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"Support Your Local Sovereign"

SUPER ON BLACK SCREEN:

Life being what it is, one dreams of revenge.

-- Paul Gauguin

FADE IN:

EXT. MENTONIA (1833) - FOREST CLEARING - NIGHT

Among pitched TENTS, FOUR MEN sit by a CAMPIRE, PLAYING BOUILLLOTTE. A forerunner of poker, bouillotte employed a 20-card deck and chips called "the cave". To open, each player wagers one chip before the deal.

As no one thought to bring chips, each man uses his money as his "cave", hence, four GOLD COINS in the BETTING POOL.

PHILIPPE-AUGUSTÉ (40s)

Snidely Whiplash-type, waits for the hand to be dealt.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

By the Grace of God, His Most Gracious Majesty, Philippe-Augusté, Sovereign of the Kingdom of Mentonia, Grand Duc of Pathé, Storfurste of Bârgen, Veliki Knez of Duklja, Granduca of Risacci, Defender of the Faith, Guardian of the Realm, you get the idea.

JOSÉ MARIA DA CÂMARA (30s)

worldly, sits to the King's right, and DEALS THREE CARDS counter-clockwise to each man.

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

José Maria da Câmara, scion of one of Portugal's most noble families.

JÉAN-GUY BAILLARGEON (20s)

naive, sits to Da Câmara's right.

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

Jéan-Guy Baillargeon, Belgian babe in the woods.

MARCO ROSELLI (30s)

slimy, sits to Baillargeon's right.

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

Marco Roselli, Italian playboy and French Foreign Legion reject.

Roselli, Baillargeon, and da Câmara wear the ARMY lieutenant UNIMORM of his respective COUNTRY.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Da Câmara DEALS himself three cards, TURNS the next card  
FACE UP: ACE OF HEARTS.

QUEEN COLETTE (40s), plump, pops her head OUT of the ROYAL  
TENT behind them. IN FRENCH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES:

COLETTE

Poopsie?

A look of utter annoyance crosses His Majesty's face.

COLETTE (CONT'D)

When are you coming to bed?

PHILIPPE-AUGUSTÉ

When Hell freezes over!

Roselli and Da Câmara CHUCKLE. Offended, Colette goes back  
into the tent with a self-righteous HUFF.

Roselli, Baillargeon, and the King TOSS two COINS into the  
pot. Da Câmara must now toss three coins in, which he DOES.  
Roselli then TOSSES his MONEY BAG into the pot.

ROSELLI

All goes.

To stay in, the others must toss in everything they have.  
Baillargeon gulps a bit, TOSSES his MONEY BAG in.

BAILLARGEON

All goes.

The King PATS himself down: no money. But not wanting to  
miss out, he pulls the RING OF KINGS off his finger, and  
TOSSES it in: he is betting the throne on the game!

PHILIPPE-AUGUSTÉ

All goes.

Roselli, Baillargeon, and Da Câmara share a LOOK, but dare  
not say a word. Da Câmara TOSSES his MONEY BAG in.

DA CÂMARA

All goes.

END SUBTITLES. Roselli DROPS his hand: KING OF DIAMONDS,  
QUEEN OF DIAMONDS, ACE OF CLUBS.

Baillargeon DROPS his hand: ACE OF DIAMONDS, NINE OF CLUBS,  
EIGHT OF HEARTS.

Philippe-Augusté DROPS his hand: KING OF HEARTS, EIGHT OF  
DIAMONDS, QUEEN OF SPADES.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Da Câmara DROPS his hand: QUEEN OF HEARTS, ACE OF CLUBS, EIGHT OF CLUBS.

Philippe-Augusté, da Câmara, and Roselli look at Baillargeon, the winner.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. MOTEURS DE SADE (2013) - PARIS - DAY

MARQUIS DE SADE (40s), sleazy, RIDES a HOG along a row of new and used French CARS and MOTORBIKES.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

Marquis de Sade - no, we are not making that up - antiseptically-challenged automotive dealer.

