But now it's quite used-
 up. Please put away that blade before
 you do me a mischief?

Fear Not lowers the sword and helps The Tinker up.

FEAR NOT

Vikings are the least of our worries -
 the Lord of this castle is angry.

The Tinker stands gaping at something behind Fear Not - he
 points, teeth chattering and knees knocking.

Fear Not turns to see where The Tinker points.

SPECIAL EFFECT : The Fiend is like a demonic giant bat on
 legs. He lumbers closer, claws outstretched, fangs bared.

THE TINKER

(stammering)

M-m-m-m-mercy! Mercy!!

FIEND

Finally! Someone 'normal' I can
 torment and get my teeth into.

The Fiend shoves Fear Not aside and raises The Tinker by the
 scruff of his neck, his giant fangs by the Tinkers face.

The sound of DRIPPING - the Fiend and The Tinker look down. A
 puddle grows around their feet (from The Tinker).

The Fiend GASPS - Fear Not has thrust his sword through the
 Fiends chest from behind! For a moment the Fiend seems
 annoyed then seems strangely relieved.

SPECIAL EFFECT - the Fiend ages rapidly, turning into a bat-
 like skeleton and then dust, as Fear Not and The Tinker gape.

A BIG GUST OF WIND as the fire and lights blow out - the
 remains of the fiend blow away and all becomes dark.

SLOW FADE TO

INT. THRONE ROOM, FERNS CASTLE - MORNING

Fear Not and The Tinker kneel before The King, who is seated

next to The Princess. The Alchemist, Dee and Father Thomas and The Guard Captain also present (dressed and recovered).

THE KING

Congratulations Fear Not. It seems miracles do happen after all. Not only did you survive three nights, but you defeated the lord of the castle as well. You are a hero!

(pause)

You're no good against Vikings, I suppose?

FEAR NOT

No majesty - I don't even own a proper sword. Just a fiddle.

The Princess and Dee exchange disapproving glances.

THE KING

Well you'll be able to buy all the new swords you can want. I'm told there is a fortune in gold in the castle that is now yours by right.

The Princess smiles at this news. The King NODS to her. She rolls her eyes, steps towards Fear Not and curtsies. He grins and kisses her hand. Dee watches and looks jealous.

FEAR NOT

This is a dream come true! Rich, a castle and a princess bride.

THE KING

And a more pure and virginal bride you could never hope for! You are indeed a lucky young man.

The Guard Captain BURSTS OUT LAUGHING then looks embarrassed.

FADE TO

INT. HALL WITH STAIRS, FERNS CASTLE - DAY

The Guard Captain waits by the ajar door. Just inside the King and The Viking Spy converse quietly. Several steps down is an alcove concealed by a curtain with someone hiding.

THE KING

Kill him, take the Princess and leave the rest there for me. Agreed?

The spy and King shake hands. The spy exits and the door shuts behind him. The Guard Captain leads the spy downstairs.

GUARD CAPTAIN

This way 'Ulf' or whatever your name is? The King said you're to have my horse. Be gentle to her though, she likes apples and her nose rubbed.

The Spy and Captain exit. As their footsteps fade Ailbhe steps out from behind the curtain. She creeps behind them.

FADE TO

INT. MAIN HALL, TELLAROUGHT CASTLE - DAY

Cleaner and tidier. Father Thomas is here, with Dee, The Princess and Fear Not. He has tried to comb his hair. The Princess wears a flowing white dress. Watching from the back is Fear Not's Dad and Rory - both in their Sunday Best.

FATHER THOMAS

(to Fear Not)

You really want the ceremony here?
This place terrifies me.

FEAR NOT

To me Father it's 'home'. Plus I will be able to get on with the honeymoon straight after.

PRINCESS

I hope you got rid of those torture devices? Hardly a romantic setting.
Why don't we go to Rome or Paris?

DEE

This place has character, perhaps with a some renovation it might be ok?

PRINCESS

Oh shut up Dee. No-one asked you.

DEE

Yes highness.

The door bursts open and The Tinker staggers-in, GASPING.

FEAR NOT

Mr McKay! Don't worry - we've not started yet. Don't say you've forgot

the ring?

FATHER THOMAS
Sold it, more like.

THE TINKER
(gasping)
V... V... Vikings! VIKINGS!

