

WHEN THE CLOCK STRIKES

Written by

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BALANCE SUMMARY: KYREN & CO. LIVE IN THE POOR OUTSKIRTS OF THE KINGDOM LIRIDON. THEY MAKE A LIVING STEALING FROM THE RICH TO FEED THE POOR (OF COURSE). KYREN ACTS AS ROBIN HOOD, WHILE WILLIAM (HER OLDER BROTHER) ACTS AS THE SHERIFF OF NOTTINGHAM, BUT INSTEAD OF TAXING THE POOR, HE TAXES THE RICH AND GIVES TO THE POOR.

INT. FOREST - NIGHT

A line of makeshift tents nestle between trees.

The SCRATCH of a match being struck. A small flicker of light in one of the tents.

KYREN (V.O.)
What's the damage today?

CUT TO:

INT. KYREN'S TENT - NIGHT

The tent is bare, aside from a cot that Joan is asleep on, a small table with two chairs, and a wooden trunk.

Kyren sharpens her dagger from the floor.

August guards the tent entrance. He glances out the flaps of the tent every now and then, but sees nothing other than the light of the village through the swaying trees.

John dumps a meagre sack of coins on the table and sorts them.

JOHN
Dozens of farthings...a couple pennies...not enough to give away today.

AUGUST
Just like most other days.

Kyren tosses her dagger at the wooden chest and pierces it. Dozens of similar marks cover it.

KYREN
It could be worse.

WILLIAM (V.O.)
Or it could be a whole lot better.

August peers outside, then steps aside from the entrance.

William enters with a bright smile on his face and an envelope in hand.

WILLIAM

This arrived for me today.

He slams the envelope down on the table. John's neat piles of coins fall over and some tumble to the ground.

JOHN

(sarcastic)

Wow. I get to count the coins again. I've never had so much fun in my life.

KYREN

What is it?

John snatches the envelope and flips it open, royal seal already torn. He stands and paces, skimming it quickly.

JOHN

Since when did the Royal Family start sending you personalized invitations, Sheriff?

Kyren stands and crosses to John. She can't read the letter over his shoulder, even when she stands on tiptoes.

KYREN

What does it say?

John hands the letter off to August, his expression unchanging as he reads it, and we can never read his expression because it hardly changes. Ever.

AUGUST

This could be an opportunity...

JOHN

...to get inside the palace...

WILLIAM

...and finally steal more than a handful of farthings.

William scoops some coins off the table and lets them fall from his palm. One. By. One.

WILLIAM (CONT'D)

This could help us save the village, but we'll have to have a plan.

KYREN
(impatiently)
Will someone please tell me what's
in that letter?

Joan snores the most unladylike snore you've ever heard. This
is normal and no one pays her any attention.

JOHN
This could save us.

WILLIAM
It could save the village.

KYREN
Will someone PLEASE tell me what's
going on?

All three look at her, seeming to notice her presence for the
first time since William walked in.

WILLIAM
As the Sheriff, I've been invited
to the palace for a royal ball.
King Alaris is hoping to find a
suitor for Prince Faran, and rather
quickly it seems.

JOHN
And he didn't even think to invite
any of us.

John scoops all the coins back into the bag, and he hunts
around on the floor for the stray ones.

JOHN (CONT'D)
It's a shame really. I'd like to
see the look on the king's face
when we...

WILLIAM
You'll get to.

William looks at each of them in turn.

WILLIAM (CONT'D)
You'll all get to.

KYREN
Are you saying--

AUGUST
A heist.

WILLIAM

All we need to do is get inside and
come up with a distraction to
occupy the royal family while we
steal a few gems here and there.

Joan snores again.

William picks up a stray coin from under his chair. CLINKS it
repetitively against the table.

AUGUST

What do you suggest?

William looks at Kyren. John and August follow his gaze.

Kyren blinks back.

JOHN

No. Absolutely not. It's too
dangerous.

AUGUST

She's too unlovable.

KYREN

Hey!

JOHN

She'll be caught.

AUGUST

They'll hang her.

