April, 1153

**Episode from my life of prison officer**

I felt paralysis. I couldn’t budge and I saw nothing. Before my eyes fog, white smoke. One moment, I noticed the light. It came to me more and more near. I got a scare, I clenched my fists and I thought: “I don’t want to die”. I started choking and I panicked. I unlocked my eyes and I caught my stomach fast. Where am I? There was a piece of uncomfortable silence. Oh, table, chair, dirty walls, cages, mice… and we have XII w. It’s only bad dream! Yes, I’m at work. I got up, wiped my tired eyes with hands and I went wash face in a bowl. The door opened cold and soldiers entered the room, next they looked at me: “You! You must go with us now. Come on, we can’t be late!” – I heard, then they caught me by the hands and they showed me to our king Thomas Johnson. I swallowed my saliva and heard king out.

“One day, came to me my villager and he told that every day his pigs went missing. He keeps not many pigs on his farm. First day went missing one, second – three and third day there wasn’t a half animals. He didn’t know where are so he requested support. I sent him for night four soldiers so that they could guard the rest animals. Unfortunately, everyone got tanked up and at the morning stayed only one a small piglet. So they have to bear a punishment! I command you guard their as eye in head and for two days they will be hang. I hope that you are a responsible prison officer. Escort!”

Thusly day and night I stayed next to cage and I surveyed them carefully. About 2a.m. I heard a moans. One of prisoners complained to me about terrible stomach ache. Second prisoner cried out to me: “Hey baby, come on here! He’s dying!”. I thought, what a difference? Anyhow he’ll hang. After two hours of moans, I had enough quite so I came up and I told: “Once again and I’ll beat a knife into back myself!”. Then I felt the horrifying headache and I saw dark before my eyes. The prisoner hit me and took my keys which were tied to my britches. While I was lying at the floor, everyone escaped! “Alarm! The prisoners escaped!” – I started call on a bell. After five minutes it was too late, nobody couldn’t catch fugitives. “Super!” – I thought and I stayed before my king again. My punishment? Death!

In the morning I stood on a barrel and above me dangled a line. The whole village looked at me and they threw the mud in my direction. “It’s all up with” – I had a thing and I felt the pain under throat. 1 second, 2 second…and I dropped on the soil. What’s happened? I noticed my friend Cristopher on the roof with bow and white horse run in my director. Suddenly, the chaos has set in. His plan clicked. I got away before closing the bridge. Freedom! Three kilometers later I was secure. The horse came back to my friend. What next? I’m all alone.

I saw old man near with small piglet. He came to me and told: “I see that you met a terrible fate. Take my last piglet, I have got nothing to eat and my beastie is too small”. I gave him the rest of the food that I had and I heard: “Guard it as the eye in the heard”, next he has gone. Well, at least I wasn’t alone. “I must to look for they way to the next village, where I’ll hide” – I decided.

I went into the forest, around the flowers, berries and butterflies. Beautiful place. Where I should go now? I didn’t know. Behind the tree I saw a shadowy figure. I came close and I asked about a path. He said with a laugh: “Nothing is for free, give me this animal!”. I was distraught so I agreed to and he told me where is the village. It is called Coventry. First right, well, I went. But one moment, in my head was words of old man. I should guard my piglet. I turned around and I got the person in. The stranger turned around really surprised afar off with poker face. I told that he must give me back my honey piglet. We fallen out with each other and I thrusted a sword in his chest. I grabbed quickly my piglet and ran away. What I did? How I could? What happened with me? I looked for animal once again and I felt a strange bond between us. I decided to give a name – Neda and I smiled to my small friend.

I was walking through the forest really long. I didn’t know how long... It was very grim inside. According to guidelines I should come on the path which leads to the Coventry. Around the same trees. Most importantly I heard screams. I panicked and I started to run. I turned around a few second later and I saw two people running behind me. I took Neda on hands and I was looking for shelter. I didn’t know why I ran away but I felt danger. Suddenly I felt moss with earth in my mouth and leg pain. I was lying on the ground. My hands curled back, I screamed in pain and looked for Neda. “Don’t move” – I heard. After a while, someone picked me up and tied my hands. Arrived the other two men. First of them said: “Forgive but someone killed our brother, we have to be vigilant”. Apart from this they turned me around face to face. I met them and they me. “Ooo… I see our babe, what a meeting!” – he looked for my pannier – “What do you have there?”. I gulped and I said that it is only a sword. They were my farmer’s prisoners who ran away. They are brothers and I killed their brother! He drew my sword and lurched. On the sword was blood. I wanted break down under land myself. “Oh, you will meet punishment. We go to the king! I John, can die and Bob with Sven also. Important that you must undergo punishment for our brother Hans. Shut up.” They founded a sack on my head and we turned back. Luckily I could take my piglet with me. I had tears in my eyes because I didn’t want to die. I regretted my actions.

We was walking so long… After some time the line loosened and I could remove one hand. I devised a plan to escape. I hit one of them in the stomach and I ran ahead. I took my sack off. I ran out behind the bushes and I saw home with farmhouse and… pigs? I stopped and three brothers easily caught me again. “Wait!” – I shouted to them – “Look, there are the same pigs that you guarded, aren’t? My piglet has a black spot on the back and those pigs also!”. Neda squealed audibly and men looked at me terribly angry. Bob said: “Hmm… so maybe it’s true. I also saw a black spots on each pigs and nobody has such pigs. This is the best meat in the kingdom”. After a while, we decided go to ask about this. Unfortunately, the owner this pigs said that it’s his, albeit he was very nervous at the sight of us. Finally after threats he admitted to theft. The kingdom was close so farmer agreed to come with us, albeit unwillingly. All pigs went with us and my clever pigles went at the beginning as a guide.

It was almost dark but we could to talk with Thomas Johnson. King was really furious, mad but he cooled out and emerged from behind the window for lost pigs. We had to solved that we discovered animals so in total, the case is completed. “Stay favourable for us Mr. You should punish this woman who killed our brother…” – said Bob. “Quiet!” – king shouted. He sat down and drank wine. He ordered to page old farmer.

When the peasant came he was enjoying to sight of their animals. “Tell me, would you like to punish them? They found your pigs but you also lost part of them through them.” – asked king to old man. Person looked at us and said: “No… they are heroes. Can I go to home with my good pigs? Thank for help”. The moment of truth has set in. I was terribly scared. Now certainly I will better guard, I swear in spirit. The king thought and announced the verdict: “So take animals and go home farmer. I condone you soldiers. Brother’s death is enough punishment for you. And you Arga…” I closed my eyes and I felt hot inside me, I clenched my fists… “You’ll helping in the kitchen for a year and you’ll eat only one slice of bread a day! What’s more. You’ll cleaning my castle. Then I’ll think about your job. I don’t know you will be able to continue to be the guardian”. I breathed a sigh of relief because I thought that I’ll face to face with death. “Walk!” – said last word.

Lo and behold I do my doings in kitchen and I clean every day. I got a life’s lesson, I understood that I should be more responsible and definitely less foolish. First think, next doing. I’m happy because I have a new wonderful, smart, small friend and I never give up him. Thank you, Neda.

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