A SINGER SINGS to "If You're Happy and You Know It, Clap Your Hands". IN FRENCH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES:

SINGER (O.S.)

If you want to buy a new car, see Marquis! If you need to buy a used car, see Marquis! The deals are really sweet! And the prices can't be beat! See Marquis! See Marquis! See Marquis!

De Sade JUMPS OFF the hog, then yanks the poor thing's tail; it SQUEALS/RUNS OFF. He now looks straight ahead.

DE SADE

People say I'm crazy! I must be crazy! I'm practically giving these babies away!

He gestures at a 2008 PEUGEOT XR7-50 MOTORCYCLE, a beast.

DE SADE (CONT'D)

Here is a two-thousand eight Peugeot X-R seven-fifty. Owned by this sweet little old lady from Choisy-le-Roi who only used it to go to church every Sunday. A steal at five-hundred Euros!

He walks.

DE SADE (CONT'D)

And that's just one of the great deals we have here at De Sade Motors! Bad credit? No credit? No problem! We carry our own financing. Heck, make me an offer! I'm so crazy, I just might  
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DE SADE (CONT'D)  
 accept it!  
 (beat)  
 De Sade Motors is located at five  
 Avenue of the Republic in Paris, open  
 from nine-to-nine, seven days a week.  
 See you soon!

He waves/gives a big smile.

DIRECTOR (O.S.)  
 And... cut! Fantastic, Mr. De Sade!

De Sade reverberates to his pissed-off self. He storms away  
 as his ASSISTANTS, a WOMAN and a MAN, follow dutifully.

DE SADE  
 Why do I do this?! I must be crazy!  
 (beat)  
 Am I crazy?

DE SADE'S FEMALE ASSISTANT  
 (going along)  
 You're crazy.

He turns to the woman.

DE SADE  
 Who asked you? Did I ask you?

She shakes her head, intimidated.

DE SADE (cont'd)  
 Then shut up, you dumb bitch!

She shrinks as he turns on his heels.

INT. DE SADE MOTORS - SALES OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER

Boiler-room chic.

SALESMEN CUT DEALS with CUSTOMERS as De Sade - tailed by the  
 Assistants - STORMS IN like a bull in a china shop. IN  
 FRENCH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES:

DE SADE'S MALE ASSISTANT  
 Marquis, France twenty-four has been  
 calling. They want to know why you  
 called the Trade Minister "a pussy".

De Sade turns on him with righteous fury.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DE SADE

Because he is a pussy! He promised to open up the German market and cut the export tax! Then those Nazis began screaming bloody murder, and he backed down like the pussy he is! My bottom line is getting clobbered, and nobody gives a --

De Sade STOPS, NOTICES something O.S.

AN ISSUE OF *PARIS-MATCH*

on a table, ANNE ON the COVER. On the third finger of her right hand is the RING OF KINGS.

DE SADE

reaches over, picks up the magazine.

DE SADE'S MALE ASSISTANT

She is pretty.

De Sade turns on him, blood in his eyes.

DE SADE

There is no such thing as a pretty Baillargeon! They are all pig scum! Do you hear me?! Pig scum!

De Sade SLAMS down the magazine, and storms OFF. The man turns to the woman.

DE SADE'S MALE ASSISTANT

He is crazy.

She nods. END SUBTITLES.

EXT./EST. ROAD - EARLY MORNING

MOUNTAIN RANGE engulfed in perpetual FOG.

INT./EXT. CAR (MOVING)/ROAD - CONTINUOUS

An agitated De Sade SPUTTERS along in his beat-up RENAULT as he is OVERTAKEN by a GREMLIN, an AMC PACER, then - the final insult - a YUGO.

EXT. TRAIN STATION (ANŽE, KOPITAR) - PLATFORM - LATER

De Sade encounters a SIGN: "Pancake Day. No Trains to/from Mentonia Today." Could things possibly get any worse?