KYREN

They'll hang me.

WILLIAM

We'll steal a dress for you.

KYREN

From where?

WILLIAM

Teach you how to flirt.

KYREN

As if any of you know how to do
that.

Joan snores in agreement.

JOHN

Matilda would say otherwise.

WILLIAM
Who's Matilda?

KYREN
Matilda would fall in love with a
flea if it so much as looked at
her.

WILLIAM
Who's Matilda?

JOHN
Are you jealous?

Beat.

KYREN
No.

AUGUST
Someone has to distract the prince.

KYREN
You do it, then.

WILLIAM
He's not wearing a dress.

AUGUST
I'm not wearing a dress.

JOHN
I'd pay to see you in a dress.

AUGUST
With what money?

KYREN
We have to find another way.

Joan snores again. Stretches.

JOAN
(through a yawn)
Is it sunrise already?

All stare at her.

KYREN
What about--

AUGUST
She's more lovable.

JOHN
She'll give us away.

KYREN
But she's a better dancer than I
am. Much more ladylike.

Joan wipes the drool from her lips and sleep from her eyes.

KYREN (CONT'D)
What future king wouldn't want her?

CUT TO:

RESPONSE TO CATALYST:

Kyren & Co. hatch a plan to break into the palace. They plan on Joan flirting with Crown Prince Faran to distract him and the rest of the Royal Family while they pick pocket strangers, stealing coins and jewelry from everyone they literally bump into. More of their personalities are revealed throughout as they navigate and interact with the crowds.

Kyren begrudgingly agrees to pose as backup if Joan fails. She hates every moment of being in the palace, as is apparent from her language and actions, yet she agrees with William that this is a good opportunity to steal plenty to help their village.

BEGIN BIG EVENT SCENE

INT. CASTLE BALLROOM - NIGHT

Couples form parallel lines and perform a traditional dance to music made by a string quartet. August and John are among them, but only John looks like he's enjoying himself.

Joan flirts with Faran across the ballroom, both with drinks in hand.

Kyren and William lean against a corner wall, Kyren fanning herself. It's clear they weren't raised as royalty.

KYREN
There's a special place in hell for
whoever invented the corset.

She bends over and massages her heel.

KYREN (CONT'D)
And heels.

WILLIAM
Relax. Soon enough, we'll have
stolen enough to feed our village
for five years five times over.

KYREN
Have you ever worn a corset?

Beat.

WILLIAM
Yes.

KYREN
Really?

WILLIAM
No.

John spins past.

JOHN
I have!

Across the room, Faran sets down his drink and takes Joan's hand. He pulls her out onto the dance floor and everyone makes room for them. The music changes to a more elegant tune.

A waiter rushes by, but not before Kyren can snatch a drink. She raises it to take a sip. William steals it from her.

WILLIAM
Oh, no you don't. We need to stay
alert, all of us.

KYREN
Joan was drinking.

WILLIAM
She's supposed to.

Beat.

WILLIAM (CONT'D)
Helps with her flirting.

Kyren stops fanning herself.

KYREN
I'm going to get some air.

William grabs her fan and smacks her with it.

WILLIAM

No, you're not.

He gestures with fan to the other side of the room, where a PARTYGOER stands alone, looking out a window.

WILLIAM (CONT'D)

You're going to march over there
and ask that man to dance.

KYREN

Why would I do that?

WILLIAM

We're trying to blend in, remember?
It's time you do your part.

KYREN

If I have to flirt, does that mean
I get a drink?

WILLIAM

You can barely flirt when you're
sober.

KYREN

How would you know? You're my
brother.

WILLIAM

(nodding to John)
Remember John?

KYREN

Okay, I'm going now.

Kyren hikes up her skirts and marches across the floor.
Avoids twirling dancers and the occasional glance from a man.

She reaches the partygoer and, in an attempt to flirt,
awkwardly taps him on the shoulder.

KYREN (CONT'D)

(voice crack)

Hi.

The partygoer turns around, revealing that he looks exactly
the same as Faran.

KYREN (CONT'D)

Oh no.