Arcance’s adventures

# Indications:

{a}=image a en fond

* Correspond a un changement d’écran

= correspond a une option présenté au lecteur

{1} = correspond a un choix fait par le lecteur

# Introduction

* {a]Once upon a time, in the magnificent kingdom of Arcance, lived a King and a Queen. Both had just acceded to the throne after the death of the old King and they were greatly loved by their people.
* {b}In those hard times, the presence of a strong figure at the head of the kingdom was reassuring. Only the absence of an heir could threaten their stability. Therefore, when the queen announced that she had conceived, everyone was delighted and big rejoicings occurred in the whole country.
* {c}The king was overjoyed to learn the news, but a small worry still clouded his mind. Would a boy or a girl be better under the current circumstances?
* {c}A boy could lead the army in his stead and take some of pressure of him so that he could focus on diplomacy and politics, while a girl would allow him to conclude a strong alliance with one of his neighbours and play them against each other by dangling this opportunity in front of them…
* {d}His mind made up, the King consulted his oracles and mages. Following their advices, the King decided that he would:

A) dance in a circle of dolmens during each of the full moon that would occur during the pregnancy, holding a crone of saffron. {1}

B) sacrifice three swans and pour their blood on the ground to appeal to his ancestors during the summer solstice. {2}

C) grind seven rubies in the goddess of the Arcance’s lands’ temple as an offering. {3}

D) make his Queen drink elixirs of diluted occamy venom during each of the black moon of the pregnancy. {4}

* {d}The King diligently carried out his task, hoping for the best.
* {e}When the pregnancy came to its term, everyone gathered with excitation in the Queen’s antechamber , waiting for the news. The King kept pacing around listeining anxiously to the agony cries of the Queen.
* {f}After several hours, the Head mage burst out of the chamber, a small bundle in his arm.

~~“Congratulation your Majesty,~~

~~{1} it’s a girl!”~~

~~{2} it’s a boy!”~~

~~{3},{4} it’s twins!”~~

🡪{note, pour faire plus simple et que ça fonctionne sans modifs changer pour :}

{1} “Congratulation your Majesty, it’s a girl!”

{2},{3},{4} “I am afraid that I have terrible news, your Majesty. The child was stillborn…”

The King was devastated by the news. Nevertheless, he resolved to try another time and, soon, the Queen was pregnant again.

This time, the King decided to

A)

B)

C)

D)

…

* {note: continue suleument pour 1)}
* {a} The birth was celebrated in the whole kingdom for days. It was seen as a sign of hope, a bright light shining before the darker times to come…
* {écran noir}
* {a} Years passed and with them went the peace and prosperity of the kingdom. Nevertheless, the child grew and learnt.
* {g} /{1}Adélaïde was a beautiful child, with hairs as bright as flame and eyes as green as emeralds. Even so young she was already coveted by all the princes in the neighbours, a fact her father the King was very proud of.

{h} /{2} Nathanaël was a beautiful child, with hairs as bright as flame and eyes as green as emeralds. Even so young he had already been trained arduously in the art of war for each he presented strong inclination, a fact his father the King was very proud of.

{i}/{3},{4} Adélaïde and Nathaniek were beautiful children, with hairs as bright as flame ad eyes as green as emeralds. Even so young sAdélaïde was already coveted by all the princes in the neighbours and Nathaniel had already been trained arduously in the art of war for each he presented strong inclination. Their father the King was very proud of them.

* {g} /{1} Until one day, she they were declared to be of age. However it was no time to party as the kingdom was under siege from all side…

{h} /{2} Until one day, he they were declared to be of age. However it was no time to party as the kingdom was under siege from all side…

{i} /{3} , {4} Until one day, they were declared to be of age. However it was no time to party as the kingdom was under siege from all side…

* {Écran noir}

# Daughter story, the witch part

* “I hate this kingdom! Why do they have to treat me as an ornement or a broodmare, just good enough to give to the highest bidder and produce children! And then Mother and Father get upset because I do not accept the situation and follow all their order with a smile!”
* “Everyone is the same in the kingdom! Just because I am a girl they presume they have a right to dictate my every thought and actions and to dispose of my person as they wish. From the lowest commoners to the noblest of Dukes they are all the same!”
* “I wish I had the courage to flee and decide for myself what I wish to do with my life… I could become

1. The best artist in the land and make a name for myself!”
2. The best diplomat in the land, someone that could persuade anyone of anything!”
3. Someone powerful who would not have to follow anyone’s order!”

