



(#PAU002292669)

"A Darn Good Arrangement!" (Pilot)

Created and Written by

Lisa Davis

ON BLACK:

A crown is merely a hat that lets the rain in.

-- Frederick the Great

FADE IN:

Map of THE KINGDOM OF VANĚK and her communes PATHÉ, DUKLJA, RISACCI, and BÅRGEN. Bordered by KOPITÁŘ to the WEST, and the RZEKA WÓDA (a river) and ZÁVOŘIC to the EAST.

LOUIS (V.O.)  
(Flemish accent)  
Vaněk wasn't always "Vaněk".

(NOTE: "Vaněk" is pronounced "VAN-ah-ick")

Illuminated Manuscript of an idyllic LAND with MEN, WOMEN, CHILDREN, and livestock (800 AD).

LOUIS (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
It was a serene and happy place. Until  
Carlo Martel showed up.

Illuminated Manuscript of bad-ass CARLO MARTEL with his more bad-ass father CHARLEMAGNE (796 AD).

LOUIS (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
He was born in Pavia, nine months to the  
day after Papa Charlemagne

Illuminated Manuscript of Charlemagne and his MEN at a PUB, each bouncing a WENCH on his knee (774 AD).

LOUIS (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
and his posse whupped the King of the  
Lombards.

Illuminated Manuscript of Carlo SACKING a VILLAGE (814 AD).

LOUIS (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
After Pop kicked off and left him with  
squat, Carlo laid waste to everything  
and everyone unfortunate enough to cross  
his path.

SERIES OF 11<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY BUON FRESCO PANELS:

-- ŮLFO THE MONK (40s; slob) stands before a battering ram, preventing ATTILA and his MEN from smashing the gate of a fortress filled with WOMEN and CHILDREN

-- Attila, on horseback, sword drawn, charges at Ůlfo

-- Ůlfo strips naked to reveal lesions covering his body

-- Attila is thrown off by his now-spooked horse

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

- Ůlfo hugs and kisses a horror-stricken Attila
- Attila vomits as his men abandon the battering ram and run for their lives
- Ůflo chases happily after the fleeing Attila (447 AD).

LOUIS (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
 Unfortunately, Ůlfo the Monk had been dead since the year four-fifty, hence, was unavailable to get medieval on Chucky's sorry ass.

Illuminated Manuscript of Carlo on a throne. A Coronation Robe around his shoulders, he holds a Scepter and a Globus Cruciger, the Crown of the Sovereign on his head. ON his right hand is the Ring of Kings (814 AD).

LOUIS (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
 The people had no choice but to make Carlo their first sovereign.

Illuminated Manuscript of GUARDS forcing the starving PEOPLE to offer food to the enthroned Carlo (815 AD).

LOUIS (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
 Carlo was a vicious brute who ruled with an iron fist. The people had lost all hope.

Illuminated Manuscript of the enthroned Carlo GORED by a CODDEL [think Dodo], its DEAD HANDLER on the floor (820 AD).

LOUIS (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
 Then... a miracle occurred!

Illuminated Manuscript of the enthroned Coddell wearing a miniature Coronation Robe and Crown, the Ring of Kings on a chain around his neck (820 AD).

LOUIS (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
 So thankful were the people to be rid of Carlo, they made "Vaněk", what they called the crazy cackling noises he made, sovereign. And for someone who wasn't even human, Vaněk was a darn-good sovereign.

SPLIT SCREEN of miniatures from 2 Illuminated Manuscripts:

- LEFT, a COURTIER reads a list to the enthroned Vaněk
- RIGHT, Vaněk holds up a claw, rejecting the list

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LOUIS (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
First order of business was changing  
the name of the kingdom. Suggestions  
were accepted. And rejected.

Illuminated Manuscript of burly QÚPERSIMÂN QEQERTARSUATSIAAT  
banging his head against a wall of his Quilt Store as  
CLIENTS flub his name, despite a banner of its phonetic  
pronunciation hanging above the entry (821 AD).

LOUIS (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
Meanwhile, sick of trying to teach  
everyone in Qeqertarsuatsiaat how to  
pronounce "Qeqertarsuatsiaat", chieftain  
Qúpersimân Qeqertarsuatsiaat got an idea.  
And that is how Vaněk got her name.

SPLIT SCREEN of 2 Illuminated Manuscripts (822 AD):

-- LEFT, the old flag with Carlo's face

-- RIGHT, Vaněk, Qeqertarsuatsiaat, and Qúpersimân's Quality  
Quilts EMPLOYEES on the PALACE BALCONY presenting Vaněk's  
new coat of arms (which includes Úlfo) and new flag to the  
PEOPLE, who cheer.

LOUIS (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
Second order of business was to kick  
Chuck to the curb. For good.

TRIPLE SPLIT SCREEN of 3 Illuminated Manuscripts (823 AD):

-- LEFT, a worried COURTIER watches a depressed Vaněk

-- CENTER, the Courtier gets an idea

-- RIGHT, the Courtier sends SCOUTS into the forest

LOUIS (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
Although he was loved by the people,  
Vaněk was one bummed-out bird. Until his  
top human figured out why.

Illuminated Manuscript of an overjoyed Vaněk UNITED with his  
FLOCK as the Courtier and the Scouts look on.

LOUIS (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
He gave up the throne in favor of his top  
human, Ton The Tree Hugger.

Painting of JÉAN-GUY BAILLARGEON (20) beating King PHILIPPE-  
AUGUSTÉ (50s) and TWO OFFICERS in a game of bouillotte, the  
Ring of Kings IN the betting pool (1839).

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LOUIS (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
We have ruled this land since your great  
-great-great-great-granddad J  an-Guy won  
the throne in a game of bouillotte one  
hundred and sixty-two years ago.

INT. PALACE OF THE SOVEREIGN (B  RGEN, VAN  K) - HALL OF KINGS  
- DAY (2001)

9<sup>th</sup> Century fortress on steroids. Coronation Portraits of  
all 70 Sovereigns of Van  k on the walls. Each human ruler  
wears the Ring of Kings on his right hand.