EXT. DE TREIN DEPOT VAN PATHÉ - DUSK - LATER

FOG. SIGN: "Hey There! Welcome to The Kingdom of Mentonia. Land of the People With the Perfect Reputation!" Near it, a DIRECTION SIGN pointed West: "Anže, Kopitar - 25 KM".

De Sade staggers off the tracks, having walked all the way from Kopitar. He climbs a ladder up to the PLATFORM, then encounters a sign of the "apocalypse": the STATUE of Jean-Guy Baillargeon. ON its PLAQUE in DUTCH, SUBTITLES OVER:

Jean-Guy Tibout Baillargeon  
 (\* March 8, 1812 - † October 25, 1877)  
 Vanquisher of King Philippe-Augusté  
 Founder of The Loyal Royal Order of the Rail  
 Sovereign of The Kingdom of Mentonia  
 "Awesome!"

INT. PALACE OF THE SOVEREIGN - MAIN ENTRY - LATER

In need of some serious TLC.

Crazed POUNDING O.S. Anne, in a robe, hair wet, MARCHES to the door, miffed.

MAN (O.S.)  
 (Brooklyn accent)  
 Your Majesty? Your Majesty?

ISADORE ISENBERG (60s), tourist, meekly approaches. Anne STOPS, looks to her left, does a 180, gives a big smile.

ANNE  
 Good evening, Professor. How are you  
 and Mrs. Isenberg enjoying your stay?

ISENBERG  
 Oh, we love it here, Your Majesty, we  
 really do.

MRS. ISENBERG (O.S.)  
 (Brooklyn accent)  
 Izzy! The toilet's acting all funny  
 again!

She GESTURES to him "Pardon", and, really miffed now, OPENS the door.

ANNE  
 What?!

De Sade stands there. IN FRENCH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES:

DE SADE  
 I am Marquis De Sade.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

She bursts out laughing.

DE SADE (CONT'D)  
I am not making that up!  
(beat)  
I am the great-great-great grandson of  
His Most Gracious Majesty, Philippe-  
Augusté!

ANNE  
My sympathies.

She closes the door. He YELLS O.S. She opens the door. He  
HOPS up and down: his foot got caught. END SUBTITLES.

DE SADE  
I will say this in English so that even  
you will understand,  *salope!* Your pig  
scum family stole my throne, and I want  
it back!

ANNE  
I understood you perfectly,  *enculé!*  
And it is hardly Jéan-Guy's fault that  
Philippe-Augusté was a bloody imbecile!

This throws De Sade for a loop.

DE SADE  
You will not relinquish my throne?

ANNE  
It is not yours, it is mine!

DE SADE  
We shall see,  *gouine!*

They exchange variations of the one-finger salute. He tries  
to storm off, but is reduced to LIMPING away.

INT. TV STUDIO (WASHINGTON, D.C.) - DAY

FIVE PEOPLE sit on a DARK STAGE as the THEME to THE  
MCLAUGHLIN GROUP PLAYS.

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)  
From the nation's capitol, The  
McLaughlin Group, an unrehearsed  
program presenting inside opinions and  
forecasts on major issues of the day.

LIGHTS come UP to reveal JOHN MCLAUGHLIN seated at center.

(CONTINUED)



CONTINUED:

ANNOUNCER (CONT'D)  
Here is the host, John McLaughlin.

McLAUGHLIN  
Issue one: King Me!

VIDEOTAPED SEGMENT BEGINS:

INSERT: VIDEO of De Sade's COMMERCIAL.

McLAUGHLIN (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
This week, a French car salesman named Marquis De Sade - no, I am not making that up - made what is being called the strongest challenge yet to Mentonia's Royal Family's right to rule.

INSERT: VIDEO of a PRESS CONFERENCE. De Sade stands with YVES DUPUIS (50s), snake oil salesman.

McLAUGHLIN (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
The forty-three year old de Sade has hired the flamboyant and contentious litigator Yves Dupuis, whom, in a wild press conference on Tuesday in Paris, accused the young Queen Anne of, among other things, duplicity!

INSERT: OVER-LAP to LATER FOOTAGE of Dupuis.