* “Mmm, what an ambitious wish…”
* “Who is there?!”
* “Reassure yourself, child. It is only, I, an old Lady.”
* 4) ”You have no right to be here! How did you manage to get into the castle?”

1. “Oh, you surprised me! May I ask you what you are doing here?”

* 4)-> “A bit of politeness would do you some good”

5)-> “Just passing by…”

* 4)-> She looks suspicious, is she a spy or an assassin? What should I do?

6)“Guards!”

7)“I apologise, but we are at war. I am afraid that we cannot afford to lower our caution…”

5)-> She looks suspicious, is she a spy or an assassin? What should I do?

7) “I apologise, but we are at war. I am afraid that we cannot afford to lower our caution…”

8)”In that case, please do not let me detain you.” I had better hurry and get in a more public part of the castle.

* 6)->{chacun sur un écran different}

“Ah! What is this light? What have you done?”

“This aught to teach you to respect your elder.”

“Your highness, is there a problem?”

“This witch cursed me!”

…

“Where did she go?!”

7)->”I understand. Here is a piece of advice that may help you in those dark times.”

1)-> “Even if men cannot appreciate a woman’s talent, they are not the only creature to inhabit this Earth!”

“Nor are they the mightiest despite what they may choose to think…”

“Yet I have heard that magic can make of human something more, able to challenge anything!”

2)-> “You may despise being underestimated for your sex, but I have often find that normal men easily underestimate their wife and present them their back without second thoughts…”

“As long as there is a child to be regent for… Something to think about, eh?”

3)-> “Magic is the answer to your problem. My Lord went from an orphanage to a castle and he will soon reign over the whole continent thanks to his powerful magic. Starting so high yourself, you aught to be able to make something of yourself.”

8)->“Not so quick. You appear to be a good girl and I wish to help you. Here take this stone. It aughts to make thing… interesting.”

{Pour 7) et 8), chacun sur un écran different}->

“He, he, he”

“Ah! What is this smoke?”

“Uh? Where did she go?”

* {écran noir}

# Daughter story, the parents part

* “My daughter, we have to leave the kingdom next week to go to Neterny”
* “What? Neterny? What for?”
* “It is not foolish to leave the country while we are at war! Arcla will certainly heard of this and take advantage of the situation!”
* “Do not talk to me like this, daughter!”
* …
* “I apologise, Father. Could you please share with me the reasons that motivate your decision?”
* “Umm! Alright. You Mother and I are going there to make an alliance with King Frederic. As you noticed, we can use all the help we can find in this day and age…”
* “…” {note: avatar qui rougit}
* 9)“Alright. I wish you luck in your travel then…”

“Ah… If this reassure you, we will go through the mountain. That way Arcla will have no way to know that we have left!”

“Thank you, Father. I already feel better knowing that.”

8)-> Should I also give him the witch’s stone?

12) “No, the mountain road should be safe enough, I had better keep it for a situation that really needs it!”

13) “Please also take this stone with you. A witch told me that it was magical. It may be able to protect you.”

“Well, if this can reassure you…”

“Women!”

10)“Indeed, but it does not negate the danger!”

“Do not worry your pretty little head over this. Duke Laurence will certainly be able to protect the kingdom in my absence”

7-3)-> “I have heard that a powerful mage wish to conquer the continent! He will certainly use this time to act!”

“Alright. If you are so sure we will not go. It is true that we cannot risk getting mages involved in top of everything else!”

“Thank you for trusting me, Father!”

7-1, 7-2, 6)-> “Are you sure he will be able to handle the situation by himself? May I give him some advices on how to handle the situation?”

7-1, 7-2)-> “Alright, if it make you feel useful… Although do not be surprised if he does not listen to you! He is the one with the experience after all!”

6)-> “Balderdash! You had better leave politics to men, gullible as you are! Ah, ah, ah!”

“Rah! I hate men!”

8)-> “At the very least take this stone. A witch told me that it was magical. It may be able to protect you.”

“Well, if this can reassure you…”

“Women!”

