

A Twelfth Knight

Madrigal Dinner 2012

By Veronica Kawka

THE PLAYERS

The Jester, Will Weiner

King Ferguson, Tyler Hedrick

Queen Nessa, Christina Brant

The Twins:

Prince Duncan, Brad Sherburne

Princess Elinor, Nadia Sheen

Sir Connely the Knight, Evan Fisch

Sir Dodson, the Royal Advisor, Matt Ho

Sir Douglas the Knight, Bennett Kriete

Sir Faerne the Knight, Dan Barnett

The Tale

Winter has once again fallen on the footsteps of Castle Glaswell and that means it is time for the annual Highland Games Tournament of the Knights. But this year marks a very special occasion for the royal court. King Ferguson has announced that should a knight beat his son, Prince Duncan, and win the Highland Games tournament, they will win the hand of the lovely Princess Elinor who has just marked her eighteenth birth year. But Princess Elinor has a few more tricks up her sleeve when it comes to leaving her independence at the hands of her twin brother. With the competition come feasts, dances, delights and more. But will all the fun be spoiled when true identities are revealed? We shall see, in the meantime, let the games begin!

THE PROGRAM

7:20 PM *Andrew Bova does a bagpipe fanfare at top of stairs in Kirr Commons and Jester also announces that people should move to Rangos to be seated.*

7:30 PM **FANFARE 1: The Royal Welcome**

BAGPIPE FANFARE, Jester welcomes guests at center of red carpet

Jester: Hello, hello my merry people! I am none other than the most famous man of Glaswell, and the most handsome too, Alister McDonald Ian Dundridge Hagenfor Wilchen Dougal Cailyn the second, but you may all call me Alister (repeat whole name) Alright, alright I suppose good 'ol Alister will do.

Now I'd like to welcome you to the most magical occasion where everything is more than meets the eye. We are all gathered here to witness one of the most thrilling, most surprising, most momentous events of the one and only Castle Glaswell has to offer, the annual Highland Games! However, me spies tell me there's a bit of mischief a brewin' in the royal court, you see. From the likes of it, I think there's goin to be a few tricks along the way.

Now I must warn you, the action will get a little intense up here and though some of you may be eager to join the excitement, keep your knives at the table, we don't want anyone to lose any eyes along the way. So keep your wits about you, and your laughs a plenty, and we'll all be havin' ourselves a good 'ol merry time, ye hear. Now, let the fun begin! (*runs off to join procession*)

7:35 **FANFARE 2: The Royal Procession**

Royal Procession with Bagpipes, First Royal court, then rest follow behind on red carpet to be seated at their tables, Jester dances around the bagpiper

7:40 **FANFARE 3: The Wassail Toast**

BAGPIPE FANFARE,

WELCOME SONG BY CHOIR

King stands to welcome guests after choir sings

King Fergus: Welcome all to 50th Annual Highland Games at the Castle Glaswell! What a joyous event to celebrate and yet an even bigger one this year for it marks the eighteenth birthday of my twin children, Prince Duncan and Princess Elinor. Queen Nessa and I are oh so very proud of them. With this significant birthday and his coming of age, I'd like to announce that Prince Duncan will officially be competing in the tournament for the Highland Cup. And as is tradition, I am pleased to present the princess as a bride to be for her eighteenth birthday. Princess Elinor will be betrothed to the honorable gentleman who wins the tournament, should they beat my son, Prince Duncan of course. I wish all those participating the best of luck, and may we all have the best Highland Games yet. Now I will let my dear friend, Sir Alister perform the traditional toast.

Jester: Thanks be to you my dear King! Now I would like to propose a toast to the many good fortunes of Glaswell {TOAST} such as my wit, good looks and charm. I toast to all of the lovely women of Glaswell whose tresses flow, eyes twinkle, and voices sing across the Scottish hills. Now pray you, since we're on the subject, are there any fine maidens out there who are in need of a gentlemanly escort? Anyone? How about you my dear (picks someone from the crowd)

King Fergus: AHMMMMMM, the toast Sir Alister...

Jester: Oh yes forgive me! Yes the toast! (*raises glass*) Now let's raise our glasses to the wassail. (*raises glass*) In honor of the wassail bowl we shall drink to the good fortunes of our knights in these Highland Games, and may the odds be ever in their favor. And to the Royal family, we shall toast as well. May their pockets be more generous, their looks improved, and their talents more plentiful !!!

Everyone: Here, Here!

******“Gloucestershire Wassail” - the Choir******

Approx. 7:40PM *Wassail Salad is served during song.*

7:45PM **FANFARE 4: Rules of Etiquette**

BAGPIPE FANFARE, Queen Nessa rises to speak.