DUPUIS (ON VIDEOTAPE)  
(French accent)  
The Crown - the treasure of the Châtres family until that abomination of humanity, Jean-Guy Baillargeon, betrayed, beguiled, and bamboozled his patron - had to be sized to fit the head of the she-devil who now reaps the rewards of the treachery of Un Pécore!

Dupuis's AUDIO is CUT OFF.

McLAUGHLIN (V.O.)  
Mon Dieu! But Avocat Dupuis was just getting warmed up! He presented evidence which contradicted the story that King Philippe-Augusté willingly bet the Crown in a card game way back in the year eighteen thirty-three, evidence that was given credence when the State Department issued a communique supporting De Sade.

INSERT: MAP highlighting the location of Mentonia.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

McLAUGHLIN (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
 Why should the United States care who  
 winds up ruling Mentonia, a tiny  
 country of no strategic importance?

INSERT: NEWSREEL of DWIGHT and MAMIE EISENHOWER welcoming  
 KING PIERRE and QUEEN SOPHIE (20s) to THE WHITE HOUSE.

McLAUGHLIN (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
 In nineteen fifty-three, King Pierre  
 and Queen Sophie, the grandparents of  
 Queen Anne, visited The White House.  
 As a token of their esteem, Their  
 Majesties presented to President Dwight  
 and First Lady Mamie Eisenhower a pair  
 of Coddels.

INSERT: NEWSREEL of a MALE and a FEMALE CODDEL.

McLAUGHLIN (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
 A breed of fowl which has been revered  
 by the Mentonians for generations.  
 (beat)  
 Unfortunately, the usually-discerning  
 Ike could not help but laugh at the  
 sight of the homely creatures, and His  
 Majesty took offense.

INSERT: AMATEUR FOOTAGE of Eisenhower lying UNCONSCIOUS on  
 the floor of THE BLUE ROOM amid the ensuing CHAOS.

McLAUGHLIN (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
 And as the man who saved the world from  
 Adolf Hitler lay knocked out cold,  
 courtesy of a vicious royal right hook,  
 Pierre took his Coddels and left,  
 leaving poor Sophie to apologize  
 profusely to Mamie.

INSERT: NEWSREEL of Pierre at work in his OFFICE.

McLAUGHLIN (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
 Pierre recalled his ambassador to the  
 United States, and threw out our  
 ambassador to Mentonia.

INSERT: NEWSREEL of Eisenhower playing GOLF.

McLAUGHLIN (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
 Not to be outdone, Ike kicked out all  
 Mentonian nationals, and banned all  
 Mentonian imports. Pierre, in turn,  
 kicked out all American nationals, and  
 banned all American imports.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

INSERT: NEWSREEL of TWO DIPLOMATS signing an ACCORD. They FINISH, rise, and shake hands.

McLAUGHLIN (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
 Diplomatic ties were restored in nineteen sixty-seven, yet relations remained strained. So much so that when Anne's brother, the late King Andrea, was accepted to Roxbury Latin School, the INS refused to issue the then-twelve year old a visa.

VIDEOTAPED SEGMENT ENDS.

McLaughlin looks straight ahead.

McLAUGHLIN (CONT'D)  
 How fortuitous that our ambassador to Mentonia during the administration of George Bush, the elder, should be gracing us with his presence.

He turns to his far left.

McLAUGHLIN (CONT'D)  
 Lawrence Kudlow, who is Marquis de Sade?

LAWRENCE KUDLOW chimes in.

KUDLOW  
 He is the great-great grandson of Philippe-Augusté's son, René-Augusté.  
 (beat)  
 After he learned what had happened, René-Augusté did what anyone today who is convinced they have been screwed over would do: he sued --

Chuckles of disbelief.

KUDLOW (CONT'D)  
 alleging Jean-Guy defrauded Philippe-Augusté of the throne by pretending to be unskilled at bouillotte. After the Supreme Court ruled that Philippe-Augusté willingly bet The Crown, and, when he lost, forfeited the Châtres' right to rule, René-Augusté - whose shenanigans made dad look like a pillar of virtue - was obliged to get out of Dodge, P-D-Q.