11)How annoying… I am sure something bad will happen.

But, could it be my chance? Surely the kingdom will have no other choice but to turn toward me!

“Alright father. You are right, this is silly of me, I should trust you to know better!”

“Indeed! Eh, eh, eh! Do not worry, I will still bring you a souvenir!”

* {écran noir}
* {Tous sauf 10-7-3}

“Your Highness, I am afraid that I have some very distressing news…”

“What is it?”

9-8-12)->“Their Majesties have been eaten by a dragon.”

“What???!”

“I am afraid that you people are clamouring for a sacrifice to be made to appease the dragon.”

“…”

“A royal sacrifice.”

“…”

“Please follow me your Highness.”

9-8-13 )->“Their Majesties have been taken prisoner by a dragon.”

“What???!”

“I am afraid that you have no choice but to go and negotiate their release yourself.”

10-7-1, 10-7-2, 10-6)-> “Their Majesties have been assassinated by the King of Neterny.”

“What???!”

10-8) “Their Majesties have been able to conclude an alliance with Neterny…”

“That sounds like very good news.”

“Unfortunately, the King condition was your hand in marriage…”

… I should have seen that coming.

11)-> “Their Majesties have been assassinated by the King of Neterny.”

“What???!”

* {écran noir}

# Daughter story, marriage alliance part 10-8)->

* What should I do? I have know all my life that they would want me to get married to a stranger

14) I guess I have no choice but to comply…

7-2)-> “At least I will be able to put the witch advice to good use, I should definitely plot against my future husband and take the throne for myself…”

15) I shall flee and attempt to accomplish my dream! They will see that I am not an object that stay put when I am lay aside after use!

* {écran noir}

# Daughter story, flee to dragon 15)->

* Uh, I am so tired! Why will this horse not go any faster! I hate those animals, we should have already passed the border to Lancy by now! If this continue, even Lancy will be at war with us and the border will be closed!
* “Roarrrrrr!”
* “Ah!”
* “Stupid horse! You made me fall! Eh! Stop! Where are you going?”
* Booom
* “What is that?”
* Booom
* “Roarrrrrr!”
* “A dragon! But none has been sighted in those mountain for at least a century!”
* “Ssssss. A Little a human. Not enough to satiate my hunger after sleeping so long but it will have to do…”
* What should I do? I am going to die!

16) Really there is no choice there, I can only attempt to flee and hope for the best…

6)-> As Adélaïde tried to flee, she felt a huge heat behind her and a brief pain. She did not have time to realise that she was about to die.

7-1, 7-2, 7-3, 8)-> “What do you think you are doing human?”

“Umm..”

* What should I do?

{même liste de choix que pour le 17 mais sans le texte avant}

17) I should try to speak to it. I may be able to convince it not to it me… It is not as if I have any other option…

“No! Stop! As you said I am too little, it will practically make no difference if you eat me! I can be of more use to you if you keep me alive!”

“Really? And pray tell me what use I have for a pest like you?”

“Umm…”

* What should I do?

18) Really there is no choice there, I can only attempt to flee and hope for the best…

As Adélaïde tried to flee, she felt a huge heat behind her and a brief pain. She did not have time to realise that she was about to die.

19) “I can cook for you!”

“What use do I have for that?”

“Umm…”

“But alright, let’s try it! I just happen to have some meat on the side.”

Adélaïde realised that she may not have thought this through when the dragon dragged a human corpse out of his cave and set it atop a tree trunk.

Horrified and unable to resolve herself to “cut the meat”, she could not react when the dragon pushed her on top of it and send them ablaze.

{choix seulement possible si 7-1}20) “I can tell you story to distract you! You must be bored being all by yourself all the time!”

“…”

“Are your serious?”

“Yes! I am a really talented story teller!”

Before the dragon’s incredulous look, Adélaïde hastened to launched into an elaborate story of a dragon guarding a princess and roasting all the knight attracted by the famed promised to her rescuer.

After a time, she managed to get the dragon quite taken with the idea and ready to put it into practice.

It was not such a horrible life. The dragon fed her roasted lambs and fishes and she got to devote her time to design and tell stories as she had always dreamed.

And, if after a while, she ended incorporating a Prince-dragon as the princess rescuer and future husband, well none else would know of it.