ANNE (then-8; sweet) and her father LOUIS (then-30; rouge)  
look at the Portraits of the Sovereigns from their family,  
The House of Baillargeon:

-- J  an-Guy, stupefied look on his face  
-- J  an-Guy's son BAUDOUIN (70s), blas    
-- Baudouin's grandson HENRI (20s), genial  
-- Henri's son PIERRE (20s), intense  
-- Pierre's son Louis (then-19), rascal

LOUIS (CONT'D)  
I have often wondered what must have  
gone through his mind. One minute, he's  
this lowly plebe from Bruges. Next  
minute, he's the King of Van  k.  
(long beat)  
"Awesome!".

INT: MUSIC ROOM - LATER

They are IN the humidity-controlled CHAMBER which holds the  
family's priceless musical instruments: 2 basses, 3 cellos,  
5 violins, 2 viols, and 4 violas.

LOUIS  
In seventeen forty-four, J  an-Guy's great  
-grandparents, your great-

He counts the "great"s on his fingers.

LOUIS (CONT'D)  
great-great-great-great-great-great-  
grandparents, went to Italy on holiday.  
They were in this town, Cremona, taking  
in the sites, when they see this man  
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LOUIS (CONT'D)  
outside of his shop flipping out. He  
tells them his landlord just gave him the  
boot and he has to unload everything he's  
got, pronto. Now,

He counts the "great"s on his fingers again.

LOUIS (CONT'D)  
great-great-great-great-great-great-  
great-granddad Édouard wasn't much for  
music. But he knew quality when he saw  
it. And this was primo stuff. So, he  
scooped up the whole lot.

(beat)  
The man flipping out was Bartolomeo  
Guarneri, the greatest maker of violins  
who has ever lived.

He grabs the neck of a cello gently.

LOUIS (CONT'D)  
And this bad boy is the only cello he  
ever made.

(beat)  
Happy Birthday, Munchkin.

She turns to him. They hug.

EXT./EST. HÔTEL RITZ (PARIS, FRANCE) - MORNING (2012)

If you have to ask, you can't afford it!

INT. HÔTEL RITZ - SUITE IMPÉRIALE - BEDROOM - MORNING

Louis (now 41) and his bunny-cute GIRLFRIEND (20s) giggle as  
they romp in an appropriately-decadent king-size bed.

SERIES OF SHOTS: PARIS SHOPPING SPREE

-- INT. ANA QUASOAR -- A HAND gives a SALESLADY a credit  
card, the Seal of the Sovereign of Vaněk on it

-- INT. AUBERCY -- The hand gives a SALESGIRL the card

-- INT. BUCHERER -- The hand gives a SALESMAN the card

-- INT. SAINT-GERMAIN-DES-PRÉS PIED-À-TERRE -- Louis's lady  
friend grins as she hands the LANDLADY the card

END SERIES OF SHOTS

EXT. SEBJÖRN OF SÖDERTÄLJE SQUARE (PATHÉ, VANĚK) - MORNING  
 Equestrian statue of macho mercenary Sebjörn of Södertälje.  
 ON its plaque in SWEDISH, TITLES OVER:

Sebjörn of Södertälje  
 (\* 18 August 1191 - † 5 May 1245)  
 Vanquisher of Genghis Khan  
 Founder of The Royal Military Academy  
 Sovereign of The Kingdom of Vaněk  
 "Kill 'Em All and Let God Sort 'Em Out!"

A MOB strings up an effigy of Louis by its "genitals" next to Sebjörn's statue, then TORCHES it to CHEERS.

INT. COUNCIL OF MINISTERS (PATHÉ) - CHAMBERS - LATER

Hub of the MINISTERS who rede the Sovereign. They stand as Louis enters. QÚPERSIMÂN QEQTARSUATSIAAT (50s), direct descendant of the first Qúpersimân, confronts him.

QEQTARSUATSIAAT  
 Louis, the only comfort I can take in  
 this latest disgrace is that your father  
 is not here to bear witness.

LOUIS  
 Oh, blow it out your ass, Qúpersimân!

Qeqertarsuatsiaat is mortified.

LOUIS  
 In case you haven't figured it out, they  
 want your head as well as mine! So, if  
 self-preservation is an instinct that you  
 possess, then you better help me figure  
 out how to save our phony-baloney jobs!

OTHER MINISTERS  
 Huzzah! Huzzah! Huzzah!

Louis points at a Minister in a wheelchair, on oxygen.

LOUIS  
 I didn't get a "huzzah" out of you.

As the poor man is HIT with rolled-up newspapers by the others, Louis walks to the BALCONY.

EXT: BALCONY - MOMENTS LATER

Louis appears before his SUBJECTS. BOOS. He smiles.

LOUIS  
 My friends.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

A cow pie HITS his face. CHEERS. With great dignity, he produces a handkerchief, wipes it off.

LOUIS (CONT'D)  
My friends. I shall pay for Ms. Noël's expenditures from my own personal accounts.

That throws them. Their reaction give him confidence.

LOUIS (CONT'D)  
And I hereby decree that as long as a Baillargeon rules Vaněk,

INSERT: EXT. PALACE OF THE SOVEREIGN - ENTRY GATE - DAY

Louis poses the with his STAFF of TWO HUNDRED, who DISAPPEAR, ONE-BY-ONE, until FIFTY remain.

LOUIS (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
the Crown shall not be supported by your hard-earned kronkites.

INSERT: EXT. COLÁISTE ÍDE (COUNTY KERRY, IRELAND) - DAY

School at BURNHAM HOUSE, former seat of the Barons Ventry.

Anne (now 19) poses at the entry with her STAFF of TEN who DISAPPEAR, ONE-BY-ONE, until NONE remain.

LOUIS (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
As you must make your way in the world, then so shall we.

BACK TO SCENE

The mob disperses, utterly baffled.

INT. PALACE OF THE SOVEREIGN - THRONE ROOM - DAY

A glum Louis stands before a camera, a DIRECTOR in his face.

DIRECTOR  
Now, Your Most Gracious Majesty, all you need to do is read the cue cards and flash that shit-eating grin.

Louis nods. A MAN holds a clapboard, SNAPS it, leaves.

DIRECTOR (O.S.) (CONT'D)  
And... action!

He holds up a pill bottle, "Sjálfsvíg" on its label.