Chuckles.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KUDLOW (CONT'D)

He wound up in Paris, and married a barmaid. Then one day, he found God, changed his name to "De Sade", abandoned his family, and joined a Benedictine order in Dendermonde, Belguim, ironically, the hometown of J ean-Guy Baillargeon.

Throw momentarily, McLaughlin now turns to his right.

McLAUGHLIN

Eleanor Clift.

ELEANOR CLIFT chimes in.

CLIFT

I watched the press conference. At first, I thought it was another one of Dupuis's publicity stunts. But as it continued, I realized that he has a case, and the Mentonians may actually back De Sade if Dupuis is able to drum up enough popular support.

McLaughlin, thrown again, turns to his left.

McLAUGHLIN

Michael Barone.

MICHAEL BARONE jumps in.

BARONE

This is as nutty as when Louis took out ads in the world's major newspapers announcing that cow pies had made him sterile, and that Anne and Andrea's real father was John Paul the Second.

Hysterical laughter. McLaughlin turns to his right.

McLAUGHLIN

Clarence Page.

CLARENCE PAGE jumps in.

PAGE

A sovereignty is not a right, but a trust conferred upon by the people, so there is a real question here: did Philippe-August e have the right to wager something that wasn't his?

McLaughlin stares hard at Page.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

McLAUGHLIN  
You... are a strange, little man.

Peels of laughter.

McLAUGHLIN (CONT'D)  
As illuminating as all this has been,  
we have to get out. Exit question: will  
one hundred eighty years of Baillargeon  
rule be junked like Grandma's Model T?  
(beat)  
Ambassador Kudlow.

KUDLOW  
De Sade has as much claim to the throne  
as Queen Elizabeth's newest boy toy!

McLAUGHLIN  
You are referring to Queen Anne's  
lovely mother, and not to the equally-  
lovely Elizabeth the Second of Great  
Britain and the United Kingdom.

Kudlow nods.

McLAUGHLIN (CONT'D)  
Just want to make that clear. We don't  
want to be deluged with mail by those  
Yankee-hating blokes across the pond.  
(beat)  
Eleanor?

CLIFT  
I doubt it. But I would not  
underestimate Yves Dupuis.

McLAUGHLIN  
Michael?

BARONE  
No way!

McLAUGHLIN  
Clarence?

PAGE  
Maybe.

Chuckles. McLaughlin does a double-take, then looks ahead.

McLAUGHLIN  
The answer is: Maybe!

Laughter.

INT. MANFRED'S MERCENARY (DUKJLA) - DAY

Every GADGET ever conceived to kill and kill some more crams the place. Anne, in FATIGUES, stands before a CAMERA.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

So, as the world debated the fate of Mentonia, life went on as usual.

ANNE

My friends. Are you a dictator grappling with pesky insurrectionists? Or a constabulary looking for new ways to break legs and bust heads? Or a government agency nostalgic for those weapons of mass-destruction which made the good old days so good?

(beat)

Well, Manfred's Mercenary has everything you need to arm yourself to the teeth: from Bowie knives and hand grenades to the latest in germ warfare. Even bullet-proof boxers to protect those most precious of possessions.

(beat)

We accept all major credit cards, and can have your order anywhere in the world within twenty-four hours. So come on in today, or go online at MannysMerchs-dot-com. And don't forget to ask about our daily specials!

EXT. CAR LOT (BÅRGEN) - DAY

BANNER strung up over the lot: "Screwy Søren's Saabs".

Anne rides a PONY past new and used Saabs as a SINGER SINGS to "If You're Happy and You Know It, Clap Your Hands".

SINGER (O.S.)

If you want to buy a new Saab, go see Søren! If you need to buy a used Saab, come see Søren! You'll get a deal that's really sweet! And the prices can't be beat! Come see Søren! Come see Søren! Come see Søren!

She can't get off, and YELLS as the pony ZIPS OFF. The TV CREW RUN after her.