A CRASH outside and the Tinker steps back from the door. Haldor enters, followed by several heavily armed Vikings.

Haldor lumbers towards the Princess and raises his axe.

HALDOR THE SLAYER
Princess Aylwen! At last.

SLOW FADE TO

EXT. TELLAROUGHT CASTLE, SOUTHERN IRELAND - DAY

A glimpse of Vikings in the courtyard as they ready their new base - the castle is becoming tidy and orderly. A VIKING GUARD at the gate, tall with a FUR CAPE and horned helmet.

Ailbhe approaches him along the drawbridge, she has a DAGGER behind her back and has pulled-down her top a little. The guard readies his weapons but gapes at her cleavage.

She smiles seductively and sways closer. He smiles back, getting ideas. She steps closer, gripping the knife tighter.

FADE TO

INT. TORTURE CHAMBER, TELLAROUGHT CASTLE - DAY

Torture devices gone, a dusty bed in the corner and attempts made to clean. Haldor is gazing out of the window, in the courtyard are Viking warriors checking found weapons.

The door opens and The Viking Spy enters, shoving The Princess before him. Her hands are bound before her.

Haldor turns and looks her up and down. She stares back defiantly and her white dress is slightly torn.

HALDOR THE SLAYER
Leave us Ulf.

The Viking Spy nods and exits, closing the door.

Haldor pulls out a dagger and waves this by her nose. She cringes. Haldor grins and cuts her bonds.

PRINCESS
What are you intending to do with me?
And to my friends?

HALDOR THE SLAYER
Your Father paid handsomely to return
you, but I will keep you instead.

Haldor sheaves his dagger, grabs her and begins to tear off her dress.

PRINCESS
Filthy pagan! Get your hands off me!
Stop it! No! NO!

FADE TO

INT. THE CRYPT, TELLAROUGHT CASTLE - DAY

Fear Not, The Tinker, Dee, Fear Nots Father and Rory are chained and dangle above a large bubbling cauldron set into the floor - they are descending via an automated pulley.

FATHER THOMAS
This is intolerable! Those Vikings are devils to treat a priest like this!

THE TINKER
At least they don't discriminate.

FEAR NOT
Sorry Dad, sorry Rory. I had no idea they were planning to attack. It is good to see you both again though.

Fear Not's Father and Rory exchange unhappy looks and SIGH.

A CLICK and all descend lower towards the bubbling water.

DEE
I hoped they'd want to whisk me away with The Princess - a package deal. But at least I get to spend time with a hero before I die.

FEAR NOT
I'm no hero Miss Dee, I'm just lucky. Until now. But it's nice to see you

again too.

Another CLICK - all descend another notch down.

THE TINKER

One thing lad - before we die. Is
'Fear Not' really your name?

FEAR NOT

When I was little my name was 'Jude'.
It wasn't until I was older that
everyone called me 'Fear Not'.

Another CLICK - all are very near the boiling water.

THE TINKER

At least we'll have a clean death I
suppose.

FEAR NOT

It's awful this is happening to all
you good folks because of me...

Father Thomas mutters a prayer in Latin.

Another CLICK - another closer to death.

Fear Not looks at himself he is shaking.

FEAR NOT

Look! Look at me!

DEE

Hey Jude, are you feeling sad?

FEAR NOT

I'm shuddering Dee! See how I shake?
It's fear for you, for my friends and
family! I CAN SHUDDER!

Haldor and The Viking Spy enter.

HALDOR THE SLAYER

(to prisoners)

Still with us then?

(to spy)

Stop the machine Ulf.

The Viking Spy hurries to stop the pulley. This stops.

FATHER THOMAS
Thank the Lord!

THE TINKER
I'm not arguing - but why?

HALDOR THE SLAYER
I've reached an agreement with The
Princess. She was very persuasive.

FEAR NOT
That's my bride-to-be you're talking
about! How dare you!

HALDOR THE SLAYER
No longer - she has agreed to marry me
instead of you. And did some very nice
things for me into the bargain.

FEAR NOT
Then I'll fight you for her!

HALDOR THE SLAYER
(amused)
Oh? Will you indeed?

FEAR NOT
Unless you're a coward?

The smile on Haldor's mouth fades.