(CONTINUED)



CONTINUED:

LOUIS

My friends. Are you depressed? Feeling hopeless? Life lost all meaning? Do you just want to end it once and for all? Then, Sjálfsvíg is the cure for what ails you. Developed in over ten years of double-blind research studies, Sjálfsvíg is guaranteed to provide hours of utter anguish, hopelessness, despair, and the guts to finally take the plunge!

He forces himself to flash that shit-eating grin.

SERIES OF SHOTS: LOUIS AND HIS "MUNCHKIN"

-- EXT. MOUNT EVEREST (NEPAL/TIBET) -- Wearing oxygen masks, Anne (then 10) and Louis (then 32) each give a thumbs up as they pose at the SUMMIT

-- INT. CASINO HOTEL (KOCHI, INDIA) -- Louis (then 33) and Anne (then 11) each give a thumbs up as they pose with her 2004 World Junior Chess Championship trophy

-- INT. ARTHUR ASHE STADIUM (QUEENS, NEW YORK) -- Louis (then 36) and Anne (then 14) each give a thumbs up as they pose with her 2007 Australian, French, Wimbledon, and U.S. Open Junior Girls trophies

-- INT. SALLE PLEYEL (PARIS, FRANCE) -- Louis (then 38) and Anne (then 16) each give a thumbs up as they pose with the Guarneri cello and her First Grand Prize at the 2009 Concours de Violoncelle Rostropovich

-- EXT. OLYMPIC OVAL (RICHMOND, CANADA) -- Louis (then 39) gives a thumbs up as a dour Anne (then 17), speed skates slung over her shoulder, holds her silver medal at the 2010 Winter Olympics

END SERIES OF SHOTS

INT. ROYAL MAUSOLEUM (BÅRGEN, VANĚK) - DAY

Numb, Anne stands alone before a CRYPT: "His Most Gracious Majesty, Louis Pietro Henrik Boldvin \* 1971 - † 2012".

INT. PALACE OF THE SOVEREIGN - MUSIC ROOM - DAY (2013)

ANDREA (24; frat boy) and pal KLAAS VAN DEN BROEK (20s; snob) bring a wood chipper into the CHAMBER, START it. ON Andrea's right hand is The Ring of Kings. They are blocked from grabbing a bass by a GUARD.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

GUARD  
Make way for Elizabeth, the Queen Mother!  
Make way!

Andrea's mother ELIZABETH (42; classy-trashy) enters the Chamber, SMACKS him upside the head.

ELIZABETH  
(Irish accent)  
You stupid, stupid, stupid, stupid boy!  
Do you know what those are worth?!  
Twenty million kronkites! Each!

The boys are stunned. Andrea's wee brain gets an "idea".

EXT. PALACE OF THE SOVEREIGN - COURTYARD - DAY

PEOPLE look at the instruments as Andrea - wearing Ray Bans and a platinum and diamond pimp necklace which spells out "I Rule" - conducts this Mother of All Yard Sales. A board on an easel beside the group gives the details:

"CRAP	MADE BY THIS LOSER	IN	PRICE
Bass	Gasparo Bertolotti	1590	K20.00
Bass	Carlo Testore	1699	K20.00
Cello	Matteo Goffriller	1726	K20.00
Cello	Domenico Montagnana	1733	K20.00
Viol	Caspar Tieffenbrucker	1554	K20.00
Viol	Gasparo Bertolotti	1576	K20.00
Viola	Andrea Guarneri	1697	K20.00
Viola	Antonio Stradivari	1719	K20.00
Viola	Giovanni Guadagnini	1740	K20.00
Viola	Carlo Landolfi	1743	K20.00
Violin	Nicolò Amati	1630	K20.00
Violin	Jakob Stainer	1651	K20.00
Violin	Giuseppe Guarneri	1708	K20.00
Violin	Antonio Stradivari	1716	K20.00
Violin	Bartolomeo Guarneri	1741	K20.00

Free Case of Cow Pies With Every Purchase!"

An UPPER-CRUST MAN approaches Andrea.

UPPER-CRUST MAN  
I will offer you ten kronkites for the Stradivari violin.

Andrea flashes father Louis's shit-eating grin.

ANDREA  
(Flemish accent)  
Sold!

INT. EMPLOYMENT AGENCY (TRALEE, IRELAND) - OFFICE - DAY

Anne sits before a JOB COUNSELOR, who reads her resumé with a mixture of dubiety and disdain. Finally...

JOB COUNSELOR  
(Irish accent)  
So... you know how to stand on a balcony  
and wave?

She reacts: "Duh!".

INT. MUSIC SCHOOL (TRALEE, IRELAND) - DAY

Cello STUDENTS PLAY as Anne meets with their INSTRUCTOR.

INSTRUCTOR  
(Irish accent; excited)  
You won the Rostropovich. And you own  
the Guarneri. We would be thrilled to  
hire you on.  
(disappointed)  
But Miss O'Reilly, our owner. She knows  
King Andrea. And not in a good way.

She nods, understanding.

INT. LUXURY RESORT (COUNTY KERRY, IRELAND) - OFFICE - DAY

Photo of her and Louis with her Grand Slam trophies on a desk, Anne, sitting before the desk, points out the window AT a MAN PLAYING TENNIS.

ANNE  
(Flemish-Irish accent)  
He opens his upper body up too early, is  
too-frontal when he hits the ball, and  
does not turn away from the target as he  
begins his back-swing. As a consequence,  
he is on the defensive always and is  
unable to take charge of the point.

Behind the desk, the RESORT DIRECTOR points AT the Man.

RESORT DIRECTOR  
(Irish accent; insulted)  
That is our tennis pro!

Awkward.

EXT./EST. PALACE OF THE SOVEREIGN - NIGHT

SECTION built in the 13<sup>th</sup> Century OVER the Rzeka Wódą.

INT. PALACE OF THE SOVEREIGN - BALLROOM - CONTINUOUS

NEW YEAR'S PARTY. Wearing the Ray Bans and pimp necklace, Andrea slices through the CROWD, a BLONDE on his arm. He holds by the neck a 1907 Heidsieck Diamant Bleu Cuvée, affixed with the Royal Seal, takes slugs out of it.