Queen Nessa: Before we feast on the main course, we must remember the traditions and marks of our Scottish ancestors, so that we may not see ourselves shamed before them. I have instructed Sir Dodson the trusted Royal Advisor to remind us of the Rules of Etiquette before we indulge in our Highland Feast so that we may present ourselves only in the most proper of ways. Sir Dodson, if you please.

Sir Dodson: Ah thank you your grace. Now before we gorge ourselves with pie and stuffings of the land in this beautiful hall, we must educate ourselves on the proper manners of dining in the royal court. (*Unrolls scroll*)

First and foremost, Guests attending feasts in the dining halls will always find themselves in their most presentable garbs and cleanest states so that we avoid all personal perfumes of hard day's work or we will be left with fainting from our incredible senses of smell.

Jester: Now I rather enjoy me personal smell, and so do the maidens, (smells armpit)

Sir Dodson: Rule the Second- May you always shovel your wealth, but never your food. No one needs to be bombarded with cannons of flying food spewing from your mouth.

Jester: They say sharing is caring!

Sir Dodson: Rule the third -Guests will eat calmly and politely. For rowdy meals lead to nothing other than terrible indigestion.

Jester: Nonsense, what good is a feast without a little fun! Just wash it all down with wine and you'll be feeling mighty fine!

Sir Dodson: Rule the fourth- Guests may never under any circumstances pick their teeth with any utensil, finger, or stick. (Looks at Sir Dodson, judgmentally)

Jester: (picking teeth with knife, notices Jester, and puts knife down) ...sorry!

Sir Dodson: Rule the fifth- Guests will not use their clothing to wipe their meals from their mouths.

Jester: That's what your beard is for!

Sir Dodson: Rule the sixth-Guests will refrain using their hands, when utensils are always a plenty.

Jester: Of course a greasy hand is always at fault for spilt wine!

7:55PM FANFARE 5: The Boar's Head

BAGPIPE FANFARE, King Rises

Queen Nessa: Thank you Sir Dodson and Sir Alister for your informative teachings.

King Fergus: Now without further ado, we shall begin the Great Highland Feast with the traditional Boar's Head showing!

+++++*Boar's Head/Dinner song from Choir*+++++

8:00 PM *Presentation of the Boar's Head & Dinner is served, towards end of song twins move to center of red carpet, Elinor dragging Duncan*

HARPSICHORD PLAYS softly

8:08 PM approx **BAGPIPE FANFARE, King Fergus**

King Fergus: Now let us give thanks for this great meal and let us feast!

8:10 PM **FANFARE 6: The Royal Reversal**

Everyone continues to feast while the twins move to the center red carpet, to converse.

Prince Duncan: Elinor why did you bring me here! I have to get ready for the tournament!

Princess Elinor: Get ready? It's going to take you years to get ready if you actually want to beat those other knights! I cannot trust you to save me from marrying those terrible men!

Prince Duncan: Well I have to go out, the Prince has to compete especially since it's the year of my eighteenth birthday.

Princess Elinor: Duncan you are most likely the worst competitor in the history of the Highland Games. You can't even hold your sword properly.

Prince Duncan: Well if you don't trust me to win for your independence who can you trust? It's not like you can go out and fight for yourself.

Princess Elinor: (pause and smiles) Duncan you may not be the best knight, but maybe your brains aren't half as bad.

Prince Duncan: What do you mean?

Princess Elinor: That's just it. I'm going to fight for myself. I'm going to compete in the Highland Games!

Prince Duncan: What! And how are you going to do that?

Princess Elinor: We are twins after all Duncan. Looks can be very deceiving. I'll just disguise myself as you.

Prince Duncan: That's the craziest thing I've ever heard Elinor! What do you expect me to be you then, and wear a dress?

Princess Elinor: Please Duncan! This is my freedom we're talking about, these men are just pining away to make me their wife, and have their children. I want to enjoy my freedom for a little while longer before I have to be betrothed. Besides if you let me do this, I won't have to tell mother and father about all those sword fighting classes you've been skipping.

Prince Duncan: Sister, you play a cruel game you know that. But alas, you do know how to hold your own when it comes to a sword and a bow and arrow. I suppose this may just work.

Princess Elinor: (hugs Duncan) Thank you, thank you so much Duncan! I promise this will work!

Twins run backstage to switch costumes

Jester: So the twins they switch from lady to man, to win Elinor's independence again. May the luck strike twice for the lady's hand, before the time turner runs out of sand. But alas tricks run up more than one sleeve, so let's watch the alchemist our eyes deceive!

