



Synopsis: THE CRUEL FEROCITY OF KING RORY McCOLM BURSTS UPON PRINCE VALIANT LIKE A THUNDERSTORM. VAL CROWDS CLOSE TO HIS ADVERSARY TO AVOID THE FULL POWER OF THE TERRIBLE LOCHABER; BUT, UNABLE TO USE HIS AGILITY ON THE NARROW PLATFORM, HE IS FORCED SLOWLY BACKWARD.



THE POINT OF THE 'SINGING SWORD' TOUCHES THE WALL AND A GRIM SMILE TWISTS RORY'S LIPS.... A FEW INCHES MORE AND VAL WILL NOT BE ABLE TO TAKE A FULL SWING.



AS THE TRUE CHAMPION IS MOST DANGEROUS ON THE BRINK OF DEFEAT, SO NOW INSPIRATION COMES TO VAL: STRAIGHT FOR THE GLITTERING INLAID GOLD HELMET HE AIMS A MIGHTY BLOW.....



.....THE SHIELD COMES UP AND TAKES THE BLOW, BUT VAL DOES NOT WITHDRAW HIS SWORD. AS THE SHIELD COMES DOWN AGAIN HE LUNGES AND THE KEEN POINT STRIKES RORY BETWEEN THE EYES.



ONLY A SMALL CUT, BUT FOR A MOMENT KING RORY IS BLINDED BY HIS OWN BLOOD, AND IN THAT MOMENT VAL LASHES OUT AT HIS ENEMY'S HAND.



THEN A STRANGE THING HAPPENS! KING RORY McCOLM, KING OF ALL THE KINGS OF IRELAND, STEPS BACK, HIS FACE ASHEN, ALL FEROCITY GONE! AND A GREAT ROAR COMES FROM THE ONLOOKERS, HALF SORROW, HALF GLEE, AS THEY SEE THAT THE RIGHT HAND IS MISSING ITS LITTLE FINGER!

NEXT WEEK - The Rule of the Irish Kings.



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