



Synopsis: AT DAWN PRINCE VALIANT AND RUFUS ARE CURTLY SENT ON THEIR WAY. "THIS FIEF WAS GIVEN ME FOR MY HARDIHOOD IN BATTLE. I WILL BROOK NO INTERFERENCE IN MY RULE SAVE FROM THE KING HIMSELF! TOO BAD YOUR GUIDE GOT HIMSELF KILLED LAST NIGHT, BUT JARL ODER WILL SEE YOU SAFELY TO THE BORDER."



AS THEY LEAVE THE FORBIDDING PLACE THEY HEAR A WOMAN'S SCREAM AND HARSH LAUGHTER - THEN THE GATES SLAM SHUT.



VAL HAS NO DOUBT THAT OS, THEIR GUIDE, HAS BEEN MURDERED. FOR HE WAS A WITNESS TO SIGURD'S CRIMES. THEN HE TURNS HIS ATTENTION TO ODER, THAT MINCING, VAIN DANDY, AND A PLAN SLOWLY FORMS.



ALL MORNING LONG THEY DESCEND THE ROCKY TRAIL, EVER UNDER THE EYES OF WATCHERS ON THE HILLTOPS. AT LAST THEY ENTER A GROVE THAT SCREENS THEM FROM VIEW. VAL LIGHTS THE NOON COOKING FIRE, THEN, DRAWING HIS SEAX-KNIFE, TURNS ON THE STARTLED ODER!



VAL'S CHIN IS SMEARED WITH STICKY SPRUCE BALSAM AND ODER'S BEARD CHANGES PLACE ALONG WITH HIS CLOTHES. AS HIS BROWS ARE BEING PLUCKED, VAL SAYS: "WE WILL RIDE ON FOR A WHILE, THEN I WILL RETURN IN FULL VIEW OF THE SENTRY'S, AND YOU, RUFUS, TAKE ODER ON TO VIKINGSHOLM AND RETURN WITH TWENTY PICKED WARRIORS."



THEY PART, AND THE LOOKOUTS SEE PRINCE VALIANT AND RUFUS CROSS THE BORDER, BUT THEY ARE TOO FAR AWAY TO SEE THAT ONE IS UNARMED AND BOUND!



WHILE VAL RETURNS, TRUSTING THAT HIS DISGUISE WILL ENABLE HIM TO GET PROOF OF SIGURD'S CRIMES. THE JUG OF MEAD THAT ODER ALWAYS CARRIES GIVES HIM AN IDEA.....



AFTER DARK A TIRED AND VERY DRUNKEN ODER STAGGERS INTO THE HALL AND FINDS A PLACE AT THE TABLE!

NEXT WEEK - Trapped!

"WEE"  Want-Ads

GET ACTION!
YOU GET "BIG"
PROFIT!

JUST DIAL 2-2406