EXT. SUPER MARKET (RISACCI) - ENTRANCE - DAY

Anne stands behind a RIBBON, which runs across the opened sliding doors, and holds a pair of CEREMONIAL SCISSORS.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

She is flanked by GEORG, BORIS, ELIZABETH, and the OWNERS and WORKERS of THE GREEN THUMB GROCER.

ANNE

It is a pleasure to welcome The Green Thumb Grocer to Risacci.

She is INTERRUPTED by a heavy-set WOMAN.

WOMAN

*Stronza! Puttana! Cagna!* You and my Giovanni!

She TACKLES Anne. CHAOS as everyone tries to pull the Woman off her.

INT. PALACE OF THE SOVEREIGN - THRONE ROOM - LATER

In need of serious TLC.

Anne sits as BORIS puts an ICE PACK on her head. BAND AIDS dot her legs. Elizabeth stands before her while attended by her latest BOY TOY (20s), a gorgeous slab of meat.

ANNE

There is no Giovanni, Mother.

ELIZABETH

You mean you paid that woman to accuse you of laying her husband?  
(impish)  
Kinky.

ANNE

No! I don't know her, and I don't know her husband!

ELIZABETH

That's what I told Lady Coven when she caught the Earl and I in the loo.

De Sade and Dupuis SWEEP IN as Georg trails helplessly. Dupuis brazenly comes to Anne as if he's doing her a favor.

DUPUIS

I am Yves Dupuis. No doubt, you know me from my many legal cases, my many reality show appearances, my many best-selling tomes, my many shameless publicity stunts, and my many WWF tag-team matches.

He smugly MOTIONS with a hand.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DUPUIS (CONT'D)  
Please, do not get up on my account.

He presents Anne with a BRIEF.

DUPUIS (CONT'D)  
As even you will acknowledge, admit,  
and acquiesce, Mr. De Sade's claim is  
of such strength, stamina, and  
steadfastness, we can forego, forsake,  
and forswear our right to bring  
challenge to the Supreme Court, and  
have it out here once and for all.

She slowly get to her feet, her sights set on De Sade.

ANNE  
You want to have to make stupid idiot  
commercials? You want to have to open  
every stupid idiot supermarket, and  
every stupid idiot beer hall, and every  
stupid idiot hot dog stand, and every  
other stupid idiot thing, then get  
pounced on by some wack job? You want  
this? You want it?! Well, you can --

She FREEZES. Out of the corner of her eye, she sees a  
PAINTING of grandfather PIERRE, every inch The King.

ANNE (CONT'D)  
Georg?

Georg dutifully steps forward.

ANNE (CONT'D)  
The Royal Arms.

The color drains from his face.

INT. PALACE OF THE SOVEREIGN - LIBRARY - MINUTES LATER

A former shell of her glorious self. Georg and Boris stand  
at a BOOKCASE. He hands Boris a pair of GOGGLES, removes a  
KEY from his pocket, then puts on his GOGGLES.

GEORG  
I hoped this day would never come.  
That you would never have to see this.

Boris is utterly confused as he puts on his goggles.

BORIS  
Why? Where are we going?

(CONTINUED)



CONTINUED:

Georg sticks the key into a "Bible", then faces him.

GEORG  
Into the belly of the beast.

He TURNS the key. The bookcase OPENS, a GREEN LIGHT emits FROM it. An ominous SOUND in RISING OCTAVES is followed by a RUMBLE. Boris YELLS as the LIGHT OVERTAKES them.

INT. PALACE OF THE SOVEREIGN - THRONE ROOM - LATER

Anne, ice pack still on her head, sits at a table as Georg, his HAIR and CLOTHES SINGED, presents her with a small, centuries-old WOODEN BOX ("The Royal Arms"). Boris, his HAIR and CLOTHES also SINGED, is TRAUMATIZED.

Anne pulls THE RING OF KINGS off her finger, dangles it before De Sade, who sits opposite her, nestles it into the box, then pushes down.