They run into GÖRGES HAUPTMANN (80; anal), the Palace Overseer. Görges bows to him.

GÖRGES  
(German accent)  
Sir? The conference?

ANDREA  
This is why nobody likes you, Görges.

GÖRGES  
Sir, I am not here to be liked. I am  
here to perform my duties to my utmost.

Andrea gestures at him, "touché", then sighs, resigned.

ANDREA  
All right. Make our acceptance.

GÖRGES  
Very good, sir. If I am no longer  
needed, I should like to go home.

Andrea waves him off with a smile.

ANDREA  
Go home, Little Man.

GÖRGES  
Good night, Your Most Gracious Majesty.

Görges bows, leaves. Without warning, Andrea GASPS, then DROPS like a felled tree. Everyone just stares at him.

RŮŽIČKA (PRE-LAP)  
(Slovak accent)  
The funeral is Saturday.

SECRETARY (PRE-LAP)  
(Irish accent)  
Be there or be square!

INT. DROGO BY THE DROP (DINGLE, IRELAND) - MORNING (2014)

Small coffee shop. Next to a portrait of SAINT DROGO under a tree sipping a cup of coffee as his sheep graze is a TV AIRING the CARTOON "THE DITZY-DOODLE SHOW". Ditzzy-Doodle can best be described as an elf on crack.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

VLADIMÍR RŮŽIČKA (50s; formal) and his SECRETARY (40s; prim) sit with Anne. On their table is the January 1, 2014 Pathé Poste, Vaněk's leading newspaper, Coronation Portrait of Andrea ON PAGE ONE: "His Most Gracious Majesty, Andrea Ludovít Pálle Henri \* 1989 - † 2013".

He stares at the Secretary in reaction; she cringes.

ANNE

When is the Crown Prince expected?

He and the Secretary share a queasy look. Anne stands, a Drogo by the Drop apron around her. They stand.

ANNE (CONT'D)

Ambassador Růžička, remind Minister Lefèbvre that his disdain for Ditzzy-Doodle does not relieve him of his obligations. The Crown Prince must be informed and the throne must pass to him.

She leaves. They watch her go.

SECRETARY

*Táimid damnaichte. Nach bhfuilimid, mháistir?*

RŮŽIČKA

*Tá. Táimid.*

ANNOUNCER (OVER TV)

It's another Ditzzy-Doodle marathon!

INT. PALACE OF THE SOVEREIGN - GREAT ROOM - DAY

Gold leaf walls and huge windows. On a table are tabloids, Andrea ON the COVERS: "Randy Andy"; "The Royal Rake".

Görges meets with the UNDERTAKER (60s). ON the TV before them: a weary FARMER displays his empty Coddell milk cans to a REPORTER as the Farmer's CODDEL HENS WAIL in GRIEF.

UNDERTAKER

(mortified)

Strip billiards? Beer pongs?

GÖRGES

(equally mortified)

I must abide by the final wishes of His Most Gracious Majesty.

Görges's grandson BORIS HAUPTMANN (16; naïve) enters.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BORIS  
I have some sponsors.

Boris then reacts to what is ON the TV now: LIVE FEED of a REPORTER at PATHE CENTRAAL, hub of Vaněk's RAILWAY.

DE TROUWE KONINKLIJKE ORDE VAN HET SPOOR [DTKOVHS] EMPLOYEES PROTEST as "PORKY" PAVEL BURÉ (40s; jolly) serves them food out of his catering truck.

DTKOVHS EMPLOYEES (ON TV)  
No pancakes! No peace!

REPORTER (ON TV)  
No Coddle milk, no Coddle Milk Pancakes.  
No Coddle Milk Pancakes, no Loyal Royal Order of the Rail Pancake Breakfasts.  
And no Loyal Royal Order of the Rail Pancake Breakfasts, no trains.  
(incredulous)  
This country, so remote, it can be accessed only by boat or train, whose people - and livestock - are reeling from the shocking and untimely demise of their beloved king, has been brought to her knees by, of all things, pancakes!

An ELDERLY COUPLE approach her.

ELDERLY MAN (ON TV)  
Do you know of our history and of our relationship with the Coddle?

She shakes her head, taken aback.

ELDERLY WOMAN (ON TV)  
Then don't pop off about our pancakes!

They waddle off, leaving her humiliated.

BACK TO SCENE

Görges, Boris, and the Undertaker are stunned.

BORIS  
*Wir sind verurteilt, Großvater. Sind nicht wir?*

GÖRGES  
*Ja, Boris. Wir sind.*

DTKOVHS EMPLOYEES (OVER TV)  
No pancakes! No peace!

EXT. MUIRIS DAN'S (DINGLE, IRELAND) - ENTRY - DAY

A pub/hostel Anne now calls home. She has set up a table on the sidewalk, holding her own yard sale:

- Girls' apparel by various couturières (€25 - €250)
- Bespoke luggage by Atelier Renard (€50 - €500)
- World Junior Chess Championship Trophy (€25)
- Australian (€50), French (€50), Wimbledon (€50), and U.S. Open (€50) Junior Girls trophies
- Olympic Silver Medal (€100)
- Chess set owned by Sebjörn of Södertälje (€5000)
- Four cans of World-Famous Vaněk Dehydrated Water (€5)

An AMERICAN TOURIST stops at the table, picks up a can.

AMERICAN TOURIST  
Dehydrated water? What a great gag!

ANNE  
It is not a gag, sir. It is the actual water drawn from our dehydrated water springs.

He reacts like she's nuts as the Upper-Crust Man who bought the Stradivari violin eyes the chess set.

UPPER-CRUST MAN  
I will offer ten Euro for the chess set.

ANNE  
This was owned by Sebjörn of Södertälje, sir. It is over eight-hundred years old.

UPPER-CRUST MAN  
Ten. Take it or leave it.

EXT. BRÉIFNE CASTLE (COUNTY MAYO, IRELAND) - GROUNDS - DAY  
10<sup>th</sup> Century hunting lodge in a sea of emerald pastures.

A HARPIST PLAYS Turlough O'Carolan as HANGERS-ON watch TOMÁS GAHAN, 23<sup>rd</sup> Earl Bréifne and 14<sup>th</sup> Baron Tráinis (65), dressed like a pompous Elmer Fudd, shotgun at the ready.