{choix seulement possible si 8 mais pas si 10-8}21) “I have this stone that a witch offered me! I can give it to you in recompense for fighting the Arcla for my people!” I may as well go all the way while I am at it…

“Umm… This is a powerful stone, worthy of being in my hoard… And you only want me to roast some knights further down the river in exchange for it?”

“Yes!” A powerful stone? Why did the witch just give it to me then?

“In that case, we have a deal.”

As expected, the dragon did a short work of the Arcla’s army. By the end of it, even Adélïde’s own people were begging her to become their Queen and do them the honor of ruling them.

Of course, she may or may not have forgotten to share the fact that she did not, in fact, control the dragon’x every move.

Her coronation was fantastic and Adéläde looked quiete fetching with a crown on her head. So much that even a certain Dark Lord gaze’s was caught. None noticed an old Lady sniggering at his side.

# Daughter story, marriage alliance part 14)

# Daughter story, parents stay part 10-7-3)

* “My daughter, I have grave news!”
* “What is it father?”
* “A dragon has been sighted in the mountains.”
* “A dragon! But none has been sighted in those mountain for at least a century!”
* “Indeed… Unfortunately this beast went down to the valley three days ago and totally destroyed the city of Lantra.”
* “What?!”
* “And as the war has not abeted, we cannot afford to send any troup in number suffisent to take care of the problem.”
* “…”
* “I am afraid that the people are claiming for a sacrifice to be made…”
* “!”
* “And, of course, such an occasion
* “Are you saying that…”
* “Indeed. I regret to have to inform you that you will leave for the mountains tomorrow.”
* {écran noir}
* “I hate my life! I save Mother and Father from assassination and this is how they thank me!”
* “Come on ,you damned rope, just move a bit further!”
* “Ah! Free!”
* “Roarrrr!”
* “Well, what do we have here... A Little a human. Not enough to satiate my hunger after sleeping so long but it will have to do…”
* What should I do? I am going to die!

16)

17)

# Daughter story, parents meet dragon 9-8-12)

* {écran noir}
* “I hate my life! I am the last member of the royal family! I should be Queen, not playing human brochette!”
* “Come on ,you damned rope, just move a bit further!”
* “Ah! Free!”
* “Roarrrr!”
* “Well, what do we have here... A Little a human. Not enough to satiate my hunger after sleeping so long but it will have to do…”
* What should I do? I am going to die!

16)

17)

# Daughter story, parents meet dragon 9-8-13)

* What should I do?

22) I guess I have no choice, I have to try to negociate my parents release from the dragon, they are family after all!

* + {écran noir}
  + “Dragon! Hey! Dragon!
  + “Roarrr!”
  + “Boom!”
  + “Boom!”
  + “Boom!”
  + ““Ssssss. A Little a human. Not enough to satiate my hunger after sleeping so long but it will have to do…”
  + “Wait! I have come to negotiate the release of our King and Queen that you have taken prisoner!”
  + “Why should I want to give them away? They are excellent bait to lure food to me…”
  + “…”
  + “Umm, we have treasure! We can give you lots of gold in exchange!”
  + “Really? How much?”
  + “…10,000 gold pieces?”
  + Unfortunately, the war that had been ongoing for years had depleted the coffers of the kingdom and Adélaïde was not in a position to offer more to the dragon.
  + Face with such an insulting offer, the dragon did not give her the time to flee and swallowed her whole.

23) I am not mad enough to go anywhere near a dragon! Too bad for my parents but they were sexist control freak anyway. Adventure here I come!