The box OPENS in half, and a PLATFORM with a folded PARCHMENT with a broken WAXED ROYAL SEAL RISES OUT of it. She takes the parchment, unfolds it, then looks at De Sade.

ANNE  
This is in Latin, but I shall read it in English so that even you will understand.  
(beat)  
"Hey There! I, Ludwig, by the Grace of God, Sovereign of the Kingdom of Mentonia, Grand Duc of Pathé, Storfurste of Bårgen, Veliki Knez of Duklja, Granduca of Risacci, Defender of the Faith. Guardian of the Realm, you get the idea, hereby enact these Royal Arms for such time when a challenge of Succession is presented.  
(beat)  
"The contests of skill contained shall be administered in three rounds. The victor of two of the three rounds shall be deemed Sovereign of this Realm by Divine Right. If the vanquished is the Sovereign, he shall forfeit all claim to the throne for himself and his progeny. If the vanquished is the Challenger, he shall forfeit all claim to the throne for himself and his progeny. So ordained on this first day of May in the Year of Our Lord, sixteen-hundred. As God will".

Frantic POUNDING O.S.

INT. PALACE OF THE SOVEREIGN - MAIN ENTRY - MOMENTS LATER

Georg OPENS the door to find a MOB.

MAN IN MOB  
We felt the tremors! There is a  
challenge!

He is swept aside as they STORM IM.

INT. PALACE OF THE SOVEREIGN - THRONE ROOM - LATER

A MAN works the room, FLIERS in his hand.

FLIER MAN  
Program! Get your program! Can't tell  
the players without a program!

Georg, holding The Royal Arms, stands next to Boris.

Boris reaches into it, and pulls out a folded PARCHMENT bearing the WAXED SEAL of one of Ludwig's successors (each sovereign has a different seal). ELIZABETH snatches it from him, BREAKS its seal, then reads.

NARRATOR (V.O.)  
In enacting The Royal Arms, it was  
Ludwig's intent not only to circumvent  
the carnage which almost-always  
accompanied the ascension of a new  
sovereign like a bad cold, but to prove  
the sovereign worthy of the throne  
through tests demanding the greatest  
intellectual, psychological, and, most  
importantly to Ludwig, moral fortitude.  
(beat)  
Unfortunately, his successors had  
other ideas.

She breaks into a demonic chuckle.

INT. PALACE OF THE SOVEREIGN - THRONE ROOM - LATER

Georg presents Anne with GLOVES, which she puts on. Boris presents De Sade with GLOVES, which he puts on.

Anne and De Sade sit at opposite ends of a card table, and put their hands around joysticks.

GEORG  
Ready... Steady... Go!

The MOB CHEERS and the BETTING becomes FRANTIC as Anne and De Sade PLAY with BOXING NUN PUPPETS.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

De Sade's puppet PEPPERS Anne's puppet with JABS that SNAP its head back. But he gets cute, giving her an opening. Her puppet DECKS his with a right hook.

She JUMPS up, fists pumped, and gives a YELL. Georg and Boris CELEBRATE. But Elizabeth and the BETTORS around her THROW their money down in disgust.

INT. PALACE OF THE SOVEREIGN - THRONE ROOM - LATER

Boris removes a folded PARCHMENT bearing the WAXED SEAL of one of Ludwig's successors from The Royal Arms. Elizabeth snatches it from him, BREAKS its seal, reads. She smiles.

INT. PALACE OF THE SOVEREIGN - GYM - LATER

Resembles a SoHo loft, with wood floors, exposed red brick walls, and FITNESS EQUIPMENT that has seen better days.

FRANÇOIS of FRANÇOIS'S FRANKS has set up a HOT DOG STAND, and is doing boffo BUSINESS. BERTA of BERTA'S BREWS has set up a PORTABLE PUB, and is also doing boffo BUSINESS.

TWO LEFT LEGS

move IN SYNC three times, then LOCK.

Anne and De Sade, on their backs and opposite and beside each other, are in a KIDDIE POOL filled with MUD, INDIAN LEG WRESTLING. After much YIN and YANG, De Sade sends Anne flying OUT of the pool. CRASH O.S.