A TRAP is SPRUNG and an AGED BUTLER FLIES through the air, SCREAMING. Gahan raises the gun, follows the line, FIRES. He basks in the APPLAUSE as MEDICS hand the badly-wounded Butler a moneybag, then shove him into an ambulance.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

A FOOTMAN now approaches Gahan.

FOOTMAN  
Your Lordship, Anne Baillargeon.

Thrown at first, Gahan gestures at her. Anne walks over, holding an Atelier Renard bag. He looks at his watch.

GAHAN  
(Irish accent)  
You have five seconds. Go!

ANNE  
I am here to accompany you to the funeral.  
He looks at her, repulsion on his face.

GAHAN  
Whatever made you think I am going?

ANNE  
He was your grandson.

GAHAN  
Oh, is the She-Devil still peddling that load of malarkey?!

As he reloads, TWO MEN LOAD a terrified MAID INTO the trap.

GAHAN (CONT'D)  
I always felt sorry for Louis, poor sap.  
The moment Éilís sunk her meat hooks into him, his life was over.

ANNE  
You and Grootvader forced them to marry.

GAHAN  
To avoid the scandal of bastardy.  
(an aside)  
In the off-chance he actually was the baby-daddy.

As he raises the gun, she grabs it from him. The Men and the Maid flee just before she BLASTS the TRAP TO BITS.

Gahan and his guests react in horror as she HURLS the gun INTO the POND behind them, then turns to him.

ANNE  
As you will not attend the funeral, I wish to obtain a loan so that I may.

He is fit to be tied.

(CONTINUED)



CONTINUED:

GAHAN

You put the kibosh on the entire day,  
then you have the unmitigated gall to  
seek my financial assistance?!

ANNE

I offer as collateral: my trophies,  
silver medal, luggage, clothing, the  
Sebjörn of Södertälje set  
(sudden emotion)  
and the cello.

She hands him the key to her "U Store It" unit. He is  
thrown again momentarily.

GAHAN

No dehydrated water?

ANNE

I sold my last four cans for bus fare.

GAHAN

(pouts)  
Oh, pooh!  
(bluster)  
So, you are here to seek my financial  
assistance because...?

ANNE

I wish to go home.

GAHAN

And what else?

ANNE

(perplexed)  
You are my *seanáthair*?

GAHAN

(an aside)  
Well, that's debatable.  
(long beat)  
And what else?  
(beat)  
Say it... say it...

She sighs/rolls her eyes.

ANNE

You are the one-hundredth richest man in  
County Mayo.

A self-satisfied Gahan now points to his FAR-WEST AT the  
STONE WALL of a lavish ESTATE.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

GAHAN  
Take that, bitches!

ESTATE OWNER (O.S.)  
(Irish accent)  
Shove your damn shamrocks where the sun  
don't shine, Gahan!

EXT./EST. CATHEDRAL OF ŮLFO THE MONK (DUKLJA, VANĚK) - DAY

Statue of Ůlfo the Monk, halo over his head, shoving pebbles  
up its nose. ON its plaque in LATIN, TITLES OVER:

Ůlfo of Ůštěk  
(\* 27 January 400 - † 28 February 450)  
Vanquisher of Attila  
Patron Saint of The Kingdom of Vaněk  
"Let Us Be Brothers in Christ!"

INT. CATHEDRAL OF ŮLFO THE MONK - LATER

Early-medieval edifice as eccentric as her namesake. Cheesy  
PLUCKED VIOLINS PLAY.

As "Porky" Pavel works the aisle with his pushcart, ALTAR  
BOYS hand EACH MOURNER a funeral announcement: ON its back  
is a "Have You Seen Me?" advert for Crown Prince Frédéric  
(70s). Had Hugh Hefner and Maurice Chevalier mated,  
Frédéric would have been the result.

ANNOUNCER (OVER LOUD SPEAKERS)  
Hey, there! Welcome to the funeral of  
His Most Gracious Majesty, Andrea,  
Sovereign of The Kingdom of Vaněk, Grand  
-Duc de Pathé, Storfurste av Bårgen,  
Veliki Knez iz Duklja, Granduca di  
Risacci, Defender of the Faith, Guardian  
of the Realm, you get the idea!  
(beat)  
We do hope you enjoy the service. And  
don't forget later to stop by the gift  
shop. Aside from caps, mugs, t-shirts,  
and STD test kits, we offer doctored  
photos of past Sovereigns in compromising  
positions! And today only, get fifty-  
percent off on signed copies of Randy  
Andy: Confessions of a Royal Rake!

INT: PEWS - LATER

HANDS pass down a collection basket, put IN as little money  
as they can get away with.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CARDINAL (O.S.)  
When Our Lord delivers the Crown Prince  
to us safely, he is going to have to have  
some toilet paper, so please give  
generously. And, as always, your donation  
may be written off come tax time.

Just then, a hand plops IN a roll of toilet paper.

INT: SANCTUARY - CONTINUOUS

The CARDINAL (60s; courtly) at the podium. Behind him is  
the Buon Fresco of Ůlfo confronting Attila.

CARDINAL (CONT'D)  
Before we begin, I have been asked to  
make a few announcements:  
(beat)  
The Royal Rubber Ducky Committee will be  
at the Coddle Lodge in Duklja on Monday  
to field concerns about actual ducks  
taking part in the Regatta.  
(beat)  
The Royal and Ancient Order of the Kewpie  
seeks three auxiliary referees for the  
Steeplechase. Certification in proper  
Kewpie Doll etiquette is required.  
Applications may be picked up at the main  
office in Risacci.  
(beat)  
And The Royal Cow Pie Consortium voted  
unanimously last night to allow non-  
traditional entries into the Bake-Off.

CHEERS.

INT: AISLE - LATER

SIX GUARDS, Andrea's tricked-out casket on their shoulders,  
walk to the sanctuary. Vaněk's flag drapes the casket; the  
CROWN JEWELS (Scepter, Sword of Södertälje, Globus Cruciger,  
Ring of Kings, Crown of the Sovereign) at its head. The  
casket SWAYS as the Guards begin to fall OUT OF SYNC.