* + {écran noir}
  + “I do not like this path… Damned dragon! Why did he have to block the North road out of the country? There is not even a proper state down South!”
  + “I should be close to the border by now…”
  + “Stop! Who goes there!”
  + “!”
  + “Umm… I am Adélaïde of Arcance! I have come to ask for asylum to your Lord! Lead me in front of him!”
  + {écran noir}
  + “Well… what do we have here?”
  + “…” I do not like this. I looks very intimidating.
  + “What has bring you to our humble city, your Highness?”
  + “I am seeking refuge from my people.”
  + “Oh?”
  + “They want me to ‘negotiate’ with a dragon. But I have heard them talk about royal sacrifice appeasing the beasts and I was not mad enough to stay there!”
  + “How sensible of you…”
  + “What is that?! Black magic!”
  + “Stupid little girl… You have come to the castle of a Dark Lord all innocent and ignorant.”
  + 7-3)-> “No, I have heard about you! In fact, I am quite delighted to have meet you!”
    - “I beg you to take me as your apprentice! I wish to learn magic to have the power to make choice of my own!”
    - “… you realise that you will have to submit to me and ober my every orders?”
    - “You appear to be intelligent! I have no doubt that you would be willing to listen to what I have to say and not dismiss my opinion just because I am a woman!”
    - “… very well.”
    - Despite her initial suspicion, Adélaïde was delighted to have the opportunity to learn magic from the Dark Lord himself in the following years,
    - With such an exigent mentor, she was quick to make progress and gain a top spot in his army. As expected, once she had proven herself, he treated her with at least as much respect as his men.
    - Together they made a short work of conquering Arcance, N eterny and Arcla. From now on, the rest of the continent awaited them. And Adélaïde was quite seeing herself as the Consort of the future Emperor.

7-1, 7-2)->

* + - “Are you afraid of my power?”
    - “No, no! In fact I quite like dark magic!”
    - “… very well.”
    - I do not like that smile… What is he going to do
    - When the Dark Lord ended up using his dark magic to enslave her, Adélaïde was not surprised. She had no choice but to resign herself to a life of humiliation and privation.

8)-> “!”

* + - “What is this?”
    - “…an old witch gave me this stone.”
    - “Helen… Always putting her nose where it does not belong…”
    - “Very well. You shall stay here.”
    - Despite Adélaïde’s initial suspicion, the Dark Lord proved true to his word and she was offered asylum as she had asked. The Dark Lord himself kept her at arm length.
    - With time, she was able to glean a bit of magic from here and there but she was no match for the Lord and his Court and had to resign herself to look from the outside.

6)-> “!”

* + - “What is this? You have been cursed!”
    - “…an old witch gave this to me.”
    - “Helen... I recognise her style…”
    - “Far be it from me to go against her decisions…”
    - After a flash of light, Adélaïde felt as if her innards were ablaze. She felt to the ground, her whole body twisting uncontrollably from the pain.
    - This seemed to last forever before she felt herself slip away, the Dark Lord’s cruel laugh in her ears.

# Ideas

1. *Leave or not, how they go*
2. *Die or not, make a marriage alliance or not or give their son as hostage*

*Princesse extremelly ennoyed to be thought as a broodmare with no personality of her own*

*Prince annoyed to be just good enough to lead a battle but not enough for his opinion on war strategy and diplomacy to be taken into account.*

*If parents alived but have gone and have make an alliance with the neighbour to give their son as hostage or daughter for marriage alliance,*

1. *may decide to flee even if that may condemn his kingdom, doesn’t care, get prisoner of dragon having just awaken from decades of sleep because of magical emanations from South (from dark lord)*

*If choose to go then go to the court their and welcome ceremony or marriage.*

*If parents didn’t go. Neighbour declare war for the insult, have to divide the army. Dragon wake up. If son, sent him to fight it. If daughter, send her as a sacrifice.*

*If parents assassinated because went, have to declare war on the neighbour and divide his army, dark lord that just conquered a small principauté in the South seized the occasion to conquere the kingdom. Decide to marry the prince/princess.*

1. *Decide to comply or flee and abandon the kingdom. If no, wedding, if yes, get captured by dragon*

*If parents went but through mountain, get prisoner by dragon. May choose to attack it or negociate for an exchange (go in their stead+regular treasor delivery), may fail and get killed or also taken as prisoner.*

*Dragon*

*-flee, has witch protection and hide in small hole. Dragon can’t get her. Distract him with story in exchange for food. He become friendly and she content with her situation. He start to bring her gifts. Then dark lord or neighbour offer her an opportunity to escape in exchange for helping them kill the dragon. Accept, dragon kill and join them. Betray them, they get killed, stayed with the dragon.*

*-flee, has no protection, get eaten.*

*-negociate, she has value. He decide to exchange her for highest bidder. Neighbour or dark lord. They marry her.*

*-negociate, she has witch protection. She is not the one to have made it, he decide to make an alliance with the dark lord. Give her to him. She marry him.*