FADE TO

EXT. COURTYARD, TELLAROUGHT CASTLE - DAY

More tidy and repaired. Viking horses in the ruined stables.
The Vikings are gathered outside, circled around Fear Not and
Haldor. Among them is Dee, Father Thomas, The Princess, The
Tinker, Fear Nots Father and Rory and The Viking Spy.

Fear Not examines his talisman of dragon blood as he talks, a
short Viking sword in his belt.

FEAR NOT
(to Haldor)
So if I beat you, you let us go? You
leave my castle and treasure?

The Vikings CHUCKLE - Haldor is twice the size of Fear Not.

HALDOR THE SLAYER

Yes - you can all go free. Even the Princess - who is very valuable, both as a hostage and as a bride.

Haldor glances at The Princess who smiles back at him.

The fight begins - Haldor SWINGS his axe. Although big powerful sweeps Fear Not evades the blade - but is unable to get in close with his small sword.

The crowd CHEER. Dee hides her eyes. Fear Nots Father and Rory seem to be cheering for Haldor.

As he ducks again Fear Not pulls out the dragon blood and quickly GULPS it down. Nothing happens.

Fear Not runs at Haldor and thumps him - the giant just LAUGHS and knocks Fear Not over.

HALDOR THE SLAYER

No magic will save you boy!

FEAR NOT

That Fiend tricked me! This is only raspberry juice.

Haldor LAUGHS and chops but misses because Fear Not rolls.

For the next few moments Haldor CHOPS as Fear Not rolls, just dodging the blade each time.

Ailbhe joins the crowd in the cloak and helmet of the Viking Guard. No one notices her, all attention on the fight.

PRINCESS

Look at those muscles Dee! Haldor is a real man.

DEE

Shouldn't you be cheering Fear Not?

Haldor kicks Fear Not's sword away and prevents him rolling by positioning his feet either side. Fear not closes his eyes as Haldor raises his axe.

Ailbhe HURLS the glowing bottle at Haldor (from The Alchemist). This EXPLODES in a flash, leaving him singed and stunned.

HALDOR THE SLAYER
Aaaargh! My eyes! I'M BLINDED!

The nearer Vikings grab Ailbhe and hold her.

Haldor chops wildly - unable to see - slicing nearby Vikings by mistake. Fear Not hops up and grabs his sword. He climbs onto Haldor's back and holds his blade at the Vikings throat.

FEAR NOT
Yield Haldor - and I spare you!

Haldor tries to pull Fear Not off with one arm but realises he is beaten. He throws down his axe.

HALDOR THE SLAYER
I yield! I yield!

The Vikings are shocked and stare in disbelief. Fear Not releases Haldor and performs a short victory dance.

FEAR NOT
I'll write a song about this!

The Viking Spy hurries to attend Haldor, checking his eyes.

Fear Not's Father and Rory seem disappointed but clap.

DEE
Praise be - Fear Not did it!

PRINCESS
(sarcastic)
Whoopie-do.

The Princess moves to check on Haldor, more concerned for him than Fear Not. Dee congratulates Fear Not with a kiss.

THE TINKER
(to Princess)
Anyone would think that you WANT to be carried-off by big hairy Vikings?

FATHER THOMAS
I thought they were going to take you back to Wales?

PRINCESS
Actually Haldor and I, well, we hit it off. He is a bit 'rough and ready' - but it seems I like that in a man.

Fear Not points to Ailbhe as she struggles to pull free.

FEAR NOT

(to Haldor)

Please don't hurt her - you destroyed
her home and killed all her family.
She just wanted revenge.

HALDOR THE SLAYER

My eyes - thank the gods, my sight is
returning. Very well then - spare her.
She has great courage which I admire.

The Vikings release Ailbhe. Fear Not wanders to the Princess
and The Tinker - who whisper to him.

THE TINKER

It seems lad your 'virgin bride' likes
Northmen more than Irishmen.

FEAR NOT

(to the Princess)

Well... You don't have to marry me if
you don't want to?

PRINCESS

I don't?

FEAR NOT

Of course not. I'd rather wait longer
for the right girl than marry the
wrong one. And what fun can't be had
with my friend Mr McKay here that I
can't have with you?

THE TINKER

I cannot conceive...

PRINCESS

So... You wouldn't be annoyed if I
went off with the Vikings?

DEE

Not back to your Father?

PRINCESS

I've had an offer of marriage from
Haldor. He and the boys were thinking
of founding a new town on the coast,
calling it 'Veisafjørðr'. I'd be in
joint charge - Viking Queens have

equality, not like Irish or Welsh.