INT: SANCTUARY - LATER

As the Altar Boys slap duct tape on the BUSTED Crown Jewels  
and the Guards heave the BANGED-UP casket onto sawhorses,  
the Cardinal acts as though everything is fine.

CARDINAL (CONT'D)  
Now to deliver the eulogy, the boyhood  
friend of His Most Gracious Majesty,  
Mr. Klaas van den Broek.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

FRONT PEW - MOMENTS LATER

Van den Broek stands, the Blonde with Andrea beside him. He holds by the neck an 1893 Veuve Clicquot, affixed with the Royal Seal, takes a swig, unleashes a monster BELCH.

Görges and Boris are mortified as the place goes NUTS.

EXT./EST. CUENE RIVER (NAMIBIA) - DAY

Luxury YACHT STROLLS, its electronic signboard AIRS "*THE DITZY-DOODLE SHOW*" to the perplexed NATIVES.

ANNOUNCER (OVER YACHT'S LOUD SPEAKERS)  
It's another Ditzzy-Doodle marathon!

INT. YACHT/EXT. CUENE RIVER - CONTINUOUS

PEOPLE in Ditzzy-Doodle gear PARTY as FRÉDÉRIC holds court with GROUPIES young enough to be his granddaughters. He gestures at The Ditzzy Dainties with toilet paper among the various Ditzzy-Doodle merch for sale.

FRÉDÉRIC  
(Swiss accent)  
And that, my darlings, is how The Ditzzy  
Dainties came to me.

The Groupies HUM, impressed, as a SHIP'S MATE hands him a note. Frédéric nods his thanks, unfolds it, reads.

FRÉDÉRIC (CONT'D)  
I am sorrowed to be the bearer of bad  
tidings. Andrea, *le petit-fils* of my  
cousin Pierre, is no more.

GROUPIE #1  
"No more" what?

FRÉDÉRIC  
He has passed on, my dear.

GROUPIE #2  
"Passed on" what?

GROUPIE #3  
He's dead, you moron!

He gestures for calm as GROUPIE #4 has an epiphany.

GROUPIE #4  
Freddy... you're the new king!

Somber pause. They then burst into peels of laughter.

## INT. COUNCIL OF MINISTERS - CHAMBERS - DAY

The MINISTERS, DIFFERENT from ones the Louis dealt with, sit at a table as SYLVAIN LEFÈBVRE (60s; proper) OPENS a note embossed with Frédéric's Ditzzy-Doodle Seal, reads.

LEFÈBVRE  
*Delendi sumus!*

MINISTERS  
Aah!

## EXT. TRAIN DEPOT / PARKING LOT (KOPITÁŘ) - DUSK

As Anne pays the CABBIE who has brought her, a PUNK grabs her Atelier Renard handbag. They engage in an epic TUG-OF-WAR, to the apathy of EVERYONE around them. He finally yanks the handbag away, KNOCKS her down, and RUNS off. No one offers her help. Anne's cab drives away.

## EXT. PATHÉ CENTRAAL - DAWN

SIGN: "Hey, There! Welcome to The Kingdom of Vaněk! Where Men are Men and Women are Women! A Darn Good Arrangement!".  
West Directional: "Anže, Kopitář 32KM". East Directional: "Matěj, Závěšic 50KM".

Deserted. Rail cars and engines in the Maintenance Shed. Terminal is plastered with "No Pancakes! No Peace!" cards.

Lording it over it all is a statue of Jean-Guy Baillargeon. ON its plaque in DUTCH, TITLES OVER:

Jean-Guy Tibout Baillargeon  
(\* 31 May 1819 - † 25 October 1903)  
Vanquisher of King Philippe-Augusté  
Founder of The Loyal Royal Order of the Rail  
Sovereign of The Kingdom of Vaněk  
"Awesome!"

A spent Anne steps off the tracks, having walked all the way from Kopitář. She climbs a ladder to the platform, looks around, baffled, then notices a banner wrapped around the base of the statue: "*Wij zijn gedoemd! AAH!*".

## EXT. SEBJÖRN OF SÖDERTÄLJE SQUARE - LATER

She looks at the statue of Sebjörn. Wrapped around its base is a banner: "*Vi är dödsdömd! AAH!*".

## EXT. CATHEDRAL OF ŮLFO THE MONK - GROUNDS - LATER

She looks at the statue of Ůlfo. Wrapped around its base is a banner: "*Sme odsúdení! AAH!*".

EXT. MAIN STREET (PATHÉ) - LATER

Norman Rockwell on crack. Each Mom-and-Pop SHOP has the same banner in its window: "*Nous sommes condamné!* AAH!". PEOPLE stare at her; she stares back. A COP now eyes her.

INT. HALL OF JUSTICE (RISACCI) - COURTROOM - MORNING

Puts the fear of God in all unfortunate enough be on the wrong side of the law. The Coat of Arms (which now includes Vaněk and Sebjörn) and Vaněk's flag guard the bench.

PEOPLE are packed in the pews as "Porky" Pavel doles out food from his pushcart. A BAILIFF escorts a handcuffed Anne before the JUDGE (50s; thuggish).

BAILIFF

The Crown versus Her Most Gracious  
Highness, Anne, Princess of the Kingdom  
of Vaněk, Grande-Duchesse de Pathé,  
Storfustinna av Bårgen, Velika Kneginja  
iz Duklja, Granduchessa di Risacci, you  
get the idea.

A GUARD enters.

GUARD

Make way for Elizabeth, the Queen Mother!  
Make way!

Elizabeth tears up the aisle, tailed by a hunky BOY TOY, as people bow to her. Anne turns to her, about to speak, when Elizabeth raises a hand up to her.

ELIZABETH

I don't want you to think that I am  
here out of any maternal instinct, God  
forbid! I am here only because I am  
Her high-holy Majesty, the Queen Mother!  
That, and Porky Pavel is here.

Porky hands Elizabeth a "Pushkin Puppy", bows.

Görge and Boris enter. They stagger up TO the Judge, SLAP a pile of crumbled-up bills ON his bench, turn to Anne. She notices blood donor pins on their blazers -- lots of blood donor pins! They bow to her, then stagger to a pew.

The Judge now turns to Anne.