The crowd ROARS. De Sade JUMPS up, and DANCES.

DE SADE

I am the king, yeah! I am the king,  
yeah! I am the king, yeah!

EXT. PALACE OF THE SOVEREIGN - ENTRANCE - LATER

An AMBULANCE drives over the drawbridge, passing a CONGA LINE, Dupuis and De Sade leading the way. A REPORTER stands in front of this, facing a camera.

REPORTER

The ambulance is for the Queen Mum, who fractured her right big toe when she kicked Her Majesty for failing to get up after she was sent head-first into the wall by Marquis De Sade, thereby allowing him to win round two.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

He turns behind him.

REPORTER (CONT'D)  
 Hey, De Sade! Get your snail-eating  
 butt back in there! I've got a hundred  
 kronkites riding on this puppy!

INT. PALACE OF THE SOVEREIGN - GYM - LATER

Georg reaches into the Royal Arms, removes a folded  
 PARCHMENT with the WAXED SEAL of one of Ludwig's successors.

Elizabeth - RIGHT FOOT in an INFLATABLE CAST, and propped up  
 by Boy Toy and a PARAMEDIC - tries to snatch it from him,  
 but he keeps it out of reach.

LATER

ANNE AND DE SADE

a goofy smile on his face, stand at a WALL. Each holds a  
 TROWEL slabbed with fast-drying MORTAR and TWO BAR HANDLES.

GEORG

betraying concern, gives the signal.

GEORG  
 Ready... Steady... Go!

ANNE AND DE SADE

SLAP the trowels AGAINST the wall, push the handles INTO the  
 mortar, wait for the mortar to BOND, then grab the handles,  
 and BASH their HEADS INTO THE WALL TEN TIMES.

GEORG (CONT'D)  
 Ten!

Their HEADS HIT THE WALL TEN more TIMES.

GEORG (CONT'D)  
 Twenty!

The BETTING is INSANE as their HEADS HIT THE WALL TEN more  
 TIMES.

GEORG (CONT'D)  
 Thirty!

De Sade puts his head THROUGH the wall. Anne knocks herself  
 OUT, then FALLS on her back. De Sade pulls his head OUT,  
 woozy, then FALLS on his back.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Georg holds a stopwatch, reads off the seconds.

GEORG (CONT'D)  
Ten!... Twenty!... Thirty!

Anne begins to COME TO. The CROWD goes BONKERS.

GEORG (CONT'D)  
Forty!... Fifty!...

She stumbles ONTO her feet. De Sade is OUT.

GEORG (CONT'D)  
(overjoyed)  
Sixty!

AL MICHAELS AND DICK VITALE

stand in front of this BEDLAM, each holding a microphone.

MICHAELS  
Do you believe in miracles?! Yes!

VITALE  
Flat-out scary, baby!

Anne smiles, waves weakly, then FALLS back on the floor.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. SKY - DAY

The puffy-white CLOUDS part to REVEAL a PARK and a CROWD.

EXT. KING TYNE THE TREE HUGGER PRESERVE (PATHÉ) - DAY

Anne, looking like a mummy, holds a pair of CEREMONIAL SCISSORS, about to cut a RIBBON around a BIRDBATH, flanked by Georg, Boris, Elizabeth, PARK RANGERS, and VOLUNTEERS, each of whom wears a "Haarken the Hedgehog" T-SHIRT.

ANNE  
It truly is a pleasure to dedicate the  
Haarken the Hedgehog Memorial Bird Bath  
as part of the King Tyne the Tree  
Hugger Preserve. May all of our  
feathered friends --

She is INTERRUPTED by a MAN, effeminate.

MAN  
*Stronza! Puttana! Cagna!* You and my  
Giovanni!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

He TACKLES Anne. Everyone tries to pull him off except Elizabeth. She turns to a SUBJECT, a smirk on her face.

ELIZABETH  
(impish)  
Kinky.

They smile in agreement.

FADE OUT.

END