8:15 PM *Pause in show for Dinner break allowing guests to eat*

HARPSICHORD PLAYS softly in background

8:25 PM **FANFARE 7: Chemical Magic and Tricks**

BAGPIPE FANFARE, King Fergus stands.

King Fergus: What better way to celebrate our Highland Games than with some fine entertainment! I now present to you our Royal Trickster and Juggler, Sir Marsden!

8:26 PM *JUGGLER PERFORMS*

King Fergus: Now we will all lend our eyes and ears to the magical potions of my dear friend and alchemist, Lady Lachlan and her wizardly assistants as they amaze us with their incredible powers!

8:35 PM *Karen Stump does Magic Tricks*

8:45 PM **FANFARE 8: Presentation of the Knights**

BAGPIPE FANFARE, King Fergus stands.

King Fergus: Thank you Lady Lachlan and wizard assistants for that absolutely thrilling demonstration. Now we shall begin our Highland Games proceedings. I now call all the knights competing in the Highland Tournament to the center.

Knights move to center in front of choir facing the King, and kneeling on one knee, King begins speaking once all knights are kneeling.

King Fergus: Ah look at these fine Knights of Glaswell. I'm proud to say you serve our land well and now it is time to see who has the best skill to win the hand of my daughter, Princess Elinor. May all those who are competing in the games proceed to the outdoor arena to proceed with the tournament.

Queen Nessa: Before the finalists return let's delight ourselves with a little dessert, shall we?

8:50 PM **FANFARE 9: Figgy Pudding**

+++++BAGPIPE SONG for Dessert+++++

Dessert is served during Bagpipe song

8:55 PM **FANFARE 10: The Highland Tournament Final**

BAGPIPE FANFARE, King Fergus rises to speak.

King Fergus: Now my guests, it does me great pleasure to welcome all the greatest artists from the land. Let us rejoice in their wonderful artwork as they present it to my beautiful queen.

Jester leads children to present artwork.

Queen Nessa: Oh what wonderful artwork! I thank you all I think I'll just have to have all of you paint a portrait of me!

King Fergus: *(laughs)* Oh well I suppose we'll have to build another castle just to store it all. Now back to the tournament proceedings. Our finalists in the tournament we have Prince Duncan and Sir Connely. These are the best of the best of Glaswell.

Sir Connely: Pardon me your Grace, but may I say a few words?

King Fergus: Yes Sir Connely, of course.

Sir Connely bows before Sir Duncan aka Elinor

Sir Connely: Oh dear Princess Elinor your eyes are as green as the Scottish hills, your lips as soft as sheep's cheese, and face as beautiful as the dawn. It is my greatest honor to compete for your hand. I shall be the happiest man on earth if you were to be my bride. *(gives Elinor a rose)*

Jester: *(aside to audience)* The Princess is looking rather ravishing with that manly stature, and boyish charm eh! *(laughs)*

Duncan as Princess Elinor: *(in ridiculously overdone girl voice)* Why Thank you good sir, uhhhh this pleases me so. I wish you the best of luck!

Jester: Now for the final competition we have the true test of strength, the Tug 'O War. Whoever pulls the other across the center marked by the King wins! Are the competitors ready?

Sir Connely & Princess Elinor: Yes Sir Alister!

Jester: Then on the count of three we shall start. One...Two... Thrrrrreee!

Princess & Sir Connely struggle and then finally Princess pulls him across the center.

Jester: And the winner of the 50th Highland Games is Prince Dunc...

Everyone cheers! Elinor's hat falls off everyone gasps, Elinor panicked.

King Fergus & Sir Connely: Princess Elinor?!?!?

King Fergus: Ladies and gentleman I do believe the Princess has won her own hand! Well that certainly makes for one of the most interesting turns of events in the Highland Games history. Well I do suppose we'll just have to wait for a suitable husband that can compete with my talented daughter. Alas let us celebrate nonetheless! It does me great pleasure to welcome Glaswell's renowned Carnegie Mellon Choir und under the direction of Lord Matthew Vancamp.

9:05 PM FANFARE 11: The Royal Carolers

BAGPIPE FANFARE

******Madrigal Concert******

9:25 PM **FANFARE 12: The Recessional**

BAGPIPE FANFARE, Bova moves to center red carpet and Royal table lines up

Jester: Alas the festivities have come to a close. We must now retire to our bed chambers to dream of a night of tricks, potions, dances, music and more. May our dreams be ever as sweet as our evening. I bid you all a good morrow!

Procession with bagpipes leads court followed by the Royal family/table.

After they leave Rangos, Choir then sings finale song as they file out