JUDGE

(Italian accent)

You are charged with violation of Royal  
Code One-Three: Entry into the Kingdom  
Without Entry Papers. How do you plead?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

WOMAN (O.S.)  
*Siamo condannati!*

WITNESSES (O.S.)  
Aah!

BEDLAM. Puzzled at first, Anne breaks from the Bailiff, climbs up to the Judge's bench, grabs his gavel, then BANGS it UNTIL there is SILENCE.

ANNE  
What is this?! "We are doomed! Aah!"?!

JUDGE  
The Crown Prince has refused the throne, Ma'am.

She looks at him, then at the people, incredulous.

ANNE  
That obscene fart refuses the throne and we are doomed?! Were Úlfo the Monk or Sebjörn of Södertälje here, they would get medieval on your sorry asses!

The people are stunned. She regains her composure.

ANNE (CONT'D)  
Now, we have one of two options.

INSERT: TV COMMERCIAL with MARQUIS DE SADE (60s; sleazy) for his car dealership, MOTEURS DE SADE DE PARIS.

ANNE (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
Offer the throne to the Châtres who would be Sovereign had Philippe-Augusté not so foolishly wagered the throne.

BACK TO SCENE

The very-thought makes everyone shudder.

ANNE (CONT'D)  
Or just say: "To Hell with it!", and absolve the Monarchy.

Lefèbvre stands.

LEFÈBVRE  
There is a third option, Ma'am.

She now gets what he means, gestures: "Oh, no!". Elizabeth jumps to her feet.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ELIZABETH  
 Take the throne, dammit!  
 (long beat)  
 Not for your brother. And certainly not  
 for these twits and their piddly-ass  
 country. But for your father.  
 (soft)  
 He would have wanted it.

Anne, resigned to her fate, nods, finally.

Görgeš, Boris, the Judge, and the Bailiff wipe away tears.  
 Even Elizabeth is moved. Lefèbvre bows to Anne. Everyone,  
 including the Judge, stands and bows to Anne.

MAN IN THE PEWS  
 We are doomed! Aah!

THOSE around the MAN WHACK him over the head.

EXT. CATHEDRAL OF ŮLFO THE MONK - GROUNDS - DAY

Vaněk's flag is draped around Ůlfo's statue, a De Trouwe  
 Koninklijke Orde van Het Spoor cap on its head, and a sack  
 of Coddle Milk Pancake Mix is in its arms.

INT. CATHEDRAL OF ŮLFO THE MONK - LATER

CORONATION MASS PLAYS over loud speakers. The Cardinal,  
 carrying the restored Crown of the Sovereign on a pillow,  
 walks down the aisle. Suddenly, The Mass SKIPS... and  
 SKIPS... and SKIPS.

The Cardinal stops, gestures to the WITNESSES: "Pardon". He  
 puts the pillow down on the floor, darts through a curtain  
 to his left. SILENCE. BANGING/YELLING O.S. He darts out,  
 picks up the pillow, retakes his place.

The Mass REPLAYS. The Procession resumes:

-- The BISHOP OF PATHÉ carries the Holy Ampulla on a pillow.

-- The BISHOP OF BÅRGEN carries the restored Scepter and  
 Globus Cruciger on a pillow.

-- The BISHOP OF DUKLJA carries the restored Ring of Kings  
 on a pillow.

-- The BISHOP OF RISACCI carries the restored Sword of  
 Södertälje on a pillow.

-- An ALTAR BOY carries an ancient Bible on a pillow.

(CONTINUED)



CONTINUED:

-- The ADVOCATES walk in double-file. Each wears a sash with the name of his respective commune.

-- In a white satin alb and slippers, Anne walks in stutter-step, hands over her eyes.

The Cardinal reaches the Sanctuary, puts the pillow down on the simple wood throne, turns to the pews.

The Bishops and the Altar Boy take their places to the Cardinal's right.

The Advocates take their places to the Cardinal's left.

Anne stops at the throne before the Cardinal, then drops to her knees, her hands still over her eyes. Mass ENDS.

CARDINAL

Anne Marit Brigida Ludvika of the House of Baillargeon hereby presents herself as the one true claimant to our throne by Divine Right. Let those who support her claim hereby make themselves known.

ADVOCATE PATHÉ steps up to Anne's left, faces the pews.

ADVOCATE PATHÉ

(French accent)

I am the Advocate of the good souls of La Région de Pathé and hereby make known to all that Anne Marit Brigida Ludvika of the House of Baillargeon is the one true claimant to our throne by Divine Right, and may Almighty God strike me down if I have rendered false testimony.

He puts his hands over his eyes. ADVOCATE DUKLJA steps up to Pathé's right, faces the pews.

ADVOCATE DUKLJA

(Serbian accent)

I am the Advocate of the good souls of Ta Območje Duklja and hereby make known to all that Anne Marit Brigida Ludvika of the House of Baillargeon is the one true claimant to our throne by Divine Right, and may Almighty God strike me down if I have rendered false testimony.

He puts his hands over his eyes. ADVOCATE RISACCI steps up to Anne's right, faces the pews.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ADVOCATE RISACCI

(Italian accent)

I am the Advocate of the good souls of La Regioni di Risacci and hereby make known to all that Anne Marit Brigida Ludvika of the House of Baillargeon is the one true claimant to our throne by Divine Right, and may Almighty God strike me down if I have rendered false testimony.

He puts his hands over his eyes. ADVOCATE BÅRGEN steps up to Risacci's left, faces the pews.

ADVOCATE BÅRGEN

(Scandinavian accent)

I am the Advocate of the good souls of Hun Bårgen Iån and hereby make known to all that Anne Marit Brigida Ludvika of the House of Baillargeon is the one true claimant to our throne by Divine Right, and may Almighty God strike me down if I have rendered false testimony.

He puts his hands over his eyes.

CARDINAL

Be there here persons to challenge Anne Marit Brigida Ludvika of the House of Baillargeon as the one true claimant to our throne by Divine Right, hereby make yourselves known or forever hold your peace.

Monster BELCHES. He reacts, then gestures at the PEOPLE in the BOXES at either side of the Sanctuary. They stand.

CARDINAL (CONT'D)

Are the testimonies hereby rendered acceptable to the people?