DEE

But highness? Living with pagans?

PRINCESS

By the coast trips to Wales will be easy. I'm sure Daddy will like Haldor, he can send resources for the town.

FATHER THOMAS

I suppose you might need a new church at this new settlement then?

PRINCESS

Actually, Vikings don't like churches Father... Well, other than plunder.

DEE

(to Princess)

So we're off to Veis-ajaw-jaw or whatever you call it, are we?

PRINCESS

I don't think I'll need you either Dee. Viking Queens don't need maids fussing after them.

DEE

They don't? But what will I do? Where will I go? I like fussing!

Fear not looks Dee up and down and she turns to him questioningly. He smiles and steps closer.

FADE TO

FLASH FORWARD - CONCLUSION SEQUENCE BEGINS

Like a flash back, muted with Voice Over. The final scene has sound at the end in addition to the VO.

INT. THRONE ROOM, FERNS CASTLE - DAY

The castle is under siege, the door bolted and braced. The sound of FIGHTING outside. The King, The Guard Captain and Guards are battered and bloody, they clutch their weapons - all eyes on the door that is about to break.

FATHER THOMAS (V.O)

Haldor regained his sight and he, The

Princess and the Vikings left to form a new town on the coast, just before the kingdom of Leinster was invaded. The new town later called 'Wexford'.

The door is buckling and starts to break.

FATHER THOMAS (V.O)
The King is defeated by his rival - King Áed Oirchnide of Ailech. He is deposed, but only for a few years...

FADE TO

EXT. COURTYARD, TELLAROUGHT CASTLE (YEARS LATER) - DAY

Outhouses, kennels and stables are repaired, the castle has been restored and all seems more 'wholesome'. A summers day. New horses in the stable, hounds in the kennels.

Fear Not and Dee are 15 years older, they wander out of the main building to the gate, followed by numerous children who resemble both and all have Beatles hair cuts - even the girls. All seem happy. They are off for a picnic.

FATHER THOMAS (V.O)
For all his foolishness 'Fear Not' does one wise thing in his life - he marries Dee and they have 15 children. Fear Not would go on to become a famous musician - able to clear any room in under a minute - and become equally famous for helping the poor.

FADE TO

INT. THE INN, SOUTH-EAST IRELAND - DAY

The Inn is prospering - lots of Peasant customers and a couple of new SERVING-MAIDS. The Tinker is behind the bar, pouring beers and eyeing-up the barmaids. Molly the Bar Maid approaches with a tray of tankards. He kisses her.

FATHER THOMAS (V.O)
Mr McKay buys the Inn and marries Molly. They remained together and lived well into their 80's - an unusual feat for anyone these days.

FADE TO

INT. THE KINGS TOILET, FERNS CASTLE - MORNING

In an alcove by the stairs - a throne of a different kind. Here the King sits - pale and dead. A forerunner of Elvis.

FATHER THOMAS (V.O)

I served the new ruler and then the old King when he returned through his schemes. He is finally killed in 808 A.D - by an unfortunate attack of haemorrhoids. Who'd ever have dreamt 'The King' would die so ignobly?

FADE TO

INT. SCRIPTORIUM, MONASTERY OF ST MOGUE, FERN - DAY

A scriptorium in a monastery. A MONK is writing (in Latin) 'The Adventures of Fear Not'. He is young and seems not to believe what Father Thomas is dictating (MUTED). Father Thomas is now very old with white hair and wrinkles.

FATHER THOMAS (V.O)

In my twilight years I used what influence I had to record this tale in The Annals of the Kingdom of Ireland, at the monastery of St Mogue. It is my hope that The King, Fear Not and his strange adventures will be remembered.

Old Father Thomas turns to look directly into the camera and he speaks to the audience (no longer a Voice Over).

FATHER THOMAS

Here, dear listener, my tale ends. The next time you hear a scream in the night spare a thought for Fear Not and his adventures. You never know!

Father Thomas smiles.

FADE TO

END CREDITS

It is suggested HEY JUDE (by The Beatles) is played.

THE END

THIS SCRIPT IS DEDICATED TO THE ORIGINAL GREAT STORYTELLER - THE LATE GREAT JOHN HURT (22/01/1940 to 25/01/2017).