PEOPLE

They are.

CARDINAL

Do the people accept Anne Marit Brigida Ludvika of the House of Baillargeon as the one true claimant to our throne by Divine Right?

PEOPLE

We do.

The people sit. The Cardinal now turns to Anne.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CARDINAL  
Madam, are you ready and willing to take  
The Oath?

ANNE  
I am so ready and willing.

The Altar Boy with the Bible now raises it at arms' length  
over her head.

CARDINAL  
Anne Marit Brigida Ludvika of the House  
of Baillargeon, do you hereby swear you  
are the one true claimant to our throne  
by Divine Right?

ANNE  
To this, I so swear.

CARDINAL  
Do you hereby swear you shall maintain  
law, order, and peace within our Realm?

ANNE  
To this, I so swear.

CARDINAL  
Do you hereby swear you shall govern our  
Realm with equity, justice, and mercy?

ANNE  
To this, I so swear.

CARDINAL  
Do you hereby swear you shall hold to The  
Traditions as rendered unto us through  
His One True Church?

ANNE  
To this, I so swear.

The Bishop of Pathé presents the Holy Ampulla to the  
Cardinal. He opens the Holy Ampulla, and pours a drop of  
Holy Oil onto her hands, chest, and forehead.

CARDINAL  
Lord have mercy upon us.

PEOPLE  
Christ have mercy upon us.

He closes the Holy Ampulla.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CARDINAL

Rise now, and receive this Sacred Text.

She moves her hands away from her face, opens her eyes. She reaches for the Bible, but she has been on her knees for so long, she loses her balance and LANDS face down. GASPS. The Cardinal slips the Holy Ampulla into his pocket as he and the Bishop of Pathé help her up.

The Altar Boy gives the Bible to the Cardinal, who then gives it to her. The Advocates now place their hands to their sides.

The MISTRESS OF THE ROBES enters from the left with the Pall Robe and the Stole Robe. The GROOM OF THE ROBES enters from the right with the Coronation Robe.

Assisted by the ALTAR BOYS, The Mistress puts the Pall Robe then the Stole Robe around Anne's shoulders, then The Groom puts the Coronation Robe around her shoulders. The Cardinal now fastens the robes.

CARDINAL (CONT'D)

With these Robes of Righteousness, may  
Almighty God shield you from our enemies  
and bathe you in the Glory of His  
Abundant Grace.

Anne steps to the throne and turns to face the witnesses as The Mistress and The Groom take up the robes. Pause. She moves to sit, then JUMPS up! She turns around to find that she nearly sat on the Crown!

The Cardinal cringes, grabs the Crown, tosses the pillow, plops the Crown ON the head of the Altar Boy who held the Bible. The boy is mortified, but dares not speak!

Anne now sits on the throne, the Bible now on her lap.

The Bishop of Bårgen presents the Scepter to the Cardinal, who takes it, then turns to Anne.

CARDINAL (CONT'D)

With this Scepter, may Almighty God grant  
to you the power to: reward the pious,  
guide the wayward, redeem the fallen, and  
make revelation to the humble.

He rests it in the crook of her left arm.

The Bishop of Duklja presents The Ring of Kings to the Cardinal, who takes it, then turns to Anne.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CARDINAL (CONT'D)  
 With this Ring of Kings, may Almighty  
 God grant to you the wisdom of all those  
 whom have come before.

He slips it onto the third finger of her right hand. The  
 Bishop of Risacci presents the Globus Cruciger to the  
 Cardinal, who takes it, then turns to Anne.

CARDINAL (CONT'D)  
 With this Globus Cruciger, may Almighty  
 God remind you always of your special  
 place in His Plans.

He places it into her right hand. The Bishop of Bårge  
 presents The Sword of Södertälje to the Cardinal, who takes  
 it, then turns to Anne.

CARDINAL (CONT'D)  
 May you use this Sword of Södertälje,  
 deliverer of our Realm, as the minister  
 of Almighty God to: protect those who do  
 good, punish those who do evil, and lead  
 your people in the way wherein they  
 should go.

He places it across the Bible on her lap.

ANNOUNCER (OVER LOUD SPEAKERS)  
 The numbers for the Boffo Babushka  
 Bonanza have just been drawn!

Everything STOPS. Anne, the Cardinal, the Bishops,  
 Elizabeth, Görges, Boris, the Advocates, the Altar Boys,  
 etc., produce their Boffo Babushka Bonanza tickets.

ANNOUNCER (CONT'D)  
 And they are... two... six... nineteen...  
 fifty-three... and twenty-seven!

They gripe as they crumple up/toss their tickets.

WOMAN (O.S.)  
 (British accent)  
 I... won. I... won.

FRONT PEW - THAT MOMENT

QUEEN ELIZABETH II rises slowly as she stares at her ticket  
 in giddy disbelief, shows it to her beefy BODYGUARDS.

QUEEN ELIZABETH II (CONT'D)  
 Can you believe it? After all these  
 years?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

They smile, happy for her, then look to the Cardinal.

QUEEN ELIZABETH'S BODYGUARD #1  
(Welsh accent)  
Sir, where may Her Majesty redeem this?

CARDINAL  
Go out, take a right, keep going until  
you see a thatch house with a giant  
Coddel hen on the roof wearing a babushka.  
You can't miss it.

QUEEN ELIZABETH'S BODYGUARD #2  
(Scottish accent)  
Thank you, sir.

The bodyguards escort the still-stunned and still-giddy Her Majesty down the aisle gently, then out.

THE THRONE - MOMENTS LATER

Anne and the Cardinal share a look. He then grabs the Crown off the Altar Boy's head. Everyone now stands as he raises the Crown high above her head.

CARDINAL  
With this Crown of the Sovereign, we now  
humbly beseech You, O Lord, to sanctify  
Thy chosen servant, Anne Marit Brigida  
Ludvika. May her reign be a beacon unto  
the world.

After a seeming eternity, he nestles it ON her head.

WITNESSES  
God save the Queen! God save the Queen!

MAN FROM THE COURTROOM (O.S.)  
We are doomed! Aah!

REAR PEW - THAT MOMENT

THOSE around the Man WHACK him over the head (again).

FADE OUT.

END